

## 101 Great Things About Swift Current

1. One of Swift Current's best features is its accessibility. You can get anywhere in the city in an easy 10 minutes, and everything is laid out for ease in locating and making use of all its services.
2. Swift Current's location on the Trans Canada Highway makes it a popular stop for those passing through on their journey across the country. The Trans Canada is the world's longest national road, and one-million vehicles pass through Swift Current each year thanks to this stellar location.
3. 2004 means the construction of a casino/performing arts complex. The facility will include 150 slot machines, 13 table games, and 700-seat auditorium and a banquet hall.
4. Construction on the new, three storey Southwest Credit Union facility began in mid January of this year. More than 100 staff will be employed there.
5. Swift Current is also getting a new hospital. The Cypress Regional Hospital will be located along Highway #4, providing greater ease in access for out-of-towners.
6. Swift Current will soon be the home of a brand new wastewater treatment plant. This \$15 million endeavor will be a non-chemical plant exercising biological nutrient removal.
7. The City of Swift Current's five year capital plan will provide about \$50 million in funding to expand the Civic Centre, upgrade the water treatment plant and build a new skate park.
8. Swift Current has more restaurants per capita than its significantly larger neighbors Regina and Saskatoon. Yum!
9. The city also boasts a wide variety of churches of many different faiths.
10. Swift Current's climate, with 2,200 hours of sunshine per year, is one of the most favourable in the country.
11. There are plenty of places to enjoy the sun. We are fortunate enough to be situated right on Swift Current Creek, a beautiful defining feature of the city.
12. Along the creek runs the Chinook Pathway, 8.5 km of paved walkway, a dream for naturalists and birdwatchers.
13. Parks like Riverside, Elmwood and Saulteaux Parks provide families with sport play structures, spray pools, horseshoe pits, and volleyball courts...
14. ...Or if you're without the kids for an afternoon, the Kiwanis, Memorial and Alpine Parks are perfect places for a quiet picnic.
15. The Swift Current Broncos have never missed the playoffs and brought home a Memorial Cup in 1989-90. Swift loves WHL hockey.
16. So do the fans. Without the raucous, boisterous, enthusiastic folks in the stands who make Bronco games the big deal that they are, we wouldn't be able to have a hockey team.
17. Bronco headquarters, the Centennial Civic Centre is a top-notch facility that has been called "The Best Ice in the WHL" for a number of years.
18. Or on a winter day, get bundled up and check out any one of our six outdoor rinks, which are free to the public for recreational hockey and public skating.
19. The Outdoor Hockey League provides a non-competitive, non-contact, fun league for over 70 Swift Current hockey players.

20. Swift Current owes a lot of 2004's action and development to its new mayor. Sandy Larson is the first female mayor in the city's history and has a knack for making things happen.
21. Swift Current residents can take a dip even in the winter months at the Aquatic Centre.
22. The outdoor Fairview Swimming Pool offers public swimming daily during the summer months.
23. The list of service clubs that call Swift Current home goes on and on. They all deserve a pat on the back for helping make our community great.
24. Hobby and leisure clubs in the city are varied, spanning everything from chess to square dancing to archaeology. Consult the City of Swift Current Recreation and Parks Leisure Guide for a full list of what's available.
25. A perfect way to take in some of our gorgeous scenery is to play a round at one of Swift Current's two golf courses. Both Elmwood Golf and Country Club and the Chinook Golf Course provide challenging courses, driving ranges, and cart and club rentals.
26. Craig Robinson has lived in Swift Current all of his life and was the 2001 Canadian National Long Drive Champion and a 2002 World Long Drive qualifier.
27. The Kinetic Club, founded in 1938, is committed to bringing summer fun for all.
28. Frontier Days brings four days of entertainment, pro rodeo, midway madness and horse and cattle shows to Swift Current.
29. Kinetic Park is also home to Doc's Town, a recreated 1920's prairie village.
30. There are also six other places in our city designated as municipal heritage sites: The Battleford Trail, CPR dam site, Powley Residence, Court House, Central School and Knox Presbyterian Church.
31. The Swift Current Museum, features tons of exhibits on the history of southwest Saskatchewan. Admission is free!
32. The Mennonite Heritage Village will teach you all about the history of the early Mennonite homesteaders.
33. Land at Saskatchewan Landing, one of three provincial parks in the area. Located on the shores of Lake Diefenbaker, it is a mere 50 km north of Swift Current.
34. Lac Pelletier is another easy day trip from Swift Current. The lake provides great fishing, boating and water-skiing and is surrounded by picnic sites, a playground, and a nine hole golf course.
35. The second Saturday in July Lac Pelletier comes alive with festivities and music during the Lac Pelletier Opry.
36. The Art Gallery of Swift Current offers exhibitions of outstanding provincial and national artwork.
37. While you're in the Art Gallery, you might as well stop and visit Southwest Saskatchewan's largest library, also in the R.C. Dahl Centre. The library also offers free high-speed Internet access.
38. The Southwest Writers Project's Literary Cafes are held monthly at Pick-A-Deli and feature public readings by Canadian authors, or entertainment by local musicians.
39. In June the Long Day's Night Music Festival, along with barbecue, concession and beer gardens, are all part of the fun and festivities.
40. Blenders Art and Music at the Art Gallery of Swift Current offers a series of live musical events featuring groups blaring everything from blues to rock, folk to jazz in the summer.

41. It's nice to know we have someone looking out for the well-being of our four-legged friends here in our fair city. The Swift Current Humane Society takes in wayward or abused pets and nurses them back to health. They always have somebody's future best friend up for adoption at their facility.
42. Enjoy Swift's fascinating history. From 1917-1928 it was the divisional headquarters for the Saskatchewan Provincial Police, providing policing services for the entire region.
43. Swift Current played an active role in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan from 1941 to 1944 as the home of No. 39 Service Flying Training School.
44. Canadian Helium Ltd. operated the first-and for many years the only-helium plant in Canada out of Swift Current during the 1960s and 70s. It supplied markets on every continent with the exception of Antarctica.
45. Our city played a vital role in the relief efforts for Europe after the devastation of World War II. The Horse Co-operative marketing Association supplied them with both canned and pickled meat.
46. Swift Current can proudly call itself Health Region #1, the birthplace of Medicare. In 1946 a pilot for province-wide health care began in Swift Current.
47. When walking downtown, enjoy Windowworks as it is one of the things that makes our downtown unique.
48. The Swift Current Firefighters Combat team has taken first place in the region for the last six years straight, and this year placed 5<sup>th</sup> in team and 8<sup>th</sup> in relay at the Nationals out of more than 30 teams from across the country.
49. Unique? You bet! First Avenue Flowers and Gifts offers a Drive Thru Services. Pick up a dozen roses without even having to get out of the car!
50. The city's semi-professional ball team, the Swift Current Indian's provides us with an exciting taste of baseball action. The team has taken home the league championship in 1992, '94, '97, '98, 2000 and 2001.
51. Speaking of baseball, the city complex boasts more than a dozen slowpitch/fastball diamonds. Batter up!
52. Surrounded by great migratory flyways, the area surrounding Swift Current is prime hunting ground.
53. Cypress Hills Regional College is the largest post-secondary institution in southwestern Saskatchewan, operating at Beatty Campus in Swift Current.
54. Swift Current also boasts a vast number of great public schools including the Swift Current Comprehensive High School and Maverick School.
55. Getting up in the mornings can be a chore, but at last Swift Current residents get to wake up to the best Golden West Radio Saskatchewan Morning Show! Golden West gives the award to the show which best demonstrates excellence in broadcasting coupled with discussion of what's happening in the community.
56. Swift Current native Dorothy Walton (nee McKenzie) was a world-class badminton player. She held the All-England title from 1939 to 1947 and was selected Canada's outstanding female athlete in 1940, '57, and '60. She was inducted into the Canada Sports Hall of Fame in 1961, and became a member of the Order of Canada in 1973.
57. Other glowing talents that have come out of our city include several award-winning authors, including Lorna Crozier, Fred Wah, Dianne Warren and Lee Gowan...

58. And let's not forget that hockey sensations like Joe Sakic and Sheldon Kennedy got their start playing for the Swift Current Broncos.
59. For nine years the Swift Current Archery Club has hosted their annual Prairie Classic 3-D Tournament in June. The tournament draws anywhere between 50 and 100 shooters and their families to the Frontier City.
60. Local artist Cameron Dyck is helping to beautify the city and has started a mural on the side of Harvey's Oak Gallery representing the history of John Deere.
61. The Swift Current Curling Rink makes it possible for everyone to partake in this sport. It features 10 sheets of artificial ice and hosts a wide variety of bonspiels.
62. Swift Current's market area: to the north 130 km, west 120 km, south 160 km and east 100 km, serves a population of approximately 55,000. Speedy Creek has about 1,000 businesses and professional firms, 255 of these are retail firms.
63. Great shopping is due in part to two large malls, the Swift Current Mall and the Wheatland Mall, several smaller strip malls, and a vibrant downtown shopping area.
64. Swift Current offers eight public tennis courts. Two lighted courts are located at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Northwest and Herbert Street. The Riverside Park has six courts and the headquarters for the Swift Current Tennis Club. Two courts are lighted and available at all times to the public.
65. Movie buffs can enjoy mainstream movies daily and also International films every month at the Cinema Twin Theatre. Southwest Crisis Services in conjunction with the Toronto International Film Festival, presents shows from September to May.
66. Or if film isn't quite your thing, check out a drama production instead. Swift Current Little Theatre stages two major productions every year at the Beatty Playhouse in the Cypress Hills Regional College.
67. It may be only a temporary attraction, but this year Swift Current and surrounding area has a surplus of snow! Get out on the snowmobile or the toboggan, or get creative and build a snowman or a fort with the kids.
68. Father's Day isn't just for dads in our city. Central Avenue comes alive with laughter and cheering as dozens of soap box racers take off down the hill. The annual Soap Box Derby attracts kids and their families from all over the province.
69. Life size versions of this event take place in the summer as stock care racing action takes over Speedy Creek Raceway at Kinetic Park. Start your engines.
70. The great weekend events don't run out when the sun does. October in Swift Current is an exciting time for the craftsmen and artisans among us. The Swift Current Allied Arts Council hosts Windfall, an extensive arts and crafts sale which features over 100 booths and attracts crafty folk from all across Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba.
71. Residents of Swift Current sure get good use of their Recreations Centre. The Centre features a gym and lower lounge for birthday parties and meetings.
72. The strength of our oil and gas sector gives us added confidence that our economy will continue to grow. In 2002 the large gas find in Shackleton/Cabri area helped Southwest Saskatchewan set a record with the completion of 1700 new wells. In 2003, 1773 new wells were drilled. Last year 124 new oil wells were drilled, compared to 95 in 2002.
73. The composting program Swift Current began in 2001 has gone a long way toward making us a more environmentally friendly city. In 2003 we collected 260 tonnes of paper and cardboard and 22 tonnes of plastics...

74. Action Swift Current is an active committee made up of residents, businesspeople, and city and rural politicians who are dedicated to uniting the city of Swift Current to encourage prosperity and growth. Go team!
75. August long weekend Swift Current Fringe Festival Inc. presents four days of fantastic live music and theatre. International and Canadian performers take to three stages set up in downtown Swift Current. Artists, retailers, restaurants and beverage gardens round out the event, and admission is free!
76. The Semiarid Prairie Agriculture Research Centre out of Swift Current is designated the national centre for dry land farming systems research. SPARC was established in 1922 and since then has developed many of the leading cereal crops cultivated worldwide today.
77. Swift Current is the honorary home of the 8<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Regiment, 14<sup>th</sup> Canadian Hussars, a celebrated military unit from World War II.
78. One of our most precious resources is our talented young people, who are lucky enough to have plenty of activities and groups to get involved in. The Swift Current Children's Choir are a group of about 30 youth with a pretty impressive performing resume. They have sung on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, performed for the Governor General, and last year took part in a Regina concert that was aired on CBC.
79. A group of a dozen local gymnasts joined 20,000 athletes from around the world at a gymnastics festival in Lisbon, Portugal last year on behalf of the Swift Current Rhythmic Gymnastics Club. The Club has about 80 members in total between the ages of six and 18.
80. Hockey, figure skating and power skating schools run every year in the summer months. Soccer, baseball, softball and hockey leagues that are available to all minor aged girls and boys.
81. Every year KidSport provides approximately 130 disadvantaged children with the costs or registration, equipment and transportation for sporting activities.
82. And how about the young at heart? The Swift Current Seniors Activity Centre located in the old Bank of Montreal building is always teeming with activity. About 120 people hold a membership, and spend the day playing shuffleboard, bridge, cards or billiards.
83. The work of local artist Hugh Henry is often on display at the Art Gallery of Swift Current as part of a group exhibit. This month though, Henry has the complete spotlight with his solo exhibit "You Are Here," an exhibition of works made from found objects that are assembled to evoke associations with the past and represent the disappearance of family farms and small towns.
84. Visitors to Swift Current can enjoy the visitor reception and information centres you will find anywhere! Located at the junction of Highway 1 and Highways 4 bypass, souvenirs, maps, brochures and friendly faces await the approximately 6,500 weary travelers per year that stop by.
85. We are proud to call ourselves a fiscally healthy city! Swift Current offers the lowest municipal tax structure in Saskatchewan, and the city's water and electrical rates are among the lowest.
86. Swift is the only city in Saskatchewan to offer entrepreneurial training, free business counseling services, business incubator space, and single window access to other resources for the entrepreneur at the Southwest Centre for Entrepreneurial Development.

87. Gramma Bep's famous Saskatoon pie is known all over Canada. They make 72 products, including jams, jellies and prairie fruits and vegetables that they ship all over the world.
88. While you're getting your Saskatoon pie fix you might as well check out Jackson's Petting Zoo, it's in the same building after all. Open from May to September, the zoo is home to llamas, miniature donkeys, miniature horses, pigs, rabbits, peacocks, and other assorted furry and feathered friends.
89. Located just west of Swift Current on Highway 1 is the Enchanted Chapel Tea Room and Gift Shop. The building was constructed in 1909 in the town of Caron and designated "Church of the Good Shepherd." It was moved to Ernfold in 1958, where it became the community's Catholic Church until the late 1960's. One summer a tornado lifted the church from its foundation, but later that day another storm came along and placed it back again!
90. SaskPower is exploring new and environmentally friendly ways to produce power. There are two separate windmill projects near Gull Lake which produce 22 megawatts – enough to power approximately 14,000 homes.
91. Gull Lake is also the home of former Saskatchewan Roughriders offensive guard Roger Aldag. Aldag got his start in amateur football with the Gull Lake Lions. He won Western accolades eight times in his 17-year career and CFL All-Star honours five times. He also received the Schenley Most Outstanding Offensive Lineman award twice and helped the 'Riders bring home the Grey Cup in 1989.
92. Another noteworthy facility in Swift Current's surrounding area is Millar College of the Bible in nearby Pambrun.
93. You'll see your share of rodeo at Swift Current's famous Frontier Days, but if you still haven't got your fill, make sure to get to the Angus Classic Rodeo Saskatchewan High School Finals. The event will be held this year from June 4-6.
94. The Kinsmen Club's street festival and dance put on every year in August in conjunction with Downtown Business Association, features live bands, and pancake breakfast, car displays, business displays and a street carnival.
95. And the Kinsmen's female counterparts are always doing their part to provide entertainment for the ladies. April 24 will be Ladies Night in Swift Current, an event that entertains between 200-300 women.
96. Throughout the year, Swift Current Allied Arts Council presents "Stars for Saskatchewan," a series of performances featuring national and international performers. You'll see everything from music performances to theatre performances to dance.
97. Southwest Art Beat's radio show airs every Sunday at 3:30, updating the community on all the various arts and culture activities that are available.
98. Swift Current has a wide variety of hotels, motels, campgrounds and even a couple of bed and breakfasts.
99. Or hey, maybe skip the hotel stay altogether and just move here. Swift Current offers a growing economy, a wide range of activities for young and old, and a very reasonable cost of living.
100. It's all about people. Swift Current's citizens are open and friendly with a variety of interests and backgrounds that make our city truly unique.

101. And the best thing on the list perhaps is that 101 Things doesn't even come close to covering the thousands of businesses, activities, events, organizations, clubs and people that make Swift Current the place we all love to call home. We'd almost need an entire additional section to get around to everything. Maybe next time we do this we should call it 1001 Great Things About Swift Current.

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