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WE JUST HAD TO COME HERE: ARA & LOCAL BUSINESSES DEVELOP GREEN SPACE

Saskatchewan summers go by all too quickly, and our Sherbrooke community always does its best to make the most of the warm weather. An act of generosity from a local business inspired a community impact project that will help us enjoy summer days for years to come.

Saskatoon's Hub City Display, a member of the American Rental Association (ARA), nominated Sherbrooke Foundation for a community impact project that would redevelop the green space between Veterans and Kinsmen Village. ARA Foundation, which represents both Canadian and American businesses, supports charities across the continent, providing funding, machinery, and labour for single-day projects. Through the partnership, Sherbrooke Foundation accepted a grant of \$20,000 USD and contributions of equipment and skilled workers.

"We just had to come here," explained Jill Holtsman, Managing Partner of Hub City Display. "The residents love their home and their space, and I knew we could make it better for them. I know it's going to enrich their lives and the lives of staff that work here."

On September 10th, the ARA team from Canada and the USA, members of the Toro Company Foundation, and local ARA members provided 20 skilled workers, while Sherbrooke provided an additional 20 staff volunteers. Together, they worked to tame the overgrown green space and repurpose a parking lot by creating a gathering space.

Work included widening pathways for easier wheelchair access, installing new fencing at the north end of our property, extensive landscaping work with more than 40 yards of mulch added to shrub beds, and buildings a pergola and environment stage.

Leader of Resident Care Services Cory Brinkman worked closely with ARA and Keystone Landscaping to ensure the redevelopment fit the needs of residents.

"At Sherbrooke, with our vision and philosophy, we are world makers. And so that's why we are creating a space where people can really enjoy a park like setting," said Brinkman.



Staff and volunteers spent a day redeveloping a green space.

We are thankful to ARA Foundation, Core Rental Services, Ditch Witch, Earthworks Equipment, Hub City Display, The Rent-it Store, Rent Quip, Sunbelt Rentals, The Toro Company Foundation, United Rentals, for their help in making the day such a success.

"This project really fits with our philosophy and our goal of achieving well-being," said Sherbrooke CEO, Kim Schmidt. "I think it's a beautiful fit, and we are just so appreciative of the generous spirit of everyone who is part of this."

If you would like to explore a partnership with the Sherbrooke Foundation, please visit SherbrookeFoundation.ca or speak with Donor Relations Manager, Joy-Ann Allin. 🌱

Sherbrooke Foundation Inc.
401 Acadia Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7H 2E7



SAFETY AT SHERBROOKE

Safety impacts everything we do at Sherbrooke and Central Haven. Whether it is care staff transferring a resident from their bed to their wheelchair, or a food services staff ensuring their workspace is clear of clutter, we continue to work hard to strengthen our safety culture.

“Safety is a big part of our vision,” explains Sherbrooke and Central Haven’s Manager of Learning and Growth, Robin Kitchen. “When staff are able to come to work and work safely, and then go home to their families, it’s a win-win for everyone. For residents, it’s a win because they have that reassurance that their staff person, who is so important to them, will be back tomorrow.”

This year, we were honoured to partner with the Saskatchewan Workers’ Compensation Board on a

workplace safety video. A film crew from Saskatoon’s Honey Cut Studios spent a morning at Sherbrooke filming residents in staff in locations such as the physiotherapy gym, resident rooms, and the kitchen.



A film crew from Honey Cut Studios spent a morning with residents and staff.

people get hurt, it creates a barrier to achieving our mission. We have put a lot of emphasis on safety in our homes, and I think that it has led to a better, safer culture.”

CHIPPING IN AT CENTRAL HAVEN

Kelly Hutchison and her husband, Brad, were looking for ways to give back to the Central Haven community. Kelly’s mother, Agnes, is a Central Haven resident and they love spending time together outdoors during summer.

Inspired by Lloyd Beazley, another Central Haven family member, Kelly and Brad joined a group of families who set out to improve the grounds at Central Haven.

“We wanted to give back to the community in a way that would not only enhance the green space, but bring colour and life to the residents and staff,” explained Kelly Hutchison.

Lloyd organized a fundraiser for Central Haven families and staff to raise money for the project and a collection of plants that would eventually find their way into garden boxes and flower beds. Kelly says the vision was to plant tall flowers by the dining room windows so that residents could enjoy their beauty while they were in the dining room.



Kelly Hutchison was one of several family members who helped beautify our green spaces.

“The flowers beds were rototilled, and we added new potting soil and manure to help everything grow. Our group also installed irrigation and laid new mulch to help with retaining moisture. We ended up planting over a hundred perennial plants including two beautiful climbing roses.”

Kelly notes how helpful staff was in keeping all the plants and flowers watered, and she says the family group loved talking with residents about the flowers they were planting.

“It was all the comments from the staff and residents as to how nice things were looking at every stage of the project,” said Kelly. “We could see how much they appreciated our efforts which gave us the satisfaction to see the project moving forward.”

Central Haven is a tight-knit community, and we are grateful for the support of all of our family members who help make our home such a warm and caring place.



SURPRISING VISITS AT SHERBROOKE

We love hosting visitors at Sherbrooke. Whether it is a staff team from another long-term care home who want to learn about the Eden Alternative® philosophy, or a donor who wants to see the impact of their generosity, we love welcoming people into our community.

Sometimes, a guest surprises our residents with their presence, and that was certainly the case in October when two famous Canadians paid Sherbrooke a visit.

Canadian comedian Ahren Belisle was in Saskatoon to perform a sold-out show at TCU Place. It came to Ahren's attention that he had some big fans at Sherbrooke, so he surprised them with a visit on the afternoon of his show.

"It was awesome meeting Ahren and visiting with him in my room," said resident Brad Trevisan. "I had no idea he was coming and then he just walked into my room! He was so funny, and I sure loved talking with him."

Ahren, who has cerebral palsy and performs his comedy through a speech synthesis app on his phone, spent two hours visiting his fans throughout our community. Munzir Rashid was one of those fans who also uses a speech synthesis app to communicate. He loved speaking with Ahren through the app.

"It's so cool to see a comedian using the same kind of app that I use," explained Rashid. "We laughed so much during our visit, and I hope to see Ahren perform someday."

Another famous Canadian you might know from his time at MuchMusic or hosting The Hour on CBC Television is Canadian journalist George Stroumboulopoulos.



Stroumboulopoulos taking part in a Friday at 3 concert.

Stroumboulopoulos was in Saskatoon for a marketing conference where he heard about Sherbrooke from one of the conference organizers. Stroumboulopoulos' mother was a nurse, and he spent a lot of time as a kid visiting long-term care residents growing up in Toronto, so he jumped at the opportunity to learn more about our community.

We were honoured to give Stroumboulopoulos a tour of our Sherbrooke community, and he quickly made himself at home, joining Wes and Lois during their Friday at 3 concert, learning about The Eden Alternative® from CEO Kim Schmidt, making new friends in the aviary, and talking all things heavy metal music with residents Donovan McAlpine and Buffy Ash!

Thank you for your interest in our community, Ahren and George, and for helping to share our story with the world. 🌍



Belisle with Brad Trevisan.



Belisle with Buffy Ash.



Stroumboulopoulos with Donovan McAlpine.



THANKING OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

Donations made Oct 1, 2024 - Sept 30, 2025

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*We salute the hundreds of generous people who joined us this year in
supporting full, abundant life for each of our Residents.
(Donations made from Oct 1, 2024 – Sept 30, 2025)*

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We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you have any questions, please contact Sherbrooke Foundation at 306-655-3632.



BRINGING THE WORLD TO SHERBROOKE

We love the Eden Alternative® concept of being world makers for residents, and an event this fall certainly brought the world to Sherbrooke.

Organized by our recreation team, The Folk Festival invited residents and families to learn about a variety of countries and cultures and to sample delicacies from around the globe.

Staff and volunteers set up 10 pavilions throughout the building to showcase food, drink, music, and dance. Canada, England, Eritrea, India, Norway, Philippines, Scotland, Serbia, Ukraine, and Wales were represented, and we were grateful to all of our everyone who worked at the pavilions and provided so much joy to our community



REFLECTING ON 22 YEARS OF VOLUNTEERING

Sherbrooke would not be the caring and welcoming home it is without the dedication and kindness of volunteers. They help residents on excursions into the greater community, help host the popular Diners' Club events and are always open for a friendly conversation with a resident over a cup of coffee.

We love celebrating the giving spirit of our Sherbrooke volunteers, especially if it's for more than 20 years of service to our community.

Deanna Wacker started volunteering at Sherbrooke in 2003. During her 22 years, she connected with residents throughout the building, working in Tumbleweed Gift and Thrift Shop. She made many lasting friendships, including her close friend and fellow volunteer, Myrna McDonald.

In October, we recognized Deanna's and Myrna's contributions and retirement with a party in the Veterans Village Common Room.



We invited Deanna to write a few words about her experience. She graciously said yes and shared her memories of the early days of helping Tumbleweed get off the ground. Thank you for all that you have done for our community, Deanna. We will miss you!

In the autumn of 2003, a staff member and several volunteers met to formulate plans for a Sherbrooke thrift shop. A small room off of

the garage complex was acquired which was cleaned and painted by volunteers. Shelves and clothing racks were installed, again by volunteers, and soon the space was ready for donations.

On the days that the thrift shop was open, volunteers were required to pick up and return the key, and the cash box was picked up from the Commissionaire's desk in the Veterans Village.

As word spread for donations and more volunteers came onboard, a larger area was needed. Luckily, a space became available in the main building, which is now the Tumbleweed Gift and Thrift shop.

My years of volunteering at Sherbrooke was done alongside many great people, especially my dear friend, Myrna. I leave with many lasting memories, and my life has been enriched by so many at Sherbrooke. 🍀



REMEMBERING YOUR GENEROSITY: SHERBROOKE FOUNDATION UPDATES

Frances Patricia Rank's legacy for abundant living

We extend our sympathy and gratitude to the family of Frances Rank. Thanks to her generous gift in will, Frances's legacy continues through our Foundation's support for abundant living. Frances's life was filled with music and dance: ballet, tap, jazz, and flamenco. She is remembered as a passionate, articulate woman who also loved gardening and birdwatching.

Building toward beautiful bath experiences

On Dec. 2 we accepted many Giving Tuesday donations for great bathing experience at both homes—and handed out tiny rubber ducks! Thank you to all our supporters and our radio partner, 98 COOL FM. We are also grateful to Our Lady of the Prairies Foundation for their generous grant for Sherbrooke.

A family labour of love at Central Haven

We are thrilled to see the completed garden project at Central Haven, a labour of love by Central Haven family members, supported by staff and donors. Now that winter has arrived, Elders are enjoying the beautiful Christmas light display. Thank you to everyone involved!

Milestone birthday gifts

Thanks to Ross Brown's family and friends for their tribute donations to Sherbrooke Foundation to celebrate his milestone birthday this year!

Remembering cherished family

Thank you to the Pattison family for your memorial gift to remember John Pattison, Jeff Pattison, and Doris Pattison and for your message: "Thank you for all the care given to Jeff and John over the years."



We had a great time with our friends from 98 Cool FM

A special resident and family gift

Thanks to Richard and Roxanne Meier for your donation to Sherbrooke Foundation. Elders in the Prairie Lane neighborhood will love watching football, curling, and more favourite programs on the new TV!

Thank you for your generosity to our homes! Learn more about where your donation goes at sherbrookefoundation.ca/your-impact/ 📺



The garden project brought people together at Central Haven.



FIRESIDE SINGERS REHEARSALS AT SHERBROOKE FEEL LIKE HOME



The Fireside Singers have been rehearsing twice a week at Sherbrooke.

Music plays a vital role in our community. Whether it is the Timeless Voices intergenerational choir, the Young Country Rebels group, or the Friday at 3 concert series, there are many different ways music lovers at Sherbrooke connect with their passion.

This fall, we welcomed one of Saskatoon's best-known choirs to rehearse in our building. For 53 years, Saskatoon's Fireside Singers has sparked joy in people through its beautiful arrangements, so we have been thrilled to hear their voices as they rehearse here.

The choir comes twice a week (Tuesday evening and Sunday afternoon) to rehearse under the direction of Marilyn Whitehead. These rehearsals are special because residents and their families, along with Sherbrooke staff, are able to attend and get to know the choir members.

This year, the Fireside Singers are preparing for a December 19 and 20 Christmas performance at TCU Place, and a 2026 show featuring songs from Mamma Mia.

We caught up with director Marilyn Whitehead and choir members Cheryl Kieffer and Megan Darmouth to find out more about this new partnership.

What has been like to rehearse at Sherbrooke?

Cheryl Kieffer - Being here is the change we didn't know we needed. It's the light that's been brought back into the choir that I don't think we knew we were missing. It's incredible. There's really no words to truly describe how incredible it is to rehearse here and to have the space and the people.

Megan Darmouth - We walk in and it just feels lighter. We have an audience with the residents here every night and they clap, and they cheer, and they make us feel good about being here.

Marilyn Whitehead - I think that resident participation is what generates so much excitement. Suddenly you can feel it, and then you can see residents starting to clap. I think a few of them have some background in music and have stopped us and said, "I know what you're doing!" The feedback has been totally amazing, and I think a really precious gift for our upcoming Christmas concert.

How would you describe your interactions with residents?

Cheryl - Powerful. Incredible. The one gentleman, he played the accordion and told us all about his youth and how he played the instrument. It's so nice listening to some of the residents say how they used to dance when they were younger. For them to hear some of this music, especially when we were rehearsing songs from Mamma Mia when we first started at Sherbrooke, a lot of those were familiar songs for some of them, right? As soon as a certain song comes on, it's like you can't help but get that toe moving or bring your face up and get a different light on your face.

Megan - Music to the residents, and to us, is healing in ways that you didn't know you needed. I remember one resident started singing Silent Night in German, and his family member said to me afterwards that singing brings that light back to his eyes. Seeing something like this, it just touches a place in your heart.

Marilyn - It has felt like home from the day we walked in. Everyone's been so responsive, so accepting, and so generous with everything we've asked for. It just has felt great, and the crowds of people have been getting bigger and bigger. More residents are wanting to stop and talk to us. It has been really a rare experience. We've been at TCU Place rehearsing in that facility for all these years, and it was fabulous because it's so big, but this feels like home. This is really special. 🌱

