

ADOPT-A-WATER TRAIL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Haliburton Highlands Water Trails Committee in partnership with the Townships of Algonquin Highlands, Minden Hills, Lake of Bays and Ministry of Natural Resources, has developed an Adopt-A-Program for the many campsites, portages, lakes, access points, and forest access roads within the areas commonly known as the Frost Centre and Poker Lakes.

It's a win-win situation for all who are concerned. Residents, recreational users and all others who are interested can become environmental stewards, create community awareness, contribute to a better quality of life for the area, and have their contributions recognized. The Community as a whole benefits, because we are working together to maintain a healthy environment, and teaching everyone how to become more environmentally responsible.

The Township of Algonquin Highlands will cover the total cost of administering this program. Donated funds will greatly help with the associated costs.

Persons or groups may participate in any number of ways in the ADOPT-A-PROGRAM:

- 1) Volunteer time
- 2) Make a financial donation
- 3) Participate in Community Watch
- 4) All of the above

Interested persons are asked to contact the Haliburton Highlands Water Trails at 705-766-9033 to inquire about areas available for adoption and/or to apply.

PROGRAM THEMES

Adopt-A-Campsite

Currently there are 172 sites in the Frost Centre Area and 77 campsites in the Poker Lakes Area. The HHWT attempts to visit most of these sites as many times as possible each year. However, with the increasing use these sites are experiencing, the HHWT needs help to ensure all campsites receive appropriate maintenance when it is needed.

By adopting a campsite, you will help the HHWT to ensure these campsites are visited more frequently. Your actions will help ensure that the proper maintenance is being done to preserve that site into the future. As an adopter you may volunteer to visit your campsite and pick-up garbage, clean the fire-pits, record any environmental abuse, and assess the privy capacity and location. You may also choose to make a donation to support staff efforts in maintaining and preserving the site.

- Campsite assessment
 - Litter pick-up
 - Fire Pit cleaning
 - Assess privy condition and location
 - Evaluate environmental damage/abuse
 - Ensure proper signage is still posted

- Provide feedback to HHWT

Adopt-A-Portage

To be able to safely travel through the HHWT area and access interior lakes, proper maintenance and care for portages is essential. There are approximately 70 portages in the Frost Centre Area and 10 portages in the Poker Lakes Area. Every year these portages need to be cleared of debris, pruned of encroaching branches, and boardwalks and signs need to be maintained or replaced.

By adopting a portage you can help to ensure your portage is being maintained as a safe and clean passageway. You may also choose to make a donation to support staff efforts in maintaining and preserving the portage, and make boardwalk installations and improvements where necessary.

- Litter pick-up
- Clearing of debris
- Pruning of branches
- Assess boardwalk conditions
- Ensure proper signage is still posted
- Provide feedback to HHWT

Adopt-A-Lake

Adopting a lake helps the HHWT keep that lake clean and healthy. When a lake is adopted it ensures that efforts are being taken to: clean-up litter on the shorelines, check and maintain campsites on that lake, and any new issues arising on that lake can be voiced and addressed. In the Frost Centre Area there are 60 plus lakes and in the Poker Lakes Area 12 lakes.

The role of the adopter would be played-out by helping to pick-up litter, assess and help clean-up campsites, and inform the HHWT about concerns and/or situations that may occur on that lake.

- Shoreline clean-up
 - Litter pick-up
 - Campsite assessment
 - Fire Pit Cleaning
 - Assess privy condition and location
 - Evaluate environmental damage/abuse
 - Ensure proper signage is still posted
 - Provide feedback to HHWT

Adopt-A-Access Point

There are 11 public access points that service the Frost Centre Area and 2 within the Poker Lakes Area. These access points are used by recreational users, and property owners, who access and enjoy the lakes in this area. All of these access points need to be maintained regularly. Many of these access points have recently been improved with vault privy installations, information sign kiosks, and parking expansions.

Many of the problems that occur at access points result from people dumping or leaving their garbage, instead of taking it home with them, or dropping it off at the dump. This can cause problems with local property owners, nuisance animals and the environment. By adopting an access point, you help ensure that any garbage problems are being resolved, proper information signage can be posted, and access point maintenance and improvements can continue.

- Litter pick-up
- Ensure proper signage is still posted
- Assess privy condition
- Provide feedback to HHWT

Adopt-A-Road

There are several MNR forest Access Roads that are used to access the areas. These roads are frequently used by recreational users. Unfortunately these roads sometimes get littered with garbage by users. By adopting an access road, you can help clean-up this litter. Also these roads have experienced occurrences of flooding, erosion, culvert plugging etc. By visiting these roads you can help the HHWT ensure that the condition of these roads is being reported.

- Litter pick-up
- Provide feedback to HHWT

Adopt-A-Hiking Trail

The Haliburton Highlands Water Trails is responsible for the management of 38+ kms of hiking trails which range in length and difficulty. These trails are quite popular throughout all seasons and require regular inspection and maintenance. By adopting a hiking trail you can do your part to assist in the ongoing management and maintenance of the areas hiking trails.

- Litter removal
- Debris removal
- Report damaged or missing signage
- Report fallen or hazardous trees which need to be cut with chainsaw
- Cutting of new growth along trail edge

Community Watch

Observe the condition of campsites, portages and access points. Report persons/groups observed violating by-laws/regulations. Assist with educating recreational users of area by communicating with, distributing informational materials.

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

Who Can Adopt

- Individuals & Families
- Corporate, local businesses
- Community Service Organizations

Volunteer Adoption

- Acknowledgement on the HHWT website
- Complimentary HHWT Canoeing & Camping Map Guide (Hiking Trail guide if adopting a hiking trail)
- Discounts on camping while performing adopt-a-program activities

Financial Donation Adoption

Volunteer member benefits plus,

- Complimentary HHWT Canoeing & Camping Map Guide (Hiking Trail guide if adopting a hiking trail)
- Discount pricing on HHWT fundraising products

Individual & Family (Minimum) \$30.00

Corporate & Community Organizations (Minimum) \$100.00

- Note: Advertising and website links can be added on the HHWT supporter's web page.

Community Watch

- Volunteer member benefits plus,
- Complimentary HHWT Canoeing & Camping Map Guide
- Discount pricing on HHWT fundraising products

Examples of Project Amenities and their Costs that the HHWT regularly provides through its management of the area:

- Fire pit rings \$200.00 each
- Privy boxes \$50.00 each
- Boardwalks \$10.00 per metre
- Campsite and Portage signs \$15.00 each

Roles / Terms of Participants

The Township of Algonquin Highlands will supply:

- Handout on "Safety Guidelines for Volunteers" (Attached)
- Garbage bags
- Someone to pick up filled trash bags and collected litter at designated site
- Area Rules & Regulations, Brochures

***Please contact us to set up any of the above services.*

The Township of Algonquin Highlands will also:

- Monitor to ensure the objectives of the program are being met
- Approve the name, titles, or words placed on the ADOPT-A-PROGRAM signs
- Locate and assign the area or section to be adopted (Dependant upon group size)
- Determine dates that litter pick-up can not occur

Volunteer Individuals and Families must commit to:

- Returned Adoption Application form signed

- Review, understand and abide by all laws and regulations relating to safety and such terms and conditions as may be required by the Township (review attached safety forms)
- A minimum two year commitment (Beginning on the day which application forms are accepted)
- Two clean-ups per year

Volunteer Groups must commit to:

- Returned Adoption Application form signed
- Review, understand and abide by all laws and regulations relating to safety and such terms and conditions as may be required by the Township (review attached safety forms)
- A minimum two year commitment (Beginning on the day which application forms are accepted)
- Two clean-ups per year
- Appoint an Authorized Group Representative to act on behalf of the group

Financial Donators:

- Must pay the minimum amount of money per Adoption type as indicated on the application form

Volunteer Work / Safety Guidelines

Being Aware of Risk: The activities that you are volunteering to participate in are unsupervised tasks. The HHWT is a remote backcountry area, and it is important that you make efforts to be aware of potentially hazardous situations around you when you are participating in your activities.

It is important that you approach each work area with safety in mind. Do not attempt to participate in any activity that you do not feel safe in doing, or that you feel additional training is needed. If you feel you need to make a valued decision to attempt an activity, the HHWT advises you not to attempt that activity and inform us of your concern.

As a volunteer you should not participate in any of the program tasks if you are under the influence of any substance that may impair your physical and mental abilities. Doing so can jeopardize the safety of yourself and others around you.

It is important that you wear appropriate clothing and safety equipment to ensure your health and safety while participating in these volunteer activities. It is also important that you understand that any tools you use for these tasks are used at your own risk.

The HHWT appreciates all your efforts and actions in helping to protect and preserve this natural paradise. We mention these risks to you, to help you understand the potential risks of the tasks and environments you may work in. Although, we feel these tasks are reasonably safe and rewarding, we simply wish to increase your awareness and safety.

Description of Tasks & Associated Risks

Litter pick-up: Any litter that is left behind by human activities can be collected. Keeping records of the amount of litter collected will help us with area statistics. Recyclable litter must be separated and placed in clear garbage bags to be disposed of in accordance with the township recycling program.

Risk Management: Litter can contain potentially harmful items that can be hazardous to your health. Work gloves should be worn when handling all litter.

Fire Pit Cleaning: Fire pits need to be cleaned in two different methods. Most fire-pits are wrongfully used as garbage incinerators. As a result unburned garbage must be removed from the fire pits. Also, fire pits collect coals and ash that need to be cleaned out a few times per season.

Risk Management: Litter can contain potentially harmful items that can be hazardous to your health. Work gloves should be worn when handling all litter. Also, items that are left in a fire pit may be hot, and can burn you. Assess the fire pit carefully to determine if it is safe to remove any litter. Ensure the fire is out and all ashes are cold before any ashes are removed from the pit. Removed ashes can be scattered among the bushes away from the immediate campsite. If a fire is still hot and is not being attended drown it out with as much water as needed.

Assess privy condition and location: All the campsites have a cedar box privy located on them. These privies are situated over a hole that collects human waste. Occasionally these privies do sustain damage, and they also frequently need to be relocated when their holes are full. Report any damage to the HHWT.

Risk Management: Privy holes must be located 30 meters from any waterbody, stream or creek. The hole must be 1-3ft. deep, and 18inches across. Work gloves should be worn when handling privies and digging holes. Privies do contain human waste and proper care should be taken to ensure you do not come in contact with such waste. Old privy holes need to be covered with at least 4 inches of soil.

Evaluate environmental damage/abuse: It is against the law to cut or damage live vegetation. Please observe, record and report (to HHWT) any damage that may have recently occurred

Risk Management: Assess any hazardous trees (dead or wind damage) that may need to be removed by HHWT staff. Ensure your own safety on site.

Ensure proper signage is still posted: All campsites, portages, hiking trails and access points have been posted with designating signs. These signs should be legible, and posted with proper information. Occasionally these signs are removed or vandalized. Please assess their condition, and report to the HHWT if they are missing, damaged or vandalized.

Risk Management: Do not try to repair signs. Signs are often located at heights that require a ladder, inform HHWT of the problem and they will replace or repair the sign.

Clearing of debris: Frequently wind and rain can create debris on trails and portages. If there is any debris (fallen branches etc.) and it is a potential hazard (tripping), please remove it from the path if it is within your ability to do so.

Risk Management: If there is any debris that is too large to remove comfortably within your own human ability, don't try to remove it. Simply inform the HHWT about the situation and they will address it appropriately. Do not use tools such as chainsaws while volunteering. Gloves, long pants and sleeves, and proper footwear should be worn when working on trails, campsites and portages.

Pruning of branches: Every year plants along trails and portages grow and encroach the path. Often trails and portages require pruning maintenance to trim back these twigs to ensure proper safety. Any branch that encroaches within 1 metre of either side of the path should be pruned.

Risk Management: You should be aware of any branches that are pruned, and the path they will take when they fall. Ensure that you are prepared away from where they will fall. Pruning above your head can be dangerous. Ensure any equipment you are using is in good working condition. Also ensure that proper clothing and work gloves are worn.

Assess boardwalk conditions: Boardwalks are created to bridge over potentially wet areas on a trail or portage. With time these boardwalks can require repair or replacement. Please check any existing boardwalks and ensure that they are in a safe and proper condition. Please inform the HHWT if they require repair.

Risk Management: Boardwalks can be slippery and damaged. Use at your own risk and report any safety concerns to the HHWT

Provide feedback to HHWT: If you have any suggestions, questions, comments, concerns, or would like to report something to the HHWT; please contact the HHWT at:

Attn: HHWT
The Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Minden ON
KOM 2K0
Phone: 705-766-9033
Fax: 705-766-2042
thehhwt@aol.com

Volunteer Work Record Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Location(s) visited: _____

Maintenance performed:

Litter pick-up: (Items collected) _____

Ensure proper signage is still posted: (Comments) _____

Fire Pit Cleaning: (Comments) _____

Assess privy condition and location: (Comments) _____

Evaluate environmental damage/abuse: (Comments) _____

Clearing of debris: (Comments) _____

Pruning of branches: (Comments) _____

Assess boardwalk conditions: (Comments) _____

Provide feedback to HHWT: (Comments) _____

Additional Maintenance Required? _____

Damage or Abuse to Report: _____

Additional Comments: _____

Signature: _____ Date Submitted: _____