



Showcase Projects

L.U.D of Baldur / Baldur Community Project Heritage Conservation / Community Group Projects



Our entry is about change as we transitioned former railway land into Veteran Park. Ninety years of crucial railway service came to an end for our town and a desire to beautify our community took hold. Over a decade the community transformed much of the former stock and rail yards into attractively treed boulevards with perennial beds and developed a beautiful park.

Perhaps foreshadowing the future use of the location, the first hardscape was erected after WWII by Baldur Branch No. 108 of the Royal Canadian Legion as a War Memorial, next to the then existing railroad. Approximately 20 years ago when railway companies and rural municipalities were still negotiating land ownership, a group of tenacious Baldur women proceeded to create the large star shaped perennial bed which today is the beautiful central feature of the park.

Over the next few years the community added a picnic shelter, a washroom, and lovely paved stone pathways to join the structures together. Raising the funds and completing the work was a huge undertaking. Once the structures were built there was much landscaping to do. The large area behind the railway bed was levelled and cleaned up, truckloads of dirt were brought in and grass was seeded. Two rows of trees were planted around the perimeter. The school and students were instrumental in securing and planting of the Prairie Sky Poplars and the Black Hills Spruce. The park received its name through a town contest and the Veteran Park sign was made by local craftspeople.

Today, maintenance is a shared affair. The RM provides, maintains and empties the recycling and garbage containers and mows the green space. Flower Committee and other community volunteers do the annual weeding, planting, deadheading and pruning of small shrubs. Watering is contracted out. Restrooms are cleaned daily by a super volunteer. The Baldur Community Development Association purchased a BBQ for the Park.

Currently the 15,000 square meter park is used for Farmer's Markets, community gatherings, musical events and also informally by small groups of locals or tourists stopping for an ice-cream, to stretch their legs or use the spotless restrooms.

Baldur is 128 years old with a population around 330. As a very small rural community we recognize our limitations, but we also know our strengths. Our June 14th, 2018 hail storm devastated much of our outdoor beauty and gave us a reality check. We grieved and fixed up what we could and CiB supported a wonderful education day for us. Over the next years Veteran Park will evolve as we respond to unforeseen challenges and new ideas. Our aim is to build on our past resilience as small town community life continues to transition.