



## News Release

# HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS WATER TRAILS (HHWT)

**EFFECTIVE NOV 2009 - CAMPING PERMITS REQUIRED FOR FROST CENTRE AND POKER LAKES AREAS from Jan. 2 to Dec. 18 annually.**

In September 2009 the Township of Algonquin Highlands in partnership with the Township of Lake of Bays, Township of Minden Hills and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, approved plans to extend the operating season and requirement for overnight camping permits from May 1 to Oct 31 annually to the period January 2 to December 18 annually. The changes apply to the "User Pay/Reservation" system for campsites under the management of the Haliburton Highlands Water Trails (HHWT) program on the 28,000 hectares of crown lands and municipal shoreline road allowances within the areas known as the 'Frost Centre' and 'Poker Lakes' situated in the geographic Townships of Sherborne, Ridout and Hindon, in the County of Haliburton and District of Muskoka, between the communities of Dorset, Carnarvon and Bracebridge along Highways 35 and 118.

Information on the **REVISED** Camping Permit requirements and Reservation/Fee system can be found at [www.algonquinhighlands.ca/water](http://www.algonquinhighlands.ca/water) or by contacting the HHWT at **705-766-9033**. The Reservation system closes Dec 18 and re-opens Jan 2 each year. Highlights include per person per night fees for use of campsites, date and site specific reservations, discounts for seniors and disabled persons, a centralized internet and call centre service and no fees for day use, parking or boat launching.

Various public consultations regarding the management of the area have been undertaken since 2002 with County and Provincial organizations, local businesses, youth camps, interested individuals, and cottage associations. Users, visitors, and residents of the area have been 70-90% in favour of the "User Pay/Reservation" system to support the protection and preservation of the backcountry values, which have been under pressure in recent years from the overcrowding and abuse of area facilities resulting in the environmental concerns of water quality, garbage, tree destruction and fires.

The main objectives of the management system include 1) the controlled use of area campsites, canoe routes, access points and hiking trails, and 2) protection and preservation of the environment, and 3) increased and improved recreational opportunities and supporting facilities, and 4) provision of a self-funded sustainable management program.

To date the volunteers, staff and partners of the Haliburton Highlands Water Trails have achieved many positive changes in the recreational use of area public lands through management activities such as the ongoing inventory, mapping and assessment of area campsites, portages, access points and hiking trails; improvements to signage, toilets, and parking; education through the development of information displays, sign kiosks, website, and maps; enforcement of campsite designations and group size restrictions via municipal by-laws; fund raising through an Adopt-A-Water Trail program and grants from MNR, NTC, Ontario Trillium Foundation, HRSDC, HCDC and Eco Canada, all working towards a healthy and sustainable future for the community and province.

Contact:

Mark Coleman  
Coordinator/By-law Officer  
Township of Algonquin Highlands  
705-766-9033