



Our founding member, Doug Campbell

From a 1971 meeting of national outdoor organisations and with the slogan “Towards a Foot Trail across Canada”, the National Hiking Trail was launched officially at a ceremony in Ottawa in 1987. Piece by piece, the scenic footpath is growing between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and our long-held vision of a natural corridor connecting existing natural-surface pedestrian trail systems with parklands and wild places is becoming a reality.



The Bruce Trail of Ontario, the forerunner of Canada’s modern-day trail system, was the pioneer. Completed in the Centennial Year 1967, its aim is to save the Niagara Escarpment and its unique natural features from the threat of development by

establishing 900 kilometres of trail along its length. It started with the remarkable relationship grounded on handshake access permission between land managers and the trail organisation, enabling public use of the trail. The same principles were adopted by the National Hiking Trail in some provinces, whereas our trail crosses Crown Land, Provincial and National Parks, and with the permission and blessing of many private landowners.

