

MEEWASIN EXPLORER

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2016

VOLUME 23 - NUMBER 1

Meewasin Announces Conservation Award

Dr. C. Stuart Houston is the 2015 recipient of the Meewasin Conservation Award which is presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the natural heritage resources of the Meewasin Valley.

Born in North Dakota in 1927, and growing up in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Dr. Houston obtained a Doctor of Medicine (MD) from the University of Manitoba in 1951. He practiced medicine in Yorkton with his parents, both MDs, and moved with his family to Saskatoon in 1960. In 1964, he joined the University of Saskatchewan to become head of Radiology (1982 to 1987). Dr. Houston retired in 1996.

In addition to a distinguished career in medicine and raising a family with his wife Mary, Dr. Houston has been involved in ornithology since his early teens. In high school in Yorkton, he learned the study of birds from Isabel Priestly, a trained botanist who wrote the nature column in the Yorkton Enterprise. A few years earlier while convalescing at home after a leg injury, and having been taught touch typing by his mother, young Stuart typed the stencils and mimeographed the Blue Jay, still a Saskatchewan nature magazine. During those early years, Ducks Unlimited recognized Stuart's talents and arranged for an under-age bird banding permit. It was something that both he and a young Farley Mowat could take pride in later in life, as they were the only two "under-age bird banders" in North America.



Beginning as a bander of ducks for Ducks Unlimited in 1943, Dr. Houston today is recognized as one of the leading authorities on birds in Canada. He has published extensively, including 12 books, three of them the journals of officers with the first arctic exploring expedition. Besides raising four children, three of them also medical doctors, Stuart and Mary have banded more than 150,000 birds of 211 species. He has received many awards including the Doctor of Letters degree, the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, Fellow of the American Ornithologists Union and Officer of the Order of Canada.

Some time next year, the beautifully illustrated and fact-filled two-volume Birds of Saskatchewan compiled by Al Smith, Frank Roy, Stuart Houston, and hundreds of contributing authors will be in print.

Meewasin is honoured to have Dr. Houston as the recipient of the 31st Meewasin Conservation Award, an award his wife Mary Houston received in 1996.

Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @PotashCorp Plaza

The skating rink is located adjacent to Spadina Crescent next to the Delta Bessborough Hotel in Kiwanis Memorial Park. The Cameco Meewasin Skaters' Lodge is open *noon to 9 p.m.* daily.

The rink will close when temperatures or wind chill exceed -31°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.

Call 306-229-8827 for information or to make group bookings.

Find Meewasin on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter @meewasin

MEEWASIN VALLEY AUTHORITY - 402 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3G5

PHONE: 306-665-6887 FAX: 306-665-6117 E-MAIL: MEEWASIN@MEEWASIN.COM

MEEWASIN.COM

Meewasin

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MEEWASIN

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

Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) a.k.a. Poor Man's Orchid, Policeman's Helmet, Indian balsam, Ornamental jewelweed, Touch-Me-Not



Himalayan Balsam is an invasive annual plant, but in the Saskatchewan Weed Control Act 2010 Regulations it is not designated. However, in Alberta this plant has been designated as prohibited noxious and experts in Saskatchewan are seeking a similar designation. Being designated as noxious means that landowners, both urban and rural, have a duty to control these plants on their property. Introduced to Saskatchewan as an ornamental plant, Himalayan Balsam can grow up to 3 m tall and can naturalize in riparian areas. Its leaves are green with serrated edges, lance or elliptic shaped with a pointed tip, 6-15 cm long and usually opposite or in whorls of three. Its stalk is hairless, smooth, hollow and reddish in colour. Flowers are 2.5-4 cm long and white, pink or purple in colour in groups of 5-10. This plant is a prolific seed producer (up to 800 per plant) and seed is viable for up to two years. When mature seed pods are disturbed, it can shoot seeds up to 7 m away! If you find Himalayan Balsam in your yard, you can prevent its spread by removing flowers before it goes to seed. To control this plant, you can repeatedly hand-pull or dig, cut back repeatedly or use a recommended herbicide that is suitable for the task. Do not plant Himalayan Balsam and should you find it available at your local greenhouse, alert them to its invasive character. Meewasin has not found Himalayan Balsam on any of the properties they manage, but have found it at residences in close proximity to sensitive areas. Meewasin has been working in close relationship with the Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council, the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Center, and the City of Saskatoon Weed Inspector to identify occurrences of this plant and monitor its spread.

Growing the Next Generation - Caring for our Watersheds program

Agrium Inc. understands that taking care of the world requires more than simply talking about it. It calls for stewardship and a lighter footprint. As a result, Agrium has partnered with Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin to put on an environmental program called, "Caring for our Watersheds".

Caring for our Watersheds is an international program, with branches in Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan, as well as the United States, Argentina, and Australia, dedicated to encouraging students to care about the health of their local watershed and brainstorm ideas on what they can do to ensure that health. Open to all grade 7 to 12 students who live in areas where Agrium has operations, individuals or groups of up to 4 students are asked to research their local watershed, identify an environmental issue, and offer a realistic solution to the question of, "What can we do to improve our watershed?"

Individual watershed groups will mentor schools and students in their area and the top ten teams throughout Saskatchewan will come to Saskatoon for the final oral competition.

For more information please visit: www.caringforourwatersheds.com

Did you know you can get the Explorer electronically? Help us reduce our paper consumption and switch your paper Explorer subscription to an electronic one.
Phone 306-665-6887 or email meewasin@meewasin.com and provide us with your name and email address.

Honouring Through Meewasin



*Sponsor a Meewasin seating bench or block in memory, recognition, or celebration of a loved one.
*Sponsor a bench for a 10-year term - \$3,000
*Sponsor a permanent concrete seating block - \$5,000
*Tax receipt issued for full amount of donation

MEEWASIN VALLEY INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

INTERPRETING SASKATOON'S BUILT CULTURAL HISTORY



Visit us to see what we have on display in the Meewasin Art Gallery in January and February

Find Meewasin on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter @meewasin

January

January 9 & 10 - Explore the MVC - For Everyone (1-4 p.m.)

View the display in our Art Gallery, check out new items in the Gift Shop, visit the interpretive galleries including the S.S. City of Medicine Hat Anchor, and see the Meewasin Valley Community Quilt (collaborative paper quilt) on display for January.

January 16 & 17 January 30 & 31 Animals In Winter Weekend Drop-In Craft at the MVC For Everyone (1 - 4 p.m.)

Make a fun animal craft and test your knowledge about some of the animals that live around Saskatoon through the winter.



January 24 - PotashCorp Skating Party 12-4 p.m.

Bring your skates and join us at the Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @PotashCorp Plaza for a Skating Party as part of Wintershines! If you don't have skates don't worry! The lodge has a wide variety to borrow.

February

February 7 – 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 full of displays, heritage demonstrations, and children's activities! **Free admission.**

For more information about our programs please call 306-665-6888.

Please note:
Program cost is by donation to help cover supplies, unless otherwise stated.

February

Paper Making Weekend Drop-In Craft at the MVC - Ages 7 to Adult (2 p.m.)

February 13 & 14

Valentine's Day is here! What better way to celebrate this special day than to make your own paper for writing love notes?

Please pre-register by calling 306-665-6888. Program cost is by donation to help cover supplies.

February 15 - 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! If you don't have skates don't worry! The lodge has a wide variety to borrow.

February Break Programs - Ages 5 - 12 (1-4 p.m.)

Come play like the pioneers did! Drop in for some fun afternoon activities.

Tuesday, February 16 - Spool Knitting & Yarn Crafts

Wednesday, February 17 - Spool Knitting & Yarn Crafts

Thursday, February 18 - Button Crafts

Friday, February 19 - Button Craft

February 20 & 21

February 27 & 28

Whatever the Weather - For Everyone (1-4 p.m.)

Drop-in to explore some of the weather extremes Saskatoon has experienced through history. Make a silly Whatever the Weather Teller to take home.



*Above programs are for the general public.
If you wish to book a group program please call 306-665-6888.
A nominal fee may be charged for group bookings.*

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.



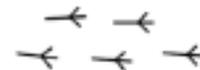
Family Week - February 15 to February 19 - Learn Owl About It!

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

MEEWASIN.COM

Meewasin 