

## **UNITY FOR "RIDERVILLE"**

Hi! My name is Unice from Unity, and I am going to tell you why I think our community should be proclaimed "Riderville".

I am furry with four legs and I have traced my family history in Unity, Saskatchewan back to the early 50's when my great great grand gopher parents moved west to get away from the hustle and bustle of rural Manitoba. I have been deeply involved as the local mascot and cheerleader for our local football club, the Unity Warriors. I have also been considered the right-hand rodent for coach Orobko. He is forever saying Unice go-p-her this or Unice go-p-her that, and I have always been there for him.

The local football program is my life, and the gridiron that they play on is my home. You see, our football field is in dire need of re-crowning & some major landscaping to ensure that the field drains properly. Proper drainage gives all our players better footing and less chance of injury and also helps keep my home from being flooded. In addition to the crowning of the field, the football team has already been fundraising to construct some storage sheds and lockers. If we are successful in being named "Riderville" these proceeds would greatly assist in paying for these projects.

We had a real revitalization of football in 1998 when the Warrior program was re-launched after a 20 year hiatus. Thanks to the Riders and U of S Huskies we had great guest speakers Dan Rashovich and Brian Towriss at our banquet to help kick-off the program. Since this night in 1998, in addition to the Warriors, we have seen the start of an adult flag football league for recreation football players, a tackle football program for grades 6, 7 and 8 students, and a flag football program for kids in grades 2 to 5. A grade 2 student even has uprights in his backyard and hosts a football game for all his friends every year. Talk about," if you build it they will come!"

The warrior football program has produced a 9-man provincial title in 2007, and many individual players who have played in the Senior Bowl and moved on to further their careers in the University ranks. We can also proudly say Taylor Wallace from the Unity Warriors is now property of the Saskatchewan Roughriders! AWESOME!

Our community has always supported the Riders with different events. We have had Rider floats in our annual fair and winter festival parades. Our businesses and homeowners faithfully decorate their front windows and yards when the annual playoff push is on. Our schools and students always get in the spirit with their annual Rider Pride day. In 1989 and 2007 the community and schools held rallies to help celebrate the Grey Cup Champions. This year, a local resident has taken the initiative to join the Bleed Green Campaign and has signed up over 80 people already to donate for the July 2010 Blood Donor Clinic. A few years ago we had a team of individuals that made green chili when the Legion held its annual chili cook off. The chili looked great but it sure didn't agree with me. I had a few unpleasant fumes coming out of my gopher hole after that day.

We have numerous season ticket holders, not to mention all the people who buy game-day tickets and faithfully make the 900 km round trip to Regina to cheer on the Green & White. When the old Rider rep program was in existence, we had a couple of reps in the community who were very active in selling season tickets and memberships to the residents of Unity. Although this program has disbanded, these individuals are still active in promoting the Riders in our community.

Over the years, The Riders have been fantastic in allowing players to come and support our local functions either through Team Health, the annual science fair, or whatever event we were hosting. Scott Schultz, Richie Hall, Paul McCallum, and Andrew Greene, among others, have all been to our community as ambassadors for the Riders.

We have some real crazy fans. In 1995 when Regina hosted their first ever Grey Cup game, a contest was held called "show us the sign". The winner would receive a Grey Cup package including hotel rooms, tickets and all the trimmings. One of our cattle farmers went above and beyond the call, as he painted their prize bull green and white with the Grey Cup logo emblazoned on its side. Needless to say they won the contest.

A couple years ago Frito's had a fandemonium contest where they judged the best dressed fan from each CFL city. Sure enough, our own Doreen Bonogofski was selected as Saskatchewan's representative and was on national television for the Labour Day Classic.

After the Riders won the 2007 Grey Cup, we had a fan make a special trip to Regina to meet the players at the stadium as they returned from Toronto. The day was about -35 C with a wind-chill, but he still stood out in the frigid temperatures just to get a chance to meet Andy Fantuz and get his autograph for his daughter. I didn't even come out of my gopher hole that day, and I think I had to grow more fur, just to keep warm.

Unity is very passionate about the riders and we have established a committee of long-time supporters to put forward our entry. The committee had hundreds of volunteers to help dress our businesses, residences, and schools in rider colours. As evidenced on our video, the finishing touch was applied by painting the rider "S" in the heart of our downtown.

Finally, the committee has given me a great privilege to be the author of this bid, so please give serious consideration to Unity, Saskatchewan as "Riderville 2010".

Sincerely,



Unice from Unity  
On behalf of "Unity for Riderville 2010" committee