

A NORTHERN SUMMER FAMILY GETAWAY

La Crete Ferry Campground Society

For the past 12 years, the La Crete Ferry Campground has been a destination for people using Hwy 697, primarily families from the local area. The campground, situated right beside the ferry that provides the shortest route between La Crete and the Mackenzie Highway during the summer months, is home to over 100 sites and offers bike and walking trails, a day use area with an open shelter, fishing, a boat launch and more.

According to John Wiebe, the Secretary Treasurer of the La Crete Ferry Campground Society (LCFCS), the campground is a collaborative effort between the scores of volunteers, community members and sponsors who contribute both time and finances to keep it running.

"We have a lot of volunteers putting this together. Businesses have helped, and we have gotten government grants. Mackenzie County contributes towards the day use area at the ferry," said Wiebe.

The campground began in 2007 when local resident John Krahn called Wiebe to go look at a historic sawmill site near the ferry. The sawmill once employed many of the local old-timers and provided lumber for early settlers of the area. After deciding that the site would require very little effort and landscaping to

suit their purpose, the LCFCS was formed with Krahn as the president. The original committee of nine has shrunk to seven, but the campground is still going strong, despite a flood last spring that covered the area in 12 feet of water.

"I'm very proud of the local people. They came and helped us clean up," said Wiebe. "Two classes from the school came. A lot of people brought their equipment, and we actually got to go camping there in May. We didn't think that would be possible."

The LCFCS hosts several events throughout the year to fundraise for future improvements, including a yearly music festival and what they hope will become a regular fishing derby. They have a long wish list, including bringing in a power line, as power is currently supplied by generator.

"Our plan is to continue to improve the campsite, walking trails and playground equipment. We would also like to get showers put in," said Wiebe. "We've been complimented many times about how nice the campground is. We have a young community, so we focus on safety and activities the family can enjoy."

You can find more information on the La Crete Chamber of Commerce website, or by calling 780-841-2705.





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