

Your Trail. Your Journey.



Trans Canada Trail
Sentier Transcanadien

20¹²
Years/Ans

Together Connected

TRANS CANADA TRAIL YEAR-END REVIEW 2011-12



Congratulatory message from Peter Kent

On behalf of the Government of Canada, it is my pleasure to congratulate the Trans Canada Trail on its 20th anniversary. The Trail draws Canadians closer to each other and to our country's unique, unrivalled and irreplaceable outdoor spaces, where we can connect to our natural heritage. It is a legacy project being created by Canadians for Canadians. It is impressive to see that the iconic vision of a linked recreational trail, first imagined by Bill Pratt and Dr. Pierre Camu in 1992, is being realized and that the TCT has begun its countdown to its full connection from coast to coast to coast. We applaud the many volunteers across the country who are working hard to connect the Trail for 2017, and we look forward to celebrating this historical moment with the TCT on Canada's 150th anniversary.



Peter Kent
Minister of the Environment

Celebrating **20** years and looking to **2017**

The Trans Canada Trail, the world's longest and grandest network of recreational trails, is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2012. Launched in 1992 as a legacy project of Canada's 125th anniversary, the Trail today features 16,800 kilometres of trail, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Arctic Oceans.

The Trail's success is due to the vision and hard work of our dedicated partners; countless volunteers; generous donors, foundations and businesses; and the support of all levels of government. Today, they are committed to work with us to complete the last 6200 kilometres of Trail and fully connect the Trans Canada Trail for Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017. Please join us. Be part of Canada's most ambitious national legacy project.

Your Trail. Your Journey.

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.*

A message from the President and CEO



The opening of the Kinsol Trestle was one of the highlights for the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) this year. The magnificent railway trestle over BC's Koksilah River is among the most spectacular features on the Trail. One of the highest and longest railway bridges on the planet, the Kinsol Trestle's restoration is the work of community visionaries who had an ambitious dream and, despite huge odds, made it happen. There are thousands of people like that working on the Trans Canada Trail from coast to coast to coast. As we move toward 2017, with 6200 kilometres of trail to connect and about 240 gaps to fill, there are many challenges ahead but we are determined and confident that we will succeed. We are coordinating our efforts, cheering each other on, and inspiring Canadians to share our vision that together, we will be connected.

Gaining traction

In the past year, TCT has gained organizational momentum; we have a detailed Trail Connection Plan, an ambitious fundraising campaign and a strategy to engage Canadians through our new interactive website and marketing plan. As well, we are doing more to support our dedicated provincial and territorial partners, and local trail-building groups.

We are very grateful for the continued support of the Government of Canada, through Parks Canada, and its commitment to Trail connection in 2017. We sincerely appreciate the ever-growing number of individuals, businesses and foundations that are joining our campaign.

There is significant support for the Trail, and we are doing our best to communicate with everyone across this great land to spread the word of the progress we are making on this grand, national dream. A project of this size and scope needs the dedication and support of Canadians from all regions and walks of life. Our success depends on inspiring every Canadian to get behind the Trail.

In the public eye

We were delighted to have our honorary patrons, Their Excellencies the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, and Mrs. Sharon Johnston, visit the Kinsol Trestle in September. We are also pleased that Mrs. Laureen Harper has agreed to lend her support and serve as Honorary Chair of TCT's national fundraising campaign, *Chapter 150*. TCT Chair Paul LaBarge and

I presented to the Standing Committee of Canadian Heritage to discuss Canada's 150th anniversary, and our vision of making the Trans Canada Trail's connection the centrepiece of the sesquicentennial celebrations definitely sparked the imagination of committee members.

Many words of thanks

It has been a year of remarkably hard work and I must thank my colleagues on TCT's two Boards, our 13 provincial/territorial partners, our 400 dedicated trail groups, the hundreds of community organizations that partner with TCT, as well as the millions of Trail users, our many donors and TCT staff for your dedication and support. Because of you we will be connected from coast to coast to coast in celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation.

This Year-End Review is titled Together Connected, which is also the name of our new Strategic Plan, our blueprint for action for the next five years. I invite all Canadians to join with us to connect the Trail and complete this iconic Canadian project. The Trans Canada Trail is poised to be one of Canada's most meaningful national legacy projects ever and with the dedication of countless volunteers, generous donors and the support of all levels of government, we will make it happen.

Deborah Apps
President and CEO



Paul LaBarge

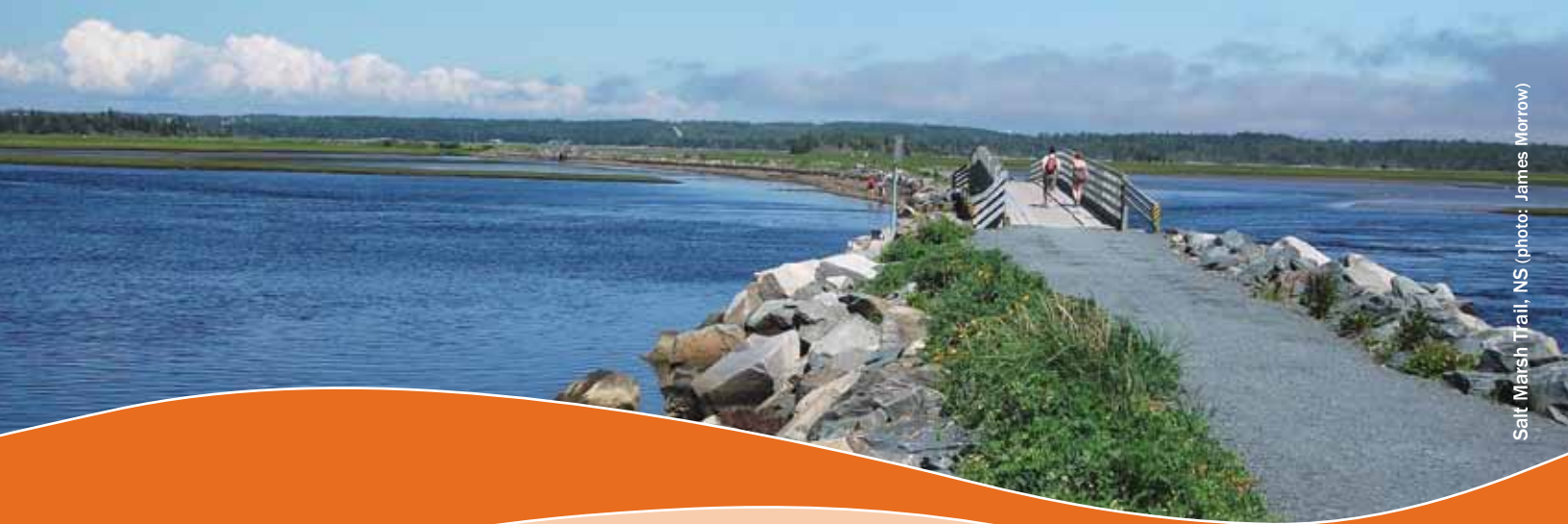
TCT's new Chair

Paul LaBarge was appointed Chair of the Trans Canada Trail at TCT's AGM in October.

As one of our earliest members, Paul has a long history with the Trail. He was corporate secretary with *Canada 125* when it launched the Trail in 1992 as a legacy project. He has since served for many years as a Board member, counsel and secretary of TCT.

Paul is a founding member of LaBarge Weinstein, a business law firm in Ottawa, and an active volunteer in a number of organizations. But his passion is the Trans Canada Trail. He is a powerful advocate for the Trail and is committed to have the Trail connected for Canada's sesquicentennial celebrations.

TCT thanks outgoing Chair Jim Bishop, who did an outstanding job focusing the organization on our 2017 goal. We are delighted that Jim has agreed to remain involved as Secretary.



Salt Marsh Trail, NS (photo: James Morrow)

Trans Canada Trail Foundation

Recognizing the importance of funding to complete the Trail and ensure it is a legacy for generations to come, TCT has established a separate charitable foundation. Governed by an independent board of directors, the Foundation’s mission is to raise funds for the construction, promotion and ongoing maintenance of the Trans Canada Trail. Funds are transferred to Trans Canada Trail Charitable Organization, as required, to meet that organization’s financial commitments in support of the TCT. Separate financial statements will be issued for each of the two organizations.

Trail launches national fundraising campaign

It takes countless hours of dedication and money to build the Trail, but the return on investment is substantial as new segments are added and the vibrancy of communities across the country is enhanced. The Trans Canada Trail Foundation has launched a \$150-million national fundraising campaign to achieve *Vision 2017*. On Canada Day 2011, TCT publicly launched the *Chapter 150* Campaign and showcased the Foundation leadership in a special Globe and Mail insert.

Valerie Pringle, the well known broadcaster and former Chair of the TCT Board, and Hartley Richardson, one of Canada’s most respected business leaders, are serving as co-Chairs of both the Foundation and the campaign cabinet. Joining them are passionate and influential Canadian leaders in business and philanthropy who will contribute to the Foundation and the campaign’s success.

Chapter 150

The Foundation is inviting Canadian individuals, families, companies and foundations to become members of *Chapter 150*, a select group of 150 Canadian leaders contributing \$500,000 or more towards the connection of the Trans Canada Trail. *Chapter 150* will be a powerful symbol of how Canadians can come together to achieve a bold vision. On Canada Day, we were delighted to announce that the Richardson Foundation had committed a total of \$1 million to the Trail as the very first member of *Chapter 150*.

“The Trail’s ability to connect Canadians to each other through outdoor spaces, shared history, diverse cultures and pride in their country represents ideals that resonate deeply with the Richardson Foundation,” says Richardson. “Both the symbolic and physical aspects of the Trail hold great appeal for us. Initiatives like this bring us all together.”



Mrs. Laureen Harper with Pierre Lassonde, *Chapter 150* donor and TCT Foundation Board member, at a Foundation event in November 2011 in Toronto.

Connecting Canadians is a strong motivation for many of the individuals and companies that have joined *Chapter 150* this year. Pierre Lassonde, TCT Foundation Board member, says, "This project is important for all Canadians because it speaks to everything we value as citizens of this great country. Our land, our rivers, and our oceans. Our diversity, Our history. It ties all of those things together and my wife Janelle and I are proud to support it."

The Foundation's goal is to raise \$75 million from private donations and \$75 million from government over the next several years. The Federal Government continues to be a major supporter of the Trail and has provided \$10 million to support the Trail's ongoing development through 2012-13.

A Trail from Canadians to Canadians

"By 2017, we would like every Canadian to make a small donation so that everyone feels they played a role in creating this national historic trail – the longest, grandest trail in the world," says Valerie Pringle, Campaign Cabinet co-Chair.

TCT's campaign will create opportunities to engage "every Canadian" as we approach Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation. Our plan provides meaningful ways for people from all walks of life and varying means to support this national legacy project. The Trans Canada Trail will be a lasting gift from Canadians to Canadians.

Mrs. Harper joins the Campaign

TCT is pleased to announce that Mrs. Laureen Harper has agreed to serve as Honorary Chair of the *Chapter 150* Campaign.

Mrs. Harper is an avid supporter of the Trans Canada Trail. She is attending events and actively promoting the Trail as a project deserving of support. When the Trans Canada Trail Board met in Ottawa in 2009, Mrs. Harper led a group of more than 50 people on a walk from the Jacques Cartier Park, along a wonderful section of the Trail that features views of the Parliament Buildings, the Supreme Court of Canada and the Rideau Canal, all the way to the Bytown Museum.

Mrs. Harper speaks eloquently about the importance of the Trail for Canada and Canadians. "As Canadians, we are fortunate to have within our borders some of the most beautiful landscapes in the world. Each summer, I look forward to exploring a new trail or camp site.

"We are a nation of trailblazers and nothing captures that spirit better than the campaign to complete the Trans Canada Trail. By opening new stretches to fill the gaps, we can fulfil the dream of an unbroken trail, from coast to coast to coast, in time for Canada's 150th anniversary celebrations in 2017."

"I know from my experience that the Trail provides endless opportunities for families to share time together. It encourages people to get outside and enjoy special moments in nature. Exploring the country on foot is a unique way to experience Canada's grandeur, learn about our history and get active. The Trail is attracting attention world-wide."



Mrs. Laureen Harper strongly supports the Trans Canada Trail and has agreed to participate in the organization's new PSA. She is seen here with the production team at the Vancouver video shoot.



Whiteshell Provincial Park, MB
(photo courtesy, MRTA)

Connecting the Trail from coast to coast to coast

In five years, Canada will celebrate its 150th anniversary. TCT is committed to connect the Trans Canada Trail for the sesquicentennial celebrations.

In every province and territory, we are working hard to finish the work that began in 1992. An impressive 16,800 kilometres of trail have been developed, but there are still more than 240 gaps to fill by 2017. These gaps range from urban-connector links to wilderness paths. Some gaps require major reengineering and construction to overcome rugged terrain, while others require thoughtful design to protect environmentally sensitive areas.

The path to 2017

Trail projects are in the works in every province and territory. There is growing momentum for trail building among provincial and territorial partners and local trail groups. With Federal Government funding, TCT can now offer funds to its partners to develop individual trail plans, plus up to 50 percent of the costs of trail construction. A record number of projects are moving forward. TCT's target is to add 1200

kilometres of trail annually over the next five trail building seasons in order to ensure Trail connection by 2017.

"TCT's partners are committed to our 2017 goal and are fired up to get trail built," says Jane Murphy, National Director of Trail.

"There is a new sense of urgency and it is generating both energy and passion at the local level. While there are enormous challenges, everyone is determined to get the job done."

Trail concept plans: TCT's Connection Plan identified detailed trail planning as a key first step in filling the gaps on the Trail. Developing business or "concept" plans for individual sections of trail has been a priority for TCT and trail partners this year. To date, approximately 30% of the concept plans have been approved.

"Building trail is easy; it's developing the plans that is difficult," says Al MacPherson, Chair of Trans Canada Trail Ontario, pointing out that a plan can often take several years to finalize. "In some areas, we need to spend months working in the community, developing a core group of people interested

in the Trail. They then must form a group and incorporate so they can receive funds and carry liability insurance. There can be landowner issues, lengthy environmental assessments and permits to secure. And, of course, funding must be found."

Each concept plan outlines how the individual trail section will be built and provides information on the:

- proposed route
- type of trail
- trail features
- trail group responsible
- group's structure and capacity to manage funds and contracts
- community support
- required permissions and insurance
- total budget
- committed funds
- project schedule.

Once the plan is completed, the project is essentially shovel-ready and groups can seek funds from TCT. Many projects are now at this stage and construction is planned to start during the summers of 2012 and 2013.



Meewasin Valley Trail, Saskatoon (Photo: MVA)

Supporting provincial/territorial partners

TCT is committed to supporting our provincial and territorial partners, who are passionately taking responsibility for the development of the Trail across the country. Our success is tied to strong partnerships with the dedicated volunteers and staff of these organizations and with local trail groups.

Regional meetings: At the end of 2011, TCT brought together provincial and territorial partners in three regional meetings in Eastern, Central/North and Western Canada. The partners welcomed the chance to meet in person, discuss trail-building challenges, share expertise and ideas, and suggest ways to better coordinate efforts to connect the Trail by 2017.

“The meeting I attended was really helpful as we have a lot to learn from each other,” says Poul Jorgensen, Executive Director of NB Trails. “It was great that TCT recognized the work that we’re doing and it was useful to be able to give frank feedback to TCT. We had a very full agenda and I think we all came away with new ideas and new energy.”

Trail-building tools: In order to enhance communication with our partners, TCT has introduced a regular report from the President and CEO to provincial and territorial partners and a new bimonthly e-newsletter to trail groups. Through the new website, TCT has created a dedicated ‘Trail Builders’ section with interactive tools and resources that target the needs of our partners and trail groups for trail building and marketing. It also provides an online chat forum for partners to communicate directly with each other about trail-building questions, experiences and solutions.

Saskatchewan Symposium:

TCT is working with each of the provincial and territorial groups to implement the Connection Plan. While six provinces and territories have connected more than 90 percent of their Trail route, others still have significant work to do.

In Saskatchewan, 500 kilometres of trail have been developed – 34 percent of the proposed 1467-kilometre route across the province. Trail building is difficult due to the many sparsely populated areas in the province, the need for further development of a ‘trail’ culture in small rural farming communities, and a shortage of funds and trail volunteers.

These challenges have not dampened the commitment of our provincial partner, the Saskatchewan Trails Association (STA), to connect the Trail by 2017.

In December, TCT funded the first Saskatchewan Trans Canada Trail Summit to explore how to build the best possible Trail across the province. It brought together many groups with an interest in

the Trail, including government, recreation, tourism, environmental, First Nations, transportation, health, education and economic development organizations. There was animated discussion about the opportunities and benefits of the Trail among the 80 people who attended.

“It was a fantastic turnout and a great meeting,” says Cathy Watts, STA President. “There was lots of enthusiasm and wonderful ideas about what the Trail could be. People were inspired and we certainly appreciated the involvement of TCT.” Now STA is poised to build on that momentum to further progress the Trail in Saskatchewan.

The summit produced a number of recommendations about how to move forward on the development of the Trans Canada Trail. Participants agreed that greater involvement and support from the province are key and it will take all stakeholders, working together, to make the Trail a source of pride for Saskatchewan residents.

We thank our territorial and provincial partners.

Newfoundland T’Railway Council	www.trailway.ca
Island Trails (PEI)	www.islandtrails.ca
Nova Scotia Trails Federation	www.novascotiatrials.com
New Brunswick Trails Council Inc.	www.sentiernbtrail.com
Conseil québécois du sentier Transcanadien	www.sentier.ca
Trans Canada Trail Ontario	www.tctontario.ca
Manitoba Recreational Trails Association	www.mrta.mb.ca
Saskatchewan Trails Association	www.sasktrails.ca
Alberta TrailNet	www.albertatrailnet.com
The Trails Society of British Columbia (Trails BC)	www.trailsbc.ca
Klondike Snowmobile Association	www.ksa.yk.ca
NWT Recreation and Parks Association	www.nwtrpa.org
Nunavut Department of the Environment	www.nunavutparks.com



Trail highlights of the year

BC's Kinsol Trestle makes history



Kinsol Trestle Grand Re-opening, July 28 2011
(photo: Ingrid Vermegen)

Vancouver Island residents and guests packed the majestic Kinsol Trestle on opening day in July. It was a day to celebrate, as the sun shone brightly on the Cowichan Valley.

High above the Koksilah River, the restored trestle again became a walkway for hikers, cyclists and horseback riders, for the first time in many decades. The trestle completes an important link on the Trans Canada Trail, connecting the Village of Shawnigan Lake to the District of North Cowichan.

Originally constructed in 1929 and last used by trains in 1979, the Kinsol Trestle is one of the largest and highest timber bridges in the world at 44 metres high and 188 metres long. Its restoration is a tribute to the determination of the people of the Cowichan Valley who rallied to save the historic, but unsafe, structure when there was talk of tearing it down. For many, it is an important symbol of the Cowichan Valley's history.

Hundreds of people from government, and private and non-profit groups raised \$7.5 million to replace the unsound timbers and reinforce the structure.

Millions of visitors will follow in their footsteps as people come from all over the world to experience a vital piece of Canadian history and enjoy the Cowichan Valley section of the Trans Canada Trail. Tom Patterson, a writer and travel-guide expert who has resided in Cowichan for years, believes that the trestle will return the restoration money to the local economy through the growing field of heritage tourism. "We want the old girl now to pay her way. She can do that by drawing visitors to the Valley."

For more information, visit www.kinsoltrestle.ca.

TCT contributed \$250,000 to the trestle restoration.

Governor General visits historic trestle

"Wow, this is something," said His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, on first sighting the Kinsol Trestle during a visit in September with his wife Her Excellency Mrs. Sharon Johnston. More than 100 trail builders, donors, volunteers and school children came out to welcome TCT's honorary patrons, despite the driving rain. Their Excellencies received a plaque commemorating their visit.

The Governor General applauded the vision and work of the hundreds of people who worked for years to see the trestle restored.

"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."



Coquitella Canyon Provincial Park, BC
(photo: Angela Coughlin/travelthecanyon.com)

New Brunswick's Shogomoc Bridge closes a Trail gap

Trail supporters from across New Brunswick came out to celebrate the opening of the magnificent 67-metre suspension bridge over the Shogomoc River on October 29. New Brunswick's Minister for Wellness, Culture and Sport and Minister for Tourism, Trevor Holder, was on hand for the occasion, hosted by New Brunswick Trails Council and Trans Canada Trail.

"This impressive bridge fills the missing link on the Trans Canada Trail from Woodstock to Fredericton and is a key component in the development of the St. John River Trail," said Valerie Pringle, Chair of the TCT Foundation. "The St. John River Trail, when complete, will form a major portion of the TCT in New Brunswick, running 424 kilometres from Edmundston to Saint John."

Ms. Pringle congratulated the government and trail groups for over five years of planning, raising funds and building the bridge.

She and Minister Holder later toured the Trail in Florenceville-Bristol, meeting with community members to talk about the many benefits of trails for local communities. TCT is part of the Atlantic Canada Trails Association, a regional marketing partnership, which is promoting destination trails for cycling, walking and hiking in Atlantic Canada.



Valerie Pringle with Trevor Holder, NB Minister of Culture, Tourism and Healthy Living and Brian Clark, President, NB Trails Council (photo: NB Trails Council)

The scenic three-day bicycle route through the St. John River Valley, targeted for completion in 2013, will attract tourists from across Canada and around the world.

TCT contributed \$146,000 for construction and engineering studies for the Shogomoc Bridge.

New Quebec rest area honours Bronfman family

Each year more than 500,000 visitors enjoy the P'tit Train du Nord, a 235-km section of the Trans Canada Trail that runs through the Laurentians from Mont Laurier to Montreal.

In August, TCT opened a new rest area at the Halte des Trains-de-Neige in Mont Tremblant Village. It honours the contributions of long-time Trail supporters Stephen and Claudine Bronfman.

"For two generations, the Bronfman family has contributed generously to the development of our national heritage and cultural projects," says Paul LaBarge, Chair of the Trans Canada

Trail. "We are extremely grateful to Claudine and Stephen Bronfman who were early philanthropic investors in the Trail, donating \$1.5 million through the Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation towards the placement of over 2000 Discovery Panels along the Trail, as well as a significant capacity-building grant that has assisted TCT in its work toward full connection."

To honour the Bronfmans, TCT unveiled a plaque at the new rest area.

Trail highlights of the year

New Trail section opens in Alberta Provincial Park

With rolling native grasslands, the Bow River Valley, foothills and mountain vistas, the new 11-km section of the Trans Canada Trail through Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park offers unparalleled beauty. It was with great pride that TCT and Alberta TrailNet representatives

attended the August opening of the new 3420-acre provincial park, which is located between Calgary and Cochrane.

“Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park showcases an important part of Alberta’s natural heritage and cultural history,” said then-Premier Ed Stelmach, who took part in the opening day ceremonies. “It will become a signature site in our provincial parks system that will be enjoyed by Albertans for generations to come.”

The Government of Alberta acquired the huge stretch of ranchland from the Harvie family in 2006 to establish the park. Over the past five years, extensive work has been undertaken to preserve the valuable fescue landscape of the foothills, build trails and develop visitor services. The main trail through the park is part of the Trans Canada Trail.

“We are simply thrilled that this spectacular park is now part of our national Trail. It is classic Alberta ranchland, rich with history and natural beauty. It forges an important link between Calgary and Cochrane, bringing us closer to connecting all Canadians by 2017,” says President and CEO Deborah Apps.



Photo: Betty Anne Graves

Learning about biodiversity with the new Trans Canada Trail BioKit

School children throughout Canada are getting outdoors and learning about Canada’s biodiversity with the new Trans Canada Trail BioKit.

The colourful 36-page publication, which is available in print and online, was developed in partnership with Environment Canada’s Biosphere Environment Museum. The BioKit offers fun, interactive activities for families with young children. It is designed to educate and inform Canadians about the value of local natural areas and to empower them to help protect these

areas through the use and appreciation of the Trans Canada Trail.

“We are extremely pleased that millions of families and young children across Canada will be able to use this fun tool to explore the Trail and discover the biodiversity it offers,” says Deborah Apps.

“By encouraging Canadian families to experience and enjoy our great Canadian landscape, Environment Canada hopes to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and get young Canadians interested in protecting our environment,”

says the Honourable Peter Kent, Canada’s Minister of the Environment. “The Trans Canada Trail BioKit will be a popular educational tool, promoting citizen engagement in the conservation of ecosystems.”

Trans Canada Trail thanks Environment Canada, the Biosphere Environment Museum and Loblaw Companies Limited, which contributed generously to this project.

To download and print the BioKit or to order a copy, go to www.tctrail.ca.



Axe Christophe-Colomb section in Montreal, QC.
(photo: Clive Webber)

Extensive improvements on Petit Témis

The Trans Canada Trail was pleased to participate in the October reopening of the Petit Témis Interprovincial Linear Park, one of the most popular sections of the Trans Canada Trail in Quebec.

The rail trail section which runs 142 kilometres from Rivière-du-Loup, QC to Edmundston, NB underwent almost two years of renovations and improvements. The \$2.4-million project included resurfacing the trail and replacing most of its 80 bridges and culverts.

The Petit Témis is a major tourist destination that attracts more than 300,000 users annually. Running along Lake Témiscouata and the Madawaska River, it features beautiful landscapes, charming villages and regular rest stops. Local businesses and residents benefit from the Trail. According to a recent economic impact study, the Petit Témis contributes \$7 million to the local economy annually.

“The Petit Témis is an important section of the Trans Canada Trail and TCT was pleased to contribute to this project,” says Deborah Apps. “Our goal is to support our provincial and local partners to ensure the connection and sustainability of the Trail across the country and to provide trail users with a unique and high quality trail experience.”

Representatives from TCT’s provincial partner, the Quebec Council of Trans Canada Trail, participated at the trail’s reopening, along with representatives from the provincial and municipal governments and local trail groups.

TCT contributed \$276,000 to this project.



Claudette Dumont, President of the RDL/Temiscouata Trail Corp. (Petit Temis, north); Jean D’Amours, MLA for Rivière-du-Loup; Jane Murphy, National Director of Trail; and Guylaine Sirois, Policy Advisor to Yves Bolduc, Minister of Health and Social Services, Quebec.

OPERATIONAL TRAIL (at March 31, 2012)

	Spine Trail Operational Land	Spine Trail Operational Water	Spine Trail Operational Total	Spine Trail Objective	Spine Trail Operational Trail %	Other Trails Total
NL	884.5	0.0	884.5	884.5	100.0	0.0
PEI	362.1	0.0	362.1	426.8	84.8	0.0
NS	370.4	0.0	370.4	919.7	40.3	0.0
NB	334.2	94.4	428.6	846.9	50.6	0.0
QC	1419.6	27.2	1446.8	1509.9	95.8	182.5
ON	2678.6	248.2	2926.8	4793.8	61.1	11.1
MB	1297.3	0.0	1297.3	1409.4	92.0	0.0
SK	500.3	0.0	500.3	1467.2	34.1	37.9
AL	926.4	826.1	1752.6	3035.1	57.7	43.5
BC	2242.3	58.8	2301.1	3022.0	76.1	0.0
NWT	633.2	2236.9	2870.1	2922.4	98.2	0.0
YK	1482.4	0.0	1482.4	1591.0	93.2	10.2
NU	143.4	0.0	143.4	143.5	99.9	0.0
TOTAL	13274.7	3491.6	16766.4	22972.2	73.0	285.2

TRAIL PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING

Trans Canada Trail approved \$1.7 million in funding for 29 projects this year.

Thank you!

Thank you to all our Trail supporters

Since the Trans Canada Trail's launch in 1992, it has captured the hearts and minds of Canadians. More than 100,000 individuals, families, groups, foundations and companies have contributed to the building of the Trail.

Many of our achievements to date are the result of the generosity of our donors. Our success in connecting the Trail for 2017 and sustaining it in the years beyond depends on the interest and investment of all Canadians.

This year, we were pleased to see the number of Trail donors increase by 140 percent. Many were early supporters of the Trail who we contacted in a phone campaign to renew their interest and support. They were excited to hear about the plans for 2017.

Expanding our grassroots donor base is a key component of the Trail's five-year strategy to meet our 2017 objective and help sustain the Trail for future generations. Our new website and increased social-media activities are raising the Trail's profile and generating interest from new people who want to get involved. We are reaching out to younger Trail supporters through Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

TCT thanks Trail donor

Bob Van Someren

Elk medallions on bannock with Saskatoon berry chutney, beaver tails with an array of Canadian flavoured sauces, lobster pot pie, bison bacon bites, mini-tourtière – it was a Trans Canada Culinary Expedition to support the Trans Canada Trail.

The February 2012 event was the brain child of Red Deer College's Bob Van Someren, head of the Hospitality and Tourism Management Program. More than 45 students and four instructors took part – preparing the menu, serving the food and marketing the event.

"It was a classy evening at the College, with over 100 guests attending. The students did a magnificent job and everyone was delighted to be able to support the Trail," Bob says.

The department plans to make the Trans Canada Culinary Expedition an annual event. "Students get to create a hospitality event plus learn about the tourism potential of trails," he explains. "The Trans Canada Trail is such a great fit for the hospitality and tourism program. Low-cost activities, which contribute to a healthy lifestyle and quality family-focused time, are a trend in tourism today."

Bob has been supporting the Trail for many years, both as an individual donor and a trail user. He and his family often go out walking and cycling on his favourite Red Deer section of the Trans Canada Trail at Bower Ponds. "I have been on the Trail in every province and I think the concept is brilliant. It is a project I love to support," he says.



Hospitality and Tourism Management students in the dining room at Red Deer College, AB



TCT thanks monthly Trail donor

Mark Melynk



Mark Melynk is an advocate for outdoor adventure. As a long-time TV producer of sports and fishing programs, outdoor activity is both his livelihood and his passion.

He recently spent four months travelling 14,000 kilometres for a documentary on chuck wagon racing, one of the world's most dangerous sports. He also hosts WFN's Reel Fishy Jobs, which takes him all over North America covering fishing stories. He has some favourite fishing spots on the Trans Canada Trail.

Mark is an avid supporter of the Trail. As a boy growing up in Belfountain, ON, he was on the Trail daily, biking or walking to his local trout stream. Today, he often takes his two young children back to his favourite childhood spots on the Trail. "I believe in families getting outside together. We regularly see wildlife there and enjoy time together," he says.

Mark and his family are long-term Trail supporters. "For me, the Trail, stretching from coast to coast to coast, is a unique

statement that Canada can make. To see it span all the way across Canada is important. It is a major tourist draw," he says. "I see people using the Trail to do short stretches and others who see it as their own Kilimanjaro, challenging themselves to meet a personal goal. The Trail offers everyone their own unique experiences."

Mark recently joined the monthly giving program, which TCT is encouraging as a cost-effective way to raise funds for trail building. "I am giving monthly to support the Trail because I want my kids to have access to green spaces," says Mark. "In my business, I teach people to get outside and enjoy the outdoors. The Trans Canada Trail makes it easy. You don't need a lot of equipment; you just need an access point and a bit of time to enjoy it."

Every gift, regardless of size, is **IMPORTANT** to the Trans Canada Trail.

Your donation is vital

The Trans Canada Trail is a registered charity. Donations are vital to support trail builders across Canada and ensure the Trail is connected for 2017.

You can support the Trans Canada Trail's success by making a gift today.

- www.tctrail.ca
- 1-800-465-3636
- Trans Canada Trail, 43 Westminster Avenue North, Montreal West, Quebec H4X 1Y8.

The importance of partners

The support of government funders as well as sponsors and donors is essential to the Trail's ability to assist the efforts of hundreds of trail groups and volunteers across the country. We thank all our partners, including the following:

Government of Canada

Since the Trail's launch in 1992, the Government of Canada has been a major supporter of the Trail through Canadian Heritage and the Ministry of the Environment and Parks Canada. Last year, it contributed \$10 million, via Parks Canada, to support the Trail's connection and promotion. This has allowed TCT to invest record amounts in local trail building projects. TCT is proud to partner with Parks Canada as we share a commitment to connect Canadians and international visitors with our natural and cultural heritage.



TCT is a proud partner with Canadian Heritage on the annual Canada Day Poster Challenge. In 2011, thousands of young people, aged 5 to 18, submitted poster designs interpreting the theme Canada: A proud past, a bright future! The national winner was 15-year-old Serena Chan of Burnaby, BC.

The Globe and Mail

TCT is proud to have Canada's national newspaper as our national media partner. With monthly ads and promotion, the Globe and Mail is fostering pride in our national legacy project and igniting the interest and participation of Canadians in the Trans Canada Trail.

Esri Canada

Esri Canada, a leading GIS software company, has generously donated resources for the development of a state-of-the-art mapping system for the Trail. Using the most advanced interactive technology, it allows trail users to see exactly what kind of terrain and trail conditions they can expect on every section of the Trail. Now available on TCT's website, the new maps are making the Trail more accessible to the ever-growing number of trail users.

Loblaw Companies Limited

Loblaw Companies Limited is supporting the development of Trans Canada Trail's green initiatives. Loblaw's contribution is being invested in collaborative projects with strategic alliance partners to increase awareness of the environmental benefits of the Trail and encourage its use as an alternative transportation choice. This year it helped fund the BioKit and the Trail Care Crew program.

Global/Shaw Media

Shaw Media is working with TCT to increase the Trail's profile. Shaw Media has provided regular airing of TCT's 30-second spot on Shaw Direct Satellite Service, select Global TV markets and on 20 specialty channels, including Showcase, National Geographic, the Food Network and DejaView. TCT and Shaw are developing several major partner initiatives to be deployed in the next five years.

Free the Children

TCT is proud to be associated with Free the Children, the innovative charity started by Craig and Marc Kielburger that is empowering youth to make a difference in their communities and around the world. Trans Canada Trail is an educational program partner with Free the Children's

We Day initiative. The TCT BioKit is profiled on the We Day website along with a link to the TCT website and other resource materials. This resource page is widely used by teachers.

Trail Care Crew

Trans Canada Trail, Parks Canada and the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) partnered for a second year to provide resources to trail groups on sustainable trail design, building and maintenance. The three organizations sponsored the two-person Trail Care Crew, Chad and Deanna Lazaruk, to give workshops to trail, mountain-biking and parks groups. Their season was epic: in 10 months, they travelled from Cornerbrook, NL to Fort Smith, NT, then to Victoria, BC. They trained 650 volunteers and built 3200 kilometres of trail, double the previous year of the program. Nine TCT groups took part in workshops in Ontario, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Alberta and British Columbia. Loblaw Companies Limited was a supportive donor to this program.

Atlantic Canada Trails Association

Developing destination trails that attract tourists is the goal of the Atlantic Canada Trails Association (ACT), a marketing partnership that brings together TCT, our four Atlantic provincial partners, the four Atlantic tourism departments, Parks Canada and Tourism Atlantic - ACOA. This year, the work focused on assessing key requirements for destination trails. Of 19 trails assessed, only four met the rigorous standards. These included two TCT trail sections: the Confederation Trail in PEI and Fundy Trail in NB. ACT partners now plan to upgrade and construct trails and conduct a socio-economic impact study of the Confederation Trail.



TCT launches new website and online community

In December, TCT launched a state-of-the-art website, with leading edge mapping technology and innovative interactive features.

The mapping tool, developed by Esri Canada, makes it easier to find trail information and print or download trail maps. It also encourages people to upload photos, videos, stories from the Trail, information about Trail events, and tips to share with the Trail community. With powerful search capabilities and new bookmark features, it allows trail users to create a list of their own favourite and must-do sections of the Trail.

The new site is informative, easy to navigate and filled with eye-catching visuals of the Trail. It is attracting a growing number of visitors.

Visitors are invited to **join the Trans Canada Trail's Online Community** to get full access to all the mapping and website features. **Membership is free.** To date, more than 3000 people have signed up. TCT is pleased that so many people are lending their voices to a collective and unified call for everyone to do their part to promote and use the Trail.

By the numbers

TCT is committed to communicating with more Canadians and visitors through online initiatives and social media. Trail supporters are encouraged to follow the Trail on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

TCT Facebook followers: more than 2100

Twitter followers: more than 1200

TCT creates Honour Roll

As part of our 20th Anniversary celebrations in 2012, TCT is creating an online Honour Roll to celebrate the many volunteers who have helped build and maintain the Trans Canada Trail since its launch in 1992.

The Trans Canada Trail is one of the largest volunteer projects ever undertaken in this country. Hundreds of thousands of Canadians from coast to coast to coast have given their time, energy and resources to create this unique national legacy.

All Trail 'alumni' are invited to sign up at www.tctrail.ca/about-the-trail/honourroll and provide details and stories about their involvement with the Trail.



Thanks to Trans Canada Trail volunteers

TCT thanks Trail volunteers

Ilse Ketelsen and Rossburn Subdivision Trail Association



At 175 kilometres, the Rossburn Subdivision Trail is one of the longest Trans Canada Trail sections in Manitoba. Ensuring high trail standards requires constant monitoring by members of the local trail association.

"It takes a lot of time but we have a wonderful group," says Ilse Ketelsen, Secretary-Treasurer of the Rossburn Subdivision Trail Association (RSTA). "I am proud to be part of it. I got hooked on the Trail five years ago when I attended my first meeting, representing the Rural Municipality of Rossburn. Now I feel like the Trail is my baby."

The Rossburn Trail runs from Russell to Neepawa on the old CN rail bed in western Manitoba. With sixteen communities on the route, the Trail showcases the rich history, stunning landscape and diverse multicultural makeup of the region.

In the past few years, RSTA proudly completed the refurbishment of the entire length of this Trail segment. Ilse is an expert at grant applications and was instrumental in raising funds for the project. She has secured over \$350,000 for the Trail over the past five years, which has allowed for many improvements and activities. RSTA has erected signage that highlights distances and amenities along the Trail, installed portable toilets, repaired bridges and organized walks and Trail Day events in many communities.

Ilse is always looking for ways to bring more people to the Trail. Promotion and links with local media are priorities for her. In the past two years, she has also been instrumental in developing a proposal to link the Rossburn Trail to the 3000 km² Riding Mountain National Park, which lies 24 kilometres north of the Trail. "It would be such a unique feature for the Trans Canada Trail and help to grow our local tourism," she says. The idea is to create four greenway loops from the Trans Canada Trail to the park, which would create a destination opportunity for travellers wanting to experience the area. Ilse has been a driving force behind the development of the project and the writing of the 95-page concept plan.

"Ilse is one of our most valued trail volunteers," says Manitoba Recreational Trails Association staffer Margaret Boyechko. "She is passionate, focused, and gets things done." MRTA and TCT applaud the contribution Ilse is making to

the success of the Rossburn Trail and the Trans Canada Trail in Manitoba.

Robin Reilly and the Path of the Paddle



Robin Reilly is an avid canoeist and history buff. For him, water routes on the Trans Canada Trail make sense. "Canada has the most extensive system of waterways of any country in the world, plus a rich tradition of canoe-based transportation. To build trail, you need to work with the land and find ways to make things happen," he says.

Reilly is a pragmatist and a visionary. He has helped the Trans Canada Trail develop trail in some of the country's most difficult and remote terrain.

In the mid-90s, he was managing the parks program in Yellowknife when TCT was looking at route options for the Northwest Territories. He was quick to suggest a water trail, given the distance from the Alberta border to Tuktoyaktuk (2000 km) and the sparse population (45,000) in the territories. "It seemed unlikely there



Path of the Paddle – Little Falls on the Atikokan River (photo: Hap Wilson)

was capacity to build a land-based boreal trail, so the signature route had to be the Mackenzie River. It is the natural transportation route and how people travel,” he explains. Within months, TCT had added canoeing as a key TCT activity and the NWT designated the Mackenzie River as part of the Trans Canada Trail.

When Reilly moved to Northwest Ontario to take the helm at Quetico Provincial Park near Atikokan, TCT sought him out again to help develop a route through the rugged terrain there. He has played a pivotal role in the plan for the Path of the Paddle, a 900-km Trail section from Thunder Bay to the Manitoba border that will utilize the lakes and rivers of many provincial parks, including Quetico Park.

“Robin is a visionary with boundless enthusiasm who does not know the word can’t,” says TCT Board member Cameron Clark, who has worked closely with Robin on various projects. “Robin understands the vision of the Trans Canada Trail and he wanted Quetico to be part of it. He was instrumental in making the connections. We owe a lot to him.”

Reilly recently left Quetico Park to take on a new position in Sandbanks Provincial Park in southern Ontario. Robin’s trail colleagues say he is greatly missed in northern Ontario. “He always went above and beyond his role as a park supervisor to make things happen that were good for the community,” says former Trans Canada Trail Ontario Executive Director Dan Andrews.

Hiker completes 10,000 kilometres on Trans Canada walk



On November 2, Dana Meise reached The Forks in Winnipeg, where he logged his 10,450th kilometre on the Trans Canada Trail and completed the fourth season of his epic walk across Canada. Premier Greg Selinger and trail supporters from TCT’s provincial partner, the Manitoba Recreational Trails Association, were there to greet and congratulate the 37-year-old BC forestry worker.

Meise started his journey in Newfoundland in May 2008 and he has walked about six months a year, following the Trans Canada Trail. He carries a 70-pound pack and logs about 30 to 40 kilometres daily.

Inspired by a desire to see the country and by his father who lost the ability to walk after a stroke, he is a modern-day explorer in the tradition of Thompson and Mackenzie and he has endless stories to tell of his adventures. He plans to write a book when he completes his journey on the Trail to the Pacific, then to the Arctic Ocean.

This year, Meise walked from Huntsville, ON, (256 kilometres north of Toronto) to Winnipeg, for a total of 3015 kilometres, through some of the country’s most remote and rugged terrain. “It was the hardest season so far given the many long and lonely stretches,” he says. “I also had to walk on the highway in areas where the Trail is not yet developed.”

Despite the hardships, Meise is quick to point out the many great experiences he had. “Walking with the wonderful trail people in North Bay and Sudbury; meeting Jean Béliveau, the round-the-world trekker; eating blueberries on the Catarqui Trail; chatting with David McGuire who ran a marathon a day across Canada to raise awareness about brain injury; and, of course, the extraordinary welcome and hospitality when I reached Manitoba.”

Dana started the fifth season of his hike on April 12, 2012 at The Forks. Manitoba’s Healthy Living Minister Jim Rodeau walked with Meise on the first leg of his hike to the Manitoba Legislature where he was officially welcomed to the province.

Follow Dana’s progress at www.tctrail.ca and on his website www.thegreathike.com.





Rolling along the Trail in Fredericton, NB.
(photo: Carol Reindall)

A growing family adventure

At the end of every day, members of the Mash family gather for a photo to record their progress on their walk across Canada on the Trans Canada Trail.

Since they set out from Victoria in 2002, the Mash family has walked a total of 2528 kilometres over 101 days. For the last 11 summers, they have spent three weeks together, walking the Trail for about 10 days and visiting local attractions on rest days. Their route has taken them across British Columbia and into Alberta. This year they completed a 255-kilometre stretch from Red Deer to Devon, just south of Edmonton.

The annual family holiday is a very special time for the group, which includes Bart and Heather Mash, their daughter Hayley and her husband Darryl Pongracz, their son Ben and his fiancée Tasha Weatherston, and Heather's mother Ann and her husband Jim Lees.

Bart says when the kids were young, he had to cajole them to walk at times. "Now nothing will make them stop," he says.

When the Mash family sets out in 2012, a new member will join the adventure: Hayley and Darryl's baby, who will be just six weeks old when the family's holiday begins in August. Bart says the newborn will be front and centre in this year's photos, as the group walks from Edmonton to Fort Saskatchewan and on.

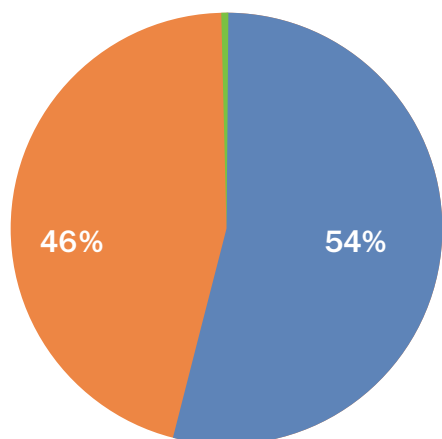


Trans Canada Trail – Combined Operations

For the year ended March 31, 2012 (in thousands of dollars)

Unaudited

Revenue = \$6,574

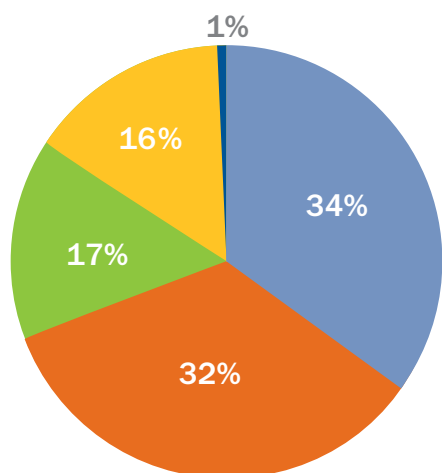


■ Parks Canada = \$3,570

■ Donations = \$2,993

■ Other income = \$11

Expenses = \$5,729



■ Trail construction = \$1,928

■ Trail promotion and education = \$1,844

■ Fundraising = \$978

■ General and administrative = \$918

■ Amortization/loss on disposal of equipment = \$61

Trans Canada Trail Charitable Organization

Board Members

- Paul LaBarge, Chair, Ontario
- Cameron Clark, Director, Ontario
- Bruce Croxon, Director, Ontario
- Basil Davis, Director, British Columbia
- Mylène Forget, Director, Québec
- Eric Gionet, Director, New Brunswick
- Betty Anne Graves, Director, Alberta
- Ron Hicks, Director, Alberta
- Alan MacDonald, Director, Ontario
- Ruth Marr, Director, Manitoba
- Rick Morgan, Director, Ontario
- Claire Morris, Director, Ontario
- Andrew Parsons, Director and Treasurer, Québec
- Mia Pearson, Director, Ontario
- Serge Rancourt, Director, Ontario
- Jim Bishop, Past Chair and Secretary, British Columbia
- Valerie Pringle, Co-Chair, TCTF, ex officio

Trans Canada Trail Foundation

Board Members

- Valerie Pringle, Co-Chair, Ontario
- Hartley Richardson, Co-Chair, Manitoba
- David Aisenstat, Director, British Columbia
- David Cottingham, Director, Ontario
- Anthony Graham, Director, Ontario
- David Hoffman, Director, Nova Scotia
- Pierre Lassonde, Director, Ontario
- Bruce Simpson, Director, Ontario
- Paul LaBarge, Chair, TCTCO, ex officio

Trans Canada Trail

Staff

- Deborah Apps, **President & CEO**
 Dominique Blain, **Communications Advisor**
 Julie Brouard, **Director of Communications**
 Julieta Edovas, **Data Entry and Donor Services**
 Cristyn Edwards, **GIS Trail Assistant**
 Christina Giffen, **Donor Services**
 Lea Hardcastle, **Manager Information Systems**
 Tim Hoskin, **National Director of Trail (to 08/2011)**
 Carmen Jimenez, **Financial Administrator**
 Margaret Mofford, **Executive Assistant**
 Jane Murphy, **National Director of Trail (as of 08/2011)**
 Carolyn Ring-Ade, **Online Community Coordinator**
 Charles-André Roy, **Manager GIS & Mapping**
 Kelsey Simpson, **Donor Services (to 12/2011)**
 Lori Spence, **Vice-President & CFO**
 Gail Urquhart, **Vice-President, Resource Development & Government Relations**



First meeting of the Trans Canada Trail Advisory Committee and Board of Directors / Première réunion du comité consultatif et du conseil d'administration du sentier Transcanadien à / à Banff, AB le 22 Apr 1994

Standing l to r / debout g à d : Bill Archibald, BC; Paul Poirier, AB; Al MacPherson, ON; Jim Connor, NT; Robert Boyer, PE; Fred Whitehouse, MB; Dave Matthews, AB; Jean-François Pronovost, QC; Stan Slack, NS; Garry Michael, SK; Basil Stewart. Seated l to r / Assis g à d : Russ Kisby, Président, ParticipACTION; Bill Pratt, Executive Director TCT / Directeur général STC; Pierre Camu, Chairman of the Board, TCT / Président du conseil d'administration, STC; Otto Goulding, NL



Official opening of Dawson Overland Trail, YT on Oct. 10, 1998 / Ouverture officielle du sentier Dawson Overland au Yukon le 10 octobre 1998. L to r / à d : MLA David Sloan; the late Pete Greenlaw, Yukon TCT Champion; MLA Doug Livingston, Sherman Olson TCT President 1995-2001; First Nation Elders Frances Woolsey & Bessie Elles.



The late Donald Deacon, who brought communities together to build PEI's Confederation Trail, the first TCT section to be completed across a province. / Feu Donald Deacon, qui a rassemblé les communautés afin de bâtir le Sentier de la Confédération à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, le premier tronçon du Sentier à traverser une province.



Official opening of Duck Mountain Provincial Park TCT in Manitoba, July 21, 1997. Carol Brasok, TCT Director and Rick Shussel, Park Superintendent cut the ribbon and unveiled the Trailhead sign. (photo: Dorothy Rhead) / L'ouverture officielle du Sentier au parc provincial Duck Mountain au Manitoba le 21 juillet 1997. La directrice du Sentier, Carol Brasok, et le chef du parc, Rick Shussel, coupent le ruban et dévoilent le panneau du point de départ du Sentier.



Trans Canada Trail

Sentier Transcanadien

20¹²

Years/Années



Valerie and Andrew Pringle visit with Gordon McKeever and the Squamish Hearts in Motion Walking Club following their Olympic Torch Relay runs on Feb. 5, 2010 in Squamish, BC. / Valerie et Andrew Pringle visitent Gordon McKeever et le club de marche Squamish Hearts in Motion après leurs courses du Relais de la flamme olympique le 5 février 2010 à Squamish, B.-C.



The first TCT pavilion, opened in Caledon East, ON, June 22, 1996. The site has grown to include a Walk of Fame honouring the contributions of local residents; past and present. / Le premier pavillon du Sentier est ouvert à Caledon East, en Ontario, le 22 juin 1996. Le site comprend maintenant une Promenade de la gloire à l'honneur des contributions des résidents passés et présents.



Provincial Partners and TCT Directors enjoy a walk on the Gatineau Park Trail led by Mrs. Lauren Harper, Sept. 26, 2009. / Des partenaires provinciaux et des administrateurs du Sentier prennent une marche sur le Sentier du Parc de la Gatineau avec Mme Lauren Harper le 26 septembre 2009.