

Meewasin Valley Explorer

This summer marked the third season of bird banding at Beaver Creek Conservation Area as a member of a program called MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship). Conceived by the Institute of Bird Populations in California, MAPS gathers data from over 500 participating members throughout Canada, Mexico and the continental United States. Beaver Creek is one of two stations in Saskatchewan. All birds captured were banded, unless previously banded, and then released back into their habitat. This year a total of 128 birds were newly banded. Within this number, 19 different species were found:



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Photo: Brenda Kramarchuk

American Goldfinch, American Redstart, American Robin, Black-capped Chickadee, Brown-headed Cowbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Clay-coloured Sparrow, Gray Catbird, House Wren, Least Flycatcher, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Orange-crowned Warbler, Ovenbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Tennessee Warbler, and Yellow Warbler.

Recaptured birds from previous years are one of the highlights of bird banding. This year 9 birds were recaptured from 2007 and 8 birds from 2008. It is known that birds tend to use the same breeding territory again and again, so we were delighted to have several of our return birds turn up in the very same net they were originally captured in! Beaver Creek expects to continue to find return birds, since birds use the same site every year if they are finding what they need to survive and raise a family. Returns of migratory birds this year included the Gray Catbird, House Wren, Least Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Song Sparrow, Veery, and Yellow Warbler, as well as the non-migratory Black-capped Chickadee.

The success of MAPS is based on extended monitoring and the aid of volunteers to help carry out their program. The Beaver Creek Conservation Area MAPS program is a group effort between Meewasin Valley Authority staff and public volunteers. The volunteers have been a key reason to the success of the project. Volunteers who participated in this years banding include: Greg Fenty, Colin French, Melanie Elliott, Jan Shadick, Stan Shadick, Kenton Lysak, Katherine Diduck, Robert Nelson, Brennan Hefler, Chantal Gagnon, Monika Tan, Karen Wiebe, Candace Neufeld, Alison Baudry, Vanessa O'Malley, Bonnie Lindgren, Nicole Lindgren and Angela Lindgren.

Thank you to everyone, until next year when our birds come back to settle down for another summer at Beaver Creek!



Each bird receives a uniquely numbered aluminum band.

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Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin

Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin is pleased to announce the release of the State of the Saskatchewan River Basin Report. This report brings together information about a huge water resource that spans the prairie provinces and is the latest endeavour to facilitate information exchange across the basin. These waterways originate in the Rocky Mountains and flow through the prairie provinces into Lake Winnipeg, ultimately ending in Hudson Bay. The report is relevant to the 3 million people living within the basin.

The report is available online at www.saskriverbasin.ca or in paper format upon request. If you would like more information or to request a copy, please contact Jennifer or Lis at 306-665-6887 or partners@saskriverbasin.ca.

Meewasin Summer Students

This past summer, Meewasin employed a number of summer students. The summer students worked as interpreters in the Meewasin Valley Centre and Beaver Creek Conservation Area developing educational programs focusing on Saskatoon's history and conservation of the natural environment. Summer students also led canoe tours of the river valley and were involved in planning, design and development, conservation, enforcement, and construction. The students came from post secondary institutions and provided a youthful energy, enthusiasm, and expertise that Meewasin welcomes, nurtures, and embraces.



Puppets in the Park Photo: Mike Bauche

River Landing Riverfront Phase II Now Open

Friday, August 21 officials from the federal, provincial, and civic governments participated in the official opening of the riverfront promenade at River Landing Phase II. Participating in the ceremony were Member of Parliament Kelly Block, Saskatchewan Minister of Advanced Education, Employment, and Labour Rob Norris, and His Worship Mayor Donald Atchison.

The riverfront on Phase II stretches from the Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge to the western edge of Victoria Park and creates a connection along the river, establishes a focal point for riverbank activities, and integrates an identity complementary to Phase I. The innovative design features various components such as a new pedestrian pathway and bridge, entry points, a boat dock, activity areas, and river viewing areas.

Meewasin State of the Valley Report

The State of the Valley Report is an assessment of outcomes resulting from Meewasin's stewardship of the natural and cultural heritage resources of the Meewasin Valley.

The outcomes are articulated in a number of planning documents, the foundational document being The Meewasin Valley Project – 100 Year Concept Plan (1979), written by Raymond Moriyama Architects and Planners. The mandate and form of Meewasin is laid out in the Meewasin Valley Authority Act. The overarching outcomes for the Meewasin Valley are health, fit, balance, and vibrancy.

Assessing the results of the efforts of Meewasin after 30 years, there is evidence that: the health of the valley meets expectations; the organization mandate within the valley remains strong; the balance within the valley exceeds expectations; and the vibrancy of the Valley meets expectations.

The overall State of the Valley in 2009 is good. There is lots of work yet to be done, but Meewasin is on the right course, having a positive effect. For more information please visit www.meewasin.com

Municipal Heritage Awards Program

The City of Saskatoon, through the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee, is recognizing work in heritage preservation in Saskatoon through the presentation of Municipal Heritage Awards certificates.

There are three main award categories which include:

- A) Buildings, Sites and Grounds
- B) Volunteer Public Service
- C) Education

Any heritage program completed prior to September 1, 2009 is eligible, including non-award winning submissions from past years. The deadline for submissions is Friday, October 30, 2009 at 5:00 pm

People interested in obtaining more information or submitting an entry for these awards can access the City of Saskatoon website at www.saskatoon.ca (**select "h" for Heritage Awards**). They can also pick up entry forms at the main reception desk at City Hall. People may also contact **Ms Kim Ali at 652-1479** or by e-mail at kimali@onpurpose.ca for further details.

This awards program is co-sponsored by The Star Phoenix and Meewasin.

Meewasin Valley Centre

402 3rd Avenue South
Phone: 665-6888

Open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Weekdays - Noon to 5:00 pm Weekends & Holidays

Celebrate the South Saskatchewan River in September

On Display from September 1, 2009 to October 31, 2009 – "Scenes of Canada"

September 13 - Gallery Opening of "Scenes of Canada" (1 - 4 pm)

"Scenes of Canada" is a collection of watercolour paintings by June Ricklefs of the diverse landscapes and wildlife found in our beautiful country. Meet the artist, view the displays, and enjoy the art work. Refreshments will be served. For more information please call 665-6888.

September 13 - Puppets in the Park at the Caswell Arts Festival – For Everyone (2 pm)

Through an interactive presentation, Meewasin interpreters (with a little help from some furry friends) bring the natural and cultural history of our great city to life. The 8th annual Caswell arts festival, *Art in the Heart of Caswell*, celebrates culture and community. This free one day festival is entirely volunteer-run and community-based. It highlights local talent in the heart of the Caswell Hill neighbourhood and features a variety of art and entertainment, including an outdoor and indoor stage, artists' village, children and teen's art festival, collaborative art-making, concession, and more.

September 20 - Saskatoon's Castle - For Everyone (2 pm)

In 1935 Saskatoon's Castle, the Bessborough Hotel, opened its doors. Visitors to the Meewasin Valley Centre will be able to view a video presentation on the construction of the Bessborough and its subsequent development. Please call 665-6888 to register.

September 27 – Bridge Tales: Build Your Own Bridge – For Everyone (2 pm)

Participants will learn about the history of the "Bridge City" through a video presentation on Saskatoon's bridges. Afterwards, the focus will shift to bridge construction as participants will build their own bridge. Program cost is \$2.00 Please call 665-6888 to pre-register.



October "Haunted History"



October 4 - Apple and Corn Husk Dolls – For Kids Ages 6-12 (2 pm)

Before the rise of department stores in Saskatoon, dolls were made of different types of material, most commonly corn husks and apples. Come and make your own doll to take home. Please call 665-6888 to pre-register. Program cost is \$2.00 per person.

October 11 – Colours of Fall: a Leaf Landscape Walk– For Everyone (2 pm)

Enjoy Saskatoon's autumn landscape before the city is blanketed in white. Join a Meewasin interpreter for a seasonal stroll along the river bank. Children are invited to create a colourful autumn leaf collage using leaves they collect along the river bank. Program cost is \$2.00 Please call 665-6888 to pre-register.

October 18 - Haunting History of Masks and Mask Making - For Everyone (2 pm)

Masks are a universal part of the human story. Design and make your own scary mask to take home for Halloween. Craft materials provided. Please call 665-6888 to pre-register. Program cost is \$2.00.

October 25 - Pumpkin Carving Festival - For Everyone (2 pm)

Bring your pumpkins down to the MVC and carve a scary Jack-O-Lantern for Halloween, also munch on popcorn as you enjoy a spook-tacular film. Carving tools will be provided and we will look after the mess! Call 665-6888 to pre-register. Program cost is \$2.00.



October 31 - Haunted Halloween History Party - For Everyone (2 pm)

It's Halloween! So dress up and come to the Meewasin Valley Centre for a terrifyingly terrific Halloween bash! Munch on popcorn as you enjoy a spook-tacular film. Play ghoulish games, make creepy crafts, and get a terrifying treat! Limit of 40 children. Please call 665-6888 to pre-register.

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

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

Tour du Jour in September

It is never the same day twice at the Beaver Creek Conservation Area. On the **Tour du Jour**, we will explore what Mother Nature has to offer. **The Tour du Jour is offered every Sunday in September at 2:00 p.m.** This trail hike program is one hour in length.

Eye Spy in October

Animal cut-outs have been placed along the trails. Depending on the type of animal you choose to be you will have to keep an eye out for those animals that would want to eat you or that you would want to eat. **Eye Spy is offered every Sunday in October at 2:00 p.m.** This trail hike program is one hour in length.



Starry Nights

On Friday, October 23 and Saturday, October 24 Beaver Creek Conservation Area will be open late from **7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.** for you to observe some fall constellations.



The Day After Halloween

Sunday, November 1- 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Bring your goblins and witches to Beaver Creek some ghoulish fun and games. This afternoon adventure is presented as a come & go program.

Organized Group Bookings

Book your nature adventure at Beaver Creek Conservation Area. An **environmentally based program** can be tailored to meet the specific nature needs of your group. Call Beaver Creek Conservation Area at 374-2474 for information on fees and program details.

Beaver Creek Conservation Area
Follow Lorne Avenue South
13km on Highway #219
Email: meewasin@meewasin.ca
Website: <http://www.meewasin.com>



Fall Hours:
September 1 - 7, 9am - 5pm
September 8 - November 1
Weekdays 9am-5pm
Weekends & Holidays Noon - 5pm
FREE Admission

Chip's Hotline: 374-2474

Meewasin