



TRANS CANADA TRAIL
SENTIER TRANSCANADIEN TM/MC



ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OUR MISSION & VISION1

**MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL LINDSAY,
TRANS CANADA TRAIL BOARD CHAIR.....2**

SAY HELLO TO YOUR NEW TRANS CANADA TRAIL3

**MESSAGE FROM ELEANOR MCMAHON,
TRANS CANADA TRAIL PRESIDENT & CEO.....4**

NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS.....5

TRAIL PROJECTS

- NORTH10
- WEST COAST11
- PRAIRIES12
- CENTRAL14
- ATLANTIC15

SIGNAGE PROJECTS18

**MESSAGE FROM VALERIE PRINGLE,
TRANS CANADA TRAIL FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR.....19**

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP20

DONORS MAKE THEIR IMPACT21

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS25

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS.....28

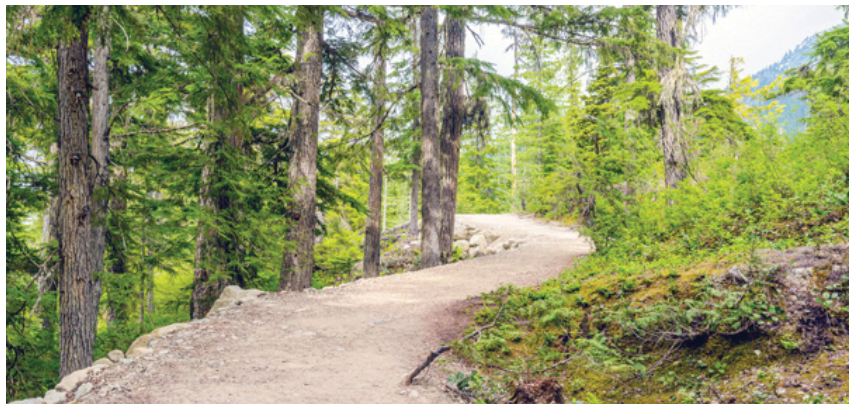


OUR MISSION

As the longest trail network in the world, the Trans Canada Trail connects Canadians and visitors to nature and to one another, from coast to coast to coast, through accessible and inclusive outdoor activities. Through collaboration and partnerships, we build, maintain and steward Canada's national trail, a unique system of connected urban and rural trails.

OUR VISION

Building on the achievement of connection, the Trans Canada Trail will continue to inspire everyone to embrace the outdoors, to discover the diversity of our land and people, to enhance their health and well-being, and to share their stories along this globally significant and iconic trail network.



A MESSAGE FROM **MICHAEL LINDSAY**

CHAIR OF THE TCT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It's an understatement to say that 2020 was a unique year for each and every inhabitant of our small, fragile, yet mighty planet. But if there is anything redeeming about the year, it may be humanity's renewed affinity for outdoor spaces and places.

Across the country, finding solace, refuge and recreation in the outdoors came reflexively. This past year also brought our sense of community into outdoor spaces – there were no rinks or restaurants open to host get-togethers. Instead, there were walks with our loved ones, joyful voices raised to share in conversation over a physical distance of two metres, smiles behind masks. I set out with my family on the trails of Toronto; you with yours on Vancouver Island, in Yellowknife or along the Atlantic shoreline. It brought comfort to know that we were often out there together, taking different paths along the single national trail that connects the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Arctic.

The year 2020 also brought us indispensable lessons about equity, diversity and inclusion. It was particularly heartbreaking that when we saw gatherings this past year, it was all too often to call attention to tragedy, injustice and the painful, shameful moments of Canadian history. We are filled with a resolve to take action on the work that remains to be done to create a society where bias is banished. Along the Trail, we aim to amplify diverse voices and experiences. We aim to take the lead from Indigenous communities who have been sustainably caring for the land for thousands of years. And we aim to continue to improve accessibility across the Trail in the years to come.

As we step out into post-pandemic living, Trans Canada Trail has articulated a new strategy that will guide us into the future. The thin line we have etched across our country must be improved and made more accessible. It must be promoted, animated and protected in collaboration with community-based trail groups, partners and philanthropists. It must be known by a name that resonates with people from coast to coast to coast.

I cannot adequately express my thanks to TCT's Board of Directors and to TCT's staff. They not only extended a warm welcome to me as the new Chair and to Eleanor McMahon as our new President & CEO, but they also expertly adapted to the COVID-19 reality and the resulting challenges and stress the pandemic caused. While in many ways we were fortunate as an organization that we were already accustomed to collaborating across great distances, nothing could have prepared us for this rollercoaster of a year. I am in awe of our staff team's resilience and dedication, and the successes you'll read about in this report are entirely of their making.

Here's to a great year ahead along the Trail.

- Michael



Michael and Carly Lindsay

TRANS CANADA TRAIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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TCT BOARD >

SAY HELLO TO YOUR NEW TRANS CANADA TRAIL!

You may have noticed that things look a little different in this annual report, on our [website](#) and social media pages, and maybe even on Trail signs. As of June 1, 2021, the name of The Great Trail of Canada changed back to its original name, and is once again known as the iconic Trans Canada Trail.

The background

We did not take this change lightly, and we did not make this decision quickly.

Back in 2016, we decided to separate the name of our organization (Trans Canada Trail) from the name of the physical trail (The Great Trail), as a way to celebrate and highlight the significant milestone of national connection in 2017.

Since that time, we recognized that the change was not embraced by all, and had, in fact, led to some confusion about our brand.

As part of the process of charting a course for our future, we worked diligently, throughout the past year, to hold consultation sessions with trail users, donors and partners. We also conducted independent polling research to learn what people understood, felt and wanted for our national trail.

What we heard

We learned that people have an emotional connection and a strong sense of pride for the Trans Canada Trail name. They clearly told us that this much-loved and iconic name was their overwhelming preference.

As good stewards of our brand we are committed to investing our charitable resources wisely. Reverting and then building upon the established brand and identity that has captured the hearts and minds of so many was clearly the people's choice.

Given the results of our research and after careful consideration, our Board of Directors voted to return to the much-loved and iconic name of our national trail, the Trans Canada Trail.

Our new logo

We have designed a new logo that represents both the physical trail and the name of our organization, incorporating a trail graphic crossing through a maple leaf. It was designed to address much of what we heard in our consultations in terms of clearly identifying that we are a trail and embracing our Canadian identity. The logo is bilingual, and remains flexible to include Indigenous languages. While the design has a modern look and feel, it also captures the timeless quality of the Trail for future generations.

The logo conveys an invitation to join us on an adventure to embrace the outdoors, to discover the diversity of our land and people, and to share stories along this iconic trail network.

2016
The name of the Trail



2016
The name of our organization



Trans Canada Trail
Sentier Transcanadien

As of June
2021
The name of the Trail
and our organization



TRANS CANADA TRAIL
SENTIER TRANSCANADIEN TM/MC



A MESSAGE FROM **ELEANOR MCMAHON**

PRESIDENT & CEO, TRANS CANADA TRAIL

In a year that saw Canada and the world cycle through lockdowns, shutdowns, pivots and reopenings, Canadians visited the Trans Canada Trail in record numbers seeking respite from social isolation. The Trans Canada Trail is a national ribbon that connects Canada's diverse landscapes, seasons, people and experiences. While COVID-19 drove us into isolation, the Trail provided safe opportunities for connection.

Physically distant yet socially together, the Trail was a lifeline to wellness and safe recreation, providing vital connections to the natural world and one another.

This was brought to life when over 10,000 trail enthusiasts came out for our inaugural [Great Canadian Hike](#) in October. They took up the challenge to virtually join fellow nature lovers and hike the Trail close to their homes. Together, they trekked a combined distance equivalent to four full lengths of the 27,000-kilometre Trans Canada Trail!

We know there has been a shift toward using outdoor spaces in greater numbers. Our November 2020 national survey showed that Canadians' trail usage has increased by 50%. And 95% told us they use trails to enhance their mental and physical health.

Not only are trails a significant contributor to our health and wellness, they also provide economic and environmental benefits, boosting tourism opportunities and creating jobs, supporting local businesses and creating green infrastructure. This was underscored in a fall 2020 report commissioned from [The Conference Board of Canada](#).

This research quantifies the important role the Trail can play in the revitalization of local economies and Canada's broader post-pandemic recovery, and in building healthy, sustainable communities. Our research makes the case for the importance and value of continued investment in trails, and has been foundational to our advocacy and public policy work.

As part of our desire to be data driven in decision making, we explored the emotional connections to the Trail, and, specifically, to its name. As good stewards of our brand, it is our responsibility to ensure that our name and our work resonate with partners and funders. To that end, we conducted extensive polling and focus group research to find out exactly what people knew about us and what they thought of the name, which in 2016, for the physical trail, had changed to "The Great Trail". Almost all participants told us they favoured the original name – Trans Canada Trail. And, the majority (70%) supported returning to this name. This research drove our decision to restore the [Trail's former name](#), which participants embraced as one that identifies the Trail as uniquely Canadian.



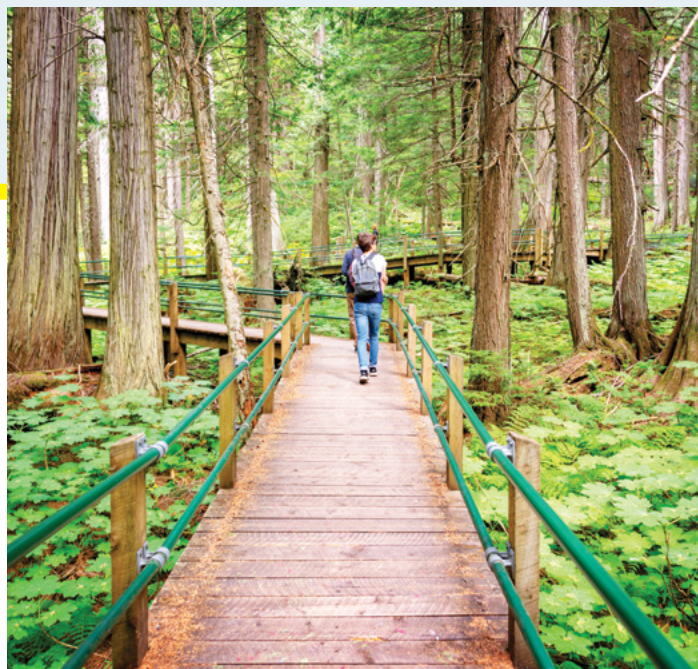
Consistent with the work on our name and visual identity, we also finalized a new corporate strategy that will help chart the course for the Trail's next chapter. Building on the historic achievement of connection in 2017, our Six Strategies for Success were the culmination of significant consultations with key stakeholders and partners who shared their vision and aspirations for the TCT. We are excited about the work that lies ahead and the opportunities to leverage this national asset as a place for acts of reconciliation, and to share the cultural and natural history of our country.

This past year has given us the opportunity to further **explore and deepen our connection** to nature, to our communities and to each other. On the latter, we are committed to making the Trail more diverse, inclusive and accessible. For example, this past year, we made significant strides toward increasing accessibility for all trail users through an innovative [partnership with AccessNow](#) (see page 7 for more).

We are also committed to the role we play in the essential act of reconciliation and relationship building with Indigenous peoples. In 2020, we partnered with the Outland Youth Employment Program (OYEP) on a highly successful trail building education pilot project for Indigenous youth, as part of a summer youth employment initiative. This project took place in OYEP camps, where participants worked with trail operators on projects near Lesser Slave Lake, Alberta, and in Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario.

We have much to learn from the leadership of Indigenous peoples who have, for thousands of years, stewarded the lands we call home. In reciprocating the gift of their knowledge, by sharing TCT's own knowledge in youth skills development and trail building, we are fostering the next generation of trail builders, who will ensure that the future of TCT is inclusive of Indigenous teachings.

As I reflect on my first year, I am humbled by the learnings of the past year and grateful for the tremendous support



I have received. None of the accomplishments of this past year would have been possible without the support of Parks Canada; provincial, territorial and municipal governments; and our trail partners, dedicated staff, Boards of Directors and generous donors who share our vision for this national legacy that fosters unity, collaboration and connectedness.

I look forward to leading TCT into its next chapter and to continuing collaborations with our many partners and supporters, to ensure that the Trail is treasured, sustained and preserved for generations to come.

See you on the Trail!

- Eleanor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eleanor'.



IN MEMORY OF JOHN BELLINI

It was with great sadness that we learned of the recent passing of John Bellini, Trans Canada Trail's first President & CEO.

During his tenure from 1992 to 2006, John played an instrumental role in developing our national trail. He was the driving force behind the connection of the first 18,000 km of the Trans Canada Trail.



CITY OF MONTREAL – LAURIER PARK, QC

TRANS CANADA TRAIL NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

This has been a year like no other. We were well planned and looking forward to working on a number of initiatives to create and boost opportunities for more people to get out on the Trans Canada Trail.

Then COVID-19 arrived. We worked quickly to update our plans for the year, shifting and adapting to respond to the reality we were facing – a global pandemic. Time spent outdoors has always been an important part of a healthy, balanced life. With public health guidelines in place – and, in some cases, orders – we were all asked to maintain distance from one another. In the face of these challenges, people across the country rekindled or boosted their connection to nature and it made all the difference.

In story after story, people told us that being able to spend time on the Trans Canada Trail helped them stay healthy physically, mentally and emotionally. The Trans Canada Trail has never been more important in our day-to-day lives. That's why we've worked so hard to make it safe and enjoyable across the country.



FULLERTON'S MARSH CONNECTOR, PE

April

Our [Capital Improvement Plan funding program provided \\$3.1 million in grants](#) to 77 organizations and volunteer groups that operate, maintain and enhance the Trans Canada Trail. With this funding, trail groups in every province and territory engaged in important trail development work such as improving accessibility, converting roadway sections to greenways, establishing environmental stewardship initiatives, and undertaking construction and signage projects.



CAPILANO RIVER REGIONAL PARK, BC

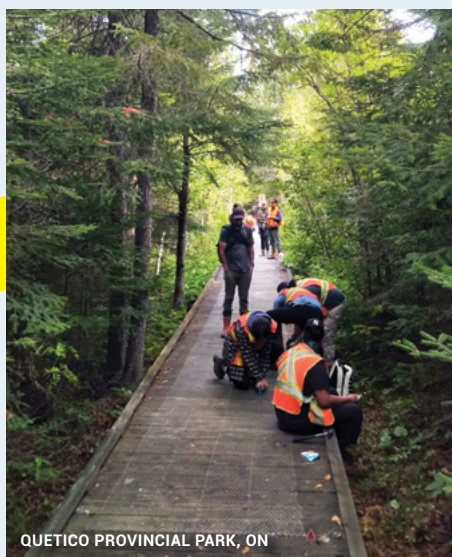
May

In May of 2020, TCT released its [National Guidelines for Responsible Trail Operations and Visitation during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

The guidelines were designed to support Canada's trail operators and provided comprehensive information on how to safely keep trails open while minimizing the risk of COVID-19 transmission. The guidelines included a tool kit for trail operators with templates for key messages, letters, posters and social media cards.



RICHARD PETER, CITY OF VANCOUVER - STANLEY PARK, BC
PHOTO: ALEXA FERNANDO



QUETICO PROVINCIAL PARK, ON



CITY OF MONTREAL - LA FONTAINE PARK, QC



HARVEST MOON TRAILWAY, NS
PHOTO: PAUL DARROW

August

We launched a new pilot program, offered in partnership with the **Outland Youth Employment Program (OYEP)**, that created **opportunities for Indigenous youth** to develop the skills needed for trail maintenance and development. At OYEP camps in Northern Ontario and Alberta, these high school students worked on trail improvements with local trail groups at two sites: a boardwalk repair in Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario, and trail construction on the Lesser Slave Lake Trail in Alberta.

September

We were curious about the economic, health and conservation benefits that trails provide to Canada so we commissioned The Conference Board of Canada to research these topics. The resulting report – [*Trekking Canada's Trails: The Benefits and Significance of Canada's Trail System*](#) – highlights how using trails can positively impact the physical and mental health of Canadians, as well as provide active transportation corridors, living classroom experiences, and outdoor facilities that boost Canada's economy.

September to March

In our ongoing commitment to taking concrete action to [*improve accessibility on the Trans Canada Trail, we were thrilled to announce a partnership with AccessNow*](#), which involved our first trail mapping initiative with the Canadian Paralympic Committee. The project uses the AccessNow app platform and technology to highlight lived experiences and provide people with a navigational resource to discover trail accessibility.



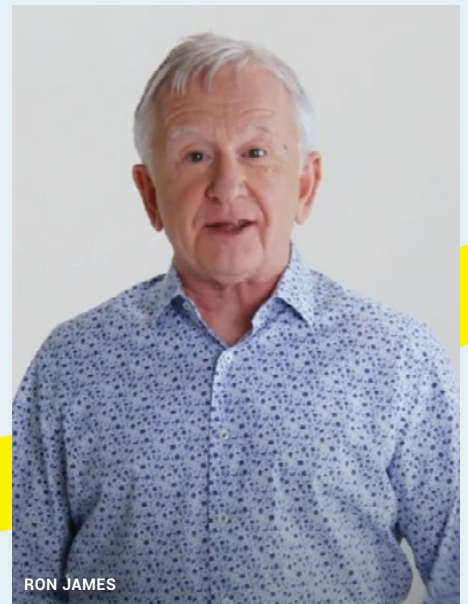
LAKE SUPERIOR WATER TRAIL, ON
PHOTO: EXPLORE NORTHWEST ONTARIO



SOOKE HILLS WILDERNESS TRAIL, BC



CITY OF MONTREAL – LAURIER PARK, QC



RON JAMES

October

The first annual [Great Canadian Hike](#) was a fantastic way for trail users to connect to nature close to home while (virtually) joining fellow participants in a goal to cover the Trans Canada Trail's full 27,000 km length. To our delight, over 10,000 people took up our national challenge, hiking for a combined total of 108,000 kilometres in one month!

November

There were a lot of unknowns this year, so we decided to check in to see how Canadians were feeling about their exercise and leisure time. [Working with national polling and market research firm, Léger, we learned that trails had become a life-line for people](#), with usage up close to 50% across all age groups. A full 95% of those surveyed told us they were using trails, during these trying times, as a form of self care to enhance their mental health.

December

Famed comedian and longtime Trail supporter, [Ron James, helped kick off our fun Do Something Great campaign!](#) It invited people to make a donation to help fund critical repairs, improve signage and make the Trail safer and more accessible for all.



CITY OF SAINT-LAMBERT, QC
PHOTO: JENNIFER MAHON



PHOTO: DESTINATION ONTARIO

February

Our winter [Blahs to Ahhhs campaign](#), in support of mental and physical health, encouraged everyone to get outside, safely and responsibly, turning their winter *Blahs to Ahhhs*. People shared their favourite activity ideas with friends, family and fellow Trail fans on social media.

An additional highlight of the campaign was an [online event](#) that has been viewed by more than 1,000 people, featuring **Dr. Katy Kamkar** (Clinical Psychologist, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health), **Mercedes Nicoll** (4x Winter Olympian), **Eleanor McMahon**, our President & CEO, and moderated by **Valerie Pringle** (Vice-Chair of the CAMH Foundation Board and Chair of the Trans Canada Trail Foundation Board).

THANK YOU!

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.

TRAIL PROJECTS

NORTH

Northwest Territories

Canol Heritage Trail - Upgrade

This project completed the raising and resurfacing of the entire length of the Canol Heritage Trail in Norman Wells, reducing flooded areas.



CANOL HERITAGE TRAIL - UPGRADE

Tuktoyaktuk Trail – Upgrades

This project completed the leveling of the ground around the TCT monument and the placement of crushed rock, construction of an accessible washroom facility, and the installation of benches near the monument.



TUKTOYAKTUK TRAIL – UPGRADES

Two Rivers Trail – Surface Repairs

Based on feedback from Elders and locals in the community, this Trail section was upgraded through smoothing out the surface with Geotech material and adding sand to create a more comfortable walking path.

Yukon

Gunnar Nilsson Mickey Lammers Research Forest

This project connected an existing 1.4-km cycling trail to the Takhini Hotsprings Road and has taken users off a roadway section and onto a forested trail.

Pine Lake Trail Accessibility Upgrades

This project completed the resurfacing of 1.5 km of the Trail with asphalt on a previously unpaved section of the Pine Lake Trail within the downtown core of Haines Junction, making it more accessible for seniors and persons with disabilities, as well as more appealing for all non-motorized users.



GUNNAR NILSSON MICKEY LAMMERS RESEARCH FOREST

TRAIL PROJECTS

WEST COAST

British Columbia

City of Nelson – Waterfront Plaza Amenity Area

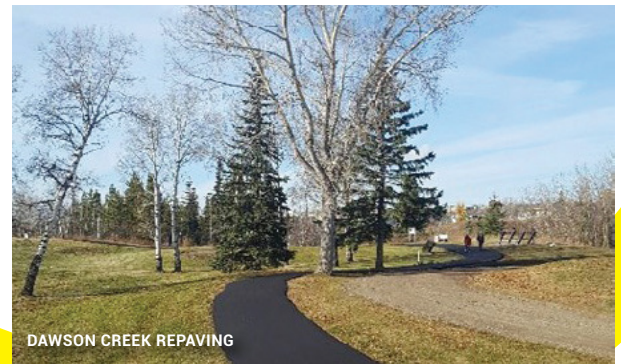
This project involved the construction of a new, accessible washroom facility, a free and publicly available bicycle repair station and a drinking water fountain/bottle filling station.



CITY OF NELSON - WATERFRONT PLAZA AMENITY AREA

Dawson Creek – Repaving

This project completed the repaving of 3.5 km of the Trail, making it more accessible for all users.



DAWSON CREEK REPAVING

Lions Great Bridge – Remediation Project

This pedestrian-only bridge crossing is an important link in the network. The Lions Great Bridge is a movable bridge structure that can be swung open to allow vessels to access the Millstone River. This project will ensure the City of Nanaimo maintains its obligations to access the navigable water up the Millstone River and continue to provide safe pedestrian access on this important trail system.



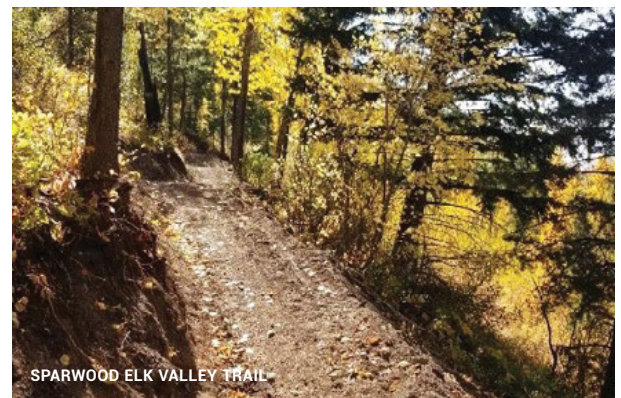
LIONS GREAT BRIDGE – REMEDIATION PROJECT

Sea to Sky Trail – Gord's Trail

This project, located midway between Whistler and Pemberton, replaced a 6-km section of highway shoulder with a greenway.

Sparwood Elk Valley Trail

A new 1.5-km single-track trail was constructed, taking a section of the Elk Valley Trail off roadway.



SPARWOOD ELK VALLEY TRAIL

TRAIL PROJECTS

PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Alberta

Beiseker Grain Elevator Washroom

An accessible two-stall washroom, in the design of a grain elevator, was built in Centennial Park, the main trailhead for the Meadowlark Trail between Beiseker and Irricana.



Fish Creek Provincial Park – Blindsquare

Alberta Parks installed Blindsquare technology in three parks: Fish Creek and Lois Hol. TCT contributed to the installation in Fish Creek Provincial Park. This navigation technology will be installed at Stream Changes Trail, as well as on interpretive signs, washrooms, the visitor centre, picnic shelters, a cafe, a restaurant and the nearby Calgary Transit stop.



Pony Truss Bridge Trail

A 130-m asphalt trail was built, providing access to the Pony Truss Bridge, which is one of the few remaining historically significant pieces of infrastructure in Airdrie.



Tiger Lily Pond – Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park

A wooden viewing platform with a ramp access point was built on Tiger Lily Pond in Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park. Wooden interpretive signs were also created to mimic the “ranch” feel of the rest of the park and to connect with the history of the area.



Manitoba

Cabin Lake Bridge

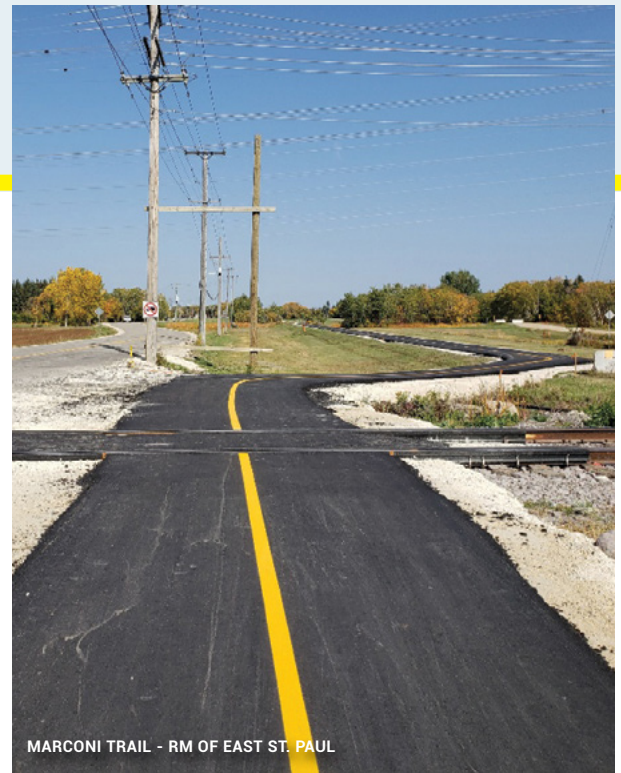
The installation of a pedestrian bridge at Cabin Lake provides links to destinations such as Jessica Lake Lodge and facilitates increased usage of the Trans Canada Trail.

Crow Wing Trail – Joubert Creek Phase 2B

This project completed the installation of an 18-metre prefabricated metal bridge over Joubert Creek. The width of the bridge only accommodates pedestrians, and ATV mitigation measures were added at the bridge entry points.

Marconi Trail – RM of East St. Paul

A paving project was completed, which increased the width of the trail to 3 metres along 3.6 km. This trail is a major link to the City of Winnipeg and to Birds Hill Provincial Park, and has the potential to become a major active transportation corridor.



MARCONI TRAIL - RM OF EAST ST. PAUL

Saskatchewan

Douglas Provincial Park – Accessibility Project

This project saw the completion of an accessible nature trail through Douglas Provincial Park. This section of the Trail includes boardwalks over wetland areas and provides views of Lake Diefenbaker.



DOUGLAS PROVINCIAL PARK - ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT

SE-Chief Whitecap Park Trail

This project completed a new 2.65-km, 3-metre wide, crusher dust Trail section that starts at the current terminus of the Meewasin Trail at the north end of the Chief Whitecap Park and continues southward through the park to a parking lot at the south end.



SE-CHIEF WHITECAP PARK TRAIL

Wakamow Trail – Paashkwow Park

A concrete culvert bridge crossing was built to replace an unsafe rock crossing, increasing accessibility to the Trail.

TRAIL PROJECTS

CENTRAL CANADA

Ontario

Atherly Trail Extension

The construction of this new trail extended an existing greenway to the boundaries of the Chippewas of Rama First Nation lands.

Caledon Trailway Bridge Rehabilitation – Kennedy Road

This project included the replacement of wood decking, widening of the Trail to accommodate light maintenance vehicles, replacement of the railing, and restoration and erosion mitigation of the limestone screenings surface abutting the bridge to provide a continuous, accessible and safe surface for trail users.

Casques Isles Trail – Township of Schreiber

Surface improvements to this section of the Casques Isles Trail provided easier access to the iconic Picnic Table Lookout rest area.

Kawartha Trans Canada Trail

This project completed the redecking of the Mariposa Creek Bridge along the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail. Further improvements included elevating the trail surface at the entry points to the bridge, and installing interpretive signage, which features historical information about the area.

Neebing River Trail – Ford Street to Legion Track Drive

This project relocated a Trail section, which was close to the Neebing River, and constructed it on higher ground. This will reduce the impact that the current trail is having on the adjacent riparian habitat. Work to rehabilitate the old location was also completed.



Ojibway Park – Waterfront Trail – Garden River First Nation (Phase 2)

This project completed the construction of boardwalks along the shoreline and beach in Ojibway Park. This section of the TCT brings the Lake Huron Cycling route off road for a short distance.

Upper Highland Creek

This roadway conversion project included the completion of three bridges and a greenway, providing trail users with beautiful views of the river valley in Toronto.

Walter Bean Grand River Trail – Cambridge

This project upgraded the existing stone dust trail to a 3-metre wide paved asphalt trail. This surface upgrade will prevent washouts and seasonal damage. The project also completed the installation of a 1.5-m high chain-link fence along the ravine edge, to prevent vehicles from driving down the trail, and the installation of a bench at either end of the trail.

Quebec

Parc linéaire des Bois-Francs

Surface upgrades were completed on 9 km of the Trail. These improvements have accommodated an increase in users and have improved the overall standard of the Trail.

Parc linéaire Le P'tit Train du Nord – Surface Upgrades

The goal of this project was to bring the trail tread of this section up to the standard of the adjacent section of La Route Verte, making it more attractive for cyclists. Natural tread was replaced with compacted aggregate on 1.4 km.



TRAIL PROJECTS

ATLANTIC REGION

New Brunswick

Lincoln Trail – Fredericton

This project developed a new access point with a trailhead, parking lot and connection to Lincoln Trail. This new access point connects all the communities along Lincoln Road to the Trail.

Petit-Témis

This project completed various improvements to the Petit-Témis in Edmundston, including new signage, surface upgrades and the planting of vegetation.

Newfoundland and Labrador

T'Railway Bridges – Redecking (Phase 1)

As part of a larger bridge upgrade project in Newfoundland and Labrador, this first phase completed the redecking of 14 bridges along the Newfoundland T'Railway, representing 340 metres of bridging.

Nova Scotia

Bealach Brèagha Trail Improvements – Scotsville

This project involved the resurfacing of part of the Bealach Brèagha Trail closest to Inverness. Large rocks and stones were replaced with fine gravel, making it more accessible to a wider range of trail users. The project also included ditching and tree clearing.

Grand Narrows Water Access Improvements – Cape Breton

In 2017, the Grand Narrows Waterfront Development Society developed a water access point on the Bras d'Or Lake Water Route. In 2019, Hurricane Dorian destroyed the finger jetty, lower walkway and the barrier-free walkway to the washroom facilities and eroded a portion of the beach area, making it difficult for watercraft to access the facility. The purpose of this project was to rebuild the amenities and to improve the water route access point.



PETIT-TÉMIS



T'RAILWAY BRIDGES – REDECKING (PHASE 1)



GRAND NARROWS WATER ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Harvest Moon Trail Upgrades – Berwick

This project completed improvements to 16 km of the Harvest Moon Trail, including resurfacing, road crossing upgrades and improved wayfinding signs.



Ship Railway Upgrade – Chignecto

This project completed improvements to the Chignecto Ship Railway Trail, including the installation of a bridge, and upgrades of the trail tread to a uniform surface, making it more accessible and safer for all users.

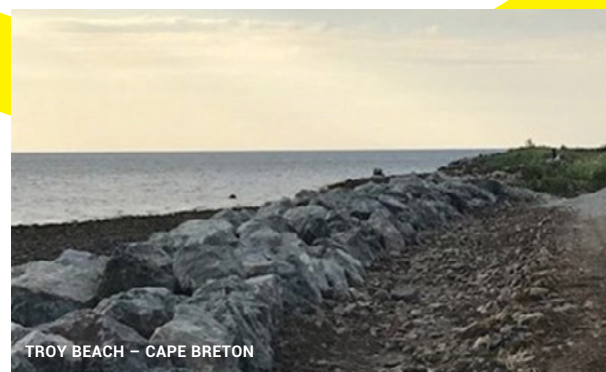


Short Line Trail – Resurfacing – Cumberland County (Phase 1)

This project completed the resurfacing, ditching and draining of 40 km of the Short Line Trail from the Colchester County Line to Oxford.

Troy Beach – Cape Breton

Repair work was required after this section of the Trail at Troy Beach, which runs along a causeway, was damaged by coastal erosion.



Prince Edward Island

Fullerton's Marsh Connector – Stratford

This project converted a roadway section of the Confederation Trail into greenway, and connected the Stratford Trail system to the Murray Harbour branch of the Confederation Trail. In addition to the construction of 2.2 km of new trail, wooden boardwalks were built across a stream and over a marsh area.



SIGNAGE PROJECTS

TCT was thrilled to partner with local organizations and trail groups to create interpretive signage and trailhead projects that highlight local culture, provide information about the surrounding natural environment and promote Indigenous languages. The following are a few examples of completed and ongoing projects:

Alberta – Tiger Lily Pond Interpretive Signs, Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park

Local students assisted with the creation of the artwork for these beautiful interpretive signs.

New Brunswick – Saint John River Trail

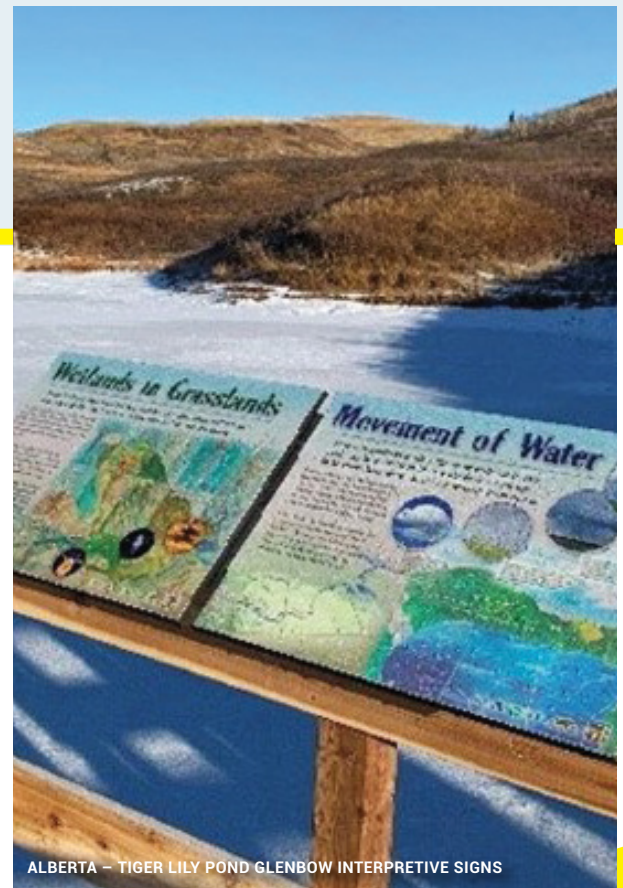
Thirteen new trailheads were installed along this picturesque water route.

Northwest Territories – Hay River Interpretive Signs

This ongoing project, scheduled to be completed in summer 2021 will depict local flora and fauna.

National – COVID-19 Visitor Signage Support

TCT offered free COVID-19 safety signs to TCT partner organizations across Canada. A total of 2,325 safety signs were shipped to 152 Trail groups.



ALBERTA – TIGER LILY POND GLENBOW INTERPRETIVE SIGNS



NATIONAL – COVID-19 VISITOR SIGNAGE SUPPORT



A MESSAGE FROM **VALERIE PRINGLE**

CHAIR, TRANS CANADA TRAIL FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

After 20 years of volunteering with Trans Canada Trail, this is my last report as Chair of the TCT Foundation. Of all the things I have done in my life, with the exception of my family, nothing makes me prouder than having helped build this Trail across Canada.

I have been lucky to see so much of it, and it makes my heart sing. I still love the Emerson quote, "Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." We have done that.

I want to take this final opportunity to thank some people by name who worked so hard to create the Trail. First, the founders with the big dream: Pierre Camu and Bill Pratt. Then, so many others who forged the path: Paul LaBarge, John Bellini, Sherman Olson, Cecil Freeman, Donald Deacon, David Ward, Deborah Apps, Hartley Richardson, Simone Hicken, Margaret Mofford and our beloved donor, Jack Cockwell. There are so many footprints of our trail builders, volunteers, donors and supporters on this longest and grandest recreational trail in the world, and I love you all. People who follow the path are just as important as the people who create it.

Now the torch is passed to a new generation of Trail Blazers, as we approach our 30th anniversary, to steward it and make it bigger and better.

This past year, we raised funds for many impactful projects. To honour Jim Prentice, a key advocate for the Trail, we raised funds and built a commemorative sun shelter at Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park. The Richardson and Asper Family Foundations committed more support to trails in Manitoba, and CIBC made us their charity of choice for their Earth Day campaign. Thank you to all our donors.

The Trans Canada Trail is the greatest project in the history of the world. It allows us to connect with nature, with one another and with ourselves. It improves our

mental and physical health and lets us experience the beauty of this country.

The Trail tells the story of Canada from coast to coast to coast. Indigenous peoples with their traditional travel and trade routes, and then the voyageurs, explorers, settlers and immigrants. First there was a railway, then the Trans-Canada highway, and now there is the Trans Canada Trail that lets you experience the country at human speed. Please get out and walk, ride or paddle, and think and dream and listen to the story of Canada. The Trail is a national icon, a collective endeavour, and you are part of it. Use it and treasure it.

Thank you,

- Valerie

TRANS CANADA TRAIL FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Valerie Pringle, Chair
Kirby Gavelin
Nicole German
Lori Gove
Laureen Harper
Michael Lindsay
Ian Pearce
Aidan Richardson
Bob Richardson



THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP



Esri Canada

By donating 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 Trans Canada Trail and encourages users to explore and **protect** this national treasure.

TD Bank Group

Given their **belief** in the importance of creating opportunities for people to get involved with local green space initiatives that boost their health, we are always happy to work with [TD](#). We are grateful that TD, a longtime supporter of the Trail, was by our side as we launched the very first Great Canadian Hike in October.

The Weather Network

Thanks to [The Weather Network](#), the 10,000 participants of the Great Canadian Hike could count on up-to-date weather information 24 hours a day. By providing people with the information they need to plan their daily activities, every day can be a good day. Our thanks go to them for their ongoing support, rain or shine, of Trans Canada Trail.

Globalstar Satellite Canada Co.

We are also grateful for [Globalstar](#), the producer of the SPOT X 2-Way Satellite Messenger and other emergency communication devices, for their sponsorship of prizes for the Great Canadian Hike. Their commitment to providing a reliable communication network for trail users, no matter the location they're exploring, offers peace of mind.

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 Trans Canada Trail to wider audiences, and we are 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. Thanks to their additional donation of CLIF Bar prize packs as part of our *Blahs to Ahhhs* winter photo contest, this year there were lots of happy trail users keeping their energy up for more exploring.



DONORS MAKE THEIR IMPACT

THE GIFT OF GIVING



The Trans Canada Trail is a gift from Canadians to fellow residents and visitors, now and into the future. There is something special about a connection to nature, and spending time outdoors fosters good health for all of us – mentally, physically and emotionally.

Thanks to the generosity of thousands of donors who supported the Trans Canada Trail this year, new trails were built, existing trails were repaired and expanded, and more people were able to safely spend time outdoors.

DONATE NOW >



Making connections on the Coastal Link Trail

Thanks to founding gifts from the Crabtree Foundation and the T.R. Meighen Family 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. The Coastal Link Trail will 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 adding new infrastructure to support safe, active transportation, and to completing construction on this beautiful 200-km section of the Trans Canada Trail.

"For both myself and the Foundation in general, this project represented a positive and concrete step toward supporting not only tourism and economic development, but also place-making, the creation of a more liveable and accessible region to make it as easy as possible for people to enjoy exercise and see what Canada has on offer. The wonders of Canada are truly in our own backyard. We wish that through our small example, this may spur others to support in whatever way or by whatever amount makes sense for them."

– Ted Meighen, Member, Board of Directors, T.R. Meighen Family Foundation



CONFEDERATION TRAIL, PE
PHOTO: DANIEL BAYLIS



Deb Allerton

[Deb Allerton](#) feels invigorated and energized when she spends time outside, breathing in fresh air and soaking up vitamin D from the sun. Most days of the week, you can find her enjoying all that nature has to offer.

Deb is an active member of her community and she could see how the COVID-19 pandemic was affecting the routines of people's daily lives. Stress levels were increasing as people weren't able to take part in their usual activities. She wanted to help.

She shares, "hiking and spending time outdoors on the Trans Canada Trail is a passion of mine and I'm in the fortunate position of being able to donate to my passion so that other people can enjoy the Trail. If there was ever a time when I could help, it's now, during the pandemic."



Muriel Olive Yost

[Muriel Olive Yost](#) loved to walk the Trail because she knew how beneficial it was for her health. Being able to breathe fresh air, marvel at tall trees, enjoy the scent of blooming flowers, and maybe catch a glimpse of an animal, there are few things as special as a walk on the Trail.

Muriel believed that everyone could benefit from outdoor activity as a way to enhance their mental, physical and emotional health. She encouraged people to stay healthy whenever she had the opportunity.

Not only did Muriel enjoy time outdoors herself, she also wanted to share the joy of the Trail and good health, noting that "the greatest thing that you can do is help others."

She generously left a planned gift to Trans Canada Trail in her will, as a legacy to her family, friends and everyone in Canada who will enjoy the Trail in the future. Her thoughtfulness will help us continue to protect and enhance the Trail for future generations and we are grateful for her kindness and consideration.



Bob and Mary Pat Armstrong

[Mary Pat and her husband Bob](#) value the Trans Canada Trail near their home in Caledon as a safe (and hill-free) place for walking, cycling and cross-country skiing. They have been active supporters of Trans Canada Trail for over two decades, since attending the opening of the Caledon pavilion in 1997.

In 2020, they wanted to ensure that everyone is able to experience the breathtaking beauty of Canada on the Trans Canada Trail. They matched gifts, dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of \$20,000!

"We live in a fast-paced world, but when you are on the Trail, you slow down," says Bob, adding that it allows you to connect with nature, as well as with the people you encounter. "On an hour-long walk, we meet many people, and there is a tendency to stop and chat with people we otherwise wouldn't connect with. The Trail ties us together and reminds us how lucky we are to be Canadians."

"Our continuing desire to support the Trail comes from our close and personal connection to our local section," says Mary Pat.

A LASTING GIFT



We extend our gratitude to the 24 donors who informed us that they have included TCT in their estate plans.

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

Thank you!

GIFT IN YOUR WILL >



GREAT NORTHERN RAIL TRAIL, BC

TRANS CANADA TRAIL IS GRATEFUL FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING DONORS

\$1 million +

Jack Cockwell, C.M., in honour
of Daphne Cockwell

\$100,000 to \$999,999

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\$1,000 to \$9,999

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ATLANTIC VIEW TRAIL, NS
PHOTO: DANIEL BAYLIS

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In memoriam

The Rt. Hon. John Turner
 1929-2020

TCT CHAMPIONS >

OUR SUPPORTERS >

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Year Ended March 31, 2021

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

	2021	2020
REVENUES		
Government grants	7,500,000	7,500,000
Donations	2,174,266	4,158,428
Investment income	168,062	269,169
Other contributions	125,000	
Miscellaneous income	459,212	30,231
Total revenues	10,426,540	11,957,828
EXPENSES		
Trail construction	6,678,521	6,903,511
Trail promotion and education	1,753,399	1,424,667
Fundraising	922,345	1,124,029
General and administrative	1,309,136	1,378,991
Amortization of equipment	14,349	19,979
Total expenses	10,677,750	10,851,177
Excess of revenue (expenses)	(251,210)	1,106,651
Net assets at beginning of year	11,362,839	10,256,188
Net assets at end of year	11,111,629	11,362,839

Balance Sheet

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
Cash & short term investments	14,073,926	13,774,034
Accounts receivable and other assets	558,095	449,439
Prepaid expenses	114,749	171,137
Capital assets	39,605	45,124
Total assets	14,786,375	14,439,734
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities and other liabilities	1,429,640	726,748
Deferred contributions	2,245,106	2,350,147
Total liabilities	3,674,746	3,076,895
NET ASSETS		
Internally restricted	5,000,000	5,000,000
Endowment fund	52,654	52,654
Unrestricted	6,058,975	6,310,185
Total net assets	11,111,629	11,362,839
Total liabilities and net assets	14,786,375	14,439,734

CANADA'S NATIONAL TRAIL

YOUR TRAIL TO DISCOVER



Connecting
Canada
from coast to
coast to coast

Over
27,000
kilometres on
land and water

Over
15,000
communities
connected

THANK YOU

Thanks to our provincial and territorial partner organizations across the country who ensure the Trail is planned and built according to the needs and desires of local communities.

View them on our website: tctrail.ca.

Over
80%
of Canadians live just 30
minutes away
from a Trail section



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada



To all the trailblazers along the way.

Because of you, the Trans Canada 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.



Trans Canada Trail

300-321 de la Commune West
Montreal, Quebec H2Y 2E1
Charitable BN 829708403RR0001