




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. 39

EDITOR: GUY K.M. SMITH


SPRING 1988



THE SWEET SONG OF SPRING PIPES

On This Issue's Cover...

The Indian Pipe (Monotropa uniflora), is a non-green plant which does not photosynthesize, but rather obtains nutrients from decomposing litter on the forest floor. For this reason it is termed a saprophyte. It is common in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Forest Region.

1988 VTA EXECUTIVE

President	-Peter Stinnissen
1st Vice President	-Vacant
2nd Vice President	-Paul Syme
Treasurer	-Dieter Ropke
General Secretary	-Kristine Stinnissen
Membership Secretary	-Patrick Capper
Newsletter Editor	-Guy Smith

UPCOMING HIKES

Michipicoten Club

Evening Hikes

Wednesday June 8 Nokomis (Old Woman Bay) Wild Flower hike, 2-3 hours, moderately easy. Meet at the Post office at 6:30 p.m. Pete Stinnissen leader, 856-4270.

Wednesday July 6 Scenic High Falls, 2-3 hours, moderately easy. Meet at the Post Office at 6:30 p.m. Agnes Ostermeir leader, 856-4473.

Wednesday August 10 Pot Holes Provincial Park, 2-3 hours, easy. Meet at the Post Office at 6:30 p.m. Phil Egan leader, 856-2226.

Wednesday September 7 Trapper's Trail, 1-2 hours, easy. Meet at the Post Office at 6:30 p.m. Pete Stinnissen leader, 856-4270.

Sunday Afternoon Hikes

Sunday June 19 Orphan Lake (bring a lunch or snack) 3-4 hours, moderately easy. Meet at Post Office at 1:00 p.m. Pete Stinnissen leader, 856-4270.

Sunday July 24 "Geologist Hike", (bring a lunch or snack). Meet at the Post Office at 1:00 p.m. Ann Whilson leader, 856-7132.

Sunday August 21 Gargantua Bay, (bring a lunch or snack), 4 hours, easy. Meet at the Post Office at 1:00 p.m. Pete Stinnissen leader, 856-4270.

Sunday September 18 Reat Mountain (Rabbit Blanket), 4-5 hours, moderately easy. Meet at the Post Office at 1:00 pm. Phil Egan leader, 856-2226.

Work Parties

If anyone would like to help on these work parties, please call the leader for each month:

June	-Pete Stinnissen 856-4270
July	-Phil & Dorothy Egan 856-2226
Aug.	-Bob Elliot 856-2284 (or 856-4270)
Sept.	-Pete Onchulenko 856-2826

Penewobikong Club

Saturday May 14 Hike to Intersect Lake from the end of highway 555, a leisurely hike. Meet 9:30 am near the river bank behind Woodward's Hardware Store. Bring a lunch.

Saulteaux Club

Saturday May 7 In conjunction with the Sault Ste. Marie and Region Conservation Authority, there will be a hike beginning at the Conservation Authority Sugar Shack at 10:00 am. Duration of hike approx 2-3 hours.

Sunday May 8 Spring wildflower hike. This hike will also kick-off the Heart Valve Hike-A-Thon. Easy to moderate, 7 km in the One Horse Lake - Two Horse Lake area. Boots are recommended. Meet 9:00 at Churchill Plaza* beside the gas bar with a lunch. Steve Taylor leader.

Saturday May 14 GO TO BLAZES DAY. Come out and help make our trail "First Class" for the summer. Bring a lunch. Meet at 9:00 beside the gas bar in the K-Mart Plaza. Contact Virve Squire (942-2370) for details.

Sunday May 15 Hike and weiner roast. Easy hike of 4 km. Meet at Market Mall by the gas bar at 10:00 am. Horst Wetzel leader.

Saturday June 18 Hike Walls Lake Road area to Hill Top and North Extension. There will be an opportunity to practice compass skills. Moderate difficulty, about 8-10 km. Bring compass if you wish, and a lunch. Meet at Market Mall by the gas bar at 10:00 am. Tom Allinson leader.

July 1-3 Weekend backpacking and camping on Penewobikong Section.

Spectacular views and several picturesque lakes. First time offered. Contact Steve Taylor (759-2480) or Virve Squire (942-2370) for details by June 20. Enrolment is limited.

Thursday July 14 Thursday evening hike and Lake Superior Sunset view. Meet at Market Mall at 6:00 pm. Easy. Steve Taylor leader.

Saturday July 23 Hike Walls Lake Road along lake to Red Rock Road. Meet 10:00 am at the Market Mall by the gas bar. Easy to moderate. Tom Allinson leader.

Sunday August 21 Hike Brule Road to Glenview. Easy to moderate, 6 km. Meet at 9:00 am at Market Mall. Tom Allinson leader.

Saturday September 24 Hike Echo Lake-Echo River area. A moderate to easy hike of about 9 km. meet at Churchill Plaza by the gas bar at 9:00 am, with lunch. Check out those leaves! Steve Taylor leader.

Sunday October 2 Ontario hiking Day Hike. Easy hike of about 8 km in the Crystal Creek to Mabel Lake area. Meet at 10:00 am at the K-Mart Plaza gas bar. Good chance to see Fall colours. Tom Allinson leader.

Work Parties

Dates of Spring work parties are May 7, 14, and 28. The times and places are to be announced closer to the dates. If you would like to help out, contact Virve Squire for details, 942-2370.

*Market Mall- Second line west at Farewell Terrace

K-Mart Plaza- Great Northern Road and Northern Avenue, north-west corner

Churchill Plaza- Trunk Road just east of the Trunk Road-Wellington Street intersection.

The Thunder Bay Hiking Association

VTA members are invited to join in the Thunder Bay Hiking Association's annual Pukaskwa National Park Hike, September 3, 4, 5th, 1988. For information contact: Seth Kerr (807) 622-3141 or write him c/o Thunder Bay Hiking Club, Box 952, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7C 4X8.

Please Note

All hike leaders are unpaid volunteers. Participants do so at their own risk. You should bring insect repellent from May to September, and always bring rain gear. Sturdy footwear and a second pair of socks are recommended. Wet ground and rocky terrain are often encountered.

It is not easy to assign a difficulty code to a trip because weather conditions often dictate the degree of difficulty. Moreover, one person's easy hike is another's difficult hike. In general, however, an easy hike is one of 6 km or less on relatively level ground. Moderate hikes are ones usually less than 12 km. Usually, there are some sharp hills of over 20 m in height if the hike is less than 8 km. Relatively level terrain is encountered on an 8-12 km hike. "Difficult" means that participants should be in good physical condition, and previous hiking experience is required. Such hikes can include major climbs

and drops over a distance of greater than 8 km.

DOES YOUR CLUB HAVE TRIPS TO ADVERTISE IN THE NEWSLETTER? Send your information to Guy Smith, Editor, by September 23, 1988.

TRIP REPORTS

Michipicoten Club

The "Algoma News Review" in Wawa, carried an article on the last of the winter hikes in the Voyageur Trail's Lake Superior Park Section. The hike was originally planned as a snowshoe-ice fishing trip to Orphan Lake in Lake Superior Provincial Park. However, 50 km per hour winds whipped-up a blizzard that altered the destination to a much closer and safer lake, Treeby Lake. The winter storm raged on, but the four brave hikers enjoyed their shoreline wiener roast nonetheless. (They couldn't catch any fish because the snow kept filling the holes in the ice.)

Saulteaux Club

Four ski outings were planned by the Saulteaux Club during this past winter. The December trip was cancelled because of wet conditions. The other three trips all went ahead with much colder conditions and a mixture of sun and snowflurries for each trip. These events were well attended with 21, 12, and 19 people respectively on the outings. Highlights included a pause for a porcupine north of Nettleton Lake, the beautiful boreal larch and spruce-scapes just west of Mabel Lake, lunchtime campfires on Walls and Mabel Lakes, skiing the hills around Nettleton Lake, and the exhilaration of being

"a little unsure as to exactly where we we going". The latter highlight occurred quite frequently.

-Steve Taylor

* THIS SPACE COULD BE YOUR'S *
* FREE OF CHARGE, FOR REPORTING ON*
* YOUR CLUB'S OUTINGS *

Just send in your report to "Guy Smith, Editor, VTA Newsletter, Box 66, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6A 5L2" All Club members are eligible to enter. Deadline, September 23, the day after the Autumnal Equinox.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In the past 18 months, I have attended a variety of meetings and conferences related to trails and hiking. Inevitably the topic of conversation at these gatherings turns to the theme of volunteer appreciation.

In almost all volunteer organizations, the membership has a stable core of dedicated, hardworking men and women. On the fringes, there is a continual turnover, with the drop-out rate of members being equalized by the recruitment rate. Somewhere along the line a person interested enough to join a club, eventually drops out due either to boredom, lack of appreciation, unfulfilled expectations or in some cases, overwork. Taking people for granted, the very people upon whom we rely, is often an organization's most serious deficiency.

How does the Voyageur Trail Association rate on this issue? You can be the judge but I believe

there will always be room for improvement, especially when it comes to each one of us personally recognizing a fellow member's achievements. We have many quiet and unassuming volunteers who excel in administration, trail building, hike leading or provide expertise in outdoor activities.

Do we appreciate their efforts enough? Do you want to know more about such efforts? Should we look at more rewards such as crests, certificates, plaques, gifts, trophies or publicity, etc.? Let's get some dialogue going on this important issue and make your views known to club presidents, the newsletter editor or to the Voyageur Trail Association executive.

Now that an economic boom is expanding to the north and a population increase will soon follow, let's capitalize on these potential new members and have in place a volunteer appreciation system that will make us grow as an organization.

Good Hiking,

Pete Stinnissen
VTA President

* "HIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT" *
* The Third Ontario Hiking *
* Conference *
* May 19 to 22, 1989 *
* University of Western Ontario, *
* London, Ontario *

Presenters are needed for the Hike Ontario! Conference in London. Conference organizers are looking for people to share their knowledge, experience, or talent in a wide range of topics including

the benefits of hiking\walking, bird watching, canoeing, history, nutrition, orienteering, podiatry, wildlife, and any other pertinent areas of interest to hikers and walkers. If you would like to get involved, contact a member of the VTA Executive, or the following conference organizer:

M. Davidson
1483 Roland Crescent
London, Ontario
N5Y 1E6
(519) 660-0942

HEART VALVE HIKE-A-THON INFORMATION BULLETIN

Step forward and save lives! The goal is to raise over \$100,000 for heart valve research at University Hospital, London and McMaster University, Hamilton.

Step 1: Get your Hike-A-Thon Pledge Kit by contacting Steve Taylor, VTA, or by writing to:
University Hospital Foundation of London
P.O. Box 2602, Station A
London, Ontario
N6A 4G9

Step 2: Get your pledges in your pledge book, (or send a donation to the above address).

Step 3: Start walking! You can hike anywhere, for any distance of up to 240 km, covering your distance in any number of hikes. Note that the Saulteaux Club is kicking-off the Hike-A-Thon with the Spring Wildflower Hike on May 8, 1988. If you hike the full 240 km before June, 1989, you will receive an award.

All hikes lead to the Ontario Hiking Conference in London, May 19-22, 1989. **Hike For the Health of it!**

TRAIL MIX

-Canoeing on clear northern waters, soaking-up the Spring rays, doing a little fishing, and, what, clearing hiking trail? That's right, trail clearing doesn't have to be all sweating and straining, at least not when you're out with Jack Smit of the Elliot Lake Section. Jack will be clearing and flagging trail west of Elliot Lake April 29 - May 6, and anyone is welcome to join him. Bring flagging tape and a fishing pole.

-Dedicated VTA Newsletter readers should recall from the Winter '87 issue the article, "South Meets North". This was an account of the valiant efforts of a hardy band of hikers from southern Ontario, led by Bill Savage. They challenged the tangled underbrush and overgrown trail of the Thessalon Section, armed with axes and chainsaws, and cleared six km of trail in two days of steady work. Well, Bill and his philanthropic crew are ready for another bout with the northern bush. The following notice has been circulated to all Ontario hiking trail newsletter editors:

"THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEEDS YOU!"

-Join the Thames Valley Trail wrecking crew on its second annual work party and holiday on the Voyageur Trail. Last summer, we helped the Voyageur Trail Association by clearing a section of the lengthy trail north of Thessalon and about 100 km east of Sault Ste. Marie. It's a beautiful trail, but difficult for their numbers to maintain. Won't you help? You'll enjoy the rugged beauty and have the satisfaction of helping out another hiking

club. Be prepared to live out of your pack!

DATES:

leaving London: August 20/88

back to London: August 28/88

CONTACT:

Bill Savage, T.V.T.A.

174 Laurentian Drive North

London, Ontario

N5W 1P2 (519) 451-5013

-April 7 was an evening of food, fun and fellowship for Saulteaux Section members at the Section's Annual Dinner. Highlights of the evening were a delicious family-style dinner, a motivating speech from President Steve Taylor, an interesting photo-summary of VTA hikes by Virve Squire, and an educational and entertaining slide presentation and talk on Baffin Island, given by Dr. Al Gordon. Dr. Gordon is a wealth of anecdotal information about the Canadian north; the land, the environment, and the people. He only got through half of his slides before the evening ended. Several members commented that he should be given an opportunity to share more of his experiences, possibly at a pizza party following a hike sometime. Thanks to Susan Graham for her work organizing the dinner and to the other volunteers who assisted her. The evening was a great success!

-Congratulations to Patrick Capper and Brian Williams of the VTA, who have been nominated for Hike Ontario! Awards, in recognition of many years of dedicated volunteer service to hiking in Ontario.

-From VTA's research and development group comes an innovative idea for turning a winter mishap into a summer support. Steve Taylor of the

Saulteaux Section suggests that if your ski pole breaks near its base on a ski outing, save it for the spring when it can be employed as a walking stick, complete with a hand strap.

Steve also reports a breakthrough from Sweden which may give new life to worn-out hiking trails. The Swedes have developed a chemical compound called "Solidry" which mixes with clay to form a solid, durable surface. This chemical has potential application where hiking trails are being eroded by constant foot-pounding, or where encroaching vegetation is a problem, or where a trail is too wide and needs to be made narrower and more distinct. "Solidry" is biologically inert and therefore does not constitute an environmental hazard. Perhaps in the future we will be able to walk on more solid ground.

-A spirit of cooperation emerged from a symposium held in November, 1987, entitled, "A Meeting of Minds", which brought together 40 people from a variety of trail user groups, government and industry. With demand for trails increasing and available land diminishing, it is critical that trail users, from hikers and skiers, to cyclists, horseback riders, and motorized vehicle riders, work together to conserve Ontario's recreational trails. The following resolution received unanimous support at the symposium:

"There is group concern for the future of outdoor trails in Ontario. Therefore an organizational structure is needed to work for the retention and development of trail systems in Ontario. Its tasks should be:

- 1) To provide a forum for cooperation and communication among interested groups.
- 2) To liaise with government.
- 3) To act as a source of information.
- 4) To provide education.

Furthermore, delegates to the symposium recognized the need to use abandoned railway rights-of-way for recreational trail purposes and requested that the Government of Ontario take immediate action to protect such corridors.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is developing a long-term land-use plan looking ahead to 2010. Ontario's trail using groups consider it important to be involved in the planning process and the Meeting of Minds was a constructive step to building a unified effort.

-Information on the current financial status of the VTA may be obtained from Association Treasurer, Dieter Ropke.

-***PLEASE*** pay your membership dues for 1988 as soon as possible, to keep the association on good financial footing for the balance of the year.

PUKASKWA BITS AND PIECES: PART II

The exciting conclusion to an account of an adventurous weekend in Pukaskwa National Park. The group of VTA backpackers was led by Steve Taylor and included Patrick and Neil Capper, Darcy and Fiona Ortiz, Betty Nassoioy, Ken Baldwin, Jonna Weeks, Horst Wetzels, and Loddie Larsen. We last left the

group on a foggy morning, taking careful steps on the rocky shores of Morrison Harbour, Lake Superior. Written by Steve Taylor.

We stopped for lunch on a deep mound of wave-piled cobbles and logs as the fog lifted. We were lucky enough to find a Pukaskwa Pit, a term given to those mysterious depressions in piles of cobbles near the shore of Lake Superior.

Much of the walk to the mouth of the Willow River was up and down through interspersed open areas and real Boreal forest. The woods around the Willow River were interesting. There was an area of well spaced jack pine and spruce on sand and globs of reindeer lichen. We crossed the Willow River on a suspension bridge which became narrower when people walked on it. Some of us had to go across sideways so our packs would fit.

Betty and Virve found a spectacular campsite on the point which protects the bay. The rest of us camped at the sites on the inside of the bay. A group of 16 kids from Michigan trooped in around suppertime. They had hiked all the way from Oiseau that day. In all, 30 people camped at the mouth of the Willow River that night. Before bed, several of us climbed out onto the rocks to take pictures of a fiery sunset.

On Saturday, we hiked inland to the campsites at the White River. Much of the hike was uphill through a fault. When we reached the top, we stopped for lunch at a granite outcrop which offered a fine view over a valley. It was getting hot. Bill Robinson dazzled us with his brightly coloured bathing shorts.

Because the rocks were dry, we made excellent time and reached our campsite early in the afternoon. This gave us a chance to swim in the river and sit in the rapids, and consequently to pick the blackfly larvae off of our swimwear, and to explore for a while. Patrick provided entertainment as he took his air mattress out into some small rapids. I went botanizing. There were many types of pyrolas and orchids in flower.

The woods here were much different than those near the lake. The trees were bigger and leafier, and there were more aspens. There were more types of birds calling. The flowers were large and showy in contrast to the small delicate flowers on the rocks by the lake.

After a photographic foray to the spectacular suspension bridge (see the front cover on Voyageur Trail News issue #28, Autumn 1984), it was time to go back to make supper. I lit the fire and accidentally decorated the campsite in powdered milk. A female black throated green warbler began flittering around me, chirping constantly. I got my camera out and began taking pictures of her.

Sometimes she was so close to me that she was inside the field of view of my lens. At one point, she appeared to be trying to give me an insect, perhaps because I was making such a mess out of my supper. Eventually, I realized that the smoke from our fire was going directly into her nest. Horst and Bill let us use their fire, so we put ours out. The bird came around and chirped at us in the middle of supper as if to say thanks.

Donna and Roddie had the best campsite that night. It was on

some rocks right beside a waterfall. The rest of us were back in the woods a bit.

Sunday dawned sunny and warm, a perfect day to complete our hike. We were serenaded with bird calls as we hiked back to Hattie Cove. Playter Harbour was the only place where the Trail came to the lake. It was a very pretty spot for those in the group who took the time to climb out onto the rocks. We had lunch on a rock outcrop between Playter Harbour and Hattie Cove. Horst consumed the last of his ubiquitous salami.

Soon we were off on the last leg of our journey. We crossed a boardwalk at the east end of Hattie Cove. The fen here provided a different habitat from anything else we had experienced. The boardwalk and numerous hikers let us know that we were near our destination.

As we reached the parking lot, we considered where we would go in 1988. One thing was for certain. We would have a hard time topping Pukaskwa-1987. It was almost sad as the cars all left the parking lot to head home.

Steve Taylor

Editor's note: readers may be interested in an article about Pukaskwa published in the Federation of Ontario Naturalists' "Seasons" magazine, Vol 27 No 4, Winter 1987

Recall from the last issue of VTA news, (No. 38, Winter 1987/88), Steve Taylor's report on the "bizarre sight" encountered at the location of Oiseau Creek during the VTA's Pukaskwa backpacking trip. As Steve put it in his article, "instead of a creek, we saw a sea

of sand, interrupted occasionally with massive log jams and quicksand pools". The following article, from "Friends of Pukaskwa", is a colourful and informative description of what transformed Oiseau Creek into the "sea of sand" which Steve wrote about. (Reprinted with permission).

THE FATE OF OISEAU CREEK

Written by Mike Jones, and published in "Friends of Pukaskwa", Vol. 1 No. 1 February, 1988.

Oiseau Creek before June...

Oiseau Creek is, or that is to say, was a small trout spawning creek flowing into Lake Superior at Oiseau Bay. The main artery of the smallest watershed (55 square km) in Pukaskwa National Park, the creek and its unnamed tributaries totalled about 15 km in length and covered less than 2.5 square km in water area.

A five metre high cascade, Oiseau Creek marked the junction between rocky inland hills and the jack pine flats and dune formations of Oiseau Bay. Prominent east-west lying bedrock ridges defined the general configuration of the creek above the falls. Beneath Oiseau Creek falls, the waters meandered for two kilometres, flowing gently beneath the Oiseau Creek bridge and passed into Oiseau Bay.

The beams and steel cables of the Oiseau Creek bridge made it the sturdiest structure on the 60 km long coastal hiking trail. There was virtually no chance that the creek's summer trickle (16 cubic ft./ second) would undermine its supports and the 5 metre span could easily withstand the one metre rise in water levels during spring runoff.

On the evening of June 26, 1986, a Superior Storm radically changed the aesthetics and tranquility of Oiseau Creek. Within 6 hours, 69 mm (2.7 ins.) of rain drenched the hinterland and distended the coastal rivers and streams. Trees and footbridges at Morrison Harbour, Fisherman's Cove, the White Gravel River, and a host of other spots along the coastal trail fell into the turmoil of swollen rivers and streams. Somehow, however, something checked and held the burgeoning waters of Oiseau Creek.

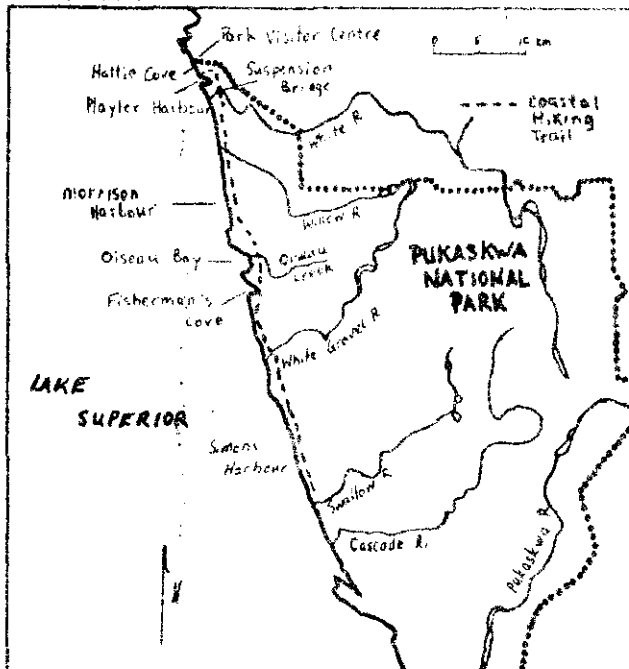
Given an element of conjecture, it appeared that logs and debris awash in the creek waters blocked the lip of Oiseau Creek falls. Impounded behind this dam, the creek, fed by its own inflow, bloated, breached its banks and livened into a lake. In a rage of self-aggrandizement, the lake undercut the forested slopes of the creek valley and churned the soils and glacial till of the valley floor.

We will probably never know exactly how long this tempest was contained or the sequence of events that brought about its sudden release. Eventually, however, a break in the earth dam occurred 60 to 70 metres north of the clogged waterfalls. Surficial glacial till supported by a clorite rock dyke succumbed to the maelstrom. As the till gave way, the soft clorite rock crumpled, opening up a fissure in the bedrock 10 metres lower in height than the lip of the original falls. An horrendous torrent of water - a tsunami of sorts - enveloped the land below. Trees, literally by the thousands, fell in a frenzied dance. Cutbanks, 10 to 15 metres high, channelled the flow, but smaller banks simply disappeared or became part of the advancing wave.

The swath, 50 metres wide, 10 times larger than the old creek bed, lay buried under a thick layer of silt sand. At its peak, the water rose 4 metres above normal, flooding broad expanses of the jack pine flats. Tons of sand, soil and the tattered remains of a thousand or more trees muddied the clear blue waters of Oiseau Bay. The formidable Oiseau Creek bridge disintegrated. The old log foundations and depressions of the 1930's Eaton's logging camp and the ground upon which they rested were simply gone.

As nature destroyed features, so she uncovered new ones. Unsorted and unoxidized glacial till, never exposed since glacial retreat, rests in isolated clumps above the falls. Sections of the new creek bank show huge lacustrine beds overladen with stream deposits and organic litter.

It will be years before the new creek bed stabilizes and decades more before the stream resembles its former self. Then as now, it will be difficult to imagine the wrath and rage of the awesome forces that besieged tiny Oiseau Creek.



FRIENDS OF PUKASKWA NATIONAL PARK

This organization is devoted to promoting Pukaskwa National Park, through the following objectives:

- 1) To develop and initiate programs which foster community involvement and further the public's understanding and appreciation of the Park's natural and human heritage resources.
- 2) To support Environment Canada, Parks mandate for the protection, preservation and interpretation of the natural and historic resources of Pukaskwa National Park by:
 - a) raising funds to supplement and compliment Park's program.
 - b) promoting and organizing special events compatible with the Park's approved themes and objectives.
 - c) providing positive social, economic and physical support for the Park's activities and programs.
 - d) undertaking specific projects or initiatives which may be agreed to by the Friends and Environment Canada, Parks.
3. To enter into agreement with Environment Canada, Parks for the operation of sales outlets and developing high quality, Park specific theme-related items and materials for sale.
4. To accept donations, bequests and other gifts which will be used to further the objectives of the organization.

"Friends of Pukaskwa" is a bulletin which will be produced bi-annually

by the organization and will contain information on the programs and endeavours of the Friends of Pukaskwa National Park. More information may be obtained from:

Friends of Pukaskwa
General Delivery
Heron Bay, Ontario
POT 1R0



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Ph. (705) 759-2757 Tom Weldon
Joe Meating

This is SUPERIOR WATERSPORTS' 4th year in business. We offer quality outdoor equipment at fair prices, with good availability. Through ads like this, more outdoor enthusiasts are becoming aware of us. Canoes, paddles, tents, and packs are our mainstay and the brands offered are the best. Brochures, catalogues, and prices are available upon request. The complete line of SILVA compasses are now offered and if demand warrants, Harvest Foodworks line of lightweight foods is available (read about them in the March '88 issue of "Explore"). Call Tom weekdays after 5 or anytime on weekends.

WE'VE GOT A CAVE TO EXPLORE!

The cave is not on the Voyageur Trail, but it is close. The Hendrie River Water Cave is situated in Mackinac County, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It is Michigan's longest cave, two-fifths of a mile long, and 10,000 years old, according to a report in the

Detroit Free Press (March 21, 1988). Recently a group called the Michigan Karst Conservancy purchased the land that the cave is on, for the purposes of studying and preserving the unique feature of Michigan's glacial history.

The cave contains a stream, a 10 foot waterfall, and colonies of bats. After the retreat of glaciers about 10,000 years ago, acidic swamp water dissolved limestone to form the water cave. The Karst Conservancy intends to manage the area, and protect the cave from vandalism and water pollution caused by careless use.

The cave is tall enough to walk through for most of its length, but the site poses numerous hazards which make it dangerous to visit without an experienced guide. More information on the caves and permission to explore them may be obtained from the Michigan Karst Conservancy, 2805 Gladstone, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48104.

Thanks to Mike Guilmette, VTA member from Sault Ste. Marie Michigan, for bringing this unique natural feature to our attention. Mike says that the cave is about 1 and 1/4 hour's drive from Sault Ste. Marie. Perhaps we could schedule an outing to visit the cave sometime.

THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS is published three times per year. Your articles and news submissions are always welcome! Submissions for the Fall Issue should be given to the Editor by September 23, 1988. Send to Guy Smith, c/o VTA, Box 66, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6A 5L2.