



# MISSISQUOI VALLEY RAIL TRAIL



**2017**

## Kids Fest 2017

Amy Adams, MVRT Coordinator

Kids Fest 2017 took place on June 2, in Taylor Park in St. Albans, hosted by The Family Center: The Parent Child Center of Northwestern Counseling & Support Services. The Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail participated in the event along with approximately 25 other community partners throughout Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. There were many



families that came out for this fun, family-friendly afternoon despite the rain showers! There was a StoryWalk, "Race the Docs" obstacle course, bouncy house, face painting, live music and so many other activities. Our counties have so many wonderful resources for families to reach out to.

The Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail along with The Great Outdoors store in Enosburg gave away a children's bike and helmet. The lucky winner was Sophia, age 5, from St. Albans. Congratulations and we hope to see you on the Trail! Thanks to The Family Center at Northwestern Counseling & Support Services for hosting a wonderful event.



# Highwater and High Fives – the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Missisquoi Paddle Pedal

Noah Pollock, on behalf of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail



The third annual **Missisquoi Paddle-Pedal** took place on June 24<sup>th</sup>. This family friendly event is a celebration of recreation along the Missisquoi River and the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail. We had approximately 60 intrepid participants and volunteers this year, who came despite heavy rains in previous days. The river rose six feet overnight! As a result, we added a “bike only” option for not comfortable paddling at the high flows.



The high water brought record course times, with several participants finishing the 6.5 mile paddle and 4.5-mile bike ride in under an hour! Skies cleared for a great lunch, awards ceremony at Davis Park after the event, and everyone went home with a prize.

The event was co-hosted by the Northern Forest Canoe Trail and the Missisquoi Wild and Scenic Committee, with support from Northern Tier Center for Health, the Northwest



Vermont Rail Trail Committee, RiseVT and The Jay Cloud Cyclery, with help from Montgomery Adventures and the Richford Conservation Commission.

A big thanks to rail trail volunteers Cynthia Scott, Carol Hickey, Jane Willams, and Don Mueller for ensuring safe crossings along the route!



# Thank You to Our Community

Amy Adams, MVRT Coordinator

This season we would like to thank the Franklin/Grand Isle Tobacco Prevention Coalition for their efforts in cleaning up tobacco litter throughout the community. The group of eight volunteers worked on cleaning up cigarette litter along sidewalks, curbs, picnic benches on the MVRT and the fence between the MVRT and Maplefields. Over **2,326** cigarette butts were picked up during this cleanup!

Appreciation also goes out to the Council volunteers; they put in countless “behind the scenes” hours of keeping our rail trail clean and safe for users. They trim around and maintain the appearances of the benches, kiosks, bridges and sign in boxes. They spend many hours on Green Up day cleaning up the trail each season.



New roof, courtesy of Robert Bessette



A huge thank you to VTrans for keeping our Trail in order and by taking care of the larger maintenance issues on the trail. For the 2017 season they have been working on putting the missing signs back in place, replacing damaged ones and even added a “No Overnight Parking” sign at the St. Albans trailhead! They have a contractor setup for mowing the trail, boom mowing, and for filling in the pot holes/ATV washouts. They were also able to quickly do a cleanup of down trees after one of the Franklin County windstorms this fall. In the spring of 2018, the bridge at mile 12 will be repaired; the trail will be temporarily closed in that area while they do the work.



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## Friends of the MVRT

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

Paul & Grayce Anderson  
Bryant Andrews  
Carolyn & William Barnes  
Gail Benjamin  
John & Marguerite Bolog  
Anne Bowers  
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Ellen Stanley  
Marlene & Francis Thibault  
Michael & Emily Wetherell  
Jane Williams  
Shirley Wolfe & Roy Neuer

And a hearty welcome to our new Friends;  
we value your friendship and thank you!

Owen Drudge   Franklin County Industrial Dev. Corp   Laurie & Alfred Sedlmayr-Cumming   Emilie Vanderpool

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

*The Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail*

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