

Kamsack's second Culture Days planned

Pleased to have presented a terrific impression of Kamsack in cultural circles with the community's first Culture Days last year, organizers are planning a second annual event for the end of September.

Nikki Lachambre, an organizer of the event, is pleased to point to two published items that reflect the positive publicity Kamsack received as a result of last year's participation in Culture Days.

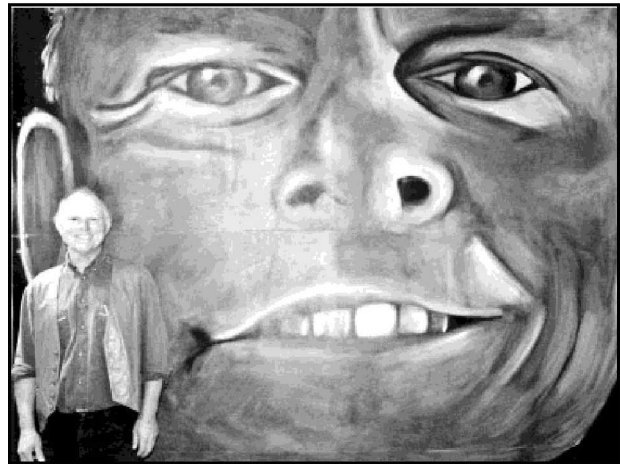
On a list of the top 10 rural communities that participated, which included Whistler, B.C., and Markdale, Ont., Kamsack was listed as number four in the SaskCulture annual report.

An article written by Danica Lorer that appeared in SaskCulture's quarterly print magazine *Engage*, which included a photograph of George Musqua and a traditional native dancer, said that Kamsack exceeded its expectations with its first Culture Days.

"The *Engage* article came into being after Kamsack garnered so much attention at SaskCulture for our extensive list of activities during last Culture Days," Lachambre

said.

"It's exciting to see our community on the same list as an established arts town such as Whistler, B.C., particularly having such a young arts council and having participated in Culture Days for only one year.



During the Culture Days event at Kamsack last year, Roger Moore of Veregin posed for a photo beside a large mural of his face, which he had created.



"It's a testament to the commitment and the creativity of all our arts council volunteers and to the enthusiasm and willingness of our community to support new cultural events," she said.

"We learned about Culture Days through SaskCulture and were immediately motivated to participate on a large scale," Lachambre told Lorer in the article. "Our arts council members not only had a bunch of great ideas, but also the energy and motivation

to implement them. All the local organizations we contacted about participating jumped on board.

"Culture Days is a wonderful way to bring members of communities together,

especially, I think, in small towns, where there aren't a lot of opportunities locally for focusing on the arts and recognizing the cultural diversity in our own backyards."

Lachambre said that this year the Kamsack Arts Council is incorporating many of the favourite activities from last year and bringing in numerous new ones, rolling them all into a two-day festival under one roof on September 28 and 29.

All activities this year will be held at the OCC Hall and will include a Kamsack-themed photo booth, live music and dancing performances, an international food court and a variety of workshops, including belly dancing, Ukrainian headress making, textiles, Venetian plaster art, several ethnic culinary classes, a children's book fair and much more.

Admission and all activities will once again be free of charge.

"We want the community to know that the Arts Council is giving away money," she said. "We ask that organizations

or individuals consider donating one to two hours of their time on either September 28 or 29 at the OCC Hall to share their culture or artistic knowledge at the festival.

"We have received a significant grant from SaskCulture for the second year in a row and will reimburse participants for props, supplies, etc.," she said, urging persons to contact her for more information.

In the Arts Council's call for participation, organizers ask if "you know how to create an ethnic meal.

"We're looking for interested individuals to host an intimate cooking class. Russian, Filipino, African, any and all cuisines are welcome. Help keep your great-grandma's passed-down recipes alive to be enjoyed by a new generation. What a great legacy that'd be!

"Do you know how to braid hair? We need you to help teach little girls and their parents how to create an authentic Ukrainian hair braid or other ethnic braids.

"Is there a holiday you celebrate in your home culture? Share your traditions.

"Do you speak another language? We need you to share some words and phrases.

"Are you a writer? Host a small workshop for seniors on memoir writing."

Lachambre said that those were just a few examples of what the Arts Council is looking for, but the group enthusiastically welcomes all suggestions for interactive workshops.

"We are also looking for organizations/individuals to sponsor food tables for the international food fair," she said. "We will not charge table fees this year and vendors will keep all their own profits."



The littlest of the Sadok Ukrainian dancers at Kamsack performed during Kamsack's first Culture Days last year. Members of the group, from left, were: Meesha Romaniuk, Keeleigh Ferrill, Brooke DeBruin and Bobby DeBruin.

Second annual Culture Days planned for next month

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A color photograph of three people in traditional Ukrainian folk costumes. One person is holding a large drum. The costumes are colorful and feature intricate patterns.