



## The gift of the great outdoors

For many of us, 2020 was a year like no other. Your donations allowed us to offer Trail users a lifeline in uncertain times: to experience our country's incredible natural environment, and to appreciate its positive impact on our physical and mental well-being.

With your help, we **improved accessibility** to the Trail, **increased safety and wayfinding signage**, **converted interim roadways to greenways**, and **worked with Indigenous communities** as they led Trail development on their lands.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to support numerous projects across the country, including:

### THE WEST COAST

- A new single-track section of Sparwood Elk Valley Trail, British Columbia, to move most of the Trail off the roadway
- A 3.25-kilometre section of Trail in Dawson Creek, British Columbia, was repaved to make it safer and more enjoyable for users



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### THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

- An accessible two-stall washroom in the design of a grain elevator at Centennial Park, Meadowlark Trail, Alberta
- A new accessible viewing platform over the Tiger Lily Pond at Glenbow Provincial Park in Alberta
- A paved, accessible section of the Trail in Douglas Provincial Park, Saskatchewan

## Staying safe and active on the Trail

We deeply appreciate you, our new and returning donors, for allowing us to maintain and improve the Trail throughout this difficult year. More than ever, Canadians turned to the outdoors to safely connect with loved ones, stay active and enjoy nature.

We expect this trend to continue in the months to come, and we're working on ensuring a safe, accessible Trail across the country.



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- The installation of a pedestrian bridge over Joubert Creek on the Crow Wing Trail in Manitoba

- The addition of a culvert bridge to the Wakamow Trail in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
- The installation of a repurposed bridge over Cabin Lake Creek between Cabin Lake Trail and North Whiteshell Trail in Manitoba

### CENTRAL CANADA

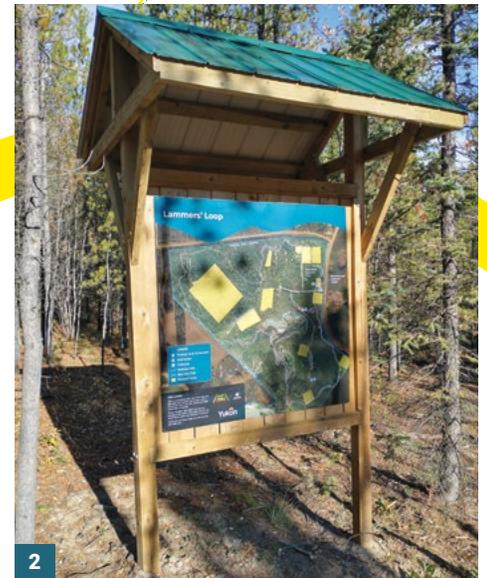
- A paved 16-kilometre section of the P'tit Train du Nord in Val-Morin, Val-David and Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, Quebec
- A trail upgrade between Laurierville and Plessisville on the Parc linéaire des Bois-Francs, Quebec
- The construction of three bridges and a greenway to replace roadway sections between the Gatineau Corridor Trail and the Highland Creek Trail in Ontario

### THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES

- Repairs to a section of the Trail after coastal erosion at Troy Beach, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia
- The installation of a bridge and an accessible trail upgrade in Chignecto, Nova Scotia
- Upgrades to Hampstead and Queenstown Wharf along the St. John River, New Brunswick, providing a safe and secure access to the trailhead

### THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES

- A trail upgrade on the Canol Heritage Trail, and upgraded boardwalk sections and resurfacing upgrades on the Norman Wells Trail in Norman Wells, Northwest Territories



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- A new forested trail section in the popular Gunnar Nilsson and Mickey Lammers Research Forest in the Yukon
- An accessibility upgrade to the Pine Lake Trail in the Yukon

### HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Your support also helped with the installation of:

- 56 new trailheads
- 17 new interpretive panels providing information about the Trail and its surroundings
- 2,325 signs outlining our national COVID-19 safety protocol and guidelines, which were distributed to 152 Trail groups



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Thanks to your generous donations, we've also continued to support Trail groups through the Capital Improvement Plan and the Spring and Winter Clean Up Grants.

These funds support our fantastic volunteers and play a key role in Canada's social and economic rebound, enhancing tourism, health, well-being, and, of course, ensuring that Canadians have access to safe outdoor spaces.

The Great Canadian Hike was a success, with over 10,000 Canadians who took up our national challenge and hiked a combined total of 108,000 kilometres between October 1 and 31, 2020. Canadians stayed active in their own backyards along the Trail.

1. Tiger Lily Pond at Glenbow Provincial Park, AB

2. Gunnar Nilsson and Mickey Lammers Research Forest, YT

3. COVID-19 safety signage, BC

4. Great Canadian Hike, Port Union Waterfront Park, ON - @singlemonththemove (Instagram)

5. COVID-19 safety signage, QC



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Coastal Link Trail, NB

## Making connections on the Coastal Link Trail

Thanks to founding gifts from the Crabtree Foundation and T.R. Meighen Foundation, as well as your generous support, we've begun construction on a signature Trail section – the Coastal Link Trail in New Brunswick, which will link Saint John to St. Stephen and the Canada-U.S. border at Calais, Maine.

Along its route, this trail will link the charming communities of Saint John, Pennfield, St. George, Saint Andrews, Oak Bay and St. Stephen, passing through beautiful coastal and rural areas. It will help shine a spotlight on these and other nearby communities as tourist destinations, bringing more business to this lovely part of the nation and more users out to the Trail.

We began work this year by adding a paved surface in St. Stephen, to improve accessibility and user experience. We look forward to ongoing work to include new infrastructure to support safe, active transportation, and Trail construction to complete this beautiful 200-km section of The Great Trail.



Dawson Trail Campgrounds, Quetico Provincial Park, ON

## Partnering with the next generation of Indigenous youth

This year, we partnered with the Outland Youth Employment Program (OYEP) in Northern Ontario and Alberta.

The six-week paid program for Indigenous high school students focuses on land-based training and work experiences. "We formed a partnership with OYEP to help develop the next generation of Trail stewards and engage with Indigenous youth along The Great Trail," says Trisha Kaplan, Trail Development Manager for Western and Northern Canada.

This past August, students met local Trail groups and helped with trail improvements at two sites: a boardwalk repair at Quetico Park in Ontario, and trail construction at Lesser Slave Lake Trail in Alberta.

Maintaining strong ties with Indigenous communities across Canada is integral to our organization, and we recognize that The Great Trail is located on the traditional lands and territories of Indigenous Peoples. We're planning more extensive Trail activities in future years, and with your help, we look forward to ongoing partnerships with Indigenous youth.



Waterworks Park, City of Brantford, ON

## Improving accessibility in Brantford, Ontario

Your contributions helped us to create unobstructed and accessible access to the popular Waterworks Park Trail in Brantford.

We installed a redesigned ramp and walkway from the parking lot to the trail with a slope of 5 percent, keeping it in line with Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS).

This popular trail spans over 40 kilometres and runs parallel to the Grand River as it winds through Brantford. The pathway offers a scenic route for users of all levels to enjoy the outdoors.

"We're so glad to have worked with TCT to make the City of Brantford Trails more accessible. The Waterworks Park Trail is well used and is a great spot for our residents to stay active outside, which is even more important than usual in the current context," says Vicki Armitage, Manager of Parks Services.

With your continued support, TCT looks forward to continuing to improve accessibility to The Great Trail for all users.



Trevor reaches Tuktoyaktuk, the northernmost point of the Trail

## Tales of strength and determination along The Great Trail of Canada

Thanks to your help, people across the country are able to take care of their mental well-being as they explore The Great Trail. We were particularly touched by Trevor Hodgson's story.

For Trevor, cycling along The Great Trail helped him cope with bipolar disorder. In 2017, he set out from Kilometre Zero East in Newfoundland, aiming to cycle along The Great Trail all the way to Kilometre Zero West in Victoria, British Columbia. He cycled 10,031 kilometres in 2017, then headed north in 2018, achieving his goal of exploring the Trail across all corners of Canada.

This past year, Trevor started a new adventure: raising his puppy, Daphne. He frequently heads outside with Daphne to renew himself in the great outdoors. "Canada is home to beautiful scenery and friendly people," he says. "I am truly blessed to have visited so many spectacular places, and my travels along The Great Trail are treasured memories. I can't wait to continue my journey."

## Join us on the path ahead

Because of your help, Canada now boasts the world's longest network of recreational multi-use trails. We need your support to ensure The Great Trail of Canada is able to continue to offer great outdoor experiences for all Canadians.

Your donations will allow us to increase accessibility to the Trail, repair damaged Trail sections, develop more greenways for a safer experience for all users, and strengthen our relationships with Indigenous communities.

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.

**We look forward to accomplishing even more in the coming years, and we hope you will stay the course on our shared journey!**

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

