

Eagle Mountain



At 578 feet tall, Eagle Mountain is the highest point along Vermont's Lake Champlain shoreline. This area was once part of a shallow, tropical sea. The calcium and magnesium carbonate-rich bedrock is made up of Dunham dolomite which was formed by the activity of marine organisms. About 445 to 430 million years ago, massive tectonic forces pushed land plates together, closing the sea. In some areas rock layers were split, pushing lower (older) rock slabs on top of other (younger) layers along what is now known as the Champlain Thrust Fault. This upward tilt of bedrock can be seen in the ledges on the west side of the Mountain.

The Hoyt family purchased Eagle Mountain in 1922 and used teams of horses to maintain the land for sugaring, selective logging and agriculture. In the 1930s, Van Buren Everest purchased the Phelps and Sheehan family farms (north of the Hoyt Family Farm). He ran a dairy farm, a sugaring operation (producing more than 600 gallons of maple syrup each year!) and a sawmill that supplied local builders with custom-sawed lumber. Later, the Vermont Electric Co-op purchased the Everest land and held it for years for a potential power generation project.

In 1986 the Hoyts donated their land to the Lake Champlain Land Trust. In 1988, the Land Trust then purchased the VEC property with the help of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Husky, the Milton Land Trust and other conservation supporters, and the parcels were combined to create the 226 acre Eagle Mountain Natural Area. LCLT then donated the entire conserved area to the Town of Milton. The property, with its unusual plants and abundant wildlife, will always be protected.



Numerous trails allow the visitor to explore Eagle Mountain and its forest and fields. Take Trail #2 to reach Hoyt Overlook. Digital data provided by VCGI. Trails digitized by LIA Consultants.



Amazing Views of Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks from the Hoyt Lookout. Courtesy of Chris J. Boget, Lake Champlain Land Trust.



Courtesy of the Hoyt Family

August, 1941 - John Hoyt, Sr. gives a milking lesson at the former Hoyt Farm. You can see where this photo was taken approximately 70 feet in from the trail head, off to the left, through the trees.



Courtesy of Laune DiCesare

Round-lobed Hepatica (*Hepatica americana*), is a member of the Buttercup Family. Each leaf of this native, perennial wildflower has 3 rounded lobes, prompting the nickname "Liverleaf." Hepatica flowers (visible here from March - June) are usually blue but may also be white or pink.