

Meewasin Valley Explorer

Meewasin New Year Message

Meewasin has completed 29 years of stewardship in the Meewasin Valley with continued success in our mandates of conservation, development and education; and that is with a tremendous approval of the greater Saskatoon general public. Our 2008 public opinion survey by Fast and Associates shows that Saskatoon and area residents continue to overwhelmingly support Meewasin and its work in the river valley, a testament to the great vision of those who created Meewasin nearly 30 years ago.

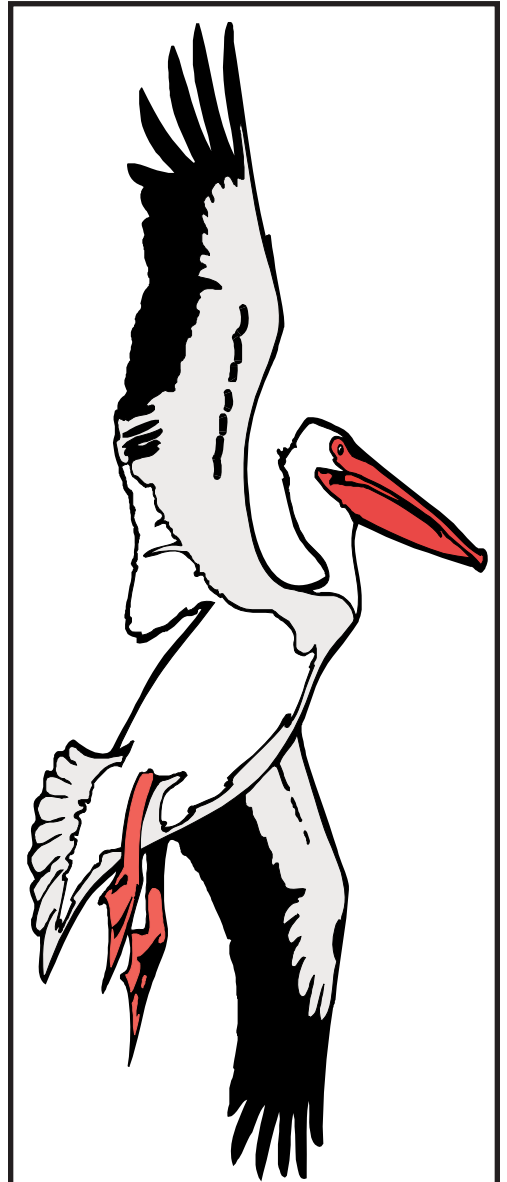
We continue to develop the Riverfront at River Landing Phase I (between the Traffic Bridge and Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge), and the Riverfront at River Landing Phase II (between the Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge and Victoria Park). Together these projects are two of the most exciting riverbank projects in Saskatoon's 120-year history.

With our sponsor Cameco, we initiated a capital campaign to raise \$2 million to complete the Riverfront Phase I work. We are pleased to see the site is open and has been well used throughout the summer with full access to the amphitheatre, pavilion, water play feature, pedestrian bridge seating nodes and promenade. We look forward to working with the city in the future to have completed by 2010 the river garden, fire pit, water fountains and boat dock.

We are proud of the landscape features we have incorporated into the new site including: a new shoreline with improved fish habitat, a new trail promoting alternative transportation, locally developed products, runoff control during construction, a sediment trap for city storm water runoff, an interpretive plan for public education, 340 new trees and 1400 shrubs, dark sky compliant lighting, certified wood benches and a bioswale for treating the play area run off water. This past month Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation awarded Meewasin the prestigious Member of the Year Award for "outstanding achievement in the promotion of parks and recreation in Saskatchewan."

We have completed the hard edge of Riverfront II which includes armoring the shoreline, installing the bridge piles and assessing the pump house for remediation. In recognition of their excellent work our landscape architects Crosby Hanna and Associates received a Canadian Association of Landscape Architecture Award for their master plan of River Landing. And just recently P Machibroda Engineering Ltd and Robb Kullman Engineering LLP each received awards from the Consulting Engineers of Saskatchewan for their work on the Riverfront.

Throughout 2008 we have accomplished a lot. It would not have been possible without the continued support of our donors, sponsors and volunteers. Thank you everyone for your support and all the best for 2009.



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Meewasin Announces Conservation Award

Sue Barrett is the 2008 winner of the Meewasin Conservation Award presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the resources of the Meewasin Valley.

Sue has been active in numerous heritage organizations for more than 30 years. Her interest in Saskatoon's built heritage has led to involvement with projects that increase public awareness of the rich heritage resources in the city and help ensure their preservation for future generations.



Since its creation in 1995 she has served on the Marr Residence management board, and has been chair for the past 10 years. This board manages all aspects of the historic Marr Residence property with the objectives of maintaining and enhancing the historical integrity of the site, provide public access and develop heritage programming.

Sue is a long-term member and past president of the Saskatoon Heritage Society and past president of the Saskatoon Heritage Festival Board. She served eight years on the city's Municipal Heritage

Advisory Committee, and was responsible for coordinating articles on built heritage for the Saskatoon Sun. She worked as a Volunteer Coordinator for the Doors Open Saskatoon events in 2006 and 2007, and is a current board member of the Friends of the Forestry Farm House.

Volunteering within a strong heritage community has been a rewarding experience for Sue. She has enjoyed interacting with many others who are committed to working together in the area of heritage conservation in our city.

Come and See What's New at the MVC

Come visit the Meewasin Valley Centre and see our restored interactive displays. Learn about the history of Saskatoon's pioneers in the activity room, explore early Saskatoon and meet some of our first pioneers while you purchase land and supplies for your stay. Make your way into the third gallery, "Today and Tomorrow" where Cran is waiting for you to explore the Meewasin Valley. Learn about the River Valley, build your own bridge, listen to some old time story telling or take in the sights and sounds of the South Saskatchewan River. Don't forget to look around our other galleries and displays on your visit.



Saskatoon Heritage Fair - Boom Time Saskatoon



The Heritage Festival of Saskatoon will be held on **Sunday, February 8, 2009 between 12:00 (noon) and 5:00 pm** at the **Western Development Museum** at 2610 Lorne Avenue South. There will be heritage exhibits along Main Street and entertainers will be found performing on the train platform.

Free admission. Please call 665-6888 for more information.

Meewasin Skating Rink is Fun for All!

The Meewasin Skating Rink is located on Spadina Crescent next to the Delta Bessborough Hotel in Kiwanis Memorial Park and across the street from the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel. If you don't have a pair of skates, you can borrow a pair at the rink. There is a warm-up shelter and a skate sharpening service available. The rink is open 12 noon to 9 pm, Monday to Saturday; and 11 am to 9 pm Sunday. The rink will close when windchill exceeds minus 31°C. Meewasin greatly appreciates and welcomes the donation of used skates. **Call 665-6888 for information.**



A New Meewasin Valley Centre

It was February 19, 1988 when Meewasin first moved into the old Rothman's building now the Meewasin Valley Centre with the goal to provide tourists and residents to Saskatoon with opportunities to learn about Saskatoon's history, the South Saskatchewan River and the future of the Meewasin Valley. The building has served well but is tired. More than ever Meewasin needs to continue to be the heart of the Meewasin Valley interpreting the cultural and natural story of past, present and future Saskatoon, adding the concepts of climate change, sustainability, water issues, developing a better understanding for residents and tourists so that they will become stewards of the entire Saskatchewan River Basin.



Moriyama & Teshima Architects
March Schaffel Architects in Association

Meewasin Valley Centre Design Presentations Nov. 2008

Since the Moriyama Plan in the late 1970s Meewasin has had a number of studies and plans; and last year the Government of Saskatchewan gave the conservation organization \$1.7 million to get moving on a new MVC project. Since that time Meewasin engaged Aldrich Pears to consult on the interpretive plan and architects Moriyama Teshima out of Toronto, and local architects March Schaffel out of Saskatoon to finalize the building schematic plan. There have been visioning workshops and design charrettes and we are getting close to completing the design of a new building. The next step then will be to look for funding.

In late November Meewasin reviewed an architectural presentation of a new Meewasin Valley Centre. Representing Moriyama Teshima was Carol Philips of Toronto with March Schaffel's Bill Schaffel from Saskatoon. Also there was Murray Guy of Integrated Designs (consulting on sustainability) and Ken Leir of KDL Consulting (to advise on cost).

When we think of a new Meewasin Valley Centre we want to think of not only past, present and future Saskatoon but of a showcase that has changing displays celebrating Saskatoon as a leader in science, business and industry; a central location in downtown Saskatoon available not only to local artists and artisans but to science, business and industrial interests based in Saskatoon who see value in interpreting and showcasing their work to locals and guests from around the world.

We have always known that Meewasin returns 20 cents on the dollar for Saskatoon and area. Of the \$90 million Meewasin has spent in the valley in the last 29 years \$18 has come from the local taxpayer. The rest has been leveraged through grants and fund development programs. We also know that every tourist we keep in Saskatoon for another day puts another \$200 into the local economy which then has a multiplier effect. If we teach our youth to become stewards at a young age through Meewasin conservation programs, they will continue to be stewards when they become leaders and decision makers. If we showcase our expertise, others will want to access it. A new Meewasin Valley Centre would be a tremendous benefit to the community of greater Saskatoon by promoting health and wellness, environmental stewardship and sound business practices.



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Meewasin Valley Centre Design Presentations Nov. 2008

Meewasin Awarded Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Member of the Year 2008

Meewasin was the recipient of the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Member of the Year Award 2008 presented Friday October 17th at the 62nd Annual Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Conference held in North Battleford. The award is presented annually to a member organization that has shown outstanding cooperation and creativity in initiating new programs or services that will lead to healthier futures by enhancing development of municipal parkland while promoting active lifestyles.

The Riverfront Phase I development at River Landing exemplifies Meewasin's work to create a healthy and vibrant river valley for public enjoyment and recreation. The project not only provides public amenities (promenade, trail connections, amphi-theatre, pedestrian bridge, a water play feature, sun shades, seating areas and pavilion) but also exhibits sustainable landscape construction that includes a new shoreline increasing fish habitat, alternative transportation, raw water irrigation, an oil and sediment trap for storm water, an interpretive plan, 340 new trees and 1400 shrubs, dark sky compliant lighting, certified wood amenities, public ownership in the tree grates and paving stones and a water play feature that models the Sask River Basin with a bioswale as the preferred method of treating runoff water.

Doug Porteous received the award on behalf of Meewasin. Porteous says that "Meewasin is known around the world as a model of what a community can do to conserve its riverbank lands for now and future generations. Over 30 years ago the City of Saskatoon, the University of Saskatchewan and the Province of Saskatchewan showed great vision in coming together to best manage their riverbank lands through one authority." CEO Susan Lamb says that "it all would not be possible without the strong support of the three participating parties (city, province and university), the general public, and the volunteers, donors and sponsors who continue to show high regard for the conservation organization. Saskatoon residents should be proud of their accomplishment maintaining a ribbon of green along the riverbank through the city for all to enjoy, while continuing to conserve and educate others about the importance of conserving their cultural and natural resources."

In Memory of Wes Bolstad

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Meewasin's first Executive Director and Executive Director Emeritus of the Meewasin Valley Authority, Wes Bolstad. Wes passed away on Monday, December 1, 2008.

It was over 30 years ago when Wes' love for nature and administrative experience were channelled into service for Meewasin when, then President of the University of Saskatchewan, Leo Kristjanson called to ask him if he would "help get Meewasin going". On October 1, 1979, Wes became the first Executive Director of the Meewasin Valley Authority.

Wes saw Meewasin through its formative years, launching it on its path to becoming a leading conservation organization known world wide. Although Wes retired in 1986, he continued to do consulting and volunteer work for Meewasin.

Wes had a Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard University. He worked for the Government of Saskatchewan as Cabinet Secretary and for the University of Regina, where he helped set up the Faculty of Administration, and later became its Dean.



Wes Bolstad brought a sincere ethic of public service to Meewasin. He worked to ensure that Meewasin was responsive to the community and accessible to everyone. Wes was a welcoming and amicable man whose presence will be missed but whose legacy will live on through the continued efforts of Meewasin.

Meewasin Valley Centre

Open 9 AM to 5 PM Weekdays - 12 PM to 5 PM Weekends & Holidays

402 3rd Avenue South
Phone: 665-6888

January "A Month of New Beginnings"

On Display from January 1, 2009 to February 22, 2009 – "Prairie Seasons"

January 4 - Gallery Opening of Sheryn Jonson's "Prairie Seasons" - (1-4 pm)

Artist Sheryn Johnson depicts in water colour her appreciation of the prairie landscape, along with a few floral and bird paintings. Come visit the Centre, view our displays, and the artwork. Refreshments will be served.

January 11 - "Pioneer's New Beginnings" - For Everyone (2 pm)

Come and learn what Pioneers did their first winters out in the new land and how they had Snow much fun. Winter games outdoors (weather permitting). Warm up and video to follow.

January 18 - Winter Blahs - For Everyone (1-4pm)

Beat the Winter Blahs by being creative. We'll dig out our craft supplies for you to make a "Winter Blah Beater". Anything goes! Stop in Between 1 and 4pm.

January 25 - "Start the New Year with your Feet Tapping" - For Kids (2 pm)

Get your feet tapping and 'warm up to winter'. Make a Rainstick or noisemaker and join in the fun. Please call 665-6888 to register. Program cost is \$2.00 per person



February "Honouring Our Pioneers"

February 1 - Victorian Valentines - For Kids (2 pm)

Valentines Day is just around the corner and what better way to celebrate this special day than with a home made Valentine for a loved one? Please call 665-6888 to register. Program cost is \$2.00 per person

February 8 – Heritage Festival Fair - For Everyone - Western Development Museum (12 - 5 pm)

Come visit us at the WDM (at 2610 Lorne Avenue South) and learn more about Saskatoon's rich and varied cultural heritage. Free admission.

February 22 – Paper Making - For Everyone (2pm)

Who were the original papermakers? Find out the answers to this and other paper making questions during this program where you will learn the history of paper, work through the paper making process and take home some beautiful hand-made paper. Call 665-6888 to register. Maximum 15 people.

February Break At The Meewasin Valley Centre For Kids Ages 6-12

February 16-20 - Pioneer Games & Crafts (2 pm)

Each day, Meewasin Valley Centre will offer a different program with pioneer games or crafts. For information and to register please call 665-6888. Cost is \$2 per child. Adults must accompany. Check out the fun programs being offered:

Monday, Feb. 16 - Pioneer Outside Games

Tuesday, Feb. 17 - Apple Dolls

Wednesday, Feb. 28 - Spool Knitting

Thursday, Feb. 19 - Sock Puppets

Friday, Feb. 20 - Shadow Puppets

Programs are for the general public. If your group wishes to participate, please call 665-6888 to book a separate time. A nominal fee may be charged.

Beaver Creek Conservation Area

Open 9 AM to 5 PM Weekdays- 12 PM to 5 PM Weekends & Holidays

Follow Lorne Avenue South
13Km on Highway #219
Phone: 374-2474

Discover more about our feathered friends, their winter adaptations and Project Feeder Watch each Sunday at 2:30 pm.

Chips Winter Lodge Party

Join Chip and all his winter friends during the school break for **Chip's Winter Lodge Party February 16-20, 2009**. Enjoy come & go - indoor & outdoor activities available from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day.



Cross Country Skis & Snowshoes



Beaver Creek Conservation Area permits cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in designated areas. Please ask site staff for directions.

Beaver Creek Conservation Area

Follow Lorne Avenue South
13km on Highway #219
Email: meewasin@meewasin.com
Website: www.meewasin.com

Chip's Hotline: 374-2474



January & February
9 am - 5 pm Weekdays
Weekends & Holidays
12 pm to 5 pm

Meewasin 