



Watrous · Manitou Beach
HERITAGE CENTRE

February 2025

Heritage Happenings

Watrous-Manitou Beach Heritage Centre

www.watrousheritage.ca

FACEBOOK: [WatrousManitouBeachHeritage](https://www.facebook.com/WatrousManitouBeachHeritage)

HOURS OF OPERATION

July & August: Tuesday – Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

September – June: Friday & Saturday 11:00 – 3:00 p.m.

TOURS WELCOME BY APPOINTMENT OUTSIDE OPERATING HOURS

CONTACT US AT 306-946-1177

This newsletter will be periodic in nature, designed to keep all of the members apprised of happenings at the WMBHC.

Prairie Reflections



The Watrous Manitou Beach Heritage Centre hosted a tea on Sunday, November 17th to honour Jean Sproule, editor of *Prairie Reflections*. The book tells the history of Watrous and surrounding districts and was published 41 years ago.

Approximately 70 community members attended. Emcee was Joanne Kowalski, who spoke about the three years the book was in development, and about the many community members who gave of their

time and skills to take it to publication. Jean Sproule acted as editor, backed by other committee members including Lois Fedrau, Anne Squires, Vi Hedlin, Charlotte Airey, Harry Smith and Florence Lamont.

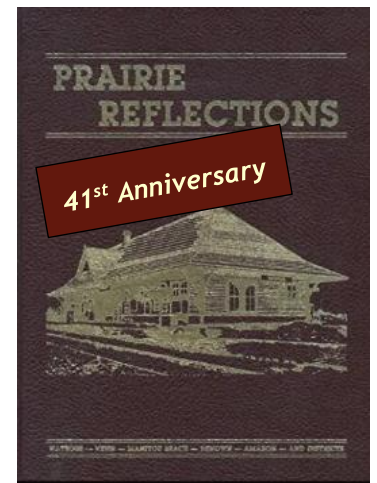
Jean Sproule acknowledged the army of people who contributed in many different ways, from researching school districts and veterans, map making and collecting photographs. Typing the many articles and family histories submitted was a major feat in a time of no digitization, meaning that any errors involved re-typing the entire article! Jean remembers how she wanted the book to be readable so it could be used by many in future for reference. She commented on the volume of material they collected and how the committee decided to go with a publisher who could create one volume, rather than the two volumes other publishers suggested, so that nothing would be lost.

Sue Alcock reflected the projects she spearheaded, including a heritage map and history plaques scattered around Manitou Beach, would not have happened without *Prairie Reflections* as a resource. Much of that research material has been of use at the Heritage Centre.

Kathy Bergen, Chair of the Watrous Manitou Beach Heritage Centre board of directors, took the opportunity to thank everyone for attending and to reflect on how the history book provided the foundation for the movement to have a space for the Heritage Centre.

Lionel Sproule also addressed the crowd and spoke of the value of the community spirit and teamwork that Watrous, Manitou Beach and surrounding areas exhibited both during this time and always.

Music was performed by the Fedrau sisters and Dan McIntosh with many opportunities for guests to sing along. Michelle Fedrau hung some of her father, Abe's, paintings, as well as some of her own, pieces depicting the history of Watrous and Manitou Beach, which will be on display for the next few months.



Exhibits

CHALET POOL RINGS



A little backstory - My dad (Dr David Munday) grew up in Watrous and he bought a cabin just across the street from the Chalet in the mid 1970's. We spent every summer there when we were kids and loved that old pool. In particular, we loved swinging on those rings. We used to watch the "big kids" do all the tricks and could not wait to emulate them (doing "circles", playing war, etc.). I remember all the people in the pool would stop and watch when someone did "rafters", which was when one would swing back and forth going higher and higher until they could touch one of the massive wood rafter beams with their toes before dropping to the pool. It was awesome.

Unfortunately, I never got the chance to do rafters. The pool burnt down when I was nine or ten years old (so I was still too short). When we heard about the fire we were devastated. My dad, older brother, and I immediately drove from our home in Saskatoon to the beach to see the aftermath. When we arrived, we heard that two of the rings (the first and second) had already been found by others. My brother and I decided to find the remaining two rings. It took several hours but we were able to find both the third and fourth rings, which was a minor victory on that very sad day. The photo above is of my brother and I overlooking the wreckage.

My dad kept the rings until he passed away (many years ago now), whereupon they were passed down to me. We had always hoped to find a way to display the rings so that people could be reminded of the glory days of the beach. I think the Heritage Center is the perfect place for them.

Submitted by Ian Munday

THE RINGS ARE ON DISPLAY AS PART OF THE CHALET POOL EXHIBIT

New Exhibits

VETERANS EXHIBIT



Volunteers Marilyn Cannon and Susan Struthers gave the Veteran's exhibit a new look.

Susan's parents' uniforms are part of the display and Marilyn's mother was in the air force and father in the army. The volunteers feel we need to do more to remember our Veterans and recognize them for their service.

Their mission is to prepare the Veteran artifacts for displays and accessioning. They are also planning to resurrect *Decoration Day* to be held in June 2025.

WOOLLY MAMMOTH TOOTH



In 1959, a pair of boys exploring a gravel pit at Manitou Beach stumbled upon just that -- a mammoth tooth!

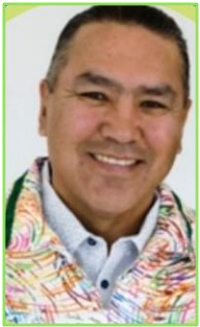
For a few weeks each summer, Gary Robins would look forward to making the trek from his home in Ontario out to Watrous to stay with his grandparents. It was that summer of 1959 that Gary and his friend John Hunt came across the mammoth molar.

Since its discovery in 1959, the tooth remained in John Hunt's possession. When he passed away, it went to his brother, Burt.

After learning that a heritage centre was being established in Watrous, Burt and his wife Wilma (nee van Schaffelaar) decided to donate the item back to the local area.

MAMMOTH TOOTH IS DISPLAYED AS PART OF THE INDIGENOUS EXHIBIT

October Events



Lyndon Linklater, a traditional knowledge keeper and storyteller, spoke on October 17th to the elementary and high school students. That evening, he used his humour in delivering another informative message to 35 community members at the Heritage Centre.



Diane Dugan-Janvier's *Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action 1-10* quilt display ran from May to October. Diane spoke after Lyndon Linklater at the evening session and shared her story with the audience.



Cree Language display, was rented from the Canadian Language Museum in Ontario. The display introduces the Cree language through maps, photos, audio clips and information on the syllabic writing system to Winston High School students pictured on the left.

DONATIONS

BATHING SUIT (1930s)



Carol McIntosh, Volunteer

While volunteers Carol and Dan McIntosh were visiting relatives in Ontario, they were approached by Joann Price who wished to donate her mother's woolen bathing suit to the Heritage Centre.

Ella, Joann's mother, married Joe Packota from Young, Saskatchewan on June 25, 1932. They worked for Ture Carlson and lived on a small farm. When the couple lived in Young, Saskatchewan from 1932-1942, the swim suit would have been purchased from a catalogue for swims in the lake, Chalet Pool and White's Pool. Ella and Joe then moved to Ontario.

XENA FARMERS SEEDING (1958)



Dave Schafer donated a picture taken on Jim Foster's land by the railway station on the 200-acre piece west of the Xena school on June 20, 1958.

Jim Foster fell ill and he could not farm the land that year. The neighbouring families in the picture seeded his crop for him: John Foster, Elfy Matson, Mert Hamerston, Doug Foster, Allan C. Leslie, Ray Holtet, Vic Leslie, Norm Rischel, Manard Izenzimmer, Mrs. John Foster, Anna Schafer, Clarence Schafer, Reg Schafer, Bute Beavers, Gerry Beavers, Boyd Foster, Hazel Beavers, Mrs. John Federow, Federow Girls, John Federow, John Keffer, Bert Keffer, Pete Brown, Jake Keffer, Carl Matson, Harold Mierau, Eddy Marten.

PICTURE IS LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE HERITAGE CENTRE.

Preservation & Education

PRESERVING BLUEPRINTS & MAPS

The Heritage Centre has been entrusted with a substantial collection of maps, blueprints and other larger scale archival materials. Funding from Sask Lotteries Community Grant and Saskatchewan Council For Archives & Archivists has enabled us to purchase map cabinets for storing maps as well as rolls of mylar to encapsulate the large documents. Volunteers Kathy Bergen, Marilyn Cannon, and summer student Olivia Tan are pictured here, learning the process of protecting these items with mylar.



Olivia Tan, Kathy Bergen, Marilyn Cannon

INTERESTED IN VIEWING BLUEPRINTS OF THE CBK HOUSES, PROPOSED SANITORIUM AND MAPS?
CONTACT THE HERITAGE CENTRE TO VIEW

EXHIBIT PLANNING & DESIGN



Sue Alcock, Paula Letkeman & Co-Student

Sue Alcock and Paula Letkeman from the WMBHC enrolled in the *Exhibit Planning & Design* two-day workshop and part of the Certificate in Community Museum Studies offered by the Museums Association of Saskatchewan.

The course was held in Biggar museum and instructed by John Snell. He is head of programming and exhibits at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in Regina. It is a small world as John has relatives in the Watrous area.

Picture on Left: Students display their in-class project.

Education Week

EDUCATION WEEK



Students from the Watrous elementary and high schools explored the Cree Language display as well as other exhibits in the Heritage Centre.



TOURS

NAGEL TOURS



MANITOU LODGE



We were delighted to welcome residents from the Manitou Lodge for an afternoon tour. The picture shows them viewing the Cree Language video.

Our guide was especially excited to host them and appreciated how much she learned from them on the history of Watrous and area - after all, they are residents from Watrous, bringing with them a wealth of knowledge and experiences!

We are looking forward to your next visit!

Thank You



Thank you to the following organizations for their support in 2024:

- Thrift on Main
- Museums Association of Saskatchewan
- SCAA - Sask Council for Archives and Archivists
- Canadian Museum Association
- Government of Canada - Department of Canadian Heritage
- Sask Lotteries
- /artsvest

Special thanks to Thrift On Main for their support. The grant received went towards our October events which included speaker Lyndon Linklater, who spoke to the Watrous elementary and high school students.

Eric Upshall, Thrift On Main Board Member presents a cheque to Lionel Sproule, WMBHC board member.



We were pleased Olivia Tan returned as a summer student for the second year in a row.

This year Olivia tackled the task of encapsulating blueprints and maps, created brochures, and hosted 235 visitors in July and August.

WMBHC volunteers gathered at the end of her work term to wish Olivia well in her last year of high school.

We hope you will come back to us next year!

Our Volunteers



MARILYN CANNON

Volunteer Spotlight

Marilyn has been a dedicated volunteer at the Watrous Manitou Beach Heritage Centre for about ten years. Her involvement has included organizing displays and assisting in various areas.

Originally from Flin Flon, she met her husband, Robert, in Calgary and they have lived in several places, including Wadena and finally Watrous since 1998. She is a mother of five and has six grandchildren.

At the Heritage Centre, she is highly valued for her organizational skills and willingness to assist whenever needed. Marilyn cherishes the history of Watrous and the surrounding area and is proud to be a part of preserving it.

Thank you for your contributions Marilyn!

FOLKS (Folks Organizing Local Knowledge)

Sue Alcock, Ivan Allin, Kathy Bergen, Marilyn Cannon, Gwen Deneiko, Patti Frey, Murray Gordon, Donna Jackson, Lynne Keffer, Ruth Kornelsen, Karen Schroeder-Mark, Carol McIntosh, Dan McIntosh, Lilliann Milligan, Cyndi Neudorf, Janice Siegfried, Jean Sproule, Susan Struthers, Michael Vickaryous, Patti Regier

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

WMBHC Board Members

Kathy Bergen (Chair), Lionel Sproule (Vice-Chair), Sue Alcock, Janice Siegfried, Karen Siegfried, Karen Schroeder-Mark, Lorraine Worobec (Treasurer), Dan McIntosh, Joanne Kowalski, Patti Regier, Taylor Engele (Town Representative)