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**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

I am pleased to welcome Kathleen Leathers of the Prairie Pathfinders as the new editor and publisher of our newsletter. Kathleen replaces Doug Campbell who has done yeoman's duty over the past ten years to ensure our members and supporters received their copy of HIKE CANADA. MANY THANKS to Doug for a job well done.

With a new editor come changes to the NTAC. Most important was the holding of our annual meeting on September 7, 2002 in Toronto, ON, hosted by HIKE ONTARIO. Their president Bob Griffin is a strong supporter of the NTAC vision. The meeting was attended by directors from British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. In addition to the directors were the presidents of Hike Ontario, the Voyageur Hiking Trail Association, the Bruce Trail Association and the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association. The latter three associations are a major part of the NTAC in Ontario. The coordination and logistical support was handled with his usual competence by Harold Sellers, office manager for Hike Ontario. The support and input from all who attended is very much appreciated.

In keeping with our membership expansion and the need to ensure our niche within the trails community approval was given, at the annual meeting, to endorse the operating name HIKE CANADA EN MARCHE and a new trail name, the CANADIAN HIKING TRAIL/SENTIER PEDESTRE CANADIEN. With these new identifiers there will be less confusion as to who and what we are. It will also assist in our marketing and funding efforts in the future. A new logo, based on a design submitted at the annual meeting, is

currently being developed to reflect these changes. Agreement was also reached, after considerable discussion on our identity and purpose, to continue with our newsletter HIKE CANADA but transmit it electronically. Due to the lack of e-mail addresses there maybe an overlap with snail mail. Your patience and understanding is appreciated.

In the marketing department, Pat Harrison, our vice-president, worked with Mountain Equipment Co-op to have us profiled on the web site this past September. The support by MEC illustrates a growing understanding for a 'footpath across Canada'. In addition to this a multi chapter grant application has been submitted to the TD Friends of the Environment. There has only been a limited response to date, at least partially due to the lack of understanding of who we are and where we fit in the trails community. Hopefully with our new identifiers and new marketing initiatives funding will be forth coming.

You may want to check our new web site [www.nationaltrail.ca](http://www.nationaltrail.ca) which is being developed by Pat Harrison. There you will learn that we now have over 3000 km of trail on the ground and growing. Inventories are being developed by Rob Gardner of Alberta Trail Net and Pierre Blouin, NTAC director in Quebec.

In keeping with our growth there is a requirement for more volunteers to assist with all aspects of development and administration. I can be contacted at [jaycee@bmts.com](mailto:jaycee@bmts.com) (519) 832-7889 or on a trail somewhere in Canada.

...Jeff C. Hemming

**Towards a Foot Trail Across Canada**

## The National Hiking Trail's East Coast Terminus

Newfoundland, a reportedly have-not Province, is certainly showing the prairie provinces how to build a solid base of community support for developing hiking trails. In May of 1999 one milestone was reached, the completion of a 150-metre suspension

natural and historic beauty - the East Coast Trail connects four provincial parks and three national historic sites including Cape Spear, the eastern most point in North America, and the important Colony of Avalon archaeological dig at Ferryland, as well as providing ample opportunities for

latrines.

All this activity certainly fulfils the National Trail Association's other objects - Promote healthy outdoor living, foster interest in and encourage appreciation of our natural and cultural heritage and strengthen nationalities - as this trail is already attracting eager hikers from all across the country. To assist them the East Coast Trail Association has published the first of a series of guidebooks and a set of maps of the trail. The association also provides information at:

[www.eastcoasttrail.com](http://www.eastcoasttrail.com), by e-mail to [eastcoastdarlene@nfld.net](mailto:eastcoastdarlene@nfld.net) or by writing: East Coast Trail Association, P.O. Box 8034, St. John's, NF, Canada, A1B 3M7

...Adrian Tanner



Installation of the marker at the eastern terminus of the National Hiking Trail at Cape Spear, September 2002. National Trail director, Doug Campbell, and wife Mary at right.

bridge to connect the abandoned South Shore fishing village of Le Manche with the trail that continues to Trepassey. A second milestone, the completion of 220 kilometres of 'world class' hiking trails, was marked with a Wonderful Grand Hike and drew a crowd of 3,500 to cheer on two hiking parties that completed a nine day hike from the north and south ends of the trail meeting at Bay Bulls Harbour in September 2001.

The East Coast Trail Association, established in 1994 and now with over 800 members, is forging ahead with plans to develop and maintain 520 kilometres of hiking trails during the next few years, including bringing existing paths along the northeastern shore from St. John's to Topsail up to standard. Keeping to the national trail's first objective - Preserve places of

viewing whales, icebergs and east coast marine and plant life.

According to the St John's Telegraph, mayors in the towns along the trail from St. John's to Placentia signed an accord at Bay Bulls to work together to promote the trail. More than \$4 million in federal and provincial funds has been spent on the trail since 1995. Small businesses such as Bed & Breakfasts are opening along the trail to serve hikers, and many local people have been employed to cut and groom the trail, build boardwalks, lookouts and

Tanner & Campbell installation marker at Cape Spear



## 2003 Annual General Meeting Notice

Cecil Steeves, Secretary, The Dobson Hiking Trail (Fundy Trail Hiking Inc) has invited HIKE CANADA EN MARCHE to hold their annual meeting in Moncton this fall. Saturday, October 4th has been confirmed as the date. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

## The History of the National Trail in Manitoba

I visited Mr. Vernon Dutton (or 'Skink' as he affectionately known) about three years ago to learn a bit of the history of the Centennial Trail in Whiteshell Provincial Park. Mr. Dutton, a retired civil engineer and a Scouter has been building and hiking trails in Manitoba for a long time. He first learned of the "Cross-Canada Hiking Trail" sometime in the early 1960s when a letter appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press challenging others to build a section of trail.

With Manitoba's Centennial approaching Mr. Dutton proposed to the Pembina District's Council of the Scouts that they contribute to the Centennial by marking a section of the trail. To prepare for this Dutton made some investigations for possible locations for the trail in Manitoba He visualized it coming into Manitoba near St. Lazare via the Qu'Appelle River valley, going overland to Birtle much as the Carlton Colonization Trail had done. From Birtle he saw it going up the valley of the Birdtail to the west of Rossburn where it would turn eastward and make its way, more or less parallel to the Turkey Trail, past Elphinstone and Sandy Lake and perhaps Erickson. It would continue eastward until it dropped down off the Riding Mountain escarpment into the lake-bed of old glacial Lake Agassiz. There, the trail would be forced around the south end of Lake Manitoba. He then visualized it going in an easterly direction to ultimately cross the Red River on the historic Camere Bridge at Lockport. At this point, he thought it would be reasonable to continue directly east to Beausejour. At this time, the building of the new Highway #44 had left the original paved roadbed intact about 100 feet north of the new roadbed for many miles beyond Beausejour. He felt that this would be a perfect site for the trail.

In October 1969, in the company of three newly-arrived computer scientists from England (as he couldn't find any Canadians to accompany him) Dutton hiked from Ingolf Corner, south of

Caddy Lake westward to where Hanson's Creek forces one out to the highway. The Scouts began marking the trail in 1970 and they have been at it ever since. Normally each fall when it was too chilly for safe canoeing and too warm for winter camping, Scouts would hike the trail adding stones to the cairn markers and wooden plaques through the heavily wooded areas, using pruning shears and Swede saws where required while another group went on ahead extending the trail further westward. The first years they marked the trail from Ingolf Corner to Hanson's Creek in four segments, each with access to Highway #44. Each segment was 5-6 miles long. Having crossed Hanson's Creek, the work continued westward toward Rennie. The trail, as the Scouts laid it out, was only for hikers and fairly nimble hikers at that.

Many Scouters took part over in intervening years. Dutton remembers cutting out the first plaques with a fret saw, many other signs were made and painted by Scouts and they display the Scout's emblem and their motto *Be Prepared*.

On the first Sunday each October a good crowd usually assembles at the Bear Lake trail Wayside Park at 10:00 a.m. for an annual hike. Walking clubs join the scouts, beavers, and guides as they clamour up the rocks to find the first marker then set off over exposed granite ridges, before crossing a stream over a beaver dam. The trail is pristine as the Scout's rule *Garbage in - Garbage out* has been rigidly followed.

Not only are there stone cairns marking the trail but a number of arrows made of carefully aligned stones, point out the direction of the way back to the highway and as the trail runs close enough to highway that you can get your bearing by stopping and listening for the noise of the traffic.

Mr. Dutton, unlike Lord Strathcona and his "last spike"



doesn't expect to be around when this trail is finally completed but he remembers the days out on the trail as the ones that gave him the most pleasure in the Scouting year.

The Scouts are to be congratulated for introducing other Manitobans to the merits of hiking and for promoting the National Trail Association's aims of preserving places of natural beauty and promoting healthy outdoor activities. The trail passes some vast stands of Tamaracks, some deep swales cushioned with mosses and some remarkable lichens that cover the granite ridges.

...Kathleen Leathers  
[www.prairiepathfinders.mb.ca](http://www.prairiepathfinders.mb.ca)





Cape Spear

**Hike Canada** (ISSN 1183-6288) is published by the National Trail Association of Canada (NTAC) whose objectives are:

- to encourage and assist in the development of a national hiking trail system
- to encourage and foster the growth of local and regional hiking trails and clubs, thereby
- preserve places of natural and historic value,
- promote healthy outdoor activities,
- foster interest in and encourage appreciation of our natural and cultural heritage.

Visit our website: [www.nationaltrail.ca](http://www.nationaltrail.ca) and webpage: [www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/trails](http://www.alpineclubofcanada.ca/trails)

## HIKE CANADA EN MARCHÉ Membership Application

*I am interested in supporting the efforts of the National Trail Association of Canada / Association Canadienne du Sentier National by becoming a member.*

**Individual**

One year associate membership	\$ 5.00
Subscription Hike Canada	<u>15.00</u>
Total	\$20.00

**Organization**

One year associate membership	\$ 15.00
Subscription Hike Canada	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$ 40.00

Please send cheque payable to  
The National Trail Association /  
Association Canadienne du Sentier National  
16520 40 Avenue,  
Surrey BC  
V4P 2J9

name \_\_\_\_\_

mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

postal code \_\_\_\_\_

telephone \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to volunteer to help in:**

- |   |                                       |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> administration | <input type="checkbox"/> newsletter   | <input type="checkbox"/> land owner liaison |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fund-raising   | <input type="checkbox"/> construction | <input type="checkbox"/> promotion          |