

TRAIL TRACKS



Spring, 2010

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Trail to be Resurfaced!

Warning: Partial Trail Closures April-May-June

Thanks to federal stimulus funding, the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail will be completely resurfaced this year. VTrans has hired GW Tatro Construction of Jeffersonville to undertake the project which is expected to begin in early April and be completed by July 2.

Plans are to put down a 4" layer of compacted crushed limestone (same material as presently on the MVRT) on top of the existing surface, and to widen the trail surface to its original 10' width.

The resurfacing work will take place in sections with the section under construction closed to Trail users. The project will begin at the St. Albans end of the MVRT and move towards Richford. Watch for notices on our kiosks, on our website www.mvrailtrail.com, or call (802) 933-8851 for up-to-date information on closed sections.

We apologize for the inconvenience caused by having sections of the trail unusable during April-May-June, but know that you will be very pleased with the resulting new surface !



After resurfacing, the Trail will once again be 10' wide.

Bridge Painting

Warning: Partial Trail Closure in April

Trail users will also be inconvenienced for a brief time during April while the Interstate 89 bridges (northbound and southbound) over the MVRT will be painted. The section of Trail directly under the two bridges will be closed while the painting project is taking place.

Only those trail users intending to travel the MVRT from the St. Albans parking area through

to Greens Corner or vice versa will be affected. If you travel from St. Albans east to the Franklin Park West housing development (distance about .75 mile), or from Greens Corner west to mile marker 1 (distance about 2 miles), you will not be inconvenienced by the trail closure.

In order to access the underside of the bridges, the painting company will be placing its equipment on the

MVRT. The bridges are located between the Franklin Park West housing development and MVRT mile marker 1.

Watch for notices on our kiosks, on our website www.mvrailtrail.com, or call (802) 933-8851 for up-to-date information on when this section will be closed to Trail users.

Guided Recreational Outings for National Trails Day

To celebrate National Trails Day 2010, the Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council invites bicyclists, paddlers and hikers to experience the natural history and beauty of Northwestern Vermont on informal guided bicycle, canoe/kayak, and hiking outings led by experienced Council member volunteers.

Participants will provide their own equipment (bicycle/helmet, canoe/kayak/paddle/PFD) and picnic lunch/refreshments. These outings are free of charge and suitable for experienced bicyclists, paddlers and hikers who would like to become more familiar with the local natural history and scenic beauty.

Saturday, June 12, 2010 – Paddle the Lamoille River, from Jeffersonville to Fairfax Falls.

Dave Stanley will lead participants in a paddle down the Lamoille River. Meet at 9 am behind Jana's Cupboard Restaurant on Route 15 in Jeffersonville. Duration: approx. 4 hours. Level of difficulty: intermediate. Bring your own canoe/kayak, paddle, PFD and skirt, lunch/refreshments.



Paddlers at our Missisquoi Wildlife Refuge outing last year.

Saturday, August 21, 2010 – Bicycle the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail from St. Albans to Sheldon

Join Don Mueller and Phyllis Tiffany to bicycle along the Rail Trail from St. Albans to The Abbey Restaurant in Sheldon and return. Meet at the Rail Trail parking area in St. Albans (entrance off Route 7 just north of Route 105 intersection), leaving promptly at 8 am. Distance: 22 miles round trip. Duration: approx. 4 hours. Level of difficulty: easy. Trail surface: crushed limestone

(not suitable for narrow or racing tires). Bring your own bicycle/helmet, lunch/ refreshments.

Sunday, August 22, 2010 – Bicycle the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail from Sheldon to Richford

Don Mueller and Phyllis Tiffany will lead participants in bicycling along the Rail Trail from The Abbey Restaurant in Sheldon to Richford and return. Meet at The Abbey parking area on Route 105; leaving promptly at 8 am. Distance: 30 miles round trip. Duration: approx. 4.5 hours. Level of difficulty: easy. Trail surface: crushed limestone (not suitable for narrow or racing tires). Bring your own bicycle/helmet, lunch/ refreshments.

Saturday, September 11, 2010 – Hike Burnt Mountain in Montgomery Center

Jane Williams will lead participants in a hike up Burnt Mountain (elevation 2,600'), part of the Green Mountain Range, offering fabulous views of Jay Peak, Trout River valley, and Quebec. Meet at 9 am at the end of Rossier Rd (from



Council members Jane Williams and Alisha Sawyer at the summit of Burnt Mountain in 2009

Route 118 in Montgomery Center, take Route 58/Hazen's Notch Rd. about 2 miles, turn right on Rossier Rd.). Duration: approx. 3 hrs round trip. Level of difficulty: moderate to strenuous. Participation limited to 10 people. Bring your own lunch/refreshments. No dogs allowed.

For more information and to RSVP, contact Cynthia Scott at (802) 933-8851 or cynthiascott@myfairpoint.net

Announcing our 2010 Photo Contest!

Don't forget to bring your camera with you when you go out on the MVRT this summer. The Council would love to see the Trail and its surroundings through your eyes! Photos taken on, of or from the MVRT are eligible and must be submitted by
Friday, October 29, 2010.

See our website www.mvrailtrail.com for contest guidelines and entry form, or contact us at (802) 524-5958 for more information.

Roy Baker

Long-time Council member Roy Baker passed away in January. Roy was involved with the Trail since 1991 when it was still just an idea; he was St. Albans Town's representative on the Rail Trail Council.

For many years, Roy and his wife Dorothy, also a Council member, kept the MVRT's St. Albans parking area mowed and looking neat.

The Rail Trail Council will name the St. Albans trailhead in memory of Roy. Please join us on Monday, June 7, 6 pm. at the St. Albans parking area as we hold a dedication ceremony followed by a pot-luck supper (in the event of inclement weather, the pot luck supper will be held at the Northwest



Regional Planning Commission office, 155 Lake St., St. Albans).

UPDATES

Parking Areas

The MVRT parking area in East Berkshire was anticipated to be constructed in the fall of 2008. However, in a soil test taken at the site, the presence of coal ash was noted. This is not an unusual finding at a former railroad stop in use at a time when the trains were run on coal, though further testing is required before construction can begin. This parking area will happen, it just requires a little more patience!

Bathrooms at Franklin Park West

Look for the bathrooms at the Franklin Park West pavilion (about .75 mile east of the MVRT's St. Albans parking area) to be open to Trail users this May. The issue of a suitable rate for water and sewer hookup was agreed upon by the developer and the City of St. Albans last fall.

The bathrooms will be open until September.

The Council

The Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council is pleased to announce the addition of new Council members Mary and Mark Bushey of Swanton, and Mark Baker of Enosburg. Mary Bushey and Mark Baker have been elected as a members-at-large. Mark Bushey replaced Dan Favreau as the Council's VAST member. Welcome Mark, Mary, and Mark, we look forward to sharing your energy and great ideas!

And many thanks to long-standing Council member Dan Favreau of Franklin who has been VAST's representative on the Council. Thank you Dan for your many years of service to the MVRT! We shall miss your participation on the Council.

There are several municipal seats on the Council presently unfilled – St. Albans Town, Sheldon, Enosburgh Town, and Enosburg Falls. Give these municipalities a voice on the Council by becoming a municipal representative – speak with your Selectboard or Board of Trustees.

Friends of the MVRT

Many thanks to our dear Friends of the Trail who have once again expressed their support of the MVRT by renewing their membership as Friends:

<i>Ann & Earl Sanft</i>	<i>Grayce Anderson</i>
<i>Thomas Smith & Anne McMenamin</i>	<i>David Stanley</i>
<i>Frances Casey</i>	<i>Dana Wolcott</i>
<i>Baird Morgan</i>	<i>Marilyn Takefman</i>
<i>Gary & Cindy Rutkowski</i>	<i>Albert Perry</i>
<i>Steve & Debbie Bourgeois</i>	<i>Linda Lothian</i>
<i>Marian Fritz</i>	

And a hearty *Welcome!* to our new Friends:

Mr. & Mrs. John Martin

We appreciate your enthusiasm for the MVRT. Your Friendship represents a valid investment in the future of our families, our businesses, and our communities. Thanks to all of you!

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!