



# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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EDITOR: STEVE TAYLOR

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FALL TREASURES ON THE TRAIL



Hike Ontario!

# OUTLOOK

Box 651, Station K, Toronto, Ontario, M4P

## Look ahead, plan ahead, work together

*From the opening remarks of Gord Thompson, Hike Ontario! president, welcoming hikers to the Broadening Horizons conference in Guelph.*

Even as hikers continually face forward, move forward, ever watchful for the next blaze or turn in the trail so, too, the hiking movement in Ontario must continually be mindful of the need to look ahead, to plan and develop with the future in mind.

The challenges of the future are many: to realize the tremendous

recreational potential of our provincial trails; to Broaden the Horizons of our existing hiking trails, linking them into a continuous footpath

**Partnership is the basis on which we must build the opportunities for tomorrow's hiker. From our past success and our present endeavours, I am very optimistic about the challenges to come.**

**Working together, we can apply our imaginations and experiences to meet these challenges.**

**There is a bright future for trails development and for hikers in Ontario. Together we can accomplish a great deal.**

*From opening remarks by Norm Richards, Director of Parks and Recreational Areas Branch, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.*

stretching from Quebec to Manitoba; to face the increasingly complex realities of trail building; to address and resolve issues such as trail right-of-way designations, trail management, land-owner relations and negotiations, and educating the public in trail etiquette and enjoyment.

You have constructed and maintained nearly 2000 km of trails and rendered a service of inestimable value to your fellow citizens. And yet, despite a now thirty-year old tradition of hiking in Ontario, this recreation still remains virtually unknown to the public at large.

And so another challenge and opportunity for the future: to establish recognition and links, operating partnerships and on-going cooperation with government agencies. In addition, we must appreciate the value of communication with other like-minded community organizations.

## Invite to Grand Oktoberfest

Grand Valley Trail Association is inviting all readers of Outlook to join them on October 18 for an Oktoberfest party and hike. There's a 8-10 mile hike of the Grand Valley Trail for starters, to be followed by a private party in the Hikers' Lounge of the Chicopee Ski Club's Berg Jolderhaus Chalet. From 4 pm to midnight there'll be a band and entertainment plus all the dancing you can handle. Already, members of the Toronto Bruce Trail Club are planning to attend.

Cost is \$20 person, drinks and a German food buffet extra. If in the Toronto calling area contact the Toronto Bruce Trail Club's president, Mike Webb, at 221-1538; otherwise, either Grand Valley's Betty Schneider at 519-886-5022 or Anne Weber at 519-743-1057. Alternatively, write Grand Valley Trail Association, Box 1233, Kitchener, Ontario N2G 4G8.

Keep in touch, spread the word. Please send news of your association's activities to:

**Norman Day**  
Outlook editor  
17 Marlborough Avenue  
Toronto  
Ontario M5R 1X5  
Tele: (416) 922-4880

## More liaison, more co-operation

Some 30 resolutions were tabled at the Sunday morning Town Meeting, chaired by Henry Graupner. Henry was the first president and guiding light of what was FOHTA and is now Hike Ontario!

Although not all resolutions were discussed, all but two were approved for in general every resolution tabled reflected a consensus that there should be greater liaison between the clubs and the various arms of government. The strongest to reflect this latter view was that of Doug Robertson, executive director of the Bruce Trail Association. Doug urged that Hike Ontario! "recommend to the Ontario government the immediate establishment of a permanent Provincial Trails Advisory Council."

Doug's Trail Council would "provide advice", "foster cooperative development" and eventually bring about "the construction of new and expanded trail corridors for public use."

Defeated was a motion that "Hike

Ontario! should make its priority activity the encouraging of development of the National Trail in Ontario." From the discussion, though, it was clear that the defeat was because of the single-mindedness of the resolution rather than its intent. All present were caught up in the conference's enthusiasm for Doug Campbell's dream of a hiking path to rival the Trans-Canada highway, but the majority also felt that Hike Ontario! and Ontario's trail associations have many other urgent problems that need to be tackled.

Defeated, too, was a motion by Jim Pierce of the Guelph Trail Club. Jim proposed that Hike Ontario! and the Bruce Trail Association amalgamate. His reasoning was that both play much the same role in Ontario hiking and that in very many cases there is a duplication of effort, particularly when it comes to dealing with government. Attractive was that many of the BTA services could be expanded to aid other clubs.

BACKPACKING THE LAKE SUPERIOR  
COASTAL TRAIL

The mission has been accomplished. Sixteen courageous, and tough backpackers made it from Gargantua to Orphan Lake (or to the Coldwater River for some). A seventeenth member of the party had been to Gargantua so many times that she decided to do an Orphan Lake-Beatty Cove-Coldwater route.

Fortunately the weather was near perfect for the July long weekend with only a few five minute showers. It was not too hot on the first two days, and a perfect sunny day unfolded on the stop over at Beatty Cove.

The trail is difficult enough at any time, but with a heavy pack and many windfalls, it is quite an accomplishment. However, the magnificent scenery made the effort worthwhile. I think every hiker who makes this trip is deserving of an award.

The Outstanding Effort award must without doubt go to Donna Weeks, who as a backpacker with little experience, a bothersome hip, an uncomfortable military pack and a special diet, overcame these handicaps and completed the hike. Well done, Donna.

The Swimming, Tree Climbing and Male Fashion award goes to Steve Dominy. As you may know, Lake Superior in late June is by no means warm. However, Steve braved the frigid water for three trips to a little rocky island in Beatty Cove. The trip took 45 to 60 seconds each way. One trip was to retrieve a dropped flashlight that did not float as expected, but did prove to be waterproof. The fifty foot climb up a spruce tree was supposedly for an aerial photo of the campsite, however we suspect it was to safely store honey away from stray bears. His male fashion award was due to his snazzy Italian trousers. He claimed they were

purely practical, quick drying dark trousers but we suspect it was to impress the female hikers.

Helen Davies walked away with the Ladies Fashion award for her much admired snazzy red boot laces.

The Hiking Boot award goes to Mark Nadir. His hiking boots came apart on the last day. The coastal trail was just too much for them. Despite this, he said the Lake Superior trail was the best he had been on. The West Coast trail has more spectacular scenery but there is a lot of garbage and it has a relatively high density use from 2100 backpackers a year. On this trip we met only three other people, a day hiker near Rhyolite Bay and two campers at the Baldhead River.

Darcy and Fiona Ortiz won the Dental Hygiene award for religiously brushing and flossing their teeth.

Neil Capper at twelve years old won the Youngest Hiker award. He was unique in having only regular sneakers for footwear. What it is to be young!

I have to give myself the Balance Beam award for crossing the Buckshot Creek four feet up on a cedar log. Most others walked across using a thinner mountain ash at stream level.

Virve Squire won the Luxury Food award for bringing canteloup melon, apples, muffins, etc. It seems that she really meant her demonstration at the workshop and didn't learn anything from Darcy. Her excuse was that her pack was too empty and she had to fill it with goodies.

The trip was remarkable in that I witnessed no food being discarded on the campfire. Honourable mentions go to Mark's chile, and Steve Dominy who fully redeemed himself with smooth creamy tapioca pudding.