

# **Contents**

2	Parks Canada Welcome
4	2012 Special Events
5	Visitor Centre
6	Wasagaming
8	Camping
10	<b>Guided Experiences</b>
12	First Nations
13	<b>Audy Fescue Grassland</b>
14	Trails
16	RMNP Map
18	<b>Wasagaming Map</b>
19	Clear Lake Map
20	<b>Experiencing Riding Mountain</b>
22	Wildlife
24	Bear Aware, Spruce Budworm
	& Firewood
25	Park History
<b>26</b>	Partners
<b>28</b>	Public Safety
30	2012 RMNP Photo Contest

**Contact Information /** 

**Further Reading & Resources** 

31

# Welcome

### ...to Riding Mountain National Park!

Welcome to 3000 km<sup>2</sup> of possibilities, where the boreal forest, the aspen parkland, and the fescue prairie greet visitors of all ages and abilities. Our welcoming community and pristine wilderness will help you to reconnect with the best of Manitoba and Canada, and offer you a vast array of opportunities for relaxation, laughter, discovery and fun.

The picturesque town of Wasagaming, which bustles on busy summer days, has been creating indelible family memories for generations. The East Gate Registration Complex National Historic Site reminds us of the early days of Canada's national parks system, a system which just celebrated its 100th birthday.

Riding Mountain has something to offer everyone. Whether you spend time listening for the bugling of elk in the fall, or getting the jump on the lively summer season with an early spring hike. Whatever experiences you are looking for, you will find something for everyone here at Riding Mountain National Park.

Our national parks, national historic sites, and national marine conservation areas are an important part of what makes Canada such a great place to live. From coast to coast to coast you can explore the very essence of Canada through these special places.



Along with all of our partners and neighbours in the Parkland region, let us be your starting point for an inspiring discovery of all that the area has to offer... we're sure you'll find something here to treasure!

Robert Sheldon Superintendent



















Sep. 21-23

Oct. 20

Dec. 18

# **2012 Special Events**

Our list of Special Events is always changing. You can get updates at the Visitor Centre by calling 204-848-7275 or by visiting www.parkscanada.gc.ca/riding.

May 18-21	May Long Weekend – Summer Kickoff!
May 27	Walk for MS - Lakeshore Walk
June 9-10	GPS Adventure Quest
June 16-17	Learn to Camp Event
June 21	National Aboriginal Day
June 30	Free Outdoor Concert -
	Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra
July 1	Canada Day
July 7	Bioblitz
July 14	Clear Lake Celebration Day
July 21	Parks Day
July 21	Prisoner of War Wagon Tour
July 29	RCMP Musical Ride - Onanole
Aug. 10-12	Wasagaming Weekend
	(Parade & Kiddie Parade)
Aug. 18-25	Tamarack Golf Tournament
Aug. 18-19	Riding Mountain Triathlon & Kids of Steel
Aug. 18	Supper-in-the-Field at the East Gate
Aug. 21-26	Clear Lake Chamber Music Festival
Aug. 25	Boo in the Park
Sep. 2	Prisoner of War Wagon Tour
Sep. 8-9	RONA MS Bike Tour
Sep. 19	Clear Lake Cleanup

Sonics & Sojourns

**Friends Fright Night** 

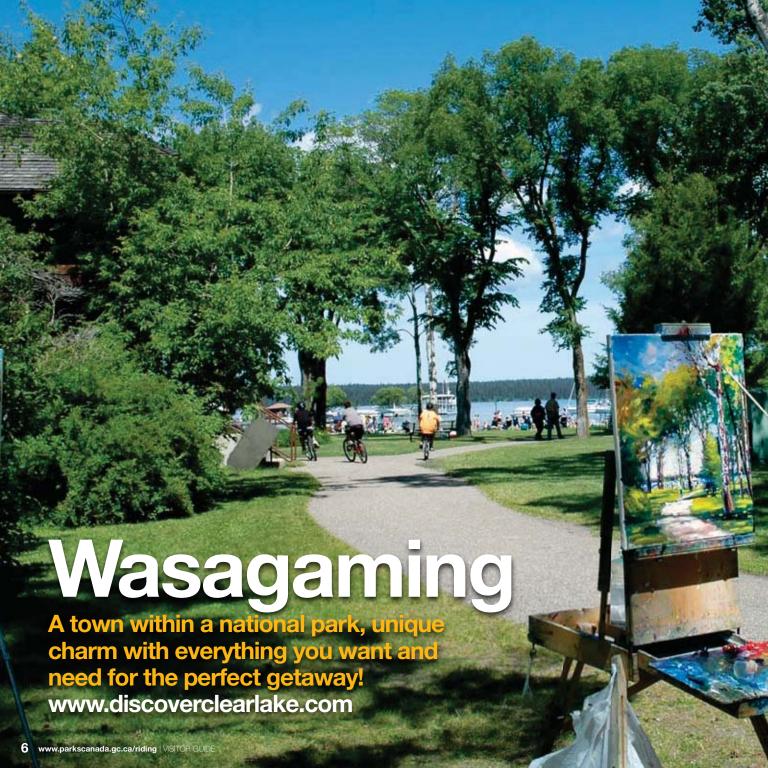
**Christmas Bird Count** 

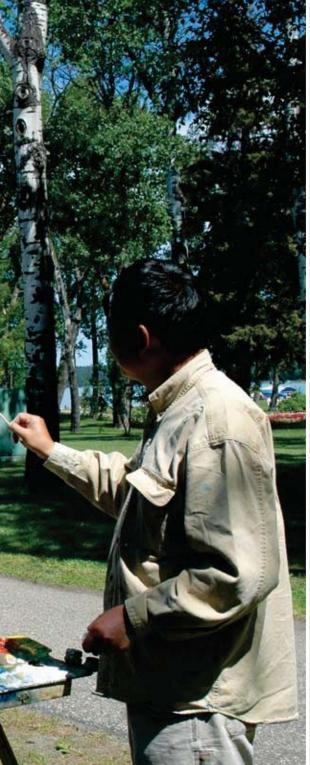


• Information about guided hikes and

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

Accessibility - The park is accessible to persons 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.













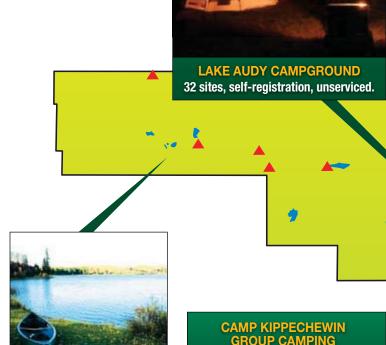


# Camping Reserve. Relax. Experience.

For Wasagaming Campground, oTENTik and Yurt Camping call 1-877-RESERVE (1-877-737-3783) or visit pccamping.ca.

For Cairns' Cabin, Group, Backcountry, Yurt (November to April) and Winter Camping, visit the Park Office or call **204-848-7275**.





16 Backcountry campsites in wilderness areas, reservations only, unserviced. For reservations call 204-848-7275. See page 16 for more complete Backcountry Camping list.



**DEEP LAKE** 

**CAMPGROUND** 

12 sites, self-registration,

unserviced.



1 site, reservations only,

unserviced.





CAIRN'S CABIN

14.4 km down the Ochre River Trail.
Rustic cabin.
Reservations only, unserviced.



WHIRLPOOL LAKE CAMPGROUND
Walk-in access only, 15 sites,
self-registration, unserviced.



YURT CAMPING
Year-round soft-shelled accommodation.
Sleeps five people. Reservations only.

# Guided Experiences

# 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. Morning Hikes, Afternoon Interpreter in Action Stations, Citizen Science and Magical and Mysterious Evening. For more information visit the Visitor Centre or call 204-848-7275. Pre-registration is advised. Fees may apply.

## **New This Season**

**New!** Into the Wild Car Caravan - Start your night by enjoying some of the remarkable sights Riding Mountain National Park has to offer from the comfort of your car! A couple short stops along the way will highlight the splendour the park has to offer! Finish the night by cozying up next to a forested campfire, with a comforting mug of hot chocolate in hand, while you investigate and discover clues that have you becoming a detective and solving the great Moon Lake Boreal Mystery!

### New! Lake Audy Bison Safari & Campfire -

Spend an evening with North America's largest land mammal while losing yourself in the gently rolling terrain of the fescue grasslands they call home. Follow an interpreter while they show you the best spots to catch a Bison in their natural habitat, all from the comfort of your own car! Tune in on the radio while you learn fascinating facts about these gentle giants. Finish the night off with a stunning view of the sun setting over the calm waters of Lake Audy, while sitting around a prairie campfire.

**New!** Fire - From Foe to Friend Hike - Come take a walk on the wild side of things to decide if fire is good or bad for the landscape. Join an interpreter while you hike along a recently burned trail to learn how dynamic fire really is.

**Also new this season -** Eco-Nerd Live Theatre, Wilderness Wisdom Campfire, Puppet Show and "Where Does the Water Wander?" - Watershed Demo

# July & August

# **SUNDAY**

### **MORNING**

**Gorge Creek Hike** 10 am 🏚 🚍

### **AFTERNOON**

Interpreter in **Action Station: New!** Puppet Show

Playground 2 pm & 3 pm 🏧

#### **EVENING**

New! Into the Wild Car Caravan 7 pm 🟚 🚍 🌉

**Bear Aware Campfire** Wasagaming

Campground 7 pm 🌂

**Moon Lake Mystery Campfire** 

Moon Lake Campground 8:30 pm 🗮



# **MONDAY**

### MORNING

New! Fire-From **Foe to Friend Hike** 10 am 🟚 🚍

Jr. Naturalist 10 am 🛍

### **AFTERNOON**

Jr. Naturalist 1:30 pm 敢

Afternoon with a Scientist: Citizen Science Assist with ongoing research on Clear Lake 1 pm 宜

Interpreter in **Action Station:** Making the Mountain **Escarpment Demo** 2 pm ♣ 👯 🐠

### **EVENING**

7 pm 🚍 类

New! Lake Audv **Bison Safari &** Campfire Bison exhibit at Lake Audy

**Behind the Research: Discovery Series** 7 pm 🏚

The Grassland **Mystery Campfire** Lake Audy Campground 8:30 pm 🗮

# **TUESDAY**

**Grasshopper Valley** Hike 10 am 🟚 🚍

Jr. Naturalist

## 10 am 🕏 **AFTERNOON**

Jr. Naturalist 1:30 pm 🕏

**Interpreter in Action Station: Songs of Riding** Mountain 

### **EVENING**

### **Songs of Riding Mountain Campfire**

Wasagaming Campground 7 pm 类

"Firefly Hikes" 7 pm to 9 pm 🥞







# Junior Naturalist Program

Gives children ages 5-12 the opportunity to learn about nature, wildlife and the cultural / archaeological history of RMNP.

Monday to Friday - 10 am to noon; 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

# Li'l Critter Camp

Featuring arts, crafts and games. A great end to the afternoon. Ages 5 and up.

Monday to Friday - 4 pm to 5 pm

# Young Explorers Programs 👺

Geared towards children ages 7 to 14. Firefly Hikes - Explore a forest at night with only a flashlight. Tuesday 7-9 pm. Tires and Tracks - Head out into the unknown on your bikes.

Saturday - 10 am - noon

To register: Call 204-848-4037 or visit friendsofridingmountain.ca



# 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 or visit www.keeseekoowenin.com



The Keeseekoowenin Oiibway 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.

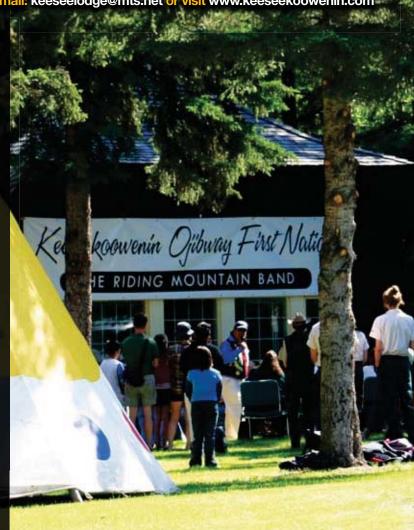
It is thought that the First Peoples have been living in the Riding Mountain area since the great glacier moved off the land around 10,000 years ago.

First Peoples and their descendents 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 deep groundwater-fed lake is derived from the Creator and the underground springs that feed it are the veins of Mother Earth.

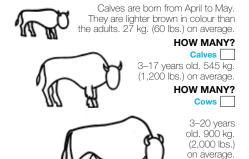
Parks Canada and the Anishinabe share a common interest of protecting this very special place and will continue to work together to do this.



# BISON ENCLOSURA Ν LAKE AUDY ROAD (scenic road) HWY 10 DISTRICT STATION PARK BOUNDARY Keeseekoowenin 61A PR 354 HWY 10 NASAGAM**I**NG ONANOLE LAKE AUDY BISON ENCLOSURE TO CENTRAL / STRATHCLAIR TRAIL HEAD PASTURE **FENCE** TO HWY #10 & WASAGAMING

### WHAT DID YOU SEE?

HOW MANY?



TO ONANOLE

# **Audy Fescue** Grassland

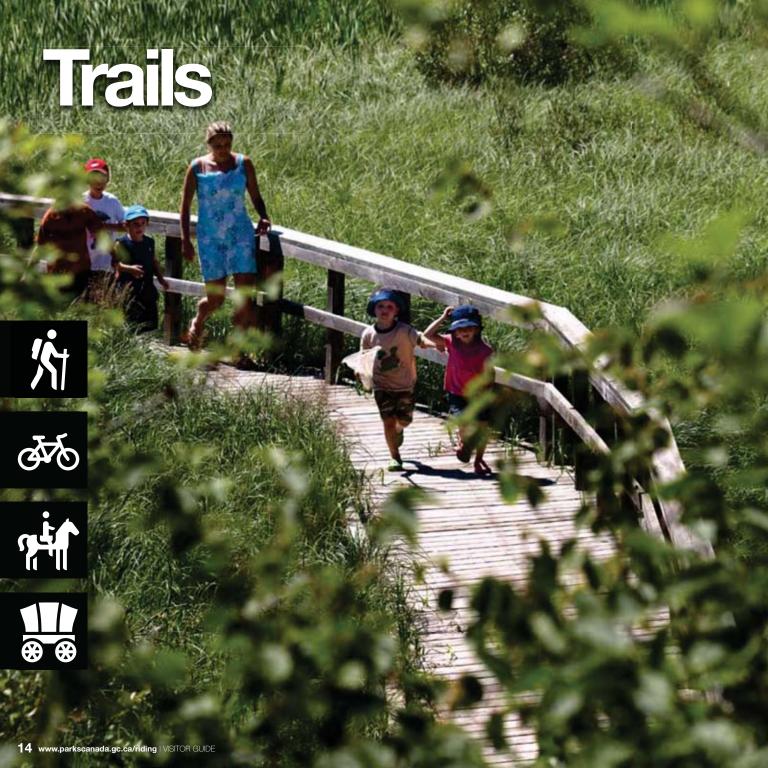
From the comfort of your vehicle, view the bison of Lake Audy roaming the rough fescue grassland plains, an increasingly rare example of natural prairie in Canada.

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 guickly 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.



**Accessible** 

Easy



Moderate ♦ Difficult

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



Name • Difficulty • Type • Map Reference • Distance

# **FAMILY FRIENDLY (less than 1 hour)**

Lakeshore short loop	か 然 あ	5I	1.0 km, one way
Ominnik Marsh	<b>/</b> 5	5I	1.9 km, return
Boreal	<u> </u>	31	1.0 km, return
Kippan's Mill	<b>/</b> 51	21	1.2 km, return
<b>Burls &amp; Bittersweet</b>	<b>/</b> 51	4K	2.2 km, return
Scott Creek	● 労 ∞	3K	2.4 km, one way
Loon's Island	<b>小</b>	5.1	2.4 km return

GREAT HIKES				
Brûlé		Ś	5J	2.1/4.2 km, return
Oak Ridge		竹	<b>3K</b>	3.1/6.4 km, return
Beach Ridges		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> H	3.5 km, return
Lakeshore long loop		竹	5I	7.2 km, return
South Lake		<b>添</b>	5I	3.4 km, return
Arrowhead		<b>1</b> /7	5I	3.4 km, return
Kinosao		竹 硒	5I	3.9 km, one way
Bead Lakes		<b>1</b>	41	4.0 km, return
Clear Lake South Shore		竹 碗 啪	<b>5</b> I	7.0 km, one way
Gorge Creek	•	竹	5K	6.4 km, one way
Moon Lake	•	为	3H	9.2 km, return
Tilson Lake	•	常砂点	<b>2C</b>	38.6 km, return

### **CYCLING ADVENTURES**

Cowan Lake		竹 硒		7.8 km, one way
Strathclair		为 参 # 器	<b>3G</b>	22.9 km, one way
<b>Wasagaming Bike Trail</b>		竹碗	5I	5.5 km, one way
Grey Owl		为杨	41	8.9 km, one way
Clear Lake North Shore		为 必 州	41	9.5 km, one way
J.E.T.	•	为	4K	7.8 km, one way
Bald Hill	•	が 発	4K	8.4 km, one way

### HORSE AND WAGON TRAILS

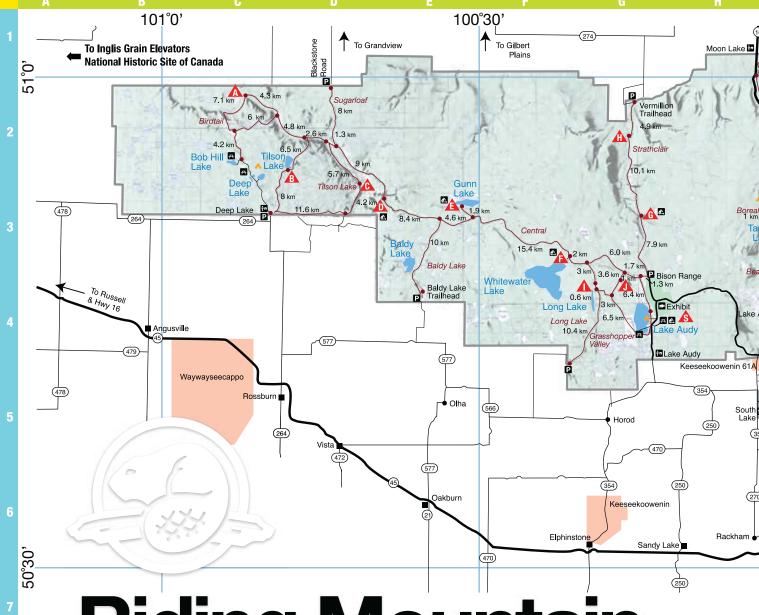
HOHOL AND WAGON HIALES				
Breezy Hill		4K	1.8 km, one way	
Baldy Lake	器 豫 硷 农	4E	10 km, one way	
Long Lake	器 豫 砀 汉 🔵	4G	14.0 km, one way	
Grasshopper Valley	· 水 参 · 水	<b>4G</b>	20.5 km, loop	
Sugarloaf	器 豫 添 穴	<b>2D</b>	8.0 km, one way	
North Escarpment	常 添 於	<b>4K</b>	8.4 km, one way	
Crawford Creek	竹 添 啪	<b>2</b> I	10.0 km, return	
Birdtail	竹 添 拼	<b>2C</b>	11.4 km, one way	
Central Trail	票 豫 ൽ 常	3F	66.3 km, return	
Gunn Lake	器 豫 硷 次	<b>3E</b>	14.6 km, one way	
Packhorse	常 添 次	<b>4K</b>	11.5 km, return	
Ochre River	☆ ☆ ☆	41	24.9 km, one way	
Muskrat Lake	● 炊 極 ∰	6K	9.3 km, one way	



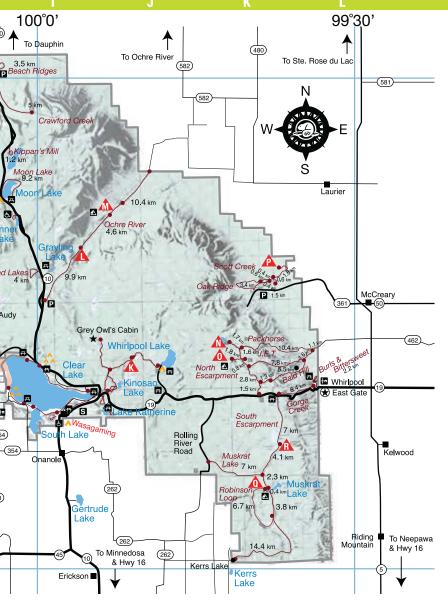
## Adventures just for kids!

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.





# Riding Mountain National Park of Canada



# **Distances from Wasagaming**

North Entrance Gate 53 km Lake Audy Bison Enclosure 39 km Moon Lake Campground 34 km

East Entrance Gate 34 km Deep Lake Campground 113 km Whirlpool Lake Campground 15 km

# Visit www.cachingridingmountain.ca to find out more about Geocaching in the Riding Mountain area. You can download coordinates to some of the park's hidden treasures onto your GPS unit and then go exploring! Don't have your own GPS e? That's ok. Stop by the Friends Learning Centre and you can pick one up. Call 204-848-4037 for more information.

# **LEGEND**

- **National Historic Site**
- **Tenting**
- **Group Tenting**
- **Bald Hill**
- Other Attractions
- Warden Station
- Picnic Area
- Wheelchair Accessible
- Viewpoint
- **Bison Enclosure**
- P **Parking**
- Horse Corral
- **Provincial Roads**
- **Provincial Trunk Highways** 
  - Trail
  - Town
  - Landmark
  - **First Nations**

# **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

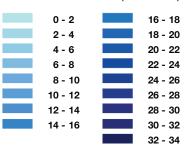






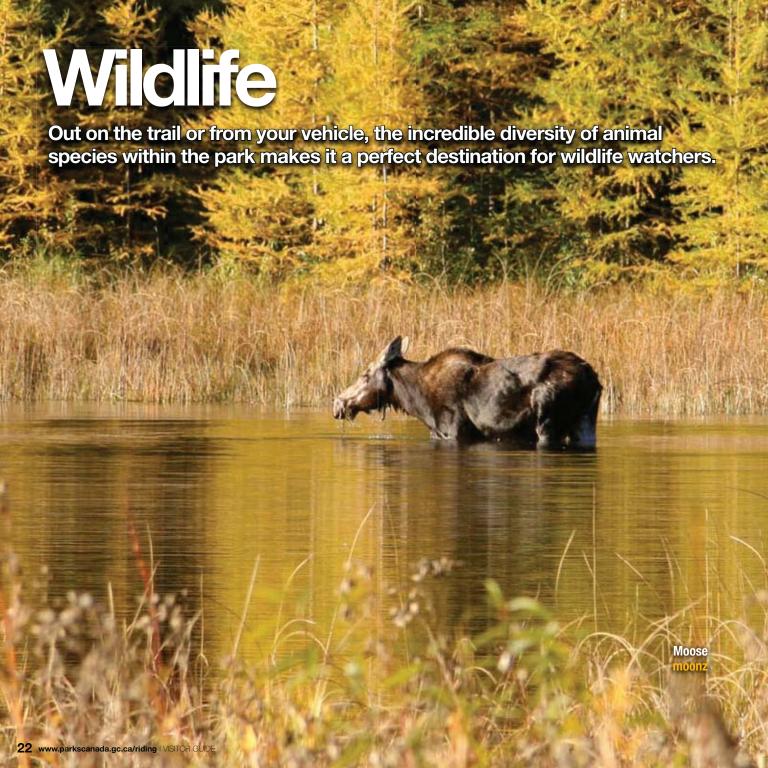


# **WATER DEPTH** (in metres)









# **Always Keep Your Distance**

STAY SAFE. No matter how tame they may seem, ALL park animals are unpredictable and potentially dangerous.

# Wondering where to spot wildlife?

- Join a Call of the Wild Car Caravan -Register at the Visitor Centre.
- · Ask the 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.

**English and Anishinabe spellings** 























# **Spruce Budworm update** for the Clear Lake Area -**Spring 2012**

The current outbreak of spruce budworm (SBW) in RMNP was first detected in the spring of 2005. SBW monitoring began in 2006 and one of our key measures is a moth count conducted in July each year. Average moth counts in 2010 and 2011 were significantly lower than previous counts.

This may signal an end to the Spruce Budworm outbreak in RMNP, but Park staff will continue to monitor the situation and will provide further updates in the future. Manitoba Conservation, Forestry Branch, is predicting "light" defoliation for RMNP in 2012.



# Keep bears wild and alive, maintain a wildlife attracta free lot or campsite. Please leave any items that will attract wildlife in a hard sided vehicle when vour 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

Current trail conditions, bear information and to report bear sightings, please call 204-848-7275
For wildlife emergencies please call 1-877-852

#### **HELP PROTECT MANITOBA'S TREES**

# Do Not Move Firewood!



Invasive forest pests (non-native pests and diseases) can have serious negative impacts on forests, both in your home town and in wilderness areas like Riding Mountain National Park.

 Any items associated with food preparation or clean up

 Grey water pails BBO's and bird feeders

Currently, pests like the emerald ash borer (EAB) and Asian long-horned beetle are threatening Canada's forests.

The EAB has killed millions of ash trees in North America, and is spreading toward Manitoba quickly. Forest pests like the emerald ash borer can be transported to unaffected areas through the movement of firewood. When you are vacationing this summer. please purchase firewood locally and leave it where you bought it. **Do not move any firewood!** 

Asian Lona-horned beetle

# Park History



# Riding Mountain East Gate

Riding Mountain East Gate Registration Complex National Historic Site, built in 1930, is the only original park gate left standing in Canada.



# Wishing Well

Toss a coin and make a wish - one of the oldest traditions in the park!



# **Prisoner of War Camp**

440 German POWs were sent to Whitewater Lake during WWII. To take part in one of the POW Wagon Rides held on July 21 and September 2, call 204-848-4037.



# Park Theatre

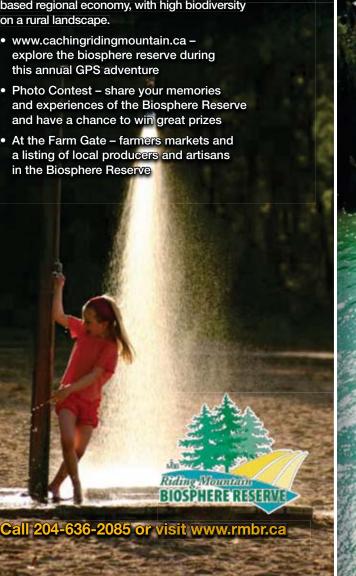
The largest all-log theatre in North America, built in 1937.



# **Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve**

The Biosphere Reserve is made up of a core protected area, RMNP, and is surrounded by 15 rural municipalities. The Biosphere Reserve fosters and encourages a sustainable communitybased regional economy, with high biodiversity on a rural landscape.

- www.cachingridingmountain.ca explore the biosphere reserve during this annual GPS adventure
- Photo Contest share your memories and experiences of the Biosphere Reserve and have a chance to win great prizes
- At the Farm Gate farmers markets and a listing of local producers and artisans in the Biosphere Reserve



Riding Mountain

# **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 Wasagaming. Look for posters or ask at the Visitor Centre for a listing of events.

# **Public Safety**

# **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.

# 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.

# **Water Safety**

Whether you are swimming at the beach or on the water in a pleasure craft, please keep in mind that water safety saves lives.

- Be a lifequard for your children
- Swim with a buddy
- Make sure every trip is a round trip and drive responsibly
- Pleasure Craft Operator cards are required in RMNP

# **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.



# Did you know?

# Fishing.

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

# Leave it for others to enjoy.

Take nothing but photos and leave nothing but your footprints.

# Backcountry.

A backcountry permit is required 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.







# 2012 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 2013 Visitor Guide.

# **Eligibility**

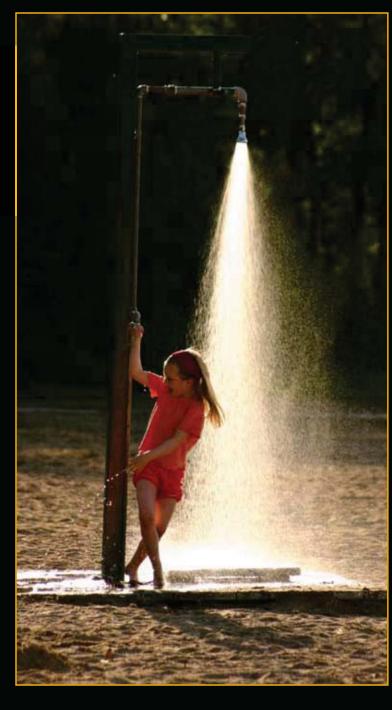
Contest open to everyone, including professional photographers. A Special Junior Photographer category.

## **For Full Details**

- 1. Visit 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 7, 2012

Last years photo contest winner: Tony Lopez





# **Contact Information**

# Riding Mountain National Park

Toll Free 1-888-773-8888 1-204-848-PARK (7275)

Hearing impaired, TTY 1-866-787-6221 rmnp.info@pc.gc.ca www.parkscanada.gc.ca/riding

# Wasagaming Campground Reservations

Toll Free 1-877-737-3783 1-877 (RESERVE) www.pccamping.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

# **Further Reading & Resources**



#### Friends of RMNP 204-848-4037 friendsofridingmountain.ca



# Travel Manitoba

#### Travel Manitoba 1-800-665-0040 travelmanitoba.com





#### Tourism Westman 1-866-234-8687 tourismwestman.ca





#### City of Dauphin 1-877-566-5669 tourismdauphin.ca





Parkland Tourism
Association
1-888-528-6484
parklandtourism.com





Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve 204-636-2085 rmbr.ca





Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation 204-625-2043 keeseekoowenin.com





#### Wasagaming Chamber of Commerce 204-848-2742 discoverclearlake.com





**New** this season at Riding Mountain!



# No RV? No Tent? No Problem!

Each has the following amenities:

2 Queen and 1 Double-size sleeping platforms • sleeps up to six table and chairs • woodstove • picnic table • propane bbq • firepit

Reserve your **experience** today!

www.pccamping.ca • 1-877-737-3783 www.parkscanada.gc.ca/riding



