

## **SECTION 29: LOWELL VILLAGE TO ROUTE 58 (MONTGOMERY)**

### **SNAPSHOT:**

This section of the CT features a gradual climb from Lowell Village through fields and forest to the strikingly scenic Hazen's Notch, followed by a long, gradual descent to the end of plowing on Rte. 58 in Montgomery. Much of this section has been rerouted off of snowmobile trails. Several portions follow the historic Bayley-Hazen Military Road. For roughly a mile on the Lowell side of the Notch, the Trail is located on the unplowed shoulder of Rte. 58. In Hazen's Notch itself, the CT shares the VAST corridor but it is very wide (unplowed Rte. 58) so avoiding snowmobiles is not a problem.

**LENGTH:** 9.0 miles

### **DIFFICULTY:**

Most of this section is easy to intermediate. For the most part the terrain is gentle and much of the Trail is located on old roads, the unplowed shoulder of current roads, or a groomed VAST corridor. However, the first portion of the route - the descent to the Missisquoi River bridge - is narrow, twisty, and steep and is shared with snowmobiles. If it is at all icy take off your skis and walk down to the bridge. Snowmobile traffic is much heavier on weekends than on weekdays but stay alert for snowmobiles and be prepared to get out of their way.

### **DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL**

#### **ACCESS/EXIT POINTS: (south to north)**

***NOTE: Rte. 58 through Hazen's Notch (between Lowell and Montgomery) is closed to cars in winter.***

#### **1. Rte. 100 - Lowell**

From the intersection of Rtes. 100 and 58 in the village of Lowell go 1.0 mile north to the Lowell town office on the left (west) side of Rte. 100. Park at the town office or at the Lowell Elementary School, which is immediately south of the town office. To ski north follow the CT blazes north along the west side of Rte. 100 to join a snowmobile trail heading left (west) and downhill to cross the Missisquoi River.

#### **2. Rte. 58/Mines Rd. - Lowell**

From the intersections of Rtes. 100 and 58 in the village of Lowell go 1.25 miles west on Rte. 58 to the intersection with Mines Road. Park carefully along the snow bank near the intersection, making sure your vehicle is visible from all directions. Walk a few hundred yards south on Mines Rd. or a few hundred yards east on Rte. 58 to access the CT.

#### **3. Hazen's Notch - Lowell**

From the intersection of Rtes. 100 and 58 in the village of Lowell, go 4.2 miles northwest on Rte. 58 to the end of plowing at the intersection with Monteith Rd. Park so as not to block snowplows or snowmobiles. The CT heads northwest into Hazen's Notch and southeast back toward the village of Lowell along the shoulder of Rte. 58.

#### **4. Rte. 58 - Montgomery**

From the intersection of Rtes. 118 and 58 in the village of Montgomery Center, go 3.8 miles east on Rte. 58 past the Hazen's Notch Association (HNA) Nordic Ski Center and past the intersection

with Amidon Rd. to the end of plowing. Park on the side of the logging road, which is also a snowmobile trail and the CT. **DO NOT PARK IN THE SNOW PLOW TURN-AROUND.** To head south on the CT, ski east on the unplowed portion of Rte. 58 (also a snowmobile corridor) toward Hazen's Notch.

**ROUTE DESCRIPTION:**

From the **Lowell Town Office (0.0)**, the Trail follows VAST #100C north through a field and then left into the woods and down a steep and windy wood road to a VAST bridge over the **Missisquoi River (0.9)**. Be alert for snow machines and be prepared to get out of their way! After crossing the bridge the snowmobile trail turns sharply left and then right up a steep hill. The C.T. turns off the VAST trail before the right turn and exits left (south) on a logging road that parallels the river. The woods road enters an open field and the trail crosses the field and then crosses a stream on a newly constructed bridge. The trail turns right after the bridge and follows a logging road west and then southwest until climbing to an open field next to Rt. 58. Cross the field paralleling Rt. 58 for a very short distance and then go left to parallel the Mines Road which intersects with Rt. 58. After about 1/4 mile the trail turns right (West) on to a driveway that leads to the **Old Bayley-Hazen Military Road. (2.2)**

Climb gradually on the Bayley-Hazen Rd. with stonewalls on both sides until reaching the top of the hill where the trail turns sharply left (south) to **cross a stonewall and enter the woods (2.7)**. If you intersect with the VAST trail you have missed the turnoff!! Continue south through evergreen woods, cross a power line right of way, and re-enter the woods as the Trail turns right (west). The Trail continues west through a swampy area and then climbs south and west through a lovely hardwood stand. Cross a small field and turn right (west) to start a climb on an old **Logging Road (3.6)**. The logging road climbs west and then south before the trail turns off sharply to the right to pass through some dense saplings, cross a small creek, and join another logging road heading west. Follow this logging road for approximately .75 miles then cross another new bridge and enter an open field. Cross the field to join Brookside Road which leads to an intersection with **Rt. 58 (5.4)**.

Proceed left (west) on rt. 58 and ski along the shoulder of the road to the intersection with **Monteith Rd (5.9)**. This is the end of plowing on Rt. 58. Join the snowmobile trail to enjoy the wide, unplowed expanse of Rt. 58 as it climbs gradually to the top of Hazen's Notch and then descends to where the plowing resumes on the west side of the Notch in Montgomery (9.0). As you descend towards Montgomery, the VAST trail leaves the unplowed portion of Rt. 58 heading north before the C.T. does. There is a very short road walk to where the next section of the C.T. begins. The ski over the Notch can be spectacular but there is quite heavy snowmobile traffic especially on weekends so be alert.

A historic marker commemorating the Bayley-Hazen Rd. is located on the south side of Rte. 58 near the height of land in the Notch. Near here you will also see the white blazes of the Long Trail crossing the Notch. There is a Long Trail shelter about a mile north of this intersection.

**DISTANCE TO LANDMARKS:**

<b>Mileage Northbound</b>	<b>Landmark</b>	<b>Mileage Southbound</b>
0.0	Rte. 100, Lowell Town Office	9.0
0.9	Missisquoi River Bridge	8.1
2.2	Bayley-Hazen Military Road	6.8
2.7	Stonewall/Woods	6.3
3.6	Logging road	5.4
5.4	Brookside Rd./Rte. 58	3.6
5.9	Monteith Rd./Rte. 58	3.1
9.0	Plowing resumes (Montgomery)	0.0

**SIDE TRAILS AND LOOPS:**

At present the CT does not connect directly to the extensive and very scenic trail network of the Hazen's Notch Association located on Rte. 58 between the end of plowing and the village of Montgomery Center. However, CT skiers are very much encouraged to visit HNA, pay their trail fee, and enjoy their forty miles of groomed and ungroomed ski trails, which offer loops and excursions for skiers of all ability levels.