

MEEWASIN EXPLORER

JULY - AUGUST 2015

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Meewasin's Plant-A-Tree Dedication Ceremony

Meewasin's 29th Plant-A-Tree dedication ceremony was held Saturday, June 20, in Boomtown at the Western Development Museum. Guest speaker and platform guests included Her Honour, the Honourable Mrs. Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, Paul Hanley (Meewasin's 2014 Conservation Award recipient), representing Friends of the Valley, and Meewasin Board Representative, the Honourable Dr. Gordon Barnhart, Interim President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan.

The Plant-A-Tree, Memorial Forest and brick/bench sponsorship programs are successful fundraising activities for the purpose of greening the river valley for free public access. Donations are made for a number of reasons: weddings, graduations, births, anniversaries, birthdays and in memory of those who have touched our lives.

Since 1988, Meewasin has planted 3926 sponsored trees and shrubs in the valley and since 2000 there have been 169 donations to the Memorial Forest in Gabriel Dumont Park. The 2015 program included the sponsorship recognition of 78 trees and shrubs, 21 Meewasin Trail benches, 7 bricks at the Saskatchewan Road Runners Seating Node, 13 bricks at the Saskatoon Community Foundation Plaza at River Landing, our first donated brick at the new Factoria Seating Node and 7 bricks at the International Peace Plaza in Rotary Park, the latter including one double size red granite brick donated by Anne and Doug Porteous recognizing the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk.

There is no place in the world that recognizes loved ones, marathon winners and Nobel Peace Prize Laureates as we do in Saskatoon through Meewasin.



LtoR: Vivian Dyck, Wayne Dyck, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Katharyn Walker, Dr. Gordon Barnhart, Paul Hanley.

Meewasin Matters Trail Campaign

In October 2013, Meewasin launched an \$8 million capital campaign for the purpose of expanding the Meewasin Trail in the northwest to Wanuskewin Heritage Park, and in the southeast to Chief Whitecap Park. This expansion will add approximately 15 kilometres to the Meewasin Trail system as well as the Trans Canada Trail which runs along the Meewasin Trail through Saskatoon. The campaign has completed its goal with more than 100% of the objective reached. Thank you to Darlene Bessey and Ken Pontikes, co-chairs of the Meewasin Matters Trail Campaign, and the many donors and sponsors who continue to keep the Meewasin dream alive.

Trail Opening and Campaign Announcement

The Meewasin Matters trail opening to Wanuskewin Heritage Park and campaign closing announcement took place Friday, June 5 at Wanuskewin Heritage Park. Podium guests included: Darlene Bessey and Ken Pontikes (Campaign Co-Chairs), Roland Duquette (Elder), Mayor Don Atchison, The Honourable Jennifer Campeau (MLA), Candace Wasacase-Lafferty (Wanuskewin Heritage Park Board Chair), Deborah Apps (Trans Canada Trail President & CEO), Jochen Tilk (CEO PotashCorp), Peter Zakreski (Jeux Canada Games Foundation), and Lloyd Isaak (CEO Meewasin).

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

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Meewasin

OFFICE HOURS 8:15 - NOON AND 1:00 - 4:30 WEEKDAYS
CLOSED WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MEEWASIN

CN EcoConnexions From the Ground Up News Conference

Meewasin received \$25,000 from CN EcoConnexions From the Ground Up program for the purpose of planting more than 1700 trees and shrubs in the Meewasin Valley to enhance restoration of disturbed riverbank and contribute to biodiversity.

Meewasin staff were assisted by 125 volunteers in the initial planting on Friday, June 12 in Diefenbaker Park on both north and south sides of the Circle Drive South Bridge.

Volunteers included: Earth Keepers – Caroline Robins School, Roland Michener School grade 5 class, members of Humanity First, and staff from CN, Tree Canada and Meewasin.

CN EcoConnexions presented a cheque for \$25,000 to Meewasin's Darwin Anderson. In recognition of this grant, Meewasin presented CN EcoConnexions From the Ground Up representative, Constable Jordan Kyte, with a sculpture created by Rob Sexauer of Dragonfly Artistic Metals made from metal harvested from the decommissioned Traffic Bridge. The sculpture represents the river valley between Wanuskewin Heritage Park and Chief Whitecap Park.



Groups hard at work planting trees in Diefenbaker Park.

Meewasin RBC Blue Water News Conference

The RBC Blue Water News Conference was held at Beaver Creek Conservation Area on Wednesday, June 10. The program included a sheep grazing demonstration with Shepherd Jared Epp and his border collies and presentations by Meewasin staff demonstrating how the RBC Blue Water Project \$40,000 grant will be used to promote biodiversity and clean water in our river valley.

Representing RBC was Doug Matheson, Vice-President RBC Dominion Securities, and Phil Klein, RBC Vice-President of Commercial Financial Services. Representing Meewasin was Meewasin Board Member and Saskatoon City Councillor Mairin Loewen.

The RBC Blue Water Project grant will support a program designed to inform and engage an urban population, including businesses and communities to maintain good water quality in the South Saskatchewan River. The project will combine citizen science with conservation field work to protect the quality of urban waterways including the South Saskatchewan River and related drainage channels.



Jared Epp leads a grazing demonstration at the RBC Blue Water news conference.

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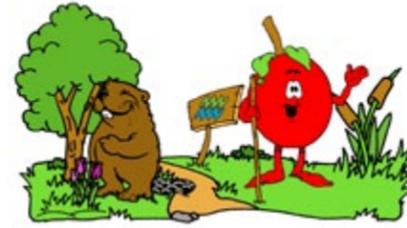
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OPEN 9:00 TO 5:00 WEEKDAYS - 10:30 TO 5:00 WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS

MEEWASIN VALLEY INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

INTERPRETING SASKATOON'S BUILT CULTURAL HISTORY



July Programs

July 1 – Canada Day! - For Everyone (12-4 p.m.)

Come and join us in a celebration of Canada Day. Learn about the history of how we became a country and make a patriotic craft.

Puppet Fun

Drop-In Craft at the MVC For Everyone (11-3:30 p.m.)

Thursdays - July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Saturdays - July 4, 11, 18, 25

In Saskatoon's early days children made their own toys to tell stories and play. Visit the MVC for a "puppet fun" come & go. Materials will be available for you to construct your own puppet out of paper, tape, and popsicle sticks. A Meewasin interpreter will be there to help you with the tricky bits.

"Moments in History"

Images provided by Saskatoon Public Library
Local History Room
On Display at the Meewasin Gallery
July 1, 2015 to August 28, 2015

August Programs

Pioneer Games

Weekend Drop-In Activities at the MVC For Everyone (11-3:30 p.m.)

August 1-3
August 8 & 9
August 15 & 16
August 22 & 23
August 29 & 30

Pop down to the Meewasin Valley Interpretive Centre and play some games from the 'olden days' like jacks, crokinole, and pick-up sticks. Create your own version of an old fashioned toy to take home.

WALKING TOURS ON TUESDAYS

Join a member of Meewasin's program staff on Tuesdays through the summer for one of three different history information walks in the Downtown, Broadway, and River Valley areas.

Walks begin from the Meewasin building at the specified time and will be approximately 1.5 hours in length.

July - Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.

July 7 & 14 - History Along the River
July 21 - Downtown & Gargoyles
July 28 - Broadway/Nutana

August - Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m.

August 11 - History Along the River
August 18 - Broadway/Nutana
August 25 - Downtown & Gargoyles

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.

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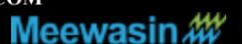
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AROUND THE CITY

SPECIAL SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Meewasin Interpretive Canoe Tours

Learn about the river from the river in Meewasin's 10 passenger voyageur clipper canoes. This year the program is sponsored by the Association of Saskatchewan Urban Parks and Conservation Agencies (ASUPCA), and Saskatchewan Lotteries. The interpretive canoe tours provide participants with a similar experience to that of the early explorers. Canoe tours run throughout the summer until the end of August.

Contact Meewasin at 306-665-6887 to book a tour. There is no charge for non-profit or youth groups. Charters cost \$200 for an 8 person, two hour tour.



Summer Programs at the Marr Residence

The Marr Residence, 326 11th Street East, is Saskatoon's oldest house on its original site. The Marr is hosting a number of events this summer.

Wednesday, July 1 – Dominion Day Celebrations - 1-4 p.m.

Sunday, July 5 – Open House - 1-4 p.m.

Sunday, July 12 – Program in the Garden - 1-4 p.m.

Sunday, July 19 – Pioneer Games - 1-4 p.m.

Sunday, July 26 – Open House - 1-4 p.m.

Sunday, August 2 – Thirteenth Annual Rhubarb Festival - 1-4 p.m.

Sunday, August 9 – Pioneer Crafts - 1-4 p.m.

Sunday, August 16 – Program T.B.A. - 1-4 p.m.

Sunday, August 23 – Antique Appraisal - 1-4 p.m.

Sunday, August 30 – Concert in the Garden - 1-4 p.m.



For more information about each activity visit themarr.ca or call the Marr Residence directly at 306-652-1201.

Landscaping at the U of S – A storied history

Friday July 10, 2015

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Location: Agriculture, 1E85

Our campus is one of the most magnificent in North America. Join us for a very special evening as we premiere a documentary featuring the fascinating stories behind our beautiful landscaping, as told by those individuals who were directly responsible. Video vignettes will introduce you to the history of some of our most appreciated spaces. Dieter Martin (Horticulturist), Rob Crosby (Landscape Architect) and others will answer your questions about their work, with a reception to follow. There is no charge to attend, however you must register to reserve your spot in this rare event! Register at gardening.usask.ca or by calling (306) 966-5539.

(reprinted from CHEP newsletter)

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MORE MEEWASIN NEWS

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

Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) a.k.a. yellow buttons, garden tansy

Common Tansy is an invasive weed and designated as noxious in Saskatchewan by the Ministry of Agriculture. Being designated as a noxious weed means that landowners, both urban and rural, have a duty to control these plants on their property.

Common Tansy is a perennial flower with a tap root and creeping root system. Its flowers are yellow and flat topped in dense clusters upon flowering in July through September. Tansy reproduces both by seed and roots. The strong smelling leaves are alternate, pinnate, and light green in colour. Tansy was introduced as a garden plant, but has since escaped and is found growing wild throughout the Province's ditches and fields. If you find Tansy in your yard, you can prevent its spread by removing flower heads before they go to seed by mowing, weed whipping, or hand-pulling. To control this plant, you can repeatedly mow or hand-pull or use a recommended herbicide that is suitable for the task.



Photo Courtesy of Debbie Nordstrom and Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan

Meewasin Valley Authority has Tansy on many of its sites due to the invasive nature of this plant. Meewasin's Resource Conservation crew is actively working to control this plant through various methods such as: mechanized grazing (mowing and weed whipping), grazing by sheep, controlled burns, and herbicide.

For more information, visit these resources:

- The Weed Control Act (2010) at <http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/English/Statutes/Statutes/W11-1.pdf>
- Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council at <http://www.saskinvasives.ca>
- Saskatchewan Forage Council "Invasive Plant Species Identification Guide" at http://www.saskforage.ca/Coy%20Folder/Projects/Invasives/Resources/ID_Guide_2010_Online_Lg.pdf

Meewasin & Affinity Credit Union Clean-Up Campaign 2015

Thank you to all who participated in the 35th annual Meewasin & Affinity Credit Union Clean-Up Campaign which ran from April 15 - May 15, 2015. It was another successful community effort with a new record of over 28,900 participants made up of community groups, schools, businesses and individuals pitching in to help keep Saskatoon's parks and river valley clean.

We also want to extend our thanks to Affinity Credit Union for years of funding support, the City of Saskatoon, 7-Eleven, Loraas who picked up over 7600 kg of waste and recycling in their bins placed along the valley, and all of the local businesses who donated thank you prizes for the hard working volunteers.



Hudson Bay Park/Mayfair/Kelsey-Woodlawn Community Association clean-up crew 2015, one of many groups that helped clean up the city.

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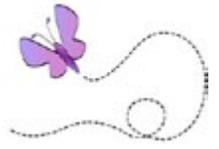
BEAVER CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

INTERPRETING SASKATOON'S NATURAL HISTORY

Beaver Creek Programming

Summer Splendours - July and August

Come out and enjoy the wonders of the natural world. Nature offers all our senses an endless variety of sights, sounds, smells and textures. Stop by the Interpretive Centre for come and go activities after a walk on one of our four nature trails.



Nature Art Activity - daily 1-4 p.m.

A come-and-go nature inspired craft will be offered daily through July and August.

Beaver Creek Interpretive Hike - Sundays - 2:30 p.m.

Join an interpreter at 2:30 p.m. for an outdoor hike. There are many neat nature facts to discover about the animals and plants that make this area their home.

Eye Spy

Take an eye spy challenge on one of our interpretive trails. Ask an interpreter for information when you arrive. Available daily.



Sheep at the Creek!

July 4th and July 5th

10 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily



The sheep grazing program is designed to conserve the biodiversity of the prairie habitat. Join us to discover how a shepherd works with his flock to help keep our prairie healthy. The sheep grazing program is sponsored by the RBC Blue Water Project. Program is weather dependent.

For more information please call 306-374-2474.

Did you know?

Some birds, like the Yellow Warbler, have been shown to migrate back to Beaver Creek for the nesting season.

This was proven by MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship), a bird monitoring program designed to better understand land bird populations, like the Yellow Warbler, during the breeding season.

Beaver Creek Conservation Area participates in this program during the summer.

If you would like to volunteer please call 306-374-2474 for more information.



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About Beaver Creek Conservation Area



Beaver Creek Conservation Area offers the general public and schools opportunities to discover the wonders of nature. Hands-on activities in the Interpretive Centre give children the opportunity to learn more about Saskatchewan's wildlife. Their experience is enhanced through creative play such as the puppet theatre, and the SaskEnergy Beaver Pond. A selection of four nature trails are available year-round for all ages to enjoy.

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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