

Manitoba
Recreational

Trails Association

Newsletter

July 2006



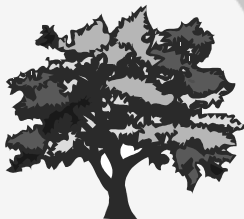
Manitoba Recreational Trails Association has a new Executive Director

The MRTA Board of Directors is pleased to introduce our new Executive Director, Elisabeth Ostrop.

Elisabeth joined the MRTA on May 1st 2006.

Elisabeth has a Commerce Degree and a MA in Recreation Studies from the University of Manitoba. Upon graduation Elisabeth worked for a tourism and environmental consulting company in Winnipeg and was involved in several trail related projects, including the Active Transportation Study for The City of Winnipeg, and the development of self-guided tour routes for Rivers West and Travel Alberta. Elisabeth has a love for the outdoors and enjoys discovering new places. She is eager to explore the many trails in Manitoba.

As we move forward in our trail building efforts we encourage all to provide a warm welcome to Elisabeth. Over the next couple of months Elisabeth will try to meet with as many trail groups and partners as possible. In the mean time, if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact her at mrta@mts.net or 204-786-2688.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Terry Howard", enclosed in a white rectangular box.

Terry Howard,
President, MRTA

Trans Canada Trail Annual General Meeting

This year the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) Foundation held their Annual General Meeting in Montreal on June 9, 2006, followed by a strategic planning session on June 10. Additionally, the Canadian Trails Federation (CTF) set their AGM to coincide with the TCT meeting. Manitoba's interests were represented by Elisabeth Ostrop, the new Executive Director of the MRTA, and Harold Westdal, Director on the Board of the TCT Foundation.

The formal portion of the TCT AGM, chaired by media personality Valerie Pringle, began Friday afternoon. New Board President, Sanderson Layng, presented the annual report for the foundation, which reviewed the Trans Canada Trail progress from across the country. Manitoba currently sits at number 6, with 69% of the Trans Canada Trail operational, but moves up 1 spot to number 5 if you look at actual km. (Good work Manitoba!!!).

Province or Territory	Objective	Operational Trail	
	(km)	(km)	%
Newfoundland & Labrador	885	220	25
Prince Edward Island	350	350	100
Nova Scotia	730	484	53
New Brunswick	767	345	45
Quebec	1468	1389	78
Ontario	4060	2306	58
Manitoba	1260	869	69
Saskatchewan	1195	498	35
Alberta	2100	960	34
British Columbia	2765	2121	76
Yukon Territory	1600	560	35
Northwest Territories	751	645	79
Nunavut	180	180	100
Total:	18,111 km	10,927 km	60%

If we can get our signage up, this number could increase to 80%.

The MRTA would like to know the number of signs, number of sign posts and the estimated labour and expense costs required to get this signage up, so that we can put forward a single request to the TCT Foundation.

Several new TCT initiatives are in the pipeline and soon to be launched:

- A new capital campaign will be launched this fall. **Manitoba Trail groups will need to provide an estimate of what it will take to complete each section of trail for the capital campaign. The Foundation would also like an estimate and location of signature projects that the TCT foundation could raise funds for. The MRTA will need input from each of the trail groups on these items.**
- A series of Public Service Announcements promoting the Trans Canada Trail and featuring notable Canadians such as Peter Mansbridge, Catriona Le May Doane, Valerie Pringle, Becky Scott, amongst others are about to be distributed to media nationally.
- A pilot program will see a unit on the Trans Canada Trail added to the Calgary school curriculum this fall called "A Walk across Canada". This virtual tour of the Trans Canada Trail promotes healthy and active living and will allow Calgary students to experience the diversity of the Trans Canada Trail.
- A colouring book with puzzles and games will introduce the character of T.C. Leaf to the 4 to 6 year olds. T.C. Leaf will also be appearing in animated TV spots.

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TCT AGM(Continued)

Saturday's Strategic Planning session began with each region identifying opportunities and challenges for building the TCT. It soon became apparent that there are many common issues across Canada. Building and trail in remote areas, recruiting and motivating volunteers, soliciting government support and raising funds to build the trail are just a few of the reoccurring concerns. The remaining part of the strategic planning session looked at 4 specific strategic goals including: resource development, public & community affairs, community assistance and trail development. The TCT Foundation will use the information collected to develop their strategic plan further.

The informal part of the meeting provided participants, representing Provincial and Territorial Trail Organizations from across the country, with the opportunity to network, share ideas and discuss issues of common concern.

Canadian Trails Federation AGM - Update

The Canadian Trails Federation is working diligently on the issue of liability insurance. They have initiated a Canada wide study to examine the issue of liability insurance to see if there is anything that can be done to reduce the premiums paid by trail groups at the local level. The Nova Scotia Trails Federation has been successful in working with their provincial government and has been able to reduce the premiums paid by local trail groups as well as eliminating nuisance claims. To date there is insufficient data for the consultant to make specific recommendations about a national approach to addressing the concerns of liability insurance.

Pinawa Trans Canada Trail (TCT) Update

Submitted by Marsha Sheppard

Well, summer is in full swing and we should bring you up-to-date on the Pinawa TCT. This is one of the driest summers on record, water levels are low and this also means severe forest fire conditions, so please be very cautious when in the woods. But, it also means bug levels are down and those swampy areas are also on the drier side. This makes for some excellent TCT adventures. The Whiteshell Cross-Country Ski Club have been mowing the TCT and it should be in fine condition this July.

Just wanted to let you know about how popular our stretch of the TCT is! The TCT has attracted over 3000 visitors in less than a year!

Of course, just ask Nancy Bremner, our CDO, Kevin Penner, operator of Wilderness Edge or our local Pinnacle triathletes, who use the TCT for their training, and they will all tell you there are always requests for "what shape is the trail in" or "where will I find a stretch of trail I can do with the family – of all ages"! The nice thing about our trail is it has multiple entries and varying degrees of difficulty, all with appealing vistas, birds, butterflies, fabulous dragonflies, wildflowers and animals. Jan Dugle and Josh Bueckert have been busy putting species labels on the trees along the Ironwood Trail section for an educational experience for all.

A grant from Manitoba Hydro has enabled the Pinawa ATV Club and the LGD of Pinawa to collectively repair and improve those sections of the TCT that were badly damaged by ATV users. The damage done to the trail curtailed its intended use and prevented Manitoba TCT explorers from enjoying this branch of the trail. The newly formed ATV Club will ensure the TCT is used only for its designated uses – walking, biking and horseback riding in summer and skiing and snowmobiling in winter. As the RCMP are ready to enforce the LGD's Special Permit for the designated use of the TCT on Crown Land, we ask you to please continue to report any infractions.

Happy Hiking and Remember – be aware that wildlife lives on the TCT and leave only your footprints!

MRTA - 2006 AGM Highlights

The 2006 Annual General Meeting for the Manitoba Recreational Trails Association was held on April 29, 2006 at the Manitoba Theatre for Young People at The Forks in Winnipeg. Some of the meeting highlights are presented below. If you would like to receive the meeting minutes, or any more detailed information please contact the MRTA office.

MRTA president, Terry Howard, announced a few changes within the MRTA, beginning with the departure of Rosemary Dzus and the hiring of Elisabeth Ostrop as the new Executive Director. Other changes at the Board level were the departures of Kevin Dearing, who had served as treasurer for a number of years, and Ruth Marr, who had served the board as secretary.

The MRTA was given permission by the Province of Manitoba to pre-empt their official announcement for additional funding. MRTA will be provided with an additional \$500,000 to be used for grant funding towards the building of Manitoba's Trans Canada trail. This is great news for the MRTA & all the TCT Trail Builders!!

Due to all the changes at the MRTA, the audited financial statements were not ready prior to the AGM. However, Chris Randle, acting treasurer was able to review the financial statement in draft form. He also presented two proposed Budgets. The first budget was prepared based on the premise that we would not get the additional provincial funding; the second Budget (Wish) was done with project financial figures assuming more grant income was coming. We need to get our discretionary revenue up (merchandising, map sales, donations and fund raising). In light of the additional funding that was announced, the "wish" budget was adopted.

Penny McMillan, the interim Executive Director, presented her report highlighting the 2005 activities for the MRTA, including a partnership with the Winnipeg Trails Association and the Red River Floodway Coalition. Two Grant Intakes were completed in 2005. The Interpretive Plan includes the guideline for a trail refurbishment program, trail maintenance, and long term funding options. The MRTA strategic plan focuses on board development, client management, and public relations/advocacy.

Harold Westdal provided an up date on the Trans Canada Trail Foundation, who is also undergoing a variety of changes, including a new CEO. There will be a significant revitalization of the Trans Canada Trail across Canada with the launching new awareness programs. A major new fundraising campaign will be focusing on financing strategic projects. More focus on making the TCT Foundation more relevant and achieving goals at the provincial level. The Foundation is in negotiations with the Olympic Committee and is trying to incorporate the TCT for the 2010 Winter Olympics torch run. Insurance is always a huge issue, and the Foundation continues to work on it.

Linda Morin and David King were re-elected to the Board and Chris Randle, Janice Lukes and Kathleen Leathers were newly elected to a two-year term.

Linda Morin provided an update on some of the marketing committee initiatives, including website development with the trail groups, the development of a map distribution strategy, revising the Passport Program, targeting educators - to get the schools involved in using the trails and using the maps and working with the regional tourism associations to have them incorporate the trails into their pamphlets/brochures.

We want the MRTA to be more of an interactive board to be able to give back more feedback and communication in regards to concerns and general awareness.

We thank all those who were able to attend for their time and their contribution.

MRTA Marketing Committee

The marketing committee is once again working to fulfill the obligations of the WED funding. Our objective is to promote the local TCT Trail sections as well as provide a provincial perspective on trails. The MRTA wants to assist the local trail associations in promoting their trails. We are there to help you.

In the evaluation of the marketing products issued last year, the committee recognized that many trail associations are focused on building the trail. As the trail is constructed more efforts can then be directed towards promoting the trail to assist in local economic development.

The marketing committee welcomes feedback on the products being developed. Working together is a lot easier than working in isolation especially if you are unfamiliar with how to market. Ideally if we could have one person from each trail association communicating with the committee regarding the marketing efforts being undertaken then we could more effectively develop the products to meet the local trail association's needs. If you would like to work with the marketing committee please contact Elisabeth.

Website

Working with the Winnipeg Trails Association a more user- friendly template has been developed for the MRTA website.

Trail groups can now post information on:

- **Home:** Information about your trail association, where your trail is located, length of trail, trail uses permitted, location of trail head signs, interpretive nodes, parking, and amenities.
- **Adventures:** Upcoming events along your section of trail
- **Passport:** Details about the passport program – if you have a specific trail that is around 4 km (loop or return) it can be included with your trail section as well as the overall MRTA Passport program.
- **Trail Maps:** For the short term your existing trail map which is now on the web will be placed here. Over the upcoming year, the marketing committee will be reviewing the existing maps to ensure that information trail users want – trail uses permitted, location of trail head signs, interpretive nodes, parking, amenities, location of trail are included in the maps.
- **Trail Stewards:** User groups associated with the trail
- **Photo Gallery:** Pictures, pictures, pictures – a picture is worth a thousand words.
- **In the Press:** Media releases about your trail
- **Resources:** Local service groups can add their link
- **Contact:** Information on who to get a hold of

Not all information needs to be included if it does not pertain to your trail association. The MRTA will be contracting the design work for the development of the individual trail pages but the maintenance work of updating the website has now been internalized in order to reduce the overall costs.

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Pictures, Pictures, Pictures!

Get out on the trail and take some pictures while the weather is nice!

A picture is worth a thousand words. The MRTA needs pictures of your trail in order to help your trail association promote trails in Manitoba. Recently the Crow Wing Trail developed a power point presentation to be part of a display for a local health and wellness fair. The computer was lined up with an exercise bike so that the participants could undertake a virtual tour of the Crow Wing Trail.

At the Provincial level it would be fantastic to have this available so that one could show the entire Trans Canada Trail as it winds through Manitoba.

Digital pictures can be saved on a CD and mailed into the MRTA office, if the pictures are labelled so that we know what we're looking at and identified as to the order they should be lined up, a volunteer will set your trail association up with a power point presentation and provide a completed copy back of your local trail section as well as the overall provincial TCT once all trail groups have provided the pictures.

These pictures may also be included in provincial promotional materials, promoting your trail as well as the trails across the province. If you are interested in setting up a virtual tour of the trail, contact Elisabeth for more information.

Passport Program

Adult oriented Passport Program: Currently in development. As the MRTA recognizes that some trail sections are just too long for young children and the trail user demographics focus on the older the Marketing committee is developing a passport aimed at adult trail users. The MRTA will be working with the provincial geo-caching association to develop a passport using the GPS coordinates found in the Interpretive Guide / Maps. Instead of stamping the passport there will be a clue which they have to get information from that cache. Details as the program is being developed will be forthcoming over the summer months. Again if your local trail association is interested in developing the geo-caching ability of your trail contact Elisabeth.

Map Strategy

To make these wonderful Trail guides more accessible to the Trail groups, we have eliminated the minimum order quantity for the Trail groups. Now you can purchase as many as you need, whether it is 1 or 100. Maps must be paid for at time of ordering.

The new reduced wholesale price (for trail groups and authorized retailers) is \$2.96 per map (or \$17.76 per six-pack). The new suggested retail price is \$4.95 (\$29.70 for all six). Any maps you sell, you get to keep the profit for your trail group.

Please specify the quantity and which map you desire at time of ordering. Maps can be ordered from the MRTA at
1007 Century St., Winnipeg, MB, R3H 0W4
Email at mrta@mts.net
Fax: 204-945-1365

For effective distribution of the Interpretive Guide/ Map if your trail association can provide the contact (municipal office / local retailer) where the maps are being sold we will include that information on the MRTA website. Also if there is a local event occurring on or near the trail it is a great opportunity to sell them yourselves and raise funds for your section of trail!

Passport to Trail Adventures



Official Passport to Adventure launch Saturday, July 8th.

The Prairie Pathfinders and Winnipeg Trails Association have partnered to develop the free Passport to Trail Adventures program!

The Passport encourages families to travel the trails in nearby neighbourhoods! From rambling routes in Royalwood to the swinging Senkiw Bridge in southern Manitoba, the Passport to Trail Adventures is designed to get the whole family active, outside and traveling trails this summer!

The official Passport to Trail Adventures launch on Saturday, July 8th at the Assiniboine Duck pond where Mayor Sam Katz and Minister Jim Rondeau will offer 'trail talk' remarks!

Passports are free and available at:

- Assiniboine Park Zootique Gift Shop
- Manitoba Children's Museum (The Forks)
- Mountain Equipment Co-op
- Manitoba Recreational Trails Association



The Passport to Trail Adventures encourages families to go on five hikes between now and the end of summer. Families can pick any five trails from the hundreds available in Manitoba! Children enter hike information into the Passport and when all five hikes are complete, bring the Passport back to any of the above listed locations to have it stamped. Along with receiving a Certificate of Completion and a free carabineer compass – the child has a keepsake journal of their summer adventures!

To assist families in their trail selection and offer insight into new trails, the Prairie Pathfinders are providing a list of family friendly trails. The Pathfinders are also offering a series of guided family fun walks offering educational perspectives to local Winnipeg trails. The Winnipeg Trail Association, Routes on the Red and the Manitoba Recreational Trails Association websites are also included in the Passport offering even more trail routes and maps for families to select from.

Families are encouraged to submit photos of themselves 'In Motion on the Trail' to WinnipegTrails@shaw.ca to be eligible for Sargent Sundae and Mountain Equipment gift certificates and a weekend at the River Gate Inn Bed and Breakfast! The Passport to Trail Adventures program officially launches July 8th and passports will be stamped between September 1st and October 31st.

The Prairie Pathfinders are authors of *Winnipeg Walks*, a Canadian best seller, *Manitoba Walks* and *Manitoba Perfect Picnics*. The Pathfinders are founders of one of Manitoba's most popular walking clubs and host weekly guided hikes and weekend hiking festivals throughout the year. The Winnipeg Trails Association is a coalition of trail builders and users who are focused on accelerating trail development and connectivity in Winnipeg. Supporting partners; the Manitoba Recreational Trails Association - promoting construction and use of recreational trail throughout Manitoba, Rivers West - developing the Red River Corridor as a destination and the Government of Manitoba's in motion strategy aiming to increase the physical activity of Manitobans.

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Winnipeg Events

Details of all events can be found at: www.mrta.mb.ca/wta

Family Fun Walks

Open to all family members, these walks will be at a very leisurely pace. Grandparents, children, aunts and uncles all welcome!

September 2	Elm Park
October 7	Sturgeon Creek
November 4	Assiniboine Forrest
December 27	The Taylors



Running Room

Urban Trail Adventures

Explore Winnipeg trails via fitness walks (3km) or runs (5km). Refreshments provided.

July 21	Sturgeon Creek Pathway
August 15	Cornish Pathway
September 12	Old St. Boniface Trail

Assiniboine Park Forest Fun Run

Bring your family and friends and join in for a 5 km run or 3 km walk through Assiniboine Park Forest. Prizes will be awarded and there will be FREE Pork on a Bun with registration. Hosted by Charleswood Rotary and the Running Room, all proceeds will support the preservation and enhancement of Assiniboine Forest.

September 9 Assiniboine Forest

Rotary Clubs of Winnipeg & Manitoba Naturalist Society

The Rotary Clubs of Winnipeg are strong supporters of Winnipeg trails and parks. The Manitoba Naturalist Society will be holding birding and nature walks exploring the flora and fauna at some very interesting 'Rotarian project' sites.

July 20 Nature walk on Sentier Cloutier Trail

St. Norbert Heritage Trails

Trappist Monastery Hikes

Guided hikes throughout the ruins of the Trappist Monastery and the Trappist Monastery Provincial Park will be hosted by Park Interpreters. Learn why the Trappist monks came to settle on the banks of the La Salle river some 100 years ago.

July 7 & 8

July 21 & 22

Ghost Hike

See well know 'ghosts' re-live the history of St. Norbert and Manitoba's early beginnings. Follow the ghosts as they take you on trails throughout the grounds of the picturesque St. Norbert Provincial Heritage Park.

August 26

Manitoba Trail Events

Crow Wing Trail has scheduled a series of Trail openings along their trail this summer.

Canada Day – Emerson Trail Opening

August Long Weekend – St. Pierre Trail Opening

August 13 - Franklin/Roseau River Trail Opening

September Long Weekend - St. Malo Trail Opening

September 9 - Ritchot Trail Opening

Contact the Crow Wing Trail Association at cwta@ratrivercomm.ca for exact details

Crow Wing Trail Association signs Memorandum of Understanding with Municipality of DeSalaberry

Submitted by: Blair Hamilton

The Crow Wing Trail Association is please to announce the signing of a long term Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Rural Municipality of DeSalaberry. The MOU, developed from a prototype by the MRTA, outlines specific routing, eligible uses, mutual responsibilities and implementation issues.

The deal is for 21 years, which was key to protecting the investment by both the CWTA and the Municipality in this recreational infrastructure. The negotiations were initially driven by the need to find a way for Trans-Canada Trail users to co-exist with local ATV enthusiasts. The St. Malo Fire Department holds a very successful annual ATV derby as a fundraiser, and the Municipality wanted to accommodate both of these groups.

The final MOU allows the CWTA to maintain the integrity of its non-motorized use policy on parts of municipal road allowance, while preserving the right of the municipality to designate adjacent portions for other uses. Safety issues and protection of a particularly sensitive ecological area were also part of the final agreement. The CWTA would like to express their appreciation to the DeSalaberry Reeve and Council for their collaboration in this matter.

Harte Trail Volunteers install their Trailhead sign

(as per the new installation instructions supplied by Belle Fosh)



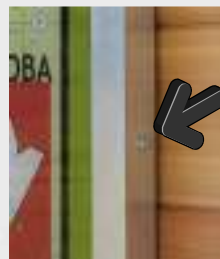
1) Attach a plywood frame that is the same size as the lexan Trailhead sign to the Trail head structure.



2) Position Lexan sign into place



3) Secure Lexan Trailhead sign to the plywood Frame using aluminium frames or suitable alternative from the side, being sure to drill into the plywood, and not the lexan...



4) ...Using tamper-proof screws.



5) Happy Volunteers in front of their new Trailhead sign (l to r), Wayne, Vera, Tom, Hillary & Don

Trail Update from the R.M of Silvercreek

The R.M. of Silvercreek works closely with its neighbour, the R.M. of Russell to improve the trail and ensure that the public can enjoy the area as the trail makes its way from one municipality to the other. The trail offers picnic sites to stop and relax at. The R.M of Silvercreek will be erecting a memorial sign with the permission of the RSTA to acknowledge Clarence Klimack, a councilor who passed away in the spring of 2005. Clarence was responsible for putting a culvert into the trail, allowing the public to continue along the trail without any detours.

Please feel free to come and join us on the trail in the Silvercreek Municipality!

Submitted by Patricia Reagh, Councillor R.M. of Silvercreek

Trail Update from Red River North Trails Association



Here in the photo - Directors of Red River North Trails Association Inc. Darlene Fisette and Glen Basarowich are in front of the trailhead sign located at the R.M. of St. Clements.

Red River North Trails Association Inc. has completed four of their five Trailhead Signs. The fourth trailhead sign installed is in front of the R.M. of St. Clements office at 1043 Kittson Road [located near the corner of Highway 59 and Highway #212 and turn off at Quarry Road].

Red River North has been busy with signage. The Mars Sand Hills area has completed their signage including a trailhead sign; as has the City of Selkirk. In East St. Paul the trailhead sign is up but we are still waiting for Department of Highways approval before putting up our remaining signage.

In Memoriam



Lloyd Orchard (1922 – 2006)

Lloyd was one of the original members of the Miami – Thompson Trail Committee that was organized in the fall of 1999.

Lloyd served on the trail construction and maintenance committee. He maintained the Tobacco Creek section of our trail and constructed and installed a footbridge across the Tobacco Creek. He faithfully attended our regular meetings and his advice was constantly sought because of his knowledge of the area. Lloyd was very determined to see the completion of our section of the Trans Canada Trail and was very proud and grateful to share his part of this world.

Manitoba Trans Canada Trail Guide/Maps win Gold



March 2006, Toronto, Ontario - Interpretation Canada announced the winners of the Awards of Excellence – Manitoba takes Gold for the Trans Canada Trail Guides.

The Awards of Excellence recognize the best in the field of interpretation across Canada. 25 entries, the best from museums, parks, cities, zoos, including trail guides, exhibits, websites, films, etc. were entered this year- only 5 received awards. Manitoba's Trans Canada Trail Guides shared the top prize – Gold- with the Royal Tyrell Museum in Alberta. The award was presented to Sherry Dangerfield, the creator of these informative guides to Manitoba's Trans Canada Trail.

The concept behind the 6 trail guides is to introduce visitors to the diversity of Manitoba – its landscapes, wildlife, environments, diverse cultural communities, and much more. If you think Manitoba is flat and boring you need to pick up the 6-pack of the TCT guides and hit the trail.

Newsletter Contributors

Jacque Crone
Blair Hamilton
Terry Howard
Janice Lukes
Linda Morin
Elisabeth Ostrop
Jennifer Prior
Patricia Reagh
Marsha Sheppard

Funded by

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Manitoba

About the MRTA

The Manitoba Recreational Trail Association (MRTA) is the official body overseeing the coordination of the building of the Trans Canada Trail in the province. The MRTA is governed by a volunteer board, currently consisting of seventeen people, including four regional representatives. It is a governing and overseeing body providing management and direction for trail development being undertaken by 17 regional trail associations, with a total of over 100 volunteers. The MRTA has one full time executive director and a 30 hr. per week office administrator/bookkeeper position. The Department of Culture, Heritage and Tourism has a Provincial Trails Consultant, who works closely with the MRTA.

The MRTA office is located in the Land Information Branch building, at 1007 Century Street, Winnipeg Manitoba.

Phone: (204) 786-2688
Fax (204) 945-1365
Email mrta@mts.net

Tran Canada Trail Song

Musician and Trail Builder Bill Hamilton from the South Whiteshell trail group has written and recorded an ode to the Trans Canada Trail. The Tran Canada Trail song can be downloaded as an MP3 for free from his website at www.mts.net/~milkyway. It is about two minutes and 30 seconds in duration. Enjoy!

Here's a short excerpt:

Well years ago we crossed this country with its steel rail.
We're doin' it again with Trans Canada Trail.
And you know that it was John A' that drove the last spike,
But we can't yet say who will ride the first bike.
All across the volunteer central,
Intergovernmental,
Transcontinental,
Canadian Trail

