



SPRING NEWSLETTER

President's Report

Rob Phillips, WSRA President

The summer of 2023 is near at hand and as we look forward to the summer season at Waskesiu Lake, here are some items to note, with more details elsewhere in this newsletter:

It is now a requirement to have a back flow valve on your cabin or cottage sewer connection. Parks Canada no longer takes any responsibility for back flow into residences within the community.

Parks Canada, the Community Council and the WSRA have discussed the issues of parking throughout the townsite and in recent years placed additional signage to clarify parking areas and time limits. Parking within parcel X, the bird streets, has been discussed at length. Photographs of the area on long weekends and a walk through of the area in the summer of 2022 confirmed that if all vehicles (cars, trucks, etc) kept their tires off the clearly defined paved roadway, there would be no passage problems for vehicles within the area. **"Keep the rubber off the road"**.

We are still working with our community partners to address the special parking challenges in the cottage subdivisions.

Oversized decks within Parcel X have a conformance requirement for 2025 - decks that cover the 3 foot side yard setback must be cut back to conform. The affected cabin owners already have letters from Parks Canada and any questions that they have should be taken to Parks Canada directly.

Discussions with Parks Canada, Community Council and the WSRA for cottage construction are underway to provide clarity to cottage owners within the townsite. It is planned the the cottage guideline will be finalized for 2024.

I hope that everyone has a happy and healthy summer.

Chairperson's Report

Jennifer Wood, WSRA Chair

Welcome back Waskesiu Seasonal Residents! I trust you are all as excited as I am to get back to the lake enjoying time with family and friends. Waskesiu is a magical place, blessed to have a committed community.

Therefore, I would like to remind you of why the WSRA exists and the importance of your membership. If you have already renewed your membership – Thank you! If you are new to the community or been watching from afar, please join. A strong membership means a strong voice. Your support is appreciated.

The WSRA is a volunteer organization comprised of a dedicated group of board members that have seasonal residences in the cabin or cottage areas. WSRA mandate is to work with Parks Canada Agency (PCA), the Waskesiu Community Council (WCC) and other vested stakeholder organizations. In relation to matters of common interest to cabin and cottage leaseholders. Matters pertaining to the



occupancy, leasing, use, maintenance and improvement of seasonal residences in PANP. WSRA also has an interest to ensure that we protect, promote and enhance the townsite and PANP. Our Board is a dedicated group of cabin and cottage owners, with diverse skills. Our role is to act in the best interests of the association and stay true to our mandate.

WSRA has had a long standing committee dedicated to updating the cottage regulations similar to the way the WSRA led the way with establishing cabin guidelines. I am pleased to announce that significant work has happened over the past year. The WSRA engaged legal to review the proposed Land Use Regulations with the added requirement to help ensure the new proposed Waskesiu cottage guidelines will align and be specific to our townsite. A subcommittee comprised of the WSRA and Council continue to work with local and national PCA representatives. PCA hopes to have the process completed by late 2024 or early 2025. There have been numerous stakeholder engagement sessions gathering feedback from stakeholders across Canada. The WSRA has and will continue to have a strong voice through the review and updating of the cottage regulations and the Land Use Regulations.

The Board also determined it was necessary to consolidate past, present and future individual board member documents into one master system to ensure preservation of history and ensure all documents reside in one place. As part of this process the WSRA also determined that it was time to upgrade and improve the membership data base. Although this did incur some expense the board believed this was a necessity. The WSRA membership data base is essential for effective communication within our community.

WSRA continues to work with Council, PCA and all the other organizations in Waskesiu towards completion of Vision 2028. A plan that ensures Waskesiu, PANP is strong and vibrant community for future generations, while respecting and maintaining the principles that guide Parks Canada. Vision 2028 coincides with the centennial celebration for PANP. The planning has begun.

Lastly I would like to remind everyone to mark their calendars the WSRA's AGM this year will be held on July 23, 2023. We again are coordinating the meeting to coincide with the WCC AGM and can

confirm that PCA will also be in attendance. In the interest of time and to have an effective meeting we are asking our membership to please submit your questions in advance allowing preparation and effective communication. Please submit your questions by July 8th to waskesiusra@gmail.com

See you at the Lake!

Parks Canada

Calvert Martin, Superintendent Northern Prairies Field Unit

On behalf of Prince Albert National Park, I'd like to welcome you back for another summer in Prince Albert National Park. We are looking forward to your return and hope you and your loved ones continue to create long-lasting memories of this special place. There's nothing like seeing the bustling streets of Waskesiu in the summer to remind us that we live, work, and play in a truly special national park.

As you prepare for another summer in the park, we remain focused on keeping Waskesiu safe and enjoyable for everyone. We all play a role in ensuring it is safe for all those who reside or visit here, from the smallest twinflower to mighty moose, to you, your friends, and family. Your actions have an impact on the health and vibrancy of the national park around you, so please follow all directives and protocols. This newsletter has important information and reminders about living safely in Prince Albert National Park. As you begin to plan your summer, please review them. The Townsite Office and the Visitor Centre are available to answer any questions you may have about policies and directives outlined below.

Townsite News

"Keep the Rubber off the Road"

Did you know that vehicles and boats parked on residential streets in Waskesiu can be a safety hazard? Congestion in the Waskesiu Cabin Area (Bluebird-Pelican) can lead to safety concerns like poor sight lines for drivers and can block access for service and emergency vehicles such as fire trucks and ambulances. Parks Canada along with the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association and the Waskesiu Community Council are working to improve traffic flow in the Waskesiu cabin area.

Beginning **April 1, 2023**, cabin owners and their guests are required to park vehicles and/or boats so that vehicle or trailer tires are not located on the asphalt surface of the road. Parking in this manner will improve traffic flow in the area for all. Vehicles parked in a way that is not compliant with this policy may be towed, or vehicle owners may be charged with an infraction under the National Park Regulations.

Cabin owners are reminded that the two designated parking stalls on your lot are the best place to park vehicles. Vehicles should only be parked in designated parking areas and not on Parks Canada property.

Watercraft Towing in Prince Albert National Park

There are two situations in which you may require a tow while on water in Prince Albert National Park. Know the difference and what to do if it happens to you.

1. Life-Threatening (Emergency) Situations on the Water

Safety on the water for you and your guests is your responsibility. Visitors should be self-reliant when visiting Prince Albert National Park. In the event of any life-threatening (emergency) situation on the water, call Parks Canada Dispatch at 1 877 852 3100. Response times may vary. Parks Canada rescuers prioritize your personal safety. You are responsible for the safe return of your watercraft and equipment.

2. Watercraft Retrieval (Non-Emergency Situations)

Ensuring the safe return of your watercraft is your responsibility. Visitors should be self-reliant when visiting Prince Albert National Park. Before you leave, always be prepared for the unexpected. Watercraft operators are often stranded by storms, wind, or waves, and by mechanical breakdowns. Always check the weather – before heading out and during your trip. Prior to heading out on the water, consider the following:

- a. Have a trip plan - and tell your friends or family where you are going, and when you plan to be back.
- b. Have an emergency contact number to call for assistance.
- c. Have all required safety equipment on board.

- d. Have recommended survival items on board in case help cannot get to you immediately. A list of essentials can be found at www.adventuresmart.ca/boating/.
- e. If your watercraft is motorized, always ensure:
 - It is full of fuel.
 - It has been properly serviced.
 - Your battery is in good condition and fully charged.

In the event of mechanical failure, lack of fuel, or other non-emergency situations, watercraft towing services are available (for a fee) from Mile 11 Towing in Montreal Lake (Contact 306 961-8038). Response *times may vary*.

Waste collection in Waskesiu

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

Two years ago, Parks Canada worked with the Waskesiu Community Council to improve the *Yard Waste Directive*. The revisions provided lease holders with clear direction on how to properly dispose of yard waste on their property. The changes also streamlined the collection process and addressed issues of unlawful dumping around garbage bins. The *2021 Yard Waste Directive – Waskesiu Townsite* is available at www.waskesiu.org.

Remember to bag compostable yard waste

Residents must place all yard waste in compostable paper bags designed for yard waste and leave it at the edge of their yard for pickup. If your property is large and you require assistance during the month



of May, contact Parks Canada at panpassets@pc.gc.ca.

Don't miss pick up day! Residents are asked to bag their yard waste according to the scheduled pickup days. Please see below for pick up days or ask at the Townsite office.

Cabin Yard Waste Pick Up Dates for 2023

May 31	July 12	Aug 30
June 14	July 26	Sept 13
June 28	Aug 16	

Keep up the great work! Do not pile garbage beside neighbourhood bins

Parks Canada appreciates the diligence of residents and businesses in properly disposing of waste. We are encouraged by the improvements over the past few years. Keep up the good work! And remember - deliberately abandoned waste and/or improper use of disposal facilities is a violation of the National Parks of Canada Garbage Regulations under the Canada National Parks Act. Violators can be charged and face court appearances and fines. Costs associated with addressing abandoned waste are charged back to the community.

You can help keep neighbourhoods clean and safe by properly disposing of waste and reporting abandoned garbage or illegal dumping to the Townsite Manager at 306-663-4519.

Small project construction waste disposal available at Operations Centre grounds

The "Roll off bin" is a seasonal receptacle for residential construction waste. It is located on the Operations Centre grounds. All material must be put in the bin, do not leave materials on the ground. This bin is not intended for the disposal of construction waste for commercial properties. Hours of operation are posted at the bin (monitored by video camera). Open daily 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. from May long weekend to September long

weekend. Open weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. after September long weekend until Thanksgiving.

Please call 306-663-4548 or email panpassets@pc.gc.ca to book an appointment for weekend drop off in the fall.

What can I put in the Roll Off Bin?

- Small construction materials from residential properties (windows and frames, deck boards, dry wall, carpet, treated and non-treated scrap wood)

What do I need to find alternate disposal methods for?

- Mattresses and household furniture (sofas, tables, chairs)
- Propane tanks, gas, fuel, oil, solvent products, paint containers (empty or with paint), fluorescent tubes and batteries
- Household appliances (washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, stoves, microwaves and water heaters)
- Electronic equipment and electric wire
- Concrete and rocks
- Dead animals
- Brush and leaves – please take this to the staging area
- Refundable cans and bottles, cardboard boxes, office paper and newspapers, clean plastic containers, milk jugs, sheet plastic, metal – please take these to appropriate recycle bins in town.
- Household garbage – please put this in designated garbage bins
- Hazardous materials – DDT (a pesticide) or other hazardous materials - please email the sanitation supervisor at panpassets@pc.gc.ca to arrange drop off at Operations Centre

Fall water procedures – don't forget to disconnect!

Cabin owners and commercial operators are responsible for disconnecting their property from

Do you ever wonder why proper waste disposal is so important? Well, to start, it costs you money. Parks Canada charges the community for time spent on waste services beyond waste collection and facilities through the annual water, sewer, and garbage collection fees. It also takes time away from Parks Canada dealing with other important infrastructure issues, Plus, it makes Waskesiu a safer and more enjoyable community for everyone. We appreciate everyone's diligence in disposing their waste properly this summer.

the main water system according to the *Fall Water Service Shut Down Directive*. Make this a part of your end-of-season routine. Cold weather can damage the seasonal water system if water is not properly disconnected from it at the end of the summer. Parks Canada may shut down water services to areas of Waskesiu that are at risk because of cold weather. When possible, there will be advance notification when the water shut off in the fall.

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 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 – maintain your backflow preventer!

Backflow preventer valves are required for all cabins, cottages, and commercial buildings in Waskesiu as of July 1, 2022. Leaseholders without a correctly installed backflow preventer will not be compensated by Parks Canada for any damages from sewer back-ups. Leaseholders are strongly encouraged to carry sewer back-up insurance for their properties.

If you have not yet installed your backflow preventer, please contact the Townsite office for a permit.

Also, remember that backflow preventers require yearly maintenance.

Firewood in the Park

Prince Albert National Park provides firewood for visitors at day-use areas in the park, including the Main Beach Day Use Area. Taking and using firewood from park facilities for personal use at residential leasehold or out of the park is **theft**. Please call 306-663-4522 to report firewood theft or misuse.

The parks budget for firewood has doubled in recent years to keep up with the demand, creating an increasing gap between the cost of providing the service and the revenue collected from fees. Prince Albert National Park is exploring strategies to reduce the growing burden being placed on Canadian taxpayers while ensuring those who personally benefit from this service pay their fair share.

Cabin/cottage owners, staff and business are all required to purchase their own firewood to be used in their private/commercial residence. We advise that firewood be purchased from reputable suppliers close to the national park and is locally cut. Moving firewood from one location to another can transport tree-killing insects and diseases resulting in destruction for forests and urban trees. These pests move slowly on their own but can move long distances very quickly through the transportation of firewood. Follow these best practices to protect our forest and trees from invasive pests:

1. BUY firewood at or near where you will use it.
2. LEAVE any unused firewood on site.
3. LEARN to identify common invasive species and report them.

If you have non-local firewood with you, use it first, burn it completely, and replace it with local firewood.

Wildfire Reduction News

Parks Canada takes wildfire seriously and is taking preventive measures to reduce the wildfire risk to Waskesiu and neighbouring communities. Proactive risk reduction is essential for public safety, visitor experience, and to protect natural and cultural resources.

Wildfire risk reduction maintenance and expansion operations continued in select areas of Waskesiu this past winter. Mature spruce trees and underbrush were thinned along the Waskesiu Golf Course to reduce the risk of property damage from potential wildfires. Chainsaws and other hand tools were used around the Operations Building and adjacent to Highway #263. Pruning trees and reducing coniferous undergrowth in this way

enhances 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 – Be FireSmart

FireSmart is a national program that helps Canadians increase their resilience to wildfire. Their resources include information to help protect you, your family, and your property from wildfire. Here are some simple ways to FireSmart your property this summer:

- Remove 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

Conservation News

We all have a role to play in keeping wildlife wild. Parks Canada works hard so that wildlife and people can safely share this special place. To do this, Parks Canada is focused on public education and compliance, including enforcing laws as necessary. All this is to protect people, wildlife, and the health of the environment.

Please remember that human food and other attractants kill wildlife, and:

- 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.
- Food and scented items that are left alone, even for a minute, are still a wildlife attractant. You can be charged for this. It is still illegal to feed wildlife, even if it is unintentional. Keep all items with a scent in your residence or vehicle when not in use (tents are not safe storage spaces – animals can smell food in them.)

Also, always keep your pet on its leash.

What to do if you see a sick or dead animal

Everyone can help keep wildlife safe by not spreading sickness and disease amongst wildlife. To stop the spread of potential disease to or from the park, Parks Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency advise the following:

- Do not approach or handle wildlife in the park, including sick, injured, or dead birds and animals.
- Call Jasper Dispatch at 1-877-852-3100 if you spot sick, injured or dead wildlife in Prince Albert National Park, or tell a staff member.
- Never feed wild birds from your hand or try to lure birds with food or seeds. This includes birdfeeders.
- Clean all clothing and footwear before coming to the park.
- Clean and disinfect footwear before leaving the park, especially if you have contact with injured or deceased animals or feces.

Keep bears out of your neighborhood

Prince Albert National Park has a healthy bear population, so it's possible you may come across one in the park. Black bears are intelligent, curious animals who learn quickly. For example, if they receive rewards like human or pet food, garbage, barbecue grease, dish soap, toothpaste – anything that has a scent or flavour – they may learn to return in search of that easy meal. Bears are even known to seek objects for their texture, like boat and bike seats, although less frequently. Bears who frequent neighbourhoods are a danger to you and themselves. Bears who linger in the area, searching for more easy meals are a safety hazard. These bears often need to be removed from the area and are sometimes euthanized. Remember, fed bears are dead bears. For a safe and fun summer season, be cautious and follow guidelines and laws to protect yourself and bears.

To reduce bear attractants at your residence, please:

1. Place all garbage and recycling into appropriate *bear-proof* containers. These are the large metal receptacles around the townsite and campgrounds with a locking lid, which prevents bears from getting inside.

2. Clean your BBQs as soon as they are cool and remove and clean out the grease trap/pan. Put the used grease and residue in the garbage receptacles as described above.
3. Do not feed birds, squirrels, or other wildlife. Food for small animals is also food for large ones.
4. Do not put bird feeders at your residence.

With your help we can keep bears wild, and even improve the survivability for bears who were habituated in the past.

Sturgeon River plains bison herd

The Sturgeon River plains bison (SRPB) 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. The annual February wildlife survey counted 69 bison this year. This means the population is down about 35% since last year and has decreased by nearly six times since its peak in the mid-2000s.

Parks Canada is committed to the stewardship of the Sturgeon River herd and is continuing to work with partners to help the herd recover. This includes encouraging the bison to move into the park and away from high conflict and hunting areas. The park is working closely with Mistawasis Nêhiyawak through the Bridge to Land Water Sky project aimed at increasing sustainability of the herd and supporting youth learning about bison. This winter, youth from Mistawasis Nêhiyawak worked with park staff to collect fecal samples for DNA analysis. This project will help us understand the genetic health impacts resulting from high harvest levels and unnatural selection of reproductive animals.

Parks Canada is collaborating with the Sturgeon River Plains Bison Stewards, and neighbouring Indigenous groups to ensure the Sturgeon River Bison Herd remains a truly wild, rugged herd. It is a herd of regional, national, and international significance. Parks Canada continues to work hard to ensure they remain on the land for many generations to come. We all have a role to play in keeping wildlife wild.

What's going on with the lake trout in Kingsmere Lake?

Parks Canada completed lake trout monitoring in Kingsmere Lake in fall 2022. The most recent data suggested the population has recovered since the last monitoring in 2017. While this recovery is a step in the right direction, the Kingsmere lake trout population is still considered at risk because of the significant variation in populations since 2009.

Prince Albert National Park is in the early stages of drafting a management plan to address these concerns. The park convened an advisory group with Indigenous partners, anglers, subject matter experts and NGOs in fall 2022, which met regularly through the fall and winter. Through bringing together this broad range of expertise, Parks Canada aims to:

- Create a common understanding of what lake trout fishing on Kingsmere Lake means to visitors
- Support traditional Indigenous activities on Kingsmere Lake
- Develop solutions that may inform future decision making to keep the trout population viable in Kingsmere Lake.

The advisory group will continue to meet in fall 2023. For more information, please email panptrout-touladisnpa@pc.gc.ca

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

Anyone fishing for lake trout in the park must have an endorsement card, numbered tag, and a national park fishing licence. The endorsement card and tags provide the park with valuable data about the estimated number of fish caught that summer. Please return endorsement cards or unused tags to the Visitor Centre or put them in the collection boxes at fish shacks and help us conserve lake trout.

Boundary Bog Trail Revitalization Project

Parks Canada is continuing construction on the popular Boundary Bog Trail in Prince Albert National Park, which includes replacing the boardwalk and installing interpretive exhibits. The Boundary Bog trailhead and parking lot is closed to the public from April 17, 2023, until December 2023 to accommodate construction.

The Boundary Bog revitalization project increases accessibility, safety, and enjoyment for all visitors. The floating boardwalk will be wider and reduce the effect of frost heave that created the uneven conditions on the previous boardwalk. A floating boardwalk will also minimize environmental impact. Looking for another trail to hike while Boundary Bog is closed? Try the Waskesiu River, Narrows Peninsula or Mud Creek Trails.

A note from Parks Canada Law Enforcement, aka your Friendly Park Wardens

Prince Albert National Park is welcoming a new park warden to Waskesiu this summer, bringing us back to our full complement. They will be out and about all over the park through the season with a focus on identified priorities that help protect park resources and visitor experience. Among others, these include: garbage and wildlife attractant prohibitions, responding to excess noise or disturbance issues in campgrounds and day use, ensuring compliance with National Parks fishing regulations, and dealing with uncontrolled domestic animals.

We encourage park residents to pass on tips or complaints of Canada National Parks Act and Regulations violations. Just flag down a warden or let them know via Parks Canada Dispatch or the Visitor Centre. Most offences are caused by a few people – timely reports help wardens be in the right place, at the right time, to talk to the right people. Parks Canada 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.

Waskesiu Community Council

Jim Kerby, Council Chair

It's been another long Saskatchewan winter, but thankfully spring is finally here. We look forward to seeing everyone back in beautiful Waskesiu - where we are truly blessed to have such a wonderful, natural environment right at our doorstep.

Special thanks to the WSRA for all of the excellent work you do on behalf of Waskesiu's cottage and cabin owners, and for the community as a whole.

Council greatly appreciates your ongoing efforts, support, and valuable partnership as we continue to successfully work together. Significant progress has been made on many joint files including (but not limited to) townsite parking strategies, drafting new cottage development guidelines, and establishing emergency communications protocols.

Our entire community – including the WSRA, Parks Canada, and our local businesses and non-profit organizations – has also recommitted itself to pursuing a shared, long-term vision for the Waskesiu townsite. We did so by developing and adopting “*Waskesiu Vision 2028*” - a community action plan designed to help protect, and enhance, the Waskesiu experience now and for generations to come. By working collaboratively, we're making our collective “vision” a reality – and great things are already happening.

For more information about “*Waskesiu Vision 2028*”, and to learn about what's happening in Waskesiu generally, please visit Waskesiu.org regularly. As Council's community website, it is updated frequently and it's packed with information about Waskesiu. It's also mobile friendly, making it easy for you to stay connected wherever you go.

In closing, we want to acknowledge that Waskesiu is on the traditional lands of the Cree Peoples, signatories to Treaty 6, and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this very special place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

On behalf of the Waskesiu Community Council I wish you, and your family, a wonderful, happy, and safe summer filled with the joys of nature!



Joint Communication

Waskesiu Community Council & Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association

The Community Council and the WSRA (following discussions with Parks Canada Agency) are pleased to provide the following information to the Waskesiu community.

Water & Sewer Infrastructure

- There are currently no plans to replace any of the existing “shallow” water or sewer lines in the Waskesiu townsite with “deep” lines.
- Parks Canada Agency (“PCA”) will continue to monitor and repair its existing water and sewer lines in accordance with past practice.
- PCA, as part of its ongoing infrastructure monitoring, will consider all options when the replacement of any existing water & sewer line is needed.
- The Community Council and WSRA will be actively involved in future discussions with PCA regarding the replacement of townsite infrastructure (including water or sewer lines). When that time comes, both the WSRA and Council will strive to represent all Waskesiu residents and business owners.
- Some PCA deep-water infrastructure already exists in portions of the Waskesiu townsite. In 2022, the Superintendent issued a letter confirming that, in certain circumstances, a “tie in” to PCA’s existing deep-water infrastructure may be possible if all PCA’s requirements are met and all project costs are borne by the project proponent(s).

Cabin Area - Bringing Legal Non-Conforming Decks into Compliance

- The PANP Cabin Development Guidelines 2013 (the “Cabin Guidelines”) require that all “*legal non-conforming decks*” in the “cabin area” (Bluebird to Pelican) must be brought into compliance by December 31, 2026 (at the very latest).
- The Cabin Guidelines were developed locally - through the joint efforts of the WSRA, the Community Council, and Parks Canada Agency - and were agreed to in 2013.
- The Cabin Guidelines can be accessed online at www.waskesiu.org. (Go to the “Our Community” tab, and then scroll down to the “Building and Development” section.)
- Section 15 of the Cabin Guidelines defines a “legal non-conforming deck” and requirements for deck construction and design. It also identifies “trigger dates”, along with a final deadline (one year following December 31, 2025), by which cabin owners must ensure that their “legal non-conforming deck” conforms to the Cabin Guidelines.
- The reasons underpinning deck setback requirements include safety issues (including limiting fire spread), and inconvenience caused to adjacent cabin leaseholders.
- PCA’s efforts to bring “legal non-conforming decks” into compliance, pursuant to the Cabin Guidelines, are supported by the WSRA and the Community Council.
- Of the 451 cabins in the cabin area, Parks Canada estimates that fewer than 25 cabins currently have “legal non-conforming decks”.
- Cabin owners with questions about this issue are encouraged to contact Paulette Hodgson at PCA (306.663.4520 / paulette.hodgson@canada.ca) to obtain more information.



**2023 Community Council and WSRA
Joint Annual General Meeting
July 23, 2023**

Please submit your questions by July 8th to
waskesiusra@gmail.com



The Waskesiu Recreation Association

The Waskesiu Recreation Association, established in 2016, has maintained a community-centred inclusive vision, providing an array of affordable recreational experiences for visitors from all backgrounds. The WRA's volunteer Board of Directors believes that enjoying an array of outstanding recreation facilities and quality family events is one of the cornerstones of the "Waskesiu experience." The WRA recognizes the area's rich history and heritage and engages community support for its continuing efforts to add to the attractions of this natural playground.

WRA projects have been ambitious and numerous, including: renewed lawn bowling, beach volleyball, ninja park, pingpong and foosball, giant chess/checkers, a multi-use sports court, shuffleboard court, picnic shelter, tree carvings, fitness court, an interpretive mini-golf, refurbished horseshoe pits and six tennis and two pickle ball courts. Future plans include replacing the existing building, adding dedicated pickle ball courts and a potential upgrade to the arena for year round use. In addition the WRA spearheads a long list of community events, adding colour and cohesion to the Waskesiu summer season.

The Recreation Centre is open daily from the May long weekend to the September long weekend. For more information please visit us at 1500 Montreal Drive in Waskesiu (next to the tennis courts), or contact us at [306-663-0601](tel:306-663-0601); email us at wramanager21@gmail.com. You can also visit our website Waskesiu Recreation Association.



2023 Events

Waskesiu Open Tennis Tournament – June 16-18

A Tennis Saskatchewan-sanctioned event featuring men's and women's singles, doubles, and mixed doubles competitions. For more information visit <http://www.tennissask.com>.

Canada Day – July 1

Celebrate Canada's 156th birthday in Waskesiu - pancake breakfast, an Elders gathering and blessing ceremony, the "famous" Waskesiu Canada Day parade, flag-raising ceremonies, free Canada Day cupcakes, and an afternoon Original 16 beer gardens with free live music and Indigenous performances.

Canada Day Weekend Cabaret - July 1

The Waskesiu Community Hall from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. for ages 19+. Tickets are available in advance at the WRA office or at the door.

Waskesiu Children's Festival – July 15

A Waskesiu tradition of fun for the whole family, with face painting, the Parks Canada "Fire Tent", kids' games, Friends of the Park "Lego Castle" and the Waskesiu Fire Department fire truck.

Beach Bums Bash Cabaret – August 5

A19+ Cabaret at Terrace Gardens, following an all-day beach volleyball tournament.

Grey Owl Howl - August 6

This annual family dance held at the Community Hall - all ages are welcome. Enjoy music, raffles, light snacks, and drinks at this family dance party.

Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival – August 25-27

Grab your dancing shoes, or just kick back and enjoy the wonderful musical performances at the 2023 Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival – Waskesiu's biggest event of the year! Jam-packed with a variety of free family activities, including live on-stage musical entertainment on Friday, Saturday & Sunday, an Indigenous talent showcase, a children's play area including a free bouncy castle & face painting, and displays highlighting PANP. You can also enjoy a variety of great food vendors, and the Lakeside Festival Original 16 beer gardens.

Reel Rave - September 8, 9 and 10

Enjoy Waskesiu's fantastic International Film Festival at Twin Pine Cinemas, featuring 6 award-winning films plus a Saturday night social at the Hawood Inn.

Remembrance Day- November 11

Meet at the Hawood Inn at 10:30 and then walk to the Nature Centre for a ceremony of remembrance. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony at the Hawood Inn.

The Waskesiu Foundation

The Waskesiu Foundation has a couple exciting projects on the horizon.

The **ball diamond** in the Day Use Area needs some improvements such as refurbishing the infield, repairing the backstop, installing new bases, plus adding soil and reseeding grass in portions of the outfield.

We're delighted to launch a brand-new playful project too! The Narrows day use area is a popular place for people to gather to use the camp kitchen, fire ring, swim beach and picnic tables. Currently, a traditional swing set is the only equipment in the area for kids at play.

We're thrilled to announce plans for a **new playground at the Narrows** to accommodate three needs: accessibility, activities suitable for kids ages 2-5 and activities for kids ages 5-12. **Building the new playground is conditional on receiving \$30,000 in donations from the community by August 15, 2023.**

Why the Narrows?

We consulted with Parks Canada about an additional playground location in the Waskesiu townsite. It was determined that the Bears on the Beach and toddler playgrounds at the main beach provided adequate playground capacity in the townsite. Currently, there are no playground facilities along the south shore of the lake.

Playground Highlights

- **Accessible activities:** ramp with rails to an extra wide platform, Canadian wildlife memory game, alphabet & number maze, steering wheel & crawl tube
- **Toddlers Ages 2-5:** 6ft slide, leaf climber, double climber with planks suspended from chains & a sand castle activity which promotes cooperative play
- **Kids Ages 5-12:** 10ft slide, firefighter's pole, molecule climber, spring mounted wobbly step, ring ladder, wheel & twirl overhead wheels & lateral wall climbing
- **Nature Themed:** animal & evergreen tree toppers, moose & evergreen silhouettes, plus colours like greens, tans, and browns suitable to the natural surroundings

Total Cost

The cost for Narrows playground equipment and installation is considerable, estimated at \$97,122 with taxes. The project is unique though, as it meets three distinct needs for accessible equipment, activities for toddlers ages 2-5 and for kids ages 5-12.

Impact

If you aren't a frequent visitor to the Narrows, this will be another reason to explore outside of the townsite in addition to swimming, picnicking and hiking. Did you know the Narrows is just a short 4km drive or boat ride from the Paignton Beach day use area? Paignton is often packed with families & visitors. A new playground at the Narrows could help relieve this pressure and add an incredible amenity for active kid-friendly family fun to the area.



Waskesiu Foundation - Option 2
Report #192305-1-C1 | 202305



Note: Colors shown may not accurately reflect actual colors.

Donate Today

Your help is needed to raise \$30,000 of the project funds by August 15, 2023. If this target is met, the playground will be built in fall of 2023 (or spring 2024 weather depending). The remaining two-thirds of project funds have been sourced.

Stay in touch with the latest happenings by subscribing to our eNews. Sign up using our website [contact form](#). Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) too!



Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce

Gord Bueckert, President

Spring Greetings from the Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce (The Chamber), a small but mighty group of Waskesiu businesses!

Our current Board Members are:

- Gord Bueckert, President – Lost Creek Resort
- Morris McLachlan, Vice President – Waskesiu Marina Adventure Centre
- Randy Kershaw, Treasurer – Kershaw Consulting
- Jacqueline Archer, Board Member – Archer Real Estate
- Emma Kirk, Board Member – Treosix Adventure Park

The Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce welcomes new business owners to the community. We had a few new faces last year and that trend continues this year with the new entrepreneurs joining the Waskesiu business community. It is very exciting to see new faces, new families and new ideas brought to our community. I would also like to ask the residents to join us in saying goodbye to some of our merchants who have moved on. Some of these families have been here for decades; people who truly helped build this community.

I would like to remind all the seasonal residents that some of the Waskesiu businesses still need staff for the busy summer months. If anyone is looking for any full-time / part-time work over the summer season, I'm sure one of our local businesses could help you find employment.

The Waskesiu and Elk Ridge area continues to be the premier vacation destination of our province. From our majestic lakes, miles of hiking trails, beautiful golf courses, to an unmatched range of adventure activities. There is no place in this province like Prince Albert National Park/Elk Ridge and our Chamber members are very proud to

complement this natural beauty. Our shops and services here are also unmatched in the province. It's the hard work and dedication of our Chamber members operating businesses, that help keep the premier destination of our province a great place to vacation.

For almost 100 years, local entrepreneurs have responded to the needs of Waskesiu visitors and have contributed to the creation of a vibrant, colourful and multifaceted community. Today, dozens of unique family-owned small businesses offer seasonal residents and visitors, goods and services to make "our time" at the lake, more comfortable, convenient, engaging and enjoyable. Our businesses also provide jobs, park revenue, and community donations. These local entrepreneurs make the natural beauty and attractions of the park more accessible. They serve to



create a true community – your community. Please support these local businesses, without your support they cannot exist.

The Chamber is embarking on a "Spotlight on Business" social media campaign to spark curiosity about the heritage and on-going contributions of our local businesses. Beginning in June, watch for our weekly Facebook and Instagram postings, which we ask that you "Like" and "Share", features on the electronic message board, and posters, to learn more.

Waskesiu businesses are here for you; so please be here for them.

Eat, stay, shop, play, support - local - Waskesiu Local



The Waskesiu Heritage Museum

The Waskesiu Heritage Museum is an important part of our community because it not only preserves and displays our history but also it works with other organizations and businesses to sponsor current activities for the enjoyment of visitors and locals. The Museum is supported through SaskCulture, Sask Lotteries, and Canada Summer Job grants. Because of our fund raising activities, we are able to operate seven days a week and charge no admission. Please support our three annual fundraisers.

- Wednesday evenings the place to be is Terrace Gardens for the ever popular **Community Bingo**. Play begins at 7:00 for a full evening of games or at 8:30 for the second half. Bring the whole family and join in the fun!
- In a break from tradition, we are **raffling an ebike** this year instead of a kayak. Raffle tickets are available at the shack tent for the usual \$5.00. But you will want to buy multiples when you see this beautiful ebike on display at the Museum. Thanks to Bentley at the Grey Owl Center and Biktrix in Saskatoon, we are raffling a fully accessorized Swift 2 Step Thru white ebike. This will be the hottest ticket in town!
- Our annual **Yard Sale** will be on Saturday, July 8. We accept donations and also rent tables. Please contact our Yard-Sale co-ordinator, Jillian Manchester, at jillflk@yahoo.ca for more information or see our website.

The equivalent of two full time **summer employees** between the ages of 15 and 30 are needed to open the Museum in July and August. There is a subsidized site in the staff area for living accommodation if the employee has a trailer. Please check our job advertisement at <https://waskesiuheritagemuseum.org/news/f/were-hiring-1> and send prospective employees our way.

The Museum welcomes volunteers for many different kinds of tasks and can match you with a

job you will enjoy according to your interests and the time you would like to commit. We especially would like new board members to help guide our organization at our two summer meetings. Volunteers are needed for bingo, the yard sale and to assist in the shack tent for a few hours. Talk to our manager Gary at the Museum or email us at info@waskesiuheritagemuseum.org.

Want to learn more about Waskesiu? On her regular walks, one cabin owner visited a couple of the round **Heritage Moment** signs on buildings around the townsite each time. She scanned the QR code with her phone's camera and learned a wealth of information about her community by the end of summer. This guide, with information, photos, and videos, is also available on our website.



Another way to learn history tidbits and share information about Waskesiu is on our Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook accounts. Brief posts are shared once a week all year and slightly more often during the summer. We enjoy the lively interaction of our followers on Facebook.

Thank you for all the ways you continue to support the Museum: volunteering, bringing visitors, supporting our fundraisers, making donations, following us online, and contributing your ideas and history!

The Waskesiu Lobstick Golf Course

Tyler Baker, General Manager

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 for which we are famous. Tee time bookings are on generous 10 minute intervals to ensure our patrons a nice pace of play. Rental power carts, pull carts and clubs are available.

In 2022, the Waskesiu Golf Course was ranked #83 in Canada by SCOREGolf magazine due to our superb golf course layout, course conditions and customer service, and we continue to improve.

Stanley's Pub & Grill has a fresh look with new carpeting, and new natural wood tables and chairs complementing our historic Clubhouse. Enjoy a meal, a snack or a beverage inside or out on the deck. Stanley's offers a full menu for not only golfers, but public as well.



Our Pro-shop offers a full selection of men's and women's golf attire, equipment and rentals. Clothing featuring the Lobstick logo is extremely popular with golfers and non-golfers alike. Paul Schatz has been hired during the off season as our new CPGA golf pro and offers lessons to everyone from beginners to skilled players.

The driving range upgrade project is fully completed and features all new hitting mats, ball trays, dividers and ball dispenser. With the expansion there is plenty of room to come by and take a few swings.

The famous Lobstick Golf Tournaments return once again this season. Mens and Seniors Lobstick Tournaments will be held in June. Ladies, Junior Women's and Junior Men's Lobstick Tournaments are in August.

We hope to see you out at the course this season. I encourage you to drop by for a look or a visit with myself or Paul.

The Lakeside Music Festival Returns!

Last year's Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival ("Lakeside Festival") was the biggest ever – and the 2023 Lakeside Festival (**August 25-27**) promises to be even better! Mark your calendars now - and remember to invite your friends and family to Waskesiu to be part of this exciting weekend. They will love it!

Why? Because there are so many great things to experience at the Lakeside Festival:

- The "**Sunset Stage**" – held at the Waskesiu main beach on Friday from 5 – 8 p.m.
- **Saturday Main Stage** – over 11 hours of free, live musical entertainment *plus* the Original 16 Beer Gardens, food vendors, merchandise vendors, and loads of activities for the kids (like a free bouncy castle, Lego castle, and face painting).
- The "**Sunday Street Fair**" - over 5 hours of free, live entertainment in the heart of Waskesiu, including an Indigenous Talent Showcase, food vendors, free face painting for the kids and, for the first time ever, a car show!

Here's just a small sample of the artists that will be performing at the 2023 Lakeside Festival:

- [Velvet Threads](#) - Velvet Threads are a seven-piece pop rock band from Saskatoon. On stage, this band is fun and high energy with a dynamic vigour that keeps you engaged and entertained. Embracing both past and present genres, their sound is a raw combination of soul and rock, accentuated with smooth tones layered with hints of the blues.
- [Oral Fuentes](#) – Always a crowd favourite in Waskesiu, the Oral Fuentes Reggae Band is a mixture of Reggae with an Afro/Latin Fusion. The Band consists of members from Belize, St. Lucia, Ghana, Nigeria, the Philippines, Seattle USA, and Canada. After moving to Saskatoon in the early '90s, Oral

teamed up with great musicians from Saskatoon and they really enjoy playing many venues – especially the Lakeside Festival in Waskesiu.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/waskesiulakesidefestival/> to get the latest Lakeside Festival news. You can also support the Lakeside Festival by buying our new branded merchandise! It's what all the cool kids are wearing this summer – and the proceeds from every item purchased helps fund our local Festival – Waskesiu's free, family friendly, weekend of music and fun.



Membership in 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.
- ✓ 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.

2022 - 2023 Board of Directors

Rob Phillips, President	Jennifer Wood, Chair
Kurt Wintermute	Kelly Prodanuk
Paul Pinder	Ron Jones
Cheryl Cuelenaere	Connor Quinn
Terry Baerg	

If you are interested in serving the community through the WSRA, please contact any member of the governance committee, or email us to learn more about opportunities.

Add your voice . . .

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 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, PO Box 36, Waskesiu, Sk S0J 2Y0
2. Email your information along with an email transfer to waskesiusra@gmail.com.
3. Sign up and pay your dues at our annual meeting

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

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

