



# Chase the Ace is back – it will be fun, fun, fun!

The game that created so much excitement and fun in our community during 2019 is coming back. Yes, Chase the Ace will soon be back! Ticket sales will kick-off at the Manitou Beach Winterfest event Saturday, February 29.

The card game was very well received last year in the local community and surrounding areas. Last year the Watrous Manitou Beach Heritage Centre Chase the Ace game awarded a total of \$116,550 to 54 lucky winners, including Trevor Soderberg, of Young, who won \$47,697 on the final draw night November 29, 2019. Considering the cash prizes awarded, it is no surprise players were clamouring to have Chase the Ace start again.

With Lyle Emmons at the helm of the organizing committee, the project sailed through the application process established by Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority. Late in January approval and a licence to operate Chase the Ace in 2020 was granted.

Joining Emmons on the 2020 Chase the Ace committee are the following community-minded individuals: co-chair Lionel Sproule, vice-chair Glenda McArthur, treasurer Elva Turner, Kathy Bergen, Ron and Patti Frey, Susan Jabs, Vince and Dee Armstrong, Lane Manson, Vern and Doreen Rudneski, Jean Margetts, Bryan Mierau, Gail Shirley, and Avery Andreas. Tracy Wiebe and Susan Nicholson will also be called upon to help the committee from time to time.

David Somers and Les Schuster have agreed to serve as official game proxies. One of them will be available at every draw to act on behalf of any absent weekly prize winner. Gary Bergen will handle social media for the Chase the Ace committee.

Of course, the game could not be conducted without the assistance of numerous ticket sellers. Local businesses and individuals have stepped forward to sell Chase the Ace tickets. The following eight locations have agreed to have Chase the Ace tickets available for purchase during their regular hours of operation: TB's Bar & Grill, Watrous Pharmacy, Affinity Credit Union – Watrous Branch, Watrous Town Office, Watrous Mainline Motor Products, Centennial Ford Sales, Manitou Mainline Chrysler and Watrous Manitou Beach Heritage Centre. Many individuals also stepped forward to volunteer as ticket sellers on a scheduled rotation including: Shelley Engele, Deb Holm, Melanie Manson, Cathy Sather, Denise Thoner, Kerry Van Vaals, Connie Woiden, Sherwin Petersen, John and Melanie Gunderson, Ray and Janis Hall, Karen and Fraser Mark, Ron and Ruth Morningstar, David and Joyce Potts, and Keith and Cindy Vanthuyne.

As a former business owner, Emmons knows and appreciates the sacrifice business owners make when they offer their facilities and staff time to sell tickets for a local project. He is incredibly happy with the way businesses and volunteers stepped forward to assist with the Watrous Manitou Beach Heritage Centre 2020 fundraiser. Good fortune smiled on the project when Melron Service Ltd. found a novel way to help. A beaming Emmons noted, "I am pleased to extend a special Thank You to Ron and Melissa Ediger for having their business, Melron Service Ltd., sponsor the printing of the Chase the Ace tickets this year."

The Chase the Ace committee is also highly appreciative of Lane Manson's generous offer to allow the committee to hold the weekly draws at TB's Bar & Grill again this year. Emmons suggests people who want to attend the draw, get to the bar early especially once the jackpot grows a bit. Last year Manson had to turn away patrons on some Fridays because the bar quickly filled to capacity prior to the draw. The committee plans to live-stream the draws on the Internet for those unable to attend.

"Chase the Ace is really a fine example of individuals, organizations and businesses working together for a common goal, and the community as a whole benefits," stated Emmons.

Players were happy with the rules last year, therefore, the organizing committee has left the rules virtually untouched. The rules will be posted on the Heritage Centre website ([www.watrousheritage.ca](http://www.watrousheritage.ca)). The basic rules are quite simplistic, ticket buyers must be at least 18 years of age to play, at least one new ticket is needed every week the player wants to participate, and the player does not need to attend the draw to win. A winner is selected at every draw. There is no limit to the number of tickets a player can buy; of course, the greater the number of tickets a player has, the greater the opportunity of winning. Tickets are valid only for that week's draw. The draws will occur at TB's Bar & Grill at 8 pm beginning Friday, March 6 and every Friday thereafter until the final draw December 4, 2020. Ticket prices are: 1 for \$10 or a 3-Pack for \$20.

The weekly prize winning ticket owner will automatically win 20% of the week's gross ticket sales revenue, plus the ticket owner, or the proxy on behalf of the ticket owner, will have one opportunity to chase the ace by cutting a standard deck of playing cards in hopes of selecting the Ace of Spades. If the Ace of Spades is selected, the ticket owner wins the Ace Jackpot which is 30% of the current game's accumulated gross ticket sales revenue.

"To add more excitement to the first game," Emmons announced, "the committee is guaranteeing an Ace Jackpot of at least \$1,000. Even if the Ace of Spades is selected on the first draw night, the minimum Ace Jackpot will be \$1,000."

If the Ace of Spades is not selected, the card that was selected is removed from the deck, thus enhancing the chance of picking the Ace of Spades the following week. Once the Ace of Spades is selected a new game starts the following week with a new deck of cards.

Last year Emmons heard players comment, "The more I play Chase the Ace, the more fun it is." Emmons and his committee hope the whole community has as a lot of fun with the game this year.