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WINTER 2014



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

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

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	1
Volunteers Wanted	2
Bob Gross	2
A Year of Hiking—DVDs	2
Membership Discount	2
Wanted	3
Trail Maintenance	4
New Members	4
Donations	4
Beyond Waskahegan	5
2014 /2015 Hikes	6
Membership Form	7



*President JoAnne Burek*

## President's Message

As I look out the window these sunny days, I am impressed by the blue of the sky and the certain quality of light, which is perhaps a result of the sun lower on the horizon and reflecting against the last remaining golden leaves. When someone says "it was an October sky", you know exactly what they mean. Haven't we been blessed with great fall weather this year? And what a summer it was too.

This year we took a new approach on trail maintenance and it paid off. With more frequent work sessions, upgrades to the pool of equipment, and above all, the enthusiasm of our volunteers, we made significant improvements to the trails.

For the weekly guided hikes, we incorporated a Saturday hike in place of a Sunday hike each month. This allowed those people who have Sunday commitments to join us once in a while. I haven't heard anything negative about this approach, so we will continue to have some Saturday hikes in the winter schedule.

Thanks to Karen Bell, we are having Beyond Hikes again. These are available to members only, and they have been very popular. A one day excursion, or week-long trip to the mountains in the company of our fellow Waskahegans is very satisfying. Having a common interest in nature and fitness, we are like-minded in some important ways. I'm sure our skills and experience in carpool etiquette helps too!

This summer we found new ways to thank our volunteers. Trail maintenance crews were treated to coffee after each work party. In October, instead of a barbecue for volunteers only, we had a barbecue for all the members, and then recognized our volunteers at this event.

So, now it's time to get out the hiking gear for colder weather. I'll be switching to my slightly larger backpack – the one that accommodates scarves and layers and thermoses. And it's time to start working on Waskahegan priorities for next year.

Have a great fall and winter. See you on the trails!

JoAnne Burek

## THE WTA EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT:	JOANNE BUREK	780-487-0645	PERMISSIONS:	GEOFF FLECK	780-855-2126
PAST PRESIDENT	ROB FAULDS	780-478-5622	PUBLICITY:		780-
SECRETARY;	SANDRA CARRUTHERS	780- 467-9572	EVENT COORDINATOR:	KAREN BELL	780- 642-6372
TREASURER:	MICHELLE FORTIN	780- 417-6928	NEWSLETTER:	MARILYN TICHKOWSKY	780-937-5121
MEMBERSHIP/DONATIONS:	SANDRA CARRUTHERS	780-467-9572	WEBMASTER:	LEE STICKLES	780-487-0645
TRAIL MAINTENANCE:	KAREN BELL	780-642-6372	NEWSLETTER:	MARILYN TICHKOWSKY	780-937-5121



## Volunteers Wanted

We would never be able to accomplish as much as we do without our volunteers on the board. But currently we have positions unfilled - secretary, publicity, hike coordinator, vice president, and directors-at-large.

Do you have skills you can share? Or perhaps you would you like to learn some new skills and gain practical experience in a relaxed and friendly environment? Why not consider joining the board?

Call JoAnne at 780-487-0645 to learn more about these positions and to find out about upcoming board meetings. Attending a board meeting can be a great way to

help you discover the opportunities and benefits of volunteering as a board member.

### Bob Gross

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Bob Gross, husband of Renie Gross, our secretary and publicity director. You may remember Bob from the social events and AGMs. At the beginning of September we accepted Renie’s resignation from the board. We wish her all the best while she works on getting her life settled again.

## A YEAR OF HIKING—DVDs

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 "A Year of Hiking 2013" is still available and we have DVDs from previous years.

The cost for the DVD is \$5, plus an additional \$5 if you want it mailed to you. Additional DVDs purchased on the same order are \$2 each. We have DVDs going back to 2010.

Please contact JoAnne Burek at [780-487-0645](tel:780-487-0645) or Sandra Carruthers at [780-467-9572](tel:780-467-9572), or mail a request to Waskahegan Trail Association, P.O. Box 131, Edmonton AB T5J 2G9, enclosing a cheque payable to "Waskahegan Trail Association."



## 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.

## Wanted : Trail Maintenance Workshop or Garage

*Does anyone on the south side have a double garage that we could rent for storage and maintenance of equipment?*



Current Facilities at Sentinal Storage

We need a facility where we would have both storage space and light and electricity so that we can fill equipment with gas & oil, sharpen blades, cut wood for stiles or boardwalks, and do minor repairs. Currently the equipment manager must transport equipment and supplies to his own garage to carry out these tasks then transport them back to Sentinal for storage. This is time

consuming. With a central location, some of the tasks could be shared.

We are currently paying \$262 per month.

Please contact Karen at [k-bell@shaw.ca](mailto:k-bell@shaw.ca) or 780 642-6372 if you have a solution or questions.

## Wanted: Transportation for Trail Maintenance work parties

Currently we have only one person who has a vehicle equipped with a trailer hitch to pull our equipment trailer and one other person with a truck for transportation of equipment and volunteers for each work party on the trail.

We would like to increase the number of suitable vehicles available for maintenance work parties. This would lighten the load we have experienced this year by sharing the transportation amongst more people for our next season.

*If you have a vehicle with a hitch or a truck that could be used for transportation and would like to assist with trail maintenance we would like to hear from you.*

Please contact Karen at [k-bell@shaw.ca](mailto:k-bell@shaw.ca) or 780 642-6372 if you can volunteer.



Current  
Transportation



# Trail Maintenance News

This past season, Trail Maintenance implemented some new ideas which did encourage newcomers and members alike to come out and work the trail.

Publishing the schedule in the newsletter and on the website was great for informing volunteers as to when they could come out. The website and emails were used for last minute changes.

The website has been updated with results from each work party with pictures if we have them. Newcomers and members can learn more about the Waskahegan Trail maintenance with a click of the mouse. Anyone hiking on their own can see the current conditions of each part of the trail.

We have used the predator successfully on several occasions to beat down the wild overgrowth. We are looking for a lighter version in a mower that can handle more precarious parts of the trail and yet be harder than the lawn mowers we currently use. We have successfully used the hand cart to carry in wood and equipment to build a boardwalk in Wanison and fix the stairs at Low's Bridge. The trail bike we have sold as areas we could have used it do not allow such vehicles.

We have seen a lot of flooding this year, some from beaver dams that have caused problems in parts of the trail. We hope to address sections like Ross Creek A110 to A109 that flooded and others next year.

Our plan to thank our volunteers with coffee paid for by Waskahegan after each work party was met with appreciation and will continue next season.

Volunteers have been just showing up at our meeting place outside Sentinel Storage according to the schedule and the drop in basis will continue in the next season. In addition we will plan the work parties with commitment from volunteers that can give it so that we can go out less frequently and accomplish clearing more sections of the trail when we do.

Thanks go out to all the volunteers who helped clear the trail this season: David M., Oscar Z., Bonnie G., Darlene B., Phil L., Wing L., John R., John S., Joanne B., Lee S., Brad J., Yvette S., Linda P., Michele F., Hans-Peter K., Buck B., Karen B., John H.

Feedback from the membership is always welcome.

*Karen Bell* 780 642-6372 [k-bell@shaw.ca](mailto:k-bell@shaw.ca)



Predator mowing



Flooding at Elk Island Pk



## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Heather Baron	Rita Jandrey
Margot Brunn	Rocky Lau-Kilo
Craig Campbell	Philip Leung
Donna Cissell	Tony Leung
Karen Davis	Keith Nixon
David Dressler	Chuck Priestley
Jaco Erwee	John Scotvold
Thomas Hillen	Sanjiv Thapar
Rosemarie Jalbert	Marilyn Willie

## DONATIONS

Thank you

Lee Stickles and JoAnne Burek  
Wendy Emond  
Heather Shankowsky

For your generous donations

## **Beyond the Waskehegan Trail Fall 2014 to Spring 2015 Events**

(membership required)



1. **November 23 Sunday 10AM– Elk Island National Park** - <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/ab/elkisland/index.aspx> - hike the Tawayik & Simmons trails which are good for viewing elk, bison & waterfowl (approximately 10-12km total) and stop at the warming shelter for lunch. Limit 3 cars, about 12 people as we have only 3 park passes. Meet at McDonald's Capilano to car pool. Car pool cost \$5. Sign up required.



2. **December 18 Thursday 6:30PM– Candy Cane Lane & night hike** – <http://candycanelane.trav-graphics.com/> -hike along 148 street looking at the Christmas lights and displays and then armed with head lamps or flashlights return hike along MacKinnon and MacKenzie ravines. Meet at Stony Plain & 149 St. parking lot outside London Drugs. Bring a donation to the food bank to drop off along 148 St and flashlight. No sign up. No limit



3. **January 17 Saturday 10AM- Tubing at Sunridge-** <http://www.sunridgeskiarea.com/tubing.aspx> - \$18 each with a group of 10 or more paid in advance. Tube down the slope for 2 hours, then lunch inside with your own packed lunch or purchase at the chalet. Meet at McDonald's Capilano 9:30AM to car pool. No car pool cost. Sign up required. Payment of \$18 required to sign up. Minimum 10 people.

4. **Cross Country Skiing-** We will ski 8-12km depending on the group and location. This will be for beginner to moderate skill levels. Dates will depend on weather. Watch the website for changes. Show up at the meeting place to car pool at a cost of \$5. No sign up required.



December 28 Sunday 10AM Strathcona Wilderness Ctr (Cost \$5.25) meet at McDonald's Capilano

January 25 Sunday 10AM St. Albert Lot 56 and riverside meeting at McDonald's Westmount

February 7 Saturday 10AM Blackfoot Waskehegan Staging meeting at McDonald's Capilano

February 22 Sunday 10AM Ft. Saskatchewan meeting at McDonald's Capilano

March 7 Saturday 10AM Pigeon Lake PP meeting at McDonald's 51 Ave & Calgary Tr.

5. **Other events** may be added to the website at a later date.

Email Karen at [k-bell@shaw.ca](mailto:k-bell@shaw.ca) or phone 780 642-6372 to sign up. Sign up on the website is not available.

## 2014/2015 Hikes

Below are the hikes planned for November 2014 – April 2015. Again we are including some **Saturday** hikes in the schedule. Also please note that our Sunday November 23 hike in Elk Island is a Beyond Hike, meaning for members only. The guide book page number is listed after each hike destination.

- *Cold weather: if the daily high is forecasted to be colder than -20, it is highly likely the hike will be cancelled. If you have any questions, check the website or call the hike leader or the hike coordinator (JoAnne, 780-487-0645).*
- *Any of these hikes are subject to change. Please check the website for the most current information ([www.waskahegantrail.ca](http://www.waskahegantrail.ca)), or call the hike leader or the hike coordinator.*

Departure Time is 10 a.m.

For all hikes in the schedule below, we depart from the meeting place at 10:00 a.m. We recommend you get to the meeting place by 9:45 to allow time for signing in.

### Meeting Places

McDonalds 51<sup>st</sup> Ave – 10375 – 51 Ave (near 51 Ave Superstore)

McDonalds Argyll - 8110 Argyll Rd (on a map, find the area around 83 St. and 69 Ave.)

McDonalds Capilano – 9857 - 50 St.

McDonalds 23 Ave/111 St – 11007 – 23 Ave.

McDonalds 87 Ave/149 St – 14920 - 87 Ave.

McDonalds Riverbend – 494 Riverbend Square (Rabbit Hill Road between Riverbend Road and Terwillegar Road)

McDonalds Westmount - 11260 Groat Road (on a map, find the area around 112 Avenue and 133 St.)

*Car pool fee of \$5.00 applies to hikes marked with \**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Sun. Nov 2	Fort Saskatchewan River Trails*	McD - Capilano	Karen B.	780-642-6372
Sun. Nov 9	Capilano Park-Kinnard Ravine-Dawson Park	McD - Capilano	Bev S.	780-469-7948
Sun. Nov 16	Whitemud Creek Nature Reserve to Snow Valley	McD - 23 Ave/111 St	Johanna F.	780-428-8561
Sun. Nov 23	Elk Island (members only)*	McD - Capilano	Karen B.	780-642-6372
Sat. Nov 29	Mill Creek Ravine Muttart	McD - Argyll	Yvette S.	780-756-3623
Sun. Dec 7	Devon Ravine Trails*	McD - 87 Ave/149 St	JoAnne B.	780-487-0645
Sun. Dec 14	St. Albert: Kinsman to Town Centre	McD - Westmount	Helen W.	780-468-4331
Sun. Jan 4	Blackmud Big Bear Park South	McD - 23 Ave/ 111 St	Karen B.	780-642-6372
Sun. Jan 11	Riverside Golf Course to Louise McKinney Park	McD - Argyll Road	Helen W.	780-468-4331
Sun. Jan 18	Kennedale Ravine to Sunridge	McD - Capilano	Sandra C.	780-467-9572
Sat. Jan 24	St Albert River Lot 56	McD - Westmount	Rob F.	780-478-5622
Sun. Feb 1	Laurier Park to Government House	McD - 87 Ave/149 St	JoAnne B.	780-487-0645
Sun. Feb 8	Mill Creek Ravine South	McD - Argyll Road	Helen W.	780-468-4331
Sun. Feb 15	Whitemud Park to Hawrelak Park	McD - 87 Ave/149 St	JoAnne B.	780-487-0645
Sat. Feb 21	Goldbar Park to Rundle Park	McD - Capilano	Johanna F.	780-428-8561
Sun. Mar 1	Kinsman Fieldhouse to Alberta Legislature	Kinsman Fieldhouse	Bev S.	780-469-7948
Sun. Mar 8	Patricia Ravine to Fort Edmonton	McD - 87 Ave/149 St	JoAnne B.	780-487-0645
Sun. Mar 15	Wetaskiwin*	McD – 51 Ave/	Karen B.	780-642-6372
Sun. Mar 22	Fort Edmonton to Snow Valley	McD - 87 Ave/149 St	Stella C.	780-488-9515
Sat. Mar 28	Blackfoot Staging Area*	McD - Capilano	Rob F.	780-478-5622
Sun. Apr 5	Mill Creek Ravine Muttart	McD - Argyll Road	Bev S.	780-469-7948
Sun. Apr 12	Sherwood Park Natural Area + Sherwood Park Hike*	McD - Capilano	Michele F.	780-417-6928
Sun. Apr 19	Terwillegar Park	McD - Riverbend Square	Karen B.	780-642-6372
Sat. Apr 25	RB Hill (Duhamel)*	Superstore Calgary Trail	David M.	780-434-2675

## Membership Renewal

Unless you joined after September 1, 2014, your membership will expire February 28, 2015. Please detach this form and mail it with your cheque, and we will send you an updated membership card. Or if you prefer, you can pay for your membership at the Annual General Meeting in the spring. You can renew your waiver when you come to the next hike or at the AGM.



## WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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

First and Last Name: Family or Group, provide a Primary Contact Person's First and Last Name. \_\_\_\_\_  
Family or Group Name: If joining as a family or organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address including Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: Family or Group, please enter a Primary Email Address. \_\_\_\_\_

Single/Family/Group Membership Fee	_____	\$20.00/ year <i>Membership runs March 1 to February 28. New members joining after September 1 receive the balance of the year free with a full paid membership for the next year.</i>
Guide Book (Members Only)	_____	\$10.00 available to members only
DVD "A Year in Hiking"	_____	\$5.00 for the first one, \$2.00 for additional
Guide book and/or DVD shipping	_____	\$5.00 required if you want these mailed to you
Crest	_____	\$3.00
Decal	_____	\$2.00
Pin	_____	\$3.00
Donation	_____	Tax receipt issued for donations of \$10 and more
Total	\$ _____	Total in Canadian Dollars

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Newsletters will be emailed to you. If you request, we will mail you a black and white paper copy.

*I wish to receive paper-copy newsletters through the mail*

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We welcome and appreciate our member volunteers. Please indicate whether you or members of your family or group would be willing to help, by checking the area(s) of interest:

Hike Leader	<input type="checkbox"/>	Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trail Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Events	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please Call Me	<input type="checkbox"/>	Website/Newsletter/Publicity	<input type="checkbox"/>

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