

Selkirk & District Community Foundation happy to support ‘breath of fresh air’ on St. Andrews trail system



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The record setting snowfall that landed on us this past winter is starting to disappear, and the temperature is slowly beginning to rise. That is good news for anyone anxious to put the snowshoes away and start getting active outdoors in regular footwear or on a bike.

In the RM of St. Andrews, an ever-expanding trails network is providing a safe space for young and old alike to do just that.

A 4 km section of trail along the east side of Hwy. 9 from St. Andrews Road to Hwy. 27 is complete and the Selkirk & District Community Foundation provided a grant for Phase 1 of the project.

Spring has sprung and Frankee is ready to hit the trails in St. Andrews. A SDCF grant helped get a 4 km stretch of trail along Hwy. 9 going.

Teresa Howell, Recreation Director for St. Andrews, said the Foundation grant helped complete the first 1.4 km. Now walkers and bikers can use the trail to get them to Hwy. 27 to take them to River Road and loop back to St. Andrews Road, for a distance of about 12

“The Foundation grant helped get the ball rolling,” Howell said.

“Anyone living on any of those roads coming off the highway in that stretch, they can come off their own road, onto the trail and make the loop. All those roads go back typically to River Road as well.”

Shauna Curtin, Chairperson of the SDCF, said outdoor activity is important for everyone.

“The Foundation was pleased to provide a grant to St. Andrews to assist with its trail system,” Curtin said.

“Getting outside and being active and getting people off the side of the highway and onto a safe place to move about is crucial. A trail is literally a breath of fresh air for all those who make use of it.”

Expanding trails in the municipality was important for several reasons, Howell said. Safety was the biggest one, she said, as Hwy. 9 has become increasingly busy over the years.

“It’s much safer for kids and adults to be off the highway,” Howell said.

“My kids used to ride their bikes to school using River Road. This trail is a straight shot and easy to access, so I hope it gets more kids out riding to school and in the community.”

Connecting to neighbouring municipalities is also important and the goal is to connect to West St. Paul and the City of Selkirk with Hwy. 9 trails, and, indirectly to St. Clements via the Lockport Bridge.

Trails are also a benefit to the environment because in the summer people can take their bikes to get around the municipality, instead of starting the car.

The results of the RM’s Recreation Master Plan Survey won’t be released until mid-April, but Howell said trails, walking and having outdoor connections were high on respondents’ wish list.

“The results aren’t out yet, but that shows we are on the right path.”

“The 4 km section already completed is a place where kids and adults are going to be able to access other parts of the community. They can get on their bike and just go. Go to the school, go to the community club, go to the store. It’s just better, and safer, for everybody.”

The next phase of the trail will head north from St. Andrews Road and connect with a Red River Trails Association trail by Lower Fort Garry. That work is planned to start this spring.

The Selkirk and District Community Foundation is a charitable organization that provides financial support to charitable causes and agencies in the region, which includes Selkirk, St. Andrews and St. Clements. Gifts from donors enable the Foundation to support countless groups and individuals in our community. The Foundation has given in excess of \$3.4 million to more than 125 local charities and community organizations during its 25 years. For more details contact SDCF Executive Director Bev Clegg at 204.785.9755.