

# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 20040 150 CHURCHILL BLVD. SAULT STE. MARIE ON P6A 6W3

NO. 55

Editors: Steve Dominy & Pim Delfgou

Fall 1993

## British Invasion Results In New Trail

*Our energetic president, Steve Taylor, was interviewed for an article which appeared in the Sault Star on September 2. The occasion was the arrival of 11 British Conservation Volunteers at the Stokely Creek area, where they spent two weeks clearing 25 km of trail. Here's Steve's version of the story.*

One of the most interesting projects this year was the construction of a hiking trail through the Stokely property. To accomplish this task, we received help from 11 hardy individuals from the British Trust for Conservation

Volunteers (BTCV). I found out last year that several organizations, including this one, offer working vacations for members. With the help of Jill Leslie from Hike Ontario, and Chuck Peterson who owns Stokely, we were able to work out such a project. In most of these projects, the host club provides accommodation. In this case the accommodation was the Stokely facility itself. The task was to clear about 25 km of hiking trail.

Things were a bit hairy at first. We knew that the group was arriving in Sault Ste. Marie on

Saturday August 28 via a variety of means of transportation. The problem was that nobody in the Sault knew where the meeting place was and we didn't know if the group did. Fortunately two volunteers from southern Ontario, who were with the group, had attended to this matter. We knew that one of the people attending was Richard Knot, and we found out that someone called Richard Knot was arriving on a 4:00 pm flight. We tracked him to the Water Tower Inn when a second Richard Knot arrived by road from southern Ontario. Two Richard Knots arrived in the Sault on the same day!

Twenty-two VTA members contributed to a pot luck feast to welcome the group to Canada on the Sunday evening. This was an event that all seemed to enjoy. Following a great variety of food in the cosy surroundings of Stokely, I presented a brief talk on what our Association is all about and Angela, the trip leader from England, gave our members a fantastic slide show on what BTCV does.

Then the work started. The BTCV volunteers and the two volunteers from southern

**See Invasion... page 5**



by Pim Delfgou

**VTA EXECUTIVE**

**PRESIDENT**

**Steve Taylor**  
(705) 759-2480

**PAST PRESIDENT**

**Peter Stinnissen**  
(705) 856-4270

**1st VICE-PRESIDENT**

**Jesse Latendresse**  
(705) 461-3958

**2nd VICE-PRESIDENT**

**Susan Graham**  
(705) 949-4105

**TREASURER**

**Dieter Ropke**  
(705) 942-9636

**GENERAL SECRETARY**

**Larry Gringorten**  
(705) 949-7953

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

**Patrick Capper**  
(705) 253-4470

**TRAILMASTER**

**Bill Robinson**  
(705) 949-4956

**LANDOWNER LIAISON**

**Paul Syme**  
(705) 942-9606

**HIKE ONTARIO REP.**

**Patrick Capper**  
(705) 253-4470

**EDITORS**

**Steve Dominy**  
(705) 946-2484  
**Pim Delfgou**  
(705) 759-1053

THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS is published three times per year. Your articles and submissions are always welcome! Send them to Editor, VTA, Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd. Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6W3. **Submissions for the next issue should be received by January 10.**

# President's Page

It was a busy summer along the trail. Besides the British Invasion (see front page article, this issue), construction also took place around Espanola (see next issue), and construction and maintenance occurred in the Casque Isles section.

In the upcoming months, I think that the new Trans Canada Trail organization will involve us heavily. We may be looking for a volunteer to act as a liaison between the VTA and this new organization. Along with this, I propose that we devote energy over the next several months to maintenance of existing trail (until the snow comes), and promotion.

The editor position has changed hands. Welcome back Steve Dominy, who has put together this issue, and I'm sure that subsequent issues will be in capable hands. Thanks to Peter Frederick for his job over the past several issues. No doubt, long time members noticed the change that took place in the format of the newsletter. A key assistant with the newsletter who rarely receives mention is Jack Dunning. Thanks Jack for an excellent typesetting and layout job.

## New President for Saulteaux Club

The Saulteaux Club, the largest and usually the most active section of the VTA, finally has an acting President in the person of Judith Falkins. Judy brings years of trail maintenance and outing experience to the task, along with her infectious enthusiasm. However, she does require as much support as she can muster, and contends that this is just a trial run to see if she will get the help she needs. Let's hope that the appointment of Judy will revitalize the Saulteaux Section.

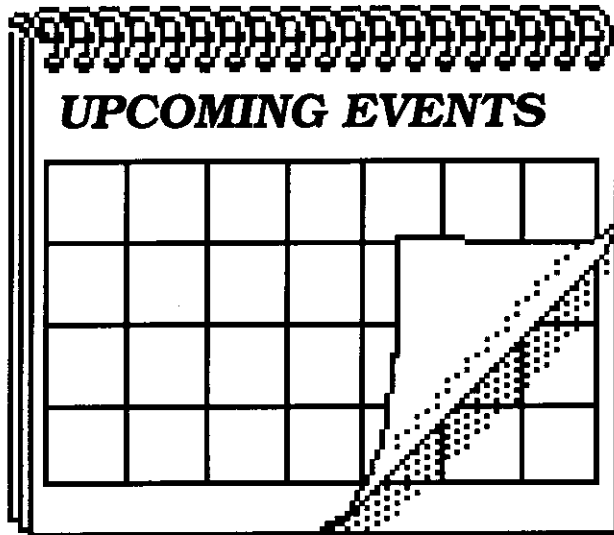
Past President Susan Graham reluctantly relinquished the post in order to devote more time to a first child, Ian. For over a year, the Club has survived as an assemblage of committees coordinated by Steve Taylor. Steve had found his head starting to droop under the weight of all those hats (or perhaps he is nodding off from lack of sleep). Association President is certainly the bowler of those hats.

### WINTER CANOEING?

The Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association has a collection of videos for sale on a range of subjects, including Bill Mason instructional tapes. Winter may be the best time to work on your technique - who has time in the summer? Address: 5-1029 Hyde Park Rd., Hyde Park, Ont. NOM 1Z0. Tel: 519-473-2109.

### NEW ADDRESS FOR VTA

Particularly observant members would have noticed that the VTA mailing address changed with the previous newsletter. The post office has been asked to forward mail from the previous address, so there shouldn't be a problem. Please use the new address, on the cover.



**New Trails Along Highway 129**

The Mississauga Valley Tourist Association (MVTA), a group of camp operators along Hwy. 129 between Thessalon and Aubrey Falls, has constructed several scenic trails. The most recent and best-marked is located about 150 m north of the Tunnel Lake Trading Post (Esso station). A sign with the silhouette of a hiker marks a logging road leaving to the east of Hwy. 129. The trail follows the road for a short distance and then swings north at another trail marker. About one half hour later you find yourself on a spectacular lookout over Cumming Lake.

You can see the lookout from the highway - a sheer rock face on the east side of Cumming Lake. Congratulations to the MVTA on a fine effort. They have constructed two other trails, but they are not easily described and no map exists. However, a stop at one of the camps should yield the required information. Mike Allen and Gillian Lloyd at Kegos Camp were particularly friendly and helpful when I stopped in for a chat.

If you drive up Hwy. 129 and wonder how to spot the Voyageur Trail crossing point, it is about one half kilometre north of Bill Phillips Camp, at a rock cut in a bend in the road. Look for the white blazes on the vertical rock on the west side of the highway.

-Steve Dominy

**TRAIL CLOSURE NOTICE**  
**The Voyageur Trail will be closed on Wednesday, February 2, 1994.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**OCT. 23: Annual General Meeting**, Wawa. See details on page 4.

**SAULTEAUX SECTION**

**NOTE:** In future, some Sauleaux Section work party dates will be included in this section. However, this list will not be all inclusive. For destination, duration, and meeting place details, contact the leader. For complete work party information, contact Al Comfort at 945-9496.

**OCT. 23: Work party** led by Tom Allinson (942-0768).

**OCT. 30: Work party** led by Pat Capper (253-4470).

**NOV. 6: Work party** led by Steve Dominy (946-2484).

**NOV. 13: Work Party** led by Paul Syme (942-9606)

**NOV 20: SLIDE SHOW.** Everyone invited. Bring pictures or slides of your outings of the

past year. Refreshments and donuts provided. Location: East Wing Lecture Theatre, Algoma University. No need to pack lunch, compass or extra clothing. Time: 7:30 p.m.

**UNPAID MEMBERS NOTICE**

If you haven't paid your dues for 1993, please do so immediately to avoid being cut off. This is the third and final 'complimentary' issue you will have received this year. Since it is almost the end of the year, you might consider sending in a two year renewal to save yourself time and postage. Paid-up members should also note that renewal time is December, so don't leave it until the last minute. With Christmas fast approaching, now is the time to think about gift memberships for family and friends.

If you're not sure if you paid for 1993, check the upper right corner of your mailing label (provided you didn't already throw out the envelope). If you see '92' there, you haven't paid for 1993. If you're not sure, contact Patrick Capper, the Membership Secretary (253-4470).

## From the Editor's Desk

### Editorial

Beginning with this issue, the Voyageur Trail News is in different hands. Steve Dominy has replaced Peter Frederick as co-editor. No need to worry - Steve has been a member of the VTA since 1983, and is probably familiar to many of you. He was active in the Saulteaux Club from 1983 to 1987, serving as Membership Secretary and later as President of the Saulteaux Club. Steve was an absentee member for a few years, but has returned to northern Ontario and was immediately handed a list of available positions.

Having had the Voyageur Trail News as his sole contact with the Association for a number of years, Steve came to realize the importance of an interesting, informative, and attractive publication. Many resident members, not to mention non-residents, rarely join in

organized outings, and thus have little contact with the VTA. The newsletter is their only remuneration for their \$10 membership, other than the good feeling they get from supporting a group with such noble objectives! Thus, Steve welcomed the opportunity to help with the production of the newsletter.

As the co-editors, Pim and Steve would like to encourage members to contribute. After all, this is your forum for voicing opinions, passing along ideas, sharing a humorous or good news story, and so on. Perhaps you have a favourite camp recipe, have read a good book on the outdoor life, or would like to share with members excerpts from your trip log. Don't hesitate to write or telephone us. Steve can be reached at 946-2484, and Pim at 759-1053.



hikers be assured of reasonably well-groomed trails along this 105 km stretch. With an increasing number of out-of-town hikers coming to enjoy our trails, proper upkeep becomes even more essential than usual. Al arranges all the trail maintenance work parties. If you would like to help out on a Saturday this fall, and haven't been contacted, Al would be glad to hear from you. His home phone is 945-9496. For other sections of the Trail, please send a note to the Association describing the area requiring maintenance.

#### CAN YOU READ THIS NEWSLETTER?

#### (CAN YOU READ THIS NEWSLETTER?)

Feedback from the membership is constantly needed in order to assure that this continues to be an organization run by all its members, and not just the select few who have active roles. You may have noticed that a variety of type sizes is used throughout the newsletter, so as to create a pleasing arrangement of articles, advertisements, etc. However, if anyone has difficulty reading the smaller of these point sizes, we would like

you to tell us. Drop us a note with your membership renewal, or call Steve Dominy at 946-2484.

#### TRAIL MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR REQUESTS ASSISTANCE

Periodically, a section of trail falls into a state of disrepair unbeknownst to Al Comfort, Trail Maintenance Coordinator for the Saulteaux and Echo Ridges Sections. Al asks that any members discovering such a trail segment please notify him so that a work party can be promptly dispatched to the area. Only through your support can

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 23

If you didn't already mark this date from the Summer newsletter on your calendar, please note it now. The Michipicoten Club is hosting the meeting in Wawa. Start time is 10:00 a.m. for the Directors' meeting, and 1:30 p.m. for regular members. A hike will follow the meeting. To arrange a car pool and obtain additional information, contact Steve Taylor or Pat Capper in the Sault, or Peter Stinnissen in Wawa.

## Invasion

*continued from front page*

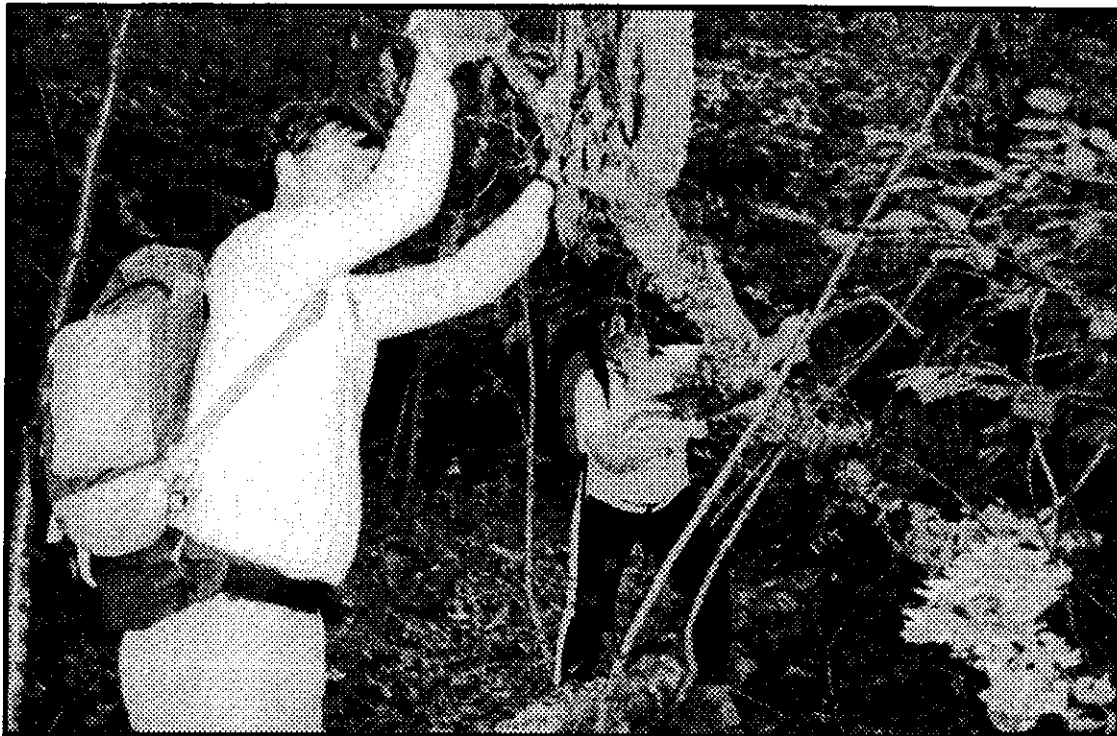
Ontario showed considerable stamina and skill in carving the footpath out of a flagged trail through the woods. I can attest to the fact that they did a superb job of clearing the trail. Both clubs benefited from the exchange of information. They had considerable experience in the use of different tools and in water drainage. We can only assume that they benefitted from some of our techniques. The group enjoyed beating their way through bush, which was unlike anything they had previously encountered. One of the volunteers and I spotted a bear at Tier Lake. The group did take a few days to enjoy themselves with a variety of activities including a trip to Lake Superior Provincial Park. The highlights of this seemed to be the Pictographs and the Canadian Carver Trading Post.

The result of this venture is a footpath that should be a cardinal piece of our system. The scenery along it is fantastic and includes lookouts, waterfalls, lakes, and of course, forest. It starts at the Robertson Lake Road, about 2 km past the cliffs, and comes to Highway 17 near McCauley's. It will eventually join with the rest of the trail system going North from the Sault. Several walks from the Stokely Creek Lodge are possible.

Thanks to all who participated in the feast. Special thanks are due to Pat Capper who helped with the

early chaos, Judy Falkins who helped in a number of ways, Donna Weeks for her on-trail work and transportation, Scott Capell for helping to flag the route, and Bill Robinson for his help on the arrival day. Thanks also to Hike Ontario

and Jill Leslie, to Chuck Peterson for his generous accommodation, and to Todd and Leslie from southern Ontario. Finally, thanks to those who I may have forgotten. We certainly invite this enthusiastic group to return.



**Derek, a member of the British volunteer team, and Donna Weeks work on trail near Stokely Creek.**  
Photo by Judith Falkins

### Southern Ontario Gets New Trail

The Ganaraska News recently announced the formation of a new hiking club at Goderich, on Lake Huron, under the moniker Maitland Trail Association. About 30 km of trail has been completed along the Maitland River. For more information, contact President Rod LaFontaine at P.O. Box 443, Goderich, Ont. N7A 4C7.

A new trail is under development north of Toronto. The proposed Oak Ridges Trail will link the Bruce Trail to a north-south section of the Ganaraska Trail, near Millbrook, and extend eastward to the Trent River watershed east of Peterborough. For further information, contact Citizens for an Oak Ridges Trail, P.O. Box 28544, Aurora, Ont. L4G 6S6.

#### HELP US TO PROMOTE THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

If you have a bulletin board at your place of work, at a recreation centre, ski club, or wherever, and would like to post the Upcoming Events notice along with some VTA brochures, we would be happy to provide you with both on a regular basis. Contact anyone on the executive to arrange.



# Outing Reports

## Cookout On the Beach

Saturday, August 21 was the day that 16 people arrived at Betty Nassoio's place at Birch Point. The weather was perfect - a carbon copy of last year - sunny and warm. The afternoon saw us do many different things: go for a walk

to the point, pick blueberries, canoe and kayak, swim, or just plain socialize. The blueberry crop proved to be plentiful, which made for easy gorging.

Just before dinner, we swam in the warm, clear water. Then we fired up the barbeque and cooked various meats, sampled a range of salads, and followed up with desserts. All modesty aside, my Pistachio Cream Cheese Dessert was a hot item on the dessert menu. We ended the day with a campfire and sing-a-long, with guitar accompaniment. Special thanks go to Betty for hosting this fun cookout.

-Pim Delfgou

## Comfortable Hikers Tread On Trail

During the week of Sept 6-11, Ron Baylis of Comfortable Hiking Holidays led his party of 14 nomadic wanderers onto our trail, and by some accounts, off it in a few areas. The group also took the Agawa Canyon Tour trip and ventured into Lake Superior Park. They were warmly received by Horst Wetzl at his log cabin, and were coldly received by the weather along the Red Rock beach.

On Sept 11, 10 VTA participants joined in on the outing from the Red Rock Road to Gros Cap. Most people could not miss the spectacular proliferation of several mushroom species. A good day was had by all, and a good week apparently was had by the Baylis bunch.

Ron leads other trips, in some cases off the continent. He can be reached at Suite 2304, 75 Graydon Hall Drive, Don Mills, Ont., M3A 3M5 for information on his outings.

alert for their return, which wasn't until 7:30 p.m. The Park Superintendent had vowed to send out a search party if they hadn't returned by 8:00 p.m.

The conversation among the less-enthusiastic groups, as they prepared their contributions to the pot luck dinner, ranged from casual comments about lost VTA members, to speculation as to the newspaper headlines in Monday's newspapers. One imagined version read: "Five Hiking Club Members Perish on Trail - Competence of Hike Leaders to be Examined in Provincial Enquiry". Not the kind of publicity the VTA is seeking!

The food array for the pot luck had a little of everything, with Donna's meat balls getting the most compliments. Pim's apple pudding cake was also a favourite.

Sunday was again sunny, perfect for a breakfast of pancakes, bacon and eggs, or toast and cereal, depending on ones tastes. The hike that day was on a new stretch of Voyageur Trail east of Highway 108 to Hope Lake. The trail traversed a variety of terrain for about 4 km. Unfortunately, the lake turned out to be a little swampy and therefore not suitable for swimming, although Lauzon Lake on Highway 17 was very suitable.

We certainly enjoyed our weekend, and wish to thank the Coureurs de Bois Club for hosting this year's campout. The weather co-operated; it didn't rain until just before reaching the Sault.

-Pim Delfgou and Steve Dominy

## A Hike To Suit All Tastes

The VTA Summer Campout to Mississauga Provincial Park attracted 13 members having a range of interests. We were able to break in the park's new group campsite. Hiking began on the Helenbar Trail, a pleasant walk featuring three lookouts, two of them overlooking Helenbar Lake. We stopped at all of them to take in the view as well as pictures, and then went down to the beach on Semiwhite Lake for lunch and a swim.

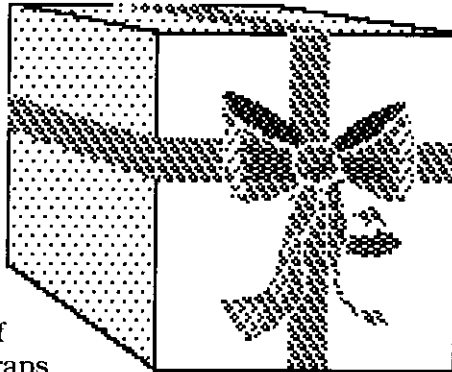
Three distinct factions were quickly identified among our group: (1) the leisure walker who wanted to hike only about 6 km and spent most of the day swimming or sunbathing; (2) the more adventurous, who decided that about 18 km would make a nice outing (and who also found time to soak their weary bones in the tepid lake); and (3) the die-hard group which insisted on completing the longest, and newly-opened, trail in the Park and hiked about 25 km. The latter group also soaked in the lake after lunch, but soaked only in sweat for the rest of the long day.

The day of these hikes was the official opening of the new MacKenzie Trail, and the die-hard group earned the distinction of being the first to hike the trail. They also kept the Park staff on

# Say It With Silicone

## Gift Ideas for the Outdoorsperson

I confess to a weakness for outdoor equipment stores and catalogues. I can easily spend hours in the aisles or among the pages, until jolted from my trance by a ringing phone or my wife's voice. I have recently been mesmerized by a few of the new products available to dyed-in-the-wool gadget freaks. For example, take the Therma-a-Rest'r, which is nothing more than a couple of nylon pockets and straps designed to convert your camp mattress into a chair. It will set you back about \$50, but those hours of comfortable seating may be worth it.



Mountain Equipment Co-op's catalogue now lists these.

How about the Alti-Depth Wrist Watch, which has an altimeter to 4000 m, a depth meter to 30 m, and a barometer. A steal at \$90. Or you might consider (but only for a second) a foldable kayak for those foreign excursions; a mere \$4000 + tax. If you want something that will last a lifetime, an outdoor book or nature gift may be in your price range. A good selection is available by mail from The Forest Shop, P.O. Box 550, Brighton, Ont. K0K 1H0.

The ultimate gift for the 90's has to be a membership in an organization which promotes nature appreciation, such as the VTA. A true bargain at only \$10 for a whole year. Or perhaps a guidebook, a sweatshirt, a pin, a.....

-Steve Dominy

## VTA Makes Explore Magazine

The April/May 1993 issue of Explore magazine featured an article entitled "Fabulous Fourpack", which highlighted four of Ontario's hiking trails. The Bruce, Rideau, Ganaraska and Voyageur Trails were amiably described, with photos, by author Laura Klager. Klager is editor of Outlook, the newsletter of Hike Ontario! For our trail, an historical account of how the trail grew from the vision of Dr. Paul Syme, along with a brief description of the route of the proposed 1100 km of trail, were outlined. The opening paragraph is worth reprinting. It goes:

*For experienced wilderness backpackers, the Voyageur Trail presents both an opportunity and a challenge. "I am reminded of an article about B.C.'s West Coast Trail," laughs membership secretary*

*and long-time VTA member Patrick Capper, "which said that as many as 98 hikers a day set out on the trail in 1990. It reported that many hikers felt cheated out of the wilderness experience by the sheer number of people on the trail. This is not a problem on the Voyageur Trail!"*

Explore calls itself "Canada's Magazine of Adventure Travel". The bi-monthly magazine features articles about self-propelled outdoor recreation pursuits, including hiking, canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking, and climbing. A regular feature is an equipment buyer's guide for hiking and backpacking gear. The only distribution outlet listed for northern Ontario is Wildwaters in Thunder Bay. You can subscribe by writing Explore

Magazine, #420, 301 - 14 Street N.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 2A1, or call 1-800-567-1372 or (403) 270-8890 and give your Visa or Mastercard number.

### ERRATUM

Credit for the cover photo of the Summer 1993 issue wrongly acknowledged Peter Archer as the photographer. Apologies to Richard Archer for the glitch.



### Superior Watersports

Canoes, Kayaks, Camping

Superior Watersports offers the most complete line of quality canoes: Wenonah, Sawyer, Mad River, Old Town, Bluewater, NovaCraft, Jensen, Swift & Dagger. We are also dealers for Grey Owl paddles, Eureka tents, Camp Trails and Ostrum packs, Outback (by Eureka) and Trek sleeping bags, Silva compasses, carrying yokes, portage packs and other outdoor equipment.

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 Welton

(705) 759-2757

### 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.