

# HERITAGE in SASKATCHEWAN: Looking Back AND Growing Forward



# Saskatchewan's heritage is a key ingredient for...



...helping youth develop a sense of their own identity, as well as establishing a life-long link to this province ~ where they will remain as residents or come back home to visit;

...creating the “sense of place” found in Saskatchewan, which is important to residents and visitors alike;

...providing authentic and unique cultural tourism opportunities and attractions;

## DID YOU KNOW?

As our population grows and our communities expand, we risk crowding out the archaeological sites, historic landscapes, monuments and places that give our country character. In the last 30 years, 21 per cent of Canada's pre-1920 heritage buildings have been demolished. (*Heritage Canada Foundation, 2003*)

The preservation of historic buildings is good for the environment. Not only does the renovation of existing properties reduce the drain on natural resources, it also reduces the amount of demolished buildings and waste materials ending up in landfills. (*Canadian Heritage, 2003*)

Seeking out stories is how we locate ourselves in our own time. The desire to learn new stories also drives cultural tourists to travel, to experience someone else's past, to slip on someone else's style. (*Toronto's Culture Plan, 2003*)

Of the 23.3 million Canadian adults in 2000, over 1.3 million expressed an interest in travel involving the performing arts, 2.1 million sought travel involving the visual arts, while 2.6 million were in the market for travel involving heritage activities. It is estimated that the number heritage tourism enthusiasts will increase from 2.6 million to 3.7 million in the next 20 years. (*Travel Activities and Motivation Survey (TAMS), April 2003*)

## DID YOU KNOW?

A recent study shows that 74% of Saskatchewan respondents believe in preserving ancient Aboriginal sites, and nearly half of these respondents said this was extremely important. Twenty-three per cent of Saskatchewan residents have visited an ancient Aboriginal site and 11% have participated personally in a traditional Aboriginal activity. (*Heritage & Museums Market Study, 2006*)

Heritage conservation is a wise municipal investment. "Heritage restoration work sets off much higher job and investment economic multipliers than new construction, and heritage sites are a draw for tourism and the film industry". (*Preservation Pays: The Economics of Heritage, Heritage Canada Conference, 2003*)

Museums serve to strengthen sense of community. The drive to preserve and share local heritage brings people together. The museum is the catalyst – it serves as an icon for community pride and is the cultural centre for many segments of the general public. (*Saskatchewan Museums Funding Review, 1998*)

Saving heritage buildings saves natural resources. A team of U.S. scientists calculated that the shell of a two-storey, three-unit brick apartment building embodies energy equivalent to 32,000 litres of gasoline! That's the non-renewable energy it would take to replace the bricks. (*Heritage Canada Foundation, 2006*)

...generating increased creative and innovative entrepreneurial opportunities;

...conserving our natural environment, through recycling and re-use of old buildings;

...increasing social capital and general respect and understanding for others; and

...creating communities where people want to live!



# Let's KEEP Looking Back AND Growing Forward

## DID YOU KNOW?

Cultural landscapes bear witness to humanity's creative genius, technical, economic and social development, imagination and cultural wealth. Their astonishing variety is an indication of the world's cultural wealth. They stand for the reciprocal harmony and influence reigning between humanity and the rest of the natural world, which is why we should respect and protect them. (UNESCO, 2003)

Saskatchewan spends less on grassroots heritage activity than most provinces. According to Statistics Canada, Saskatchewan ranks #3 in per capita spending on heritage (at approximately \$34 million); however this spending not only includes funding to museums, public archives and heritage grants, but a large part of it, the majority in fact, goes to historic parks, sites and nature/provincial parks. (Of the \$10.3 million spent by the provincial government on heritage in 2005/06, only \$1.3 million went to grassroots heritage support). (Statistics Canada, 2006)

According to 1996 research, close to half of the 50-to-70 Aboriginal languages in Canada are near extinction or endangered, and ten once-flourishing languages have become extinct over the last 100 years. Currently, only three Aboriginal languages are considered viable: Cree, Ojibway and Inuktitut. Also, more than 90% of residential school claims allege loss of languages and cultures. (Canadian Heritage, 2003)

The disappearance of a language is accompanied by the departure of a whole body of knowledge and ideas that in many cases have thrived for centuries, if not thousands of years. (UNESCO, 2003)

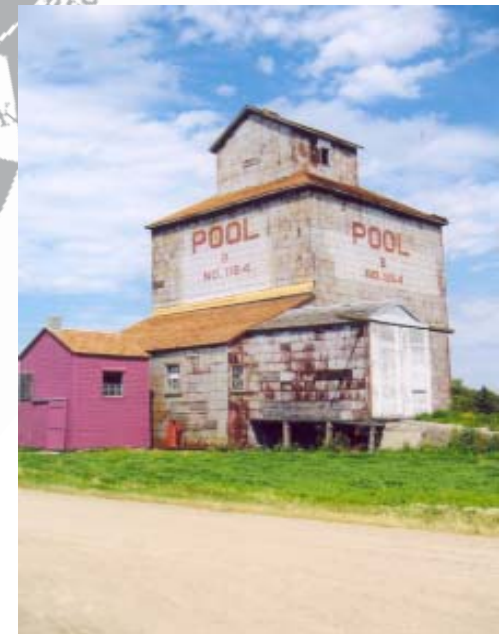
Heritage is very important to people in Saskatchewan. According to a 2006 survey, commissioned by Museums Association of Saskatchewan, in association with Saskatchewan Culture, Youth and Recreation, 72% of Saskatchewan people surveyed felt that Saskatchewan people share a common heritage. The majority of respondents also named "family" as the first thing that comes to mind when they think of heritage. (Heritage & Museums Market Study, October 2006)

**Saskatchewan needs commitment from its government to ensure the continued conservation and promotion of heritage resources are maintained, as well as to provide increased opportunities for educating youth on the importance of these resources to the province.**



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Photos: First Nations display at Battlefords National Historic Site (photo by Diane Ell); Grain elevator at Fleming, SK (photo by Dennis Garreck); Archaeological excavation (photo courtesy Saskatchewan Archaeology Society)