



ALGOMA HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

www.algomahighlandsconservancy.org

Dear friends of the Algoma Highlands Conservancy:

Last month, we released the great news that *Stokely Creek Lodge will be in full operation this winter!* Just in case you've been out of touch, the agreements that we've reached with Astina provide us with a 10-year licence for exclusive use of the entire Stokely trail system for silent sport recreation *and* a 2-year option to purchase the 2600 ac below the Tupper-Van Koughnet line (i.e., all lands immediately beyond the Lodge, through to King Mountain, and beyond, to the Robertson Cliffs). AHC Board member Gaylen Byker, his wife Susan, daughter Tanya, and son-in-law Ian Phair will purchase and operate the Lodge under the name "Stokely Creek Lodge". See our October 11, 2007, newsletter for more details (www.algomahighlandsconservancy.org).

To date, binding agreements have been executed and Jamie Martin, Susan McCauley, Alex Lapensee, and Richard Kargl have been busy readying the Lodge and trails for the upcoming season. Final closing is pending completion of a survey of the access road leading up from the parking lot. From our perspective, the remaining details are procedural and we are considering the deal all but closed! Please plan on joining us for a celebration of Stokely's new future at an open house to be held at the Lodge on Saturday Dec 29th.

On the AHC side, we have just established a dedicated account for donations towards the King Mountain property purchase! **As such, we now encourage you to honor your pledge and make your donation in time for deduction in the 2007 tax year.** To reiterate, we currently have approximately \$340,000 in private pledges, including Gaylen's matching commitment. We also have approximately \$300,000 of AHC funds which will be applied to this effort; so we are just shy of half way to our \$1.5-M target for the 2600-ac purchase. We must all keep in mind that this purchase is critical to the long term health and survival of the Lodge, and will also guarantee a solid, protected, 3000-ac land base for the AHC to use as a platform for conservation, silent-sport recreation, outdoor education, and research - in perpetuity. All available AHC funds and donations will be applied to this purchase and we will be pursuing potential corporate and government sources to supplement your donations. Please feel free to circulate this newsletter and encourage others to help us. We also encourage you to email us any questions that you have and/or provide us with your full contact information, including email, so that we can update our files and keep you better informed about new developments at Stokely. Please forward your contact information to (info@algomahighlandsconservancy.org) or, if you do not have access to email, please send the information to either our Canadian or American office address. We respect your privacy and will not forward your contact information without your permission.

In closing, we are proud of the partnership that we have forged with Astina and Stokely Creek Lodge - it represents a very positive and critical turning point in our securing a long-term future for the Lodge AND conserving the ecological and silent sport recreational values of the surrounding lands that we all love! ***Please be generous.***

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