

Manitoba
Recreational

Trails Association

Newsletter

WINTER 2008



Thank you to all our Amazing Volunteers

The trail movement is a grass-roots endeavour. Without the dedication and tireless efforts of countless volunteers so many recreational trails would not be established. It really takes someone to champion the cause to see things through to their completion. The Manitoba Recreational Trails Association would like to thank all the Trail groups and their volunteers for their tremendous contribution over the years. 2007 marked the 10th anniversary of the Trans Canada Trail groups. We are pleased to recognize the long standing commitment from the following individuals:

10 –Years with the Trans Canada Trail

Harte Trail: Hilary Hanson, Cheryl Hemming, Don Seymore,

Rosburn Subdivision Trails: Tom Lawless, Shirley Kalyniuk, Ernest Kowal

Pinawa Trails: Nancy Bremner, Barrie Burnett, Jan Dugle, Gary Hanna, Larry Gauthier, Jeff Long, Marsha Sheppard, Steve Sheppard, Ray Sochaski, John Westdal

South Whiteshell Trails: Barbara Hamilton, Murray Coates, Pat Martin, Lois Pettit, Brock Hamilton, Shawn Kettner

5- Years with the Trans Canada Trail

South Whiteshell Trails: Peter Harrison, Bill Hamilton, Kim Page, Jean Rudge, Shelley Turnbull

Winnipeg Trails: Bill Elliott, Maureen Krauss, Janice Lukes

A new year is here, are there volunteers in your trail group who have reached their 5 or 10 year anniversaries with the Trans Canada Trail? Please let us know.



Hilary Hanson & Don
Seymore Harte Trail



Ernest Kowal, Shirley Kalyniuk,
Tom Lawless - RSTA

Mark your Calendars! June 7, 2008 is International Trails Day!

In June of 2006, the Province of Manitoba joined other provinces and countries around the world in proclaiming that the First Saturday of June be International Trails Day. Help us Celebrate International Trails Day and promote your trail by holding an event, hosting a trail clean-up, leading a walk or anything trail related on June 7, 2008. Send us the details about your event, and we'll post it on our events page (email: mrta@mts.net or Fax 204-945-1365). Check our website under the trail builder link (<http://www.mrta.mb.ca/builders.html>) for the Event Planning Manual for tips on how to organize your event.

Manitoba Trail Groups join in setting new Guinness World Record – October 2007

Submitted by Elisabeth Ostrop

At precisely 11:30 am CDT on Wednesday, October 3, 2007, Manitobans joined Canadians from every province and territory in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the most people walking 1 km simultaneously. The record to beat was 100,915 participants set by Western Australia in 2006.

We couldn't have asked for more perfect weather to get out and enjoy the warm autumn sunshine. The Manitoba Recreational Trails Association Board of Directors hosted a walk along the Trans Canada Trail on Waterfront Drive. The 1 km route ended at foot of Esplanade Riel at the Forks, where several other groups also converged, symbolic of the meeting place that this spot historically represents. It was great to see workplaces, school groups and other community organizations get involved. One of the spin-offs from this event is that people didn't realize how easy it is to walk one kilometre. The City of Winnipeg is considering adding km markers along its trail network so people can track their distances.



In Winnipeg a few other trail groups also coordinated walks on their trail, including Friends of the Harte Trail, and the Northeast Pioneers Greenway. Some of the other Trans Canada Trail communities that held walks in Manitoba were: Gretna Elementary School, École communautaire Réal-Bérard in Saint-Pierre-Jolys, Elmwood Elementary School in Altona, Erickson Elementary School, Keeseekoownin School in Elphinstone and Rossburn CDPI/Rossburn in Motion.

(Continued from page 2)

Big things can happen in small places if you set your mind to it. With a total population of 546 people, the Town of Rosburn was able to get 244 people participating in the World Record Walk. That's nearly half the town. Great Work!



Town of Rosburn's World Record Walk



Green Communities Canada has finally submitted the Canadian World Record Walk package to Guinness. The result is 231,635 participants across Canada, including 28,715 from Manitoba.

Official Results by Province:

Alberta	30,945
British Columbia	2,901
Manitoba	28,715
Nova Scotia	334
New Brunswick	2,887
Newfoundland and Labrador	25
Ontario	160,048
Prince Edward Island	760
Quebec	364
Saskatchewan	4,226
Yukon	430
Total:	231,635

Check www.worldrecordwalk.ca for more details and participant lists.

Although it will take a while for the official word to be registered in the Guinness World Record book, I think it's safe to say "We did it Canada". This event was probably the easiest way of breaking a world record – don't you think?

Trans Canada Trail in FortWhyte Alive opens!



On a beautiful fall September morning, FortWhyte Alive celebrated the completion of the final 2 km of Trans Canada Trail through the FortWhyte Alive facility. The trail system in FortWhyte Alive now enables complete access from Sterling Lyon Parkway (in the north) through FortWhyte Alive to McGillivray Ave. (in the south). The trail will help transform a relatively isolated yet extremely popular public attraction into a flagship, catalytic section of a 'green' recreational and educational spine through southwest Winnipeg. Congratulations FortWhyte Alive!

Alice Chambers Trans Canada Trail Winter 2007

Dual Use Agreement With Trail Users in Pinawa...
by Nancy Bremner, Community Development Officer



Pinawa's section of the Trans Canada Trail includes mixed forest, granite ridges, and beaver dams as it winds from the Seven Sisters Generating Station to the Pinawa Dam Provincial Park. This section of the trail includes the Pinawa Channel Heritage Walk, Ironwood Trail, and Alice Chambers Trail. Thousands of visitors experience the beauty, diversity of wildlife, and the exhilaration of just being outdoors in what seems to be an untouched area.

The Alice Chambers Trans Canada Trail north of Pinawa is a well-worn track through a fairly level terrain, which makes it an easy hike or bike for all ages and abilities

The area that the trail winds through features a wide variety of trees and shrubs. The beauty of the trail is in the chance to see wildlife such as bear, deer, marten, and perhaps a fox, many fruit bearing trees in the fall, and the diverse migratory and resident birds, which makes the trail a destination for birders.

The trail itself is in the jurisdiction of the Local Government of Pinawa. With the diverse number of user groups in Pinawa it has necessitated the 3.6 km portion of the Alice Chambers Trail to become a dual use trail for the TCT and others.

Recently signs have been posted advising all trail users that ORVs/snow machines as well as hikers/bikers now use the trail. The speed limit is reduced to a maximum of 20 km/h. To simplify the directions; the travelers on all motorized vehicles should be on the west side whether or not you are traveling north or south and hikers/bikers should be on the east side whether or not you are traveling north or south.



Hikers on the Alice Chambers Trail portion of the Trans Canada Trail north of the Pinawa Suspension Bridge.

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NORTH BOUND SIGN



SOUTH BOUND SIGN



Trail signs indicating that motorized users should be on the **west** side of the trail while hikers and bikers should be on the **east** side of the trail.

Please exercise caution while using the recreational trails in Pinawa. Check the websites of the MRTA (www.mrta.mb.ca) for information on the Trans Canada Trails and the Eastman SnoPals (www.eastmansnopals.com) for the groomed snowmobile trails in the Eastern area.



Biking on the Old Pinawa portion of the Alice Chambers Trans Canada Trail.

Trails on the Floodway!



The existing 28 hectare (69 acre) Duff Roblin Park, located just off Winnipeg's north perimeter will be relocated to the Floodway Inlet Control Structure in St. Norbert, and will be expanded to 56 hectares (138 acres). The new 'Duff Roblin Park Reserve' will be receive \$3.2 M in funding from the Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba and will be developed in phases.

Phase one will include construction of a parking lot,

picnic areas and shelters, walking and bicycling trails, washrooms, drinking water, fishing facilities, bike racks, a toboggan run, and landscape improvements. Trail linkages will exist at the Inlet Control Structure to connect the new park reserve with the Trans-Canada Trail in St. Norbert linking into the Crow Wing Trail. A public consultation process will occur in the spring to allow for improvements to the new site to be undertaken in the

Dream Becoming a Reality

Submitted by Joan Murash – North Whiteshell Trail Association



Year 2000 - a select group of visionaries had a dream. The Trans Canada Trail was being built and a Kiosk was being erected at the Manitoba/Ontario border. Falcon Lake was first to take the initiative to develop a trail. Would the trail go down the Number One Highway or should it pass through the Whiteshell Provincial Park? Conservation people, resort owners and some local residents met at The Baptist Camp at Nutimik to take on the project to build the trail connecting the South Whiteshell at Rennie. This task would not be without its challenges. The North Whiteshell Trail is a complex development spanning approximately 80 km - traversing difficult terrain including crossing numerous rivers, lots of swamp and difficult rock outcroppings.

Because of this uniqueness, the trail was first developed in areas that are most accessible. We have completed approximately 50 kms of trail. Kiosks presently are located at Rennie, Nutimik, Dorothy Lake and Otter falls. Information on trail conditions can be obtained by calling or stopping at the Rennie and Seven Sisters Conservation offices, Pinewood Lodge or by calling Joan at 204-348-7635.

Fast forward to 2007 - We have some of the most attractive, interesting sections of trail completed. They run from Rennie to Inverness Falls and Nutimik to Otter Falls. The windstorm last July destroyed some of the trail at Betula but there are still some sections that survived and are waiting for you to explore.

If you coming from Seven Sisters then park your car at Otter Falls and hike, bike or run approximately 14 kms to Nutimik or take a break midway at Dorothy Lake. This area is dotted with benches for you to rest, bridges to help you ford the streams and interpretive panels for your information, along with countless birds, animals and vegetation, just waiting for you to discover them. Passports are available at Pinewood Lodge.

Undoubtedly, the Whiteshell offers some of the most interesting adventures and sights. Get "In Motion"! Walking the TransCanada Trail is the way to go.

Northeast Pioneers Greenway Opens!



Mayor Sam Katz along with Premier Gary Doer officially opened Phase One of the Northeast Pioneers Greenway. Formerly known as the Marconi Spur the newly constructed greenway is a showpiece active transportation development.

Through contributions from the Province of Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg, Mr. John Buhler and the dedicated work of the River East Neighbourhood Network Trails Committee, the city's latest active transportation project

is being embraced by a wide variety of users. The Greenway is located on the former C.P.R. Rail Right of Way between Raleigh Street and Gateway Road. Phase 1 is now complete and construction is slated to begin on Phase 2 in the spring of 2008. Upon completion, the Greenway will be approximately 6 km.

Granite Bench - A Lasting Legacy for Two Families

Submitted by Shelly Turnbull, South Whiteshell Trail Association

A beautiful slab of polished granite sits atop a rise surrounded by forest, overlooking Falcon Lake. This marble bench, in Block 6, on the north shore, is a very meaningful monument to the Beaven and Barnard families. Jocelyn Barnard describes it well. "The bench is a tangible way of thanking and honouring the memory of my parents in a place that is so near and dear to all our family. It is a constant reminder of the legacy they left behind and a way of continuing our family's love of the area."

Jocelyn and Warren Barnard participated in the Shared Bench donation program with their neighbour, Dianne Beaven a few years ago. Together they purchased a granite bench from the South Whiteshell Trail Association, and chose a location for the installation and then each chose an inscription. They wanted to have some kind of lasting legacy to their parents and recognize their contribution to developing the area.

"In loving memory of Iva and Alan Beaven, cottage pioneers" - Dianne recalls how her parents stayed at the Penguin Camp at Faloma Beach for a number of years to get to know the area. In the late 40's they leased their lot and the cottage was completed in 1950. "This bench placed in loving memory of Clifford and Lois Burgess by Jocelyn and Warren Barnard and family." Jocelyn recalls when she was a young girl, her family tented at Toniata for many years right up to Thanksgiving. The drive to get there on the slow gravel highway #44 could sometimes take up to four hours, and then you had to stop for ice at Toniata or Faloma and maybe for milk at 25 cents a quart! Pioneers they were!



The Beaven and Barnard families marble bench monument.



Back (l-r): John & Alison Bonneteau, Lois & Stephen Mackay
Front (l-r): Aleethia Mackay, Kade Bonneteau, Jocelyn & Warren Barnard

Dianne and Jocelyn are happy to have the opportunity to share the cost of the bench and both take pleasure in resting on the bench on their daily walks. They also take pride in caretaking the bench by trimming the grass in the summer and dusting the snow off in winter.

The Barnard's were able to have their donation matched by Investors Group, Warren's employer. Many other companies will match employee's donations and the paperwork is kept very simple. Usually a form needs to be filled out by the donor and submitted to the charity at the same time as the donation.

Can you see yourself walking, biking or skiing on a nearby trail and stopping at a favorite spot, to rest on a granite bench dedicated to someone you love? For more information about the Granite Bench donation program, please contact Shelley Turnbull at 204-261-3322.

Trail Builder Resources: Grant Programs – Possible Funding Sources

The Manitoba Recreational Trail Association operates two grants programs. Funding is limited to those groups with eligible projects developing the Trans Canada Trail (TCT). Details and guidelines are listed on our website under trail builder resources (<http://www.mrta.mb.ca/builders.html>). Similarly, the Trans Canada Trail Foundation also has funding available for TCT development projects. Their guidelines are included in their Policy Manual, which can be downloaded from their website: <http://www.tctrail.ca/Policies.php>

If your trail project doesn't qualify for a grant through the Manitoba Recreational Trails Association Millennium projects or TCT (MB) Project funds, there are alternate sources of funding for trail building projects administered by other organizations. Here is some information on a few.

Manitoba Community Services Council (MCSC) was established in 1984 by the Province of Manitoba, as part of an umbrella system, to serve the voluntary sector in Manitoba. MCSC's role is to allocate funds and /or bingo events to Manitoba organizations qualifying as participants under the Community Services umbrella. They issue grants through a grant fund and/or permission to participate in Bingo Events in Winnipeg's two large bingo halls (McPhillips Street Station and Club Regent). MCSC will consider requests for:

- a. Special projects
- b. Capital costs
- c. Operating costs
- d. Other purposes

Be sure to check their website for eligibility criteria, program specifics and application guidelines. Web site: <http://www.mbcsc.ca/>

Or:

Phone - (204) 940-4450 / Fax (204) 453-2692 / E-mail applications@mbcsc.ca

The Community Places Program provides funding and planning assistance to non-profit community organizations for facility construction, upgrading, expansion or acquisition projects. Eligible projects are those which provide sustainable recreation and wellness benefits to communities. Each year, applications for the Community Places Program will be available in November. The deadline for submitting applications is **February 15** and approvals are announced in the spring.

For application forms and more information check their website:
<http://www.manitoba.ca/chc/grants/cpp>

Active Transportation Advisory Committee

Kevin Nixon, formerly the City of Winnipeg Strategic Parks Planner has been appointed the Active Transportation Coordinator. The City has also formed an Active Transportation Advisory Committee to assist Kevin in his role. The committee consists of 6 representation from the City and representatives from each of the following organizations:

Winnipeg Trails Association, Resource Conservation Manitoba, Manitoba Cycling Association
Bike to the Future, Mayor's Environmental Committee, Prairie Pathfinders, Physical Activity Coalition of Manitoba

The Tree to Tuk Christmas Express

December 13th, 2007

Trans Canada Trail makes donor's last wish come true

Tuktoyaktuk, NWT – December 13th, 2007. Margrit Gahlinger's Norfolk pine tree is heading for a new home just where she wanted it to be – near her metre of Trans Canada Trail in Tuktoyaktuk, NWT. Mother of nine, grandmother of six, Margrit passed away on April 19th, 2007 in London, Ontario, one of the most southerly cities in Canada. Her final challenge to her daughter Rosemary was to have her little indoor pine tree which had sat by her bed placed near the metre of the Trans Canada Trail that she had sponsored in Tuktoyaktuk, one of the most northern locations in Canada.

"The tree symbolized the very essence of her being," says grandson Calen, who along with his mother Rosemary, will travel to Tuktoyaktuk starting December 17th to fulfill the wish and to promote the Trans Canada Trail thanks to a donation made by Trans Canada Trail Governors, who are underwriting the expedition. Calen, a high school junior, is also developing a plan to engage Canadian youth in helping to build and support the Trail as part of his International Baccalaureate program that requires the fulfillment of 150 hours of community service in grades 11 and 12.

Canadian broadcast journalist, Valerie Pringle, Chair of the Trans Canada Trail says, "We are delighted to see this tree make its way north in the Christmas Season as this is the time of year that so many Canadians choose to honour a loved one by placing their name on the Trail in one of our pavilions. Margrit's tree is a gift to all in Tuk who cherish their community as one of the three launch points for the Trans Canada Trail which connects Canadians from coast to coast to coast." The western launch is Tofino on Vancouver Island and eastern launch is St. John's, NFLD.

The tree will be presented to the community of Tuktoyaktuk at a special community centre Winter Solstice Celebration on the 21st of December and will be received by local councillor, Maureen Gruben, who will keep the tree in her home where she cares for other indoor trees. Tuktoyaktuk is above the tree line so the tree will remain indoors but can be brought to the community centre for special occasions.

The Trans Canada Trail began as a concept in 1992 as a legacy of Canada 125 as a national celebration of the desire of Canadians to link together as a people and as a nation. With 18,000 km of land route and over 3,000 km of water route, winding its way through every province and territory, connecting over 800 communities, this is the longest recreational trail in the world. Inauguration for Phase 1 of the Trail is planned for 2010 to coincide with the Olympic year festivities including the Torch Relay.

Over 110,000 Canadians have purchased a symbolic metre of Trail and had their names or the name of a loved one, placed in one of the 90 pavilions placed across the country for this purpose. To see a list of pavilions or to purchase a metre of Trail (\$50 per metre), you can visit www.tctrail.ca or call 1-800-465-3636.

Crow Wing Trail – Develops a Historical Interpretive Resource Guide

With the official opening of the Crow Wing Trail from Winnipeg to Emerson behind it, the Crow Wing Trail Association now felt it was time to develop a guide for the entire trail. A Historical Interpretive Resource Guide would also facilitate the task of informing potential users of the many aspects of the trail, while allowing the Association Members to focus their efforts on improving the trail itself.

The professional services of **Florence and Georges Beaudry of O’Roseau (visit www.oroseau.ca)** were contracted to research available and additional documentation relating to the history of the Crow Wing Trail – an ox-cart trail used in the mid-1800s to transport goods from St. Paul, Minnesota to Fort Garry (present-day Winnipeg), and create an easy-to-use guide. Funding was acquired through the Manitoba Heritage Grants program.

The guide will be presented in a modular format so that smaller sections of the 190-km trail can be focused on at the user’s preference. It will be adaptable to a variety of multimedia presentations such as Power Point, web sites, hard-copy book forms, CD’s, stand-alone handouts and even interpretive signs. Maps, photos, wildlife, flowers, etc. will be included. GPS coordinates will also be an important part of the bilingual guide.

Watch for its launch on the Crow Wing Trail section of the MRTA Web Site.

Murielle Bugera

President,
Crow Wing Trail Association

MRTA Project Updates

Custom Interpretive Panels: With the Provincial Funding we received in 2006, the MRTA Interpretive Committee is able to continue with the next part of our interpretive plan. We have locations, text and images for 49 custom interpretive panels. They will complement the Bronfman discovery panels provided through the TCT. We have currently sent out a request for proposals to designers who might be interested in creating the interpretive panels. Deadline for proposal submission is March 3, 2008.

Maintenance Plan: The consultant hired by the MRTA to develop a Maintenance Plan for the MRTA is currently putting the finishing touches on the report. We hope to have everything up and running in time for the spring trail openings.

Winnipeg Portion of Trans Canada Trail to be completed with Tri-Party Funding



In October 2007, a \$2.5 Million joint contribution to complete the Winnipeg portion of the Trans Canada Trail was announced through the Manitoba Rural Infrastructure Fund. Rod Bruinooge, MP Winnipeg South, Kerri Irvin-Ross, Minister of Healthy Living, and Jeff Browaty, City Councilor and Chair of Winnipeg's Environmental Committee made the announcement in St. Vital Park. The project is part of a city-wide pedestrian and cycling system and will complete Winnipeg's' section of the Trans Canada Trail. The funding will extend the Harte Trail through the Assiniboine Forest and extend the Bishop Grandin trail west of the Red River.



Winnipeg Trail Signage

Winnipeg Trail signage project is well underway. The Province of Manitoba provided the Winnipeg Trails Association \$100,000 to design and develop trail signage for 26 Winnipeg Trails. The City of Winnipeg is working closely with the Winnipeg Trails Association to begin installation of these signs in 2008. Discussions are also underway to identify the longer trails with Kilometre markers.

RENEW YOUR MRTA MEMBERSHIP for 2008

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!



Newsletter Contributors

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Government 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. Elisabeth Ostrop 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
Fax (204) 945-1365
Email mrta@mts.net

~ Save the Date ~

**AGM & Conference June 13-15, 2008
Winnipeg, MB**

Details to follow in the Mail

The Trans Canada Trail will be holding their Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg June 13-15, 2008. We thought it would be an excellent opportunity to hold the MRTA AGM on the same weekend- giving trail groups an opportunity to meet with trail builders from across the country, share and learn. This is also our opportunity to highlight Manitoba Trails to the rest of Canada.

Start thinking about preparing your trail update for 2007, plans for 2008, and selecting a delegate to represent your trail group.