



NEWS RELEASE

July 11, 2014

WAGON TRAIN TREKS THE ATHABASCA LANDING TRAIL

Enjoy watching a trip back in time when the Western Canadian Wagon Train (WCWT) travels along a portion of the historic Athabasca Landing Trail (ALT) on July 18-21, 2014. The wagon train group will camp each evening on the south side of the Echo Lake campground in Westlock County, taking day trips to the east and north of the campsite starting at about 10:00 am each day.

The wagon train group will have about a dozen wagons and 3-4 “outriders” on saddle horses. They will cover a leisurely four miles per day: some across private or crown land, some along road allowance, and some on the rough ruts left from the original 100 year old trail.

The 2014 trek is the sixth year group has travelled along a portion of the trail. “We are trying to create more awareness of the trail project and the fact that people are working to develop this into a continuous recreational trail that we can all enjoy,” said George Wayne, a member of WCWT and the ALT Steering Committee. “The trail is part of Alberta’s history; having people see a historic method of travel on it will bring that history home.”

The wagon train will be most visible on the Friday trek when they will travel along the road from Echo Lake to the Redwater Bridge near Half Moon Lake Hall. This bridge was built in 2010 under the guidance of the Athabasca Landing Trail steering committee.

The committee’s goal is to develop a non-motorized recreational trail, following the path of the original historic route wherever possible. This trail, dubbed “The 100 Mile Portage,” played a key role in the transporting of goods, services and settlers between Edmonton and Athabasca in the late 1800s. The recreated trail will offer recreational opportunities for Albertans and visitors, preserve and protect the human and natural history, and bring new economic opportunities to the area. The trail route is registered as part of the Trans Canada Trail in Alberta.

The Athabasca Landing Trail Steering Committee has representation from the Town of Athabasca, County of Athabasca, City of Fort Saskatchewan, Westlock County, Sturgeon County, Athabasca Recreational Trails Association, Western Canadian Wagon Train, Alberta TrailNet Society and Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation. Visit www.athabascalandingtrail.com.

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Media contacts:

Geoff Hale (leader of 2014 trek)
Western Canadian Wagon Train
Cell 1-780-901-3354

Wilf Boissy
Western Canadian Wagon Train
Cell 1-780-504-7851