

Presentation to Sturgeon
County Council,
January 26, 2021



Canadian
Heritage
Rivers
System



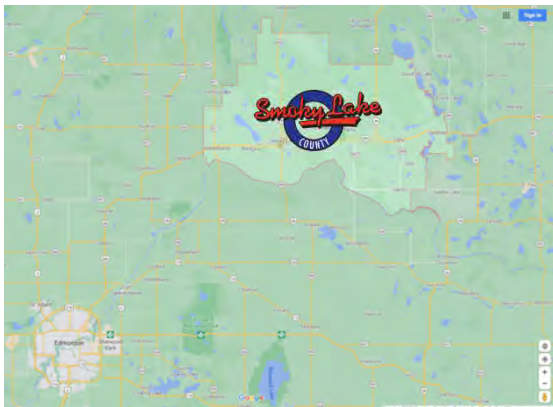
Réseau
des rivières
du patrimoine
canadien



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Introductions



↑ Kyle Schole
Planning,
Development, &
Heritage Assistant,
Smoky Lake County

Jordan Ruegg,
Planning &
Development Manager,
Smoky Lake County ↓



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Smoky Lake County

COMMUNITY VISION

Smoky Lake County is a community which recognizes the importance of conserving and enhancing its character, the roots from which it grew, preserving the natural environment in which it resides; a caring community which offers its residents an environment in which to seek a high quality of life; a balanced community with a diverse range of housing, employment, educational, shopping and recreational opportunities; and a vital community which provides financial and social support for quality of life programs.



Kyle Schole Photos

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Why have we initiated this project?

Economic Development

Smoky Lake County, the Town of Smoky Lake, and the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) are collaborating towards an economic development strategy, specifically to leverage, support, promote, and grow the Indigenous, agricultural, culinary, and cultural tourism assets of the Victoria District National Historic Site.

CHRS is a natural fit with these goals and values.



Smoky Lake County files

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WHAT ARE HERITAGE RIVERS?

Canada's ~40 Heritage Rivers are recognized nationally for their outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational heritage.

These rivers are an important part of Canada's rich heritage, and shape who we are as a nation.

Designated Canadian Heritage Rivers are part of a network of waterways that are cared for by passionate local river stewards.

Governments, local communities, conservation authorities and local citizens come together with the overarching goal of celebrating, conserving and protecting designated rivers.



"Canada is known for its outstanding river heritage, its routes of exploration, settlement and growth, its waterways of industry and commerce, its northern wild waters of great scenic beauty and its waterway parks near urban centres." (CHRS Website)



Steve Ricketts, NSR at Waskatenau

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WHAT ARE CHRS's BENEFITS?

- foster cooperative river management that unites communities;
- celebrate and support the cultural connections of Indigenous Peoples with rivers;
- tell the stories of our nation, building sense of identity and pride;
- stimulate adventure travel and sustainable tourism;
- help Canadians connect to history, nature and cultural traditions;
- promote stewardship and citizen engagement;
- engage new Canadians and youth in river education, conservation, and recreation;
- encourage the protection of water resources to improve public health, well-being, and quality of life.



The Canadian Heritage Rivers System informs, inspires and encourages Canadians to connect with the country's river heritage and share in its safe-keeping. Our heritage rivers are integral to the health, well-being, and identity of Canada's current and future generations. (CHRS Website)



Karen Albert Photo

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How does a river become designated?

1. Background Study

- In-depth look at the Natural, Cultural, Recreational Values of the River to determine eligibility



2. Nomination Document

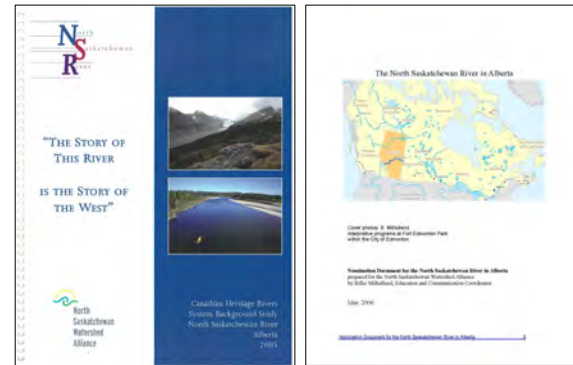
- Describes the specific exceptional values for which the river deserves to be designated

We are here.
(2021)

3. Designation Document

- Describes the aspirational steps and goals to be supported towards maintaining the river's significance

Next.
(2022)



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Does CHRS impose development restrictions?

No. The program is strictly commemorative.

- CHRS does not carry any planning or development approval authority over lands within the river corridor.
- There are no added referrals or considerations.
- Alberta Environment will continue to act as the "River Manager"
- The value in CHRS is not enhanced top-down enforcement, but grassroots public education.



NSR from Waskatenau Bridge HWY 881, Kyle Schole Photo

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What portion is to be designated?

We intend to nominate/designate the entire extent of the North Saskatchewan River within Alberta, from the boundary of Banff National Park to the Saskatchewan Provincial border.

Within the Province of Saskatchewan, the North Saskatchewan River Basin Council (NSRBC) is also working to complete a nomination/designation within that province. If successful, this would make the initiative an inter-provincial collaboration!



Credit: Government of Alberta, Victoria Settlement Provincial Historic Site

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WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DESIGNATION?

- Promotion on CHRS Website, Story Maps (½ million visits per month)
- Annual reports describing changes, improvements, and threats to the values for which the river was designated.
- River-based events and stewardship actions are also listed in annual reports.
- Every ten years, a more in-depth review is also undertaken.



Government of Alberta, Victoria Settlement Provincial Historic Site

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Story Maps

CHRS Story Maps highlight the natural, cultural and recreational values of each of Canada's heritage rivers.

With just a click of a button, visitors can enjoy an interactive virtual tour of amazing Canadian rivers and gain a deeper understanding of their values.

www.chrs.ca



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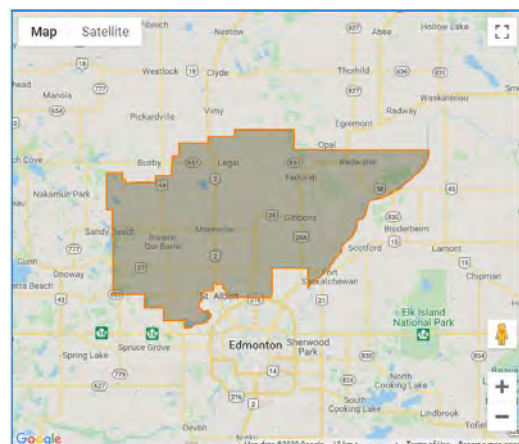
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Sturgeon County and the North Saskatchewan River: a love story

Sturgeon County enjoys several sites of historic significance along the NSR:

- Portions of Victoria Trail (aka Carlton Trail)
- Former Eldorena and Vinca Ferry Crossings
- Lamoureux Settlement
- Former Fort Edmonton and Fort Augustus

Sturgeon County is also an active participant in the Sturgeon, and North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliances (SWA and NSWA), and the River Valley Alliance (RVA).



The information provided on this page is a graphical representation of municipal boundaries and other visual mapping data and is not intended to be legal information. For legal land descriptions please see the Alberta Gazette or visit the Queen's Printer website to view recent Orders in Council.

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Who is supporting this so far?

To-date, we have received over forty-five (+45) letters of support, with more arriving daily, including:



Image courtesy of the Government of Alberta, Victoria Settlement Provincial Historic Site

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Our Request

That Sturgeon County Council provide a Letter of Support, adding the County's name to the growing list of communities which support celebrating our incredible North Saskatchewan River;



Former Eldenora Ferry Crossing, Sturgeon County. Kyle Schole Photo.

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Thank You & Questions



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