

The Trail to 2017

Trans Canada Trail Annual Report 2013-2014



Trans Canada Trail
Sentier Transcanadien

Your Trail. Your Journey.

*Ridge Road Heritage Trail, Yukon Territory
Credit: Greg Stuce, Yukon Government*

Our Mission

We will promote and assist in the development and use of the Trans Canada Trail by supporting success at the local level in the creation of this national network.

The Trail in New Brunswick

Our Vision

- Create and celebrate the Trans Canada Trail's place in history as the longest and grandest recreational trail in the world.
- Provide a national context for Canadians to explore our history, learn about the diversity of our land and our communities, and shape our thinking about what it means to be Canadian.
- Contribute to the economic sustainability of local communities, regions and the country: creating jobs, fuelling growth, improving the health of Canadians and showcasing the power of green development.
- Be recognized as the nation's best fitness and active-living destination for Canadians to participate in safe, healthy, low-cost recreation.
- Instil a spirit of connection and pride in Canadians, linking us from coast to coast to coast as our national Trail is stewarded for future generations.
- Be the destination of choice to experience the majestic, pristine beauty of the Canadian outdoors and the rich cultures of our people and places.



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Follow the Trans Canada Trail on



321 de la Commune West,
suite 300
Montréal, Québec
H2Y 2E1

About the Trans Canada Trail – our National Trail

Launched in 1992 as a legacy project for Canada's 125th anniversary, the Trail today is a network of 493 recreational trails, stretching just over 17,000 kilometres from coast to coast to coast. It showcases urban, rural and wilderness areas in every province and territory, and offers Canadians and visitors countless opportunities to experience Canada's natural beauty and diversity.

By providing recreational trails for walking/hiking, cycling, paddling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling, the Trans Canada Trail offers something for everyone.

Today, the TCT is 75 percent connected, with almost 5,800 kilometres to be built in order to reach its coast-to-coast-to-coast connection goal by 2017, Canada's 150th anniversary. Local Trail groups are hard at work planning routes, negotiating land access, securing permits, raising funds, and constructing Trail to bridge the remaining gaps. TCT is supporting these groups, thanks to generous contributions from all levels of government, businesses, foundations and individual donors.

Who we are

The Trans Canada Trail is managed by two national non-profit charitable organizations, the Trans Canada Trail and the Trans Canada Trail Foundation. Headquartered in Montreal, TCT is a small, efficient organization with a dedicated staff and board of directors.

What we do

The Trans Canada Trail is responsible for the overall direction and design of the Trail. We work with 13 territorial and provincial partner organizations that coordinate regional planning and Trail development. These partners then work closely with local Trail groups who build and manage local Trails.

TCT has three key roles. We:

- **Support Trail building at the local level** by funding community Trail projects, supporting and engaging territorial and provincial partners, and directing the energy of volunteers and supporters.
- **Promote the Trans Canada Trail network** by enhancing the Trail's profile, emphasizing the benefits of the Trail, and encouraging Canadians and visitors to enjoy the Trail.
- **Execute a robust fund development program** to raise the funds needed for the construction, signing, promotion and long-term maintenance of the Trail.

TCT is pleased to present its 2013-14 Annual Report, **The Trail to 2017**, which reports on TCT's progress towards fulfilling its mission and how TCT performed against its goals.



The Trail in Nova Scotia Credit: Nova Scotia Trails Federation



The Trail in New Brunswick Credit: Sentier NB Trail



Banff Legacy Trail Credit: Parks Canada



*The Trans Canada Trail
is a beautiful, lasting way to
honour the story of Canada.*

**Stuart McLean,
Writer & Broadcaster**

Well Connected

Joint Message from Chair Paul LaBarge and President & CEO Deborah Apps

In 1992, Canada's 125th anniversary, the Trans Canada Trail was launched in Charlottetown, PEI, to create a tangible and symbolic thread that would connect Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

Since then, Trail groups, municipalities and Trail partners have stitched 17,000 kilometres of free, multi-purpose recreational Trail into the fabric of Canada. They have woven the aspirations of nearly 1,000 towns, villages, and cities into a beloved patchwork of urban, rural and wilderness trails. Today, our national Trail is regularly used by millions of Canadians.

In 2017, Canada will celebrate its 150th anniversary. In recognition of this milestone, the TCT and its partners are on a bold mission to bridge the remaining gaps in our Trail—nearly 5,800 kilometres—and to fulfil the vision of creating a continuous, sustainable Trail honouring this great nation.

In our 2014 Brand Awareness Survey, we discovered that more than 80 percent of Trail users return monthly or seasonally. Three out of every four users have children. The Trail is consistently recognized as a community-based, family-oriented, environmental resource. The majority of survey respondents rank our goal of 2017 Trail connection as essential or very important, citing the Trail as a symbol of Canadian pride and unity.

Today, eight out of every ten Canadians live within 30 minutes of the Trail. This remarkable success is due largely to the commitment of volunteer organizations and municipalities. Despite limited resources, these passionate Trail builders have developed nearly 500 Trail sections that promote six preferred activities: walking/hiking, cycling, paddling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.

The benefits of this national community-based project are undeniable. Our connected Trail will be the largest, most valuable and most enduring gift that Canadians can give one another for our country's 150th birthday. It is literally a path to a greater understanding of Canada and its history. It demonstrates how our landscape is shaped by our achievements, by our culture and by our heritage. It promotes environmental conservation and the protection of green spaces. It inspires active living and promotes health, and it is an economic resource stimulating tourism and creating jobs.

Taking Stock

At key moments in the development of any great project, we step back and ask, "What more can we do?" For the Trail, 2013-14 was that time. We commissioned an independent evaluation of our



organization and examined strategies to complete the Trail in three years.

What emerged is an aggressive connection plan that relies not only on destination greenway trails, but also on waterways and interim roadways. This revised strategy demands even more dedication from our Trail partners and groups as we reorient our short-term approach to Trail development

Given our focus on Trail planning this past year, the actual amount of Trail developed (110 kilometres) is lower than in 2012-13. Of the \$5.5 million in project funding that we approved, \$2.4 million was actually disbursed.

Next year, however, we look forward to reaping the benefits of our planning. We have approved \$5,471,000 for 61 projects across the country*.

We expect many tangible benefits to emerge from our revised connection strategy. First, it will ensure we meet our bold 2017 connection goal, and by so doing, will fuel the passion for Canada's Trail. Second, the new plan will also make it easier to

link rural communities separated by vast distances, offering greatly improved and diverse Trail sections for cycling and paddling.

Our commitment to the Trans Canada Trail will not cease in 2017. Just like our nation, our Trail will continue to evolve. We are dedicated to the enhancement of existing Trail sections as well as the development of new ones. We have an excellent model for this approach—the Appalachian Trail. Like the developers of that internationally renowned route, we will focus first on what can be achieved given the current status of local resources, and we will be there to support future Trail development as community capacity grows.

Once connected, the Trail will depend on the next generation of Canadians and government partners to continue the stewardship of this sustainable legacy.

Continuing Support

Throughout this nation, on July 1, 2017, Canada's 150th birthday, we will celebrate our Canadian journey on a connected Trail that is 24,000 kilometres long and stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific and to the Arctic oceans.

A vital part of completing this journey is the support we receive from government at all levels.

In January, we were delighted when the Government of Canada recognized the value of a connected Trail as a centrepiece for Canada's 150th celebrations by committing \$25 million in matching funds—one dollar for every two raised by the TCT between July 1, 2011 and March 31, 2017. That meant an immediate influx of \$7 million that we could employ for Trail construction.

A generous contribution was also received from the Government of Ontario to aid in the completion of a large section of Trail in southern Ontario as a legacy route for the 2015 Pan Am/ Parapan Am games.

In addition to these grants, donation revenue increased in 2013-14 by six percent to just under \$2.9 million driven by a 27 percent increase in major corporate and private gifts. Still, much work remains and we need increased support from Canadians.

As 2017 approaches, we encourage you to use the Trail more—if you aren't already. Tell your friends about our bold connection goal.

I grew up in the natural beauty that is Vancouver Island, BC. My childhood was spent playing in forests, swimming in an unpolluted ocean with nearby freshwater lakes, and hiking through endless terrains of majestic landscapes and nature trails. These memories I shall always cherish.

Kim Cattrall,
Actress and Executive
Producer



*Pinawa Trail, Manitoba
Credit: Trails Manitoba*



*Salt Marsh Trail in Nova Scotia
Credit: Nova Scotia Trails Federation*

cont'd on pg 6



The Trail in New Brunswick Credit: Sentier NB Trail

Encourage local media to profile the TCT in your area. Talk to elected representatives and where possible, make a donation. Remember, it's your Trail!

Thank You

Canada has always been a nation of trailblazers. Long before the first Europeans arrived, there were paths, trails and waterways that wound their way across the country. The fur trade created even more routes, culminating in a network of trails, portages, rivers and lakes that joined our oceans. The completion of the railway from coast to coast was the iconic symbol of Canada's nation building.

Centuries later, the allure of these early trails, traced by First Nations, explorers, voyageurs, and settlers, gave birth to one of the greatest, most ambitious and iconic undertakings in the history of our country—the Trans Canada Trail. From the tranquility of a boreal forest to the pulsating energy of a busy downtown core, our national recreational Trail is now 75 percent complete, linking millions of Canadians.

Every corner and every bend of our Trail presents a new adventure as Canadians reconnect with the land and with who we are as a people. Once it is on the ground, it is sacred. And that sacred Trail is a tribute to our trail-blazing heritage, a testament to the dedication and fortitude of the thousands of Canadians who helped to build it, support it and nurture it.

We're extremely grateful for the support of Trail volunteers and supporters in communities across Canada: our sincerest

In a fast-paced world with so many demands and so little time, it's not easy to maintain an active lifestyle. The Trans Canada Trail gives Albertans wonderful, accessible options for hiking, cycling and paddling through our province's stunning landscapes. We are looking forward to developing more TCT for Albertans to enjoy.

**The Honourable Dave Rodney,
Associate Minister of Wellness, Government of Alberta.**

thanks for transforming a daring dream into a majestic reality. We also extend sincere thanks to our honorary patrons, to Trail champions, donors, the staff across the country, government representatives, sponsors, business leaders, and families. The Trail belongs to you.

The Trail's tagline, *Your Trail. Your Journey*, is meant to emphasize trail blazing as an intrinsic part of our Canadian identity. It is, after all, thanks to the independent and brave spirit of our ancestors that our country was forged.

But the Trail also symbolizes our ability to work together. In an increasingly virtual world, the Trail is a refreshingly physical way to connect Canadians from coast to coast to coast at human speed.

We are proud of the Trail and the progress that we have made since our national project was launched over 22 years ago.

By 2017, with the help of so many Canadians, we know we will have achieved our vision of creating the longest and grandest recreational Trail in the world—and we look forward to celebrating our achievement, and our magnificent country, together with you.

*Please see pages 34 and 35 for a listing of Trail projects that will be underway as of the spring of 2014.

Paul LaBarge and Deborah Apps

Recreational trails, including the Trans Canada Trail, are vital to our province. They attract visitors, help Albertans be more active, and foster a stronger connection with nature. We're committed to working with our partners to further the development of the Trans Canada Trail.

**The Honourable Richard Starke,
Minister of Tourism, Parks and
Recreation, Government of
Alberta.**



The Trail in New Brunswick Credit: Sentier NB Trail



Salt Marsh Trail in Nova Scotia Credit: Nova Scotia Trails Federation

Trans Canada Trail Champions

Their Excellencies the Right Honourable
David Johnston, **Governor General of Canada**
and Mrs. Sharon Johnston

Mrs. Laureen Harper
Honorary Campaign Chair

The Honourable Robert Ghiz
Premier, Prince Edward Island

The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, **27th Governor General of Canada (2005-2010)**, and Jean Daniel Lafond, **Filmmaker and Author**

The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson
26th Governor General of Canada (1999-2005)

The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien
20th Prime Minister of Canada (1993-2003)

The Honourable Gary Doer
Canadian Ambassador to the United States of America

The Honourable Nancy Greene Raine
Senator and Olympic Ski Champion

The Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain, O.C.
Philanthropist

Margaret Atwood
Writer and Naturalist

Robert Bateman
Artist and Naturalist

Roberta Bondar, O.C. O.Ont. MC PhD
President of The Roberta Bondar Foundation

Joseph Boyden
Writer

Paul Brandt
Country Music Artist

Kurt Browning
Four-Time World Figure Skating Champion

G. Raymond Chang*
Raymond Chang Foundation

Kim Cattrall
Actress

Edward Burtynsky
Industrial Landscape Photographer

Graeme Gibson
Writer and Naturalist

Jim Cuddy
Musician

David Foster
Musician, Record Producer, Composer and Chairman, David Foster Foundation

Colonel Chris Hadfield
Astronaut and Professor

Rick Hansen, C.C., O.B.C.
Co-Chair, Rick Hansen Foundation

Norman Jewison
Film Director and Producer

Craig Kielburger
Co-Founder, Free the Children

Marc Kielburger
Co-Founder, Free the Children

Cindy Klassen
Six-Time Olympic Medallist

Eugene Levy
Actor and Writer

Gerald T. McCaughey
President and CEO CIBC

Natalie MacMaster
Musician

Stuart McLean
Writer and Broadcaster

Deepa Mehta
Screen Writer and Director

Dana Meise
Explorer and Hiker

Rick Mercer
Star of CBC's Rick Mercer Report

Anne Murray
Singer and Author

Gordon Nixon
President and CEO Royal Bank of Canada

Julie Payette
Canadian Astronaut, VP Canadaland, Director of the Montreal Science Centre

John Ralston Saul
Writer and International President of PEN

George Stroumboulopoulos
TV/Radio Host/Producer

Mark Tewksbury
Olympic Champion and Humanitarian

Spencer West
Author/Motivational Speaker/World Change Warrior

Municipal Champions

Mayor Wayne Arseny, **Emerson, Manitoba**

Mayor Don Atchison, **Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**

Mayor Richard Collins, **Montague, Prince Edward Island**

Mayor David Dunphy, **Stratford, Prince Edward Island**

Lord Mayor Dave Eke, **Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario**

Mayor Ross Forrest, **Cowichan Lake, British Columbia**

Mayor Dean Fortin, **Victoria, British Columbia**

Mayor Don Iveson, **Edmonton, Alberta**

Mayor Clifford Lee, **Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island**

Mayor Ron McRae, **Kimberley, British Columbia**

Mayor Darrell Mussatto, **City of North Vancouver, British Columbia**

Mayor Naheed Nenshi, **Calgary, Alberta**

Mayor Gregor Robertson, **Vancouver, British Columbia**

Mayor Wayne Stetski, **Cranbrook, British Columbia**

Mayor Basil Stewart, **Summerside, Prince Edward Island**

Mayor Trish Stewart, **Oxford, Nova Scotia**

Mayor Jim Watson, **Ottawa, Ontario**

Mayor Brad Woodside, **Fredericton, New Brunswick**



The Trans Canada Trail is not just a wilderness trail. It's an urban trail. I use it to bomb around town on my bike, to commute to work. I like that young people all over Canada can ride, walk, run on the TCT - it's the best.

**George Stroumboulopoulos,
TV and Radio Host and Producer**





*Celtic Shores Coastal Trail in Nova Scotia
Credit: Celtic Shores Coastal Trail*

The Trail to 2017

Delivering on a Trail development strategy that bridges the gaps in the TCT and connects Canadians from coast to coast to coast by 2017, Canada's 150th birthday.

After 22 years, the Trans Canada Trail has evolved into a breathtaking necklace of greenways, waterways and roadways adorning over 17,000 kilometres of our great country. Every day, depending on the season, millions of Canadians walk, cycle, paddle, ski or ride through busy urban centres, along great rivers, or through remote forests.

This is a rewarding experience, both for the users and for the people who worked so hard to make this gift accessible to Canadians. But much Trail development remains if we are to be a truly national Trail, connected from coast to coast to coast, in time for the 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017.

That 75 percent of the Trail is complete is a tribute to the generosity and determination of countless TCT volunteers and supporters. In some provinces and territories, the Trail is completely connected or nearly so. But in others significant sections need to be developed. Across the country, there are 143 gaps totalling just under 5,800 km of undeveloped Trail.

To bridge those gaps in three years, the TCT has to triple the pace of Trail development. To achieve this significant increase in our connection speed, we sought a better understanding of the challenges our Trail partners were facing and engaged in dedicated consultations and best practices research.

The result was a better appreciation for the complexity of Trail building. Trail groups, which are often volunteer organizations, struggle to find the necessary resources to develop Trail; access to

certain tracts of land can demand long negotiation and approval processes; and in some areas, where there is low population density, there is simply no Trail group to lead the charge.

Our revised connection strategy takes these findings into account and is more in line with the pragmatics of grassroots Trail development.

Our Trail to 2017 is now two-phased. In the short-term, our strategy will see the TCT directing more funding towards priority greenways, waterways and interim road connections.

Then, in our second phase, once the TCT is connected in 2017, we will redirect our efforts to the development of additional greenway and active transportation Trail sections—replacing roadways in areas where communities both recognize the potential and have the resources to carry out development.

This strategy emulates the successful Appalachian Trail (AT) in the United States. For much of its 90-plus years, the AT stitched together walking/hiking trails in 14 states by using interim roadways while it continued to solicit local and national support for footpaths.

The Trail has always been multi-purpose. Currently, there are more than 4,400 km of roadways, over 4,200 km of waterway and almost 8,000 km of pathways in our network. This variety of trail type responds to the needs of our six preferred users: walkers/hikers, cyclists, paddlers, horseback riders, skiers and snowmobilers.

Our strategy builds on this diversity of trail type by more quickly providing our users with more kilometres of Trail by which they can explore our landscape—this is especially true in remote areas. Cyclists will have increased access to dedicated cycling lanes on quiet country roads while paddlers can enjoy well-designed launch sites and campgrounds.

In addition to providing more Trail, more quickly, TCT's 2017 connection strategy will also help us to raise awareness of the Trans Canada Trail and ensure its sustainability long after connection is made. In fact, our recent Brand Awareness Survey found that the majority of Trail users share one sentiment: a strong desire to see the TCT connected by 2017. So we know that the Trail being part of Canada's 150 Celebrations is a strong motivator.

While our immediate focus is on Trail connection, we are already discussing our plans for post-2017 development and communicating our vision for the future of the TCT.

With your help, we look forward to the continuing expansion and enhancement of the world's longest and grandest recreational trail.



This is an example of volunteerism at its best. We are just so proud of what you people have done. It is an inspiration to the entire country to get the Trail built by 2017.

**His Excellency the
Right Honourable David Johnston,
Governor General of Canada**



My father would have been 'tickled pink' with this Trail. His every free moment, and there were few, was spent doing outdoor activities with us six kids. I applaud the efforts of all involved in this amazing project ... yet another reason to be a proud Canadian.

**Anne Murray,
Singer and Author**



Myra Canyon Trail along the Kettle Valley Railway, British Columbia Credit: Bruce Obee

A Message from Trans Canada Trail Foundation Co-Chairs Valerie Pringle and Hartley Richardson



As the co-chairs of the Trans Canada Trail Foundation, it is our honour to thank all of our donors for their generosity this past year.

We are proud to be part of this great national project and to share our passion for Canada's storied Trail. The Trans Canada Trail is a legacy, a gift from Canadians to Canadians for our nation's 150th birthday.

We must, however, bridge the remaining gaps in the Trail before July 1, 2017. To support that ambitious, but achievable task, we have set a fundraising goal of \$75 million, which will help us both connect the Trail and raise awareness of the benefits it provides to Canadians.

As of Canada Day, 2014, the Trail is 75 percent complete thanks to the vision and generosity of our donors. Through the Trans Canada Trail Foundation, their gifts are directed towards supporting the efforts of enthusiastic volunteers in 382 Trail groups across the country. This year, individuals, businesses, foundations, corporations, and all levels of government continued to make important

contributions to projects across the country. Every donor, every gift deserves recognition. To each of you, we extend our sincerest thanks.

We are pleased to announce that Bruce and Tracy Simpson have stepped forward to serve as the first ever co-chairs of the Governors Program, which recognizes a special group of leadership donors making annual gifts of \$1,000 or more. The Simpsons' passion for the Trail is truly a family affair. Bruce has been a member of the Board since 2007, while Tracy and the couple's sons have also worked hard to fundraise for TCT and raise awareness of the Trail.

Generous Canadians continued to respond to our invitation to become *Chapter 150* leadership donors, contributing towards our 2017 connection goal. Among the donors who supported the *Chapter 150* Campaign, in 2013-2014, we welcomed Jon and Nancy Love; Robert A. Quartermain; PotashCorp; Loblaw Companies Limited, a long-time partner that is increasing its commitment; and CIBC, the first bank to support the Campaign. Our *Chapter 150* leadership donors have demonstrated their commitment to creating a national legacy that connects Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

I travel the country non-stop, and ... nothing beats getting out and about on foot. It's how you get to know a place ... The TCT is classic, old-fashioned nation-building, something that should never go out of style. Let's finish the Trail so future generations can say "wow, how did they do that?"

**Rick Mercer,
Star of CBC's
Rick Mercer Report**



In April of 2013, together with Mrs. Laureen Harper, our honorary campaign chair, we hosted a reception that brought together many of Trans Canada Trail's passionate supporters. At the reception several guests made generous gifts to the Foundation, including Jim and Sandi Treliving, Helen Vari and the late G. Raymond Chang.

The Trans Canada Trail also received gifts from philanthropic Canadian foundations looking to support a great Canadian initiative that will strengthen communities, improve health, foster environmental awareness, and encourage an appreciation for our history and culture. The Richardson Foundation provided matching funds for gifts to TCT. Two other foundations stepped forward in recognition of the importance of the Trans Canada Trail as a legacy component of the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games: The Barrett Family Foundation and The McLean Foundation each provided strong support for Trail development

in southern Ontario—as did the Government of Ontario, which signed a grant to support the development of over 250 kilometres of Trail.

The Government of Canada has long supported the Trans Canada Trail through past funding agreements. This year, Parks Canada agreed to once again support the Trail by investing \$25 million in matching funds (Parks Canada will disburse \$1 for every \$2 raised by TCT) for gifts and pledges made between 2011 and 2017.

We extend our sincere thanks to all of you for your generous gifts; every dollar brings us one step closer to our goal. The Trans Canada Trail provides Canadians with accessible outdoor recreational infrastructure, but it is also a natural way to connect us to our past and to inspire our future.

What a magnificent legacy you are leaving for future generations!



Kawartha Trail, Ontario Credit: Al MacPherson



*The Trail in New Brunswick
Credit: Kevin Maillet*

Opening an Honorary Kilometre

A new honorary section of the Trans Canada Trail in Ottawa recognizes some of Canada's most renowned landmarks including Rideau Hall—the official residence and workplace of the governor general of Canada—and 24 Sussex—the prime minister's official residence.

In May 2013, Their Excellencies the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, and Mrs. Sharon Johnston, TCT Honorary Patrons, and Mrs. Laureen Harper, Honorary Chair of the TCT Chapter 150 Campaign, hosted the inauguration of this new one-kilometre section of Trail on the grounds of Rideau Hall.

This new addition highlights both Rideau Hall and 24 Sussex starting at the Visitor Centre at Rideau Hall. This honorary section of the TCT takes visitors along the MacKay Walk, passing the Canadian Heritage Garden and the Pool of Unity, to the front of the Residence around the Fountain of Hope, which is dedicated to Terry Fox. The Trail returns down the main driveway and past commemorative trees planted by visiting heads of state and dignitaries, towards the Visitor Centre.



His Excellency Governor General David Johnston (TCT Honorary Patron), Her Excellency Sharon Johnston (TCT Honorary Patron), and Mrs. Laureen Harper (Honorary Chair of the TCT Chapter 150 Campaign)

The Trail is a national treasure for all Canadians. It facilitates the discovery of our landscape and heritage in a healthy way. Building a national Trail also fosters an important sense of community - no matter where you live, all Canadians can do their part to connect our beautiful country from coast to coast to coast.

**Laureen Harper,
Honorary TCT Campaign
Chair**



A Trail without Borders

Trails Manitoba celebrated its 20th anniversary with the inauguration of a new 40-kilometre Trans Canada Trail link in its Border to Beaches Trail in September.

The section connects Old Pinawa Dam to Whiteshell Provincial Park, linking Manitoba's Ontario border with Grand Beach Provincial Park.

Approximately 100 trail users, champions, and volunteers attended the opening, including Honorary TCT Chapter 150 Campaign Chair

Mrs. Laureen Harper. She walked a 15-kilometre leg of the Trail with fellow event participants and speakers.

The Trans Canada Trail contributed almost \$1 million to the Border to Beaches project and \$2.4 million to other Trail sections across Manitoba.



From left to right: Deborah Apps (president & CEO of TCT), Ruth Kristjanson (Manitoba Hydro vice-president Corporate Relations), Laureen Harper (Honorary TCT Campaign Chair), Ian Hughes (Trails Manitoba president) and the Honourable Shelly Glover (Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages).

Connecting the Legacy in Ontario

Just in time for the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games, a significant trail building initiative was announced in October of 2013. Under this initiative, Ontario's southern trail systems will be linked to form a larger 2,000 km interconnected network, increasing the portion of the connected TCT in Ontario by 4.9 percent.

The 250 kilometres of new Trans Canada Trail will bridge gaps and connect communities from Ottawa to Windsor and Fort Erie to Huntsville by 2015.

With this investment from the province, Trail builders will connect four major Games venues as part of Ontario's Promotion, Celebration and Legacy Strategy for the Games.

Since 1992, Trans Canada Trail has invested more than \$8.8 million in Ontario to assist in the development of 2,900 kilometres of Trail. The Trail is 55.4 percent connected in the province; just over 2,300 kilometres must be built to achieve full connection.



Paul LaBarge (chair, Trans Canada Trail), Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne



From left to right, Donna Dickson, Al MacPherson (chair, TCT Ontario), Paul LaBarge (chair, TCT), Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, Joe Dickson (MPP Ajax-Pickering), Minister Michael Chan (Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport), Larry Ketcheson (executive director, Parks and Recreation Ontario), Marlene Koehler (executive director, Waterfront Trail) and Brian Danney (chief administrative officer, Toronto and Region Conservation).

A New Way to Experience Fundy National Park

Fundy National Park is one of Canada's best known and most celebrated national parks. And now, the Fundy Trail offers a new way to see the park. The Trail became part of the TCT in October 2013, when it was officially opened by representatives from the Trans Canada Trail, Parks Canada, and Sentier NB Trail.

"The completion of this portion of the Trans Canada Trail in Fundy National Park is yet another opportunity for Canadians to explore and discover the rich culture and beauty of Canada. Trails are fascinating venues that facilitate learning, promote healthy lifestyle and encourage environmental stewardship," said Minister of the Environment Leona Aglukkaq in a news release.

The 33-km trail from Fundy Footpath to the Dobson Trail in New Brunswick winds its way

through the ecological wonders in the Bay of Fundy and features interpretive panels and wayfinding signage.

"This new Trail section is also part of the UNESCO Fundy Biosphere Reserve, one of our country's most prized landscapes," says Deborah Apps, president & CEO of the Trans Canada Trail. "It has been a pleasure collaborating with Parks Canada and Sentier NB Trail as we work to connect the Trail."

Fundy National Park is one of two Parks Canada locations traversed by the Trans Canada Trail. The other is Banff National Park in Alberta.

TCT has invested nearly \$1.4 million in New Brunswick, and since 1992, more than 550 kilometres of Trail have been developed in the province.



From left to right, at the official opening of Fundy Trail: Geri Syroteuk, acting superintendent of Fundy National Park; Kirstin Shortt, mayor of Alma; Wayne Steeves, MLA for Alberta; Deborah Apps, president & CEO of Trans Canada Trail; and Paul Jorgensen executive director of Sentier NB Trail. (Photo: Isabelle Spencer, Parks Canada.)

Making a Real Connection

For Shirley Humphries, the Trans Canada Trail is a vital part of her life. Shortly after her parents came to live at her Regina home in 2003, her mother, Marya, passed away.

Perhaps as a way of dealing with the loss, perhaps as a way of strengthening the new dynamics of their relationship, Shirley and her father, John W. Humphries, set out on a quest of sorts. Although her father was 88 and with failing eyesight, they decided that together and by small sections, they would walk the 20 kilometres of Trail through Regina.

“I’d get home at noon and he’d have lunch on the table,” recalls Shirley. “Then we’d go down along the Trail by Wascana Lake and back, and I’d return to work. On weekends we would walk different short sections of the Trail.” Within a year they’d completed it. John passed away during the winter of 2005, but, says Shirley, “that was a wonderful journey we did together.”

Shirley retired from the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation in 2013. She has travelled coast to coast to coast for work, studies and holidays. “These opportunities gave me a better understanding of

the diversity that is our Canada. This needs to be celebrated. And 2017 is the perfect opportunity!” A longtime donor to the Trail, Shirley purchased her first metre of Trail in 1995. She and her husband, Greg Lawrence, are also seeking opportunities to help complete the Saskatchewan section by 2017.

“For some, the TCT may seem symbolic, but what is real is the many people across the country working together to make stronger connections with one another,” she says.



Shirley Humphries and Greg Lawrence

“For some, the TCT may seem symbolic, but what is real is the many people across the country working together to make stronger connections with one another.”



A Tangible Gift

Bunnie (Ivy) Worthing

Bunnie Worthing continues to give annually to the Trans Canada Trail even though she may not be able to fulfil her dream of travelling it in its entirety from east to west.

“I really had planned, had hoped, that when this Trail was done I would see it east to west,” says Bunnie, “but I had a change of plans, my husband died, I had to run our business.” Travel was put on hold.

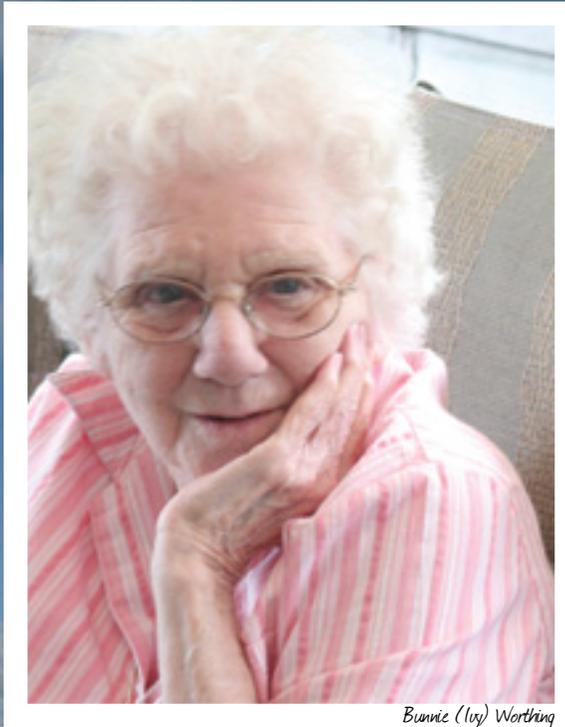
Now in her 80s, Bunnie lives in Trenton, Ont. where she and her husband ran the family electronics repair business, and where her children and their children now live.

Still the allure of the Trail remains strong.

Bunnie has been donating to the Trail since 2002, and is a member of the Governors Program, a special group of the Trail's most loyal supporters. And she continues to encourage others to support it. When people ask, “Why give to the Trail?” she tells them, “ ... just because it's Canada.”

Bunnie has always supported worthy causes: “I started out my teenaged years working in a war plant in the '40s and I was involved in many volunteer efforts, mainly through the Salvation Army,” she explains. “It was more or less what people did. They just helped out,” she says.

“I have always liked the idea of this Trail because you can go out and see it. You can set foot on it and I have ... several times,” she says proudly. Although her hiking days may be behind her by the time 2017 celebrations take place, Bunnie says she will continue to be involved. “I always want to know what's new with the Trail.”



Bunnie (Ivy) Worthing

“ I have always liked the idea of this Trail because you can go out and see it. You can set foot on it and I have ... several times. ”

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I encourage all Canadians to get behind the TCT. Here in PEI, it's the premier outdoor venue for walking, running, hiking and cycling. The Confederation Trail showcases the Island's natural beauty ... travel between communities, and gives people a great reason to enjoy the outdoors.

**The Honourable Robert Ghiz,
Premier, PEI**

Chapter 150 – Visionary Canadians



The Trail thanks these visionary individuals and organizations for their generous commitment of \$500,000 or more to the Trans Canada Trail.

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Even
a short walk on a
trail will leave you feeling
more refreshed, healthier and
a more thoughtful person. If you
walk with a friend, it will change your
relationship—make it deeper, more
meaningful.

Jack Cockwell,
Group Chairman,
Brookfield



* In Memory of

G. Raymond Chang

On July 27, 2014, the Trans Canada Trail lost a valued leader and true friend with the sad passing of G. Raymond Chang. A visionary Canadian, an inspired philanthropist to many causes, a generous donor to the Trans Canada Trail and an extraordinarily kind-hearted person, Ray will be greatly missed by the Trail.

"Raymond Chang was a wonderful soul. He was an inspirational leader and a great philanthropist who truly effected change. He did so much to improve the lives of Canadians, his adopted country. We join with his wife Donette in lamenting this great loss."

Valerie Pringle, TCTF Co-Chair.

Purdy Crawford

On August 12, 2014, the Trans Canada Trail was saddened by the passing of Purdy Crawford, esteemed corporate lawyer and business leader. As a TCT patron and donor, Mr. Crawford was a dedicated TCT supporter. We greatly appreciate his visionary support and his generous contributions to the development of our national Trail.

"Canada has lost a true friend and the Maritimes has lost a member of the family. Purdy was a highly respected business leader who always found time to mentor the next generation. His community spirit was also reflected in his many generous philanthropic contributions. He had a huge heart and will be greatly missed."

David Hoffman, TCTF director.

As a proud Canadian who has crossed our vast country so many times, I am delighted to be a part of the Trans Canada Trail. Seeing Canada from space is a rare and marvellous perspective, especially when it's possible to experience it on foot, close-up and shared with everyone.

**Colonel Chris Hadfield,
Astronaut and
Professor**



Toques off to Roots

It is hats off—well toques actually—and a very warm “thank-you” to Roots Canada, one of the nation’s most iconic retailers, for its support of the Trans Canada Trail during the cold winter months.

“We were so pleased to be chosen as Roots’ charitable partner for the Olympic toque promotion this year,” said Simone Hicken, TCT’s vice-president of resource development.

Roots donated 50 percent of the proceeds from the sales of its Toque Campaign to help the TCT achieve its bold goal of connecting Canadians from coast to coast to coast by 2017. The toque was released just ahead of the Sochi Winter Olympics. Hockey great

Wayne Gretzky sported the Canada Pom Pom Toque 2 in a full-page ad featured in the Globe and Mail. The Toque was available in either black and white or red and white.

The Toque Campaign was a warm way to reinforce people’s pride in Canada, while also helping to complete the Trail, raising close to \$24,000. With the Government of Canada matching 50 cents for every dollar, the total contribution was \$36,000.

“We’re thrilled,” said Hicken. “Roots’ donation brings us closer to connecting the remaining 5,800 kilometres of the Trail and helps raise awareness of the Trans Canada Trail as a national treasure.”



*I'm
delighted to support
the Trans Canada Trail
as it continues to grow.
It is a wonderful legacy, and will play
a role in getting Canadians, especially
youngsters, to become more active.
Let's all get moving on the Trail.*

**The Honourable Nancy Greene Raine,
Senator and Olympic Ski Champion**



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The Trail across Canada



The fact that the Yukon section of the Trans Canada Trail is nearly complete speaks to the determination and skills of our partners in a very topographically challenging region of Canada. The route runs north from the B.C. border, through the Yukon, connecting with its neighbour, the Northwest Territories to the northeast.

Toos Omtzigt, consultant with the Klondike Snowmobile Association, the TCT's partner in the Yukon, says the rural nature of the North, and the fact that there are only 13 communities widely spaced out means that most of the Trail in the Yukon is along roadways.

"Lots of trees and nothingness," she says. "The TCT in this area offers up a stark beauty one can only encounter in the remote areas of northern Canada.

One of the areas they are most proud of is the Whitehorse Millennium Trail. This paved urban section of the Trail is used by runners and bikers, and it is close enough to Whitehorse for residents to access it on weekends and on lunch breaks.

"We really appreciate that here. We have very few non-rough trails," she says.

The early roads and developed trails the TCT is built on are the result of two major events, explains Omtzigt. The first was the Gold Rush and the second was World War II when the Alaska Highway was constructed.

Local people use the Trail because it's an important part of their community, while visitors enjoy it for the northern outdoor experience. "We're working on getting away from the roadways and finding alternate routes so people can fully enjoy the land."

Current Trail: 1484.4 km

Gap Length: 126.6 km

Percentage Connected: 92%

Total 2017 Trail: 1611 km

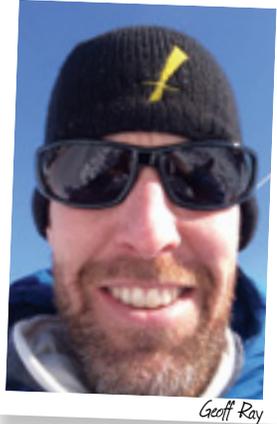
Klondike Snowmobile Association
www.ksa.yk.ca

“The TCT in this area offers up a stark beauty one can only encounter in the remote areas of northern Canada.”

Yukon



The Trail across Canada



Hikers looking for a challenging trail, deep in the wilderness of Canada, need look no further than the Trans Canada Trail in the Northwest Territories.

“The Trail follows the Mackenzie River, passing through mostly small rural communities, making it ideal for the experienced hiker,” says Geoff Ray, executive director of NWT Recreation and Parks Association.

“The Mackenzie River is a huge resource ... it’s massive in terms of economic, cultural spiritual and ecological importance. So to have the Trans Canada Trail go along that river is very special,” he says.

For Ray, an experienced paddler, the highlight of the Trail is in Fort Smith, along Slave River running along the Alberta border. Its thrilling rapids have made the river an international attraction in the summers.

“Fort Smith in the summertime is home to some of the best paddlers in the world. It’s got this really great feel to the community ... it’s friendly; it’s open,” he says, adding that the history of the

river is also significant as it was the main route for settlers and their supplies when southerners began moving into the NWT.

“We’ve got a lot of good work going on with the Trans Canada Trail. There’s been growing interest in what the Trail means to the people in the communities,” Ray says. “It makes them feel like they’re a part of something bigger, like they’re part of a national network ... that’s special.”

Current Trail: 2870.1 km

Gap Length: 52.2 km

Percentage Connected: 98%

Total 2017 Trail: 2922.3 km

NWT Recreation and Parks Association
www.nwtrpa.org

“We’ve got a lot of good work going on with the Trans Canada Trail. There’s been growing interest in what the Trail means to the people in the communities. It makes them feel like they’re a part of something bigger, like they’re part of a national network ... that’s special.”

Northwest Territories



Mackenzie River Trail, Northwest Territories
Credit: Jannie Bastedo

The Trail across Canada



Allison Macdonald

“Our province has a strong trail culture, making the community connections a significant part of the accomplishment of the TCT in B.C.”

Amidst the vast mountain ranges and coastal expanses of British Columbia, the Trans Canada Trail is made up of more than a network of trails; it's also a network of community-minded people.

The unique landscape of this part of the TCT traverses the coastal, interior and Rocky Mountain ranges, travelling through desert, rainforest, alpine tundra, hoodoos and waterfalls, through Vancouver's busy streets and along cliffs in Victoria, B.C.'s capital.

B.C. 2017 Vision Committee Chair, Allison Macdonald, says she enjoys the variety of challenges along the way.

“Our province has a strong trail culture,” she says, “making the community connections a significant part of the accomplishment of the TCT in B.C.”

“The Trail fosters a lot of pride within communities. I think that it brings communities together, but it also creates a sense of pride ... they can say ‘we are part of it.’ The Trail connects small mountain communities to their neighbouring towns and villages along the route, which is no small feat in such wild country.”

Trail groups are focused on building sections of TCT, increasing awareness, and installing signage. The biggest challenge in the next two years will be to close the remaining gaps.

“The last 20 percent of the Trail is the most difficult to connect,” says Macdonald. “We have completed the more populated areas, and the easy bits. There are parts of B.C. that are quite remote and the terrain is challenging, but we've got a good plan and we will get there,” she says.

Current Trail: 2344.9 km

Gap Length: 677.8 km

Percentage Connected: 78%

Total 2017 Trail: 3022.7 km

Trails B.C.— a passionate voice for the TCT

The TCT thanks Trails B.C. for its tireless enthusiasm for the Trail. Their work building and promoting the TCT in their communities is essential to reaching our bold 2017 connection goal.

www.trailsbc.ca

British Columbia



NorthStar Rails to Trails, British Columbia
Credit: Al Skuens

The Trail across Canada



Linda Strong-Watson

“Every section is unique and celebrates the history and culture of the people and places it passes through”

The route of the Trans Canada Trail in Alberta is etched into the province's expansive landscape, migrating from the centre of the province outwards, along waterways and overland, beside roads, through parks and urban landscapes, over mountain passes and past farmland.

From the Saskatchewan border, the Trail follows the North Saskatchewan River west to Fort Saskatchewan and Edmonton. There, it heads north to Athabasca, where the arctic land and water routes connect the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The Trail also follows a southwest route to Calgary, Banff, and onwards via the historic Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park, Kananaskis Country and Elk Pass to British Columbia.

“The stretch of Trail from Canmore to Banff runs through a spectacular and highly travelled region in a world-class destination area,” says Linda Strong-Watson, executive director of the Alberta TrailNet Society. “This is just one of the many gems Trail users will discover as they travel the Trans Canada Trail in Alberta.”

According to Strong-Watson, the development of each and every section of the Trail has been a labour of love. It's particularly exciting when some

of the more challenging sections are completed, including the opening of the new Blindman River Bridge, which traverses Lacombe and Red Deer counties, and the Redwater River Bridge in Westlock County.

“Every section is unique and celebrates the history and culture of the people and places it passes through,” says Strong-Watson referring to both completed Trail sections and the 1,200 km left to connect in time for Canada 2017. Once complete, the 3,000-km Trail in Alberta will crisscross the province, connecting Alberta with Saskatchewan, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories—an accomplishment that is only made possible “through the thousands of hours of volunteer time and the commitment and support of everyone involved,” she says.

Current Trail: 1765.3 km

Gap Length: 1236.5 km

Percentage Connected: 59%

Total 2017 Trail: 3001.8 km

Alberta TrailNet

www.albertatrailnet.com

Alberta



Alberta Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park

The Trail across Canada



Sinclair Harrison

“In Saskatchewan, I have found it’s been about convincing people to embrace the idea of what a trail can mean and what it can bring. I think you’ll see great things out of this province in the next year.”

Contrary to popular belief, Saskatchewan is not composed solely of flat, unadorned plains; the province also lays claim to stunning rolling hills and valleys. In the north, visitors are treated to dense forests, while in the south farmland predominates.

“You’re walking right along working farms, working machinery and farm animals; you’re immersed in Saskatchewan farming culture,” says Sinclair Harrison, chair of TCT’s Vision 2017 Trail Committee, adding that the Trail also requires two ferry crossings of major rivers, both with significant Canadian history.

The Trail also highlights some of the most noteworthy events in the history of the country, including the site of the Métis resistance led by Louis Riel. By 2017, one Trail section will run along the Louis Riel Highway to Batoche National Historic Site, where the final battle in the 1885 Northwest Rebellion took place.

At 34 percent connection, Saskatchewan is the furthest behind in terms of reaching TCT’s connection goal, but Harrison is starting to see a groundswell of support. Local fundraisers are hard at work and municipalities are showing greater interest.

As well, the TCT is collaborating with Aboriginal communities near where the Trail will run. “They have a vested interest in the land and waterways and the Trail provides opportunity to enhance awareness of First Nations culture,” he says.

“In Saskatchewan, I have found it’s been about convincing people to embrace the idea of what a trail can mean and what it can bring,” Harrison says. “I think you’ll see great things out of this province in the next year.”

Current Trail: 500.4 km

Gap Length: 981.9 km

Percentage Connected: 34%

Total 2017 Trail: 1482.3 km

**Saskatchewan Trails Association—
a dedicated TCT supporter!**

The TCT is grateful to the Saskatchewan Trails Association for its ongoing support and promotion of the Trail. Their work has been important to the development of the TCT in the province.

www.sasktrails.ca

Saskatchewan

South Saskatchewan River Trail, Saskatchewan
Credit: L-J Frueher

The Trail across Canada



Melissa Sitter

“The Trail is being integrated into our lifestyle here and our way of life, and we are doing it without a lot of flash. But maybe that’s a good thing. It’s very grassroots and becoming really well used.”

From border to border in Manitoba, whether you’re in the city or the Western Uplands and Mixed Grass Prairies, there’s plenty of history, wildlife, and stunning scenery along the Manitoba trail system.

The Trail passes through provincial parks, ecological areas, and regions with different cultural roots, including a number of First Nations communities.

Melissa Sitter, executive director of Trails Manitoba, grins widely talking about her favourite section of the Trail, known as The Forks in downtown Winnipeg.

“It’s just a beautiful place to be and, in the wintertime, it’s a skating trail along the Assiniboine River,” she says, admitting that she hasn’t been on every kilometre of the 1,400-km trail, which is about 60 percent greenway.

The Pinawa Trail, opened by Honorary TCT Campaign Chair Lauren Harper and Minister of Canadian Heritage Shelley Glover, features the historic Seven Sisters Generating Station, which was built by hand with concrete poured one wheelbarrow at a time. Sitter describes the Station as Manitoba’s version of an ancient Roman ruin.

For Sitter and the rest of the trail group, the coming year will see them focus on the remaining gaps by building Trail infrastructure, coordinating signage and fostering partnerships with community groups, such as the Swan Lake First Nations band who are helping to reroute the Trail through their community, thereby transforming an interim roadway connection into greenway.

“The Trail is being integrated into our lifestyle here and our way of life, and we are doing it without a lot of flash,” Sitter says. “But maybe that’s a good thing. It’s very grassroots and becoming really well used.”

Current Trail: 1348.7 km

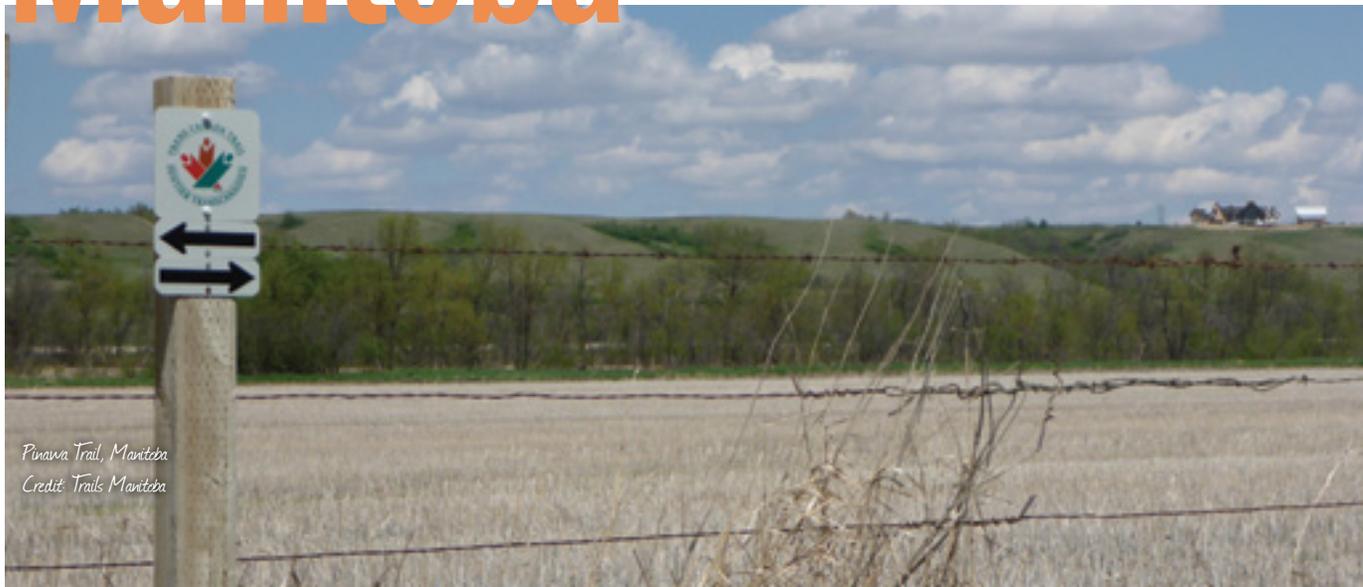
Gap Length: 118.3 km

Percentage Connected: 92%

Total 2017 Trail: 1467 km

Trails Manitoba
www.trailsmanitoba.ca

Manitoba



Pinawa Trail, Manitoba
Credit: Trails Manitoba

The Trail across Canada



As the province with the longest, and perhaps the most diverse, section of the Trans Canada Trail, Ontario has had to approach its 2017 connection plan with both creativity and practicality.

Melissa Pomeroy, General Manager of Trans Canada Trail Ontario, says that southern Ontario has the benefit of being densely populated so many of its Trail sections experience fairly high use.

In contrast, while northern Ontario has some beautiful walking/hiking trails, a lower population base in rural areas has meant less support for Trail building and usage. The solution? The organization will concentrate on waterways made accessible for paddling, and interim roadways that make use of country roads suitable for cycling.

“Travelling via self-propelled watercraft is an integral part of Canada’s history, particularly in Ontario,” she says. “The Anishinaabeg peoples got around by canoe for some 8,000 years, so it only makes sense that if we want a practical human-speed option, we need to connect using water trails across many parts of the north. These trails provide access to great stories, cultures, pristine wilderness, charming towns and adventure.”

Pomeroy says there is a lot of enthusiasm around the tourism potential of these unique cycling and water trails. Bicycle touring is widely popular and water trails are already a mainstay of tourism in the U.S.

She is also delighted with a major new Trail-building initiative taking place in southern Ontario. As a legacy project of the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games, the Government of Ontario is providing substantial funding to help develop 250 kilometres of Trail, connecting communities from Ottawa to Windsor and Fort Erie to Huntsville, as well as four major Games venues.

Current Trail: 3457.1 km

Gap Length: 1602.8 km

Percentage Connected: 68%

Total 2017 Trail: 5059.9 km

Trans Canada Trail Ontario
www.tctontario.ca

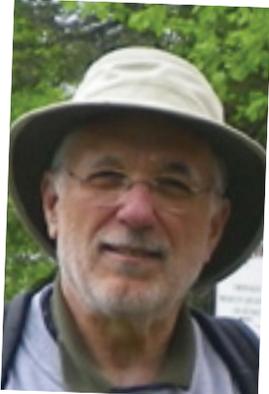
“These trails provide access to great stories, cultures, pristine wilderness, charming towns and adventure.”

Ontario



Grass Cap on the Lake Superior Water Trail, Ontario
Credit: ©Gary & Joanie McGuffin

The Trail across Canada



Richard Sénécal

“We are proud that the TCT is almost fully connected in Quebec,” says Richard Sénécal, executive director of the Conseil québécois du sentier Transcanadien. “Now our focus has shifted to the final links in the beautiful and historic regions of Charlevoix and Côte de Beaupré.”

In la belle province, the Trans Canada Trail boasts an impressive connection rate of 96 percent. With only four percent left to connect, it is already a vast, 1,400-kilometre Trail network linking the Edmundston area of New Brunswick to the National Capital Region, near Ottawa.

The TCT in Quebec is a combination of convenient urban cycling paths, long-distance snowmobile/cycling routes through the rural countryside, and destination trails through the forested wilderness.

Of the latter type, one Trail section worth singling out is the tremendous la Traversée de Charlevoix, which runs 105 km through the mountainous Parc National des Hautes-Gorges-de-la-Rivière-Malbaie, a core zone of the Charlevoix World Biosphere Reserve. This is a high-elevation boreal forest populated by woodland caribou, wolverine, grey wolf and peregrine falcon. This unforgettable wilderness park takes seven days to cross on foot—or cross-country skis.

The province has a strong cycling culture, as evidenced by urban bike paths in the Quebec City region (le Parcours des Anses in Lévis, Corridor

du Littoral and Véloroute Marie-Hélène-Prémont in Côte de Beaupré), and in Montreal (the Lachine Canal), as well as its use of the province’s extensive cycling and snowmobiling route, many of them known as La Route Verte.

“We are proud that the TCT is almost fully connected in Quebec,” says Richard Sénécal, executive director of the Conseil québécois du sentier Transcanadien. “Now our focus has shifted to the final links in the beautiful and historic regions of Charlevoix and Côte de Beaupré.”

Plans are also underway to link Quebec City and Montreal along the north shore of the Saint Lawrence, with a 600-kilometre Trail dedicated to non-motorized uses, such as walking/hiking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing.

Current Trail: 1460.6 km

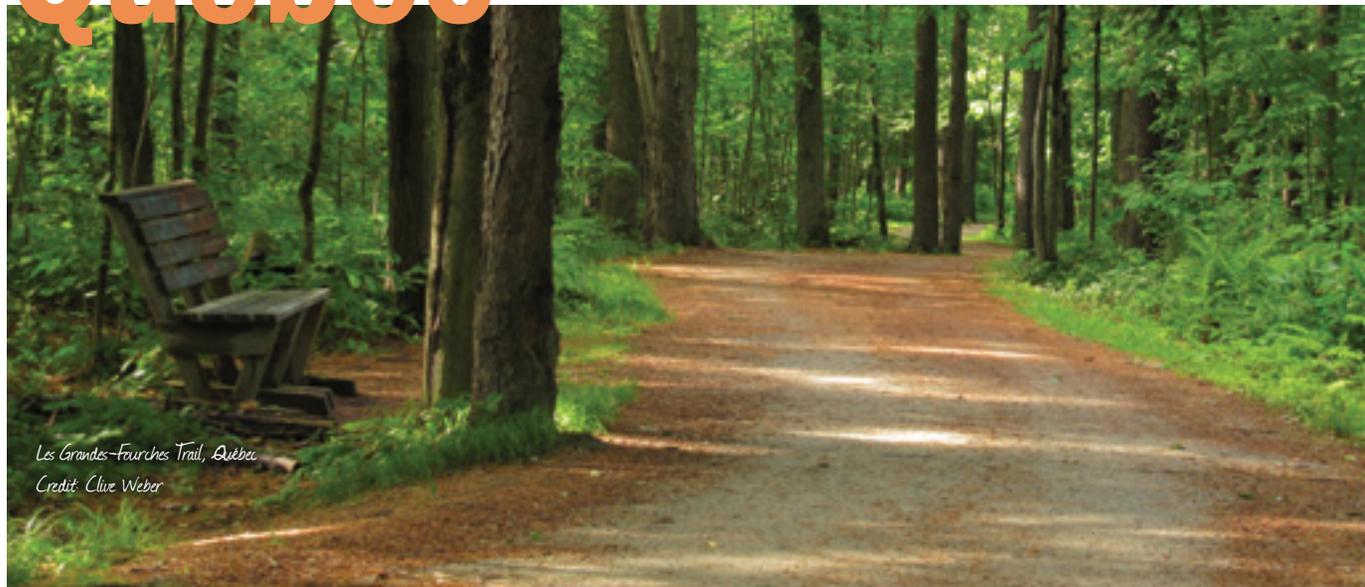
Gap Length: 55.5 km

Percentage Connected: 96%

Total 2017 Trail: 1516.1 km

**Conseil québécois du sentier
Transcanadien
www.sentier.ca**

Quebec



*Les Grandes-Fourches Trail, Québec
Credit: Clive Weber*

The Trail across Canada



New Trail construction has been going on all over New Brunswick as the province gears up to meet the Trans Canada Trail's goal of connecting the Trail by 2017. Poul Jorgensen, executive director of Sentier NB Trail Council Inc., says visiting new Trail sites is one of the most rewarding parts of his job.

"Just lately I was able to see the new Trail sections in Dieppe and Quispamsis. After all of the hours spent on the preliminary work of meetings, consultations and planning it's very rewarding to see the end product, and it feels good to be a part of something that will be there for the community for years to come," he says.

Jorgensen also singles out the Trail section in Fundy National Park, a stunning natural wonder in the province. The 33-km Trail from Fundy Footpath to the Dobson Trail in New Brunswick opened last October. "The Trail creates great tourism opportunities, supports healthy and active lifestyles and offers a great avenue to get back in touch with our natural surroundings."

New Brunswick's section of TCT offers opportunities for many different adventures. The

Trail runs alongside railbeds, showing off farmland, the countryside and urban streetscapes, while other sections are rugged and secluded. "We also have a water route along the St. John River for canoe and kayak enthusiasts," he says.

Current Trail: 543.2 km

Gap Length: 369.6 km

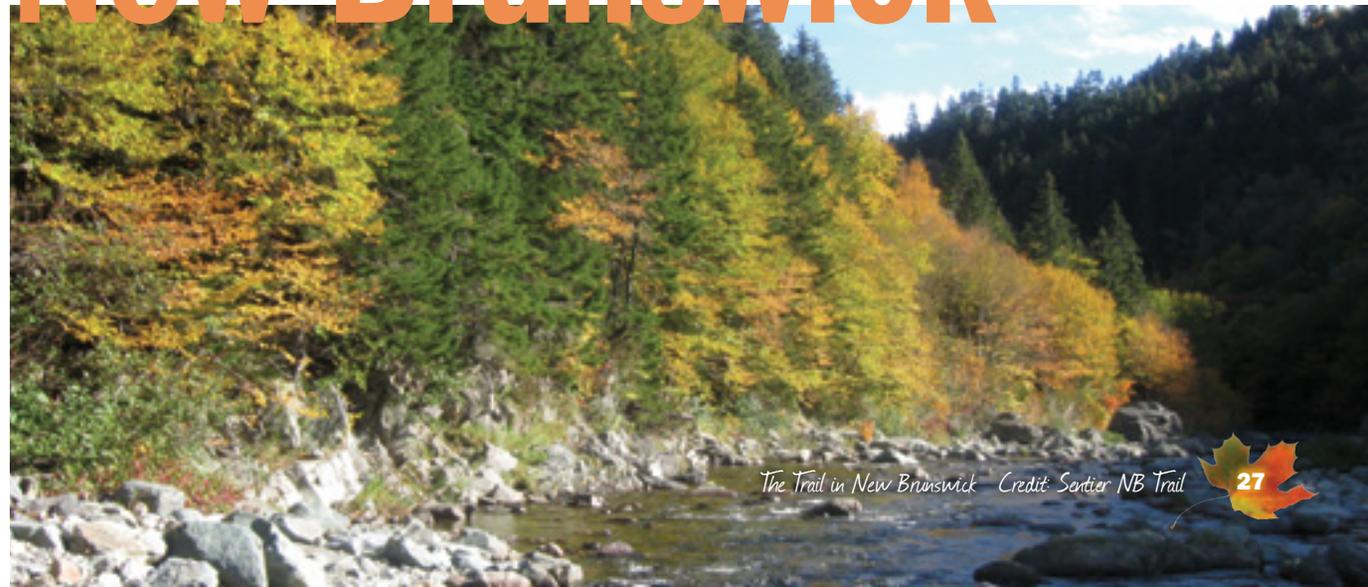
Percentage Connected: 60%

Total 2017 Trail: 912.8 km

New Brunswick Trails Council Inc.
www.sentiernbtrail.com

“After all of the hours spent on the preliminary work of meetings, consultations and planning it's very rewarding to see the end product, and it feels good to be a part of something that will be there for the community for years to come.”

New Brunswick



The Trail across Canada



Holly Woodill

The Nova Scotia section of the Trans Canada Trail is a whole lot of fun in a relatively tiny package. Holly Woodill, president of Nova Scotia Trails, says the Trail has everything you'd want to see on a Canadian trail.

"We have a huge variety of trail types," she says. "You can go from the highlands to the sea in a matter of minutes, from cathedral forests to open fields.

"And we've got the coastal salt water; we've got the lakes; we've got the rivers, but we've got them all compacted in one little province."

A jewel in the crown of the Trail is the Salt Marsh Trail, which operates on a community group model that inspired Woodill to get involved. The Trail was eventually designated a provincial park, which now runs into more urban areas over a 28-km stretch. "The communities have gotten so involved. The volunteers have just done such an amazing job throughout the province time and time again," she says. "I'm so proud of them."

The Trail is the preferred location for several marathons, cross-country runs with school groups

and activities such as the weekly Women's Whacky Wednesday Walks. Recently, the Trail has been putting renewed emphasis on water routes thanks to a partnership with Canoe and Kayak Nova Scotia. Bike Nova Scotia is also working with Nova Scotia Trails to help promote cycling, one of the Trail's six preferred activities.

Current Trail: 374.1 km

Gap Length: 527.7 km

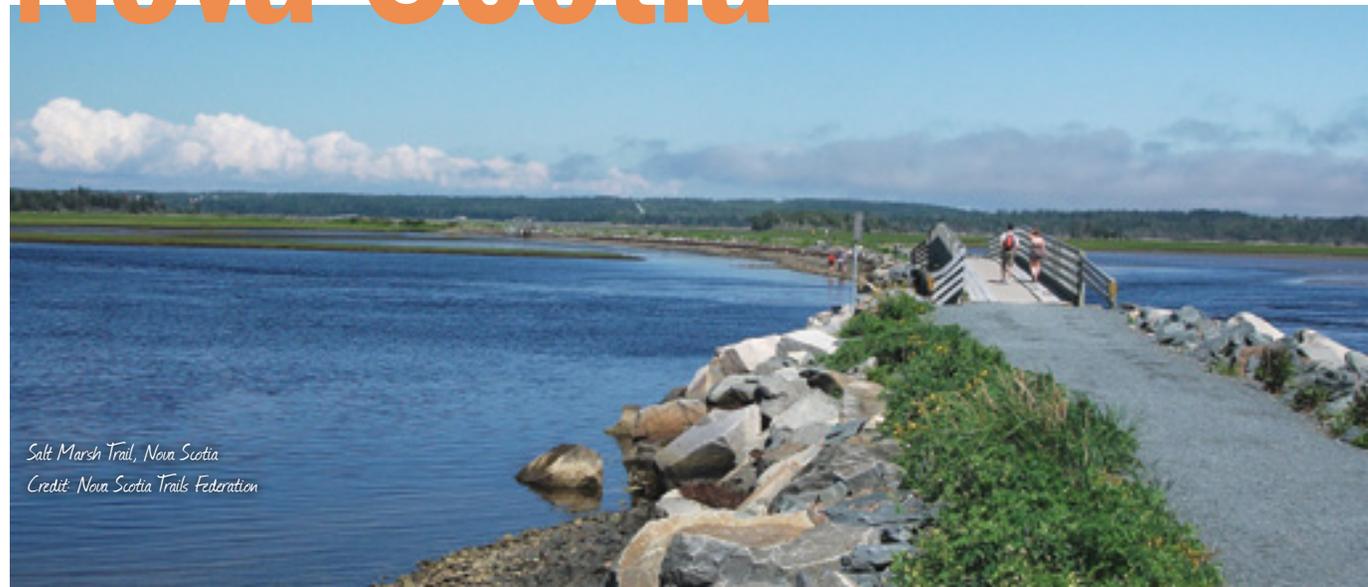
Percentage Connected: 42%

Total 2017 Trail: 901.8 km

Nova Scotia Trails Federation
www.novascotiatrials.com

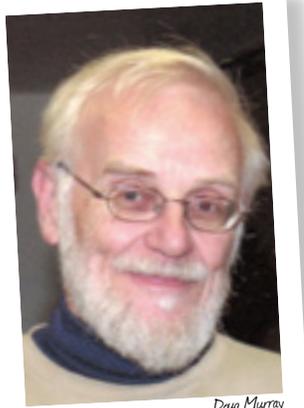
“The communities have gotten so involved. The volunteers have just done such an amazing job throughout the province time and time again. I'm so proud of them.”

Nova Scotia



Salt Marsh Trail, Nova Scotia
Credit: Nova Scotia Trails Federation

The Trail across Canada



Doug Murray

“Events and construction will take all of our energy in 2014. Construction is presently underway on five segments and a sixth is anticipated to commence shortly.”

Prince Edward Island's Confederation Trail system has become a priority for municipal and provincial leaders in the province this year, as part of a significant moment in the province's history: the 1864 Charlottetown Conference, which laid the groundwork for Confederation.

Island Trails is participating in the province's 2014 Celebration of this milestone by organizing weekly Trail rides and walks that will take place during the summer and early fall.

The Confederation Trail is primarily built on the bed of the former P.E.I. Railway that connected the province for the first time.

“The Trail resurrects that connection and we can enjoy the same route experienced by our ancestors. When I ride my bicycle in the countryside I imagine their awe as they gazed from old narrow-gauge rail coaches at the villages and farms lands speeding by at an unprecedented 30 miles per hour,” says Doug Murray, a director with Island Trails.

This year the Trail will be completed across the Island, allowing users to enter P.E.I. from New Brunswick via the Confederation Bridge and leave from the other end via the Northumberland Ferries

for Pictou, Nova Scotia.

“Events and construction will take all of our energy in 2014. Construction is presently underway on five segments and a sixth is anticipated to commence shortly,” he says.

“I live beside the final connection project that is being carried out. It gives Stratford, P.E.I.'s largest town, direct access to the TCT and the Mayor and Council are quite excited about it,” says Murray. “It also provides access to a formerly disconnected segment of the Confederation Trail in the southeast corner of the province.”

Current Trail: 413.2 km

Gap Length: 32.5 km

Percentage Connected: 93%

Total 2017 Trail: 445.7 km

Island Trails (P.E.I.)
www.islandtrails.ca

PEI



Confederation Trail, Prince Edward Island
Credit: Doug Murray

The Trail across Canada



Jamie Warren

Newfoundland and Labrador was the first province to fully connect its section of the Trans Canada Trail. The T'Railway was created on the bed of the former Newfoundland Railway, which stretched across the island from St. John's to Port aux Basques. Today, this section of TCT is an 883-km linear provincial park that wends its way over hundreds of bridges and trestles, and through diverse landscapes, including huge swaths of wilderness and numerous towns and cities.

The Wreckhouse Trail, which begins on the western end of the T'Railway, is a favourite of Newfoundland T'Railway Council President Jamie Warren. "You have mountains on one side and ocean on the other. The area is prone to high winds and has a rugged landscape. It's a great place for photography or just pausing to clear your thoughts."

The fact that Newfoundland's section of TCT is connected hasn't stopped the Council from continuing its efforts to expand and improve the experience, from addressing safety issues and minimizing weather-related damage, to installing additional wayfinding and interpretive signage.

This year, work continued on an extension of the

Grand Concourse walkway through Conception Bay South, connecting downtown St. John's with the Conception Bay's coastal towns. This section was upgraded and converted to greenway.

"As for 2017, we're just starting to think about how we can celebrate the connection of the Trail nationally. But even more importantly, we have to look at how we can keep the Trail vibrant and evolving for future generations to enjoy and build upon. The Trans Canada Trail is our generation's legacy for those who will follow us so achieving connection nationally is really a new beginning for us all."

Current Trail: 884.5 km

Gap Length: 0 km

Percentage Connected: 100%

Total 2017 Trail: 884.5 km

Newfoundland T'Railway Council
www.trailway.ca

“The Trans Canada Trail is our generation's legacy for those who will follow us so achieving connection nationally is really a new beginning for us all.”

NFLD & Labrador



Wreckhouse Trail, Newfoundland
Credit: Newfoundland T'Railway Council

The Trail across Canada



Cameron DeLong

“Just the ability to go out and get away from everything. It’s really quiet; you can enjoy the environment around you whether that’s wildlife or waterfalls, ”

The Nunavut section of the Trans Canada Trail is not one you’ll stumble upon, but it’s one you should seek out if you’re looking for a trail with a rich history and stunning perspectives of the landscape.

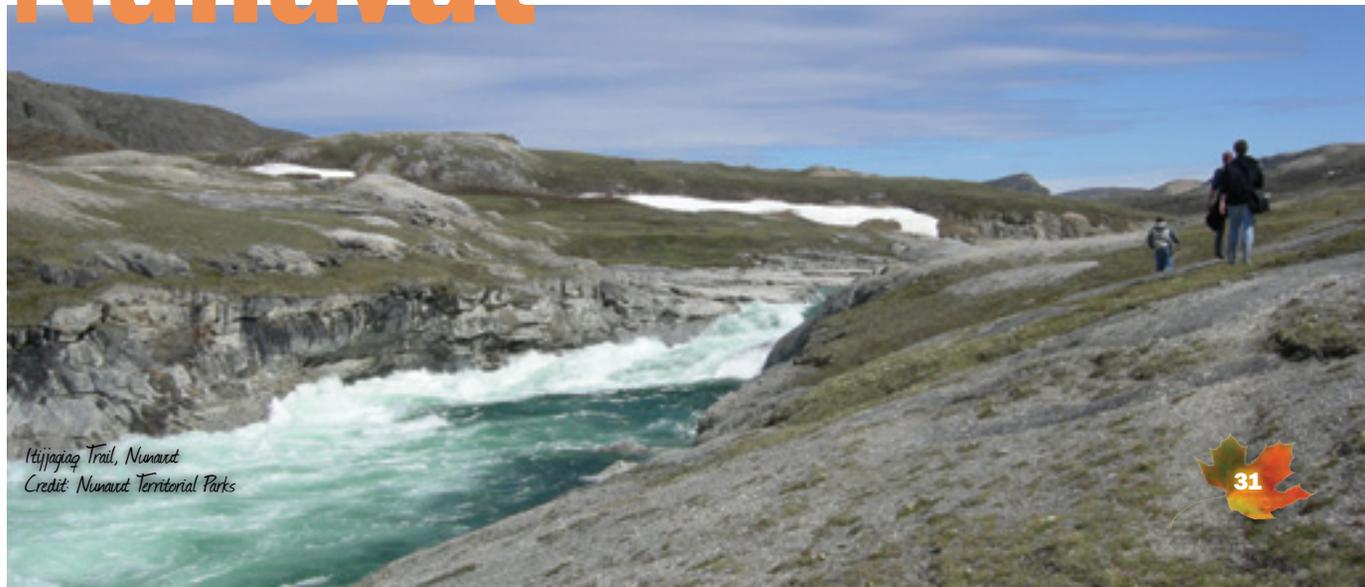
Cameron DeLong, Manager of Planning and Operations for Nunavut Territorial Parks, says the entire Trail challenges the perspective of what a trail is supposed to be.

“It’s an overland trail that’s not physically delineated. There’s no gravel pathway; there are no paved surfaces; it’s a natural landscape. We walk with the topography of the land and the weather conditions ... the snow dictates where you travel through this section of the TCT,” says DeLong, describing barren swaths of rock and tundra.

His favourite part of the Trail is through the Soper Heritage River, but he says the really exciting aspect of this northern section of the TCT is that it changes from season to season as the snow and terrain determine the route.

“Just the ability to go out and get away from everything. It’s really quiet; you can enjoy the environment around you whether that’s wildlife or waterfalls,” he says.

Nunavut



Ptjijagaaq Trail, Nunavut
Credit: Nunavut Territorial Parks

The Nunavut section of the Trail is 99.9 percent connected and DeLong says going forward the focus on connections will be more about marking the Trail and communicating its value and history in the area and around the world.

Current Trail: 143.4 km

Gap Length: 0.1 km

Percentage Connected: 99%

Total 2017 Trail: 143.5 km

Nunavut Department of the Environment

www.nunavutparks.ca

We're getting ready to celebrate!

As many of our supporters already know, the Trans Canada Trail is on a bold mission to connect the Trail by 2017, the 150th anniversary of Confederation so that Canadians from coast to coast to coast can celebrate.

The TCT is delighted that the Government of Canada has already recognized the Trail's importance as a priority for 2017 celebrations so while we are all working hard to complete our national Trail, we're also conversing with other like-minded organizations and governments to come up with ways to celebrate.

We're also inviting Canadians across the country to share their ideas.

You can find out more about how we're preparing for 2017 at www.tctrail.ca/celebrate2017 and then check out our Facebook page, where we urge you to share your ideas about how we should celebrate our sesquicentennial on the Trans Canada Trail.

By 2017, the Trans Canada Trail will link nearly 1,000 communities and travel through all 13 of our provinces and territories—what better place to honour our unique Canadian journey!



*The Trail in New Brunswick
Credit: Sentier NB Trail*

*The coastal Trail in Fundy National Park, New Brunswick
Credit: Parks Canada*

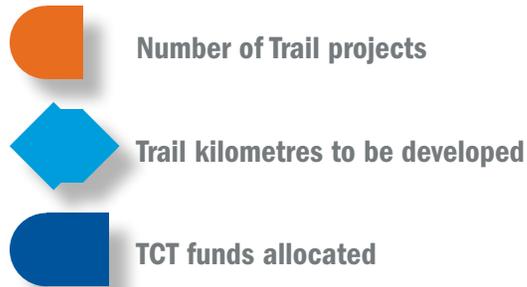


Upcoming Trail projects



*Tombstone Territorial Park, Yukon
Credit: Government of Yukon*

Trail Funding APPROVED 2013-14

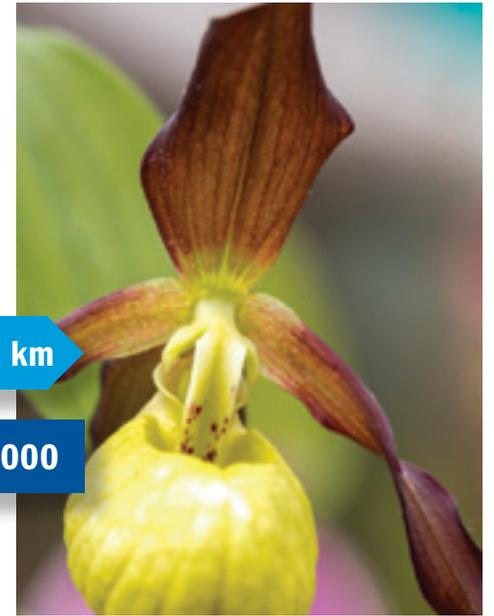


PEI

8

49.23 km

\$612,000



Ontario

23

483.46 km

\$1,830,000



Manitoba

4

2.4 km

\$30,000



Saskatchewan

2

7.04 km

\$610,000



Nova Scotia

5

19.92 km

\$200,000



New Brunswick

5

27.14 km

\$215,000



Quebec

3

28.98 km

\$83,000



Alberta

3

74.9 km

\$1,654,000



British Columbia

7

19.28 km

\$47,000



Northwest Territories

1

3.1 km

\$190,000



CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2014

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND NET ASSETS	2014	2013
REVENUES		
Government grants	7,228,546	5,930,296
Donations	2,856,042	2,695,222
Investment income	42,502	16,355
Miscellaneous income	4,309	6,736
	10,131,399	8,648,609
EXPENSES		
Trail construction	2,385,557	4,988,890
Trail promotion and education	505,089	1,352,624
Fundraising	685,348	767,214
General and administrative	916,842	779,857
Amortization of equipment	79,576	114,760
	4,572,412	8,003,345
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	5,558,987	645,264
Net assets at beginning of year	2,001,960	1,356,696
Net assets at end of year	7,560,947	2,001,960

BALANCE SHEET

2014

2013

ASSETS

Cash	3,012,832	786,830
Marketable securities	452,654	3,300,000
Accounts receivable	7,176,770	117,845
Prepaid expenses	71,339	71,401
Equipment	189,354	261,577

TOTAL ASSETS

10,902,949

4,537,653

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	496,704	681,180
Deferred contributions	2,066,807	1,854,513
Deferred revenue - government grants	778,491	0

TOTAL LIABILITIES

3,342,002

2,535,693

NET ASSETS

Invested in equipment	37,116	44,094
Endowment fund	52,654	51,723
Unrestricted	7,471,177	1,906,143

TOTAL NET ASSETS

7,560,947

2,001,960

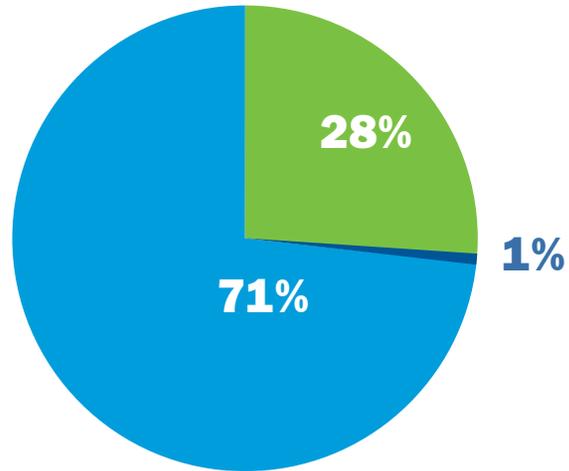
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

10,902,949

4,537,653

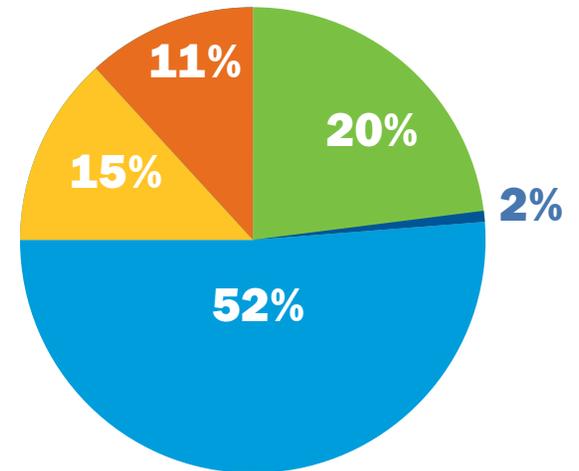
The above information has been extracted and summarized from the Trans Canada Trail Consolidated Financial Statements audited by Richter S.E.N.C.R.L./LLP. The complete set of statements may be requested from Trans Canada Trail.

Trans Canada Trail financial highlights for the year ended March 31, 2014



REVENUES = \$10,131

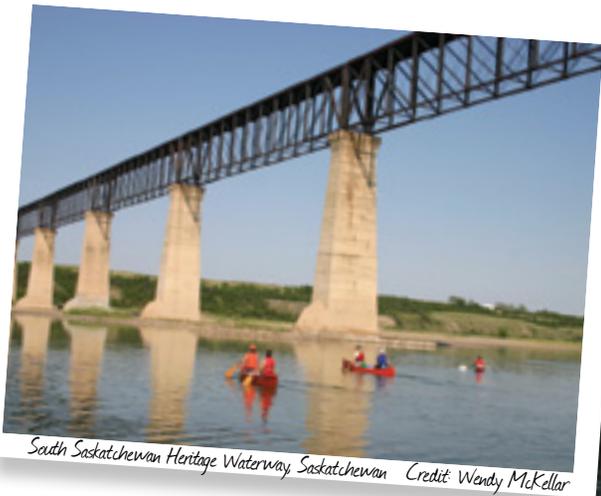
- Government grants = \$7,229
- Donations = \$2,856
- Other income = \$46



EXPENSES = \$4,573

- Trail construction = \$2,386
- Trail promotion and education = \$505
- Fundraising = \$685
- General and administrative = \$917
- Amortization of equipment = \$80

(in thousands of dollars)



South Saskatchewan Heritage Waterway, Saskatchewan Credit: Wendy McKellar



Path of the Paddle, Little Falls, Atikokan River, Ontario