



# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION, A MEMBER OF F.O.H.T.A.

BOX 66, SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO P6A 5L2

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1979 04 15



STEPPING INTO SPRING

(Sault Star Photo)

### MEMBERSHIP -- WHY BOTHER?

The membership of the Voyageur Trail Association is growing steadily. We now have over 240 members (many more if one were to count individual family members). Yet, we are always anxious to add new members! Why? Probably the most obvious reason is, simply, that trails do not build and maintain themselves. Someone has to do it! Our brochure states that the VTA "is a volunteer, non-profit citizens' group dedicated to developing and maintaining, for the use of the public and with the cooperation of landowners . . ." Because we are volunteers (no strings attached) we gain that essential co-operation through conscientious trail maintenance (which includes not only marking but also controlling litter). So we need members who enjoy getting out and doing a favour for themselves (building trail is not only healthful exercise, but then there's something to hike on when you're through) but for their fellow citizens as well. Elsewhere in this newsletter there was described where some of the membership money goes. Many members simply cannot get out to build trail -- but their membership money and donations go to a good cause.

There's another side too. The more members we have, the more homes the Voyageur Trail News reaches, the better known our trail becomes. Did you know that we've received enquiries about the Voyageur Trail from as far away as England, and Holland, and recently, Belgium! And the Voyageur Trail traverses rugged, sparsely-populated areas. Association members can buy the Guide Book at a reduced rate and the Voyageur Trail News contains information of re-alignments and gives many useful hiking and woods-safety tips. Bought any hiking equipment lately? Several firms (see VT News) give discounts to VTA members. Besides, if you enjoy hiking, the larger the membership of the VTA, the stronger the voice with which it can speak out on hiking issues!

YOUR continued membership in the VTA is essential, and we always welcome NEW members. If you know someone who is interested in the VTA or just in hiking, please introduce him or her to the VTA. There's a membership form at the back of every copy of the Voyageur Trail News.

#### SLIDE SHOWS FOR GROUP TALKS

The Association would be happy to make available a set of titled slides to interested sections. This would be a short-term loan and would consist of some 80 slides in a KODAK Caroussel circular tray sent via REGISTERED MAIL or PUROLATOR COURIER. If you indicate your specific needs or the type of group to be addressed, we will send you a special selection. It can be done on short notice; try us if you have any doubts. Contact Dieter Rapke at 253-8375, or Paul Syme at 254-4791.)

## VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION WINTER ACTIVITIES 1979

**New Year's Day** A small group took part and had a very enjoyable afternoon. Snow levels were suitable for cross country skiing and so that was the order of the day. They skied into the trail and a short distance along it and were back to the cars in time to get home for dinner or visiting.

**Echo Ridges Trail** A good sized group set off about 2 p.m. up the hill and across the lake and into the woods. There were some ice fisherman on the lake but they had caught only one fish. Four novice snow-shoers turned back after a short distance into the woods and the rest went on for a beautiful afternoon of snow-shoeing in the fresh snow.

**Moonlight Snowshoe hike** There were quite a few turned out for this annual affair but the moon forgot the date. However, the snow was fresh enough to reflect some light and the trail wide enough to cause no problems and so a pleasant and exhilarating evening was enjoyed. Snowshoes were necessary this year as there was no hard-packed snowmobile trail to walk on as there had been last year.

**Desbarats Trail** Although the number who turned up for the hike was disappointingly small the event went on anyway and the day's snowshoeing was enjoyed. We had hoped for more people in that area to turn out to enjoy the trail.

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## VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION SUMMER ACTIVITIES 1979

**May 12 Sat. 12.30** Michipicoten Trail Club Hike: A hike for all the people in Wawa area as well as anyone who'd like to join them. MEET: At the New Era Motel on Pinewood Drive.  
LENGTH: A 2-3 hour walk.

**May 13 Sun. 2 p.m.** CONSERVATION WEEK PUBLIC HIKE: This year a different route has been chosen. We will go through deep woods north of Hiawatha Park. Wear sturdy walking shoes as the path may be a little rough in spots, and also a little damp. There will be a change in the variety of flowers to be found here, and as usual hikers are asked not to pick them. Leave them for the people coming after you to see and enjoy.  
MEET: At the Kinsmen Club parking lot in Kinsmen Park.  
COFFEE will be served at Hiawatha 2 Lodge. Be sure to get your ticket for it at the start of the hike.  
CARS will not be shuttled so you may walk as far along the trail as you wish and then return.  
AN OUTDOOR CHURCH SERVICE will be held at 1.30 p.m. in Kinsmen Park before the hike.

June 24 THESALON AREA: Highway #129 to Basswood Lake, a new part of the trail  
 Sunday that is especially beautiful.  
 8.30 a.m. LENGTH: About 7 miles.  
 MEET: At Carolyn Beach Motel at 8.30 a.m.  
 BRING: Lunch and a cool drink.  
 LEADER: Dieter Ropke. Phone - 253-8375

July 10 EVENING HIKE: When the heat of the day is past a July evening is a  
 Tues. perfect time for a walk in the woods and a late supper.  
 6 p.m. MEET: On the Carpin Beach Road at the Second Line. We will walk  
 west on the trail to the Creek Road. Bring insect repellent.  
 LEADER: Bert Dearing. Phone: 256-7796.

Aug. 4-6 SCHREIBER BACKPACKING WEEKEND: North Shore of Lake Superior. This  
 Long will be our first organized backpacking trip. You will see that  
 Weekend segment of the VOYAGEUR TRAIL which links the towns of Terrace Bay  
 and Schreiber, Ontario. This segment was initially constructed in  
 1975 under an 'S.W.O.R.D. Experience 75' grant under the leadership  
 of Tom McGrath. It has since become an integral part of the VOYAGEUR  
 TRAIL and will eventually be linked with other VTC segments like the  
 Pukaskwa National Park shoreline trail and south through Lake  
 Superior Park to Gros Cap, the hub of the east-west trail.

The backpack will commence at the Aguasabon Trailer Park, on the  
 Aguasabon River just west of Terrace Bay, Ontario at 8:00 a.m.,  
 Saturday, 4 August 1979 and it will end at Schreiber, Monday, 6 August  
 1979. The scenery is spectacular and travelling is considered moderately  
 difficult. Come prepared and try to limit the weight of your pack to  
 20 to 25% of your body weight, 30 to 40 lbs. maximum. The group will  
 be accompanied by a member of the Schreiber VTC. A number of participants  
 may wish to extend the backpacking trip for an extra day by walking  
 west from the Schreiber terminus; the official portion of the backpack  
 ends at Schreiber on Monday, 6 August. We must reserve the right to  
 limit the number of participants. Please direct questions and make  
 your intentions known to Dieter Ropke, Voyageur Trail Association,  
 Box 66, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6A 5L2 or phone (705) 253-8375.

Approximate distances Thunder Bay to Terrace Bay 270 km (170 miles)  
 Sault Ste. Marie to Terrace Bay 464 km (290 miles)  
Maps for those who wish to bring their own SCHREIBER 42D/14E  
 SCHREIBER 42D/14W

Aug. 25 ECHO RIDGES TRAIL CLUB: Maud Lake area. A stretch of the trail that  
 Sat. has been described as 'the most beautiful'.  
 9 a.m. MEET: In Garden River at the Catholic Church on Highway 17  
 LENGTH: Drive 16 miles return. Walk 1½ hours.  
 BRING: Lunch  
 LEADER: Dick McCutcheon. Phone: 254-3007  
 This is an opportunity to see an especially beautiful part of the trail  
 that usually can be reached only after a five mile hike in to it. We  
 will have a permit to take a short cut through the Indian reserve.

Sept. 30 ONTARIO HIKING DAY: More about this in the next newsletter.  
 Sunday

Oct. 20 V.T.A. ANNUAL MEETING: Plan ahead for this weekend as we hope to have  
 Sat. a whole day's activities in the western area of the trail.



## SAULTEAUX ANNUAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 12, 1979

The annual meeting of the Saulteaux Section of the Voyageur Trail Association was held Monday, February 12, 1979 at the Civic Centre. Twenty members were present. President Ralph Yanni welcomed everyone to the fifth annual meeting.

1979 EXECUTIVE

A motion was made by Mrs. Mahlman that the 78 executive be voted in by acclamation. It was seconded by Ian Morrison and carried.

Thus the 1979 EXECUTIVE of the Saulteaux Section is as follows:

PRESIDENT	- RALPH YANNI
VICE PRESIDENT	- BERT DEARING
TREASURER	- NANCY JONDREAU
SECRETARY	- RITA BERTOLI

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

It was noted that the ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE had functioned well in 1978 and had set up a variety of hikes during the year. Ontario Hiking Day 1978 was well attended again, and again ahead of other areas of the province. If anyone has any ideas for different trips or meetings don't hesitate to let us know and we're sure something can be organized.

TREASURER'S REPORT was read by Nancy Jondreau. It was moved the statement be approved.

GREETING CARD DISTRIBUTION to the landowners was a success again this year, many landowners being quite pleased to be called on personally. This year the card carried a picture of the Shaw Dam, from the trail.

CONSERVATION WEEK has been tentatively set for the second week of May. Discussion was held as to where the hike should take place, keeping in mind it is very early and many areas are not very dry. This will be decided upon at a later date. It was agreed that we should have the church service again.

It is quite an honour that the new TRAIL MASTER, Father A. Megan, and the Deputy Trail Master, Tom Allinson, are both from the Saulteaux Club. Father Megan gave an informative talk on the different areas of the trails and how he would like to have the trail records organized.

A PUBLICITY COMMITTEE was formed this fall with 7 members, with Judy Falkins as Chairperson.

There will be a 3 day hiking conference in May 1980 at Trent University in Peterborough. It will be called HIKE ONTARIO. It will mainly try to get people acquainted with hiking.

Mr. D. Ropke showed slides of a trip that was taken in May to ISLE ROYALE by a number of club members. It was a very interesting presentation.

THANKS TO THE CITY for the use of the meeting room and to the members of the executive for their help during the year.

## F.O.H.T.A. NEWS

The Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations (FOHTA) represents 10 of the hiking trail associations in Ontario, including the V.T.A., or about 12,000 memberships which translates into 35,000 bodies, and about 2,100 km of trails. FOHTA is made up of a board of 2 representatives from each member association (presently P. Syme and R. Wood for the V.T.A.) and is financed through an assessment of \$20 plus 10¢ per association membership. Travel expenses are subsidized by grants from the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation, of particular value to remote delegates.

The objectives of FOHTA are:

1. To provide co-ordination among hiking trail organizations.
2. To act as a means of communication between hiking trail organizations and all levels of government on matters of common concern.
3. To encourage interest in hiking.
4. To encourage the establishment and maintenance of trails for non-motorized useage.
5. To promote conservation of the natural environment.

To these ends and particularly to establish awareness of hiking in the minds of the public and politicians, FOHTA is encouraging support for the beleaguered Niagara Escarpment Commission, has contributed an intensive brief to the Ontario Trails Council, is publicizing hiking through the National Sportsman's Show each year in Toronto, and is working with the Ontario government as a representative of hikers on a variety of topics.

FOHTA created and sponsors Ontario Hiking Day, whose 5th anniversary will be September 30, 1979, and is planning a first-ever conference for Ontario hikers, called "Hike Ontario", to be held at Trent University in Peterborough during the Victoria Day weekend in 1980. Reserve the time now. It's goind to be a most enjoyable and educational family event. More details will be published in future newsletters.

P.D. Syme, FOHTA Rep.

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#### AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT -- CALL AHEAD

On occasion it has been necessary to cancel certain activities. We apologize to those who have been disappointed. To avoid such disappointment and inconvenience in the future, please call the leader (see schedule of activities, pp 3-4) the day before to indicate your interest and confirm that the event is "Go".

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### ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHERS

The V.T.A. is building a collection of slides that reflect the range of activities on the entire trail over a period of years. So far we have a number which depict such activities as examination of aerial photos, trail construction and maintenance hiking on the trail and many more. There still is need for photographic records of the changing seasons and various activities on different sections.

Although we have yet to find our first film wrapper on the trail, we know that many rolls of film are exposed on the trail each year. If you have any extra slides, please consider letting us have them. Should you have more than a few, we would be happy to reimburse you for the slides. When you are building that small bridge, take a picture of it. Photographic records will aid in assessing construction methods and in improving our techniques over the years to eliminate costly maintenance by altering methodology such as treatment of timbers etc. A slide will accurately record the date of construction long after the builders have forgotten.

We have particular need for slides from the Echo Ridges Section and all Sections North and West of Sault Ste. Marie.

With some 170 slides in our possession, all but a few of which having been donated, we gratefully acknowledge the many contributions to date and the consistently high quality of the slides. Several of these have been reproduced in black and white for the front page of the newsletter.

A happy summer to you and your camera.

### WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO?

The question is a good one. Our trail is built by volunteers, mostly members who do it because they like building trails! But there are some expenses. A case in point: flagging tape. Last week we laid in a new supply which we hope will last us for two or three years. The cost including shipping, however, came to over \$150. We use flagging tape for initial route location. Why? Because it is highly visible (we usually use bright blue), convenient (if other years are any indication we expect to locate 50-60 km of trail this year) and most important -- temporary. If the initial route has to be re-aligned or when the trail itself is built and marked permanently, it can be taken down, leaving no trace. We do use it sparingly -- a piece every few tens of paces, but that's a lot of pieces in 50-60 km. To go around a 3-foot diameter yellow birch would take 13 feet; to go around a 2-inch diameter sapling would take about 8 inches -- and is just as effective. The trail-building crew normally takes down the flagging tape once the permanent markings are made (unfortunately the bits and pieces are seldom worth re-using). Occasional however, because of changed light conditions or because it has fallen to the ground a piece is missed. If you are hiking a recently-completed section of trail and find such a piece, please pick it up, take it home and dispose of it. The removal of any unsightly litter always improves the appearance of the trail! Where does your money go? Flagging tape for one thing -- then, there's paint, and tools, and . . .

## THE TRAIL USER'S CODE - IN DEPTH (4)

## LEAVE FLOWERS AND PLANTS FOR OTHERS TO ENJOY.

With the snow fast disappearing, the forest will soon be filled with the early spring wildflowers - adders tongue, spring beauty, Dutchman's Breeches and many more. It is a delightful time to get back out on the trail, and an appropriate time to seriously consider the above item from the Trail User's Code. Picking wildflowers is a pastime that implies vast resources that can hardly be depleted. One can conjure up the picture of a young girl with an armful of daisies, sitting in a field of daisies - say a million or so. That's a pittance, you think, 0.01%. What harm can there be in that? Yet, our Provincial Flower, the white trillium nearly was picked out of existence.

When there are a lot of people involved, it doesn't take long to destroy what seems to be indestructable. A hiking trail is a place where people are concentrated, and although I'm not suggesting hikers will bring about the extinction of a flower species, it is entirely conceivable that a few extraordinary displays of flowers or plants alongside the trail can be destroyed by those very people who delighted in them, but weren't content to retain this beauty in their memories or capture it on film.

The elimination of the trailside flowers lessens the experience of those that follow, and to what end? Literally, all of the woodland wildflowers have a very short life after being picked and most will not survive until one gets them home to water. Even if one succeeds, the maximum length of life is only a day or two at the most. Even so, the real beauty of wildflowers rests not only in their delightful colour and form, but to a large extent in their natural setting.

Isn't it truly better to see these jewels of the springtime in their natural environment rather than half-wilted in a vase on the kitchen table? Please remember other hikers when you are on the trail and let them also enjoy what you yourself find so delightful.

## WILDERNESS SANITATION: HUMAN WASTE

Fortunately, nature has provided in the top 6 to 8 inches of soil a system of "biological disposers" that works to decompose organic material. Keeping this in mind, you should:

- Carry with you a small digging tool. A light garden trowel is good.
- Select a suitable screened spot at least 50 feet from any open water.
- Dig a hole 8 to 10 inches in diameter, and no deeper than 6 to 8 inches to stay within the "biological disposer" soil layer. Keep the sod intact if possible.
- After use, fill the hole with loose soil and then tramp in the sod.
- Nature will do the rest in a few days.



### ATTENTION, V.T.A. GUIDEBOOK OWNERS!

You will notice at the front of your Voyageur Trail Association Guidebook that it has been copyrighted. Production of the Guidebook in your possession constitutes a very considerable investment undertaken by the V.T.A. The book is being made available to members at just above cost, which is high due to subsequent mailings of 3 extra sections to become part of the first Guidebook. Recovery of our outlay over a period of time is only possible with your cooperation. We earnestly request that you do not permit copying of your Guidebook for any reason, for to do otherwise would be doing an injustice to your Association, which you have helped to build and support in many ways.

Thanks for your understanding.

The Guidebook Committee

### The Voyageur Trail Guide Book - First Edition

**WHEN:** Earlier reports projected publication for late March 1979. This deadline could not be met. However, the Guide is being printed right now by the Graphic's Department of the Alexander Henry High School. It will be mailed in late April or early May 1979. We have a mailing list of people who have ordered the guide. If your name is on it, the Guide will be sent to you in the very near future.

**SIZE:** Pocket size about 10 x 15 cm, 20 pages + 4 maps

**COST:** Members and landowners \$3.00, all others \$5.00 per copy.

The Guide discusses use of fire on the trail, trail markings, equipment, safety, getting lost in the bush, hiking during the hunting season, hypothermia and other topics of interest. The initial mailing will provide a complete guide to the Sauteaux Section. The price also includes subsequent mailings for the Echo Ridges, Desbarats, and Thessalon Sections at no charge. When complete then, the first edition will cover some 160 km of continuous trail.

Order your Trail Guide now, in time for the 1979 hiking season.

Good hiking to you all!

The Bruce Trail Association has a new mailing address: P.O. Box 857, Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 3N9, 'phone (416) 529-6821.

#### EDITOR NEEDED

Here's your chance to gain on-the-job experience as editor of a newsletter--this newsletter.

Contact Paul Syme.

Your current editor will be moving to Thunder Bay as this edition hits the press.

#### DISCOUNTS TO HIKERS

On presentation of a current membership card, the following businesses offer a discount to V.T.A. members.

Joe's Sports and Surplus, 9 Queen Street East, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., offers a 10% discount. Sales items and all "Woods" brand articles are excluded.

Kinney Shoes of Canada Ltd. offers a 10% discount on hiking boots.

Margessons of 17 Adelaide Street East, Toronto M5C 1H4, offers a 10% discount on most camping items. Margessons issue a camping catalogue which may be obtained by writing to them.

Freeze-Dry Foods of 579 Speers Road, Oakville, Ont., L6K 2G4, offers a 20% discount on their freeze-dried products to club members.

#### SPECIALISED SERVICES

Sport Sewing Shop of 1659 Bayview Ave., Suite 201, Toronto, Ont., M4G 3C1, Telephone 1-416-486-9666, specializes in repairs to down-filled items, back-packs, tents, harness, etc. They also can supply specialized fabrics, zippers for sleeping bags, etc., webbing and fasteners. Free sewing advice is also offered.

#### DEPUTY TRAIL-MASTER LOST!

We understand that our new Deputy Trail-master, Tom Allinson, was leading a group of eager VTA'ers on a ski tour in the Prince Lake area of the Saulteaux Section this winter. That is a commendable activity, especially when the leader is so knowledgeable about the terrain and can be expected to show his followers new and interesting landscapes for their enjoyment. However, we hear rumours that in his enthusiasm for exploration, our fearless Deputy Trail-master got a bit turned around. Oh well, all's well that ends well and Tom is back with us, ready to lead in laying out new trail this spring. We don't think he left anyone else back there in the snow near Prince Lake.



## VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

### THE TRAIL USERS CODE

- Hike only along marked routes. -Do not climb fences, use the stiles.
- 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 (better still, carry lightweight hiker's stove).
- Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy.
- Never strip bark from trees. -Protect and do not disturb wildlife.
- Keep dogs on the leash on or near farmland.
- Walk around the edges of fields, not across them.
- Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photographs.

### VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER ROSTER

- |                      |                       |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Bridge-building   | 8. Map-making         | 14. Editorial Work    |
| 2. Carpentry         | 9. Publicity          | 15. Typing            |
| 3. Stone Masonry     | 10. Display Designing | 16. Legal Advice      |
| 4. Trail Maintenance | 11. Photos and Slides | 17. Correspondence    |
| 5. Trail Building    | Clearing House        | 18. Envelope Stuffing |
| 6. Contacting        | 12. Fund-raising      | 19. Serve on Board of |
| Landowners           | 13. Publications      | own club or V.T.A.    |
| 7. Leading Hikes     |                       | 20. Other             |

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

#### Sections (please check)

☐ Association-at-large  
☐ Saulteaux V.T.C.  
☐ Echo Ridges V.T.C.  
☐ Desbarats V.T.C.  
☐ Thessalon V.T.C.  
☐ Iron Bridge  
☐ Penewobikong V.T.C.  
☐ Spanish  
☐ Massey  
☐ Rainbow V.T.C.  
☐ Little Current  
☐ Shesquiandah  
☐ South Baymouth  
☐ Sudbury V.T.C.

☐ Thunder Bay V.T.C.  
☐ Nipigon  
☐ Schreiber V.T.C.  
☐ Marathon  
☐ Pukaskwa Park  
☐ Michipicoten V.T.C.  
☐ Lake Superior Park  
☐ Elichawana  
☐ Goulais V.T.C.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (business) \_\_\_\_\_

#### DECLARATION

I have read and will abide by the TRAIL USERS CODE

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

#### FEES

- |                                     |          |  |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$ 5.00  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family     | \$ 5.00  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student    | \$ 2.00  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crests     | \$ _____ | (\$1.00 each)                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guidebook  | \$ 3.00  | (for members)                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donations  | \$ 5.00  | (for non-members)                              |
|                                     |          | (receipt for income tax purposes will be sent) |

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SIGN UP A FRIEND