



## FRIENDS OF THE STONE BARN

Newsletter – vol. 3, no. 1 - May 2023

**Welcome back** to the Stone Barn newsletter. Through this newsletter, we hope to keep all those interested in the preservation, restoration, and adaptive re-use of the University of Saskatchewan's Stone Barn (or Main Barn), up-to-date on initiatives to try to save this iconic structure. Please feel free to pass the newsletter along to anyone interested in supporting this work.

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### University Working Group to Advise on the Stone Barn:

#### Update from Peter Stoicheff, (from 9 December 2022)

"I wanted to send a note of thanks and follow-up to you all because you were a crucial catalyst for the work that has been done to determine the future of the Stone Barn. Earlier in the year, I struck a working group to advise on the feasibility of future planning for the Barn and to develop recommendations on a renewed, realistic and informed path forward for the structure. The Working Group considered the Barn from many perspectives, including:

- Its historical significance
- Its structural integrity
- **Related land use and transportation corridor plans** [emphasis ours]
- USask's Heritage Principles

The development and alignment of the USask Heritage Principles have been a key part of this process. The principles are now ready to be reviewed by our Board of Governors next week. I will note the work of the Stone Barn Working Group to the Board at that time, along with a recommendation that the next phase of visioning for the Stone Barn structure begin, with more detailed stakeholder engagement /brainstorming. It is anticipated that from broader community engagement and conversations, unique ideas can be realized and potential partners can be identified.

I want to thank each of you for your time and commitment to this successful first exploratory phase of the project, and for your continued dedication to this worthy cause. As we now begin to plan for the second phase of this project, please check in to the Stone Barn page on the USask website, where updates regarding community engagement sessions ... will be posted."

**Peter Stoicheff**  
President and Vice-Chancellor



The University of Saskatchewan would like to invite community members interested in the Stone Barn to provide their vision and ideas for the structure.

Wed., May 24, 2023\*

Holiday Inn Express and Suites, 1838 College Drive  
Evan Thomas Room  
4:30-6:30 PM

\*If you are unable to attend the event, a survey will be shared on the Stone Barn webpage from May 15-30 to collect thoughts and feedback.

**BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS**

**The University's website on the Stone Barn may be found here:**

<https://leadership.usask.ca/administration/heritage/stone-barn-heritage.php>

### **Adaptive Reuse: Examples of Repurposing Old Barns**

Megan Hubert of the Saskatoon Heritage Society has compiled an excellent report, *Successful Examples of Adaptive Re-Use of Heritage Agriculture Buildings* (copy available upon request). From dairy barns to grain elevators, universities and communities throughout North America have found the will and the imagination to successfully convert older buildings and give them a new lease of life. Universities have converted barns into centres for agro-ecology, reception and gathering sites, studios for art, an ocean sciences instructional centre, a dining room and theatre space, an aviation museum, and a community environmental cooperative – among other uses. Communities have created event centres, breweries, farm to table dining and farm stores, and even townhouses (see [Inglewood's 114-year-old white barn to be saved under townhouse development plan | CBC News](#)). Dawson Creek had the imaginative – and award-winning – idea to convert a grain elevator into an art gallery...

**What might the Stone Barn become?** We have heard ideas ranging from a marketplace for student produce and plants, art and music; to an alumni and events centre and museum; to two music stages (for singer-songwriter and larger concert musicians); to a venue focussed on reconciliation.

Those of you in Saskatoon will have seen the recent repairing and repainting of Rugby Chapel – work that has significantly enhanced the University side of College Drive. Imagine the difference a renovated, repurposed Stone Barn could make...

...and thanks to Daryl Cherry (USask FMD), Rely-Ex General Contracting, Ireland Roofing, Flynn Roofing, Daymark Painting and Inviting Homes, for their work and craftsmanship on Rugby Chapel.



Exterior of Rugby Chapel, [ca. 1930]. University Archives Photograph Collection, A-11012.

President Peter Stoicheff referenced “related land use and transportation corridor plans” in his summation of the work done by the University’s advisory group. Over the decades there have been numerous changes – or failed attempts at changes – to College Drive and the areas generally surrounding the USask campus: not least, widening what was then College Street, with one lane, to College Drive, with three lanes of traffic each way, in 1964.

For information on historic houses in the area, the Varsity View Community Association put together an excellent resource: see [Historic Houses | Varsity View Community Association \(vvcasaskatoon.com\)](http://vvcasaskatoon.com)

### **What are the City’s transportation corridor plans?**

(from <https://www.saskatoon.ca/engage/college-corridor-plan>)

In part, it includes “Station Mixed Use” lands – accommodating 3 to 6 storey mixed use developments near future BRT [Bus Rapid Transit] stations. “Corridor Mixed Use” lands would accommodate 2 to 4 storey mixed use developments; and “Corridor Residential” lands would accommodate ground-oriented low to medium density residential development.

Three BRT stations are being suggested for College Drive; and four are proposed for Preston Avenue.

On College Drive, those stations would be at:

College and Munroe

College and Cumberland

College and Campus Drive

**No land use changes** were proposed for Bottomley House or for Patterson Garden.



Excavation site of proposed City Hospital on the southeast corner of Cumberland Avenue and College Street (now Drive). Stone Barn visible in centre background; 16 March 1916

UASC Photograph Collection, A-762.





It was suggested that the north side of College Drive – the University campus lands – be considered, as well as the south side. [Initial] “feedback from the University of Saskatchewan indicated the areas at the top of the University Bridge **and in front of the Stone Barn** [emphasis ours] as having infill development potential. Other lands north of College Drive are to remain dedicated to the University’s core academic and research purposes, including agricultural research.”

A portion of the College of Agriculture research lands – on College, in front of the Stone Barn, and along Preston Avenue, between College Drive and 14<sup>th</sup> Street, would become “Station Mixed Use” land.

**The Introductory and Subsequent Public Engagement Feedback** instead seemed more focused on enhancing and maintaining both existing greenspaces, including native plantings, trees, buffers from traffic, lighting and seating for areas such as:

- the top of the University Bridge;
- the President’s Residence area, including a more direct, accessible and public connection to the Meewasin Trail;
- Keeping and enhancing open space by the Memorial Gates, Little Stone School
- Reuse / adapt the Stone Barn and possibly add new public open space around it;
- Improve pedestrian access to Patterson Garden and keep as a public amenity; create friendlier public space between College/Preston and the Field House.

This is a continuing work in progress: no final plans have been determined. The City of Saskatoon's timeline includes zoning discussions this summer, with a first draft plan and eventual presentation to City Council of the plan for the College Corridor, later this year.



UASC – MG 197, Justice and Webb Landscape Architects fonds, image U16-2B-1

**PLEASE COME OUT AND SHARE YOUR VIEWS WITH THE UNIVERSITY ON THE FUTURE OF THE  
STONE BARN AND ITS IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING LAND,**

**AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS AND SUITES, 1838 COLLEGE DRIVE,**

**4:30-6:30 PM**

**24 MAY 2023**

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University Experimental Plots. UASC Photograph Collection, A-1897.

**The “Friends of the Stone Barn” ad hoc committee includes:**

Cheryl Avery	Hank Classen	Claire Lewchuk	Karen Schwean-Lardner
Ernie Barber	Patrick Hayes	Merle Massie	Lindsay Stokalko
David Christensen	Lisa Kirkham	Vera Pezer	Bill Waiser

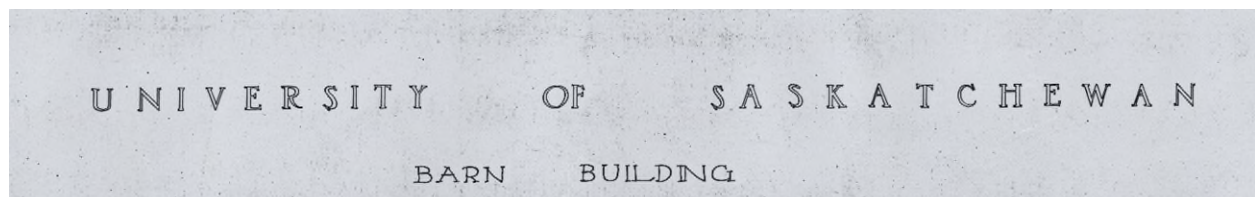
...with support from several current and former University faculty and staff, alumni, and individuals across the city, province and country interested in adaptive re-use of this building. We appreciate all the support received so far.

***Special thanks for their advice and assistance to:***

Merry Beazley, Lisa Carpenter, Sarah Carter, Kristin Catherwood, Marianne Fedori, Gord Gilmour, Jim Hercus, Ewald Lammerding, the *Manitoba Coopertator*, Bill Peterson, Pearl Ann Reichwein, Brian Rossnagel, Peggy Sarjeant, the Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates’ Association (SAGA), the Saskatoon Heritage Society, Chris Wiebe, and the University of Saskatchewan Retirees’ Association (USRA).

**Our blog**, courtesy Lindsay Stokalko: [My Blog | Friends Of The Stone \(lindsaystokalko.wixsite.com\)](http://lindsaystokalko.wixsite.com/friends-of-the-stone-barn)

(or google “wix friends of the stone barn”)



**SAVE THE STONE BARN!**



One example from Megan Hubert's *Successful Examples of Adaptive Re-Use of Heritage Agriculture Buildings*. We'd be pleased to send a PDF of the full report.

**Texas Tech Dairy Barn, Texas**  
**Tech University, Lubbock,**  
**Texas**



*The Original Dairy Barn and Silo. N.d. Photo courtesy of [Texas Tech University](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/agriculturalsciences/dairyBarn/index.php)*

<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/agriculturalsciences/dairyBarn/index.php>

**Historic Agriculture Building: 1926 dairy barn**

Built in 1926, the [Dairy Barn and Silo](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/agriculturalsciences/dairyBarn/index.php) is one of the four original buildings on what was then known as the



*The repurposed Dairy Barn. Photo courtesy of [Texas Tech University](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/agriculturalsciences/dairyBarn/index.php)*

Texas Technological College. Built in an L-shaped configuration, the agricultural complex included a free-standing grain silo to the west of the main wing. The complex was built with interior milking and feeding facilities for 40 cows, plus calf stalls, feed mixing room, boiler room, attendant's room, and an office. The Dairy Barn allowed for the payment of tuition through milk sales from cattle that were either brought by students or donated to the college. Students were encouraged to bring up to three cows of their own to campus and

house them in the barn.

By 1931, Texas Tech's Dairy Manufactures Department was self-supporting, furnishing milk and ice cream to campus cafeterias and the Lubbock community. The college herd swelled beyond the barn's capacity by 1935 and students were asked to remove their own cattle from the barn and the era of tuition payments through milk sales came to an end. The facility continued to serve as an educational site for students interested in the industry until it was abandoned in 1964, when dairy operations were moved. Campus planners razed the dairy manufacturing addition a year later to make way for new facilities and the historic barn sat ignored.



Some minor interior and exterior changes were made through years of milking operations before 1966, when the Dairy Manufacturing Department vacated the building. A 1976 report and slide presentation titled "Restoration: Texas Tech Dairy Barn," recommended the return of the dairy barn to its 1946 condition in order to create a dairy museum or perhaps a theater for the German, French and Spanish departments. In 1984, the barn was deemed unsafe and structurally unsound by the Coordinating Board for the Texas College and University System, and they called for the building to be demolished.<sup>1</sup>



The repurposed Dairy Barn interior. Photo courtesy of Texas Tech University.

For the full story of this and numerous other examples of effective projects giving new life and purpose to old agricultural buildings, please send us a note to receive Megan's complete report.