

Voyageur Trail Association SAULT STE. MARIE, Ont.

January 15, 1975

The Voyageur Trail Association came into existence in the winter of 1973-74 to co-ordinate and support the efforts of people interested in the construction of a walking trail from South Baymouth to Sault Ste. Marie and thence northward. The Association already has 50 members scattered along the length of the trail, and for the use of anyone else who is interested in joining, an application form is given at the end of this newsletter. Membership will be for the year from April 1, 1975.

The Association would like to build up a file of photographs and slides on the Trail. If you are a photographer and would like to contribute to this file, please take an extra exposure of each picture and send it to the V.T.A. The Association will gladly reimburse you for the cost of the extra film.

This is the first issue of what is hoped will become a regular newsletter on activity along the Voyageur Trail. In this issue coverage of goings-on along the trail can at best be described as patchy, but please do not feel slighted if your activities have not been mentioned. Instead, send us information on what has been done or is going to be done in your area and we will include it in the next issue, which should be out before the winter is over. The address is in the top right hand corner of this page.

We have reports from four of the clubs along the trail.

The Rainbow Trail which runs from Espanola towards Manitoulin Island, is not only the largest completed section of the Voyagour Trail, but has been in existence the longest. George Morrison is largely responsible for this through his leadership of the Trail Blazers Club at the Espanola High School. At Mr. Morrison's invitation a group from Wawa, the Sco and Thessalon hiked this trail in June 1974. They brought back an enthusiastic report and an invitation to repeat the walk next spring. Many of us are looking forward to this. Over the summer the trail has been lengthened so that it now reaches Raven Lake, and a side trip to some caves south of Horseshoe Lake has been laid out.

The Desbarate Club was inaugurated November 28, 1974. Bill Gunn agreed to serve as temporary chairman and Lynn Ingham as secretary. Members had their first field outing December 1, when they walked the part of their "territory" that runs from Ottertail Lake to Gordon Lake. The club invites other members of the V.T.A., and anyone else who is interested, to hike part of their trail in March. The exact date will depend on snow conditions. Contact Bill Gunn, Lynn Ingham or Deiter Ropke for more details.

The Sault Club officially came into existence at a meeting held on January 15, 1974. Bill Foster was acclaimed president, Fr. Arnold Megan was elected Vice President, Rev. Andreas Kaellgren, secretary and Ken Griffiths, treasurer. Nine members were present and paid their \$5.00 annual dues. This money was then turned over to the V.T.A. for the purchase of marking tape and blazing paint for the various clubs making up the V.T.A.

The Sault Club has had a very busy and productive summer. The course for the trail has been determined and flagged over its entire 25 mile length from Gros Cap to north of the Garden River Indian Reserve. The names and addresses of all 45 owners of properties we would like to traverse have been obtained and to date 24 owners have been contacted and have given us permission to use their properties. Some of the properties for which we have obtained permission are adjacent and it was decided to use one of these sections, which runs approximately 12 miles from Maki Road to Goulais Avenue, for a combined demonstration of clearing and blazing techniques and work party to end the season. This outing was held on Saturday, November 23rd. The new trailmaster of the V.T.A. - Ralph Wood - came up from Toronto to demonstrate the approved techniques and our guide over the trail was Father Megan, who laid out that section of the Trail. The work crew consisted of nine members of the local club - R. Yanni, Father Megan, R. Fletcher, J. Clark, M. E. MacCallum, H. Nalthenius, B. Stevenson, P. Syme and K. Griffiths, four members of the Desbarats Club - T. Wills, D. Browning, L. Ingham and D. Ropke, and Don Fulton of the Thessalon Club. Everyone present agreed that the outing was a great success, not only in demonstrating trailmaking techniques and in actually getting a part of the trail completed, but also in generating enthusiasm for the task of completing the trail.

North Channel Trail. Harry Graham of Sault College with the help of students from the Forest Recreation course have located and tagged some 25 miles of trail running north from Gros Cap and are continuing work on this section of the V.T.A.

cut here

cut	here

THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION		
Membership F	orm	
Year		
Name		
Address		
Telephone (Home)	. (Business)	
Fees (check one) Ret	ourn to:	
Single - \$5.00 Family - \$5.00 - number of parents - number of children Student - \$2.00	The Secretary, Voyageur Trail Association, Box 66 SAULT STE. MARIE, Ont. P6A 5L2	

- 2 -