Trans Canada Trail Proposed
in the City of Toronto (Various Wards)

(City Council on February 29, March 1 and 2, 2000, adopted this Clause, without amendment.)

The Economic Development and Parks Committee recommends the adoption of the following report (January 24, 2000) from the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism:

Purpose:

To report on the development of the Trans Canada Trail; identifying the City of Toronto’s potential participation through the identification of a trail route through the City and the siting of one or more Trans Canada Trail pavilions at appropriate locations along that route.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

Identifying existing trails and cycling routes within the City as part of the Trans Canada Trail can be accomplished at very minimal costs to the City (e.g., the installation of Trans Canada Trail signage).

The development of new trails to fill in gaps in the City’s trail network will also provide linkages that may be suitable for the Trans Canada Trail, in either an interim or long-term framework. These sections of new trail will be planned and budgeted for as part of the City’s future Capital Works Programs.

Since pavilions are an integral part of the Trans Canada Trail program, the Trans Canada Trail Foundation provides 100 percent of the funding for the construction of each pavilion. Funding assistance for trail development in each province/territory is potentially available from the Trans Canada Trail Foundation. Individual donations may only be identified by the donor to be used on a provincial/territorial basis and not at a more specific local level. Other sponsors and agencies could potentially contribute to the future development of the Trail in Toronto.

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

(1) Council endorse, in principle, the concept of the Trans Canada Trail travelling through the City of Toronto;

(2) Council endorse the registration of those sections of the existing Waterfront Trail route, from the western City boundary at the Etobicoke Creek to, and including, the Eastern Beaches, as part of the Trans Canada Trail. (Attachment No. 1 – “Existing Waterfront Trail/Proposed Trans Canada Trail Route”);
(3) Councillors and communities assist in identifying other appropriate Trans Canada Trail routes within the City;

(4) the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism work with the Trans Canada Trail Foundation and the Ontario Trails Council to site one or more Trans Canada Trail pavilions along the proposed Trail route; and

(5) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

**Background:**
Staff of the Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Department have participated in information and planning meetings relating to the potential implementation of the Trans Canada Trail through the Toronto area over the past two years. The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), the Waterfront Regeneration Trust, and other Greater Toronto Area (GTA) municipalities have also participated in meetings.

**Comments:**
The Trans Canada Trail is a recreational trail which will link communities in all ten provinces and three territories on what will be the longest shared-use trail in the world, projected to be 16,000 kilometres in length. The Trans Canada Trail Foundation, whose mandate is to promote and co-ordinate the planning of the trail, was established in 1992 as a legacy of the celebration of Canada’s 125th birthday. The Foundation is a registered charitable organization with its own Corporate Charter and Board of Directors.

The responsibility for the development of the Trail across Canada rests with the individual Trail Councils established in each province and territory. In Ontario, the Ontario Trails Council is responsible for co-ordinating the development of approximately 3,800 kilometres of Trans Canada Trail across the province (Attachment No. 2 – “The Trans Canada Trail in Southern Ontario – Proposed Route”). As of January 2000, approximately 1,450 kilometres of trail has been registered as part of the Trans Canada Trail in Ontario. The development of the Trail is being promoted as a grass-roots initiative, undertaken by the individual communities and municipalities across Canada, with the assistance of the Trans Canada Trail Foundation. As such, the Trans Canada Trail is best characterized as a ‘confederation of trails’ across Canada.

The Foundation carries on a fundraising campaign to support the development of the Trail. Individual donors are the primary source of contributions, but funds are also raised from corporations, governments, foundations and through a merchandising program.

Within the GTA, planning for the Trans Canada Trail has been co-ordinated by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) through the Trans Canada Trail GTA Route Working Group. The City of Toronto has been represented on this working group by staff of the Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Department.
Participation in this national project would represent a contribution by the City towards national unity and would help to bring visitors to the City, thus enhancing tourism. Trails and greenways are beneficial to community image and support active living. The process of registering the Trans Canada Trail within the City could serve as a catalyst for further development of the City’s trail network, which would benefit the City’s trail users as well.

The Trans Canada Trail’s preferred alignment follows off-road trail networks, although other options could include abandoned or active rail and hydro corridors, signed on-street routes, and negotiated rights-of-way through private lands. The routing through the City of Toronto, will require a diversity of trail types. In the former City of Scarborough, a preferred waterfront route will not be completely implemented for a number of years due to the constraints of topography, funding and present lack of continuous parkland to accommodate an off-road trail. Staff will consult with appropriate Councillors and communities in identifying options and securing future interim and long-term trail routes.

Each individual community or municipality is responsible for the implementation and maintenance of those sections of Trans Canada Trail registered within its boundaries. Signage, provided by the Foundation, will identify the Trail route, but existing trail names and ownership will continue to exist. Such registration does not prohibit the City from altering the route in the future. One or more pavilions, which would be sited along the Trail route, would contain information panels acknowledging individual and corporate contributors to the Trail. City staff are prepared to work with the Trans Canada Trail Foundation and the Ontario Trails Council to appropriately site the pavilion and to resolve any design issues.

The Trail will be officially inaugurated in September 2000 at a ceremony to be held in the National Capital Region. To mark this event, a significant event known as Relay 2000 will take place across Canada in the months leading up to the ceremony. Water, from the Arctic, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans will be carried in ceremonial batons by some 5,000 official carriers along the proposed route of the Trans Canada Trail. Individual ceremonies and events will take place in the communities through which the relay is scheduled to pass on its way to the nation's capital. The City is participating in planning Relay 2000 events to be held at the Canadian National Exhibition and Nathan Phillips Square in August. The City is assisting, as well, in the planning of the Relay which will pass through the City following the existing Waterfront Trail and other trails and on-street routes. On April 11, 2000, the Trans Canada Trail will be celebrated in Toronto, at Roy Thompson Hall, through the performance of the “Trail of Dreams Suite” by Canadian composer/musician Oscar Peterson.

Conclusions:

The Trans Canada Trail is a high-profile national project involving communities in all Canadian provinces and territories. The City of Toronto has the opportunity to participate by registering existing sections of the Waterfront Trail as Trans Canada Trail in the City and by locating one or more Trans Canada Trail pavilions along the route. Future sections of the City’s trail system can be registered as Trans Canada Trail routes when they are completed through capital trail implementation programs. Consultation with area Councillors and communities will be required to develop future trail linkages in the City.
Further information relating to the Trans Canada Trail program (Attachment No. 3 - “Answers to the Most Commonly Asked Questions about the Trans Canada Trail in Ontario”). Additional information can be accessed from the Trans Canada Trail’s web site at: www.tctrail.ca

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Attachment 1
Existing Waterfront Trail/
Proposed Trans Canada Trail Route
Attachment 2
The Trans Canada Trail
in Southern Ontario
Proposed Route
Spring 1999
What is the Trans Canada Trail?

The Trans Canada Trail is a “shared use” recreational trail that crosses Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific and north to the Arctic Ocean. The trail links existing shared-use trails, new trails, abandoned railway corridors, discontinued logging roads, and scenic country roads. In some areas, the Trail includes bridges, ferry crossings and waterways.

Whose Idea was the Trans Canada Trail?

The Trans Canada Trail is a permanent legacy from the Canada 125 Celebration in 1992 - something to survive and give lasting meaning to Canada’s 125th Birthday.

Where Does the Trans Canada Trail Go?

The Trans Canada Trail winds approx. 16,000 km through Canada from St. John’s Newfoundland to Victoria, British Columbia, and from Calgary, Alberta north through the Yukon to Tuktoyaktuk, NWT. It will be the longest continuous trail of its kind in the world; something for Canadians to be proud of.

Where is the Trans Canada Trail Located in Ontario?

In Ontario, the Trans Canada Trail extends approximately 3600 km, meandering through a variety of green corridors, towns, cities and wilderness around the province. As the consultation progresses, more and more trail is registered each month. As of December, 1999 approximately 40% of the trail had been registered.

Who Decides Where the Trans Canada Trail will be Located in Ontario?

Responsibility for overall route planning lies with the Ontario Trails Council but each community or region, through an extensive consultative process with the public, will decide where the final route of Trans Canada Trail will be located in their area.

Long distance trails, such as the Trans Canada Trail, are really just a linking together, end-to-end, of the hundreds of community trails - one metre at a time.

What Does the Trans Canada Trail Look Like?

The Trail blends with its environment - naturally, culturally and historically. The Trail surface varies across the country depending on the character and needs of the communities through
which it passes, the local terrain and the frequency and type of use. In urban areas, you may find
a paved walking/cycling trail with a parallel equestrian path. In other areas, less frequently used,
you will have the opportunity to see many kinds of plants and animals along an abandoned
railway corridor. In more rural and remote areas you will experience a serene and often
spectacular wilderness path.

Along the Trail you will find consistent Trans Canada Trail signage so that you will always
know your way. Existing trail names and ownership will stay the same. However, local trail
names will always appear first so that you will know what section of the Trail that you are on.

Along the Trail you will see distinctive Trans Canada Trail Pavilions and Trail markers with the
names of people and corporations who have donated to the Trail.

When Can I Start Using the Trans Canada Trail in Ontario?

Immediately, over 1300 km of trail have already been registered as part of the Trans Canada
Trail. Many of these are open for use. Each month more sections are designated and become
available for use.

Who Owns the Trans Canada Trail?

The lands crossed by the Trans Canada Trail have a variety of owners including all levels of
government, sponsoring groups, businesses, and private landowners.

Who Can Use the Trans Canada Trail?

The Trans Canada Trail is a “shared-use” recreational trail system for hikers, walkers, horseback
riders, cyclists, cross-country skiers, and snowmobiles, where appropriate. The trail system has
been purposely designed for the five basic types of trail uses and includes, where possible,
provisions for wheel chair access. How the five core uses are supported on individual sections of
the Trail is decided by the local trail group.

Who Builds and Manages the Trans Canada Trail?

The Trans Canada Trail is not a government trail. It is community owned and operated with each
section built and managed by local sponsoring agencies, groups, businesses, and individuals.
Overall coordination is managed by provincial organizations. In Ontario, this is the Ontario
Trails Council.

Who Pays for the Trans Canada Trail?

Money for building and managing the Trans Canada Trail comes from a wide variety of private
and public sources. For example, founding sponsors include Canada Trust, TSN and Daimler
Chrysler. Each of these sponsors has committed significant financial support.
Additional sponsors who have made major commitments include: Millennium 2000 Canada, Maclean’s, Air Canada and Canadian Geographic.

Additional money is raised by donation (e.g., At $40.00 per metre of Trail), the sale of Trail related merchandise, through special events and may include limited government grants.

How Can I support the Trans Canada Trail?

You can support the Trans Canada Trail in one or more of the following ways:

- Buy metres of Trail;
- Make memorial and gift donations;
- Encourage your company, school, association or group to become a Trans Canada Trail sponsor;
- Purchase Trail related merchandise;
- Attend special Trans Canada Trail events; and
- Join a local Trans Canada Trail sponsoring organization and become an active volunteer.

What do I Receive When I Purchase Metres of Trans Canada Trail?

Your donation will be acknowledged by:

- Your name, or the name of a friend or in remembrance of a loved one, or your company, school or organization permanently inscribed in a Trail Pavilion in a Province or Territory of your choice.
- A richly imprinted Trans Canada Trail Certificate.
- A yearly update on how the Trail is progressing.
- A tax receipt for the full amount of your donation.

When will the Trans Canada Trail be Completed?

The aim is to register the route of Trans Canada Trail by September 2000. Much of it will be available for use at that time. However, it may take many years to realize five core uses from coast to coast.

Where Can I Get More Information on the Trans Canada Trail?

For more information on the Trans Canada Trail contact:
Trans Canada Trail Foundation
43 Westminster North
Montreal, Quebec H4X 1Y8

The Foundation can also be reached by telephone:
1-800-465-3636
For more information on the Trans Canada Trail in Ontario contact:
Ontario Trails Council
Suite 203, 232A Guelph Street
Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4B1

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