



# NEWSLETTER FOR THE UPPER MISSISQUOI & TROUT RIVERS WILD AND SCENIC COMMITTEE

**Upper Missisquoi &  
Trout Rivers**

Issue #4 Summer/Fall 2015

***Thank you for exploring this newsletter from the first  
National Wild and Scenic Rivers in Vermont!***

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Our meetings rotate through the municipalities in the designated area (Berkshire, Town of Enosburgh, Village of Enosburg Falls, Montgomery, Village of North Troy, Richford, Westfield, & the Town of Troy) on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7pm. Please see our website for details [www.vtwsr.org](http://www.vtwsr.org)
- See the back page of this newsletter for more information on the Celebrate the Missisquoi events and speaker series. The kick off is our celebration of designation on June 6, 2015. Join us!



## UPPER MISSISQUOI AND TROUT RIVERS DESIGNATED

*Reaches of the Missisquoi River and the Trout River were designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system in December 2014.*

The Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Study Committee was formed of local appointees and partner organizations to evaluate Wild and Scenic Designation along the upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers. The group's mission was to facilitate the transfer of information between the communities the rivers run through, and evaluate the potential benefits of the Wild and Scenic designation. At the end of the Study, the Committee provided an assessment as to whether the rivers fit designation criteria and whether designation was supported, and made recommendations of voluntary strategies for protection of the rivers' resources in the form of a Management Plan. The Study Committee meetings were open to the public and driven by consensus.

The municipalities of Berkshire, Town of Enosburgh, Village of Enosburg Falls, Montgomery, Village of North Troy, Richford, Westfield, and the Town of Troy voted at Town Meeting 2013 to move forward with designation. The measure for designation was

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Photo by Shana Stewart Deeds

### ***Trout River, Montgomery, VT***

The numerous swimming holes in the area are popular destinations for locals and visitors alike. Yankee magazine featured the Three Holes swimming area (on the Trout River in Montgomery) as the Best Local Secret and swimming hole in New England in their May/June 2010 Issue: "As the Trout River sluices down from the hills, it fills three natural basins deep in the woods, creating the swimming-hole trifecta: diamond-clear water, flat rocks for sunbathing, and freedom from raucous crowds."

*We are always looking for great photos of the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers. Please share your photos with us.*

## NEWSLETTER DETAILS

This newsletter provides updates on the activities of the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee charged with managing the Rivers' national designation. Please contact Shana Stewart Deeds if you wish to be added or removed from our mailing list, or if you would rather receive this newsletter electronically. Past newsletters and more info are available on our website: [www.vtwsr.org](http://www.vtwsr.org).

## UPPER MISSISQUOI AND TROUT RIVERS WILD AND SCENIC PHOTOS

The Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee is always looking for photos of the Rivers and folks recreating in and along them. Please email digital copies to [info@vtwsr.org](mailto:info@vtwsr.org) along with your name, and the date and location where the photo was taken (if applicable). You may also send in photos by mail to the address below. If your photo is used in a publication by the Committee, photo credit will always be given.

### DESIGNATION COMMITTEE, CONT.

introduced in the Senate by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and co-sponsored by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), while Representative Peter Welch (D-VT) introduced the measure in the House. The U.S. House passed the legislation in September 2014 and the U.S. Senate passed the bill in December 2014. Our bill for the designation of the upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers as National Wild and Scenic Rivers was signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 19, 2014. Because of our local Committee volunteers, partnership organizations, Congressional delegation, Congressional staff and all those who worked tirelessly to designate the first rivers in Vermont as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, we are celebrating this designation in a series of events beginning June 6, 2015.

Since the upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers are now federally designated as Wild and Scenic, a local Advisory Committee will be established. This Committee will be made up of official appointees chosen by the Town Selectboards and Village Trustees and include partnerships with interested organizations and citizens who choose to attend (in much the same way that the Study Committee was established). The Advisory Committee will use the voluntary Management Plan (found at [www.vtwsr.org](http://www.vtwsr.org)) as a road map following designation, and work toward goals and recommendations included in the Plan. The goal of the Advisory Committee will be to use the Management Plan as a framework to encourage local, state and federal planning to take the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) for which the rivers were designated into consideration, and make decisions which protect the resources of the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers. One of the most important roles of the post-designation Advisory Committee will be to serve as a communication and coordination body bringing together municipalities and key partners on a regular and ongoing basis to promote good decision-making regarding the Rivers. The Committee will not have a regulatory role, but will utilize its funding to undertake projects directly, and in partnership with local partners and municipalities, that meet the goals outlined in the Management Plan. With monthly meetings and activities providing a regular and reliable forum for discussion, research, and consensus building around river matters, the Committee will support good river management. If you are interested in becoming a Committee member, please contact us.

On Saturday, June 6, 2015 national, regional, state, and local officials will come together with local community members to celebrate the designation of the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers. The event coincides with National Trails Day, and the Northern Forest Canoe Trail's 15th Anniversary and will include over 25 exhibits highlighting the unique natural resources, and cultural, scenic and recreational attributes of these Vermont Rivers. The ceremony is a collaboration between the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee, the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, the Missisquoi River Basin Association, and the Northwest Regional Planning Commission of Vermont. Between 11-2 there will be live music, and complimentary, local food and beverages at the Abbey 6212 VT-105 Enosburg Falls, VT. The designation celebration program begins at 12:30. This celebration is the beginning of a series of events and speakers along the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers. For more information, please visit [www.CelebrateTheMissisquoi.com](http://www.CelebrateTheMissisquoi.com). See you along the river!



### SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS: VERMONT RIVER CONSERVANCY

*Mission: The Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) works to permanently conserve and protect special lands along the waters of Vermont.*

The VRC works on a statewide basis with willing private landowners to do great river corridor protection work, often with a focus on protecting and safeguarding river access. The following are examples of conservation projects undertaken in or near the designated reaches of the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers.

In May 2015 the VRC, along with Wild and Scenic participants Anne and Bruce McKay, conserved a 2.4 acre property along the Missisquoi River in North Troy. This property is located just below Big Falls, the highest undammed waterfall in the State of Vermont and one of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) for which the Missisquoi River was designated. The property will provide public access to the Missisquoi River.

In August 2012 the VRC helped purchase an over seven acre property with 1,500 feet of waterfront access to be transferred to the Village of Enosburg Falls. Many consider this property "Enosburgh's Jewel" on the Missisquoi River, it is the best location from which to view the Bridge of Flowers and Light and the Falls. It has been a favorite fishing spot for generations, with great bedrock from which to fish. The site also makes accessing the Missisquoi and portaging around the Falls easy for paddlers of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail.

For many generations fishing and canoe access to the Missisquoi River had been available off Duffy Hill Road. But in 2011 the land was posted and anglers and paddlers could no longer access the river. VRC undertook a major campaign to raise the purchase and project costs of \$189,250, which was reached with substantial donations from the Town of Enosburgh Conservation Fund, Habitat for Humanity, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB), VT ANR Department of Fish & Wildlife, Lake Champlain International, Lake Champlain Basin Program, Fields Pond Foundation, and 65 + community supporters. Wild and Scenic Committee members helped sell raffle tickets, and spread the word. Now that the Village of Enosburg Falls owns the conserved property, the river will permanently remain open for public enjoyment.

Adapted from: <http://www.vermontriverconservancy.org/>

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR TOWNS: RICHFORD IS A NFCT TOWN!

Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT) Trail Towns - Where it all comes together!

NFCT Trail Towns are trailside and gateway communities that are true recreational destinations. They understand their recreational assets (trails, resources such as mountains or bodies of water, good roads for biking, and more) as drivers for economic and community well being linked to active relationships between people and the outdoors.

NFCT's Trail Town Initiative is not a new program but rather a new version of the successful community-based program work they have been implementing for a number of years. Though every community along the Northern Forest Canoe Trail has the potential to be a thriving Trail Town, NFCT is currently focusing on four pilot communities, one per state. Vermont's NFCT Trail Town is Richford, Vermont.

Located just south of the Canadian border, Richford is a small town with a big vision. Richford has experienced its share of hard times, but the spirit and commitment of the Town is quite remarkable. Currently, the Town is working to develop a new riverside park in the downtown area, including a canoe access and an extension of the Missisquoi Rail Trail that extends all the way to St. Albans. Visitors to Richford also have access to hiking in the Green Mountains, biking on some of the favorite state highways of local riders, and just enjoying the beauty of the pastoral landscape. Richford's stretch of the Missisquoi River is located on NFCT Map #5. Make a plan to visit!

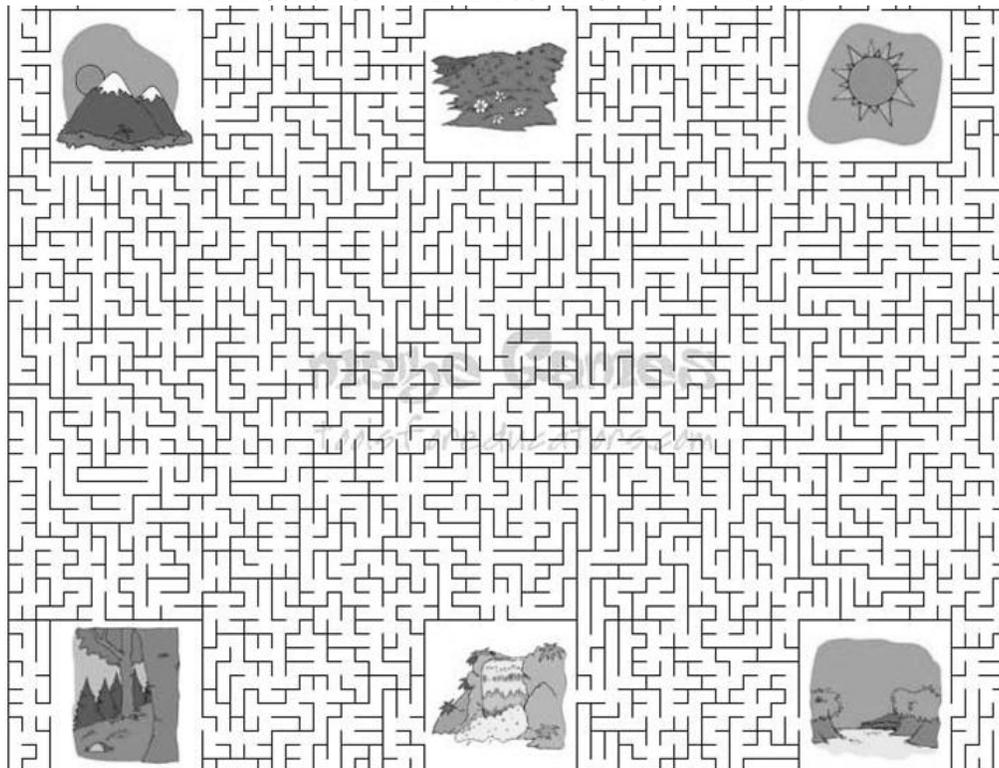


Adapted from:  
<http://richfordvt.org/>  
<http://www.northernforestcanoetrail.org/>



### KIDS CORNER

**(FOR OUR YOUNG READERS, AND KIDS AT HEART!)  
THE SOLUTION WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE.**



## WHAT THE MISSISQUOI AND TROUT RIVERS MEAN TO ME

Living in Westfield, I travel around for my line of work as a Realtor and normally need to keep an eye out for properties that are for sale. I try to remember what the area looks and feels like to write the ads for the homes we list for sale. The Missisquoi River meanders in and about many of the back roads and farms in this beautiful northeastern part of Vermont. I get to watch the ice forming in the early winter in many locations, tiled up along the edges of the river like slices of broken pie crust haphazardly thrown along the River edges, and then really piled in wild and bizarre patterns during the multiple thaws we see up here. It has a stark beauty of its own, not normally thought of from that icy perspective. After the thaw in spring, it's fun to try to identify all the migrating ducks using the river as a safe retreat for rest and food during their long journeys of migration. If I'm lucky, I can hear them call to each other or silently watch them diving under for those meager morsels at that time of year, when everything seems so drab before the green up.

As I wander, I am constantly amazed at the natural beauty of the river and how it melts into the natural landscape of farms, woodlands, wild areas, and backyards of ordinary folk who, like me, get to enjoy its beauty year round. I always think how cool it would be to live by the river and just get up in the morning, walk outside, slide my canoe over the bank and paddle off with a hot coffee and camera in tow; very early and very quietly exploring all the little inlets and quiet areas, perhaps managing a few photos of wild things from the River's perspective. Canada geese sounds sometime emerge from hidden nests as you float by. Paddling can be done most of the year, which makes for interesting canoeing and picture taking. As I paddle on quiet mornings I'd appreciate the little areas of challenge with a few rapids to maneuver my way around upstream or down and practice my skills at the stern. On the flats, I could really work on a bit of exercise paddling against the current. It feels so good to have this experience using your shoulders and arms, just you and the boat.



*Dianne Laplante's photo of the Missisquoi River*

The view of Jay Peak with Westfield Village in background behind the Daigle farm.



*Dianne Laplante's photo of the Missisquoi River*

The covered bridge on the edge of Dianne's property.

I love finding the stream inlets. It's like discovering a new secret place, especially if it's along a wooded bank. You feel like an explorer in a new land. I love the clear sand and gravel areas where you can see everything moving on the bottom such as the emerging insects, fish flashing out of hiding, or beautiful rock discoveries. It is fun to come up with photo ideas reflected in the water at various times of day. It is absolutely mystical to be out in an early fog. The early bird sounds are so magical during the quiet times of morning or dusk, especially in the mist. One of my favorites is the Veery. A thrush and the most mystical sounding bird I've heard up here. If you're lucky enough, you may hear them at the beginning or end of the day.

Life on the river changes with the seasons. During the late spring and summer vegetation changes, adding more hiding places for wild things and providing opportunities for more surprise encounters along the River and for many places to pull up the boat and splash around in the cool water. Often on a paddle, I don't want to go home. Fall is another special time, as I am constantly amazed at the gorgeous panorama of colors of the trees and mountains that wrap themselves around me either while on the river or when just sitting by it in enjoyment. The vibrant colors and crisp smells, such as the wood smoke coming from someone's chimney off in the distance, is quite invigorating in the fall and helps me build lasting memories. Life is good when you have moments like this to enjoy. Some of us are lucky enough to even have an old covered bridge as part of our River view while walking or spending time by or on the Missisquoi River.



Missisquoi River Thoughts by Dianne Laplante

## **NOW FORMING—THE UPPER MISSISQUOI AND TROUT RIVERS WILD AND SCENIC COMMITTEE**

The post-designation Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee will be made up of two official members from each of the municipalities in the designated area. These official members are appointed by the Selectboards or Village Trustees. The following community members are seeking an appointment to the Committee. If you are interested in representing your community on the Committee please contact us.

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

Berkshire  
1. Carol Hickey  
2. \_\_representative needed\_\_

Village of Enosburg Falls  
1. Mike Manahan  
2. \_\_representative needed\_\_

Town of Enosburgh  
1. Ken Secor  
2. \_\_representative needed\_\_

Montgomery  
1. Todd Lantery  
2. Keith Sampietro

Richford  
1. Annette Goyne  
2. Mary Robinson

### **ORLEANS COUNTY**

Village of North Troy  
1. Jim Starr  
2. Eugene St. Onge

Town of Troy  
1. Helene Croteau  
2. Robert Langlands

Westfield  
1. Jacques Couture  
2. Dianne Laplante

Other agencies and organizations are invited to become partners on the Committee. The Study Committee partners included: the Missisquoi River Basin Association, National Park Service, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, and Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

Committee members make every effort to attend monthly Committee meetings, and to assist in the Wild and Scenic process whenever possible. **We need volunteers and appointees—if you live in a town with a vacancy and wish to be appointed to the Wild and Scenic Committee, please contact your Selectboard or our Coordinator:** Shana Stewart Deeds 802-393-0076 or info[at]vtwsr.org Please also visit our website for updated information and meeting minutes at:

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

## **MEET OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS**



### **Carol Hickey — Berkshire**

Carol Hickey was an official appointee to the Study Committee from Berkshire; she was asked to join the Committee prior to the March 2013 Town Meeting vote and hopes to continue on the post-designation Committee. Carol taught at the Richford Elementary School for 35 years where she met her husband. Carol could see the Missisquoi River from her classroom. Originally from Massachusetts, Carol appreciates the beauty of the Missisquoi River and our region, and tries not to take that beauty for granted. Carol enjoys the River, and how different it appears along its length.

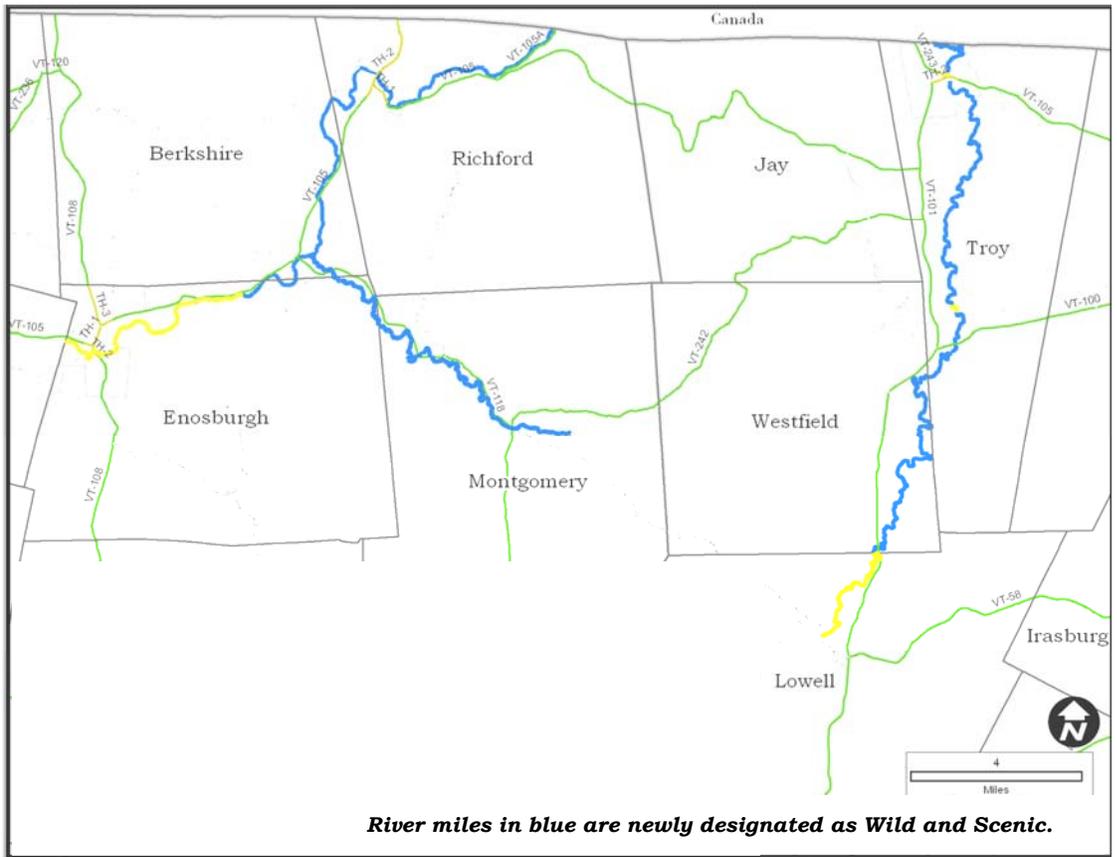
### **Mary Robinson — Richford**

In addition to being a member of the Planning Commission and Beautification Commission, Mary Robinson is a member of Richford's Conservation Commission which served as the official appointees to the Study Committee from Richford. Mary hopes to continue on the post-designation Committee. Mary is originally from West Bridgewater, MA. She worked in nearby Taunton for 20 years, a location of another Wild and Scenic River. Mary retired from State service as an Administrative Assistant, and has lived in Richford for 14 years. She respects the Missisquoi River, and helps the Missisquoi River Basin Association collect water quality samples. Mary can hear, and at certain times of the year see, the Missisquoi from her house, and enjoys exploring its tributaries and waterfalls.

# VT Wild & Scenic Rivers

## Upper Missisquoi & Trout Rivers

2839 VT Route 105  
 East Berkshire, VT 05447  
 802-393-0076  
 info@vtwsr.org  
 www.vtwsr.org



River miles in blue are newly designated as Wild and Scenic.






**For complete details, please see**  
[www.celebratethemissisquoi.com](http://www.celebratethemissisquoi.com) or [www.vtwsr.org](http://www.vtwsr.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 MRBA meetings 1st Thursday <a href="http://www.mrbavt.com">www.mrbavt.com</a>	5	6 WS Designation Celebration (11-2 @ The Abbey), Sheldon and Paddle (2:30 at David Park, Richford)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Wild and Scenic Meetings 3rd Thursdays <a href="http://www.vtwsr.org">www.vtwsr.org</a>	19	20 VT/QC Missisquoi River Paddle 9am Highwater to Glen Sutton
21	22	23	24	25	26 Abenaki Life in Vermont at Missisquoi NWR 6:30pm	27 Richford River Fest 8:30am/ Paddle & Paddle Race 9:30am at Davis Park
28	29	30	Other happenings: <a href="http://www.friendsofmissisquoi.org">www.friendsofmissisquoi.org</a>	<a href="http://www.northernlakechamplain.org/">www.northernlakechamplain.org/</a>	<a href="http://www.northernforestcanoetrail.org/">www.northernforestcanoetrail.org/</a>	<a href="http://www.nripvtv.com/">www.nripvtv.com/</a> <a href="http://www.coldhollowtoCanada.org">www.coldhollowtoCanada.org</a>

OUR COMMITTEE NEEDS A NEW LOGO. ARE YOU INTERESTED IN DESIGNING IT? CONTACT THE COORDINATOR TODAY!



WILD AND SCENIC COMMITTEE  
 2839 VT Route 105, East Berkshire, VT 05447  
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