

## The International Community Congress – One Year Later

HOCP is wrapping up its work in providing follow up support for the Congress, but the ten team projects continue with a life of their own. The Steering Committee would like to thank the design team members, the participants and sponsors for making this innovative and productive workshop happen.

The ten teams have launched a wonderful array of initiatives in the region. Here are some highlights from the many outcomes of the four-day gathering.

- **The Ranier team completed its tourist map**, is beginning a new project and has become a partner with Destination Voyageurs National Park
- **North of Superior Parks Team** is completing their interactive web app for a new hiking trail with HOCP input
- **Destination Voyageurs National Park Team** has completed their strategic plan and are now working on a fundraising plan
- **The North Shore Scenic Drive team** has completed much of the relationship building they set out to do and are now beginning a working relationship across the border with Thunder Bay Tourism. The team is supportive of ongoing HOCP planning efforts and will provide support with continued participation as they can.
- **The Laurentian Connection Team completed** their Environmental Fair, and are planning ongoing quarterly education opportunities
- **The Trans Canada Trail Team** has invested significant planning time creating the Path of the Paddle – a long distance water trail. The group worked within Quetico park this summer
- **The Congress resulted in a new project for HOCP** to partner in creating a Geotourism Map and website with the National Geographic Society. This project will engage many folks from many different sectors



**The intangibles are also important.** New working relationships have been created between land agencies of the two nations, between local residents and conservation groups and between tourist bureaus in different cities. Most of us are now using these new relationships in our daily work.

As HOCP focuses on pursuing the National Geographic project and building a volunteer network for the region, we look forward to staying connected with the teams and their ongoing, evolving efforts. And we look forward to assisting with these projects as we can, linking them to the Heart of the Continent.

Thanks to you all! Paul Danicic and Lisa Radosevich Craig—co chairs