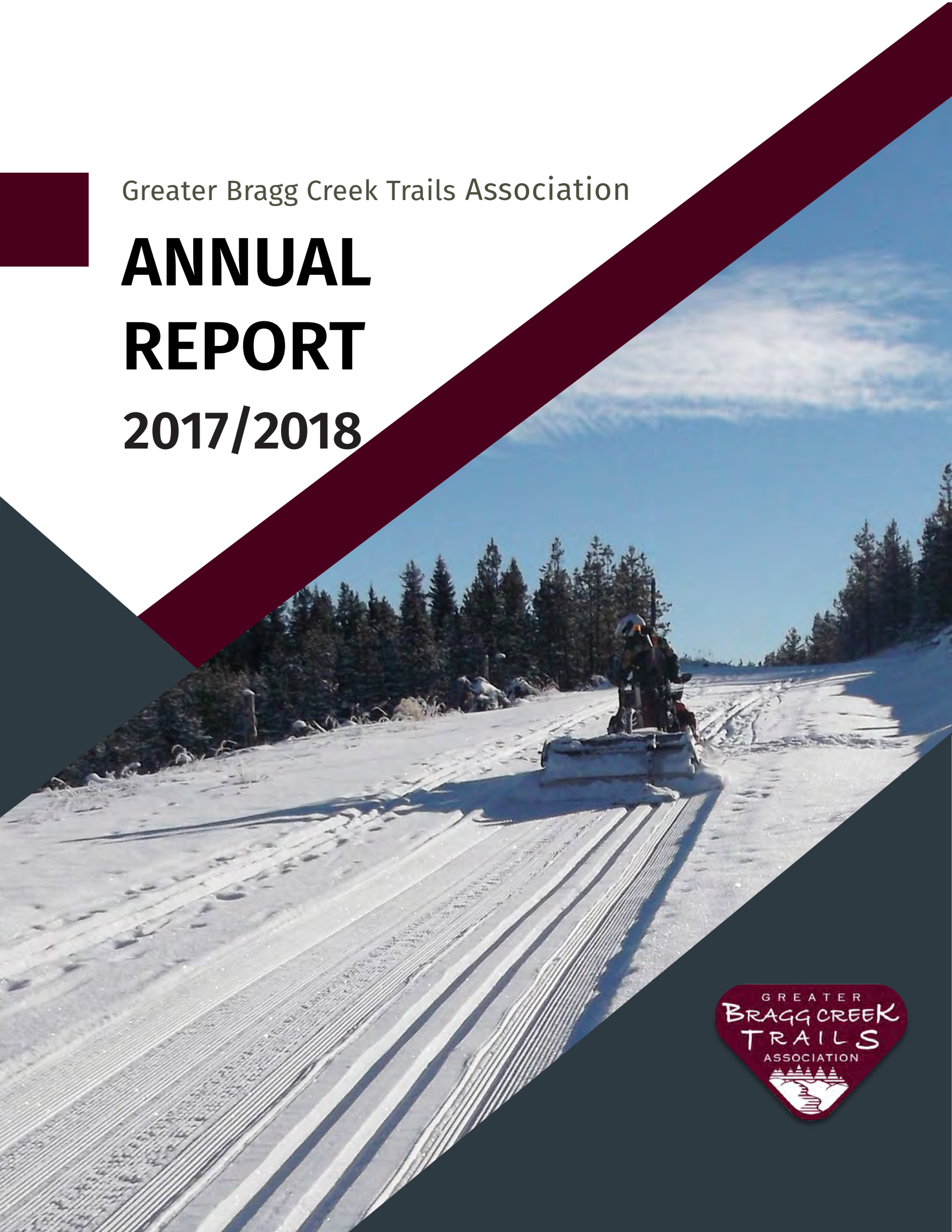


Greater Bragg Creek Trails Association

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018







## Contents

03	Message From President
04	GBCTA Overview
05	Trailhead/PRA Expansion
06	Trail Work Summary
07	All Season Trails
08	Summer Ski Trails Work
09	Ski Trails Grooming
10	Donors & Supporters
15	Stats

**Many volunteers also stepped up to help build and maintain the trails and to provide other services like friend-raising and fund-raising. Numerous outdoors clubs provided the backbone for these initiatives.**

**This report captures the highlights from 2018 and some key achievements from the previous eight years.**

# Introduction

## Message from the President and Board

The trail network in West Bragg Creek Kananaskis Country has become a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts (185,000+ visitors in 2018) who enjoy a vast array of trail oriented activities. This year- round playground of 152 kilometers of trails is the result of ten years of planning and hard work by many people. The vision and leadership of the Greater Bragg Creek Trails Association (GBCTA) in partnership with the Alberta Government has created what is now considered to be a premier recreational hotspot for southern Alberta.

The GBCTA has turned a 43 km ski trail system that relied heavily on old cut lines and logging roads into a well-designed, sustainable trail network for all season non-motorized use. These changes relied on 45,000 volunteer hours and the financial support (\$1.4 million) of many trail users and organizations to make happen. Our vision was supported by Alberta Environment and Parks, who realized the potential of matching a dynamic group such as ours with the need to develop and properly manage this multi-use area of Kananaskis Country.

Over the past years, The GBCTA has also constructed over 10 km of new trails in Rocky View County, contributed over 5,000 volunteer hours and spent \$2.1 million.

Now the GBCTA is entering the next phase of trail operations, and is seeking to build a more sustainable operational model with reliable funding as the key to stability. This would allow the association consistently to source funding for the maintenance activities essential to our operations. We appreciate the support of all donors and volunteers who have taken us to this juncture and look forward to the continued support of the trails community.

***See you on the trails!***

***Sincerely, Conrad Schiebel, President***

### Board Members

Conrad Schiebel – President  
 Karena Brawley – Secretary  
 John Hromyk – Treasurer  
 David Cebuliak – Director  
 Mike Christ – Director  
 Carber Goodlet – Director  
 Bill Hoyne – Director  
 Dave Kunz – Director  
 Baruch Laskin – Director  
 Eric Lloyd – Director  
 Karen Oldershaw – Director  
 Willie Prebushewsky – Director  
 Alf Skrastins – Director

# GBCTA Overview

2018 was a seminal year for the GBCTA. It marked the evolution of the association from a grassroots, highly effective group of trail builders and evangelists into a more disciplined and focused organization—that nevertheless is still building and still evangelizing for trails. In that regard, this annual report summarizes more than just the accomplishments of 2018; it looks back as far as 2011 and to how far the organization has come since then.

Of particular note are the hundreds of organizations and individuals who have supported to the GBCTA over the years and who have made all the trail development possible with their financial contributions.

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## TransCanada Trail at West Bragg Creek

In early 2018, the GBCTA raised \$331,000 from Rocky View County and \$169,000 from the TransCanada Trail Foundation to complete the construction of a pedestrian bridge just east of Wild Rose and 472 meters of strong post guardrail that is required as per the Rocky View County approved design for the trail.

The strong post guard rail was installed for the GBCTA in the summer of 2018 by Volker Stevin, under contract to Bragg Creek Excavating, providing trail user safety adjacent to the busy WBC road.

McElhanney was retained in May 2018 by the GBCTA to handle all the technical, regulatory approval, tendering, inspection and project management work for the pedestrian bridge project. They completed environmental technical work and obtained Department of Fisheries and Oceans regulatory approval for the bridge abutment installation work. However the one bridge abutment tender received exceeded the

budget funds available, so the abutment work was deferred until August/September 2019. The GBCTA recently received approval for \$70,000 in additional funding from Alberta TrailNet for the pedestrian bridge. The GBCTA had the bridge abutment work retendered and is pleased to confirm that A M McKay Contractors Ltd. has been awarded a contract to construct the pedestrian bridge in August/September 2019.

The pedestrian bridge superstructure was constructed by JimBob for the GBCTA and is in storage awaiting installation in September 2019.

The GBCTA also installed a trail counter in the Hamlet of Bragg Creek, just east of the pedestrian crosswalk. The counter can distinguish between cyclists and pedestrians.

The GBCTA would like to thank all those who have supported this trail with funding, and volunteer work, particularly Carber Goodlet for his successful fundraising efforts and Conrad Schiebel, Bill Hoyne and Mike Frena for the installation of the trail counter.

## West Bragg Trail Head (PRA) Expansion/Celebration

It's not often that a parking lot gets its own section of an annual report, but in this case it must be noted that the WB parking lot was given a major transformation and upgrade starting in 2017 and continuing in 2018. Officially known as the West Bragg Provincial Recreation Area or WBC PRA, the lot was expanded, paved and re-configured for clearer access to the trails.

The key features of the WBC PRA Upgrade project were:

- The tripling of parking capacity to 485 vehicles, including bus parking and a separate equestrian parking area;
- The tripling of washroom capacity
- The addition of a perimeter trail and seven trailhead information kiosks, to provide safer and clearer access to the trail network
- The relocation of the Trails Centre, a trailer used as a warming hut that was donated in 2016 by Precision Drilling. This initiative has been warmly received by winter users, especially by the groups that provide cross country skiing and race training.
- The addition of the maintenance compound and 3 buildings (2-bay and 3-bay shops plus the tool storage shed).

The GBCTA was instrumental in solving a major public safety concern with the installation of a cell phone hot spot at the Trails Centre and maintenance compound. Cellular and 911 calls (Rogers works best) can now be made on the Trails Centre deck for free by the of the public.

Winter grooming operations are now safer and more efficient with the GBCTA's installation of VHF radio base stations in the maintenance compound and Kei trucks, and with hand held radios for all operators who all carry Industry Canada issued restricted radio operator licenses.

A ceremony was held in early November to officially open the expanded PRA and to celebrate the linking of the Great Trail formerly known as the Trans Canada Trail from the Hamlet of Bragg Creek into Kananaskis Country. Also celebrated was the new Watershed Heritage Interpretive Trail.

Speakers included MLA Cam Westhead who presented plaques of appreciation to the GBCTA for their work building trails, that he said were critical for the economic vitality of the region. Also acknowledged was GBCTA volunteer Alf Skrastins, whose assistance in project management of the new facility zone was key to the success of the project.

Representatives from Trans Canada Trail, Alberta Trail Net, Elbow River Watershed Partnership, and Rocky View Country also spoke of the significant impacts these new recreational amenities will have on the area. A common theme throughout the ceremony was the acknowledgment of the GBCTA vision for Bragg Creek and the collaboration that was required to make these projects a reality.

Festivities finished off with the official ribbon cutting, cake and refreshments and tours of the new facilities and interpretive trail. Many thanks from the GBCTA to all who came out to help make this occasion special.



# Trail Work Summary



West Bragg trails are designated as multi-use or as cross-country ski trails. The multi-use trails draw hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, and in the winter, snowshoers and fat bikers.

The ski trails, which generally follow valley contours, are also used in the summer by equestrians and hikers.

**For us it's not the end of the trail that we seek, it's the adventure between start to finish that keeps our vision clear and our enthusiasm keen.**



## Multi-use, All Season Trails

There was a significant amount of trail work done on the single-track trails in the summer of 2018, including:

- Construction of a new bridge and a trail reroute on Sugar Mama, and the installation of four new culverts
- Construction of 200m of new single-track trail between West Telephone and Old Shell Road
- Addition of a swing-gate on Mountain Road, to provide a safer fence-line crossing for equestrians and hikers.

Volunteers removed more than 200 trees that were blown down onto trails during various wind storms. This represents a great deal of work and is critical because users to continue to safely use the trails.

We should also note the addition of two motorcycles that were purchased in 2018 to assist trail crews with access for trail work and for winter fat bike trail grooming. Plus, a medium sized tractor was acquired to support trail work.

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On the new trail Kestrel, some 2.4 km of machine built tread was hand finished by volunteers. About 2.6 km of machine built trail remains to be hand finished. Machine work to construct the final 600m to connect to Tom Snow trail will be done by Alberta Parks.

For the Watershed Heritage Interpretive Trail, 305 metres of new trail was constructed between the east end of the parking lot and Snowshoe Hare. This includes a curved bridge and the installation of six interpretive sign stands.





## Summer Ski Trails Work

This was a busy and productive summer for the GBCTA on WBC ski trails. Here are some of the projects that were completed.

In partnership with Bragg Creek Excavating the GBCTA completed installation of two new bridges to cross creeks that previously had culverts which chronically froze, creating dangerous ice flows.

These were among the biggest projects GBCTA volunteers have ever undertaken involving the transport to site and placing of 64 tons of concrete bridge abutment blocks and over 8 tons of telephone pole bridge stringers and decking material.

To address environmental concerns prior to construction, bridge sites were isolated with temporary dams, the areas were electro fished and brook trout removed, silt fence was installed, and after completion all disturbed

areas were re-seeded with AEP approved native grass mix.

The GBCTA partnered with Shell Canada to install trenching and cross drains along a stretch of Mountain Road that was prone to ice flows. The GBCTA also contracted Bragg Creek Excavating to install a large culvert on east Telephone to address a similar ice flow problem. Multiple cross drains were hand ditched around the system to drain tread.

New signage was installed including map signs that reflect trail upgrades.

AEP re-decked the bridge on south Moose Loop.







Picture left to right: Bill Hoyne, Jeff Hughes and David Cebuliak

## Ski Trails Grooming

With bountiful snow over the 2017-2018 season, a total of 1733 hours were accumulated by workers, both paid and volunteer, during the five month grooming period. 81% of those hours were accomplished by three people.

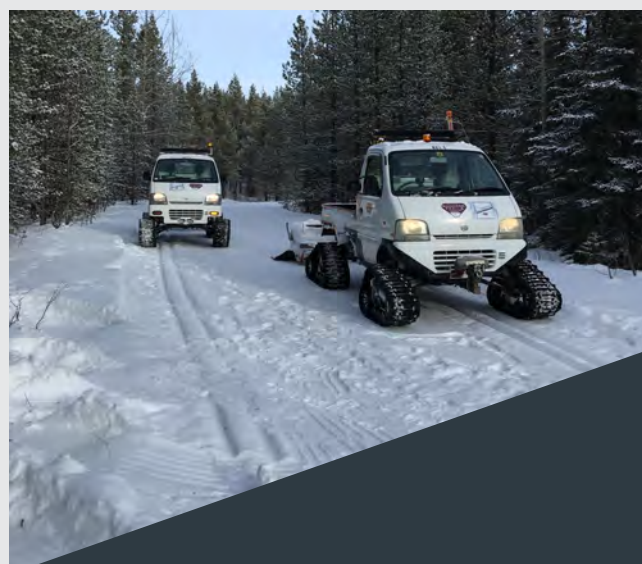
The growth of these operations has led to the need for a full time paid lead groomer position. This position is backed up by a number of volunteer groomers.

A second Kei truck and a lightly used 800 cc Can Am tracked quad were added to the WB fleet in 2018 bringing the grooming vehicle total to five machines, two tracked Japanese Kei trucks, 2 sleds and a track quad.

This has enabled GBCTA to be able to deal with large snow events in a far more efficient manner and provides redundancy in the event of breakdowns.

Finally, lots of equipment repairs and maintenance was completed to get ready for the grooming season.

The grooming agreement with Parks was altered to exchange the roles for grooming Telephone and Elbow South. The GBCTA is now responsible for grooming Telephone Loop and Parks is responsible for Elbow South.



# 1733

hours spent grooming  
ski trails in 2017/2018

# Recognizing our Donors & Supporters (2011-2018)



## Patron Sponsors \$50,000+

Alberta Government

Alberta TrailNet Society

ATB Financial

The Auxilium Foundation

The Calgary Foundation

Darrell & Alison Jones

Daryl K Seaman Foundation Fund - the Calgary Foundation

Husky Group of Companies

National Bank of Canada

Parks Canada

Rocky View County

TransAlta

TransCanada Trail Foundation



## Benefactor Sponsors \$25,000 - \$50,000

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Alberta Equestrian Federation Society

Alexander (Sandy) Cross Estate Fund, Calgary Foundation

Bragg Creek Excavating

Calgary Regional Trail Riders

National Trails Coalition

Shell Canada Limited

XC Bragg Creek

## Platinum Sponsors \$10,000 - \$25,000

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Bragg Creek and Kananaskis Outdoor Recreation

Calgary Cycle (Cycle 22X)

Cenovus Employee Foundation

Eagle Engineering Corp.

Redwood Meadows Community Association

Mountain Equipment Co-op

Mountain Woods Health Services

Moose Mountain Trail Races

Shaw Communications Inc.

## Gold Sponsors \$5,000 - \$10,000

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Benevity

Canadian Pacific

Bruce Clarke

Elbow River Watershed Partnership

Iron Legs

Jen Silverthorn in Honour of Jim Clampett, MMTR

The Norseman Ski Shop

Oasis Coffee (Cadence Coffee)

Rob Parkhill

Rob Jubenvill

TransRockies Events

U of C Outdoor Centre

## Silver Sponsors \$1,000 - \$4,999

Lifesport	Jason Sokolosky	Terry Killackey
Becky Rogala	Jen Silverthorn	The Powderhorn Saloon
Betty Anne Graves	Jeremy Gizen	Thomas Raedler
Cadence Coffee	Jim Faryna	Tom Ebbern
Calgary Ski Club	Jupiter Resources Inc	Tor Wilson
Calgary Weekend Hikers	Kamachi Communications	Tricia Leadbeater
Cenovus Energy	Kevin & Martina Dehod	Troy & Jodi Delfs
Cinnamon Spoon	Kristina and Edward Roberts	Verne Wood
Claire Allison	Laurie MacAdams	Wallace King
Clinton Roberts	Lifesport Calgary Ltd.	Zdenek & Kathleen Bizek
Craig Furlong	LT Earth Services Inc.	Alana Hudson & Nathan Froehler
Custom Upstream Engineering	Mark Porter	Bragg Creek and Kananaskis Outdoor Recreation
Dan Bizek	Martin Vetter	CD Wilson Professional Corporation
Dave Steadman	Martine Parent	Cochrane Red Rock Running & Tri Club
Deborah Clark	MEC Head Office	Concerta Consulting Incorporated
Deborah Rheinstein	Michael Brewster	Kat & Jon Armitage
Dennis Smaggus	Mountain Film Inc.	Amundson in honour of Ivana & Gian & the Poodles
Dieter Kromm	Nestor Cebuliak	M Craig Storey Endowment at the Calgary Foundation
Douglas Yeung	Onyerleft Bike Club	McLean & Partners Wealth Management
Encana Cares Foundation	Out There Inc.	Michael T Wolf Professional Corp
Encana Employee Fund	Perry Longinotti	Mike Christ in honour of Joan Jackson
Eric and Cathy Lloyd	Peter Barr	Moose Mountain Trail Warriors
Erik Bakke	Peter Newman	
Fortis Alberta	Ronald Hunter	
Frederick Agnew	Sandra Nesbitt	
GiftFunds Canada	Sandvoss Lutherie limited	
Guy Hainstock	Scott Rowe	
Heninger Toyota	Simon Gittins	
James Andruchow	Spruce Meadows Limited	
Jansen Homes Ltd	Stephen Larke	



## Bronze Sponsors \$500 - \$999

Aaron Springer	Elbow Valley Cycle Club	Peter Churchill
Andrew G. Mack	Encana (Cdn Online)	Peter Farran
Andrew Tuttle	Eric Luoma	Quinn Hepburn
Barb Howard	Esso Annuitants Ski Club	Randy Remy
Barbara Mathies	Folk Tree Lodge	Raymond Yong
BC Trading Post	Gerry O'Brien	Renaissance Landscapes Inc.
Black Diamond LP	Gordon Trainor	Repsol
Blackstone Drilling Fluids Ltd.	J Bruce Jamieson	Sadee Family Fund at TCF
Bragg Creek Warriors	Jason Edworthy	Sandra Kerestes
Brett Habijanac	Jason Zerk	Sandy Bruce & Teresa Magrath
Brian & Karen McConnell	jennifer Tupper-Habijanac	Shawn Dowling
Bruce Barker & Lois Sapsford	Jerald Hagen	Steven Kruzick
Calgary Roadrunners	Jillian Mark	Stuart Rose
Cameron Westhead	Jim Davis	Talisman Energy Inc.
Chris Johnston	Karen Massey	Tom Hamilton
Clark Lang	Kathleen & Ezio Palese	Tony Dopf
Clem Feldmeyer	Kim Salt	TransRockies Events
Colleen Knuff & Bryce Hleucka	Leo Fung	Trevor Roberts
Craig Spurn	Les Bates	Ursula Wohlfarth
Craig Tyler	Lisa Listgarten	Wayne Bessie
Crescent Point Energy	Margaret Gayle	Wendy Hall
Darcy White	Mario Savard	Crescent Point Resources
Darrel Shepel	Marjorie Cameron	Partnership
Dave Stewart	Matt Zelin	Katherine Watson-Jarvis & Colin Jarvis
David Easton	Matthew Reich	Mocana and Friends Hiking group
David J Wakefield	MHK Insurance	
David Pugh	Mike Doma	
Doug and Ann Hackbarth	Nancy Farries	
Eagle Feather Riding Ltd.	Parkland Industries Ltd.	

## Friends \$250 - \$499

A Kai Poscenta & Helen Yuen	Elliot Cudmore	Nigel & Chantelle Campbell-McGivern
Adam Kahtava	Flora & Mark Giesbrecht	Norm Person
Alan Williams	Goodpin Inc	Normand Begin
Alf Skrastins	Grayson Adams	Patricia Courtright
Allison Rose	Gregory Jones	Paul Kostyan
Amy Gaubinger	Heather Gariepy	Peter Hunt
Anders Renborg	Helen Dexter-Green	Peter Tucker
Andrew Chen	Howard Heffler	Phil Graham
Andrew John Pallas	Irene Herremans	Polaris Solutions Inc.
Andrew McRae	James & Brenda Mackie	Randall Hall
Andy & Jill Mark	James & Suzanne Deyell	Richard Avern
Anil Tahiliani	James FN Mackie	Robert Feick
Ann Elizabeth Lang	Jan Zalud In honour of Julie Tampkins	Ruth & Don Smillie
Ann Sullivan	Jeff Peterson	Sara Pawlik
Anthony Manconi	Jeff Rickard	Second Sixties Outdoor Club
Barbara Mathies	Jennifer Wright	Shannon Bailey
Barry Gateley	Jeremy Neufeld	Sheila Richards
Beth Adams	Jim Parker	Siebe Dekker
Bill and Gaynor Hoyne	Jonathan Davies	Skyler Nagorski
Birnie McGavin	Judy and Joe Osinski	Stanley P Mayer Professional Corporation
Brad Krusky	Karen and Michael Wilke	Stefan & Mirja Mundt
Bragg Creek Family Foods	Karen Hansen	Stephen Hiebert
Bragg Creek Trading Post	Katherine Watson-Jarvis	Stephen McNeil
Brian & Monique Tuffs	Kelly Kangles	Stewart Colburne
Bruce Jamieson	Ken Young	Stu, Alli,Nics,Kate Rose
Bryan and Colleen Lankester	Kendra Gowdy	Susanne Kruse
Cal Johnson	Kerri Bossert	Suzanne Robert
Calgary Foot Clinic/Terry To	Kevin Baggott	T Fassnidge
Carol Moynham	Laura Ringdahl	Terry Zwicker
Caroline Toppazzini	Leo Fung	Tim and Tina de Freitas
Cayley Webber	Les and Diane Antoniuk	Tim Grant
Cheryl Molland	Lisa Dorian	Tony and Janice Zarembo
Christine Baine	Lori Vickerman	Trevor Baine
Cindy Wilson	Lyle Opseth	Will Ratliffe
Conrad Janssen	Lynn Bowers	William Todd
Danny Peterson	Marathon Benefit Corp.	Bragg Creek Country Hardware Inc o/a
Darcy White	Mark & Linda Thomas	Moose Mtn General Store
Dave Cook	Mark Perry	Gustaaf Wehnes in honour of Katherine
Dave Taillefer	Mark Sweatman	Janet Elisabeth Boggs
David Cebuliak & Anne Brown	Marty Scholten	Kay Chow in honour of Kaitlyn and Jordan
Debra Hawker	Matt Frey	Chow
Denise Giesbrecht	Michael Betzner	Millicent Pratt in Honour of Bill Pratt,
Diana Piggott	Murray Morrell	Co-Founder of the Trans Canada Trail
Douglas Square Chiropractic	Nancy S Miller	



**Over Past 10 Years**

**45,000**

**Volunteer Hours**

**&**

**1.4 Million**

**Financial Support**

**Kilometres of  
Trails**

**152**

**Visitors in  
2018**

**185,000**

Picture left to right: Conrad Schiebel and Eric Lloyd



**GBCTA awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Award**

President, Con Schiebel and Eric Lloyd attended the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association meeting at the Jasper Park Lodge in October to receive the Lieutenant Governor's Leadership For Active Communities Award – Group Spirit of Community Leadership from Her Honour Louis Mitchel on behalf of the GBCTA.

# Greater Bragg Creek Trails Association

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