

## Waskesiu News – Fall Update, Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association



### Curious about the [Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association \(WSRA\)](#) and what we're working on?

We'll send you a *brief* synopsis of that we're up to after each Director's meeting. Here's news from the September and November 2012 meetings.

**About Us:** Each year there are issues that concern the Waskesiu community. The WSRA is the unified voice of seasonal residents. The Directors of the Association meet at least four times a year, and as often as once a month when there is lots to discuss.

### Current Work:

Curtailment of Winter Services at Prince Albert National Park: We recently sent out an email about this surprise decision by Parks Canada. We understand it is driven by a new system of classifying parks into seasonal services, and Prince Albert National Park is now considered a 3 season park. The cross country ski trails will not be maintained, back-country camping services will not be provided this winter, and a number of day-use areas will be closed until spring. *"PANP will essentially be stepping back to age when the park was closed for the winter"* (Murray Peterson, letter to MP Randy Hoback). A petition is posted on the internet at <http://www.change.org/petitions/alan-latourelle-ceo-of-parks-canada-maintain-cross-country-ski-trails-in-prince-albert-national-park>. If you are concerned about this too, we encourage you to sign the petition, ask your friends and family to do the same, and most importantly phone then write to your local MP. Here is the contact information for people to include in the letter:

To: Mr. Randy Hoback  
Member of Parliament (Prince Albert)  
Phone: 953-8622 (Prince Albert Constituency Office)  
[randy.hoback@parl.gc.ca](mailto:randy.hoback@parl.gc.ca)

Mr. Rob Clarke  
Member of Parliament (Churchill, and PANP)  
Phone: (306) 234-2334 (Meadow Lake Constituency Office)  
[Rob.clarke@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Rob.clarke@parl.gc.ca)

cc: Honourable Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment  
[kentp@parl.gc.ca](mailto:kentp@parl.gc.ca)

Mr. Alan Latourelle, CEO, Parks Canada Agency  
[Alan.latourelle@pc.gc.ca](mailto:Alan.latourelle@pc.gc.ca)

Mr. Alan Fehr, Superintendent, Prince Albert National Park  
Phone: 306-663-4563  
[alan.fehr@pc.gc.ca](mailto:alan.fehr@pc.gc.ca)

Spruce Budworm: Together we raised enough money to spray the budworm that is killing the white spruce in the Townsite. They were sprayed twice in the spring of 2012 and will receive this treatment again in 2013. This is already improving the health of the spruce trees and a decrease in defoliation is quite visual in the main day-use area. *Thank you to all the cabin and cottage owners who donated generously to make this possible.*

Cabin Guidelines: The Cabin Development Guidelines are in the process of being updated by Parks Canada. A sub-committee of the WSRA is reviewing a draft and meeting with Parks Canada to discuss.

Legal Issues: We are developing a list of lawyers with expertise in dealing with Parks Canada building regulations and approvals, and people with experiences to share. This will be a reference for cabin, cottage and business owners looking for information around issues they may be facing. If you have information to contribute or are looking for advice yourself, please send an email to [WaskesiuSRA@gmail.com](mailto:WaskesiuSRA@gmail.com). Further, if any cottage or cabin owners currently have "Legal Nonconformities" identified against their lease hold properties and are experiencing pressures from Parks Canada at this time, please contact Rob Phillips ([phillipsr@sasktel.net](mailto:phillipsr@sasktel.net)) if you wish to bring them to the attention of the WSRA Board.

Donations: Contributions of \$500 were made to the Waskesiu Foundation in honour of Mr. John Stevenson (WSRA Past President), and to the Waskesiu Heritage Museum.

Follow-up from the 2012 AGM: Letters will be written to Parks Canada and the Waskesiu Community Council regarding the green spaces in the 30' cabin lots, and to SaskTel regarding the poor cell/internet service in the Townsite.

Membership Drive: We will be canvassing for memberships door-to-door again next summer. The more people the WSRA represents, the stronger our shared voice will be. Please keep our organization strong by buying or renewing your WSRA membership, attending the Annual General Meeting, ensuring we have your current contact information, and encouraging your neighbors to be active members too.

### **Your Representatives for 2012-2013**

#### Directors

Rob Phillips (President)  
Herb Pinder (Chair)  
Sheila Gagne (Secretary)  
Conor Quinn (Treasurer)  
Pat McAvoy  
Gerry Gilchrist  
Richard Kilburn  
Brad Meier  
Diane Roddy

#### Committee Chairs

Membership: Pat McAvoy  
Nomination & Governance: Herb Pinder  
Communications: Diane Roddy  
Social: Rob Phillips  
Cabin & Cottage Regulation Review & Lease Issues: Rob Phillips

### **How to Keep in Touch:**

Website: [http://waskesiu.org/seasonal\\_residents.html](http://waskesiu.org/seasonal_residents.html)

Email Address: [Waskesiu@gmail.com](mailto:Waskesiu@gmail.com). This will reach the President and the Chair of the WSRA

Chair: Herb Pinder [hpinder@goalgroup.com](mailto:hpinder@goalgroup.com)