



# WASKAHEGAN WANDERINGS

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

[www.waskahegantrail.ca](http://www.waskahegantrail.ca)

VOLUME 43 ISSUE 2

WINTER 2012

## ANNUAL SOCIAL

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2012

AVONMORE UNITED CHURCH

7909—82 AVENUE

7:00 PM

You are invited to come and celebrate our

ANNUAL FALL SOCIAL

A chance to visit with friends,

welcome new members.

A guest speaker will be announced later

*(check the website for details).*

Refreshments will be served throughout the evening.

Come and join us for a great evening of

companionship and conversation.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Rob Faulds

The past summer has looked very busy with the many hikes. Looking at the wide selection of photographs makes me realize that we are so fortunate to have such a vibrant and varied area to enjoy.

Thanks to all the photographers who have shared their skills.

As we look forward to the fall and eventually winter we can follow the ever changing landscape with the fascinating color changes and finally the fall of snow. For those who cross country ski there are many trails close to the city to experience. Not to forget are the trails that are cleared within the city to walk on as the conditions permit.

Your Board has had changes since being elected at the Spring AGM. We are leaner and meet on a 2 monthly basis, a bit less but equally productive. We have strong trail maintenance and hike leadership,

Membership and treasurer are key positions that are time intensive and absolutely essential to the success of our organization. Permissions to visit our existing trails and to add new sections as opportunities arise is ongoing. Our communication thru the internet and newsletter is key to having members on the trail. Thanks to all on the Board.

With all organizations there is a continuing need to add new members, bring back previous members to the fold by emphasizing the uniqueness of our trail system, the partnerships we have forged with our landowners who have trusted us with the opportunity to visit their land.

Let us all bring a friend, a new family to visit the trail as we go forth in 2013.



## BIRKEBEINER-FEBRUARY 19, 2013 — BEV STOKOWSKI

If you are interested in volunteering for the Waskahegan Last Chance Food Station, contact Bev Stokowski, Station Captain at 780-469-7948 or e-mail [bbstok@shaw.ca](mailto:bbstok@shaw.ca).



## 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.



## IN MEMORY OF ROY BERG—RENIE GROSS & RUTH BALL

This past June in Sherwood Park, a memorial was held to celebrate the life of Roy Berg. Roy was well-known and well-respected for his contributions in the fields of agriculture and education. Less well-known among his many contributions to the people of our province is the fact that he was one of the first landowners to allow the Waskahegan Trail Association to use his land and have a stopover constructed. This is the Berg Stopover in the Ministik area. Roy's daughter, Ruth Ball, and her husband, Ron, now live on the property and continue to extend a welcome to hikers along the Waskahegan Trail. On the occasion of the celebration of her father's life, Ruth captured his feeling for the land with the reading that follows. She asked me to share it with our membership.

One of the writers that really inspired Dad was Grant MacEwan, former Lieutenant Governor of Alberta. Dad really connected with MacEwan's philosophy on environmental stewardship which states:

*I believe the biggest challenge is in being a helper rather than a destroyer of the treasure storehouse, a conserver, a husbandman and partner in caring for the Vineyard.*

Dad often mentioned a talk by MacEwan called "Come Walk in My Woods" that he especially liked. For many years I have searched for this reading but to no avail. Just last week with the help of our niece Gayle and the Alberta Legislative archive was I able to find this piece. I'm sure that Dad wanted me to share it with you all.



was strictly for my enjoyment and offered in the best spirit of modesty and thoughtfulness."

The letter carried some of the writer's observations, "I believe you are one who enjoys the company of nature. I can't offer much, but I can show you some good places to stroll



and observe forest plants and animals. When you find the need for a quiet, unobserved visit to the woods, I invite you to feel free to come and go as you wish."



The acknowledging letter said, "Thank you very much. I find this one of the most attractive invitations of the season, and I am accepting it with one stipulation, that you will walk with me."

The Lieutenant Governor continued with the story. "A date was fixed

and we met at an appointed place, close to the highway west of the city. Taking my place beside him in his half-ton truck, we drove over county roads and trails to his remote pastureland, 600 acres of trees and grass and swamps, all well insulated against casual intrusion from the highway travellers. Abandoning the truck, we took to foot and meandered slowly among the trees and clearings.

### COME WALK IN MY WOODS

Grant McEwan received a letter which said, "I am writing to invite you to come out and walk in my woods." "Now," said MacEwan, "people in public office receive invitations of many kinds, to banquets, concerts, plays, conventions, official openings and so on. But here was one that was different. Coming from a total stranger, obviously a farmer and a pioneer. It



## TRAIL MAINTENANCE—2012 SEASON



Bridge repair—Ross Creek

Once again it was an active season for the trail maintenance folks. This year the spring season was delayed with April snows, and summer storms through July and August created havoc with increased deadfall and uprooted trees due to strong winds. Also, owing to a second wet summer, undergrowth continued to grow thick and lush.

This year, Jim Wilson retired from maintenance, so there were two crew leaders, Gary Steinbring and Marilyn Bourassa. Between them, they were able to take out more than 30 work parties. These were manned by hardworking volunteers, mostly from the membership. As a result, all scheduled sections received maintenance. And some sections required work parties to go out twice to open up the trail.



New bridge Schnee Hill

Non-routine work this year included the construction and installation of five new stiles. In addition 3 wandering foot bridges were recovered from the pools of standing water where they had drifted in the spring melt, and were repositioned on the trail.

This summer also included the installation of a new, permanent bridge at the base of Schnee Hill. This was conceived and constructed by Gary Steinbring, and then hauled out to the site and installed with the help of Geoff Fleck and David Mutch. This 32 foot bridge is anchored on eight foot posts sunk at least five feet into the muck. It should serve hikers for many years to come.



A special note of thanks and appreciation to Gary, Geoff, and David for improving a crossing that had been a problem for a number of years.

And in that same area, new guide ropes were installed on the ravine near Low's Crossing. With cattle using the steep foot path up the side of the ravine, ropes provide much needed support for hikers.

A second 12 foot bridge will also be completed and installed in North Miquelon section before winter sets in.

Crew Leaders continue to need membership support for this very important and worthwhile work. Maintained trails are the heart of the organization. They are necessary for the safety and enjoyment of Sunday hikers, and equally important, to demonstrate to our landowners that we value and care for the property we cross.

Trail maintenance is a rewarding way to give a little back to this Trail we all enjoy, and to help in securing it will be here for the future. Please consider coming out for a day next season.



### DONATIONS

Thanks go out to:

Linette Henderson  
Graham Hicks  
Carol & Leonard Mudryk  
Ian Murdoch

Ron Robertson  
Lee Stickles  
Rod Wasylshen  
Bill Watt

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The WTA welcomes the following new members:

Chris Boulton

Glen Cassidy

Janet Enns

Craig Henderson

Brian & Cheryl Hepperle

Dan Houde

Roy Jupe

Thomas Layton

Irene & Scott Malcolm

Ian Murdoch

Carol & Leonard Mudryk

Naomi Ohta

Christine Peleshok

Ashley & Matthew Rajala

Ron Robertson

Mary Roy

Jackie Scott

Tom Scott

Karen Soch

Lin Taylor

Bill Watt

Welcome



## EDMONTON RIVER VALLEY CLEAN UP—MAY 5, 2012

The weather was cool and windy with a light shower, as twelve energetic volunteers participated in this year's clean-up.

The areas cleaned this year were:

Both sides of the Freeway from Whitemud Creek to 119 Street, Creek banks, Bridge Environs, including Park Road & Bushes Along top of Blackmud Creek 118 Street – 22 Ave. to 111A Street – 18 Avenue.

Park area west and south of Smith Crossing down to Whitemud Creek, then east along the freeway and into the bushes to 118 Street.

The volunteers collected a total of 20 large bags filled to capacity, plus larger items, pieces of plywood, cardboard, hubcaps, large metal containers, as well as large metal strips had to be carried by hand.

The volunteers contributed a total of 39 hours. My compliments to the volunteers for a clean-up well done.

Many thanks, to the volunteers from the City, the Club and myself.

### Volunteers

Nina Belostotsky

Johanna Fischer

Bonnie Guo

Gloria Hawkey

Hal Hopkins

Wing Leung

David Mutch

Helen Whitson

Christine Yakoweshyn

Agnes Youzefowich

Oscar Zawalsky

Bev Stokowski



Beverly Stokowski, Coordinator,  
Waskahegan Trail Association.



## IN MEMORY—CONTINUED

There was so much to see: we inspected some unfamiliar shrubs; a reservoir dug to catch run-off water; an old beaver dam; some fresh deer tracks; a red-tailed hawk, screeching at us in anger; a pair of greater yellowlegs, wading and picking up insects; and 100 head of Polled Herefords, which seemed surprised to see 2 human figures emerging on a forest trail. Able to look back upon more than 50 years in the district, my walking companion could see everything with familiarity, but he greeted each new forest setting with all the enthusiasm of a man seeing it for the first time.”

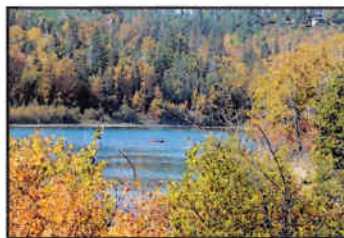
The owner’s parting words to the Lieutenant Governor were: “This woodland area, is the only thing that hasn’t changed and if it will give you as much pleasure as it gives me, I hope you’ll use it.”

"I returned to my office," continued MacEwan, "and read some more invitations of the commonplace kind. The unpretentious invitation from a kindly stranger to "come out and walk in my woods" would remain as one of the most memorable. It was the gesture of a man who was himself in tune with nature's great outdoors, offering the finest relaxation for weary people and the most challenging studies for those with enquiring minds. I intend to return to the woods and listen to a man who, I am sure, will never grow old."

\*\*\*\*\*

The quarter section that Dad purchased in 1970, and Ron and I have the privilege to have become the stewards to, was designated a bird sanctuary as far back as the 1890s. Ron and I extend to all of you the invitation that I know my Dad would have wanted to make.

*Please, come walk in my bush.*



## ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BBQ

On Saturday, September 22, the Annual Volunteer BBQ was held in Victoria Park. The day was sunny and warm, and volunteers hiked the River Valley, taking in the lovely autumn colors. Later, everyone enjoyed grilled burgers and good company. Most important, this was a day to say thanks to all the people who contributed their time and hard work over the past year.

## HOW TO CHANGE A HIKE LEADER'S NAME – BONNIE GUO

If you decide to lead a hike, here are the steps on how to put your name as a hike leader:

1. Log on to WTA web site with your ID and password. If you forget, please click on the "Help" and it will send your ID and Password to your email.

2. Under "Volunteers' Area", please click on "- Add/Edit Future".

3. Click on the blue text "Edit" on a specific hike and change the leader to your name.

### Waskahegan Trail Association - Officer Area - Manage Events

[Show My Events](#)  
[Event Search](#)

[★ Add New WTA Event](#)

ID	Date	Type	Title (click to view Details)	Edit	Delete	Dates	Promo	Archive
202	9/2/2012	Hike	<a href="#">Ross Creek A109-A111</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Del</a>	<a href="#">Dates</a>	<a href="#">Promo</a>	<a href="#">Archive</a>
203	9/9/2012	Hike	<a href="#">Bigstone Ft.Ethier A48 to D</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Del</a>	<a href="#">Dates</a>	<a href="#">Promo</a>	<a href="#">Archive</a>
204	9/16/2012	Hike	<a href="#">Chickakoo Prov. Rec. Area</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Del</a>	<a href="#">Dates</a>	<a href="#">Promo</a>	<a href="#">Archive</a>

If you need assistant, please contact Webmaster, Bonnie G. at (780) 482-3120.

Happy Trail.



Waskahegan Trail Association trips meet at the locations 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 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> edition trail guide page number are listed after the hike description.

Hike details are subject to change. Please consult our website for the most current and up to date information ([www.waskahegantrail.ca](http://www.waskahegantrail.ca)).

## 2012/2013 HIKES & ACTIVITIES

### MEETING PLACES

**McDonalds Argyll**

Argyll & 81 Street

**Superstore Calgary Trail**

5019 Calgary Trail NW corner Bridge (access off Whitemud Fwy.)

<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>
Oct 7	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Blackfoot Lake Staging Area	105/89	10K	Helen	468-4331
Oct 14	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Battle A60 to Schnee Hill	65/49	10K	Marilyn	463-1207
Oct 21	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Saunders Lake A29-A30+	41/25	10K	Sandra	467-9572
Oct 28	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Hastings A91-Motet Hill	95/79	10K		
Nov 4	10AM	Argyll McDonalds	Capilano Kinnard Ravine Dawson	7	10K		
Nov 11	10AM	Argyll McDonalds	Blackfoot Wanison Lk to Winter Shelter	85	10K	Joanne	487-0645
Nov 18	10AM	Argyll McDonalds	Terwillegar Pk west		12K	Karen	642-6372
Nov 25	10AM	Argyll McDonalds	Riverside	7	10K	Yvette	756-3623
Dec 2	10am	Argyll McDonalds	Millcreek to Kinsmen	25	13K	Sandra	467-9572
Dec 9	10AM	Argyll McDonalds	Snowvalley to Hawrelak	13	14K	Helen	468-4331
Dec 16	10AM	Argyll McDonalds	Kennedale Ravine to Sunridge	5	12K	Sandra	467-9572
Dec 23	10AM		No Hike				
Dec 30	10AM	Argyll McDonalds	Devon	119	10K	Joanne	487-0645
<b>2013 -- HIKES EVERY SECOND WEEK UNTIL APRIL</b>							
Jan 13	10AM	Argyll McDonalds	Hawrelak Shelter 2 to Museum Loop	13	10K	Helen	468-4331
Jan 27	10AM	Argyll McDonalds	Whitemud Nat.Reserve to Snow Valley	17	10K		
Feb 10	10AM	Argyll McDonalds	Goldbar	5	10K		
Feb 24	10AM	Argyll McDonalds	St Albert River Lot 56	125	10K		
Mar 10	10AM	Argyll McDonalds	Pigeon Lake	121	10K		
Mar 24	9AM	51 Ave Superstore	Govt House - Quesnel Bridge	13	10K	Joanne	487-0645