



TRANS CANADA TRAIL
SENTIER TRANSCANADIEN TM/MC

**A GIFT IN YOUR WILL
TO TRANS CANADA TRAIL**

ON THE TRAIL TO TOMORROW

TOGETHER, WE'VE ACHIEVED SOMETHING REMARKABLE



What a remarkable legacy to leave to our children, grandchildren and all future trail users. We hope you'll be part of the journey.

In 1992, a small group of passionate people had a vision: to build a trail across this great nation.

A trail that represented the beauty, diversity and wild spirit of this land. A trail that would connect us from coast to coast to coast.

The creation of such a trail was no easy feat. But thanks to the resolve of dedicated volunteers and partners – and your generosity – the dream has been realized.

In 2017, during Canada's 150th anniversary year, the final sections of the Trans Canada Trail

were connected to create the longest multi-use recreational trail in the world.

It's truly Canada's national trail: it exemplifies the essence of hard work and ingenuity. It embodies our deep connection to nature, nourishing our bodies and souls. It's a model of all that can be accomplished when we work together.

Cross-Canada connection was a monumental achievement – but there is more to be done. The Trans Canada Trail must now be nurtured, protected and enhanced, so that future generations can enjoy it for years to come.

A woman with short blonde hair, wearing a green puffer vest over a white shirt and blue jeans, is walking a large brown dog on a purple leash. A young child with red hair, wearing a black and white striped shirt, is also holding the leash. They are walking on a paved path in a park-like setting with trees in the background.

GO WHERE THE TRAIL TAKES YOU

There isn't anything in my life, with the exception of my family, that I feel more proud of than my work on the Trans Canada Trail.

I think of future generations walking, bicycling and paddling from community to community. You could start in Toronto and go all the way to Cape Spear in Newfoundland. Or cross the country to Vancouver Island. And, if you get in a canoe or kayak, and paddle up the Mackenzie River, you can make it all the way to the Arctic Ocean.

All while travelling on the Trans Canada Trail.

There are many things that have mattered to me in my life. But few things mean more than knowing that, when I'm gone, the Trail will remain - because I've made a gift in my will.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path, and leave a trail."

I couldn't have said it better myself.

~ **Valerie Pringle**

Valerie Pringle and her granddaughter walking on the Niagara River Recreational Trail, part of the Trans Canada Trail in Ontario.

THE TRAIL RUNS THROUGH IT

I was raised by a single mother in small town Ontario. She taught me the value of hard work and her lessons served me well as I studied medicine at university.

After graduation I settled in Montreal, met my wife and we started our family. We loved the city but we spent as much time as we could out in nature - especially near our cottage in Mont Tremblant. We'd pack up the kids and, later, our granddaughter, and spend hours hiking and biking. From time to time, we'd see signs for the Trans Canada Trail.

But it wasn't until I left my practice and became Principal at Bishop's University that I really understood the significance of the Trail.

One day, I was approached by someone from Trans Canada Trail who told me about the vision for a cross-Canada trail – a trail which, because of the geography of the area, would need to wind right through the campus. I quickly agreed to help make that happen.



Hugh Scott, MD with his daughter, Jacqueline, on the Trans Canada Trail in Quebec.

I found incredible meaning in a multi-purpose, trans-Canada pathway running through a multi-cultural campus, with students from across the country.

On the Trans Canada Trail, we are all equal. We are nature lovers, proud Canadians and community builders. The Trail is a reflection of the country it crosses.

That's why it was an easy decision to leave a gift in my will to Trans Canada Trail. Now I know that future generations will enjoy the Trail in the same way my wife, Paule, and I have enjoyed it with generations of my own family.

~ **Hugh Scott, MD**



Hugh Scott, MD with his granddaughter, on the Lachine Canal National Historic Site, part of the Trans Canada Trail in Quebec. (2009)



Hugh Scott, MD with his granddaughter, on the P'tit Train du Nord, part of the Trans Canada Trail in Quebec. (2022)

A LEGACY OF HEALTH

Perhaps, like me, you grew up in a household where fresh air and exercise were an important part of life.

My father, Bruce, who passed away a few years ago at the age of 92, rode his bike, ran marathons and walked every day until shortly before he died. Both of my parents were committed to healthy living – in fact, some of my best memories are of family camping trips in Algonquin Park and in northern Quebec.

After my dad retired, he and my mom moved out of the city and bought a tree farm. Together, they planted 10,000 saplings, and eventually built a home and garden among their growing oak, walnut, maple and pine trees.

As the trees grew, so did the family. My parents had six children and between my siblings and me, we produced 13 grandchildren who went on to bring 20 great-grandchildren into our lives.

None of us were the least bit surprised that my father left a gift to Trans Canada Trail in his will. The Trail is a perfect way to carry on my parents' philosophy of staying active and getting outdoors.

It's wonderful to know that my parents' legacy will live on, on the Trail.

~ **Carol White**



Bruce and Kathryn White, parents of Carol White



THE NEXT CHAPTER OF THE TRANS CANADA TRAIL

Thanks to the generosity of people just like you, the ambitious dream of a cross-Canada trail is now a reality. But while the Trans Canada Trail is connected, the work isn't yet complete.

Like the land it runs through, the Trans Canada Trail is constantly evolving. It will grow and change. It will need care and special attention to ensure it will be here for future generations.

**With a gift in your will, you can make sure
the Trans Canada Trail endures, long into the future.**

HOW WILL A GIFT IN YOUR WILL PROTECT THIS THRIVING TRAIL?

It's inevitable that the Trans Canada Trail will need ongoing support for maintenance and repairs due to the effects of extreme weather and natural disasters, such as fires or flooding.

Your legacy gift will ensure the future of the Trans Canada Trail by funding crucial costs for upkeep and development in the years to come.

Your generosity will also support our goals for trail excellence so more people can fully experience the Trail and enhance their physical and mental well-being. A gift in your will can help us add features such as benches, restrooms, guide wires, wheelchair-accessible docks, and adaptive signage. Your gift will play an active role in inspiring more people to get active and explore Canada's diverse landscapes through every season.

Your support will strengthen our important partnerships with communities, local Trail groups and Indigenous partners. Together, we will share stories of Canada's history and heritage through the lens of the Trail, develop interpretive signs, train the next generation of trail builders, and find new ways to enhance trail experiences.

With your support, Trans Canada Trail will continue to be a strong voice for sustainability. You'll be contributing to critical green infrastructure, supporting wildlife and habitat preservation, and ensuring the Trail is climate resilient for years to come. You'll also be supporting Canada's economic prosperity through responsible tourism along the Trail.

Perhaps best of all, your gift will safeguard the Trail as an inclusive and welcoming place where people can connect with nature and one another. Your legacy gift will foster curiosity and belonging, enriching our lives with meaningful social connections and the wonders of the natural world.



At 22 years old, I set out from Victoria headed in the direction of Newfoundland. Two years less a day, I arrived at Point Zero East of the Trans Canada Trail and became the first person to walk the length of it in a single attempt.

I'm so grateful to the donors who made it possible for me to have that adventure. I'd never been happier than when I was walking 20 kilometres a day, carrying my home on my back. Even in the dead of winter, I would remind myself that I only had to put one foot in front of the other and everything would be put into perspective.

~ Sarah Jackson



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