

ANNUAL REPORT

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW



Trails
Manitoba
Sentiers
Manitoba



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The past year has presented significant challenges for Trails Manitoba but has also seen incredible achievement.

Our most enduring challenge was and is the search for ongoing funding. 2017 was the last year of funding from the province, and the amount received was far less than in the previous three years. As it developed its own post-connection strategy, TCT was unsure of the support it could offer to its regional partners. Trails Manitoba had some uncertain moments as we discussed our service agreement with TCT, resolving positively early in the new year.

Fortunately, helping us navigate a year of change was the longest period of office stability we've enjoyed in a long while. The presence of Steve, Darcy and Janette has provided TM with a consistent voice in discussions with trails groups, the province and TCT and I thank them for all they have done and continue to do.

Of course, the biggest news of the year was connection of The Great Trail in Manitoba and across the country. For a long time it felt like 2017 was never going to arrive. As we worked toward connection, the pressure and anticipation leading up to it often clouded the passing of time. It was both speeding by too quickly and dragging on far too long. As these things often do, now that the year has come and gone it is hard to really remember the effort and eagerness of the years prior.

The year also saw Steve and Darcy work with TCT and the Forks Market site to help replace the TCT display formerly located in the Tourism Manitoba pavilion. The opportunity to create a tribute to The Great Trail in one of the most visible and visited locations in the country appears ready to come true in 2018.

We also met two new members of the TCT staff team, Kristen Gabora and Mathieu Roy. Kristen and Mathieu have already begun to work closely with TM and we look forward to continued collaboration.

Building on work begun in 2016, we have increased Board membership and participation and continue to do so. Many thanks particularly to Steve and Alex Mann, himself a new Board member just last year, for attracting so many new and resourceful individuals to the organization.

Challenges remain for us. Although the trail is connected, it is not complete. Sections remain where travel is not as easy or direct as we would like. Maintenance and upkeep on a 15,000 kilometre network of trails continue to prove difficult. And although we have benefited from stability and growth in the office and at the Board, 2018 brings term ends and changes we have not fully resolved.

This will be my last AGM as President of Trails Manitoba. Thank you all for opportunity to walk (and ride, and paddle) with you on this journey to connect the country.

Ian Hughes
President

April 2017-April 2018

President/Secretary
Ian Hughes

Treasurer
Shirley Hurst

Grants Com. Chair
Alex Man

Directors

Verna Hare
Charles Zant
Wayne Arsney
Brent Buss
Howard Skrypnyk
James Benson

**MESSAGE FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Time has flown by since our last AGM a year ago which was held at the Inn at the Forks. Since that time in keeping with the Canada 150 celebrations Manitoba celebrated the 100% “connectivity” of the Great Trail across Canada on August 26, 2018. In advance of the cross Canada celebrations Trail Groups from across Canada had convened in Ottawa at Trans Canada Trails’ trail conference. The forum was an excellent opportunity to meet with other trail groups, and to share perspectives on the challenges faced by other trail builders across Canada.

It was a wonderful learning experience which provided differing perspectives on the realities of trail construction in challenging Canadian geography too often with limited financial resources. As your Executive Director, I met with and/or rode many of the trails in the province. It was a very valuable “in the field experience” meeting with Manitoba trail builders and to more fully appreciate the hard work of our volunteers. It was a wonderful opportunity to explore diverse terrain including the Blue Highway in South Whiteshell built over challenging Canadian Shield, the trails extending from Seven Sisters Dam to the Pinawa town site and riding with fellow bikers from Balsam Bay to Grand Beach along Lake Winnipeg.

Much work is yet to be accomplished if the dream of the Great Trail to be realized as the “Longest and Grandest trail in the World.” In 2017 in keeping with this goal the Federal Government announced an additional round of \$30 million would be made available for trail development across Canada. Over 300 applications were received by Trans Canada Trails from across Canada. A trail network consisting of over 24,000 kilometers is a daunting intergenerational challenge which requires sustainable long term funding for trail development and on-going maintenance. In order to receive funding for capital improvements Manitoba applicants were encouraged to submit applications by September 30, 2017.

Steve Demmings
Executive Director

THE GREAT TRAIL TOUR

Travel Manitoba and Trails Manitoba invited media to explore three distinct sections of Manitoba's Great Trail. The adventure began exploring the Crow Wing Trail, a historic trade route through Métis and French communities that linked the Fort Garry (current day Winnipeg) with St. Paul, Minnesota in the south. This journey through tall grass prairie and river valleys provided a glimpse into Canada's iconic heartland. Then they shifted gears and headed east to Whiteshell Provincial Park, near the Ontario border, in the heart of rugged Canadian Shield country. Here, they hiked sections of the Border to Beaches trail, passing over ancient PreCambrian granite rock, past crystal clear waterways and through the pine-scented boreal forest. From the natural beauty of Whiteshell Provincial Park they traveled to the sophisticated cityscape of Winnipeg, Manitoba's capital city, where the Great Trail hugs the banks of the mighty Red River. Following the trail as it skirts around downtown neighbourhoods like the Exchange District, The Forks and French-speaking St. Boniface, past some of the province's most iconic landmarks.



On August 22nd, the Crow Wing Trail was honored with The Great Trail tour... a media event organized by Destination Canada and Travel Manitoba to celebrate Canada's 150th and the connection of the Trans Canada Trail across the country. Journalists from Australia and Germany experienced the Crow Wing Trail from St-Pierre-Jolys to Roseau Rapids.



BY



Trans Canada Trail
Sentier Transcanadien

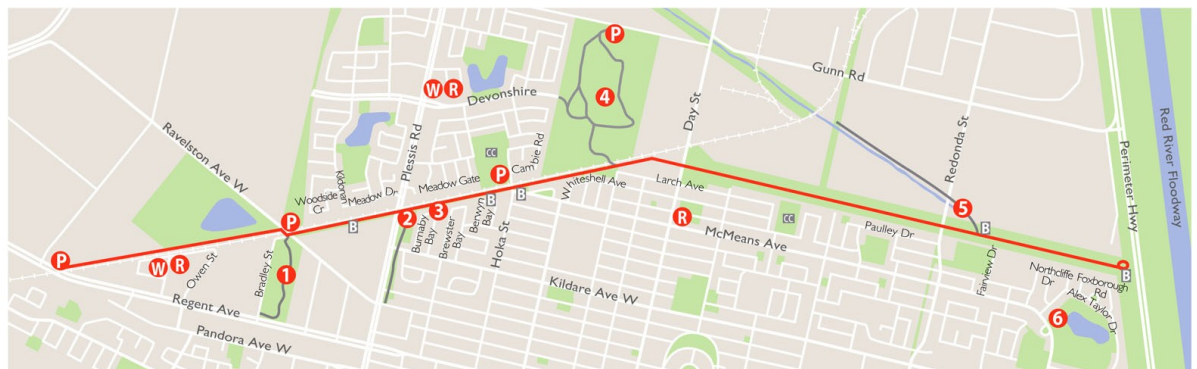
JANUARY 17, 2017



Member Report



Transcona Trail - 6.7 km



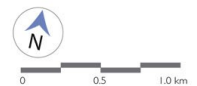
A PRAIRIE PATHFINDER MAP DESIGN

Legend

- trail route
- other trails
- park / open space
- P parking
- W washroom
- R refreshments
- B bench
- CC community club

Points of Interest

- 1 Rotary Tall Grass Prairie Nature Park
- 2 Train Park
- 3 Off leash dog area
- 4 Transcona Community Bioreserve
- 5 Cordite Trail
- 6 George Olive Park



The city recently announced plans to build the western extension of the Transcona Trail in 2019. This is great news.



Crow Wing Trail



THE GREAT TRAIL

Free T-shirts for pictures taken on Trail on August 26th. Send with contact info to: cwta@crowwingtrail.ca

Celebrate the Connection of the Trail!

2017 is a big year for Canadians with our 150th Anniversary.

And the Crow Wing Trail Association, along with our partners at Trans Canada Trail, have another reason to celebrate.

The Great Trail will finally connect us from coast to coast to coast.

People across Canada are celebrating on Saturday August 26th.

Help celebrate this great event by walking or cycling the CROW WING TRAIL!

Just follow the blue signs/white arrows. Visit www.crowwingtrail.ca for more info.

GO WHEN IT SUITS YOU with family and friends!

PICK A SECTION OF THE 193 KM OF TRAIL between Winnipeg and Emerson

ACCESS POINTS:below. COMING SOON:Trailhead signs: historical/modern maps

Pick up a free Trans Canada Trail promotional item at our partner municipalities' offices: Ritchot, Niverville, De Salaberry, St-Pierre-Jolys, Emerson-Franklin and Roseau River First Nation. First come, first served.

TheGreatTrail.ca



Trans Canada Trail
Sentier Transcanadien



Canada

ACCESS POINTS: Red River Floodway, St. Adolphe Old Park, Niverville's Hespeler Park, Mennonite Landing, Otterburne Post Office, St-Pierre-Jolys Museum, St. Malo Grotto, Senkiw Bridge (south entrance), Ridgeville Park, Emerson Park.

Member Report



Crow Wing Trail

The Crow Wing Trail is part of the Trans Canada Trail in Manitoba, connecting Winnipeg to Emerson at the Canada-U.S. Border. It closely follows the route of a Red River Ox-Cart Trail used in the mid-1800's.

For years, the Trail was tucked away in history. Since 1999 however, it has enjoyed a revival in interest thanks to the Trans Canada Trail dream. Volunteers from five rural municipalities and one First Nation south of Winnipeg created the Crow Wing Trail Association and have since demonstrated an unrelenting commitment to developing today's Crow Wing Trail.

Today's Trail connects communities using country roads, community parks, bush and pasture trails, dikes and road allowances. The result is a 193-km adventure with a rich history, diverse geography and friendly communities.

For those living in an urban setting or outside of Manitoba, the Crow Wing Trail provides a multi-use pathway allowing a connection with the natural world in this part of the province. While much has changed with settlement, many areas remain as they were hundreds of years ago.



Partnerships

Our partners give us the incentive to keep doing what we do. Our most important partners are our five municipalities and Roseau River First Nation. Their annual memberships support our operations and provide us with leveraging dollars. Actif Epica keeps us going during the winter, with their annual event on the long weekend of February. In 2016, it became a qualifier for the Iditarod Trails Invitational in Alaska. We got to meet racers from all over North America and beyond who appreciated all the work we did on the Trail. The Morris Cadets are getting ready to identify and establish camping spots at regular intervals along the Trail, that they can also use for their survival training.

Trail Access Points

There are 10 access points along the 193 km of Trail.

- * Blue Trans Canada Trail/Sentier transcanadien signs on provincial roads
- * Access Point Signs
- * Trailhead Signs, historical and modern maps

3 installed in 2017: Emerson, Ridgeville and Senkiw Bridge South Access

A strategic planning session was held in March, with many of our friends and supporters participating. Our goal to be sustainable is surely within our grasp!



Member Report



This historic trail was established in 1970 to celebrate Manitoba's Centennial and has been developed and maintained through the years by local Scouts and Girl Guides. The trail begins just east of Caddy Lake on the south side of Hwy 44 and travels west to Ross Lake. The trail is 37.0 kms in length with options for varied hiking distances. The Centennial Trail offers a unique adventure as it marked by inukshuks or piles of rocks accompanied by arrow signs. This rugged trail will take hikers through the majestic Ca-

nadian Shield landscape. Hikers will climb steep ridges of granite interspersed with lush valleys; traverse beaver dams; cross numerous tiny streams; pass through the quiet stillness of the lush sphagnum moss bogs; and view tiny lakes and water lily ponds. Under the B2B project initiatives in 2015/16, the trail was developed westward from Ross Lake to the Alf Hole Goose Sanctuary.

The new section circling Ross Lake was finished in 2016. Work was completed on the Bear Lake to McGillivray Falls portion – the junction heading to Hanson's Creek has been clearly marked. The steep incline just after the beaver dam has been mitigated by moving the trail slightly eastward. There was a significant wind storm and high water levels in the summer of 2016 which resulted in downed trees and flooded sections. Unfortunately, due to the high water, the bridge crossing McGillivray Falls was damaged leaving a gap in the Centennial Trail as the trail travelled a portion of the McGillivray Trail. We are awaiting Sustainable Development's plans for that section. There is also a gap at the Hanson's Creek location. The Trail group is currently seeking grants and donations in order to erect a permanent bridge structure.



Centennial Trail logos designed!

We have been approved for 200 cobranded "The Great Trail" and "Centennial Trail" signs. These new signs should be installed in 2017 and will assist users in identifying the difference between the Blue Highway Mountain Biking Trail and the Centennial TCT

Future plans include establishing a website and information kiosks at the following parking areas on Highway 44: - telecommunications tower; former Telford parking area; opposite the Bear Lake Hiking Trail and opposite Caddy Lake Beach.



BY



Member Report

Pinawa Trails Report

Lots of improvements happened on the
Pinawa Trails in 2017!

Seven Sisters to Pinawa Tread Improvements and Rerouting

The trail from Seven Sisters (partially expropriated in 2015 by the expansion of the towns' lagoons) has been rebuilt and improved all the way from the Seven Sisters dike to The Ironwood Trailhead in the townsite of Pinawa. Over 30 yards of material have been spread, ¼ yard at a time, with the loan of MB Sustainable Development, Parks Branch dumpcarts and tireless volunteers!



Wayfinding Signage

New wayfinding signs have been placed every 2 kms to help folks decide where they are on the trail with respect to entrances and exits!



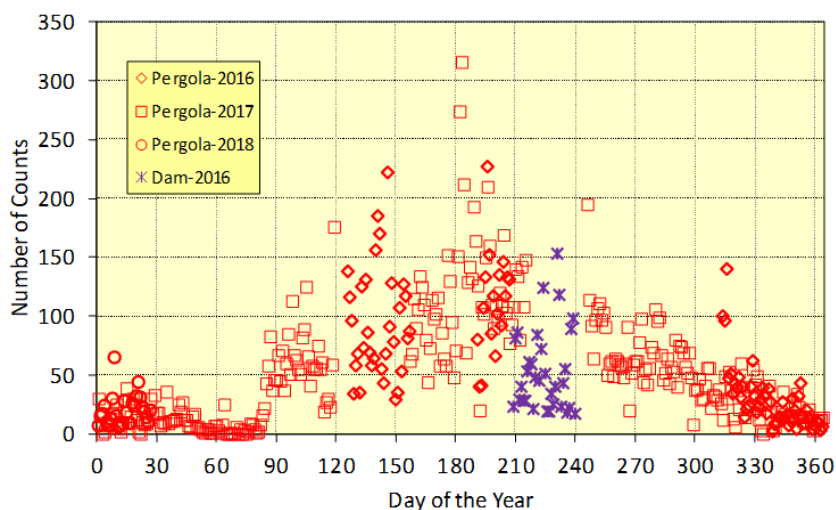
Member Report

Pinawa Friends of the TCT

The Pinawa Friends of the TCT have organized a variety of hikes over the past few years. These have ranged in distance from 2 to 28 km (usually 5 to 12 km), and have included all sections of the Pinawa Trail as well as neighbouring trails in the Seven Sisters Falls and Lac du Bonnet areas. Several hikes were included in the Great Trail celebration on August 26th, and others have taken place at all seasons, including novelties such as moonlight hikes.

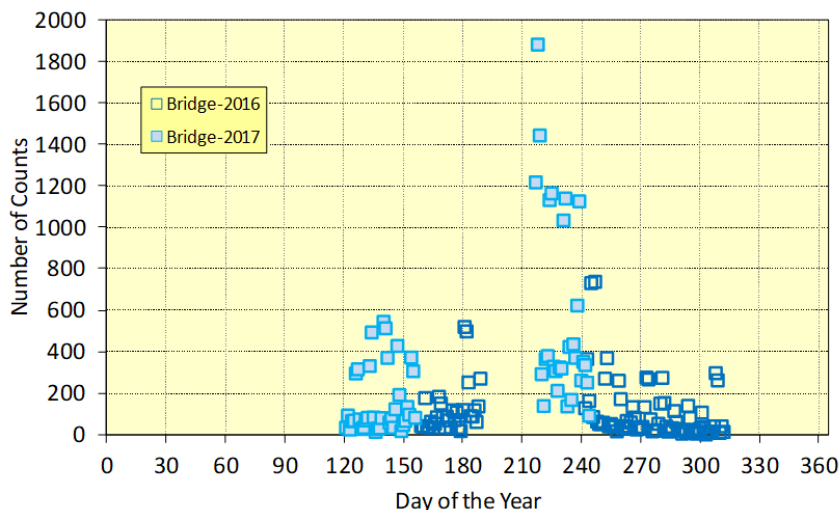
An Eco-Counter PYRO-Box has now been in use on the Pinawa Trail for almost two years, providing hour-by-hour counts of passersby. It uses infra-red technology to count “warm bodies”, and is revealing impressive levels of trail use.

Pergola and Diversion Dam only, May 2016 to January 2018



This plot shows mainly usage of the Ironwood Trail near the “pergola” picnic shelter, with warm-season counts typically in the range of 50 to 150 people per day, occasionally spiking close to 300.

Suspension Bridge only, 2016 and 2017



This plot shows visitor counts at the Pinawa suspension bridge. Even allowing for double counts of most visitors walking to and from the bridge (one-way through traffic is low here), it indicates spikes close to 1000 visitors per day on busy holiday weekends.

This new counter is helping us get support from the Municipality as well as grant monies.

Member Report

New Tread Just Northwest of the Diversion Dam with the Keen Footwear grant

Work starts in April to refurbish the tread on a beautiful natural archway on the north side of the Pinawa Channel, courtesy of a grant from Keen's Footwear!



25-year celebratory TCT hikes August 26 - a real success

TCT Celebration was a Canada 150 event as well as the 25th anniversary of the start of the TCT project and our own Pinawa Trail. It was also meant to celebrate the connection of the trail.

Both Lac du Bonnet and Pinawa Trail groups received a \$2500 grant from the TCT organization to host the event. We teamed up and hosted one big celebration at Old Pinawa Dam.

A bus shuttled hikers around and a food truck and music entertained everyone after the hikes.

Just on the Pinawa side 80 people participated in trail events and 50 people volunteered.



Hikers heading North toward Old Pinawa



Trailhead sign at Pinawa Provincial Heritage Park joining the South Bluewater and Pinawa Trails

Marsha Sheppard and Denis Sabourin Co-Chairs, Pinawa Trails Association

Contributions from Diann Elliott, Peter Taylor and Donna Warenko, Pinawa Friends of the TCT

Member Report

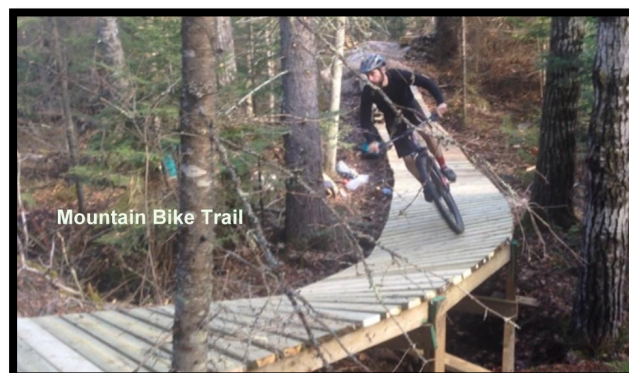


South Whishell Trail Association, SWTA

Our new Mountain Bike Trail Initiative continues to gain momentum. Trails have been developed/ improved on both the Five of Diamonds, (Falcon Trails Resort) and Blue Highway sections of trail. Volunteers have played a significant role and dedicated many hours of hard work towards developing and improving these sections of trail. We have applied for a grant to MEC to further develop this initiative and will find out next month if we are successful.



Funds were secured through the Canada 150 Grant initiative to build two connector trails that will link the South Shore Trail along Falcon Lake to the system of hiking and mountain bike trails at Falcon Trails Resort. Again, this is consistent with our goal of creating an interconnected trail system throughout the area. We hope to have these new trails completed to a phase one stage, (final gravel layer will come later), by July 1, 2017 to coincide with Canada Ultra Run planned for Canada's 150th Birthday. Participants will run the new connector trails as the final





Lac du Bonnet Trails Association

2017 was an eventful year for the Lac du Bonnet Trails Association.

After working closely with Trails Manitoba for many years on the development of parts of our trail, we celebrated the grand opening of the **Bluewater South Trail**. This 40 kilometer section from Pinawa Dam to Great Falls includes some new construction, some municipal roads used as connecting links, some existing trail on Manitoba Hydro dikes and right of way, and some portions on RM of Lac du Bonnet property.



We had many partners in our long journey to connect this trail. These partnerships include the RM and Town of Lac du Bonnet, Trails Manitoba, Trans Canada Trail, Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation, and Sustainable Development (Conservation, Crown Lands, and Wildlife Management Areas).

We are appreciative of the support, assistance, and cooperation of all our partners in helping to make trail connection a reality.





Lac du Bonnet Trails Association

On August 26, the Lac du Bonnet and Pinawa Trails groups joined forces to plan a day of hikes, entertainment, food, speeches, and our grand opening as part of **The Great Trail Celebration**. This took place at Pinawa Dam Provincial Heritage Park, which is the meeting point of the Pinawa and Bluewater South Trails. There were guided hikes from Seven Sisters Dam to Pinawa Dam, as well as shorter hikes on the new section of Bluewater South Trail. This was followed by local entertainment from talented musicians, singers, and a dancer.



In addition to our grand opening and trail connection celebration, other activities in 2017 were a mapping project, development of a trails association logo, and signage installation along sections of trail. We also had group hiking, biking, and horseback riding excursions led by trails group members.

Our local association has a number of goals for 2018. Improving signage is a key focus as locals and visitors come out to enjoy activities on the trail. The development of parking areas is an important aspect for safety of trail users and to minimize traffic congestion on roads and highways. Rest stops that include washroom and picnic facilities need to be developed, and maintenance and upgrading of trail sections will be ongoing. Distributing our map brochure in print and online form is essential as trail usage increases. The trail may be connected but the work continues!



THE GREAT TRAIL LE GRAND SENTIER



Our big year is here!

2017 is shaping up to be an awesome year for all Canadians, and for everyone involved with Trans Canada Trail (TCT), this year is even more special, because it marks the realization of an amazing goal now 25 years in the making: the country-wide connection of The Great Trail. Since 1992, TCT - a not-for-profit organization - has been working with donors, partners, governments, landowners and volunteers to create an epic trail of trails offering a wide range of outdoor experiences on greenways, waterways and roadways. TCT's goal is to connect the Trail and the country for a grand celebration on August 26, 2017.

We want you to celebrate the full connection of The Great Trail and Canada's 150th on YOUR section of the Trail, and we're going to help you throw an unforgettable party!

Canada 150 Celebrations



YOU'RE INVITED!

Please join Trans Canada Trail (TCT) in celebration of Manitoba's Trail Connection Milestone with TCT Chair Paul LaBarge.

WHEN: June 11, 2017, from 12:00 to 1:00 pm
12:00-12:30 pm: Ceremony and cake-cutting
12:30-1:00 pm: Guided walk on the Trail

WHERE: FortWhyte Alive, Alloway Centre
1961 McCreary Road
Winnipeg, MB

RSVP by June 9, 2017, to events@tctrail.ca

Casual outdoor apparel suggested
Be sure to bring your walking shoes



THE GLOBE AND MAIL



Parks Canada

TheGreatTrail.ca



The Trans Canada Trail with support from Canadian Heritage has a goal to connect the Great Trail and the country for a grand celebration. Communities across Canada will be celebrating the full connection of The Great Trail and Canada's 150th on the same date. The Pinawa and Lac du Bonnet Trails Associations are pleased to announce that our sections of The Great Trail (Trans Canada Trail) are completed and connected.

On Saturday, August 26 we are joining together at our connection point, the Pinawa Dam Heritage Park to celebrate along with the rest of Canada. There will be guided hikes of both trail systems, music, food and ribbon-cutting.

Come out and be a part of this great national project.

For more information visit <http://trailady.com/celebrations-on-the-great-trail/> or use the QR code to visit our Facebook Event



Trans Canada Trail
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GUIDED HIKES | BUS SUPPORT | FOOD | MUSIC



Canada

Headingley Grand Trunk Trail

The Headingley Grand Trunk Trail is a 10 km walking/biking trail following the route of the old Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad through the R.M. of Headingley into the RM of Cartier, Manitoba. Discover some of the Grand Trunk line's history, and see how the Headingley Grand Trunk Trail Association is reclaiming the past.

See their video at <https://vimeo.com/262569010>



Bridge in Beaudry Park





TCT Trail Members

Altona-Gretna-Rhineland Trail	River East Neighbourhood Network
Blue Water South Trail Association	Rivers West Red River Corridor
Carberry North Cypress Trail Association	Rosburn Subdivision Trail Association
Crocus Trail Association	N. Cypress/Neepawa/Langford Trail Association
Crow Wing Trail Association	South Whiteshell Trail Association
Friends of the Harte Trail	Stanley Trail Association
Fort Whyte Alive	Swan Lake Trail Association
Glenboro South Cypress Trail Association	Transcona Trail Association
Lorne Trail Association	Victoria Millenium Trail Association
North Whiteshell Trail Association	Winnipeg Trail Association
Pinawa Trail Association	Seven Sisters Falls Community Centre
Red River North Trail Association	Swan Lake First Nation



Financial Statements

MANITOBA RECREATIONAL TRAILS ASSOCIATION INC. Consolidated Statement of Operations

For the year ended December 31 2017 2016

	MRTA and RTB	Local Trail Groups	Total	Total
Revenue				
Border to Beaches Project				
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,116,841
Capital Campaign	2,000	-	2,000	3,000
Donations	1,454	27,458	28,912	25,062
Fundraising	-	-	-	858
Grants	309,163	26,775	335,938	190,362
Interest income	8,162	-	8,162	17,722
Memberships	1,317	-	1,317	1,785
Merchandise sales	222	-	222	305
Other income	1,131	-	1,131	1,910
Recognition of deferred contributions	2,750	-	2,750	833,612
Workshop	295	-	295	5
	326,494	54,233	380,727	2,191,462
Expenditures				
Bank charges and interest	(1,551)	1,973	422	387
Border to Beaches Project	211,149	-	211,149	1,920,376
Insurance	2,164	-	2,164	2,528
Licences and memberships	871	-	871	604
Marketing	1,675	-	1,675	14,592
Meetings	5,628	-	5,628	2,484
Millennium Fund expenses	2,700	-	2,700	5,776
Office	3,330	-	3,330	13,829
Professional fees	17,531	-	17,531	6,262
Property taxes	925	-	925	134
Rent	11,809	-	11,809	11,475
Salaries and benefits	100,018	-	100,018	85,218
Telephone and communications	6,748	-	6,748	9,125
Trail construction	74,796	71,533	146,329	10,067
Travel	2,684	-	2,684	1,808
Workshop	3,185	-	3,185	1,551
	443,662	73,506	517,168	2,086,216
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	\$ (117,168)	\$ (19,273)	\$ (136,441)	\$ 105,246



BY



Trans Canada Trail
Sentier Transcanadien

Financial Statements

MANITOBA RECREATIONAL TRAILS ASSOCIATION INC. Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

December 31	2017	2016
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 768,412	\$ 607,992
Restricted cash	12,306	35,306
Accounts receivable	48,754	601,738
Prepaid expenses	225	222
	<u>\$ 829,697</u>	<u>\$ 1,245,258</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 2)	\$ 16,030	\$ 295,400
Deferred contributions (Note 3)	<u>343,904</u>	<u>343,654</u>
	<u>359,934</u>	<u>639,054</u>
Net Assets		
Restricted for local trail groups (Note 4)	16,033	49,697
Unrestricted net assets	<u>453,730</u>	<u>556,507</u>
	<u>469,763</u>	<u>606,204</u>
	<u>\$ 829,697</u>	<u>\$ 1,245,258</u>

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.