



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

No. 15

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SNOWSHOEING ON THE DESBARATS SECTION

EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT, OCTOBER 20. 1979

I'd like to talk to you about our past, our present and our future. Our past is history but I'd like to remind you that the Voyageur Trail Association began in 1973 with 8 persons and a shared vision.

We have continued to share that vision with more and more people until today our support comes from more than 200 persons, distributed along the route of the Voyageur Trail and beyond. That is encouraging and gratifying, to think that that many people share the desire to see a continuous footpath from Thunder Bay to South Baymouth.

In the past year we have made considerable progress to that end. The Peniwobikong Voyageur Trail Club has laid out and cleared some few kilometers of trail. A large gain has been made on the Echo Ridges Section this past year and in that regard, we must express our thanks to the Garden River Band of Ojibways for permission to cross the Garden River on their bridge, and to the White Pines Outers Club (S.S.M.) for the efforts they have put into clearing this difficult section.

The Goulais River group have selected a route from Highway 17 at the Mile Hill north of Sault Ste. Marie, to Kirby's Corners.

The Michipicoten V.T. Club members have cleared trail so one can walk from Wawa to the Mission. At Schreiber, the Trail that last year extended between Terrace Bay and Rainbow Falls Provincial Park west of Schreiber, has been officially turned over to the Voyageur Trail Association and is being extended to Rossport by the Schreiber V.T. Club.

At Nipigon, we have acquired 2 new members, with a potential for a new club there in the future, while at Thunder Bay, a revitalized Club has recently chosen a new executive, flagged a few kilometers of trail and hopes to gain some real momentum.

Many enquiries have been personally answered, including one from the Secretary of State's Office; responses to land-use questionnaires from several M.N.R. Districts; the Boy Scouts of Canada, Kent District Council; and the 2nd Field Ambulance, Canadian Forces Base, Petawawa.

As to the future, I see diminishing responses within some trail clubs in southern Ontario. Why? I do not know. I only hope that the same phenomenon does not occur within our territory. I know we are all busy with a multitude of commitments. I've said so before, we are an organization of "doers" - people who like to do things rather than passively watch the world go by. So let's

set our priorities right. If the Voyageur Trail is to be completed, we ALL have to help, in two ways: We have to continue to build trail, for there is a lot of trail to be built yet. But, we have to enlist more help, for the job eventually becomes too big for a few. For our own future viability, we have to build up our membership within each club. The future of the Voyageur Trail Association and the future existence of the Voyageur Trail depends on a strong membership willing to make some sacrifices for the creation of what is becoming a truly remarkable footpath across northern Ontario. A footpath that will fill the hearts of all hikers with desire.

With the kind of progress we have made so far, I foresee a bright future, for as the trail is extended in bits and pieces, and linked up here and there, what remains to be done looks less and less like an impossible task, and more and more like an accomplishable goal. Don't try to mentally bite off the entire route from Thunder Bay to South Baymouth, but within your own Club's Section, try to set an objective for the season and then commit yourself to helping to achieve that objective. In that way, the Trail gets built, step by step and each year more and more gets linked up, until one day we shall see that elusive continuous trail along the shores of Lakes Superior and Huron.

I would like to extend again, my deepest thanks to all of you, present to-day or not, who have helped in many ways to further the aims and objectives of the Voyageur Trail Association.

--- Paul D. Syme

ATTENTION LANDOWNERS

The wheels of progress grind slowly! In 1977 we informed you that the Ontario Trails Council had recommended to the Government of Ontario that legislation should be enacted so that landowners who graciously allow recreational use of their land would be relieved of civic liability.

We are happy to report that such legislation has received first reading in the Ontario Legislature this fall, and hopefully, we will be able to report the acceptance of the Act in our spring Newsletter.

In the meantime, English Common Law still protects you.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S REPORT AND OTHER NEWS

OF INTEREST

The following is a brief digest of some of the points contained in the Secretary's Annual Report as presented to the Board of the Voyageur Trail Association at their meeting prior to the 1979 Annual General Meeting held in Wawa on October 20, plus some up-to-date information. Membership in the Association as reported in the Secretary's Report was 209. This has now (at the time of writing, January 14) increased to 238, and with three months to go in 1979/80, we are bound to easily surpass last year's total of 244.

News of the Voyageur Trail continues to spread! This year's enquiry-from-farthest-away came from Lichtaatt, Belgium (last year it was England, the year before, Holland). Others this year came from Berkely, California, Tucson, Arizona, Evanston, Illinois, Providence, Rhode Island, to name a few.

This year the Association voted on and accepted a new Constitution. In accordance with the previous Constitution (in effect at the time of the vote), ballots were issued to all members. Of the responding ballots, all were in favour of the revised Constitution. Appropriate mechanisms were put in place at the Board and Annual Meetings so that, if accepted, the new Constitution would automatically come into effect when the 30-day time limit for return of ballots expired. The new executive of the Voyageur Trail Association is: President: Paul D. Syme (Saulteaux); Vice-Presidents: R. Andrews (Echo Ridges) and T. McGrath (Schreiber); Secretary: I. Morrison (Saulteaux); Treasurer: D. Ropke (Desbarats).

The Annual General Meeting was held in Wawa, Ontario, and was hosted by the Michipicoten V.T. Club. After a wet but thoroughly enjoyable afternoon hike along the beautiful Michipicoten Section past the magnificent Magpie High Falls, participants repaired to a sumptuous dinner at the Wawa Motor Hotel. The evening was capped by two presentations on Pukaskwa National Park, by Cordy Tymstra and by Mike O'Connor.

NOTICE

The Voyageur Trail will be closed for one day, the first Monday in February, February 4, 1980.



A great way to spend the Victoria Day Weekend!



HIKE ONTARIO! and its now familiar green and white logo, has appeared many times in this newsletter during 1979, providing you with exciting information about the first Ontario hiking conference May 16 to May 19 at Trent University, Peterborough.

A program has now been finalized and a preregistration form is included in this newsletter. You are invited to plan your Victoria Day long weekend now at a truly inexpensive family holiday cost.

"Big Doings" are planned: hardy, outdoor appetites will enjoy a cook-out luncheon and a pioneer breakfast; children will have a special program of their own; many organized outings are scheduled, and the evenings will be alive with square dancing and entertainment.

For those of you who want to learn more about how other Clubs maintain their trails; gain technical and

educational information for the improvement of hiking trails and programs; discuss problems facing Ontario trails, and pick up some new hiking tips, a number of exciting workshops are planned. Group sessions will also allow participants an opportunity to discuss how they can influence government decisions relating to hiking trails.

Mr. Justice Thomas Berger, who headed the historic MacKenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry, will be the guest speaker at the Sunday banquet.

An exchange/sale of hiking, cross-country and snow-shoe equipment is also planned, so bring along all your outgrown or outdated equipment.

At **HIKE ONTARIO!** you will be staying in residence or camping at Trent's 1,500-acre campus which is situated at the northern edge of Peterborough. The campus is cut by the Otonabee River, a part of the popular Trent Canal System that carries boaters between Lake Ontario and Georgian Bay.

During the organized outings you will enjoy the Peterborough area — the lakes, granite and evergreens of the Canadian shield to the north and the softly rolling St. Lawrence Lowlands bordering Lake Ontario to the south. Those who know the area best will recommend the trips to Serpent Mounds at Rice Lake Provincial Park, Petroglyph Park and the High Falls Trail, the Warsaw Caves and a 600-acre wildlife sanctuary just next door to Trent University. The City of Peterborough, the gateway to the Kawartha Lakes, recreational area is also worthy of a visit. Peterborough is charming — homes and business buildings from many decades of Victorian and later eras . . . good homemade peanut butter . . . one of the world's largest hydraulic lift-locks . . . parks, playgrounds . . . a friendly farmer's market . . . spinners, weavers, potters, artisans . . . a new art gallery.

Preregister before March 31, 1980, for **HIKE ONTARIO!** and your name will be entered in the lucky draw for prizes donated by Margesson's Sports Ltd. and Thomas Black and Sons Canada Ltd. The draw will be made at the Conference.

Make the Victoria Day weekend a memorable mini vacation by joining hundreds of fellow hikers at **HIKE ONTARIO!** in 1980. Register now.

Program

MAIN ACTIVITY

CONCURRENT ACTIVITY

Friday

Afternoon 4 to 6 p.m.

Registration

Campus orientation tours

Evening

Socializing

Displays

Saturday

Morning

8 to 9 a.m.

Get Acquainted Pioneer Breakfast

Registration, displays,

9 to 10 a.m.

Presentations on Ontario trails

Campus/orientation tours

10:30 to 12 noon

Keynote speaker and discussion panel on Conference theme

Young people's program

Afternoon

Study groups on Conference theme
Technical workshops
Experience exchanges
Ideas for hikers:
1. Hiking with children
2. Zero impact camping
3. Mapreading and orienteering
4. Trail maintenance and construction
5. Ideas for backpackers
6. Great North American trails

Outings, displays
Used equipment exchange/
sale

Evening

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Trail presentations

Displays

8:30 to —

Square dancing

Socializing

Sunday

Morning

8 to 8:30

Ecumenical service

Young people's program

10 to 11:30 a.m.

General assembly,
reports from study groups,
general discussion,
resolutions

Afternoon

12:15 to 1:30

Sunday Cookout

1:30 to 6 p.m.

Organized outings

Displays

Evening

7 p.m. to —

Banquet and speaker,
Mr. Justice Thomas Berger,
followed by entertainment

Displays

Monday

Morning

9:30 to 11:30

Organized outings

Displays

12 noon to 12:30

General closing ceremony

HIKE ONTARIO! is sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations.

Members of F.O.H.T.A. are:

Avon Trail Association, Box 384, Stratford, Ontario, N5A 6T3.
Bruce Trail Association, Box 857, Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 3N9.
Elgin Hiking Trail Club, Box 11, St. Thomas, Ontario, N5P 3T5.
Ganaraska Trail Association, Box 1136, Barrie, Ontario, L4M 5E2.
Grand Valley Trails Association, Box 1233, Kitchener, Ontario, N1G 4G8.
Guelph Trail Club, Box 1, Guelph, Ontario, N1H 6J6.
Quinte-Hastings Recreational Trail Association, Box 1333, Belleville, Ontario, K8N 5J1.
Rideau Trail Association, Box 15, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 4V6.
Thames Valley Trail Association, 403 Lansing Avenue, London, Ontario, N6K 2J2.
Voyageur Trail Association, Box 66, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6A 5L2.

REGISTRATION

A draw will be held at the conference for all persons who register before March 31, 1980. Two prizes worth \$100 each donated by Margesson's Sports Ltd. and Blacks.

Conference Fee

Full weekend: Single member: \$8; single non-member \$10; Family member, \$20; Family non-member, \$25. (Children under 13 free.) Your registration will be acknowledged by a post card with a map of the location of Peterborough and Trent University.

A member of one of the Associations which is a member of FOHTA.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is in Otonabee College residence on the east side of the Otonabee River.

Rates: Single, \$14 per night; Double, \$22 per night. There are a limited number of double rooms, so book early. Children may use sleeping bags at no additional cost. No cots are provided.

CAMPING

Camping is permitted on the west side of the Otonabee River at \$3 per day per campsite. Fresh water and outdoor and dormitory washrooms are available, but no camp fires are allowed and there are no electrical outlets.

MEALS

Delegates are encouraged to buy meal tickets. The registration fee includes the Pioneer Breakfast on Saturday and the noonhour cookout on Sunday. It also includes coffee/tea/juice all weekend.

7. Registration Form

(Please print the names of each registrant)

Name(s) _____

PUKASKWA HIKING

Hiking has been the traditional means of getting around in the Pukaskwa area and the Park, with it's emphasis on preservation, encourages activities such as hiking. A system of 6 major trails is proposed to enable visitors to explore the Park. The Coastal Hiking Trail is the first trail to see construction. It follows the rugged north shore of Lake Superior and takes you along sand and raised boulder beaches, Jackpine flats, rocky shores, fertile valleys, headlands and rushing rivers.

The trail crew has to date, completed construction from the Pic River (start of trail) to Hideway Lake, a distance of about 68 Km. The last 49 Km. of trail to the Pukaskwa River is flagged and construction will continue next spring. Construction of this trail is scheduled for completion by summer 1982. Work will then begin on a trail to Tip Top Mountain.

There were about 10 people, mostly locals, working on the trail crew this past summer. Instead of continually making land based camps while constructing trail, two barges (together known as the "Rustic Resort") complete with a cook, provide relatively comfortable living conditions. The crew works on a 10 days in and 4 days out schedule and the work season begins in early May with maintenance to the existing trail the first priority.

A self registration booth was set up this summer on the north side of the Pic River. Hikers are required to "register-out" and "register-in" on the forms provided. According to the registration, approximately 155 people hiked the Coastal Trail this past hiking season.

Primitive campsites have been established along the trail and a guide has been published for the first 35 Km. of trail (Pic River to Oiseau Bay).

The trail south of Oiseau Bay will provide a greater challenge for the more serious hiker. While staying within the trail standards, the Park has attempted to make this section of trail a bit more demanding. Hikers will, for example, come across fewer trail structures (ie. elevated walkways, steps, etc.).

Until construction of the Pic River Bridge is completed (Spring 1981), hikers have to find their own way across the river into the Park. A private water taxi service is provided in Heron Bay from which a canoe can be rented or a motor boat or tug taxi service arranged. If interested, contact Bruce McCuaig in Heron Bay (229-0420). Since the Coastal Trail is a linear trail, some hikers will instead of hiking both directions, hike one direction and arrange to be picked up at some point along the coast.

However you plan your hike and whether you hike both directions or only one the Coastal Trail will provide a pleasant and enjoyable experience along the Pukaskwa shoreline... a wild shore of an inland sea.

If you wish more information on hiking in Pukaskwa, write to Pukaskwa National Park, P.O. Box 550, MARATHON, Ontario, POT 2E0 - (807)229-0801.

--- Cordy Tymstra

EARLY MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS HELP

The Voyageur Trail Association operates on an April 1 - March 31 membership year, with new memberships received after November 1 credited to next year. But RENEWALS of membership can be made ANYTIME and are credited to next year too! Why renew early? About this time of year, past the end of the trail-building season, but before the spring flush of new memberships, our cash reserves tend to hit their yearly low. Renewing early gives us some extra cash with which to buy tools and supplies and so be better prepared for next spring's trail-building activity. If you renew early, without waiting to be invoiced, you do save us some time and postage. Finally, if you renew early, it helps distribute the Secretary's work load a little more evenly over time.

Where does our money go? In one issue of the Voyageur Trail News, we indicated that one place it goes is into supplies like flagging tape. One of our main expenses, however, is for TOOLS. In fact, we spend a large part of our budget on tools and as the Voyageur Trail, by the time it's completed, will be one of the longest trails in Canada, we will need a lot of tools. So we're always happy to receive DONATIONS as well! For donations over and above membership, we're empowered to issue receipts for income tax purposes, and that time is quickly approaching!

STATUS OF THE GUIDEBOOK

The first VTA Guidebook was issued in 1979 with an introduction of the Saulteaux Section and 4 maps. It discusses the use of fire on the Trail, trail markings, equipment, safety, getting lost in the bush, hiking during the hunting season, hypothermia and other topics of interest. The price, \$3.00 to members and \$5.00 to all others, includes subsequent mailings of the Echo Ridges, Desbarats and Thessalon Sections, providing a guide for a continuous trail of some 160 km. These will be mailed, probably by the fall of 1980. Other sections, as they are completed, will be added to the Guidebook at an appropriate cost.

If you don't already have one, order your copy to-day, using the form on the back of this newsletter.*

*If it's missing, fill it in. Some forms are old stock.

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION WINTER ACTIVITIES 1980

- Jan. 25
Friday
6 p.m. SAULTEAUX: MOONLIGHT SNOWSHOE HIKE: Nettleton Lake area. This area often has snowmobile trails which are packed so they can be walked on. If some people would prefer, a group may go for a walk along either of these trails or along the road beside the lake.
MEET: North end of Goulais Ave. near Camp Korah.
LEADER: Horst Wetzl. Phone 253-4471.
- Feb. 9
Saturday
10 a.m. SAULTEAUX: SKI WALLS LAKE AREA: A part of the Trail that is good for skiing. Bring a lunch.
MEET: Stedman's Mall parking lot, near the 2nd Line.
LEADER: Tom Allinson. Phone 256-8742.
- Mar. 9
Sunday
10 a.m. SAULTEAUX: SKI NORTH CARPIN BEACH ROAD: A beautiful open woods area. Bring a lunch.
MEET: Stedman's Mall parking lot near the 2nd Line.
LEADER: Tom Allinson. Phone 256-8742.
- Mar. 16
Sunday
10:30 a.m. DESBARATS: SNOWSHOE ON THE DESBARATS SECTION: Enjoy a winter's day with your neighbours on the local trail, a very beautiful area. Bring lunch.
MEET: Bruce Mines School at the flashing light on Highway 17 East.
LEADER: Fred Haavisto. Phone 782-6864.

Tom Korah 942-35073

The Federation of Ontario Naturalists

SUMMER CAMP

The Federation of Ontario Naturalists has planned a Summer Camp for 1980. The camp will be held from Sunday, June 29th to Friday, July 4th at a comfortable lodge in the Bruce Peninsula which, of course, offers unrivaled natural history opportunities.

The week will be both informative and fun. On the agenda are trips to the FON's nature reserve at Dorcas Bay and to Flower Pot Island. There will be workshops on botany, birds, photography, invertebrates, geology and entomology, to mention only a few. In the evenings, there will be slide shows and "how to" sessions with many guest naturalists but there will also be free time to pursue individual interests.

For more information, write: The Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 355 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, Ontario M3B 2W8. ATTENTION: Ann Sinclair.

Please mention your affiliation with the V.T.A.

STATUS OF THE TRAIL - SEASON'S END

This past summer has seen a lot of trail-building along the route of the Voyageur Trail. The following listing shows the status for each Section. In it, "Complete" means the Trail is cleared and marked with standard white blazes, whereas "Under Construction" indicates the Trail is either ground-proofed, flagged, or cleared, but not yet painted.

SAULTEAUX: Completed - 46 km east - west and 16 km north,
for a total of 62 km.
Under Construction - nil. TOTAL 62 km

ECHO RIDGES: Completed - 17 km.
Under Construction - 30 km. TOTAL 46 km

DESBARATS: Completed - 27 km.
Under Construction - nil. TOTAL 27 km

THESSALON: Completed - about 64 km.
Under Construction - some minor re-routing
required. TOTAL 64 km

PENEWOBIKONG: Completed - 5 km.
Under Construction - 12 km. TOTAL 17 km

RAINBOW: Completed - 21 km.
Under Construction - 3 km. TOTAL 24 km

THUNDER BAY: Under Construction - 5 km. TOTAL 5 km

SCHREIBER: Under Construction - 37 km cleared and blazed
with red markers, hikeable, plus another 16 km
TOTAL 53 km

PUKASKWA PARK: Completed - 68 km (the Park is not using white
blazes).
Under Construction - 49 km. TOTAL 117 km
BUT, see the article on the Pukaskwa Section
in this Newsletter.

MICHIPICOTEN: Completed - 3 km.
Under Construction - 9 km. TOTAL 12 km

LAKE SUPERIOR PARK: Under Construction - 10 km. TOTAL 10 km

GOULAIS: Under Construction - 7 km. TOTAL 7 km

In summary, there are 267 km completed, that is, cleared and blazed, plus another 178 km under construction, of which a good proportion is cleared and hikeable, for a grand total of 445 km of Voyageur Trail in some state of completion.

Keep up the good work!

Paul D. Syme

**Hike
Ontario!**

12.



SALE

HIKE ONTARIO! SALE AND EXCHANGE

Did Santa bring a new set of cross-country skis this Christmas?

Planning to spring clean the sports equipment closet?

Has someone outgrown their hiking boots or snowshoes?

If you can answer "yes" to these questions, then you will be interested in the sale and exchange of sports equipment and sports clothing to be sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations (FOHTA) at the hiking convention, HIKE ONTARIO!, at Trent University, Peterborough, May 16 to May 19, 1980.

Just write your name and address on the item to be sold or exchanged, add the asking price, and bring it along to the Conference. Someone at the Registration Desk will direct you to the sales room. A 20 per cent commission on each sale will help the Federation continue its work.

And if you haven't heard about HIKE ONTARIO!, the first Ontario conference for hiking enthusiasts, contact Paul Syme, c/o Box 66 Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., P6A 5L2, Phone 254-4791. There is much more about HIKE ONTARIO! in this edition of the Voyageur Trail News.

Important Feature

SAULTEAUX CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Saulteaux V.T. Club will be held on Wednesday, February 20, 1980, at The Gallery, downstairs at Rico's Restaurant, 116 Spring St., Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. Refreshments at 6:30 and Dinner at 7:00 P.M. Guest speaker will be Dr. Robert Stevenson who will discuss hiking in Switzerland with slides. A slide-fest is also scheduled for those who may have some slides of trail or hiking activities. Send your slides to Rita Bertoli, 512 Wellington St. West, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

PLEASE CALL Rita if you plan to attend. 253-2726 (home)
945-3347 (business)

EVERYBODY WELCOME!



VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

THE TRAIL USERS CODE

- Hike only along marked routes. -Do not climb fences, use the stiles.
- 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 (better still, carry lightweight hiker's stove).
- Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy.
- Never strip bark from trees. -Protect and do not disturb wildlife.
- Keep dogs on the leash on or near farmland.
- Walk around the edges of fields, not across them.
- Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photographs.

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER ROSTER

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Bridge-building | 8. Map-making | 14. Editorial Work |
| 2. Carpentry | 9. Publicity | 15. Typing |
| 3. Stone Masonry | 10. Display Designing | 16. Legal Advice |
| 4. Trail Maintenance | 11. Photos and Slides | 17. Correspondence |
| 5. Trail Building | Clearing House | 18. Envelope Stuffing |
| 6. Contacting | 12. Fund-raising | 19. Serve on Board of |
| Landowners | 13. Publications | own club or V.T.A. |
| 7. Leading Hikes | | 20. Other |

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.
- ☐ Sudbury
- ☐ Little Current
- ☐ Sheguiandah
- ☐ South Baymouth

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

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)
- ☐ Donations \$ _____ (receipt for income tax purposes will be sent)

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

SIGN UP A FRIEND