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[www.algomahighlandsconservancy.org](http://www.algomahighlandsconservancy.org)

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## Spring is in Full Swing!

Hello friends! We hope that everyone is getting outside to enjoy the unseasonably hot temperatures this spring! After a whirlwind 2009 full of challenges and successes, we at the AHC expect that 2010 will also be a year for the record books.

The AHC is currently implementing a number of exciting action plans to further our core goals in environmental education, silent sport recreation and of course, conservation!

We have big plans to create new and thrilling opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts itching to stay

physical, to strengthen our relationships with the local and regional community, and foster outstanding educational opportunities on the property.

For those who wish to visit us, simply head north from Sault Ste. Marie on Hwy 17 for approx. 25 minutes. Turn right on Old Hwy 17 (just past the turnoff to Tree Top Adventures) and follow the signs to Stokely Creek Lodge (SCL). Be sure to park your car in the SCL parking lot before heading up the driveway to the main lodge where you can access the existing trail system. We encourage you to stop

by our office, located in the Clubhouse Loft (next to the Main Lodge), and say "Hi!" to Jennifer or Anna, Conservancy Assistants, who would be happy to answer any questions you may have and provide you with a trail map! Or call the office at 705-649-5751 for more details.

**PLEASE NOTE:** AHC land is open to the public for *non-motorized* access in the spring, summer, and fall (NOT just during the ski season). If you choose to use our land, it is at your own risk. We will not be held liable for any injuries that may occur on our property.

## King of the Algoma Highlands – Doug Pitt (AHC President)

The year 2009 will certainly be celebrated by friends of the AHC as a milestone in which the goal of conserving and protecting the Algoma Highlands was fulfilled in a major way. King Mountain, the AHC's crowning achievement, was officially purchased for \$1.5 million on November 30<sup>th</sup> 2009. The area includes all three peaks of King Mountain and harbours delicate ecosystems on and around the mountain;

old growth forests; rare flora and fauna; and, as many of you know, a world class silent-sport recreation resource! This is an accomplishment that dedicated volunteers have been striving to achieve for more than two decades and truly represents a legacy of the late Charles (Chuck) Peterson, and many others who have shaped this success through their vision, hard work, and financial contributions. In combination with our prior land trust holdings at

Robertson Lake Cliffs, purchase of the King Mountain property consolidates a platform of 1215 ha (3000 acres) from which the AHC will continue to practice and promote all of our core values. Our fund-raising challenges are ongoing. Although we raised most of the money needed to purchase the King Mountain Property, we fell 20% short of our \$1.5 million goal and had to

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View from King Mountain—  
following snowshoe trail



Robertson Lake Cliffs

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***The new land purchase together with the Robertson Lakes Cliffs property now forms a contiguous 3000 acre (1215 ha) area set aside for silent sport recreation, research, education, and conservation – in perpetuity!***

borrow the funds to make the acquisition deadline set out by the former owners, Astina Forest AG. This "mortgage" on the land must be paid off by November 30th, 2011 or we may be forced to forfeit part of our land.

For those new to our cause, the AHC was formed in 1992 as a binational, non-profit land trust with the mission of conserving and enjoying the unique recreational attributes of the Algoma Highlands. We are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of conservationists, educators, silent-sport enthusiasts, researchers, and naturalists, all sharing a love for the region and a passion for the protection and conservation of its natural wonders.

In our success, we are extremely grateful for the support garnered from our many partners and friends. Key AHC conservation partners include Stokely Creek Lodge (and particularly the Byker and Byker-Phair family owners) and Astina

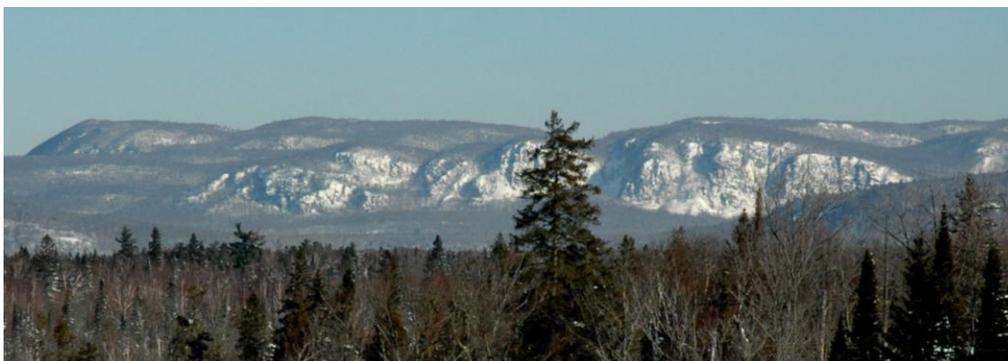
Forest AG, neighbours to the north who contribute an extensive network of trails on their forest land base.

The AHC is deeply indebted to a number of organizations and individuals for their generous financial contributions, including: Greenlands Challenge (an Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources competitive funding program to help conserve Ontario's biodiversity), EJLB Foundation, McLean Foundation, Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Community Development Corporation of Sault Ste. Marie, Gaylen and Susan Byker, the legacy gift provided by Chuck Peterson, and a very long list of private donors. On behalf of current and future generations that will benefit from this partnership, generosity, and collective effort, the AHC offers a sincere and appreciative **THANK YOU!**

As we move forward to write a new chapter in the history of the AHC, I invite you to join us in meeting the important challenge of being good stewards of this cherished land.

Although we are primarily focused on retiring our mortgage debt, we have already started moving forward on several new initiatives relating to some of our other core values. Ultimately, we anticipate these efforts will secure our position as a local grass roots organization that sets high level goals in conservation, environmental education and research, silent-sport recreation, and promotion of sustainable forest management, and then delivers on them.

***Folks, let's keep the momentum going!***



King Mountain and Robertson Lake Cliffs – now owned by the AHC and protected as a conservation forest for the use and benefit of the general public

## Join the AHC as a Member!

The AHC is now offering memberships through which we hope to solidify our deep bonds with the local and regional community and which will provide a more secure, sustainable basis from which we can operate.

By becoming a member, you play a direct role in providing the AHC with a dependable source of funding that allows us to take on new projects and develop innovative approaches to conservation, environmental education, silent sport recreation, and promotion of sustainable forest management in the Algoma Highlands for years to come. It is your donations and membership fees that make the

Conservancy's work possible!

### Our Members Receive Distinct Benefits:

- You will feel a sense of pride and ownership as the future of the spectacular Algoma Highlands region is secured in perpetuity!
- You will be eligible to vote at our annual meeting (must be 16 yrs or older)
- You will have access to a "Member's Only" section of the Algoma Highlands Conservancy website where you will have exclusive access to our member's only forum allowing you to post messages, report nature sightings, plan hikes, make suggestions for project opportunities, and keep

in touch with other members.

- You will receive a tax receipt for the full amount of the membership fee and any additional support

### Annual Membership Fee

Charter Membership - \$45/year  
 Friend - \$100/year  
 Guardian - \$250/year  
 Benefactor - \$500/year  
 Champion - \$1000/year  
 Land Steward - \$5000/year

Please visit our website at [www.algomahighlandsconservancy.org](http://www.algomahighlandsconservancy.org) and click on "Membership" for more information!

## Calling All Mountain Bikers!

It's time to get your helmets out and bikes tuned-up because the AHC is working hard on a project for you!

As one of our many new initiatives in which we hope to increase public use of our landbase, we are now underway in developing an extensive singletrack mountain bike trail system that meanders through our property. To help achieve this, the AHC has partnered with the Sault Cycling Club ([saultcyclingclub.ca](http://saultcyclingclub.ca)) to construct a trail system

that the general public can use for free. The AHC is also deeply appreciative of a **\$15,000 "Access and Activity" grant from Mountain Equipment Co-op** to help fund the project.

We anticipate that this single track trail will become a destination and "bragging rights" tour for the more advanced mountain biking community, while at the same time attracting a broader array of cyclists of all ages and competency levels, who may use not only the new single track trail but a variety of other

portions of our trail system for two-wheeled recreation during summer and fall seasons. We anticipate the project will be complete and marked by a special inaugural event in late August, so stay tuned to our web page for more information as the project develops.

The magnificent terrain and unique beauty of the Algoma Highlands has tremendous potential to engage the public in year-round recreational pursuits.

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### Algoma Highlands Mountain Bike Trail System Project Partners:



In addition to the world class cross country ski opportunities, we encourage mountain biking, hiking, trail running, as well as more leisurely and artistic activities such as nature photography, painting, and bird-watching, on our land.

We strive to increase physical activity in the local and surrounding communities by facilitating a variety of self-propelled opportunities on our property. We hope that our efforts will help connect people to the environment and encourage respect and appreciation of the natural features and diverse ecosystems in the region!



## Environmental Education at the AHC

Since conception, the AHC has made its lands available to a number of local educational institutions to significantly augment the traditional classroom learning experience. Historically, the AHC has worked in partnership with Sault College and Lake Superior State University (LSSU) to use the land as a backdrop for outdoor education in the fields of conservation, forest management, botany, remote sensing, GIS mapping and outdoor recreation.

Sault College in particular, has had significant interaction with the AHC over that last 15 years. Students (50-140) from the Natural Resources Department (programs include the Forest Conservation Technician and Parks and Outdoor Recreation) utilize the property annually in various outdoor labs, training sessions and orientation initiatives. LSSU has also brought their Ecology class students (approximately 55) to the property annually for the last 13 years as part of their outdoor curriculum. Most recently, the AHC has taken opportunities to positively influence local secondary schools in the area of environmental education.

Upon request from Central Algoma Secondary highschool (CASS), we recently co-ordinated and hosted an outdoor educational class experience at Stokely Creek and King Mountain. On May 20, students from CASS's outdoor education program embarked on day filled with exercise and environmental education at the AHC. Conservancy Assistants Anna Rodgers and Jennifer Allemang taught the students about general ecology and plant identification, all while hiking up to the King Mountain peak. The students also learned all about the AHC, its mission, challenges, and accomplishments. A meaningful and worthwhile experience for both CAS and the AHC!

Following from this positive first step, we envision expanding to provide a series of targeted outdoor educational opportunities that are accessible by any number of local secondary and elementary schools upon request.



*On the way up to the King Mountain peak, Conservancy Assistant Jennifer Allemang (far right) takes a moment to discuss the unique plant ecology of the highlands.*