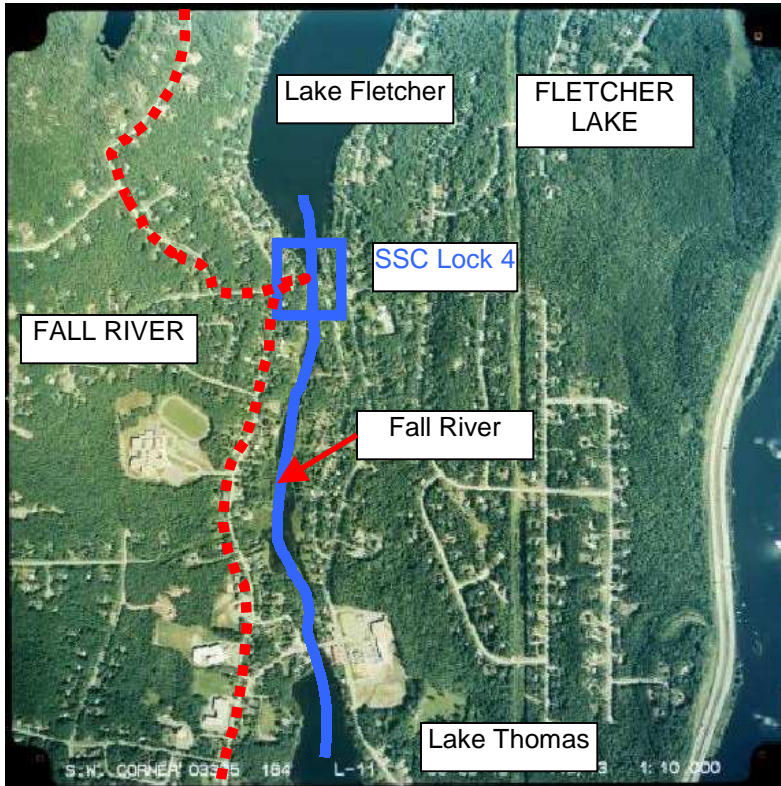


## TRANAS-CANADA TRAIL ALIGNMENTS, TRURO-HALIFAX AND ELMSDALE TO GIBRALTAR, NS



The Trans-Canada Trail concept was developed by the “Canada 125” Committee as a legacy project that would benefit all of Canada by providing a hiking/bicycle trail linking the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. The primary goal of the Trans-Canada Trail (TCT) Foundation was to establish the coast-coast trail system by 2010, with subsequent phases to extend and enhance the trail opportunities (see [www.tctrail.ca](http://www.tctrail.ca)). In Nova Scotia, the extensive system of abandoned railway alignments have been rehabilitated to create “trails from rails”. However, this system has not been able to address the primary goal of the TCT to link the three oceans and the provincial capitals.

While multi-use trails are widely accepted, their construction and use can harm the natural environment. **OCL Group** was retained to identify alignments and assess environmental impacts, so that approximately 125 km of new trail could be constructed within an environmentally sustainable development philosophy.

OCL identified alignments for the TCT between Truro and Halifax via the Shubenacadie River valley and lake system, also known as the Shubenacadie Corridor. The latter also provides a natural and modified waterway/canal system linking Halifax Harbour with Minas Basin. Thus the Trail alignment complements the Waterway route. In addition, a Trail alignment to connect the Shubenacadie Corridor with an existing TCT Trail linking Halifax via the eastern shore to Gibraltar (Musquodoboit Valley). The combination of trails would create over 125 km of multi-user trail system, adjacent to the largest urban community in Nova Scotia.

*Client: Trans-Canada Trail Foundation and Shubenacadie Canal Commission.*