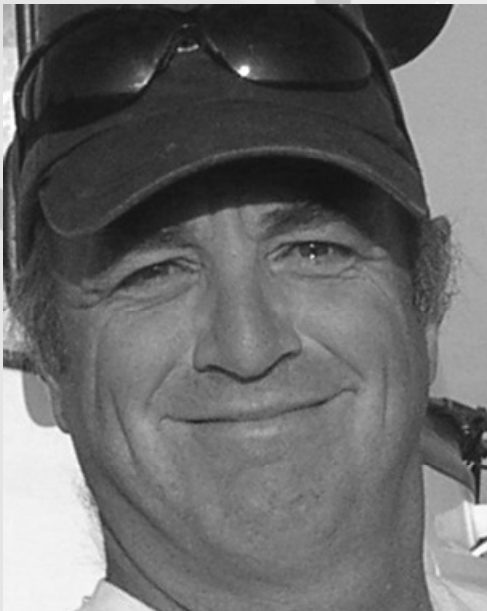


Manitoba  
Recreational

**Trails** Association

Newsletter

WINTER 2008



Martin Landy, the MRTA Executive  
Director

To all Trail Building Partner Organizations,

The MRTA Board of Directors is pleased to introduce our new Executive Director, Martin Landy.

Martin joined the MRTA on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Martin has over 20 years of experience in profit and non-profit management and brings his knowledge of boards, volunteer and project management to the trails community in Manitoba.

Martin has recently moved back to Winnipeg after 20 years in Calgary. He is a graduate of the University of Winnipeg, Collegiate and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. Martin has recently worked as the Manager of the Point Douglas Residents Committee, and as the General Manager and Competition Director of GlobalFest, Calgary's international cultural and fireworks festival.

Martin is looking forward to meeting and working with you, and all trail groups. In the mean time, if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact him at [mrta@mts.net](mailto:mrta@mts.net) or 204-786-2688.

Sincerely,

Ruth Marr,  
President, MRTA

## **Border to Beaches**

Submitted by Linda Morin

Border to Beaches Project is a trail completion initiative of the Manitoba Recreational Trails Association (MRTA) supported by the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) and the local trail associations.

The goal is a fully built high quality trail. The Borders to Beaches Project will link the completed sections and transform them into a Manitoba showcase connecting two of Manitoba's tourism gems: Grand Beach Provincial Park and Whiteshell Provincial Park..

Borders to Beaches was initiated because gaps in the trail exist due to capacity, financial or technological constraints. This project supports the local initiatives of the South Whiteshell, North Whiteshell, Centennial, Pinawa, Blue Water North, Blue Water South, Seven Sisters and Red River North trail associations. The project has support from the municipalities through which the trail crosses, as well as Manitoba Conservation as the trail is located within Whiteshell and Grand Beach Provincial Parks as well as upon Crown Land.

This project will enhance existing MRTA funding programs by addressing barriers not necessarily included in the normal granting processes; it will focus efforts on finding regional and site-specific solutions for trail building challenges. By addressing administrative, capital and technological issues and developing best practices, regional solutions can be implemented. A local Project Manager will be hired to undertake the coordination of efforts, ensuring that the project is completed on time and within budget. Economies of scale and time will be achieved with bulk orders and the process for acquiring the required permitting will be facilitated, with coordinated site inspections by the various officials (Highways, DFO, etc).

Progress to date:

In February 2008, the MRTA submitted the Border to Beaches Project application for a Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Program to be processed in the spring of 2008; however, the Federal / Provincial funding agreement (now the Building Canada Fund Agreement) was not signed until September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008. . In communications with the Canada Manitoba Infrastructure staff, the MRTA was advised that the Border to Beaches project would qualify under the Communities Funding Agreement. On January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009, during the Federal Prorogue, the Communities Agreement of the Building Canada Fund was finally signed by the Federal and Provincial Governments!

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 the Border to Beaches application was submitted under the Local Roads - Active Transportation sub category. All new resolutions in support of the project were required from the seven municipalities the trail is located within as well as a letter of support required from Manitoba Conservation.

During our year of waiting an Implementation committee was formed consisting of representatives from each local trail association, Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport staff. Site Forms were developed to collect the information required to build the trail segments as well as provide for a more reflective budget in terms of work that was required to construct the trail. These forms also identified when authorities will be required to be contacted regarding DFO, Navigable waters and highways issues..

In order to collect the trail information for Blue Water North between Powerview and the North Star Trail a Pilot Trail Assessment, funded by the TCT Foundation, was undertaken in December 2008. As there was limited information available on the length of trail, degree of difficulty and the location of possible land ownership issues the pilot trail assessment was able to address these issues and provide the required information to go forward into trail construction. Our commendations go out to Don Lavigne and Dan Good, Blue Water North volunteers who accompanied Mitch Carels of Barnes and Duncan in bitterly cold weather – at one point they crossed through a creek and then had to travel the 30 km back to Powerview soaking wet in -30 C weather!

As part of the overall Border to Beaches project, a detailed trail assessment for each segment of the trail may be undertaken, however, the scope of each assessment will depend upon the available information on hand and the information required in order to get the documents ready for tender.

Within Borders to Beaches approximately 35 sites have now been identified for a total of 165 Km of trail to be constructed. A few sites have been identified that could be undertaken within a relatively short time period of the announcement which will assist our funding partners with a quick success story. The actual number of sites may vary as some sites may be broken down into smaller components to deal with specific construction issues while others may be compiled into a larger construction project to address cost and time efficiencies.

Ultimately, the Border to Beaches Project is a pilot project, both for Manitoba and for the Trans Canada Trail across Canada. The approaches and solutions learned in this project will assist other large segments of trail to be completed, realizing the dream of a national trail, from sea to sea to sea. Manitoba is proud to be a leader with this trail completion initiative, which will establish a model of trail development throughout Canada.

## Trans Canada Trail - Changes to Eligible Expenses

The Trans Canada Trail Foundation recently changed their policy on grant funding eligible expense categories. Please note that projects may receive up to 20% maximum funding upon approval by the TCT. All projects submitted from June 2008 forward will be reviewed using the new rules. Each eligible item refers to costs related directly to an approved trail project.

**The following items are still eligible for funding:** Material costs, Labour costs, Equipment rental, Regulatory/safety signage, Work on bridges

**The following items are now eligible for funding:** Feasibility studies, Engineering studies, Economic impact studies, Trail amenities (rest stops), Look-outs, gazebo, Parking lots, Trail promotion (opening event), Interpretive signage, Information kiosks and trail heads, Licenses/permits (for construction), Property taxes on TCT designated lands prior to development, Project coordinator and site office, GST/PST on eligible expenses

**The following items are still ineligible for funding:** General administration costs, Contingencies, Trail maintenance, Personnel contracts for and PR people etc.

## Olympic Torch Route

Olympic Torch Relay organizers announced in November that the torch will pass through 1020 Canadian communities. More than 270 of these are on or near the Trans Canada Trail across Canada.

The Trans Canada Trail supports the Olympic Torch Relay. We are delighted that the torch will travel some sections of the Trail. Olympic Torch Relay organizers announced that as the torch travels across Canada, special community celebrations will be held in 300 communities and at points of special interest.

Many of these are on or near the Trail including the spectacular Fundy National Park which has close to 20 kilometres of trail on the Trans Canada route.

## Information Notice to National Trails Coalition Stakeholders

Submitted Martin Landy

The 2009-2010 Federal Budget was passed in Parliament on Tuesday, February 3, 2009, thereby confirming the commitment by the Government of Canada to make a \$25 million contribution to a national trail infrastructure program. The program is for a one-year period commencing on April 1, 2009.

The partners of the National Trails Coalition met in Toronto Wednesday February 4, 2009, to begin drafting an implementation plan. This plan will be presented to the federal government for approval in the coming weeks.

The implementation plan will address many of the issues that people have been inquired about since the announcement was made last week including: The process through which the National Trails Coalition will work with its provincial & territorial affiliates to deliver the program; The application process and expected eligible expenses; The criteria that will be used to screen applications on a jurisdictional basis; and the cost sharing expected by partners and what constitutes an eligible contribution. More specific information will be provided as it becomes available following consultation with the Government of Canada.

**2009 MRTA AGM  
April 17, 18 & 19  
Russell Inn  
Russell Manitoba**

The MRTA will hold its Annual General Meeting in Russell on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the conclusion of our annual conference. All MRTA members and trails supporters are welcome. Elections will be held for Board Members on Sunday with Workshops and trail events being held Saturday and a Meet and Greet on Friday night.

Hotel booking deadline March 19<sup>th</sup>

**Schedule\***

Friday April 17<sup>th</sup>

6:00pm Registration Opens  
7:30pm – Meet and Greet

Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>

9:00am Breakfast & Keynote Speaker  
10:00am Workshop 1  
11:00am Workshop 2  
Noon Lunch  
1:00pm Workshop 3  
2:30pm Workshop 4  
4:00pm – R & R – Tour of Elevators  
7:30pm – Banquet

Sunday-April 19<sup>th</sup>

9:00am Breakfast & Trail reports  
10:30am – AGM  
12:30pm – Lunch and Wrap up.  
\* Subject to change



Picture taken at the March 10 & 11 2007 AGM & Conference: Section 1 - Navigating MRTA Grant applications

Please note we are planning to rent vans and car pool from Winnipeg. Please advise us if you wish to use this service by March 19<sup>th</sup>.

If you are considering attending please advise us as soon as possible as rooms may be limited after March 27<sup>th</sup>. For More information on registration fees, room availability and rates please contact Martin Landy. The MRTA wishes to thank the RSTA for their kind assistance in planning and hosting of our AGM.

**Crocus Trail: Blossoming Expectations**  
Submitted by Dan Friesen

Not long from now, this rather quiet winter will melt away, nature's annual crocus show will appear on south-facing hillsides, and the Crocus Trail team will resume its maintenance and enhancement tasks. Work in progress includes final touches to a section of the West Goose Lake trail that was built up last fall by Public Works, with culverts in place, to eliminate soggy sections and erosion. Ongoing maintenance includes woodchip replacement, weeding, pruning and signage monitoring (frost heaves and other gremlins are hard on trail signs).

The trailhead sign in the Town of Russell should be in place later this spring. A similar one, at the Saskatchewan border near Madge Lake, can not be permanently placed until the Dept' of Highways completes its reconstruction of the intersection of 83 and 57. An official opening will be planned for that occasion.

Crocus Trail members are excited to be partnering with the Rossburn Subdivision Trail Association (RSTA) in hosting the 2009 AGM of MRTA in Russell April 17-19. We look forward to meeting and networking with other trail groups. The weekend program looks inviting. One featured event will be a bus excursion to Inglis and a guided tour of the Inglis Elevators National Historic Site. There will also be opportunity for guests to walk specific sections of our long, varied and scenic trail.

We hope to see you at AGM.

## A decade of HIKING

By: Bill Redekop

WALKING, said Sheila Spence, photographer and founding member of Prairie Pathfinders, "is like a timebased art piece. You go through a range of moods.

The first mood is often: Why am I doing this? I don't feel like doing this. I'm not doing this again. Then a transformation occurs. By and by, walkers find a resolve, a rhythm, and, ultimately, a kind of inner peace, or, at least, an inner space previously closed to them.

Even on the longest walks, said Wendy Wilson, another founding member, "I often find I have more energy at the end than at the beginning, which is astonishing."

It's been 10 years since Leone Banks, Kathleen Leathers, Wilson and Spence launched Prairie Pathfinders and began leading walking tours across Manitoba. In that time, they have put one foot in front of the other over roughly 8,500 kilometers within the province. It's 7,300 kilometers across Canada.

They have changed attitudes to both walking and our landscape. They guide tours twice a week in Winnipeg and about a dozen times a year in the country, including five trips with overnight stays.

They usually forge little-known trails, illuminating interesting history, geography, and plants. "When you drive through the country, you don't see it," said Spence.

They have authored four books that serve as walking guides that have sold a combined 23,000 copies. Prairie Pathfinders has about 400 registered members.

Prairie Pathfinders promotes not just walking and exploring Manitoba but introduced the "group walk." From 50 to 60 people regularly turn up for guided walks.

"I find it much easier to visit with someone by walking than sitting across the table," said Leathers. Adds little sister Wilson: "That doesn't mean you don't have time to yourself."

But a lot of people still don't get it. People will spot the group walking and will suppose it's for charity. "People will often ask what we're walking for? And we say for fun, and they just look at you," said Banks.

The four friends got the idea from their forays to England. A walk in the woods is a much bigger part of the culture there, ever since poet William Wordsworth helped popularize it in the first half of the 1800s. "Only poor people walked at one time until it started to become fashionable," said Leathers.

Today, every English town has a walking club, and hikers arrive at a small town every five kilometers. People can take a cab back to their hotel after a walking tour. The Ramblers Association, Britain's biggest walking club, has been around for over 70 years.

"There was a frustration for us with people here thinking that there was nowhere to hike in Manitoba," said Wilson.

So their original idea was to publish a guidebook to walking trails in Winnipeg. They self-published *Winnipeg Walks* (1999) after a publisher told them they'd be lucky to sell 200 copies. They sold 11,000. They initially called them walks. "Hikes" conjured up images of fitness, lederhosen and alpenstocks.

"Initially, hiking seemed a threatening term. For hiking, you had to be fit, as opposed to just walking," said Wilson.

But they call themselves hikers today. Their level of confidence has changed, they say. It also began as unisex: women only. They were concerned males would make walks too vigorous and goal-oriented. They like to lollygag if the mood strikes them. But they don't feel threatened anymore, and many males join walks today, usually with a spouse.

To promote their first book, they started organizing the walks. The first one outside the city was a nine-day hike on the Trans-Canada Trail. They stayed in bed-and-breakfasts and small-town hotels along the way.

It was the first week of May. More than 40 people took part in at least some part of the trek, many of them recruited by Leathers at a New Year's Eve party. "They'd been drinking," quipped Wilson.

## A decade of Hiking (Continued)

The group researched historic weather patterns for spring and ascertained that the lowest precipitation was for that week. But that's not how it turned out.

"It rained every day and it was a disaster by most counts," said Leathers. "But eight people did the walks every day. And the silly fools, at the end of it all, they wanted to know what we were doing next year."

They will be replicating part of that walk later this year.

On another trek, some people got ahead of the main group and took a wrong turn. They waded through swamp up to their waists, and then crawled under barbed wire so that the dried mud and sedges stuck to their clothing and exposed skin. They looked horrible.

"By the end of the day, they said it was one of the best damn times of their lives," said Leathers. "You become like bosom pals."

Their books include *Winnipeg Walks* (1999), *Manitoba Walks* (2001), *Manitoba Picnic Perfect* (2003) and *Hiking the Heartland* (2007). With *Picnic Perfect*, they had a romanticized idea of the "picnic in the woods," and tried to repopularize it. Banks thinks it may be their best book but it's been the poorest seller.

They feel safer travelling in large groups, and tend to make enough noise that they don't see much wildlife. They have encountered the occasional bear. One bear wouldn't leave the trail. So they appealed to its patriotism and sang O Canada. The singing was so bad that the bear shambled off.

The women marked the 10th anniversary on Jan. 24 with an eight-kilometer hike along the LaSalle River, followed by lunch and a retrospective of their highlights and misadventures. See [www.prairiepathfinders.mb.ca](http://www.prairiepathfinders.mb.ca) for more details of future events.

bill.redekop @freepress.mb.ca

### Glenboro/South Cypress Trail Ready for Summer

Submitted by Madelyn Robinson



The forms are filled out and the applications will soon be coming in for a summer student to help keep the Glenboro/South Cypress Trail in great shape. Since 2001, a summer student has been hired; originally to help build the trail but now that energy is directed at keeping the trail maintained.



So come on over to the western side of Manitoba and hike, bike, run or ride this beautiful section that takes you through Spruce Woods Provincial Park. On this diverse trail you will travel through the shade of boreal and aspen forests, into the warmth of the open mixed grass prairie and have a peek at stunning vistas of the Assiniboine River and a few of its oxbows. Take advantage of the many activities offered by the park from interpretive programs to the unique Spirit Sands/Devils Punchbowl Trail. Keep your eyes open for local fauna from the very small and endangered Northern Prairie Skink to the impressive wapiti or elk that make their home within the park. All spring and summer you will be greeted by an array of wildflowers that only the prairie can offer up.



If you're looking for adventure and a well maintained trail then this section of the TransCanada Trail is a must.

## 2008 – Something to talk about!

Submitted by Ilse Ketelsen

### A year in review for the Rossburn Subdivision Trail Association

Now looking back at our start of the year (AGM) it feels as if we came out of a long sleep, stretched and are ready to conquer the world.

Our executive elected is Chris Radford, Town of Russell (Chair), Doreen Stapleton, RM of Harrison (Vice-Chair) and Ilse Ketelsen, RM of Rossburn (Secretary/Treasurer). Our regular board includes also members of the Town of Rossburn, RM of Shoal Lake, RM of Strathclair, Town of Erickson, RM of Clanwilliam, Town of Neepawa, but we sure have openings for new members (individuals or user groups) and other municipalities along the trail, as the trail is there to be used by all of us.

Lot of things have happened this year through great team work:

In the beginning of the year, we applied for grants to the MRTA to be able to install regulatory signage (stop and stop-ahead signs) along the 176 km of trail as well as to mark out our trail clearly with Trans Canada Trail signage.

Another major project started was the refurbishing the trail with screening fines from the rock crushing process. This material is known to give a packed smooth surface, which in return will make RST popular with cyclists.

Both projects were supported by the MRTA with a total of \$20,535 for a total value of both projects together of about \$27,940.

We can report proudly, that both projects were completed within the year. Besides completing our signage project, we were able to resurface more than double the miles than originally projected, to reach 14.2 miles (or close to 23 km). This covers the trail from the Town of Erickson to the Town of Sandy Lake. This area was strategically chosen for the higher tourist traffic on Highway 10.

A successful application to the South West Regional Development Corporation has insured a continuation of this project in 2009. It will provide up to \$10,000, which have to be matched. Thank you to the RM of Harrison and the RM of Strathclair, who are supporting us financially already to help to match this grant. I would like to throw out the challenge to the other municipalities to do so as well.

Manitoba in Motion recognized us in the spring with a grant of \$1,000 towards 2 walk-n-clean events. The Elementary School in Rossburn and in Elphinstone as well as the Rossburn Recreation Commission helped us organize these events. Lot of cleaning, lot of exercise and lots of fun for those who participated!

The RM of Rossburn helped us cleaning up the debris from the burnt Birdtail Bridge and to smoothen out the approach to the river. This has been the only broken link in the trail for 2008 and has now become, at least for the winter months, accessible again. We are looking at a seasonal solution for the summer months as well, as a replacement of the bridge itself is highly unlikely to be feasible.

We moved little steps closer to a transfer of properties still held by CN to MRTA and then to the respective towns, thanks to the endless efforts of Doreen. Bureaucracy is at its best, so this road seems to be filled with hurdles, go Doreen go!

Our relationship to the MRTA as well as to our neighboring Crocus Trail (Russell to SK border) has been strengthened in 2008. Proof of this is the jointly organized AGM of the MRTA, which will be held from April 17-19, 2009 in Russell, with the Crocus Trail Association.

Step by step we are coming closer to fulfilling the dream of a functional Trans Canada Trail, which will connect our towns with the rest of Canada in a way no Highway can. This is about bringing economic benefits to the rural areas, about personal contacts along the way and getting to know the nature Canada is famous for - within people and landscapes.

## 2008 – Something to talk about! (Continued)

The Winnipeg Pathfinders (a hiking club) has already announced a visit of the Rossburn Subdivision Trail in the beginning of June 2009 and I am sure it will be one out of many groups discovering our trail.

Our work is far from done though. Over 100 km of our trails are passable, but still need work to be done. We hope to be able to set up our interpretive trailhead signs in 2009 and look at opportunities for funding for directional signs. Being able to do an ecological inventory will be on our wish list as well. Fundraising efforts have to be raised in order to achieve these goals one by one.

Regular upkeep of the trail will be our challenge, we are lucky to have so many communities supporting the trail group in different ways, keep up the good work!

Celebrating and promoting our success in 2008 and working towards more results in 2009 will be the goal of the RSTA Board of Directors.

Ilse Ketelsen  
RSTA Secretary/Treasurer

### **Prairie Pathfinders celebrate 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in historic St. Norbert**

Submitted by Janice Lukes, Winnipeg Trails Association coordinator



On a crisp sunny Saturday morning in January, over 145+ people gathered in historic St. Norbert to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Prairie Pathfinders Walking Club! In classic Prairie Pathfinder style, the four partners, Leone Banks, Wendy Wilson, Sheila Spence and Kathleen Leathers hosted a brilliant birthday party for members, family and friends!

The celebrations ‘hiked off’ shortly after 10:00 am with Kathleen leading a 9 km hike through Pollock Island Park, down the riverbank onto the frozen LaSalle River, and weaving through pockets of river bottom forests.

The frosty group of hikers returned shortly after noon to the festively decorate and sunny lower level of the St. Norbert Church. A vast selection of raffle items donated by generous supporters lined eight tables and the fun continued! People swiftly peeled off layers of clothing and the raffle tickets were flying as everyone tried to decide what bag to drop their ‘lucky ticket’ into – would it be the exquisite hand crafted teapot from the Winnipeg Art Gallery, would it be the Travel Manitoba back pack chocked full of gifts, or would it be the hand made soaps from an Afghani women’s co-op?

As the wafting aroma of a traditional French Canadian meal slowly filled the room, tickets were rapidly tossed into the desired raffle bags and the buffet line began to form. A hearty meal of pea soup, tourtier and an array of salads were served. People selected deserts from a scrumptious variety of birthday cakes made by Leone, and topped with a frozen scoop of vanilla ice-cream.

Sheila was the Master of Ceremonies and invited a people to speak on the many escapades and adventures of the club over its 10 history. Greetings were brought from the Province and City, original members, and trail associations and the prizes were awarded to lucky ticket holders.

What’s next for these Manitoba trailblazing pioneers? Another 10 years, more best selling books, and more adventures to pristine pockets of Manitoba known only to a few? Check out their website at [www.PrairiePathfinders.mb.ca](http://www.PrairiePathfinders.mb.ca) to see the scores of festivals and hikes lined up for the 2009 season!

## **R.M of Lorne Trans Canada Trail News Report**

Submitted by Patti Hacault



Elodie's Hills Rest Area Project is in progress. The site has been levelled and the bench is sitting in the locale ready to go up in the spring along with some signage.

Signage for the community of Swan Lake has been changed to incorporate all three logos of the Trans Canada Trail Association, the Manitoba Recreational Trail Association and the R. M. of Lorne Trans Canada Trail Committee.

Table discussion resulted in changing the committee's mandate to "promoting the use of the Trans Canada Trail" through various events, press releases, brochures, and distribution of promotion items through out the various communities, etc.

Shirts were distributed to the schools for the Terry Fox Run, and various Fall Suppers.

We welcome a new committee member, Dave Watson, who will represent the LUD Swan Lake. Garry Verniest, R. M. of Lorne representative from Altamont has resigned.

Last of snow has curtailed the Snowmobile Porker Derby tentatively scheduled for February. Altamont is looking to upgrade the Trail Centre in their town around. They hope to lay in stones instead of weeds. Their town will be celebrating a 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this summer.

R. M. of Lorne Trail Committee has partnered up with the Lorne Recreation and Lorne Family Resource Connections in a special program to encourage residents to get active. Several events will be planned utilizing the Trans Canada Trail.

### **Not Getting Any Younger**

As anyone over the age of fifty already knows, the baby boomers are not quite as energetic as they used to be.

Down hill skiing and the often equally hazardous apres-ski associated with it - is facing stiff competition from its more sedately paced relative, Nordic skiing, which poses far less of a risk to the brittle bones of ageing boomers. Further evidence of this shift in demographics can be found in the growing popularity of snowshoeing, which in recent years has evolved from a strictly utilitarian method of walking over deep snow with the aid of wood and rawhide frames lashed to one's feet, into a trendy new winter sport combining the latest space age technology and materials without the concomitant dangers involved in rapid and uncontrolled forward movement over near vertical surfaces. In fact, the interest in snowshoeing is such that many ski resorts and trail builders are developing trail systems exclusively for the use of greying and increasingly safety conscious baby boomers anxious to try out their new aluminum "webs" featuring neoprene and nylon decking, hinged bindings, built-in crampons and detachable tail extenders.

## Saskatchewan Talks Trail – Inaugural Symposium Draws Community Group Leaders

The inaugural Saskatchewan Trails Symposium, designed to assist participants to develop a provincial trails strategy, was held in Regina on September 19th and 20th. The two-day event attracted high-profile guests from within and outside of the province. Regina Mayor Pat Fiocco and the Honourable Bill Hutchinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs addressed the delegates; noted trail writer Michael Haynes gave the keynote speech; Sask Tourism Regional Directors Connie Ashworth and Colleen Bilokreli gave a presentation on marketing community trails.

Jo-Ann Carignan-Vallée, TCT Development Officer for Saskatchewan, said that “The Symposium offered an opportunity to network with different government departments, NGOs and fellow trail builders. These connections are invaluable and would have taken much longer to make without the Symposium.”

Many of the trail groups were re-energized by the event’s opening remarks from Trans Canada Trail President and CEO Deborah Apps, who promised more involvement from TCT at the ground level. Carignan-Vallée summed up the two-day strategy session: “All in all it was a great beginning and Saskatchewan Trails Association should be very proud for putting trails on the agenda of decision makers both locally and provincially.”

## New National Director of Trails at the TransCanada Trail (TCT) Foundation

Submitted by Tim Hoskin



Cutline Tim Hoskin (left) with Canadian Heritage Minister, the Hon. James Moore, at launch of Canadian Heritage’s Canada Day Poster Challenge 2009



Cutline Tim Hoskin (left) with Canadian Heritage Minister, the Hon. James Moore, at launch of Canadian Heritage’s Canada Day Poster Challenge 2009

Trans Canada Trail has a new National Director of Trails, Tim Hoskin. Tim joined the Trail staff in mid-November.

Tim has worked for many years in recreation and on trails, including managing the high-profile BC Sea to Sky Recreation District. Prior to joining the Trans Canada Trail, Tim served as regional manager with the BC Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Arts. In this capacity, he managed public recreation on crown land and the diversification of the economy of northern BC through the expansion of recreation and tourism.

“Tim is well respected in his field and has a proven track record and experience in trail building and the development of trail/recreation policies and best practice standards. He is an important addition to our leadership team,” says Deborah Apps, President and CEO. “Tim is a passionate supporter of the Trans Canada Trail and he is already tackling many of the challenges we face as we work towards the completion of the longest recreational trail in the world.”

Tim will lead the development of a master plan for completion of the Trail. Currently he is working with trail staff to analyze the status to date of our trail plan (the work that needs to be done,) in each province and territory to complete a continuous trail from coast to coast to coast. Currently Trans Canada Trail has 14,500 kilometres of operational trail, with an estimated 7,000 kilometres of trail yet to build.

Staff, along with the much needed input from our trail partners, will analyze every trail section across the country and together determine the steps needed to fill the gaps and bring existing trail to recognized standards. Tim, along with trail staff, will be working closely with provincial and territorial partners.

Tim is based in Squamish, BC and can be reached at [thoskin@tctrail.ca](mailto:thoskin@tctrail.ca) or 1-800-465-3636.

## Some Little-Known Scenic Places Recommended by Prairie Pathfinders

Submitted by Kathleen Leathers

**Brandon Hills** -- Just south of Brandon. The hills run east-west for about 12 kilometers. The trail begins on cross-country ski tracks and snakes along a south-facing ridge. Once you reach the Bald Hills of the eastern ridge, you have one panoramic view after another.

**Rae Trail** -- It's 28 km south of the Trans Canada Highway, on Provincial Road 34. This hike snakes through secluded rolling woodland, interspersed with a succession of lush wildflower meadows. The scenic overlooks are a revelation.

**Coulter Sourisford Park** -- South of Melita off Hwy. 83, at the junction of the Souris and South Antler Creek. It's considered Western Canada's oldest park and full of history.

**Centennial Trail** -- The 11-km route in the Whiteshell is a real treasure. You'll climb over steep granite ridges and down through lush tamarack forest. The route is marked by a series of cairns. Developed in 1970 and still maintained by Scouts and Girl Guides. Trail can be accessed from McGillvary Falls or Bear Lake picnic site -- both are off Hwy. 44.

**Poole Property** -- South of Deloraine, east of Hwy. 21. Terrific views of the prairie from the western edge of Turtle Mountain. This 120-acre parcel of native grassland & hardwood forest was donated to the Turtle Mountain Conservation district by the late William R. Poole .

**Souris Riverbend** -- North of Margaret off Hwy. 23. This wildlife-management area spans both sides of the Souris River. The east side has the most impressive lookout and is a grand place to explore.

**Bellsite Hogsback Overlook** -- 1.5 km north of Bellsite turnoff off Hwy. 10, north of Duck Mountain. The trail ascends the northern end of the Manitoba Escarpment through dense mixed forest. The destination is a narrow footpath (along a hogsback land form) out to the Bell River Canyon overlook.



### NorthWhiteshell Trans Canada Trail

Submitted by Joan Murash

Summer is approaching and it is time to get back into shape. It is time to get "In Motion". There is no better way than to explore the Trans Canada Trail especially in the Whiteshell Provincial Park, one of the most beautiful, adventurous, diverse spaces in Manitoba.

The trail through the park is not continuous. The volunteers dedicated their energies to building areas that are most

inhabited and accessible. This section is approximately 88 kms. with 56 kms completed. The parts of the trail that remain unfinished are areas that are extremely difficult to complete, but not impossible. We are now at a standstill waiting for the implementation of the Borders to Beaches project

No one is giving up and the trail will be completed in the near future.

Visit and explore the sections that are completed. Cycle, run, walk and enjoy the scenery. Explore the diverse landscape of the Canadian Shield; pick berries, mushrooms and rocks. Enjoy the variety of plants and trees that dot the environment. This Park is indeed the Jewel of 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. Martin Landy is our full time Executive Director and Ines Rendulic is our part time administrator/book keeper. Jacqueline Crone is the Provincial Trail Consultant with Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism.

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

Phone: (204) 786-2688

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## RENEW YOUR 2009 MEMBERSHIP

As we begin another year of work on the Manitoba portion of the Trans Canada Trail, we are hoping for your continued support and membership renewal. Membership forms can be downloaded from our website under the contacts link (<http://www.mrta.mb.ca/contact.html>)

\_\_\_ \$50 - Trail Group Membership

\_\_\_ \$20 - Household Membership

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to: Manitoba Recreational Trails Association

Send to: MRTA, 1007 Century St., Winnipeg, MB, R3H 0W4

Our dedicated volunteers continue to work with individual citizens, MRTA member groups, local businesses and all three levels of Government in order to reach the goal of having the Manitoba Trans Canada Trail navigable from the Saskatchewan to the Ontario borders by 2010.

**We can't do it without you!**