

Riverland Recreational Trail Society blazing ahead;

A lot of the work that went into inspiring Ag Tourism in the form of equestrian staging areas, special events and community group partnerships has led to staging area shelters being built in the shape of railway stations and gazebos. **Mallaig** is building a shelter modeled after their CNR Train Station, **Ashmont and Elk Point** are building Gazebo's and **Cold Lake** is rebuilding the CNR Grand Centre Train Station on its original foundation.



Communities have partnered together to make the Trans Canada Trail, Centennial Relay event a success; Wagons, Bicycles, Viking Skiers, Runners, Horse back, ATV and Red River Carts are carrying the Centennial flag from community to community. **Left** Red River Cart leads Relay on a Historic Metis Trek to Waskatenau. **Right** Jo-Ann Carignan-Vallee and Mike Bergeron; new TCT coordinators at the start of the Centennial Relay in Edmonton.



Ashmont welcomes arrival of Centennial Relay Flag

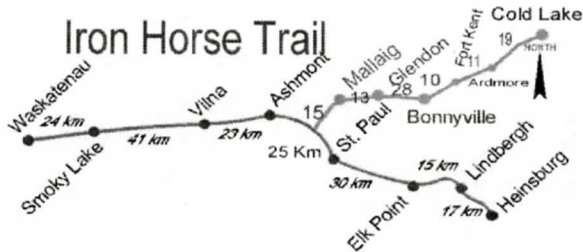
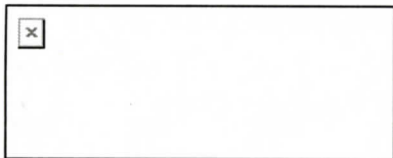
By Leah Iverson, St Paul Journal Staff

Ashmont residents gathered together last Sunday to celebrate the arrival of the Trans Canada Trail Centennial Relay Flag coming from Smoky Lake and Vilna. Dozens of community members came out to the event, located in front of the staging area in Ashmont. It was a day-long event, featuring activities, food and live entertainment. "We had kids' games like bean bag tosses, plink a and Wheel of Fortune," said organizer Linnette Newby. There were also horse and carriage rides giving kids and adults a tour around town. The attendees enjoyed a lunch which included hot dogs, coleslaw and potato salad, along with centennial cake, sponsored by the County of St. Paul. Ashmont Clean Septic and Main St. Convenience also helped support the event. The band Clarence Smith and Friends from Boscombe entertained guests all day. The anticipation was high during the event, as residents awaited the official flag. At 4 p.m., a group of people on quads could be seen approaching the staging area. The group was right on time, and drove up to where the festivities were being held. A young boy named Jordan Fontaine from Smoky Lake passed the official flag over to Robert Bouchard, reeve of the County of St. Paul. Once Newby welcomed the new guests, everyone sat down for a bite to eat. Ashmont residents sat at the picnic tables with Smoky Lake and Vilna residents, where everyone got a chance to meet, which is something Bouchard wanted to see. "It's the centennial relay and it is important that we communicate with our neighbouring towns and reflect on the past," said Bouchard. Trans Canada Trail regional coordinator Mike Bergeron helped put the Centennial Relay together and said he was happy to see people coming out to welcome the flag. "All the communities are so welcoming from Edmonton to here," said Bergeron. "It's like a parade when they come in with the flag." The flag will remain in town until July 9 when participants from Ashmont will take it to St. Paul. Newby said she hopes to begin the county's leg of the relay with moms and tots and end with seniors. "The intent is not a race, but to get involvement from community members," said Newby. The Trans Canada Trail Centennial Relay 2005 is taking place from June 12 to July 23 and will cover 1,100 kilometres of trail. The relay happens on weekends only and will pass through 18 Alberta communities, celebrating Alberta's centennial.

Premier Ralph Klein on IHT



Premier Ralph Klein following a sod turning event in St Paul took a ride on the Iron Horse Trail. Ray Danyluk and Jerry Bidulock answered a lot of questions as the Premier was sincerely impressed and interested in the development of the Iron Horse Trail. I had a few minutes to brag about the community spirit in all of the small towns and villages along the Iron Horse / Trans Canada Trail who are improving their staging areas to accommodate visitors to their area.



map not to scale
RIVERLAND RECREATIONAL TRAIL SOCIETY
www.ironhorsetrail.ca

Membership Form

Yes! I want to support Trails; please sign me up as a Member.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

Province: _____

Post Code: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Individual Member ___ yr x \$10.00 = \$ _____

Family Membership ___ yr x \$25.00 = \$ _____

Group Membership ___ yr x \$50.00 = \$ _____

Donations; are greatly appreciated and help our volunteer Trail Stewards with the materials needed for IHT trail maintenance \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

make cheque payable to: Riverland Recreational Trail Society

Yes! I want to volunteer with AB Iron Horse / Trans Canada Trail managed by (Riverland Recreational Trail Society)

My skills include: _____

Signed _____

Dated _____

Mail to:

Riverland Recreational Trail Society
 Po Box 642
 St. Paul, AB
 T0A 3A0

