

NO. 119 WINTER 2015

Published by the

**VOYAGEUR TRAIL** 

**ASSOCIATION** 

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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.

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Landowners!

# Voyageur Trail News

Number 119

EDITOR: Fio

Fiona Ortiz

### 2014 Steve Taylor Award



The 2014 Steve Taylor Award went to Carole Blaquiere and Chris Kuntz - for their outstanding leadership and organization (combined leading/sweep) of the 10 Challenge hikes this year. Congratulations Carole and Chris!!

### And more congratulations are in order!!...

The 6 people who reported completing at least 40 km of the Voyageur Trail between Aug. 24, 2013 and Aug. 24, 2014 (part of the 40th Anniversary celebrations) were: Patrick Capper, Carole Blaquiere, Chris Kuntz, Garry Koteles, Gale Koteles and Steve Dominy.









### VTA President's Annual Report by Carole Blaquiere

The VTA completed its year-long celebration of its 40<sup>th</sup> year in existence. Over the past year we have had many hikes and activities to encourage people to use the trail. Our goal was to revitalize the association and to promote the trail. In this matter, I think we have partially succeeded. There is interest along the shores of Superior to renew existing trails and to create new trails. As these projects are put into place, we stand to have a world class trail to attract hikers from all over the globe. Chris and I have tried to hike as much of the trail as we could over the year. We began in Elliot Lake and slowly are making our way to Sault Ste. Marie. Along the way we have met many of the wonderful people who are quietly maintaining the trail or promoting it. There are many, many hidden gems along the path, although Chris wants to change the name of our hikes from Challenge Hikes to "a sunny walk in the woods". Rest assured we will be going north in the upcoming years.

One of the reasons that we led these hikes was to promote the 40th anniversary of the Voyageur Trail. Other events included the 40 km challenge and the photo contest. Six people achieved the 40km challenge (see newsletter cover); one, Patrick Capper, did it in 4 days! Steve will be contacting those folks. The photo contest generated many fantastic pictures and I am happy that Joanie and Gary McGuffin agreed to judge them, because I could not have picked one over the others! (See next section for a list of the winners and pages 4-5 for a full photo spread of the winning photos).

Other achievements over the past year include the development of new trail loops both in Rossport and in Pic River, as well as a group in Marathon that has been working on an area west of the Little Pic River. A new reroute is in the making between Elliot Lake and Blind River, and another one has been completed just outside of Sault Ste. Marie. The Kinghorn Trail project continues to move ahead and of course Marathon is forging ahead with a planned Group of Seven trail all the way to Neys Provinical Park.

At the association level, the new edition (4.1) of the guidebook has been completed and is in circulation, and we have completed the Risk Management Plan. We have decided to partner with Backroads Maps instead of trying to sell GPS maps. Backroads has the capacity to stay on top of technology. I believe that the new edition of the Backroad Maps for our region will have the updated trail information. For the next year, I plan to work on a new strategic plan. A committee is slowly coming together, and we will hopefully have some help from the OTC (Ontario Trails Council). an organization that we have recently joined. The trail information will be updated on the OTC website soon.

The 2014 AGM was hosted by Marathon Economic Development Cooperation on October 18th. The day's agenda was jam packed with presentations and activities, including the reopening of the trail from Marathon to Heron Bay. Kirsten Spence presented her work done on trails on the North Shore of Superior, which was eye opening to say the least. There are over 70 trail groups that develop and maintain trail along the rocky shores of Superior! There was much discussion on the proposed Group of Seven Trail which would wind its way from Marathon to Neys Provincial park. This would be 30km of new trail along some of the most spectacular scenery around. On looking back, it's been quite the eventful year. I hope that we can accomplish as much in the upcoming year. Thanks to all of you volunteers that have made this happen.

#### PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Here are the winning photos and those receiving honourable mention in the VTA 40th anniversary photo contest. Winners in each section received an 11"x14" gallery-wrapped print (photo of their choice), and the overall winner also received a copy of the latest edition (4.1) Voyageur Hiking Trail Guidebook and a 3-year VTA family membership.

#### **EAST**

Winner Todd Black Iron Bridge Trail Section OVERALL WINNER

Honourable Mention Dieter Ropke Near the Thessalon River Honourable Mention Todd Black Rock Lake Overlook

#### CENTRAL

Winner Dieter Ropke Red Rock Trail Honourable Mention Todd Black Carpin Beach Road Access Point Honourable Mention Dieter Ropke Red Rock Trail

Winner Sheri Minardi Near the Pictographs Honourable Mention Nicole Dube Halfway Lake, Pukaskwa Honourable Mention Sheri Minardi On the Pictograph Trail

Check out pages 4-5 to see all the winning photos! Thanks again to Joanie and Gary McGuffin for using their expertise to judge the photos!!

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### Hike Ontario's Long Distance Hiker Awards

by David Rosenblun-Bourdieu (info@hikeontario.com)

Hike Ontario has a mandate to encourage hiking for all ages and all athletic levels throughout Ontario. The Long Distance Hiker Awards celebrate dedicated hikers who have logged long distances on multiple Ontario trails. To receive an award, keep a hiking log and submit it to Hike Ontario. Get your log verified by an executive member of an Ontario hiking club. The cost of each badge is only \$15 (Application to be approved by Hike Ontario). For more information or to apply for an award, please go to our website here: <a href="http://hikeontario.com/programs/long-distance-hiker-awards/">http://hikeontario.com/programs/long-distance-hiker-awards/</a>.

**Red Pine Award:** The red pine is noted for its two needles, representing two trail systems to be hiked extensively. You must hike a total of 550 kilometers. You must hike at least 150 kilometers on at least two trails.

**Trillium Award:** The trillium is Ontario 's provincial flower, with three petals. These represent three trails you must hike for at least 150 kilometers. You must log a total of 950 kilometers.

**Tamarack Award:** The tamarack is known for its multiple needles, representing the multiple trails you need to hike to log the required 1500 kilometers. You must hike at least 150 kilometers on each of at least three trails.

### Certified Hike Leader courses

Anyone who participated in the May 2010 Certified Hike Leader course in Sault Ste. Marie please take note. If you are interested in retaining your hike leader status, don't forget to renew before deadline (see items 1 and 4 below). Since the course was held, the student manual has been reviewed and updated and can be purchased for \$10.00 from Hike Ontario or the VTA . If you want a new manual, please indicate on the renewal form.

The Nor'wester, Coureurs de Bois as well as the Saulteaux Club all have Hike Ontario hike leader trainers. If you want to become certified to lead hikes, please contact your local club executive and we will try to schedule a class in your area. The next scheduled Certified Hike Leader class for the Saulteaux club is Saturday Feb 21. 2015.

### Certification Policies (Term Length and Re-Certification)

- CHL & WDHL Certification is valid for 5 years and expires on the 5th year anniversary of the day the individual obtained their certification.
- Hike Ontario may revoke an individual's certification at any time if the individual fails to comply with Hike Ontario policies or requirements.
- 3. Existing leaders must notify Hike Ontario of any change in their contact information to maintain their good status.
- 4. Hike Leaders need to apply to Hike Ontario prior to their certification expiring confirming that they are continuing to lead hikes and that they are a member in good standing of a Hike Ontario member association. They must also pay a \$5.00 administration fee for re-certification.
- 5. Successful applicants will have their status extended for another 5 years and will be sent a new wallet card with the new expiration date.

Remember...we always want to hear from you!
Send your newsletter submissions to in-







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### Photo Contest Winner's Gallery

Here are the winning photos and those receiving honourable mention in the VTA 40th anniversary photo contest. The overall winner was Todd Black with his photo of the Iron Bridge Trail Section. Congratulations to all!

### **EAST**



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### **CENTRAL**





Honourable Mention Todd Black Carpin Beach Road Access Point



Honourable Mention Dieter Ropke Red Rock Trail



**WEST** 





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### Beauty and the Beasties by Susan Graham

This is year one of my husband's retirement, and we have been successful at getting at some of the things we have wanted to do, but were on the "one of these days" list. The cool summer weather in July provided us with the perfect opportunity to explore the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore near Munising, Michigan. (Munising is a 2-1/2 hour drive west of Sault Ste. Marie on the south shore of Lake Superior.)

The Pictured Rocks are so-named because water running down the face of the sandstone cliffs at the western end of the 42 mile stretch of shoreline has stained the rock with various minerals that are present in the water. The east end shoreline of the park, beginning at Grand Marais, is sand lots of sand!

Arriving in Munising in the late afternoon, we opted to stay overnight at a motel, and went for a short walk to Munising Falls, a nice little "punchbowl" waterfall at the western end of the Pictured Rocks where the North Country Trail meets the shoreline. In the morning we drove to Miners Castle, another short walk in from the parking lot to the wind- and water- sculpted third week in July by the way.) rock standing just off-shore.

Having delayed long enough, we headed to the next access road and hoisted our backpacks for 3 days of hiking and camping along the North Country Trail. We were able to do a loop from the Chapel Road, and set off towards the lake on a wide, dry, pleasant trail. A number of day hikers were our companions. Just before leaving the van, I thought I would put in our head nets, but didn't really expect to use them, given the time of year and the fact that we would be along Lake Superior, where the breeze usually keeps the bugs under control. I was soon to realize what a good move adding them was!

We arrived at Chapel Beach and had our choice of beautiful campsites on top of a sand bank beneath white pines, with a gorgeous view of the lake. The minute we stopped walking, however, we were swarmed by mosquitoes, even though there was a nice breeze off the lake. The head nets were donned quickly and we headed to the water's edge to try to escape them. It was a warm, sunny afternoon; the kind of day you just want to lie on the beach and

enjoy the sun. Or perhaps have a dip in the lake. WRONG! Not only were there still mosquitoes on the beach, we had the added delight of biting stable flies. And the water was SO cold, you could not even stand in it for more than a few seconds. (This was the



We didn't dilly-dally on the beach, and instead headed further east along the trail without our packs to a waterfall at Spray Creek that falls over the cliff-edge to Lake Superior. As long as we kept covered and

kept moving, the bugs were fine! The next morning we headed along the trail in the other direction, enjoying the spectacular views of the cliffs and lake. We were amazed at the number of tour boats we saw during the day, and they continued until about 9:30 pm. The boats all seemed to have a good number of people aboard, so this is obviously a very popular tourist attraction for the area. When we arrived at our next campsite, my husband was dismayed to see about 40 kayaks on the beach! Colourful to be sure, but we were concerned about the number of people. Luckily, they were just day-trippers and left to return to Munising.

Again, the mosquitoes and stable flies were dreadful, so we could not fully enjoy the beautiful beach and rock outcrop. There are no bonfires allowed at either of our chosen campsites, so it meant a hasty retreat into the tent once we watched the sunset.

Our walk back to the vehicle in the morning was somewhat surprising, in that the trail was nothing like the one we had started in on. The return trip was very mucky, and the folks we passed that were on their way in were not happy. (What 'til they got to the beach and found the bugs!)

We continued eastward along the road and checked out Sevenmile Beach and the organized campground at Twelvemile Beach

(very nice). Our last stop before Grand Marais was the former Log Slide, located on a 300-foot sand dune

We were pleased with our exploration of the park, and will go back again. We will be prepared for the beasties next time, though. Maybe "one of these days" we'll canoe the shoreline



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### 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., Jan. 10 ~ Snowshoe with Gayle (705-942-1891) in the Hiawatha Highlands near Mockingbird Hill Farm. Meet at 10AM in the Goodlife parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets welcome.

Sat., Jan. 17 ~ Snowshoe with Mark, Connor Road to Trout Lake and return. Call 705-254-2356 for more details.

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

**Sat., Jan. 24** ~ Stokely Snowshoe Festival 10AM to 4PM. For more info, visit: www.stokelycreek.com

Sun., Jan. 25 ~ Voyageur Trail Association Coordinating Council meeting at 7PM. Contact Carole 705-649-2235 for more info.

**Sat., Jan. 31** ~ Stokely Hut-to -Hut event. For more info, visit: www.stokelycreek.com

\*Sun., Feb. I ~ Snowshoe with Gayle (705-942-1891) at Tower Lake. Meet at 10AM in the Wellington Square Mall parking lot near the corner of South Market Street to car pool. Behaved pets welcome.

**Sat., Feb. 7** ~ Snowshoe with Doris (705-942-9466) in the Camp Korah area. Meet 10AM on Goulais Avenue near the Camp Korah turnaround. Behaved pets welcome. Call for more info.

**Sat., Feb. 14** ~ Soo Finnish Nordic Ski Club's Lantern Ski. For more info, visit: www.soofinnishnordic.com

Sat., Feb. 21 ~ Hike Leadership Course! Call Mike at 705-779-3409 for all the details and to register.

\*Sun., Feb. 22 ~ Snowshoe the lakes north of the Soo depending on winter conditions. Meet at Goodlife 10AM, bring lunch, dress according to conditions, no dogs. For more info, call lla at 705-949-1097.

ALSO... the Soo Finnish Nordic Ski Club's ski to Mabel Lake. For more info, visit: www.soofinnishnordic.com

**Sat., Feb. 28** ~ Stokely Hut-to -Hut Ski and Snowshoe. For more info, visit: www.stokelycreek.com

**Sun., Mar. I** ~ Ski to the "Canyon" with Mark. This io

"Canyon" with Mark. This journey is not for the feint of heart! Call Mark at 705-254-2356.

Sat., Mar. 7 ~ Snowshoe/ski the Red Rock Trail. See some spectacular ice formations, arches and geysers created by the full force of Lake Superior. Meet at Market Mall (near Country Style Donut shop) at 10AM. For more info call Dieter and Erika at 705-942-9636.

**AND** Stokely's Wabos Loppet. For more info, visit: www.stokelycreek.com

\*Sat., Mar. 14 ~ Ski Griffin Mountain in the Turkey Lakes area. This journey is not for the feint at heart! Call Mark at 705-254-2356.

**Sun., Mar. 15** ~ Snowshoe with Gayle (705-942-1891) at

Gros Cap. Meet at 10AM in the Market Mall parking lot near Country Style Donuts to car pool. Behaved pets welcome.

Mon., Mar. 16 ~ Saulteaux Club's bi-monthly meeting at 7PM. Location TBA. Call 705-942-1891 for more info.

Fri., Sat., Sun. Mar. 20, 21 & 22 ~ Volunteers needed to attend a VTA display table at the Home, Leisure & Outdoor Recreation Spring Expo (@ John Rhodes Center). Please contact Don (705-946-9599) if you are available to assist with a three-hour shift.

\*Sat., Mar. 21 ~ Snowshoe at Upper and Lower Island Lakes to the Graham's camp. (We may be able to walk on the snowmobile tracks without snowshoes.) Bring a lunch and your swimsuit/towel if you want to sauna. No pets please. Call Susan for more info @705-949-4105.

**Sat., Apr. 4** ~ 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 as it will depend on snow conditions.

Sun. May 3 ~ Volunteers needed to attend a VTA display table at a Passport To Unity event (@ Essar Centre). Please contact Don (705-946-9599) if you are available to assist with a two-hour shift.

ADVANCE NOTICE: When planning your holiday weeks this year, plan to join us for Trail Maintenance Week 2015 from May 11 to May 18! We





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will be working on trails between Elliot Lake and Blind River. Contact Carole 705-649-2235 for more info.





Bob Sinclair helping on the LSPP Coastal Trail

### Halton Outdoors Club Hike Sept 2014

by Mike Landmark

The Saulteaux Club was asked to assist with a group of hikers from the Halton Outdoors Club who planned to hike in our area in late September. After a few email exchanges, the trails they would hike were approved and we just had to wait for the weather to co-operate. The fall colours were almost at their peak and the rain held off for most of the time the Halton group spent in the Sault. The group started off with a lead hike on Saturday Sept 20<sup>th</sup> morning with Becky McLean along the Attikamek Trails and the St. Mary's River. The afternoon hikes started with a tour of the Prince Wind Farm and then one group headed along the Tom Allinson Side trail to Gros Cap and the second group hiked to Red Rock. Some hearty soul even tried the waters of Lake Superior with a SHORT swim. Thanks to Steve Dominy, Carole Blaquiere and Gail Jones who accompanied the group.

On Monday morning, the group bused up to Lake Superior Provincial Park and checked out the Visitor Centre as well as the Agawa Rock Pictographs before starting the day's hike. Some of the group started at the Barrett River access and headed west along the shore towards Katherine Cove and the rest of the group started west from the Sand River access. A First Nations' tradition is to offer a gift to the lake spirits, so one of the hikers from the south donated his ball cap at the Sand River. Another tradition we usually follow when hiking in this area is a stop at the Canadian Carver for refreshments and souvenirs. Thanks to Bob Sinclair, James Kohut, and Chris Kuntz for helping me on this day's outing.

We hope to see this group up on the Voyageur Trail again soon, and from the positive comments I heard I think that is a strong possibility.

### A note from the Nature Conservancy of Canada...

Thank you for your participation in the Lake Superior Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. We wish to update you on what to expect next.

This past summer we received a lot of input in response to the request for regional insights on biodiversity conservation needs for Lake Superior. Approximately 550 conservation opportunities were suggested, covering all 20 regions in and around Lake Superior. The Steering Committee is currently reviewing the input in conjunction with lakewide goals, strategies, and threats. The input is helping us to develop a first full draft of the Lake Superior Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, including the 20 corresponding regional plans. This work contributes to meeting objectives under the Canada – U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

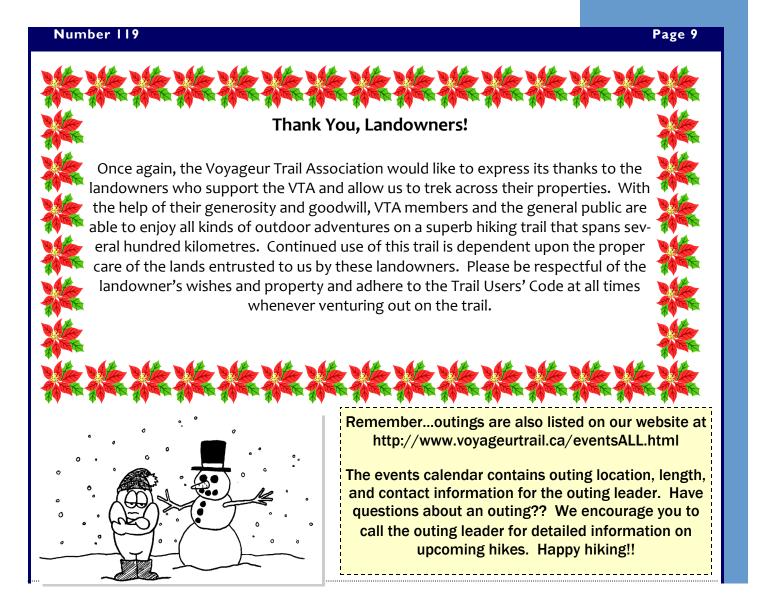
When a full draft of the Strategy is complete, we will share it with you for a final review and input period. We anticipate



this review period to start this calendar year. Stay tuned!

Thank you for your input and for continuing to support the development of this Strategy.

A reminder that you can visit <a href="http://www.natureconservancy.ca/superiorbca">http://www.natureconservancy.ca/superiorbca</a>, to view more information. For an overview be sure to check out the <a href="Lake Superior Biodiversity Conservation Strategy: Background Webinar">Lake Superior Biodiversity Conservation Strategy: Background Webinar</a>. Any questions and comments can be sent to a <a href="mailto:regional contact for your area">regional contact for your area</a> or to Megan Ihrig <a href="mailto:atmegan.ihrig@natureconservancy.ca">atmegan.ihrig@natureconservancy.ca</a>



## VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION & STORE (please print legibly) 01/15 (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:  MEMBERSHIP FEES: Prices subject to change without notification individual: yearly @ \$25 or three-years @ \$70 =  Family or Group: yearly @ \$30 or three-years @ \$85 =  Full-time Student @ \$10 yearly =	For: GPS maps (Garmin PDF Hiking trail gu Newsletter is available as a p		
Donations Charitable Reg. #119261923RR0001 (tax receipt will be sent) = Crest @ \$3 each =	My email is:		
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	150 Churchill Blvd.,	And mail to: L ASSOCIATION, P. O. Box 20040, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Canada P6A 6W3  (over)	



Mail newsletter submissions 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 email to info@voyageurtrail.ca

Articles in this newsletter can be copied if credit is given to geur Trail Association

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

**Contacts:** 

Nor'wester: Kirsten Spence

807-889-0602

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

Coureurs de Bois: Jim Maclean

705-848-6035

### Voyageur Trail News—Winter 2014



#### **VTA CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL**

President -

Carole Blaquiere 705-649-2235

Vice-President West - Kirstin Spence 807-889-0602

Vice-President Central -

Carole Blaquiere 705-649-2235

Vice-President East - Patricia

Wynter 705-842-0123

Treasurer/Tools Inventory -

Lil Sinclair 705-946-3126

General Secretary - vacant

Membership/Landowners -Chris Kuntz 705-649-2235

**Publicity Director/Social** Media Coordinator -

Kelsey Johansen kelseymjohansen@gmail.com

**Hike Ontario** Representative -

Carole Blaquiere 705-649-2235 Alternate (vacant)

**Insurance Coordinator -**Larry Gringorten 705-949-7953

**Guidebook Committee -**Steve Dominy 705-946-2484 Data Management -Bob Sinclair 705-946-3126

Director(s) -at-Large (2) -Dawn Elmore 705-649-4936 I vacant

**Newsletter Editor:** 

Fiona Ortiz

**Newsletter Layout by:** Dawn Elmore 705-649-4936

For information on any of these positions (especially the vacant ones), please contact us at our tollfree 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
- 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
- Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photographs. BE A LOW-IMPACT HIKER!!

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH	:
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☐ 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					
• Hike only along marked routes. Do not take short cuts.  • Protect and do not disturb wildlife.					

- Do not climb fences.
- Carry out all garbage (if you carry it in, you can carry it out).
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- Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy.
- · Do not damage live trees or strip off bark.

- · Keep dogs under control (leash if necessary) and follow your club's guidelines concerning dogs.
- · Respect the privacy of people living along 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!

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).