



SPRING NEWSLETTER

President's Report

Rob Phillips, WSRA President

As we come to another season I would like to bring the following to your attention:

Deep Sewer and Water and Infrastructure renewal

It has been over 20 years since Sewer and Water service was installed to Parcel X (the Bird Streets) and decades more since the cottage area lots were serviced as leasehold lots.

- We are all on 7 month leases within the townsite.
- We all get approximately 5.5 months use of our leaseholds
- Maintenance of an aged system is always a unpredictable to manage.

The WSRA would like to know how many leaseholders would be interested in a deep water

and sewer system that would allow 7 months access, with replacement or renewal of the existing system.

It is important that you write the WSRA an email indicating your interest. Please send an email to our email address, waskesiusra@gmail.com

Parking - Keep your rubber off the road

Parking is a premium, at times, throughout the townsite. Recently, Parks Canada, with support of the Community Council and the WSRA, has placed signage to help communicate parking time limits and locations along the main thoroughfares within the townsite.

Now the leasehold areas:

There has been a desire or request to Parks Canada over the years to address parking congestion on the Bird streets within Parcel X and other leasehold areas. The Bird streets are the most congested on weekends throughout the summer months. Essentially you are supposed to have at least two parking stalls available at all time on your leasehold for parking accommodation for yourself and visitors. As we all know this is difficult at times. People store a boat and a car on the leasehold site and therefore no room for visitors.

We practice a good neighbour policy 95% of the time without complaint, but the 5% that have undertaken creating space use for extended patios and other types of visiting areas may cause the consideration of more parking enforcement in the leasehold areas.

Boats are the low hanging fruit that people complain about most. Boats are bigger now than 10 years ago as well as the vehicles to move them around. Visitors with boats in tow should not be in the leasehold areas. If they are stopping by, then all



of the tires of the vehicle and the boat trailer must be off the road for the "short" visit. If your visitor plans to stay more than 15 minutes, then they should drop off their passengers and park their boat in the main parking area or elsewhere.

In short, within all leasehold areas please keep your (and your guests) rubber off the road.

Have a great summer

Hopefully Covid-19 is almost something of the past, but please wear your masks as required and follow provincial guidelines within the park unless otherwise communicated by Parks Canada.

Chairperson's Report

Herb Pinder Jr., WSRA Chair

The WSRA's role is to represent the interests of seasonal residents. Most often our interests are aligned with other stakeholders in our townsite and park.

We work collaboratively with other groups such as Parks Canada, the Foundation, our business sector, and especially the Waskesiu Community Council, which has true representative authority. Over the years WSRA has also been an excellent farm team providing a platform for those who move on to Council and other organizations. Notable current examples are Jim Kerby, Rob Phillips, and Jennifer Wood, all outstanding leaders committed to improving the Waskesiu "experience" for everyone.

As per the recent email, WSRA will be involved, along with other stakeholders, in the long awaited new Cottage Regulations. Other current issues include increasing visitations to support our merchants and golf course, parking, boat storage, security and so forth.

We only exist because of our members; and our influence depends upon memberships – if you are a member, thank you; and if not, please join in furthering your ownership interests and enjoyment of Waskesiu and PANP. This is an organization worth supporting and is much appreciated by our volunteer Board.



Parks Canada

A Word from the Superintendent

*Cal Martin,
Superintendent
Northern Prairies*

Welcome back!

It is a pleasure to welcome everyone back to the park for another season. It has and continues to be a challenging time in our world and I hope your time here is relaxing yet energizing. I would like to thank all of the residents, visitors and commercial operators for being diligent in respecting and adhering to provincial public health measures over the last year. Together we have done a remarkable job at limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Waskesiu and Prince Albert National Park.

Parks Canada's top priority is the health and safety of employees, residents and visitors. The past fall and winter was spent planning summer projects and operations that ensure your safety while you enjoy the wonderful amenities and experiences this amazing landscape offers.

It's important to remember that tourism still does not look the same as before, but the warm Parks Canada welcome remains. As we safely adapt to the COVID-19 situation, we ask everyone to follow the recommended guidelines, plan in advance and enjoy their well-deserved break this summer.

Have a wonderful summer!

Townsite News

Main Beach Washroom Building

Construction of the new beach house washroom building is now complete and open to the public. The new facility meets current industry standards and visitor needs. There are two buildings connected via a covered walkway. The smaller of these buildings is open year round and the larger is available spring to fall.



Electric Charge Stations

Four charging stations (2 Tesla, 2 Universal) were installed in the Waskesiu Main Beach parking lot last year. The electric vehicle charging stations are available on a first-come, first-serve basis throughout the year. Users are responsible for monitoring their charging and find another parking spot when their vehicle is fully charged. There is no fee to charge vehicles at the Tesla or J1772 charging stations.

Waskesiu Waterfront for Short-term Mooring



As you may know, the dock located at the breakwater reached the end of its life span and was removed in 2019. To improve the short-term mooring area between the breakwater and the buoyed swimming area, small docks were attached to the breakwater to enable boaters to board and disembark vessels.

These docks are intended for temporary short term mooring and have a 1 hour (60 minute) time limit. This time limit should give boaters ample time to access washrooms and other facilities they need in the townsite before heading back out onto the lake.

Update on Facilities Affected by Public Health Measures related to COVID-19

In 2020, many visitor facilities were closed in the early spring season and then opened in late June. In 2021, most facilities and services are available as they would be in any usual spring. Due to the increased cleaning protocols of all Parks Canada buildings, staff efforts are focusing on higher use facilities in the park to ensure the health and safety of employees and visitors. The Nature Centre and oTENTiks will remain closed (as they were last year) due to the number of high touch surfaces in these spaces.

Waste Collection in Waskesiu

The health and safety of the residents, commercial operators and visitors is a priority for Parks Canada. Waste collection services and facilities are provided to keep the Waskesiu community clean, free of wildlife attractants and prevent excess demand on park staff time, equipment and infrastructure.

Over the past several months Parks Canada has been working with the Waskesiu Community Council to improve the Yard Waste Directive. The revisions are intended to provide lease holders in the community with clear direction on how to properly dispose of the natural waste material they have collected on their property. The changes also streamline the collection process for park staff and address some of the issues associated with the unlawful dumping of material around garbage bins.

The 2021 Yard Waste Directive – Waskesiu Townsite is available at www.waskesiu.org.

Bag your compostable yard waste

Residents must place all yard waste in paper compostable bags designed for yard waste collection and **to leave at edge of yard for pickup**. If your property is large and you require assistance during the month of May, contact Parks Canada at pc.PANPassets.pc@canada.ca

Don't miss pick up day!

Residents are asked to time their bagged yard waste with the calendar of scheduled pickup days. A calendar is available on www.waskesiu.org or at the Townsite office.

Do not pile garbage beside neighbourhood bins

All residents and businesses are responsible for properly disposing of their waste. Deliberately abandoned waste and improper use of disposal facilities is a violation of the National Parks of Canada Garbage Regulations under the Canada National Parks Act. Violators are subject to court appearance and fines.

Help us keep your neighbourhood clean and safe by properly disposing of waste material and reporting all incidents of abandoned garbage or witnessed illegal dumping to the Townsite Manager at 306-663-4519.



The Roll-off Bin is now located at the Operations Centre

Small project construction waste disposal relocation to Operations Centre grounds

The "Roll off bin" provides residents a seasonal receptacle for small-scale construction waste. This bin is not intended for the disposal of materials from commercial properties. Absolutely no dumping of material on the ground, all materials should be placed within the bin. **The bin is now located at the Operations Centre grounds** and is

available during regular business hours. Construction and other waste must not be dumped at the Recycling Depot. Proper facilities should be used for all types of waste.

Construction waste from small projects only is allowed in the roll-off bin:

What is accepted?

- Small project construction waste such as windows and frames, deck boards, dry wall, carpet, treated and non-treated scrap wood
- Bed mattresses and household furniture (sofas, tables, chairs)

What is not accepted?

- Propane tanks, gas, fuel, oil, solvent products, paint containers (empty or with paint), fluorescent tubes and batteries
- Household appliances such as washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, stoves, microwaves and water heaters
- Electronic equipment and electric wire
- Concrete and rocks
- Dead animals
- Brush and leaves must be taken to the staging area, which is located along the Narrows cut-across road. This gravel road is just off highway #264 before you reach Waskesiu
- Refundable cans and bottles, cardboard boxes, office paper and newspapers, clean plastic containers, milk jugs, sheet

- plastic, metal – deposit these items in the appropriate recycle bins
- Household garbage – this should be bagged and placed in garbage bins
- Hazardous materials – DDT (a pesticide) or other questionable hazardous materials, please contact sanitation supervisor at: pc.PANPassets.pc@canada.ca to arrange drop off at Operations Centre.



An example of illegal dumping

It is the responsibility of the building permit holder to haul or make arrangements to have a contractor haul any large amounts of construction waste to a certified landfill site. This is specified on the building permit.

Dispose household compost in the household waste bins.

Residential and commercial composting is a simple way for communities to divert waste from landfills. Parks Canada is exploring options to provide a more efficient compost collection system for the community. The compost bin at the Recycling Depot has been dismantled and there are no facilities available to collect household compost at this time.

Fall water procedures – don't forget to disconnect!

The Fall Water Service Shut Down Directive informs lease holders of guidelines associated with protecting park and resident utility infrastructure. Parks Canada may shut down water services to areas of the Waskesiu community that are deemed

to be at risk due to cold weather. When possible, advance notification of fall water shut down will be communicated.

Residents and commercial operators are responsible for following Parks Canada's recommended procedures for disconnecting from the main water system at the end of every season.

Seasonal water disconnection procedure for residents on bird streets with water boxes:

To physically disconnect plumbing parts from the main water line:

- There is a grey, plastic union in each water box. This splits apart into two: one line leads to Parks Canada's water main while the other leads to the residence. The half that leads to the residence must be 'broken'. To do this, unscrew the nut by HAND ONLY. Once complete, the lid on the water box must be closed. Residents must follow this procedure at the end of the season.



Protect your summer residence as you would your year-round home – install a preventer valve!

Backflow preventers are required to be installed on all cabin, cottage and commercial buildings in Waskesiu by July 1, 2022. Leaseholders who do not have a backflow preventer installed by July 1, 2022, will not be compensated by Parks Canada for any damages relating to sewer back-ups after that date. Leaseholders are strongly encouraged to carry sewer back-up insurance for their properties (the

same as you would carry for your year-round or primary residence).

A plumbing permit to have a back flow preventer valve installed is required. This can be obtained from the Townsite office. The cost of the permit is waived between until July 1, 2022, the deadline for having the valve installed. A journeyman plumber is required to sign off the installation. Parks Canada is unable to fulfill this role.

Wildfire Reduction News

Parks Canada takes wildfire seriously and is taking preventive measures to reduce the risk of potential wildfires to Waskesiu and neighbouring communities. The continued development of a strong wildfire risk reduction strategy with its supporting projects is essential to ensure public safety, enhance visitor experience, and protect natural and cultural resources.

Wildfire risk reduction operations occurred in select areas of Waskesiu this winter. Mature spruce trees and underbrush were thinned from Poplar Drive to the Waskesiu Golf Course maintenance road and 10th hole to reduce the risk of property damage from potential wildfires. Chainsaws and other hand tools were used around the Operations Building to prune trees and remove undergrowth that reduces the effectiveness of the Waskesiu community fuel break. Future plans for wildfire risk reduction operations include continued focus on high priority areas in and around the Waskesiu Golf Course and maintenance of the Waskesiu Community Fuel Break.

Help protect Waskesiu from Wildfire – FireSmart

FireSmart is a nationwide program designed by firefighting agencies to help protect people, infrastructure and surrounding lands from wildfire. Be proactive, be practical, and be FireSmart!

- Remove piles of sticks, dry leaves and fallen trees around your home
- Clear gutters, eaves and vents
- Keep windows clear
- Trim trees
- Keep porch and decks clear or screened
- Screen or seal all soffits

- Take care of your lawn; keep sprinklers handy

Conservation News

We all have a role to play in keeping wildlife wild. Parks Canada monitors wildlife activity closely and takes a wide range of actions to ensure both people and wildlife can safely share these special places. Efforts are focused on educating the public about protecting wildlife and staying safe, making sure that individuals follow rules and regulations, and enforcing the laws that protect wildlife and the ecological integrity of our places, and ensure resident and visitor safety.

Remember, human food kills wildlife:

- Feeding wildlife is against the law. Never leave food or scented items unattended for even a minute. Safely store all items with a scent in your residence or vehicle.
- It is illegal to feed, entice or disturb any wildlife. Violators may be charged under the Canada National Parks Act and could pay fines up to \$25,000.

And don't forget to keep your pet on a leash!

Keep bears out of your neighborhood

Prince Albert National Park has a healthy bear population and the chances of human interaction with bears is possible. Black bears are intelligent and curious animals that learn quickly. If they receive a reward in the form of human food, pet food, garbage, barbecue grease, dish soap, toothpaste – anything that has a scent or flavour – they are more likely to return again and again looking for that easy meal.

To ensure a safe and fun summer season, Parks Canada would like to remind residents to exercise caution and follow the guidelines and laws therefore protecting themselves and the wildlife they may encounter.

To reduce bear attractants at your residence, please:

1. Place all garbage and recycling into appropriate bear-proof containers.

2. Clean your BBQs as soon as they are cool, and remove and clean out the grease trap/pan.
3. Do not feed birds, squirrels or other wildlife. Food for small animals is food for large ones.
4. Do not erect a bird feeder at your residence.

With your help we can take this time to keep bears wild, and even "untrain" some bears who may have learned some bad habits last year.

Sturgeon River Plains Bison Herd

The Sturgeon River plains bison herd is one of the few free-ranging bison populations in North America. The herd roams within its historic territory, including areas of Prince Albert National Park. From 2006 to 2008, the Sturgeon River herd was determined to be over 450 animals. Today, the herd is estimated at 120 animals - less than a quarter of the population in the 2000s. An increased number of juveniles in the herd is a promising sign of herd renewal.

Parks Canada is committed to the stewardship of the Sturgeon River herd, and is working with partners to reverse the declining trend and conserve the bison. Annual wildlife surveys conducted in the park during the month of February counted 91 bison, the highest number observed in three years. Aerial surveys are conducted to determine the maximum count of a population. Each year, a portion of the herd remains undetected from the air, since the Sturgeon River herd is very wary of people, noise and disturbance, and due to the rugged forested nature of their range. Parks Canada is moving toward increasing on-the-ground monitoring and low stress methods to help monitor the size and health of the herd. On-the-ground monitoring creates more confidence in population size and demographic, including age and sex, and lessens the impact on the reduced herd. Fecal samples were also collected for genetic material to determine herd diversity.



Joanna Watson, Resource Management Officer with bison collar

Lake trout population decline in Kingsmere Lake

Parks Canada takes its mandate to protect the health of the environment seriously. We use a system-wide monitoring and reporting program, consisting of more than 700 independent scientific measures that help assess the health of the ecosystem, and guide parks in making decisions or taking actions that support conservation.

According to present information, population assessment results over the last three years indicate a 45% decline in the lake trout population in Kingsmere Lake. More information is needed to determine the condition of the lake trout population. To ensure healthy aquatic environments and high quality fishing experiences, more research is underway and your help is needed.

Your experiences and opinions are important to us. We want to hear from partners, stakeholders and members of the public regarding the decline of the

lake trout population in Kingsmere Lake. Your feedback helps Parks Canada make informed decisions about the health of the environment and high quality fishing experience in the park.

For more information on this engagement project, and to provide feedback or learn more about the topic, please contact us at pc.panptrout.pc@canada.ca.

Don't forget to return trout endorsement cards and tags!

Anyone fishing for lake trout in the park must acquire an endorsement card and numbered tag in addition to a national park fishing licence. When you return your completed endorsement cards or unused tags to the Visitor Centre or a collection box at the fish shacks, this data is analyzed and provides estimates of the total fish harvest for the season and potential impact on the population.



Heather Mariash, Aquatic Ecologist, speaking with anglers

Waskesiu Community Council

Jim Kerby, Chair of the Waskesiu Community Council

It is true to say that, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the past year was unlike any we have ever experienced. It is also true to say that something good always comes from facing (and overcoming) life's challenges – but to find the good you must be willing to look for it!



One of the good things we have learned is the importance of people and communities working together. In Waskesiu, a great way to do that is to support our locally-owned businesses, and the outstanding work of our non-profit organizations and their volunteers.

As Canadians, we came to better appreciate how blessed we are to have such a wonderful natural environment at our doorstep – especially places like Waskesiu - where we can be active (and safe) while enjoying the great outdoors.



Our community has persevered, and it will thrive by continuing to pursue a 'shared vision' via the "Waskesiu Vision 2028" strategic planning initiative. Council's goal - along with our valued community partners like the WSRA - is to continue to enhance the Waskesiu experience.

Do you want to help make Waskesiu even better? If so, you're in luck! This summer brings with it the regular 3-year election cycle for the Waskesiu Community Council, and all 7 Council seats are open for election. The deadline for nominations is July 3. Election forms and information are available on waskesiu.org. If you are interested, please feel free to talk with any member of Council - we will be happy to answer any questions you may have. A very special "thank you" to Waskesiu's longest serving Councillor ever, Bryan Matheson, who will be retiring this year after a remarkable run serving Waskesiu. Well done Bryan - we hope that you enjoy more golf as part of your well earned retirement!

Please stay informed about what's happening in Waskesiu by visiting waskesiu.org regularly, and be sure to hit the link to "Community News". Our website is mobile friendly – making it easy for you to take a little bit of Waskesiu with you wherever you go.

On behalf of my fellow Councillors (Rob Philips, Jennifer Wood, Bentley Crozier and Bryan Matheson), and our wonderful Administrator (Noreen Matthews), have a safe and enjoyable summer everyone. We look forward to seeing you

"out and about" in beautiful Waskesiu - "Saskatchewan's playground"!

The Waskesiu Foundation

Recreation Area Renewal

We're gearing up for the summer season by continuing with the **Waskesiu Recreation Area Renewal project**, which was a huge focus for us last year along with our project partners at the Waskesiu Recreation Association. Construction of the sport court, picnic shelter and shuffleboard are complete. We can't wait for you to experience them all!

Together we've made tremendous strides, but we're not done yet! **Benches** will be replaced, and new memorial benches will be added to the recreation site. Work continues on **refurbishing four lawn bowling rinks**. The playing area will be filled with a mix of sand & peat then seeded to grass. Irrigation will be installed to help keep the new playing surface in excellent condition.

The other half of the original lawn bowling area will feature a **brand-new beach volleyball court**. This sheltered area will be very popular with beginner and experienced volleyball players alike. Much of this **\$40,000 project** can't be seen as materials are needed underneath the court to prepare a proper playing surface with drainage tiles, fabric, retaining walls and more. Construction will begin this season with expected completion before the end of August.

Stories give us perspective and insight into the commonalities of the human experience in good times and in bad. There will come a day when we all have a few good "Covid Stories". The Museum has provided us with a few stories for this edition of our newsletter. We hope they give you a smile or perhaps spark a good story of your own:

"Mysterious charges for Cheezies on the grocery tab:

"[Our Davies family] cabin faced Manville cabins and Manville's store was just a short walk away. Grandpa had a charge account set up at the store so whenever groceries were needed, the family would just go over and sign for them. One August, he went over to square up with Manville for the groceries and he found a large number of bags of Cheesies[sic] on the tab.

When he questioned his family about the Cheesies they all denied buying them, until the clerk informed him that it was the Davies' dog that was charging the bags. My uncle Dave's dog would sit by the door patiently waiting for someone to enter the store. He would then walk in and grab the Cheesies off the shelf and exit the store; the store clerk would just mark off the bag on the Davies tab."

-Scott Matheson, "Waskesiu Memories Vol II", Dorell Taylor, Ed.

Mission Unblockable

Support the beach volleyball project today by [making a donation](#) to us at the Waskesiu Foundation or take part in our newly launched [online 50/50 raffle](#). Tickets are 1 for \$10 / 5 for \$20 / 25 for \$50. The prize is 50% of sales to a maximum prize of \$50,000. You must be in Saskatchewan at the time of purchase to participate. Visit waskesiufoundation5050.ca to purchase tickets. Eligible participants may purchase tickets over the phone from anywhere in Saskatchewan by calling us at (306) 280-5029. The draw date is September 18 at 1:00 pm. Lottery licence #RR21-0003.

Sipping Social Take-Out Edition

Save the date July 10, 2021! We've added a twist to our signature event which features fantastic food, friends and fundraising. We can't get together yet as a group, so you'll be able to experience a cozy edition of the Sipping Social with your plus one. Choose a picnic or dinner style meal for two which includes a keepsake and surprise or two. Pick your favourite spot to enjoy your scrumptious spread – Point View, Birch Bay, South Bay, Trippes Beach, Paignton Beach, the Narrows, King Island – or on the deck, boat, or around the campfire. Post your pictures to our social

channels and tag where you've been. Enter to win a fantastic prize with purchase. Partial tax receipts to be provided. Check back often at our [website](#) for further announcements and details.

Crean Collaborations

Efforts to enhance visitor safety in the Crean Channel were successful and access to the Crean Lake day use area was improved. Rocks were gently "plucked" and moved to the side of the channel in July using a mechanical rock hook on a small barge with minimal disturbance. A floating dock will be added this spring in partnership with Parks Canada, further improving the day use area which features picnic tables, fire pits, a pit toilet and multi-season camp kitchen.

We've Grown

We were delighted to welcome Maxine Beck to the Board in late November. Maxine is no stranger to the community, visiting since the 1960's and having a seasonal residence for over 20 years. Maxine's broad knowledge and skill sets are a huge asset and she's been busy working on the board governance and Sipping Social committees. Like all of our Directors, Maxine generously volunteers her time and talents. We're so grateful!



Bear's Picnic

You know how fish is often prepared on a cedar plank? A bear at South Bay has come up with its own version. Three memorial cedar benches in the area have been repeatedly chewed on, causing significant damage to the boards. Bears generally can't see very well and rely on their sense of smell. The smell of cedar is simply irresistible to this

particular bear! The three benches will be replaced this season with metal versions that are both sturdy and maintenance free. Boards will be salvaged for future repairs to other memorial benches throughout the community.

Inside Scoop

Stay in touch with all the latest happenings by subscribing to our eNews. Use our website [contact form](#) to sign up today. Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) too!

Waskesiu Recreation Association

Bonita Reilly, Manager WRA

Welcome back to Waskesiu! I am the new manager of the Waskesiu Recreation Association Inc (the "WRA"). It is a pleasure to be a part of this volunteer led, Saskatchewan non-profit organization. Our mandate is to provide, in collaboration with our community partners, quality recreation and cultural activities, social events, and recreational facilities that benefit Waskesiu visitors and residents.

Did you know?

I ask because as a new resident of Waskesiu, I had no idea that there was so much to do at Waskesiu. Of course, we have a wonderful lake and beach to enjoy along with trails and bike paths to explore but further to that, the WRA offers activities and equipment rental to keep everyone active and entertained throughout the season. Our Tennis and Pickleball courts, which you can bring your own equipment or rent are still favorites, but we have been busy adding to our offering. One of our newest additions, is the new multi-use sports court which has been completed and ready for action. We have equipment for rent to play basketball, volleyball, soccer and floor hockey. We also have a new shuffleboard court, outdoor ping pong and foosball tables, Giant Chess and Checkers games, and a brand-new Children's Ninja Park. The Gordie Howe fitness park is available for adults to use anytime of the day, and when the Recreation

Building is open, we have kettlebells, wall balls and resistance bands for use.

Fun for all ages, Little Al's nature themed mini-golf course will certainly be a favourite of everyone in the family. Learn about Waskesiu and its history as you move from hole to hole. We offer 10-hole punch cards at a discounted price so you can enjoy many rounds at Little Al's.



Want to try something different? We also have disc golf or spike ball, horseshoes or bocce. Are you in Waskesiu with a family group? Host a family baseball game, we have all the necessary equipment available for rent.

In 2021, work will continue on the new lawn bowling greens and beach volleyball area. New pathways are completed and landscaping work will continue around the recreation area.

Family and Individual Season Passes

Consider purchasing a family or individual 2021 Season or Weekly pass, buy once and enjoy all of our recreation offerings for the entire time that you are in Waskesiu.

Family Season Passes are \$250.00 and Individual Season Passes are \$150.00

Family Weekly Passes are \$100.00 and Individual Weekly Passes are \$50.00

A family is 2 adults and children under 16 in the same house **and the passes do not include play at Little Al's Mini Golf.**

Early Bird Special- purchase your Season Passes before June 20 and receive two rounds of mini-golf with the family pass and one round with the individual pass.

Planning for the Unknown

As this is being written, the WRA does not know which Saskatchewan Health Authority guidelines will still be in place for the 2021 season. Based on these guidelines, there may be limitations on certain recreation offerings and events. Events are TBD as more information is released. We have nothing formally planned at this time.

Physical distancing rules and restricting group gatherings before or after play may still be in place. Also, because of distancing measures, our mini golf may have longer wait times between groups of players.

I look forward to seeing you at Waskesiu and enjoying all the best that Waskesiu provides. Stop by the Recreation Building on Montreal Drive to see what the WRA has to offer. Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Waskesiu Recreation Association Office:
306-663-5410

Manager Mobile Number: 306-291-6273
Email: waskesiurecreation@gmail.com or wramanager21@gmail.com Facebook: Waskesiu Recreation Association
Instagram: waskesiurecreationassociation

The Waskesiu Heritage Museum

The Waskesiu Heritage Museum invites you to take a moment to look back in time using our online guide to 41 historic locations in Waskesiu. You can tour the townsite using our new brochure, map, and round signs. When you scan the QR codes on the signs with your phone, you will be taken to photos, stories, and videos about each location. If you prefer to visit from your home computer or tablet, select *Heritage Moments* from the menu on our website waskesiuheritagemuseum.org.



Also new on our website are stories about the warden service contributed by Don Sipes, son of warden Ed Sipes who worked in Prince Albert National Park from 1943 through the 1960s. Don follows his father's tradition of telling entertaining stories about the lives of wardens in the districts. They can be read on our website by choosing *Warden Stories* from the menu. Here is one of my favourites about Emmet Millard from Rabbit District. I like to call it:

Icicle or Icecycle?

While on foot patrol along Rabbit Creek, Emmet discovered the traps and snares of an illegal trapper. It was late fall, the creek was frozen over, and there was no snow. To quietly move through the frozen terrain without making noise and giving himself away was out of the question. Emmet conceived the idea that he could ride quietly down the frozen creek on one of his kids' bicycles. The plan was put in place and soon Emmett was pedalling quietly and swiftly down the ice covered creek. It was going better than even he had imagined until he rounded a bend and faced a stretch of open water. Although he could pedal along quickly, his brakes were useless on the ice. It was a cold, wet walk back to his truck.

Because of the pandemic restrictions last summer, we were not able to open as usual nor offer our usual programming and events. However, visitors are always welcome to our grounds for viewing the outdoor exhibits and enjoying a takeout coffee or picnic. The shack tent was available daily for viewing through Plexiglas in the doorway. Plans for this summer will be made according to the restrictions closer to the end of June. Please check our website for the latest decisions on events and activities. We

post regularly on social media so please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.

Whether the Museum buildings can open or our activities can happen depends on the pandemic situation. Please check our website waskesiuheritagemuseum.org for the most up-to-date information. The grounds and outside exhibits will definitely be open and available.

Another Story from the Museum:

"And, oh, those camp kitchens; places for all surrounding families to meet and become good friends. As our shack tents were so small, cold, and with leaky tarp roofs, we relied on the camp kitchens for warmth, playing board games and cards, washing diapers, feeding twelve to twenty people around roaring fires in the big stoves. Since we were on [Block] "C," three lots from the lake, the wind blew pretty strong off the water, but we would nail blankets to the end of the camp kitchen to make all cozy."

Laurence and Connie Smith were a fun loving couple – faithful shacktenters on [Block] "D". A favourite trick Laurence used to play on newcomers was to nail an electric plug on the pillar of the camp kitchen but not connected to the electrical lines. Since we had no power in our shack tents, men wanting to use their electric razors would come to the camp kitchen and plug them in to this plug – then wonder what was wrong. Laurence and all the regulars "in the know" would watch this and be well entertained. He did the same thing with a pipe and water tap stuck in the ground.

- Pat Coughlin, "Waskesiu Memories, Vol. I, Dorell Taylor, Ed.



Cowichan Sweater Mystery Solved!

The mystery of the 1958 Cowichan sweater bearing the motif of the lobstick tree, the words Waskesiu and Lobstick on the sleeves, and the date 1958 has been solved - well mostly. We still don't know who knit the sweater. But we do know the purpose and the owner of the sweater.

Through great detective work using online searching and phone calls to friends and strangers, Marg Ravis (Saskatoon) tracked down the winner of the 1958 Men's Lobstick Golf Tournament, Bob McCusker in Courtney, B.C. Bob had no recollection of the sweater but had saved clippings from the Saskatoon Star Phoenix and the Prince Albert Daily Herald reporting his own win. He mailed the clippings for the Museum. Included in one Daily Herald article was a passing mention of the Cowichan sweater. It was awarded to the golfer with the winning open score, Kelly Carin of Saskatoon, along with a trophy sponsored by the Star Phoenix. Kelly also won the R.M. Pinder Memorial Trophy for the golfer with the lowest score in the qualifying round of the Open who continues in match play until defeated. Accompanying the trophy was an "expensive movie camera". Bob McCusker defeated Kelly in the semi-finals.

Jim Sissons, a well-known Saskatchewan golfer, remembers that Kelly Carin worked for the Royalite Gas Station Company in Saskatoon and was transferred by the company to Kamloops. A search in the obituaries finds that Kelly passed away in 2010. His obituary mentions that he was an accomplished athlete in golf and curling and lists the many competitions he won. After his death the sweater was likely donated to a Kamloops second hand store where a woman purchased it for resale on eBay. The Museum curator was alerted to the listing by Peter Strawson (Waskesiu) and arranged to acquire the sweater.

The Museum Facebook post asking for help finding information about the sweater was shared 958 times and reached 90,782 people. All of the leads suggested in the comments were followed up. The Prince Albert Daily Herald ran a story about the sweater on December 8, 2020 and the Vacationland News carried a feature story in January. The author of that article, Jacquie Swiderski (Christopher Lake), grew up on a farm in the Paddockwood area that raised sheep. She attempted to find the knitter by tracing who used to purchase wool from her family's farm and known knitters in the Lakeland area.

We plan to display the Cowichan sweater in Waskesiu. Perhaps someone will see it and give us another clue to the identity of the knitter.

Special thanks to Peter, Marg, and Jacquie and everyone who shared this story or asked friends and family for information about the mystery Cowichan sweater.



The Waskesiu Lobstick Golf Course

Tyler Baker

G.M. Lobstick Golf Club Inc.

Greetings from Waskesiu Lobstick Golf Course.

Our classic Stanley Thompson designed course is cut through the majestic spruce forests of PANP. Enjoy beautiful course conditions and sighting the elk and other animals we are famous for. Tee time

bookings are on generous 10 minute intervals to ensure our patrons a nice pace of play.

Come visit Stanley's Pub & Grill in our heritage clubhouse building. Stanley's kitchen has reopened this season with a special Covid menu with offerings of your favorites and fresh baking daily. Stanley's has a relaxed deck to unwind on or its famous trophy room inside. We welcome Rob Bouchard back to head the food services. New this year, we are offering a food App to allow online takeout orders from Stanley's or to preorder your snack at our 10th hole kiosk. We have partnered with 9-eighteen for the take out and ordering app that can be used

anywhere in the Waskesiu Lake vicinity. We are also proud to announce we have a new golf app that can be used for all the latest news on the course, a GPS map, scorecard, menus and many other novelties. That can be downloaded in the App store Waskesiu Golf Lobstick.

Our Proshop offers a full selection of men's and women's golf attire, equipment and rentals. Lobstick logoed wear is extremely popular with golfers and nongolfers alike. Andrew Hnatiuk returns as our CPGA golf pro and offers lessons to everyone from beginners to skilled players.

For 2021 we are proud to open our brand new driving range with the latest mats and features for you to drop in and hit a bucket of balls.

We hope to see you out at the course this season. Please be assured that we continue to follow all Saskatchewan Health Covid Guidelines to keep everyone safe.



About the WSRA . . .

The Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association (WSRA) is a not for profit association. We work with Parks Canada, the Waskesiu Community Council and other organizations and officials within Prince Albert National Park (PANP) on matters that concern the cabin and cottage owners who are seasonal residents in the Waskesiu townsite.

Those matters include the occupancy, use, maintenance, leasing and improvement of cottages and cabins, and the areas in which they are located.

We also:

- ✓ Promote understanding and co-operation between leaseholders and others using PANP,
- ✓ Work to protect and enhance the environment, infrastructure, and recreational and cultural facilities within the Waskesiu townsite, and
- ✓ Provide a forum to discuss and share information on matters of concern to leaseholders.

The elected WSRA Board of Directors is made up of members from diverse backgrounds who represent the cabin and cottage area as equally as possible.

2021 Board of Directors

Rob Phillips (President, Governance)

Herb Pinder (Chair, Governance)

Kelly Prodanuk (Finance)

Paul Pinder (Membership)

Ron Jones (Membership)

Kathy Ponath (Communications)

Cheryl Cuelenaere (Communications, Secretary)

Jennifer Wood (Governance)

Kurt Wintermute (Governance)

Membership

Add your voice . . .

**Stay in touch through our page at
waskesiu.org ("our community" tab)
Or email us at waskesiusra@gmail.com**

In order to reduce the effort required of volunteer canvassers who go door-to-door each year collecting WSRA memberships, the membership fee structure is set up so that you save money and add convenience by renewing your membership for 5 years.

**Membership costs \$30 annually or
\$100 for a five year membership.**

Payment can be made through cheque or email transfer. We will provide you with a receipt upon request or provide you with information on your membership standing through email. When your membership expires, we will contact you about membership renewal.

There are **3 ways to renew your membership.**

1. Mail a cheque along with your information to our treasurer, Kelly Prodanuk, 204 – 140 Wall St., Saskatoon, SK, S7K 1N4.
2. Email your information along with an email transfer to waskesiusra@gmail.com.
3. Sign up and pay your dues at our annual meeting (TBA)

Please include your name, address, lake address and email address.

