

News from the Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council

# Trail : Tracks



Fall, 2013

## New Benches

We hope you had a chance to try out our new benches! Thank you to Council member Mark Bushey for spearheading this project. The 6 new benches are made of pressure treated wood on concrete frames and are located in the same locations as our old benches.



Council members Mark Bushey, Mike Manahan and Dave Stanley unloading new bench to be installed at the MVRT's parking area in St. Albans

## New Mailing Address

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission recently moved its office. Please note its (and our) new address: Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council, c/o NRPC, 75 Fairfield St., St. Albans, VT 05478. The NRPC's phone number remains unchanged at 802-524-5958.

## Lamoille Valley Rail Trail

Exciting news from the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT)!

Construction is underway and the LVRT is one step closer to completion. After years of permitting delays, the LVRT has the green light to move forward and we need your help to make it happen!

The LVRT will serve as the state's premier four-season recreation trail, spanning the length of Vermont, 93 miles across some of our state's most picturesque landscape. The LVRT begins in St. Johnsbury and ends in Swanton passing through 18 Vermont towns and villages. The trail intersects with the MVRT in Sheldon Springs connecting users to the heart of Franklin County and even to Canada. When complete, the LVRT will be the longest rail trail in New England. The trail offers something for everyone all year long. It is open to a wide variety of uses such as walking, running, biking, horseback riding, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, dog sledding and snowmobiling.

Please join us today and support the LVRT. Sponsorship opportunities are available at all giving levels. Contributions can be made online or by sending a check to LVRT/VAST, 26 Vast Lane, Berlin, VT 05641. To learn more, visit [www.lvrt.org](http://www.lvrt.org).

*Dennise R. Casey*

## Trail Extension in Richford

The Town of Richford has been working for many years on providing an extension of the MVRT into downtown Richford. Through the efforts of the Town and resident Joe Pollender, this will become a reality next year. The trail will be located on an 8-acre parcel of land previously owned in part by the railroad and in part by Canusa, and is now owned in part by the Town and in part by Mr. Pollender.

The paved trail will extend a half-mile between Troy Street (where the MVRT ends) and the parking lot behind Wetherby's Quick Stop/Sunoco station on Main Street. The project will be paid for by a grant from the Vermont Agency of Transportation and is expected to be constructed in Spring 2014.



The MVRT (behind photographer) presently ends at Troy St. in Richford. The Town will be extending the trail along the former railroad bed seen above on the eastern side of Troy St.

### Mail Preferences

Let us know your preferred format for receiving the MVRT newsletter. We would be happy to send it to you by regular mail or by e-mail, your choice. If we do not hear from you, we will assume you are happy with the format you are presently receiving.

Contact us at (802) 524-5958 or e-mail [aadams@nrpcvt.com](mailto:aadams@nrpcvt.com)

## Foliage Ride in Granby, QC



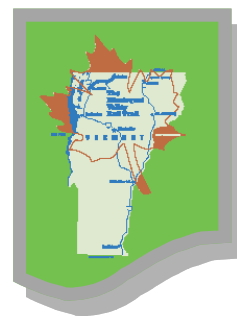
Fall Foliage at Lac Boivin in Granby, QC

From left: Cynthia Scott, Dave Stanley, Don Mueller, Carol Stanley, Phyllis Tiffany, Meredith MacKeen, Judy Edwards

Thanks to Council member Phyllis Tiffany for organizing a bicycle outing to Quebec on Sun., Oct. 6. Hardy friends and family cycled a 31-mile loop from Granby to Yamaska National Park to Waterloo. The foliage was spectacular and the forecasted rain held off while the cyclists were out.

## T-shirts Support the MVRT

Thank you to everyone who supported the MVRT by recently buying a t-shirt. We received many positive comments on the shirts – people loved the wicking fabric, the neon green color and the graphics!



Special thanks to Dave Stanley for all the time he devoted to working with the supplier and the graphic artist.

If there's sufficient interest, we would consider putting in another order next spring. So if you missed your chance this year, there's still a possibility of buying a t-shirt; let us know if you'd like one, and we'll gauge the level of interest.

## Updates

### Improved Signage

VTrans' sign improvement project for the MVRT is scheduled to go out to bid this month. A contract would likely be in place by the end of the year with implementation taking place in Spring 2014. The project will standardize all signs to better identify the MVRT for motorists and provide information for trail users.

### Seymour Road Crossing

The new traffic light at the corner of Route 7 and Seymour Road is now in operation. The realignment of Route 105 and Seymour Road to create a T-intersection has been postponed until 2014.

In the meantime, the Northwest Regional Planning Commission is undertaking vehicular and pedestrian traffic counts in an effort to justify the

Council's request to VTrans for a crosswalk or other traffic calming device to be installed on Seymour between the MVRT parking area (on the south side of Seymour) and the start of the Trail (on the north side of Seymour).

### Fit Family Day 2013

The Council was excited to partner again this year with Northwestern Medical Center and area businesses to host an event for families with young children. Held on Sat., July 13 in Enosburg Falls, activities included outings on the MVRT, a bike rodeo, games, safety

events, lunch and prizes. Many thanks to Council member Alisha Sawyer for taking the lead on this event.



The children of Council member Alisha Sawyer helped prepare for Fit Family Day by measuring distances on the MVRT

## Friends of the MVRT

***Thank you to all our returning friends for your continued support of the Trail and the Council***

*Anne Bowers*

*Louis Bresee, Jr.*

*Joy Choquette*

*Steve & Debbie Bourgeois*

*Karen Drennen*

*Allan Louis*

*George & Virginia Lewis*

*Scott Christiansen*

*Mary Stueber*

*Madeline Miller*

*Ann & Earl Sanft*

*Francis Thibault*

*Nat & Nini Worman*

***And an enthusiastic welcome to our new friends***

*Phil & Cindy Livingston*

*Mary & Jan Edick*

Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council  
c/o Northwest Regional Planning Commission  
75 Fairfield St.  
St. Albans, VT 05478

*The Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail*

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