

## Heritage Centre Concept

The concept for the Watrous - Manitou Beach Heritage Centre would be integrated throughout a structure between 8,000 and 10,000 square feet.

The Mission of the Watrous - Manitou Beach Heritage Centre is to preserve the history of Watrous, Manitou Beach, and the surrounding area, thereby encouraging an appreciation and understanding of the heritage in the area.

The mission will be carried out through interesting and educational displays that will create a memorable visitor experiences both for local residents and visitors to the area.

The Heritage Centre will have three major categories:

1. **History of Watrous:** First Beginnings, Evolution of Main Street, Railroad History, Legion History & Artifacts, Sports Records & Memorabilia, Influential People, Family History Records, Homestead Records, Video Viewing room.
2. **History of Manitou Beach:** The Main attractions over the years: The Lake, Dancing, Swimming, Health Centres, Influential Individuals, Video viewing room.
3. **CBK Radio History:** Replica of Studio; replica of Fallout Shelter; Replica of the old RCA transmitter; History of Canadian Radio in General; Video viewing area.

The History of Watrous, Manitou Beach, and CBK Radio will be constant story lines throughout the Centre. CBK Radio was a very unique asset to the development of the community and one that will separate this Heritage Centre from other Museums in the province.

Orin McIntosh's models of local buildings and attractions would be either in one area, or could be interspersed through the different subject areas.

4. **Other Stories:** Far too often, museums, heritage, and other cultural attractions become stagnant with the same stories or displays year after year. Many visitors feel once they have visited a particular museum they have no reason to return. The Watrous - Manitou Beach Heritage Centre will integrate some of the following themes to give returning guests something new:

-- First Nations History and Artifacts... As the area around Little Manitou Lake has been settled, many First Nations artifacts have come to light, suggesting a rich pre-history of the plains tribes. The Heritage Centre will investigate and display this aspect of our past.

-- Potash History... As Saskatchewan's official mineral, it can be found in abundance a full kilometer below the province. With Watrous' central location, three (and soon to be four) fully operation potash mines are located within a 75KM radius of the community. As such, potash is

becoming essential for the booming local economy. Displays looking at the mineral, its uses, how a potash mine works, and where does local potash travel around the world would be developed.

-- Visiting displays...Space would be made available to displays that may be traveling throughout the province. Displays would have to be connected to the overall concept of the Watrous Heritage Centre.

-- Natural History ... located on a natural migratory travel route for birds and located near the oldest Bird Sanctuary in North America (Last Mountain Lake), displays on local and Saskatchewan based flora and fauna would be explored.

-- Agriculture...The cornerstone to the development of the province and the community, displays on agriculture, specifically the people of the area that had a lasting impression or an impact on the agriculture industry locally or provincially.

--Archives ... The Watrous - Manitou Beach Heritage Centre will be home to documents, pictures, and genealogical information on the community.

## **Tourism Centre**

For the purposes of staffing and year round operation on the Heritage Centre, the Watrous Information Centre currently located on the intersection of Highway 2 and Main Street would now be located at the Heritage Centre.

With over 100 local artists within the community and surrounding area, the Heritage Centre would be open to working with the local Arts Council in developing a space to display and promote local art. This space would be seen as one to compliment and promote the current Gallery (Gallery on 3rd, Watrous) not replacing it.