

ANNUAL REPORT  
2004-2005



# Meewasin



*...greening the valley for 26 years*



*Pelicans At The Weir*



PHOTOGRAPH BY GORDON WALDNER - SP PHOTO

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND CEO



ACTING CHAIR,  
RICHARD NIEMAN



CEO, SUSAN LAMB

### MEEWASIN'S MISSION STATEMENT

TO ENSURE A HEALTHY  
AND VIBRANT RIVER  
VALLEY, WITH A BALANCE  
BETWEEN HUMAN USE  
AND CONSERVATION; AND  
TO CONSERVE THE NATURAL  
AND HERITAGE RESOURCES  
OF THE VALLEY.

Riverfront 2004



Saskatoon Natural  
Grasslands Sheep  
Grazing 2004



King George  
Community  
School Canoe  
Tour 2004



As we celebrate the 100th birthday of our beautiful province, it is a good time to look at Meewasin's accomplishments as an innovative provincial institution. Meewasin has completed 25 years of stewardship in the Meewasin Valley and continues to have success that reverberates provincially, nationally, and internationally. Although our mandate is in Saskatoon and the R.M. of Corman Park, we are a product of provincial legislation and our work provides leadership beyond our borders.

A highlight of 2004/05 is that Meewasin was recognized as one of the top four river agencies in the world for a Thiess River prize in Brisbane, Australia. Many of our accomplishments are the most important when you cannot see that we have been there. We released a State of the Valley report in 2004 based on aerial photography of the valley to see if we were meeting our conservation objectives of balance, health, and vibrancy. The report concluded we were meeting our objectives when compared with five years ago, but that we still have lots of work to do. Our objectives include such priorities as "no net loss of habitat" in the river valley. Although we have gained 115 ha in conservation easements and seeded areas over the past five years, loss of habitat is still a threat. We still have five badly degraded spots along our riverbank. In addition to annual programs to reduce invasive species and protect natural areas, we continue to sign conservation easements to protect certain lands in perpetuity.

A highlight of our construction year is the work we began on the *Riverfront* at River Landing (formerly the south downtown). We established a shoreline and added 1.5 acres of riverfront space that we will develop into an urban park in 2005 and beyond. Other construction highlights for 2004 to 2005 include: extending the Meewasin Trail through the Sanatorium site to the neighbouring Holiday Park (SaskPower Trail Extension), extending the promenade and establishing a planter seating wall at the Vimy Memorial in Kiwanis Park, establishing seven seating nodes on the trail from the weir to Meewasin Park North, completing the trail linkage from Central Avenue through Sutherland Beach, planting in the Gabriel Dumont Park Memorial Forest, and completing the Kinsmen Fishing Platform.

A highlight of our education program in 2004/05 included the thousands of students and the general public who visit Beaver Creek, the Meewasin Valley Centre and the prairie grasslands to learn about the cultural and natural heritage of the river valley. The Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority canoe tours provided an opportunity for nearly 1000 youth, many of them disadvantaged, to safely learn about the river from the river and experience the sights and sounds of 100 years ago. Education highlights included celebrating our 25th anniversary in Friendship Park in August. Others were our leadership in the Saskatoon Roundtable on the environment that resulted in the community sustainability project Roadmap 2020, and participating in the Mendel's 40th Art and Ecology Project. In the new year Meewasin and SaskPower brought the Climate Change Show to Saskatoon, completed the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands Ecological Education Guide, and promoted the Western Red Lily Centennial Project. In the spring we supported a program to release threatened sturgeon into the river and continued to deliver the annual Pelican Watch Contest and Saskatoon Credit Union Clean-up of the Valley.

In 2005/06 Meewasin will continue to support the development of the River Landing site, especially the development of the *Riverfront*, so the public can access a trail along the river by fall 2005. We plan to launch a *Riverfront* capital campaign, and have helped develop an interpretation program for River Landing. We shall continue to plant trees and shrubs in a number of our parks. We will complete more trail in the northeast and upgrade trails and the facility at Beaver Creek Conservation Area. We will expand our sheep grazing program and release some of the sturgeon we have raised into the river. We will work with the city to develop a comprehensive off leash dog plan and will continue to promote the conservation easement program. Meewasin will continue to provide leadership in the management of resources through special projects including Partners FOR the Sask River Basin and Road Map 2020. We will continue to educate at our interpretive centres and prairie grasslands, integrating the impact of climate change and the need for water conservation.

Meewasin's successes this past year and before would not have been possible without you our volunteers, friends, sponsors, and supporters. We have a beautiful Meewasin Valley because of the great vision of our forebears. We continue to have success in our mandate because of the support of the community. Continue to provide that support. Continue to be aware. Continue to ask questions. We are into the 26th year of our 100 Year Plan. It is important for everyone to nurture and support Meewasin. It is one of the greatest legacies that we can pass on for now and future generations.



# MEEWASIN BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CHAIR,  
DENNIS JOHNSON  
(RETIRED JANUARY 2005)



ACTING CHAIR,  
RICHARD NIEMAN



CEO, SUSAN LAMB



TERRY ALM



DARWIN ANDERSON



MAYOR DON ATCHISON



PAUL BECKER



MOIRA BIRNEY  
(RETIRED JANUARY 2005)



JOHN BROCKELBANK



ANN COXWORTH



BILL HEWITT  
(RETIRED JANUARY 2005)



ELAINE HNATYSHYN



PETER MACKINNON



ROLY MUIR, SECRETARY  
(RETIRED AUGUST 2004)



GLEN PENNER



HON. PETER PREBBLE

## MEEWASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEES 2004/05

Meewasin Advisory Committees are invaluable to the work of Meewasin. Meewasin could not be the great river authority that it is today without such involvement from the people of Saskatoon.

### Resource Conservation Advisory:

Darwin Anderson, Eve Casavant, Peter Goode, Tammy Knuttila, Margo Rashley, Gary Wobeser.

### Development Review:

Phil Bruch, Ken Dockham, Randy Grauer, Laura Hartney, Keith Henry, Neil Richardson, Doug Tastad, Colin Tennent.

### Education Advisory Committee:

Brendan Bitz, Max Abraham, Brenda Ahenakew, Judith Benson, Sylvia Cory, Melanie Elliott, Hugh Kurz, Ted Kutz, Dick Nieman, Freda Trew.

### Design Advisory:

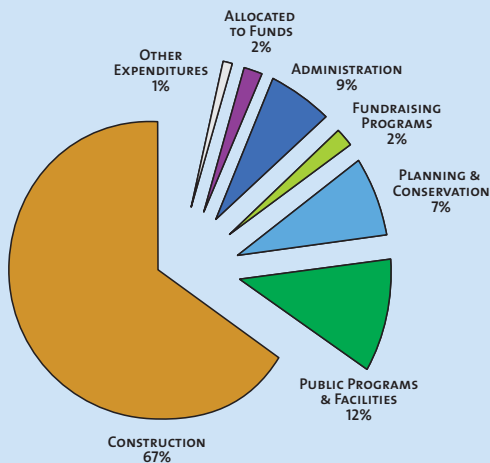
Don Cook, Rob Crosby, Derek Kindrachuk, John Penner, Alan Otterbein, Terry Scaddan.

### Meewasin Trail Ambassadors

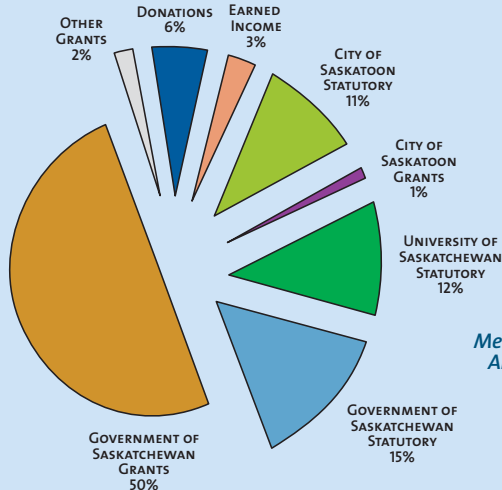
Identified by their Meewasin green vests, Trail Ambassadors are volunteers who support Meewasin by promoting trail safety and courtesy, volunteering for special events, learning about and representing Meewasin in the Saskatoon and area community.

## MEEWASIN FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS AS OF MARCH 31, 2005

EXPENDITURES & ALLOCATIONS (ALL FUNDS) \$5,334,379



REVENUE (ALL FUNDS) \$5,334,379



Meewasin 25th Anniversary  
Celebrations Friendship Park 2004  
Paul Becker, Hon Peter Prebble,  
Susan Lamb, Glen Penner



Meewasin Trail  
Ambassadors

THE MEEWASIN ENDOWMENT FUND IS MANAGED BY THE SASKATOON FOUNDATION AND AS OF MARCH 31ST 2005 STANDS AT \$218,405  
AUDITED MEEWASIN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. MEEWASIN VALLEY AUTHORITY, 402 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH,  
SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN S7K 3G5. PHONE: (306) 665-6887. EMAIL: MEEWASIN@MEEWASIN.COM WEB: WWW.MEEWASIN.COM



## FUND DEVELOPMENT

**M**eewasin is a non-profit organization. Approximately 35% of its budget for 2004/05 came from the public and private sector to support conservation, development, and education initiatives. Some reasons to support Meewasin include:

- ▶ 95% of the general public in Saskatoon and area support the work of Meewasin and want that work to continue;
- ▶ 1,000,000 visits are made to the Meewasin Trail annually;
- ▶ Of the \$70 million that Meewasin has spent in 25 years, \$14 million has come from the local taxpayer;
- ▶ The Meewasin Valley Authority concept is known and studied around the world as a model of what can be done by a community wishing to conserve a river valley for the purpose of public health and enjoyment; for that we were named one of four finalists for the Thiess Riverprize in Brisbane, Australia.

As a non-profit organization, Meewasin raises funds from the public and private sector to support its conservation initiatives. Thank you to Kathy Hollands and Betty-Anne Stevenson, volunteer Chairs of the Meewasin Fund Development Committee. Thank you to committee members: Archie Balon, Moira Birney, Sheryl Fox, Dave Grambo, Ian MacLennan, Lise de Moissac, Randy Moore, Fran Nutter, Debbie Penner, Patricia Roe, Tom Symenuk, Bryan Tastad.

## MEEWASIN SPONSORS, DONORS, SUPPORTERS

### MEEWASIN DONORS

Government of Saskatchewan  
Cameco Corporation  
Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon  
SaskPower Corporation  
The Samuel & Saidye Bronfman Family Foundation  
Saskatoon Credit Union  
Realty Executives Saskatoon  
Saskatoon Kiwanis Foundation  
Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority  
Michael Egnatoff  
Saskatoon Foundation  
TD Friends of the Environment  
Kiwanis Club of Saskatoon  
West Wind Aviation Inc.  
Rotary Club of Saskatoon  
Rotary Club of Saskatoon Nutana  
Terri Lemke  
Saskatchewan Parks & Recreation  
Ronald & Muriel Bremner  
Dynamic Mutual Funds Ltd.  
Ewen & Ann Coxworth  
Dennis & Sharon Johnson  
Gwen & Guy Charman  
Rotary Club of Saskatoon Meewasin  
Evergreen  
Susan Lamb  
Teachers Credit Union Ltd.  
R. Peter MacKinnon  
Doug & Anne-Marie Porteous  
PAGE Credit Union  
Wesley Bolstad  
JNE Welding Ltd.

Bill Peterson  
Howard and Elva Nixon  
Gerald & Bettina Grandey  
Canadian Forestry Association  
Saskatoon Nature Society Inc.  
John Scharf  
Richard Nieman  
Gladys Murphy  
Darwin Anderson  
St. Mary's Credit Union Ltd.  
Peak Mechanical Ltd.  
Merle & Douglas Bocking  
Christopher Kent  
John Brockelbank  
Dr. Ivan Jen & Dr. Suzanne Yip  
Andrew P. Belyk  
Margaret E. Blair  
Joan R. Holdstock  
Peggy M. LaClaire  
Colleen Letilley  
Dr. Louis & Ruth Horlick  
Cliff & Betty Wright  
C. Stuart & Mary Houston  
Dr. Christine Manning  
Tree Canada Foundation  
Paul Becker  
Troy Legge Foundation  
Stephen E. Levy  
Neil & Marjorie Richardson  
Doris Koyl  
Stan Macdonald  
Keith Henry  
Yvonne Cuttle  
Allan Blakeney

Mary Gilliland  
G.N. Arnett  
Saskatoon City Employees  
Credit Union  
New Community Credit Union  
Unilever

### MEEWASIN SUPPORTERS

Acadia Drive Funeral Chapel  
Batesville Canada  
Funeral Advisory & Memorial Society of Saskatchewan  
McKagues Funeral Chapel  
Michelangelo Memorials  
Park Funeral Chapel  
Prairie View Chapel & Crematorium  
REMCO Memorials  
Saskatchewan Master Gardeners  
Saskatoon Funeral Home  
TREEmendous Saskatchewan  
Westwood Funeral Chapel

### MEEWASIN SPONSORS

Downey's Bakery  
Acklands Grainger – The Rent It Store  
Innovation Place  
McQuarrie's Coffee Service  
Meyers Norris Penny LLP  
Saskatoon Farm & Garden Centre  
Charles Dunlap  
Gordon Waldner-SP  
Homestead Ice Cream  
Davis Design & Consulting



QUINT community planting



Children painting during Day-At-The Park



Beaver Creek Conservation Area



The Honourable Dr. Lynda Haverstock & His Honour Mr. Harley Olson, Queen Elizabeth Choir Students, Plant-A-Tree 2004

### MEEWASIN PLANT-A-TREE DEDICATION JUNE 2004

The 18th annual Plant-A-Tree Commemoration was held Saturday, June 12, 2004 at Innovation Place.

Since 1988 Meewasin has planted more than 2900 trees and shrubs in the valley sponsored by individual donors. The 2004 program included sponsorship recognition of 107 trees and shrubs, seven Meewasin Trail benches, and nine bricks at the Rotary International Peace Plaza.



**Meewasin**  
...greening the valley for 26 years





*Meewasin Stewardship  
Summer Student*



*Jared Epp teaching children  
about the Grasslands*



*Meewasin Summer  
Students Planting*



*Driftwood Pelican on the bank  
of the South Saskatchewan*



*Landscape Architect Raymond  
Moriyama being interviewed*

## CONSERVATION

The goal of the Resource Planning Department is to conserve and restore natural habitat that has been changed or altered. Recent federal legislation provides tax incentives to individuals or corporations wanting to enter into a conservation easement agreement with a conservation agency.

Over the years stewardship groups have worked with Meewasin to conserve the valley. These include grade 4 students who work at the Meewasin nursery transplanting seedlings, learning to understand the need for conservation, taking ownership for the valley. Other school groups and community-minded organizations volunteer to plant trees, supervise, and clean the natural areas.

Meewasin is actively managing over 1000 acres of high quality natural lands in and around the City of Saskatoon. Activity in these natural landscapes is centered on controlling invasive weeds, furthering research, and actively restoring landscapes using a hands on approach with community service groups. Meewasin continues to substantially reduce invasive species that threaten these landscapes. The main target species are smooth brome grass, European buckthorn, leafy spurge, and crested wheatgrass. To date, Meewasin has treated 326,000 stems of European buckthorn over a 74 km reach of our river.

Research in 2005 is targeted at the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands. A comparison of vegetation over a ten-year period ending 2003 has revealed substantial changes with a near tripling of shrub cover, an increase in Kentucky bluegrass from 17% to 43%, and a reduction in the variety of plant species. A study assessing the value of burning at the grasslands determined that the present frequency of burning is inadequate. To reverse these trends it recommended increased burning.

Meewasin has a long standing partnership with Child Friendly Saskatoon and Ecology Camp For Kids to actively restore natural landscapes. This partnership fosters a sense of community through service and provides young citizens direct contact with high quality natural landscapes unique to the prairies. Last year these groups planted 5000 Meewasin grown native grasses and wildflowers with an estimated 90% transplant survival rate.

Other field activities included a sheep grazing project at Cranberry Flats and converting 20 acres of alfalfa to native grasses at Chief Whitecap Park. Meewasin received a not "baaa'd" response from the sheep grazing activity and will expand the project in 2005 and 2006.

### STATE OF THE VALLEY

In 2004, the Resource Conservation Department of Meewasin produced its third "State of the Valley" report. Produced every five years, this project measures Meewasin's effectiveness in managing its land base. The information for the State of the Valley is based on aerial photography and Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis comparing past and current land use.

The State of the Valley Report grades the health, balance, and vibrancy of the Meewasin Valley. In 2004 we exceeded our expectations for health and balance due to increased habitat land area protected through conservation easements and the expansion of our trails and parks. We met our expectations for vibrancy which is defined as our ability to provide recreational opportunities in the valley for a variety of users.

Currently our valley is healthy, vibrant and balanced. It is the work of the Resource Conservation Department to ensure that we maintain these standards for Meewasin and all of its many user groups.

## DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

The Meewasin Resource Planning Department strives to balance conservation with development, and to ensure development is consistent with Meewasin's vision for the valley. Meewasin received 20 applications in 2004/05 for approval to construct improvements in the Meewasin Valley. These included: Preston Crossing Phase 2; *Riverfront*; the temporary boat launch in Kiwanis Memorial Park; the Veterinary Medicine facility expansion; Rotary Park restoration; River Landing site sewer, water, and electrical services; Saskatoon Landfill upgrades; an eagle exhibit at the Zoo; and Kinsmen Park improvements.

The Meewasin Development Plan was amended with the addition of the South Downtown Concept Plan 2004; the South Downtown Local Area Design Plan; and the South Downtown District Development Policy.

### MEEWASIN'S PLANNING PRINCIPLES

- ▶ Valley resources accessible to everyone;
- ▶ Recreation and development balanced with resource conservation;
- ▶ Opportunity for diverse activities to meet a variety of interests;
- ▶ Natural and heritage resources should be preserved
- ▶ Public ownership in the decision making.

## DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

The primary focus of design and development in 2004/05 was to develop plans for River Landing *Riverfront*. Meewasin worked closely with the City of Saskatoon to coordinate the integration of the *Riverfront* plan into the adjacent streetscape and land use of the former Gathercole site. The marketing strategy and interpretive plan also provided some positive influences in the design.

Other Meewasin design and development projects in all quadrants of the valley included planting of 7500 seedlings, installing signage, disassembling the Leisureland Dance Hall, improving the Vimy Memorial, creating a butterfly garden at St. Joseph School, installing seating nodes and waste receptacles along the trail, installing plexiglass on the deck at Beaver Creek, restoring the Rotary Park slump area and installing bricks in the Peace Plaza, mulching the upper trail in Chief Whitecap Park, inventory mapping of Meewasin assets in the valley, developing and operating the Meewasin Outdoor Skating Rink, working with a number of volunteer steward groups nurturing ownership for the valley, and operating pedestrian and trail counters at selected sites.

### River Landing

The South Downtown will be the most exciting riverbank project in Saskatoon's 120 year history. It will be a focus for Saskatoon in a unique combination of meeting place, performance site, and recreation area. The development has been a priority for Saskatoon ever since Raymond Moriyama's 100-year plan in 1978. With a consolidation of lands in 2003, the City of Saskatoon was able to put together community representatives and a design team to begin the development process in earnest.

Meewasin took over as project manager of the *Riverfront* in October 2003 when the Government of Saskatchewan provided \$4 million to begin the work with additional financial support coming from the City of Saskatoon and Meewasin. Enhancing the riverfront will allow for more public access, and will improve the quality of life for all residents and visitors to the city.

The first stage of *Riverfront* construction included establishing and armouring the shoreline, construction of shorewalls, earthfill, and rough grading. The objectives for 2005 will involve establishing linkages along the shore and backshore to adjacent public routes, allocating areas for future development of program components, providing service infrastructure for events and future development, and providing basic landscape development and partial implementation of the planting program.

Construction components will include: a riverwalk including a pedestrian bridge, handrails; lighting and visitor amenities; a backshore link parallel to First Avenue; an entry plaza and stairways at the foot of 2nd Avenue; a stairway access to the Traffic Bridge; accessible routes from the upland to the riverfront; comprehensive dark sky compliant night lighting of completed development areas; seeding of disturbed areas; some tree planting; and minor infrastructure improvements. This stage is estimated to cost about \$1.7 million and is part of the \$4 million grant by the Government of Saskatchewan. (For more information, please see *Riverfront* at River Landing insert.)

### Kinsmen Fishing Platform

Meewasin completed the Kinsmen Fishing Platform in the fall of 2004, with an opening scheduled for fall 2005. The concept of an all accessible fishing platform located in the vicinity of the weir has always been a part of the Meewasin 100 Year Plan. Over the years Meewasin has often been asked where a wheelchair can safely gain access to the river to fish, where there is likelihood of catching fish. The donation of \$117,000 by the Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon allowed this dream to become a reality.

### Meewasin Skating Rink

The Meewasin skating rink has been in operation for over 20 years. It opened December 26, 2004 and closed March 28, 2005 with a total of 92 days in operation accommodating 7489 skaters. In February the facility hosted the performers for the 2005 Canadian Idol Show. Another celebrity guest in March was Gordie Howe.



Landscape Architect Lloyd Isaak briefs Premier Calvert and Mayor Atchinson on RIVERFRONT



South Downtown Development Plan Open House 2004, Gwynn Symmons consults with city reps



Kinsmen Fishing Platform Trail 2004



SIGA Canoe Tours of the river



Friendship Park

## MEEWASIN

CREATED IN 1979 BY AN ACT OF THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN, MEEWASIN IS A CONSERVATION AGENCY DEDICATED TO CONSERVING THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER VALLEY. IT IS THE MEANS BY WHICH THE THREE PARTICIPATING PARTIES: THE CITY OF SASKATOON, THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN, AND THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN HAVE CHOSEN TO MANAGE THE MEEWASIN VALLEY.

THE CREATION OF THE MEEWASIN VALLEY AUTHORITY WAS BASED ON THE CONCEPT THAT THE PARTNERS WORKING TOGETHER THROUGH A SINGLE AGENCY – MEEWASIN – COULD ACCOMPLISH MORE THAN THEY COULD INDIVIDUALLY.



## EDUCATION

**M**eewasin offers a number of education programs that promote conservation of the heritage resources of the valley, that facilitate the appropriate use and enjoyment of those resources, and that allow the public to experience and learn about them. These programs include stewardship and celebrations, river festivals, in-services, Trail Ambassadors, canoe tours, and partnering with other education and conservation organizations who have similar goals. Meewasin accomplishes this through its two interpretive centres, publications, audio-visual resources, web site, media commercials and appearances, and as speakers.

The Meewasin Valley Interpretive Centre focuses on the original areas of urban development in Saskatoon. It is a place to learn about the Meewasin Trail system, Saskatoon history, the South Saskatchewan River, and the future of the Meewasin Valley. In 2004/05, the centre enjoyed 17,121 visitors who toured the facility, sought tourist information, or who participated in the interpretive programs. The programs ranged from Meewasin's 25th Anniversary Celebrations in Friendship Park to the classic River Cinemas. In addition, the MVC staff delivered a cultural history program to most grade 3 students in Saskatoon. The Centre partnered with other organizations to host such events as the annual Heritage Festival, National Rivers Day, and seasonal programs at the historic Marr Residence. In the spring of 2004, MVC partnered with the Saskatoon Credit Union to deliver the Saskatoon Credit Union Clean-up of the Valley Campaign. About 15,000 volunteers registered to help clean up the Meewasin river valley. The MVC art gallery continued to host bi-monthly shows by local artists and photographers. The Meewasin Gift Shop provided unique gift ideas for those who were looking for something special.

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 five nature trails. In 2004/05, over 14,000 visitors enjoyed exploring the area. This included 94 classrooms totalling 2,544 grade 5 students from schools in and around Saskatoon. Many others participated in public programs: Moon Hikes, Perseid Meteor Showers evenings, Canada Day, and Heritage Hoopla.

Beaver Creek Conservation staff continue the development of the Stewardship-in-Action Program for Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The staff developed the Fish & Friends web page ([www.meewasin.com](http://www.meewasin.com)) and produced two interactive flowing river models. They trained with the Migratory Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program for the purpose of having BCCA become part of an international series of migratory bird banding stations. They led 107 Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority Canoe Tours, experienced by over 1000 participants from around the world. Non-profit groups who programmed for disadvantaged children experienced the canoe tours free of charge. Thank you to the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority, ASUPCA, Sask Parks & Recreation Association, City of Saskatoon, and The Saskatoon Foundation for their support.

### MEEWASIN CONSERVATION AWARD

Stan Shadick was the 2004 winner of the Meewasin Conservation Award presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the heritage resources of the Meewasin Valley.

### PELICAN WATCH 2004

Saskatoon residents have special visitors each summer. April through October, pelicans gather by the weir to fish. These birds, once on the endangered species list, have been a beautiful sight and a tourist attraction on the South Saskatchewan River since the late 1970s. For Saskatoon residents their arrival is a harbinger of spring. The first pelican to touch down between the C.P. Bridge and the weir did so Monday, April 12th, 2004 at 5:11 p.m. as observed by the official spotters from the Saskatoon Nature Society. This was the ninth year of the Meewasin Realty Executives Pelican Watch Contest.

### WHERE IS MEEWASIN?

Meewasin's jurisdiction centres in Saskatoon and runs approximately 60 km along the river through Saskatoon and Corman Park from Pike Lake in the southwest to Clarke's Crossing in the northeast. It encompasses conservation areas, parks, museums, interpretive centres, the university lands, canoe launches, community links, and over 60 km of Meewasin Trail. Including the South Saskatchewan River, there are 25 square miles in the Meewasin conservation zone.



*Saskatoon Credit Union Families cleaning up the River Valley*



*Stan Shadick receives Meewasin Conservation Award 2004*



*Pelican Watch 2004, Wayne Zuk Realty Executives Saskatoon*



*Saskatoon Credit Union Clean-Up Campaign of the River Valley*



## TRAIL AMBASSADORS & VOLUNTEERS

Meewasin nominated Ron Brown, Meewasin volunteer Trail Ambassador, for recognition at the third annual Saskatoon Volunteer Recognition Awards. Ron has been a Meewasin Trail Ambassador for over eight years, riding the trails in his wheelchair, handing out brochures and trail maps, offering advice and direction, carrying a bicycle repair kit to provide assistance to others. As well, Ron is a special volunteer in winter at the Meewasin outdoor skating rink. Each day Ron attaches a scraper to the front of his wheelchair to help prepare the ice.

## FRIENDS OF MEEWASIN AWARD

Ron and Muriel Bremner were recipients of the 2004 Friends of the Meewasin Valley Award. Ron and Muriel have been long time supporters of Meewasin. For the past 12 years they have not only been advocates for Meewasin, attending public events and celebrations, but have contributed financially. Ron and Muriel have an interest and concern for the conservation of the natural environment, and they love the Meewasin Valley. Their annual gift to Meewasin is a gift that grows, that benefits the natural environment for present and future generations. Meewasin thanks Ron and Muriel as Friends of the Valley.

## ROAD MAP 2020

Road Map 2020's purpose is to engage Saskatoon and area in developing an action plan for sustainability. With funding from Environment Canada's Eco-Action Fund and the Samuel and Saidye Bronfman Family Foundation, Meewasin has begun the process of working in partnership with the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, City of Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee, City of Saskatoon Environmental Protection Branch, and the University of Saskatchewan Facilities Division. This fits with Meewasin's strategic goal in our five year plan of taking a larger role in water and river-related issues. The Road Map 2020 project defines sustainable communities as those which pursue creative and innovative strategies for development; integrating economic, social and environmental considerations for the benefit of the local community, the global community and future generations. As a community, Saskatoon can identify ways to save money, create business opportunities, develop local skills, and improve the quality of life in Saskatoon, while reducing our environmental impact.

## THE CLIMATE CHANGE SHOW



Meewasin and Road Map 2020 partnered with the Saskatoon Western Development Museum, SaskPower, the Samuel and Saidye Bronfman Family Foundation, and national sponsors Suncor Energy and Climate Change Canada to bring the Climate Change Show to Saskatoon January to March 2004. Created by Science-North, the exhibit outlined the serious and contemporary

challenge of climate change in a fun and humorous way. The show was staged at the Western Development Museum and hosted by an animated sheep wearing rubber boots voiced by Rick Mercer.



Trail Ambassador  
Ron Brown 2004



Ron Bremner, Susan Lamb,  
Muriel Bremner, Richard  
Nieman 2004



Meewasin Flying Canoe  
2nd Place 2004

## PARTNERS FOR THE SASKATCHEWAN RIVER BASIN

Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin is a non-profit organization managed by Meewasin with a mandate to increase understanding, awareness, and stewardship of the Saskatchewan River Basin. PFSRB's mission is to "promote watershed sustainability through awareness, linkages, and stewardship" throughout the entire Saskatchewan River Basin. The RIVER is our CLIENT. Current initiatives include:

- ▶ Developing "Click on Climate" – a program focused on Climate Change for youth aged 9 – 14 years;
- ▶ Communicating current scientific information to the general public through newsletters, a web page, and an annual conference;
- ▶ Building a network base of over 1400 supporting and active members.



Reality Executives Boardwalk  
illuminated by the Credit  
Union Light Tower

