

# 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)

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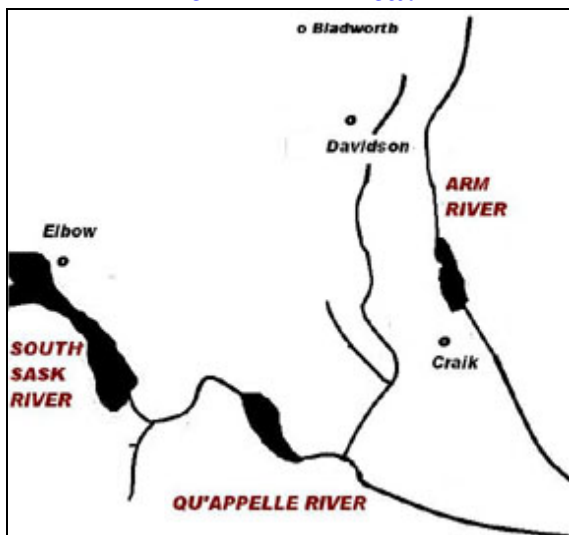
## The TRTA Objectives:

- 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:

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

## The Next Meeting of TRTA

We have invited the Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association, Chris Brewer, to address our meeting scheduled for January 9, 7 PM at the Eco-Centre. We will advertise it in the local Newspapers to get a decent turn-out from the whole district. The headline will be "Do you want to form a Snowmobile/ATV Club?" New members for TRTA from such a club would help us promote a trail around Arm Lake.

## Last TRTA Meeting

The TRTA - AGM meeting was held at the Craik Eco-Centre, on Saturday January 06, 2007. With 20 members and 2 guests attending, on this our 6<sup>th</sup> year, it was gratifying to think that we are a "sustainable" group. Note that this is our 14<sup>th</sup> published Newsletter in this format.

Regular business discussed finances, Newsletter, membership, and the continuing mandate of the Board. There was a good discussion about initiating more work on the "Arm Lake Trail" (the trail around the lake). We can say it is complete on the west side (to the Birding Site and on to Wilkins reserve), but a bridge is needed to connect to the east side. The nature, engineering and potential costs of various types of bridges were discussed and a committee was appointed to carry on the research needed to initiate construction.

The meeting concluded with a discussion lead by 2 guests from the Saskatchewan Trail Association (STA). The topic(s): (1) Do we need "A Provincial Trail Conference" to convince Governments and Sponsors of Trail Benefits (Preventative Medicine/Wellness and Tourism)? (2) How to formulate funding requests for the conference and future trail development?

[Editors note: Funding has been attained and a conference will be held in April 2008].

## Sask Trail Association (STA)

The STA annual meeting was held 22 September 2007 in Martinsville, SK. There was much optimism with the reports on the Lotteries Grant which helps pay for a new executive assistant, old reserve funds from SPRA being turned over to STA for a trail development fund, and Gov't funding for a "Trail Conference". There was a presentation from a TCTA representative offering all trail groups a reasonably priced group insurance program. There is hope that provincial governments will underwrite the broad base (first million \$ of liability) and clients will only pay for the low risk (high liabilities). A Martinsville town councilor gave us a talk about the towns development plans which have (and will continue) to include lots of trails and recreational spaces.

Curt Schroeder was re-elected president of STA and Ed Spratt was named by the Board to be the Vice-President.

## The Elbow - Craik Connection

It has been proposed to the Trans-Canada Trail Association (TCTA) that a temporary road link be officially registered to connect the Craik Regional Park to the TCT at Douglas Park & Elbow. TRTA is in the position to advocate this through STA.



Previous TRTA Newsletters have expounded on the natural assets of region between Craik and Elbow that contains sweeping vistas of glacial valleys, wild life associated with aspen pot-hole country, and the Elbow sand hills. Craik and Elbow are 70 kilometers apart and have much in common. These two towns both have a RCMP detachment, both have a single preserved grain elevator, both have an adjacent recreation park on a lake, both have a nice golf course, both have museums, and both have similar churches and rinks, and both have much more in common with all prairie towns of similar size. The only provincial road that connects them is from Girvin to Elbow but a combination of dirt/gravel country roads as proposed to the TCT as a link would be much more scenic.

Scotland and Ontario. On the other hand, land agents for American firms attracted settlers to areas south of the Qu'Appelle (Eyebrow).



**Above: The Craik Museum. Part of it was once the Sprattsville School 18 miles west of Craik.**



**Above: Two saved elevators, top is in Elbow, below in Craik.**



**Above: The Elbow Museum was once a country school too.**

The cultural aspects of the early settlement of the prairies, backed up with artifact displays, are well documented by the Western Development Museums in Saskatchewan. However, to get the region perspective (flavor) one needs to look carefully at the smaller museums. They reflect the ethnic make-up of settlement, and the artifacts reflect on their origins in the old-country (their terminology). Most settlers came to the districts north of the Qu'Appelle Valley as a result of advertisements in England,

## Spiritual Geography

TRTA has sponsored 2 meetings with 'Multi-Faith Sask'. On Sunday, July 29 (in 33 degree heat), 28 of 100 plus invitees came to the Birding Site to discuss 'Spirituality and Nature'. About 1/3 of the group were from Craik and district (TRTA) hosting about 1/3 from Saskatoon and 1/3 from Regina.

One topic of discussion was whether it would be good to have a permanent prayer site off road between Saskatoon & Regina. A committee was set to write up criteria to look at sites. On October 10, Ed Spratt and Pelican Eco-tours showed them several locations near Craik (Arm River Valley and Iskwao Creek).

Sask Multi-Faith are having a meeting at the Eco-Centre on November 10, 2007.