



National Trails Coalition Newsletter

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NTC • CNS

NATIONAL TRAILS COALITION COALITION NATIONALE SUR LES SENTIERS

WITH GLOWING HEARTS

On February 12th Canadians opened up their country, hearts and souls to the world for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games held in Vancouver. We showcased our gorgeous mountains and valleys and let the world experience the unpredictable weather we have all come to know and love. Our Canadian athletes won the hearts of the nation before the medals were handed out. It was this unbendable Canadian pride that caught the world's attention. So strong it seemed tangible. Yes- our athletes are top notch and worked tirelessly to get to the games but even unbeknownst to us was the exuberance we all felt for our country. Apparently we were looking for a venue to reconnect with our home land. The Olympics were a love story for all of us. It seemed to rekindle the true patriot love that we put aside for a while. Perhaps even took for granted. Yes

we know we live in the greatest country in the world and the time had come to release this pent up pride and show the world what it means to be Canadian. It was a direct reflection on how a country attributed with a huge land mass can exude small town closeness and intimacy. We not only surprised and astounded the world but ourselves. We embraced and cheered for all athletes.

Encouraging everyone to do their personal best and go for the gusto. We as a nation completely immersed ourselves in the spirit of the Olympics. Together we celebrated and embraced the diversity of cultures that are woven into the fiber of our nation.

When the athletes were talking about how they got to the Olympics or the podium there seemed to be a theme to their success. Their great love of the Canadian outdoors and the support

of family, friends and community.

The National Trails Coalition wants to congratulate all our Canadian Athletes on a record breaking Olympics. Together as a country we believed.



IN THE HOME STRETCH NOW

The 470 National Trails Coalition projects are all coming to a close. The March 31st deadline is just around the corner. The projects are at about 90% complete and the flourish of activity to bring us to the finish line is intense. The

\$25 million invested in trails and this great nation through Canada's Economic Action Plan and the National Trails Coalition has forever changed the landscape and community spirit of our nation. Great change happens when we work

together with the common goal of changing our country for the better. Making a healthy style of living possible for all Canadians and continuing to invest back in our communities through trails.

PASSIVE HOUSE

During all the excitement of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics came some great news from the Whistler Nordics and WORCA. With their contribution to Austria House (also known as Passive House) once the 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympic Winter Olympic Games were complete—they would have a home for their organizations. The fact that the building will be a community operated

facility post-Games makes the Austria House an amazing legacy for Whistler. Passive house uses about 10% of the energy used to maintain a regular dwelling. The building has been constructed with eco friendly products from the windows to the heat recovery system. This type of environmentally friendly building ties into Whistler's sustainability plan, and will be a marvelous asset to be enjoyed by future generations of Whistler residents and visitors. The Passive House was built by the APG, which consists of three

Austrian builders, each specialized in a specific passive house construction technique, which will donate the house to Whistler after the Games. Three components of the Passive House were built in Austria and were shipped to Whistler by ship and train. One of the organizations that will utilized Passive house are off road cyclists that use the Sea to Sky corridor of trails. Passive House will be a legacy for trails and Canada.



Project Profile

Whitecourt Trail Blazers

Recently the Whitecourt Trail Blazers and the Alberta Snowmobile Association (ASA) held their annual media and government day ride, coinciding with the opening of some of the newly constructed and refurbished snowmobile trails, thanks in no small part to the National Trails Coalition (NTC) and the Federal governments funding of \$25 Million dollars to trail projects across Canada.

With over \$2.5 Million dollars of matched funding going into snowmobile trails in Alberta, the ASA and its family of member clubs are hard at work upgrading and adding to the over 5500 km of snowmobile trail this year. "The NTC program has been a life saving program for our trails", says Chris Brookes, Executive Director of the ASA. "With little dedicated funding to trails in Alberta over the last few years, this program came along at the perfect time for us to get out and get our trail system back to favorable conditions for snowmobiling."

Whitecourt forms the bottom point of Alberta's "Golden Triangle" of snowmobiling, connecting over 350 km's of snowmobile trails with Fox Creek to the north west and Swan Hills to the north east. The NTC funding was taken advantage of by Whitecourt, to upgrade its sections of the Triangle, and to add some more loops along the route. Hopefully, with continued Federal funding to the NTC program, more routes in Alberta can be rehabilitated, upgraded and added too, growing our trail system to match other Canadian jurisdictions with more consistent funding streams. Future funds would be gratefully welcomed and are vital to ensure the future of Alberta's trails.

