



VOLUME 47 ISSUE 2  
FALL 2015



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JoAnne Burek

## President's message:

In the spring newsletter, I talked about the people who had the vision to create this great trail. I remember thinking about how the world has changed since the 1970s. Our lifestyles seem busier and we have more distractions. Could we build the same trail if we had to start today? I concluded that we could, provided we had a strong, compelling, and coherent vision. To maintain that momentum, however, it will always be necessary to check it, by asking, "Is it still compelling to the people of today?"

In the newsletter message, I mentioned why I thought that the WTA did have much to offer to people of today--people are just as interested, and maybe even more so, in the environment, outdoor pursuits, and fitness. We just had to find ways to reach out.

Well, this summer the media found us. In June, French CBC Radio-Canada (the Edmonton station), contacted us. They were working on a TV series about trails in Western Canada, and wanted to know if we had a French-speaking member, one who does some maintenance or guides a group, who could take them on the trail. By September, we found a member who was willing and able (thanks, Yvette Stack!) We had missed the cut-off for that particular TV series, but they were still interested—and now specifically in trail maintenance. And why not? What other outdoor group does trail maintenance? They joined the maintenance crew on the Pipestone trail, and filmed for about an hour. Radio Canada will be getting back to us when the program is scheduled. When they do, we will let you know on our website.

Returning to our vision, and updating it for today, we are noticing how Edmonton-centric we have been in our activities and approaches. For example, the *de facto* meeting point for our guided hikes has always been the carpool location in Edmonton. But we have many interested members who live outside the city. Up to now, if you wanted to join us on a scheduled hike, you had to call up the hike leader and wrangle out the trailhead location and meeting time. That information just wasn't published. As hike coordinator, I am making it a policy to post this information with the hike on the website, at least a week in advance of the hike date. I think this will make it more convenient for people to join us on our hikes.

If you have ideas about how we can be less Edmonton-centric, I am very interested in hearing from you. You can send me an email at [president@waskahegantrail.ca](mailto:president@waskahegantrail.ca).

## THE WTA EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT/HIKE COORDINATOR:	JOANNE BUREK	780-487-0645	TRAIL MAINTENANCE/ EVENT COORDINATOR:	KAREN BELL	780-642-6372
PAST PRESIDENT:	ROB FAULDS	780-478-5622	LANDOWNER RELATIONS:	GEOFF FLECK	780-855-2126
MEMBERSHIP/SECRETARY:	SANDRA CARRUTHERS	780-467-9572	WEBMASTER:	LEE STICKLES	780-487-0645
TREASURER:	GARY BUCHANAN	403-485-6341	PUBLICITY	JOHN RAPOSO	780-481-2850
NEWSLETTER/ PERMISSIONS ADMINISTRATOR:	MARILYN TICHKOWSKY	780-456-1819			

## An Open Letter to Our Volunteers

As volunteers you brought much to this organization. Skills, advice, experience, friendship, vision, leadership, inspiration, etc.--these you brought. But time, you gave. In our time-poor world, you chose to donate the most precious commodity in the known universe.

We may count your time in numbers. We may attempt to count your time in cash value. Though such methods have their reasons, we will all be poorer if we don't recognize that the giving of your time was simply and utterly priceless.

### Volunteers:

Alizah Bright

Bev Stokowski

Bonnie Guo

Brad Jordan

Darlene Barnard

David Mutch

Edda Loomes

Elizabeth Bagdan

Gary Buchanan

Gary Davidson

Geoff Fleck

Gary Wagner

Hans-Peter Kunzle

Helen Whitson

JoAnne Burek

Johanna Fischer

John Haines

John Raposo

John Scotvold

Jonathan Spence

Karen Bell

Kirsten Newman

Lee Stickle



Louise Giacomazzi

Marilyn Tichkowsky

Michele Fortin

Oscar Zawalsky

Peter Whitehead

Réjane Wagner

Rob Faulds

Roland Perrott

Rosemarie Jalbert

Sandra Carruthers

Stella Cormier

## A YEAR OF HIKING—2014

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 2014" is now available.

The cost for the DVD is \$5, plus an additional \$5 if you want it mailed.

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 current membership card.

## TRAIL MAINTENANCE 2015 SEASON



In May we changed to a double garage workshop from a storage unit.

We got the military engineers involved to access Low's bridge and consider a bridge built at Ross Creek. Unfortunately it was not feasible.



We preserved Stan's bench overlooking the valley, Mud Lake and Coal Lake.

We enjoyed coffee break afterwards at all sorts of interesting places. Here we are by Hastings Lake.



Boardwalk building at Miquelon Lake trail was a group effort.

We built a few stiles, here is one at Saunders Lake.



We hid in the shade of the trees for a lunch break at Miquelon Lake #2.



David found some very big mushrooms!?



Everyone worked very hard!

This past season we had a good number of volunteers for every crew which really made the work easier.  
See you next year!

## DONATIONS

*Thank you*  
Rod Wasylshen  
*For your generous donation*

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Angela & John Coutin Ho

## **BEYOND THE WASKAHEGAN TRAIL EVENTS**

**Sunday May 17** we went to Elk Island National Park. It was a cool crisp morning when the 15 of us started out on the Shirley Lake trail. We had to scurry by a scowling bison and gingerly step through the boggy areas and over the one beaver dam. Birds sang and butterflies fluttered in the warming sun. Lunch was an ideal spot at the campground by Oster Lake, albeit a cool wind soon pushed us back on the trail. We chatted along the way and into coffee afterwards.



On Friday **June 19**, 10 of us went on an exploring trip to Whitecourt. We stopped at the grain elevator sun dial in Sangudo on our way to Whitecourt. At the information centre at Heritage Park in Whitecourt we saw antique farm equipment and buildings and then we attempted to do a circular trail from

there and somehow shortly ended at the beginning! On to Hard Luck Canyon where we had lunch on the rocks by the creek. Then we hiked and drove around the Demonstration Forest just north of Whitecourt. We wanted to check out the Coal Mine Lookout but the road was closed. Our pit stop for coffee going home we missed finding and only realized its location later, so we returned to Edmonton. To end our trip, we had a wonderful Chinese supper.





On such a beautiful Sunday with the wind keeping away the bugs, we enjoyed discovering the odd conservation site called **Gouin (July 5)**. We were greeted by two identical looking dogs that kept with us the whole time. With two lakes and a slough, we spotted and heard many birds as well as a few loons. There were blue dragonflies, yellow butterflies, a patch or two of strawberries, some lovely wood lilies and other flowers, a cactus, a palm tree, an archway, picnic spots and camping spots, a grass roof hut, a rickety bridge, an Easter Island



type huge face sculpture, a few arms hugging trees, and a toilet in a teepee! We lunched on a hill by the lake.

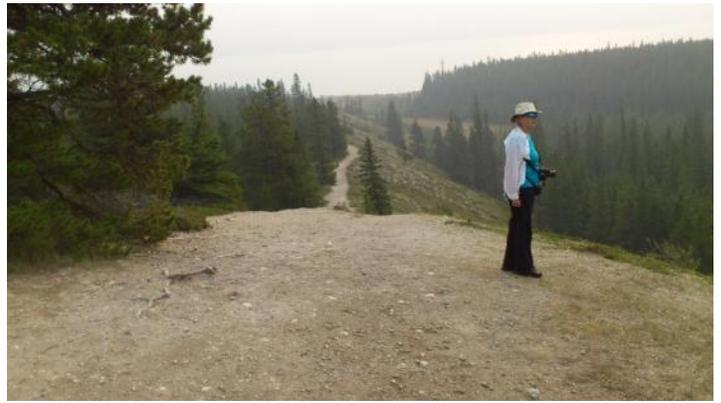


**July 20 to 24**, the 12 of us balanced hiking around **Mt. Robson Provincial Park** with down time relaxing at Tete Jaune Lodge. Our shorter hikes were Portal Lake trail, Labrador Tea trail, Tete Jaune Spawning trail, Cranberry Marsh, Jack-



man Flats, Rearguard Falls. Longer hikes were; Kinney Lake, Little Lost Lake, Swift Creek Loop, and Overlander Falls. We visited Valemont for two suppers, a bar, a brewery, and a market. The weather cooperated to make this a wonderful trip!

**August 24 to 27**, Five of us stayed at **Goldeye Centre**. We stopped enroute for a hike around Crimson Lake. Looking for the trail less crowded we ended up exploring and bushwhacking the rest of the trip. Tuesday we were out for five hours doing the Whitegoat Lakes loop, exploring many paths along the North Saskatchewan River. Wednesday we did Whirlpool point which really was a closed trail with some of the path eaten by the river. Later we hiked part of Siffleur Falls and some took a stroll around Goldeye Lake. Thursday we stopped at the Harlech picnic spot to cross the road looking for the old rail bed and the dramatic bridge over the river but gave up finding it after 45 minutes hiking in. Later we went to Saunders Rec Area to explore the Brazeau Gap Trail but really never found it, so we had lunch by the river and made our way home. We wanted to stop for ice cream at Mission Beach, but we just could not find the remembered spot, although we drove many lovely cottage roads by the lake looking. After giving up, continuing home, we spotted another place to satisfy our ice cream craving. This was definitely an explore trip!



**September 21 to 25**, 16 of us went to **Kananaskis**. We stayed at Forest House located down a winding wooded road at Camp Chief Hector. We had our meals at Bowfort House amongst teenagers enjoying a school retreat doing outdoor programs. Each day with a packed lunch we hiked the area: Monday we hiked Heart Creek and then checked in. Tuesday we went past the Nordic trails to hike Grassi Lakes and then later to Bow River Provincial Park to the Many Spring trail. Wednesday the hike was down Hwy 40 at the Barrier Dam, where we hiked the longest trail with the most elevation, West Prairie, Jewel Pass, Stoney loop.

Thursday was a loop from Kananaskis Village, Ribbon Creek day use. It was Kovach, Terrace, Link trails by Ribbon Creek. Later some looked at the interpretive site at the Calgary field station where there had been a prisoner camp. Last day we went to Grotto Canyon along the Grotto Creek and later had a coffee break with hot scones, cream and jam at Pa Su Farms on the way back to Edmonton.





**Saturday October 3** was our annual **Waskahegan BBQ & Hike** for our membership celebrating our volunteers, organized by JoAnne Burek at Miquelon Provincial Park. After hiking the back country trails we enjoyed burgers, baked beans, salad, and a special cake, and socialized, comfortably in the shelter with a wood fire burning.

*A big thank-you goes to Cargill for donating the hamburgers and the use of the barbecue.*



*Note that the trip **County of Lamont churches**, originally scheduled for **Friday October 16**, (a road tour of some of the 47 churches in Lamont County, viewing some on the inside, and may include Victoria Settlement historic site and a buffet lunch in Mundare at M&M's Kozy Kitchen) is **now postponed till spring**.*

## What Keeps the Trail Going

What is so great about the Waskahegan Trail? When I think about it, it's amazing that we have such a trail at all. It took tremendous vision and work to build it. Getting landowners' permissions was a major achievement. So was the labour for clearing land and building boardwalks and bridges. And let's not forget the raising of funds and the coordination of volunteers.



The trail is not ours—it belongs to the landowners and the community. But we are the guardians and stewards of this precious and unique preserve. We have the authority and responsibility to ensure that the trail continues to exist and is enjoyed by a respectful and knowledgeable public.

We would never be able to meet any of these obligations without directors. This spring, we are going to have new vacancies on the board. If you feel motivated to see the Trail continue, or even if you would like to build some administrative skills in a friendly environment, why not consider joining the board?

To find out more, simply email [president@waskahegantrail.ca](mailto:president@waskahegantrail.ca), or call JoAnne at 780-487-0645. Remember, this is your best opportunity to shape the future of the Trail.

## EDMONTON RIVER VALLEY CLEAN- DAY May 2, 2015

The weather was sunny but windy most of the day as eight energetic volunteers participated in this year's Clean-up.

The areas cleaned this year are as follows:

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

A total of 14 large bags, 6 small bags also found bags used for bottles, cans, plus items carried by hand, bike seat, large carpet, car pieces, hub caps. This year the most interesting item found was an old toilet seat.

The volunteers contributed a total of 36.5 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 Waskahegan Club.

### Volunteers

Darlene Barnard    David Mutch  
Joanna Fischer    Wing Leung  
Bonnie Guo    John Raposo  
Edda Loomes    Helen Whitson

Beverly Stokowski, Coordinator  
Waskahegan Trail Association

## 2015 - 2016 Hikes

Following are the hikes planned for November 2015 – April 2016. Again we are including some **Saturday** hikes in the schedule.

Please note that our Sunday December 6 hike requires **pre-registration by November 10** and payment to the hike leader by November 15 (\$11.50 Adults, \$7.75 Seniors). More details will be posted on the website.

Cold Weather Policy. If the daily high is forecasted to be colder than -20, it is highly likely the hike will be cancelled. If you have questions, check the website or call the hike leader or the hike coordinator (JoAnne, 780-487-0645).

Departure Time. For all hikes in the schedule below, we depart from the meeting place at either 9:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. as indicated. We recommend you get to the meeting place 15 minutes before departure to allow time for signing in.

These hikes are subject to change depending on local conditions. 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.

Date	Destination	Guide	Meeting Place	Leader	Phone
<b>Start time 9:00 a.m.</b>					
Sun. Nov 8	A60 to Schnee Hill	p. 49	McDonalds Calgary Trail (10375 - 51 Ave)	JoAnne B.	780-487-0645
<b>Start time 10:00 a.m.</b>					
Sun. Nov 22	Kennedale Ravine to Sunridge Ski Chalet	p. 5	McDonald's Capilano (9857 - 50 St.)	Sandra C.	780-467-9572
Sun. Dec 6	<b>Devonian Botanic Garden- Luminaria (pre-register—see above)</b>		TBA	JoAnne B.	780-487-0645
Sun. Dec	no hike				
Sun. Jan 3	no hike				
Sun. Jan 17	Dawson Park to Louise McKinney Park	p. 7	McDonald's Argyll	Sandra C.	780-467-9572
Sat. Jan 30	Laurier Park to Government House	p. 13	McDonald's	Helen W.	780-468-4331
Sun. Feb 14	Whitemud Park to Hawrelak Park	p. 13	McDonald's	JoAnne B.	780-487-0645
Sat. Feb 27	Capilano Park to Low Level Bridge	p. 7	McDonald's Capilano (9857 - 50 St.)	Helen W.	780-468-4331
Sun. Mar 13	Whitemud Creek (Ogilvie Blvd) to Snow	p. 17	McDonald's 11007 - 23 Ave	Johanna F.	780-428-8561
Sat. Mar 26	Kinsmen Fieldhouse to Low Level Bridge to	p. 11	Kinsman Sports Centre 9100 Walterdale Hill	JoAnne B.	780-487-0645
Sun. Apr 10	Snow Valley to John Janzen Nature Centre	p. 15	<u>Carpool</u> : McDonald's- Calgary Trail or <u>Trailhead (10:10)</u> : Rainbow Valley Road parking lot (before underpass)	Johanna F.	780-428-8561
Sat. Apr 23	Mill Creek Loop	p. 9	82 Ave & 95A St (Mill Creek Pool) parking lot	JoAnne B.	780-487-0645

## Membership Renewal

If your membership is expiring on February 28, 2016, you can use this form to renew. Mail it with your cheque, and we will send you an updated membership card.



## 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. \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Single/Family/Group Membership Fee</b>	_____	<b>\$20.00/ year</b> <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>
<b>Guide Book (Members Only)</b>	_____	<b>\$12.00</b> available to members only
<b>DVD "A Year in Hiking"</b>	_____	<b>\$5.00</b> for the first one, <b>\$2.00</b> for additional
<b>Guide book and/or DVD shipping</b>	_____	<b>\$5.00</b> required if you want these mailed to you
<b>Crest</b>	_____	<b>\$3.00</b>
<b>Decal</b>	_____	<b>\$2.00</b>
<b>Pin</b>	_____	<b>\$3.00</b>
<b>Donation</b>	_____	Tax receipt issued for donations of \$10 and more
<b>Total \$</b>	_____	<b>Total in Canadian Dollars</b>

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*

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"/> |
-