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FIRST SASKATCHEWAN RECORD OF SHOWY LADY'S SLIPPER

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A telephone call from an active junior naturalist, Eric Lang of Regina, led me to check out what appears to be the first Saskatchewan record of the Showy Lady's Slipper, *Cypripedium reginae* Walter. Eric had just returned from a family vacation at Madge Lake, where he had enjoyed looking for plants and using his newly-acquired camera. He was eager to talk about his experiences, and my interest in them reached a peak when he mentioned that he had been shown a Showy Lady's Slipper. Two specimens of this plant had been brought to Brenda Cholin, the park naturalist at Duck Mountain Provincial Park, one of which was pressed for the herbarium at Madge Lake while the second was kept alive in a container.

A few days later my wife and I travelled to Madge Lake to obtain as much data as possible on the discovery and to photograph any plants remaining in the wild. Brenda Cholin showed us the herbarium specimen, which had its bloom intact and was in good condition, and the live plant, now without its blossom. The two plants had been collected by Cathy Mollard and Les Schmidt, recreational assistants in the Park, who had found them on July 7, 1977, while working with a group of children. They brought the flowers to Brenda for identification, without realizing how rare they were in the province. Taken with Cathy Mollard to the site, we found three stems from which the blooms had apparently dropped, arising from a single root stock. We

photographed the plant for the record, but were unable to find any others in a search of the area. To protect the plant, we are not giving the exact location of this observation.

It is planned to donate the specimen from the Madge Lake herbarium to the Fraser Herbarium at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, and the live plant has been brought to Regina where Elizabeth Parkin, horticulturist with the Wascana Centre Authority, has it in her care.



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Showy Lady's Slipper near Mafeking,
Manitoba