



## *Saskatoon Heritage Society* **Heritage Alert**

Number 1 2010-2011

November 2010

# CITY OF BRIDGES?



### **Rehabilitating the Traffic Bridge that built Saskatoon is both possible and economical.\***

The Mayor and City Council need to know **your** Saskatoon cherishes its heritage and needs to preserve its authentic history.

**Call, Email, or Write City Council TODAY!**

(306) 975-3240

[www.saskatoon.ca](http://www.saskatoon.ca)

(click on City Council)

\*For more Information contact the Saskatoon Heritage Society  
[www.saskatoonheritage.ca](http://www.saskatoonheritage.ca)

Special Thanks to our generous donors for helping make this urgent message possible

## Saskatoon Heritage: Priceless

Signature: Unique, genuine, authentic.  
Plain: Unidentifiable, boring.  
Replica: Copy, forgery.

We have been offered three options for the Traffic Bridge in Saskatoon. Costs and time-lines are similar, and, despite the absence of a full public report, the engineers say that any of the options would last 80 years with proper maintenance. So why would anyone choose anything but rehabilitation of the current bridge? Its story is integral to the founding history of Saskatoon.

In fact, the Traffic Bridge is the bridge that made our city. It is our signature bridge. It provides a sense of place and allows us to tell our story. That story inspires citizens and visitors alike. It is a source of pride in our heritage.

The Traffic Bridge was built in response to a move in 1905 by the Town of Saskatoon to amalgamate with the Villages of Nutana and Riversdale to form a city. Nutana ratepayers saw no benefit to amalgamation unless a traffic bridge was built to cross the river. Funding was approved at the first session of the provincial legislature in 1905 when Saskatchewan became a province.\* The resultant bridge was the foundation of Saskatoon as we know it – as you know it.

The Traffic Bridge has become an iconic community landmark, appearing in dozens of photos and several times in the City's own website.

Heritage is a non-renewable resource. Let's save ours. The decision is near. Don't wait. Contact your City Councillor and/or the Mayor now and tell them how you feel about the value of our Founding Bridge.

Saskatoon website: <http://www.saskatoon.ca>  
Heritage Society website:  
<http://www.saskatoonheritage.ca>

\* Information taken from the Statement of Heritage Significance

## President's Message

Dear SHS Members

There is one issue of primary importance for our Society right now. Our dear founding bridge, the Traffic Bridge, is at risk of being replaced with either a wider modern steel truss replica bridge or a new slab-style, concrete bridge. Each of these options including the option of rehabilitation the existing bridge will be built to the same 80 year standard. Each option is priced within the same range of somewhere between 24Mto 36M (with the rehabilitation choice being the least in that range). And, each option will use the existing piers since they are of good quality structurally.

At the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held on November 3, 2010 we learned that City Council will be presented with the Engineering Study and complementary report on its heritage significance and designation potentials (as it has no official designation yet!) on November 22<sup>nd</sup> during its regular City Council meeting. Council will then be making a decision about which option they best prefer.

To date the public has been split opinion-wise about whether it is "worth" rehabilitating the bridge. And so... this is where we come in as the SHS. We are asking you, our members, for help in lending support to the rehabilitation option known as Option #1.

Please mark down the **City Council Meeting date of November 22** in your calendar and consider doing one, two or all of the following actions+:

- 1) **Write a letter** to His Worship and Council in time to be received for the meeting (it needs to be received by City Clerks about a week in advance);
- 2) **Attend the City Council Meeting** in person on November 22<sup>nd</sup> to show your support and consider requesting to speak to Council at the meeting; and
- 3) **Invite your friends and family** to help out too by doing one or both of the above actions.

Imagine our city without it's founding bridge?

## President's Message (cont'd.)

I close by sharing a paragraph from the Statement of Heritage Significance written by Ross Herrington M.A., M.Sc, P. Eng. for the Provincial Government Heritage Resources Branch in 2008:

### **HERITAGE VALUE**

*The heritage value of the bridge lies in its status as a prominent feature of Saskatoon's urban landscape and an important community landmark. This structure was the first vehicle bridge over the South Saskatchewan River within Saskatchewan and was the catalyst in the creation of the Saskatoon Board of Trade and Saskatoon itself. In 1905, the Town of Saskatoon proposed to the Villages of Nutana and Riversdale that the three communities amalgamate to become a city. Nutana ratepayers insisted that a traffic bridge across the river be built as soon as possible otherwise they saw no benefit to amalgamation. Funding of the bridge was approved at the first session of the provincial legislature in 1905 when Saskatchewan became a province. Without this bridge, the city of Saskatoon could not have developed as quickly as it did.*

### **Congratulations To:**

**Claire Bullaro**, Longtime member of the Heritage Society and our current Treasurer, was recently inducted into the Saskatoon Council of Women Saskatoon Women's Hall of Fame. Claire has volunteered in many fields since her arrival in Saskatoon in 1971 but she is most well known through her continuous support of the Saskatoon Zoo Society and her more recent work in the restoration of the Superintendent's Residence at the Forestry Farm and her support of the Friends of the Forestry Farm House.

**Ken Achs**, Well known Saskatoon developer, who recently received the President's Award from the Architectural Heritage Society of Saskatchewan. For almost three decades, Achs has demonstrated by his

## Congratulations (cont'd)

actions and projects a real appreciation for buildings of historical significance." We are particularly indebted to Ken for his role in the preservation of the CPR Station, former Fire Hall No 3 in Nutana, the Hutchinson Block on 2nd Avenue and the former bank on the NW corner of 21st Street and 2nd Avenue.

### **Special Notes:**

#### **Mark Your Calendars**

Attend the SHS Annual Fundraising Dinner Sunday, March 4, 2011. Bessborough Hotel Speakers on Project for Public Spaces.

#### **Annual Meeting**

Watch for a report on the Annual Meeting and a list of your new board of directors in the next issue of the Alert.

### **Marr Residence Programs for November and December**

Thursday, November 25 7:30 p.m. **"I Knew Louis Riel"** performed by John Huston.

Who really won and what was really lost 125 years ago in the homes, the tents, the churches, the meeting rooms and on the battlefields, the trails, and the scaffolds of what is now Saskatchewan? One show only! Tickets \$15.00. Pre-purchase tickets only. Adults.

Saturday, November 27 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon **"Metis Finger Weaving Workshop."**

Learn the history of this aboriginal craft of finger weaving (En Saencheur Flochey) and create a bookmark. Fee is \$2.00 per person. Ages 12 and up. Pre-register.

Sunday, November 28 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon **"Dreamcatcher Workshop."**

The traditional dreamcatcher was intended to protect the sleeping individual from negative dreams, while letting positive dreams pass through. Using a hoop and decorations you will make a dreamcatcher. Fee is \$2.00 per person. Ages 10 and up. Pre-register.

November 27 & 28 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **"Proud Traditions: Sketches of Batoche"** viewing of the

## Marr Residence Programs (cont'd)

paintings. An informal show opening will take place each day at 2:00 p.m..

Paintings by Armand Paquette depicting scenes associated with the Metis and military history of Batoche. A partnership program with Batoche National Historic Site. Free

### December 3 – 7:30 p.m. **“An Evening of Storytelling and Music”**

Join us for a cozy evening of storytelling with Kathy Bennett and music with Lorne Deighton and friends

### December 4 – 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **“Children’s Crafts”**

Pioneer families worked together to create gifts and decorations for the season using simple materials. Children aged 5 to 10 years may join us for an afternoon of fun and creativity. Pre-registration is required.

### December 5 – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **“A Pioneer Gathering at the Marr Residence”**

The historic Marr Residence will be decorated for the holidays and open for an afternoon of visiting and old-time activities for all ages. Everyone is encouraged to dress in period costume to put yourself into the spirit of the late 1880’s.

For more information and to pre-register please call 652-1201.

## **The Annual Meewasin Gift Shop**

### ***“Santa’s Sack Christmas Sale” - December 1 to 12th***

Choose your gifts, reach into Santa’s Sack pull out your discount from 10 to 50 percent off.

Meewasin Gift Shop 402 Third Avenue South - 665-6888 - [www.meewasin.com](http://www.meewasin.com)

## **Meewasin Valley Explorer**

Find out what’s happening at Meewasin this November and December.

Check out the latest Explorer at [www.meewasin.com](http://www.meewasin.com)

## **Welcome to all our new members.**

Memberships expire at the end of the calendar year. All members will find the date of their expiry on the mailing label written as month/year. If you have questions about your membership, please contact me at 373-1787 or <[c.bear@sasktel.net](mailto:c.bear@sasktel.net)>. - Claire Bullaro, Membership