



Riding Mountain
National Park

THE PARK INSIDER



parkscanada.gc.ca/riding



Facebook: RidingNP



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#RidingNP

Summer 2016

NEW!

Interpretive programs &
Visitor Centre hours

The Bat Cave

Check out the newest
additions to the townsite!

CLEAR LAKE UPDATE

Boat launch consolidation
& watercraft inspection program

Projects in the Park

What you should know about
all the exciting improvements
happening this summer

Page 3

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Page 1



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

SUPERINTENDENT'S GREETING

As we embark upon another summer season here at Riding Mountain National Park, we want to share with you the important work that is being done to protect and present this treasured place we call home - a place that has been home to the Anishinabe People for thousands of years. This will be my third summer at Riding Mountain and our team has been fortunate to have met and worked with community members, business owners, partners, and stakeholders on a variety of initiatives and projects and we've enjoyed some good conversations.

We look forward to welcoming new and returning visitors for what promises to be an exciting year ahead. Thank you for the commitment and passion that you have shown for this very special place. We hope you take some time to enjoy your surroundings, spend time with family and friends, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Welcome back to Riding Mountain National Park.

Michaela Kent, Superintendent

2016 EVENTS

For more information on specific dates and events, please visit pc.gc.ca/riding or discoverclearlake.com.

Learn-to Camp

Learn-to Camp at Riding Mountain National Park! It's time to start the tradition and make some memories. Parks Canada and Mountain Equipment Co-op are teaming up to show hundreds of people how-to camp. Phone 1-888-773-8888 or visit parkscanada.gc.ca/riding to plan the ultimate camping experience.

May 20 - 23 - May Long/Victoria Day, Summer Kick-off

June

10 - Grey Owl Golf Tournament
18 - 19 - Learn-to Camp
18 - 19 - Aboriginal Day Weekend Celebrations
25 - Moonlight Madness

July

1 - Canada Day, Citizenship Ceremony
9 - Clear Lake Celebration Day
14 - 17 - Riding Mountain Film Festival
16 - Parks Day
16 - Great Canadian Camp-Out

August

6 - 7 - Wasagaming Chamber Days
19 - 27 - Tamarack Golf Tournament
20 - Boo in the Park
TBD - Riding Mountain National Park Outdoor Concert

September

TBD - Sonics & Sojourns Weekend

October

TBD - Friends Fright Night

December

TBD - Christmas Bird Count

ROAD TO 2017

The Government of Canada has announced free admission for all visitors to national parks, national historic sites, and national marine conservation areas in 2017 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation. Keep an eye out for more exciting details to come!



CLEAR LAKE BOAT LAUNCH CONSOLIDATION

Parks Canada is taking precautions against zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species at Riding Mountain National Park by consolidating boat launches around Clear Lake. Boats can launch from the **Boat Cove** and **East End (at the Clear Lake Golf Course entrance)**. The East End will be limited to existing boat launch ramps, and access will be blocked along the shoreline. Launches at **Frith Beach and Spruces day-use area** will be closed.

MANDATORY INSPECTIONS CONTINUE FOR 2016

Riding Mountain National Park will continue mandatory watercraft inspections for aquatic invasive species beginning the week of May 16, 2016. **Watercraft owners are encouraged to get their watercraft inspected early in the season as it will be less busy during this time.** All motorized and non-motorized watercraft entering park waters are required to undergo a free inspection and will be issued a permit by Parks Canada watercraft inspectors. In 2015, Parks Canada inspectors conducted over 2300 watercraft inspections on boats, canoes, kayaks, sailboats, and paddleboards, and 45 vessels were decontaminated. **Permits and decals issued in 2015 are not valid for 2016.**



MONITORING FOR ZEBRA MUSSELS

Parks Canada is a recognized world leader in conservation. As part of a pilot project with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to monitor the spread of zebra mussels in Manitoba, inspectors collected water samples from high-risk watercraft to analyse the samples for zebra mussel environmental DNA (eDNA). Resource Management Officers also conducted eDNA sampling on lakes in the park, and received permission from the Manitoba Department of Sustainable Development to obtain samples from lakes adjacent to the park.

IMPROVEMENTS AT BOAT COVE

The Clear Lake Boat Cove recently received several upgrades, including expanded parking, accessible canoe/kayak launch, and improved traffic flow for launching. Future improvements include new boat launches, silt and sand control for launches, and re-routing of the Clear Lake walking trail. High risk shoreline areas will be re-vegetated to prevent erosion and to keep nutrients from getting into Clear Lake.

BUILDING PERMIT INFORMATION

Are you planning any landscaping, renovations or additions to your seasonal residence or business?

Prior to starting your project, please call the Development Officer to obtain approval and a development permit at (204) 848-7275.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Over the next five years, Parks Canada is investing \$3 billion dollars to support infrastructure work to heritage, visitor, waterways and highway assets located within national historic sites, national parks, and national marine conservation areas across Canada. This historic investment supports conservation, while promoting visitor experience and making our infrastructure safer, more appealing to visitors, and giving our past a future.

While visiting Riding Mountain National Park this year, you may notice some of these projects and encounter construction zones or reduced services for this important work. The majority of the work will be completed during the shoulder seasons to minimize the impact to residents and visitors.

Wasagaming Campground Revitalization

- Work continues this year with the upgrade of 130 existing sites to water and electrical services, the addition of electricity to the oTENTik's, a new dumping station and 200 new picnic tables.
- All roads will be resurfaced in the Wasagaming Campground with completion for fall 2016.
- This effort will result in some section closures during the season. We understand this may cause some inconvenience to our campers and neighbours and we thank you for your patience as we complete this important work.



Mount Agassiz and the Escarpment of Riding Mountain

- The site has been rehabilitated and is safe for public use, as a day use area, which includes a picnic shelter, pit privy and safe access with a new foot bridge to cross the creek. There will be some final landscaping and seeding this spring.
- A work plan for improvements to the Riding Mountain Park East Gate Registration Complex National Historic Site is under way.

Resurfacing Highway 10

- Year one of a five year project for resurfacing Highway #10 was completed last fall, with seven kilometres of the highway now finished.
- Another twelve kilometres of resurfacing will take place starting at the South Entry Gate to kilometre 12 this fall. Specific construction dates will be announced later this summer or early fall before the work begins.
- Residents and visitors should note that, while traveling through Riding Mountain National Park, you may encounter construction zones or reduced speeds areas.



Future Projects

- The Wasagaming Storm Water Management project will look at infrastructure to redirect overflow storm water away from Clear Lake to improve water quality, reduce flooding and eliminate untreated water being discharged into the lake. Work will also include a new treatment facility for the redirection of water before it is discharged in the wetland. The construction work will start in 2017.
- Riding Mountain's infrastructure team will be planning and preparing for future work that includes heritage buildings, assets and visitor facilities over the next five years.

For up-to-date information on road closure, construction delays and infrastructure work, please visit us at www.pc.gc.ca/riding. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to see the progress we are making on these important projects.

COTTAGE OWNERS: HELP KEEP OUR PARK HEALTHY THROUGH VEGETATION MANAGEMENT!

Did you know that what do you do in your yard can affect the health of Clear Lake and the surrounding area? **Lessees are responsible for knowing their property pins and it is illegal to modify vegetation beyond those boundaries.** Excessive mowing can cause erosion which encourages nutrients to flow into the lake, makes steep slopes along the lakeshore unstable, and destroys wildlife habitat. Within your leased property boundaries, you can remove deadfall, trim shrubbery, and can apply for a permit to remove trees for development or that are hazardous. Outside of your leased property boundaries, please contact RMNP if you have any concerns regarding dead or potentially hazardous trees and deadfall. The FireSmart program will continue this summer. Leased properties and surrounding areas will be monitored for alterations and Park Wardens will follow-up on suspected violations. **Tip: Replace trees removed with a permit with deciduous trees, which are more fire resistant than conifers, to maintain the beautiful natural setting for which RMNP is known.**

If you require more information, please contact the RMNP administration office at 204-848-7275.

TREES REMOVED TO PREVENT FIRE RISK

Work in the Clear Lake area commenced in winter 2015 to remove trees planted on native grassland. This is a long-term project dating back to 1990 with the goal of reducing wildfire risk to Wasagaming, with 25 hectares remaining still to be managed.

The white spruce plantations, which were planted between 1940 and 1960, are highly flammable, increasing the threat to property and danger for suppression crews in the event of a wildfire. By restoring the area to grasslands, wildfires can be more safely controlled. Efforts are underway to salvage firewood where feasible.



2016 PRESCRIBED BURN

RMNP Fire Management staff implemented two prescribed burns this spring in the aspen parkland region. **The vigilance, patience, hard work and commitment of the fire crews have allowed us to safely apply two prescribed burns, yielding 400 ha (burned area) in the Birdtail Valley and 150 ha at Baldy Station.** Fire crews are still on the ground monitoring, patrolling, extinguishing, and even igniting more fire if need be. This will occur until all fire is either extinguished by rain or green up stops any further fire growth. We were able to accomplish 25%

of our original plan, as permitted by the weather. Both of these burns have the objective of improving the health of the grasslands by recycling nutrients, improving diversity and reducing the forest cover that has encroached upon them. The absence of fire since the 1940s has significantly reduced the amount of grassland area within the park. This loss has also diminished the amount and quality of some wildlife habitats. Research is ongoing to evaluate the effects of lack of fire in the grasslands, as well as assessing the effectiveness of using prescribed fire for restoration.

NEW BAT HOUSES IN TOWN

Have you noticed the shiny new bat houses recently placed around Wasagaming? We have set up 10 bat houses (each able to hold 600 bats), most associated with historic buildings in an effort to supply suitable roosting sites prior to any renovation work being done on the buildings. It is illegal to disturb any bat habitat due to the white-nose disease wiping out populations across the continent.

Bats can be found throughout RMNP, however they are in trouble around North America due to the rapidly spreading white-nose syndrome. They are a protected species and vital to world ecology. As insect eaters, they act as a natural pest control, and can even be thanked for limiting the number of mosquitoes!

One of the bat houses near the Visitor Centre will be set-up with cameras, one inside the house for daytime viewing, and another at the entrance so they can be viewed coming out at night. **Stop by the Visitor Centre this summer to view the live feeds and learn more about this fascinating creature!**



NEW INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Wolf of Willow Wisdom (Summer)

Wander by the waters of Washagama Saageygun (Clear Lake) in search of the Wolf Willow, a plant traditionally used for medicine and to beautify clothing and other personal belongings. Guided by the Anishinabe of Noozaawiinijiw (Riding Mountain).

Trek to the Stars (Fall)

Why go to the planetarium when you can see the real thing? Look-up and learn about the blanket of stars that cover you.



ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

There is a great roster of artists for this year's Artists in Residence Program!

For ten years the Manitoba Arts Council has worked with the park to provide professional Manitoban artists the time, space, and solitude to work at the Deep Bay Cabin through the summer and early fall. As part of their residency each artist provides the community the opportunity to take part in a workshop or presentation of their work. Information about the program can be found on posters throughout the community, Manitoba Arts Councils website and at the visitor centre.

PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM LYME DISEASE

Lyme disease is a serious illness that is present in Canada and spreading. Canadians at risk from Lyme disease include those, who live, work and/or play in close proximity to ticks that spread the disease.

- Wear closed-toe shoes, long-sleeved shirts and pants
- Pull socks over pant legs to prevent ticks from crawling up legs
- Wear light-coloured clothes to spot ticks easier
- Do a daily "full body" check for ticks on yourself, children and pets

For more information on Lyme disease, blacklegged ticks, and how to protect yourself from tick bites, please visit:
Government of Manitoba: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/lyme/index.html>
Public Health Agency of Canada: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/phn-asp/2015/lyme-eng.php>, or,

The pamphlet, ***Don't let a SMALL PEST turn into a BIG PROBLEM*** is available at the Visitor Centre.

VISITOR SAFETY

Protect your pets

Wild animals roam free in National Parks. Keep your pets on a leash and supervised so that they do not harass wildlife, provoke attacks, or endanger people. Please be courteous and clean up after your pets.

Fishing

A Riding Mountain National Park fishing license is required to fish in park waters.

Safety Registration

Parks Canada offers a Safety Registration service for people engaging in potentially hazardous activities. REMINDER: If you register yourself "out," then you must, by law, register yourself back "in" to prevent an unnecessary and costly search.

MESSAGE FROM THE PARK WARDENS

Park Wardens would like to remind residents and their guests:

- All users of the park are required to have a park pass
- Dogs must be on leash at all times
- The feeding of all wildlife is prohibited
- While fishing, the possession and use of barbed hooks and lead tackle weighing less than 50g is prohibited
- 2-stroke motors and personal watercraft are not permitted to be used in the park

BEAR SMART IN THE PARK

Bears can lose their fear of humans when they are attracted to inappropriate food sources such as **coolers, bird feeders, barbecues, pet**

food, garbage and recycling. Resource conservation staff urge the securement of all wildlife attractants in order to deter unwanted visits.

Unfortunately, when a bear keeps coming back to these easy food sources and continues to come into conflict with humans, it is the bear who loses and often pays for our mistakes with its life. **Please secure all wildlife attractants on your property safely and responsibly.**



For more bear safety information, please visit www.parkscanada.gc.ca/riding.

TRIP PLANNING

Remember the 3 T's - **Trip Planning, Training, and Taking the Essentials** - to make sure you stay safe and enjoy your visit.

- **Trip Planning** – Plan your route. Know the terrain conditions. Check the weather. Always fill out a trip plan and leave it with a family member or friend.
- **Training** – Obtain the knowledge and skills you need before heading out. Know and stay within your limits.
- **Taking the Essentials** – Carry the essentials and know how to use them. Add other equipment specific to your activity, the season, and location. The essentials: a flashlight, fire making kit, signalling device (ie. whistle), extra food and water, extra clothing, navigational/communication devices, first aid kit, emergency blanket/shelter, pocket knife, and sun protection.

For more information, visit www.adventuresmart.ca.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Visitor Centre

May 20 - June 29

9:30 AM – 5:00 PM (Everyday)

June 30 to September 4

9:30 AM – 8:00 PM (Everyday)

September 5 to October 10

9:30 AM – 5:00 PM (Everyday)

Administrative Building:

8:00 am to 4:00 pm (Monday to Friday,
all year)

Information about:

- Guided hikes and outdoor adventures
- Nature Shop
- Discovery Room
- Theatre
- Organically managed English gardens
- Passes, permits, and licenses
- Park rehabilitation projects

The Park is accessible to persons with mobility, hearing, and visual impairments. The Administration Building, Visitor Centre, select campsites, day-use areas, and selected trails are wheelchair accessible.

Wheelchairs and all-terrain strollers are available at the Visitor Centre.



Emergency 911

Police | Fire | Ambulance

**Royal Canadian Mounted Police
(RCMP)**

1-204-848-2442

24 Hour Park Emergency Service

**Visitor Safety, Wildlife & Park
Enforcement**

Toll-free 1-877-852-3100

**Wasagaming Campground
Reservations**

Toll-Free 1-877-737-3783

1-877-RESERVE

reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca

Hearing Impaired

TTY 1-866-787-6221

rmp.info@pc.gc.ca
parkscanada.gc.ca/riding

ONANOLE MUNICIPAL WASTE

Location: 1 ½ miles west of Onanole on the north side of P.R. 354

Hours: Open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and CLOSED every Wednesday.

In order to comply with environmental regulations, the municipality requires the cooperation of residents and ratepayers who utilize the Waste Disposal Site.

- Burning by the general public is strictly prohibited
- All loads must be secured when hauling to the site
- Waste must be deposited only in designated areas
- Upon arrival, all persons must report to the site attendant.

