



NO. 120 SPRING 2015

Published by the

VOYAGEUR TRAIL

ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 20040

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www.voyageurtrail.ca

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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.

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Voyageur Trail News



No. 120, Spring 2015

EDITOR: Fiona Ortiz

New VTA Sign at Crimson Ridge

Thank you to the wonderful folks of Crimson Ridge Golf Course who installed the Saulteaux Voyageur Trail Club new trailhead sign on the Crimson Ridge Loop Trail. Looking good...



Hike Leaders Certified

The Saulteaux club held a Hike Ontario Certified Hike Leader course at the Sault Ste. Marie Conservation Authority building on February 21. We had students from the Voyageur Trail Association, Sault College and Algoma University.

Congratulations to the graduates Jesse Allard, Dan Boileau, Derissa Vincentini and Keenan Kiosis. Thanks to the instructors Mike Landmark and Terri Vaillancourt for teaching the course.

OOPS....We missed something in the last issue...

Another "40 km" hiker

Don McGorman was inadvertently omitted from the list of hikers who completed and reported at least 40 km on the Voyageur Trail during the anniversary year.

Congratulations Don!



Poking Around the Porkies *by Susan Graham*



When travelling east and west on highway M28 through Michigan, we would pass Porcupine Mountains State Park, and vowed that we would go there “one of these days” (another one on the list.) We made plans to go in early September 2014, but the wet, cold weather changed our plans twice. We ended up going at the end of the month and experienced some of the nicest weather we had had in weeks (maybe months – it was not a good summer.)

Porcupine Mountains State Park is Michigan’s largest, located on the south shore of Lake Superior at the western end of the Upper Peninsula, not far from the Wisconsin border. There is an extensive trail system through the park, providing ample opportunity for day hiking or backpacking. There are also 17 cabins for rent within the park, with bunk beds and a woodstove in each. The cabins vary in size and ease of access, but many are just a short walk from a parking area. There are also 2 organized campgrounds – one at either end of the park if you want to take your motorhome when you visit. To top it off, there are motels located just outside the park entrance, so there is accommodation to suit everyone’s taste.



We chose to do a 20-mile loop, roughly following the Little Carp and Big Carp Rivers. Overall, we found the trails in the park quite varied in regard to maintenance and improvements. Some, like the short one to Lake of the Clouds, was paved and wheelchair accessible. Others, near the main access points, were wide and dry, with boardwalks over the wet areas and bridges over the creeks (rivers). Then there was the remainder of the trails! We started off into the interior of the park along



the Little Carp River trail towards Mirror Lake. The farther away from the parking area we walked, the wetter and rougher the trail got. We saw no other backpackers, only a few day hikers, and had our choice of campsites along the Big Carp River.

Our walk the next day took us along Big Carp River to the shore of Lake Superior and along part of the shoreline trail, which was noticeably better than the previous day’s trail. We stopped for lunch at one of the prettiest campsites I have ever seen in my life. If you go, try to camp at Shining Cloud Falls. Again, we had our choice of campsites along the lake, and were set up early enough to enjoy the afternoon sunshine and have a dip in the lake – bonus! There was lots of driftwood available for a bonfire and we enjoyed the sunset that evening.

Our walk back to the vehicle along the Little Carp River trail was pure delight. This part of the trail was much drier than the part leading to Mirror Lake, and the river had multiple small waterfalls along it.

I would guess that about half of our walking was on very wet, mucky trail. It was very rough, due to the number of exposed tree roots you had to step over. We also had 4 river crossings where there was no bridge. Trying to cross on rocks with a full pack is not a pleasant task. At the last crossing I gave up trying to find a safe crossing on the rocks, and just waded across in my sock feet. (The water was only about 6 inches deep anyway.) One of our crossings was on two trees that had fallen across the river and was fine once we clambered up on them. *(cont’d on page 3)*

Poking Around the Porkies *cont'd*

However, despite my complaining so far about the trail conditions, I was absolutely in awe of the park because it is old-growth forest, much of it hemlock. As you walk, you are surrounded by these gorgeous giants. I could not resist hugging a few of them! I think I saw the biggest oak tree I have ever seen, too. It was absolutely amazing. I expect most people visit for the vistas over the hills and lakes, but I was sold on the trees.

Before leaving, we drove to the west end of the park at the Presque Isle River. A series of impressive waterfalls and an organized campground are located here.

We spent a final night at the Municipal campground in Ishpeming before heading home. The fall colour was spectacular along the way - another bonus.

So overall, I would recommend you check out "The Porkies". Whether you rough it or go in style, it's well worth the trip.



Good-Bye from Ulrich and Christel

A Message from Ulrich and Christel Tettenborn (taken from an e-mail sent to the VTA Membership Secretary in early December 2014): "To all our hiking friends in the Coureurs de Bois Club: Due to our old age, we have sold our home (for 20 years) in Elliot Lake just last month and might come back to Elliot Lake only as nostalgic visitors. So we are sorry, not being able to renew our membership. We would like to thank all our friends from the Voyageurs Club in Elliot Lake for their friendly company and guidance through so many beautiful and interesting hikes and also for sharing a lot of fun in this beautiful natural setting."



Notes from Carole Blaquiére, VTA President

Strategic Planning

Look for your chance for input into the VTA strategic planning process.

The strategic planning committee has begun the process of reviewing the vision and mission of the organization. We will be providing plenty of opportunities in the form of surveys to voice your opinions, comments and suggestions in the coming months. Please consider giving us your feedback. As members, your views count!

Maintenance Week – May 11th to 17th

A beaver dam has flooded the section of trail between Shaw Dam and Hwy 129. We will be looking to scout out and implement a route around it. Patricia Wynter has volunteered to host a potluck on Saturday May 16th for trail workers, as well as to provide a mustering point. Call Patricia 705-842-0123 for details on the potluck. To help with the trail maintenance contact Carole [705-649-2235](tel:705-649-2235) or email caroleblaquiere@yahoo.ca. Let us know if you require lodgings.

Board Governance Training

Carole Blaquiére, President, Kirsten Spence, VP-West, and Chris Kuntz, Membership Secretary, attended a Board Governance Training session held in Sault Ste. Marie on Jan. 23rd. It was an information-packed all-day event.

Interesting fact about Lake Superior *by Mike Landmark*

We tend to forget what an amazing part of the world we live in and how fortunate we all are to live close to Lake Superior. It's a big lake, but did you realize how big it is?

- * Lake Superior contains ten percent of all the fresh water on the planet Earth.
- * It covers 82,000 square kilometers or 31,700 square miles.
- * The average depth is 147 meters or 483 feet.
- * There have been about 350 shipwrecks recorded in Lake Superior.
- * Lake Superior is, by surface area, the largest lake in the world.
- * A Jesuit priest in 1668 named it Lac Tracy, but that name was never officially adopted.
- * It contains as much water as all the other Great Lakes combined, plus three extra Lake Eries!
- * There is a small outflow from the lake at St. Mary's River (Sault Ste. Marie) into Lake Huron, but it takes almost two centuries for the water to be completely replaced.
- * There is enough water in Lake Superior to cover all of North and South America with water one foot deep.
- * Lake Superior was formed during the last glacial retreat, making it one of the earth's youngest major features at only about 10,000 years old.
- * The deepest point in the lake is 405 meters or 1,333 feet.
- * There are 78 different species of fish that call the big lake home.
- * The maximum wave ever recorded on Lake Superior was 9.45 meters or 31 feet high.
- * If you stretched the shoreline of Lake Superior out to a straight line, it would be long enough to reach from Duluth to the Bahamas.
- * Over 300 streams and rivers empty into Lake Superior, with the largest source being the Nipigon River.
- * The average underwater visibility of Lake Superior is about 8 meters or 27 feet, making it the cleanest and clearest of the Great Lakes.
- * Underwater visibility in some spots reaches 30 meters.
- * In the summer, the sun sets more than 35 minutes later on the western shore of Lake Superior than at its southeastern edge.
- * Some of the world's oldest rocks, formed about 2.7 billion years ago, can be found on the Ontario shore of Lake Superior.
- * It very rarely freezes over completely, and then usually just for a few hours. Complete freezing occurred in 1962, 1979, 2003 and 2009.

Continued on Page 6



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.

Interested in work parties? Trimming trees and putting up blazes is an ongoing job on the Voyageur Trail. Work parties are put together in spring, summer and fall. If you would like to spend some time helping us to keep the trail well-marked and free from undergrowth, send your contact information to Don at: mcgormd@hotmail.com or call 705-946-9599.

***Indicates an out-of-town outing**

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.

Sun., May 3 ~ Hike at Robertson Cliffs to view... wildflowers??? snowdrifts??? Call Mark for details 705-254-2356

Trail Maintenance Week 2015 from May 11 to May 18! A beaver dam has flooded the section between Shaw Dam and Hwy 129. We will be looking to scout out and implement a route around it. Patricia Wynter has volunteered to host a Potluck on Saturday the 16th for trail workers as well as to provide a mustering point for maintenance in the area. Call Patricia for details on the potluck (705-842-0123). To help with the trail maintenance contact Carole 705-649-2235 or email caroleblaquiere@yahoo.ca. Let us know if you require lodgings.

***Sat., May 16** ~ Trail Maintenance with Dan Boileau (New Leader) at Shaw Dam - 11 AM. For more details call Dan at (705.842.0123).

Sun., May 24 ~ Hike a section of the HUB Trail with Gayle (705-942-1891). Meet at 1PM in the parking lot at the bottom of Finn Hill. Behaved, leashed pets welcome. Good for families/beginners.

Mon., May 25 ~ Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting at 7PM. Location TBA. Call Gayle at 705-942-1891.

***Sun., May 31** ~ Hike in the Goulais River section with Carole Blaquiere. Meet at Pine shores and Hwy 17 north at 10AM Call Carole for details 705-649-2235 or email: caroleblaquiere@yahoo.ca

***Sun., May 31** ~ Kayak to Batchewana Island. Call Mark for details 705-254-2356

Sat., June 6 ~ Hike with Gayle (705-942-1891) at the Sault Locks. Meet at 1PM in the Canal Visitor Centre parking lot. Behaved, leashed pets welcome. Good for families/beginners.

Sat., June 13 ~ "Bare Foot" hike at Gros Cap with Mike (705-779-3409). Meet at 10AM in the Market Mall parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets welcome.

***Sat., June 20** ~ Hike with Dan Boileau (New Leader) in the Little Rapids area. For more details call Dan at 705-842-0123.

***Sat., June 20** ~ Hike the Nokomis Trail in Lake Superior Park. Call Mark for details 705-254-2356

***Sat., July 4** ~ Bike with Larry on 17B to Echo Bay, continue to Watson Rd., north to Pioneer Rd., and then loop back on 638 to Echo Bay. Meet at 10.00 am at the eastern (Food Basics) end of Wellington Square Mall. Bike helmet is mandatory. Bring water, snack, & (if necessary) rain gear. Bring your own lunch or dine at one of the restaurants in Echo Bay before returning. Total return distance about 55 km. Easy to moderate pace on flat, paved roads. Register in advance with Larry at 705-541-5674, 705-949-7953 or lgringo@nrcan.gc.ca. Contact Larry or check the Saulteaux Club events page for August at <http://www.voyageurtrail.ca/eventssaulteaux.html> for updates.

Sun., July 12 ~ Hike at Red Rock with Gayle (705-942-1891). Meet 10AM in the Market Mall parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets welcome. Good for families/beginners.

***Sat., July 18** ~ Hike from the cemetery in Rydal Bank to the Plummer cemetery (approx. 7km) with Dieter and Erika (705-942-9636). Meet at 10AM in the Wellington Square Mall parking lot for the 58km car pool. Call if you have any questions.

Sun., July 19 ~ Hike from Marks Bay to Little Marks Bay with Mike (705-779-3409). Meet 10AM in the Market Mall



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parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets welcome.

***Sun., July 19** ~ Hike with Dan Boileau (New Leader) in the Little Rapids area. For more details call Dan at 705-842-0123.

***Sat., August 1** ~ Annual cycle loop tour on St. Joe Island's scenic secondary roads to Hilton Beach. Meet at 10:30 am in the car pool area on Hwy 548, just off Hwy 17. Bike helmet is mandatory. Bring water, snack, & (if necessary) rain gear. Bring

your own lunch or dine at one of the eateries before returning. Total return distance about 35 km. Easy to moderate pace on paved roads. Register in advance with Larry at 705-541-5674, 705-949-7953 or lgringo@nrcan.gc.ca. Contact Larry or check the Saulteaux Club events page for July at <http://www.voyageurtrail.ca/eventssaulteaux.html> for updates.

Sat., August 15 ~ Hike the Gros Cap Loop Trail with Gayle (705-942-1891). Meet 11 AM in the Market Mall parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets welcome. Good for families/beginners.

***Sat., August 15** ~ Canoe Fenton/Treeby Lakes, Lake Superior Park. Call Mark for details 705-254-2356

***Sun., Sept. 13** ~ Hike to the Havilland Bay Lookout with Dawn (705-649-4936). Call for meeting place and time.

***Sun., Sept. 20** ~ Hike at Tower Lake with Gayle (705-942-1891). Meet 10:30 AM in the Wellington Square Mall parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets welcome.

Mon., Sept. 21 ~ Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting at 7PM. Location TBA. Call 705-942-1891 for more info.

***Sun., Sept 27** ~ Hike Griffon Peak to see the fall colours. This hike is not for the faint of heart. Call Mark for details 705-254-2356

Don't forget about our Facebook page...we encourage you to post photos of your favourite outings at www.facebook.com/

Con't from Page 4...

According to Native Heritage Folk Lore, each Great Lake looks like something:

- * Lake Superior looks like a Wolf. The Wolf is a wild animal around this lake.
- * Lake Huron with Georgian Bay looks like a Courier de Bois carrying a back pack and walking in snow up to his knees. In history, there was much fur trapping in this area.
- * Lake Michigan looks like a vegetable. There is much farming around this lake.
- * Lake Erie looks like a piece of coal. South of Lake Erie are the great coal fields.
- * Lake Ontario also looks like a vegetable and there is also much farming around it.



Views from lookout on the Gros Cap loop trail Winter 2015





CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS FLYING OBJECT...SEEN FROM A LOOKOUT ON THE GROS CAP LOOP TRAIL IN WINTER 2015?? ENTER YOUR GUESS ON THE VTA FACEBOOK PAGE!!

experience The East Coast Trail with Brown Rabbit Walkabout

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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:

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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 August 1, 2015.

Mail to Fiona Ortiz, c/o
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Tel. 705-942-5709 or e-mail to
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Articles in this newsletter can be
copied if credit is given to the
Voyageur Trail Association.

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

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Patricia Wynter 705-842-0123

Penewobikong: Joanne Marck
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Voyageur Trail News—Spring 2014



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*For information on any of these
positions (especially the vacant
ones), please email us at
info@voyageurtrail.ca.*

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

- Hike only along marked routes. Do not take short cuts.
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- 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 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).

(signature): _____