

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

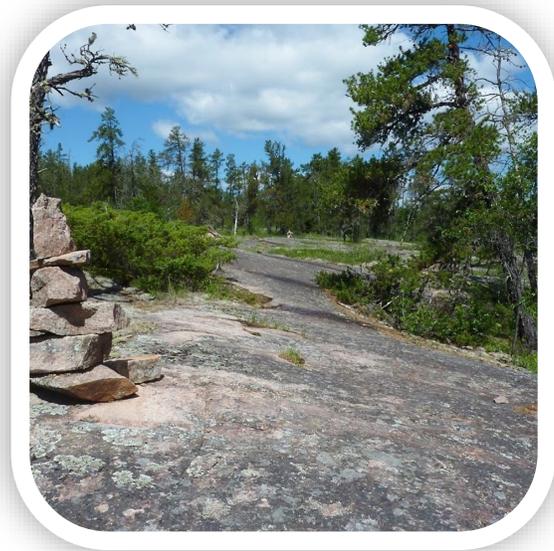


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Land Acknowledgement

The trails in Manitoba are located on the original lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Assiniboine, Dakota and Dene Peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration. We encourage all trail users to learn more about the land that they are travelling on.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



This was my first year as President of Trails Manitoba, and what an exciting year it was.

Our first great accomplishment was the hiring of Tim Coffin as Executive Director in May 2019. Tim came to us after a successful career in the Royal Canadian Air Force as a Junior Executive Officer and Pilot. His military background has come in handy with the Board as he ensures that we are well organized and coordinated. Tim's passion for trails is equally matched by his enthusiasm for learning new things, and his affable nature that makes him a pleasure to work with.

Tim was able to get off to a strong start largely because of Janette Crawford, our long-time Executive Assistant. Janette's institutional knowledge on Trails Manitoba was an important part in bringing both Tim and me up to speed. We greatly value Janette's dedication to Trails Manitoba and we look forward to welcoming her back very soon.

Darcy Granove, our Provincial Trails Project Manager is another piece of the institutional knowledge that was integral in informing myself and Tim about the many projects that have been ongoing with Trails Manitoba. She has been a key connection from Trails Manitoba with many of the trail groups across the province and our 'eyes on the trail'.

I would also like to recognize the incredible group of people that make up our Board of Directors. Although we don't have an official position of Past President, I am eternally grateful to have had Ian Hughes stick around and coach me along through this past year. As Ian mentioned last year, our Board has been re-vitalized, and I think we are now really starting to find our groove. Every month there are more good ideas coming from our Board meetings and I am very excited about where Trails Manitoba is heading with this enthusiastic group in charge.

Our Board is extremely thankful for the support we received this year from The Winnipeg Foundation to bring in trainers from Volunteer Manitoba to provide us a workshop on Roles and Responsibilities and Financial Oversight of a Non-Profit Board. This was a fun workshop day that culminated in a walking tour led by Adrian Alphonso around downtown Winnipeg and St. Boniface.

We will be looking ahead this spring to reactivating several of our Committees. These Committees will include Board members, but we also want to bring in non-Board members including members of our trail groups. If you have an interest in becoming more involved with Trails Manitoba but may want to limit your commitment to a single topic, please get in touch with Tim or myself. We would love to have your input and passion for trails assist the work of these very important committees.

Additional activities that we will be working on in the coming months are updates to several of our policies, including formalizing a Land Acknowledgement, and revisiting the Strategic Plan that was started at our AGM 2 years ago. We also are beginning discussions in how we can support all trails throughout Manitoba. As you will see in our Financial Report coming up, Trails Manitoba is at a point where we need to work hard to find new funding opportunities to ensure the long-term sustainability of the organization. I know our team will be up to the task.

We had one resignation from the Board earlier this year. Duke Li served as our Treasurer for 8 months. We thank Duke for his service and wish him well in his future endeavours.

I want to express all of our gratitude to the Province of Manitoba for that fantastic news this morning of a further investment in trails in our province. We are grateful for the long-standing support. The funding announced today will help address critical gaps, safety concerns, and emergency repairs to several beloved trails in our beautiful Provincial Parks as well as promote sustainability in the adaptive re-use of two pedestrian bridges from Kings Park in Winnipeg. This support is in large part because of the continued hard work of Steve Demmings on behalf of Trails Manitoba. Steve may no longer be employed by us, but he is continuing to advocate for us and be a champion for us.

Finally, I want to mention the unprecedented times we are all currently experiencing. COVID-19 has changed the world. It is telling that the number one place that people are drawn to in these uncertain times is our parks and trails. Every trail group and trail volunteer should feel an immense sense of pride for the hard work that you have done to provide these quiet places for respite and healing. You have provided a great service and there are so many people that are thankful for the work that you have done and continue to do.

I encourage everyone to get out onto your favourite local trail (following appropriate guidelines for physical distancing of course) and find your calming and healing space as we navigate these challenging times together.

Thank you to all the volunteers that build and maintain our wonderful trails across the Province. Thank you to our financial supporters (the Province of Manitoba – Health, Seniors, and Active Living, the Trans-Canada Trail, and many private donors).

Erik Dickson
President

Message from the Executive Director



This past year has been a very eye-opening and inspiring year for me as a new member to this organization. It's been a year of learning, connecting, and collaborating with users, designers, builders, maintainers, funders & partners.

Due to COVID-19 physical distancing restrictions, the AGM was held virtually. I was very happy to see the representation from across the province – from our Provincial Government to TCT to Parks, Travel Manitoba, Winnipeg Foundation, Trail Groups, individual members, trail users and of our course our own Board of Directors and staff.

2019 was a successful year for work on our trails. In 2019 we saw a lot of continued maintenance to include trail resurfacing and signage upgrades; geocaches; parking lots & trail amenities; tree planting; sustainability plans being completed; marketing initiatives; mountain bike trail expansions and the designing of a bike skills course; a trail 'causeway'; and bridges being installed.

Creativity continues to be a big asset for our group – helicopters were contracted to get materials to otherwise remote and inaccessible areas; again – a testament to those who continue to push the boundary of possible.

Trails MB has two trail counters which we strive to deploy on a continual basis. Last year was a learning year for us. Upon completion of the Hanson's Creek Bridge project on the Centennial Trail, a counter was installed to count foot traffic, and gave us some promising data. For those that are unaware, this location is quite remote and rugged. Upon completion, there was an effort to share the excitement of this project on Social Media. In the subsequent 3 months of being installed, we saw approx. 180 people through that area alone! This may seem low, but I assure you that it is not! As we continue to become more organized, we hope to use these counters to collect data ahead of projects during the study phase, and post trail improvements. This data will become vital to help build the ongoing economic business case for trail development and maintenance in the province.

Looking to the future, there are a few initiatives to be excited about. First, a Provincial Trails Strategy was recently announced at the Parks & Trails Forum. This will be a first for the province and is a very good sign of things to come. We will share more details as they are released. Next, we have a number of ribbon-cutting events that are being planned for this summer. Dates and details will be dependent on COVID19 restrictions. And finally, we continue to work with and build our relationship with Travel MB. Through this partnership, we will be completing an Innovation Café in the very near future. With their expertise and guidance, this exercise will assist us in our marketing initiatives, which will ultimately increase overall trail usage. We are very thankful for their continued support.

Finally, I would like to say a few words to those who I cannot thank enough. To our Provincial Trails Project Manager – Darcy and team, thank you for all of the hard work that you continue to do for us. I'm grateful for the expertise, knowledge, and guidance that you bring to the table. Janette – you are the heart and soul of the Trails MB office. Thank you for being that constant over the past number of years. The Trails MB knowledge and background that you have is invaluable to our organization. And finally, to all of our member Trail Associations – you have all been fantastic. Your persistent dedication to not only build, but to continually improve our trail network is simply amazing. Your shared passion for the outdoors and trail stewardship is inspiring. It's because of you that we have such a robust trail network in the province.

I am very excited to be a part of this organization and to work with each and every one of you. The future of trails is bright. Trails Manitoba is your trail resource. We are here for you! If you have any questions, concerns, and/or require support, please do reach out to us.

Tim Coffin
Executive Director





Trails Manitoba Board of Directors

April 2019

President

Erik Dickson

Vice President

Alex Man

Treasurer

Duke Li

Secretary

Daria Jorquera Palmer

Directors

Ian Hughes

Charles Zant

Adrian Alphonso

Colin Joyal

Dean Kriellaars

Anders Swanson

Tomas Vegas

Social Media

www.trailsmanitoba.ca



[Facebook.com/trailsmanitoba](https://www.facebook.com/trailsmanitoba)



[Instagram.com/Trailsmanitoba](https://www.instagram.com/Trailsmanitoba)



**Bringing Inclusivity Outdoors -
Adrian Alphonso**

February 2019

Check out the video featuring Clear Paths @ <https://youtu.be/rGN3y3HRH9c> The Great Trail



Take Nothing but Pictures

Vince Blais

October 2019

We sent @viinceblais out to capture some of the highlights from The Great Trail in Manitoba. He came back with a few pictures to share with us as well as the scenes he captured with @adventureswithinmedia along the way.

Check out the video @ <https://www.facebook.com/TrailsManitoba/videos/782056035562815/>

Partnerships



Volunteers



Trails Manitoba thanks the Province of Manitoba, Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living and the Trans Canada Trail for their continued operational support and partnership in trail development. Working together with donors, partners and volunteers we advance trail development, maintenance and promote trail use in Manitoba.

Sponsorships



Storefront Manitoba and the Winnipeg Trails Association launched the 2018 / 2019 Benchmark Design Competition, an international competition that aims to challenge and transform the idea of the ‘common’ bench and create landmarks along Winnipeg’s trail systems. The future locations of the winning designs will be along The Great Trail (TCT) which is made up of hundreds of local trails, together forming the longest recreational trail in the world.

“Design is a chance to take our most valuable resource - time - and use it to weave together the intangible magic of human creativity and special public places. Benchmark is one of those projects that gets people to pay attention and this year we are excited to have two locations along The Great Trail (TCT) in the mix. For almost two decades, Winnipeg Trails has lent its support to the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) vision. Our immediate priorities for the TCT in Winnipeg include upgraded wayfinding, top-notch infrastructure and, of course, placemaking which is what Benchmark has done so well for the past two years. We can’t wait to see what happens.”

- Anders Swanson, Executive Director, Winnipeg Trails Association

Recreation Connections Manitoba’s Municipal Parks & Trails Forum

The Municipal Parks & Trails Forum brings together delegates and speakers from different sectors to discuss and share current and innovative topics, unique partnerships and promising practises. Over 150 delegates from across Manitoba representing:

- Recreation departments and organizations
- Municipal park and trail departments
- Community agencies
- Health organizations
- University and college students and staff



Eco Counter Data Analysis

Trails Manitoba purchased 2 Eco Counters !

We are installing Eco-counters on trails throughout Manitoba to help gauge usage, popular dates & times as well as mode of passage.

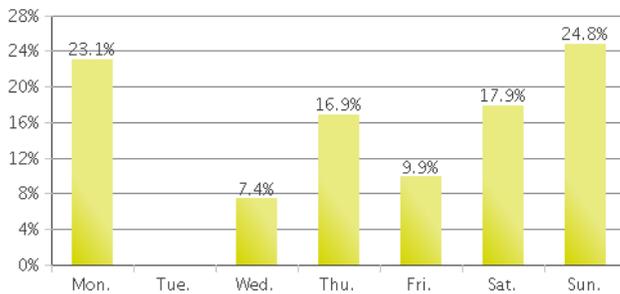
“Bike and pedestrian count data is an essential tool to justify investments, capture seasonal trends, plan future pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, communicate with stakeholders and the public, and much more”



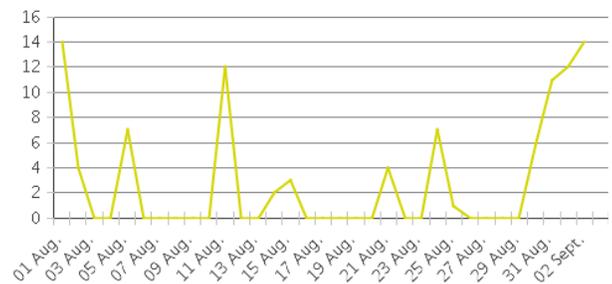
Hanson's Creek Pedestrian Bridge

Period Analysed: Thursday 01 August 2019 to Tuesday 03 September 2019

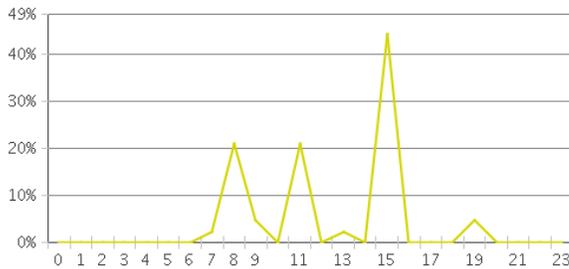
Weekly Profile



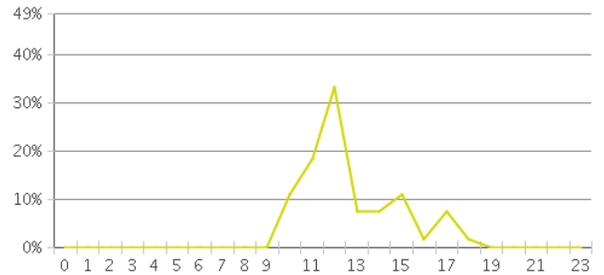
Daily Data



Hourly Profile during Weekdays



Hourly Profile during Weekdays



Key Figures

- Total Traffic for the Period Analysed: 97
- Daily Average: 3
 - Weekdays: 2 / Weekend days: 4
- Busiest Day of the Week: Sunday
- Busiest Days of the Period Analysed:
 - Thursday 01 August 2019 (14)
 - Monday 02 September 2019 (14)
 - Sunday 01 September 2019 (12)



TM Maintenance Grant

Trails Manitoba was fortunate to provide grants this year for Trail group’s maintenance activities based on the following objectives:

- 1) Preserve the trail and environment based on the criteria of a low, moderate & high maintenance rating.

The existing trail network in Manitoba is a variety of terrain consisting of

- (1) Existing trails with hard base or those locations where trails align with roadways

(LOW MAINTENANCE)

- (2) Existing trails with river gumbo/forest trail, which do not have gravel base and/or require regular mowing and Canadian Shield in hard to access trail locations

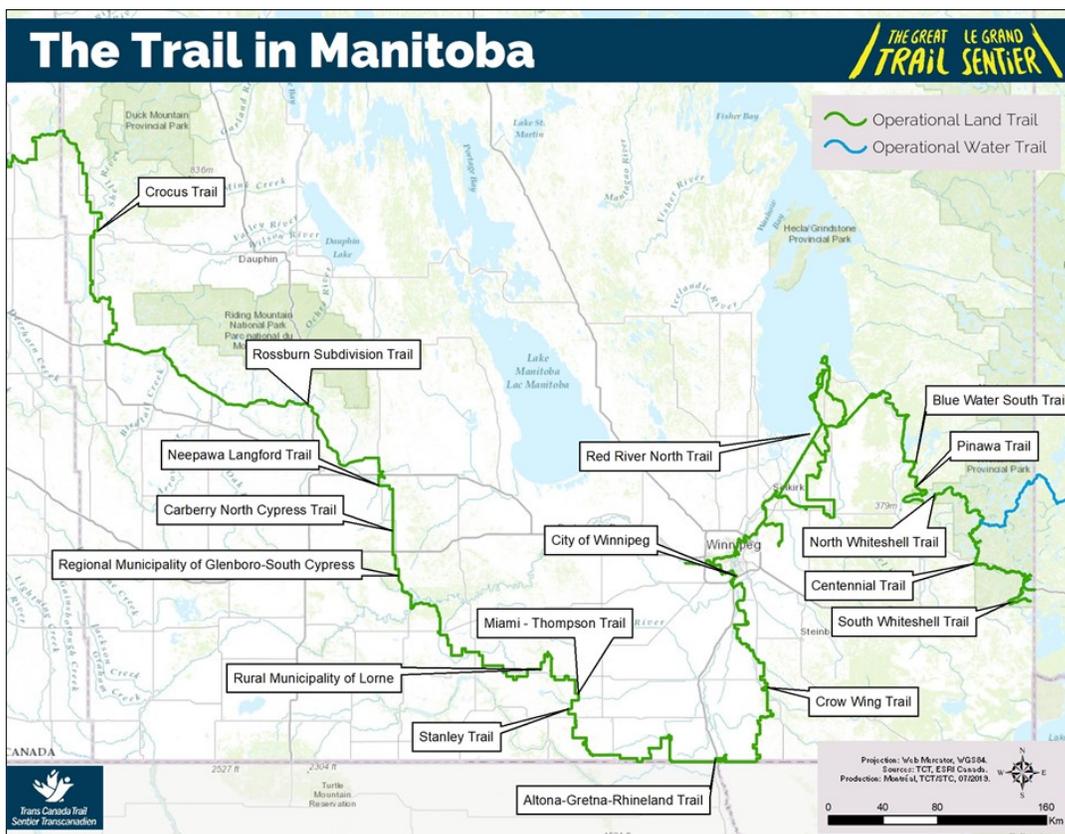
(MODERATE to HIGH MAINTENANCE)

- 2) Enhance for user convenience by focusing on directional and interpretive signage, Trail Heads etc.

2019 Recipients

Crow Wing Trail
 Glenboro/South Cypress
 Pinawa
 Rossburn





- Crocus
- Rossburn Subdivision Trail Assoc.
- Neepawa
- Glenboro/S. Cypress
- Miami Thompson
- Stanley
- Altona/Gretna/Rhineland
- Crow Wing Trail Association
- Transcona Trails
- FortWhyte Alive
- Winnipeg Trail Association
- Harte
- Headingly Grand Trunk Trail
- Lac Du Bonnet
- Pinawa
- Trail Assoc. of the North Whiteshell
- Centennial
- South Whiteshell Trail Assoc.



Member Report



Crocus Trail

Crocus Trail Inc. maintains a beautiful section of The Great Trail at the western end of the Manitoba section.

Some activities in 2019 included the 2018 AGM for Crocus Trail on March 11, 2019 with 5 people in attendance.

Hugh Skinner attended the Trails Manitoba AGM in Transcona.

4 members and volunteers attended the Paul Brandt “The Journey Tour” in Dauphin to promote “The Great Trail”.

Spring Clean-up grant was received. The grant was used to offset part of the cost of refurbishment of the trail around West Goose Lake.

Brenda Neuhofer’s Environmental Tourism class assisted with cleaning up debris and placement of wood chip mulch. Approximately 1 km of trail was refurbished.

New “The Great Trail” signage was received and signage and directional arrows were replaced on several sections of the trail. Thank-you to volunteers who assisted with signage. Signage replacement will recommence when weather permits in 2020.

An alternative trail route around Bear Creek was investigated.

We met with staff from Ski Assesippi to investigate co-opertive potential with regard to cycling and trail maintenance. They will send a representative to our meetings.

The Crocus Trail website was updated. Visits to the website increased.



Rosburn Subdivision Trail Association

RSTA is a 176 km long trail running from Neepawa to Russell but we have been for years now looking at creating several links from our trail portion of The Great Trail to the Riding Mountain National Park. By now we are looking also after the 20.4 km long Elk Link Trail build to connect RSTA via Erickson with the Riding Mountain National Park. In 2019 we achieved our first steps to get our second connection up and running in the Rosburn Municipality working in a close partnership with Waywayseecappo First Nation.



We started early in the year with a trail concept plan developed by Scatliff & Partners, working closely with Alex Man and Samantha Blatz. When both of them came out to the area in May they also brought along Adrian Alphonso and he in return invited his cousin Eric Mentuck, who belongs to Waywayseecappo First Nation. An idea developed to not only bring an additional trail connector to the area but also intertwine the stories of Waywayseecappo First Nation and the Ukrainian/Scottish first settlers with the trail by choosing the route to be as close as possible to a historical travel route (Birdtail Creek) and setting up interpretive signs to tell said stories.

By September the concept plan had come to life, a second meeting was held with delegations from Parks Canada, Municipal and First Nation and we are very excited about the vision to even extend beyond our original ideas, once our trail is completed.

At this point we want to thank The Great Trail, the Rosburn Municipality and Community Futures Parkland for their financial support towards our trail concept plan and Alex, Samantha and Adrian for their expertise!

At the end of the year we started applying for grants for the trail building and interpretive signage and again, a big Thank You goes out to The Great Trail for stepping up and confirming support. We hope to still move forward in 2020 even with the uncertainty Covid-19 has brought to all of us, Provincial support will make all the difference but no decision has yet been made.

The Trails MB maintenance grant has played a big role in our efforts to maintain our trail and better it, wherever we can. We installed in 2019 welcome signs to the individual municipalities along the trail (9), not only to give visitors a sense of where they are but also to allow our maintenance crew (of one) to report easier in which municipality issues need to be addressed. A rather ingrown area was cleared with help of TGT spring clean-up grant and we were able in 2019 to exchange all old TCT signage with the new TGT signage along the main trail.

We had 2 Geo-Caches during the hunt organized through TCT and National Geographic in the summer and were amazed to see people from all over coming through.

Our AGM in spring 2019 was very well attended. Our group has now 22 members (2 of them being honorary live members), since Eric joined officially to present Waywayseecappo First Nation.



Member Report

Glenboro/ South Cypress Trail

The Glenboro/South Cypress Trail Association constructed the Trans Canada Trail project with 22km of new trail within the confines of Spruce Woods Provincial Park. Access to the trail may be gained directly across the road from the Kiche Manitou Campground entrance. Experience the natural beauty and surroundings that the Spruce Woods area has to offer!

TCT Foundation Grants:

- * \$1000.00 Maintenance grant.
- * New Great Trail Signage was completed .
- * \$ 525.00 for new posts for the signage.
- * \$ 6000.00 for limestone for resurfacing on the great trail maintenance

Trails Manitoba Grant

- * \$ 2562.59 for Maintenance grant from Trails Manitoba

Lots of great work has been done by Spruce Woods Park maintenance crew and Park Manager: Darlene Lamoureux. They have a great interest and value's of the Great Trail in the Park. Lucky to have such a great partnership with them.

Thanks again for your support.

Henry Fast
Chairperson



Member Report



Crow Wing Trail

The following are highlights of activities in 2019, gearing up for busy years ahead!

The Sustainability Plan was the biggest accomplishment of the year, thanks to a Community Support Small Grant Program.

These are the highlights:

- o Goal: to assist with efficiency, outreach, longevity and vitality of the organization.
- o Add tourism as a strategic priority. (This is in line with the great reception at our presentations to Fort Whyte Centre volunteers and Nature Manitoba members.)
- o Increase volunteer participation by formalizing a committee structure.
- o Diversify revenue and marketing outreach.
- o Increase maintenance with consideration to future greenway paths.
- o Give greater attention to social media tools.

Some Board Members are participating in Volunteer Manitoba training being provided at no cost in nearby rural communities to help strengthen board leadership.

Partnership with the Canadian Company of Pilgrims

1. Crow Wing Trail Passport

The passport aims to help people walk or bike the entire Crow Wing Trail one section at a time. There are 11 sections requiring a stamp from businesses located on that particular section. When completed, participants can mail in their passport to receive a Certificate of Completion. Their name is entered in a draw.

2. Crow Wing Trail Camino

To develop a recognized 25 kms section of the Crow Wing Trail between St-Pierre-Jolys and St. Malo that supports visitors on their journey to achieve the Compostella – Camino in Spain. Thanks to CDEM (Economic Development Council for Bilingual Municipalities), a consultant is assisting with all the steps needed to raise local awareness and to install supporting infrastructure.



We want to recognize the ongoing and increasing support from our partner municipalities who are increasingly recognizing the value of the trail and providing in-kind support of materials and labour when possible.

Member Report



FAST FACTS

- * Asphalt surface * 6.7 km route length

PARKING

- * Corner of Regent Ave & Peguis St
- * Corner of Ravelston Ave & Bradley St
- * Transcona Bioreserve parking lot on Gunn Rd



POINTS OF INTEREST

- * Rotary Tall Grass Nature Park * Train Park * Transcona Community Bioreserve
- * Cordite Trail * George Olive Park

There has been slow progress getting approvals and permits for our current trail improvement Project in Transcona. Getting permission to have directional signage installed on trails beside busy roadways has been difficult due to complex webs of underground structures that we need to avoid. We are waiting for the last few permits for sign posts. The support structures for the large trail head signs are currently being manufactured.

One big win was having cooperation from the Costco on Regent Avenue. Following our recommendation they put lids on the garbage cans in their parking lot. This will decrease the Trash blowing onto the Transcona Trail in front of the parking lot. This area tends to have the worst Litter of all of our trails during our volunteer cleanups.

Another section of the Park City Pathway was built by a developer in 2019. Our old and new trails are well used. The advantage of properly built trails was apparent when they were high and dry this spring while older sidewalks had major puddles.

YOUTH PHOTO CONTEST

We had many entries for our contest in 2019. We enjoyed seeing our trails through their lenses. The winners were:



Grades 7 to 12: First:
David Westervelt



Grades 7 to 12: Second:
Makara Weins



Grade 6: Alexis Lukinuk



Early Years: Reese Guigue-

Member Report



FortWhyte Alive

Nestled within the City of Winnipeg, FortWhyte Alive is an award-winning destination for incredible outdoor experiences through 660 acres of protected urban greenspace.

Humans can connect with nature through a variety of unique programs and events that foster sustainability within the community, as well as through everyday nature exploration, outdoor recreation, adventure and discovery.

Guests enjoy more than 7 kilometres of breathtaking hiking trails year-round. The trails wind through forests and meadows, follow the floating boardwalk through the marsh and allow visitors to take in the scenery and wildlife from various lookout points.

The majority of trails at FortWhyte are packed with crushed limestone, providing an all-season surface for all types and ages of visitors, including strollers, wheelchairs, and all types of bikes. Running between McGillvary and Sterling Lyon Boulevards, The Great Trail is the main spine of our network providing a north-south commuter route as well as access to Bison Butte Mountain Bike Course.

In 2019 many programs designed to connect visitors with nature were hosted.

These included:

- ◆ Winterfest – A celebration of all things winter. Winterfest featured a wide range of family-friendly activities, including snowshoeing, ice skating, cross-country ski lessons, ice fishing and tobogganing.
- ◆ Frozen Fiver – 4th Annual Frozen Fiver welcomed 102 racers championing either a 5km or 10km race through the snowy trails.
- ◆ Earth Day – Guests came out in the thousands to explore, learn and connect with nature – and get inspired to take meaningful action in honour of the earth.
- ◆ Frightening Fiver - A perfectly cool evening and a cloud-covered sky added a certain chill to our spooky forest. 187 racers enjoyed the beautiful night, championing either a 5km or 10km race.



Transcona Bioreserve

The Transcona Bioreserve trail is a 2.3 kilometer loop located at 38 Whiteshell Ave in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This former industrial plant site has been revitalized to feature crushed limestone trails and a thriving big bluestem grass field. In the warmer months the trails are known for the delightful songs of migratory songbirds and the sight of wild flowers and butterflies in the meadows. The trails are accessible to the community year-round and are dog-friendly. FortWhyte Alive is proud to steward these trails for community use.



Member Report



Winnipeg Trails

Pathways to Reconciliation –Phase 1

This project in partnership with Trails Manitoba, funded by The Winnipeg Foundation & TCT will create an Indigenous-led active transportation and recreation facility development crew with expertise in infrastructure building, interpretation, communications and project management. The project will produce lasting, tangible site-specific projects along the Great Trail in Winnipeg and a comprehensive report to guide us into the future.

The goal of this project is to bring value and depth to Winnipeg's network of trails beginning with a review and upgrade plan for the Trans Canada Trail (The Great Trail or TGT) experience in Winnipeg, by connecting thousands of years of history with modern approaches to physical literacy and marketing and communications, with an explicit Indigenous cultural bias and perspective. By doing so, we will add something uniquely local, special and treasured to the TGT experience for both local Winnipeggers and people from afar. Our goal is to create a nationally recognized, locally led experience which blends the best in international best practices with the best in local stewardship.

The project consists of three main parts:

- * The "crew": An indigenous led-group whose goal is to provide insight and expertise into future trail development in Winnipeg.
- * The "plan": A plan for interpretation, tourism, communications, social marketing and public engagement designed to foster more use and for ownership of Winnipeg's trail network by persons who identify as Indigenous.
- * The "project": Is a series of as-yet-undefined small-scale pilot projects and community engagement events that will be of benefit to the community, and led by the "crew" to help inform "the plan"

Winnipeg Trails in partnership with Trails Manitoba will develop the funding structure and mandate for an independently-run Indigenous-led youth trail building crew under the Expert guidance of Adrian Alphonso, founder of the consultancy Clear Paths.



Adrian of Clear Paths is passionate about indigenous perspective bicycle rides, and leads tours sites of arts and historic significance in Treaty One Territory land, to honor reconciliation.



Healing Trails crew, which is funded by Winnipeg Foundation and the Trans Canada Trail and supported by the City of Winnipeg, Janell and the rest of the team hope to provide opportunities for users of trails to engage with Indigenous culture.



Member Report



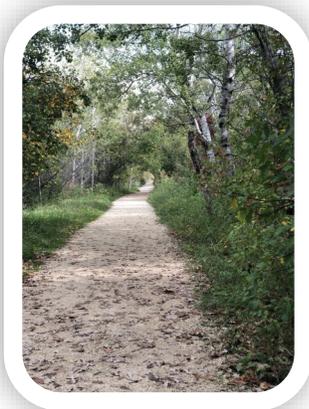
Harte Trail

Our popular trail is part of the Trans Canada Trail and runs through a narrow strip of wilderness on an old railway bed after the Prairie Dogs historic last run. The path is intersected by half a dozen streets of Charleswood. Its name is taken from the Harte Line, the first section of Grand Trunk Pacific Railway built in western Canada in 1894.

We are taking on the Mayors challenge to plant trees. We have had 5 tree plants so far. For our Spring 2019 Tree Plant we celebrated International Trails Day by planting 81 trees, with help from our community volunteers, City Parks staff and members of the Green Team.

We saw huge success with a donation of 100 trees in celebration of CN's 100th birthday; planted by volunteers of Friends of the Harte Trail, other trail organizations, CN retirees, community members and Green Team.

We are now planning towards our 2020 Spring tree plant, we are currently working with multiple partners in donations and support, we will announce our official partner shortly.



There are 2 map/interpretive signs at the start and end of the Harte Trail, one missing from the stand, one weathered. We have been working with Kevin Klien our councilor who has been very supportive and announced recently the approval for 2 new signs. We will work with his team in the Spring of 2020 moving the signs to a more appropriate site, as they currently face south and will not withstand the sun. Another item the City and Kevin have been great with, our Trail is now on Priority 1 snow clearing, its accessible to everyone year round. Over 9' wide in portions, it allows everyone to get out in the winter months, to roll, walk, bike or jog.

Our strategic plan will be finalized in Q1-Q2 of 2020, fundraising is part this plan, we are looking for corporate partners who want to give back to the community, who have a vision that relates to our short and long term goals. Parts of this plan, connecting the Grand Trunk Trail to the Harte Trail over the perimeter highway, renewing the Van Roon Garden including an overhead shelter/permanent structure, adding recycling bins and more trash bins, marking off and protecting endangered prairie grass land, as well as a bringing a natural pond into our Trail, funding for our own trail counter and much more!



Member Report

Headingley Grand Trunk Trail

The Headingley Grand Trunk Trail Association is a group of volunteers who, with the support of the RM of Headingley, develop and maintain the Headingley Grand Trunk Trail. The trail travels over 10 kilometres along the old rail bed of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway from the Perimeter Highway to Beaudry Provincial Park. In 2017, the trail became a spur line of the Great Trail.

Since the steering committee was established in 2002, the trail group has gone on to become an official non-profit association completing many exciting projects.

The Headingley Grand Trunk Trail is used by hikers, cyclists, runners, and walkers. There is an active geocaching community that has placed over 40 geocaches on the trail. Each year many events are held on the trail including a International Trails Day event in June. The Association is working to advocate for a safe crossing at the Perimeter Highway to allow for connection between the Grand Trunk Trail and the Harte Trail which would allow active transportation to flow seamlessly from Winnipeg to Headingley and back.

Benches, signs and kiosks have been placed along the trail.



Blue bird boxes have been installed along the trail attracting bluebirds to the area.



A tree project sponsored by Manitoba Hydro allowed 55 trees to be planted along one section of the trail.



The Association's most recent project is the preservation and restoration of a 5 acre piece of remnant prairie that was discovered along the trail. The group has been successful in obtaining protected status for the area from the RM of Headingley and has begun a long term restoration and conservation project. In the spring of 2019 a controlled burn was done and it is hoped that this year some planting and interpretive development will begin.



Member Report



Lac du Bonnet Trails Association

The Lac du Bonnet Trails Association is responsible for the Blue Water South portion of The Great Trail, which extends from the Pinawa Dam Provincial Heritage Park to Great Falls, a distance of approximately 37 km.

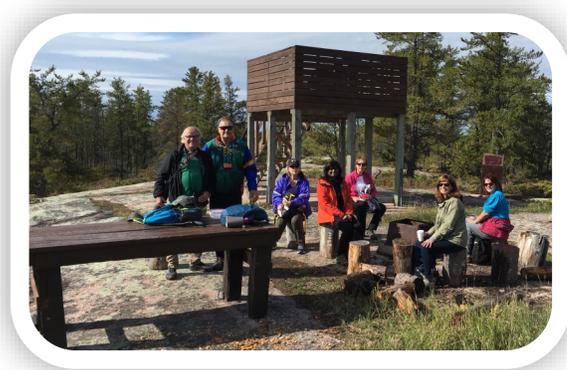
We were fortunate in obtaining several grants that provided the funds needed to make improvements to sections of our trail and provide much needed amenities for trail users. These grants came from TCT, Beausejour Co-op Community Fund, and Lac du Bonnet Fishing Derby.

The TCT spring cleanup grant allowed us to reroute a small section of the north end of the trail past a Manitoba Hydro maintenance yard near the Great Falls dam. This is a project that we had been planning for several years, but were unable to initiate due to lack of funds.

With the help of the cleanup grant we mowed a rerouted section of trail and put gravel down in low spots, created concrete pads for a bench and a garbage can, and installed the bench and garbage can for trail users. This work really improved this spot on the trail and made it more appealing for users. Unfortunately, this section has been closed to the public for the past few months as Manitoba Hydro does some work on the dyke along the Winnipeg River at that location. Hopefully it will reopen after April 30.



The Lee River project, a joint collaboration between Trails Manitoba and TCT, was completed in the fall of 2019. This project consisted of completing a one kilometer section of trail between Hwy. 313 and Old Pointe Road, an important link in our trail that allows users to safely access a little used municipal road to get to the Winnipeg River Bridge. The project involved clearing brush and surfacing the trail as well as the installation of large culverts to allow drainage through a wet area. A Trailhead structure is currently being installed that will show a map of the area, and contain information about local wildlife.



Member Report

Pinawa Trail

Material Topping on Seven Sisters Trail Tread

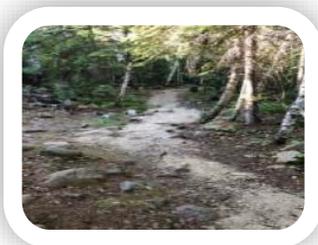
We purchased extra Abase topping (purchased with Trails MB funds) and used buggies from Sustainable Development (Parks Branch in Nutimik) and paid a skid steer to load them.

When the terrain is difficult to reach with machines – take to the air!

The TCT Spring Tune-up grant and some Manitoba Trails Maintenance grant money enabled us to spread topping on tread that was pretty inaccessible by any other means! Luckily, we contacted

Provincial Helicopters just before the 2019 fire season got underway and managed a great deal with an excellent pilot and crew that were very adept at getting material into some very tight spots!

Thanks to an excellent ground safety crew in all directions on the trail, all was carried out safely (photos courtesy of Frank Walton and Derrek Owen).

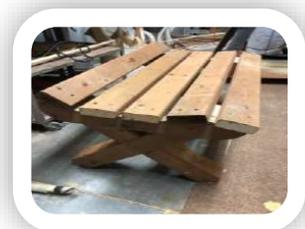


Benches

Lovely benches were fabricated by Steve and deployed at three locations on the trail, Willis Trailhead Smokey Bear Park boundary and the Mud Dam.



Half of the work was getting these heavy benches to their locations by bike! Despite having chained them to trees, 2 of the 3 have been stolen, the thieves even cut a 5-inch diameter tree to take one! A testament to how nice they were and how skilled our volunteer craftsmen are...but disheartening to put in the effort and cost of the lumber, hardware, chain and locks!!



Suspension Bridge signage

Large cedar posts with directional/wayfinding signage and regulatory signage in the Parking Lot was covered partially by a TCT Interpretive Signage Installation, a TCT Suspension Bridge grant and the LGD of Pinawa installed all the posts. Thanks to Dennis Graham our local guru carpenter for making the post tops fancy and Steve for installing all the signage.

Richardson Signage

Thanks to a TCT Interpretive Signage Installation grant, 16 new interpretive signs were chosen for relevancy and installed.

Thanks to Peter, Diann and Nancy for spotting the locations and Steve and Ray for the installation work! These signs are heavy and had to be carried some distances!



The Pinawa Friends of the TCT (PFTCT)

Part of the success of the PTA is the support of the PFTCT. The PFTCT was founded in 2013 by a group of avid trail enthusiasts that wanted to protect the greenway status of our TCT and its mission is “to Promote and Protect the TCT as it passes through Pinawa”! Its first President was Donna Warenko, aka The Traillady. These Friends have been absolutely crucial to the success of the Pinawa Section of trail. They have lobbied various groups including the LGD of Pinawa Council to ensure we have a superb trail that is highly visible throughout the Province and worldwide. Their blog reaches a great many people advertising the events they plan and host on the Pinawa TCT. They are a tremendous asset to the trail builders and maintainers and sole “keepers” of the EcoCounter data that continues to secure grant and sponsorship funds for this section of the TCT.

It is over 200 members strong and these folks volunteer over 300 hours to trail work annually. The PFTCT support the marketing and necessary promotion required for many grants, for example, Keen Footwear and TCT Spring Tune up grants. Their events are highlighted on various web sites (Trails MB, TCT) and in the local newspapers (The Clipper). They maintain a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/PFTCT/> with over 700 followers. They participated in the Great Canadian Geographic Treasure Hunt this past year with 2 treasures hidden. They support the trail through membership, raffles and grant success! The PFTCT host numerous events throughout the entire year (yes, even winter hikes)! A few photos are included here!

The PFTCT are indeed an important part of the success of TGT in Pinawa!



A Blue Moon Eclipse Hike January 20 led by Peter Taylor started the year off!



Member Report

Trail Association of the North Whiteshell

The Trail Association of the North Whiteshell started up again in February with a small group of directors and much help and guidance from Trails Manitoba and TCT.

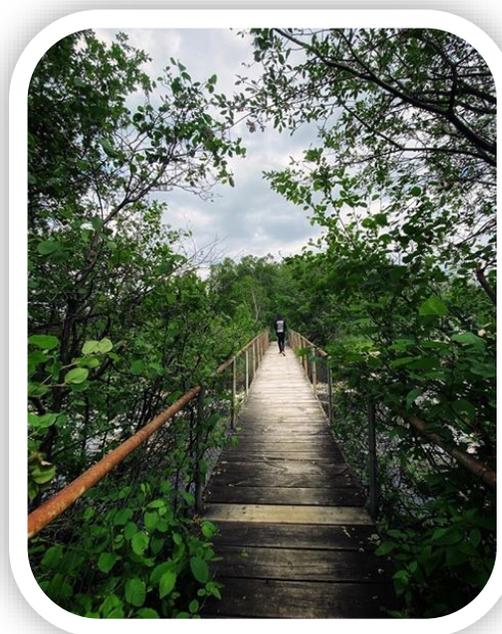
The Trail traverses the Alf Hole Goose Sanctuary near the town of Rennie, Manitoba, via Brereton Lake, Jessica Lake, Inverness Falls, Rice Lake, Cabin Lake, Red Rock Lake, White Lake, Betula Lake, through Natalie, Eleanor, Dorothy (Otter Falls) and Nutimik Lakes on the Winnipeg River terminating at the Seven Sisters Falls Generating Station.

During the season both cottagers and visitors to the park enjoyed the trail system throughout the North Whiteshell. Many people took part in the Great Trail Treasure Hunt, which featured a "cache" where hikers could register to win great prizes for finding the various locations.

In the fall we undertook the re-branding of all of the signs along the trail to The Great Trail. So far over half of the trail has been resigned, and the remainder are scheduled to be done in the Spring/Summer of 2020. Included in this re-branding is updating the signage to make it more user friendly.

2019 also included the exciting news of our new bridge at Cabin Lake. This was one of two bridges reclaimed from King's Park in Winnipeg. The installation started in the fall and was finished in the spring of 2020. This brings a beautiful addition to that section of the trail and will surely be tagged in many pictures on Instagram #trailnw.

We are always looking for volunteers and members for the association, so if the North Whiteshell is your area, or you just like the outdoors and hiking please drop us a line, we would love to connect.



Member Report



Centennial Trail

The Centennial Trail began in 1970 and was Scouts Canada's contribution to the celebration of Manitoba's 100th centenary.

The Centennial Trail will be celebrating its 50th Birthday in 2020 with plans to hold 3 major events – one on International Trails Day June 6; the Soldier On Event in September and the 50th Annual Centennial Trail Hike Day October 4. The Centennial Trail Hike Day has been an ongoing invitational hike for 50 years. Our plan includes new kiosks and signage installed prior to these celebrations.

A new logo was designed for B2B section from Ross Lake West to Rennie featuring a white spruce which is Manitoba's Provincial Tree. This will complement the cairn logo which will remain from Ross Lake West to Eastern Trailhead. This compromise arose from Parks' concern re possible petroforms in the area.



Parks has approved:

- 2 large kiosk locations – Caddy Lake Resort (New Parking Lot) and Alf Hole Goose Sanctuary (Main Parking Lot) with signage panel 54" W x 48" H.
- 5 smaller kiosk locations– Ross Lake (West) Telford Tower, Ross Lake (East) Telford Pond, Bear Lake, McGillivray Falls Trail (top of ridge or bottom where existing kiosk is – to be determined), Eastern Trailhead (has a very small parking area) with signage panel 30"W x 24"H.
- 5 Highway Access locations - Hwy 307, Rock Ridge, Powerline, Turtle Rock, Lily Pond with signage panel 12" W x 30" H
- 10 mileage junctions at junctions leading to hwy 44 Junction signage panel

The trail has been used by Scouts Canada, Girl Guides of Canada, Trail Blazers Outdoor Adventure, Prairie Pathfinders, Alpine Club of Canada, Wilderness Supply - Swamp Donkey Racers, members of Mountain Equipment Co-op, Nature Manitoba – Grey Hares and many cottagers of the Whiteshell area.

The trail has been designed for users of all levels of experience from novice to expert; from children to adults. The trail provides for a unique outdoor experience in that the users can immerse themselves in nature with minimal impact to the environment – a healthy, holistic and stress reducing activity. Additionally, the beauty of our trail increases a need to protect and respect our environment in all who travel it.

Regards,

Cindy Bell, Caretaker



Member Report



South Whiteshell Trail Association, SWTA

2019 was a fantastic and busy year for the South Whiteshell Trail Association. We hosted many events and achieved many trail building and fundraising milestones. We were also very happy to welcome a new generation of trail enthusiasts to our board and community, helping to ensure the long term sustainability of our group. Following are some of the highlights.

Events

- * Trail Inventory Event
- * MEC Trail Building day on the Blue Highway Mountain Bike trail.
- * Partnered with local bike shop Woodcock Cycle to host another Trail Build Day
- * Geology Walk on the Lost Lake Trail
- * Group hike on the Centennial Trail
- * Produced a professional promo video for the Blue Highway MTB trail
- * New Years Fundraising Event at the Falcon Ridge Ski Slopes.
- * Newly appointed Secretary, Tara Daniel, co-hosted a table at the spring Whiteshell Cottager's



Granite Bench Legacy Program-SWTA has a bench program which has been in operation for about 12 years. It is a major fund raiser and the benches are sold for \$5000 each. To date we have sold 30 benches. In 2019, 3 benches were sold. We also installed an additional 3 benches from the previous year. Many people buy these benches as family memorials. They are placed in various locations along the trail.

Granite Bench



Construction of the trail portion of Penniac Bay is complete. The new section of trail has been very well received from the local community and is getting a lot of traffic. The trail has held up great so far to the natural elements, we will continue to monitor it in the years to come. We are currently in the process of designing some kiosks and plaques to put up on the trail in recognition of all the donors that made this project possible.

Maintenance activities primarily involved downed tree removal and brush cutting. We had about a dozen volunteers working on these tasks. Our trail ambassadors report problems such as washouts, downed trees and shrub encroachment to the maintenance representatives who deal with the various issues. We also refer more complex tasks to Parks Branch as appropriate. There was one construction activity undertaken by the maintenance committee in the spring which involved the construction of safety railings on an existing trail bridge near Penniac Bay. Three representatives from SWTA were involved in this job.

Many thanks to Manitoba Parks Branch for their continued support & maintenance of our trails.



Member Report



SWTA-Blue Highway Mountain Bike Trail

Trail Building day on the Blue Highway MTB trail. The turn out was fantastic with 30 participants and lots of progress was made on the new switch-back trails as well as laying down granite and geocell (picture) for another portion of the trail. This event was in tandem with a large grant that we were successful in receiving from MEC to further our work on the BH MTB Trails.

Another 60ft of geocell we laid down. Lead by Robert Champagne, several more trail build days similar to this one where keen volunteers came out to help us work on the trails.

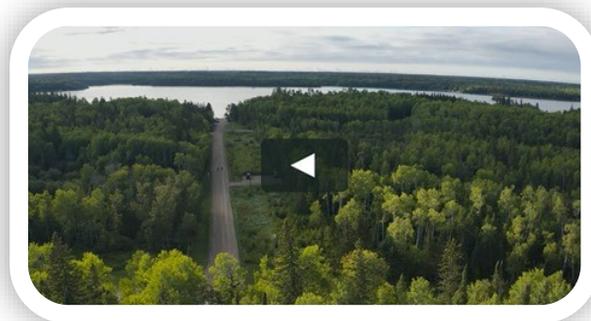
For 2020, there has been lots of planning and fundraising happening for the new Skills Area and Meeting Hub to be developed at the BH MTB Trail. We have managed to secure several grants as well as raise \$36,000 from supporters of the project. We have also been working closely with Parks to get all approvals in place to get shovels in the ground for the 2020 build season.

To help promote the amazing new mountain bike trails that have been under development in the South Whiteshell, Robert enlisted the help of his son-in-law, Nick Nault, to produce a professional promo video for the Blue Highway MTB trail. This video has already received close to 2000 views on the vimeo site and we will be further sharing it with our local tourism organizations. Check it out at <https://vimeo.com/364080445>

See a keynote **presentation of the Meeting Hub and Blue Highway Skills Area** in a movie format (9 mins 50 secs). <https://youtu.be/CX8Bz6JITIU>



Follow local trail builders Robert Champagne and Chris Benson on a ride through "Blue Highway" in Whiteshell Provincial Park: <https://t.co/F6LR2cJUXz> #EasternMB #ExploreMB



Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm regarding this project, we are right on track with our Hub and Blue Highway Skills Area plans.

Darcy is the Provincial Trails Project Manager for Trails Manitoba. We appreciate her knowledge & expertise of the Trail Network in Manitoba & the needs of our varied Trail Groups.

Following is a list of the few things that Darcy was involved with in 2019.

- Hanson's Creek Bridge Installation
- Lee River Trail and Parking Lot Installation , Highway Signs Coordination
- Overview and payment certification for Penniac Bay Waterfront Connection
- Technical Advisor for the Benchmark Design Competition
- Attended the 2019 Municipal Parks and Trails Forum / Recreation Connections and speaker introduction on behalf of Trails Manitoba (including production of promotional postcards for attendee's bags), including representing Trails Manitoba at trade show booth along with Janette Crawford and Charles Zant
- Planning committee for 2020 Municipal Parks and Trails Forum
- Attendance at Red Tape Meeting, ATV/SD with Provincial Government
- Rennie River Washout (Permits, Design-Build Contract, Phase 1 Contract Administration)
- Further development of Day Trip brochures and review with trail groups
- Trails Manitoba AGM planning, advertising and presentation
- Centennial Trail mapping and signage support
- Centennial Trail grants, TCT maintenance grant and support with "Blow Down" maintenance.
- Cabin Lake Bridge (Permits, Design-Build Contract, Secondary Engineer Review Coordination)
- Whiteshell Kiosk Inventory
- MB 150 events and activities planning
- Benchmark Design Competition 2020 planning
- Travel MB Hiking Challenge promotion



Darcy worked closely with Travel MB to promote the Hiking Challenge



Darcy Granove at the Whiteshell Cottagers Association AGM on behalf of Trails Manitoba

Financial Statements

MANITOBA RECREATIONAL TRAILS ASSOCIATION INC. Consolidated Statement of Operations

For the year ended December 31	2019		2018	
	MRTA and RTB	Local Trail Groups	Total	Total
Revenue				
Donations	\$ 54,151	\$ 46,536	\$ 100,687	\$ 110,921
Grants				
Trans Canada Trail	135,833	110,610	246,443	75,203
Province of Manitoba	35,000	5,000	40,000	35,000
Falcon Westhawk				
Chamber of Commerce	-	46,000	46,000	-
The Winnipeg Foundation	-	35,000	35,000	-
South Whiteshell				
Trail Association	-	50,000	50,000	-
Others	900	-	900	10,000
Interest income	8,078	-	8,078	11,341
Memberships	1,349	-	1,349	1,735
Other income	-	-	-	1,474
Recognition of deferred contributions	187,836	-	187,836	55,789
Workshop	127	-	127	438
	423,274	293,146	716,420	301,901
Expenses				
Amortization	5,071	-	5,071	2,538
Bad debt expense	48	-	48	-
Bank charges and interest	588	287	875	548
Insurance	1,213	-	1,213	1,298
Licences and memberships	763	-	763	258
Marketing	12,372	-	12,372	9,805
Meetings	2,619	-	2,619	5,025
Millennium Fund expenses	15,675	-	15,675	19,984
Office	5,210	2,500	7,710	3,942
Professional fees	8,748	-	8,748	9,281
Property taxes	584	-	584	1,070
Rent	11,476	-	11,476	11,149
Salaries and benefits	74,015	-	74,015	78,838
Telephone and communications	1,912	-	1,912	1,954
Trail construction	291,318	318,651	609,969	153,965
Travel	2,086	-	2,086	843
Workshop	1,330	-	1,330	747
	435,028	321,438	756,466	299,037
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	\$ (11,754)	\$ (28,292)	\$ (40,046)	\$ 2,864

MANITOBA RECREATIONAL TRAILS ASSOCIATION INC. Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31	2019	2018
Cash Flows from (used in) Operating Activities		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	\$ (40,046)	\$ 2,864
Adjustments for		
Amortization of capital assets	5,071	2,536
Recognition of deferred contributions	(187,836)	(55,789)
	<u>(222,811)</u>	<u>(50,389)</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital balances		
Accounts receivable	3,297	25,837
Prepaid expenses	276	(51)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(17,093)	14,843
	<u>(236,331)</u>	<u>(9,760)</u>
Cash Flows used in Investing Activities		
Purchase of capital assets	-	(10,142)
Cash Flows from Financing and Investing Activities		
Restricted contributions received	-	16,381
Decrease in cash and bank during the year	(236,331)	(3,541)
Cash and bank, beginning of year	<u>777,177</u>	<u>780,718</u>
Cash and bank, end of year	\$ 540,846	\$ 777,177
Represented by		
Cash and bank	\$ 445,821	\$ 654,032
Restricted cash	<u>95,025</u>	<u>123,145</u>
	\$ 540,846	\$ 777,177

Manitoba Recreational Trails Association Inc. o/a Trails Manitoba/Sentiers Manitoba is a Registered Charitable organization. Help support our mission to promote the construction, maintenance and use of recreational trail throughout the Province of Manitoba. A healthy and robust trail network benefits the economy, the environment, and overall human well-being.

Trails Manitoba is continually supported by dedicated volunteers and charitable donations. Your contribution to completing and maintaining The Great Trail in Manitoba is a lasting and meaningful gift. To donate online visit our website @ www.trailsmanitoba.ca & click on Donate.

