



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION, A MEMBER OF F.O.H.T.A.

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FALL 1988



HIKING IN HARMONY
FRIENDSHIP AND TEAMWORK

On This Issue's Cover...

People helping people, in the spirit of cooperation -- the easy way to cross the Baldhead River (Orphan Lake Trail, Lake Superior Provincial Park). The image also reminds us of the tradition of volunteer work, essential to the operation of the Voyageur Trail Association. Please consider how you might strengthen your VTA Club through devoting your time and talents.

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

UPCOMING TRIPS**Saulteaux Club**

Saturday October 29 Hike Shaw Dam to Chapleau Highway. Approximately 8 km. Moderate. Meet 8:00 am at the Churchill Plaza* near the gas bar. Bring a lunch and wear appropriate clothing and boots.

Saturday November 19 Hike a section of the North Country Trail in Michigan. The terrain is relatively flat. The trail is overgrown in places which makes for interesting hiking. Distance 10 km. Meet at Bank of Commerce at Huron and Albert, near the

international bridge, at 9:00 am. Bring a lunch.

Saturday December 10 Hike Walls Lake road to Airport Road extension. About 9 km. Moderate. Meet at Market Mall by the gas bar at 10:00 am. Bring a lunch.

1989

January 14 Ski Gros Cap area. Meet at the Market Mall by the gas bar at 10:00 am. About 8 km. Bring a lunch.

February 4 Ski outing, Bellevue Trestle area. If weather is suitable, we will ski over a series of lakes and return via Legge Lake Road. About 9 km. meet at the K-Mart Plaza by the gas bar at 9:00 am. Bring a lunch.

March 4 Bushwack on skis (or snowshoes) the Nettleton Lake area. About 10 km. Meet at the Market Mall by the gas bar at 10:00 am. Bring lunch.

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

Market Mall- Second Line west at Farewell Terrace

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

*****Please Note*****

All hike leaders are unpaid volunteers. Participants do so at their own risk. You should bring a change of clothing and spare socks for winter trips.

Car pools are formed at the meeting place. If you don't have a vehicle, don't worry, you can travel with someone else.

DOES YOUR CLUB HAVE WAYS TO ADVERTISE IN THE NEWSLETTER? Send your information to Guy Smith, Editor, by December 30, 1988.

TRIP REPORTS

Michipicoten Club

This club, located in Wawa, had an active hiking year with a full slate of summer hikes. Most hikes were well-attended, ranging from 4 to 12 hikers per outing. The trails included a variety of terrain and difficulty from Wawa to areas east and south.

The highlight of the season was the overnight backpacking trip on the Lake Superior Provincial Park Coastal Trail. Four members hiked the 6 kilometres, from Gargantua Harbour to Rhyolite Cove in half a day, taking much time to relax at the scenic lookouts along the way and to explore the ignimbrite rock formations* near our campsite at Rhyolite Cove. Mishibishu, the great Indian God of Lake Superior, cooperated by sprinkling us with some cooling sunshowers which doubled as a perfect backdrop for the mandatory sunset photograph.

This first backpacking trip left us with some fond memories: Dorothy's home-grown vegetables, Louisa's pack sack, Bob's pop can excursion below the cliffs, and Pete's steps.

The Michipicoten Club participated in a number of non-hiking ventures. We were once again able to sponsor the publishing of 30,000 copies of the Lake Superior Provincial Park tabloid newspaper and hope to gain some new members through this project.

Our "on-again, off-again" boat trip to Michipicoten Island for a weekend of leisure did not go off, but everyone was so excited at the

prospect of a weekend on the island that we certainly will resurrect the idea again in 1989.

As well, our planned sponsorship of a Community Wildlife Involvement Program project to transfer 15 woodland caribou from Terrace Bay to the Gargantua Harbour area in Lake Superior Park, was postponed until 1989 by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

With the arrival of fall in Wawa, it is time to wind-down from our hectic summer pace. Some of our members will be travelling. Agnes and Max Ostermeier are visiting Switzerland, Austria and Germany, while others are taking time off for some healing - good luck Phil Egan. The rest of us, whether we are recently retired, such as Pete O. and Eddie K. - or returning to our normal routines, we are already looking forward to next year's promises.

If anyone is interested in participating in our events when up our way, please keep an eye on this newsletter, or contact Dorothy at (705) 856-2226 or Pete at (705) 856-4270.

-Pete Stinnissen

*Editor's note: Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines "ignimbrite" as: a hard rock formed by solidification of chiefly fine deposits of volcanic ash.

Saulteaux Club

The spring hiking season got underway in the Saulteaux Club on April 16. A group of about 17 hikers enjoyed sunshine as Tom Allinson led them down a ravine to a picturesque and secluded rocky bay for lunch. Marshmallows were either eaten or burnt over a fire. The trip then proceeded up past a lovely set of water cascades.

On May 7 of this year, the Saulteaux Club combined with the Sault Ste Marie and Region Conservation Authority to give a hike in the Crystal Creek area. The Saulteaux Club provided the leader, Steve Taylor, and the Conservation Authority provided the hotdogs and drinks afterwards. The day was sunny and pleasant, and a large turnout of about 30 people came out to check the progress of spring. The people were from almost all age categories, and many youngsters were present to liven the proceedings. Hikers assembled at the Sugar Shack and then marched out by Mockingbird Hill farm, where we were briefly fenced in while trying to head east. Fortunately, the horses were in the next field. After we escaped from the farm, we headed east and downhill and came to Crystal Creek Falls from the blue blazed side trail of the Voyageur Trail. The climb uphill to the Sugar Shack made everyone appreciate the refreshments at the end.

The next day, 12 hikers headed into the Echo Ridges Section for lunch with the herons. The maple woods at this time of year are bug free and beautiful. The warm sunlight provides the energy for the spring floral display of Trout Lilies, Spring Beauties, Trilliums, Goldthread, False Solomon's Seal, Yellow Clintonia, Violets, and other visual treats. This trip was a bit more ambitious than that of the day before, but all were up to the challenge. Several stops by the lakes along the way made the trip from Wilson lake to One Horse Lake easier. We dined near a heron rookery, but stayed far enough away so as not to disturb the Great Blue Herons more than the ravens were. We were thoroughly entertained by the antics of these ungainly birds as they sat near their nests in the top of trees and lashed out at the

pesky ravens. Their vocalizations sounded like monkeys.

The summer of 1988 was not easy for hiking because of the extreme heat which occurred. The heat took care of the bugs, but it made aquatic events much more enticing. Forest fires were evident on one trip. We couldn't light fires because of the fire ban, but then, we could have heated food on the rocks on some days. Nonetheless, several trips did take place. The July evening hike at Gros Cap was well attended with good weather, but the Saturday hike in mid-July did not take place because of community day and hot humid thundery weather.

-Steve Taylor

 * THIS SPACE COULD BE YOUR'S *
 * FREE OF CHARGE, FOR REPORTING ON*
 * YOUR CLUB'S OUTINGS *

Just send in your report to "Guy Smith, Editor, VTA Newsletter, Box 66, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6A 5L2" Deadline, December 30, 1988.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

"THE V.T.A. NEEDS YOU!" - Sounds like a slogan for an army recruitment campaign? Well, actually, it is -- for the Voyageur Trail army of volunteers. We need your energies to help run the Voyageur Trail Association. Here's who we are looking for:

QUALIFICATIONS:

Age -no limit
 Sex -no barrier
 Interests -the great outdoors

Special skills -none required, although enthusiasm