



Crow Wing Trail News

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APRIL 2014



Trans Canada Trail
Sentier Transcanadien

UPCOMING EVENTS

**St-Pierre Sugaring
Festival Apr 12-13**

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15th Anniversary Celebration

The public is invited to
our Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 15th 7pm

The Club Amical
344 Main Street
St. Adolphe, MB

The agenda includes the
presentation of 2013
activities and 2014 plans,
the launch of the 2012
Trail Maintenance Pilot
Project Report and a few
other surprises!

Come one, come all!

This year also marks 15
years since the Crow
Wing Trail was
registered as the Trans
Canada Trail from
Winnipeg and Emerson.

Volunteers from the RM
of Ritchot, the Town of
Niverville, the RM of De
Salaberry, the Village of
St-Pierre-Jolys, the RM
of Franklin, the Roseau
River First Nation, and
the Town of Emerson
have been working
together to build and
maintain the trail for
residents and visitors.



Guest speaker: Sharon
Blady, Minister of
Healthy Living and
Seniors since Oct 2013.

Her department offers
services that encourage
healthy living and
healthy aging initiatives
for seniors.

www.crowwingtrail.ca



North Gate to Senkiw
Suspension Bridge in
RM of Franklin

It took 15 years for us to
finally get our own web
site, and we are proud of
it! There are lots of
photos, a few videos and
yes... some maps!
There is "old" informa-
tion about the Trail in
the 1800's and its begin-
nings at the junction of
the Crow Wing and
Mississippi Rivers. And

there is "new" informa-
tion as seen from people
who have recently
traveled on it!
We will keep adding
more stuff so keep
checking and remember
to give us some much
appreciated feedback on
the trail's condition, your
experience or send us
some new photos....

Actif Epica 2014 www.actifepi.ca

The 3rd Annual Actif Epica Winter Biking and Running Race took place on February 15th. It was the most attended so far and the first time that some of the racers opted to not finish.

There was more snow and the prairie wind was wicked, yet many racers still made it all the way from St. Malo to The Forks. Including our very own Steven Graupner. Steven trained hard and it paid off, as this is not an easy feat! Congrats Steven!

While the Crow Wing Trail Association takes care of the route and the signs, we depend on communities along the way to host the checkpoints. The checkpoints provide a warm place to check equipment, thaw water bottles and grab something to eat and drink.

Thank you to the St-Pierre Recreational Centre, Crystal Springs Colony (NEW), the Niverville Arena and the St. Adolphe Bible Fellowship. You show the racers, who come from other provinces and the U.S. that we are indeed Friendly Manitoba!

Excerpt from Actif Epica web site: "This year's edition had more variable snow conditions than in past years (firm drifts runners/cyclists could stay on top of or bottomless powder in others) and a wind that started as a tailwind but swung to the north almost as soon as the race was underway. Overnight temps fell to close to -25C to complete the deal; this was very much a winter race, as opposed to the last two years which have felt more like late winter races."



Steven Graupner from St. Malo and Board Member of the Crow Wing Trail Association. Steven was the first runner to finish the Actif Epica Race in 16 hours and 42 minutes!

News from along the Crow Wing Trail

Niverville

Actif Epica got a much appreciated and warm reception from the Niverville businesses this year.

The Niverville Heritage Centre, A Slice of Life, Subway and Gorp demonstrated great community support and partnership.

For more info go to: <http://actifepi.ca/hot-soup-on-a-cold-day/>

Crystal Springs Colony

A new checkpoint to the Actif Epica Race! The Colony is a better mid-way location between St-Pierre-Jolys and Niverville. And the Colony even had participants in the race!

The racers enjoyed the great hospitality and Crow Wing Trail welcomes you to our team!

Thank you to Providence University College who did a great job as a checkpoint in the first two years.

Roseau River First Nation

Crow Wing Trail is also anxious for spring and summer to come around, but for another reason.

We have received a Heritage Grant to work with the community of Roseau Rapids to develop a plan for their section of Crow Wing Trail.

This is a rich culture which trail users are anxious to learn more about, in a respectful way. We hope to start consultations with local residents soon.

St-Pierre-Jolys Sugaring Off Festival



Look for our display at this year's Sugaring Festival in St-Pierre-Jolys. Come for maple taffy on snow, or to simply enjoy a spring weekend outdoors. The Museum grounds are great for a stroll or a

picnic. Enjoy the great family activities, the musical talent and the great food! The original Crow Wing Trail meandered thru these grounds over 150 years ago! A cairn greets you at the entrance. And

nestled in the trees is the Maison Goulet House, a resting place for the "freighters". Dating from the late 1800's, this municipal heritage site is built of hand-cut logs. Visit: www.museestpierrejolys.ca

Active Transportation in all our Communities?

On March 27th, I attended an Active Transportation workshop organized by Winnipeg Trails and Rivers West. These organizations have partnered to create cycling and walking maps in Winnipeg and are sharing their experience to help other communities do the same. I think this is a great idea as we seem to use cars way too much in our rural communities. Sometimes all we need is a tool to help us remember how close schools or stores are and how



little time it actually takes to get there!

One of the projects discussed at this meeting was a “Travel to School” project, where school kids were asked to draw maps for their community. They produced very interesting and practical

maps which were used to create the final products.

This information is readily available and more seminars will be delivered. Contact us or Rivers West directly if your community would like further information. The Green Action Centre was also involved as active transportation lessens impact on the environment. For more information, or to see the maps go to:

www.BikeWalkRoll.ca

Murielle Bugera, President

Trail Maintenance a Priority

The Crow Wing Trail is an important tourism attraction:

- This was made official when our Association was awarded the Manitoba Sustainable Tourism Award in September 2013.
- In addition, it is a national attraction, as it is part of the Trans Canada Trail.
- Initiatives like linking with trails in the U.S. via the Emerson Border Crossing, and events like Actif Epica, which attract participants from several States, also make it an international attraction.

Its maintenance cannot be taken lightly if we want to make sure that trail users have a positive experience. And that goes for locals too!

The 2012 Trail Maintenance Pilot Project Report, which will be officially launched at our Annual Meeting in May, has been a real eye opener. We now know what it takes to maintain the trail from July to September, and how much money is needed to rent equipment and cover volunteer honorariums.*

We are committed to providing the communities south of Winnipeg with one of the best sections of the Trans Canada Trail in the nation, and we ask that people who feel the same way, show their support by buying memberships, metres of trail or by providing donations.

Please go to our new web site, for more information on how you can show your support. Thank you. Merci.

*We are currently looking at the feasibility of also maintaining the trail during winter.





Crow Wing Trail Association

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The Crow Wing Trail is the section of the Trans Canada Trail that connects Winnipeg to Emerson. The trail is based upon a historic fur trade route connecting the Red River Settlement of Fort Garry with St. Paul Minnesota.

Although the trail is located along the original route in some instances, for the most part it has been routed to connect our communities and significant sites. The Crow Wing Trail promotes hiking, biking, cycling, horseback riding and cross-country skiing.

The Crow Wing Trail was officially registered with the Trans Canada Trail in 1999 and officially opened in 2006. At 191 km, the Crow Wing is the longest section of the Trans Canada Trail in Manitoba!

The Crow Wing Trail Association (CWTA) is a regional trail association comprised of volunteers from six municipalities and one First Nation: Ritchot, Niverville, De Salaberry, St-Pierre-Jolys, Franklin, Emerson and the Roseau River First Nation – who work together to welcome the Trans Canada trail through our communities in order to promote tourism, economic development, historical awareness as well as provide for a great recreational opportunity!

Support the Crow Wing Trail

Become a Member!

The Crow Wing Trail is membership supported and volunteer driven.

Individual/Family Membership Benefits:

- Advocate for health, wellness and active transportation through trail use
- Support a trail that promotes local history, flora, fauna, cultures, geography, etc.
- Participate and be eligible to vote at Annual Meetings.
- Be eligible to participate as a Board Member.
- Receive E-Newsletters with up-to-date trail activities

Additional Benefits for Businesses/Organizations:

- Great cross-promotion as we strive to provide trail users with complete information about where to stay, where to eat and what to do.
- Opportunity to partner with businesses/organizations
- Opportunity to participate/benefit from trail events i.e. Actif Epica, and tour packages i.e. with Eastman Tourism and Travel Manitoba.
- Link to national and provincial web sites i.e. Trans Canada Trail, Trails Manitoba, Travel Manitoba, Eastman Tourism, CDEM, etc. Provides new opportunities.
- Part of national, provincial and municipal tourism, heritage and recreational databases.

Types and Cost of Annual Memberships

- Individual or family membership \$20
- Business or organization membership \$100
- Municipal/Local Government \$300

Send us your information, or fill in the Membership Form on our web site and mail along with your payment to:

Crow Wing Trail Association

Existing members receive annual renewal notices.

Get Involved!

Inquire about our volunteer opportunities. Become a Board Member or help with hands-on trail work.

Make a Donation!

The CWTA is a registered charitable organization.

Purchase a symbolic metre of trail to assist us in maintaining and improving our section of the Trans Canada Trail for generations to enjoy. All funds raised will remain locally within the jurisdiction of the Crow Wing Trail.

When you make a donation you receive a Trail Certificate, a listing on our Virtual Donor Wall and a tax receipt .

Send us your information or complete the Donation Form on our web site. (Payment as above.)

Thank you — Merci