

# Help Save the Trans Canada Trail in NS

Nova Scotia is betraying the Trans Canada Trail vision of a national **Greenway** in favour of an OHV Highway through the Annapolis Valley. The special interests of motorized groups and misguided public policy is allowing this to happen, and those responsible are hoping that no one notices or cares.

- In recent announcements by the “Annapolis Valley Trails Coalition” people in Kings, Annapolis and Digby Counties were told that the abandoned rail corridor was being officially opened as a motorized trail. What we were not told, however, is that the development and promotion of the rail bed as an ATV trail means there will be no Trans Canada Trail in our part of the province.
- The rail corridor through the Annapolis Valley and along the Fundy Coast, was a gift to Nova Scotia from the Trans Canada Trail foundation, one made with the expectation this would become part of a national greenway trail. But while planning has begun for Phase II of the TCT, the coalition have said the trail has not been formally recognized as the Trans Canada Trail and will remain open to motorized vehicles. The NS Trails Federation, the province’s designated TCT partner, has said a large percentage of the TCT route in Nova Scotia is registered as summer motorized and grandfathered.
- The Trans Canada Trail has been clear, they follow greenway principles for new trails and do not support the development or designation of summer motorized trails as Trans Canada Trail.
- When asked, the majority of people say they want public trails to be greenways - quiet, safe and inviting places to walk and cycle. When asked, many living closest to the trail, want ATV’s restricted from residential trails and roads. But opposition to motorizing the trails has been ignored and often silenced with heavy handed responses.

If we are to save the Trans Canada Trail in our area, we need to make our voices heard. We need to let the Departments of Health & Wellness and Natural Resources, (those responsible for trail policy as well as OHV policy and regulation in the province), know that we benefit from **Greenways** and want our communities promoted as part of the Trans Canada Trail. We need to let provincial and local community officials know that the thousands of kilometres of dedicated ATV and snowmobile trails provide ample places for OHV enthusiasts to ride without sacrificing the TCT. We need to say it is no longer acceptable to focus limited public funding on motorized trails that are so much more expensive to build and maintain than Greenways.

NSPACTS, Nova Scotians Promoting Active Transportation on Community Trails, share the same vision of a **Greenway** trail as the TCT. We want to promote an alternative to the current multi-use model being pursued by the Annapolis Valley Trails Coalition. We want to propose the development of the rail-trails as a Nova Scotia Greenway and promoted as part of the Trans Canada Trail. To find out more, please visit our website or contact us by email or regular mail. You can help by adding your voice to ours or by directly letting your provincial and local officials know you want the rail corridor as a greenway Trans Canada Trail. Together we can make a change.



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