



# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

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## GROS CAP PINE

by  
Fred Nebesniuk

see article  
on  
photography  
contest!





## 1976 V.T.A. PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The proposed annual V.T.A. Photographic Contest got off to a rather slow start with only thirteen entries spread among four classes of photography. However the quality of the submissions was good, the subjects were interesting and several of the entries will be of value to the association for displays and for Newsletter covers. For instance, the cover on this issue of the Newsletter is from a black and white entry submitted by Fred Nebesniuk which won an Honourable Mention in the contest.

The Judges for the first contest were D. Anderson, former photographer at Great Lakes Forest Research Centre; P. Montgrain, and D. Ropke. They selected the following prize winners:

Colour Prints:	First Prize	Ron Koski, Sault College
	Second Prize	Ron Koski, Sault College
B & W Prints:	First Prize	Ron Koski, Sault College
Slides, Club Activities:	First Prize	I. K. Morrison, V.T.A.
	Second Prize	I. K. Morrison, V.T.A.
Slides, Trail Views:	First Prize	P. D. Syme, V.T.A.
	Second Prize	G. T. Harvey, V.T.A.

The contest was managed by a committee consisting of D. Ropke, P. Syme and G. Harvey. The committee wishes to express its thanks to the Judges for their efforts and to Neil MacEwen of Sault College for helping to interest some of his students in the contest.

## 1977 V.T.A. PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

This is an advance notice for the 1977 photo contest. Pictures must be taken between January 1, 1977 and January 1, 1978 to be eligible, and the classes and rules will probably be similar to those for the 1976 contest. However, one change involves entries in the Club Activities category. These will be judged primarily on how well they show hiking and other club activities. Photographic excellence will have secondary consideration only. Further details and an application form will be in the next Newsletter.



## WORK PARTIES

To help with the construction of the trail in sections that have little manpower to draw upon, we are scheduling five special work parties this spring. Three of them will be to clear and blaze a portion of the Thessalon section and two to blaze the 'Superhike' portion of the Rainbow section. We would like to get as many people as possible for the Thessalon section so that this portion of the trail can be completed. At least six to eight people are needed for each of the Rainbow section trips. Please try to get in on one or more of these outings. They are really more "fun" than "work" and are a chance to meet fellow hikers and see some of the spectacular scenery along the trail. Call Paul Syme at 254-4791 in the Soo to let him know which parties you will be attending.

### SCHEDULE:

Thessalon Section: 1. Saturday, May 7, 8.00 a.m. (Ground conditions permitting). Sault residents meet at the gas bar at Churchill Plaza. Others meet at Rydal Bank bridge at 9.00 a.m. Bring a lunch. Return that evening.

2. Saturday, June 4, 8:00 a.m. at the gas bar at Churchill Plaza and 9.00 a.m. at Rydal Bank. Details as above

3. Saturday, June 18, 8.00 a.m. at the gas bar at Churchill Plaza and 9.00 a.m. at Rydal Bank. Details as above.

Rainbow Section: 1. Saturday and Sunday May 14 and 15. Leave Friday evening, blaze trail Saturday and Sunday, returning early Sunday evening. Bring or buy your meals.

2. Saturday and Sunday, May 28 and 29. Leave Friday evening, blaze trail Saturday and Sunday, returning early Sunday evening. Bring or buy your meals.

## THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL AND HIGHWAY 17

The conflict in the use of the name "Voyageur Trail" has finally been resolved - in our favour. According to a letter received from the Honourable Claude Bennett, Minister of Industry and Tourism, the signs on Highway 17 reading "Voyageur Trail" will be replaced starting this spring, by signs reading "Voyageur Route", one of our alternative suggestions. This will end the confusion that these signs have already caused in the minds of many of those who saw them. We thank the Minister for his decision and it is our mutual hope that the Voyageur Trail Association and the Ministry of Industry and Tourism will enjoy continued co-operation in the future. P.D.Syme



# VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION SUMMER ACTIVITIES 1977

- Sunday May 1 2 p.m. Public hike to celebrate Conservation Week. It will start at Camp Korah again because of its easy access and parking. Please wear walking shoes or boots. Coffee will be served at the Camp Korah site after the walk.  
Meet: at Camp Korah at the north end of Goulais Ave., which may be reached from Second Line West.
- Saturday June 11 8 a.m. Hike, north of Thessalon, 8-10 miles long, pick-up will be arranged at either 8 or 10 miles. Bring lunch.  
Leader: Don Fulton, Little Rapids, 842-2944.  
Meet: At Sunny Gas Bar, Churchill Plaza, 8 a.m. We will proceed to Little Rapids to meet Don at 9 a.m. Little Rapids is on Hwy 129 about 1½ miles north of Hwy 17. Once there turn left and go ¼ mile to the school. We will walk westward on the Thessalon Trail.
- Tuesday June 21 6 p.m. Evening hike to celebrate Spring.  
Leader: Ernie Pringle, 253-6988.  
Meet: at Sentry Parking lot, Hwy 17, North, under the Sentry standard. We will hike west on the trail starting at the 6th Line and Hwy 17 North.
- Saturday Sept. 17 8:30 a.m. Desbarats Trail hike to Leaver Marsh. Bring lunch. Wear boots for wet trail.  
Leader: Fred Haavisto, Gordon Lake, 782-6864.  
Meet: Sunny Gas Bar, Churchill Plaza. We will proceed to the junction of the Gordon Lake road and Hwy 638 (Sylvan Valley Road) to meet our leader at 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday Oct. 2 2 p.m. Ontario Hiking Day public Hike. Gros Cap area. Featuring beautiful views of Lake Superior and fall colours.  
Meet: By the Blue Water Inn at the Gros Cap turnaround. Watch for Voyageur Trail Club members with arm bands for information.

## DISCOUNTS TO HIKERS

Joe's Sports and Surplus, 9 Queen St. East, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. offers a 10% discount to V.T.A. members on presentation of a current membership card. Sales items and all "Woods" brand articles are excluded.

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

Margessons of 17 Adelaide St. East, Toronto M5C 1H4 offers 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.



## OTHER HIKING TRAILS IN ONTARIO

For the interest of our members who may be in other parts of the province this summer and would like to hike on some of the other trails available, we list them, their locations, and an address to write to for more information.

Avon Trail. St. Mary's to Conestogo, linking the Thames Valley Trail and the Grand Valley Trail. The Avon Trail Assoc., 38 Albert St., Stratford, Ont., Box 2005.

Bruce Trail. Queenston to Tobermory. The Bruce Trail Assoc., 33 Hardale Cresc., Hamilton, Ont. L8T 1X7

Credit Valley Footpath. Port Credit to Terra Cotta. Credit Valley Footpath Club, 67 Wanita Rd., Port Credit, Ont. L5G 1B5

Elgin Hiking Trail. St. Thomas, Elgin Co. Elgin Hiking Trail Assoc. Box 11, St. Thomas, Ont. N5P 3T5

Ganaraska Trail. Port Hope to Collingwood, via Orillia. Ganaraska Trail Assoc., Box 1136, Barrie, Ont. L4M 5E2

Grand Valley Trail. Elora to Brantford. Grand Valley Trail Assoc., Box 1233, Kitchener, Ont. N2G 4G8

Guelph Trail. Limehouse to Cambridge. Guelph Trail Club, Box 1, Guelph, Ont. N1H 6J6

Quinte-Hastings Trail. Outlet Prov. Park to L. St. Peter., Q.-H. Recreational Trail Assoc. RR 7, Box 16, Belleville, Ont. K8N 4Z7

Rideau Trail. Kingston to Ottawa. Rideau Trail Assoc., Box 15, Kingston, Ont.

Thames Valley Trail. Byron to St. Mary's. Thames Valley Trail Assoc. 403 Lansing Ave., London, Ont. N6K 2J2

## A HIKING TRAIL RE-DEFINED

We have been asked to quote the following definition from the Spring 1976 issue of The Trail Voice, published by the International Backpackers Association.

"A hiking trail is a growing, ever changing recreational resource. Today, a trail doesn't just happen, it needs to be sought and prepared, preserved and nurtured. It takes time and money, work and devotion, interest and enthusiasm. Most of all, it takes concerned, caring people—people in government and industry—but even more so volunteers who give only because they believe. The volunteers can and often do completely maintain many public foot trails. People working together have built and protected the trails we now have. Working together, we can build, protect, and care for the hiking trails our children will know and enjoy tomorrow."



## HIKING AND THE AUTOMOBILE - A PUT-DOWN

D. Ropke

Safe, enjoyable hiking usually starts somewhere near an automobile. However, if we are to continue to enjoy the support and co-operation of landowners and municipalities, we must respect these people's rights and we should go out of our way to avoid parking our auto at the end of narrow public or private lanes, close to curves in the road, or for that matter, in front of the trail where it crosses access roads. By parking at the end of a plowed road in the winter, we could block the only safe turn-around for other hikers, or the only place where snowmobilers can unload their machines. Some of these people could well be trappers, hydro line inspectors, search and rescue people, the local conservation officer, or the owner of adjacent property. All these individuals will quickly identify us as trail hikers and this could, in time become synonymous with inconsiderate hikers. Since we enjoy leaving the automobile to go hiking, let us then make a resolution to leave it as far behind as possible, to park it "way down the road". This will earn us the continuing good will of the public and it will also prevent personal injury and possibly material damage.

## HINTS ON BUILDING AND MAINTAINING THE TRAIL

D. Ropke

Thanks to private and corporate donations and WINTARIO, the Association now has on hand a good assortment of quality hand tools such as short and long-handled pruners and swede saws. A number of 16" pruning saws is expected to arrive shortly. Shovels, axes and block and tackle have been donated to us by hardware manufacturers and wholesalers. Such tools are intended for the tougher, more unusual jobs like bridge construction.

Each section will receive a set of tools on the basis of a permanent loan. To hasten completion of the trail, additional tools will be lent out for short periods of time to those sections still actively engaged in trail construction. To prevent the time-consuming and almost impossible call-back of tools every time a large work party is scheduled anywhere on the trail, we are hoping to have a number of these handtools designated specifically for such use to be kept in a central location. A single phone call would then produce the tools to outfit a good-sized work party.

The pruning saws and all pruners will be provided with guards to prevent injury and to keep the tools in top working order. It is difficult and expensive to provide guards for the swede saws. However their blades are inexpensive and should be changed periodically.

After each use, wipe the cutting edge of all tools with an oily rag to prevent formation of rust.

Each tool is designed for a specific job and if properly cared for should last a lifetime. The long-handled pruners are built to remove



up to one-inch hard maple at ground level with minimum effort. Larger trees should be taken out with swede saws. Overhead branches, particularly the massive limbs of white spruce can be taken off with the professional 16" pruning saws which are attached to 36" axe handles.

Cut all branches off flush with the trunk. Callous growth will quickly overgrow the wound and prevent entry of wood-destroying organisms. The overhanging weight of large branches usually causes them to break before the saw cut is completed. The falling branch then strips the bark off a portion of the trunk. To prevent such damage, cut branch off 8 to 12 inches from the trunk, making an undercut before cutting through the branch from above, then remove the stub. Pruning, when properly done, will actually enhance the value of the tree by producing knotfree wood which will yield higher prices when harvested.

Some of the trees along the trail will eventually be harvested and end up in a sawmill. It is common courtesy and good practice to use only aluminium nails to fasten logos to standing live timber. This soft metal will not damage sawmill equipment and will prevent costly downtime. Nails should not be driven home but an allowance of 1/4 to 1/2 inch should be made for future growth. When the nail is driven right in, the expanding tree will either cause the logo to be overgrown or pop the nail head, causing the logo to fall off. Try a 1.5 inch gypsum lath nail. You can nail logos at 5 cents per mile.

Early indications are that some latex paints flake off a few weeks after application. It might be advisable to use acrylic paint at least for the initial blaze.

#### TRAIL NEWS

##### Saulteaux Trail Club

The annual meeting was held in the Civic Centre February 15, 1977. Twenty-four persons were present. The results of the election of officers for 1977 were as follows:

President:	R. Yanni
Vice President:	B. Triplett
Secretary:	R. Bertoli
Treasurer:	K. Griffiths

In addition the club re-appointed I. Morrison and P. Syme as their representative on the V.T.A. Board for 1977

The guest speaker for the meeting was Mr. B. Gowans of the Ontario Trails Council. Those at the meeting also had an opportunity to see the winning entries from the 1976 V.T.A. photo contest and a film on the Bruce Trail entitled "Among other things."



### Echo Ridges Voyageur Trail Club

The first annual meeting was held in Echo Bay on March 1, 1977. One of the first items of business was the selection of a name for the club. The name selected reflects some of the history of the area where the trail goes. It has been known for many years as "the ridges." Officers elected for this year are:

President: Barry Hansen

Secretary-Treasurer: Margaret Cooper

V.T.A. Representatives: Bob. Andrews, Barry Hansen

The permanent route for the trail has now been plotted but much of the actual work remains to be done and the club is appealing for volunteers from the Soo to help.

Work Parties: Three are scheduled - April 30, May 7 and May 14. For details please contact Barry Hansen at 248-2897 or Bob Andrews at 949-6063.

### V.T.A.MEMBERSHIP SURPASSES 200

Membership figures for 1976-77 indicate an approximate 70% increase over last year, with the final figure standing at 203 member-units. Saulteaux was still the largest individual club with Echo Ridges in second spot. Word of the Voyageur Trail is spreading and we now have 68 members-at-large, many of these being enthusiastic hikers from southern Ontario, but including 11 from the United States.

The strength of the Voyageur Trail Association lies in its membership and we always welcome new members. If you know someone who is interested in trails/hiking/backpacking/nature/health and fitness etc., introduce him/her to the V.T.A. and vice versa. I.K. Morrison, 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 (please check)

- ☐ Association-at-large
- ☐ Sauteaux V.T.C.
- ☐ Echo Ridges V.T.C.
- ☐ Desbarats V.T.C.
- ☐ Thessalon V.T.C.
- ☐ Iron Bridge
- ☐ Penewobikong V.T.C.
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Massey
- ☐ Rainbow V.T.C.
- ☐ Sudbury
- ☐ Little Current
- ☐ Sheguiandah
- ☐ South Baymouth

- ☐ Thunder Bay
- ☐ Nipigon
- ☐ Terrace Bay
- ☐ Marathon
- ☐ Pukaskwa Park
- ☐ Wawa V.T.C.
- ☐ Lake Superior Park
- ☐ Batchawana
- ☐ Goulais

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

#### DECLARATION

I have read and will abide by the TRAIL USERS CODE

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

#### FEES

- ☐ Individual \$ 5.00
- ☐ Family \$ 5.00
- ☐ Student \$ 2.00
- ☐ Crests \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$ 1.00 each)
- ☐ Donations \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (receipt for income tax purposes will be sent)

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

SIGN UP A FRIEND