

Thanks to our Volunteers for All You Do

Earlier this spring, during **National Volunteer Week**, Access Communications held appreciation events across the province.

Each year hundreds of volunteers give their time and expertise to help produce programming for our community channels, to help with the Children's Fund charity, the Annual Labour Day Show N Shine, Pumpkin Patrol and many other community events. None of this could be accomplished without the help of these wonderful volunteers.

Access7 works with groups and individuals from the communities we serve to create thousands of hours of unique local television programs. We provide the tools and training to bring their stories to life. Our volunteers attend everything from football games to studio productions, to Pow Wows and Dance Parties. They work in front of the camera and behind, write scripts, create onair graphics, provide colour commentary and more. Over 50% of all Access7 programming is produced by local community producers. If you have an idea for a show or you'd like to volunteer to help, we encourage you to contact us.

As a community-owned co-operative, Access Communications has a special connection with our volunteers; whether they're members of the community who want to lend a helping hand or Access Communications employees giving back. Volunteers have the desire to give back to their communities, a value we share. Thank you to our friends at APTN and ZoomerMedia who again sponsored the 2017 events.



(Left) Board chair, Dale Ripplinger speaks to Regina volunteers; celebrations were held in (top to bottom) Weyburn, Yorkton, and Regina as well as (not pictured) North Battleford and Estevan.



YOUR ACCESS

ISSUE #67 A newsletter for the members of Access Communications Co-operative Limited
JULY 2017



Bringing Saskatchewan To You

Access7 offers truly local programming no matter where we have to go to get it.

Hockey fans in Saskatchewan were treated to great **Regina Pats** hockey club playoff action this season. Living up to our commitment in being the exclusive broadcaster of the Regina Pats, it took a lot of effort and co-operation, as well as trips to Calgary and Swift Current, to bring all the action to Access7 viewers. Partnering with ShawTV, Access aired those exciting Pats playoff games on our community channels.

Through the **Yorkton Film Festival**, the Access7 program **Saskatchewan Wanderer 2016** won the national award for Best Community Television. The program was up against some great productions including another Access7 award-winning community-produced program, **RezX**. The **Saskatchewan Wanderer** series features segments shot all over our province and is community-produced by Tourism Sask, along with the Ministries of Agriculture, Economy, Parks, Culture and Sport, and Aristeia Artists. It was the work of host Neil Fisher and Access7 producer Dana Lesiuk. Access also is proud to sponsor the award for student production and airs the gala from the Film Festival.

Our crew from the Battlefords also took to the road to broadcast the **2017 Saskatchewan Country Music Awards** program live from Saskatoon. The organizers approached Access Communications based on our reputation and the work Access7 and producer Wayne Warren has done for the Saskatchewan music scene with programs such as **Country Music Access**.

This summer, Access7 has a line up that is full of parades, festivals and exhibitions. Sharing the happenings of our communities to neighbours at home and farther away.

For Access7 listings in your community, go to MyAccess.ca/Access7.

The Access7 mobile is on location every week travelling to the events that matter to viewers in Saskatchewan.



What's Inside

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Welcome to Eston

We were very pleased to welcome the members of the Eston TV Co-op to the Access Communications family as of June 1st. The members of the Eston Co-op honoured us with their trust in carrying on with the work their co-op had provided over the years.

As with the recent addition of Southey, Eston residents will enjoy enhanced services with Access while preserving community-ownership through co-operative membership. A new Access7 channel has been launched bringing local programming to the town.



Our co-operative is now proud to serve over 230 Saskatchewan communities plus more areas with our Wireless Internet service.

Co-op Membership Renewal

NOT SURE WHEN TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Members that need to renew their memberships in our co-operative this summer will have received a notice letter with this newsletter. Since most members renew for more than one year at a time, only some members will need to renew for August 31st this year. Just check the year printed on the envelope or contact Member Relations.

IT'S EASY TO RENEW: In person at any of our retail locations, by phone or email to Member Relations, or by using the online form at MyAccess.ca (in the *About Access* section). An **auto-renew option** is also available to make it easy for you to keep your membership up to date. When you renew, please don't forget to tell us of any address or name changes.

For questions or assistance with your renewal, or for a new membership application, contact member.relations@myaccess.coop.

OUR MISSION

We are a community owned co-operative dedicated to providing exceptional communications and entertainment services and unique opportunities for local expression.

OUR VALUES

Integrity

We live by our belief in honesty, respect, and trust in everything we do.

Employee-Centered

We enable everyone's involvement, growth and contribution in a challenging, safe and fun environment.

Customer-Focused

We deliver extraordinary value reliably, dependably and consistently.

Community-Oriented

We are an integral part of the communities we serve, contributing to their energy and progress.

Innovative

We create and embrace change that enhances customer service, the community and our organization.

Contact Us

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For the latest news, contests and videos, visit us at:

myaccess.ca [@MyAccess_ca](https://www.facebook.com/AccessCommunication)
[AccessCommunication](https://www.facebook.com/AccessCommunication) [myaccessca](https://www.youtube.com/myaccessca)

Access Communications Co-operative Limited 2017 Board of Directors

Dale Ripplinger - Chair, Regina
Dick DeRyk - Vice Chair, Yorkton
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David Dekker, North Battleford
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Bernadette McIntyre, Regina
Hiedi Pearson, Regina
Doreen Polischuk, La Ronge
Ken Shaw, Regina
Twila Walkeden, Weyburn

Proud to be Recognized

Employee engagement is rapidly ascending the list of top business priorities, and we were honoured to again be recognized as one of the **Achievers 50 Most Engaged Workplaces in North America** for 2017. This prestigious award acknowledges the commitment we place in cultivating a positive work environment, a value at the core of who we are. The Achievers program awards employers based on eight elements of employee engagement: Leadership, Communication, Culture, Recognition, Growth, Accountability, Vision and Values, and Corporate Social Responsibility.



SASKATCHEWAN'S
TOP EMPLOYERS

Access Communications was also proud to again be named as one of the **Top 25 Employers in Saskatchewan** by MediaCorp in 2017.

For the latest job postings at our co-operative, go to MyAccess.ca/Careers.

Discounts for Our Members

Access Communications is a proud member-owner of The Co-operators Group. Discounts are available to Access Communications Co-operative members for travel insurance; life, health and dental benefits; farm insurance; and home and auto insurance. We encourage you to contact The Co-operators to find out more about the discounts and services they offer.

To access the program or for more information, contact your local Co-operators office directly; or visit cooperators.ca/memberbenefits.



Better Together

At Access Communications, we take our commitment to corporate social responsibility seriously.

Each year, our Co-operative supports over 1,600 community groups through our registered charity, the Access Communications Children's Fund and Access7 community programming, as well as scholarships and other corporate support and sponsorships.

We hope you will take a moment to look at our **2017 Community Report**, and read more about the work our charity and our Co-operative does for our customers, our volunteers, our staff, our communities and our province.



Did you know...many local groups and teams book Access Community Park as well as meeting facilities in Regina - free of charge.

Investing in Saskatchewan Youth

June was a busy month for our **Access Communications Scholarship Program**.

Since the launch of the Access scholarship program in 2005, our Co-operative has invested \$275,000 in post-secondary education for high school students in Saskatchewan. This year twenty \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to recipients from across the province. The recipients were chosen not only for their academic achievement but most importantly, their demonstrated exemplary community involvement. Access Communications is also



proud to further support Saskatchewan youth by awarding several entrance scholarships for the Film and Video Program at the **University of Regina**. Congratulations to all recipients of Access scholarships this year.

Access7 was also on location in many communities to record local high school graduation ceremonies and aired the **University of Regina Spring Convocation** and the **Sask Polytechnic Wascana Campus Convocation**.



Investing For What's Next

Access Communications is investing in Saskatchewan through a multi-year \$100 million program to enhance our distribution infrastructure and customer equipment. The program includes expanding our Wireless Internet service to more rural customers, upgrading TV services in many communities and expanding HyperSpeed Internet to more and more areas of the province. As we welcomed the new Access communities of Southey and Eston, we have launched new services and a local Access7 community channel. Now residents of those communities can take part in the weekly Access Communications Children's Fund TV Bingo as well as enjoy watching TV programming unique to their community on Access7 such as the recent Southey High School grad ceremonies.

This year we will be expanding high speed internet service to more communities as well offering more choices for customer set-top digital boxes. We are committed to providing our customers with leading-edge services, along with choice, great value and our best-in-class customer service.



Coming Up on Access7



Access7 community programming crews have been hard at work this summer with the **Weyburn Fair Parade, Nipawin & Melfort Exhibitions, the Regina Beach Canada Day Parade** and the **Regina Fringe Festival** as well as the **Queen City Pride Parade**, and various **Canada 150** events. Access7 Sports is covering all the action with **WMBL baseball games, rodeos, tractor pulls** and of course following our favourite team on **In the Huddle**. Did you know that Access7 aired the first football game in the new Regina stadium (*University of Regina Rams game October 2016*) AND the last football game in the old Mosaic stadium (*WWCFL Riot June 2017*).

Programs coming up on Access7 in August include the **Saskatchewan First Nations Summer Games** (Aug 6-11) from Regina and the **Northwest Territorial Ex** (Aug 16 - 18) in the Battlefords.

Join us for the **11th Annual Labour Day Show N Shine** on Monday, September 4th from 12:00 to 4:00 pm in Access Community Park (Park St & Arcola Ave in Regina). Thanks go to our many volunteers, our partners The Collectors Car Club of Saskatchewan, and our many sponsors including CAA Saskatchewan. Thousands of visitors will view up to 500 antique and vintage cars with proceeds from the event going to benefit the Regina Food Bank. You can check out even more great cars on **Cruisin' on 7** as host/community producer Bob Friedrich visits car shows across the province.