

Backgrounder

Saskatchewan and Municipal Heritage

The Ernest Lindner Studio is one of 47 provincial heritage properties in Saskatchewan. The Government of Saskatchewan is the primary steward of heritage resources within the province. The Heritage Branch of Culture, Youth and Recreation undertake planning, research, regulation, inventory management and policy development.

The Saskatchewan Heritage Property Review Board and the Saskatchewan Heritage Advisory Board are appointed by the Minister to provide independent judgment on heritage property designation and policy issues. The Government of Saskatchewan operates or funds most large heritage institutions in the province and enables the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation and SaskCulture (through the Sask. Trust structure) to provide funding programs to the larger heritage community. It also provides the legislative framework to enable municipalities to protect heritage resources.

Municipalities are responsible for the stewardship of heritage resources of local significance. Many municipalities provide a building for their local museum, pay utilities, waive property taxes, offer operating grants, and provide project funding to local historical societies.

Ernest Lindner Studio

The Ernest Lindner Studio is a Provincial Heritage Property located on Fairy Island in Emma Lake north of Prince Albert. The 48.144 hectare island is comprised largely of pristine forest. The log studio, which was constructed in 1935, is located near the island's north eastern shore.

The Ernest Lindner Studio on Fairy Island is significant because of its association with nationally renowned artist Ernest Lindner. Lindner emigrated from Austria in 1926 and settled in Saskatchewan. Lindner initially worked as a farm labourer, sketching and drawing in his free time. In 1931, he began a 30-year career teaching art at the Saskatoon Technical Collegiate Institute. During the 1930s and 1940s Lindner hosted regular "Saturday Night" meetings that helped form Saskatoon's artistic community. Lindner was also an active participant in the Emma Lake Artists' Workshops during the 1950s and 1960s.

The Lindner Studio is also significant because of its design, craftsmanship and setting. In the summer of 1935, Lindner travelled to Emma Lake and stayed at Murray Point, the site chosen for the University art school camp where the Emma Lake Artists' Workshops would later be held.

In 1961, Lindner sold his Fairy Island studio to the University of Saskatchewan and it has since been used by the Department of Biology as a provincial research area for biologists and other researchers interested in botany, zoology, limnology and the environment.