

# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

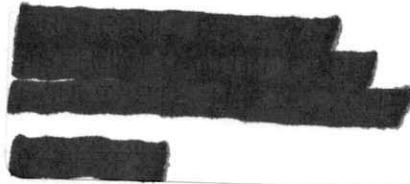
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SPRING 1989



89



THIRSTY FOR HIKING THE  
VOYAGEUR TRAIL

ON THIS ISSUE'S COVER:  
Remember last year's steamy  
summer? The sensible hiker  
(example, Paul Syme, this  
Issue's coverboy) is always  
prepared with a container of  
clear, pure water. Don't  
venture onto the trail  
without it!

\*\*\*\* VOLUNTEERS \*\*\*\*  
WE ALL NEED THEM

Think about your role in the  
Voyageur Trail Association.  
Don't let a small core of  
'regulars' do all of the  
work. Your volunteer  
efforts are appreciated!

#### VTA EXECUTIVE

##### PRESIDENT

Peter Stinnissen

##### 1st VICE-PRESIDENT

Vacant

##### 2nd VICE-PRESIDENT

Paul Syme

##### TREASURER

Dieter Ropke

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Kristine Stinnissen

##### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Patrick Capper

##### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Guy Smith

##### ASSISTANT TO GUY

Virve Manniste-Squire

#### UPCOMING TRIPS

##### \*\* NOTICE \*\*

ENVIRONMENT WEEK - JUNE 5-11  
Blind River area area -  
Hikers contact John Ashdown  
at 356-9815 for a hike that  
week.

#### Saulteaux Section

Saturday May 6 - Hike in  
conjunction with the Sault  
and Region Conservation  
Authority. A good short

family outing of about 3 km  
and 2 hours. meet at the  
Sugar Shack by Kinsman Park  
at 10:00 am. \*NOTE\* this  
trip was incorrectly dated  
May 7 in the Winter 1988/89  
VTA News.

Saturday May 13 - beat the  
bugs out to Randolph Lake  
area for a hike on this  
newly refurbished piece of  
trail. A good chance to see  
the spring wildflowers.

About 10 km. Bring lunch  
and meet at Churchill Plaza  
by the gas bar at 9:00 am.

Sunday May 14 - Mother's Day  
hike. Take mother into the  
woods. A short family-

oriented outing of about 2  
hours, with a couple of  
steep hills and a beaver dam  
to cross. Wiener roast for  
lunch afterwards. Meet at  
Market Mall at 10:00.

Thurs. June 8 - Hike Crystal  
Creek area. Meet 6:30 pm at  
K-Mart Plaza with fly dope.  
- ENVIRONMENT WEEK HIKE

GO-TO-BLAZERS DAY - Sat. June  
17 - Meet at Churchill Plaza  
at 9:00 am with lunch, boots  
and bug repellent. Return  
before supper. Get father  
in shape for his special day  
and get the trail in shape  
for summer hiking.

Sat. June 24 - Hike Orphan  
Lake Trail - Trip is 11 k  
with some hills. Beautiful  
scenery. Lunch on Superior  
beach. Meet 8:00 a.m. at K-  
Mart Plaza. 2 hr drive to  
trailhead. Bring fluids and  
lunch. Back in town around  
6:00 p.m.

Wed. July 12 - Evening  
stroll in Nettleton Lake  
area. Meet Market Mall at  
6:30 p.m.

Sun. July 23 - Blueberry  
Hike - Thessalon Section.  
Some hiking on rocky, open  
areas. 8 k approx. Meet at

Churchill Plaza, 9:00 am, with lunch.

Wed. Aug. 2 - Evening sunset hike Gros Cap. About 3 k. Meet Market Mall 6:30 pm.

Sat. Aug. 19 - Lazy summer hike at Naomikong Pt. across Whitefish Bay in Michigan followed by picnic and swim. Meet at 9:00 am. at Tourist Info Centre, across from Bridge Plaza, Canada.

**Backpacking Casque Isles -**  
Sept. 1-4. Drive to and meet at Neys on Fri. evening, begin hiking on Sat. morning. There will be two nights out and then return to the cars by early Mon. afternoon. Contact Steve Taylor (759-2480) or Virve Squire (942-2370) by Aug. 10. Enrollment limited to 12. Backpacking experience required.

Sat. Sept 23 - Fall colour spectacular in King Mountain area. About 15 km. Bring lunch and meet K-Mart plaza at 10:00 am.

Sun Oct 1 - Ontario Hiking Day on the Echo Ridges Section. Meet 10:00 am. at Churchill Plaza with lunch. Wear bright colours. About 8 km.

#### Michipicoten Section

##### ENVIRONMENT WEEK HIKES

Wed. June 7 - Wildflower Hike on the Nakomis Trail. Meet at the Post Office in Wawa at 6:30 or at Old Woman Bay for 7:00 p.m.

Sat. June 10 - Hike and see birds and plants along Orphan Lake Trail. Meet 9:00 at trailhead or at Post Office in Wawa at 8:00 a.m. Contact P. Stinnissen for more info.

#### \*\*\* 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, be happy - you can travel with someone else!

#### TRAILMIX

The Buttermilk Hill Schnitzel Haus served fine German fare to a hungry crowd of 54 at the Saulteaux Club Annual Dinner on April 13. Congratulations to Susan Graham, Nancy Jondreau and Virve Squire, who were the deserving recipients of volunteer recognition awards. Keep up the good work all volunteers! To aid digestion and stimulate enthusiasm for the upcoming hiking season, Donna Weeks presented a colourful photo-essay of panoramic mountain vistas from her unforgettable trip to the Colorado Rockies with Roddie Larsen.

Commercial logging activities in Lake Superior Provincial Park will be the subject of a review by the Ministry of Natural Resources. This review will determine whether or not it is feasible to continue timber harvesting activities in Lake Superior Provincial Park to a standard compatible with park values and the principles of sustainable development.

The findings of this review will be made available to the public in the second phase of the park management plan review which begins with the release of a tabloid in May 1989. Members of the public will have full opportunity to comment on all aspects of park management planning, including the future of logging.

Peter Stinnissen, President of the Voyageur Trail Association, sent a letter to the District Manager of Wawa MNR in November 1988, which commented on the timber management plans for the area. The letter states: "Our major concern is the maintenance of a coastline reserve in the Wawa and Lake Superior Provincial Park Crown Management Units to protect the proposed and existing coastline trail".

Did the tax man get you this year? Don't let it happen next year. The Voyageur Trail Association is shy on donations this year, and this source of money has always been important to allow the organization to continue to function.

#### TRAILS COUNCIL GOOD NEWS FOR HIKERS

With the ultimate goal of an integrated recreation trail network for the public, the Ontario Trails Council (OTC) was founded on November 23, 1988. The meeting was attended by 30 representatives of 18 user

groups with diverse outdoor interests that included hiking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cycling, motorcycling, cross-country skiing, portaging, dog-sledding and jogging. Cooperation is the fundamental principle that unites members of the council, who plan to conduct their first annual general meeting this spring.

A major topic of interest to council members is the proposed use of abandoned railway rights-of-way. A committee composed of 12 provincial ministries is considering the fate of the abandoned railway lands, which the OTC would like to see developed for recreational trail use. The council needs to present a strong, unified voice before the committee to compete for the corridors with other proposed projects, such as municipal roads and provincial hydro corridors.

The abandoned rights-of-way could enhance trail networks in Ontario, thereby fulfilling some of the following goals of the council:

1. Increase awareness and appreciation of the value of trails and trail networks among governments, corporations, organizations and individuals.
2. Increase the number, length, variety and accessibility of trails in Ontario.
3. Preserve and enhance the quality of existing trails and trail networks, in harmony with the environment.
4. Unify trail interest

groups in an effective and efficient manner.

- 5. Promote the safe and responsible use of trails.
- 6. Reflect and promote a conservation ethic in all aspects of the Council's activity.

\*\*\*\*\*

ONTARIO HIKING CONFERENCE  
 MAY 19-22, 1989  
 U. of WESTERN ONTARIO  
 \*Hike for the Health of It!\*

\*\*\*\*\*

WANTED: CAMPING EQUIPMENT

Chris and Joe Budau have acquired a new family of eight children, 5 to 18 years of age. They are looking for reasonably priced camping equipment that your children may have outgrown. Life jackets (safety approved) and washable sleeping bags are priority items, and a sturdy cooler and Coleman lantern are also needed. Call Chris at 949-9461, Ext. 2497 or Chris or Joe at 759-6904 if you can help.

A PUBLIC APPEAL FOR THE VTA

Dear Fellow Member:

At times, it is frustrating to plan outings and have no one show up. It is good to be able to share some of my thoughts with you. There is a growing number of people who may become members locally. However, it is difficult to advertise something which is not yet complete. It is also difficult to appeal to diverse groups. If you have

any advice for publicity, please let me know.

When the trail is completed in this area, I will take it to Scouting and Youth groups as a "challenge" and training ground.

By the summer we hope to be ready for paint. The dedication is for Dec. 1989. I plan to work on the trail late April or early May. If anyone is interested in coming along, they would be most welcome. Day length, visibility, lack of insects and shallow swimming lake trout make this an ideal time of year.

- Yours truly,  
 Jack Smit, Elliot Lake  
 848-9863

THE TRAIL TO ADVENTURE

The Voyageur Trail guarantees enough adventure for everyone. This is a tall order, as adventure ranges from climbing a backyard snowpile for a four year old to climbing Mount Everest for someone else. The active members of the club include a four year old who has been camping overnight in October without a tent or sleeping bag as well as a 74 year old gentleman who has made many miles of well marked trails. With hundreds of kilometers of trail, there is lots of room for anyone in between.

Outings range from a two hour Sunday picnic hike to a week in the woods with a map and compass exploring new territory. For anyone beginning camping skills, or anyone dreaming of climbing Mount Everest or crossing the North Pole on skis, the

Voyageur Trail can play a vital role. Before a major expedition, it is essential to test tents, sleeping bags, packs, etc. as well as building group spirit and stamina.

To go to the top of Mount Everest requires months of vacation, hundreds of thousands of dollars and a good possibility of not returning.

For those who prefer to stay alive, a family membership to the VTA is \$7 yearly and the trail to adventure is only 15 minutes away from Elliot Lake.

The Voyageur Trail is a hiking trail stretching from Manitoulin Island to Sault Ste. Marie and beyond. It is half dream and half reality. The reality includes a continuous section of trail from Highway 108 to Sault Ste. Marie, parts well cleared and blazed and other sections only flagged with blue tape. The dream consists of areas yet unexplored.

While we can guarantee adventure, we cannot guarantee that the sun will always shine, insects won't bite or that you won't slip on a wet rock. A map and a compass are essential to anyone exploring the trail by themselves. Better yet, enjoy nature with a group. For more information, please contact Jack Smit -848-9863

#### PUNS, NOT QUOTES

As we progress through life, it is important to realize that society and technology must proceed together. Because of technology, many new terms

have been invented. Some of these terms apply to hiking, and a glossary is presented below for you to become familiar with these new terms.

**FORTTRAN** - An unpleasant hard lumpy mixture of grains and dried fruit consumed only by hikers and canoeists (eg. I had a bowl of Forttran for breakfast this morning).

**HARD DRIVE** - A term used to describe the trip along steep winding roads full of potholes to some of the more remote sections of trail.

**FLOPPY DISC** - A back problem which prevents some hikers from reaching remote sections of trail (eg. he could not go for a hard drive because he had a floppy disc).

**IBM PC** - A type of tent (eg. last night we slept in a four man IBM PC with a vestibule).

**MEGABYTES** - What you get hiking in early June in Algoma.

**RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY** - A state of mind that one acquires only from being on the board of directors of the Voyageur Trail Association.

**SPREADSHEET** - A lightweight blanket for the floor of your tent.

**MODEM** - A type of small furry animal with sharp teeth.

**DOT MATRIX** - What happens to your skin after an encounter with poison ivy or megabytes.

**MONITOR** - A type of lizard indigenous to Madagascar, but which often is seen staring at the VTA NEWS editor.

**MICROCHIPS** - A food, rich in