

By Geraldine Dowling, The StarPhoenix January 16, 2010

Re: Packing things in (SP, Jan. 11). What an uplifting yet heart-wrenching article this was. We are reminded of the impressive legacy Fred Mendel left in Saskatoon. Through his entrepreneurial efforts, the city had a progressive business for its citizens to make their living at, where they were well treated and respected. They could be proud of this business.

Then there was Mendel's artistic side. He encouraged one of our most distinguished artists, William Pehudoff, by having him paint murals on the walls of Intercontinental Packers offices, and he instigated the creation of his namesake art gallery to enhance the lives of citizens.

How do we show our appreciation? We relegate one area of a proposed art gallery to replace the beloved Mendel Art Gallery, the one with easy access and historical meaning. It is like relegating the Gordie Howe Bowl to somewhere in Credit Union Centre. How disrespectful.

We haven't even named a park in memory of Fred Mendel!

What are we thinking? History is so important for us as a people and as a city. History must be respected and our children made aware of it, especially such a positive piece of our past and our present.

Let's rethink what is proposed for the Mendel and let us show honour and gratitude to one of our worthy benefactors.

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