

Prince Albert National Park and Area Community Events 2011

July

- 1 Canada Day Activities
- 8 Song of Waskesiu
- 9 Waskesiu Foundation Dinner
- 16 Parks Day: Free Entry!
- 16 Waskesiu Children's Festival
- 17 Waskesiu Seasonal Resident's AGM
- 17 Song of Waskesiu
- 23 Narrows Canoe Challenge & Music Festival
- 21 Prince Albert National Park AGM
- 28 Song of Waskesiu
- 30 Rock n' Revival Dance
- 31 Grey Owl Howl Family Dance
- 31 Waskesiu Community Council AGM

August

- 6 Song of Waskesiu
- 7 Frank Dunn Triathlon & Pancake Breakfast
- 13 Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce Fundraising Dinner
- 19 Song of Waskesiu

September

- 4 Arbour Day Activities
- 10 Paspiwin Community Feast

Pick up a copy of the Visitor Guide or visit www.pc.gc.ca/princealbert for more information about events and activities.



Get involved!

Help out for a day or participate over a longer period of time. Volunteer and make a difference!

For volunteering opportunities contact the Visitor Centre at 306-663-4522.

Contact us for details on any of these topics

Stop by the Visitor Centre
Give us a call: 306-663-4522
Visit our website:
www.pc.gc.ca/princealbert



PRINCE ALBERT NATIONAL PARK Report Card and Newsletter

Spring/Summer

2011

This Issue:

- What's New
- Cottage Corner
- Safe Communities
- Aboriginal Affairs
- Reconnecting Project
- Living with Wildlife

Get answers to your questions:

Prince Albert National Park Annual General Meeting

Terrace Gardens
July 21, 2011
7 pm - 9 pm



Parks Canada's Centennial: Celebrate!



2011 marks the 100th birthday of the establishment of Parks Canada – the world's first national park service. A century later, Parks Canada provides protection, education and visitor experience programs that are admired around the globe. Across Canada, parks and sites are celebrating the agency's history and achievements with special events and programs. To celebrate further, there will be free entry into all national parks and historic sites on Canada Day and Parks Day, July 16th. Check the events calendar on the back of this newsletter for special events and activities this year or visit the park website for updates.

Waskesiu is looking its best for Parks Canada's centennial. The townsite boasts miles of new pavement and other infrastructure improvements. This was made possible through the federal Economic Action Plan funding received in 2009.

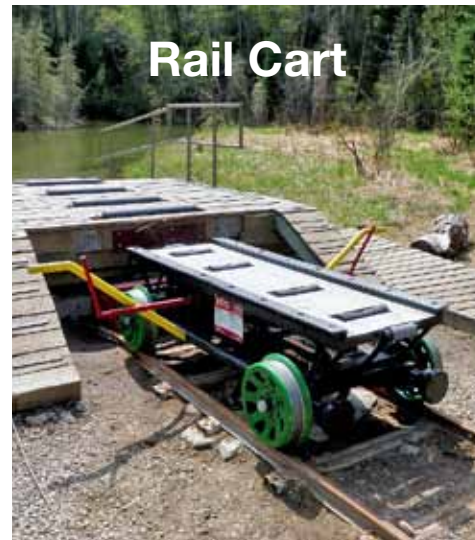
Caption: Watch for a special centennial event, the Song of Waskesiu! This one-person historical drama based on the life and times of the park's first superintendent, James A. Wood, is a lively blend of theatre, archival film and music.

What's New

Kingsmere Lake

Back by popular demand, the old four-wheel rail cart was installed at the Kingsmere portage with improvements to make its operation safer.

In 2010, a lighter prototype two-wheel cart was tested but never won the approval of users. During the winter, park staff worked on the old cart, removing close to 160 kilograms (350 lbs) of weight. The speed governor, bumper springs and some excess framework were removed to lighten the cart while additional springs were added to the docking portals to absorb the cart's force. A manual hand brake was installed that now controls all four wheels.



Kingsmere rail cart

Due to past vandalism of the boat tie-down straps, boaters are now required to provide their own tie-downs in 2011. Canoe and kayak rickshaws were repaired and are available on the portage as well.

Boaters are reminded that riding on the cart and going too fast on the track puts all users at risk. This could also lead to equipment damage that will shut the whole system down.

The cart cannot stop on a dime so please, **slow down!**



Northend Camp Kitchen

Northend Campground

The biggest improvement to Northend Campground was the construction of a new camp kitchen finished in the spring of 2011

2010 saw improvement to existing campsites and preparation for the installation of four new tent pads and two new fire pits in 2011.

The group campsite was relocated closer to the shoreline. New sites are scheduled for construction this year to complete the regular camping area on the west side of the campground.

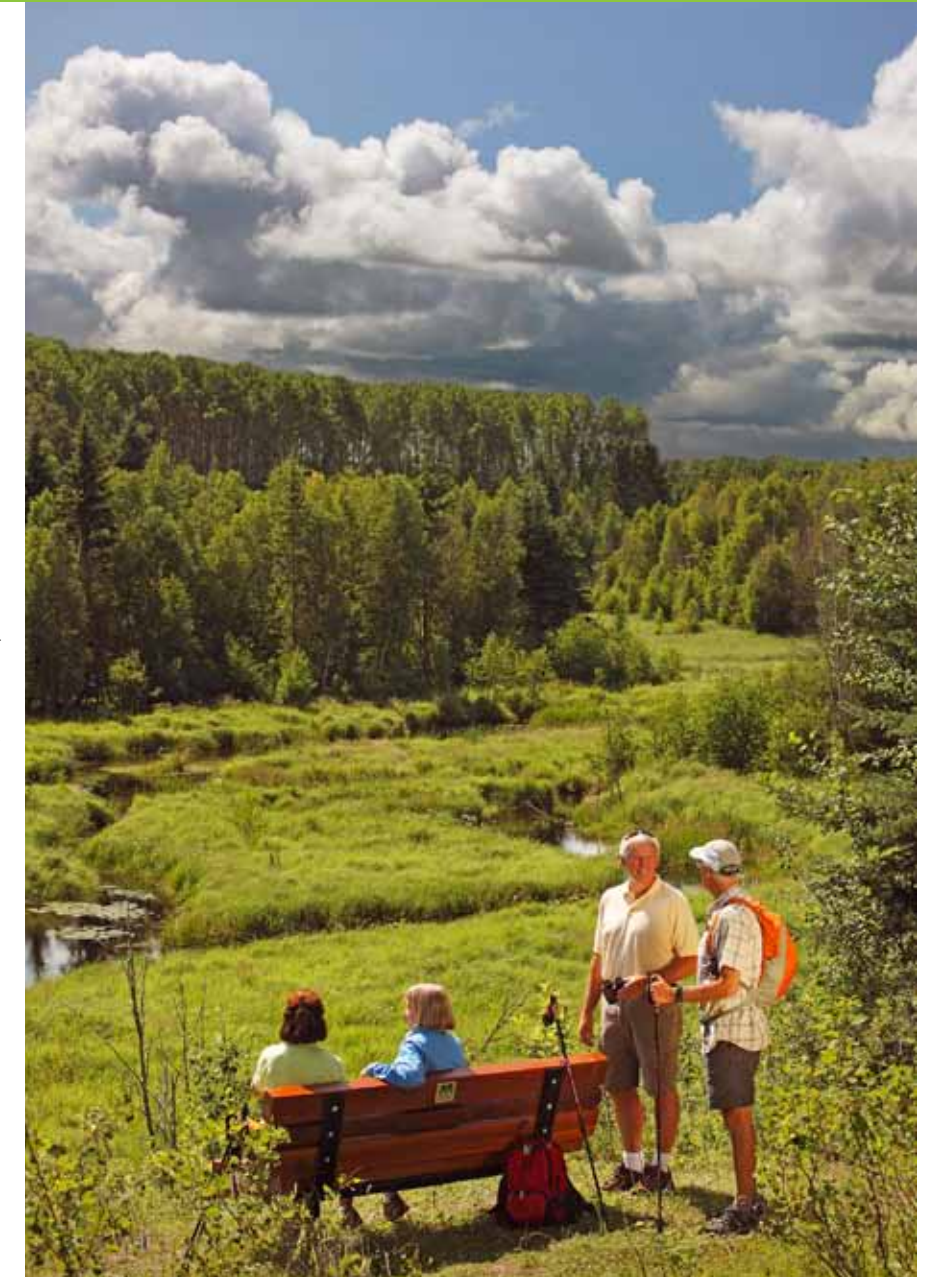
Trail Report

Trails in the park are well-used during all four seasons. An extensive network of groomed winter ski trails provide some of the most spectacular cross-country skiing in the region and with the volume of snow we had in 2010/11, there were endless possibilities for snowshoeing.

In 2010, Valhalla Trails Ltd. assessed trails and recommended improvements to the existing system. As a result of this assessment, the West Side Trail head was enlarged, marked with new signage and boasts an improved parking lot for users. They also noted where possible future trails could be created. As a result of this assessment, parks staff changed the location of the west side trail head, enlarged it, marked it with new signage and improved the parking lot for users. Trail riders bringing horses will find the new pull-through system much more functional.

West side projects will be wrapped up during the 2011 summer season. Improvements to the summer and winter offer are underway, with the aim of enhancing the whole visitor experience.

New in 2011, depending on the season, click on the *Trail Report/Ski Report* icon on our homepage at www.pc.gc.ca/princealbert to get the latest reports on conditions of your favourite routes and for information on the trails you haven't checked off your "bucket list" yet. If you notice anything amiss or unique as you explore the trails system, let us know at 306-663-4522 and we'll get it online.



West Side Initiative

In 2010, the new parking lot was completed and will accommodate vehicles with trailers. Further work is underway to complete the day-use area. 2011 will also see all infrastructure removed from the old parking lot so rehabilitation can begin. The area will eventually be returned to green space after getting a helping hand from park staff.

Aboriginal Affairs



Métis musicians Phil and Dallas Boyer entertain the crowd at the 2010 Pasiwin Community Feast.

Pasiwin Cultural Heritage Site Committee

Parks Canada provided board governance training for the new executive last fall and recently, long-term planning with the Pasiwin Cultural Heritage Site Committee. A team of Parks Canada staff provides support to the committee as they work to implement their vision.

Pasiwin Cultural Heritage Site

Signatory members of the Pasiwin Cultural Heritage Site have a vision that the area will be used to honour elders and provide a space where they can pass on their traditional knowledge to youth through culture camp activities. The land is sacred to these First Nations and Métis communities and can also be used for ceremonial sweat lodges, fasting and pow wows. There will also be events held to facilitate public appreciation and enjoyment of First Nations and Métis culture and heritage.



The **Pasiwin Cultural Heritage Site Committee** is made up of 15 signatory members:

- Federation of Saskatchewan Indians
- Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre
- Prince Albert Grand Council
- Lac La Ronge Indian Band/ Little Red River First Nation 106 D
- Lac La Ronge Indian Band/Little Red River First Nation 106 C
- Sturgeon Lake First Nation
- Wahpeton Dakota First Nation
- Agency Chiefs Tribal Council
- Big River First Nation
- Pelican Lake First Nation
- Witchehan Lake First Nation
- Métis Nation of Saskatchewan
- Fish Lake Local #108
- Mistawasis First Nation
- Ahtahkakoop First Nation

Summer Programming in the Park

Did you know that June is National Aboriginal History month? Saskatchewan was the first province to make this declaration in 2007, followed by Alberta and then the federal government in June 2009.

See the back page for events taking place in 2011 to celebrate Prince Albert National Park's Aboriginal heritage.

What's New

Townsite Improvements

Funding received in 2009 through the federal Economic Action Plan made for big improvements to visitor infrastructure. Projects completed:

1. Roadways at Prospect Point - paved
2. Prospect Point vacant residential properties - water and sewer services installed
3. Alley between Lakeview and Waskesiu drives and from Balsam to Willow streets – paved
4. Beaver Glen Campground – perimeter road paved, campsite roads gravelled, sewer dump station upgraded
5. Red Deer Campground – nine new camping stalls created, area roads paved, campsite pads improved
6. Community Hall Area – oil grit separator installed
7. Red Deer Trail – pavement and trail resurfaced
8. Cottage Subdivisions I, II and III – streets paved, alleys gravelled
9. Cabin Area – streets paved, speed humps installed, swale drainage

system created (cabin swales are delayed)

10. Waskesiu Drive – sidewalk improved and roadway resurfaced
11. Montreal Drive – paved, storm sewer improved
12. Seasonal Staff Trailer Park – roadway paved and utilities installed to accommodate a planned washroom/shower/laundry facility
13. Elk Street – paved
14. Visitor Centre – parking lot paved, alley realigned and paved,
15. Post Office – parking lot paved,
16. Lakeview Drive/Balsam Street – oil grit separator installed and roadway resurfaced
17. Willow Street – paved

All construction will be completed by the end of June with the exception of the cabin drainage swales.

Look for a ribbon cutting ceremony this August. For more information contact Terrence Schneider, Townsite Manager at 306-663-4519.



Installation of oil-grit separator

Preserve our Improved Streets

Please observe the standards in the Building Moving Directive and consult with the Townsite Office prior to hauling gravel, dirt, building materials or buildings to your property. Thank you!

Assembly Hall

The Assembly Hall - Terrace Gardens - is a Federal Heritage Building and is being upgraded this year to ensure that its heritage value to the community is maintained. Facility enhancements to this building include washroom upgrades, stage reconstruction, floor stabilization, roof truss reinforcement, front entry improvements and other maintenance.



Assembly Hall



Finishing paving above the oil-grit separator

What's New

Waskesiu Vegetation Management Plan and Urban Forest Strategy



In 2010 :

- The Waskesiu Vegetation Management Plan was recommended by the Waskesiu Community Council and approved by Parks Canada.
- Hazardous trees on public lands were removed.
- Parks Canada presented the annual tree health monitoring report to the Waskesiu Community Council.

In 2011:

- Annual tree health monitoring and reporting to Waskesiu Community Council continues.
- Prince Albert National Park and the Waskesiu Community Council work together to respond to questions and concerns about tree health voiced by the public.
- Prince Albert National Park and the Waskesiu Community Council revisit the plan each year and invite feedback from residents.



Arbour Day

Arbour Day

Parks Canada and the Waskesiu Community Council worked together to make Arbour Day 2010 another great success! Nineteen adult and 7 youth volunteers helped plant 75 birch, white spruce, and tamarack trees between the main day-use area parking lot and the Visitor Centre, then built a fence around the planting area to protect the trees from hungry herbivores. The planting and fence building were followed by a barbeque.

Waskesiu Lakefront/Day-Use Area Revitalization Plan

Working with the Waskesiu Community Council and the Waskesiu Foundation, a draft site plan has been developed to upgrade the Lakefront/Day-Use Area in Waskesiu. Potential projects include a woodland theme playground, activity stations, camp kitchen overhauls, trail upgrades, planting projects and more.

The draft is being reviewed by council and the foundation. Once endorsement is received, Parks Canada will start work on the projects and will update stakeholders.

Reconnecting Grasslands, Bison and People



Student from Laval University using a bison collar for research

Bison on the Edge

It was another productive year for the *Reconnecting* project on the park's west side. The project takes a multi-faceted approach to rehabilitate grassland habitat, support a threatened species and promote further understanding and connectedness between people and the natural world.

In June 2010, the Sturgeon River Plains Bison Stewards and Parks Canada hosted a first ever "Bison on the Edge" conference at the Big River Community Centre. The conference brought together 150 local, national and international guests to discuss the management of large wildlife in the agricultural/wildlands interface. It launched a process to develop a bison management plan in collaboration with area stakeholders and Parks Canada. The conference was also a finalist in the *Event of the Year* (budget under \$20,000) category at the 22nd Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence gala held in April 2011.



Bison Pilot Projects

The University of Laval is conducting research on habitat use by bison and the effect of food sources and predation on their distribution. Currently there are 16 bison that have been captured and collared with GPS monitors. Diversionary fences were erected and attractants such as salt blocks were strategically placed to determine if we can influence bison movement.

DNA samples were collected during collaring. They will be analyzed in 2011 by a geneticist to determine the genetic diversity of the population and give suggestions as to how Prince Albert National Park can continue to maintain and grow a healthy bison population.

In 2011, six wolves were captured and collared to better understand the relationship between bison and wolves, that have only recently rediscovered how to hunt them.

Fescue Restoration- 12 Mile Gravel Pit

The 12 Mile Pit restoration project moved ahead in 2010 with the intent of restoring the fescue grassland community. Native species were gathered to use in future re-vegetation of the area. The pit was reshaped and prepared for seeding in 2011.

In addition, PRT Prince Albert nursery has grown 8,000 fescue plugs this past spring which will be used in conjunction with the seeding to restore the native vegetation in the the 12 mile gravel pit. At the same time the Park will begin the planning process for the restoration of South End Pit.

Prescribed Fire

For much of the past, all wildfires were extinguished where possible. Science has since shown that many natural ecosystems depend on fire to rejuvenate landscapes and ensure a mosaic of habitat types for wildlife. In Prince Albert National Park, rough fescue grasslands are dependent on periodic fire, leading the park to begin to plan and conduct prescribed fires.

These strategic, controlled, fires are helping to restore native grasslands for wildlife that depends on it. The utmost care and attention is given to protecting people and places of cultural heritage in neighbouring communities and within the park boundary.

Weather conditions during the 2010 spring season did not allow for conducting a prescribed fire. However, in May 2011, meadows

in Wasstrom's Flats at the southern end of the park were burned in a prescribed fire. Approximately 540 hectares were successfully burned.



Financial Matters

PAYING THE BILLS

How Park Operations Are Financed

Establishment & Protection of Parks



Benefit to all Canadians



Financed through
TAX-BASED APPROPRIATIONS

Use & Enjoyment of Park Facilities



Personal Benefit



Financed in part through
USER FEES & LEASES



Terry Schneider, Coralee Vaillancourt and Paulette Hodgson

Townsite Office

Office hours: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Monday to Friday

For all of your development, or
realty inquiries, please contact
the following Townsite staff for
assistance:

Paulette Hodgson, Townsite Clerk:
cabin area inquiries, business
licences 306-663-4520

Coralee Vaillancourt, Realty
Officer: cottage/commercial area
inquiries, lease administration
306-663-4518

Terrence Schneider, Townsite
Manager: 306-663-4519

Park Budget	2010-11
Tax based appropriations	\$ 4,207,507
Revenue (fees, rents, etc.)	\$ 3,365,900
Carry Forward	\$ 246,296
Revenue Over Target	\$ 24,450
Total	\$ 8,344,153

Project Funding	2010-11
Townsite Roads	\$ 6,032,639
Waskesiu Sewage Lagoon	\$ 248,127
Contaminated Sites	\$ 40,902
Reconnecting Project	\$ 627,055
Total	\$ 6,948,723

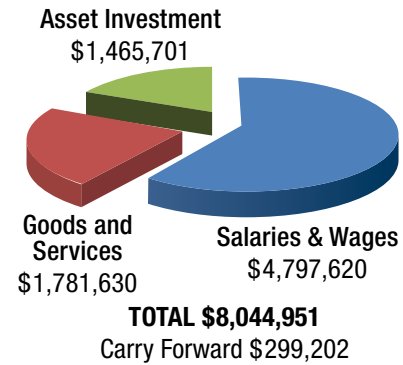
Destination Marketing Organization

A Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) aims to increase tourism to and economic benefit in an area through co-operatively developing and promoting tourism experiences. The local DMO area includes the national park, Big River, Debden, Elk Ridge Resort and Christopher, Emma, Anglin, McPhee and Waskesiu lakes' communities.

Last year wrapped up with the inaugural Annual General Meeting in November. Keynote speaker was the Honourable Lynda Haverstock, PhD and president and CEO of Tourism Saskatchewan.

During the winter of 2010/11, the board of directors was busy recruiting members and planning marketing and operating activities for the next three years. Currently underway, is the development of a brand and website for the destination area. Over the 2011 summer season, the DMO will hire an executive director to manage its operations and carry out various marketing initiatives.

PARK EXPENDITURES 2010-11



Total Project Cost	
Townsite Roads	\$ 8.0 M
Reconnecting Project	\$ 6.6 M
Waskesiu Sewage Lagoon	\$ 7.0 M

CPI Index For leasees on option 3, CPI, the five-year average rental rate increase for 2011/12 is 1.72%.

Early Bird Rates for 2012

Take advantage of **annual park pass early bird rates** from January 1 to March 31, 2012. Individuals will not be contacted directly about these discounted rates. Contact the Visitor Centre for details at 306-663-4522.



Cottage Corner



Waskesiu Community Plan

Amendments to the **2000 Waskesiu Community Plan** were advanced by the Parks Canada Chief Executive Officer to the Minister of Environment. Once tabled in the House of Commons the Amended Community Plan will take effect and the park will then determine when vacant residential properties may be released to the public.



Yard Waste Directive

In April of 2011, a **Yard Waste Directive** that can be accessed at www.waskesiu.org was endorsed by both the Waskesiu Community Council and Parks Canada. To provide timely and efficient yard waste pick-up, please follow the terms of this directive. Thank you for your co-operation.

Land Use Directive

A 2011 version of the **Waskesiu Land Use Directive** is now in effect. A copy of this document can be found at www.waskesiu.org. The directive contains information you need to know before developing or improving your property in Waskesiu. A development or building permit is required for all construction and is available from the Townsite Office.



Recycle Bins

Two new recycling bins were installed. One was placed on Pelican Street to receive paper and cardboard and the other at the main recycle centre to receive plastics.

Recycle Centre

The following items are accepted at the recycling facility located behind the Post Office:

- Plastics: # 1 to #7
- Paper and Cardboard
- Metal but no appliances
- Construction waste from small projects
- Refundable pop, water, beer, and liquor bottles
- Tin cans
- Compost (organic kitchen waste)

Keep in Touch

Would you like to receive year-round updates on Parks Canada, our partners, events and activities? Fill out a "Keep in Contact" form available at the Visitor Centre, email panp.info@pc.gc.ca or sign up online at www.waskesiu.org – click on "sign-up Waskesiu". Follow Parks Canada on Facebook and Twitter and check back for frequent updates to the park website, www.parkscanada.ca/princealbert.

Keeping Our Community Safe



Local Public Safety and Law Enforcement contacts:

RCMP 306-663-4400

For Law Enforcement matters such as:

- Alcohol-related offences
- Highway traffic offences
- Theft & vandalism

Resource Conservation Office 306-663-4532

Monday to Friday, 8 am - 4 pm
After hours 1-877-852-3100

For Park's Natural Resources & Public Safety matters such as:

- Wildlife concerns
- Fishing
- Wildfires
- Road/Trail/Facility hazards
- Campground disturbances
- Search & Rescue
- Minor First Aid

For all medical emergencies or serious incidents, call 9-1-1



Fire Department

Join Parks Canada in welcoming Fire Chief Terry Novakovski. Terry is a cabin owner and will be stationed in Waskesiu full time for the summer. There are seven volunteer

fire fighters who have a new truck to serve structural emergencies in Waskesiu and area. Novakovski is still looking for at least five more volunteers to join the force. For information contact Terry at 306-222-0045.

Safe Communities

During the winter of 2010/11, locked chain gates were installed at Tamarack Road and at both entrances to Prospect Point. As a result, no vandalism or break and enter activity was reported. This practice will be continued in 2011/12.

Removing alcohol and electronics for the winter season will make your residences less attractive as targets.

Automated External Defibrillator

Prince Albert National Park has three Automated External Defibrillators (AED) as part of Waskesiu's emergency services. They are located at the Visitor Centre, Operations Compound, and the Emergency Response Vehicle. Waskesiu Golf Course also has an AED at the pro shop.



Waskesiu – A Fire Safe Community?

Just as we witnessed in the news during the Slave Lake, Alberta fires in May, Waskesiu is located in a forest where large intense fires could easily spread. The community fuel break, which is an area where trees have been removed around the perimeter of Waskesiu, reduces the chance of fires entering the townsite. You can further safeguard the community by:

- Cleaning debris from rooftops and eaves.
- Cleaning chimneys.
- Storing combustible materials properly.
- Trimming lower branches of conifer trees that are close to buildings.

Living With Wildlife

It's a Wild Wildlife

During the 2010 summer season, 6 black bears became habituated and posed a threat to people in the park. Please take a close look at your cabin, cottage and business sites to see how you can make them less intriguing or appetizing for wildlife so we can all avoid conflict that ends tragically.

DO

- Set out bird baths.
- Build bird houses.
- Create butterfly gardens.
- Use binoculars and zoom lens cameras.
- Respect all wildlife in the park.
- Hike in groups and sing merrily so wildlife knows you're approaching.
- Keep your cabin, business area and/or campsite clear of all wildlife attractants including: human and pet food, gas, toiletries (squirrels love toothpaste), garbage and recycling.
- Use bear-proof garbage and recycling bins.
- Clean your barbeque after each use.
- Inform park staff if you see a bear in town.
- Be especially wary of elk cows with calves in spring and bull elk during rut in autumn.
- Inform park staff if you see a dangerous wildlife situation.

DON'T

- Set out bird feeders.
- Feed wildlife.
- Try to sneak up on or approach wildlife.



Dog Days of Summer

- Keep your best friends Fido & Fifi under physical control at all times while in the park for your safety, the safety of your pets and other visitors and the safety of wildlife. It's the law!
- Never leave your pet unattended outdoors to keep them safe from wildlife conflicts.
- Store pet food indoors or in your vehicle if tenting.
- There are two designated beach areas where dogs can swim but this does not mean your dog can be off-leash. Beaches stretch from west of the breakwater and south to Murphy's Bay along Kingfisher Trail and between Orchid Street and Beaver Glen Beach.
- Designate who your Puppy Poop Patroller is and discard the bags in bins along the trails.
- Purchase a licence at the Townsite Office in the Visitor Centre for your buddy. The license is required and helps us return your pet if they escape your care.

