

St Albert Trekkers Volkssport Club History

1985 - 1989

Volkssport in Alberta began in 1985 as a Midnight Twilight Tourist Association promotion for travel in Zone 14. Travel Alberta agreed to fund these activities from 1985-89 with the understanding that local clubs would be formed to take over events and funding. Under the encouragement of Dave Phillips, Director of tourism for The Midnight Twilight Tourist Association, interested St. Albert walkers met on February 5, 1988 at the Glaewyn Club House to discuss the formation of a club. Zelda Phillips was elected president and the first trail director was Pete Awender. A meeting was called for March 2, 1988 at the Glaewyn Club House for which we have the first recorded minutes followed by an Annual General Meeting on March 22.

The new club helped with the April 24 Guided walk for the Canadian Volkssport Federation Second Annual General Meeting, held in St. Albert, the "Amerika Flug" German tour walk June 18, and the St. Albert annual event July 30/31. The closing event of the year was a potluck, business meeting and games of court whist on November 5. This was the first year for the Trekkers to support the VAA held casino for raising funds to promote Volkssport in Alberta, an activity still supported by Trekker volunteers.

With Dave Phillips as president, and Doug Harvey, trail master, the Trekkers continued as co-sponsors with MTTA for the St. Albert July event in 1989 and helped again with the German walking tour. However, a Trekker sponsored inaugural walk for the new St. Albert Year Round Walk was held June 3, with ribbons for the seventy-nine participants, a medallion of St Albert Place designed by Allen Nuttall, and a celebration barbeque at the Harvey home in the afternoon. A membership table was set up at this walk and by June 30, the club had 31 memberships for a total of 66 members. Bob Pass introduced the Mountain Majesty walks with three events in Kananaskis on the Labour Day weekend. Minutes record that the trekker club was incorporated under the terms of the Societies Act of Alberta, October 23, 1989.

Light blue T-shirts with Trekker logo were available to club members this year.

1990 – 1994

1990

During 1990, the Trekkers sponsored twelve events. New to the schedule was a ski on March 18, an Easter Parade walk to "kick off" the new year round route on April 14, a "Week-in-the-Life" of St. Albert guided walk May 20 and two sponsorships only for walks at Slave Lake and Morinville. The Morinville Chamber of Commerce co-sponsored this event which was organized by Jim, and Helen Rousseau. It is interesting to note that 124 walkers registered for this walk in 1990 and this is recorded as 10% less than the MTTA walk there the previous year! Also included in this list was the first Edmonton river valley 10km walk, with 105 walkers, and a 25 km cycle with 20 participants, with a sellout of the award featuring the Provincial Legislature Building. The July 28/29 annual 10 and 20 km walk was commemorated with a medallion of the loon, a continuation of the bird series begun by the MTTA. Subsequent awards until 1996

for this event would include: the blue jay, the black billed magpie, black capped chickadee, the cedar waxwing, evening grosbeak, and downy woodpecker. Mountain walkers could purchase patches for souvenirs of the annual mountain events. It was recorded on June 27th that 193 participants had walked the St. Albert Year Round Walk. A medallion of Vital Grandin was available for 1990 with subsequent awards of the grain elevators, the Bruin Inn, the Brick School (1909-1958) and the CNR Trestle Bridge for 1994 when YRE awards were discontinued. Credit goes to Phil Sturges for the design and ordering of all awards after 1989. Club volunteers worked for the Connect '90 table (a display of community activities) on September 8 and this annual activity was continued until 1995. The mountain walks were held at Jasper September 1-3. This was the year we said good bye to Dave and Zelda when they resigned as president and past president, respectively, to move to Kingston. Bob Pass took over as president and Gertrude Grieve replaced Bob as secretary.

1991

Our schedule increased by seven events during 1991. Phil Sturges was now president and Bruce O'Neil, trailmaster, positions which they also held for 1992. A Canada Fitness Week guided walk was held on May 29 with 79 walkers. The Annual July walk became a trio of events with the addition of a 25 Km cycle and a 300m swim on one day only, July 27th, with 192 participants that day. The following day, the VAA and Trekkers co-sponsored a VAA Presidents walk starting at the Alberta Legislature grounds. Mountain Majesty was held at Banff on a warm Aug.3-5 weekend. The club held a guided walk from Emily Murphy Park September 2. Wieners, knockwurst, and near beer were provided at the October walk (128 participants) and cycle(16) which was commemorate with a medal depicting the Alberta Hotel (1903-1984). Two guided walks were held on October 12 (Chickakoo Lake) and October 19 (St. Albert) and October guided walks were added to the schedule for future years.

Trekker volunteers helped the MS Society set up the trail for their Medley Fund Raiser walk for this year and for 1992. Volunteers from the club also took part in the Edmonton River Valley clean up and continued doing so until 1995. A Trekker display was set up in Confederation Park for the Leap into Leisure information fair for this year and again in 1992.

1992

1992 started out on the right foot when our first New Year's Day walk was held with 23 participants. The 1991 wind-up event, a guided walk and potluck supper was held on January 25. A vernal Equinox celebration, a guided walk, pot-luck supper and Annual general Meeting was held March 21. Club membership was announced as approximately 90 members. The 25km seasonal bike route (April15- October 15) was set up beginning at the St. Albert Inn. Participants could buy a medallion of the Old Strathcona Post Office during the October volksmarch. We held our first 10km Christmas light walk with short bus rides taking us to brightly decorated areas and refreshments shared enroute.

1993 & 1994

During 1993 and 1994, the Trekkers were under the leadership of Bruce O'Neil as president and Jim Irwin as trail master. Twenty-five events were held, 12 of which were

listed in the World Book, 13 others which included 2 Volksskis, 7 guided walks with 4 sets of the guided walks organized by Vice-president Grace Newman in conjunction with the International Training in Communication (ITC) Convention in Edmonton. A guided walk was added to the annual July volksmarch weekend which was now dubbed the “six-pack” weekend. The annual October event became known as the Oktoberfest (a medal of the new city hall and clock tower was provided), and a November 20 guided walk was added to the schedule. This was the first year that alternate cold weather dates were issued for the Christmas Light and New Year’s Day walks.

1994

At the 1994 AGM, the secretary’s position, held by Pat Sturges since 1992, was divided into three positions, recording secretary, membership secretary and newsletter editor. New event additions for 1994 included the “Longest Day Walk” on June 1st with a medallion depicting Bottom from “A Midsummer’s Night’s Dream”. This was the International Year of the Family which was honoured by walks on July 1 (Our first Canada Day walk) and on Octobers 8. Trekkers were also actively involved in helping the VAA host the CVF Annual General Meeting and Convention April 29- May 1 and cosponsored the Presidents Walk. An award showing the Space Science Centre was available at the Oktoberfest events.

The green Trekker club shirts were issued this year.

1995 – 1999

1995

By 1995, walkers collecting awards for the Morinville volksmarch now had the old town logo, the centennial emblem and a “hanger” with four additions depicting a stylized M for Morinville followed by symbols for forestry, farming and industry. Puck was featured on the June 21st award. This was the first year for the Trekker marathon suggested organized and manned by Grace Newman- a 42km trail composed of four loops coming back to the start/check point at City Hall held on the week end of the July volksmarch. An optional 10km walk was available. At the AGM, Bonnie Beaudry was nominated as president and Bob Pass as trailmaster. It was announced that the club had 103 members. The Oktoberfest events were commemorated with a medal of Edmonton’s bicentennial, 200 Years Building Together.

1996

More new events were added in 1996. These included the Rainbow Valley Campground “picnic” walks which were comprised of two guided walks with a group picnic lunch in between, and the November “Crockpot Walk”, a guided walk followed by a potluck. The Morinville volksmarch became a guided walk before a delightful “loonie lunch”. This was the year we added the option of walking the 25km cycle route during the annual July and Oktoberfest events. The last award, a profile of Emily Murphy was available as the latter event. Club membership was up to 165 persons and a total of 23 events were held by the Trekkers.

1997

Richard Parr became president by acclamation for 1997 with Carson McDonald assisted by Al Carlson as trail master. This was the year of the St. Albert year round walks additions, the option of a 25km walk using the seasonal cycle route was added to the YRE#1. Walk #2, previously known as the Landmarks and Points of Interest Walk, and Walk #3, from Tim Horton's, rounded out the trio. The marathon, this time with routes planned and manned by Bob Pass, moved to the Edmonton river valley for four components of 10, 21, 31, or 42km, with the option of walking any or all of the segments. This was our first year to co-sponsor an Oct. walk with the Loyal Edmonton Regiment. We decided to have the following mailing address instead of an address that changed each time a new president was elected.

St Albert Trekkers Volkssport Club
Box 146, 3-11 Bellerose Drive,
St. Albert, AB T8N 5C9

We purchased five metres of the Trans Canada Trail during April and became members of the St. Albert Partners in Parks program with the goal of helping to keep the trails tidy.

1998

Our schedule of events continued to grow in 1998. A 5km route map was added to the St. Albert YRE#2 walk and the cycle became year round. The Morinville event increased to a guided walk in Morinville, the loonie lunch, and another walk in Cardiff. The evening guided walk on the July event weekend was dropped and a new Fall Equinox guided walk added to the program. (We found out the hard way that darkness comes early by this time of the year.) This was our 10th anniversary of the Mountain Majesty walks. The club had a membership of 158 at the end of this year.

1999

Richard, in 1999, agreed to stay another term as president. Marlene Heth and Karen Marriott became the trailblazers by acclamation. The Mountain Majesty/ marathon Trailmaster was Bob Pass. New activities for the club during 1999 included a guided walk and barbecue, hosted by Denis and Kelly Aubin, in Greisbach on July 24, 1999. The Trekkers were invited to the dedication of the Trans Canada Trail Pavilion on Sept. 9 where our club name is inscribed on panel four. A walk was held on October 23 to commemorate The 10th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the St. Albert Trekkers Volkssport Club under the Societies Act of Alberta, followed by a celebration cake. A new 5km route map was added to the St. Albert YRE #3. Membership announced in July stated 123 general memberships for 181 people. We completed the decade and the century with a year of 31 Trekker events

2000 – 2004

2000

Historical plaques were added to the St Albert Inn YRE route. Free club pins were given out to new members for the first time. The club hosted Mountain Majesty in Banff. The last year that the Trekkers hosted the Mountain Majesty walks on their own. Two Partners in Parks walks were scheduled. Helen & Ole Olson came

through on their cross Canada walk, a picnic was held with them and a number of walkers joined them on the trail.

Club hosted 4 YREs, 1 Cycle, and 26 events.

Membership as of the AGM:

Memberships –	115
Members -	161
Not yet renewed -	33

2001

The Loonie lunch increased to a Toonie. The trails were marked with flags for the first time. Club hosted 4 YREs, 1 Cycle and 25 events. Alberta Majesty was held in Kaananaskis. Profits from the Toonie lunch were used to purchase a meter of trail in Morinville.

Membership as of the AGM:

Memberships –	121
Members -	170
New	17
Renewed -	70%

2002

Trekkers hosted the VAA AGM at the St Albert Inn.

Club hosted 4 YREs, 1 Cycle, and 21 events.

Calgary club hosted Alberta Majesty.

Membership as of the AGM:

Memberships –	113
Members -	162
New	8

Trekkers helped with the CVF Convention in Medicine Hat, manning the registration desk Saturday morning. Grace Newman's committee handled the convention pre-registration

2003

Club hosted 5 YREs, 1 Cycle, and 21 events. Wolf Willow and Fort Saskatchewan YREs were added.

Membership as of the AGM:

Memberships –	104
Members -	161
New	7
Renewed -	65%

2004

Lifetime membership cards were presented to Jean Elder and Jim & Helen Rousseau for their long time support of the Trekkers as it was thought that they wouldn't qualify for a CVF award.

Mountain Majesty was held in Grande Cache and there were 195 registered over the weekend. This is the 1st year the newsletter was distributed by email. Club hosted 5 YREs, 1 Cycle, and 24 events and participated in a trade show at Snow Valley. New name tags were ordered and distributed to those who ordered them. The first group YRE was held in September in Fort Saskatchewan.

Membership as of the AGM:

Memberships –	97
Members -	140

2005 – 2009

2005

The Triathlon swim was moved from the Grosvenor outdoor pool to Fountain Park indoor pool. The check points were reduced to one for the marathon. Participated in a wellness event at the Sturgeon Hospital. Trekkers started a website. Pens were ordered for the 2006 CVF Convention tote bags and a print was ordered from Jean Peters for the silent auction. Club hosted 19 events, 6 YREs and 1 Cycle.

Membership as of the AGM:

Memberships –	98
Members -	133
New -	13

2006

During 2006 the President's position was passed on to Dave Luscombe. The CVF National Conference was held in Edmonton and hosted by the Volkssport Association of Alberta. Many members of the Trekkers helped in the co-ordination. The Fort Saskatchewan YRE was dropped and the Castle Downs YRE was added keeping the number at 6 YREs and one cycle.

2007

In 2007 new YREs were added at Sobey's Clareview and 2 in Sherwood Park bringing the total to 9 and one cycle. The club hosted the Alberta Majesty walks in Jasper which were a great success. Many thanks to David and Patti Prowse who developed all the routes and organized the facilities for the BBQ.

2008

At the 2008 spring AGM David Hall took over as President from Dave Luscombe. This was the first year of the club holding an event in Beaumont and 2 events were re-instituted in Athabasca.

2009

For the 2009 year 3 new YREs were added in Beaumont, Edmonton Kinsmen and Edmonton William Lutzky YMCA . This brings the total to 12 YREs and one cycle. The number of events were increased to 27 including a down town pedway walk through the down town pedway system.

2010 – Current

2010

2010 was a very busy year for the club. In the spring the club hosted the Alberta General Meeting and walks and banquet. It proved to be a very successful event with wide representation from across the province. Then in September it was the Trekkers turn to host the Alberta Majesty walks. These walks have alternated in responsibility between the Medicine Hat, St Albert and VAA clubs. The Trekkers selected Banff for the walks. Walks were held along the Spray River, Johnson Canyon, Tunnel Mountain, and Sulphur Mountain.

2011

During 2011 the 2 Athabasca walks were added back into the schedule. It brought the events up to 31. Membership was at 110 and the club had 12 YREs and 1 Cycle. In recent years the number of group YREs were increased and walkers were able to get out on the trails more often all year round.

Going into 2012 the club has 84 members. Members come from all areas of the Capital Region. The makeup of the 13 YREs and cycle are:

St Albert – 3

Edmonton – 6

Sherwood Park – 2

Beaumont – 1

Morinville – 1

St Albert Cycle – 1

2012

In 2012 the Trekkers took over the 2 YREs that were VAA in past years. Namely the Legislature and University walks. A route C was added to the Wolf Willow YRE which makes use of the great new pedestrian Bridge over the river. The club is hosting a CVF 25th Anniversary walk from Fort Edmonton on June 30th. .

