

# 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](http://www.craik.ca/trta)

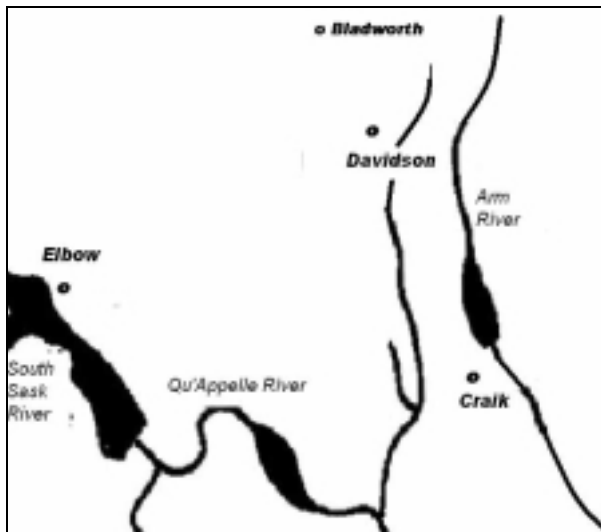
No.10, Winter 2006

## 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  
Lyle/Christine Benz, Aylesbury  
Sterling Schollar, Craik  
Doug McIvor, Girvin  
Don Wilkins, Girvin  
Ed Spratt, Davidson (Chairman)  
Shirley Eade, Craik (Sec./Treasurer)

## TRTA Newsletter

You will note that this is TRTA Newsletter No.10. 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 past issues on the web ([www.craik.ca/trta](http://www.craik.ca/trta)). Our intent is to continually have articles on the beautiful aspects of our local geography and notes on our pioneer heritage. Look up previous articles on Iskwo Creek, Arm Lake, Mistusinne, Arm River Camp of Plenty, Alexander Lake, Black & Silver Lakes, and others. Yet to come, Elbow Sand Hills, Ridge Creek, Eyebrow Lake, Sprattsville, Hustler, Rensby and other old school districts.

## The Next TRTA Meeting

**Wednesday February 01 2006**

**7:00 PM at Craik Eco-Centre**

presentation by

CEO & Executive of Sask Trail Council

**“Recreational Trails: Community Building  
plus Health & Economic Benefits”**

followed by

**TRTA Annual Meeting**

## A Successful “Opening Event”

TRTA took the responsibility of organizing an official “opening” for the Arm Lake observation platform to explain its significance to the region and to acknowledge its sponsors. On 17 October, 2005, about 20 people enjoyed the sunshine and heard short congratulation addresses from MLA Lyle Stewart, Mayor Jim Cross, and Mayor Haugerud. Barbara Hanbidge from Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) explained their outdoor school educational activities, and indicated that this Arm Lake project fits nicely into that programme. School groups will start their visits in



the spring, likely guided by Glenn Hymers. The final action at the site was “ribbon-cutting” by Don Wilkins & Peter

Farden, the two original proponents of this project. Ed Spratt was the MC. Tara DeRyk published a good report of the event in the Davidson Leader. Mid West Tractor sponsored refreshments and the meeting rooms at the Eco-Centre for a late afternoon TRTA meeting which was well attended. DUC had a display showing their work.





## A 60 Mile Trip from Buffalo Pound Lake to the Elbow, SK

Let Doug Dale of Rural Craik be your guide. He described the trip as follows: We start our trip where Sask. No. 2 Highway crosses the west end of Buffalo Pound Lake (at the causeway). On the N side, starting on the old highway, we travel parallel to the Qu'Appelle Valley for many miles never more than five miles from the valley, and sometimes descending into the valley. First the route goes through much sandy, mostly stone free country. This land is generally drought prone for grain production but is good cattle land. The Buffalo Pound area was settled in the late 1880's by ranchers, but later much of the land was homesteaded and cultivated for grain production. The cultivated land suffered much damage from wind erosion during the 1930's, and with the encouragement of the PFRA, it has become grassland again. Also, several treed shelterbelt projects were initiated (today that would be called agro-forestry). As we travel along the north side of the valley we cross some picturesque ravines that empty into the valley from the north side. The first ravine is just a few miles from our starting point. About 14 miles further on we come to the Trent Ravine where our road descends into the Qu'Appelle and then across to the west side of the ravine. Another 5 miles further and the road crosses the Squaw (Iskwao) Creek. The Creek originates



north east of the town of Davidson. We continue on the north side of the Valley until we come to Eyebrow Lake, which is situated in the Qu'Appelle Valley. There is a trail along the Qu'Appelle river channel in the bottom of the valley, which goes between the Eyebrow and Tugaske grid infrastructure.

At the Tugaske grid we switch to the south side of the Valley and continue on in a generally west and north direction. North of the village of Tugaske we cross a fairly deep ravine (Ridge Creek) that empties into the Qu'Appelle system. At a point of land where the ravine joins the Qu'Appelle one can look up and down the Qu'Appelle Valley and also see Lake Deifensbaker. Here there is a level plain just large enough to make an ideal camping site for a tribe of Indians or large hunting parties. A few miles further on we come to No. 19 Highway. We are now very close to the Qu'Appelle Dam that holds back the waters of Lake Diefensbaker. We can now travel north along No. 19 Highway to the village of Elbow.



We have just completed the shortest route between Buffalo Pound Lake and Elbow. Along the way we have seen beautiful vistas, likely made more beautiful by the sky or clouds or sunset. We have gone past stopping places like the Hustler cemetery and wildlife preserves (left). We surely should have seen lots of wildlife, birds, waterfowl, coyotes, deer, moose, etc. With lots of time, there are various interesting side trips that could be taken to see

old farmsteads and more wetlands with wildlife.

Doug Dale will be writing us Part II of this story, telling us of the settlement patterns and stories of some old farmsteads whose remnants still exist along this trail.

## Davidson Gets Backing for Recreational Trail

The Davidson "Community in Bloom" Committee obtained some funding from the Davidson "Centennial Heritage Committee" to continue working on the Davidson Walking-Biking Trail around the town. Previously they attained support from Sask Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA) and the Davidson town council. They are currently seeking development guidance from the Sask Trail Association.

The trail will start at the "Coffee Pot & Heritage Park" at the corner of Highways 11 & 44. It goes behind the Health Center and Community Skating/Curling Rink to the Rodeo Park then on to Government Rd. to the old town entrance boulevard (Hyw.44). Then the trail turns left along Railway St. past the Co-op, turning left on McGregor St. to angle back towards the "coffee pot". Happy trails!!