**PORT ARTHUR ROTARY SANCTIONS ITS FIRST COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM TO SUPPORT THUNDER BAY WATERFRONT TRAIL DEVELOPMENT**

Despite Thunder Bay’s 52 km of shoreline, Prince Arthur’s Landing has the only accessible trail system where you can walk, ride, run, or roll in view of Lake Superior. This almost 3 km of shore includes a beautiful section of new trail on the Pool 6 lands. When Port Arthur Rotarian Warren Philp learned of City plans for a largely unfunded Waterfront Trail multi-million dollar expansion, he brought many Thunder Bay active living groups together to talk about a trail association, and by July 2021, the Waterfront Trail Rotary Community Action Team (WTRCAT) ([www.thunderbaywaterfronttrail.com](http://www.thunderbaywaterfronttrail.com)) was formed.

WTRCAT, the first Rotary Community Action Team under the umbrella of Port Arthur Rotary, works to ensure broad community representation from all age and income groups, and in particular, to capture the views of Indigenous persons, persons with a disability, and persons with an intellectual disability. Currently, WTRCAT represents 10,000+ residents.

Rotary was an early supporter of multi-use trails in Thunder Bay, raising $200,000 in the early 1990s to expand the city’s trail network. Port Arthur Rotary, through WTRCAT, continues to support trail building, specifically, prioritized expansion of a Waterfront Trail, and has established, through a separate Rotary organization, Charity status to allow fundraising to support the trail.

The City Waterfront Trail phased plan stretches from Mission Marsh to Marina Park to Fisherman’s Park and includes a crossing of the Kaministiquia River at Jackknife Bridge and a northern connection that will dovetail with the Boulevard Lake trail at Grenville Avenue – an entry to the entire Current River Greenway. WTRCAT envisions a future where City trails are linked to Fort William First Nation, Shuniah’s Kinghorn rail to trail, Fort William Historical Park, and further to Kakabeka Falls (underway with Northwestern Ontario Recreational Trail Association).

Outdoor public spaces are crucial to quality of life, and more than ever, citizens want trails for people-powered transportation – walking, jogging, cycling, roller blading, roller skiing, skateboarding, personal mobility devices, and more. With spectacular views of Lake Superior and the Sleeping Giant, coupled with a pioneering rail history, industrial heritage, and grain transport legacy, all the parts are in place to create a world-class trail. A Waterfront Trail can promote a healthier community, make Thunder Bay more attractive to potential newcomers, and become a key aspect of future Economic and Tourism Development.

A legacy project like the Waterfront Trail is a long-term commitment, but WTRCAT – together with thousands of citizens and scores of groups and organizations – believes the time is right for Thunder Bay to emulate the many great cities of Canada and the world who prove that waterfront development and trails are a catalyst for regeneration, revitalization, and economic renewal.

**Trails are for everyone. Now is the time to begin.**

[Waterfront Trail Rotary Community Action Team Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/496102028426759/)

[www.thunderbaywaterfronttrail.com](http://www.thunderbaywaterfronttrail.com)

**What does WTRCAT do?**

* **educates citizens** about the proposed trail and its benefits through a website, social media, presentations, and events;
* **advocates** **for City funding** for the Waterfront Trail;
* **will fundraise for capital and maintenance monies** through a new Rotary Club of Thunder Bay (Port Arthur) Community Charity once the City of Thunder Bay makes a firm financial commitment to Waterfront Trail expansion;
* **inspired funding** from CEDC, TransCanada Trail, and Destination Northern Ontario for an Economic and Tourism Impact Study of the proposed Waterfront Trail expansion, completed in March 2023;
* **facilitates discussions** with politicians and staff at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels
* **liaises** **with other trail organizations** locally, provincially, and nationally;
* **encourages a citizen-led, volunteer, community-based approach** that allows interested community members to add their voices, provide feedback, volunteer time and skills, and help with financial support.