

Meewasin Valley Explorer

New Gallery Plans Approved

The Meewasin board has approved the interpretive schematic design for a new Meewasin Valley Centre (MVC). The new MVC's interpretive gallery is set to be divided into three different areas: Healthy River; Healthy Saskatoon, One River Many Stories, and Our River Our Home. Currently the MVC is the only centre that tells the story of Saskatoon's history. With that in mind, the new centre will take on the approach of viewing Saskatoon through the lens of the river. Some of the displays to be included are: The formation of the River Valley and Meewasin, Temperance Colonization and Early Pioneers, Prehistoric Saskatoon including a Woolly Mammoth, SS City of Medicine Hat River Boat interactive, Saskatoon's Boom Years, Environmental Impact Calculator, Valley Flyover, Stream Table, and many more. The new centre is also expected to be certified Gold in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system. Interpretive signs and displays on the different environmentally conscious choices that are to be incorporated throughout the design and construction of the centre will be found throughout the building. The centre will also include an exhibition hall that would exist to accommodate temporary exhibits which may include education, tourism, business and technology, and local artists and artisans. This gallery will also serve as a place to host public meetings and special events.

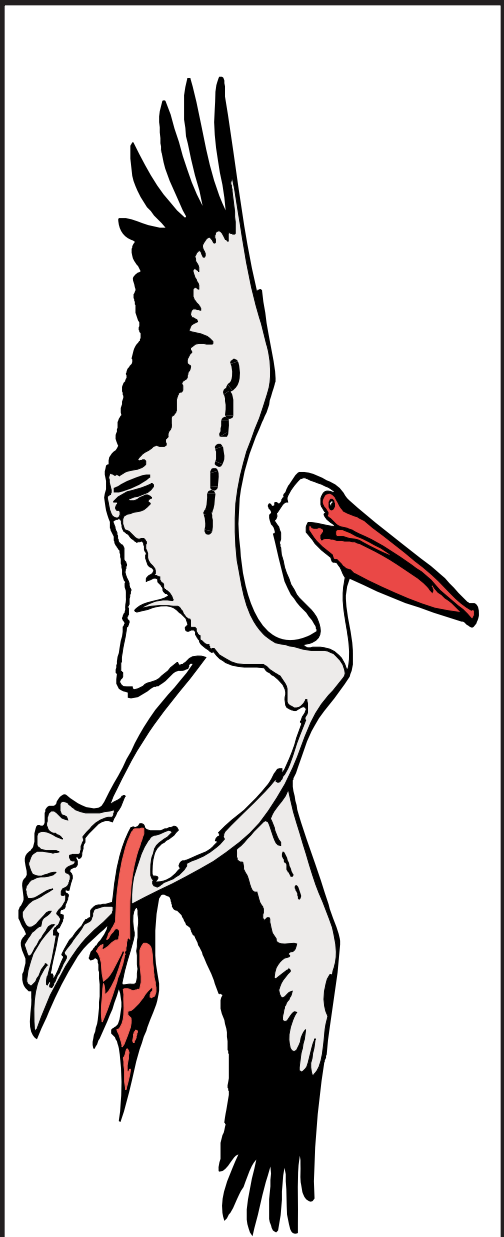


There are several major issues with the current MVC building. Because the building was originally converted from a cigarette warehouse (purpose driven design) it was not designed to house an interpretive centre. As such, the building envelope is leaky and is energy inefficient. The small size of the Interpretive Centre, poor location (located in the basement), and low ceiling height limits our presence to River Landing and limits the opportunity to tell our stories and support events in Friendship Park. The structural capacity and configuration of the existing building also significantly restricts opportunities for the Centre and the public.

The building is faced with roof and courtyard leaks that are becoming a health risk and damaging to Meewasin assets. Many areas throughout the building are difficult to insulate because of the cladding materials that were originally used. The current accessibility is poor and would not meet today's building code restrictions.

Currently our facility has a parking lot and garbage bin between it and the trail/river. The new Centre would build a stronger connection to the trails as "kilometer zero" - the starting point for the rest of the trails, Friendship Park, and direct access to the river. This would include elevated public viewing areas of the Park, River Landing and the River Valley.

The new Meewasin Valley Centre would be the perfect catalyst for breathing life back into the Interpretation of Saskatoon's rich cultural and natural heritage.



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Meewasin and Affinity Credit Union

Invite You to Clean Up Saskatoon!

Affinity Credit Union is once again partnering with **Meewasin** in hosting the **Annual Meewasin – Affinity Credit Union Clean-Up Campaign from April 9th to April 26th, 2009.**

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.

The campaign will commence on Thursday, April 9, 2009 with the official kick-off at Victoria School. 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

(Follow the links to "Community", "Environment", and "Clean-Up Campaign")

Yellow Fish Road

Since 1991, thousands of Canadian youth have participated in the Yellow Fish Road program, learning about their water supply. Painting the storm sewers with yellow fish and distributing fish shaped yellow brochures is a reminder of the importance of clean water and properly disposing of hazardous wastes. The program has been initiated in the U.S.A., Australia and Canada. Meewasin, the Girl Guides of Canada (Saskatoon), Brightwater, and Trout Unlimited Canada have partnered to support the program in Saskatoon and area since 1994.



With the support of Petro Canada, Meewasin is again partnering with the Girl Guides of Canada (Saskatoon), Brightwater, Trout Unlimited, and Saskatoon Catholic and Public Schools to promote the Yellow Fish Road program in and around Saskatoon.

Meewasin will partner with the Girl Guides to promote the program for implementation mid April to late May. Participating groups are encouraged to develop their own kits; however a limited number are available from the above. Hangers, stencils, sheet music and the CD "Yellow Fish Road" song will be available from Meewasin.

Meewasin Five Year Plan Open House

Every five years, Meewasin undertakes a vigorous review of its activities and the outcomes these activities have in the valley. In 2008, this study, called the State of the Valley assessment, helped Meewasin to determine the effectiveness of its efforts to conserve the natural and cultural heritage of that portion of the South Saskatchewan River watershed known as the Meewasin Valley. The results of this work are now ready to be shared with the community as we collect input on priorities for the next five year period.

Please help the board, staff, and volunteer advisory committees of Meewasin in the development of the next strategic plan for the organization, the Meewasin Five Year Plan.

A variety of opportunities to provide comment are available: Two public open houses, a web survey on the Meewasin web-site (www.meewasin.com), and focus group sessions. Public open houses will be in the Meewasin Valley Centre Boardroom on March 11th from 5:00PM to 8:00PM and on March 14th from 1:00PM to 4:00PM. To schedule a focus group with a group of interested individuals, your recreational group or club, or your community association, please contact Resource Planning Manager, Brenda Wallace at 665-6887 or bwallace@meewasin.com.

Meewasin Valley Centre

Open 9:00 to 5:00 Weekdays - 12:00 to 5:00 Weekends & Holidays

402 3rd Avenue South
Phone: 665-6888

March "Spring Brings New Things"

On Display from March 1, 2009 to April 30, 2009 – "Celebrities and Legends"

March 1 - Gallery Opening of Jewal Zeviar "Celebrities and Legends" - (1-4 pm)

Visit with artist Jewal Zeviar and view her samplings of past and present celebrities as well as a collection of flower paintings done in water colors and acrylics. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, please call 665-6888.

March 14 – Meewasin Five Year Plan Open House – For Everyone (1-4 pm)

Meewasin was created 30 years ago to steward the natural and cultural heritage resources of the South Saskatchewan River Valley in and surrounding Saskatoon. Learn about the effectiveness of recent stewardship initiatives and help establish priorities for action over the next five years.

March 15 – St. Patrick's Day Program – For Children (2 pm)

Dress in Green! 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 Call 665-6888 to register



March 22 – Conservation Concern Film – For Everyone (2 pm)

Join us for a viewing of some environmental videos followed by a discussion. Films are appropriate for all ages. Call 665-6888 for more details.

March 29 – The Pelicans are coming - For Everyone (2 pm)

A wonderful presentation to help everyone learn more about Pelicans as part of "Pelican Watch 2009". 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.

April "Earth Appreciation"

April 5- Easter Growing Baskets – For Kids 6-12 (2 pm)

With Easter just a week away, we have a great program to share! Not only will we learn about Easter in the past, but we will also make a unique Easter basket. Cost: \$2.00 per craft. Parents/guardians must accompany children.

April 12 – Meewasin's 12 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 treat. Call 665-6888 to register and for more information.

Easter Break at the Meewasin Valley Centre for Kids Ages 6-12

April 13-17 – Earth Appreciation Programs – (2 pm)

Each day during this week, Meewasin will offer earth appreciation themed programs. For information and to register please call 665-6888. Cost is \$2 Per child. Adults must accompany.

Monday, April 13 - Sun Catchers

Wednesday, April 15 - Come Fly Away (kite making)

Friday, April 17 - Project Wet

Tuesday, April 14 - Butterfly Bonanza

Thursday, April 16 - Alternative Energy

April 19 – Earth Day Program (Garbology) – For Everyone (2 pm)

Learn more about what can be found in our garbage and how we can reduce that amount. We'll play a game and show you some fun crafts that can be made with reusable items. Cost: \$2/craft. Please call 665-6888 to register.

April 27 - Clean Up Campaign Public Event - For Everyone (2 pm) - Friendship Park

Join us at Friendship Park as we Clean-Up our Community. Cleaning can happen anytime during the day with the event starting at 2 pm. Refreshments will be served. Call 665-6888 for details and check out our website.

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

Invites you to Explore...

Starry, Starry Night - Saturday, April 4

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is presenting a public star night on Saturday, April 4 starting at 7:30 p.m. 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 available throughout the evening.

Easter Bunny Count - Saturday, April 11

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



Spring School Break - April 13-17

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 owl's some breakfast, lunch, or dinner. As you walk the trails look for signs of owl activity such as owl pellets or seeing the actual owl.



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 delight in having the Black Capped Chickadees feed directly from their hands!

Meewasin Pelican Watch Contest

Each spring Saskatoon residents can guess the arrival time of the first pelican to come to Saskatoon and be seen landing on the river between the CP Bridge and the weir. There are great prizes to be won! Enter a guess by listing date and time a.m. / p.m. (ex. April 15, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.) and drop off or mail it to Meewasin Valley Authority. Entry is free and limited to one per person. Contest entries accepted March 1 - 31, 2009. For more information visit the Meewasin website www.meewasin.com or call Beaver Creek Conservation Area 374-2474. Thank you to the Saskatoon Nature Society for their assistance in the delivery of Pelican Watch 2009.

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



March & April
9 am - 5 pm Weekdays
Weekends & Holidays
12 pm to 5 pm

Meewasin 