



NO. 118 FALL 2014

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.

Inside this issue:

News from Coureurs de Bois	2
40 km in 4 Days	3
Rosspoint Coastal Trail	4
Outing Schedule	5
Red Rock Outing	6
News from other Clubs	6

VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

No. 118, Fall 2014

EDITOR: Fiona Ortiz

Upcoming VTA Annual General Meeting

Please consider joining us for a weekend of hiking and discussion on trails along the shores of Lake Superior at the 2014 Annual General Meeting being held in Marathon, Ontario on October 18th. We will be posting details on the website and on Facebook as they are finalized.



Playing Here



Discover Marathon

The Town of Marathon is located right along the famous Lake Superior Circle Tour Route. Marathon is 904 km/540 miles east of the geographic centre of Canada. Easily accessible, Marathon is located just off Highway 17, the Trans Canada Highway.

When visiting Marathon, the great outdoors and surrounding wilderness await the enthusiast. In addition to the traditional pastimes of hunting and fishing, there are opportunities for canoeing / kayaking, hiking, golf, cross country and alpine skiing, snowmobiling, wildlife and bird watching, camping and much, much more.

"Quality of Life" is a Marathon trademark. As you review our website, you will be awakened to Marathon's many amenities and realize why Marathon is a great place to visit. In fact, we'd like to offer you our Superior Hospitality Promise.

From www.marathon.ca





News from the Coureurs de Bois Section



We have had a busy summer here in the land of the Coureurs de Bois. Nine Coureurs de Bois volunteers cleared two trails in Mississauga Park in mid-May. They camped overnight and enjoyed a campfire to ward off the cold. During this time they were asked by the Park Manager to take turns acting as hosts at Mississauga Park north of Elliot Lake from July 1st until the Labour Day weekend.

So, this summer, in addition to our club's regular four weekly hikes, different members volunteered at a designated campsite in the park. They supplied information to the visiting campers about the area and about hiking trails. They also kept track of which campers had purchased wood and ice if park staff were unavailable.

The Lumberjack Days Festival was an event at the Mississauga Park during the August long weekend. Seven club members spent two days before the weekend peeling logs in preparation for some of the events. During the three-day weekend, 15 club members took turns working at the BBQ, cooking and serving hotdogs, hamburgers, and delicious breakfasts to campers, lumberjacks, and visitors. They also helped to run some of the children's and family events. Nicky and Gerry Jean have been our club contact people with the park and organized our volunteers.

The Junior Rangers came again this year to help clear trails. Trails in town were prioritized. Four members volunteered to help clear trail and to guide the Junior Rangers. George Hoo and John Burns organized this activity.

In the second weekend of August, Jean-Guy and Rae Letarte organized a hiking trip to the Coastal Hiking Trail in Lake Superior Park. This was a two-day event starting with a short hike around the waterfront, locks, and Victoria Island in Sault Ste. Marie.

Treetop Adventures was our next stop for zip lining on the 500-foot-long Big Zip and the 1200-foot-long Mega Zip. The next day we headed to Coldwater River to begin a 7 km hike to Katherine Cove. With several stops for rest, snacks and swimming, it took us five hours to finish this section of the trail.

There were 11 members who made the trip, although not all members participated in each event. However, we managed to cheer each other on and to take photos during some of the events.

Seven members of the club have spent over two years preparing for an extra special hiking trip. They are leaving in September to hike the 800 km El Camino de Santiago in Spain. We wish them an excellent time and look forward to hearing about their experiences.

Jim Maclean, one of our club vice-presidents, has been busy arranging for signage for three different projects in our area. There will be new aluminium signs for each of the 11 trails in the Elliot Lake Trail Guide. These booklets are sold by the City of Elliot Lake. There are 11 trails in our area that will have these new signs posted at their respective trailheads this fall or in the spring of 2015.

The other two sign projects are in tribute to a local hiker named Alan Day. He worked hard with the Coureurs de Bois and the VTA. One sign will be in a display case at the Elliot Lake Civic Centre, along with a handcrafted hiking stick. This will be dedicated to Diana and Alan Day. The hiking stick was donated by Franz Ohler.

A memorial sign has also been ordered to be displayed at the Trans Canada Trail Pavilion at Westview Park. This will also be dedicated to Alan Day. He helped to bring the VTA/ Trans Canada Trail right through the City of Elliot Lake. This sign will be arranged with help from the local Trails Alliance Committee. Please check our blog to see photos of our activities.

<http://coureursdeboiselliotlake.blogspot.ca/>

Remember...we want to hear from you!! Send future articles to info@voyageurtrail.ca
We'd love to hear your stories of being out on the trail!

40 Kilometers in 4 days in 2014 *by Patrick Capper*

On a trip to help celebrate my granddaughter Mia's Grade 8 graduation, I decided to also celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Voyageur Trail by accepting the 40 km challenge.

On Friday evening, having driven up the 700 km from Clinton, I took my 7½ year old Shih Tzu Chewy for an evening walk from the Civic Centre to Huron street and back (1.4 km trail = 2.8 km walk).

Saturday June 21st, with bug net for my head, Thyra, Chewy and I walked from Fort Creek to Third line (2.1 km trail and back on the old trail = 4.2 km). In the evening we were joined by my son Neil and granddaughter Zoe for a walk from the Civic Centre to Lake Street (4.2 km of trail).

Sunday we (Thyra, Chewy and I) were lucky to be able to join Carole and Chris on their hike on the Penewobikong trail from km 4.6 to 14.5 (a 9.9 km hike, which was very buggy when in the bush) and Chewy was grateful to Chris for some water after a long stretch without puddles or creeks. We disturbed a couple of Grouse along the way.

Monday's walk (just Chewy and I) was from Mile Hill at km 9.7 to 20.1 on the Goulais section (10.4 km trail, but about 14 km hike). The problem I ran into was walking down Old Goulais Bay Road: I came to a Y, took the left fork but could not see any blazes, so went back to the right fork and found some old red flagging tape. When it ended at a Hydro Line running W to E, I returned to the fork and went back on the left fork, but it was quite a while before I saw white blazes. The side trip was not entirely wasted as I saw two sandhill cranes. On my section of the trail from Mile Hill I did some clearing, but there were about six "duck under" windfalls of about 6 to 12" in diameter that need chain saw work. I saw 36 pink and 3 white lady slipper orchids and hundreds of mosquitoes! Thyra and her brother met me on Old Goulais Bay Road. I was later than expected due to the detour and I was out of range for my cell phone, so they had a longer walk up the road than they had anticipated.

On Monday night, Thyra and I walked the Crimson ridge loop (2 km) plus the trail from A8 to the beaver dam (2.2km) plus an extra km when missing a clearly marked turn.

Tuesday morning, Chewy and I set off on the Odena loop (4.3 km) and back along the white trail (2.1 km) and luckily we only had rain for the last half hour of the hike.

This totals 38.6 km of the Voyageur trail and 8 km extra backtracking etc. For the 40 km celebration, I include my Boxing Day 2013 walk from Black Road to Pine Street (2.2km).

Congratulations Patrick!!!

40th Anniversary Challenge is Now Over

Don't forget that you have until Sept. 30, 2014 to submit to Gail Jones your trail challenge sheet showing the trails you have hiked or snowshoed between Aug. 24, 2013 and Aug. 24, 2014.

If you hiked over 40 km you will receive a PackTowl Nano Light Towel embroidered with the VTA logo. This superabsorbent towel is made from a natural, fiber-based fabric that softens with every wash, so it only gets better with age. It is multipurpose, and comes with its own mesh carrying bag and hanging loop.

The Rossport Coastal Trail

The Coastal Trail is now open. The opening was in mid-July, with about 40-50 people in attendance and a lot of publicity from the media. The work on the trail is not quite complete and will still require some finishing touches. Parks Canada has committed to interpretive signage, benches, and access points to some of the beaches along the way and also connections to the Casque Isle trail.

This 1.5 km stretch of trail along the shores of Lake Superior is easily accessible from Wardrope Park at the east end of Rossport. This first section ends at Rossport Roadside Park and is suitable for the novice to the most experienced hiker, with beautiful beaches and vistas of Lake Superior and some of the islands of the Rossport archipelago.



Photo by Bonnie Scheidel from <http://www.northernontario.travel/thunder-bay/take-a-beautiful-shoreline-walk-on-the-new-rossport-coastal-trail>

Saulteaux Club Outing Schedule (Sault Ste. Marie)

Typical meeting locations: Goodlife building, 589 Second Line East (Second Line side); Market Mall, 275 Second Line West (on Second Line side near Country Style Donuts); Wellington Square Mall, 625 Trunk Road (near the corner of Trunk Road and South Market Street). All outings are volunteer-led. If you participate, you do so at your own risk. Call the outing leader listed for more information about that specific outing.

To see the outing schedules for other clubs, check the VTA website or call the local contact in the community of interest.

***Sat., Sept. 13 ~ Challenge Hike 2014** – Ten hikes scheduled over 5 months to hike as much of the Voyageur Trail as possible. Hikes will be between 10 and 15kms over rough terrain. Proper hiking boots/shoes will be required. Details will be determined the week before so contact us for details. Chris or Carole 705-649-2235 or caroleblaquiere@yahoo.ca

Mon., Sept. 15 ~ Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting at 7PM in the Thompson Room of the Civic Centre. Everyone's welcome! Call 705-942-1891 for more info.

***Sat., Sept. 20 ~ Hike up to Griffin Peak** (Turkey Lakes area). This is a challenging all day hike...your reward is a stunning view of Algoma in its fall splendour! This outing is not for the faint of heart. Contact Mark at 705-254-2356.

***Sat., Sept. 27 ~ Hike a section of the Lake Superior Park Coastal Trail** with Doris. Call 705-942-9466 for meeting place and time.

***Sun., Sept. 28 ~ Challenge Hike 2014** - Ten hikes scheduled over 5 months to hike as much of the Voyageur Trail as possible. Hikes will be between 10 and 15kms over rough terrain. Proper hiking boots/shoes will be required.

Details will be determined the week before so contact us for details. Chris or Carole 705-649-2235 or caroleblaquiere@yahoo.ca

***Sun., Oct. 5 ~ Join the Algoma Highlands Conservancy** for their annual Bike & Hike event at Stokely Creek. For more information: www.algomahighlandsconservancy.org

***Sat., Oct. 18 ~ VTA Annual General Meeting in Marathon!** For all the info, contact Carole at 705-649-2235 or caroleblaquiere@yahoo.ca

Sat., Oct. 25 ~ Hike at Glenview Cottages with Gayle (705-942-1891). Meet 10AM in Goodlife parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets welcome. Call for more information.

Sun., Nov. 9 ~ Annual 'Gales of November' hike at Red Rock. Meet 10AM in the Market Mall parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets welcome. For more info, call Gayle at 705-942-1891.

Mon., Nov. 17 ~ Saulteaux Bi-Monthly meeting at 7PM. Location TBA. After the business meeting we will plan out winter outings. Call 705-942-1891 for more info.

Sat., Nov. 22 ~ Outing at Upper Island Lake (Graham's camp). We will walk or snow-

shoe on the camp road or in the bush behind the camp, depending on snow/ice conditions. We will not be on the lake. Bring your swimsuit and towel if you wish to go in the sauna. No pets please. Call Susan 705-949-4105 for more details closer to the date.

Fri., Dec. 26 ~ Boxing Day snowshoe/hike. Meet 11AM at Hiawatha Highlands (Landslide Road, north of Fifth Line). We'll enjoy some refreshments afterwards in the Hiawatha Highlands seating area. Snowshoe rentals available. Call Don 705-946-9599 for more info.

Thurs., Jan. 1 ~ New Year's Day hike or snowshoe. Meet at Goodlife at 10:30 am. Bring lunch. Dress to accommodate the weather. No pets. More info call Ila 705-949-1097.

Sat., Jan. 10 ~ Hike/Snowshoe with Gayle (705-942-1891). Meet at 10AM in the Goodlife parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets welcome. Call for hike location.

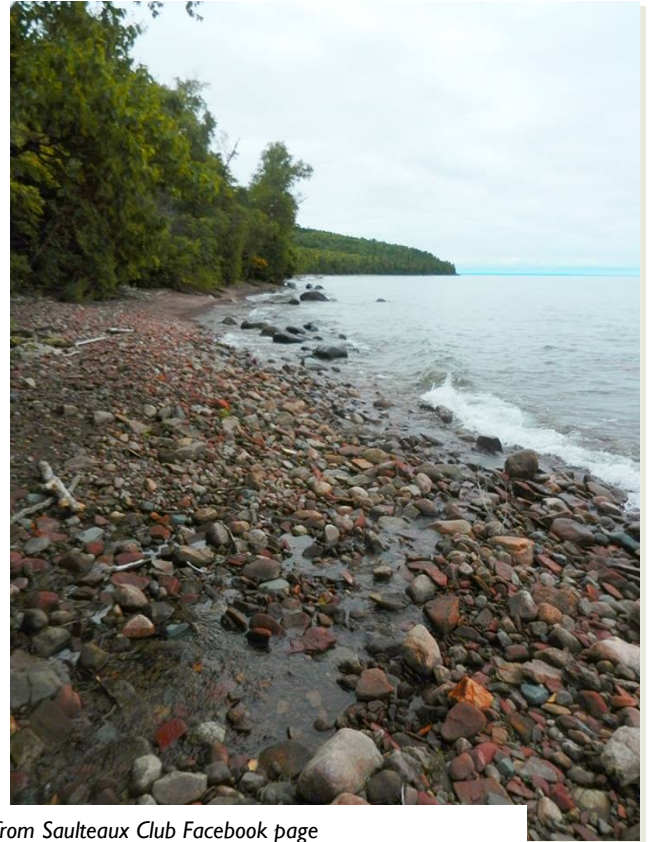
Mon., Jan. 19 ~ Saulteaux Voyageur Trail Club bi-monthly meeting at 7:00 pm. Location TBA. Call (705) 942-1891 for more info.



Follow us on
Facebook!!
www.facebook.com/voyageurtrailassociation



Saulteaux Club Outing to Red Rock



All photos from Saulteaux Club Facebook page



NEWS FROM OTHER CLUBS

Camino de Sinuoso Rio Maitland (The Way of the Winding Maitland River)

"When is the next one going to be?" On the afternoon of June 23rd last year, this was the comment we heard repeatedly, as weary hikers arrived at the final destination of the first Camino de Sinuoso Rio Maitland, hot, foot-sore, bug-bitten, but still enthusiastic.

The answer is September 27th and 28th, 2014. This is an exciting hiking challenge for hikers of all ages and levels. Come and join us! And please pass on this information to interested friends. Full information is found on www.maitlandtrail.ca under "Events".

Trail Club hosts 2014 Hike Ontario Summit

On behalf of Hike Ontario, the Guelph Hiking Trail Club invites you to take part in the 40th annual Hike Ontario Summit. Join us on the banks of the Speed River for our kick-off Friday pub night, a dynamic Saturday program, and a Sunday of great hikes on our beautiful trails. Take this opportunity to learn about new hiking initiatives, check out the latest equipment, participate in stimulating workshops, share experiences with hikers from different Ontario clubs, and celebrate Hike Ontario's 40th birthday. Mark your calendars. See you in Guelph on Oct 31 - Nov 2.

Contact Dave Culham, President, Guelph Hiking Trail Club www.guelphhiking.com





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(For more details and to purchase products and memberships visit our secure on-line store at www.voyageurtrail.ca)

Name: _____ Phone (home): _____ (work/cell): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Prov./State: _____ Postal/Zip Code: _____ Please check one: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Prices subject to change without notification.

For: GPS maps (Garmin units only) &
PDF Hiking trail guide individual sections } visit our on-line Store.

Individual: yearly @ \$25 or three-years @ \$70 = _____

Family or Group: yearly @ \$30 or three-years @ \$85 = _____

Full-time Student @ \$10 yearly = _____

Donations Charitable Reg. #119261923RR0001 (tax receipt will be sent) = _____

___ Crest @ \$3 each = _____

___ Guidebook (limit 2) @ members \$30/non-members \$40 = _____

Shipping/handling for ALL MAILED Guidebooks.....=\$12

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Cdn. funds).....= \$ _____

___ If this is a gift please provide name & address for the mailed acknowledgement.

Please send my VTA newsletter via: ___ Postal delivery to above address.

___ Reminder to download PDF from VTA web site

My email is: _____

Make cheques payable and mail to:

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION, P. O. Box 20040,
150 Churchill Blvd., Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Canada P6A 6W3

(over)

The Voyageur Trail News is published three times per year. Your articles and photos are welcome! **Deadline for the next issue is December 1, 2014.**

Mail to Fiona Ortiz, c/o
Voyageur Trail Association,
PO Box 20040, 150 Churchill
Blvd., Sault Ste. Marie, ON
P6A 6W3

Tel. 705-942-5709 or e-mail to
info@voyageurtrail.ca

Articles in this newsletter can be
copied if credit is given to the
Voyageur Trail Association.

We're on the Web!
www.voyageurtrail.ca

Contacts:

Nor'wester: Steve Johnston
807-620-6446

Casques Isles: Doug Stefurak
807-824-2724

Marathon: Chris Whaley

Michipicoten: Andy Stevens
705-856-2884

Saulteaux: Gayle Philips
705-942-1891

Bruce Mines/Thessalon:
Volunteer contact needed

Penewobikong: Joanne Marck
705-842-2659

Coueurs de Bois: Emily
Windle 705-848-5980

Voyageur Trail News—Fall 2014



VTa CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL

President -

Carole Blaquiére 705-649-2235

Membership/Landowners -

Mike Landmark 705-779-3409

Data Management -

Bob Sinclair 705-946-3126

Vice-President West - Kirstin

Spence

Publicity Director/Social

Media Coordinator -

Kelsey Johansen

kelseymjohansen@gmail.com

Director(s) -at-Large (2) -

Dawn Elmore 705-649-4936

1 vacant

Vice-President Central -

Carole Blaquiére

705-649-2235

Hike Ontario

Representative -

Carole Blaquiére 705-649-2235

Alternate (vacant)

Newsletter Editor:

Fiona Ortiz

Vice-President East - Patricia

Wynter

Newsletter Layout by:

Dawn Elmore 705-649-4936

Treasurer/Tools Inventory -

Lil Sinclair 705-946-3126

Insurance Coordinator -

Larry Gringorten 705-949-7953

General Secretary - vacant

Guidebook Committee -

Steve Dominy 705-946-2484

*For information on any of these
positions (especially the vacant
ones), please contact us at our toll-
free number
1-877-393-4003.*

Voyageur Hiking Trail Users' Code

- Hike only along marked routes. Do not take short cuts.
- Do not climb fences.
- 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. (or better still carry a lightweight hiker's stove)
- Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy.
- Do not damage live trees or strip off bark.
- Protect and do not disturb wildlife.
- Keep dogs under control (leash if necessary) and follow your club's guidelines concerning dogs.
- Respect the privacy of people living off the trail. Walk around the edges of fields, not across them.
- Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photographs. **BE A LOW-IMPACT HIKER!!**

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH:

- ☐ Trail maintenance ☐ Trail development ☐ Hike leader ☐ Organization—executive, directors
- ☐ Newsletter, guidebook, photography ☐ Landowner records, maps ☐ Publicity committee ☐ Special events
- ☐ Sorry, not at this time. ☐ **Contact me with information on what's needed, and I'll decide then.**

☐ Please add my membership to the membership list of the club closest to my home, OR ☐ consider me a member-at-large, OR

☐ consider me as a member of the following club _____.

Voyageur Hiking Trail Users' Code

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- Do not climb fences.
- Carry out all garbage (if you carry it in, you can carry it out).
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- Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photographs. **BE A LOW-IMPACT HIKER!**

DECLARATION: I understand that the Voyageur Trail is a wilderness trail and some remote or little-used sections may be in poor condition due to fallen trees or regrowth of vegetation. I understand I hike it at my own risk. I have read and will abide by the Trail Users' Code (above).

(signature): _____