
Spring 2013 Newsletter



The Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association (WSRD) was formed in 2008 as the result of the merger of the Waskesiu Cabin Owners Association Inc., and the PANP Cottage Owners Association Inc.

Important Dates

Please Mark Your Calendar Now!

May	
19	"Benches of Waskesiu" book launch. Waskesiu Heritage Museum

July & Aug	
July: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Aug: 7, 14, 21	Wednesday Evening Bingo 7 pm, Terrace Gardens Heritage Museum

July	
7	AGM. 10 am. Terrace Gardens. Waskesiu Seasonal Residents (WSRA)
13	Annual Yard Sale. Waskesiu Heritage Museum
13	Annual Fundraising Dinner. Waskesiu Foundation. "Fiddle & Fly".
14	AGM. Waskesiu Heritage Museum
27	Narrows Canoe Challenge

Aug	
4	Grey Owl Howl, Family Dance
10	Museum Heritage Day
11	AGM. 10 am. Terrace Gardens. Waskesiu Community Council

Sept	
1	Arbour Day. PANP

*For a complete list of this season's events, see
www.waskesiu.org/events*

2013 President's Report

By Mr. Rob Phillips, President of the WSRA

We hope that everyone had a great winter season and that you and your families will be able to enjoy lots of quality time in Waskesiu in 2013.

In 2012 due to a high Spruce Budworm count in the townsite area, a control spray process was undertaken. The second phase of the program will get underway in the spring of 2013. It is our hope that with this proactive approach we will be able to minimize the damage caused by the Spruce Budworm in our townsite in future years. It is our intent to stay proactive through our Community Council to ensure that the budworm is kept in check.

We understand that the winter season barricade system put in place several winters ago has worked well and that no break-ins occurred in the townsite over this past winter.

Over the winter we worked with Parks Canada on clarifications to the Cabin Construction Guidelines. The final document should be in place by late spring 2013.

With the Cabin Area guidelines now clarified it is important that Parks Canada undertake a review of the Cottage Regulations. Although we requested this review some years ago it has not happened. It is unfair that Cottage guidelines are not park or community specific. The lack of community specifics make the regulations difficult to both understand and enforce.

A compelling case was made at the 2012 WSRA AGM to retain the green spaces in the 30' cabin lot areas, rather than the proposed release of the lots for further cabin development. These four spaces, once housing community washrooms plus one existing long term, empty space, have been developed into shared green areas by the seasonal residents and continue to be maintained by neighbourhood cabin owners. The development was completed with the approval of the PANP management. The WSRA continues to pursue the green spaces in the 30' lot cabin area, asking that the proposal for lot release in this area be deleted from the proposed Park Management Plan, and the green spaces retained as much-used community space in an overcrowded area.

An outstanding piece of business is land rent in the townsite. It is important that we work with the Waskesiu Community Council to have Parks Canada undertake an immediate review of the current land rent system with the objective of achieving a revised system as the current model penalises our community. It is our understanding that our community still pays more equivalent land rent than either Banff or Jasper. This is just not right.

In closing, we would request your input on these and any other issues you might have.



A block of shack tents in what is now the day-use area c.1948 Photo courtesy of Parks Canada Agency. From Waskesiu's Heritage Museum, by Bev Fast. 2006.

Emergency Services in the Park

Researched by Sheila Gagne, WSRA Board

Calling 911 puts Prince Albert National Park residents and visitors in touch with a dispatch service who will then assign appropriate responder(s) to provide assistance to the party in need.

Structural Fire

- A call to 911 will go to the Waskesiu Volunteer Fire Department with a back up call to Lakeland Emergency Services.
- Parks Canada informs us that the structural fire fighting fee that would be charged to a leaseholder for fighting a structural fire is \$294.40 per hour, per truck.

Health Matters

- Year round trauma response is provided by Parkland Ambulance.
- STARS (**Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society**) ambulance is new to Saskatchewan and will also be available to the Park if called upon.
- During peak operational season, contracted Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is available in the Townsite.
- Neither the Park nor the contracted EMS service provides direct transportation services to a hospital.
- During non-peak season, the Park's Resource Conservation office provides basic first aid response during scheduled working hours and a delayed on call response when staff are not on duty. Parks Canada Dispatch number is **1-877-852-3100**



The Waskesiu Foundation– A Message from the Chair

By Mr. Jim Kerby



On behalf of the Foundation, I want to start by thanking the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association (the "WSRA") for the opportunity to be part of this year's WSRA Newsletter. It is greatly appreciated, and we truly value our relationship with the WSRA and your members.

Since it was established in 1999, the Waskesiu Foundation has been raising funds to invest them in our Waskesiu community. You can see and enjoy that investment as you walk through our beautiful townsite. There's the new (and very popular) Disc Golf Course, a hundred Memorial Benches, Community Hall upgrades, Terrace Gardens upgrades, tennis court resurfacing, camp kitchen renovations, walking trail improvements, former bandstand site landscaping, and so much more.

(Over) One Million Reasons to Love Waskesiu

Many thanks to those who donated to our "**One Million Reasons to Love Waskesiu**" campaign – as our Foundation pushed to bring our fundraising total, since 1999, over the \$1,000,000 mark. That's an exciting milestone, and reaching it will help the Waskesiu Foundation keep moving forward with even more great projects for Waskesiu. Our Foundation's continuing success is a testament to the generosity, commitment, and deeply rooted sense of community of Waskesiu residents, businesses and visitors.

Restoring Waskesiu's Iconic Camp Kitchens

The Waskesiu Foundation, in collaboration with our donors and Parks Canada Agency, is working to renovate all of the camp kitchens throughout our townsite (including, in time, helping to fund a multi-season camp kitchen near the main beach). We have also renovated both of the camp kitchens at Paignton – and, by next year, will renovate the Birch Bay camp kitchen as well. We even hope to build a brand new camp kitchen at South Bay!

Special thanks to the Forbes Foundation, the Gloria Stevenson family and friends, the McCreath family, and the Phillips family, for your generosity in relation to this great program.

Beating the Spruce Budworm

In response to a severe spruce budworm infestation affecting the Waskesiu townsite, Parks Canada agreed to spray townsite trees if our community raised \$64,000 within two years. Thanks to the leadership of the WSRA, the Waskesiu Community Council, and the Lobstick Golf Course, residents raised the necessary funds in less than half that time! This meant that townsite trees were sprayed in 2012 and will be sprayed again in 2013. And the results are in – the program has been a major success!

But spraying is just one prong of a two-pronged attack - tree planting is the other. The Waskesiu Foundation is there to fund the annual planting of young spruce trees (to replace our aging spruce tree population) and we proudly support Arbour Day and other ongoing tree planting programs.

Join us for the Annual Fundraising Dinner – July 13th – Waskesiu Community Hall



The 9th Annual Donor Recognition and Fundraising Dinner is **Saturday, July 13, 2013**. Last year's Fundraising Dinner sold out – so don't miss out! This year's theme is "Fiddle & Fly" – a lively celebration of Métis fiddlers, the Louis Lavallee family, and the protected pelican nesting area in the Park that bears the Lavallee name. Tickets are \$135, and a partial tax receipt is available.

You can buy your tickets for "Fiddle & Fly" (or make a charitable donation) today using our new and secure online donation option at www.waskesiu.org, or by mailing your cheque to The Waskesiu Foundation Inc., Box 242, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3K4.

Enhancing the Waskesiu experience is an ongoing effort, and we hope to keep earning your continued support. Thanks again to the WSRA and its members, and have a great Waskesiu summer!

Welcome Back!

By Superintendent Alan Fehr

As I write this in early April, the lake is frozen and the ground is still white: snow has blanketed Prince Albert National Park since before Halloween, 2012. After more than five months of snowy winter, spring is going to be particularly welcome this year! It is always exciting to see the new life come into the park: the return of migrating birds, the arrival of deer fawns and elk calves, and most of all the return of visitors and seasonal residents to Waskesiu and the park.

It has been a winter of change and belt tightening at Parks Canada. Following a national review of visitation patterns and infrastructure needs, the decision was made to focus the park's resources on maintaining and upgrading the services that are used by the greatest number of visitors: the park's spring, summer and fall users. Some winter services were reduced and resources redirected to improving the park's aging infrastructure and facilities. Summer visitors will see improvements beginning this summer. For example, we can try to get caught up on repairs to some of the park boardwalks, trails, day use areas, and campground infrastructure; and we plan to continue the work that was begun last summer to groom some of the popular beaches. Last year we groomed the beaches at Trippes, Namekus, South Bay and Paignton and were able to fix up some picnic table areas and pit rings. We are also working with the Waskesiu Foundation to recapitalize the two camp kitchens at Paignton Beach. Check out the beautiful new camp

kitchen shelters in the Waskesiu Day Use Area! We are grateful to the Foundation for these new shelters and for their ongoing valuable partnership.

We are delighted to be able to announce a couple of new initiatives aimed at attracting new campers and broadening the range of camping opportunities. This spring we will launch a new park opportunity for people who would like to experience the outdoor fun of camping, but who prefer a more spacious and comfortable option for their family. Beaver Glen will see the installation of ten "oTENTiks", cabin-like large modern wall tents capable of housing a family for a turnkey, hassle-free camping experience. Campers will be able to book them online just like campsites. oTENTiks have been established successfully at other national parks and we're excited to be able to offer them here. We are also hosting a "Learn-to-Camp" event, a weekend opportunity in June for urban and new Canadians to discover camping and Prince Albert National Park, a true gem in Saskatchewan and in Canada. And of course we will celebrate Canada Day and Parks Day as always and hope you will join us for these special days.



Parks Canada oTENTik

With the lengthening days, the thoughts of many of us are turning to the promise of summer in Prince Albert National Park: busy campgrounds and streets in Waskesiu; sunny days and long warm evenings on the water; beach time with friends and family; the

sound of kids at the playground; loons calling in the morning; and enjoying the trails and wildlife viewing opportunities of the West Side and the park's wild places. It will be another summer of unforgettable memories in this beautiful place. Safe journeys and we are looking forward to seeing you this summer!

Waskesiu Community Council Update

By Brian Morgan, Chair

On behalf of the Community Council, welcome back to beautiful, vibrant Waskesiu for another summer season full of pleasure and enjoyment. As always Council has been fully involved in a host of diverse issues relating to the townsite and the immediately surrounding area. We work with Parks Canada and other stakeholders to enhance and sustain the beauty, security, and economic and environmental viability of our wilderness community.

2012 was an election year for Council. Members declared elected for a three year term were: Brent Hamel, Jim Kerby, Randy Kershaw, Janice MacKinnon, Bryan Matheson (Vice-Chair), Brian Morgan (Chair), and Nancy Wood-Archer (Secretary Treasurer). We are ably assisted by our Administrator, Noreen Matthews.

Following the decision to spray for the spruce budworm and the requisite fund raising, successful sprays took place on June 7th and 12th. We were advised in October that spruce defoliation levels had decreased by 30% from 2011 levels. While the spray program cannot be singled out as the sole source of this positive result, it was a major contributing factor. There will be two more sprays in late spring and early summer 2013 if conditions allow.

Council has participated in discussions with the Park's administration about the potential redevelopment of the Nature Centre and the Red Deer Trail Interpretive Plan. More information will follow as plans gel.

Our Vegetation Management Committee has engaged fully with officials from Sask Power and Parks Canada about the need to cull dead and threatening trees close

to power lines in the townsite. As a result, work has already begun to remove hazard trees. We have been most impressed with both the thoroughness of Sask Power's review process as well as their action strategy. A community information meeting will be held early in the season to better acquaint everyone with this issue.

Given the depth of concern expressed by residents and visitors about the quality of wireless communications in the townsite and area, Council approached SaskTel about measures they could take to remedy the situation. Discussions were productive. We expect to see a new stealth tower erected in the Red Deer campground in early summer, subject to finalization of a pending agreement with Parks Canada.

Regrettably a most contentious issue arose this winter between your Council and Parks Canada when their national office made a decision to curtail, and effectively eliminate, winter services in Prince Albert National Park (and in fact in the majority of other national parks). Despite efforts by Council and other interested parties we were unable to have this decision reversed, suspended or delayed. Through the efforts of Council member Nancy Wood-Archer, the owners of Lost Creek and the Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce an agreement was reached with the Superintendent to allow the Chamber the use of ski trail grooming equipment so that at least some of the trails could be groomed. They then proceeded to groom the trails for the rest of the winter, and established a ski club which will hopefully carry on these efforts in the future. Mere thanks are not sufficient to express our appreciation to Nancy, Dave Archer, Gord Bueckert (Lost Creek) and George Wilson (Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce).

Council continues to be pleased with the winter security measures that have been put in place. We have experienced no break and enter activity over the past three winters (to our knowledge). And RCMP and park warden presence on long weekends continues to decrease unacceptable behavior in the summer.

Our www.waskesiu.org website continues to be widely used. Be sure to visit the site and find out what is happening in Waskesiu and PANP.

Thank you to all the volunteers who joined Parks staff for the spring litter blitz on May 11th to 'spruce up' our community for the upcoming season.

Finally, please join us for the Waskesiu Community Council Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Sunday, August 11th, 10 am – 12 pm, at the Terrace Gardens.

Have a wonderful summer.

Spring 2013 Townsite Report

By Terrence Schneider, Townsite Manager, PANP

Waskesiu Cabin Guidelines and Cottage Regulations Reviews

The 2008 Waskesiu Cabin Guidelines are under review by Prince Albert National Park (PANP), Waskesiu Community Council (WCC) and the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association (WSRA). The goal is to have an updated version available by spring of 2013.

SaskTel Communication Stealth Tower

In the fall of 2012 WCC asked PANP to approach SaskTel about improving wireless telephone and Internet service in Waskesiu. PANP approached SaskTel and in 2013 a proposal was submitted.

PANP and SaskTel have since agreed on a location in Red Deer Campground for the installation of a 35 m high tower. Terms of a License of Occupation to host the tower in the Park are currently under review.

Waskesiu Urban Reforestation Plan

In 2012 PANP moved forward with year one of a two year spruce budworm spraying project. Preparation for this spring's program has begun. Monitoring work in May will determine the best timing for aerial application of the pesticide Foray 76B, which is likely to occur in early June. Monitoring in the fall of 2012 showed the spray program had a positive effect in managing the budworm populations in Waskesiu.

Recycling

The North Central Saskatchewan Waste Management Corporation is currently negotiating a regional contract for a new co-mingled recycling program. This would result in positive recycling changes for PANP. Tin cans, plastic, paper and cardboard could be recycled in common collection bins if this contract is completed. Please stay tuned. PANP will provide updates when the recycling contract is finalized.

Weight Restrictions

Heavy loads are not permitted on paved residential areas streets during the spring, summer and fall. PANP and Waskesiu Community Council want to preserve these roadways. Please check with the Townsite Office before hauling heavy items like buildings, landscaping materials, or gravel to your leasehold sites.



Note on Park Communications

By Pat Dunn, External Relations Manager, Parks Canada

We are increasingly relying on the Internet to more efficiently provide timely updates and information about the park. Through email, our website and Twitter, we will do our best to keep you informed on everything from interpretive activities to emergencies to trail conditions and nature sightings. Check the Important Bulletins link on the park's website before your visit for information on bear safety information, weather events and closures, and other safety issues that may affect your visit. Please don't hesitate to drop by and see us at the Visitor Centre in Waskesiu with your questions and concerns as well.

Add us to your bookmarks:

- On the web: www.pc.gc.ca/princealbert
- On Twitter: ParksCanSaskatchewan in English or ParcsCanSaskatchewan in French

Contact Information

Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association (WSRA)

Your Representatives for 2013

Directors

Rob Phillips (President)
Herb Pinder (Chair)
Sheila Gagne (Secretary)
Conor Quinn (Treasurer)
Gerry Gilchrist
Richard Kilburn
Pat McAvoy
Brad Meier
Diane Roddy
Jennifer Wood

Committee Chairs

Membership: Pat McAvoy
Nomination & Governance: Herb Pinder, Rob Phillips
Social: Rob Phillips (*Help with this committee would be appreciated!*)
Cabin & Cottage Regulation Review & Lease Issues:
 Rob Phillips, Gerry Gilchrist, Sheila Gagne (cabins)
 Herb Pinder (cottages)
Communications: Diane Roddy, Sheila Gagne

How to Keep in Touch:

Website: http://waskesiu.org/seasonal_residents.html
Email Address: WaskesiuSRA@gmail.com This will reach the President and the Chair of the WSRA.
Chair: Herb Pinder hpinder@goalgroup.ca

Don't Forget the Date:

July	WSRA Annual General Meeting
7	10 am. Terrace Gardens.



Photo from 2004 Photo Contest

Membership Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association (WSRA)

Please Join Us
(It's Only \$20 and Makes Our Voice Stronger!)

The more people the WSRA represents, the stronger our shared voice will be. Please keep our organization strong by buying or renewing your WSRA membership, attending the Annual General Meeting, ensuring we have your current contact information, and encouraging your neighbors to be active members too.

You are encouraged to fill out the form below and:

- Drop it off with our President, Rob Phillips, in the mail box on his deck at 1519 Nighthawk
- Drop it off with our Treasurer, Conor Quinn, at 1526 Grebe or with any other Director you may know
- Bring it along the Annual General Meeting (July 7, 2013, 10 am, at the Terrace Gardens)
- Mail it to Pat McAvoy, our Membership Chair, at #67 – 127 Banyan Crescent, Saskatoon SK, S7V 1G5

Volunteers will also be canvassing for memberships door-to-door again this summer.

Membership Form

Member Name(s):	
Email Address (for news updates):	
Cabin or Cottage Address at Waskesiu:	
Home Address in Winter Months:	
<p>Membership fee is \$20 per year. Five-year memberships save time and paperwork, and are \$100</p> <p><u>Correspondence:</u></p> <p>Newsletters and Waskesiu News Updates from the WSRA and community partners are sent out by email, as news happens.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you do not have regular access to email and wish to receive newsletters via Canada Post. Please ensure your mailing address (as noted above) is correct</p>	

Are you already a WSRA member, but have been missing the Waskesiu News email updates? Please send your current email to WaskesiuSRA@waskesiu.org, with a request that your contact information be updated.