

*Presented @
Nov. 10 / 2015
Council mtg.*

Alberta's Iron Horse Trail **Celebrating its 13th Anniversary on June 8, 2016!**

A Model of Community Cooperation

North East Muni-Corr Ltd: A part nine registered not for profit company consisting of ten municipalities who own the rail corridor. They meet once a month to conduct Muni-Corr business. N.E. Muni-Corr deals with all the land holdings of the organization.



Ten Municipalities: Smoky Lake County, Town of Smoky Lake, Village of Vilna, M.D. of Bonnyville, Town of Bonnyville, City of Cold Lake, Village of Glendon, Town of Elk Point, Town of St. Paul and St. Paul County. Each municipality approves all trail structures within its jurisdiction and helps maintain the local trail.

Riverland Recreational Trail Society: This is a registered not for profit charitable organization that carries out the role of coordinating trail development on the corridor by working closely with Muni-Corr, the ten municipalities and local stakeholders. RRTS Directors meet once a month to plan and carry out trail building. They have a trail steward program and they monitor and report on trail activity. Patrol a specific section of the trail, reporting back one overall Trail Coordinator. Also involved in building and operating the trail. There are presently eleven trail steward regions.



Iron Horse Trail Groomer Foundation: This is a registered not for profit organization with a membership from each of the regions five snowmobile clubs. They own a groomer and trailer and their purpose is to groom the Iron Horse Trail in the winter time for snowmobiling.

Alberta's Iron Horse Industry Coordinator: This is a position only and is not a registered not for profit organization. Focus on tourism product development, research and education. Role in connecting groups to resources and spearheads inter-provincial relationships. Helps start local and marketing initiatives for the trail.



Alberta's Lakeland Destination Marketing Organization (DMO): A registered not for profit, co-funded organization with a regional Board of Directors. Create regional tourism marketing partnerships to reach regional, provincial and inter-provincial markets. Partner with the Iron Horse Trail to represent Alberta's Lakeland tourism region at tradeshow and conferences. This organization has a much wider regional scope than the trail.



Summary:

Riverland Recreational Trail Society finds the majority of their volunteer hours and expenses are associated with “organizational” duties and tasks. Here are some examples of work done in the past, being worked on now and some future projects the group will be involved with.

- a) Develop and implement a Riverland Recreational Trail Society Directors Handbook.
- b) Develop and implement an Emergency Response Plan.
- c) Organized Trail Steward Program and serve as a liaison to deal with trail user and adjacent landowner complaints.
- d) Organized Executive to manage a volunteer base that is spread over ten municipalities.
- e) Ongoing research, writing proposals, reports and finalizing grant applications. To date, just over 1.2 million dollars have been brought into our region through grants that Riverland Recreational Trail Society has applied for and administered.
- f) Trail Tours and presentations to various Government representatives and other stakeholders. Clearwater County, Recreation Corridor Committee, Premier Stelmach, Minister Cindy Ady, Valerie Pringle, Travel Alberta, N.E. Muni-Corr and Municipal representatives, to name a few.
- g) Develop, organize and set up the longest geo cache in the world. This “Power Trail” is attracting worldwide attention with interested parties from Europe and the US planning to visit the Iron Horse Trail.
- h) Work with other organizations in the region to find other ways to utilize the trail and acquire trail stewards and volunteers to help maintain the trail. For example, the Lakeland Cross Country Ski Club now holds an annual event on the trail, The Iron Horse Ultra 100 use the trail as part of their race course. These groups have a vested interest in the trail now and help with maintaining it and promoting it.
- i) Probably the most important capacity the Riverland Recreational Trail Society volunteers serve in is their connections. We have volunteers who sit on the Board of Alberta TrailNet, River Valley Alliance and the Recreation Corridors Committee to name a few. RRTS volunteers were heavily involved in the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan and were successful in changing the areas and use of recreation land in the Plan. They even organized a bus load of people representing affected businesses and recreation groups to

attend the Edmonton Legislative to meet with several Ministers. To date there have been two Ministerial trips to Quebec to assess first hand their trails, Government support and maintenance programs. Another trip is planned for 2012 and this is all done with volunteers from Riverland Recreational Trail Society. Ongoing lobbying to our Provincial and Federal Governments, providing information, ideas and input to them and other interested trail builders in Alberta.