

Group developing new multi-faith space

BY ANGELA HALL, LEADER-POST FEBRUARY 1, 2010



Krishan Kapila, president of Multi-Faith Saskatchewan, sits in front of plans and drawings for the spiritual monument to be built in the town of Craik.

Photograph by: Troy Fleece, Leader-Post, Leader-Post

A Saskatchewan group is hoping to turn a small piece of land by Craik into a place of reflection for people of all faiths.

Multi-Faith Saskatchewan has partnered with the Craik Sustainable Living Project to develop the "designated sacred space project" on land near the Craik Eco-Centre that overlooks the Arm River Valley.

The project aims to create "unity in diversity," said Krishan Kapila, president of the multi-faith organization, which was created in 2006 with the mission of promoting better appreciation, understanding and acceptance of all faith communities in the province.

"A spiritual thread is binding us all. We may not see it but we are all connected. That kind of understanding, if it comes, will be helpful," Kapila said in an interview.

While the site currently only contains a boulder bearing a marker, Kapila said by fall the project will be

nearly complete. Plaques quoting the "golden rules" of various faiths will be set out around a circular path, while taller pillars will contain scripture quotes that speak to the care of the Earth, said Kapila.

Eventually, a solar-powered fountain will be constructed in the middle of the circle that measures 25 feet (7.5 metres) across.

"From each faith there will be different symbols and quotes," Kapila said, who hopes the site will be a place for learning, reflection and prayer.

"We are trying to bring unity in diversity, peace in the community and learning to respect and appreciate other people. That's the objective. It is faith-related, but it is not just to promote one faith," he said.

When the site marker was unveiled in November 2008, representatives of various faith groups were on hand, including First Nations, Baha'i, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism.

Kapila said the Craik Eco-Centre was seen as a good location because of its proximity to busy Highway 11.

As well, the sacred space brings a spiritual aspect to the community's sustainable living project, he said, noting the land was provided by the rural municipality.

The group is fundraising for the project, estimating \$15,000 will be needed.

"Every faith is going to give some money. We have already received about \$4,000," said Kapila, a retired high school psychics teacher who now instructs at the First Nations University of Canada.

He said the project has also received support from SaskCulture and the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan, but added that interested members of the public can send donations to Multi-Faith Saskatchewan in Regina at Box 32117, S4N 7L2.

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