

# The Trailbuilders

## The Inverness County TransCanada Trail

In 1997, the Inverness County Trails Federation began construction of a section of TCT from Inverness to Little Judique Harbour. In 1998, the Ceilidh Coastal Trail formed to develop the initial leg of TCT from the Canso Canal to Long Point. By 1999 The Judique Flyer Trail Association accepted the TCT Challenge to complete the 19 kilometer gap between these two trails.

During the first nine years, several significant projects were undertaken. Twenty-six bridges were repaired, decked, and railed to provincial multi-use trail standards. Participation of the Canadian Military Engineers enabled 13 bridges to be built in 12 days, as well as the daunting task of installing the Ghost Beach Bridge. Community volunteers and the 45th Field Engineers completed the remaining bridges.

In 2003, 21 km (700') of washed out causeway was rehabilitated at Little Judique Harbour and in 2008, several coastal sections susceptible to erosion were built up and reinforced as protection against storm surge.

In the fall of 2005, The Ceilidh Coastal Trail Association, The Judique Flyer Trail Association, and the Inverness County Trails Federation joined forces, committing to complete Phase 1 of the Inverness County TransCanada Trail. A partnership with Cape Breton Island Pathways Association in 2006 provided community volunteer trail groups with project coordination.

An historic route of Inverness County is preserved for generations to come because of a dedicated volunteer effort committed to trail building. Between 1997 and 2008, 72 corporate and government partners and hundreds of dedicated individuals donated resources of over 3.3 million dollars to this legacy project.

On October 22nd 2008, this 92 kilometer section of TransCanada Trail was opened by Valerie Pringle, Chair of the Board of the TransCanada Trail and Deborah Apps, in one of her first official duties as the new President and CEO of the TCT.

The TCT in Cape Breton beginning at the Canso Canal, is comprised of the Ceilidh Coastal Trail, The Judique Flyer Trail, The Chestico Trail, The Mabou Rivers Trail, and the Inverness Shean Trail. The Bealach Breagh Trail and The Lewis Mountain Trail will extend the TCT from Inverness to Little Narrows.

Many well-chosen look-off sites and rest stops are easily accessible from Route 19 and showcase special vistas while providing historical overviews of the life and times of each community as well as pointing out amenities, local attractions, and an historical summary from 19th century railway origins to the present day trail.

We welcome you to come experience the product and pride of our communities' committed trailbuilders who helped to complete this Coastal Celtic Corridor of TransCanada Trail on western Cape Breton Island.



The first spikes were removed from the former Inverness County Rail line at Port Hastings on March 25th, 1987.

Troy Station



Students and staff with NSCC, as well as Employment Canada JCP Employees and community volunteers played valuable roles by providing various trail-building skills.



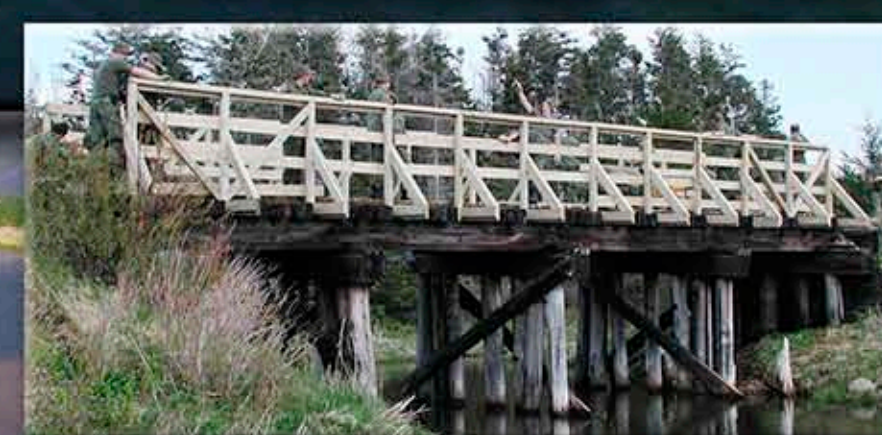
In March 2008, over 1100 trailer loads totalling 23,000 tonnes of armour stone was placed to protect the trail from coastal erosion and storm surges.



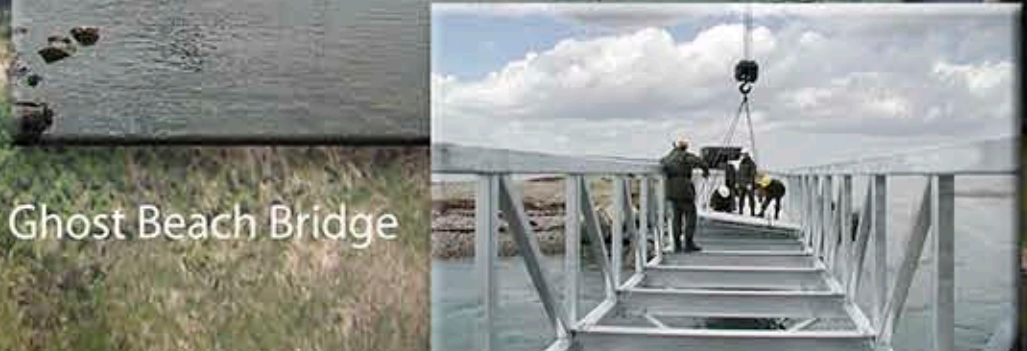
Centennial Beach



The Ghost Beach Bridge at Canso Canal was installed May 12-17, 2002 by the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineer, CFB Gagetown.



Canadian Forces Military Engineers, 45th Squadron help trail volunteers deck and rail 23 of the trail's remaining 26 bridges between 2001 and 2004.



Ghost Beach Bridge



After The Ghost Beach Bridge was installed, they were rewarded Inverness County style.



The Olympic Torch Relay at the bantam marker, Canso Canal, Trans Canada Trail, October, 2009.



Cape Breton Pathways Association, Employment Canada JCP employees and ICTCT volunteers all contributed to the trails completion.



Gabion wall installation at Glendyer.



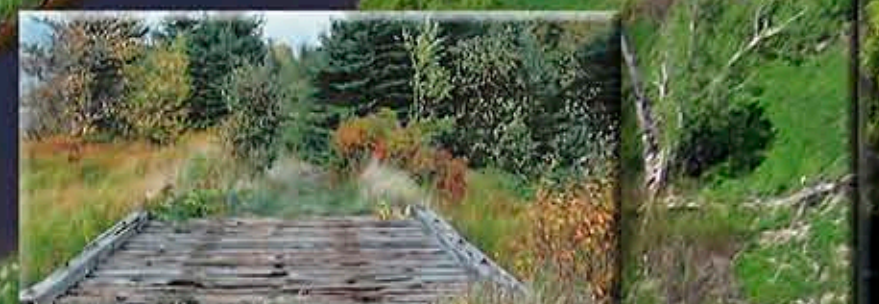
Judique Flyer Trail volunteers Rinus Van de Van and Gillis MacDonald.



NS Health Promotion and Protection's Ted Scrutton and Steve Vines; TCT Director of Trails James Clark, and NS Trails TCT committee Chair Blaise MacEachern



Interpretive Signage Committee from 5 communities worked as one. Seated: Blaise MacEachern, Yvonne Fox, Virginia MacIsaac, Dawn Beaton. Standing: Ned MacDonald, Francis Gillies, Daniel Rankin, Hugh MacEachern. Missing: Peggy Burke, Alice Campbell, Jim St. Clair.



The Ceilidh Trail Opened Oct. 22, 2008 by TCT CEO Deborah Apps and Chair Valerie Pringle and CCTA's Wilson Cameron and Hugh MacEachern



The Mabou River Trail is Opened by MRTC volunteers, Daniel Rankin, Ed MacDonald, Dawn Beaton, and TCT's Deborah Apps and Valerie Pringle



JFTA's Neil MacLeod, Archie MacDonald and Jack Brideau complete Chisholm's Brook Trestle railings.



Trail Supporter Omac Industrial donated this Grader to assist in the construction, and ever important maintenance of the trail.



East Coast Credit Union was one of the many project supporters funding this tractor.



Alpine Snowmobile Club volunteers Joey Gillis and Al Tobey. Volunteers are the heart of our trail.



The Judique Flyer Trail is officially opened on Oct 22, 2008 by Project Chair Blaise MacEachern, Valerie Pringle and Deborah Apps.



The Inverness Shean Trail and The Chestico Trail are opened Oct 22, 2008, by long time trail volunteers Len Tobey, John Austin, and Barry Watson.

Text: Blaise MacEachern  
Photos: Ceilidh Coastal, Judique Flyer, Chestico, Mabou Rivers & Inverness Shean Trails Associations & the Municipality of the County of Inverness.  
Property of Inverness County TransCanada Trail Project.  
Photo Restoration and layout: MV Design, www.wdmv.ca



These Inverness County trails are also part of the International Appalachian Trail-Sentier

Deepdale Trestle 111.6 m long, 24.4 m high



International Trails Day is always the first Saturday in June. It is the trailbuilders wish that this trail will be a legacy for all generations to enjoy.