



Townsend Trophy Winner - Renee Delorme

WHO'S TOWNSEND???

THE TOWNSEND TROPHY STORY



The Townsend Trophy
Courtesy of Haylie Guinn

Reginald Townsend (1890-1977) first rode in the Canadian Rockies, with his wife, in 1923. He was part of the party that was stranded that year by weather in Wolverine Pass near Tumbling Glacier. It was during that ride the idea of the 'Order of the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies' was born. Although he had been stranded it did not deter him from returning many times in subsequent years.

At the end of World War I, Reginald Townsend had been appointed Editor of the *Country Life in America* magazine. During his decade-long tenure with the magazine, Reginald gave much publicity to the TRCR.

During those early years, Reginald Townsend was the official photographer for the TRCR. In 1929, he donated the Townsend Trophy to be awarded annually to the best amateur photographer taken on the trail. The Townsend Trophy winner will receive a small replica trophy with their name engraved on it. The Townsend Trophy contest has changed over the years. There are 5 categories: On the Trail, Scenic Views, People and/or Horses, Fun in Camp and Flora and Fauna.

'The Trophy is still being awarded today with the photographs being judged this fall. The photographs that are entered from this year's rides are the inspiration for the yearly calendar.

Would you like to be in next year's calendar?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN EXPERT TO ENTER!!

The photographs should epitomize Trail Riding, including elements that are distinctly representative of the TRCR (horses, riders, teepee town, campfires, etc.). They can be in colour and/or black and white. The entries must be taken from the previous year's ride. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be awarded in each of 5 categories: Flora and Fauna, Fun in Camp, On the Trail, People and/or Horses and Scenic Views. All entries will become the property of the TRCR for our calendar, albums or advertising.

TRAIL RIDERS OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

Historical Highlights

Adapted from Historical Highlights by Michelle Tilly

The Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, affectionately known as the TRCR, enjoys a long and prestigious history. 2023 is our centennial year, the 2024 rides will mark our 101st year anniversary! Following is a brief history of the TRCR.

TRCR continues to uphold our original constitution; encouraging travel on horseback in the Canadian Rockies, promoting fellowship and maintaining the environment. TRCR is lucky to be one of the three non-profit organizations that National Parks' policy allows to have semi-permanent tents in Banff National Park.

There have been many changes in the TRCR rides since the beginning. Between 1924 and 1945, there was only one ride in late July with an average of 65 riders. It was a moving camp which would set up a new camp each evening. During World War II, it was decided that a stationary camp would better suit the organization, the outfitters and the environment. Throughout the years the single ride was expanded to four, six, eight, ten and now twelve rides during the summer months.

1923 – A party guided by Walter Nixon (an outfitter based in Windermere, BC) went up to Wolverine Pass near Tumbling Glacier. The party included Dr. J Murray Gibbon (General Publicity Agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway – CPR), H.B. Clow (President of Rand McNally Map Makers) R.H. Palenske (a well known Chicago artist), Reginald Townsend (editor of Country Life in America magazine) and his wife. While the party was stranded by weather, the group came up with the idea to start the Order of the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies`

The idea was well received and the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) readily agreed to sponsor Trail Riders. An organizing committee was formed with Dr. Charles D. Walcott (Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution as Honorary President and Dr J Murray Gibbon (General Publicity Agent of the CPR) as Secretary-Treasurer. Along with an advisory committee they organized the first official ride.

1924 – 207 people attended the first annual meeting of the TRCR, known as `The Pow Wow`, that was held in Yoho Valley. The CPR supplemented the Bungalow Camp (Located at Takakkaw Falls) with 20 teepees and a Sundance Lodge. Thus began the tradition of using teepees as accommodation. It was natural for the CPR to use teepees rather than tents as the colourful `teepee towns` attracted tourists. Another tradition that continues today, the one of handing out `buttons` for the number of miles a rider had ridden, was talked about in Wolverine Pass and began on the first official ride in 1924.

Tradition also plays an important part of TRCR in music. At the first Pow Wow in 1924, a piano was hauled up from the trailhead to Takakkaw Falls. In subsequent years, portable organs were used.

More recently, we have relied on more portable instruments such as guitars, accordions, and even battery operated CD players for sing-songs and square dancing.

One of our most famous musicians was Wilf Carter who was a packer on various rides. In 1932 he came along as the Trail Ride musician and in 1933 he was made the Official Trail Songster. Playing for TRCR rides helped Wilf Carter begin his career as Montana Slim. Several versions of the TRCR song book have been compiled by TRCR musicians over the years so as to keep the music current with the times.

1929 – Reginald Townsend donated the Townsend Trophy thus beginning the yearly amateur photography contest that continues through today. TRCR has been blessed with incredibly beautiful trail ride photographs that have been reproduced in various magazines, brochures, publicity material and now a calendar!

Our publicity coverage has continued with a visitor from the CBC in 1943, photographers from National Geographic and Time Magazines in 1946, features in several movies, press releases and feature magazine articles.

1953 – The annual Spring Round-up commenced. Its a chance to see friends not seen since the previous summer, enjoy dinner, entertainment and to vote on the photographs for the Townsend Trophy.

1961 – The CPR notified TRCR that they would no longer sponsor the association because of financial burden. A group of Calgarians banded together and established an independent non-profit organization. At the end of the 1961 season the threat of an equipment auction aroused concerns. Quick letter writing on the part of the TRCR President ended in all the equipment being sold to the TRCR for \$1.00

1973 – The Golden Anniversary of the TRCR was celebrated at the end of the first ride with a `super Pow Wow`.

1983 – The Jubilee Celebration of the TRCR was marked with a 60th Anniversary Ride. A group of 16 riders rode from Banff to Jasper while a group of 14 riders rode from Jasper to Banff. After eight days on the trail, the two groups met with about 200 long-time riders for a Pow Wow on the Kootenay Plains to celebrate before finishing the second half of the ride.

The TRCR continues yearly to seek out new locations for riding. TRCR looks forward to a long life and hopes that you will continue to **Come Ride With Us!**



3rd Place - People and Horses
submitted by
Nina Kloss

NOTES: _____



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December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
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31						

2023



Fun in Camp

- a. Submitted by Christiane Gerhardt
- b. 3rd Place submitted by David Gillespie
- c. 4th Place submitted by Robyn Becher
- d. submitted by Svetlana Saitova

NOTES: _____



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January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
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2024



3rd Place - On The Trail
submitted by
Nina Kloss

NOTES: _____



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February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
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25	26	27	28	29		

2024



1st Place - Scenic Views

submitted by

Wendy Alexander

NOTES: _____



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March

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
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2024



2nd Place – On the Trail
submitted by
Judy Fleetham

NOTES: _____



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April

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
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2024



**1st Place - People and Horses
and Townsend Trophy Winner**
submitted by
Renee Delorme



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					May		
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						2024	



3rd Place - Scenic Views

submitted by

Renee Delorme

NOTES: _____



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June

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
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2024



Flora and Fauna

- a. 1st Place submitted by Robyn Becher
- b. 2nd Place submitted by Judy Fleetham
- c. 4th Place submitted by Renee Delorme
- d. 3rd Place submitted by Judy Fleetham

NOTES: _____



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July

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
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2024



1st Place - On The Trail
submitted by
Jill Mersereau

NOTES: _____



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August

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2024



1st Place - Fun in Camp
submitted by
Nina Kloss

NOTES: _____



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September

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
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2024



2nd Place - People and Horses
submitted by
Robyn Becher

NOTES: _____



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October

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2024



People's Choice Award
submitted by
Renee Delorme

NOTES: _____



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November

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2024



2nd Place - Fun in Camp
submitted by
Renee Delorme

NOTES: _____



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December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
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2024



2nd Place - Scenic Views
submitted by
Judy Fleetham

NOTES: _____



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January

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2025

2025-2026

June 2025

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July 2025

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August 2025

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September 2025

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October 2025

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November 2025

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December 2025

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January 2026

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February 2026

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March 2026

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April 2026

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May 2026

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- Jun 15, 2025 • Father's Day
- Jun 21, 2025 • National Indigenous Peoples Day
- Jul 1, 2025 • Canada Day
- Aug 4, 2025 • Civic/Provincial Day (Northwest Territories, Nunavut)
- Aug 4, 2025 • British Columbia Day (British Columbia)
- Aug 4, 2025 • Natal Day (Nova Scotia)
- Aug 4, 2025 • Saskatchewan Day (Saskatchewan)
- Aug 4, 2025 • New Brunswick Day (New Brunswick)
- Sep 1, 2025 • Labour Day
- Sep 30, 2025 • National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

- Oct 13, 2025 • Thanksgiving Day (Many regions)
- Oct 13, 2025 • Thanksgiving Day (Nova Scotia)
- Oct 13, 2025 • Thanksgiving Day (Prince Edward Island)
- Oct 31, 2025 • Halloween
- Nov 11, 2025 • Remembrance Day (Many regions)
- Nov 11, 2025 • Remembrance Day (Many regions)
- Dec 11, 2025 • Anniversary of the Statute of Westminster
- Dec 24, 2025 • Christmas Eve
- Dec 25, 2025 • Christmas Day
- Dec 26, 2025 • Boxing Day (Many regions)
- Dec 26, 2025 • Boxing Day (Nova Scotia)
- Dec 31, 2025 • New Year's Eve

- Jan 1, 2026 • New Year's Day
- Jan 6, 2026 • Epiphany
- Feb 2, 2026 • Groundhog Day
- Feb 14, 2026 • Valentine's Day
- Feb 16, 2026 • Family Day (Many regions)
- Feb 16, 2026 • Islander Day (Prince Edward Island)
- Feb 16, 2026 • Louis Riel Day (Manitoba)
- Feb 16, 2026 • Nova Scotia Heritage Day (Nova Scotia)
- Feb 20, 2026 • Yukon Heritage Day (Yukon)
- Mar 9, 2026 • Commonwealth Day
- Mar 17, 2026 • St. Patrick's Day
- Apr 3, 2026 • Good Friday
- Apr 5, 2026 • Easter Sunday (Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia)
- Apr 5, 2026 • Easter Sunday
- Apr 6, 2026 • Easter Monday (NT, NU, QC)

NOTES: _____



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