



NO. 125 WINTER 2017

Published by the
**VOYAGEUR TRAIL
ASSOCIATION**

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Sault Ste. Marie, ON

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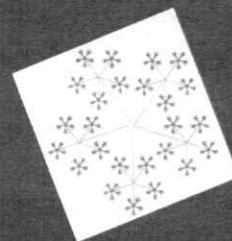
The Voyageur Trail Association is a non-profit, volunteer group dedicated to building and maintaining a public hiking trail along the northern shores of Lakes Superior and Huron, from Thunder Bay to Sudbury.

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

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Voyageur Trail News



No. 125, Winter 2017

EDITOR: Fiona Ortiz

AGM Report *by Carole Blaquiere*

We had 12 attendees to the AGM which was held at the Legion in Schrieber on September 24th. In addition to the VTA president and membership secretary, six VTA members of the Casque Iles club, two volunteers and representatives from the town of Schrieber, Terrace Bay and the Lake Superior Marine Conservation Area attended.

Kees and Janice were acclaimed in their positions of treasurer and volunteer coordinator respectively. No one volunteered for the position of publicity. After the business of the AGM was completed, we had an excellent SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) session in which many ideas were generated for the strategic planning committee. This is the second year that we included a SWOT exercise after the AGM business and both have generated much discussion. I plan on continuing this practice for future AGMs.

Lunch was served, after which we headed out on a lovely hike from Lyda Bay to Terrace Bay Beach along the Casque Iles Trail. This was an excellent opportunity to meet with the new people on the Casque Iles executive as well as to re-establish ties with the long time members.

Since we were in the area, we took some time to meet with other stakeholders in the area, including Dean Main, Community Development Manager in Terrace Bay on Friday the 23rd, Sylvio Pelletier, Acting Manager, LSMCA, Ron Salo and Ashley of the Northwest Superior CFDC on Monday the 25th and Bob Hancherow, Economic Development Manager in Marathon on Tuesday the 26th. The purpose of the meeting was to increase the awareness of the VTA and to determine what relationships could be developed in the area.

There is a Northwest Trail Association being developed through the EDOs of the towns from Marathon to Dorion. This entity is still trying to determine what its mandate will be and has started working on a pamphlet which will have selected trails from each of the communities. Matt Borustski has already indicated to the group that they should involve the actual people who are developing and maintaining the trails in the area which I believe is going to be done. The next meeting is going to be held in November.

We stayed at a lovely little cottage that I had booked on Walker Lake in Schrieber. Since the owners decided not to charge the VTA for the lodgings due to some mishaps, we donated a guidebook which can be used both by the owners and any future guests they have at the cottage.



Volunteer Appreciation

We are planning a Volunteer and Landowner Appreciation Hike and Potluck on Feb 18th at the Sault Ste. Marie Regional Conservation Authority Sugar Shack. Nominate a volunteer for the Steve Taylor Award and look for your invitation in early February.

Hike Ontario Annual Summit Report *by Carole Blaquiere*



Chris Kuntz and Carole Blaquiere attended this year's Hike Ontario summit held in Perth, Ontario, which allowed for networking with the Rideau Trail Association (RTA) club members from Ottawa, Perth and Kingston areas. Members of southern Ontario clubs such as the Thames Valley, Avon, Guelph, Lambton Shores, and Meaford areas were also in attendance.

The keynote speakers were Doug Knapp, who spoke about the creation and early years of both Hike Ontario and the RTA, and Ron Knight from the Bighead River Heritage Association who spoke about John Muir, celebrated naturalist who travelled through and worked in Ontario as a young man. Doug Knapp was instrumental in the creation of Hike Ontario and the RTA. Although he remembers much, he admitted he needed to refresh his memories by searching the archives at Queens University. Of note to the VTA, Paul Syme (see page three for list of original hikers)*, one of our founding members, was part of the group founding the original Hike Ontario organization which was called FOHTA (Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations). Mr. Knapp asked about Mr. Syme and was glad to hear that he was still a member of the VTA.

I attended an information session "Using Digital Media to Promote Hiking" with Paul Galipeau. Paul works in communications as a consultant and previously worked for Parks Canada at the Rideau Canal as a communications specialist. He currently volunteers as the RTA as publicity. When he began the RTA, website and social media pages were trending up in usage but membership was trending down. He believed that using social media and revamping the communication strategy, including the website could align the two trends upwards. The RTA has recently launched a new website that includes new branding and revised logo. The new website is also mobile friendly and has a member only portal.

Mailchimp is used to send a monthly members-only hiking e-letter which includes special announcements and upcoming hikes. They also launched a monthly public e-newsletter, sent to complimentary members as well as lapsed members and non-members that indicate they want to be on their mailing list. They are no longer sending out physical newsletters to any of their members.



Chris and Carole at the Hike Ontario Summit
Photo credit: Howard Robinson (Rideau Trail Association)

In addition to using Facebook and meetups to indicate weekend hikes, they use Instagram to publish pictures and short videos of their events. They monitor Twitter to answer questions about the trails and association. They also monitor metadata, the data associated with the usage of these communication systems. The result of all of this work is impressive: in just one year, the membership trend has not only reversed but now number more than the last 3 or 4 years. Membership retention is 77%, the highest in the last 10 years. New members are surveyed to find out why they are joining and how they learned about the organization. All of this is food for thought for the VTA.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE FIRST PUBLIC HIKE BY THE
SAULTEAUX SECTION OF THE VOYAGEURS TRAIL ASSOCIATION
IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONSERVATION WEEK
MAY 11, 1975

NAME	STREET	CITY
Paul Syme	440 Hunterton Park	SSM
J. A. Loring	3 Broadway Ave	SSM
Paul Loring	3 Broadway Ave	SSM
Dick / Clatchey	109 Lockhart Rd	SSM
Kirk / Clatchey	"	SSM
Terry Allenson	176 Braintreefield	S.S.M.
J. Mahler	R.R. #2 Soo	
Myrland Waldman	R.R. #2 Soo	
Gordon Plemmer	99 Pine St. Apt. 503	SSM
H. T. Wagon	170 Pine St	SSM
Annie Matt	1691 Sec. Line W.	S.S.M.
Ralph Kenna	280 Old Goulans Bay Rd	SSM
Chithan		
Bob Campbell	39 Kent Ave.	SSM
B. Tupper	1691 Second Line W.	SSM
W. L. Loring	162 Second Line W.	SSM
Wagon Mike Allen	72 Pine St	"
Mary Ellen MacCallum	42 Pine St	"
W. H. Robinson	92 Petta St	"
J. A. Wagon	Box 1027	SSM
W. L. Wagon	115 Simpson St	SSM
D. L. Wagon	115 Simpson St	SSM
Mike Berthel	512 Wellington	Sault Ste. M.
Mary Shaker	690 Wellington	Sault Ste. M.

*Thanks to Mike Landmark for finding the list of participants from the first official hike of the Saulteaux Section of the Voyageur Trail in an old file box! Note that Paul Syme is first on the list, dated May 11, 1975.

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 705-945-1573.

***Indicates an out-of-town Outing**

Sun., Jan. 1 ~ New Year's Day hike/snowshoe (depends on snow conditions) on the Crimston Ridge Loop with Doris (705-942-9466). Bring lunch, water, dress appropriately and meet at 11 AM on Goulais Avenue in front of St. Kateri Outdoor Education facility.

***Sun., Jan. 8** ~ Snowshoe with Chris and Carole in the Goulais River area. Check the website calendar, facebook, meetup or call Carole (705-649-2235) one week prior for details. Weather dependent.

Sat., Jan 21 - Snowshoe Connor Rd to Trout Lake. Call Mark or Cheryl 705-254-2356 for details.

***Sat., Jan 28** - Stokely Creek Lodge Snowshoe Festival. Visit www.stokelycreek.com for more details.

***Sun., Feb. 12** ~ Snowshoe with Chris and Carole in the Goulais River area. Check the website calendar, facebook, meetup or call Carole (705-649-2235) one week prior for details. Weather dependent.

Sat., Feb. 18 ~ VTA Volunteer Appreciation Day Potluck at the Sugar Shack. Invitation only event. Email Carole (caroleblaquiere@yahoo.ca) to nominate a VTA volunteer.

***Sat., Feb 25** - Ski Lower Island to Finn to Pants Lakes. Call Mark or Cheryl 705-254-2356 for details.

***Sun., Mar. 5** ~ Snowshoe from Maki Road to St. Kateri Outdoor Education location on Goulais Avenue. Meet 11 AM at the Market Mall to car pool. Behaved pets welcome. Call Gayle at 705-942-1891 for more info.

Sat., Mar. 11 - Horst Wetzl memorial "Canyon Ski". Call Mark or Cheryl 705-254-2356 for details.

***Sun., Mar. 12** ~ Snowshoe with Chris and Carole in the Goulais River area. Check the website calendar, facebook, meetup or call Carole (705-649-2235) one week prior for details. Weather dependent.

Sat., Mar. 18 ~ depending on ice conditions ~ Susan will lead an outing to Red Rock to snowshoe and photograph the ice formations on Lake Superior. Call 705-949-4105 for more info.

Mon., Mar. 20 ~ Saulteaux Voyageur Trail Club bi-annual meeting at 7 PM. Location TBA. Call 705-942-1891 for more info.

***Sun., Mar. 26** ~ Snowshoe at Tower Lake with Gayle (705-942-1891). Meet at 10 AM in

the Wellington Square Mall parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets welcome.

March 31 ~ Saulteaux Club Dinner at Grand Gardens North. After dinner, Paul McBay will give a presentation entitled, "Hiking in England: Coast-to-coast and in-between" with slides also from Cliff and Susan Graham. Dinner prices will likely be around \$25 per person but check your email often for final details. If you haven't reported your email to us (or have changed it since you did), it is time to send an email to info@voyageurtrail.ca and update us so we can keep you better informed on last-minute changes.

***Sun., Apr. 9** ~ Snowshoe with Chris and Carole. Check the website calendar, facebook, meetup or call Carole (705-649-2235) one week prior for details. Weather dependent.

Sat., Apr. 22 - Certified Hike Leader course for those who haven't taken the course before and would like to. If you are a Saulteaux Club member-in-good-standing and schedule to lead at least 3 outings for the local Club in the following year, the Saulteaux Club will reimburse your expenses to obtain your Hike Ontario Hike Leader certificate. The only thing you have to donate is your time to take the one-day course! Call 705-942-1891 for more details.

Sun., Apr. 23 ~ Certified WILDERNESS DAY Hike Leader Course for all those leaders who have already taken



the regular course but would like to upgrade their qualifications to the next level. As always, if you schedule to lead at least 3 outings for the local Club in the following year, the Saulteaux Club will reimburse your expenses to upgrade your Hike Ontario certificate. The only thing you have to donate is your time to take the one-day course. Watch for more info in your in-boxes!

Sun., Apr. 30 ~ Hike a section of the HUB Trail. Call Gayle at 705-942-1891 for meeting place and time which will be decided a week before the event.

May 13 - 20 ~ Possibly Trail Maintenance Week - Carole's kick-off to work parties for the upcoming year! Watch for more info in your in-boxes, on the Facebook page and on the VTA calendar on our website.

June ~ Mark Crofts will be picking out some dates to "practice" in the Voyageur Canoe for his upcoming celebration of Canada's 150th birthday on July 1st with several days of canoeing between Batchewana and Fort St. Joseph in Voyageur Canoes! You can do one day's paddle or plan on doing several days... more information to come. Call Mark 705-254-2356 for details.



Overview of the Supporting Ontario's Trails Act, 2016

- Ontario has passed legislation to improve and sustain Ontario's urban, suburban, rural and remote land and water trails.
- The Supporting Ontario's Trails Act, 2016 will help the trails community more effectively develop, operate and promote trails while enhancing the trails experience for all trail users.
- Ontario is home to over 80,000 kilometres of trails that support recreation, tourism and transportation (including active transportation).
- Each year, millions of Ontarians and visitors from outside the province experience the province's world class trails system.
- Trails encourage explorers of all ages and abilities to visit our unique communities and support local economies and jobs.
- The province is committed to providing accessible opportunities for active living, recreation and tourism on Ontario's trails for people of all abilities.
- From 2009 through 2015, the province invested \$130 million in both direct and indirect funding to support Ontario's trails.
- The province is also investing more than \$3.5 million in trails which will include adding more than 250 kilometres of trails through Ontario's Pan American/Parapan American Games Promotion, Celebration and Legacy Strategy.
- In 2014, hiking expenditures by Ontarians added \$559 million to Ontario's GDP and created more than 18,000 jobs across the province with an annual economic benefit of nearly \$1.4 billion.

VTA Strategic Planning Committee

Do you have an interest in what happens with the Voyageur Trail Association in the next 5 to 10 years? We are looking for 3 to 6 participants to attend a day-long workshop determining what our strategic plan will be for the next 5 to 10 years. Must be members in good standing. Travel expenses can be reimbursed.

Don't see an outing on the schedule to YOUR favourite spot? Why not consider leading an outing yourself! The Saulteaux Voyageur Trail Club supports its members by paying their expenses to take a one-day-long Hike Ontario Leadership course if you lead for the club.

We have to collect a few names in order to hold a course locally so the sooner your name goes on the list, the sooner the session can be held. In the meantime, perhaps you can be paired with an experienced leader to start introducing folks to YOUR favourite spots on the Voyageur Trail. Call 705-942-1891 for more information on how you can get involved.

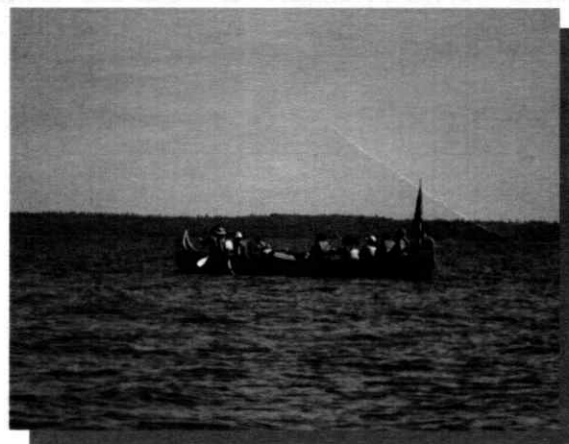
Hiking Log

Record your outdoor adventures with our **NEW** 'Hiking Log'. This 1-page document lets you quickly and easily document the details of your hikes.

And don't forget you can use your hiking log toward Hike Ontario's Long Distance Hiker Awards - a program celebrating dedicated hikers who have logged long distanced (550, 950, and 1500 kilometres) on Pedestrian Walking Paths and Hiking Trails across this great province of Ontario.

Learn more here: <http://hikeontario.com/programs/hiking-log/>

NOTE TO SAULTEAUX CLUB MEMBERS... With possible new leaders looking to schedule outings after the leadership courses in April, there is a possibility that a new type of leader will emerge - one that wishes to decide a week before a date that they are interested in leading an outing. It is **CRUCIAL** for Club members to report an up-to-date email address so you will be informed on last-minute additions to our future schedules. I can assure you that email addresses will **NOT** be shared for any other purpose than Club news so please send your email address to: info@voyageurtrail.ca now!



Celebrate Canada's 150th...in a big canoe!

Several Voyageur Trail Club members participated in a very successful two-day paddle involving two Montreal and two North canoes from Sault Ste. Marie to Fort St. Joseph in 2012. We had a great time, learned a lot about local history and were treated superbly by residents along the route. We plan to do it again in 2017: the "Sault Ste. Marie Brigade" will consist of at least one Montreal canoe and two North canoes.

On June 29, 2017 the Sault Ste. Marie Brigade will depart Batchewana Bay bound for Goulais River. On June 30 the brigade will paddle from Goulais River to the Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site. On July 1 we will paddle through the locks at Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site as part of their Canada Day "Parade of Paddles" festivities (local paddlers in canoes/kayaks will join the flotilla for this event). The Brigade will continue via Lake George to Womens' Institute Park at Richards Landing. On July 2, 2017 we will pass Sailor's Encampment to Fort St. Joseph. We will participate in a Parks Canada event at Fort St. Joseph on July 3 and then we will head to Hilton Beach. On July 4 the brigade will paddle from Hilton Beach, visit Bruce Mines and finish in Thessalon.

Watch the Voyageur Trail Association outing schedule for "practice" paddling events in May and June.

The 2017 Sault Ste. Marie Canoe Brigade is one of twelve brigades being organized across Canada under the umbrella of the Canadian Voyageur Brigade Society (CVBS). Find out more at:

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION & STORE (please print legibly) 01/17

(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) &

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

PDF Hiking trail guide individual sections } visit our on-line Store.

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

Full-time Student @ \$10 yearly = _____

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

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

☐ Reminder to download PDF from VTA web site

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).....= \$ _____

Make cheques payable and mail to:

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

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

(over)

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P6B 6H4

The Voyageur Trail
News is published three
times per year. Your
articles and photos are
welcome!

Deadline for the next
issue is April 1, 2017.

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

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Casques Isles: Chris Dube
807-823-0975

Marathon: Bob Hancherow
807-229-1340 ext. 2226

Michipicoten: Andy Stevens
705-856-2884

Saulteaux: Gayle Philips
705-942-1891

Bruce Mines/Huron Shores:
Patricia Wynter 705-842-0123

Penewobikong: Joanne Marck
705-842-2659

Coueurs de Bois:
Astrid Turner 705-578-2095

Voyageur Trail News—Winter 2017



VTA CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL

President -

Carole Blaquiere 705-649-2235

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Chris Kuntz 705-649-2235

Data Management -

Bob Sinclair 705-946-3126

Vice-President West -

Kirstin Spence 807-889-0602

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Media Coordinator -
vacant

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

Dawn Elmore 705-649-4936
Amber Jones

Vice-President Central -

Vacant

Hike Ontario Representative -

Carole Blaquiere 705-649-2235
Alternate (vacant)

Newsletter Editor:

Fiona Ortiz

Vice-President East -

Patricia Wynter 705-842-0123

Newsletter Layout by:

Dawn Elmore 705-649-4936

Treasurer/Tools Inventory -

Kees van Frankenhuyzen
705-255-2177

Insurance Coordinator -

Larry Gringorten 705-949-7953

Guidebook Committee -

Steve Dominy 705-946-2484

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

General Secretary -

Tricia Kelly 705-910-1795

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:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail development | <input type="checkbox"/> Hike leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization—executive, directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter, guidebook, photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner records, maps | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Special events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sorry, not at this time. | <input type="checkbox"/> 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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hike only along marked routes. Do not take short cuts.• Do not climb fences.• Carry out all garbage (if you 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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): _____