



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



**A
well-earned
honour!!**

SNOWSHOE EXPEDITION

Six intrepid showshoers met on Dec. 29, 1990 for the 'mystery' snowshoe outing. The only mystery being whether or not the OPP would repeat their 1989 performance and dissuade the group from using the trail at the top of the mile hill. Fortunately this year, there were no hitches except for my usual performance of overshooting the access point of the trail.

We soon discovered that the

snow was much deeper than in town, but with quite a mild temperature (29 degrees F), breaking trail was not the major effort it was last year. We found many animal tracks ranging from a small mouse?? to a moose, and saw signs of an otter at the lake, although no animals were observed. The trees were all laden with snow, which could, with some help, be encouraged to fall off down an-

other person's neck!! We stopped for lunch and sat on a log and enjoyed various Christmas goodies before continuing to Old Goulais Bay Road, where we retraced our steps and were back at the cars for 2 o'clock. We were fortunate enough not to have received any parking tickets.

We ended the day with a very pleasant sojourn at Susan Graham's who plied us with home brew, juice, pop and snacks. Thank you Susan.

-Patrick Capper

VTA EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT

Steve Taylor

PAST PRESIDENT

Peter Stinnissen

1st VICE-PRESIDENT

Jesse Latendresse

2nd VICE-PRESIDENT

Susan Graham

TREASURER

Dieter Ropke

GENERAL SECRETARY

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MEMBERSHIP

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Patrick Capper

TRAILMASTER

Bill Robinson

LANDOWNER LIAISON

Paul Syme

HIKE ONTARIO REP.

Patrick Capper

EDITOR

Virve Manniste Squire

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Early this winter, I took over the position of President of the Voyageur Trail Association, giving up the position of Saulteaux Section President. I'm pleased to say that Susan Graham has accepted this position. Thank you Susan. I'm sure the Saulteaux Club is in capable hands.

Here are some ideas on the direction the VTA should take in the next few years.

At this time, the Association is maintaining what appears to be a status quo. The membership has remained constant around 170 over the past several years. We have been able to maintain existing trail and there has been some new trail development, but trail development is proceeding slowly compared with the early years. There have been some encouraging signs in the past year. There is some new trail near Wawa. The part from Michipicoten South to Noisy Bay makes a beautiful 2-3 day backpacking trip. Perhaps the best sign is the formation of a new Club in Elliot Lake, the Elliot Lake Coureur de Bois Club. The new Trail in this area also lends itself to a three day backpacking trip. Best of luck to Jack Smit, Jesse Latendresse and the folks in Elliot Lake, and let's help them to get established.

I see three main directions for the Association in the next few years. One is to finish the task of improving the quality of our newsletter. The old method of producing Voyageur Trail News created the occasional issue that was not readable. This not only created a bad selling point for us, but it discouraged people from submitting articles. I should point out that the problem was not in the effort directed to publishing. In fact, Ken Baldwin and Guy Smith should be given medals for perseverance. Rather, we were di-

recting volunteer hours to antiquated equipment that required technical expertise. We are now looking at commercially producing our newsletter. We have received some financial support for this for the first few issues. Virve Manniste Squire has already done a tremendous amount of footwork for us, and the formatting improvements of this and the last issue are due to the efforts of Jack and Paula Dunning. A committee has been set up to finalize how we will produce the newsletter in the future. Virve would appreciate ideas.

The second direction is to expand the membership and participation base. It would be great if some of the executive positions could be filled by election. The potential for this is good. With the recent 'green' revolution, pedestrian forms of recreation are popular. We should be able to capitalize on this.

The third direction may involve capitalizing on the current recession in a couple of ways. While the first two initiatives will maintain a grass roots organization, the route of the Voyageur Trail is one of the most beautiful tracts of land in North America with economic potential. Hiking is big business in England and New Zealand, and our communities are looking to diversify with sights on the tourism potential of the area. We have received an increasing number of letters from outside of northern Ontario from people asking questions like "where can we hike from inn to inn along the trail?" I think that if the Tourism Sector of our economy realizes the potential that our trail creates, there will be extra incentives for volunteers to maintain and extend trail. The problem is that we

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ON THIS ISSUE'S COVER:

Dr. Paul Syme (centre) is being presented with his Corps D'Elite Award by the Honourable Peter North, Minister of Tourism and Recreation (left) and the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, His Honour, Lincoln Alexander (right). Congratulations again Paul!