



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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

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NORM LEDIETT, PRODUCER OF OUR LOGOS
(Sault Star Photo)

Hike Ontario!



Hike Ontario, Box 422, Cambridge, Ontario, N1R 5V5.

May 1, 1979

FIRST ONTARIO HIKING CONFERENCE AT PETERBOROUGH

Hikers will blaze a trail to Peterborough in the spring of 1980 for the first Ontario conference for hiking enthusiasts.

HIKE ONTARIO, May 16 to May 19 at Trent University, is sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations. FOHTA is the coordinating body representing the Avon, Bruce, Elgin, Ganaraska, Grand Valley, Guelph, Quinte-Hastings, Rideau, Thames Valley and Voyageur trail associations and 30,000 individuals who built and regularly use Ontario's extensive hiking trail system.

Some 750 participants are expected to attend HIKE ONTARIO from Ontario, Quebec and the United States. Sporting specially designed T-shirts, buttons, and emblems, they will participate in a holiday weekend for hikers and their families which will include a 'get-acquainted' pioneer breakfast, a cook-out luncheon, entertainment, displays, tours, a young people's program and hikes.

Several workshops are planned for an interchange of information about all Ontario trails; to exchange experiences, and technical and educational information for the improvement of hiking trails and programs. The Conference will also provide a forum for identifying and discussing problems facing Ontario trails. Group sessions will allow participants an opportunity to discuss how they can influence government decisions relating to hiking trails.

Mr. Justice Thomas Berger, who headed the historic MacKenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry, will be the guest speaker at Sunday's banquet.

Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations

From: Sandra Webster. FOHTA Publicity Chairman.

F.O.H.T.A. Award

Do you know anyone who has made an outstanding contribution to hiking in Ontario?

If so, why not nominate this person to be the first-ever recipient of the F.O.H.T.A. Award. The award will be presented at the HIKE ONTARIO! conference for hiking enthusiasts at Trent University, Peterborough, May 16 to May 19, 1980.

To nominate someone simply write a letter giving name, address and telephone number and the signatures of three nominators, plus a paragraph or two explaining why your nominee should be selected.

The selection will be made by a committee appointed by FOHTA.

The deadline for nominations is December 31, 1979.

Send nominations to HIKE ONTARIO, Box 422, Cambridge, Ontario, N1R 5V5.

REPORT OF SUMMER ACTIVITIES 1979

- May 12:** Michipicoten Voyageur Trail Club hike
- May 13:** The Conservation Week hike began in the Kinsman Park with an outdoor church service conducted by Reverend Frank Golever. The tall pines and the singing with guitar accompaniment helped make it a very moving experience. Then every one moved off down the hill and through the woods to the waterfall where they picked up the Voyageur Trail. It was a warm sunny day and the woods were dry so many continued along the trail as far as the marsh before they returned to the Hiawatha Lodge for coffee, courtesy of the club.
- June 24:** The hike in the Thessalon area had a small attendance but the day was beautiful and the company good so the walk was very enjoyable. It was on the new part of the trail that had been opened up last summer.
- August 4-6:** Schreiber hike. See article in this issue.
- July 10:** Evening Walk on the Saulteaux Section. This was pretty well wiped out with the heat wave the area enjoyed all the week before. A beach was more tempting to anyone with free time, and so the few who met decided to call it off.
- August 25:** Echo Ridges Section, Duncan Township. Five cars met at the churchyard and everyone crowded into two of them for the trip up through the reserve to the access road for the trail. All crossed the creeks safely and since the understory was so wet they followed the road up to Maud Lake and then returned by way of the trail. This strip of trail is exceptionally beautiful even in the rain. It follows the creek which has all the attributes of innumerable woodland and paintings: rills, rapids, quiet pools, huge mossy logs across it, rocky canyons, overhanging trees, wildflowers, fungi and a high waterfall with roaring white water pouring into a deep black pool. It was a very enjoyable field trip which left everyone determined to return again when the sun shines. -- Eve Kersey

ONATRIO HIKING DAY 1979

Sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations, this is an opportunity to help introduce the general public to the joys of hiking. It also serves to help enlist more members to our (your) organization, The Voyageur Trail Association. So let's all get out on Sunday, September 30, 1979, and if everyone brings a friend or neighbour, what a crowd we'll have!

For the Sault Ste. Marie area, meet at Gros Cap at 2 P.M., and refreshments, available at the Bluewater Inn, are on the Saulteaux Club. Remember, Sunday, September 30, 2 P.M. at Gros Cap.

Other Clubs, check with your Executive and watch for posters for details.

Last year we topped all FOTA clubs with 172 participants. Let's do it again. Show your enthusiasm.

TEN DAYS ON THE PUKASKWA SECTION

A lengthy back pack in an isolated area is perfect for totally forgetting the workaday world, and that is just what five of us did last May in Pukaskwa National Park. Our packs were bulging madly at the start--mainly with foodstuffs--which is great--you eat your way to lightness--also your muscles grow more hardened and accustomed to stepping carefully--funny to watch one's footsteps in the sand with a heavy pack on one's back--you sink far deeper than you would think.

We hiked from near the mouth of the Pic River where a friendly boatman deposited us at the trailhead. This end of the trail was the most poorly marked--due to too many tapes tied to the trees--some for survey purposes--some for trail and hence, confusing. Since this was early spring, the trail was extremely wet in any low areas and the start of the trail was just such a place. The beaver had been busily at work, here, therefore, we bushwhacked and headed for the lakeshore, intending to hit the trail later. In doing so, we found a lovely horseshoe bay that we utilized on our return journey as a fine campsite--one of the loveliest we had.

We joined the trail just beyond this point on part of the Laurentian shield which continually pops up along the trail--these areas are beautifully marked with cairns which are works of art!! There are fantastic views of Lake Superior from many of these high points. From these rock areas you frequently dive down into lowlands where many times the beaver have dammed ponds--on one such area there is a board walk which curves just as a beaver dam would--a nice feature on the trail. Again the trail goes up and down through wooded area which is mainly black and white spruce along with birch trees--a boreal type forest.

Our first campsite was at Playter Harbor where we set up our tents near a nice sand beach and watched a beaver swimming. There were many signs here of previous occupants--mainly fisherman. Our next day's hike proved to be one of the most demanding, for we did a great deal of bushwhacking where the trail had been washed out along the White River. We crossed the White on a suspension bridge which is truly well constructed but nevertheless gives one a tremendous thrill, for as you waver across the river is madly raging through a gorge right underneath your feet--then glance upriver and there is a lovely falls veiled in a constant mist! This area was one of the most impressive--the river was in a wild flood stage and was taking everything along with it--including many bridges that the trail people had constructed. On our inbound trip we hiked too far in from the river trying to find clear areas to bushwhack in. On our return journey we stuck as close to the river as possible and found the going much faster. The trail follows the river for quite a distance and then cuts back across toward the lake--again we did some rock hiking crunching along on various lichens--lovely colors ranging from orange to black and grey. Our next campsite was at the mouth of the Willow River where we stayed for two days--this is a fine campsite with lots of room for many tents. We crossed the Willow in a canoe which is left there for that purpose. You pull yourself across with ropes attached to both ends of the canoe and to both sides of the river. During this section of the hike we had heavy rains and the lichens that the previous day had crunched underfoot, now proved to be very greasy and treacherously slippery. We watched the areas where we placed our feet very carefully. We had lovely glimpses of the lake on one side and an old fault on the other. One jackpine along this section was totally surrounded with fragrant arbutus--lovely-- Here also we crossed some old boulder beaches--again very touchy hiking, though you get into a rhythm of walking

the boulders and it is fascinating to contemplate their age and who may have walked them years ago when they abutted the lake. Next campsite was at Stopwatch Cove. This was memorable for it's birdlife--the gulls awakened us at 5 AM with a tremendous cacaphony--there had been a smelt run in the nearby creek. We also saw herons flying low overhead and a woodcock strolled right by our dinner table!!

The next day's hike was frequently near the lake, with some elegant rock sparkling with mica as our sidewalk--the lake itself welcomed us with a calm sparkly surface. On we hiked to Viseau Bay where there are many islands offshore.

We spent two days here exploring the area--some fishing and some hiking along with fording a creek minus boots and pants--brrrrr that water was cold. There also was an old lumber camp near the creek to explore. Since this was spring the plants that we saw were mainly of the arctic type--saxifrage--primula, arbutus and so forth--all lovely and many miniature. The entire length of the trail abounded in animal scat--bear--wolf, and moose. We felt we would surely espy at least one of these beasts, but beaver were the only animals we saw--even though a moose walked through our camp at Playter Harbor on our return stay there--he wandered through after we were all in our tents.

On our return hike, we had intended to camp on the White River, but we found that the campsite was under water so we went on to Playter Harbor again. Our last campsite at Horseshoe Bay was delightful, since we had most of the day to explore and laze about and consume many cups of Red Zinger tea which was the favored drink of this group. We arrived back at the trailhead on the appointed day with feelings of regret at having to leave this wonderful wild place--twas a fantastic experience.

--Betty Nassoiy

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.

FreezeDry 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.

SCHREIBER BACKPACKING WEEKEND

Over the August holiday weekend, six backpackers (3 teens, 3 old timers) had a real taste of unspoiled wilderness along the Voyageur Trail between Terrace Bay and Schreiber. Under the leadership of Dieter Ropke we climbed many mountains, walked cobble beaches, and knew the awe-inspiring, rugged beauty of Superior.

Spirits were campened somewhat by a rainy first night spent at Rainbow Falls Provincial Park. Skies cleared in the morning though, and the weather was most co-operative for the rest of the trip.

The Eastern terminum of the section is near the beautiful Aguasabon River. Following the river on its steep descent to Lake Superior, we passed the spectacular Aguasabon Falls, then turned westward along the shore. We lost no time in putting the last cottages behind us. Slopes were often steep, but the trail was clear and well marked in all but a few spots.

There was ample time to dry out wet equipment at the next campsite, on a sandy beach in a well sheltered cove. Several sandpipers (Lesser Yellowlegs) put on a memorable show late in the evening. They had apparently not yet developed any fear of man, for we could quietly observe their activities at very close range.

The dreaded "Death Valley" section, encountered next morning was not as difficult as we had anticipated. Had the rocks been wet, however, the trail would have been quite treacherous. An afternoon scramble over a long, rugged bedrock shoreline led to the next campsite.

The site had a lot to offer (polar bear swimming, Indian pictographs) but Mount Gwynn, the steepest, longest climb of the trip loomed over us. Up at the crack of dawn, we were on the summit well before noon, and the 360° panorama was breathtaking.

With the end of the hike in sight, there were mixed feelings. Noone relished the idea of returning to civilization, but the sun was hot, and tall, cold milkshakes beckoned.

The Schreiber section must surely be among the most spectacular on the Voyageur Trail. We highly recommend it to those who enjoy rugged backpacking. Keep in mind that this is no "walk in the park". Experience, quality equipment, and reasonable stamina are essential.

--Don Hall

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Michipicoten Voyageur Trail Club will be hosting the Annual General Meeting of the Voyageur Trail Association on Saturday, October 20, 1979. Meet at the New Era Motel by the Big Sky Trailer Park at 1:00 P.M. for a hike on the Michipicoten Section, followed by a dinner (\$6.00) and the meeting after. Mr. M. O'Connor will give a talk and slide show on the Lake Superior shoreline in the Pukaskwa area. Come and enjoy a particularly interesting section of the Voyageur Trail with your friends.

Our thanks for this issue are extended to the contributors, to Judy Novick for typing the copy, and to the Great Lakes Forest Research Centre for permitting use of their duplicating equipment.



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
- ☐ Sheguiandah
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Batchawana
- ☐ 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

- ☐ Individual \$ 5.00
- ☐ Family \$ 5.00
- ☐ Student \$ 2.00
- ☐ Crests \$ _____ (\$1.00 each)
- ☐ Guidebook \$ 3.00 (for members)
- ☐ \$ 5.00 (for non-members)
- ☐ Donations \$ _____ (receipt for income tax purposes will be sent)

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

SIGN UP A FRIEND