

Janie (Rempel) Sonntag

Janie was diagnosed at about age 30 with a rare disease called Lupus. This disease attacked her kidneys, heart, lungs, brain and skin. The aggressive drugs that kept her alive also did their damage and little by little, Janie lost her ability to function normally. The illness and treatments changed her from a fun, powerful extrovert to depressed, uncertain recluse.



If you were to visit on a good day, you might find Janie outside planting and re-planting flowers. You would see that her home was filled with things that were beautiful. She was meticulous about details and how things should go together. It was beauty that gave her the courage to get up, when she could. It was beauty that nourished her heart, refreshed her spirit, and comforted her mind.

In March of 2014, Janie suffered a brain aneurism, from which she recovered partially, and now she lives in a care home in Cochrane, with impaired memory and mobility. Janie continues to take joy in the beauty around her, and this quality is an ongoing blessing to others.

Helen Rempel

Helen passed away July of 2015. Had you ever visited her home before illness slowed her down, you would find her dressed in rubber boots and shorts, driving the lawn mower somewhere in their 10 acre yard, kneeling in her expansive rose garden, or nurturing vegetables, trees, houseplants – anything that would grow.



Every night when she finally admitted it was too dark to continue, she would leave her yard better than it was the day before. When you turned a corner inside the house or outside – you would find another beautiful view. And when you left, you would feel as though your soul had been refreshed.

This was her gift – creating beauty with everything she touched.

Neither of these two incredible women will ever know about this garden. They will not understand how much they gave to the people around them, and the things they taught others about the importance of beauty. It is Bob's hope that the gardening space will nurture souls and give comfort and joy to those who frequent it.

In June of 2016 Bob Sonntag, owner of the S3 family of companies, donated 12 city lots to the City of Swift Current to be named "The Janie and Helen Rempel Community Garden". This garden is available for rental by Swift Current residents for the purpose of gardening. S3 Enterprises has invested in the construction of a suitable and beautiful design for this purpose; the City provides services and ongoing care.

Janie is Helen's daughter, and Bob's wife.

RENT A SPACE

Contact the City of Swift Current | www.swiftcurrent.ca

In Person: City Hall - 177 1st Avenue NE, Community Service Desk

By Phone: 306-778-2787

By Email: communityservices@swiftcurrent.ca

WITH APPRECIATION

There are a few people who have truly taken this project to heart. From Janie & Helen's family, and from S3, thank you to these extraordinary individuals:

Susan Woods. Susan retired from her high-profile executive career a few years ago, and began to pursue her passion – horticulture. But everyone knows that Susan is a gifted designer, and before long, friends and acquaintances were lining up to convince her to design their yards. Fortunately for us, Susan's excellent son, Kent, is an S3-ite, so she answered our call and by the time we finished our story, Susan was firing up her laptop and showing us ideas. Although horticulture was supposed to just be a hobby, Susan accepted the job of manager of this project, and has spent the past 12 months making the connections required to bring everything together, and working long hours to meet demanding expectations. We are humbled to be the recipients of Susan's time and energy. Under her guidance this garden has become the testimony to our loved ones and their appreciation for beauty of which we dreamed.

Mike Bailey. Typically when someone says they will get something done well and on time, you take it with a grain of salt. With Mike, we have learned that no salt is required. In fact, he prefers to work ahead of schedule, and his work quality is like what you do in your own yard – exactly as it should be. In addition to surprising us with these 2 qualities, Mike has invested something of his own business in this project: The ongoing maintenance of the irrigation system is complements of this man and his company, DoneRite Contracting. It has been inspiring to work with Mike, and to watch the design take life in his capable hands.

The team at **Bruder Built Manufacturing.** As a manufacturer of equipment, S3 relies on suppliers both near and far, and Bruder Built has become a long-time partner on whose integrity and ability we have come to depend. When we sent the designs for cutting the overhead sign and the poem piece, they noticed that this was an unusual order, and asked for the story behind it. A company with a terrific family culture, they instantly wanted to be a part of our project, and so they donated the pieces. We are blessed by their interest in our story, and by their generosity.

Copies Xpress. We knew we needed someone with a connection to our story to create the design for the signs. At Copies Xpress we found someone who as a high school student got to know S3 owner Bob Sonntag as a youth group chaperone. When we asked him to work on this, Brandon Wiebe took it on with great enthusiasm and sensitivity to the vision for this garden space as something Janie and Helen would love. We are thrilled with Brandon's creative design! And, we are grateful for the way Copies Xpress consistently tackles our most challenging timelines and printing projects with an eye on quality and value.

The City of Swift Current. Of course, the garden wouldn't be possible without the full commitment of the City of Swift Current. From irrigation to lighting; box rentals to washroom details; property transfers to the grand opening party – the many teams that make our City function have been enthusiastic and professional. Their expertise has helped to overcome many obstacles, and their vision of a place where people can enjoy a sense of community in a beautiful environment has never wavered. We are glad to be part of this community, and grateful for the many individuals at City Hall for the support and leadership they provide.