

WASCANA CENTRE AUTHORITY

2006-07 ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1, 2006 - MARCH 31, 2007



Wascana Centre Authority

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2006-2007

Appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council (5 Directors):

Minister Mark Wartman - Chair (part year)

Minister Harry Van Mulligen (part year)

Deb McDonald

Reid Pattison

Arleen Hynd

Nora Barker

Appointed by resolution of the City of Regina (3 Directors):

Mayor Pat Fiacco

Michael Fougere (part year)

Jerry Flegel (part year)

Jocelyn Hutchinson (part year)

Louis Browne (part year)

Appointed by the Board of Governors of the University of Regina (3 Directors):

Robert Hawkins (part year)

David Button (part year)

Jim Tomkins (part year)

Dale Schoffer

Nelson Wagner (part year)

Secretary to the Board: S. P. (Van) Isman

Wascana Centre Authority

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Wascana Centre Authority

Box 7111

Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3S7

Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director: S. P. (Van) Isman, B.A., M.B.A.

Director of Administration: Don Pho, B. Comm., C.M.A., C.A.

Director of Operations: Ken Dockham, B.Sc.A., M.L.A., F.C.S.L.A.



Website: www.wascana.sk.ca

Email: wca@wascana.sk.ca

Overview

The Wascana Centre Act has governed the actions and developments of Wascana Centre since April 1, 1962. The Act unified the Province of Saskatchewan, the City of Regina, and the University of Regina to form a separate corporate body, the Wascana Centre Authority.

Wascana Centre encompasses numerous facilities and amenities including the University of Regina, SIAST, Conexus Arts Centre, First Nations University of Canada, Canada-Saskatchewan Sound Stage, Wascana Waterfowl Park, Wascana Lake, Canada Games Athletic Complex at Douglas Park, Saskatchewan Science Centre, Kramer Imax Theatre, Wascana Rehabilitation Centre, Royal Saskatchewan Museum, MacKenzie Art Gallery, Queen Elizabeth II Gardens and the stately Legislative Building and Grounds.

Wascana Centre is governed by a Board of Directors that includes three members from the University of Regina, three from the City of Regina and five from the Government of Saskatchewan. The Board draws upon the expertise of advisory committees in fields such as architecture and engineering in setting standards and controls for the Centre.

Five mandates are contained in the Act which specify the Centre's purpose:

- Development of the Seat of Government
- Improvement of Recreational Facilities
- Advancement of Cultural Arts
- Enlargement of Educational Opportunities
- Conservation of the Environment

Wascana Centre remains committed to advancing these legislated mandates, which has resulted in numerous changes to the Centre over the years.

A significant recent change to Wascana Centre's landscape was the deepening and rejuvenation of Wascana Lake and its shores in 2004. The Big Dig's "100 year fix" for Wascana Lake

The International Facility Management Association (IFMA) donated two Automated External Defibrillators to Wascana Centre Authority this year, making Wascana Centre that much safer for all users. One machine is located in Wascana Place and the other is in our Police cruiser. We wish to acknowledge this generous donation that will save lives. In the event of an emergency, please call 911.

enabled the City of Regina and the Wascana Centre to host the 2005 Canada Summer Games and the 2006 Canadian National Canoe and Kayak Championships.

At 2,300 acres, Wascana Centre is one of the largest urban parks in Canada and is widely considered to be of world-class quality. The park remains a popular tourist attraction that is host to a broad variety of sport, culture, recreation and tourism events every year. Wascana Centre remains the *Jewel of Regina*.

Seat of Government

Following the celebration of Saskatchewan's 100th Birthday in 2005, our Provincial Capital had a chance to catch its breath in 2006-07. Nonetheless, Wascana Centre continued to play host to numerous national and international visitors during the year, including Governor General Michaëlle Jean.

Particularly significant this year was the Remembrance Day unveiling of the new name for the legislative precinct roadway previously known as Saskatchewan Road. Distinguished by signage featuring a red poppy, Memorial Way commemorates the efforts and sacrifices made by the men and women from Saskatchewan who valiantly defended our country.

Recreation Facilities

Following the dramatic changes to Wascana Centre the previous year, many of our recent efforts concentrated on ensuring our facilities and procedures were made user-friendly to assist in the hosting of activities and events . . . and host these we did! By way of example, these included:

- 53 walks, runs, marathons or cycling events;
- 11 on-water competitive events, including the first competitive sailing event on Wascana Lake in more than 15 years;
- Although we saw several new events initiated, such as our first run of outdoor movies and the Provincial Wakeboarding Championships, we also saw the return of many other events including the Dragon Boat Races, Week in Wascana Day Camp, Jib-Fest Snowboard Competition and the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life; and
- All told, there were more than 5,000,000 visits to Wascana Centre for people coming to work, learn or enjoy themselves!



Mayor Pat Fiacco and Mr. Roy Dahl distribute ice cream bars to a group of school children at the launch of Wascana Centre's Fundraising Program. On the occasion of his 100th birthday, Mr. Dahl was honoured by his family with being the first person for whom a bench in Wascana Centre has been dedicated. For more information on supporting Wascana Centre, please contact us.

The main Blue Trail around Wascana Lake is exactly 4 kilometres. In fact, there are blue-topped markers every 200 metres on this multi-use pathway and mapped markers at one kilometre intervals. This system was made possible through a generous donation from IPSCO.

Cultural Arts

Wascana Centre hosted over 150 cultural and artistic events in the 2006-07 fiscal year. These events included:

- Canada Day celebrations that were attended by more than 30,000 people;
- nine art exhibitions at the Joe Moran gallery;
- Bazaar;
- over 15 out-door concerts. Particularly notable was the Regina Symphony Orchestra's Mozart in the Meadow; and
- Wascana was also a location site for 40 film projects.

Educational Opportunities

Education remains an important mandate of Wascana Centre Authority. During this fiscal year:

- Construction began on the new Laboratory Building at the University of Regina;
- Exterior improvements were completed at SIAST;
- Extensive planning was incorporated into developing a vision for the eventual expansion of the University of Regina to the Wascana east lands (east of the Ring Road and south of SIAST); and
- On a less formal level, thousands of visitors, particularly children, toured the Waterfowl Display Ponds and our protected Grassland Reserve – an important biological interpretation and education area in the middle of a major city.

Conservation of the Environment

In 2006-07 Wascana Centre Authority planted slightly more than 3,000 trees and shrubs. This is the estimated number of new plantings required to maintain our tree census at approximately 200,000 trees. This year also marked the first time that the public was invited to participate in sponsoring the planting of trees in Wascana Centre to commemorate a special event or honour a loved one. The popularity of the public plantings ensures that it will be continued in the next year and beyond.

Of particular note:

- Wascana Centre uses natural, biological methods of addressing environmental challenges, wherever possible. An example is our annual release of thousands of ladybugs to combat aphids – a major threat to the well-being of our trees.
- Our partners, the Friends of Wascana Marsh, organized a two-day nature festival in Wascana Centre. “Wings Over Wascana” proved to be a fun way for hundreds of young people to learn first-hand about our environment.
- Bird conservation programs were a key component of Wascana Centre’s environmental mandate. The Centre cared for more than 100 injured birds and helped organize several bird watching events. In an attempt to control wildlife populations, 900 Canada Geese were gathered up and transported to their new habitat in Northern Saskatchewan.

Wascana Centre Master Plan

On December 21, 2006, the Board of Directors of the Wascana Centre Authority officially approved the *2006 Wascana Centre Authority Master Plan*. Required by *The Wascana Centre Act* to review the master plan every seven years, this is the ninth version of our master plan. The adoption of this plan marked the conclusion of an eighteen month planning process, which included hundreds of public, stakeholder and partner consultations.

The 2006 Master Plan features several redesigned components carried forward from the previous version, including multi-use pathway bridges at Broad Street and linking the Saskatchewan Science Centre with the Conexus Arts Centre. The following new elements were included in this most recent plan:

- A floral conservatory north of Nursery Park;
- An elevated observation deck in the waterfowl display ponds compound;
- A significant redesign of Douglas Park including an outdoor performance venue, rerouted road ways, new athletic fields and a public service facility;
- An updated site plan for research park (Innovation Place);
- Improved lighting in public areas; and
- Extensive additions to our multi-use pathway system.

The master plan in its entirety and other planning documents may be found on our website at: <http://www.wascana.sk.ca/importantdocs.htm>.



Louis Riel: A Part of Wascana Centre Authority's History

Excerpt from article by Kenneth Bell. Full article available through Wascana Centre Authority.

Like a silent witness to the controversy surrounding it, John Nugent's sculpture of Louis Riel loomed larger than life in Wascana Park for 23 contentious years – heroic, defiant . . . and unabashedly naked. Between 1968 and 1991, the sculpture raised eyebrows and ire, especially among the Métis community. A bold statement that proved too bold, it became, and remains, the only piece of public art ever to be removed from Wascana Park.

In the mid-1960s, the country was looking forward to Canada's upcoming 1967 centennial year. There was interest in all things historical, and in Saskatchewan there was a move to pay tribute to Louis Riel, the Métis leader and martyr. The Saskatchewan Arts Board initiated a competition for artists to create a monument to Riel, which was to be placed prominently in Wascana Park.

From dozens of proposals, Lumsden sculptor John Nugent was chosen. Nugent planned to create a 20-foot-tall, highly abstract, welded steel sculpture intended to be an evocative impression of the man, rather than a realistic representation. But when senior government officials learned the design was abstract, they demanded it be changed to a conventional, and true-to-life, traditional statue.

Nugent submitted a new proposal. This version was certainly true-to-life. It was also quite naked. Nugent designed it in the tradition of heroic nudes, but that didn't satisfy the government critics, who felt the statue was undignified. To appease them, Nugent promised to drape the statue in a tunic, and the commission went ahead.

Occupying a prime location on the Saskatchewan Legislative grounds, and with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau on hand, the statue was unveiled in 1968 – first to applause, then to gasps. Nugent planned for

the piece to be placed at ground level, but park officials placed it on a platform six feet above grade. Raised up, spectators could easily see under the tunic of the statue, and Nugent had left nothing to the imagination.

The statue caused a sensation – for all the wrong reasons. There was an uproar not only in the legislature, but among the Métis community, which felt that the monument was disrespectful, inappropriate, and failed to honour Riel.

The Métis community lobbied to have the statue removed from the park. To make matters worse, it was repeatedly vandalized and spray-painted.

By the mid-1980s, Nugent began to hear rumblings that the statue was about to be taken down. Eventually, it found its way to the depths of the Mackenzie Art Gallery's vault, where it has remained since it was finally removed from the park in 1991.

Nugent's ties to the site where he experienced so much adversity remain – albeit indirectly. His Lumsden Studio and the Saskatchewan Legislative Grounds were both declared heritage sites in the same year – 2005, the province's centennial.

*Nugent, John
(Canadian, born 1921)
Design for Louis Riel Memorial, 1968
steel and wood
99 x 24.2 x 24.2 cm
MacKenzie Art Gallery,
University of Regina Collection*



*Nugent, John
(Canadian, born 1921)
Louis Riel Memorial, 1968
bronze
238.1 x 84.1 x 71.4 cm
Collection of the MacKenzie Art
Gallery, gift of the Government*

Wascana Centre Authority

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

2006-2007

Operating Results Year Ended March 31, 2007

Selected financial information from the audited financial statements of Wascana Centre Authority.

Revenue

Government of Saskatchewan	\$	2,742,595
City of Regina		1,371,779
University of Regina		601,890
Other		370,480
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	\$	5,086,744

Expenses

Park labour, supplies and utilities	\$	1,852,285
Equipment costs, employee benefits and supervision		1,443,167
Greenhouse, police, public relations and administration		1,168,528
Amortization and other		271,114
Landscape construction		354,264
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	\$	5,089,358

Excess of revenue (expenses) for the year	\$	-2,614
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More detailed information can be obtained by contacting the Director of Administration.





*Photo courtesy of
Tourism Saskatchewan/Douglas E. Walker*

WASCANA CENTRE AUTHORITY

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