



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

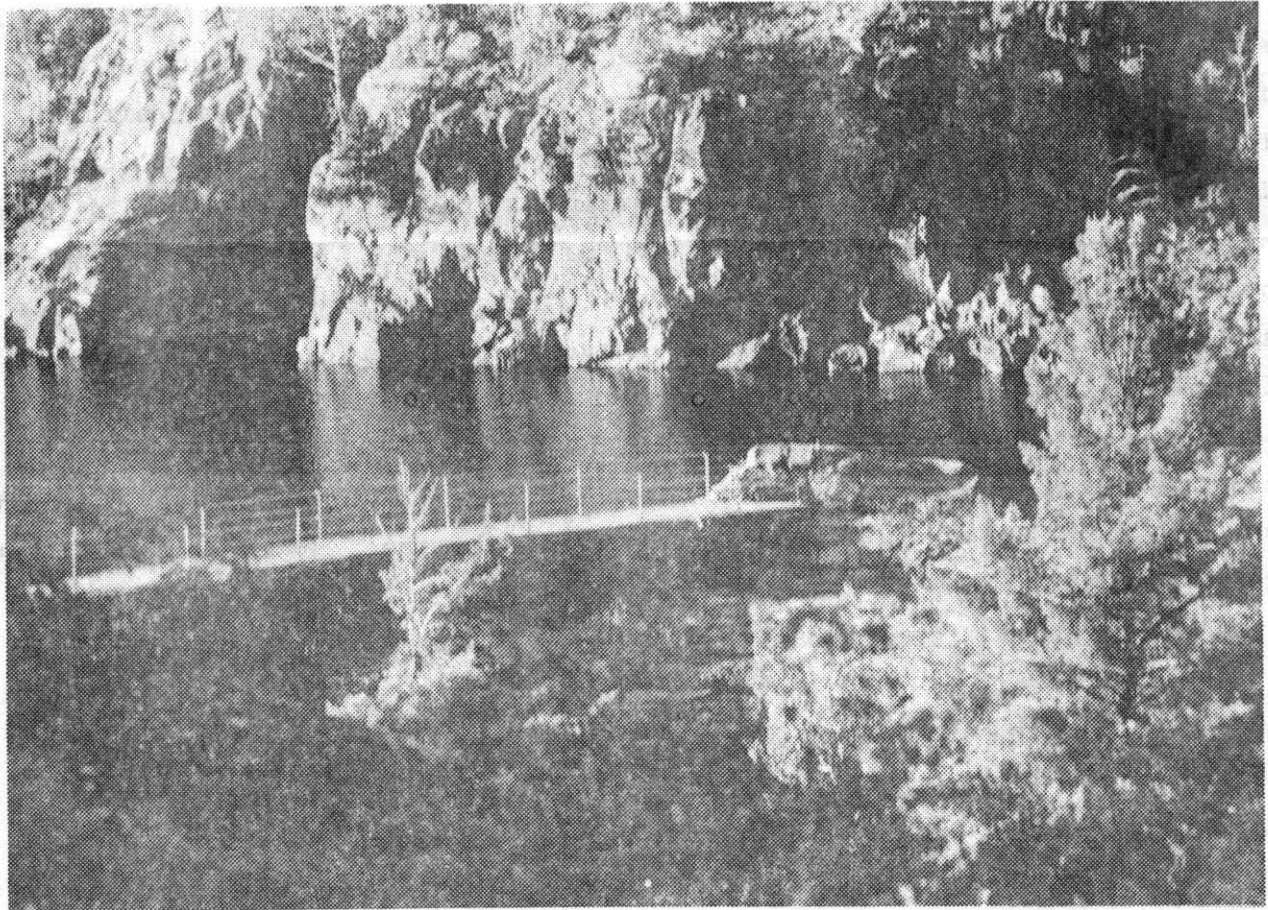
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No. 21

Editor: Lorie Armstrong

Spring, 1982



SHAW DAM — THESSALON SECTION

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION
1981

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ladies and gentlemen, members and guests, welcome to this, the seventh Annual General Meeting of the Voyageur Trail Association in the 8 years that we have been in existence. Imagine - 8 years ! In two more years we will be a decade old! We must celebrate that event in a grand way and I would welcome any suggestions on just how we might do that.

Again, I wish to bring you up to date on what has happened over the past year. I think the major event was the meeting of the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations (FOHTA) in Sault Ste. Marie in September and the smashing success of the social dinner and hike that followed. That event brought the realities of our Trail to the appreciation of many from Southern Ontario. I have learned since that there has been at least one positive spinoff from that event. Although these people meet regularly in Toronto, there is really not much time for comparing notes and thoughts during the meetings, and afterwards, everyone is rushing to catch a plane or train home. The hike we sponsored allowed for a good mixing of people and exchange of ideas. As a result, when Doug Knapp, Rideau Trail, discovered that the Voyageur Trail Association accepts 2 people as a minimum club requirement he saw a solution to a problem that the Rideau Trail Association had. Although they had large clubs at Kingston and Ottawa, the ends of the Rideau Trail, they had no club in the Perth area. Today, the R.T.A. has a club of 8 people in the Perth area, after they stopped thinking in only large terms!

Now, we'll turn to our home ground, and I've got some good news. Locally, the flagging of the Saulteaux Section north has proceeded very well, and it is now flagged into Pennefather Township, north and east of Prince Township. The Penewobikong Voyageur Trail Club and the Michipicoten Voyageur Trail Club are building apace and this Fall I travelled to Rossport to demonstrate blazing to the Schreiber Club. A short piece of that beautiful Section was blazed, before we were rained out, and the white paint blazes were very impressive to those who had not seen them before. That particular Section is very popular, and well it might be, for it is gorgeous, but people have been getting lost because there

were a few places where the Trail was not distinct, and with no blazes there was no hope. Because of the good impression the blazes made, I expect that Section will be blazed next summer.

The Echo Ridges Section has been measured and described under the guidance of Brian Williams and a crew of dedicated workers and the notes will be edited this winter for inclusion in our Guide Book next Spring. Guide Book sales have been good and whenever a new section is completed, we will add it at cost to members.

Finally, I ask all our members to do more and more, all you can, to promote the Voyageur Trail Association and recruit more members, for as I've said before, in our members lies our strength, and as our Trail expands, we need more and more hands to build and maintain it. When your Club asks for your support, respond if at all possible, because many hands an easy job doth make. I would also exhort you all to get out and use our Trail. There are many kilometers built through this wonderful country and the more it is used, the better it will become. It is your Trail, built through your own efforts, so enjoy the fruits of your labours!

We are making good and steady progress, and I wish to thank all of you who have helped in so many ways to further our aims and objectives. It is a pleasure to serve you in my capacity as President. Thank you.

Paul D. Syme

November 27, 1981



Spring, 1982

TOM McGRATH

We regret to announce the death of Tom McGrath who was the driving force behind the trail at Schreiber and the founder and President of that Club. We extend sincere sympathies to Heather his wife, and to his parents at Schreiber.

A NEW NAME

Two weeks prior to the tragic accident that took Tom McGrath's life, he had submitted the following:

In 1823 John Bigsby climbed a hill on Pic Island.

"As I turned towards the land, tall casque shaped islands were seen here and there, bordering the north shore, full of sinuosities, and overlooked by pleasingly-grouped hills of conical or waved outline, from 600 to 800 feet high. I was well repaid for the troubles of the ascent". The Shoe and Canoe, London, 1850.

With reference to the preceding quote we have decided to name our trail club 'CASQUE - ISLES V.T. CLUB'

CASQUE - is a poetic word for something possessing the anatomical shape of a helmet.

The conical hills of the Superior coast indeed resemble helmet shaped structures. Also our trail leads to within a corridor of islands that stretch westward as far as Pidgeon River (U.S.A. border).

Therefore, we have decided to use the notion contained in Bigsby's words as a base for our trail name.

The section of trail formerly referred to as Schreiber or North Superior (Terrace Bay in our brochure) will henceforth be known as the CASQUE - ISLES SECTION OF THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL and the responsible club as THE CASQUE - ISLES VOYAGEUR TRAIL CLUB.

ECHO RIDGES HIKE - MAY 16-21, 1981

A 5-day hike on the Voyageur Trail Echo Ridges section to Hiawatha Park in Sault Ste. Marie was undertaken by Barb Triplett, Tom Allinson, Betty Nassoioy and E. Nassoioy last May.

The hikers hit the trail at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 16. They started one kilometer west of Centre Line Road north of Bruce Mines. Tower Lake was reached just in time for a pleasant lunch. A relatively flat campsite was found near Peter Lake by 3:00 p.m. The day's mileage was estimated at 9 miles.

Sunday the hikers were off to an early start and had lunch at Two Horse Lake. A spectacular campsite was found at the bottom of a waterfall just below where the trail meets Coffee Creek. A respectable 11 miles were covered on day two.

Monday the hikers were surprised by 30 C. heat and temporary loss of the trail. However the hikers used their heads and soon came back onto the trail where Coffee Creek flows into the Echo River. As the bridge over Coffee Creek was out, the Creek was forded with little difficulty and some pleasure due to the unexpected heatwave. Camp was set up on the creek draining Trotter Lake west of Echo Lake. Mileage for day three was 10 miles.

Day four commenced at 8:00 a.m. Wahbunose Lake was reached by 9 o'clock. Lunch was eaten at the High Dump at noon. The High Dump is 30 metres or more above the Garden River. From here in earlier days logs were dumped into the river to be driven downstream during the Spring flood. A spectacular view of the river valley and adjacent hills makes High Dump a much photographed spot. The Bailey bridge across the Garden River within the Reserve was reached at 1:15. Camp was set up on a sand bar on the Garden at 4:00. The day's mileage was 12.

Wednesday, (day 5) the hikers set out at 8:10 and reached the spectacular gorges and waterfalls of Bedore Creek by 9:00. The Driving Creek Road was reached by 9:45. Lunch was eaten where the Driving Creek crosses the road west of Driving Lake. Camp was set up along the Driving Creek 3/4 of a kilometre east of the Jardun Mine Road. Mileage for the day was 7.

The final day of the hike began early with the hikers on the trail at 7:15. Hiawatha Lodge was reached by 3:20 with 12 miles covered on the last day. The hike had been planned to last another day but the unexpected heatwave brought out the blackflies, scourge of the north woods. Still, the hikers had a memorable journey on this beautiful yet rugged section of the trail with its many lakes and watercourses, spectacular vistas and waterfalls.