

Annual Report 2009-2010
Explore the Meewasin Trail





Chair, Jack Vicq



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.

Front Cover:

Photograph of the river bank and Meewasin Skating Rink by Hunter Creative Services
Photograph of falcon by Darryl Barclay .

Message from the Chair and CEO

Meewasin has completed 31 years of stewardship in the valley again with successes in all areas of our mandate. As we look back, our conservation initiatives saw us develop a new Five Year Plan, complete a State of the Valley Assessment, initiate a riparian restoration project, expand our grazing program and improve the Meewasin development review process. Our public programs continued to teach school groups and the general public about the human and natural resources of the Meewasin Valley and the importance of conservation through interpretive and outreach programs at Beaver Creek Conservation Area and the Meewasin Valley Centre. We continued to interpret the river from the river through our popular canoe tours. We developed and disseminated public information on the Riverfront Sask River Basin water spray feature and the Yellow Fish Road program. We continued to promote stewardship of the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands. We developed an interpretive plan for a new Meewasin Valley Centre. We celebrated conservation through Pelican Watch and the ever expanding Affinity Credit Union Clean-up.

This past year Meewasin celebrated sponsorships through special events including the federal and provincial support of a new rink facility, and the dedication of the Peggy McKercher Conservation Area. Through our fund development programs, benches, bricks, seating blocks and trees sponsored in the names of loved ones were commemorated at our annual Dedication Ceremony. Other special events included the Tim Horton's sponsorship of the operational costs of the skating rink. We especially thank Cameco for its ongoing continued support from the Cameco Trails Campaign in 2001, to the Cameco Riverfront Campaign in 2004, to our present day 2010 major Meewasin initiatives yet to be announced.

Design and development work this past year focused on securing the funding and, in cooperation with the City of Saskatoon, continuing to improve the

development of the Riverfront. Meewasin expanded the North East trail, designed a new skate change facility, developed a strategy for Meewasin Trail branding and made facility improvements to the Meewasin Valley Centre and Beaver Creek Conservation Area. In the future through our partnership with the Association of Urban Parks and Conservation Agencies (ASUPCA) we will participate in a voluntary carbon offset program.

If we have any concerns it is that basic statutory funding will not be sufficient to accomplish our goals. Meewasin has become more dependent on project funding. As well, the money we have set aside for asset replacement will not cover the anticipated costs of new Meewasin Valley and Beaver Creek Conservation Area visitor centres.

Thank you to our staff, the Meewasin board representing the City of Saskatoon, Government of Saskatchewan and University of Saskatchewan, to our advisory committees, donors and the many supporters who have contributed time and resources to make this conservation organization the success that it is. Thank you to our retiring board members: Richard Nieman, Ann Coxworth, Kelley Moore and Maurice Neault. Thank you to all who have supported and continue to support Meewasin. We hope you will continue to be proud and to participate in the Meewasin 100 Year Plan as we move into our 32nd year.

Chair Jack Vicq
CEO Susan Lamb

Jack Vicq New Meewasin Chair

With the retirement of the past Meewasin Chair Richard Nieman in June 2009, Jack G. Vicq was elected as Meewasin's seventh chair at its August 2009 board meeting. Mr. Vicq had been a member of the Meewasin board for the previous three years. Jack brings to Meewasin an extensive background in education, business governance, public finance and community involvement.



Chair, Jack Vicq



Darwin Anderson



Mayor Don Atchison



Charlie Clark



Randy Fernets



Marion Ghiglione



Darren Hill



Peter MacKinnon



Brent Martian



Hon. Rob Norris



Glen Penner



Colin Tennent



CEO, Susan Lamb

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.

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

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 assets. Committee members are Darwin Anderson, Brad Ashdown, Peter Goode, Margaret Hendry, Tammy Knuttilla, Sheri Praski, Peggy Sarjeant, Janine Shadick, and Gary Wobeser.

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 Tom Der, Brent Martian, Alan Otterbein, Anna Ringstrom, Genevieve Russell and Jeanna South.

Education Advisory

The Education Advisory Committee advises the Meewasin board on policy development in education. Committee members are Chair Brendan Bitz, Max Abraham, Corinne Daelick, Melanie Elliott, Marion Ghiglione, Brenda Green, Roxane Melnyk, Jennifer Nelson, and Maurice Postnikoff.

Meewasin Board of Directors

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 Clark'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 conservation zone.

What Is Meewasin

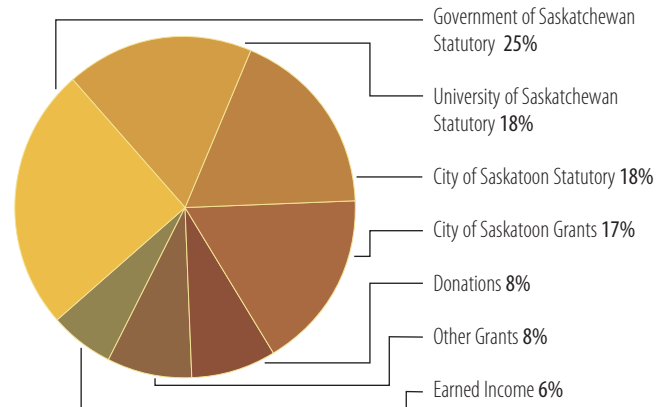
Created in 1979 by an Act of the Province of Saskatchewan, Meewasin is a conservation agency dedicated to conserving the cultural and natural resources of the South Saskatchewan River Valley. It is the means by which the three participating parties (the City of Saskatoon, the University of Saskatchewan, 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 – can accomplish more than they could individually.



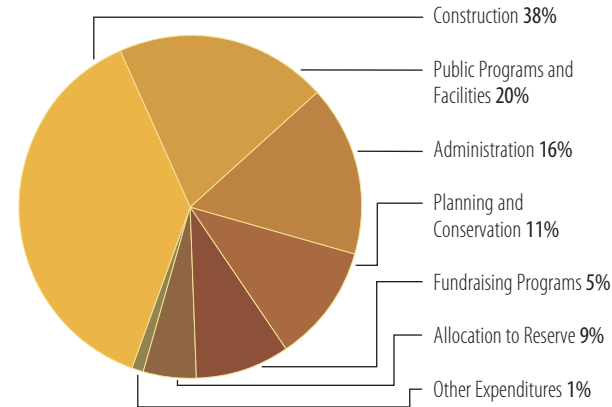
Above: Cameco Volunteers Clean the River Valley. Earth Day 2009

Meewasin Financial Highlights as of March 31, 2010

Revenues (All Funds) \$3,698,440



Expenditures and Allocations (All Funds) \$3,698,440



The Meewasin Endowment Fund is managed by the Saskatoon Community Foundation and as of December 31, 2009 stands at \$358,346. 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 resources;
- promoting understanding, conservation and beneficial use of the valley;
- 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.

Following the completion of the 2009 State of the Valley Assessment Report on health, fit, balance and vibrancy, an updated Meewasin Five Year Strategic Plan entitled: A Focus on the Valley – A Habitat for All was prepared and adopted. It can be found in digital form on the Meewasin website (www.meewasin.com) or hard copies can be ordered from the Meewasin Administration office (402 Third Avenue South).

Development Review

Meewasin is empowered by the MVA Act to coordinate or control the use of development, conservation, maintenance and improvement of land within the Conservation Zone. It is guided by a statutory committee of professional planners, architects, landscape architects, engineers and geological engineers. In the 2009/2010 fiscal year Meewasin reviewed 12 proposed improvements to the valley.

As well, Meewasin adopted two development plan amendments this year (South Downtown District Development Policy).

Meewasin Development Review is complementary to other environmental or heritage review permitting processes. It focuses 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 of aesthetics complementary to the natural setting of the river valley;
- Provision for public access;
- Assurance of consistency with the Meewasin Development Plan.

Securing Lands of Interest

The original concept for Meewasin as set out in the 100 Year Plan was to create a continuous ribbon of green with the river as a spine. The 2009 State of the Valley Assessment highlighted the addition in the past five years of 9 km of publicly-accessible shoreline to the Meewasin Valley. As well, 561 acres of habitat land have been added, creating wildlife corridors, buffers for our source drinking water and improved opportunities to experience a natural setting.



Meewasin will continue to seek opportunities to secure long-term stewardship of land with conservation values. Stewardship may be secured through public ownership, conservation easements (legally-binding), or through voluntary easements (goodwill 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. Meewasin initiatives strive toward the outcomes of **health, fit, balance and vibrancy**.

Conservation

Meewasin strives to protect and enhance biodiversity in the Meewasin Valley. Following are the highlights for 2009/2010.

- **Grazing.** Goats, sheep and cattle reduced shrubs encroaching into sensitive prairies at the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands, Regional Psychiatric Centre Prairie, Beaver Creek and the Northeast Swale;
- **Prescribed Controlled Burn.** Prairies are re-invigorated by prescribed burns. Beaver Creek Conservation Area, Regional Psychiatric Centre Prairie and the Northeast Swale all have had particularly vibrant crocus blooms as a result of burning;
- **Land Management.** Removing of exotic species and noxious weeds is important to ensure the vigour of native ecosystems under Meewasin's stewardship. Plans for naturalizing 50 acres of disturbed land in proximity of important habitat were also finalized for implementation in 2010.

Below: River Valley Inspection By Canoe. Clark's Crossing Summer 2009
L to R: Amanda Burke, Heather Landine, Trail Ambassador Wayne Dyck, Resource Conservation Manager Brenda Wallace



Left: St Edwards Eco Justice Class Explore Kinsmen Fishing Platform Fall 2009



Above top: Pedestrian Bridge
River Landing Phase 2
Summer 2009

Above middle: Riverfront at
River Landing Phase I, Fall 2009

Bottom: Model of
Feature Interpretive Display
New MVC Concept 2009/2010



- **Stewardship Volunteer Program.** 695 volunteers spent more than 2500 volunteer hours planting native grass and wildflower plugs, shrubs and trees in important conservation areas within the valley.
- **Valley Steward Patrols.** A team of summer students helped conduct valley-wide cleanups of public sites including graffiti removal, vandalism repair and garbage pick-up. The team also promoted stewardship through outreach, setting a good example, acting as ears and eyes for the authorities, and visiting (monitoring) sites on a regular basis.
- **River Use Facilitation.** Meewasin hosts dialogue and shares information among a River Users Group to help mitigate potential conflict and ensure good stewardship of the river system running through the Saskatoon region.
- **Cultural Heritage Stewardship.** Meewasin mapped cultural heritage assets under our stewardship. Each year, cultural heritage initiatives and enhancement projects are developed under the policy pillars of conservation, research, education and partnerships.

Design & Development

The focus of Design & Development this year was again to develop the Riverfronts at River Landing; design a new skating rink facility in Kiwanis Memorial Park including an all-accessible trail connection from Spadina Crescent to the Meewasin Trail; make improvements to the Beaver Creek Conservation Area interpretive facility; operate the Meewasin skating rink and further identify the Meewasin Trail and Trans Canada Trail, including marking accurate trail distances for trail users.

Meewasin Riverfront Phase I (Traffic Bridge to Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge) Meewasin had already completed construction of the amphitheatre, seating areas, plaza, pedestrian links, pavilion, the river basin water play feature and accompanying interpretive signage, and furniture for the food service area. In 2009 Meewasin worked on a backshore Meewasin Trail link to 19th Street and the gas fire pit near the pavilion.

Design work has begun on the river garden, river garden access and tributary. The bioswale adjacent to the water spray feature should be completed by the end of summer 2010.

Meewasin Riverfront Phase II (Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge to Victoria Park) Meewasin completed construction and armouring of the shoreline, shorewalls, retaining walls, earthworks, site services, pathways, lighting and site furnishings. The A.E. Cole pumphouse, including electrical work and the installation of railings on the roof deck in 2009, was also completed. Work will continue in 2010 on completing landscaping, installation of site furnishings, links and lighting from the backshore edge of the riverwalk to the new Spadina Crescent extension.

Riverfront Phase III (A New Meewasin Valley Centre) Meewasin completed schematics and interpretive design for a new Meewasin Valley Centre. The implementation plan has been postponed.

Other Design & Development projects include:

- Replacement of valley wide interpretive signage;
- Paving of the wheel chair accessible link to the Kinsmen Fishing Platform;
- Maintenance and repairs at the Bowerman House;
- Site repairs and maintenance to Patterson Gardens;
- Meewasin – St. Joseph High School Partners in Education resource management and educational tours;
- Planting of approximately 500 shrubs, 1000 grass plugs,
- Installation of concrete seating nodes in Riverfront II;
- Installation of 42 bricks in the Buy-A-Brick program;
- Implementation of a Meewasin departmental sustainability review;
- Participation in the Visual Arts Placement Jury for various public art installations;

- Participation in the City of Saskatoon's Urban Design Committee;
- Delivery of a Grade 4 Planting Program at the Meewasin Nursery;
- Design and installation of the bioswale and interpretive tree grates at River Landing Riverfront Phase I;
- Design of River Landing Phase I River Garden and backshore link to downtown Saskatoon and 19th Street;
- Clean-up and site preparation and construction of approximately 1000 metres of trail at the Peggy McKercher Conservation Area;
- Construction of approximately two kilometres of trails at the Regional Psychiatric Centre Prairie linking it to the Saskatoon Natural Grassland;
- Renovations to the Meewasin Valley Centre;
- Acting as Project Managers for the water treatment plant and fish habitat project;
- Researching the Bessborough Hotel Interpretive Fence.

The Meewasin Skating Rink

The Meewasin Rink, located in Kiwanis Memorial Park next to the Bessborough, opened for public skating December 19, 2009, and stayed open for 79 days, closing March 7, 2010. Two days were lost during the season when the wind chill dipped below -30 degrees. Total usage this season was over 15,000 skaters, almost double the previous year.

A news conference in January announced a three-year commitment by Tim Horton's towards the annual operation costs of the rink totalling \$30,000.

In early February an exciting event occurred with a visit from Prime Minister of Canada the Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper and hockey legend Wayne Gretzky.

Along with a record number of users, Meewasin saw use by local groups who booked the rink for special events including Boy Scouts of Canada, Girl Guides of Canada, the Calder Centre, Youth Out Reach, the



Above top: Meewasin Summer
Student Crews; A Homestead Ice
Cream Break; Summer 2009

Above bottom: Meewasin Skating
Rink Winter 2009; Interpreters
Micheal Bauche, Amanda Janzen and
Cran



Above: An Image of New Kiwanis Memorial Park Facilities for Winter 2010 Warm Up Facility, Meewasin Trail Connection to Spadina, Permanent Public Washrooms

Below: Eastern Comma Butterfly Beaver Creek Conservation Area 2009
Photo: Lennox Saunders



University of Saskatchewan, SIAST, English as a Second Language School, downtown businesses, church and community youth groups. The rink recorded visitors from far off places including Belgium, Morocco, Japan, China, Australia and California.

A New Meewasin Rink Warm-up Facility

The first Meewasin rink warm-up facility was designed by Holiday Scott Architects in 1980/81, and was built the following year. 1982 was the first year it operated in Kiwanis Memorial Park. In the following years the facility served the Saskatoon community well. However it became older and tired and it was time for a new facility.

Meewasin held a news conference in October 2009 to announce that Meewasin would build a new rink facility under the Recreational

Infrastructure Canada (RinC) Program. The Government of Saskatchewan matched the federal funding. The Government of Canada committed \$349,000 to the project and the Government of Saskatchewan matched that amount. The entire program will cost \$1.5 million. Meewasin is meeting with various prospects to fund the remaining portion of the cost.

The new rink facility will include permanent washrooms in Kiwanis Memorial Park, an all accessible trail link from Spadina Crescent to the Meewasin Trail, and a portable skaters' lodge. It will be completed and open for the 2010/2011 skating season.

Education

Meewasin offers a number of educational programs that focus on 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, interpretive 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 (MVC)

The MVC 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 2009/2010, the centre enjoyed a total of 16,527 visitors who toured the facility, sought information, or who participated in the interpretive programs ranging from the

annual Founder's Day celebration in Friendship Park to the River Cinemas on the August and September long weekends.

The MVC staff was also responsible for the organization and delivery of the annual Meewasin-Affinity Credit Union Clean-up Campaign which kicked off April 23 at Ecole Victoria School. The media event began a two-week-long clean-up of the river valley, neighbourhoods, city and school parks in and around Saskatoon involving more than 20,000 volunteers. As part of clean-up, more than 100 Cameco employees participated in Earth Day (April 22) committing to clean sections of the Meewasin Trail.

The MVC supported other organizations throughout the city including Heritage Festival Saskatoon, the Marr Residence Management Team, the Saskatoon Heritage Society, Doors Open Saskatoon and the Saskatoon CERT (Community, Experiences, Resources, Tours) awareness group.

The Centre continued to provide interpretive programs to all 2003 Grade 3 students from Saskatoon. In addition, 1,105 participated in the school break programs. 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 naturally and culturally special. Especially popular are the hand puppets representing animals of the river valley. Participation in Meewasin Valley Centre programs, including the Affinity-Credit Union Clean-up Campaign, totalled 40,327.

Founder's Day Celebrations

Meewasin celebrated Founder's Day August 18, to commemorate the founding of Saskatoon, August 18, 1883. The event in Friendship Park included a public barbecue, Meewasin summer student presentations, celebration of Meewasin's 30th anniversary, musical entertainment, an Astro-Jump, 30th anniversary cake, Homestead Ice Cream and a River Landing walking tour.



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 four nature trails.

In 2009/2010, BCCA continued to provide interpretive programs to Grade 5 students from the Saskatoon schools totalling 2,788 students. 13,325 visitors sought information, explored the site on their own and/or participated in public programming that included Perseid Meteor Showers, Canada Day Heritage Hoopla, interpretive canoe tours, come-and-go discovery stations and self-guided trail activities. Visitation to the BCCA centre in 2009/2010 totalled 16,113 visitors.

Below: Meewasin Valley Centre School groups often bike along the Meewasin Trail to the Meewasin Valley Centre; June 09

Near right: “Brutus” 2000 Year Old Bison Skull; Found at BCCA Summer 2009
Photo: Lennox Saunders

Far right: Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship, Meewasin Bird Banding – Yellow Warbler. Beaver Creek Conservation Area 2010
Photo: Brenda Kramarchuk

Below: Pelicans at Weir. Photo by Gordon Waldner of the Saskatoon StarPhoenix.



Beaver Creek Conservation Area Bison Skull

In July and August 2009 BCCA interpreters found two bison skulls in the clay bed of Beaver Creek. The low water levels facilitated their exposure. Saskatoon archaeologist Butch Amundson inspected the skull and found butcher marks confirming that it was an archaeological site. Over the winter, radio carbon dating has shown the skull to be approximately 2000 years old.

Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS)

For the past three summers, BCCA has participated in MAPS, a bird banding program developed by the Institute for Bird Populations in California. With the involvement of BCCA and other organizations, MAPS monitors land-birds from across North America during the breeding season, to better understand changes in the abundance, distribution and ecology of the bird population. BCCA held a total of six bird banding sessions between June 10 and August 8, 2009. To date, 31 different species of birds have been banded at BCCA for a total of 527 birds. This past summer nine birds originally banded in 2007 and eight birds from 2008 returned. A “return bird” is a good sign as birds tend to

use the same breeding territory, and even the same nest if they are finding what they need to survive.

Meewasin Pelican Watch

Saskatoon residents have special visitors each summer. April through October, pelicans gather by the weir to fish. These birds, once an 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 14 years.

The contest ran in March with more than 1,600 entries. Participants entered to answer the question: “When will the first pelican as observed by the Saskatoon Nature Society land between the CP Bridge and the weir?” The first pelican in 2009 arrived, Sunday, April 12 at 7:35 pm.

The winner of the grand prize bicycle presented by Wayne Zuk Broker Owner of Realty Executives at the weir on the Realty Executives Boardwalk was Mark Snider of James L. Alexander School. Thank you to all who participated including the Saskatoon media, Realty Executives Saskatoon, Don’s Photo Shop, the Pelican Market, the White Pelican Bed and Breakfast, Pelican Media, Houghton-Boston, the Meewasin Gift Shop, Homestead Ice Cream, the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Saskatchewan, the Saskatoon Nature Society, the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, the Saskatoon Public Schools and all the participants.

“Conservation in a Shoe Box”

As a follow-up to Meewasin Pelican Watch, Meewasin and the Mendel Art Gallery partnered to host “Conservation in a Shoe Box”. 280 students entered 70 shoe box projects representing expressions of conservation. Thank you to the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee for sponsoring “zero waste” refreshments and environmental resource library prizes, Earth Bound Bakery & Delicatessen, Herbs ‘N’ Health Food Port, George Vanier Environmental

Dancers, Super Ron Magic Show, Saskatoon Environmental Community, Saskatoon Zoo Society and the SaskTel Mendel Art Caravan for their support.

Meewasin Conservation Award 2009.

Michael Williams was the recipient of the Meewasin Conservation Award 2009 presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the natural or human resources of the Meewasin Valley.

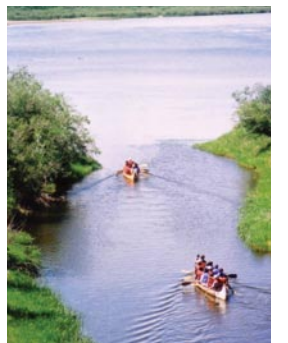
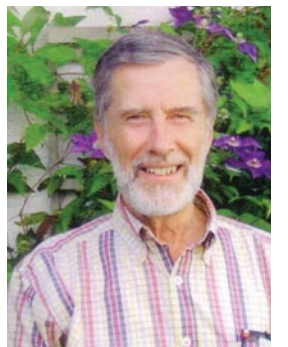
Saskatoon resident Michael Williams, a geological engineer, spent a career mapping and conducting mineral exploration. It was his love for the outdoors that had him choose a career as a field geologist. Throughout that time he developed a growing appreciation for the beauty and value of the natural world.

Now in his retirement years Michael is passing on to others what he has learned hoping to instill in them enthusiasm for the natural world, the need for conservation and the need for decision makers to make the right environmental choices.

Michael is a member of the Camera Club, was president in 1987/88 and has received several awards for nature photography. He has been a member of the Saskatoon Nature Society since 1984. He has served on several committees connected with Meewasin and the City of Saskatoon at the local, provincial and federal levels. He is an author and publisher of nature articles and books. He has conducted many educational workshops on birding and has volunteered to work at the many bird counts in and around Saskatoon.

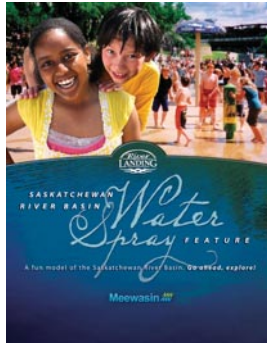
Meewasin Interpretive Canoe Tours

Beaver Creek Conservation Area is the home for Meewasin Interpretive Canoe Tours. 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. Despite the 2009 summer weather being inclement and the river water levels low making it difficult to paddle through the mud to exit Beaver Creek, 556 paddlers participated in the program, including 243 paddlers from non profit youth groups who accessed the program at no cost.



Above: Michael Williams
Meewasin Conservation Award 2009

Above: Meewasin Interpretive
Canoe Tours; Beaver Creek
Conservation Area



Above top: Sask River Basin Water Spray Brochure

Above bottom: Richard Nieman Friend of Meewasin Award 2009

Water Spray Brochure

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to walk from Saskatoon to Edmonton? Well now you can and it will take a few short minutes. Have you ever wondered how far it is from Swift Current to Medicine Hat? Count your steps – every step you take is approximately 100 km. Measure your way across the Prairies...or explore your way across, discovering treasures, the routes of the rivers, the old fort trails, the geological formations, the mineral resource, and the flora and fauna that make the Saskatchewan River Basin unique. In the water spray feature you can find water bodies, cities, forests, borders, animal tracks, footprints and various embedded shapes representing the cultural and natural history of our river basin. The water spray brochure lists them all with a corresponding directory as to their location in the feature. It is designed to be an interpretive tool complementing the belvedere panels at the River Landing Lookout overlooking the river basin feature. The two children on the front cover are local kids from local families, their first photo opportunity as models. Thank you to the RBC for sponsoring the development and printing of the water spray brochure.

Olympic Torch

The Olympic Torch arrived in Saskatoon January 11, 2009. Meewasin was one of the communication centres for the Saskatoon event, hosting a coffee and hot chocolate station for volunteers and the general public, and providing a pick up and drop off point for participants. The Meewasin Skating Rink in Kiwanis Memorial Park operated extended hours that day.

Friend of Meewasin Award 2009

Richard Nieman is the 2009 recipient of the Friend of Meewasin Award presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to Meewasin.

Dick Nieman recently retired from his volunteer position as the sixth Chair of the Meewasin Valley Authority, having served five years in that position. Dick has been a volunteer with Meewasin since 1987 when he joined the Education Advisory Committee. He served on various Meewasin committees over time, and in 1996

was appointed to the Meewasin board as a representative of the provincial government. He was elected Chair in 2005. For more than 20 years Dick has volunteered and been totally committed to the concept of Meewasin – that the three participating parties, The City of Saskatoon, Province of Saskatchewan and University of Saskatchewan can better conserve the cultural and natural resources of their riverbank lands through a single agency – Meewasin. Throughout the last five years, Dick has provided special leadership in Meewasin's role in managing the Riverfront development at River Landing, allowing for more public access to the river valley. He has played a key role in enriching the quality of life for all residents and visitors to Saskatoon.

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 importance of clean water and proper disposal of hazardous waste. 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), Greater Saskatoon Catholic and Public Schools to promote the Yellow Fish Road program. Meewasin and the Girl Guides made kits available. A CD and sheet music of the Yellow Fish Road song were created and distributed to all schools. More than 500 Girl Guides and families painted all of the storm sewers and hung Yellow Fish Road hangers in the City Park community of Saskatoon.

Peggy McKercher Conservation Area

The site is named in honour of Peggy McKercher, Meewasin's first board chair. Peggy became the chair of the Meewasin board in 1979 and remained in that position until 1995. Her leadership skills in its formative years established Meewasin as an award winning conservation organization.

Meewasin dedicated the Peggy McKercher Conservation Area September 15, 2009. Meewasin purchased the property in 2007 from the Episcopal Corporation of Saskatoon (Saskatoon Catholic Diocese). It features 22.8 acres of land on the east bank of the South Saskatchewan River featuring one km of river valley within city limits. Meewasin has been working to clean up the site. With it, we have added 600 m of walking trails and a number of seating nodes. To come will be interpretive signs that will tell the story of the site's rich history. In the future the site will link this section of the valley to more than 60 km of Meewasin Trail.

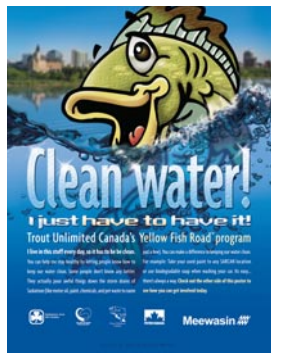
Partners FOR Sask River Basin (PFSRB)

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 Saskatchewan River Basin. The mission of PFSRB is to promote watershed sustainability through "awareness, linkages and stewardship" throughout the Saskatchewan River Basin.

In June 2009 the PFSRB launched "From the Mountains to the Sea – the State of the Saskatchewan River Basin Report". This is the first comprehensive examination of the entire basin as a whole. The report highlights the Saskatchewan River Basin, sub basins, Lake Winnipeg and key threats and vulnerabilities to the basin as a whole. Copies of the report can be found online at www.saskriverbasin.ca

Current initiatives include the following:

- Distribution of outdoor field day programs, **Click on Climate**, teaches youth about the interactions between climate change and ecosystems. **Water Watchdog** teaches about water testing.
- **From the Mountains to the Sea** state of the Saskatchewan River Basin Report was completed in June 2009. It highlights basin-wide information and threats and vulnerabilities.
- **Envirothon** – PFSRB partners with the Saskatchewan Forestry Association and Agriculture in the Classroom to help put on the Saskatchewan Envirothon. High schools from Saskatoon and area



compete, testing their knowledge in forestry, aquatics, wildlife, soils and a current environmental theme.

- **Agrium Caring for Our Watersheds.** PFSRB partnered with Agrium to deliver a competition that asks students, "What can you do to improve your watershed?" Through a written proposal and then a final top ten presentation, students compete for \$6500 in cash prizes;
- **Sustainable Water & Sustainable Energy Conference.** In fall 2009, PFSRB partnered with the Saskatchewan CWRA branch to put on this conference in Saskatoon.

Top: Meewasin 500 Club "A Dollar A Day for the MVA". Retiring Chair of the Meewasin 500 Club John Brockelbank hosts the wrap up luncheon. **BRLR:** John Brockelbank, Ina Brockelbank, Eric Cline, Linda Boyle, Inez Mascho, Ewen Coxworth **FRLR:** Alan Blakeney, Ann Coxworth. November 3, 2009, Rembrandt Room, Senator Hotel

Above : Yellow Fish Road Brochure

Above : Peggy McKercher Conservation Area Dedication; Chair Jack Vicq, Peggy McKercher, CEO Susan Lamb; September 15, 2009



Above: 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% (\$1,446,615) of its revenue for 2009/2010 came from non-statutory sources to support its conservation development and education initiatives. Some reasons to support Meewasin include the following:

- 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;
- For the local tax payer, Meewasin has done an excellent job of leveraging funds. The City of Saskatoon's annual statutory contribution to Meewasin represents only 16% of Meewasin's total funding over 30 years. The remaining 84% of the money has come from provincial funding, donations and special project grants.
- 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 Bisbane, Australia.

Riverfront Campaign

With the support of Cameco, Meewasin undertook a Fundraising Feasibility Study to survey a select group of Saskatoon leaders, Meewasin donors, prospects, volunteers and supporters about plans to conduct a capital campaign for the new Meewasin Interpretive Centre. The primary intent of the study was to seek open responses into what conditions would need to exist for them to give their support to a fundraising campaign for a new centre.

Highlights of the study were as follows:

- A majority of interviewees were previously aware of Meewasin's plans for a new interpretive centre. 50% said they were aware. 40.6 % said they were somewhat aware.
- A majority of interviewees (63.6%) believed a campaign goal of \$4.5 million was achievable.
- The top issues cited by interviewees as obstacles to the campaign's success were economy (52%) and other fund raising campaigns (44%).
- 61.5 % of interviewees said they would be willing to support programs at a new centre, 61.5% said displays, 7.7% said capital.

Cameco Riverfront Campaign Windup

The Cameco Riverfront Campaign was successful in raising more than \$2 million for the Riverfront at River Landing Phase I. On behalf of the Campaign Committee, Dr. Don Somers, Chair of the Cameco Riverfront Campaign Committee, invited the Meewasin board and campaign supporters to the Cameco Riverfront Campaign windup, Thursday, March 5, 2009 at the Remai Arts Centre. Thank you to committee members Don Somers, Lise deMoissac, Robin Chapman, Betty-Anne Stevenson and Patricia Roe for their continued support.

SaskEnergy Beaver Room

Meewasin is indebted to SaskEnergy who committed \$100,000 over three years to rebuild the Beaver Creek Conservation Area Beaver Room. The plan for a new Beaver Room includes interactive elements that create a more complete understanding and appreciation for the adaptations and life-cycle of the beaver.

Raisers Edge Fundraising Software

Several staff members of Meewasin have been training on a new donations/donor management system. The project will take the better part of a year to transfer data and implement. We plan to have it up and running completely in 2010.

Meewasin Fund Development New Volunteer Chair

The Meewasin Fund Development Committee represents all the volunteer fundraising efforts of Meewasin. Thank you to Dr. Don Somers for agreeing to become the new chair of the Meewasin Fund Development Committee with ongoing responsibility for such programs as the Direct Mailer, 500 Club, Plant-A-Tree, Buy-A-Bench, Corporate Support and Planned Giving.

Plant-A-Tree Commemoration

Meewasin held its 23rd Plant-A-Tree Commemoration and Dedication Ceremony June 20, 2009 at the Galleria, Innovation Place. More than 450 attended. The Saskatoon Lions Band, under the direction of Sharon Bates, and the Ecole Victoria School Choir, under the direction of Jody Hobday-Kusch, entertained. Guest speakers included Master of Ceremonies Don Somers; the Honourable Gordon Barnhart, Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan; Wendy & Alex Campbell (representing donors); John Cross (representing recipients); and Meewasin CEO Susan Lamb. Since 1988, Meewasin has planted 3,518 trees and shrubs in the valley that have been sponsored by individual donors and groups. Families from across Canada and into the U.S.A. and Europe use the Meewasin Plant-A-Tree Commemoration to come together as a family to pay their respects and give thanks for loved ones and their heritage.

Otter Tales of Saskatchewan

This past spring of 2010, Meewasin launched a fund raising book titled "Otter Tales of Saskatchewan", a sequel to Doug Porteous' Gopher Tales of Saskatchewan with Porteous and Grummett (Marvel Superman

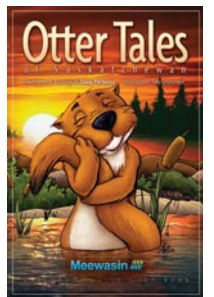
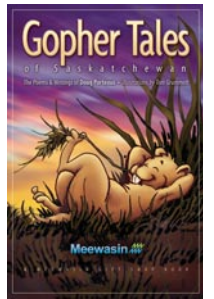
Comics) again donating their work. Its production costs were covered by donation prior to printing. Otter Tales of Saskatchewan may be purchased from the Meewasin Gift Shop for \$11.95. All revenues go to the Meewasin Endowment Fund in trust with the Saskatoon Community Foundation.

Association of Saskatchewan Urban Parks & Conservation Agencies (ASUPCA) Carbon Offset Program

ASUPCA member organizations consisting of seven urban parks and conservation areas in Saskatchewan, making up 60% of the population of the province, are working together to offer a voluntary carbon offset program for individuals and organizations. An individual or organization can reduce its carbon footprint (total greenhouse gas emission) by voluntarily donating to ASUPCA's carbon offset program. Meewasin is taking the lead in setting up the program for ASUPCA, developing a carbon offset calculator, a web site, a marketing program, and a payment system. We are hoping that individuals as well as major public and private organizations will use the site to offset travel.

The Wes Bolstad Fund

About 30 years ago, Wes Bolstad's love for nature and his administrative experience were channelled into service to Meewasin when then President of the University of Saskatchewan Leo Kristjanson called to ask Wes if he would "help get Meewasin going". On October 1, 1979, Wes became the first executive director of the Meewasin Valley Authority, beginning his term in a tiny campus office at the University of Saskatchewan. Wes saw Meewasin through its formative years, launching it on its path to becoming a leading conservation organization. Wes brought a sincere ethic of public service to Meewasin. He worked to ensure that Meewasin was responsive to the community and accessible to everyone. Wes retired in 1988 and passed away in 2008. Meewasin with donor help started a Wes Bolstad Fund at the Saskatoon Community Foundation to recognize his efforts. All proceeds to go Meewasin..



Top: "Gopher Tales", November 2007

Second from top: "Otter Tales", March 2010

Second from bottom: Association of Saskatchewan Urban Parks & Conservation Agencies logo

Bottom: Wes Bolstad

2009/2010 Meewasin Donors (over \$1000)

Cameco Corporation
George Forsyth
623183 Saskatchewan Ltd. & Willowridge Developments Ltd.
SaskPower Corporation
Affinity Credit Union
SaskTel
Saskatoon Community Foundation
Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon
Realty Executives Saskatoon
The Samuel & Saidye Bronfman Family Foundation
Dr. Ivan Jen & Dr. Suzanne Yip
The EILB Foundation
Saskatoon Kiwanis Club Foundation
Saskatchewan Indian & Gaming Authority
Michael Egnatoff
Kiwanis Club of Saskatoon
Dakota Dunes Community Development Corp.
West Wind Aviation Inc.
TD Friends of the Environment
RBC Foundation
Janet & Arthur Postle
PIC Investment Group Inc.
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John Scharf
Ronald & Muriel Bremner
Areva
Rotary Club of Saskatoon
Kenneth Pontikes & Darlene Bessey
Our Lady of the Prairies Foundation
Terri Lemke
TCU Financial Group
Bridge City Cosmopolitan Club
Petro-Canada
Rotary Club of Saskatoon Nutana
Gwen & Guy Charman
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Saskatchewan Parks & Recreation
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Andrew P. Belyk
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Saskatchewan Blue Cross
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Robert & Rita Mirwald
Rotary Club of Saskatoon Meewasin
Edward & Marilyn Underhill

Jack & Sylvia Vicq
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Christopher Kent
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Gerald & Bettina Grandey
Saskatoon Nature Society Inc.
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Lucille Henderson
Stan Macdonald
Henrietta Gopen
Catterall & Wright
Mark Folstad
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Acklands Grainger – The Rent It Store
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Homestead Ice Cream

In-Kind Donations

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George Nicholson Franko & Associates
Stantec
John E. Brockelbank
Mona Boyle
James S. Korpan
Kiwanis Club of Saskatoon
Houghton Boston
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Heritage Canada Foundation
Province of Saskatchewan
Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation
Tree Canada
Environment Canada
South Sask River Watershed Stewards Inc.
Canadian Wildlife Services
Conseil de la Cooperation de la Sask
SEIMA
Service Canada
Coalition of Canadian Trails Org.
Saskatchewan Trails Association
Parkland Trans Canada Trail Association
Sask Ministry of Environment
Environment Canada EcoAction
Canada Western Economic Diversification
Sask Ministry of Municipal Affairs
City of Saskatoon

Service Clubs

Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon
Saskatoon Kiwanis Club Foundation
Kiwanis Club of Saskatoon
Rotary Club of Saskatoon
Rotary Club of Saskatoon Meewasin
Rotary Club of Saskatoon Nutana
Rotary Club of Saskatoon North
Rotary Club of Saskatoon Riverside
Bridge City Cosmopolitan Club
Saskatoon Cosmopolitan Club
Saskatoon Cosmopolitan Couples Club

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News Talk 650
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The Bull 82.8
CJWW 600
Magic 98.3
Global Saskatoon
CTV
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