



NO. 107 WINTER 2010

Published by the

**VOYAGEUR TRAIL
ASSOCIATION**

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Visit our web site at:
www.voyageurtrail.ca

Email address:
info@voyageurtrail.ca

The Voyageur Trail Association is a non-profit, volunteer group dedicated to building and maintaining a public hiking trail along the northern shores of Lakes Superior and Huron, from Thunder Bay to Sudbury.

The VTA is a member of Hike Canada En Marche, Hike Ontario, Ontario Trails Council, and Trans Canada Trail.

If you would prefer us to email you a short message when the colour VTA newsletter is available on our web-site, just send an email to:
info@voyageurtrail.ca

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VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS



EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark LAYOUT BY: Dawn Elmore

VTA Annual Meeting *by Susan Graham*

October 2 was the date for this year's VTA Annual Meeting, held at the Prince Township Community Centre. Here are highlights of what was covered at the Coordinating Council meeting in the morning and the (brief!) General meeting in the afternoon:

Dan Andrews from the Trans Canada Trail discussed efforts underway to complete the TCT, with special focus on Northern Ontario. It would appear there is strong support for canoe routes rather than hiking trail across North-Western Ontario. A feasibility study is being done, and the VTA will be examining the recommendations when it is complete.

A committee is being formed to upgrade the website. Our current site looks dated, and is due for a facelift. Part of the desire to have a new look is to attract more young members, who are most likely to use the internet to find information about the VTA. An events calendar has recently been added to the current website on an experimental basis. Steve Dominy would like to see the events calendar become an interactive feature that would allow for additions and changes by the hike leaders; flexibility that we do not have at the moment because events must be planned in advance of the newsletter being printed. Steve is looking for feedback on the existing calendar. Check it out if you have not already done so.



Gayle Phillips presents Dawn Elmore with Steve Taylor Award, VTA Annual Meeting 2010

We were pleased to welcome Kelsey Johansen from Marathon to the meeting. Kelsey hails from Southern Ontario, but fell in love with Northern Ontario when she attended Lakehead University. Now employed by the town of Marathon, Kelsey is responsible for the development of trails and promotion of hiking. She had some wonderful news regarding a new waterfront trail going south from Marathon that is currently underway, and will provide opportunity for loop trails with the existing (rugged) Voyageur Trail. She will investigate an apparent existing trail that cyclists are using going north from Marathon to Terrace Bay that we were not aware of! We wish Kelsey well in her endeavours, and hope to see an active VT club in Marathon soon.

The current Coordinating Council changed very little from last year, with nearly everyone acclaimed to their

position. Two notable exceptions were: (sadly) Carole Blaquiere has stepped down as Recording Secretary, but will retain her position as Hike Ontario Representative (and doing a fine job there!). Kelsey Johansen volunteered as Publicity Director, a position that has been vacant for some time. The Recording Secretary's position is an important one that we need to fill, so if you think you fit the bill, or know someone who does, we'd be happy to hear from you.

The Steve Taylor Award this year went to Dawn Elmore, a Saulteaux Club member who does our newsletter layout. Dawn was nominated for her work in arranging a Hike Ontario Leadership Course in Sault Ste. Marie in May. Twenty-four people took the course, with Mike Landmark from the Soo and Gerry Jean from Elliot Lake qualifying as trainers to teach the course in the future. Dawn has been volunteering to lead

VTA Annual Meeting

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outings, with a particular slant on family events, as she is the mother of a young boy. As well as having her name added to our plaque, Dawn received an engraved wooden pen set. Congratulations Dawn and thank-you from all of us.

A draw for free memberships was made from all the names of Hike Leaders, Sweeps and Work Party members from the past year. Winners were Cheryl Landmark, Gerald or Nicole Jean and Jean-Guy Le-tarte. Congratulations to everyone!

The meeting wrapped up and everyone headed to the Gros Cap Loop Trail so we could enjoy the glorious fall weather! Thanks to all who attended.



Thanks to Kelsey Johansen for these amazing photos of the Gros Cap Loop Hike following the 2010 VTA Annual Meeting! As can be seen from the photos, it was a beautiful fall day filled with spectacular views and great company!!



Guidebook Coordinator-in-Training Opportunity

Looking for something you can do to have a real impact on your hiking association? Something that can be done in your spare time, requires only a few hours per month, and will bring you together with other like-minded volunteers? Consider helping out with the next edition of the Voyageur Hiking Trail Guidebook. Amongst other VTA roles, Steve Dominy has led the production of the guide for the past 15+ years, and is now looking to ease his volunteer workload. *Here's your chance to make a significant contribution to the VTA.*

The Voyageur Hiking Trail Guidebook, now in its 4th edition, serves as a wonderful introduction to the 600+ km of trails in our system. Currently, the book is sold in retail outlets across Ontario, and to the world via the on-line store. The next version will be an update of Edition 4.0 as changes are relatively minor, and publication is targeted for fall 2011.

Edition 4.0 was the first to include GIS maps produced using GPS data for the entire trail. The project involved rewriting and painstakingly editing all maps and trail descriptions. That effort saw the formation of a committee that took on specific components of the guidebook project, such as map production, GPS data collection, preparing written descriptions, soliciting advertising, and editing. Many of these committee members are continuing to collect GPS tracks, create new maps, and make edits and improvements as trail additions and reroutes are made.

The main role of the coordinator is to ensure that the end product is of high quality and accurate. This requires organizing the various tasks, which include providing direction and assistance to committee members, overseeing the editing of text and maps, and coordinating printing.

Steve has agreed to work closely with the new coordinator over the next year or so to ensure a smooth transition. Access to a computer having word processing software and (ideally) high-speed internet is required. If interested in this opportunity, please contact Steve at: 705-946-2484 or email sdominy1203@gmail.com. If you can't commit to being coordinator but are willing to serve on the committee, that's OK too. Any amount of help with this ongoing project will be welcomed.

Enthusiasm for the Web??

Do you enjoy being on the Internet? Facebook? Twitter? If you do, the Voyageur Trail Association could use your help!

We are beginning the process of doing a complete overhaul of our web site at www.voyageurtrail.ca and we need someone with some enthusiasm to take over the reins of managing the site once it has been re-vamped.

Thanks to high speed internet being available in a lot of locations throughout the province, this job wouldn't necessarily have to be done by someone located inside the confines of Sault Ste. Marie! You could live anywhere!

The VTA will hire someone to do a complete site re-design but it would be really great if we could find someone to take over the reins of the new site before it's being re-designed. That way, you and the site re-designer could put your heads together to build exactly what YOU would like to see in the VTA site right from the ground up! If you could add in a Facebook page or possibly even a Twitter account to attract younger members--so much the better!

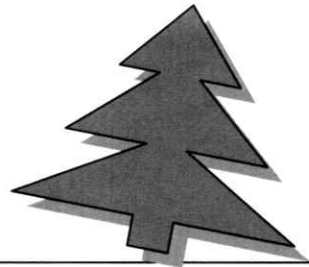
Anyone who might be interested in looking into this volunteer role, can contact the VTA for more details at: info@voyageurtrail.ca

Welcome New Members!!

Clarence Abbott
Michael Belsito
Joel Caron
Gabriel Caron
Stacey Collins
Donna Condon
Daryll Deming
Shelia Deming
Sarah Faubert
Andrea Faubert
Tana Foucault
Beth Harten
Dianne Hollinger
Kelsey Johansen

Hilary Lauzon
George Lauzon
Connie Nykyforak
James Pye
Judy Pye
Ghislain Quenneville
Azadeh Quenneville
Brooke Reynolds
Michael Ripley
Lynda See
Leah Spencer-Klewchuk
Caeye Sten
Paula Takats
Ron Tyynela

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!!



Journey to the Third Highest Peak in Ontario *by Dawn Elmore*

On August 22, 2010, sixteen adventurous VTA members climbed the third highest peak in Ontario, Griffin Lake Peak. The adventure started with a 22 km ride on questionable bush roads from Chippewa Falls to the unmarked parking area. The hikers then proceeded to follow an unmarked ATV trail to the turnout to Griffin Lake Peak, where they were greeted with a slow and gradual climb up to the 2,100 ft peak. While the day started with questionable weather, the hikers were greeted with blue skies and gorgeous views once they reached the top. From the top, one can see 360 degrees ranging from Lake Superior all the way to Searchmont and beyond.

A special thank you to Steve Dominy for climbing the fire tower to set up the camera and take these wonderful photos of the group. I look forward to leading more hikes in this stunning part of the Algoma highlands!!

