



Crow Wing Trail News

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APRIL 2012



Trans Canada Trail
Sentier Transcanadien

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Annual Meeting
Sunday
Apr 22 2012

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Annual Meetings

If you have never attended one of our Annual Meetings before, this is the year!

Taking place at Providence College in Otterburne, it is held at the tail end (3 pm) of the Annual Meeting of the Manitoba Recreational Trails Association.

Come a bit earlier (2 pm), and hear Dana Meise tell stories about his incredible journey walking the Trans Canada Trail from Halifax to Winnipeg.

Dana starts his 2012 adventure in Winnipeg April 12th, making his way down the Crow Wing Trail at 25 kms/day. Niverville, St-Pierre-Jolys and St-Malo are preparing to



meet and greet him. If you would like to invite him or touch base with him, contact him: www.thegreathike.com.

Crow Wing Trail AGM

An opportunity to get a report on the group's activities in 2011 and its plans for 2012. Ask questions, buy a membership, show your support.

Did You Know... that many Board Members have been volunteering since the beginning back in 1998. This is true of Eileen Gunn (RM of Frank-

lin) who will be retiring from the committee this year. Also moving on is Linda Morin (RM of Ritchot). Councillors John Falk (Niverville) and Jackie Schwark (Ritchot) have been replaced by Angela Janz and Dawn Harris respectively. Thank you to all....

Manitoba Recreational Trails Association AGM

April 21 and 22, 2012

Want more information? Visit www.mrta.mb.ca.

WANTED :

Board Members for the following areas:

RM of Ritchot

RM of Franklin

Hiking the Trans Canada Trail

Can you believe that someone is actually walking the entire Trans Canada Trail? This is the longest trail in the world at 22,500 kms!

Well, seeing is believing! You are invited to enjoy a stroll with Dana Meise as he begins the 2012 leg of this trek from Sea to Sea to Sea.

Join Minister Rondeau, (Healthy Living, Seniors and Consumer Affairs) and escort

Dana to the Legislative Building where there will be an official send-off to start Dana "on the right foot" as he travels through Manitoba. Stay to enjoy some light refreshments and a few of Dana's extremely entertaining stories about life on the Trans Canada Trail.

Friends and families are invited to meet at The Forks Market Pavilion at 9 a.m. and depart for the Legislative

Building at 9:20 a.m. The official send-off begins at 10 a.m. at the Legislative Bldg.

"These flat-landers have a bigger heart and soul than the Mountains of my beloved province of B.C. Bigger even than the prairie sky above..."
Dana Meise

A Great Outdoor Activity for Schools

More and more, schools are looking for outdoor activities close to home!

The Crow Wing Trail offers many opportunities related to a variety of school subjects:

HISTORY

A Red River Cart path used by the Métis to trade furs and pemmican. European immigrants travelled along the trail as they settled here. Ideas: Build mini-carts or make pemmican.

ENVIRONMENT

The trail provides a way to go off the beaten path, and explore nature and the wide open spaces. Ideas: Identify trees or draw postcards.

GEOGRAPHY

The trail follows the ridge between the Prairies and the Canadian Shield, some of the flattest terrain in the world. Ideas: Learn to use GPS or about townships and river lots.

FLORA AND FAUNA

The variety of plants along the trail are far too many to count. Learn what can be used for

food or medicine. Ideas: Identify as many plants as you can, or butterflies and birds!

LANGUAGES

Write about your experiences on the Crow Wing Trail, in French, English, German, Spanish....

Visit our web site to access our **Heritage Resource Guide** for more great ideas on what to see on the trail from Winnipeg to Emerson. And remember, just follow the blue signs!



Did you know that there are many interpretative signs along the Crow Wing Trail? These bilingual signs provide interesting tidbits of information on local wildlife and plants, as well as facts about the Crow Wing Trail. See how many you can find...

News from along the Crow Wing Trail

Dana Meise in Niverville

For information on the planned activities....

Contact:

Donna Watts
Recreation Director
388-4078
Donna@whereyoubelong.ca

Dana Meise in St-Pierre-Jolys

"I love maple syrup!" Those were the words Dana used when he was invited to the Sugaring Off Festival in St-Pierre-Jolys on Sunday April 15th. www.museestpierrejolys.ca/sugaringoff.html

It's our opportunity to introduce Dana to Manitoba Maple Syrup, our great food and hospitality!

Contact: Murielle Bugera
President, Crow Wing Trail
746-5962 cwta@voyageur.coop

Dana Meise in St. Malo

St. Malo Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting, Monday April 23 7 pm at Chicken Chef

Dana will talk about his experiences walking across Canada and his experiences of towns, sense of place, businesses, and welcoming communities.

Contact: Lesley Gaudry
Economic Development
Officer - RM of De Salaberry
712-5372
les@rmdesalaberry.mb.ca

Great Winter Weather for First Winter Bike Race!



February 18th, 2012 marked the first ever Actif Epica outdoor winter event, ON THE CROW WING TRAIL! 32 self-propelled human beings, including 3 runners and 29 cyclists embarked on an epic challenge of endurance, ingenuity and resilience over 130km (bike

and 80km (run). The organizers say "merci" to the host communities (and facilities): St. Malo and Festival des Amis, St. Pierre Museum, Providence College, Niverville Arena, St. Adolphe Bible Fellowship Centre! For race results, video and pictures visit www.actifepi.ca.

Maintain It and They Will Come!

We are all familiar with the old saying “Build it and they will come”... With trails, the maintenance is the biggest challenge!

“Since the trail officially opened in 2006, we have depended on volunteers to maintain the trail” explains Murielle Bugera, President. “The problem is that even with best intentions, it sometimes does not get done, or volunteers do not have the necessary equipment. This is a national infrastructure. We want people, from near and far, to have a great experience on the trail!”

This is also a challenge faced by many trail associations. The Manitoba Recreational Trails Association provides funding, but the needs go beyond the resources.

So the Crow Wing Trail decided to do something about it. We developed a pilot project to maintain the trail for one season and document every step and penny. The result will be an analysis of what it takes to maintain a trail on terrain such as ours. It also means that the entire trail will be maintained by the same people, to ensure consistency.

So what does this entail? In addition to talking with the landowners, it means mowing, leveling, draining, as well as trimming, replacing and adding signs. It might mean fencing, trimming branches, brush cutting, filling in ruts or holes.

AND MOST OF ALL, it means that we invite everyone to come experience the trail this year and tell us what you think about our maintenance efforts. A survey will soon be available for this purpose on our web site (on page 4), or you can email us.

Watch Out for the Trail Maintenance Crew

Our greatest asset on this project is our Trail Boss. Wayne Arseny, Board Member since day one with the Crow Wing Trail and Mayor of Emerson, is passionate about the trail's success and has many hours of trail maintenance experience in Emerson.

“I have always wondered why so much effort goes into promoting the Trans Canada Trail when everyone knows that if there are maintenance issues, you can promote all you want but you'll have trouble getting repeat customers. I am happy to work with the Crow Wing Trail to address this issue once and for all.”

Since most of the trail is on municipal/public property, Wayne's understanding of the challenges municipal officials face as they deal with public infrastructure and funds is a real bonus! Municipalities will be encouraged to participate in the project, especially at the onset.

Wayne and his crew of two - wearing their bright yellow vests - will be on the trail several weeks from April to August.

Here are the proposed activities:

- Travel the trail from Emerson to Winnipeg to determine what is needed in terms of equipment, materials, signs, posts, tools, fuel, time and people.
- Secure resources
- Plan and schedule work
- Meet with landowners
- Do first pass for entire 191 km
- Record findings and adjust plan
- Raise public awareness to encourage trail use and feedback.
- Do two more passes as needed.

The Crow Wing Trail thanks the Manitoba Recreational Trails Association for matching funds for this project, as well as MB Entrepreneurship, Training and Trade for the work experience program.

"The Manitoba Recreational Trails Association is proud to support the development of the Trans Canada Trail, a 1400 kilometre-long project in Manitoba, in partnership with local trail stewards. The Crow Wing Trail Association is embarking on an innovative project to establish the actual cost of maintaining a quality trail and we look forward to sharing their results with our partners."

Melissa Sitter, Executive Director



"I am happy to work with the Crow Wing Trail to address the maintenance issue once and for all."

Wayne Arseny



Crow Wing Trail Association

Box 268
St-Pierre-Jolys, MB
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Email: cwta@voyageur.coop

Website:

[www.mrta.mb.ca/Trails/
CrowWing/home.htm](http://www.mrta.mb.ca/Trails/CrowWing/home.htm)

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. We invite you to become a member to support the trail and our local charitable organization. Your support will assist us to build, promote, and maintain our section of the Trans Canada Trail for generations to enjoy. Your membership is crucial to our sustainability as we strive to move forward with the continued development of the Crow Wing Trail.

Types and Cost of Annual Memberships

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

CWTA Membership Benefits

- E-Newsletters that include current CWTA projects and activities
- A publicly accessible trail promoting active transportation.
- A say and vote at our AGM on how the Trail is managed

Membership Form: [http://www.mrta.mb.ca/Trails/CrowWing/
documents/BecomeaMemberoftheCrowWingTrail20112.pdf](http://www.mrta.mb.ca/Trails/CrowWing/documents/BecomeaMemberoftheCrowWingTrail20112.pdf)

Get Involved!

Inquire about our many volunteer opportunities.

Make a Donation!

Although officially opened in 2006 there is still a lot of work to do. The CWTA is a registered charitable organization.

Purchase a symbolic metre of trail to assist us to build, maintain and promote our section of the Trans Canada Trail for generations to enjoy. Your donation is crucial to our sustainability as we strive to move forward with the continued development of the Crow Wing Trail. All funds raised will remain locally within the jurisdiction of the Crow Wing Trail.

Donor Recognition

When you make a donation you receive a Trail certificate, an inscription in one of our trail heads of your choice, a tax receipt as well as our e-newsletter.

Just fill in the Donor form and mail along with payment. [http://www.mrta.mb.ca/Trails/CrowWing/documents/
cwtadonationform2011.pdf](http://www.mrta.mb.ca/Trails/CrowWing/documents/cwtadonationform2011.pdf)