



NO. 112 FALL 2012

Published by the

VOYAGEUR TRAIL

ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 20040

150 Churchill Blvd.

Sault Ste. Marie, ON

P6A 6W3

1-877-393-4003

Visit our web site at:
www.voyageurtrail.ca

Email address: info@voyageurtrail.ca

The Voyageur Trail Association is a non-profit, volunteer group dedicated to building and maintaining a public hiking trail along the northern shores of Lakes Superior and Huron, from Thunder Bay to Sudbury.

The VTA is a member of Hike Canada En Marche, Hike Ontario, Ontario Trails Council, and Trans Canada Trail.

If you would prefer us to email you a short message when the colour VTA newsletter is available on our website, just send an email to:
info@voyageurtrail.ca

Inside this issue:

End-to-End Hikers 3

Cobre Lake Trail Sign Dedication 4

Outing Schedules 5

Constitution Change 7

Voyageur Trail News



No. 112, Fall 2012

EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

Voyageurs Take the Name Seriously!!

By Mark Crofts and Susan Graham



Group of 1812 Paddlers, including members of the Voyageur Trail Association

In keeping with the Voyageur name, a number of VTA members joined in a canoe paddle from Sault Ste. Marie to Fort St. Joseph to commemorate the attack and capture of Fort Mackinac at the start of the War of 1812. Two "Montreal canoes" and two "Northwest canoes" as well as a double kayak left the Sault on Sunday, July 15, under sunny skies to the cheers of onlookers at Bellevue Park. All along the way, paddlers were greeted by homeowners and cottagers on shore, as well as boaters.

We stopped for lunch at Squirrel Island, and were greeted by two pontoon boats full of cottagers. After lunch and a swim, we set off again, hoping the winds would favour us while crossing Lake George. The weather co-operated, we were in full song (although we had to revert to English camp songs, as many of us only knew one French song, and you can only sing "Alouette" so long!) and making great progress. We were feeling the heat, as well as our muscles, as Richards Landing came into view. As tired as we were, we had to put on a good show coming in for the people who had assembled on shore! The tall ship "Welcome" was there to greet us, too, by firing its cannon.

Supper was at the Legion hall, then most of us hit our tents early, as we had to do it all again on Monday. Some brave souls thought they would sleep under the big canoes on the beach with the re-enactors. They soon discovered the mosquitoes were worse under the canvas placed over the canoe than sleeping outside.

Cont'd on page 2

Even though their sleep wasn't the best, Mark and Cheryl were treated to a fabulous display of the Aurora Borealis when they moved outside to sleep in one of the canoes.

After a hearty breakfast, we hit the water again. There were now three Montreal canoes in the flotilla and two Northwest canoes. A few faces had left the group, and a number of new ones had joined, so it meant shuffling people's positions in the canoes. We were treated to a cookie break at Sailor's Encampment, followed by a tremendous lunch at Sunset Point hosted by the Young family and joined by their neighbours. Again, residents were coming out to greet us – we even had fireworks while passing one place. The enthusiasm of the onlookers was wonderful to see.

At lunch, it was decided that because of the rising wind and accompanying waves, we would remove the two smaller canoes from the water. Some paddlers elected to stay behind and help move all the gear, while the rest were reorganized into the three larger canoes for a 4-hour paddle into a headwind to the Fort. We arrived without incident – but it felt so good to stop paddling! Supper was provided for us, and, again it was an early night. The mosquitoes chased everyone into their tents at dark, although Ila and a few others could be observed directing the Sault College van moving canoes until later on.

On Tuesday, we were joined by still more bodies, as well as two birch-bark canoes (the third one was launched, but wasn't going to make it around the point above water!) The plan was for the canoe flotilla to come around the point and meet up with the tall ship Welcome and the brig Niagara, but an approaching freighter changed plans at the last minute. Hundreds were at the Fort to greet us, and we made an impressive sight in our Voyageur garb. By now, we were well-practised in our salute, too.

This was a wonderful experience for all who took part. The organization and planning was excellent, and Mark Crofts is to be congratulated for spearheading it. Thanks for the memories!

WARNING: NOXIOUS WEED

The Giant Hog Weed has been spotted in some sections of the Voyageur Trail. If you see it, **DO NOT TOUCH IT**. This plant is phototoxic, and "**touching it can result in blistering, long lasting scars and—if it comes in contact with eyes—blindness.**" (source Wikipedia). More information can be found here http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Libraries/TOPIC_Environment/Giant_Hogweed.sflb.ashx



End-to-End Hikers



The first of four hikes to do the HUB Trail End-to-End. From left to right: Mike Landmark, Lorna Ferguson, Jan Poulin-Zurawinsky, Gayle Phillips (leader), Poh Nyuk Fam, Laurie Russell, Teresa Belanger, Horst Scheliga.

Call for Nominations for the Steve Taylor Award

Nominations are being sought for the annual Steve Taylor Volunteer Award, which was created to honour an individual or group who, during the course of the previous year, contributed in an outstanding way to the goals of the Voyageur Trail Association.

If you know of someone who should be recognized for their commitment and devotion to the VTA, please send your nominations in before September 25, 2012 to the snail mail address: Voyageur Trail Association, P.O. Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd., Sault Ste. Marie ON P6A 6W3, or email them to: info@voyageurtrail.ca. Please include a short explanation of why you consider this person or persons deserving of the award. This year's winner will be announced at the Annual General Meeting in the fall.

VTA ANNUAL MEETING

The VTA Coordinating Council is planning its Annual General Meeting for October 27, 2012. This year's meeting will take place at Stokely Creek Lodge and include a hike to Robertson Lake Cliffs. The organizing committee is considering adding a dinner and/or speaker to the agenda to encourage members and the general public to attend. If you have ideas, please call Susan Graham at 705-949-4105 or email info@voyageurtrail.ca.



New Trail Sign at Cobre Lake *by Emily Windle*

Local hikers now have another reason to visit the Cobre Lake Trail north of Elliot Lake. Through the efforts of Alan Day there now is an attractive sign at the trail head. It has photos of plant and animal life found along the trail. It also has a map of the 11 km trail.

Saturday, June 16 an enthusiastic group of friends from local nature clubs gathered to show their appreciation to Alan Day for his work in arranging to have the new sign. After six years of persistence the sign is now reality.

Different members of local nature clubs and retired MNR personnel spoke about Alan's long lasting dedication in keeping the local trails open for all to enjoy.

Alan thanked those other volunteers who helped him in so many different projects as well as this new Cobre Lake Sign. He was presented with a plaque that has a quotation from Walt Disney: "If you can dream it, you can do it".

This is so true for Alan.



Elliot Lake trail enthusiasts at the Cobre Lake sign dedication ceremony



Alan Day proudly stands in front of the new Cobre Lake sign

Saulteaux Club Outing Schedule (Sault Ste. Marie)

Typical meeting locations: Goodlife building, 589 Second Line East (Second Line side); Market Mall, 275 Second Line West (on Korah Road corner); Churchill Plaza, 150 Churchill Blvd (on Trunk Road between Lake & Wellington Streets) near Beer Store; Wellington Square Mall, 625 Trunk Road, near the restaurant.

To see the outing schedules for other clubs, check the VTA website or call the local contact in the community of interest.

Saulteaux Club

(Sault Ste. Marie and area—outings marked with an asterisk (*) are outside Sault Ste. Marie). For all outings, bring water, a lunch, dress appropriately, and be prepared to sign an assumption of risk agreement.

Sat. Aug. 25 ~ Work party to spruce up a portion of the trail. Duration: about 4 hours. No previous trail experience necessary. Hand tools will be provided. Contact Steve at 705-946-2484 or sdominy1203@gmail.com for details or check the Saulteaux Club events calendar at <http://www.voyageurtrail.ca/> closer to the date.

Mon., Sept. 3 ~ Hike the Crimson Ridge Loop trail with Gayle 705-942-1891. Meet 10AM in the Market Mall to car pool. Behaved pets welcome.

Sat., Sept. 8 ~ Hike Robertson Cliffs. Call Mark 705-254-2356 for more info.

***Sun, Sept 9** - Hike to Burnt Rock Pool in LSPP. Bring swimsuit and lunch. Meet at the Goulais River Country Store (HWY 17N and Pineshores Road) at 9AM. Call Dawn at 705-649-4936.

THURSDAYS September 13 through to October 25 ~ Trail maintenance Thursdays! Tools are provided. Call Susan for details at 705-949-4105.

Sun., Sept. 16 ~ Algoma Highlands Conservancy Hike and Bike Day. Please join Carole at 1PM at Stokely Creek Lodge for a hike on

conservancy trails. This is a free event with the possibility to purchase food. Call Carole at 705-649-2235 for more details or you can visit <http://www.algomahighlandsconservancy.org/>

Mon., Sept. 17 ~ Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting at 7PM. Call 705-942-1891 for more info.

***Wed., Sept 19** ~ Hike in the Kensington Conservancy Black Hole (Desbarats area) --a 41-acre provincially significant wetland. Meet at Wellington Square Mall at 6PM to car pool (or at 6:45PM at the MacDougall Fuels service center gas station in Desbarats). Contact Mike 705-779-3409.

Sat., Sept. 22 ~ Hike in the Hiawatha Highlands with Jan 705 253-7536. Meet 10AM in the Goodlife parking lot to car pool.

***Sat., Sept. 29** ~ Paddle Tilley Lakes. Call Mark 705-254-2356 for more info.

***Sat. Sept. 29th** - Peat Mountain in LSPP - Join fellow hikers from Wawa on this hike up Peat Mountain in Lake Superior Provincial Park. Meet at the Goulais River Country Store (Pineshores and Hwy 17 north) at 8AM. We will driving to Rabbit Blanket Lake Campground for 10AM to meet with our co-hikers. Bring lunch, proper hiking footwear, plenty of water and lots of energy for this challenging hike. Be prepared to stop for supper on the way home. Call Carole 705-649-2235 for more details.

***Sat., Oct. 6** ~ Join our Naturalist friends and hike the Rock Lake area. Enjoy the fall colours. Meet at the Wellington Square Mall at the "South Market" end for 10AM to car pool. Call Ila 705-949-1097 for more info.

Sun., Oct. 14 ~ Hike the Superior shore at Red Rock with Jan 705 253-7536. Meet 10AM in the Goodlife parking lot to car pool.

Sat., Oct. 20 ~ Hike the Odena Loop Trail (Sixth Line-Connor Rd. area) with Steve. Meet at Goodlife Fitness Centre at 9:30AM to car pool. Call 705-946-2484 for more details, or check the online events calendar.

Sat., Oct. 27 ~ VTA Annual General meeting with a hike up Robertson Cliffs afterwards (approximately 2PM). Final details to be announced on our Facebook page at [<http://www.facebook.com/Saulteaux.Voyageur.Trail.Club>]

Sun., Oct. 28 ~ LAST DAY to register for Hike Ontario Leadership course! See Nov. 10 listing that follows.

***Sun., Nov. 4** ~ Melwel Road to Iron Bridge (weather permitting) with Susan 705-949-4105. Bring a lunch, plan on stopping for supper on the way home. No pets please, as we will need to do a shuttle. Meet 10AM at Churchill Plaza.

Sat., Nov. 10 ~ Hike Ontario certified HIKE LEADERSHIP COURSE. Cost \$75. Participants must have participated in at least 5 previous hikes. For



NEW!!

"Like" us on our Facebook page [<http://www.facebook.com/Saulteaux.Voyageur.Trail.Club>] and receive timely reminders of upcoming events. Don't be afraid of Facebook—you can have almost an empty page of personal information and still use it to get reminders from the Club.

more info, email to: info@voyageurtrail.ca or call 705-779-3409 BEFORE October 28.

***Sun., Nov. 18** ~Hike in the Goulais/Stokely area with Carole/Chris 705-649-2235. Meet at the Goulais River Country Store (Hwy 17 north and Pineshores) at 10AM. Call for details.

Con't on page 6

Saulteaux Club Outing Schedule *Cont'd*

Mon., Nov. 19 ~ Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting at 7PM. Call 705-942-1891 for more info.

Sun., Nov. 25 ~ Annual 'Gales of November' hike. Meet 10AM in the Goodlife parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets welcome. Call Gayle at 705-942-1891 for more info.

***Sun., Dec. 9** ~ Hike (or snowshoe, depending on snow conditions) in the Goulais/Stokely area with Carole/Chris 705-649-2235. Meet at the Goulais River Country Store (Hwy 17 north and Pineshores) at 10AM. Call for details.

Sat., Dec. 15 ~ VTAers are welcome to join Cheryl and Mark to walk/ski/snowshoe the Christmas Bird Count (Finn Hill to Water Tower Inn and return) via the Hub Trail. Call Mark 705-254-2356 for more info.

Wed., Dec. 26 ~ Boxing Day Snowshoe/Hike at Glenview Cottages with Don 705-946-9599. We'll enjoy some refreshments afterwards in the Glenview Common Room. Meet at Glenview at 10AM.

***Sat., Dec 29** - Snowshoe/Hike to the Harmony Beach Lookout. Meet at the Goulais River Country Store (HWY 17N and Pineshores Road) at 10AM. Call Dawn at 705-649-4936.

Tues., Jan. 1 (New Year's Day) ~ Embrace the new year with a hike/snowshoe in the Camp Korah area. Bring lunch. Meet at Good Life @ 10:30 AM. Call Ila 705-949-1097 for more info.

Sun., Jan. 6 ~ Snowshoe (or hike) with Gayle 705-942-1891. Meet 10AM at Goodlife to car pool. Behaved pets welcome. Call for more info.

Sat., Jan. 19 ~ Snowshoe Connor Rd to Trout Lake. Call Mark 705-254-2356 for more info.

Mon., Jan. 21 ~ Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting at 7PM. Call 705-942-1891 for more info.



Buy a Gift Certificate!!

Looking for a practical gift for that outdoor lover on your list? Consider buying a gift certificate valid for purchases made through the on-line store. The store offers new or renewed memberships, guidebooks, GPS maps and more. Certificates can be purchased using your credit card on our secure PayPal site. Visit www.voyageurtrail.ca.



2013 Marks 40th Anniversary of the VTA!!

It was in 1973 that the first section of the Voyageur Trail was completed in the Sault Ste. Marie area. A committee is being struck to plan events to help celebrate this achievement across the entire trail system. Anyone who has ideas for marking this occasion and/or is interested in helping out is invited to contact Steve Dominy at 705-946-2484 or sdominy1203@gmail.com.

experience The East Coast Trail with Brown Rabbit Walkabout

Hike 250 kms of beautiful coastal trails on the Avalon Peninsula in Newfoundland with our help.

We provide transportation from & to St. John's Airport, to and from trail heads, and three meals a day with accommodations.

For prices and information contact Isa.



Phone: 1-709- 334-2208
email: brownrabbitcabins@nf.aibn.com

Fax: 1-709- 334-3601
www.brownrabbit.nl.ca

Proposed Constitution Change

The following proposed change will be voted on at the fall Annual General Meeting (changes are in bolded italics).

ARTICLE 3—COORDINATING COUNCIL

2. The business of the Association shall be directed by a Coordinating Council, including the following officers who will serve as its executive:

President,

Past President,

Vice-Presidents: East, Central, and West,

Treasurer/Tool Master,

Recording Secretary,

Membership Secretary/Landowner Database Administrator,

Publicity Director and Social Media Coordinator,

Database Manager,

Hike Ontario Representative,

Guidebook Coordinator,

Newsletter Editor,

Insurance Coordinator,

Two Directors-at-Large and

a Standing Committee of all club executives but no more than two representatives with voting privileges from each recognized active club (elected by the club's membership).

The number of officers may increase or decrease as deemed necessary by the Coordinating Council. Where possible, it will be discouraged to hold two positions on the Coordinating Council concurrently. Each person shall have one vote for the transaction of business except the Chair of the meeting. (Refer to Article 3.8)

In no case shall the Positions of President and Treasurer be held concurrently by the same individual.

"In the event, and as long as there is no candidate elected to the position of President of the VTA and the position stands to remain vacant, it shall be fulfilled on a rotating basis by each Vice-President in turn for a period of two (2) years from election year to election year."

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION & STORE (please print legibly) 09/12

(For more details and to purchase products and memberships visit our secure on-line store at www.voyageurtrail.ca)

Name: _____ Phone (home): _____ (work/cell): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Prov./State: _____ Postal/Zip Code: _____ Please check one: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Prices subject to change without notification.

For: GPS maps (Garmin units only) &

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

PDF Hiking trail guide individual sections } visit our on-line Store.

Family or Group: yearly @ \$30 or three-years @ \$85 = _____

Full-time Student @ \$10 yearly = _____

Please send my VTA newsletter via: ☐ Postal delivery to above address.

Donations Charitable Reg. #119261923RR0001 (tax receipt will be sent) = _____

☐ Reminder to download PDF from VTA web site

____ Crest @ \$3 each = _____

My email is: _____

____ Guidebook (limit 2) @ members \$25 / non-members \$35 = _____

Make cheques payable and mail to:

Shipping/Handling for ALL MAILED Guidebooks..... = \$ 8.00

**VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION, P. O. Box 20040,
150 Churchill Blvd., Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Canada P6A 6W3**

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Cdn. funds).....= \$ _____

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

(over)

The Voyageur Trail News is published three times per year. Your articles and photos are welcome! **Deadline for the next issue is December 1, 2012.**

Mail to Cheryl Landmark, c/o
Voyageur Trail Association,
PO Box 20040, 150 Churchill
Blvd., Sault Ste. Marie, ON
P6A 6W3

Tel. 705-779-3409 or e-mail to
cheryl.landmark@sympatico.ca

Articles in this newsletter can be
copied if credit is given to the
Voyageur Trail Association.

We're on the Web!
www.voyageurtrail.ca

Contacts:
Thunder Bay: Kelsey Johansen
807-627-3734
Casques Isles: Doug Stefurak
807-824-2724
Marathon: Volunteer contact
needed
Michipicoten: Andy Stevens
705-856-2884
Saulteaux: Gayle Philips
705-942-1891
Bruce Mines/Thessalon:
Volunteer contact needed
Penewobikong: Joanne Marck
705-843-2199
Coueurs de Bois: Emily
Windle 705-848-8767

Voyageur Trail News—Fall 2012



VTa CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL

President -
Susan Graham 705-949-4105

Vice-President West - vacant

Vice-President Central -
Susan Graham (Acting)
705-949-4105

Vice-President East - vacant

Treasurer/Tools Inventory -
Gail Andrew 705-942-0768

General Secretary - vacant

Membership/Landowners -
Mike Landmark 705-779-3409

**Publicity Director/Social
Media Coordinator -**
Kelsey Johansen
807-627-3734

**Hike Ontario
Representative -**
Carole Blaquiére 705-649-2235
Alternate (vacant)

Insurance Coordinator -
Larry Gringorten 705-949-7953

Guidebook Committee -
Steve Dominy 705-946-2484

Data Management -
Bob Sinclair 705-946-3126

Director(s) -at-Large (2) -
Dawn Elmore 705-649-4936
1 vacant

Newsletter Committee -

Editor:
Cheryl Landmark 705-779-3409

Layout by:
Dawn Elmore 705-649-4936

*For information on any of
these positions (especially the
vacant ones), please contact
us at our toll-free number
1-877-393-4003.*

Voyageur Hiking Trail Users' Code

- Hike only along marked routes. Do not take short cuts.
- Do not climb fences.
- 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 lightweight hiker's stove)
- Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy.
- Do not damage live trees or strip off bark.
- Protect and do not disturb wildlife.
- Keep dogs under control (leash if necessary) and follow your club's guidelines concerning dogs.
- Respect the privacy of people living off the trail. Walk around the edges of fields, not across them.
- Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photographs. BE A LOW-IMPACT HIKER!!

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH:

- ☐ Trail maintenance ☐ Trail development ☐ Hike leader ☐ Organization—executive, directors
- ☐ Newsletter, guidebook, photography ☐ Landowner records, maps ☐ Publicity committee ☐ 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 list of the club closest to my home, OR ☐ consider me a member-at-large, OR
- ☐ consider me as a member of the following club _____.

Voyageur Hiking Trail Users' Code

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

DECLARATION: I understand that the Voyageur 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 I hike it at my own risk. I have read and will abide by the Trail Users' Code (above).

(signature): _____