

Alberta TrailTracker



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LACOMBE-BLACKFALDS TRAIL PAVING COMPLETE!

This impressive rural trail runs through one of the oldest Federal Agriculture Research Stations in Canada. Page 8.

PEACE RIVER TRAIL RE-OPENS

Horses and wagons travel the trail for the first time in the last hundred years. Page 2.



OLD BASSANO CPR STATION MOVES TO BEISEKER!

Read about the event which was featured on the Discovery Channel. Page 13.



Setting up camp at the end of a four day trek along the Peace River Trail.

PEACE RIVER TRAIL OPENING

The Athabasca Recreational Trails Association (ARTA) hosted the opening of the newly redeveloped Peace River Trail on Thursday, August 30, 2012 at Moose Portage (25 minutes from Smith, Alberta).

Special guest speakers included Reeve Denny Garrett, Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124; Mayor David Yurdiga, Athabasca County; Dawn Minns (representing Hon. Jeff Johnson), Government of Alberta; Linda Strong-Watson, Alberta TrailNet; Rob Woito, Chair of ARTA and a message

from Brian Jean, MP Fort McMurray-Athabasca. The Peace River Trail Opening involved the trek of the Western Canadian Wagon Train group who left Athabasca on August 25 and arrived in Moose Portage on August 30. This trip along the trail featured 14 wagons and 17 outriders and marked the first time in 100 years that horse and wagons could safely travel along the historic trail. A special cake featuring photos and a map of the trail was served to those attending the event.

The approximately 63 km trail starts 30 kms north of the Town of Athabasca off of Highway 813 in the Sawdy area, and finishes at the Hamlet of Smith. The trail parallels portions of the spectacular Athabasca River Valley offering scenic vistas and water access opportunities. The trail is part of the Trans Canada Trail.

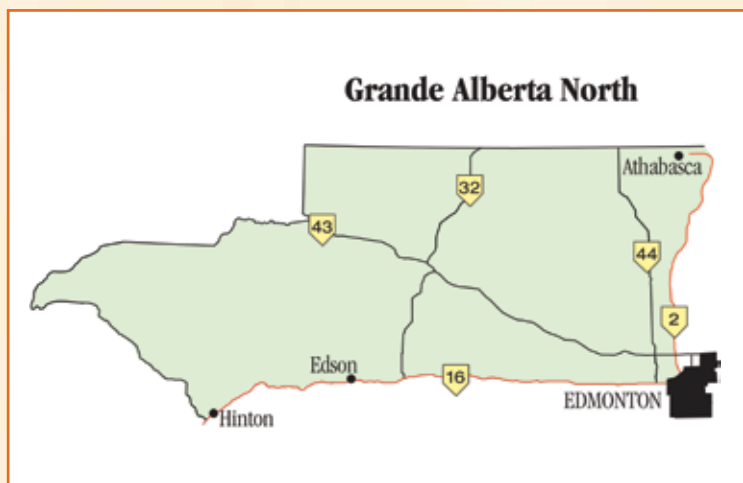
The project received over \$1 million in support from the federal Community Development Trust Fund, Trans Canada Trail, Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation, Alberta TrailNet Society, Athabasca County and the M.D. of Lesser Slave River as well as several corporate donations.



Western Canadian Wagon Train arrives at Moose Portage.

GRANDE ALBERTA NORTH PROVINCIAL TRAIL MAP NOW AVAILABLE

The Provincial Trail Map Project Steering Committee has released the 4th in a series of 16 regional trail maps that will cover the entire province. The map highlights approved motorized, non-motorized and mixed-use trails in the region. It covers an area from Edmonton north to Athabasca and westwards to Hinton and the northern edge of the Willmore Wilderness (see map below).



This map and other maps in the provincial trail map series are available free of charge to the public through provincial and local tourism visitor centres, regional Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and Alberta Park offices, and through Alberta TrailNet's office in Edmonton.

Please call TrailNet at 1-877-987-2457 or visit www.albertatrailnet.com to view a digital version of the map.

Trails contribute to the social, environmental and economic health and well-being of Alberta communities. These maps highlight recreational and tourism opportunities and are intended to help visitors and recreational users discover Alberta's beautiful natural settings in a responsible and sustainable way. Other maps in the planned provincial trail map series available at this time are: Grande Alberta South, Northern Rockies and North East Alberta.

GRANDE ALBERTA SOUTH TRAIL MAP LAUNCH, DEVON ALBERTA



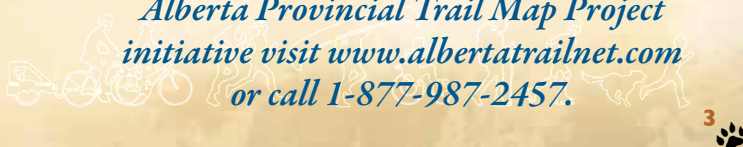
Left to Right: Sheila Aitken, Councilor, Town of Devon (on behalf of the River Valley Alliance); Honourable Christine Cusanelli, Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation; Deputy Mayor Gordon Groate, Town of Devon; and Linda Strong-Watson, Executive Director, Alberta TrailNet Society (Map Project Chair).

The new Grande Alberta South Trail Map was released at a cycling event on June 23rd, 2012, in the Town of Devon on a beautiful sunny day. The map launch featured presentations by the Honourable Christine Cusanelli, Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation; Deputy Mayor Gordon Groate, Town of Devon; Sheila Aitken, Councilor, Town of Devon (on behalf of the River Valley Alliance) and Linda Strong-Watson, Alberta TrailNet Society (Map Project Chair).

Copies of the new map and others produced under the Provincial Trail Map Project were available at the event free of charge. Participants stayed to watch the Grande Prix of Cycling and Cyclefest or took the opportunity to visit Devon's trails. The Grande Alberta South map is 1½ years in the making. The map highlights land manager approved trails and provides additional information on sites of interest including historic and natural features within the region.

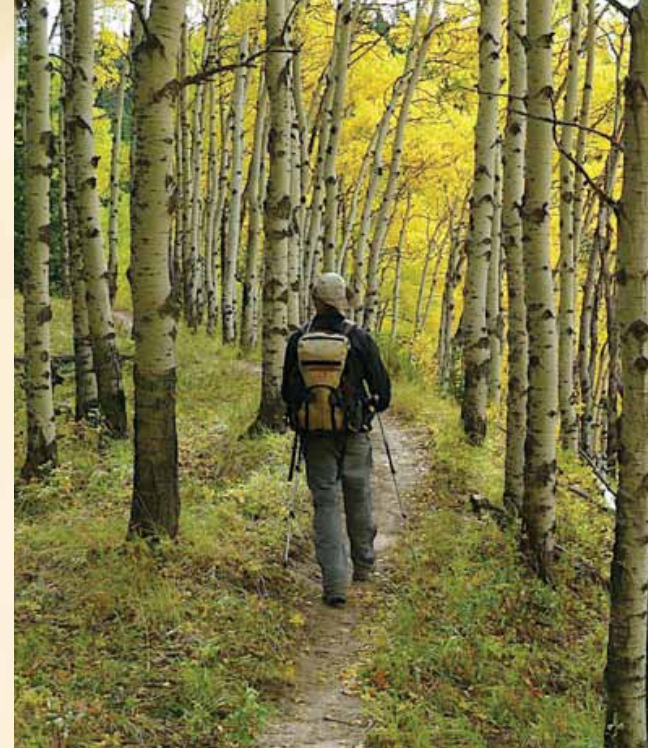
The Grande Alberta South Trail map was created through a partnership of Alberta TrailNet, Alberta Snowmobile Association, Alberta Off Highway Vehicle Association, and the Government of Alberta. It is the third regional map produced under the Provincial Trail Map Project. Municipalities; local and regional public land, park and tourism staff; local groups and others provided valuable input and assistance.

For more information on the Alberta Provincial Trail Map Project initiative visit www.albertatrailnet.com or call 1-877-987-2457.





Track setting a cross country ski trail.



Hiking in the West Bragg Creek area.

THE GREATER BRAGG CREEK TRAILS ASSOCIATION

BY CARMEN SOLANA-MARTIN

The Greater Bragg Creek Trails Association (GBCTA) is a local volunteer group that is working hard to design, build and maintain trails and pathways for the benefit of residents and visitors of Bragg Creek.

“Our primary purpose is to help our community by building trails that encourage an active and healthy lifestyle,” said GBCTA President Robert Sadee. According to Sadee, the trails and pathways also provide access for the residents of Bragg Creek and surrounding areas to historical, cultural, recreational and scenic venues in the community. “The trails are a wonderful addition to our community and help bring us together,” he added. The GBCTA Ski Committee, working in co-operation with Kananaskis Groom, also track sets, maintains, upgrades and develops the ski trails in West Bragg Creek and K-Country. “GBCTA Vice President Bruce Barker has been doing a phenomenal job heading the ski committee,” said Sadee.

GBCTA was created in 2004, as a result of Rocky View County’s Greater Bragg Creek Area Structure Plan (ASP). Robert Sadee and Kelly Woods were members of an ASP sub-committee. “Through our work on the committee, it was recognized that we needed a local trail operator, so we created the Greater Bragg Creek Trails Association,” said Sadee.

The Greater Bragg Creek Trails Association is a registered society with charitable status. “One hundred percent of our funds get donated directly towards building community trails,” said Sadee. “There are very little if any administration costs, as we work from home. To date we have raised over \$500,000 for community projects with the vast amount being spent on

services provided by local people and businesses,” he added.

In order to build trails, a few members of the organization spend hundreds of hours of work writing applications, attending meetings and making presentations before they can even begin the fundraising process. Then, they spend endless hours on fundraising before construction of the trails can begin. “The easy part is building the trails,” said Sadee. “Once we build it’s a sigh of relief.”

All of the GBCTA’s revenues are raised through government grants, corporate and private donations, and fundraisers. The group organizes two major fundraisers a year. For the past ten years, the Bragg Creek Days Fun Run has been successful in raising funds in support of the organization. “This year Bragg Creek Physiotherapy and The Bragg Creek Warriors, a local running group, as well as other volunteers were very kind to organize the event for us,” said Sadee. “I think it will be the most successful run we have had so far.” For the last two years the GBCTA has also organized the Annual Tunes for Trails, a benefit concert. “Scuzzy and the Woodticks have volunteered and have been instrumental in making this event such a huge success,” said Sadee. “These local musicians put on a wonderful show and fill the house every year.” “Local businesses have always helped out and we truly appreciate their continued support,” he added. “Companies like Eagle Engineering and Boden/Ledingham have been very generous in the design work and time they have spent on our community projects.” The organization also appreciates the volunteers who help maintain the trails. “About 100 people volunteer their time, including those from seniors and hiking groups,” said Sadee.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDALS

In 2005, GBCTA built the Centennial Trail between the hamlet and Bragg Creek Provincial Park. The Banded Peak Trail, which links the hamlet to Banded Peak School, was built in 2008. Sadee is in charge of planning of two new community trail initiatives involving Banded Peak School and the West Bragg Creek Road. "We are working on the Banded Peak School Connector, a trail that will connect Banded Peak School to Bragg Creek Provincial Park," he said. The West Bragg Creek Road trail will eventually connect the hamlet to West Bragg Creek and its subdivisions as well as Kananaskis Country. This trail will also become part of the Trans Canada Trail. "This proposed trail would create a safe venue for people to walk and cycle along the West Bragg Creek Road," said Sadee.

The group is also working on the West Bragg Creek All Season Trail Implementation Plan which has had the area designated as an all season use area instead of just a winter area. "This amazing plan is being lead and implemented by Eric Lloyd," said Sadee. The GBCTA is currently seeking funds to complete the West Bragg Creek All Season Trail Plan as well as all of the other community trail projects. "We are counting on the generosity and cooperation of Rocky View County to help us with West Bragg Creek Trail Project in the coming months," said Sadee.

The GBCTA and Sustainable Redwood are planning to improve the trail that connects Redwood Meadows to Bragg Creek. "Sustainable Redwood appreciates the GBCTA's philosophy," said Sustainable Redwood committee member Flora Giesbrecht. "We, too, see the value in connecting communities and finding safe ways for people to get around the Greater Bragg Creek area by bicycle or foot," she added. "We hope to assist with this by looking into the feasibility of improving the trail connecting Redwood Meadows and Bragg Creek."

Last year the GBCTA received funding through the Shell Fuelling Change Program for their West Bragg Creek All Season Trail Plan project. This project is part of Shell Canada's program again this year. To vote go to <http://fuellingchange.com/main/project/344/West-Bragg-Creek-All-Season-Trail-Plan-Implementation-2012#doc>.

For more information on how to volunteer and support the GBCTA go to <http://braggcreektrails.org>.

Sustainable Redwood is seeking volunteers and requesting community input on the proposed Redwood Trail. Comments can be forwarded to sustainableredwood@gmail.com. The committee is concerned with the approximately 1 km stretch along Hwy. 22 between Tsuu T'ina Drive in Redwood Meadows and the gas utility path to Bragg Creek. This short section is frequented by families, but it is dangerous because of the narrow shoulder and heavy vehicle traffic. They would like to find a way to connect that short stretch safely to the utility path.

In celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, a commemorative medal was created to mark the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne. This award is given to individuals who have made a significant contribution to a particular province or community within Canada, or who have completed an achievement abroad that brings credit to this country. More information about the medal can be found at <http://www.gg.ca/document.aspx?id=14019&lan=eng>.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALBERTA MEDAL RECIPIENTS

The National Trails Coalition was invited by the Governor General's office to nominate 30 volunteers who have played a significant role in improving Canada's trail infrastructure. Our congratulations to the four Albertans who were honoured on receiving this award and our thanks to them and to all other NTC project participants for the work they have done and continue to do in partnership with their associations and communities. This work has resulted in improved community infrastructure and recreation opportunities for all Albertans.

Debbie Cole-Gauer, who was the Executive Director of the Friends of Fish Creek between 2008 and 2010, has been awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her work in Fish Creek Provincial Park. One project was the development of the 14 km single track trail network in the west end of the Fish Creek and the other was the construction of a paved trail connecting the residents of Chaparral to the park. The development of these trails allowed greater access for people to the park and helped preserve the environmental stability of the sensitive ecosystems in the west end.

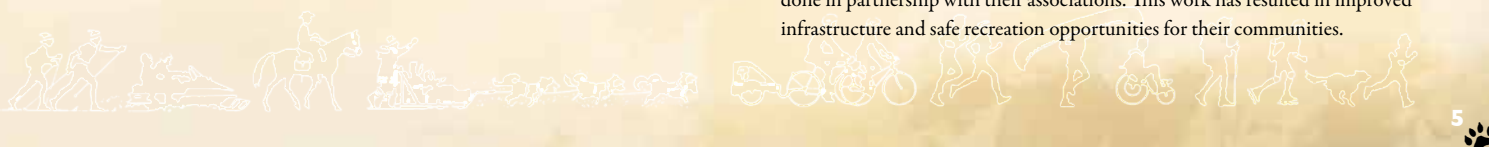


Robert Sadee, who is the President of the Greater Bragg Creek Trails Association, has been awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his work on trail and community development in Bragg Creek. Robert gave countless hours of volunteer time to ensure that the necessary approvals were in place, that adequate funding was secured, and that the project was completed on schedule. Robert and the Greater Bragg Creek Trails Association's efforts resulted in a safe off road trail for children travelling from Bragg Creek to their local school – the Banded Peak School.

Garry Salekin, who is Vice President of the Calgary ATV Riders Association, has been awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his work on the preservation, enhancement and maintenance of Alberta's off-highway vehicle trails, particularly those in the MacLean Creek and Waiparous areas.

Debbie Olsen, who is President of the Central Alberta Regional Trails Society, has been awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her work on the Trans Canada Trail in Central Alberta. Debbie has worked tirelessly over the past 10 years bringing municipalities and trail stakeholders together to advance trail development in central Alberta. With Debbie's leadership and support and federal funding provided in part under the National Trails Coalition grant program, three key Trans Canada Trail projects were completed including bridges over the Blindman and Battle Rivers and trail development in the Town of Ponoka.

The four recipients are deserving of these awards for the amazing work they have done in partnership with their associations. This work has resulted in improved infrastructure and safe recreation opportunities for their communities.



ROLLING DOWN THE RIVER (VALLEY): RIVER DAY

The River Valley Alliance (RVA) held River Day celebrations up and down the river valley on Saturday, June 9, 2012. The theme of this year's event was Rolling Down the River (Valley). Town of Devon, Leduc County, Parkland County, City of Edmonton, Sturgeon County and Fort Saskatchewan all held successful and well attended events.

VOYAGEUR PARK (DEVON) - TOWN OF DEVON AND LEDUC COUNTY

Two municipalities joined forces to host "The Teddy Bear's Picnic," a family-friendly event that included music, games, picnicking, Teddy Bear repair, face painting, a balloon "pirate", bouncy castle, crafts, fire rescue safety demonstration, walking tours, displays and more.



Annette Nenonen, Alberta TrailNet and Athabasca Recreational Trails Association, shows an interested resident the proposed route for the Athabasca Landing Trail.

PROSPECTORS POINT - PARKLAND COUNTY

Attendees came out to pan for gold, check out the county fire truck, enjoy children's games and balloon animals, see a fire rescue safety demonstration, visit the RVA display and chow down on free hot dogs and hamburgers.

RUNDLE PARK, EDMONTON - CITY OF EDMONTON AND STRATHCONA COUNTY

The City of Edmonton planned fun outdoor activities including "learn to fish" at the trout pond, pooter pond paddling, introductory canoe or kayak lessons (small fee) and more than a dozen interesting displays. Strathcona County joined in with a face painter, tattoo artist, kids' craft and a live band performance. The Strathcona Industrial Association cooked up a free pancake breakfast in the morning.

LAMOUREUX - STURGEON COUNTY

The event featured an RVA display, a display from Alberta TrailNet Society and the Athabasca Landing Trail Steering Committee, and a horseback riding display from the Rainbow Equitation Society. Water awareness and conservation education programs were offered, along with free snacks.

WEST RIVER'S EDGE PAVILION - FORT SASKATCHEWAN

This event was a community celebration of the new pavilion nestled in a new recreation area. The event featured activities including an opening ceremony (Frank Garritsen brought greetings on behalf of the Athabasca Landing Trail Steering Committee), old time fiddlers, a puppet show, face painting, black powder rifle demo, fishing in the trout pond, history tales, nature crafts, walks with a naturalist, snacks and displays including one from Alberta TrailNet Society.

River Day 2013 will be held on June 8th, 2013. Watch the website for updates. For more details, go to www.rivervalley.ab.ca/category/2012/.



Frank Garritsen, Councillor, City of Fort Saskatchewan, and a member of the Athabasca Landing Trail Steering Committee, poses with a member of the Black Powder Brigade at the River Day Celebration in Fort Saskatchewan.

HIGHWAY 8 PATHWAY PROPOSED

BY JEFF QUIGLEY, ROCKY VIEW COUNTY

Rocky View County is a large, picturesque jurisdiction surrounding the City of Calgary on three sides and bordering 14 neighbouring municipalities. With unparalleled views of the Rocky Mountains, stunning river valleys, and rolling foothills, the County boasts unlimited opportunities for recreational pursuits.

When the highway is eventually twinned, the pathway could be incorporated into the construction plan, capitalizing on economies of scale leading to reduced construction costs and minimizing disturbance to adjacent communities.



Highway 8 project location.

The Highway 8 route from Calgary to Bragg Creek has always been a popular recreational route among cyclists. Because of this popularity and feedback gathered during Rocky View County's Parks and Open Space Master Plan, the potential of developing a regional pathway within this corridor is currently being explored. The Highway 8 pathway would form a critical component of Alberta's provincial trail system and be part of a national trail initiative, forming part of the Trans Canada Trail corridor linking Calgary to Bragg Creek and onwards. "Not only will the pathway fill a crucial linkage in the Trans Canada Trail network from coast to coast to coast," says Jeff Quigley, Municipal Lands Specialist with Rocky View County, "it will provide a more desirable option for recreational enthusiasts using the popular route to and from Bragg Creek." Currently, for cyclists to reach Bragg Creek from Calgary, they must travel along the shoulder of the ever bustling Highway 8 from 101 Street SW, Calgary to Highway 22 in the west. Alberta Transportation has identified that this section of Highway 8 requires twinning in the future, although this project is not part of their current three year construction plan.

Rocky View County committed to an extensive public engagement process to identify and understand all of the issues associated with the proposed pathway. Along with a number of meetings with key stakeholders including Alberta Transportation, City of Calgary, Alberta TrailNet, and various cycling groups, the County also engaged residents living along the corridor.

The benefits of the proposed Highway 8 pathway are many. "The pathway will provide a safer option for cyclists currently utilizing the highway, provide a recreational amenity for other

non-motorized uses including running, inline skating, and walking, and will connect to future pathways in the City of Calgary, contributing to building a lasting legacy for the region" states Municipal Lands Specialist, Greg Van Soest.

The main challenge facing the proposed pathway is finding the necessary resources and funds for detailed engineering design and construction costs. Rocky View County is exploring partnership opportunities and the creation of a Highway 8 Pathway Implementation Committee to assist with moving the project forward.

If you are interested in finding out more information regarding the proposed pathway, contact Rocky View County at 403-230-1401 or letstalktrails@rockyview.ca or view the proposed alignment at <http://www.rockyview.ca/>.



Paving the Lacombe to Blackfalds trail.



Lacombe County boardwalk trail.



Paula Law, Deputy Reeve, accepts the Trail Blazer award on behalf of Lacombe County.

LACOMBE BLACKFALDS TRAIL PAVING COMPLETE

BY LANTRY VAUGHAN, LACOMBE COUNTY

Paving is now complete on the Lacombe-Blackfalds portion of the Trans Canada Trail. The trail, which weaves its way south of Lacombe through the Lacombe Research Station, west along Lacombe Lake and down to the northern boundary of Blackfalds will tie into the Town of Blackfalds and City of Lacombe trail systems and connect to the Trans Canada Trail system which links Canadian communities through a system of regional networks.

After years of planning and negotiations County crews started constructing the 8 km pedestrian trail from Blackfalds to Lacombe on August 9. Foundation work on the trail was completed as of August 31. A local paving contractor (Lahrmann Construction Ltd.) completed paving on Wednesday, September 26.

With paving complete, County forces will install amenities like park benches, picnic tables, garbage receptacles, and signs along the trail. A bathroom will be installed later in the year once it is available.

Interpretive signage will be installed in early 2013, once design and subject matter for the signs has been developed. The

signs will highlight historically significant locations and will point out the flora and fauna that may be of interest to trail users. The total estimated cost of the trail is \$931,338, with Lacombe County crews, equipment and materials contributing \$377,338 of this amount and the paving accounting for the balance of \$554,000. "Trans Canada Trail, Central Alberta Regional Trails Society (CARTS) and Agriculture Canada have been invaluable partners in the planning and development of this section of trail," said Phil Lodermeier, Lacombe County Operations Manager. The Trans Canada Trail provided a grant of \$288,790.14 for the trail project.

LACOMBE COUNTY RECEIVES ALBERTA TRAILNET'S TRAIL BLAZER AWARD FOR 2012

Lacombe County was honoured with the prestigious Trail Blazer award at Alberta TrailNet Society's Annual General Meeting on Saturday, June 2, 2012 at the Cronquist House, Red Deer, AB. Paula Law, Deputy Reeve, accepted the award on behalf of Lacombe County.

Lacombe County has taken on the challenging but rewarding task of building a long distance portion of the Trans Canada Trail through the County. They have faced challenges with securing landowner

agreements and have encountered opposition from small sectors of local residents. Despite occasional setbacks, Lacombe County has successfully achieved many of its trail development goals. Over the past few years trail was constructed from the Blindman River to the Town of Blackfalds. This included a pedestrian bridge, a day use area and 2 km of paved trail. This past summer the trail was built from the north corporate limits of the Town of Blackfalds to the south corporate limits of the City of Lacombe. This section follows the east shores of Lacombe Lake and further north the trail runs through one of the oldest Federal Agriculture Research Stations in Canada. The trail includes two sections of boardwalk combined with a small viewing platform on the Lacombe Lake section.

Ross Hayes, President of Alberta TrailNet said, "We are proud to acknowledge Lacombe County's work in trail development in Central Alberta. Their achievements in trail development are truly something to be celebrated."

Each year, Alberta TrailNet presents the annual Trail Blazer Award to an individual, organization or entity that has made significant contributions to, and demonstrated long standing commitment and involvement in, trail planning and development in Alberta. In selecting the recipient Alberta TrailNet recognizes that Trail Blazer accomplishments often reflect the contributions and commitment of

staff, elected representatives, community trail builders, and stakeholders and volunteers within that community.

Alberta TrailNet has proudly presented the Trail Blazer Award since 1997. The award, created by sculptor Rick Silas, is a beautiful large hand-carved wooden hiking boot on a tree stump that features the names of the award winners engraved on brass plaques. Each award recipient receives a smaller unique hand-carved wooden replica of the large Trail Blazer Award made by sculptor Ilb Rasmussen.

MAGRATH TRAIL/GALT CANAL NATURE TRAIL

BY WADE ALSTON, TOWN OF MAGRATH

One of a series of articles celebrating Alberta's Community Trails.

The Magrath Trail is unique in the sense that it links a National Historic Site, a wildlife preserve, and the unique model community history of the Town of Magrath. The trail currently consists of a 5 km loop which commences at Irrigation Builder's Memorial Park and continues to the site of an irrigation head-gate structure. The first paved kilometre is 8 feet-wide and is called the Galt Historic Trail commemorating the construction of Canada's first major irrigation project. This project was conceived in the 1890s by Elliott T. Galt, the son of Sir Alexander Galt, his brother-in-law, Charles Alexander Magrath, and a pioneering Mormon leader named Charles Ora Card. As stated on the plaque erected by the Government of Canada in Magrath in 1899: "British capital, Canadian enterprise, and the vision, experience and labour of Mormon pioneers united to fructify and beautify the land."

Surrounding this historic corridor is a beautiful river valley and nature preserve, most of which is owned by the Magrath Rod and Gun Club. The trail traverses the pioneer head-gate structure and continues

Irrigation Builder's Memorial Park

along a right-of-way granted by the Club. This segment of the trail has great views of the mountains of Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Parks as well as exceptional views of plant, bird and other wildlife along the banks of Pothole Creek. The trail then loops back to its starting point to a children's fishpond and camping area near the last remaining operating segment of the pioneer canal structure.

This trail loop is a key part of the planned further expansion of the trail that will completely surround the historic Town of Magrath. (Magrath was conceived and built as a model community based on the

religiously-inspired "Plat of Zion." In addition, the Town has been known as "The Garden City" since it's founding. One of the chief characteristics of the British-based Garden City tradition is the presence of a bounding greenbelt.) This proposed expanded trail and greenbelt system is being coordinated on an inter-municipal basis between the Town of Magrath and Cardston County and is expected to be completed over the next 5 to 10 years. Brochures about the trail are available on request from the Magrath Museum and Library and the Magrath Town Office.

Galt Historic Trail, a section of the Magrath Trail





Trans Canada Trail
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TRANS CANADA TRAIL LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

BY TRANS CANADA TRAIL

In early 2012, the Trans Canada Trail team was proud to unveil its new website, which not only showcases the beauty of the Trail, but offers state-of-the-art functionalities courtesy of its mapping partner, ESRI.

The most important development is that visitors to www.tctrail.ca can now set up a free account, which gives them access to hidden goodies such as maps, events listing and pictures.

LOOKING FOR A MAP?

Click on the 'Explore the Trail' tab and you're on the Trans Canada Trail's official, interactive map. Using the Search tab in the map allows you to find your next destination. Once you've zoomed into that destination, a list of local sections of the Trail will appear – if you've logged into your Trail account, you'll not only get a description of the selected trail segment (gravel versus paved, for instance), you'll also have access to three different types of files describing the Trail. The first type is '.kml', which you can open in Google Earth. The second type is '.gpx', which gives you geocaching types some GPS data for your searches. The third type is a simple '.pdf' document of the trail segment, which will be useful to most people out there.

SHARE YOUR STORIES!

Being a member of the Trail's online community also allows you to share your events, photos and stories on the map. Make sure you're still logged in and, once you're on the map, select the Share tab. You'll only be able to share if you've zoomed into a location sufficiently. By selecting 'Place a Pin' from the Share tab, you can place a pin on the map and choose information to share with fellow community members. If you want to see others' stories, pictures and events, check off the Stories, Photos, Activities or Events boxes. (Note: if nothing shows up, that means that nothing is currently active on that Trail segment. Be brave and be the first to submit a photo!)

WALK, CYCLE OR CANOE ACROSS CANADA

The new interactive map also allows you to track your mileage! The My Trail tab in the map allows you to input the number of steps or kilometres you have walked, run, cycled, or even canoed, daily. As you input your information, you can see your progress across Canada starting in the west in Victoria. Challenge yourself – how long do you think it will take you to get across the Rockies? Challenge your friends and coworkers – who will make it to the Maritimes first?

AND SO MUCH MORE!

Keep an eye on the site and the map, because more exciting changes are afoot, particularly in regards to the 'My Trail' tab. You'll be able to create entire challenges and invite friends, family and even strangers from across the country and even the world to "walk" across Canada, or whatever distance is enticing to you. By signing up to the Trans Canada Trail's newsletter, you'll find out first! You can sign up by submitting your email address at the bottom of any page on www.tctrail.ca.

CHANGES MADE TO THE TRANS CANADA TRAIL DONOR INSCRIPTION RECOGNITION PROGRAM

BY TRANS CANADA TRAIL

The Trans Canada Trail began in 1992 as a legacy project of Canada's 125th Anniversary and has since then grown into 16,800 kilometres of 'connected' trail from coast to coast to coast. This has been accomplished through the dedication and commitment of countless volunteers, individuals, provincial and regional partners, local associations, corporations and businesses, and with support from all levels of government. As the Trans Canada Trail celebrates its 20th anniversary and forges towards its 25th year and full connection of the trail, it is transitioning from the single option of a pavilion-inscription program to a more comprehensive donor-recognition program that will include new giving societies, as well as innovative ways to use social media to thank supporters.

The new approach will ensure that the time-honoured contribution opportunities that donors value, such as In Tribute gifts, continue forming a central part of the new recognition program, all while instituting more current options such as e-cards.

Each and every contribution helps facilitate the building and promotion of the Trans Canada Trail, no matter how you choose to support it.

On a grander scale, the Trail has also introduced Chapter 150, a fundraising effort that will reach out to a cross-section of influential and visionary leaders who will help us connect the Trail and all Canadians. Each potential member is asked to make a commitment of \$500,000 or more. Chapter 150 members will be recognized and honoured in a special Sesquicentennial Trans Canada Trail pavilion.

For more information:

<http://tctrail.ca/donate/inscription-program/>

ATHABASCA LANDING TRAIL WEBSITE LAUNCHED



WWW.ATHABASCALANDINGTRAIL.COM

The progress of the Athabasca Landing Trail project can be followed online via a new website launched in January 2012. The website design reflects the historic nature of the trail, which was constructed by the Hudson's Bay Co. in 1876 to ferry people and freight from Edmonton to Athabasca during the fur trade era, the Gold Rush years and early settlement in the region. The history of this heritage trail and attractions to be found along the route are highlighted on the website.

Now officially designated as part of the Trans Canada Trail, the 150 km Athabasca Landing Trail is being redeveloped to better and more safely accommodate non-motorized recreation users, to raise public awareness of this unique recreation opportunity, and to promote tourism within the region. Details on this trail project, the Athabasca Landing Trail steering committee that guides its progress, and the work of local volunteers are also found on the site.

Projects which will get underway in 2012 include construction on three trail segments (Rochester to Tawatinaw, Athabasca to Colinton, and the Lamoureux area) and the installation of signage along the route.



Bridge construction underway.

ALBERTA TRAILNET LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

WWW.ALBERTATRILNET.COM

People who enjoy outdoor recreation and want to know more about Alberta's trails will be able to access maps and other information from Alberta TrailNet's new website, launched in March 2012.

The new website provides opportunities for trail stakeholders to expand their knowledge and access to resources. It offers something for everyone, from trail users and trail builders, to the communities, individuals and organizations that provide support for trails.

The new website, www.albertatrailnet.com, includes information about Alberta TrailNet's work to support the development of a comprehensive and sustainable recreation trail system in Alberta. One of the organization's major partnership projects is the Provincial Trail Map Project, which is creating maps of public trails for all regions of the province. The maps include tourism site information which will allow trail users to maximize their recreational experiences. Trail maps for Northeast Alberta, Northern Rockies, Grande Alberta North and Grande Alberta South are available for viewing on the website and can be obtained free of charge at Travel Alberta tourism info centres and from Alberta TrailNet.

TrailNet's website also includes a section for Trail Builders, the local and regional groups and communities that are often the actual planners, builders and stewards of specific trails. Resources include links to relevant legislation, publications such as the Alberta Recreation Corridor & Trails Classification System which provides trail building guidelines, and information on grant funding opportunities as they come available. In addition, the new site has links to the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) and other partner websites, as well as a 'For Communities' section that addresses common questions and includes active living, active transportation and youth in nature information, and links to partner programs and resources.





A scenic walk on the trail.



Trochu Centennial Trails ribbon cutting ceremony - June 28, 2012.

TROCHU CENTENNIAL TRAIL VAL WARNOCK, TROCHU TRAILS COMMITTEE

Trochu, AB, with a population of approximately 1100 folks of all ages and fitness levels, is nestled in beautiful Kneehill County along Hwy 21 south-east of Red Deer. Our active Communities in Bloom Committee had discussed the idea of a 'walking trail' for a few years, then in June 2009, applied for and were accepted as an ACE (Active, Creative, Engaged) Community - an Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) initiative. This was our catalyst! In February 2010, after several community gatherings, a very dedicated Trails Committee was struck. Working closely with the core ACE Communities Committee and Town of Trochu, including the incredibly valuable grant writer, research and development began in earnest. Neighbouring communities recently experiencing this planning process were extremely forthcoming with helpful 'trail-building tips', like having destinations, 'loops', and points of interest. A trails consultant was hired who stressed the value of including our school in the system. Collaboration with school administration and facility experts provided a welcome partner, adding critical input addressing questions and concerns at further community meetings. Coincidentally, Trochu celebrated its 100th birthday in 2011, thus enabling extra heritage grant money and providing a lasting legacy with eight beautiful heritage information trail markers as well as a ready-made name - Trochu Centennial Trail. Between the Community Incentives Program (CIP) grant and the Heritage Awareness and Legacy Funds, nearly 90% of our budgeted \$300,000 project would be covered from granting sources. In addition donations from: ACE (seed money and in-kind leadership training), corporations, local businesses, Town of Trochu (in kind trail maintenance), Kneehill County, and individuals,

all made their mark. Communication being key to success, we used local newspaper coverage, posters, personal invitations and social media to strongly encourage people to attend and support fundraising BBQs, Movie in the Park nights, and a "Walk The Walk" Trails information and all-wheels safety fair.

Our system is a closed loop, approximately 2.6 km long; its 8' width allows for easier maintenance and snow removal. It winds along the north and east periphery of town, well within the south and west boundaries, with a spur through the park. The packed clay base was laid in October 2011 with an asphalt surface applied and completed in late May 2012. Besides the heritage markers, the trail boasts a variety of thoughtfully placed durable tables, benches, refuse receptacles, and traffic safety signage.

We had projected a 'grand opening' for July 2012, achieving this by June 28th with a ribbon cutting ceremony before presenting our 3rd annual Movie in the Park. Local dignitaries including Mr. Kevin Sorenson, MP for Crowfoot, Mayor Barry Kletke, Trochu, Mayor Tim Shearlaw, Three Hills and Reeve Bob Long, Kneehill County, as well as corporate supporters, and congratulatory letters from ACE leaders, generously recognized the efforts and hard work of our local Trails Committee and volunteers. This was most gratifying and yet, the bigger satisfaction is witnessing daily, the use and enjoyment of our dream come true, as our community becomes healthier in the process.

Happy Trails from Trochu!

BASSANO HISTORIC TRAIN STATION RELOCATED TO BEISEKER

The Alberta 2005 Centennial Railway Museum Society (RMS) is that much closer to realizing its dream of having a museum building. A historic CPR train station, circa 1911, was moved from Bassano to the west side of Beiseker on July 19, 2012, onto land provided by Alberta TrailNet Society through agreement with the Museum Society. The Bassano station was built as a standard size CPR station. At some point, it was expanded to 162 feet long (20 feet wide) and is one of the largest wooden CPR stations in Western Canada. The station will join other artifacts such as old railway cars obtained from the Canadian Pacific Railway and other sources.

Fred Walters, Beiseker councillor, longtime resident of Beiseker, and member of RMS indicated that the restoration of the future museum will cost approximately \$200,000. The Society will be constructing a 300 foot platform that will be attached to the station as well as laying rail ties to mimic what the station looked like about 100 years ago. The basement foundation has been constructed, but it will be some months before the railway station museum is moved onto the foundation. Restoration of the building's roof will occur in the near future.

Mammoet Movers oversaw the relocation of the building with a crew of seven. The move cost approximately \$400,000 which came from government grants and community fundraising. Once the building arrived in Beiseker, Mammoet measured and set up steel barrels to support the building in its temporary location. According to Walters, the successful move followed

three or four previous attempts to move the train station which had to be postponed due to permitting and equipment problems.

The railway station move garnered a lot of attention from the media including CBC, Global Television and Discovery Channel who will feature a story in a future episode of Daily Planet. Walter's wife Marion says she is proud of her husband's involvement in bringing the railway station to Beiseker. "He has worked very hard to bring it here and he had a lot of support from the community," said Marion of her husband of 53 years. "I'm so thankful that it's here and he can say 'it's done.' He is 75 years old and this is keeping him young."

The station move even brought a few new residents to Beiseker. A family of stow away kittens found new homes upon the station's arrival to the community.

Source: Rocky View Weekly, Tuesday, July 14, 2012



Mammoet Movers - Smiles all around for a job well done!



The station arrives at its new home at the Beiseker Railway Museum station grounds.



THORSBY NETWORK OF TRAILS

BY GLENN TAYLOR

Located southeast from the intersection of Hwy 39 and 778, and only 20 minutes from the water, Thorsby, Alberta has long been known as “The Gateway to Pigeon Lake”. Over the last few years, the people of Thorsby have been working toward making it so much more. After a million dollar renovation of the Arctic Spa Rec Complex in 2010, attention was focused towards outdoor recreation. It was overwhelmingly obvious that more greenspace access was needed within the town. It was decided that the simplest way to achieve that would be through the creation of a multi-use singletrack trail network along Thorsby’s hidden gem, “Weed Creek”. The creek runs through town, and is lined with poplar and spruce groves. It was an ideal untapped resource. An initiative was started by Thorsby’s Communities in Bloom group to dedicate half of their 2011 fundraising to trail development.

The group then decided to contact Glenn Taylor, a local outdoor enthusiast, to see if he would be interested in leading the effort. He was, and ‘took’ the reigns in this endeavor. A

written proposal was generated and presented to Council and it was agreed that trail development was a worthwhile project for the town. Some trail development was started in May of this year. Through a Communities in Bloom contribution, trail building tools were purchased to get the project started. Over 2.7 km of trail have already been cut this past summer. This includes three new bridges and all necessary trail signage to aid users in navigating the trails.

As a member of Community Fit Ltd., Glenn was able to secure more funding for the 2013 trail building season, which should push the project through completion of Phase 1 (an additional 6 km). When Phase 2 is complete, the trail network will be over 10 km in length and will run from one end of town to the other, with a proposed loop along the old CPR railway.

Additional projects along the trail system are also in the works. A small “Skills Park” for future mountain bikers to hone their trail riding skills is planned as well as destination picnic areas for hikers to enjoy. Even primitive campsites (zero-impact), have been proposed by the Lion’s Club, creating an extension of the Lion’s Campgrounds’ offerings. Interpretive trail signage throughout the diverse ecology of the creek will also be developed.

The most rewarding aspect to the creation of the new trails within our town has been the response from both current users and potential users. People are outside, exercising, unwinding, and getting back to nature. Community Fit Ltd. had their third annual 5 & 10 km “Family Fun Run” through the new trails this year. Hiking and Snowshoeing groups are already in the works for Fall and Winter. A proposed Mountain Biking group will be up and going for Summer 2013. The Thorsby Schools will be able to take kids on “Nature walks” exposing them to all the beautiful flora and fauna within their own community. It seems that Thorsby is no longer just a Gateway to Pigeon Lake, but a whole lot more.

Volunteers install a bridge on the trail.

A family of cyclists enjoy a beautiful day out on the trail.



IRRICANA CENTENNIAL PARK NOW OPEN

Irricana has a new park thanks to the efforts of the Irricana Lions Club.

Irricana's Centennial Park is located on the west side of town on former Canadian Pacific Railway land. The Park currently includes a completed playground



New playground at Irricana Centennial Park.

and will eventually have trails, an interpretive kiosk, washrooms, an amphitheatre and a picnic area. The grain elevator/railroad themed playground was installed on June 22, 2012 with the assistance of over 100 volunteers, many of them provided by EnCana.

The proposed trail system will incorporate the Mel Brown Trail beginning at Pioneer Acres and will connect the west side of town to Founder's Park. The majority of the project's costs are being covered by grants from the Canadian Heritage Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage Legacy Fund and the Community Facilities Enhancement Program (CFEP).

The Lions Club is currently seeking cash and in-kind donations for further development of the park. The Club is selling bricks which feature the names of donors for \$100 each. Please contact Brian Culp at 403-369-3595 or Val Senger at 403-935-4346 if you are interested in donating to the project.

Alberta TrailNet Society provided land for the new park and playground through agreement with the Irricana Lions Club.

Source: Rocky View Weekly, March 13, 2012

IN MEMORIAM

*Linda Strong-Watson,
Premier Peter
Lougheed, and Betty
Anne Graves at the
opening of the Canmore
Trans Canada
Trail Pavilion.*



THE HONOURABLE PETER LOUGHEED

Remembering the Honourable E. Peter Lougheed for his many contributions and his dedication to the people and Province of Alberta. Premier Lougheed loved the outdoors and was a strong supporter of trails. He was also a Patron of the Trans Canada Trail for many years. Alberta TrailNet's Board and staff extends their deepest sympathies to his wife Jeanne and the entire Lougheed family.

RICK COLLIER



Rick Collier, one of Canadian mountaineering's most accomplished climbers and a dedicated supporter of environmental causes, was killed in a climbing accident on Mount Geikie in the Ramparts area of Mount Robson Provincial Park on August 15, 2012, just days before his 71st birthday. Eight years earlier he had completed his 1000th ascent.

Collier, who retired in 1996 as an English instructor at Mount Royal College (now Mount Royal University) in Calgary, was the second person to have climbed all the peaks above 11,000 feet in the Canadian Rockies, and the first to have done so

without air support. He had also climbed all the peaks in the classic 1973 edition of the standard guide to climbs in the southern Canadian Rockies, all the scrambles in Alan Kane's guidebook "Scrambles in the Canadian Rockies", and all the named summits on the continental divide between the U.S. border and Saskatchewan River Crossing. He was also active as a runner and cyclist.

Collier ran as a candidate for the Alberta New Democrats in Calgary-Glenmore in the 2012 provincial election, and also was known for his participation in environment debates and demonstrations. One of his last public appearances was in support of the Greater Bragg Creek Trails Association in its attempts to ameliorate the effects of logging on trails in the area.

Collier was the leader of the Old Goats Climbing Club, a member organization of the Alberta Hiking Association, which represents hikers on the Alberta TrailNet board.

When a large part of the mountain face he was climbing broke off while he was on it, Collier fell and hit his head on a ledge; he never regained consciousness. Two of his three fellow climbers were injured.

He leaves behind his widow, Mardy Roberts, and stepson David Roberts.

PARADOX ACCESS SOLUTIONS DONATES RIG MATS FOR TRAILS

Paradox Access Solutions, St. Albert, has generously donated a number of used rig mats to Alberta TrailNet Society for trail development purposes. Trail building can involve sometimes costly approaches to dealing with localized wet or sandy areas. Manufactured by ATR Manufacturing in Edmonton and previously used on oil leases for road and other applications, the rig mats are free of contaminants and in good condition. While the donated rig mats have outlived their usefulness for oil field use, they are still very serviceable for trail construction purposes.

Paradox Access Solutions provides industrial mats, swamp mats, rig mats, ground reinforcement, mobile shops and related services for the pipeline, utility, municipal, general construction, and the oil and gas industries in Western Canada. Industrial technologies that are being developed to address geophysical challenges and environmental impacts can provide similar benefits to trails. The donated mats are being used to stabilize trail surfaces and improve trail sustainability. The challenge for trail builders is the cost of purchasing these types of materials which is why this donation is important. TrailNet would like to recognise and thank Paradox Access Solutions on behalf of all the groups and trails that are benefitting from this donation.

The rig mats are available to interested local Alberta trail groups. Please call TrailNet at 1-877-987-2457 for more information.



Rig mats enroute for installation on Alberta's Iron Horse Trail.

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We couldn't do it without you...

Many thanks to all our members and donors who have pledged their support to Alberta TrailNet Society. Not only is your support a big boost to TrailNet financially, but your ongoing support benefits all trail enthusiasts and will help us continue to build Alberta's provincial trail network, including the Trans Canada Trail.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ Yes! I want to support
Trails so sign me up as a Member.

Name

Address

City/Town

Prov

Postal Code

Phone

Fax

E-mail

Individual Member _____ yr x \$25 \$ _____

Organization _____ yr x \$50 \$ _____

Donation (RECEIPTS ISSUED) \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make cheque payable to: Alberta TrailNet Society

☐ Yes! I want to volunteer with Alberta TrailNet or the
Trans Canada Trail.

My skills include:

