



NO. 111 SPRING 2012

Published by the
**VOYAGEUR TRAIL
ASSOCIATION**

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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

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Voyageur Trail News

No. 111, Spring 2012

EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

Wow — Revitalization of the Thunder Bay Club showcased at Central Ontario Outdoors Show!!



VTA booth at the Central Ontario Outdoors Show in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Congrats to Ron Lee Kim—winner of the give away at the Reel Paddling Film Festival

Developing Trail Connections in the Thunder Bay Region and Beyond

By: Kelsey Johansen

It's an exciting time to be a hiker in Northern Ontario!

2017 Trans Canada Trail Connectivity Plan

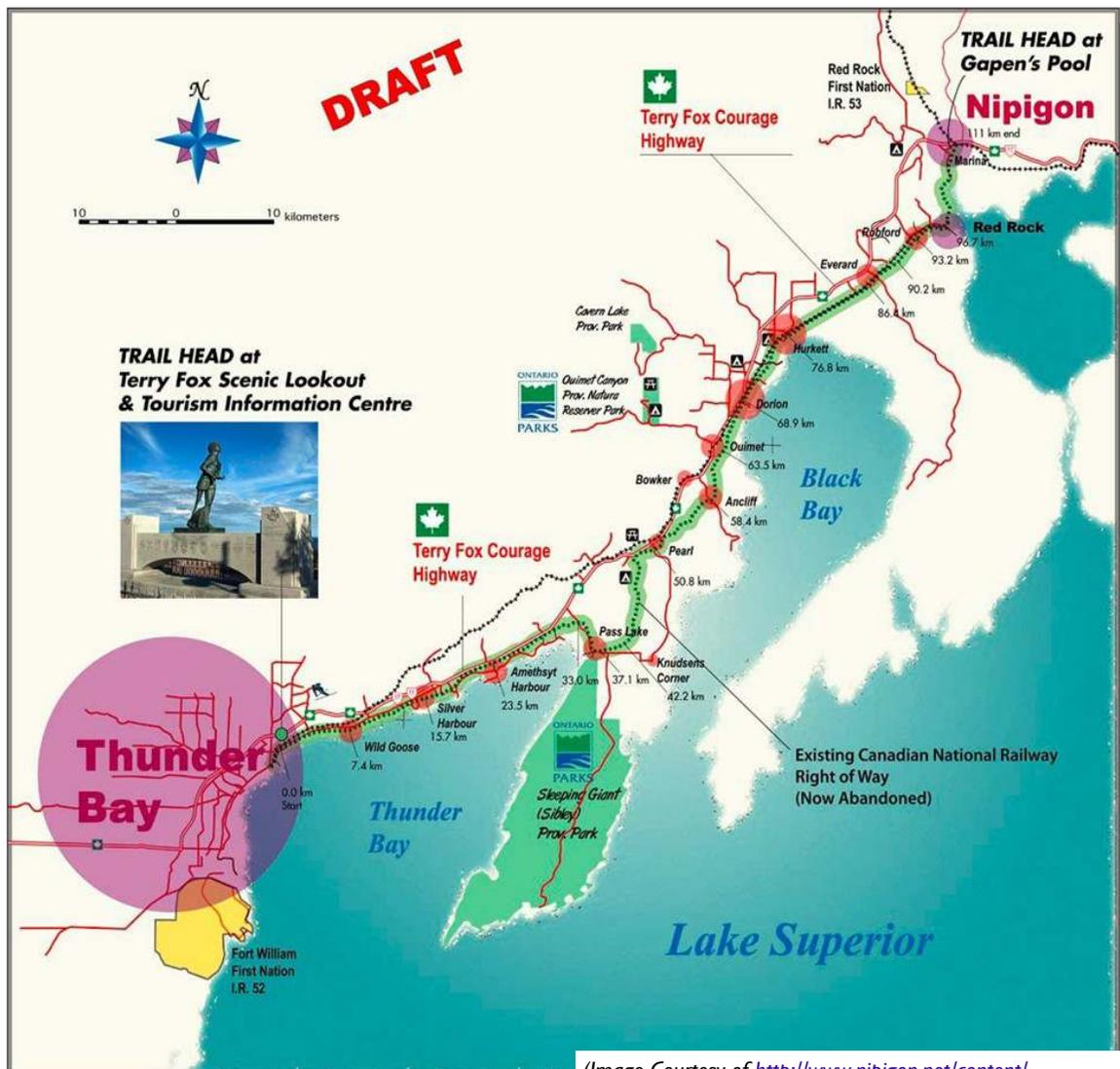
Kinghorn Rails to Trails Project

Proposed Neebing Paddling Corridor in the West

How You Can Get Involved: The Thunder Bay Regional Trail Committee

The potential Kinghorn Rail Trail project would create a 110km multi-use four season trail linking the communities of Nipigon, Red Rock, Dorion, Shuniah and Thunder Bay. These five communities have initiated an initial Feasibility Study which is now underway, as well as an engineering study (underway shortly) to assess the existing bridges along the route.

The five noted communities have established an Ad Hoc committee and a Working Group to pursue the project and have hired MacLeod Farley & Associates to undertake a Feasibility Study in February and March 2011. The release of the feasibility study is expected in the next few months, and the date will be announced as soon as it is known. A draft Concept Paper was released on March 12th.



(Image Courtesy of <http://www.nipigon.net/content/>)

Voyageur Trail Association Strategic Plan and Vision *by Carole Blaquiere*

On December 18, 2011, a small group of VTA Coordinating Council members met to brainstorm about how a strategic planning process could assist in solidifying the future vision of the VTA. The participants were Susan Graham, Kelsey Johansen, Dawn Elmore, Steve Dominy, Kirsten Spence and Carole Blaquiere.

The group discussed the formalization of a "Vision Committee" to bring a recommendation on strategic planning to the VTA Coordinating Council. The goal of the vision committee would be to develop a 5-year strategic plan with an accompanying work-plan to achieve a vision. A plan will allow the club to move forward and tackle some of the challenges it faces. The committee believes that this will be a long process which may take a year or two to complete. The Coordinating Council needs to consider its current human resource/volunteer capacity and its ability to support a process such as the proposed. The plan should include membership input, trail development and type (water and land), risk management planning, succession planning, communications planning, and a marketing planning.

There is funding available to support the development of a strategic plan with accompanying marketing and communications plan. NOHFC has funds for this purpose which could allow the VTA to hire a consultant. A consultant could travel to each community to engage the local membership. Grants must be applied for at the start of the process to be applicable. There are also other funding sources that could be approached.

It is important that the membership be involved in the process. Possible methods to achieve this include surveys to fill out prior to hikes, online surveys, and visits to other clubs. Other stakeholders should also be approached such as the local university, colleges and regional tourism organizations. For instance the VTA trail could be used as a catalyst to promote the Lake Superior Heritage Coast project. Colleges and universities could provide information on how to involve youth.

At the coordinating councils last meeting this was discussed and we decided to go ahead with the process. Funding will be applied for, and if successful a request for proposal will be developed to find a suitable consultant to help with the process. If and when we achieve this point we will need to determine what we are going to be discussing. A preliminary list has been developed and is listed below;

Goal or Vision

- ◇ Long term goal/vision – Should we revisit the existing vision.
- ◇ Determine through membership input what should the focus of our efforts be in the next 5 years.
- ◇ Develop an updateable plan that can be re-worked every 5 years with ease and minimal time and resources involvement; Update the Strategic Plan during year 4, for a new 5 year plan that abuts previous plan

Trail type

- ◇ A continuous walking trail or trail system, connected with other trail types (loop, water-based, other compatible trail uses)?
- ◇ Include access points, parking issues
- ◇ Walkable trail of interest that generates popularity and drives involvement of the local population in maintaining the trail

VTA brand—Update/Revitalize the brand

Volunteer recruitment and succession planning

Membership and membership model - is it needed, if so how to increase membership

Board/Council makeup and meetings- Is the current makeup most efficient?

Trail audit and maintenance

- ◇ Long term sustainability plan for maintenance of the existing trail and any new trail that is built.
- ◇ Trail audit plans for both insurance and risk management

Partnerships with the TCT and other organizations

- ◇ TCT is very interested in the VTA and willing to assist in anyway they can.
- ◇ Schools - Lakehead U, Algoma U, Sault College, Laurentian, College Boreal and Cambrian College
- ◇ Engagement public and increase awareness
- ◇ Identify opportunities for partnerships

(Cont'd on page 4)

VTA Strategic Plan

Cont'd from page 3

Landowners – Keeping our landowners in the loop and formal agreements

Staff and Interns – Should we have personnel, how do we use them efficiently

Signage – Should we have consistent signage?

Social media – Role in VTA?

If any VTA members have input on the process, please email info@voyageurtrail.ca and your message will be forwarded to the Visioning Committee!



Coureurs de Bois News

Since January we have had special events . We had two moonlight hikes in January and in February. There were 28 participants on the first hike in January . That hike lead us through the bush to a lake close to our golf course . There were less than a dozen brave souls who ventured out to Horne Lake Island on our moonlight hike in February. On both hikes we had hotdogs , marshmallows and hot chocolate over a camp fire. One enterprising snowshoe hiker even brought potatoes to bake in the coals.

At the end of February, as part of our local winter carnival Winterfest, our club partnered with the local Algoma Health Unit and the City of Elliot Lake to provide snowshoe hikes for the public as part of a community project to promote healthy living. The local ATV club lent us the use of their clubhouse for the day. There were nutritious snacks supplied by the AHU, as well as volunteers to help with snowshoes. Our club volunteers lead participants on several hikes to a camp fire prepared by our volunteers on Horne Lake Island. Once there, people were treated to hot chocolate and hotdogs. This year was a resounding success with over 75 participants. For many of the participants this was their first time on snowshoes.

In March our members were invited to a snowshoe hike across Dunlop Lake to the cottage of one of our members. This is an annual event. It is a potluck lunch . We got to just sit on the deck and take in the warm March sunshine or go on another snowshoe hike to explore Ten Mile Lake north of Dunlop Lake.

Our new sign for the Cobre Lake Trail is nearing completion. It features photos of local flora and fauna that hikers will see along the 13 km trail. It also gives a brief history of the area. It is 4 feet by 8 feet in size and will be an inspiring sight to an already spectacular part of our area. Thanks to Alan Day for all of his hard work with the design and concept of this sign. It will be installed at the trailhead of Cobre Lake by Laird Signs in April . The official dedication of the sign will be in June.



In the Penewobikong Section



Above: Photo of the stewardship crew working on trail changes south of Cataract Lake.

Below: Shot of part of the large areas of blowdown at Pike Lake.



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.

Thurs., May 3 ~ Work party with Susan^ (705-949-4105). Call for details.

Fri., May 4th to Sun., May 6th ~ Volunteers are needed to help “man” a VTA DISPLAY at Passport to Unity (at the Essar Centre). Please call Don at 705-946-9599.

***Sun., May 6** ~ Hike through early spring wildflowers to Robertson Cliffs with Mark^ (705-254-2356). Call for meeting place and time.

Thurs., May 10 ~ Work party with Susan^ (705-949-4105). Call for details.

Sun., May 13 (Mother’s Day) ~ Hike the trails at Horst’s place. Bring lunch, water and meet at Horst Wetzl’s cabin (driveway begins at the northern terminus of Peoples Road). Call Horst at 705-971-4812 or 705-542-8978 or Gayle at 705-942-1891.

Mon., May 14th ~ Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting at 7PM. Call Gayle at 705-942-1891 for more info. (*NOTE—moved to second Monday in May because of the Victoria Day holiday.

***Sun., May 20** ~ Hike in Pancake Bay area with Ila^ (705-949-1097). Meet 10AM at Goodlife; no pets please.

***Sat., June 2** ~ Paddle Trout Lake with Mark^ (705-254-2356) and the Sault Naturalists. Call for meeting place and time.

Sat. June 16 ~ Cycle tour east of the Sault - route to be determined. Bike helmet is mandatory. Bring water, snack, & (if necessary) rain gear. Bring your own lunch or dine at a local eatery (tentative) before returning. Total return distance about 35 km. Easy to moderate pace on paved roads. Register in advance with Steve at 705-946-2484 or sdominy1203@gmail.com. Check the Saulteaux Club events calendar at <http://www.voyageurtrail.ca/> for route details and changes.

Sat., June 23 ~ Hike at Red Rock cottage area with Jan (705-253-7536). Meet 10AM at Goodlife at 10AM. Don’t forget to bring the sun screen and bug repellent along with your lunch.

Sun., July 1 (Canada Day) ~ HUB Trail Challenge between 10AM and 2PM finishing at the Roberta Bondar Pavilion for all kinds of draws at 3PM. Get your passport stamped at the Voyageur Trail display on Third Line near the Great Northern Road corner. Giveaways ~ fun ~ exercise and more! Watch media and our Facebook page for more information.

***Sat., July 7** ~ Hike the Orphan Lake Trail with Garry^ (705-949-1302). Meet 9AM at

Goodlife to car pool. Please leave your pets at home for this outing.

Sun., July 15-17 ~ Opportunities to paddle in a Voyageur Canoe (or in your own boat) from Sault Ste. Marie to Fort St. Joe as part of the opening ceremonies celebrating the War of 1812. Mark^ at 705-254-2356 for more info.

Mon., July 16 ~ Saulteaux Voyageur Trail Club bi-monthly meeting at 7PM. After the business meeting we will plan our fall outing schedule. Call Gayle at 705-942-1891 for more info.

***Sat., July 21** ~ Hike in the Desbarats/Bruce Mines area with Dieter & Erika (705-942-9636) followed by a swim and potluck dinner. Please leave your pets at home for this outing. Meet 10AM in the Wellington Square Mall.

***Sat., July 28th** (rain day Sunday the 29th) ~ Annual paddle down the Goulais River (2-3 hours) to the Bay and potluck with Carole^ & Chris (705-649-2235). Please bring a dish to share at potluck afterwards. Your boat must be equipped with the safety gear required by Coast Guard regulations and it is mandatory for you to wear a pfd. Call for more details.

***Sat., Aug. 4** ~ Cycle loop tour on St. Joe Island to Hilton Beach and back. Meet at 10:30 am (tentative) in the car pool area on Hwy 548, just off Hwy 17. Bike helmet is mandatory. Bring water, snack, & (if necessary) rain gear. Bring your own



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.

lunch or dine at one of the eateries before returning. Total return distance about 35 km. Easy to moderate pace on paved roads. Register in advance with Larry at 705-541-5674 or 705-949-7953. Contact Larry or check the Saulteaux Club events page for August at <http://www.voyageurtrail.ca/eventssaulteaux.html> for route details and changes.

Saulteaux Club Outing Schedule *Cont'd*

Sun., Aug. 19 ~ Hike the Gros Cap Loop with Gayle^ (705-942-1891). Meet 10AM in the Market Mall to car pool. Behaved pets welcome.

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](tel: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.



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Anniversaries mean fun events this summer!

2012 marks the 100th anniversary of the city of Sault Ste. Marie and to help celebrate it and the completion of the HUB Trail route, the Sault Trails Advocacy Committee is inviting all to a special event on July 1st--the first ever HUB Trail Challenge. The 24-kilometre HUB Trail will have "stations" set up upon it between 10AM and 2PM. At these "stations" you will be able to get a "passport" and have it stamped at each station you visit. Also at each station, there will be give-aways and maybe even small events for you and your family. (The Saulteaux Voyageur Trail Club will host a "station" on the Third Line, close to the corner of Great Northern Road so watch for us.) Once you get your passport stamped at as many "stations" as you would like, you make your way to the Roberta Bondar Pavilion where you can join in on Canada Day festivities and enter your passport in a series of draws for extra special giveaways. Final details, plus a map of the entire HUB Trail will be published in a full-colour magazine included in the June 27th edition of Sault This Week. Watch for it!

Also in 2012, there is a celebration of the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. Leading up to the opening ceremonies of the grand celebration taking place at Fort St. Joe on St. Joseph Island on Tuesday, July 17th, there is opportunity to volunteer to become part of a voyageur canoe paddle between Sault Ste. Marie and St. Joseph Island between July 15 and 17, culminating in the grand celebration. If you have your own boat you wish to take instead, there's room for you too! Why not get the family involved for a little history, fun and exercise? For more details, visit www.algoma1812.ca, email to: algoma1812@gmail.com or call: 705-949-1812.

And Now for a Photo Quiz!!

We often fill the newsletter with articles to read; however, this month, the last section of the newsletter is dedicated to a photo quiz courtesy of Steve Dominy. Take some time to look carefully at the photos numbered 1-10 to see if you can guess where on the Voyageur Trail they were taken. Write down your answers and check on page 9 of the newsletter to see how many you had correct!! (Extra points if you can guess the people in the photos)!!



PHOTO 1

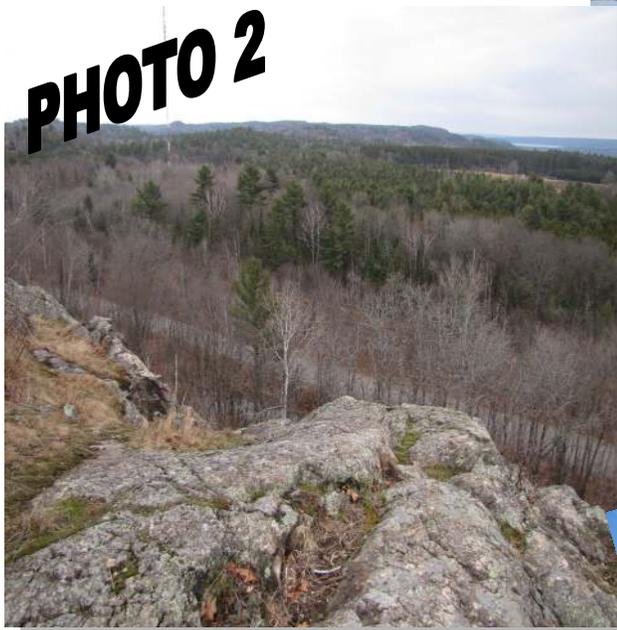


PHOTO 2



PHOTO 4



PHOTO 3





PHOTO 5



PHOTO 7



PHOTO 6



PHOTO 8



PHOTO 9



PHOTO 10

And The Answers Are...

- 1. King Mountain – Stokely Section
2. Odena Loop Trail Lookout – Saulteaux Section
3. Robertson Cliff lookout – Stokely Section
4. Red Rock on Lake Superior - Saulteaux Section
5. Tower Lake – Echo Ridges Section
6. Baldhead River bridge – Lake Superior Provincial Park
7. Bridge on trail east of Echo Lake – Echo Ridges Section
8. Near Coffee Creek – Echo Ridges Section
9. Fort Creek Bridge, Hub Trail – Saulteaux Section
10. Near Tower Lake – Echo Ridges Section

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION & STORE (please print legibly) 04/12
(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) & PDF Hiking trail guide individual sections } visit our on-line Store.

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) =

Please send my VTA newsletter via: [] Postal delivery to above address. [] Reminder to download PDF from VTA web site
My email is:

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

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

Make cheques payable and mail to: VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION, P. O. Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd., Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Canada P6A 6W3

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 August 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

Coureurs de Bois: Emily Windle 705-848-8767

Voyageur Trail News—Spring 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:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail development | <input type="checkbox"/> Hike leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization—executive, directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter, guidebook, photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner records, maps | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Special events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sorry, not at this time. | <input type="checkbox"/> 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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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): _____