

Your Trail. Your Journey.

A Trail for every Canadian



Trans Canada Trail
Sentier Transcanadien

TRANS CANADA TRAIL YEAR-END REVIEW 2010-11



Get out there, Canada!

With over 16,500 kilometres of trail completed to date, the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) is enticing millions of Canadians and international visitors to get out and experience Canada at its best!

Whether cycling historic rail trails, exploring provincial and territorial capitals, picnicking in urban parks, canoeing the routes of early explorers, commuting to and from work, or discovering Canada's legendary wilderness, everyone can enjoy the Trail at their own pace and in their own way.

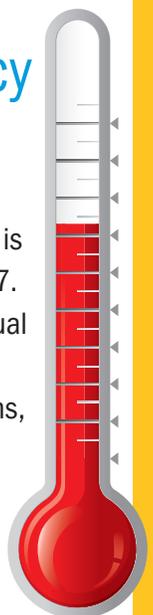
The Trail offers a unique way to see Canada and learn about our rich history and diverse cultural heritage. It is linking Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

Your Trail. Your Journey.

Our Mission We will promote and assist in the development and use of the Trans Canada Trail by promoting and supporting success at the local level in the creation of this national network.

Help build a national legacy

Today the Trail is 72.8% connected with 6,000 kilometres to go. TCT's goal is to connect the Trail by 2017. With the support of individual Canadians, community trail groups, partner organizations, corporations and local businesses, and all levels of government, we are on target to meet that goal.



A message from the President and CEO

In 2017, Canada will celebrate its 150th birthday. The connection of the Trans Canada Trail will be a centrepiece of nation-wide celebrations. Since the Trail was launched in 1992 as a result of the Canada 125 initiative, the dream of building a national trail has captured the hearts of Canadians. As the Trail expands, it is instilling a growing sense of national pride in the grandeur of our land, the diversity of our communities, and the strength of Canadians.



Deborah Apps

Momentum growing

The past year has been a remarkable one for the Trail, as we move towards 2017.

As you will read in this Year-End Review, our Trail partners and local trail groups have built new trail sections, constructed bridges, and undertaken significant trail upgrades. This has extended the Trail and improved the Trail experience in every province and territory. One of our most exciting accomplishments was the opening of the Banff Legacy Trail, a 26-km section of the Trail in Canada's flagship national park. We were delighted to have His Royal Highness The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex and Environment Minister, the Hon. Jim Prentice, share the ribbon-cutting duties with Parks Canada and TCT.

TCT invested in a record number of local trail projects this year, thanks to increased support from the Government of Canada.

TCT is grateful to Canadian Heritage for extending its funding to the Trail and to Parks Canada for investing an additional \$10 million towards the connection of the Trail. The support of governments at all levels is critical to the Trail's success. We were pleased that the Government of New Brunswick became the third province to sign a formal agreement to work with TCT and our provincial partner to develop the Trail.

Our 2017 goal is aggressive. But TCT has the plan and the support of Canadians and our trail partners. This year, we:

- Completed a comprehensive Trail Connection Plan that provides detailed data and a plan of action for closing all existing gaps on the Trail.
- Analyzed the resources needed both to connect the Trail and sustain the Trail in the future.
- Implemented strategic organizational changes needed to reach our 2017 goal.

We have created the Trans Canada Trail Foundation which will lead a multi-million dollar national fundraising campaign to help us get there. I am delighted to report that Valerie Pringle, broadcaster and former chair of the TCT Board, and Hartley Richardson, one of Canada's most respected business leaders, have agreed to serve as co-chairs.

Many thanks to many people

The Trans Canada Trail is the largest volunteer project ever undertaken in Canada. The number of people and partners involved and the extraordinary commitment of energy and resources are simply unprecedented.

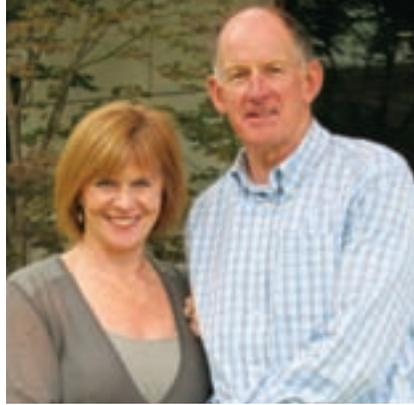
I want to acknowledge the work of our 13 partner organizations, which oversee the Trail's development in each province and territory; as well as the trail groups and volunteers, municipalities, and



A message from the President and CEO...

conservation authorities that manage the 400 local trails that are part of the Trans Canada Trail. Our achievements this year are the result of the efforts of these committed trailbuilders. I also want to recognize the thousands of individual donors, sponsors and corporate supporters who donate generously to the Trail. Their contributions allow TCT to move forward with our bold plans.

Finally, I want to thank our Board of Directors and staff whose energy has revitalized our organization this year. TCT's Board is made up of dedicated community and business leaders, committed to completing the Trail as a national legacy



for Canadians. I particularly must thank our two Board chairs, Valerie Pringle, who served with great enthusiasm and wisdom for the first part of the year, and Jim Bishop, who since October has done a wonderful job, focusing the organization on our 2017 vision. Our staff and Board share a passion for the Trail that is driving our achievements and is fuelling the momentum of success.

For all of us, the Trail is special and goes to the heart of what it means to be Canadian: It puts people in touch with each other, our heritage, and with our magnificent natural surroundings. I invite everyone to join us in completing the Trail and celebrating an iconic Canadian project. The Trail is a treasured resource for Canadians today and will be for generations to come.

Deborah Apps
President and CEO

Thanks to the government of Canada

Since 1992, the Government of Canada has been a stalwart supporter of the Trans Canada Trail. This has been critical to the success of the Trail.

This year the government not only agreed to extend its support for the Trail through Canadian Heritage but also announced significant new funding for TCT through the Ministry of the Environment and Parks Canada. This funding has allowed TCT to invest record amounts in local trail-building projects and move forward with ambitious plans for connecting the Trail.

Canadian Heritage

In June, Canadian Heritage announced a one-year extension of its five-year \$15-million grant to the Trail, which was set to expire. This allowed TCT to utilize the \$5.3 million which remained in the grant to support trail building and engineering projects. TCT is extremely grateful to the Hon. James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage, and staff in the Ministry for their commitment to the Trail. Since 2004, when the grant was awarded, TCT has contributed to a total of 134 Trail construction projects and 23 engineering studies with these funds.



Government of Canada commits \$10 million to completion of the Trail. Parks Canada CEO, Alan Latourelle; Trans Canada Trail President and CEO, Deborah Apps; The Hon. Jim Prentice; Trans Canada Trail Chair, Valerie Pringle; Simon Whitfield, Olympic medalist.



New partnership with Parks Canada

In October, the Government of Canada through Parks Canada committed \$10 million in new funding to the Trail. The announcement was made by former Minister of the Environment and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, the Hon. Jim Prentice, in Vancouver's Stanley Park. TCT Chair Valerie Pringle and President and CEO Deborah Apps participated in the announcement with Canadian Olympic tri-athlete Simon Whitfield who spoke passionately about the value of trails for all Canadians and especially for athletes.

TCT is extremely proud to partner with Parks Canada. Both organizations share a commitment to connect Canadians and international visitors with our natural and cultural heritage. TCT thanks the Hon. Jim Prentice, former Minister of the Environment; the Hon. Peter Kent, current Minister of the Environment; and all the staff at Parks Canada for their dedication to the Trail.

Photo top: Valerie Pringle and Jim Bishop. Bottom: Simon Whitfield (right) with Ed Jager, (Director, Parks Canada Visitor Experience Branch).

Linking Canadians

from coast to coast to coast

The Trans Canada Trail is by its nature a compelling global symbol, showcasing the strengths of our country and the many assets of Canada's people and places.

TCT was delighted this year to be honoured by the Society of American Travel Writers (SATW), which awarded the Trail a prestigious 2010 Phoenix Award. SATW represents over 1200 travel journalists in the US and Canada. One reviewer wrote: "The effort entailed to create this Trail is mind-boggling. Most people (even Canadians!) do not grasp the significance of the Trail."

From the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Arctic Oceans, thousands of Canadians are building, maintaining and supporting

sections of the Trans Canada Trail. TCT is connecting over 400 local trails to form the longest and grandest Trail on the planet. Each Trail section is developed, owned and managed locally by trail groups, municipalities, conservation authorities and provincial and national parks. TCT applauds the tireless efforts of everyone involved in building trails and being part of this bold national endeavour.

Charlie Hallett is a dedicated trail builder with the St. Mary's Trail Association in rural Nova Scotia. He has spent hundreds



of hours clearing trail and installing bridges on an as yet unfinished section of trail in Guysborough County. He speaks enthusiastically about his local trail being part of the Trans Canada Trail. "I think it is important for us to be part of the national trail. I believe it will attract people to our area and result in many local benefits."



Travel writers honour Trans Canada Trail.

From l-r, former Society of American Travel Writers President, Doug Hall; TCT Chair Valerie Pringle; former Toronto Star Travel Editor, Catherine George and TCT President and CEO Deborah Apps.

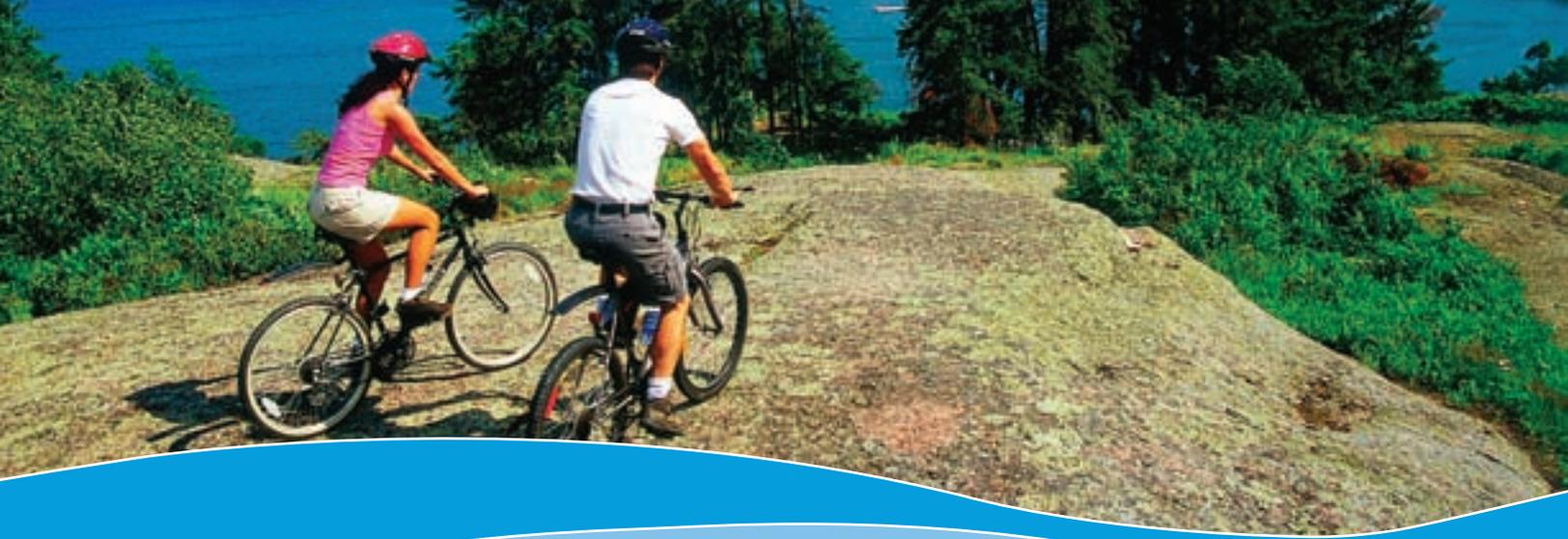
Photo r: Charlie Hallett on Cameron Lake Bridge.

Provincial and territorial partners

TCT applauds the work of our provincial and territorial partners.

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| Newfoundland T'Railway Council | www.trailway.ca |
| Island Trails | www.islandtrails.ca |
| Nova Scotia Trails Federation | www.novascotiatrials.com |
| New Brunswick Trails Council Inc. | www.sentiernbtrail.com |
| Conseil québécois du sentier Transcanadien | www.sentier.ca |
| Trans Canada Trail Ontario | www.tctontario.ca |
| Manitoba Recreational Trails Association | www.mrta.mb.ca |
| Saskatchewan Trails Association | www.saskstrails.ca |
| Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association | www.sasksnowmobiling.sk.ca |
| Alberta TrailNet | www.albertatrailnet.com |
| The Trails Society of British Columbia (Trails BC) | www.trailsbc.ca |
| Klondike Snowmobile Association | www.ksa.yk.ca |
| NWT Recreation and Parks Association | www.nwtrpa.org |
| Nunavut Department of the Environment | www.nunavutparks.com |

Learn more about the 400 trail sections on the Trans Canada Trail at www.tctrail.ca/trail_sections.php



Connecting the Trail from coast to coast to coast

In 2017, when the Trail is connected, it will take its place in history as the longest and grandest recreational trail on the planet. It will be the gold standard by which all other national trails are measured.

Developing the Trail Connection Plan

TCT, our provincial and territorial partners, and local trail organizations invested countless hours in the development of a master plan for the connection and management of the Trail. This has been a massive undertaking, and TCT must thank our partner organizations, local volunteers and Cascade Environmental Resource Group, a BC-based consulting agency, which has worked with the Trail for the past two years.

We have now analyzed and gathered up-to-date information on every section on the proposed route of the Trans Canada Trail from coast to coast to coast. From this data, we have developed a detailed plan for connecting the Trail by 2017. The 720-page document identifies 218 gaps in the Trail. For each, there is a proposed trail solution, estimated costs, and a plan of action. This Connection Plan has been

Trail Highlights 2010-11

With the help of our partners and donors, TCT:

- Supported 66 trail construction projects and 11 engineering studies
- Invested \$4.2 million in local trail projects, more than in any other year
- Celebrated the opening of new destination trails including the magnificent Banff Legacy Trail
- Applauded the completion of many new bridges including BC's Brilliant Bridge, Central Alberta's Ponoka to Morningside bridge and the restoration of the historic Kinsol Trestle
- Completed the Trail Connection Plan, which is our blueprint for the future.

At year end the Trans Canada Trail totalled 16,531 kilometres of operational trail – 72.8% of the proposed 22,707-kilometre route from coast to coast to coast.

approved by our provincial and territorial partners and it is now driving trail building, fundraising and promotion activities nationally, provincially and locally.

Photo top: Whiteshell Provincial Park Trail, MB (photo: Travel Manitoba).



Strengthening provincial government relations

TCT is working hard to encourage provincial/territorial governments to sign formal agreements to work with TCT and our partners to connect the Trail by 2017. In September, New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham signed a Memorandum of Understanding with TCT and the New Brunswick Trails Council to complete the 800-km route across New Brunswick in the next six years. He said, "Developing a better trail system is key to giving New Brunswickers more opportunities to lead healthier, more active lifestyles."

Trans Canada Trail already has formal agreements with Nova Scotia and Ontario. We are in discussions with the governments of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan.



Collaborating with provincial and territorial partners

Partner organizations in each province and territory are responsible for developing the Trail in their area and generating and supporting local trail building activities.

TCT continues to work hard to strengthen relations with our partner groups. One of our most important forums for communication and sharing expertise is the Territorial and Provincial Advisory Council (TPAC), which is made up of a representative of each group. To facilitate further collaboration, TCT and our partner groups have signed formal partnership agreements which set out the roles and responsibilities of the parties in developing the Trans Canada Trail. TCT is committed to support Trail partners in every way possible. This year, we were pleased to be able to fund TCT Trail Coordinator positions in most of the provincial/territorial organizations. The work of the coordinators was crucial in the development of the Connection Plan. TCT thanks the partner organizations and the coordinators for their hard work, passion and commitment to the Trail.

National Trail Leadership Roundtable

Trails in Canada involve a wide range of national, provincial and local organizations; user groups; governments; volunteer trail builders, and trail users – each with unique expertise, experience and interests.



In November, Trans Canada Trail and Parks Canada brought together 49 community trail stakeholders from across Canada to discuss the future of trail development, management and sustainability in Canada. The participants identified common areas of agreement and challenges, and the need for increased collaboration, including a forum for future discussion. A working group has been formed to move this work forward. TCT thanks all those who participated in the Roundtable for their dedication to the process.

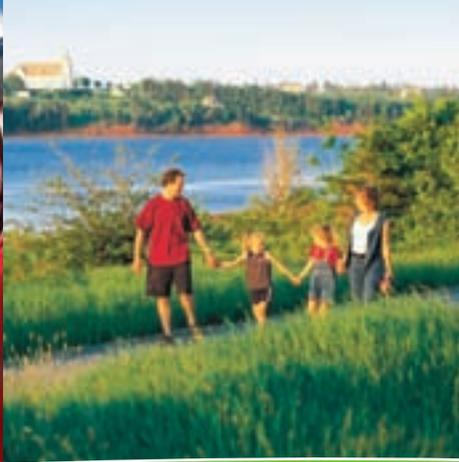
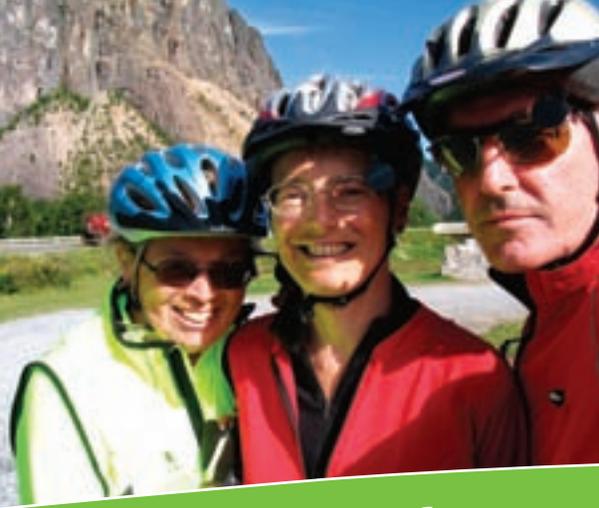
Photo top l-r: Jane Murphy (TCT), Premier Shawn Graham, Poul Jorgensen (NB Trails), Hon. Wally Stiles (Minister of Natural Resources). L: Betty Anne Graves (TCT Director) and Peter Barr (Alberta TrailNet). Bottom: Joslyn Trowbridge (MASS LBP) and Jane Murphy (TCT).

Thanks to our donors and sponsors

TCT wishes to recognize Cascade Environmental Resource Group for providing significant gift-in-kind support in the development of the Connection Plan.

We also wish to acknowledge Loblaw's and Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation for sponsoring the National Leadership Roundtable, as well as Mass LBP for providing excellent facilitation services.





A year of successes

Newfoundland

Trail connected

With 885 kilometres of trail on the route of the former Canadian National rail line, the Trans Canada Trail is fully connected from St. John's to Channel-Port Aux Basques. Known as the Newfoundland T'Railway Provincial Park, the Trail links urban, rural and wilderness areas and is widely used by snowmobilers in winter and by motorized and non-motorized trail users in summer. The T'Railway Council is exploring the potential for creating or adding new greenway trail sections to the TCT route and has held meetings with towns along the Trail to discuss the possibility.

PEI

A popular tourist destination

Known as the Confederation Trail, the Trans Canada Trail runs the full length of the island, 275 kilometres from Tignish to Elmira, with branch trails into Charlottetown and to the waterside communities of Souris, Georgetown, Montague, Wood Islands, Murray River and Murray Harbour, plus the link to the Confederation Bridge in Borden-Carleton. Built on an abandoned rail corridor, the Trail offers a unique way to explore PEI's habitat and heritage. It is a destination for thousands of visitors annually.

Island Trails, TCT's provincial partner, held over 25 recreational cycling events from May to October, including trail rides in most of the 35 communities on the Trail, weekly Monday-night rides in Charlottetown, and spring and fall weekend events.

Nova Scotia

New bridges on St. Mary's Trail



The St. Mary's Trail Association completed work on two bridge projects. New steel structures were constructed and installed at Cameron Lake and MacKeen Brook. These are part of a larger project to complete an unfinished part of the Trans Canada Trail that will connect east and west Guysborough County. *Trans Canada Trail contributed \$43,000.*

TCT thanks trail volunteers

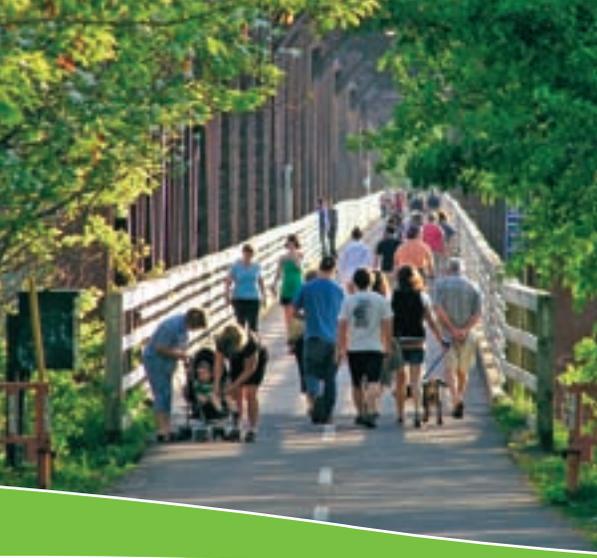
Phil Arbing & Island Trails

For eight years, Phil Arbing has served as a volunteer Trail Officer on the Confederation Trail. It's his job to cycle the 20-km section from York to Mt. Stewart and return, weekly from May to October, to ensure that the Trail is in good shape and that trail safety standards are followed. He has a list of items to check on his patrol: are people wearing bike helmets? (mandatory); are ATVs/dirt bikes staying off the Trail? (strictly required); are there hazards on the Trail that need repair? His weekly report is quickly passed on to Public Works or Tourism PEI if action is required.



Phil, a retired civil servant living in Marshfield, PEI, says he enjoys his rides. He is often accompanied by his wife Liz, another avid cyclist, or by a couple of the other Trail Officers. There are 22-24 volunteers who patrol the Confederation Trail throughout the summer. They also lead recreational trail rides and special events.

Phil is involved in most of these. For the past three years, he has chaired the Island Trail's Events Committee, as well as served on the Board of Directors. He is delighted to see so many people using the Trail to get out and get active. "We see singles, families and seniors out cycling, some doing short rides, others travelling the 275 kilometres from tip to tip, including increasing numbers of cyclists from out of province. The Trail is ideal for all ages and all abilities."



French River Bridge repaired

The French River Bridge is once again open to trail users. The 97-year-old former railway bridge, a vital link on the Trans Canada Trail in the Tatamagouche area, was closed in 2008 due to safety concerns arising from deteriorated piers. *Trans Canada Trail contributed \$20,000.*

Interpretive panels

Cape Breton trail groups, in partnership with five heritage organizations, developed 46 interpretive panels for the Trail from Port Hastings to Inverness along the west coast of Cape Breton Island. These colourful and informative panels reflect the heritage of the area. Blaise MacEachern, TCT's provincial representative, led the project and he is thrilled with the result. "Great signage is a key component of any great trail experience."



TCT thanks trail volunteers

Ann Dunn & the Fredericton Trails Coalition

Founded in 1990 to promote the development of an urban trail system, the Fredericton Trails Coalition (FTC) today is proud of the 85 kilometres of trail throughout the city. With some of the most attractive trails in all of Canada, Fredericton has been recognized as one of the country's most walkable cities. An impressive 86% of the population use city trails.

Among the most popular local trails are those which are part of the Trans Canada Trail: the 8.8-km Lincoln Trail, the magnificent Bill Thorpe Walking Bridge and the 10-km Northside Trail. "These trails are well-used both for recreation and commuting. In fact, sometimes there are so many people on the bridge you can hardly move," says Ann Dunn, president of the FTC. The 581-metre bridge, named in memory of the late Bill Thorpe, FTC's founder, holds the record as the longest pedestrian bridge in the world converted from a rail bridge.

FTC volunteers work closely with the City of Fredericton's Parks and Trees Department, which maintains the trails. This allows the FTC to focus on promoting trail use, advocate for trails, and support trail events. The group is extremely busy with an Adopt-A-Trail program; guided walks on the Trail; staffing a Trail Visitors Centre; producing the annual Fredericton Trails map, and gathering trail use statistics.

Their numbers are impressive! In summer 2010, over 96,980 were recorded on the Trail at the visitors centre, an increase of 39% over the previous year. Well done Ann and the Fredericton Trails Coalition.



New Brunswick

Shogomoc Bridge

New Brunswick Trails Council is near completion of an important 67-metre suspension bridge on the St. John River Trail. Poul Jorgensen, Executive Director of NB Trails Council, is ecstatic. "This bridge is a vital link on the Trail, connecting the north part of the province to Fredericton. It will complete the Trail from the Quebec border to Grand Bay-Westfield, giving us a spectacular destination trail with walking, cycling and canoeing opportunities."

Trans Canada Trail contributed \$143,600.



Photos top l-r: Corner Brook, NL (photo: Lynn Wilson); Confederation Trail, near St. Peter's Bay, PEI (photo: Tourism PEI/John Sylvester); Confederation Trail, Morell Bridge, PEI (photo: Doug Murray); Bill Thorpe Walking Bridge, Fredericton, NB (photo: Carol Randall); Cape Breton, NS; Fundy Trail Parkway, NB (photo: New Brunswick Tourism and Parks).
Bottom l: Panel unveiling (photo: Grant McDaniel).



A year of successes

Bay of Fundy developments

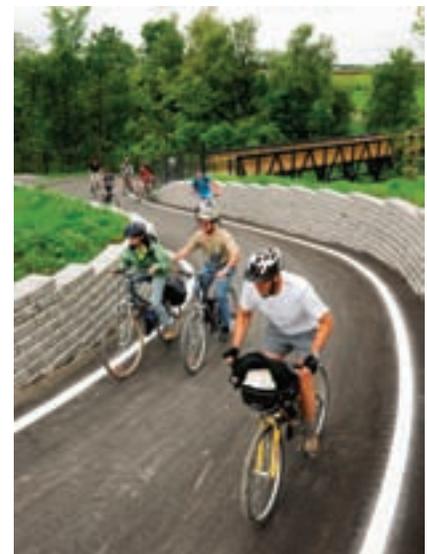


NB Trails Council reports that after years of discussion, Fundy Foot Path (east), Dobson Trail and a trail through Fundy National Park will soon be part of the Trans Canada Trail. The new trails will connect with the Fundy Trail near St. Martin's and Fundy Foot Path (west) and run all the way to Riverview, just south of Moncton. This is a major achievement for the New Brunswick Trails Council. Trans Canada Trail looks forward to welcoming the new Trail groups, once details are finalized. This will increase operational trail in the province from 45% of the proposed Trans Canada Trail route to close to 80%.

Quebec

Trail construction

In 2010-11, TCT added 88 kilometres of trail in Quebec, bringing the total to 1400 kilometres or 95.7% of the main route across the province. **Gabrielle-Roy West Trail.** A new 9-km trail in the Québec Charlevoix region offers hikers and snowshoers spectacular scenery and views of the St. Lawrence River. **TransTerrebonne Trail.** This new 25-km hiking and cycling trail in the Lanaudière region passes through Terrebonne, a community first settled in 1673, and features interesting historical and cultural sites. **Marie-Hélène Prémont Trail.** This well-used 48-km cycling and walking trail in the Québec region of Côte-de-Beaupré is a welcome addition to the Trans Canada Trail. Named after a local Olympic hero, this trail runs along La Route de La Nouvelle France, one of the oldest thoroughfares in North America. *TCT contributed \$37,750.*



Four new trails planned

TCT's Quebec Council received funds from TCT to develop route plans for four new trails which will fill gaps on the Trail: between Saint-Tite-des-Caps and La Traversée de Charlevoix; Quebec City and the Charlevoix region; Pégase trail and Lanaudière region by Maskinongé regional municipality (50-km horseback-riding, walking and skiing trail); and Quebec Region and Mauricie Region by Portneuf regional municipality (90-km horseback-riding, walking and skiing trail). *TCT contributed a total of \$22,320 to these projects.*

Maintaining quality trails

Over 65 kilometres of trail were resurfaced and culverts repaired on the Petit Témis, an important trail linking Quebec and New Brunswick. *TCT contributed \$276,000.*





Snowmobiling in Quebec

With 33,000 kilometres of signed, well-maintained snowmobile trails, Quebec is known around the world as a snowmobiling destination. TCT teamed up with the Quebec Federation of Snowmobile Clubs to produce a new snowmobile map which shows a route across Quebec, mostly on the TCT.

New rest stop

Rest stops are a special feature of the Trail in Quebec. Two new rest areas were built, bringing the total to 22. The rest stops are the result of a 10-year partnership with CORCAN/Goodfellow, which was recently renewed for two more years.



Ontario

Record levels of Trail activity

What a year it has been for Trans Canada Trail Ontario (TCTO). TCT provided close to \$950,000 to 18 local trail projects, a record level of trail activity in the province. Currently Ontario has 2864 kilometres of developed trail on the proposed 4799-km Trans Canada Trail route across the province. There are approximately 60 gaps to fill by 2017. "The huge distances in Ontario make connecting the Trail a challenge but with this kind of momentum, we will get the job done," says TCTO Executive Director Dan Andrews.

TCT thanks trail volunteers

Eudore Fortin & La Traversée de Charlevoix

La Traversée de Charlevoix is a 105-km hiking and cross-country skiing route, east of Quebec City. With majestic mountains, forests and breathtaking views, it is one of the most beautiful sections of the Trans Canada Trail.

Eudore Fortin is the founder and the soul of La Traversée. Born in the Charlevoix Village of St. Urbain in 1930, he spent his youth wandering the area. In 1977, when someone suggested building a hiking trail, he knew this was for him. "I got out my maps and started planning the route...and the rest is history," he said.

That first year, Eudore built a log cabin in the back-country; then he and friends began felling trees and building bridges. By 1978, they had forged a 105-km route. Soon after, they added six log cabins and campsites to welcome hikers and skiers who came in increasing numbers to experience this outdoor paradise. A decade later, Eudore founded a volunteer organization, La Traversée de Charlevoix, to maintain and promote the trail. Today it attracts visitors from across Canada and around the world.

Eudore's passion for the Trail remains as strong today as ever. At 81, he can still be found on the Trail every day. "I work 7 days a week and at night transfer my office phone to my home phone. I don't really have time to enjoy the Trail as leisure but I do spend a lot of time on it. I have a woodshop where I prepare the pieces needed to fix stairs or bridges and I go out and I make the necessary repairs when needed."

Eudore is a visionary, committed and proud that La Traversée is a part of the Trans Canada Trail. "We were the first long section of trail on the route and that was really important to us, then and now. It gives us bragging rights!"



Photos top l-r: Caps de Charlevoix, QC; Chaudière Falls, QC; Gatineau Park Trail, QC; Sentier Pégase, QC; La Montagnarde, QC; Caledon Trail, ON. L: Dobson Trail, NB; Cheque presentation to the Société des sentiers de la Capitale, QC; La TransTerbonne, QC (photo: Sébastien Arbour); Snowmobiling map, QC; Halte La Gabelle, Sentier Pégase, QC.



A year of successes

Trail development in the Northwest

One of the key components to connecting the TCT in northern Ontario is the outstanding leadership of economic development partners throughout the area. In the case of Dryden, Economic Development Manager and TCT Ontario board member Vicki Kurz continues to champion TCT development as a means to diversify the local/regional tourism economy. Dryden's new 2-km Laura Howe Marsh Trail is the latest addition to the Trail in the area. Plans are moving forward on other major developments. TCTO is currently working with government, First Nations and provincial parks on the proposed 850-km Path of the Paddle Trans Canada Trail water trail from Thunder Bay to the Manitoba border. Following the historic travel routes of the First Nations, this will be a destination trail for canoeists and kayakers featuring some of the province's grandest scenery. TCTO is also investigating the feasibility of a new 111-km trail section for hiking, cycling and snowmobiling on an abandoned rail corridor between Nipigon and Thunder Bay. It is hoped that construction on the Kinghorn Rail Corridor will begin in 2013.



Windsor to Ottawa corridor

Seizing the opportunity to turn former rail lines into trails, volunteer trail groups, municipalities and conservation authorities have developed more than 660 kilometres of TCT-designated rail trail between Windsor and Ottawa. While new sections were

opened in 2010 south of Brantford on the TH&B and the western section of the Kawartha TCT, more rail trail investigation was initiated on the K&P north of Kingston, east and west of Peterborough and in the Counties of Haldimand, Norfolk, Elgin, Chatham-Kent and Essex.

TCT thanks trail volunteers

Debra McIntosh & Rainbow Routes Association

Outdoor activities in Sudbury, Ontario are close to every front door. This is thanks, in part, to the Rainbow Routes Association which for 13 years has developed a network of recreational and commuter routes. To date, it has built over 200 kilometres of trail within the city limits.

Executive Director Deb McIntosh says it is rewarding to see so many people using the trails. "Last fall when we were paving the new Ramsey Lake Trail from the downtown core to Laurentian University, cyclists were so keen to try it out, they were lined up behind the paving machine...we had to keep them back!"

Rainbow Routes is developing Sudbury's portion of the Trans Canada Trail which will stretch 117 kilometres from Nairn Centre in the west, through the city towards Coniston and to North Bay in the east. Today eight local trail sections (30 km) are part of the Trail. They aim to complete the rest by 2015. "When it comes to trails, there's always a solution - you just have to be creative," says Deb.

Rainbow Routes has won many awards for its work, including the 2011 Sudbury Community Builders Award for Sports and Recreation. It is now working to make Sudbury the most pedestrian-friendly city in Ontario by 2015 as the lead agency in the development of Sudbury's Sustainable Mobility Plan.





Manitoba

Premier opens new bridge

After seven years in the works, the Manitoba Recreational Trails Association (MRTA) and partners officially opened the Whiteshell River Bridge in late summer. Over 400 attended the celebration, including Premier Greg Selinger who congratulated everyone connected with the magnificent 86-metre cable stay bridge.



Whiteshell Bridge opening

From l-r, Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger, MRTA Fundraising Chair Jeoff Chipman, MRTA VP Linda Morin, North Whiteshell Trail Association's Michael Rhodes, Minister of Conservation Bill Blaikie, MRTA President Ruth Marr, The Hon. Vic Toews, (MP Provencher) and TCT/MRTA Director Harold Westdal.

Border to Beaches Trail

Work is progressing on the ambitious Border to Beaches Trail, a 370-km route from eastern Manitoba to Lake Winnipeg. A new 20-km section of greenway trail was built between White Lake and Nutimik Lake in the Whiteshell area. MRTA has created a partnership with the province's Community Economic Development Committee of Cabinet to speed the progress of the Trail – specifically in Pine Falls/Powerview, an area that experienced an economic downturn with the closing of its major industry. The Border to Beaches Trail is a \$4.6 million project. The Federal Government and the Province of Manitoba have each committed \$1.45 million. *Trans Canada Trail contributed \$904,000.*

Trail audit

A comprehensive trail audit of the Trans Canada Trail in Manitoba provided MRTA with GPS information, refurbishment and maintenance data, thousands of pictures and a lot of free publicity about the Trail. The audit was undertaken by University of Manitoba student Kevin Klimczak who cycled across Manitoba from the Saskatchewan border to Ontario. His six-week adventure in fall 2010 was followed closely by print and broadcast media.



MRTA hosted the first annual Hike-a-thon to raise funds for the Border to Beaches Trail. The event at Whiteshell Park attracted 80 people

Photos top l-r: Dana Meise with Detroit in background on West End Recreation Way, Windsor, ON; Atikokan Trail, ON; Kelly Lake Trail, Sudbury, ON (photo: Deb McIntosh); Pass Lake Trestle, ON; Trans Canada Trail pavilion, Winnipeg, MB; TCT at Silver Springs Park, East St. Paul, MB (photo: Van Whitehead); The Forks, Winnipeg, MB. L: Trail opening, TH & B Rail Trail, south of Brantford, ON. Below: Kevin Klimczak on Rossburn Subdivision Trail, MB.





A year of successes

Saskatchewan

Battleford Trail

The Town of Battleford completed a 1-km trail section connecting the town to Government Ridge, a national historic site that overlooks the junction of the Battle and North Saskatchewan Rivers. *Trans Canada Trail contributed \$3,000.*

Moose Jaw Trail improvements

The City of Moose Jaw rerouted a 3-km section of trail and constructed a new pedestrian bridge over the Moose Jaw River, on the 16-km Moose Jaw and Area Trans Canada Trail. The Trail runs through the beautiful Wakamow Valley and is a popular walking and cycling route. *Trans Canada Trail contributed \$145,000.*



Saskatoon Trail extension

The Meewasin Valley Authority undertook an engineering project to complete the Trail in the north end of Saskatoon. It plans to add three kilometres to the existing 14-km Trans Canada Trail section which runs through the heart of the city along the South Saskatchewan River. The Meewasin Valley Trail offers beautifully landscaped parks and natural areas and is well-used year-round for recreation, sight-seeing and active transportation. *Trans Canada Trail contributed \$26,000.*

TCT thanks trail volunteers

Dorothy Rhead & the Saskatchewan Trails Association

"I have had a 17-year love affair with the Trans Canada Trail," says Dorothy Rhead, one of Saskatchewan's most dedicated volunteers. An avid walker, Dorothy was invited to the inaugural meeting about the Trail in Regina in 1994. Ever since, she's been on the board of the Trail's provincial organization and played an important role in the development of the Trail in Saskatchewan.



Over the years, Dorothy has been involved in everything: drafting by-laws, planning the Trail route, fundraising, writing newsletters, attending Trail openings, working with local trails...and selling merchandise. She laughs about that. "If you see someone in this province in a Trans Canada Trail shirt you can bet I sold it. Over the years, I have attended hundreds of events and sold thousands of dollars of Trail gear."

Dorothy exudes energy. At 71, she is out on the Trail in Regina every day. "I live a block from the Trail and I walk up to the pavilion and around the lake as part of my daily routine." She has also hiked many parts of the Trail across Canada as an active member of the Canadian Volkssport Federation. Dorothy is constantly on the go, volunteering as well with Habitat for Humanity and Ducks Unlimited. "I believe that volunteering is the glue that binds communities together," she says.

In communities across Canada, it is volunteers like Dorothy that today are helping connect the Trail. As she says, "The Trail shows the backbone and tenacity of Canadians to accomplish great things. We will get this Trail done, regardless of the challenges. It is a great project and it is tying Canadians together in a healthy living way."

New kiosks

The Lumsden/Deer Valley Area Trans Canada Trail opened five new kiosks and upgraded look-out areas on the 17-km trail which runs toward Regina from Lumsden through the Wascana and Deer Valleys. The new kiosks feature display boards, maps and trail information.



Photos top l-r: Pelicans seen from Regina TCT, SK; Western Red Lilies at trailside, SK; Lumsden/Deer Valley Trans Canada Trail, SK. R: Runners on Meewasin Valley Trail, Saskatoon, SK (Photo: Tourism Saskatchewan/Black Box Images); New kiosk on Lumsden/Deer Valley Area Trans Canada Trail.



Alberta

Mapping project wins international award

A mapping project of recreational trails in Alberta won an international award from American Trails. The National Trails Award for Trails Advocacy was presented to Linda Strong-Watson, Executive Director of Alberta TrailNet Society and Chair of the Provincial Trail Map Project, at the 2010 American Trails National Symposium. The project, which involves government and trail group partners, will



see the development of 16 regional maps and the creation of a provincial trails database.

Opening of Banff Legacy Trail

His Royal Highness The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, joined the Hon. Jim Prentice, then Minister of the Environment and Minister responsible for Parks Canada and TCT, Alberta TrailNet and Parks Canada officials to open the Banff Legacy Trail in July. This spectacular new section of the Trans Canada Trail runs 26 kilometres from the east gate of Banff National Park to the Bow Valley Parkway, providing cyclists, hikers and in-line skaters with breathtaking Rocky Mountain views.

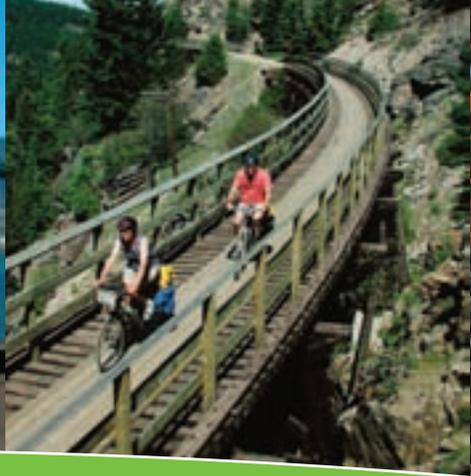


Photos top l-r: Banff Legacy Trail, AB (photo: Parks Canada/Michelle Macullo); Horseback riding near Bow Valley Falls, Banff, AB (Photo: Travel Alberta); Snowmobiling on TCT, AB; TCT near Spray Reservoir, AB (photo: Al Skucas). L: Linda Strong-Watson receives award at American Trails conference. Above: Cyclists talk with HRH The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex (Photo: Parks Canada).

Operational Trail

(at March 31, 2011)

| | SPINE TRAIL OPERATIONAL TRAIL, LAND | SPINE TRAIL OPERATIONAL TRAIL, WATER | SPINE TRAIL OPERATIONAL TRAIL, TOTAL | SPINE TRAIL OBJECTIVE | OPERATIONAL TRAIL % | OTHER TRAILS TOTAL |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| NL | 885 | 0 | 885 | 885 | 100.0 | 0 |
| NS | 370 | 0 | 370 | 920 | 40.2 | 0 |
| PEI | 362 | 0 | 362 | 389 | 93.1 | 0 |
| NB | 296 | 94 | 390 | 856 | 45.6 | 0 |
| QC | 1373 | 27 | 1400 | 1463 | 95.7 | 198 |
| ON | 2618 | 246 | 2864 | 4799 | 59.7 | 11 |
| MB | 1263 | 0 | 1263 | 1410 | 89.6 | 0 |
| SK | 552 | 0 | 552 | 1472 | 37.5 | 38 |
| AB | 889 | 826 | 1715 | 2987 | 57.4 | 41 |
| BC | 2228 | 0 | 2228 | 2857 | 78.0 | 0 |
| NU | 143 | 0 | 143 | 143.5 | 99.9 | 0 |
| NWT | 630 | 2236 | 2866 | 2874 | 99.7 | 0 |
| YK | 1493 | 0 | 1493 | 1651 | 90.4 | 6 |
| TOTAL | 13,102 | 3,429 | 16,531 | 22,706.5 | 72.8 | 294 |



A year of successes

Trail grows in Central Alberta

Connecting the Trail between Edmonton and Calgary is a big job for trail builders in Central Alberta but progress is being made. Construction of two new bridges near Ponoka and the development of 18 kilometres of new trail have connected Ponoka to Morningside, offering local residents a trail to walk, bike and ride. To the south, Lacombe County constructed a walking/cycling trail between the Blindman River Bridge and Blackfalds in 2010. In 2011, it is planning to construct a large section of trail connecting the communities of Blackfalds and Lacombe.



Three counties and over a dozen municipalities are involved in developing the Trail in Central Alberta, assisted by Alberta TrailNet and the Central Alberta Regional Trails Society. Red Deer, Lacombe, Ponoka, Wetaskiwin, Innisfail, Blackfalds and Penhold have all developed trail systems which are registered as part of the Trans Canada Trail. The counties of Red Deer, Lacombe and Ponoka are working on plans to create rural trail linkages to close some of the gaps on the Trail.

British Columbia

Kinsol Trestle and the Cowichan Valley Trail



The Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island is a Trans Canada Trail hot spot this year. One of the most exciting projects is the restoration of the historic Kinsol Trestle, a former CNR bridge over the Koksilah River. Last used by trains in 1979 and closed for decades to foot passengers, this spectacular 187-metre timber rail structure is reopening, along with a new 2.4-km section of rail trail. Thanks to the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) and local residents who raised close to \$7 million, Trail users no longer have to use a difficult bypass trail and visitors can experience a vital piece of Canadian history. Many people have watched the progress of the restoration on-line, via a webcam at www.earthcam.com/clients/britishcolumbia/Kinsol.

The CVRD has also completed construction and surfacing of two new sections of the Trail - a 26-km rail trail from Lake Cowichan to Duncan and a 2.8-km trail section in the

City of Duncan. These trails accommodate cyclists, hikers/walkers and equestrians and are already widely-used. *Trans Canada Trail* contributed \$250,000 to the Kinsol Trestle and will be contributing \$400,000 to the new trail.

City upgrades

The City of Nelson established a new 4.3-km city route for the Trans Canada Trail, offering great views, access to downtown amenities, and a beautiful pathway through Rotary Lakeside Park. Grand Forks undertook a \$2.1-million Trail upgrade which includes a new 2-metre-wide paved surface, energy efficient lighting, bench platforms and a new kiosk.



New rail trail

Trails BC celebrated the opening of a new 25-km greenway trail between Kimberley and Cranbrook in September. The \$2.6-million paved rail trail in eastern BC offers spectacular scenery and is attracting out-of-province cyclists as well as local residents.



Yukon

Wolf Creek Bridge

After 12 years of negotiations, the Wolf Creek Bridge in Whitehorse is finally a go! Engineering and environmental studies have been completed and construction will take place in 2011. The 70-metre bridge will connect two sections on the Copper Haul Trail, the most-used part of the Trans Canada Trail in Yukon. For years, the creek has been impossible to cross in summer and dangerous in winter. The bridge will be named the Peter Greenlaw Bridge in memory of one of TCT's founders in Yukon, who started work on it in the late 90s. The City of Whitehorse has been a major supporter of the project, along with the territorial government and TCT.

New trail approved

Jim Connor of the Klondike Snowmobile Association, TCT's territorial partner, reports the development of TCT's Connection Plan has been a huge benefit in Yukon. Government officials have approved designation of close to 100 kilometres of the Klondike Highway between Carcross and Whitehorse as part of the Trans Canada Trail. This fills an important gap and brings TCT's Yukon route to 98% connected.

Northwest Territories

Nordic walking River Challenge

Over 400 people participated in a winter challenge to "walk the distance" of the Mackenzie River from Fort Providence to Tuktoyaktuk (1658 kilometres). The challenge was sponsored by the Northwest Territories Recreation and Parks Association (NWTRPA) and CBC North to promote the NWT Trans Canada Trail, CBC's *Live Right Now* campaign and NWTRPA's Nordic walking program. Community members, schools and workplaces formed teams to walk, run or ski the distance on community trails or



log miles on the "virtual river". Mike Mitchell, TCT's NWT representative, reports, "It was a huge success. Some teams actually walked the length of the river twice!"

TCT thanks trail volunteers

Harris Cox & the Klondike Snowmobile Association

Harris Cox has a passion for the Trans Canada Trail. Come winter, he is out on the Trail two to three hours every day.

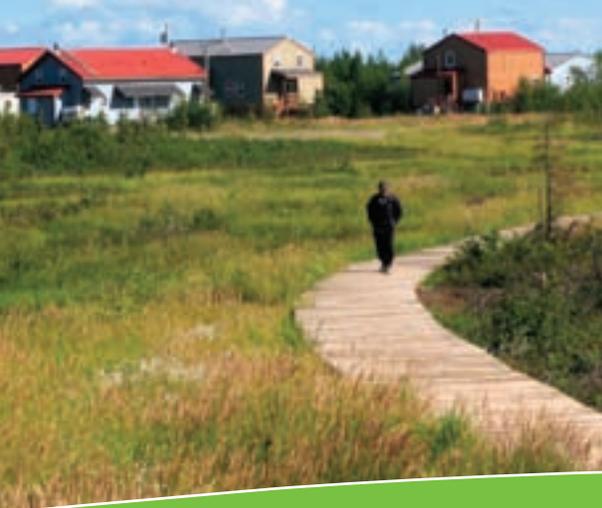
A Trail volunteer *extraordinaire*, Harris takes responsibility for grooming snowmobile trails in the Whitehorse area. He looks after 600 kilometres of local trails, as well as the Trans Canada Trail route north to Braeburn.

Harris travels over 8,000 kilometres every winter, and he says he loves it! "By 6 a.m., I am firing up my machine and hooking up the groomer, then I'm off – a half kilometre to the Trail. I groom all the snowmobile trails in the Whitehorse area, as well as the Millennium Trail, which is a non-motorized TCT trail in the city centre. There, I pack the snow and add a ski track for people who like to ski to work including Mayor Bev Buckway and Supreme Court Judge Ronald Veale."

A couple of times a year, Harris grooms the Trail from Whitehorse to Braeburn, which is about 160 kilometres north on the Dawson Overland Trail. "It is a fantastic run, about 16 hours in total," he says.

Harris thoroughly enjoys every minute on the Trail. He talks enthusiastically about the snowmobilers (3,000 in the Whitehorse area), dog sled teams (up to 100 some weekends), as well as great summer cycling. The Trail in the Yukon is special, thanks to dedicated volunteers like Harris.





A year of successes

TCT thanks trail volunteers

Kim Rapati & the Hay River Hikers

For Kim Rapati, winter is a special time to get out and enjoy the Trans Canada Trail and other trails in the Hay River area. Every Sunday morning, she joins the NWT Hay River Hikers who meet at the library, then go out and explore some of the town's 30 kilometres of connecting trails. "Just a few kilometres from town, we are in the wilderness and we see neat birds and wildlife," says Kim. "In winter, we spot lots of tracks in the snow - lynx, wolves, porcupine ... and we don't have to worry about bugs or bears."



The Hay River Hikers group is the most northern Canadian Volkssport Federation club. It attracts people of all ages who get together to walk or snowshoe or sometimes look at the migrating birds, including owls and cranes, that pass through the area each year.

To inspire more people to get out and get active, members of the Hay River Hikers have developed a new Hay River Trail and Nature Guide, which features a large map of the trail system and information on individual trails as well as history and natural facts. The guide has been a real labour of love for Kim and the many dedicated volunteers who for the past two years have gathered GPS data on all the trails, written copy, taken photos and raised funds for the printing. The guide will soon be available at the local visitors' centre and library and will be a great resource for promoting the four Trans Canada Trail sections in Hay River and the other local trails.

Trail featured in Paddling Film Fest

The Trans Canada Trail route on the Mackenzie River is featured in a short film by Yellowknife resident Robin Bourke, now showing in the 2011 Reel Paddling Film Festival. *The Big River* chronicles Bourke's three-week trip from Fort Providence to Tuktoyaktuk, which is the route of the Trans Canada Trail. Take a look on www.youtube.com/thetranscanadatrail.

Taiga Youth Camp

held its inaugural youth canoe trip on the Mackenzie River section of the Trail in 2010 and plans to make the trip an integral part of its 2011 program. The organization's goal is to enrich the lives of young northern women, by providing leadership and adventure opportunities in a fun and supportive environment.

Photos pages 16 & 17 top l-r: Trails BC Trail Ride, Kettle River Trestle, BC; Stanley Park, Vancouver, BC (photo: Bruce Obee); Kettle Valley Rail Trail through Myra Canyon, BC (photo: Bruce Obee); Bridge of Dreams, Princeton, BC; Tombstone Territorial Park, YT (photo: Government of Yukon/R. Postma); Mackenzie River, NT (photo: Jamie Bastedo). *Page 18 top l-r:* Fort McPherson boardwalk path, NT (photo: Jamie Bastedo); Fort Providence Riverside Trail, NT (photo: Jamie Bastedo); Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park, NU (photo: Nunavut Tourism). *Right:* TCT Director Bruce Simpson on Itijjagiq Trail, Nunavut (photo: Cameron DeLong).

Nunavut

The Trans Canada Trail in Nunavut is a 140-km route that showcases the character of the Arctic landscape and the lives of the people who call the area home. It follows the Itijjagiq Trail, which begins on the south shore of Frobisher Bay, near the Bay of Two Rivers, and leads 120 kilometres southwesterly across the Meta Incognita Peninsula, then southerly through the Soper River Valley (a Canadian Heritage River known as *Kuujuaq* or 'big river') to the shores of Glasgow Bay at Kimmirut on Hudson Strait.



Itijjagiq is an Inuktitut word meaning 'over the land'. The Trail offers a special opportunity to experience the beauty and vastness of the Arctic landscape. The unending sky offers vistas of remarkable magnitude.

Trail Projects

funded in 2010-11

Trans Canada Trail provided a record amount of funding, supporting 66 trail development projects and 11 engineering studies.

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION

| | | | |
|---|-----------|---|--------------------|
| BC - Sea to Sky Trail | \$246,000 | ON - Cataract Trail - Harrowsmith Trail Hub Study | \$1,800 |
| BC - Spirit of 2010 Trail | \$54,133 | ON - East Duffins Headwaters | \$1,900 |
| BC - Trout Creek Brookmere Trail | \$5,550 | ON - Eastern Ontario Trails Association Signage | \$3,000 |
| BC - Kinsol Trestle | \$250,000 | ON - Thunder Bay Trail Rehabilitation | \$45,847 |
| BC - Fort Langley to Golden Ears Bridge | \$107,000 | ON - Midland Missing Link | \$18,268 |
| BC - Brilliant Bridge Restoration | \$347,339 | ON - Laura Howe Marsh | \$51,075 |
| BC - Caboose and Weyerhaeuser Roundhouse | \$4,816 | QC - Charlevoix-Côte de Beauré | \$30,117 |
| BC - Abbotsford Discovery Trail | \$98,000 | QC - Maskinongé | \$9,049 |
| BC - Highway 3 to City Park | \$50,000 | QC - Petit Témis North | \$276,000 |
| BC - Cowichan Valley Trail - Northern Completion Initiative | \$138,487 | QC - Petite-Rivière-Saint-François 2 | \$23,850 |
| AB - Battle River Bridge | \$42,780 | QC - Marie-Hélène Prémont Trail | \$37,750 |
| AB - Ponoka Trail Development | \$33,140 | QC - Sentier de l'Orignac | \$3,128 |
| AB - Athabasca Landing Trail | \$30,000 | QC - Portneuf | \$5,794 |
| AB - Blindman River Bridge | \$25,520 | QC - Pégase | \$4,350 |
| AB - Westlock Bridge | \$24,000 | NB - Port Elgin Bridge | \$36,895 |
| AB - Central Alberta Regional Trails Society | \$63,738 | NB - Piste Cyclable de Saint-Basile | \$50,000 |
| AB - Peace River Trail | \$100,380 | NB - Shogomoc Bridge | \$53,546 |
| AB - Banff Bike Markings | \$1,520 | NB - St. John Inventory Analysis | \$12,250 |
| SK - Moose Jaw Trail | \$72,500 | NS - Inverness - Richmond | \$25,400 |
| SK - Battleford TCT | \$3,000 | NS - Shortline Trail | \$2,262 |
| MB - Border to Beaches Trail | \$520,987 | NS - Salt Marsh Trail | \$28,900 |
| MB - Rossburn Subdivision Trail Association | \$44,500 | NS - St. Mary's TCT | \$39,500 |
| ON - Ramsey Lake Path | \$37,411 | NS - French River Bridge | \$20,094 |
| ON - Wainfleet Rail Trail | \$38,000 | NS - Topcat Project | \$14,814 |
| ON - Guelph Downtown Trail | \$62,500 | NS - Inverness County Trans Canada Trail Association Bridge | \$12,310 |
| ON - Kinghorn Feasibility Study | \$2,000 | NL - Newfoundland T'Railway | \$100,000 |
| ON - Tillsonburg | \$23,450 | NT - Yellowknife Niven Lake | \$5,350 |
| ON - Kate Pace Way | \$377,600 | NT - Ft. McPherson Multi-Use Trail | \$12,900 |
| ON - Muskoka Connections | \$16,960 | NT - Hay River TCT | \$7,510 |
| ON - Kawartha Lakes, Uxbridge to Lindsay | \$21,870 | NT - Norman Wells TCT | \$7,990 |
| ON - City of Peterborough | \$68,635 | NT - Pehdzeh Ki Trail | \$4,165 |
| ON - Brant County | \$116,080 | YT - McIntyre Creek Bridges | \$12,400 |
| ON - Lakehead to Lake of Woods Feasibility | \$17,384 | | |
| ON - Cataract Trail to Lombard Culvert | \$1,200 | TOTAL | \$4,004,694 |

ENGINEERING PROJECTS

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| BC - Coquihalla Suspension Bridge | \$28,899 | ON - Thunder Bay Trail Rehabilitation | \$16,586 |
| AB - Battle River Bridge | \$3,485 | NB - Shogomoc Bridge | \$1,420 |
| AB - Fort Saskatchewan | \$99,538 | NB - Fundy Foot Path Bridge | \$8,100 |
| SK - Northwest TCT | \$48,100 | NS - Musquodoboit Bridge Inspection | \$3,601 |
| MB - Birdtail Bridge | \$8,000 | NS - St. Mary's TCT | \$4,100 |
| ON - Waterford Heritage Trail | \$18,080 | TOTAL | \$239,909 |



Trans Canada Trail

- a recreation and tourist destination

Millions of Canadians and international visitors are using the Trail to get active and explore Canada's natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. With rural, urban and wilderness sections, the Trail is inspiring many to undertake unique journeys, learn new things, pursue dreams and share special moments with family and friends.

Discovering BC by bike



On July 20, two outdoor enthusiasts from Gibsons, BC set off from Banff for a 35-day cycling adventure across BC to Salt Spring Island. With the *Official Guidebook of the Trans Canada Trail – British Columbia* in hand,

Sheena Careless and Matt Cavers followed the Trans Canada Trail most of the way. “It was an amazing trip, as good or better than we expected... excellent,” said Matt.

Sheena, an outdoor educator, and Matt, a University of British Columbia PhD student, travelled logging roads, mountain bike trails and rail trails as they headed west (and downhill) across the province. “The scenery ranged from pretty nice to simply spectacular. There were moments of sheer euphoria,” said Matt.

The couple had a long list of highlights from their 1600-km journey. At the top was riding between snowy mountains and beside glassy lakes on the Spray Lakes Trail south of Canmore; stumbling through the pitch-black

kilometre-long railway tunnel east of Christina Lake; swimming in the Slocan, Kettle and Tulameen Rivers; exploring the Quintette Tunnels near Hope; and eating ripe peaches near Lake Okanagan.

Matt expressed surprise that there were not more people doing long cycling trips on the Trail. He and Sheena only met four groups, three of whom were Americans. “When you travel slowly, you see things you simply miss in a car – particularly how diverse and magnificent BC is. Each town is different, the people are great, and there is a lot of history to experience.”

The couple has recommended their trip to active friends and family. “C'mon, Canadians! Get on the Trail!” says Matt.

The first person to walk from coast to coast to coast

For many years, Dana Meise dreamed of being the first person to walk the Trans Canada Trail from coast to coast to coast. Today he is on his way to making that dream come true.

In 2011, the 36-year-old Prince George forester started his fourth year walking across Canada on the Trail. In May, he set out from Huntsville, Ontario, 200 kilometres north of Toronto, where he left off his journey last year. He is heading north and west across Ontario, then on towards the BC Pacific coast.

Dana Meise is an extraordinary Canadian, with a vision, a determination and a sense of adventure that is unique.

He has shown this over and over again since he set off from Cape Spear, Newfoundland in May 2008. Over three summers, he walked across five and a half provinces, over 7,000 kilometres. He has endless stories to tell about the places he has visited and the people he has met (from the Anne of

Green Gables cast, to Walter Gretzky to the Rt. Hon. Michaëlle Jean, former Governor General of Canada).

Dana has had more experiences than most Canadians have in a lifetime. When asked about the highlights, he just grins. "I have sailed in Baddeck, whale watched in Cape Breton, fished for lobster in NB, bungee jumped in Quebec, learned to fiddle, learned French, swam in Lake Erie, visited Parliament Hill, cheered the Montreal Canadians, been to the top of the CN Tower, walked cobblestone streets in Montreal, climbed Mont Tremblant, seen Canada's smallest library and smallest jail, visited John A. Macdonald's house, explored the Rideau Canal, seen Niagara Falls and spotted my first iceberg... It's all been great so far. It's an amazing journey on the Trail."

Visit www.thegreathike.com.



Trails BC Ride

Trails BC President Al Skucas organized the fourth annual Trails BC Ride. Participants on the 5-day trip rode 270 kilometres from Christina Lake to Kelowna on the Kettle Valley and Columbia and Western Rail Trails

Riding on the KVR

Isabel Pritchard is an avid trail rider. She gets out for short rides several times a week with a group of neighbours from Kelowna, BC. Four or five times a year, they organize day-long excursions. A favourite destination is the Trans Canada Trail's Kettle Valley Rail Trail. It is two hours away, along logging roads and trails, which climb steadily and offer spectacular canyon views along the way.

"After a couple of hours in the saddle, we arrive at the Kettle Valley rail bed, where we head west towards the Bellevue trestle," says Isabel. "This part of the Trail offers magnificent scenery; a curved trestle, the remnants of old rail cars and views towards Kelowna far below." With its easy grade, it provides unique opportunities for trail riders. "The horses have been here before and start to anticipate the opportunity to do some trot and canter along the rail bed. To them it is a rare opportunity for moving out unhampered by steep climbs or rough footing," says Isabel.

The group is careful to watch for other trail users, particularly hikers, cyclists and mountain bikers, says Isabel. "When the lead rider calls out "people ahead", we slow the horses down to a walk."

Isabel is a member of Back Country Horsemen of BC which represents 800 recreational trail riders in the province. Horse-back riding is one of the Trans Canada Trail's preferred activities. In BC, the Trail offers 1497 kilometres of trail for trail riders.



Photo top l: La Traversée de Charlevoix, QC (photo: Jean-François Bergeron/Enviro foto).



New partnerships, new programs

Partners play an important part in the development of the Trail. This year, TCT proudly built new strategic alliances to promote trail development, encourage environmental stewardship and market the Trail.

Trail Care Crew

Trans Canada Trail, Parks Canada and the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) Canada joined forces to provide resources to trail groups on building sustainable trails, maintaining and restoring existing trails, and solving trail management challenges. The three organizations sponsored a two-person team to give workshops to TCT groups, IMBA clubs and Parks Canada sites. The crew trained over 350 volunteers and assessed over 130 trails across the country.



New Trail BioKit

In partnership with Environment Canada's Biosphere, the Trail began development of a new *Trans Canada Trail BioKit*. Designed for children and their parents, the BioKit is a guide to wildlife, plant life and nature found on different sections of the Trail.

Celebrating biodiversity on the Trans Canada Trail

TCT is working to celebrate biodiversity on the Trail. With the UNESCO-designated Fundy Biosphere Reserve in New Brunswick, the Trail is assisting in the development of the *Trails Amazing Places* project, through the identification and mapping of special natural features on the Trail. With the Carolinian Canada Coalition in Southern Ontario, the Trail is developing a trail interpretation and awareness program, promoting unique areas of biodiversity along the Trail.

Marketing Atlantic Canada Trails

TCT is playing a lead role in the development of the Atlantic Canada Trails Association (ACT), a regional marketing partnership designed to promote destination trails for cycling, walking and hiking in Atlantic Canada. ACT brings together TCT's four Atlantic provincial partners, the four Atlantic provincial tourism departments, Parks Canada and Tourism Atlantic-ACOA. ACT partners plan to assess the key requirements for destination trails, upgrade and construct trails, create a marketing strategy and conduct a socio-economic impact study.

Thanks to our donors and sponsors

Loblaw Companies Limited is supporting the development of the Trail's green initiatives, including the Trail Care Crew and the BioKit. These projects are helping to increase awareness of the environmental benefits of the Trail and encouraging active transportation.





Celebrating Canada's national trail

Just as the Trans Canada Trail is growing, so is its reputation. The Trail is earning recognition, nationally and internationally, as a must-visit recreation and tourism destination.

National Geographic recognizes Trail



National Geographic, the iconic US magazine of exploration and discovery first published in 1888, profiled the Trans Canada Trail as one of

the world's must-see destinations in its 2011 *One Hundred Journeys of a Lifetime*. Two years ago, the Trail was included in National Geographic's beautiful picture book, listing 500 *Journeys of a Lifetime*.



Trail on the big screen

Trans Canada Trail's "Get out there, Canada" ran in 100 Cineplex theatres and on 1000 screens in July 2010. Our latest promotional video urges Canadians to get out and use the Trail and explore the spectacular landscapes found from coast to coast to coast. View the video at www.tctrail.ca.

Trail featured in Canada's national paper

Monthly ads in the *Globe and Mail*, Canada's national newspaper, are helping raise awareness of the Trans Canada Trail and promoting different trail sections across Canada. With a reach of close to 4.5 million Canadians monthly, the *Globe and Mail* promotion is sparking interest in the Trail and encouraging Canadians to get involved.



Photos top l-r: School children on Kawartha Trans Canada Trail, ON (photo: Al MacPherson); Snowmobiling on the Trail in Quebec (photo: Quebec Federation of Snowmobiling Clubs).

Thanks to our donors and sponsors

TCT thanks Cineplex Media Canada for its donation of screen time and doug & serge agency for its contribution of creative services for the production of the video. As well, we thank the *Globe and Mail*, our National Media Partner, and Watt International, our Strategic Branding Partner, for their contributions to the Trail. These sponsorships are helping raise the Trail's profile and fostering pride in our important legacy project.



Thank you to our many

Thousands of individuals, families, groups, foundations and companies supported the Trans Canada Trail this year. Their donations were fundamental to the Trail's success and helped enable our partnerships with government, corporations and the communities that build our grand Trail each day.

As a result of the generosity of donors and sponsors, more trail is being built and more Canadians are using the Trail to experience Canada's natural beauty, rich history and diverse communities.

Every gift to the Trans Canada Trail is important, regardless of size. We thank our loyal donors for helping us achieve our vision of Canada fully connected by the Trail in 2017.



Award for TCT Park

The City of Rosemère won a 2010 Communities in Bloom award for the Alexandre Bilodeau Park on the TCT. The Park is dedicated to Olympian Alexandre Bilodeau and the Trans Canada Trail.

TCT thanks trail donors

Brenda Hughes & her cousins

Every summer, Brenda Hughes of Winnipeg gets together with her six cousins for a four-day rendezvous, they affectionately call their "Cuzvention". It involves a lot of activity and enormous fun. Wherever they are, they always try and include a walk on the Trans Canada Trail. "We all love the Trail," says Brenda.



Since 1989 when they held the first "Cuzvention", the cousins, who range in age from 64-77, have been to each other's homes and cottages in Calgary, Edmonton, Kelowna, Vancouver Island and Winnipeg, as well as other locations. They have seen many different sections of the Trans Canada Trail including the Galloping Goose Trail near Victoria, the Kettle Valley Rail Trail in Kelowna, the Kiskayo Trail in Pigeon Lake Park, Alberta and the R.M. of Wolseley Trail in Saskatchewan. The cousins refer to the Saskatchewan trip as their 'historical' Cuzvention, as they were tracing the history of their grandparents who first settled in Ellisboro, Saskatchewan. They had their picture taken in front of the Trans Canada Trail Pavilion there.

This year will be their 17th Cuzvention and it is taking place in Winnipeg. Brenda is already planning a day on the Trail exploring The Forks and historic St. Boniface. "We all think the Trail is such a great idea and have made memorial donations for the two cousins we've lost over the years as well as other friends when appropriate. We just love that Trail!"

TCT thanks Brenda and her cousins – Sydney, Rose, Sharon, Alison, Linda and Cecily – for their generosity as donors and for inspiring us all to call family and friends and get out on the Trail.

New Trans Canada Trail guidebook

Trans Canada Trail – Northwest Territories, written by Jamie Bastedo, is TCT's eighth official guide. Published by Fitzhenry and Whiteside, it is an essential resource for Trail users who want to explore this vast northern territory or know more about the natural features, local history, culture and special attractions of the NWT. Available at www.tctrail.ca.





Trail supporters

How you can support the Trail

Annual Giving

- With more than 6 million metres needed to connect the Trail from coast to coast to coast, each donation brings us steps closer to connecting our nation through the world's largest and grandest trail.
- Trail builders are the lifeblood of the Trail; by making a monthly donation you are committing to the vision of a grander Canada.
- Visit www.tctrail.ca to show your support now!

Governors' Program

- Join a special group of our closest friends and donate \$1000 or more annually to make this national dream a reality.

Gifts of Stocks and Securities

- This type of gift is one of the most tax-effective ways you can help connect the Trans Canada Trail. Contact us at 1-800-465-3636 or donorservice@tctrail.ca for more information.

Legacy Giving

- A bequest left in your will makes a powerful statement about your lifelong support of the Trail and also provides tax relief that conserves your estate for other beneficiaries. Please get in touch at 1-800-465-3636 and we can help you plan your legacy gift.

"I have been a walker and cyclist all my life and I support the Trans Canada Trail. The Trail encourages people to get outside and get active and that is important to me. I am now 86 and walk several kilometres each day."

— **Allan B. Reynolds, Donor, Kelowna, BC.**

TCT thanks trail donors

Mary Wright

For Mary Wright, it was a thrill to dip her feet in the Arctic Ocean at the northern terminus of the Trans Canada Trail in NWT. A long-time BC resident, Mary and her late husband often walked the Trail in Vancouver and in the Penticton area where Mary grew up, but they always dreamed of going north. Mary finally made the trip to Tuktoyaktuk in 2007. She said, "The country was wonderful, the people so friendly and open, and it was fun to see the Trans Canada Trail pavilion there."

Mary and her husband have their names inscribed in several BC Trail pavilions, including Granville Island and Penticton. They started supporting the development of the Trail in the 90s, and Mary has been a regular donor since. "I believe the Trail is important: It is joining our country together and bringing us closer as people," she said.

Mary agrees that the plan to connect the Trans Canada Trail for Canada's 150th birthday is a great goal. As a child, her home was near a busy rail corridor in Penticton, now a recreational destination for hikers and cyclists. "It certainly has been fun to watch the Trail develop. It's a wonderful achievement."



Photos top l-r: Confederation Trail, PEI (photo: Doug Murray); Edmonton River Valley Trail, AB (photo: Edmonton Tourism); Trans Canada Trail pavilion; Gérard Marchand, Chair of Société des sentiers de la Capitale, TCT's Québec regional partner on Gabrielle-Roy East Trail, QC; cross-country skiing, ON; Talbot Trail, ON. Bottom l: TCT Rosemère pavilion (photo: Communities in Bloom).

Trans Canada Trail

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 Lori Spence, Vice-President & Chief Financial Officer
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Trans Canada Trail Financial Information

For the year ending March 31, 2011

| STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND NET ASSETS | 2011 | 2010 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| REVENUES | | |
| Federal grant | 5,366,582 | 3,651,547 |
| Parks Canada grant | 500,000 | - |
| Designated donations | 294,704 | 296,378 |
| Donations and memberships | 719,234 | 922,831 |
| Investment income | 3,905 | 5,986 |
| Miscellaneous income | 5,843 | 5,307 |
| | 6,890,268 | 4,882,049 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Trail construction | 5,444,826 | 3,772,330 |
| Trail promotion and education | 191,156 | 204,775 |
| Fundraising | 362,302 | 406,936 |
| Strategic Alliances | 157,055 | - |
| General and administrative | 696,865 | 455,980 |
| Allocations to other organizations | 14,159 | 19,249 |
| Amortization of equipment | 18,924 | 17,350 |
| | 6,885,287 | 4,876,620 |
| EXCESS OF REVENUE (EXPENSES) | 4,981 | 5,429 |
| Net assets at beginning of year | 505,895 | 482,724 |
| Endowment fund contribution | 446 | 17,742 |
| Net assets at end of year | 511,322 | 505,895 |
| Railway rights-of-way donated during the year | 366,182 | 169,336 |

BALANCE SHEET

| | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash | 560,151 | 145,691 |
| Marketable securities | 502,026 | 6,464,618 |
| Accounts receivable | 48,183 | 29,938 |
| Prepaid expenses | 117,387 | 21,262 |
| Equipment | 68,034 | 42,055 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 1,295,781 | 6,703,564 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 607,929 | 514,376 |
| Deferred contributions | 176,530 | 5,683,293 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 784,459 | 6,197,669 |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Invested in equipment | 68,034 | 42,055 |
| Endowment fund | 51,261 | 50,815 |
| Unrestricted | 392,027 | 413,025 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | 511,322 | 505,895 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | 1,295,781 | 6,703,564 |

The above information has been extracted and summarized from the 2011 Audited Financial Statements. A complete set of statements audited by RSM Richter Chamberland LLP may be requested from Trans Canada Trail



Trans Canada Trail's Vision

TCT's goal is to connect the Trail across Canada by 2017 to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday.

We envision the following:

- Canada celebrates the Trans Canada Trail's place in history as the longest and grandest recreational trail in the world
- The Trail is the nation's most accessible fitness destination for Canadians to participate in safe, low cost, active living pursuits
- The Trans Canada Trail will be the top-of-mind choice for international visitors to experience the majestic, pristine beauty of the Canadian outdoors and the rich cultures of our people and places
- The Trail provides a national context for Canadians to explore our history, learn about the diversity of our land and its communities, and shape our thinking about what it means to be Canadian
- TCT contributes in meaningful and measurable ways to the economic sustainability of local communities, regions and the country: creating jobs, fuelling growth, improving the health of Canadians and showcasing the power of green development
- The Trail instils a spirit of unity and pride in Canadians, linking them from coast to coast to coast as they steward their national Trail for future generations
- The Trans Canada Trail will be the gold standard by which all other national trails in the world are measured.

Your Trail. Your Journey.



Trans Canada Trail
Sentier Transcanadien

43 Westminster Avenue North, Montreal West, Quebec H4X 1Y8
1-800-465-3636 | www.tctrail.ca

Follow the Trans Canada Trail on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter

Banff Legacy Trail (photo: Parks Canada).