



# WASKAHEGAN WANDERINGS

VOLUME 44 ISSUE 2  
WINTER 2013

Waskahegan Trail Association, P.O. Box 131, Edmonton AB T5J 2G9  
[www.waskahegantrail.ca](http://www.waskahegantrail.ca)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	2
Membership Discount	2
Volunteer BBQ	3
Birkebeiner	3
Welcome New Members	4
River Valley Clean-up	4
Donations	5
Remembering Martin	5
Towards a Provincial Trails Act	6
Towards a Provincial Trails Act	7
We Need Your Help	7
Maintenance	8
The Year in Pictures	9
Hike Scedule	10

## Attention All Members

*This is your invitation to the*

## WASKAHEGAN SOCIAL

*Friday, January 17, 2014, 7:00 pm*

*At*

*AVONMORE UNITED CHURCH*

*7909—82 Avenue, Edmonton*

*Here is a chance for members to meet and visit with long-time hiking friends and to greet and welcome new members to our group.*

*A Complimentary Buffet will be served.*

*Following the meal, there will be a Guest Speaker. (Please watch the website for further information)*

## THE WTA EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT: ROB FAULDS 780-478-5622  
SECRETARY: RENIE GROSS 780-420-6367  
TREASURER: JOANNE BUREK 780-487-0645  
MEMBERSHIP/DONATIONS: SANDRA CARRUTHERS 780-467-9572

TRAIL MAINTENANCE: ROB FAULDS/JOANNE BUREK  
PERMISSIONS: GEOFF FLECK 780-855-2126  
PUBLICITY: RENIE GROSS  
DIRECTOR AT LARGE: PAULINE SMITH 780 752-0752

THE BOARD WOULD LIKE TO THANK MARILYN TICHKOWSKY FOR THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF WASKAHEGAN WANDERINGS, BILL HINCHEY AND SHIRLEY JACKSON FOR THE PHOTO GALLERY, AND BONNIE GUO, OUR WEBMASTER.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT By Rob Faulds



Rob Faulds

This past summer has been great for hiking. The hot and sunny weather gave us a good break but did contribute to a surge in growth along the trails. On some paths, there were waist high thistles, high grasses and small bushes.

Hike leaders have had a busy time: scouting the trail and reporting any challenges such as downed trees, growth blocking the trail, damaged stiles, etc. Our maintenance crews responded to make all trails safe and useable.

I had the opportunity to take part in several work party events this season, which always gives me a healthy respect for the tremendous dedication and task that occurs. Carrying a chainsaw or weed eater to either cut trees or cut back small shrubs is sometimes a challenge but making the trail passable contributes to the safety and enjoyment of our hikers. This year's maintenance is complete and the committee is planning the work for 2014. Think about spending a day or two next season and enjoying an intimate look at the trail. Being with awesome companions and having more opportunity to view the scenery are side benefits to enjoy. Thanks to those who took the time to contribute a day or two this season.

This is the time to remind all of you that, for progress, a steady and consistent changeover of the Board of directors is dictated by our By-laws and the Provincial Societies Act. A list of positions for election at the Annual General Meeting next April appears further on in the newsletter. Please contact the Board at any time to express your interest in filling one of the positions.

I have had the privilege of being president for these past years; and as my term expires in April of 2014, I would welcome and support a successor.

Thanks to all who take the time and dedicate the energy to all the tasks that keep the Waskahegan Trail going.



## 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.

## VOLUNTEER BBQ

Hawrelak Park was the setting for our volunteer BBQ this year. September 28th was a clear fall day, cool when we met at 10am but warming up as we hiked along the river trail. Stella Cormier led us across the footbridge into Buena Vista Park and along the trail into the MacKenzie Ravine. We came back to Geoff Fleck's delicious grilled burgers with all the trimmings. Thanks to Darlene and Dave Barnard for sharing their catering expertise with the committee. Sandra Carruthers spoke on behalf of the organizing committee about all the valuable work done by the Waskahegan Trail volunteers and we gave ourselves a hearty round of applause. Good food and good company made for an enjoyable gathering.



## BIRKEBEINER 2014



*The annual*  
***Birkebeiner Cross Country Ski Race***  
***February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014***

*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)*

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS



**The WTA welcomes the following new members:**

Simon Dyer	Robert Ball
Peter Chapman	Curtis & Jocelyn Unland
Melanie Krause	Rosa Garcia
Rick Axani	Walter Buell
Doug Rourke	Katherine Woodward
Hans-Peter Kunzle	Donna Miller
David Piercy	Sean Strang
Matthew Williams	Patrick Eriksson
Clinton Boyda	Eva Munk-Madsen

## **EDMONTON RIVER VALLEY CLEAN-UP DAY** By Bev Stokowski

The Edmonton River Valley Cleanup was held of May 4, 2013. The weather was sunny but windy most of the day as ten energetic volunteers participated in this years clean-up.

The following areas had an abnormal amount of garbage:

- Both sides of the Freeway from Whitemud Creek to 119 Street,
- Creek banks, Bridge Environs, and Park Road & bushes up to 119 Street.
- Along top of Blackmud Creek to 118 Street – 22 Ave. to 111A Street – 18 Avenue.
- Park area west and south of Smith Crossing and down to Whitemud Creek, then east along the freeway and into the bushes to 118th Street.

Total of 23 large bags, also 2 bags of cans and bottles, plus larger items carried by hand, several pieces of large cardboard, a broken pylon, 2 hubcaps, 3 tow ropes with come-along cables, car suspension componets, part of a broken car fender, a tire, plastic containers of paint & paint-remover, also a broken pail..

The volunteers contributed a total of 39 man-hours. The volunteers can be proud of the time spent to help keep Edmonton clean.

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

### Volunteers

Nina Belostotsky	Helen Whitson
Lorraine Faulds	Christine Yakoweshyn
Johanna Fischer	Agnes Youzefowich
Edda Loomes	Flora Xiang
David Mutch	Beverly Stokowski, Coordinator

## DONATIONS:

*Lee Stickles*

*Mary Roy*



## REMEMBERING MARTIN DAVIS By Bev Stokowski

Martin retired from teaching Junior High drama in 1998. David Mutch, who had the privilege of teaching in the same school, says that Martin's only discipline was his strong personality. The students loved his classes and participated whole heartedly.

Martin & Louise, became members of the Waskahegan Trail Association in 1999. They were both very active in the club. Both Martin & Louise were on the Board. Martin was Treasurer from 2003 to 2007.

Martin & Louise led many hikes along the Waskahegan trails: Saunders Lake, Mix Stopover, Battle River, West Battle, East Battle, & Middle Battle, and Muttart Conservatory to Mill Creek Ravine.

When Martin & Louise led hikes on Easter Sundays at Rest and Be Thankful and Middle Battle, Martin would hide Easter treats along the trail for the enjoyment of the hikers.

Martin often sang along the trails. If it were muddy, as it often was, Martin would burst into song. David Mutch's favourite, the Flanders & Swan rendition of the Hippopotamus Song with a catchy chorus, went like this:

Mud, mud, glorious mud  
There's nothing quite like it for cooling the blood.  
So follow me follow, down to the hollow  
And there we will wallow in glorious mud.

This song often changed a hiker's frown to smiles.

Martin's voice was always in fine fettle (and sorely missed); he never avoided the chance to belt out a song.

Peter Verhaar remembers Martin as a keen hiker and always a willing participant in trail maintenance. Martin was a calm and reserved man whose true nature came out during lunch stops and coffee chats at the completion of these activities. Martin always had a story or some anecdote to relate and it showed his love of theatre and poetry. I suspect his Irish background had something to do with this.

Martin was certainly respected and loved by his fellow Waskahegans.

On September 7, 2009 - due to health issues, Martin sadly decided to hang-up his hiking boots.

Thanks for the memories.

Martin Passed Away on June 7, 2013.

## TOWARDS A PROVINCIAL TRAILS ACT By Renie Gross

Since 1989, the Alberta TrailNet Society, Alberta's trail council, has worked with government, trail user associations, trail operators and others to promote the development and responsible use of recreation corridors and trails throughout the province.

For some time now, the focus of their efforts has been towards a comprehensive plan for the management of the trail system. It is expected that legislation will soon be introduced in the Legislative Assembly to create an arm's-length-from-government agency, called a Designated Administrative Organization, responsible to oversee the implementation of a provincial trail program.

In the meantime, according to Linda Strong-Watson, Executive Director of TrailNet, initiatives that will support and eventually become components of the proposed program are already underway. These include: the *Minimizing Risk and Liability Manual - Best Practices Guide for Trail Stewards, Operators, Managers and Owners*; the *Alberta Recreation Corridor & Trails Classification System* manual which provides information to guide the development of trails; and the *Trail Education, Safety, and Stewardship Program* which relates to the use of motorized vehicles and is delivered in schools around the province.

Perhaps their most ambitious undertaking is the *Provincial Trail Map Project* which has a twofold aim: to develop a database of information on approved trails in the province; and to create a series of regional maps based upon the information gathered. To date, five of a proposed 14 to 16 regional trail maps are complete and available to the public free of charge through Travel Alberta's tourism information centres or through Alberta TrailNet Society. The most recent one, the Battle River Trail Map, incorporates a portion of the Waskahegan Trail.

A number of different groups are members of the TrailNet Board of Directors, including those representing hikers, X-country skiers, bikers, horseback riders, snowmobilers and other off-road-vehicle drivers. The Alberta Hiking Association, of which the Waskahegan Trail Association is a founding member, speaks to the interests of hikers.

On the Alberta Hiking Association website, some notes of caution are sounded regarding the proposed Designated Administrative Organization. In addition to being granted the authority to oversee the implementation of the provincial trail program, the DAO becomes responsible for its own funding. There are only a couple of DAOs operating in the province. One is the Beverage Container Manage-

ment Board which raises funds through deposits and administrative fees on containers such as milk jugs. At present, according to the AHA site, the only obvious source of income for the new trail DAO would be from the licensing of off-road vehicles. Does this mean that money will talk and non-motorized trails will suffer neglect? Or should hikers anticipate fees to be levied for the use of hiking trails on crown lands to help offset the cost of their development and maintenance?

Ms Strong-Watson expects the earliest tabling of the intended legislation for the creation of a DAO would be during the spring 2014 session of the Legislative Assembly. That leaves time enough for those with an interest in its outcome to investigate the pros and cons of the proposed changes to the management of our provincial trail system.

For more information, go to:

Alberta TrailNet [www.albertatrailnet.com](http://www.albertatrailnet.com)

Alberta Hiking Association [www.abhiking.ca](http://www.abhiking.ca)

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development [environment.alberta.ca/01876.html](http://environment.alberta.ca/01876.html).

---

## We Need Your Help Joanne Burek

The Waskahegan Trail Association remains strong thanks to the vision and dedication of many leaders, volunteers, landowners, and hikers over the past 45 years. But to continue operations, we need more members serving on the board of directors.

Our by-laws allow for 14 directors, but require a minimum of six. For the past two years, the board has been stretched quite thin at just six directors, but we managed to find ways to operate efficiently. However, in the next term starting April, we will be down to just four directors. To continue functioning, and avoid a shut-down, we need at least two more members on the board. To carry on and grow the vision, implement improvements, and respond to ever-changing realities in our environment, we need even more members to step forward.

### *What You Can Do*

There are many jobs to be filled, including President, Vice President, Treasurer, Trail Maintenance

Coordinator, Hike Coordinator, Newsletter, Social Coordinator, Web Master, Publicity, Archivist, Casino Director, and directors-at-large who assist with the activities of the club. At the website (<http://www.waskahegantrail.ca>) under "Volunteers" you will find information about these jobs. In addition, there are many long-term members around who can be called on to provide support and guidance. Whether you are a new member or a long-time member, a first-timer or a previous board member, your support will be most welcome. At the website, you can click on "Contact Us", or phone either Rob Faulds at 780-478-5622 or JoAnne Burek at 780-487-0645, to declare your interest or to ask any questions.

Please call or email in advance of the election, which will be held at our Annual General meeting in April.

We look forward to hearing from you.  
The Nominations Committee

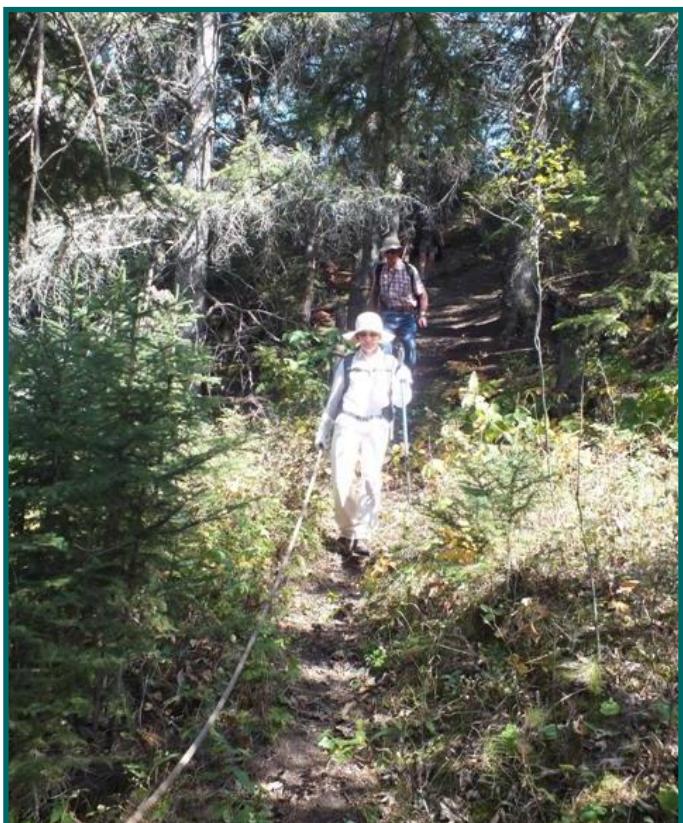
# TRAIL MAINTENANCE 2013

Once again, a big vote of thanks to the many volunteers who devoted time and energy to maintaining our trails. The work schedule was somewhat delayed again this year by wet weather. The cycle of wet years that we have been experiencing contributes to the rapid growth of grass and underbrush. It was sometimes difficult for work parties to even locate the trail, let alone groom it into hikeable condition.

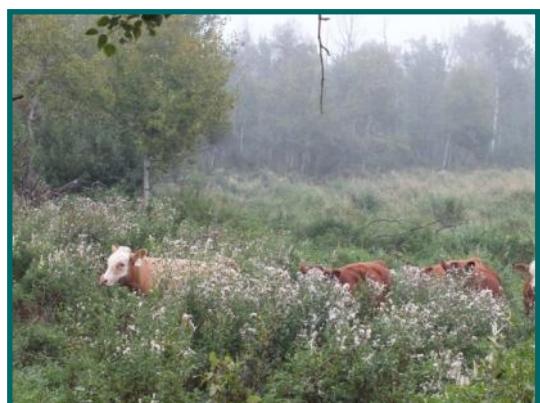
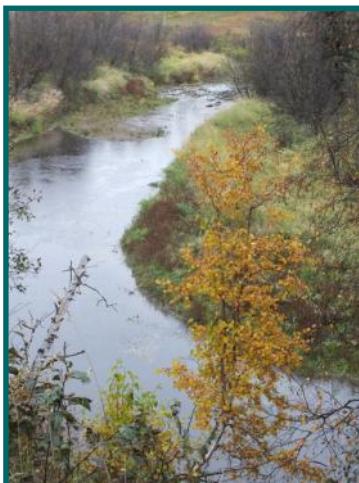
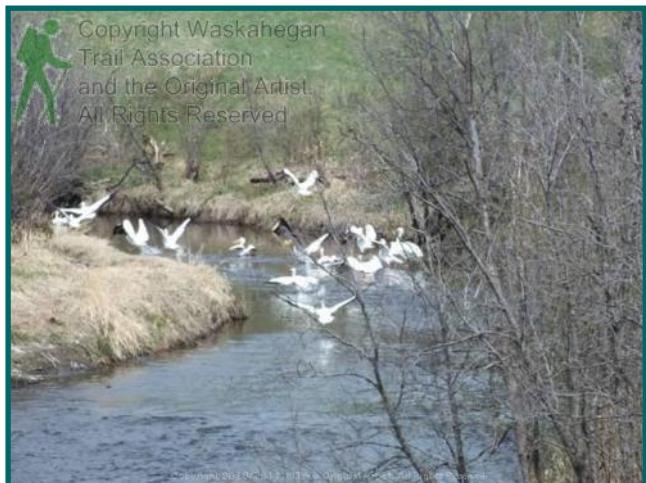
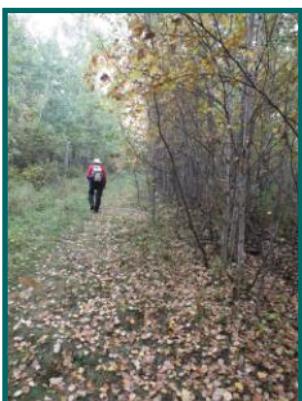
But our hardy volunteers persevered and by the end of the season in October, most of the trails will have had due attention.

Special thanks are due David Mutch who kept the equipment and tools in top notch repair and the necessary supplies always on hand.

Keep in mind that maintenance is a big part of the mandate of the Waskahegan Trail Association. Many of those who volunteer find a day in the country clearing and tidying a trail with a small group of fellow workers to be an enjoyable and rewarding experience. We urge those who think they might like to join a maintenance party to come out and try it for a day next season.



## 2013 IN PICTURES



## 2013 / 2014 HIKES

Scheduled hikes for the fall-winter season meet at the places listed below. For hikes outside Edmonton, we could car-pool. Passengers contribute \$5.00 to the driver for gas.

The guide book page number is listed after each hike destination.

The hike schedule and details were planned in September and are therefore subject to change. Please consult the website for the most current information ([www.waskahegantrail.ca](http://www.waskahegantrail.ca)).

**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 there by 9:45 to allow time for signing in.

**Meeting Place Addresses**

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 87<sup>th</sup> Ave – 14920 - 87 Ave.

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

Date	Destination	Guide Bk Pg	Meeting Place	Leader	Phone
03-Nov	Chickakoo Lake Recreation Area	123	McD - Westmount	Bev S.	780-469-7948
10-Nov	Blackfoot Staging Area	88-89	McD - Capilano	Michele F.	780-417-6928
17-Nov	Devon Ravine Trails	118-119	McD - 87 Ave	JoAnne B.	780-487-0645
24-Nov	Low-level Bridge to Kinsman Park	10-11	McD - Capilano	Sandra C.	780-467-9572
01-Dec	St Albert Red Willow Trail		McD - Westmount	TBD	
08-Dec	Millcreek Ravine to Muttart Conservatory	8-9	McD - Argyll	Sandra C.	780-467-9572
15-Dec	Fort Edmonton to Snow Valley	14-15	McD - 87 Ave	Helen W.	780-468-4331
22-Dec	No hike				
29-Dec	No hike				

**2014 Hikes**

05-Jan	John Janzen Nature Centre to Snow Valley		McD - 87 Ave	Michele F.	780-417-6928
12-Jan	Kennedale Ravine to Sunridge	4-5	McD - Capilano	Sandra C.	780-467-9572
19-Jan	Laurier Park to Government House	12-13	McD - 87 Ave	Helen W.	780-468-4331
26-Jan	Fort Saskatchewan City Trails	108-109	McD - Argyll	Bev S.	780-469-7948
02-Feb	St Albert River Lot 56	125	McD - Westmount	TBD	
09-Feb	Goldbar Park to Rundle Park	4-7	McD - Capilano	Johanna F.	780-428-8561
16-Feb	Whitemud Park to Hawrelak Park	14-15	McD - 87 Ave	Helen W.	780-468-4331
23-Feb	Spruce Grove City Trails		McD - 87 Ave		
02-Mar	Sherwood Park Natural Area + Sherwood Park Hike		McD - Capilano	TBD	
09-Mar	Whitemud Creek Nature Reserve to Snow Valley	16-17	McD - 51 Ave	Johanna F.	780-428-8561
16-Mar	Capilano Park-Kinnard Ravine-Dawson Park	6-7	McD - Capilano	Bev S.	780-469-7948
23-Mar	Patricia Ravine to Fort Edmonton		McD - 87 Ave	JoAnne B.	780-487-0645
30-Mar	Blackfoot Area		McD - Capilano	Michele F.	780-417-6928