



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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WINTER 1986/87



TAKING TO THE TRAILS - FEBRUARY STYLE

1987 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT - Peter Stinnissen
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT - Gary Keith
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT - Paul Syme
TREASURER - Dieter Ropke
GENERAL SECRETARY - Kristine Stinnissen
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - Patrick Capper
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TRAIL MASTER - Paul Syme
HIKE ONTARIO
REPRESENTATIVES 1 - Steve Taylor
 2 - vacant
PAST PRESIDENT - Patrick Capper

THE COVER

Sometimes it seems that the entire ski trail goes uphill, and yet it ends where you started. The first part of the Hoken Lein Trail at Stokely Creek was largely uphill, but there were some obvious downhills on the last half. Our cover photo was taken on an uphill section of the Hoken Lein Trail on an outing last February. Most people found this trail to be a good challenge, but everyone made it to the end. Ski trips are a good way to extend the hike season into the winter. The Saulteaux club has already had two outings this winter, and more are scheduled. See the details in the events section.

GREAT EFFORTS REWARDED

Four members of the Voyageur Trail Association are to become recipients of HIKE ONTARIO! Awards. They are Tom Allinson, Steve Dominy, Norm Leydielt, and Ernie Pringle. Tom has led or participated in countless hikes and work parties over the years and his experience and good nature has been welcomed by many participants on these events. Steve did an incredible amount of work over the past year in strengthening the Saulteaux Club. Norm and Ernie have contributed much in the way of trail

building and maintenance since the early days of the association. Ernie Pringle has been a tireless workhorse in the Saulteaux Section while Norm Leydielt has been the main spokesman for the Penewobikong Club over the years.

These awards are presented by HIKE ONTARIO! in recognition of an outstanding contribution to a hiking organization in Ontario. Nominees are selected by the individual organizations. The VTA nominees were finalized at the November 8 board meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS AND WAY TO GO gentlemen. Let's hope that these individuals will volunteer to stay with us for many years, and let's hope that many more members will be nominated for these awards in the future. Let us also remember the many people who have made a volunteer contribution, large or small, to the Voyageur Trail Association.

CLUB NEWS

On October 19, 1986, the VTA's Michipicoten Club of Wawa dedicated a portion of trail in memory of Sheila Renault. Sheila was a long time member of the Voyageur Trail Club, and acted as Secretary Treasurer since the Club's inception in 1976. A wooden diamond-shaped plaque with "Renault" carved into it was attached to a tree at the northern entrance to the trail. Peter Stinnissen, president of the parent Association dedicated the trail in memory of the heart of the Wawa Club, "Sheila Renault". Sheila is sadly missed by all of her fellow members.

The Michipicoten Club has initiated a program of recognition to the many hours of voluntary work performed by its members. A wooden plaque with member's surnames carved in it and painted yellow and blue (the Associ-

Hike Ontario!

OUTLOOK



Box 651, Station K, Ontario M4P 2H1

Conference high-point of Hike Ontario! year

By far the most positive and successful achievement of the past year was the second Hike Ontario! Conference held on the May long weekend in Guelph. This conference brought together members of the hiking fraternity from all parts of the province, and, indeed, the country. The 25 resolutions passed at the conference provided clear direction for future Hike Ontario! planning and activity, and provided an opportunity to strengthen the all-important com-

Conference is fun!

With all the talk about meetings, etc., you may think a hiking conference is Dullsville. 'Tain't so! Just ask any member who was at Guelph.

There were hiking opportunities (a red fox was spotted on one of the walks), in-city tours, energetic square dancing night, where amateurs had more fun than anybody. And, of course, good food at the Saturday barbecue and the Sunday pancake breakfast.

Highlight on Sunday was a slide presentation of the High Arctic by John and Janet Foster. After this, Beirido Brothers musical group captured their audience with entertainment ranging from fiddlers' reels to comic impressions (and have you ever seen a flute played by nose?).

Hike Ontario! executive and the Guelph trail members responsible for conference arrangements are to be congratulated. It was a great way to spend the weekend.

Jean Lawrence
Thames Valley Trail Association

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

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munications link between hikers and their provincial organization.

The success of the conference is in no small way due to the financial assistance of the BTA and the involvement and enthusiasm of many Bruce Trail Association participants. To all who contributed, a sincere thank-you from Hike Ontario!

Post-conference activity of Hike Ontario! has been primarily directed toward organizational restructuring. In the past, HO! has experienced difficulty recruiting and coordinating volunteers able to work effectively on projects of provincial scope. Under the plan currently under development the various areas of responsibility will be assumed, at least on a short term basis, by respective member trail associations. It is hoped that the Bruce Trail Association will assist HO! in the important government relations function — an area where it has demonstrated admirable ability and effectiveness.

Improving communication between the Bruce Trail Association and Hike Ontario! will be a high priority in the coming year. A proposal to increase the number of BTA representatives on the HO! board of directors will be considered at the

Reports back to the trail associations indicate the Hike Ontario! Broadening Horizons conference was an unqualified success and a great time had by all. As Gord Thompson points out, one result of the conference is an organizational restructuring of Hike Ontario! that can only benefit Ontario's trail associations and trails — and bring nearer every hiker's dream of a National Trail from sea to sea. Gord's report was given at the Bruce Trail Association's agm, the other reports first appeared in association newsletters.

next HO! AGM, along with a number of other necessary constitutional amendments.

The coming months promise to be interesting and important ones in the on-going work of Hike Ontario! I am happy to extend an invitation to any members of the Bruce Trail Association who wish to become involved. Contact me at home (416) 242-4397 or business (416) 791-1722. And to the members of other trail associations, too.

Gord Thompson
Hike Ontario! President

Conference a time for sharing

We shared ideas and experiences. We talked about existing trails and made plans for new trails. We took part in early morning bird-watching and jogging, and in a full programme of hiking on the area trails. We made use of the Nature Centre and Arboretum of the university, and took in the displays set up by the trail clubs and commercial enterprises.

Entertainment was varied and had something for everyone — slide shows, music, square dancing. The highlight for us all was Janet and John Foster's slide presentation

North to the Top of the World.

We ate very well. The Friday evening early arrivals enjoyed a wine and cheese party, on Saturday there was an outdoor barbecue lunch, on Sunday a pancake breakfast outdoors — the weather being reasonably cooperative! The banquet was held on Sunday night, at which time the Merit Awards were given out.

The Ministry of Natural Resources' representative, Norman Richards, gave us some insight into the evolving role of the Government in Ontario hiking trails. The focus was on