



*“Cape Breton. Yours to explore.”*

## **NEWSLETTER #5 SUMMER, 2006**

### **MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR**

Good Day, Everyone –

Fall is upon us and our colourful foliage is quickly disappearing. Those gearing up for winter-trail fun - Let It Snow!

For those of you who haven't yet heard, Pathways is the proponent for the construction infrastructure on the Trans Canada Trail from Port Hawkesbury to Inverness in partnership with Trans Canada Trail Foundation and the Inverness County Trails Federation. To date, funding partners are on board with ECBC committing to \$500,000.00, the largest contributor. Once completed, the Trail will provide a tangible asset that will assist in forging economic links, will foster community cooperation and will provide us with an important asset that offers recreational opportunities, education potential and easier access to our natural assets.

Pathway has also been involved in doing trail assessments of Kidston Island for the Village of Baddeck and for the East Bay Area Council trail on the former R.J. Logue property.

The Snowmobile Trail Guide has just arrived! We have copies available upon request. Have a look at it at the upcoming AGM - it "looks awesome"!

Of particular note, Laurie Cranton is stepping down as our Chair. Laurie was recently appointed as Chair of the Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Committee. I know I speak for everyone when I say, "Good luck, Laurie, in this new endeavour."

Our **Annual General Meeting is on November 4<sup>th</sup>** and we hope that everyone will come out and attend. This organization is only as strong as its membership. The direction the organization takes is up to you. Come help move Pathways and trails on Cape Breton Island forward.

See you at the AGM!

Sincerely,

Darrell Taylor

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## MEMBERSHIP

As the activities of the summer of 2006 become cherished memories, membership once more is a huge priority for all of us at Pathways. Our membership drive of July/August, 2006 was not quite as successful as we had hoped – not many of you replied and renewed your membership with us, which begs the question, “Why not?” Cape Breton Island Pathways Association is a strong voice for all trail users and now, with funding in place for the completion of the Trans Canada Trail on Cape Breton Island, and with the completion of several other, smaller projects in the past few months, Pathways role as the “go to” organization for trails development is becoming firmly established. Therefore, we urge you to renew your Pathways membership and encourage other interested trail users - family members, business associates or friends - to do the same. And, in an effort to build our membership, show this Newsletter to everyone you know and encourage them to also become members of Pathways as we embark on exciting and important trails initiatives for Cape Breton Island. As stated in our last Newsletter, our future is in our trails and without you, your voice, your vision, we cannot move forward. It’s time to belly up to the table, to show your support for your trails builders and Cape Breton Island Pathways Association.

Pathways would like to welcome its newest members:

The Baddeck Village Commission  
Debbie MacDonald Gray  
Kim Lemky

And, thanks to all of you who have already renewed your 2006 membership.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FUNDING:

On Friday, August 25, 2006, Peter MacKay, minister responsible for ACOA (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency), announced that funding to Cape Breton Island Pathways Association was approved in the amount of \$500,000.00 for development of the Trans Canada Trail on Cape Breton Island. This money will be used to complete both Phase I of the Project, the necessary infrastructure from the Canso Causeway to Inverness and Phase II, identification of the route from Inverness to North Sydney. Both Phases are slated for completion in 2009. Said Pathways Coordinator, Darrell Taylor, “...trails have captured the imagination of the world.” Laurie Cranton, Pathways’ Board Chair commented that, “Our goal is to complete this over the next few years so its finally a masterpiece that Cape Breton Island can be proud of. ...it’s going to bring a very strong economic impact to our communities, along with recreational and health benefits.”

On Friday, September 8, 2006, Nova Scotia Premier Rodney MacDonald announced additional Trans Canada Trail funding to Cape Breton Island Pathways Association in the amount of \$90,000.00. Blaise MacEachern, Pathways Board Member – Inverness County, accepted the grant on behalf of Cape Breton Island Pathways Association.

On Wednesday, October 11, 2006, the Province of Nova Scotia’s Natural Resources Minister David Morse announced the appointment of Laurie Cranton as Chair of a newly-formed, Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Committee. Laurie will assist his committee to, as stated by Barry Barnet, Minister of Health Promotion and Protection, “...provide leadership and knowledge on how (the Province) can continue to protect the health and safety of off-highway vehicle riders in Nova Scotia.” We wish Laurie great success in this, his latest endeavour.

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## PATHWAYS IN THE NEWS

In an excellent article published in the August 14 – 27, 2006 issue of the Victoria Standard, Pathways Coordinator Darrell Taylor took the opportunity to highlight Cape Breton Island Pathways Association. Darrell was very clear on Pathways’ dedication to assisting in the development of Cape Breton Island’s

tourism-based trails initiatives that have potential to stimulate community support and communications as well as economic development by assisting communities develop sustainable infrastructure while promoting Island-wide quality-of-life enhancements and active living. While speaking with interviewer/editor, Jim Morrow, Darrell expressed his hope that the Olympic Torch will follow the Trans Canada Trail, to date Pathways most energetic initiative, for the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver.

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## **TRANS CANADA TRAIL UPDATE**

Cape Breton Island Pathways Association, with the support of the Inverness County Trails Federation, the Trans Canada Trail Foundation, local communities and Counties, is developing the Trans Canada Trail on Cape Breton Island into a marketable World Class Trail.

The Trans Canada Trail is a massive project that will be the longest recreational trail in the world, spanning over 18,000km, when completed. On Cape Breton Island, the Trans Canada Trail has been identified and promoted as a linear trail that travels from Port Hastings to Inverness, to Little Narrows, Grand Narrows and on to North Sydney.

The amount of the project is \$1,306,940.00. This will complete Phase I and II of a three-phase project. Phase I includes the construction of the Trail from Port Hastings to Inverness along 92km of abandoned rail line that travels along beautiful coastline, wetlands, beaches and three, active saltwater marshes. The main aspects of this trail infrastructure development are right-of-way clearing, ditching and culverts, slope stabilization, installation of signage, bollard placement and building information kiosks, look-offs and rest areas.

Phase II involves developing community alliances, route selection, route GPS and GIS inventory, trail assessment and costing to finish the Trail from Inverness to North Sydney. This Phase is scheduled to be completed by March 31, 2007. Phase III will involve the construction of the Trail from Inverness to North Sydney.

The proposed trail development will help communities along the Trail to expand opportunities for economic growth. Once completed, it will provide a tangible asset that will forge economic links, foster community cooperation and will help develop future project opportunities between communities.

The project is just getting underway with the first tender awarded for ditching and culverts on 15km of trail from Troy to Chisholm's Brook. We hope to have the section from Port Hastings to Inverness completed by September 30, 2008, and Phase II by March 31, 2007.

Sanderson Layng, the new President and CEO of the Trans Canada Trail for less than a year, has brought forth some great ideas to promote the Trail across the County, particularly for our children and youth. For example:

- launching the "TC Leaf", a cartoon character who will star in a colouring book, an animated television series and a video game
- Walk Across Canada – a curriculum-based virtual tour of Canada designed to teach lessons in history, geography, active living and more
- Trail Blazer, a board game with a map of Canada as its base, challenges players to cross the county by canoe, covered wagon, etc.

These are exciting times for the Trans Canada Trail and everyone who is involved in it. As Valerie Pringle, Chair of the Trans Canada Trail puts it, "This is the only country in the world where the people actually give their country a gift – a trail that stretches from coast to coast."

The economic impact and the communication of intrinsic values of a highly-developed trail system will be vital to the well-being of our communities. Cape Breton residents will have an important asset to use that provides exercise, recreational opportunities, education and easy access to our natural assets.

If you would like to play an active role in developing this World Class Trail, or have any questions pertaining to it, please contact your local trail group or the Cape Breton Island Pathways Association office.

Troy Jessome, Trans Canada Trail Coordinator – Cape Breton Region  
Darrell Taylor, Pathways Coordinator

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## **ACROSS THE HIGHLANDS MTB CHALLENGE**

On the week-end of August 19 – 21, 2006, 49 hardy cyclists took on the “Across the Highlands Mountain Bike Challenge (ACH ‘06)” for three days of mountain biking in Victoria and Inverness Counties. The event’s signature event, crossing the Highlands Plateau between North River Bridge at St. Ann’s Bay and St. Joseph du Moine on the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, took place on Saturday. This ride is a particularly grueling one over 65km of fire roads and rocky trails marked by long and strenuous uphill climbs and thrilling descents that challenge physical abilities, riding skills and psychological preparation of each of the participants. This event, organized by volunteers of Velo Cape Breton Bicycle Club, registered 24 riders from Cape Breton Island, 21 from mainland Nova Scotia and five other riders from New Brunswick, Ontario, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. All 49 challengers completed the ride with times varying between 5½ hours and 8 ½ hours.

Should there be another AHC in 2007 is a decision that will be made by the volunteer organizers. Judging by the enthusiasm of all after the ride, AHC '06 was definitely a winner. There is no doubt that Cape Breton Island has great potential for these types of sports events. Long life and tourism benefits will be assured if all the good people of Cape Breton, like all those mentioned above, come forward to pull in the right direction, motivated by altruism for the benefit of the community rather than by selfishness and greed.

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## **HIKE THE HIGHLANDS FESTIVAL**

Another successful year of hiking during the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual “Hike the Highlands Festival” came as no surprise to the organizers of this exciting event or to the hikers who participated in the twice-daily offerings that showcased some of Cape Breton Island’s finest trails. The Festival doubled in size over the 2005 version and, for those who came, it was a blast and definitely an event worth attending. The weather co-operated and was fabulous throughout the week. Visitors came from as far away as Whitehorse, Georgia, Scotland and, of course, from “down the Province”. Ages of hikers ranged, this year, from 3! To 78. In addition to the daily hikes, highlights of the Festival included reunions, the hospitality suite, The Thirsty Hiker Pub, Cape Breton Highlands National Park presentations and closing ceremonies. Thanks to all those who came out to hike the Highlands and, of course, special thanks to all the volunteers and local guides who made this event so special. Plans are underway for next year’s Festival.

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## **KUDOS**

We thought that you might like to know that our efforts in many areas of trails development are being recognized. In an e-mail received from John Bellini, TCT Chief Trail Builder, he said, of a proposal Pathways submitted to ECBC: “This is a comprehensive bit of work that should serve as a model throughout the country... ..it certainly provides a great deal of confidence in that someone is taking charge of this in the communities. Great work on the part of our friends in Cape Breton.” Congrats to Darrell Taylor, Pathways Coordinator and Troy Jessome, TCT Trails Technician, for their fine work!

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## WHAT'S GOING ON?

**Cape Breton Island Pathways Association is holding its Annual General Meeting on Saturday, November 4, 2006.** The meeting will start promptly at 10:30 a.m. the Gaelic College of Celtic Arts and Crafts located in St. Ann's Bay just off exit 11 of the Trans Canada Highway. During Registration (10:00 – 10:30 a.m.) coffee, tea and muffins will be available and at 12:00 p.m., lunch will be served. In addition to a Speakers' Program, there will be plenty of opportunity throughout the day to meet with members of other trail groups and supporters of trails around the Island.

We invite you to bring along friends and interested colleagues to hear more about Pathways recent successes, its initiatives for 2006/2007 and what's new in Cape Breton's ongoing, Island-wide trails development. Elections for the Board of Directors will also be held during this meeting. Please contact us to register as we need to know how many are attending (lunch arrangements!). For more information: on the web at [www.pathwayscb.ca](http://www.pathwayscb.ca) , by e-mail at [pathwayscb@yahoo.ca](mailto:pathwayscb@yahoo.ca) or by calling our office (902) 295-3177.

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## OUR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Below is a list of our member organizations. From the list, you can see how diverse our membership has become! If you have any questions about any of these clubs, or would like to join one, please contact the individual listed:

### Associations:

Margaree Highlanders Snowmobile Club  
Coxheath Hills Recreation Association  
VELO Cape Breton Bicycle Club  
Inverness County Trails Federation  
Alpine Snowmobile Club  
Grand Narrows Waterfront Development Association  
East Richmond ATV Riders  
Judique Flyer Trail Association  
Ceilidh Coastal Trail Association  
East Bay Area Community Council  
Cape Breton Island Hoppers  
Two Rivers Development Association  
Cape Clear Snowmobile Club  
Inverness Trail Riders/ATV Association  
Cape Breton Partnerships  
Destination Cape Breton  
Village of Baddeck

### Contact Info:

Laurie Cranton – 248-2726  
Emile Roach – 562-8844  
Jacques Cote – 562-8137  
Len Tobey – 787-2232  
Len Tobey – 787-2232  
  
David Alsina – 622-1313  
Ann Carter – 535-3744  
Blaise MacEachern – 787-3251  
Wilson Cameron – 625-3701  
Tony Penney – 828-2870  
Rollie Coombs – 849-0747  
John Huntington – 727-2483  
Brian Noseworthy – 625-1785  
Robert Middaugh – 258-3604  
Keith MacDonald – 562-7182  
Sandy MacDonald – 563-4636  
Erin Bradley – 295-3666

### Businesses:

Carters' Housekeeping Cottages	535-3744
Riverbank Restaurant & Cottages	727-2012
Keltic Lodge	285-2880
Brown's Inn and Cottages	248-2935
Highland Signs	224-1880
Greg Ferens Photography	285-2128
Old Miller Trout Farm and B&B	248-2080
The Lakes Campground & Restaurant Ltd.	248-2360

### Individual Members:

Debbie MacDonald-Gray	Elaine Wallace
Laurie Cranton	James deVries

Jerome MacEachern  
Karen Malcolm  
Jim Morrow  
Heather MacDougall  
John Cotton  
Alcantra Landry  
Mike Little  
Tony Penney

Wilson Cameron  
James Redden  
Rev. Donald F. Campbell  
Dennis Laffan  
Bethsheila Kent  
Richard McIntosh  
John Stinson

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## **PROGRAM FUNDING GRANT**

Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection has developed a Trail Maintenance Program to provide funding to groups who are involved in regular maintenance of trails as well as emergency funding to groups who have experienced major maintenance issues due to fire, flooding, etc. to a maximum of \$1,000.00, annually. As this program is being run on a "first come, first served" basis, it is important to obtain information and to complete the funding application as soon as possible. For more information visit the Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection, Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation website at [www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/)

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## **PATHWAYS' TRAIL BITS**

Pathways is offering a free way of advertising up-coming events or activities for our membership. If you contact us with news of your events we will be certain to circulate it for you. The easiest way to make your event a huge success is getting the word out. We can help! After all, the web page is the newspaper of today.

Pathways is hopeful that more trails data will be available at your fingertips in the very near future. We are planning to upload trails inventory with trail maps, trail condition information and more. Keep checking the web for these upgrades.

We need feedback from you, our members, as to what you would like to see on our web site. Please contact the office by phone: 295-3177 or by e-mail: [pathwayscb@yahoo.ca](mailto:pathwayscb@yahoo.ca)

And, last, but certainly NOT least, The Cape Breton Highlands Snowmobile Trail Guide, a first-class, detailed, functional guide and marketing piece on snowmobiling in western Cape Breton is now available from either our office or from your local snowmobile club. This is a great, comprehensive piece of work that not only details trail routes, but also supplies essential travel information for the winter enthusiast.