

# 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)

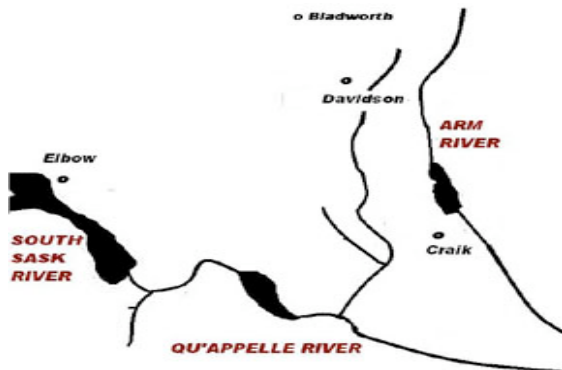
No.15, February 2009

## 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 our

## 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  
Clayton Cave, Tugaske  
Ed Spratt, Davidson (Chairman)  
Shirley Eade, Craik (Sec./Treasurer)

## The Next TRTA Meeting – Addressing our Sustainability

The next TRTA general meeting will be April 01, in Craik at the Eco-Centre at 7 PM. We will 'renew' our commitment to our original goals (opposite column) and approve new proposals. There are 2 excellent projects to consider:

- 1) Cooperation with the Trans-Canada Trail (TCT) on the links between Moose Jaw-Buffalo Pound-Craik-Tugaske-Elbow, and
- 2) Trails through Craik, to the Eco-centre, Regional Park & Arm Lake.

We need to re-focus with new members and some new board members. Due to illness, the chairman and TRTA Newsletter editor will likely resign.

## TRTA Progress (2002-2009)

TRTA was formed in 2001/2002 under the aegis of the Sask Sports and Recreation Association (SPRA), the same group that supports Provincial and Regional Parks. In 2004 the Saskatchewan Trail Association (STA) took over the responsibility of trail organization and development from SPRA. TRTA is now a member of STA, along with all other trail groups in the province. All of our TRTA activities over the years can be found in our published newsletters or on the web [www.craik.ca/trta](http://www.craik.ca/trta) or [www.sasktrails.ca/trta](http://www.sasktrails.ca/trta)

## Progress Highlights:

**Equestrian Trails:** Our first endeavors were aimed at satisfying a group of equestrian trail riders with maps of places to meet and trails to ride. We surveyed our region for scenic routes, good look-out sites meeting places and found several potential trails. Next, permission from landlords were considered and followed up. We found excellent cooperation. We made notes and maps; a trail is not complete without a map. We found out that if we send out a poster with the date, a place to meet and a description of the trail, then people with horses would



come to join us. One time there were as many as 40 horses that turned up.

**Birding Site:** On one of our trails along the west side of Arm Lake it was noted that a surveyed road allowance was not being used, and its 50 meter elevation gave a good overview of the lake and nearby bay. After checking with the Rural Municipality of Arm River and the legal owner (Bakkens) we were given permission to build a look-out on that site. A platform was built on top of an old cultivator frame (by Don Wilkins). Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) contributed the permanent signage, which shows photos and descriptions of birds that can be seen around the Birding Site. Being around a 100 meters from the lakeshore, the site makes an excellent outdoor laboratory for school visits. It also adds interest to the trail along Arm Lake.

**Spiritual Site:** In 2007 TRTA invited the Sask Multi-Faith community (from Regina & Saskatoon) to 2 meetings (July & October) to show off several potential spiritual sites near Craik. Subsequent meetings at the Eco-Centre with CSLP lead to the establishment of a Sacred Site overlooking Arm Lake near the Eco-Centre. A granite marker was unveiled on November 01, 2008, by the SK Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, Hon.C.Tell. (See photo above.) Within the TRTA region many other spiritually inspiring geographic sites remain to be designated.

**Craik on Trans-Canada Trail:** Ed Spratt is on the Board of the Sask Trails Association and thus has contact with the Trans-Canada Trail Coordinator, Jo-Ann Carignan Vallee. TCT has several gaps and they want to establish temporary links between the finished portions of the trail. One gap was between Moose Jaw and Elbow. Initially they were going to use highway #42 south of the Qu'Appelle valley, but Ed Spratt suggested they go to Buffalo Pound lake (already proposed), then on the old #2 highway to Lovering lake, then to Alexandria lake (Ayelsbury), on to Craik (plus the Eco-Centre & Regional Park), and then west to Tugaske, Douglas Park & Elbow.

The RM of Craik, the RM of Huron and the town of Craik have now signed agreements with TCT to officially make this route part of the TCT (see sketch map at [www.tctrail.ca](http://www.tctrail.ca)). Most of the trail is off the municipal Grid system. TCT will supply trail markers and the RMs & town will help install them. TRTA members will help with markers, trail information, GPS coordinates and mapping. Trails need to be developed through Craik and on to the Eco-centre and the Regional Park.

**Maps:** Several maps of trails have been published in the TRTA Newsletters and more are computer ready, ready for printing on request.

**Trail around Arm Lake:** A trail on the west side of the lake has been surveyed, mapped, and used. The trail goes north from the Eco-Centre to the Birding Site, then onward to the north through Wilkins pasture and to the Wilkins Reserve at the north end of Arm Lake. To continue on this trail, to be able to come back along the east side of the lake to the Regional Park and the Eco-Centre -- a bridge or crossing over the Arm River is needed. Don Wilkins has worked on the approach of the trail to the west side of the river. Meetings have been held with Canada Fisheries and Oceans and they are willing to give us the go-ahead as soon as we present them with definite plans (drawings) of what we plan to do. We applied to STA to get a grant for trail building (in our case, bridge building), and we were given the grant provided the project was finished over the summer of 2009. Plans are not yet fully developed and few volunteers are organized, so the grant money is in limbo.. Continuing the trail building (including bridge building) is an ongoing project that needs some enthusiastic volunteers to join in the effort; and a reason for the continuation of TRTA.

**Davidson:** TRTA encouraged 'Communities in Bloom' to proceed with its Heritage Trail around the town, by being on their board and helping in small ways. Their Heritage Trail is considered to be part of the TRTA network,

**Tours:** For local tours call Pelican Eco-Tours at Craik, (306) 734-7777.

