



The National
Hiking Trail
Canada's Footpath
Founded in 1971

WWW.NATIONALHIKINGTRAIL.CA



GREAT DIVIDE TRAIL
Waterton Lakes National Park

Trail Prints

50 YEARS OF HISTORY CREATING CONNECTIONS

Hike Canada En Marche is proud to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2021. Founder Doug Campbell, of Canmore Alberta (hailing from England) had a vision in the late 60's to develop a long-distance hiking trail across Canada. Inspired by the Centennial Trail in B.C., the Bow River Valley in Calgary, the Bruce Peninsula in Ontario, he wondered could all these hiking trails be connected into a cross Canada hiking trail? He approached the federal government March 1969 and was whole heartedly endorsed.

If Doug's vision was ever going to come to fruition, he needed a broader consensus. In 1971, he convened a meeting in Toronto with a group of stakeholders by the end of the day, the foundation for the National Trail Association of Canada was founded.

From this historic moment the National Hiking Trail began to grow with development in Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec. Letters of patent were filed for the National Trail Association of Canada in 1977 and a path was set, NTAC would become the nationwide hiking trail coordinator of an Atlantic to Pacific corridor.

On June 5, 1987, the first National Trail marker was established on Parliament Hill in Ottawa with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in attendance who wished the NTAC the best in launching the trans-Canada recreational trail corridor and charged the NTAC with preservation and enhancement of this corridor.

The trail continued its momentum through the late 80's and 90's establishing trail in the Grasslands of Alberta, in Quebec and neighbouring New Brunswick with the Dobson Trail to Fundy National Park. National Hiking Trail signs could now be spotted throughout Ontario, Alberta and Quebec including the Bruce Trail and Banff National Park. Throughout the 1990s, Quebec continued to expand the National Trail. With the sudden death of trail champion James Feeley in 1993, the National Trail effort seemed to stall. There still was not a route in B.C. for instance.



50 YEARS OF HISTORY CON'T

Under the leadership of Jim Hemming, the N.T.A.C. reenergized in the early 2000s. BC had joined the effort in 2000 under the newly formed provincial organization Hike B.C. Between 2000-2005, representatives from several hiking clubs in BC had mapped out a route from Alberta to the Pacific Ocean. Some of the outstanding trails that make up the B.C. portion are the Goat River Trail, the Alexandra Mackenzie Heritage trail, The 1861 Gold Rush Pack Trail, and the Sunshine Coast Trail. With the integration of the International Appalachian Trail (IAT-QC) in 2017 the Sentier national au Québec now stands at some 1650 km!

When founder and active member, Doug Campbell passed in April 2020, Hike Canada En Marche (the operating name of the NTAC) installed a memorial bench Banff National Park at the Basin and Cave Interpreter Centre with the generous support of Parks Canada.

HCEM continues to meet monthly via Zoom from the far Eastern shores of Newfoundland / Labrador to the far northern reaches of the Yukon to the Pacific coast at Powell River and beyond (Port Alberni) in B.C. HCEM is currently updating its vision and strategic plan. If people are interested, please join us on our Facebook group. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hikeacrosscanada/?fref=mentions>. We would love to hear from you. A new refreshed website will be launched soon. If you would like to be included on the "Trail Prints" newsletter mailing list, please contact Michelle Young at michelleyoung1773@gmail.com.

MEET THE BOARD HIKE CANADA EN MARCHE

British Columbia	Patrick Harrison, President Hike BC	Newfoundland	Adrian Tanner, Director East Coast Trail Association
	Roy Howard, Director Fraser Headwaters Alliance	Nova Scotia	Claire MacNeil, Director Hike Nova Scotia
Alberta	Alistair DesMoulins, Director Alberta Hiking Association		Michelle Young, Treasurer Hike Nova Scotia
Ontario	David Francis, Director Hike Ontario	Prince Edward Island	Catherine Schaap, Director Island Trails
	Glynn Richardson, Director Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association / Ontario Parks	New Brunswick	Alonzo Leger, Director Fundy Hiking Trail Assoc.
Quebec	Martin Stampfli, Director Sentier National Quebec	Manitoba	Jaime Manness, Director Hike Manitoba
	Real Martel, Director Sentier National Quebec	Yukon	Sue Gleason, Director



How to Contact HCEM:

Pat Harrison, President at:
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National Hiking Trail
Sentier National

HIKE CANADA LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Hike Canada had engaged a web designer this past year to refresh the website providing viewers with new engaging content, mapping, highlights and news from across our country from coast to coast. The target date of the new website launch is .

Other Ways to Connect

To keep up to date and explore your country out on the trails, follow “The National Hiking Trail” on Facebook. Keep connected to your national hiking community, join the page and share stories. You will discover beautiful scenery, cool apps, recommended gear, links to resources, inspiring stories and more.



Kishinena Peak, Great Divide Trail

WHAT'S HAPPENING FROM COAST TO COAST

PEI Coastal Hikes



ISLAND TRAILS

Hiking on PEI? But of course! You can hike for hours or days along beaches of red sandstone or sand, and alongside coastal red cliffs. You can take a break and swim in the saltwater of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. You can hike in the woods on natural surface woodland trails. These trails are less than 20 km long so make for lovely day hikes in different parts of the Island. If pastoral scenes are more your thing you can hike along the Confederation Trail (440 km part of the Great Trail of Canada) or along old traditional red dirt heritage roads. As spring turns into summer ploughed red fields turn green as crops mature. If you want a PEI smorgasbord with a lot of everything you could do all or part of the new “Island Walk” route (700 km). Interested? Check out the following:

<https://www.islandtrails.ca>

<https://theislandwalk.ca>

<https://www.tourismpei.com/pei-confederation-trail>

<https://www.tourismpei.com/pei-scenic-heritage-roads>

<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/pe/pei-ipe/activ/randonnee-hiking>

Sorry we have no mountains and no rugged Canadian Shield but what we have is gorgeous! We have ocean, lots of long beaches (sand or sandstone), red cliffs, red dirt, lots of peaceful rolling green rural landscapes and even lush wild forests with absolutely no noise from traffic! We hardly ever have traffic jams on trails or roads!

NEW HIKING BADGE ON ITS WAY

Hike Canada En Marche is excited to announce that a new hiking badge will be available soon. The badge is a great way to promote and share your experiences on our national network of footpaths across Canada. Keep watch on the National Hiking Trail Facebook page on when and how you can get your badge.



ONTARIO NEWS

Happy anniversary, National Hiking Trail! Fifty years ago, marks the inception of a "Footpath across Canada". Here in Ontario, we are working hard to advance the goals of National Hiking Trail, fill in the gaps, and to promote it and the trails of which it is comprised.

In the coming months we will be putting up additional and refreshing our National Hiking Trail blazes along the trail, and we would love to have you post your hiking photos which include a NHT blaze on our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/groups/hikeacrosscanada](https://www.facebook.com/groups/hikeacrosscanada)

If 2020 was the year our trails saw unprecedented foot traffic due to the Covid pandemic, in large part comprised of new hikers, and as Covid restrictions begin to lift and hiking club outings return to normal, 2021 should be the year of trail education, including trail etiquette and Leave No Trace Principles of Outdoor Ethics. Although it is so important to give people the opportunity to be out in nature, it's imperative that our trails are sustained, enjoyed responsibly and not abused. See you on the trails!



Ganaraska trail, in Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park, Ontario



Volunteers inspecting logging results near the Cheriore Trail of the SNQ to ensure that norms are adhered to.

NEWS FROM RANDO QUÉBEC

- Consolidation of the regional coordinating committees for the SNQ/NHT
- Participation in the outdoors development plan for the Lanaudière region with the objective of creating a GR Lanaudois. A GR designates a Sentier de Grand Randonnée, i.e. a Long Distance Trail, per the Fédération française de la randonnée pédestre (the French Hiking Federation). The first trail designated GR in North America is the 600 km Québec section of the International Appalachian Trail (IAT), the GR1A, which is part of the SNQ/NHT Qc.
- Participation in the working committees regarding Access to Public Land and Preservation of Trails.
- Financial and logistics support for SNQ/NHT Qc trail managers in the applications process for the PSSPA program of the provincial government (Trail maintenance and improvement) and the PADELIMA program of Rando Québec.
- Representation with the tourist community to promote the SNQ and demonstrate its recreational tourism potential.
- Value enhancement of the SNQ/NHT in Qc by creating and issuing 'Prêts à partir' (Ready to go) packages for hikers, sold to trail managers as well as creating a new mapping base.
- Creation of an animated SNQ/NHT Qc map
- Working on a new Trail design traversing Mont-Tremblant national park, thus building a continuous SNQ/NHT in Qc trail for all of the Laurentides region.
- Trail maintenance by the responsible sponsor/ volunteers continued as hiking is seen as an essential outdoors activity during the Covid pandemic.

HIKE NOVA SCOTIA

Hike NS www.hikenovascotia.ca has had an excellent year with a membership increase of 16%. Since May 2020 we've held 15 webinars for 320 people on various hiking-related topics (such as Intro to Hiking, Intro to Snowshoeing, Leave No Trace, Tick Prevention and more). We're planning more this spring and fall with some new topics as well.

Our Fall and Winter Guided Hike Series was a success even during COVID. We ran a Leave No Trace & Wilderness social media campaign with the support of NS Environment to help raise awareness of our impact on our natural environment.

We'll continue to offer Outdoor Council of Canada courses and Re-Connecting with Nature workshops. The Hiker Challenge saw participation more than double over the last year and we're developing new regional badges. A Guthook Guide is in the works for the International Appalachian Trail in Nova Scotia. We launched a new program called NS Walks aimed at engaging less active people in regular walks in their local communities through walking groups.



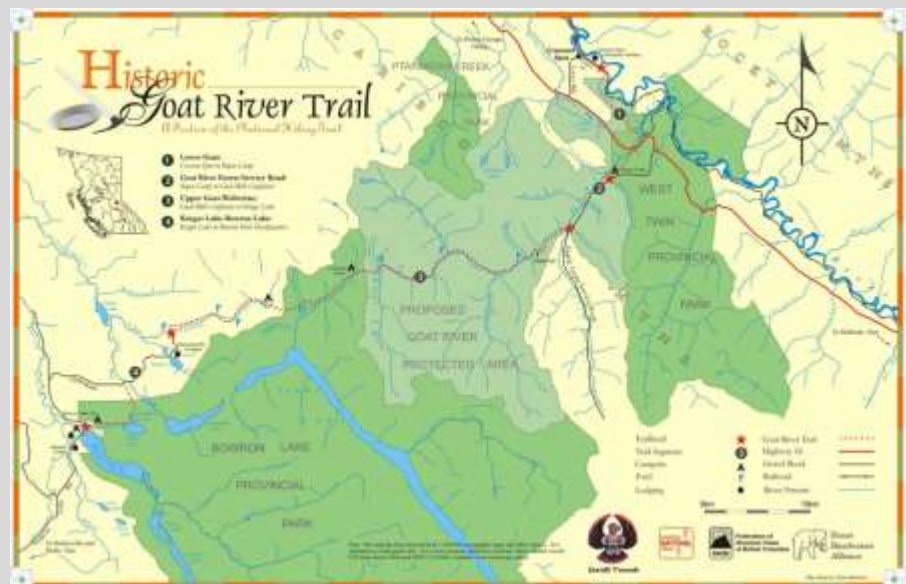
Hiking the Highlands in Cape Breton, NS
Cape Clear Near Cheticamp

HIKE BC

Twenty years ago, Hike Canada en Marche invited the Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. to develop the National Hiking Trail in B.C. It was decided that a separate organization would be better to coordinate this endeavour. Hike BC. was start informally in 2000. Hike BC's first event occurred in 2002 when Fin Donnelly (currently an MP) float the length of the Fraser River in order to promote river awareness. While doing this, he stopped at Crescent Spur, BC to help celebrate the first 10 km of the NHT established in BC with the assistance of the Fraser Headwaters Alliance organization.

Since that inception, Hike BC has developed agreements to utilize the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail (hours of trail clearing provided by the Caledonia Ramblers of Prince George and First Nations), the 1861 Gold Rush Pack Trail south of Barkerville (thanks to the Friends of Barkerville), the Telegraph-Collins Trail, the Goat River Trail (FHA), the Sea to Sky Trail, the Suncoaster Trail, the Sunshine Coast Trail (thanks to Powell River Park and Wilderness Society), and various trail agreements with Delta, Surrey, White Rock, and Metro Vancouver.

Hike BC continues to strive to make a continuous route from Jasper National Park to the Port Alberni. In doing so, Hike BC has MOUs with Trails BC (Great Trail) and the Great Divide Trail organization. Hike BC has just passed it's 20th anniversary and is celebrating Hike Canada en Marche's 50th anniversary.





Crossing "Downward Dog bridge", a very temporary structure, which enabled a work party in 2018 to cross glacial Cairnes Creek, a tributary of the Blaeberry River, to maintain part of the David Thompson Heritage Trail. This is part of the Great Divide Trail and part of the proposed National Hiking Trail route.

ALBERTA NEWS

Since the last issue there has been a massive public outcry against both the announced cuts to the Alberta Parks system and the government's rescission of the 1976 Coal Policy (both reported in the last issue). The government will now not de-list any parks. The Alberta Hiking Association (AHA), along with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and others were intervenors to support a court case some landowners brought against the government's rescission of the coal policy. We were in court (by Zoom) on 19th/20th January. Subsequently the government reinstated the coal policy but did not cancel exploration permits it had issued in 2020. So some popular hiking and tourism areas of the Rockies in SW Alberta and west of Red Deer are still potentially affected by coal exploration activity. AHA may yet be back in court! AHA has been involved in discussions with the Alberta Government regarding their proposed "Trails Act". This is intended to generate revenue to provide new trails and maintenance of existing trails for all kinds of recreation, and the government would like recreational organizations to partner with them to do much of this work.

For those of you who may be travelling to the Lake Louise area in Banff National Park this summer Parks Canada recently announced some changes. *"New in 2021 - Book your seat in advance - Shuttle Reservations Required - Parks Canada encourages visitors to plan ahead by reserving their bus seat in advance of their visit. Reservations are required to get a seat on a Parks Canada shuttle to the Lake Louise Lakeshore or Moraine Lake. Walk-up seat sales are not permitted. More details on the Banff Park section of the Parks Canada website.*

FEATURED TRAILS - NEW BRUNSWICK Dobson Trail and Fundy Footpath



Pictured here, three of the founding members of the Dobson Trail; Trail Master Edwin Melanson, founder Dr Arthur Dobson and our dedicated guardian, New Brunswick's naturalist Mary Majka. Dr Dobson set out the trail from Riverview to Fundy National Park, a distance of 58 kilometers thru the foothills of the Appalachian Mountain's Acadian Forests. As troop leader of the Riverview Scouts he engaged the local troop and volunteers in building the trail. The trail was completed in 1959 and has been maintained by volunteers of the Fundy Hiking Trail Association. The trail has been affiliated with the National Trail early in its inception. We are counting over 15,000 users, it is a four season trail. Dr Dobson envisioned the trail going easterly to the Nova Scotia border and westerly to the Maine Border .

The Fundy Footpath was completed in 1992 by the FHTA, extended westerly to Big Salmon River in 1994. It has been rerouted and improved and starts at the Fundy National Park for a distance of 69 kilometers. It is a designated Signature Trail of the Province of New Brunswick and has received funding from the Province for improvements. A featured documentary "Surviving the Fundy Footpath" by Video Band has received recognition at various international film fests. It is a rugged and primitive trail skirting the Bay of Fundy; we recommend a 4 to 5 day hike. The footpath has been recognized by Explore Magazine as one of the 50 Best Hiking Trails in the World.

For more information on these spectacular trails visit:

[Fundy Footpath - Fundy Hiking Trail Association \(fundyhikingtrails.com\)](http://fundyhikingtrails.com)

[Fundy Footpath Dobson Trail | Facebook](#)

[Surviving the Fundy Footpath \(Film Fest Version\) - Bing video](#)

