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The Trans Canada Trail Pavilion in Gabriel Dumont Park in Saskatoon.

New trail group formed in Saskatoon

Parkland Trans Canada Trail Assoc. Inc.(PTCTA) has become the newest trail group member to join the Saskatchewan Trails Association (STA). The group was officially formed as a non-profit organization in February 2007. Although they are a small band, they are enthusiastic to extend the TCT in the Saskatoon region. They have set their sights to develop trail from Wanuskewin in the north to the Whitecap Dakota First Nations in the south. Currently the Meewasin Valley Trail has been registered as TCT since 1999 but has never been signposted. There is also a pavilion which was opened in 2005 in Gabriel Dumont Park with names of 4000 donors. Efforts to promote the completion of the trail stalled in the region after the collapse of the previous TCT group in 2000. This new group is hoping that they can put their energy into the winds of environmental awareness and desire to complete the TCT across the province by 2010. At this time Saskatchewan is only 36% completed. Manitoba is 96% completed so we have a long way to go. The formation of this group is a small step in that journey. For membership in the organization or donations contact lwoodhurst@hotmail.com.

Another good reason to be a member of STA!!!

Recently STA became a member of Sask. Tourism. This membership allows us to be listed under their "product". When a tourist is looking for opportunities to hike/cycle or horseback ride in the province one of the places they will be linked to is the STA web site. Our web site will feature any trail group that has a membership with us. We have maps of completed Trans Canada Trail sections on this site but your trail group could submit your local information and we would be pleased to have it posted.

Membership categories in STA includes incorporated or unincorporated association of individuals in a particular geographic area; trail groups or user groups whose members use recreational trails in SK.

Even if you don't have a web site you would receive the benefit of advertising your region for recreational trails. Explore www.sasktourism.com, then click on "other outdoor experiences" and use the advanced search for keywords "hiking" or "cycling." You will find Sask. Trails Association in the listing at www.sasktrails.ca. People from all over the world would know about your trails!

Get ready for the STA AGM

On September 22, the STA will be holding their AGM. Each year a location is selected that reflects an appropriate site for the values of a trail group. The first year we met in Craik at the eco-centre. Last year we went to Outlook to view the Skytrail. This fall we will be meeting in Martensville. Watch for further information and dates.

New Executive Assistant

Pat Rediger has recently been hired on a part-time basis to assist the STA. Welcome aboard! Pat is the managing partner for Benchmark Public Relations, a strategic communications consulting firm with offices in Regina and Winnipeg. Benchmark provides communications planning, copywriting, design, website management, print production and contract management. The company's clientele includes a range of public, not-for-profit and private companies including SaskEnergy, the Saskatchewan Safety Council and Tourism Saskatchewan.

Pat has served as the managing editor of Farm Light & Power, once the largest farm publication in western Canada. He is a former principal in Concept Media Ltd., which published Regina Magazine and was a partner in Sunrise Publishing Ltd., which publishes Saskatchewan Business and Alberta Business magazines. Pat recently began a new venture, Benchmark Press, a book publishing company.

Thanks to Jo-Ann Carignan-Vallee who previously served as the STA's executive assistant. She has been hired by the Trans Canada Trail Foundation to develop trail in Saskatchewan. She remains with STA as an ex-officio member of the board.