

Voyageur Trail Association
Box 66
Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.
P6A 5L2

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER NO. 2

April 15, 1975

The annual meeting of the Voyageur Trail Association was held in the Community Hall, Thessalon on Tuesday, January 21, 1975, with the Thessalon Club acting as hosts. Twenty-three members and potential members from Elliott Lake, Blind River, Iron Fridge, Thessalon, Desbarats and Sault Ste. Marie, attended.

In his address, the president of the VTA, Paul Syme, noted the remarkable progress that has been made in the 18 months since the association's inception. There is a group of approximately 15 enthusiastic people at South Baymouth and also several people at Manitowaning-Sheguiandah. George Morrison in Espanola has the Rainbow Trail established and expanding. A potential leader has come forward in the Massey area and several interested persons are getting organized in Blind River. These include Norm Lediett, who has been making signs for the VTA almost since the association's beginning. The Thessalon group has carried out some planning and scouting along their trail, and the Desbarats club has much of their trail walked and flagged. In Echo Bay there is an active group of 6 or 8 people planning their route, and in the Sault, the trail has been walked and flagged along its entire length.

Bill Gunn of the Desbarats club invited the VTA to hold their next annual meeting at the Central Algoma High School in Desbarats. This meeting is planned for the fall of 1975.

Ontario Hiking Day

The Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations, which represents nearly a dozen trail associations in Ontario, including the VTA, decided to inaugurate an Ontario Hiking Day in the spring of 1975, on which the general public will be invited to participate in organized hikes on the many trails in Ontario. The date selected for Ontario Hiking Day is April 27.

Although the VTA trails are not well enough organized yet to allow us to take an active part in the day this year, it has been suggested that all our clubs can help to celebrate it in spirit by holding work-parties on April 27. With the progress we can make on that day and on many other such days during the coming season, we may be in a position to take a more active part in Ontario Hiking Day next year.

It was suggested at a VTA executive meeting this winter that a register of conditions along the trail should be set up for the benefit of walkers who like to get out as early in the spring and as late in the fall as possible, especially for those who like to walk trails other than their own. If information on spring flooding, the earliest date when a section of the trail became walkable, and other such early and late season conditions could be sent to a central location by local trail walkers each year, other hikers could make use of it. The assistant trail master, Fr. A. Megan, has volunteered to maintain this register. Please forward information to him at P.O. Box 1027, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Although the VTA is barely a year old, we have already been given a good deal of help from local industries. These include the following Sault

Ste. Marie firms:

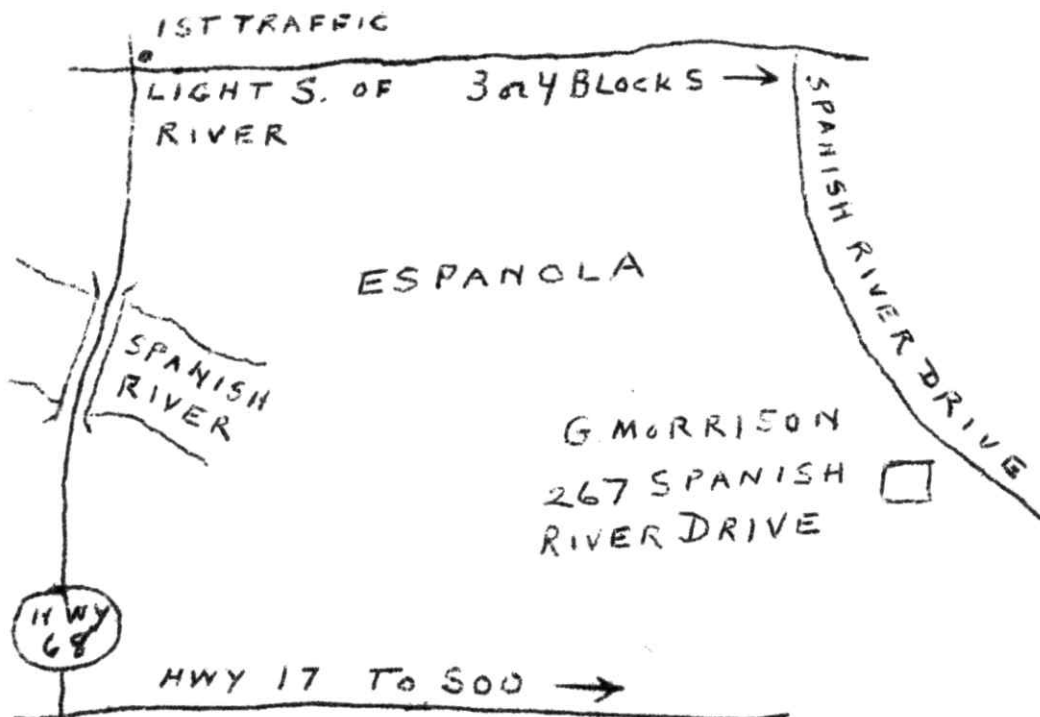
- Algoma Steel Corporation
- E. Ault Ltd.
- Beaver Lumber Co.
- Canadian Pittsburgh Industries
- Canadian Tire Associate Store
- Henderson Metal Fabricating Co.

Rainbow Trail - Second Annual Spring Hike

George Morrison has again invited all VTA members to a Day's hike on the Rainbow Trail and the VTA has decided to show its appreciation of his hospitality by organizing a one-day work party to help him improve the trail. The work party will be held on Saturday May 24 and George has offered to put up the crew for the night of Friday May 23 in his house. Bring your own sleeping bags and a lunch and tools for Saturday. Arrangements for breakfast Saturday morning will be worked out at the time.

The hike will be held Sunday May 25 and George will again provide overnight accomodation for Saturday May 24 for the hikers and for those of the work party still keen enough to want to take part in the hike. Bring your own lunches for Sunday and sleeping bags for Saturday night.

Anyone wishing further details can write to G. Morrison, P.O. Box 422, Espanola, Ontario POP 1C0. The map below shows how to locate George's home in Espanola.



Blind River Club

On March 3, 1975 a small group of trail enthusiasts got together and formed a club. The president of this newest addition to the VTA is Norm LEDIETT, the Secretary-Treasurer is Bob Gardiner. Norm Lediett has also taken on the task of trail captain for the club.

Desbarats Club

A work party surveyed about three miles of trail from the Gordon Lake area towards Echo Bay on February 15, 1975. On Sunday, March 16 Dieter Ranke led a group of 15 people over this section of the trail. The group consisted largely of members of the Sault Naturalist Club, and they were very favourably impressed with the location of the trail and the spectacular scenery along it.

Sault Ste. Marie Club

The annual meeting of the Soo club was held on Wednesday, February 5, 1975 and the following members were elected for 1975-76 executive: President - Ralph Yanni, Vice-President - Alice Holder, Secretary - Constance Plexman, Treasurer - Ken Griffiths. It was also decided at this meeting that the club's two delegates to the board of the VTA for 1974-75 P.D. Syme and I.K. Morrison - should continue to represent the club in 1975-76. During the winter, practically all the landowners whose land we would like to run the trail across have been contacted. Practically all of them were interested in our activities and willing to permit us to cross their land. We wish to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their co-operation and encouragement.



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VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Membership Renewal Form

Year 1975/76

Name

Address

.....

Telephone (Home)(Business).....

Club Preference

Fees (check one)

- Single - \$5.00
- Family - \$5.00 number of family members
- Student - \$2.00 (for records only)