



SPRING 2015

## Lake Superior Water Trail

THE IDEA OF a Trans Canada recreational trail connecting the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Arctic oceans was launched in 1992. The 24,000-kilometre (15,000-mile) trail will be completed for Canada's 150-year sesquicentennial July 1, 2017.

It is a sustainable gift for future generations that inspires healthy living and active transportation. It preserves green space and promotes conservation, increases awareness of Canada's history, culture and natural heritage, stimulates tourism and creates jobs. The Lake Superior Water Trail (LSWT) is a link in the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) that has outstanding scenic beauty, wild natural landscapes and cultural values that provide amazing experiences.



*Hiking trails in parks and communities connect to the TCT LSWT access points.*



Photos © Gary and Joanie McGuffin

*Paddling over Jacobsville sandstone on Whitefish Bay.*

Trans Canada Trail Ontario (TCTO) is guiding the multifaceted trail development across the province of Ontario. Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy (LSWC) is the registrant/overseer of the TCT LSWT. TCTO board chair Al MacPherson and TCTO Project Officer Barb MacPherson, have provided valuable guidance and support to LSWC in developing the plans for the TCT LSWT. For more information on the TCT see [www.tctrail.ca](http://www.tctrail.ca).

The TCT LSWT spans 1,000 kilometres (621 miles) between Gros Cap Harbour in Prince Township (just west of Sault Ste. Marie) and Fisherman's Park in Thunder Bay. The LSWT connects to the TCT North Channel Cycling Route at Gros Cap and the Path of the Paddle Water Trail in Thunder Bay.

### TO CONTACT US

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## Water Trail Access Point Development Plan for the TCT Lake Superior Water Trail

The Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy connects the TCT LSWT to the U.S. water trails to form a single trail that follows the coast of the entire lake, linking communities to the land and water.

**People have lived along the shores  
and travelled the waters of Lake  
Superior for thousands of years.**

The LSWT is an ancient heritage highway that embodies the basin-wide mission of LSWC by combining the water, land, and communities into a coordinated international Lake Superior Heritage Coast around the greatest expanse of freshwater on earth.

Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy board members met with stakeholders, groups and communities to identify 14 priority and 30 secondary access points that are safe landing points along the north and east shores.

Photos © Gary and Joanie McCuffin



Where the Pic River meets Lake Superior, Pic River First Nation is rich in the cultural history of the heritage highway.



Experience paddling the earth's greatest expanse of freshwater.

Each of the priority sites will be identified for land and water users with a flag and signage kiosk. Other amenities include washrooms, picnic tables and some will have universal access docks and secure storage lockers.

Beginning this summer LSWC, along with its community partners and TCTO will take the first steps in creating the priority LSWT access points. Construction will be completed in 2016 and events to celebrate the opening of the TCT will be planned for July 1, 2017. A Water Trail Project Coordinator, funded through Ontario Trillium Foundation will be hired in June to manage the project.



## Bi-National Water Trail

The TCT LSWT is being connected to American water trails around Lake Superior in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Together these trails form a unique bi-national system of water trails that revitalizes the ancient highway linking water, land and communities along the Lake Superior Heritage Coast. These trails create an “Appalachian Trail of water trails”. This waterway provides an opportunity to experience the earth’s greatest expanse of freshwater first-hand.

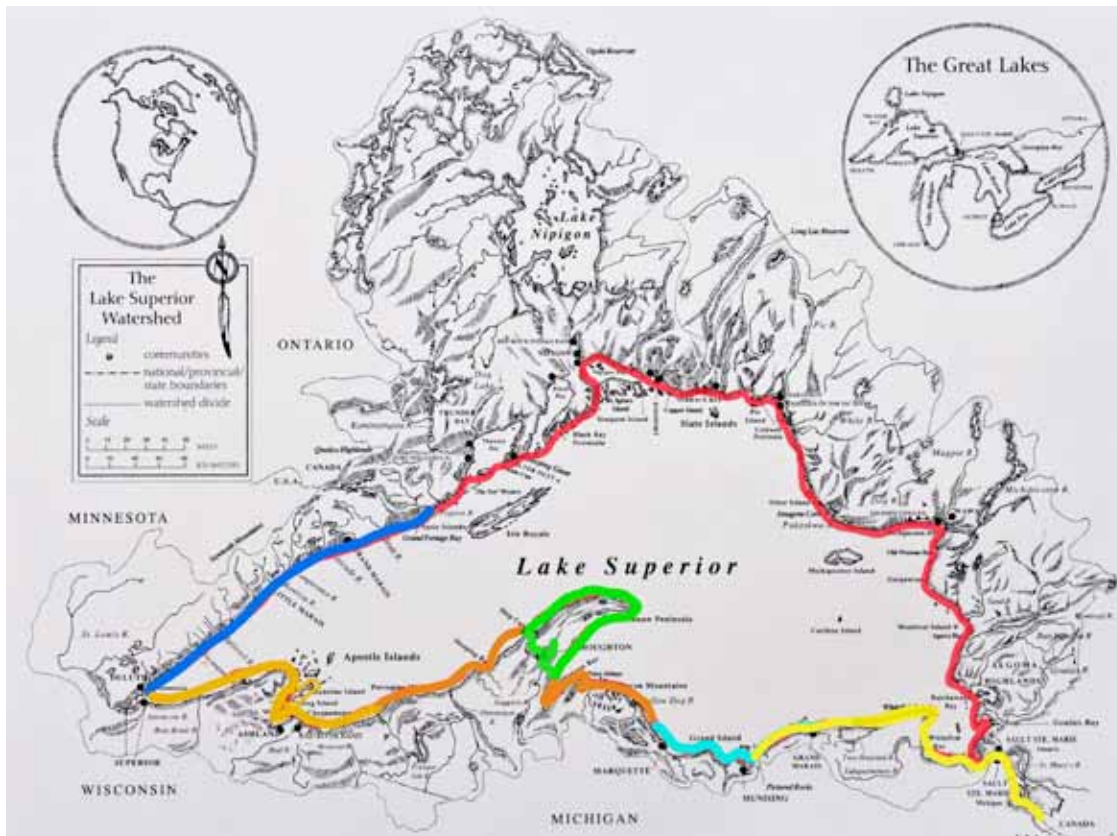


*Porphyry Island Light House east of Thunder Bay's Sleeping Giant.*



*Padding past the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in the Lake Superior Water Trail in Michigan.*

Photos © Gary and Joanie McGuffin



*The water trails around Lake Superior are like puzzle pieces that once connected to each other will encircle the lake and be a foundation on which communities can build.*



## Land Preserves

LAKE SUPERIOR Watershed Conservancy (LSWC) is an international non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the long-term sustainable health of the Lake Superior watershed through basin-wide communication, education, scientific study, preservation and conservation of Lake Superior and its ecosystems.

In partnership with American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts, the Gargantua 20-Islands Preserve off the coast of Lake Superior Provincial Park remain an integral part of a pristine, undeveloped coastline. This Preserve is located along the TCT LSWT.

*Left photo: Dr. Fredrick van Nus Preserve, Prince Township. Centre photo: Francis Hilb Preserve, Goulais River. Right photo: Gargantua Islands Preserve*

American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts is a publically supported 501 (c) 3 charity based in the United States that supports the permanent protection of Canadian lands owned by conservation-minded Americans. Contact Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy for more information.

***Conservation, preservation and heritage are also major interests of the conservancy...***

## Group of Seven

IN THE 1920S, the Group of Seven recorded the rugged north shore in their distinctive and internationally renowned painting style, conservation photographers, authors, explorers, Gary and Joanie McGuffin (LSWC Founders), and art historian and art educator, Michael Burtch, have been conducting academic research and intensive fieldwork to locate and document the exact sites from where the artists painted and the landscape scenes as they can be seen and experienced today.

The Group of Seven is one of the many cultural stories on the Lake Superior Water Trail that makes a connection between art, science, history and the natural world for the benefit of the Lake Superior communities.

A documentary film will be released on this heritage story this fall.



*At left: In 1923, Lawren Harris painted "Coldwell Bay, North of Lake Superior." at right: Gary McGuffin's photograph of Port Coldwell as it looks today.*

## YOU CAN HELP

LSWC is involved in many projects around Lake Superior including; mapping water trails, developing a Lake Superior guide book, creating a Lake Superior Heritage Coast year round guide certification program, monitoring water quality, cleaning up creeks, providing environmental education, ensuring lake-wide communication, and finding opportunities for land acquisition.

For more information on how to make a donation and/or to become involved in the Conservancy email [conserve@lakesuperiorconservancy.org](mailto:conserve@lakesuperiorconservancy.org), visit [www.LakeSuperiorConservancy.org](http://www.LakeSuperiorConservancy.org), or call U.S. office 231-347-9387 Canadian office 705-946-0044.

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