



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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EDITOR: STEVE TAYLOR

SPRING, 1986



LAKE SUPERIOR SHORE AT DUSK

The Voyageur Trail Association Executive is currently as follows;

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

THE COVER

Our cover photo shows some of the islands in Lake Superior off of Gargantua Harbour. One must climb the hill that forms the headland of Gargantua Harbour to see this particular panorama, but many impressive vistas of hills that reach down to island studded waters are offered from near the coast along the north shore of Lake Superior. A weekend backpacking Hike in this area is scheduled for the July long weekend.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Greetings fellow hikers! Let me begin by saying how impressed I am with the enthusiasm and energy exhibited by members of the Voyageur Trail Association. In particular, mention should be made of the Saulteaux Club for their highly successful annual dinner and hiking workshop. Congratulations!

As an association, we are evidently alive and well, however, some challenges lie ahead. The 1980's is a time when self sufficiency is the operating word. We can no longer rely on government grants to operate or promote our recreational pursuits. For hiking organizations, this will mean more fund raising activities to support and promote our sport. To meet this new challenge, the VTA board has approved the active promotion of classified adver-

tising in our newsletter. Special rates will apply to VTA members who wish to use this service.

Another challenge lies in the changing demographics and choice of leisure activities in our society. An indication of this change is mirrored in the magazine trade, where special interest magazines such as Backpacker and Hiking have undergone content and/or name changes to appeal to a larger audience. They have realized that the hiker is an outdoor enthusiast dabbling in a multitude of recreational pursuits, including photography, cross country and downhill skiing, nature observation, travelling, canoeing, kayaking, and many more activities. Not only are recreational interests expanding into other areas, the population is aging and activities must include the progeny of the baby boom generation. Perhaps we must adjust our goals or accept new activities to satisfy this new breed of recreationist. The Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations (Hike Ontario) is one such organization which is presently doing some soul searching to identify its role in the complex and changing field of recreation. Hopefully, the members of the hiking fraternity who attend the upcoming Hiking Conference in Guelph on May 17-19 of this year, will suggest new ways for this organization to serve our needs.

A final challenge is to reach our original goal of a hiking trail from Manitoulin Island to Thunder Bay. The infectious enthusiasm I have witnessed in my short term as president will go a long way towards maintaining our present membership, and recruiting new members. We hope this year to reach new members and develop new clubs in the Lake Superior region, and to revive hiking interest in the Lake Huron area. With your ideas and energy, we will meet these challenges.

Peter Stinnissen

Hike Ontario!

OUTLOOK



Box 651, Station K, Toronto, Ontario, M4P 2H1

South Moresby National Park

The issue of logging in the area of the proposed South Moresby National Park is much more than a regional dispute. The final decision will be an indication of our country's maturity in handling environmental issues. The threats of a Suzanne Blais-Grenier to log and mine in national parks are hopefully behind us. Have we gained the wisdom, however, to preserve the rich resources of the Queen Charlottes for future generations?

The magnificent forests and coasts of the Queen Charlotte Islands are unique. Already centuries old when Columbus arrived in North America, the Sitka spruce, western hemlock and red cedar are among the largest trees on earth. But they are targeted for logging in South Moresby, the wildest and most beautiful part of the island.

It is a special place, boasting

- the world's largest concentration of the rare Peale's peregrine falcon and the largest nesting concentration of bald eagles in Canada
- over one-quarter of all the nesting seabirds on the Canadian Pacific coast
- more than one-half of Canada's Steller's sea lions
- eleven species of whales
- the world's largest black bears
- plants, birds, mammals and insects found only on the Queen Charlotte Islands
- several hundred archaeological sites, including the Haida Indians' Ninstints village, a UNESCO

World Heritage Site

- some of the most majestic scenery on earth.

Yet the area is threatened by clearcut logging operations. Because of the steep slopes, the result will be erosion and landslides. South Moresby has only 2/10 of 1 per cent of British Columbia's productive forest land. There are other alternatives for the logging companies without the loss of jobs.

Naturalist artist Robert Bateman has written: "Preserving bits and pieces of South Moresby is not good enough. It is like preserving a stately historic building and surrounding it with parking lots."

We must show the federal and provincial governments that Canadians care about South Moresby.

Federal Environment Minister Tom McMillan and BC Environment Minister Austin Pelton have said that they place top priority on preserving the area. But they need strong public support to convince their governments that South Moresby needs to be preserved.

You can help. Write Prime Minister Mulroney and Premier Bennett. Tell them to stop the logging of South Moresby **NOW** to preserve this world treasure as a park for ourselves and future generations.

Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney
Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Honourable William Bennett
Premier
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4

Ross McLean

NEWS ROUNDUP

Hiking for health

The Salteaux Section of the **Voyageur Trail Association** held a Hiking for Health workshop earlier this year that included sessions on first aid, finding your way in the woods and emer-

gency outdoor survival tactics. Willard Kinzie took the mystery out of hiking and backpacking for those new to it all. Darcy Ortiz and Virve Squire got together to take a light-hearted look at food packaging and food preparation

for while on the trail.

Voyageur was organized in 1973 and received its provincial charter the following year. To mark its ten years since the first section was completed, at the 1985 annual meeting a bronze placque

“Broadening Horizons”

Second Ontario Hiking Conference

May 16 to May 19, 1986
University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario

TAKE A HIKE TO GUELPH IN MAY

Under its thick blanket of snow, southern Ontario waits — trilliums and garter snakes, ladyslippers and toadstools — ready to welcome serious and dilettante walkers alike on her trails. Plan to take a hike or two, and talk to other enthusiasts about the future of Ontario trails at the **Second Annual Hike Ontario Conference** at the University of Guelph from May 16 to 19, the long weekend.

The conference is designed to appeal to all ages and a wide spectrum of interests with sessions on new trails, trail management, backpacking and securing public trails, workshops on communication skills and bird identification, a look at opportunities for Ontario hiking with Minister of Natural Resources Vince Kerrio and leaders of the Canadian trails movement, including Doug Robertson, Ray Lowes, Gordon Thompson, and Douglas Campbell

of the National Trail Club Association. A town meeting will help bring all the ideas together.

The conference, a follow-up on the highly successful Peterborough event of 1980, will not be all work. Participants will have an opportunity to work up a lather square dancing, laugh with the comic folk group, The Beirido Brothers, enjoy a barbecue, bird watch or jog at dawn and enjoy a presentation on the High Arctic by internationally known conservationists Janet and John Foster.

It's all in Guelph and the conference committee invites you to attend. Registration forms were included in the Winter 1986 *Bruce Trail News*. For further information or a spare copy of the registration form, contact registration chairman Jim Pierce (519) 821-3057 or program co-ordinator Jill Leslie (519) 821-2133.

was unveiled that included a tribute to "the vision and leadership of Dr. Paul Syme" the founder of the Voyageur Trail Association.

Ten-year celebration

The **Avon Trail Association** has recently celebrated a tenth birthday, the trail having been officially opened in 1975. Master of ceremonies Perry Hill paid tribute to two key people responsible for getting the trail organized: Dr. Crosby Kirkpatrick and James Essex.

New guidebook

The **Bruce Trail Association** has also been busy putting together a new guidebook. It is the fifteenth edition of the guidebook and although there are not a great number of changes from the previous edition — a few minor and two major changes — editor Trevor Stock did have to totally re-draw two of the maps. This was because the association's Toronto section now has its northern

terminus at Cheltenham instead of Dark Corners, also because its Niagara section has put in a very attractive 2-day loop trail that links Niagara-on-the-Lake to its trail network.

Another very attractive side-trail, one that didn't make it to the guidebook in time, was recently put in by the association's Caledon Club. Details appear in the current issue of *Bruce Trail News*.

Hiking course

This past fall, **Thames Valley Trail Association** offered a four-week course at Fanshawe College, London, on Hiking for Fun and Fitness. Besides evening classroom instruction, the group was introduced gradually to all aspects of hiking, beginning literally at ground level on a work party. This was followed by an in-city hike of 2-3 hours, and a longer 24 km jaunt around Fanshawe Lake.

Co-ordinator Jean Law was assisted by volunteer instructors Cathy Anderson, Ron Gill, Jack Mayos, Bill Savage, Bob Vischscrapper and Steve Winder. Registration fee was \$35.00.

The course was so well received that Thames Valley has been asked to present a similar session in the spring. The interest generated prompted many of those attending the course to join TVTA. This is a good way to keep hiking alive and active.

End-to-end hikes

Charlie Aberhart led another successful end-to-end hike on the **Thames Valley** trail in 1985. It took place over four consecutive weekends and proved very popular, with more than 20 people participating on some days.

Carved wooden Hornehiker plaques were presented to eight members who completed the end-to-end. Hikes were approximately ten miles in length each time.

Thames Valley also operated a two-day end-to-end hike on a June weekend, and sixteen persons completed that in spite of poor weather on the second day. Participants included members from Blue Mountain, Iroquois, and Grand River hiking clubs as well as TVTA-ers. This annual event will take place again this year.

From four to two to one... If Jack Mayos and Gord Anderson spent one evening last year soaking their feet — well, it was understandable. These two TVTA-ers set some kind of record by hiking all 60 kms. of the Thames Valley Trail IN ONE DAY! They started out from St. Marys about 5:45 am and finished in Byron about 8 pm, which meant a steady pace all the way.

Hike Ontario! wishes to acknowledge the support of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation during 1985.

Keep in touch, spread the word.
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