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NATIONAL TRAILS COALITION

# NTC Weekly Newsletter



**NTC • CNS**  
NATIONAL TRAILS COALITION COALITION NATIONALE  
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## Volunteer Valor

The trails of Canada were once routes for travel and commerce. It is how our country was explored and settled. These days the very same trails are being resurrected and revived due to the hard work of thousands of volunteers. It is the determination of trail groups and associations and not for profit organizations that keep bringing Canadian communities closer together. The trail volunteers come out and pitch in no matter what the weather or location. Trails are found in urban centres and

rural areas. They range from paved pathways, groomed corridors to dirt tracks. Each and every province and territory in our great country has been touched by the generosity of others and our trails have improved immensely because of them. Trails offer a safe way to participate in a variety of activities that promote healthy living and also entice tourists and other Canadians to some of our most remote and beautiful landscapes.

There always

seems to be lots of work that needs to be done and few hands to accomplish it. If you are looking to improve your life and your community through volunteering contact your local municipality or trail organization today. Canadian trails are a lasting legacy for our generations to come.

**"The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others."  
--Ghandi**



Project Profile  
The Village of New Maryland  
Suspension Bridge

In 2004, a New Maryland Trail Committee was formed to assist the Village of New Maryland in establishing a plan for developing and implementing a walking trail on approximately 9 acres of land located behind the New Maryland Centre. The Village of New Maryland is a local trail sponsor and the Recreation & Leisure Services Department oversees the maintenance of the trails. Two of the three trails were opened to the public in 2006. This well utilized system meanders through beautiful country side includes a boardwalk and three bridges. Along the trails there are benches, garbage cans, bird houses, bat houses, a mailbox with trail maps, educational signage and an enlarged map of the trails. Many people, from the New Maryland community and beyond have helped with this project. There were fundraisers held over several years to gather funds to complete sections of the trails including the board walk. With the help of several sponsors, volunteers and Canada's Economic Action Plan through the National Trails Coalition the suspension bridge received the extra funding needed to complete it and the third trail.



This bridge was a real unique undertaking. It was the intention of the groups involved to not harm any of the forest, flora or fauna while it was being constructed which meant not using heavy machinery unless absolutely necessary. Most of the work was completed by hand.

The suspension bridge has a 42 foot span with 4 poles, two poles to each side of the brook, meeting in the middle in mid air, held together with fasteners. Cables were hung from the poles, supporting the walking platform. The scope the work was beyond the work of volunteers and was constructed by professionals with substantial In-kind resources and contributions from CFB Gagetown Engineering Corp.

The value and benefit of completing the suspension bridge is vast as it will draw residents and tourists to New Maryland, creating spin off to local businesses, increase trail activity and increase opportunities for physical activity for all. All this cooperation, dedication and hard work resulted in a trail being completed with special attention paid to the environment surrounding it.

This project is a trend setter in several ways and a great example of what can be done when organizations band together.



**For more photos of the Village of New Maryland suspension bridge please go to [www.vonm.ca](http://www.vonm.ca)**