



# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS



Happy Holidays!

No. 101 WINTER 2009

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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.*

If you would prefer us to email you a short message when the VT newsletter is posted on our Internet site, just send an email to: [cheryl.landmark@sympatico.ca](mailto:cheryl.landmark@sympatico.ca)

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## YEA, PAVILION! by Gayle Phillips

The dedication of the brand new Trans Canada Trail (TCT) Pavilion took place in Clergue Park at 2:00 PM September 13th with hundreds in attendance (*we suspect it was mostly to meet Valerie Pringle and she certainly didn't disappoint!*)

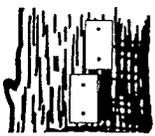
Valerie presented the Voyageur Trail Association with a plaque (shown below) that reads, "The Trans Canada Trail is proud to recognize the invaluable contribution of the Voyageur Trail Association in helping to link our country, one community at a time, on the longest recreational trail in the world. On behalf of Trans Canada Trail donors, members and the millions of Canadians who take to the trail every day -- we thank you. Voyageur Trail -- Trail length 354.6 kilometres Trail Registration No. 06-0031 Date: December 15th, 1998"

MP Tony Martin also presented the VTA with a plaque (shown below on right) that reads, "Congratulations Voyageur Trail Association for your hard work and dedication in ensuring that Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma are part of the Trans Canada Trail, the World's longest recreation trail."



Our sincere thanks to speakers: Valerie Pringle, Chair of the TCT Board of Directors (*who stayed and mingled with the crowd until they all went home!*), Sault Ste. Marie Mayor John Rowswell, MP Tony Martin, and Pat Connor of the Ontario Trails Council. Our thanks also go out to the Sault Cycling Club and the many, many friends of the Voyageur Trail who provided "colour" (*eg: rollerblading, kayaking, and hiking—you know who you are!*)

(cont'd. on page 2)



# PAVILION *(cont'd. from page 1)*

We were ALL winners rubbing elbows with Valerie and the other dignitaries (*and the rain held off!*) but here are the winners of the free draws:

TCT Coffetable Book autographed by Valerie Pringle: Roland Gagnon

TCT Duffle Bags: Shelley Tuckett and Lorraine Gravelle

VTA Guidebooks and Memberships: Fiona Ortiz, Craig Filion, Guy Edmond

Take Heart Algoma t-shirt and lunch bags: Andy Stilin, Carol Patterson, Wendy Bingham, Erma Marshall

TCT t-shirts: Marjorie Hall, Dena Rouse, Darcy Ortiz, Shade Jodoin.

The pavilion opening is on our web page at: [www.voyageurtrail.ca](http://www.voyageurtrail.ca)

Look for a link at the top of the home page.



*Photos in left column – (L to R): Dan Andrews (Manager of Trans Canada Trail Ontario), Pat Connor (Ontario Trails Council), Tony Martin (MP), Valerie Pringle (Chair of the Trans Canada Trail board of directors), Gayle Phillips (President of the Voyageur Trail Saulteaux Club) and Sault Ste. Marie Mayor, John Rowswell.*

*2 Photos Above: After ribbon cutting.*

*Photos to left and below: Some of the hundreds who came to see the launch.*



**MEMBERS:** Don't forget to check your newsletter envelope or email notice to see when your membership expires!

# PAVILION *(cont'd. from page 2)*



*Photo on left: Close-up of one-side of pavilion.*

*Photo on right: Pierre, one of many having his photo taken with Valerie Pringle.*

*Photos below: The Voyageur Trail display and information table drew a crowd before and after the event.*

*Photos of launch courtesy the Landmarks.*



## THANKS AND PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL

The Voyageur Trail Association is able to offer its members and the general public a wonderful hiking and snowshoe trail that leads to all kinds of wilderness adventures.

This is due in large part to the generosity and goodwill of private landowners, who are kind enough to allow us to trek across their properties. Continued use of the trail is dependent upon the proper care of the lands entrusted to us by these landowners. This permission is a privilege, not a right. If we abuse this trust, we not only spoil the adventure for ourselves but also for the countless others who enjoy the pleasures of a walk in the woods.

Land use permission could be cancelled by a landowner, thereby permanently closing an important section of trail and causing major disruption of the existing trail connections.

Please be respectful of the landowner's wishes and property and adhere to the Trail Users' Code (see last page) at all times whenever you venture out on the trail. Have your VTA membership card available should the landowner request proof of membership, which he/she is legally entitled to do.

Thanks again to the landowners who support the VTA!!!!



# SAULTEAUX CLUB TIDBITS *by Gayle Phillips*

**YEA!!!**

The Trans Canada Trail Pavilion was opened in a grand ceremony on September 13, 2008! Thanks go to: Mike and Cheryl Landmark, Steve Dominy, Fiona Ortiz, Susan Graham, Bob Sinclair and other members of the Coordinating Council who pitched in to help. VTA "cards" with crests were given in thanks to: Valerie Pringle, Kristen Spence, Pat Connor, Mayor Rowswell and Tony Martin who all participated in the event. All of the prize winners are listed on the VTA web site pavilion opening page ([link on home page and Saulteaux Club page](#)).

□

**WHEW!**

We hosted a visit from Tom Hall and friends at the end of August to hike from Old Mill Bay (north of the Sault) to Shaw Dam in Thessalon. They accomplished this astonishing feat with only a little assistance from club members! They were very pleased with the Trail and with the locals who came out to meet and help them. Tom and his group intend to return in 2010 and hike from Shaw Dam to Spanish, east of Elliot Lake. □

□

**WE HAVE A BLOG!** (*No, it's not the flu!*)

There is a Blog on our Saulteaux page on the VTA web site. The minutes of the last two Saulteaux Club meetings are posted. Now it's up to you! Help us keep the interest up in our Blog by adding YOUR stories and photos. Just visit our Internet page at: [www.voyageurtrail.ca/saulteaux.html](http://www.voyageurtrail.ca/saulteaux.html) and submit your own thoughts, hikes and photos for posting.

**GOOD JOB!** □

Saulteaux Club Treasurer, Susan Graham has fulfilled the terms of the VTA grant to promote the Voyageur Trail to youth. Presentations were made in Marathon, Terrace Bay, Schreiber and Iron Bridge at schools, Katimavik groups and to Scouts/Cubs/Beavers. □ The grant finished on October 31st. Susan received some first-rate appreciation letters from the children in grades 1-3 in the Iron Bridge public school. See some samples below...

## "DEAR MRS. GRAHAM"

*You have to love kids! They see things with new eyes and teach you to see them too. As part of the funding we were granted to produce the latest guidebook, we were challenged with the task to educate and encourage the younger generation to begin hiking and drag their parents/grandparents out too! Katie Pearson began this project with much enthusiasm and set up a great program, but she couldn't finish. Susan Graham picked up the torch and ran with it to its final destination--enlightenment!*

*Among Susan's presentations, the grades 1 to 3 class in Iron Bridge wrote some wonderful letters in appreciation of Susan taking them for a hike in the woods, showing them different kinds of trees, woodpecker holes, a VTA blaze that was very old and being surrounded by the bark of the growing tree it was placed on, a bridge over some water and a cabin.*



*According to the letters, Susan planned a little surprise for the kids and they picked leaves and had some treats. Here are some notable excerpts...*

"... It was interesting to see real woodpecker holes. ..."

"... Thank you for showing us the tree eating the sign. ..."

*This child got the wrong idea about that tree...*

"... Thank you for taking us for a nature hike on the Voyageur Trail. Don't shoot signs. Trees eat signs. ..."

*Here's another sample of a lesson learned (now if we could just get the word out to hunters...)*

"Thank you for showing us the Voyageur Trail. I didn't know there was one. Whoever shot those signs shouldn't because it can loop back and could kill them and it will hurt. ..."

*and of course...*

"...Thank you for the treats that made us hiper. ..."

You can read all the letters from the Bruce Mines children and view their colourful artwork on the VTA web page at: [www.voyageurtrail.ca](http://www.voyageurtrail.ca)



## 2008 STEVE TAYLOR VOLUNTEER AWARD



Congratulations to Bob Sinclair, winner of the 2008 Steve Taylor Volunteer Award (*pictured above receiving his award from Gayle Phillips, VTA Publicity Director*). Bob was instrumental in our efforts to convert the VTA Guidebook into GPS/GIS programs for digital conversion, storage and sales on our web site. Congratulations to Bob and everyone who was nominated this year!

Nominations are now open for our 2009 award. The Steve Taylor Volunteer Award is handed out each year to the person who has gone 'above and beyond the call of duty' on behalf of the Voyageur Trail Association. Email your submissions to [info@voyageurtrail.ca](mailto:info@voyageurtrail.ca)



## OUTING SCHEDULE

*This schedule was put together early and may have last-minute changes. Please call the outing leader listed to check if any details of the outing have changed. This schedule is also on our web site*

< [www.voyageurtrail.ca/saulteaux.html](http://www.voyageurtrail.ca/saulteaux.html) > *Unless otherwise indicated, these outings are all a Level 2, slow (according to Hike Ontario recommended ratings.) Typical meeting locations: Goodlife building, 589 Second Line East (Second Line side); Market Mall 275 Second Line West (on Korah Road corner); Churchill Plaza near the Beer Store, 150 Churchill Blvd., (on Trunk Road between Lake and Wellington Streets); Wellington Square Mall near the now closed old restaurant, 625 Trunk Road.*

### **Saulteaux Club**

*(Sault Ste. Marie and area — outings marked with an asterisk (\*) are outside Sault Ste. Marie.)*

**For all outings, bring water, lunch, dress appropriately and be prepared to sign an Assumption of Risk Agreement.**

**Thurs., Dec. 25** - The Voyageur Trail is **CLOSED**.

**Fri., Dec. 26** (Boxing Day) Hike or snowshoe with Don (946-9599). Meet 10AM at Glenview Cottages. Behaved pets welcome. Social afterwards in Glenview's Social Room.

**Mon., Dec. 29** - *Community Christmas for Kids* short walk/snowshoe & campfire at 1PM - Camp Korah. Call Susan 949-4105.

**Thurs., January 1st, 2009** (New Year's Day) - Hike/Snowshoe with Ila (949-1097). Meet 10AM at Goodlife.

**Sun., Jan. 4** - Hike/Snowshoe with Gayle (942-1891). Meet 10AM at Goodlife. Behaved pets okay.

**\*Sat., Jan. 10** - Snowshoe to Tier Lake with Mark (254-2356). Meet 10AM at Goodlife. Behaved pets welcome.

**Sat., Jan. 17** - Snowshoe with Doris (942-9466). Meet 10AM in the Market Mall parking lot. Behaved pets welcome.

**Sun., Jan. 18** - Snowshoe with Don (946-9599). Meet 10AM at Goodlife. Please leave your pets at home for this outing.

**Mon., Jan. 19** - Bi-monthly Saulteaux Club meeting at 7PM in the Civic Centre. Call 942-1891 for more info.

**Sat., Jan. 24** - VTA Coordinating Council meeting at 10AM. Location TBA.

**Sun., Jan. 25** - Snowshoe at Red Rock (tentatively) with Dieter & Erika (942-9636). Meet 10AM at Goodlife. Pets okay.

**Sat., Jan. 31** - Snowshoe to Mabel Lake

with Mark (254-2356). Meet 10AM at Goodlife. Behaved pets welcome.

**Sun., Feb. 1** - Snowshoe with Ila (949-1097). Meet 10AM at Goodlife. Behaved pets okay.

**Sat. & Sun., Feb. 7 & 8** - We are looking for volunteers to help out with the Bon Soo Children's Snowshoe Experience at Bellevue Park. Call 942-1891 if you can spare a couple of hours.

**Sat. & Sun., Feb. 14 & 15** - We are looking for volunteers to help out with the Bon Soo Children's Snowshoe Experience at Bellevue Park. Call 942-1891 if you can spare a couple of hours.

**Mon., Feb. 16** - Family Day holiday snowshoe with Gayle (942-1891). Meet 10AM at the Market Mall parking lot. Behaved pets welcome.

**Sat., Feb. 21** - Snowshoe with Doris (942-9466). Meet 10AM at Goodlife. Behaved pets welcome.

**Sat., Feb. 28** - Snowshoe with Garry (949-1302). Meet 10AM at Goodlife.

**Sun., Mar. 1** - Snowshoe with Ila (949-1097). Meet 10AM at Goodlife. Behaved pets welcome.

**\*Sat., Mar. 7** - Ski Lower Island Lake to Trout Lake with Mark (254-2356). Meet 10AM at Goodlife. Please leave your pets at home for this outing.

**Sun., Mar. 15** - Snowshoe with Gayle (942-1891). Meet 10AM at Goodlife. Behaved pets welcome.

**Mon., Mar. 16** - Bi-monthly Saulteaux Club meeting at the Civic Centre at 7PM. We will plan our spring/summer outings after the business meeting. Call 942-1891 for more info.

**\*Sat., Mar. 21** - Snowshoe at Pancake Bay with Doris (942-9466). Meet 10AM at Goodlife. Behaved pets welcome.

**Sat., Mar. 28** - Annual Saulteaux Club Dinner at Sandro's Restaurant. Call Susan at 949-4105 for details.

**Sun., Apr. 5** - Snowshoe or hike in the Thayer's Acres area with Ila (949-1097). Meet 10AM at Goodlife. Behaved pets welcome.

**\*Sat., Apr. 18** - Work party (weather permitting) on the Harmony Beach lookout trail with Susan (949-4105). Meet 10AM at Goodlife. Behaved pets welcome. Tools will be provided.

**Sun., Apr. 26** - Our annual 'Go to Blazes' work party with Gayle (942-1891). Meet 10AM at Goodlife. Tools will be provided. Behaved pets welcome.

**Sun., May 3** - Hike in the Hiawatha Highlands with Ila (949-1097). Meet 10AM at Goodlife. Behaved pets welcome.

**Sun., May 10** - Annual Mother's Day hike and weiner roast with Horst (971-4812 or 542-8978). Meet 10AM in the Market Mall parking lot. Behaved pets welcome but must be leashed at lunch.

**VTA Winter Activities Disclaimer:** It is important to note that the VTA does not provide formal instruction for snowshoe and ski activities. Each participant in our winter activities is assumed to:

- understand the causes, preventive measures, and treatment for hypothermia;
- dress appropriately, bring lunch and water and be prepared for unforeseen delays on the trail;
- understand that changes in weather and snow conditions can affect the difficulty level of a given trail;
- have experience on, and be familiar with, his/her own equipment;
- for skiers: be able to perform the basic manoeuvres, such as snowplow and herring bone under a variety of snow conditions for a period of several hours.



**OUTING SCHEDULES** (cont'd. from page 5)

**Coueurs de Bois Outdoors Club** (Elliot Lake)

For fun, fitness and friendship come and join us. Meet at Sears parking lot. For all outings bring water, lunch, dress appropriately and be prepared to sign an "Assumption of Risk Agreement". Make sure your fitness level corresponds to the outing level you wish to participate in. **Please contact hike leaders for more info.**

For the schedule and photos of outings check our blog at: [www.coueursdeboiselliottlake.blogspot.com](http://www.coueursdeboiselliottlake.blogspot.com) and/or The Elliot Lake Standard - Community Bulletin Board section.

**Thurs., Dec. 25** - The Voyageur Trail is **CLOSED**.

**\*Sat., Jan. 24** - VTA Coordinating Council meeting at 10AM. In Sault Ste. Marie - location TBA.

**Hike Levels**

- Easy* 2 – 3 hours Level 1 Ontario
- Intermediate* 3 – 4 hours Level 2 Ontario
- Advanced* 4 – 6 hours Level 2 Ontario (Note the Coueurs de Bois have NO Level 3 hiking routes--our advanced level is relative to time on the trail only.)



**NEW & IMPROVED VTA WEB SITE**

If you haven't visited it in a while, please visit our web site at: [www.voyageurtrail.ca](http://www.voyageurtrail.ca)

In addition to the new map, the added graphics and the on-line store (which is now working!) there is now a Trail Audit Form on the home page of the VTA web site. This form is a survey-like short questionnaire that hikers can fill in about the conditions of the trail they hiked. Also, work party participants can use it to easily keep us in the know about their trail maintenance efforts.

Please use this new form and help keep us informed about the trail conditions and when the trail was last hiked/cleaned.



**VTA Membership & Guidebook Makes a Wonderful Gift for That Hard-to-Buy-For Outdoors Person on Your List**

Consider giving a VTA membership and/or guidebook to your friends and family!

To expedite your order, try our on-line store at

[www.voyageurtrail.ca](http://www.voyageurtrail.ca)

or call 1-877-393-4003.



**DAY HIKING ON GREEK ISLANDS** by Dieter Ropke

We chose the islands of Andhros and Tinos for their lack of tourists and excellent hiking.

On Andhros we stayed at Hora and hiked on steep, stony and ancient paths. The stone-walls terracing most of Greece were magnificent here.



Dovecoats and mountain, Tinos

The horizontal walls were frequently interrupted by large upright slabs embedded with much mica. Looking into the hills we were struck by the reflections not knowing what we were looking at. We also hiked along a



ravine with many traces of ancient occupation such as arched bridges, cave dwellings and other structures.

Tinos has a port and town which is very Greek with its sidewalk restaurants/taverns/café's.

Every narrow street presented images of architecture and colour which made exploration so much fun. Bougainvillea cascaded over walls and were ubiquitous. We would taxi to a mountain village and after exploring it we hiked back for 3-5 hours on ancient paths. A bus took us to Pirgos which was very interesting (architecture, layout, cathedral and above-ground burial sites)

and it had a marble museum which was a real gem. Not only did it have a treasure of marble sculptures and lintels but it explained and illustrated how this precious commodity was wrestled from quarries and how it



Slab walls

was then used in Venetian and Ottoman times. Tinos is unique for its marble lintels over doors and windows, all handmade. It is also known for its dove-cotes, tower-like structures where doves are cultured. The Venetians (1215-1714) were fond of their eggs and young and the guano was prized for agriculture. It is a beautiful sight to see a white cloud of doves (cont'd. on page 7) issue from such structures.



**GREEK ISLES** (cont'd. from page 6)

In times past, Tinos supported 30,000 people. Today there are only 8,500 people. The extensive terracing allowed grazing, fruit tree culture and vegetables. People lived off the land. We encountered many structures indicating such farming. Some had a flat plateau (circa 7 m diameter) attached which had upright slabs at their perimeter and a flat floor formed by very large slabs. Today these plateaus make one think of religious rituals but this is where people used to thresh, winnow grain, store hay etc.



*Terracing on hiking terrain*

We also visited the island of Mykonos for 4 hours with its Venetian town but the crowds from 4 cruise boats made us glad to escape.



*Marble lintel*

Ermoupoli on the island of Syros is the seat of government for the Cyclades, a city of 25,000 with great charm. It stretches up a very steep mountain at the top of which are 2 bastions of religion, one being Catholic (Venetian occupation) and the other Greek Orthodox. We had a room with balcony overlooking a treed courtyard and we stayed for 2 nights.

The last 2 nights we stayed in Athens, a precautionary buffer in case ferries were forced to stay in port preventing us from catching our flight.



*Dovecoat*

The islands we visited this time were affluent and universally well kept as opposed to some southern islands where sometimes whole villages were abandoned in favour of emigration and many places were struggling. Greece's joining the EU had a very positive effect. Prices went up but it seems to prosper.

Ferries were state of the art, punctual, reasonable and fast.

Check out the excellent website [GTPWEB.COM](http://GTPWEB.COM).



*Lintels*

Buses were modern, safely driven in difficult terrain but too infrequent to be of much use.

Take into account that everything shuts down between 2 and 5 pm. Although restau-

rants open for dinner at 7 pm, you tend to be alone until 8 pm or later.



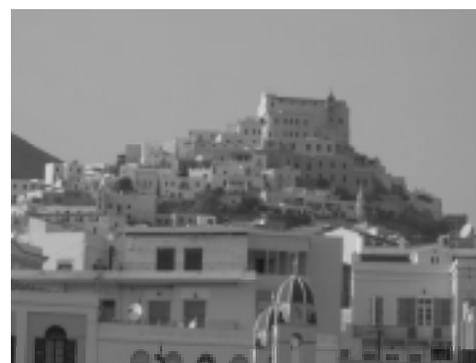
A number of times we were approached by elderly men who spoke English.

Invariably these were mariners from the days when ONASSIS was a name known around the world. These people had been to Halifax, Victoria and Vancouver and were curious who we were. Crews of today's merchant marine tend to be Filipino or Chinese.

Take heart in traffic particularly in Athens. If you hesitate or are timid, you will live and die on one block. It's pure intimidation, just go, they WILL stop for you.

If you go: The crowd is gone in the off-season, so you do not need to reserve. Studios (BR, K, B and terrace) are E 30-35 per day for 2 people. Taxis are inexpensive and an excellent way to get to interesting starting points for the hike. Drivers are honest and reliable on the islands.

Athens has a state-of-the-art METRO and you can now go from the airport to Pireaus for only E 80 cents with bilingual announcements to boot. If you want to see the Acropolis, Plaka and the Archaeological Museum, the METRO stops at Syndagma Square and you are close to



these places and accommodation. Few islands have airports (terrain too mountainous). Consider flying to one island and then utilizing ferries and flying back to Athens from the last island so as to avoid a buffer to account for the sea.

Aegean Airlines provide reliable and reasonable service.



# SNOWSHOEING IN THE HIAWATHA HIGHLANDS

by Don McGorman

The term "the Hiawatha Highlands" is commonly used to refer to the urban wilderness area, located in the north-east corner of the city of Sault Ste. Marie, comprised of a mosaic of parks, conservation areas and private property.

The brand name "Hiawatha Highlands" is being used by the Soo Finnish Nordic Ski Club for its cross-country skiing and snowshoe trail operations located in the same area ([www.hiawathahighlands.com](http://www.hiawathahighlands.com)). Their base of operations is located in the Kinsmen Centre building at 780 Landslide Road and until 31 March 2009 they will be open daily from 9am 'til 5pm. Advertising 14 km of groomed snowshoe trails, a daily snowshoe trail pass costs \$5 or, with snowshoe rental, \$12. The good news is that card carrying VTA members with their own snowshoes do not need to purchase a snowshoe trail pass.

Voyageur Trail volunteers have been actively participating in the development and maintenance of Hiawatha Highlands snowshoe trails for a number of years. There are three distinct sets of snowshoe trail:

- 1) A relatively flat beginner trail, located west of Landslide Road, is comprised of a 1km inner loop (yellow markers) with a 2km extension loop (red markers).
- 2) A more difficult 2km trail (orange markers) down, across, up and back through the Crystal Creek valley which includes a good view of Crystal Falls and a spur trail to an outlook.
- 3) The ski trail to Mabel Lake (4.5km each way) also doubles as a snowshoe trail; this is the only snowshoe trail where pets are allowed.

As soon as possible after every major snow fall Voyageur Trail volunteers get out and pack trails 1) & 2), above, in a double-track arrangement.

There are also an unlimited number of other snowshoeing opportunities in the vicinity of Hiawatha Highlands that do not involve the groomed trails and do not require a trail pass; just break your own trail or follow someone else's tracks. Popular routes include the VTA yellow blazed loop trails north of Sixth Line and Connor Road [A13] and, once the stream freezes over, the Crystal Creek wetland, upstream of Crystal Falls [A16].

Other popular trails for snowshoeing not far from the Hiawatha Highlands include the loop trails at Glenview Cottages [A12], the Crimson Ridge loop trail [A9] and on the Camp Korah property [A8].



Note: references in square brackets [] are VTA guidebook Saulteaux section access points.



# HOW TO BE A BUSH PARENT

by Mike Landmark

Have you ever thought of adopting a trail? Seeing a section of just cleaned trail being used by the public and knowing this was your work gives you a great feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment.

The length of trail to be adopted is up to the individual or family group to decide but easily recognizable landmarks (no pun intended!) should be used. If the distance is found to be too long or too short, changes can be made at any time.

The local club will have hand tools and blazes available for you to use on the trail. Some clubs like the Saulteaux in Sault Ste. Marie even have a year-end wrap up party for adopters. Your name goes into a draw for prizes at the Annual General meeting in the fall as well.

The time commitment required involves a traverse of the trail at least twice a year (spring to determine how winter changed the trail and again sometime during the middle of summer after fly season).

You get to set your own maintenance outing schedule. If major blowdowns are found, a call to the local trail master or club will have your section put on the outing schedule for a group clean-up.

There is a Trail Audit Form available on the home page of the VTA website that can be used to record trail conditions and maintenance efforts. You can also email to: [info@voyageurtrail.ca](mailto:info@voyageurtrail.ca) or call 1-877-393-4003.

If you are interested in becoming a bush parent, or have any questions regarding this adopting option, give us a call. We have a number of sections of trail that would love to be adopted by caring, considerate hikers!



# YOU ARE ALWAYS NEEDED!

Perhaps you are not an "outdoors" person... but do you enjoy doing "inside" jobs? If so, the Voyageur Trail Association can still use your help!

In addition to gathering enough volunteers to keep our trail system cleaned and ready for use, we can always use those who can take a nice photograph, or write a story for our newsletter.

If you have Internet skills, perhaps you can help us with our web site, or even take minutes or keep a bank account for your local club.

Those that do volunteer, even on a local level, meet new folks who are friendly, helpful and interested in the great outdoors. Anyone interested in joining to help us do the million little jobs that keep an organization like the Voyageur Trail Association running, can call our 1-877-393-4003 number and we will put you in touch with someone in your locality who is looking for you! You are always needed!

Call today!



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Sarah Ackert Ferguson | Chris Galizia            |
| David Arbuckle        | Tracy Galizia            |
| Lorena Bressan        | Denis Gravelle           |
| Robert Bressan        | Lorraine Gravelle        |
| Graham Carter         | Scott Helman             |
| Ann Cook              | Daphne Horsepool         |
| Mary Ann Cook         | Jim MacLean              |
| Liam Cranston         | Sue MacLean              |
| Lynda Cranston        | Terry Mihelic            |
| Wayne H. Cranston     | Francois Nzotungwanimana |
| Mary Doyle            | Pierre Pignal            |
| Guy Emond             | Gary Richardson          |
| Craig Filion          | Jeff Shier               |
| Joan Gagnon           | David Spacek             |
| Rene Gagnon           | Tom Van Roon             |
|                       | Willie Van Roon          |



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This small change to the VTA Constitution was voted on by the membership and accepted, "The objectives of the Association shall be to support the efforts of voluntary workers, many of whom are organized as Voyageur Trail clubs, in the construction and maintenance of The Voyageur Trail, eastward and southward through the province of Ontario from the Thunder Bay area to Sault Ste. Marie and onwards towards Sudbury, which shall be open to the public."

The by-laws have been changed to reflect this motion, "In no case shall the Positions of President and Treasurer be held concurrently by the same individual."

The three winners in the draw from submitted Assumption of Risk Agreements for free VTA memberships were Stan Codlin and Diane Burns from Elliot Lake and Mike Barker from Sault Ste. Marie (Congratulations!).

"As those of you in attendance at the meeting are aware, this was my last meeting as Recording Secretary for the Association. It has been a great ten years and I have enjoyed the challenges and rewards of the position. But, it's time to step back and welcome a new addition to the Council. Carole Blaquiere has generously consented to take on the position and will, I'm sure, bring lots of enthusiasm and fresh, new ideas to the VTA executive. Thank you, Carole, for accepting the nomination and I wish you the best of luck in your new role." - Cheryl Landmark



**VTA landowners are entitled to free advertisements when they sell their property...**

# TIDBITS

Congratulations to Naturally Superior Adventures ([www.naturallysuperior.com](http://www.naturallysuperior.com)) who have been long-time friends of the Voyageur Trail and supporters of the Michipicoten Section. They have been rated #1 *Best Tour Operator in Canada* by the Sea Kayaker Magazine readers. A well-deserved honour! Good work!

Our congratulations also to Patrick Capper, recipient of the 2007 Hike Ontario Volunteer Award. Sorry to take so long to mention this, Patrick! Patrick has been representing the VTA at Hike Ontario meetings ever since he moved to southern Ontario in 2006. [And we are still feeling his loss in his former residence of Sault Ste. Marie.]




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## VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FORM (please print)

\*Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. / State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal / Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:  New Member  Renewal Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ (work/cell): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP FEES:**

- Individual ~ \$25..... = \_\_\_\_\_
- Family or Group (\*please provide names) ~ \$30..... = \_\_\_\_\_
- Student (full-time) ~ \$10..... = \_\_\_\_\_
- Donations (tax receipt will be sent)..... = \_\_\_\_\_
- Charitable Reg. #119261923RR0001
- VTA Crest ~ \$3..... = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2007 Guidebook\*\*: members \$25 / non-members \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_
- (\*\*limit of 2/member) **Shipping re: MAILED Guidebooks \$ 8.00**
- For topography maps, call Steve (705) 946-2484
- TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send my VTA newsletter via:**

- Reminder to upload pdf from VTA web site
- My email is: \_\_\_\_\_
- Snail mail to my home address.

**Make cheques payable and mail to:**

**VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION**  
 PO Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd.  
 Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6W3  
 12/08

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VTA CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: vacant
VICE-PRESIDENT - WEST: Duncan MacKay 807-825-3338
VICE-PRESIDENT - CENTRAL: vacant
VICE-PRESIDENT - EAST: Alan Day 705-848-8776
TREASURER / TOOLS INVENTORY: Debbie Morettin 705-785-3247
GENERAL SECRETARY: Carole Blaquiere 705-649-2235
MEMBERSHIP / LANDOWNERS: Mike Landmark 705-779-3409

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR: Gayle Phillips 705-942-1891
HIKE ONTARIO REPRESENTATIVE: Patrick Capper 519-524-9209 (alternate) vacant
GUIDEBOOK COMMITTEE: Steve Dominy 705-946-2484
DATA MANAGEMENT: Bob Sinclair 705-946-3126
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Editor: Cheryl Landmark 705-779-3409
Layout by: Gayle Phillips

CONTACTS:

CASQUES ISLES: Doug Stefurak 807-824-2724
MARATHON: Glenn Labrash 807-229-2576
MICHIPICOTEN: Andy Stevens 705-856-2884
SAULTEAUX: Gayle Phillips 705-942-1891
BRUCE MINES/THESSALON: (volunteer contact needed)
PENEWOBIKONG: Joanne Marck 705-843-2199
COUREURS DE BOIS: Phill Barnes 705-848-8767

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

The VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS is published three times a year. Your articles and photos are welcome!

Deadline for the next issue is: April 1, 2009

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 may be copied if credit is given to the Voyageur Trail Association.



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 along the trail. Walk around the edges of fields, not across them.
Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photographs.

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.

(signature) \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH:

- Trail development, Trail maintenance, Newsletter, guidebook, photography
Hike leader, Landowner liaison, records, maps, Publicity committee
Organization--executive, directors, Special events, conference, dinners
Sorry, not at this time.

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

