



**NTC • CNS**

NATIONAL TRAILS COALITION COALITION NATIONALE SUR LES SENTIERS

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## **NTC UPDATE**

All across Canada at this very moment there are 468 projects in various states of construction. Some have already being completed! The Regional Trail Coordinators and Regional Advisory Councils for each province have been working tirelessly to bring viable projects to the National Trails Coalition board table for approval. The diversity of the projects matches the diversity of this Country. From coast to coast our Canadian Trails are being refurbished, cleared, brushed and given new surfacing. There are provincial snowmobile projects that will compile GPS coordinates and map thousands of kilometers of trails. Other projects involve new bridges, boardwalks, trail heads and new signage. Our Canadian trails are places to get back to nature, learn about our Canadian history and experience firsthand an active way of life.

### **Following Proper Trail Etiquette**

The diverse trails across Canada encompass many different user groups and interests. Trail users can hike, bike, snowmobile, use ATVs or off road vehicles, ride horseback and more. Our trails meander through beautiful forests, vast fields, mountains and valleys and along our beautiful coasts. The bottom line is we all have to do our part to ensure that all trails are left in pristine condition for our current use and for generations to come. Simply following some standard trail etiquette will enhance your experience. Common sense plays a huge part in all trail etiquette but there also may be some unwritten rules that users aren't aware of.

Proper trail etiquette is everyone's responsibility. This news letter will focus on Multi-use and Non-Motorized Trails and Paths. Stay tuned each week for etiquette information for all our different groups.

### **Multi-use Non-motorized Trails and Paths**

#### **Keep right**

Ride/Skate/Walk as far to the right as practical, except when passing another user going your direction (pass on the left). Control your speed, slow down and use caution when approaching or overtaking other trails or pathways users.

#### **Be predictable**

Travel in a consistent and predictable manner. Always look behind before changing positions on the trail or path.

### **Don't block the trail or path**

Ride/Skate/Walk single file when other users are present. Use no more than half the trail or path so as not to block the flow of other users. When stopping, move off the trail or path.

### **Obey traffic signs and signals**

Use extra caution where trail or path crosses streets, driveways, or other trails and paths.

### **Be courteous**

When passing someone from behind, announce yourself by shouting “passing on your left” or ring your bell if you are on a bicycle.

### **Be respectful of private property**

Trails and paths are open to the public, but often the adjacent land is private property. Please respect all property rights.

## Project Profile BC37 - Strathcona Wilderness Institute

Strathcona Provincial Park is a 250,000 hectare, triangular shaped park that practically spans the entire width of Vancouver Island. This rugged mountain wilderness is the oldest provincial park in British Columbia and has been in existence since 1911. It borders on Herbert Inlet off Clayoquot Sound on the Pacific Coast and extends eastwards to within 13 kilometres of the sea near Comox.



Amongst the eternally snowcapped mountains and lush forests, that were already old when Captain James Cook of the Royal Navy landed in 1778, and the terrain intertwined with lakes, rivers, creeks and streams is the Strathcona-Forbidden Plateau Trails Project.

The Strathcona-Forbidden Plateau Trails Project is an initiative of the Strathcona Wilderness Institute, BC Parks, British Columbia Ministry of Environment, in conjunction with federal trail funding administered by the National Trails Coalition. The project, which started construction in June of 2009, is providing new trail development and facility upgrades to the Paradise Meadows trail system inside the park. Paradise Meadows is a beautiful and fragile ecosystem in the Forbidden Plateau area of Strathcona Provincial Park and is one of the most utilized trails. The existing trail system is constructed largely out of boardwalk in order to protect the sensitive meadows. Individuals with mobility limitations were not yet able to fully enjoy these Meadows.

The Funding from Canada's Economic Action Plan/ National Trails Coalition helped to complete a barrier free boardwalk trail loop through high elevation and enhance trail head infrastructure. The barrier free trail and related trail head infrastructure including a wilderness centre was designed and built to be user friendly to persons with limited mobility such as people requiring wheel chairs and visitors with young ones and strollers. The loop system will provide a two kilometer barrier free hiking opportunity that will enhance an already well utilized hiking trail and make it easier for a broad range of individuals and families to experience and enjoy and active outdoor adventure.

The construction will be completed by November of 2009 but the Grand Opening for this project will take place in the spring or early summer of 2010. However, that isn't stopping people from using the already finished boardwalk and delving a little deeper into the rich landscape of Paradise Meadows.

