



WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, April 12, 2019 at 7 p.m., Central Lions Recreation Centre, Edmonton

AGENDA

1. Welcome: JoAnne Burek, President
2. Minutes of AGM, April 6, 2018
3. Audited Financial Statements for Year Ending February 28, 2019: Lin Keehn
4. Reports
 - a. President: JoAnne Burek
 - b. Membership/Donations: Cindy Van Volkenburg
 - c. Trail Maintenance: Ellen Homola
 - d. Permissions: RoseMarie Jalbert
 - e. Website: Lee Stickles
 - f. Hikes: Lee Stickles
 - g. Beyond Events: Anita Piebiak
5. Announcements
 - a. Skyline Trail: Oscar Zawasky
6. Nominations and Elections: JoAnne Burek
7. Order of the Laces
8. Adjournment

INTERMISSION

PROGRAM

“Adaptation, coexistence and conflict in urban coyotes”

Cassie Stephenson, B. Sc. and Deanna Steckler, B.Sc.

Thank you to all the Waskahegan members and friends who have joined us tonight

Adaptation, coexistence and conflict in urban coyotes

Deanna and Cassie are both Master of Science students at the University of Alberta working on the Edmonton Urban Coyote Project under the supervision of Dr. Colleen Cassidy St. Clair. They work together to explore questions about urban coyotes and their conflicts with humans from behavioural (Cassie) and disease (Deanna) perspectives.

Deanna Steckler, B.Sc.

Master of Science Student | Edmonton Urban Coyote Project

Deanna is a second-year Master of Science, Biological Sciences student focused on understanding coyote parasites in the context of human-coyote conflict within the City of Edmonton. She graduated from MacEwan University in 2016 with a focused interest in animal behaviour and behavioural psychology. Her undergraduate research explored communication and territoriality in urban red squirrels.

Prior to beginning graduate work at the University of Alberta, Deanna spent time in Honduras assisting in coral reef conservation projects with and volunteering with the Edmonton Nature Club. She shifted her interests in graduate school by focusing on the parasites that infect urban coyotes, mainly a zoonotic tapeworm called *Echinococcus multilocularis* (*E. multi*).

Deanna's thesis research aims to determine 1) how coyote diet, health, and conflict-proneness correlate with *E. multi* infection, 2) how urban habitat types influence *E. multi* infection prevalence, and 3) assess the sensitivity and reliability of non-invasive, diagnostic tests.

Cassie Stevenson, B.Sc

Masters of Science Student | Edmonton Urban Coyote Project

Cassie is a first year Masters' of Science, Biological Sciences student studying human-wildlife conflict in Edmonton. She graduated from the University of Alberta in 2019 with a BSc in Environmental and Conservation Sciences, with a published undergraduate thesis focusing on seismic line reclamation.

Cassie was previously VP internal and external for the Environmental and Conservation Students' Association and an active leader for the Girl Guides of Canada, Edmonton Trex.

Cassie's graduate studies interests are focused more generally on understanding factors contributing to human-wildlife conflict and animal behaviour. More specifically, she is focusing on understanding, 1) what environmental or human factors in urban settings might attract or dissuade urban coyotes (*Canis latrans*), and 2) to understand whether coyotes increase their nocturnal behaviour to avoid humans which might guide management initiatives such as aversive conditioning.

Waskahegan Trail Association

2018 Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Date: April 6, 2018

Time: 7:10 pm

Location: Central Lions Recreation Centre, Edmonton

Members:

JoAnne Burek, Lee Stickles, Sherry Kunkel, Terry Elrod, Anita Piebiak, Lin Keehn, Gene and Florence Miskiw, John and Fran Scotvold, David Mutch, Edda Loomes, Rob Faulds, Lorraine Faulds, Martha Miller, Stella Cormier, Karen Bell, Brad Jordan, Peter and Phyllis Verhaar, Louise Giacomazzi, Kim Cassady, Joyce Kidney, Gail Helgason, John Dodd, Oscar Zawalsky, Dave Kidney, John and Erna Mifsud, Helen Whitson, Harold Loughren, Johanna Fischer, Wing Leung, Bonnie Guo, Carissa Wasyliv, Jeanette Bayduza, Dick Enssler, Elizabeth Alke, Angela Thygesen, Elring Thygesen

1. Welcome

JoAnne Burek, President, called the meeting to order at 7:10pm

2. Minutes of AGM April 7, 2017

Moved by Sandra Carruthers, seconded by Martha Miller. **Carried.**

3. Audited Financial Statements for Year Ending February 28, 2018

Financial Statements were presented by Treasurer Lin Keehn.

4. Committee Reports

a. President: JoAnne Burek

See separate report

b. Membership/ Donations: Sandra Carruthers

See separate report

Sandra Carruthers will no longer be on the executive. Karyn Murray will take over.

c. Trail Maintenance: Karen Bell

See separate report

d. Beyond events: Anita Piebiak is organizing the Goldeye Beyond Hike.

e. Website: Lee Stickles

See separate report

- f. Hikes: Lee Sticks
See separate report
- g. Bikebeiner: Sherri Kunkel
See separate report

5. Announcements

- Oscar Zawalsky talked about the Skyline Hike

6. Nominations and Elections

- Anita Piebiak was elected to be a Director on the Executive.
- See separate report

7. Order of the Laces

- Jerry Shaw received this year's Order of the Laces

8. Adjournment

7:45 pm

WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION**BALANCE SHEET**

As Of February 28, 2019 - Year End

Year End Feb. 28, 2019

ASSETS**Cash Assets:**

GENERAL Bank Account Balance	\$20,155.24
CASINO Bank Account Balance	\$194.65
TOTAL Cash Assets	\$20,349.89

Investments:

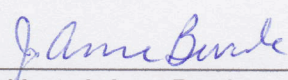
GENERAL Invest. Account (Term Deposit)	\$0.00
CASINO Invest. Account (GIC's)	\$50,325.00
TOTAL Investments	\$50,325.00

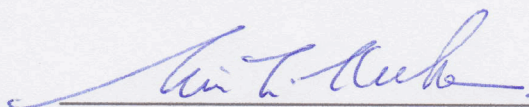
TOTAL ASSETS**\$70,674.89****LIABILITIES & EQUITY****Current Liabilities**

Outstanding Cheques	\$0.00
TOTAL Current Liabilities	\$0.00

EQUITY**\$0.00****TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY****\$70,674.89**

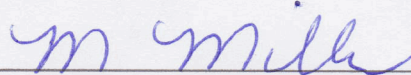
Approved for the Association by:

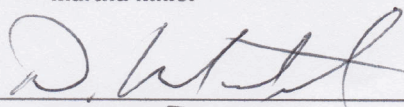


President: JoAnne BurekDate: March 12, 2019

Treasurer: Lin L. KeehnDate: March 12, 2019

Audited by:



Martha MillerDate: March 12, 2019

David MutchDate: March 12, 2019

WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION**STATEMENT OF INCOME - GENERAL ACCOUNT**

As Of February 28, 2019 - Year End

Year End Feb. 28, 2019

REVENUE (GENERAL)

Donations	\$402.00
Membership Dues	\$2,480.00
GST Rebate	\$52.48
Sales - Pins, Crests, etc.	\$5.00
Income Shipping (Guidebooks)	\$240.00
Sales of Guidebooks	\$552.00
TOTAL REVENUE (GENERAL):	\$3,731.48

EXPENSE (GENERAL)

GST Expense	\$106.96
Bank Discrepancy	
Meetings	\$385.14
Misc. Expenses	\$50.00
Newsletter	\$123.12
Office Expense (Non Newsletter)	\$1,433.19
PayPal fees	\$59.92
Printing & Reproduction	\$0.00
Volunteer Appreciation	\$729.49
Website	\$256.01
TOTAL EXPENSE (GENERAL):	\$3,143.83

STATEMENT OF INCOME - CASINO ACCOUNT

As Of February 28, 2019 - Year End

Year End Feb. 28, 2019

REVENUE (CASINO)

Interest Income	\$430.15
GST Rebate	\$53.18
Casino Income	
TOTAL REVENUE (CASINO):	\$483.33

EXPENSE (CASINO)

Insurance	\$1,480.00
Bank Charges	\$25.00
Equipment Maintenance & Repair	\$2,630.90
Equipment Storage	\$2,820.00
GST Expense	\$244.96
Leases & Licences	\$2,416.00
Transportation (GPS Tracking, Hauling Materials, Permissions, Scouting, Work Crews)	\$6,207.11
WCB Fee	\$200.00

TOTAL EXPENSE (CASINO):	\$16,023.97
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-\$14,952.99

President's Report

This past year, we explored many opportunities to make the Waskahagan Trail more enduring, and to make the organization more mature and more relevant for the members and the public.

Publicity

One of my priorities as president is publicizing the Trail to the community. We do this in a couple of ways. Carissa has been promoting our hikes on Meetup, where 1200 people are now signed up to receive updates on upcoming hikes. As well, we have 150 people—over and above our regular members—who are subscribed to our weekly emails.

Another way we have been getting the word out is through our brochures at the Camrose Visitor Centre. And last spring, we were contacted by the Alberta Health Services branch in Wetaskiwin—they were writing a brochure about the health benefits of walking and local trails, and they included us.

We got a prominent publicity boost when David Dorward wrote an article for the 50th anniversary of the end-to-end hike he made with his brother Ross when they were boys. We submitted it as a press release to local papers, and the Camrose Booster picked it up. The story and photo was given a large spread in the July 10 Country Edition.

Collections

David also wrote the story of Fred Dorward and the founding of the trail and we published it on the website. I think it would be easy to build a History collection on our website, similar to the Flower Project. If you have stories to tell, we would add them.

Speaking of collections, many of you will remember Shirley Jackson, who took a lot of photos when she was hiking regularly. She gave us over 150 shots of flora and fauna taken on the Trail, all labeled, and we uploaded them to a set of albums on Flickr.

Working with the Province

This year, we've been working with our biggest landowner, the Province of Alberta. In these reports, RoseMarie mentions the new requirement for renewing leases on Crown land. Another new development is that the Province now considers volunteer trail work to be "unpaid" labour, which means we are subject to health and safety requirements.

This led to the parks department in charge of Miquelon Lake inviting us to the provincial park office as a pre-condition to formalizing an agreement so that we could continue maintaining the sections of Trail in the park. Over coffee and cinnamon buns, RoseMarie, Sherry, and I, aided by Karen's and Ellen's documentation, described how we maintain the trail. Following the meeting, Ellen and her team did a magnificent job of planning and paperwork to satisfy the health and safety conditions. In the next stage RoseMarie is leading the effort to get the formal

agreement in place. As a result of these efforts, we have strengthened a friendly and supportive relationship with Miquelon Lake's park management.

Stan Skirrow Memorial

In January, we lost founding member Stan Skirrow. Several current and former members were at the memorial service. His widow, Helen, was amazed to see so many of us—she had no idea of the strength of the organization. We got acquainted, or re-acquainted, with members of the Skirrow family, and we talked about having a commemoration on the Trail this year. Plans are in the works for Sunday, June 23, for an afternoon hike and a celebration with the Skirrow family at Stan's Bench, overlooking Stan's favourite view, the valley at Mud Lake.

Our Volunteers

I want to thank our volunteers for everything they do. Every time we have asked for help, people have come forward. You make the workload lighter for all of us. Included in these reports is the list of all the volunteers we can recall—it's a long list, and if we missed a name, no slight was intended.

Finally, I would like to thank the members for continuing to support the Trail. This organization would be nothing without you.

Submitted by JoAnne Burek

MEMBERSHIP REPORT as of February 28, 2019

Cindy Van Volkenburg took over Membership Secretary duties as of October 21, 2018. The duties of the Membership Secretary include being the primary contact for membership, mailing of the cards, books, crests, decals, pins, and donation receipts. Keeping records and statistics are also part of the duties of the Membership Secretary.

Membership activity for yearend February 28, 2019.

Memberships as of February 28, 2018	156
New Members	53
Reinstated Members	02
Resigned / Expired Memberships	55
Memberships as of February 28, 2019	156

Historical trend in number of memberships and book sales

Trends in Membership and Book Sales				
AGM in April	Number of Members to Feb.28/19	New	Resigned/Expired	Books Sold
2015	111	35	34	22
2016	107	29	33	25
2017	111	41	37	28
2018	156	56	11	56
2019	156	53	55	41

Membership numbers have stayed steady throughout 2018 / 2019. Book sales are down 28%.

New members are always welcome so please take a few of the new brochures to pass along to friends and family.

We are always grateful for the donations so generously given. Thank you goes out to Ilona Ryder, Irene & Scott Malcolm, Marianne Dupuis, Richard Biamonte, Alda Watchorn, Heather Shankowsky, and Donna Cissell.

Submitted by Cindy Van Volkenburg

Trail Maintenance Report

In 2018, leadership of the maintenance crew underwent a transition from Karen to Ellen and Sherry. Many thanks to Karen for generously providing logistical support as well as continuing to perform a hefty portion of the administrative work load. JoAnne, Lin, Terry and veteran members of the crew also offered assistance and encouragement to the new supervisors.

Our past season's accomplishments include a reroute through the Mumey Ravine along Coal Lake through a maze of heavy blowdown trees and around the slumping of steep banks along the water. Two new stiles were installed in the Mix-Cloverlawn section. We scheduled a few maintenance outings on Saturdays in order to include volunteers who are unable to attend on Wednesdays.

This year our budget was increased to cover inflation of travel expenses and volunteer appreciation. We spent more than anticipated on equipment repairs which indicates it may be necessary to replace at least one of the brush mowers in 2020. The first aid kits were overhauled with new equipment and fresh supplies.

A moratorium was imposed on all volunteer trail maintenance in Provincial Parks due to an unfortunate incident that occurred in another organization. WTA representatives JoAnne, RoseMarie and Sherry met with officials from Miquelon PP to discuss formal hazard assessments, safe work plans, first aid training and obtaining a permit for maintenance work this coming season.

For the first time, a work party was cancelled due to poor air quality in August of this year. A prolonged and severe fire season for two years in a row causes us to anticipate that we will need to take new parameters into account when planning the maintenance schedule.

There were 25 work parties on the trail in 2018, which compares favourably with last year's recent record of 26 outings. We worked mostly on Wednesdays, but occasionally on other days of the week if necessary.

Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers that served on our trail maintenance crew: Brad, John S, Oscar, Ellen, Gary, Sherry, Svetlana, Darlene, David, Bonnie, Helen, JoAnne, John R, Terry, Alda, Anita, Stella, Lee, RoseMarie and Narda.

Submitted by Ellen Homola with contributions from Sherry Kunkel and Karen Bell

Permissions Report

I joined the Board May 2018, volunteering to take on the responsibility of permissions. Our trail crosses several parks, crown lands and private property. My responsibility involves obtaining or confirming permissions by contacting Landowners – to cross private land, and the Alberta Govt. – to cross public land. To cross public land requires a lease from the Alberta Government.

Leases

Last year and this year we are in the process of obtaining 4 leases – either renew or apply for new lease that has expired. This involves working with a surveying firm (obtaining a survey and LAT Report (LAT: Landscape Analysis Tool) done by the surveyor); Parks and Environment Alberta (who review our request of renewal where Parks has placed a consultative notation); collecting information to complete numerous forms including an FNC (First Nations Consultation) who review our application to determine if consultation is required. When we meet all Alberta Environment & Parks prerequisites with all supporting documents I then submit the information in the new Govt. Electronic Disposition System as required by the Alberta Govt. There are various fees that apply for preparing substantiating documents, amendment or renewal fees for each lease.

Incidentally on 22 November 2018 the Alberta Government issued new regulations on public lands (see Public Lands Administration Regulations – Public Land Act – Recreational Access Regulations). A 50 page document that defines prerequisites for leases of public land in Alberta.

Landowners

Our trail crosses private property. To date I have been able to confirm permission from 34 landowners for our trail to cross their land. This also involves searching for new landowners and finding them to request permission. This is a work in progress. Several landowners have withdrawn permission - trail closure signs were posted and in one instance we were able to maintain trail continuance by moving the trail with landowners' permission.

The Trail

Our trail is 309 km in length. Please note: The only permitted activities on the Trail are hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Our agreement with landowners does NOT allow for the opening of any gates, or travel on any routes other than the marked trail. Bicycles, animals and powered vehicles are NOT permitted on the trail.

Submitted by RoseMarie Jalbert

<http://www.waskahegantrail.ca/> Website Report



Flickr

- Upgraded our account to the 'Pro' version, due a change in pricing effective January 2019
 - The free version was capped at 1,000 photos & we had over 12,000
 - ~\$50/year but you should no longer see any advertising
- Added a new set of albums "Shirley Jackson Photography" to Flickr

Website

- Added the 'Flower Project' from Ilona & Jerry
 - Pictures, descriptions & field notes on the flowers of our area

Hike Report

- Average number of hikers per hike: 12 (10 members & 2 guests)
- 64 members attended at least 1 hike
- 57 non-members attended a hike
- Unique Hikes -
 - Saturday evening hike/campfire at Wanisan, was well received (16 attendees in both 2017/2018))
 - There were 3 “Smell the Roses” hikes that had 2 groups, plus we are adding 3 afternoon/evening hikes
 - ✓ “Smell the Roses” – Kopp Lake (June 16th), Stoney Creek (July 14th), Ministik Bird Sanctuary (August 18th)
 - ✓ Evening – Wanisan (Saturday, June 1st 5pm), Mix Cloverlawn (June 23rd), North Coal Lake (July 28th)
- Big thanks to all of the hike leaders –
 - Alva, Anita, Darlene, David, Elizabeth, Helen, Irene & Scott, Jerry, JoAnne & Lee, Johanna, John, Oscar, Stella, Terry

Date	Attendees	Date	Attendees
14-Jan-18	12	12-Aug-18	9
28-Jan-18	8	19-Aug-18	11
17-Feb-18	8	26-Aug-18	14
4-Mar-18	5	2-Sep-18	12
18-Mar-18	8	9-Sep-18	16
1-Apr-18	8	23-Sep-18	7
29-Apr-18	15	30-Sep-18	12
6-May-18	11	7-Oct-18	5
13-May-18	18	14-Oct-18	15
20-May-18	7	21-Oct-18	13
26-May-18	16	28-Oct-18	14
3-Jun-18	13	4-Nov-18	8
17-Jun-18	18	11-Nov-18	19
24-Jun-18	23	18-Nov-18	14
1-Jul-18	12	25-Nov-18	12
8-Jul-18	10	2-Dec-18	10
15-Jul-18	19	9-Dec-18	19
22-Jul-18	16	23-Dec-18	8
29-Jul-18	6	30-Dec-18	5
5-Aug-18	9	Average	12

What walkers say & WHAT THEY MEAN

"Not far now"

No idea how far now

"This way!"

Possibly this way

"Just checking the map"

Absolutely panicking

"Cows are as afraid of us as we are of them"

I am much more scared than I am prepared to admit

"Pretty sure that's a Hawthorn"

Pretty confident you're out of 3G to check what it is

"Morning!"

I am normal. Let's not talk.

"Crisps?"

Take the plain so I don't have to

"Let's see if they do food"

We're having a pint here

"I've got a bit of chafing"

You may find the bathroom door locked tonight

"Imagine if I'd dropped the car key!"

WHERE is the SODDING car key?

"Fancy a cuppa?"

Suggest a pint. Suggest a pint. Suggest a pint.

Beyond Events

On September 17, 2018 twelve hikers left Edmonton for a 4 day hiking trip to the mountains near Nordegg. It was cold, wet and snowy - not ideal hiking weather! Our first stop was in Gull Lake for coffee at the "Wooden Shoe", a Dutch store and restaurant.

As we rounded a big curve just past Nordegg, the skies cleared and the sun peaked through. What followed was three days of great hiking, beautiful scenery, good company. We stayed at the Goldeye Conference Centre looking over beautiful Goldeye Lake. The food was amazing. Evenings were spent sitting by the fireplace, playing card or reading, good conversation and a little wine.

Hiking trails we enjoyed:

Siffleur Falls

Crescent Falls

Sasquatch Trail

Fish Lake / Goldeye Lake

Allstones Creek

Go to our webpage for photos and a great write-up by JoAnne. Thanks to everyone who came on this trip and I am looking forward to planning another Beyond Event in 2019.

Submitted by Anita Piebiak

Nominations for the Board

The following candidates have been nominated for the board:

Candidate	Year of term
Lee Stickles	6 th year
Jerry Shaw	4 th year
Terry Elrod	4 th year
Johanna Fischer	4 th year
JoAnne Burek	3 rd Year
RoseMarie Jalbert	2 nd year
Ellen Homola	2 nd year
Sherry Kunkel	2 nd year
Anita Piebiak	2 nd year
Carissa Wasyliw	2 nd year
Cindy Van Volkenburg	2 nd year
Sandra Janzen	1 st year

If there are no changes to the above, the new board will look like this:

President: JoAnne Burek
Treasurer: Sandra Janzen
Secretary: Johanna Fischer
Membership: Cindy Van Volkenburg
Vice President: TBD
Trail Maintenance: Ellen Homola
Permissions: RoseMarie Jalbert
Hike Coordinator: Lee Stickles
Webmaster: Lee Stickles
Director at Large: Jerry Shaw
Director at Large: Terry Elrod
Director at Large: Sherry Kunkel
Director at Large: Carissa Wasyliw

Thank You Volunteers and Donors

Volunteers

Alda Watchorn
Alva Bushey
Anita Piebiak
Bonnie Guo
Brad Jordan
Carissa Wasyliv
Cindy Van Volkenburg
Darlene Barnard
David Mutch
Elizabeth Bagdan
Ellen Homola
Gary Davidson
Helen Whitson,
Irene Malcolm
Jerry Shaw
JoAnne Burek
Johanna Fischer
John Redburn
John Scotvold
Karen Bell
Karyn Murray
Lee Stickles
Lin Keehn
Martha Miller
Narda Brooks

Oscar Zawalsky
RoseMarie Jalbert
Sandra Janzen
Scott Malcolm
Sherry Kunkel
Stella Cormier
Svetlana Kuzmina
Terry Elrod

Donors

Alda Watchorn
Connie and Richard Biamonte
Donna and Wayne Cissell
Heather Shankowsky
Lee Stickles
Ilona Ryder
Irene and Scott Malcolm
Marianne Dupuis