

# MEEWASIN EXPLORER

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2012

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## Meewasin Makes Two Historic Decisions

The Meewasin board approved amendments to the South Downtown District Development Policy at its monthly board meeting Friday, December 2, 2011. Victory Majors Investments Corporation had requested amendments to the regulations of Parcel YY at River Landing to accommodate their planned condo, office and hotel complex.

There were three elements to the amendments. The first was to increase maximum building height to 95 metres from the previous two height restrictions of 42 metres and 68 metres, and increase FSR (floor space ratio) from 4:1 to 6:1 for Parcel YY. The second was to increase maximum allowable office space from 30% gross floor area with a maximum of 100,000 square feet to 40% gross floor area with a maximum of 250,000 square feet. The third was to make setback regulations more flexible for all of River Landing while still accounting for street character, sunlight penetration, wind protection, and enhanced at-grade public open space such as gathering areas, landscape features, and public art. The developer will provide about 50% of the site for "public use" with hours similar to that of a public park.

Meewasin also approved an application from the City of Saskatoon to construct the new Art Gallery of Saskatchewan at River Landing. The proposed improvement is in accordance with the Meewasin Development Plan and takes into account the natural and heritage resources and other special characteristics of the site.

The linear design of the building will complement local historic buildings and the space will attract people to River Landing by providing year round indoor and outdoor public activity. The gallery will highlight the riverfront as a special feature providing strong linkages to surrounding parks, the downtown area, the river edge and the Meewasin Trail.

### Bessborough Gardens Gate

The Delta Bessborough Hotel and Meewasin installed a new pedestrian gate access between the Meewasin Trail and the Bessborough Gardens.

Rob Sexauer of Dragonfly Artistic Metals designed and built the gate. He describes the piece as, "...a modern interpretation of classic design, using blacksmith techniques to create an ornamental gate suitable to the classic beauty of the Bessborough Hotel." The piece also makes reference to provincial symbols and the history of the hotel. "The use of the red lily is a symbolic reference to the province of Saskatchewan and the railway spikes are an acknowledgement of the rich historical heritage of the Bessborough Hotel. The recycled railway spikes have been forged and fabricated into a webbing to create the symbol of a foundation to build upon, as the top expands up and outward this reflects the province's optimistic future."



### Cameco Meewasin SKATING RINK @ PotashCorp Plaza

The skating rink is located on Spadina Crescent next to the Delta Bessborough Hotel in Kiwanis Memorial Park.

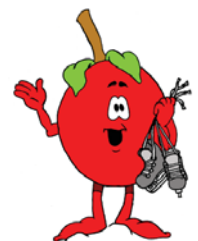
The new Cameco Meewasin Skaters' Lodge is open *12 noon to 9 p.m.*, Monday to Saturday; and *11 a.m. to 9 p.m.* Sunday.

The rink will close when wind-chill exceeds -31°C.

If you don't have a pair of skates, you can borrow a pair at the rink.

Meewasin greatly appreciates and welcomes the donation of used skates.

**Call 665-6887 for information.**



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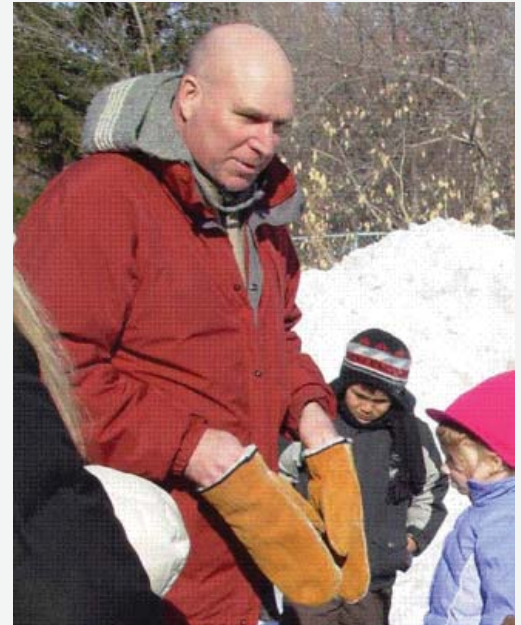
# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MEEWASIN

## Greg Fenty is the Recipient of the Meewasin Conservation Award 2011

The Meewasin Conservation Award is presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to conserving the heritage resources of the Meewasin Valley.

Greg Fenty was born and raised in Saskatoon attending Queen Elizabeth School, Aden Bowman Collegiate and the University of Saskatchewan. Following university he worked for Environment Canada throughout the Arctic and Saskatchewan. He returned to Saskatoon in the 1990s to complete a Bachelor of Education degree at the U of S. He since has been employed by the Saskatoon Zoo Society to help develop and deliver the education programs.

Over the past twenty years Greg has spoken to more than 150,000 youth about ecology and the importance of conserving biodiversity, much of it in a volunteer capacity. He has been on the board of directors of the Saskatoon Nature Society for more than fifteen years taking his turn as president during that time. He volunteers promoting conservation of Meewasin's Saskatoon Natural Grasslands and for the past five years has volunteered with Meewasin's Monitoring Avian Productivity Species (MAPS) program. He has given his time to Meewasin's Christmas Week Bird Counts, Children's Festivals, Rivers Day, National Wildlife Week, Earth Day and Reflections of Nature where he would bring live animals to display, lead creek dipping, speak on conservation issues and facilitate environmental displays. Greg is a past member of the Saskatoon Heritage Festival, Meewasin's Education Advisory Committee, Meewasin's Resource Conservation Advisory Committee and the Saskatchewan Eco-Net Steering Committee. A past recreation director of the Saskatoon Canoe Club, Greg played a role in the establishment of Meewasin's Poplar Bluffs Canoe Launch. Greg is a great supporter of conserving the heritage resources of the Meewasin Valley and an excellent choice for this year's award.



## W2W - A New Trans Canada Destination Trail for the Meewasin Valley

Our goal is the development of a Trans Canada Destination Trail to connect two First Nations sites - Wanuskewin Heritage Park and Whitecap Dakota First Nations Reserve (W2W) through the City of Saskatoon. The Trail connecting these three major centers would be approximately 60 km long.

The proposed trail is part of the 2017 Trans Canada Trail Connection Plan, and also links to the Lake Diefenbaker Tourism Plan.

The Trail will accommodate three major activities: walking/running, cycling and cross country skiing in the winter. It will provide an outdoor experience that blends seamlessly with the environment and offer a wide array of scenic vistas as it winds its way along the valley close to the South Saskatchewan River.

As a first step Meewasin is constructing a new section of paved asphalt trail in the northwest area of Saskatoon in 2012. This next section will connect Adilman Drive to Kinnear Avenue.



OPEN 9:00 TO 5:00 WEEKDAYS - 12:00 TO 5:00 WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS

# MEEWASIN VALLEY CENTRE

INTERPRETING SASKATOON'S BUILT CULTURAL HISTORY



On Display at the  
Meewasin Gallery from  
January 3, 2012 to February 28, 2012  
"Our World"  
by Students from  
Georges Vanier Catholic School

## January

### January 8 - Art Show Opening for - "Our World" - by Georges Vanier Students (1-3 p.m.)

Come down to the Meewasin Valley Centre to visit with the students, and see their exhibit. Refreshments will be served. This exhibit will be on display in the Meewasin gallery for January and February. For more information please call 665-6888.

### January 15 - Heritage Walk (2 p.m.)

Are you headed out skating today? Why not start your afternoon at Meewasin and take a short guided walk to the rink, learning historic tidbits as you go? For more information and to register please call 665-6888.

### January 22 - Animal Adaptations (2-4 p.m.)

Come and learn how animals in and around Saskatoon get ready for the winter season, and make a craft to take home! For more information and to register please call 665-6888. Program cost is \$2.

### January 29 - PotashCorp Skating Party

Bring your skates and join us at the Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @ PotashCorp Plaza for a Skating Party as part of Wintershines! You can warm up in the Cameco Meewasin Skaters' Lodge while enjoying Tim Hortons hot chocolate. If you don't have skates don't worry! The lodge has a wide variety to borrow. For more information please call 665-6888.



*Above programs are for the general public.*

*If you wish to book a group program please call 665-6888.*

*A nominal fee may be charged for group bookings.*

## February

### February 5 - Heritage Festival of Saskatoon (12-5 p.m.)

Come visit us at the Western Development Museum (2610 Lorne Avenue South) and learn more about Saskatoon's rich and varied natural and cultural heritage. Over 25 local cultural and natural historical organizations gather for a heritage festival. Displays, heritage demonstrations, and children's activities! **Free admission.**

### February 12 - Victorian Valentines (2-4 p.m.)

Valentine's Day is just around the corner and what better way to celebrate this special day than to make your own old fashioned valentine? For more information and to register please call 665-6888. Program cost is \$2.

### February 19 - Saskatoon's Castle Video (2 p.m.)

Video presentation about the Bessborough Hotel. For more information and to register please call 665-6888.

### February 20 - Cameco Family Day Skating Party

Bring your skates and join us at the Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @ PotashCorp Plaza for a Family Day Skating Party! You can warm up in the Cameco Meewasin Skaters' Lodge while enjoying Tim Hortons hot chocolate. If you don't have skates don't worry! The lodge has a wide variety to borrow. For more information please call 665-6888.

### February Break Programs:

**Tuesday, Feb. 21** - Knitting/Spool Knitting

**Wednesday, Feb. 22** - Pioneer Fun & Shadow Puppets

**Thursday, Feb. 23** - Pinhole Camera

**Friday, Feb. 24** - Apple Dolls

For more information and to register please call 665-6888. Program cost is \$2 per program.

### February 26 - Explore the MVC (12-5 p.m.)

Come down to the Meewasin Valley Centre (MVC) and do a winter scavenger hunt through our galleries. Explore the galleries and learn about the history of Saskatoon and our river valley. For more information please call 665-6888.

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Meewasin 

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# BEAVER CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

INTERPRETING SASKATOON'S NATURAL HISTORY

## Beaver Creek Programming

### Cross-Country Skis & Snowshoes

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

Bring family and friends out to Beaver Creek Conservation Area to explore interpretive centre displays and activities.

Be sure to ask interpretive staff for some oil seed and experience feeding the Black-capped Chickadees from your hand while enjoying a winter trail walk!



### Chip's Winter Fun Days

Join Chip and all his winter friends during the school break for **Chip's Winter Fun Days - February 20-24, 2012**. Enjoy come & go - indoor & outdoor activities available from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day.

For more information please call 374-2474.



## 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.

As the seasons change, the plants and animals of the Beaver Creek Conservation Area respond with their own unique life cycles. Winter is a time of hibernation for some animals, and staying active for others. Come visit us in the snow to see what animal signs you can find!

BEAVER CREEK CONSERVATION AREA - FOLLOW LORNE AVENUE SOUTH 13KM ON HIGHWAY #219

CHIP'S HOT LINE: (306) 374-2474 FAX: (306) 665-6117 E-MAIL: MEEWASIN@MEEWASIN.COM

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