



**Peace Valley Snow Riders**  
**The First 10 Years**  
*(October 2009 to October 2019)*

Pictured: Baytex Wesley Creek Trail

Prepared by Dwayne Buchholtz – December 3, 2020

# Peace Valley Snow Riders: The First 10 Years

## Table of Contents

<b>Preface</b> .....	1
<b>Overview</b> .....	1
Why the Decision to Organize a New Club? .....	2
<b>The First 10 Years: A Review of the Highlights by Timeline</b> .....	4
Year 1: 2009–2010 .....	4
Year 2: 2010–2011 .....	5
Year 3: 2011–2012 .....	6
Year 4: 2012–2013 .....	7
Year 5: 2013–2014 .....	8
Year 6: 2014–2015 .....	9
Year 7: 2015–2016 .....	12
Year 8: 2016–2017 .....	15
Year 9: 2017–2018 .....	18
Year 10: 2018–2019 .....	20
August 1 to October 31, 2019 .....	23
<b>The First 10 Years: A Review of the Highlights by Trail</b> .....	24
Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Trail .....	24
Baytex Wesley Creek Trail .....	27
Cadotte River Trail .....	31
Friendship Trail .....	31
Grimshaw to Fairview / Hines Creek Rail Line .....	31
Smith Mills Trail .....	32
Misery Mountain Trail .....	38
Old Telegraph Trail .....	39
Talbot Lake Trail .....	39
Weberville Community Forest Association Trail .....	39
Whispering Pines Trail .....	40
Dixonville Connector .....	40
Canfor Hines Creek Trail .....	41
East Wesley Creek Trail .....	45

<b>The First 10 Years: A Review of the Statistical Highlights</b> .....	46
Trails .....	46
Administration .....	47
Communications .....	49
<b>The First 10 Years: What It Means for the Future of the Club</b> .....	50
<b>Epilogue</b> .....	51
<b>Author's Notes</b> .....	52
<b>Appendices</b> .....	53
Appendix 1: Trail Maps .....	54
Leddy Lake Trail .....	54
Wesley Creek Trail .....	55
Smith Mills Trail .....	56
Hines Creek Trail .....	57
Appendix 2: Trail Development & Operating Summary .....	58
Appendix 3: Summary of Cash Donations .....	59
Appendix 4: Alphabetical List of In-Kind Donors .....	60
Appendix 5: Picture Gallery .....	61
Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Trail .....	62
Baytex Wesley Creek Trail .....	64
Smith Mills Trail .....	67
Canfor Hines Creek Trail .....	74

# Preface

This document provides a summary of the achievements, successes, and challenges of the Peace Valley Snow Riders Association over its first ten years. It has been rewarding to participate in creating a legacy of snowmobile trails in the Peace area based on the significant dedication and commitment of the Club members and the overwhelming support of the many stakeholders and donors.

With the competing demands for the land base at the time the Club was formed, the belief was that we as snowmobilers needed to move quickly to secure a place to enjoy our sport. Although there has since been a downturn in the energy sector, other competing demands for the land base remain, such as forestry, agriculture, trapping, protected areas for wildlife habitat, and other industrial use. The challenge going forward is to ensure that the current 185 kilometres of trails are maintained and that future Club members remain motivated to carry on this legacy by adding additional routes. These additional routes would fulfill the original vision of a network of trails in the Peace area on both the east and west sides of the Peace River. By becoming “Part of the Solution,” the Club and its members have greatly improved the image of the sport in the Peace area and continue to do so by promoting responsible snowmobiling.

Thank you to all who were part of the first ten years of the Peace Valley Snow Riders Association and all the best to those who choose to volunteer their time and talents to moving the Club forward in the future!

## Overview

With the rapid growth of snowmobiling as a winter recreation activity in the late 60s and early 70s, those in the Peace region also took the opportunity to make the most out of the long northern winters and the abundant snowfall. Snowmobiling in the area has continued since, with the area currently known to have a high ratio of off-highway vehicles in general when compared to other areas of the province. Those who live in the region often consider outdoor activities in the sparsely populated area, including motorized sports, as one of the benefits to residing in the area.

Many changes have taken place over the years, with one of the most significant being that of “destination riding,” with mountain riding being the primary focus. Despite the focus on destination riding and although generally having a lower profile, snowmobiling in the local area also continued to have its place. In a report titled “The Economic Impact of Snowmobiles in Alberta in 2009” (prepared for Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation), the opening statement provided clear indication that the plans of our Club in developing local trails would be in-step with the direction of the sport: **“The popularity of snowmobiling as a recreational activity has increased dramatically over the past three decades in Alberta. Sightseeing close to home on a managed trail is quickly becoming the preferred pastime of thousands of environmentally conscious snowmobile enthusiasts across Alberta.”**

In order to have locally managed snowmobile trails, there is a requirement that local snowmobilers be formally organized. Although previous attempts to maintain a formal organization for local snowmobilers had failed, on October 15, 2009 another organizational meeting was held. The desire of this group was to be “Part of the Solution” by promoting responsible snowmobile operation and to direct traffic to areas of acceptable use on managed trails. **As evidenced by the 185 kilometres of developed trails and the milestone of its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, it is obvious that this Club, the Peace Valley Snow Riders Association, has been successful.** The Club owes a debt of gratitude to many, but without the mentorship, programs and financial support of the **Alberta Snowmobile Association**, of which the Club is a member, it is highly unlikely that the Peace Valley Snow Riders would be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## **Why the Decision to Organize a New Club?**

Although it was common practice for snowmobiles and other off-highway vehicles to be operated within the Town of Peace River, By-Law No. 883 (dated November 22, 1972) stated that “No person shall operate an off-highway vehicle on public places within the Town of Peace River.” As a result of complaints in early 1998, likely related to a 2:00 am incident in proximity to the Saddleback subdivision, local authorities started to identify offenders. This was the impetus behind Dwayne Buchholtz forwarding a letter to the Town on July 4, 1998, requesting the bylaw be changed to reflect the current practice of the many responsible snowmobilers, a change that would resolve the current enforcement inconsistencies. Based on indications that the Town was willing to review the bylaw by forming a committee to assist in the process, there appeared to be the need for a local snowmobile club. This club was to participate in the process associated with the changes to the bylaw and to encourage compliance should a new bylaw go into effect.

The “Peace River Snowmobile Club” was organized on November 27, 1998. Although significant work took place involving Town of Peace River representatives, the Police Commission and the Bylaw Committee associated with this Club, discussions stalled, and the Club disbanded just over a year later. The lesson learned was that there was little support in the community for the current practices. This view was supported by the fact that four (4) individuals associated with the Club were charged under the bylaw (under which no previous charges had been laid) and a newspaper article stating that snowmobilers had caused hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage to the local ski hill (which was obviously misquoted; the intent was to state “hundreds to thousands,” which was still a stretch), taking place while the discussions on the bylaw changes were ongoing. It was apparent that the strategy of creating routes out of Peace River to direct snowmobile traffic to areas of acceptable use was not going to be successful. This was surprising to those involved, given that this strategy was patterned after the Whitecourt bylaw and the successful snowmobile trail systems in eastern Canada that link and run through areas of high population.

In the spring of 2009, due to the inquiry of another off-highway group headed by Jarrett Fulcher, the Town of Peace River again formed a committee but this time in conjunction with surrounding municipalities. On April 23, 2009 Dwayne Buchholtz, having been a member of the previous snowmobile Club Bylaw Committee, was appointed to this new Committee. It should also be noted that Darry Markle, who became a very active member of the new snowmobile Club, was also an initial member of this Committee, as was Derek Bakker, who became the

Club's initial Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) contact. Derek would become instrumental in guiding the Club through their initial trail development projects.

With the work of the Off-Highway Vehicle Committee underway, it again became apparent that a formal organization for local snowmobilers was required. As it had been approximately ten (10) years since the last Club disbanded, in the fall of 2009 it was time to try again. The input received over the years confirmed that snowmobilers in the area had a very poor reputation related to concerns such as trespassing, not respecting the existing Town Bylaw, not respecting provincial laws by travelling in the ditches of primary and secondary highways, driving under the influence of alcohol, causing noise concerns, and not being considerate as to the hours of operation. In addition, concerns had also been noted related to other types of off-highway vehicles, primarily in regard to environmental impacts related to erosion of the river hills and damage to muskegs and other wetlands. It was obvious that to move forward the new club would need to rebuild a reputation for snowmobilers in the area. This reputation was to be rebuilt by focusing on the safe and responsible operation of snowmobiles and by changing the strategy, at least initially, to developing trails in areas of minimal population. It was also recognized that snowmobilers would have to distance themselves from other types of off-highway vehicle users due to the environmental concerns being raised. This is how the Club came to adopt the mantra of **"Part of the Solution."**

The work of this Committee was instrumental in Bylaw B198/11 being adopted by Northern Sunrise Council on August 11, 2011; Bylaw No. 8/2011 by the MD of Peace Council on September 14, 2011; and By-Law 1831 by Town of Peace River Council on May 5, 2014. The County of Northern Nights was the only municipal participant to not adopt a new or updated bylaw. In general, the Town Bylaw allowed for designated trails within the Town while the County bylaws allowed for restricted municipal road use by off-highway vehicles. Two other positive outcomes of the Town-organized committee were that the local motocross association, represented by Jarrett Fulcher, received support for a new track that continues to be operational, and local snowmobilers formed the "Peace Valley Snow Riders Association" snowmobile club.

Those organizing the new club believed that the information gathered and the lessons learned from past difficulties would serve them well in directing the Club in a manner that would ensure longevity and success where previous efforts had been unsuccessful. **However, it was also recognized that the greater challenge would be in securing the support of the local snowmobiling community.** The Club would have the difficult task of overcoming the current view of "we can go wherever we want" and selling local snowmobilers on supporting a managed-trail concept. Frankly, the approach taken by the Club was like that portrayed in the movie *Field of Dreams*: "Build it and they will come." It is fair to say that the Club received the acceptance of the stakeholders and donors shortly after the formation of the Club, with the acceptance of local snowmobilers and the associated growth in membership only taking place in more recent years.

# The First 10 Years: A Review of the Highlights by Timeline

As the Club's reporting period for Alberta Society registration purposes is August 1 to July 31, this is the period reflected in the following sections, except for the first and last sections which reflect a portion of a year:

## Year 1: 2009–2010

- Dwayne Thomas and Dwayne Buchholtz initiated plans for the organizational meeting of a new snowmobile club, and on September 25, 2009, a poster advising of the meeting was distributed.
- On October 15, 2009, the organizational meeting was held in the Thomas Homes & RV Center showroom in Peace River. The highlights included the following
  - ▷ 27 people attended.
  - ▷ A Club name was chosen: Peace Valley Snow Riders.
  - ▷ An executive was elected: Bernie Kowalchuk (President), Tim Lagace (Vice President), and Troy Lorencz (Secretary/Treasurer).
  - ▷ A Trail Development Committee was appointed: Jarrett Fulcher, Darry Markle, Dwayne Thomas, and Dwayne Buchholtz.
  - ▷ Membership in the Alberta Snowmobile Association (ASA) was supported.
  - ▷ A \$20 surcharge was added to the cost of the ASA Annual Trail Pass to assist in securing much-needed funds for the Club.
- The Club's first Expression of Interest (request for approval of the concept) was submitted to Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) on November 26, 2009 for three (3) trails — Leddy Lake, Cadotte River and Wesley Creek.
- Agreement-in-principle (concept approval) for all three (3) trails was provided by SRD on December 16, 2009.
  - ▷ The Leddy Lake Trail was restricted, due to sensitive wildlife habitat (caribou and grizzly), to the east side of Highway 35, although the concept proposed was to terminate at Sulphur Lake. A decision was subsequently made to have the Leddy Lake Trail terminate at Driftwood Lake.
  - ▷ Township 96 associated with the Cadotte River Trail was not included as it was in another SRD development area.
- Following the receipt of agreement-in-principle, work to finalize routes and secure approvals focused on the Leddy Lake Trail as the priority. The Wesley Creek Trail on the east side of the Peace River was the second priority. During this time, consideration of other potential trails was taking place as well.
- To raise awareness of the Club and support for the sport, the first of many presentations (most involving PowerPoint presentations) were scheduled and delivered:
  - ▷ Weberville Community Club — November 12, 2009
  - ▷ Town of Peace River — December 7, 2009
  - ▷ MD of Northern Lights — December 8, 2009
  - ▷ MD of Northern Sunrise — December 10, 2009
- On July 14, 2010, the **Peace Valley Snow Riders Association** was incorporated under the *Alberta Societies Act*.

**The first year ends with the Club registered as a society and having concept approval for three (3) trails.**

## **Year 2: 2010–2011**

- Highlights of the Annual General Meeting held on October 26, 2010 included the following:
  - ▷ An Executive was elected: Tim Lagace (President), Troy Lorencz (Vice President), and Bernie Boucher (Secretary/Treasurer).
  - ▷ Wayne Davie, Sebastien Dutrisec and Frank Armella were added to the renamed Trail Identification Committee.
  - ▷ Initial discussions took place on the purchase of a groomer.
- During the winter of 2010/11, Darry Markle initiated work to determine the feasibility of what was to become the Smith Mills Trail.
- As both the Cadotte River and Wesley Creek Trails were proposed to share ATCO Electric power transmission line rights-of-ways, contact was made in December 2010 and it was apparent that in order to secure support, ATCO's liability concerns would have to be addressed.
- On December 3, 2010, the Leddy Lake Trail Detailed Proposal seeking final approval for the trail was issued to SRD.
- On December 14, 2010, Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD, previously SRD) provided their approval for the Leddy Lake Trail.
- Chris Brookes, Executive Director of ASA, attended the December 2010 General Membership meeting to present the Club with its first Mighty Peace Zone Club of the Year award.
- The Club's first donation, which was from ASA, was received later in December 2010 in the amount of \$10,000 to fund the development of the Leddy Lake Trail. This was timely as, at this point in time, the Club had no experience in raising funds.
- Development of the Leddy Lake Trail was carried out in January and February 2011, but due to limited funds, mulching was not to the full five-metre width, even where allowed. Following the completion of mulching, vegetation removal was carried out by volunteers, as was sign installation, which saw signs attached to trees.
- The Grand Opening of the Leddy Lake Trail was held on March 19, 2011. Although the trail was somewhat primitive by the standards of current trails, the Club was anxious to have a trail to showcase to snowmobilers.
- In May of 2011, ATCO Electric provided a draft agreement, indicating they were willing to allow shared use of power transmission line right-of-ways, which was a first for their organization. At the time, power transmission line right-of-ways belonging to ATCO Electric were being travelled on by other clubs on an informal basis.

**It takes two years, but the Club can now offer members their first trail, Leddy Lake, although it is somewhat primitive. As well, a major hurdle was overcome for the Wesley Creek Trail project when ATCO Electric indicated willingness to share the use of power transmission line right-of-ways.**



## Year 3: 2011–2012

- On August 11, 2011, Northern Sunrise County passes its new OHV Bylaw B198/11.
- On September 14, 2011, the MD of Peace passes its new OHV Bylaw No.8/2011.
- At the Annual General Meeting held on September 15, 2011, the highlights included the following:
  - ▷ Only seven members were in attendance.
  - ▷ The following agreed to extend their term or be appointed until proper elections could be held: Tim Lagace (President), Troy Lorencz (Vice President), Frank Armella (Secretary), and Jarrett Fulcher (Treasurer).
- On October 31, 2011, the Expression of Interest for the Smith Mills Trail was submitted to ESRD.
- On November 8, 2011, an information night to attract membership was held in Hines Creek with Tim Lagace and Dwayne Buchholtz representing the Club.
- On November 16, 2011, agreement-in-principle is received from ESRD for the Smith Mills Trail.
- Public consultation sessions in regards to the concept of the Misery Mountain Trail, which proposed connecting the Leddy Lake Trail to the Town of Peace River, were held at the Weberville Hall on November 14, 2011 and at the Misery Mountain Chalet on November 24, 2011, with 19 of 20 returned surveys indicating support.
- At the Club General Membership meeting on November 29, 2011, elections took place and a target of 300 members was suggested for the first time as being required to ensure long-term sustainability of the Club.
- The Leddy Lake Trail was closed temporarily in January 2012 when a well site and access road, on which the resource company had provided approval for shared use, was scarified. As the resource company had overlooked the agreement in place, they promptly made arrangements to have a 5-metre section of the trail re-levelled.
- As a result of Frank Armella's work to secure a groomer, in January 2012 the Club was advised of a donation of \$10,000 from Shell Canada towards the purchase of the proposed new Arctic Cat groomer.
- On January 20, 2012, the Expression of Interest for the Misery Mountain Trail was released to the County of Northern Lights, the MD of Peace, the ESRD, and the Town of Peace River.
- By April 17, 2012, agreement-in-principle for the Misery Mountain Trail was received from all four primary stakeholders.
- In May 2012, the Club is made aware that the Harmon Valley Grazing Association would not allow the proposed Wesley Creek Trail to pass through their lease, contrary to earlier indications. This was the second major setback for this project.
- On July 30, 2012, the Detailed Proposal for the Smith Mills Trail requesting final approval was issued to ESRD.

**The winter of 2011–2012 was an extremely poor snow year. Although the Club received concept approval for two (2) additional trails as well as having secured support towards the purchase of a groomer, the inability of the Club to complete development of any additional new trails resulted in the support of local snowmobilers fading.**

## Year 4: 2012–2013

- During the summer of 2012, the Club was advised that they had been approved for the provincial Community Initiatives Program Grant in the amount of \$13,856. With all the funds in place, the Arctic Cat groomer was ordered.
- At the Annual General Meeting held on October 16, 2012, the highlights included the following:
  - ▷ Quorum was not achieved for the second year in a row, and the attendance was worse than the previous year with only six (6) members in attendance. As guests from the Record Gazette and the Mile Zero newspapers were present in addition to a representative from the Alberta Trappers Association who provided a presentation, the situation was also somewhat embarrassing for the Club.
  - ▷ Tim Lagace announced that he was unable to allow his name to stand again for President due to other personal commitments.
- **Following this meeting there were discussions among several members as to whether the Club could continue to function.** As the previous poor snow conditions were thought to be the major factor and as there was support within the Club for moving forward, renewed efforts took place on encouraging others to support the Club. As a result, and in conjunction with this situation, the Club was party to three media articles. Logan Clow who was at the AGM as a reporter for the *Record Gazette* printed an article titled “Snow Riders Need New President, Discuss Trail Systems at AGM” in the October 24, 2012 edition that was supportive of the Club and that included a picture of the Alberta Trappers Association presentation. In the Edmonton Sun’s October 25, 2012 supplement associated with the Alberta Snowmobile & Powersports Show, the Club was featured in one of the articles, which was the first exposure for the Club outside of the Peace area. As both articles were complimentary of the Club, they were forwarded to the Club membership in an email that provided encouragement to purchase Annual Trail Passes and to support the work of the Club. This was followed on November 13, 2012 by a media release titled “Second Snowmobile Trail for Peace Valley Snow Riders” that highlighted the work of the Club in receiving approval for the Smith Mills Trail. Although this publicity was effective in securing additional member support, it would not be the last time that the viability of the Club was in jeopardy.
- On November 2, 2012, the agreement with ATCO Electric to allow for the shared use of the power transmission line right-of-way for the Wesley Creek Trail was finalized.
- At the General Membership meeting on November 12, 2012, approval was provided to purchase a wood stove for a warmup shelter at the Leddy Lake Recreation Area. The kitchen shelter was closed in by the Weberville Community Club, which operates the Leddy Lake Recreation Area.
- On November 13, 2012, the Club received final approval from ESRD for the Smith Mills Trail.
  - ▷ This did not include the shared use of the grazing lease for the East End Staging Area, which was the subject of a separate approval.
  - ▷ Although some funds were in place, the decision was made to delaying mulching until the early winter of 2013/14 due to significant snow already being on the ground. (The best mulching conditions are when there is significant frost in the ground with minimal-to-no snow. Significant snow slows down mulching and also hides logs and other vegetation debris on the trail.)
- In November 2012, the Club took delivery of the new Arctic Cat groomer. As funds were available, the Club purchased a car carrier-type trailer to transport the groomer shortly after.

- ▷ **Thanks to the efforts of Frank Armella for spearheading this initiative as this was a major turning point for the Club. The Club now had the ability to add value for the members by grooming the Leddy Lake Trail.**
- At the Club's General Membership meeting on December 10, 2012, the highlights included the following:
  - ▷ An Executive was elected: Troy Lorencz (President), Frank Armella (Secretary), and Jarrett Fulcher (Treasurer).
  - ▷ Directors included Tim Lagace, Sebastien Dutrisec, and Richard Lorentz.
  - ▷ The Vice President position remained vacant.
- In December 2012, the Club was made aware that an oil lease was being drilled in the area of the undeveloped Smith Mills Trail East End Staging Area and that this lease was being accessed using undeveloped Township Road 850, which was planned for part of the trail. This delayed the application for the shared use of the grazing lease while the Club waited to determine the status of the well and whether the staging area would need to be relocated.
- On January 15, 2013, Troy Lorencz created the Club's Facebook page.
- On March 27, 2013, the Club was more than pleasantly surprised to be advised of an unsolicited donation of \$32,000 that was jointly provided by Baytex Energy Corp. and Weaver Welding Ltd. The Club initially directed these funds to the development of the Wesley Creek Trail since this was the area of operations for these companies.

**The Club survives, ending the year with a new groomer, money in the bank, and approval to develop a second trail ... but still with only one operational trail.**

---

## **Year 5: 2013–2014**

- On October 19, 2013, the Club was recognized with its second Mighty Peace Zone Club of the Year award at the Alberta Snowmobile Awards of Excellence Banquet held in conjunction with the annual Alberta Snowmobile & Powersports Show.
- At the Annual General Meeting held on October 28, 2013, the existing Board, except for Frank Armella (Secretary) who resigned for personal reasons, were elected by acclamation. The Secretary position remained vacant.
- In November 2013, the Club worked with Baytex Energy Ltd., including attendance at the November 27, 2013 Public Consultation session, to support the proposed Township Road 840/842 connector, although it would require an unanticipated crossing for the Wesley Creek Trail.
- On November 29, 2013, mulching work on the Smith Mills Trail commenced from the west end. By the end of the day, twelve (12) kilometres of trail had been covered; however, an unexpected series of beaver dams at a major creek crossing were encountered. Work was halted while alternate access was identified.
- At the November 25, 2013 General Membership meeting, Kevin Hockley was elected as Secretary.
- After an extended period of time attempting to identify an acceptable route, the Wesley Creek Trail was scaled back to the small thirty-kilometre loop portion of the initially anticipated much longer route. The Detailed Proposal requesting final approval from ESRD was issued on December 12, 2013.
- In December 2013, plans were made to restart mulching on the Smith Mills Trail from a well site access in the Chinook Valley area. However, heavy snowfall was again experienced, similar

to the previous year but this time in conjunction with significant freezing rain; these were primary factors in the Trail Identification Committee at their meeting on January 6, 2014, when the decision was made to delay further work on the Smith Mills Trail until the early winter of 2014/15.

- ▷ Given the opportunity to gain a bit of publicity and poke fun at the situation, a media release took place on January 15, 2013 titled "Too Much Snow for Snowmobilers."
- On January 7, 2014, final approval of the Wesley Creek Trail was received from ESRD, and although development funds were in place, the decision was made to delay development work until the early winter of 2014/15 in line with the decision made for the Smith Mills Trail.
- On January 10, 2014, the Club received \$2,500 from Avenge Energy Services Inc., resulting in the Club viewing the Wesley Creek Trail development as being fully funded.
- On March 26, 2014, the Club made application to the County of Northern Lights and ESRD for use of an undeveloped road allowance as a Community Access for the Leddy Lake Trail. ESRD responded the same day.
- On May 5, 2014, the Town of Peace River finally passed the new OHV By-Law 1831, which was required prior to further consideration for the Misery Mountain Trail.
- On June 20, 2014, the County of Northern Lights provided their approval for the Leddy Lake Trail Community Access.

**Year 5 and still no second developed trail. Although approvals were in place to allow the development of two (2) trails and although significant funds are on-hand (with a bank balance of \$83,579.80 on July 31, 2014), weather conditions forced the delay of development. Note that a new dilemma has arisen, as the Club now has work on two major projects to start in the early winter of 2014/15.**

---

## Year 6: 2014–2015

- On September 27, 2014, an application was made to the County of Northern Lights for an Undeveloped Right-of-Way Licence for Township Road 850, which was to be used to access the proposed Smith Mills Trail East End Staging Area to be located on a grazing lease.
- In October of 2014, a representative from the Mighty Peace Tourist Association raised the potential of access to the Smith Mills Trail for the Last Lake Guest House located northwest of Brownvale. This inquiry was the impetus for the future Brownvale Community Access / South End Loop Project.
- At the Annual General Meeting held on October 8, 2014 the highlights included the following:
  - ▷ An Executive was elected: Troy Lorencz (President), Ernie Brauer (Vice President), Frank Armella (Secretary), and Abby Moskalyk (Treasurer).
  - ▷ Directors included Dwayne Buchholtz (Trail identification Committee Chair), Tim Lagace (Membership Chair), Richard Lorentz (Leddy Lake Chair), Sebastien Dutrisec, Wayne Davie, and Hans Spirk.
  - ▷ It was noted that in response to a notice from the Alberta Government indicating that Society Annual Returns for the Club had not been filed for 2012 or 2013, Mark Dixon, a local accountant but not a Club member, volunteered to assist in resolving the situation.
  - ▷ A motion was passed providing approval for the Club to operate a trail being developed by the Weberville Community Forest Association (WCFA) on the west bank of the Peace River to the east of the Leddy Lake Trail.

- ▷ A motion was made to seek agreement-in-principle for the Whispering Pines Trail based on the urging of TrailNet in association with the upcoming 50th Anniversary of the TransCanada Trail system, of which this trail was a part of.
- ▷ It was reported that:
  - ◆ The East End Staging Area of the Smith Mills Trail could be developed as originally planned as the well site was not being put into production.
  - ◆ Five-foot orange plastic posts (supplied by ASA) were installed with rebar support on the Wesley Creek Trail to identify the setback from the ATCO Electric facilities as per the contract condition.
  - ◆ The concept of the self-registration Day Pass boxes was noted as being supported by ASA.
- At the Alberta Snowmobile Awards of Excellence Banquet in October of 2014, the Club was recognized with its third Mighty Peace Zone Club of the Year award. Three awards and still only one developed trail, but the approval and funds were in place for two more.
- On October 23, 2014, Undeveloped Road Right-of-Way Licences are signed with the County of Northern Lights for both the Leddy Lake Community Access and Township Road 850 associated with the Smith Mills Trail Staging Area. The Smith Mills Trail agreement cleared the way for the application for the shared use of the grazing lease to be used for East End Staging Area.
  - ▷ Although undeveloped road allowances are also used on both the Wesley Creek and Hines Creek Trails, the other counties have declined formalizing their use through road use agreements, which remains a concern for the Club, given the potential for access by other users without notification.
- The November 5, 2014 General Membership meeting was held in Hines Creek. This was the first time that a Club meeting had been held outside of the greater Town of Peace River area, which supported the intent of the Club being a Peace-area Club.
- As there were limited access points and significant wet areas/water crossings associated with the east end of the Smith Mills Trail, a last-minute request was made to ESRD to bypass a large marsh area. The approved Temporary Field Authorization was provided on November 28, 2014.
- In late November 2014, it was determined that access to the Forest Grazing Lease area between the beaver dams at the west end of the Smith Mills Trail was possible. Amarillo Contractors Ltd. was determined to be the disposition holder of the LOC (private road) to the south of the Forest Grazing Lease, which could be accessed from the Deer Hills Road. Since Amarillo Contractors Ltd. owned equipment that could do the development work and could also provide slashing services, they were contracted to carry out the work in this difficult-to-access area.
- Mulching work on the Wesley Creek Trail by Western Canadian Mulching Ltd. was carried out between November 27 and December 2, 2014 with volunteer support. Work went well, considering the extreme cold weather encountered as well as the mulcher breaking through the muskeg and requiring a crawler to be brought in to retrieve it.
- Following the Wesley Creek Trail work, the Western Canadian mulcher was transported directly to the Smith Mills Road in the area near the east end of the Smith Mills Trail, where it was joined by a second mulcher. Mulching work (supported by volunteers who also removed remaining vegetation) took place between December 4 and 7, 2014.
- On December 9, 2014, the area to the east of the unexpected beaver dams encountered on the Smith Mills Trail the previous year, including the west end loop, were mulched by Amarillo Contractors Ltd.

- On December 9, 2014, initial contact was made with the owners of the Last Lake Guest House regarding potential access to the Smith Mills Trail.
- On December 15, 2014, an approved Temporary Field Authorization was received from ESRD for the shared use of the grazing lease for the East End Staging Area of the Smith Mills Trail.
- In an attempt to somewhat upgrade the trail, Tallman Tree Services carried out slashing work on the Leddy Lake Trail with volunteer assistance from December 20 to 22, 2014. Some of the Baytex Energy / Weaver Welding donation was used to fund this work.
- On December 22 and 23, 2014, the slashing crew from Amarillo Contracting Ltd. cleared the area previously mulched on the Smith Mills Trail on December 9.
- Vegetation cleanup associated with development on the Wesley Creek Trail (which was also using Tallman Tree Services with volunteer assistance) took place from December 29 to December 31, 2014.
- On December 30, 2014, Amarillo Contractors Ltd. crossed a creek with a small flail mower on matting to carry out vegetation removal up to the beaver dam further to the east on the Smith Mills Trail, to which Western Canadian Mulching Ltd. had worked from the other direction. A slashing crew cleared the area on December 30 and 31, 2014, which completed the work at the west end.
- On January 2, 2015, Amarillo Contractors Ltd. used their small flail mower to again access an area between water bodies on Township Road 850 near the East End Staging Area to clear the remaining vegetation. This was the last of the areas on the Smith Mills Trail that required mechanical vegetation removal.
- The Club was highlighted on the cover and featured in an article in the Winter 2015 issue of *Move Up Magazine*, with a number of pictures provided by Paul Lavoie Images.
- On January 20, 2015, approval was received from Alberta Transportation for three (3) highway staging area direction signs on local secondary highways for the Leddy Lake Trail and two (2) for the Wesley Creek Trail, with signs installed in the summer. These signs were intended to provide additional visibility for the Club's trails, in addition to providing direction to the staging area.
- In March 2015, a group of Club members on snowmobiles investigated a portion of what was to become the Hines Creek Trail.
- At the April 27, 2015 General Membership meeting, the highlights included the following:
  - ▷ Approval was provided to join the Mighty Peace Tourist Association.
  - ▷ Application for highway signage for both ends of the Smith Mills Trail was supported.
  - ▷ Approval was provided to move the status of the Hines Creek Trail to an approved Expression of Interest.
  - ▷ Notation was made about the near-perfect conditions related to the development work on the Wesley Creek and the second part of the Smith Mills Trails resulting in costs coming in at less than budgeted.
  - ▷ The outline of a sledder was approved as the Club logo.
- On June 3, 2015, applications for highway staging area direction signs on the Smith Mills Trail were approved by Alberta Transportation. Two (2) signs were installed in the summer in the area of the East End Staging Area near Figure Eight Lake and four (4) signs in conjunction with the West End Staging Area near Hines Creek.
- On June 4, 2015, the Club was contacted by Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP, which had been ESRD) in regard to a firepit ring at the Smith Mills Trail West End Staging Area. As fire

danger was high at the time and the location of the firepit ring in tall dry grass presented a high risk if put to use in such conditions, AEP was questioning if the Club had placed this firepit ring without permission. The Club was able to convince AEP that the firepit ring did not belong to the Club by noting that appropriate approvals had been received prior to the Wesley Creek rest area being developed and that the Wesley Creek location was chosen so as to dissuade summer use as requested by AEP.

- ▷ Subsequently at AEP's request, signs have now been placed at all rest areas advising that they are for "Winter Use Only."

**Year 6 and finally the addition of not only one but two more developed trails: the Smith Mills and Wesley Creek Trails. The Club started the season with 40 kilometres of trail and ended with 130 kilometres. Club volunteers experienced mixed emotions: they were exhausted but also elated by the progress made after so much delay.**

---

## Year 7: 2015–2016

- During the summer of 2015, the Wesley Creek Trail was impacted by a forest fire on the southern portion of the route. Fortunately, the impact to the trail itself was minimal.
- On August 11, 2015, the Expression of Interest for the Hines Creek Trail was issued to AEP, Clear Hills County and the Village of Hines Creek. Agreement-in-principle was received from Clear Hills County and the Village of Hines Creek later in August.
- Preliminary investigation into the request to connect the Last Lake Guest House to the Smith Mills Trail, including an on-site meeting with the owners, took place on August 16, 2015. The potential for this project was raised with the Club at a subsequent meeting, resulting in the decision to delay consideration for this project until after the Hines Creek Trail was completed.
- At the Annual General Meeting held on October 7, 2015, the highlights included the following:
  - ▷ An Executive was elected: Troy Lorencz (President), Ernie Brauer (Vice President), Frank Armella (Secretary), and Abby Moskalyk (Treasurer).
  - ▷ Directors included Dwayne Buchholtz, Hans Spirk, Wayne Davie, Richard Lorentz, Tim Lagace, and Kris Kennedy.
  - ▷ Although the motion to approve funds to purchase the first three (3) Day Pass registration boxes was defeated, John Kirby and Dwayne Buchholtz advised they would split the cost and provide them as a donation.
  - ▷ Two (2) Community Access points on the Wesley Creek Trail are identified and signed.
  - ▷ As a result of snow being removed from a large section of the east end of the Smith Mills Trail by an unknown party at the end of the previous season, approval was provided to purchase four (4) notification signs with contact information to notify others of the start of the trail in remote areas.
  - ▷ Approval was provided to apply for a rest area on the Smith Mills Trail.
  - ▷ Approval was provided to move the Hines Creek Trail project to the Detailed Proposal stage.
  - ▷ Approval was provided for the renaming of the Trail Identification Committee to Trail Development & Operations Committee, as the Committee was now managing both functions.
  - ▷ Wayne Davie assumed responsibility for Annual Trail Pass sales, which Tim Lagace had previously managed.

- On October 27, 2015, a Temporary Field Authorization request to AEP was initiated to locate a rest area consisting of a firepit and picnic table on the Smith Mills Trail.
- As an invitation was received, Ernie Brauer and Dwayne Buchholtz attended the Alberta Trapper's Association meeting at Eureka River on November 1, 2015. A display and brief presentation were provided.
- Wesley Creek Trail was opened for use in November 2015.
- On November 27, 2015, the Club groomer and trailer were decorated and entered in the Peace River Santa Claus parade, along with a pickup with sled deck and two sleds provided by Road Runner Leasing and Sales Ltd.
- For the second time, the November 30, 2015 General Membership meeting was held in Hines Creek.
- The Smith Mills Trail was opened for use in December 2015.
- On December 5, 2015, a Groomer Orientation Session was held with six (6) Club members participating, and the Swan City Snowmobile Club groomer person responsible for the Big Mountain Trail, Wesley Juryn, present to assist.
- Due to a late snow in the spring of 2015, slashing services were contracted to assist with vegetation cleanup. This is the second round of slashing services for both trails in approximately a year.
  - ▷ R. Osmond Tree Services Ltd. was contracted in January 2016 to provide slashing services for the Leddy Lake Trail. This was funded by a \$3,500 grant from County of Northern Lights South Recreation Board that was provided on November 16, 2015.
  - ▷ Mike Kolebaba Water Transport was contracted to provide slashing services for the Wesley Creek Trail, with the work also completed in January 2016. This was funded by a \$3,000 grant (for vegetation removal and ten steel sign posts) provided by Northern Sunrise County in November of 2015.
- Construction work started early in 2016 on the new 840/842 connector road that crosses the Wesley Creek Trail.
- On January 10, 2016, volunteers completed initial development vegetation cleanup and sign installation on the Smith Mills Trail.
- On February 2, 2016, AEP provided the last of the agreements-in-principle for the Hines Creek Trail.
- On March 5, 2016, the Grand Opening for the Wesley Creek Trail took place in conjunction with the Club's first-ever Poker Rally. Snow conditions were poor; however, a few inches of snow fell just prior, allowing the event to proceed. The Poker Rally netted the Club \$1,013.15 in proceeds.
- While preparing for the Wesley Creek Trail Grand Opening and Poker Rally, it was noted that the map of the trail had a significant error, so on March 9, 2016, an update to the Wesley Creek Trail map was requested. The updated map and the associated correction to the Staging Area sign map were in place by the early fall of 2016.
- An approved Temporary Field Authority to extend the period until June 1, 2016 for the development of the Smith Mills Trail East End Staging Area was provided by AEP on April 4, 2016. This was required as the Club initially had difficulty securing contractors willing to carry out the work on a donation basis.



- At the April 5, 2016 General Membership meeting, the highlights included the following:
  - ▷ A motion was passed to separate Trail Development and Trail Operations into two positions.
  - ▷ A motion was passed supporting the use of the St. Isidore Cultural Centre for the 2017 Poker Rally.
  - ▷ A motion was passed authorizing the Trail Development Committee to look into the feasibility of developing the St. Isidore Connector to access the St. Isidore Cultural Centre for the 2017 Poker Rally, as well as for a permanent route addition to the Wesley Creek Trail.
  - ▷ Development of the Weberville Community Forest Association Trail had been delayed, and when inspected, a significant section of the proposed loop was found to be questionable for snowmobile access and definitely too steep to consider grooming; hence the plan to operate this trail was discontinued.
- On April 17, 2016, an email was sent to TrailNet, Clear Hills County, Canadian Forest Products Ltd. and ASA, advising of the decision to remove the Whispering Pines Trail project from the Current Projects List. It was determined that the Canfor P-200 road that was to provide the primary route was not available for winter use, as others had indicated.
- On April 18, 2016, an approved Temporary Field Authorization from AEP for the Smith Mills Trail rest area was received. The extended delay in approval was related to the time required for the Club to resolve the concerns of two trappers.
- Development of the Smith Mills Trail East End Staging Area was **completed on the long weekend in May 2016 while a heavy late spring snowfall took place**. The contractors that provided their services to ensure that the timeline requirements of the Temporary Field Authority for the extension could be met were:
  - ▷ Allard Logging Ltd., who harvested the merchantable timber.
  - ▷ Canadian Mulching Services Ltd., who mulched the remaining vegetation to avoid burning.
  - ▷ Lorette Truck Services (2005) Ltd. who provided transportation for the mulcher.
  - ▷ Rosenberger Log Salvage, who removed the merchantable timber and produced firewood, as it was a requirement of the Temporary Field Authorization that the merchantable timber be properly used.
  - ▷ Stealth Projects Ltd., who provided the cat work to level the site.
- On June 12, 2016, AEP provided a Temporary Field Authorization approval for the re-sloping of the Pat's Creek north bank crossing on the Wesley Creek Trail, which had developed a significant undercut.
- On June 14, 2016, a Public Consultation meeting was held in Hines Creek for the proposed Hines Creek Trail.
- In June 2016, with the viability of the Club in question, a proposed plan to deal with the damage caused by the heavy late spring snow was determined and fundraising commenced immediately. The plan included **the Leddy Lake Trail remaining closed for the winter**, volunteers clearing the Wesley Creek Trail which was the least impacted, and volunteer/contract labour clearing the Smith Mills Trail, if funds could be made available.

**With three trails to operate, the Club was starting to transition from the past primary focus on development to a new focus on operations. Unfortunately, this new focus on trail operations was negatively impacted by the fact that snow did not arrive until early 2016 and remained poor for the remainder of the winter. Only the Wesley Creek Trail had sufficient snow to groom. This was followed by the heavy wet snow on the May long weekend that significantly damaged all the Club's trails, again placing the Club at risk of collapse.**

## Year 8: 2016–2017

- In August 2016, the Club was able to resolve the concerns related to liability of the major private landowner's insurance company that had stalled preliminary work on the Hines Creek Trail project for most of the summer. The remainder of the summer focused on a second obstacle related to finding an acceptable route in the area of the current rest area where a sharp drop-off exists. A route in this area was required to fulfill a commitment made to the trapper associated with minimizing impact.
- On September 7, 2016, the Club initiated a discussion with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry in regard to concerns with the removal of snow from the Smith Mills Road used to access the Whitemud Tower that impacted the availability of the Smith Mills Trail. It was determined that access would be required every two (2) years to allow for propane delivery.
- On September 13, 2016, Clear Hills County passed Bylaw 212-16, which in general allowed restricted operation of off-highway vehicles on County roads. The Club had encouraged this change in order to access Worsley since the Whispering Pines Ski Hill had declined the request to share their parking lot and chalet facilities for a staging area when the Whispering Pines Trail project was being considered.
  - ▷ This bylaw being in place was a supporting factor in the future decision to move forward with the Brownvale Community Access / South End Loop Project addition to the Smith Mills Trail as it would allow road access from the Last Lake Guest House to the proposed Community Access.
- The work on the Pat's Creek north bank crossing undercut on the Wesley Creek Trail was completed in September 2016 by Bernard Fortin on a donation basis.
- On September 29, 2016, the St. Isidore Connector Project Expression of Interest for a temporary trail was issued to Northern Sunrise County with AEP only copied, as it was initially anticipated that no Crown land would be involved.
- On September 30, 2016, the initial version of the Trail Operations Manual was issued.
- On October 11, 2016, agreement-in-principle for the St. Isidore Connector Project was provided by Northern Sunrise County at their council meeting.
- At the Annual General Meeting held on October 13, 2016, the highlights included the following:
  - ▷ The initial Executive Roles document was presented and approved.
    - ◆ This eliminated the past practice of Directors-at-Large, with Directors now assigned roles as reflected in the positions to which they were elected.
  - ▷ An Executive was elected: Troy Lorencz (President), Ernie Brauer (Vice President), Frank Armella (Secretary), and Abby Moskalyk (Treasurer).
  - ▷ Directors were Wayne Davie (Membership), Dwayne Buchholtz (Stakeholder Liaison), and Travis Wood (Special Events). Dwayne agreed to continue to fill the vacant Trail Development Committee Chair and Trail Operations Committee Chair positions on a temporary basis.
  - ▷ A formal annual budget was presented and approved for the first time. The budget included \$1,000 for the St. Isidore Connector Project and \$7,560 for Operations.
  - ▷ The plan to deal with the cleanup from the heavy late spring snow was approved.
  - ▷ The \$20 Club surcharge on ASA Annual Trail Pass sales (in place since the Club started) was discontinued.

- As crossing a portion of Crown land had become the preferred option on the St. Isidore Connector Project, AEP's support for the Expression of Interest was requested, and agreement-in-principle was provided on October 23, 2016.
- On November 1, 2016, the first Stakeholder Contact Listings for each trail were provided to the Trail Operations Committee Chair and to all Trail Coordinators, allowing for increased engagement between those in operations and the stakeholders.
  - ▷ These have been distributed annually each fall since this time.
  - ▷ This Listing was also forwarded to the ASA's insurer to allow for named-insureds associated with each trail.
- Approval was provided at the General Membership meeting on November 9, 2016 to have the St. Isidore Connector Project proceed to the Detailed Proposal stage for both the temporary and permanent routes.
- In mid-November 2016, the Club was more than pleasantly surprised when Roger Osmond, of R. Osmond Tree Services Ltd., called to offer a week's worth of mulching and slashing services for Leddy Lake Trail on a donation basis. Initial work took place immediately following the call. This work initiated what became known as the Leddy Lake Cleanup / Upgrade Project.
- On November 17, 2016, the Club received \$1,000 from Shell Canada, which was directed to the development of the St. Isidore Connector Project. Other funding for this project was to come from the proceeds of the 2017 Poker Rally.
- The Detailed Proposal for the St. Isidore Connector Project was issued to Northern Sunrise County and AEP on November 25, 2016. AEP responded with their approval on November 28, 2016.
- As fundraising for the required Smith Mills Trail slashing work (due to the heavy snow in late May 2016) provided the funds required, H. Friesen Slashing Ltd. began work on November 29, 2016 with the support of volunteers.
  - ▷ Funding was provided by the Alberta Snowmobile Association (\$7,900) and Clear Hills County (\$,000).
  - ▷ Funding allowed for approximately six (6) days of work; however, after the first couple of days, it became painfully obvious that the extent of the damage had been significantly underestimated. These funds would allow for approximately two-thirds of the trail to be cleared.
- On December 6, 2016, the Province of Alberta passed Bill 36, making helmets mandatory in conjunction with off-highway vehicle use, effective May 15, 2017.
- Approval for the temporary route of the St. Isidore Connector to allow for the 2017 Poker Rally was provided by Northern Sunrise County Council at their meeting on December 13, 2016.
  - ▷ The approval for the permanent route was delayed while the County went through the process of changing their Off-Highway Vehicle bylaw to allow for road access by snowmobiles within the hamlet to the Community Access.
- At the January 12, 2017 General Membership meeting, approval was provided to initiate the Trail Operations Sponsorship program. The Club was operating with minimal funds and the volunteer base was exhausted, which indicated the need to fund additional contracted support for trail maintenance going forward.
- As a second round of fundraising for the Smith Mills Trail slashing work (required due to the heavy snow in late May 2016) provided the additional funds required, H. Friesen Slashing Ltd. recommenced work on January 19, 2017, with the support of volunteers.

- ▷ Funding was provided by County of Northern Lights (\$1,000), County of Northern Lights South Rec Board (\$4,000), and Club member Frank Armella (\$5,000); the Club also committed \$1,000 from their current funds.
- ▷ Although an additional five (5) days of work was completed, the budget was significantly exceeded, resulting in use of additional Club funds and a donation-in-kind from the contractor; even then, **the work was not completed**. The approximately four (4) kilometres of trail that remained was opened to allow a snowmobile to pass through.
  - ◆ **Note:** This four (4) kilometre section of trail was still not fully cleared at the time this document was prepared, in part because of the difficulty in accessing this remote area near the centre of the trail.
- ▷ **The total value of work for this project was \$44,381.56, including 387 hours of volunteer time.**
- On February 16, 2017, the decision was made to cancel the Poker Rally planned for March 4 due to poor snow conditions. The Club had made great efforts to have the temporary St. Isidore Connector route available, the venue with banquet had been booked, and sponsors were in place, so an unsuccessful event would have placed the Club at risk of a substantial loss.
  - ▷ As the County of Northern Sunrise had committed as a sponsor and provided \$1,850 to the Club, options for the return or redirection of the funds was provided, with the Northern Sunrise County Council graciously allowing the funds to be redirected. \$1,000 was directed to the development of the St. Isidore Connector Project, with the remainder paying for non-refundable deposits and a small amount being directed to general revenues of the Club.
- R. Osmond Tree Services Ltd. donated additional mulching and slashing services for the Leddy Lake Trail in March of 2017, resulting in two-thirds of the trail being completed. The work to this point was valued at \$51,158.50. The Club initiated work to identify a donor for the additional budget of \$20,000 required to complete the remainder of the project.
- On March 11, 2017, the Grand Opening of the Smith Mills Trail was held with ribbon-cutting ceremonies taking place at both ends of the trail simultaneously and both groups meeting at the rest area for a celebration sponsored by Scanalta Power Sales Ltd. It proved to be a very successful event despite the following:
  - ▷ The event was held on short notice.
  - ▷ Snow conditions for the winter had been minimal, but a few inches of snow earlier in the week made for reasonable travel on the trail.
  - ▷ The four (4) kilometre portion of trail had not been cleared to full width following the heavy snow in late May 2016.
  - ▷ The firepit and picnic table were delivered to the rest area only days earlier.
  - ▷ Cold temperatures in the days prior did not allow for the trail to be groomed.
  - ▷ Cold temperatures the morning of the event left questions as to attendance.
- At the April 19, 2017 General Membership meeting, a motion was passed to grant R. Osmond Tree Services Ltd. the recognition associated with the Trail Operation Sponsorship for the **Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Trail** for the initial five-year period. This was provided in response to the exceptional donation-in-kind of mulching and slashing services, which by the time the work was completed the following winter season was valued at \$59,588.50.
- On April 25, 2017, Northern Sunrise County Council approved Bylaw B308/17 allowing for designated snowmobile routes in the hamlet of St. Isidore, thereby also providing final approval for the St. Isidore Connector Project addition to the Wesley Creek Trail.

- On May 13, 2017, a letter was sent to AEP and copied to a number of other stakeholders advising of the Club's decision not to proceed with the Misery Mountain Trail.
- Based on the request of several female participants at the Smith Mills Trail Grand Opening celebration, the Club supported the concept of an outhouse at the rest area. On June 13, 2017, a Temporary Field Authorization request was issued and AEP approval was received for the Club's first outhouse.
- By April 17, 2017, finances were extremely tight, as reflected in the bank balance of \$2,330.79 on July 31, 2017.

**Another poor snow year and volunteers left exhausted from the cleanup work carried out. The Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Trail was closed for the winter, the Smith Mills Trail was closed for most of the winter, and the Wesley Creek Trail wasn't opened until January 9. The further disappointment associated with the cancellation of the 2017 Poker Rally was offset by the successful Grand Opening of the Smith Mills Trail, which also very nearly didn't happen. The Club struggled but remained committed to moving forward.**

---

## Year 9: 2017–2018

- On August 30, 2017, the Detailed Proposal for the Hines Creek Trail was issued to AEP, Clear Hills County, and the Village of Hines Creek.
- Clear Hills County provided their approval for the Hines Creek Trail on September 15, 2017, with the Village of Hines Creek approval being provided on September 18, 2017.
- On October 11, 2017, formal fundraising was initiated for the development of the Hines Creek Trail.
- At the Annual General Meeting held on October 16, 2017, the highlights included the following:
  - ▷ ASA presented a cheque for \$20,000 to complete the Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Trail Cleanup / Upgrade Project.
  - ▷ An Executive was elected: Troy Lorencz (President), Ernie Brauer (Vice President), and Frank Armella (Secretary/Treasurer).
  - ▷ Directors were Wayne Davie (Membership), Dwayne Buchholtz (Stakeholder Liaison), Travis Wood (Special Events Committee Chair), Travis Schmidt (Trail Development Committee Chair), and Richard Lorentz (Trail Operations Committee Chair).
  - ▷ Four (4) Trail Coordinator positions remained vacant.
- On October 21, 2017, the five-foot orange plastic posts installed with rebar support on the Wesley Creek Trail to primarily mark the required offset to ATCO Electric facilities were replaced by seven-foot orange plastic posts, again provided by the ASA free-of-charge. As the exposed rebar had been found to be a significant risk when the orange posts were not in place, all of the five-foot orange posts with rebar support were replaced on the other trails shortly after as well.
- On October 25, 2017, the first snow of the year fell on the day of the Trail Approval Celebration for the Hines Creek Trail, which took place in Hines Creek. At this event three (3) cheque presentations took place (Clear Hills County: \$20,000; Canadian Forest Products Ltd.: \$10,000; and the Hines Creek Recreation Board: \$5,000). These donations and a donation from Zavisha Sawmills Ltd. (\$2,000) that followed shortly after provided the funds required to initiate development work.

- After resolving some final routing options, on November 1, 2017, the final approval for the Hines Creek Trail was received from AEP by way of a formal Temporary Field Authorization.
- Shortly after the Annual General Meeting, Richard Lorentz resigned from the Trail Operations Committee Chair position due to work demands but did return to his previous Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Trail Coordinator position.
- At the November 13, 2017 General Membership meeting, Travis Schmidt accepted the Trail Operations Committee Chair position and Ernie Brauer accepted Travis's previous position of Trail Development Committee Chair.
- On November 15, 2017, the Club's first outhouse was moved into place at the Smith Mills Trail rest area. The plastic structure, which was to become the standard on all trails, was donated by Roadrunner Leasing and Sales Ltd.
- On November 17, 2017, H. Friesen Slashing Ltd. initiated mulching work followed by slashing services in the select private land areas of the Hines Creek Trail. Volunteers completed signage in the private land area immediately following.
- On November 18, 2017, the completed St. Isidore Connector Project associated with the Wesley Creek Trail was turned over to operations.
- On November 28, 2017, H. Friesen Slashing Ltd. initiated mulching in the Crown land area of the Hines Creek Trail using two mulchers, with work being completed on December 6, 2017.
  - ▷ On December 3, 2017, the mulchers deviated from the approved route and AEP was notified. This was not the Club's first project where a deviation had occurred and hence there was concern that fines would be levied on the Club.
  - ▷ As the project was out of funds and as snowmobile access was difficult due to the large windrows left by the mulchers (given the significant snowfall by this time), the decision was made to defer slashing and signage in the Crown land area until the following winter.
- Although the remainder of the province experienced poor snow conditions, the Peace area experienced much better snow conditions, resulting in the Club opening the Wesley Creek and Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Trails in early December, with the Smith Mills Trail opening delayed until January 15, 2018 while volunteers completed vegetation removal.
- At the December 11, 2017 General Membership meeting, Francois and Pierre Allard presented pictures of a new groomer drag they were purchasing, which they planned to operate on the Club's trails in conjunction with their tracked side-by-side on a donation basis.
- In late December of 2017, the Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Cleanup / Upgrade Project was completed. For the first time since the trail was initially developed, the west and east portions of the loop were available for use.
  - ▷ The ASA funds, along with the Club funding \$5,147.03 in overrun costs, allowed for the completion of work on the final third of the trail.
  - ▷ In addition to cleaning up the damage caused by the heavy snow in late May 2016, the trail was opened to the full five (5) metre width where allowed, and signage was upgraded and placed on steel sign posts instead of trees, as had become the standard on other trails by this time.
- **On January 25, 2018, Francois Allard created the Club's website.**
- On February 24, 2018, the 2018 Poker Rally was again held on the Wesley Creek Trail, netting the Club \$3,315.
- On April 11, 2018, after a period of delay, the Club was pleasantly surprised to receive the AEP grant for the Hines Creek Trail of \$17,500, which was more than anticipated and which was also the amount thought to be required to complete the development work.

- On July 31, 2018, the Club's bank balance was \$23,440,86; however, as \$22,854.37 of this amount was designated for the Hines Creek Trail development, **only \$586.49 was available for operations to start the year.**

**The St. Isidore Connector and Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Cleanup / Upgrade Projects were completed. The Hines Creek Trail was approved and, with significant funding in place, development work had commenced. With a significant donation from AEP in April, all funds were in place to allow for the completion of the Hines Creek Trail during the coming winter. The Allards purchased their own drag and commenced donating grooming services. Although a productive year on many fronts, likely the most important accomplishment was the increased visibility for the Club as it now had its own website.**

## Year 10: 2018–2019

- On August 3, 2018 at their annual meeting, AEP advised the Club to use the deviation mulched as the route for the Hines Creek Trail and that fines would not be assessed.
- On October 12, 2018, Baytex Energy Ltd. signed the first paid Trail Sponsorship Agreement for the **Baytex Wesley Creek Trail**.
- At the Alberta Snowmobile Association Awards Banquet held on October 13, 2018, the following who were associated with the Club were recognized:
  - ▷ Francois Allard — Groomer of the Year
  - ▷ Mighty Peace Powersports & RV — Snowmobile Dealer of the Year
- At the Annual General Meeting held on October 16, 2018, the highlights included the following:
  - ▷ A Director/Publicity position was added and an updated Executive Roles document approved.
  - ▷ An Executive was elected: Troy Lorencz (President), Ernie Brauer (Vice President), and Frank Armella (Secretary/Treasurer).
  - ▷ Directors were Wayne Davie (Membership), Dwayne Buchholtz (Stakeholder Liaison), Travis Wood (Special Events Committee Chair), Travis Schmidt (Trail Operations Committee Chair), Ernie Brauer (Trail Development Committee Chair), and Francois Allard (Publicity).
  - ▷ Groomer Coordinator position was added to the Trail Operations Committee, with Tim Lagace filling the role.
  - ▷ Formal budgeting process for all Executive positions was presented.
  - ▷ A motion was passed to install outhouses on the Baytex Wesley Creek and the Hines Creek Trails.
- On October 22, 2018, an approved Temporary Field Authorization from AEP was received for the outhouse at the Baytex Wesley Creek rest area.
- **On October 31, 2018 the Club's operating balance was -\$191.96.** This was covered in the short term by designated funds that were on-hand.
- On November 6, 2018, the Club received confirmation that a significant portion of agricultural land across which the Hines Creek Trail was routed had been sold earlier in the summer. As the land was to be rented, contact was made on November 10, 2018 with the local renter, who in turn provided contact information for the large North American insurance company that was the new owner.
- On November 6, 2018, H. Friesen Slashing Ltd. commenced slashing work on the Crown land area of the Hines Creek Trail, supported by volunteers and with work being completed November 12, 2018. This included holding the slashing crew over for an additional day to complete the work.

- On November 27, 2018, an approved Temporary Field Authorization from AEP was received, allowing the Club to install an outhouse at the Hines Creek Trail viewpoint/rest area.
- On the November 28, 2018, contact was made with the large North American insurance company that had recently purchased the agricultural land associated with the Hines Creek Trail, at which time they were provided information on the Club and the associated trail.
- Club volunteers completed installation of trail signage and moved the firepit and picnic table to the Hines Creek Trail rest area/viewpoint, completing this work by December 3, 2018.
- Due to a slide on the south bank of the Whitemud River Valley on the Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Trail, a crawler accessed the area on December 3, 2018 to carry out the necessary earthwork to allow for continued use of the trail. Members had carried out significant vegetation removal in advance of the cat work.
- On December 4, 2018, the Club's second outhouse (again donated by Roadrunner Leasing and Sales Ltd.) was installed at the Baytex Wesley Creek rest area.
- On December 13, 2018, the Hines Creek Trail Staging Area sign was installed as the final development activity. Although the sign stated that the trail was opened in December 2018, the "Closed" sign remained in place as the route in the agricultural area was not available for use.
- On December 14, 2018, an email distribution was sent to members advising of the private land situation on the Hines Creek Trail and that only the Crown portion of the trail would be available for use until the approval of the new landowner was in place.
- On December 15, 2018, the Hines Creek Trail was turned over to operations. Development was completed with surplus cash of \$1,089.27, thanks to a couple of last-minute donations-in-kind.
- Starting in mid-December 2018, the Smith Mills Trail was closed for what was expected to be a couple of weeks while Alberta Agriculture and Forestry replaced the Whitemud Forestry Tower. The project resulted in the east end of the trail being closed for most of the winter, which further resulted in members carrying out preliminary work on the potential of creating a bypass to avoid such future situations. Unfortunately, AEP was not supportive of the proposed bypass.
- Just prior to Christmas 2018, it had been determined that a significant portion of the west end of the Smith Mills Trail had been plowed without notice, leaving that portion of the trail closed until February 2019. Follow-up identified the Orphan Well Association as being responsible.
- Although the request to consider a sponsorship was declined, on January 10, 2019 Mercer Peace River Pulp Ltd. provided the Club with a \$5,000 donation that was undesignated.
- Francois Allard initiated plans for the Club's first woodshed, which was installed at the Baytex Wesley Creek rest area on February 12, 2019. All of the Club's rest areas were equipped with woodsheds by the end of the winter.
- As an added safety measure, cell service locations were identified on all trails over the winter and signs were ordered for installation the following winter.
- On February 17, 2019, the Club again hosted a Poker Rally on the Baytex Wesley Creek Trail.
- On March 12, 2019, the rest area on the south side of the Whitemud River was developed on the Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Trail. This was the first location where the approval included all amenities — picnic table, firepit, outhouse and woodshed.
- Although snow melted in mid-March, snow conditions in the earlier part of the winter provided for a reasonable snowmobiling year.



- On April 4, 2019, the Club was advised by the large North American insurance company that they would **not** be providing approval for the Hines Creek Trail to continue crossing their property.
- At the April 9, 2019 General Membership meeting, the highlights included the following:
  - ▷ A motion was passed supporting the Brownvale Community Access / South End Loop Project addition to the Smith Mills Trail and authorizing the project to proceed to the approved Expression of Interest stage. George Leger was appointed Project Sponsor.
    - ◆ This project provided the access that the Last Lake Guest House requested and allowed for a bypass to keep the trail open when propane deliveries were required to the Whitemud Forestry Tower, in addition to providing additional options for travel at the east end.
  - ▷ Two motions were passed in regard to the Hines Creek private land situation:
    - ◆ The first was to seek a staging area at Kilometre 5 of the Canfor P-100 Road (site of the Community Access).
    - ◆ The second was to investigate options for an alternative route on the private land portion of the trail.
- On May 1, 2019, a Lease Agreement was signed with Northern Sunrise County for the Baytex Wesley Creek Trail Staging Area, including a proposed expansion. The expansion was required as the current site was insufficient to host future poker rallies.
- On May 22, 2019, an agreement was signed with Canadian Forest Products Ltd. for the sponsorship of the **Canfor Hines Creek Trail**. The Club was thankful for the confidence of Canfor in making this commitment while also being fully aware of the private land situation.
- On May 30, 2019, signs and posts were removed from the private land of the large North American insurance company associated with the Hines Creek Trail.
- On July 15, 2019, during their annual meeting with the Club, AEP indicated that they would be open to considering the Brownvale Community Access / South End Loop Project addition to the Smith Mills Trail.
- On July 22, 2019, the Detailed Proposal for the Canfor Hines Creek Trail Alternate Route on Private Land Project was issued to Clear Hills County and the Village of Hines Creek, and as a courtesy, to AEP (as the remainder of the trail was on Crown land). This was made possible by Jamey Bettenson, Project Sponsor, identifying an acceptable alternative crossing of Highway 64.
- On July 23, 2019, the Village of Hines Creek provided their approval for the Canfor Hines Creek Trail Alternate Route on Private Land Area Project, with the County of Clear Hills providing theirs the following day.
- On July 29, 2019, with AEP aware of the action, a registered letter was sent to the Orphan Well Association in regard to the plowing of a 23-kilometre portion of the west end of the Smith Mills Trail without notification. The purpose of the letter was to solicit future support in providing notification prior to access, which the response provided.
- **2018/19 annual membership: 118, a new high for the Club!**

**Financially there was little-to-no money for operations early in the year, but by the end of the year the Club was in great financial shape, thanks to the paid sponsorships of Baytex Energy Ltd. and Canadian Forest Products Ltd., along with the surprise donation from Mercer Peace River Pulp Ltd. The Club was devastated when advised that they would need to find an alternate route in the private land area of the recently completed Hines Creek Trail but did have approval for an alternate route by the end of the year.**

## August 1 to October 31, 2019

- Following initial contact with some key stakeholders, including Mercer Peace River Pulp Ltd. where a potential preliminary route was identified, the Expression of Interest for the Brownvale Community Access / South End Loop Project addition to the Smith Mills Trail was issued on August 16, 2019 to AEP, Clear Hills County, and the County of Northern Lights.
- By September 16, 2019, agreement-in-principle was received from all three primary stakeholders for the Brownvale Community Access / South End Loop addition to the Smith Mills Trail.
- On September 27, 2019, the initial version of the Trail Development Manual was issued.
- On September 27, 2019, Revision #1 of the Trail Operations Manual was issued.
- **On October 15, 2019, the 10th Anniversary Celebration was held at Thomas Homes & RV Center, the same location as the original organizational meeting.**
- On October 19, 2019 at the ASA Awards Banquet, Club member Dwayne Buchholtz was recognized as the Outstanding Snowmobiler of the Year.
- At the Annual General Meeting held on October 22, 2019, the highlights included the following:
  - ▷ An Executive was elected: Ernie Brauer (President), George Leger (Vice President), Peter Herritt (Secretary), and Frank Armella (Treasurer).
  - ▷ Directors were Wayne Davie (Membership), Megan Morey (Stakeholder Liaison), Travis Wood (Special Events Committee Chair), Travis Schmidt (Trail Operations Committee Chair), Francois Allard (Trail Development Committee Chair), and Chrissie Davis (Publicity).
  - ▷ All committee positions were filled.
  - ▷ The East Wesley Creek Trail was added to the Potential Projects List.
  - ▷ The south Whitemud River Valley Hill on the Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Trail was noted as having had slid again (for the second time) and as requiring repair.
  - ▷ Francois Allard advised that he would be proceeding with the development work to expand the Baytex Wesley Creek Trail Staging Area.
  - ▷ A motion was passed to proceed with the development of the Canfor Hines Creek Trail Alternate Route on the Private Land Project, using \$7,050 from Club funds.
- By October 31, 2019, Licence Agreements with landowners and formal agreements with other stakeholders, except for the Village of Hines Creek, were in place for the Canfor Hines Creek Trail Alternate Route on Private Land Project. Discussion of the agreement was scheduled for the Village of Hines Creek's Council meeting on November 12, 2019. As funding had already been approved by the Club, development was scheduled for early winter.
- By October 31, 2019, contact was made with all but one of the initially known stakeholders associated with the proposed Brownvale Community Access / South End Loop Project addition to the Smith Mills Trail, with the current focus being the need to finalize the exact route.
- The bank balance on October 31, 2019: **\$15,652.88.**

**The first ten years had passed, and the Club was well-positioned for the future with positive recognition in the area, significantly increased membership, four (4) trails in operation, all Executive and Committee positions filled, and money in the bank!**

# **The First 10 Years: A Review of the Highlights by Trail**

## **(Those Considered and Those Developed)**

When identifying routes, the Club focused primarily on routes and areas that were already known to area snowmobilers. Most importantly, the Club promoted the use of shared footprints and other disturbances in order to minimize environmental impact and impact to other stakeholders. This was viewed by many as being socially responsible, which resulted in broader support for the Club. The Club was well aware that shared use could require that trails be re-routed and closed at times due to required access by others, and this was acknowledged in communications with stakeholders. As anticipated, this situation has arisen occasionally; however, the trade-off was that route identification was easier and development less expensive — important factors, especially for the fledgling Club.

### **Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Trail**

(Operating Trail PNT 100284)

- This trail was initiated by Club member Dwayne Buchholtz based on past experiences of snowmobiling in the area with Dave Brochu, who was a previous owner of the property that is currently known as Getaway Cabins.
- The Expression of Interest was issued to SRD on November 26, 2009 and was one part of a package of three trails, including the Wesley Creek and Cadotte River Trails.
- Agreement-in-principle was received from SRD on December 16, 2009, but with a condition:
  - ▷ The trail was not to cross Highway 35 due to sensitive wildlife areas to the west (caribou and grizzly bear habitat). The map included with the Expression of Interest showed the potential trail extending to Sulphur Lake. Furthermore, as Club discussion had actually identified the long-term plan to extend the trail to Running Lake and the Whispering Pines Ski Hill, this restriction was a major setback, causing the Club to identify other options for future development on the west side of the Peace River.
- Considerations in finalizing the route:
  - ▷ Although the approval received for the Expression of Interest allowed for the potential trail to go west of Driftwood Lake to Highway 35, there seemed to be no benefit to creating a staging area at the highway. Other factors were the crossing of the railway and the lack of support for extending the trail to the west from the two trappers. Hence the decision was made to terminate the trail at Driftwood Lake.
  - ▷ Shared use of the Leddy Lake Recreation Area for the staging area.
  - ▷ Shared use of an oil lease road (LOC) and the crossing of an inactive well site (MSL).
  - ▷ Concern for the south Whitemud River Valley Hill area, which required a short deviation from the original trail in an existing slide area. Although it was thought that heavy equipment would be needed in order to access the area to carry out earthwork, this was found to not be necessary once the fallen trees were cleared.
  - ▷ Although when approaching from the south an option existed to use the river for a short portion of the route (since the river freezes solid), it was decided to stay on the old trail and cross the Whitemud River at a right angle to minimize potential damage to sleds from rocks during minimal snow conditions.
  - ▷ The Club experienced significant difficulty in identifying the route through the heavy willows in the muskeg area to the north of the Whitemud River even after having the opportunity to fly the route with Darry Markle, who was a pilot with Highland Helicopters Ltd. Wayne Davie is credited with finding the route through this area.
  - ▷ Applying for the abandoned recreation area at Driftwood Lake was considered; however, the decision was made to not do so because of initial and annual costs associated, and administrative work required, for recreation leases at the time.

- ◆ The trail was terminated at the road that enters the abandoned Recreation Lease, and snowmobilers have continued to access and use the recreation area without the Club taking responsibility for the area.
- The Detailed Proposal seeking final approval was issued to SRD on December 3, 2010.
- Approval of the Detailed Proposal was received from SRD on December 14, 2010, again with conditions:
  - ▷ The width of the trail was limited to three (3) metres between 6-27-86-22-W5 (just north of new rest area) to 16-33-96-22-W5 (where the trail crosses the semi-developed County road at the top of the north Whitemud River Hill).
    - ◆ To secure approval, it was necessary for the Club to provide proof that this route was of historical significance since the land is ungulate winter range and under the control of the Alberta Conservation Association. Thanks to Ross Metcalfe, the Club is in possession of a map that dates back to 1913.
  - ▷ Construction or building activities on lands 4-5-86-W5 to 16-3-87-22-W5 was not allowed between January 15 and April 30 of each year.
    - ◆ The Club's groomer could operate during this period; however, mulching activities, as an example, were not allowed.
  - ▷ The Club was also not permitted to host any organized events that would lead to high volumes of snowmobile traffic on this trail.
    - ◆ As a result, no poker rallies were hosted by the Club until the Wesley Creek Trail became available.
- Development was considered to be complete following mulching and hand-clearing of remaining vegetation, which took place in January/February 2011, although the west and north side of the loop remained undeveloped for a number of years.
  - ▷ This trail was developed based on the Club's first-ever donation, which was \$10,000 from ASA received in December 2010. Due to limited funds, this trail was initially not developed to the full 5 metre width, even where allowed, and trail signage was posted on trees instead of posts. Rick Serhan o/a 1300844 Alberta Ltd. carried out the mulching work as well as providing a crawler when required due to a couple of incidents, with most of it donated. Lorette Trucking Services (2005) Ltd. donated transportation services for the mulcher and the crawler. As the first development work carried out by the Club, this was a major learning experience and hence the Club continues to remain grateful for the patience and commitment of the two contractors noted.
  - ▷ Total value of development: \$52,105.95, including 211 volunteer hours.
- The Leddy Lake Trail was closed temporarily in January 2012 when the well site and access road, on which the energy company had provided approval for shared use, was scarified. As the energy company had overlooked the agreement in place, they promptly made arrangements to have a 5 metre section for the trail re-levelled.
- The Grand Opening was held on March 19, 2011.
  - ▷ Although this initial development was somewhat primitive when viewed in the context of the Club's trails today, the Grand Opening took place as soon as possible following initial development, as the Club was anxious to have a trail to showcase to snowmobilers.
- Major maintenance and upgrades included the following:
  - ▷ At the General Membership meeting on November 12, 2012, approval was provided to purchase a wood stove for the warmup shelter at the Leddy Lake Recreation Area. The shelter was closed in by the Weberville Community Club, which operates the Leddy Lake Recreation Area.

- ▷ On March 26, 2014, the Club made application to the County of Northern Lights for use of an undeveloped road allowance as a Community Access. ESRD responded on March 26, 2014, and the County of Northern Lights provided approval on June 20, 2014. On October 23, 2014, a formal Undeveloped Road Right-of-Way Licence was signed with the County.
  - ◆ As this was an existing trail, the only development work required was hand-clearing of vegetation and installation of signage, including a Community Access sign.
- ▷ In an attempt to somewhat upgrade the trail, Tallman Tree Services carried out slashing work on the Leddy Lake Trail with volunteer assistance from December 20 to 22, 2014. Some of the Baytex Energy / Weaver Welding donation was used to fund this work.
- ▷ Application for three (3) highway staging area direction signs on local secondary highways was approved on January 20, 2015 by Alberta Transportation, in conjunction with signs for the Wesley Creek Trail, with the signs being installed during the summer.
- ▷ Due to damage from a late spring snow in 2015 and funded by a \$3,500 grant from the County of Northern Lights South Recreation Board (provided on November 16, 2015), slashers were again contracted using R. Osmond Tree Services Ltd., with the work being completed in January 2016.
- ▷ Due to the heavy wet snow received on the May long weekend in 2016, this trail was the most significantly damaged; hence the decision was made to leave it **closed for the 2016/17 season** while volunteers and resources were focused on attempting to get the other trails open for the season. This has been the only Club trail to be closed for an entire season.
- ▷ In November 2016, Roger Osmond of R. Osmond Tree Services Ltd. called to offer a donation of one week of mulcher and slashing services, which was followed by additional donated work in March 2017. This initiated the Cleanup / Upgrade Project that resulted in:
  - ◆ A project that spanned the 2016–2017 and 2017–2018 seasons.
  - ◆ The west and east portions of the loop being available for use for the first time since the trail was initially developed.
  - ◆ **R. Osmond Tree Services Ltd. donating \$59,588.50 in mulching and slashing services.**
  - ◆ The total value of work completed being **\$94,333.23**, including 194 volunteer hours.
  - ◆ ASA providing a \$20,000 donation to allow the project to be completed; in addition the Club funded the overrun portion of \$5,147.03 internally.
  - ◆ In addition to opening the trail to the full 5-metre width where allowed, trail signs were removed from trees and installed on steel sign posts, as was the standard on the Club's other trails by this time.
- ▷ Due to a slide on the south bank of the Whitemud River Valley on the Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Trail, a crawler accessed the area on December 3, 2018 to carry out the necessary earthwork to allow for continued use of the trail. Members had carried out significant vegetation removal in advance of the cat work.
- ▷ The Club's most recent rest area was developed on March 12, 2019 on the south side of the Whitemud River. This was the first location where the approval included all amenities: picnic table, firepit, outhouse and woodshed.
- ▷ At the Annual General meeting held on October 22, 2019, the south side of the Whitemud River Valley Hill was noted as having slid again, with repair work being planned.
- Trail Operations Sponsor
  - ▷ In appreciation for the largest donation-in-kind that the Club had received, at their April 19, 2017 General Meeting, the Club voted to give the initial five year Trail Operations Sponsorship to R. Osmond Tree Services Ltd. and their associated business venture, Getaway Cabins.
- Total Value of Work (development, projects and operations) to July 31, 2019:
  - ▷ **\$183,013.25**, including 705.5 volunteer hours
  - ▷ For additional details, refer to the "Trail Development & Operating Summary" on page 62.

## Baytex Wesley Creek Trail

(Operating Trail PNT 140001)

- This trail was initiated by Club member Sebastien Dutrisec based on his past experiences of snowmobiling in the area.
- The Expression of Interest was issued to SRD on November 26, 2009 and was one part of a package of three (3) trails including the Leddy Lake and Cadotte River.
- Agreement-in-principle was received from SRD on December 16, 2009.
- Considerations in finalizing the route included the following:
  - ▷ During initial inspection of the south portion of the route on the small loop that was to become part of the trail, small bubbling mud pots were noted in three (3) places. These sites were tested for H<sub>2</sub>S, with the results being negative. SRD allowed for short bypasses at these points, which are evident on the route today.
  - ▷ As part of the trail proposed to share ATCO Electric's electrical transmission right-of-way, contact with ATCO was made in December 2010; it was quickly determined that in order to secure ATCO's support, liability concerns would have to be addressed. In May 2011, support was indicated, and a draft agreement proposed, with the agreement being finalized on November 2, 2012. Although it was relatively easy to maintain the 5-metre setback from ATCO facilities on the transmission line associated with the small loop, the setbacks for the east-west line on the large loop were much more challenging, as there were a number of transmission lines in the same right-of-way.
  - ▷ The trapper who was impacted requested that an area to the north of the grazing lease not be used for the trail as it was one of few areas not impacted by resource development. The trapper assisted in identifying other route options.
  - ▷ In May 2012, the Club was advised that the Harmon Valley Grazing Association would not allow the route to pass through their lease, contrary to earlier indications. This again set the project back significantly while other options were identified and considered.
  - ▷ Significant resource development in the area included the following:
    - ◆ New resource access roads, well sites, pipelines and other facilities were being constructed at a rapid pace making it difficult to lay out a route. Minimizing road crossings was a particular challenge.
    - ◆ In November 2013, the Club worked with Baytex Energy Ltd., which included attending the November 27, 2013 Public Consultation session to support the proposed Township Road 840/842 connector, even though this connector would require an unanticipated road crossing for the trail. The volume of traffic this new roadway was expected to handle caused Northern Sunrise County to request consideration for the proposed staging area to be relocated to avoid the road crossing. In the end, the route and staging area were not changed due to the following factors:
      - Acceptable alternatives to the staging area were not identified.
      - The long-range plan was to use the same staging area for the Cadotte River Trail to the north, which would have required that the connector road be crossed by a trail anyway.
      - The Club did not share Northern Sunrise County's concern for the volume of traffic as other snowmobile trails in the province crossed major highways.
  - ▷ As the owner of a residence in close proximity to the trail had been on an extended vacation, the Club had been unable to contact this owner until its final attempt. The owner expressed serious concerns about the trail using the drainage ditch along the west side of the proposed trail. As this drainage ditch intersected Pat's Creek, which ran through their property, the owner had been experiencing ongoing trespassing through their yard and hence requested that the trail be moved to the Range Road 200 undeveloped road allowance to the east; this ultimately took place.

- ▷ After an extended period of attempting to identify an acceptable route, at their June 20, 2013 annual meeting the Trail Identification Committee advised SRD of the decision to scale back from the originally intended 70 kilometre route, which included a small 30 kilometre loop, to only the small loop. The two primary factors behind this decision were the significant resource development taking place in the area and the denial of access to the Harmon Valley Grazing Lease with limited options to the north.
- ▷ Although the intent of the Club was to use a portion of developed Range Road 200 on which snow removal was thought not to take place, a last-minute decision was made to request the option of using the old trail in the bush to the west should there be need for the County to plow in the future.
  - ◆ This was a fortunate decision as, shortly after development, the County advised that the snow would be plowed on this section of road annually in early March to allow for access to monitor and respond to potential flooding of Pat's Creek.
- The Detailed Proposal was finally issued on December 12, 2013, **four (4) years after agreement-in-principle had been provided**. As a potential rest area had been identified during layout of the trail, the request for the approval of the rest area was included in the Detailed Proposal.
- Approval of the Detailed Proposal was received from SRD on January 7, 2014.
- Development
  - ▷ On March 27, 2013, the Club was more than surprised to be advised of an unsolicited donation of \$32,000, which was jointly provided by Baytex Energy Ltd. and Weaver Welding Ltd. As the donation was not designated, the Club initially directed these funds to the development of the Wesley Creek Trail, since this was the area of operations for these companies.
  - ▷ Due to significant snow being on the ground by the time the Detailed Proposal approval was received, the decision was made to delay mulching until the early winter of 2014/15, even though funds were in place.
  - ▷ On January 10, 2014, the Club received \$2,500 from Avenge Energy Services Inc., resulting in the Club viewing the Wesley Creek Trail development as being fully funded.
  - ▷ Mulching took place with Western Canadian Mulching Services Ltd. starting on November 27, 2014, with the work being completed on December 2, 2014 with only a couple of challenges:
    - ◆ The mulcher broke through the muskeg on the south side of the trail. Despite the cold weather MacMillan Construction Ltd. was able to start a D6 crawler and transport it to site to pull the mulcher out on the same day.
    - ◆ Although the next morning was -40C, the mulcher operator (likely feeling badly about the happenings of the prior day) was insistent on continuing with the work. The mulcher was monitored from a vehicle by radio until early afternoon, when it warmed up a bit and allowed for volunteer support using a snowmobile. Although a full day of mulching took place, the mulcher did experience mechanical problems by the end of the day, which were rectified prior to the start of work the next morning.
  - ▷ Vegetation cleanup associated with development, using Tallman Tree Services and volunteer assistance, took place from December 29 to December 31, 2014.
  - ▷ Application for two (2) highway staging area direction signs on Highway 688 was approved on January 20, 2015 by Alberta Transportation, in conjunction with the Leddy Lake Trail, with the signs installed during the summer.
  - ▷ Work started again in early summer 2015 with signage work, the installation of the rest area, and a second round of slashing carried out by Mike Kolebaba Water Transport completed by the end of January 2016.
    - ◆ The trail included the Club's first rest area consisting of a firepit and picnic table.

- ◆ The Club was particularly thankful to be able to acquire, on short notice, the services of Mike Kolebaba Water Transport for slashing as it was again difficult for the Club to secure others to provide this service, in particular without incurring travel and living-out costs.
- ▷ Funding for development included a joint donation of \$32,000 from Baytex Energy Ltd. and Weaver Welding Ltd., a \$2,500 donation from Avenge Energy Services Inc., and \$3,000 from Northern Sunrise County for the second round of slashing and ten (10) steel sign posts.
  - ◆ As development went extremely well, the Club was allowed to redirect excess funds from the Baytex Energy /Weaver Welding donation to assist with the some of the development costs of the Smith Mills Trail and for slashing services to improve the Leddy Lake Trail.
- ▷ Total value of development: \$45,744.47, including 234.5 volunteer hours.
- Opened for Use: November 2015
- Grand Opening: March 5, 2016
  - ▷ Held in conjunction with the Club's first Poker Rally. Fortunately, a few inches of snow had fallen a few days prior, allowing the event to proceed.
- Major maintenance and upgrades:
  - ▷ On June 12, 2016, AEP approved a Temporary Field Authorization for the re-sloping of the north bank crossing of Pat's Creek, which had developed a significant undercut. The work was completed in September 2016 on a donation basis by Bernard Fortin.
  - ▷ St. Isidore Connector Project
    - ◆ At the General Meeting on April 5, 2016, a motion was made to support the use of the St. Isidore Cultural Centre for the 2017 Poker Rally; in conjunction, a second motion authorized the Trail Development Committee to look into the feasibility of the St. Isidore Connector both as a temporary route (to allow access for the Poker Rally) and as a permanent route.
    - ◆ The Expression of Interest for a temporary trail connecting to the St. Isidore Cultural Centre was issued September 29, 2016 to Northern Sunrise County, with AEP copied.
    - ◆ Agreement-in-principle was provided by Northern Sunrise County at their council meeting on October 11, 2016; as the potential of the route crossing a portion of Crown land was identified as a preferred option in the interim, AEP provided their agreement-in-principle on October 23, 2016.
    - ◆ This was the Club's first major project where a route crossed multiple quarters of private land that were in agricultural production. Four stakeholders were involved.
    - ◆ At the November 9, 2016 General Membership meeting, approval was provided to have the St. Isidore Connector Project (for both the temporary and permanent routes) proceed to the Detailed Proposal stage.
    - ◆ On November 17, 2016, Shell Canada Limited advised that they would be donating \$1,000 to the project.
      - The initial plan was to use funds from the 2017 Poker Rally to fund the project. As the Poker Rally was cancelled, this donation from Shell was important to this development.
    - ◆ The Detailed Proposal requesting final approval for both the temporary route and permanent route was submitted on November 25, 2016.
    - ◆ AEP approval allowing the Club to develop the half mile on Crown land was provided on November 28, 2016.
    - ◆ Approval for the temporary route was provided by Northern Sunrise County Council at their meeting on December 13, 2016.



- The approval for the permanent route was delayed while the County went through the process of changing their Off-Highway Vehicle bylaw to allow for road access within the hamlet to the Community Access.
- ◆ Trail signage, except for that on Crown land, was completed January 5, 2017.
- ◆ Due to the minimal amount of work involved and the significant demand for mulching equipment at the time, the Club had difficulty in securing a mulcher to complete the half mile of work on Crown land. On February 1, 2017, a rotary mower was used.
  - As this rotary mower work required significantly more cleanup work in order to remove vegetation from the trail, a recommendation was made and approved by the Membership to only use mulchers in the future.
- ◆ On February 16, 2017, the decision was made to cancel the Poker Rally planned for March 4 due to poor snow conditions. The Club had made great efforts to have the temporary route available, the venue with banquet had been booked, and sponsors were in place. However, an unsuccessful event would have placed the Club at risk of a substantial loss.
  - As the County of Northern Sunrise had committed as a sponsor and provided \$1,850 to the Club, options for the return or redirection of the funds was provided, with the Northern Sunrise County Council graciously allowing the funds to be redirected. \$1,000 was directed to the development of the St. Isidore Connector Project, with the remainder directed to non-refundable deposits and a small amount being directed to general revenues for the Club.
- ◆ On April 25, 2017, Northern Sunrise County Council approved Bylaw B308/17 allowing for designated snowmobile routes in the hamlet of St. Isidore, thereby also providing final approval for the St. Isidore Connector Project.
- ◆ Development work associated with the permanent route was completed, including the following:
  - Additional signage was added to the short extension of the route from what was the temporary trail to the Community Access point.
  - The north Range Road 200 Community Access sign was relocated to the hamlet.
  - Francois Allard moved a small dirt pile and removed a pile of vegetation from the route
- ◆ The completed project was turned over to operations on November 18, 2017, ready for use.
- ▷ On October 21, 2017, the five-foot orange plastic posts with rebar support (installed primarily to mark the offset to ATCO facilities) were replaced by seven-foot orange plastic posts.
  - ◆ Both the five- and seven-foot orange plastic posts were provided at no charge by ASA.
- ▷ On October 22, 2018, AEP provided their approval and an outhouse was installed at the rest area on December 4, 2018.
  - ◆ This was the second Club trail to be equipped with an outhouse.
- ▷ A woodshed was installed at the rest area on February 12, 2019.
  - ◆ This was the first Club trail to be equipped with a woodshed.
- ▷ On May 1, 2019, a lease agreement was signed with Northern Sunrise County for the Baytex Wesley Creek Staging Area including a proposed expansion, as the current site was insufficient to host future poker rallies.
- Trail Operations Sponsor
  - ▷ Baytex Energy Ltd. signed the first paid Trail Operations Sponsorship Agreement with the Club on October 12, 2018.
- Total Value of Work (development, projects and operations) to July 31, 2019:
  - ▷ **\$83,927.43**, including 618 volunteer hours.
  - ▷ For further details, refer to the “Trail Development & Operating Summary” on page 62.

## **Cadotte River Trail**

(Partial approval, remains on the Potential Projects List)

- This trail was initiated by Club member Dwayne Buchholtz based on the Club's commitment to link to other ASA member trails. This trail, in conjunction with the Talbot Lake Trail, would link the Wesley Creek Trail to Talbot Lake where the LaCrete Polar Cats Trail from the north terminates.
- The Expression of Interest was issued on November 26, 2009 as one part of a package of three (3) trails, including the Leddy Lake and Wesley Creek.
- Agreement-in-principle was received on December 16, 2009, except for Township 96 (which was in another Alberta Sustainable Resource Development area).
- No layout work has taken place, although discussion on the shared use of the ATCO Electric transmission line right-of-way that runs in close proximity to the Mercer East Haul Road was initiated as part of the ATCO Electric discussions that focused on the Wesley Creek Trail. It was anticipated that most of the route would use this right-of-way.
- This project awaits a Project Sponsor to initiate work.

---

## **Friendship Trail**

(Removed from consideration)

- Consideration of this trail was initiated by Club member Dwayne Thomas since it was an existing trail running from within the Town of Peace River to Lac Cardinal, north of Grimshaw.
- The potential use of this trail by snowmobiles had also been identified by the Peace River Snowmobile Club in 1998 as an access out of the town.
- Preliminary investigation took place with TrailNet providing encouragement for use as a snowmobile trail. The group that had developed the trail had started to disband and there was cash on-hand to offer others who would assume responsibility for the trail.
- Unfortunately, the route used significant MD of Peace roadways (including one that was paved), passed through a golf course and also through a municipal park, all of which didn't leave much of a route for the Club to work with.
- This trail initially had particular interest as the potential existed to link the Town of Peace River to the Town of Grimshaw and from there to Fairview / Hines Creek by using the abandoned rail line.

---

## **Grimshaw to Fairview / Hines Creek Rail Line**

(Removed from consideration)

- This trail was initiated by Club member Dwayne Buchholtz based on the potential ability to secure use of the abandoned rail line to develop a snowmobile trail. The trail offered a significant alignment with minimal development costs and would have linked several communities similar to the model used in eastern Canada. As it also offered highway visibility, there was the opportunity for increased recognition of the Club.
- Preliminary investigation took place, with TrailNet indicating that they may be able to secure use of the abandoned line from CN. Although some follow-up took place, after a period of time it appeared that this was not going to happen as the Club was also made aware that some sections of the line had been sold to adjoining landowners.

## Smith Mills Trail

(Operating Trail CNT 120007)

- This trail was initiated by Club member Darry Markle during the winter of 2010/11 based on his knowledge of the area as a helicopter pilot for Highland Helicopters Ltd. and having identified the Canfor P-400 road, which the majority of the trail uses, as potentially being available for use.
- The Expression of Interest was submitted on October 30, 2011 to ESRD.
- Agreement-in-principle was provided on November 16, 2011 by ESRD.
- Considerations in finalizing the route included the following:
  - ▷ This route had to avoid the sensitive wildlife area that had prevented the Leddy Lake Trail from running to Sulphur Lake.
    - ◆ Consideration was again given to linking to a future route, including Running Lake and the Whispering Pines Ski Hill.
  - ▷ The use of the Figure Eight Lake Recreation Area as the East End Staging Area.
    - ◆ Although such shared use was taking place in southern Alberta, local Parks people were not supportive, primarily due to concern with the cost of their facility maintenance. This was a major disappointment given that a perfect area existed behind the outdoor kitchen.
    - ◆ This would also have required the support of a grazing leaseholder to the west.
  - ▷ The use of grazing lease land for the East End Staging Area.
    - ◆ Although the Club had difficulty in dealing with the grazing lease holders associated with the Wesley Creek Trail, the shared use of grazing lease land received the support of all involved parties. The Club was particularly thankful for the written support of Carl (Einer) Madsen, the grazing leaseholder, that was provided on June 5, 2015.
  - ▷ The TransCanada Pipeline right-of-way was identified for shared use as the link to the Canfor P-400 road, which at the east end is known as the Smith Mills Road (and which also connects to the Whitemud Forestry Tower access).
  - ▷ Those following up with stakeholders were surprised to learn that seven (7) Registered Fur Management Areas (traps) would be impacted by this trail.
    - ◆ As trappers were only advised of the proposed trail as part of the final approval process, the Club recognized the need to consult earlier in the process in the future in order to improve relations and secure support from this stakeholder group.
  - ▷ There was initial uncertainty as to whether the trail could pass through a Forest Grazing Lease. As existing LOCs (resource roads) passed through and the Club was sharing use of these roads, the trail was also allowed to pass through the area.
  - ▷ The resource activity at the west end required that the trail leave the Canfor P-400 road and identify alternate disturbances, which proved to be a challenge. Fortunately, Peter Frixel (who was a Councillor for Clear Hills County) stepped up to assist and brought along Ernie Brauer. Somewhat of an inside joke but also totally factual is that Ernie kept the layout going in the correct “east” direction as Dwayne Buchholtz was totally disoriented given that several changes in alignments were involved (which is enough to make you wonder how the trails before Ernie’s involvement went the right direction!).
    - ◆ Ernie Brauer, in addition to holding several positions on the Club Executive (including as the current President), became very instrumental in assisting with the development and operations of the Smith Mills and Hines Creek Trails as well with increasing membership and participation from the Clear Hills County area.

- ▷ The shared use of an abandoned well site just north of the Stoney Lake Recreation Area was identified for the West End Staging Area. The actual Recreation Area was initially considered; however, it did not allow off-highway vehicle access, nor were existing developments large enough to accommodate a staging area.
- The Detailed Proposal was issued to ESRD on July 30, 2012.
- Approval of the Detailed Proposal was received from ESRD on November 13, 2012.
  - ▷ This did not include the shared use of the grazing lease for the East End Staging Area.
- Development
  - ▷ As this was the longest route to be developed (due to limited access along the route and several water crossings), the development of this trail was far more complex than anything the Club had experienced previously.
  - ▷ Although some funds were in place, the decision was made to delay mulching until the early winter of 2013/14 due to significant snow being on the ground by the time the Detailed Proposal approval was received.
    - ◆ Deep snow impacts the speed and quality of mulching work. The view of the Club was that given the limited resources available for development, it was important to be good stewards of what was available.
  - ▷ In December 2012, the Club was made aware that an oil lease was being drilled in the area of the undeveloped East End Staging Area and that this lease was being accessed on the undeveloped Township Road 850 allowance planned as part of the trail. This delayed the application for the shared use of the grazing lease as the Club waited to determine the status of the well and whether the staging area would need to be relocated. During this time, other options were identified, should the staging area need to be relocated.
    - ◆ Long Run Exploration Ltd. did use a crawler to clear the undeveloped road allowance from the staging area to the where their lease road left the road allowance, and then also assisted the Club by clearing another one and a half miles of the undeveloped road allowance to the west.
    - ◆ As the decision was made to not put the well into production, the staging area remained on the grazing lease as planned.
  - ▷ Fundraising had commenced in late 2012 based on a total budget of \$150,000, and by November 2013 the Club had reduced the total budget to \$113,000. With \$51,000 of cash-on-hand, it was decided to commence development. By the end of the project, additional funds were transferred from the Baytex Energy / Weaver Welding donation that had originally been directed to the Wesley Creek project.
  - ▷ In conjunction with volunteers to clear vegetation, development using two mulchers from Western Canadian Mulching Ltd. commenced on November 29, 2013, starting at the west end. By the end of the day, twelve kilometres of trail had been covered; however, an unexpected series of beaver dams at a major creek crossing were encountered. Work was halted while an alternate access was identified.
    - ◆ During the day, an unfortunate incident arose when the mulchers were given poor direction resulting in a wrong turn. This in turn resulted in mulching taking place in a recently reforested cut block. The incident was reported to ESRD, and although the Club was severely chastised, it was not fined.
  - ▷ In December 2013, plans were made to restart the mulching on the Smith Mills Trail from the east end using a well site access in the Chinook Valley area. However, the area experienced heavy snowfall similar to that of the previous year, but this time in conjunction with significant freezing rain. These were the primary factors that led the Trail Identification Committee at their meeting on January 6, 2014 to make the decision to delay further work until the early winter of 2014/15.

- ▷ As the Club was made aware that the Long Run well site was not going to be put into production, on September 27, 2014, application was made to the County of Northern Lights for an Undeveloped Road Right-of-Way Licence to formalize the Club's use a portion of undeveloped Township Road 850.
  - ◆ This lease has since been acquired by Canamax Energy Ltd., who also confirmed they have no plans to put the well into production.
  - ◆ Although the Club uses undeveloped road allowances on the Wesley Creek and Hines Creek Trails, other counties have decided not to formalize the arrangement, leaving the Club somewhat concerned about access by others without notification.
- ▷ The Undeveloped Road Right-of-Way Licence for use of a portion of undeveloped Township Road 850 associated with access to the East End Staging Area was signed on October 23, 2014.
- ▷ After reconsidering the crossing of a large body of water in a marshy area towards the middle the trail, a last-minute request was made to skirt the marsh to the north was made on November 25, 2014.
- ▷ On November 28, 2014, ESRD provided a Temporary Field Authorization to skirt the marshy area.
  - ◆ This decision proved critical to allowing the mulchers to pass through this area since even the stability of the ground surface on the bypass was of concern to the mulcher operators.
- ▷ Development commenced with the mulcher from the just-completed Wesley Creek Trail moved directly to the Smith Mills Road, where it was joined by a second mulcher. On December 4, 2014, in conjunction with volunteers to clear vegetation, Western Canadian Mulching Ltd. commenced the mulching work. Shortly after starting work, one of the mulchers experienced engine failure and so work continued for the rest of the day with a single mulcher. The replacement for the second mulcher arrived the next day. Western Canadian Mulching Ltd. completed their work on December 7, 2014, which ended at a beaver dam that had flooded the Canfor P-400 road, restricting further access to and from the west.
- ▷ On December 15, 2014, a Temporary Field Authorization was received from ESRD for the shared use on the grazing lease for the East End Staging Area.
- ▷ In late November 2014, it was determined that it was possible for mulchers to access the Forest Grazing Lease area between the beaver dams at the west end. Amarillo Contractors Ltd. was determined to be the disposition holder of the LOC (private road) to the south of the Forest Grazing Lease, which could be accessed from the Deer Hills Road. Since Amarillo Contractors Ltd. owned equipment that could do the development work and provide slashing services, they were contracted to carry out the work in this difficult-to-access area.
  - ◆ The area to the east of the unexpected beaver dams encountered the previous year, including the west end loop, was mulched on December 9, 2014, followed by a slashing crew who cleared the mulched area on December 22 and 23, 2014.
  - ◆ On December 30, 2014, a small flail mower crossed a creek on matting to carry out vegetation removal up to the beaver dam further to the east (Western Canadian Mulching Ltd. had worked to the dam from the other direction). A slashing crew cleared the area on December 30 and 31, 2014, which completed the work at the west end.
  - ◆ On January 2, 2015, Amarillo Contractors Ltd. used their small flail mower to again access an area between water bodies on Township Road 850 near the East End Staging Area in order to remove the remaining vegetation on the undeveloped road allowance. This was the last of the areas on the Smith Mills Trail that required mechanical vegetation removal.

- ▷ On June 3, 2015, applications for highway direction signs to staging areas were approved by Alberta Transportation. In the summer, two (2) signs were installed in the area of the East End Staging Area near Figure Eight Lake, and four (4) signs were installed in conjunction with the West End Staging Area near Hines Creek.
- ▷ On January 10, 2016, volunteers completed initial development vegetation cleanup and sign installation.
- ▷ As initial attempts to secure contractors on a donation basis for the development of the East End Staging Area were not successful, an extension to the Temporary Field Authorization was required in order to allow for work to be carried out in non-frost conditions. On April 4, 2016, with the support of the grazing lease holder, AEP provided an approved Temporary Field Authorization allowing for the work to be completed by June 1, 2016.
  - ◆ Although a two-acre site had been approved, it was decided to proceed with the development of only one (1) acre and to increase the size, if required, at some time in the future.
- ▷ Development of the East End Staging Area was **completed on the long weekend in May 2016 as a heavy late spring snowfall took place**. The contractors who provided their services to ensure that the timeline requirements of the Temporary Field Authorization for the extension could be met included the following:
  - ◆ Allard Logging Ltd. harvested the merchantable timber.
  - ◆ Western Canadian Mulching Services Ltd. mulched the remaining vegetation to avoid burning.
  - ◆ Lorette Truck Services (2005) Ltd. provided transportation of the mulcher.
  - ◆ Rosenberger Log Salvage removed the merchantable timber and produced firewood, as it was a requirement that the merchantable timber be properly used.
  - ◆ Stealth Projects Ltd. provided the cat work to level the site.
- ▷ The \$55,500 in cash to develop this trail was provided by the Alberta Snowmobile Association (\$15,000), Baytex Energy / Weaver Welding (\$4,500 — transferred from Wesley Creek funds), Clear Hills County (\$10,000), County of Northern Lights (\$10,000), Peace Fuel Distributors (\$5,000), Province of Alberta Community Initiatives Program (\$10,000) and Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd. — Peace River Pulp Division (\$1,000).
- ▷ The total value of development was \$110,055.44, including 595.5 volunteer hours.
- Open for Use: December 2015
- Grand Opening: March 11, 2017
- Major maintenance and upgrades:
  - ▷ As the West End Staging Area was located in a remote area to the north of Hines Creek on the Canfor P-100 Road, Peace Country Ventures Ltd. (who maintains the road) was contacted on October 13, 2014 in regards to removing the snow from the staging area. They have been doing so annually since on a donation basis.
  - ▷ A Temporary Field Authorization request to locate a rest area on the trail was initiated on October 27, 2015. Approval was delayed at the Club's request while the concerns of two trappers were resolved. Approval was received from AEP on April 18, 2016. The firepit and picnic table were moved into position a couple of days prior to the Grand Opening on March 11, 2017.
  - ▷ As fundraising for the required slashing work due to the heavy late May 2016 snow provided the funds required, H. Friesen Slashing Ltd. began work on November 29, 2016 with the support of volunteers.

- ◆ Funding was provided by the Alberta Snowmobile Association (\$7,900) and Clear Hills County (\$5,000).
- ◆ Funding allowed for approximately six (6) days of work; however, after the first couple of days of work, it became painfully obvious that the extent of the damage was significantly underestimated. These funds would allow for approximately two-thirds of the trail to be cleared.
- ▷ As a second round of fundraising for the slashing work required due to the heavy late May 2016 snow provided the additional funds required, H. Friesen Slashing Ltd. recommenced work on January 19, 2017 with the support of volunteers.
  - ◆ Funding was provided by County of Northern Lights (\$1,000), County of Northern Lights South Rec Board (\$4,000), Club member Frank Armella (\$5,000), and \$1,000 committed by the Club from their current funds.
  - ◆ Although an additional five (5) days of work was completed, the budget was significantly exceeded, resulting in use of additional Club funds and a donation-in-kind from the contractor. Even then, **the work was not completed**. The approximately four (4) kilometres of trail that remained was opened to allow a snowmobile to pass through.
    - **Note:** This four-kilometre section of trail was still not fully cleared at the time this document was prepared, in part because of the difficulty in accessing this remote area near the centre of the trail.
  - ◆ **The total value of work for this project was \$44,381.56, including 387 volunteer hours.**
- ▷ Based on the request of several female participants at the Grand Opening, the Club supported the installation of an outhouse at the rest area and a Temporary Field Authorization request was issued on June 13, 2017. Upon its approval, the Club's first outhouse — a plastic structure donated by Roadrunner Leasing and Sales Ltd. — was put into place on November 15, 2017.
- ▷ On February 22, 2019, a woodshed was also added to the rest area.
- Current Project: Brownvale Community Access / South End Loop
  - ▷ In October of 2014, a representative from the Mighty Peace Tourist Association raised the potential of access to the Smith Mills Trail for the Last Lake Guest House located to the northwest of Brownvale. Initial contact by the Club was made with the owners of the Guest House on December 9, 2014 and as part of preliminary investigation, an on-site meeting was held on August 16, 2015.
  - ▷ The potential for this project was raised with the Club, resulting in the decision to delay consideration of the project until after the Hines Creek Trail was completed.
  - ▷ On September 7, 2016, the Club followed through on AEP's direction to initiate direct discussions with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry regarding ongoing concerns with removal of snow from the Smith Mills Road in conjunction with access to their tower site. From discussions at that time, it was determined that access was to be required every two years to allow for propane delivery. In the fall of 2018, the Club was made aware of a project to replace the tower that would commence in December. Unexpectedly this project resulted in the east end of the trail being closed for most of the winter, causing members to initiate preliminary work on creating a bypass in order to avoid such future situations. Unfortunately, this bypass was not supported by AEP.
  - ▷ On September 13, 2016, Clear Hills County passed Bylaw 212-16, which in general allowed for restricted operation of off-highway vehicles on County roads. Although the Club encouraged this change in relation to the Whispering Pines Trail project (which did not proceed), it was a supporting factor in the decision to move forward with the Brownvale Community Access / South End Loop Project as it allowed road access for the Last Lake Guest House to the proposed Community Access.

- ▷ As the potential of a Brownvale Community Access in association with a loop to bypass the Whitemud Forestry Tower existed, at the Club's General Meeting on April 9, 2019, a motion was passed supporting the project and authorizing the project to proceed to the stage of an approved Expression of Interest.
- ▷ At the Club's annual AEP meeting on July 15, 2019, an indication was provided that AEP would be open to consideration of the project.
- ▷ During the summer of 2019, initial stakeholders were identified and contact made to verify the feasibility of the project. As part of this work, a meeting was held with Mercer Peace River Pulp Ltd. on August 8, 2019, and by the end of the meeting, based on the knowledge of the Club members present and the Mercer mapping information, a potential preliminary route had been identified.
- ▷ The Expression of Interest was issued on August 16, 2019 to AEP, Clear Hills County, and the County of Northern Lights.
- ▷ Agreement-in-principle was received from all stakeholders by September 16, 2019.
- ▷ As of October 31, 2019, contact with one of the initially identified stakeholders remained outstanding and the preliminary route still needed to be fully inspected, which was delayed while waiting for sufficient frost in the wet areas and creek crossing.
- Just prior to Christmas in December 2018, the Club was made aware that a significant portion of the west end of the trail had been accessed by a crawler, which plowed the snow from this portion of the route. As a similar situation in the province in the past had resulted in significant injury to a snowmobiler, the west end of the trail was immediately closed and an investigation took place. In addition to determining the length of time the trail would be unavailable to snowmobilers, the intent was to encourage those responsible to provide advance notice in the future. Furthermore, this was very similar to an incident that took place in February 2015 when a significant portion of the trail was plowed from the east end. It appeared that in both cases, there was an attempt to access the same area near the centre of the trail. As those responsible in 2015 were not identified, the Club carried out their due diligence at that time by installing notification signs at four different remote points where others could access the trail. These signs provided notification of the trail's existence along with contact information. Although the it remains unclear who was responsible for the 2015 incident, the Orphan Well Association did acknowledge the 2018 access with follow-up during the summer of 2019, confirming their intent to work with the Club and to provide advance notice in the future.
- Trail Operations Sponsor
  - ▷ Sponsorship of this trail remains uncommitted.
- Total Value of Work (development, projects and operations) to October 31, 2019:
  - ▷ **\$186,202.44** including 1,396 volunteer hours
  - ▷ For further details, refer to the "Trail Development & Operating Summary" on page 62.



## Misery Mountain Trail

(Removed from consideration)

- The initiative for this trail came from the work of the failed Peace River Snowmobile Club as this was one of the potential projects identified. The concept was to create, in conjunction with the Misery Mountain Ski Hill, a staging area for a trail leaving the Town of Peace River to the west. Leddy Lake was the most likely of the destinations considered as the potential use of the Friendship Trail proved to not be feasible.
- Preliminary discussions took place on the possibility of resurrecting this project with SRD and the Town of Peace River in February 2011.
- On August 24, 2011, the Club sent a letter to the Peace River Ski Club requesting preliminary support for a proposed staging area to the south of the chalet and a trail leaving the area heading west. On October 4, 2011, the Club was advised that the Peace River Ski Club had passed a motion confirming the support requested.
- Wanting to identify the degree of public support associated with the concept of the trail prior to attempting to seek any level of approval, the Club held Public Consultation meetings on November 14, 2011 at the Weberville Community Hall and on November 24, 2011 at the Misery Mountain Chalet. Of the twenty questionnaires returned, only one was opposed, and this was due to a concern with noise.
- The Expression of Interest was issued on January 20, 2012 to the County of Northern Lights, MD of Peace, SRD, and the Town of Peace River.
- On April 16, 2012, the Club provided the Peace River Ski Club with a Letter of Support regarding their New Quad Chair Project. On October 10, 2012, a meeting was held with the Peace River Ski Club to determine the impact on the preliminary plans for the staging area and trail to the west. As the original plans would be impacted, further investigation was to take place once the quad chair was in place.
- Agreement-in-principle for the project was received from all four (4) approvers by April 17, 2012.
- Considerations in finalizing a route included the following:
  - ▷ The Alberta Conservation Association area to the south of Leddy Lake
  - ▷ Grazing leases to the southwest of Leddy Lake on both sides of Highway 986
  - ▷ The crossing of Highway 986
  - ▷ Private land crossings with the potential to share the use of the proposed water line right-of-way to Warrensville
  - ▷ The crossing of Highway 2
  - ▷ The CN railway crossing
  - ▷ Working with the Town of Peace River to identify and designate appropriate lands
- On May 5, 2014, the Town of Peace River Town finally passed the new OHV By-Law 1831, which was required prior to further consideration of this trail.
- On May 13, 2017, a letter was sent to AEP and copied to the other primary stakeholders, advising of the Club's decision not to proceed with the Misery Mountain Trail.
  - ▷ Factors behind this decision included the following:
    - ◆ not being able to identify/secure support for routing within the Town of Peace River,
    - ◆ continued development around Peace River, particularly on the Westhill, and
    - ◆ Grazing Lease Regulations not being updated to provide an avenue for arbitration when access is denied.

## **Old Telegraph Trail**

(Removed from consideration)

- This trail was suggested by County of Northern Lights Councillor Gale Vandemark at the Council's first presentation on December 8, 2010. This route had previously been high graded and originally ran from Grimshaw to High Level / Fort Vermillion. A history book was provided that referenced the trail and Club member Dwayne Buchholtz was familiar with a portion he had snowmobiled on in the Keg River area, but no map or further information could be obtained from historical sources. As it was known that this would be in the wildlife sensitive area, no further consideration was given.
- Should consideration be given to resurrecting this project in the future, more recent information received indicated that the trail may have also been known as the Wildrose Trail.

---

## **Talbot Lake Trail**

(Potential Projects List)

- This trail was added to the potential projects list as it is a proposed extension to the Cadotte River Trail, which together could fulfill the Club's commitment to link to other member trails of the ASA. This trail, in conjunction with the Cadotte River Trail, could link the Wesley Creek Trail to Talbot Lake where the LaCrete Polar Cats trail from the north currently terminates.
- At one point the Canadian Rangers were approached regarding laying out the route, since they were known to conduct exercises in the area. Although initial indications were that they would consider doing so, no further communication took place.
- No work has taken place on this trail and no further consideration will be given to this project until the Cadotte River Trail is developed.

---

## **Weberville Community Forest Association Trail**

(Potential partnership not followed through)

- As the Weberville Community Forest Association was identified as a stakeholder when the Leddy Lake Trail was developed and as they had supported the development of this trail, the Club provided support for the development of their trail. Communication generally involved Wayne Davie, who was a member of both groups.
- The Weberville Community Forest Association initiated and developed an all-season loop in the Peace River Valley approximately ten (10) kilometres to the east of the Leddy Lake Trail.
- At the Club's General meeting on October 8, 2014, a motion was passed to have the Club operate this trail during the winter months.
- After inspecting the trail, the north portion was found to be too steep for snowmobile travel and far too steep to allow for the intended grooming, so the agreement to operate the trail in the winter months was not followed through on (as noted in the minutes of the April 5, 2016 General Membership meeting).

## Whispering Pines Trail

(Removed from consideration)

- Consideration of this trail was initiated based on the request of TrailNet as part of their desire to have a local group further develop and manage this portion of the TransCanada Trail before TrailNet's 50th Anniversary in 2017. This potential project had the appearance of requiring minimal development and in addition, Clear Hills County had offered the Club an additional grant for the further development of trails in the County.
- When the Leddy Lake Trail was proposed, which included running to Sulphur Lake, there had been preliminary interest in extending to Running Lake and the Whispering Pines Ski Hill near Worsley.
- This trail was to primarily travel on the Canfor P-200 road. TrailNet had received consent from Canadian Forest Products Ltd. on September 20, 2000 to use a portion of the right-of-way.
- At the Annual General Meeting held on October 8, 2014, the Club provided authorization to move this project to the point of an approved Expression of Interest.
- The Whispering Pines Ski Hill was opposed to a staging area sharing their parking lot due to space concerns and their chalet and kitchen already being overtaxed in meeting the requirements of skiers. Worsley was considered as the alternate destination, but this would require the Clear Hills County off-highway vehicle bylaw to be changed, which the Council was encouraged to consider. At the Clear Hills County Council meeting on October 28, 2014, a motion was passed supporting Worsley as the alternate destination.
  - ▷ As road access would be required to access Worsley by snowmobile, Bylaw No. 212-16 was approved by Council on September 13, 2016, which in general allowed restricted off-highway vehicle use on County roads. Unfortunately, this approval came after the decision not to proceed with the project was made, although it would benefit another project.
- During this time, a Mighty Peace Tourist Association report was released, indicating that there was an opportunity for cabins to be constructed at the Whispering Pines Ski Hill, which would be viable if developed in conjunction with snowmobile trails in the area.
- After carrying out further investigation of the route, including travelling this primarily winter-only road on December 1, 2014 using an Argo, it was determined that Canfor intended to continue to use the road for winter log hauls and that the winter approval provided would only allow snowmobile travel in the ditches, which were nonexistent.
- On April 17, 2016, the Club issued an email to TrailNet, Clear Hills County, Canadian Forest Products Ltd. and the ASA, advising that at the Club's General Membership meeting on April 5, 2016, the decision had been made to remove this project from the Current Projects List.

---

## Dixonville Connector

(Potential Projects List)

- Consideration of this trail was initiated by Club member Dwayne Buchholtz following the Club's decision to develop the Smith Mills Trail. The intent was to have this project link the Leddy Lake and Smith Mills Trails.
- On October 7, 2014, a presentation was made to the Dixonville LIFE Agricultural Society with the intent of creating awareness for the Club and securing local interest in this project. The Ag Society had run some quad rallies and hence the potential also existed to partner with them to run a snowmobile rally. Although the meeting was well attended and interest in working together on a rally was indicated, no further communication has taken place.

- Some preliminary investigation was carried out regarding a potential route, with the options of both running into the hamlet and bypassing the hamlet considered. Potential barriers identified were the crossings of the CN rail line, the Whitemud River Valley and Highway 35. A landowner was identified who has a current rail line crossing that they indicated they may be willing to share.
- **This would be the final link in fulfilling the initial vision of a complete network of trails on the west side of the Peace River.**
- This project requires a Project Sponsor in addition to volunteers from the area who support the project.

---

## Canfor Hines Creek Trail

(Operating trail CNT 120007)

- Consideration of this trail was initiated jointly by Club members Ernie Brauer and Dwayne Buchholtz following the development of the Smith Mills Trail, from which this trail would extend. This trail would also fulfill the desire of the Club to link trails to communities, like the model in eastern Canada, where amenities such as fuel, food and lodging are available.
- In March 2015, a group of Club members on snowmobiles investigated a portion of what was to become the Hines Creek Trail.
- The Expression of Interest was issued on August 11, 2015 to AEP, Clear Hills County, and the Village of Hines Creek.
- Agreement-in-principle was received from both the County and the Village in August 2015, with the support of AEP being confirmed on February 2, 2016.
- On June 14, 2016, a Public Consultation meeting was held in Hines Creek. Although well publicized, attendance was poor.
  - ▷ As both trappers who were impacted attended the meeting, this allowed for general agreement in several areas of routing.
  - ▷ Initially there was a question as to whether the poor attendance was an indication of no concerns or of a lack of support. Subsequent interaction with the community and stakeholders confirmed that support was indeed present.
- Considerations in finalizing the route included the following:
  - ▷ Accommodating the request of one of the trappers to stay close to the Canfor P-100 road from the private land area to the area close to the intersection with the Canfor P-200 road.
    - ◆ This created a significant challenge in identifying an acceptable route down a drop-off into the Montageuse Valley near the current rest area. The routing in this area was identified on August 20, 2017, just prior to the Detailed Proposal being issued.
  - ▷ Connecting Cornerstone Bed 'N' Breakfast, located to the east of Hines Creek, to the trail
  - ▷ Identifying an acceptable staging area and access within the Village of Hines Creek
  - ▷ Crossing of Highway 64
    - ◆ Surprisingly, Alberta Transportation supported crossing under the Jack Creek Bridge instead of an aligned approaches option in the same area.
  - ▷ Crossing the most private land of any trail to date while keeping a distance from existing residences
    - ◆ The support of the major landowner on the proposed route was stalled during the summer of 2016 while the Club worked to convince the landowner's insurer that the Club was carrying out their due diligence in ensuring the liability of the landowner

was minimized. Ultimately the insurer agreed to continue to provide coverage to the landowner with some conditions attached.

- ▷ Additional crossings of Jack Creek
- ▷ Shared use of an ATCO Electric Ltd. easement associated with a sub-station
- ▷ County road crossings
- ▷ Crossing of the Canfor P-100 road
- ▷ Two (2) forest industry sample plot areas
- ▷ Routing around an identified bear den
- ▷ Challenges associated with securing support for the shared use of a pipeline right-of-way that a junior oil and gas company had recently acquired
- ▷ Securing support from the Orphan Well Association for shared use of access roads (LOC), pipeline crossings (PLA), and well site crossing (MSL)
- ▷ Last-minute identification of a private road disposition (LOC)
  - ◆ The Club was challenged in securing approval since the disposition holder, who had only recently acquired the LOC, was initially under the impression that the LOC was undeveloped, when in fact it was cleared.
- The Detailed Proposal was issued to Clear Hills County, Village of Hines Creek and AEP on August 30, 2017.
- On October 11, 2017, formal fundraising for the trail development was initiated.
- On October 25, 2017, a Trail Approval Celebration took place at the Hideout Pub in Hines Creek where three (3) cheque presentations (from Clear Hills County, Canadian Forest Products Ltd., and the Hines Creek Recreation Board) took place.
  - ▷ It must be noted that within two (2) weeks of formal fundraising being initiated, the Club had received commitments for \$35,000 in donations.
  - ▷ It had snowed the previous day, and snowmobiles were being operated in the Hines Creek area, adding to the excitement of the celebration.
- Once some final routing options were sorted out with AEP, an Temporary Field Authorization was provided on November 1, 2017.
- Development
  - ▷ Following the cheque presentations at the Trail Approval Celebration, additional funds were received from Zavisha Sawmills Ltd. This provided the Club with \$37,000 out of the \$54,500 required for the development.
    - ◆ The Club was anticipating a further donation of \$15,000 from AEP, but as this had not been confirmed, the decision was made to start work with the funds that were available.
    - ◆ An application for funding had also been sent to the ASA; however, as the grant associated with the Leddy Lake Trail had not been closed off, additional funds could not be provided.
  - ▷ H. Friesen Slashing Ltd. was contracted to provide slashing and mulching services. On November 17, 2017, both slashing and mulching work was carried out in select private land areas.
    - ◆ The installation of trail signage in the private land area was carried out by volunteers following the completion of mulching work.
  - ▷ On November 28, 2017, mulching in the Crown land area was initiated with two (2) large mulchers. The work was completed on December 6, 2017.

- ◆ A significant incident took place when a tree became lodged between the ROPS and the cab of one of the mulchers. Work continued with one mulcher until the second mulcher was returned.
- ◆ As the route had been marked with donated yellow ribbon the year prior and as the snow in May 2016 had also impacted this undeveloped route by breaking off branches and laying down smaller trees and willows, both the mulcher operators and Club volunteers were significantly challenged to identify the route, particularly to the north of the rest area. On December 3, 2017, this resulted in the mulchers deviating from a portion of the route. The mulchers were shut down for a day while AEP was advised of the situation. As the mulchers were back on the approved route by this time, approval was provided to allow development to continue with the deviation to be resolved later.
- ◆ Mulching conditions were not optimal due to the depth of the snow in the bush area, and although mulching was completed, it was decided to delay the slashing of the bush portion of the trail until the next season. The depth of snow made it impossible to find and clear remaining vegetation from the trail surface; in addition, the windrows of snow left by the mulchers made the trail extremely rough and nearly impassable for snowmobiles.
  - The Club had also not received confirmation of the AEP grant and hence did not have the cash to continue the work.
- ▷ The Club received confirmation of the AEP grant on April 11, 2018 and was pleasantly surprised that it was for more than anticipated. The amount provided — \$17,500 — happened to be the exact amount the Club required to meet the amount budgeted to complete development.
- ▷ At their annual meeting with the Club on August 3, 2018, AEP confirmed that the Club was to use the deviation route as part of the permanent trail and that fines would not be assessed as the issue was not being escalated.
- ▷ H. Friesen Slashing Ltd. commenced slashing work on the Crown land portion of the trail on November 6, 2018, with the work being completed on November 12, 2018 after holding the slashing crew over for one additional day.
- ▷ Following the slashing work, volunteers carried out the installation of trail signage in the Crown land area and moved the firepit and picnic table to the staging area. This was completed on the December 3, 2018.
- ▷ On December 13, 2018, the Staging Area sign was installed as the final development activity.
- ▷ The \$54,500 in cash to develop this trail was provided by Canadian Forest Products Ltd. (\$10,000), Clear Hills County (\$20,000), Hines Creek Recreation Board (\$5,000), Zavisha Sawmills Ltd. (\$2,000), and Alberta Environment and Parks (\$17,500).
  - ◆ Upon the completion of the project, there was \$1,089.27 of surplus funds remaining. This resulted primarily from a couple of last-minute donations-in-kind. All donors were contacted and all agreed to allow the Club to transfer the remaining funds to general operations.
- ▷ **The total value of development was \$106,104.64, including 815 volunteer hours.**
- ▷ Opened for Use: December 2018
  - ◆ Opened for partial use in the Crown land area only due to the private land issue that had arisen.
- Grand Opening: To be determined
  - ▷ Scheduling was delayed until the current alternate route project was completed.

- Major Maintenance and Upgrades
  - ▷ A Temporary Field Authorization was provided on November 27, 2018 for the installation of an outhouse, which was installed at the rest area on December 13, 2018. The plastic outhouse for this location was donated by Avenge Energy Services Inc.
  - ▷ A woodshed was installed at the rest area on March 3, 2019.
- Current Project: Alternate Route on Private Land Area of the Hines Creek Trail
  - ▷ On November 6, 2018 — the day that the work with the slashing crew started in the Crown land area — the Club received confirmation that the sale of a significant portion of the private land crossed by the trail had been completed in early summer. As the Club was anxious to obtain approvals from the new owner before the start of the season, follow-up took place with the renter of the land starting on November 10, 2018. Later in the month, the Club was able to secure the contact information for the new landowner, leading to initial contact being made on November 28, 2018. As the new landowner was a large North American insurance company, the Club recognized that securing approval to continue to allow the trail to cross their lands would likely take some time. As the Staging Area sign by this time had been installed, indicating the trail was opened in December 2018, an email distribution to members was issued on December 14, 2018 advising that only the Crown land portion of the trail was available for use until the approvals of the new landowner were in place.
  - ▷ On April 5, 2019, the Club was devastated to learn that the new landowner denied the request for the trail to continue to cross their land.
  - ▷ At the Club General meeting on April 9, 2019, the Club passed two motions. The first was to seek a staging area at Kilometre 5 of the Canfor P-100 road, and the second was to investigate options for an alternative route on the private land portion of the trail. Communications were distributed to members, stakeholders and those who had supported the project, advising of the situation and the potential plans going forward.
  - ▷ The crossing of Highway 64 was seen as the most significant obstacle to the alternative route because both the previously identified crossings — under the Jack Creek Bridge and the aligned approaches that were in close proximity to the bridge — could not be accessed. It was also recognized that there was no option for the alternate route to directly access Cornerstone Bed 'N' Breakfast, although it would be near the trail.
  - ▷ AEP wanted to discuss the proposed staging area at their annual meeting with the Club; however they were unable to meet until July. By this point in time, Jamey Bettenson, who was one of the Trail Coordinators and the Project Sponsor, had identified an alternate crossing using two aligned approaches. One side involved the access to the Village of Hines Creek sewage lagoon, which fortunately was not accessed during the winter months. As initial indications were that the Village and Alberta Transportation would support this crossing, the remainder of the potential route was identified, and stakeholders contacted.
  - ▷ On May 31, 2018, trail signage was removed from all private land that was not part of the proposed alternate route and notification followed to those stakeholders, confirming that the existing agreements with the Club had been terminated.
    - ◆ An interesting fact: Some of the orange posts removed in an open low area in proximity to Jack Creek were filled with solid ice to just below ground level.
  - ▷ On July 2, 2019, the Detailed Proposal was issued to Clear Hills County, the Village of Hines Creek and, as a courtesy, AEP (since the remainder of the trail was on Crown land).
    - ◆ As agreement-in-principle had been provided for the original portion of the trail in the private land area and this trail was in close proximity, an Expression of Interest was not viewed as being required.

- ▷ The Village confirmed their approval on July 23, 2019 and Clear Hills County on the following day. At the annual meeting with AEP, AEP confirmed they were supportive but would not be providing formal approval as the route did not impact Crown land.
- ▷ Following the receipt of approval, the alternate route was GPS'd to prepare detailed maps to be used in conjunction with the signing of Licences to cross private land as well as with other formal agreements.
  - ◆ When the route was mapped, the treeline on the edge of one of the fields was found to be 111 feet on the neighbour's land. The signing of a couple of Licence Agreements was delayed while an appropriate resolution was determined. As of October 31, 2019, only the Village of Hines Creek remained to be finalized, which was scheduled for their council meeting on November 12, 2019.
  - ◆ Also, as the result of the GPS information, it was determined that a large dirt pile located on the County's undeveloped road allowance could not be bypassed as planned and hence a portion would need to be relocated, potentially adding to the cost of development.
- ▷ At the Club Annual General meeting on October 22, 2019, the development budget for the project was approved. This included the commitment of \$7,050 of Club funds as the plan was to fund this project internally. Development work was planned to start in November.
- Trail Operations Sponsorship
  - ▷ Canadian Forest Products Ltd. signed the second paid Trail Operations Sponsorship Agreement on May 22, 2019.
    - ◆ Canadian Forest Products Ltd. was fully aware of the private land situation at the time and chose to move forward with the sponsorship anyway. The Club was thankful for the confidence displayed by Canadian Forest Products Ltd. as this provided extra encouragement to the Club to move the alternate route project forward.
- Total Value of Work (development, projects and operations) as of October 31, 2019:
  - ▷ **\$113,532.24**, including 920 volunteer hours.
  - ▷ For further details, refer to the "Trail Development & Operating Summary" on page 62.

---

## East Wesley Creek Trail

(Potential Projects List)

- Consideration of this project was recently initiated by Francois Allard in associated with his experience of snowmobiling in the area. This trail is proposed as an extension of the Wesley Creek Trail to the east, in the same area as the large loop that was identified during the initial layout.
- At the October 22, 2019 Annual General Meeting, the Trail Development Committee Report indicated that this project had been added to the Potential Projects List.
- As the Club only had one (1) trail on the east side of the Peace River and as Francois Allard was the current Trail Development Committee Chair, it was anticipated that this would be the next major trail development project.



# The First 10 Years: A Review of the Statistical Highlights

## Trails

- Current length of existing trails: Total 185 km
  - ▷ Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Trail: 40 km
  - ▷ Baytex Wesley Creek Trail: 35 km
  - ▷ Smith Mills Trail: 60 km
  - ▷ Canfor Hines Creek Trail: 50 km
- AEP-approved operating season for the trails:
  - ▷ October 15 to April 30 annually
- Trails closed for an entire season after Grand Opening:
  - ▷ Osmond/Getaway Cabins 2016-2017 season due to significant impact of late snow in May 2016
- Current number of stakeholders (Primary, Secondary and Associate as shown on Stakeholder Listings) at October 30, 2019:
  - ▷ Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Trail: 11
  - ▷ Baytex Wesley Creek Trail: 18
  - ▷ Smith Mills Trail: 24
  - ▷ Hines Creek Trail (with alternate route): 25
- First Expression of Interest:
  - ▷ For the Leddy Lake, Wesley Creek and Cadotte River Trails submitted on November 26, 2009 by Dwayne Buchholtz, Trail Identification Committee Chair
- First Detailed Proposal:
  - ▷ For the Leddy Lake Trail submitted on December 3, 2010 by Tim Lagace, President
- First trail opened for use:
  - ▷ Leddy Lake Trail: March 2011
- First formal agreement with a stakeholder:
  - ▷ Bonavista Petroleum Ltd. dated November 8, 2010, for the crossing of a well site (MSL) and shared use of an access road (LOC) for the Leddy Lake Trail
- First trail recognized under the provincial Reservations/Notations Program:
  - ▷ Leddy Lake Trail PNT 100285 on April 6, 2011
- First Licence Agreement for a private land crossing:
  - ▷ Melvin (Dale) Clearwater dated March 23, 2012 for a short crossing of his land associated with the east end of the Smith Mills Trail
- First Community Access:
  - ▷ Leddy Lake Community Access approved on June 20, 2014
- Three highest value projects/developments:
  - ▷ Smith Mills Trail development: \$110,055.44
  - ▷ Canfor Hines Creek Trail development: \$106,104.64
  - ▷ Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Trail Cleanup/Upgrade Project: \$94,333.23
- Three projects/developments using the most volunteer hours:
  - ▷ Canfor Hines Creek Trail development: 815 hours
  - ▷ Smith Mills Trail development: 595.5 hours
  - ▷ Smith Mills Trail slashing following May 2016 snow: 387 hours

## Administration

- Times the long term viability of the Club was in question:
  - ▷ Following the October 16, 2012 AGM due to extremely poor attendance with guests present. It was noted that this followed a poor snow year the previous season and that the Club had been stalled in developing additional trails.
  - ▷ Following the late snow on May 2016 long weekend which caused substantial damage to all trails. This was beyond the ability of volunteers to deal with and minimal funds were available to hire contract slashers. Total value of the work associated to re-open all 3 existing trails - \$141,199.79 which includes \$42,900 in cash donations and 616.5 hours of volunteer labour.
- Least amount of operating cash available:
  - ▷ October 31, 2018: **-\$191.96**. This was covered in the short term by designated funds that were on hand.
- Most cash in the Club bank account at one time:
  - ▷ July 31, 2014: \$83,579.80. This cash was primarily for the development of the Smith Mills and Wesley Creek Trails which had been delayed due to heavy snow conditions.
- Donations
  - ▷ First cash donation received by the Club:
    - ◆ \$10,000 from the Alberta Snowmobile Association received in December 2010 for the development of the Leddy Lake Trail
  - ▷ Total Cash Donations October 15, 2009 to October 31, 2019
    - ◆ \$242,476
    - ◆ For a complete list, refer to the “Summary of Cash Donations” on page 63.
- Top 10 Cash Donors

<b>1.</b>	<b>Alberta Snowmobile Association</b>	\$52,900	Development of Leddy Lake and Smith Mills Trails, Leddy Lake Cleanup/Upgrade Project and Smith Mills snow slashing project in May 2016
<b>2.</b>	<b>Clear Hills County</b>	\$35,000	Development of Smith Mills and Hines Creek Trails, and Smith Mills snow slashing project in May 2016
<b>3.</b>	<b>Baytex Energy / Weaver Welding</b>	\$32,000	Development of Wesley Creek and Smith Mills Trails, and Leddy Lake slashing
<b>4.</b>	<b>Province of Alberta Community Initiatives Program Grants</b>	\$23,856	Development of Smith Mills Trail and groomer/trailer purchase
<b>5.</b>	<b>Alberta Environment and Parks</b>	\$17,500	Development of the Hines Creek Trail
<b>6.</b>	<b>Canadian Forest Products Ltd.</b>	\$13,500	Development and sponsorship of the Hines Creek Trail
<b>7.</b>	<b>County of Northern Lights</b>	\$11,000	Development of Smith Mills Trail and Smith Mills MAY16 snow slashing project
<b>8.</b>	<b>Shell Canada Limited</b>	\$11,000	Groomer/trailer purchase and development of St. Isidore Connector
<b>9.</b>	<b>County of Northern Lights South Rec Board</b>	\$7,500	Leddy Lake slashing and Smith Mills late snow slashing project in May 2016
<b>10.</b>	<b>Baytex Energy Ltd.</b>	\$7,000	Wesley Creek Trail sponsorship

- Largest cash donation from an individual Club member:
  - ▷ Frank Armella, \$5,000 for Phase 2 of the Smith Mills Trail late snow slashing project in May 2016.
- Top 10 In-Kind Donors

<b>1.</b>	<b>R. Osmond Tree Services Ltd.</b>	\$59,588.50	Mulching & slashing services for the Leddy Lake Cleanup/Upgrade Project
<b>2.</b>	<b>Rick Serhan o/a 1300844 Alberta Ltd.</b>	\$30,850.95	Mulching and crawler services for the development of the Leddy Lake Trail
<b>3.</b>	<b>Allard Logging Ltd.</b>	\$28,089.25	Trail grooming, logging Smith Mills East End Staging Area, etc.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Ace Machining &amp; Welding Ltd.</b>	\$15,133.60	Fabrication, repair, etc.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Roadrunner Leasing and Sales Ltd.</b>	\$11,286.59	Off highway vehicles & trailer rentals, plastic outhouses, etc.
<b>6.</b>	<b>H. Friesen Slashing Ltd.</b>	\$9,696.25	Mulching and slashing services for the Smith Mills MAY16 late snow slashing project and development of the Hines Creek Trail
<b>7.</b>	<b>Western Canadian Mulching Ltd.</b>	\$9,411.00	Mulching services for the development of the Smith Mills Trail
<b>8.</b>	<b>Lorette Trucking Services Ltd.</b>	\$8,110.00	Heavy equipment transportation for various developments & projects
<b>9.</b>	<b>Peace Country Ventures</b>	\$7,365.00	Snow plowing for Smith Mills West End Staging Area and access for Hines Creek Trail development
<b>10.</b>	<b>Explore Surveys Inc.</b>	\$7,335.00	Mapping services, assistance with layout, equipment, materials, etc.

- Annual Trail Pass/Memberships
  - ▷ 2009-10: \*
  - ▷ 2010-11: \*
  - ▷ 2011-12: \*
  - ▷ 2012-13: 44
  - ▷ 2013-14: 55
  - ▷ 2014-15: 40
  - ▷ 2015-16: 29
  - ▷ 2016-17: 47
  - ▷ 2017-18: 83
  - ▷ 2018-19: 118

Unofficial target: 300

\*Note: The numbers for the first three years were not documented in Club records and as ASA had changed computer systems, they also were unable to verify. It is estimated that memberships during the initial three years were in the 20–30 range.

- Longest serving member of the Executive:
  - ▷ Troy Lorencz who served as Secretary/Treasurer 2009–2010, Vice President 2010–2012 and President 2012–2019.
- Those at the October 15, 2009 organizational meeting that were still involved with the Club on its 10th Anniversary (alphabetical by last name):
  - ▷ Dwayne Buchholtz
  - ▷ Wayne Davie
  - ▷ Tim Lagace
  - ▷ Troy Lorencz
  - ▷ Richard Lorentz
  - ▷ Shad Mussio
  - ▷ Brian Spirk
  - ▷ Dwayne Thomas
- Club and Club associates recognized with Alberta Snowmobile Association Awards:
  - ▷ October 2010: Mighty Peace Zone Club of the Year Award (first time)
  - ▷ October 2013: Mighty Peace Zone Club of the Year Award (second time)
  - ▷ October 2014: Mighty Peace Zone Club of the Year Award (third time)
  - ▷ October 2018: Francois Allard — Groomer of the Year
  - ▷ October 2018: Mighty Peace Powersports & RV — Snowmobile Dealer of the Year
  - ▷ October 2019: Dwayne Buchholtz — Outstanding Snowmobiler of the Year

---

## Communications

- Presentations
  - ▷ First: To Weberville Community Club on November 12, 2009
  - ▷ Number to date: 24
- Email Distribution to Members
  - ▷ First: December 16, 2009, to advise of approval of the Expression of Interest for initial three (3) trails and to schedule a Leddy Lake workbee for trail layout
  - ▷ Number to Date: 210 (as shown in available records)
- Media Releases
  - ▷ First: December 17, 2010, announces the final approval of the Leddy Lake Trail
  - ▷ Number to Date: 28
- Promotional Document
  - ▷ First: August 2011
  - ▷ Number of Updates: 11
  - ▷ Note: This document remained important over the years in introducing stakeholders, potential donors, and potential members to the Club.
- Club Facebook Page: January 15, 2013, created by Troy Lorencz
- Club Website: January 25, 2018, created by Francois Allard

# The First 10 Years: What It Means for the Future of the Club

As this document was being prepared, a couple of facts stood out:

- The Club faced a barrage of obstacles to overcome. If we had known about these challenges and the time commitments involved when the new Club was being organized, it is fair to say that it wouldn't have gotten off the ground. However, not only did the Club overcome these obstacles, it also persevered through the two (2) occasions when the Club almost collapsed. Thank you again to those members who continued to believe in the Club and in the value being provided to the Peace area, to the stakeholders and donors who supported the Club when some of us thought all hope was lost, and to the Alberta Snowmobile Association for their unwavering support. After seeing the information provided in this document, some would likely have reconsidered their support had they known all of the details, but please be assured that those in the Club did not see the complete picture as clearly at that time as this document now provides. What this means for the Club going forward is that if these past obstacles can be overcome, there is likely nothing in the future that can't!
- Although the Club experienced its ups and some extremely tough downs over the first ten years, what is evident today is that the Club is:
  - ▷ Recognized for improving the reputation of local snowmobilers by promoting responsible snowmobiling and directing snowmobilers to areas of acceptable use on managed trails;
  - ▷ Experiencing increased acceptance by local snowmobilers as evidenced by increasing membership, increased attendance at poker rallies, and members who are willing to step forward to fill Executive and Committee positions. Based on the past hours of volunteer support provided, there should be no question as to the degree of member support for the Club;
  - ▷ Financially stable with annual income from Sponsorships, Membership/Trail Pass Sales, and poker rallies;
  - ▷ Continuing to improve the trails and the snowmobiling experience in the area as evidenced by past and current trail operations, developments and projects;
  - ▷ Socially and economically benefitting the Peace area by:
    - ◆ Providing another winter recreation venue that will retain and attract residents to the area;
    - ◆ Providing destination snowmobilers with a viable alternative to leaving the area (at least occasionally);
    - ◆ Providing a venue that is family-friendly.

**As is evident, the Club is here to stay. If you have not yet explored the Club's trails, you are invited to do so, and to please join the Club. If you are a Club member, please know that your support in providing your time and talents as a member of the Executive, a Committee member or a volunteer in any capacity has and will continue to make a difference in contributing to the legacy of the Club during its next ten years and beyond!!**

## Epilogue

Although unanticipated, this document took over a year to complete and hence following are some updates:

- Thanks to Francois Allard, the Baytex Wesley Creek Trail Staging Area expansion was completed in early 2020, providing for another approximately one (1) acre of area.
- The Canfor Hines Creek Trail Alternate Route in the Private Land Area Project was completed, and the entire trail was again available for use starting in January 2020.
- In late 2019, the Club approved the listing of the Arctic Cat groomer for sale, and in the summer of 2020 the unit was sold. The factors behind the decision to sell included the age of the unit and that the number of kilometres to be groomed had exceeded the ability of the unit, both of which were reflected in maintenance costs and downtime. Current discussions indicate the potential of securing a drag like Allard's, which other members with tracked side-by-sides would pull.
- The south Whitemud River hill (noted at the Annual General meeting on October 22, 2019 as requiring repair due to the second slide) was repaired; however at the Annual General meeting on October 20, 2020, the hill was again noted as having slid. As this was the third year in a row that the hill had slid and this slide is by far the worst, alternatives regarding this portion of the route are being investigated, with this portion of the trail currently closed.
- The Brownvale Community Access / South End Loop Project addition to the Smith Mills Trail had received the final approval from all stakeholders with formal agreements recently finalized. Fundraising has also been initiated and, if successful, the potential exists for the development of this project early in the 2020/21 winter season.
- In October 2020, the Club was again awarded the ASA Mighty Peace Zone Club of the Year Award (fourth time).



***“Part of the Solution”***

## **Author's Notes**

1. The information contained was compiled from the records and other information related to the Club that was available. After reviewing some of the financial information — particularly in regards to the early development projects — the work carried out the following season should obviously have been included in development values, although it was not originally included due to the desire at the time to close off the development values as quickly as possible. The value of developments in this document reflects this addition.
2. It is most likely that any misrepresentation of the information will be related to understating the facts, given the gaps in the information available. Be assured that there was no intent to misrepresent any of the information in this document and although review by others has taken place, please forgive any errors or omissions that may be present.
3. Although there were costs associated with the day-to-day operations of the Club other than what is shown, these costs were fairly minimal and hence no effort was made to detail these costs. Such costs include insurance and registration for the groomer and trailer, groomer and trailer repair costs, promotion, etc.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Trail Maps

Appendix 2: Trail Development & Operating Summary

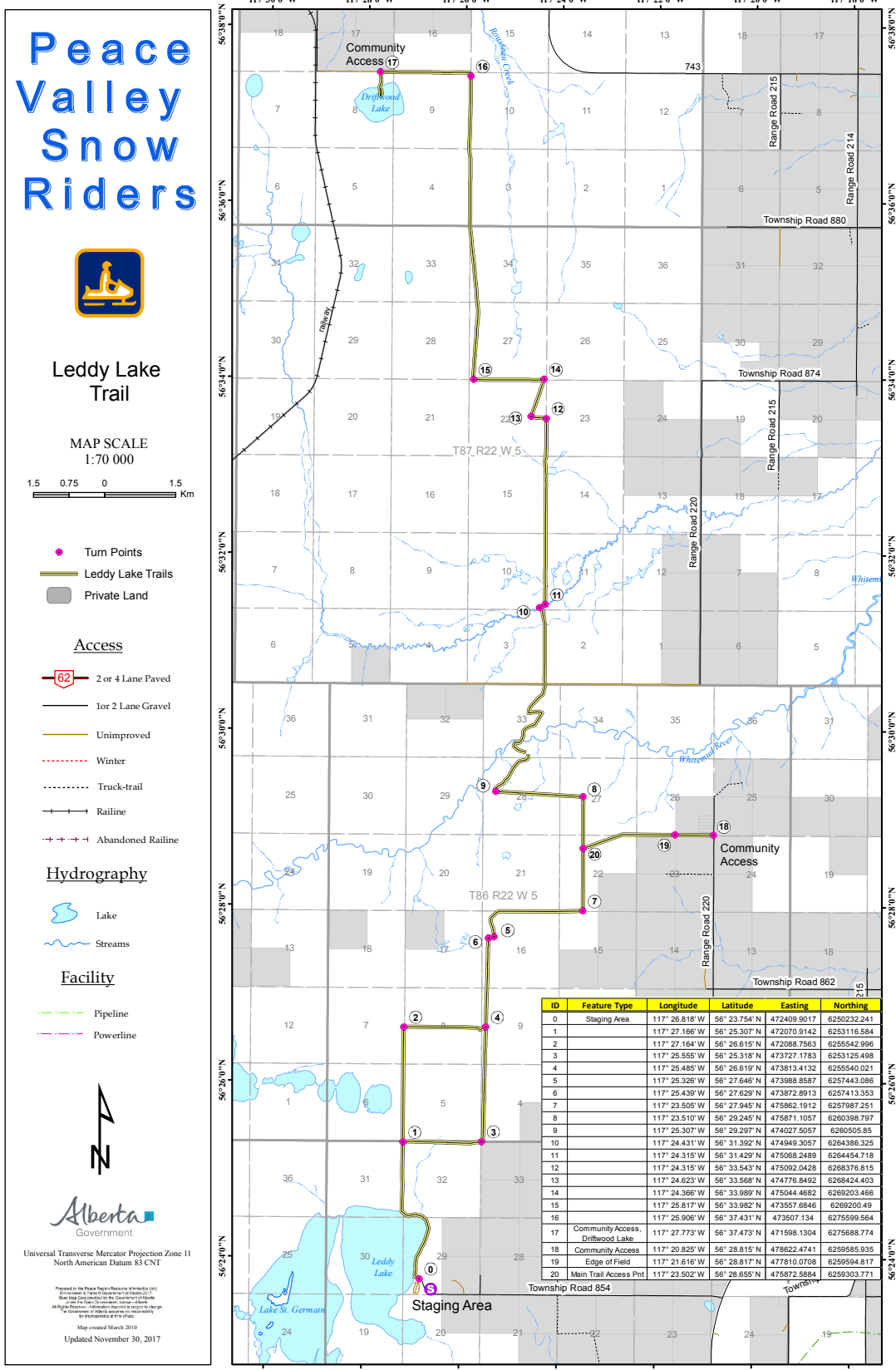
Appendix 3: Summary of Cash Donations

Appendix 4: Alphabetical List of In-Kind Donors

Appendix 5: Picture Gallery



# Appendix 1: Trail Maps



# Peace Valley Snow Riders: The First 10 Years

## Peace Valley Snow Riders Wesley Creek Trail 2017



1:45,000

**Trail Details**

- Turn Points/Misc
- Staging Area
- Wesley Creek Trail

**Facility**

- Pipeline
- Powerline

**Ownership Class**

- Private Land
- Municipal Land

**Hydrography**

- Lake
- Streams

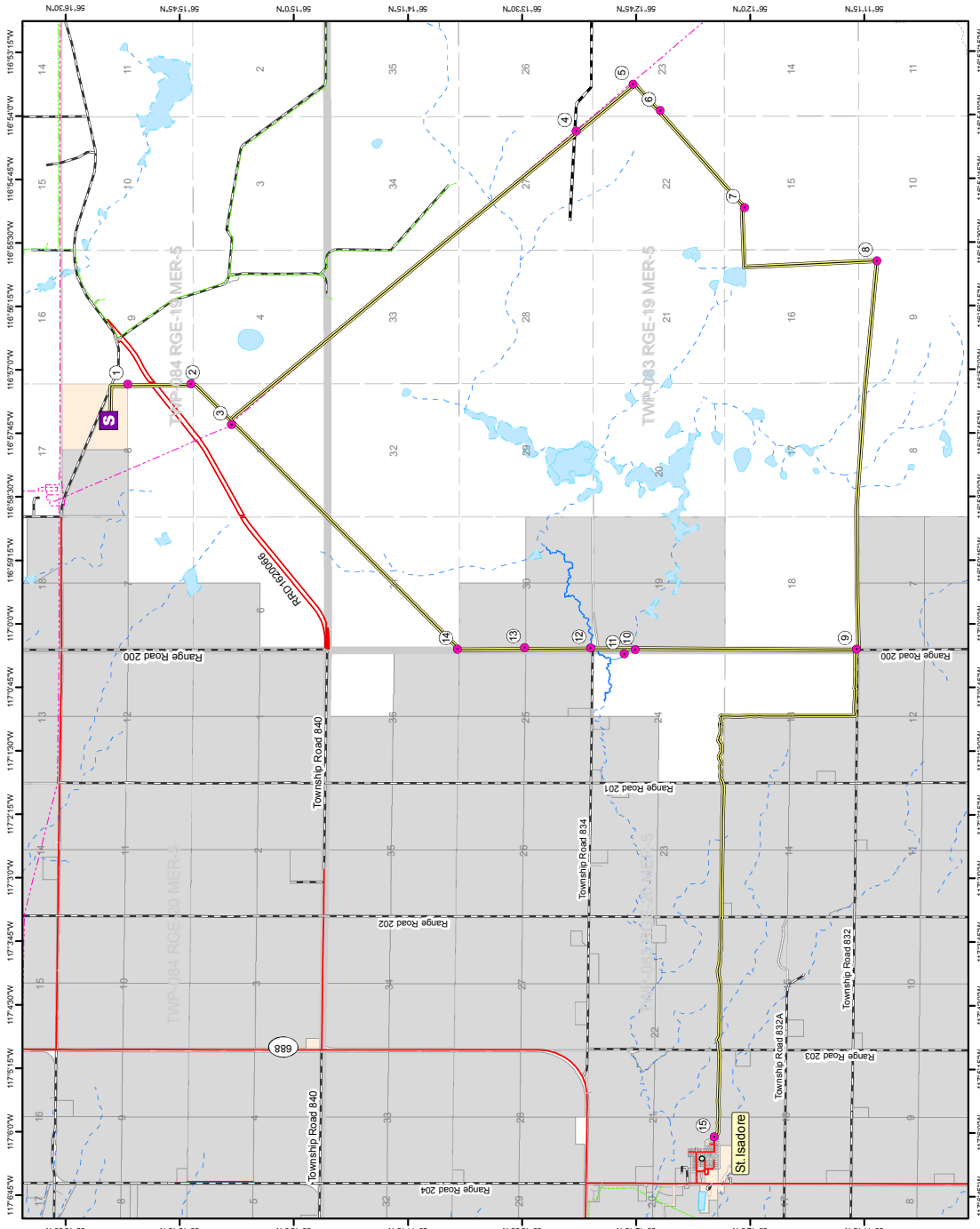
**ACCESS**

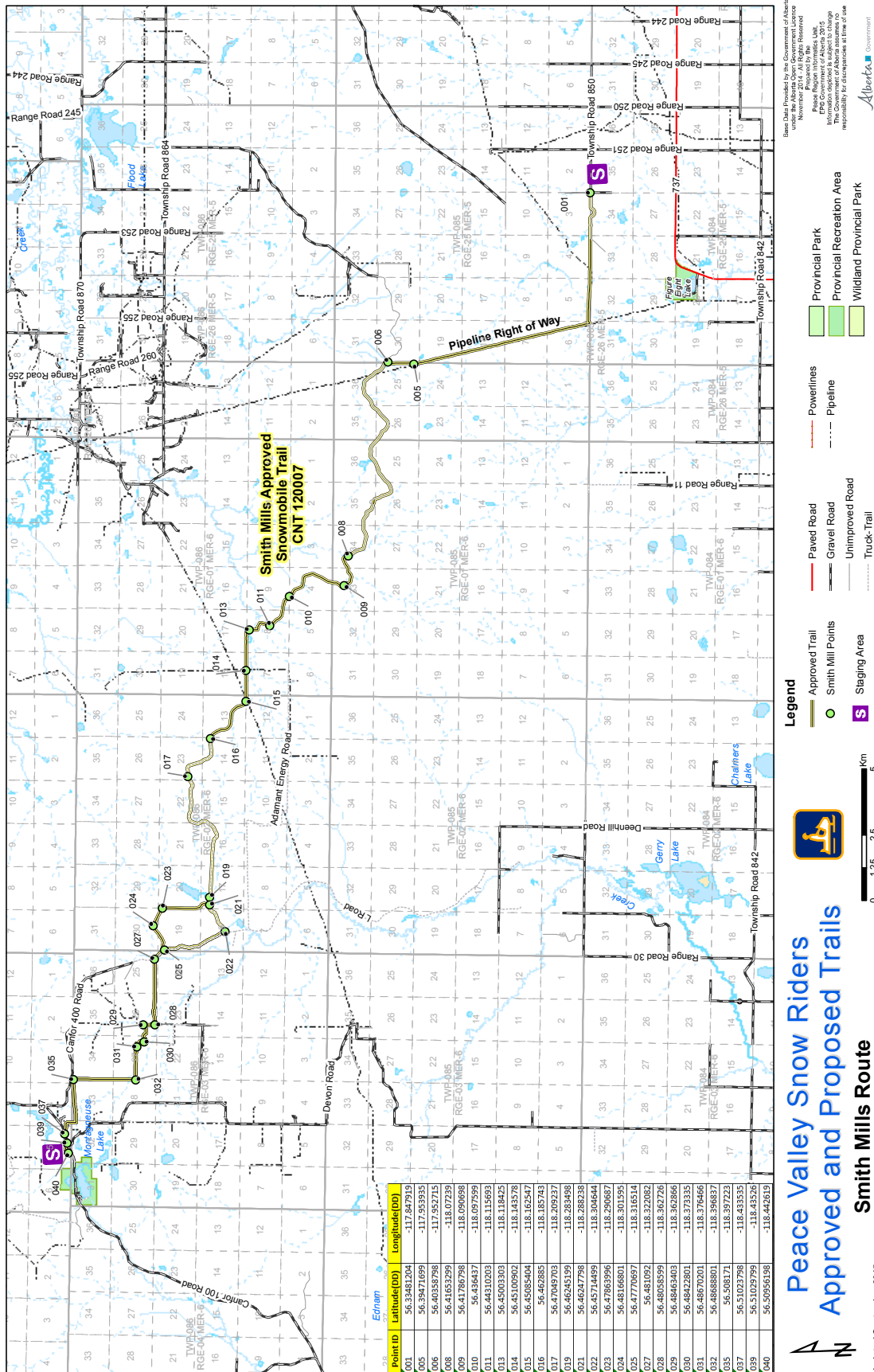
- 2 or 4 Lane Paved
- for 2 Lane Gravel
- Unimproved
- Truck-trail
- Railline

Label	Feat_Type	Long(DMD)	Lat(DMD)
S	Staging Area	116° 57.597 W	56° 16.221 N
1		116° 57.168 W	56° 16.096 N
2		116° 57.164 W	56° 15.681 N
3		116° 57.646 W	56° 15.413 N
4	Active Road	116° 54.887 W	56° 13.447 N
5		116° 53.935 W	56° 12.771 N
6	Rest Area	116° 53.985 W	56° 12.587 N
7		116° 53.982 W	56° 12.680 N
8		116° 53.720 W	56° 11.869 N
9	Community Access	117° 0.300 W	56° 11.386 N
10		117° 0.301 W	56° 12.759 N
11	CR Xing	117° 0.353 W	56° 12.832 N
12		117° 0.285 W	56° 13.054 N
13		117° 0.279 W	56° 13.486 N
14		117° 0.300 W	56° 13.529 N
15	St. Isadore	117° 06.049 W	56° 12.237 N

Map Projection:  
Universal Transverse Mercator N11 MAIR3


Information provided herein is for informational purposes only. The Government of Alberta does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information provided herein. The user assumes all responsibility for the use of the information provided herein. Copyright Government of Alberta 2017. All rights reserved. Government of Alberta and its symbols are trademarks of the Government of Alberta.





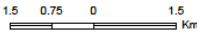
Point ID	Latitude (DD)	Longitude (DD)
001	56.53451204	-117.8247919
005	56.53971099	-117.959395
006	56.46938798	-117.952715
008	56.41653299	-118.07739
009	56.41786798	-118.090698
010	56.436437	-118.097999
011	56.44310203	-118.115693
013	56.45003303	-118.118425
014	56.45100902	-118.143378
015	56.45085404	-118.162447
016	56.462885	-118.185743
017	56.47049703	-118.209337
019	56.46245199	-118.234498
021	56.46247798	-118.238238
022	56.45744499	-118.304444
023	56.47863996	-118.290687
024	56.48166801	-118.301595
025	56.47706937	-118.316514
027	56.481092	-118.320882
028	56.48058599	-118.362726
029	56.4843403	-118.362666
030	56.48433801	-118.373323
031	56.48670201	-118.376465
032	56.48688801	-118.376657
035	56.508171	-118.397223
037	56.51023798	-118.433525
039	56.51029799	-118.432626
040	56.50956198	-118.442613

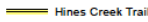
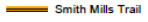
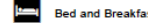

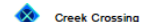
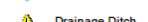
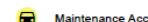
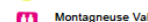
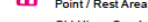
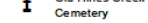
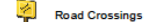
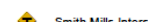
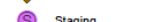
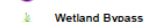
# Peace Valley Snow Riders




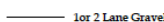

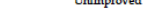
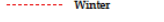
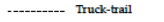
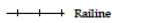
## Hines Creek Approved Trail

MAP SCALE  
1:70 000

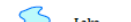



-  Hines Creek Trail
-  Smith Mills Trail
-  Bed and Breakfast
-  Community Access
-  Creek Crossing
-  Drainage Ditch
-  Maintenance Access
-  Montagneuse Valley View Point / Rest Area
-  Old Hines Creek Cemetery
-  Road Crossings
-  Smith Mills Intersection
-  Staging
-  Wetland Bypass
-  Private Land

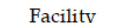

**Access**



-  2 or 4 Lane Paved
-  for 2 Lane Gravel
-  Unimproved
-  Winter
-  Truck-trail
-  Railline
-  Abandoned Railline

**Hydrography**

-  Lake
-  Streams

**Facility**

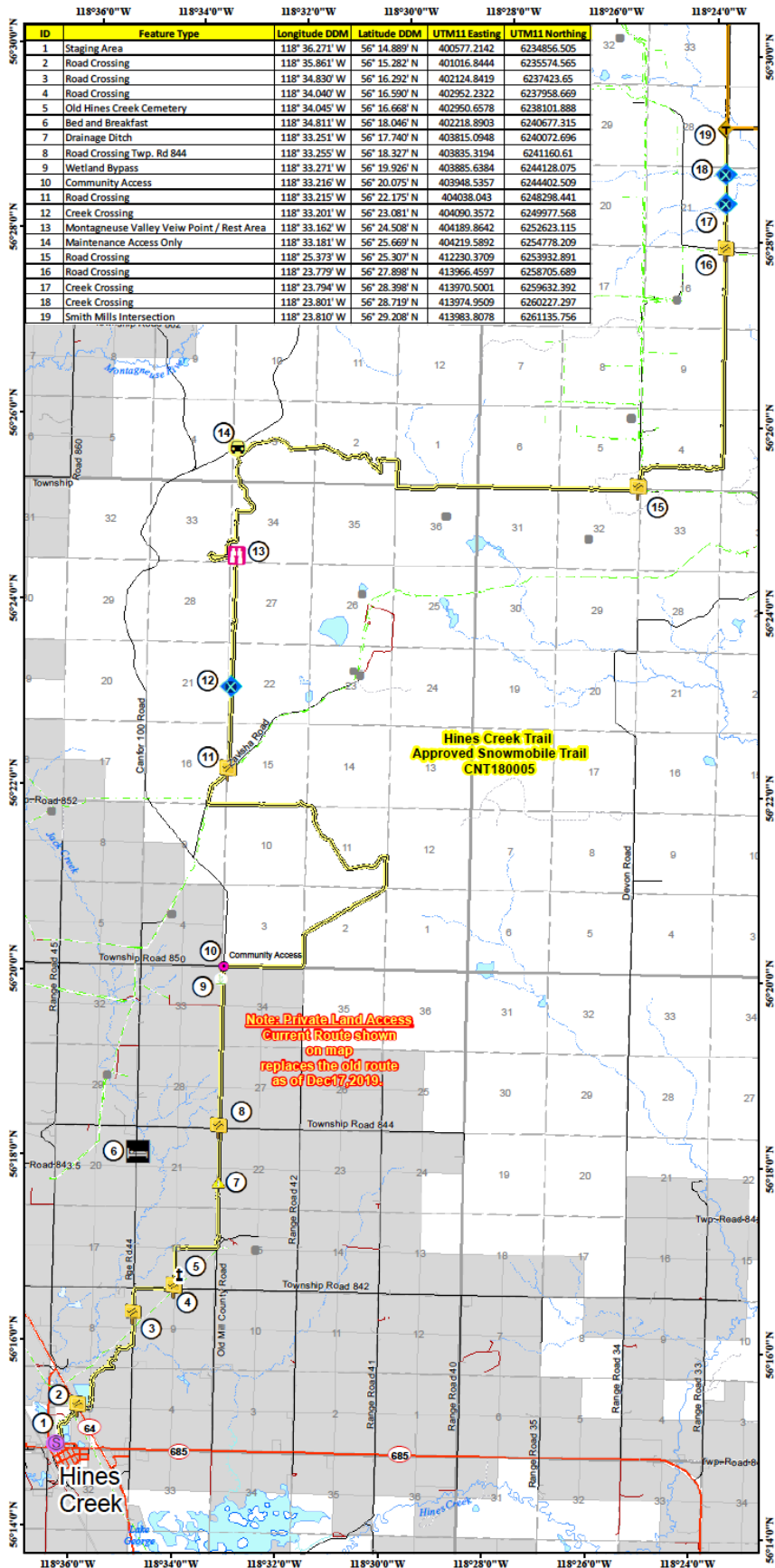
-  Pipeline
-  Powerline

Universal Transverse Mercator Projection Zone 11  
North American Datum 83 CNT  
Coordinates on Border in DMS

Base Map Data provided by the Government of Alberta under the Open Government License - Alberta  
All Rights Reserved  
Information supplied is subject to change  
The Government of Alberta assumes no responsibility for discrepancies at time of use

Map created December 2019,  
Updated January 6, 2020



## Appendix 2: Trail Development & Operating Summary (2009 to July 19, 2019)

**Based on the information available, data is incomplete					
Trail	Notes (*Partial information)	Volunteer Hours	Invoiced	Donation in Kind/Volunteer	Total
<b>Leddy Lake Trail</b>					
Operations 2011-2014	Data not available	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Operations 2014-15	Slashing work including contracted slashers	49	\$7,667.34	\$1,680.00	\$9,347.34
Operations 2015-16	Slashing work including contracted slashers	71	\$3,165.00	\$3,060.00	\$6,225.00
Operations 2016-17	Slashing work	6.5	\$0.00	\$492.50	\$492.50
Operations 2017-18	Vegetation removal & grooming	50.5	\$93.35	\$3,050.00	\$3,143.35
Operations 2018-19	Vegetation removal, slide clean up, new rest area and grooming	123.5	\$0.00	\$17,365.88	\$17,365.88
	<b>Operations sub-total</b>	<b>300.5</b>	<b>\$10,925.69</b>	<b>\$25,648.38</b>	<b>\$36,574.07</b>
Project 2016-17	Phase 1 - Trail cleanup/upgrade	43.5	\$0.00	\$5,701.00	\$5,701.00
Project 2017-18	Phase 2 -Completion trail cleanup/upgrade	150.5	\$25,147.03	\$11,485.20	\$36,632.23
	<b>Project sub-total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>\$25,147.03</b>	<b>\$69,186.20</b>	<b>\$94,333.23</b>
Development 2009-10	Initial layout work	211	\$0.00	\$8,255.00	\$8,255.00
Development 2010-11	Initial development (not to standard)*		\$8,000.00	\$35,850.95	\$43,850.95
	<b>Development sub-total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>	<b>\$44,105.95</b>	<b>\$52,105.95</b>
	<b>Leddy Lake Trail Total</b>	<b>705.5</b>	<b>\$44,072.72</b>	<b>\$138,940.53</b>	<b>\$183,013.25</b>
<b>Wesley Creek Trail</b>					
Operations 2016-17	Vegetation removal & grooming	75.5	\$0.00	\$3,872.50	\$3,872.50
Operations 2017-18	Vegetation removal & grooming	83	\$67.13	\$7,987.00	\$8,054.13
Operations 2018-19	Vegetation removal, grooming, outhouse, new fire pit, and wood shed	63	\$303.85	\$15,151.75	\$15,455.60
	<b>Operations sub-total</b>	<b>221.5</b>	<b>\$370.98</b>	<b>\$27,011.25</b>	<b>\$27,382.23</b>
Project 2016-17	Pat's Creek re-sloping	8	\$0.00	\$710.00	\$710.00
Project 2016-17	St. Isidore Connector - Phase 1	143	\$1,622.94	\$7,340.00	\$8,962.94
Project 2017-18	St. Isidore Connector - completion	11	\$212.24	\$915.55	\$1,127.79
	<b>Project sub-total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>\$1,835.18</b>	<b>\$8,965.55</b>	<b>\$10,800.73</b>
Development 2011-14	Values associated with layout not available		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Development 2014-15	Mulching and initial slashing services	98	\$20,079.22	\$11,740.25	\$31,819.47
Development 2015-16	Slashing work, rest area and signage including contracted slashers for second round	136.5	\$5,468.00	\$8,457.00	\$13,925.00
	<b>Development sub-total</b>	<b>234.5</b>	<b>\$25,547.22</b>	<b>\$20,197.25</b>	<b>\$45,744.47</b>
	<b>Wesley Creek Trail Total</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>\$27,753.38</b>	<b>\$56,174.05</b>	<b>\$83,927.43</b>
<b>Smith Mills Trail</b>					
Operations 2016-17	Fire pit, sign work & Grand Opening prep	77	\$150.92	\$5,336.25	\$5,487.17
Operations 2017-18	Vegetation removal, grooming & outhouse install	150.5	\$339.63	\$11,534.77	\$11,874.40
Operations 2018-19	Vegetation removal, grooming and wood shed	186	\$87.35	\$14,316.52	\$14,403.87
	<b>Operations sub-total</b>	<b>413.5</b>	<b>\$577.90</b>	<b>\$31,187.54</b>	<b>\$31,765.44</b>
Project 2016-17	Slashing following heavy MAY16 snow	387	\$26,072.81	\$18,308.75	\$44,381.56
	<b>Project sub-total</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>\$26,072.81</b>	<b>\$18,308.75</b>	<b>\$44,381.56</b>
Development 2010-13	Values associated with layout not available		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Development 2013-14	Initial mulching from west side and cat work east side	84	\$8,578.50	\$5,920.00	\$14,498.50
Development 2014-15	Remainder of mulching	318	\$47,111.69	\$21,727.25	\$68,838.94
Development 2015-16	Slashing work, signage, East End Staging area development	193.5	\$5,781.00	\$20,937.00	\$26,718.00
	<b>Development sub-total</b>	<b>595.5</b>	<b>\$61,471.19</b>	<b>\$48,584.25</b>	<b>\$110,055.44</b>
	<b>Smith Mills Trail Total</b>	<b>1396</b>	<b>\$88,121.90</b>	<b>\$98,080.54</b>	<b>\$186,202.44</b>
<b>Canfor Hines Creek Trail</b>					
Operations 2018-19	Grooming and wood shed	56	\$210.57	\$5,603.03	\$5,813.60
	<b>Operations sub-total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>\$210.57</b>	<b>\$5,603.03</b>	<b>\$5,813.60</b>
Project 2018-19	Alternate route in private land area -initial work	49	\$0.00	\$1,614.00	\$1,614.00
	<b>Project sub-total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,614.00</b>	<b>\$1,614.00</b>
Development 2015-16	Initial layout work	98.5	\$0.00	\$5,373.00	\$5,373.00
Development 2016-17	Continuation of layout work	93	\$0.00	\$4,222.00	\$4,222.00
Development 2017-18	Phase 1 - All mulching and completion of private land	330	\$29,943.64	\$27,227.66	\$57,171.30
Development 2018-19	Phase 2 - Slashing and signage in bush area	293.5	\$23,467.09	\$15,871.25	\$39,338.34
	<b>Development sub-total</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>\$53,410.73</b>	<b>\$52,693.91</b>	<b>\$106,104.64</b>
	<b>Canfor Hines Trail Total</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>\$53,621.30</b>	<b>\$59,910.94</b>	<b>\$113,532.24</b>
	<b>Total Operations - All Trails</b>	<b>991.5</b>	<b>\$12,085.14</b>	<b>\$89,450.20</b>	<b>\$101,535.34</b>
	<b>Total Projects - All Trails</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>\$53,055.02</b>	<b>\$98,074.50</b>	<b>\$151,129.52</b>
	<b>Total Development - All Trails</b>	<b>1856</b>	<b>\$148,429.14</b>	<b>\$165,581.36</b>	<b>\$314,010.50</b>
	<b>Total Value of All Work on All Trails</b>	<b>3639.5</b>	<b>\$213,569.30</b>	<b>\$353,106.06</b>	<b>\$566,675.36</b>

## Appendix 3: Summary of Cash Donations (October 15, 2009 to October 31, 2019)

	Leddy Lake		Wesley		Smith Mills		Hines Creek		Other	
	Amount	Designation	Amount	Designation	Amount	Designation	Amount	Designation	Amount	Designation
(* amounts are rounded)										
Alberta Environment & Parks										
Alberta Snowmobile Assoc.	\$20,000	Upgrade			\$7,900	May16 snow				
	\$10,000	Develop			\$15,000	Develop				
Avenge Energy Services Ltd.			\$2,500	Develop						
Baytex Energy Ltd.			\$3,500	Sponsor						
			\$3,500	Sponsor						
Baytex Energy/Weaver Welding *	\$7,500	Slashing	\$20,000	Develop	\$4,500	Develop				
Canadian Forest Products							\$10,000	Develop		
							\$3,500	Sponsor		
Clear Hills County					\$10,000	Develop				
					\$5,000	May16 snow				
County of Northern Lights					\$1,000	May16 snow				
					\$10,000	Develop				
County of Northern Lights South Rec Board	\$3,500	Slashing			\$4,000	May16 snow				
Daishowa Marubeni International Ltd.					\$1,000	Develop				
Dwayne Thomas									\$800	None
Frank Armella					\$5,000	May16 snow				
Hines Creek Rec Board							\$5,000	Develop		
Mercer Peace River Pulp Ltd.									\$5,000	None
Northern Sunrise County			\$1,000	St. Isidore					\$850	Poker rally
			\$3,000	Develop						
Peace Fuel Distributors Ltd.					\$5,000	Develop				
Province of Alberta Community Enhancement					\$10,000	Develop			\$13,856	Groomer & Trailer
Shell Canada Limited			\$1,000	St. Isidore					\$10,000	Groomer & Trailer
Tim Lagace									\$70	None
Zavisha Sawmills							\$2,000	Develop		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41,000</b>		<b>\$34,500</b>		<b>\$78,400</b>		<b>\$58,000</b>		<b>\$30,576</b>	
										<b>\$242,476</b>

## Appendix 4: Alphabetical List of In-Kind Donors (October 15, 2009 to October 31, 2019)

<b>Ace Machine &amp; Welding (Peace River) Ltd.</b>	Mike Kolebaba Water Transport
<b>Allard Logging Ltd.</b>	Northern Arc Fabrication Ltd.
Amarillo Contractors Ltd.	Northern Sunrise County
Amen Consulting Services Ltd.	<b>Peace Country Ventures Ltd.</b>
Attack Oilfield Services Inc.	Peace River Correctional Center/Northern Lakes College
Avenge Energy Services Inc.	Peace River GO RV & Marine
B&E Hardware (Hines Creek) Ltd.	Peace River Ford
Bernard Fortin	<b>R. Osmond Tree Services Ltd.</b>
Buchholtz Financial Services Inc.	Rentco Equipment Ltd.
Can West Propane	<b>Rick Serhan o/a 10300844 AB Ltd.</b>
Clear Hills County	<b>Roadrunner Leasing and Sales Ltd.</b>
County of Northern Lights	Rosenberger Log Salvage
<b>Explore Surveys Inc.</b>	RT Grading and Road Building
Fehr and Square Construction Ltd.	Ruel Concrete Ltd.
Fehr Building Materials Ltd.	St. Isidore Coop
Freson Markets	Scanalta Power Sales Ltd.
GB Truck & Diesel Ltd.	Signs by Wood 'N' Art
Grimshaw Business Centre	Stat Energy Services Inc.
<b>H. Friesen Slashing Ltd.</b>	Stealth Projects Ltd.
Highland Helicopters Ltd.	Thomas Homes & RV Center
Jamey Bettenson	Tim Lagace
Kirby Controls	Travis Schmidt
Longrun Exploration Ltd.	Troy Lorencz
<b>Lorette Truck Services (2005) Ltd.</b>	Versatile Builders Inc.
MDP Oilfield Services Ltd.	Weaver Group
MacMillan Construction Ltd.	Weberville Community Club
Maximum Powersports Ltd.	<b>Western Canadian Mulching Ltd.</b>
Mighty Peace Powersports & RV	Zavisha Sawmills Ltd.

## Appendix 5: Picture Gallery



*Club groomer and trailer  
in the Peace River Santa Claus Parade, November 27, 2016*



## Osmond/Getaway Cabins Leddy Lake Trail



*First Staging Area sign installed in November 2014*



*Sled on trail near Staging Area  
(One of the pictures taken in conjunction with the Club  
being showcased on the cover of the Winter 2015 Edition  
of MoveUp magazine.)  
Picture courtesy of Paul Lavoie Images.*



*Fun Ride at Driftwood Lake, March 10, 2018*



*The Club's newest rest area complete with all amenities,  
March 2019*

## Baytex Wesley Creek Trail



*Staging Area direction sign on County road*



*Trail on shared ATCO power transmission line right of way  
with orange posts*



*Trail signage installation as part of development,  
November 2015*



*Ribbon cutting ceremony at Grand Opening,  
March 5, 2016*



*Poker Rally registration at Grand Opening, March 5, 2016*



*Trail groomed by Allard's groomer*



*Baytex sponsorship presentation  
in front of Staging Area sign,  
November 2018*

## Smith Mills Trail



*Sleds on west end loop, March 6, 2015*



*East End Staging Area under construction just prior to the May 2016 snow on long weekend*



*Example of damage near East End Staging Area following the May 2016 snow*



*Damage from the May 2016 snow near the rest area (approximately December 2, 2016)*



*Inspection of trail in preparation for the Grand Opening  
— extremely cold!!*



*Moving the picnic table 30 km to the rest area, March 9, 2017*





*The picnic table and firepit arrive at the rest area, March 9, 2017*



*The Club's Arctic Cat groomer makes a guest appearance at the Grand Opening, March 11, 2017*



*Ribbon cutting ceremony at the East End Staging Area,  
March 11, 2017*



*Ribbon cutting ceremony at the West End Staging Area,  
March 11, 2017*



*Grand Opening Celebration at the Rest Area, March 11, 2017*



*The Club's first outhouse arrives at the rest area for installation, November 5, 2017*



*Installing reflector tape on a sign post near the west end, March 2018*



*Allard's groomer on the trail*



*One of the latest additions to the trails, cell phone reception signs with GPS coordinates*

## Canfor Hines Creek Trail



*View encountered during layout work, March 17, 2015*



*Cutline travelled during layout work  
which became part of the trail, March 2015*



*Approval celebration at the Hideout Pub in Hines Creek,  
October 25, 2017*



*Trail development on cutline  
in reforested pine cutblock*



*Vegetation cleanup during development  
south of Maintenance Access  
near KM 17 on Canfor Road*



*Signs on the bench waiting for installation*



*Installing specialty Sample Plot sign  
just north of viewpoint/rest area*



*Community Access sign*



*Rest area*





*Closed sign posted at access to agricultural land while waiting for permission from new owner*



*Fun Ride at rest area, February 9, 2020*

*Leddy Lake Trail*



*A sledder's view on a perfect day.  
"Get off the couch and enjoy winter."*