



# ALGOMA HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

Protecting unique beauty and ecological integrity



## LEGACY LANDS CAMPAIGN

### Protecting King Mountain and the Stokely Creek Area for Today & Tomorrow

Please help reach the goal of raising 1.5 million to conserve the King Mountain/Stokely Creek area as our collective legacy gift to future generations.

#### For more information

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## ALGOMA HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

The Algoma Highlands Conservancy (AHC) is a group of like-minded individuals who voluntarily contribute their time, energy and skills to a variety of projects related to four fundamental principals – conservation, environmental education, silent sport recreation, and sustainable forestry. As a bi-national, not-for-profit group, with charitable organization status in both Canada and the USA, the Algoma Highlands Conservancy works with many partners and focuses efforts on the Algoma Highlands area in Northern Ontario.

This area of incredible natural beauty rises more than 430m (almost 1300 ft) above Lake Superior, which is aptly referred to as our “inland sea”. While the Algoma Highlands are not a true wilderness, they certainly retain a wild, natural aura. The mixedwood forests, lakes, streams, beaver ponds, as well as the towering massifs and rock outcrops are home to a wide variety of plant and wildlife species. Some provincially rare plants include Braun’s holly fern, oval-leaved bilberry, and northern wild licorice; animals iconic of the Canadian wilderness include moose, bear, timber

wolves, otters, Pileated Woodpeckers, eagles and loons. The area around Stokely Creek and King Mountain is also internationally renowned as one of the premier cross-country ski destinations in North America, with an extensive trail system and lodge that is enjoyed by thousands of Nordic and back-country skiers, as well as by an increasing number of snowshoe enthusiasts each year.

The ultimate goal of the Algoma Highlands Conservancy is to conserve the unique beauty and ecological integrity of key areas within the Algoma Highlands region, creating sanctuaries that protect the ecological function and habitat requirements of many native plant and animal species. At the same time, we wish to encourage human access and visitation to these areas both for low impact recreational use and enhanced understanding and appreciation of the natural wonders of the highlands area. All those interested in bird watching, wildlife photography, silent sport recreation, or simply communing with nature to clear the mind and soothe the soul are encouraged to join us in our conservation efforts.

## CONSERVING THE ALGOMA HIGHLANDS

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The Algoma Highlands are a living textbook of the Canadian Shield, mountains worn down by time. Those of us fortunate enough to call this area home cherish it as a natural endowment, worthy of significant protection and conservation efforts, but yet accessible for use by both locals and visitors alike. For all of us, it is and should remain an area in which mind, body and soul can be replenished amidst a truly spectacular natural setting.

Working from this philosophy of harmonizing with the natural world, the Algoma Highlands Conservancy seeks to facilitate human access and use of this area while maintaining ecological integrity.

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## SILENT SPORT RECREATION

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The Algoma Highlands Conservancy has negotiated and signed a three-way partnership agreement with the new owners of the Stokely Creek Lodge, and forest property owners Astina Forest AG. This partnership specifically assures continued use of the trail system for skiing and hiking, as well as other silent sport recreation and outdoor leisure pursuits including hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing and backcountry skiing.

The 120 km of trails that have been developed, in combination with the scenic beauty of the Highlands and a reliable annual snowfall averaging more than 3 meters (9 feet), assures this will remain “the” destination of choice for track and back-country skiing, snowshoeing, and other winter activities in eastern North America for many years to come.

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## SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

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Sustainable forest management is the philosophy, science, and art of enhancing or maintaining the long-term health of a forest ecosystem, while providing environmental, economic, and social opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations. Sustainable forestry balances environmental protection with economic, recreational and spiritual benefits to humans.

The Algoma Highlands Conservancy, together with partners Astina Forest AG and the Stokely Creek Lodge, believe strongly in this concept and are working together to transform concept into reality. Efforts include not only enhancing the long-term health and value of the diverse forests in this area, but also parallel efforts to promote conservation, outdoor education, and silent sport recreation in the Algoma Highlands region.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

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The Algoma Highlands Conservancy has recognized the need to further our understanding of natural systems and transfer this knowledge to current and future generations. The Algoma Highlands are a living classroom, effective for demonstrating key concepts of conservation biology, sustainable forestry, and ecology in a real-world application context. Additional facilities are made available by our partners at the Stokely Creek Lodge for more traditional events such as workshops, conferences and meetings.

The natural diversity in the highlands provides an excellent basis for directly engaging students, young and old, in learning more about our natural world, potential human impacts thereon, and ways in which such impacts can be mitigated to ensure long term sustainable use.

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