

Growing Ecomuseums on the Canadian Prairies

The Saskatchewan Ecomuseums Initiative

Community-Based Research Showcase,
University of Regina – Nov 14, 2014



Sustainability

Meeting our needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

(Our Common Future 1987)



Douglas Worts, 2010

“Culture in the Winds of Change”

- Appreciating limits (e.g., oil, fresh water) & the behaviour of complex systems.
- Adapting through our cultures (how we live).
- Responding to feedback about our ideas, choices, and actions.

Role of Heritage

Without a commitment to heritage, our attempts to live sustainably “will remain rootless and bear short-lived results. Ecomuseums are one of the best ways to bring people to consciousness...”

De Varine, H. (2006) Ecomuseology and sustainable development. *Museums & Social Issues* 1:225-231.

An Ecomuseum

Gives community residents “a dynamic way in which to preserve, interpret, and manage their heritage for sustainable development.”

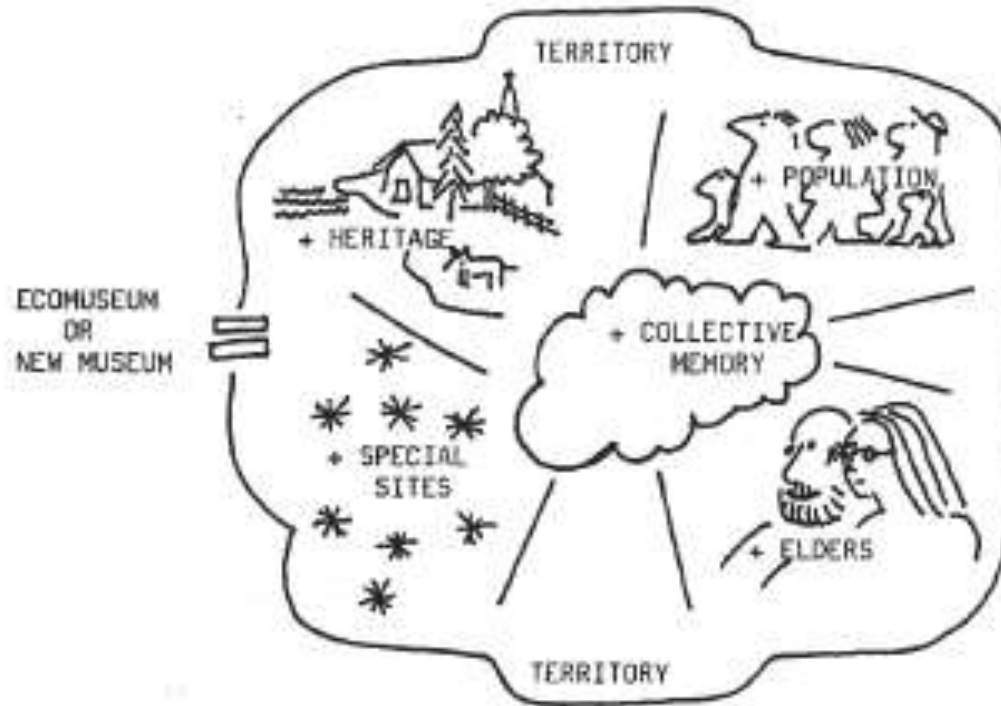
Murtas, D. and P. Davis. (2009). *Museums and Society* 7:150-186.

An Ecomuseum

A locally-driven, place-based organization that encourages sustainable community development, based on heritage conservation and interpretation.

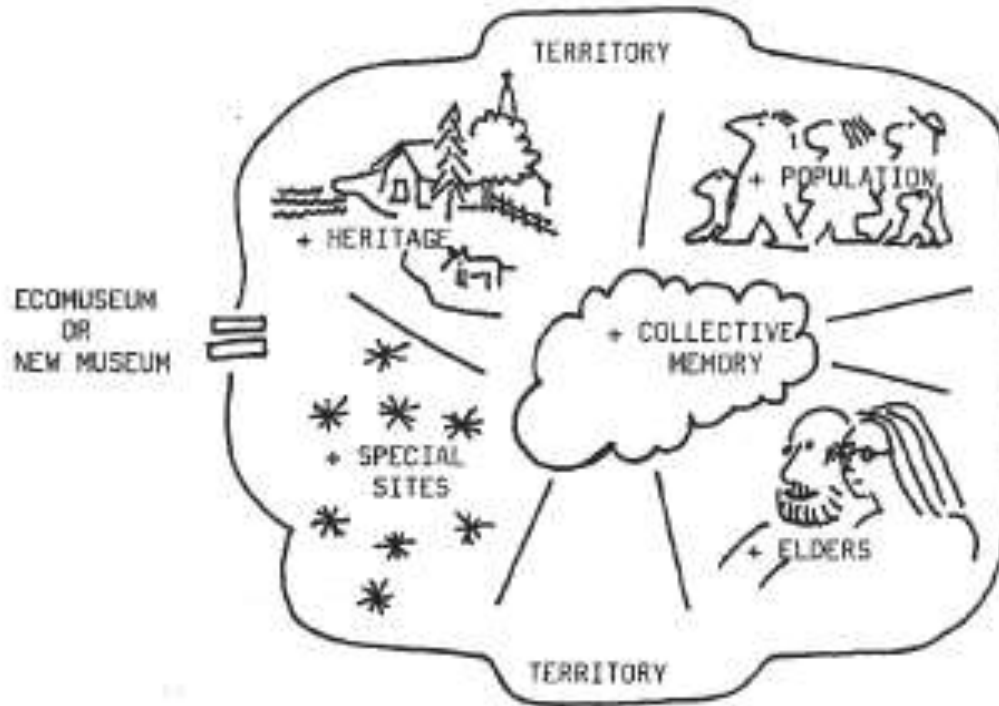
Saskatchewan Ecomuseums Initiative – Nov. 2013

ECOMUSEUM (c. 1970)



"...an agreement by which a local community takes care of a place."

ECOMUSEUM (c. 1970)



Nature + People = “Heritage Landscape”

(Henderson 1993, in *Sustainable Environmental Economics & Management*)

Potential Outcomes

- Increased social cohesion, conflict resolution, and awareness
- Conservation and interpretation of natural and cultural heritage, including “living heritage”
- Environmental monitoring
- Low-impact tourism

Saskatchewan Ecomuseums Initiative

Government of Saskatchewan

- Growth & Opportunities
- Improving QOL
- Responsive & Responsible Government

Parks, Culture & Sport

- Heritage resources
- Creative arts and culture
- Tourism

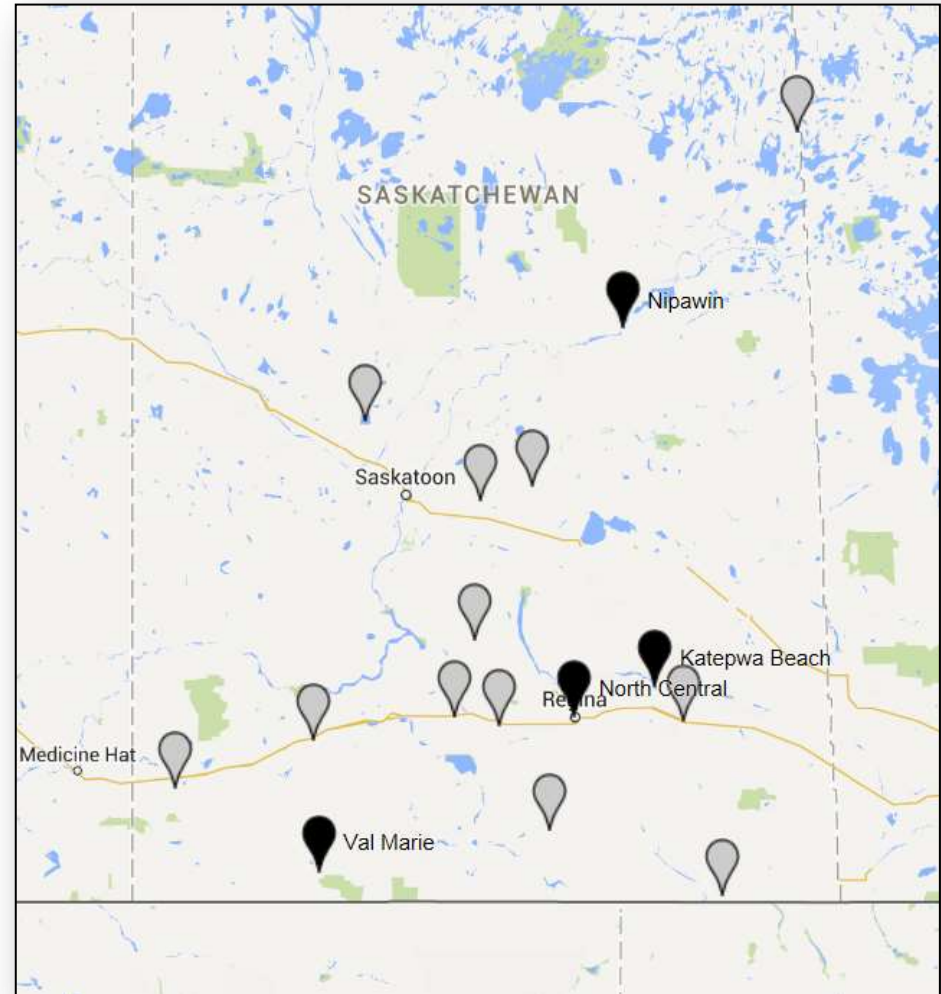
Royal Sask Museum

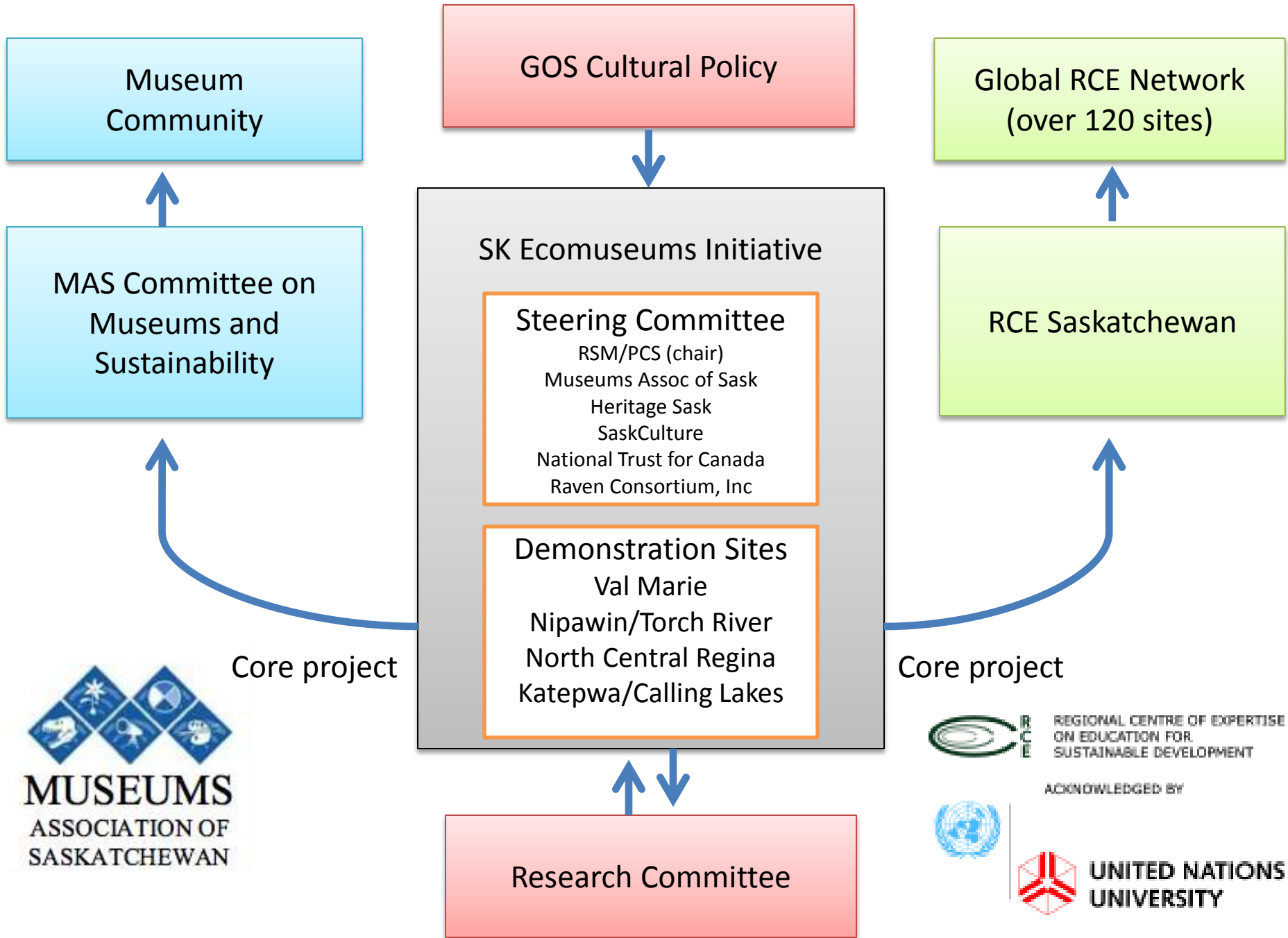
- Sustainability
- Education
- Biodiversity

SEI = Provincial Steering Committee and a Network of Sites



*Raven
Consortium
Inc.*







Prairie Winds and Silver Sage

An Ecomuseum in the Making.



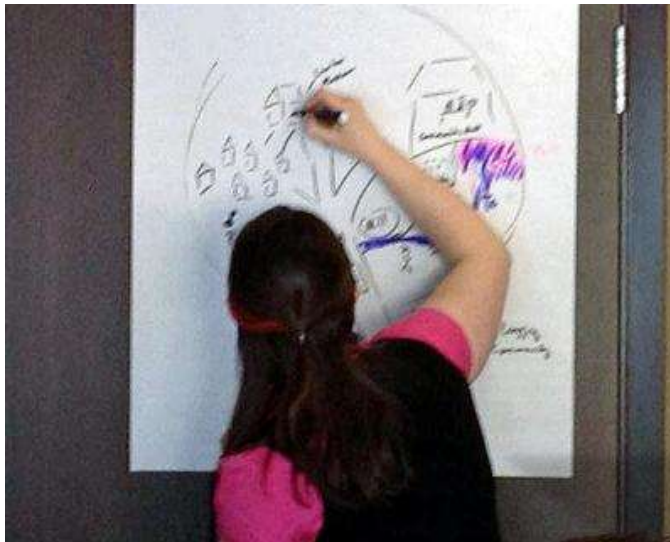
Demonstration Sites

- Val Marie
- Nipawin/Torch River
- North Central Regina
- Katepwa/Calling Lakes
- Moose Jaw?
- Wolseley/Indian Head?



Project Development

- Steering Committee
- Planning Framework
- Research & Feasibility Study
- Targeted Articles
- Focus of 2015 Heritage Week



We Need to Talk!

Living Heritage, Ecomuseums and Community Development

When it comes to sustainable community development, models from the past are re-emerging to show the way forward. The concept of the Ecomuseums has long recognized Living Heritage as a vital component of daily life and of communities. 'Living' may not be the adjective generally used to describe 'Heritage,' however it is a concept that is intuitively understood. Our values, beliefs, ways of living and surroundings are shaped by family, friends, and teachers, as well as our own lived experience. This Living Heritage in turn, shapes our landscapes, our sense of identity, belonging and place in the world. Who we think we are and where we come from, as well as, where we are and what we do, in large measure determines our ability to participate in and contribute to our communities.

Just over a decade ago, the United Nations

is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity. For the purposes of this Convention, consideration will be given solely to such intangible cultural heritage as is compatible with existing international human rights instruments, as well as with the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, and of sustainable development.

Ecomuseums were first developed in France in the 1970's focussing on a holistic approach to heritage preservation and interpretation that combined an acknowledgment of both tangible and intangible heritage. The Saskatchewan Ecomuseum Initiative steering committee

Saskatchewan Ecomuseum Feasibility Study

Prepared for:
Royal Saskatchewan Museum

November 22, 2013

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University
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Research: Issues and Needs in North Central



- Wide range of issues: gangs, violence, homelessness, better access to cultural programs, education, food security, and holistic healthcare.
- Needs include: enhanced capacity, strategic partnerships, a wider variety of mentors and students, political support, and better visibility.

Recent Highlights

- Local news stories
- UNU recognition
- Policy event Feb 2015
- Research → national symposium in 2016

 **The Fort Qu'Appelle Times**
September 27

Nearly 20 students from Luther College at the University of Regina visited Katepwa for a daylong field school. The students are learning how to build eco-museum about the Calling Lakes region with biology professor Mary Vetter. Friends of K... [See More](#)



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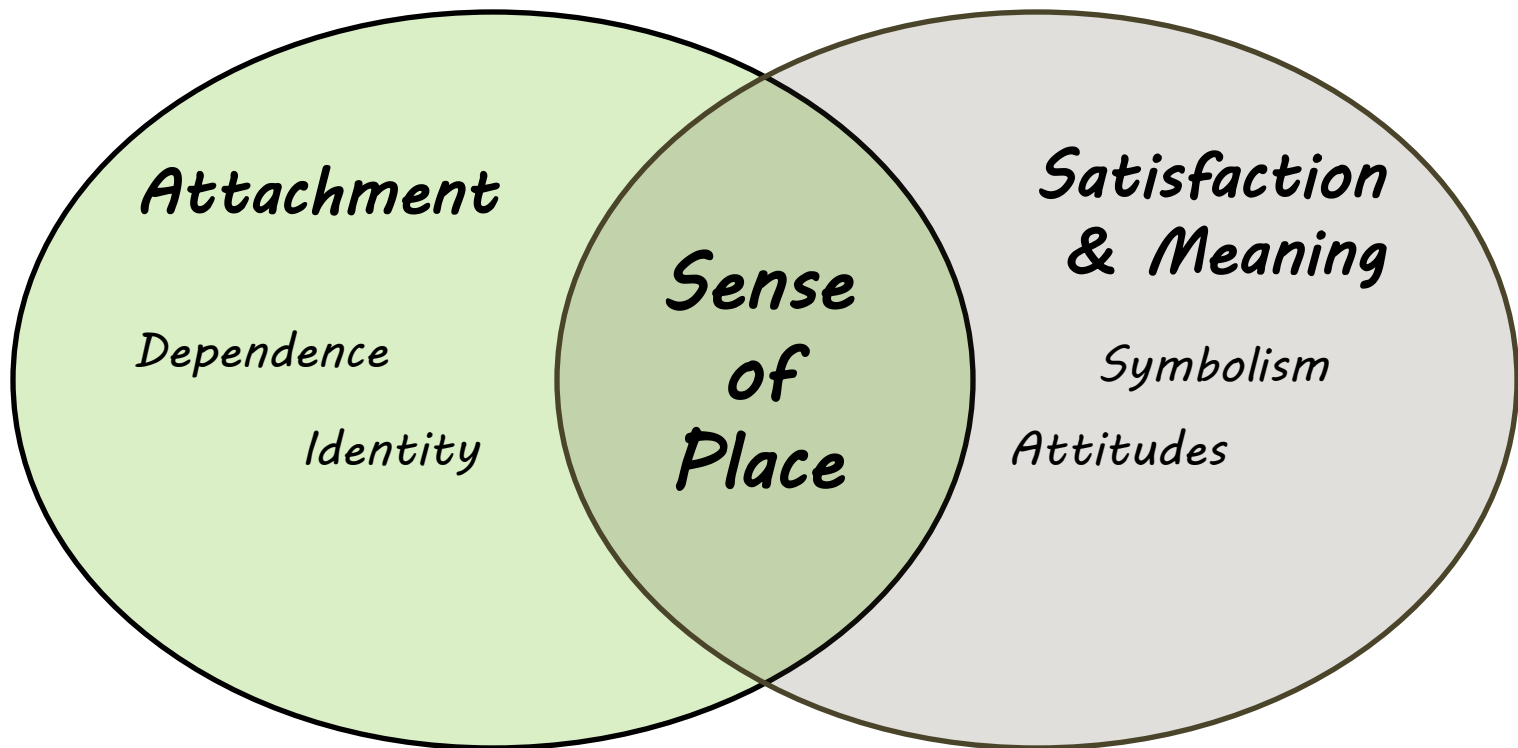
Tuesday, 21 October 2014 12:48

Eco-museum gives new dimension to PWSS activities

Written by Matthew Liebenberg

Research Directions

- Documentation of “living” heritage.
- Role of heritage in sustainability education.
- Community resilience and sense-of-place.



Sask Ecomuseums Initiative

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