



**Art students showcase Saskatchewan landscape  
in unusual space at Ronald McDonald House**

**Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, December 16, 2005**

The natural beauty of Saskatchewan – from top to bottom – can now be seen in a panoramic mural gracing the stairwell at Saskatoon’s Ronald McDonald House.

Grade 7 and 8 students from Georges Vanier Catholic Elementary School, with the help of their teachers, have spent the past five weeks painting several Saskatchewan landscapes in the facility’s northeast stairwell. The murals on the top floors feature the boreal forests and clear lakes of Saskatchewan’s North. The geography changes as one heads “southward” down the stairs, with features like flax fields, pastures and farmhouses showing up.

Georges Vanier art teacher Monique Martin says the project, made possible with \$3,500 from Cameco and The Saskatoon Foundation, is valuable for several reasons.

“It’s kids serving kids, for me that creates a solid society,” said Martin. As well, the students are thrilled to see their art on display. “They see themselves as real artists. It takes their art to a broader audience,” she said.

Throughout their journey along the mural, people will see road signs with the names of 100 different Saskatchewan communities marking the distance to Ronald McDonald House. From this part of the project comes its theme: “100 Years, 100 Communities.” The names of the towns and cities were drawn from the communities of families who had stayed at the house.

Media wishing to see students putting the finishing touches on the murals may attend on:

**Monday, December 19  
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
at 1011 University Drive.**

Ronald McDonald House provides a “home away from home” for families of sick children who travel to Saskatoon to obtain medical care. It is owned and operated by the voluntary, non-profit Friends of Saskatchewan Children Inc. Ronald McDonald House provides a warm and cheerful environment for children being treated on an outpatient basis and for families when a child must stay in the intensive care or other pediatric unit at the hospital.

More . . .

Georges Vanier Catholic School is a Kindergarten to Grade 8 school that offers an arts education core program of music, art, drama and dance that encourages self-expression and individual creation. There are approximately 265 students and 30 full- and part-time teachers, service and support staff at the school, which is located in the Avalon area of the city.

Saskatoon Catholic Schools has close to 15,000 students in five high schools, 33 elementary schools and two associate schools. The division employs approximately 1,600 teaching, service and support staff. The purpose of Saskatoon Catholic Schools is to assist parents and the local church community in the formation of students in heart, mind, body and spirit.

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