



NEWS RELEASE

May 7, 2008

Don Cockerton Awarded Prestigious 2008 Trail Blazer Award

Don Cockerton was honoured with the prestigious 2008 Trail Blazer award at Alberta TrailNet Society's recent annual general meeting at Kananaskis Village. The Trail Blazer award recognizes individuals who have dedicated a significant portion of their lives in support of trail development and recreational trail interests, devoting countless hours of volunteer time and effort on behalf of the greater Alberta community.

Cockerton has had many notable accomplishments with a career focus on land use planning, protected area management and partnership development, especially around environmental mitigation, stewardship, and trail construction/maintenance. He began working as a planning researcher for Parks Canada in the 1970s and then joined the Alberta Forest Service as a recreational planner in Kananaskis Country in 1979. Primary achievements in the early years included a share of planning and management of the trails in eastern Kananaskis. More recently, he worked on management plans for the various parks in Kananaskis Country.

Peter Barr, President of Alberta TrailNet said, "Don's contributions to trails in K-Country have been extraordinary. The Alberta public is fortunate to have dedicated professionals like Don. Due in large part to his efforts, Alberta has a well managed and world class recreational wilderness area with beautiful trails for all to enjoy. This award recognizes and expresses the greater trail community's appreciation of Don's work and dedication over the years."

On receiving the award Cockerton said, "I feel lucky to have had the employment opportunities provided throughout my career and to collaborate with like minded individuals who share similar values toward recreation and trails."

Cockerton has helped plan and develop snowshoe, cross-country skiing, hiking, interpretive, mountain bike and multi-use trails. He provides guidance and supports the work of many different groups and organizations including: Friends of Kananaskis, Elbow River Watershed Partnership, Calgary Snowmobile Club, Alberta United Recreationists Society, Alberta Equestrian Federation, Bow Valley Mountain Bike Alliance, the Great Divide Trail Association, the National Trail Association and Alberta TrailNet.

Alberta TrailNet's mission is to promote and support the establishment of a provincial trail network in Alberta, including the Trans Canada Trail, for the multiple benefits trails provide. For information, contact Alberta TrailNet toll-free 1-877-9-TRAILS or at www.albertatrailnet.com.

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