



Ryan Courtney, or Bud as his friends and family call him, is a fun-loving, social butterfly at Summer Fun programming in Swift Current, says Kimberly Furey, Program Senior Supervisor at the Saskatchewan Abilities Council. What better way to spend a hot summer day than at the spray park!



Community partnerships enhance summer fun for all in Swift Current!

When the Saskatchewan Abilities Council and the City of Swift Current realized there was a duplication of recreational programming offered to youth in the summer, they set out to find a way for all kids to have fun together, regardless of ability.

The collaboration between Summer Fun programming offered by the Saskatchewan Abilities Council and the City of Swift Current's Parks Play and The Zone programming has meant more opportunities for fun and recreation for participants in all programs. By collaborating

resources and ideas, joint planning events and inviting each other to activities, together the programs help foster more integration and inclusion in the community.

"The kids already know each other from school so it's only natural they get to interact during summer programming as well," said Kimberly Furey, Program Senior Supervisor with the Saskatchewan Abilities Council. "Integration at all levels is true inclusion."

From picking berries at Treasure Valley to interactive cooking classes to high-energy aqua Zumba, community activities help children develop a positive sense of belonging. "Studies show after

school time is the most vulnerable time for kids to get into trouble," said Krista Caswell, Community Recreation Coordinator for the City of Swift Current. "During the summer when school is out, recreational programming is important in keeping kids engaged in something healthy and active. Partnering with the Abilities Council is perfect because we share the same goal—making sure all kids are safe and having fun."

This partnership with the City of Swift Current has helped enhance the rewards of learning, laughter and play, teamwork that is instrumental in encouraging an inclusive community. ▲



Easter Seals™ National Ambassador for Century 21 Canada Brandon Liston with members of Century 21 Fusion after explaining the impact their support of Easter Seals™ has had on his life.

The magic of Camp continues

The flooding at Manitou Beach couldn't stop campers from having a great summer at Camp Easter Seal! Although water levels were at an all-time high, flooding the beaches and boat launch, Camp Easter Seal didn't skip a beat.

The shrinking sand beach and disassembled boat launch just meant more time for arts and crafts, wheelchair hockey and basketball, horseback riding, wagon rides and trips into Watrous for campers.

The Easter Seals™ National Ambassador Brandon Liston had an opportunity to see for himself the wonders of Camp Easter Seal during his visit to Saskatchewan in July. He attends Camp Rotary in New Brunswick every summer he can, so he jumped at the chance to see another Easter Seals™ camp first-hand.

Camp Easter Seal hosted a total of 594 campers this past summer, 86 of them being first-time campers. ▲

Easter Seals™ National Ambassador visits Saskatchewan to give thanks to Century 21!

Brandon Liston is like most 17 year olds—he likes to sleep in, play Pokémon Go, keep connected with the world via his cell phone, and indulge in a little innocent mischievous fun every once in a while. But with all the commonalities he has with youth of today, there is certainly something that sets him apart from most.

Brandon has big goals and exciting dreams for his future and that of his community and nation. Instead of just hoping for a better future, Brandon is helping shape it. As Easter Seals™ National Ambassador for Century 21 Canada, Brandon travels across the country speaking about the real life impact donations to Easter Seals™ has on families with disabilities, his included.

On July 25, Brandon shared with Century 21 agents and guests in Saskatoon how their support and contributions make an impact. His personal accounts describing the compassion, resiliency and comradery that have helped shape him into the young man he is today moved the room, bringing some to tears.

During his visit to Saskatchewan, Brandon also attended the Century 21 Dome Golf Tournament in

Regina, sharing his story and mission again to agents and guests. He crossed a big item off his bucket list and attended his first NASCAR race as well. Among other highlights, he visited Camp Easter Seal, the only other Easter Seals™ camp he's been to other than his own in New Brunswick, and met with some of the movers and shakers of Saskatchewan.

For over 35 years, Century 21 Canada—its members, friends and family—have shown a lot of love for Easter Seals™. In Saskatchewan, Century 21 realty agencies raised over \$135,000 last year, all of which gets to stay right here at home and support hundreds of children and youth to attend Camp Easter Seal or access recreational programming in their community.

Brandon feels passionately about empowering individuals with disabilities and fostering inclusive communities—so much so that he has his career sights set on entering the political realm, either as mayor, a MLA or even Prime Minister one day. In the meantime, he aims to become a camp counselor with Easter Seals™ in hopes of giving back to the camp that he feels has given so much to him. ▲

Participants get an inside look at the new Mosaic Stadium

The construction of the new Mosaic Stadium in Regina is complete and participants of Summer Fun and SLYP-Out had a unique opportunity to partake in a personalized tour of the building, organized with the help of the City of Regina. The 33,000 seat, open-air facility is the new home of the Saskatchewan Roughriders, local sports teams and, of course, their dedicated fans.

Riziki Buhendwa was among the group of participants who learned about the stadium's new design and ventured behind the scenes to discover aspects of the building regular attendees don't usually have an opportunity to see. Exploring the media room, security headquarters and VIP box seating were her favourite parts of the tour she said. Riziki also enjoyed seeing how vast the stadium

appeared when empty of rowdy sports fans.

Riziki is a new participant to SLYP-Out, a recreational program for youth aged 13 to 22 with disabilities aimed at fostering community integration, providing leadership opportunities and increasing self-confidence and independence in program participants.

To say the least, the tour of Mosaic Stadium was a highlight for many participants and something that may turn into a reoccurring activity! ▲



QUALITY OF LIFE

Kids just want to have fun!

At only 8 years old, Cale McAllister has mastered what it means to have fun and live in the moment. With a smile and laugh as contagious as Cale's, it's easy to share in his happiness. Cale is a participant of the Summer Fun program in Yorkton, and over the years one of the biggest developments the staff have observed is his way of building friendships and interacting with others.

"Since last year, we have witnessed tremendous growth in his willingness to participate, his positive attitude, increased socialization and sense of humor," said Jackie Washenfelter, Quality of Life Senior Supervisor at the Yorkton Branch.

"Before, Cale would want to have fun but would want to do it on his own, whereas this year, he's doing it more with others and as part of the group," said Carly Ryan, Summer Fun Coordinator. "Now it seems whenever everyone is bonding, Cale is the glue that brings people together."

Despite being nonverbal, communication isn't a barrier to having fun for Cale. Whether it's initiating a game of tag or simply throwing a ball to start a game of catch, Cale finds ways to include others.

Cale is one of many kids engaged in the Summer Fun program, offered Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each week in the summer. ▲

Easter Seals

Saskatchewan

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SUMMER AROUND THE COUNCIL



Easter Seals™ Drop Zone

For the first time in Drop Zone history, we pitted Regina against Saskatoon in a race down the rappel lines on August 19 and 20, 2017! Saskatoon's daredevils were bussed to Regina where the party of music, DJs, Farmer's Market goodies, superhero-themed cupcakes and swag was waiting for them. Whether you're a seasoned adrenaline junkie or a first-timer, rappellers agree: Drop Zone Saskatchewan is an opportunity of a lifetime! This year the event raised over \$80,000, all of which will support individuals with disabilities access vital community programs and services. ▲



Up Next!



This year marked 40 years of support of Snowarama and Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan! On February 11, over 225 riders, pledge raisers and countless supporters rallied together to celebrate the milestone year and help raise over \$180,000! New to the 40th celebration was a cabaret, enhanced prizes and a special 200km trail. Next year's event on February 10, 2018 will be tough to beat. To find out how you can participate, please contact Deana Jesmer at 306-782-246. ▲



Ability Bowl also celebrated a milestone year—its 30th anniversary in Swift Current! On Saturday, April 22, 2017, over 40 teams embraced the Rock 'n' Bowl theme, bowled in support of the programs and services offered by the Saskatchewan Abilities Council Swift Current Branch, and helped raise a record total of over \$70,000! Prepare yourself for next year's event scheduled for Saturday April 21, 2018—we're bringing the beach to the bowling alley for Beach Bowl 2018! ▲

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