

# 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

No. 18

Editor: Lorie Armstrong

1980 12 15



OFFICIAL OPENING: ECHO RIDGES SECTION, OCT. 5, 1980

Sault Star Photo

## OPENING OF THE ECHO RIDGES SECTION

Ontario Hiking Day, 1980, Sunday October 5, was celebrated by the Echo Ridges Voyageur Trail Club in a grand manner. On this day, at the delightful park by Tower Lake, the eastern terminus of the Echo Ridges Section, forty people gathered to witness a trail opening ceremony of some significance. It was a beautiful sunny day for the event and the Honourable Bud Wildman, M.P.P. Algoma, officiated by cutting a pole held by Barry Hansen, President of the Echo Ridges Voyageur Trail Club and Paul Syme, V.T.A. President. The pole was cut with a pair of long-handled trail-clearing shears and this signified the opening of a link that completed about 200 km of continuous trail from 16 km north of Gros Cap on Lake Superior to the town of Iron Bridge.

After the ceremony, the group of spectators were led along the trail which winds around the edge of Tower Lake through some mixed forest with huge hemlock trees, before heading north again. Stumps and some butt logs of an earlier logging era lie alongside the trail, mute evidence of the logging activities of the past. The trail winds its way through some very rugged terrain (hence the name Echo Ridges), past numerous inland lakes and streams, notably Two Horse and One Horse Lakes, and the falls of the Coffee Creek. It parallels the Echo River to its entry into Echo Lake and proceeds westerly under an awe-inspiring bluff on the north shore of Echo Lake. Heading north again, the trail hugs a beautiful valley side and winds through mixed hardwood stands to Whabunose Lake where it again veers west.

It follows the south-east bank of the Garden River downstream into the Garden River Indian Reserve, then crosses a sandy outwash plain. Fire-blackened White Pine stumps with eight-foot buttress roots dot this landscape which ends at High Dump, 30 metres or more above the Garden River. From here in the earlier days, logs were dumped into the Garden River to be driven downstream during the spring flood. From here to-day, a most spectacular view of the river valley and adjacent hills can be had. The Garden River is crossed on a Bailey Bridge within the Reserve and the trail follows the much more rugged north-west bank of the Garden River out of the Reserve. Spectacular gorges and waterfalls of Bedore Creek are passed, and then, westward ho! through Duncan Township, past Driving Lake, Driving Creek, Maude, Ann, and Mable Lakes at the western terminus. In all, a most scenic and rugged section of the Voyageur Trail.

Although no one actually hiked the entire section, the sunny day, warm weather and fall colours all helped to brighten the day for those who attended this official opening and made it an enjoyable outing on the Echo Ridges Section of the Voyageur Trail.

## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

1980

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ladies and gentlemen, members and guests, I'd like to tell you about what has transpired in the last year as it relates to the Voyageur Trail Association and the Voyageur Trail.

As you are aware now from the film we have just seen, the Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario has brought into effect new legislation that helps to protect landowners and their property. The Occupiers' Liability Act especially, assumes that those who take their recreation on most rural land without paying a fee (that's you, the hiker!) will take care of their own safety, and consequently, this Act is of strong assistance in dealing with landowners, present and future.

Our trail and others in the province, depend for their very existence on the goodwill of public-spirited landowners who allow us and others to freely enjoy the beauties of nature on their property. We, the hiking fraternity, have fought for many years, mostly through the Ontario Trails Council and the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations, to bring this about. We look upon this legislation as only justly due to our landowners for their kindness, and welcome its advent.

On the Victoria Day weekend, the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations sponsored the first-ever Ontario Hikers' Conference, Hike Ontario!, at Trent University, Peterborough. The Conference was a grand success with more than 400 in attendance, and of those, 6 were Voyageur Trail members from northern Ontario. I feel it is highly commendable that we had even that number of dedicated hikers from so far away. We participated in several of the workshops and study sessions. In a nutshell, the Conference called for more hiker activity in promoting volunteer action and gaining government support for hiking trails, but in addition, all those that I talked with during the Conference, confessed that they were thoroughly enjoying themselves, meeting and socializing with new friends and faces, all with a common interest - hiking and trails! In that sense alone, Hike Ontario! was a resounding success.

Part of the Conference was a gallery of displays mounted by the various clubs. A comment was made in the opening address that perhaps it was appropriate that the (potentially) longest trail in the province had the largest display! That, of course was the V.T.A. display, built under the direction of Bob Andrews. It was a great success, drawing favourable comments and enquiries from many. Now that we have this lovely display, we need to use it to generate more interest in the Voyageur Trail.

Although we are holding our own in membership, we must grow, for the Voyageur Trail must grow if we are to achieve our objectives. I will remind you again, for it is often in my mind, and I believe that repetition helps to strengthen intentions, that word of mouth is our strongest tool in recruiting new members. It is your enthusiasm for and dedication to this idea of a foot-path across northern Ontario that will capture the hearts and minds of the people you associate with. We constantly need your help in recruiting new members. Some of our more recent members have been outstanding in their eagerness to help and contribute towards our goals.

To help you to convince others that we have something worthwhile going, and for your own gratification, I'd like you to know that we have in the past year or so received very complimentary reports on the Voyageur Trail from non-members and users who have come from afar to walk on it. They range from comments on the beauty of the landscape to appreciative remarks about how well the Voyageur Trail is marked and maintained. You are to be congratulated!

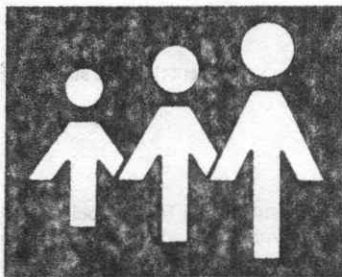
Finally, I'd like to report on the physical progress of the Voyageur Trail. Some clubs have done some re-routing and upgrading of the trail in their sections and although this doesn't appear as major extensions of the Voyageur Trail, it does improve the quality of the trail, and needless to say, the resulting experience of the user, and that is an important part of our goals.

The major physical advance made within the last year, and the reason for holding our Annual General Meeting here in Echo Bay, was the completion of the clearing of the Echo Ridges Section. This section was officially opened on October 5, 1980, Ontario Hiking Day, by the Honourable Bud Wildman, M.P.P. Algoma, completing the link that opens 200 km of continuous trail from 16 km north of Gros Cap, west of Sault Ste. Marie, to the town of Iron Bridge, including the Saulteaux, Echo Ridges, Desbarats and Thessalon Sections. My congratulations and thanks to all of you who have helped to bring this about. It is a significant step in our growth and puts us into the league of long trails.

I am sure that it is with the complete concurrence of the Executive and Board that I extend sincerest thanks to all our members everywhere, who have helped in so many ways to further our objectives in creating and promoting the Voyageur Trail - the hiking trail across northern Ontario!

---Paul D. Syme





FEDERATION OF ONTARIO HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATIONS,  
Box 422, Cambridge, Ontario N1R 5V5

# FOHTA. OUTLOOK

NUMBER 1 FALL 1980

## THE FIRST FOHTA NEWSLETTER

This is the first edition of Outlook, also the first newsletter of the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations.

Outlook will cover the broad spectrum of issues affecting hiking in Ontario, rather than the more local concerns better handled by individual trail clubs in their own publications. However, Outlook is also meant to help hikers and others become more familiar with the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations, particularly with our involvement in hiking as a whole in Ontario.

This first issue is devoted entirely to a report on Hike Ontario!, the first provincial hiking conference, held May 16-19 at Trent University, Peterborough. More than 400 people met to discuss the major issues affecting hiking now and in the future.

At the first plenary session on May 17, a panel group included Mark Garscadden, Recreation Area Planner, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Lyn MacMillan, President, Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE) and William Coates, Landscape Architect, former Chairman of the Ontario Trails Council. Originally, it was planned to have a keynote speaker from the Ontario Government as well. It appears that none of the officials approached were able to accept the invitation.

## TRAILS AND THE GOVERNMENT

The panel session was chaired by FOHTA Secretary Henry Graupner. In his opening remarks, Mr. Graupner said:

"Whether we like it or not, whether we are asking for it or not, the government has shown that it wants to get into the whole trails situation. So what should the government be doing for trails?"

Taking this question as the theme, Mark Garscadden looked at what government can do, but also what hikers should be doing to encourage government action. He stressed co-operation between the user group and government.

"Government reaction is positive when the user group has a large number of people prepared to organize, many people directly involved in trail maintenance and management and has a well-reasoned and sustained argument that the interest of the group will benefit the province. Government in turn can provide beneficial legislation, develop policies favourable to hikers, co-ordinate activities of ministries to promote the interests of hikers and affix an official seal of approval and provide the moral support so necessary to volunteer organizations."

Mr. Garscadden said government may also provide financial support, though at the moment, spending is being constrained. "More cost effective methods of delivering trails are needed and volunteer work is an obvious answer."

Mr. Garscadden warned that government involvement in trails may not be that desirable.

"With government involvement, decisions become bureaucratized. Trails are frequently overplanned to textbook

specifications. And most important, users feel powerless to effect decisions concerning the trails they use; how they are managed and where they go. Government has difficulty gaining access to private land. Public trail clubs are much more effective since hiker/landowner relationships are frequently established on a neighbour-to-neighbour basis."

Second speaker was Lyn MacMillan who pointed out what she said was a lack of support from government for her organization during the past several years.

"Government has got to prepare the ground to remove any mistrust and antagonism and anger. Our trust in government has been severely shaken over the past two years. Through lack of their commitments we have seen lack of funding to buy land, we have seen cutbacks in planning areas without any amendment in the Legislature or any public hearing."

"What is the future of hiking in Ontario? Whatever we want, we have to ask for it and push for it. The future role of government *vis-a-vis* hikers must be a partnership."

Mrs. MacMillan refuted Mr. Garscadden's view on securing trails.

"Private initiative is not enough. There are too many legal hassles for trail users and groups."

But in order to get this help, Mrs. MacMillan said hikers must sell themselves.

"We need to have a good PR job done on hiking. We must have a code of ethics for hikers. We need money. You have to lobby successfully. The hiking trail clubs can plan the trail, fund raise for wardens. You can get more members, you can get volunteers, you can get public education going. You must educate the public and make hiking sound great."

The urgent, short-term goal for hikers, Mrs. MacMillan said, is support for the Bruce Trail.

"You can put your backs behind the Bruce Trail. If the Bruce Trail goes down the drain, you go down the drain. There will not be any hope for Ontario's trails if the Bruce Trail doesn't survive the present, difficult hearings of the plan on the Niagara Escarpment."

Final speaker was William Coates. Mr. Coates began with a review of the lack of action by government on the recommendations of the Ontario Trails Council. He pointed out the need for hikers to make a substantial impression on politicians.

"Politicians and civil servants are not necessarily rational. Government responds to pressure. It responds on a crisis-to-crisis basis."

Referring to a comment by Mr. Garscadden that government should play the role of an advocate, Mr. Coates said:

"An advocate in my understanding is one who acts in response to his client's direction. You, as the client, have to initiate the action. You have got to get in there and tell the government what to do. And you have to do it in a way that is going to be very visible and powerful."

All three speakers alluded to the activities of the Federation of Ontario Snowmobile Clubs. The general consensus was, "You may not like them, but they have done a heck of a job

selling themselves, improving their image and getting what they wanted - especially from government."

### HIKERS WANT SOME GOVERNMENT AID

Hike Ontario! delegates were asked to fill out a questionnaire soliciting their views on the hiker-government relationship.

Some people did not fill out all questions, so the number of respondents varied between 200 and 220.

The first question was: "To what extent should the Ontario government assist or not assist in planning and maintaining hiking trails." Seventy per cent said there should be some assistance, 5% said no assistance and 25% favoured a great deal of assistance.

In the second question, "If government funds were available, do you think they should be used or not be used for each of the uses listed", respondents had seven choices. Three choices received a significant yes or no vote. Seventy-four per cent said government funds should not be used to pay salaries for trail workers. A total of 89% said funds should be used for buying or leasing land for trail routes. And 96% said "no" to the suggestion that funds be used to reduce trail club membership fees.

Question three was: "In your opinion, how important or unimportant would you regard each of the following forms of non-financial assistance from the government?" Eight suggestions followed, and three choices: not important, may be important, very important. Education of the public on the use of trails was rated high by 85% of the respondents. Sixty-five per cent said development of a government hiking trail policy was very important, and 26% said it may be important.

Question four was: "Do you think that there are advantages or disadvantages to government involvement with hiking trails?" Fifty-three per cent said there are advantages, 23% said there are disadvantages. When asked what the advantages would be, respondents said trails would be secured, there would be money available, there would be public education and improved standards for trails.

The final question asked respondents if they agreed or disagreed with this statement: "Political involvement on the part of hikers is a desirable way of attempting to achieve the forms of assistance from government which you feel are important."

The results were: 82% agreed, 10% disagreed and 8% said they did not think assistance was important.

### FUTURE ACTION FOR FOHTA

Part of the Hike Ontario! program was study sessions; one on lobbying and self-help, the other, financial and non-financial government assistance that should be sought.

Several resolutions, directives for action by the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations, came from those study groups and from a later plenary session. All resolutions passed unanimously with the exception of Number 6, which received 24 abstentions.

Here are those resolutions in full:

**RESOLUTION 1**, regarding the use of members and volunteers.

**RESOLVED:** THAT this Conference endorses the importance of the role of the volunteer within hiking trail organizations and therefore supports enhancing volunteer activity through such means as the following:

1. Strengthening of memberships.
2. Education and instruction of volunteers.
3. Selection and training of leaders.
4. Encouragement of special events such as garbage clean-ups.
5. Assignment of responsibility to trail captains for specific sections of the trail.

6. Promotion of commitments by volunteers through such methods as:

- a) establishing schedules
- b) personal contact
- c) use of duty roster files
- d) gasoline subsidies

And urges the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations to initiate a program for the development of volunteers which will provide all possible ways and means of assisting its member organizations in implementing this resolution.

**RESOLUTION 2**, regarding government support for hiking trails.

**RESOLVED:** THAT this Conference supports in principle, participation by the Provincial Government in assisting the programs carried out by the hiking trail associations in Ontario, in such ways as:

1. The allocation of funds to appropriate government agencies to establish rights-of-way.
2. The provision of funds to hiking trail associations for:
  - a) the improvement of their ability to administer trails
  - b) special capital projects
3. The provision of programs for the education of the public in matters relating to the use of hiking trails and of the outdoors in general, including the necessary funding.
4. The provision of technical expertise to assist in the design and establishment of trails.
5. The review of its current policy with regard to implementation of the recommendations contained in the Final Report of the Ontario Trails Council.
6. The initiation of a policy concerning the provision and protection of trail rights-of-way on Crown Land.

**RESOLUTION 3**, regarding the Niagara Escarpment Commission's Proposed Plan.

**RESOLVED:** THAT this Conference acknowledges the current involvement of the Bruce Trail Association in the Niagara Escarpment Commission's Proposed Plan for the Niagara Escarpment and accepts the implication that the loss of this trail would affect the future of all trails in Ontario and that FOHTA should, therefore, investigate making a submission to Hearings on the Proposed Plan in support of the Bruce Trail Association's position.

**RESOLUTION 4**, regarding public and government support of hiking trail associations.

**RESOLVED:** THAT this Conference recognizes the urgent and significant importance of stimulating Public and Government support for hiking trail associations and urges FOHTA to achieve such support by the following methods:

1. Attending public meetings and hearings related to concerns of hiking trails.
2. Communicating hikers' concerns to all media.
3. Tabulating and distributing relevant statistics on the economic and social values and political strengths of hikers.
4. Interacting with Federal, Provincial, District, Regional, County and Municipal politicians and staff to emphasize the importance of hikers' concerns.
5. Interacting with educational institutions.
6. Publicizing the significant benefits achieved by hiking trail organizations who, through volunteer efforts, have contributed a major public service.

**RESOLUTION 5**, regarding the rights of landowners.

**WHEREAS** this Conference acknowledges that the existence of hiking trails in Ontario depends to a great extent upon the support and continuation of public-spirited landowners, therefore be it:

**RESOLVED** that, in addition to consultation with government bodies, FOHTA promote the protection of the rights of private landowners in developing the network of trails in the Province of Ontario, and that this Conference does not endorse expropriation of private lands for its purposes.

**RESOLUTION 6**, regarding Ontario Resource Rangers Club.

**RESOLVED:** THAT this Conference call on the Ontario Government to open the Ontario Resource Rangers Clubs to girls.



## HELP REQUIRED

Anybody interested in assisting with the implementation of these resolutions, particularly those dealing with volunteer development or government relations, is asked to contact his/her FOHTA representative, or write to the Secretary, FOHTA, Box 422, Cambridge, Ontario N1R 5V5.

## SPEECH IS AVAILABLE

Guest speaker at the Hike Ontario! banquet was Mr. Justice Thomas Berger. Justice Berger has chaired several commissions of inquiry for the Federal Government. The most noteworthy of those commissions is probably that which looked at the proposed Mackenzie Valley pipeline.

Copies of Justice Berger's address to Hike Ontario! delegates, entitled "Growth Consumption and Environmental Values" can be obtained at a cost of \$2.50 from FOHTA. Please send your requests to: Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations, Box 422, Cambridge, Ontario N1R 5V5.

## LAST CALL FOR CRESTS, T-SHIRTS

A limited selection of Hike Ontario! crests and T-shirts is available. The T-shirt sizes are extra large and children's (small, medium, large). Costs are: T-shirts, \$5.00 (including postage); Crests, \$1.00 (including postage). Send orders to: Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations, Box 422, Cambridge, Ontario N1R 5V5.

## HIKE ONTARIO! FINANCIAL REPORT

### Revenue

Donations .....	\$3,750
Wintario Grant .....	2,600
Registration fees .....	3,398
Prepaid meals, rooms and bus fares ..	7,266
Other revenue .....	541

\$17,555

### Expenditures

Cost of meals .....	\$9,563
Program Committee .....	2,964
Publicity Committee .....	3,811
Registration Committee .....	164
Finance Committee .....	412
Accommodation Committee .....	43
Chairman and Executive Committee ...	358

\$17,315

**Net Revenue** ..... 240

Less provision for cost of conference newsletter ..... 225

**Conference Surplus** ..... \$ 15

**HIKE ONTARIO!** gratefully acknowledges the contributions made by the following foundations, companies, organizations and individuals. Without their support, this first Ontario hiking conference would not have been possible.

The Samuel and Saidye Bronfman Family Foundation (funds designated to assist the publicity committee with brochures.)

.....	\$ 600
Eaton Foundation .....	150
Senator Norman M. Patterson Foundation .....	250
Black's Company International .....	50
Labatt's Ontario Breweries .....	250
J.M. Schneider Inc., Kitchener .....	100
Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada .....	250
The Toronto Hiking and Conservation Club .....	300
The Bruce Trail Association .....	250
The Ganaraska Trail Association .....	100
The Grand Valley Trails Association .....	100
The Guelph Trail Club .....	100
The Quinte-Hastings Recreational Trails Association ...	100
The Rideau Trail Association .....	200
The Thames Valley Trail Association .....	100
The Toronto Bruce Trail Club .....	250
Ross M. Cruikshank, Ottawa .....	100
Jack Davies, Ottawa .....	100
Alastair Gamble, Ottawa .....	100
Gordon F. Henderson, QC, Ottawa .....	100
Glen McInnes, Ottawa .....	100
Mrs. Betty Schneider, Kitchener .....	100
<b>Total contributions</b> .....	<u><u>\$3,750</u></u>

A matching Wintario grant of \$2,600 from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation is also gratefully acknowledged.

## FOHTA OUTLOOK EDITOR

Most of the work of preparing this first FOHTA Newsletter was carried out by Penney Edwards, who was appointed editor earlier this year, but has just resigned. Unfortunately, she was transferred to Montreal by her employer at short notice before this issue was completed. FOHTA appreciates her contribution and wishes her all the best in her new position.

Anybody interested in becoming FOHTA Newsletter Editor, should contact the Secretary, FOHTA.

# How we're helping to protect you and your property.

**F**or nearly 150 years Ontario has had a law making it an offence to enter property where entry is prohibited. But now new legislation—The Trespass to Property Act—has toughened up the law to protect your rights.

Trespassers can now be fined up to \$1,000. In addition, they can be ordered to pay for damages they have caused.

An important part of the legislation designates premises where entry is prohibited without notice. These include your gardens, orchards, vineyards, land under cultivation, woodlots and fenced land.

Where notice must be given to prohibit entry, you may use red markings on gates, trees or fences. Yellow markings may be used to caution that only certain activities may be permissible. It is the responsibility of the visitor to find out what you permit.

**LAND USED FOR RECREATION**  
In the past, there was a great deal of confusion regarding your responsibility to people you allow on your land. Consequently many farmers and rural landholders would not allow recreational activities on their properties.

Now another new act—The Occupiers' Liability Act—reduces your responsibility. In a nutshell, the law assumes that those who take their recreation on most rural land without paying a fee

will take care for their own safety.

A special system has been devised to allow you to easily indicate which activities you will allow on your property. A sign naming or graphically representing an activity (for example, hiking) indicates that the activity is permitted. The same kind of sign with an oblique stroke through it means that you prohibit the activity.

These new laws are part of a continuing program to streamline our legislation. By clarifying your rights, they afford you greater protection from trespass and also reduce your liability when you make land available for recreational purposes.

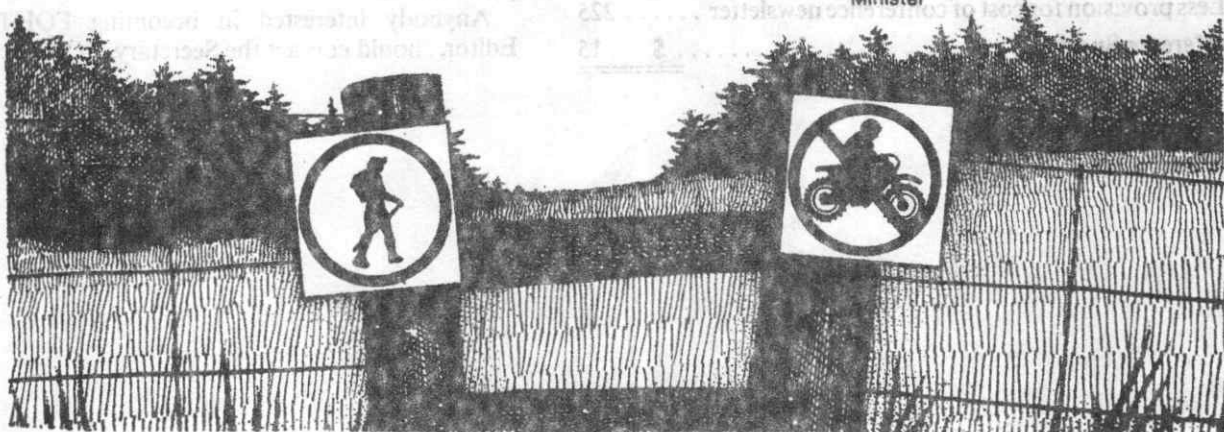
For full details, obtain a copy of this free pamphlet. It's available at many supermarkets and liquor stores, or write to:  
Communications Branch  
Ministry of the Attorney General,  
18 King Street East  
Toronto, Ontario M5C 1C5



Ontario

**Ministry of the  
Attorney  
General**

Hon. R. Roy McMurtry  
Minister





## GUIDEBOOK - GUIDEBOOK - GUIDEBOOK

The first edition of the V.T.A. Guidebook, introduced in the spring of 1979, includes maps and descriptions of the Saulteaux Section of the Voyageur Trail. Anyone who purchased this guidebook is entitled to receive maps and descriptions of the Echo Ridges, Desbarats and Thessalon sections free of charge. The Desbarats portion of the Voyageur Trail is expected to roll off the press early this spring. It will be mailed free of charge to all those who have purchased the guidebook since 1979. When the Desbarats portion is published, all future purchasers of guidebooks will receive an updated version, i.e., Saulteaux and Desbarats trails with provision for future gratis mailings of Echo Ridges and Thessalon trails. The Guidebook, first edition, when complete, will provide maps and descriptions for some 160 km of continuous trail.

The guidebook committee consists of Lois Bullock (Editor), Father A. Megan, R. McCutcheon, P.D. Syme, D. Ropke and input from several contributors who are most familiar with specific areas.

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## CORRECTIONS TO THE GUIDEBOOK

Please make the following changes to your guidebook:

Saulteaux Section Pg. S6, The campground at 40.0 km is reached by a blue trail that leaves the trail north from opposite Case Rd., the dotted line south of the trail just east of 40.0 km on map S3. The blue trail described on pg. S6 does not exist.

Pg. S4, 22.8 km. "Turn SE on Maki Rd and after 0.5 km take a road E." From here, the gravel pit has eaten out the trail. The trail will be re-routed north around the edge of the pit in 1981. From where you hit the gravel pit from the west, the trail presently picks up again to the north-east on the other side of the pit.

## STATUS OF THE TRAIL - SEASON'S END

At Thunder Bay, because of forest fires this past summer, the club was unable to get permits for trail-building. Coming east to the Schreiber Section, activity was spent in upgrading the existing trail. At Pukaskwa National Park, no significant extension of the shoreline trail was made, but again, upgrading and bridge-building occupied the summer months. Saulteaux and Echo Ridges Club members put in many hours this summer on the Echo Ridges Section, until it was finally cleared through (see the article on the Official Opening, page 2.). The happy event was celebrated with a toast to all the diligent V.T.A. workers who brought it to completion. Some upgrading and re-routing was done on both the Desbarats and Thessalon Sections this past season. In both cases, the trail was removed from roadway to a more scenic and safer site. At Blind River, Penewobikong Club members have also spruced up their cleared section and done some further flagging of trail.

Thus, 1980 was a year of upgrading and finishing off, a necessity for the establishment of a first class hiking trail.

1981 Summer ~ 320 km / trail cleared

## NOTICE



The Voyageur Trail will be closed for one day, the first Monday in February, February 2, 1981.

SAULTEAUX TRAIL CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

Plan now to attend the Saulteaux Club's annual dinner meeting on Wednesday, February 25, 1981 at the Algo Club. Dr. Paul Syme will be our guest speaker.

Sault Ste. Marie resident members will be contacted by telephone for ticket orders. Others are welcome and can obtain more information by calling Lois Bullock - (253-3091) - after 5:00 p.m.

## WANTED

If any of our members regularly read the Globe and Mail or Toronto Star newspapers, or for that matter, any other newspaper, daily or weekly, (excluding the Sault Star and Shoppers News, S.S. Marie), would you please clip out any articles concerning the Voyageur Trail Association, the Voyageur Trail, or hiking in general and send such clippings to: Lee Ann Pearson, 1075 Queen Street E., Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. P6A 2C2. Lee Ann is compiling a collection of all newsarticles on the Voyageur Trail and topics related thereto. If anyone has a collection of older clippings on these topics, would you please forward them to Lee Ann so the collection will be complete. If you wish them returned, that can be arranged. Thank you.

We desperately need a typist in the Sault Ste. Marie area, with access to a good typewriter, to type the final drafts of the Voyageur Trail News, three times a year.

If anyone can volunteer their services, please contact the Editor, Lorie Armstrong, 167 Simpson St., Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. P6A 3V5, or telephone 253-5816.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### DESBARATS CLUB

A "Get Acquainted" evening is planned for Sunday, March 1, 1981, 7 P.M. to 11 P.M. at the Gordon Lake Hall. A review of the development of the Voyageur Trail and its present status will be presented, with slides, maps and brochures. A slide presentation "A Walk in the Sun" and two guest speakers will be present for your added entertainment.

Please join us and bring your friends.



# ONTARIO PROVINCIAL PARKS-

## ISSUES IN THE '80s

"a conference focusing on planning and management issues facing provincial parks in the 1980's"

MAY 11-14, 1981

WATERLOO, ONTARIO

co hosted by:-Ontario Prov. Parks Council  
-Faculty of Environmental  
Studies, University of Waterloo

### FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Issues In The '80s  
Provincial Parks Council  
Environmental Studies Bldg.  
University of Waterloo  
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1

## 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. Sale 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 Rd., 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, Tel. 1-416-486-9666, specialises in repairs to down-filled items, backpacks, tents, harness, etc. They also can supply specialised fabrics, zippers for sleeping bags, etc., webbing and fasteners. Free sewing advice is also offered.

## Letter to the Editor - A Reply

In answer to Pat Ciaschini's letter of last fall wherein she decries the lack of backpacking trips sponsored by the V.T.A., and the paucity of day hikes during the summer months, I'd like to make some comments on the issues she raises. It is true that only a few hikes are scheduled each summer and it is also true that much emphasis is put on clearing and painting (blazing) of the Voyageur Trail by the V.T.A., but it is also a fact that we are one of the very few trail associations in the province whose trail is far from complete. To complete it, we must necessarily spend time on those activities which will accomplish it. Since you have participated in trail clearing, you are probably aware that over the past two years in the Sault Ste. Marie area we have had a scheduled trail-clearing party every Saturday between late May and the end of October, excluding holiday weekends, and only a very few of these were cancelled. That is, admittedly, a lot of emphasis on trail-clearing, but it has taken exactly that much effort to open up the Echo Ridges Section, giving us a significant length of continuous trail to backpack on. If the work had not been scheduled, the Echo Ridges Section would not be open today. I think those members who have worked so hard to accomplish this feat (you included) should be justifiably proud.

When an organization schedules an event, it is implicitly asking its members to participate. So, if hikes were scheduled on the same day as trail-clearing events, they would be seen to be in direct competition. That is why so few hikes are scheduled. However, despite the frequency of trail-clearing parties over the last two years, we asked our members to contribute a minimum of two days during the summer (the leaders, of course contributed much more). This certainly does not prevent members from otherwise hiking the trail.

Indeed, in 1978, an overnight winter outing was scheduled (pg. 3, Newsletter #12) but there were no takers, and in 1979, a backpacking weekend was scheduled on the Schreiber Section (pg. 4, Newsletter #13) and the response was very poor. As a backpacker you are aware of the planning that must go into such a trip. It is disappointing to the leader of a scheduled trip to make plans and then have to cancel because of poor response. A backpacking trip must be well planned and the party must consist of people who commit themselves to the plan and stick with it.

What the V.T.A. has done, aside from urging the completion of the Voyageur Trail, has been to bring together people

who otherwise probably would never have discovered their common interest in hiking and backpacking. From this, I have seen some very strong friendships cemented and numerous hikes and backpacking experiences develop informally among friends who have discovered each other within the V.T.A. This is a function, bringing together people of like minds, that the Association does well, albeit without purpose. Perhaps when we grow larger and with less trail to build, we can concentrate more on the social aspects of hiking, but that is not to say in the least, that trail-clearing is not a social event.

Paul D. Syme, President.

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#### VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION WINTER ACTIVITIES 1980-81

Jan. 1 Saulteaux: NEW YEAR RESOLUTION STARTER. A two hour  
Thurs. walk (bring skis or snowshoes if snow is here) to  
2 PM start off the New Year in a healthy, happy way.  
MEET: North end of Goulais Ave. at Camp Korah.  
LEADER: Bert Dearing 779-3554.

Jan. 17 Saulteaux: MOONLIGHT HIKE. Nettleton Lake area. Bring  
Sat. snowshoes, though they may not be necessary. Even if  
7 PM there is snow, this area often has packed trails which  
may be walked on. Or, a group may go along the road  
around the lake.  
MEET: North end of Goulais Ave., at Camp Korah.  
LEADER: Horst Wetzl 254-4618.

Feb. 1 Saulteaux: SKI CROSS COUNTRY and through the woods  
Sunday with a group.  
10 AM MEET: At Glenview Cabins on Hwy. 17 N. near 6th Line.  
LEADER: Tom Allinson 256-8742.  
BRING: Lunch. There is a confectionary store at the  
cabins for bars and candy, etc.

Feb. 22 Echo Ridges: SNOWSHOE HIKE. Peter Lake area. The hike  
Sunday will be about 8 km long, with some trail-breaking re-  
10 AM quired. Expect to return about 4 PM.  
MEET: At corner of Hwy. 638 and Tower Lake Rd.  
LEADER: Barry Hansen 248-2897.  
BRING: Lunch.

Mar. 14 Saulteaux: SNOWSHOE HIKE north and east of the Hiawatha  
Sat. ski trails.  
10 AM MEET: At the corner of Connor Rd. where the plough  
turns. Connor rd. starts at corner of Landslide Rd.  
and 6th Line.  
LEADER: Bert Dearing 779-3554.  
BRING: Lunch.





## 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