

VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

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Editors: *Peter Frederick & Pim Delfgou*

Summer 1993

TRAIL NEWS

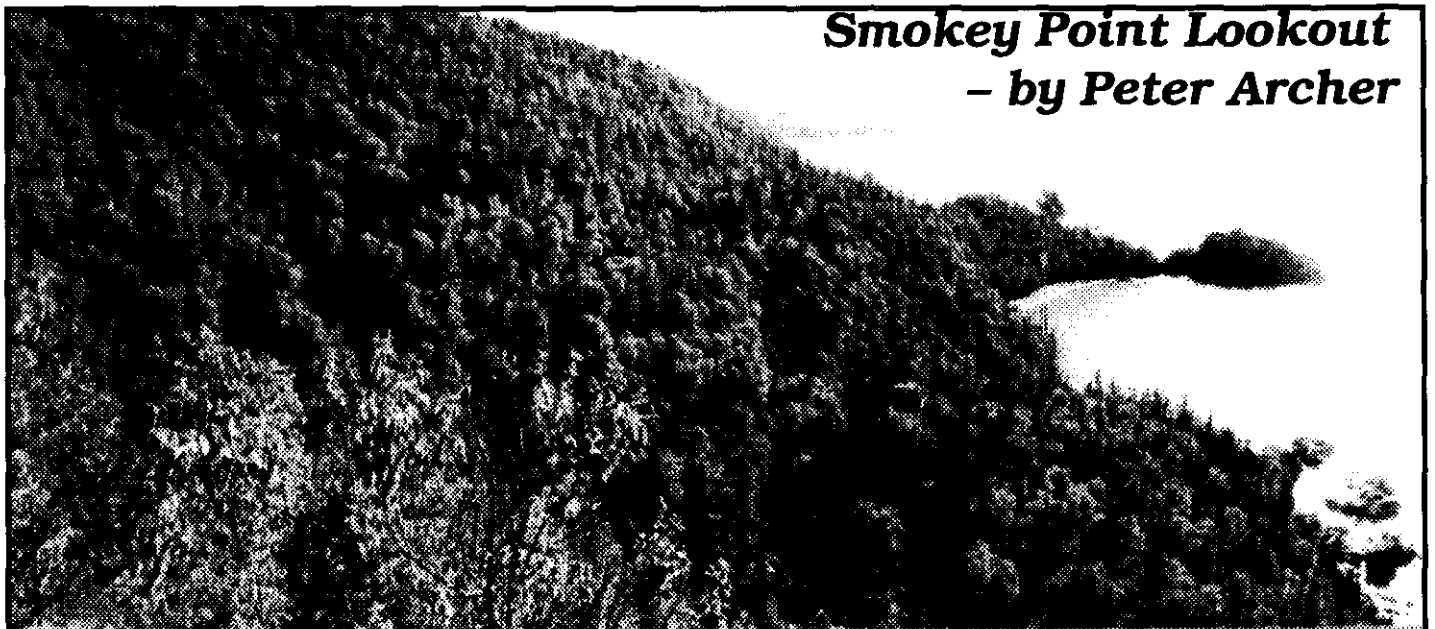
Hikers using the VTA's east trail or the cross country ski trails at the Thayer's Acres area will notice a new bridge spanning Crystal Creek between the Voyageur Trail and the camping area. The bridge was completed this past November to link two snowmobile trails and a new cross country ski trail through Thayer's Acres, and is available for hikers to use during the summer.

TRAIL EXPANSION

New trail is planned in

several areas this year, with several diverse groups participating. The British Conservation Volunteers are planning to make a field trip to Sault Ste. Marie from England to build trail in the Stokely Creek area. Current plans call for them to be here from August 28 to Sept 11, staying at Stokely Creek. Local volunteers will be welcome to go up and spend the day, build trail, and meet some kindred souls from across the Atlantic. Help will also be needed in marking a route for the trail -- if you are interested please contact Steve Taylor.

The Anishinabe Indian Band at Espanola has contacted the VTA concerning a youth project to build a part of the VTA trail in that area -- a welcome addition to the trail, and hopefully, membership. As the VTA trail crosses Reserve land in a number of places, active cooperation with First Nations peoples should be of mutual benefit. There are also plans to extend the trail at Terrace Bay, Blind River, and on Manitoulin Island. This will extend the trail at both ends and fill in some of the missing bits in the middle.



Smokey Point Lookout
- by Peter Archer

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THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS is published three times per year. Your articles and submissions are always welcome! Send them to Editor, VTA, Box 66, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6B 5L2. Submissions for the next issue should be received by September 1.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Voyageur Trail Association Annual Meeting will be held on Oct 23 in Wawa this year. The Directors meeting will be at 10:00 am and Annual Meeting for regular members at 1:30 pm followed by a hike. Sault and East members contact Steve Taylor or Pat Capper. Wawa members and others North of Sault contact Pete Stinnissen for more details.

Attention all hikers!

I know you are attached to that favourite shirt you always wear on the outings, but have you taken a good look at it lately? (Faded, baggy, etc) Why not treat yourself to a new official VTA T-shirt or sweatshirt. They are still available at the bargain basement price of \$10 for T-shirts and \$20 for sweatshirts. They make great gifts, too. Contact Susan Graham at 949-4105 for yours!

Trail Maintenance

Large sections of the VTA trail get very little traffic, and some

are in need of re-blazing and re-routing due to weather and logging activities. Some of you have been contacted already for work parties, and the rest of you should be soon. We are attempting to get as much of the trail in good shape as possible this year, and hope to keep it that way. Major efforts will be mounted this Spring (late April to early June) and in the fall (early September to early November, weather permitting). This schedule will hopefully permit a good deal of work without most of the bugs!

If you have been on any of the more remote parts of the trail, please contact someone on the executive committee or the Trailmaster and let us know what condition the trail is in!

Thanks!

Thanks are in order to T.J. Roofing for their generous donation of vinyl siding which has been cut up for use as trail blazes. Tom Allinson also deserves thanks for cutting up the siding. After this job, his shed looked like a snowstorm had hit it.

Subterranean news

Hi! How are you? I'm your local earthworm. I especially like those Vibram soled hiking shoes that are a bit softer when you step on me. I must get one to see if I will be able to get off the trail faster. Actually, I have been stepped on fewer times in recent years because I have become faster at getting into my hole. By the way; who threw the styrofoam coffee cup annelid too at me last year. I hope it wasn't a hiker.

I guess you hikers get to see a lot on your outings. Actually, underground, I get to see a lot too. Did you know that most of a mushroom is under ground? So are all the brown parts of all the green plant things you see. I get lots of soil visitors, such as all the microbial critters like nematodes and bacteria that break down all the bits of gorp you folks drop. I especially

like rubbing my segments on the nitrogen fixing nodules on the roots of alders.

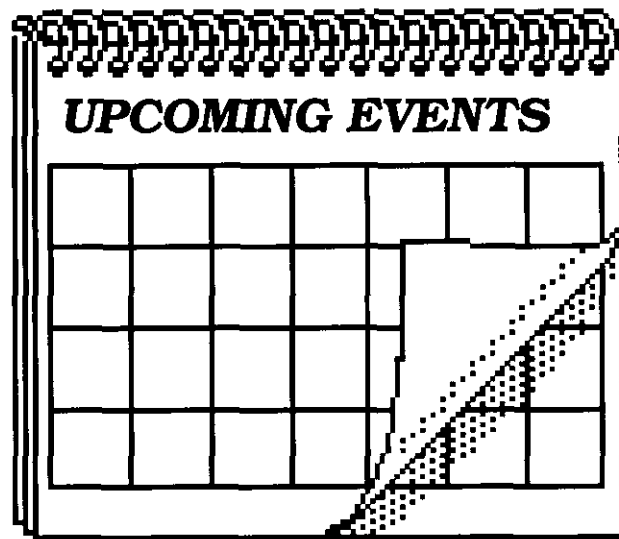
Boy did I get a good scare last year when I came face to face with a groundhog.

I made a discovery last year. Did you know that the Squawroot found around Gros cap only seems to grow under oaks? It doesn't get its energy from the sun. It somehow gets it from decomposing matter. Believe me, decomposition is important where I live. I help to decompose soil as well.

I regret to report that one of you hikers stepped on my brother or sister (it really doesn't matter which, as brothers and sisters are the same sex with us guys).

I must be going. I'm going to help a friend of mine catch a fish. Think about me next time you go walking.

---Steve Taylor



Oct. 3: Ontario Hiking Day. Hike the new trail in the Stokely Creek area (10k) and plan to have dinner at McCauleys after. Meet at KMart at 11:00 am. Leader Steve Taylor.

Oct 9-11: The backpacking trip on the Elliot Lake trail that was cancelled last year has been re-scheduled to this year. Contact Steve Taylor to confirm by Oct 4. Thirty km appr of wilderness hiking with campsites on McGiverin and Turtle lakes.

October 16 Hike the Basswood Lake area from Chapleau Road to Cottage Road (9k), and have chili Joy McFee's after! Meet at Churchill Plaza at 8:30 am. Leader Joy McFee.

MICHIPICOTEN CLUB EVENTS

June 12: Go to Blazes. Meet at Scenic High Falls 9:00 am. Trail will be cleaned for about 3 hrs followed by pop and cookies provided by the club.

June 16: Evening wildflower hike on the Nokomis trail. Meet at the post office at 6:30 pm.

Sept 19: Peat Mountain Fall Colour Hike. Meet at the ubiquitous Post Office at 1:00 pm. Moderately difficult 3-4 hr hike.

Oct 3: Ontario Hiking Day. Hike on Vallee Park Trail. Meet once again at the Post Office at 1:00 pm.



SAULTEAUX SPRING SUMMER AND FALL OUTINGS

June 13: Bike trip from Iroquois Point to Red Pine Picnic area. Bring lunch and a bike and race the bugs (ha ha). Meet at the Tourist Information area on the American side at 9:30 am. Leaders Tom Allinson and Bill Robinson.

June 29: 7:00 pm. Boardwalk hike for the "Coming of Summer Festival". About 3 k easy walking. This is a public event we are hosting in connection with the Coming of Summer Festival taking place in Sault Ste. Marie on the week. Meet on the boardwalk in front of the Holiday Inn. There should be a number of cultural activities happening nearby at that time.

July 10: Hike the Red Rock Section (near Gros Cap). Bring lunch and swimming gear. Meet at 10:00 am at the Market Mall. Leader Patrick Capper.

August 21: Beach Walk and potluck barbecue at Betty Nassoioy's (Birch Pt. Road, Brimley area). Bring something to barbecue and something to share! Nice island to canoe or

kayak to, also. Meet behind the Greyhound Bus Terminal at 1:00 pm or the US Tourist Information at 1:15 pm. Barbecue at 5:00 or when everyone gets hungry.

VTA Summer Campout-Aug 13-15, Mississauga Provincial Park. We will meet on the Friday or Saturday morning by 10:00 am. The weekend will include hikes and some other surprise events. Saturday's dinner will be pot luck. The lunches and Sunday breakfast are for you to bring for yourself. Contact Steve Taylor (759-2480) or Susan Graham (949-4105) by Aug 10 to confirm attendance and for co-ordination of transportation. Members of all clubs welcome. Elliot Lake members could contact Jack Smit.

Sat. Sept. 25: Hike the Desbarats Section -- Rock Lake to Rydal Bank (11k). Easy walking, bring lunch and raingear. Meet at Churchill Plaza at 9:00 am. Leaders Dieter and Erika Ropke.

**FROM THE
EDITOR'S DESK**

This is absolutely positively my last newsletter (have I said this before?). I managed to eke out another three months of work, but will definitely be leaving at the end of June. Thanks again for all the help, and happy hiking!

---- Peter Frederick

FRONT PAGE PHOTOS

We need photographs for the front page of the newsletter! Any hiking related photographs are welcome -- black and white or colour prints of any size less than half-page will be gladly accepted. Get your name on the front page! Add a photo credit to your resume!

--- the editor

**LISTEN! WHAT
SQUAWKS THERE?**

Find out with a set of compact discs. Published in 1992, these acclaimed discs have recordings of some 300 birds arranged according to GODFREY: The Birds of Canada. With your CD player you can quickly skip to the relevant page number which will then play the bird song (squawk) you are looking for. There are 6 discs all told. They come in 3 volumes of 2 discs as follows:

Volume 1 - Loons to Woodpeckers

CD #1 red-throated loon to Hudsonian godwit

CD #2 marbled dowit to pileated woodpecker

Volume 2 - Flycatchers to Vireos

CD #1 olive-sided flycatcher to Canyon wren

CD #2 Caroline wren to red-eyed vireo

Volume 3 - Warblers to Sparrows

CD #1 blue-winged warbler to Baird's sparrow

CD #2 grasshopper sparrow to house sparrow

PRICE: OUR NATURAL WORLD

25 MURRAY STREET

OTTAWA, ON K1N 9M5

(613) 562-1606

sells each volume of 2 CDs for \$35, \$105 for the entire set.

Should you need an index to THE BIRDS OF CANADA or for more information, contact Dieter



Ropke (705) 942-9636 Please note that the price and availability information is old.

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New for 92/93 we will be offering the fine line of FIRST NEED water purifiers from General Ecology. No back country hiker or canoeist should be without one!

159 Stanley St., Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. P6A 3K5
Tom and Linda Weldon

(705) 759-2757

OUTING REPORTS

Earth Day Cleanup

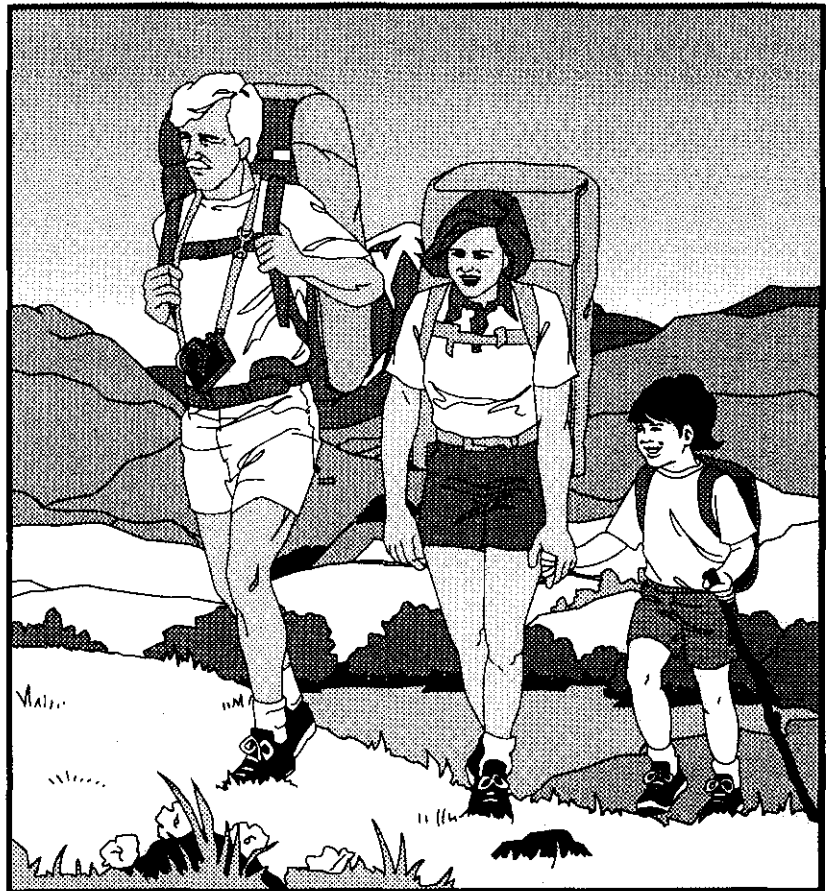
The Earth Day cleanup at Gros Cap scheduled for April 24 transpired as follows; Nine earthly citizens met in the parking lot at 10:00 am. It rained so they went to the donut shop down the road for sustenance and friendly conversation. It was raining even heavier and blowing hard when these stalwart individuals were satiated, so they went home.

---Steve Taylor

The Baker's Dozen goes to Bellevue

February 27th was the sort of day skiers pray for: sunny and cool but not unpleasantly cold. In fact, the day must have seemed too good to be true for most of the party as they dept on praying for it to continue to be perfect. Well, to tell the truth, I couldn't be certain they were praying, but most kept falling to their knees, and occasionally skiers like me seemed to prefer the fully prone, face-in-the-snow approach. I tried to correlate the manner of supplication with the skier's religious persuasion, and although I suspect there were a couple of Muslims and Quakers in the group, was unsuccessful in my attempt. (The Muslims were identified by the direction they faced while on bended knee and the Quakers by their silence in the trying circumstances of losing control yet again on a steep descent!).

However, on the positive side these supplications were obviously successful and even Gayle the lone snow shoe-er wasn't going to be left out. She was obviously conducting a very scientific experiment to determine whether it is better to ski or show shoe on these 10 km cross-country excursions across frozen ponds, up and down beaver dams and otter slides, and winding through those very huggable trees. The snow shoes seemed to win except for the last glide down back to the vehicles on a packed snow machine trail. Anne Trudelle



thought that racing skies were the way to beat the snow shoes, but the tricky soft patches of snow in the trees resulted in more time lost than was gained in the brief excursions onto icy lakes. Steve Taylor proved to be quite a basket case as the game of find the needle in the hay stack was transformed into find the basket in 4 ft of soft snow.

Fiona Ortiz and Susan Graham seemed to miss having a cellular phone as they showed obvious withdrawal symptoms from leaving their young infants to their husband's care. Cheryl was out to prove how light it is possible to travel if you can bring along friends to carry all your food and spare gear. Tom Allinson tried to prove the benefits of a portable Sven saw while his wife Gail showed that you don't need a saw to pull over a dead tree for firewood. Chuck Bosley, who lives in the country, tried to find water by digging a large hole in the snow, while Betty Nassoii tried to find the wolves so that she, too, could become one of "The women

who run with the wolves." By the way, I'm not sure whether she is an agnostic, or just an experienced bushwacker, as she fell over the least of the group.

Robert Bingham was trying to take in all of the Northern Beauty as this could be his last ski trip in this area -- he will be moving south shortly.

We did see some birds, including a Hairy Woodpecker, chickadees, pine siskins, and a couple of people saw a partridge. We was plenty of tracks, mostly of undetermined species, but many were obviously by an otter enjoying his/her snow slide.

Therefore, despite the supposed unluckiness of having 13 in the group, we ended the day without any more serious mishap than tired limbs, which were partially healed by rest and relaxation, and unlike the following excursion, there was no question about which do-nut shop to go to: on this day, there was no alternative but to go to the Baker's Dozen!

---Patrick Capper

The Trail User's 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

V. T. A. Membership Form

Please check one:

- New Member
 Renewal

Sections (active sections in bold type)

- Association-at-large
 Saulteaux
 Echo Ridges
 Desbarats
 Thessalon
 Iron Bridge
 Penewobikong (Blind River)
 Coureurs de Bois (Elliot Lake)
 Spanish
 Massey
 Rainbow
 Little Current
 Sheguiandah
 South Baymouth
 Sudbury
 Thunder Bay
 Nipigon
 Casque-Isles
 Marathon
 Pukaskwa Park
 Michipicoten (Wawa)
 Lake Superior Park
 Batchawana
 Goulais

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Phone _____

Check if you would like to help with...Trail maintenance Other

I have read and will abide by the TRAIL USER'S 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		= _____

The membership year of the Association runs from January 1st to December 31st. Dues paid after November 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 memberships) for each Club.