



## ***Vermont River Conservancy***

Conserving shorelands and access since 1995

Dear Friends,

After last year's tumultuous weather events this summer has brought a welcome string of warm, clement days to enjoy the Vermont landscape and, in particular, our swimming holes, rivers and streams. But we are still very aware of the lingering effects of Tropical Storm Irene, and of the continued struggles of many individuals, families, and communities to recover from that historic storm. VRC will continue to focus our efforts on securing river corridor conservation easements to protect riparian lands that mitigate flood events. We will also continue to work with landowners and towns to convert vulnerable, flood prone properties - especially those located in or near villages - into public access areas.



These past months of warm weather also reinforce the need to conserve the natural "cooling off" capacity of our swimming holes and canoeing / kayaking places. VRC will continue to seek out projects that provide access to our public waters for everyone to enjoy.

Sincerely,  
Steve Libby, Executive Director

## **SUCCESS: Enosburg Falls River Access Park conserved!**



On August 15th, VRC successfully insured permanent public access to a key section of the Missisquoi River. In partnership with Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, 7.3 acres of land that includes 1,500 feet of riverfront off Duffy Hill Road was conveyed to the Village of Enosburg Falls as a [River Access Park](#), and two 1-acre lots were conveyed to Habitat for Humanity for affordable housing. The land provides fishing access to a stretch of trophy trout habitat, and is an important access point on the Northern Forest Canoe Trail.

Thanks to [all of the generous supporters](#) who made this project possible, especially [Vermont Housing Conservation Board](#), the Town of Enosburgh Conservation Fund, [Habitat for Humanity Franklin /Grand Isle chapter](#), [VT Fish & Wildlife](#), [Lake Champlain International](#) and [Fields Pond Foundation](#). The generous support from these major donors, and the tremendous community support from over 100 businesses and donors, made this project possible. Thank you!

**Come help us celebrate: Saturday, September 22<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm, rain or shine. Refreshments will be served, on the Bridge of Flowers and Light in Enosburg Falls.**

**We hope you join us!**

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## **Holbrook Point conserved; Reggie Ellingwood remembered**

The Vermont River Conservancy Board and staff are very saddened by the sudden loss of a dear friend and dedicated conservationist, [Reginald Ellingwood](#). Reggie and Myra Ellingwood recently conserved his property on the Connecticut River with a River Corridor Easement and public access to the [Holbrook Point campsite](#) for paddlers of the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail. The campsite is a beautiful and special spot set amongst the towering silver maples of the rare silver maple floodplain forest. It will be enjoyed by many paddlers and visitors for years to come.



Reggie's love of family and friends, stories, hard work and land stewardship has created a legacy of land conservation that will be remembered by many. Memorial gifts made in Reggie's honor can be made [here](#), and will be used in accordance to his family's wishes for supporting future river conservation projects in Vermont.

### **52 acres of floodplains protected on the Saxtons River**

The Vermont River Conservancy worked with Silos and Camilla Roberts to protect over 52 acres of their floodplains.

The [Roberts' property](#) is mostly hay fields and floodplain forests located at the nexus of the Saxton's River with Bull Creek and Weaver Brook. Upstream of the village of Saxtons River, this property experienced extreme flooding, channel migration and sediment aggradation during Tropical Storm Irene in August of 2011.

Now permanently protected to preserve the



floodplain characteristics that allow for the river to flood and move, it is an important river property that helps protect downstream infrastructure from flooding and associated potential damage. Conservation of this parcel is an active partnership between the Vermont River Conservancy and landowners Silos and Camilla, who are all engaged in the interaction between protected riparian buffers and the adjacent agriculture on these fertile river lands.

Funding provided by the VT Agency of Natural Resources

### **Rivers Today: 1 year after Tropical Storm Irene**

Last September Vermonters were assessing the damage, picking up the pieces, and joining together to help recover from the intensity of flooding caused by Tropical Storm Irene. The Vermont River Conservancy continues partnering with towns, landowners, state agencies and local watershed groups to identify funding sources and conservation priorities to improve Vermont's flood resiliency.

By conserving floodplains around the State, VRC is helping insure rivers have the open land needed for dissipating flood energy, slowing waters and releasing sediment. Working with partners around the state, VRC will help homeowners move out of high-risk floodplains and river corridors. While progress is incremental, the long-term benefits will be an improved landscape for humans and rivers across Vermont.

Read a [recent online article by VT Digger journalist Audrey Clark](#) about this work.

Watch this [video created by the Connecticut River Watershed Council and The Conservation Law Foundation](#) to better understand what conditions contributed to the destructiveness of Tropical Storm Irene, and why conservation is critical for minimizing damage associated with future flood events.

### **Join Us for the Canaan River Access Opening Celebration!**

During the week of September 17th, the town of Canaan and



the NorthWoods Stewardship Center will be installing a boat ramp, informational kiosk, and parking area at the [Canaan River Access](#). Recently conserved in a collaborative effort spearheaded by the Vermont River Conservancy and the town of Canaan, this access will serve as a northern gateway to the Connecticut River for generations to come. We look forward to celebrating the completion of this conservation and recreation development project and honoring all who contributed in so many different ways. Please join us!

WHEN: Wednesday, September 26th 3:30-4:00 PM  
WHERE: The [Canaan-West Stewartstown Bridge River Access](#) RSVP TO: [Noah Pollock](#) (802) 540-0319

### **Help clean up and create camping on Fiddlehead Island**

Volunteers are needed to help remove trash and construct campsite amenities on Fiddlehead Island in Monroe on **Saturday, September 29, 2012 and Sunday, September 30, 2012**. Fiddlehead Island hosts one of 34 campsites along the 240-mile [Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail](#), a series of primitive campsites and access points from the river's headwaters to the Massachusetts border. This project is a collaborative effort of the [Vermont River Conservancy](#), the [Connecticut River Joint Commissions](#), the [Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust](#), the [Connecticut River Watershed Council](#), and [Casella Resource Solutions](#).

Volunteers will need to bring their own canoes or kayaks.



The paddle to the island is a leisurely two-mile round trip from Dodge Falls. To sign up, please contact Rachel Ruppel at the Connecticut River Joint Commissions, [ruppel@uvlsrc.org](mailto:ruppel@uvlsrc.org) or (603) 727-9484. Volunteers should register no later than Wednesday September 26, 2012. [Read here for more information.](#)

### **VRC welcomes new Board member Tom Slayton**



The Vermont River Conservancy Board extends a warm welcome to journalist, author, and river enthusiast [Tom](#)

[Slayton](#). Tom joined VRC on the Connecticut River paddling trip in early June, and assists VRC with developing completed project announcements.

As a board member, Tom will continue to serve the rivers and state he loves by offering his wealth of knowledge about Vermont's lands and waters. We are honored to have him on board. Welcome Tom!

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### **River Links**

[VRC teamed up with the Vermont Land Trust](#) on Heather and Scott Lefoll's 181 acre farm conservation project in Maidstone VT by creating two primitive campsites to be managed as part of the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail.

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### **Get the latest news from Vermont River Conservancy!**

Want to tell someone about the great work done by the Vermont River Conservancy, in 30 seconds? Send them this [video](#)! Many thanks to Dorothy Tod and Noah Pollock for their videography skills, and to Willem Lange for narrating.

Now you can now find out about our conservation projects without delay. [Friend us](#) or [Like us](#) on Facebook, and [follow us](#) on Twitter.

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Vermont River Conservancy is a 501(c)(3); all donations are tax deductible.

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