



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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At this season, the detailed opening of the season section will take place, with the "Newspaper" section, "Echo Ridge" and "Saulteaux" section, covering the event by the "Saulteaux" section.



Twin Lakes: Saulteaux Section

ONTARIO HIKING DAY

Sunday, October 1, is Ontario Hiking Day, when hikers all over the province get out to show their strength in numbers and invite the public to join them in a delightful pastime.

This year, along the Voyageur Trail, there will be public hikes: at Espanola for the Rainbow and Sudbury Clubs, at Sault Ste. Marie for the Sauteaux Club, at Wawa for the Michipicoten Club, at Schreiber for the Schreiber Club, and at Thunder Bay for the Thunder Bay Club.

At Thessalon, the official opening of the Thessalon Section will take place, with the Penewobikong, Thessalon, Desbarats, Echo Ridges, and Salteaux Clubs promoting that event by their participation.

So let's get out on Ontario Hiking Day and show the world that there are people who hike and that we intend to be counted. Help your club invite the public and introduce more people to hiking and your club. Watch for posters in your area for local details, or contact your club executive.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE THESSALON SECTION

The Thessalon Section of the Voyageur Trail was completed this summer and extends the trail between Rydal Bank (Hwy 561) and Iron Bridge. Total walking distance is between 50 and 65 kilometers. The work remaining includes measuring the section and placing logos every $\frac{1}{2}$ km (although a few have been placed to create public awareness).

The opening will be on Sunday, October 1, Ontario Hiking Day and will involve local dignitaries. After a ribbon cutting ceremony, there will be two hikes, and refreshments.

To help make this a gala event, ALL VTA MEMBERS FROM SAULT STE. MARIE TO BLIND RIVER, INCLUSIVE, ARE URGED TO GO TO THESSALON ON ONTARIO HIKING DAY, OCTOBER 1, TO HELP CELEBRATE THE OPENING. Meet at the Carolyn Beach Motel, at the western junction of Hwy 17 & 17B, Thessalon, at 1 p.m. Directions to the ceremony will be given there.

Let's see a good turnout of VTA members for this significant event. We especially invite our landowners in the Thessalon section. See you at Thessalon on Sunday, October 1.

NORTHWARD BOUND!

With the east-west portion of the Saulteaux section completed several years ago, work has started on trail clearing to the north. A good start was made this summer by some of the Saulteaux team, especially Tom Allinson and Ernie Pringle. Trail now is cleared from Gros Cap half way to the top of Prince Twp., and much of that is blazed. Presently, it dead-ends in the bush, but shortly will carry on to the shore of Lake Superior. CONGRATULATIONS, DILIGENT WORKERS.

WORK IS NEVER DONE

With the opening of the Thessalon Section this fall, the longest portion would extend for approximately 200 km, from north of Gros Cap to Iron Bridge if the Echo Ridges Section were complete. But it is not. There is much to be done to complete this section and give us a very significant length of continuous trail. There will be many work parties called this fall to try to close the gap. You are all urged to give of your time. If we all (those of us in the Echo Ridges and Saulteaux Clubs) pitch in and help WE CAN DO IT.

There also is trail building and planning going on along other parts of the Voyageur Trail route and you are urged to help your local club when called upon. This trail is built and maintained by volunteers; even when students are consigned to helping clear trail, the background work - laying out the route, flagging, contacting landowners, obtaining work permits for crown land operations, making signs, etc. - is done by volunteers.

It will take a lot of helping hands to make the Voyageur Trail a reality. If we ALL help, even a few times a season, the work load per person will be less and the job will be done more quickly. When your club calls on you for assistance, LEND A HAND. BE A HELPER.

A PAT ON THE BACK

(excerpt from a letter to P. Syme, August 30, 1978)

.. We are both very excited about your plans for the Voyageur... We are sure you will have eastern Canada's greatest trail someday... We have nothing but praise for you and your members. We started at Gros Cap and spent 3 days on the trail. It was well marked and presented no special problems although we had to wade one stream on the eastern end. The beaver dams, water falls, ancient beach, side trails, etc. all add to an interesting adventure...

Bill Boyce
Chuck Duff
South Bend, Indiana

THE TRAIL USER'S CODE - IN DEPTH

This is the third in a series designed to ask you to consider seriously the Trail User's Code and what it means. The Code is not merely a set of rules designed to make life difficult for the hiker. Indeed it is for just the opposite. If the Code were adhered to strictly by all trail users, there would be virtually no problems along the trail, and use of the trail would be a joy to all. Is that not the way we would like to see it?

Actually, we have had very few problems along the Voyageur Trail, and none of them were serious. This suggests that our members and other users are following the Code, intentionally or unwittingly. After all, as stated in the first of this series, to follow the Code is merely to be courteous on the trail.

I'd like to consider the third item, "Carry out all garbage (if you can carry it in (full) you can carry it out (empty)).". Garbage on the trail is one of the most annoying of all things to both hiker and landowner. Garbage is just that - unwanted material things, from the wrappings of a box lunch to a gum wrapper. Virtually all hikers use the trail, at least in part, to enjoy the natural scene, and the presence of litter of any sort is extremely incongruous to that scene, and unnecessarily so - IF YOU CAN CARRY IT IN YOU CAN CARRY IT OUT.

Anything you might be tempted to discard along the trail, be it only a gum wrapper or tissue, had a place in your pack or pocket or purse when you brought it in, and can go back into that same space until you reach home (or a convenient trashcan). It will weigh no more going out than it did on its way in.

If you drop a tissue or a piece of paper as you hike, it may seem inconsequential, but it is merely "out of sight, out of mind". It probably will "scream" at the next hiker who passes by. To toss it a little further back in the bush is not the answer, as anyone who has walked the verges of our highways will know.

When back-packing, burn your burnables if you must, but crush cans to save space and pack out all your garbage. DON'T BURY IT. It will be dug up by humans repeating the act, if it becomes fashionable, or by animals searching for food. The latter could make a designated campsite unsafe if the animal is a bear and accustomed to finding food at a particular site.

Remember then, don't litter; leave the trail as neat as you would like to find it. If you don't find it that way, go one step further and bring out the litter of thoughtless persons. Especially if you are day-hiking, carry a plastic bag. It will fit into your pocket and can be used to bring out any litter you may find. Leave the trail neat for the next person. Remember too, a messy trail fosters a messy attitude - "What's the harm of one more tissue?",