



Reconciliation



KNOW YOUR ROOTS

A Rock Your Roots Walking Tour

INTRODUCTION

Saskatoon's first Rock Your Roots: Walk for Reconciliation was held June 22, 2016 at Victoria Park. At this event, thousands of community members of all ages came together to honour residential school survivors and affirm their commitment to reconciliation. The walk has since grown and been held annually, with the exception of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Though we are unable to meet again in 2021, we invite everyone to rock their roots and keep the spirit of this event alive through a self-guided walking tour. The Know Your Roots walking tour was developed by the Walk for Reconciliation organizing committee, who wanted to highlight places around our city that relate to the process of reconciliation. Whether those locations are public art installations, sites of historical significance, renaming initiatives and/or unique Indigenous and non-Indigenous partnerships, we hope you visit these places on National Indigenous Peoples Day (Jun 21) or during the following weeks.

This map will continue to evolve and grow over the next year as we continue to add locations with

input from First Nation and Métis communities, Knowledge Keepers and Residential School Survivors.

For an online version of the map, visit beaconnectr.com/map and while you're there, use ConnectR to choose your next step on your reconciliation journey.

This project is a partnership between Reconciliation Saskatoon and Saskatoon Public Library. We are grateful to Anastaisa Hauser (Reconciliation Saskatoon's Youth Advocate), the City of Saskatoon and the Saskatoon Survivors Circle for helping shape this project and bring it to life. We are also especially grateful for the leadership and teachings from Residential School Survivors and Knowledge Keepers who informed every aspect of the event.

Organizing Committee, Rock Your Roots 2021



REFLECTION

Transit Shelter Project with Elder Nora Cummings

1904 Clarence Ave S

The transit shelter art project, developed in collaboration between Métis Elder Nora Cummings and students at Aden Bowman Collegiate, commemorates Métis families who once lived on the land where the school now stands. Inspired by Métis history, values and heritage, the design includes traditional plants—such as crocuses and Saskatoon berries—that once grew nearby.

Learn more

Saskatoon Transit News Release: bit.ly/3zmKh3S

Aden Bowman News Release: bit.ly/3gtdW2F

Where Our Paths Cross Sculpture

North part of Victoria Park, between Ave D S and Ave E S

One pole points north and represents the long history of First Nations people. The pole that points south symbolizes the history of the Métis people. The two poles intersect to show the interconnected history of these two groups. The 29 healing jingles on the north pole recall the 29 communities in Treaty 6 Territory that had their children taken into residential schools. The fringes that are affixed to the south pole represent the generations of injustice dealt to the Métis. Artist Gordon Reeve also made the sculpture heated, enabling people to share their culture in all four seasons.

Learn more

StarPhoenix article: bit.ly/2TnYpJS

City of Saskatoon: bit.ly/3geQ9ot



Spirit of Alliance Monument

Roundabout on Ave A S and Spadina Cres

This bronze sculpture recognizes the contributions of Indigenous people in the war of 1812. The individuals included in the monument are Chief Wabasha IV, Colonel Robert Dickinson, Dickinson's wife Totowin and their daughter Helen. Chief Wabasha acted as an ally to the British against the United States, and Dickinson was a trader who acted as a liaison between the British and the Indigenous people. Totowin represents the role of women as both supporters and fighters. Artists Jean-Sebastien Gauthier, Ian (Happy) Grove and Adrian Stimson worked together on this piece.

Learn more

River Landing project update: bit.ly/3gsiFBR

Global News article: bit.ly/2SkYnIW

Wicanhpi Duta Win or Red Star Woman Statue

76 25th St E

Indigenous women and girls are five times more likely to experience violence than other Canadians, and 12 times more likely to be murdered or go missing. Cree artist Lionel Peyachew's work on this statue was inspired by Amber Redman, a young woman who was murdered in 2005. The Red Star Woman is a reminder of the continued trauma faced by Indigenous people and ensures we never forget missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirited people.

Learn more

StarPhoenix article: bit.ly/3wiCpOS

Saskatoon Police: saskatoonpolice.ca/news/2017352



RESISTANCE

THE NORTHWEST RESISTANCE OF 1885

In March of 1885, Gabriel Dumont and Louis Riel led 300 Métis to defend their land from Canadian settlement at Batoche, SK. While the Métis people defeated the North West Mounted Police, the Canadian government refused to negotiate peaceful terms and instead sent in their military to defeat the Métis people. Riel was hanged for treason. Dumont avoided capture by moving to the United States, eventually returning to his homestead near Batoche, where he lived until his death in 1906.



The Marr Residence

326 11th St E

This building was used as a hospital for government forces wounded in the Battle of Batoche in 1885.

Learn more

themarr.ca

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marr_Residence

Gabriel Dumont Statue

Friendship Park on 19th St, next to the Broadway Bridge

Created by artist Bill Epp, this statue features Gabriel Dumont on his horse and was unveiled in 1985 to commemorate 100 years since the 1885 Resistance.

Learn more

Métis Museum: www.metismuseum.ca/resource.php/13306

Tourism Saskatoon: bit.ly/3zkRf9G

The Founders Statue

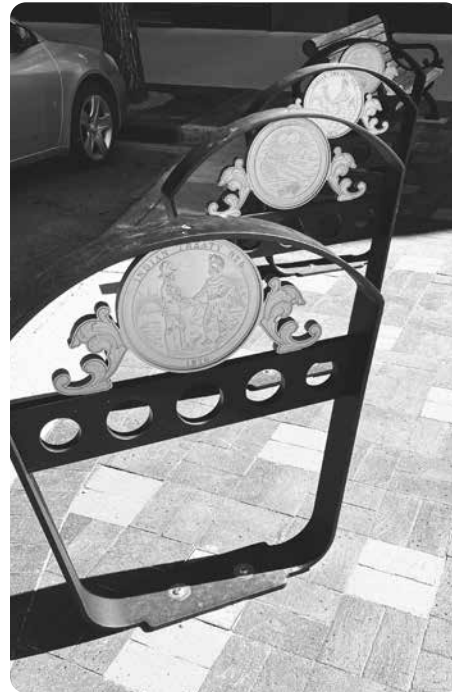
Roundabout at the base of Victoria Bridge (north side)

In 1882, Chief Whitecap and John Lake—who are considered Saskatoon’s founders—worked together to establish a settlement that would become Saskatoon. However, Lake prevented Métis people from continuing to occupy their river lots, an action that directly contributed to the 1885 Resistance. Regardless of how you view the relationship, without these two founding figures Saskatoon would not exist. This statue by Hans Holtkamp has always been a part of the Rock Your Roots walk.

Learn more

River Landing project update: bit.ly/35jWRmO

CBC article: bit.ly/3cCfF4E



RECONCILIATION

Where Rock Your Roots Began

Ave F and Spadina Cres

In 2016, nearly 5,000 people gathered in Victoria Park to walk in honour of residential school and day school survivors. The Rock Your Roots walk is held annually on Jun 21 to coincide with National Indigenous Peoples' Day. At this event, all cultural groups are invited to "rock their roots" and share their talents in recognition that we all are treaty people.

Learn more

Office of the Treaty Commissioner: bit.ly/3gkAQe5

CBC article: bit.ly/3pjx9kY

White Buffalo Youth Lodge

602 20th St W

The White Buffalo Youth Lodge is dedicated to improving the quality of life and health for children, youth, young adults and their families. It is a multipurpose centre that serves as a youth recreational facility and also provides educational classes and meeting spaces. All programs and services are provided for free.

Learn more

Saskatoon Tribal Council, White Buffalo Lodge: bit.ly/2RMAcwn

CBC article: bit.ly/3zmbji7



Wanuskewin Heritage Park

RR 4 Penner Rd

At Wanuskewin, visitors can view 19 archaeological sites that prove this area was a major meeting place for almost every pre-contact cultural group across the Great Plains. Wanuskewin became a Provincial Heritage Property in 1983, a National Historic Site in 1987 and is in consideration for a UNESCO World Heritage Designation. Bison have been reintroduced to Wanuskewin with the goal of establishing a herd that preserves the Northern Plains genetic heritage, and to recognize the spiritual connection between the bison and Indigenous Peoples of the Great Plains.

Learn more

Wanuskewin Heritage Park: wanuskewin.com

Tourism Saskatoon: bit.ly/3xcFu3e

Saadat Qalbi/Miyawâtam 1, 2, 3

1: to be installed at Main St and Broadway Ave (summer 2021)

2: 602 20th St W

3: 241 2nd Ave N

The title of these works translates to "Happiness of the heart/They are joyful or fun-loving". The hand-painted aluminum sculptures feature floral motifs that take inspiration from both Cree/Michif beadwork and traditional East African henna design. They are meant to celebrate the labours of women as teachers, care workers and nurturers who strengthen communities. The works were created by Ruth Cuthand—who is of Plains Cree, Scottish, and Irish ancestry—and Suada Jailan, who is from Somalia and grew up in a Kenyan refugee camp.

Learn more

City of Saskatoon Public Art: bit.ly/3gkmGt8

RECONCILIATION

Bicycle Racks with Treaty 6/Métis Medals

201 1st Ave S (across from Midtown Plaza's main entrance)

Installed in 2021, these bicycle racks feature Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis medals. They represent the spirit of reconciliation that Saskatoon hopes to embody as a community, and the project recognizes that there have been thousands of years of settlement on the South Saskatchewan Riverbank.

Learn more

CJWW Radio: bit.ly/2SIZXE6

City of Saskatoon Bike Poster: bit.ly/35brPxp

ipiy mîna sîpiy, light sculpture

813 Broadway Ave

The Cree syllabics translate as "river and sky". The artwork by Tony Stallard, and developed in collaboration with Cree artists Joseph Naytowhow and Kenneth T. Williams, highlights the role that language preservation has in reconciliation. It also celebrates the river as a historic meeting place for Elders and its continued importance as a meeting place in contemporary times. The work also references the Treaty 6 message, "as long as the river flows, the grass grows, and the sun shines."

Learn more

Eagle Feather News: bit.ly/3iDKnhE

Cree Literacy Network: bit.ly/3xeKR1J



Thompson Chamber Mural

206 2nd Ave N

The mural's artist, April Doepker, created this reconciliation-themed project as a participant in Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Program competition for Canada 150. The image is of an Indigenous woman holding people in her palms. As Doepker notes, "The little people are the young people, and she's like the mother . . . the people are coming together and sharing their ideas."

Learn more

Eagle Feather News: bit.ly/3cBoegf

Global News: bit.ly/3xkthjX

Yellow Quill First Nation Mural

300–224 4th Ave S

This mural is the largest artwork in all of Saskatoon and was painted onto Saskatoon's First Nations Bank in 2017 by artist Emmanuel Jarus. The building is owned by the Yellow Quill First Nation, who commissioned the piece. The red ribbon in the work recalls Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The blue in the mural symbolizes the Yellow Quill people's water reserves, which were destroyed by British settlements and dams. The water running along the bottom shows that the Yellow Quill people are rising up from the water, rather than being overcome by it.

Learn more

CTV News: bit.ly/2TqETMU

Huffington Post: bit.ly/3gsgOpV



RECLAIMING

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommends that cities honour the legacy of Indigenous people in prominent infrastructure. Over the past few years, the City of Saskatoon has responded to this call to action and named or renamed significant spaces to reflect the spirit of reconciliation. Naming or renaming of locations happens in consultation with Indigenous communities, leaders, Elders and other stakeholders. Though these sites are not part of the walking tour, they have been included here for informational purposes.

Chief Mistawasis Bridge

Connects McOrmond Dr and Marquis Dr in North East Saskatoon

Named for Chief Mistawasis, who signed Treaty 6 in 1876. The bridge was opened in 2018.

Learn more

Wikipedia: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_Mistawasis_Bridge

City of Saskatoon projects: bit.ly/3cAOsPV

Round Prairie Branch, Saskatoon Public Library

170 – 250 Hunter Rd

The Round Prairie Métis were a community of buffalo hunters who established a wintering site near Dakota Whitecap in the late 1800's. Many were eventually forced to migrate to Saskatoon in search of work, and by the 1940's they had established a close-knit community near the current site of the library. They were forced by the Crown to relocate in the 1950's. The library opened in 2017.

Learn more

CTV News: bit.ly/3gtjC8a

Saskatoon Public Library: saskatoonlibrary.ca/locations

Dr. Freda Ahenakew Branch, Saskatoon Public Library

100 – 219 Avenue K South

This library was originally known as “The Library on 20th” but was renamed in 2017 after Dr Freda Ahenakew, a leader in Indigenous language preservation.

Learn more

Global News: bit.ly/3zhBzUC

Saskatoon Public Library: saskatoonlibrary.ca/locations

Wahkohtiwin School

3555 John A. MacDonald Rd

Conversations about renaming started in 2016, when the Nêhiyâwiwin Cree Language and Culture Program at the school celebrated its 10th anniversary. Elders guided the process and advised on the importance of the name change, selecting Wâhkôhtowin (“kinship”) through a traditional naming ceremony.

Learn more

The StarPhoenix: bit.ly/3p1yzX

Saskatoon Public School Division: bit.ly/3gdiStB

Reconciliation Circle

North part of Victoria Park, between Ave D S and Ave E S

In 2017 a portion of Victoria Park was renamed Reconciliation Circle. The request was presented to Saskatoon City Council by Shirley Isbister, president of the Central Urban Métis Federation. This portion of the park is also home to the sculpture Where our Paths Cross.

Learn more

The StarPhoenix: bit.ly/3gmZOYS

CBC: bit.ly/3znv6Y6

#BeAConnectR

Go online and choose your next steps towards reconciliation.

The ConnectR website includes calls to action organized into themes, allowing you to choose reconciliation actions that appeal to your interests.

Get started today and share your progress on social media using the hashtag #BeAConnectR.

beaconnectr.org



ConnectR