



## How far your gift goes

Your donations have helped to create and sustain something truly remarkable: a long-distance national Trail that showcases our country's magnificent natural beauty and diverse communities.

Last year, you played a crucial role in **replacing interim roadways with safer greenways**, making the Trail **more accessible, funding repairs after natural disasters** and **supporting Indigenous communities** as they led Trail development on their lands.

The years since the Trail's connection have been our busiest yet and we're so grateful that you stepped up to support us.

### WESTERN CANADA

- A new two-way bicycle lane in Victoria, British Columbia
- An accessible path linking Thomas Haney Secondary School in Maple Ridge, British Columbia, with new accessible sports facilities
- A new two-kilometre greenway in Calgary, Alberta, to the city's northern boundary, replacing a roadway

### CENTRAL CANADA

- Trail upgrades to increase accessibility in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan
- The reconstruction of a bridge connecting two greenways between Melville Regional Park and the city of Melville, Saskatchewan
- A new shoreline trail near Penniac Bay, Manitoba, eliminating a roadway section of the South Whiteshell Trail

### EASTERN CANADA

- Vital improvements to the popular Nipigon River Recreation Trail in Ontario to prepare for increased usage
- Accessibility upgrades to the Beaver River Wetland Trail in Durham, Ontario
- A new 35-kilometre greenway for hiking and horseback riding along the north shore of the St. Lawrence River in Quebec

### ATLANTIC CANADA

- An engineering plan to resolve erosion issues along the Wolastoq Trail from Grand Falls to Woodstock, New Brunswick
- A new accessible trail connecting the Cobequid Trail with the Fundy Discovery Site in Nova Scotia
- A study to determine a new route for a section of the Newfoundland T'Railway near Corner Brook

### NORTHERN CANADA

- The widening of the Trail in Hay River, Northwest Territories, to provide access to a public beach on Great Slave Lake
- A new 4.4-kilometre greenway through the Gunnar Nilsson Mickey Lammers Research Forest to replace an existing roadway near Whitehorse, Yukon



### HELPING CANADIANS FIND THEIR WAY

Your support also helped with the installation of:

- 2,242 wayfinding signs along 1,200 kilometres of the Trail
- 28 new trailheads
- 24 new interpretive panels showcasing the flora, fauna and heritage of local communities

## Taking strides to improve the Trail

Exciting events like The Great Trail Treasure Hunt, our national series of nature sketches with the Bateman Foundation and Instameets across the country showed us that the Trail is more than just a line on a map. This incredible network also connects communities and people of all ages across more than 24,000 kilometres – an amazing feat!



We were also honoured and grateful to receive a Nature Inspiration Award for Best Non-Profit (Small or Medium) from the Canadian Museum of Nature! We are so grateful for the support of thousands of Canadians – donors, volunteers, partners and governments at all levels – who have helped make this dream of a cross-Canada Trail a reality.



- 1. A wayfinding sign along the Trail near Hay River, NWT**
- 2. A Nature Sketch event in Saskatoon in September, co-hosted with the Bateman Foundation. © Nina Henry**
- 3. Cyclo-cross champion Maghalie Rochette rides the P'tit Train du Nord outside, Montreal, Quebec, with friends. © Zacharie Turgeon**
- 4. Winnipeg photographers at TCT's very first Instameet in August. © Dayna Robbie**





Volunteers on the Kananaskis Country Trail

## Important repairs to a treasured Alberta Trail section

Last year, we supported local volunteers along the Kananaskis Country Trail in Alberta as they carried out essential repairs to the Trail in their area.

Thanks to your generous support, TCT was able to step in and provide funding to fix issues associated with trail use and natural wear and tear.

The first set of major repairs started with tread rehabilitation by fixing areas with loose rock, protruding roots or ineffective draining on part of the Boundary Ridge section. After that, volunteers worked together to widen the junction between the Iron Creek and Boundary Ridge sections to improve safety. These enhancements are crucial to ensuring the Trail's long-term sustainability, while repairing areas prone to erosion or damage.

"The ongoing support of TCT on projects like this one allows us to keep the trails at a high level of quality and sustainable for the long term," says Alf Skrastins of the Greater Bragg Creek Trail Association, the volunteer group that applied for funding. "It's always best to address problem sites in their early stages."

With your continued support, TCT looks forward to working with more Trail groups as they repair damage on their sections of The Great Trail.

## Supporting Eskasoni First Nation in installing new access points

With your help, we had the opportunity to support Eskasoni First Nation in installing three accessible docks along the Bras d'Or Lake Water Route in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

The docks form an integral part of Eskasoni First Nation's tourism experience on Goat Island, where visitors can discover more about the nation's culture through oral storytelling, guided tours, outdoor pursuits and crafts.

While there were some docks already in place on the island, many of them needed repairs and were not easily accessible. The work on the three docks included the installation of a walkway to the water and the addition of a pressed gravel surface. The nearby natural trails were also widened to provide easier access.

"The support of TCT has been so important, and we feel honoured to be a part of this network," says Tracy Menge, Economic Development Manager at Eskasoni First Nation.

Generous gifts fuel our support of our Indigenous partners as they work on inclusive, community-led initiatives.



One of three new docks installed along the Trail at Eskasoni First Nation Goat Island, NS



St. Thomas Elevated Park

## On the right track in St. Thomas, Ontario

A newly-opened Trail section in St. Thomas has the honour of being the only elevated park in Canada, but it might never have been developed without a TCT-supported engineering study.

The brainchild of local volunteer Serge Lavoie, the St. Thomas Elevated Park (STEP) is a 30-metre-high greenway on a former railway bridge that helped to re-route The Great Trail from a nearby roadway – providing a safe and wheelchair-accessible outdoor experience for pedestrians.

Soon after the engineering study confirmed that the bridge could be converted to greenway, local volunteers and businesses came on board to give their time and resources to ensure the bridge would become an elevated park.

Aside from the safety benefits, STEP has also become a gathering place for the community and the "jewel in the crown" of the city's growing tourism industry, according to Serge. Decorated with sculptures donated by local artists, it has already hosted community picnics and concerts.

Looking back, Serge describes the engineering study that TCT funded as critical.

"TCT essentially made the whole thing possible," he says. "If they had not supported the engineering study, it would have been impossible."

Join us  
on the path  
ahead

Thanks to you, Canada has the honour of claiming the world's longest network of recreational multi-use trails! But we need your support to ensure The Great Trail of Canada remains a point of pride for all Canadians. Your gift will support our work to develop more greenways for a safer experience, to make the

Trail more accessible, to repair Trail sections after natural disasters and to strengthen our relationships with Indigenous communities.

***We have so much to accomplish, and we hope you will continue with us on our shared journey!***

Please visit [thegreattrail.ca/give](http://thegreattrail.ca/give) to learn more about Canada's national Trail or contact our team at **1-800-465-3636** or [donorservices@tctrail.ca](mailto:donorservices@tctrail.ca).

