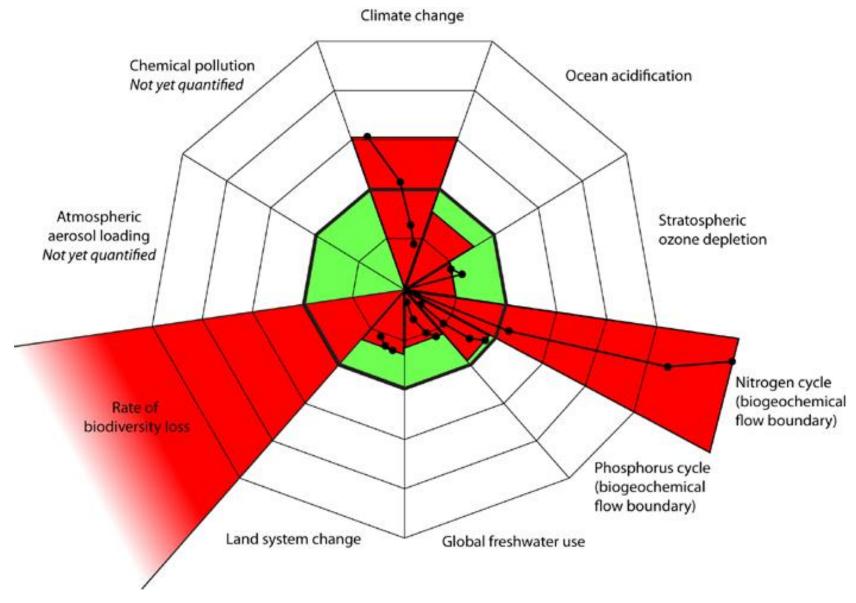
Saskatchewan Ecomuseum Initiative

Sask RCE Symposium - May 8, 2014

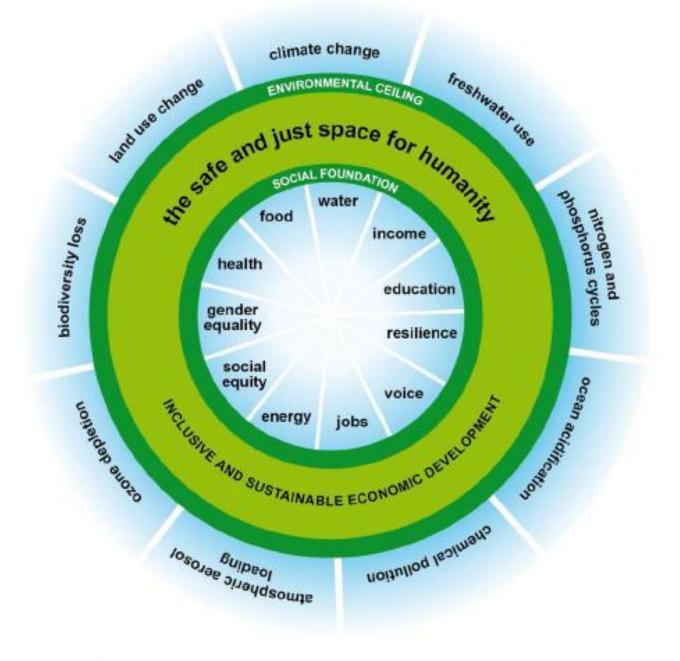
Glenn Sutter
RSM Curator of Human Ecology







Rockström et al. (2009) *Ecology and Society* www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol14/iss2/art32/



Raworth, K (2012) A safe and just space for humanity Oxfam Discussion Paper

Sustainability and Museums

Museums need to become better at addressing the holistic cultural realities of our communities. Their most significant role is in their ability to stimulate creativity, reflection and dialogue within and across society.

Douglas Worts, Linkedin Group on Fostering a Culture of Sustainability, 2011

Sustainability and Museums

A Museum needs to be "a locallyembedded problem-solver, in tune with the challenges and aspirations of the community."

Janes, R. R. (2009) Museums in a Troubled World, pg 173.

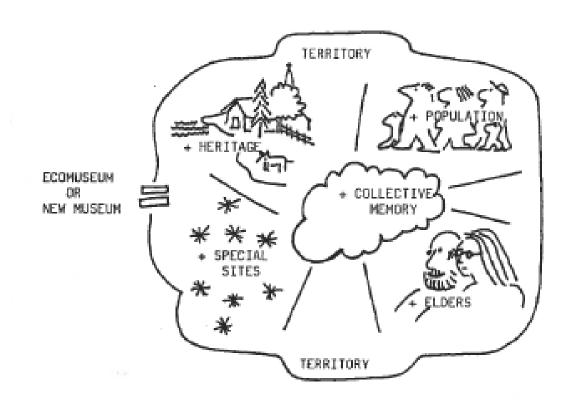
Role of Heritage

Without a commitment to heritage, our attempts to live sustainably "will remain rootless and bear short-lived results. Ecomuseums are one of the best ways to bring people to consciousness..."

De Varine, H. (2006) Ecomuseology and sustainable development. *Museums & Social Issues* 1:225-231.



ECOMUSEUM (c. 1970)



"...an agreement by which a local community takes care of a place."

An Ecomuseum

Gives community residents "a dynamic way in which to preserve, interpret, and manage their heritage for sustainable development."

Murtas, D. and P. Davis. (2009). *Museums and Society* 7:150-186.

An Ecomuseum

A locally-driven, place-based organization that encourages sustainable community development, based on heritage conservation and interpretation.

Saskatchewan Ecomuseums Initiative - Nov. 2013

Potential Outcomes

- Social cohesion, conflict resolution & awareness
 via sense-of-place mapping, project planning, learning opportunities, etc.
- Conservation & interpretation of local heritage via restoration projects, interpretive trails & maps that showcase past cultures, current industries, important wildlife areas, etc.
- Environmental monitoring via school programs, citizen science, research projects, etc.
- Enhanced tourism via cultural programs, extension activities, website, etc.

Sask Ecomuseum Initiative

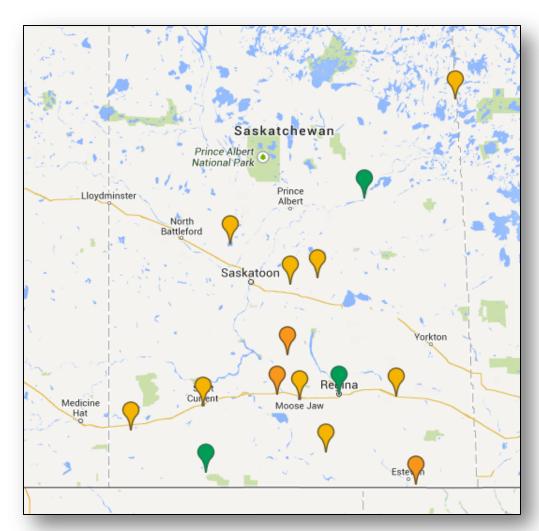








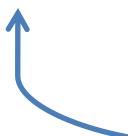




Museum Community



MAS Committee on Museums and Sustainability



Core project



GOS Cultural Policy



SK Ecomuseums Initiative

Steering Committee

RSM/PCS (chair) Museums Assoc of Sask Heritage Sask SaskCulture Heritage Canada

Demonstration Sites

Val Marie Nipawin/Twin Lakes North Central Regina Wolseley

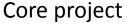


Research Committee

UN Global Network of RCEs (over 120 sites)



Sask Regional Centre of
Expertise (RCE) on
Education for Sustainable
Development





Government of Saskatchewan

- Growth & Opportunities
- Improving QOL
- Responsive & Responsible Government

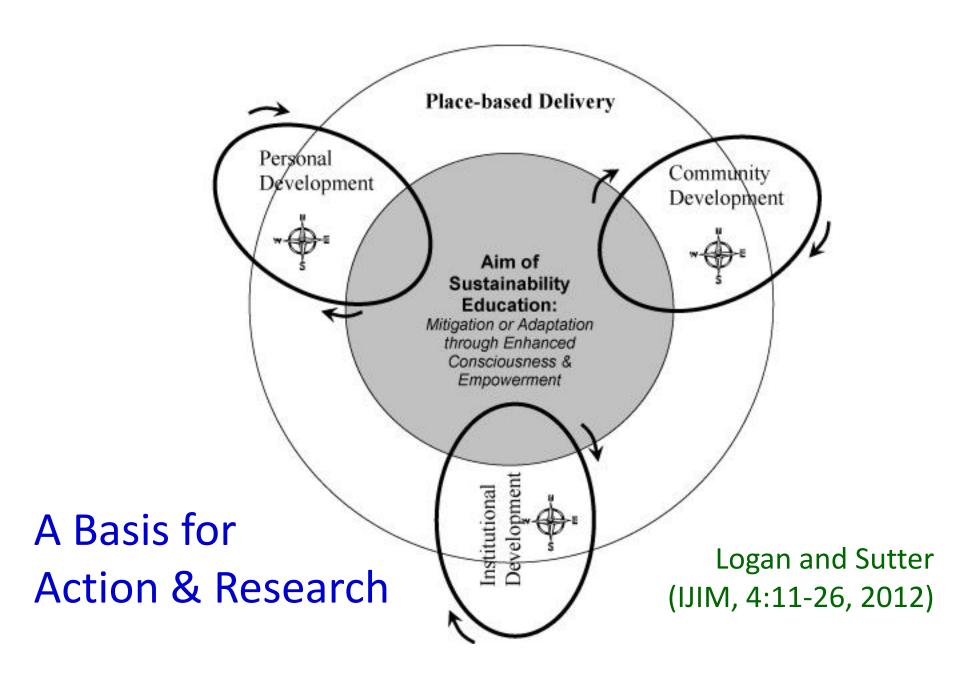
Parks, Culture & Sport

- Heritage resources
- Creative arts and culture
- Tourism

Royal Sask Museum

- Sustainability
 Education
- Biodiversity







Action & Research (IJIM, 4:11-26, 2012)



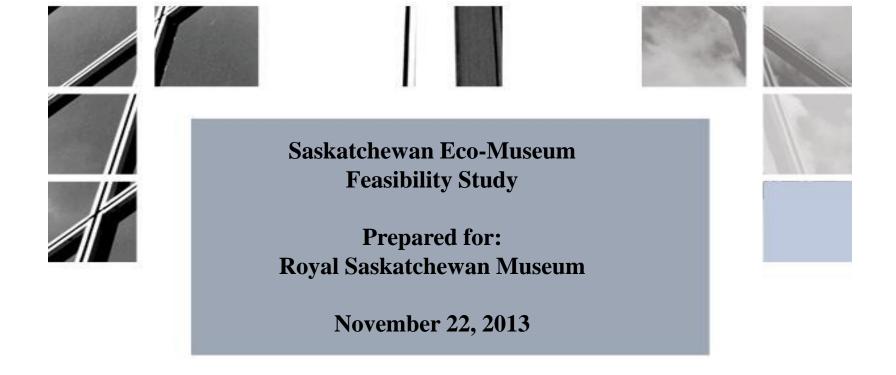
Feb 2013 Workshop





Planning Framework → Principles, Focus,

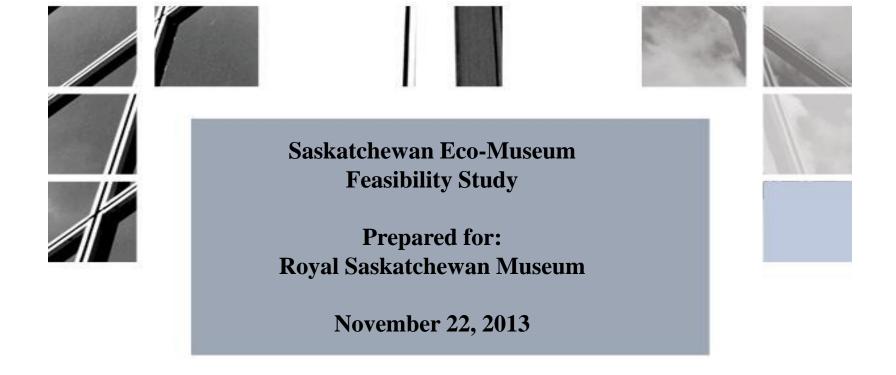
Demonstration Sites







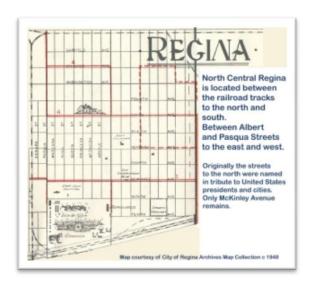
- ☐ Aggressive program development
- ☐ Step away and pursue other priorities
- ☐ Continue to provide advice to interested communities







- Aggressive program development
- Step away and pursue other priorities
- Continue to provide advice to interested communities



North Central Regina



Wolseley/Indian Head



Nipawin



Val Marie





















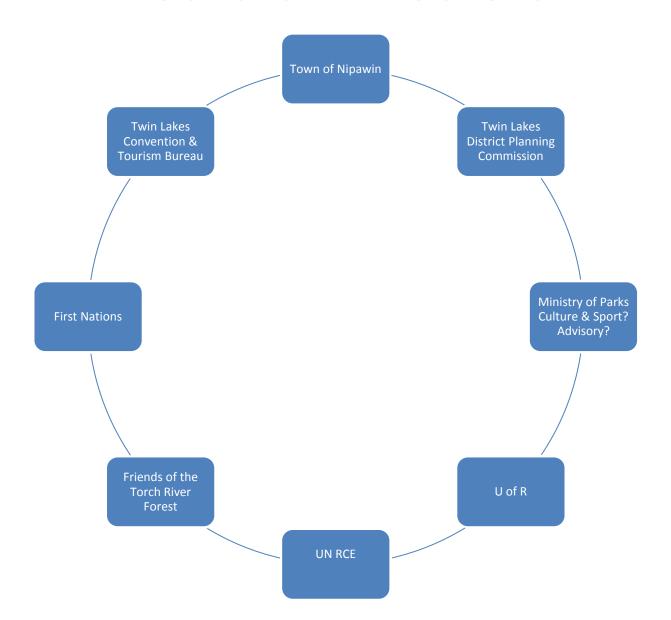


Stakeholders

- Twin Lakes Planning District
- Town of Nipawin EDC
- Twin Lakes Convention & Tourism Bureau
- Friends of the Torch River Forrest
- Ministry of Environment
- UN RCE
- U of R
- U of S
- Chamber of Commerce?
- Cumberland College

- MLA Fred Bradshaw (delegate)
- MP Randy Hoback (delegate)
- SIAST
- First Nations
- 5
- 7
- 7
- ?
- ?

Board of Directors



Academic

- Curriculum development
 - On-site, aimed at K-12
 - Outdoor classroom once this is in place
 - Eventually attract other schools from the region
 - Wanuskewin of the Northeast
- Heritage sites and record of local histories and cultures
- Environmental impact studies
 - Logging, biodiversity inventories
 - Forest management & restorative justice training, e.g., Hayes Development

Restorative Justice

- Healing in the forest
 - Youth, War Veterans, People currently in conflict
 - Community taking charge of their justice system,
 e.g., Hollow Water of the northeast

Economic

- Tourism
 - Ecotourism, e.g., birdwatching
 - Hunting, fishing, guiding
 - Canoeing
- Non-timber forest products
 - Mushrooms, berries
 - Local and provincial markets
 - Cooperatives

Economic

- Professional retreats
- Tourism
 - Ecotourism, e.g., birdwatching
 - Hunting, fishing, guiding
 - Canoeing
- Non-timber forest products
 - Mushrooms, berries
 - Local and provincial markets
 - Cooperatives

Economic

- Catalyst for sustainable socio-economic development of all kinds
- Vision is to involve the community, the academy, industry, and government in a sustainable way (for now and for the future)
- Shift from isolated disciplines to a more interdisciplinary approach; away from the ivory tower, top-down to a more "wholistic" methodology

Challenges

- Forestry Dept interested in clear-cut. Rationale is based on mistletoe and risk of forest fire; economics not a big part of it
 - Government says that no contractor will remove mistletoe, do fire-smarting, or do selective cutting
 - Hayes Development is interested
 - An opportunity for small local mills
 - Community concerns have caught the attention of Government, the Academy, and industry
 - So what do we do as individuals and a collective? Adapt and conform, or question and transform?
- Aim is to maintain the health of the forest and transform society











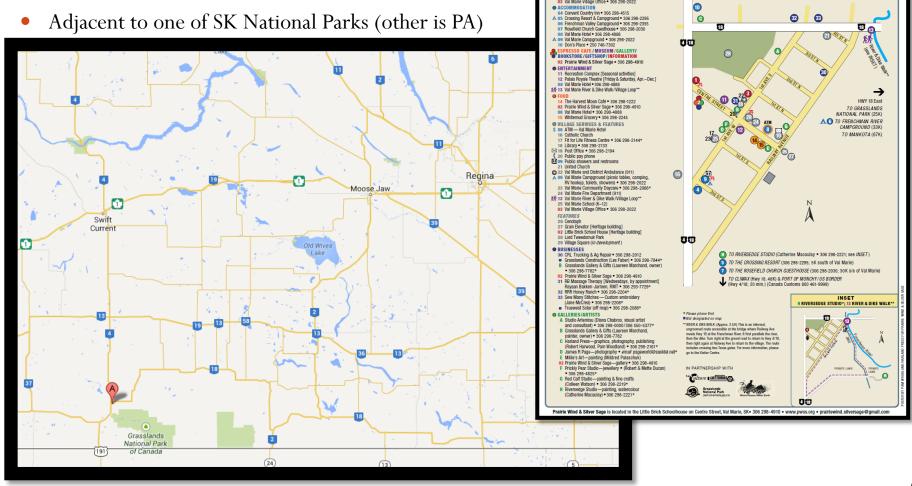
Save The Torch River Forest
We need Your Comments
By Feb 23 2013
Tell pat.mackasey@gov.sk.ca
No Clear Cutting The TRPF





Where is PWSS?

- Val Marie, Saskatchewan
- 1.5 hrs south of Swift Current.
- 20 min from the Montana/Saskatchewan Border
- Adjacent to one of SK National Parks (other is PA)



PRAIRIE WIND & SILVER SAGE FRIENDS OF GRASSLANDS

TO CADILLAC (55KN) and SWIFT CURRENT (120KN)

01 Grasslands National Park Visitor Centre • 306 298-2257
02 Prairie Wind & Silver Sage • 306 298-4910
03 Val Marie Village Office • 306 298-2022

What is PWSS?

- Restored Brick Schoolhouse
- Gift Shop
- Bookstore
- Coffee Shop/Snack bar
- Native Prairie Garden
- Art Gallery
- Venue
- Ecomuseum



Who is involved?

- Board of volunteers (6 members)
- One part-time manager
- Two summer staff
 - Backgrounds range from painters, photographers, entrepreneurs, local residents, parks staff, prairie learning center staff, prairie conservation action plan staff.
 - Range from 20-65 years of age.
- Members are creative, passionate and hard working group and have turned running a business into a fun event.
- People with one shared interest providing Val Marie with a successfully run multifaceted organization.
- In kind support is provided by Parks Canada and the Village of Val Marie.

Ecomuseum Planning Consultations

- Ecomuseum presentation by Glenn Sutter at PWSS 2012
 AGM
- Hiring of Hugh Henry from Swift Current to aid in first steps in ecomuseum development (2012-2013)
- Fall 2013 open ecomuseum meeting facilitated by Glenn to determine:
 - What would you like to see in the village or region in 5, 10, and 20 years, and what Val Marie might be like in the future, given current trends?
 - Why would you like to see the positive change?
 - What is your level of interest in the ecomuseum concept?
 - How would you be willing to contribute to it?

Themes









Work Completed

Before











Programs

Over 400 people participated in PWSS Events in 2013

- **Events**
 - Art Openings Meet the artists (annually)
 - Museum Opening
 - Musical performances
 - The Wardens (2013)
 - Julia Lynx (May 2014)
 - Margaret Atwood and Graeme Gibson tour of Federal Pastures (2013)
- Prairie WindsPresentations (2013)
 - Mushrooms in GNP Parks Staff
 - Bird ecology study related to fire and grazing University of Manitoba
 - Black footed ferret reintroduction and black tailed prairie dog research – Calgary Zoo
 - Swift Fox Reintroduction Program Parks Canada Staff
 - Burrowing owl status in Canada Geoff Holroyd (retired from Canadian Wildlife Service)



Awareness

- A Small Museum Has Heart", by Laureen Marchand. *The Advance*, 2014, August 27.
- "Prairie Wind and Silver Sage conserve prairie landscapes," by Michelle Brownridge, *Engage* (published by SaskCulture Inc.), 2013.
- "Val Marie's Museum Receives Major Anonymous Donation," by Laureen Marchand. *The Advance*, 2014, January 28.
- "The Magnificent Grasslands, Inspiring Art and Conservation", by Rebecca Schneidereit. *Fine Lifestyles Southwest*, 2014 Spring.
- Two articles by Tim Kalinowski, *The Advance*, 2014, March 25.
- Article by Valerie Zink. *Museums and Sustainability* (published by Museums Association of Saskatchewan), 2014.
- "Val Marie's Prairie Wind and Silver Sage moves toward eco-museum model" Prairie Post, April 2012



Next Steps...

- Creating a place that people want to be.
- Increasing awareness of who we are and what we offer.
- Continue to work on projects that peak our interest and passion.
- Continue to form partnerships with other organizations in the area.
- Follow our curiosity to explore new ideas and think outside the box.





Next Steps...

- Look out for each other and lend a hand when needed (between organizations and within).
- Allow Val Marie to be, the spirit of the place is unique.







Photo by Alais Nevert

