

# Algoma Highlands Conservancy



ALGOMA HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY  
www.algomahighlandsconservancy.org

P.O. BOX 20076  
150 Churchill Blvd.  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON  
P6A 6W3, CANADA  
-----  
c/o CBSI  
3303 I-75 Business  
Spur  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI  
49783, USA

Visit our web site at:  
[www.algomahighlandsconservancy.org](http://www.algomahighlandsconservancy.org)

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## What Have We Been Up to all Year?

2014 has been exceptionally productive here at the Algoma Highlands Conservancy. Our research study on the endangered wood turtle continued into its third year, keeping us very busy throughout the field season. We are proud to be leading this multi-agency collaborative project examining wood turtle habitat preferences, movement patterns and responses to disturbance factors. We thank our funders: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Species at Risk Stewardship Fund, Great Lakes Power Transmission, Hydro One, and Algoma Power Inc. for making this important work possible.

Not only did we follow turtles around in 2014, but also worked diligently on initiatives in fundraising, environmental education and silent sport recreation. Continue on to find out what we've been up to all year!



## The New Norm's Cabin Nearing Completion

Rebuilding "Norm's Cabin" was undertaken to provide infrastructure that supports AHC goals of enhancing silent sport recreation and environmental education. The AHC has now transformed, what was a legal and financial liability, into a beautiful new multi-purpose facility.

Erected on a cement block foundation, this two storey structure is constructed of squared pine-timbers with chinked seams. The main floor of the cabin is open-concept consisting of a kitchen area, dual dining areas with views of Bone Lake, and a lounge area with wood stove. The upper floor is divided into two large bedrooms and a small storage area. Both bedrooms feature large windows overlooking the lake and separate walkouts to the shared balcony. The ceiling and partition wall of the upper floor are finished with stained tongue and groove cedar with a floor of varnished pine. The cabin is capped with an attractive high-pitch red metal roof built to withstand heavy snow loads typical of the region.



*Top right: A male wood turtle poses for a quick picture before dashing off into the river. Photo credit: Jennifer Cross*

*Bottom left: Fall view of the new Norm's Cabin from Bone Lake. Photo credit: Dean Thompson*

*Bottom right: Completed cabin exterior. Photo credit: Pascal Tuarze*

## Norm's continued

Like the original cabin, the lower-floor will continue to be open to skiers and snowshoers, serving as a destination/safe refuge throughout the winter months. Looking to the future, the cabin will also provide infrastructure supportive of regional ecotourism and our continuously developing environmental education program.

The remote but accessible location of this high quality cabin, combined with the associated silent-recreational opportunities (hiking, mountain biking, canoeing/kayaking, skiing, snowshoeing etc.) that exist in the immediate vicinity, provides a unique ecotourism experience anticipated to attract a significant number of persons interested in low-cost "wilderness get-away" experiences. Moreover, the cabin provides additional and unique capacity for our developing environmental education program. As a safe, comfortable and secure overnight base, the cabin could provide for extended experiential learning opportunities for environmental education or outdoor recreational students in fall, winter and spring seasons.

Funding from FedNor's Youth Internship program has allowed us to hire an intern who will dedicate her time to developing and implementing an effective business plan and marketing strategy for the successful start-up of our ecotourism business. Kaila Maeumbaed, a business grad from Sault College, will be putting her business knowledge and skills into action, assisting the AHC in realizing our goal of enhancing the ecotourism available to visitors of the naturally gifted Algoma Region.

Although close to completion, it will take time to iron out important details for a smooth launch of the business. Our hope is to be ready to book overnight guests beginning spring 2015. We wish to warmly thank the major contributors to this endeavour: FedDev (Community Improvement Fund), NOHFC (Infrastructure and Community Development Fund), and Stokely Creek Lodge. In addition, we thank Joseph Meating, BioForest Technologies Inc., and Michael O'Toole for donations that helped us accomplish critical finishing work. Our sincerest appreciation goes out to Richard Kargl for his unyielding commitment to quality craftsmanship and special thanks to the many people involved, both paid and volunteer, for helping us make this dream a reality!

## Foster a Forest this Holiday Season

Since the launch of our Foster a Forest Campaign in the fall of 2012, the AHC has made great progress towards eliminating our mortgage debt. Thanks to the generosity of individuals, groups and businesses both local and far-reaching, as well as matching funds from the Echo Foundation, we have reduced our mortgage by over \$100,000 in just two years! If you haven't already done so, please consider helping us to protect the unique beauty and conserve the ecological wonders of King Mountain and Robertson Cliffs by "fostering" one or more acres for yourself or someone you love. You can select your acre(s) from our virtual map or we can assign one or more to you.

Acres are priced in four categories with costs being proportional to perceived ecological, aesthetic or recreational value of the fostered acre.

Funds raised through this campaign will be used to pay down our outstanding mortgage and as a result, will ensure that King Mountain and Robertson Cliffs will remain open and available to the public for silent sport recreation for many years to come. As a token of our sincerest appreciation, you will receive a beautiful certificate with photographic representation of your chosen foster category, a tax receipt for the full amount donated, and the specific GPS coordinates of your acre. All donors for this program will also be recognized on our website! If you are stumped on gift ideas this holiday season, we can help!

The trailhead monument to commemorate those that donated \$500 or more to this campaign will be erected in the spring of 2015. We have commissioned Richard Kargl to construct the monument, which will be reminiscent of his many beautifully crafted timbered creations located throughout Stokely's ski trail system (including the new Norm's Cabin). The monument will be located in the "Beaver Meadow" which is an important recreational hub where the majority of Stokely's popular trails branch out, such as Peterson, Walker/Evans, Erling Strom, and Dustin. The site is also fitting because it is at the core of our conservation land with King Mountain clearly visible from it. You can reserve your spot on our trailhead monument by making a donation to our FAF campaign today!



### Photos

*Left: Beautiful ski rack creation by Richard Kargl. Richard will use a similar design for the Foster a Forest Trailhead Monument.*

*Photo credit: Jennifer Cross*

*Right: The "Beaver Meadow" site for our Foster a Forest Trailhead Monument....coming in spring 2015.*

*Photo credit: unknown*

## AHC Environmental Education Programs Flourish

The Algoma Highlands Conservancy has long recognized the need to further our understanding of natural systems and transfer this knowledge to current and future generations. We view the Algoma highlands as a living classroom, effective for demonstrating key concepts of biological and ecological sciences while directly engaging students, young and old, in learning more about our natural world, potential human impacts thereon, and ways in which we can lessen those impacts to ensure long term sustainable use.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation in 2011, we have now succeeded in formalizing our educational programming. The grant allowed us to hire our first ever Environmental Education Coordinator (Cynthia Marcinkowski), and financed her position for nearly two years. Cynthia established several curriculum-based programs in conjunction with a vital relationship between the AHC and the Algoma District School Board.

This past June, we welcomed our new Environmental Education Coordinator, Shannon Ramsay, to the AHC. Currently, Shannon offers high quality programs that directly tie into elementary and secondary Science, Health and Physical Education, even Mathematics and Visual Arts curriculum. On Mondays and Wednesdays, Shannon engages students and teachers in activities such as soil sampling, hiking, water sampling, aquatic animal collection and observation, tree identification, track identification, ecological concept game-playing and snowshoeing. All available dates have been booked by school groups ranging from grades 4 through 10 up to June 2015! Obviously, the enthusiasm for this kind of outdoor, hands-on learning is encouraging to us at the AHC! The feedback from teachers and students has been very positive. They appreciate the curriculum connections that have been made, the physical activity their students receive, and the way science has been brought to life.



Ontario  
Trillium Foundation



Fondation Trillium  
de l'Ontario



### Photos

*Top right: Environmental Education Coordinator Shannon Ramsay teaches elementary students about stream ecology. Photo credit Jeanne Lepage*

*Bottom left: Students get hands on learning in Stokely Creek. Photo credit Jeanne Lepage*

*Bottom right: Shannon demonstrating soil science. Photo credit Jeanne Lepage*

## Moccasin Workshop

Environmental programming is not the only form education administered by the AHC. Unique workshops and courses are now being offered to the public in an *on demand* capacity. The AHC has hosted Wilderness Advanced First Aid courses annually since 2012 and has partnered with Lure of the North to host traditional craft making workshops starting this fall. The first workshop will be designing and creating traditional deerskin and canvas winter moccasins.

Moccasins are a warm, light and cozy style of winter footwear. Lure of the North's moccasin making workshop includes all the materials needed to complete and personalize your own pair of winter moccasins. A fun and informative weekend, ending with a beautiful pair of highly-functional, hand-made moccasins!

Note: You provide your own insulating layers – warm socks, boot liners, insoles. We will have great quality insulating layers available for purchase for those that haven't picked up any in advance. Check out this link for more information on moccasin insulation packages:

<http://lureofthenorth.com/shop/product-category/clothing/footwear/>



Location: Stokely Creek Lodge, 194 Pickard Road, Goulais River, ON

Dates: Saturday November 29th and Sunday November 30th 2014

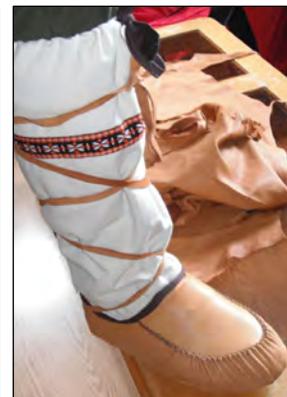
Times: 9:00am to 5:00pm both Saturday and Sunday

Cost: \$185 per participant

Registration and Payment are required in advance. Please follow the link below to the Lure of the North website where you can peruse pictures, testimonials, and of course sign up! Choose the "November 29 & 30, Sault Ste. Marie" option from the Date and Location drop down menu, then click "Add to Cart" to proceed to payment.

Follow this link to register!

<http://lureofthenorth.com/product/workshops/winter-moccasin-workshop/>



### Photos

Winter moccasin workshop participants showing off their beautiful creations.

Photo credits: Lure of the North.

## We Accept Vehicle Donations

Just in case some of you weren't aware, we have partnered with Donate a Car Canada (DCC) as another way to receive donations! Donors across Canada have the opportunity to donate their vehicles through this program and direct the proceeds to us. To donate a car, truck, RV, boat, motorcycle or other vehicle to the Algoma Highlands Conservancy, go to <https://donatecar.ca/org/donate.php?charitypage=326>. DCC provides free towing in many areas across Canada, or you can drop off your vehicle to maximize your donation. When you donate your car at <https://donatecar.ca/org/donate.php?charitypage=326>, it will either be recycled or sold at auction depending on its condition, age and location. DCC will look after everything to make your donation easy for you to support the Algoma Highlands Conservancy.

DONATE NOW and the AHC will send you a tax receipt after your car donation is complete!



## We need your support!

### Donations & Memberships

You can support the AHC by giving a tax-deductible financial gift as a donation or a membership purchase.

### 1) AHC website

Donate securely on-line through the AHC's or your own PayPal account. Both Canadian and American credit cards and funds are accepted.

Click on "[Donate](#)" or "[Membership](#)"

### 2) Cheque

Make a cheque payable to the "Algoma Highlands Conservancy" and send it to either our Canadian or American mailing address. Please include your **name, mailing address, telephone number and email** to ensure that you receive your tax receipt. An email address allows us to contact you promptly and conserves paper!

### 3) In Person

Visit the AHC Office at the Stokely Clubhouse Loft in Goulais River, ON and drop off your donation directly to our friendly staff.

*Tax receipts will be issued for all donations of \$20.00 or more. The Algoma Highlands Conservancy is a registered Charity in both Canada and the United States. We respect donor privacy and will never share or sell contact information.*

## Carbon Credits for Sale!

The AHC currently has more than 65,000 tons of carbon credits for sale. These carbon credits originate through AHC protecting the lands surrounding King Mountain & the Robertson Lake Cliffs. The credits have been independently validated & verified to ISO 14064 standards. For further information please contact AHC Treasurer **Bob Beggs** at [bbeqqs@shaw.ca](mailto:bbeqqs@shaw.ca).

## Contact Us!

### Staff:

Executive Director: Jennifer Cross  
Education Co-ord: Shannon Ramsay  
Business Intern: Kaila Maeumbaed

### Telephone:

705-649-5751

### Email:

[info@algomahighlandsconservancy.org](mailto:info@algomahighlandsconservancy.org)  
[shannon.ramsay@hotmail.com](mailto:shannon.ramsay@hotmail.com)  
[kaila.ahc@gmail.com](mailto:kaila.ahc@gmail.com)

### Web:

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

"Like" and follow us on Facebook

### Office:

Stokely Clubhouse Loft  
194 Pickard Road  
Goulais River, ON

### Mail:

**CANADA**  
P.O. Box 20076  
150 Churchill Blvd.  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6W3

### UNITED STATES

c/o CBSI  
3303 I-75 Business Spur  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783



### Photo

Fall scene with King Mountain in the background. Photo credit: Jennifer Cross

\*\*\*Please fill out the following form if you would prefer to send your contribution to our Foster a Forest Campaign through the mail. If you want to choose your specific acre go to:

<http://www.algomahighlandsconservancy.org/index.cgi?page=foster>

to load our FAF map with parcel ID numbers and values.

*All credit card transactions are processed securely through PayPal.*

NOTE: If you are paying by cheque, fill in everything except the credit card information.

We deeply appreciate your support!

Payments processed by 

### Foster a Forest Donation Form

Select a Donation Level

Unique acre ID of parcel:

Name the parcel:

Country

Card number

Payment Types    

Expiration date mm  / yy

CSC

First name

Last name

Address line 1

Address line 2 (optional)

City

State/Province

ZIP/Postal code

Telephone

Email