

# 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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## Hello Summer!

The days are long and warm. Spring has come and gone. With them, the trout lilies' bloom here in the conservancy's bush. It's time to tie up our hiking boots, oil up our bike chains, and get outside for this attractive season. This summer, we would like to take the time to think upon our prior successes and achievements and build on our plan of continuing growth. Summer brings blossoms and blooms. It's the season for things to grow to fruition. We have many new stimulating projects in the works, and foresee this being a truly favourable year. Keep tuned with us as 2016 progresses!



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## A Successful Year

The success of the Norm's Cabin build continues into another year. This project began in 2013 with a vision for the new cabin as a multipurpose facility, supporting the conservancies' four core goals and providing opportunities for guests to overnight and immerse themselves in the natural beauty of the Algoma Highlands back-country.

It took two full years to complete the new Norm's before we opened the doors for patrons to stay at the cabin. The new structure stands as a true legacy to the legendary Norm Bourgeois. The Algoma Highlands Conservancy is proud of this major achievement. Not only did the cabin successfully host over fifty cross-country skiers during this year's annual Wabos Loppet, but hot chocolate, a place to warm up, and an invite to book a reservation was handed out to each and every skier that stopped by that day.

Recently, the conservancy had the help of a board member, a dedicated volunteer, and a couple of summer students in an intensive couple of weeks of work at Norm's Cabin. As those who know the cabin, getting there isn't the easiest feat. There is no road access. Hikers, bikers, and/or skiers travel through a trail system to get there. With trail access like that, maintenance and upgrading are needed from time to time. The adventure in has been proven to make the cabin's stay a rewarding one. A newly installed floating dock awaits to reward those who follow the wooded trail in.

For extensive additional information on the new "Norm's Cabin" please access our website and the Norm's cabin tab where you can also make a reservation for overnight stays. We at the Algoma Highlands Conservancy look forward to accommodating your stay.



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## Photos

Left to Right: Marsh Merigolds; Round Lobed Hepatica.. Oval Billbury

## What's All the Buzz About?

The Algoma Highlands Conservancy is all a buzz about a new pollinator research project that we are undertaking this season. Pollinators, in particular bees, are vital components of local ecosystems. They provide critical ecosystem services, such as pollination, and other services that support healthy ecosystems.

While loss of habitat has been documented as contributing to widespread pollinator declines, utility rights-of-way (ROW) have been recognized as potential areas of habitat enhancement. Utility companies utilize integrative vegetation management (IVM) techniques under overhead power lines which favor low-growing early successional plant species. The Algoma Highlands Conservancy will be spending the summer documenting pollinators on utility ROW's in the Algoma region to determine how IVM techniques influence pollinator abundance and diversity and identify which compatible flowering plant species can be used to enhance pollinator habitat on ROWs.

This project will be conducted under the Corridors for Life initiative in collaboration with Great Lakes Power Transmission (GLPT), Algoma Power Inc. (API), Public Utilities Commission (PUC), Sault College and the Pollinator Partnership Canada. We are eager to take part in such exciting research.



## Summer Students

With a successful application to Canada Summer Jobs, the conservancy has a seasonal addition of two new students to our team: Sydney Mellett and John Rankin.

They were both hired as Conservancy Technicians. Sydney is a Fish and Wildlife Graduate from Sault College that is returning for a second degree in Forestry. John is a first year Fish and Wildlife student who is returning for his final year.

They are both eager to learn, and have a passion for being outdoors and learning what the conservancy's forest has to offer. They will be responsible for assisting in conducting field research for the pollinator project as well as initiatives at Norm's Cabin and around the Algoma Highlands Conservancy. With these two on board, the conservancy is sure to have a fruitful year.

## Applauding Environmental Education

The AHC continues to applaud the great work that comes from our Environmental Education program. We cannot talk about it enough. This past school year approximately 2105 students visited Stokely Creek Lodge and explored the conservation property, thanks to the program. During this time, the students are immersed in an outdoor classroom learning about insects, soil, animals, trees, streams, and more.

Shannon Ramsay, the Environmental Education's Program Coordinator, has been facilitating a phenomenal program. She highlights that it is a success having students return for their second year retaining the curricula she had taught them prior.

*Photos: Utility right-of-ways (ROWs) showing evidence of pollinator life. Ground burrowing bees, tricolor, honey bees and many more pollinators will be investigated and catalogued as a part of this project. . Photo Credit: Elisa Muto*

Watching the students' knowledge grow as they build upon past visits and experiences is one of her biggest payoffs as a teacher.

More recently, Shannon started incorporating a handheld digital microscope into the soil and stream ecology of the Environmental Education program. Through this new piece of technology, Shannon is able to show the students a much closer look at the microorganisms that make up an ecosystem. This has added a new element to her program and she is excited for what learning is to come.

As the reader can see, the Environmental Education program continues to evolve over the years. We hope to see the continuation of the partnership with the Algoma District School Board for years to come. This program is truly one of a kind in our area, and the benefits this type of learning has on the students is invaluable to all those involved.



*Photos: Shannon Ramsay teaching students stream ecology.*

*Photo Credit: Jeanie LePage*

*Photo:  
Group of curlers  
surround a stone ready  
for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual  
curling funspiel ahead.*



## Fundraising Events

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Curling for Conservancy took place this year on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016, and it was a greater success this year. We would like to thank the Soo Curling Association for hosting us again this year. We would also like to thank Lisa Venier for spearheading this annual fundraiser this year, and for Elisa Muto for all her work in assembling prizes to be won that day. This event increased public awareness of the goals of the AHC which includes efforts to conserve the highlands.

We've had another very successful year with our Foster a Forest program raising money towards clearing our mortgage. You can foster your choice of acre. Either a Forest Friend (\$50), Trail Traveler (\$100), Creek Companion (\$500) or Peregrine Partner (\$2,000). Donations are tax deductible and all donors will receive a dedicated certificate that includes the GPS coordinates of their acre.



*Photo:  
Top: Carly  
Breckenridge, business  
intern, hosting an info  
table at this year's  
Seedy Saturday.  
Right: Gideon Rodgers  
(in red), and fellow  
students host a table  
during Global  
Citizenship Week.*



## AHC Community Outreach

This year the AHC participated in several community events in effort to create a stronger presence in our area and to educate people about the outdoors and about the core values of the AHC.

If any of you found yourselves at this year's Seedy Saturday at Sault College you will have noticed our table set up and Eco-Tourism Business Intern Carly Breckenridge taking questions and guiding people along a map of hiking paths and trail systems.

A group of Sault College students reached out to the conservancy in support of Global Citizenship Week. They asked to support the AHC's organization through public outreach in the halls of the school. This group visited Norm's Cabin and interviewed the Business Intern as much as they could to learn about our organization. The hard working students then introduced the conservancy's values and mission to those passing by the college halls and signed multiple volunteers who are willing and ready to assist in hikes and other AHC events.

In late April, the AHC conducted a Gear Swap Weekend for those looking to accumulate new-to-them equipment or learn a new outdoor recreational sport and didn't mind using second-hand. This event is held annually in the Essar Hall at Sault College. The AHC is hoping to conduct these swaps again as it aids in building bridges among community members with like-minded interests. We would like to thank Brian Antess, Doug Pitt, Laurie McBay, and all of the Sault College students for their support and efforts in seeing this event succeed another year. We are always looking for second hand/slightly used gear to swap for this event. If you know of any or anyone that may be able to support, send them our way! It's a good way to clean out the closet or garage!

It was an honor to host a Waterwalker Film Festival another year to support this movement. The festival is a tribute to Bill Mason, conservationist, canoeist and film photographer. Many people attended and all enjoyed watching these adventure films.

These outreach events are so important and imperative to our conservancy. It is through activities such as these that we can educate others on who we are and the land we believe in.

## How Can You Help?

### Donations & Memberships

You can show your support by giving a tax-deductible financial gift as either a charitable donation towards our organization, fostering an acre of forest, or by staying updated with an annual 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. Goulais River too far away? Our staff are willing to meet with you at your convenience. Contact us to schedule a drop off or for us to meet with you!

*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.*

## Contact Us!

**Business Intern:** Carly Breckenridge

**Email:**

[info@algomahighlandsconservancy.org](mailto:info@algomahighlandsconservancy.org)

**Telephone:**

Leave us a detailed message at  
705-649-5751

**Web:**

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

"Like" and follow us here:



**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

\*\*\*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!

## Foster a Forest Donation Form

Select a Donation Level	<input type="text"/>
Unique acre ID of parcel:	<input type="text"/>
Name the parcel:	<input type="text"/>
Country	<input type="text"/>
Card number	<input type="text"/>
Payment Types	   
Expiration date	mm <input type="text"/> / yy <input type="text"/>
CSC	<input type="text"/>
First name	<input type="text"/>
Last name	<input type="text"/>
Address line 1	<input type="text"/>
Address line 2 (optional)	<input type="text"/>
City	<input type="text"/>
State/Province	<input type="text"/>
ZIP/Postal code	<input type="text"/>
Telephone	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>