



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

BOX 66, SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO P6A 5L2

NEWSLETTER NO. 3

January 15, 1976

The annual meeting of the Voyageur Trail Association was held at the Central Algoma Secondary School in Desbarats on November 6, 1975. It was a well-attended meeting and in addition to trail business the agenda included slides and a movie. A condensed version of the President's Report given at that meeting is presented below.

"I am happy to again report that since our last Annual General Meeting, not yet a year ago, the Voyageur Trail Association has made excellent progress, not only in membership, which has doubled, public recognition and organization, but in trail planning and construction, which is our prime purpose at this time. Our several clubs and groups have been active to varying degrees and I would like to briefly report on them:

South Baymouth Section: An inaugural meeting of 15 people was held last winter, and it is hoped that some trail route will be laid out this fall.

Rainbow Section: George Morrison planned and organized trail-clearing parties last summer but was rained out several times. George hosted another very enjoyable hike for V.T.A. members this summer and a group of us from the Sault, Manitoulin Island, Toronto and Espanola High School, put standard white blazes on about 3 miles of trail on the Saturday before the hike. The Toronto club of the Bruce Trail Association has offered to help clear some of the Rainbow section next summer. It is gratifying to see the interest in our venture from southern Ontario.

Penewobikong Club: This small club is patiently waiting the decision to locate a 4 lane highway and generating station before much trail location can be planned. Norm Lediett has been otherwise busy in preparing logos for us. I would like to extend our collective thanks to him for his excellent sign-painting for the V.T.A.

Thessalon Club: These people have been busy planning and building and hope to have 5 to 10 miles built before snow stops them.

Desbarats Club: This club has planned its route and has been busy assisting landowners. Their co-operation has been very gratifying. The help of the Sault Naturalists on a portion of this trail has secured favourable comments from many.

Esso Bay Section: These people have planned their route and are contacting landowners.

Saulteaux Club: This club, with the main source of man- and woman-made trail, has been very active in trail construction. I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the many members who have put in so many hours of work to complete this section this year.

The Voyageur Trail Association supported Ontario Hiking Day, sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations, on April 15 by fielding work parties. At least 26 people participated.

The Saulteaux Club sponsored a public hike in May in connection with Conservation Week in Sault Ste. Marie. A good turnout of our own members and some landowners had a very enjoyable hike. A group of Rovers (Juniata) bridged a stream for us for that event, a sign of co-operation between the V.T.A. and the Scouting movement.

An Outers group from White Pines Collegiate and Vocational School cleared a mile of trail in lieu of a walkathon last spring. They did an excellent job and raised \$ 200 in pledges for themselves. A relay race was held in September, when a very difficult mile of trail was cleared.

Through the courtesy of the Sault Ste. Marie and Region Conservation Authority, a SWEEP crew cleared a couple of miles of very difficult trail for the Saulteaux Club. Our thanks to the Conservation Authority and to the students for a job well done.

I would like to finish with a few words on membership. Organizations like ours are becoming more and more popular. Four million people use the Appalachian Trail and the use is increasing by 18% per year. Interest in our own trail is increasing and I can say that the large increase in local interest (and membership) occurred when there was some physical trail in existence in the Sault. We need more members to build trail and share the load, and the presence of trail (with some publicity) seems to bring new members in as nothing else can. I would urge you before to get some trail built as quickly as possible, for that is the surest way to show people that we have a viable, worthwhile project. Association and that will bring in new members where and when we need them most.

Again I'd like to thank the many people who have worked so hard already in many ways to make the Voyageur Trail a success to this stage. We have come a long way and I can feel the momentum building up. Let's keep up the effort and maybe we can join up a section or two next year.

Paul D. Syme
October 22, 1975

V.T.A. Executive

The newly-elected Board of the V.T.A. met in Little Rapids on July 21, 1975 to elect a new Executive as provided under the by-laws. The new Executive consists of:

President: Dr. Paul D. Syme, Sault Ste. Marie
(Saulteaux Trail Club)

Vice-President: Mr. Don Fulton, Little Rapids
(Thessalon Club)

Secretary: Dr. Ian K. Morrison, Sault Ste. Marie
(Saulteaux Trail Club)

Treasurer: Mr. Dieter Ropke, Sault Ste. Marie
(Desbarats Trail Club)

Other Board members are:

Mr. D. Gunn, Richards Landing
(Desbarats Trail Club)

Mr. Ted Miller, Thessalon
(Thessalon Trail Club)

Mr. Norm Ledgett, Blind River
(Penewobikong Trail Club)

Mrs. M.O. Merseth, Blind River
(Penewobikong Trail Club)

Appointed officers or chairpersons are:

Mr. Ralph L. Wood, Thistletown
(Trailmaster, F.O.H.T.A. rep.)

Fr. A. Megan, Sault Ste. Marie
(Deputy Trailmaster)

Dr. Paul D. Syme, Sault Ste. Marie
(F.O.H.T.A. Rep.)

Dr. Ken J. Griffiths, Sault Ste. Marie
(Newsletter)

Mr. Ripp Fletcher, Sault Ste. Marie
(Publicity)

Prof. R. McCutcheon, Sault Ste. Marie
(Maps and Guidebook)

Trail News

The news from the various sections along the trail has been so well covered in the President's Report above that there is little to add, except to emphasize his remarks about membership. All clubs could use more members. If you spend your vacation in one of the areas served by a club, I'm sure the local members would welcome your membership. If you know anyone who lives in these areas who might like to join, please get in touch with them and point out the advantages of membership. Someone pointed out this summer that the distance from the city of Sault Ste. Marie to the western end of the Sauleteaux Trail at Gros Cap is about the same as from the city to Echo Bay. Thus people from the Sault could belong to the Echo Bay Club just as easily as the Sauleteaux one. Also, some of the "pioneers" of the Sauleteaux Club who feel that the challenge has gone out of their lives with the completion of their section of the trail, could transfer their allegiance to other clubs and present themselves with new challenges to overcome. Below is a list of the sections of the V.T.A. with the names of people to contact, where there are any. The names of unorganized sections are also given as inspiration for those who really want a challenge.

South Baymouth - Mr. Richard Bowerman, R.R. # 1, Tehkummah
Manitowaning -
Little Current -
Espanola - Mr. G.R. Morrison, Box 422, Espanola, POP 1C0
Massey -
Spanish -
Blind River - Mr. Norm Lediett, Box 163, Blind River, POR 1B0
Iron Bridge -
Thessalon - Mr. Don Fulton, Box 373, Thessalon
Desbarats - Mr. Bill Gunn, Richards Landing
Echo Bay - Mr. A.A. Chapman, Bar River
Sault Ste. Marie - Mr. Ralph Yanni, 280 Old Goulais Bay Road

Official Opening of the Sauleteaux Trail

On September 21, 1975, the Sauleteaux Club of the V.T.A. held an official opening of their section at Gros Cap, the western terminus of the Trail. Over 150 people turned out to hear a welcoming address by Sauleteaux president Ralph Yanni and to witness His Worship, Mayor Trbovich, representing the City of Sault Ste. Marie and Mr. Cy Elliott, representing Prince Township, cut the double blue and yellow ribbons. After the ceremony, most of these people set out to hike various sections of the trail near Gros Cap. After the hike, pie and coffee (or pop for the children) were served at the Bluewater Inn and our thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. J. Pandzic for their hospitality. All in all, it was an enjoyable event and the Sauleteaux Trail is now cleared, blazed, and officially ready for hiking from Gros Cap to Landslide Road, thanks to the many diligent workers who made their section a reality.

What is a "Saulteaux?"

It is the name given to the Indians of this area by the early French explorers because of their meeting place at the falls of Sault Ste. Marie. It was adopted as the club's name at their meeting of April 14, 1975, and is a very appropriate one. I hope to be able to tell you how to pronounce it by the next newsletter - Ed.

Trail Markers

Now that sections of trail are springing up all the way from the Soo to South Baymouth perhaps its time to tell all us newcomers to trail walking what the various markers to be seen on the trail mean. There are several kinds.

Blazes - there are 3 types - all of them painted, approximately 2 inches wide and 6 inches high, on trees or other appropriate vertical objects at about eye level. One white blaze is the standard marker. They are placed along the trail so that the next one is always visible more or less straight ahead of the one you are at. Two white blazes, one above the other, warn of an immediate change in the direction of the trail. Blue blazes indicate a side trail to a scenic lookout, spring or other point of interest. They may be single or double too.

Logos - small metal, diamond-shaped signs with a vertical blue arrow on a yellow background. They are placed every 1/2 kilometer along the trail (1 kilometer is about 2/3 of a mile).

Signs - 18 inches square, metal, with green printing on a white background. These identify the trail and give some rules for use of the trail. They are placed at all points where roads and the trail intersect, but are not visible from the road.

An Appeal to Authors

Anyone who has read this far does not need to be told that there is an urgent need for competent authors to make contributions to the Newsletter. Short articles on points of interest along your section of the trail - unusual plants, trees or rock formations - or on local geography, history or geology are always welcome. We will try to put them all in the Newsletter and they may also find a place in the Trail Guidebook which will eventually appear. The Newsletter is also the best place for news about progress on your section or notices of upcoming events.

Discount to Hikers

Kinney Shoes of Canada Ltd. is offering a 10% discount to hikers on hiking boots. The local store in the Station Mall, Sault Ste. Marie offers this discount to V.T.A. members upon presentation of a current V.T.A. membership card.

V.T.A. Crests

The Association is procuring a supply of beautiful blue-on-yellow, woven crests, suitable for packsack or clothing. These crests are diamond-shaped, approximately 3 inches on the side and feature the trail logo, i.e. the words "Voyageur Trail" surrounding a direction arrow.

Pre-production orders accompanied by cheque or money order in the amount of \$ 1.00 per crest will be welcomed. It is expected that the crests will be ready in approximately four weeks. They may be ordered by writing the Secretary directly or by checking the appropriate box on the membership form below. Renewals of membership or new members will also be welcomed at this time.

THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION
Box 66, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 5L2

Sections

- Association-at large
- Saulteaux T.C.
- Echo Bay
- Desbarats T.C.
- Thessalon T.C.
- Penewobikong T.C.
- Spanish
- Massey
- Rainbow T.C.
- Little Current
- Shequiandah
- South Baymouth

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE (home) _____ (business) _____

DECLARATION

I have read and will abide by the TRAIL USERS CODE

(Signature)

FEES

- Individual \$ 5.00 number of crests at \$ 1.00 each
- Family \$ 5.00 - number of family members
- (for Association statistics only)
- Donations \$ _____ (receipt for income tax purposes will be)
- Total amount enclosed \$ _____