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News Release

For immediate release:

PROGRESS ON WATROUS HERITAGE CENTRE

Watrous, SK – A Group of dedicated volunteers have been busy working towards the goal of one day seeing a Heritage Centre become a reality in Watrous. Formally brought into existence by a Town bylaw on March 5, 2012, the Watrous & District Museum Board has been meeting regularly for about a year.

The Board Chairperson, Kathy Bergen says, "We are excited about the possibility of having a permanent place to store and display the history and heritage of Watrous and area. We realize we have a long way to go, but have already had a number of individuals express strong support for the idea, and we have also had contact from those who have valuable historical items which need to be preserved."

Though the entire project is still in the concept stage, the Board is set on developing something more of a Heritage Centre than a museum. "We want to emphasize that it will not be duplicating what other rural museums currently offer – a collection of old tractors and artifacts - but an innovative and creative handling of the history of Watrous, Manitou Beach & CBK Radio, believing it is critically important to help preserve the history & heritage of Watrous and District," Bergen says.

One of the first major steps the Board has undertaken is working with Sagehill Community Futures Development Corporation on a feasibility study. The study will look at all aspects of the project to determine its possible size and scope which should be completed by November.

To begin archiving the history of the community, the Board has developed an on-line virtual museum with over 400 pictures, graphics, and videos of Watrous, Manitou Beach and the CBK Radio Station. The website www.watrousheritage.ca will give those interested a chance to see what the project is all about.

The Board will also be making a number of presentations and displays to the general public and the schools beginning this Fall. The first will be: "Our Main Street-Past & Present." Displays will be set up in the Heritage Room at the Civic Centre on September 24 & 25 from 7-9pm. Hopefully school classes will visit during the day. This first event is being held in conjunction with Culture Days in Saskatchewan.

The Board is comprised of the following community residents; Kathy Bergen – Chair, Gary Bergen, Brendan Manz, Dwight and Darlene Kornelsen, John Gunderson, Karen Schroeder Mark, Lionel Sproule, Orin McIntosh, and Sue Alcock.

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