



Hurst Legacy Award 2021

Truzaar Dordi

The Hurst Legacy Award was founded in 2019 to honour the incredible work of our founder, Jim “Hurst” Hayhurst. While he passed away in early 2020, his legacy lives on in the Trails Alumni who are benefiting from his vision to create Trails nearly 30 years ago. The Hurst Legacy Award is presented annually to a Trails Alumni who consistently lives the Trails mission. This award proves that we all have the capacity and the responsibility to give back, no matter what your age, background or abilities.



2003 - 2008 Eagle Eyes



- Trails Danielle Dion Bursary
- Doctoral Candidate, School of Environment, Enterprise, and Development, University of Waterloo
- Winner of '30 Under 30' Corporate Knights

“I am deeply honoured. Trails has been foundational in inspiring me to be who I am and supporting my journey. It is with gratitude and humility that I can give back to the communities that have given so much to me.”

I grew up in Tanzania and was eleven when my family immigrated to Canada, largely in the pursuit of education. The transition was stark. I remember walking long hours in the heat of summer, just to save a bus ticket. I remember the first time I saw my dad without a mustache, because of the embedded racism experienced by immigrants in finding their first job. And I remember quiet evenings, as he studied to become re-accredited after a long day of work. Life has its challenges, but we can persevere.

In 2003, I joined Trails as part of the Eagle Eyes group. My first campfire with Trails ignited the spark for my long-standing respect and admiration for nature. Trails offered me a lot of firsts. My first time in a tent, my first time fishing, my first time in a canoe, my first time portaging, and certainly my first of many of Dieter’s famous cookies. Trails was an escape, a door to Narnia.

It’s not always the easy or fun times that are most vivid. I remember the dread of standing in the playing field, with 19 other strangers the summer of Year 1. I remember crouching on life jackets, counting the time between flash and strikes in the midst of thunderstorms. And I remember when Brandon mourned the death of a frog he accidentally stepped on. I remember the times we had to reflect, give thanks, and build long-lasting memories.

My time with Trails didn’t end when I graduated; their support has been unending and I wouldn’t be where I am today without it. Receiving the Trails Danielle Dion Bursary and Sylvain Dion’s mentorship and commitment to my success was formative. I was also privileged to gain work experience through an internship at Scotiabank, arranged through a partnership with Trails.

My experiences instilled a deep sense of stewardship, protection, and reciprocity of nature. I knew I wanted to build a career that had a positive impact and I have committed myself to climate advocacy. My graduate studies have focused on the role of the financial sector and it’s positive and negative contributions to sustainability. Being an academic must also mean being an activist; we have a moral responsibility to provide informed, workable, and inclusive solutions.

Living true to the Trails mission, I contribute to my communities in a number of ways, including my current role, serving as the Vice President of Communications for the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics. At the University of Waterloo, I was an expert advisor to the Responsible Investing Advisory group. At Trails, I have been an AIM mentor since 2018. Today, I strive to give back even a sliver of what Trails has given me.