

VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

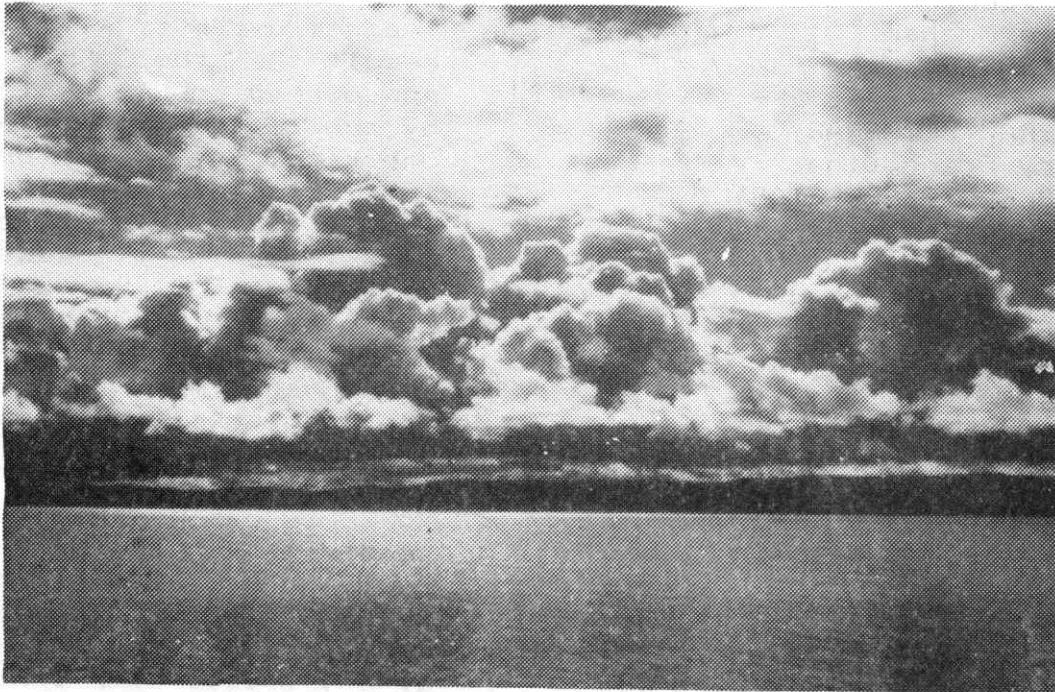
PUBLISHED BY THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION, A MEMBER OF F.O.H.T.A.

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

No.44

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 5th 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 Wetzel. 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 Stinissen 856-4270.

Sat. Mar. 24 - Enjoy a cross country skiing jaunt. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at Earl M. Beck School. Dorothy Egan leader - 856-2226.

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 - 856-2226.

4

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 Ledietz 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 say 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 Ecris.

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

obscured blazes.

Generally speaking, we found the Casque Isle section reasonably well marked, but you had to keep alert, especially in rocky areas. Most of the trail appeared well used, possibly by animals, as we never saw anyone else on the trail for the three days we were hiking. We found a lot of windfalls, some of which we cut and removed, but we had to climb over or crawl under most. Roddie said she found the trail harder than hiking in the Colorado mountains.

I have included times in this account as a guide to others. We were fitter than most hikers, and did not take a lot of breaks but did stop to clear some windfalls. Steve and John by the end of the day were noticeably faster than the two of us on the wrong side of forty-five.

We reached Kelly's Harbour just before noon and stopped at the tombola, quite pleased that we had covered what appeared to be a third of the distance in two hours. We ate a leisurely lunch, enjoying the sun and the beauty of Lake Superior and the tombola. If you don't know what a tombola is, then look it up on page C13 of your guidebook. Tom McGrath has an excellent description of a tombola, and had described the beauty of the trail so eloquently that my efforts pale in comparison, so I have kept my comments to a minimum. His description is worth reading, even if you never intend to visit the area.

At 1:25, having consumed our last fresh fruit, we left and just over an hour later reached Noname Bay. (Or is

it Noname Bay?) The map and description seem to disagree on this point (or should I say bay). By this time we weren't sure if John could complete the trip as he was in agony from a surfeit of puns from Steve and Roddie with occasional help from me.

One hour later we arrived at the eastern shore of Les Petits Ecris, which we remained close to for half an hour. At the western bay there was a book with comments from hikers as far back as July 1980. One comment I remember was a fairly recent one where the hiker hoped the rest of the trail was better marked than it had been from Schreiber Beach. She must have been disappointed as the section we had walked needed reblazing the most. Hopefully our blue tape will be visible until someone can repaint this section.

At 4:10 we left the beautiful area of Les Petits Ecris realizing that we wouldn't make camp at 5 o'clock as earlier anticipated. At 5:20 we reached the Three Sisters Rocks, having climbed up and down a steep hill, and finally at 7:25 we reached Worthington Bay. We didn't go along the shore for 400 metres as mentioned in the guidebook, nor was the last mile "pleasant hiking" as the guidebook indicated. By then we were tired, and a level trail without windfalls would have been very welcome. However, with packs off, the beauty of the bay, the evening sunshine and some hot food we soon felt much better. The young ones stayed up and had marshmallows round the campsite, while the old folks

had an early night. Steve reported that there had been a magnificent display of Northern Lights. This wasn't the only night activity, as some critter sneaked into the campsite, and nibbled the handle of my kettle, the plastic tube of Roddie's water filter, and the rubber handle of her walking stick.

Next morning we rose to see the sun shining across the beach, and a very heavy dew on the tents. At 10 o'clock we headed up the road past the old gold mine's bunk house, and up a steep path that appeared to be a dry creek bed, tripping up on a thread left by someone who had been measuring the length of this section of trail. By 11 o'clock we reached the side trail to Mount Gwyn. Neither Steve nor I could remember how long it took to reach the top but we thought 20 minutes at the most. In fact it took half this time, and we had a great view of Lake Superior and the countryside around.

We had a little trouble finding the trail later on, where it made a sharp right hand turn. This was where the side trail loop must have started, but we didn't see any blazes for it, though we didn't search all that thoroughly. At 12:30 we stopped for lunch at the start of a well marked side trail. This wasn't mentioned in the guidebook, and we had nice moss covered seats and enjoyed the sunshine. After half an hour's stop, Roddie and I decided to go on, while John and Steve explored the side trail. Just as we had put our packs on, John shouted that the trail was only 100 metres long, so we all went to enjoy

the view of Twin Harbours and the surrounding coast.

By 3 o'clock we reached the overlook of Schreiber Beach, and saw two people on the rocks, but in the half hour it took to reach the beach, they had left. After a 25 minute rest on the beach, we set out along the rocks, but after 15 minutes, the trail went inland and paralleled the beach. This trail was well used but had lots of windfalls. We crossed a creek at 5:25 and reached Twin Harbours just before six. We found the hiking easier than the first day, but still very tiring because of the steep climb up Mount Gwyn, and the many windfalls. At times I found stepping up two feet quite an effort.

Roddie had in the past a few nasty encounters with rocks taking chunks out of her knees, so she always walked very cautiously on the rocks, some of which were basalt. Steve pointed out, not unexpectedly, that if she fell, it would be a case of "basalt causing bodily harm". Steve also managed to win his bet with John that we would reach our campsite before 6 o'clock. Our only difficulty was finding the trail between the two harbours. We later erected some cairns to mark the route.

There was very little water in the creek flowing into the harbour, due to the dry summer, but the water in the bay was warm enough for the four of us to have a quick swim.

Next day, despite two short rain showers during the night, we woke to sun shining on our tents, and were up and away by nine. This last day

of hiking was much easier than the first two days and Steve predicted we would reach the car by 2 o'clock. We returned to the shore near Flint Island, after an hour's hike, and after a further hour's hike which was along the shore, we stopped for an early lunch where the trail headed inland. We ate lunch for half an hour while admiring the waves crashing against the shore. In twenty minutes, we reached the railroad tracks, and at 1:15 p.m. we stopped on a cliff overlook. At 1:50, we followed the blazes and found ourselves in a gravel pit close to the highway. We waited here for ten minutes while Steve went to fetch the car from where we should have come out. After a brief stop at Schreiber for coffee and news of the Blue Jays and Cubs, we drove on. We stopped in Wawa for a Chinese meal, and were back in Sault Ste. Marie at 10:15 p.m.

We ended up tired but all were glad to have gone on the hike. I thought the trail was very similar to the Lake Superior Provincial Park Coastal Trail, both for its beauty and tough hiking. In this case, the Casque Isles trail was more difficult due to the many windfalls. Now if only some people had the time and energy to get busy with a chain saw to clear them, I wouldn't hesitate to recommend the trip to all hikers. Thank you Steve for leading the hike which was well worth the effort.

- Patrick Capper

HIKE ONTARIO! NOTES

Hike Ontario is often asked to comment on government

proposals. Correspondence about the Voyageur Trail and surrounding areas includes the following concerns:

Lake Superior Provincial Park - The LSPP master plan review suggested that overnight shelters be built on hiking trails in the park, including the Voyageur Trail. HO has written to oppose the building of structures along the coast.

Wawa Crown Management Unit Timber Plan - This plan is open for public comment. This area includes the Lake Superior shoreline between Pukaskwa and Lake Superior Provincial Park. HO is writing to request no logging close to the shoreline, no exit of timber by the lake, and care in preservation of water quality of rivers running into the lake. HO has asked for more information, and plans to follow up through the National Heritage League.

Private Logging Roads - A proposal for private logging roads in the north was received. MNR proposes replacing the gates which now bar the roads by signs saying that the roads are closed. However, Voyageur members are not against this proposal since the gates now in use are frequently broken and restriction of access is unpopular locally and impossible to enforce.

TREATS FOR THE PACK

As the winter winds howl, keeping even the hardiest of skiers and snowshoe experts inside, what a perfect occasion to dig into our

cookbooks and cook up goodies for our packs.

NO-COOK HEALTH FUDGE

- 1/2 c non-fat dry milk solids
- 1/2 c carob powder or peanut butter
- 1 c shredded unsweetened coconut
- 1/2 c sunflower seed kernels
- 1/2 c cashews
- 1/4 c honey
- 1/4 c water
- 2 tbsp brewer's yeast
- 1/2 c sesame seeds

Combine all the ingredients in a large bowl and mix until mixture sticks together. Press into a flat buttered pan. Cut into squares and wrap in wax paper for storing. Yield: About 1 1/4 pounds.

DM BARS

- 1 1/2 lb black Mission figs, stems removed
- 1 lb pitted dates
- 1/2 lb golden raisins
- 1/4 lb sunflower seed kernels
- 1/2 pound shelled walnuts
- 1/2 lb shredded unsweetened coconut
- 2 tbsp carob powder

Mix together the figs, dates, raisins, sunflower seed kernels and half the walnuts. Put the mixture through medium blade of a meat grinder. Knead the ground mixture on a layer of the coconut and gradually work in the carob powder and coconut. Shape into balls, bars or triangles and decorate with the remaining walnuts. Yield: About 4 1/2 pounds.

The above two recipes were recommended by the

Ropkes. Both treats pack and travel well.



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Joe Meating

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THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS is published three times per year. Your articles and submissions are always welcome! Submissions for the Summer Issue should be received by April 10, 1990. Send to Editor, VTA, Box 66, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. P6A 5L2

AN INVITATION TO ATTEND
SAULTEAUX CLUB - VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL DINNER

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1990

BUTTERMILK SCHNITZEL HAUS

MENU

Roast Chicken	Cabbage Rolls	Perogies
Schnitzel	Salad	Assorted Breads
Vegetables	Rice	Tea/Coffee
Black Forest Cake/Mocha Butter Cream Cake		

\$16.00 per person (includes tax, gratuities, bus transportation
to and from Buttermilk Village)
Children under 12 only \$8.00
Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
Bus leaves K-Mart Parking Lot 6:00 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER: John Berry

"Burnt Boots and Tall Ladders"
Hiking the West Coast Trail

Tickets available until April 1, 1990.

Mail the section below with your cheque or money order (Canadian
Funds) to:

(Mrs.) Susan Graham
26 Primrose Drive
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
P6B 4E6
Tel: 949-4105

or contact Steve Taylor at 759-2480 evenings.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL/ZIP CODE _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Please do not sent cash in the mail. Make cheques or money
orders payable to: Saulteaux Club, Voyageur Trail Association



VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Box 66

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO P6A 5L2

THE TRAIL USERS CODE

- Hike only along marked routes. -Do not climb fences, use the stiles.
- Carry out all garbage (if you can carry it in, you can carry it out).
- Light cooking fires at official campsites only - drench fires after use (better still, carry lightweight hiker's stove).
- Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy.
- Never strip bark from trees. -Protect and do not disturb wildlife.
- Keep dogs on the leash on or near farmland.
- Walk around the edges of fields, not across them.
- Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photographs.

The membership year of the Association runs from January 1st to December 31st. Dues paid after November 1st will be applied to the next membership year.

Fee includes membership in one Voyageur Trail Club. To join additional V.T. Clubs, add an extra \$2.00 (\$1.00 for student) for each Club.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NEW ☐ or RENEWAL ☐ (Please check.)

Sections (please check)

- ☐ Association-at-large
- ☐ Saulteaux V.T.C.
- ☐ Echo Ridges V.T.C.
- ☐ Desbarats V.T.C.
- ☐ Thessalon V.T.C.
- ☐ Iron Bridge
- ☐ Penewobikong V.T.C.
- ☐ Elliot Lake
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Massey
- ☐ Rainbow V.T.C.
- ☐ Little Current
- ☐ Shiguandah
- ☐ South Baymouth
- ☐ Sudbury V.T.C.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE _____

DECLARATION

I have read and will abide by the TRAIL USERS' CODE

Signed _____

Date _____

FEES

- ☐ Thunder Bay V.T.C.
- ☐ Nipigon
- ☐ Casque-Isles V.T.C.
- ☐ Marathon
- ☐ Pukaskwa Park
- ☐ Michipicoten V.T.C.
- ☐ Lake Superior Park
- ☐ Batchawana
- ☐ Goulais

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Family	-----	\$10.00 =
Student	-----	\$5.00 =
Crest	-----	\$2.00 =
Lapel Pin	-----	\$3.00 =
Guidebook, Members	-----	\$5.00 =
Guidebook, Non-Members	-----	\$8.00 =

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Total Amount Enclosed =

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