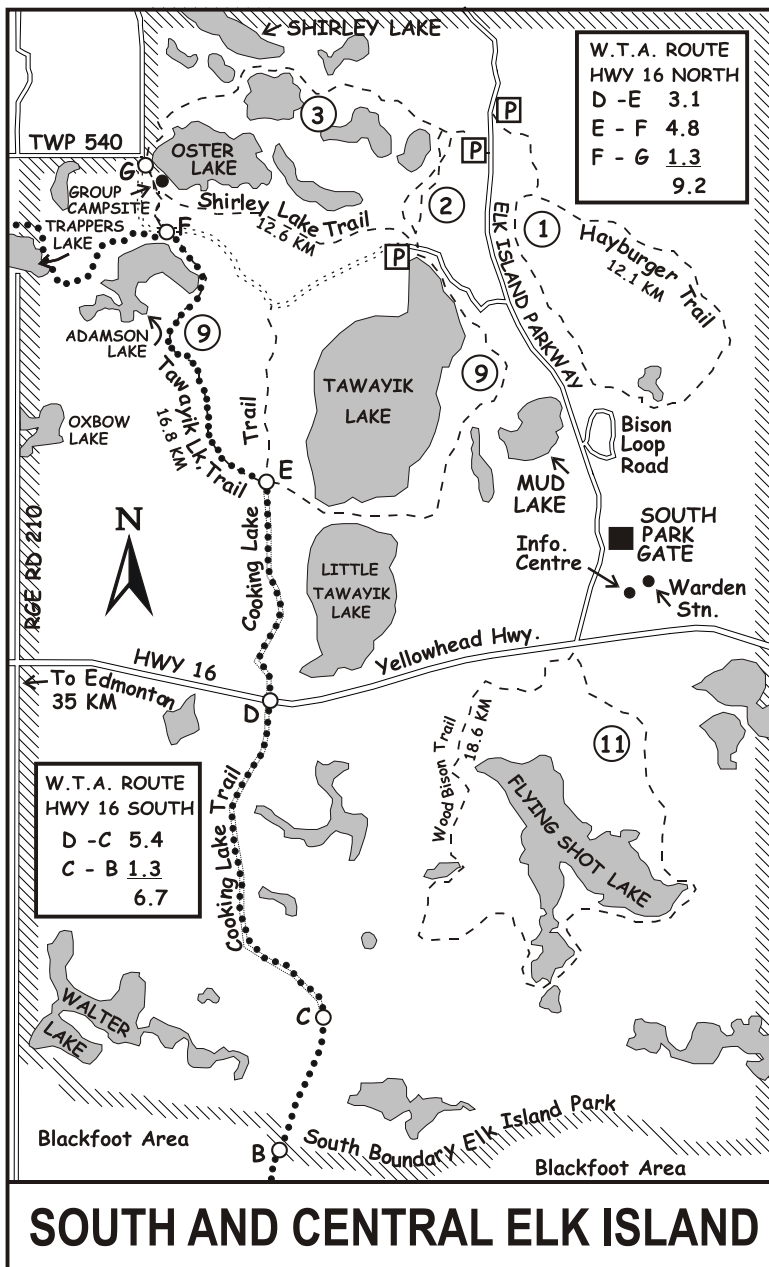
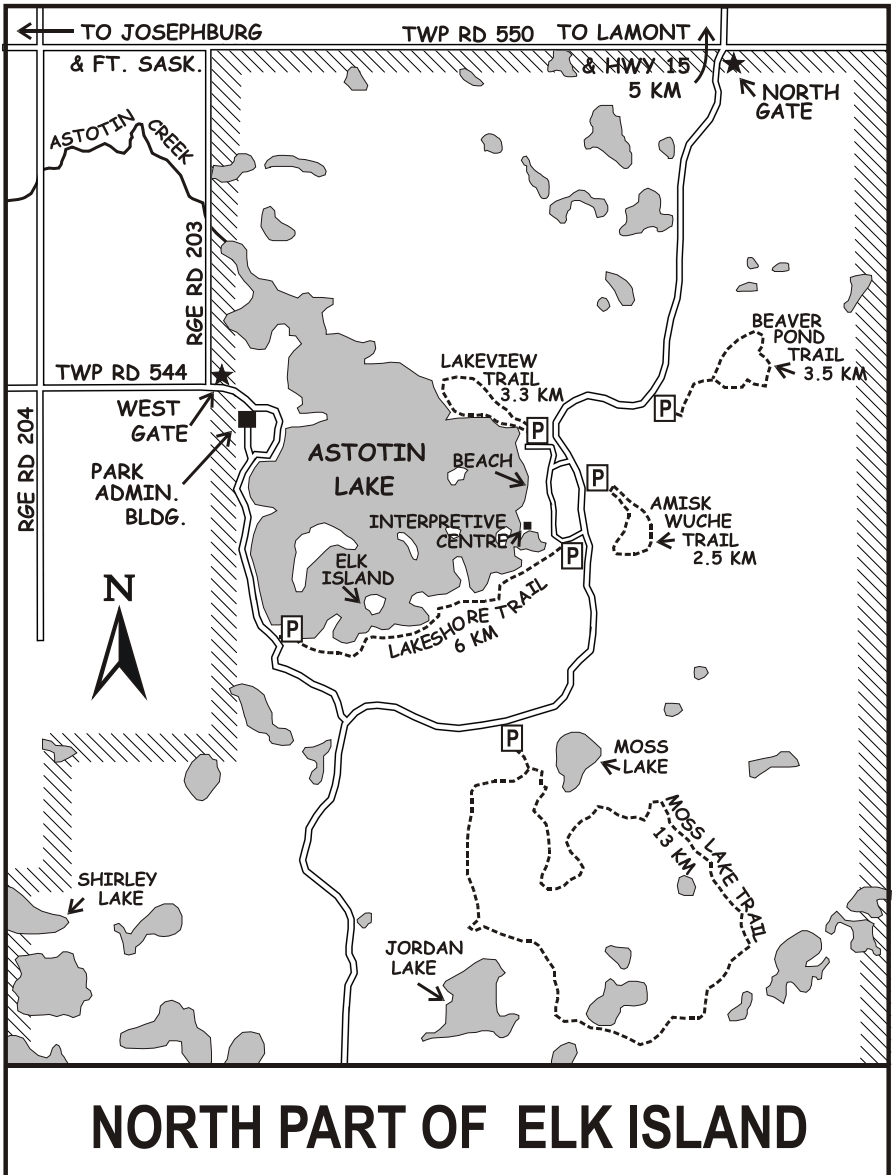


Miquelon Beach North, September 2008 (S Jackson)





Did You Know? Winter Ice Safety: 10cm is considered a safe ice thickness for individuals or small groups. Beware of ice near the inlet and outlet of streams. Always be extra cautious on river and stream ice. Ice can vary in thickness and strength from area to area because of temperature, water current, springs, snow cover, and time of year. Know and practice self-rescues (source: www.healthlinkalberta.ca).



Did You Know? Petrified Wood: Alberta's Provincial Stone, can be found on gravel bars and in abandoned gravel pits along the North Saskatchewan. It is particularly abundant between the Edmonton community of Beverly and Fort Saskatchewan. The original trees grew 60 to 90 million years ago during a time when most of Alberta was covered by steamy, subtropical swamps and forests – similar to the modern day Mississippi River delta. Wood is very porous. When ground water rich in dissolved silica penetrated the buried logs, the solution was absorbed and microcrystalline quartz began to grow in the pores, replacing the plant tissue. Protected under hundreds of metres of sedimentary rock until the Rocky Mountains were formed. Since then, erosion has been slowly exposing the petrified wood. Alberta petrified wood is commonly brown, cream or black but occasionally reds and yellows are found. As quartz is generally white or grey, the different colours found are due to impurities such as iron oxides, manganese oxides or organic carbon.