



NO. 124 FALL 2016

Published by the

VOYAGEUR TRAIL
ASSOCIATION

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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.

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Voyageur Trail News



No. 124, Fall 2016

EDITOR: Fiona Ortiz

VTA Annual Report by Carole Blaquiere, VTA President

Over the past year the VTA has continued to move forward on some projects, such as the strategic planning session and further development of trails on the northern shore of Lake Superior. The Nor'wester club has gone from having their one last executive step down to being revived by new participants in the Nipigon area. In Elliot Lake, the Coureurs de Bois have continued to increase their membership, bucking the trend everywhere else and in Marathon, the Group of Seven Trail is currently going through an environmental assessment with the hopes of building trail next year. The Casque Iles hiking club has a new executive who continue their partnership with Lake Superior National Marine Park.

The strategic planning group worked on developing two surveys, with support from the Ontario Trails Council. Both the Board Member and Trail User surveys were launched in the spring to collect data to guide the strategic planning along with the results of two SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) exercises. One more SWOT exercise is planned for the northern region.

Trail maintenance continues to be done by dedicated volunteers along the trail. Trail Maintenance week was May 14th to the 22nd. There was a successful launch in Sault Ste. Marie at the Hiawatha Conservancy building, also known as the sugar shack. Most trails in the conservancy were spruced up to get ready for the summer season. Trail maintenance was also done in the Echo Ridges, Casque Iles and Saulteaux area.

The Nor'wester club has new members/executives from the Nipigon area. They are working hard to include new loop trails under the VTA banner. The first, The Deer Lake Trail was official launched at the beginning of August with some new signage and a youtube video (see article in this edition).

The VTA was represented at the Northern Trails Conference in Marathon by Chris Kuntz, who received the Ontario Trails Council's Trail User Award in recognition of our efforts in building the regional connectivity, by bringing communities together through significant trail development. This really reflects the efforts of the folks along the north shore of Lake Superior to develop and revive trails in the area. (cont'd on page 2)



Chris Kuntz receiving The Trail User Award on behalf of the VTA from Mr. Jack De Wit, president of the Ontario Trails Council.

(cont'd from page 1)

Membership overall has increased due to the increase of membership of the Coureurs de Bois club. They have over 100 members. The club continues to offer a number of different hikes each week and participate in a number of volunteer opportunities as a group such as Winterfest and acting as Park Ambassadors for Mississagi Park.

The partnership between the Casque Iles club and the LSNMP continues to be valuable. The park supports the signage and maintenance of the trail which provides opportunities to enjoy the Marine Park from shore. A guided hike to the red chairs in July provided the participants with excellent views as in the picture below.

In Gros Cap, the Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy (LSWC) is developing a new loop trail through the Dr. Frederick van Nus Preserve off the Voyageur Trail. Look for this new hiking opportunity in the new year.

All in all it has been an active year developing, maintaining, and promoting the Voyageur Trail.



Parks Canada Red Chairs, Casque Isles Hiking Trail, Schreiber Beach

Your smile for the day
Submitted by Susan Graham

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me. I have to walk early in the morning, before my brain figures out what I'm doing. If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.



Check out the YouTube Video on the Deer Lake Trail at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4IEutF6_hQ



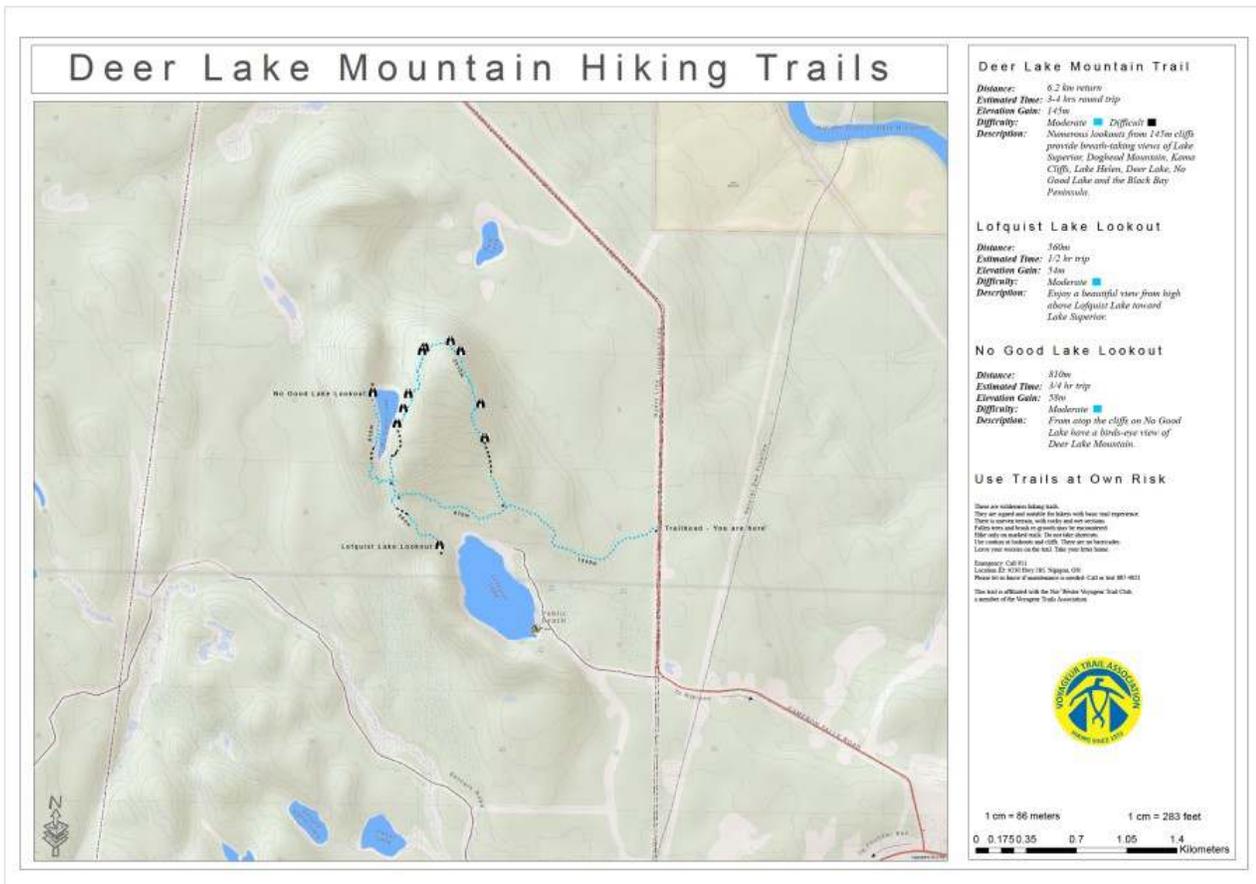
Flurry of Activity on Nipigon/Red Rock Hiking Trails *Submitted by Suzanne Kukko*

Hiking trails are a huge source of local pride for the citizens of Nipigon and Red Rock. With world class views, an abundance of wildlife, and enough day hikes to fill a fortnight, there is plenty to be proud of. Just one hour east of Thunder Bay, these trails are some of the best kept secrets on the north shore. Although many lifelong residents know where a trailhead starts, and which fork in the path to take, new citizens or visitors don't know where to begin. As well, many of the trails don't have the infrastructure that they deserve. Lack of resources – financial and human – has been a major stumbling block. However, over the past year, volunteers, staff, and a number of organizations have been working together to improve the local trail systems. Signage and infrastructure has been a major focus.

Lloyd's Lookout on the Nipigon River Recreation Trail, now has an amazing viewing platform overlooking Red Rock and Nipigon Bay in the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area. Parks Canada and the Township of Nipigon are pleased to work together to support the Land of Nipigon Waterways Development Association and the Nipigon River Recreation Trail network on this first of three new viewing platforms being built this summer. This project will offer visitors a chance to connect with nature and to safely enjoy one of the region's beautiful lookouts and take in the spectacular views of the LSNMCA. Begin your hike at the Nipigon River Recreation Trailhead located off of highway 628 (Red Rock Road) and hike 20 minutes up the newly designed trail with markers to reach the new viewing platform at Lloyd's Lookout. Continue up the trail 10 minutes to Parks Canada's red chairs where you can sit, relax and enjoy the breathtaking view!

Only a short drive north, **Deer Lake Mountain Trail** has been cleared and signed by a dedicated team of volunteers and students. Drive approximately 3 km north up highway 585 (at the Petro) to the trailhead. There is ample parking, and a trailhead sign on the left marks the start of your journey. This challenging hike can take three hours, so make sure you pack plenty of water and snacks, and dress for the conditions. You can even watch a video about the trail: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4IEutF6_hQ&feature=youtu.be.

The trailhead is located 6 km from downtown Nipigon. From Hwy 17, travel 3.4 km north on Hwy 585. *(cont'd on page 4)*



(cont'd from page 3)



Photo by Jim McCullough



Photo by Daniela Carlino

Deer Lake Trail Photos

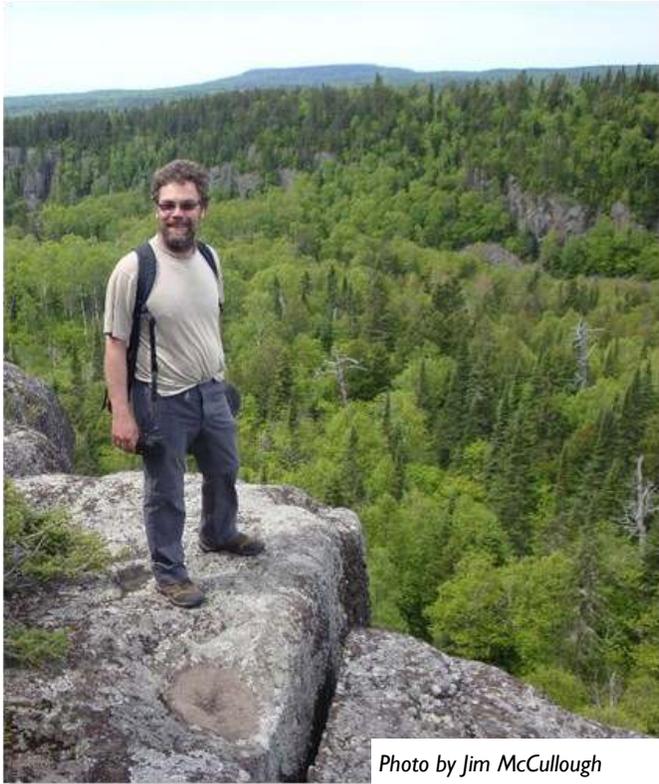


Photo by Jim McCullough



Photo by Jim McCullough

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 Second Line side near Country Style Donuts); Wellington Square Mall, 625 Trunk Road (near the corner of Trunk Road and South Market Street). All outings are volunteer-led. If you participate, you do so at your own risk. Call the outing leader listed for more information about that specific outing.



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

Interested in work parties? Trimming trees and putting up blazes is an ongoing job on the Voyageur Trail. Work parties are put together in spring, summer and fall. If you would like to spend some time helping us to keep the trail well-marked and free from undergrowth, send your contact information to Don at: mcgormd@hotmail.com or call 705-946-9599.

***Indicates an out-of-town Outing**

Sat., Oct. 15 ~ Hike the Gros Cap Loop trail with Gayle (705-942-1891). Meet at 11am in the Market Mall parking lot near Country Style Donuts to car pool. For more info, call 705-942-1891.

Sat., Oct. 22 ~ Work party on the Saulteaux Section of the Voyageur Trail with Susan (705-949-4105). Tools provided. Call for meeting place and time. (rain date - Sun., Oct. 23rd.)

Mon., Nov. 21 ~ 7PM Saulteaux Club Meeting. Location TBA. Call Gayle at 705-942-1891 for more info.

Mon., Dec. 26 ~ Boxing Day Snowshoe/Hike at Hiawatha Highlands with Don (voice messages: 705-945-1573). We'll enjoy some refreshments afterwards in the clubhouse. Meet at the Hiawatha Highlands clubhouse (780 Landslide Road) at 11AM. Please leave your pets at home.

Don't see an outing on the schedule to YOUR favourite spot? Why not consider leading an outing yourself! The Saulteaux Voyageur Trail Club supports its members by paying their expenses to take a one-day-long Hike Ontario Leadership course if you lead for the club.

We have to collect a few names in order to hold a course locally so the sooner your name goes on the list, the sooner the session can be held. In the meantime, perhaps you can be paired with an experienced leader to start introducing folks to YOUR favourite spots on the Voyageur Trail. Call 705-942-1891 for more information on how you can get involved.



The VTA received the following letter from Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport:

September 1, 2016

Dear trails community member,

I am pleased to announce that the Ontario Trails Act, 2016 and amendments to the Occupiers' Liability Act and Trespass to Property Act have been proclaimed in full and came into force today.

As a member of the trails community, your contribution to the passing of this legislation was indispensable. I want to thank everyone who has supported this process through to its successful conclusion, and that includes the trail providers, the trail users, and all stakeholders. Ontario is home to over 80,000 kilometres of trails that support recreation, tourism and active transportation. Each year, millions of Ontarians and visitors from outside the province experience our world class trails system. Trails encourage explorers of all ages and abilities to visit our unique communities and support local economies and jobs.

As you know, 2017 marks the 150th anniversary of both Canada and Ontario. This celebratory year will be a time of excitement and inspiration. It will be a time for the province, as a founding member and leader in Confederation, to engage all Ontarians in commemorating and celebrating our 150th anniversary. I am excited that the inaugural Ontario Trails Week will take place during this celebratory year, and I hope that the trails community will embrace this opportunity to showcase our world class trails and the natural wonders of our great province.

I also look forward to collaborating with the trails community to work on key elements of the Ontario Trails Act, 2016, including:

- Developing a process for recognizing Ontario Trails of Distinction;
- Establishing a voluntary trail classification system;
- Establishing voluntary best practices; and
- Periodically reviewing the Ontario Trails Strategy.

There are many exciting possibilities ahead as we continue our efforts to build strong communities across the province that are exciting, creative and healthy places to live, work and play.

Thank you again for doing your part to enable the passage of this important piece of legislation.

All my best,

Eleanor McMahon
Minister



Feeling creative?? Been on the Voyageur Trail lately and have a story you want to get down on paper??...

*The next newsletter deadline is December 1st!! Send your submissions to:
info@voyageurtrail.ca*

Fall is one of the best times of year to be out on the Voyageur Trail! View from Robertson Lake Cliffs lookout in October 2016. Photo submitted by Dawn Elmore.



VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION & STORE *(please print legibly)* 10/16
(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.

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

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

Full-time Student @ \$10 yearly = _____

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

____ Crest @ \$3 each = _____

____ Guidebook (limit 2) @ members \$30/non-members \$40 = _____

Shipping/handling for ALL MAILED Guidebooks.....=\$12

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

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

For: GPS maps (Garmin units only) & } visit our on-line Store.
PDF Hiking trail guide individual sections

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

__ Reminder to download PDF from VTA web site

My email is: _____

Make cheques payable and mail to: _____

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION, P. O. Box 20040,
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(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, 2016.

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Tel. 705-942-5709 or e-mail to
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Articles in this newsletter can be
copied if credit is given to the
Voyageur Trail Association.

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

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Voyageur Trail News—Fall 2016



VTA CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL

President -

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Membership/Landowners -

Chris Kuntz 705-649-2235

Data Management -

Bob Sinclair 705-946-3126

Vice-President West - Kirstin

Spence 807-889-0602

Publicity Director/Social

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vacant

Director(s) -at-Large (2) -

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Amber Jones

Vice-President Central -

Vacant

Hike Ontario
Representative -

Carole Blaquiére 705-649-2235
Alternate (vacant)

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Vice-President East - Patricia

Wynter 705-842-0123

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Treasurer/Tools Inventory -

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705-255-2177

Guidebook Committee -

Steve Dominy 705-946-2484

General Secretary - Tricia

Kelly 705-910-1795

For information on any of these positions (especially the vacant ones), please email us at info@voyageurtrail.ca.

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 _____.

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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): _____