



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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

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EDITOR: KEN JOHNSON

WINTER, 1982-83



A WINTER STREAM, SAULTEAUX SECTION

Photo by G. T. Harvey

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
1982**

(Presented at the A.G.M., November 20, 1982)

Members and friends, I have some good news and some bad news for you today. First, the bad news. The Thunder Bay Club has folded, primarily because of the lack of support from the members. The membership of that club was made up mostly of students, who, of course, are away during the Summer trail-building time, at summer jobs. The Sudbury Club has also folded, partly due to the unfortunate death of one of the prime movers and the President of the Club, Robert Brown. There has been little maintenance of the Rainbow Section, because of the lack of members in that Club, and similarly, there has been little maintenance of the Thessalon Section, but I will say more about this later. We were unfortunate to lose one of our prime movers in the Goulais Bay area, Derry Armstrong, who has moved to Alberta, and our membership is falling. That's the bad news.

Now for the good news. The Echo Ridges Section is almost completely painted and will require just a little more work next year. The portion of the Casque-Isles Section that has been cleared is now completely blazed, although the clearing of the entire section is not complete. It won't be as easy to get lost on that section now. The Penewobikong Club is making steady progress in extending their section around Blind River, and we expect to have a club in Elliot Lake this year. One of the Casque-Isles members is still trying to find someone in Thunder Bay to restart the Thunder Bay Club. Finally, as a spin-off from the highly successful event held last year by the Bruce Trail Association, there is to be a province-wide GO-TO-BLAZES DAY this Spring, Saturday, May 14th, 1983, wherein all members are encouraged to get out and spruce up their section. The Saulteaux Club is being asked to assist in sprucing up the Thessalon Section, prior to it being measured and mapped this Summer. (see article on Page 3).

Over the past year, I have acted as your F.O.H.T.A. representative, attending 5 meetings a year, and currently am serving as President of that Association. I have attended several meetings on volunteerism and have responded to many enquiries from various sources.

The Voyageur Trail Association has accomplished a great deal over the past year and you should all be proud of this record. An enormous amount of time, energy and talent has been unselfishly donated by many of our hardworking members.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of you, whose enthusiasm, dedication and hard work, has made my job as President a pleasure, and I feel confident that the Voyageur Trail Association will continue to grow and expand in the future.

PAUL D. SYME

MAILBAG

In our last issue we published a letter from Mr. Lance Feild of the North Country Trail Association. The following is the VTA reply:

"Dear Mr. Feild,
On behalf of Mrs. L. Armstrong, Editor of the Voyageur Trail News, I wish to thank you for your recent letter and for your interest in the Voyageur Trail Association.

Your thoughts about a link with the Voyageur Trail and the North Country Trail had already crossed our minds and since the proposed route of the NCT (don't believe it is completely built yet, but I stand to be corrected!) seems to approach within about 60 miles of Sault Ste. Marie Michigan, that seems to be an appropriate spot to link the two trails. Of course, the link would necessarily have to pass through both the Saults, not exactly a "natural" route! With this in mind, however, when the NCT is built, perhaps it could be routed a little closer to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan."

Paul D. Syme,
President.

HYPOTHERMIA

Adapted from
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Hypothermia (commonly called exposure) occurs when the body core temperature drops below 37°C or 98.6°F. Common causes are the choice of inadequate clothing or by the decreased insulation value of adequate clothing due to perspiration or an unexpected soaking. Exhaustion or hunger can increase your vulnerability to hypothermia as can illness or injury.

The onset of hypothermia is very gradual and difficult to recognize. By the time the symptoms of disorientation, irritability, fatigue or giddiness become noticeable, the victim's condition is serious and treatment should begin at once. If hypothermia symptoms are noted in a member of your party seek shelter away from the wind immediately. If the victim is conscious a hot, non-alcoholic drink and additional clothing is the best treatment. Wet clothing should be changed or taken off and thoroughly wrung out.

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GO TO BLAZES!

A "Go-To-Blazes" Day is planned for Saturday, May 14, 1983. This is an occasion to clean up the trail and refresh the blazes.

All volunteers should bring a paint scraper and a 1 to 1 1/2 inch (25 - 40 mm) old paint brush, or a pair of pruners. Paint will be supplied. Bring a friend and introduce him or her to the delights of nature. No major construction will be done.

The Saulteaux Club will go to Thessalon to clean up that section before it will be measured and described this summer. Other clubs will refresh their respective sections. A social get-together afterwards for all volunteers will be planned.

You will be contacted by one of your club members, so be sure to volunteer, and make this a success. One day's work will provide all users with a more enjoyable trail and summer recreation.

This event is sponsored by F.O.H.T.A. and will be held across the Province on all Hiking trails. More news about Go-To-Blazes Day later, but mark the date in your calendar now!



TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

If you have not renewed since September 1, 1982, you are in arrears! Our membership year runs from January 1 1983 so it is now time to renew your membership. We wish to publish a membership list this spring, so please send in your dues promptly. Our fees are a bargain these days; they have not changed since our beginning 9 years ago, so DO IT NOW, before you forget! Thank you for your co-operation.

STATUS OF THE TRAIL

- ① Casque-Isles Section: Between Terrace Bay and Rainbow Falls Provincial Park, approximately 40 km of shoreline hiking trail are completed and blazed. This section will be available to guidebook holders this spring.
- ② Pukaskwa National Park: Seventy kilometres of coastal hiking trail winds its way from Hattie Cove south through boreal forest and over the hummocky volcanic rock of the Shield to the Swallow River. When completed to the Pukaskwa River, we will include this in our guidebook. For further information, contact the Superintendent, Pukaskwa National Park, P.O. Box 550, Marathon, Ontario POT 2E0.
- ③ Michipicoten Section: Approximately 8 km of trail from Highway 17 near the goose to the intersection of the Mission Road and Highway 17 is completed. Work is continuing south towards Lake Superior Provincial Park.
- ④ Saulteaux-Echo Ridges-Desbarats-Thessalon-Iron Bridge-Penewobikong Sections: There is complete and continuous trail from Gros Cap, west of Sault Ste. Marie, to the town of Iron Bridge. Parts of the Echo Ridges and Thessalon sections need a bit of rebrushing and blazing, but they are virtually completed. Some of the Iron Bridge and Penewobikong sections are constructed and the rest is under construction. The Thessalon Section will be mapped and measured this summer, for inclusion in the guidebook next winter.
- ⑤ Rainbow Section: Although there is approximately 20 km of trail completed south of Espanola, there has been no activity in recent years and that section has not expanded. Some of it may be in poor shape.