

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Hiawatha Highlands Trails – Safety Statement**

Issued December 5, 2024 @ 2:00 pm

The Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority (SSMRCA) is issuing a safety statement to residents regarding current weather/snow conditions. This statement is sent out so that residents can be informed and aware.

At this time, the SSMRCA is warning all recreational users of the Red Pine trail system, located within the Hiawatha Highlands Conservation Area, to stay away from the area. Due to the recent and ongoing snow fall experienced in the Sault, there are numerous downed trees combined with heavy snow on this system, which has created a hazardous situation for all users. SSMRCA staff appreciates everyone's patience at this time as the safety of trail users is of utmost importance.

For up-to-date information on the condition of various trails, please ensure to check with your local recreational club before venturing out, and a reminder that the Hiawatha Highlands trail system, which is maintained by the Soo Finnish Nordic Ski Club, is only open to trail pass holders during the winter months. Walking on the trails during the winter is not permitted.

Conservation Areas are more than pretty places. They play an important environmental, educational and recreational role in Ontario, and contribute to the physical and mental wellbeing of over seven million visitors annually. Hidden within these natural gems are lakes, rivers and streams, wetlands, sand dunes, beaches, waterfalls, caves, forests, and natural heritage sites.

The Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority owns and maintains five conservation areas that are open to the public for passive recreation. For more information on the conservation areas located within the Sault, please visit <a href="https://ssmrca.ca/">https://ssmrca.ca/</a>.

This statement is in effect until December 12, 2024.

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