

2018

The Next Chapter: Creating New Adventures on The Great Trail

A MESSAGE FROM TCT PRESIDENT & CEO, DEBORAH APPS:
CHERISHING THE TRAIL FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



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2017 has been unforgettable, marked by the much-anticipated 100% connection of The Great Trail. Thanks to your steadfast generosity, Canada is now home to the longest recreational trail in the world!

Canadians and visitors now have access to a 24,000-kilometre trail that connects us to the natural beauty, rich history and enduring spirit of our land and its peoples. This magnificent achievement would not have been possible without your valued support, and we are incredibly grateful for everything you have done for The Great Trail.

The Trail's connection is not the end of our journey. Connection is a transition from our past to our

future, which will see us preserve this national treasure for future generations to cherish.

As we begin this new chapter in 2018, we still have much to accomplish. We will continue to make the Trail more accessible, add new loops and spurs to existing Trail sections and convert interim roadway to greenway. For this, we need your help more than ever.

With your continued generous support, this living legacy will continue to showcase the best of Canada and its communities – now and always.

TAKING STRIDES TO IMPROVE THE TRAIL

An innovative 'floating' boardwalk in Ontario, a cyclist-focused Trail section between Cranbrook and Wardner in B.C., and the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the Trans-Canada Highway in Saskatchewan – these are just some of the greenway Trail sections you helped support in 2017.

However, our Trail Team are already focused on adding spurs and loops, improving accessibility, converting more interim road routes to greenway and providing funding for emergency repairs. This vital work is supported by your donations and Parks Canada.

Improvements on the City of Victoria Trail in B.C. and the Strathcona County Trail in Alberta are among the Team's projects for early 2018. Meanwhile, applications for TCT funding continue to flood in from across the country.

"Donors are the backbone of our project," says Mathieu Roy, National Director of Trail. "We wouldn't be able to improve and enhance the Trail if it weren't for them."

Maintaining or adding Trail sections requires constant consultation with all levels of government, land owners, Trail groups, Indigenous communities, local residents and many others. Although this can sometimes prove challenging, the development of a magnificent Trail for all Canadians is incredibly rewarding.

Your continued support is crucial to allowing our Trail Development Managers to maintain and develop the Trail, create better experiences for walkers, hikers and cyclists, and nurture existing relationships with communities across Canada.



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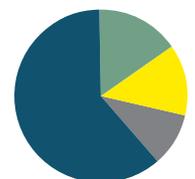
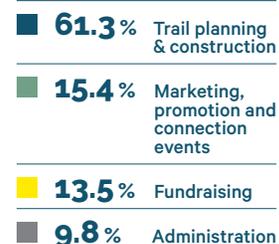
- George and Deborah Apps on the Trail in Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park, AB. © Andrew Penner
- Valerie Pringle and Deborah Apps celebrate 100% connection with local supporters in Tuktoyaktuk, NWT. © Roy Goose
- The Hunter's Bay Boardwalk, ON © Blair Moffat
- Chief Operating Officer of TCT Lori Spence on the Trail along the Lachine Canal, near TCT's head office in Montreal

HOW YOUR DONATIONS SHAPE THE TRAIL

In 2017, your donations helped to achieve what some thought was an unattainable dream: the connection of a 24,000-kilometre Trail from coast to coast. TCT remained focused on helping local groups improve the Trail and add new sections, culminating in our historic connection in August. As connections were completed, we hosted over 200 events across Canada to celebrate this tremendous feat with our supporters. The cost of the events was offset by funding from the federal government.

TCT grants funding to Trail groups to plan routes, acquire land permissions, install signage, hire engineering firms, build paths and construct trailheads.

"Thanks to donations to TCT, we were able to grant \$6.5 million to local Trail groups and municipalities, paving the way towards connecting the Trail, and improving it for future generations," says TCT Vice-President and COO Lori Spence. "The connection events across the country allowed us to acknowledge our supporters, and present them with this wondrous gift from Canadians to Canadians."



A MESSAGE FROM TCT FOUNDATION
CO-CHAIR VALERIE PRINGLE:
**DISCOVERING, USING AND
TREASURING THE GREAT TRAIL**



The 24,000-kilometre Great Trail is now connected from the Atlantic to the Pacific and the Arctic oceans. After 25 years of astonishing effort this amazing national treasure is real.

I think we have built something that is greater than we can know, and that connects us to nature, to one another and ourselves. All this is thanks to your unwavering generosity.

By contributing to the development of The Great Trail, you are giving Canadians of all ages and abilities the chance to get closer to our shared history and geography. You are helping to provide an ideal place for getting exercise and fresh air. You are preserving this Canadian legacy for your children and grandchildren.

The Great Trail is connected, and the journey continues. We now need to encourage Canadians and visitors to discover it, use it and treasure it. We have to look after it and keep making it better.

Of all the things I have done in my life, with the exception of my family, nothing makes me prouder than my involvement in creating The Great Trail. You should also take pride in what you are helping to create for generations to come.

**A WORLD-CLASS
CANOEING TRAIL FOR ALL**

Thanks to TCT donations, paddlers, of all ages and abilities, can enjoy water activities on one of the country's greatest lakes. Trans Canada Trail Ontario and the Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy oversaw the development of the Lake Superior Water Trail, which included making the route universally accessible.

Projects like the Lake Superior Water Trail mean that people with physical disabilities can now enjoy a myriad of activities on The Great Trail. This Trail section was developed with a focus on independence, ease of use, comfort and safety, which allows this ancient paddling route to be used and explored by anyone who wants to enjoy it.

As part of the TCT-funded development, new amenities like accessible docks, picnic tables, compostable toilets, bear-proof containers and information signage have been installed at some of the 16 main access points along the 1,000-kilometre water trail.

This fantastic water route is just one of the many accessible sections of the Trail made possible by the generosity of TCT donors.



**CELEBRATING INDIGENOUS HERITAGE
IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Fostering our links to Indigenous communities across Canada is a key pillar of TCT, and this is particularly evident in the development of the Chief Isadore Trail in British Columbia.

This wilderness Trail section, which opened this summer, features interpretive signs that explain the history and legends of the Ktunaxa Nation. The development of this Trail section, which passes through Ktunaxa territory, was supported by donations to TCT.

Named after the 19th-century Ktunaxa Chief who brought peace to Indigenous peoples and settlers, the 43-kilometre Trail section features incredible mountain views and babbling brooks, while providing an accessible, car-free experience for cyclists, hikers and walkers.

Trails BC and the Ktunaxa Nation worked together to create this immersive, cultural experience for locals and visitors.

With your continued support, TCT looks forward to building closer relationships with Indigenous communities across the country, and working together to celebrate their rich heritage.

"The Trail's connection is not the end of our journey. Connection is a transition from our past to our future, which will see us preserve this national treasure for future generations to cherish."

— Deborah Apps

AFTER CONNECTION: LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

Thanks to your generosity, The Great Trail showcases towering mountains, dense forests, vast lakes, winding rivers and splendid prairies. Your donations have empowered our volunteers and Trail partners to put the spotlight on our spectacular landscape.

Our new goals include connecting additional loops and spurs to the main Trail, and converting interim road routes into greenways for better experiences. To accomplish this, we rely on your continued support.

In addition to traditional ways of giving, you can support TCT by leaving a planned gift in your will or through a gift of securities. Our mission is to improve and enhance the Trail for generations to come, with your help.

5. Valerie Pringle near the Mackenzie River Trail in Tuktoyaktuk, NWT. © Gord Carter

7. New interpretive signs telling the story of the Ktunaxa people on the Chief Isadore Trail, BC © Al Skukas

6. Paddling on the Lake Superior Water Trail, ON. © Guoqiang Hue



Please visit thegreattrail.ca/give to learn more about the different ways you can give, or contact our donor services team at 1-800-465-3636 or info@tctrail.ca.