



SPRING NEWSLETTER SUMMARY EDITION

Access the full newsletter with additional important news about this summer's happenings at the WSRA page on the waskesiu.org website under the "Our Community" tab or scan the QR code.



President's and Chairperson's Report

Kurt Wintermute, WSRA President, and Jennifer Wood, WSRA Chair

Welcome to another fabulous season at Waskesiu! Spring brings a sense of renewal – longer, sunnier days, warmer nights, and the forest floor coming back to life. It's the season that invites us outdoors, whether it's feeling the sand between our toes or taking a peaceful walk along the water's edge.

For seasonal residents, spring also marks the return to lake life and all the tasks that come with it – clearing soggy leaves, turning on those hard-to-reach water connections, restocking supplies for visiting family and friends, prepping the boat for its first outing, and opening cabins and cottages for the months ahead.

In this newsletter, you'll find helpful tips and updates to get you started, including spring leaves collection, waste management, tree removal, Aquatic Invasive Species prevention, watercraft certification permits, wildfire risk reduction and FireSmart initiatives, pet policies, firewood, conservation news, and more. Be sure to check out the latest updates from community organizations and Parks Canada as well.

We remain committed to focusing on what matters most to seasonal residents like you. We're excited to be nearing the final stages of updated cottage development guidelines and, alongside our community partners, will soon shift our attention to cabin development guidelines.

As the season begins, we can already imagine it all – the sizzle of the grill, the gentle rhythm of waves along the shore, the glow of a vibrant sunset, the taste of fresh-baked cinnamon buns, and the sound of laughter echoing through the air. It's the warmth of a neighbour's welcome and the soulful call of the loon that reminds us we're back where we belong.

Welcome home to Waskesiu.

Keep Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) out of PANP.

We must all work together to prevent a generational loss of beach and waterbody use. What can YOU do to help?

Remember, the ultimate goal is to prevent the establishment of AIS in the Park. Prevention is up to us: (a) as individual watercraft owners (all boats – with special attention to those with live wells and ballasts, canoes, kayaks & wind/kite boards, and stand-up paddle boards), (b) our entire community, working in partnership with Parks Canada, and (c) the Province of Saskatchewan:

1. Understand the *enormity* of this issue. Zebra and quagga mussels produce microscopic larvae by the millions. A small amount of contaminated water can destroy the ecosystem and quickly make beaches and waterbodies unusable. There is no effective remediation.
2. Take steps to prevent *catastrophic* damage to our waterbodies; the effects of invasion will last for generations.
3. Seek out *detailed AIS information* (found in the full newsletter by scanning the QR code or go to the Visitor Centre). Share your knowledge with family, friends, and Park visitors.
4. Always remember to "*Clean, Drain & Dry*" your *watercraft*. See detailed AIS information for instructions and requirements on the decontamination, cleaning and certification of your watercraft. All watercraft must have a certification permit and sticker. Significant fines can result from noncompliance.
5. Be part of the solution (not part of the problem).

Your efforts, patience and vigilance is appreciated by current and future generations of Park users. THANK YOU.

Parks Canada

Jennifer Duquette, Superintendent, Northern Prairies Field Unit

Welcome back to Prince Albert National Park for 2026. We want to begin by respectfully acknowledging that the lands and waters within Prince Albert National Park are Treaty 6 territory, and that all people here are beneficiaries of this treaty. These territories encompass the lands of the nîhithaw (Woodland Cree), nêhiyawak (Plains Cree), Dene, Dakota and the homeland of the Métis. We remain deeply grateful for their past, present, and future stewardship, and we are committed to strengthening the relationships that guide our shared path forward.

As you return for the 2026 season, we want to extend a heartfelt welcome to our seasonal residents. There is a unique magic to this time of year as the park transitions, and we look forward to seeing our community reconnect in the places we all cherish.

Reflecting on a Season of Resilience

Last year brought significant challenges, specifically the wildfire threats that impacted our region. It was an exceptional year and may have been challenging for many individuals and business owners. We want to share a sincere **thank you** for your incredible support and cooperation during that time. Your patience and adherence to safety protocols were vital as our teams worked to protect the integrity of the park and the safety of the townsite. It is a testament to the strength of this community that we can move into a new season with such a strong foundation of mutual care.

Parks Canada Priorities

Prince Albert National Park remains committed to strengthening our relationships with Indigenous Peoples and investing in critical infrastructure. We continue to support tourism in Waskesiu, highlighted by the \$2.4M project to upgrade electrical systems at the Red Deer Campground. While reservations for the peak season have been delayed, access for residents will be opening soon. For further updates, please visit our website or stop by the visitor centre.

Protecting Our Waters

Conservation remains a top priority, particularly as we work to safeguard our "intricate web of biodiversity." Please be advised that the 2025

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) protocols remain in effect for 2026 with additional measures including a visible sticker on all watercraft. We are continuing our rigorous prevention and permitting programs to keep invasive mussels out of our pristine waters. Your diligence in the "Clean, Drain, Dry" initiative is a major step towards supporting the preservation of these ecosystems for future generations.

Stay Connected

This newsletter contains essential reminders regarding townsite protocols and tips for living safely alongside the park's majestic wildlife. For the latest updates:

- **Follow us:** Facebook or X @PrinceAlbertNP
- **Visit us online:** parks.canada.ca/princealbert
- **In Person:** The Townsite Office and Visitor Centre staff are ready to assist you with any questions.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the health and vibrancy of this beautiful park. Wishing you all a safe, restful, and truly enjoyable summer!

Calendar of Events	
June 12-14	Tennis Saskatchewan Open
June 17	Yard Waste Pick-up
July 1	Canada Day Celebrations
July 4	Heritage Museum Yard Sale
July 8	Yard Waste Pick-up
July 11	Waskesiu Foundation's "Happy Hour Bingo Bash"
July 22	Yard Waste Pick-up
July 25	Waskesiu Children's Festival
Aug 2	WSRA/WCC Joint AGM, 8am Terrace Gardens
August 2	Grey Owl Howl Family Dance
August 5	Yard Waste Pick-up
August 19	Yard Waste Pick-up
August 28-30	Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival
Sept 11-13	Reel Rave Film Festival
Sept 26	Outter Limits Fun Run/Walk
Heritage Museum Bingos: July 2, 8, 15, 22, 29 and August 7, 12, 19	
* See more details for these events in the online newsletter to be found on the WSRA page on waskesiu.org under the Our Community tab.	