



WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, April 14, 2023 at 7 p.m., via Zoom

AGENDA

1. Welcome: Anita Piebiak, President
2. Minutes of AGM, April 8, 2022
3. Audited Financial Statements for Year Ending February 28, 2023: Diann Connelly
4. Reports
 - a. President: Anita Piebiak
 - b. Membership/Donations: Lorna Mathews
 - c. Trail Maintenance: John Scotvold
 - d. Permissions: JoAnne Burek
 - e. Trail Locations: Terry Elrod
 - f. Website: Lee Stickles
 - g. Hikes: Lee Stickles
 - h. Beyond Events: Anita Piebiak
 - i. Update on Funding and Casinos: JoAnne Burek
5. Nominations and Elections: Anita Piebiak
6. Appointment of Auditors
7. Order of the Laces
8. Adjournment of Business Meeting

Thank you to our volunteers

Anita Piebiak

Bonnie Guo

Brad Jordan

Cathy Mowat

Darlene Barnard

Dean Heichert

Delaney Schlemko

Dennis Nolan

Elizabeth Bagdan

Ellen Homola

Gary Davidson

Grant Stobbe

Helen Whitson

Irene and Scott

Malcolm

Jeff and Marja Allen

Jerry Shaw

JoAnne Burek

Johanna Fischer

Johanne Duchesne

John Redburn

John Scotvold

Jon Spence

Lee Stickle

Lorna Mathews

Martha Miller

Mary MacArthur

Mike Dreimanis

Oscar Zawalsky

Peggy Funk

RoseMarie Jalbert

Sandra Janzen

Sherry Kunkel

Stella Cormier

Terry Elrod

John Hanes



WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 131
Edmonton, Alberta,
T5J 2G9
www.waskahegantrail.ca

2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes

APRIL 8, 2022

Members:

Jeff Allen, Marja Allen, Elizabeth Bagdan, Astrid Blodgett, JoAnne Burek, Diann Connelly, Stella Cormier, Terry Elrod, Ellen Homola, RoseMarie Jalbert, Sandra Janzen, Brad Jordan, Sherry Kunkel, Mary MacArthur, Lorna Mathews, Martha Miller, Anita Piebiak, Delaney Schlemko, John Scotvold, Jerry Shaw, Yvette Stack, Lee Stickles, Herb Taylor, Peter Verhaar, Phyllis Verhaar.

A quorum was established

Guest: Wayne Oakes

1. Welcome
Anita Piebiak, President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. Minutes of AGM April 16, 2021
Motion to adopt the minutes of the 2021 AGM as presented was made by Sandra, seconded by Terry; carried.
3. Audited Financial Statements for Year Ending February 28, 2021
Financial statements were presented by Treasurer Sandra Janzen.
Motion to adopt financial statements as presented made by JoAnne, seconded by Martha; carried.
4. Committee Reports (see separate reports)
President: Anita Piebiak
Membership: Lorna Matthews
Trail Maintenance: Ellen Homola
Permissions: JoAnne Burek (acting)
Trail Location: Terry Elrod
Website: Lee Stickles
Hikes: Lee Stickles
Beyond Events: Anita Piebiak

5. Commentary on overall financial situation
Presented by JoAnne Burek (see separate report)

6. Announcement
JoAnne Burek shared news of Bev Stokowski's passing

7. Nominations and Elections
The following people were nominated for the Board of Directors:

John Scotvold
Delaney Schlemko
Lorna Mathews
Diann Connelly (Treasurer)
Lee Stickles
Astrid Blodgett (Secretary)
Elizabeth Bagdan
Brad Jordan

Anita Piebiak (President) is returning for the 2nd year of her term.

Motion to cease nominations from the floor made by Martha, seconded by Sandra;
carried.

Motion to accept the proposed slate of candidates by acclamation made by Yvette,
seconded by Stella; carried.

8. Appointment of Auditors
Motion to appoint Jeff and Marja Allen as the financial auditors for 2023 made by Sandra,
seconded by Stella; carried.

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:07.

Recorded by Sherry Kunkel.

WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET As Of February 28, 2023 - Year End

ASSETS

Year End Feb. 28, 2023

Cash Assets:

GENERAL Bank Account Balance	24,587
CASINO Bank Account Balance	6,516
TOTAL Cash Assets	31,102

Investments:

GENERAL Invest. Account (Term Deposit)	0
CASINO Invest. Account (GIC's)	0
TOTAL Investments	0

TOTAL ASSETS 31,102

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities

TOTAL Current Liabilities 0

EQUITY

Retained Earnings 31,102

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 31,102

Approved for the Association by:

[Signature]
President

Date: March 6, 2023

[Signature]
Treasurer

Date: March 6, 2023

Audited by: 1.

[Signature]
Auditor

Date: March 6, 2023

2.

[Signature]
Auditor

Date: March 6, 2023

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

As Of February 28, 2023 - Year End

Year End Feb 28, 2023

REVENUE (GENERAL)	
Donations	3,375.88
Membership Dues	1,282.00
Sales - Pins, Crests, etc.	28.00
Sales of Guidebooks	360.00
GST Rebate	85.91
TOTAL REVENUE (GENERAL):	5,131.79

EXPENSE (GENERAL)	
GST Expense	131.38
Members BBQ	123.92
Miscellaneous	21.99
Office Expense	795.18
WCB Premium	200.00
Fund Raising Consultant	1,995.00
Volunteer Appreciation	350.14
Website	554.70
Stripe Fees	54.97
TOTAL EXPENSE (GENERAL):	4,227.28

STATEMENT OF INCOME - CASINO ACCOUNT

As Of February 28, 2023 - Year End

Year End Feb 28, 2023

REVENUE (CASINO)	
Interest earned on investment	0.00
TOTAL REVENUE (CASINO):	0.00

EXPENSE (CASINO)	
Insurance	1,887.00
Equipment (Purchase)	0.00
Equipment Maintenance & Repair	814.86
Equipment Storage	2,820.00
GST Expense	42.15
Leases & Licences	100.00
Transportation - Work Crews	1,661.55
First Aid Training	67.50
TOTAL EXPENSE (CASINO):	7,393.06

Total Profit (Loss) **-6,488.55**

Prepared By: Diann Connelly
Treasurer

Auditors:

M. Allen
Margaret Allen
C. W. Jefferys Allen
C. W. Jefferys Allen

Dated: March 6, 2023

President's Report

Another great year of hiking. Thank you to all our members for their continued support of this great hiking group – The Waskahegan Trail Association. This trail is unique and special because of our partnership with so many wonderful land owners that allow us to hike on their property.

Our board continues to meet once a month online. There are positions open on the board and I hope you would consider joining as a director-at-large.

Unfortunately, the state of our finances continues to be a concern for the board. Most of our funds come from casino proceeds. During the pandemic, casinos were cancelled and now there is a backlog of organizations waiting. The majority of the funds in the casino account are used to maintain the trail. Our maintenance team and the board are working hard to keep our expenses down.

Meanwhile, the board has looked at other ways of fundraising. We purchased a subscription to Grant Advance Solutions. JoAnne will speak to this in the fundraising report.

Our annual BBQ in September was well attended. Everyone enjoyed the good food and great company. We will be hosting another BBQ in June to reconnect after the long winter. We are all looking forward to hiking the trail again!

I would like to thank all our volunteers: the board members, those who scout trails and lead hikes and the maintenance team. This organization would be nothing without all of you!

Anita Piebiak

WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP REPORT AGM

February 28, 2023

The duties of the Membership Secretary include being the primary contact for membership, mailing of the cards, guidebooks, 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 28, 2023:

Memberships as of February 28, 2022.	228
New Members	40
Resigned / Expired Memberships	(96)
Memberships as of February 28, 2023.	172

Historical trend in number of memberships and book sales:

Trends in Membership and GuideBook Sales				
AGM in April	Number of Members @ Feb 28	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
2020	129	50	79	41
2021	199	70	0*	56
2022	228	76	47	79
2023	172	40	96	23

** In April 2020, the board of directors granted members a free year of membership due to the pandemic crisis. Paid memberships resumed for 2021-22.*

Membership levels increased during the pandemic years but have fallen in the year ending February 2023.

The board of directors initiated an appeal for donations during the past year as new casino funds will not be available to us until 2025 at the earliest. Funds donated in the year were significantly greater than in previous years. Sincere thanks to the John Maude and Susan Quinn Charitable Foundation, Butler Family Foundation, Dylan Reade, Darryl Hay, Waltraud Grienauer, Kevin and Dale Quinn, and Irene Malcolm. Anonymous donations were also received through Canada Helps.

Sincere appreciation to board members involved with the efforts to solicit donations, with special thanks to JoAnne Burek and John Scotvold.

Submitted by

Lorna Mathews

Trail Maintenance Annual Report for 2022 Season- April 2023

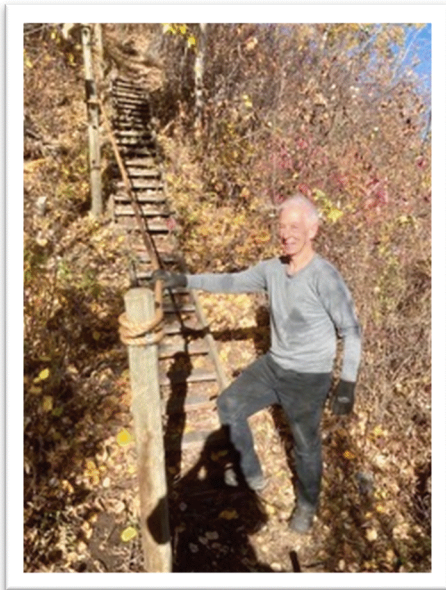
This past year of 2022, the trail maintenance group were faced with a big challenge to fill Ellen's and Sherry's shoes. We formed a committee of six people to take over all the tasks they had been handling. Ellen generously continued to give us support and guidance throughout the maintenance season. Also, a thank you to Karen Bell for her input on some issues. These past coordinators have valuable knowledge of the trail and we appreciate their continued support.

The maintenance year began in mid April with a special trip to Brad's farm to have our trusty trailer repaired and prepared for the season. We held a garage day on May 2 to prepare all the tools and another on October 19 to clean and lay to rest everything for the winter.

We had 19 work parties and maintained approximately 76 km of trail. There were 653 person-hours contributed by 21 volunteers.

We completed three larger projects: improvements to The Allan Nature trail, a re-route and addition of three stiles on the Rest and Be Thankful Route and the installation of a post and rope system on a steep slope near the Hughston Stopover. A special thank you goes to Mary MacArthur who engaged with the landowners on the Rest and Be Thankful route and was able to receive their permission for the re-route of the trail Thanks also go to the Allan family for their continued support of the Waskahegan Trail. Another project was undertaken by Brad on the Ft. Ethier trail; he added new posts and rope to two steep sections of the trail. He very kindly donated the posts for both this section and the one adjacent to Hughston Stopover.





A thank you to Lee, our chief pre-maintenance trail scout this year. Some further pre-maintenance scouting was also done by Brad and John S. Thank you!

Once again, we enjoyed our 3rd year end maintenance wiener roast at the Hughston Stopover. Thank you to Lori and Jay Cridland for permission to use the site on their land.

A thank you to all the trail maintenance volunteers: John S., Ellen, John R, Sherry, Jon S, Katy, Brad, Darlene, Gary, Bonnie, Grant, Helen, Mike, Peggy, John H, Elizabeth, Lee, Stella, Oscar, Mary, and Terry.



Respectfully Submitted by the Trail Maintenance Committee: John Scotvold, John Redburn, Lee Stickles, Darlene Barnard, Katy Cross, Helen Whitson

Permissions Report AGM 2023

The Trail

Over 200 km of the Waskahagan Trail runs across the properties of over a hundred landowners. If not for their generous permission, the trail would not exist.

The role of the Permissions Director is to maintain the contact information of the landowners and to be their main point of contact if they need to reach out to us. The role also includes maintaining our records of who owns what piece of land the trail runs on.

For the last two years, we have not had an official Permissions director so I have been filling in, even though I was not on the board this year.

I have found Permissions to be a fun and rewarding job. Rosemarie Jalbert, the previous Permissions Director, left the records in great shape. Furthermore, the landowners have been very accommodating to our requests. An example is the landowner of the Gwynne section, who gave us permission to install the plaque for Oscar Zawalsky. The landowners support the trail and appreciate what we do.

I would especially like to thank fellow member Mary MacArthur who has been communicating with some of the landowners. Last summer she worked with a landowner to obtain permission for an important reroute around his new house.

Finally, a reminder to hikers: We need to remember that permissions can change at any time for any reason at all. That's why we urge hikers to always check the Trail Conditions page on the website before going out to a trail.

Our Leases

We lease crown land for four properties, and all have come up for renewal in the last few years. Under Rosemarie's tenure, renewal for the Ministik Bird & Game Sanctuary was renewed to October 2045. The remaining three leases are still waiting for processing with Alberta Government.

Respectfully submitted
JoAnne Burek

Waskahegan Trail Association
Trail Location 2023 Annual Report
Terry Elrod, Director
30 March 2023

The responsibility of Trail Location (TL) is to document the Waskahegan Trail — its route, constructions (stiles, boardwalks, bridges, rope ladders), trailheads and landmarks. Almost the entirety of the trail on private land is now documented.

As of March 2023, we are putting TL information (along with maps) into the hands of one or two designated Trail Maintenance (TM) leaders so that TM crews will always know where they are located relative to the trail and its constructions. Given that some trail sections are maintained only every other year or so, there are times when the trail is lost sight of while in the field. Having TL information in real time saves TM from delays and helps with TM planning. It also helps with keeping TL information up to date.

WTA Website – <https://waskahegantrail.ca>

- **Migration** –
 - In June we moved the WTA website to InMotionHosting (from Webnames), due to capacity issues that couldn't be resolved
- **General Admin** –
 - Mostly email related (administration of WTA email accounts, responding to inquiries)
 - Documentation updates
 - There were issues with auto-renewal of some memberships. The problem has been resolved

WTA Hikes – https://waskahegantrail.ca/wp-content/uploads/newsletters/WTA_Current_Hikes.pdf

- **2022 Hike Statistics (consistent with most years)**
 - 35 hikes, average 12.6 attendees – 11.4 members & 1.2 guests
 - spring/fall hikes had slightly more attendees than usual
 - summer hikes had a lot fewer than usual (people able to travel again?)
 - 104 people attended at least 1 hike (74 members & 30 guests)
 - There were 14 people who make up two-thirds of the hike attendance, attending 10 or more hikes.
 - There were 4 people who attended 20 or more hikes.
 - We tried some shorter hike options in response to requests from members. These shorter options were poorly attended.
 - Only 4 hikes were canceled –
 - 2 due to cold weather (January 9th & December 18th)
 - 2 due to COVID-19 restrictions (January 23rd & February 6th)
 - The winner of the "Order of the Laces" attended 29 of the 35 hikes
- **Hike Leaders** – Big thanks to all the hike leaders
 - Anita P., Delaney S., Elizabeth B., Grant S., Helen W., Irene M., JoAnne B. & Lee S., Johanna D. & Dennis N., Johanna F., John S., Lorna M., Mary M., Martha M., Peggy F., Sandra C. and Stella C.
 - New Leaders in 2022 – Peggy F., Johanna D. & Dennis N., Grant S. and Delaney S.
 - New Leaders in 2023 – Sherry K. & Terry E. have already led hikes this year
 - Sherry is a new hike leader & Terry has returned as a hike leader
 - We are always looking for new hike leaders
- **Summer Schedule (May to October) & Winter Schedule (November to March 2024)** –
 - Hike Committee met in a ZOOM call on Thursday, March 9th
 - There will be 39 hikes between April 2023 and March 2024
 - all hikes up to mid-October have leaders, and the website calendar & printable schedule have been updated
 - only 8 hike slots remain to be filled, from mid-October to end of March 2024 (plenty of time to complete this)
 - 13 non-hiking weekends – every other week during the winter (November to April) plus some extra off weeks for holidays

Respectfully submitted by Lee Stickle

Beyond Events

Unfortunately, our annual hiking trip to Nordegg was cancelled last September. Due to staffing issues, Goldeye Centre was not able to accommodate us. This was a huge disappointment for many of our members. Goldeye will not be open for private groups in 2023.

SO...

I am planning a hiking trip to Gatineau Park in Quebec. Gatineau Park stretches over 360 sq.km. of hills and forests. There are over 180 km of summer hiking trails. It is just 15 minutes from Ottawa.

WHEN: October 1 – 7, 2023 This should be a great time for autumn colours!

WHERE: Wakefield, Quebec. I have put a deposit on a VRBO near Wakefield that can accommodate up to 14 people. It is about 45 minutes from the airport.

COST:

You will be responsible to arrange your own flights. I'll watch for seat sales. We will share the cost of car rentals, groceries for breakfast and lunches, and lodging. There are several restaurants and pubs in Wakefield for dinner.

If you are interested, please let me know and I will keep you informed with more details and an estimated cost. I will require a deposit – not sure what it will be yet.

Anita Piebiak

Update on Funding and Casinos – April 14, 2023

At the AGM last April, we reported our concern about our finances. For years we had been relying on casinos to fund trail maintenance. We were always raising enough funds so that we needed a casino only once every 5 years. Then the pandemic hit, and casinos were put on hold. Last year, the casinos resumed, and the AGLC policy changed. Our casinos would no longer be in Edmonton, where there are plenty of opportunities and lots of funds. Now they will be in Camrose, where we will have fewer opportunities and a lot less funds.

At this time last year we declared that we are facing a new permanent funding challenge for trail maintenance. Our options were to rely on the funds in the General account to fill the funding gap and to continue being creative on managing trail maintenance costs.

Here is what has happened since then.

Casino

We are now on the list for a casino in Camrose in the second quarter of 2025, i.e., between April and June two years from now. Immediately after that casino, we will apply for another one.

Private Foundations

In August, John Scotvold and I met with Grant Advance Solutions—a company that helps charitable organizations connect with foundations to obtain grants for their causes.

There are thousands of foundations in Canada that need to give away a percentage of assets each year for tax purposes. These foundations are difficult to find out about as most don't have websites. Grant Advance maintains a database of these foundations. They track details about their donation history and they report their charitable-giving focus as well as contact information. They also provide a means to automatically generate grant request letters, and they offer guidance on how to approach these foundations.

In September we signed up for a one-year membership (\$2000) and started searching for potential funders using a variety of keywords. In November we mailed out Letters of Inquiry to 35 foundations. Then in January, the consultant at Grant Advance met with us again and showed us how to find more potential funders that may support us. We will soon mail out letters of inquiry to another 50 foundations.

The results? To date, we have received two donations totaling \$3000. One of them, it turns out, is a landowner!

The Grant Advance consultant advised us on how we can start building relationships with foundations we have written to. This is clearly a long game. We will continue communicating with the private foundations that have not yet responded to our letter.

We don't expect that we will have to keep subscribing to Grant Advance once we have established relationships with enough foundations.

Respectfully submitted by
JoAnne Burek

Nominations for the Board

The following candidates have been nominated for the board:

Candidate	Year of term
Terry Elrod	1 st year
JoAnne Burek	1 st Year
Carol Suddards	1 st year
Diann Connelly	2 nd year
Brad Jordan	2 nd year
Elizabeth Bagdan	2 nd year
Lee Stickles	2 nd year
Lorna Mathews	3 rd year
John Scotvold	4 th year
Delaney Schlemko	4 th year

Anita Piebiak and Astrid Blodgett have resigned from the board.

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

President: JoAnne Burek

Treasurer: Diann Connelly

Secretary: Carol Suddards

Membership Secretary: Lorna Mathews

Directors:

John Scotvold

Delaney Schlemko

Terry Elrod

Brad Jordan

Lee Stickles

Elizabeth Bagdan