



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canadians from coast to coast to coast join national sketch workshops

**Nature Sketch on The Great Trail attracted over 300 attendees
in seven communities**

From the far reaches of the Arctic Ocean to eastern habitats near Halifax and all the way to Victoria, British Columbia, a new series of national sketch workshops have captivated budding artists of all ages.

Hosted by Trans Canada Trail (TCT) and the Bateman Foundation, Nature Sketch on The Great Trail saw over 300 Canadians embrace their creativity in the great outdoors by learning sketching techniques from some of Canada's most notable artists.

Seven communities across Canada held the events with the aim of encouraging budding artists of all ages to explore their local section of The Great Trail of Canada (formerly known as the Trans Canada Trail) while discovering the diverse ecosystems around them. These communities were:

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Toronto, Ontario

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Calgary, Alberta

Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories

North Vancouver, British Columbia

Victoria, British Columbia

Attendees in all seven locations were guided by a Nature Sketch artist, who offered the avid sketchers tips on sketching technique and wildlife observation.

In Toronto, Honorary Chair of the Bateman Foundation and TCT National *Champion*, **Robert Bateman guided attendees in Riverdale Park West**. Mr. Bateman was joined by **Valerie Pringle, one of Canada's best-loved broadcasters and Chair of the TCT Foundation Board**.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bateman's son and fellow artist, **Alan Bateman**, led attendees at the event in Halifax. Farther west, **TCT President & CEO Deborah Apps** joined the fun at Calgary's event in Inglewood Bird Sanctuary.

“If you don’t really look at things, you pass through the world and miss so much,” said **Robert Bateman**. “Getting people to sketch on The Great Trail helped people to see nature in their own backyard.”

“Supporting Trans Canada Trail is one of my greatest passions because it has created a trail network that connects Canadians and allows us to stay active, to breathe fresh air and to explore this magnificent country,” said **Valerie Pringle**.

“Our incredible national Trail also gives us the opportunity to connect with nature and with ourselves, and I’m thrilled that this Nature Sketch event is encouraging people of all ages to embrace their creativity in Canada’s great outdoors.”

The goal of the event is to encourage everyone – especially children and youth – to connect to the natural world in their communities and learn about the importance of protecting it. Inspired by Robert Bateman, tips and ideas on sketching animals, plants and landscapes were offered along sections of The Great Trail – the longest network of recreational multi-use trails in the world!

TCT and the Bateman Foundation are grateful for the support of Mr. Rodney Briggs, whose generous donation helped to support Nature Sketch on The Great Trail.

Photos and interviews are available on request!

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About The Great Trail of Canada

Stretching for more than 24,000 kilometres and profiling Canada’s diverse landscapes and communities, **The Great Trail of Canada is the world’s longest network of recreational multi-use trails**. Reaching this bold goal was achieved with the help of our partners, donors, volunteers and all levels of government.

Now that The Great Trail is connected, TCT continues to raise funds and awareness for the continued development of this national treasure. Moving forward, we are committed to making the Trail more accessible, converting interim roadways to greenways, creating new Trail sections and improving existence ones and strengthening our relationship with Indigenous communities.

About the Bateman Foundation

The Bateman Foundation is a national public charity founded in 2012 by world-renowned artist and naturalist Robert Bateman and his family, with the goal of helping people reconnect with nature so they will be inspired to conserve and protect it.

Two of the charity’s main activities are: The Nature Sketch program, which is delivered across multiple cities and schools in Canada and the Bateman Foundation Gallery of Nature in Victoria,

BC: a public art gallery featuring the works of Robert Bateman and other nature-themed emerging and established artists. As a national charity, the foundation relies on fundraising, sponsorship, membership and proceeds from its online store to help deliver programs to ensure ALL Canadians have an abiding connection to nature.