



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION, A MEMBER OF F.O.H.T.A.

BOX 66, SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO P6A 5L2

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THE OPENING OF THE THESSALON SECTION 1978 10 01

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OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE THESSALON SECTION

Sunday, Oct. 1, 1978 was a very special day for the Thessalon Voyageur Trail Club, marking the official opening of a large section of its walking trail between Rydal Bank and Iron Bridge. The day was made possible by the work of a small group of Thessalon and area workers and the assistance of the Sault Ste. Marie Club in opening up the western reaches of the trail. About 40 people showed up for the official opening featuring a ribbon cutting ceremony by the reeve of Thessalon Township, Donald McKinnon.

The site chosen for the ribbon cutting ceremony was on one of the most interesting and spectacular sections of the trail, located at the Bridgeland River crossing at the Shaw Dam. This dam is one of the most unique in Ontario being a solid masonry structure spanning a narrow defile in the river valley between rugged granite cliffs. It was built in 1931 on the site of an old wooden logging dam established to facilitate driving saw logs down the river almost 100 years ago. The original structure was known locally as the lower MacArthur Dam.

After coffee and doughnuts and the ribbon cutting ceremony, presided over by the president of the Thessalon Club, Jack MacDonald, the group was guided across the dam by the trail captain, Don Fulton, over a section of the trail that terminates at the Shaw Road. This section of the trail leads southward over a rather precipitous cliff overlooking the lake created by the dam. It was used as a water reserve for the old power house at Little Rapids. Seventy-five years ago if one had looked down on the area where the lake now stretches to the west, one would have seen a broad flat sand plain, dotted with pine stumps from which a rich harvest of white pine logs had been recently cut. In the middle of the plain stood a set of log buildings called the Horse Camps, near the river.

The trail to the south winds down from the bluff across a flat area where beaver have created a series of dams on a small stream. This is the area where a young girl became lost in 1880, during the early years of settlement of Kirkwood Township. It was her first and last day at the little log home her father had built in the forest because she succumbed there in spite of the efforts of searchers to rescue her.

Large pine stumps along the trail that have withstood the passage of time for many decades are mute evidence of the magnificent trees that once grew along much of this section of the trail.

The Autumn colours added greatly to the pleasure of traversing this interesting area and the visitors from Sault Ste. Marie, Blind River, and those who attended the official opening from the Thessalon Area all experienced another enjoyable day on a part of the Voyageur Trail.

Editor's Note: While news items are not credited, many readers will recognize the style of the above from other works, such as Shantymen and Sodbusters, by the same author.

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION WINTER ACTIVITIES 1978-1979

- Jan. 1 NEW YEAR AWAKENER: A two hour walk (or ski or snowshoe
2 p.m. hike if snow levels are suitable) to clear away the New
Mon. Year's after-party grumps and start of 1979 in a happy,
healthy way.
MEET: North end of Carpin Beach Road, near 3rd line.
LEADER: Tom Allinson. Phone: 256-8742.
- Jan. 28 ECHO RIDGES TRAIL: Snowshoes only. This will not be
1 p.m. suitable for skiing. A 2-3 hour hike and back to the cars
Sun. by 4 p.m. We hope the local area people will take advantage
of this Sunday afternoon walk.
MEET: At junction of Hwy 638 and Lonely Lake Rd. (Rd into
Tower Lake)
LEADER: Barry Hansen. Phone: 248-2897
- Feb. 11 MOONLIGHT SNOWSHOE HIKE: Nettleton Lake area. Since this
6 p.m. is a popular snowmobile trail it may be packed enough to walk
Sun. without snowshoes. Everyone enjoyed it last year. You'll
be home early.
MEET: North end of Goulais Ave., near Camp Korah.
LEADER: Bert Dearing. Phone: 256-7796.
- Mar. 10 DESBARATS TRAIL: Snowshoe hike. Bring lunch. A chance for
10 a.m. the Bruce area people to see where the trail goes.
Sat. MEET: Bruce Mines school at the flashing light-Hwy 17E.
LEADER: Bill Gunn. Phone: 785-3488.
- LATE WINTER: Overnight in the north woods for winter fun in the
snow. The plan is to go to a resort cabin along the Chapleau
Highway near the V.T.A. trail. Place, price and practical
details will be proved out according to the participants.
Please call before Dec. 31 if you plan to go:
- Paul Syme: 254-4791 Deiter Ropke: 253-8375
Rita Bertoli: 253-2726 Eve Kersey: 253-1517

A NEW TRAILMASTER

Rev. Arnold Megan was appointed Trailmaster at the 1978 Annual General Meeting. Rev. Megan's vast first-hand knowledge of the territory through which the Voyageur Trail will eventually run makes him eminently suited for this position. Our new Deputy Trailmaster is Tom Allinson, a dedicated trail builder from 'way back. We wish to welcome both these people to their new positions. At the same time, we wish to extend our sincere thanks to Ralph Wood for his advice, interest, and dedication as our first Trailmaster. Ralph is taking up new scholastic pursuits in southern Ontario and will remain as our FOHTA representative.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

1978

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Voyageur Trail Association and the Voyageur Trail have both progressed considerably in the last year and you should all be proud to be part of the drive that has brought it about. Much of our progress you may already be aware of, but I'll touch on a few highlights.

We have another new club this year, at Schreiber, on the north shore of Lake Superior. There are about 45 km of shoreline trail already built between Terrace Bay and Rainbow Falls Provincial Park, under the auspices of the Ministry of Natural Resources. I have written to the Ministry to ask that they turn over this trail to the V.T.A. so that the Schreiber Club can extend and maintain it. The reply so far is encouraging.

Although it's a long way from the Sault to Schreiber, we have to get there somehow, and a good start has been made by a small group of dedicated Saulteaux members, under the leadership of Ernie Pringle and Tom Allinson. That "group" frequently consisted of solely the latter two gentlemen - they deserve our deepest appreciation. Their efforts have taken the trail from Gros Cap to the Lake Superior shoreline near the top of Prince Township.

Of course, you all know the Thessalon Section was completed this summer, with the help of 4 students working under a Young Canada Works Project. I don't need to say anything more about that, for you will hear the highlights of that effort from the horse's mouth, so to speak. That effort, by the way, has extended the trail down to the town of Iron Bridge.

The Rainbow Section is expanding with the help of the Espanola Highschool Outers Club, under George Morrison, our Sudbury Club members and some Toronto Bruce Trail Club members, under the leadership of Gordon Thompson. The trail now extends from the highway at the Willisville Tower north to Bass Lake, cleared and blazed with a few short gaps in the blazing - a distance of about 18 km.

Ontario Hiking Day was successful as far as the V.T.A. was concerned, with a total of 176 people out, so far reported, and with 2 clubs yet to report.

I am happy to report (because it is a relief to me) that the V.T.A. has a publicity committee newly formed, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Judy Falkins.

Our Guidebook Committee, under the chairmanship of Bob Andrews, is making progress, and I'll call on Bob to tell you about it shortly.

I would be out of character if I didn't urge you to do something. There are two remaining topics that I would like to touch on and this won't be the first time for either. One is education. With more and more people using the Voyageur Trail and the fact that it is in relatively remote country, we must make a concerted effort to educate the public on both the etiquette of using the trail (the Trail User's Code), and on being prepared to use it. Our Publicity Committee must make a real effort to reach the potential users of our trail with these messages, and you, our members, can help by volunteering suggestions, your slides of the trail in use, and thoughts on what groups to approach and how they best can be reached.

The second topic, is, of course, membership. Members are what every one of our clubs needs most - and members who will be active in this organization. I am convinced, after several years in this game and after talking to others of other trail groups, that the best way by far, to recruit members is by word of mouth. Talk to your friends, get them out on the trail. Your own enthusiasm is the best sales pitch.

Finally, let me express what I'm sure are the collective thoughts of our Board and Executive in extending my sincerest thanks to all our members who have worked so hard in many ways to extend the Voyageur Trail Association and the Voyageur Trail.

Thank you
Paul D. Syme

CLUB NEWS

FROM THE SECRETARY:

With formal recognition by the Board, at the October Board Meeting, of a new Voyageur Trail Club at Schreiber, Ontario, the total number of V.T. Clubs now stands at ten. In addition to Schreiber V.T.C., these are (west to east): Thunder Bay, Michipicoten, Salteaux, Echo Ridges, Desbarats, Thessalon, Penewobikong, Rainbow and Sudbury. Also at the October Board Meeting, Bob Andrews of Echo Ridges was elected to succeed Don Fulton of Thessalon as the Associations's Vice-President. Our best wishes to Bob and our thanks to Don for a job well done. Other members of the present Executive are Paul Syme (President), Dieter Ropke (Treasurer) and Ian Morrison (Secretary).

The Annual General Meeting was held in Echo Bay in October on the same day as the Board Meeting. In addition to regular reports and business, the meeting featured a report by Shane Wilson on the completion of the Thessalon Section, a showing of the Ellis Roddick movie: Backpack to Nature, and slides of the Picture Rocks area of Michigan by member Larry Lemanski of Lansing. Following the meeting, Bob Andrews led a hike over the One Horse-Two Horse Lakes area of the Echo Ridges Section.

News of the Voyageur Trail continues to spread! This year's furthest enquiry comes from Derbyshire, England. Last year we received ones from Holland. In addition, letters of enquiry were received from South Carolina, Tennessee, New York, Ohio and various other states as well as various provinces of Canada. Finally, the membership of the Voyageur Trail Association continues to climb. We finished last year (i.e., March 31, 1978) with 240 members, up 36 from 204 a year previous. By the end of the present year we should easily surpass the 240-mark, however, WE ALWAYS WELCOME NEW MEMBERS. Make a point of introducing a friend or friends to the V.T.A!

NOTICE

The Voyageur Trail will be closed for one day, the first Monday in February, February 5, 1979.

DISCOUNTS TO HIKERS

On presentation of a current membership card, the following businesses offer a discount to V.T.A. members.

Joe's Sports and Surplus, 9 Queen Street East, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., offers a 10% discount. Sales items and all "Woods" brand articles are excluded.

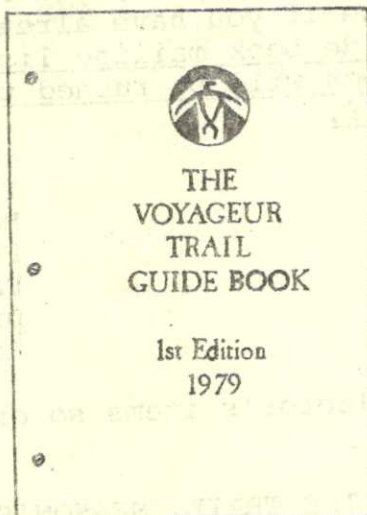
Kinney Shoes of Canada Ltd. offers a 10% discount on hiking boots.

Margessons of 17 Adelaide Street East, Toronto M5C 1H4, offers a 10% discount on most camping items. Margessons issue a camping catalogue which may be obtained by writing to them.

FreezeDry Foods of 579 Speers Road, Oakville, Ont., L6K 2G4, offers a 20% discount on their freeze-dried products to club members.

SPECIALISED SERVICES

Sport Sewing Shop of 1659 Bayview Ave., Suite 201, Toronto, Ont., M4G 3C1, Telephone 1-416-486-9666, specializes in repairs to down-filled items, back-packs, tents, harness, etc. They also can supply specialized fabrics, zippers for sleeping bags, etc., webbing and fasteners. Free sewing advice is also offered.



The above replica is the debut of the VTA guide book. Your guide book committee is proud to announce the first edition which will be available by March 1979. Here is a sneak preview:

cover: accohide vinyl, yellow with blue printing

size: pocket size about 10 x 15 cm

printer: Graphic Arts Department, Alexander Henry High School

contents: 20 pages and 4 maps

cost: members and landowners \$3.00 per copy
all others \$5.00 per copy

trail covered: the initial mailing will provide a complete guide to the SAULTEAUX Section. The above price includes subsequent mailings of the Echo Ridges, Desbarats and Thessalon Sections providing a guide book for a continuous trail of some 160 km. Subsequent mailings will be sent out free of charge to all guide book owners, probably by March 1980.

The first mailing will contain a title page, a table of contents, an introduction of the Saulteaux Section and 4 maps, the guide book discusses the use of fire on the trail, trail markings, equipment, safety, gettinglost in the bush, hiking during the hunting season, hypothermia and other topics of interest.

Plan your summer hikes in the sunny month of March when spring seems to be only a few days away.

Include the price of the guide book when you renew your membership for 1979 or send us a cheque if you have already renewed. We have prepared a special guide book mailing list. Provided your name is on it, the guide book will be rushed to you as soon as the ink is dry in March 1979.

The Guidebook Committee
 Bob Andrews (Chairman)
 Paul Syme
 Father Meagan
 Dieter Ropke
 Richard McCutcheon

PS: First Editions are collector's items so order now!

STATUS OF THE TRAIL, SEASON'S END

There has been trail-building activity along much of the Voyageur Trail this summer. With the help of the Sudbury Club and a contingent from the Toronto Bruce Trail club, under the leadership of Gord Thompson, the Rainbow Section has been extended to north of Bass Lake.

The Penewobikong Club has been busy and now has about 10 km of trail flagged, ready for clearing next spring. This portion includes some spectacular views of the waterfalls and lakes on the Blind River system.

Moving west, the Thessalon Section was officially opened on October 1 and extends from the town of Iron Bridge to just north of Rydal Bank. It includes rocky outcrops, flat stretches across sand plains, pine forests, and several beautiful vistas.

The Desbarats Section was opened in 1976, so now there is continuous trail from Tower Lake, north of Echo Bay, to Iron Bridge. There are a few small gaps in this stretch, for various reasons, and there will be some minor re-routing. However, it should be in top shape and measured by next summer.

The Echo Ridges Section has had some set-backs with logging and road-building operations, but much of that has been recovered and more flagging has been done so that trail is either cleared or flagged from Tower Lake to the Echo River. Many thanks to the White Pines outers clubs of Sault Ste. Marie for their efforts. Another portion has been cleared north of Echo Lake. In Duncan Township, trail has been cleared east to Maude Lake and more along the Driving Creek. Although all of this is not yet blazed, there is continuous trail from Maude Lake to the eastern city limits of Sault Ste. Marie, the western terminus of the Echo Ridges Section, and west to Gros Cap and north to near the top of Prince Township at the Lake Superior Shoreline.

We have received no official report, but presumably trail-building continued in Pukaskwa National Park this past summer, adding to the 30 km of trail present last spring!

Looking back, we can be proud of the gains we have made in the past year.

MANY THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO WORKED SO HARD TO ACHIEVE THEM!

This coming season is the time to sit down over maps and aerial photos and plan more trail for next summer. Keep up the good work.

A WINTER RECIPE

Trail Tea

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (1 envelope) of Tang or any other orange juice mix
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup iced tea mix flavoured with lemon
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup instant tea
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon cloves

Mix thoroughly by shaking and store in a small jar. Add boiling water to a teaspoon of mix per cup.

from The Trail Voice, a publication of the International Backpackers Association.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Sections (please check)

- ☐ Association-at-large
- ☐ Saulteaux V.T.C.
- ☐ Echo Ridges V.T.C.
- ☐ Desbarats V.T.C.
- ☐ Thessalon V.T.C.
- ☐ Iron Bridge
- ☐ Penewobikong V.T.C.
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Massey
- ☐ Rainbow V.T.C.
- ☐ Little Current
- ☐ Shegu'andah
- ☐ South Baymouth
- ☐ Sudbury V.T.C.

- ☐ Thunder Bay V.T.C.
- ☐ Nipigon
- ☐ Schreiber V.T.C.
- ☐ Marathon
- ☐ Pukaskwa Park
- ☐ Michipicoten V.T.C.
- ☐ Lake Superior Park
- ☐ Batchawana
- ☐ Goulais V.T.C.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE (home) _____

(business) _____

DECLARATION

I have read and will abide by the TRAIL USERS CODE

(signature)

(date)

FEES

- ☐ Individual \$ 5.00
- ☐ Family \$ 5.00
- ☐ Student \$ 2.00
- ☐ Crests \$ _____ (\$1.00 each)
- ☐ Guidebook \$ 3.00 (for members)
- ☐ \$ 5.00 (for non-members)
- ☐ Donations \$ _____ (receipt for income tax purposes will be sent)

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

SIGN UP A FRIEND