

# Alberta TrailTracker

www.albertatrailnet.com



*The Opening of the Edmonton Commonwealth Walkway with Her Honour Lois Mitchell, Patron of the Walkway, September 7, 2019.*

## EDMONTON COMMONWEALTH WALKWAY

The Edmonton Commonwealth Walkway was officially opened in September 2019. The establishment of the Edmonton Walkway was fiercely championed by Alberta Lieutenant Governor, Her Honour, the Honourable Lois E. Mitchell. Currently, the Edmonton Commonwealth Walkway is one of over 90 Commonwealth Walkways around the world, including one in Banff, but it is the first of its kind to be established in a provincial capital city in Canada.

A unique feature of the Edmonton Commonwealth Walkway is its interactivity. Lift Interactive created an app for the Walkway that allows visitors to utilize technology in order to connect to stories throughout their trip. The Walkway features 30 bronze medallions inscribed with Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II's personal monogram – approval to use the monogram was given by the Queen.



# EDMONTON COMMONWEALTH WALKWAY

Carolyn Patton, Co-Chair of the Edmonton Commonwealth Walkway Committee, said that geo-fencing technology was used to connect the medallions with specific stories. There are 4 main storyline categories on the app and on the Walkway website: Family, History, River, and Indigenous. A fifth has recently been added - Winter.

“It is a truly interactive trail, the first one like it in the world,” said Patton.

To enhance the experience of the Walkway, The Quest for the Golden Key was introduced. This quest is an interactive experience to find a virtual key through the use of clues. The key can change location at any time, ensuring the quest is an ongoing and exciting experience.

Patton said that the interactive elements of the Walkway have, “activated our River Valley through technology and by connecting physical activity to stories. You have history at your back and technology at your side.”

The idea of the Quest for the Golden Key is actually rooted in Edmonton’s history. A real golden key to the Alberta Legislature was lost in 1912 and was never found. Patton said that this story led to the creation of the quest as a search for the key to the past.

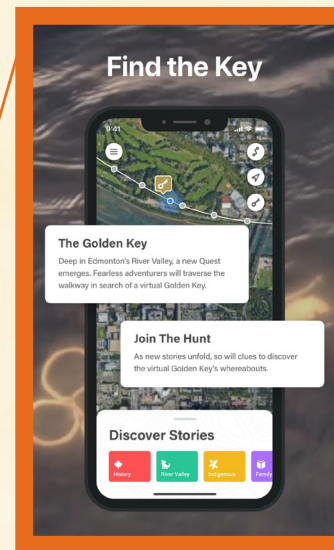
Patton advised that a good starting point for someone wanting to take a trip on the Walkway is at the parking area near the northwest end of

the Groat Road Bridge. The location is home to a dedication plaque and some helpful initial signage with information – including a QR code to download the Edmonton Commonwealth Walkway app – to help users get started. The Walkway stretches through the River Valley from the Groat Bridge River Lodge, through the Indigenous Art Park, past the John Walter Museum and Legislature, to the Funicular.

The Commonwealth Walkway Trust out of England supports all of the Commonwealth Walkways around the world. The Edmonton Walkway was funded by several donors and came to fruition thanks to these contributors as well as the work of a committee of people dedicated to the project. The Edmonton Commonwealth Walkway Committee has worked with several partners to establish, promote and maintain the path including the City of Edmonton, River Valley Alliance, Indigenous Communities of Alberta and the Edmonton Heritage Council. The walkway was also made possible thanks to its sponsors – Alberta Treasury Branch, Alberta Blue Cross, Canada Western Bank Group, Capital Power, The Mitchell Foundation, Epcor, Service Credit Union and Edmonton Tourism.

To access more information about the Edmonton Commonwealth Walkway and all of the stories associated with it, you can visit the website, <https://www.edmontoncommonwealthwalkway.com>, or download the app from the app store or Google Play. You can also access information by following @YEGWalkway on Twitter and Instagram.

*Edmonton Commonwealth Walkway app: Stories of Place & Legacy, including The Quest for the Golden Key.*



Chair, Dave Mowat & Co-Chair, Carolyn Patton hold a bronze medallions. 30 medallions are embedded in the walkway along 10km of the river valley.



Wayfinding signage along the Commonwealth Walkway with QR codes to download the walkway app and stories.

# IN MEMORIAM H. DAVID MATTHEWS A FRIEND AND LIFETIME TRAIL ADVOCATE

BY BETTY ANN GRAVES

David Matthews passed away in Calgary on June 20, 2019, at the age of 96. He was a dedicated trail advocate and one of Alberta TrailNet’s early and long-time supporters.

David was interested in the Trans Canada Trail (now The Great Trail) at the time it was first envisioned in 1992, when it was chosen as a Canada 125 Legacy Project. He held meetings at his home attended by others interested in the project, including at times Calgarian Bill Pratt, credited along with Pierre Camu as founders of the Trans Canada Trail. Everyone was enthusiastic but they were a long way from having any idea on how this project could be carried out or what the route should be.

David attended many trail conferences and TCT Pavilion events over the years. He never lost his enthusiasm and interest in this ambitious national project, collecting news of trail projects and issues and sending them to Alberta TrailNet and individuals he knew were interested. He wrote many letters and would speak to anyone he felt could help move the trail development process along. One of the last letters he wrote was in 2018 to Prime Minister Trudeau recognizing the \$30 million the Federal government had pledged to the Trail over the next five years, then asking for a much greater investment, with the Trans Canada Trail/Great Trail to be a significant part of the planned Federal Infrastructure Program.

David contacted TrailNet after receiving the Annual Report each year to congratulate us on progress and comment on trail issues. He was very pleased at the success that has been made over the years.

David had a 35 year career in the petroleum industry with Dome Petroleum, Canadian Hunter and Gulf Canada. Besides parks and pathways, he enjoyed many other sport and outdoor interests and was awarded lifetime memberships in the Calgary Rowing Club, Calgary Horticultural Society and Alberta TrailNet Society. David is survived by his beloved wife Jean and many relatives in the U.K., Sweden and Australia.

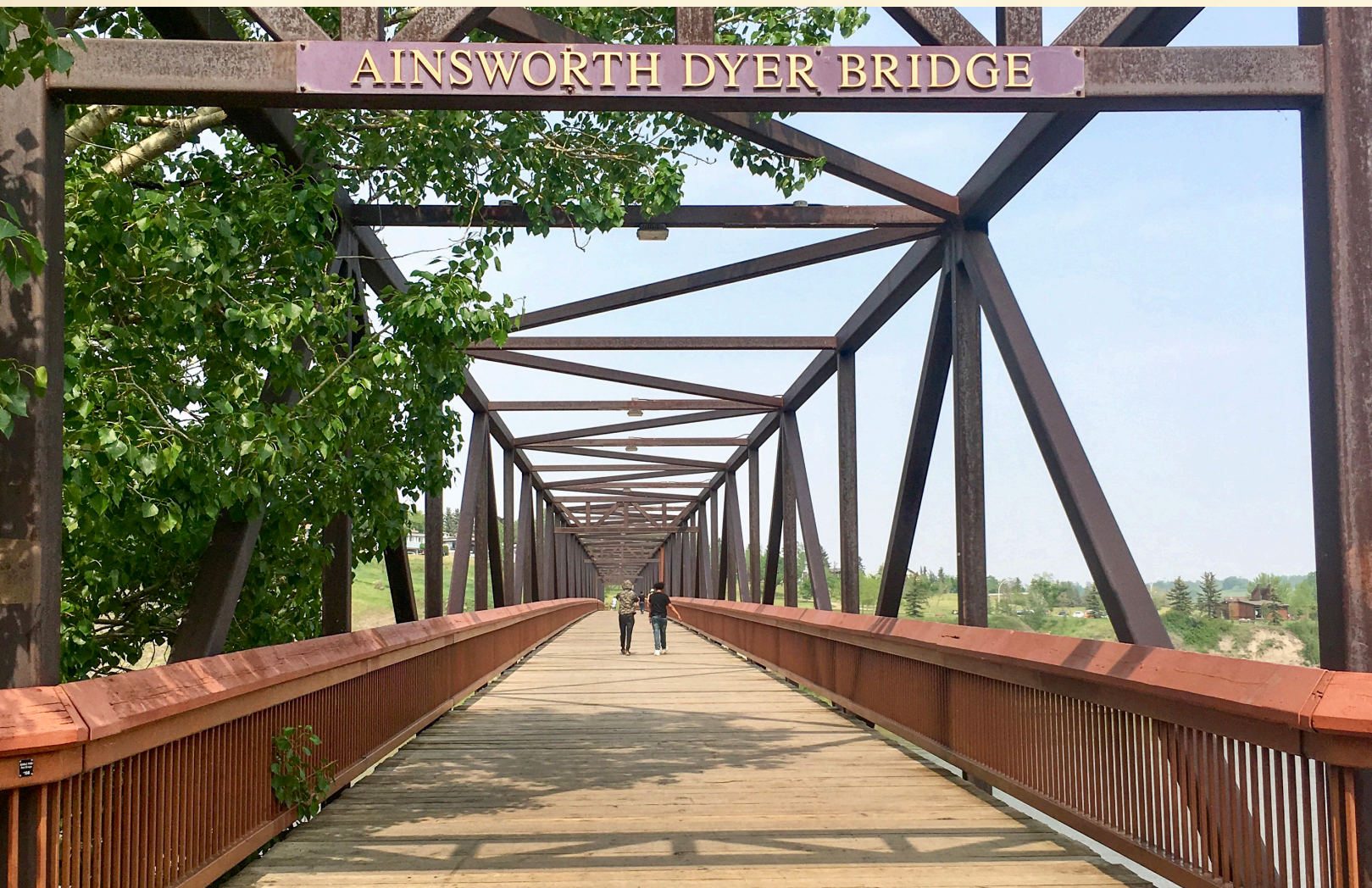


(Left to Right) Peter Barr, Betty Anne Graves, George Gordon, Jeff Gruttz, David Matthews, and Lenore Harris at the June 24, 2006 Calgary Trans Canada Trail Pavilion event.



# 100 KM IN 24 HOURS: LISA & DAN'S SUCCESSFUL THRU-HIKE ALONG THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER VALLEY

SUBMITTED BY THE RIVER VALLEY ALLIANCE



*Ainsworth Dyer Bridge: Lisa and Dan walked over 7 pedestrian bridges during their hike.*

Lisa Howatt and Dan Tyrkalo are two River Valley Alliance ambassadors who walked the entire length of the Edmonton region river valley, from Devon to Fort Saskatchewan (approx. 100 km), for International Trails Day on June 1, 2019. Here's a snapshot of how the hike went. This was written as part of a three-part blog series. To read their other blogs about why they wanted to do this hike and how they prepared, visit [rivervalley.ab.ca/news-and-events/whats-new/](https://rivervalley.ab.ca/news-and-events/whats-new/).

At 11:00 on the night of June 1, we found ourselves walking around a field in Fort Saskatchewan as a light drizzle fell, staring at the GPS app on our phone. We had reached our intended finish line at the end of the Riverside Nature Trail but we were 5 kilometres short of our 100 kilometre goal. Intently fixed on the GPS app we kept going: 96 kilometres, 97 kilometres, 98 kilometres, 99 kilometre, and finally 100 kilometres. Now, we could stop walking.

We had started at the University of Alberta Botanic Garden (formerly Devonian Botanic Garden), 23 hours earlier, with the goal of celebrating International Trails Day by thru hiking the river valley trails from Devon to Fort Saskatchewan. With headlamps on that morning, we started down the paved trails along highway 60 until they veered into a nicely treed path, leading down to Prospectors Point, which offered a scenic view of the North Saskatchewan River in the moonlight. We were then able to locate a section of single track running alongside the river, which carried us to the start of the dreaded 20 kilometre roadwork leading into the Cameron Heights Trail network.

We spent the bulk of the day wandering through Edmonton's trails, passing by many of the city's major landmarks (Talus Dome, Muttart Conservatory, Walterdale Bridge) and crossing back and forth over the North Saskatchewan via the many pedestrian bridges. We finally exited Edmonton city limits at the dinner hour via the Strathcona Science Park and crossed into Strathcona County's industrial area, where hot, dusty paths tested our tired limbs. For our final push, we hiked through the Riverside Nature Trails leading into Fort Saskatchewan, where a stunner of a sunset encouraged us to keep moving (as did the mosquitos.)

We've always considered the River Valley trails to be one of our favourite places, an oasis in the city and our lives, but during this trek we were met with the realization of the significant role the river valley has played in our lives together. Our second date was on the trails around Emily Murphy Park, we became engaged in Rundle Park, we were married in William Hawrelak Park, and celebrated our marriage at the Strathcona Science Park with a reception at the ski lodge. Without intending as much, the trails had led us through a tour of our time together.

## Did we have any surprises?

So many bridges! I don't think we had previously appreciated the number of pedestrian bridges in the river valley. During our 100 kilometres we walked over 7 pedestrian bridges, which is an amazing testament to the regional commitment to pedestrian and bike access.

## Favourite section?

The single track along the north side of the river east of highway 60 was a new trail for us and one we'll return to. It offers lots of twists and turns, ups and downs and we had a blast bobbing along it in the dark with our headlamps.

## Least favourite section?

The road walk from the end of the Devon trails into Lessard was horrible. We walked on the shoulder of secondary highways, all the



*Their dog, Nala, joined them for approximately 30 km of their hike.*

while knowing that the river valley was nearby but not yet developed with trails. Thank goodness for audiobooks!

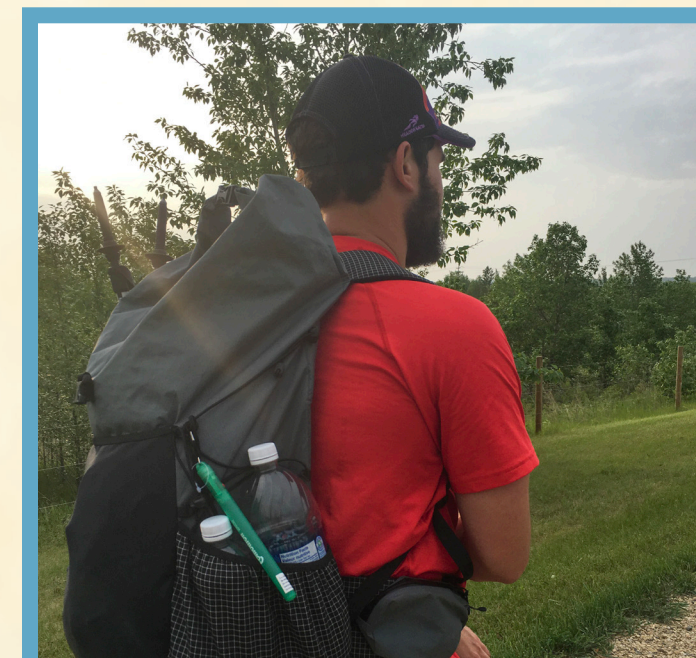
## Did it hurt?

Umm, yes. We did pretty well for the first 75 kilometres until overused feet and cramping leg muscles let themselves be heard. By the final 5 kilometres they were screaming.

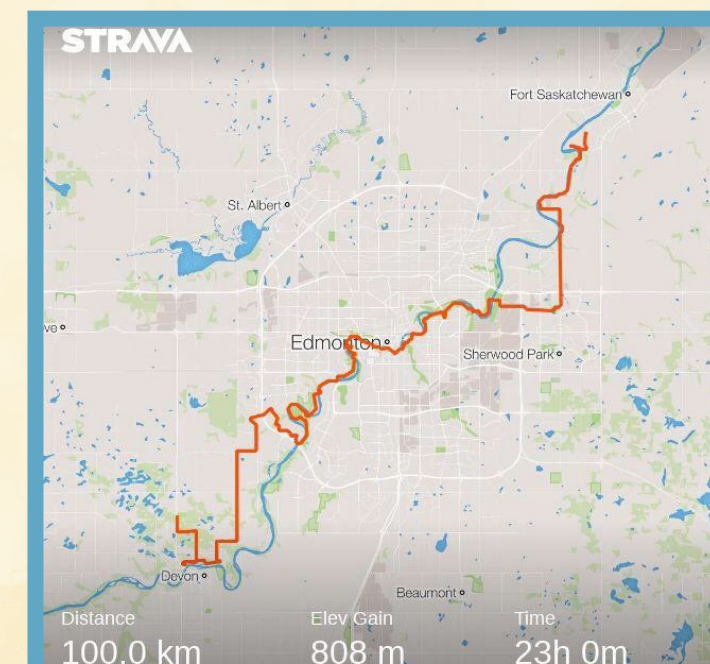
## Would we do it again?

Now that we've had a few days to recover, absolutely! Who wants to come with us next year?

Check out a detailed map of our route at <https://www.strava.com/activities/2416138967>.



*Dan Tyrkalo hiking along the North Saskatchewan River Valley.*



*Check out a detailed map of the route on [Strava](https://www.strava.com/activities/2416138967).*



# MEADOWLARK TRAIL UPDATE: 2019-12-05

BY JEANETTE RICHTER



*The opportunity was there.*

The first time I was introduced to the idea of a prairie trail between Beiseker and Irricana was at the beginning of the new year in 2009. The president of Alberta TrailNet, Ross Hayes, had called a meeting proposing the concept and the meeting hall in Beiseker was full of trail supporters and irate farmers and ranchers. As adjacent landowners, my husband and I attended. I was surprised at the heated comments about weeds, garbage, fire and criminals. I was teaching a unit on eco-tourism to my French students at the time and thought that a trail like this would fit into that theme very well. I could see the benefits this trail would bring to both our communities. “Who walks or bikes?” a hefty farmer asked. As a marathon runner, I answered that in my mind with a firm, “I would!”

Rocky View County turned down Alberta TrailNet’s initial request in 2011 to build the trail and rightly so. Who would maintain the trail? Who would act as stewards? At the time TrailNet had not identified a local partner and had no answer. Years passed and a chance comment by someone that the students residing in Irricana could ride to their home school in Beiseker made me interested once again.

A meeting with Ross Hayes where he casually mentioned that The Great Trail of Canada and Alberta TrailNet had a cool \$1.5 million for the project stunned me. I couldn’t believe it. Everything in rural communities is built and funded by the communities outright or at the least with matching grants—halls, arenas, curling rinks were all built with matching local dollars. A gift of \$1,500,000! I had to have it. And for such a noteworthy project!

Our first organizational meeting in Beiseker resulted in a room-full of outdoor enthusiasts who wanted a trail and were ready to steward it. I suggested Meadowlark Trail for a name as the bird nests in Irricana. Two years of meeting with adjacent opposing landowners to assuage their fears and with our communities to garner support followed. Working through the labyrinthine regulations of Rocky View County was a challenge but we finally received the initial go ahead from the County on Sept. 25, 2019.

The two bridges over the Rosebud River and Crossfield Creek were installed this December and the 10km of connecting trail will be rolled out next year. The dream of the Meadowlark Trail that started in 2009 has finally come true.



*Formula Alberta crew at work on 1 of 2 bridges along the Trail. (Crew: William (Bill) Kilfoil, Kyle Brown, David MacLeod, Jake Coyle, Nick Sweeting, Cory Jones, Barry McCullam, Brett Ollengberg)*

# ALBERTA LINEAR PARK SYSTEM EDBERG TO HIGHWAY 56 MEETING CREEK

BY GLENYS SMITH - CANADIAN NORTHERN SOCIETY GRASSLAND RESTORATION PROJECT MANAGER

The Canadian Northern Society and the East Central Alberta Heritage Society invite the public to reconnect with Nature and our Alberta railway and prairie history. Ian McCallum, a medical doctor and psychiatrist living in Cape Town and author of Ecological Intelligence states “I have a sense of notion that our sense of self of who we are in the world and of where we belong is intimately associated with a deep historical sense of landscape - an ancient memory of origins, of where we are, have come from and the shared survival strategies of all living things.” He also feels we have forgotten our wild heritage of where we have come from and who we are - the human animal. Wendell Berry in his book, *Our Only World*, speaks to the nature deficit within our society and the importance of reconnection with Nature.

The linear park trails located at Meeting Creek provide an excellent opportunity for the public to connect with nature. It is a haven for bird watchers and nature lovers. Public access is by foot, bicycle, horseback, or off season by cross-country skiing, snow shoeing and winter hiking. No motorized vehicles are allowed due to the sensitivity of the virgin flora and fauna. Tour the restored Canadian Northern 1913 railway station and 1917 Elevator as part of your trail experience. A map sign with directions for both trails is located in the parking lot near the east side of the railway track near the restored 1917 Pacific Grain Elevator. The trailhead for the Southeast trail begins at this spot ... historic signage can be found along the trail to the grassland which leads to the trail to highway 56. While walking through the grassland take a peaceful walk through the Labyrinth. The Northwest trail head is located on the west side of the paved road leading into Meeting Creek. Signage will guide you as to the regulations for usage. Brochures on Discovery activities along the trails can be picked up from the outdoor brochure holder by the Meeting Creek Station or can be attained ahead of time at the Canadian Northern Society web-site :<http://canadiannorthern.ca/meeting-creek-2/>

Discovery kits with hands on activities to take along on your hike and tour bookings can be booked by calling 780 672-3099 or e-mailing [canadiannorthern@telus.ca](mailto:canadiannorthern@telus.ca). Book your grade 4/5 class

*Historic signage  
along the trail.*



*A Winter Opportunity.*

for a curriculum based school program, ‘Exploring the Land and its History’ onsite at Meeting Creek, held in mid -June each year. Contact us about our kindergarten and other curriculum school programs that take place at the Camrose Heritage Railway Station. Visit <http://canadiannorthern.ca/> and click on Community education.

Extend your stay in Central Alberta by using the camping facilities at Meeting Creek, Bed & Breakfast locations, or other accommodation in the area. Explore <http://tourismcamrose.com/> and take in the many other amazing places in the City and County of Camrose. Take a walk and picnic at the Camrose County Nature Conservation Area. After your stay in the Camrose area, visit the beautiful village area of Donalda and take a walk on their trail before moving on to Stettler to ride the Alberta Prairie Steam Train where you will visit the Canadian Northern Railway Station in Big Valley as part of your tour. Take a walk around the interpretive Round House Trail and the quaint little village. We invite you to explore and enjoy the trails and other recreation and tourism facilities in our area of the province.

*Class Field Trip: Meeting Creek*





# LESSER SLAVE LAKE NORTHSHORE TRAIL: PHASE I

BY JOE MCWILLIAMS

The ultimate goal of current work by the Woods & Water Recreational Trails Association and Alberta TrailNet Society is to rebuild approximately 20 km of the historic Grouard Trail on what was the original roadbed along a portion of the north shore of Lesser Slave Lake.

The Northshore Trail section of The Great Trail saw significant development over the winter of 2018/2019. The bigger of two projects was by way of an Alberta TrailNet contract with Ruskin Construction to install four bridges and a large culvert in the first few kilometres of the trail west of Marten Beach. The contractor got a good start on it in early 2019, but was held up first by brutal cold in February and then early break-up in March. As of November, the work hadn't yet been finished, after a spring of forest fires in the area, followed by one of the wettest

summers on record (with flooding!) which made it unsuitable for heavy machinery to be on the trail.

Just before the bridge contractor first arrived on the scene, the Woods & Water Recreational Trails Association, with the help of a CFEP grant, hired a local company, Exact Oilfield Developing Inc., to install several culverts – also located in the first few kilometres of trail west of Marten Beach. If you are getting the impression that this section of the trail is very wet, you are correct! It is tough going. Before work began, the trail amounted to little more than a series of mud holes, interrupted by nearly impossible creek crossings. The result was frequent detours down to the lakeshore. Once completed, with the new bridges and the culverts (donated, by the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River), this section should be relatively dry, with

the water flowing under the trail where it should be, rather than over it and collecting on it.

The good news is that the first five kilometres of Phase I was and is the wettest, with the most stream crossings. The rest of it remains to be dealt with, but much of it is high and dry with fewer crossings.

Work on completing the bridge crossings restarted in December 2019 and has now been completed with the exception of top soiling and seeding of disturbed areas which will be completed in late spring 2020. This work will protect the streams and lake shore and facilitate future work on improving the trail surface.



*Northshore Trail inspection underway.*



*Bridge construction underway.*



*Bridge construction complete.*



*Last two bridge crossings completed winter 2020.*



# THE PEACE RIVER TRAIL

BY LYNE JEWELL, PRESIDENT, ATHABASCA RECREATIONAL TRAILS ASSOCIATION

*A Peace River Trail Experience.*



The Peace River Trail is part of the Trans Canada Trail (Great Trail) system. This historic trail route through boreal forest follows the Athabasca River, starting north of Athabasca at the Sawdy trailhead and continuing north and west to the hamlet of Smith, a distance of approximately 66 km. This remote trail is designated as a mixed use (non-motorized and motorized users) trail, providing nature appreciation opportunities and enjoyment to all who use it. When out working on or travelling the trail, we continue to meet trail users from all over the province! The trail has seen some use by horse drawn wagon trains, horseback riders, dog sleds and hikers, however the majority of trail users are ATV riders. We hope to also see more cyclists on the trail as we continue to improve the trail surface. Most users are very respectful of the outdoors and what the trail has to offer.

This trail runs through muskeg country, which presents challenges for trail construction and repairs. Unpredictable weather also poses challenges. At times it has been so dry we weren't able to work on the trail, as ATV use was banned by land managers due to the extreme fire hazard. Other times it is so wet that attempting to work on the trail would only create more issues. The last 3 or 4 years have presented higher than average rainfall. This has highlighted additional problematic

areas that were not prevalent when the trail was first upgraded. Water appears to be coming from everywhere and we've been challenged to keep up with the placement of diversion culverts or the spreading of gravel to preserve the solid trail base. ATV use of the trail during extremely wet circumstances also puts extra strain on the trail base, creating conditions for ruts to form. The need for specialized equipment and experienced operators to complete the trail work under these challenging conditions consumes a good portion of our resources. This is a spectacular and important part of Alberta's provincial trail network and there is an enormous need for government and private funding support to ensure it remains open and safe for public use. We are hoping funds will be available to support our group's hard work and trail endeavors.

Our trail group, The Athabasca Recreational Trails Association, has worked continuously over the last several years to complete numerous improvements to this great trail, however our group is aging, with almost all of us being senior citizens. We would like to encourage young people and others interested in getting involved with trail development in the Athabasca area to join our group and become more involved! You can contact us at [lnjewell@telus.net](mailto:lnjewell@telus.net).



*Trailhead signage and access control.*



*Bridge Access Control: Peace River Trail.*





# A FRESH APPROACH FOR TRAIL DEVELOPMENT IN ALBERTA

CREDIT: CENTRAL ALBERTA TOURISM ALLIANCE AND RC STRATEGIES + PERC

"This article is intended to provide a brief summary of a presentation delivered in Red Deer on March 5, 2020 on the initiative 'Our Path Forward' being planned in central Alberta by Central Alberta Tourism Alliance (CATA). Their goal - to use trails to develop tourism and thus provide a new approach to promote and develop trails in Alberta." Paul Poirier.

The Central Alberta Tourism Alliance (CATA), is undertaking an initiative called 'Our Path Forward – A Strategy to Grow Central Alberta's Trails-Based Visitor Economy', which lays out their approach to realizing the full potential of the trails-based visitor economy in central Alberta through the development of a network of signature trail experiences, and continual improvement of non-signature trails over the next 10 years.

In 2015, members of the CATA – Lacombe, Lacombe County, Olds, Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Innisfail, Blackfalds, Red Deer, Red Deer County and Clearwater County – developed and unanimously approved a regional destination management plan (DMP) – Realizing Our Potential: Central Alberta's Tourism Destination Management Plan. The plan established a shared vision for the regional tourism industry and provided a clear suite of priorities for advancing the local tourism economy. The DMP recognized the region's abundant supply of trails and the benefits associated with trails-based tourism, and signaled the opportunity and desire to enhance trails tourism throughout the region.

Though the DMP recognized the considerable supply of trails, it indicated that most of the trails are not yet market or export

ready. The DMP identified the opportunity to enhance the region's trails tourism sector through the creation of a network of signature trail experiences.

Out of this plan came the development of 'Our Path Forward', a collaborative undertaking involving trail stakeholders, tourism operators from the region, and local and provincial government experts along with the vision and guiding direction of CATA and the consulting team from RC Strategies+PERC.

Trails can serve as a strong foundation on which to strengthen and diversify our visitor economy. Destinations around the world now understand the value of trails as a highly sought-after visitor experience and the potential for trails to stimulate local economies, create jobs and improve the quality of life for local residents. The trail tourism potential is rich, but untapped. Despite the substantive and diverse supply of trails, there is great opportunity to significantly advance the benefits that can come from trails if a purposeful and coordinated approach is taken.

The recent Alberta Government February 27, 2020 budget identified a goal of increasing the total dollars generated by the tourism sector in Alberta from 8.9 billion to 20 billion annually by the year 2030. 'Our Path Forward', identifies an approach to use trail tourism as an element in achieving this ambitious target while contributing to the stimulation of local economies, creation of jobs and improvement of the quality of life for local residents. Achieving the target will require investment in and support for the development of higher yield market and export ready experiences that motivate more Albertans to travel within

Alberta as well as other domestic and international travellers. The priorities set out in 'Our Path Forward' are purposefully aligned to support the tourism industry's new target and deliver market and export ready trails that can fetch a higher yield than we have today.

This central Alberta initiative is an example for other areas in Alberta to take a new approach in utilizing trails as a means of boosting local economies through the development and enhancements of existing and planned trails.

We gratefully acknowledge Justin Ellis and Jerry Pratt for allowing us to copy from the report 'Our Path Forward – A strategy to Grow Central Alberta's Trails-Based Visitor Economy'.



Lacombe County Trail: Boardwalk.



Lacombe County Trail: Paving the trail.



Spectacular views along the proposed Rocky to Nordegg trail route.

Lacombe County Trail: Army engineers (reserve) work on Blindman River Bridge.



Trail Survey Work Underway: Celebrating the old while planning the new (Rocky to Nordegg project).





# WEST BRAGG CREEK TRAIL UPDATE: 2020-03-26

SUBMITTED BY: ERIC LLOYD, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR (VOLUNTEER), GBCTA



Fat tire biker on the trail.

The West Bragg Creek Trail, which is part of the The Great Trail of Canada in Rocky View County, links the Hamlet of Bragg Creek with the West Bragg Creek trails in Kananaskis Country. This 7.5 km gravel trail is complete, except for a pedestrian bridge over Bragg Creek near Wild Rose Close.

In 2019, the Greater Bragg Creek Trails Association (GBCTA) continued work on the pedestrian bridge component of the West Bragg Creek Trail. In-stream work was completed in late August 2019 by A M McKay Contractors Ltd., with McElhanney Ltd. handling all the technical, regulatory approval, tendering, inspection and project management work for this project. Pile installation work was unsuccessfully attempted in September 2019, however unanticipated high flow rate groundwater prevented the installation of bridge piles. McElhanney Ltd. subsequently concluded it is not possible to install piles at this location, so a new shallow foundation design has been prepared for Rocky View County approval. The plan is to complete the pedestrian bridge installation in the summer of 2020, provided sufficient funds are available for this work. Alternatively, Rocky View

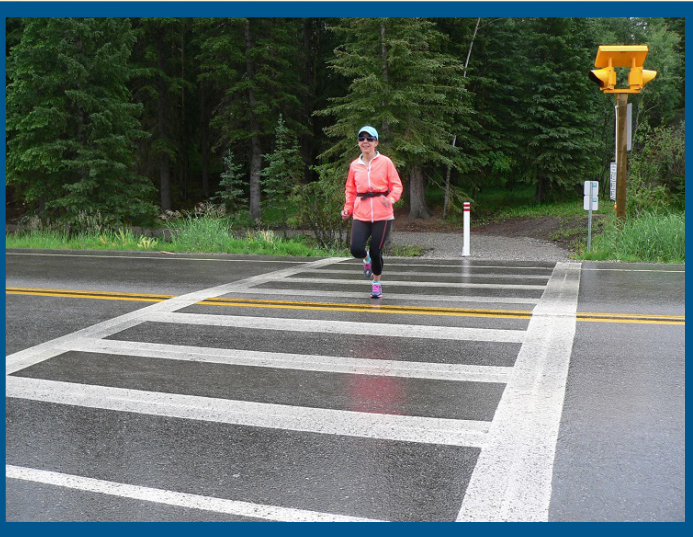
County may include a pedestrian component on their new road bridge in 2021.

The pedestrian bridge superstructure was constructed in 2018 by JimBob for the GBCTA and is in storage awaiting installation in the summer of 2020.

Strong post guard rail was previously installed for the GBCTA in the summer of 2018 by Volker Stevin, under contract to Bragg Creek Excavating, providing trail user safety adjacent to the busy WBC road. ki9

Over 6,700 people per year use the West Bragg Creek Trail based on the TCT supplied trail counter installed in the Hamlet of Bragg Creek.

We sincerely hope trail users enjoy this major new trail that helps connect our community while improving public safety and providing numerous other benefits.



Donna Sukovieff in a flashing crosswalk.



Bragg Creek Excavating racking gravel.

# IN MEMORIAM DOUG CAMPBELL 1927-2020

Doug Campbell passed away peacefully on April 4, 2020 in Cochrane at the age of 92.

Aside from a 40 year career in general insurance, Doug became a trail enthusiastic on long distance hiking trails in Britain in the early 1950's, organizing instalment-style hikes serviced by bus: a 250km loop tour of North and South Downs, and a 10 stage 200km trek replicating the journey of pilgrims between Winchester and Canterbury cathedrals.

After immigrating to Canada in 1957, Doug abandoned his research on a Toronto area trail linking conservation areas in 1962 upon hearing of the Bruce Trail initiative. He became a founding member of the Toronto Bruce Trail Club and began developing his trail building skills.

After moving to Vancouver in 1964, Doug was co-opted by the Youth Hostel Centennial Trail Committee which was researching a trail route across southern BC. Moving once again, this time to Calgary, Doug became a founding member of the (now disbanded) Chinook Trail Association.

In 1971, Doug convened a Toronto meeting of national outdoor and youth organizations to rally support for a cross Canada hiking trail that would link existing systems, parks and places of historic and natural inheritance. This resulted in the formation of the National Trail Association for which he held the position of President until the National Trail officially launched in Ottawa in 1987, and had continued on as secretary.

Doug formed Trailminders of the Bow Valley in 1992 to develop and maintain a comprehensive trail system in the Bow Valley and was President of the group until his passing. He was



Doug Campbell (right) and his wife, Mary (2nd from right) at the TCT Water Relay in 2000.

also a founding member of the Canmore Meanderthals.

In 2008, on behalf of an ad hoc group of leaders of the Alberta hiking community, Doug filed the incorporation papers for Hike Alberta – an umbrella group of hiking clubs and hikers in Alberta – later renamed the Alberta Hiking Association.

Doug received Alberta TrailNet's "Trail Blazer Award" in 1997 for his vision, dedication and many contributions to trail development in Canada. He was a great friend and trail advocate and will be celebrated by the many people who knew him. Our sincere respects and condolences to Doug's wife, children and extended family.



(Left to Right) Doug Campbell pictured with fellow Trail Blazer Award Winners, George Gordon, Norm Froom, and Rob Gardner in 2003.



This past year, two long-serving members of Alberta TrailNet's Board, Betty Anne Graves and Robert "Bob" Smith, retired from their positions on the Board. Both of these exceptional individuals dedicated over 20 years of service to TrailNet and to trail development in Alberta. In the spring of 2019, Betty Anne and Bob were each honoured with the ATN Trail Star Award for service of extraordinary length and far-reaching effect through work that resulted in permanent improvement in significant areas of ATN's mission and objectives.

Betty Anne Graves graduated from the University of Alberta, BA Fine Arts, in 1962. She received her Professional Certificate in Education in 1963 and spent several years teaching school in Calgary. Betty Anne's affinity for art and crafting then led her to become an owner and operator in a partnership with The Croft, a shop selling Canadian crafts and pottery. Her life-long love and interest in nature and experiencing it through skiing, hiking and cycling led her to become involved with Alberta TrailNet and to be captivated early on by the vision of building a national trail – 'The Great Trail' – that would join Canadians from coast to coast to coast. Her life has been full of adventures including many biking trips (Banff National Park, Jasper National Park, Gulf Islands, San Juan Islands, Molokai, France, Oregon Coast, Italy, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Kettle Valley, Denmark and Norway), hiking trips (England, Wales, Ellesmere Island and the Canadian Rockies), and kayak trips (Baja, Ellesmere Island, BC Coast, and Queen Charlottes). Betty Anne served as President of TrailNet's Board for a number of years and, prior to her retirement, held the position of Vice President of Communications on the TrailNet Board.

Bob Smith is a graduate of the University of Calgary with a Bachelor of Finance. He was a Director with Computer Modelling Group Ltd., and a Director and Treasurer of the EPCOR Centre for Performing Arts in Calgary. Bob had a 35 year career with the Royal Bank of Canada that sent him on assignments in the U.S.A., United Kingdom and Singapore. He began his long time involvement with TrailNet's Board as a member of the Fundraising Committee before moving into



*Bob Smith (left) receives Trail Star Award from President, Ross Hayes.*

his key Board role of Director and Treasurer in 1999. Bob has been instrumental in guiding the growth and role of Alberta TrailNet Society since its early inception; and managing the increasing complexity of its financial operations over the past 20 years. Bob's recreational interests include mountain biking, golf, skiing and trail development and access.

Betty Anne and Bob remain valued Friends of Alberta TrailNet Society. We wish them the very best and thank and honour them for their many years of service on the Board and their continuing support of trails in Alberta.



*Betty Anne Graves receives Trail Star Award from President, Ross Hayes.*

## TRAIL BLAZER 2019

THE WOODS AND WATER RECREATIONAL TRAILS ASSOCIATION AWARDED "THE STANLEY CUP OF TRAIL BUILDING"

The Woods and Water Recreational Trails Association was awarded the 2019 Trail Blazer Award at Alberta TrailNet's AGM in Edmonton on June 1, 2019. The Trail Blazer Award recognizes individuals and groups that have made significant contributions to trail development in Alberta. Travis DeAlexandra, Lloyd Sawatzky and Joe McWilliams accepted the award on behalf of the group. The Woods and Water Recreational Trails Association was founded in 2014 with the goal of developing and maintaining trails in the Lesser Slave Lake region as selected by the group. Its first mission has been to re-develop the Northshore Trail along a historic trail corridor on the northeast side of Lesser Slave Lake as part of the national The Great Trail system. Since the formation of the group, its members have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to planning and building the trail through remote terrain while also dealing with a number of challenges, including several brought on by Mother Nature herself.

The group has dedicated itself to developing trails in the Lesser Slave Lake region which can be enjoyed year round by many different users – hikers, cyclists, equestrians, skiers, dog sleds and motorized users. The group's members have had to work around floods, fires, and extreme winter conditions to try and maintain steady forward momentum on their projects. The group's grit and dedication to building and maintaining high quality trails for all to enjoy continues to be proven as they move forward with planning the next phases of the Northshore Trail. When complete the Northshore Trail will connect the adjoining Athabasca (Peace River Trail) and High Prairie (Grouard Peace River Trail) systems.

The Trail Blazer 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. It was presented to the Woods and Water Recreational Trails Association to keep for the year. Each award recipient also receives a unique hand carved wooden replica of the large Trail Blazer Award made by sculptor Ilb Rasmussen.

Alberta TrailNet was very pleased to welcome the Woods and Water Recreational Trails Association to the illustrious group of previous Trail Blazer Award winners.



*Travis DeAlexandra (left), Lloyd Sawatzky (centre) and Joe McWilliams accepted the Trail Blazer Award on behalf of the Woods and Water Recreational Trails Association at the Alberta TrailNet Society AGM banquet in 2019.*





**Formula  
Alberta Ltd.**  
*Bridging the Gap*

**Alberta TrailNet would like to recognize and thank Formula Alberta Ltd., builder of two bridges and a double culvert on the Meadowlark Trail project, for their fine work and donation of work, equipment and materials to allow the project to stay on budget and on schedule. This is the second trail crossing project that Formula AB has assisted us with and we are proud to have them as a partner in 'bridging the gaps' in our trail projects.**



*Meadowlark Trail*

## PHOTO CREDITS

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

**Alberta**  
Government