

## Age Friendly group thrilled with bench project

BY KARA KINNA

When the Moosomin Age Friendly group launched a campaign this spring looking for sponsors to help them build and place benches around Moosomin, they had no idea that they would get such a positive response.

Within a short period of time the group had enough sponsors to place 19 benches around Moosomin.

"It was one of the things that came up in our survey way back," says Age Friendly Moosomin member Devona Putland. "One of the comments from our survey was that there weren't rest areas when people wanted to walk, along with concerns about the condition of the sidewalks.

"Bill Thorn went into investigating what Rosetown had done, and then looked at some prototypes locally and then set the project up."

"We thought it was important to try to produce them locally as well, so Kale Holmstrom did all the benches. Borderland Co-op gave us a big discount on the material, Kassie's and GL Apparel made the signage for it, and Celebration Ford painted the benches," adds Bill Thorn.

"We had 19 benches in total which is really successful," says Putland.

"I was hoping we'd get half a dozen or 10 maybe," adds Thorn.

"We made a soft goal at our meeting—if we get six benches we can always run the campaign again in June if we have to, and the first week I think we went past our soft goal, and by the end of the month when we hit the 19th bench it was quite exciting," says Putland.

The group says they have already had some interest in running a second bench campaign.

"I have a few people interested if we are going to do more," says Thorn.

"I had a few calls as well after we finished the campaign and I said 'phone Bill, he will keep you on the list for when we do our next one,'" says Putland.

The 19 benches have been placed at a variety of locations around Moosomin. Some of the locations include Andrew Agencies, the Royal Bank, outside the RM of Moosomin Office, at the Legion, at the Co-op grocery store, at Dr. Davidson Park, and at the new Eastside Playground.



Members of the Moosomin Age Friendly Committee with one of the benches outside of Andrew Agencies in Main Street in Moosomin. In back from left are Sharon Beutler, Bonnie Brandt, and Alice Abrahamson. In front are Bill Thorn and Devona Putland.