



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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WINTER 1987/88



SKIING AND SNOWSHOEING
A WINTER WONDERLAND

1988 VTA EXECUTIVE

President -Peter Stinnissen
1st Vice President -Vacant
2nd Vice President -Paul Syme
Treasurer -Dieter Ropke
General Secretary -Kristine Stinnissen
Membership Secretary -Patrick Capper
Newsletter Editor -Guy Smith
Trail Master -Paul Syme
Hike Ontario Representatives 1-Steve Taylor
2-Vacant
Past President -Patrick Capper

SAULTEAUX VTA COMING EVENTS - WINTER/SPRING 1988

February 13 Bushwhack on skis North from Nettleton Lake into a winter fantasy-come-true. Intermediate difficulty. Meet 10:00 at Market Mall* by the gas bar and bring a lunch.

March 19 Ski Trout Lake-Mable Lake area. Intermediate difficulty. Meet 9:30 at K-Mart Plaza* by the gas bar and bring a lunch.

April 7 Saulteaux Club Annual Dinner - members of Saulteaux Club see note accompanying this newsletter. Other people interested in attending should contact Steve Taylor at 759-2480 or Susan Graham at 949-4105.

April 16 Ice breakup hike in the Gros Cap area. Easy to intermediate difficulty. Meet at

Market Mall by the gas bar at 10:00 with your lunch and a compass to get your bearings straight.

May 8 Mother's Day Sunday wildflower hike in the Echo Ridges Section north of Tower Lake. Fairly easy hike, but boots are required. Meet 9:00 at Churchill Plaza* beside the gas bar.

*Market Mall- Second line west at Farewell Terrace

K-Mart Plaza- Great Northern Road and Northern Avenue, north-west corner

Churchill Plaza- Trunk Road just east of the Trunk Road-Wellington Street intersection.

Please note that trip leaders are unpaid volunteers. You are encouraged to participate, but at your own risk. Always be prepared for any type of weather. In winter, it is always a good idea to bring extra dry socks, an extra dry sweater and a pack to put clothes in if you get too warm. Dress in layers that you can remove or add and try to wear clothes that will allow your sweat to evaporate.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT!

We hikers are a patient lot. We wait weeks for that perfect hike, only to end up watching raindrops pelting on window panes. We battle our way through dense underbrush, over deadfalls and around poison ivy, to clear a footpath and then patiently go back over the same terrain again when an errant logger or mother nature tries to undo our work. Beavers frustrate us, mosquitoes harass us and bears scare us. We sweat, we ache and we gasp for oxygen while enjoying our "sport".

Are we nuts? Probably, but that's the nature of the hiker - always ready to rise patiently to the challenge.

Looking back, it is easy to see how we have met and conquered challenges. In just over 10 years, we have cleared 400 kilometres of hiking trail. We now recognize that our trails are tourism benefits. Hiking organizations in Ontario and the National Trail Association support our goals through direct and indirect assistance; witness the Thames Valley Trail Club's recent achievements in cleaning a portion of the Thessalon trail (see article in this issue, "South meets North"). Our stable membership is a measure of success in these times of fads in recreation. These achievements are the result of hard work and dedication by all members, whether they support our dream of a 1400 kilometre trail simply by being a member or by slogging it out in the swamps.

A special mention and thanks is necessary for another tupe of member; one who wields a pen rather than a brush axe. These members organize work parties, meetings and workshops, research and publish guidebooks and brochures, answer inquiries, serve on boards and committees, process memberships, bank money, apply for grants, produce newsletters, take photographs, liaise with landowners, man computers and phonelines, and purchase tools. These members are the glue that holds our organization together and they have helped us meet our challenges.

Our new challenge for the 1990s and beyond is to complete our Trail. This task requires new members. One way to accomplish this is increased publicity. We presently have a vacancy for a challenging position as Publicity Director, for someone who is

willing to brag about our organization. If you are that person or know of someone who is, please call me. I welcome your feedback on other topics as well. Call (705) 856-4270 -evenings.

Good Hiking,

Pete Stinnissen
VTA President

THE OFFICIAL ACCOUNT OF THE 1987 ANNUAL MEETING IN SCHREIBER

Highlights from the meeting are as follows:

A Publicity Coordinator is needed for the Association. Club Presidents should scout out their clubs for prospective people to fill this important role.

A Hike Ontario Award was presented at the Annual Meeting to Norm Lediett. Tom Allinson, Steve Dominy and Ernie Pringle were absent, so their awards were delivered to them later.

A National Trail Association Executive was elected in June, 1987, with the vision of establishing a National trail. The Voyageur Trail Association Sections will be critical to achieving this goal, and support from the provincial governments will be important to bringing about a national trail. In B.C. for example, it is predicted that 75% of that province's trail should be complete in 5 years. B.C. receives a lot of help from the provincial government.

In May 1989 there will be a Hike Ontario conference in London.

The distribution of the VTA Guidebook is to be increased by attempting to sell it to bookstores and issuing complimentary copies to special places such as tourist information centres, for use as office copies only.

The VTA Newsletter Editor is receiving notice of Saulteaux Section upcoming events only. All Sections should send a list of planned events, dates and times to the Newsletter Editor, before April 1, 1988. Editor is Guy Smith, c/o Box 66 Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 5L2.

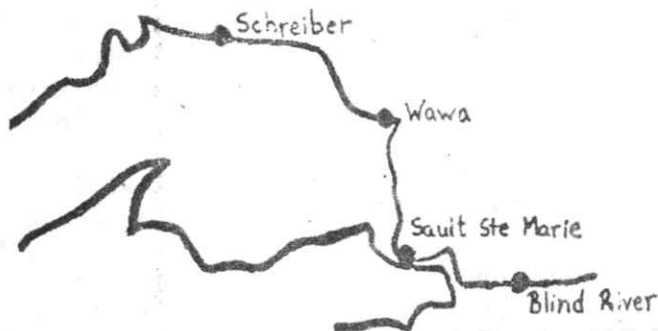
The VTA intends to purchase a personal computer to aid in looking after memberships, sorting members, labels, and putting out the newsletter. The Executive is pursuing a grant to help fund the cost of the computer.

Some important decisions were made concerning the potential formation of a Thunder Bay Club. We agreed that it is important to have a Club in Thunder Bay, and we will negotiate some fee concessions with them to get them started.

AN UNOFFICIAL ACCOUNT OF THE OFFICIAL VTA ANNUAL MEETING

I've spent some time pondering the mysterious happenings connected with the 1987 VTA Annual Meeting, held in Schreiber on October 24. I believe there were at least three cases of AIDS at the meeting: AIDS short for "Addiction, Insanity, and Dedication with Strength".

The drive to Schreiber is 650 km each way from Blind River, 500km from Sault Ste. Marie, and 280 km from Wawa. Anyone undertaking such a journey for a 2 hour meeting must be addicted to the VTA, and showing at least the first signs of insanity.



Paul Syme, Steve Taylor and myself travelled from the Sault leaving at 5:30 pm on Friday.

When we stopped at the Voyageur restaurant outside Wawa, the staff were most perceptive about how this disease can spread; they didn't come near us with a menu for twenty minutes. The owner kept a wary eye on us from the safety of the bar. Two hours later, we were able to complete our dinner and travel on to the Stinnissens'. Some of us had planned to camp near Marathon or Schreiber, however the campground operators were even more afraid of catching AIDS than the restauraners, and had promptly closed the campground on the excuse that October 23rd was too late to be open for campers.

In order to arrive at Schreiber for 10 o'clock, we all got up around 6 am and were joined by Norman Lediett for a farmhouse style breakfast. He had driven up from Blind River the previous day. Kristine obviously believed that a nutritious diet without sugar was the best means of combating AIDS.

At 7 o'clock the four out-of-towners and Dorothy Egan joined Peter and Kristine for the journey to Schreiber. We all arrived close to scheduled 10 o'clock, but found no trace of the contingent from Thunder Bay. However, Lorne and Sherry Bourke, Dan McGrath and Lauri Haloner from Schreiber met us.

The Thunder Bay group was finally contacted at lunch time. They were obviously mortally afraid of catching our condition and gave some excuse about a bad snowstorm, but at Schreiber it was a beautiful cool sunny day without a trace of snow.

Dan and Lauri were nervous about getting Addiction, Insanity and Dedication with Strength. They kept their distance during the meeting and left promptly at noon.