

VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

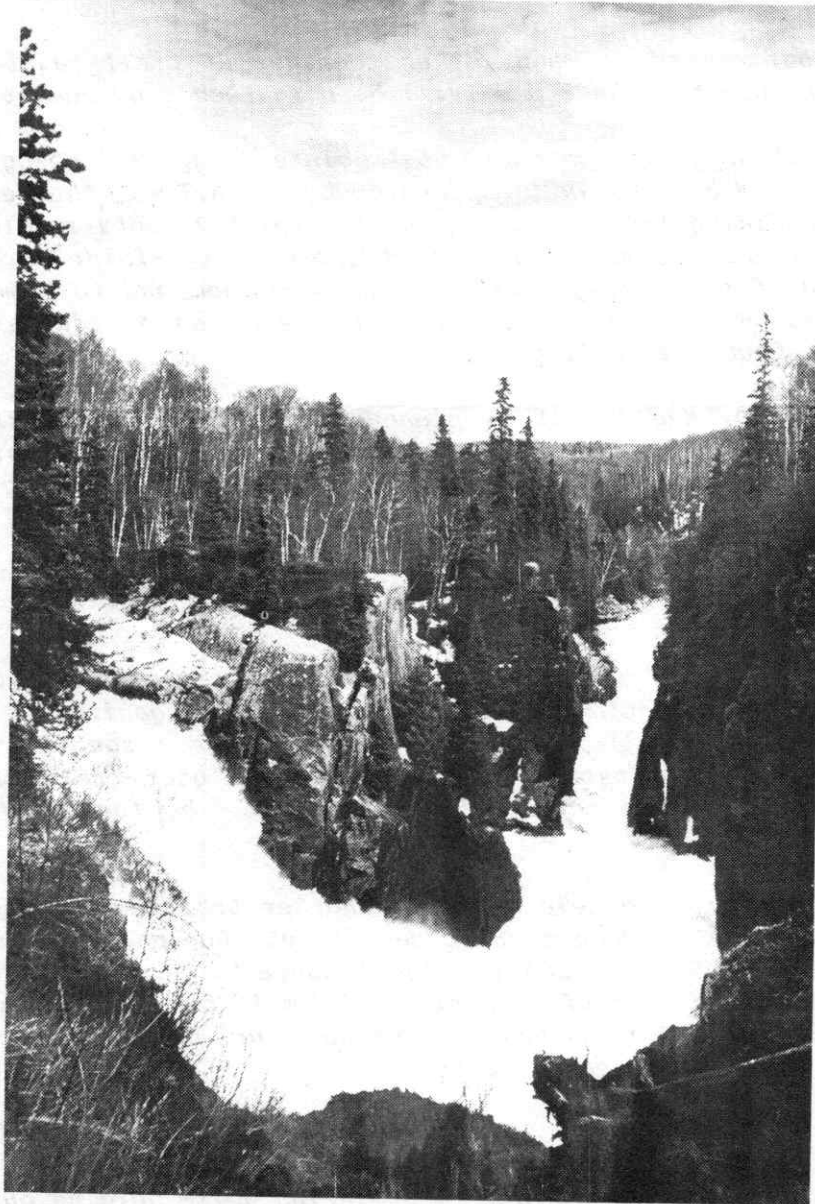
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BOX 66, SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO P6A 5L2

NO. 24

EDITOR: KEN JOHNSON

SPRING 1983



AGUASABON FALLS, CASQUE— ISLES SECTION

G O T O B L A Z E S D A Y

SATURDAY, MAY 14TH, 1983What is GO-TO-BLAZES DAY?

Last year the Bruce Trail Association held its first annual Go-To-Blazes Day in which a record number of volunteers cleaned up the 700 kilometres of Trail from Queenston to Tobermory. Over 150 people responded, for example, to the request of the Caledon Hills Club for help with its 66 kilometres. The strength of this support came from groups - scouts, schools, Big Brothers Associations - as well as from many individual members.

Never before had so many worked together of trail maintenance, and never before had the Bruce Trail been in such good condition.

Again this year, another Go-To-Blazes Day is being held, on Saturday, May 14th, 1983, sponsored by F.O.H.T.A., the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trails Association (of which 11 Ontario hiking trails associations are members). Its purpose is two-fold: to improve the quality of the hiking trails in the province and to communicate an outdoors ethic: a respect for the land and a responsibility for caring about its quality.

On Saturday, May 14, it is planned to clean up every kilometre of hiking trail in the province. No major construction projects are contemplated, merely light maintenance chores of touching up blazes, picking up of litter, and the clearing of winter deadfall. Thus, it is a day in which every member can participate.

How Do I Get Involved?

We need a lot of volunteers. To help us organize the day, please sign up by contacting in advance your local organizer. You will be assigned to a small work party to look after a specific section of Trail. Printed instructions (the name of your trail captain, the meeting place, the materials needed) will be forwarded to you in advance of the day.

Or you may wish to help out with another trail in the Province. If so, contact Ross McLean, 8 Borden Street, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 1Z2, Telephone (519) 821-0243 for local contact. Bring an old two inch paint brush, a pair of clippers or a small brush saw, and a plastic shopping bag (for garbage). Bring your lunch and something to drink, and plan to enjoy yourself.

What's In It For Me?

First of all, enjoy the warmth of Spring while helping out in a good cause. Meet new friends and enjoy the fellowship of working together.

Take pride in your contribution to the Trail as a natural resource available to all of us.

Celebrate in the knowledge that the Trail is again in excellent shape for the start of the hiking season.

ROSS McLEAN
Provincial Co-Ordinator
GO-TO-BLAZES DAY 1983

Your VTA local co-ordinators are:

SAULTEAUX : Brian Williams (705) 949-4914
PENIWOBKONG : Norm Lediett (705) 356-7608
MICHIPICOTEN : Peter Stinnissen (705) 856-4270
CASQUE-ISLES : Lorne Bourke (807) 824-2951

NEW BOOK FROM ROM

The Royal Ontario Museum announces the publication of a new book that may interest some VTA members. It is Shrubs of Ontario by James H. Soper and Margaret L. Heimburger, co-authors of the now out of print 100 Shrubs of Ontario. According to the descriptive brochure released by the ROM, the book is 528 pages, 17 cm X 25.2 cm (approx. 7" X 10") with full page illustrations and scientific descriptions of more than 200 species of shrubs including field recognition aids and distribution maps. Price is \$20.00 each in paperback and may be mail-ordered from the Museum. Prepayment plus 10% per book for postage and handling is required for mail orders. The ROM's address is:

Publication Services
Royal Ontario Museum
100 Queen's Park
TORONTO, Ontario
M5S 2C6

P.S. We will try to review this book for the next VTA newsletter.

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NEW MAGAZINE

WALKING! is a new U.S. publication devoted to hiking and hiking trails as well as other aspects of walking such as research and the new past-time of sportswalking that is growing in popularity south of the border.

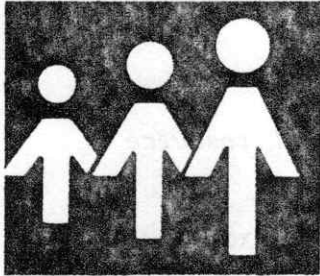
The publishers are offering complimentary copies of the first issue to our associated Clubs. Interested Club executives should write to:

Trails Editor
Walking Journal
P.O. Box 454
ATHENS, GA.
U.S.A. 30603

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COUGAR SIGHTINGS IN SAULT AREA

Four sightings of the endangered Eastern Cougar were recorded in the Sault area in 1982. According to the Ontario Ministry of Natural resources Jan. 1983 Newsletter, one sighting reported by a Bruce Mines resident was of an adult cat and one young.

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

FOHTA. OUTLOOK

Vol. 4 No. 1

WINTER 1983

GO-TO-BLAZES DAY SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1983

Hiking trails will be ready for the spring and summer season thanks to a province-wide Go-To-Blazes Day May 14.

The FOHTA co-ordinator for the event is Ross McLean, 8 Borden Street, Guelph N1G 1Z2 (telephone 519-821-0243). Initial information has been forwarded to all clubs and, upon request, Ross is available to speak to a general or executive meeting of any club.

Trail work will be restricted to:

- a) litter pick-up
- b) clearing of winter deadfall
- c) cutting back of overgrowth
- d) freshening of blazes.

MEMBER OF GUELPH TRAIL CLUB EARNS FOHTA MERIT AWARD

A well-known Ontario hiker, Henry Graupner, former president and vice-president of the Guelph Trail Club, was presented with the annual FOHTA Merit Award at the annual general meeting held in Guelph in November, 1982.

An active hiking promoter, Henry attended the Ontario Trails Symposium at Queen's Park in 1973. In 1974, with the assistance of the Guelph and other Trail groups, he helped establish the Federation of Ontario Hikers Trail Associations (FOHTA).

From 1976 until 1977 Henry sat as president of FOHTA, and participated as its secretary from 1977 to 1981, when pressures from his professional activities at the Royal Ontario Museum forced him to give up this active role.

Henry was also a hiking representative on the Ontario Trails Council from 1975 to 1977.

TAKING A SUMMER VACATION? TRY HIKING IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

(The following information was brought to the attention of Doug Knapp, former president of FOHTA, by the Park Superintendent of Wakami Lake Provincial Park):

THE HEIGHT OF LAND HIKING TRAIL

by Douglas Knapp

The Height of Land Hiking Trail is a 65-kilometre loop around the shores of Wakami Lake and is set on a rolling terrain with a variety of outcrops, low cliffs, sloping hills and sand ridges.

The trail derives its name from the height of land or watershed divide between the Arctic and Atlantic oceans. The feature parallels the west shore of Wakami Lake, and the hiking trail is set on or in close proximity to it.

Forest types vary throughout the trail, as Wakami is located in the extreme southern boundary of the Boreal Forest Region of Ontario. Yet it contains species from the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Forest Region, either as scattered individuals or as more or less isolated patches.

The predominant forest is mixed in character consisting of an association of balsam fir, black spruce, trembling aspen, and white birch — this appearing as a dominant type of middle slopes.

Yellow birch and sugar maple (southern-species) are found in particular groves or as single trees on heavier-textured ridges and north slopes. On rocky shores and on some ridges there is some presence of eastern white and red pine. Sand terraces are dominated by jack pine which also grow with black spruce on poor rocky soils.

Vistas, secluded beaches, rustic foot bridges and scenic locations are located throughout the trail. Remnants of horse-drawn logging operations, part of the park's heritage, can also be seen at various points along the trail.

Wildlife viewing and photography opportunities abound! Birdlife includes bald eagles, ospreys, merlins and hawk owls. Mammals include moose, mink, marten, fox, and wolf.

Shoreline fishing is good. Many a hiker has enjoyed fresh walleye, pike, and whitefish fillets cooked over an open fire along the trail.

One can complete 12-15 kilometres per day. It takes about five full days at a leisurely pace to complete the trail. The distance between campsites has been measured with a maximum of one to one and a half hours between each site. There is a total of 21 campsites on the trail, all of which are located on or near the lakeshore.