



Message from the Chair;
We had a “grand “time the community of Grand Portage last May. It was great to meet with newly collaborating participants like Craig Hansen, Grand Portage Superintendent and Travis

Novitsky, GP State Park Manager. Also good to see old friends again like Tribal Chairman Norman Deschamps, Lodge Manager, Frank Vecchio and Anna Deschamps MNDNR. It is our continued mission to work towards showcasing the border lakes region and gateway communities throughout the Heart of the Continent. We celebrate the good work being done by our public land and collaborating organizations that are helping keep this part of the world a special place to work, live and visit.

*If this sounds like a mission that you would like to be part of please feel free to contact me or join us at our Roundtable meetings. Held at the least, biannually throughout The Heart of the Continent, our next meeting is **Atikokan/Quetico** on Voyageur Island hosted by [Voyageur Wilderness Programme](#). I hope to see you there.*

Doug Franchot—Chair—HOCP dougfranchot@gmail.com



The Benefits of The Partnership

Because the Heart of the Continent ecosystem is an interconnected whole, a region wide vision is necessary to ensure its sustainability. It is important to understand how big the economy of the Heart of the Continent region is or how hugely reliant we are on each other for our successes. It is surprising how interconnected we truly are and the things that we could be doing together to create more growth, through shared initiatives. Continued integrated conversation, could easily make this region a lot stronger, more sustainable than it is even today. Cooperative leadership among the Heart of the Continent Partnership is fostering increased knowledge, and trust to support stature and sustainability of the region's public lands and communities.

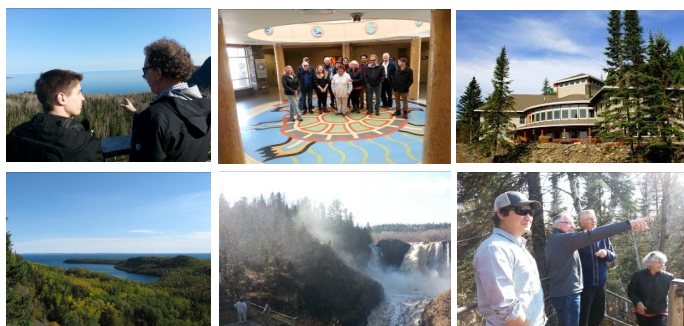
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Recap of first half 2018

May 3-4 Roundtable Gathering, Grand Portage, MN
Land Managers from Ontario Parks, Superior National Forest, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, National Park Service met and discussed joint cross border projects including: *Dispersing of visitors to improve lesser congestion and utilize lesser used areas. *Cross Border collaborations in the field. *The sharing of primary education themes and interpretive programs. *Coding on-going research of each agency. *Public Conservation events. *40th anniversary of the BWCAW act. *125th anniversary of Ontario Parks. General Meeting followed in the afternoon and Gary Davies—Nature Conservancy of Canada, presented in the evening on the recently designated Big Trout Bay Nature Reserve on the shores of Lake Superior. Friday topics consisted of our proposed events for 2019, “Bike the Heart” a cross border initiative and event to showcase popular biking areas and our second Science Symposium for March 2019.



The Heart of the Continent Partnership provides an international forum for land managers, volunteer partners, and local tourism officials to work together towards common goals. The synergy of this group accomplishes far more than the sum of its parts could.

Patty Thielen, NE Regional Director, MN DNR

Science Symposium—As our plans firm up we will be posting information on our next Science Symposium on our [Heart of the Continent](#) website. We were very happy with the attendance and excitement our 2016 symposium created and our plans are again to follow the International [Rainy Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum](#), Rainy Lake Community College, International Falls MN.

Bike the Heart—Our plans for 2019—Showcasing our popular biking routes and trails throughout the Heart of the Continent, by mapping and hosting an event to create awareness for locals and visitors of all the opportunities that have been created by the hardworking clubs and collaborating entities like the [Arrowhead Region Development Commission](#) have been working on.

Save The Date:

September 11-13, 2018
HOCP Roundtable Gathering
Atikokan/Quetico—Voyageur Island
[Voyageur Wilderness Programme](#)
Presentations and guest speakers
info— click [-Heart of the Continent](#)

