

MEEWASIN EXPLORER

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2015

VOLUME 22 - NUMBER 6



St. Edward School EcoJustice Class, first to officially ride the new Meewasin Trail section to Chief Whitecap Park.

Meewasin Trail Reaches Second Milestone

Meewasin launched a capital campaign in October 2013, for the purpose of extending the Meewasin Trail 8 km in the northwest to Wanuskewin Heritage Park, and 7 km in the southeast to Chief Whitecap Park. On June 5, 2015, Meewasin announced it had reached the first of the two milestones officially opening the northwest connection linking 71st Street to Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

On October 16, 2015 Meewasin held a news conference to announce the completion of the Meewasin Trail in the southeast, linking Diefenbaker Park to Chief Whitecap Park. To help celebrate the opening, Meewasin invited the EcoJustice Class of St. Edward School to be the first to officially cycle the new Meewasin Trail.

These new sections of the Meewasin Trail to Wanuskewin Heritage Park and Chief Whitecap Park are all part of the Trans Canada Trail. These links add another 15 km to the Meewasin Trail, giving Saskatoon and area residents and guests more than 80 km of Meewasin Trail to run, walk and roll.

Thank you to all donors and supporters. Rollers, runners and walkers will now be able to travel along the Meewasin Trail from Chief Whitecap Park all the way to Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

Meewasin thanks the Government of Saskatchewan, the City of Saskatoon, the Trans Canada Trail Association,

PotashCorp, Saskatoon Road Runners Association, and all of the private donors and supporters for making this \$2.4 M project happen. And Meewasin thanks St. Edward School for "bearing witness". The Grade 8 students will be the leaders and decision makers of the future. What they learn today and what they bear witness to will help them make wise decisions when it is their turn to do so.

RBC Science of Water



The RBC Blue Water Project has helped Meewasin conduct a citizen scientist study of the South Saskatchewan River called "RBC Science of Water". Students from elementary schools had the opportunity to participate in a water sampling process and to study the effects of nitrogen and phosphorous on the South Saskatchewan River. These two nutrients can have damaging effects on down stream water bodies, such as Lake Winnipeg, and on the overall health of the river. By monitoring nitrogen and phosphorous we are able to determine what action is required to maintain the river valley. In addition, the RBC Blue Water Project supported conservation work in the Meewasin Northeast Swale, an important part of the river basin.

The RBC Science of Water program used the Meewasin Interpretive Canoe Program and the Beaver Creek Interpretive Program to aid in the water sampling and to provide an added learning resource for participants. Each participant was asked to take action to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous use in our city.

Thank you to the RBC Blue Water Project for the generous support of our biodiversity initiatives.



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

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MEEWASIN.COM

Meewasin

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MEEWASIN

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



European Buckthorn photo courtesy of Credit Valley Conservation.

European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) is an invasive shrub designated as noxious in Saskatchewan by the Ministry of Agriculture. Being designated noxious means that landowners, both urban and rural, have a duty to control these plants on their property. European Buckthorn is a small shrub or tree originating from Europe that grows up to 8 m tall with sharp thorns. Its leaves are green, smooth, elliptic with finely toothed edges, usually opposite. The leaves are one of the last to turn in the fall, appearing green well after many other trees and shrubs have dropped their leaves. It is typically found in even-aged and dense stands in the understory, under the fruit-bearing females, and crowding out the native vegetation. European Buckthorn was brought in as a shelter belt species to the Dominion Forestry Farm in the 1930s, but has since spread and is found growing wild throughout Saskatoon and the river valley. If you find Buckthorn in your yard, you can prevent its spread by planting native shrubs and/or spreading mulch in the understory to suppress germination of seeds to outcompete, as well as removing the berries and incinerating or bagging. To control this plant, you can repeatedly hand-pull or dig small shrubs, cut back repeatedly, cut and treat the stump to stop suckering, or use a recommended herbicide that is suitable for the task.

Meewasin has European Buckthorn 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: cutting, sheep grazing, controlled burns, and herbicide. Around 720,000 European Buckthorn plants have been managed in the river valley with Meewasin's effort over the past 15 years.

For more information on European Buckthorn and how you can help control this invasive, visit:

<https://www.abinvasives.ca/factsheets/140625-fs-commonbuckthorn.pdf?iframe=true&width=800&height=600>



Give a living gift this holiday season.

SPONSOR A CONIFER TREE

For a limited time, Meewasin has conifer trees available for sponsorship in River Landing Phase II. These conifers are available as a one-time offer of sponsorship for \$500 each.

Contact Meewasin's Donations Officer at:

306-665-6887

or

meewasin.com



Follow Meewasin on Instagram

We are now on Instagram as "meewasinvalley".



Share your pics and tag us to showcase Meewasin through your eyes.

This holiday season, help Meewasin with your gift to conserve green spaces and conservation zones. Make your gift on Giving Tuesday December 1, 2015.

Find Meewasin on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter @meewasin

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OPEN 9:00 TO 5:00 WEEKDAYS - NOON TO 5:00 WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS

MEEWASIN VALLEY INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

INTERPRETING SASKATOON'S BUILT CULTURAL HISTORY



November Programs

November 1 - Explore the MVC - For Everyone (12-5 pm)

Come down to see our newest photo exhibit on life in Saskatoon during WWI, as well as explore our other galleries and Gift Shop. Historic photos and video displays throughout the Centre take you back in time, and an interactive gallery with dress-up clothes, a stage, streetcar, and tower allow your imagination to bloom while acting out plays or reflecting on a simpler time.

November 7 & 8 - Yarn Buddies - For Everyone (1-3 pm)

Make your own doll, monster, pet, or buddy out of yarn! With our interpreter's help, and your imagination, you will be able to create a new toy just like they did in the past.

November 11 - "Remember Me" Video Presentation - For Everyone (1-4 pm)

Take some extra time to remember the brave soldiers from our city and country. Drop-in to look at our art display featuring The Book of Remembrance, honouring fallen soldiers from Saskatoon in WWI and watch a video about Saskatoon's many war memorials.

November 15 - Warm up for the Santa Claus Parade! (9-5 pm)

Come down to MVC and warm up on this festive day! We will be open from 9-5, and the parade will start just outside our front doors at 1 pm. <http://saskatoonsantaclausparade.com/>

Story Writing & Games

Weekend Drop-In Craft at the MVC - For Everyone (1-4 pm)

November 21 & 22

November 28 & 29

Learn the origin of some common words created during the war years that we use on a regular basis, and write stories for your own book of remembrance! Also, play some games that have been around for over 100 years, and try your hand at creating your own games.

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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"Saskatoon: 1914 - 1918"

Photos, Stories, and Memories of Saskatoon during the years of WWI with the Book of Remembrance
On Display at the Meewasin Gallery
November 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

December Programs

** Annual Christmas Sale at the Meewasin Gift Shop **

The annual Christmas Sale is a must-visit event! Make your selections in Meewasin's Gift Shop and then draw for your discount at the till. You will receive **10% - 50%** off your purchase!

The sale runs From December 1 through December 15, so make sure the Gift Shop is one of your shopping stops.



Puppet Making

Weekend Drop-In Craft at the MVC - For Everyone (1-4 pm)

December 5 & 6

December 12 & 13

December 19 & 20

Create your own puppets with our materials, and act out your own plays in our puppet theatre and stage area. Learn the history of this fun art form, and different ways to use everyday materials.



School Break Winter Crafts

Ages 5-12, drop-in (daily 1-4 pm)

December 21 - December 23

Repurpose old Christmas cards to make garlands, ornaments, and more to decorate your festive space this holiday season.

December 26 - January 3

Meewasin Valley Community Quilt project! Pop down daily to add to our collaborative paper quilt by designing your own pieces based on history, plants, and animals in and around our river valley. The finished paper quilt will be on display in the Meewasin Valley Interpretive Centre for all of January 2016.

Ring in the new year by warming up our valley!

OPEN 9:00 TO 5:00 WEEKDAYS - NOON TO 5:00 HOLIDAY WEEK

BEAVER CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

INTERPRETING SASKATOON'S NATURAL HISTORY

Beaver Creek Programming

November & December - Open Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Bring friends and family to discover Beaver Creek Conservation Area. Enjoy the outdoors as nature winds down into winter at the creek by taking a self-guided hike along one of four nature trails. Inside the Interpretive Centre, take time to visit our interpretive displays and the SaskEnergy Beaver Pond room.

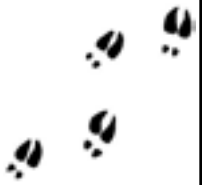


Note: At this time the site is closed for the weekends until our Holiday Week in December.

Holiday Week at the Creek - December 26 to January 3 - Open 12 pm to 5 pm Daily

Winter Wildlife

During the holiday week enjoy an interpretive program and discover how some of our wild friends are able to stay active and warm throughout the winter season. The program is available each day throughout the holiday week at 2:30 pm.



Get Tracking

Become a track detective as you search for signs of wild wanderings along one of our nature trails. Track and scat keys are available at the interpretive desk for use on this self-guided hike throughout the holiday week.

Did you know?

Project Feederwatch is a winter-long survey of birds that you can do in your backyard! Information you collect will help scientists track populations and better understand trends in bird distribution.

Go to feederwatch.org to find out more!

Eye Spy with My Nature Eye

Take time to slow down and build your skill of observation as you hike the Discovery Trail to look for animal silhouettes hidden along the way. Ask an interpreter for an Eye Spy clue sheet before you head out on the trail. The program is available each day throughout the holiday week.



Nature Craft

Discover another way to appreciate nature by creating a nature inspired craft at the Beaver Creek craft table. Available each day throughout the holiday week.

About Beaver Creek Conservation Area



Beaver Creek Conservation Area offers the general public and schools opportunities to discover the wonders of nature year-round. 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.

Weekday daytime group bookings are available throughout November and December by arrangement. Interpretive programs are \$35.00/hour/interpreter.
Call 306-374-2474 for information on program details.

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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