

# MEEWASIN EXPLORER

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## Meewasin Announces Conservation Award

The late Joanna Miller is the 2016 recipient of the Meewasin Conservation Award which is presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the heritage resources of the Meewasin Valley, who has demonstrated a persistent commitment to the conservation of the resources; and who has been active in the community showing leadership and advocating for conservation and education.

Known for her work with UNICEF and the Peace Movement, Joanna Miller is less well known for a piece of activism which has had a lasting impact on Saskatoon and has helped change the City of Saskatoon's relationship with its South Saskatchewan River. That is, the creation of the Meewasin Valley Authority.

Born May 18, 1926 in Vancouver, Joanna Miller grew up on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia. She moved to Vancouver for high school and on to the University of British Columbia where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in English. While at university, Joanna met her husband Len. They were wed in 1949, moving to Saskatoon in 1961 where Len became the chair of the philosophy department of the University of Saskatchewan.

Joanna had a passion to help other people and to make the world a better place. In 1974, the threat of private development along Saskatoon's riverbank prompted concern by citizens. The Saskatchewan Environmental Society campaigned to protect the riverbank area between the weir and what is now Meewasin Park. Private citizens led by Joanna Miller organized a petition. It all resulted in a public hearing with the City of Saskatoon where it was made clear that the public was unwilling to allow development along the river inhibiting public access to the river valley.

On September 23, 1974, Saskatoon City Council passed a motion asking the Government of Saskatchewan to enter into an agreement with Saskatoon similar to its agreement with Regina for Wascana Centre that would bring university, provincial, and city lands under one management body. It took a few years and much planning; however, May 5, 1979 the Meewasin Valley Authority was Act was passed by the Government of Saskatchewan, all possible because of the activism and leadership of private citizens, represented today by Joanna Miller.



## Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @PotashCorp Plaza NOW OPEN

The Cameco Meewasin Skaters' Lodge is open *noon to 9 p.m.* daily. Call 306-229-8827 for information.

The Tim Hortons Twinkle Lights Skating Party was held on December 20, 2016 to mark the opening of the outdoor skating season. Please mark the following skating parties on your calendar:

- PotashCorp WinterShines Skating Party on Sunday, January 29, 2017
- Cameco Family Day Skating Party on Monday, February 20, 2017

Weather permitting the rink will be open Saturday, December 31, 2016 at 12 noon until 1 a.m. Sunday, January 1, 2017. There will be a DJ on site from 5 - 8 p.m. as part of the Canada 150 celebrations happening around the city that day.

The rink will close when temperatures or wind chill exceed  $-31^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Skating is free but a donation is always appreciated. If you don't have a pair of skates, you can borrow a pair at the rink free of charge. Please provide your own helmets and safety equipment. No hockey sticks or pucks are allowed.

Find Meewasin on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter @meewasin

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MEEWASIN

## Invasive Plant Spotlight – What do you have growing in your yard?

### Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)



Photo courtesy of Glen Lee, Saskatchewan Wildflowers.

Oxeye Daisy is an invasive plant and designated as noxious in Saskatchewan by the Ministry of Agriculture. Being designated as a noxious means that landowners, both urban and rural, have a duty to control these plants on their property due to the economic, health, and environmental damage the plant may cause (Statutes of Saskatchewan, 2010).

Oxeye Daisy is a perennial plant that grows up to 1 m tall and was introduced from Europe as a grass seed contaminant. Its popularity as a garden ornamental plant has increased its spread across North America. It will choke out other plants as it spreads by both seeds and creeping roots. Its leaves are dark green and frequently glossy, lance shaped, and has toothed margins. Leaves are typically alternating and decrease in size up the stems. Stems are green, smooth and often grooved. Flowers are white with 20-30 petals around a yellow center and the petals have a small notch in the tip. A healthy oxeye daisy plant can produce up to 26,000 seeds, most of which will remain viable for the next six years. There is a documented case of seeds germinating 39 years since their production!

Oxeye Daisy often comes in generic wildflower mixes (in addition to a host of other non-native and potentially invasive species) so avoid planting mixes that do not list the species or list invasive species in their contents. Shasta daisy, a cultivar (sterile) daisy variety and look alike, may revert back to a fertile stage and cross breed with oxeye daisy, spreading hybrids that difficult to distinguish.

To control this plant you can repeatedly hand-pull or dig plants (including as much of the roots as possible) before seed production, mowing repeatedly before full flower to reduce seed production, or use a recommended herbicide that is suitable for the task. Bag dead plants to take to the landfill and to prevent spread, avoid composting and minimize soil disturbance.

Meewasin has Oxeye Daisy on a number of its sites due to the very invasive nature of this plant. Meewasin's Resource Conservation crew is actively working to control this plant through various integrated invasive species management methods such as: repeated cutting, digging, herbicide, monitoring and awareness.

The use of a variety of integrated management methods help to increase overall effectiveness in the removal of this plant both within Meewasin's jurisdiction and across the province.

For more information, visit these resources:

- The Weed Control Act, Statutes of Saskatchewan (2010, c. W-11.1). Retrieved from Saskatchewan's Queen's Printer: <http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/English/Statutes/Statutes/W11-1.pdf>
- Ministry of Agriculture "Minister's Order for the Designation of Prohibited, Noxious and Nuisance Weeds in Accordance with the Weed Control Act (2010)" at <http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=44fb5d3e-a7e0-461c-84d5-876f651a3ed4>
- Alberta Invasive Species Council Fact Sheets "Oxeye Daisy" at <https://www.abinvasives.ca/factsheets/140516-fs-oxeyedaisy.pdf>

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Phone 306-665-6887 or email [meewasin@meewasin.com](mailto:meewasin@meewasin.com) and provide us with your name and email address.

### Invasive Species Control Update

Meewasin's Resource Conservation team reached a few milestones this year with their efforts to control European Buckthorn in the river valley:

- 250,000+ stems treated (previous annual record was 2015, with 108,795 treated)
- Reached the 1,000,000+ mark for stems treated in the program since 1997

The team will be continuing their efforts throughout the winter, so these numbers will keep climbing!



### Give a Meewasin Gift of Life!

Give the gift of a shrub, a deciduous or conifer tree, a bur oak or a Memorial Forest dedication as a lasting symbol of celebration, recognition or memory

Other gifts available for dedication are:

- Engraved Bricks in a choice of four locations throughout the city
- Park Benches with an engraved plaque throughout the river valley
- Concrete Seating Blocks with an engraved plaque at River Landing

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### Meewasin Interpretive Cross-Country Skiing

Meewasin's Interpretive Cross Country Ski Program takes bookings beginning December 1st, dependent upon adequate snow conditions. The ski trail is mowed in November by the Meewasin Resource Conservation crew, while education equipment and resources are refurbished and updated.

The program is extremely weather dependent and is not able to begin until there is a packed snow base along with a period of cool weather.

### Beaver Creek Conservation Area SaskPower Solar Project

In 2015 Beaver Creek Conservation Area received a grant for \$50,000 over two years from SaskPower in order to update the interpretive centre with a solar panel system for the purpose of creating an energy conservation program. Currently, the energy conservation program has been delivered to more than 800 students with great success and positive feedback from the educational community. Meewasin is now working with Suncatcher Solar to determine the best system for the site which will include a multi-panel system to be installed to the west of the BCCA Interpretive Centre. This system will stand as a powerful educational tool to be used in interpreting alternative sources of energy to the general public, while fitting specifically into the Grade Five school curricular program.

### Manny the Meadowlark helps Meewasin with Giving Tuesday 2016!

Manny the Meadowlark is singing out a big THANK YOU to Meewasin supporters for helping to care for his home in the Meewasin Valley on Giving Tuesday!

Just look what Meewasin donors did:

Thanks to your support and other generous donors like you, Meewasin's conservation team will be able to restore 25 hectares of habitat for Manny the Meadowlark in 2017. That's the size of 25 football fields.

That's a lot of habitat!

Meewasin would like to say thank you to our supporters. Visit the Meewasin Valley again for memories of summer days here <https://vimeo.com/195476480>

It's not too late to make gift to Meewasin before the end of 2016. You can make a gift from the comfort of your living room anytime now or over the holidays. <http://meewasin.com/donate/donor-programs/>



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

# BEAVER CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

INTERPRETING SASKATOON'S NATURAL HISTORY

## Beaver Creek Programming January and February

### Winter Wings

Chick-a-dee-dee-dee please take some time to come out to the creek and visit me! Look for the Black-capped Chickadee and other birds while on a winter hike and try our come and go activities to discover more about winter birds and other active winter animals.



### Winter Wonderland Tales- Sundays @ 2:30 p.m.

Enjoy a short indoor interpretive program before you head out along one of our nature trails. An interpreter will share some 'wild' facts about one of our favourite animals at the creek each Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

### Nature Craft

After a walk outside take time to create a nature-inspired craft. Crafts are available between 1 - 4 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. Craft cost by donation.

#### Did you know?

*Hairy and Downy woodpeckers are often found within the same area. While in search of food, the Downy Woodpecker likes to look on smaller branches but the Hairy Woodpecker tends to spend more time on tree trunks.*



### Family Week - February 20 to February 24 - Learn "Owl" About It!

Bring the family out to Beaver Creek and learn "hoo's hoo" in the owl family. Discover what kind of owls are in the area, what they are doing at this time of year, and how they are adapted to survive in our winters. Enjoy winter walking on nature trails and come and go activities inside the interpretive centre. An owl inspired craft will be offered daily during the break. Craft cost by donation. Call 306-374-2474 for information.

## About Beaver Creek Conservation Area



Beaver Creek Conservation Area offers the general public and schools opportunities to discover the wonders of nature year-round. Hands-on activities in the interpretive centre offer children the opportunity to learn more about Saskatchewan's flora and fauna. All can enjoy a hike along a selection of four nature trails. Beaver Creek is an ideal place to come out to enjoy the art of wildlife watching.



## A Creek Forming A Valley; A Valley Forming Habitats

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

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

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