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St. Walburg Trans Canada Trail

Preparations Underway for 2nd Annual Saskatchewan Trails Day

The 2nd Annual Saskatchewan Trails Day is taking place on Saturday, June 6 in communities across the province. The day raises awareness about the province's vast trail network and promotes the benefits – including tourism, economic development and healthy living – that stem from our recreational trail system.

Trail groups and other organizations across the province are holding events to celebrate Saskatchewan Trails Day, including trail walks, picnics, barbecues, nature art projects, and other trails-related activities.

STA invites your organization or group to hold a Saskatchewan Trails Day event at your local trail. To register, send event information, including event name, location, time, date, and description to info@sasktrails.ca. Community-based organizations that host and register a Trails Day event will be entered in a draw to win \$1,000.

For help in organizing a Saskatchewan Trails Day event, including tips on pre-event planning and promotions, download the *Saskatchewan Trails Day Event Organizer's Manual*, available at www.sasktrails.ca.

To find a Saskatchewan Trails Day events in your community, visit www.sasktrails.ca.

Tell Us About Your Favourite Trail to Win \$500!

Do you have a favourite trail where you like to walk, bike, snowmobile, go horseback riding or ride an ATV? STA wants to hear from you!

Tell us in a 500 word article about your favourite trail and you will be entered to win a first-place prize of \$500 and a second-place prize of a backpack and compass.

The winning article will be published in the inaugural edition of the *Saskatchewan Trails Magazine*.

Submit your article to info@sasktrails.ca.

Showcase Your Local Trail in the *Saskatchewan Trails Magazine*

Trail groups and STA members are encouraged to send in a profile of their local trail to be featured in the inaugural edition of the *Saskatchewan Trails Magazine*.

To have your trail featured, send in an article or details about the trail that highlights the location, terrain, attractions, history, folklore, and other information that make your trail worth visiting. Send the information to info@sasktrails.ca.

The first-ever *Saskatchewan Trails Magazine* will be distributed province-wide this summer in the *StarPhoenix* and the *Leader-Post*.



Update on Federal Trail Funding

In the recent federal budget, provisions were provided for a nation-wide trail building grant program. The federal government announced its intention to create a \$25 million fund for creating, upgrading and sustaining trails. This funding is part of the government's overall stimulus to assist the economy. The Ministry of Sport and Recreation provided oversight on this initiative, in co-operation with Infrastructure Canada.

This funding will be distributed to the National Trails Coalition (NTC), which was formed in 2007 to bring the broad spectrum of trail-based activities together in a collaborative manner to build, maintain and promote trail use in Canada. The organizations that spearheaded this coalition initiative are the Canadian Trails Federation (CTF), the Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council (COHV), and the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations (CCSO). STA is represented by CTF in this coalition by STA President Curt Schroeder, who is also on the NTC executive.

Since this announcement, NTC has been working with government officials on a draft implementation plan and the elements of an administration model to implement the funding. Included in these discussions have been the process through which NTC will work with its provincial and territorial affiliates to deliver

the program, the application process and expected eligible expenses, the criteria that will be used to screen applications on a jurisdictional basis, and the cost-sharing expected by partners and what constitutes an eligible contribution.

When these discussions have concluded, federal funding will be available for eligible projects. The Regional Committee, which will consist of STA, the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association, and the Saskatchewan All-Terrain Vehicle Association, will adjudicate all grants. It is expected that members of these associations will be eligible to apply for project funding for half the value of their project. The Regional Committee is working with the Province of Saskatchewan through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Parks and Sport to have the province provide additional funding for this program.

Although discussions are continuing with the federal and provincial governments, STA members should be aware that a new trail grant program will likely be announced soon. If your organization is planning to develop trails this year, please be advised that the federal government is targeting "shovel-ready" projects that can be completed by March 31, 2010.

More details will be provided as the discussions continue.