

Winter 2010

Manitoba Recreational Trails Association



Newsletter

Dear Trail Builders,

It's been some time since we last communicated with you. I hope that you have had a good few summer months, despite the weather, and a wonderful fall of building trails, maintaining them, and of course using and enjoying them. I've been fortunate to have been out and about, including hiking a section of the TCT here in Manitoba that I had not previously experienced (the Centennial Trail in the Whiteshell – it was excellent) but also to join bike rides in both Saskatchewan and British Columbia on the TCT or its proposed route. Both were wonderful adventures, showcasing beautiful parts of our country and the Trail. In both cases, there were 30 cyclists; some of them trail builders and others experiencing the Trail for the first time; a small economic boost for the communities that we stayed in. Next year both groups want to come to Manitoba. Let's show them what a beautiful province we have too!

Change is not solely for the seasons. We have been undergoing several changes related to the MRTA. We are delighted that our hiring process for a new Executive Director yielded Jim Chapryk (see 'MRTA Gets New Executive Director' p3). Bob Foster has recently filled the Borders to Beaches contract position as Project Manager. Welcome Jim and Bob! There has also been a change of the Provincial Recreational Trails Coordinator.

We are very sad to say farewell to Jacquie Crone who retired in mid-September. Jacquie was the inaugural Coordinator and held the post for nine years. She has guided the MRTA, regional trail associations, communities and organizations with grace and good humour and has made an enormous contribution to non-motorized trails in Manitoba. I have learnt to really pay attention when Jacquie says "I have a suggestion". Fortunately all that knowledge and passion will not get switched off the day after retirement, and we look forward to continuing to work with Jacquie in differing capacities into the future. Thank you very much Jacquie and best wishes!

As Jacquie leaves, Howard Skrypyk joins our organization as the new Recreational Trails Coordinator (see 'And In with the New' p2), I've worked with Howard before, and look forward to more in the future. Congratulations and welcome Howard!

Happy Trails,
Ruth Marr
President

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Jacquie Crone Bids a Fond Farewell



Just a note to say goodbye to all the great volunteers I've had the privilege to work with since 2000. On September 8, 2009, I will be retired from the Civil Service and embracing the 'recreational' aspect of my career as the Recreational Trails Consultant for the Province.

I have enjoyed working with the Manitoba Recreational Trails Association board, staff and many volunteers. The Trans Canada Trail has evolved from little more than a concept to a 75% completed trail in 9 years thanks to the hard work and dedication of the 18 Trail Associations dotted along the 1450 km length of Manitoba's trail.

The Province has tasked the MRTA with a huge mission to manage, develop, maintain and promote the Trans Canada Trail in Manitoba and I admire the gusto with which the volunteers accepted the challenge. The range of talent that goes into trail building boggles the mind. Board members attend monthly meetings, wrestle with budgets and financial reports always trying to get the biggest bang as possible from the Provincial grants; subcommittees tackle projects that range from designing interpretive signage and maps to implementing maintenance plans to launching regional projects like Border to Beaches. Trail builders, the foundation of the Trans Canada Trail, well there's grant applications to be filled out, quotes to get, bush to whack, trail to be laid, culverts and bridges to install. I've learnt a lot from you all - 9 years ago I'm pretty sure I didn't know what a 'beaver leveler' was.

Forge ahead, make history, and all the best in completing the Trans Canada Trail. I'm confident in the future of the MRTA, especially under Ruth Marr and Linda Morin's watchful eyes. I'll be back ☺

And in with the New

Howard Skrypnyk, Manitoba Health and Healthy Living, Citizenship and Youth, has accepted the job of Recreational Trails Consultant for the Province of Manitoba.

Howard has been a consultant with the Provincial Department of Health and Healthy Living since 2006. His work has focused on injury prevention, Manitoba *in motion* and community development in the area of physical activity and healthy living. Howard has degrees in both Physical Education and Education.

Since 1985 Howard has worked as a volunteer in the promotion of cycling as a healthy and safe way to move for work or play. He witnessed the beginning of the Rails to Trails movement in Manitoba and tells us that he is excited to take on the responsibility of assisting Manitoba communities to develop and make use of recreational trails throughout the Province.

Welcome Howard!

Howard's contact info:

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Phone: 788-6652
Email: Howard.Skrypnyk@gov.mb.ca

MRTA Gets New Executive Director

The MRTA is pleased to introduce our new Executive Director, Jim Chapryk.

Jim joined the MRTA on November 12, 2009.

Jim is an enthusiastic commuter cyclist and has been involved with the completion of the North Winnipeg Parkway, as well as with the North Winnipeg Commuter cyclists group and Bike to the Future. As well, he is active in his local community committee and is a member of Food Matters Manitoba.

A graduate of the University of Manitoba with a degree in Commerce, Jim worked for many years in Ontario in the Human Resources field and then moved to Stratford, Ontario where he opened a Bed and Breakfast and a Gardening Store. He also chaired the Downtown business improvement committee and served on Stratford's city council, Tourism Stratford and was a member of Rotary Stratford. Most recently, Jim worked with the Pollock's Hardware Co-op Board to re-open a local hardware store in the North End of Winnipeg.

Jim is looking forward to meeting all of the trail partners. If you have any questions or comments, please contact him at mrta@mts.net or at 204-786-2688.

2009 Manitoba Recreational Trails Association Annual General Meeting

This year the MRTA AGM was held on April 17th -19th at the Russell Inn in Russell Manitoba.

There were 34 attendees to the three day event and while they were kept busy with workshops and elections they still managed to find time to socialize and discuss their own trail projects.

There were four workshops offered on Saturday – “Guidelines for Creating a Spatial Database”, “MRTA Maintenance Plan”, “Trails and Motorized Use” and “Promotion and Marketing of our Trails”.

A special treat was the tours organized by Hugh Skinner. First was the tour of the Inglis Grain Elevators, a National Historic, site built in the 1920's, which was guided by two local farmers who once delivered grain to these elevator. Next, also near Inglis, the group visited St. Elijah church (c. 1903) the first Romanian Orthodox church built in North America and the Paulencu Pioneer House (c. 1906) both designated as Provincial Heritage sites.

A meet and greet on the Friday night with Doreen Stapleton on the keyboards and a Saturday night banquet with a slide presentation by Bill Stilwell gave trail builders an opportunity to get to know each other in a relaxed way.

Sunday was the formal side of the weekend, the AGM with reports from the President, Treasurer, Executive Director and the Committee heads of the ATV Working Group, Borders to Beaches, Fundraising, Grants, Interpretive and Marketing.

There were a total of three board members elected although one has since resigned. Still with us are Tom Lawless and Glen Basarowich.

As these meetings are critical to ensure the proper functioning of your association we strongly encourage members to make every effort to attend future AGM's. The MRTA will make every effort to give you advanced notice of the date and location of our next meeting and looks forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next AGM.

“Food Cycle 2009”



Ken makes a stop at the windmills in St. Leon, Manitoba



Ken gives a thumbs-up on his journey on the Trans Canada Trail

Photos by Robb Nickel and Dana Todd

A big thanks to **Manitoba Pork, their producers and staff** who hosted many events in the communities along Ken’s route for Food Cycle 2009!

Food Cycle 2009 has geared down as Ken Livingstone (local bike enthusiast & avid Winnipeg Harvest supporter) has raised over \$45,000 or 900,000 pounds of food for Winnipeg Harvest and the Manitoba Association of Food Banks.

In partnership with **Manitoba Pork**, Ken cycled 1285 km on the Manitoba Trans Canada Trail over a 17-day period to raise awareness, food and funds, for registered Manitoba food banks and the Manitoba Association of Food Banks.

“My hopes are to align Ken’s passion for feeding hungry families in Manitoba with the passion of Manitoba Pork’s concern for all citizens of Manitoba for doing good work-these are building blocks for hope”, says David Northcott, Executive Director, Winnipeg Harvest.

Food Cycle 2009 was greatly supported by presenting sponsor, **Manitoba Pork**. BBQ’s, Breakfasts and Meet & Greets helped raise local awareness and resources for the local food banks.

“As farmers we look around us and we are literally surrounded by food,” says George Matheson, Director, Manitoba Pork. “We are only too happy to share our abundance with hungry Manitobans by supporting Ken’s efforts in Food Cycle.”

Food Cycle 2009 & Winnipeg Harvest would like to thank our generous corporate sponsors including; **Manitoba Pork, BMO & the BMO Employees Fund, Bikes & Beyond and Certigard.**

Many thanks to their employees, their staff and their clients for all their support along the way.

Crow Wing Trail Bus Tour

Submitted by John W. Dyck



On July 25th, 2009 the Crow Wing Trail Association toured the Crow Wing Trail by bus from St. Norbert to Emerson. We met at Maplewood golf course in St. Pierre for breakfast. There were 10 representatives from 5 municipalities and the Roseau First Nations. We followed the scenic trail along the Rat River to Otterburne where Michel Beaudoin gave us a tour of the Providence College grounds and pointed out the interesting history of the College. We even found our trail ran right through a Disk Golf course.

From Otterburne we travelled north to the Municipality of Ritchot where Linda Morin gave us a running commentary of the history of the area. Here we stopped at Dead Man's pond where the prairie vistas were spectacular. The yellow Canola fields and blue flax fields made for a quite beautiful view. The next stop was at the Mennonite Landing on St. Mary's road. This is the junction where the Rat River runs into the Red. There is a monument there to commemorate the arrival of the Mennonites to the area in 1875 and their settlement to the east in Niverville. From Niverville we headed north and west to St. Adolphe. The trail here follows a dyke that runs through an old residential area that had been abandoned after the Flood of the Century due to dyke failure and the threat of continued flooding. There was a lot of bird life along the trail, and the Morning Glory and Burdock were in flower in numerous places. The evidence of this years nasty flooding was quite evident north at St. Adolphe as people were still cleaning up their properties, and unprepared washouts were still a problem along the road. The trail connection to the St. Norbert Historical Park is not complete due to on going work at the floodway but we did see where the new Duff Roblin Provincial Park will eventually be built.

Our next destination was Fort Dufferin where we discovered a new feature at the park. A beautiful Red River cart is now on display there. At Emerson we checked out the swinging bridge on the west side of the Red River. This is on the trail that runs up to Fort Dufferin from Emerson. We followed the trail east for several miles on the US/Canada boundary commission trail. Then we headed north to Ridgeville and followed the trail past Kirkpatrick Swamp and on up to the Roseau River First Nations Ceremonial grounds. Violet Caibaiosai gave us a tour of this area on the trail and we saw the Eagle nest and the Eagles. The next stop in the Franklin Municipality was at the Senkiw Swinging Bridge. We hiked into the bridge. There was lots of bird life along the trail; like Yellow Warblers and some Orioles.

We next checked out the CWT in the Municipality of Desalaberry. At St. Malo we looked at the pedestrian bridge over the Rat River and the trail goes through St. Malo Provincial Park. It was getting late in the day by that point and we did not have enough time left to do the trail from St. Malo to St. Pierre. It was agreed that we would come back in the fall and see that section.

This was a wonderful trip to do. We got to show off each other's trail work and learn about its highlights and history as we travelled together. It always amazes me at what volunteers can accomplish in a relatively short time. The value added to the communities that the trail provides is enormous. It will keep the history of this area alive for many generations to come.

The Town was Alive with the Sound of Music!



On Saturday, July 18th, the SWTA hosted the 7th Annual Whiteshell Music Festival in Triangle Park in the Falcon Lake town site. About three hundred people of all ages enjoyed the music provided by a wide variety of musicians. From toe-tapping bluegrass, to the rich vocals of the "Everly Brothers Tribute" (aka The Sturgeons), to the beautiful original melodies of Beth Hamilton, the music played on past sunset. The audience was wowed with the caliber and professionalism of the musicians from local and surrounding communities and it was clear that the musicians were also enjoying themselves.

This festival is held each year to raise awareness of the trail and to build community. Local businesses contribute donations and services without which the festival could not happen. Randy Waylett won the raffle for a mountain bike, generously donated by Woodcock Cycle in Winnipeg. The raffle and T-shirt sales earned \$1100 in income for the South Whiteshell Trail Association. The SWTA would also like to recognize and thank Bill Hamilton, for organizing this event each year.

Friends of the Harte Trail

779 Municipal Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3R 1J5
Tel: 897-5991
E-mail: hartetrail@mts.net

The Friends of the Harte Trail are pleased to invite you to the new Van Roon Prairie Garden.

The Grand Opening was held on August 22 with dignitaries from the city and province attending as well as Len and Verna Van Roon, who unveiled a plaque honouring them.

Location: At the end of Cullen Drive south of Rannock Avenue in Charleswood. The garden is located adjacent to the Harte Trail.

Walk due south of the Cullen Drive barricade if arriving by car.

Hope to see you there in the spring!

Boots across Canada



This summer the Trans Canada Trails (TCT) and Keen Canada partnered to raise funds for TCT trails across Canada. The program was very simple and generated funds to all provincial trails associations.

Here's how it worked; between May 1st and October 31st, 2009 participants snapped a picture of their "boots" (or shoes or sandals or rollerblades) on the trail. Then went to the Keen Inc. website www.keencanada.ca/BootsAcrossCanada and uploaded their picture. For every picture they received, Keen donated \$5 to the TCT. The TCT in turn remitted funds to provincial partners based on the percentage of photos submitted by people from that province.

Only a select few images will actually be posted on the website but all qualifying photos will generate a donation from KEEN. The boots or shoes did not have to be KEEN products as all boots and shoes will qualify for a donation.

Who is Keen Canada Inc and why do they care?

KEEN Canada Inc., manufacturer of hybrid footwear, socks and bags, is an outdoor brand that delivers innovative hybrid products, enabling all outdoor enthusiasts to live an active lifestyle. They have a strong social responsibility and environmental program. Keen Canada's goal is to receive up to 15,000 boot photos between May 1 and October 31, 2009 which will generate a donation of up to \$75,000.

How will these funds benefit Manitoba Trails?

The MRTA has limited funds to direct toward marketing trails across the province. Funds raised with this initiative will assist our efforts in telling others about your trails.

Keen Canada will be giving the Trans Canada Trail a total of \$16,170 to be divided up as per the submissions per province. Manitoba had 41 "Boots" on the trails, for a total donation of \$205.

According to Keen, "Outdoor enthusiasts are very passionate about our Canadian outdoors, so this program really hit home. People were so creative with their photography and spent a lot of time writing comments that made us smile. We love the program, because it gets so many people involved in keeping recreational trails for our use. We received a lot of letters from outdoor enthusiasts who were so appreciative of the donations. Because of this refreshing response, we will do something similar next year – although no details have been finalized as of yet".

Border to Beaches, One Step Closer!

Submitted by Linda Morin

Last spring, completion of the Trans Canada Trail took another giant step toward reality with the budget announcement on May 1st by Treasury Board President, the Honourable Vic Toews and Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, the Honourable Ron Lemieux. The Federal and Provincial governments will each contribute 1.45 Million dollars to Manitoba's Border to Beaches Trail project.

The project goal is a fully built, high quality trail, winding 370 km from the Ontario border and connecting three Provincial Parks anchored by two of Manitoba's tourism gems: Grand Beach Provincial Park and Whiteshell Provincial Park. Enroute it will connect towns and rural areas, following the Winnipeg River system and be accessible for hiking, cycling, skiing and horseback riding.

Ruth Marr, MRTA President says the Association is fortunate to have received assistance from both levels of government in this 3-way cost sharing agreement.

At a reception held on June 10 at Rembrandt's restaurant in Lockport, Premier Gary Doer thanked the many volunteer groups involved in developing the Trans Canada Trail route across the province. "This project is very important and will contribute to local and provincial tourism opportunities, economic development and healthy living. Equally important is that it represents a strong partnership between volunteer organizations, provincial communities and government."

With the generous contributions of \$750,000 from the Trans Canada Trail, \$100,000 from the Richardson Foundation and \$20,000 from the Winnipeg Foundation towards the project MRTA will still need to raise their remaining portion through fund raising but Marr is eager to see the project started. Ruth Marr, adds "We're excited to start the construction phase. This represents a new approach to trail building that will help us complete the Trans Canada Trail across Manitoba. With Border to Beaches, we will be 85% towards our total goal of creating 1400 km of trail."

Valerie Pringle, broadcast journalist and Chair of the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) said, "This announcement means Manitoba's volunteer trail groups can now complete a substantial section of trail, bringing the national dream of a continuous recreational trail from coast to coast closer to reality." "This trail will be a Manitoba showcase that encourages healthy living, links communities and supports the economy," added Ruth Marr. "Once complete it will be an icon of the tourist industry in the province and a great recreation asset."

The financial support from the two levels of government will allow the MRTA and member trail associations to focus on finding regional and site specific solutions to technically challenging sections of the trail including river crossings as well as safe passage over boggy areas and areas of rough terrain.

Although funding is available until 2015, completion of this project is slated for 2013.

"The Border to Beaches Trail will be a jewel of the Trans Canada Trail," says Valerie Pringle. "It will be a vacation destination for Manitobans, Canadians and visitors around the world. Imagine a multi-day cycling trip from Falcon Lake to Grand Beach; hiking a different section of the trail each year; or getting out on the trail for birding, looking at wildlife, capturing the perfect photograph, or enjoying spectacular landscapes. This trail will become a vital part of our heritage."

Border to Beaches Update

Submitted by Jim Chapryk

Project Manager Hired

R.R. (Bob) Foster, P. Eng. has been hired on a contract basis to oversee the work of the Border to Beaches project. He is a recently retired Civil Engineer who has a cottage in the Whiteshell and is a regular user of those trails.

Borders to Beaches Implementation Committee

A committee composed of representatives from the trail building groups along the Border to Beaches section of the trail has been meeting since June 2008. The committee composed of Brock Hamilton (South Whiteshell), Cindy Bell (Centennial Trail), Michael Rhodes & Joan Murash (North Whiteshell), Marsha Sheppard (Pinawa), Don Lavigne (Blue Water Trail North), Kathy Picard (Blue Water Trail South) and Dan Lester (Red River North). Chaired by Linda Morin, the committee is working with Bob Foster in providing information on local contractors and on best practices as well as recommending the priority of the 41 individual projects that make up the Borders to Beaches project. With work on the Whiteshell River Bridge underway, Bob is meeting with the various groups to determine winter works projects.

Whiteshell River Bridge

Upgrading of the roads leading to the site and the establishment and surveying of the foundation locations has been completed. We have all but completed the details in hiring the construction firm, FWS, which has been working on the design. The project is on schedule.

Adventure Hike-a-thon – June 5, 2010

Mark this date on your calendar to help raise money for the Border to Beaches project. The B2B Fundraising Committee has been meeting since the fall to plan an Adventure Hike-a-thon on International Trails Day (June 5th). The hike being held on the Centennial Trail will end at Caddy Lake with a BBQ and prizes. It will have three starting points – Bear Lake (14 km), Turtle Rock (7.5 km) and a family hike from McGillivray Fall (2.5km). Details will soon be available on the MRTA website.

Watch for this column in every edition of the MRTA Newsletter throughout the life of this exciting project.

Northeast Pioneers Greenway Projects

Summer 2009

No Mow Zones established

- To repatriate the natural prairie, as this land has never been cultivated.
- In excess of 60 varieties of plants, including wild roses, little bluestem, big bluestem, wild onion, milkweed, asters and wild strawberries thrive along the NPG.

Lighting Installation Herbert Ave. - Chalmers Ave

- Funded by Councillor Lillian Thomas and Manitoba Hydro

Help us Make History

- The NPG honours pioneers, past, present and future.
- We are currently looking for pictures to include in historical signage
 - To be installed on the NPG next spring.
 - If you have any pictures you wish to contribute contact Sigrun.Bailey@gmail.com.

Fall 2009

Shade Canopies with Benches

- (Various locations)
- Funded by Councillor Jeff Browaty and Province of MB Community Places Program

Trailhead at Riverton (recommended bike route)

- Funded by Winnipeg Trails Association through Red River Co-op and Winnipeg Foundation

Tree Planting at Bunn's Creek (near Sun Valley)

- Funded by Wal-Mart Evergreen Grant and City Naturalist Branch
- Exact date TBA
- This is the restoration of a natural riparian area to stabilize the creek bed.

Questions or concerns can be addressed to Sigrun.Bailey@gmail.com

New Park Area Offers View of the Valley

Submitted by Lorne Stelmach

It is a fitting name for the high point on the escarpment west of Miami that looks down across the vista of land below.

The parcel now known as Alexander Ridge Park offers a great view of the area that longtime Miami-area farmer Don Alexander loved and cared about throughout his life.

The Pembina Valley Conservation District is now working to protect this spot so that others will be able to enjoy it for years to come.

“We were looking for something prominent to recognize him,” said Cliff Greenfield, manager of the Pembina Valley Conservation District.

The conservation district recently opened Alexander Ridge Park to the public.

The 30-acre parcel of land is just over 5 kilometers west of Miami on the north side of PTH 23 as the highway hits the escarpment.

Formerly Crown land, the province had not progressed with the idea of developing the spot as a wayside park, so the conservation district took it over a few years ago.

The location had a lot going for it in terms of developing it as a small park for public use, said Greenfield.

“It’s just on top of the escarpment, so you get a pretty great view of the valley,” he noted.

“We want to work with a number of local stakeholder groups to design the park,” added Greenfield, noting it is in close proximity to a local section of the Trans-Canada Trail.

The site includes a viewing tower, and Greenfield said they will be erecting more signs to educate visitors about the history and importance of the area, which was on the edge of the ancient glacial Lake Agassiz.

He suggested it is a good way to pay tribute to Alexander, who was chairperson of the conservation district for 17 years and recognized provincially as a leading advocate for conservation and sustainable agriculture.

“This represents all those things that were close to his heart.”

Reprinted with permission.

NTC and Federal Government Partner to Expand and Improve Trail Infrastructure

The Government of Canada has partnered with the National Trails Coalition (NTC) to give a financial boost to over 500 trail projects across the country. This investment is part of the Government of Canada's Economic Action plan and will bring \$25 million to NTC member groups.

The program is being administered by the NTC. The NTC is made up of the following non-profit organizations and their provincial/territorial affiliates: Canadian Trails Federation, Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations and the Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council. The funds will be used to build, upgrade and renew recreational trails for a number of non-motorized and motorized uses, including hiking, walking, cycling, equestrian, cross-country skiing, ATVs, off-road motorcycles and snowmobiles. The NTC is responsible for reviewing and approving applications.

The intake of applications for this funding was between May 26 and June 26, 2009. Now that the intake is complete and projects approved, the first payment of 12.5 million to the NTC will allow work to begin immediately and generate economic activity in the construction sector.

“This \$25 million funding initiative has, for the first time in trail development history, made it possible for a growing network of multiple-use trails to be built across Canada,” stated Terry Norman, National Coordinator for the NTC. Norman added, “With over 500 shovel-ready trail projects approved for completion by March 31ST 2010, the NTC believes this is the first step in providing trail infrastructure and tourism products that will be used by millions of Canadians and visitors to Canada.”

Within Manitoba 47 projects were funded: 32 Snowmobile; 2 ATV and 13 non-motorized projects. The 13 non-motorized projects approved by the NTC Board of Directors, provide for \$476,194 of funding towards total project costs of \$1,114,051.

NTC Non-Motorized Projects Funded	Project Description	Amount Approved
Rossburn Subdivision Trail Association	Rossburn Subdivision Trail Refurbishment /Repair Project	\$105,162
North Whiteshell Trail Association	Sturgeon Creek Spur Trail, Rainbow Falls Spur Trails	\$11,000
Town of Carman	Carman Pathway to Active Living	\$76,000
Seven Sisters Falls Community Club	Seven Sisters Falls Interpretive Trail (Phase 2)	\$6,682
Manitoba Recreational Trails Association	Manitoba Trans Canada Trail Interpretive Project	\$75,000
Transcona Trails Inc.	Cordite Trail	\$21,000
Cooks Creek Conservation District	Pineridge Wildlife Park and Heritage Trail	\$70,814
Town of Shoal Lake	Extension of North Shore Walking Trails	\$19,000
City of Thompson	Revitalizing Thompson's Nordic Ski Trails (Crolly Trail)	\$10,036
Headingley Grand Trunk Trail Association	HGGT Trail development	\$10,500
River East Neighbourhood Network	Historical Signage – Northeast Pioneers Greenway	\$10,000
Red River North Trail Association	Southland Park and Eagle Creek Pathway rehabilitation	\$16,000
South Whiteshell Trails Association	Falcon Lake Interpretive trail	\$45,000
Non-Motorized Total:		\$476,194

MRTA Rolls Out New Trail Maintenance Funding Program

Submitted by Jim Chapryk

Annual funding is now available for maintenance activities on the Trans Canada Trail in Manitoba. This program was rolled out at our Annual General Meeting held in Russell on April 17 – 19th, 2009.

All local trail associations responsible for maintaining the TCT are eligible. Note that sub-groups within larger regional trail associations need to apply through their regional TCT association. Successful maintenance applications will be paid at 100% of the approved maximum annual amount for which the regional trail association is eligible*.

Eligible projects include regular or day-to-day maintenance projects undertaken to make the trail passable and enjoyable for users, for example: resurfacing/patching along deteriorated treadways; mowing, trimming, brushing; repair/painting of bridges, furniture, shelters and other structures; and, signage replacement or repair. Trail development, refurbishment projects or marketing projects are not eligible for maintenance funding.

The cost of materials for resurfacing or structural repair will be covered, as well as, fuel for maintenance equipment, plants (as related to trail repair and/or enhancement), paint, the repair costs of trail owned equipment or equipment rental, and other costs associated with routine maintenance deemed appropriate by the MRTA. Ineligible costs include the purchase of land, tools and equipment, legal fees, consultant's fees, finance charges, meals and travel costs, expenses incurred prior to funding approval and volunteer labour costs.

The MRTA has made access to these funds very simple:

1. Identify a Maintenance Leader for each TCT association. This person would be responsible for: overseeing the maintenance, monitoring and reporting of their trails section; making the application; contacting appropriate parties responsible for maintenance concerns outside of regularly monitored areas and would also assist with trail inventories.
2. Develop a three-year maintenance plan/budget outlining what works needs to be done on an annual basis.
3. Then fill out the form (downloadable from the MRTA website www.mrta.mb.ca/document/MRTAMAINTEANCEPROGRAMFORM.pdf), identify the areas on a map, and provide proof of insurance then submit this to the MRTA

Subsequent funding for succeeding years will be granted upon receipt of a brief maintenance report that would include: a log of costs with photocopied receipts; list of tasks completed; adjustments to the plan (if any) and a completed trail condition survey. The deadline for first year of this program is January 31st, 2010.

For further details of the program go to www.mrta.mb.ca and click on Trail Builders Maintenance Program.

*See pgs. 6 and 7 of the MRTA Maintenance Study Recommendations & Program Guide, in the Trails Builders section of the MRTA website to find the annual maximum for your association.

TCT Introduces New Funding Request Form

Submitted by Linda Morin

Earlier this year Trans Canada Trail introduced a new funding request form for all Trail Builders. Why did we need a new form? Well according to Jo-Ann Carignan-Vallee, Regional Coordinator for Trans Canada Trail, the new form was introduced because there was no standardized form available before. "The new form doesn't necessarily make things easier for the individual filling it out, but it makes things a whole lot easier for the evaluation committee looking at your project," said Carignan-Vallee. "Because there was no standard form before all regional groups would just fill out whatever form was available to them and submit that. Unfortunately the different forms provided different information and criteria which made our job more difficult when assessing your request."

The process remains the same. Completed forms must be submitted to the MRTA and from there they are forwarded to the TCT.

The TCT evaluation committee meets four times a year to look at requests.

Builders must be aware that approved TCT grants can only cover up to twenty percent of the total cost. They hope to one day bring that amount up to fifty percent but for the time being it remains at twenty.

"One thing Builders should remember, though, is in-kind donations do count," said Ms. Carignan-Vallee. "If your project is valued at \$50,000 for materials and paid labour but your members also put in \$10,000 worth of volunteer labour, you can claim 20% of \$60,000 rather than just the \$50,000 actually paid out. All you need to show is the formula for how you arrive at the value of the volunteer labour."

The grant application is available at this time from the MRTA website in the builder section. You can access it by going to:

<http://www.mrta.mb.ca/documents/2008TransCanadaTrailBuildingFundsRequestFormManitoba.pdf>

You can also contact Jo-Ann Carignan-Vallee directly at the following address:

Trans Canada Trail - Manitoba

Attn: Jo-Ann Carignan-Vallee

email to: jvallee@tctrail.ca

Fax: 306-642-5153

Phone: 306-642-4298

Trans Canada Trail Funded Eligible Costs				
Cost	Eligible	Non-Eligible	% age	Comments
Engineering studies	X		100%	case by case basis, business case needs to be developed
Feasibility studies	X		100%	case by case basis, business case needs to be developed
Signage - TCT Identification	X		100%	form for signs
Economic impact studies	X		20%	Application
Equipment rental	X		20%	Application
GST/PST on eligible expenses	X		20%	Application
Information kiosks, trail heads	X		20%	Application
Interpretive signage	X		20%	Application
Labour costs	X		20%	Application
Licenses / permits (for construction)	X		20%	Application
Look-outs, gazebo	X		20%	Application
Material costs	X		20%	Application
Parking lots	X		20%	Application
Project coordinator and site office	X		20%	Application
Property taxes on TCT designated lands prior to development	X		20%	Application
Regulatory / safety signage	X		20%	Application
Trail amenities (rest stops)	X		20%	Application
Trail promotion (opening event)	X		20%	Application
Work on bridges	X		20%	Application
Contingencies		X	0%	
General Administration Costs		X	0%	
Personnel contracts for admin and PR people etc		X	0%	
Trail maintenance costs		X	0%	

About the MRTA

Newsletter Contributors

Jacque Crone
Jim Chapryk
John W Dyck
Ruth Marr
Linda Morin
Jennifer Prior
Ines Rendulic
Lorne Stelmach

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 eleven members, including four regional representatives. It is a governing and overseeing body providing management and direction for trail development being undertaken by 18 regional trail associations, with a total of over 100 volunteers. Jim Chapryk is our full time Executive Director and Ines Rendulic is our part time administrator/book keeper. Howard Skrypyk is the Provincial Trail Consultant with Manitoba Healthy Living, Citizenship and Youth.

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

Annual Membership Renewals Due in January



Name _____
Contact _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____
Home Telephone _____
Work Telephone _____ Fax _____
Email _____

Please tell us more about yourself:

Do you use Manitoba trails for recreation?

If yes, please list your favourite trail activities

Do you have a favourite trail?

Can you suggest an area or location for a new Manitoba trail?

Would you help as a volunteer?

- Trail building and maintenance
- Office duties
- Public education/promotion

- New Membership
- Renewal
- \$20.00 Household
- \$50.00 General

Total Enclosed: _____

Please make cheques payable to:

**Manitoba Recreational Trails
Association**

Send to:

**Manitoba Recreational Trails
Association
1007-Century Street
Winnipeg, MB
R3H 0W4**