

MEEWASIN EXPLORER

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"Come on, Fred! Let's go for a car ride!"



Photo Credit: Liam Richards

That's how my wife, Jennifer, and I begin our trips to Cranberry Flats with our dog, Fred. As soon as we say those words, he leaps off the couch and hurls himself at us as if he were a linebacker making a diving tackle on the football field. Fred is wound up and ready to go.

We live in the Exhibition area of Saskatoon so when we quickly leave the city limits heading south towards the Flats, Fred knows where we're going. It was four years ago when we first took Fred to this beautiful area of the Meewasin Valley Trail. I don't know the exact reasons why he took to it so quickly, but I would like to think it has to do with the beautiful trails that carve their way across the wide-open prairie and rolling hills. Or maybe it is the stillness in the air that allows Fred to hear coyotes from miles away. The view of the South Saskatchewan River from the lookout point is one of Fred's favourite spots, especially as the sun is setting, and I know he's not alone in that.

Cranberry Flats, like many other MVA locations, is a place for people to gather and meet through their love and admiration of nature. Jen and I have met so many interesting people as our dogs introduced themselves. We've met people from across the province and from around the world who are astounded by the beauty of the Meewasin Trails. Sometimes, you just never know who will meet when you're on the trails.

One of my favourite Meewasin memories is from last October. It was a gorgeous Fall evening out at Cranberry Flats. The colours were vibrant as the sun slowly set. Fred and I were heading back to the car when we could see what we thought were two very large dogs trotting over a hill towards us. We quickly realized they were not dogs. The women on their backs were the giveaway. Fred stopped in his tracks and set his tail to 11 as these two beautiful horses made their way to us. Being a 35 year-old in 2017, I immediately grabbed my phone and took a video of Fred's horse encounter and then had a great conversation with the women who lived on a nearby farm. You never know what you're going to see on the Meewasin Trails.

I work at Sherbrooke Community Centre here in Saskatoon as a Communications Leader. It's a wonderful long-term care home that really prides itself on creating joy for its residents, and our staff goes above and beyond to bring that sense of joy to our residents. I mention this because joy is how Jennifer and I feel when we are with Fred on the trails. It is not only Cranberry Flats.

The views of the river heading towards downtown Saskatoon from Diefenbaker Park are spectacular. Walking through Rotary Park on a Sunday morning and seeing people do yoga in the park is a great reminder how Meewasin creates community in our city. The smiles on kids' faces as they watch pelicans find their lunch at the Weir is the epitome of joy! The educational and conservation work the MVA performs is vital and should not be overlooked, but sometimes that is forgotten because you're having so much fun enjoying all the MVA has to offer!

Before I started at Sherbrooke Community Centre, I was a CBC journalist. I attended the MVA news conference on June 8, 2016 where it was announced the interpretative centre would be closed. I spoke with many people who were upset with funding cuts and feared there was more to come. I was upset as well but it was not my place as a journalist to infuse the story with my personal opinions. Now, I feel very grateful to share our Meewasin story, Fred's Meewasin story, with the community and feel responsible to speak out on the continued cuts by the Provincial Government. The MVA is a jewel not only in Saskatoon but this province. It deserves to be celebrated and properly funded so people from across Saskatchewan and the world can experience the joy that Jen, Fred and I feel every time we set foot on the trails. We hope to see you out at Cranberry Flats soon.

Cheers,

Eric Anderson

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MEEWASIN.COM

Meewasin 

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MEEWASIN



June 21, 2018, marks National Aboriginal Day in Canada. The Board of Directors, Management and Staff are proud to take this opportunity to respectfully acknowledge that Meewasin's jurisdiction is located in Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland

of the Métis, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples whose histories, languages, and culture continue to influence our vibrant community.

You can help **Green the Meewasin Valley** with:

- a monthly or annual gift to Meewasin's Green Circle or 500 Club;
- dedication of a tree, brick, bench, or the Memorial Forest to honor a special person in your life;
- a conservation easement on your land;
- a planned gift in your will; or
- a gift to Meewasin's endowment



For more information, visit our website www.meewasin.com or call/email our office @ 306-665-6887 or donations@meewasin.com.

Cameco Meewasin Rink



The Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @Nutrien Plaza opened to the public on December 16, 2017 and ran until March 17, 2018, for a total of 92 days. There were close to 46,000 users this season 19,000 more than last, which meant an average of 500 per day. Last season the rink operated for 91 days with 26,864 users.

On December 19, 2017, the Tim Hortons Twinkle Light Ceremony was the official start to our season. Other major event days hosted were: Nutrien Wintershines on January 28, 2018, and Cameco's Family Day celebration on February 19, 2018. The Tim Hortons Sprinter Van was able to make it to all events serving many cups of hot chocolate and coffee.

Over all this past season was busy as usual. The cold temperatures didn't slow people from coming out to skate, in fact this was our busiest season on record. Many new Canadians and visitors to Saskatoon enjoy skating at our rink. To name a few, they were from: Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Dallas, Minnesota, California, Mexico, England, Ukraine, Venezuela, Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sweden, Japan and China. Thank you to all donors and sponsors that continue to contribute and support Meewasin with this well utilized skate program that is very appreciated by our community.

The Meewasin Northeast Swale – Rich in Nature, Rich in History



The Meewasin Northeast Swale is approximately 26 kilometres long and covers 2,800 hectares, starting within the City of Saskatoon and ending north of the Clarkboro Ferry. Besides being rich in biodiversity, and habitat, it has many historical elements as well. The Swale includes a remnant section

of the Moose Woods, Batoche Trails, Middleton's staging camp on the trek to the Battle of Batoche, and numerous tipi rings from the encampments of the original residents of the Saskatoon area. It's the site of the telegraph line that linked North America to Europe by way of Russia, and the site of the now ghost town of Clarkboro. For more information about the Northeast Swale visit our website at: www.meewasin.com.

2018 Saskatchewan Marathon

On May 27, 2018, the Saskatoon Road Runners will once again host the Saskatchewan Marathon. This marathon is sanctioned by Sask Athletics and is a qualifier for the Boston Marathon. The full marathon runs 42.2 km running through the streets of Saskatoon and along the Meewasin Trail, starting and ending at Diefenbaker Park. Visit <http://saskmarathon.ca/> for information!



The Meewasin Board of Directors, Management and Staff would like to thank the Saskatoon Road Runners Association for making Meewasin the charity of choice for over 10 years! This generous gift has helped Meewasin build, maintain and improve our trail network! Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin and Meewasin staff will once again assist in staffing a water station and the Interim CEO Doug Porteous and his band the Paddle Wheelers plan to supply live music along the route!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MEEWASIN

Nature City Festival 2018

Meewasin continues to be a proud sponsor of Wild About Saskatoon's NatureCity Festival 2018. This week-long festival running May 22 through 28, consists of over 60 nature-inspired events held across the City of Saskatoon and the Meewasin River Valley. Hosted in collaboration with numerous individuals and community organizations, these events are designed to get people of all ages back into nature and to deepen our appreciation and access to urban nature through education, experience, and celebration. It is a chance to celebrate the magnificent river valley, parks, conservation areas, gardens and urban forests, together with all of the fascinating wild critters and native plants found all around us.



Photo credit: Betty Calvert

The festival theme for 2018, is "āniskopicikēwin: Things are Linked Together". Our city is a living network of rivers and streets, trees and office towers, prairies and yards. We are a city of contrasts unified by the natural networks that hold our ecosystem together. NatureCity Festival 2018, uses the Cree concept āniskopicikēwin (pronounced Ansko-p'-tchik-e-win) to describe these vital connections. The Meewasin River Valley acts as a vital connection for Saskatoon by connecting humans to nature within our city, by acting as an ecological corridor for wildlife movement, and by being the main artery connecting the numerous natural areas and parks within our city. Meewasin will play an active role in this year's NatureCity Festival 2018, by hosting numerous events, including interpretive hikes at our conservation sites and along the Meewasin trail. Join us, and numerous other organizations, on the trails, rivers, sidewalks, and flyways to celebrate Saskatoon's wild side. Please visit <http://wildaboutsaskatoon.org> for more information.

Meewasin Greenhouse



Each spring Meewasin grows over 25,000 plants in their greenhouse and this year is no different. Thirty different species of grasses and herbaceous flowering plants that are native to the Saskatoon region are propagated. Some examples are dotted blazing star, 3-flowered avens, gaillardia, plains rough fescue and blue grama grass to name just a few.

The seeds for these plants are locally sourced and hand picked by our summer students. Once they are cleaned the seeds are stored in the Meewasin seed bank.

These plants will be used this summer for various reclamation projects, trail edging, healing gardens, etc. So, if you see the MVA horticulture crew working along the trail this growing season there is a good chance they are planting native grasses and herbaceous flowering plants that were grown in the MVA greenhouse.

MEEWASIN TRAIL MAP – ONLINE (AND IN YOUR POCKET)!



Exploring the Meewasin Trail is easy! Chart your adventure and access information along the way. Find out what events are happening along the Meewasin Trail, where the nearest dog parks, water fountains and washrooms are. Simply go to www.meewasin.com, click the map and the fun begins!

Prefer your map in your pocket? A special thanks to the Saskatoon Road Runners for sponsoring the new print edition of the compact Meewasin Trail Guide now available for pick up at the MVA office and Tourism Saskatoon!



Celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day in the Meewasin Valley!
Give Mom or Dad an enduring gift!

Dedicate a Bench, Seating Block, Brick, Tree or Shrub in their name.

Become a Sponsor today!

HOURS: 9 A.M. - 5 P.M. WEEKDAYS, CLOSED WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS

BEAVER CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

INTERPRETING SASKATOON'S NATURAL HISTORY



Everyone loves to feed the chickadees!

From May through the end of June 2018, Beaver Creek Conservation Area (BCCA) will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week!

When visiting BCCA, the Interpretive Centre is open for washrooms and activities in the Discovery Theatre and SaskEnergy Beaver Pond. A selection of four hiking trails are available as well as sunflower seeds for handfeeding the



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 MEEWASIN.COM

UPCOMING EVENTS



NatureCity Festival May 22-28, 2018 - Join Meewasin, and numerous other organizations, on the trails, rivers, sidewalks, and flyways to celebrate Saskatoon's wild side. Visit <http://wildaboutsaskatoon.org> for event listings and more information.

Saskatchewan Marathon May 27, 2018 - Hosted by the Saskatoon Road Runners, the Saskatchewan Marathon runs through the streets of Saskatoon and along the Meewasin Trail, starting and ending at Diefenbaker Park. Visit <http://saskmarathon.ca/> for information!

Meewasin Plant-A-Tree Ceremony Saturday June 9, 2018 - You are invited to attend Meewasin's Ceremonial Tree Planting and Dedication Ceremony on Saturday, June 9, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at the Western Development Museum. Free admission and refreshments will be provided.

SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival June 22 - July 1, 2018 - From June 22 to July 1, 2018 the Meewasin Valley will be alive with music from the SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival. For artists, schedules and more visit www.saskjazz.com.

For more information on all Meewasin events, visit our website at meewasin.com/events.

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Phone 306-665-6887 or email meewasin@meewasin.com and provide us with your name and email address.



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