



University of Saskatchewan, University Archives & Special Collections, Richard St. Barbe Baker fonds, MG 71.

Dr. Richard St. Barbe Baker L.L.D.¹⁹⁷¹, O.B.E.¹⁹⁷⁷ (9 October 1889 – 9 June 1982) St. Barbe, conservator, forester, silviculturist founded the international organization, Men of the Trees, and Children of the Green Earth. As a child St. Barbe experienced a mystical union with the woods near his childhood home. A speech made by Principal Exton Lloyd along with tales of the Canadian western prairies called to St. Barbe. By 1909 he was homesteading south of Beaver Creek and in 1910, St. Barbe enrolled in the Divinity College. He was one of the first 100 students enrolled at the University of Saskatchewan. St. Barbe was a sophomore, at the time Hon. John G. Diefenbaker entered as a freshman. As a student St. Barbe earned money as lumberjack in northern SK, affecting a severe blow to his moral and humanitarian principles raised by a horticulturist father, who was also a preacher. Following WWI service, St. Barbe studied forestry at Cambridge

University. His first posting was in Kenya, Africa. St Barbe observed severe clearing practices of the forests which had adverse effects upon the land, rainfall and water supply. To prevent further deforestation, he taught them the inspired principles of the Boy Scout Movement to do “one good deed each day;” to plant 10 trees a year and take care of trees everywhere. At first the “good-deed-a-day was not understood, and St. Barbe was called upon to help them think of something to do. He advised them to search their hearts for their good deeds, which grew to efforts which saved life and property. The Forest Scouts became known as Watu wa Miti [*Men of the Trees*]. In 1922, this brotherhood of forest guides set down the roots for “The Men of the Trees” International Organisation. Over the course of his lifetime, St. Barbe wrote over 22 books about trees, and travelled extensively as a true steward for the planet. St. Barbe believed the present day task must be to heal the Earth of the sores inflicted by previous generations. “I will have nothing to do with the destruction of life; I will play no part in this devastation of the land; I am destined to live and work for peaceful construction for I am morally responsible for the world of today and the generations of tomorrow.”

Let “TWAHAMWE”, “pull together”, be our motto.

From our Hearts
With our Hands,
To the Earth
All the world together



Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area

A green belt for the city starts with Bert Wellman, Saskatoon Planning Department, who walked around Saskatoon’s perimeter choosing high spots of land for scenic beauty. Together with City Planner Bill Graham they worked on parkways and planted trees for the 1960 Circle Drive Parkway at these sites. Alfred Henry Browne “Man of the Trees” city Parks Superintendent – “The Man Who Made Saskatoon Beautiful” had a vision for Saskatoon - planting over 30,000 trees in the city. Wyndham Winkler Ashley local horticulturist, and founder of the parks board advocated trees, and dispersed tree seedlings. They all envisioned a green city.

1960 the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area lands were bought; parts of Sections 22 and 23 Township 36, Range 6 West of the third meridian, south of the CN Chappell yards

1972 sees drought resistant trees, Scotch Pine, Caragana, White Spruce planted in the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area. In total 355 acres of afforestation areas were planted that year. In 1973, 355 additional acres are planted. Originally 2,300 acres were envisioned. 1972, A. L. Ligtemoet, Assistant Parks Superintendent sets before council that these first 660 acres of afforestation areas be kept in perpetuity.

1978 Oct 19 Name “Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area” brought forward to city council; Dec 28, 1978 proposed that the area become a park; Jan 2, 1979, this is recommended by council.

1985 Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area is dedicated June 15

Stand firm, hold fast,
Reach upward to the skies,
Bend to the winds of Heaven,
And learn tranquility.



<https://stbarbebaker.wordpress.com>

Facebook: StBarbeBaker

It is a fervent desire that the afforestation area is restored to its natural beauty to make an amazing nature viewing site. The Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area as a dedication to St. Barbe is an honourable tribute to ecology as the city grows to a population of 1/2 million by 2023. Please help us to care for the afforestation area, the "West Swale" wetlands and surrounding environment. Together let us restore the afforestation area to its original wildlife habitat magnificence!



A week-end day, **Saturday July 9, 2016** was chosen to clean up the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area RSBBA. The city is kindly allocating a trash bin on site to facilitate the clean up efforts. The bin will arrive at about 8:00 a.m. There are 8:00 a.m. morning and afternoon shifts 1:00 pm available for anyone wishing to volunteer. It is wise to come for the weather - a hat or sweatband, closed toe footwear,

sunscreen, bug spray and water bottle, pen or pencil, canvas gloves. If it is raining the clean up date will move to Saturday July 16, 2016. For more information StBarbeBaker@yahoo.com

Location: Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area RSBBA is south of Cedar Villa Road; west of the Civic Operations Centre (Bus Barns) and north of the Chappell Marsh Conservation Area land area.

Wikimapia Map: type in Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area

Google Maps with Off Leash area location pin at parking lot:
<https://www.google.ca/maps/@52.1005354,-106.7541901,15z>

Parking available at the South West Off Leash Dog Park Parking Lot. Best access is by vehicle. Coordinates 52° 06' 106° 45'



Please help in the clean up efforts to protect the afforestation area, the West Swale wetlands, and the environment. Looking forward to your RSVP to StBarbeBaker@yahoo.com then the city can be informed as to the number of community volunteers are available. Please let others know as soon as possible Help us to network and get the word out now that the cleanup event will take place on **Saturday, July 9, 2016.**

The following would also be beneficial. When you RSVP, StBarbeBaker@yahoo.com please kindly advise if anyone has access to either

- 1/truck
- 2/trailer
- 3/forklift
- 4/wheelbarrow
- 5/wagon
- 6/a 2 or 4 wheel dolly



There are both large items and smaller trash to remove from the environment on **Saturday, July 9.**



Cash donations to the "Meewasin Valley Authority - Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area trust fund" are very welcome for vehicle barriers, fencing, signs, trails & landscaping, benches, kiosks, &c



Many hands make light work or as the SK provincial motto goes ... Multis e Gentibus Vires ("Strength from Many Peoples") or perhaps more fitting is the motto from Richard St. Barbe Baker International "Men of the Trees" organization. TWAHAMWE, an African word meaning 'pull together'.

**Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, presented by
Loblaw Companies Limited**



**Meewasin & Affinity Credit Union Clean-Up
Campaign**