



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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

No: 46

Editor: Virve Manniste Squire

Winter 1990-91



COLD WEATHER HIKING

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ON THIS ISSUE'S COVER: Last
edition with the birds
subject will number day
to ground. The group is at a
newly outcrop in the Leobner's
Section on a fine November
afternoon.

VTA EXECUTIVE:

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Steve Taylor
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Peter Stimpissen
1st VICE PRESIDENT
Jesse Latendresse
2nd VICE PRESIDENT
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Dieter Ruppe
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LANDOWNER LIAISON
Paul Syme
HIRE ONTARIO REP.
Patrick Capper
EDITOR
Vince MacIntyre Board

Peter Stimpissen has
stepped down from his position
as President of the VTA. Good
bye to Peter and his very
productive four years in this
position - and good luck to
Steve Taylor who is our new
President. Inception his
new position, Steve has turned
his position as our Hire
Ontario Rep. to Patrick Capper
Our Association now has
representation on the Fire-Trail
from our new member club -
Jesse Latendresse of Elliot
Lake is now in the position of
Vice-President. All other
positions remain the same.

** ATTENTION MEMBERSHIP **

If you have forgotten to
renew your membership this
year, this will be your last
issue of the newsletter.
Check your address label
your current year of
membership is in the top
right-hand corner. The
number 90 on the label
indicates non-up membership
and will ensure that your
copies of the newsletter and
club information will arrive.

UPCOMING EVENTS

✓ Dec. 16 - Hope for snow as the
first of the season heads
out to the Great Lakes.
Meet 10:00 am, Market Mall,
Steve Taylor - leader

▷ Dec. 19 - Hope for snow! But
bring the snow! Meet 10:00
am at Market Mall. Dave
and Patrick Capper will take
you to this year's winter
festival.

Not ✓ Jan. 12 - Explore the trails
adjacent to the 1000
members of the Canada Lake
area. Meet 10:00 am,
collegiate sports parking
lot. Tom Atkinson - leader.

Feb. 8 - Explore the Bellevue
trail and adjacent
topography. Meet 9:30 am, K
Lake. Tom Atkinson - leader.

Feb. 24 - Enjoy a truly unique
experience at the Anawa
rock photography weather
parking lot. Meet 10:00 am, K
Lake. Bill Robinson - leader.

Mar. 2 - Snowed out with
ice this time. Cancelled
copy of Detroit to Lake St. Clair

at the top of the hill, and to
at the end of the day of the
best left the car on the
fleet 10:00 a.m. Market Hall.

Mar. 17 - Ian Wilson will
lead the last day of the season
into the Corbin Beach Road area
where snow can still be found
when spring is observed
everywhere else. Fleet 10:00
a.m. Market Hall.

**** PLEASE NOTE ****

All hike leaders are
unpaid volunteers.
Participants are encouraged to
join us but please do so at
your own risk. Pack a lamp,
spare clothing and extra socks.
A spare pine basket, a ski cap
and bits of wire should also be
part of your winter day pack.

Extra equipment in the
backcountry can make skiing
out difficult.

Car pools are needed at
the meeting places. If you are
without a vehicle, you are
always welcome to ride with
us.

REMEMBERING FATHER MEGAN

Quarter Member Father
Arnold Megan died recently.
Dieter Ropic kindly reminded
Father Megan will be remembered.

See it a kind, in the end,
the all full of joy,
Father Arnold Megan will be
remembered for his reverence,
his dry chuckle and working
grin so full of worth.

It was vintage Father
Megan who pulled out and shared
a green plastic Mylar's ambient
bottle on a hiking trip to
Cockburn Island. The bottle

was full of whiskey, when
asked about his own main
supply of water bottles, he
revealed that one of his
colleagues had a private
stomach ailment, and in his
own words "I just told him to
keep on the good work" (so he
could get the empty bottles
for nothing).

It was a recent hike and
patrol winter in a hot July
day, Father Megan failed to
show up as planned. When we
came out of the bush utterly
exhausted, we were greeted by
Father Megan in a lawn chair
reading a book. By his side
was a tall cooler of
refreshing drinks which he had
brought for us. When he could
not make it to the area, he
packed his contribution for
the patrol, and the
contribution of the crew. In a
trough he found in a shed of
the McGowan family (our
neighbors). Asked whether he
knew these people, he replied
in the negative. They were
not here when he called but
the shed at St. Mary's College
also went by that name and
somehow he deduced that all
McGowan were related (uncle
or father). It is fortunate
that these people and their
household had come home to
make sure the secret was
not out first.

Father Megan was also
known for his love for fast
cars and food (contemporary
music). Young at heart, he had
inspirational influence over many
the young people growing up
under his care.

Father Megan we miss you,
this place is not the same
without you.

FORESTRY PRACTICES HEARINGS
- VIA COMMENTS

On August 29, Steve Laylor represented the Voyageur Trail Association in making a presentation at the Class Exemption for Forestry Practices hearings which were held in Saulx Ste Marie during that week.

These hearings are of vital importance to the future of Ontario's forests. The Ministry of Natural Resources has applied for a Class Exemption for commonly used forestry practices. If approved, it means that a lot of forestry operations on crown land will not be subject to environmental assessments. The Environmental Assessment Board is now gathering evidence and information with which to make a decision on this matter. The Voyageur Trail Association was invited to make a presentation before this board.

One thing noted by Steve and Bill Robinson (who attended the hearings) is that all forestry operations must be public knowledge and if someone thinks that a certain forestry operation is an area of a problem, an assessor can be requested for that situation. Thus, if a portion of your tract is scheduled to be logged, the Voyageur Trail Association could potentially still have input.

Steve noted that when he received very good cooperation and information on proposed forestry operations on crown land from the Ministry of Natural Resources up to now. He expressed concern that this should continue in the future. He noted that if logging is to occur near the trail, the NRB usually plans a buffer around

the trail as a condition for a company to be granted a cutting license. In spite of this, a portion of trail that was given a buffer was logged several years ago. The company was asked to restore the trail, but the group had been so concerned that the NRB members had so often failed to contact the company that the quality of the trail and a condition that a company with an excellent reputation for environmental purposes and excellent forestry practices had been presented with. Steve Laylor noted that the potential problem of pesticide drift into the forest. Lastly, Steve suggested that consideration be given for a buffer of at least two hundred metres in width around the superior where no logging would occur. The reason given was that the quality of the superior increases and that attention be given to the scenic character and future tourism potential of the area. Steve also noted that the area should not be visible from the trail and that the area should be treated as a natural area. In the area near the lake is a rich natural diversity, and it is essential to preserve this diversity. Both of our trail and proposed trail are within this area.

HIRE ONTARIO NEWS

The Hike Ontario annual general meeting is being held at the Parliament Centre, University of Guelph, on Sunday, November 3, 1990. It is a walking tour with displays, workshops and hikes.

in the summer of 1988. I have been
in contact with the
Ontario Wildlife
Museum in London, Ontario
and have been advised to contact
them by phone at 519-298-2200
or by mail at 2400

For the past several
years Ontario has been the
umbrella organization for the
long distance bird banding
clubs. The OLB is one of
these members.

Now this Director is
opening to individual members
to help ensure that all
banders and others can be part
of Ontario's banding program.

The Ontario Club is
distributes trail information,
works with government and
state agencies, sponsors
workshops and events, and
publishes a quarterly
newsletter. Membership costs
\$10.00 and runs to the end of
1991. Any members interested
in an individual membership
contact Steve Taylor at 519
298-2200 for further information.

Hike to the GWA Area
(11/19/88, 12/11/88, 1/11/89)

In late 1988, our
trip to the GWA area
was extended south from
the top of the ridge to the
river to the south to
the Bay. At that point, we
connected with our car and
portage out to the road near
the Denton Truck Yard and a
route parking lot. By
midsummer of 1989, the road
was available except for two
sections that had only been
bladed and were covered with
brushing. I agreed to lead a
backpacking party from this

point of trail on the day of
the trip. We were joined by
Richard, a young man from
Coburn, Ontario, and
Henry, a young man from
Richard, Ontario, and
Richard, Ontario, were with us
on the trip for the extent of
my interest in the specking
experience.

We met in the Rabbit
Blanket camp on the
Friday morning. It was a
warm, sunny, clear evening
and a storm appeared to be
breaking over the ridge. I
thought that might be a
break in the weather, so we
had breakfast and packed some
gear and tent. We left at
we were to go to leave at
the end of the day of the
last night. I have a very
depression of my optical
class, the night and then
we had a very good night.

The morning began with
head of the trail. I was
the first to see the work of
the first night. The
first part of the trail was
mainly open, clear, and
network and setting, and
optimal. The first night
was a very good night.
The trip was a
meaningful view of the
trail and the trip.
The trip was a very
meaningful view of the
trail and the trip. It was
very good and we had a
very good night. The
trip was a very good
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a very good night.

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as we approached it. For a while, a rocky, black sand bar stand offered shelter from the rain, but soon it was raining heavily, punctuated by the occasional gentle rumble and one loud crash of thunder. By the time we reached Bridget Lake, we were all quite wet. Some of us had not bothered to put on a raincoat due to the warmth of the air, and those that had were wet due to sweat. Thus, the next hour or so was rather uncomfortable until the rain finally petered out and the mist disappeared.

Our path followed a wide trail on a ridge just west of Bridget Lake which was visible through the trees in places. Soon, it crossed a creek. We were into another area of labrador tea, sphagnum moss and stunted black spruce, all on rocks. The trail was flagged and cleared here, but not blazed. It was nevertheless easy to follow. The problem was walking. It sank into the soft moss when our feet, and often our legs, as we hit uneven rock underneath. Michael with her shorter legs must have had a difficult time. We were high above the lake here, and there were a couple of magnificent views. After a somewhat descent and climb, we were rewarded with a spectacular view of Smoky Mountain, which was to be our campsite for the night. The sea now had some blue holes and the point was being bathed by the sun. We then climbed down about 200m to the point through a valley and through a couple of dikes, where the trail was now marked by rock walls. The scene descent and the hike, for the day, seemed to be over.

As we reached the point,

we found beer on a table over the place. A few bottles were left for a few minutes were pitched on the rocky beach and napper was cooked and devoured. A woman commented on the speed, questioning if this was the only time that while he was taught to swim with lines in his armpits ants clank, saying worked very well with sun. We lit a fire, but we didn't keep it going for long as we were all very sleepy.

We were all tightly awakened in the middle of the night by a heavy north wind which came up suddenly. I got up to gather some clothing and make a few extra tent lines to rocks. Barry had pitched his tent on a ridge to the lake and the waves were spraying it. I wondered how he got any sleep.

The next morning a chilly drizzle and blew into the capsule. It was an ideal morning for a quick hot drink and a heavy coat into the tent.

The tent went into the woods and trees came out at a point of view just south of Smoky Mountain. Several wrecks appeared in the driftwood as we approached. Then we had a very difficult climb up to a point several spectacular rock formations.

The tent at this point was covered and flagged with some flag but not blazed. We had a good view of the point and as we reached the top of the ridge, I was still in the back group with Barry and Julia. The trail became flat, in fact it was the easiest I had ever had here on the trail. After about a kilometre we descended at a slow pace, later parting way. The lake and valley have been

regions. The last one led to the Higgeny trail which uphill over a ridge, a creek, creek and bridge, a small lake. On foot and a trail after leaving back before we were at the car, but with only memories, some photos and dirty clothes to remind us of the weekend. Hopefully, we are only left with the memories and photos.

We will have a display on the week's events in the new trail should get some attention. It includes a lot of maps and some detailed photos. The display is a matter of handing over of the photos to a development staff. We also have some problems in terms of this matter of handing over that have already been passed around with some discussion.

Patricia Copper led a group in to part some of the trail north of Smokey Point in September. The Lake Superior Provincial Park staff has also been working on the park since our trip. I believe most of the trail is now complete, but I'm not sure if it is all painted yet. When it is, this piece of trail will be a "trail" for any serious backpacker. It is not long, but it is not easy because of the rough trails. It offers many views from up hills and many spectacular views of the rock dikes. These dikes, that the afternoon, approximately one mile. From the north side of Smokey Point, it goes down to the From Smokey Point to New Bay is about 6 km. Most of the 6 km out to the coast is New Bay. These mountains are deceptive because of the up and down terrain.

— Mike Taylor

... we were lead
Assigned to the composition
with the Township of L'Anse
Bas, near the Departmental
Youth Center, to meet the members
to a local chapter of the
section of L'Anse. This trail
is one of the most beautiful in
length. It has a good view
views from the coast, and
down to the beach, and
beautifully, it will be a very
good to have in the future.
There are some beautiful
views of the coast from
Smokey Point.

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good to have in the future.
There are some beautiful
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Smokey Point.

TRAIL MIX

T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS:
Order your T-Shirts and sweatshirts today for this year. The order is on file. In order to get timely delivery, please have your order in to Susan by Nov. 15. **NOV. 15!** — Pat Cooper

... we were lead
with the Township of L'Anse
Bas, near the Departmental
Youth Center, to meet the members
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good to have in the future.
There are some beautiful
views of the coast from
Smokey Point.

...the most famous of the ...
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...the fact that ...

Another end to end ...
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...the fact that ...

The editor ...
...the fact that ...
...the fact that ...

**ELEPHANTS SIGHTED
ON VTA OUTING**

On Aug. 24, 1970, Susan
...the fact that ...
...the fact that ...

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*** FOR SALE ***

Men's heavy duty hiking boot for serious trekking. Redwing - Size 10. \$25.00 Call Tom Allinson at 942-0768

THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS is published three times per year. Your articles and submissions are always welcome! Submissions for the Winter issue must be received by Jan. 10, 1991. Send to Editor, VTA, Box 66, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. P6A 5L2

ATTENTION ALL STORYTELLERS!!!

BRING SLIDES OF YOUR MOST MEMORABLE OUTING
AND TELL US ALL ABOUT IT

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17, 1990

ALGOMA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AUDITORIUM

7:30 P.M.

\$3.00 ADMISSION (TO COVER COST OF PIZZA AND SOFT DRINKS)

FRIENDS AND RELATIVES WELCOME!!!



VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Box 66
SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO P6A 5L2

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.

The membership year of the Association runs from January 1st to December 31st. Dues paid after November 1st will be applied to the next membership year.

Fee includes membership in one Voyageur Trail Club. To join additional V.T. Clubs, add an extra \$2.00 (\$1.00 for student) for each Club.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NEW or RENEWAL (Please check.)

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.
- Elliot Lake
- Spanish
- Massey
- Rainbow V.T.C.
- Little Current
- Sheguiandah
- South Baymouth
- Sudbury V.T.C.
- Thunder Bay V.T.C.
- Nipigon
- Casque-Isles V.T.C.
- Marathon
- Pukaskwa Park
- Michipicoten V.T.C.
- Lake Superior Park
- Batchawana
- Goulais

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____ PHONE () _____

DECLARATION

I have read and will abide by the TRAIL USERS' CODE

_____ signed _____ Date _____

FEES	
Individual	----- \$10.00 =
Family	----- \$10.00 =
Student	----- \$5.00 =
Crest	----- \$2.00 =
Lapel Pin	----- \$3.00 =
Guidebook, Members	----- \$5.00 =
Guidebook, Non-Members	----- \$8.00 =
Donation (qualifies for income tax deduction) =	
Total Amount Enclosed =	

SIGN UP A FRIEND