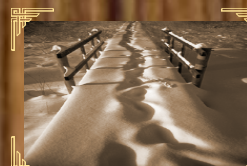




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Community Groups Receive Financial Boost from Saskatchewan Trails Association

The Saskatchewan Trails Association (STA) has announced that a total of \$31,500 will be distributed to nine groups in the province through the STA Trail Building Grant program. The funds will go towards either the development of new trails or the enhancement of existing trails in the recipients' respective communities. The grants are made possible through the support of the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture, and Sport.

"The Saskatchewan Trails Association is proud to support trail development and enhancement initiatives to ensure that Saskatchewan continues to boast some of the most beautiful and well-maintained trails in Canada," says Curt Schroeder, President of STA. "This funding will help communities across the province improve their local landscapes, encourage healthy living activities and facilities for residents, and help protect our environment simply by either adding or enhancing a trail in their community."

Grants of \$3,500 each will be awarded to the Edam Trans Canada Trail Committee, the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association, the Town of St. Walburg, Ogema Regional Park,

the City of Moose Jaw, the Saskatchewan Boreal Forest Learning Centre, the City of Melfort, the Shaunavon Recreation Board, and the Town of Martensville. The funds will be used for a variety of purposes, from surfacing and resurfacing current trails to adding new trail signage and benches, as well as other important trail enhancement initiatives.

The STA Trail Building Grant program provides up to 60 per cent, to a maximum of \$3,500, of the total costs required to either build new or enhance existing trails in the province. Grant recipients are responsible for the remaining 40 per cent of the funds required for the project.

The program will provide grants twice a year up to and including 2009 to ensure the proper maintenance and development of trails in the province. The grant is open to all members of the STA and the grant application deadline is March 31, 2008. Application forms are available at www.sasktrails.ca.

For more information, contact Pat Rediger at (306) 522-9326 or prediger@sasktrails.ca.



Saskatchewan Trails Strategy Symposium Under Development

The Saskatchewan Trails Strategy Symposium will be held June 13-14 at the Delta Regina. Originally scheduled to be held in April, the date has been changed to allow for further organization and development of the event.

The organization committee for the symposium includes: Curt Schroeder, Greg Swanson, Ed Spratt, John Finesz, Miguel Morrisette (SPRA), and Pat Rediger. The committee is currently developing an agenda for the symposium, which will include educational components as well as strategic planning sessions. The agenda will be forthcoming and invitations for the event will be distributed soon.

Val Sluth of Valerie Sluth and Associates was recently named as the facilitator for the symposium. Sluth brings to the position a strong knowledge of trail development in the province.

All organizations, corporations, trail groups, and individuals who are interested in trail development in the province are invited to attend the symposium. For more information, contact Pat Rediger at prediger@sasktrails.ca or (306) 522-9326.

STA Endorses Heart and Stroke Foundation Report

The Saskatchewan Trails Association (STA) is pleased to endorse the 2008 Report Card on Canadians' Health recently released by the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The report recognizes an increase in the amount of air pollution throughout the country. It also draws a connection between air pollution and cardiovascular diseases as well as other health concerns.

In order to reduce air pollution, the Heart and Stroke Foundation recommends, among other suggestions, that the federal government provide funding for the development of active transportation infrastructure that facilitates walking and cycling.

The STA supports the recommendations of the Foundation, especially regarding the need for development of federal infrastructure. The STA is a firm believer in active transportation as a viable means of eliminating air pollution and also as a mode of physical activity, helping to improve the health of every Canadian.

For more information about the report, visit the Heart and Stroke Foundation website at www.heartandstroke.ca.