

Friends of the Forestry Farm House

WINTER 2018 NEWSLETTER

JANUARY, 2018

NUMBER 49

Summer Walking Tours and Open Houses

Once again, the Superintendent's Residence will be open to the public one Sunday a month during the summer. This is your chance to learn more about the house and its former residents with the help of knowledgeable tour guides – check out Flora's room, discover where the back stairs used to be and view historical photos and the original landscape plan for the site. At 2 pm there will be the opportunity to join a walking tour of the park, with the exception of the zoo. Our tour guides will introduce visitors to the history of the park and point out the original buildings remaining on site. They will also learn about the various trees and shrubs, some of which date from the establishment of the Nursery Station.

The Residence will be open from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. The walking tours start at 2 pm. Lemonade and cookies will be available. Contact Peggy for further information at 306 652-9801.

The tour dates are:

Sunday, May 27

Sunday, June 24

Sunday, July 29

Sunday, August 26



Annual General Meeting!

Our Annual General Meeting will occur on Sunday, February 25 at 12:30 at the Superintendent's Residence on the grounds of the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park. Please join us for a complimentary lunch at 12:30, followed by our AGM and coffee. The current board consists of:

PRESIDENT - Bernie Cruikshank

VICE PRES. – Cyndi Cunanan

TREASURER - Claire Bullaro
(Saskatoon Zoo Society)

SECRETARY – Sue Barrett

BOARD - Peggy Sarjeant
(Saskatoon Heritage Society)

BOARD - Bernadette Vangool
(Saskatoon Perennial Society)

If you, or anyone you know, would like to join the board, please call Bernie at 249-1315 or e-mail maxic@yourlink.ca.

School Tours

We will once again be hosting school tours this spring beginning in April. If you know a teacher who would be interested in booking a tour, please have them call Sue at 653-5395 or email spbarett@sasktel.net.

Membership Time!

Our membership year-end is December 31. We encourage you to renew with us. \$10 gives you a year of information on our continuing activities to highlight the history of the Superintendent's Residence and the Saskatoon Forestry Farm - Sutherland Nursery Station. A renewal form is enclosed. If you have already renewed, thank you! Please send your membership/donation to 1903 Forestry Farm Park Dr. Saskatoon SK S7S 1G9

New Website!!!

I am excited to announce the launch of our new website (www.fffh.ca). Our events will be updated as dates are firmed up, but in the meanwhile feel free to browse through some of the pages. It continues to be a work in progress and I hope to add some information, in the next couple of months, about the trees in the park. The Forestry Farm has always been a park that showcased the trees that are available and thrive in our harsh prairie winters. Our aim is to share this information with the public whenever we can. If you have any other information you would like to see on our website concerning the park and its history, please contact bernievangool@sasktel.net with your suggestions.



President's Message Winter 2018

One of the duties of the President of a non-profit organization is to ensure that the board stay focused on the mandate and the strategic plan. I've been a bit derelict in my duties in the last few months but with the new year comes a renewed energy to push forward.

Our interpretive display has needed updating for quite some time as the original went up over 15 years ago. The two committee members (of which I am one) have a concept and drawings but have not turned that into a reality.

We are making progress by ensuring we have a deadline as obviously that's how we roll best. The old display was removed a week ago and the room is being painted by the City. That means by the first open house in the spring we must have the new one up on the wall.

It is exciting to be able to showcase new information which has been obtained since our original interpretive stories went up plus it's always nice to complete long term projects.

The board invites you to take in an open house and walking tour this summer to see the new displays. It is always important to "freshen up" the interpretive areas of a historic building and we look forward to our new look.

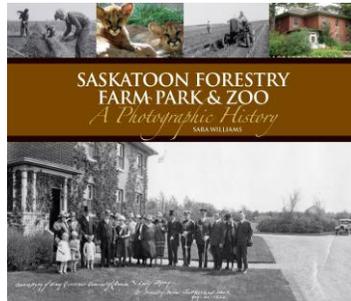
Bernie Cruikshank, President



Volunteers Wanted!

Enclosed you will find a letter from Peggy Sarjeant, the board member who co-ordinates our open houses and walking tours. Please read the letter and consider committing an afternoon this summer to hosting our tours. It's a lovely opportunity to get out and enjoy the park while helping out.

Buy our book!



We still have books available for purchase. Why not add an extra\$20 on to the cost of your membership and buy yourself a late holiday gift? Just add a note for Claire letting her know you'd like one.

Our Annual Harvest Dinner

Fall may seem a long time away, but our Harvest Dinner sells out every year, so we wanted our members to be the first to know that we have chosen a date. This year's annual fundraiser will be held:

Sunday, September 23

Heritage Festival

The **Heritage Festival** takes place on Sunday, February 4th, 2018, 12 – 5 pm at the Western Development Museum. Admission is free, and the Friends will once again have a booth. Please stop by and see us!

Did You Know?

(an excerpt from a September, 2014 Global Saskatoon news story)

The Forestry Farm Park was first set up by the Canadian government as the Dominion Forest Nursery Station in 1913 and for more than 50 years helped thousands of settlers make the Prairies their home.

“The Prairies can be very windy and if you have a little house on the prairie and no trees around it, it can be quite a harsh climate,” explained Bernadette Vangool, a walking tour guide at the park.

The new settlers needed seedlings and cuttings to grow trees. Between 1913 and 1965, the nursery filled that need, planting and shipping 147 million trees to farmers across Western Canada.

The park was declared a National Historic Site in 1991 by the government of Canada and the superintendent's residence was restored with a display depicting its history.

“The landscape of the park in lots of ways hasn't changed very much. What happened is there is an overlay of other development on top,” said Peggy Sarjeant, a volunteer with Friends of the Forestry Farm House.

Along with being named a National Historic Site, the park was also named a Municipal Heritage Site in 1989.

