

VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

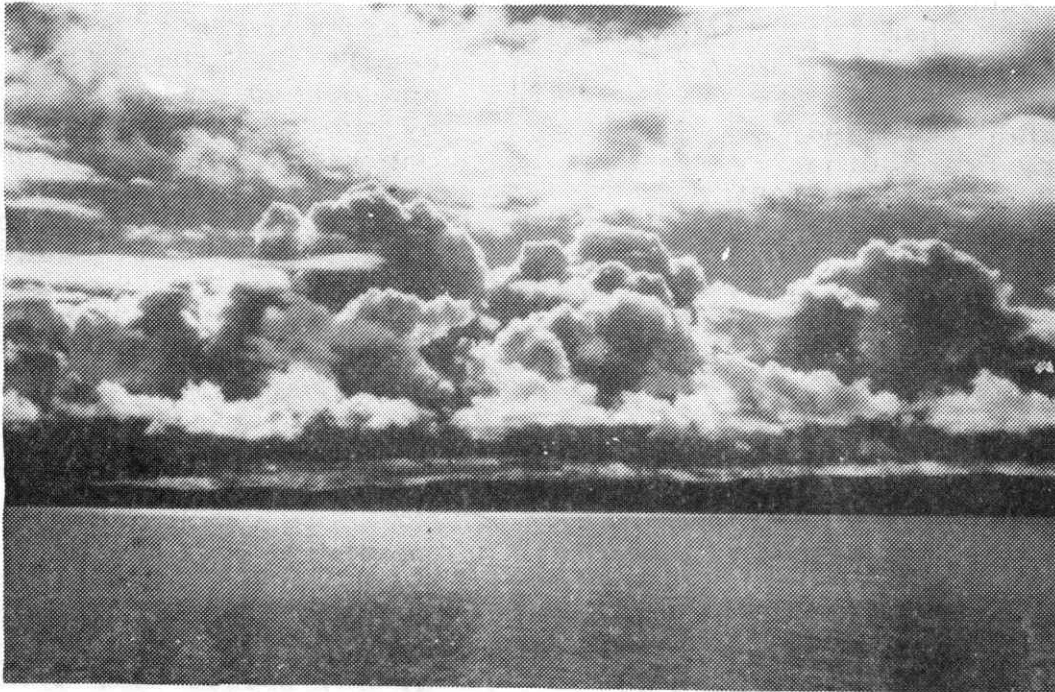
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Editor: Virve Manniste Squire

Winter 1990



Changing Skies- Changing Weather
Thunderstorms Developing Over
Lake Superior

ON THIS ISSUE'S COVER:
Spectacular cloud formations, as seen on the cover, are a clear indication of changing weather. Hot, sunny summer days suddenly turn dark as thunderstorms move in. It is important on outings to remember how quickly the weather does change, especially on the Voyageur Trail as we experience the 'lake effect'. Be prepared for the worst (and the best) and your hike will always be successful.

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MEMBERSHIP NOTES

To ensure membership renewals are received promptly, please mail your membership fees to VTA, Box 66, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. P6B 5L2

If you have forgotten to renew, please do so now. The year of paid up membership is noted on the upper right hand corner of the mailing label.

If 88 is the number on your mailing label, this issue will be the last. Please check and renew your membership to ensure you won't miss a single issue of the VT News.

AN URGENT PLEA FROM THE BRUCE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

For several months, the County of Bruce, owner of a county forest near Emmett Lake, has been negotiating with the federal government for the sale of 3,093 acres of land which would become part of the new national park. This includes about 1 km of the Bruce Trail along the spectacular cliffs between Cave Point and the Cyprus Lake campground. Efforts to come to an agreement have been slow - and fruitless, with the result that the County has now opened the lands for sale by public tender. While only one kilometre of the Bruce Trail crosses these lands, should they fall into private hands, long-term access cannot be guaranteed. Virtually all of the trail between the Emmett Lake Road and Little Cove Road - more than 18 km of the most scenic part of the entire Bruce Trail - could be placed in jeopardy.

How can you help? Write to the Warden and Council of Bruce County council urging them not to sell the county forest to private interests - at any price. The lands - and the Bruce Trail that crosses them, are far too important to be lost. Write to:

Mr. Brad Davis, Warden
Members of the Council
County of Bruce
P.O. Box 70
Walkerton, Ont. N0G 2R0

Write to the Federal Environment Minister (no postage required) urging greater efforts to purchase the Bruce county forest for inclusion in the Bruce Peninsula National Park - the only place the lands belong.

The Hon. Lucien Bouchard
Minister of the Environment
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0H3

With a copy to:

Director General
Canadian Parks Service
Ontario Region
111 Water Street
Cornwall, Ont. K6H 6S3

If you love the Bruce Peninsula, and you love the Bruce Trail, please act now.

- Douglas J. Robertson
Executive Director
The Bruce Trail
Association

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAULTEAUX SECTION:

Saulteaux Section Annual Dinner - Friday April 6.
Please see back page of newsletter.

Sat. Feb. 17 - Backcountry ski the woods north of the city - Goulais Ave. area. Tom Allinson - leader. Meet 10:00 a.m. Market Mall.

Sun. Mar. 18 - Possibly the last ski of the season. Join Tom Allinson and tour the Carpin Beach area. Meet 10:00 a.m. Market Mall.

Sat. Apr. 21 - Ice breakup

hike in the Gros Cap area. Virve Squire - leader. Meet 10:00 a.m. Market Mall.

Sat. May 5 - Conservation Authority Hike - Steve Taylor leads the annual hike in the Crystal Creek area. Meet 10:00 a.m. at the Sugar Shack on 8th Line for a 3 hr hike. Refreshments available at cost of \$2 per adult and \$1 per child.

Sat. May 12 - GO-TO-BLAZES DAY. Come out in numbers and join Steve Taylor as we spruce up the trail for another season of hiking! Meet 10:00 a.m. Market Mall.

Sun. May 13 - Bring Mom out to enjoy her day in the forest during our Annual Mother's Day Hike hosted again by Horst Wetzi. Meet 10:00 a.m. Market Mall.

MICHIPICOTEN SECTION:

Sat. Feb. 17 - ICE FISHING! Come out and catch tonight's supper. Meet 9:00 a.m. at Wawa Post Office. For more info - call Peter Stinassen 886-4270.

Sat. Mar. 24 - Enjoy a cross country skiing jaunt. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at Carl H. Beck School. Dorothy Egan leader - 886-2226.

Wed. Apr. 25 - Michipicoten Section Spring General Meeting at Michipicoten High School - 7:30. Agenda will include planning work parties.

Sun. May 6 - Set aside this evening for a social at the Wawa Motor Hotel. Details to follow from Dorothy Egan - 886-2226.

nice, thick elastic bands that come around broccoli can be used to keep socks or mitts together. They can also be used to help keep the lids on the yoghurt containers.

People should be commended for recycling material that would otherwise go into the garbage, but there is a danger of taking this too far. The executive of the Voyageur Trail Association does not recommend that people go down the trail for a week of camping with all of their goods in old plastic grocery bags.

- Steve Taylor

SPRING HIKING ON THE PENEWOBIKONG SECTION

In conjunction with Environment Week, the Penewobikong members hosted a short hike for the evening of June 6th, 1989. As many of our members are involved in the cross-country ski club, we decided to break from tradition and walk a short distance of the trail we ski during the winter months. We gathered at 6:30 p.m. at an area at the mouth of the Mississauga River known as the "Boom Camp".

Nine hikers showed up at that time - not as many as expected, but we were very pleased to have Kim and Wayne Fiset join us for the first time. Our hike began with a stroll along the beach past piles of boom logs, reminding us of our recent history in logging. We came to a rocky point which looked like a wonderful place to keep in mind for swimming - if the water ever warms up! Many

deer tracks were very noticeable in the sand. It seemed as though they had been playing on the beach for quite a while. Some other tracks, not quite so well known, absorbed our attention for a long time. An animal had tracked up and down and criss-crossed the beach sand over a large area. We thought at first a beaver had come out of the water to look for a fresh meal of tree bark, then it was mentioned that it may have been a turtle coming out of the water to lay eggs in the sand. Sure enough, just as we were leaving the open area and heading into the bush, we spotted a turtle with its hind end buried in the sand. We cautiously passed by, not wanting to disturb her from carrying out this natural process.

Our hike into the bush was cut short by the influx of many buggy things! Mosquitoes dove at us relentlessly. We toughed it out for five or ten minutes and I think everyone was happy to see the trail become too muddy to traverse, causing us to turn back. Even in the open area, the breeze had subsided and the bugs continued to pester us. Relief was enjoyed only once we were back in the confines of our vehicles. Everyone was invited back to Sue and John's for a snack afterward. Norm Lediett joined us there afterward for a short meeting.

We adjourned at about 9:00 p.m. with a commitment to meet again to plan an overnight adventure. This time though - NOBODY IS GOING TO TELL THE BUGS WHERE WE ARE!

- John Ashdown

BACKPACKING ON THE CASQUES ISLES SECTION

I started getting suspicious about what might occur when I heard that Steve Taylor had nobly volunteered to lead the hike. I wondered if he wanted to surpass last year's marathon effort. These suspicions grew stronger when so many of the prospective hikers found excuses for not coming. Dieter and Erika Ropke went as far away to the east coast as possible, in the Bay of Fundy area, Tom and Gail Allinson fled south, Donna Weeks had some excuse about a bad back that kept her off work. All the students Steve knew decided it was essential to return to University on that labour day weekend. Even my potential partner couldn't come as he needed to conserve his strength to return to school. Finally my potential backpacking partner Bill Robinson backed out two days before we were due to leave with an excuse about having the flu. I was beginning to wonder what everyone was so worried about?

John Berry met me in Wawa where I had been working that week, and we were soon joined by Steve Taylor and Roddie Larsen. Steve persuaded us that we should eat supper at Marathon. The reason became apparent when we reached the Voyageur Restaurant and Steve ordered a Voyageur Burger and John, not to be outdone, ordered a Voyageur Special. I thought 7:30 p.m. was a little late for supper, but the difficult hiking ahead made the stop worthwhile.

After supper we drove a short distance to Rainbow

Falls Park in time to see the gate being closed, so we had to fill out our camp permits and put our campground fees into the pipe safe.

After a circuitous route, we reached a suitable site, and with the help of car headlights and a hammer soon had the tents up. Steve was very keen to study the night sky and locate all the constellations that might help navigation.

At 9 o'clock on Saturday we bade farewell to the luxuries of running water, heated showers and flush toilets, and just after 10 o'clock were on the trail at Hydro Bay where the hydro stream discharges into Terrace Bay.

We walked along the cottage road, and became quite good at spotting the camouflaged blazes that were well concealed on birch trees. At 10:45, we reached an aluminum bar across the road leading to a two storey cottage, and no blaze to be found. The map seemed to indicate the trail headed west before getting close to the shore. We spent half an hour looking for the trail in the wrong place, before finding that it was well marked, but closer to the water's edge than we expected, and passed close to the new two storey cottage. We left blue flagging tape at various places from our start until we reached Les Petits Ecrits.

We knew trail maintenance had not been done for several years, but we were used to the vagaries of Lake Superior and the trail often heads unexpectedly from the shore, and were reasonably successful at spotting