

Annual Report 2011-2012
Celebrating the Meewasin Trail



Meewasin 



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 river valley

Front Cover:

Cameco Family Day Skating Party, February 2012.

Other annual report photos courtesy of Meewasin employees:

Jynell Cross, Charles Dunlap, Amanda Janzen, Brenda Kramarchuk, Doug Porteous, Lennox Saunders and Nola Stein.

Message from the Chair and CEO

The StarPhoenix series, “*52 Reasons to Love Saskatoon*”, says a lot about what we value. As Chair and CEO of the Meewasin Valley Authority (Meewasin), it was good to see much of Meewasin on the list: the Meewasin Valley Trail, Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @ PotashCorp Plaza, the weir, Cranberry Flats, and Wanuskewin Heritage Park. By my count, the Meewasin Valley directly supports 23 out of the “*52 Reasons to Love Saskatoon*”, including the many festivals, galleries, markets, sites and events that operate along the Valley.

The importance of the valley in this series is consistent with surveys we have carried out. We found 88% think Meewasin contributes to quality of life in Saskatoon; 84% think Meewasin helps to attract visitors to the region; and 84% think Meewasin is a good investment of tax dollars. At last 75% of residents use Meewasin Valley facilities in a given year. Last year we counted 318,000 users on the lower trail at River Landing alone. We estimate 900,000 user trips on the trails each year and more than 60,000 people per year participate in environmental education programs, including those at the Beaver Creek Conservation Area and the Meewasin Valley Centre.

Meewasin was incorporated in 1979 under The Meewasin Valley Authority Act. It is a partnership between the City of Saskatoon, the Government of Saskatchewan, and the University of Saskatchewan, each of which appoints four directors to the board, owns land in the Meewasin conservation zone, and provides annual funding. Meewasin jurisdiction is centred in Saskatoon and runs approximately 60 km along the valley from Pike Lake to Clarke’s Crossing. The partners believed a single agency, like Meewasin, could bring

focus to river valley work and accomplish more on their behalf.

The Meewasin Valley is Saskatoon’s commons or gathering place – both literally and in our psyche. Of course this phenomenon pre-existed Meewasin and explains why the Authority was created. As author Wallace Stegner said in *Wolf Willow*, it is in the natural prairie, sandbar or woodland that Saskatchewan people find the “geography of hope”. The Meewasin Valley contributes to Saskatoon’s ability to be a “creative city”, a “sustainable city”, and a healthy city.

Some of our premier developments in the past three years include Riverfront at River Landing, Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @ PotashCorp Plaza, and additions to the 60 km of Meewasin Valley Trails.

Our participating partners should get credit for their commitment to Meewasin and the work we do. This core support has enabled Meewasin to leverage very significant volunteer contributions, private donations, and federal support. Even more important, the City of Saskatoon maintains and operates the riverbank parks and trails when development is complete.

Where do we go from here? Saskatoon is experiencing significant economic activity and population growth, receiving world attention, and Meewasin-while continuing to perform well-has gradually lost its purchasing power. The Meewasin project is worth reemphasizing as Saskatoon and Saskatchewan face many important decisions.

Trail development should keep pace with our growing city. As financial resources are available, Meewasin will create a trail loop by connecting trails on both banks to the new south bridge, extend trails to new neighbourhoods in the northeast, and complete trails in the northwest. In partnership with the Trans Canada Trail, we have planned trail connections to Wanuskewin Heritage Park and Whitecap Dakota First Nation. Plans



Chair, Jack Vicq



Darwin Anderson



Mayor Don Atchison



Charlie Clark*



Bev Dubois



Randy Fernets



Marion Ghiglione



Darren Hill*



Mairin Loewen



Peter MacKinnon



Brent Martian



Rob Norris*



Glen Penner



Colin Tennent



Gordon Wyant



CEO, Susan Lamb

Meewasin Board of Directors

* retiring board member

Meewasin thanks retiring board members Charlie Clark, Darren Hill and the Hon. Rob Norris, and welcomes new board members Gordon Wyant, Bev Dubois and Mairin Loewen.

to enhance the public value of important natural areas like the Northeast Swale are being developed.

Most of all, we must keep the existing much-loved areas of the valley at a high standard.

What we accomplish in the next five years will depend on the continued generosity of individuals and corporations, and on the level of support Meewasin receives from the three participating parties. The statutory support from our partners has not kept pace with inflation or the growth of Saskatoon. Our statutory funding comes from your taxes paid to municipal and provincial governments. Taking inflation into account, annual core government funding to Meewasin has decreased from the equivalent of \$33 per Saskatoon resident in 1980 to \$9 per resident in 2011. This does not take into account the contribution made by the City of Saskatoon to the maintenance and operation of the trails and riverbank parks.

Along with donations, tax revenues do provide the Meewasin facilities that most Saskatoon citizens enjoy. We hope you will join us in our desire to see Meewasin grow with Saskatoon and Saskatchewan.

** A similar message was originally published in the Saskatoon Star Phoenix Viewpoint (February 24, 2012).*

Meewasin Committees

Public ownership in decision-making

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

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 were Moir Haug, Henry Klypak, Jim McEwen, Elisabeth Miller, Alan Otterbein, Rory Piclyk, Beatrice Regnier, Anna Ringstrom, Mitch Strocen, Doug Tastad, Terry Werbovetski and Meewasin rep Mike Velonas.

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 were Darwin Anderson, Peter Goode, Margaret Hendry, Tammy Knuttila, Peggy Sarjeant, Janine Shadick, Gary Wobeser and Meewasin rep Mike Velonas.

Design Advisory

The Design Advisory Committee assists the Meewasin board in its work to provide professional and unbiased recommendations regarding the acceptability of proposed improvements within the Meewasin Valley. Committee members were Jyhling Lee, Brent Martian, Alan Otterbein, John Penne, Anna Ringstrom, Genevieve Russell, Ryan Walker and Meewasin rep Lloyd Isaak.

Education Advisory

The Education Advisory Committee advises the Meewasin board on policy development in education. Committee members were Max Abraham, Brendan Bitz, Cindy Coffin, Corinne Dalick, Melanie Elliott, Marion Ghiglione, Brenda Green, Nancy Johnson, Lis Mack, Maurice Postnikoff and Meewasin rep Doug Porteous.

Meewasin Jurisdiction

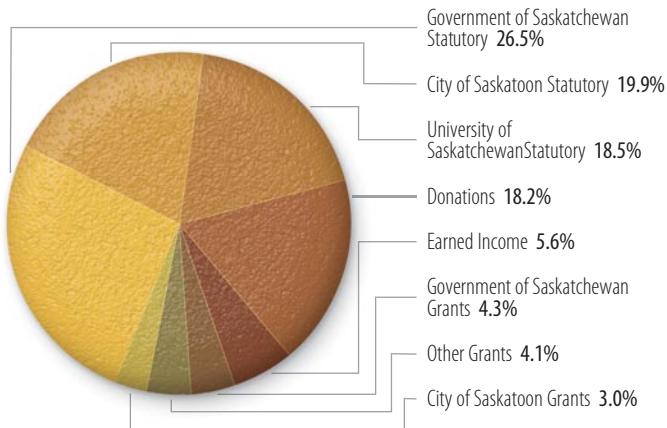
Meewasin centres in Saskatoon and runs approximately 60 km along the river valley through Saskatoon and Corman park from Pike Lake in the southwest to Clarke's Crossing in the northeast. It encompasses conservation areas, parks, museums, interpretive centres, the university lands, canoe launches, community links and over 60 km of Meewasin Trail. Including the South Saskatchewan River there are more than 40 square kilometres (25 square miles) in the conservation zone.

What Is Meewasin

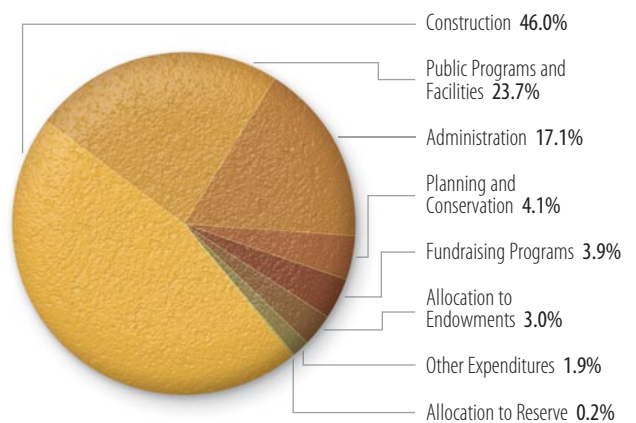
Created in 1979 by an Act of the Province of Saskatchewan, Meewasin is a conservation agency dedicated to conserving the cultural and natural resources of the South Saskatchewan River Valley. It is the means by which the three participating parties (the City of Saskatoon, the University of Saskatchewan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

Meewasin Financial Highlights as of March 31, 2012

Revenues (All Funds) \$3,429,821



Expenditures and Allocations (All Funds) \$3,429,821



The Meewasin Endowment Fund is managed by the Saskatoon Community Foundation and as of December 31, 2011 stands at \$516,136, the Wes Bolstad Endowment Fund at \$14,405, both totaling \$530,541. Audited financial statements are available upon request.



Above: Crocus.

Conservation Development and Education Initiatives

Each year Meewasin planning is guided by 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*.

Resource Conservation

Planning

The Meewasin mandate is to ensure a healthy and vibrant river valley for now 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.

Development Review

Meewasin is empowered by the *MVA Act* to coordinate or control the use of development, conservation, maintenance and improvement of land development within the Conservation Zone. It is guided by a statutory committee of professional planners, architects, landscape architects, engineers and geological engineers. In the 2011/2012 fiscal year Meewasin reviewed 12 proposed improvements to the river valley.

Meewasin Development Review is complementary to other environmental or heritage review-permitting processes. It focuses on the following parameters:

- Consistency with the Meewasin Development Plan;
- Conservation, preservation and interpretation of significant natural habitat;
- Protection of slope stability and good drainage practices;
- Design of aesthetics complementary to the natural setting of the river valley;
- Provision for public access.

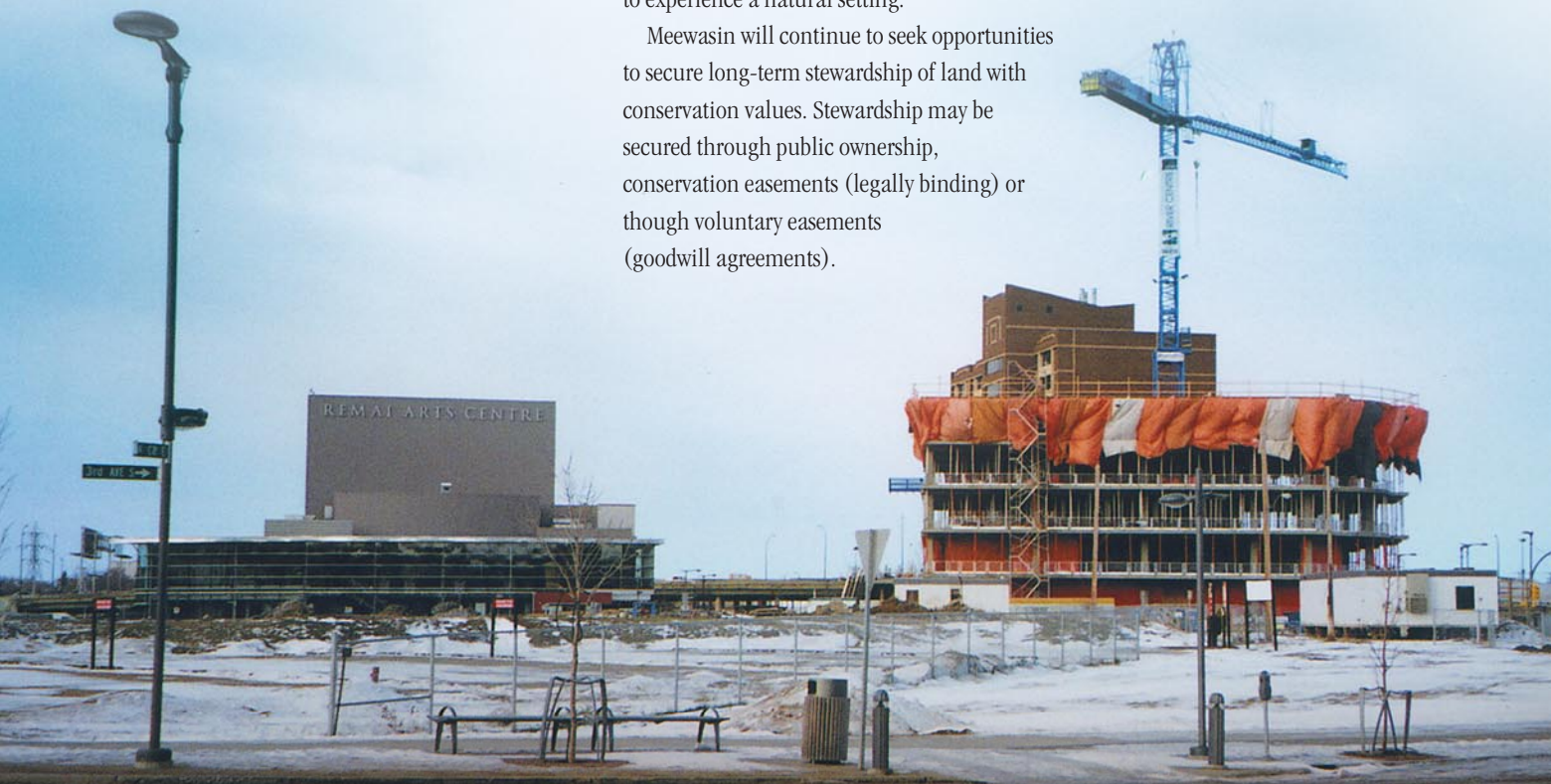
Securing Lands of Interest

The original concept for Meewasin was to create a 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 though voluntary easements (goodwill agreements).

Below: River Landing:

Meewasin approval is required for any development in the conservation zone exceeding \$25,000.



Below: Northeast Swale Project Leader Louise Jones (left) and Meewasin CEO Susan Lamb (middle) at Northeast Swale EcoBlitz, May 2011.



Above: Volunteer steward plants at Beaver Creek Conservation Area.

Enhancing Biodiversity

Meewasin strives to protect and enhance biodiversity in the Meewasin Valley through grazing, prescribed controlled burns, removal of exotic species and noxious weeds, seed collection and planting of native grass and wildflowers and clean-ups. Many groups including the Saskatoon Nature Society and Ducks Unlimited assist with conservation work.

EcoAction Support for the Northeast Swale

In 2009 the Environment Canada EcoAction program provided Meewasin with funds to improve the Northeast Swale over a two-year period. It is a relatively natural 225-hectare area, linked to the South Saskatchewan River Valley, quickly being surrounded by urban development. With the funds and with the help of volunteers, Meewasin undertook a program of habitat improvement, including:

- a disturbance regime to favour native species and control shrub and exotic species encroachment into grasslands by grazing and controlled burns;

- removal of non-native species,
- seed and plant native species in damaged zones and road right-of-ways;
- restoration of wetland;
- clean-up of illegal dumps;
- restriction of all-terrain vehicle access;
- developing interpretive signage;
- posting wildlife corridors and constructing wildlife-friendly fencing;
- implementing a communications strategy to enlist residents and contractors working on adjacent neighbourhood development;
- implementation of an EcoBlitz in May at the Northeast Swale to increase knowledge about the resources and to advocate for protection and active management of its biology;
- creating a documentary of the EcoBlitz for public educational purposes.

Below: Volunteers study water at the Meewasin Northeast Swale EcoBlitz, May 2011.



Valley Stewardship

Volunteers come as part of a group with their own supervisor to work with our valley stewards. As part of the Meewasin commitment to promoting biodiversity within the valley, several volunteer groups continued to assist with planting, seed collection and tree wrapping at such sites as Beaver Creek Conservation Area, Crocus Prairie, Cranberry Flats and Meewasin Park. At Beaver Creek alone volunteers hand-planted a 30-acre field with native grasses and more than 10,000 wild flowers.

Kentucky Blue Grass

Kentucky Blue Grass is an ongoing concern. We removed about 300 patches from Beaver Creek and the Northeast Swale. These patches will be hand-planted by volunteers this year with plugs grown from local wild harvested seed.

European Buckthorn

The European Buckthorn control project reached the 600,000 treated stem milestone. The intent is to curtail seed production to allow native trees and shrubs to reestablish. The future of the valley forest depends on this project.

River Users Meetings

Eighteen representatives from river users groups met May 11, 2011, to discuss a number of initiatives affecting the river and river access throughout the 2011 season. Topics covered included the increase of a police presence on the river with the support of Fire and Protective Services and the Ministry of the Environment, riverbank parks master planning, updates on the status of the Traffic Bridge, water intake and pipeline crossing, South Bridge crossing, and river-flow forecast, as well as the need for better signage. The group developed a calendar of events.

Design and Development

The focus of the Design & Development this past fiscal year was to:

- complete the all accessible trail in Kiwanis Memorial Park connecting Spadina Crescent to the Meewasin Trail;
- complete River Landing I River Garden and Water Feature;
- complete River Landing II connecting Avenue B and Spadina Crescent to the Meewasin Trail including soft landscaping, retaining walls, site lighting and site furnishings;
- complete the Water Treatment Plant Trail including soft landscaping and signage;
- build a new beaver pond interpretive room at Beaver Creek Conservation Area including a web cam and accessibility improvements to the centre;
- construct accessible trail segments at Beaver Creek Conservation Area;

Top: Cyclist rides the Northwest Trail extension from White Swan Drive to Adilman Drive, August 2011.

Bottom: Trail connecting Spadina Crescent and the Meewasin Trail opens summer 2011.





Above: Art and Janet Postle walk the Northwest Trail.

Below: River Landing II.

- improve the plantings at the Thompson Belvedere for aesthetics and safety;
- extend the primary Meewasin Trail in the northwest;
- install trail maps and site furnishings throughout the Meewasin Trail;
- renovate the Cosmopolitan Park interpretive node;
- develop the Saskatoon Road Runners Association Seating Node on the Meewasin Trail near the Diefenbaker Centre;
- begin refurbishing of the old Meewasin rink shelter recycled to Beaver Creek Conservation Area to be used for year-round programming including cross-country skiing.

In addition Meewasin made repairs to the Bowerman House and Patterson Gardens, designed and installed the Bessborough Garden gate and restored the Kinsmen Fishing Platform as well as the east riverbank by the 25th Street Bridge. Grade 4 students planted seeds at the Meewasin nursery, and, with St. Joseph High School, continued to naturalize the St. Joseph High School grounds.

Kinsmen Fishing Platform Award

Meewasin was the recipient of the Saskatchewan Parks & Recreation Cecil Nobes Facility Award of Excellence 2011 for the construction of the Kinsmen Fishing Platform. The award is presented annually to a municipal organization for the construction of a facility where the unique or outstanding design contributes to the overall efficiency or accessibility of the facility operation component.



Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @ PotashCorp Plaza

The doors of the new facility opened to the public December 17th, 2011.

Four-year-old Liam Finn was our first official user of the season. Despite losing five days due to extreme weather, the rink was in operation for 74 days and saw approximately 30,000 users. This usage was a new high, 10,000 more than the previous year. PotashCorp Winter Shines Festival Skating Party in January and the Cameco Family Day Skating Party in February were two popular events.

Local and out of country users were in abundance again this season. One lady from Japan described her first time skating as “painful for my feet but good, good fun”. Attendants took bookings from many community, church and local organizations, the U of S Language Centre, Ecology Camp and schools in Saskatoon. The mild temperatures this past winter saw many days when users would skate all hours, well after the facility had closed for the evening.

Thank you to the DELTA Bessborough, City of Saskatoon and Tim Horton's for their support. And thank you to PotashCorp and Cameco for sponsoring the two skating parties. The rink program is well recognized and is a popular spot for skaters of all ages. Next season we hope to increase our ice surface to accommodate the higher numbers.

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 organizations that have similar goals. Meewasin accomplishes this through our two interpretive centres, the Meewasin Valley Centre and Beaver Creek Conservation Area, off-site programs, publications, audio-visual resources, a web site (www.meewasin.com), media commercials, public service announcements and appearances at special functions.



Top: Meewasin Trail Ambassadors Ron Brown and Wayne Dyck walk the Kinsmen Fishing Platform Trail.

Middle: Skaters from around the world enjoy the open air at the Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @PotashCorp Plaza.

Bottom: Meewasin Trail user at the weir water fountain.



Top: Meewasin Senior Interpreter Andrew Whiting (piper) has a chance encounter with a drummer on Meewasin Trail, June 2011.



Bottom: Girl Guides of Canada Walk the Meewasin Trail, September 2011.

The Meewasin Valley Centre (MVC)

The Meewasin Valley 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 2011-12, the centre enjoyed 20,496 visitors who toured the facility, sought information or participated in the interpretive programs ranging from the annual Founder's Day Celebrations to the River Cinemas on the August and September long weekends.

The MVC was also responsible for the organization and delivery of the annual Meewasin-Affinity Credit Union Clean-up of the river valley which involved 24,681 participants in 2011.

The staff supported other organizations throughout the city including the Heritage Festival of Saskatoon, the Marr Residence Management Team, the Saskatoon Heritage Society, Doors Open Saskatoon, the

Saskatchewan Marathon and the Saskatoon CERT (Community, Experiences, Resources and Tours) organization.

The MVC continued to provide interpretive programs to all Grade 3 students in Saskatoon. Participation totaled 2,013 students from the Saskatoon public, Catholic and regional schools. 228 youth enrolled in the school break programs. The art gallery continued to host bi-monthly shows by local artists and photographers. The gift shop provided unique gift ideas for those looking for something naturally or culturally special. Including visitation to the centre of 20,496 and the clean-up campaign registrations of 24,681, the Meewasin Valley Centre totaled 45,177 participants in its programs.

Beaver Creek Conservation Area (BCCA)

BCCA is where a prairie creek meets a prairie river. It is a microcosm of the Meewasin Valley and contains one of the few uncultivated short grass prairie sites in Saskatchewan. The beavers that live there play an important role in keeping the creek's habitats full of

Below: Meewasin canoe guides Gillian Smith and Michael Berry launch in high water at Fred Heal Canoe Launch, May 2011.



wildlife. Beavers build dams that flood water upstream, creating beaver ponds. Many plants and animals make their homes in these sheltered ponds. An interpretive centre and staff provide opportunities to discover nature during the four seasons along a selection of nature trails.

BCCA continued to provide interpretive programs to Grade 5 students in 2011/12 from Saskatoon schools totaling 2,769 students. General public visitation totals showed 14,691 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 interpretive centre totaled 17,343 visitors.

SaskEnergy Beaver Pond

One of the new displays at the centre is the SaskEnergy Beaver Pond room. Contractors completed the work over the winter. It includes the beaver pond display, wheel-chair lift to the display and web-cam in the lobby area. The more than \$100,000 project includes graphic illustrations of the beavers' habitat including an educational audio program. The doors of the interpretive centre have been fitted with automatic door openers. An interpretive visitor-controlled camera has been installed sitting atop the building and is able to rotate 360 degrees sending images to a monitor in the centre's lobby and to a recorder. Our plan is to link these images to our Meewasin web-site. Thank you to SaskEnergy, TD Friends of the Environment, Ryan and Kara Brownlee and the Government of Saskatchewan Community Initiatives Fund for supporting this SaskEnergy Beaver Pond project.

Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS)

Founded in 1989, the Institute for Bird Populations, based in Marin County, California, is a non-profit organization dedicated to studying bird populations providing land managers with information needed to better manage those populations.

Meewasin's Beaver Creek Conservation Area has participated in MAPS for the past five years, helping to



Above: Interpretive staff and volunteer record vitals and band Yellow Warbler, summer 2011.

monitor birds during the breeding season to better understand abundance, distribution and ecology of the bird population. Data come from more than 500 participating members throughout Canada, Mexico and the continental United States. BCCA is one of three stations in Saskatchewan.

What we have found at BCCA is that the total number of birds captured between 2007 and 2011 has resulted in 36 species of both migratory and year-round, with the total number dropping from 200 to 127. Why this is happening we do not know, but suspect it has to do with environmental changes. The Veery has declined significantly from 16 captured and released in 2007 to one captured and released in 2011. Of 36 species banded, only two are year-round residents telling us that BCCA is an important destination for migratory birds.

The BCCA MAPS program is a cooperative effort of Meewasin and its volunteers.

Conservation Award

Greg Fenty is the recipient of the Meewasin Conservation Award 2011 presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to conserving the heritage resources of the Meewasin Valley. Born, raised and educated in Saskatoon, Greg has played a significant role in conserving the resources of



Bottom: Chair Jack Vicq presents Meewasin Conservation Award to 2011 recipient Greg Fenty.

the Meewasin Valley, advising on their conservation and sensitive development, and promoting them for educational and recreational use. Married with one child, Greg is an excellent choice for this year's Conservation Award.

Pelican Watch

The first pelican to touch down between the CP Bridge and the weir did so Friday April 14th, 2011 at 12:29 pm. Congratulations to Samantha Rogers of Lester B. Pearson School and Blake Ferster of Saskatoon Christian School whose guesses of 12:30 pm were the closest to the 12:29 pm official arrival time.

This past year was the 16th year of the Meewasin Pelican Watch Contest. Of the 17 prize packages, 10 were won by Saskatoon and area elementary school students and seven by Saskatoon and area adults. Prizes were courtesy of Realty Executives Saskatoon, the White Pelican Bed & Breakfast, Prince Albert Glass Artisans, the Pelican Market, Don's Photo Shop, Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Saskatchewan, Homestead



Ice Cream, Rotary International Peace Plaza, and Meewasin.

To learn more about the pelican, visit the Meewasin web site at www.meewasin.com.

Yellow Fish Road

Since 1999, 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 the proper disposal of hazardous waste. The program reinforces with everyone that what goes into the storm sewers flows directly into the river. Meewasin, the Girl Guides of Canada (Saskatoon), Brightwater and Trout Unlimited Canada with the support of the City of Saskatoon have partnered to promote the program in Saskatoon and area since 1994. The spring of 2011 saw the Guides paint the storm sewers of Saskatoon's Lawson Heights and River Heights communities. And in September 2011 the Guides painted 65 storm drains, handing out 400 door hangers from Sask Crescent East (along Rotary Park) to 9th Street East, and from Broadway Avenue to Sask Crescent West.

Partners FOR Sask River Basin (PFSRB)

Founded in 1993 by Meewasin, the national award winning PFSRB is a nonprofit organization 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. PFSRB is governed by a board of directors with members from the three Prairie Provinces under the direction of Chair Dr. Ray Fast. Meewasin acts as managing partner.

PFSRB is completing a new program for youth called Sammy the Sturgeon Fish Habitat. It will inform youth about healthy fish habitat and what they can do to protect it.

PFSRB works together with Agrium Inc. to deliver Caring for our Watersheds, a competition for Grades 7-12 students in Saskatoon and area that asks: "What can you do to protect your watershed?" Through a written



proposal and then a final top ten oral presentation, students compete for \$6,000 in cash prizes.

PFSRB partners with the Saskatchewan Forestry Association and Agriculture in the Classroom to deliver the Saskatchewan Envirothon. High schools from Saskatchewan compete, testing their knowledge in forestry, aquatics, wildlife, soils and a changing environmental theme. The winner proceeds on to compete in the Canon International Envirothon against eight other Canadian and 44 American teams. The 2012 Canon International Envirothon will be held in Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Top: Pelican Watch Awards News Conference, Realty Executive Boardwalk at the weir, June 2011.

Bottom: Meewasin Trail user reads Saskatchewan River Basin interpretive signage.

Summer Students

May through August, Meewasin had the support of 18 summer students, doubling the Meewasin work force. They worked in a variety of departments including construction, horticulture, conservation, stewardship, interpretive canoe tours, and Partners FOR Sask River Basin. As well as bringing a youthful enthusiasm they were a talented group who brought new ideas, knowledge and skills. Thank you to Young Canada Works, the SEIMA Green Team and canoe specialists Howard Sproat and Wayne Dyck for supporting the Meewasin summer student program.

Fund Development

Meewasin is a registered charity. Approximately 35% of its revenue for 2011/12 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 supports the work of Meewasin and wants it to continue;
- For the local taxpayer, Meewasin has done an

excellent job in leveraging funds. The City of Saskatoon's annual statutory contribution to Meewasin represents only 16% of Meewasin's total funding over 32 years. The remaining 84% has come from provincial and university funding donations and special project grants;

- The Meewasin 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 health and enjoyment;
- Meewasin has been recognized internationally on numerous occasions. In 2006, for the second time, Meewasin was one of four finalists for the prestigious Thiess Riverprize awarded annually in Brisbane, Australia.

Rotary International Peace Plaza

In the past two years Meewasin partnered with the Rotary Club of Saskatoon to bring greater public awareness to the Rotary International Peace Plaza by recognizing in the bricks three Peace Prize recipients: Mother Teresa, Lester B. Pearson, and this past year of 2011, Desmond Tutu.

Plant-A-Tree Commemoration

Meewasin's 25th Plant-A-Tree Dedication Ceremony was held in June.

Guest speakers were His Honour Dr. Gordon Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, Susan Lamb

Below: Long time Meewasin supporters Doug and Lynne Davies hold their last Homestead Ice Cream Party, fall 2011.





CEO of Meewasin, and Bill Christensen, President Rotary Club of Saskatoon Nutana, with entertainment by the Saskatoon Children's Choir Preparatory Choir

The Meewasin Plant-A-Tree Dedication celebrated several successful fund-raising activities at Meewasin for the purpose of greening the river valley for public access. Donations were made for a number of reasons: weddings, graduation, births, anniversaries, birthdays and in memory of those who have touched our lives.

Since 1988, Meewasin has planted 3616 trees and shrubs in the valley that have been sponsored by individual donors and groups. Since 2000 there have been 140 donations to the Memorial Forest in Gabriel Dumont Park. The 2011 program included the sponsorship recognition of 63 trees and shrubs, 24 Meewasin Trail benches, 16 bricks at River Landing and 16 bricks at the Rotary International Peace Plaza including two red granite bricks sponsored by the Rotary

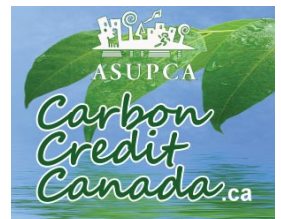
Club of Saskatoon Nutana commemorating two Nobel Peace Prize recipients, Mother Teresa and Lester B. Pearson.

Offset Your Carbon Footprint

Meewasin is a member of the Association of Saskatchewan Urban Parks & Conservation Agencies (ASUPCA). In September of 2010, ASUPCA kicked off a voluntary carbon offset program for the purpose of raising revenue to reforest its natural areas. The seven ASUPCA represent more than 60 % of the population of the province and have three things in common including an urban water body, an independent board and a locally developed master plan. They are a model of what communities can do to conserve their natural areas for now and future generations.

For more information and to try the carbon calculator, go to carboncreditcanada.ca

Above: Plant-A-Tree Commemoration, June 2011.



Above: Thank you to SaskEnergy, Affinity Credit Union, ASUPCA and Sask Lotteries for sponsoring the first year of the Carboncreditcanada.ca program.

2010/2011 Meewasin Donors (over \$1000)

623183 Saskatchewan Ltd. & Willowridge Development
Affinity Credit Union
Alliance Energy
Darwin Anderson
Areva Resources Canada Ltd.
G.N. & Janice Arnott
Arthur & Constance Balon
Andrew P. Belyk
Marjorie L. Benson, Estate of
Moir Birney
Anne Blakeney
Douglas & Merle Bocking
Muriel Bremner
Brainsport – The Running Store
Wayne & Ina Brownlee
Nola Buhr & James Romanow
Butler Byers Insurance Ltd.
Cameco Corporation
Alex & Wendy Campbell
Canadian Society of Association Executives
Gwen & Guy Charman
CIBC Western Region
Eric Cline & Pauline Melis
Ann & Ewen Coxworth
Creative Fire
Crosby Hanna & Associates
Dakota Dunes Community Development Corp.
Arlene Diduck
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Spencer Early
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