

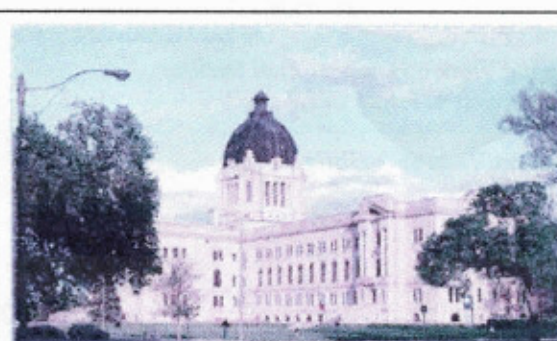
Alberta's **IRON HORSE** *Trail*

Riverland Recreational Trail Society & Iron Horse Trail Product Club.... Winter 2005

Happy Birthday, Alberta & Saskatchewan !!!



Alberta Legislature, Edmonton



Saskatchewan Legislature, Regina

We are pleased to be among the first to wish a very happy centennial birthday to the sister provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Both were created from the Northwest in 1905. Alberta is named for Queen Victoria's daughter, Princess Louise Alberta, while Saskatchewan refers to the Cree word for 'swift flowing river'. Indeed, our name, Riverland, refers to our proximity to the North Saskatchewan River. . Alberta's Iron Horse Trail sits along the historic Carleton Trail that connects the two provinces. As such, we plan to take an active part in celebrating the two centennials, inviting trail users to discover the many historic sites and present day recreational features along the trail leading from Edmonton to Regina. Our kick-off event will be a snowmobile rally opening the newest link in the Trans-Canadian Snowmobile Trail, connecting Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan with Cold Lake, Alberta, February 19 & 20, 2005 (See back page of this newsletter). Another ambitious plan will see a multi-use relay from Regina to Edmonton in May & June of this year. If you have ideas for relay participants, contact Terry Hansen at 780 645-2913.

Contact Us: Alberta's Iron Horse Trail is 300 kms of multi-use recreational trail along the former railroad right-of-way connecting natural areas and tourist attractions as well as the communities of N-E Alberta. It is owned by N.E. Muni-Corr and maintained by the Riverland Recreational Trail Society. For more information or to become a member - www.ironhorsetrail.ca or 1-877-645-4521. Iron Horse Trail Product Club (780) 645-2913.

ALBERTA'S IRON HORSE TRAIL OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED AS TCT Wins prestigious Travel Alberta ALTO Award for 'Alberta Pride'.

Alberta's Iron Horse Trail has received national recognition by being officially designated part of the Trans Canada Trail (TCT). The 300 km Iron Horse Trail is owned by North East Muni-Corr and maintained by the Riverland Recreational Trail Society working in partnership with local clubs, volunteers, landowners, businesses and other stakeholders.

Opened in 2003, the new addition to the TCT runs roughly parallel to the North Saskatchewan River from Smoky Lake (north east of Edmonton) to Heinsburg. The trail provides a crucial TCT connector between Saskatchewan and Alberta's Capital Region. With a northern branch to Bonnyville and Cold Lake, Alberta's Iron Horse Trail also accommodates a section of the Trans Canadian Snowmobile Trail route.

On November 8, Alberta's Iron Horse Trail also received provincial recognition when it won the "Alberta Pride" category in Travel Alberta's prestigious ALTO Awards.

In winning this award North East Muni-Corr Ltd. (a partnership of ten municipalities: Smoky Lake, Smoky Lake County, Vilna, St. Paul, County of St. Paul, Elk Point, Glendon, Bonnyville, Municipal District of Bonnyville, Cold Lake) was recognized for its vision and leadership and commended for the cooperative action which led to securing and developing the former CN rail lands as a multi use recreational trail. CN was an important partner to the success of this impressive project. Alberta TrailNet Society and Alberta Snowmobile Association have provided funding and ongoing support for developing the trail.



Alberta TrailNet Society nominated North East Muni-Corr Ltd. and Alberta's Iron Horse Trail for the Award stating, "Their cooperative efforts to successfully preserve this green corridor for future generations is a model of commitment and community cooperation. Alberta's Iron Horse Trail is a legacy for us all to care for and enjoy."



Congratulations to Ray Danyluk & Denis Ducharme

2004 will be remembered as a year of elections and the Alberta provincial election saw the return of two of our veteran representatives. Ray Danyluk and Denis Ducharme have been great supporters of Alberta's Iron Horse Trail and were instrumental in seeing its development from its earliest stages. A note of thanks needs to go out to Dave Broda from the Smoky Lake area who did not seek re-election when his riding was absorbed into Athabasca-Redwater. We look forward to working with Mike Cardinal who now represents Smoky Lake.

Danyluk not only supported our local trail system but also succeeded in raising the profile of trails throughout Alberta in his work as Chair of the Recreation Corridors Legislative Review Committee. His achievements include passage of the Occupiers' Liability Amendment Act, proclaimed May 1, 2004. This bill addresses Albertan's concerns about rising insurance costs. The bill reduces the burden of liability that landowners and occupiers owe to recreational users.

As trail operators we appreciate the work of the Recreation Corridors Review Committee and look ahead to further action particularly in the following areas:

- * Coordination of regulations province-wide
- * Consistent standards for trail building
- * Creation of a business plan to further develop sustainability of trails
- * Communication of trail information through a single portal so that all information regarding legislation, location, trail use and condition is available and comparable.

Albertan's consistently rank trails as an important lifestyle element promoting fitness, recreation and community development. Urban residents point with pride to their trail systems. Rural residents, particularly in Northeastern Alberta appreciate the benefits a regional system can bring. Riverland directors express the hope that Ray Danyluk will continue his important work of strengthening the trails in Alberta for citizens today and long into the future.

Award Winning Trails!

It is gratifying to see our members receiving recognition for their years of dedicated work on behalf of trails in Northeastern Alberta. The Recreation Volunteer Recognition Awards were presented at the Alberta Recreation & Parks Association Conference, October, 2004, to four Albertans, who have, through their involvement and dedication, advanced the development of recreation in Alberta. Alberta Community Development sponsors the awards. Marvin Bjornstad was the unanimous choice of the County of St. Paul for this nomination. He has contributed tirelessly and passionately as a volunteer in his community for almost 30 years. Marvin's most significant volunteer contribution has come from his involvement with the development of the Iron Horse Multi-Use Recreational Trail System. His involvement started at the conceptual stage of the initiative and continues to this day. He was instrumental in the formation of the inter-municipal/recreational user coalition, which was the foundation of the current North East Muni-Corr. In 2001 Marvin was involved in negotiating the transfer of land assets from CN Rail, and today is still heavily involved with coordinating construction and management of the trail through the Riverland Society. Marvin also finds time to support ongoing work related to raising funds and developing grant applications to support continued development of the 288 km. stretch of trail. Marvin has made giving back to his community a way of life and is regarded as a "community leader" in every sense of the word. As a volunteer, his commitment to youth and to recreation development is unsurpassed!

Marvin and his wife, Heather, traveled to the ARPA conference at the Jasper Park Lodge to receive his award. Congratulations, Marvin.



Robert Bouchard receiving the "Alberta Pride" award at the Travel Alberta Conference in Banff. Travel Alberta's largest conference ever, 700 people were on hand for the presentations. The Alberta Pride Award captures the essence of the whole Alberta experience.

The Little Grant that Could

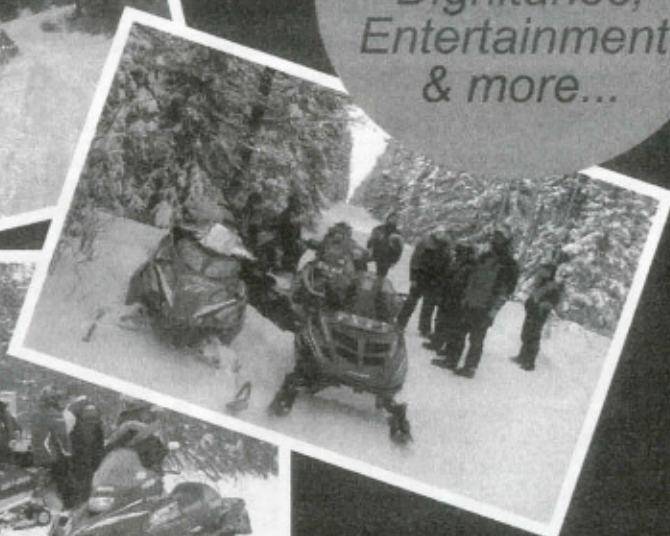
Riverland directors are pleased to see the \$12,000 Alberta Community Development / Alberta Trail Net 'seed money' grant to the Town of St. Paul contribute to an ambitious staging area for the community. Partnering is the name of the game and many community organizations have come on board. The staging area will be on the north east side of town, next to the soccer fields and convenient to the main shopping district. Included are plans for a pavilion-gazebo, parking, a fish pond sponsored by the Fish & Game Association, interpretive walking trails, 40 camping stalls and washroom facilities with 12 showers. In total, the project will cost \$1,300,000. It is nice to see those seeds growing. Now if we could just figure out a way to make the rest of our grants grow at the same rate

Snowmobile Ride-In

The Alberta Trans-Canadian Snowmobile Trail Official Opening
& Alberta / Saskatchewan Border Crossing Celebration

February 19-20, 2005

"Riding into the Next Centennial! Come and be part of history!!!"



Poker Rallies,
Special Guests,
Dignitaries,
Entertainment,
& more...

Photo Credits:
Craig Nicholson © by C. Nicholson

Saturday, February 19th, 2005- Cold Lake, AB

Cold Lake Ag Building, Exhibition Park, 4608-38 Ave.

Sunday, February 20th, 2005- Good Soil / Meadow Lake, SK

Meadow Lake Golf Course, South End of 3rd Ave. East



GMC

ski-doo.
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE IT.



YAMAHA

For more information:

In Alberta- www.altasnowmobile.ab.ca or call 780-427-2695.

In Saskatchewan- www.sasksnowmobiling.sk.ca or call 1-800-499-7533.

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