



# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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

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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 THESSALON 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 participant  
 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.