

A photograph of two mountain bikers riding on a gravel trail through a dense forest. The trail is surrounded by mossy rocks and evergreen trees. The text 'THE GREAT TRAIL of CANADA' is overlaid in a bright yellow, hand-drawn style font. The word 'TRAIL' is the largest and most prominent.

# THE GREAT TRAIL of CANADA

Sea to Sky Trail, BC  
© Petr Basel

# Annual report 2019-2020



Trans Canada Trail  
Sentier Transcanadien

# Find your place on The Great Trail of Canada



Parks Canada    Parcs Canada

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## Our mission

*We will promote and assist in the development and use of The Great Trail – created by Trans Canada Trail and our partners – by supporting success at the local level in the continued improvement and enhancement of this national network.*



# A message from Michael Lindsay

Chair of the TCT Board of Directors

**I have been a supporter of Trans Canada Trail since I was an elementary school student. In those days, my three-leaf TCT pin occupied a position of pride next to my Canadian Fitness Award badges – meaningful emblems of outdoor rituals, which I knew I shared with Canadians across the country.**

Later in life, I literally fell in love whilst on the Trail in Ottawa. In the early days of our relationship, my wife and I would go running together on a section of the Trail near Parliament Hill. Since then, we have been fortunate enough to explore stretches of the Trail across the country – perhaps most memorably in the northernmost latitudes of Yukon.

Being a board member has continued to deepen my connection to this Trail and everything it has to offer. I am honoured and grateful for the opportunity to serve as the new Chair of the TCT Board of Directors.

As I take on this new role, I would like to extend my personal thanks to Neil Yeates, who retired as Chair of the Board in early 2020. It would be difficult to overstate the role that Neil played in the success of our capital campaign, and under his leadership, we have formed strong and indispensable bonds with the federal government and entities like Parks Canada.

I am also thrilled my appointment coincides with the addition of Eleanor McMahon to the TCT family as our new President & CEO. Eleanor not only brings a wealth of experience within the public, private and non-profit sectors, but also a wonderful enthusiasm for the outdoors, and a deep belief in the value of bringing Canadians

together. We are confident that, under her leadership, TCT will continue to uphold its mission of developing, enhancing and protecting The Great Trail for generations to come.

My friends, The Great Trail is an important part of our national identity. But this line, which connects three oceans, is a very fragile one. Our work to enhance maintain and promote the Trail is not done.

The projects and activities you'll read about in this report reflect our unrelenting dedication to make the Trail more accessible and inclusive, to convert interim roadways to greenways, to strengthen our relationships with partner organizations and Indigenous communities, and to provide signage that showcases our shared history and diverse communities.

In recent months, we've faced challenges unlike any in our lifetimes. For me, running along the shores of Lake Ontario, as well as through Seguin Falls, has brought me peace of mind. It makes me feel connected to other Canadians doing the same in Whitehorse, Winnipeg, Wawa and Whycomagh.

I am also encouraged by the dedicated and talented staff, and by the visionary members of our corporate and foundation boards.

The people who make this cross-Canada trail a reality are motivated by something much greater than the prospect of personal reward. They joined this national effort to create and sustain a Canadian legacy that enshrines the importance of connecting with one another, of getting outdoors, of highlighting our shared history and of protecting our environment.

We have accomplished so many great things together, and I'm excited to begin the next chapter.

**Michael Lindsay and his wife Carly on the Kinsol Trestle on Vancouver Island, BC.**

## TCT Board of Directors

Michael Lindsay, Chair  
Japman Bajaj  
Ian Cullwick  
Eric Gionet  
Frédéric Gonzalo  
James Goulden  
Graham Green  
Ron Hicks  
Carolyn MacKay  
Michele McKenzie  
Emma Mohns  
Valerie Pringle  
Patrice Ryan  
Robyn Seetal  
Gill Winckler  
Neil Yeates



# A message from Eleanor McMahon

President & CEO of Trans Canada Trail

**I would like to thank you for being part of a community that loves and supports The Great Trail of Canada. It is an honour for me to take on this new role, and to join this amazing group of donors, trail builders and supporters. Our successes are thanks to people like you, and I am excited to contribute to the wonderful legacy that you have helped to create.**

Included in that support are the thousands of volunteers across Canada who shape the Trail – in particular, our TCT Board of Directors and our TCT Foundation Board. I want to recognize and thank them for the time, talent and passion that they bring to their roles.

My arrival at TCT coincided with one of the most difficult periods that Canada has ever faced. The COVID-19 pandemic began as our fiscal year ended, and highlighted the many challenges ahead. However, it also reminded us of the important role that The Great Trail is playing, and will continue to play in the future. As stewards of the Trail, we have the privilege of establishing that sustainability.

Despite the pandemic, our work has continued with vigour and enthusiasm, thanks to our incredibly talented and dedicated staff. I'm grateful for their unwavering commitment, and for the support they have given to me as I joined the team. The Trail is well served by their skills and abilities, and I feel fortunate to work with them.

The outdoors has always been a central part of my health, my well-being and my career. As both a former provincial minister in Ontario and the founder of the Share the Road Cycling Coalition, I was proud to support public policy changes that put trails at the forefront, inviting everyone to enjoy them to their fullest extent.

In my own life, I have often turned to the outdoors, to nature and to trails for respite and healing. Indeed, many of us have found the same solace on trails at difficult moments recently.

The achievements of last year highlight the solid foundation we have built, and from which we can move forward. As we emerge from the pandemic, TCT is ready to play its part in Canada's social and economic recovery – in terms of tourism, physical and mental health and, of course, getting Canadians outside again.

We will keep up our discussions with governments to ensure the Trail continues to be a vehicle for the hopes, dreams and aspirations of everyone who calls Canada home. We thank governments and elected officials from across Canada for their ongoing support and passion for the Trail.

As an organization, we simply would not be where we are without the support, the generosity and the knowledge of our Trail partners. We appreciate them and their contributions to building and sustaining the Trail – and, in the process, enhancing the lives of people we serve.

To our Indigenous partners, we are grateful for your guidance, wisdom and support. We are thankful for the opportunities to learn and to grow in partnership, and are excited

by the potential in sharing our mutual passion for the land and the prosperity inherent in working together.

As an entity that connects all the provinces and territories of Canada, it is TCT's duty to be a leader in ensuring that everyone has safe and equal access to trails. We acknowledge that in Canada, we are not free of the kind of systemic discrimination that creates unfair barriers. Either through our actions or inactions, racism continues to exist. To tackle this, we are taking a hard look at our efforts to make The Great Trail more inclusive, examining how we can add inclusion requirements to our programs, and growing our knowledge of minority-specific issues and sharing our platform with members of our community who have been affected by racism. We will also make sure this work is reflected in our conversations with our government partners.

In closing, I want to thank my predecessor, Deborah Apps. Her leadership, stewardship and dedication laid the foundation for the exciting path ahead. I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to lead this organization on our shared journey onward. I look forward to connecting with you soon and moving forward in fellowship.



## A fond farewell to DEBORAH APPS

Last year, we bid farewell to Deborah Apps, our President & CEO of 12 years who led our organization with distinction.

Born in Sunderland, England, Deborah moved to northern Canada as a child with her family. Raised in Uranium City, a small town on the border of Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories, and later in Alberta, Deborah grew to love her new home and developed her longstanding respect for the landscapes and cultures around her.

Deborah first became involved with TCT in 2005 as a member of the Board of Directors. She assumed the role of President & CEO in 2008, bringing her determination and forward-thinking leadership to the organization and helping to ensure the national connection of The Great Trail of Canada in 2017.

Deborah's extensive work at TCT was honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal in 2012. She was also elected a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society in 2016 for her tireless dedication to the Trail. Thanks to her leadership, TCT was also awarded the RCGS Gold Medal in 2018.

We are sad to see Deborah go, but we were thrilled to recognize her achievements with a special funding program established in her honour. The Deborah Apps Legacy Fund, which many of our staff and donors contributed to, will provide grants to Indigenous-led Trail projects across the country.

Everyone at TCT wishes Deborah the very best in her future endeavours, and we're sure we'll catch up with her on the Trail soon!

1. Deborah on the Trail in Fish Creek Provincial Park, AB © Andrew Penner
2. Deborah at the TCT monument in Tuktoyaktuk, NWT © Roy Goose
3. Deborah and her husband George in Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park, AB © Andrew Penner

## In memoriam

We were saddened to hear of the passing of four of our great supporters last year – Terry Morrison, W. Thomas Molloy, Bill Archibald and Jocelyne Roy-Vienneau.

As the long-time executive director of the Newfoundland T'Railway Council, Terry was instrumental in the development of the Newfoundland T'Railway and was well known across Canada for his passionate advocacy for recreational trails.

W. Thomas Molloy was the 22nd Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan and a TCT *Champion*. He is also remembered for his contributions to the creation of the territory of Nunavut and the Nisga'a Treaty.

An avid equestrian, Bill Archibald left a legacy of trails. He was an advocate for trail development across the country and worked closely with TCT in its early days.

Jocelyne Roy-Vienneau served as the 31st Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick and was the first Acadian woman to hold that position. She hosted New Brunswick's province-wide connection celebrations at her residence in 2016.

We are grateful for the great contributions of these supporters. They are dearly missed.

# THE GREAT TRAIL

## in 12 months



We were proud to grant funding to help 138 groups spruce up their Trail sections. Through the first-ever **Spring Cleanup Grant**, 173 cleanup events were held across Canada and a total of \$167,000 was disbursed to support these efforts.

From removing fallen trees and debris to clearing Trail sections of trash, determined volunteers of all ages got together to tidy their trail and organize fun post-cleanup celebrations.

A spring cleanup in Yorkton, SK



Last summer saw the return of a successful program seeking to drive more Canadians to the Trail – **The Great Trail Treasure Hunt**. Organized in partnership with the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS), this cross-Canada contest engaged outdoor enthusiasts and families in every province and territory in seeking out some of the 200 treasure boxes cached along sections of The Great Trail.

It turned out that Canadians loved it just as much as we did! Over 8,000 entries were received throughout the contest, over 399 participants found more than five boxes and over 200 prizes were awarded to lucky winners.

Grand Prize winner Patrick Klein-Horseman finds box 93 in Halifax, NS



We piloted ways to help the next generation make meaningful connections to the Trail through **Instameets** – meetups where people can explore the Trail in their area, take photos and share them on Instagram using #BetterTogetherTGT.

The Instameets, held in Winnipeg (MB), Halifax (NS), and Langford (BC), encouraged people who might not see themselves as hikers to use the Trail, and show them that rural and urban Trail sections are easy to explore. The Instameets also presented opportunities to collaborate with tourism organizations, trigger peer-to-peer promotion for the Trail and profile TCT as a charity of choice.

Instameet guests in Winnipeg, MB © Dayna Robbie



We were honoured to win a **2019 Nature Inspiration Award in the Not-for-Profit (small and medium organization) category!** The accolade, presented by the Canadian Museum of Nature, recognized TCT's efforts in creating inspiring and innovative ways of connecting Canadians to the great outdoors. We were grateful to receive this award as we work to engage and inspire people to take ecological responsibility in their lives. We humbly accepted it on behalf 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.

Then TCT Board chair Neil Yeates and Vice-President, Resource Development Simone Hicken accept a Nature Inspiration Award on behalf of TCT



We were delighted to be part of **Nature Sketch on The Great Trail**, a series of seven sketching workshops hosted in partnership with the Bateman Foundation, a non-profit founded by TCT *Champion* Robert Bateman.

Over 300 budding artists attended events in seven communities across the country on September 14, 2019 – from Victoria to Halifax and all the way north to Tuktoyaktuk!

We are grateful to Rodney Briggs, whose generous donation helped us to engage with a like-minded organization, hold these events and showcase the many ways the Trail can be enjoyed.

**Rodney Briggs at a Nature Sketch on The Great Trail event in Vancouver © Carey-Lynn Link**



We believe one of the best ways to get to know a new country is through exploring its **landscapes** and communities. That's why we partnered with the **Institute of Canadian Citizenship (ICC)** to introduce The Great Trail of Canada to new citizens!

Sections of The Great Trail now appear on the ICC's app, Canoo, which gives new citizens access to over 1,400 of Canada's treasured places. TCT values every opportunity to make all Canadians feel at home, safe and welcome on the Trail.

**ICC invitees at the CME celebration in Dartmouth, NS © Paul Darrow**



We've been lucky to hear many inspiring stories from people who use the Trail for all kinds of adventures – from thru-hikes and high-octane training to simple strolls around their communities.

To share their experiences with larger audiences, we were thrilled to launch **Pathfinders**, a new page on our website.

The experiences of our Pathfinders show us that, on the Trail, we're different but equal.

**Sonya and Sean of Come Walk With Us, two of TCT's Pathfinders**



In September, we honoured the **Canadian Military Engineers (CME)** for their incredible support over the years with an event in Halifax. As part of our 'Bridges for Canada' partnership in the early 2000s, CME units took up the challenge of building 35 bridges along the Trail in 10 provinces. This work was crucial to the eventual connection of the Trail in 2017. The event also saw the unveiling of a new plaque on the Ready-Aye-Ready Bridge, which commemorates the CME's contributions. We were delighted to show our gratitude to members of the CME alongside representatives of all levels of government.

**Board member Michele McKenzie, then President & CEO Deborah Apps and TCT Foundation Board Chair Valerie Pringle with members of the CME in Dartmouth, NS**



Our achievements this year would not have been possible without our many supporters at all levels of government. In particular, we remain very grateful to our friends at **Parks Canada**, who continue to support our mission of converting interim roadways to greenways, engaging and including Indigenous communities, making the Trail more accessible, funding repairs needed to maintain connection, and creating links with other major trail networks. We are also thankful for their generous contribution of \$30 million from 2018 to 2022.

**Fundy National Park, NB © Daniel Baylis**

# Trail projects

Sooke Hills Wilderness Trail, BC  
© Jennifer Mahon

## British Columbia

Last year was one of our busiest in terms of Trail development in British Columbia, as we helped to fund much-needed accessibility upgrades, new greenway additions and the installation of updated signage throughout the province.

In the City of Abbotsford, we helped to fund the construction of a short trail linking The Great Trail with the south end of Willband Creek Park. This new path gives pedestrians the chance to explore the park's extensive trail network, surrounded by beautiful ponds and wetland areas, before rejoining the existing section of The Great Trail at Bateman Road. In Maple Ridge, we also provided funds towards the development of an accessible multi-use pathway along the Ridge Meadows Trail, between Lougheed Highway and Thomas Haney Secondary School.

On Vancouver Island, we supported the development of a new greenway between Saltair and Ladysmith along the Cowichan Valley Trail. This new rail with trail completes the continuous non-motorized route between the village core of Chemainus and historic downtown Ladysmith, ensuring higher levels of safety, accessibility and enjoyment. In Victoria, we helped in the construction of a dedicated two-way separated bicycle lane between

Pandora Avenue and Government Street, significantly increasing the safety of cyclists, skaters and rollerbladers.

Upgrades along Trail sections were also an area of focus for funding. We supported surface improvements along the Elk Valley Community Trail at Elkford, as well as the development of a parking lot to create greater access to the Trail.

In addition, new wayfinding signage with The Great Trail branding was installed on the Trail between Castlegar and Nelson as well as in Cranbrook, Victoria and the City of North Vancouver. Other sections of the Trail that were re-signed include the Slocan Valley Rail Trail, part of the Kettle Valley Rail Trail, NorthStar Rails to Trails and the Ridge Meadows Pedestrian Trail.

In Victoria, we were also thrilled to install a new Point Zero Marker at Clover Point.

We also helped Trail groups in B.C. complete studies to determine the best paths forward for their trails. Last year, we supported the provincial government on a study and First Nations consultation on the condition of part of the Chilliwack River Valley Trail, in order to ensure its sustainable management. We also supported a study to investigate upgrading parts of the Castlegar to Nelson section of the Trail to make it accessible for cyclists.

We were pleased to partner with the ʔaq'am community to conduct a feasibility study on developing a non-motorized Trail between ʔaq'am and Cranbrook. We also supported archeological impact assessments of two potential locations that could be added to the Salish Sea Marine Trail.



Left: New two-way bicycle lane in downtown Victoria, BC, with a co-branded trail counter.



Peace Bridge, Calgary, AB

## Alberta

From the bustling streets of Calgary to the serenity of the prairies and majesty of the Rockies, our work in Alberta has supported essential projects in a wide range of communities.

Much of the construction we funded focused on creating safer and more enjoyable experiences for non-motorized users across the province, including the installation of a bridge and culverts between Irricana and Beiseker. The installations are essential for the future construction of a 10-kilometre greenway between the two communities, which will be built on a former railbed.

In addition, we helped to fund the construction of a two-kilometre greenway to bridge the gap



between two sections of The Great Trail – one within the city of Calgary and another in the northern city limits. Meanwhile, we helped the Town of Banff as they extended the Legacy Trail farther into the town. It's hoped that this new greenway will encourage visitors and locals to embrace active transportation. TCT also funded work along the Kananaskis Country Trail in order to fix issues associated with trail use and natural wear and tear. This involved repairing areas with loose rock, protruding roots or drainage issues, as well as widening the junction between the Iron Creek and Boundary Ridge sections to improve safety.

We also supported much-needed upgrades along the Moose Loop section of the Kananaskis Country Trail. The upgrades included adjusting the cross-country ski alignment for improved snow capture and retention, better drainage and tread levelling. This project also involved the re-routing of 1.5 kilometres of the Trail that had passed through wetlands. New wayfinding signage was also installed along the West Bragg Creek Trail, as well as along Trail sections in Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park, Calgary and Banff. Trail and signage work was

completed in the Blackfalds-Lacombe-Ponoka region, with new signage installed between Blackfalds and Lacombe as well as a study on Ponoka's Diamond Willow Trail to determine the best way to prevent continued erosion of the riverbank. We're excited to apply the findings of this study in the near future!

**Below: Trail volunteers working on upgrades along the Moose Loop section of the Kananaskis Country Trail.**

**Left: The installation of a bridge along the Trail between Irricana and Beiseker.**





Lumsden Trail, SK  
© Ali Lauren

## Saskatchewan

We were honoured to partner with Whitecap Dakota First Nation, Beardy's and Okemasis' Cree Nation and Wanuskewin Heritage Park to start work on an important new Indigenous trail tourism experience. The Many Nations Tourism Corridor will be an integral component of a new Indigenous tourism destination on the territory of Beardy's and Okemasis' Cree Nation and Fort Carleton Provincial Park.

The experience is set to include high-end camping, as well as a celebration of local Indigenous culture and history through live theatre, traditional meals and storytelling. We believe this project has the potential to set an example for Canada and the world, and look forward to our continued work with our partners.

In Melville, we provided funding for the construction of a new bridge linking the regional park and the city, allowing for a continuous greenway experience from the park to schools, residential areas and local businesses.

In St. Walburg, we supported efforts to extend the Northern Trails of Saskatchewan by connecting it with a new greenway built on a former CN railbed.

In Shaunavon, we supported the resurfacing of the Trail with asphalt to improve accessibility for wheelchairs and cyclists. Resurfacing work was also completed in Moose Jaw, where the addition of crusher dust helped to make the Trail more accessible and attractive to wheeled users.

In Katepwa, part of the Trail was repaved to improve safety and to make it more accessible to wheelchairs, strollers and bikes. We also supported the installation of five access points for paddlers to the Qu'Appelle River south of the Town of Lumsden.

Wayfinding signage was installed on numerous sections of the Trail in Saskatchewan, including the Wakamow Valley Trail, Town of

Canora, Melville Trail, Town of Shaunavon, Village of Veregin, District of Katepwa and City of Yorkton, along with the Good Spirit Lake to Yorkton Connector, the Rural Municipalities of Cote and Sliding Hills Connector, and the Canora to Veregin Connector. Additional bilingual signage was also installed along the Meewasin Trail.



Left: A resurfaced section of the Trail in Shaunavon, SK



Pinawa Trail, MB  
© Daniel Baylis

## Manitoba

It was a colourful year in Manitoba with the addition of beautiful new amenities that celebrate the past and the future. With the help of TCT funding, Trails Manitoba and Pier Solutions, a refurbished wooden bridge was installed at Hanson's Creek along the Centennial Trail. The bridge, once located in Winnipeg's King's Park, was repainted a bright shade of red and moved to its new home via helicopter!

We were excited to be part of BenchMARK, a project that invited designers from around the world to share their ideas for the design of two benches that are interesting, practical and worthy of discussion. One bench celebrates the use of The Great Trail in Winnipeg; the other highlights the value of the



Trail for regional connectivity. The newly installed benches are impressive additions to the Trail in the city.

There was also cause for celebration at Penniac Bay, where part of the South Whiteshell Trail was rerouted from the shoulder of Hwy 44 to a greenway. We were delighted to see this much-needed project come to fruition and are proud to have lent our support. TCT funding was also provided for upgrades to various Trail sections, including the addition of gravel to part of the Blue Water South Trail to allow for maintenance and resurfacing in Spruce Woods Provincial Park with limestone. We also supported the installation of safety barriers and maze gates to mitigate ATV usage along the Red



River North Trail.

New wayfinding signage with The Great Trail branding was installed along the Rossburn Subdivision Trail, the Headingley Grand Trunk Trail, the Crocus Trail and in the R.M. of Glenboro-South Cypress. Directional signage to a parking lot was also installed along the Blue Water South Trail near Lac du Bonnet. New interpretive panels were installed along the Neepawa Langford Trail and the South Whiteshell Trail. We also supported the renovation of interpretive signage along the Pinawa Trail, which highlight the diverse flora and fauna in the area.

We also granted funding to two studies in Manitoba: one in Winnipeg to provide a design for an improved, on-road cycling connection from Osborne Street to Raglan Avenue, and the other to determine the best way to build a new trail connecting the Rossburn Subdivision Trail to Riding Mountain Provincial Park.

Left to right: One of the winning designs for BenchMARK 2019 in Winnipeg | The newly installed bridge at Hanson's Creek, MB



Caledon Trailway, ON  
© Jennifer Mahon

## Ontario

We were delighted to celebrate the opening of the St. Thomas Elevated Park, an innovative new trail built along an abandoned railway bridge. We were also pleased to support the addition of more than 10 kilometres of greenway to a section of The Great Trail in North Bay. Wayfinding signage was installed along both these sections.

Upgrades were of particular importance in Ontario last year. Along the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail, we supported essential upgrades to a historic trestle bridge. We also helped to fund resurfacing work along the Trail in Sables-Spanish Rivers and in Dryden, providing a smoother and more consistent experience for wheeled users.

We supported tread improvements and re-routing along three kilometres of the Voyageur Trail in Nipigon, after drainage issues affected its accessibility. We also provided funding for upgrades and the re-routing of the K&P Trail between Sharbot Lake and Tichborne, creating a more enjoyable off-road experience for users.

To help increase capacity on the Iron Horse Trail in Kitchener-Waterloo, we supported trail-widening work and the replacement

of an aging bridge. On the Trail in Uxbridge, upgrades to an existing steel bridge were completed, along with improvements to the trail bed.

Culvert installations were supported along the Caledon Trailway and along Severn's section of the Trail. In Severn, we also provided funding for the construction of a new bridge to increase user safety.

In Garden River First Nation, we helped to build a new boardwalk on the Huron Shores Trail after lake levels increased. We also assisted with the clearing of seven kilometres of the Beaten Path Nordic Trails system in Atikokan.

New amenities also made using the Trail easier for outdoor enthusiasts. We were proud to support the installation of four lockers in Sault Ste. Marie, allowing people to safely store their belongings before enjoying the Lake Superior Water Trail. We also helped to fund the installation of four rest stops along the Elgin Trail in Aylmer.

In New Tecumseth, we supported the construction of two new parking lots to provide greater access to the town's section of the Trail.

Trail fans might have noticed new wayfinding signage along the Trail in a number of communities, including Chatham-Kent, Uxbridge,

Kitchener-Waterloo, St. Thomas, Brantford, Mississauga, Caledon, Woolwich, Innisfil, Sault Ste. Marie and Elgin.

A number of Trail sections were also re-signed with new wayfinders, including the Laura Secord Legacy Trail, Penetanguishene Trail, the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail, the S.C. Johnson Trail and the Norfolk County Rail Trails, as well as at access points to the Path of the Paddle and the Lake Superior Water Trail.

We started laying foundations for future projects with six studies across the province. On the Jackson Creek Kiwanis Trail, we supported a new study to assess five bridges and to recommend repairs to make them safer. We also worked with the City of Kitchener to determine the feasibility of building four new refuge islands, which would create a safer crossing through the major streets the Trail section intersects with.

In Penetanguishene, we also supported a study to confirm the design of a new parking lot, which will improve access to the Trail in the area.



La Chouenne Trail, QC  
© Math Sparks

## Quebec

We are thrilled to welcome two trails to our network in Quebec! In Sherbrooke, an existing 13-kilometre trail between Rock Forest and the Saint-François River (l'axe de la Magog) was added, extending Les Grandes-Fourches trail in the city. In Mirabel, a 25-kilometre rural trail for horseback riding joined our network.

We were also pleased to support the construction of a new greenway in Terrebonne. The Sentier Les Moulins is a much-anticipated development, and caters to horseback riding and walking. There was more good news for horseback riders when we helped to fund the extension of the Sentier du Grand-Portneuf, creating an equestrian trail from Pont-Rouge to Sainte-Christine d'Auvergne. In Baie-Saint-Paul, we supported the construction of a new Trail section between Chemin de la Martine and Chemin de la Pointe, which caters mainly to hikers.

TCT also stepped in to support essential upgrades across the province. When the Sentier des Pointes in the Charlevoix region was forced to close after extreme wind storms, we assisted local volunteers as they cleared the

Trail section of debris and created a safe route for users. We also supported the construction of a new footbridge on the Traversée de Charlevoix to enhance user safety, after the previous bridge had been washed away.

In Wakefield, we funded the removal of diseased trees along the Trail after severe winds. Improvements we supported included the paving of part of the Véloroute de Lotbinière in Saint-Agapit and surface repairs along the Véloroute des Draveurs between the communities of Low and Messines. We also helped to fund upgrades along the Sentier Mestachibo, which will facilitate the repair of an aging staircase at the Jean-Larose Falls, which links to Mont-Sainte-Anne, in 2020. In addition, we supported surface repairs along the southern section of Le Petit Témis, at Témiscouata-sur-le-Lac and the border with New Brunswick. Other work included surface upgrades along the Parc linéaire des Bois-Francis, including paving a section near Warwick to prevent erosion.

We also helped to fund studies to determine the direction of future projects in Quebec. In Rivière-du-Loup, we supported a study on

future mitigation work needed for a pedestrian bridge that was built for bikes and snowmobiles. Two more studies along the P'tit Train du Nord were also supported: one to determine the repairs needed to reopen a historic trestle bridge in Mont-Laurier, and the other to determine the best locations for new maze gates to control access. Other studies included determining the work needed to add a paved trail to the Véloroute de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau between Low and La Pêche, and choosing the best routes for two new greenways on the North Shore of the Lanaudière region.

New wayfinding signage was installed, notably along La Montérégiade, Sentiers Wakefield and on the Trail operated by the Commission de la Capitale Nationale in Gatineau.



Salt Marsh Trail, NS  
© Daniel Baylis

## Nova Scotia

After Hurricane Dorian devastated parts of Nova Scotia, we provided emergency funding for repairs on the SANS 104 snowmobiling route and the Salt Marsh Trail. The urgent action coincided with the planned reconstruction work to protect the Salt Marsh Trail from future natural disasters.

We also helped to fund repairs to the Celtic Shores Coastal Trail near Mabou, after severe erosion threatened user safety.

At the Head of Chezzetcook, we were pleased to support the construction of a new greenway, which replaced a roadway section of the Trail. We look forward to working with our partners to add amenities along this greenway soon.

We were delighted to again work with Eskasoni First Nation to create a third access point to the Bras d'Or Lake Water Route on their territory. The access points that TCT has supported are a key part of the community's tourism experience, and are used regularly by local youth and tourists. In addition, we extended the Cobequid Trail to link Truro with the Fundy Discovery Site, a popular tourist destination.

We also supported the extension of a Trail section in Mulgrave, moving that section off a roadway and providing users with a nature corridor through town.

Many essential improvements to the Trail were also supported in Nova Scotia. Upgrades to the Samson Trail in New Glasgow helped to increase accessibility and safety. Elsewhere, we supported the replacement of boardwalks on the Gully Lake Trail in Kempton, the installation of new decking on a bridge on the Cobequid Trail in Truro, and trail enhancements to the Chignecto Ship Rail Trail. In Halifax, we supported work to improve trail surface and to prevent illegal ATV misuse on the Shearwater Flyer Trail in Dartmouth.

New wayfinding signage was installed along the Bealach Brèagha Trail, the Gully Lake Trail, the Cobequid Trail and the Musquodoboit Trail, as well as on Trail sections in the communities of New Glasgow and Mulgrave. We also supported the installation of new interpretive signage on the Salt Marsh Trail and safety signage at Iona's access point to the Bras d'Or Lake Water Route, as well as new donor recognition panels at our

refurbished pavilion in Halifax.

Along the Blueberry Run Trail, we supported an engineering study to determine how to minimize erosion in the future. We also provided funding for a study on the possible expansion of a parking lot that will serve the Salt Marsh Trail, the Shearwater Flyer Trail and the Heritage Trail, in order to allow increased usage and accessibility in a sustainable way.

Below: Cyclists enjoy the new greenway between East Chezzetcook and Musquodoboit, NS





East Coast Trail, NL  
© Daniel Baylis

## New Brunswick

After a culvert was damaged along the Woodstock to Fredericton Connector, we helped to fund the installation of a replacement culvert – keeping the Trail section safe and usable. Another culvert along the Wolastoq Valley Trail, which had been washed out after a severe storm, was also replaced with the help of TCT funding.

In Moncton, we supported the refinishing of a bridge along the Riverfront Trail. This important work including repairing the steel members of the bridge and repainting it in The Great Trail colours!

We were thrilled to also support the Cape Jourimain Nature Centre, which allowed for maintenance activities to begin before the centre's Lighthouse 150 celebrations in summer 2019.

We assisted our partners with the installation of new trailheads in the communities of Hampton and Grand Falls, while supporting upgrades to existing trailheads in Edmundston and Quispamsis. Along with directions and maps, these trailheads include important information on usage, as well as interpretive signage explaining the cultural heritage of the land the Trail

runs through.

Wayfinding signs were also installed on every section of The Great Trail in the province, except for Fundy National Park, Fundy Trail and the City of Fredericton.

## Newfoundland and Labrador

It was an exciting year as we welcomed our first-ever section of the Trail in Labrador! The Pioneer Footpath, a 60-kilometre wilderness trail from L'Anse-au-Clair to Pinware, runs along the south coast of Labrador and connects with the Trail via a ferry route from Quebec. New wayfinding signs along the Pioneer Trail were installed. We look forward to working closely with our new partners to enhance this beautiful greenway.

We were also proud to install a new Point Zero marker at Cape Spear, the easternmost point of The Great Trail of Canada.

In addition, we supported upgrades to existing sections of the Trail in the province, including the extension of part of the East Coast Trail at Logy Bay, removing two kilometres of roadway from our network. We also provided funding for surface and width upgrades to the Newfoundland T'Railway in Mount

Pearl, making it more accessible and enjoyable for all. A study to identify an alternative route to part of the T'Railway in Corner Brook was carried out with the help of TCT funding.

## Prince Edward Island

Last year, we supported the resurfacing of a section of the Trail between Fort Augustus and Lake Verde with rock dust to create a better experience for cyclists. We also supported the extension of the parking lot servicing the Trail, catering to the increasing popularity of the Island's province-wide trail. We were thrilled to provide funding for three interpretive signs along the Trail in Charlottetown. The signs provide safety information, maps and tips on local trails and nearby destinations.

Four trailheads in Stratford were also renovated and rebranded.



A view of the northern lights from Great Slave Lake, NWT

## Northwest Territories

In 2019, we were thrilled to welcome the Hamar Mountain Trail to our network! This wilderness trail, which leads the way into Discovery Ridge, is named after Hjalmar Nelson Hamar, a mountaineer who spent five decades hiking thousands of kilometres across the Northwest Territories.

Wayfinding and interpretive signs have now been installed along this section of the Trail.

We also assisted our partners in Hay River as they widened their

trail in order to allow more people to enjoy it, to make maintenance easier and to allow new spur trails to be built in the future. As part of this project, we helped to fund the installation of wayfinding signage.

New wayfinding signage was also installed along the Trail in Yellowknife.

## Yukon

Last year, we provided funding for the installation of new wayfinding signage with The Great Trail branding along the Whitehorse Copper Trail.

## Nunavut

In the past year, we have worked with our enthusiastic partner in Nunavut on Trail development plans, which are set to be implemented in 2020.

Stay tuned!

## Signage highlights

With the help of donations and the support of Parks Canada, we assisted Trail groups across the country to install signage along their sections of The Great Trail of Canada. In total, TCT helped to plan and install more than 6,700 kilometres of new signage along numerous Trail sections nationwide!

Completed signage projects last year included the installation of 6,022 wayfinding signs, 73 trailhead signs and 58 interpretive signs, which detail the heritage, flora and fauna of the local community.

With all signage projects, we review signage plans and designs while providing guidance on how best to sign trails. This involves focusing on safety and risk management, as well as accessibility.

For example, we ensure that signs are done in high contrast, in line with current accessibility standards. In addition, a member of TCT's signage team earned her certificate in accessibility training last year, which will greatly enhance the team's approach to accessible signage.

The signage team also provides

extra funding to Trail groups who need to use translation services for French, English and other languages.



Above: New interpretive signage along the Shearwater Flyer Trail, NS



# The Power of PARTNERSHIP

## KEEN Footwear

Thanks to their unwavering support since 2017, **KEEN Footwear** is the perfect fit for TCT. By regularly donating gift cards for TCT's contests and events, as well as including us in their own marketing efforts, they actively helped us introduce The Great Trail of Canada to wider audiences, and we are so grateful for their support.

## Clif Bar

**Clif Bar** continues to support TCT in meeting its signage goals by providing funding for trailhead signage across Canada. Other collaborations included our co-production of Clif Ambassador Maghalie Rochette's short film *The One Percent*, which was filmed on the Trail in Quebec, and our involvement in an event

that introduced Toronto-based influencers to their city's section of the Trail.

## Esri Canada

By donating their resources and expertise, **Esri Canada** continues to play a crucial role in the provision of our online map. With this assistance, we can provide an invaluable resource of shared knowledge that raises awareness of The Great Trail and encourages users to protect this national treasure.

## The Globe and Mail

As long-time supporters of TCT and its mission, **The Globe and Mail** has done much to introduce Canadians to our national Trail. We are grateful for their continued generosity as they continue to provide TCT with free monthly advertising space.

## Globalstar

We are also grateful for **Globalstar**, the producer of the SPOT X 2-Way

Satellite Messenger and other emergency communications devices, for their sponsorship of prizes for The Great Trail Treasure Hunt.

## Tourism Vancouver Island

As part of our mission to bring more Canadians and visitors to the Trail, we were delighted to partner with **Tourism Vancouver Island** for the first time. An Instameet for young hikers in Langford as well as promoting wonderful travel itineraries along the Cowichan Valley Trail and the Salish Sea Marine Trail were just some of the exciting initiatives we worked on last year.

Maghalie Rochette and her friends along Le P'tit Train du Nord, QC © Zacharie Turgeon





# A message from Valerie Pringle

Chair of the TCT Foundation Board

**This is a year of transition at Trans Canada Trail, which is always bittersweet. At the end of February, we said farewell to our spectacular President & CEO of 12 years, Deborah Apps. Throughout her tenure, Deborah led the Trail with great distinction and was instrumental in connecting The Great Trail of Canada from coast to coast to coast.**

All of us were sad to see Deb go, but we continue to celebrate her contributions. In her honour, we created a legacy fund to support initiatives that foster partnerships with Indigenous communities, including multilingual signage and enhancing culturally important sections of the Trail – one of TCT’s key priorities and a goal that is very near to Deb’s heart. To the many of you who generously gave to the Deborah Apps Legacy Fund, thank you!

On the sweet side, we are thrilled to welcome Eleanor McMahon as our new President & CEO. Eleanor brings a wealth of experience in the private, public and not-for-profit sector to TCT and has a stellar reputation as an advocate for active transportation and cycling. She is also the founder of the Share the Road Cycling Coalition, and is well versed in key issues that affect the Trail. We are all delighted to work with her as she leads us in our mission to continue to build, animate, improve and promote The Great Trail.

My personal highlight of the year was a ceremony at the pavilion in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, which was re-dedicated to the Canadian Military Engineers as a token of our appreciation for their contributions to the Trail, and in recognition of their long history of service to Canada. As part of our past

collaboration with them, the CME built 35 bridges along the Trail in 10 provinces. Our relationship with the CME is a powerful one, and we are grateful to them for their incredible support.

For years, I have called The Great Trail of Canada the greatest project in the history of the world. I know it’s hyperbolic, but I believe it. The Trail connects our oceans and at more than 27,000 kilometres, it has earned the title of the longest network of recreational multi-use trails in the world. But that isn’t the only reason The Great Trail is so great.

It speaks to everything worthy about nation building, accessibility, exercise, health, nature and connecting Canadians.

Every day, Canadians, like you, do something great by supporting the Trail, by using the Trail and by volunteering to enhance and protect the Trail. Greatness has many forms, and the potential for greatness that the Trail offers is limitless!

I want to thank everyone who continues to support this amazing project, and who sees the need to protect it and preserve it for future generations.

As we continue to cope with the impacts of the pandemic, I rely on The Great Trail to keep me healthy

and sane. I am so grateful to have the wonderful Trail section along the Niagara River, where I take my dogs for daily exercise.

Kierkegaard once wrote: “Health and salvation can only be found in motion.” And George Macaulay Trevelyan once said: “I have two doctors, my left leg and my right.” Even in the most challenging of times, there is so much truth in both these statements.

If you do something great, the Trail can do something great for you.

Valerie Pringle on the Trail near Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON © Robert Nowell

## TCT Foundation Board

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## Fostering safety and community in Fort Saskatchewan

When it comes to keeping Trail users safe in the city of Fort Saskatchewan, three locally based companies are more than willing to step up.

**Sherritt International, Pembina Pipeline Corporation and Gibson Energy** have committed generous donations to support the construction of an underslung pedestrian walkway suspended below a new bridge across the North Saskatchewan River. Currently, the only option for Trail users who wish to cross the river is to use the Hwy 15 bridge, which is part of a busy commuter route used by thousands of vehicles every day.

Once open to the public, the walkway will not only create an active transportation route for commuters, it will also provide easy and safe access to the Athabasca Landing Trail, a historic path built by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1876. "Sherritt has been embedded in the Fort Saskatchewan community since our commissioning in the 1950s," says **Greg Pohlka, Director, Sustainability, at Sherritt International.** "Many of

our employees and their families live in Fort Saskatchewan, so the trail system provides them with an opportunity to enjoy outdoor recreation and an opportunity to explore the river valley."

"Being part of building a national Trail system is a source of pride for Sherritt. We are excited to be supporting a project that will benefit so many Canadians," he adds.

**Wayne Carey, Senior Manager, Redwater District at Pembina** says the project aligned with their community investment priorities, including promoting safety, creating community space, encouraging wellness and helping to preserve the environment. "As a Calgary-based energy infrastructure company with operations across Canada, we are always interested in looking at ways we can support national organizations at the local level in the communities where we do business and where our employees call home," he says.

"As a company focused on delivering energy products to the communities that need it,

we appreciate the work of TCT in building a trail that connects communities across Canada."

**Sean Wilson, SVP and Chief Administrative Officer at Gibson Energy** says his team is proud

to support TCT to complete the walkway. "This project echoes our dedication to the health and safety of our people, as well as the communities that they live in," he says. "Once completed, the pedestrian bridge will be vital to the safety of seniors, families, people with disabilities and many others who cannot use the current infrastructure to cross the river. We look forward to seeing the positive impact this bridge will bring to the community."

We are extremely grateful to Sherritt International, Pembina and Gibson Energy for their generosity in supporting this essential project, and we look forward to celebrating the opening of the walkway together.



# DONORS

## make their impact



### The Joan and Clifford Hatch Foundation

One of Mary Hatch's mantras is a fitting one for our times: "When the world is getting you down, get outdoors!"

It's a philosophy that Mary has embraced since childhood, when she and her siblings would spend their summers camping in

Algonquin or exploring their local trails in Windsor, Ontario with their parents, Joan and Clifford Hatch.

Joan and Clifford were keen outdoorspeople, and Clifford was very involved in the management of trails in Windsor. In 1971, Clifford established the Joan and Clifford Hatch Foundation, which is led by Mary and her siblings. To immortalize Joan and Clifford's commitment to the outdoors, the Foundation supports worthy community projects, particularly those that are focused on education and conservation.

"When Canada's sesquicentennial was coming up, we wanted the Foundation to do something really special," Mary says.

In 2016, when Mary reached out to TCT to see how the Foundation could help, she discovered that there were two gaps between Trail sections in the Windsor and Essex County region. The Foundation agreed to fund TCT's efforts to build short trails to join the gaps, helping to ensure the national connection of the Trail in 2017.

"We thought this was a great way to honour our parents and to celebrate this important moment in Canada's history," Mary says.

The Foundation has supported TCT every year since, and takes a specific interest in emergency repair work and accessibility upgrades.

**The Trail along Windsor's waterfront.**



### Courtney Pratt

After a long career that spanned several industries, Courtney Pratt has turned his focus to a new passion in retirement – active walking and exploring the various trails where he lives.

And, although there are no sections of The Great Trail of Canada near

his home in British Columbia, the Trail is a project that is particularly dear to him.

"The national scope of The Great Trail – the fact that this network connects us from coast to coast to coast – is something truly valuable," he says.

Courtney started supporting the development of the Trail when he received a letter from Jack Cockwell in 2016. The letter was about TCT's annual Cockwell Match, when Jack generously matches any donation to TCT over a number of weeks each summer.

"Jack and I are long-term colleagues and friends, so I decided to join in and support him," Courtney says. "Now that I see the great work that TCT does and the strong

example that Jack sets, I continue to donate every year," he adds.

Joined by his wife Alexa and their dog Penny, Courtney walks on trails every day near his home. When he travels to other parts of Canada, he often seeks out sections of the Trail that he can discover.

For Courtney, promoting the Trail across Canada, while carrying out essential maintenance, is crucial. "It's imperative that we ensure The Great Trail is safe for people to use," he says. "Work to remove fallen trees and to complete emergency repairs is really important for keeping our trails open, so that everyone can enjoy them."

**Courtney Pratt and his dog, Penny, on a walk near their home.**



## Jack and Jane Lockwood

If there is one thing that Jane Lockwood wants to give the next generation, it is her passion for the great outdoors.

“Every child should be able to enjoy camping or cottage life when they’re young,” she says. “That love of nature will stay with them for life.”

It is this principle that drew Jane and her late husband, Jack, to make gifts in their wills to Trans Canada Trail.

A keen cyclist and outdoor enthusiast, Jack was well-known for riding his bicycle until the age of 89, and for planning trips with his family to Parry Sound and to the north shore of Lake Superior. He shared Jane’s love of exploring the outdoors, and they often travelled together to ski, sail and hike.

However, as time went on, Jane and Jack realized that much of what they wanted to experience was in Canada. It was around this time that Jack heard about The Great Trail. “Jack latched onto the idea of the Trail right at the beginning,” Jane recalls. “He just loved the idea, that this was something that would connect Canada.”

They bought a small motorhome, packed their bikes, and spent Jack’s last 20 years enjoying road trips and finding those hidden gems our country has to offer.

For Jack, the Trail encapsulated not only the need to protect natural spaces, but also to unite

the country. In fact, Jack felt so strongly about the value of the Trail to future Canadians that he made the decision to include a gift in his will to support the Trail in the years to come.

After Jack’s passing in January 2020, Jane was moved to include TCT in her estate plans too.

“To anyone who loves the Trail, as Jack did and as I do, I would say this – please consider leaving a gift in your will to TCT,” she says. “The Trail gives young people a simple way to get outdoors and see nature in their neighbourhoods and across Canada.”

Jack and Jane Lockwood on a cycling trip in Caledon, ON.



## Altitude Sports

Now more than ever, we know that enjoying the outdoors and respecting the environment go hand in hand. Inspired by this need to protect outdoor spaces, Altitude Sports supported TCT as part of their Alti Action program last year.

Alti Action allows Altitude Sports customers to donate \$15 to one of three Canadian organizations. Customers who donate receive 30

Alti Dollars applicable to any future purchase on altitude-sports.com. TCT’s partnership with Altitude Sports began in fall 2019 and resulted in two fundraising campaigns, which raised a total of over \$25,000.

These funds are being directed to essential Trail projects across the country.

“It’s a privilege to put together programs like Alti Action and partner up with organizations like TCT, people that share our goals and values,” says Maxime Dubois, Co-CEO at Altitude Sports.

“Altitude Sports is committed to reducing its environmental impact and is excited to support and protect our environment as partners of TCT,” he added.

## A Lasting Gift

We extend our gratitude to the 31 donors who informed us that they have included TCT in their estate plans.

Through gifts in their will, they are making made a lasting contribution to a national legacy that will benefit Canadians and visitors for generations to come.

Thank you!



Confederation Trail, PEI  
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## TCT is grateful for the contributions of the following donors

### **\$1 million +**

Jack Cockwell, CM, in honour of  
Daphne Cockwell

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Lighthouse on the Green, Fredericton, NB  
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Capital Pathway, Ottawa, ON  
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# Financial Highlights

Year Ended March 31, 2020

The following information has been extracted and summarized from the Trans Canada Trail Consolidated Financial Statements audited by Ernst and Young LLP. The complete set of statements may be requested from Trans Canada Trail.

## Statement of Operations and net assets

	2020	2019
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Government grants	7,500,000	7,500,000
Donations	4,158,428	4,500,083
Investment income	269,169	199,174
Miscellaneous income	30,231	10,315
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>11,957,828</b>	<b>12,209,572</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Trail construction	6,903,511	5,125,164
Trail promotion and education	1,424,667	2,065,879
Fundraising	1,124,029	1,095,727
General and administrative	1,378,991	1,306,785
Amortization of equipment	19,979	23,894
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>10,851,177</b>	<b>9,617,449</b>
<b>Excess of revenue (expenses)</b>	<b>1,106,651</b>	<b>2,592,123</b>
Net assets at beginning of year	10,256,188	7,664,065
Net assets at end of year	11,362,839	10,256,188

## Balance Sheet

	2020	2019
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash & short term investments	13,774,034	12,531,461
Accounts receivable and other assets	449,439	644,998
Prepaid expenses	171,137	105,540
Capital assets	45,124	61,884
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>14,439,734</b>	<b>13,343,883</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities and other liabilities	726,748	483,060
Deferred contributions	2,350,147	2,604,635
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>3,076,895</b>	<b>3,087,695</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Internally restricted	5,000,000	5,000,000
Endowment fund	52,654	52,654
Unrestricted	6,310,185	5,203,534
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>11,362,839</b>	<b>10,256,188</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>14,439,734</b>	<b>13,343,883</b>



Pitt River, Vancouver, BC  
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**To all the trailblazers along the way.**

Because of you, The Great Trail continues to inspire, thrill and contribute to the health, happiness and adventurous spirit of all Canadians. A million thanks to every amazing volunteer, trail user, donor, organization, government partner and outdoor enthusiast who has helped in forging our path to becoming the world's longest network of recreational multi-use trails.

Sooke Hills Wilderness Trail, BC  
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*Great Big Thank You*