

2011 **Visitor** Guide

# Riding Mountain

## National Park of Canada



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada

Canada

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# Welcome

...to Riding Mountain National Park! We invite you to explore, to cherish and to find wonder and passion as you connect with this premier treasure on the prairies.

The people of Canada, have entrusted Parks Canada, to combine exemplary conservation practices, quality services, programs, and sharing of knowledge, as guardians of the most significant and authentic natural and historic places comprising the very essence of Canada.

This year, Parks Canada celebrates 100 years of being a world leader in the management and protection of the areas that define our country. For many, coming to Riding Mountain is a legacy to pass onto future generations. We too value this legacy and through our work and the support of our partners we achieve our promise of protecting, presenting, and inspiring the future of Canada's unique places.

Whether this is your home away from home or your first time to the area, we encourage you to break free and truly engage yourself in any of the first-class experiences presented throughout this guide. The memories made can be embraced forever.

Cheryl Penny  
Superintendent





# Celebrate 100 Years

as the world's first national park service







**June 10 to 12**  
Grey Owl Golf Tournament



**August 6 & 7**  
Wasagaming Chamber Days  
Weekend & Parade



**July 1**  
Canada Day &  
Citizenship Ceremony



**June 21**  
Aboriginal Day Celebrations



**July 16 & September 4**  
Prisoner of War Wagon Tour



**July 16**  
Parks Day



**March 2012**  
Riding Mountain Loppet &  
Family Fun Day

# Come Celebrate!

## 2011 Special Events

Indicates Centennial Celebration:

- June 10 - 12 Grey Owl Golf Tournament
- June 11 & 12 GPS Adventure Quest   
*friendsofridingmountain.ca*
- June 21 National Aboriginal Day
- July 1 Canada Day & Citizenship Ceremony
- July 9 Bioblitz
- July 16 Parks Day
- July 16 Prisoner of War Wagon Tour
- July 21-22 Best of the Monterey Pop Festival Onanole
- July 23 Clear Lake Celebration Day
- July 29 - Aug 1 Clear Lake Chamber Music Festival  
*clearlakechamberfestival.com*
- Aug. 6 - 7 Wasagaming Chamber Days  
(Parade & Kiddie Parade)  
*discoverclearlake.com*
- Aug. 13-14 Riding Mountain Triathlon  
& Kids of Steel (*rmtri.com*)
- Aug. 20 Supper in the Field
- Aug. 20 Outdoor concert in the park
- Aug. 20 BOO in the park
- Aug. 20-27 Tamarack Golf Tournament
- Sept. 3-5 Tennis Tournament
- Sept. 4 Prisoner of War Wagon Tour
- Sept. 10-11 Rona MS Bike Tour
- Sept. 17-18 Riding Mountain Hiking Festival
- Sept. 21 Clear Lake Shoreline Cleanup
- Sept. 22-25 Sonics and Sojourns Festival
- Oct. 22 Friends of RMNP Fright Night
- Dec. 21 RMNP Annual Christmas Bird Count
- Mar. 2012 Riding Mountain Loppet &  
Family Fun Day

*Our list of Special Events is always changing so visit the Visitor Centre or [www.parksCanada.gc.ca/riding](http://www.parksCanada.gc.ca/riding) for up-to-date event information.*



# Visitor Centre

Journey into the Visitor Centre in Wasagaming, a remarkable 1930's Federal Heritage Building.

- Information about guided hikes and outdoor adventures
- Nature Shop
- Discovery Room
- Theatre
- Organically managed English Gardens
- Passes, permits, and licenses

## Visitor Centre 2011 Hours of Operation

May 20 to June 30: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

July 1 to Sept. 5: 9:30 am to 8:00 pm

Sept. 6 to Oct. 10: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm



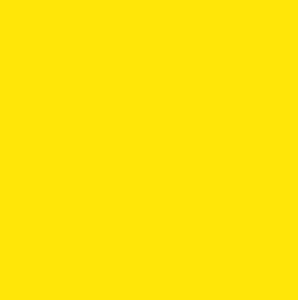


# Wasagaming

Disappear into the unique charm of Wasagaming, a town within a national park offering everything you would want or need during your visit to the area.

Wasagaming Chamber of Commerce | [discoverclearlake.com](http://discoverclearlake.com)





**The Pinewood Museum is located at 154 Wasagaming Drive (at Crocus) in the townsite of Wasagaming, Manitoba in beautiful Riding Mountain National Park.**

**The museum is a not-for-profit facility run and staffed entirely by volunteers who are members of the Riding Mountain Historical Society (RMHS).**

**The museum is open seasonally during July and August from 1:30 to 4:30 PM daily.**

**Art, painting, crafts & photography class  
Bike rentals  
Bistros & fine dining  
Chamber Days  
August 6-7  
Checkers**



**Internet  
Laundromat  
Lawn bowling  
Movie theatre  
Pinewood Museum  
Playground  
Martese tours**



**Cozy accommodations  
Dance hall  
Full service spa  
Gourmet espresso  
Horseback riding  
Ice cream**



**Service stations  
Shops with treasures from near and far  
Tennis courts  
Golf Courses  
and much more!**



# July/August

**Journey. Laugh.  
Relax. Learn. Play.**

Whatever your mood, no matter your age, our interpretive experiences have something for you! Sign up for your experience today.

**For more information on programs visit the Visitor Centre or visit [www.parkscanada.gc.ca/riding](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/riding). Pre-registration is advised. Fees may apply. Call 204-848-7275.**

## Morning Guided Hikes

Lace up your boots, grab a friend and let your senses and expert park staff help to guide you along hikes that explore the shores of Clear Lake; skirt the “goat paths” of the Gorge Creek and weave through the Grasshopper valley.

## Afternoon Interpreter in Action Stations

Drop-in on mini-activities found on the grass by the Visitor Centre gardens and main beach area. Every afternoon, all summer long, park guides and interpreters bring the stories of this place to life!

## **New!** Monday Afternoons with a Researcher

Enrich your visit and gather first hand information about Clear lake ecosystems. Change your scenery, put on your boots and get ready to get wet as a researcher for a day.

## Magical and Mysterious Evenings

Indulge in a cup of hot chocolate around a blazing campfire while listening to Park sagas and songs. The interactive Lake Audy and Moon Lake campfires are sure to be a hit! Visit a bear den, a beaver lodge and so much more during a Car Caravan! In the comfort of your vehicles watch for wildlife as you roll along! Head over to the Visitor Centre for a live theatre program and talk with park specialists.

## Guided September Fall Experiences

Wednesdays and Saturdays: Elk Bugling Car Caravan,  
Sundays: Gorge Creek Hike

# Guided Experiences



**Sunday**



**Monday**



**Tuesday**

### MORNING

**New!** Hiking Club  
10 am

Bison, Close Up  
Bison Exhibit  
at Lake Audy  
11 am

### AFTERNOON

Interpreter in  
Action Station:  
**New!** Great Grassland  
Adventure Puppet Show  
Playground  
2 & 3 pm

### EVENING

Call of the Wild  
Car Caravan  
7:30 pm

Black Bear Campfire  
Wasagaming  
Campground  
7:30 pm

### MORNING

Gorge Creek Hike  
10 am

### AFTERNOON

**New!** Afternoon  
with a Scientist:  
Citizen Science  
Assist with ongoing  
research on  
Clear Lake  
1 pm   
Interpreter in  
Action Station:  
Kippan's Mill  
2 pm

### EVENING

**New!** Stories &  
Legends Campfire  
Wasagaming  
Campground  
7:30 pm   
The Moon Lake  
Mystery Campfire  
Moon Lake Campground  
7:30 pm

### MORNING

Adopt-A-River  
Hip waders &  
life jackets provided  
10 am

### AFTERNOON

Interpreter in  
Action Station:  
Prisoner of War  
2 pm

### EVENING

Water –  
The Incredible Journey!  
Live Theatre  
7:30 pm



Starts at Visitor Centre



Main Beach Area



Requires Vehicle



# Adventures

Just for kids!



Daniel Bahaud

Discover and explore the park through fun-filled adventures and brain busters! Get your Xplorer booklet today and begin your family's unforgettable journey in Riding Mountain. Best suited for 6-11 year olds.

## Friends of RMNP Junior Naturalist Program

Naturalist Programs (ages 5 to 12)  
June 27 to September 2  
Monday to Friday  
10 am - 12 pm & 1:30 - 3:30pm

## Fear Factor

June 27 to 30; July 18 to 22;  
August 8 to 12;  
August 20 to September 2

## Discover.....

July 4 to 8; July 25 to 29; August 15 to 19

## Survivor

July 11 to 15; August 1 to 5;  
August 22 to 26

“Firefly Hikes” ages 7 - 14  
Tuesday evenings  
7 - 9 pm

## “Tires & Tracks”

Bike program for ages 7 - 14  
Saturday mornings  
10 am - 12 pm

## To register:

Call 204-848-4037 or visit [friendsofridingmountain.ca](http://friendsofridingmountain.ca)

## To register:

Call 204-848-7275 or visit [parkscanada.gc.ca/riding](http://parkscanada.gc.ca/riding)



**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

### MORNING

Grasshopper Valley Hike  
10 am

### AFTERNOON

Interpreter in Action Station:  
Ominnik Marsh Marvels  
*Dip nets provided*  
Meet at Ominnik Marsh trail  
2 pm

### EVENING

Call of the Wild Car Caravan  
7:30 pm   
**New!** Behind the Research  
Discovery series  
7:30 pm

### MORNING

Meet the Gardener  
10 am

### AFTERNOON

Interpreter in Action Station:  
Doc Bones...CSI  
2 pm

### EVENING

Songs of Riding Mountain Campfire  
1st Street dock  
7:30 pm

### MORNING

Explore the Shores of Clear Lake Hike  
10 am

### AFTERNOON

Interpreter in Action Station:  
Escarpment Dept.  
2 pm

### EVENING

Bear-in' it all Campfire  
Wasagaming Campground  
7:30 pm

### MORNING

Gorge Creek Hike  
10 am

### AFTERNOON

Interpreter in Action Station:  
Rolling River Fire Olympics  
2 pm

### EVENING

Songs of Riding Mountain Campfire  
Wasagaming Campground  
7:30 pm   
The Grassland Mystery Campfire  
Lake Audy Campground  
7:30 pm

Campfire Family Friendly Come & Go / Drop-in



# Park History

Become a part of 100 years of national park history.



## ◀ Grey Owl

Relive the life of Grey Owl, Archibald Belaney and his wife Anahareo, who in 1931, along with their two pet beavers, Rawhide and Jellyroll, lived at Beaver Lake Lodge.







## Riding Mountain East Gate Registration Complex National Historic Site of Canada

Imagine another era as you drive through the only original park gate left standing in Canada, dating back to 1930.



## Clear Lake's Wishing Well

Make a wish come true, take part in one of the oldest traditions and toss a coin in as many have done through the years.



## Park Theatre

Relax while watching a movie in the largest all-log theatre in North America, built in 1936-37.



## Prisoner of War Camp

Discover the amazing truth of nearly 440 German soldiers being captured in North Africa and sent to Whitewater Lake near Lake Audy during WW II. The camp was not fenced nor did it have any guard towers. There are even stories of POWs leaving the camp to attend community dances and returning before dawn!

### To discover the site:

Hike or bike the 11 km from the north end of the Lake Audy Bison enclosure. Contact the Visitor Centre for more information.

Take part in the POW Wagon Ride held on July 16 or September 4.  
Register at 204.848.4037.

Volunteer to assist Adrian Myers, Ph.D. candidate, Stanford University as his archaeology team surveys and excavates the site. Contact 204.848.7275



# Audy Fescue Grassland

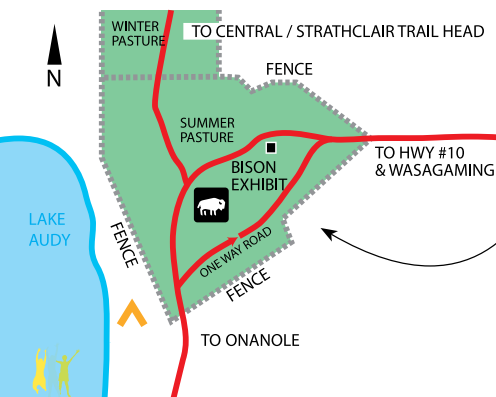
From the comfort of your vehicle, view the bison roaming the rough fescue grassland plains, an increasingly rare example of natural prairie in Canada.

Home to numerous birds, insects and mammals including close to 40 bison, the fescue grassland of RMNP also support a diverse assemblage of plants and wildflowers found only in this type of grassland. Bison can quickly reach speeds of up to 50 km/hr. For this reason, exercise caution while driving in the Bison Enclosure and please stay in your vehicle; these are wild animals!

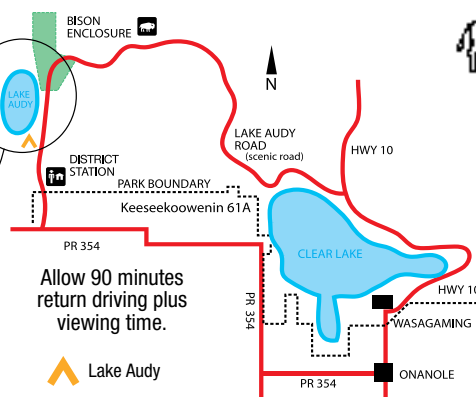
## A Special Relationship with Bison

The Anishinabe term for bison is *Mashkode Bizhiki* and means “prairie cow”. This great animal provided sustenance for First Nation peoples for centuries. Today, there is still a special bond between the bison and the First Nation communities with ceremonies conducted to respect and honour the bison nation.

### LAKE AUDY BISON ENCLOSURE



### GETTING THERE



Allow 90 minutes return driving plus viewing time.



### WHAT DID YOU SEE?



Calves are born from April to May. They are lighter brown in colour than the adults. 27 kg. (60 lbs.) on average.

#### HOW MANY?

Calves

3–17 years old. 545 kg. (1,200 lbs.) on average.

#### HOW MANY?

Cows

3–20 years old. 900 kg. (2,000 lbs.) on average.

#### HOW MANY?

Bulls







# First Nations

**Immerse yourself in the rich cultural heritage of the Riding Mountain First Nation communities at the Keesee Sharing Lodge.**

**Tour Manitoba's first aboriginal-run museum, speak with elders, artists, cultural leaders and spiritual teachers.**

**Take part in workshops to learn about traditional drumming, crafts, and medicines.**

**Gifted storytellers narrate accounts of life in Washagama Saageygun, the Anishinabe term for "clear water lake", now commonly called Clear Lake.**

**For more information about programming please email: [keeseelodge@mts.net](mailto:keeseelodge@mts.net) or visit [www.keeseekoowenin.ca](http://www.keeseekoowenin.ca)**

## The

**Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation** has a special relationship with Riding Mountain National Park. As landowners along the north and west shores of Clear Lake, they have a connection to this place that goes back for generations.

It is thought that the First Peoples have been living in the Riding Mountain area since the great glacier moved off the land around 10,000 years ago.

First Peoples and their descendants share a deep connection to this place that goes beyond the rich resources the area offered them. For them, the land

represents a gift from the Creator, because all parts of it are sacred.

Clear Lake captures the attention – and hearts – of all those who come to its shores, or spend time on its waters. To the Anishinabe (the name in reference to the local First Nations people living in the Riding Mountain Region today) this deep groundwater-fed lake is derived from the Creator and the underground springs that feed it are the veins of Mother Earth. Thus to the Anishinabe the lake water is alive. This belief is meaningful to the First Nations people of Riding Mountain.

Parks Canada and the Anishinabe share a common interest of protecting this very special place and will continue to work together to do this.







# Friends of RMNP

**Promoting and providing opportunities to increase the public's awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of the natural and cultural heritage of Riding Mountain National Park.**

*Preserve your connection to RMNP contact Friends of Riding Mountain to purchase a Heritage Walk stone along the Visitor Centre's perennial garden path.*

- RMNP souvenirs and gifts in the Visitor Centre and year-round Learning Centre, 154 Columbine Street
- "Discovering Nature" adult learning workshops
- Unique Learning Programs: Prisoner of War Wagon Tours and Bike programs
- Junior Naturalist Program for ages 5 to 12
- Young Explorers Programs for ages 7 to 14
- Citizen Science Bird Monitoring Programs

- Omnik Marsh kit rentals
- Geocaching and GPS training and kits!
- Host park special events: Canada Day, Parks Day, Friends Fright Night and the Riding Mountain Cross Country Ski Loppet.
- Adopt-an-Animal program
- Fall Eco-Science Camp program for Grade 7 & 8 student living in the Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve.
- Volunteer opportunities for all ages

**Satisfy your curiosity and discover more about the Friends organization. Call 204-848-4037, email [friends.rmnp@pc.gc.ca](mailto:friends.rmnp@pc.gc.ca), or visit [friendsofridingmountain.ca](http://friendsofridingmountain.ca).**



With RMNP as the core protected area and 15 surrounding Rural Municipalities, the Biosphere Reserve fosters and encourages a sustainable community-based regional economy, with high biodiversity on a rural landscape.

- Caching Riding Mountain – Discover the unique people and places that make the Biosphere Reserve a UNESCO designated area of special importance. [www.cachingridingmountain.ca](http://www.cachingridingmountain.ca)
- Annual RMBR Photo Contest – Share your memories and experiences of the Biosphere Reserve and have a chance to win great prizes. [www.rmbr.ca](http://www.rmbr.ca)
- At the Farm Gate – Connect with the local producers and artisans of the Biosphere Reserve through the At the Farm Gate program
- Uncover the treasures within the Biosphere Reserve, call 204-636-2085, email [rmbr@mts.net](mailto:rmbr@mts.net), or visit [www.rmbr.ca](http://www.rmbr.ca)



# Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve

While visiting RMNP you are in the *only* biosphere reserve in Manitoba, 1 of 15 in **Canada** and 1 of 564 in the **world**.

## Meet the Artist

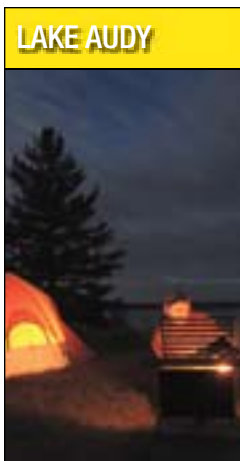
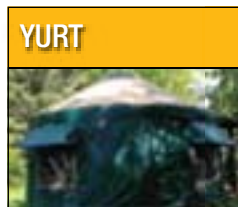
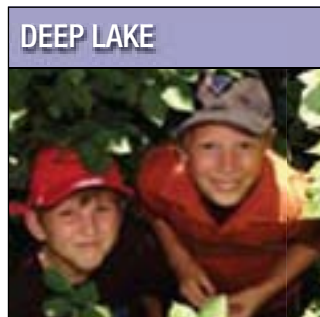
Unwind with friends at the “Meet the Artists” evenings and discover how new works of art are created.

During the summer the historic Deep Bay cabin is home to Manitoba writers, actors, visual artists, dancers, choreographers, musicians and composers, providing them with time to reflect, experiment and create while living and working for two weeks in this awe-inspiring setting.

Throughout the season the artists feature their work through the “Meet the Artists” evenings hosted in and around Wasagamung. Look for posters or ask at the Visitor Centre for a listing of events.



# Campgrounds



	Wasagaming	Yurt	Moon Lake	Lake Audy	Whirlpool Lake	Deep Lake	Group Camps	Cairn's Cabin
flush toilets	✓	✓	✓					
showers	✓	✓						
pit toilets			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
serviced sites	✓							
tents	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
trailers & motorhomes	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
wheelchair access	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
firepits	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
kitchen shelter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
well water			✓	✓				
sewage dump	✓			✓		✓		
pay telephone	✓	✓						
boat launch	✓	✓		✓				
power boats allowed	✓	✓	<10hp	✓				
fish cleaning station				✓				





Backcountry Campsites	Link Trail	wagons	horses	biking	hiking	corrals	hitching	cooking grills	water source
Birdtail	Tilson Trail		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	slough
Breezy Hill	N. Escarpment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	well
Cowan Lake	Cowan Lake			✓	✓			✓	well
East Deep Lake	N. Escarpment			✓	✓			✓	well
Elk Creek	Ochre River			✓	✓			✓	creek
Gunn Creek	Central Trail	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	creek
Gunn Lake	Gunn Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	well
Kays	Birdtail		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	well
Kinnis	Strathclair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	creek
Long Lake	Long Lake		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	well
Minnedosa	Grasshopper		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	well
Ochre River	Ochre River		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	creek
Scott Creek	Scott Creek			✓	✓		✓	✓	creek
Tilson Lake	Tilson Trail			✓	✓			✓	lake
Vermillion	Strathclair	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	well
Whitewater	Central Trail	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	well



Birdtail Valley

**Wasagaming Campground**  
 Reserve. Relax. Experience.  
**1.877.RESERVE | (1.877.737.3783)**  
[www.pccamping.ca](http://www.pccamping.ca)  
 For Group Camping, Yurt and Cairn's Cabin Reservations,  
 and Group Camping, Backcountry Camping & Winter Camping  
 Reservations can be made at the Park Office, Visitor Centre or by calling  
 204-848-7275.

**Family-Friendly Camping**

- Enhanced security services
- Bare Campsite Program
- Environmentally-friendly cleaning products used in all washrooms.
- May long weekend liquor ban
- Wasagaming Campground liquor consumption ban nightly (11:00 pm – 7:00 am)



# Trails







Hiking



Biking



Horse Riding



Wagon



Wheelchair Accessible

- Accessible
- Easy
- Moderate
- ◆ Difficult

## New Hiking Club

Looking for a hiking partner? Or maybe you just want to get out on a different trail?

Stop by the Visitor Centre to find out which trail we'll be hiking every Sunday throughout the summer. Get off the beaten track and discover: Bald Hill, Hyde Lake and Clear Lake North Shore.

### Day Trails

#### Around Wasagaming

Clear Lake Northshore	9.5 km one way	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>
Clear Lake Southshore	7.0 km one way	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>
Lakeshore short loop	1.0 km return	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>
Lakeshore long loop	7.2 km return	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Ominnik Marsh	1.9 km return	<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>
South Lake	3.4 km return	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>
Wasagaming Bike Trail	5.5 km one way	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>

#### Along Historic Highway 19

Arrowhead	3.4 km return	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>
Grey Owl	8.9 km one way	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>
Kinosao	3.9 km one way	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>
Brûlé	2.1 & 4.2 km return	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Loon's Island	2.4 km return	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Gorge Creek	6.4 km one way	<span style="color: black;">◆</span>
Burls & Bittersweet	2.2 km return	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Oak Ridge	3.1 & 6.4 km return	<span style="color: green;">●</span>

#### Along Scenic Parkway 10

Bead Lakes	4.0 km return	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>
Boreal	1.0 km return	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Moon Lake	9.2 km return	<span style="color: black;">◆</span>
Kippan's Mill	1.2 km return	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Crawford Creek	10.0 km return	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>
Beach Ridges	3.5 km return	<span style="color: green;">●</span>

### Backcountry Trail (Distances are all one-way)

#### West of Parkway 10

Baldy Lake	10.0 km	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Birdtail	11.4 km	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>
Central	66.3 km	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>
Grasshopper Valley	20.5 km	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Gunn Lake	1.9 km	<span style="color: black;">◆</span>
Long Lake	14.0 km	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Strathclair	22.9 km	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Sugarloaf	8.0 km	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>
Tilson Lake	38.6 km	<span style="color: black;">◆</span>

#### East of Parkway 10

Bald Hill	8.4 km	<span style="color: black;">◆</span>
Breezy Hill	1.8 km	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Cowan Lake	7.8 km	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
J.E.T.	7.8 km	<span style="color: black;">◆</span>
North Escarpment	8.4 km	<span style="color: blue;">■</span>
Ochre River	24.9 km	<span style="color: black;">◆</span>
Packhorse	11.5 km	<span style="color: black;">◆</span>
Scott Creek	2.4 km	<span style="color: green;">●</span>

For details on each trail, a Trail Guide is available for purchase at the Nature Shop in the Visitor Centre.

For updated trail information please go to [www.parkscanada.gc.ca/riding](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/riding)

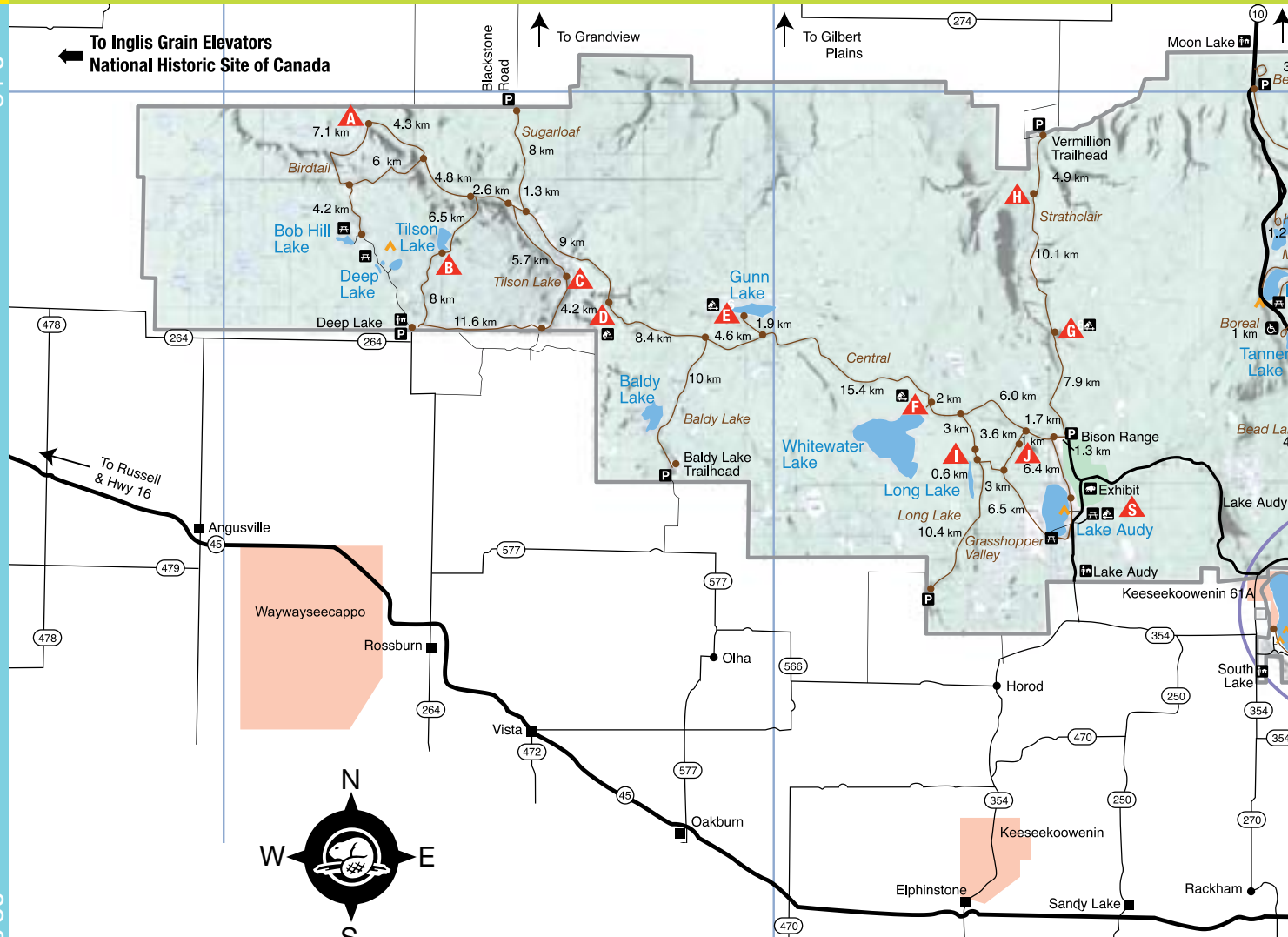


101°0'

100°30'

51°0'

50°30'



## LEGEND

- National Historic Site
- Picnic Area
- Tenting
- Group Camping
- Bald Hill
- Other Attractions
- Warden Station
- Wheelchair Accessible
- Viewpoint
- Bison Enclosure
- Parking
- Horse Corral

## BACKCOUNTRY CAMPSITES

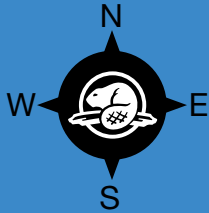
- Kay's
- Tilson Lake
- Birdtail
- Gunn Creek
- Gunn Lake
- Whitewater Lake
- Kinnis Creek
- Vermillion River
- Long Lake
- Minnedosa River
- Cowan Lake
- Elk Creek
- Ochre River
- East Deep Lake
- Breezy Hill
- Scott Creek
- Muskrat Lake
- Campbell Lake
- Lake Audy Horse Corral

- Provincial Roads
- Provincial Trunk Highways
- Trail
- Town
- Landmark
- First Nation

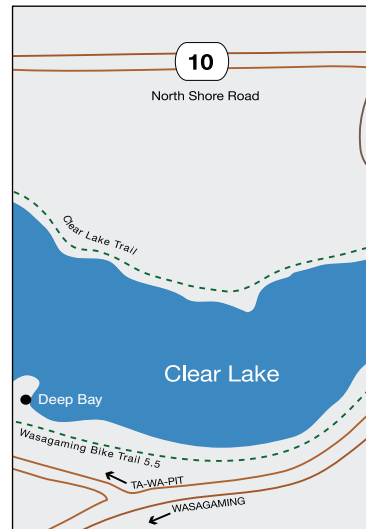




# Wasagaming Map



Clear Lake



## Friends of Riding Mountain Learning Centre

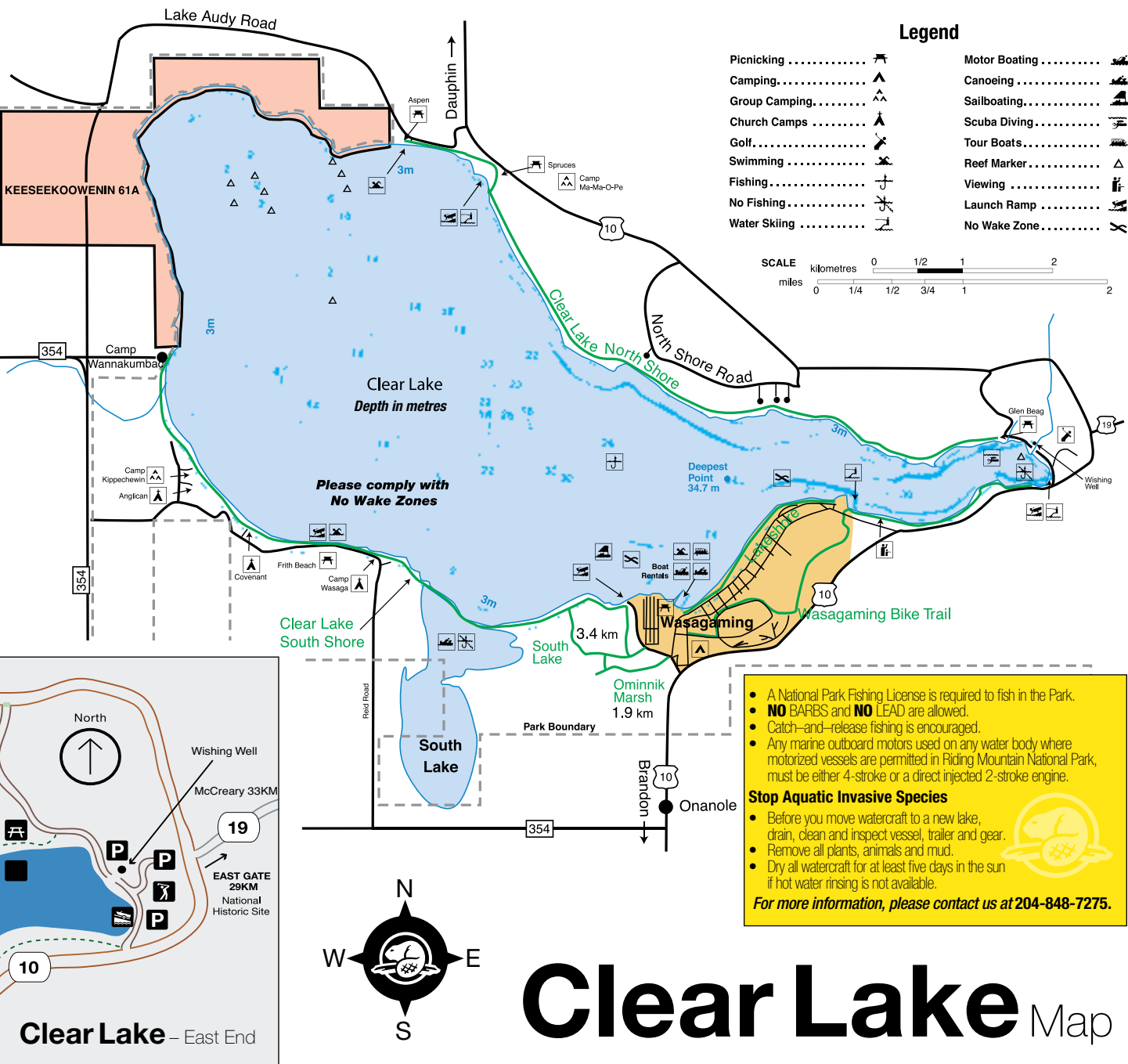
154 Columbine in Wasagaming.  
Geocaching kit rentals.  
Omnik marsh kit rentals.  
Park Passes/Fishing Licenses.  
Programs for all ages.



**204 848 4037**  
[friendsofridingmountain.ca](http://friendsofridingmountain.ca)

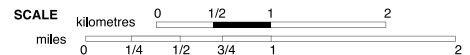
Park Entrance





### Legend

- |                     |  |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| Picnicking .....    |  | Motor Boating ..... |  |
| Camping .....       |  | Canoeing .....      |  |
| Group Camping ..... |  | Sailboating .....   |  |
| Church Camps .....  |  | Scuba Diving .....  |  |
| Golf .....          |  | Tour Boats .....    |  |
| Swimming .....      |  | Reef Marker .....   |  |
| Fishing .....       |  | Viewing .....       |  |
| No Fishing .....    |  | Launch Ramp .....   |  |
| Water Skiing .....  |  | No Wake Zone .....  |  |



- A National Park Fishing License is required to fish in the Park.
- **NO BARBS** and **NO LEAD** are allowed.
- Catch-and-release fishing is encouraged.
- Any marine outboard motors used on any water body where motorized vessels are permitted in Riding Mountain National Park, must be either 4-stroke or a direct injected 2-stroke engine.

**Stop Aquatic Invasive Species**

- Before you move watercraft to a new lake, drain, clean and inspect vessel, trailer and gear.
- Remove all plants, animals and mud.
- Dry all watercraft for at least five days in the sun if hot water rinsing is not available.


*For more information, please contact us at 204-848-7275.*



# Clear Lake Map

# Animal Look-A-Likes

**Out on the trails or from your vehicle, the incredible diversity of wildlife species within the park makes it a perfect destination for wildlife watchers.**

Sometimes it can be confusing trying to tell certain mammals apart. Try this quick reference list to help decipher which “look-a-like” you have spotted. The key icon  will be the “key” to figuring out which species is which.


## Wondering where to spot certain Wildlife?

Be sure to ask our friendly staff at the Visitor Centre or check the wildlife observation boards located in the lobby of the Visitor Centre or Administration Office for the latest sightings. Record your observations here as well.


## Wolf... or Coyote?



### Wolf

- Face is more dog-like and less pointed than the coyote.
- Ears are more rounded
- Coat is nearly white to nearly black, but mainly gray.
-  • Tail is much like a dog's, and is carried high when running.


### Coyote

- Face is slender with pointed nose and pointed ears.
- Legs are long and slender.
- Colour is reddish gray.
-  • The tail, which is very large, bushy and black-tipped, is carried low when running.


## Lynx... or Cougar?



### Lynx

- This cat looks a lot like a very long-legged tabby house cat.
- Prominent ruff around face.
- Ears are pointed and tipped with long black hairs.
- Has very large, padded feet
-  • Tail is stubby with a completely black tip.

### Cougar

- Cougar sightings have been on the rise in and around RMNP in recent years. Should you be so fortunate as to spot a “big cat”, here is what to look for:
- Very large (the size of a Labrador Retriever or bigger), tawny coloured cat.
  -  • Long, slender tail is almost the same length as the animal's body.





## Black Bear... or Grizzly?



### Black Bear

Unfortunately, there are no longer any plains grizzly bears in RMNP as they were all killed in this region in the 1800s. So, should you see a bear in the park you have indeed spotted a black bear... even if its coat is blonde, brown, cinnamon or a mixture thereof. Be sure to read our two pamphlets:

***You Are in Bear Country and  
The "Bare" Campsite Program.***



## Pine Marten... or Fisher?



### Pine Marten

This mink-size member of the weasel family vanished from RMNP in the 1940s due to loss of habitat. It was reintroduced into the park between 1991-1993.

- Size of a house cat.
- Yellowish-brown to dark brown fur.
- Pale buff patch on throat and breast.

### Fisher

Also a member of the weasel family, the fisher vanished from RMNP in the 1940s as well. It was successfully reintroduced during 1994-1995.

- Larger than pine marten, approx. the size of a very large house cat or small dog.
- Dark brown to nearly black, with white-tipped hairs, giving it a frosted look.

## Moose, Elk... or White-Tailed Deer?



### Moose

- Largest of the three.
- Dark brown with long, gray legs.
- Males have antlers which are palmate and flat.
- Often seen in or near water.
- Large, overhanging snout and "bell" on throat.

### Elk

- Reddish-brown body.
- Small, thin tail.
- Males have huge spreading antlers.
- Large and distinct yellowish-white rump patch.

### White-Tail Deer

- Reddish in summer, blue-gray in winter.
- Males have antlers which consist of a main beam with tines.
- Distinctly white, flag-like tail.



Neverending fun!

# The Choice is yours!

Challenge yourself to **windsurf** across Clear Lake.

**Paddle** along the quiet natural surroundings of Whirlpool Lake.

Quietly discover the **loons** on Lake Katherine.

Have your **face painted** at one of our special event days.

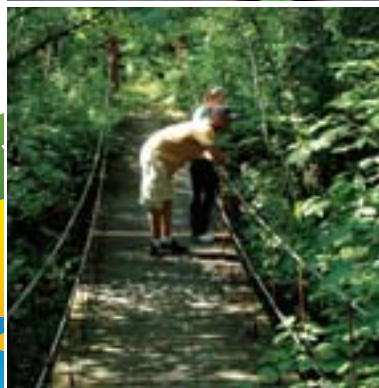
Let the **sounds** of the Clear Lake Chamber Music Festival July 29th to August 1st, 2011 resonate within you. [www.clearlakechamberfestival.com](http://www.clearlakechamberfestival.com)

Test your limits during the **Riding Mountain Triathlon**. [www.rmtri.com](http://www.rmtri.com)

Feel goose bumps as you gaze over the striking mix of forest, ravine and distant Manitoba farmland on the **Gorge Creek trail**.

Savour the simple pleasures with your nearest and dearest during a **family picnic**.

**Seize the day** and celebrate while you make the most of your 2011 visit to Riding Mountain!









Riding Mountain National Park  
parkscanada.gc.ca

Parc national du Mont-Riding  
parkscanada.gc.ca

What kind of explorer are you?  
[www.eq.canada.travel](http://www.eq.canada.travel)



explorés sans fin  
Canada  
keep exploring

What kind of explorer are you?  
Take the Quiz, it's fast and fun!

Quel type d'explorateur êtes-vous?  
Répondez au questionnaire, c'est rapide et amusant!



Canada

# SAVE OUR WILDLIFE!

Keep bears wild and alive, maintain a wildlife attractant free lot or campsite.

Please leave any items that will attract wildlife in a hard sided vehicle when your picnic or cook shelter is unattended for **ANY** length of time.

## FEEDING WILDLIFE MAY...

- Cause animals to become a nuisance.
- Result in the animal being destroyed.
- Can lead to a maximum fine of \$5,000 under the Canada National Parks Act.

## ITEMS THAT ATTRACT WILDLIFE...

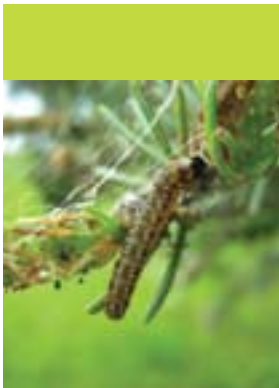
- Food / Coolers
- Garbage & food packaging
- Pet food / pet dishes
- Bottles & cans
- Toiletries, suntan lotion, insect repellent
- Any items associated with food preparation or clean up
- Grey water pails
- BBQ's and bird feeders

Current trail conditions, bear information and to report bear sightings, please call

**204-848-7275**

For wildlife emergencies please call

**1-877-852-3100**



## Spruce Budworm - Watch for these little guys in June!

Riding Mountain National Park is currently experiencing an elevated population of spruce budworm (SBW), a moth that is native to our region. An important food source for many birds species, in its larval stage (worm), the SBW eats the needles of spruce and balsam fir trees, so residents and visitors can expect to see this activity during the month of June. RMNP staff monitor the SBW population each summer, and are expecting fewer larvae this spring than last.

The SBW population has been higher than average for the last five years, and could stay high for several more years. It is important to remember that these population cycles are part of a natural process that has been functioning for thousands of years in the forests of North America. Although some trees may look unhealthy for a few weeks, the mixed wood forest is expected to recover quickly.

**For more information about environmental research and issues within the park visit [www.parkscanada.gc.ca/riding](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/riding) or call 204-848-7275.**





# Keep a 'Bare' Campsite - not a 'Bear' Campsite



## Find the differences

Spot the differences between these two campsites. Write your answers on another piece of paper. *In which campsite do you think the bears would get into trouble?* Answers on bottom of page.

[www.getbearsmart.com](http://www.getbearsmart.com)

Bears would find **campsite #1** boring. Nothing to eat or play with! These campers have chosen a spot free of bear signs and have stored their food properly. Bears would get into trouble in **campsite #2**. It smells like food and looks interesting to them! If your family likes to go camping, get your parents to read this page too. 1) There is food in the tent. 2) The cooler, campstove and fuel container are left out. 3) There are food wrappers, empty cans, bottles, fruit and other food scraps on the ground. 4) There is a dishpan with dirty dishes on the table. 5) Cooking smoke is blowing onto the tent. 6) There are berry bushes and a skunk cabbage patch near the campsite. 7) This camp is set up beside a stream. 8) There are bear scratches on the tree and bear tracks and scat all over.



# Need to Know

Whether you are looking to connect with nature, experience adventure, or escape from your daily routines, we want to share some simple safety precautions to make sure that you stay safe and enjoy your visit. Please be advised that travelling within the park is at your own risk.

## Water. Road. Trail.

### Plan & prepare before you set out.

- **Do** you know the weather forecast?
- **Did** you plan your route and bring a map?
- **Did** you tell someone where you were going and when you plan to return?
- **Did** you pack extra food and clothing?
- **Do** you stay alert for hazards and wildlife?
- **Do** you know what to do in an emergency?

### What to do if you get lost...

- **Keep** your group together.
- **Stay** on the trail and retrace your steps.
- **Be** prepared to stay overnight...a search takes time.
- **In winter**, know the signs of fatigue, hypothermia and frostbite.

### Specifically for Backcountry:

- Use bear proof containers at the campsites for storing food, toiletries and garbage. Do not leave anything behind.
- Bring your own drinking water or be prepared to purify from natural sources (visit [http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/outdoor-plein\\_air-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/outdoor-plein_air-eng.php))
- Leave no trace of your visit and treat the trails and campsites gently so that others may enjoy them after you leave.
- Respect other park users, especially when you encounter horses – move off the trail, avoid sudden movements or noises, dismount and walk bicycles.

### Identifying Poison Ivy

1. Three leaves 3-12cm in length, red in spring, satin green in summer and shades of yellow, orange, red or bronze in autumn.
2. Slightly toothed, somewhat shiny, smooth leaves.
3. A woody stock at the base of the plant.
4. No thorns.





## Regulations.

### Fishing.

Anglers require a Riding Mountain National Park fishing license which can be purchased at the Visitor Centre, entrance gates, campground kiosks, or the administration office.



### Leave it for others to enjoy.

Take nothing but photos and leave nothing but your footprints.

### Backcountry.

A backcountry permit is mandatory for overnight backcountry visits. *Fees apply.*

### 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.

### Disable firearms.

Firearms must remain in your vehicle at all times, unloaded and in a case or wrapped and securely tied so that no part of the firearm is exposed.

## A Message

## From the Park Wardens...



The whole Parks Canada team, including our staff responsible for visitor services, resource conservation, technical services, and law enforcement, look forward to welcoming you to Riding Mountain National Park. We want your visit to be both enjoyable and memorable.

Park wardens are here to protect not only our visitors but the natural and cultural resources of this park. They work in partnership with the RCMP who continue to be the primary enforcers of the Criminal Code. Take the time to get to know the park wardens in your area; they will be happy to explain their role.

### We need your eyes and ears!

Call 1-877-852-3100 for 24-hour Park Emergency Service if you see anyone violating Park regulations.

### Obey Closures

Areas in the park may be closed by order of the Superintendent for public safety or environmental reasons. Closures are marked with signs and/or flagging tape.

### 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.



# On the Water



## Let's Take Care of Our Lakes

RMNP continues to be an environmental leader by implementing higher emission standards. Making low emission engines a requirement ensures the quality of our lakes for generations to come. Please read our emissions brochure for complete engine requirements and restrictions.

### *Complete a Pleasure Craft Operator course and get carded!*

- Make every trip a round trip and drive responsibly, at moderate speeds. Be aware of changing weather conditions. Tell someone your travel plan. Sit down and don't rock the boat!
- Remember that rain and melting snow make river water rise, run fast and create potentially dangerous conditions.
- Impaired boating, like impaired driving, is a criminal offense.
- Operating a boat within 50 metres of an International Diving Flag is illegal.
- Respect No-Wake Zones and swimming areas.

## Always Keep Your Distance.

No matter how tame they may seem, **ALL** park animals are unpredictable and potentially dangerous. Getting too close to elk and moose is always hazardous. Attacks may occur at any time of the year. Females are even more defensive during the April to June calving season. Males are especially dangerous during the September to October rut.

## Accessibility

The park is accessible for those with mobility, hearing and visual impairments. The Administration Building, Visitor Centre, campgrounds, day-use areas, and selected trails are wheelchair accessible. Wheelchairs and all-terrain strollers are available at the Visitor Centre.

## Weather

Never underestimate the power of weather! Conditions can change rapidly.

- Check the local forecast and be prepared for anything.
- Take along clothing for protection from wind, cold, rain, snow.
- Dress in layers and adjust as you go to prevent overcooling and overheating.

## Wildlife





## On the Road



### Summer is construction season in Manitoba!

Watch for road workers and heavy equipment entering the roadway. Avoid heavy fines— obey posted speed restrictions.

#### *Drive defensively!*

- Be patient with other drivers that may be lost, distracted by the scenery, or in a hurry.
- Be prepared for a variety of conditions.
- Slow down in bad weather or stop somewhere safe and wait it out.
- Watch for cyclists. They may be difficult to see from a vehicle.
- Do not drive on the shoulder of the road.
- Watch for wildlife that may be on or near any park road.
- If you see animals near the road, slow down as they could run into your path at any time.
- Warn other motorists by flashing your hazard lights.

- Always wear a lifejacket or PFD (*personal flotation device*).
- Be a lifeguard to your children. Stay within reach and never leave them alone near, in, or on the water.
- Learn to swim.
- Learn rescue skills for yourself and others.
- Learn first aid.
- Swim with a buddy.
- Know where it is safe to dive.

For more information, contact the Lifesaving Society at 204-956-2124 or [aquatics@lifesaving.mb.ca](mailto:aquatics@lifesaving.mb.ca). Visit the website [www.mb.lifesaving.ca](http://www.mb.lifesaving.ca).



## In the Water



**Swimmer's Itch** – Swimmer's itch is a temporary skin irritation caused by a parasite. Symptoms are a tingling sensation and small red dots that enlarge and become itchy. Preventative measures are waterproof sunscreen or baby oil applied before entering the water, and showering/towel off immediately after leaving the water. Treatment is through topical medication or taking antihistamines. Suggestions for topical applications are: baking soda paste, calamine lotion, anti-itch creams or a warm bath in baking soda. Antihistamines found in allergy medications such as Chlor-Tripolon and Benadryl are the most common.





- Uncover over 200 km of cross country ski and snowshoe trails.
- Bond with your family on a beautifully lit forest skating rink.
- Feel exhilarated with genuine overnight Canadian winter experiences.
- Contribute to the annual Christmas Bird Count.
- Explore new horizons! Enter the Cross Country Ski Loppet.



# Winter Magic

at Riding Mountain National Park

By daylight, moonlight or Northern lights, be drawn into this enchanting season.



# Contact Information

## Riding Mountain National Park of Canada

1-204-848-PARK (7275)

rmnp.info@pc.gc.ca

www.pc.gc.ca/riding

Hearing impaired only, TTY

1-866-787-6221

## Wasagaming Campground Reservations

Toll Free 1-877-RESERVE

1-877-(737-3783)

www.pccamping.ca

## Road Conditions

Toll Free 1-877-627-6237

www.gov.mb.ca/roadinfo

## Weather Office

www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca

## Emergency 911

Police | Fire | Ambulance

## Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

1-204-848-2442

## 24-Hour Park Emergency Service

Toll Free 1-877-852-3100

Public safety, wildlife &  
park enforcement

Jay Mitchosky (Last years winner)



# 2011 Riding Mountain Photo Contest

## Themes

1. Nature
2. Wildlife
3. People in the Park



## Prize

1. First place prize package includes a Riding Mountain National Park Annual Family Pass, and the first place photo will appear in the park's 2012 Visitor Guide

## Eligibility

Contest open to everyone, including professional photographers. A Special Junior Photographer category.

## For Full Details

1. Visit [www.friendsofridingmountain.ca](http://www.friendsofridingmountain.ca).
2. Ask at the Nature Shop in the Visitor Centre, or the Friends Learning Centre at 154 Columbine, in Wasagaming.

## Entry deadline:

December 1, 2011

## Further Reading & Resources



Friends of RMNP  
204-848-4037

[friendsofridingmountain.ca](http://friendsofridingmountain.ca)



Travel Manitoba  
1-800-665-0040  
[travelmanitoba.com](http://travelmanitoba.com)



Tourism Westman  
1-866-234-8687

[tourismwestman.com](http://tourismwestman.com)

Wasagaming  
Chamber of  
Commerce  
204-848-2742  
[discoverclearlake.com](http://discoverclearlake.com)



City of Dauphin  
1-877-566-5669  
[tourismdauphin.ca](http://tourismdauphin.ca)

Riding Mountain  
Biosphere Reserve  
204-636-2085  
[mbr.ca](http://mbr.ca)



Parkland Tourism  
Association  
1-888-528-6484  
[parklandtourism.com](http://parklandtourism.com)

Gail Marchessault

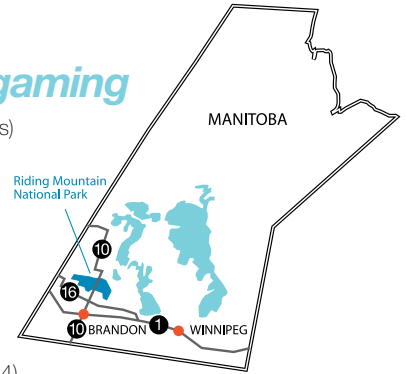


## Distances

**To: Wasagaming**

**From:** (in hours)

- Brandon (1)
- Peace Gardens (2)
- Yorkton (2.5)
- Winnipeg (2.75)
- Minot (3.5)
- Regina (4.5)
- Grand Forks (5)
- Saskatoon (6)
- Banff National Park (14)



**ENJOY ALL 4 SEASONS**

at Riding Mountain National Park

**1.204.848.7275**

