



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. 19

Editor: Lorie Armstrong

1981 04 15

THE GLORY OF
MOUNT GWYNNE,
SCHREIBER SECTION



THE NIP AND TUCK

from an essay by Charles Hunt

The following is a short history of the Bruce Mines and Algoma Railway. A small portion of the Desbarats Section of the Trail follows the old roadbed of the "Nip and Tuck".

"The Bruce Mines and Algoma Railroad (BM & AR) was chartered in 1899, to build a railroad from Bruce Station (CPR) to the Rock Lake Copper Mines". A distance of approximately 15 miles.

Construction of the railroad began in 1900 and was completed to the Rock Lake Mine Mill (Red Mill) by the fall of 1901.

"Much of the line followed the broad valley of the Thessalon River, which widens into Ottertail, Gordon and Rock Lakes, in its southward course. Sweeping curves, sidehill construction, minimal blasting and three major trestles over the Thessalon tell the story in general terms".

The railroad had two big customers, the Rock Lake Mining Company and Bruce Copper Mine Ltd. (B.C.M.), as well as a passenger service. Unfortunately luck was not on the railroad's side for the B.C.M. found very little copper and thus very little revenue for the BM & AR. To make matters worse, the Rock Lake Mine closed down in 1903, only two years after the railroad had opened the line to the area. It is no wonder that the little railroad was tabbed with the name "Nip and Tuck" by the local residents!

New ideas were conjured to put the "Nip and Tuck" back on its feet. One scheme was to extend the line to James Bay.

The event that brought the "Nip and Tuck" together again was the development of a quarry half way between Jack Island and Eagle Point. During 1913 and the early part of 1914 the quarry was very profitable, quarrying a type of sedimentary rock called "Trap rock" used mainly in the construction of roads.

Nevertheless, by the end of 1914, the world was at war and help was now needed towards the war effort and the quarry operations were slowly terminated. "By mid-summer, 1917, the quarry was forced to close because the company was unable to hire boats to haul the rock".

In 1913 the "Nip and Tuck" had been reorganised under a new name "the Lake Huron and Northern Ontario Railway Co." However the reorganisation did not stop the demise of the company.

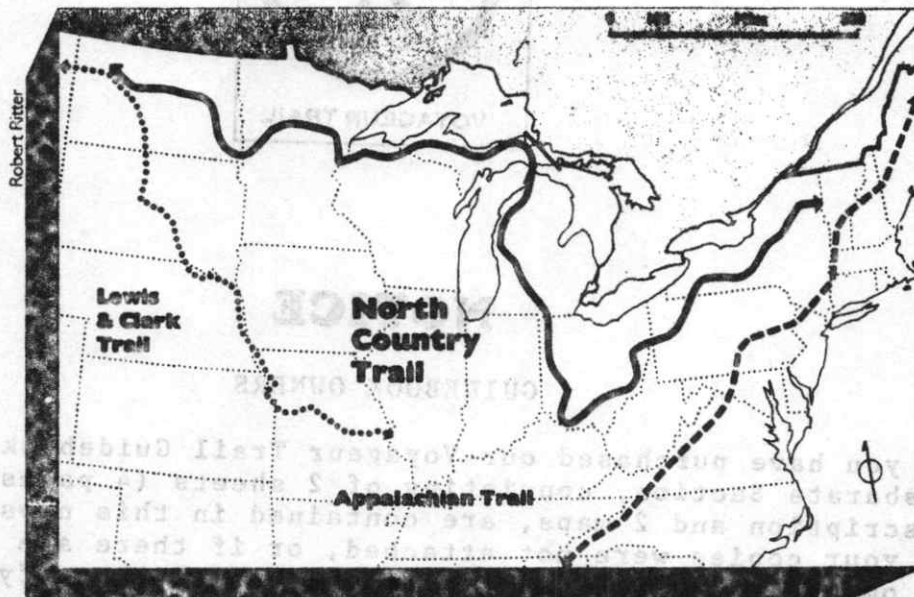
The last passenger train to run on the northern section of the railroad ran on July 12 1916. "By 1918 most of the rails had been salvaged to assist the war effort." During the depression years a scrap dealer retrieved what was left of the LH & NO rail and "the right of way was sold for taxes." Even though the rail is gone, to this day the raised roadbed can be traced right to the Rock Lake Mill. It remains a mute testimonial to the heyday of railroading and is a visible link with our past.

A NEW TRAIL TO CONQUER

(from the Bruce Trail News, Winter 1980)

The world's longest hiking trail to connect the Appalachian Trail in the east with the Lewis and Clark Trail in the west thus linking the U.S. coast-to-coast, has won presidential approval as part of the national trails system. To stretch 3 246 miles over seven states, the North Country Trail will meander through a changing panorama of scenic splendors and points of historical interest.

Although completion of the trail will probably take 20 years, about 300 miles are already open to hikers. The National Forest Service has completed about half the trail miles under its jurisdiction.



This hiking route, now in the works, will make the Appalachian Trail seem like a mere stroll.

NEW SIGNS ALONG THE TRAIL!

The Voyageur Trail Association has adopted a new sign to be used at access points but out of sight of roadways. This sign, a replica of which appears below, incorporates the silhouette of a hiker, circled in green, with the name of our trail -VOYAGEUR TRAIL-below it for identification.

This sign, under the new Trespass to Property Act, 1980, means that hiking only is permitted. Although the word 'only' is stressed, and thus a strong negative meaning is inherent in the sign, we feel that it is far less offensive than signs that have negative words on them.

Remember, the Voyageur Trail is in large part on private land and we owe our landowners our sincere gratitude and respect for the privilege of the use of their land for our pleasure. Use the trail and follow the Trail Users' Code.



NOTICE

GUIDEBOOK OWNERS

If you have purchased our Voyageur Trail Guidebook, the Desbarats Section, consisting of 2 sheets (4 pages) of description and 2 maps, are contained in this newsletter. If your copies were not attached, or if there are any errors of omission or duplication of pages, please notify the Secretary.

Remember, for your purchase price, you will yet receive, at no extra cost, the Echo Ridges and Thessalon Sections when they are mapped and described. This will provide you with a guidebook for approximately 200 km of rugged and beautiful hiking trail.

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

FO.H.T.A. OUTLOOK

NUMBER 2

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of OUTLOOK has been prepared by Henry Graupner, while waiting for a new editor to take over on a more permanent basis. Diana Brebner of Ottawa has accepted the position of OUTLOOK editor from the next issue on. She has been involved with editing the RIDEAU TRAIL Newsletter, and works in the publishing industry. I am happy to be able to place this Newsletter in her care, and wish her all the best.

As some of you know, I am also withdrawing from active participation as a FOHTA director, after seven years, first as President and then as Secretary. The pressures of my professional activities are just too great to allow me to devote the time to the job which it requires, and FOHTA will be better served by others who have the time. Knowing the representatives which each member trail club and association appoints as FOHTA director, I am confident the Federation is in good hands. New ideas for the future are coming forward, and a change of secretary probably never did any organization any harm.

The first issue of OUTLOOK dealt mostly with our May 1980 HIKE ONTARIO! Conference. In this issue, I would like to go back further and highlight some of the FOHTA story, and to look ahead at the plans for the future.

HISTORY OF FOHTA

In early 1973, the Bruce Trail Association circulated a letter to other hiking trail groups in the province, asking for an indication of interest in a province-wide organization. At the time, I was on the Executive of the Guelph Trail Club, and I recall that that club's response was definitely in favour of meeting with others and investigating the need for such an organization. In the summer of that year, the Provincial government held its Ontario Trails Symposium. I attended that event and came away convinced that the government was going to involve itself in the hiking trail movement in one way or another. It therefore became imperative that all trail groups came together in order to influence the government as to the nature of its involvement. With the sponsorship of the Guelph Trail Club, a meeting was held at my home in November 1973, to which representatives of all hiking trail groups known about were invited. At the time the Guelph's invitations were being circulated, the Rideau Trail Association was also discussing similar initiatives.

The persons gathered together at that first meeting from all across the province were quick to reach the conclusion that a province-wide organization was required to deal with concerns which are common to all of the voluntary trail building groups in the province. A formal organization was established early in 1974 and provincial letters patent were granted in January of 1975. Of the eleven founding member organizations, one has been dissolved (Credit Valley Footpath Club) and one dropped out (Peterson Trail Association). Two new trails have since joined, to bring

membership up to eleven again (Avon Trail and Maitland Trail Associations). The complete list is shown elsewhere in this issue.

One of the major early tasks of FOHTA was to identify the policies which the Federation, on your behalf, would request the government to initiate. This resulted in myself as the hiking representative on the 1974-76 Ontario Trails Council, being well able to express the hikers' viewpoint at the discussions of the Council, and permitted the Federation to submit a number of briefs to the Council. The early enthusiasm of hikers, and of other recreational trail groups for a limited form of government involvement with the trails movement, is reflected in the recommendations of the Ontario Trails Council's final report which was published in the fall of 1976. I now look back over the more than four years which have elapsed since the conclusion of the Council's work and regret to say that very little action has been taken by Queen's Park towards implementing any of the recommendations, except the one dealing with landowner liability.

I suspect that even this matter would not have been dealt with by the government so expeditiously, had it not been for the fact that other groups in the province such as farmers and landowners, were also pressuring for the changed liability and trespass legislation which is now in effect.

In 1975, FOHTA sponsored the first annual Ontario Hiking Day as a means of increasing the public's awareness of the activity of hiking and of generating publicity for our trails. In recognition of our efforts, a plaque was presented by the government to the Federation at a ceremony at Queen's Park. Ontario Hiking Day has been held each year since then, although the success in meeting its objectives has varied from year to year and from one trail to another. The one thing we cannot plan for is the weather, and the energies and ideas of the local organizers of the event are also variable.

FOHTA has also, during these years, worked hard to establish good communications with Queen's Park, particularly with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Culture and Recreation which have the most to do with our activities. This objective has met with only limited success, because public and government attention has been focussed for some time almost exclusively on the Niagara Escarpment and the Bruce Trail. FOHTA is a founding and active member of the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment, and has mobilized wherever possible the province-wide assistance of the members of the other trail groups in support of the Bruce Trail and of the Niagara Escarpment Commission's plans.

Lastly, the HIKE ONTARIO! Conference at Peterborough in May 1980, was a significant achievement for FOHTA. The tremendous efforts which went into planning this event, were worthwhile, judging by the comments of most of those present. Contrary to some earlier

"conventional wisdom" about hikers, it is clear that they and their families will travel to and attend such an event, given a good program and other conference attractions.

During the conference business sessions participants strongly urged the Federation to undertake certain activities in the future on behalf of the hikers, hiking trails and trail organizations.

THE FUTURE OF FOHTA AND YOU

The unanimously adopted resolutions of the HIKE ONTARIO! Conference dealt with several specific areas in which FOHTA should initiate programs and activities.

However, FOHTA does not have a permanent staff, nor does it have a separate pool of helpers to call on. FOHTA is YOU and it can have no separate or active existence without your participation and help. The one or two representatives which your club or association already appoints, do not form a large enough group to carry out all the activities which are FOHTA's mandate.

Right now, there is an urgent need for people to work in four specific areas:

- the development and implementation of a Volunteer Development Program to increase the number of our members who actively participate in running our organization, and to improve all of our effectiveness
- a group to look after our relations with government (mainly, but not exclusively, the Provincial government)
- to coordinate and improve FOHTA public relations and publicity in the media
- to assist with Ontario Hiking Day

Each of the first two of these areas requires a working group with a coordinator or chairman, to be responsible for all aspects of these activities. Within broad guidelines already established, the groups would be responsible for their own ideas, planning and implementation, and their own timetable. Funds are available to meet certain expenses. Each group would have to work out where and when it meets, how it communicates, etc. The groups would be responsible to the Board of Directors of FOHTA, and it is hoped that each group would contain at least one director to facilitate liaison with the Board. Outlines of the objectives of these two working groups are available from Bob Fanning, Secretary, FOHTA, Box 422, etc., or your FOHTA representative (see list below).

The Ontario Hiking Day Coordinator would work with FOHTA groups and other organizations to provide a central coordination service aimed at increasing the effectiveness of local and province-wide activities and publicity for this annual event.

Please give serious consideration to this call for your help. The Federation has an important job to do on behalf of all hikers and hiking trails. Without more active participants, this job cannot be done. Why don't you call your FOHTA rep. and discuss this with him/her.

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED

in this Newsletter are those of the Editor and contributors, and do not necessarily represent the position of the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations.

FOOD FOR THE TRAIL

LOGAN BREAD - A SOLID FOOD FOR PACKING

(This recipe is supposed to be able to sustain two people for 16 days, and a 2-inch x 2-inch square will sustain a person for a day.)

1 quart water	1/4 cups cooking oil
4 lbs. whole wheat flour	1 cup sesame seeds
1 1/2 lbs. raw or brown sugar	2 cups honey
12 oz. non-fat dry milk solids	1 1/2 cups wheat-germ
2 tablespoons baking powder	1 cup blackstrap molasses
2 tablespoons salt	

Preheat oven to 300°F. Mix all ingredients in a bowl. When well mixed put into greased, turkey sized roasting pan, 2 inches deep (bread pans can also be used). Bake one hour. Cut into squares and air-dry until semi-dry, then wrap in plastic. Can be stored for six months in breadbox or frozen for longer storage.

"Outlook" is indebted to Paul Syme, Sault Ste. Marie, for submitting this recipe. I have sampled the Logan Bread and can recommend it.

YOUR FOHTA REPRESENTATIVES, as of February 1, 1981

Avon Trail Association	Vacant	
Bruce Trail Association	Doug Paton, Toronto (Caledon Hills BTC)	416-923-2035
	Gordon Thompson (Toronto BTC)	416-451-0124
Elgin Hiking Trail Club	Brian Henson, St. Thomas	519-633-3850
	Henry Jeanes, St. Thomas	519-631-4702
Ganaraska Trail Association	Chris Daffern, Oshawa	416-723-6794
	Jim Parsons, Lindsay	705-324-4708
Grand Valley Trails Association	David Emberly, Cambridge	519-621-5586
	Lorne Stobbs, Kitchener	519-745-1947
Guelph Trail Club	Bob Fanning, Agincourt	416-298-7250
	Sandra Webster, Cambridge	519-658-9938
Maitland Trail Association	Don Grant, Goderich	519-524-9426
	Lynda Postill, Clinton	519-482-3393
Quinte-Hastings Recreational Trail Association	Dave Thornton, Belleville	613-962-1448
	James Galway, Belleville	613-968-3265
Rideau Trail Association	Al Gamble, Ottawa	613-729-5056
	Doug Knapp, Kingston	613-542-2039
Thames Valley Trail Association	Nell Rombouts, London	519-439-6561
	Jeff Smith, London	519-451-4355
Voyageur Trail Association	Paul Syme, Sault Ste. Marie	705-254-4791
	Ralph Wood, Hamilton	416-529-9671

OVERNIGHT HIKES

While the V.T.A. has no official overnight hikes on plan, there are certainly some being planned unofficially. Following are two short hikes which a few people are taking over weekends. There are also other longer hikes in the planning stage. Any serious hiker who would like to go along on either of these weekend trips would be welcome.

Please call Tom Allinson at (705) 256-8742.

July 3-5: In Lake Superior Park, entering on the Orphan Lake Trail, to the mouth of the Baldhead River and along the shore toward Gargantua as far as they can go in the time allowed.

July 31 - Aug. 3 - Civic Holiday Weekend: The Tacquamenon Pathway between Two-Hearted River and Grand Marais along the shoreline of Lake Superior. This hike will depend on whether a leader can be found. The original group leader discovered prior commitments.

May 16-21: This is a longer hike which a group are taking along the Voyageur Trail. Since it is over a rough trail through wild country only those with at least some hiking experience should attempt it. Call Tom Allinson as above.

MICHIPICOTEN CLUB NEWS

The following is a list of work parties and hikes for the season:

May 2	Work Party	Leader: Agnes Ostermeier
May 23	Public Hike	
June 6	Work Party	Tom Baxter
July 4	Work Party	Sheila Renault
Aug. 1	Work Party	Pete Stinnissen
Sept. 5	Work Party	Ray Bonenberg

Subsequent hike dates will be set at our May 21 General Meeting.

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION SPRING ACTIVITIES 1981

SAULTEAUX

There will be no advance work party schedule made for this summer except for small blaze painting groups. If you are interested in joining a group, even if just for the walk, please call: Paul Syme - 254-4791
or Eve Kersey - 253-1517

May 10 CONSERVATION WEEK HIKE

2 pm

MEET: At Camp Korah at the north end of Goulais Av.
This area has easy access to the trail and a greater number of early spring flowers than the more heavily forested stretches.

There will be members present with armbands to act as guides.

Hikers are reminded that the plants and flowers should be left for the ones following to enjoy!

Aug. 23 NEW, NEW, NEW, TRAIL. Just opening! Walk to the northern terminus of the Saulteaux Section. Our destination will be the beautiful shoreline of Lake Superior south of the Red Rock cottage area. The trail follows the rugged coast along which are outstanding views seen by very few until now.

MEET: On Marshall Drive at the top of the Gros Cap hill.

LEADER: Tom Allinson 256-8742

BRING: Lunch, Binoculars, insect repellent.

DISTANCE: About 13 km

There will be transportation from the end of the walk back to your cars.

FALL WORK PARTIES will be scheduled to work on the newest part of the trail after it is flagged.

DESBARATS SECTION

A "Get Acquainted" evening, originally scheduled for early March, has been re-scheduled for Thursday evening, April 30, 1981, 7 PM to 10 PM, 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.

Please join us and bring your friends.



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