



# TrailTech

The Newsletter for Alberta's Trans Canada Trail Operators

Issue #6 Summer 2007

## Inside this issue:

**Major Community Facilities Program Guidelines** 2

**New TCT Sign Approved!** 3

**Sign up ALBERTA** 3

**Call for Trans Canada Trail Maps** 4

## Did You Know...

According to the National Association of Homebuilders, the most desired amenity of prospective buyers is walking and jogging trails – over swimming pools and exercise rooms. The group surveyed people nationwide and found that trails were preferred 57 percent of the time. **"Trails were No. 1 in every ethnic group,"** said Gopal Ahluwalia, the group's vice president of research. "It will continue to increase." Randy Martin, a partner with Martin & Associates in Costa Mesa who has studied trails' marketing benefits, said the paths appeal to a wide range of ages and demographics. "A gazebo and a path is a nice experience, but once you've been there it often sits vacant," he said. "But a path, especially if it has a loop and is well designed, will get people in the habit of walking there."

## New \$280-Million Program to Help Fund Major Community Facilities

Edmonton... Communities looking to plan, upgrade or build major public-use facilities will be able to access funding from a new, two-year, \$280-million program created by the Alberta government.

Part of Budget 2007, the Major Community Facilities Program will provide funding support to municipalities, not-for-profit organizations and Aboriginal communities for projects that are identified as a priority by a community. Projects that meet the criteria for the program include sports, recreational, cultural or other related family and community wellness facilities. Core infrastructure such as roads, sewers, schools and hospitals will not be eligible for funding.

"Every community has competing priorities when it comes to infrastructure dollars," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "With the additional funding available through this program, communities of all sizes can undertake important capital projects for recreational and cultural facilities that contribute to the well-being of citizens."

To assist communities with targeted infrastructure needs, \$140 million will be available in the current fiscal year and another \$140 million in 2008-09. For the purpose of this program, the province is divided into four regions: Calgary, Edmonton Capital Region, other Albertan cities and rural Alberta. Each region is eligible for one-quarter of total program funding.

"I expect this program will also help communities deal with their aging recreation infrastructure," added Hector Goudreau, Minister of Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture. "As a government, we recognize the importance of community infrastructure that helps Albertans maintain active, healthy lifestyles."

The Major Community Facilities Program will be funded through the Alberta Lottery Fund. The new program was created to accommodate requirements of larger capital projects. It will not replace other current programs that fund community projects. The maximum grant amount is \$10 million.

Applicants must meet established program guidelines and submit a business case to be considered for funding. Funding recommendations will be made based on these guidelines. All grants will be reported on [www.albertalotteryfund.ca](http://www.albertalotteryfund.ca) once they are processed. Further details are available at [www.tprc.gov.ab.ca](http://www.tprc.gov.ab.ca) or by calling 1-800-642-3855.

Supporting community infrastructure is part of Premier Ed Stelmach's priority to improve Albertans' quality of life. Other priorities for government are to: govern with integrity and transparency, manage growth pressures, provide safe and secure communities and build a stronger Alberta.

# Major Community Facilities Program Guidelines

## Program parameters

- Build, purchase, repair, renovate, upgrade or otherwise improve major sports, recreational, cultural or other related family and community wellness facilities.
- Help organizations conduct studies to assess an existing facility, provide life cycle analysis, develop design documents, or help assess the need for a new facility or the upgrading of an existing facility.

## Grant matching requirements

- Funding requests of \$500,000 or less will require equal or greater matching dollars from the applicant. Provincial funding must not exceed 50 per cent of total project costs.
- Major Community Facilities Program (MCFP) funding requests of more than \$500,000 must contribute an amount equal to or exceeding two-thirds (2/3) of project costs. Provincial

funding must not exceed one-third of total project costs.

## Program eligibility

- Applicants must ensure the facility or area is accessible to the general public.
- Applicants are encouraged to obtain a statement of municipal support of the project.

## Funding assessment criteria

Criteria used to approve projects normally includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

**Project Viability:** background of applicant (i.e. membership size/representation), sufficiency of matching resources, how total project funding will be provided, and long-term financial viability and self-sufficiency.

**Project Benefits:** direct and indirect community economic benefit, quality of life/community wellness enhancement, operational efficien-

cies and protection of previous provincial investment.

**Community and Regional Need:** public safety/improved access (including disabled), enhanced utilization, meets changing needs and municipal/community support.

**Availability of MCFP Funding:** prior MCFP or other government funding for similar purposes to applicant/community, regional funding equity.

**Special Considerations:** proven extraordinary need, priority within a high-needs region, special events/disaster related or regional/provincial scale projects.

Due to finite funds and the anticipated volume of applications, not all requests meeting the criteria will obtain grant approval. Where appropriate, a grant amount less than that sought by the applicant may be awarded. Complete program guidelines will be available shortly. For information visit: [www.tprc.gov.ab.ca](http://www.tprc.gov.ab.ca) or call 1-800-642-3855.



*"If there's one essential ingredient to creating trails and trail systems, it's people. All the land and financing in the world won't blaze a trail if there aren't people championing the project."*

BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL COUNCIL,

*In Support of Trails: A Guide to Successful Trail Advocacy, 1993*

## National Trans Canada Trail Sign Approved!

The Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) recently adopted a national Trans Canada Trail highway sign. The purpose for the sign is to identify the Trans Canada Trail Route (routing, trail crossings and trailheads).

This signage was adopted through the efforts of a project steering committee of transportation engineers consisting of Troy McLeod (CITE and Chair), Nora Kajdy (City of Calgary), Claire Stock (City of Edmonton), Greg Iwaskow (City of Calgary), and Paul Hunt (Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation).

If you require this signage, please your local Alberta Transportation office with a request including background info. Costs for signage will be at the trail operator or community's expense.

Supplementary tabs (direction, distance, local signage) may be added as provided in the Transportation Association of Canada's Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCDC) section A 4.4.

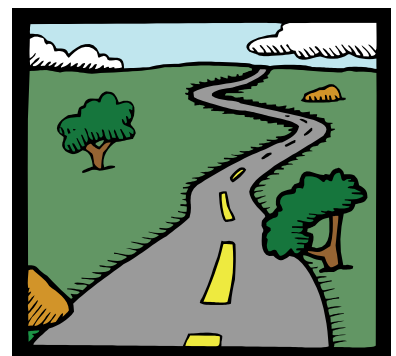


## Sign up ALBERTA - Tourism Highway Signage Program

Alberta Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture is providing a one-time incentive and rebate to tourism attraction operators to assist them with obtaining signage along Alberta's highways. This incentive and rebate program applies to Tourism Oriented Directional Signs (TODS). TODS are a component of Sign Up Alberta, Alberta's Tourism

Highway Signage program.

Tourism Operators are encouraged to contact program administrator, Guide Sign Industries Ltd., for information about this program at 1-866-560-SIGN (7446) or visit [www.signupalberta.com](http://www.signupalberta.com). This one-time incentive and rebate applies only to TODS signs.





## Alberta TrailNet Board of Directors 2007/08

- Peter Barr - President**
- Betty Anne Graves - Past President**
- Reg Gunson - Vice President, Trail Development**
- Janet McLean - Vice President, Communications**
- Sheila Thompson - Secretary**
- Bob Smith - Treasurer**
- John Cushing - Director (AB. Cross Country Rep.)**
- Jeff Gruttz - Director (AB. Bicycle Assoc. Rep.)**
- Louise Sherren - Director (AB. Snowmobile Assoc.)**
- Cal Rakach - Director (AB. Off Highway Vehicle Assoc.)**
- Carole Garnick - Director (Hiking Rep.)**
- Cara Linzmayer - Director (AB. Equestrian Federation Rep.)**
- Christine Onysty - Director**
- Vacant - AB. Recreation and Parks Assoc.**
- John Jacobs - Director**
- Ron Leonhardt - Director**
- Lenore Harris - Director**
- Ross Hayes - Director**
- Cory Kulczycki - Director**

### Staff:

- Linda Strong - Watson, Executive Director**
- Shannon Maliteare, Admin./Comm. Assistant**



### Call for Alberta Trans Canada Trail Maps

Do you have a map of your section of the Trans Canada Trail that is suitable for website use? If so, Alberta TrailNet is still interested in receiving a copy. The map can either be hardcopy (although a PDF is preferred) or electronic. TrailNet wishes to feature these maps on our website: [www.albertatrailnet.com](http://www.albertatrailnet.com). It is our hope that by providing this information we can provide visitors to our site with more detailed information regarding the Trans Canada Trail in Alberta. Please send your maps to Shannon Maliteare, Administrative/Communications Assistant at [atnadmin@telus.net](mailto:atnadmin@telus.net) or mail to our office. Thank you in advance for your contribution to this project.



**PROMOTING A TRAIL NETWORK,  
CONNECTING ALL ALBERTANS**

11759 Groat Road  
Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6

Phone: 780-422-7150  
Toll Free: 1-877-987-2457  
Fax: 780-422-4229  
E-mail: [atnadmin@telus.net](mailto:atnadmin@telus.net)

### Membership Form

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ORGANIZATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**POSTAL CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FAX NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

- ORGANIZATION \$50
- INDIVIDUAL \$25
- DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_