



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: 32

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WINTER 1985/86



REMEMBERING SUMMER HIKES

The Voyageur Trail Association Executive is currently as follows;

- President -Peter Stinnissen
- Vice President -Tom Baxter
- Second Vice President -Vacant
- Secretary -
- Treasurer -Dieter Ropke
- Membership Secretary -Patrick Capper
- Trailmaster -Paul Syme
- Landowner Recorder -Ian Hamilton
- Editor -Steve Taylor

THE COVER

If this particular issue of the newsletter has a theme, it involves remembering last years treks. The product of an expedition usually includes improved body health, declining equipment health, memories, and one or more group photos. The group may be posing in a parking lot before the trip, standing in front of a run-down shack, sitting on a lunchtime log, or standing in the woods. Our cover photo was taken on July 14, 1984. The location is at the intersection of the Sauteaux and Echo Ridges sections northeast of the Sault. The group had just triumphed over a swamp by hummock and log hopping. Clockwise from the top left are Liz Hansen, Vince Nealis, Patrick Capper, Brian Williams, Ian Mackinnon, Eunice Bostelaar, Dorothy Buskard, Paul Chapman, Ken Kansikas, Tom Allinson, and Steve Taylor. Steve Dominy can be seen lying in the foreground, no doubt scheming about tapioca pudding.

TRAIL MIX

Information on two significant upcoming events which are of special interest to hikers, and which in fact are hosted by hikers, appears in this newsletter. Anyone who is outdoors oriented may wish to consider spending Saturday afternoon on February 22 at the YMCA in Sault Ste Marie for a hiking workshop hosted by the Sauteaux section of the VTA. These same people will also want to note the conference for the May long weekend that has been organized by Hike Ontario. Both events

should provide for a useful exchange of information on a wide variety of outdoor topics.

Information for the next newsletter should reach the editor by April 10. Hike schedules from the different clubs for the summer are encouraged for this issue.

The Voyageur Trail is closed on Monday February 3.

One of our members has some advice for cross country skiers. Apparently, he has seen evidence that dog droppings alter the glide of fish-scale skis. He was not asked to comment on changes to the grip.

Brian Williams has moved to Toronto to pursue a new career. The Sauteaux club was rejuvenated under his guidance as club president. A hearty thanks is extended to him. He still plans to help out with the membership list from down south. Brian; here's hoping you can make it up north for one of our trips next summer.

Rita Bertoli has elected to step down as association secretary. She has decided to remain active by heading the phone committee. Thanks are also in order for Rita for her involvement. Peter Stinnissen is looking for a volunteer to fill this position.

The membership secretary position is now in the capable hands of our past president Patrick Capper. Steve Dominy relinquished this post to move over to fill the Sauteaux Club Presidency vacated by Brian Williams. Good luck to both of you.

The endeavours in 1985 of one of our members should not go unnoticed. Gisela Nolte hiked from Gros Cap to Highway 17 on May 12. In doing so, she helped to raise sufficient money to send nine young people, who are affiliated with the Zion Lutheran Church in the Sault, to a Youth Conference in Montreal. She was accompanied by Steve Dominy and several youngsters, who showed tremendous stamina on this

difficult hike in warm humid weather. Gisela, who is a grandmother, had not hiked much before. She prepared by walking several kilometers at a time in the weeks prior to her hike. Gisela has now left the Sault, but the trail remains. Possibly, it can be used in this way in the future.

The Saulteaux Club's first cross country ski outing of the year took place on January 11 at the Batchewana Lakeshore Resort. Fourteen people attended. We left the Sault under cloudy skies and encountered warm sunshine all day long on the trail. The trails were in excellent condition and were ideal for people with mixed ability because there was a mix of short to medium length loops. Hills were not too severe. An excellent lunch was served in the chalet.

In the past several months, the Voyageur Trail Association has been the recipient of several donations. A special thanks goes out to those of you who have contributed in this way. Our treasurer Dieter Ropke mentions that although membership fees balance many of the debts incurred in the running of the VTA, without donations, we would have difficulty surviving.

Many new members have joined the organization since this publication last mentioned new members. Here is a welcome to all of you. An updated membership list is included in this edition and new members for 1986 are mentioned.

HUGE BIRD NESTS, TAPIOCA PUDDING,
DIPPING IN THE WOOD SHED, AND OTHER
FACTS AND BESTS FROM THE TRAIL IN 1985

After much careful deliberation, a list of the best, worst, and most notable trail events, which took place in 1985 on VTA outings, was compiled. If you feel that you have something else which should be contributed to this list, please feel free to send it in for the next newsletter.

Best Sunset of the Summer-At Agawa Bay on July 27, following the Orphan Lake Trail hike. The crystal fine clarity of the pinks and oranges clashing with the black outlines of a few clouds and the hills was inspiring.

Worst Sunset of the Summer-At Pictured Rocks on the Canada Day Weekend. Several hikers were poised by the water with cameras, but the sun just sank without a show of colour (perhaps there were just too few clouds).

Best camp meal of the year-At Stokely on September 28. Other members of the party gazed with watering mouths as Virve Squire and Steve Taylor combined talents to produce french onion soup, spinach salad, pork and potato, and blueberry sauce with dumplings and Devon cream. The meal was topped off with cafe au Grand Marnier and cognac sips. Another strong contender for this one was Tony Romano's bulgar chili at Agawa Bay on the July 27 weekend.

Worst camp meal of the year-Steve Dominy's tapioca pudding which made a brief appearance on the Canada Day weekend Pictured Rocks trek, before it was unceremoniously dumped on the fire. One brave soul described the substance as being rather much like 'a bland chalky paste'. Mr. Dominy wishes to interject that at least one other concoction, which was believed to have been a bulgar rice curry mixture, also wound up on the fire.

Beach of the year-The 20 people who attended the Pictured Rocks hike perhaps didn't quite dine in the fine style that those on the Stokely weekend did (although Grant Hauer's Carrot Cake was excellent), but they were witnesses to some spectacular scenery. Perhaps the best was found around Chapel Beach, in the interior of the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan. The 'Chapel' itself guards the east side of the beach and is worth a look. Viewers were amazed at the roots of one old

white pine on top of the chapel. A stream slides over the sandstone and crosses the beach on its way into Lake Superior, providing a perfect toe-soaking spot. Tall cliffs and one spectacular walled turquoise inlet were found immediately west of the location.

Most Interesting Camp Site of the year-Roddy Larsen drove all the way from Wisconsin to sleep in a woodshed on the Stokely hike on September 28-29. She noted that it was "dry and not too bad except for the parade of mice".

Most Unique Blazes-The Penetowobikong Club have pioneered tack-on plastic blazes which seem to be standing up quite well.

Strangest event of the year-Steve Dominy's tapioca pudding. This mysterious mixture seemed to actually liven the fire when it was dumped on.

Youngest hiker of the year-Six year old Mike Podgorski accompanied dad on the Pictured Rocks weekend. By the end, he was tired, but he appeared to be a little more lively than some of the veteran hikers.

View of the year-From the lookout over Orphan Lake and Lake Superior on the Orphan Lake hike in July. This vista shouldn't be missed by anyone who is in the Lake Superior Provincial Park area.

Runner-up for view of the year-The view of two people in a truck driving away while putting on clothing after they were ambushed by VTA hikers on the April 28 hike in the Saulteaux section.

Shortest hike of the year-The August 17 hike terminated after about 1/2 km for two people due to a scenic view and a blueberry patch respectively. The rest of the group was much hardier and struggled on about another 1/2 km in the muggy heat. After lunch, which was back at the

blueberry patch by Shaw Dam, some ridiculously ambitious long distance trekkers even went a bit further. After such a strenuous day, most of the group jumped into the water at the Kirkwood tree nursery.

Bird nest of the Year-A huge bird nest, probably belonging to a bald eagle, was spotted from the Lonely Lake Road on the July 13 hike to the lookout above the Coffee Creek Falls. The ambitious bird built its home on a metal frame supporting hydro wires. Birds must be getting more sophisticated than we think when they tap into Ontario Hydro for energy for their nests.

Best glide of the year-The March 2 ski outing in the Saulteaux section just northwest of the Sault occurred over a thick ice crust, so that people accelerated to high speeds on the slightest inclines. One way of navigating through the woods was to push oneself from tree to tree. We considered also referring to conditions on this trip as causing the worst grip of the year.

Most Noteworthy Event of the Year-Steve Dominy's tapioca pudding.

Fall of the year-The current VTA Newsletter editor's plunge into the icy waters of one of the creeks just northwest of the Sault on the April 28 hike. All other hikers, including fourteen adults and two children, made it across safely.

Biggest hill skied up last year-Six hardy or deranged cross country skiers crawled up the hill at the north end of Tower Lake on the Voyageur Trail. This feat was accomplished in -29°C weather on February 2. In spite of the obstacles encountered on the trip, all on hand seemed to enjoy it and were proud of their accomplishments as they mulled it over with mulled wine.