



# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

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

NEWSLETTER NO. 6

1976 12 15



An outing on the RAINBOW Section between Espanola and Whitefish Falls



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Annual General Meeting, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., Oct. 1, 1976

I am pleased to report that the Voyageur Trail Association continues to make excellent progress, especially in trail planning and construction, and I would like to comment briefly on the progress and activities of the various member clubs or sections.

South Baymouth Section: Our leader at South Baymouth has, unfortunately, resigned, but with a promise to try to organise a group to carry on.

Rainbow Section: A busload of Bruce Trailers and others from southern Ontario came up on the May 24th weekend to help build trail at Espanola. Details are recounted in the September newsletter.

Penewobiking Club: This name, perhaps unfamiliar to some of you, means Blind River in Ojibway. More trail planning has been done by this group. They have more than doubled their membership since last year.

Thessalon Club: Trail clearing is continuing at a steady pace in the Thessalon area. They have taken on an extra 10 miles, because of the lack of an Iron Bridge club, so perhaps they could stand some extra help from other members.

Desbarats Club: This small but active club has virtually completed their section and are having an official opening on Saturday, November 6.

Echo Bay Club: This club is contacting landowners and will be clearing trail this fall.

Saulteaux Club: This club has about 25 miles of trail built and had a series of well-attended hikes this summer.

In summary, if we can complete the Echo Bay Section and the Thessalon Section by the end of next summer, we will have close to 100 miles of continuous trail from Gros Cap to Iron Bridge... To help bring this about, the Voyageur Trail Association has received a grant of \$1,000 from Wintario to purchase tools. Some of these have been purchased or have been donated by Cochrane-Dunlop. These are professional quality tools and should stand up to considerable trail-clearing use. As you probably know, that \$1,000 has to be matched by another \$1,000 from our own funds or private donations. If you can help in any way, it would be greatly appreciated by your board.

This summer I presented a brief to the Ontario Trails Council which met in Sault Ste. Marie, on behalf of the V.T.A. board and membership. It stated our concern for protection of landowners from liability and asked for legislation to define and protect hiking trails from non-compatible use. I also attended my first F.O.H.T.A. meeting this summer and can report that this group is made up of people who are earnestly concerned with the problems of hikers and trail users in Ontario.

Now for three big news items. First, in response to an article in the Sudbury Star, we have found a person willing to help us in Sudbury. He is presently trying to find a group to start a Sudbury Club. Since we have no members between Blind River and Espanola, a Sudbury Club can help immensely by planning and building trail west of Espanola, through the Massey area.

Second, after several years of trying to find someone in Thunder Bay to start a club and begin trail-building towards Sault Ste. Marie, someone has finally stepped forward. He is a former Bruce Trailer and is anxious to form a Thunder Bay Trail Club and begin to build trail eastwards. Also, some of you are already aware that 20 miles of trail was built between Terrace Bay and Schreiber last year. I have been in contact with the initiator of that trail and he is delighted to hear of our activities. That trail will become part of the Voyageur Trail when we can link up to it.



Third, I have also had a discussion with Ministry of Natural Resources people concerned with Lake Superior Park, and it appears that they are in favour of building a shoreline trail to our standards and with the white blazes and yellow markers of the Voyageur Trail. Although it will be built and maintained by M.N.R. staff, they would appreciate some help from our members when trail building starts. I hear also that the Pukaskwa National Park people have about 12 miles of shoreline trail built. It appears from this that it is about time we started to think about moving north.

In closing, I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to all of our members who have worked so hard in so many ways to make the Voyageur Trail the success that it is. I'd especially like to thank your executive, who have carried a heavy load in planning and executing events. Thank you all for your support in this exciting venture.

#### FEDERATION OF ONTARIO HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATIONS

This federation (F.O.H.T.A.), of which the V.T.A. is a founding member, was organized in 1973 to assist the numerous hiking trail clubs in the province and to speak as a united voice for them to government and other bodies. It provides a free exchange of ideas and information of mutual benefit.

I was able to attend two meetings in 1976 along with Ralph Wood, your other F.O.H.T.A. representative. F.O.H.T.A. has sponsored Ontario Hiking Day and will sponsor it again on October 2, 1977, a much better time of year for northern trails.

Our problems with the signs on Highway 17 received sympathetic consideration and F.O.H.T.A. will write to the Hon. S. Handleman, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, expressing their collective concern over this problem.

F.O.H.T.A. will be presenting a brief to the Ontario Trails Council and will be sharing the Bruce Trail booth at the 1977 Sportsman's Show in Toronto. They will display a map showing all hiking trails in the province and brochures of participating clubs. V.T.A. members willing to help staff this display for part of any day between March 18 and 27, please contact Ralph Wood in Toronto (741 3399) soon and let him know of your willingness to help.

F.O.H.T.A. also facilitates an exchange of newsletters between hiking trail clubs and the V.T.A. has been receiving these. More will be said of this in a future newsletter.

On November 27, 1976 I attended a symposium in Toronto, sponsored by F.O.H.T.A. with guest speakers, general discussion and working groups. The symposium was held to bring points of contention between hikers and the government to the attention of the Ontario Trails Council, to present an opportunity for hikers and government people to get to know each other and to work together, and for F.O.H.T.A. members to present a more unified front to the government. I found the meeting to be very productive and enlightening. The results of this symposium will be available to participants and a summary of them will be used in a brief presented to the O.T.C. by F.O.H.T.A. in the new year. I will prepare my own summary and present it to the board of the V.T.A. and it will be available to club members through their representatives.

P.D.Syme  
F.O.H.T.A. Representative

## RESULTS OF BALLOT ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Fifty-eight ballots were returned to the Secretary within 30 days of the September 15 date of mailing of the ballots. All six proposed amendments were carried by margins greatly in excess of the two-thirds majority required on such votes. The amendments were accepted by the Board and incorporated into the Constitution at the November 2, 1976 board meeting.

### NOTICE

The Voyageur Trail will be closed for one day, the first Monday in February, February 7, 1977.

### THE NATIONAL TRAIL

This organization, begun in 1971, is promoting a walking trail across Canada. As the Voyageur Trail essentially runs east and west across the central part of the province, we will in time become a major link in this trail. Our efforts, therefore, must be of particular interest to this group, and conversely, this organization deserves our support. For further information, write to:

National Trail,  
Box 6623, Station D,  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2P 2E4

If you do write, please mention your affiliation with the V.T.A.

### TRAIL GUIDE BOOK

Both completed sections, Saulteaux and Desbarats, have been measured and mapped in detail in preparation for a descriptive text to accompany the maps and with a little luck spring 1977 publication of our first skeleton guide book is possible. The intention is to publish Echo Bay and Thessalon data as they become available. Such information will be sent free of charge to all guide book owners. Thus, the first guide book, when complete, will provide detailed maps and descriptions to some 100 miles - 160 kilometers - of continuous trail. More on this in the next newsletter.

### WINTARIO

In our last newsletter, we appealed for \$1,000 to match a \$1,000 Wintario grant to purchase trail clearing tools for our various clubs. Through the generosity of several industries and that of some of our own members we are nearing that goal. We express our sincere thanks to these kind people. Only about \$300 is needed now and we ask again for others to consider a tax-deductible donation to help us secure this grant. Any donation, large or small, is welcome.

### BRUCE TRAIL NEWS HELPS OUT

A recent note on the V.T.A. in The Bruce Trail News along with our membership application form on the back page has produced a flood of new members in recent weeks. Our thanks goes to The Bruce Trail News and its editor, Doug Brown.

## WONDERING ABOUT THOSE SIGNS ON HIGHWAY 17?

For those of you who have seen the signs on Highway 17 saying "Voyageur Trail" be it known that they have nothing to do with OUR trail. They are the handiwork of the Ministry of Industry and Tourism, and the using of our name has been vigorously protested in letters to that Ministry and to the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, who granted us our name in the first place. You will be kept informed of the results in future newsletters.

## THANKS TO BENEFACTORS

We wish to express our sincere thanks to the following companies who have assisted the V.T.A. financially in the past year:

The Algoma Central Railway  
Labatts Breweries Ltd.  
Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd.

## PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The Photo Contest Committee has extended the deadline for our first Photography Contest to January 15, 1977. If you have any slides, or prints, coloured or black and white, of the trail or trail activities, submit them now. You still have a chance to win in our first contest - an historic event.

### Conditions of Entry

1. Subject areas: (a) Club or trail activities.  
(b) trail views.
2. The competition is open to amateur photographers.
3. Three categories (a) 2 x 2" slides in cardboard mounts,  
(b) black and white prints,  
(c) colour prints.
4. Entries may not exceed four photos per person.
5. Locations on the trail should be identified and the sender's name should be included.
6. A completed entry form or fascimile must accompany each entry and the total number of entries should be noted on each form.
7. Entry fee is \$1.00 per entry, with a maximum of \$2.00.
8. Entry receipt deadline is January 15, 1977.
9. Pictures must have been taken between September 15, 1976 and January 15, 1977.
10. Judging will be done before the Annual General Meeting and judges will include local professional photographers.
11. Entries will be publicly displayed and will be shown at the Annual General Meeting.
12. Entries will be returned to the owners within four weeks of the Annual General Meeting.
13. The Voyageur Trail Association may wish to acquire slides or prints for their own use after the Contest. Entries will receive every possible care but the V.T.A. cannot be responsible for loss or damage.

# FIRST VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST

Name \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Member of V.T.A? \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION ON TRAIL	JUDGES SCORE	AWARD

Send entry forms, fees and photos and address enquiries and requests for additional forms to:

Photography Contest Committee,  
Voyageur Trail Association,  
Box 66,  
Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.  
P6A 5L2

## BOY SCOUTS POSTER CONTEST

In the interest of generating enthusiasm in trails and hiking among our youth, Harvey Macklin, V.T.A. Public Relations Officer, proposed a Poster Contest for Ontario Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, and Rovers, based on the last line of the Trail User's Code: "Take nothing but pictures... leave nothing but your thanks. This contest was partly sponsored by the B.T.A. and the V.T.A. participated in promoting it in the Sault Ste. Marie district. We are proud to be a part of this joint endeavour with the Scouting movement and were able to present a book on hiking as a token of our appreciation in their interest and ability, to each of the top Cub - Kevin Wagner of Sault Ste. Marie pack 26B and the top Scout - Rocky Jalbert of the first Batchewana Troop in the District. Rocky's entry also won top honours in the province for Scouts. V.T.A. crests were also awarded to all participants in the Sault Ste. Marie District.

## DISCOUNTS TO HIKERS

Kinney Shoes of Canada Ltd. offers a 10% discount on hiking boots to V.T.A. members on presentation of a current membership card, at the local store in the Station Mall, Sault Ste. Marie.

Margessons of 17 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, M5C 1H4 offer a 10% discount on most camping items to V.T.A. members. Margessons issue a camping catalogue which may be obtained by writing to them.

We have received two letters from organizations offering outings in British Columbia to interested hikers. Expeditions Canada, 51 Overton Crescent, Don Mills, Ont. M3B 2V4, offers summer backpacking excursions. Northern Lights Alpine Recreation, Box 399, Invermere, B.C. V0A 1K0, offers both winter and summer excursions.

### HOT MULLED CIDER

Someone who tasted this at the opening of the Desbarats Trail requested the recipe--

4 quarts apple cider	9 whole cloves
1 cup firmly-packed brown sugar	9 whole allspice
4 cinnamon sticks broken into 1" pieces	2 lemons thinly sliced

Tie cloves, allspice and cinnamon in a cheesecloth bag, place in a large kettle with cider and sugar; simmer 5 minutes. Just before serving remove spice bag. Serve in mugs and float a lemon slice in each. Makes 16 servings.

### VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION WINTER ACTIVITIES 1976-77

Sunday Jan 2 6 p.m.	Moonlight hike through open woods. 1-2 miles. Meet: Camp Korah, north end of Goulais Ave. Leader: Horst Wetzl 254-4618
Sunday Feb. 6 10 a.m.	Rydal Bank area. Ski (easy) and snowshoe hike. Meet: Graham's store, Centre Line Rd. 6 1/2 mi N. Leader: Dieter Ropke, 253-8375 Bring lunch and tea pail.
Saturday Feb, 19 10 a.m.	Saulteaux Trail mid-section. Ski (easy) and snowshoe hike. Meet: 1st radio tower, Jackson Island Road. Leader: Barb Triplett 253-3788 Bring lunch.
Saturday Feb.26 10 a.m.	Echo Bay Trail. Ski and snowshoe hike. Meet: Wakonda gate on Sylvan Valley road. Leader: Fr. A. Megan Bring lunch and tea pail.
Saturday Mar.5 10 a.m.	North of Hiawatha Park. Snowshoe hike. Meet: 6th line and Hiawatha Road. Leader: Charles Hunt 254 3667 Bring lunch.
Sunday Mar.20 10 a.m.	Gordon L. Rd. to Leeburn Rd. Snowshe and ski hike. Meet: Wakonda gate on Sylvan Valley Road. Leaders: Dieter Ropke 253-8357; Bill Gunn 246-2127 Bring lunch and tea pail. Snowshoe hike - moderately difficult. ski hike - follow an easy route and meet snowshoers at end.

## OPENING OF THE DESBARATS SECTION

The Desbarats Section of the Voyageur Trail was officially opened on November 6. About 40 people met at Tower Lake to see the opening by Willys Beilhartz, reeve of Plummer Additional Township. In spite of cold and snow all of the people there, young and old, went on the short hike. Hot cider, cheese, grapes and crackers waited for those at Weir's Road. About half of the hikers continued along the Gordon Lake Bluffs to meet again near the old Nip and Tuck Railway where lunch and more hot cider was enjoyed by all.

Many thanks go to all the people and landowners who made the trail opening possible. Special thanks goes to Dieter Ropke for his tremendous efforts in getting the trail going. It is hoped that many new members can be added now that our trail is open. This winter we hope to have cross country skiing along part of the trail. Bill Gunn.

## CROSS COUNTRY SKIING ON THE SAULTEAUX TRAIL Cross Country Ski Committee

Gros Cap Area: Access by Jackson Island Road. Ski south or east from where trail crosses the Jackson Island Road. As you go east, after an easy stretch, it gets progressively more difficult. Turn back when you reach your limit of capability.

Third Line and Creek Road: Access by Creek Road. Parking is poor (Please don't block driveways.) Ski east where trail crosses Creek Road. After a stiff climb, the trail is quite level until Bennett Creek. There is no bridge and the crossing is dangerous. Don't attempt it.

Maki Road Area: Skiing east of Maki Road to West Davignon Creek is not recommended for novice skiers.

Nettleton Lake Area: Access by Goulais Avenue north of the fourth line. Trail to east is wide, and good for skiing but is used by snow machines. Easy trail until north of Brule Road where it gets hilly after the beaver dam.

Old Goulais Bay Road Area: Access by Old Goulais Bay Road from Fourth line. Parking at Fourth line with two mile hike north to where trail crosses the Old Goulais Bay Road. Just north of here, an old trail leaves east and soon joins the trail. It is flatter and easier skiing than the trail where it crosses the road. There is good skiing east for a while, but snow machines probably use this section.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS - LANDOWNERS

Will any landowners who have changed their address or are going to do so, and who wish to continue to keep in touch with the V.T.A. through the Newsletter, please send their new address to the Secretary, V.T.A.





## VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

### 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.

### VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER ROSTER

- |                      |                       |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Bridge-building   | 8. Map-making         | 14. Editorial Work    |
| 2. Carpentry         | 9. Publicity          | 15. Typing            |
| 3. Stone Masonry     | 10. Display Designing | 16. Legal Advice      |
| 4. Trail Maintenance | 11. Photos and Slides | 17. Correspondence    |
| 5. Trail Building    | Clearing House        | 18. Envelope Stuffing |
| 6. Contacting        | 12. Fund-raising      | 19. Serve on Board of |
| Landowners           | 13. Publications      | own club or V.T.A.    |
| 7. Leading Hikes     |                       | 20. Other             |

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

#### Sections

- ☐ Association-at-large
- ☐ Saulteaux T.C.
- ☐ Echo Bay
- ☐ Desbarats T.C.
- ☐ Thessalon T.C.
- ☐ Penewobikong T.C.
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Massey
- ☐ Rainbow T.C.
- ☐ Little Current
- ☐ Sheguiandah
- ☐ South Baymouth

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (business) \_\_\_\_\_

#### DECLARATION

I have read and will abide by the TRAIL USERS CODE

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

#### FEES

- ☐ Individual \$ 5.00
- ☐ Family \$ 5.00      number of family members ☐ (for association records only)
- ☐ Student \$ 2.00
- ☐ Crests \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$ 1.00 each)
- ☐ Donations \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (receipt for income tax purposes will be sent)

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGN UP A FRIEND**