



Wakamow's PARK VIEWS

And The Valley Wept

Though we all have travels to make and stories to move through, it's the capriciousness of life that often seems difficult to understand. It's the iniquitous nature of the journey's ends and the destination of the last breath that leaves us feeling confused. When those last breaths fall with a domino effect, our perplexity is further heightened. And so it is.

And so it was as we recently bid adieu to two long-term members of the Wakamow family. As the 14th issue of *Park Views* was readying for print, a simple twist of fate bounded in and caught us all off guard. A simple twist of fate left us all the poorer.

With warm thoughts and heartfelt feelings for volunteers everywhere, we have decided to dedicate this issue of *Park Views* to the memories of Jim Young and Muriel Mayor. I am not sure you will find two gentler beings. I am not sure you will find two more dedicated volunteers.

Jim sat at the Board table as a provincial representative from 1990 through 2005. Though he was not the most vocal of members, when he chose to speak, Jim always offered well researched and evocative observations. There were even times when all discussions ceased after Jim had made his point. Of course his commitment to Wakamow didn't stop at the boardroom door. Jim did all that was asked of him and

more. He was a ticket seller, a barbequer, a bartender and all around good guy.



With Jim's encouragement, Muriel became a devoted member of the Sportsman's Centre Committee. She came with her own convictions and welcoming smiles however. Muriel was a hard working member of the committee for 13 years and remained as it's Vice-Chair right up until her accident. As chance would have it, Muriel spent eight hours volunteering for Wakamow the day before her consciousness slipped away. And like Jim, Muriel played many roles in her

volunteer capacity at Wakamow. We miss them both already.

A cute little story that Percy Hill recently related involved both Jim and Muriel and concerns the closure of meetings. Despite feeling a little overwhelmed during his first meeting, Jim felt he should have his name entered in the minutes. To accomplish this feat he decided to make the motion for adjournment. He did likewise every meeting after that. With tradition to uphold, Muriel adjourned those Sportsman's Centre Committee meeting she didn't chair. Moreover, she did so with her usual warm and comforting smile.

And so, though the stories of these two wonderful beings will live on ... for now at least ... we stand adjourned. _____

Did You Know That...

- Jim never missed a meeting in his 15-year term. That accounts for more than 150 consecutive meetings?
- Muriel not only gave willing of her time and efforts, she also purchased expensive items for the Steak Night auctions and did so under the veil of anonymity?
- Between them both, Jim and Muriel would sell about one-third of steak night tickets?

FACES IN THE PARK

This year's *Faces in the Park* are both animate and inanimate. Our 2008 *Faces* have been peeking out at passersby for some time. As you may have guessed, we are speaking of **Terra the Turtle**, our new piece of interactive art and **Carol Sooker** long time owner/operator of the infamous Burger Cabin. We at Wakamow are pleased to have both them as long term residents (so to speak).

Carol and Terra are pictured below with **Libby Epoch**, the winner of the *Name the Turtle Contest* sponsored in part by the Burger Cabin. Well done Libby, welcome Terra and we'll see you again next spring Carol.



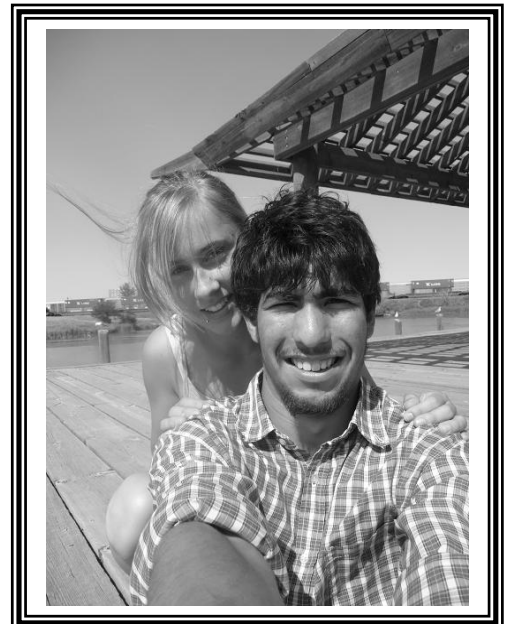
DID YOU KNOW...

- The *Burger Cabin* marks at least the third rendition of and second generation concession at that very site in the valley?
- The *Swing Inn* (the Wrays' first concession) was the first *Kentucky Fried Chicken* franchise in Saskatchewan?
- Of course there was also *Ikes'* in Churchill Park and those great fries at the beach.

Wakamow was fortunate to have a couple of summer-long national and international visitors in the valley during the past year. The smiling faces of **Martin Tajada** and **Andréanne Thibault** infused a ton of energy and considerable enthusiasm into Wakamow through their participation in the Canada World Youth Program. Martin, from Uruguay and Andréanne, from Québec helped out with a number of tasks at Wakawow including painting the new gazebos in Lions River Park. Bonne et Bueno!

DID YOU KNOW...

- That Andréanne and Martin were active in creating an art project of their own?
- Together, they convinced the entire team of Canada World Youth to paint a mural to hide the graffiti on the Kingsway Dam.
- Take some time to go for a walk to see their colourful addition to the Wakamow Valley art collection.



Kudos, Karma And Kilter

Sometimes it takes a big initiative to be noticed; sometimes it just takes a little forethought. Kudos for 2008 go out to **Brad Justason** for having the foresight and for taking the initiative. Brad was the first of what we hope will be many supporters (hint, hint) to make monthly donations to Wakamow through direct withdrawals. Now he's contributing to a great cause before he even notices it. Thanks Brad for bringing Wakamow into the 21st Century and for having a great deal of patience while we got the system in place.

Kudos' are also in order for the more than 125 randomly selected households who took part in our recent survey. It seems that in this information age, we are being bombarded by individuals and organizations looking for feedback. When those requests come via the telephone, it is even more niggling. So if you were one of our survey population – thanks for your feedback – it is greatly appreciated.

And the survey says

The survey was meant to gain a better understanding of resident usage patterns and community expectations. It did just that. And as was the case in 1998, Wakamow was certainly looked upon favourably.

And the survey said ...

- Approximately one half of the park users (47%) come to the park to use the Devonian Trail
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of the respondents believed that a trail linking Connor Park with Plaxton's Lake would be an important asset to Wakamow.
- Eighty-one percent (81%) of those surveyed felt that Wakamow will play an important role in the future development of Moose Jaw.
- The top facility improvements recommended by the respondents included:
 - Replace Assinaboine Bridge
 - Provide additional water based activities
 - Add/improve washrooms
 - Expand trails
- All of the respondents indicated support for continued free access to Wakamow.
- Ninety-three percent (93%) agreed that Wakamow is an important contributor to the quality of life in Moose Jaw.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) want Wakamow to continue working on its river valley development.

Did You Know ...

- In the 1998 survey 52% of the respondents indicated that they used the Devonian Trail as the main Wakamow facility?
- In the 1998 survey 7% of the respondents indicate they enjoyed Wakamow by driving through it. In 2008, 5% fell in the same category?

DREAMING BIG DREAMS

As was mentioned in last year's *Park Views*, we decided to look well beyond the replacement of the former Assinaboine Bridge to focus the linkage between Plaxton's Lake with Connor Park. We have decided to heed Daniel H. Burnham's advice and are "planning big plans". As such, we've returned to the directions of the 1979 Master Plan and the desire to link the valley with pathways. It's no small task however. The plan will take at least four bridges and more than 9 kilometers of trails - it's a great dream nonetheless. We could use your help to get there. Why not join the following members of *Bridge Builders Club* help take the first few steps. Perhaps you could follow Brad Justason's example and sign up for monthly withdrawals. We have the technology!

2008 Bridge Builders Club

Russell Adams
Aspen Dental
Cheryl Buettner & Brian Swanson
City of Moose Jaw
Fern Dowse
Mary Field
Arnold & Olga Giddings
George Holman
Brad Justason
Diane & Carlos Lara
Glen & Daphne McRitchie
Rod & Margaret Moran
Benjamin & Jacob Radwanski
Oz & Judy Wasylyk
Willis & Cheryl Wingert

John & Elsie Adkins
Florence Birtwistle
Vern & Joan Brown
Jim Connolly
Claude Duke
Gino Filippi
Jon Hagan
Coral Howes
Marilyn Keerak
John & Barb Livingston
Moose Jaw Horticultural Society
Ottawa Real Estate
Carol Sooker
Bob & Marylou Wills
Chic & Trixie Wray
William & Marjorie Yakiwchuk

Val & Ron Andrews
Lois Boyle
C & S Builders Ltd.
Allen E.. & Kay Davies
Gary & Tracy Enns
Al & Bernice Fox
Jack Heilman
Jack Hughton
Leith Knight
Grant & Brenda McLaughlin
Ruth Moffat
Helen & Peter Norys
Teamsters Canada TCRC
Pat Wills
Harold Wyatt

For a donation of \$500 payable over a maximum five year term, you can also become a Bridge Builder

- Yes**, I am interested in becoming a *Bridge Builder*. Enclosed is the first/ total installment of my \$500.00 pledge toward the Bridge Builder Program.
The remainder of my \$500.00 pledge will be paid over ____ years.
- I would prefer to make a one-time donation towards the Wakamow Valley Development Fund. Enclosed is a cheque or money order.
- I would prefer the ease and convenience of the Pre-Authorized Debit Plan. I have enclosed a cheque marked "VOID" and I authorize Wakamow Valley Authority to deduct the aforementioned pre-authorized amount from the account number on my cheque.
I would like to contribute (please circle) biweekly, monthly \$ _____ and I would like to begin payments on (date) _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Please send charitable tax receipt to:

Name(s): _____ Mailing Address: _____

City/Province/Postal Code: _____

Registered Charitable Tax #11928 7662 RR 001 Canada Revenue Agency www.cra-gc.ca/charities

Thank You!

Did you Know That ...

- The 1979 Master Plan indicated that Wakamow should provide trail linkages throughout the valley to accommodate pedestrians, cross-country skiers and bicyclists.
- Wakamow has already put aside \$239,830 for the replacement of the former Assinaboine Bridge, the first step in a valley wide trail system?