



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. 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. Heimbürger, 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.

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

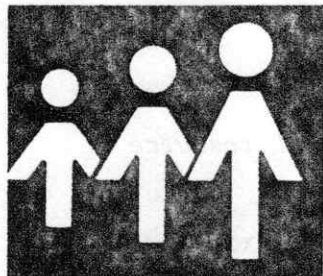
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COUGAR SIGHTINGS IN SAULT AREA

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.



Maps are available at the park with additional information about the trail (i.e., topography, historic sites, points of interest, etc.). You may wish to copy this information onto your map prior to departing. Topographic maps on a scale of 1:50,000 are available for purchase from the Ministry of Natural Resources district office in Chapleau at a cost of \$2.50 plus sales tax of \$.18 each. The reference numbers for these maps are 41-0/7 and 41-0/10.

Parking is available in the park staff quarters area.

NOTE: Prior to departure be sure to contact park staff as a water-crossing is required on the last section of the trail. At present, the trail ends abruptly at the lakeshore. With prior arrangements, park staff will arrange for transport across the channel.

NEWS FROM THE TRAILS

Ten members from the Maitland Trail Association did some work on the Maitland Woods Trail recently. Included in its winter schedule of events is a Moonlight Ski, to be held sometime in February, weather and snow conditions permitting.

The Bruce Trail Association held its 20th annual general meeting at the Ball's Falls Conservation Area. President Eric Kennedy concluded his opening speech with these remarks:

"Let's us be of good cheer. Remember! We are guardians of a world-renowned trail - so let us carry on the work started 20 years ago with resolution and dedication".

NOTE: The information sent to all newsletter editors by the Bruce Trail Association from the Appalachian Trail Conference regarding hiking in New York State is recommended reading. A copy may be obtained on a loan-basis from your newsletter editor.

The Rideau Trail Association held its annual general meeting at Murphy's Point Provincial Park. About 75 members from the Kingston, Ottawa and the recently formed central committee, Smiths Falls and Perth, were in attendance. Guest speaker was Robert Haig, historian and co-ordinator of the Rideau Canal 150th anniversary celebrations. A new board of directors for 1982/1983 was established at this meeting.

The Ganaraska Trail Association has an active winter program planned, as well as work party groups for trail maintenance. The grade nine biology class from Banting Memorial High School in Alliston assisted in trail maintenance along the north border of Base Borden between Glen Cairn and Angus.

The Guelph Trail Club was host to the FOHTA directors in September, 1982 at the University of Guelph Arboretum.

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.

BLUEBERRY MUFFINS

The following recipe is from "Cross Country Cuisine" a collection of recipes compiled by the Volunteer Committee of the Art Gallery of Algoma. It is available at the Gallery Gift Shop for \$5.00 per copy.

1-3/4 Cups Flour
3 Tsp Baking Powder
1 Tsp Salt
2 Tbsp Sugar
2 Eggs
3/4 Cup Milk
1/3 Cup Butter
1-1/2 Cups Blueberries

- Mix dry ingredients in large bowl.
- Mix eggs, butter & milk separately (or in blender)
- To 1-1/2 cups Blueberries add 2 Tbsp Sugar, 1 Tbsp Flour and 1/4 Tsp Baking Powder.
- Add fruit to dry mix, then add liquid all at once. Just mix until lumpy.
- Fill muffin tins 2/3 full (use papers or grease tins)
- Bake at 400°F, 15-20 Min.
- If berries are frozen do not thaw completely - just enough to separate.

WALKING HOLIDAYS

Members who are tired of hiking the same 300 km of trails in the VTA system over and over again, may be interested in one of these more exotic outings that have come to the Editor's attention.

ENGLISH WANDERER, WALKING HOLIDAYS

Guided walking tours through scenic and historic areas of Merry Old England. Tours are of varying degrees of difficulty beginning with "easy" (11-16 km/day) and overnight accommodation in inns and hotels along the way as well as breakfast, dinner, and packaged lunch. Groups are less than 15 in number and are led by a knowledgeable guide who stays with the group throughout the tour. Cost varies from £105 for 5 nights in Derbyshire to £327 for a strenuous 15-night coast-to-coast rucksack tour from Robin Hood's Bay on the North Sea to the Irish Sea at St. Bees Head. Tours begin April 23, 1983 and continue until October 15, 1983.

For more information write:

The English Wanderer
13 Wellington Court
SPENCERS WOOD
READING RG7 1BN ENGLAND

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Shepherd in Swaledale.
Photo North Yorkshire County Library.



NORTHERN LIGHTS ALPINE RECREATION

For those who are interested in high adventure, Arnór Larson of Invermere, B.C. offers guided alpine hiking treks, mountaineering instruction camps, and climbing expeditions, to parties of 2 to 6 persons who are expected to provide their own provisions and gear. He states that some equipment is available for rent, but apparently Sherpas and/or porters are not available. Also offered in winter are wilderness ski tours and in fall, wildlife photographic expeditions.

Mountaineering camps - basic through advanced - are 8 days long and cost \$300 to \$400 for advanced. Guided treks are \$150/day/group for groups up to 6 persons and are personally arranged based on the skills and interests of the group.

For more information, write:

ARNÓR LARSON
P.O. BOX 399
INVERMERE, BRITISH COLUMBIA
VOA 1K0

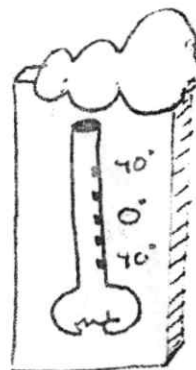
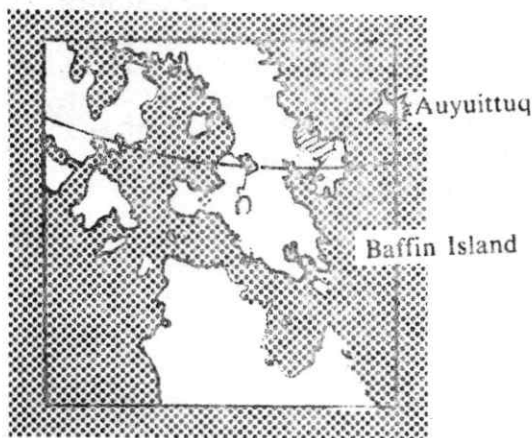
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AUYUITTUQ NATIONAL PARK
PANGNIRTUNG PASS HIGH ARCTIC
WILDERNESS TRAIL.

AUYUITTUQ (I-YOU-WE-TOOK) NATIONAL PARK, created in 1972, preserves some 21,500 sq km of High Arctic Alpine wilderness on Baffin Island in the Northwest Territories. It includes the Penny Ice Cap, a remnant of the glacier which covered much of North America during the last ice age 15,000 years ago, several 2,000 meter peaks and evidence of human occupation dating some 2,000 years BC. The Pangnirtung Pass Trail extends some 96 km over the island divide from the South Pangnirtung Fiord on Cumberland Sound to the North Pangnirtung Fiord on Davis Strait. It is marked and described in parks literature and provided with a number of huts along its length. Inuit guides are available in the Village of Pangnirtung where the park office is located. Access to the park is via jet to Frobisher Bay, with a connecting flight to Pangnirtung. From Pangnirtung a 32 km trip by freight canoe up the Fiord is required. Hikers should be prepared for arctic conditions with occasional snow and freezing temperatures to be expected even in July and August. All equipment and provisions must be packed in (and out). For an account of a 30-day hike across Pangnirtung Pass see Canadian Geographic, DEC 1982/JAN 1983.

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COOLER WEATHER FOR 1983?

There was much speculation after the eruption last April of the Mexican volcano El Chichón that the resulting earth circling cloud of dust and gases might affect the earth's climate. Recent studies reported in the March 1983 issue of "Scientific American" magazine indicate that the mean temperature of the Northern Hemisphere could be reduced by as much as .5°C. This would be approximately the same effect as that of the eruption of Mt. Krakatoa near Java in 1883 even though the amount of material ejected into the atmosphere (about 1/2 cubic kilometer) by El Chichón is estimated to be only 1/40th of that ejected by Krakatoa. Scientists explain the disproportionate effect of the El Chichón eruption to be due to its exceptionally high sulfur content.

Recent weather in the Lake Superior area notwithstanding, it seems safe to dig out your hiking boots and store away your snowshoes after all, as the magazine notes that a .5°C cooling, although measurable, is in the same range as the random fluctuations of mean temperature to be expected on a year-to-year basis. (ED.)

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IN MEMORY OF
TOM McGRATH
FOUNDER OF THE CASQUE ISLES
SECTION OF THE VOYAGEURTRAIL,
WHO LOVED TO HIKE THIS TRAIL.



V. T. A. BOARD
MAY 1983

WE WILL REMEMBER

The accompanying picture is a facsimile of a bronze plaque to be placed at the top of Mount Gwyn on the Casque Isles Section of the Voyageur Trail to commemorate Tom McGrath who was the inspiration behind that Section and Club. This decision was unanimously made by the Voyageur Trail Association Board. The actual plaque is bronze and measures 29 by 38 cm. Because the cost of this plaque approaches \$400., we are asking our members to consider making a donation towards this. By doing so, you would be directly partaking in the commemoration of a truly fine young man, and would also be assisting in alleviating the financial drain that this has placed on your Association. Please give this appeal your serious consideration.



VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Box 66, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6A 5L2.

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.

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The membership year of the Association runs from January 1st to December 31st. Dues paid after September 1st will be applied to the next membership year.

Fee includes membership in one Voyageur Trail Club. To join additional V.T. Clubs, add an extra \$2.00 (\$1.00 for student) for each Club.

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

NEW [] or RENEWAL [] (Please check.)

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.
- ☐ Elliot Lake
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Massey
- ☐ Rainbow V.T.C.
- ☐ Little Current
- ☐ Sheguiandah
- ☐ South Baymouth
- ☐ Sudbury V.T.C.

- ☐ Thunder Bay V.T.C.
- ☐ Nipigon
- ☐ Casque-Isles V.T.C.
- ☐ Marathon
- ☐ Pukaskwa Park
- ☐ Michipicoten V.T.C.
- ☐ Lake Superior Park
- ☐ Batchawana
- ☐ Goulais

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____ PHONE () _____

DECLARATION

I have read and will abide by the TRAIL USERS' CODE

_____ signed

Date _____

FEEES

- ☐ Individual \$5.00
- ☐ Family \$5.00
- ☐ Student \$2.00
- ☐ Crests \$ _____ (\$1.00 each)
- ☐ Guidebook \$3.00 (for members)
- ☐ Guidebook \$5.00 (for non-members)
- ☐ Donations \$ _____ (receipt for income tax purposes will be sent)

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

SIGN UP A FRIEND