

**THE NATIONAL TRAIL  
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA**



**Towards a foot trail  
across Canada**



**ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE  
DU SENTIER NATIONAL**



**Pour un sentier pédestre  
à travers le Canada**

**P.O. Box 8063, Canmore Alberta T1W 2T8**

**Tel/Fax 403-678-5551**

**Email: [natrailc@telusplanet.net](mailto:natrailc@telusplanet.net)**

## **40 Years on . . .**

Lots of people have walked across Canada, or long stretches of it, many yearning for a scenic trail route. Nothing was done about it until national outdoor societies and hiking groups met at YMCA premises in Toronto one evening in April 1971 and supported the proposal to connect existing trail systems and develop new links into a continuous route.

The National Trail Association of Canada was formed, with the name later being changed to Hike Canada en Marche to broaden scope to other hiking interests as well as the ongoing National Hiking Trail being developed by countrywide trail groups that were represented nationally by HCEM directors appointed through provincial trail organizations.

Forging a virtual environmental corridor spanning 10,000km was a vision hard to put into digestible form, yet it was the practical modes of communication that were the real obstacles to progress. In the 1970's, it was the era of the typewriter and prohibitive LD phoning costs, years later came the language of Telex, Fax, Web and Skype.

Our 40 year journey, achievements and setbacks, objectives and the names of all who shaped our path are found in the pages of the website:

[www.hikecanada.org](http://www.hikecanada.org)

The celebration of this milestone year of 2011 is shared with the dedication ceremony on June 9, 1991 at the heart of Canada's National Park system, the Cave & Basin site in Banff National Park, with representation from all levels of government. Recognition of routing across both Banff and Jasper National Parks was a significant mark of acceptance on the national scene.