



**Waskesiu Community Association Inc.**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**TERRACE GARDENS**  
**July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**MEETING MINUTES**

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**2018/2019 Councilors – Waskesiu Community Council**

Jim Kerby, Chair <i>Cottage Owners Representative</i>	Bryan Matheson <i>Member at Large</i>	Rob Phillips <i>Cabin Owners Representative</i>
Nancy Wood Archer, Vice Chair <i>Commercial Lessees' Representative</i>	Bentley Crozier <i>Member at Large</i>	Jennifer Wood, Secretary Treasurer <i>Member at Large</i>
Darryl Fox <i>Permanent Residents Representative</i>		

(\*Councilors Nancy Wood Archer, Bryan Matheson and Darryl Fox were unable to attend the 2019 Council AGM.)

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Present: There were 102 members of the Waskesiu Community Association present. In addition, representing Parks Canada Agency, Acting Field Unit Superintendent, Calvert Martin, Townsite Manager, Gregg Rutten, Resource Conservation Manager, Ken Kingdon, and Ecosystem Scientist, Dustin Guedo, were also present.

Community Council Chair (2018/2019) and Chair of the 2019 Annual General Meeting – Jim Kerby

- 1. Call to Order & Welcome - Waskesiu Community Council Chair - Jim Kerby**
- 2. Adoption of the 2019 AGM Meeting Agenda**

*A motion to adopt the 2019 AGM Agenda as circulated was made by Mike Gelsing, and dully seconded.*

*Carried unanimously.*

- 3. Brief Introduction of 2018/2019 Waskesiu Community Council Members & Administrator**

My name is Jim Kerby, and I am the Chair of the Waskesiu Community Council.

The Waskesiu Community Council is formally recognized by Parks Canada Agency as the "voice of the Waskesiu community" pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding with Parks Canada Agency that was signed back in 2002.

The Waskesiu Community Council had a productive year and, once again, we were ably assisted by our Administrator – Noreen Matthews – who does a fantastic job keeping us on track. Thank you, Noreen, for everything you have done to assist Council and the community.

The Community Council is currently comprised of seven Councillors:

Rob Phillips  
Nancy Wood Archer  
Bryan Matheson  
Darryl Fox  
Jennifer Wood  
Bentley Crozier  
Jim Kerby

I would like to thank the members of Council for their work this year. There are brief Committee reports provided by each of the Committees of Council – and those reports can be found as part of the materials that you received at the door during the registration for this meeting. Those Committee reports will also be attached to the Minutes of this meeting as Appendix A.

Back in 2013 the Community Council initiated a "visioning" process. We started our work, initially, with Parks Canada Agency, and then we expanded our discussions to include all of the key Waskesiu stakeholder groups. That visioning process was called "Vision 2020 and Beyond". The purpose of "Vision 2020 and Beyond" was to collaborate on what we, as a community, wanted the Waskesiu townsite to look like, and feel like, in the year 2020 - and beyond.

Last year we gave you a detailed update on progress and status. Later today we will give you a brief update and tell you about our plans for the future of this important initiative – rebranded as "Waskesiu Vision 2028". More on that later in the agenda.

#### **4. Adoption of the 2018 Annual General Meeting Minutes**

##### **Proposed Motion:**

*"That the Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Corporation, in the form presented to this Annual General Meeting, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted."*

The foregoing Motion was moved by Mona Finlayson and seconded by Dan Boehm.

*Carried unanimously.*

**5. Financial Reporting - Councilor Jennifer Wood**

**• Presentation and Adoption of the 2018/2019 Financial Statements of the Corporation:**

**Proposed Motion:**

*“That the Financial Statements for the most recent fiscal year of the Corporation, in the form prepared by Virtus Group LLP and presented to this Annual General Meeting, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted.”*

The foregoing Motion was moved by Jane Oswald and seconded by Linda King.

*Carried unanimously.*

**• Waiver of Appointment of Auditor / Appointment of Virtus Group LLP to prepare Review Engagement Financial Statements:**

**Proposed Motion:**

*“That the Corporation dispense with the appointment of an auditor for the current fiscal year and appoint Virtus Group LLP to prepare the Corporation's financial statements for the current fiscal year on a review engagement basis, with Virtus Group LLP's remuneration to be determined by the Board of Directors of the Corporation.”*

The foregoing Motion was moved by Randy Kershaw and seconded by Herve Langois.

*Carried unanimously.*

**6. Waskesiu Community Council - Chair's Year-End Report & Community Action Plan Report Card - Waskesiu Community Council Chair - Jim Kerby**

At this point in our meeting, I am pleased to provide you with a few highlights regarding what has happened in Waskesiu since our 2018 AGM.

**Parks Canada Agency's Relationship with Council**

I would like to pass on to Parks Canada Agency – including, among others, Townsite Manager Gregg Rutten, and our former Field Unit Superintendent, David Britton, that our Council has really appreciated our working relationship. We also welcome Acting Superintendent Cal Martin to Waskesiu. We hope that you can be with us for a long time to come.

We share many common goals with Parks Canada – including enhancing the Waskesiu experience, protecting our environment, trying to keep our business community strong, and increasing visitation to the Park.

## Federal Infrastructure Funding

During the last four years our community, and PANP, have benefited from literally tens of millions of dollars in federal money spent to improve our Park and townsite infrastructure – including:

- upgrading our marina, our roads and our sewer systems;
- improvements to the townsite’s water main systems;
- repairing trails around the townsite;
- funding to pay for a new force main;
- funding to replace the large beach house at Waskesiu’s main beach with a new building (construction scheduled for this fall);
- replacing the washroom facilities in the Spruce Ridge seasonal staff trailer park (at the end of Montreal Drive);
- completing long-awaited infrastructure work on the Kingsmere road and the Kingsmere River boat launch, including the new launch area, and the new pedestrian bridge near the rail cart portage;
- much needed restoration work on Grey Owl’s cabin and the trail leading to that site.

## Other Community Accomplishments

- **SaskTel DSL High Speed internet** – 2018 / 2019 saw this important project become a reality in our community. It happened as the result of a number of groups – including the Community Council, Parks Canada, the WSRA, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Waskesiu Foundation all working together (and contributing money) to make it happen.
- **Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival** – Last August, and again this year during the weekend of August 23rd, our community will be hosting the Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival. I strongly encourage you to be part of that. The Lakeside Music Festival almost fell by the wayside this year – but thankfully that didn’t happen. Admission is free –so please support the Festival by your attendance, by inviting your friends to Waskesiu, and by agreeing to volunteer. Remember – the Vision 2020 process was - and is - far more than just building facilities and improving infrastructure. It was (and is) also about trying to bring more visitors to our Park outside of the June 15 to August 15 window.
- **Waskesiu Foundation** – Council is the sole member of the Waskesiu Foundation, which is now celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year. The Foundation has just surpassed \$3 million of funds raised for the benefit of our community. As our new Superintendent, Cal Martin indicated, it is simply impossible to spend time in this community and not see the positive impact that the Waskesiu Foundation has had on Waskesiu.
  - 2018/2019 was another successful year for the Foundation.
  - The Sipping Social was sold out in July this year and last year.
  - Summer 2018 saw the completion and grand opening of the Gordie Howe Memorial Fitness Park (with Gordie’s son Murray in attendance).
  - This spring saw the installation of new outdoor flooring that makes the fitness

- park even more user friendly. If you haven't seen it, swing by the recreation centre and have a look.
- The Foundation will be completing this fall, in conjunction with Parks Canada, a brand-new camp kitchen near the entrance to Crean Lake (where the warden's cabin used to be).
  - Welcome to new Board member Randy Boyer, and special thanks to outgoing Board member Myrna Nagy.
- **Waskesiu Recreation Area Renewal** – Little Al's Mini Golf opened on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. The project was a tremendous community success - led by the Waskesiu Foundation and the Waskesiu Recreation Association. We should all be very proud of what has already been accomplished as part of the Recreation Area Renewal "**Master Plan**".
  - **Waskesiu Recreation Association** - As of this fall, the Waskesiu Community Council will become the sole member of the Waskesiu Recreation Association ("WRA"), by agreement as among the Chamber, the WRA and the Community Council.
    - The Waskesiu Recreation Association needs volunteers and Directors. If you are interested, please see me, or any member of the WRA Board.
    - As I mentioned, there is a "**Master Plan**" for the recreation area that was prepared by Stantec back in 2016.
    - The WRA's next goal, in conjunction with the Waskesiu Foundation, is to fundraise and construct a new multi-use Sport Court.
    - From proceeds generated by mini-golf, the WRA has pledged \$30,000 towards recreation renewal – including the new Sport Court – something that was only possible because of the success of the new mini-golf facility. When work in the area is completed it will include all aspects of the Master Plan.
    - Parks Canada is dealing with environmental remediation work on site this fall, which is greatly appreciated.
  - **Vegetation Management & "Fire Smarting" the Waskesiu townsite** – the risk of losing our townsite in 2018 was very real. We encourage you to learn more about the FireSmart program and, if you are interested, we will be looking for community volunteers to help as local "champions" of the FireSmart program.
    - Parks Canada Agency held 4 meetings (regarding a proposed Vegetation Management Strategy for Waskesiu) throughout the winter months and included representatives of the Waskesiu Community Council and the Waskesiu Golf Course in their discussions. We were given opportunity to present concerns and suggestions throughout the process.
    - To date Parks Canada Agency has done work in the Waskesiu townsite to create a FireSmart demonstration area along Willow Street (next to the water treatment plant) and along the pathway towards the 15th fairway on the golf course. The trees and vegetation have been thinned to help protect infrastructure and to decrease the spread of wildfire.

- The Golf Course area within the townsite is a concern with the abundance of mature trees in an old forest. But there are many issues involved here as well.
- Other mitigation factors for protecting the townsite are also being considered by Parks Canada Agency, and we will continue discussion as we move forward.
- **Waskesiu.org** – an update of our community website, Waskesiu.org, is being funded by the five major hoteliers and the Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce via funds raised through the destination marketing levy. Council would like to thank the Chamber and the hoteliers for agreeing to apply funds in that manner for the benefit of the community. The new Waskesiu.org website should be up and running in August.
- **“Waskesiu Vision 2028”** – As I mentioned at the outset of this meeting, back in 2013 the Community Council initiated a "visioning" process.
  - We started our work, initially, with Parks Canada Agency, and then we expanded our discussions to include all of the key Waskesiu stakeholder groups. That visioning process was called “Vision 2020 and Beyond”, and the purpose was to collaborate on what we, as a community, wanted the Waskesiu townsite to look like, and feel like, in the year 2020 - and beyond. Lots has been accomplished under that process – 21 completed items as noted on this report.
  - We just want to tell you about our plans for the future of this important initiative – which has been rebranded as **“Waskesiu Vision 2028”**. Council held two (2) separate strategic planning sessions with Parks Canada Agency earlier in the year. We had planned to continue with meetings involving all of the key stakeholder groups in Waskesiu sometime in June – however, with the departure of our Superintendent we elected to wait.
  - Now that Cal Martin has been appointed as Acting Superintendent, we can keep the process going. Meetings will likely be arranged in September and – as a community – you can expect a “Community Open House” to be held in the early summer of 2020. Last time we did that over 200 members of the community attended and participated – we hope that we get that kind of support and interest again next year.

In conclusion, thank you again for being here today. We encourage you to continue to share your views with Council on how to continue to enhance the Waskesiu experience. Your dedication to Prince Albert National Park, the townsite of Waskesiu, and our community, is greatly appreciated.

## 7. Introduction of the new Acting Field Unit Superintendent Calvert Martin

- The Acting Superintendent presented his brief bio:

*“Calvert (Cal) Martin is very excited to be the Acting Field Unit Superintendent for Northern Prairies, which includes both Prince Albert National Park and Elk Island*

*National Park. He is originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba, and has worked in provincial and national parks in Manitoba, Ontario, and British Columbia. Prior to working for Parks Canada, Cal held management positions at the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre, where he oversaw all public programming, and the City of Coquitlam, where he managed an animal shelter and bylaw enforcement for the municipality. Cal is happy to be back in the prairie provinces, and is especially enjoying living in the beautiful town of Waskesiu.”*

- The Superintendent then introduced Ken Kingdon, the new Resource Conservation Officer who gave his bio and then introduced Dustin Guedo, PCA’s Ecosystem Scientist.

*Ken Kingdon has replaced Norm Stolle as Resource Conservation Manager (RCM) for the Northern Prairies Field Unit, which includes both Prince Albert National Park and Elk Island National Park. He has worked for Parks Canada for over 31 years, and most recently comes from Point Pelee National Park in southern Ontario, where he was employed in the RCM position.*

*As RCM, Ken supervises all of the biologists in Prince Albert, as well as is responsible for the Visitor Safety and Fire programs. He also works closely with the Warden Service, who are responsible for law enforcement aspects of the Park, including enforcing all wildlife regulations.*

*On a personal note, Ken and his wife Rae, who also works for Parks Canada, have 3 adult girls, and are enjoying their first year of empty nesters (for now). He has enjoyed returning to the boreal forest, and feels very at home in Waskesiu, as Rae and Ken have spent most of their working lives centered in PANP’s sister park, Riding Mountain National Park.*

- A PowerPoint presentation on the Waskesiu FireSmart program was presented by Dustin Guedo, PCA Ecosystem Scientist. A PDF version of the PowerPoint presentation can be found on [Waskesiu.org](http://Waskesiu.org) under “Community News”. At the end of his presentation, Dustin presented a copy of the FireSmart Homeowners Manual that is available to cabin and cottage owners at the Visitors Centre.
- Gregg Rutten, Townsite Manager presented the Waskesiu Townsite update report:
  1. Infrastructure Improvements
    - a. Main Beach Washroom and Shower building – contract has been awarded. Construction to begin on a new facility after Labour day weekend 2019. Detours will be put in place on the walking/biking trail in the vicinity.

- b. 4 Way Stop Flooding – Contract is out for tender for the project to mitigate the flooding and freezing that occurs at the 4 way stop. Construction to begin this fall if a successful bidder is procured.
  - c. Sandy Lake Campground Improvements – Improvements to the Sandy Lake campground will begin immediately after the Labour day weekend 2019. Improvements include enlarging sites, tree removal, new gravel pads and new fire pits and picnic tables. The entire campground and day use area will be closed to public access as of September 3, 2019.
  - d. Breakwater refurbishment – Funds have been allocated to repair and re-surface the main beach breakwater in 2020.
  - e. Visitor Centre Accessible entrance – A new entranceway including steps and accessible ramp will be constructed at the South entrance of the visitor centre. This will replace aging and sub-standard facilities that exist currently. Construction is expected to begin in September 2019.
2. Water and Sewer system condition assessment
    - a. Parks Canada has awarded a contract to have an assessment done of the water and sewer mains in Waskesiu beginning in August of 2019. This infrastructure is aging and there are concerns that runoff and groundwater is infiltrating the sewer lines, which impacts the capacity at the sewage lagoons.
  3. Water Service Shut-Down Directive
    - a. In response to the early frost in September of 2018 and the associated water line breaks in the cabin area, PCA has worked with the community Council and the Seasonal Residents association to draft the new “Water Service Shutdown Directive”. This document describes the weather conditions that will prompt PCA staff to shut off the water in the cabin area and winterize the water lines.
  4. Swales
    - a. Drainage swales in the cabin area – PCA is working with the WSRA to design a project that will improve drainage in the Waskesiu cabin area drainage swales.
  5. Parking
    - a. PCA continues to work with the WSRA to develop a parking strategy to reduce congestion in the Waskesiu Cabin Area. Such a strategy will look at potential boat parking and/or on-street vehicle parking restrictions.

## 8. Question and Answer Session

*Member Question: During the discussion regarding parking in the cabin area it was said that no wheels of vehicles were allowed to be on the asphalt but it is noted in the 2018 AGM minutes, under the Q & A's on page 9, item 5 Question: “What is the policy/regulation in regards to parking in the cabin area? Parks Canada Agency Answer: Parking on paved portions is allowed.” What is the correct answer?*

*Parks Canada Agency Answer: Parking on the paved portions is not illegal but impedes emergency vehicles should they have to come down one of the cabin area streets.*



*Member Question:* Will the new camp kitchen being constructed at Crean Lake have marine access only?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* The new camp kitchen will be located at the old Warden's cabin site and will have marine access as well as hiking and biking access in the summer and access by the ski trail in the winter.

*Member Question:* There is a possibility to bring a backhoe into the channel at Crean Lake to get rid of the big rocks, has Parks Canada considered this?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* Parks will look into this and get back to the members either through the Council or the WSRA.

*Member Question:* What is PCA doing to improve the breakwater?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* Parks current plan is to fix the concrete surface of the breakwater and they are having discussions about options to provide mooring on the breakwater to allow boaters to drop off and pick up passengers.

*Member Question:* With the large number of bicycles being ridden on the sidewalks in the townsite, could PCA put some signage on the old bike path?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* There are stencils available and they will look into using them.

*Member Question:* What is Parks doing to fix the sidewalks and uneven brickwork, this is a big safety issue?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* Some of the uneven areas have been grinded down to a more level surface.

*Member Question:* When will the main beach bathrooms be rebuilt?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* The work will begin this fall and continue throughout the winter.

*Member Question:* The pathway behind the main beach bathrooms and through the parking lot to the cabin area need improvement, it is very uneven and unsafe. Many children fall when riding or running on the pathway. Is there a plan to fix this?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* Parks is not sure if it is part of the funding for repairs.

*Member Question:* Is it correct that the cabin area is not included in the Cottage Regulation project?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* Yes, that is correct.

*Member Question:* Some cabin owners have been waiting six years to have the swales repaired behind them. When is something going to be done?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* Parks have not heard many complaints. They checked on 8 or 10 places this spring and they seem to be working well. There is no funding in place at this time for a contract to do any further work.

*Member Question:* In regards to the new regulations for cottages, are there any big changes over the next few years?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* A draft of the new Cottage Regulations is currently being written at Parks national office and it was noted that some local flexibility will be accepted.

9. **Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John Day.*

*Carried unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

# APPENDIX A

## Waskesiu Community Council 2019 Committee Reports

### **Budget & Finance Committee – Chair Darryl Fox**

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The Budget & Finance Committee held two meetings during the past year which included Parks Canada Agency representatives. The purpose of our first meeting was to implement a strategy to help new Councillors quickly get up to speed on budget and finance issues in relation to the townsite. The purpose of the second meeting (held during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May) was to receive financial information from Parks Canada Agency to review, and then make recommendations to Council, regarding the 2019/2020 utility rates for townsite water, sewer and garbage (WSG). We also emphasized Council's priorities as follows:

1. Smoothing the WSG billing where possible to avoid large fluctuations in the billings to customers.
2. Capital Cost Recovery amortization to be calculated in conjunction with the life expectancy of the assets in question.
3. Setting up a schedule for financial reporting and WSG billing approvals including:
  - a. Parks Canada Agency providing the Budget & Finance Committee with a townsite financial report, and the proposed WSG rates, by the third week of May for review and to provide time for written questions.
  - b. Formal Parks Canada Agency presentation of the financial report and the proposed WSG rates to the Budget & Finance committee during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of June.
  - c. Budget & Finance Committee to review the information during the first week in June, present a recommendation to Council, and have the WSG rates approved by the end of that week in order to move the billing forward for July 1<sup>st</sup> every year.
  - d. Documents to include in the Parks Canada Agency presentation:
    - i. Financial report for the previous fiscal year.
    - ii. Capital cost recovery as a result of previous years expenditures for approval.
    - iii. Next fiscal year's townsite budget – for information only – identify items that may impact the WSG billing for the next fiscal year.
    - iv. LTIP for the upcoming year that may impact the Capital Cost Recovery for the next fiscal year.
    - v. Major accomplishments completed from the previous year (in a separate document) as related to the townsite.

## **Business Relations Committee – Chair Darryl Fox**

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The Business Relations Committee of Council met regularly throughout the year in conjunction with Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce meetings.

We had numerous issues that we worked on during the year. Some issues were for clarification only, and some provided ongoing support for the health and success of the business community moving forward. Some examples of issues discussed include the following:

- Given the legalization of Cannabis, business owners (in particular the licensed restaurants with outdoor eating and drinking areas), received clarification on whether Cannabis is allowed to be consumed in those areas.
- It was confirmed that, as of today, the SLGA regulations are such that the Waskesiu townsite is ineligible for a Cannabis retail store.
- The majority of our time and effort in conjunction with the Chamber has been trying to find solutions to the staff housing shortage that is an ongoing concern for the Waskesiu business community.
- The Business Relations Committee (and Council as a whole) continue to work with Parks Canada Agency to alleviate the staff housing crisis and finalize a Waskesiu Staff Accommodation Strategy which would improve staff housing availability and implement guidelines for eligibility.
- At this time next year, we are hopeful that we will have guidelines in place for increased usage of the Elk Street lots for commercial operators, further clarification and timeliness of lot allocation for the Spruce Ridge Trailer Park, and further movement on the development of staff accommodation for staff on the Lobstick Golf Course.

## **Communications & Community Relations Committee – Chair Rob Phillips**

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### **Communication Vision & Mission**

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#### **Vision**

*An aware and engaged community, capable of listening, sharing ideas openly, and working collaboratively to better shape Waskesiu's future.*

#### **Mission**

To provide a framework to enhance Waskesiu's "two-way" communication capacity, improve stakeholder relationships, and deliver effective communication programs that help achieve the community's collective goals.

## **Defining Common Goals**

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**Goal One:** Support and encourage an engaged community that is aware of townsite issues and that participates in finding good public policy solutions.

**Goal Two:** Residents, visitors, businesses and all key stakeholder organizations are informed of important Waskesiu programs, activities, events, and other community initiatives.

**Goal Three:** Community Council, Parks Canada, and all other key stakeholder groups in our community communicate and function in an integrated, supporting, and cohesive way.

**Goal Four:** In a situation of emergency, residents, visitors, businesses, and key stakeholder organizations are promptly and accurately informed of such emergency.

**Goal Five:** Proactively identify emerging community issues and respond in a timely manner.

The foregoing Vision, Mission and Goals have already been approved by Council. It is the intent for our Committee (working with other Waskesiu community stakeholders) to identify the tactics and strategies that will accomplish these goals through the use of available technologies.

We are currently working to optimize our communications through the use of:

- Facebook
- [www.waskesiu.org](http://www.waskesiu.org)
- email services

Email is currently the best direct to person deliverable as an electronic solution. The obstacle that we face with email is privacy law. As time progresses, we will seek permission from our constituents to share or compile one list from other sources.

We look forward to making real progress towards achieving each of the above goals over the remainder of 2019 and into 2020.

## **Vegetation Management Committee – Chair Bryan Matheson**

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Parks Canada Agency held 4 meetings (regarding a proposed Vegetation Management Strategy for Waskesiu) throughout the winter months and included representatives of the Waskesiu Community Council and the Waskesiu Golf Course in their discussions. We were given opportunity to present concerns and suggestions throughout the process.

To date Parks Canada Agency has done work in the Waskesiu townsite to create a FireSmart demonstration area along Willow Street (next to the water treatment plant)

and near the 15th fairway on the golf course. This is a fairly serious thinning out of the trees and vegetation which should decrease the spread of any wildfires, and assist in protection of the townsite and its infrastructure.

The Golf Course area within the townsite is a concern with the abundance of mature trees in an old forest. But there are many issues involved here as well. Discussion will continue regarding how to limit the risk of wildfires to the townsite.

Other mitigation factors for protecting the townsite are also being considered by Parks Canada Agency, and we will continue discussion as we move forward.

Views-scapes are also an interesting discussion item in terms of vegetation management. Reaching the proper balance for everyone may prove next to impossible, but we are striving to achieve a reasonable solution. Stay tuned.

The Waskesiu Community Council is still presenting the idea of a tree nursery / fenced dog park (behind the parking lot adjacent to the old post office). Although the idea seems to be well received, it has been a slow process to bring to fruition.

## **Community Planning & Development Committee – Chair Jim Kerby**

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This has been a very busy 12 months for the Community Planning & Development Committee of Council.

- One of our Committee's major accomplishments was leading the drafting of a major submission (made on behalf of the community of Waskesiu) to Parks Canada Agency (PCA).
- The submission was required because of a major consultation initiative being undertaken by Parks Canada at the national level – referred to as the “National Planning Permit Process”. The lead for PCA on this project is Mr. Daniel Mercer, who we met with here in Waskesiu as part of the consultations being undertaken by PCA across Canada.
- The Waskesiu submission was prepared by our Committee in consultation with representatives of the Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce and the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association. If you are interested in reading the submission, please visit the [Waskesiu.org](http://Waskesiu.org) website.
- A number of Waskesiu community recommendations appeared in the subsequent national summary report, produced by PCA, and we were pleased to have been part of the process.

- Other matters undertaken by the Committee included two strategic planning sessions involving representatives of Council and PCA to advance the new “Waskesiu Vision 2028” initiative.
  
- In the months ahead, the Committee will be addressing the following matters:
  - Further advancing the “Waskesiu Vision 2028” initiative with all of the key stakeholder groups in the community.
  - Working, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and other Committees of Council, to address the staff housing issues facing our business community.
  - Considering, in conjunction with PCA and the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association, potential changes to the Waskesiu Cabin Guidelines.