

# COUNCIL CORNER – September 2021



Nipawin Mayor Rennie Harper and artist Rita Swanson are pictured next to the new mural depicting the move of the Town of Nipawin to its current location which was recently redone by the Churchbridge, Saskatchewan artist, Rita Swanson. The mural vibrantly displays the move from the “Old Nipawin Townsite” in 1924.

Rita Swanson is an experienced muralist who is known for the design on the reverse of the Canadian one-dollar coin issued to mark Canada’s 125<sup>th</sup> birthday. The original “Town on the Move” mural was painted by Rita in 2005. Over the years the weather rendered the mural somewhat in a state of disrepair. However, Rita was commissioned to recreate the mural which was recently re-installed at its original location.

People had begun to settle in Nipawin at the old town site as early as 1912. When in 1924, the CPR bypassed their homes and businesses, the resolute merchants knew their town would not survive and they asked Charlie Scott to oversee the move of their buildings four miles southwest to the present town site. It was a difficult undertaking because of the steep hill surrounding the flat in which present-day Nipawin is situated. Mr. Scott used his own horses, and those belonging to his brother Norman and to Harold DeLance because he knew they had strong horses and were good teamsters. Using words written by Mrs. C.J. Grandfield in a newspaper article about Charles Thomas Scott in 1970, at the time of his death at the age of 79, she wrote, “When they came over the break of the hill, they had to take it on the run, because it was impossible for the horses to hold back the buildings.” This same quote is embedded in the mural.

Also embedded in the mural are the cover and several pages of the logbook kept by Charlie Scott at the time of the move. The book is now in the possession of Charlie’s grandson Don Scott. Don and his wife Paulette graciously made available photocopies of the pages of the book along with a digital image of the cover. These images were sent to the artist so that she could embed the information in the mural and show some of the names of those whose buildings were moved, dates they were moved, and individual costs. It is interesting to note that the cost of the move which took place over a period of about six weeks beginning October 23, 1924 and involved forty buildings and seven outhouses, was \$2,612.50.

September 20-26 was declared rail safety week, Provincially and in the Town of Nipawin. Rail Safety Week highlights the importance of stop, look, and listen. During these difficult times people’s attention is often elsewhere, and it is important to remember that trains can come at any time and from any direction. We need to work at preventing those incidents which are preventable with more care and attention at railway grade crossings. Rail Safety Week is a good place to begin.



Mayor Rennie Harper and MP Randy Hoback representative Cindy Murphy, are pictured at one of two Save Stations, donated to the Town of Nipawin by CP Rail. The Save Stations were recently commissioned during Provincial Rail Safety Week. One station is situated at the Town Square and the second is located at the exterior front entrance of the Evergreen Centre. It is anticipated that the AED stations are another way to help us save lives. Once a station is activated by opening it, it will call **911** to that location.

The Town of Nipawin is proud to unveil 2 AED-containing SaveStations in the heart of the community, made possible with a generous donation from *the CP Has Heart Community Fund*. CP is dedicated to providing funding to aimed at improving the heart health of people in communities all over North America. CP's priority is saving lives through best access to cardiac emergency response equipment and treatment.

The outdoor SaveStations are highly visible and clearly marked for public use. The technology built into these SaveStations allow for 24/7 monitoring of the AEDs to ensure they are always 'ready for rescue.' The cabinets also keep the AEDs warm in the winter and cool in the summer. This technology has been around in Europe for over 10 years now, and SaveStation is proudly bringing this life-saving equipment to North America. A sincere thank you from the Town of Nipawin to CP Rail.



Congratulations to the Nipawin & Area Family Resource Centre on the grand opening event held on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

This Family Resource Centre is doing very important work in the Community of Nipawin and surrounding area as they contribute to improving literacy levels, strengthening family engagement, and increasing families' capacities to support their children's learning.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization adapted to provide innovative supports to families, offering programming outdoors or with reduced class sizes and assisting other organization such as the Salvation Army by assisting with food distribution & delivery and providing valuable input to the Integrated Pandemic Oversight Committee as 20 or more organizations met regularly to address issues facing residents during this pandemic.

This Resource Centre is truly evidence of teamwork and partnership. I am inspired by the work of this talented and dedicated team of board members, staff, and partners who consistently champion family supports even when faced with obstacles...they ask, "what can we do?" and then work together to do it to meaningfully support families throughout a time of unprecedented need and of course into the future.

#### REMINDERS:

- The Federal Government has declared September 30<sup>th</sup>, National Truth & Reconciliation Day. The Town of Nipawin will be observing the declared holiday and therefore the Town Office and Landfill will be closed.
- Through a newly imposed Provincial Public Health Order, effective September 17<sup>th</sup>, masking is mandatory at **all** indoor gatherings and events.

Beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>, that public health order expands to requiring proof of vaccination for many events and venues. You are encouraged to track the newest measures on the Provincial Covid-19 website at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-for-businesses-and-workers>.

If you have an *idea, concern or a bouquet* please don't hesitate to arrange an opportunity for a conversation. Call (306) 862 9866 to arrange an appointment or by email to [mayorharper@nipawin.com](mailto:mayorharper@nipawin.com). (**NOTE:** Anonymous concerns, written or by phone, will not receive response so please sign your concern and provide contact information.)