



WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 2019-2020

Due to the emergency measures of the COVID-19 crisis, the Annual General Meeting that was announced for April 3, 2020 was cancelled. Following are the reports that would have been presented at the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of AGM, April 12, 2019
2. Audited Financial Statements for Year Ending February 29, 2020, prepared by Sandra Janzen
3. Reports
 - a. President: JoAnne Burek
 - b. Membership/Donations: Cindy Van Volkenburg
 - c. Trail Maintenance: Ellen Homola
 - d. Permissions: RoseMarie Jalbert
 - e. Website: Lee Stickle
 - f. Hikes: Lee Stickle
 - g. Beyond Events: Anita Piebiak

Waskahegan Trail Association
2019 Annual General Meeting
Minutes

Date: April 12, 2019

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Central Lions Recreation Centre, Edmonton

Members and Guests:

JoAnne Burek, Anita Piebiak, Louise Giacomazzi, Lin Keehn, Oscar Zawalsky, RoseMarie Jalbert, Lee Stickles, Johanna Fischer, Grant Stobbe, Peter and Phyllis Verhaar, Gene and Florence Miskiw, Bonnie Guo, David Mutch, Gail Helgason, John Dodd, Michele Fortin (and two unnamed guests), Marylu Walters, Syke Stein, Karin Werther, Sandra Janzen, Stella Cormier, Cassandra Stevenson, Deanna Steckler, Kim Cassady, Brad Jordan, John Redburn, Cindy Van Volkenburg, Sherry Kunkel

1. Welcome

JoAnne Burek, President, called the meeting to order at 7:08pm

2. Minutes of AGM April 6, 2018

Moved by Oscar Zawalsky, seconded by Louise Giacomazzi to adopt the minutes as presented. **Carried.**

3. Audited Financial Statements for Year Ending February 28, 2019

Financial Statements were presented by Treasurer Lin Keehn.

Moved by Lee Stickles, seconded by Peter Verhaar to adopt the financial statements. **Carried.**

4. Committee Reports

a. President: JoAnne Burek

See separate report

b. Membership/ Donations: Cindy Van Volkenburg

See separate report

c. Trail Maintenance: reported by Sherry Kunkel

See separate report

d. Permissions: RoseMarie Jalbert

See separate report

e. Website: Lee Stickles

See separate report

f. Hikes: Lee Stickles

See separate report

g. Beyond events: Anita Piebiak

See separate report

5. Announcements

- Oscar Zawalsky talked about the Skyline Trail

6. Nominations and Elections

- JoAnne Burek was elected to be President. **Moved** by Oscar Zawalsky, **seconded** by Kim Cassady. Carried.
- See separate report

7. Order of the Laces

- David Mutch and Lee Stickles (tie) received this year's Order of the Laces

8. Adjournment

7:40 pm

Waskahegan Trail Association

Balance Sheet

As at February 19, 2020

ASSETS

Cash

General Bank

20,437

Casino Bank

12,350

Total Cash

32,787

Investments - Casino GICs

25,163

TOTAL ASSETS

57,950

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

0

Equity

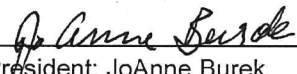
Retained Earnings

57,950

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

57,950

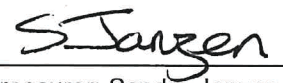
Approved for the Association by:



President: JoAnne Burek

14-Mar-2020

Date

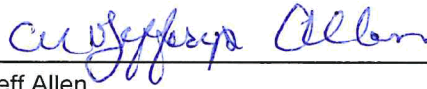


Treasurer: Sandra Janzen

14-Mar-2020

Date

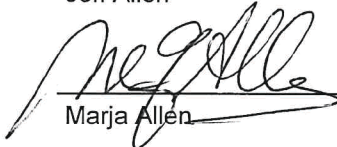
Audited by:



Jeff Allen

14-Mar-2020

Date



Marja Allen

14-Mar-2020

Date

Waskahegan Trail Association
STATEMENT OF INCOME - GENERAL ACCOUNT
For year ended February 29, 2020

REVENUE (GENERAL)	
Donations	485
Membership Dues	2,280
Sales (Pins, Crests etc)	11
Guidebooks	516
Income Shipping (Guidebooks)	258
GST rebate	31
	<u>3,581</u>
EXPENSE (GENERAL)	
Birkenbeiner	17
Meeting Expenses	828
Miscellaneous	50
Newsletter	70
Office Expense (non newsletter)	1,385
Stripe/Paypal Fees	70
Volunteer Appreciation	557
Website	207
GST	111
	<u>3,295</u>
PROFIT (LOSS) GENERAL	<u>286</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME - CASINO ACCOUNT
For year ended February 29, 2020

REVENUE (CASINO)	
Interest	152
GST rebate	127
	<u>279</u>
EXPENSE (CASINO)	
Bank Charges	5
Equipment Purchase	126
Equipment Storage	2,820
First Aid Training	135
Insurance	1,581
Leases & Licences	1,858
Maintenance	665
Transportation	5,769
WCB	200
GST	132
	<u>13,290</u>
PROFIT (LOSS) CASINO	<u>(13,011)</u>
TOTAL PROFIT (LOSS)	<u><u>(12,725)</u></u>

President's Report

Hiking and the Trail

Overall, this was a terrific year for hiking and enjoying nature, in spite of the rain. We had to cancel only one hike when the slopes were too slippery.

Other than that, the rain brought out the best of the trail. Certain flowers that we rarely see—like wild bergamot, wild clematis, and shooting stars—seemed to spring up out of nowhere on the trails such as North Coal Lake, South Coal Lake, and Stoney Creek. And in Miquelon Lake Provincial Park, we spotted morel mushrooms popping up right next to the trail.

Celebration for Stan Skirrow

In June, thirty-eight people came out for a special afternoon hike to celebrate Stan Skirrow, who passed away in December 2018. Stan was the founder who made the Waskahegan Trail Association what it is today. We gathered at Stan's Bench, on the Mix-Cloverlawn section of the trail, for a champagne toast to Stan. Then we moved over to the Fischers' lawn, which has a stunning view of the valley, for refreshments and Ingrid Fischer's home-baked treats. We are very grateful to the Fischers for their generous hospitality.

Archives

We were pleased to learn that the Provincial Archives has now processed our boxes of records that were deposited with them some years ago. The records go back to the beginning of the organization and end around 2007. To access these files, quote the Accession Number 2012.0585.

Website and Publicity

On the website, we continue to capture more of our own history.

We published a story from long-standing member Gene Miskiw on the construction of Lowe's bridge. The bridge stood for decades over the Battle River we took it down in 2018 due to instability.

We also posted all Gene's photos from the '70s and '80s on our Flickr account. To see our photos, go to Flickr.com and "Search as people" for "Waskahegan Trail Association". We now have over 12,000 photos in our collection.

Our Meetup group, "Hike the Waskahegan Trail" on Meetup.com, continues to grow and now has over 1400 members. Meetup is one of the important ways that public finds us.

Our Volunteers

Every time we asked for help, our members stepped up. You made the workload lighter for all of us.

Included in these reports are the names of people who volunteered in specific capacities. In addition, I'd like to mention and thank Jeff and Marja Allen, who were our auditors this year, and the board members: Johanna Fischer, Sandra Janzen, Terry Elrod, Jerry Shaw, Lee Stickles, Carissa Wasyliv, Cindy Van Volkenburg, Ellen Homola, Sherry Kunkel, Anita Piebiak, RoseMarie Jalbert. I'd also like to welcome and thank John Scotvold who we co-opted as a director-at-large when we knew we would not be able to have elections.

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

WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP REPORT AGM

February 29, 2020

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 year end February 29, 2020.

Memberships as of February 28, 2019	156
New Members	50
Reinstated Members	02
Resigned / Expired Memberships	79
Memberships as of February 29, 2020	129

Historical trend in number of memberships and book sales

Trends in Membership and Book Sales				
AGM in April	Number of Members to Feb29'20	New	Resigned/Expired	Books Sold
2014	109	22	31	22
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
2020	129	50	79	41

Membership numbers have declined during the 2019-20 year by 17%. Book sales are the same.

The board of directors of the Waskahegan Trail Association have decided to grant all active members a free year of membership because of the current pandemic crisis. Members will be notified of this change in their expiration dates.

New members are always welcome.

We are always grateful for the donations so generously given. Thank you goes out to Ilona Ryder, Irene & Scott Malcolm, Marianne Dupuis, Alda Watchorn, Heather Shankowsky, F Bodie, R Jalbert and L Keehn.

Submitted by

Cindy Van Volkenburg

Trail Maintenance Report

In 2019, the crew maintained 75 km of trail during 20 work parties. Only one day was cancelled due to rain which was fortunate considering that it was a wet season. Three additional work sessions took place at the garage to maintain the tools and fabricate stiles. We worked mostly on Wednesdays, occasionally on other days of the week if necessary, and logged 589 person-hours for the season.

Our accomplishments for 2019 include reclaiming sections of the Pipestone A51-53 and Partridge Hill A110-111, which was last hiked in 2009. Thanks to Brad and John S. for putting in extra hours above and beyond the call of duty on the Pipestone.

For the first time, our budget included WCB approved First Aid training and certification for two team members who rarely miss a work party: John S. and Brad. Certification lasts for three years; in the future we plan to have two crew members per year take the course. Although there were no incidents that required first aid or medical attention, we thank Brad and John for helping to keep the crew safe.

We welcomed a new crew member this past season: Mike D., who proved himself handy with a lawnmower under less than ideal conditions. Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers that served on our trail maintenance crew in 2019: Brad, Ellen, John S., Sherry, John R., Gary, Bonnie, Oscar, David, Helen, Darleen, Mike, Terry, Johanna, Scott, Irene, Marja, Jeff, and Karen. Special thanks to John S and Gary for hauling the equipment trailer and skillfully backing it into the garage at the end of day.

Respectfully submitted by

Ellen Homola and Sherry Kunkel

Maintenance Co-Directors

AGM – Permissions Report

2019/2020

By RoseMarie Jalbert

This year three Lease Renewal applications submitted. Information gathered, forms completed and application submitted via EDS – the Alberta Environment and Parks digital system through which all applications are now submitted and accepted. Leases are: Wanisan Lake Recreational; Ministik Bird Game Sanctuary, which includes Trail reroute to avoid soil erosion; and Miquelon Lakes. These are 10 year leases. Rental and other fees will be paid when Alberta Government accept our application.

One of our members, a Biologist, found Yellow Rattle plants in the Ministik Bird Game Sanctuary. He is obtaining permission to begin a Research Project on this plant.

Some landowners experience problems with deer hunters using our Trail during hunting season. This resulted in one landowner requesting our Trail close only during hunting season and another landowner refusing permission for our Trail. We continue to contact landowners and we are grateful to all of them who permit our Trail to continue to cross their property. This includes new landowners who receive information such as, Landowners Rights and Trail User Responsibilities, Hike schedule, plus other items. To date have reached out to over 100 landowners, Government officials and companies.

This has been a good year and look forward to meeting and/or talking to everyone regarding our Trail.

<http://www.waskahegantrail.ca/> Report for AGM

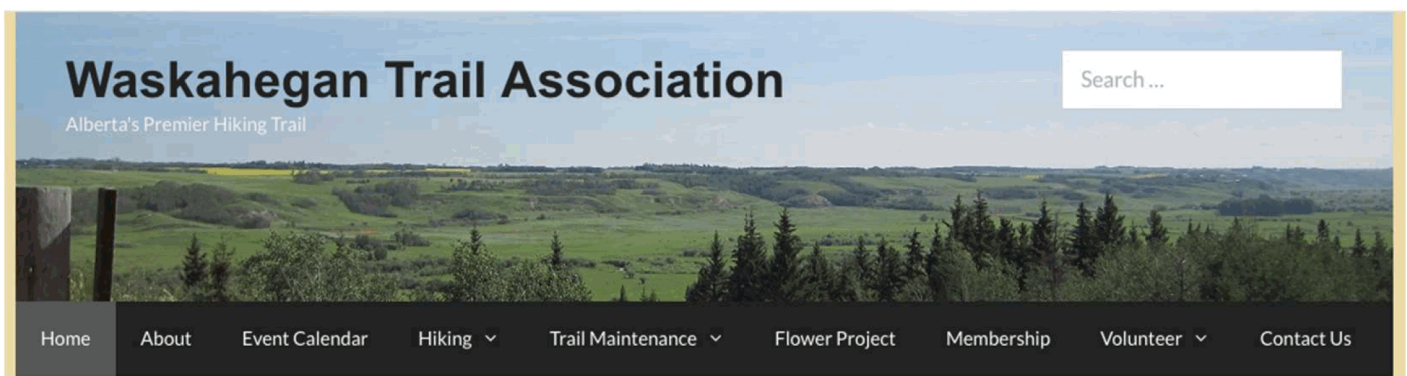
- Average number of hikers per hike: 12½ (10¾ members & 1¾ guests)
- 72 members attended at least 1 hike
- 43 non-members attended a hike
- Unique Hikes -
 - Saturday evening hike/campfire at Wanisan, well received (15 attendees)
 - There were 3 "Smell the Roses" hikes, 3 evening hikes & 1 straight through
 - ✓ "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)
 - ✓ Coal Lake / Kiorlein Corner (June 9th)
- Big thanks to all of the hike leaders –
 - Anita P., Carissa W., Elizabeth B., Helen W., Irene & Scott M., Jerry S., JoAnne B. & Lee S., Johanna F., John S., Karen B., Oscar Z., Stella C., & Terry E.
- [Change to parking at Century Park - TBD](#)

Date	Attendees	Date	Attendees
2019-01-06	9	2019-07-14	19
2019-01-20	8	2019-07-21	12
2019-02-17	8	2019-07-28	12
2019-03-03	7	2019-08-04	15
2019-03-10	8	2019-08-11	5
2019-03-17	10	2019-08-18	11
2019-03-31	10	2019-09-01	15
2019-04-14	8	2019-09-08	12
2019-04-28	14	2019-09-15	13
2019-05-05	13	2019-09-22	27
2019-05-12	13	2019-09-29	5
2019-05-19	20	2019-10-06	11
2019-05-26	17	2019-10-13	2
2019-06-01	15	2019-10-20	14
2019-06-09	19	2019-10-27	10
2019-06-16	15	2019-11-10	6
2019-06-23	33	2019-11-24	15
2019-06-30	11	2019-12-08	10
2019-07-07	15	2019-12-22	7
Average		12.5	

- Another excellent year for the trail running 38 hikes plus the 'Beyond' event in near Nordegg and only 2 canceled
- Average number of hikers per hike : 12½ (10¾ members & 1¾ guests)
 - Up 4% from 2016 & 2018 ... tracking for 2020 ???
 - Down a bit from 2017 but that was unique with Canada 150 & Waskahegan 50th anniversary
- 72 members attended at least 1 hike (most from last 5 years)
 - ½ attended 3 or less (⅓ attended only 1)
 - 21 members accounted for ¾ of the attendees at 6 or more hikes
 - Top 5 attendees accounted for ~¼ of attendees ... all about the same as last 5 years
 - JoAnne & Lee lead the way (attending 27 of the 38 hikes)
- Big thanks to all of the hike leaders –
 - Anita, Carissa, Elizabeth, Helen, Irene & Scott, Jerry, Johanna, John, Karen, Oscar, Stella, & Terry
 - ✓ as you can see a lot more hikes than hike leaders, 58% of hikes were led by board members ...so if you are interested in leading some let us know
- The city changed the parking at Century Park & no more free parking, still TBD
 - May still meet there & then move the cars being left behind to on street parking

(29th Ave @ 109 St still looks to allow on street parking)

<http://www.waskahegantrail.ca/> *Report for AGM*



- No material web site changes ...
 - ✓ JoAnne updated/maintained WordPress & plugins
 - ✓ Various people updated content
 - ✓ But no changes to actual website

Beyond Events

Again this fall, Sept. 26 – 29, we enjoyed four days of hiking in the Nordegg area. Ten hikers carpooled to Goldeye Centre. Although we had been there last year, it seemed like a totally different place. It was a winter wonderland with early fresh snow! We hiked some of the same trails as last year but also explored a few new ones. Of course the scenery was spectacular. The food and hospitality at Goldeye was excellent. Evenings were spent reading by the fireplace, playing cards and enjoying the great company.

A few hikers have expressed interest in a hiking trip to Europe. Maybe, this could be our next Beyond Event. Of course with the current pandemic, these plans are on hold.

If you are interested or have ideas for other Beyond Events, please get in touch with me.

Happy hiking,
Anita Piebiak