



kawartha
TRANS CANADA TRAIL

2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

What another remarkable year for the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail Association. Thank you for your support.

We are honoured to have received the “Marketing Excellence” award from the Lindsay & District Chamber of Commerce this year. This magnificent, historic trail is a tourist attraction in Kawartha Lakes. With connected access in the east to Peterborough and in the west to Uxbridge, the KTCT also attracts day trippers, such as birdwatchers, photographers and nature lovers. We have a series of videos in production to showcase the scenery during each of the four seasons – watch our Facebook page and website for them shortly.

Partnerships are important to us at the KTCTA. We worked with the City of Kawartha Lakes to construct a shelter at the Lilac Park in Lindsay – another tourist attraction. Another partnership we formed was with Fleming College for trail maintenance, we recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Several events were held on the KTCT this year, including: a ‘Trailathon’ with participants from Scott Young public school, a half marathon with Kawartha Runs and a group ride with the Knights of Columbus.

25 years ago, I attended a meeting in Banff to set the foundation for the Trans Canada Trail. It has been a great sense of pride to see the efforts of the KTCTA, sponsors, partners, and volunteers who worked for more than a decade to make our 54KM section of the national trail, envisioned so long ago, a reality. I am equally proud of how our volunteers and donors have now directed their attention to continuously strive to make the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail better for everyone.

Al MacPherson
President & Founder



ABOUT THE KTCTA

The Kawartha Trans Canada Trail Association was established in 2007, as a not for profit charitable organization (Charitable Organization #834258212RR0001). The original mandate established by the Board of Directors was to develop the abandoned rail corridor that travelled east to west in the City of Kawartha Lakes into a quality, safe and accessible trail and become a section in the national Trans Canada Trail route. In 2014 the 54KM KTCT was completed.

This trail provides opportunities for year-round enjoyment and fosters active living. It also preserves a vital link to railway heritage and offers everyone an opportunity to experience its natural splendour. It is a Kawartha Lakes landmark worthy of pride and support.

MANDATE

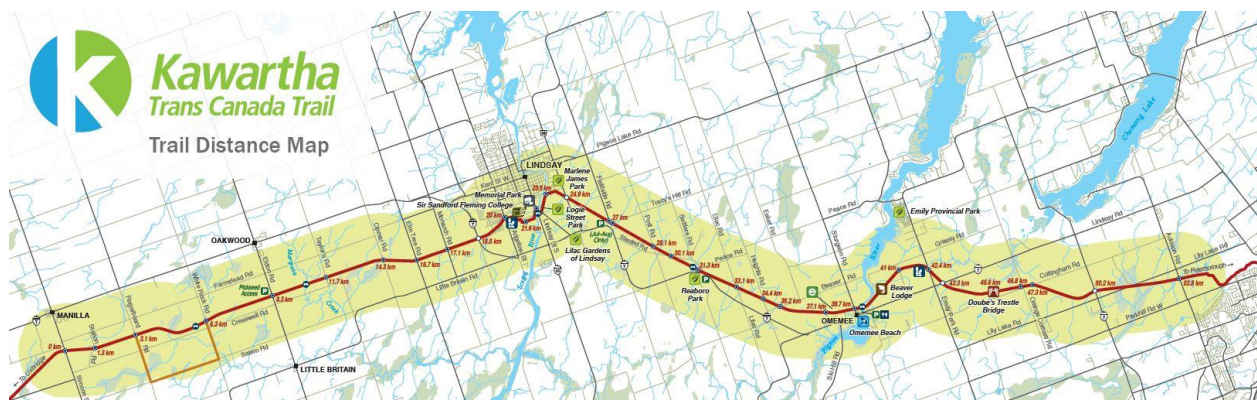
Kawartha Trans Canada Trail Association (KTCTA) promotes active living by maintaining and use of the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail (KTCT).

MISSION

To promote the recreational use of the KTCT for healthy living by maintaining a safe, accessible and educational trail experience for the public's enjoyment, resulting in community pride for today, tomorrow and for future generations.

GOALS

1. The core business for the KTCTA is meeting the walking, cycling, horseback riding, snowshoeing and snowmobile needs for our trail users.
2. To maintain a yearly break even operational budget and invest any surplus for capital repairs or improvements.
3. To accept and acquire materials and labour and raise funds for trail related projects and operation.
4. To promote safe and responsible use of the KTCT.
5. To gather community support for the KTCT and our volunteer efforts to manage the KTCT.
6. To maintain a high quality trail operation and educational experience that meets the needs of the trail user.



VALUES

The KTCT is guided by a set of core values that represent the organization's commitment to manage the KTCT. We pursue our mission and goals by our dedication to:

Volunteerism and Community Support: We exist through the generosity, talents, and support of our supporters, and our volunteers: the very soul of the Trail.

Spirit of Cooperation: We cherish our partnerships with agencies, communities, clubs, volunteers, students, and citizens. We collaborate to achieve our mission and assist other organizations in achieving their success.

Sustainability: We seek to minimize our impact on the environment and incorporate the ideals of sustainability in our everyday operations.

Integrity: We act honorably in accordance with the highest standards of personal and professional conduct. We always hold ourselves responsible to fulfill our mission to the public.

Passion for Excellence: We are determined to be the best at what we do as individuals and as an organization. We are passionate about our work and strive for excellence.

Creativity & Innovation: We recognize the importance of innovation. We work hard to improve and become more effective in all of our endeavors.

Empowerment: We strive to empower volunteers to achieve personal and professional fulfillment in their lives.

Health and Safety: We apply the highest standards of health and safety to our work practices.

Enjoyment: We value our work as a source of enjoyment and satisfaction. We are proud being part of the national Trans Canada Trail and the growing Kawartha Trans Canada Trail community. We want the KTCT to be essential to the trail users' experience. We want the KTCT to be essential to the trail users' experience.

Education: To advance the education of the public and to engage youth and other trail users to learn from its existence and in particular about the preservation, conservation of the trail corridor, and the many health benefits the KTCT provide relating to the outdoor recreational opportunities the KTCT provides.

Diversity: We are committed to supporting and sustaining a diverse organization that is fair, inclusive, and respectful.

The overall role of the KTCTA Board of Directors based upon the value statements is to work on behalf of (and with) all core users- walkers/hikers, cyclists, horseback riders, cross country skiers, runners and snowmobilers of all generations.

The KTCTA achieves these values by a variety of means, including campaigning, advocacy, education, practical trail work and projects. Most of the work to meet the KTCTA goals and values are undertaken by volunteers.

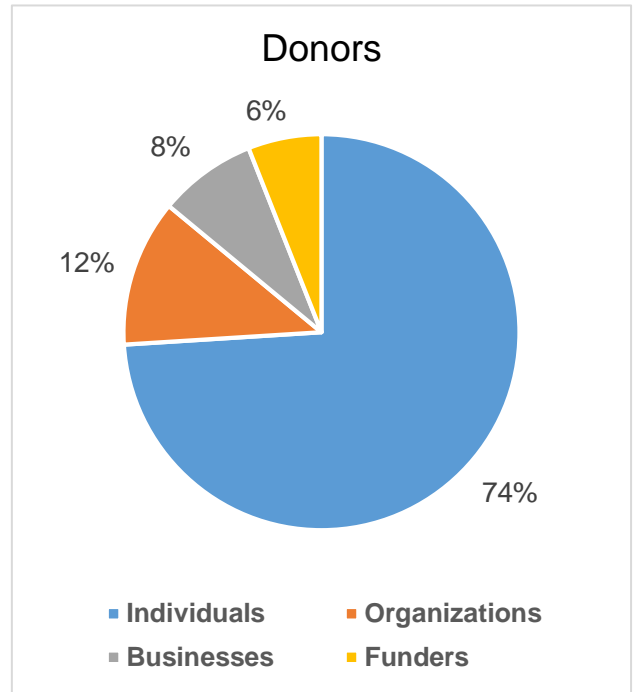
WE APPRECIATE DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Donors make trail maintenance and enhancements possible. We appreciate contributions made by individuals, businesses and organizations.

We are a charity, run by a volunteer Board of Directors.

The need for ongoing fundraising is real. The trail is not supported by municipal funding. Every financial contribution is applied to trail operations. Without regular financial support, trail maintenance and enhancements are jeopardized.

Donations have declined since the trail was completed. A new fundraising strategy has been developed: the 'Love Your Trail' campaign is intended to attract sponsors and individual donors who agree to commit a donation to the association each year for five consecutive years. The intent is to establish some assurance of operational continuity.



DONOR LEVELS:

Love Your Trail Sponsor	\$5000+
Trail Champion	\$1000 - \$4999
Trail Master	\$500 - \$999
Trail Blazer	\$100 - \$499
Trail Maker	\$50 - \$99
Trail Supporter	\$49 and less

Tax receipts are issued to donors for contributions of \$20 or more.

LOVE YOUR TRAIL SPONSORS

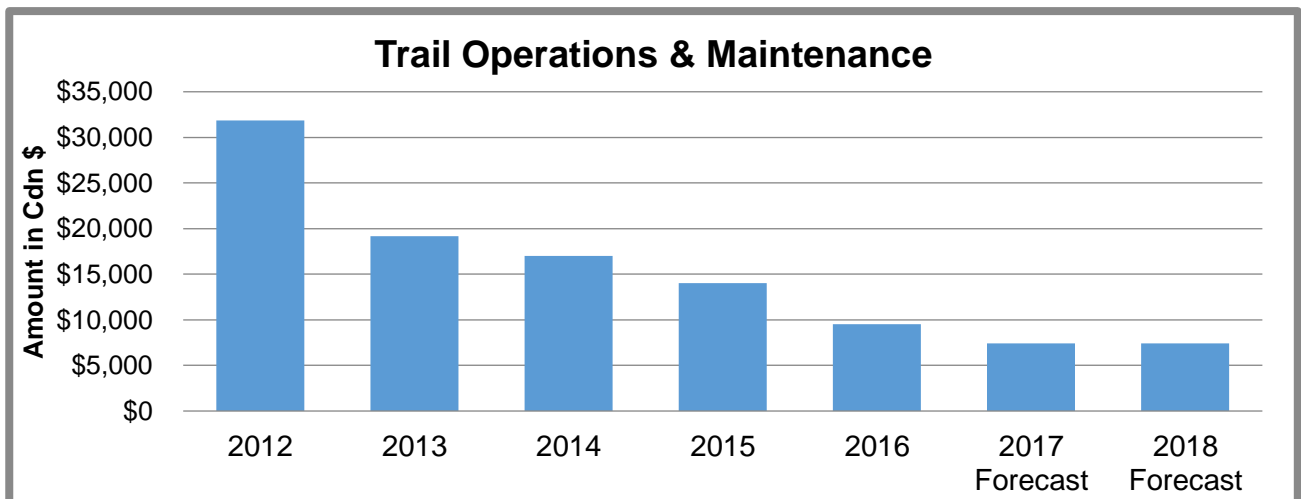
Please thank these sponsors for their support. They are helping to ensure the annual operating budget can be met, plus offset unknown cost increases and special projects. They have committed \$5000 (or more) over a 5-year period.



TRAIL OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

Annually, our volunteer Board of Directors establish a fundraising goal to cover operating and maintenance expenses which includes: barrier repairs, bridge repairs, emergency repairs, grass cutting/spraying, insurance, lease, promotion, supplies (e.g. gravel), signs and training.

This does not include any upgrades or enhancement such as parking or rest stops.



TRAIL USER SURVEY

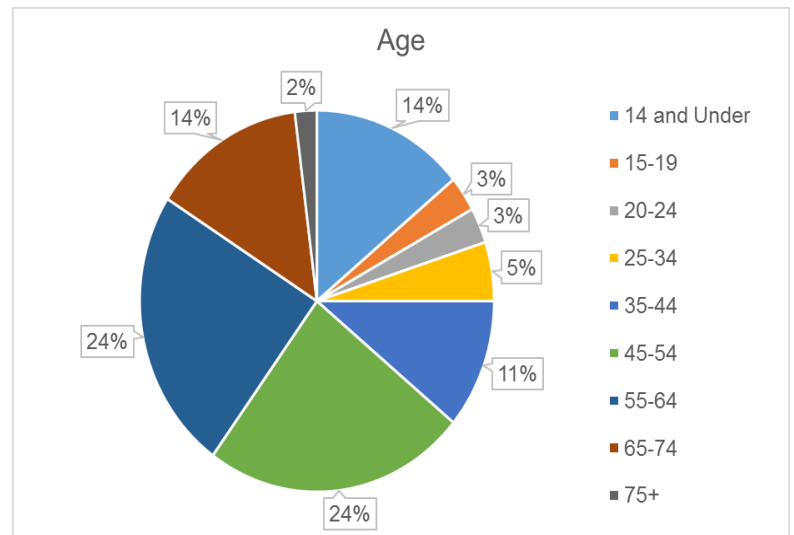
WHO USES THE KTCT?

The Trail Studies Unit at Trent University completed a trail user survey for the KTCT. The survey found that the largest group (44%) of trail users were visitors from Peterborough County, followed by residents in Kawartha Lakes (27%).

The respondents knew about the trail mainly from general knowledge from living in the area or by word of mouth, the Internet and signage. The trail is used by all ages with almost half being between 45 - 64

To read the full report visit our website:

http://ktct.ca/images/docs/TSU_Survey_Report_Feb_2016.pdf



HISTORY OF THE KTCT

1858	Rail Line established.
1988	CN Line Abandoned the line and removed the railway ties and no management of the line occurred.
1988	Kawartha Rail Trails Organization formed based out of Peterborough viewed this line to be a significant contribution to recreation, tourism and local heritage.
1994	Ontario Trails Council- became the lead agency for the Trans Canada Trail in Ontario- identified this section of rail trail as an important potential connection.
1999	Town of Lindsay Municipal Government passed motion endorsing the Trans Canada Trail through Lindsay.
2000	Province Ontario purchased line for possible future transportation, recreation and energy needs.
2000	Trans Canada Trail Ocean Water Relay Celebration occurred in Lindsay an area, it was a major tourism event using part of the rail trail.
2001	Release of the final report by GSI Real Estate and Planning Advisors (Consultants) for the Ontario government. After a comprehensive public consultation process, rail corridor identified as a key Trans Canada Trail route and recommended cycling, walking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling as the recreational trail use.
2003	Subsequent to the GSI study the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (Peterborough District Office) was given the responsibility to implement the recommendations in the study. A Rail/Trail Advisory Committee was established.
2005	The Ontario Trails Council & Trans Canada Trail Ontario Director made a presentation to City of Kawartha Lakes Community Service staff for support to have the trail established. No action taken.
2005	Ontario Provincial Trail Strategy Released (October) and the Trans Canada Trail is given a Provincial Priority to be completed by 2010.
2006	The City Kawartha Lakes Trails Master Plan completed, the plan identified the Trans Canada Trail as a priority in the development of trails within the City of Kawartha Lakes.
2006	(January) Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources declared the rail line corridor surplus and subsequently it was released to the Ontario Realty Corporation for possible disposal.
2006	(January) 1st Friends of Trans Canada Trail meeting for the City of Kawartha Lakes was held with a mandate to retain ownership of this rail corridor and have a registered and operational TCT by 2010.
2006	Ontario Government leased the abandoned rail line to Kawartha Trans Canada Trail Association.
2007	Kawartha Trans Canada Trail Association incorporated as a not-for-profit charitable organization.
2010	Construction of the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail 95% complete.
2014	Last 800 meters of trail completed at the end of Dobson Street in Lindsay. Total of 54 kilometres of trail fully completed and operational.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Allen MacPherson (President)
Marnie Callaghan
Bill Elliott
Erik Ellis

Jenn Johnson
John Hagarty
George Pineau
Mike McLean

Kathy Simpson
Linda Skilton
Ben Van den Broek
Ellen Woodward

ABOUT THE KTCT

Kawartha Trans Canada Trail attracts people of all ages, abilities and interests. The trail serves both recreational enthusiasts and educational interests. Recreational users frequent the trail during the spring, summer, and fall seasons for cycling, running, and walking. Occasionally it is used by horse-back riders. Winter months attract snowmobilers, and some cross-country skiers. Students use the trail for educational purposes, such as environmental and history studies. Whatever your reason to use the trail, it is a wonderful, natural corridor.

KAWARTHA TRANS CANADA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

c/o Fleming College

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www.ktct.ca

[@LoveYourTrail](https://www.instagram.com/LoveYourTrail)

 dianne whelan @diannewhelan · Aug 27
Sweet ride and cool art [@kawarthalakes](https://www.instagram.com/kawarthalakes)
on the [@TCTrail](https://www.instagram.com/TCTrail) [@LoveYourTrail](https://www.instagram.com/LoveYourTrail) cheers



