

The Saskatoon Heritage Society Newsletter

Heritage Connections

December 2023, Volume 14, number 2

The Saskatoon Heritage Society

Invites you to it's

Annual New Year's Social!

Sunday, January the 7th, 2024- 2.00 p.m.

Cliff Wright Library Auditorium – 1635 McKercher Drive

Featuring

CONNECTING SASKATOON!



The 75 Year Saga of Saskatoon's First Railway Bridge.....

A presentation by Alan L. Morton

Join us for our Annual New Year's Social, and enjoy an interactive afternoon with fellow heritage enthusiasts - Light refreshments available.

Free admission - All are welcome!

**The Saskatoon Heritage Society
Board Members**

Chair: Lenore Swystun

Vice-Chair: vacant

Treasurer: James Wood

Secretary: Terry Hoknes

Directors:

Claire Bullaro, Linda Dietz,
Roland Dumont, Patti McGillivary,
Al Morton, Barbara Shawcross, and Peggy Sarjeant

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2024!

Your membership fee includes a yearly subscription to our newsletter.

Single Membership: \$15.00; Family: \$20.00; Senior: \$10.00; Corporate: \$30.00

You can renew your membership online through our website at www.saskatoonheritage.ca

OR

by filling out the form below and sending the form and payment to
Saskatoon Heritage Society, P.O. Box 7051, Saskatoon, SK S7K 4J1

Saskatoon Heritage Society Membership Form

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Yes, I would like to receive important bulletins and notices by email

Enclosed is \$_____ for my membership

Single Membership _____ Corporate Membership _____ Family Membership _____
Senior Membership _____

From the Chair...

Dear SHS Members,

As Chair of the Saskatoon Heritage Society, I'm delighted to reach out to you all through this December newsletter. As we wrap up another year, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of our valued members. Your unwavering support and dedication have been the cornerstone of our efforts to preserve and celebrate our rich heritage.

I also want to express my deep appreciation for our board members. Your commitment, insight, and hard work have been instrumental in steering our society towards numerous successes throughout the year. Your contributions are invaluable, and I am truly grateful to work alongside such a dedicated team.

As we embrace the festive spirit, I wish everyone a joyous holiday season. May this time be filled with happiness, warmth, and cherished moments with loved ones. Your involvement and enthusiasm for heritage preservation are what make our society a vibrant and dynamic community.

I'm also excited to announce the upcoming President's Levee, scheduled for January 7th. This event promises to be a splendid occasion, offering an opportunity for us all to come together, reflect on our achievements, and look forward to the new year with renewed energy and purpose.

Let's celebrate the good work we've done and anticipate the great things that lie ahead. Here's to a wonderful holiday season and an auspicious start to the new year!

Happy holiday regards,

Lenore

Chair, Saskatoon Heritage Society

From the Local History Room, SPL...

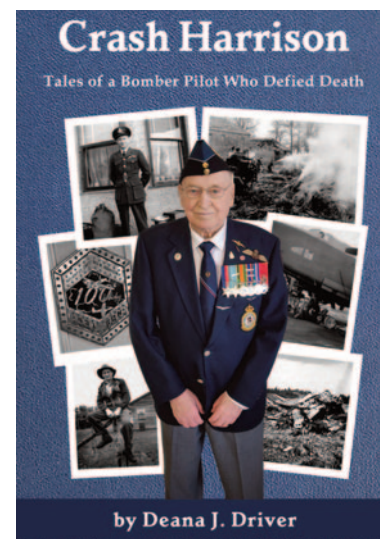
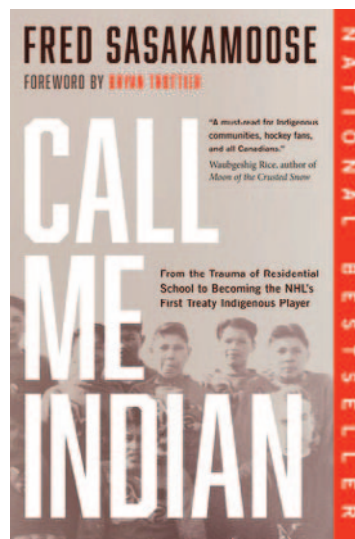
In Local History at the Saskatoon Public Library, our research series continues with sessions on how to find resources for your research paper (January 16, 2:00 pm), how to find resources related to your house (February 13, 2:00 pm), and a special session hosted by a researcher at the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan on how to research your Métis ancestry (March 13, 2:00 pm). All of these sessions can be registered for at <https://saskatoonlibrary.ca/events-guide/>.

Our Book Club also continues, with December's book being *Crash Harrison: Tales of a Bomber Pilot Who Defied Death* (book talk on December 28th, 7:00pm, Registration available online) and February's book being *Call Me Indian: From The Trauma Of Residential School To Becoming The NHL's First Treaty Indigenous Player* (book talk on February 29th, 7:00pm, registration to open a month in advance).

Two other special events upcoming in Local History are "100 Years Gone By", a slideshow of images from 1924 in celebration of the new year, taking place January 25th at 7:00pm; and "Let's Eat Out!", a photographic review of restaurants in Saskatoon, with an accompanying selection of menus, taking place on the 28th of March at 7:00 pm. No registration required!

We look forward to seeing you in the Local History Room!

Stevie Horn
Special Collections Librarian
306.975.3284
s.horn@saskatoonlibrary.ca



From the City History and Archives...

The Saskatoon City Archives is the archives of the Corporation of the City of Saskatoon, and forms a part of the City Clerks Office.

As the record-keeper of City Council, the City Clerk ensures that Councillors have the information they need to make good decisions, and that those decisions are communicated to the people who will act on them. These records form the backbone of the city's archives, and include City Council and committee records and their supporting correspondence and reports. Together, these records document the decisions great and small that since 1902 have created the city we now live in—through boom and bust, war and disaster, and everything in between.

The Archives also has records from the City Engineer's and City Commissioner's departments, as well as City Planning records going back to the 1920s, including reports and studies on subjects as diverse as housing, traffic, transportation, population, parking, infrastructure, future growth, zoning, regional development and a host of others.

We also have city bylaws (all the way back to the very first one, in 1903); tax rolls, cemetery records, relief records; records of the Playgrounds Association, which used to run all the city's recreational facilities; and the Town of Sutherland records until it joined Saskatoon in 1956.

At the City Archives, we also collect the records of individuals, organizations, families and businesses in Saskatoon. (For example, forty years of hockey scrapbooks, compiled by Saskatoon sports legend and Hall of Famer, Joe Zeman.) The largest single collection is the Star Phoenix photographs, which we acquired when the Provincial Archives closed its Saskatoon office in 2019. Consisting of 400,000 photographs dating from the 1940s to the 1990s, it forms a detailed and comprehensive look at who we were and what we did over a half century of Saskatoon's history. Other collections include the records of the Meewasin Valley Authority; the 1971 and 1989 Jeux Canada Games records; the personal papers of three Saskatoon mayors—Sid Buckwold, Frank MacMillan and J.S. Mills; the Hunter-Foster Family papers (three generations of a farm family living just north of Sutherland); and the papers of local political activists like Bob Fink and Don Kossick. Recent acquisitions include the St. Paul's and City Hospital Schools of Nursing; the Granite Curling Club and Saskatoon Council of Women.

We also have Fire Insurance Plans and city maps; scrapbooks and photographs; architectural drawings, oral history interviews, and home movies. With nearly 3,000 linear feet of records on our shelves, it's likely that no matter what you're interested in, we have something here for you.

We also believe in bringing history out of the Archives and into the community. Jeff O'Brien, Saskatoon's City Archivist since 1997, is a frequent guest at local events, in classrooms and at community groups, "showing pictures and telling stories," as he describes it, about the history of our beloved city.

The City of Saskatoon Archives is located at 224 Cardinal Crescent. We are open to the public Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30. There's no appointment required, but we do recommend calling in advance of a visit. Or just drop us a line and ask us a question. You can reach us by email at city.archives@saskatoon.ca, or by telephone to 306-975-7811.



Warm memories:!! From the Star Phoenix collection dated November 4, 1949 (City of Saskatoon Archives S-SP-B-45-004), the mercury hit 67F (19.4C) on November 3, 1949, when a Star-Phoenix photographer caught up with UofS students Jean Robinson and Donna Mcinnis wading in the river in shorts and shirts. Note: this was not the record. The record was 21C in 1903.

From the City of Saskatoon...

City of Saskatoon Heritage News

On June 18th, 2023, the City of Saskatoon, in partnership with the Decoration Day Service Committee, Saskatoon Heritage Society, Friends of the Forestry Farm House and Parks Canada held an event to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the original dedication of the Next-of-Kin Memorial Avenue in Woodlawn Cemetery. The committee was the recipient of a 2023 Saskatchewan Heritage Award for the Next-of-Kin Memorial Avenue (Woodlawn Cemetery) Centennial Project.

There was one new municipal heritage property designation in 2023, 850 University Drive. The house was constructed in 1911 as a single-family dwelling and converted to four apartments in 1944. Its heritage significance lies in its Queen Anne Revival style of architecture, its historical and cultural significance such as its contribution to the University Drive streetscape and its connection to prominent Saskatoon citizens, including Robert Buchanan, Justice Emmett M. Hall, Andrew Smith and Dr. Alan Guy.

Two municipal heritage properties underwent significant rehabilitations in 2023. The Rugby Chapel underwent exterior work to maintain its structural integrity. And the Little Stone Schoolhouse underwent interior work to remove the original chalkboard containing asbestos, lead paint removal and painting.

- Kellie Grant, Heritage and Design Coordinator, City of Saskatoon



850 University Drive

From the Program Committee...

The Year in Review 2023

By Patti McGillivray, Program Chair

The Heritage Society and enthusiasts have been busy after the first wave of the Corona Virus. The year kicked off with a record-breaking attendance at the Society's Annual New Years Gathering hosted at the recently restored and converted venue of 301 1st Avenue N. it is quite possibly one of the best restorations in Saskatoon's history. The 2023 Edition of the History Review was launched at McNally Robinson's. We were present once again at Saskatoon 's Heritage Festival held at the WDM Western Development Museum (WDM) in February.

This year's Annual General Meeting was very timely, held at the Ukrainian Museum of Canada followed by a tour.

Tours of various areas of the city including the Pioneer Cemetery in Old Nutana, Downtown, Old Nutana, and Next of Kin Memorial Avenue were so popular often 2 were offered in the same day. City wide it was a year included both Janes Walk and Doors Open which hosted 5,000 visits. Thank you to Dianne Wilson, Peggy Sarjeant and Terry Hoknes for their tour expertise. Watch for the upcoming ones in the spring. Tours are by donation.

To top off the year the annual luncheon was back with a great presentation by Dr. Elizabeth Scott, Chief Curator and director of Research and Collections at the WDM – "Our Collective Threads" Stories of life in Saskatchewan through the clothes we wore.



Dr. Elizabeth Scott giving her talk.



A scene at the annual luncheon.

Thank you to our volunteers, hosts and venues for helping to create great experiences. We are looking forward to another great year. Please note the upcoming events in this Newsletter.

Marr Residence (326 11 th St. E.)

This 1884 home is the oldest house in Saskatoon still on its original site.

Open on the following Sunday afternoons (Hours 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.): Sunday December 17; Sunday January 21; Sunday February 18; and Sunday March 24.

Interpreters will be on site, and members of the Victorian Sewing Circle will be at work on their projects.

Call for Volunteers: The Marr is looking for volunteers to be in the house to welcome visitors on Sunday afternoons. This is a chance to learn more about the early beginnings of Saskatoon and requires about 3 hours on a Sunday afternoon on an occasional basis. Contact the Marr at 306-652-1201 or at marrresidence@gmail.com.



The Marr Residence.



Members of the Victorian Sewing Circle.

**ALSO: Visit us at the Heritage Festival at the WDM on February 4, 2024. 12-5 p.m.
Free Admission**

From the research desk of Terry Hoknes...

100 years ago architectural plans by J. Melrose Morrison for a new four room elementary school in the Haultain Subdivision were reported in the Star Phoenix newspaper on July 3 1923. The school would be built just west of Clarence Avenue between 4th and 5th Street East. Excavation began on August 3rd on a \$30,000 approved budget. There was debate about making the basement ceiling high either 9 or 12 feet high for children to play inside during the winter months. A new bylaw for the schools creation had a vote of 171 for and 37 against on August 25th.

The school, like the subdivision, was named after the first Premier of the Northwest Territories and the former Commissioner of Education, Sir Frederick Haultain. On October 19th the cornerstone ceremony was led by W.B Doyle, chairman of the Saskatoon School Board. It was reported on October 18th that the school would be completed for December 1923 but classes would officially start in February 1924.

Miss Victoria Miners was the first woman in Saskatoon to ever receive a Master of Education degree. She became the first principal of the school. At this time much of the area was not yet developed and houses did not have running water and children took their morning baths in the school basement. Street cars did not reach the school until 1932. This area fully developed after WW2 with the baby boomer generation growth. My mother, Bonney Walters, attended her eight years of elementary school at Haultain from 1953-1961. The school closed in 1990 but was re-opened by the Francophone school board in 1995.

References: Star Phoenix Newspaper Jul 3, Aug 25, Oct 18, Oct 19 1923.
<https://sladerealestate.ca/saskatoon-neighbourhood-haultain/>



Saskatoon 1924
Haultain School
1407 Albert
Avenue 4 rooms
new library.
Local History
Room, Saskatoon
Public Library, A-
1864.

From the research desk of Al Morton...

Bottled Water for Saskatoon! Billy Silverwood and Silver Springs

Billy Silverwood and buggy, circa 1908, on south side of 20th Street (between 2nd and 3rd Avenues). The Lyric Theatre and the Salvation Army Citadel can be seen in the background. Photo LH3082, courtesy of the Local History Room, S.P.L.



Two of Saskatoon's major residential areas owe their name to a former Ontarian who settled in the area in 1906 and, for the next 50 years, had a substantial impact on the life and development of the city.

William (Billy) Alexander Silverwood was born in 1870, in the village of Oakwood, which was part of Mariposa Township in Victoria County, Ontario. In 1905, he made the decision to move his business, which was primarily the buying and selling of draft horses, further west where he perceived that there would be a greater demand.

After stopping off in Brandon with two carloads of horses and wintering there, Silverwood visited the Saskatoon area the following spring. He was so impressed with the region that he decided to make his stay permanent, by purchasing a parcel of land near Tessier. No cash actually changed hands in the transaction, as Billy Silverwood simply traded 20 horses at an agreed to value of 200 dollars per head, for approximately 333 acres of land valued at 12 dollars an acre.

Over the course of the next two years, Silverwood not only began raising Clydesdale and Hackney horses at his new location, but was also importing a considerable number of draft teams from Eastern Canada, to be auctioned off in the Saskatoon district. This enterprise proved to be extremely profitable; at one auction, on March 11th, 1910, Billy Silverwood and his nephew, Dr T.C. (Clarence) Routley, sold 120 horses for a total of \$30,000 in one day! Years later, Silverwood estimated that in total, he had brought more than 10,000 head into the Saskatoon area from Eastern Canada.

The auctions were generally held at his newly constructed Silverwood Livery Stable, on 2nd Avenue South. Prior to this, he had owned the old Windsor Stables on 1st Avenue, which he had purchased for \$4,000; he was later able to generate a considerable profit, by selling that establishment to a Mr. George McLaughlin for \$30,000. With substantial amounts of cash rolling in,

Billy Silverwood had looked to extend his land holdings and, by 1908, he had acquired approximately 5,000 acres of farmland, 3,000 of which were actually producing crops. However, that same year, Silverwood had decided to move his residence closer to Saskatoon, where the majority of his business was being conducted.

Selling his Tessier property for triple his initial investment on, as it turned out, false speculation that it was to be the site of a township, he purchased 480 acres of property on the west side of the river, about 4.5 miles north of the city. The newly acquired land had one feature that was to prove hugely significant to both Billy Silverwood's and Saskatoon's fortunes: there was a natural spring on the property!

An outbreak of typhoid fever that hit Saskatoon in 1907 / 08, emphasized the deplorable state of the city's drinking water supply. Most of the available wells had been contaminated by impurities leaching into them, generally as a result of poor hygienic habits and controls; clearly there was a requirement for clean safe drinking water, and Silverwood and his nephew saw an opportunity to meet this need.

Without a doubt, the water from Billy Silverwood's spring was both clean and pure, and it was decided to commercially market it by purchasing used bottling equipment from a defunct Chicago plant, and setting up shop in a large barn located above the spring. They immediately began selling the spring water to Saskatoon hotels, offices and residents and the popularity of their product was immense. By 1912, they were bottling and distributing 120,000 gallons a year to customers in Saskatoon and other nearby small towns. The land on which the spring was located had been named Silver Spring Farm, and the bottling company, which sold besides spring water, ginger beer, ginger ale and lemonade was known as The Silverwood Springs.

By 1916, with the sale of spring water diminishing dramatically; due primarily to the fact that the city was by then providing treated water of a consistently good quality, Billy Silverwood decided to shut down the operation. In the years to follow, he concentrated on both his farming and feed and livery stable businesses, whilst also supplying high grade sand from his Silver Springs Farm to the city, for road and other construction. He was quite proud of the fact, that the base on which the Saskatoon Airports runways were constructed was Silverwood sand.

Through his later years, Silverwood led a life of comparatively good health, in spite of smoking 8 or 9 cigars daily. He also boasted that he drank a gallon of spring water per day, that is until, in a strange twist of fate, Billy Silverwood, who had been the 'Saviour' of Saskatoon in 1908 by providing clean and pure drinking water to the populous, managed to permanently contaminate his own resource with animal waste polluted run-off from the barn above the spring.

On January the 9th, 1956, Billy Silverwood passed away in Saskatoon at the age of 86, having left his mark in so many ways on the city he came to adopt and love. Perhaps he would have also appreciated the final irony, of the city paying \$663/acre in 1973, to purchase the Silverwood farm in order to make way for a new municipal sewage treatment plant.