



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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FALL TREASURES ON THE TRAIL



Hike Ontario!

OUTLOOK

Box 651, Station K, Toronto, Ontario, M4P

Look ahead, plan ahead, work together

From the opening remarks of Gord Thompson, Hike Ontario! president, welcoming hikers to the Broadening Horizons conference in Guelph.

Even as hikers continually face forward, move forward, ever watchful for the next blaze or turn in the trail so, too, the hiking movement in Ontario must continually be mindful of the need to look ahead, to plan and develop with the future in mind.

The challenges of the future are many: to realize the tremendous

recreational potential of our provincial trails; to Broaden the Horizons of our existing hiking trails, linking them into a continuous footpath

Partnership is the basis on which we must build the opportunities for tomorrow's hiker. From our past success and our present endeavours, I am very optimistic about the challenges to come.

Working together, we can apply our imaginations and experiences to meet these challenges.

There is a bright future for trails development and for hikers in Ontario. Together we can accomplish a great deal.

From opening remarks by Norm Richards, Director of Parks and Recreational Areas Branch, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

stretching from Quebec to Manitoba; to face the increasingly complex realities of trail building; to address and resolve issues such as trail right-of-way designations, trail management, land-owner relations and negotiations, and educating the public in trail etiquette and enjoyment.

You have constructed and maintained nearly 2000 km of trails and rendered a service of inestimable value to your fellow citizens. And yet, despite a now thirty-year old tradition of hiking in Ontario, this recreation still remains virtually unknown to the public at large.

And so another challenge and opportunity for the future: to establish recognition and links, operating partnerships and on-going cooperation with government agencies. In addition, we must appreciate the value of communication with other like-minded community organizations.

Invite to Grand Oktoberfest

Grand Valley Trail Association is inviting all readers of Outlook to join them on October 18 for an Oktoberfest party and hike. There's a 8-10 mile hike of the Grand Valley Trail for starters, to be followed by a private party in the Hikers' Lounge of the Chicopee Ski Club's Berg Jolderhaus Chalet. From 4 pm to midnight there'll be a band and entertainment plus all the dancing you can handle. Already, members of the Toronto Bruce Trail Club are planning to attend.

Cost is \$20 person, drinks and a German food buffet extra. If in the Toronto calling area contact the Toronto Bruce Trail Club's president, Mike Webb, at 221-1538; otherwise, either Grand Valley's Betty Schneider at 519-886-5022 or Anne Weber at 519-743-1057. Alternatively, write Grand Valley Trail Association, Box 1233, Kitchener, Ontario N2G 4G8.

Keep in touch, spread the word. Please send news of your association's activities to:

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17 Marlborough Avenue
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Tele: (416) 922-4880

More liaison, more co-operation

Some 30 resolutions were tabled at the Sunday morning Town Meeting, chaired by Henry Graupner. Henry was the first president and guiding light of what was FOHTA and is now Hike Ontario!

Although not all resolutions were discussed, all but two were approved for in general every resolution tabled reflected a consensus that there should be greater liaison between the clubs and the various arms of government. The strongest to reflect this latter view was that of Doug Robertson, executive director of the Bruce Trail Association. Doug urged that Hike Ontario! "recommend to the Ontario government the immediate establishment of a permanent Provincial Trails Advisory Council."

Doug's Trail Council would "provide advice", "foster cooperative development" and eventually bring about "the construction of new and expanded trail corridors for public use."

Defeated was a motion that "Hike

Ontario! should make its priority activity the encouraging of development of the National Trail in Ontario." From the discussion, though, it was clear that the defeat was because of the single-mindedness of the resolution rather than its intent. All present were caught up in the conference's enthusiasm for Doug Campbell's dream of a hiking path to rival the Trans-Canada highway, but the majority also felt that Hike Ontario! and Ontario's trail associations have many other urgent problems that need to be tackled.

Defeated, too, was a motion by Jim Pierce of the Guelph Trail Club. Jim proposed that Hike Ontario! and the Bruce Trail Association amalgamate. His reasoning was that both play much the same role in Ontario hiking and that in very many cases there is a duplication of effort, particularly when it comes to dealing with government. Attractive was that many of the BTA services could be expanded to aid other clubs.

BACKPACKING THE LAKE SUPERIOR
COASTAL TRAIL

The mission has been accomplished. Sixteen courageous, and tough backpackers made it from Gargantua to Orphan Lake (or to the Coldwater River for some). A seventeenth member of the party had been to Gargantua so many times that she decided to do an Orphan Lake-Beatty Cove-Coldwater route.

Fortunately the weather was near perfect for the July long weekend with only a few five minute showers. It was not too hot on the first two days, and a perfect sunny day unfolded on the stop over at Beatty Cove.

The trail is difficult enough at any time, but with a heavy pack and many windfalls, it is quite an accomplishment. However, the magnificent scenery made the effort worthwhile. I think every hiker who makes this trip is deserving of an award.

The Outstanding Effort award must without doubt go to Donna Weeks, who as a backpacker with little experience, a bothersome hip, an uncomfortable military pack and a special diet, overcame these handicaps and completed the hike. Well done, Donna.

The Swimming, Tree Climbing and Male Fashion award goes to Steve Dominy. As you may know, Lake Superior in late June is by no means warm. However, Steve braved the frigid water for three trips to a little rocky island in Beatty Cove. The trip took 45 to 60 seconds each way. One trip was to retrieve a dropped flashlight that did not float as expected, but did prove to be waterproof. The fifty foot climb up a spruce tree was supposedly for an aerial photo of the campsite, however we suspect it was to safely store honey away from stray bears. His male fashion award was due to his snazzy Italian trousers. He claimed they were

purely practical, quick drying dark trousers but we suspect it was to impress the female hikers.

Helen Davies walked away with the Ladies Fashion award for her much admired snazzy red boot laces.

The Hiking Boot award goes to Mark Nadir. His hiking boots came apart on the last day. The coastal trail was just too much for them. Despite this, he said the Lake Superior trail was the best he had been on. The West Coast trail has more spectacular scenery but there is a lot of garbage and it has a relatively high density use from 2100 backpackers a year. On this trip we met only three other people, a day hiker near Rhyolite Bay and two campers at the Baldhead River.

Darcy and Fiona Ortiz won the Dental Hygiene award for religiously brushing and flossing their teeth.

Neil Capper at twelve years old won the Youngest Hiker award. He was unique in having only regular sneakers for footwear. What it is to be young!

I have to give myself the Balance Beam award for crossing the Buckshot Creek four feet up on a cedar log. Most others walked across using a thinner mountain ash at stream level.

Virve Squire won the Luxury Food award for bringing canteloup melon, apples, muffins, etc. It seems that she really meant her demonstration at the workshop and didn't learn anything from Darcy. Her excuse was that her pack was too empty and she had to fill it with goodies.

The trip was remarkable in that I witnessed no food being discarded on the campfire. Honourable mentions go to Mark's chile, and Steve Dominy who fully redeemed himself with smooth creamy tapioca pudding.

A suitable award for Bill Hall was hard to determine, perhaps ones for the Most Unusual Backpacker and the Path - where the is it - finder" award. He was determined to do the trip in full military style, complete with khaki outfit, collapsible shovel, hatchet and a tarpaulin instead of a tent. I think he really mistook Gargantua for Petawawa. However, at the end he admitted he had learned a bit from us civilians.

Dieter Ropke won the Light Sleeper and most Harried Leader award. Coordinating 17 backpackers who are by nature individualists is quite a tricky job but he accomplished it with grace and poise. However, every time Bill turned over in his sleep and crinkled his tarpaulin, or the porcupine chewed at the toilet Dieter was instantly wide awake.

The Toucan award goes to E.R. I can't reveal her true identity to protect the guilty. She took not one but two cans into Lake Superior Provincial Park! Two others hikers were also spotted with cans, however all four cans were packed out and not left behind as incriminating evidence.

The Purist and Knobby Knee award went to Roddie Larson. Not only did she not have any cans but she packed out all her food wrappings rather than burn them and she carefully purified her drinking water through a filter. The Knobby Knee award was due to a nasty gash on her knee when she slipped on her first day out.

The Most Experienced Coastal Tripper prize goes to Tom Allinson for his eighth trip along the trail.

The backpacker who came the furthest was Rainer, who came all the way from Germany especially for the trip. The fact that his in-laws were in the group was, I believe, purely coincidental.

Steve Taylor gets the Sunset award for encouraging everyone to come and watch the sunset over the water. However, the sun slipped gently down over

a hill so that spectacular photographs weren't possible. Steve did redeem himself slightly by giving us fairly accurate weather forecasts.

Larry Gringorten gets the Careful Driver award. He eased his little Micra along the Gargantua gravel road with Donna and Roddie, who wanted to get away a little early. However, Dieter in his LTD with the other drivers caught up to Larry before he reached the Gargantua parking lot.

As self-appointed time keeper, I should report the following times, which will be overestimates for the day hikers but underestimates if the rocks are wet and slippery. Times include rest but not lunch stops.

Driving time Coldwater to Gargantua
- Slow drivers 50 minutes
- Fast drivers 30 minutes
Hiking Gargantua to Rhyolite - 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs
Rhyolite to Buckshot Creek - 4 to 5 hrs
Buckshot to Beatty Cove - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 hrs
Beatty Cove to Baldhead River - 3 to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs
Baldhead to Coldwater - 2 to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs

It should be stressed that the coastal trail is not recommended for the novice backpacker, nor is it the place to carry more than is essential as there are some long steep climbs (where long legs are often an asset). However, if you want to explore the rugged shore of Lake Superior, this is where you can see some of its most beautiful scenery. There are many picturesque lookouts, fascinating rock formations and views of crystal clear water. Birds are usually more evident from their songs than by sightings. Some chipmunks and a snake were seen but the only large mammal spotted was a bear on the Gargantua Road.

Roddie, Mark and Rainer all agreed that respective trips from Wisconsin, Toronto and West Germany were worthwhile. However don't expect to find the trail easy and free of windfalls, and don't expect anything but the most primitive toilets. There is a charge of \$2.50 each per night but advance booking is not required. The weather can be cold, and although on our trip the flies were not too bothersome, this

may not always be the case. Hikers should be aware that a can and bottle ban is in effect along the Coastal trail as it is within lake Superior Provincial Park.

Last but not least, don't tell too many of your friends about the trail - we would like to keep it to ourselves! Good hiking.

Patrick Capper

HOW OUR HORIZONS WERE BROADENED

On May 16 to 19, five Voyageur Trail Association members from the Algoma District and several VTA members in southern Ontario were among 230 people who attended the Second Ontario Hiking Conference. This gathering was held at the University of Guelph, and was hosted by the Guelph Trail Club. The conference was entitled 'Broadening Horizons', and we were asked to find out about the trails of other clubs, trails in parks, trails to come, and the ideas of other interesting people.

Workshops focussed on managing and building trails, organizing clubs, appreciation of nature, trails which exist in the province, first aid, and designing a trail for the disabled. People were also able to get outside into the warm spring air and participate in a number of activities including birdwatching, botanizing, orienteering, learning about local history, discovering rocks, canoeing, and just hiking. There were several slide shows from far away places and a fantastic photographic account by John and Janet Foster entitled 'North to the Top of the World'. A number of social events also were well-attended, including a square dance, a live comedy performance (besides the square dance) and a wine and cheese party. In addition, most of the clubs tried to out-do each other with their displays.

Hike Ontario hosted a townhall meeting on Sunday morning where everyone was invited to participate in a discussion focussing on roles that Hike Ontario can play for Ontario's hikers. From this lively and informative ex-

change, a number of resolutions were put forth. These resolutions will probably be the focus of most of Hike Ontario's efforts over the next few years. In particular, people wanted to see Hike Ontario acting as a liaison between clubs, helping to circulate information of potential interest to clubs. People also wanted to see Hike Ontario supporting clubs in government affairs. Of particular interest to VTA, people wanted to see Hike Ontario help in development of a policy for protection of trails on crown land. Also considered important was the idea that clubs and the image of hiking in general can use more publicity in general.

The Voyageur Trail Association appears to have benefited from these events. Our display, with its recently refurbished slide show, attracted considerable attention. Also well-attended was a work session on the Voyageur Trail, hosted by Paul Syme. Members present at the conference were able to air various opinions and the Voyageur Trail was often cited. The result of this publicity was to stir up considerable interest in our trail, and there were several discussions from people who were interested in hiking in Northern Ontario. The Voyageur Trail was also recognized as a vital link in the planned National Trail.

Personally, it was an interesting and worthwhile way to spend the long weekend. I met many interesting characters from some of the other clubs in the province. It occurred to me that there are a great many hikers and outdoor enthusiasts in the province who are also fascinating individuals. Of course, I already knew that our club is blessed in this regard. A great deal of goodwill and enthusiasm about hiking is generated from these events and it is my hope that someone will be willing to take the ball and roll with it to organize a similar gathering in a few years.

Steve Taylor

A MOST UNUSUAL WORK PARTY

As leader of the July 5th work party I can imagine an interview about the work party in the Garden River Reserve going something like this.

Q. How did you feel about leading this work party?

A. Exceptionally apprehensive. The forecast was for a maximum temperature of 30°C, and Paul Syme said the deer flies were bad and there were a lot of maple saplings that needed clearing.

Q. Were these the actual conditions?

A. No. Although it was hot it wasn't oppressively so, there were next to no deer flies, and the maple saplings weren't too bad.

Q. I believe Paul said it would take two work parties to complete the 1.3 km short cut south of Driving Creek falls. So you probably got about half done?

A. Oh no. We completed the whole short cut by 2 o'clock without difficulty.

Q. Well you must have got home for an early supper?

A. No, we didn't get home until about 6:30 p.m.

Q. So your old Chrysler finally let you down did it?

A. No, there wasn't any trouble with either my or Ken Kansikas' car.

Q. Did someone get hurt?

A. No.

Q. Ken, Larry, Val and Helen were unfamiliar with the area, did one of them get lost?

A. No, it wasn't them, it was Tom Allinson!

Q. How did that happen?

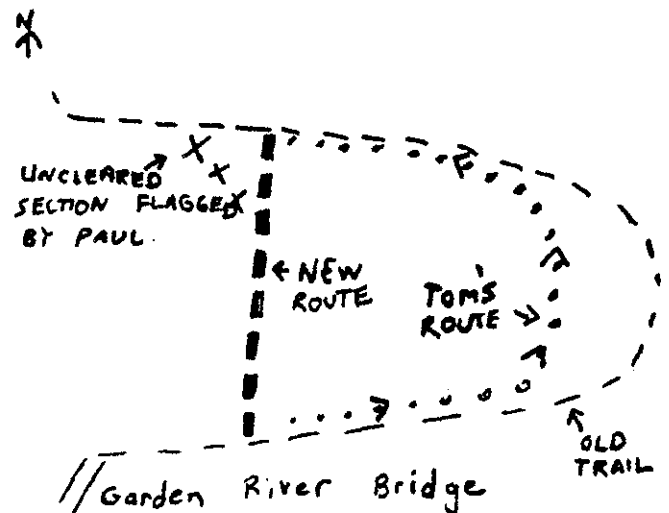
A. At the end of the day the two drivers went back to the car while the other four were supposed to walk through to the Garden River bridge.

Unfortunately Tom persuaded Val to turn left to Bedore Creek rather than right to the bridge when they reached the old trail. Tom didn't realize he was going the wrong way until he nearly reached Bedore Creek.

Q. What did you think had happened when he didn't show up at the bridge?

A. I thought Tom must have hurt himself with the chain saw and Valerie got lost coming for help. I never dreamed that Tom would get lost.

Q. Well I suppose at the end of the day at least you had a clear short cut of 1.3 km instead of a 10 km loop.



A. Not really. I got misled by some red flagging going due south and so we started clearing along that route until we saw Paul's blue-flagged route. I should have realized that Paul wouldn't use red flagging but it was in the right place and right direction. I was going to remove the blue flagging from the part of the route we didn't clear but found the VTA logo so thought better to leave it. The route we cleared was a lot less work than the one originally laid out although it might be more susceptible to regrowth of maple saplings.

So altogether it was a most unusual work party.

Patrick Capper

TRAIL MIX

Considerable progress has been made on the second edition to our guidebook. Unfortunately, sufficient work remains that it may not be ready to be purchased for giving as a Christmas gift. Hikers next summer should certainly be able to take advantage of the improvements and changes in the new edition however.

Camping equipment has undergone many advances over time. There are always new items on the market, and as technology advances, old staple camping items are refurbished. One particular recent item to the market is long overdo and is the subject of this paragraph. Now you can buy a solar-powered pith helmet. This piece of headgear comes with a small fan on the brim which is powered by solar batteries. Imagine having the ability to keep your head cool, even on the most torrid of summer days along the exposed Lake Superior shoreline (ie-those few days when the temperature exceeds 18 C near the lake). A word of caution is needed

however. Because this device is solar powered, hikers may have to search for sunny roads in order to keep cool in the dense jungles of the Echo Ridges Section.

Saulteaux Club president Steve Dominy and Horst Wetzel had a rather shocking experience while trying to locate trail just north of Heyden on September 27. It seemed that it was a less than perfect day to begin with, and early in the afternoon, a thunderstorm that had been threatening since dawn finally arrived. Of a rather close bolt of lightning, Steve said that he didn't know where it hit but he felt he was in the clouds as the ensuing thunder shook the ground.

Articles for the next newsletter should reach the editor by January 10, 1987. Also, remember that a policy has been developed regarding the placement of ads in this newsletter. Advertisements of potential interest to hikers will be welcomed at a price determined by the size of the ad. Members will receive discounts. You now have the opportunity to benefit another member plus yourself through sale of something of use to that member, while you support your association.

Paul Symé would like to obtain empty one gallon paint cans (the kind with a metal lid) in order to make up more paint kits for painting blazes. Anyone who has paint cans and wouldn't mind getting rid of them can contact Paul at 254-4791 in the evening.

Members of the Voyageur Trail Association can now receive the Bruce Trail News without becoming a member of the Bruce Trail Association. This Newsletter is published quarterly, with around 40 pages per issue. The cost is \$12 per year with postage included. Send your name, address, and cheque to Trail News, P.O. Box 5356, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, M5W 1N6.