

Three Rivers Trail Association Newsletter

(Arm River – Qu'Appelle River – South Saskatchewan River)

Three Rivers Trail Association (TRTA), Box 367, Craik, SK, S0G 0V0.

Events & Archives: www.craik.ca/trta

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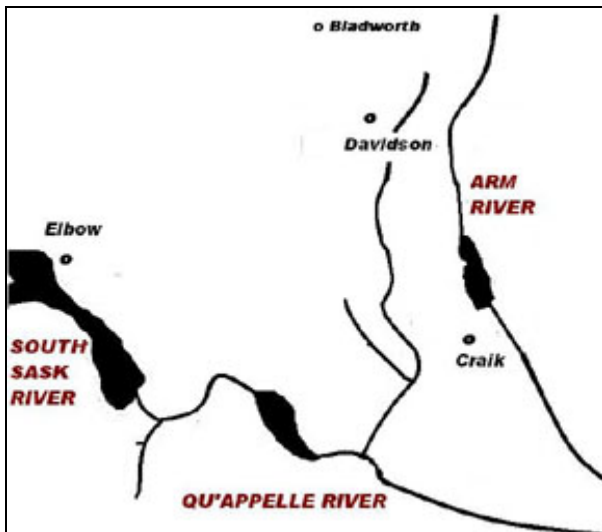
The TRTA Objectives:

- To promote the beauty of valley vistas, the prairie geography and the 'spirit' of the land;
- To give an understanding and appreciation of grassland ecology by identifying points of interests and associated trails in glacial pothole country, sand hills, wetlands, and old glacial valleys;
- To make maps showing multi-purpose trails, birding trails and heritage sites; and
- To mark hiking and equestrian trails with metal posts showing the

TRTA Logo:



The TRTA Area:



The TRTA Board of Directors:

Gloria Kadlec, Bladworth
Bob Doig, Chamberlain
Sterling Schollar, Craik
Doug McIvor, Girvin
Don Wilkins, Davidson
Ed Spratt, Davidson (Chairman)
Shirley Eade, Craik (Sec./Treasurer)

The Next Trail Ride

May 21st, 2006

Meet at Craik Regional Park

10:00 AM -- Breakfast

11:30 AM – Start

to

North End of Arm Lake

Back to Park by 4-4:30 PM

(Wagon spaces available for non-riders)

The Origin of TRTA

Organizing the Three Rivers Trail Association (TRTA) began after experiencing a successful Heritage Reunion in Yr. 2000 for the Sprattville School District. It was hosted by the Spratt Heritage Farm, which is half way between Girvin and Elbow. Many people who have come to visit the large treed yard and large old house would say "This is the middle of no-where". But really, what is it in the middle of? It is in the middle of a triangle bordered by the Qu'Appelle valley on the south, the South Sask River on the west and the Arm River Valley on the east. Or one could make a bigger triangle, from Lake Diefenbaker to Last Mountain Lake to Black Strap Lake, often called "Mid-Lakes". However, when a committee of the Midlakes Community Coalition (MLCC) met to set up a Trail Association they named it Three Rivers Trail Association (TRTA).



Spratt Heritage Farm: SW6-T25-R1-W3; house built in 1917

In 2003 the Spratt Heritage Farm celebrated its Centennial with about 150 local guests. TRTA hosted a Trail Ride. What is there to see near the Spratt Farm, the center of the TRTA area? The Iskwao Creek is to the west, the Elbow sandhills to the east, and the Qu'Appelle valley to the south. Now the Trans-Canada Trail is just 20 km away. What else is there to see and hear about? That question was set as part of the mandate of TRTA. Stories of settlement history, school districts coming and going, and general information on geography are collected on an ongoing basis and published in the TRTA Newsletter (4 per year). Currently there seems to be no end of stories and interesting places to explore. Eventually the articles will be re-published as a TRTA booklet with photos and maps.

On July 22nd there will be an Open-House at the Spratt Heritage farm, starting with a Trail Ride at 11:00 AM and a Bar-B-Q late afternoon.





Above: Qu'Appelle Valley Eyebrow Lake

TRTA Annual Meeting & Sask Trail Assoc. Presentation

On February 01 the TRTA annual meeting was held at the Craik Eco-Centre with about 20 in attendance. After opening formalities and the discussion of many possible projects; there was a motion that our first priority should be to further develop the Arm Lake trail. Currently there is a tentative trail from the Craik Park to the TRTA Birding site and on to the Wilkins Wildlife Reserve. To link the 2 sides of the Reserve and to continue the trail to the east side of the Lake, a bridge will be needed to cross the Arm River. A committee was struck to attain permission from the RM of Arm River to build a trail bridge on their road allowance and to research the cost of various building materials. Further, the TRTA Board of Directors was given a mandate to carry on as we have been. A date for the next trail ride was set – May 21 (long weekend) from the Craik Park to Wilkins Reserve.

The president of the Saskatchewan Trail Association (STA), Greg Swanson, explained to the group that STA has taken over from Sask Parks & Recreation Association (SPRA) the mandate to promote and develop recreational trails. This includes completing the Trans-Canada Trail by 2010, whether it is registered or tentative. The Trans-Canada Trail Foundation has financed the position of CEO for STA, Jo-An Carignan-Vallee, who lives in Assiniboia, SK. For more information look up www.sasktrails.ca Curt Schroeder of STA showed some slides of picturesque TC trails going through beautiful landscapes. He also gave this list of benefits of recreational trails:

Better health is the most obvious benefit – trail systems support an active lifestyle. According to the U. S. department of Health and Human Services Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, physical activity helps prevent heart disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, obesity, colon cancer and depression. Trails promote physical activity and are an inexpensive way for people to become active.

Economic generators - studies have proven that trails can be economic generators. Trails attract tourists and increased tourism creates jobs. A study done by the Ontario Trail Council, estimates that their provincial trails contribute approximately 2 billion dollars a year to the Ontario economy.

Strong people build strong communities - Volunteer groups committed to enhancing their communities build most rural trails. Urban and rural trails afford trail users the opportunity to visit and experience varied landscapes such as forests, wetlands. Many trails pass through historic sites offering the user a cultural and healthy experience.

Educational benefits – trails give students access to nature, many of the trails in Saskatchewan are along historic routes and connect historical sites. Trails can be used as resources for museums and interpretive centre. Trails afford trail users the opportunity to visit and experience varied landscapes, such as forests, wetlands. Many trails pass through historic sites offering the user a cultural and healthy experience.

Ecological benefits – trails can serve as buffers around wetlands and watersheds, provide access to rivers and lakes and with increased active transportation there will be a reduction in the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Congratulations to Town of Davidson, Village of Tugaskie, RM of Huron, Village of Elbow, Town of Outlook and RM of Arm River

Some progressive people in our region are joining the national trend of building more recreational trails. The Town of Davidson (Communities in Bloom Committee) and the Village of Tugaskie took the initiative to develop a walking trail around town. Recently the Village of Tugaskie and the RM of Huron registered a trail with the Trans-Canada Trail Foundation to connect Tugaskie with the TCT that goes through Douglas Park, village of Elbow, Danielson Park and on to Outlook. The work that Clayton Cave, Mayor of Tugaskie and Adrian Bachoschi, STA Director did with the RM of Huron needs to be recognized. They are now working to link the TCT from Tugaskie to Moose Jaw or Buffalo Pound. TRTA has a group considering a trail along the north side of the Qu'Appelle valley.

The RM of Arm River has taken the first step in supporting TRTA with the development of a trail around Arm Lake. They gave approval for TRTA to build a bridge across the Arm River on an unused municipal road allowance, provided TRTA can find funding.



Tour Tugaskie's treed streets & parks, note TC Trail signs



TRTA Newsletter:

You will note that this is TRTA Newsletter No.11. Initially the mailing list was not extensive as we got established into a routine of one per quarter. For those that have missed past editions, you can see them on the web (www.craik.ca/trta).