

TRAIL TRACKS



Fall, 2010

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Photo Contest Deadline Nears!

Friday, October 29 at 4 pm.

That's the deadline for submitting your photos to the Rail Trail's 5th annual photo contest.

Go to our website, www.mvrailtrail.com or call 524-5958 for contest guidelines and the entry form. We're anxious to see what you've seen on the MVRT!

Thursday, November 18

Winner Announcement Reception and Presentation on Bicycle-Friendly Cities in Europe

The Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council cordially invites you to attend a reception at 5 pm. on Thursday, November 18 in the library of Sheldon Elementary School at which the winners of our 2010 photo contest will be announced.

Following the winner announcements, Jon Kaplan, the Vermont Agency of Transportation's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, will make a presentation showing how several cities in Europe accommodate bicyclists. Jon visited Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany and the United Kingdom to observe their best practices relative to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

We hope you will join us! This event is free of charge and open to the public.

UPDATES

Love that New Surface!

What a busy summer it was on the MVRT! The entire 26-mile length of the Trail was resurfaced within the planned time-frame and with much less disruption to Trail users than anticipated.

As part of the project, truncated domes (those concrete pads with a bumpy metal surface) were installed everywhere the MVRT crosses a road. They are a safety feature to alert the visually impaired of a change on the Trail.



Newly installed truncated dome

Additional work done by VTrans District 8 to maximize the longevity of the new surface included paving many farm crossings along the MVRT, repairing broken and undersized culverts, and improving drainage from Trail-side ditches.



Trail user on a motorized wheelchair enjoys the MVRT's new surface

Many thanks to the Vermont Agency of Transportation and to G.W. Tatro Construction Inc. for a wonderful job! We are thrilled with our new surface of crushed stone with stone dust which has packed down nicely. And we're pleased to have received many comments and thanks in our sign-in boxes from Trail users who are also very happy with the new surface.

The Council

The Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council is pleased to welcome new Council members Mike Manahan and Robert Gervais, Sr. to its ranks. Mike represents the Village of Enosburg Falls, and Robert the Town of Enosburgh. Thank you Mike and Robert for making your time available to being the liaison between your municipalities and the Council. We are thrilled to have your input and involvement.

St. Albans Town and Sheldon are not presently represented on the Rail Trail Council. If you would like to give either municipality a voice, please speak with your Selectboard or Board of Trustees.

Bridge Painting

In early summer, VTrans repainted the Interstate 89 bridges (northbound and southbound) which cross over the MVRT near mile marker 1. The project involved having vehicles and equipment on the MVRT in order to access the bridges overhead; this caused the section of the Trail directly below to be closed to Trail users. We apologize for any inconvenience you experienced as a result.



Bridge painting equipment on the MVRT

National Trails Day

For a second year, the Council celebrated National Trails Day by inviting the community on several informal guided recreational outings in and around Franklin County.

On Saturday, June 12, Council Chair Dave Stanley led several avid kayakers on a paddle on beautiful Lake Arrowhead in Georgia. It was a glorious outing despite a gloomy start.

Council members Don Mueller and Phyllis Tiffany accompanied a group of keen bicyclists on the MVRT, riding from St. Albans to The Abbey and back (21 miles) on Saturday, August 21.

And our hiking event took place on Saturday, September 11, with Council members Jane Williams and Mary Bushey leading energetic hikers to the glorious view from atop Burnt Mountain and overlooking Hazen's Notch in Montgomery Center.

Council members are always thrilled to share with others their enjoyment of the natural beauty and recreational opportunities available in this special part of the world!

Workdays

Many thanks to Council members Dave Stanley, Don Mueller and Jim Smith for their help in fixing mile markers and weed whacking around benches and tables along the Trail this past season. It is because of your efforts to keep the MVRT attractive that we receive so many compliments from Trail users!



A very heavy auger was used to drill the holes for the mile marker posts

Roy Baker

To commemorate Roy Baker's many years of service to the MVRT and to the Rail Trail Council, a ceremony was held on Monday, June 7 at the MVRT's St. Albans parking area.

The Council installed a plaque on the parking area kiosk naming the St. Albans trailhead in memory of Roy. The event was attended by family members and friends of Roy as well as by many Council members.

Friends of the MVRT

We offer sincere thanks to our dear Friends who have expressed their support of the MVRT by renewing their membership as Friends of the Trail:

Edwin Holm, Jr
Madeline McDermott-Miller
Anne Bowers
Nini Worman
Sue & Jim Paulsen
Barry Levine Family
John Moody
Mary Brouillette
David Plumb

Joerg Mellmann
Richard & Marie Brouillette
Gail Benjamin
Peter Brosseau
Carmen Lanoue
George & Virginia Lewis
Robert & Jean Nixon
Mary Stueber
Bill & Carolyn Barnes

And we *Welcome!* our new Friends:

Vaughn & JoAnne Rock

We appreciate your enthusiasm for the MVRT. Your Friendship represents a valid investment in the future of our families, our businesses, and our communities. Thanks to all of you!

Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council
c/o Northwest Regional Planning Commission
155 Lake Street
St. Albans, VT 05478

The Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail

Farms, Forests, Fields, and Communities: Come Harvest Our Agricultural Heritage!