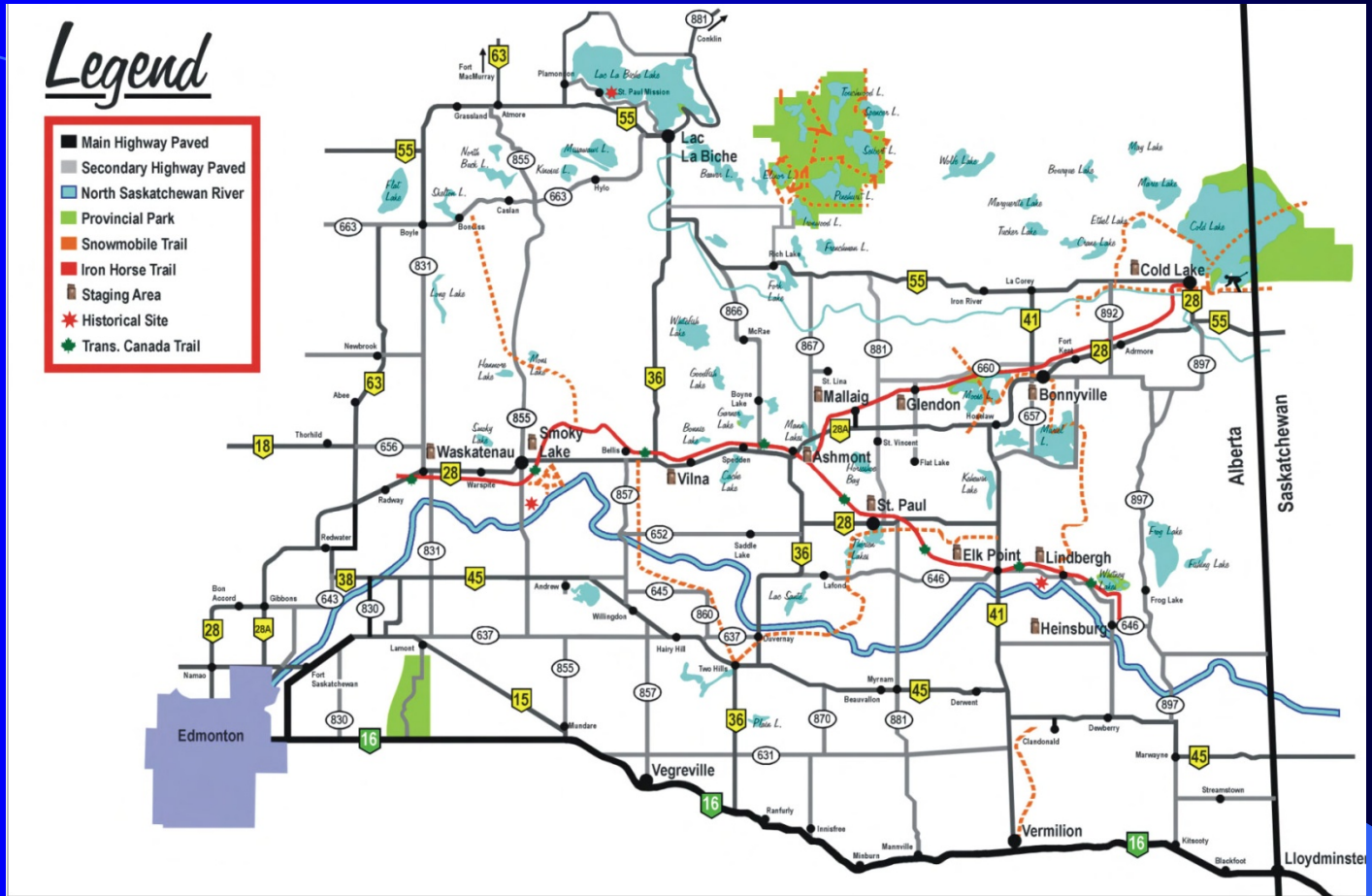


# NE Municorr 2013: How we got here

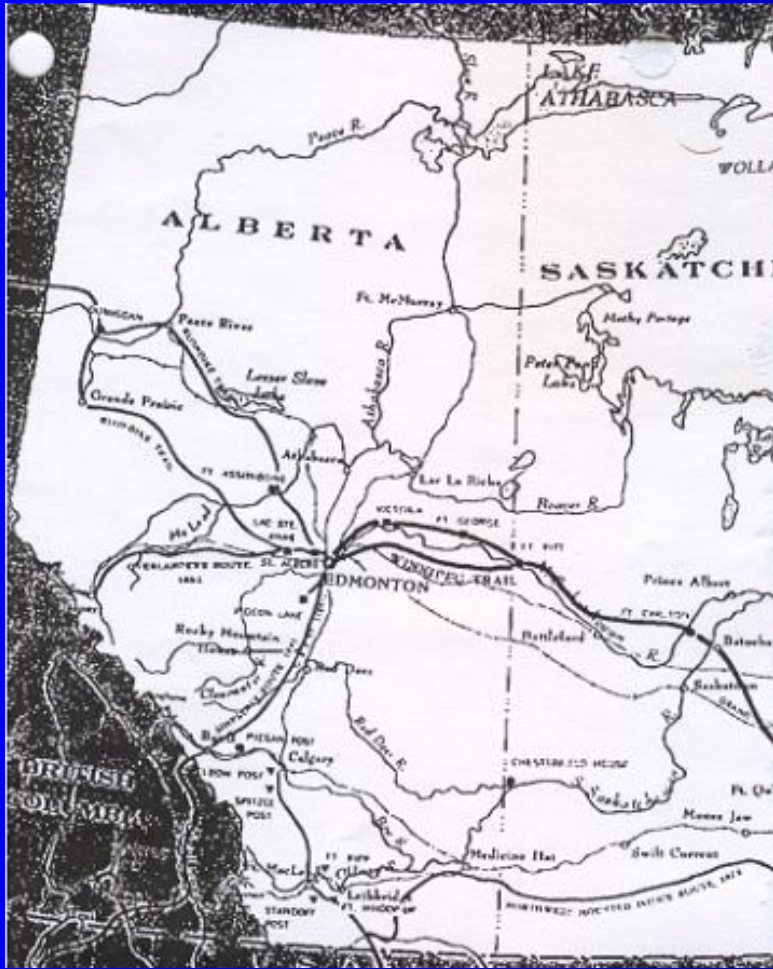


Alberta's Iron Horse Trail

# Focus of Presentations

- History – how we got to today
  - Trail Acquisition and Governance
  - Formation of various separate entities
- Where to from here?
- Questions

# Early History of Trails



- Iron Horse Trail now follows Carlton Trail of 1815 to 1900 (Winnipeg to Ft Carlton to Edmonton)
- Rail line arrived in 1920s
- Towns moved to the CN rail line

# An Early History of the Iron Horse Trail 1993 - 1999



- Once there was a gravel pit...
- The county needed gravel
- 32 km of trail was part of the deal
- Clean up very bad
- Early committee ineffective

# 1993: Acquisition of Elk Point to Heinsburg

## Rail line focus on recreation

The future of the abandoned rail line between Elk Point and Heinsburg will focus on recreational use by horse and ATV enthusiasts, cross-country skiers, snowmobilers, cyclists and hikers, combined with summer pasture usage for adjacent livestock owners.

Close to 50 area landowners and other interested individuals attended a meeting at Elk Point Seniors Recreation Centre last Tuesday, and voted overwhelmingly in favor of joint recreational and pasture use for the line, although a few landowners wanted it kept strictly for pasture.

The County of St. Paul No. 19 purchased the line and an adjacent gravel pit from Canadian National Railways last year. The gravel pit is estimated to contain 1.5 million cubic yards of gravel, which with a purchase price of \$125,000, comes out to just over 8 cents per yard. The gravel pit was "the main purpose of the purchase," according to Division II Councillor Ray Danyluk. With their gravel supply needs taken care of, the County is looking for input from interest groups regarding the use of the rail

line which came with the pit.

One of these interest groups is the Heinsburg Community Club, which according to Division I Councillor Bob Smith, "has been trying to get the right of way for years" in order to continue the development they have started at that end of the line. "We kept getting put off, and we couldn't get grant funding because we didn't have the title." The Club was unable to purchase a portion of the trackage "because CN wanted to get rid of it all at once." The Community Club and Heinsburg Seniors have developed the trackage in Heinsburg near the historic water tower "until it's like a lawn," with lots of dollars and work put in by the clubs and community residents.

A few of the landowners present had hoped to see the rail line used exclusively for pasture, but Danyluk said that as County property, it must benefit all residents. Nor will the County sell portions of the line to adjacent landowners. "We did not buy it for that purpose, and we will keep it intact."

Several concerns with recreational use were noted, including the risk of cattle rustling, disturbance of wildlife habitat, the possibility of fires, and trespassing on adjacent land. It was agreed that fires will only be permitted if and where areas are designated, and that vehicle access and hunting will be prohibited. Landowners may post 'no trespassing' signs and lock their gates. Access to the trail will not be permitted for cars and trucks.

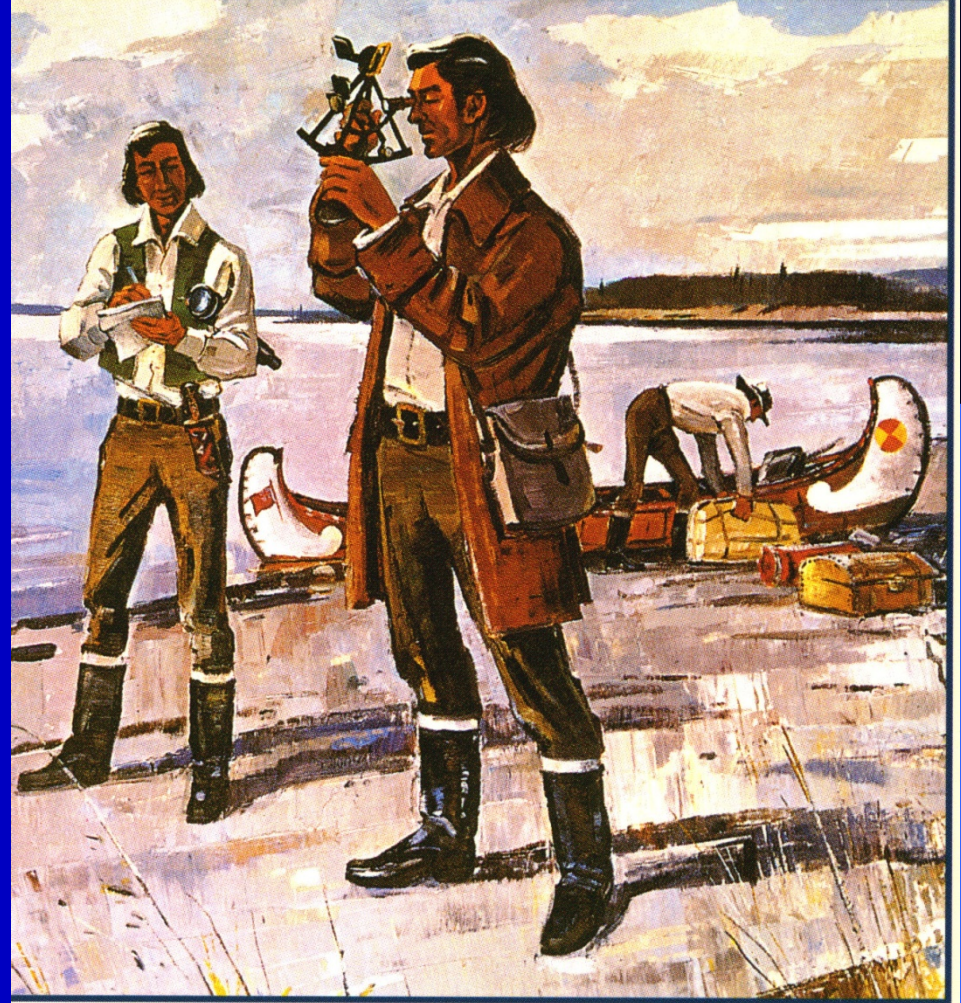
Three waterways cross the line, in Lindbergh townsite, beside the Salt Plant and at Middle Creek, and ways to deal with these were discussed. The County plans to make these crossings fordable for horses and off-road vehicles such as ATVs, as well as grading the roadbed and cutting grass and brush. This work will be done this spring as soon as conditions permit. Gates to allow trail users access to the portions of the trail used for pasture were also discussed, and a standardized design for a steel gate with reflective paint for high visibility was suggested.

- 1993
- Lessons learned

# Elk Point Historical Society 1998

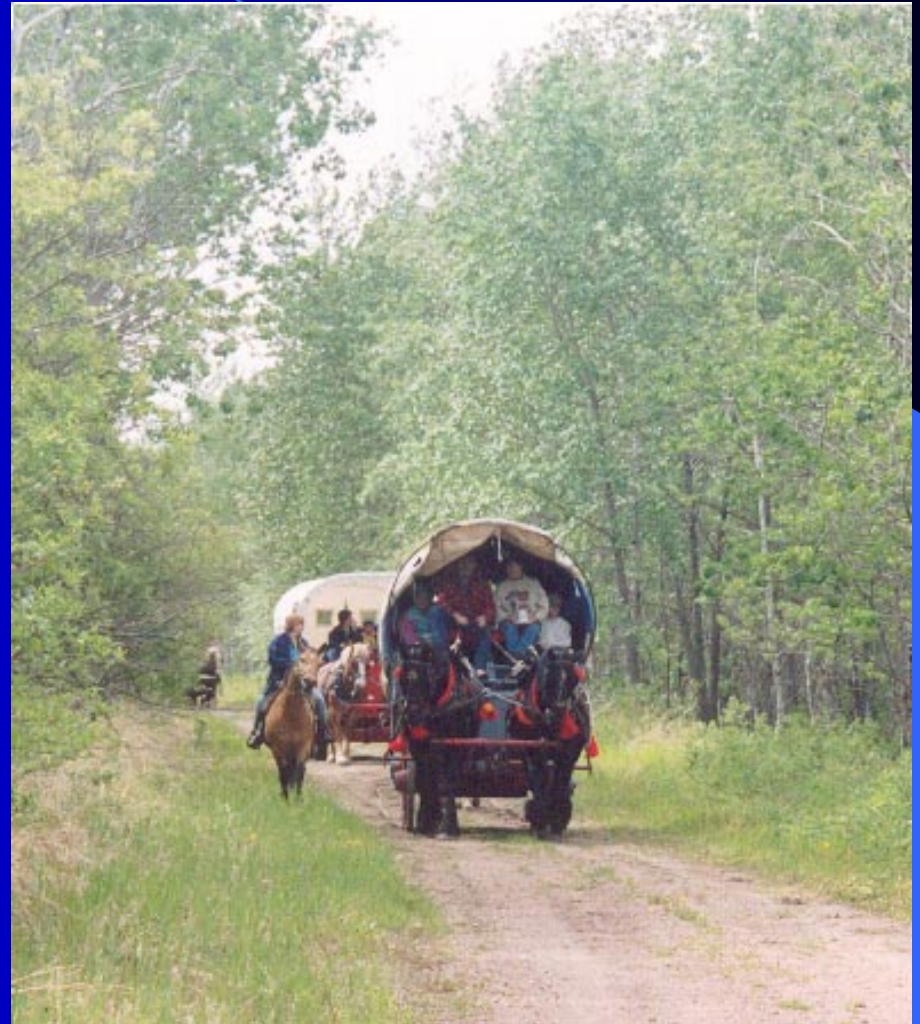
- Getting together a small group or users
- Municipal Connection with council
- Looking for partners
- Start looking at expanding the trail

Peter Fiddler 1892



# Tactic: Getting Connected (in the Early Days)

- Bringing in partners
- Awareness of the pros and cons of the partnership
- Willingness to work together
- No one group big enough to work by themselves
- Riverland Recreational Trail Society (RRTS) formed 1999



# RRTS works with many organizations



- Alberta TrailNet
- Alberta Snowmobile Association
- AVT groups (make them if they don't exist)
- Horse users
- Historical groups
- Trans Canada Trail
- Work with partners on win/win



# Be aware of motivations



We knew it was a great resource to be saved for the future!

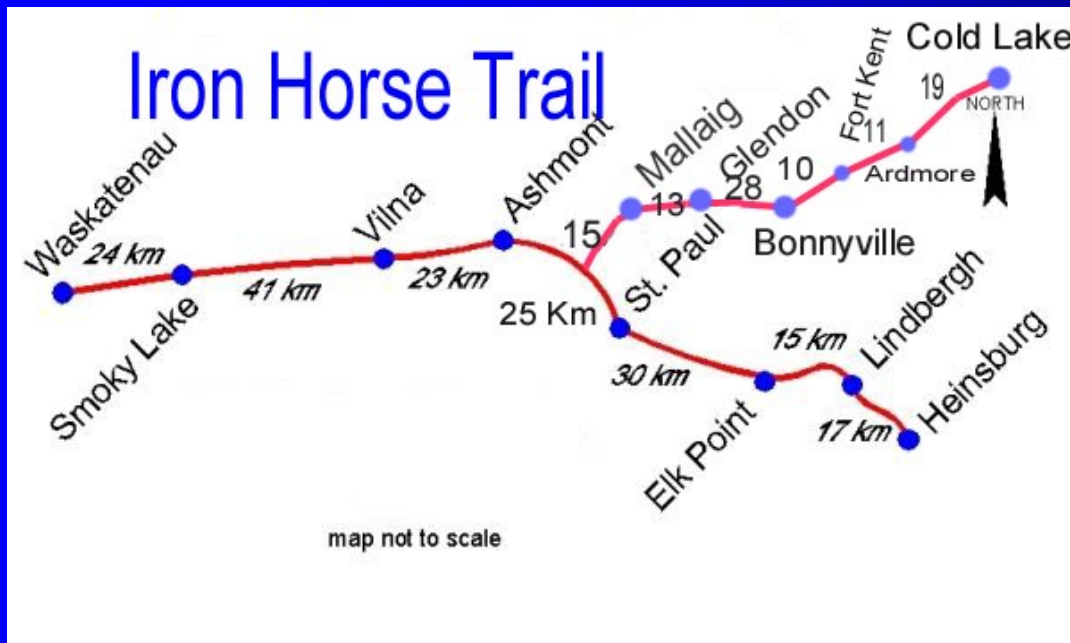
- Each Groups had their own goals
- Groups take ownership of trail
- Individuals – Legacy
- Motorized – Younger; Legacy - older
- Theme - working together
- Regional interaction

# Abandonment of Railway



- Trans Canada Trail and CN call RRTS
- RRTS call in Reeves of municipalities
- They start on NE MuniCorr

# 1999 Abandonment



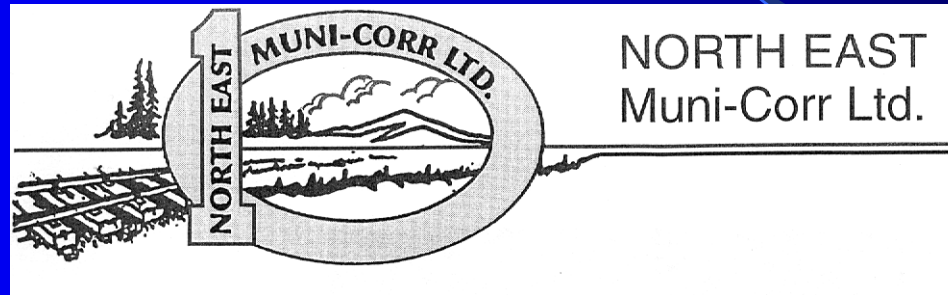
- Waskatenau to Elk Point to Cold Lake
- Need to develop a tool to bring CN to the table
- Organization of three rural municipalities into a group

# First Meeting with CN, Rail Link, and 3 Rural Municipalities



- Realization to formally organize all 10 municipalities (7 urban and 3 rurals)
- Need for passing a common bylaw about rail abandonment and reclamation

# Formation of NE Municorr



- Importance of forming a freestanding non-profit company to own and manage all properties
- CN wanted to deal with one entity

# Letter of intent with CN



- Trestles
- Safety
- Adjacent land transfer
- Environmental liability
- Clean up

Cold Lake trestle – 102' high ½ mile long

At end of runway; easily accessible from city

# Politics of Trail Development

- Question on the Ballot
- Municipal Elections – October 2001
- “Do you support a municipally regulated public trail upon the soon-to-be abandoned CN railway right-of-way? Yes or No

- Reasons for Question on ballot
  - Differing forces at work

- Question not binding
- Not a referendum or a plebiscite

# An election to remember...



jerryb



# Opposition arises



National Geographic June 1990

## Mobilizing Community



# We organize and learn a lot

## Mobilizing Community



Raises awareness

Creating BUZZ

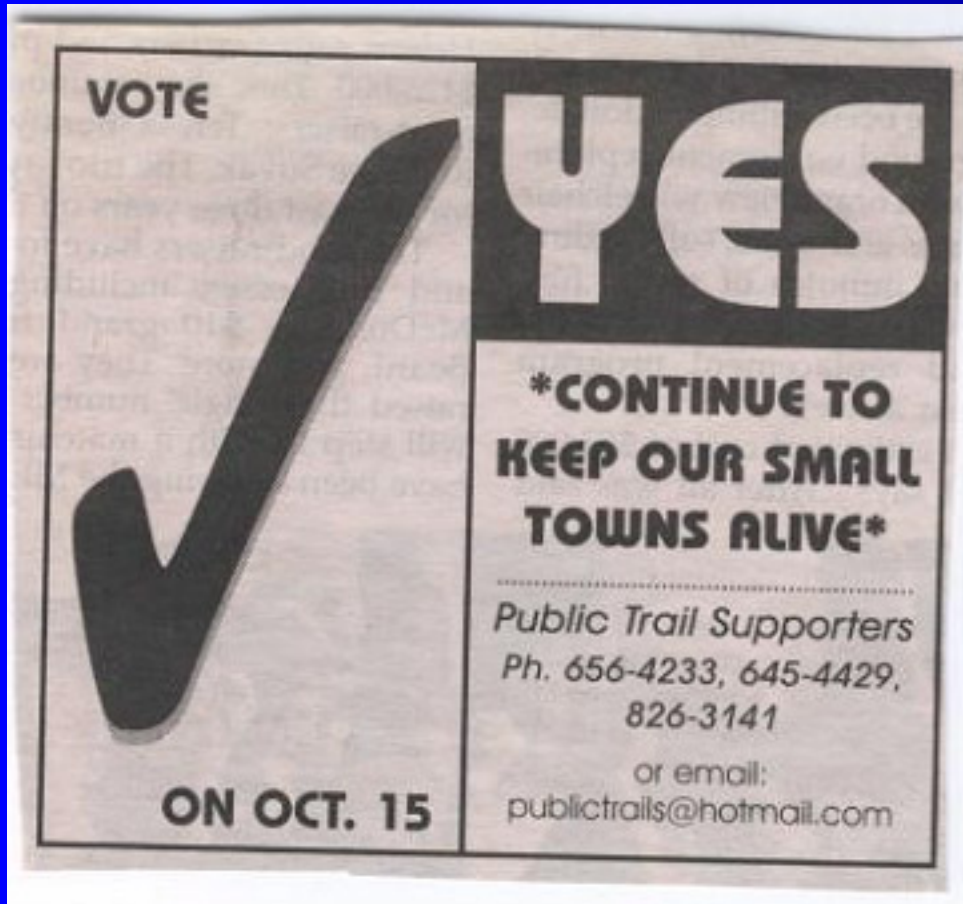
Using phones

Creating news stories

Identifying support  
and commitment

Getting out the vote

# Communication in Campaign



- Ads in papers (7)
- Letters to editors
- News releases
- Interviews
- Answers to letter in paper
- Radio ads
- Lawn signs (becomes its own BUZZ)
- Budget \$33,000

# Organization is strengthened

## Mobilizing Community



We identify support

We raise \$33,000

We have many small successes daily

We are unified by opposition

# The People Voted YES:

- 54.1% Overall (in the 3 Rural Municipalities)
- 64% in the County of St. Paul
- 50% + 12 in the County of Smoky Lake
- 45% in the M.D. of Bonnyville
- 71% in the Town of Smoky Lake
- 60% in the Village of Glendon
- 90% by the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce
- 85%+ at the last St. Paul Town Trail Committee meeting

# Building on the Election victory

- Realization we were only starting; opposition was waiting for failure
- Now construction and much much more....
- Building Infrastructure
- Building Partnerships
- Building Success



# Tactic: Build an evolving trail structure

▪ **Northeast MuniCorr**: Owns the corridor as a part nine company – One vote each

▪ **Ten Municipalities**: Regulate & supervise

▪ **RRTS**: Coordinates development

▪ **Trail Steward Groups**: On the ground

# Completion of staging areas 7 major and 10 minor



JerryB

- Signs and toilets
- Picnic tables
- Grants to each of seven major sites



# Putting safety signage in place



- Over \$25000 in safety signage
- Almost \$18000 in other signage

# Resolving Construction issues



- Trail surface
- Maintenance – gates
- Water issues – washouts
- Signage
  - Staging Areas
  - Commercial
- Vandalism

# Official Opening



Ashmont – June 8, 2003

# Tactic: Combine events -

AB TrailNet Grant Presentation with a wagon train event  
+ politics



# Tactic: Create New Trail Events



- Boscombe ATV
- Elk Point Bike Rally
- Iron Horse Ultra

# Tactic: Be a small part of Regional Events



- Cold Lake Air show
- Pumpkin Festival and completion of Pumpkin Park
- Opening of Trans Canadian Snowmobile Trail

# Tactic: Work the political scene constantly

Vol. 3 No.47 "Locally Owned, Community Oriented" Tuesday, October 22, 2002

780

## Ministers Fur Trade Ball



**Minister Eugene Zwozdesky announces \$10,000 for signage for the Forts. All Dignitaries were led in to the tune of the Piper.**

*see full story on page 14*

# Tactic: Getting Ministers visit your project





# Tactic: Working to Change Legislation



- Changing many trail regulations
  - Trespassing
  - Line Fencing Act
  - Crown Leases
- Trails Act 2014?

# Tactic: Organizing promotion



jerryB

- IHT Product Club
- Working with Ministers
- NE Municorr Coordinator in place
- Working with Lakeland DMO

# Tactic: Work with local government



- NE MuniCorr (monthly)
- Municipal consultation on all local projects
- Trail Stewards System
- Meet one-on-one as problems arise

# Tactic: Active patrolling fall and winter



- Education Programs
- Monthly reports
- Communication with Muni-Corr

# Tactic: Constantly Improving Communications



- Connect with local government
- Use multiple media: web, email, fax, papers
- Educational materials for members:  
Handbooks,  
Newsletters

# Tactic: Work through existing groups



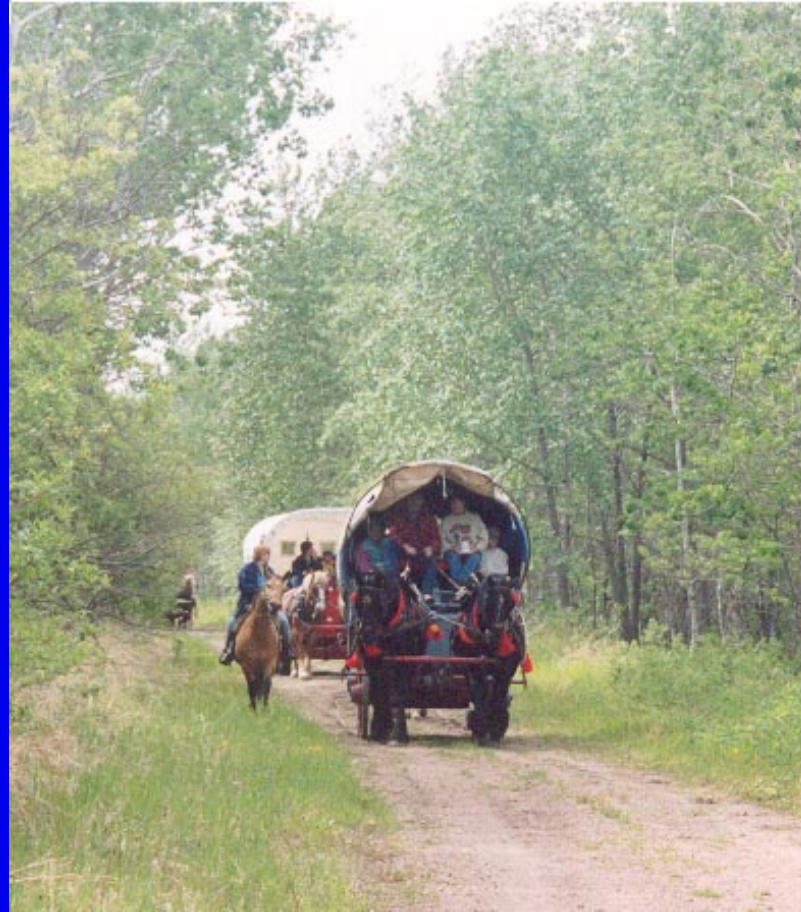
- Recreational groups (ASA, ATV, Horse...)
- Work with adjacent landowners
- Service organizations

# Tactic: Constant Promotion



- Winter
- Spring
- Summer
- Fall
- Use any and every possibility for promotion
- Use crossovers

# Tactic: Build Family Recreation



For all user groups



# Tactic: Paying attention to legal details



Signing letter of occupancy 2003

- Started with common goals and little on paper
- Build the paper trail slowly
- Operating without every detail nailed down builds

**Trust**

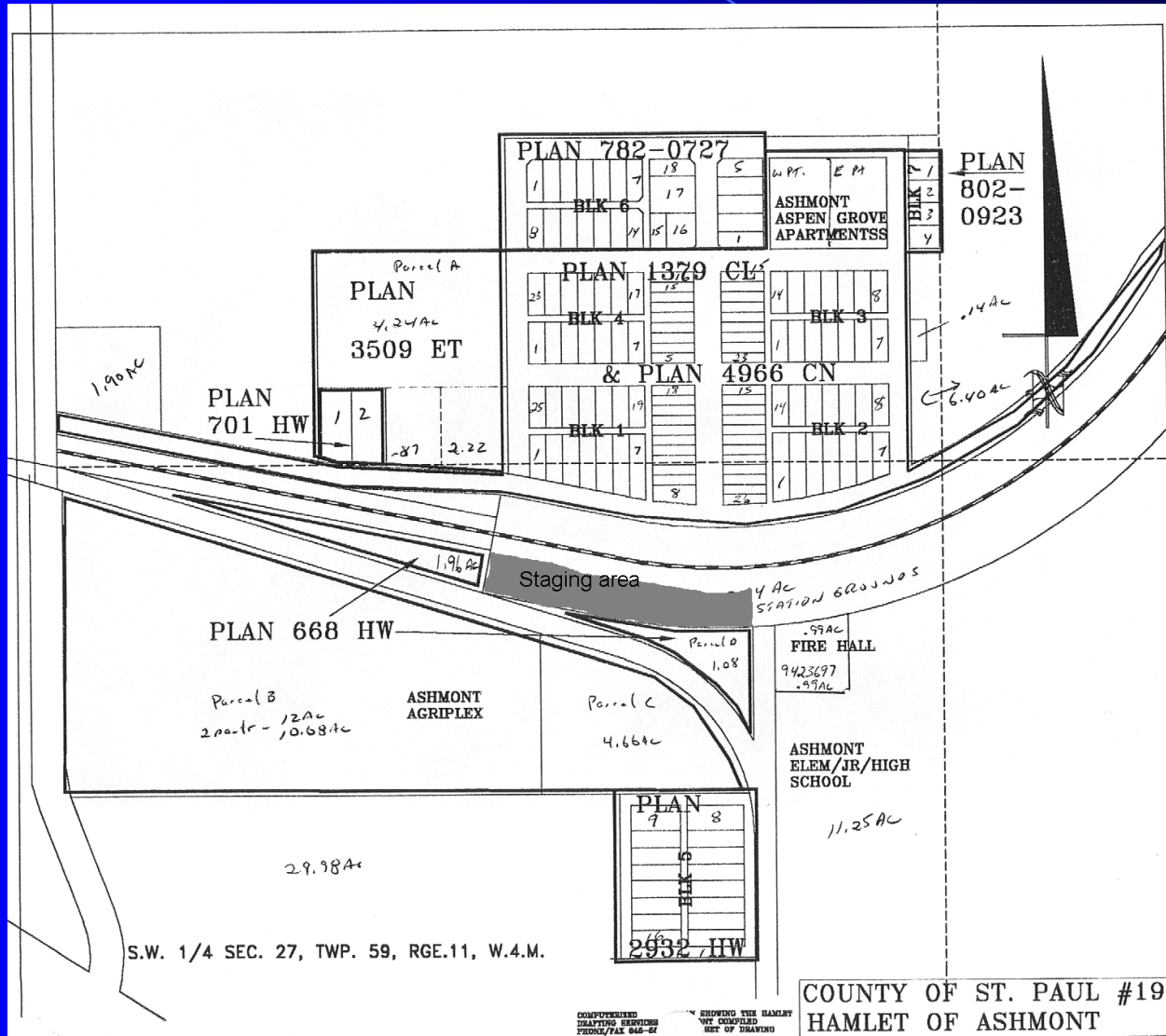
# Tactic: Complete legal processes and show support



Bonnyville

- **NE Muncorr Application for trail**
- **Phone, get members out on Thursday 10 am**
- **Approval**

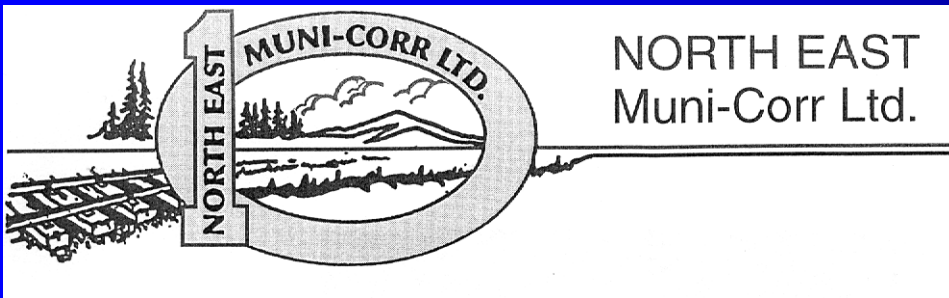
# Tactic: MuniCorr setting aside land



COMPILED BY  
DRAFTING SERVICES  
PHONE/FAX 645-64

SHOWING THE HAMLET  
NOT CONTROLLED  
SET OF DRAWING

# NE Municorr today



- Monthly meetings
- RRTS on agenda
- Delegations from interested parties

# NE Municorr Master Agreement

Equal Partners

Revenue and expense sharing formula

Realize people want municipal input

Process is part of ongoing solution to problems

- Infrastructure management with municipalities
- Sale of Municorr land
- Minimum requirement for staging areas
- Utility rights-of-way management
- Development of crossing agreements
- Adjacent landowner leases

# A Vision for the future: Where are we headed?



Is it really only a dirt trail through the bush?

# Tactic: Keep people aware of the gains



- Trestles
- Legacy of the land
- Multiple user's cooperation
- Multiple municipal cooperation
- Multiple organization interaction

# Tactic: work at maintenance



- Work with members
- Talk to other people, BUZZ
- Partnerships
- Do our fair share



# Tactic: Building Hidden Infrastructure

- Trail Call
- Website
- Brochures
- Social networks
- Regular meetings

http://www.ironhorsetrail.ca/ - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Mail Print Edit Discuss

Riverland Recreational Trail Society

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Start Marvin Bjornstad - ... Microsoft Word http://www.iron... Adobe PhotoDelux... 4:42 AM

# Getting Resources for Trail



JerryB

## RCMP Training

Tuesday, May 7, 2002 Your community newspaper since 1924 75 Cents

### The St. PAUL JOURNAL

## RCMP hit trails with education

Awareness gets brighter with quad loan

By Michelle Haley

Education and law enforcement on the local ATV trail just got a much brighter. Local enthusiasts will soon be seeing RCMP riding a new and bright yellow - Bombardier Quest 650 XT Quad ATV. "It's a beautiful piece of equipment," said St. Paul RCMP Staff Sgt. Jim Felli. The vehicle, on loan for one year from Bombardier Recreational Products Company, QC, will be used to educate the public about the Off Highway Vehicle Act, the laws pertaining to ATV's, and the promotion of safety and respect for both people and environment. The loan was facilitated through Jerry Bidulock of Power Merchants, president of a recently formed local organization, the St. Paul ATV Club. "We supplied the unit for public relations," Bidulock stressed. He added education and awareness is an important aspect of ATV use, particularly with the construction of a new trail system. The club's goals include respect for people, safety and environment. "We will be showing (the quad) in local parades and using it in state displays at fairs and other special events over the spring, summer and fall," Felli said. "It will also be used during our routine patrols of the local trails, and very specifically if or when the Mono-Cue Trail opens." Felli, who has been active during community input into the proposed recreational uses for the Mono-Cue trail, is also an advocate of safe and respectful operation of OHV's.

RCMP Staff Sgt. Jim Felli accepts the keys to the Bombardier Quest 650 XT Quad ATV from Jerry Bidulock from Power Merchants. The vehicle is on loan to the RCMP for one year and will be used for education and enforcement. Watch for it at local events. Photo by Michelle Haley

### may boost employment

average

Commercial development is also on the new local facility and is expected to start this spring. Commercial development is also on the new local facility and is expected to start this spring. Commercial development is also on the new local facility and is expected to start this spring.

### RCMP hit trails

RCMP will, however, be enforcing strict compliance of registration and insurance, he said. "Two of the things we're really going to go after," Felli said, "are erratic driving and obeying speed limits." Age restrictions is another, he said, explaining youths under 14 years old must be accompanied by an adult. "They can't be ripping around out there without supervision."

The trail is intended as a multi-use recreational facility, Felli said. "It was a whole community effort to get this. Our part, of course, is if and when we don't get voluntary compliance."

He said a former Mac's store, closed for about a decade and recently purchased by a new owner, may see some development in the near future including a potential expansion and room for two businesses. "We will enforce this."

A formal training course may soon be available as well, Felli said. "We have an Alberta Safety Council member here and we're going to be running a rider training course."

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EVERYONE WELCOME  
**TUESDAY**  
May 14, 2002 **7:00** PM  
Centennial Senior Citizens Club  
5114 - 49th Street

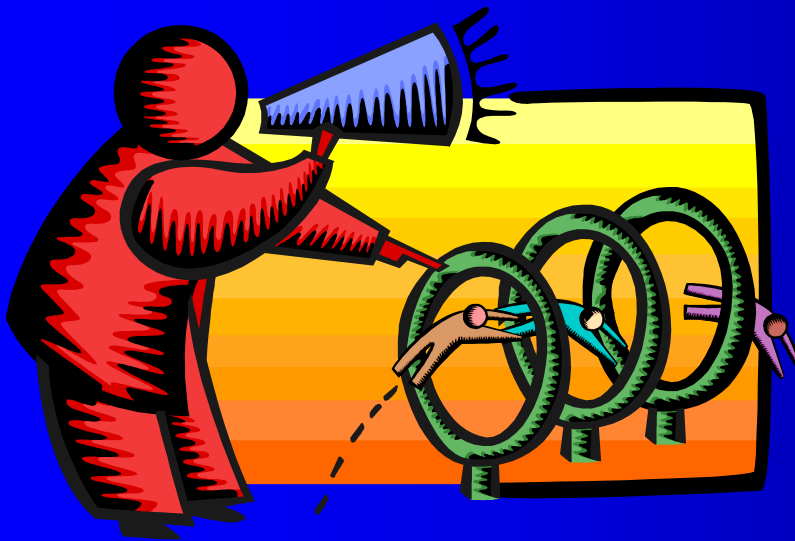
**Guest Speaker: Wagdi Iskander**  
Wagdi was born in Sudan, Africa and was trained to be a terrorist. After receiving Jesus as Lord in 1992, Wagdi and his Christian friends were arrested and sentenced to hang. Come and hear Wagdi's story of his miraculous escape from death and the wonderful things God has done in his life.

Call 645-4799 by May 10 if you plan to attend. Cost is \$7.00

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**Annual street clean up set for May 26**

# Tactic: Dealing with trail issues



- Investigate all issues immediately
- Consultation with NE MuniCorr
- Consultation with municipalities
- Consulting with trail users
- Consulting adjacent landowners

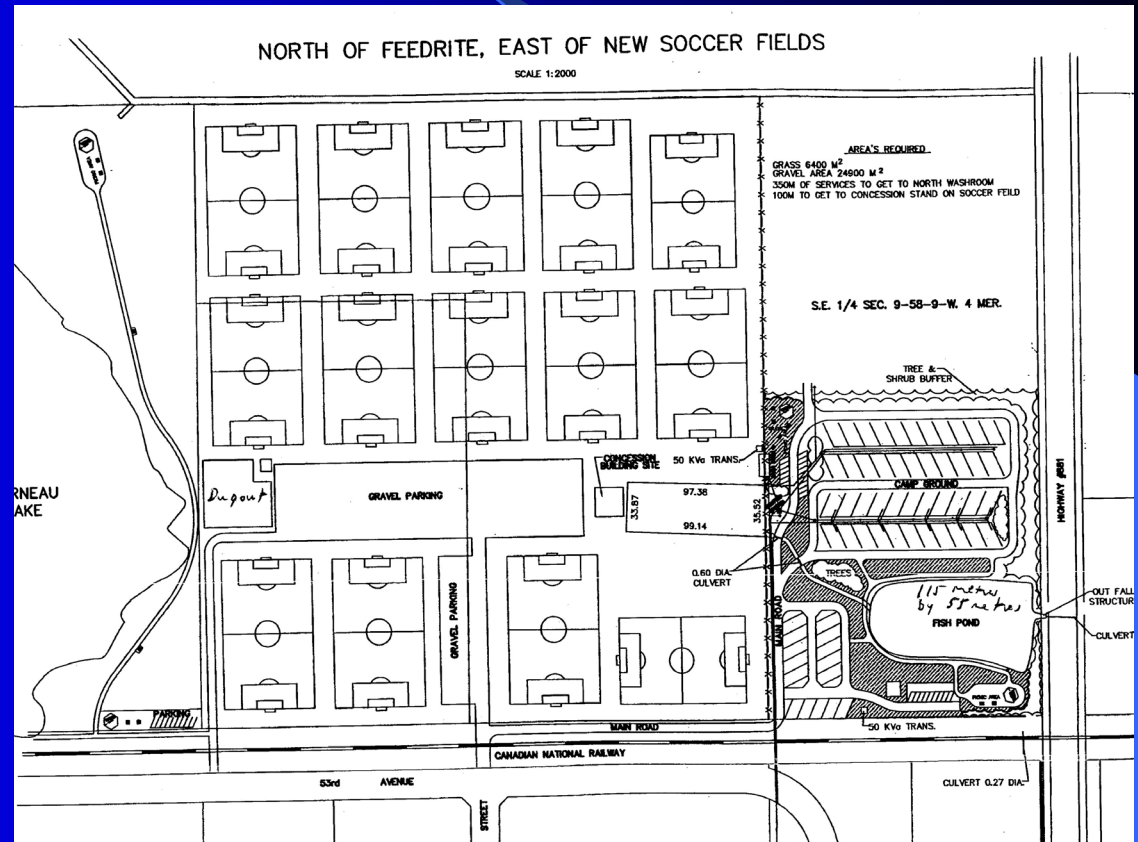
# Tactics: Working with really small communities



- Finding champions
- Working with small groups ie Fire departments
- Have meetings in their site
- Help with funding

# Community plans in place

- Elk Point
- Ashmont
- Cold Lake
- Mallaig
- Bonnyville plan
- St Paul initiative 1.3 M



# Alberta Trail Net and Trans Canada Trail Partnership



# Working with adjacent landowners



- Helping out if we can
- Looking for ways to add positives
- Constant surveying and communication
- Work with Municipality

# Each year has its gains



2009 – Surfacing; Municorr –  
ASA award; Riverland Chall  
2010 – Audit, Ski tour;  
2011 – Geocache;  
2012 –EP, Smoky Lake Water  
GIS, Travel AB ads; new lease

- 1993 Original IHT
- 1999 – Foundation of RRTS
- 2000 – Abandonment, bylaws,
- 2001 – Election,
- 2002 – designing
- 2003 – Opening, Product Club,  
Trail Stewards
- 2004 - Awards, Staging Areas
- 2005 –Infrastructure done
- 2006 – Relay; C1 building;  
Lindbergh bridge
- 2007 – Malliag; St Paul staging
- 2008 – Riverland Challenge;  
Website; Surfacing grant \$660



# This Year's Accomplishments

- **Cold Lake Trestle Fundraising**
- 2 waterlines
- Groups on trail- Ministers; AB Trailnet;
- Municipal Maintenance funding
- Danyluk hill donation (\$25000 + political gain)
- Addressed Heinsburg spring
- Moving into social networking
- 10 year anniversary

# Review: Our Vision for the future

Extending the trail

Getting more facilities in place

Promoting the trail



# Need to Develop volunteers



- Break up work into manageable portions
- Keep meetings to a minimum
- NE Municorr partnership
- Work on the trail – creating ownership
- Community events by other groups

# Build on our previous successes and methods



- Multiple goals; follow through
- Develop Trail steward groups
- Memberships
- Committee structure — Trail Stewards, Safety, Funding, Memberships
- Communications with other groups

# Keep people aware of the gains and development



- Trestles, right of way
- Legacy of the land
- Local users recreation
- Multiple municipal cooperation
- Multiple organization interaction and cooperation
- Recognition for region

# Importance of Coordinator Position

- Coordinates communications
- Immediate action
- Constant work on our joint goals
- One stop for info
- Internal and external contacts
- Connects tourism, user groups, land managers, adjacent landowners
- History of issues and people involved
- Relationships with all players