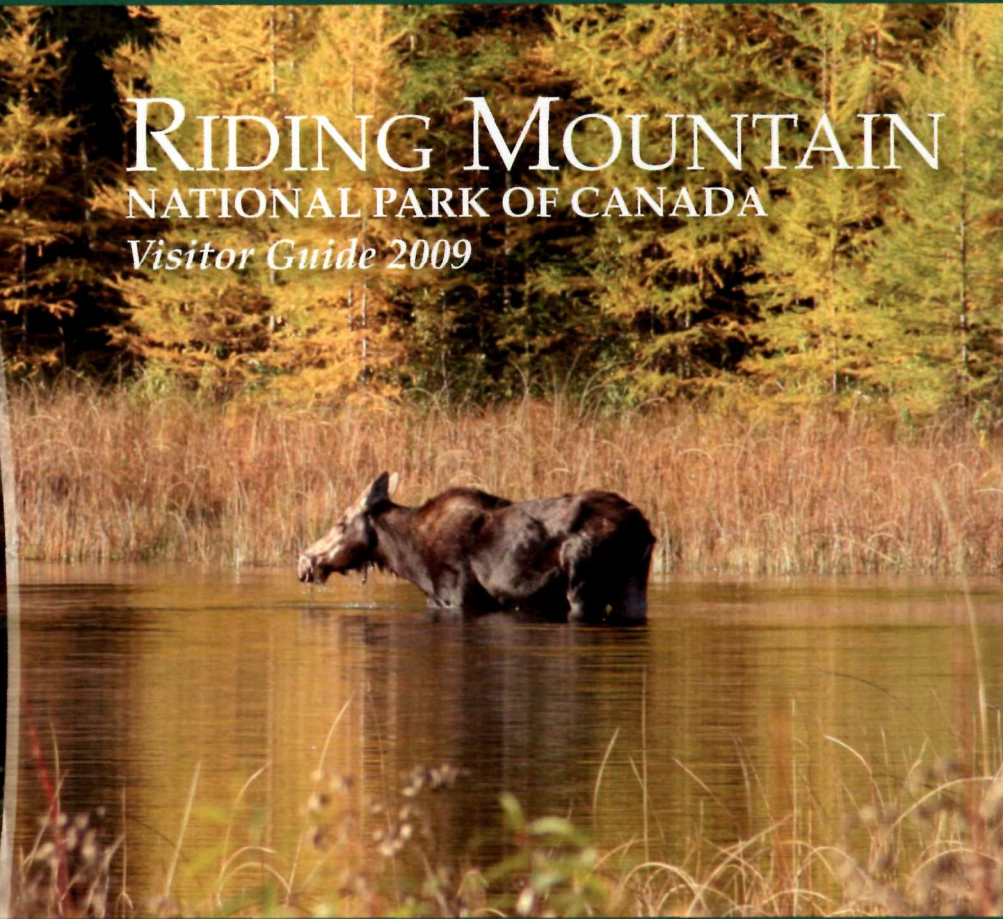




RIDING MOUNTAIN

NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA

Visitor Guide 2009



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Welcome

Welcome to Riding Mountain National Park and Riding Mountain Park East Gate Complex National Historic Site of Canada.

These treasures are yours to discover: breathtaking scenery, gracious people, picturesque sunsets and a landscape enchanting enough to inspire any artist. Hike, bike, or ski the 400kms of trails; participate in one of the Interpretive Experiences; take a drive out to the bison enclosure at Lake Audy; or visit the Keesee Sharing Lodge to learn about First Nation culture and history. The options are endless and the memories you take home will last a lifetime.

Come stay with us! Whether you camp



in the backcountry, stay in the yurt, or check into another of type accommodation from among the broad selection Wasagaming has to offer, we have something for you. Let us be your starting point for exploring all that the Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve and Parkland region has to offer.

We invite you to discover, enjoy and reflect on the natural and cultural heritage of Riding Mountain National Park and its neighbours ...an offer of unparalleled experiences!

Cheryl Penny
Superintendent



Manitoba
Star Attraction

*for all Canadians...
for all time*

Visitor Centre

The “meeting place” in Wasagaming is the Visitor Centre, a remarkable Federal Heritage Building, constructed mostly by local craftspeople in 1933 and now the hub of information for visitor needs.

Inside you will find a gift shop, a theatre, a resource library and the Discovery Room. Outside you will find fragrant, organic English gardens, and maybe even an interpreter or local expert putting on a demonstration. Visit the centre for maps, animal and bird sighting lists, National Park passes and fishing licenses or sign up for guided hike experiences and other outdoor adventures. While registering for your overnight backcountry permit, be sure to ask for an update on trail conditions and an orientation to the many trails and campsites available.



Visitor Centre Hours of Operation for 2009:

May 15 to June 25: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

June 26 to September 7: 9:30 am to 8:00 pm

September 8 to October 13: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm



Visitor Centre

CONTACT INFO

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 (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
Police • Fire • Ambulance
911

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

1-204-848-2442

24-Hour Park Warden Emergency Service

Toll Free 1-877-852-3100

Public safety and wildlife

2009 EVENTS

June 2009

- 12-14 Grey Owl Golf Tournament
13 & 14 Caching Riding Mountain GPS Adventure Quest
20 & 21 Square Dancing Jamboree (Onanole Community Centre)
21 National Aboriginal Day

2009 marks the **100th Anniversary of "Fire and Game Guardians"** and the **50th Anniversary of the first Interpretive Program.**



Chamber Days
Weekend Parade

July 2009

- 1 Canada Day
18 Parks Day
31-Aug. 3 Clear Lake Chamber Music Festival (Onanole Community Centre)

August 2009

- 7-9 Chamber Days Weekend and Parade
15 Supper in the Field
15-22 Tamarack Golf Tournament
15 Riding Mountain Triathlon Olympic Distance
16 Kids of Steel Triathlon
22 Boo in the Park

September 2009

- 5-7 Tennis Tournament
12 & 13 MS Bike Tour "Riding Mountain Challenge"
18-27 Sonics and Sojourns Fall Festival – Onanole

October 2009

- 24 Friends of RMNP Fright Night

December 2009

- 22 Christmas Bird Count

February 2010

- 27-28 Riding Mountain Loppet & Family Fun Day

Please check our website or Visitor Centre for event information.

Interpretive Experiences

“What does an elk’s bugle sound like? Have you had a family photo taken atop Bald Hill? What is it about sitting at the campfire that makes you want to sing?”

These are all questions that can be answered during an eye-opening interpretive experience, where you will develop a deeper understanding of the Park’s natural and cultural heritage. The Visitor Centre staff will help you choose an activity to suit your interests and ability.



Parks Canada

Interpretive experience



Learn the success story of the bison during a guided tour of the grasslands.



Discover the Park from the comfort of your vehicle on a Car Caravan.



Find all the hidden gems of the Park on a guided hike.



Retrace the steps of World War II P.O.W.'s on a horse-drawn wagon ride to Whitewater Lake.



Explore the unique properties of Clear Lake, the jewel of Riding Mountain's crown.



Feel the history of the East Gate Registration Complex National Historic Site of Canada.



Things to do

- ☞ Visit the Bison Enclosure. While you're there take in the lovely sunset over Lake Audy with a late picnic!
- ☞ Set up your hammock at one of the picnic sites along Lake Katherine during the heat of the day and enjoy the peace and quiet. Take a dip to cool off!
- ☞ Stop in at the Visitor Centre to see some informative wildlife displays and while you're there ask the Interpretation staff about their favourite spots in the park!
- ☞ Attend one of the many interesting, fun and educational Interpretive Experiences.



explor^{ez} sans fin
Canada
keep exploring

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

www.pc.gc.ca/riding

- ☞ Head out for an early morning hike to Bald Hill to take in one of the most spectacular views of the East end of the park.
- ☞ Hike into the Birdtail Valley and explore the beautiful backcountry in the Western end of the park.
- ☞ Strap the canoe to the car and head out to Moon Lake for a lovely day of paddling and picnicking.
- ☞ Organize a crew of family and friends to hike or bike out to Cairns Cabin for an overnight experience in the backcountry.
- ☞ Walk along the Ominnik Marsh first thing in the morning for a peaceful moment with the birds.
- ☞ Pack up the car and head North on HWY 10 to the far reaches of the park to enjoy a hike along the Beach Ridges loop.
- ☞ Have a family picnic and campout at Whirlpool Lake.
- ☞ Hike into the Grasshopper Valley during the elk rut for some spectacular wildlife viewing!
- ☞ Take a hike along the Gorge Creek... our most popular trail!
- ☞ Get your friends together for a fun game of lawn bowling in Wasagaming.
- ☞ Enjoy the spectacular view over Clear Lake from the Clear Lake Golf Course Restaurant.
- ☞ Beat the heat and take in an early morning game of golf at the renowned Clear Lake Golf Course.
- ☞ Go for a romantic stroll along the Lakeshore Walk at sunset.
- ☞ Build sandcastles on the beach with your kids!
- ☞ Take a sunset / moonrise cruise on Clear Lake aboard the Martese.
- ☞ Eat, drink and be merry at one of the many fabulous restaurants in town!
- ☞ Get your friends together and hit the shops in town.
- ☞ Go for a swim at Deep Bay.
- ☞ Go for a drive along historic Highway 19 and get a real sense of the elevation of the Manitoba Escarpment. Check out the East Gate Registration Complex National Historic Site of Canada.

Camping Experiences

Birds singing; the soft sounds of wind blowing in the trees, and the chatter of chipmunks are just some of the perks that come with your stay.

Riding Mountain offers a wide array of services and surroundings for an overnight stay. Whether you like the solitude of backcountry camping, full hook up in the Wasagaming Campground, staying with family and friends at one of our group camps, bringing your suitcase to the Yurt in the Wasagaming Campground or the experiencing the new canoe campsite located at the Whirlpool Campground, we have something for you.

The enchanting attractions along with our family friendly camping will ensure that your stay with us is a pleasant one. Please call 204-848-7275 for more information about the many camping opportunities in the Park.

Backcountry Camping ▲

Try an overnight stay in one of our 19 backcountry campsites. We'd like to help with your trip planning, route information or preparation for natural hazards. A Backcountry Permit is required for overnight use of these sites. For reservations and information please call 204-848-7275.

▲ = Backcountry Campsite (see page 20)

DEEP LAKE CAMPGROUND
15 sites, self-registration, unserviced.



LAKE AUDY CAMPGROUND
34 sites, self-registration, unserviced.

CAMP MA-MA-O-PE GROUP CAMP
1 site, reservations only, unserviced.



MOON LAKE CAMPGROUND
29 sites, self-registration, unserviced.

CAIRN'S CABIN
14.4 km down the Ochre River Trail. Rustic, year-round cabin. Reservations only. Unserved.

CAMP KIPPECHEWIN GROUP CAMP
1 site, reservations only, unserviced.



WASAGAMING CAMPGROUND
508 sites. Reservations recommended. Serviced and unserviced. For reservations call 1-877-RESERVE or visit www.pccamping.ca.



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



WHIRLPOOL LAKE CAMPGROUND
Walk-in access only, 15 sites, 1 canoe site, self-registration, unserviced.

CAMPGROUND	CAMPGROUND SERVICES														
	flush toilets	showers	pit toilets	serviced sites	tents	trailers and motorhomes	wheelchair access	firepits	kitchen shelter	well water	sewage dump	pay telephone	boat launch	power boats allowed	fish cleaning station
WASAGAMING	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
YURT	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
MOON LAKE	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
LAKE AUDY	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
WHIRLPOOL LAKE	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
DEEP LAKE	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
GROUP CAMPS	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
CAIRN'S CABIN	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■



RESERVE. RELAX. EXPERIENCE.

Wasagaming Campground
1.877.RESERVE
(1.877.737.3783)
TTY only 1.866.787.6221
www.pccamping.ca

For Group Camping, Yurt, Cairn's Cabin, Backcountry Camping & Winter Camping

Reservations can be made at the Park Office or call 204.848.7275.

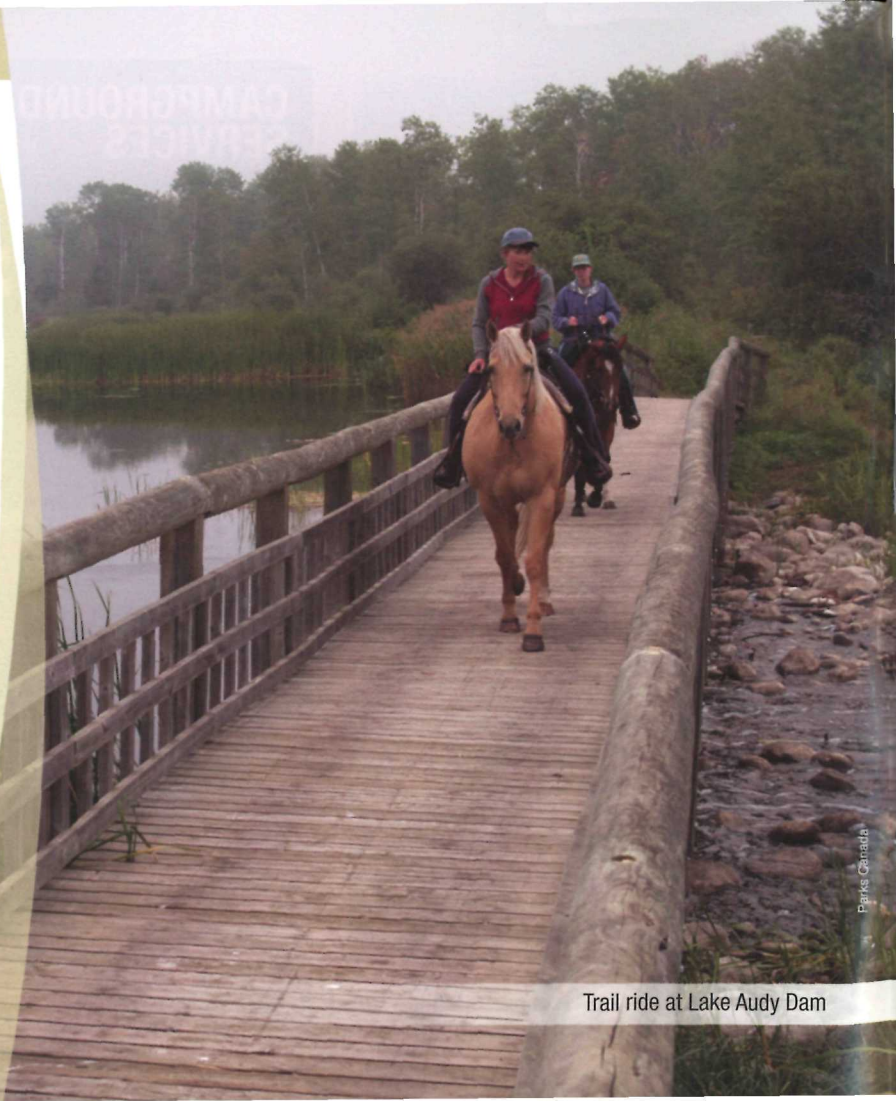
Amazing Adventures

Whether you choose a guided adventure or a solo expedition, close to homebase or in the backcountry, a few hours or a few days in length, in the Park or near the Park, come explore and enjoy the amazing world of nature.

Please remember that a national park is a special place, worthy of our appreciation and respect, and that you, as a visitor, can ensure the future of our natural areas. Walk carefully in the footsteps of those who came before.

Because of their care and concern, we are able to enjoy what we have today. With our care and concern, generations to come will be able to enjoy what we are experiencing now. In your adventures, feel the power of our landscape, the force of our waters, the experience of our past. Celebrate it, value it, and safeguard it.

Experience adventure by trading lifestyles — perhaps home becomes a tent, or a camper trailer or even a yurt. To genuinely “rough it,” there are nineteen backcountry camping areas accessible by foot, on horseback or by bicycle. The Park also



Trail ride at Lake Audy Dam

has four unserviced campgrounds and one serviced campground, all accessible by car. If luxury and comfort create a pampered adventure for you, resorts and motels can provide all the amenities. Some are year-round facilities where you can enjoy rooms with fireplaces, a full-service spa, chef-prepared dining, horseback riding, and even sleigh rides and a skating rink in the winter.

Self-Guided Adventures

There's never a dull moment in and around Riding Mountain National Park!

The "what is there to do?" list includes: walking, hiking, cycling, horseback riding, scenic drives, geocaching, tennis, lawn bowling, volleyball, golfing, craft classes, movies, shopping, fishing, boating, cruise

boat, canoeing, kayaking, yoga, sailing, swimming, camping, nature-watching, photography, and when you come back in the winter — snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, skating and an overnight stay at a wood-heated wilderness cabin.

The Park is a very special place for backcountry experiences from hiking to horseback riding, cycling, and even horse-drawn wagon rides. Because large tracts of beautiful wilderness are protected, the backcountry traveler is able to visit natural wonders seen only by a few visitors. There are twenty trails ranging from 1.8 to 38.5 kms, easy to difficult, and nineteen campsite locations. A trail guide is available at the Visitor Centre. For current safety information and to purchase a backcountry permit, call 204-848-7275.




















Trails

Take a hike, bike or horseback ride on one of our easily accessible trails for people of all ages, abilities and interests. The Park offers spectacular scenery however you choose to explore! Just remember: respect the habitat, stay on the trails, and protect yourself!













DAY TRAILS









AROUND TOWN

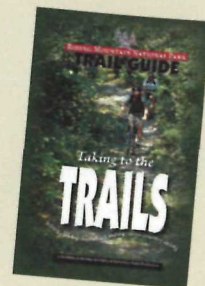
Clear Lake Northshore	9.5 km one way, moderate	  
Clear Lake Southshore	7.0 km one way, moderate	  
Lakeshore short loop	1.0 km return, easy	  
Lakeshore long loop	7.2 km return, easy	 
Ominnik Marsh	1.9 km return, easy	 
South Lake	3.4 km return, moderate	 
Wasagaming Bike Trail	5.5 km one way, moderate	 

ALONG HISTORIC HIGHWAY 19

Arrowhead	3.4 km return, moderate	
Grey Owl	8.9 km one way, moderate	 
Kinosao	3.9 km one way, moderate	 
Brûlé	2.1 and 4.2 km return, easy	
Loon's Island	2.4 km return, easy	
Gorge Creek	6.4 km one way, difficult	
Burls and Bittersweet	2.2 km return, easy	
Oak Ridge *	3.1 and 6.4 km return, easy	

ALONG SCENIC HIGHWAY 10

Bead Lakes	4.0 km return, moderate	
Boreal	1.0 km return, easy	
Moon Lake	9.2 km return, difficult	
Kippan's Mill	1.2 km return, easy	
Crawford Creek	10.0 km return, moderate	  
Beach Ridges	3.5 km return, easy	



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

LEGEND

-  Hiking
-  Biking
-  Horse Riding
-  Wagon
-  Wheelchair Accessible

BACKCOUNTRY TRAILS (Distances are all one-way)

WEST OF HIGHWAY 10			BACKCOUNTRY CAMPSITE
Baldy Lake	10.0 km, easy	  	—
Birdtail	11.4 km, moderate	  	Kay's
Central	66.3 km, moderate	   	Whitewater Lake, Gunn Creek
Grasshopper Valley	20.5 km, easy	  	Minnedosa River
Gunn Lake	1.9 km, difficult	   	Gunn Lake
Long Lake	14.0 km, easy	   	Long Lake
Strathclair	22.9 km, easy	 	Kinnis, Vermillion
Sugarloaf	8.0 km, moderate	   	—
Tilson Lake	38.6 km, difficult	  	Tilson Lake, Birdtail
EAST OF HIGHWAY 10			BACKCOUNTRY CAMPSITE
Bald Hill	8.4 km, difficult	  	—
Breezy Hill	1.8 km, easy	   	Breezy Hill
Cowan Lake	7.8 km, easy	 	Cowan Lake
J.E.T.	7.8 km, difficult	  	—
Muskrat Lake	7.0 km, easy	  	—
North Escarpment	8.4 km, moderate	   	East Deep Lake
Ochre River	24.9 km, difficult	  	Elk Creek, Ochre River
Packhorse	11.5 km, difficult	  	—
Robinson Loop	6.7 km, moderate	  	—
Scott Creek	2.4 km, easy	 	Scott Creek
South Escarpment	32.0 km, moderate	  	Muskrat Lake, Campbell Lake

Brulé Trail

Along the Road

For many people who visit Riding Mountain for the first time, they wonder where is this so called “Mountain”?

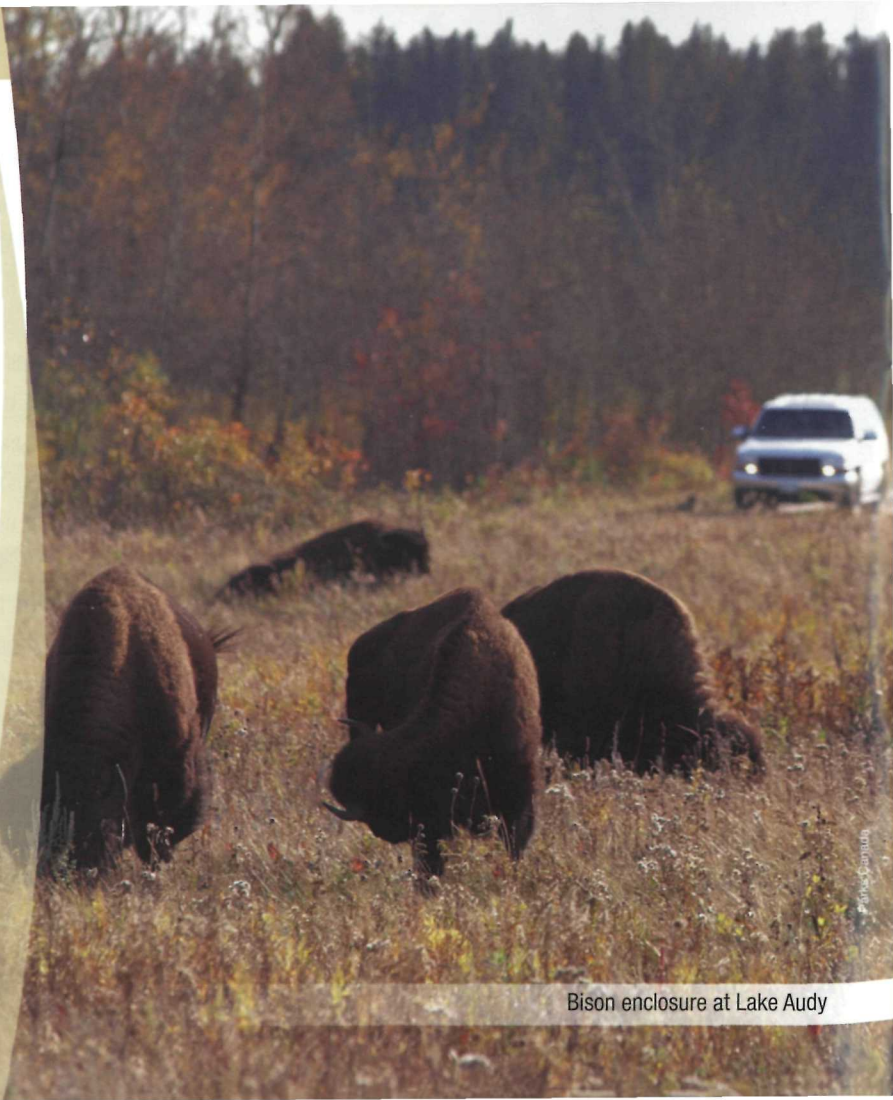
Here are two unique ways to experience the 450m-high escarpment with many opportunities to get out and stretch those legs on short hikes or viewpoints along the way. Sturdy footwear and drinking water is always recommended. Always dress appropriately for the elements.

Scenic Driving Tour #1

Drive from Wasagaming to Dauphin on the paved Highway #10 through a mixed boreal forest full of wildlife and wetlands.

Along the way there are a few short hikes you should do:

- ☞ **Bead Lakes** – 1.5 hr-long hike near some old spruce, untouched during the logging era of this park. You will experience a small string of bead-like ponds and marshes.
- ☞ **Boreal Trail** – Picturesque 1.5 km loop trail meandering alongside the swirling Jackfish Creek. This



Bison enclosure at Lake Audy



South entrance to the Park on Highway 10



Whirlpool Lake

is a perfect hike for all ages and abilities.

☞ **Moon Lake** – A perfect picnic spot, or bring a canoe and paddle this small boreal lake. A lakefront kitchen shelter with firewood awaits you. For more adventurous types, try the 9 km loop around this cashew-shaped lake.

☞ **Kippan's Mill Trail** – Grab a trail guide at the start of the 1 km trail to learn about the lives of the sawmill workers as they made their living during the early years in RMNP.

☞ **Agassiz Tower** – To get a better perspective of the lay of the land, this is a must stop on your travel through the park. A short 300 m hike will get you to a 12.4 m (40 foot) tower.

☞ **Beach Ridges** – Follow the shoreline of ancient glacial Lake Agassiz. This 3.5 km interpretive loop trail takes you through gnarled oak and towering white aspen groves.

☞ **Stop by Dauphin** for a treat and visit the Fort Dauphin Museum, the Railway Museum, Vermillion Park, Watson Art Centre or the Recreation centre which includes a wave pool. Visit www.dauphin.ca for more information.

Scenic Driving Tour #2: Fire and Ice

See how fire, ice and people have shaped the landscape.

☞ **Stop by Lake Katherine**, a small, beautiful lake where a lakeside picnic area awaits your organic spread. **TIP:** If you don't like swimming the cold waters of Clear Lake, try Lake Katherine's relatively warmer waters.

☞ **Clear Spring Bog** – This was the site of a conscientious

objectors camp during WWII. Without the aid of heavy equipment, the men of this camp built the Norgate Road (the modern-day Hwy. 19) which takes you across the escarpment. Fire also shaped this land 28 years ago.

☞ **Whirlpool Lake** – A 3.3 km side trip off Hwy. #19 will be worth your while. A quaint walk-in campground, a small dam, and an enclosed kitchen shelter make this a perfect spot to spend the night where you can listen to the majestic cries of the loons.

☞ **Dead Ox Creek** – Across the road from this picnic site you will find the start of the most spectacular trail in RMNP: the Gorge Creek Trail. The Gorge Creek was carved by melting glaciers and seasonal floods.

☞ **Burls and Bittersweet Trail** – This is a great self-guided one-hour family hike. A swinging bridge midway through the trail takes you across Dead Ox Creek. You won't be disappointed.

☞ **East Gate Registration Complex National Historic Site of Canada.** This site offers a great opportunity to have your picture taken standing beside the only remaining original log gate in a National Park in Canada. The construction of these gates by relief workers marked the beginning of auto tourism in Canada in the 1930's.

☞ **Stop by McCreary** and visit the Heritage Complex.

BISON WATCH

Let's go on an animal safari to the Lake Audy Bison Enclosure! The enclosure is about a 2-hour round-trip from Wasagaming. There you'll see bison in their natural surroundings.



WHAT DID YOU SEE?

BULLS



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

HOW MANY?

COWS



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

HOW MANY?

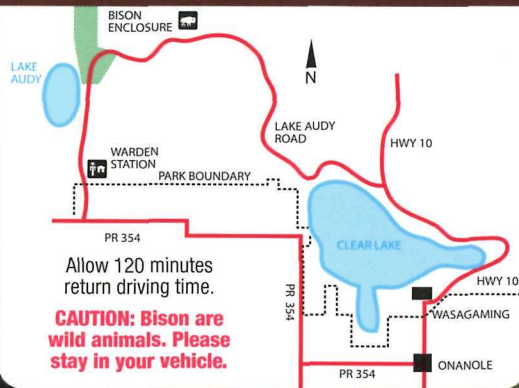
CALVES



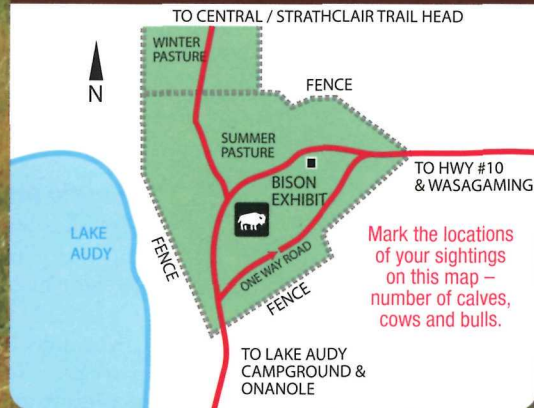
Calves are born
from April to May.
They are lighter brown in
colour than the adults.
27 kg. (60 lbs.) on average.

HOW MANY?

GETTING THERE



LAKE AUDY BISON ENCLOSURE



Park History

Riding Mountain is what remains of the shoreline of Lake Agassiz, a lake created 12,000 years ago by the melt water of a retreating glacier covering most of what is now Manitoba.

Prehistoric evidence also indicates that human habitation of the Riding Mountain National Park area began 10,000 years ago. The more “recent” history starts with the Cree and Anishinabe followed by fur traders, sawmill owners, fishermen, hunters and tourists.

In 1895, the government of Canada declared this area a Dominion Timber Reserve. Soon after the area was designated a national park in 1930, 7,800 men hired by the Department of National Defense under *The Relief Act*, arrived to construct the Park infrastructure. Along with the builders came campers, cottage and cabin owners, and employees.

Now, thousands of visitors every year enjoy the 3,000 km² of natural and cultural heritage known as Riding Mountain National Park.



Historic Highway 19



VISITOR CENTRE

Constructed in 1933, it is still the “meeting place” in Wasagaming.



CLARK'S BEACH (WASAGAMING BEACH)

In the 1920s this beach area was a swamp. During the winters, rock and sand were hauled across Clear Lake to form the beach we see today.



PARK THEATRE

Constructed in 1936-37, it is the largest all-log theatre in North America.



GREY OWL (ACHIBALD BELANEY)

In 1931, Grey Owl and his wife Anahareo, along with his two pet beavers, Rawhide and Jellyroll, resided on Beaver Lodge Lake.



RIDING MOUNTAIN EAST GATE REGISTRATION COMPLEX NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

Constructed in 1930, this is the only original gate remaining in Canada.



PRISONER OF WAR CAMP

Built in 1943 near Whitewater Lake, the camp housed close to 440 German soldiers who were expected to cut and stack firewood. This camp was unique as it was not fenced and had no guard towers.



CHALET HOTEL

The hotel was located on the main beach across from the Trading Post, but burned down in 1956. The original stone stairs that lead to the beach still remain.



WIGWAM RESTAURANT

The Wigwam Restaurant was one of the first businesses established in the townsite in 1931.



ROLLER RINK

Opened in 1949, during the busy season up to 500 tickets were sold each night. The rink was located across from the present-day Pizza Place.



KIPPAN'S MILL

Located near Moon Lake, the mill operated in the Park from 1936 until 1949. This once-booming small community supplied the lumber for many of the Park's now historic buildings.



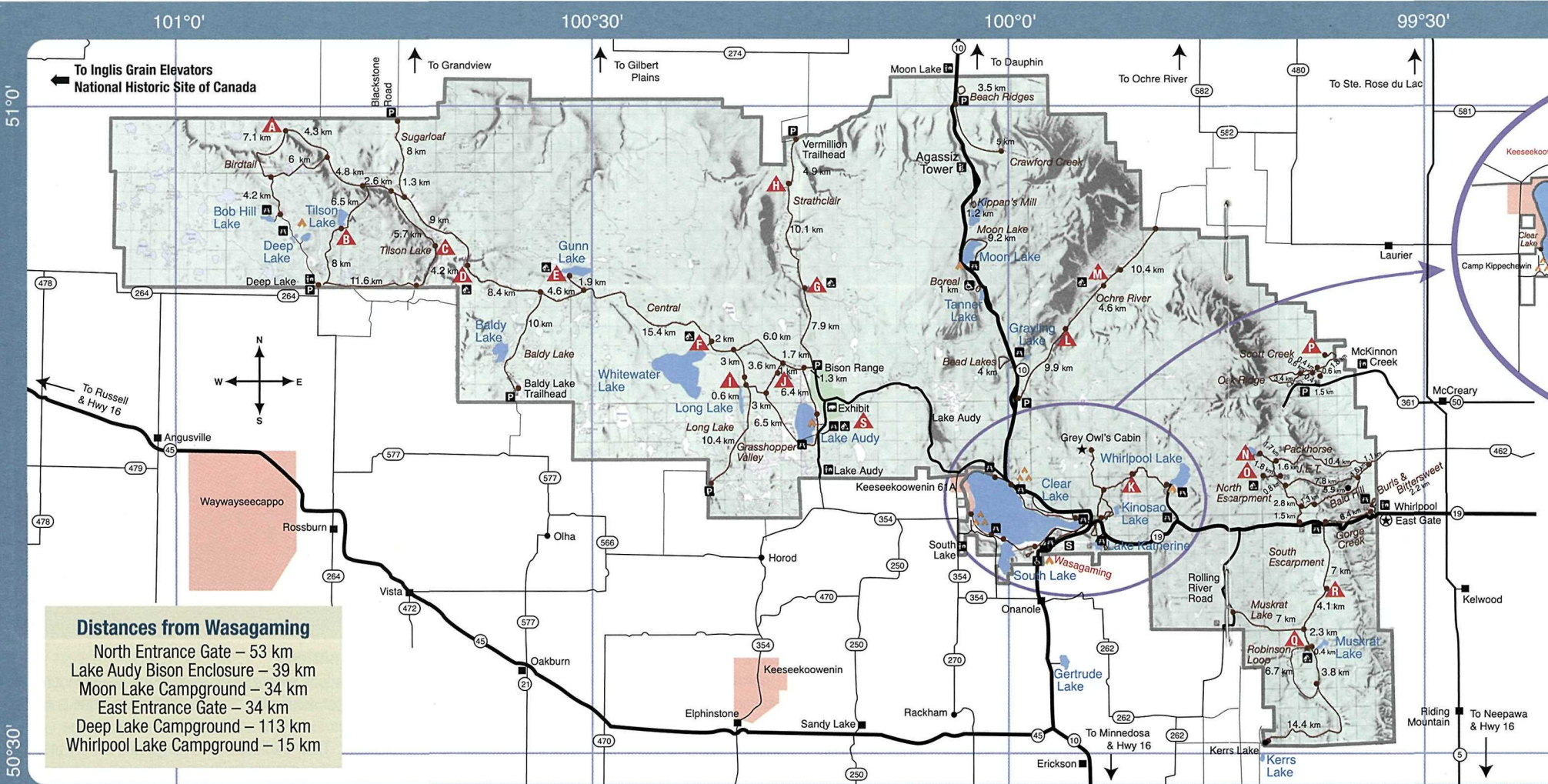
LAKE AUDY BISON ENCLOSURE

Once an abundant species in the area, the bison were hunted to near extinction around 1875. Sixteen animals were re-introduced to the Park in 1931. Today the herd averages around 40 animals. Take a driving tour to Lake Audy to see these large animals.



FIRST NATIONS

First Nations peoples have lived in the Riding Mountain region for thousands of years. Riding Mountain is a very spiritual place and home for the Anishinabe people. Their traditional knowledge and history play an important part in the Park's past, present and future.



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

LEGEND

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

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPSITES

- Kay's
- Tilson Lake
- Birdtail
- Gunn Creek
- Gunn Lake
- Whittowater Lake
- Kinnis Creek
- Vermilion 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

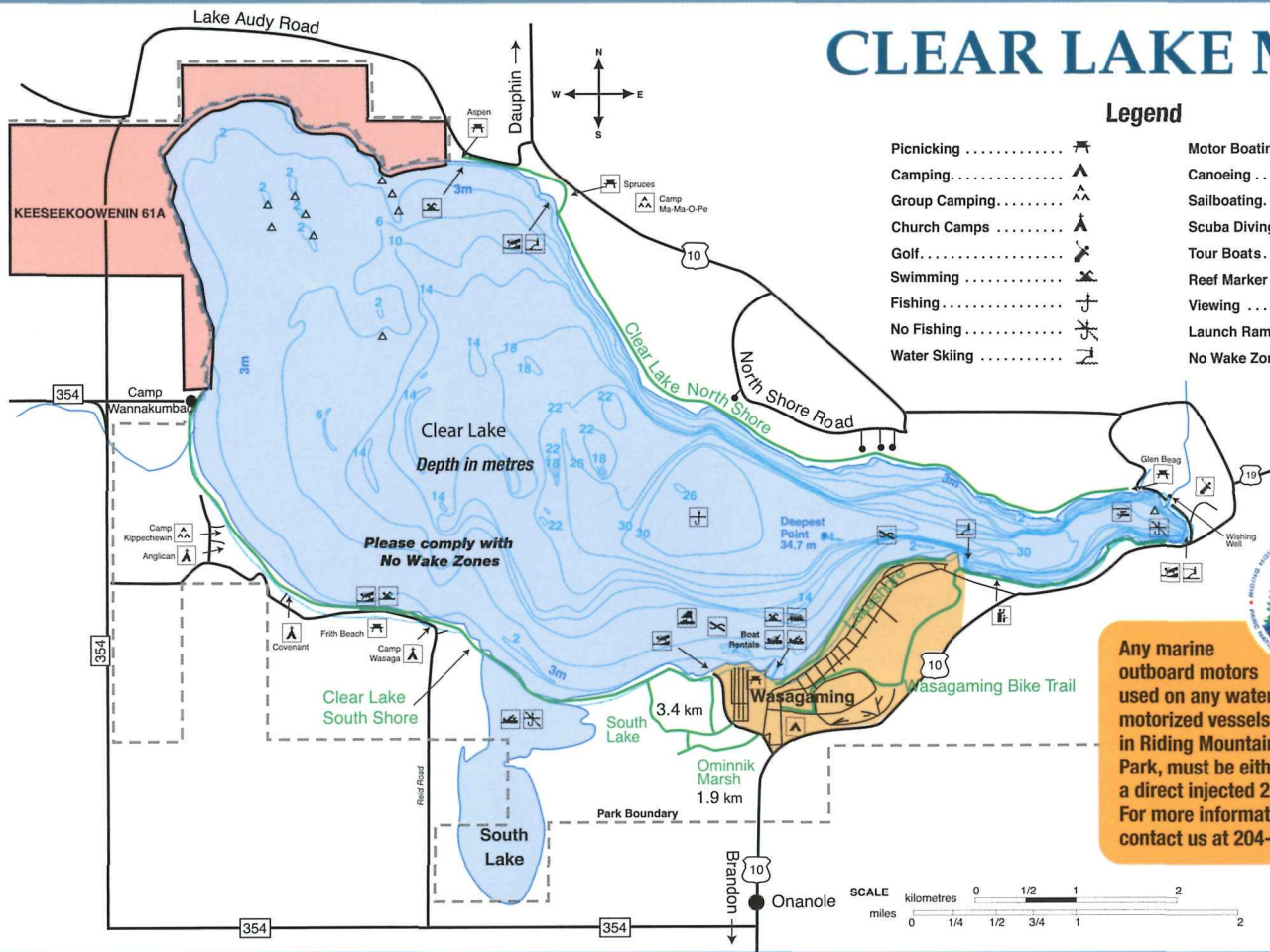
- Provincial Roads
- Provincial Trunk Highways
- Trail
- Town
- Landmark
- First Nation

WASAGAMING MAP



Wasagaming and nearby facilities provide accommodation, service stations, laundromat, Internet café, shops, restaurants, ice cream parlours, bicycle rentals, tennis courts, bowling green, treed lawns, three golf courses, playground, arts and crafts classes, Pinewood Museum, paddle-boat, dance hall, movie theatre, horseback riding, mineral pool and full-service spa. The atmosphere and rich historic character of Wasagaming is unique to this area. It is also home to Park Theatre, the largest log theatre in North America.

CLEAR LAKE MAP



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 | |



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

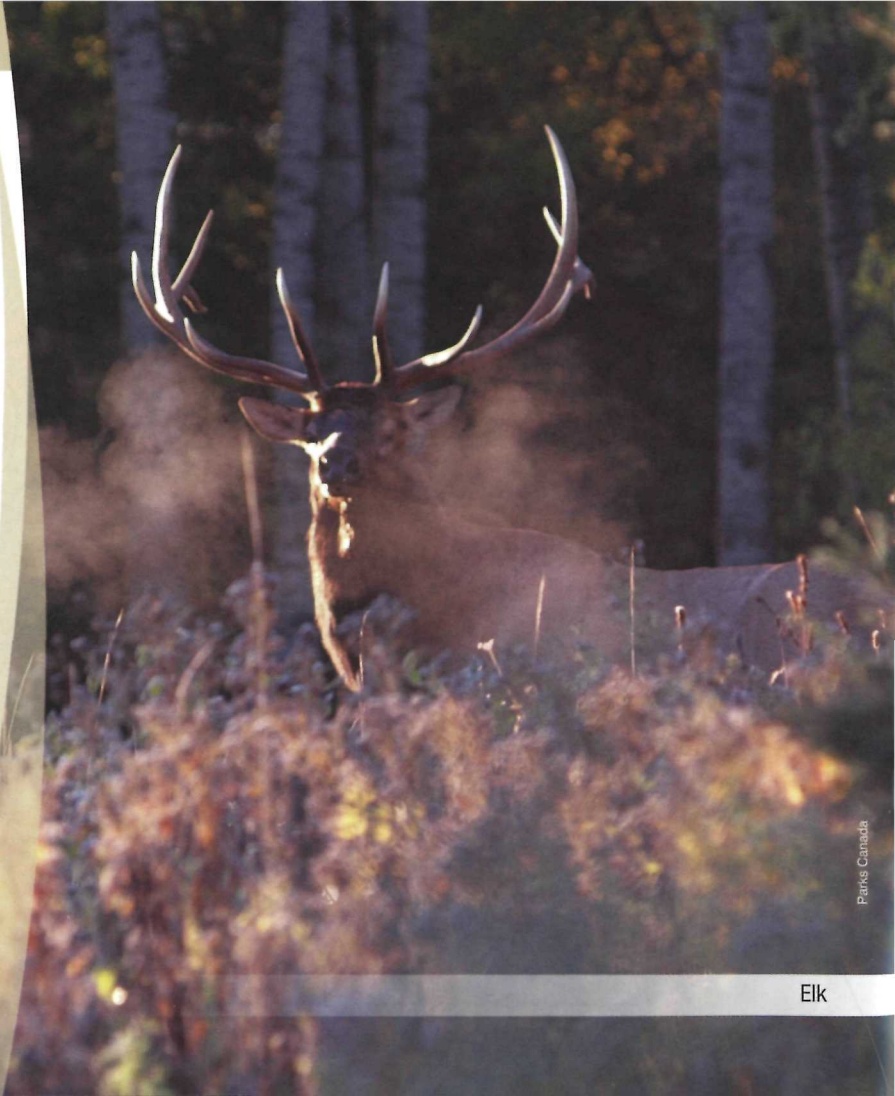
Nature Naturally

National parks tell the story of the nation's natural beginnings — mountains being born, lakes forming, forests growing, rivers flowing, grasslands evolving and glaciers moving. They also reveal ongoing natural processes — fires renewing, floods enriching and species migrating. Visitors can feel the power of our landscape in national parks.



Riding Mountain National Park protects heritage features of national significance. The Park lies within the Southern Boreal Plains, the Plateaux Natural Region, and a portion of the Manitoba Lowlands Natural Region including the Manitoba Escarpment.

In Riding Mountain National Park, the gently rolling terrain is a mosaic of spruce bogs, lakes and aspen uplands — the legacy of the glacial retreat some 10,000 years ago. The icy hand that sculpted this landscape even now dictates the pattern of plant and animal life.



Visit living history here in Riding Mountain National Park.

RMNP Fast Facts

- 900 lakes
- Water bodies make up 4.5% of the park.
- 728 plant species
- 270 bird species
- 4 species of snakes
- 30 species of fish
- 62 species of mammals

Dusk and dawn is always the best time to spot wildlife.

Feel free to talk with our knowledgeable staff, pick up a brochure or browse through a book at the Visitor Centre to learn more.

Common Mergansers



Photos: Parks Canada

Ermine



Swainson's Hawk



Dragonfly



Redbelly Snake



Pileated
Redheaded
Woodpecker



Wolf

Identifying Poison Ivy


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



Identifying Animal Look-a-likes

A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE FOR SOME OF THE PARK'S MAMMALS


Riding Mountain National Park is home to an incredible diversity of wildlife species, making it the perfect destination for wildlife watchers.

There are some mammals that can be cause for some confusion. Try this quick reference list to help decipher which “look-a-like” you have spotted. The key icon  will hopefully be the “key” to figuring out who is who.

SPOTTING WILDLIFE

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. We welcome your observations as well!

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.




Wolf



Coyote

... OR 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...

- This cat looks a lot like a very long-legged tabby house cat.
- It has a 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.




Lynx



Cougar

...OR 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?

Unfortunately, there are no longer any plains grizzly bears in RMNP as they were extirpated 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*.

**Black Bear**

Parks Canada

MOOSE, ELK OR WHITETAIL DEER?**Moose****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****Elk**

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

**Whitetail Deer****Whitetail Deer**

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

PINE MARTEN...

This mink-size member of the weasel family became extirpated from RMNP in the 1940's 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.

**Pine Marten****Fisher**

Parks Canada

...OR FISHER?

Also a member of the weasel family, the fisher was extirpated 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.

Need to Know

Parks Canada's team of employees at Riding Mountain National Park wish you an outstanding experience. Connecting with nature can be an exciting adventure, but there are also certain hazards and risks involved in outdoor recreation.

Whether you plan to drive the roads, hike the trails, or float on the waters, take time to learn the precautions that wild areas demand. Plan and prepare for your trip before you set out, be aware of weather conditions, know how to react to an emergency, and stay alert.

Plan ahead, wear the gear, buckle up and set off on an adventure to renew your kinship with nature.



Ask a Park attendant

REGULATIONS



Parks Canada

- 🔗 **Give Wildlife Space.** It is against the law to touch, feed, entice, disturb, or otherwise harass any wild animals, big or small.
- 🔗 **Keep Food and Garbage Away from Wildlife.** Feeding any Park wildlife is prohibited. Always keep coolers, even when empty, stored where bears cannot access them. Pick up litter and dispose of garbage in bear proof bins.
- 🔗 **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.

- 🔗 **Backcountry.** A backcountry permit is mandatory for overnight backcountry visits. It specifies the dates, route and the campsites being used. Fees apply.
- 🔗 **Keep Pets on a Leash.** Unrestrained pets have been known to harass wildlife, provoke wildlife attacks, and endanger people. As a courtesy to other visitors, clean up any mess left behind by your dog.

Enforcement

Parks Canada park wardens will be resuming law enforcement duties this season.

They will be responsible for enforcing all legislation related to Parks Canada's full mandate in national parks, while the police service of jurisdiction will continue enforcing the Criminal Code of Canada.

As of this season, Parks Canada's park wardens are fully dedicated specialists in law enforcement. In order to safely do their jobs, they will be wearing a distinct uniform and personal protective equipment, including a handgun.

The whole Parks Canada team, including our staff responsible for visitor experience, resource conservation, asset management, law enforcement and public safety activities, look forward to welcoming you to our national parks, national historic sites and *national marine conservation areas* and making your visit both an enjoyable and memorable one.

- 🔗 **Leave it for Others to Enjoy.** Whatever you find, be it a rock, a flower, an antler, or a historic artifact, it belongs where it is.
- 🔗 **Fishing.** Anglers require a Riding Mountain National Park Fishing Licence. Purchase these at the Visitor Centre, entrance gates, campground kiosks or administration office.

Safety Registration

Parks Canada offers a "Safety Registration" service for people engaging in potentially hazardous activities. **REMEMBER:** If you register out, you must by law register back in to prevent an unnecessary and costly search.

We need your eyes!

Call 1-877-852-3100 for 24-hour Park Warden Emergency Service if you see anyone violating Park regulations. Please report all sightings of wildlife displaying aggressive behaviour to the nearest Park Warden Office, Visitor Centre or Park Entrance Gate.

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.



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

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.

Never Leave Attractants Unattended.

Never leave food, scraps, empty wrappers, bottles, cans, coolers, dirty dishes, dishwater, barbecues, pet food dishes, toothpaste, perfumed soaps, other toiletries where wildlife can get at them. If you are camping, the Park has a **“Bare” Campsite Program** in place. A special effort is being made by campground staff and campers to ensure that no wildlife attractants are ever left unattended at any camping site. This program is in place for your safety, to help you learn more about the wildlife in the area and to keep the wildlife in the Park alive and wild.

Bears

Be prepared! Pick up a **Warning: You Are in Black Bear Country** brochure at any Park facility and follow the suggestions.



Claus-Peter Ernst



Clean campsite

Parks Canada



Richard Hince

ON THE TRAIL

Hazards are part of the wilderness environment. Reduce risk by following these guidelines:

- 🔗 Research your trip before you hit the trail.
- 🔗 Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return. Stick to your plans and inform them when you return.
- 🔗 Take along a map.
- 🔗 Bring water, food and extra clothing.
- 🔗 Travel with others; keep the group together.
- 🔗 Stay on the trail and retrace your steps if unsure of your route.
- 🔗 Be prepared to stay overnight, just in case... a search takes time.
- 🔗 In the winter, know the signs of fatigue, hypothermia and frostbite.
- 🔗 Watch for poison ivy (*see page 25*).

Specifically for Backcountry:

- 🔗 Use the 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 www.hc-sc.gc.ca/waterquality*).
- 🔗 Pack out all garbage. Leave no trace and practice low impact activity.
- 🔗 Respect others, especially when encountering horses — move off trail, avoid sudden movements, dismount and walk bicycles.



ON THE WATER

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.
- 🔗 Boozing and boating don't mix and 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.

Let's Take Care of Our Lakes

According to estimates a conventional 2-stroke outboard motor will emit the same hydrocarbon pollution in one hour as a new car does driving from Vancouver Island to Saint John's, Newfoundland.

Watercraft Engine Requirements

Contamination from our boat motors poses threats to both the water quality and health of our ecosystems. Any marine outboard motor used on any water body in the Park where motorized vessels are permitted must be either 4-stroke or a direct-injected 2-stroke engine. The use of all other internal combustion marine outboard motors is **PROHIBITED** on all Park waters.

IN THE WATER

- ☞ 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. Visit the website www.mb.lifesaving.ca.



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



Parks Canada

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.

ON THE ROAD

Drive defensively!

- ☞ Obey posted speed limits.
- ☞ 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.



Parks Canada

Noteworthy News

Whether you are visiting a movie set in Hollywood or the House of Commons on Parliament Hill, going “behind the scenes” can be quite intriguing to visitors. Here in Riding Mountain National Park, our “behind the scenes” set includes the work of managers, planners, advisors, wardens, biologists, researchers, clerks and assistants; all of them helping to set the stage for the future direction of the Park. The following includes some of the projects taking place in Riding Mountain.

DID YOU KNOW?

The public grounds and gardens in Riding Mountain National Park are maintained without the use of toxic chemicals.



Parks Canada

Clear Lake Golf Course



Parks Canada

WILDLIFE HEALTH MONITORING

Since the discovery of Bovine Tuberculosis in the region government agencies, First Nations, wildlife organizations and livestock producers have been working co-operatively to eradicate the disease from the region.

DID YOU KNOW?

Clear Lake Golf Course is close to 85% organic. Chemical use on the course has been reduced substantially. Natural methods are used to control weeds and insects.



Parks Canada

KEEPING THE “CLEAR” IN CLEAR LAKE

Clear Lake is one of the most recognizable and beloved features of Riding Mountain National Park. This cold, clear lake is unique on the prairies and has been an important part of people’s experiences in the park. However, high nutrient levels have been observed in Clear Lake and in the waterways that feed it, raising concerns about the long-term sustainability of the lake. As a result, efforts are underway to improve water quality in the area while at the same time increasing visitor enjoyment. There are opportunities for members of the public to become involved. If you are interested in learning more, send an email to: clear.lake@pc.gc.ca, or call 204-848-7275.



Parks Canada

FIRESMART WASAGAMING

Residents, local First Nations and Park staff are working to create a “FireSmart” community by making homes and yards resistant to fire and selectively thinning dense overgrown forests around the townsite in case of a wildfire.

DID YOU KNOW?

Cleaning products used in all Park facilities are environmentally friendly. Green Cleaning brochures are available at the Visitor Centre.

Our Neighbours

Many people feel a strong sense of connection to Riding Mountain National Park. These friends and neighbours are engaged not simply in enjoying the natural beauty of the area, but they also reach out and make their own contributions to the rich tapestry of community that exists here.

Memorable visitor experiences are offered at Keesee Sharing Lodge. Boating enthusiasts work to promote the adoption of cleaner emission standards on Clear Lake. Artists share their talents through the Deep Bay Cabin – Artist in Residence program. The not-for-profit organization, Friends of Riding Mountain National Park delivers Junior Naturalist programs to our younger visitors. The Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve works to bring messages about sustainable environmental stewardship to the larger area surrounding the park.



Beach and main pier at Clear Lake



Parks Canada

Friends of RMNP

Friends of Riding Mountain National Park is a volunteer, non-profit group working with Parks Canada to inspire and educate people in environmental stewardship.

- 🔗 Education and research projects funded with proceeds from gift shops at the Visitor Centre and the Elkhorn Resort and Spa.
- 🔗 Park Recycling Depot.
- 🔗 Campground host program for Lake Audy and Moon Lake.
- 🔗 Junior Naturalist summer educational programs.
- 🔗 Special events for Parks Day and Canada Day.
- 🔗 Adopt-an-Animal program.
- 🔗 Wood sales in the Wasagamung Campground.
- 🔗 *Riding Mountain National Park Trail Guide* publication.
- 🔗 Riding Mountain Loppet

To learn more about Friends, call 204-848-4037, email friends.rmnp@pc.gc.ca, visit www.friendsofridingmountain.ca.



Parks Canada

First Nations

There are several First Nation communities around Riding Mountain National Park — Rolling River, Waywayseecappo, Ebb and Flow, Gambler, Sandy Bay, Keeseekoowenin and Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve. The community members of these culturally rich places welcome you. The nearest, Keeseekoowenin, maintains a very close relationship with Riding Mountain.

The Firehall, a federal heritage building, has been preserved and transformed into the Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation Sharing Lodge, which showcases the rich culture and history of the Keeseekoowenin people. Visit elders, youth, artists and community partners, as the people of Keeseekoowenin operate Manitoba's first Aboriginal-run museum! For more information on programming, please call 204-848-8494 or email sharing@mts.net.

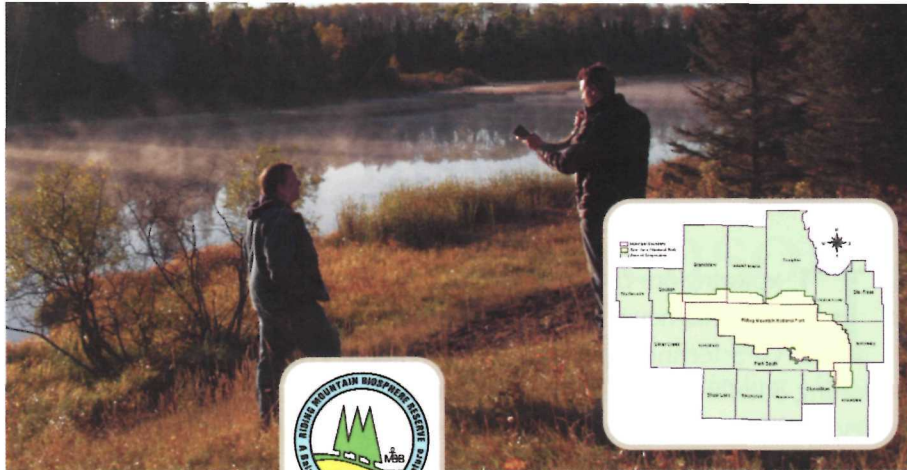


Artists' Residency Program, Deep Bay Cabin

A partnership between Parks Canada and the Manitoba Arts Council

The historic Deep Bay cabin is home to Manitoba writers, actors, visual artists, dancers and choreographers, musicians and composers, providing them with time to reflect, experiment and create while living and working for several weeks in this unique setting. Each participant will be selected by a peer jury and will work on a specific project.

Through a series of public events, artists will present their work and interact with visitors and residents. Inquire at the Visitor Centre or Wasagaming Community Arts Building for details on programming: studio visits, artist talks, readings, screenings and performances.



Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve

Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve, designated by UNESCO in 1986, includes the Park and fifteen surrounding rural municipalities. There are 531 Biosphere Reserves designated by the United Nations worldwide. Biosphere Reserves encourage an appreciation for the natural environment while maintaining a harmonious existence with people.

- Supporting the sharing of information between all levels of government and stakeholders in the Bovine Tuberculosis Stakeholder Advisory Committee.
- Educational GPS Programming

- Caching Riding Mountain Adventure Quest
- Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve Photo Contest
- The Prairie Mountains: Research in the Riding, Duck and Porcupine Mountains
- Mountainside Community Woodlands promoting sustainable woodland management
- Parkland Habitat Partnership promoting habitat conservation and research of species at risk and landscape change and its effects in and around Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve.

For more information, contact the Biosphere office at 204-848-4574, email: rnbr@mts.net or visit www.rnbr.ca.

Geocaching

Exploring our country roads and backcountry trails has never been easier thanks to modern GPS technology. A GPS unit (Global Positioning Satellite receiver) is an electronic receiving device that can determine your location to within +/- 2 to 6 meters anywhere on the planet.

Geocaching is a high-tech adventure activity where participants use GPS technology to "hunt" for various locations using GPS coordinates. These coordinates can lead participants to community attractions, as well as cultural and environmental areas of significance.

Caching Riding Mountain is a GPS based learning experience and entertaining activity highlighting the people, places and heritage of Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve and its core area, Riding Mountain National Park. Geocacher kits and GPS units can be rented from the Friends of RMNP Nature Shop, located in the Park's Visitor Centre. Check out the Caching Riding Mountain website (www.cachingridingmountain.ca) or Friends website (www.friendsofridingmountain.ca) for information on upcoming GPS/Geocaching events or workshops.



Geocaching is a fun family activity

FURTHER READING / RESOURCES

Clear Lake Country
www.clearlakecountry.ca

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

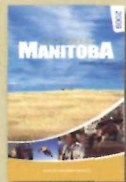
Travel Manitoba
1-800-665-0040
www.travelmanitoba.com



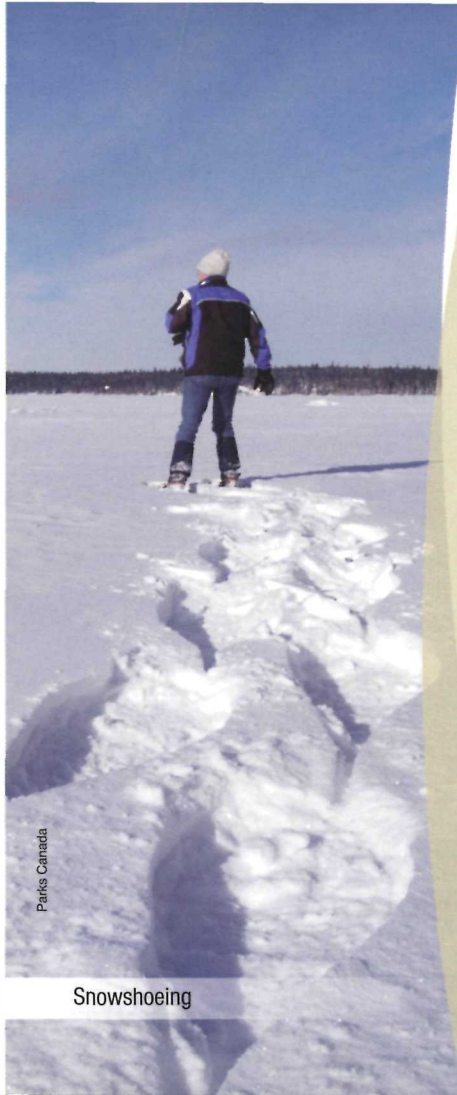
Parkland Tourism Association
1-888-528-6484
www.parklandtourism.com



Tourism Westman
1-866-234-8687
www.southwestmanitoba.ca



City of Dauphin
1-877-566-5669
www.dauphin.ca



Parks Canada

Snowshoeing

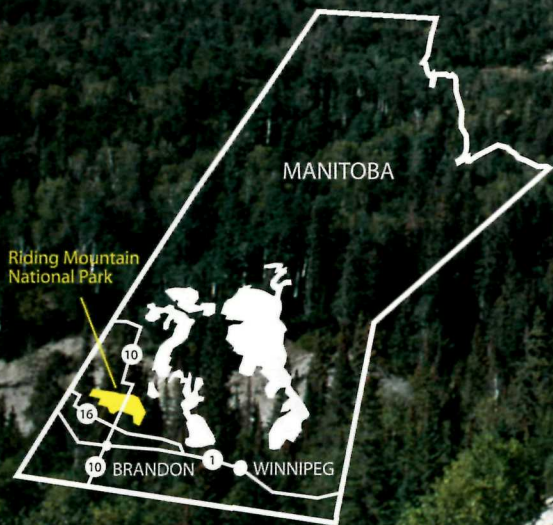
Snowflake Season

There's no need to hibernate with the bears during winter in Riding Mountain National Park. Be sure to pick up our *Winter Activity Guide* for more information on cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, skating and events planned for this winter.





EXPLORE RIDING MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA



Travel Time to Wasagaming

FROM	TIME		TIME
Brandon	1 hour	Winnipeg	2.75 hours
Peace Gardens	2 hours	Regina	4.5 hours
Yorkton	2.5 hours	Grand Forks	5 hours
Minot	3.5 hours	Saskatoon	6 hours
		Banff National Park	14 hours

