

50TH ANNIVERSARY LEGACY FUND DONATION.

50 years ago as part of the Green Survival Program, the city parks department afforested or planted trees as part of a green belt plan. Elms, maples, green ash, poplars, willows, Colorado Blue Spruce and Scotch pines were planted in a natural weaving pattern resulting in a natural woodlands feeling.

The 148 acre Afforestation Area in Saskatoon were named after Dr, George Genereux, radiologist, professor, speaker, illustrator, and gold medal Olympian. The 70th anniversary of his gold medal is the summer of 2022.

Established in the West Swale, the afforestation area plantings had a greater degree of success in sapling survival on planting than originally anticipated. The West Swale is the wetlands which remain from the Pleistocene era Yorath Island Glacial Spillway, an ancient river connecting the Glacial North Saskatchewan River, and the Glacial South Saskatchewan Lake. To this day, the wetlands above ground are fed by underground springs continuing this ancient river connecting the two great Saskatchewan water basins. The wetlands in Richard St. Barbe Baker are named after Benjamin Thomas Chappell, Canadian National Railway Superintendent. Chappell served as director on the Exhibition board and the railways helped make the fair a success. The Canadian Western Agribition celebrated its 50th anniversary since its opening in 1971.

Richard St. Barbe Baker is whom the larger afforestation area is named after. It is 326 acres of woodlands planted to trees, and Richard St. Barbe Baker went around the world planting country after country to trees. So this afforestation area is a symbol of the billions of trees Richard St. Barbe Baker was responsible for planting and protecting worldwide.

In 1966, Richard St. Barbe Baker was made the first Honorary Life Member of the World Wildlife Fund in 1969. Not only in the afforestation areas, but around the world, trees and forests provide wilderness habitats for wildlife.

Like the namesakes, our plans for the future of the afforestation areas are ambitious. We are looking at taking strong strides for the United Nations Decade on Ecological Restoration. We commemorate and honour the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We wish to celebrate our first 50 years and ensure that the rich heritage continues to grow to support our pillars of growth.

This 50th anniversary investment in our future will allow us to strengthen our current environmental education programming, develop further curriculum and youth group services, and develop new programs to support our community, by investing in outreach and research. The 50th anniversary legacy fund challenge works like this; Your membership donations fund annual work to protect and conserve wetlands, safeguard habitat, and support stewardship. Your legacy donation will build the working endowment to protect the forest and wetlands over the long term. If you have already contributed to the Legacy Fund campaign, our sincere thanks for your assistance in ensuring a strong future in the climate action, heritage and environmental education initiatives undertaken. If you are not yet a member, we would love to have you join the Friends and helps us safeguard the wetlands and enhance education and awareness about our rich natural, historical, geological heritage.



**Friends of the
Saskatoon
Afforestation
Areas Inc.**

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