

7.0 Heritage & Culture

7.1 Overview



Heritage and culture are interrelated aspects of a society that define our past, present and future. Recognizing and preserving heritage and culture helps a community appreciate the contributions of past citizens, while guiding people forward in life. At the neighbourhood level, heritage elements are often found in buildings or monuments, while culture may include local art or festivals.

Varsity View has been home to many prominent people in the arts, politics and academic professions. As the neighbourhood changes, so does the historical landscape. Older homes are being replaced by brand new homes, and many long-time residents are no longer around to share the history of the neighbourhood with current

residents. The Varsity View neighbourhood wishes to celebrate its legacy within Saskatoon and encourage future cultural events and exchanges that preserve the stories and history of its past while embracing its future.

7.2 Heritage and Culture Goals



The Varsity View LAPC created a number of goals intended to support and celebrate heritage and culture in the Varsity View neighbourhood. They are as follows:

1. Improve neighbourhood and campus relationships through cultural and heritage collaborations.
2. Preserve significant built, natural, and material heritage in the neighbourhood.
3. Provide more venues for residents to learn and celebrate their heritage and host cultural events.
4. Foster stronger ties with the Albert Community Centre and the neighbourhood through programming opportunities.
5. Commemorate, interpret and raise awareness of the community's heritage through Civic Heritage Programs.

7.3 Varsity View Built Heritage

As one of the Saskatoon's oldest neighbourhoods, Varsity View has a rich mix of material and human history. At Varsity LAPC meetings there was great interest in the built heritage and an expressed desire to expand residents' knowledge of the neighbourhood's heritage. There is also a great deal of interest in conservation of built heritage and appropriate infill design sympathetic to the existing heritage areas. For the purposes of this report, all discussions regarding architectural and/or character retention have been included in Section 1.0 Land Use and Redevelopment/Infill. The early development of Varsity View has been covered in the Yesterday & Today Section of this report. Significant built heritage is the subject of this section and has been provided by the Varsity View neighbourhood.

7.3.1 Civic Heritage Policy and Conservation Program

The City of Saskatoon Heritage Conservation Program provides incentives to encourage conservation of heritage properties. Property owners can apply for Municipal Heritage Property designation or inclusion on the Community Heritage Register. Application for either Municipal Heritage Property designation or inclusion on the Community Heritage Register is only done when requested and agreed to by the property owner.

Currently, the City is undertaking a heritage policy review. The review is intended to investigate the current state of heritage policy and practices in Canada, provide an analysis of Saskatoon's policy and programming, and recommend alternative or additional approaches. The review is anticipated to be presented to City Council in late 2012.

- A. **Municipal Heritage Property** - A designated Municipal Heritage Property is recognized as being a property of major significance to the community of Saskatoon. Each property is protected by Bylaw, which means it must be maintained and exterior character defining elements or important architectural features cannot be altered without the approval of the City.



- B. **Holding Bylaw** - Under City Bylaw No. 6770, commonly referred to as the Holding Bylaw, the City may deny any permit for property demolition for up to 60 days while the property is considered for Municipal Heritage designation. The Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee is also notified of the application for demolition. There are currently 30 properties in Saskatoon protected by Holding Bylaw.
- C. **Community Heritage Register** - The City of Saskatoon Community Heritage Register lists properties that have significant heritage merit and contribute to the character of the neighbourhood or district. Registered properties must be maintained and the key exterior heritage features cannot be altered for a fixed number of years. However, there is no long-term guarantee of protection for the property as there is with Municipal Heritage Property designation.
- D. **Built Heritage Database** - In 2004, the Civic Heritage Program conducted a Heritage Properties Identification project to compile a comprehensive list of heritage buildings, structures (statues, monuments, bridges, etc.), and properties in Saskatoon. Specific criteria were used to create a list of private and public buildings and properties with heritage character or heritage value. Features such as pre-1945 construction, connection with a historical person, and architectural theme are some components of the overall selection criteria. A Varsity View built heritage inventory was collected in 2011 and will be available in 2012.
- E. **City of Saskatoon Heritage Awards Program** - The Heritage Awards are presented by the City of Saskatoon to acknowledge preservation efforts and the personal energy, time and commitment dedicated to Saskatoon’s cultural welfare. The Municipal Heritage Awards Program occurs every two years allowing people to nominate someone they know who have made a difference in the preservation and conservation of the City’s heritage. In 2008, the Bottomley House located at 1118 College Drive received the award for “Adaptive Reuse.”

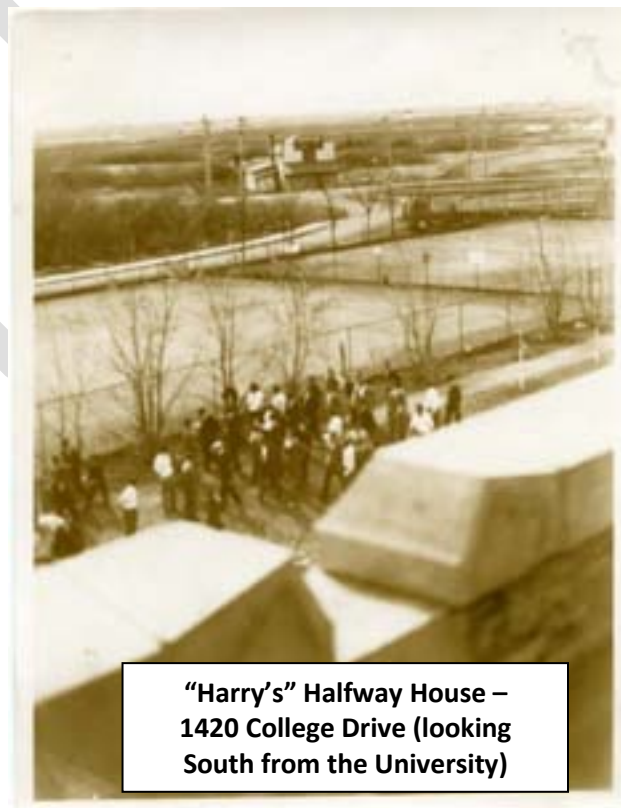


**Bottomley House –
1118 College Drive**

7.3.2 Commercial Buildings

During one of the planning exercises the Varsity View LAPC identified a number of buildings having significant contribution to the built heritage and history of the neighbourhood. The following is a list of significant commercial, community facilities, and residences in the neighbourhood. This is not intended to serve as a comprehensive listing of all historical buildings within Varsity Varsity, as the neighbourhood has an extensive history that cannot be covered within the body of this report.

- **Temperance Café** (1308 Temperance Street) – Constructed in 1948, the first occupants of the building at 1308 Temperance Street was the Quality Food Store (1949-1959). Al’s Brunskill Pharmacy (now Brunskill Pharmacy) was also listed at this location from 1954-1960 eventually taking over the Quality Food Store space before moving to their current location at the corner of Wiggins and Temperance. Bel-Aire Coiffures Beauty Shop occupied the space from 1965 – 1972. In 1972, the Temperance Café became the long term business at this location with apartments above. The café was initially owned and operated by Mrs. Dick Yok Mack from China for several years and was also called Temperance Café and Chop Suey. Although the ownership has changed over the years, today it still operates under the Temperance Café name.
- **College and Cumberland Commercial Corner** (1420 College Drive, 414, 417, and 418 Cumberland Avenue) – As early as 1928, commercial buildings existed at the corner of Cumberland Ave. and College Dr. Marketed to university students, the earliest recorded store was “Harry’s Halfway House” where students could grab a snack and coffee. Over the years, a number of commercial properties were added, with businesses such as Bell’s Store (1945-1955), Thomas Shop Rite (1956-1965) Wing’s Grocery and Lunch (1966) and Wayne’s Grocery (1967-1998). Today, the site still serves the University crowd and is home to Subway and Alexander’s Restaurant and Bar.



**“Harry’s” Halfway House –
1420 College Drive (looking
South from the University)**

- **Blouin’s Colonial Auto Court and “Candy Store”** (1301 8th Street East) - Starting in the late 1940s, a number of private tourist court facilities were established throughout Saskatchewan. The first within Saskatoon was George Blouin’s Auto Court at 8th Street and Wiggins Ave., which opened in 1948. The Auto Court consisted of a ring of small, winterized cabins next to a commissary building containing bathrooms, a store, a lunch counter and gas station. It was later re-named the Colonial Courts, and is the precursor to the present-day Colonial Square Motel. Today, residents recall the Colonial “Candy Store” as part of their experience as a youth in Varsity View.

7.3.3 Community Facilities

- **Albert School/Community Centre** (610 Clarence Avenue) – The designated heritage building, was built in 1911-1912 in response to pressure from the community objecting to severe overcrowding at Victoria School. During its operation, it was home to a number of winning sports championships, as well as special classes for students of Ukrainian origin. In 1978, due to declining enrollments, Albert School was closed as an elementary school. Unlike other boomtime schools, Albert School was not demolished and was leased to Saskatoon French School from 1978-1982. In 1982 with help from the Neighbourhood Improvement Program, the City purchased Albert School. Since the 1980’s, the building has been operated as a community centre by the City of Saskatoon.
- **St. Pedro Mohyla Institute** (1240 Temperance Street) – The Saskatoon-based institute was founded in 1916, and named after the Ukrainian Orthodox Metropolitan, St. Petro Mohyla. The facility was aimed at bettering the economic, educational, and cultural well-being of Ukrainian-Canadians. The institute’s original location was on Main Street but moved to 1240 Temperance Street in the 1960s. In 1965, a new building was constructed on the site which is home to the institute today.



The Mohyla Institute is credited with founding many other organizations such as the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada, Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada, and the Canadian Ukrainian Youth Association. On September 24, 2011, the National Historic Sites and Monuments of Canada recognized the Mohyla Institute as having a significant impact on Canadian history. A plaque on the site recognizes the Institute's importance within Canada.

7.3.4 Residential Buildings

- **Farley Mowat's Residence** (1004 15th Street East) –Farley Mowat is a conservationist and one of Canada's most widely-read authors. At the height of the Great Depression, Mowat's family relocated to Saskatoon. The Mowat family home was originally located at 908 Saskatchewan Crescent East and was recently renovated and relocated to 1004 15th Street East in the Varsity View neighbourhood. As a boy, Mowat was fascinated by nature and animals. He kept a museum in the Mowat basement, which included the joined skull of a two-headed calf, some stuffed birds and a bear cub. At the age of 13, Mowat founded a nature newsletter, *Nature Lore*, and wrote a weekly column on birds in the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*.
- **Board of Trade Office** (1022 Temperance Avenue) – This house was built in 1907 as the Saskatoon Board of Trade office. The building is now a private residence. It was moved to its present location from south of the Canadian National Station on First Avenue in 1920.
- **Bottomley House** (1118 College Drive) – Originally known as the Bottomley House, the building now operates as a Personal Counseling Service. Built in 1912 by Yorkshire-born real estate developer Richard Bottomley as his private residence, this house bears the finest features of the Queen Anne Revival architectural style, a rare design for Saskatoon. The building received municipal heritage designation in 2006. See photo on page 4.



7.3.5 Landmark/Structure

- **University/25th Street Bridge** - Originally planned to be of steel truss construction like the Traffic Bridge, the University Bridge showcased a new reinforced concrete arch construction design. To increase access to the University, the province and city signed an agreement in 1913 to find an appropriate river crossing and joint financing of the structure. Many setbacks threatened the construction along the way, but the bridge was finally completed in 1916. At the time of its completion it was the longest bridge of its kind in Canada.

7.3.6 Current Built Heritage Status

The table below is intended to identify significant buildings as expressed by the residents of Varsity View neighbourhood. It also illustrates the municipal/federal heritage status that may currently exist for the building. As there may be many other buildings of significance that could be identified with the completion of the built heritage database (collected in 2011 for Varsity View), the community would like to meet with the Planning & Development Branch to review opportunities to preserve, celebrate and commemorate the built heritage of Varsity View.

Table 7.1 Varsity View Significant Buildings

Name	Address	Status
Temperance Café	1308 Temperance Avenue	None
Subway	418 Cumberland Avenue	None
Alexander's Restaurant and Bar	414 Cumberland Avenue	None
Albert Community Centre	610 Clarence Avenue North	Heritage Designation
Bottomley House	1118 College Drive	Heritage Designation
Buckwold House	1138 Elliot Street	Heritage Designation
Board of Trade Office	1022 Temperance Avenue	Holding Bylaw
Farley Mowat Residence	1004 15 th Street East	None
University Bridge	25 th Street	Holding Bylaw
Mohyla Institute	1240 Temperance Avenue	National Historic Site and Monument of Canada

RECOMMENDATION:

- 7.1 Heritage Priority Review:** *That the Varsity View Community Association meet with the Community Services Department, Planning and Development Branch, Heritage Coordinator to communicate the neighbourhood's heritage priorities and options for funding to commemorate or apply for civic heritage conservation for prioritized built heritage.*

7.4 Historical People of Varsity View

During an oral history planning exercise with the Varsity View LAPC, the committee worked together to develop a list of prominent Varsity View residents. Some participants had knowledge of specific addresses in which prominent citizens lived within Varsity View and some were not as clear. For the purposes of this report, only a selected few have been noted in detail here. In the future, the community may wish to work on a comprehensive history resource for the neighbourhood. This could take many different forms, such as: a web-based project, multi-media format, and/or walking tour map of homes and people.

Politicians

Honorable J.W. Grant MacEwan (1902-2000) - As well as having been Lieutenant Governor of Alberta (1966-74), The Honourable J. W. Grant MacEwan was well-known as an agriculturalist and historian. He was also active in municipal and provincial politics. From 1928 to 1946, J.W. Grant MacEwan was Professor of Animal Husbandry and Director of the School of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. J.W. Grant MacEwan was awarded honorary doctorate degrees from six universities. He also received the Order of Canada (1975) and the Governor General's Conservation Award (1985). Among many other services reflecting his values, he was North American Chancellor of the International Society for Animal Rights and headed a royal commission on a grasslands national park. J.W. Grant MacEwan died on June 15, 2000 at Calgary, Alberta¹. It is believed he resided on either Cumberland or Bottomley Avenues near the University.



¹ <http://www.assembly.ab.ca/lao/library/lt-gov/macewan.htm>



**Buckwold House –
1138 Elliot Street**

Senator Sid Buckwold (1916-2001) was a Canadian senator and mayor of Saskatoon. Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba he moved to Saskatoon in 1925. Buckwold attended Buena Vista School, Nutana Collegiate and the University of Saskatchewan before going to Montreal and receiving a Bachelor of Commerce from McGill University.

Elected to the Saskatoon City Council in 1953, he became Mayor in November 1957. He then ran unsuccessfully as a Liberal candidate in the federal election of 1963 and 1964 by-election in the riding of Saskatoon. In 1967, he was elected again as Mayor, and served until 1971.

In 1971, he was appointed to the Senate on the recommendation of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, and served until retiring in 1991 at age 75. A Liberal, he served as Government Whip in the Senate and as Vice-Chairman of the National Liberal Caucus. He lived at 1138 Elliot Street.

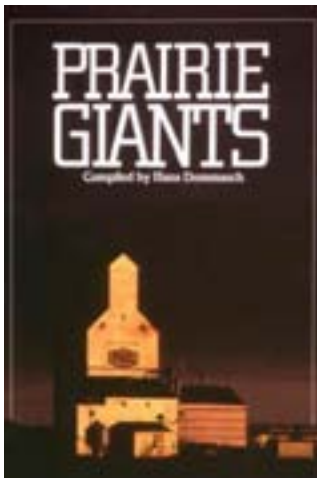
Dr. Lynda Haverstock is the former leader of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party and was the 19th Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan (2000-2006). Born and raised in Swift Current, Haverstock earned bachelor and master's degrees in education from the University of Saskatchewan and a PhD in psychology. Haverstock became leader of the provincial Liberals in 1989, and was the first woman to lead a political party in the province. Under Haverstock, the party grew significantly: in the 1995 provincial election, the party increased its caucus in the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan from one (Haverstock's own seat) to 11 and became the Official Opposition. Haverstock quit the party and remained as an independent MLA until 1999, when she retired from politics. She is currently the President and CEO of Tourism Saskatchewan. Dr. Haverstock lived on the corner of Elliot Street and Munroe Avenue.

Artists

Emrys M. Jones (1905 - ?) was born in Dowlais, Wales on 14 September 1905. His early education was a B.A from the University of Alberta in 1931. From 1931 to 1939, he taught high school in Edmonton. He returned to the University of Alberta in 1939 where he

combined employment as a drama instructor with his graduate studies. He earned his MA in 1943 and spent the next two years studying at Cornell and Columbia universities on a Rockefeller Fellowship.

In 1945 Emrys Jones joined the faculty of the University of Saskatchewan as Professor and Head of the Department of Drama. Professor Jones was the first full professor of drama to be appointed at a Commonwealth university. During his career Jones educated hundreds of students, directed dozens of plays, and advanced the dramatic arts on the national stage by founding the Canadian Theatre Centre in 1956. He was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (London) in 1971 and named Professor Emeritus of Drama in 1973². His former address in Varsity View is currently unknown.



Hans Dommasch was born on August 25th, 1926, in Germany, and immigrated to Canada in 1954. In 1955 he began working at the University of Saskatchewan as an Assistant Photographer and graduated from the New York Institute of Photography in 1959. He was made the head of Photographic Services for the U of S College of Medicine (1963), became an Assistant Professor of Surgery (1971), and eventually a Professor of Art and Art History. He then served as Head of the Department of Art and Art History at the University (1984 to 1993).

Dommasch also served as the Visual Arts Chairman of the Saskatchewan Arts Board (1988-89). He was a Fellow of the Biological Photographic Association (1965) and an associate of the Royal Photographic Society (1963). Amongst a host of other awards, he was given the highest Canadian award for contributions to photography when presented with the William V. Gordon Award in 1974. One of his most notable Saskatchewan works of art includes *Prairie Giants* (see photo left). His address in Varsity View is currently unknown.

Academics

Dr. Samuel Wolfe (1923-1993) – Professor emeritus at Columbia University's School of Public Health, Dr. Wolfe was an early advocate of Canada's national health insurance plan, and a proponent of better access to medical care for the poor. He was born in Canada and received his medical degree from the University of Toronto. He later became a member of a commission that pioneered universal health coverage in Saskatchewan in the 1960's. That plan ultimately became the model for Canada's national plan.

² http://scaa.usask.ca/gallery/northern/jones/en_bio.html

He was co-author of "Doctor's Strike; Medical Care and Conflict in Saskatchewan," which was published in 1967³. During his time in Saskatoon, he was the medical director of the Community Health Clinic in Saskatoon. His former address in Varsity View is currently unknown.

Dr. Robert Williamson was awarded the Order of Canada on December 23, 1985. He was the Founder of the Eskimology Section of the Department of Northern Affairs, of the Inuit magazine Inuktitut and of the University of Saskatchewan's Arctic Research and Training Centre. He has devoted his life to researching and solving the problems of the North. Over the past thirty-five years, he has spent much of his time in the North working to provide the Inuit with social, economic and political opportunities. He is believed to have lived on the 1000 block of Temperance Street.

Athletes



Maureen DuWors (1938 - ?) represented Saskatchewan and Canada as a track and field athlete, coach, official, and administrator. Born in Regina on July 21, 1938, she attended Luther High School and held both the Saskatchewan Open and high school all-around track and field titles. DuWors was also the 1955 Canadian champion in the 60-yard and 100-yard events. Throughout her career as a track and field athlete, she held the Canadian record for 50-yard, 60-yard, and 100-yard sprint events and the Canadian Juvenile Long Jump record. Internationally, DuWors competed in the 100-metre, 200-metre, and 4x100 metre relay at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. She earned bronze medals in the 4x100 metre relay at the Pan American, British Empire, and Commonwealth Games. DuWors' accomplishments off the track are equally as impressive. She became a respected coach and administrator, and an internationally rated official. She served as an executive member of the Saskatchewan branch of the Athletic Association of Canada and as director of the Saskatoon Track and Field Club, and was a member of the Department of Biology at the

University of Saskatchewan. Maureen DuWors was inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame in 1977. Her former address in Varsity View is currently unknown.

³ Journal of The National Medical Association. July, 1968.

Future Considerations for History Resources

- Honorable Rob Norris (1100 block of 11th Street)
- Senator Lillian Dyck (corner of Temperance & Munroe)
- Massey House - a well known boarding house (1100 Block Temperance Street)
- Ledinghams lived in the middle of the 1100 block Temperance Street - horticulture/gardens
- Elmer Shinkaruk's House & Giant Mushroom (421 Clarence Avenue N)

7.5 Jane's Walk

Jane's Walk celebrates the ideas and legacy of urbanist Jane Jacobs by getting people out exploring their neighbourhoods and meeting their neighbours. Free walking tours held on the first weekend of May each year are led by locals who want to create a space for residents to talk about what matters to them in the places they live and work. On May 7, 2011, two Jane's Walks were facilitated in the Varsity View neighbourhood, titled the *"Bird Eye View of the Urban Forest"* and *"Promenade Through the Past in President Murray Park"*. Through community led initiatives like Jane's Walks, Varsity View residents can learn more about the local history and anecdotal stories like the *"Wolves of President Murray Park"* Appendix 1.2 can be shared with the community by long time residents.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 7.2 Comprehensive Neighbourhood History Resource:** *That the Varsity View Community Association meet with the Community Services Department, Planning & Development Branch, to discuss options to create a comprehensive neighbourhood history resource with the goal to showcase the prominent people and places of the Varsity View neighbourhood.*

7.6 Varsity View Culture

7.6.1 Saskatoon Culture Plan

In December of 2010, the Varsity View LAPC worked through a facilitated dialog regarding cultural neighbourhood assets and the broader Saskatoon Culture Plan. The feedback received from the Varsity View LAPC was then used as input into the Saskatoon Culture Plan. On September 12, 2011, the City of Saskatoon Culture Plan was adopted. The plan is the first of its kind in Saskatoon and seeks to harmonize cultural endeavors, strengthen cultural development, and support the arts. There are six key drivers to the Cultural Plan:

1. Build capacity within the cultural sector.
2. Ensure cultural heritage is conserved and valued.
3. Cultivate conditions for youth and young professionals to thrive.
4. Value and celebrate diversity and strengthen opportunities for cultural interaction.
- 5. Support and enable cultural development at the neighbourhood level.**
6. Develop the city centre as a cultural district.

Key driver #5 is of particular importance to the Varsity View neighbourhood as they move forward with recommendations to strengthen and built on their heritage and cultural assets. Endeavors such as, recording their history, conserving built heritage, and further enhancing culture through use of places like the Albert Community Centre and Brunskill School will all enhance neighbourhood cultural experiences.

7.6.2 Varsity View Cultural People - Today

Varsity View neighbourhood is rich with artistic people and would like to celebrate artists who live and work within the neighbourhood. Artist showcases and annual community days are often a place to bring the cultural works of a neighbourhood together. In the past, Varsity View held an Annual Community Party Day in the park, where artists could bring their crafts for sale. A similar model is the Caswell Hill neighbourhood's *Art in the Park*, which is a successful community event that celebrates artists in Saskatoon and offers a day of activities for kids and entertainment for local residents.

Today, there is an abundance of notable artists from Varsity View, below is only a sample of the many artists who have lived or live in the neighbourhood over the last 10 years. A much more detailed resource mapping exercise is required to showcase current artists from the neighbourhood.

Michael Hosaluk is recognized internationally and in Canada as one of the world’s most creative wood “turners”. Born in 1954, in Invernay, Saskatchewan, Hosaluk’s work has been exhibited throughout Canada, Europe, China, Japan, Australia and the United States. In 2005 he was the recipient of the Saidye Bronfman Award for Excellence in Fine Craft and most recently Michael received the 2010 Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts.

Hosaluk’s pieces can be found in the permanent collections of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Buckingham Palace; Zhao Xiu, Governor of Jilin Province, China; Idemitsu Corporation, Tokyo; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; The Detroit Institute of Arts; Yale University Art Gallery; Minneapolis Institute of Art and the Royal Ontario Museum.

Miranda Jones is a painter, gilder, and metalworker. Born in Waikerie, South Australia, Miranda began her post-secondary education with a year as a Rotary exchange student in Portugal. Miranda returned to Australia where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Flinders University in Adelaide, followed by a fourth Honours year in Melbourne. Miranda is perhaps best known for her paper gilding. Using real gold and silver leaf, Miranda overlays strategic parts of her paintings with dazzling brilliance and brings unexpected life to her art. Her work can be viewed in the Darrell Bell Gallery in Saskatoon, the Nouveau Gallery in Regina, and the TU Gallery in Edmonton. She currently resides in the Varsity View neighbourhood.



Michael Hosaluk

Iris Hauser was born in Cranbrook, British Columbia, in 1956. She studied in Victoria in 1973 to 1974, and then at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax, Nova Scotia, graduating in 1975. She continued her studies in the department of Art and Art History at the University of Saskatchewan from 1977 to 1979. She has worked as an art instructor and lecturer at the Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon. Hauser paints large, colourful portraits, exploring personal and often disturbing subjects with titles for her shows include: *Passage from dark to light* and *In the land of milk and honey*.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 7.3 Cultural Resource Mapping:** *That the Varsity View Community Association work with the Community Services Department, Community Development Branch, to develop an inventory of cultural resources such as people, places and programs available within the Varsity View neighbourhood.*
- 7.4 Annual Community Day:** *That the Varsity View Community Association meet with the Community Services Department, Community Development Branch, to discuss the possibility of hosting an annual event in the neighbourhood that would showcase artists working within Varsity View and bring together residents from the neighbourhood.*

7.6.2 Varsity View Cultural Places

Albert Community Centre – The Albert Community Centre (ACC) is a Saskatoon heritage building, used primarily for leisure and personal enrichment activities. Unlike other City owned facilities, the ACC is operated entirely by a management board comprised of one City Council member and members of the public. It also has one dedicated City facility staff and ½ time booking administrator. When the City took ownership of the ACC in 1980, it was developed more as a rental centre than a thematic program facility. Over the years, it has continued to attract tenants based in arts and culture. There are currently the following long-term tenants in the facility: Albert Childcare Cooperative; Brenda’s School of Baton and Dance; Saskatoon Potters Guild; and Congregation Shir Chadash Synagogue. The centre also rents former classrooms as meeting rooms and its attic loft for wedding receptions. Lastly, the City also runs its summer recreation programs out of the facility.



Albert Community Centre

As part of the Culture Plan, there is a great opportunity to revisit the vision for the ACC and celebrate its uniqueness in the neighbourhood and the City. As part of the implementation of the Culture Plan, the ACC is positioned to “*infuse culture into the neighbourhood and foster intercultural exchange*”⁴. Although the ACC is in Varsity View, residents feel they would like stronger ties to the centre through neighbourhood programming and a broader understanding of the centre’s offerings. Currently, the centre has no website, central reception in the building, or a major marketing campaign, which poses a problem for any future program delivery geared to the neighbourhood and general public.

Bishop Murray Community Garden - The community garden, shared between residents of the neighbourhood and students of Bishop Murray High School, is viewed as place of cultural interaction in the community. The garden is located in the rear yard of Bishop Murray High School and acts as an educational resource for the school and community garden for Varsity View residents. It is home to local innovation, with its rain water collection and plot irrigation system. It has become a link between individuals, the broader community, and the school that provides a common place for social interaction throughout the growing season. In October 2011, the community and school co-hosted a harvest supper, where participants come together to celebrate the year-end offerings from the garden. Through activities such as community gardens, Varsity View can continue to build its cultural and social fabric.

Places of Worship – The Varsity View neighbourhood is currently home to six places of worship. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Congregation Agudas Israel, Congregation Shir Chadash, Roman Catholic Our Lady of Lourdes Church, St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall and Grosvenor Park United Church (just outside Varsity View boundary). Churches and other places of worship are commonly used by communities to host neighbourhood events and even recreational programs. As Varsity View has an abundance of places of workshop, there are ample opportunities for the community to work with the



⁴ Saskatoon Culture Plan. 2011

private facilities to encourage cultural events and utilize space within these buildings.

Private Residences – Informal house performances and progressive dinners are among the list of private events residents host in Varsity View. They can also be places of artistic display of local artisans. Often homes will be offered to host small intimate gatherings with live music from a feature artist for the night. More commonly, residents will get together with neighbours in their own private setting to appreciate local music, culture and the arts. Though not a public affair, these types of gatherings can work to build neighbourhood relationships, culture and cohesion.

RECOMMENDATION:

7.5 Albert Community Centre: *That the Varsity View Community Association work with the Community Services Department, Community Development Branch, to discuss their recreational/programming needs and how those align with the Albert Community Centre and the implementation of the Culture Plan.*

7.9 A Shared History and Culture – The University and Varsity View



The history of Varsity View is intertwined with the University of Saskatchewan. Reflective in the neighbourhood’s name, Varsity View has served and housed many prominent people of the University from its inception. Although, the University and the neighbourhood share a common history and place, the Varsity View LAPC feels campus-neighbourhood relationships to be limited to date. Varsity View residents feel the relationship between the University and neighbourhood could be greatly strengthened through cultural and historical endeavors together. Cultural collaborations such as a speaker series, art shows, and performances can assist in fostering a stronger campus-neighbourhood relationship. A strong cultural cohesion between the residents and the University will be important going forward as the University continues to expand in and around the neighbourhood.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 7.6 University and Neighbourhood Activities:** *That the Varsity View Community Association meet with the University of Saskatchewan, Community Relations Department, to discuss opportunities for future neighbourhood and University collaborations such as place-making, cultural events, and other local cultural ventures.*

DRAFT

A Story About President Murray Park --- the one the City Parks Department wants kept a secret

A short story by (Mrs.) Pat Funk

for Friday, April 15, 2011

President Murray Park (known in the thirties simply as the Aird Street Park) is a reserve of 7.5 acres, bordered by Colony and Aird streets and by McKinnon and Wiggins avenues. This makes it a close-by, popular destination, for a walk from Luther Tower. Those of us who live there, who in season enjoy the rose bed or taking grandchildren to play on the swings, would not suspect that between 1942 and 1946, it was thought a pack of wolves prowled the new park!

In 1942, 1100 spruce trees were planted and surrounded by barbed wire --- the latter required, of course, to keep in that pack of wolves. Early plans for football fields, baseball diamonds and tennis courts, had been abandoned. These sport activities might well have discouraged the wolves from claiming the park as their haunt.

That very year, Pat Searles of 1311-15th Street, and Bidy Mawdsley of 1127 Aird Street, started Grade One at Albert School on Clarence Avenue. They became "best friends". Bidy, especially admired Pat's athletic prowess in winning for Albert School the city racing events. Pat, for her part, much admired Bidy's large family; albeit, a motherless family headed by Dr. Mawdsley, Dean of Engineering, with an older set of twins, Jane and John, another older sister, all run smoothly by a housekeeper. Pat was an only child in the care of her mother and grandmother, so the Mawdsley household seemed wonderfully large and boisterous. Pat became happy to accompany Bidy home for play after school and after-school snacks.

These play dates were quite idyllic for Pat, September through October, but the journey home came to be fraught with fears, as she would hurry home for her supper, with the days getting shorter and darker. Pat would sprint as fast as her legs could carry her (remember, she was the Albert School primary sprint champion), but those closely planted spruce trees kept slapping at her and those wolves were probably just as hungry!

Lo and behold, in 1992, Pat's daughter and son-in-law bravely purchased 1210 Colony Street, despite Pat's dire warnings of the President Murray Park myth of



wolves. But four years at that address was quite enough, so they moved to the safety of Phoenix, Arizona.

Even more amazing, in 2004, Pat found herself at a loss as to how to entertain her two grandchildren, now moved from Phoenix. Where does she bravely take them, but to the swings of the President Murray Park play area. Sarah, knew all about "pumping" the swing, to soar ever higher --- matching the earlier athletic prowess of her grandmother no doubt! Over the following years, the park became a favourite destination, as Alexander, too, learned to swing to the tree tops. Being in daylight of course, no wolves were spotted, even from such a great height.

Grandmother and grandchildren developed loyalty to this park. They took responsibility for picking up all the trash in the park as part of the Saskatoon/Meewasin Spring Clean-up Campaign. Do you suppose, that by keeping the park clear of trash, this team of three has rid the park of the scourge of those wolves? It is quite safe to stroll from the Tower, to smell the roses and watch your grandchildren play.

THE END