



WASKAHEGAN WANDERINGS

Waskahegan Trail Association, P.O. Box 131, Edmonton AB T5J 2G9

www.waskahegantrail.ca

VOLUME 43 ISSUE 1

SPRING 2012

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & SOCIAL

April 13 2012

AVONMORE UNITED CHURCH

7909—82 AVENUE

7:00 PM

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You are invited to come and attend our spring general meeting and social.

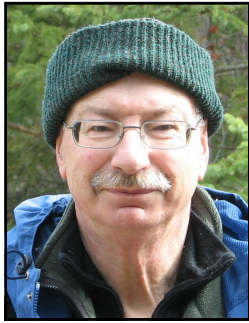
A place to visit, welcome new members and elect a new board.

After the business and elections portion of the meeting there will be a presentation by Graham Hicks from the River Valley Alliance.

Refreshments will be served during the evening.

THE WTA EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT:	ROB FAULDS	780-478-5622	TRAILS/MAINTENANCE:	JIM WILSON	780-968-2504
VP/HIKE PLANNING:	KAREN BELL	780-642-6372	ARCHIVES/PERMISSIONS:	PETER VERHAAR	780-466-6756
PAST PRESIDENT:	ANITA ALLSOPP	780-435-6444	DIRECTOR AT LARGE:	DAVE BARNARD	780-476-2266
SECRETARY:	VACANT		DIRECTOR AT LARGE:	MARILYN BOURASSA	780-463-1207
TREASURER:	CHRISTINE YAKOWESHYN	780-641-7064	DIRECTOR AT LARGE:	HUGH KENNEDY	780-486-3085
PUBLICITY:	FRANK POTTER	780-419-7289	DIRECTOR AT LARGE:	GARY STEINBRING	780-461-2987
MEMBERSHIP/DONATIONS:	JOANNE BUREK	780-487-0645	SOCIAL CONVENERS:	DARLENE & DAVE BARNARD	780-476-2266
NEWSLETTER:	SHIRLEY JACKSON	780-429-7932			



Rob Faulds

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

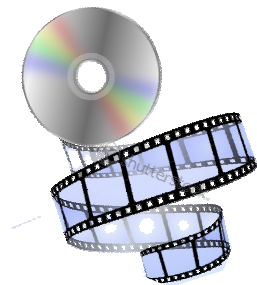
The snow will soon be disappearing, grass will be growing and there is the desire to get out and stretch our legs and visit the trail sections that we have not had an opportunity to do for a while. Each time we embark on a trip is the time to renew and add new friends, find our favorite location and be happily aware that the section of land we are on is a special place to the landowner as well. Take a minute to reflect as you sit down to lunch.

The birkie ski event brings out a high energy crew to operate the food station. I can only say that their enthusiasm is welcomed by the many positive remarks from the skiers. Both Alberta Parks and the Medical personnel at the station also have good things to say. Thanks to Bev Stokowski and the WTA volunteers.

Bring a new friend out to each hike and encourage them to take an active part in the association to enable growth and future hiking.

This year let us challenge ourselves at the AGM and bring a refreshed enthusiasm to our leadership. Embrace the future.

A YEAR OF HIKING—2011



Have you hiked a few or all of our scheduled hikes? Did you enjoy where you hiked? Would you like a memento? Would you like to tell the world (or just your friends) all about “The Waskahegans”?

The DVD for 2011 is now available, with payment,

\$5—A year of Hiking 2011

\$5—Beyond Waskahegan 2011

\$7—A Year of Hiking 2011 and Beyond WTA 2011

from our Membership person. Please contact Joanne Burek at 780-487-0645 or email Membership@Waskahegantrail.ca or mail a cheque payable to WTA to P.O. Box 131, Edmonton AB T5J 2G9 with confirmation of your mailing address.



MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT

Waskahegan members are eligible to receive 10% off any regular priced merchandise bought at Camper's Village on 170 Street or at 32nd Avenue and Calgary Trail and also at Track 'n Trail, 10148—82 Avenue. To obtain the discount you must show your membership card.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE—APRIL 2012

With last year's late spring and wet summer a distant memory, it is time once again to start thinking about clippers and chainsaws, and those little yellow diamond signs.

The 2012 work crews will be busy starting in early April, (weather permitting), and the work load will be fairly steady throughout this season.

A major accomplishment from last summer was the installation and repair of stiles along most sections of the trail. This year, crews will continue numbering of these stiles with small metal tags. This initiative will provide a record of location and condition of all stiles throughout the length of the trail. Such a reference will be very valuable to both maintenance and hike leadership. As well, there are a couple of footbridges requiring maintenance.

So once again, we are asking for volunteers to help clear deadfall, clip back undergrowth, and maintain the trail signage. A day out with the small work parties is rewarding, fun, and an opportunity to contribute a little to the trail. Either weekdays or Saturdays, these crews leave the meet point around 9:00a.m., have lunch on the trail, and are back to the city by mid-afternoon. A coffee and rehash of work done rounds off the day. And you get to go home with a sense of accomplishment and the knowledge that you have personally done something concrete and of value to ensure the existence of this beautiful trail.

Tools and equipment are provided, as well as safety gear and safety protocols. If you would like to learn use of power tools, a crew leader will be happy to provide such training.

The Maintenance Coordinator, Marilyn Bourassa, is setting up schedules and organizing crews. If you would like more information, or would like to volunteer at any time over the season, please contact:

Marilyn Bourassa at Marilyn.Bourassa@telus.net or 780-463-1207



EDMONTON RIVER VALLEY CLEAN UP— MAY 5, 2012

The annual River Valley Clean-up is expected to be on May 5. Bev Stokowski is coordinating the event for the club.

Please give Bev a call at 780-469-7948 if you would like to be involved.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Welcome



The WTA welcomes the following new members:

Mike Boychuk
Bill Cooper
Angela Coutinho
Bill Crawford

Carol Hoi
Annette Murray
Marilyn and Ken Tichkowsky
Betty Thihkowsky

Thank
You

DONATIONS Thanks go out to:

Mike Boychuk
Lee Stickles

BIRKEBEINER—FEBRUARY 12, 2012

2012 was the 24th Annual Birkebeiner Cross Country Ski Race.

Bev Stokowski's reliable crew of Waskahegan Volunteers set up the Last Chance Food Station. The Station and crew were ready to accept the first 31 km skiers who arrived at 11:10 am.

Huge thanks to Darlene Crane's Waskahegan Clowns who received smiles and compliments from the competitors, as they skied through the Last Chance Food Station. There were a total of 610 competitors, 373 for the 31 km and 237 for the 13 km.

A big bouquet to the Waskahegan volunteers, who donated their time and energy: David & Darlene Barnard, Darlene Crane, Johanna Fischer, Hugh Kennedy, Edda Loomes, David Mutch, Helen Whitson, Dan Wright, Christine Yakoweshyn and Oscar Zawalsky.

Special thanks our reliable food manager, Rob Faulds.



BEYOND WASKAHEGAN OUTINGS

KANANASKIS—October 17-21—

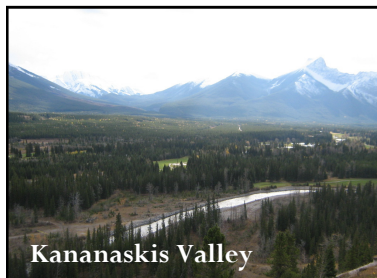
ANITA

Six years ago when I began hiking with WTA, I heard *William Watson Lodge* mentioned as a great place to go. With Karen's persistence – as seniors are given 3rd priority over the handicapped – we finally arrived.

Day one saw us meeting at Tim Horton's (Calgary Trail) to sort food, luggage, sleeping bags, etc. We were an expedition – not to Mt. Everest, but to Kananaskis Country. The energy was high. Upon arrival, waiting for supper to be prepared, a group of us, led by David M walked the shore of the Lower Kananaskis Lake. Supper was savory pulled-roast beef prepared by Linda.

The next day was our longest hike, led by Darren on the Three Isles Lake Trail, one of his favourites. The highlights were morning coffee along a stream dotted with icicles and small ice formations, fantastic views of the "three isles" and lunch at the campground. Supper was a delicious chicken-rice-pea combo prepared by Sandra.

Wednesday saw us on the Chester Lake Trail, led by David M – the most beautiful hike in my opinion; it was also the easiest. The views of surrounding mountains while we walked through the valleys – through a few inches of snow everywhere – were spectacular. Back home, we were fed with warm chilli prepared by Karen.



Kananaskis Valley



Chester Lake

Fantastic weather greeted us each day. All sixteen of us commented often on how fortunate we were and all feel deep gratitude for being together in this beautiful place. "Happy Hour" was filled with laughter!

Thursday was a trek on The Kananaskis Fire Lookout Trail, led by Doug. The climb was steep, and Doug, with his great leadership skills, kept us focused. All felt the reward of perseverance and group support on reaching the top. A metal mailbox with sign-in book now has "the WTA team" registered as having arrived on October 20th, 2011. Strong winds and a peppering of snowflakes quickened our lunch – and down we went in less than half the time it took us to go up. Pea soup and ham awaited us – prepared by Karen.

Oh yes, I must mention the deserts – all prepared by Pat. To die for! (Loved that whipped cream!)

Friday saw us packing up and heading home after a short walk in the Nakiska Ski area to view Troll Falls – led by Sandra. Yvette suggested the beautiful lookout at

Kananaskis Village for lunch – a real treat and beautiful vista of Kananaskis River to take home with us.

We are home, filled with memories of beauty, laughter, nutritious food, good exercise, and gratitude for our companions-on-the-way without whom this expedition could not have happened.

We give thanks for the wonderful organizational skills of Karen in the unfolding of this event.

3rd ANNUAL BBQ & HIKE – October 15, 2011—KAREN

After each season on our trail we have a free event to thank our volunteers including hike leaders, trail maintenance workers and board members.

This year the Telegraph Park venue in Hay Lakes was cancelled last minute due to a complete fire ban for the County of Camrose. Instead we went to Islet Staging at Blackfoot. We did a 2hr hike along Islet and Push Lakes and return to the BBQ of elk smokies with all the fixings, salads, fruit, coffee, tea & hot chocolate as well as smores to make over the fire for dessert. We walked, talked, ate & relaxed by the fire on a great sunny day. Thanks go out to all that helped: to Oscar, Bill & Dave B for bringing wood; Bill for bringing the grill and the generator; Dave & Darlene for getting and presenting the food and Karen getting the smokies from Walkin Tall Ranch.



BEYOND WASKAHEGAN OUTINGS CONTINUED

CHRISTMAS NIGHT HIKE – December 20, 2011—KAREN



Karen led a night hike to the Legislature. With the rain coming down there were only five of us that showed up to hike. The south side of the river was too iced with frozen springs so instead we looped the Victoria golf course and then headed to the east to walk by the river and around the big old houses by 96 Ave. Although footing was slippery at times, it was a beautiful warm winter night and the dark gave new perspective to river valley views. We came up to the legislature and we were greeted with music, people and Christmas lights. After a

peek at the gift shop and interpretive centre, we went to hear the Gateway Festive Fiddlers and have hot chocolate in the rotunda of the legislature. We were greeted by Shirley having walked from home. The stairs to river road made a speedy return to the cars and ended the approximately 9km hike event.

BEYOND THE TRAIL EVENTS 2012

Watch the website for extra events planned on or off the Waskahegan Trail. There will be no sign ups at the Annual General Meeting this time.

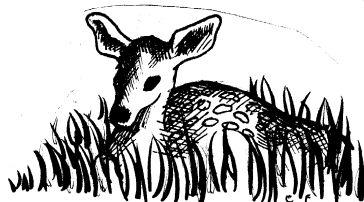
ATTENTION HIKE LEADERS—2012

At the Annual General Meeting April 13th there will be a supply of hike signup sheets, waivers, brochures and membership applications for hike leaders to take for their upcoming hikes

SOME GREAT EARLIER WTA ART WORK—FOUND IN PRIOR EDITIONS

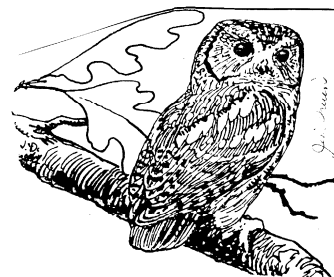
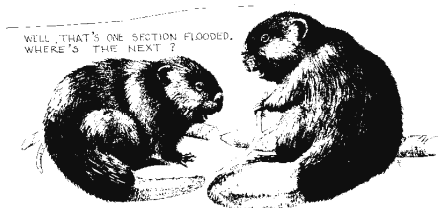


Along Coal Lake



Happy Hiking! See you on the Trail!

Carl Fraser



Owl by Jim Drown

THE WEB, PUBLICITY & GUIDE BOOK

WTA GUIDEBOOK VERSION 7.1

At the Annual General Meeting, you can buy version 7.1 of our guide book. If you already own an orange guide book, there is no particular reason for you to buy a new one. Version 7.1 fixes some errors that escaped the editors the first time around and lists some minor changes to the trail—otherwise it is a reprint.

So why do we need a reprint? Because we have nearly sold out of guide books! In 2009 we printed 400 books and they are now nearly all gone. As a result, we are printing 75 copies of version 7.1. Look for it at an AGM near you!

ONLINE GUIDEBOOK VERSION?

What do you think of offering our Guide Book online? Currently it is only offered in hard copy and in a suggested format that you are all familiar with. But what about an online version?

In January this was my question to the board and they have asked me to see if you, the members, have any thoughts about this? There are some definite pros and cons and here are the thoughts and comments to date:

PROS OF AN ONLINE VERSION

REDUCED COST: currently we break even on selling the guidebook. It costs us about \$10 to print and that is what we sell it for. By moving to an online version, the print costs would be reduced or eliminated.

UPDATES: updates to the trail could be quickly distributed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: looking at a section of the trail, an online version could potentially allow you to link to all of the hikes held there as well as photos of the area.

MOBILE DEVICES: last August, 25% of all Canadians owned a smart phone—and that number will have increased since then. If you are hiking, an electronic version would allow you to download trail sections to your smart phone or other mobile device.

FUTURE FUNCTIONALITY: an online trail guide would allow you to potentially integrate with GPS, Google maps and other technologies.

CONS OF AN ONLINE VERSION

Alas nothing is free so let's look at some of the costs and risks of moving to an online Guidebook.

LANDOWNERS: we currently provide the landowners with a courtesy copy of the guide book.

An online version would mean providing them with access to the guide book site, a DVD of the guidebook or perhaps pre-loading an inexpensive tablet with the guide book. Alternatively we may choose to do a small print run just for the landowners and provided to members for a premium price (e.g. \$15-\$20 instead of \$10).

CONTENT SECURITY: as the music and video industry know, one problem of the convenience of a digital medium is its ability to reproduce it. As a result, access to the online site will need to have enough security to prevent unauthorized access and copying of our guidebook.

CONVENIENCE OF WOOD FIBER (e.g. paper): let's face it, there is nothing like a coil bound book—particularly when you are in the field. While you can print out individual pages, this means that the notes you have made on pages over the past years are lost. Wood fiber (e.g. paper) still trumps computers, for now.

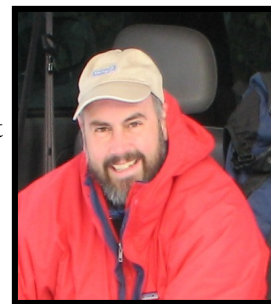
WHAT SAY YOU?

So what do you think? Should the Waskahegan Trail Association offer an online version of our guide book? Would you use it or would you still want to buy a hard-copy version?

Send me an email with your thoughts and comments to information@waskahegantrail.ca. I will gather them up and provide them to the May 2012 board meeting.

On that note, this is my last newsletter as my board term of four years has come and gone. A quick note of thanks to my fellow board members for a memorable and interesting four plus years. Since joining the board I have managed to publish a guide book, stand up a website, investigate alternatives for trail maintenance and a myriad of other interesting projects.

It has been a great hike and an interesting trail!



Frank Potter

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 2012

All Waskahegan Trail Association memberships expire at the end of February each year. If you haven't renewed your membership and wish to do so, please complete the form printed below and send your membership application form with a Twenty dollar registration fee.



WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

www.waskahegantrail.ca

P.O. Box 131, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2G9

Please complete this form and Member Waiver(s) and mail to **Waskahegan Trail Association**,
P.O. Box 131, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2G9

First & Last Name: Family or Group please enter a Primary Contact Person's First and Last Name
 Name of Family or Group: Required for Family or Group applications
 Address, City, Province & Postal Code:
 Phone (area code): Telephone Area Code
 E-mail: Family or Group please enter a Primary Email Address

Adults/Family/Group Membership Fee	\$20.00/ year <i>Membership runs March 1st to February 28th. Members joining after September 1st receive the balance of the year free with a full paid membership for the next year.</i>
Guide Book (Members Only)	\$10.00
Guide book and/or DVD shipping	\$5.00 if mailed out
Crest	\$3.00 <i>complimentary to new members</i>
Decal	\$2.00 <i>complimentary to new members</i>
Pin	\$3.00
DVD "A Year in Hiking"	\$5.00
DVD "Beyond Waskahegan"	\$5.00 or \$2.00 if combined with 'A Year in Hiking'
Donation	Tax receipt issued for donations of \$10 and more
Total \$	Total in Canadian Dollars

We encourage and appreciate your active support and participation in our association. Please indicate by checking the area(s) in which you or any members of your family or group would be willing to help, * training is provided:

Hike Leader* <input type="checkbox"/>	Board of Directors <input type="checkbox"/>
Trail Maintenance* <input type="checkbox"/>	Social Events <input type="checkbox"/>
Not Sure, please contact me <input type="checkbox"/>	Web/Newsletter/Publicity <input type="checkbox"/>

How did you hear about our association?

Poster <small>Where?</small>	Web <small>Web Site?</small>
Newspapers <small>Which one?</small>	Other <small>Please provide details</small>
Word of Mouth	

- ☐ I have completed a Member Waiver available from [www.waskahegantrail.ca/ member/](http://www.waskahegantrail.ca/member/)
☐ We have completed 1 Member Waiver for each adult member of our family who will be attending events.
☐ We have completed 1 Child Waiver for each non-adult member of our family who will be attending events.
☐ If an organization, I understand that each member of our organization will complete a guest waiver for each WTA event our organization members attend.
☐ I wish to support the association but do not plan to attend WTA events, therefore I (we) have not completed a waiver. I understand that if I do attend an event, I will need to sign a waiver at that time.

Waskahegan Trail Association trips meet at the various locations as listed below and then we car pool from there. Passengers contribute \$5.00 to the driver for gas. Pets are not allowed on the hikes as there are wild and domestic animal encounters along the trail. The 6th & 7th edition trail guide page number are listed after the hike description.

Hikes with a “*” are new for 2012/2013. “**” facility charges a fee; “***” skiers may wish to donate to facility. Beyond hikes and other events may require pre-registration. Hike details are subject to change. Please consult our website for the most current and up to date information (www.waskahegantrail.ca).

2012 HIKES & ACTIVITIES

MEETING PLACES

McDonalds Argyll

McDonalds Westmount

Superstore Calgary Trail

Superstore 170 Street

Argyll & 81 Street

318-111 Avenue & Groat Road

5019 Calgary Trail NW corner

Bridge (access off Whitemud Fwy.)

170 St & Stony Plain Rd; NW Corner of parking lot
between flag & recycle

2012 Hikes & Activities*

**Please note changes in time, meeting place, and destination have been made since the last newsletter.*

Date	Time	Meeting Place	Destination— 2012	Bk Page	Distance	Leader	Phone(780)
Apr 1	9AM	Westmount McDonalds	St. Albert City Trails Hike	0/125	10	Frank	419-7289
Apr 8	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Millet Hike	0/116	9	Johanna	428-8561
Apr 13	7PM	7909-82 Ave	Annual General Meeting -@Avonmore Church			Rob	478-5622
Apr 15	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Battle R.Duhamel East to RB Hill A62-A63+	69/53	9	Elizabeth	672-2873
Apr 22	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Saunders Lk South End Hwy 623-A30+	41/25	10	Michele	417-6928
Apr 29	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Miquelon Spilstead South A87-A86	87/71	10	Michele	417-6928
May 5			River Valley Clean Up Volunteering?			Bev	469-7948
May 6	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Coal Lake Kjorlein South A43-A46+	53/37	10.5	Karen	642-6372
May 13	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Pipestone A50D West to A49C	59/43	10	Linda	462-0040
May 20	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Gwynne Ski Hill S.to Chickadee A57-A56+	53/47	10	Oscar	435-1197
May 27	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Kopp Lake to Mud Lake A34-A36+	43/27	11	Stella	488-9515
Jun 3	9AM	170 St. Superstore	Devon River & Ravine Trails	0/118	12	Sandra	467-9572
Jun 10	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Battle R. Duhamel West A62-A61	67/51	10	Yvette	756-3623
Jun 17	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Ross Creek A112-A110+ & A115-A116	123/107	10	Karen	642-6372
Jun 24	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Coal Lake North End A41-A39+	45/29	10	Karen	642-6372
Jul 1	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Pipestone A53 west to A50	59/43	11		
Jul 8	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Source of the Blackmud A38-A39+	45/29	10	Yvette	756-3623
Jul 15	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Miquelon A84 to D/E	81/67	9		
Jul 22	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Trappers to Oster Lake A104-A103	117/101	12	Marilyn	463-1207

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Meeting Place</i>	<i>Destination— 2012</i>	<i>Bk Page</i>	<i>Distance</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Phone(780)</i>
July 29	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Stony Creek	73/57	10	Elizabeth	672-2873
Aug 5	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Battle River A57 to Schnee Hill	65/49	10	Marilyn	463-1207
Aug 12	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Coal Lake A43 - Point Cooperation	51/35	12	Sandra	467-9572
Aug 19	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Hastings A97-A95+	97/81	8.5	Yvette	756-3623
Aug 26	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Ministik A88-South	91/75	10	Karen	642-6372
Sep 2	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Ross Creek A109-A111	121/105	11		
Sep 9	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Bigstone Ft. Ethier A48 to D	57/41	12	Marilyn	463-1207
Sep 16	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Chickakoo Prov. Rec. Area	123	10		
Sep 23	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Ministik Berg A88-A89C	93/77	9		
Sep 30	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Mix Stopover A36-A38	45/29	10	Stella	488-9515
Oct 7	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Blackfoot Lake Staging Area	105/89	10	Helen	468-4331
Oct 14	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Battle A60 to Schnee Hill	65/49	10	Marilyn	463-1207
Oct 21	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Saunders Lake A29-A30+	41/25	10	Sandra	467-9572
Oct 28	9AM	Argyl McDonalds	Hastings A91- Motet Hill	95/79	10		

Ever think about leaving your mark on the
WASKAHEGAN TRAIL?

Well, pick up some clippers and join a Maintenance Work Party!

The 3 easy C's of Trail Maintenance:

Clipping - branches
Clearing - underbrush
Chucking - deadfall