



KRISTIN WESTDAL PHOTO

Gary Doer and Valerie Pringle, chairwoman of the Trans Canada Trail Foundation, at Pinawa suspension bridge.

Doer announces cash for trails

Commits \$1M to hiking paths

HIKERS have had plenty of sunny, warm days to wear out the trails in Manitoba this summer and the province is committing \$1 million to develop more of them over the next two years.

Manitoba Premier Gary Doer made the announcement yesterday morning at the Pinawa suspension bridge with Valerie Pringle, the former host of the *Canada AM* television program and the current chairwoman of the Trans Canada Trail Foundation.

Half of the province's new financial commitment will go directly to volunteer groups in their efforts to continue the construction of Manitoba's 1,300 kilometre component of the Trans Canada Trail (TCT).

The money will go towards special building projects along the trail, the implementation of a maintenance plan, interpretive signage and administration.

When it is completed the 18,000-kilometre TCT will be the longest continuous trail in the world and will link Canada's three oceans.

The Manitoba Recreational Trails

Association will administer the provincial funds. There are 17 different trail associations that are eligible to apply for funding.

The trail covers the province from the village of San Clara near the Saskatchewan border to Falcon Lake near the Ontario border and down to Emerson at the U.S. border.

It crosses through Whiteshell Provincial Park, Lac du Bonnet, Belair Provincial Forest, Grand Beach, the Mars Sand Hill, Selkirk, Winnipeg, St. Norbert, Miami, Somerset, Spruce Woods Provincial Park, Neepawa, Sandy Lake, Russell and Assessippi Provincial Park.