

CRIMSON RIDGE LOOP TRAIL DESCRIPTION

This approximately 3.5 kilometre loop trail was created in 2002 and finished in spring 2003. The trail route was selected to not only wind around existing golf holes and greens, but with an eye for any future expansion to the golf course.

Allow approximately 2 hours to do the complete loop. You must pick up your feet to get over rocks and stumps. If you have a pet with you, please keep it leashed near the golf greens and under control at all times. Also, please pick up after your pet.

The Voyageur Trail blazing system: If you are standing at a blaze, the next one should be in sight. Blazes are made with pieces of discarded vinyl siding, which reduces the amount of vinyl taken to our landfill. One blaze on a tree indicates a fairly straight trail. If there are two blazes, this indicates a sharp turn and the top blaze will be offset in the direction of the turn. Blue blazes indicate an access to the main trail or a side trail to a lookout. Main trail blazes are white and yellow blazes indicate a loop trail.

Notice that blazes are attached to trees with aluminum nails. This ensures that if the tree is harvested in the future, the imbedded nails will sheer easily and not injure forest and mill workers.

We begin at the far end of the Crimson Ridge Golf Course parking lot near the golf cart barn. This blue-blazed trail starts with a short jaunt through the forest, then we turn right on the Crimson Ridge service road. The trail follows this gravel track gradually going uphill for approximately 10 minutes. You may wish to stop and catch your breath just past the 17th tee at the lookout over East Davignon Creek waterfalls. As you approach the top of the hill, you will notice a blue-blaze “T” on a tree. This indicates the end of the blue access trail.

Turning right to cross the bridge over East Davignon Creek, you will notice that the blazes are now white. This indicates that you are on the main Voyageur Hiking Trail. If you followed these white blazes behind you to the west, you would find Goulais Avenue. The white trail

across the bridge that we will be taking today, goes east towards Peoples Road and, if followed, it would emerge at Gleview Vacation Homes on Great Northern Road (11.3 km).

Immediately upon crossing the bridge, the trail turns left sharply. Pick your way carefully over some rocks to the creek bed below. The trail skirts East Davignon Creek and splits into the white main trail and a yellow-blazed loop trail. Take the yellowed-blazed trail to the left. We will pass this point again on the way out from the white-blazed trail direction.

Notice a box at this point where you may find brochures about the Voyageur Trail in a protective bag inside. Help yourself to information about the Voyageur Trail and/or the local hiking club.

We proceed through a small valley next to the creek for a short way. You will notice some Ground Hemlock (Canada Yew) growing near the ground in this location. This plant is used in the making of the cancer-fighting drug, Taxol.

We leave the creek bed to the right, up a small knoll and proceed up a slow incline with a rocky outcrop to your left. The trail runs along the top of this ridge for a short way through a cedar stand. Watch here for signs of moose and deer. As we come off the ridge, the trail angles left, then right as we go downhill towards a beaver pond (Crimson Pond). At this point, we have reached the back point of the Crimson Ridge property.

At the 1.5 km mark on our loop trail, we emerge on to a very picturesque beaver pond. This is a great spot for lunch or a snack, or just to stop for a short rest and admire the view. Note the trees near the trail that are beaver-chewed. In years when this pond is active, you may catch a glimpse of the animal if you are lucky.

The trail turns right and follows the shores of the pond for a short while, then turns right and begins an ascent uphill away from the pond and around a possible future golf course hole. We climb steadily as the trail angles left, next to a rocky outcrop. When we finally reach the top of the rise, the trail levels out through a thick evergreen stand.

At the far end of the pond, there is a steep decline back to the pond where the water empties into a creek with another waterfall. **This incline can be slippery if wet, so please watch your footing.**

As you near the waterfall, you will notice that the yellow blazes end. Turn right onto the white-blazed main Voyageur Trail heading west.

Here the trail becomes wider through a mixed forest. This section is fairly level and more open. You will notice a cutover to the right for possible future golf course development.

At the hollow cavity tree, look to your right and you will notice a large pile of stones. This used to be a homestead and the farmer piled stones removed from his field here.

Next you will notice a cutover to your left. We are between two future golf greens.

At the end of this section, we climb a series of small hills until the existing 18th tee becomes visible through the trees on your left.

As we round the 18th tee, we go downhill to where the yellow trail began and where the information box is located.

Keep to your left and emerge over the rocks and back on the road. Proceed right over the bridge and then turn left, following the blue blazes down the travel service road and back to the Crimson Ridge parking lot.

With this, the Crimson Ridge Loop Trail is complete.

This trail is made possible by the generosity of our private landowners, including the Crimson Ridge Golf Course. Please respect the rights of our landowners and stay to the marked trail, pick up after your pet and take nothing but photographs.

Members of the Voyageur Trail Association receive:

- The Voyageur Trail News, a top-quality newsletter containing information of use and interest to members, including regular notification of trail changes 3 times a year;
- Free advertisements in the Voyageur Trail News to sell used trail equipment;
- A discount on the purchase of the Voyageur Trail Guidebook through the Association;
- A membership card to be carried at all times on the trail and which provides discounts at identified selected businesses along and near the trail route;
- The knowledge that you are aiding in the development and maintenance of an 1100-kilometre long (when complete) volunteer hiking trail through some of Ontario’s most spectacular scenery.

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM (07/14)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone (home) _____ (work/cell) _____

Email: _____

Email me notification when I can download the pdf newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP FEES: *Prices subject to change without notification.*

Individual: yearly @ \$25 or 3-years @ \$70..... = _____

Family/Group: yearly @ \$30 or 3-years @ \$85..... = _____

Full-time Student @ \$10 yearly or 3-years @ \$25..... = _____

Donation: Charitable Reg. #119261923RR0001

(tax receipt will be sent)..... = _____

Crest @ \$3 each..... = _____

Gift Certificates (in \$5 denominations)..... = _____

Guidebook (limit 2)

@ members \$30 / non-members \$40 = _____

Shipping/Handling for all MAILED Guidebooks... = \$ 12.00

TOTAL:..... \$ _____

If this is a gift, please provide name & address for the mailed acknowledgement.

Make cheques payable (in Cdn. funds) and mail to:
VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION, PO Box 20040,
150 Churchill Blvd., Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Canada P6A 6W3

(over)

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH:

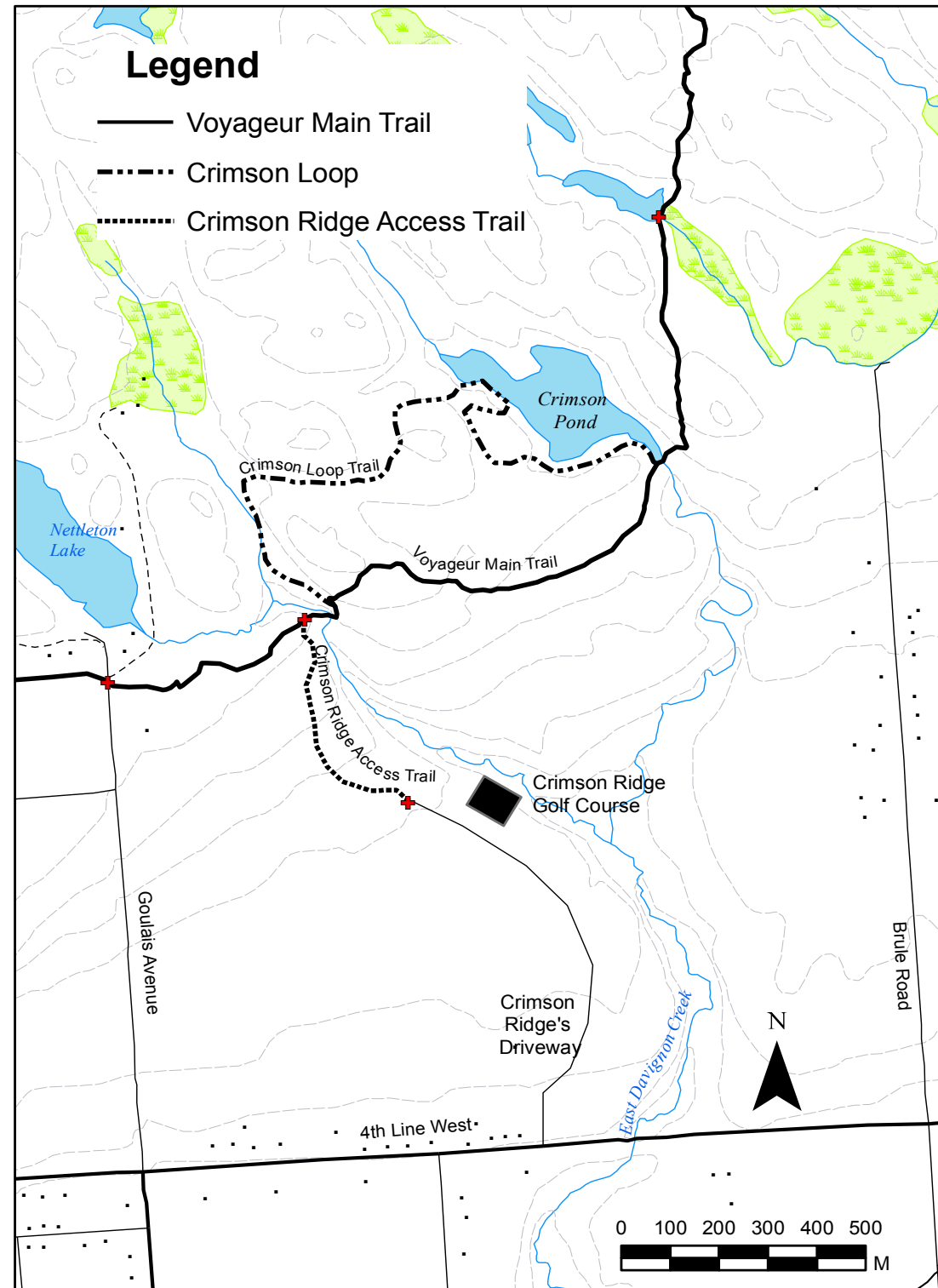
- Trail maintenance
- Trail development
- Hike leadership
- Organization-executive
- Newsletter or guidebook, photography
- Landowners, records
- Maps
- Publicity, Special events
- Sorry, not at this time.
- Contact me with information on what's needed, and I'll decide then.
- Please add my membership to the membership of the club closest to my home town, OR
- consider me a member-at-large, OR
- consider me as a member of the following club:

The Voyager Trail is a wilderness trail and some remote or little-used sections may be in poor condition due to fallen trees or regrowth of vegetation. You are welcome to use it but you do so at your own risk.

VOYAGEUR HIKING TRAIL USERS' CODE

- Hike only along marked routes. Do not take shortcuts.
 - Protect and do not disturb wildlife.
 - Do not climb fences.
 - Keep dogs under control (leash if necessary) and follow your club's guidelines concerning dogs).
 - Carry out all garbage (if you can carry it in, you can carry it out).
 - Light cooking fires at official campsites only. Drench fires after use (or better still, carry a light-weight hiker's stove).
 - Respect the privacy of people living along the trail. Walk around the edges of fields, not across them.
 - Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy.
 - Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photos.
 - Do not damage live trees or strip off bark.
- BE A LOW-IMPACT HIKER!**

DECLARATION: I understand that the Voyager Trail is a wilderness trail and some remote or little-used sections may be in poor condition due to fallen trees or regrowth of vegetation. I understand that I hike it at my own risk. I have read and will abide by the Trail Users' Code (above). (signature)



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The Voyager Hiking Trail Crimson Ridge Loop

This brochure is distributed free-of-charge compliments of the Voyager Trail Association (VTA).

Visit the VTA on the web (including our on-line store, a calendar of club events, information/ contacts for local clubs, trail photographs and much, much more) at:

www.voyageurtrail.ca



'Like' us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/voyageurtrailassociation>

The Sault Ste. Marie branch of the VTA is called the Saulteaux Voyager Trail Club and here is how you can contact us:

Phone 705-942-1891 (message machine available)

Internet: <http://www.voyageurtrail.ca/trailsssm.html>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Saulteaux.Voyageur.Trail.Club>

We are ALWAYS looking for volunteers to help with trail maintenance, club organization and the many other little jobs that help keep us a vibrant club. If you have talents to offer, we want to hear from YOU!