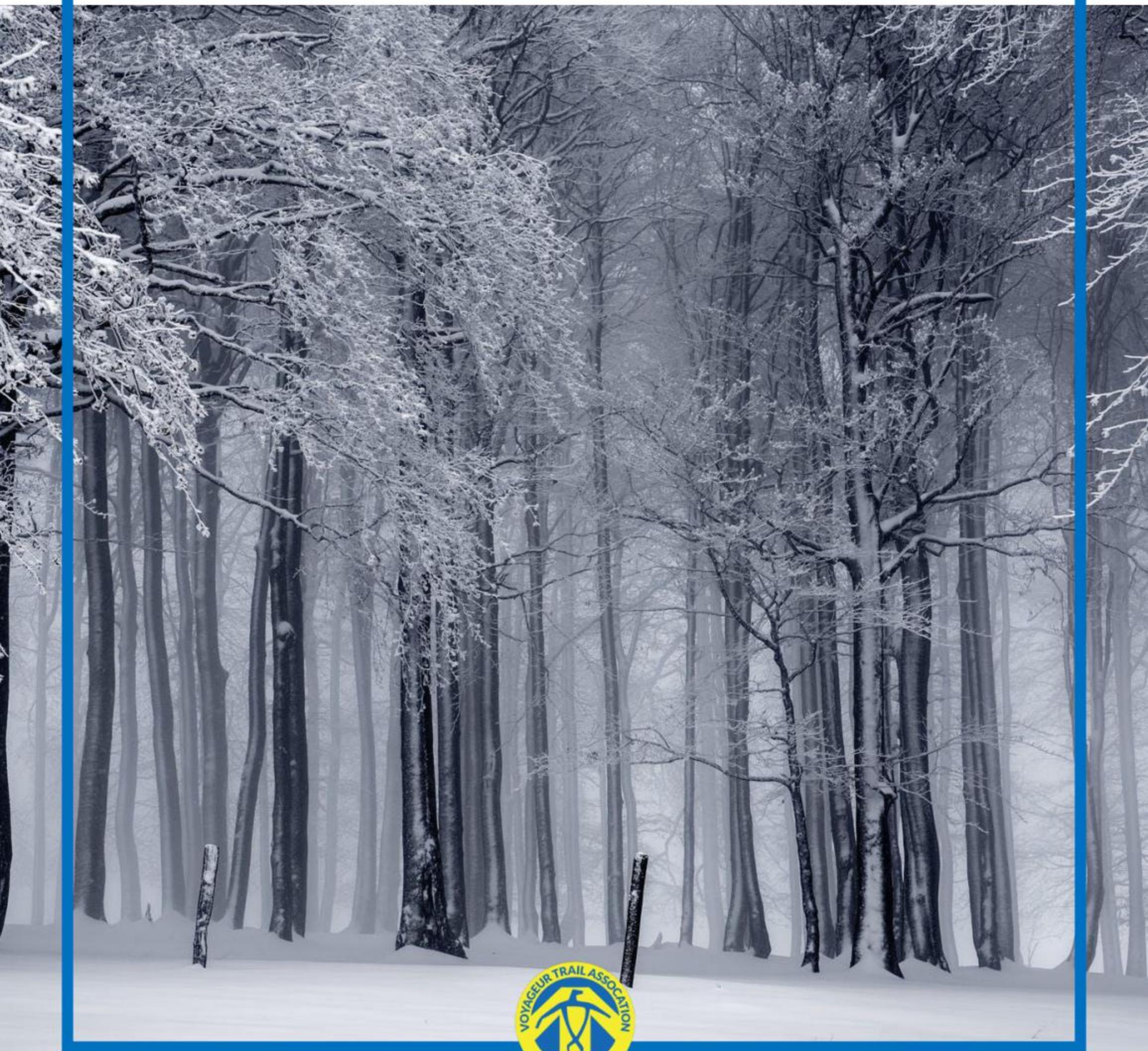


ISSUE

1

Voyageur Trail Association Newsletter

Winter 2019







LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the new format of the Voyageur Trail Association Newsletter. I certainly hope that you will enjoy reading it in our newer, more accessible format! Coming to you each quarter, and featuring content from across all 1,110kms of our trail, the VTA Newsletter is a great way to stay connected to the trail year-round.

In this issue, we reflect on the winter trail season, highlighting opportunities to access the trail for snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and more. Look for helpful tips on winter layering to stay warm no matter your chosen winter trail activity.

Curious about fatbiking? In this issue, we explore the emerging trend, and ways that students from Lakehead University's School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism are learning about trails, building important regional connections, and engaging in trail stewardship through hiking and fatbiking fieldtrips and expeditions along the Northshore of Lake Superior.

While many trail users access the Voyageur Trail's remote and rugged terrain seeking adventure, this issue's article on wilderness and landscape photograph provides insight into the importance of wellness, and connection with nature through the many photographic opportunities afforded by hiking.

In this edition of Trail Etiquette, unique issues faced by winter mixed use trail users are explored with the aim of ensuring compatibility of all accepted uses of the Voyageur Trail.

In this issue we also give thanks to retiring President Carole Blaquiére whose service to the Association has spanned six years as president and countless years in other roles both at the Association level and through the Saulteaux Voyageur Trail Club in Sault Ste. Marie, and reflect on the 2019 AGM held in October.

This issue's Trail Feature explores the Group of Seven Trail. This newly designated trail, created in partnership between Pic River First Nation and the Marathon Economic Development Corporation, allows fellow Canadians and visitors to explore our Canadian identity through the iconic painting locations of the Group of Seven.

Happy trails, and happy reading,



Kelsey Johansen

TABLE OF CONTENTS

06 DRESSING FOR WINTER

**10 HIKING AND BIKING
THE NORTHSORE**

**12 CAPTURING THE
WILDNESS OF LAKE
SUPERIOR**

17 THANK YOU, CAROLE

**18 REFLECTING ON THE
2019 AGM**

21 CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

**22 TRAIL ETIQUETTE FOR WINTER
MIXED USE TRAILS**

**24 JOIN THE 120TH ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

**26 TRAIL FEATURE: THE GROUP OF
SEVEN TRAIL**

28 ABOUT THE VTA



MASTHEAD & CONTRIBUTORS

Kelsey Johansen

*Dressing for Winter
Trail Etiquette
Christmas Bird Count*

Harvey Lemelin

Hiking and Biking the Northshore

Elaine Wiersma

Capturing the Wildness of Lake Superior

Steve Dominy

Thank you, Carole!

Carole Blaquiere

Reflecting on the 2019 AGM

Kirsten Spence

The Group of Seven Trail



**COVER IMAGE
PIXABAY**



Dressing for Winter

Layering for Comfort & Safety during Winter Backcountry Travel

Kelsey Johansen

Those who live on the North Shore of Lake Superior have a saying *"There's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing"*. Perhaps it's because they are hardy stock, but more likely it is because they know the secret to enjoying winter lies in layering your clothing.

Layering is an essential skill to master if you hope to enjoy the winter hiking, fatbiking, cross country or downhill skiing and snowshoeing season. Not only does layering help you stay warm, it helps you regulate your body temperature by slipping layers on and off according to the ambient conditions and your level of activity.

Any good layering system starts with your base layer. This "underwear" layer aims to wick moisture, like sweat or melted snow, away from your skin. As its primary function is moisture wicking, your base layer should be comprised of long-underwear-like items. This essential layer helps to prevent unwanted levels of cooling, including hypothermia.

In winter, your base layer should be heavyweight or expedition weight, depending on the length of your outdoor activities, and the extent of your exposure to the elements.

That's because thicker layers keep you warmer longer and wick away more moisture. Remember, when selecting your winter base layers cotton is a no-no - because it sponges up and retains water it can chill you. Your winter base layer items are best made out of synthetics like polyester and nylon, or natural fibers like merino wool and silk. Don't forget, your underwear (boxers, briefs and bras) should also be moisture wicking! And, don't forget to layer your socks.

Once you have your base layer sorted out, it's time to plan for your middle or insulating layer. This layer helps to retain your body heat, while

There's a big difference in the insulating properties needed for breaking a new snowshoe trail compared to resting during lunch!

Middle, insulating, layers come in a variety of options, including material and weight. Materials may be synthetic or natural, and while thicker materials are generally warmer, the efficiency of your insulating material is also an important consideration, as is its breathability and wind permeability.

For example, polyester fleece is available in light, mid, and heavy weights, stays warm when damp, and dries fast! Sounds ideal, right? There's one pivotal drawback though, it is highly breathable, meaning that wind blows right through it, causing rapid heat loss unless accompanied by a wind-

"There's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing".

protecting you from the cold.

The more efficiently that this layer traps that heat, the warmer you'll be, so you are going to want to plan not only for anticipated conditions but also consider layering this middle layer based on anticipated activity levels and periods of stationary inactivity.

proof outer layer. For this reason, depending on the weather conditions, a down or synthetic insulated jacket may be a better option.

Your outer layer, often referred to as the 'shell' shields you from wind and snow. Shells are essential in inclement weather, such as falling snow or ice rain, as they are constructed out of durable weather repellent material, enabling moisture to bead and roll off of you.



This prevents water pooling and seeping in to dampen your insulating and base layers. Typically shells fall into one of the following categories: waterproof / breathable and water-resistant/breathable; soft shells, and waterproof non-

breathable shells.

Waterproof and breathable outer shells tend to be the most functional and are the best options for the most severe weather. Water resistant and breathable shells are well suited to drizzly and breezy conditions as well as high levels of activity. Alternatively, soft shells, which emphasize breathability and may feature stretchable panels, are great choices for aerobic activities like breaking trail. Waterproof non-breathable shells are great for little to no activity, like ice fishing. Just remember to swap layers if you plan to exert yourself as its non-breathable properties will leave you drenched down to your base layer if you aren't careful.

While the above information is great for regulating your core body temperature, it is also important to consider your extremities. Because they are the furthest from your core, they are the most vulnerable to frostbite. While the first steps to preventing hypothermia and frostbite are staying warm, protecting your core, and staying dry, you also apply the principles of layering to your hands and feet!

Double layers of socks, including a wicking and insulating layer are

essential in winter, especially when being active.

Keep your feet dry, and choose a pair of boots that rises higher than the bottom cuff of your pants, and ideally higher than the snow. Invest in a pair of waterproof, winter rated, boots appropriate to the temperatures in your region.

Wet hands are cold hands, so be sure to purchase a good pair of waterproof gloves or mittens, or a removable waterproof mitten "shell" which can be slipped over your choice of gloves or mittens. This dual-purpose shell should also block the wind and as an added feature, it enables you to remove and replace your insulating mitten layer if it gets wet!

Consider adding an insulating layer to the inside of your boots, especially if you know you will be stationary. Special insulating boot liners can be purchased at most major retail stores and can be a real boon on an ice fishing trip!

Also important is avoiding tight clothing. For example, watchbands, shift cuffs and too-tight gloves or sox can cause poor circulation which in turn robs your extremities of heat, resulting in cold hands and feet.

Lastly, don't try to tough it out! If your fingers or toes get cold, stop and take time to check and warm them. Hand pocket warmer or toe warmer packs are a great way to warm your fingers, so be sure to bring a few in your first aid kit along with your ten essentials.



10 BACKCOUNTRY ESSENTIALS FOR WINTER

1. **Navigation**
Map | Compass | GPS
2. **Sun Protection**
Sunscreen | Lip balm | Sunglasses
3. **Insulation**
Jacket | Vest | Snow pants | Gloves | Hat
4. **Illumination**
Headlamp | Flashlight | Spare batteries
5. **First-Aid Supplies**
First Aid Kit
6. **Fire**
Matches | Lighter | Fire starter | Waterproof Container
7. **Repair Kit and Tools**
Knife | Multi-tool | Kits for Stove & Mattress | Duct Tape
8. **Nutrition**
Extra Day's Supply of Food
9. **Hydration**
Water bottles | Hydration System | Water Filter
10. **Emergency Shelter**
Tent | Tarp | Bivy | Reflective Blanket





HIKING AND BIKING THE NORTHSHORE WITH THE SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR RECREATION, PARKS & TOURISM

Harvey Lemelin

For over 40 years, the School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism (ORPT) at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario has provided thousands of students with various opportunities to experience the numerous trails located along the north-shore of Lake Superior.

Some of these opportunities have featured weekend hikes in Sleeping Giant Provincial Park, fall day hikes at Pigeon River Falls Provincial Park, and Kakabekka Fall Provincial Park, weekend trips to Neys Provincial Park. Fall and winter hikes along the Nor'Wester Mountains have also been included. Other multiple-day courses have featured the Casque Isles Hiking Trail, and the Coastal Trail in Pukaskwa National Park.

More recently, the School of ORPT has featured the mountain biking trails of the Shuniah Mines through a fatbiking and a mountain bike course. By providing these opportunities to undergraduate students (many of them first time visitors to the region), the School has introduced students to these trails and in some instances created "trail ambassadors" who have gone out to promote and even conduct research on our trails over the course of their studies at Lakehead.

From discussing the importance of trail management, to working with local and regional hiking associations, governmental agencies (like Ontario Parks and Parks Canada) and First Nations, I have as an instructor for many of these courses witnessed the growth and transformation that comes along with offering students these types of opportunities.

By including these groups in the

educational aspects of these courses, students have had an opportunity to discuss what trails mean to local citizens while also developing research strategies that are beneficial to all participants, not just students. Some of these outcomes in the hiking courses have included developing trail monitoring and assessment strategies along the Casque Isles Hiking Trail, the trails in Ruby Lake Provincial Park, and the Coastal Trail in Pukaskwa National Park.



In contested areas like Anemki Wajiw / Mount McKay in Thunder Bay where some citizens of the Fort William First Nation would prefer that individuals not summit the mountain, students have developed a hiking code of conduct and provided alternatives to summiting Anemki Wajiw /Mount McKay.

In addition to learning about the challenges and opportunities associated to managing mountain bike trails, students in the fat biking and mountain bike courses developed codes of conduct for fat biking and mountain biking. Interviews with fat bikers were also conducted to acquire a better understanding of the evolution of this new and emerging recreational activity. The results of this particular study and the results from other studies will be showcased at a fat biking symposium this November in Thunder Bay and at an international conference next year.



A fatbike (also called fat bike or fat-tire bike) is an off-road bicycle with oversized tires, typically 3.8 in (97 mm) or larger and rims 2.16 in (55 mm) or wider, designed for low ground pressure to allow riding on soft, unstable terrain, such as snow, sand, bogs and mud.

In addition, to providing opportunities to experience the various challenges and opportunities associated to hiking and biking in the region, each of these courses have highlighted the importance of Leave No Trace and other various trail etiquettes, the development of code of conducts with First Nations and communities, and the importance of working with and for local / regional partners and governmental agencies.

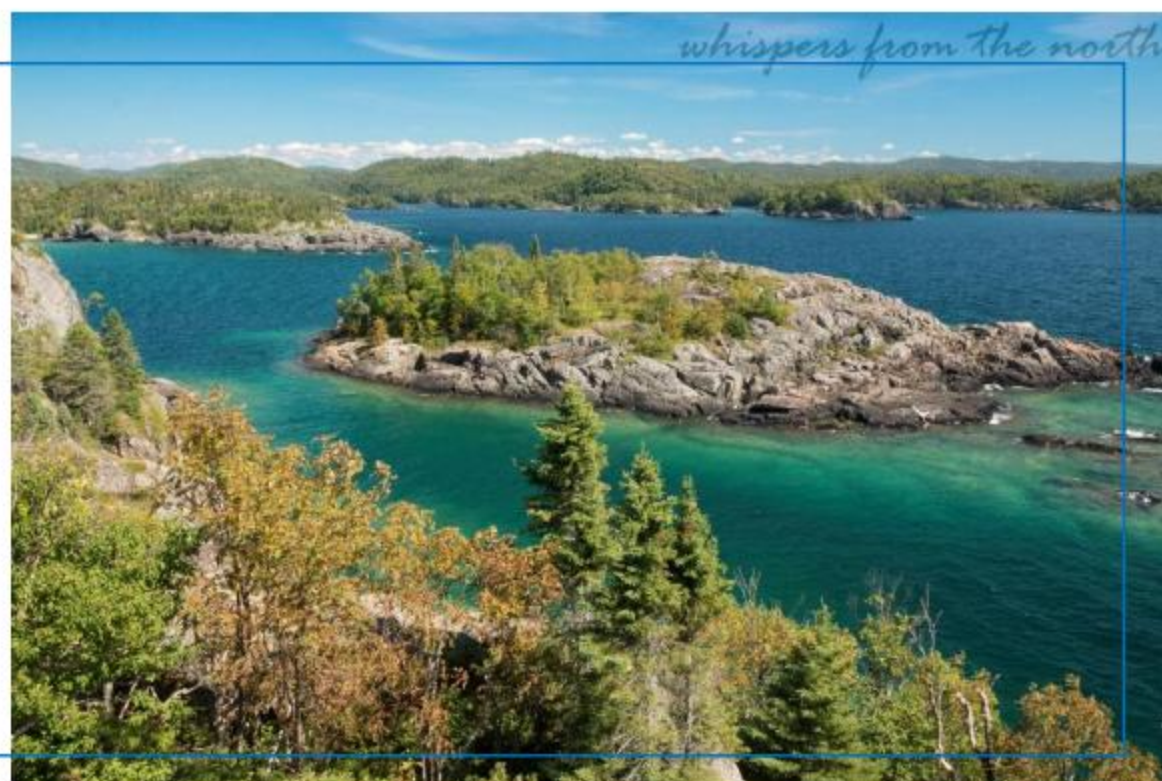
It is crucial that students understand these aren't simply "hiking" or "biking" courses, they are in fact, educational and research opportunities incorporating hiking and biking which will enrich not only their educational experiences but hopefully inspire a lifetime commitment to trails.





CAPTURING THE WILDNESS OF LAKE SUPERIOR

Elaine Wiersma



As a transplant from southern Ontario, I have had the privilege of being witness to the beauty of northwestern Ontario. I moved to Thunder Bay in 2004 and fell in love with the landscape here. It was my husband and my parents (who are, ironically, from southern Ontario) who encouraged me to discover the beauty of this place I called home.

I've always loved the outdoors, always loved hiking and walking, and loved taking photos. It was about 5 years ago when I began to combine all three—my love of the outdoors, hiking, and photography.

It began as a search for wellness and documenting that search. Thus, began my journey to capture the beauty around me. Photography motivated me to get out hiking regularly, and hiking brought me to the amazing places that I could photograph. So, it became a mutual love. I could not do one without the other.

Over the years, there are a few things I have learned about photographing this beautiful place.

First, don't be afraid to explore. There are so many places here to explore, some just in my backyard and some just beyond. Hike a new trail. See what lays beyond the next bend. Nipigon trails are a favourite of mine, particularly Deer Lake Mountain where it is so rare to run across others on the hiking trail. I've been constantly amazed by the volunteers who clearly spend so much time making and maintaining these spectacular trails, and who are so generous to share their "secret hideaways" with others.

Second, hike in all seasons. You won't truly appreciate a place until you've seen and photographed it in all seasons. Visit a place often, and see beauty take different forms. Of course, make sure you dress for the weather (Find out more on layering for the cold in our article on page 6).

Third, hone your vision. Stand in one place and look around you. Often. Stand still and look for the beauty to capture. You will see things that you otherwise would never see.



Fourth, think small not just big. Some of the most beautiful photos can be of micro-landscapes. A wildflower or a butterfly flitting. The last leaf hanging on a tree as snow is falling. Beauty is found not just in grand landscapes, but in the small landscapes too.

Fifth, photograph during all times of the day, but particularly in the morning and evening “golden hours”. You will find your photos shine.

Sixth, always, always carry your camera with you. I never know when I am going to catch the “perfect” scene, but I’m certainly less likely to capture it if I don’t carry my camera with me wherever I go. I call these “happy surprises”.

And finally, practice, practice, practice. You won’t become a better photographer if you don’t take photos. And lots of them. Some will be good. Some not so good. But it’s about the process of becoming as much as the outcome.





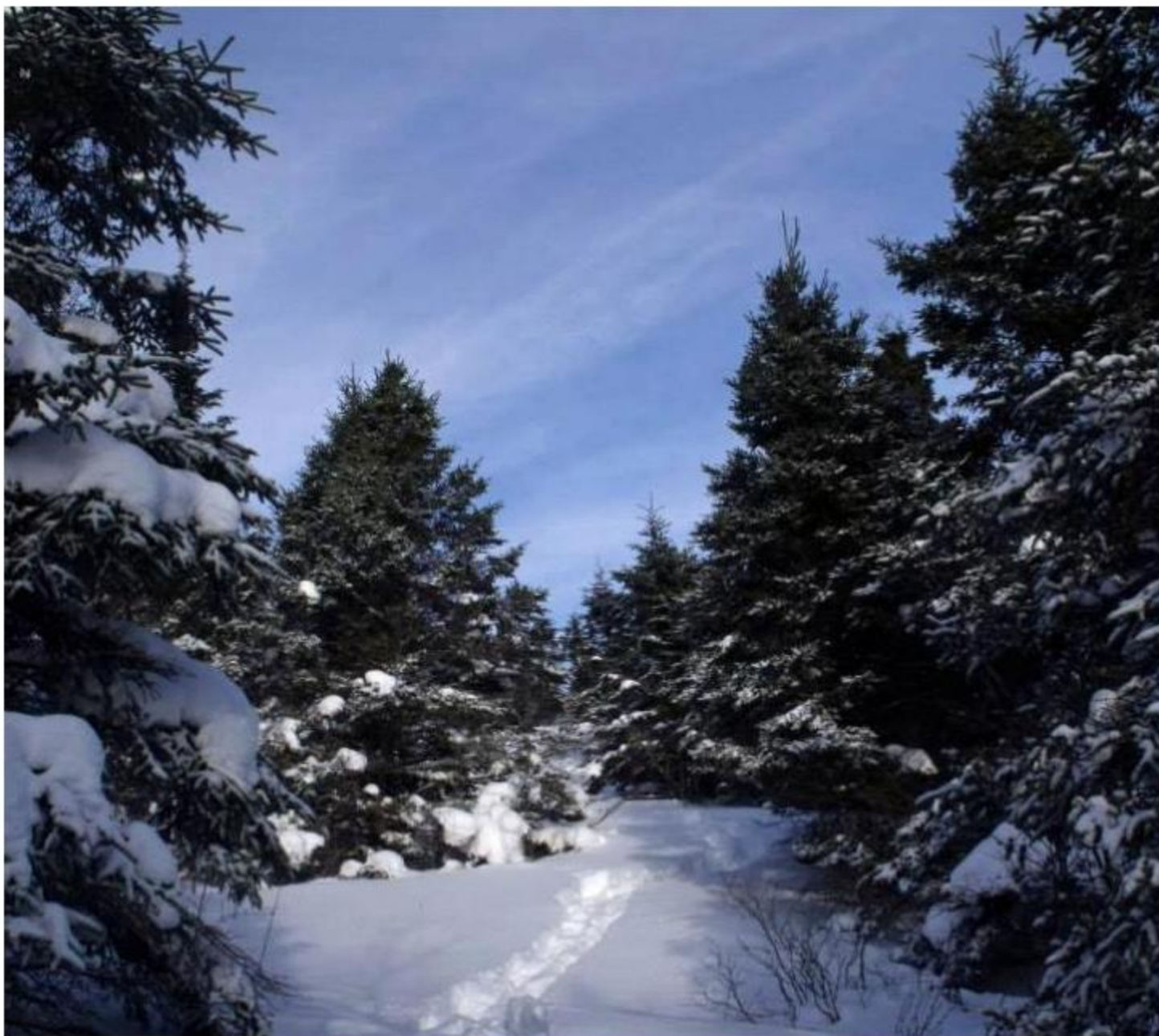
I've learned a lot over the last five years—about myself and pushing my limits, about the courage it takes to call myself an artist and photographer and the vulnerability of putting my work out for others to see. But mostly, I have learned about this amazing place I get to call home—about the ever-changing landscape, about the sounds of stillness, about the ways that light transforms, about stopping to see moments of beauty. I have become a different person because of the beauty and healing of the land of northwestern Ontario.

Please, don't miss out on the opportunities to discover yourself. And be sure to bring your camera to capture these beautiful moments.

Elaine is a professor, photographer and multi-media artist, living and working on the Northshore of Lake Superior. You can follow her work on [Facebook](#) and Instagram at [@WhispersFromTheNorth](#) or visit her website, including her hiking photography blog, at <http://www.whispersfromthenorth.ca/>

Thank you to all our amazing Community Partners, Land Owners, Trail Adopters, Clubs, Volunteers and Members.

We couldn't do it without you!





Thank You Carole!

Steve Dominy

The Voyageur Trail Association Annual General Meeting held Oct. 19 marked the end of Carole Blaquiére's tenure as Association President. Having held the position for six years, she has decided to step down.

An emotional Blaquiére shared some parting words at the AGM, and received a hearty ovation from members present. She was thanked for having made significant progress on a number of fronts.

Her accomplishments were particularly significant given the fact she started a new business venture during her tenure.

VTA Treasurer Kees Van Frankenhuyzen, an accomplished stained-glass artist in his spare time, surprised everyone by presenting to the outgoing President a custom piece of his art at this Sugar Shack gathering in Sault Ste. Marie.

The intricate circular piece drew compliments for its creative

design, which depicted Lake Superior coastline and a stylized bear symbol similar to the logo of Carole's business, Blaq Bear Adventures.

Carole has agreed to remain on the executive as Interim President, with the sole objective of identifying a candidate to replace her. Meanwhile, club affairs will be handled in a shared fashion by club Presidents. From all of us at the Voyageur Trail Association, and its member clubs, Thank you Carole!

REFLECTING ON THE 2019 AGM

Carole Blaquiere



Following the end of our 2019 AGM on October 19th, members of the Coordinating Council and volunteers headed out on the trail to install one of the new Saulteaux trailhead signs.

This year's Voyageur Trail Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) was for the period April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2019. It was held on October 19, 2019 at the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority Sugar Shack in Sault Ste. Marie. It was attended by 14 people of which 12 were current members. The 2 others joined that day. We started the meeting with the Annual Report that was read by Carole Blaquiere. The report highlighted VTA achievements over the year including the new website, trailhead signs and other projects.

The financial statements, and audit were reviewed and passed. These are available upon request. We asked Susan Graham and Gail Jones if they would be willing audit the financials again next year and Susan accepted.

The updated executive positions listed in the By-Laws were voted on and approved. These changes affected the Publicity Director, Social Media, Trail Master and Volunteer Coordinator positions, all of which are listed on the website.

There were a number of changes to the executive coordinating council. Carole Blaquiere, stepped down as president and as Hike Ontario representative. Tricia Kelly stepped down as secretary, and Jillian Marquis stepped down as volunteer coordinator. However, Carole Blaquiere will remain the interim president (restricting the duties severely), while Tricia Kelly will take on the position of Hike Ontario representative and help with minutes until a new secretary is found.

Mark Crofts stepped up as Vice President Central and ask that other club presidents consider the remaining VP West and VP East positions. Also, Harvey Lemelin volunteered for the position of Trail Master and Kelsey Johannsen stepped up to volunteer for the Social Media Coordinator and Newsletter Editor positions. We also confirmed Sandra Turgeon as webmaster and member at large, a position that she has been holding since the beginning of 2019.

After the business of the AGM was completed, a tasty lunch was provided by Feeding Your Soul and Carole was presented a stunning stained-glass piece of art that Kees van Frankenhuyzen created as a thank you gift (see Thank You Carole! article on page 17). The day was completed by installing one of the Saulteaux Trailhead signs not too far from the AGM venue.

If you are interested in taking on a role to support the Voyageur Trail Association at the Coordinating Council level, please email us at: info@voyageurtrail.ca. The following positions are open, until filled:

- Vice President - East;
- Vice President - West;
- Secretary; and,
- Publicity Director.

For more information about joining the VTA and its member clubs, please see our notice on page 28. Otherwise, information about member benefits can be found at: <https://www.voyageurtrail.ca/memberships/> Furthermore, information about starting your own local club can be found at: <https://www.voyageurtrail.ca/resources/benefits-of-forming-a-local-club/>.





GROUP OF SEVEN TRAIL GALA

MARATHON CAPTURED ON CANVAS

November 23, Saturday, 7 PM
Loyal Order of the Moose, Marathon



*An evening dedicated
to appreciating why the Group of Seven fell in love with
Marathon. We will have music, fashion, hors d'oeuvres,
and a silent auction.*

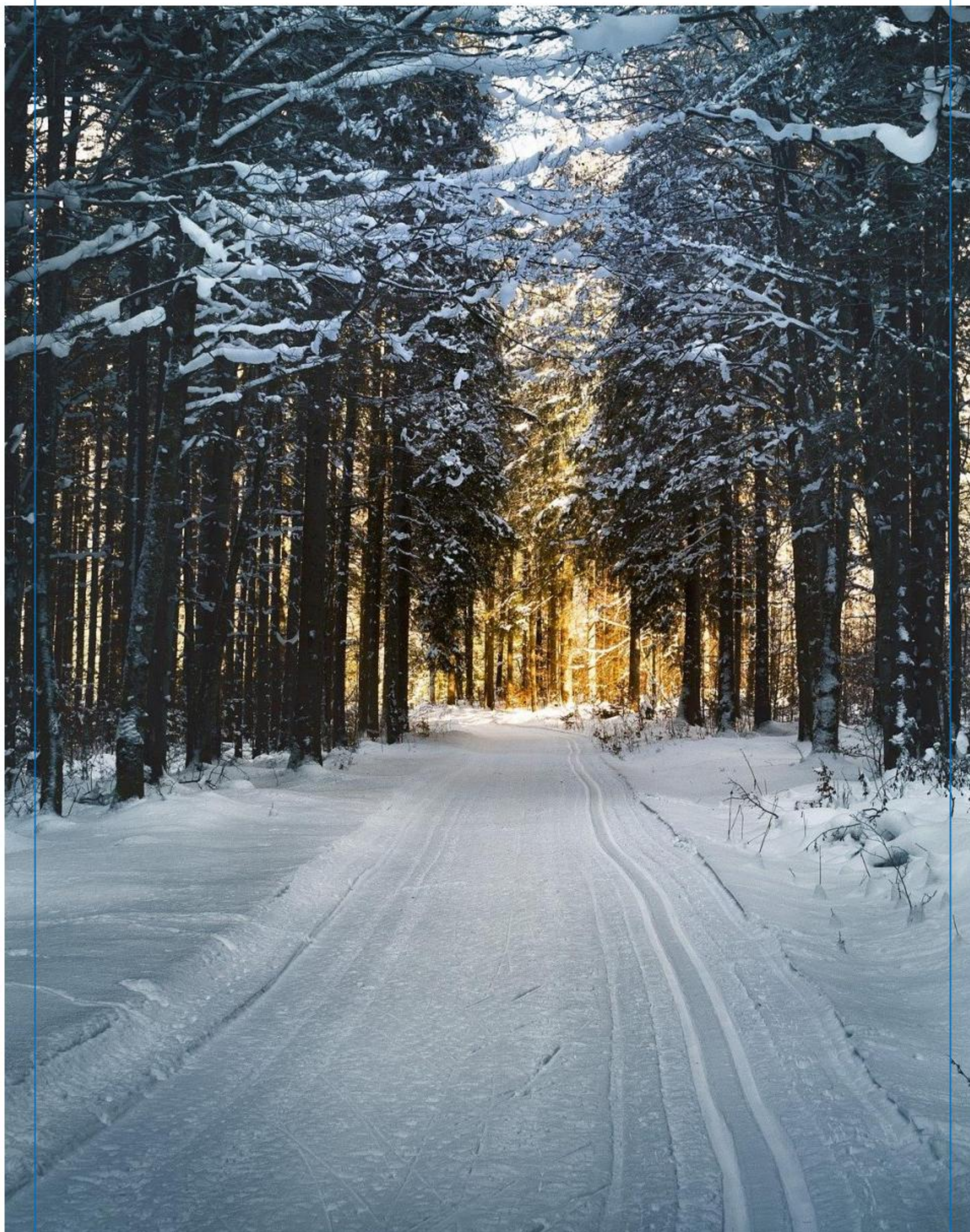
TICKETS FOR PURCHASE AT: GROUPOFSEVENTRAIL.COM



CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS SPRING 2020 ISSUE

If you are interested in contributing to our Spring 2020 Issue, please contact Kelsey Johansen (Newsletter Editor) at KelseyMJohansen@gmail.com. Each issue contains a regional trail feature, highlighting an area of the trail; if there is a trail that your Club maintains, and that you would like featured, please be in touch. Deadline for submission for the Spring 2020 Issue are February 1st 2020.





TRAIL ETIQUETTE FOR WINTER MIXED USE TRAILS

Kelsey Johansen

1. Research the trail's accepted uses before you arrive at the trail head. This ensures that you know whether mixed use is permitted in winter, and how the trail group defines mixed use. For example, the Voyageur Trail Association permits all people-powered transportation, but not snowmobiles. Some of our partner organizations have designated trails marked for individual sports. This ensures that trails specially groomed to support activities like classic cross-country skiing aren't destroyed by fatbiking, snowshoes or crampons. Also note, most groomed trails do not permit pets.

2 Check the trail's winter opening date. Some trails require extra grooming and specific winter conditions in order to open. For example, winter skating trails may require a set depth of ice whereas trails that go through sensitive areas may require ample snow over to avoid damage to fragile vegetation.

3 Once at the trail, avoid groomed trails and stay out of ski tracks. Of course, this applies to hikers, but it also applies to snowshoers, as well as skate skiers and fatbikers. It can be really dangerous to catch your skis on a hole or frozen cut when skiing down a steep hill on classic skis so be diligent!

4 Don't hog the trail. This applies when you are actively moving and when at rest. If you need to stop – be it for a break, a photo op, or a snack – be courteous to your fellow trail users and step to the side of the trail, being careful to avoid groomed tracks. This is especially important on shared trails where skiers have less maneuverability than more agile hikers using crampons. On a break, keep the trail clear of all fatbikes, skis, snowshoes, backpacks, etc.

5. Remember, faster moving bikers, skiers, and hikers, have the right of way. If you are moving slower, or hiking with children or a large group give way to faster moving trail users. This is especially important when on a graded slope or at a crossroads. Always let the faster downhill fatbiker, skier, or hiker go first at a crossroads! Downhill traffic is almost always faster, and it gives the uphill traffic a much-needed break.

6. Avoid post-holing! Don't be that hiker, who has assumed they won't need their snowshoes. Always bring them to every trailhead, not you're your crampons. Depth of snow coverage can vary across the trail length and you never know when you may need them. Trail that get full of postholes (caused by hikers plunging through the snow) are dangerous for other trail users.



JOIN THE 120th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Kelsey Johansen

If you're looking for a new way to enjoy the trail this winter, consider participating in the 2019-2020 Christmas Bird Count! The Christmas Bird Count is a program of the National Audubon Society and is hosted but Bird Studies Canada. The annual Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) are a festive holiday tradition welcoming birders of all skill levels.

Started over a century ago, the Christmas Bird Count is the longest running Citizen Science project in Canada, and spans over 2000 localities throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Each Christmas Bird Count is conducted on a single day between December 14 and January 5. Counts are carried out within a 24-km diameter circle that stays the same from year to year.

According to Bird Studies Canada (2019) "the information collected by thousands of volunteer participants forms one of the world's largest sets of wildlife survey data. The results are used daily by conservation biologists and naturalists to assess the population trends and distribution of birds".

For more information about the history of the Christmas Bird count, visit:

<https://www.audubon.org/conservation/history-christmas-bird-count>

If you are interested in being involved this year, please contact:

**Canadian Christmas Bird
Count Coordinator**
Bird Studies Canada
1-888-448-BIRD(2473)
cbc@birdscanada.org







Group of Seven Lake Superior Trail

VTA TRAIL FEATURE:

The Group of Seven Trail

Kirsten Spence

The North Shore of Lake Superior is one of the most beautiful landscapes. It so inspired the founding members of Canada's internationally renowned Group of Seven that they made numerous painting trips (every autumn) to the Marathon area between 1921 and 1928. These painters discovered what our First Nations have known for thousands of years: the land bordering Lake Superior is a *landscape of inspiration*. In the words of J.E.H. MacDonald upon seeing Lake Superior for the first time, "*The most impressive sight on this trip was a view of Lake Superior. There was a sharpness in the air which merged the horizon with the sky and that smooth shimmering infinity of waters was like a glimpse of God himself.*"

Generations of Canadians have grown up knowing these images which define our national identity. The scenes the Group captured have drawn national and international acclaim. When the 2012 Group of Seven exhibition "Painting Canada" was on display in London England's Dulwich Picture Gallery, it proved to be the fourth most popular exhibition in the gallery's 200-year history.

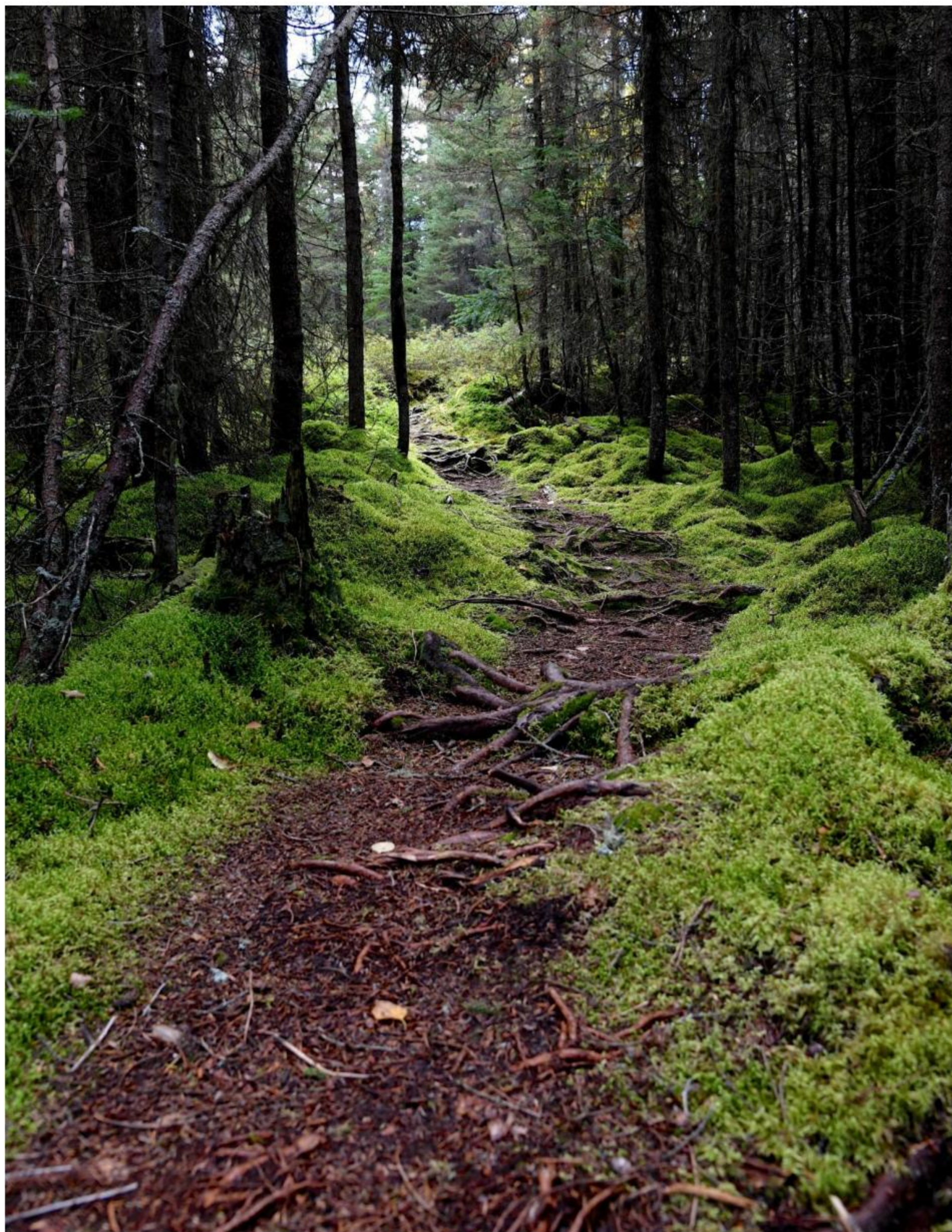
The Group of Seven Lake Superior Trail will connect some of the painting sites of the Group of Seven from Pukaskwa National Park to Neys Provincial Park. This project will allow fellow Canadians and visitors to explore our Canadian identity through the iconic painting locations of the Group of Seven.

The trail paired with an interpretive program will tell the story of the Lake Superior effect on the Group of Seven.

The Marathon area is uniquely situated along the coast of Lake Superior allowing for the Group of Seven Lake Superior Trail to have sites on both land and water. The land trail route is also part of the Voyageur Trail from Pukaskwa National Park to Marathon. As the VTA's long-term goal of connecting Sudbury/Manitoulin to Thunder Bay, this new trail project would provide more land trail to help make that connection. The central water route is the 1,000km Lake Superior Water Trail between Sault Ste Marie and Thunder Bay developed by Trans Canada Trail and the Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy. For more information, please visit: www.groupofseventrail.com









The Voyageur Trail Association

The Voyageur Trail Association (VTA) was founded in 1973 with a vision to work with volunteers and partner organizations to build a continuous wilderness-style hiking trail from Sudbury through Sault Ste. Marie to Thunder Bay, a distance of some 1,100 km paralleling the rugged Northern Ontario shores of Lake Huron and Lake Superior.

The Voyageur Trail is a true wilderness trail, some remote or little used sections may be difficult due to fallen trees or regrowth. Use at your own risk.

The Voyageur Trail Association is a non-profit, charitable organization. REG. #119261923RR0001.

The Voyageur Trail Association is comprised of a Coordinating Council with elected members representing the Association's membership at regional and national stakeholder levels through organizations like Hike Ontario.

Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council of the Voyageur Trails Association is comprised of the Executive, Members-at-Large, and the Directors. At the 2019 AGM the following positions were filled:

President: Vacant

Vice President - East: Vacant

Vice President - West: Vacant

Treasurer: Kees van Frankenhuyzen

Secretary: Vacant

Publicity Director: Vacant

Social Media Coordinator: Kelsey Johansen

Newsletter Editor: Kelsey Johansen

Trails Master: Harvey Lemelin

Trails Data Manager: Heath Bishop

Webmaster: Sandra Turgeon

Insurance Coordinator: Larry Gringorten

Membership Coordinator: Chris Kuntz

Guidebook Chair: Steve Dominy

Hike Ontario Rep: Tricia Kelly

If you are interested in fulfilling one of these roles, please email us at: info@voyageurtrail.ca

Clubs

The Saulteaux VTA Club was the first Voyageur Trail Club established in 1974. Headquartered in Sault Ste. Marie this Club champions the Saulteaux, Desbarats, Thessalon and Echo Ridge sections of the Trails.

The 44 km Penewobikong section of the Voyageur Trail was developed by original member Norm Ledielt who maintained the trail from 1973 to 1995. Today this section from Granary to Iron Bridge is maintained by a small dedicated team of three who make up the Penewobikong Hiking Club.

The Coureurs de Bois VTA Club is headquartered in Elliot Lake, Ontario, Canada and stewards the Coureurs de Bois section of the Trail.

The Marathon VTA Club, which is comprised of the newly established Group of Seven Trail as well as the Picnic Table Lookout trail, Hawks Ridge Trail and Lunam Lake Lookout Trail is comprised of regional stakeholders including Pic River First Nation, Parks Canada and the Marathon Economic Development Corporation.

Spanning, Terrace Bay to Rosspoint, the Casque Isle VTA Club derives its name from John Bigsby's 1823 appraisal of Superior's north shore from the top of Pic Island. This Club manages the Casque Isle Trail in conjunction with regional partners like Ontario Parks.

On September 1st, 2012 the Voyageur Trail Association welcomed its first new Club in over 30 years. The Nor'wester Voyageur Trail Club spans from the Casque Isle Trail VTA Club north through the communities of Nipigon, Red Rock, Dorion, Hurkett, Shuniah, Thunder Bay and Neebing to the Ontario / Minnesota border at Pigeon River.

Become a Member Today!

Purchasing a VTA membership demonstrates your support for the vision and work of the Voyageur Trail Association. As a not-for-profit organization, the VTA depends on donations, volunteers, and membership revenue to support its operations.

Members are eligible for exclusive discounts at participating businesses along the trail route and enjoy voting privileges at annual meetings. Most importantly, purchasing a membership means you have played an important part in the development of a 1,100 km hiking trail through some of Ontario's most splendid wilderness. A paid membership supports trail maintenance, insurance for our guided hikes, as well as production of the VT Newsletter and Guidebook.

Memberships can be purchased for either a one or three year duration, and include Individual and Family (all individuals residing at the same address) memberships. Discounted Student memberships are also available (for 1- or 3-year durations).

Memberships can be purchased on our website at <https://www.voyageurtrail.ca/memberships/> or visit our online store to purchase the official Voyageur Trail Association Guidebook, or trail guides. You can also purchase advertising space in our Newsletter, Guidebook or on our Website, or make a charitable donation to the Association at <https://www.voyageurtrail.ca/shop/>.

FIND OUT MORE:

www.voyageurtrail.ca

www.facebook.com/voyageurtrailassociation



THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

