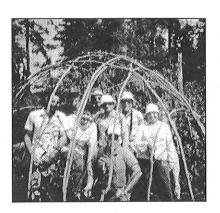


(L-R) Dave Maltby, Frank Murphy, Vic Tonan, Steve Dominy, George Harvey on a work party east of Mabel Lake, September 7, 1983



(L-R) Pete Stinnissen,
Kris Stinnissen,
Dorothy Egan,
Carl Bodemeade,
Adam Sejewicz,
Phil Egan, Ross McLean,
Agnes Ostermeier,
Louisa Crosswaithe
in a 'wicky-up' on
Michipicoten Island,
1989



(L-R) Dick McCutcheon and two children, Kevin Dearing, Marg Dearing, Tom Allinson, Eve Kersey, Bert Dearing on Jordan Mine Road in the Saulteaux Section, August 1979



(L-R) Tom Allinson, Donna Kidd, Brian Williams, Steve Taylor skiing in Gros Cap area, March 1985

SECTION NEWS

MICHIPICOTEN SECTION

Peter Stinnissen reports from Wawa that the last outing of the year for the Michipicoten Section was held on December 29 when the club held a bird count. Surprisingly, at this late date, 108 robins were counted! Our unseasonably mild December had obviously delayed their migration, making this outing quite a different success.

The club also wishes a speedy recovery to Section President Phil Egan who recently underwent surgery. All members are anxiously awaiting his return to club activities.

SAULTEAUX SECTION

At a recent meeting of the Saulteaux Club, renewed interest was demonstrated by a large group of enthusiastic members. By the time the dust settled, the Saulteaux Section had filled executive positions, hammered out an outing schedule and resolved to have club meetings on a regular basis.

The Saulteaux Section executive is: Judy Falkins, President; Donna Weeks, Vice–President; Susan Graham, Treasurer; Gayle Phillips, Interim Recording Secretary; VTA Board Reps, Judy Falkins and Virve Männiste Squire.

Club meetings will now be held bimonthly on the third Monday of the month, beginning March 20, 1995 at the conference room of the Great Lakes Forestry Centre, 1219 Queen Street East. A business agenda will be discussed from 7:00 until 7:30, followed by a presentation on subjects of interest to members. Members are welcome to attend the presentation only at 7:30. The topic for March 20 will be "I hike, therefore I am". Bring 10 slides (or

photos) and be prepared to tell us why these slides demonstrate your love of this pastime. For more information, contact Donna Weeks at 759–6819 after 6:00 p.m. or Virve Männiste Squire at 942–2370.

The next scheduled meeting date is May 15, 1995.

Members continue to find unique uses for our sweatshirts. In January of 1994, Mary McKinnon used her VTA sweatshirt on a wooden cross to point the way to her place at Gordon Lake. This definitely qualifies as the 'Most Original Direction Sign'.

Meanwhile, on the Ontario Hiking Day trek to Mabel Lake, 2 year old Ian Graham fell into the water while exploring the shoreline. By putting his legs into the arms of his Mom's sweatshirt, turning it into makeshift overalls, his legs were protected from scratches while riding in his Dad's back carrier.

The bird sighting of the year was on January 8, 1994 between Camp Korah and Long. Four skiers and 2 snowshoers confirmed sighting of a Black Backed, Three–Toed Woodpecker.

FROM THE DESK OF VTA'S PUBLICITY DIRECTOR:

In response to a request at the Executive Meeting in November, the following is a list of the businesses and organizations I have contacted to post our VTA outings poster in Sault Ste. Marie. As you visit these businesses/organizations, don't forget to mention that you are member of the VTA and appreciate seeing our poster on display.

Algoma University College All Seasons Sportswear Bridgewater Fitness Centre Chamber of Commerce

Christie Campers Club Cabana Fitness Centre Creed's Fitness Centre Duke of Windsor George Leach Centre Group Health Centre & GHC West Joe's Sports & Surplus Mulligan's Golf No. 1 Nautilus Fitness Centre Northern Credit Union Northern Lights Health & Fitness Centre Ontario Travel Information Sault College Sault Community Information Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Soo Sports **Sport Connection** Station Mall The Old Ski House The Trading Post Verne's Bicycle Shop Weight Watchers Y.M.C.A.

The updated version of the VTA's brochure is hot off the presses and now available. If you can think of anywhere we can send posters for public display or brochures, please contact Gayle Phillips, Publicity Director.

PUKASKWA FEE STRUCTURE TO CHANGE FOR 1995

A letter was received from Sharon Otiquam, Chief Management Services, Pukaskwa National Park, outlining the proposed fee schedule for the operation of the park. The park, under direction from the Federal Government, will start to focus attention on revenue generation in addition to preserving and protecting the park. This is an important issue because a portion

(cont'd. on page 13)



PUKASKWA FEE STRUCTURE TO CHANGE FOR 1995

(cont'd. from page 12)

of the revenue generated will be used in the maintenance of Pukaskwa National Park.

The new camping rates for the Hattie Cove campground will be: Regular – \$14.00; Shoulder season – \$10.00; Electrical – \$17.00, Reservations - \$6.00.

Pukaskwa will also be implementing user fees for day use. This fee will cover a portion of the costs for park services. Some of these services are personal reception, communication and presentation of information, plaques, information request and basic personal safety services. The rates will be: Adult - \$3.00; Senior -\$2.25; Children - \$1.50 (6 and under free).

Of special concern to VTA members will be the changes in backcountry travel. Reservations will be taken for backcountry travel. There will be a registration fee of \$25.00 per group and a nightly backcountry camping fee of \$10.00 per group. The fee for day trips to White River is \$10.00 per group. The maximum number in a group is 8. The registration fee will cover the cost of pre-trip information, maps, and personal orientation of the trail.

The prices listed above are all proposed and are subject to change. These fees are effective April 1, 1995. If you have any questions or concerns, please write to the following address:

Superintendent, Pukaskwa National Park, Hwy. 627, Hattie Cove, Heron Bay, Ontario. P0T 1R0

TRAIL CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE

A significant portion of trail marking has been switched from painting blazes to fixing white vinyl markers on trees. The use of anything other than ALUMINUM nails is tantamount to spiking trees. Ordinary nails could injure or kill people 50 years from now as such trees are utilized. It could also damage equipment, notably veneer knives.

The trail is there because of public spirited landowners who gave us permission to cross their land. Let us always know such spirit.

USE ALUMINUM NAILS ONLY and please don't drive them home, leave room for the tree to expand.

Power and telephone poles are often climbed with spurs. The use of any metal, vinyl or nails of any kind is not compatible with the activities of the pole owners. Use PAINT ONLY on ALL POLES carrying electric and/or telephone lines.

EDITOR'S REPORT

In the summer of 1989, I took on the position as Editor of the Voyageur

Trail News and, for personal reasons, reluctantly gave up the position in the fall of 1991. I had every intention of taking up the job again. "Sooner or later" I had always said, "just not now". Just days before he passed away, Steve Taylor once again asked me if I was ready to assume the position, to which I again replied "just not now". A few days later, he was gone, yet with his passing, a new energy seems to have settled upon the club. Enthusiastic members are taking on tasks and forming committees to keep the club active. Perhaps Steve left behind some of that endless energy he had. I now seem to have found the time for this task and hope to continue to bring together a readable newsletter.

The task is much easier now. Gone are the days of coaxing the old Gestetner into printing barely readable text. With the help of computers and the layout software and skills of Jack Dunning and Gayle Phillips, the Voyageur Trail Association now produces a newsletter we can all be proud of. Please continue to submit your comments, letters, stories, poems, articles, recipes, photos and anything else which would be of interest to our members. Remember, the submission deadline for the next newsletter is April 1, 1995.

FOR SALE:

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New for 92/93 we will be offering the fine line of FIRST NEED water purifiers from General Ecology. No back country hiker or canoeist should be without one!

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MICHIPICOTEN CLUB:

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If your name does not appear here, but should contact Patrick Capper Membership Secretary. If you would like to join or renew your membership for 1995, see last page of this newsletter.

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Judith L. Falkins

THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL: THE EARLY YEARS

by Ian K. Morrison

It's hard to believe. The Voyageur Trail Association is over twenty years old! It was on March 26, 1973, that the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation for the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Harold A. Brain, convened a meeting at the Community Services Board Offices, then located in the Sault Memorial Gardens, of "persons interested in establishing a hiking trail along the precipice of the Cambrian Shield" from Gros Cap on Lake Superior to Hiawatha Park, just north of Sault Ste. Marie. One of those in attendance, Dr. Paul D. Syme, a Sault Ste. Marie research scientist and member of the Bruce Trail Association, immediately saw the possibility of extending this concept eastward to Espanola, then south across Manitoulin Island to link up with southern Ontario's Bruce Trail. The other seven persons at the meeting needed little convincing, and an association was born. Over the next several months, the group held informal meetings, recruited new members for the project and busied themselves learning the ABCs of trail building. Over the summer, Paul Syme, the acknowledged leader of the group, visited with officials of the Bruce Trail Association, soliciting advice and guidance. Finally, in the fall, the group met again at the Community Services Board Offices and shared their findings. It was at this meeting, on October 24, 1973, that the name "Voyageur Trail Association" was chosen, and that the decision was taken to follow the Bruce Trail model of dividing the trail (at this point the proposed trail eastward was to be known as the North Channel Trail, and the proposed trail to the north, the Superior Trail) into sections and

assigning responsibility for trail building, maintenance, public hikes, etc. to local Voyageur Trail (VT) Clubs. Donald T. Myren was recruited to form a committee to draft a Constitution for the fledgling association. By the next meeting, held on November 15, 1973 in the library of the Great Lakes Forest Research Centre, Don Myren and Dieter Ropke had a draft Constitution to present and, on the basis of this, an interim Executive was installed (President, Paul Syme; Vice-President, Ralph Yanni; Treasurer, Ralph Wood). Ian Morrison acted as secretary at this meeting and was elected Secretary shortly thereafter.

The first of the Clubs formed under the new Constitution was the Sault Ste. Marie (the name was changed in 1975 to the Saulteaux) VT Club, which was organized in January 1974 (President, Bill Foster; Vice-President, Fr. Arnold Megan; Secretary, Rev. Andreas Kaellgren; Treasurer, Ken Griffiths). The Saulteaux VT Club was followed later that year by the Desbarats VT Club, organized largely through the efforts of Dieter Ropke and, in 1975 by the Penewobikong VT Club, organized through the efforts of Norm Lediett. Another club formed early in the life of the Association was the Thessalon VT Club, organized mainly through the work of Don Fulton. By mid-1978, the Association had grown to ten VT Clubs: Thunder Bay, Schreiber (in 1980, renamed Casque Isles), Michipicoten, Saulteaux, Echo Ridges, Desbarats, Thessalon, Penewobikong, Rainbow and Sudbury.

In 1975, as the Constitution was being refined, the Association became aware of an organization in Thunder Bay with similar objectives which also called itself the Voyageur Trail Association. This conflict was resolved very amicably by the two organizations and our VTA undertook to apply for a Charter from the Province of Ontario. On July 3, 1974, the Asso-

ciation was formally chartered as a Corporation Without Share Capital. This status proved valuable shortly thereafter for, in 1976, a serious conflict involving our name arose. Most people are aware of those brown signs along the length of Highway 17 that read Voyageur Route. Well, when first deployed (in mid–1976), they read Voyageur Trail. The Ministry of Industry and Tourism had blithely gone ahead and designated Highway 17 from the Quebec border to Thunder Bay the Voyageur Trail! We objected, noting that we had exclusive rights to the name and, besides, Highway 17 in our view was hardly a trail. Our protests were either ignored by the bureaucrats, who were reluctant to admit their gaff, or were brushed off with arguments suggesting that the Cabot Trail is a highway or that perhaps, we could both use the name Voyageur Trail to our mutual benefit. Getting nowhere, we wrote to the Minister (with copies to several of his Cabinet colleagues) citing our Charter rights and rejecting the proposal that we share the name Voyageur Trail. We indicated that renaming Highway 17 "The Voyageur Trail" would be no less confusing than renaming Highway 6 from Hamilton to Tobermory "The Bruce Trail". The government backed down and the signs were changed. Highway 17 to this day is known as the Voyageur Route.

If the Sault Ste. Marie Section can boast the first club in the Voyageur Trail system, it is the Rainbow Section that can boast the first hikeable trail. George Morrison, a teacher in Espanola, had one of his outdoor classes develop a loop trail in the Espanola area, known as the Rainbow Trail. This trail existed

(cont'd. on page 16)



THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL - THE EARLY YEARS

(cont'd. from page 15)

prior to the formation of the Association. VTA members from Wawa, Sault Ste. Marie and Thessalon were invited by George Morrison to hike the Rainbow Section one weekend in June 1974. This was the first organized outing of the VTA. This led to further exchanges and a tradition of one VT Club helping another. A particularly memorable trailbuilding event in the early years took place in May 1976, when, in addition to VTA members, one Harvey Macklin brought a busload of Bruce Trail Association members from southern Ontario to help out on the Rainbow Section.

Eager to get going on their own section, however, Saulteaux VT Club members spent the summer of 1974 flagging trail and securing landowner permission along the route of what is now the Saulteaux Section. On November 23, 1974, the first construction actually took place. On that date, Ralph Wood, a trail enthusiast and VTA member who lived in southern Ontario and commuted to Sault Ste. Marie to participate in Association activities, led a party of nine hearty souls on a combination training-trail building session. If one excludes the Rainbow pre-build, the stretch from Maki Road to Goulais Avenue completed that day was the first trail constructed under the auspices of the VTA. Construction of the Saulteaux Section resumed in the spring of 1975, spearheaded by members such as Eve Kersey, Fr. Megan and Barb Triplett, and the Section was complete by late summer. The Saulteaux Section was officially opened on September 21, 1975 at a ceremony at Gros Cap, before a crowd of 150 persons. Tom Allinson's faithful trail building and maintenance efforts,

beginning during this period and extending over the next twenty years, were major contributions to the Voyageur Trail. The next section to open was the very scenic Desbarats Section, the official opening of which took place on November 6, 1976, followed by the Thessalon Section (1978) and the Echo Ridges Section. With the opening of the Echo Ridges Section in 1980, the Association could boast a continuous footpath from Gros Cap on Lake Superior to Iron Bridge, as well as significant stretches of hikeable trail in the Casque Isles, Michipicoten, Penewobikong and Rainbow Sections.

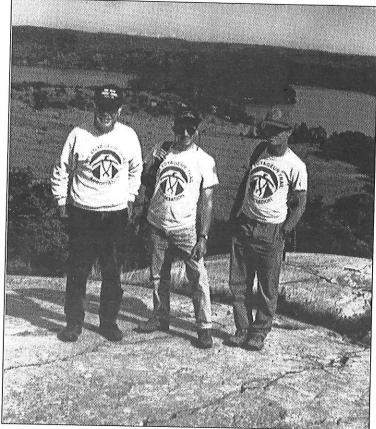
The design used by the Association for its trail markers goes back to 1974 when, at a meeting on May 6, resolutions were passed defining the form ("being an arrow pointed upwards surrounded by the words Voyageur Trail") and colour (blue on yellow) of trail markers. Norm Lediett, a retired highway sign-maker (the same Norm Lediett who was instrumental in forming the Penewobikong VT Club) directed the production of trail markers, producing at least a decade's worth in very short order! The blueon-yellow colour combination was chosen for the Association's stationery as well. The thunderbird logo dates from a year later (1975) and was designed by Janet Clark.

The Voyageur Trail News also has a history dating back to the early years of the Association. During 1973 and 1974, it was customary to circulate copies of the Minutes of meetings to members and other interested parties. This was soon replaced by a newsletter, the Voyageur Trail News, the first issue of which was published on January 15, 1975. The VT News has been published regularly ever since. The first Editor was Ken Griffiths, who remained in that post until 1978, when he was succeeded by Mary-Ellen McCallum. A member who contributed significantly to the Association in the early years in terms of ideas and contacts was Bob Andrews. Bob was able to arrange for printing of many of the early newsletters.

Over the past twenty years, the Voyageur Trail Association has evolved from a mainly trail building organization to a trail building-andhiking organization. Hikes on various sections are held throughout the year. Some of these outings have a tradition all their own. For example, the Saulteaux VT Club first held a Conservation Week hike in 1975 and its annual New Years hike dates back to 1976. Also, the first Mother's Day hike, which ends with a hot dog social at the Horst Wetzl homestead, took place in 1986, and has been an annual event ever since. The first President of the Association, Paul D. Syme, was wont to remark on the satisfaction that comes from being part of an idea that is greater than one's self. The Voyageur Trail is just such a idea. Members past and present have developed and maintained a major hiking trail through some of the most rugged, yet scenic, topography in eastern Canada — a remarkable accomplishment for an organization, the membership of which has probably never exceeded 250. If we continue to exhibit the same dedication as we have shown over the past twenty years, we can make the next twenty even better.

Again, a big thanks to Tom Allinson, Peter Stinnissen, Virve Männiste Squire, Patrick Capper and Judith Falkins for the photos, and the walk down memory lane.

VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS



(L-R) Chuck Bosley, Jack Squire, Steve Taylor on lookout over Ottertail Lake, Desbarats Section

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED AND ALWAYS WELCOME!

Please contact any of the VTA Executive if you can offer assistance with:

- guidebook
- publicity
- newsletter
- landowner contacts
- hike leader
- trail development
- club development
- trail maintenance.



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10 W S N TRAI L G E URY A

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Patrick Capper (705) 253-4470 NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Editor: Virve Männiste Squire (705) 942-2370

Layout: Gayle Phillips Jack Dunning

THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS is published three times per year. Your articles and submissions are always welcome!

Send them to Editor, VTA, Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd. Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6W3.

Submissions for the next issue should be received by April 1, 1995.

The Trail User's 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 on a leash, especially on or near farmland and in parks.
- · Respect the privacy of people living along the trail. Walk around the edges of fields,
- · Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photographs. BE A LOW-IMPACT not across them.

- Leave only your thanks		.d mail) - — — -	
		Code. (signature)	
I WOULD LIKE TO HELP V	WITH:		
☐ trail development	☐ trail maintena	newslet newslet	tter, guidebook, photography
☐ hike leader	☐ landowner lia	aison, records, maps publicit	ty committee
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Please consider me a member-at-l	arge \square or a member of (check of	one below): (*denotes active section	ns)
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