

MEEWASIN EXPLORER

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Meewasin Skating Rink – One of the Best Outdoor Skating Spots in Canada

Meewasin skating rink, voted the “best outdoor skating spot in Canada” by Readers Digest in 2006, is about to get better. As Canadians we know that skating on an outdoor rink is a big part of what it means to be Canadian. With this in mind it only made sense that one of the first projects by Meewasin in the 1980’s was the creation of a free outdoor skating rink on the bank of the South Saskatchewan River in downtown Saskatoon. In operation for nearly 30 years, the rink hosts over 10,000 local residents yearly and numerous visitors from all over the world. Some of the more notable visitors have included personalities such as Elvis Stojko, Tracey Wilson, Kurt Browning, Gene Simmons and Shannon Tweed. Just this past week the “Great One” Wayne Gretsky and Prime Minister Stephen Harper paid the rink a visit and spent time with some local school students.

During its thirty years of operation, the Meewasin Rink has been very well used and the time had come to breathe some new life into it and the surrounding Kiwanis Memorial Park. Through the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RIInC) program, and, with financial support from the Government of Canada, the Government of Saskatchewan, and the City of Saskatoon, Meewasin will do just that.

The project has three distinct elements: a permanent building housing washroom facilities that will operate year round, a mobile seasonal skating lodge, and trail enhancements to improve barrier-free access to the rink and Kiwanis Park. **CONT'D pg. 2**

Caring For Our Watersheds: Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin

Caring For Our Watersheds is a program presented by Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin and Agrium that encourages environmental stewardship by students. It asks students to think about their watersheds and how they can protect this most essential asset. The program encourages creativity and rewards students for the solutions they identify. Students entered in the program can win cash rewards for themselves and their school! **CONT'D pg. 2**

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MEEWASIN

Caring For Our Watersheds - Continued

Students can enter one of two categories: grades 7-9 or grades 10-12. Independently, or as a team of no more than four, students identify a concern that impacts the watershed in their area. They must come up with an idea to address the concern and can discuss their idea with their parents, teachers, friends and local experts. Students research their idea and explain it in an approximately 1,000 word report, as well as using graphics, models, pictures or videos. Entries are judged on innovation, environmental impact, comprehensive scope, research, realistic solution, written presentation and visuals.

Students, teachers and volunteers are encouraged to go to www.CaringForOurWatersheds.com and register their name or team captain's name. If you do not have internet access please contact our office. Entries must be delivered by mail or submitted online no later than March 5, 2010.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with various aspects of the competition, including judges for the competition itself. If you would like to volunteer or you would like more information, please contact Lis at 306-665-6887 or lmack@saskriverbasin.ca

Meewasin Skating Rink - Continued

As sustainability and heritage conservation are both important to Meewasin, the City of Saskatoon will be providing the project with tempered glass that was salvaged from the old 19th Street Saskatoon Arena. This glass will be used in the windows for the permanent washroom facilities.

This is a very exciting project for Meewasin, the City of Saskatoon and the thousands of Saskatoon residents who use the rink every year. The project will provide an accessible site and facility that will continue the tradition of free outdoor skating in downtown Saskatoon for many years to come.

Meewasin Pelican Watch Contest

Each spring Saskatoon residents can guess the arrival time of the first pelican to land on the river between the Canadian Pacific Railway Bridge and the weir. Great prizes to be won! Enter a guess by listing the date and time a.m. / p.m. (ex. April 15, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.) and drop off or mail it to the Meewasin Valley Authority. Entry is free but limited to one entry per person. Contest entries will be accepted March 1 - 31, 2010. For more information visit www.meewasin.com or call Beaver Creek Conservation Area at 374-2474. Thank you to the Saskatoon Nature Society for their assistance in the delivery of Pelican Watch Contest 2010.



Meewasin and Affinity Credit Union Invite You to Clean Up Saskatoon!

Meewasin & Affinity Credit Union



Affinity Meewasin

Affinity Credit Union is once again partnering with **Meewasin** in hosting the **Annual Meewasin – Affinity Credit Union Clean-Up Campaign from April 22nd to May 15th, 2010.**

As residents of Canada's prettiest city, this campaign offers you the chance to show your pride in keeping our city beautiful. Last year thousands of people registered to help clean away the winter debris along the river valley, in neighbourhood parks, school yards, and along our city streets and boulevards.

Everyone is invited to join Meewasin and Affinity Credit Union as we volunteer to beautify our valley for the summer.

To register and for more information, please call 665-6888, visit the Meewasin Valley Centre, any branch of Affinity Credit Union, or visit the web sites:

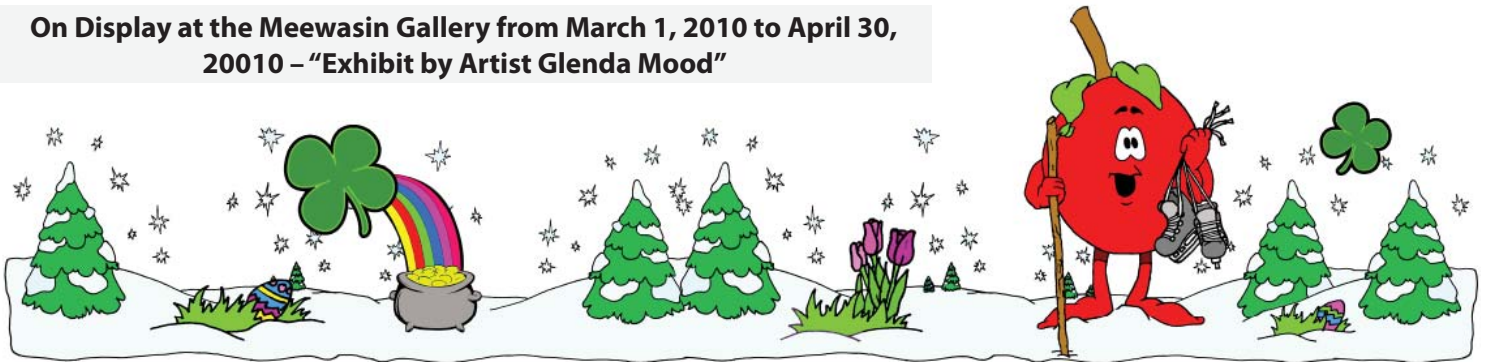
www.meewasin.com
or
www.affinitycu.ca

**Support preservation of the
Yorath Island woodland in the Meewasin Valley
Go to www.treesintrust.com**

MEEWASIN VALLEY CENTRE

INTERPRETING SASKATOON'S BUILT CULTURAL HISTORY

On Display at the Meewasin Gallery from March 1, 2010 to April 30, 2010 – "Exhibit by Artist Glenda Mood"



March "Spring Brings New Things"

March 7 – St. Patrick's Day Party – For Children (2 p.m.)

St. Patrick's day is on its way! Help us find the parts of your very own dancing leprechaun (and maybe a pot of gold too) while learning more about the history of St. Patrick's Day.

Cost: \$2/craft



March 14 - Gallery Opening of Exhibit" (1 - 4 p.m.)

Visit with artist Glenda Mood and view her Exhibit of Artwork on display until April 30th. Refreshments served.

March 21 – Pelican Party – For Everyone (2 p.m.)

A wonderful presentation to help everyone learn more about Pelicans as part of "Pelican Watch 2010". Discover some fascinating facts about Pelicans, play Pelican Twister, and make a flying Pelican. We will also have tickets for the annual Pelican Watch Contest.

March 28 – Easter Growing Baskets - For Everyone (2 p.m.)

With Easter just a week away, we have a great program to share! Not only will we learn about how Easter was celebrated in the past, but we will also make a unique Easter basket. Cost: \$2.00 per craft.

April "Earth Appreciation"

April 4 - Meewasin's 12th Annual Easter Scavenger Hunt For Everyone (All Day)

Meewasin Valley Centre staff have developed 3 outdoor scavenger hunts. Complete a hunt and return to MVC for an Easter treats.

Easter Break at the Meewasin Valley Centre

April 5 - 9 – Earth Appreciation Programs (2 p.m.)

Each day during this week, Meewasin will offer earth appreciation themed programs. Cost is \$2 per child.

Monday, April 5 - Sun Catchers

Tuesday, April 6 - Butterfly Bonanza

Wednesday, April 7 - Come Fly Away (Kite Making)

Thursday, April 8 - Green Energy

Friday, April 9 - A Water World

April 18 – Earth Day Program – For Everyone (2 p.m.)

Join us as we make a large scale collaborative painting depicting life within the Meewasin River Valley.

April 25 - Clean Up Campaign Public Event

For Everyone (2 p.m.) - Friendship Park

Join us at Friendship Park as we Clean-Up our Community. Cleaning can take place anytime during the day with the event starting at 2 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Call 665-6888 or check out our website for more details.

May 2 - Season Change Walking Tour - For Everyone (2p.m.)

Join us for a walking tour of the valley as we look for signs that Spring has arrived. Please call 665-6888 to register.



Check out Meewasin Valley Centre Programs and Events on Facebook.

Weekend Programs start at 2 p.m. Please call 665-6888 for details and to register. Parents or guardians must accompany. For more information visit: www.meewasin.com

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BEAVER CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

INTERPRETING SASKATOON'S NATURAL HISTORY

Beaver Creek Programming

Easter Bunny Count - Saturday, April 3



Count the number of Snowshoe Hares along the trail and enter your name to win your own hare!

Spring School Break - April 5-9

Beaver Creek Conservation Area is open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for you to take a walk on the wild side! Owls hoot at dawn and dusk as they hatch and rear their owlets. As the snow melts, Richardson's Ground Squirrels emerge from their winter sleep and provide the owls some breakfast, lunch, or dinner. As you walk the trails look for signs of owl activity such as owl pellets or try spotting one of these great hunters



Starry, Starry Night - Saturday, April 24

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) is presenting a public star night on Saturday, April 24 from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. Members of the Astronomical Society will have telescopes available for you to view the spring constellations. This event is free and is a "come & go" activity. Contact Jeff Swick of the RASC at 716-0007 for more information.



The Birds Thank the Saskatoon Nature Society.

Throughout this winter season the birds of Beaver Creek Conservation Area have been able to depend on a steady supply of seed thanks to generous funding from the Saskatoon Nature Society. From Black Capped Chickadees, Hoary and Common Redpolls, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Pine Grosbeaks, and Blue Jays - all are frequent users of the feeding stations. Visitors also delight in having the Black Capped Chickadees feed directly from their hands!

Try an "Eye Spy - Predator and Prey" activity trail and see if you can survive the day. Ask staff for some black oil sunflower seeds and invite the chickadees to feed from your hand.



About Beaver Creek Conservation Area



Beaver Creek Conservation Area is located 13 km south of Saskatoon. A sheltered creek, river valley, and prairie habitat offer a diversity of flora and fauna for visitors. It is the microcosm of the Meewasin Valley, and contains one of the few uncultivated short grass prairie sites in Saskatchewan. An interpretive centre and staff provide opportunities to discover nature during the four seasons along a selection of four nature trails.

Conservation areas like Beaver Creek are set aside to protect and manage important natural and cultural heritage resources. They are maintained for your enjoyment and education, as well as for future generations.