

# The Trumpeter

A Publication of the Friends of Elk Island Society  
Fall, 2004



Website: <http://www.elkisland.ca>

E-mail: [membership@elkisland.ca](mailto:membership@elkisland.ca)

## "Take-a-Hike" Day Welcomes Visitors

by Dee Patriquin

Take-a-Hike Day, sponsored by the Friends of Elk Island Society, was held on July 17. Despite the heat, four hikes featuring different aspects of Elk Island National Park went off smoothly with about 7 - 11 hikers per hike. Park Warden Natalie Verrier guided a hike through the recent burn area, local bird naturalist Andra Bismanis was on hand at the Tawayik Lake viewing platform, a guided hike was held on Shoreline Trail, and Neil Darlow shared his research and knowledge about red squirrels.

Some very positive comments were heard from people who really enjoyed both the contact and the hike leaders. There was an Australian warden/film-maker in the Park for the weekend who came along with Warden Natalie Verrier on the Fire Walk in the morning. He was able to add some really interesting anecdotes about Aussie fire management that also seemed to be a big hit - lucky timing for us!

A slide presentation on Parks at the theatre was also well attended - about 41 people in all, partly drawn in by the cold drinks we had available! Feedback was very positive about the slide show, which covered Parks and Historic Sites from coast to coast. The presenters, Robert Sheldon and Glynnis Hood, had between them, worked in most of these sites, and people enjoyed their personal stories about their experiences. There were many follow-up questions and much interest in the other National Parks and Sites in the Parks system.

Andra Bismanis had about 20 people stop to chat about local songbirds and waterfowl through the day. The birds were very cooperative, and she was able to see a Great Crested Flycatcher pair, an uncommon sighting



Neil Darlow welcomes visitors to the FEIS sponsored Take-A-Hike held on July 17, 2004. Neil's talk was on red squirrels.

Mark Degner

that was a big bonus for her!

The BBQ area had a steady business through the day, and Georgina informed me that there were no leftovers (good estimating on food Les, Lesley and Georgina!!). Cold drinks were a big, big hit. Georgina and Les arranged the food order through Sobey's, with a 10% discount, establishing a good relationship that hopefully can be continued for future events.

The gift shop generated a lot of interest: many people were drawn to the gift shop tent before they even smelled the BBQ! Although sales were not abundant, the exposure seemed good. Several people commented that they would drop by the gift shop to investigate it further, now that they knew more about it.

I had a lot of fun working on this event with the Board and the folks at the Park, thanks to the generous assistance from all involved. Big kudos to Dave Stumpf from Parks Public Works and Evelyn Henke, the Parks Special Events Coordinator. These folks did a terrific job of prepping the Tawayik area on Friday, arranging for equipment delivery and set-up, and coordinating the in-park advertising by ensuring information was available at the gates, giftshop, campground and golf course. Dave also braved the heat to help us set up and tear down the Parks tent as well. He delivered hot dogs to the gift shop and generally pitched in on an as-needed basis.

Thanks also to all the FEIS board members and volunteers who contributed to the event, from food, to a display on Park research, to gift shop tent setup! And to Eva for loads of assistance on the front-end to get the event started and approved on the Park's end, and for creating the event posters. This was really a group effort, and your efforts made this event a success.

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# Elk Island Gift Shop and Information Centre

by Tina Hunt

The Elk Island Gift Shop and Visitor Information Centre just finished its second season of operation. The Friends again partnered with Kalyna Country to provide visitors with a complete package of tourism information and gift/souvenir shopping.

Kalyna Country is the world's largest eco-museum and covers a huge area in east central Alberta, so we are able to supply visitors with a comprehensive information package on all area attractions. The Friends and Kalyna Country jointly hired Jenn Gerow as our summer student; the shop was open week-ends in May and June, then for five days a week from the beginning of July, and closed for the season on September 6, 2004.

To all of you who visited us at the shop, we thank you for your support. We tried to offer a wider range of items this year and the number of gifts with an "Elk Island National Park" name drop was greatly increased. Everyone just loved those cuddly moose and beaver with Elk Island National Park knitted vests!

We were also treated this year to a beautiful new sign, sponsored by Shell Canada. Now we can broadcast not only our opening times, but also special events and activities that are organized by the Friends year round. Many thanks to Rick Watts for spearheading the sign project.

Also a big thank you to Jenn for doing such a great job, to Michelle Wright of Kalyna Country for set-



*Jenn Gerow has been a valuable asset to the Gift Shop throughout the summer.*

ting our computer system up with a financial program that made everything so much easier and more efficient, and to the Gift Shop Committee for all their hard work. We have certainly learned a lot about running a gift shop and look forward to another rewarding season in 2005.

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## Fundraising Barbeque Hits the Spot!

by Rick Watts

On the long weekend of July 31 to August 2, 2004 the Friends hosted a fundraising barbecue by the old snack bar building at Astotin Lake. In many ways this was a first for the Friends. In recent years our barbecues have been associated with other activities and have not been attempted purely for fundraising purposes.

Once again, wieners and burgers were supplied by Lakeland Sobey's in Sherwood Park who always do a good deal for us. This year they provided their own in-store patties and I really can recommend them.

Additionally we held a raffle with prizes generously donated by Elk Island National Park, Mountain Equipment Co-op, the Citadel Theatre and Helly Hansen (West Edmonton Mall and Edmonton City Centre East) to whom we are grateful for support.

The barbecue provided welcome refreshment to a large number of people and also gave the opportunity to chat to many of the Park's visitors. During the weekend we gained another four new members and made a profit in excess of \$700.

## Thanks to FEIS Volunteers

by Les Campbell

As volunteer coordinator for the FEIS I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to thank all the great volunteers for the past season's work. Without the superb effort of such people we could not accomplish the special events and fundraisers we planned.

I would also like to thank the staff of EINP for the tremendous cooperation we have received from them.

***Our sincere thanks to STAPLES, Sherwood Park,  
for their support of The Trumpeter***

# FEIS Hosts 2004 Annual General Meeting

The 20th annual General Meeting of the Friends of Elk Island Society was held on June 8, at the Grant MacEwan College. In addition to the 17 members in attendance were Eva Paul, EINP Liaison and Auditor Carol Russ.

Rick Watts gave the Chairman's Report outlining the Society's activities during the past year. Copies of the report are included in this issue of the Trumpeter. Auditor Carol Russ reported on the finances of the FEIS for the past year.

The meeting was followed by the election of the 2004-2005 Board of Directors. Directors Liz Watts, Special Events Chair, and Glynnis Hood, Membership

Chair, resigned from the Board.

Rick Watts, Neil Darlow, Lesley Fox, Marilyn Annis and Nicole Girard were elected to the Board of Directors for a two-year term.

The volunteer contributions made by members Robert and Leslie Fox were recognized by Chairman Rick Watts. Rick made a presentation to Robert and Lesley for all of their volunteer assistance that they have contributed to FEIS over the past couple of years.

Following the adjournment Mark and Leslie Degner gave a very interesting and entertaining slide presentation and talk on "Galapagos National Park, Ecuador."

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## Chairman's Report – 2004

*by Rick Watts*

This Society's mandate to 'promote and support Elk Island National Park' could be interpreted in many ways. Traditionally the society has accomplished its mandate by funding research and hosting events in the Park. This board has been no exception. While continuing the activities of previous years we have continuously striven to increase our value both to our membership and to the Park. Looking back on the year we should be proud of what, with our members support, we have achieved.

### Events

We hosted a significant number of events in 2003. These started with Family Ski Day in February and included the AGM, Aboriginal Day, Multiculturalism Day, and Parks Day. During the fall and winter, we continued our interpretive hike program.

### Research

Following the establishment of the Conservation, Research and Education Committee, the Society has continued to provide much needed funding for approved graduate research within the Park. Through two rounds of funding in each year the Society makes up to \$8,000 available for graduate research plus use of the research vehicle.

In 2003 the Society also granted \$10,000 to Elk Island National Park. This allowed researchers to fly an aerial survey of the Park's beaver lodges, providing invaluable information regarding the animal's response to improved rainfall following three years of drought.

### Education

A new program was launched early in 2004 with the aim of assisting inner city schools in bringing their students into the Park. Subject to certain conditions, schools may now apply for contribution funding towards the cost of transportation and Park entry.

### Conservation

We continue to fund the successful reintroduction and monitoring of trumpeter swans. This long-term project is now bearing fruit, with the Park's swan population continuing to increase.

### Elk Island Visitor Centre

In May of 2003, the FEIS took over the Information Centre building and, in partnership with Kalyna country, it is now running as a combined Gift Shop and Information Centre. Established with funding from Parks Canada the shop approached break-even last year and is anticipated to make a profit this year. In taking on this venture, the society has freed up park interpretive staff to deliver their message to more visitors than ever before.

### Communications

The Society produces two 'publications', the Trumpeter and the web site.

The Trumpeter continues to be published at least four times a year and this spring saw us publish our largest edition to date with 10 pages. We continue to be indebted to our members, the Park and the public for contributions that make such great reading.

From slow beginnings in the winter of 2002 the web site is becoming increasingly popular. In 2003 it averaged a little over 10,000 hits a month. In May this year the site received 21,000 hits, equating to over 4000 page requests or 2,000 individual visits.

# Friends of Elk island welcomes new Board Members

The Friends of Elk Island Society welcomed two new Directors at the Annual General Meeting on June. Marilyn Annis and Lesley Bishton-Fox are very welcome additions to the Board.

## LESLEY BISHTON-FOX

Lesley Bishton-Fox was born in Germany and grew up in interesting places ranging from Egypt, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Thailand, Ankara and Singapore before moving to Cambridge, England to obtain a Pre-med BSc.



Mark Degner

She later joined the military as a Nursing Officer and specialized in Casualty Evacuation and Tropical Health.

"I've always been more of a 'critter person' and a 'human doing', as opposed to a human 'being'," she says. "When I see something that needs doing, I pitch in and get it done. I need balance in my life and that is not always possible in the military. In order to maintain my sanity I had to balance volunteer work with 'pay-cheque-producing' labour. I put in 28 continuous years in guiding, with occasional forays into Scouting."

Lesley's volunteer contributions include:

St. John Ambulance — Over 12,000 hours of Public Duty and 5,000 instructor hours.

Red Cross - Instructor trainer for 'There's No Place Like Home For Health Care'.

I-T for Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation, CPR Faculty.

Canadian Society for Safety Engineers, Alberta Society of Safety Professionals, Alberta Occupational Health Nurses Association, Palliative Care Volunteer, Edmonton United Service Institute, Royal Canadian Legion and the Nursing Sisters Association of Canada.

## MARILYN ANNIS

Marilyn retired from teaching French and German in 1998, having taught with Edmonton Public, Yukon Territorial and Vancouver School Boards with a three-year break while living in Tacoma, WA. She has since been involved as a



Georgina Campbell

care-giver to her mother and late father, and as a board member for Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation. She finds the Corporation an exciting and progressive operation that looks after people's concerns in the inner city. She sings in a choir and dances weekly. In addition, she loves to travel and learn so has taken advantage of several Elderhostel programs and enrolled in tai chi, tap dancing and Spanish with seniors' groups, Marilyn has been volunteering for several years with Jazz City and The Fringe.

Currently holding memberships in the Tacoma Audubon chapter (Tacoma), the Edmonton Natural History Society, Friends of Jasper National Park as well as Friends of Elk Island National Park. Marilyn is just finishing a year of chairing the Anniversary Committee, celebrating 131 years of the congregation of McDougall United Church in Edmonton.

**A warm welcome and thanks to  
new and returning Board Members  
who do such good work for the Friends  
of Elk Island Society!**

## MEMORIAL TO ROBBIE ROBINSON

*by Pierre Cardon*

Earlier this year Mr. Robbie Robinson of Edmonton passed away. Our sympathies go to his family. Mr. Robinson was an active supporter of Elk Island National Park, and with this in mind, his family asked that donations be made to the Friends of Elk Island Society in his name. To date, the Friends have received almost \$400.00. These funds will go towards a memorial dedicated to Mr. Robinson. Thank you to everyone who donated in Mr. Robbie Robinson's honor.

# Wildlife Adventures – a personal story

by Anton Dyck

My wife and I moved from Manitoba's Oak Hammock Marsh and Bird's Hill Park to Alberta in 1978. Shortly after our arrival, we visited Elk Island National Park, and soon made it a regular place to recharge our batteries. We developed a pattern of visiting the Park at least weekly, or more often fall, winter and spring when we could see the furthest into the trees, and fewer people will be encountered. We made most of our visits in the very early morning, about dawn. We heard the bugling elk, saw the bison butt heads, the graceful waiver of the moose antlers, and the transition to the peaceful preparation for survival of sometimes-harsh winters. In the spring, as the greenery got to its thickest, we saw the young as they scampered about.

I was raised in a family of hunters and was accustomed to imitating elk, moose, deer, loons, ruffed grouse, and owls. One spring day, as we left the Park via the Warden's access road, we stopped at the head of the Astotin trail. I

decide to call to see if any grouse will answer my call. To my surprise, a male ruffed grouse came cautiously out of the bush. As he moved closer, he adopted the aggressive look typical of chickens, his head cocked to one side and his neck, body and tail feathers puffed.

He came closer, and closer and closer until he stood right in front of my boot. He pecked hard at the laces, and backed away. Then he pecked again, and backed away.

I began to back away from him. That made him mad. He aggressively pecked and jumped, pecked and jumped. I opened the car door, pushed him away with my foot, and tried to get inside. He nearly got into the car, but I jumped out and pushed him away with my foot. He pecked and jumped until I timed a well-aimed sideways push that left him airborne and about five feet from me.

I jumped into the car and slammed the door. He walked around the car, trying to grasp what had happened to his opponent. I started the car, carefully backed around. When he was out of dan-



Dave Critchley

*A Ruffed Grouse– if it's the same one, no doubt he, too, had a good story to tell!*

ger, I accelerated down the road for home. When I looked in the mirror, he was following at a full run, wings half extended, neck feathers bristling. He was no match for the Suzuki 4 x 4, so we made our escape.

A week later, we decided to leave the Park by the same route. As we rounded the corner to the head of the trail, one excited and determined Ruffed Grouse came out of the bush. Either he was chasing all white Suzukis, or he had one good memory of his heroics. I did a fast turn around, and the last I saw of him was in my rear view mirror, running his little heart out. What a story he must have told his missus!

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## EINP Celebrates Canada Day

by Evelyn Henke

An estimated 600 park visitors celebrated Canada Day 2004 at Elk Island National Park of Canada on a warm and sunny Thursday, July 1, 2004.

At noon O Canada was sung, as Superintendent, Robert Sheldon raised the flag to commence the celebration of Canada's 137th birthday. To the delight of all present, Wardens Murray Heap and Glynnis Hood rode on Park horses, Reno and Stony.

After the Superintendent delivered his message of welcome, visitors were invited for birthday cake served by members of the Friends of Elk Island Society. While the visitors waited in line for cake, lapel pins and book-markers were distributed.

Adrian LaChance and Rocky Dumais, Alberta Learning Services for the Edmonton Catholic School

District, entertained Park visitors. On the lawn outside of the Astotin Theatre, visitors were invited to join in the circle dance and the celebration of Canada's birthday, First Nation style – with traditional stories, drumming and dancing.

Young members of a local 4-H Beef Club were on hand to serve up hot dogs, cold drinks and ice cream to hungry visitors, staff and friends. Overall the fundraiser was a success, however plenty of tofu dogs were left over for their next event.

Canada Day was an excellent opportunity for Parks Canada Agency staff and the Friends of Elk Island Society to work together on a special event. Thank you to the Friends for serving the cake and for cleaning up the crumbs and icing. Thanks also to Jenn at the Visitor Centre for the time and creative energy that went into creating the Trumpeter Swan display.

•The Trumpeter Fall, 2004•

# Trumpeter Swan Population Increases

by Rob Kaye

We have a total of 26 adult and sub adult swans return this year. To give you some idea of the progress of the reintroduction program and the rising number of returned swans each year here are some yearly figures of returned swans over the last several years:

- 1998 - 6
- 1999 - 8
- 2000 - 8
- 2001 - 9
- 2002 - 18
- 2003 - 20
- 2004 - 26

We are beginning to get an exponential increase in swans. This is a very good sign that the program is starting to show success. We are reaching a critical mass of adults now and unless some very unfortunate event takes place (such as extremely bad weather on their winter range, causing large dieoffs) we should now expect that the trumpeter swan is now a successfully reintroduced species to Elk Island National Park.

The big jump in swans, the last few years, occurred because we are finally getting breeding pairs and the return of offspring from breeding pairs. As it takes a female swan between 3 to 6 years to reach sexual maturity, only recently have breeding pairs settled in the Park and started to reproduce.

We now have 4 breeding pairs in the Beaverhills

area – two more than last year. So far this year, 11 cygnets have hatched providing a total of 37 swans (26 adults and sub adults and 11 cygnets). The fall numbers will always be less as not all cygnets live through the summer.

It is very interesting that the swans are slowly expanding out from Elk Island. Ten of the 26 swans sighted, are in the Cooking Lake - Blackfoot Provincial Recreation area to our south. Another 4 swans are further south in the Ministik Bird Sanctuary while 5 more swans that spend part of their time in Elk Island, were spotted on private land outside the park. One of breeding pairs is in Elk Island, one is on private land and two are in Cooking Lake - Blackfoot. This is truly an excellent example of the importance of habitat stewardship and our whole Beaverhills Initiative.

All 26 swans (including the 4 breeding pairs) were found on relatively remote lakes during the June 17 survey flight. Unfortunately, they are all in areas away from the parkway or established trails (other than the occasional sighting near the parkway). The public has a better chance at seeing the trumpeters during the fall when some of the birds 'stage' on Astotin Lake before migration.

Hopefully though, if the numbers continue to increase over the years the public will have an opportunity to see swans as they expand their range in the Park.

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## Photo Album



*The adventures of Super Hero SARA, the interpretive program given by Robin at the Astotin Theatre on Saturday evenings throughout the summer, was an obvious hit with the kids. By the way, in case you don't know, SARA stands for the Species At Risk Act.*



*A combination of fundraising ability by Rick Watts, and the generosity of Shell Canada, resulted in this attractive information board now located at the Visitors Information Center. The attention-getting sign draws visitors' attention to the Information Center and allows FEIS to advertising upcoming events. The FEIS is grateful to both Shell Canada and Rick Watts for a very welcome contribution to the FEIS.*

# Of Newts and Frogs, Bats and Dogs

by Rick Watts

*"Eye of newt, and toe of frog,*

*Wool of bat, and tongue of dog."*

*These often-misquoted lines come from the 'three witches' scene of Shakespeare's Macbeth. Although set in Scotland, the names of the animals to which the bard is referring are sufficiently generic that examples of similar animals can be found in Elk Island National Park (EINP).*

## Eye of Newt

Newts are amphibians of the order Caudata (or salamanders). The term 'newt' refers to the family Salamandridae or 'true salamanders', which is not represented here in Alberta. However, Tiger Salamanders are present in the Park.



Salamanders look somewhat like a lizard but, being amphibians, feel like a frog. The Tiger Salamander is probably the world's largest salamander, reaching up to about seven inches in length. In general this animal is whitish-yellow with green or brown blotches or stripes. Locally they tend to be a drab grey-green with darker blotches. Adults, active throughout the spring and summer particularly in damp weather, tend to be nocturnal. Their habit of burrowing through damp vegetation and under logs in search of grubs and worms makes them difficult to find.

Breeding takes place in shallow ponds. The eggs, similar to those of a frog, are laid singly or in small bunches. Large tadpoles hatch after about three weeks and rapidly grow to four inches or more. The presence of external gills easily distinguishes salamander tadpoles from those of frogs, which have internal gills. Tadpoles will normally metamorphose into adults by the end of the summer. However there are documented cases of tiger salamander larvae reaching sexual maturity and never metamorphosing into the adult form.

## Toe of Frog

The Wood Frog and the Boreal Chorus Frog are the commonest frogs in Alberta and in the Park.



The Boreal Chorus frog is Alberta's smallest amphibian. It grows to a maximum of about

40mm. The frogs inhabit sloughs, woodlands, and open meadows if there is sufficient vegetation to provide cover and moisture. They eat a variety of invertebrates including snails and insects. Despite actually being a tree frog this animal is seldom found more than a few feet off the ground. In common with other tree frogs, however, it has minimal webbing between the toes of its hind feet.



The Wood Frog is larger than the Chorus Frog, growing to a maximum of 30-60mm. It is forest dwelling and it is often found in damp, shady woods. It

is also very cold tolerant and may be found farther north than any other amphibian in the Western Hemisphere.

## Wool of Bat

There are nine species of bats in Alberta and Elk Island is home to both the largest and smallest of these.



Alberta's smallest bats, the Little Brown Bat, are also the most frequently encountered bats in the province. They roost in buildings

and trees and under bridges, generally near water to ensure a large supply of night-flying insects on which they feed exclusively. These bats roost singly or in colonies of over 1000 individuals, arriving at their summer roosts in May. Colonies consist almost entirely of breeding females. The young, born hairless and blind at the end of June or early July, are entirely dependent on their mother until they can fly and feed for themselves at about three weeks.

Some little brown bats hibernate in caves in the mountains while others are thought to migrate south for the winter.



The Hoary Bat is Alberta's largest bat with a wingspan that may be in excess of 40 cm. The bodies and wing membranes are covered with black hair some of which are tipped with white. This gives a 'frosted' appearance,

which helps to camouflage the animal against lichens on tree trunks where it roosts. Hoary bats do not roost in colonies, preferring a solo spot amongst foliage on the trunk of a tree. They do however require an open space beneath their roost so that they can drop into flight. In common with many of our bats they have a preference for roosts near water with the associated population of night flying insects for food.

Interestingly it is believed that only female bats arrive in Alberta. The males mate with the females as they migrate north but remain in the U.S. after mating.

According to Lone Pine's 'Mammals of Alberta' the best place to see these animals is hanging from power lines in Elk Island National Park during September and October as they prepare to migrate south.

### Tongue of Dog

There are only two members of the dog family commonly seen in and around Elk Island, these being the Coyote and the Red Fox.



The Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), Alberta's smallest member of the family, is the same species that is common across the whole of the northern hemisphere.

Most of us are familiar with this animal due to its place in literature and portrayal in movies and wildlife shows. In Alberta this creature is more wary than in Europe, being primarily nocturnal and avoiding human contact where possible. It is however extremely adaptable, although primarily a predator/carnivore it is also capable of omnivorous behavior, allowing it to forage successfully when prey is scarce. This also

aids its survival in areas of urbanization, where its favored forest habitat has been reduced, as it is capable of foraging through human trash and pet food dishes for sustenance.



Albertans are more likely to be familiar with the Coyote. Larger and more common than foxes, these animals tend to be grey or reddish grey with black markings on the back and tail. Coyotes mate in March

and give birth to five to seven pups during April or May. Both parents care for the pups until they leave the den at about two months. The family units travel together until fall when they split up and hunt alone or in pairs. Coyotes seldom hunt in packs.

Like the Red Fox Coyotes are adaptable opportunists feeding primarily on rabbit and hare although carrion also plays a significant role in their diet. They will also eat significant quantities of berries when in season. When prey is short coyotes will effectively prey on and eliminate other small predators such as the Bobcat and Red Fox.

-Photo credits: Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Crown Copyright

The Trumpeter is a regular print publication of the Friends of Elk Island Society.

The Trumpeter can also be found on our website at [www.elkisland.ca](http://www.elkisland.ca)

See the website for other items of interest!

Editor: Georgina Campbell (780) 895-7399 Associate Editor: Nicole Girard Layout: Trudy Harrold  
Contributions Welcomed!

Published by: Aspengrove Communications, Box 148, Lamont AB. T0B 2R0 780-895-2564

### Friends of Elk Island Society Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual membership (\$10.00): \_\_\_\_\_ Family membership (\$15.00): \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are donating \$25.00 or more, please indicate whether or not you would like us to send you a tax receipt. Send your Membership Form and payment to: Friends of Elk Island Society Box 70, 9920-63 Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T6E 0G9 (780) 992-4753



You can pull this page out from The Trumpeter and put it up on your fridge or bulletin board to remind you of upcoming events with the Friends

2004-05		2005-06	
Month	Event	Month	Event
September	No events – annual planning	September	No events – annual planning
October	Beaver Hike	October	
November	Trumpeter Swans (Rob K.)	November	
December	<b>Christmas Bird Count</b>	December	<b>Christmas Bird Count</b>
January	Winter Tracking Hike	January	<b>Loppet?/ Family Ski Day</b>
February	<b>Family Ski Day</b>	February	
March	Owl Prowl (Heather)	March	
April	<b>Wildlife Film Fest</b>	April	<b>Wildlife Film Fest</b>
May	Songbird Walk	May	
June	Fort Saskatchewan Seniors Day in the Park	June	
July	<b>Take a Hike</b>	July	<b>Take a Hike</b>
August	No events	August	No events

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:**

**BEAVER HIKE**

Come join the Friends of Elk Island Society and Elk Island National Park's busy friend – the beaver – for a 2 hour guided hike that explores how this amazing animal gets ready for winter. This 3.5 km hike begins at **10 a.m. on Saturday October 23** at the Beaver Pond parking lot in Elk Island National Park. Bring warm clothes and a warm drink. Free for members of the Friends of Elk Island Society, \$2 for non-members. For further information call 490-7764. Normal Park entry fees apply.

**TRUMPETERS SUPPLY MISSING NOTES**

The music of Elk Island National Park (EINP) comes from a number of “band” instruments. Elks bugle, birds sing, and bees hum but the missing note was the trumpeting of the Trumpeter Swans. The swans, once native to the area, were hunted to extinction over 100 years ago. Their distinctive call was the missing note in the Park’s music.

In 1987 the cooperating partners of EINP, Canadian Wildlife Service and the Friends of Elk Island Society (FEIS) undertook a massive project to reintroduce the swans to EINP. As a result, the number of Trumpeters has steadily until 2004 when 26 adult and sub-adult swans and 7 cygnets spent the summer at EINP.

The reintroduction of the Trumpeter has been deemed a success! Join the Friends of Elk Island Society and Elk Island National Park in a Celebration of Success on **Saturday November 13**. Rob Kaye will host a presentation at the Park’s theater beginning at **2:00 p.m.** Normal Park entry fees apply.

# Friends of Elk Island Society

**Participating  
in  
Conservation**

**Supporting  
Science-Based  
research**



**Services to  
Members**

**Special  
Events**

**Sales Outlet**

## **Mission Statement — Friends of Elk Island Society**

The Friends of Elk Island Society is a non-profit, charitable organization that co-operates with Parks Canada to promote understanding, appreciation and respect for Elk Island National Park. The FEIS fulfills this mission by participating in conservation, science-based research, the operation of a sales outlet, special events and providing services to its members.

The FEIS raises funds and administers donations to further the objectives of the Society.