

News from the Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council

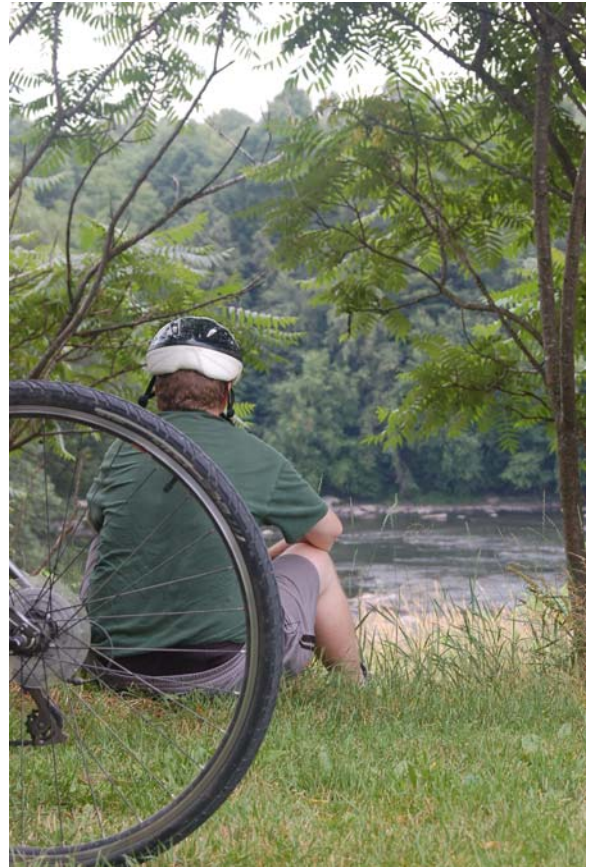
TRAIL TRACKS



Fall, 2011

Photo Contest Winner Announcement Nov. 15, 5 pm

Please join us to view the submissions to this year's Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail photo contest, and to congratulate the winners who will be announced on Tues., Nov. 15, 5 pm at Sheldon Elementary School in Sheldon Springs



"Relaxing with a view", submitted by Jauna and Justin Berry, is just one of many wonderful photos entered in this year's Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail Photo Contest.

Guided Recreational Outings for National Trails Day

The Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council again hosted bicyclists, paddlers and hikers to celebrate National Trails Day 2011 by experiencing the natural history and beauty of Northwestern Vermont on informal guided

bicycle, canoe/kayak, and hiking outings, led by experienced Council member volunteers. On Saturday, June 11, Council Chair Dave Stanley led a paddle on beautiful Arrowhead Lake in Fairfax.

Council members Phyllis Tiffany and Don Mueller led a bike ride on the Rail Trail on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 5 and 6. The Friday riders started at The Abbey Restaurant in Sheldon and bicycled to St. Albans and back; and on Saturday, the eastern half of the Trail was covered.

Saturday, Sept. 10 proved to be a glorious day for the hike up Burnt Mountain in Montgomery Center led by Council member Jane Williams. Participants were rewarded for their efforts by spectacular views from the top of Burnt Mountain. We thank the Hazen's Notch Association for the use of their hiking trails.



Kids participating in the Council's Fit Family Day

A new addition this year was Fit Family Day on the MVRT, organized by Council member Alisha Sawyer. The event took place on Saturday, July 19, and involved a scavenger hunt, walking, running, bicycling and stroller walk for families with children under 10 years. The children had a great time, and so did their parents!

Trail Repair in Enosburgh

The effects of an unusually wet spring were felt on the MVRT. In May, two cracks appeared,

both spanning the width of the trail east of Enosburgh Falls, near mile marker 17.5.

VTrans District 8 was notified, and after an investigation, determined that the culvert beneath the trail had failed, resulting in a section of the trail sinking.



VTrans District 8 repaired the section of the MVRT near Mile Marker 17.5

The section of the trail between Pleasant Street in Enosburgh Falls east to White Road, was closed in June and part of July. Trail users had to detour onto Route 105.

Given the considerable workload that faced VTrans as a result of spring flooding and high water elsewhere in the County, the Council is very grateful to VTrans for getting the MVRT repaired so quickly.

The Council

The Council's Annual Meeting will take place on Monday, January 9, 2012. At that time, we will elect members-at-large for the upcoming year. If you would like to become involved in the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail, we would welcome you as a member of our Council. Your input is important to us! Contact the MVRT coordinator, Cynthia Scott, at 933-8851 or cynthiascott@myfairpoint.net, if you would like more information on the Council and its activities.

Trail Maintenance

While VTrans takes care of all the Rail Trail's big maintenance needs, it is the Council which looks after many of the smaller maintenance issues.

Keeping the MVRT mile markers and Town boundary signs upright and visible is a constant challenge. The winter frost heaves dislodge the posts which often fall over and often 'get lost' as they become hidden in vegetation along the Trail's shoulders.

Our maintenance crew of Council members Jim Smith, Don Mueller, and Dave Stanley (all pictured at left) can be counted on to fix these posts, weed whack around picnic tables and benches, and remove overhanging branches.. Thanks very much guys!



Friends of the MVRT

It is with great pleasure that we
Welcome! our new Friend:

Jonathan Billings

And *Thank You* to our many returning friends for their continued support of the Trail and the Council:

Steve Bourgeois

Dave Stanley

Dana Wolcott

Nat & Nini Worman

Peter Perrino

Madeline McDermott-Miller

Vaughn & JoAnne Rock

Anne Bowers

Louis Breesee

Marilyn Takefman

Richard & Marie Brouillette

Ed Holm

Mary Brouillette

Paul & Grayce Anderson

Gail Benjamin

Carmen Lanoue

George & Virginia Lewis

Don Mueller

John & Marguerite Bolog

Martha Smith

Jane Williams

Carolyn & Bill Barnes

We are thrilled that you all enjoy the MVRT as much as we do, and that you value the Council's efforts on behalf of you, our Trail users!

Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council
c/o Northwest Regional Planning Commission
155 Lake Street
St. Albans, VT 05478

The Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail

Farms, Forests, Fields, and Communities: Come Harvest Our Agricultural Heritage!