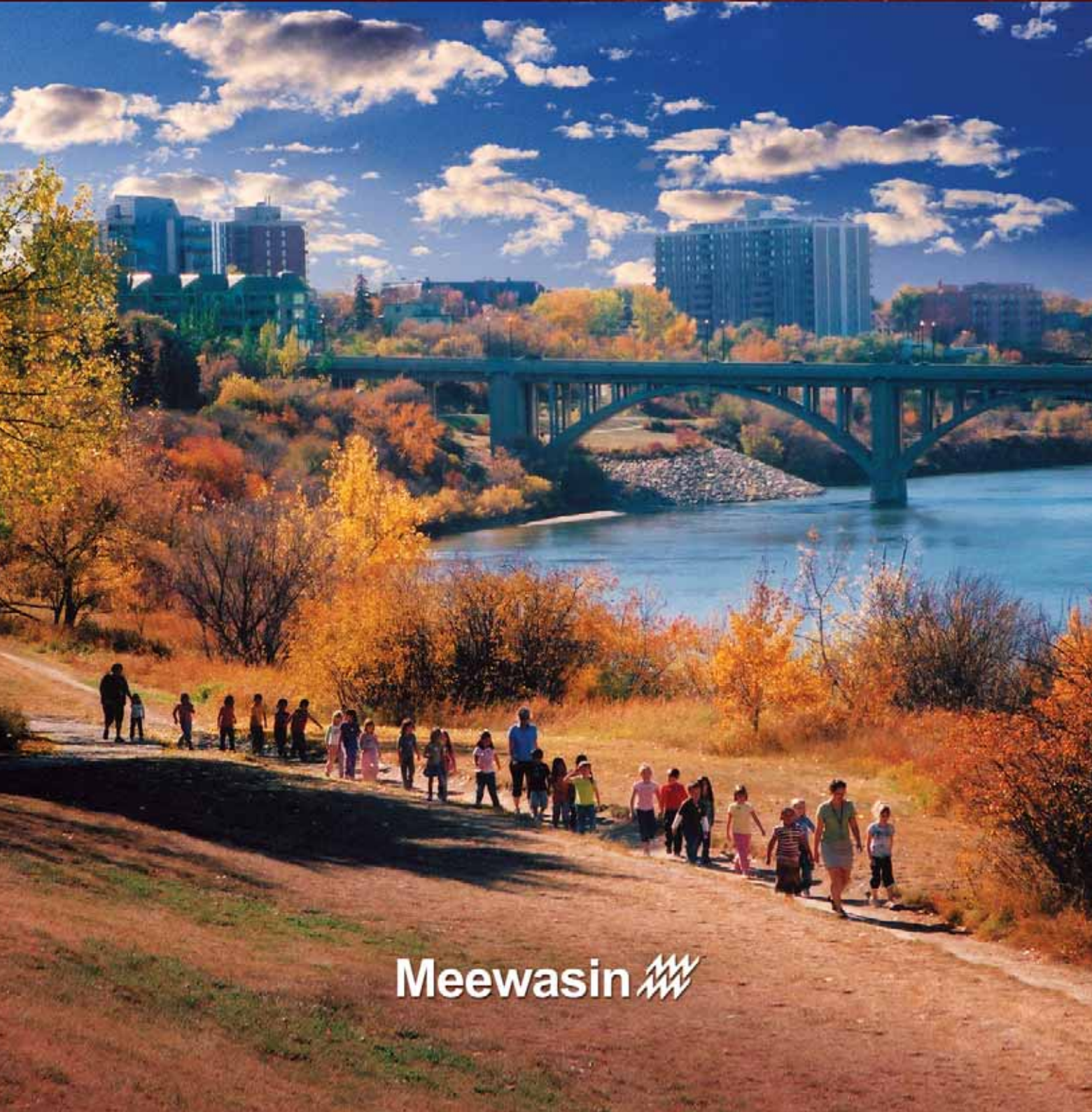



Walk the Meewasin Trail
Annual Report 2008-2009



Meewasin 



Chair, Richard Nieman



CEO, Susan Lamb

Our 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.

Right: Chief Whitecap Park.
Photo – Lennox Saunders

Front Cover: Photograph of Cosmopolitan Park & a school outing on the Meewasin Trail September, 2008.

Message from the Chair and CEO

Meewasin has enjoyed 30 years of stewardship in the Meewasin Valley with successes in all areas of its mandate. As we look back on this anniversary year and take stock of what we have accomplished, we look back with pride. We have conserved and developed more than 250 acres of the Meewasin Valley, balancing development with conservation and education. Completing our 30th year we continue to celebrate the support of our participating parties: the City of Saskatoon, Province of Saskatchewan and University of Saskatchewan.

Meewasin has provided public access to the river by developing more than 60 kilometres of trails, as well as the Beaver Creek Conservation Area, Cranberry Flats, Wanuskewin, Gabriel Dumont Park, Paradise Beach, Meewasin Park, Victoria Park, the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands, the South Downtown Riverfront I (Traffic Bridge to Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge) Riverfront II (Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge to Victoria Park), and the Fred Heal and Poplar Bluffs canoe launches.

Meewasin has developed the Meewasin Valley Centre, Beaver Creek Conservation Area, and

Wanuskewin Heritage Park (now owned and operated by its own board) to interpret the human and natural resources of the valley. Each year thousands of students and the general public visit these educational centres, as well as the prairie grasslands in Saskatoon. Meewasin canoe tours provide an opportunity to learn about the river and experience the sights and sounds from 100 years ago.

New developments in progress include Riverfront III (a new Meewasin Valley Centre) and new land acquisitions including the Episcopal Property.

Meewasin continues to believe that we have been most successful in meeting our mandate when you cannot see that we have been there. Our objectives reflect this vision and include such priorities as no loss of habitat in the river valley and policies on sustainable development. In addition to annual programs to reduce invasive species and protect natural areas, we have been able to sign five conservation easements to protect lands to perpetuity.

As we enter the 31st year we have many reasons to be thankful and proud. Thank you to our forward thinking visionaries who conceived and implemented the Meewasin Valley Authority. Thank you to our Meewasin board, advisory committees, staff, donors and many supporters who have contributed time and money to make this conservation organization the success that it is. Thank you to all who have supported and continue to support Meewasin, including more than 20,000 volunteers. We urge all to join us in celebrating what Meewasin has accomplished. We hope you will continue to be proud and to participate as we continue into the 31st year of our 100 Year Plan.

Chair Richard Nieman
CEO Susan Lamb





Chair, Richard Nieman Darwin Anderson Mayor Don Atchison Charlie Clark Ann Coxworth Darren Hill Peter MacKinnon
 Kelley Moore Maurice Neault* Hon. Rob Norris Glen Penner Colin Tennent Jack Vicq CEO, Susan Lamb

Meewasin Board of Directors

* retiring board member

Meewasin Committees

Public ownership in decision-making is one of Meewasin's five guiding principles. Meewasin's committees are invaluable to the work of Meewasin.

Resource Conservation Advisory

The Resource Conservation Advisory Committee advises the Meewasin Board in its work to ensure the health of the Meewasin Valley and the conservation of its natural and cultural heritage assets. Committee members are Brad Ashdown, Darwin Anderson, Gary Wobeser, Janine Shadick, Margaret Hendry, Peggy Sarjeant, Peter Goode, Sheri Praski, and Tammy Knuttila.

Development Review

The Development Review Committee is created under the Meewasin Valley Act to provide professional and unbiased recommendations regarding the acceptability of proposed improvements within the

Meewasin Valley. Committee members are Alan Otterbein, Alan Wallace, Doug Tastad, Glen Grismer, Heney Klypak, Jit Sharma, Michael Velonas, Rory Picklyk, and Terry Werbovetski.

Design Advisory

The Design Advisory Committee assists the Meewasin Board in its work to develop opportunities for human interaction with the natural and cultural heritage resources of the valley by providing sensitive built environments in the context of the natural valley environment. Committee members are Alan Otterbein, Ann Coxworth, Anna Ringstrom, Genevieve Russell, Jeanna South and Tom Der.

Education Advisory

The Education Advisory Committee advises the Meewasin Board on policy development in education. Committee members are Max Abraham, Chair Brendan Bitz, Dylan Czarnecki, Corinne Daelick, Melanie Elliott, Roxane Melnyk, Kelley Moore (Board rep), Jennifer Nelson, Kim Newlove, Maurice Postnikoff, Jason Wall, Andrew Whiting, and Doug Porteous.

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 over 25 square miles in the Meewasin Conservation Zone.

What Is Meewasin

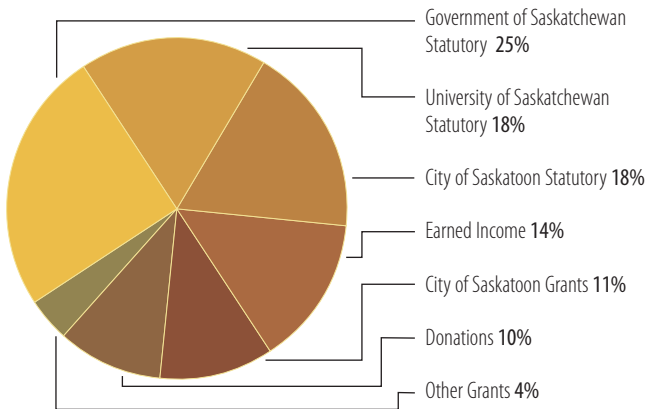
Created in 1979 by an Act of the Province of Saskatchewan, Meewasin is a conservation agency dedicated to conserving the cultural and natural resources of the South Saskatchewan River Valley. It is the means by which the three participating parties (the City of Saskatoon, the University of Saskatchewan and the Province of Saskatchewan) have chosen to manage the Meewasin Valley. The creation of the Meewasin Valley is based on the concept that the partners working together through a single agency – Meewasin – could accomplish more than they could individually.



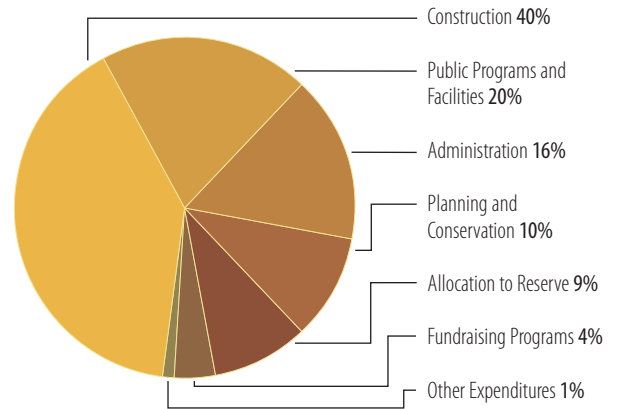
Above: Mayor Don Atchison speaks at the Cameco Riverfront Campaign Recognition Event, June 2009.

Meewasin Financial Highlights as of March 31, 2009

Revenues (All Funds) \$3,586,141



Expenditures and Allocations (All Funds) \$3,586,141



The Meewasin Endowment Fund is managed by the Saskatoon Foundation and as of December 31, 2008 stands at \$314,714. Audited financial statements are available upon request.

Planning

The Meewasin mandate is to ensure a healthy and vibrant river valley for present and future generations, with a balance between human use and conservation by:

- providing leadership in the management of its resources;
- promoting understanding, conservation and beneficial use of the Valley; and
- undertaking programs and projects in River Valley Development and conservation.

Meewasin fulfills this mandate by undertaking development review, securing lands of interest, and undertaking conservation, development and education initiatives.

Development Review

Meewasin is empowered by the MVA Act to coordinate or control the use, development, conservation, maintenance and improvement of land within the Conservation Zone. Guided by a statutory committee of professional planners, architects, landscape architects, engineers and geological engineers, Meewasin reviewed 15 proposed improvements and 4 development plan amendments this year:

- City of Saskatoon infrastructure projects: new raw water intake; wind turbine feasibility study; access road at Spadina Landfill;
- University expansion: Grains Innovation Lab addition; Place Riel expansion and renovation;
- Evergreen Neighbourhood;

- River Landing Village;
- Art and interpretive installations: Broadway Five Corners; “Egg Money” sculpture;
- Recreation enhancements: Education Centre at Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo; Temporary Boat Launch; Trail extension at Spadina & 33rd Street; “Maryville” Restoration and Resource Management Plan;
- Development Plan amendments: 4 amendments to South Downtown District Development Policy;
- Rural infrastructure: Intervalley Water pipeline project; and
- University President’s Residence Garage.

Development Review is based on the following parameters:

- Conservation, preservation and interpretation of significant natural and heritage resources and other special characteristics of the site;
- Protection of slope stability and good drainage practices;
- Design aesthetic complementary to the natural setting of the river valley;
- Provision for public access; and
- Ensuring consistency with the Meewasin Development Plan.

Securing Lands of Interest

The original plan for Meewasin, as set out in the 100-Year Plan, was to create a continuous ribbon of green with the river as a spine. Over the last thirty years, society has recognized the importance of watershed and source water protection as well. To these ends, Meewasin continues to be pro-active in securing the long-term stewardship of lands with conservation values currently outside public protection. Lands may be secured through public ownership, through conservation easements, or through voluntary agreements.



Undertaking Conservation, Development and Education Initiatives

Each Meewasin initiative takes form as a result of meeting Raymond Moriyama’s 100-Year Plan of 1979 – the foundation document for the Meewasin Development Plan today. All Meewasin initiatives strive toward the outcomes of health, fit, balance, and vibrancy. The 2008 State of the Valley Assessment tested for these outcomes with very positive results.

Conservation

Meewasin strives to regenerate biodiversity within the Meewasin Valley through a variety of proactive resource management activities. Following are the highlights for 2008-2009:

- Expanded grazing program including goats, sheep and cattle at the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands, Regional Psych Centre Prairie, Beaver Creek, and the Northeast Swale;
- Prescribed controlled burns at Beaver Creek, Cranberry Flats, and the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands;
- Removal of exotic species and noxious weeds and replacement with native grasses through seeding and planting;
- Completion and evaluation of bioengineering project of Beaver Creek at the Highway 219 crossing;



Above left: Riverfront II Pedestrian Bridge, May 2009.

Top right: Meewasin Staff inspect the River Valley by canoe. L to R Amanda Burke, Heather Landine, Trail Ambassador Wayne Dyck, Manager of Resource Conservation Brenda Wallace.

Bottom right: A habitat for all.



Above top: Grazing Saskatoon
Natural Grasslands 2009.

Above bottom: Bioengineering
Beaver Creek 2009.

- Ecological integrity mapping to determine geographic extent of areas with remnant native and rare vegetation;
- Continuation of the European Buckthorn eradication project;
- Testing a specialized remote sensing research application in the valley to determine whether future resource management efficiencies in invasive plant detection might be possible;
- Valley-wide clean-up of public sites including graffiti removal, garbage pick-up, and signage and asset maintenance; and
- Promoted good stewardship behaviours at public sites in the valley through outreach, setting a good example, acting as eyes and ears for the authorities, and visiting (monitoring) sites on a regular basis.

Design & Development

The primary focus of Design & Development this past year was again to develop the Riverfronts at River Landing and to begin preliminary designs of a new Meewasin Valley Centre.

The South Downtown riverfront developments are some of the most exciting riverfront projects in Saskatoon's history. They are a focus for Saskatoon in a unique combination of meeting place, performance site and recreation area.

Meewasin began as project manager of the Riverfront Phase 1 in October 2003. Enhancement of the riverfront allows for more public access and enrichment of the quality of life for all residents and visitors to the city.

Meewasin Riverfront Phase 1 (Traffic Bridge to Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge) construction is almost complete including construction of the amphitheatre, seating areas, plaza, pedestrian links, pavilion and the river basin water play feature. During the summer of 2009 Meewasin will be building a dock by the Traffic Bridge; a permanent cover for a shelter for the amphitheatre, furniture for the food service area, a back shore Meewasin Trail link to 19th Street, a gas fire pit near the pavilion, a river garden, river garden access and tributary.

Meewasin Riverfront Phase II (Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge to Victoria Park) is underway. Construction for 2007 and 2008 included establishing and armouring the shoreline, construction of shorewalls, retaining walls, earthworks, site services, pathways, lighting and site furnishings. The Meewasin Trail from the Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge to Victoria Park will open the summer of 2009. Work will continue on the A. E. Cole pumphouse including electrical work and the installation of railings at the roof deck. Work in the summer of 2009 will include landscaping, the installation of site furnishings, links and lighting from the backshore edge of the riverwalk to the new Spadina Crescent extension.

Riverfront Phase III (new Meewasin Valley Centre)

It was on February 19, 1988 when Meewasin moved into the old Rothman's building to have it become the Meewasin Valley Centre. Its goal was to provide tourists and residents to Saskatoon opportunities to learn about Saskatoon's history, the South Saskatchewan River and the future of the Meewasin Valley. The building and interpretive plan have served us well but are in need of upgrading. More than ever Meewasin needs to continue to be the heart of the Meewasin Valley interpreting the cultural and natural story of past, present and future Saskatoon, adding the concepts of climate change, sustainability, water issues, developing a better understanding for residents and tourists so that they will become stewards of the Saskatchewan River Basin. It is time to begin thinking about building a new Centre.

Open 362 days a year, a new centre will serve more than 50,000 people annually, including all Grade 3 students from Saskatoon and surrounding schools, continuing to act as the heart of the 25 square miles of the Meewasin Valley, continuing to provide a destination on the popular Meewasin Trail by providing public information, visitor facilities, and interpretive exhibits and programs, and taking leadership with water issues in the Saskatchewan River Basin.

A new Meewasin Valley Centre will improve interpretation and visitor services. It will be a model of environmental sustainability, will interpret past, present and future Saskatoon, including new communities that have immigrated to Saskatoon over the past quarter century, and will highlight the story of industry and science in Saskatchewan. It will interpret the Saskatchewan River Basin and especially water and environmental issues. Changing displays and programs will showcase the community in performance and art.

This past year of 2008 Meewasin explored a number of options for the location of a new Meewasin Valley Centre, building new on our present site or moving to a new location. The architectural firm of Moriyama Teshima together with the local architectural firm of March Schaffel has been working on the design



Above top:
Meewasin Riverfront Phase I.

Above left:
Meewasin Riverfront Phase II.

Above bottom:
Meewasin Riverfront Phase III (new Meewasin Valley Centre).

schematics. The consulting group of Aldrich Pears has been working with local staff and community to develop an interpretive plan. The final location and design has not been determined. It all depends on funding and what is best for the Meewasin community.

Other Design & Development projects include:

- Repair and replace valley-wide interpretive signage;
- Develop a valley-wide Meewasin Trail review including asset inventory, branding, way-finding information and safety assessment;
- Improve Beaver Creek Conservation Area site;
- Construct a wheelchair accessible link to the Kinsmen Fishing Platform at the weir;

- Repair and maintain the Bowerman House;
- Repair and maintain the site of the Patterson Gardens;
- Partner with St. Joseph's High School on naturalizing areas of their school grounds;
- Plant trees and install benches and bricks for the Meewasin sponsorship program;
- Review departmental sustainability;
- Participate in the Grade Four stewardship planting program;
- Clean-up and prepare the site for Meewasin's newest land acquisition, the Episcopal property along the northeast riverbank;
- Demolish and remediate the site of the Artist Studio at Leisure Land;
- Share the cost of the Five Corners interpretive piece; and
- Install handrails at the Vimy Memorial.

Below: Meewasin Skating Rink
Kiwaniis Memorial Park 2009.



The Meewasin Outdoor Skating Rink

The best outdoor rink in Canada (Reader's Digest 2006) opened for public skating Monday, December 26, 2008. The weather allowed the rink to remain open until March 25, 2009, providing 77 days of skating.

The rink recorded users from all parts of the world including Brazil, Japan, Australia, England, California, Malaysia, Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Philippines, and the United Kingdom. Local groups that booked the ice include U of S English As A Second Language students, Cubs, Scouts, Beavers, Girl Guides, Read Saskatoon, Big Sisters, and the Calder Centre. One gentleman from Ukraine volunteered to calibrate the rink skate sharpener, sharing that such work was his profession before immigrating to Canada.

Total recorded usage this season was 8745.

One of the highlights at the rink this past winter was on January 15th when CBC Television promoted the BMO Skate Canada Figure Skating Championships from the site featuring sports reporter Scott Russell along with

Olympic medalists Kurt Browning and Tracey Wilson.

Thank you again to the Delta Bessborough for providing parking for our rink attendants and to the resident jackrabbit who lived under the skater's lodge.

Education

Meewasin offers a number of education programs that provide conservation of the heritage resources of the valley, facilitate the appropriate use and enjoyment of those resources and allow the public to experience and learn about them. These programs include stewardship and celebration, river festivals, in-services, Trail Ambassadors, canoe tours and partnering with other education and conservation organizations that have similar goals. Meewasin accomplishes this through our two interpretive centres, the Meewasin Valley Centre, and Beaver Creek Conservation Area, as well as through publications, audio-visual resources, a web site (www.meewasin.com), media commercials, public service announcements and appearances at special functions.

The Meewasin Valley Centre

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 2008/2009 the centre enjoyed a total of 15,584 visitors who toured the facility, sought information and/or participated in the interpretive programs ranging from the annual Founder's Day celebrations in Friendship Park to the outdoor River Cinemas on the August and September 2008 long weekends.

FirstSask (Affinity Credit Union) Clean-up

The annual Meewasin-FirstSask (Affinity) Credit Union Clean-up Campaign involved 22,284 participants who registered to help clean-up Saskatoon and the river valley.



Bottom left: Founders Day,
Summer 2008.



The interpretive centre staff supported other organizations throughout the city including the Heritage Festival of Saskatoon, the Marr Residence Management team, the Saskatoon Heritage Society and the Saskatoon CERT (Community, Experience, Resource, Tour) Organization.

The Meewasin Valley Centre continued to provide interpretive programs to Grade Three students from the Saskatoon Public, Greater Saskatoon Catholic and regional schools totalling 2229 students, 1062 students participated in the school break programs. The MVC gallery continued to host bi-monthly shows by local artists and photographers. The Meewasin Gift Shop continued to provide unique heritage-based gift ideas for those who were looking for something special. Visitation to the centre in 2008-2009 totalled 16,584. Participation in MVC programs totalled 38,868.

Beaver Creek Conservation Area (BCCA)

BCCA, a sheltered creek, river valley and prairie habitat offering a diversity of flora and fauna, is located 13 km south of Saskatoon. It is a 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 2008-2009, BCCA continued to provide interpretive programs to Grade Five students from the Saskatoon Public, Greater Saskatoon Catholic and regional Saskatoon and schools totalling 2,570 students. 9,955 visitors sought information, explored the site on their own and/or participated in public programming that included Perseid Meteor Showers, Canada Day Heritage Hoopla celebrations, interpretive canoe tours, come-and-go discovery stations, and self-guided trail activities. Visitation to the centre in 2008-2009 totalled 12,517 visitors.



Above left: Cameco employees participate in FirstSask (Affinity) Credit Union Clean-up of River Valley May 2008.

Above right: Meewasin's Cran - Exhibition Parade 2008

Above middle right: Beaver Dam in Beaver Creek Conservation Area. Photographer - Lennox Saunders

Above lower right: Beaver Creek Conservation Area. Beaver swimming in Beaver Creek. Photographer Lennox Saunders .

Left: Great Blue Heron. Beaver Creek Conservation Area 2008. Photographer Lennox Saunders



Above right: Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship, Meewasin Bird Banding – Sapsucker, Beaver Creek Conservation Area 2008.

Photographer – Brenda Kramarchuk

Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS)

Over the past two summers, Beaver Creek Conservation Area has participated in MAPS, (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship), a bird banding program developed by The Institute for Bird Populations in California. With the involvement of facilities like Beaver Creek, MAPS monitors land-birds during the breeding season across North America, to better understand changes in the abundance, distribution, and ecology of bird populations. BCCA held a total of six bird banding sessions between June 10th and August 8th. Thirty-one different species of birds have been banded at Beaver Creek Conservation Area over the past two seasons. This past summer we were also excited to recapture twenty-one ‘returns’, or birds that were banded here the previous year. Each spring we celebrate the return of our birds. Many bird species return to the same area to nest year after year, and some even return to the same nest! Loss of habitat may be one of the biggest challenges for birds, but nesting destinations like Beaver Creek and a well-treed backyard provide birds with important spaces. Volunteers have been key to the success of this project. Thank you to everyone! If you are interested in volunteering please contact Beaver Creek staff at 374-2474.

Meewasin Interpretive Canoe Tours

Beaver Creek is the base for the Meewasin interpretive canoe tour program. Our interpreter canoe guide and two 10-passenger voyageur clipper canoes provide a way for the novice canoeist to learn about the river from the river. In the summer of 2008, 912 paddlers experienced canoe tours and of those taken, 723 youth participated in the sponsored youth tours. 13 adult tours were sponsored tours and eight were revenue tours. Meewasin received grants to operate the canoe tours from the Association of Parks & Conservation Agencies (ASUPCA), the Jeux Canada Games Foundation and the Saskatoon Community Foundation.

Canoe Tour youth Groups Included City Park School, White Buffalo Lodge, Calder Centre, Saskatoon Wildlife

Group, Confederation Park School, Brevoort Park School, John G. Egnatoff School, Vincent Massey School, Mayfair School, Silverspring School, St. Joseph School ESL, Summer Sunshine Camp, Egadz, Autism Society of Saskaton, Ebenezer Baptist Church youth group, Zoo Society, Open Door Society, Youth Resource Centre, Ranch Ehrlo Society, Saskatoon Tribal Council, Salvation Army and My Way (an organization for new immigrant women).

Sponsored tours went to Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan, Realty Executives Golf Tournament, Saskatoon Women’s Network, Greater Saskatoon School Catholic Foundation, City of Saskatoon Employees United Way Campaign, Meewasin Ice Cream Day, Sask Environment Society, Family Services Saskatoon, LEADS Summer Short Course, Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce, Cameco Earth Day, Friends of Sask Children Inc. Children’s Health & Hospital Foundation, Lakeview Church, River City Dragons Chinese New Year, Moon Lake Ladies Golf Classic, Jewish Community Centre, Environmental Studies Student Association.

Again the interpretive canoe program proved to be very popular by those who experienced the three hour river paddle. Thank you to those in the community who supported the program with their canoeing expertise including Wayne Dyck, Howard Sproat, Jim Best and Martin May.

Meewasin Pelican Watch

Saskatoon residents have special visitors each summer. April through October, pelicans gather by the weir to fish. These birds, once endangered species, have been a beautiful sight on the South Saskatchewan River since the late 1970s. For Saskatoon residents their arrival is a harbinger of spring. To bring public attention to this conservation success story, Meewasin has been running a Pelican Watch contest for the past 13 years.

The 2008 prizes to 15 of the 1400 entrants who answered the question: “When will the first pelican as recorded by our official observers from the Saskatoon Nature Society land between the CPR Bridge and the weir?”

Representatives from Meewasin, the contest sponsors and the Saskatoon Nature Society presented the awards. The 2008 arrival time of April 6th, 2008, at 4:35 p.m. was the earliest of the previous 13 years. The latest the pelican had ever arrived was April 18, 2003 at 4:25 p.m. Congratulations to Emily Johnson of Bishop Filevich School who won the grand prize mountain bike donated by Realty Executives Saskatoon. Thank you to our other sponsors including White Pelican Bed & Breakfast, the Pelican Market, Don's Photo Shop, Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Saskatchewan, Homestead Ice Cream, the Saskatoon and area media.

Meewasin Conservation Award 2008

Sue Barrett was the 2008 winner of the Meewasin Conservation Award presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the resources of the Meewasin Valley.

Sue has been active in numerous heritage organizations for more than 30 years. Her interest in Saskatoon's built heritage has led to involvement with projects that increase public awareness of the rich heritage resources in the city and help ensure their preservation for future generations.

Since its creation in 1995 she has served on the Marr Residence management board, and has been chair for the past 10 years. This board manages all aspects of the historic Marr Residence property with the objectives of maintaining and enhancing the historical integrity of the site, provide public access and develop heritage programming.

Sue is a long-term member and past president of the Saskatoon Heritage Society and past president of the Saskatoon Heritage Festival Board. She served eight years on the city's Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee, and was responsible for coordinating articles on built heritage for the Saskatoon Sun. She worked as a Volunteer Coordinator for the Doors Open Saskatoon events in 2006 and 2007, and is a current board member of the Friends of the Forestry Farm House.

Volunteering within a strong heritage community has been a rewarding experience for Sue. She has enjoyed



Above and left: Canoe Tours, Bishop James Mahoney, "English As A Second Language" Canoe Tour – June 2008

Bottom left: Terry Butler Realty Executives and mascot Rex present first prize Pelican Watch 2008 to Emily Johnson.
Photo courtesy White Pelican Bed & Breakfast.



interacting with many others who are committed to working together in the area of heritage conservation in our city.

Yellow Fish Road

Since 1991, thousands of Canadian youth have participated in the Yellow Fish Road program, learning about their water supply. Painting the storm sewers with yellow fish and distributing fish shaped yellow brochures is a reminder of the important of clean water and properly disposing of hazardous wastes. The program has been initiated in the U.S.A., Australia and Canada. Meewasin, the Girl Guides of Canada (Saskatoon), Brightwater, and Trout Unlimited Canada have partnered to support the program in Saskatoon and area since 1994.

With the support of Petro Canada, Meewasin again partnered with the Girl Guides of Canada (Saskatoon), Brightwater, Trout Unlimited, and Saskatoon Catholic and public schools to promote the Yellow Fish Road program in and around Saskatoon for implementation from mid April to late May. Meewasin and the Girl Guides made kits available including hangers and stencils. This past winter the CD of “Yellow Fish Road” song, sheet music and a poster were created to be made available to the general public and schools in the spring and summer of 2009.

Steamboat’s A Coming

Meewasin celebrated “Rivers to Oceans Week” with a number of events including partnering with the City of Saskatoon for “Steamboat’s A-Comin’ which featured the June 13, 2008 unveiling of two interpretive pieces beneath the Traffic Bridge, Elizabeth Yonza’s “Cut out of

Time” and what is believed to be the kedgemon anchor of the City of Medicine Hat paddle-steamer.

“Cut out of Time” addresses transportation on the river in the past and present featuring images of the first postman, raft and ferry, the SS Medicine Hat, Northcote and other paddle-steamers, as well as more recent water activities. All bring to mind the important role our South Saskatchewan River has played as a “water highway”.

June 7, 1908, the SS City of Medicine Hat paddle-steamer became entangled in telegraph wires and struck the Traffic Bridge. Stuck under the bridge for a few weeks it was eventually broken up by city crews and allowed to wash downstream. 98 years later in August of 2006, Saskatoon Firefighters Fehr and Lucyshyn while practising rescue training in the river discovered the anchor. 100 years later it was restored and unveiled celebrating the era of the paddle-steamers on the South Saskatchewan River.

Partners FOR Sask River Basin (PFSRB)

Founded in 1993 by Meewasin, the national award winning PFSRB is a non-profit organization managed by Meewasin with a mandate to increase understanding, awareness and stewardship of the Sask River Basin. The mission of PFSRB is to promote watershed sustainability through “awareness, linkages and stewardship” throughout the Sask River Basin. Current initiatives include the following

- Translation of the popular PFSRB board game “Moopher’s Amazing Journey to the Sea” into French;
- Distribution of the outdoor field day program “Click on Climate”, that teaches youth about the interactions between climate change and ecosystems;



Right upper middle: Summer Student Open House, August 2008.

Below: Steamboat’s A Coming, Saskatoon Fire & Rescue Services.



- Distribution of the PFSRB developed “Water Watchdog” an outdoor field day water testing program for youth;
- Continuing the work of the “State of the Sask River Basin Report” for the purpose of providing decision makers with consistent information about state of the entire Sask River Basin;
- Assisting with the coordination of the “2008 Saskatchewan Envirothon” in Cypress Hills, a program which tests student’s knowledge in forestry, aquatics, wildlife, soils and land use, as well as an environmental theme;
- Assisting with the organization of two conferences. In April of 2008 PFSRB helped organize the Sask River Delta Symposium in Saskatoon. In April 2009, PFSRB partnered with the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance to deliver the “We Are All Upstream II” conference in Edmonton.

Summer Student Presentations

The Meewasin Summer Student Open House was held August 22nd. It provided an opportunity for the summer students to show case their summer work to one another, the Meewasin family, and donors and supporters of the Meewasin summer student program.

“The Founders” Unveiling

Chair Richard Nieman represented Meewasin at the June 21 unveiling of the spectacular Hans Voltkamp’s twice the life-size bronze statue commemorating the historic meeting of John Lake and Chief Whitecap. He said that Meewasin as a conserver of the cultural and natural resources of the river valley continues to celebrate the 125 year friendship of the Whitecap Dakota first nation and Saskatoon.

Meewasin Trail Ambassadors

Identified by their green vests, Meewasin Trail Ambassadors are volunteers who support Meewasin by sitting on committees, researching and editing documents, assisting with canoe tours, promoting trail safety and helping out at special events. Trail Ambassadors include Wayne Dyck, Carl & Lily Krause, Jim Best, Archie Balon, Brendan Bitz, Ron Brown, Lise De Moissac, Milton Derry, Melanie Elliott, Jenny



Top left: The “Founders” Commemoration, Whitecap Dakota Chief Darcy Bear and the Lloyd Isaak Family September 2007.

Bottom left : Artist Hans Holtkamp’s Chief Whitecap John Lake Statue, “The Founders” was unveiled by the City of Saskatoon June 21, 2009.

Top right: Meewasin Trail Ambassadors.

Bottom right: Meewasin’s Doug Porteous top right represents Meewasin as recipient of the Saskatchewan Parks & Recreation Association Member of the Year Awards – Fall 2008 “for demonstrating creativity in initiating new programs or services that leads to healthier futures in enhancing development of parkland and or promoting healthy lifestyles.”

Porteous, Kent Hartshorn, Judy Hartshorn, Karen Heise, Stephen Levy, Donna Nazar, Maurice Postnikoff, Wayne Salloum, Anne Porteous, Darren Lewis, Shelly Agecoutay, Jan Stirling, Doug Davies, Lynne Davies, Carl Waterer, Lloyd Widenmaier, Julie Janzen, Dave Wilton, Rae Wilton, Nicole Wilton Elliott, Max Abraham, Donna Linner and Tony Linner.

Meewasin Awards

Over the past 30 years Meewasin has been recognized locally, provincially, nationally and internationally for its successes as a conservation organization. This past fiscal year Meewasin was recognized when the Design Council of Saskatchewan presented Crosby Hanna and Associates with the Premier’s Award of Excellent for the Riverfront Master Plan, by the North Saskatoon Business Association as a finalist for the Green Award, by Tourism Saskatchewan for the Land of Living Skies Award and by Saskatchewan Parks & Recreation with the Member of the Year Award.

Below: Cross-country ski tracks on the Meewasin Trail – Capilano Lookout.



Below: Cameco Riverfront Campaign, Campaign Chair Don Somers presents Mayor Don Atchison with a photograph of the Riverfront development.



Fund Development

Meewasin is a registered charity. Approximately 39% of its revenue for 2008-2009 came from non-statutory sources to support its conservation, development and education initiatives. Some reasons to support Meewasin include:

- If you wanted a pill to cure 70% of ills in today's society, it would be exercise in a clean nurturing environment;
- 91% of the general public support the work of Meewasin and want it to continue;
- of the \$90 million that Meewasin spent in the valley in the last 29 years, 18% has come from the local tax rolls;
- The Meewasin Valley concept is known and studied around the world as a model of what a community can do to conserve a river valley for the purpose of public health and enjoyment;
- Meewasin has been recognized internationally on numerous occasions. In 2006, for the second time, Meewasin was one of the four finalists for the prestigious Thiess Riverprize awarded in Brisbane, Australia.

Cameco Riverfront Campaign

The Cameco Riverfront Campaign wrapped up in March 2009. The campaign team reported that since the kick off, funds raised exceeded the \$2 million goal, reaching \$2,052,000. More than 100 companies and individuals contributed \$1000 or more to the campaign, and thousands more provided donations to ensure that the project could be completed. A campaign windup celebrated the accomplishment.

Campaign Chair Don Somers led the team to success with a strong commitment to Meewasin and the Riverfront Project. Campaign Team members Robin Chapman, Sheryl Fox, Lise de Moissac, Patricia Roe and Betty-Anne Stevenson proved to be dedicated to ensuring that the campaign was completed successfully. As well, numerous other volunteers assisted by making phone calls and contacting individuals. Cameco paid campaign costs to ensure donor money went to the development.

The multi-award winning Riverfront has become a show piece for Saskatoon and provides ongoing opportunities to build a healthy community through tourism, economic development and civic pride. The Riverfront continues to stage many community activities, cultural shows, and we anticipate it will be well used both formally and informally.

Thanks to all volunteers, donors and sponsors for their support to making the Cameco Riverfront Campaign dream come true!

Plant-A-Tree Commemoration 2008

Meewasin's 22nd annual Plant-A-Tree commemoration was held Saturday, June 7th at the Innovation Place Atrium. The North Park Wilson Handbell Choir under the direction of Sheryl Wudrich performed. Guest speakers included The Honourable Dr. Gordon Barnhart, Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan; Bill and Carol Shank representing donors; Wayne Dyck representing recipients; Jay Cowsill president of Multi-Faith Saskatoon; and Chair of the Meewasin Board, Richard Nieman.

The Meewasin Plant-A-Tree, Memorial Forest, Buy-A-Bench and Buy-A-Brick programs are four of several successful fundraising activities at Meewasin. 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 3,375 trees and shrubs that have been sponsored by individual donors and groups. Since 2000 there have been 133 donations to the Memorial Forest in Gabriel Dumont Park. The 2008 Plant-A-Tree program included sponsorship recognition of 125 trees and shrubs, eight Meewasin Trail benches, and 15 bricks at the Rotary International Peace Plaza.

“Gopher Tales of Saskatchewan”

Gopher Tales of Saskatchewan is a book written by Meewasin’s Doug Porteous and illustrated by Saskatoon’s Tom Grummett, illustrator for Marvel (Superman) comics. Both donated their work to Meewasin to stimulate Meewasin Gift Shop sales, and Meewasin sponsorships and donations. By the end of the 2008-2009 fiscal year the book had netted over \$20,000 for Meewasin fund development programs. Doug and Tom are collaborating on a sequel, “Otter Tales of Saskatchewan”, which they hope to have ready by Christmas 2009.

Cameco Riverfront Campaign Recognition Event

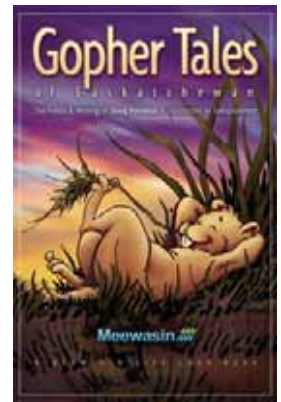
Meewasin celebrated sponsors and donors to the Cameco Riverfront Campaign at a ceremony on Friday June 20th. Dignitaries from all orders of Government: Hon Carol Skelton, Hon Rob Norris, Mayor Don



Above: Plant A Tree Commemoration June 2008, North Park Wilson Handbell Choir



Top: Meewasin thanks Meewasin Trail Ambassadors Doug and Lynne Davies of Homestead Ice Cream for their tremendous support over the past number of years for their donation of ice cream and staff time to a number of Meewasin celebrations. Pictured above is Pike Lake School winners of the Pelican Watch Ice Cream Day, June 2006.



Above left: The Ghebremedhin Family enjoy an ice cream at the Meewasin Riverfront, at “River Summer 2008”.

Above right: Front cover of, “Gopher Tales of Saskatchewan”.

Atchison, Jamie Miley Director Government Relations – Cameco, Meewasin Chair Richard Nieman, Sask Tel’s Ken Cheveldayoff, and Cameco Riverfront Campaign Chair Don Somers were on hand to cut the ribbon and allow more than 100 youth from schools around Saskatoon to enjoy the water spray park.

Meewasin Ice Cream Day

Meewasin staff and dignitaries partnered with Homestead Ice Cream for an Ice Cream Day on the Riverfront June 25th.

A special thank you to our many sponsors, donors and supporters

2008-2009 Meewasin Donors (over 1000)

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