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# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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Editor: Virve Manniste Squire

Summer 1990



Looking for sun on the Superior shoreline

**ON THIS ISSUE'S COVER:**

An enthusiastic group takes a break at the mouth of the Bald Head River while hiking the Peat Mountain Trail last summer. Although spectacular views of Lake Superior were promised, thick fog blanketed the coast for the entire day. The beauty of the trail alone ensured that the hikers will be back again to enjoy this wonderful section of trail.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE \*\***

My apologies to everyone for the poor quality of last month's newsletter. Our printing equipment is quite dated, and occasionally will act up. The current problem was remedied, but I cannot promise that future setbacks will not occur. We are currently exploring other possibilities for newsletter production, but until a feasible alternative can be

found, we must continue on with what we have. If any of our membership has any ideas to improve production, please contact the editor. Thank you.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

VTA Annual Meeting - Sat. Oct. 13 in Wawa at 1:00. For further details, contact V. Squire - 942-2370 or P. Stinnissen - 856-4270.

**SAULTEAUX SECTION**

June 2: First of four hikes in end-to-end series of Airport Road to Gros Cap. Meet Market Mall 9:00 a.m. with lunch. Moderate. Tom Allinson - Leader.

June 16-17: Lake Superior Provincial Park weekend. Day hike Peat Mountain Trail on Sat. or Sun. (weather dependent). Camp overnight in campground. Joint outing with Michipicoten Club. Contact V. Squire - 942-2370

June 21: Evening hike near Netleton Lake. Meet Market Mall 7:00 p.m. Easy walking. Susan Graham - Leader.

June 23: Airport Road to Goulais Ave. Second in end-to-end series. Meet Market Mall 9:00 a.m. with lunch. Moderate. T. Allinson - Leader.

July 11: Gros Cap evening sunset hike. Meet 6:30 p.m. Market Mall. Easy hiking.

July 14: Goulais Ave. to Glenview. Third in end-to-end series. Meet Market Mall

9:00 a.m. Moderate. Steve Taylor - Leader

July 29: Natomikong Point. Picnic - swim - hike. Meet parking lot behind Collegiate Sports 9:00 a.m. or U.S. Info Centre 9:30 a.m. Easy. Tom Allinson - Leader.

Aug. 4-6: Backpacking Michipicoten Section. Not too difficult for those with limited experience. Much of the hike is on new trail near Lake Superior. Contact Steve Taylor - Leader, by July 20. (759-2480)

Aug. 23: St. Mary's River Boardwalk hike to the Jolly Friar. Meet 7:00 p.m. at the Visitors Centre, Sault Canal. Easy. Susan Graham - Leader.

Aug. 26: Glenview to Mabel Lake. Fourth in end-to-end series. Meet K-Mart 9:00 a.m. Moderate. Patrick Capper - Leader.

Sept. 1-3: Backpack and clear trail in the Casque Isles Section. Contact Patrick Capper - Leader

Sept. 16: Orienteering, Old Goulais Bay Road and west. Good instructional event for families. We will try to compass to 'The Canyon'. Meet K-Mart 10:00 a.m. with lunch. Easy to moderate. Steve Taylor - Leader.

Oct. 7 - Ontario Hiking Day. Enjoy the last of the fall colours east of the Sault on the Penewobikong Trail. Meet Churchill Plaza 9:00 a.m.

Oct. 20: Tower Lake to Wilson Lake, Echo Ridges Section. Good views with the leaves

down. Meet Churchill Plaza at 9:00 a.m. Tom Allinson - Leader

Nov. 4: Hike the trail west of Shaw Dam. Meet 9:00 a.m. Churchill Plaza. Moderate. The dam alone is well worth seeing. Virve Squire - Leader

#### MICHIPICOTEN SECTION:

A Wednesday evening hike is planned every month this summer. Sunday afternoon hikes are also scheduled June through September.

Contact Dorothy Egan - (705) 856-2226 or Pete Stinnissen - (705) 856-4270 for schedule and further details.

#### \*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\*

All hike leaders are unpaid volunteers. Participants are encouraged to join us but please do so at your own risk. Pack a lunch, spare clothing and extra socks. Be prepared for all possible weather conditions and have equipment for all possible needs.

Car pools are formed at the meeting places. If you are without a vehicle, you are always welcome to ride with someone.

#### REVISIONS TO GUIDEBOOK

Please note the following revisions to your current guidebook.

Page S-2: At one line under 2.1 logo. The north branch DELETE "which is currently being extended at the north end".

Page S-3: Eight lines below 6.1 logo. The trail runs north on the road for about 90 m then turns East into the forest. ADD "Extensive logging operations in the vicinity of the creek has resulted in the trail being rerouted slightly along the skidder trails for a short distance."

Page S-5: At logo 32.2. ADD "The North section of the trail is laid North on the Old Goulais Bay road for approx. 8 km and then goes generally East to Hwy 17, approx. 3 km."

Page S-5: Just before "cabin has bear claws" ADD "The trail crosses several new logging roads."

INSERT: Old Goulais Bay Road - The trail starts on Old Goulais Bay Road. Coming from Gros Cap, it continues for about 2 km, crossing a bridge. Walk along a pole line for about 1/2 km, then proceed up the road until 3.5 km where a second bridge crosses the Root River and continue on the road for about 5 km. Turn right crossing a small creek and head 3 km to Hwy. 17.

Page ER-1: Five lines from the bottom of the page. DELETE "It turns east and climbs..." to page ER-2 (13 lines from the bottom of the page). "...Cross this road." INSERT "Due to extensive logging operations in this area, the trail has been diverted to the main logging road for approx. 6 km. The trail turns North and heads part way up a hill and then heads North West along the side of the hill. At the top of the hill the trail heads

generally North along the crest for 300 m and then goes down the hill to the main logging road (gravel). It follows this road for approx. 5 km. Leave the gravel road and follow another logging road..."

Page ER-2: Ann Lake - Maud Lake. At point '5.5' where the trail leaves the road, the trail cannot be found. Continue down the road and it will join back up with the trail at point '8' (approx.) and just keep following the road.

Page ER-4: After "... an abandoned flat bed trailer is seen", INSERT "Due to extensive logging operations in the area, the trail is difficult to follow until it reaches the logging road."

Page T-3: Three lines from the bottom of page. "...a road ADD "and the gas line to the North parallels the trail."

Page T-5: Line three from the top. "Continues North East for a couple of 100 m and climbs a hill. ADD "The trail crosses the gas line."

Thanks to Denis Andre for the current revisions to our guidebook. Denis was hired by the VTA last year through an Environment Youth Corps Project. His report on this project follows.

### FALL CLEANING

During the shortening days and ever changing colours of autumn, the Environmental

Youth Corps started work on the rehabilitation of as many kilometres of trail time permitted. Due to the early snow, our time was cut short, but we did manage to rehabilitate most of the Saulteaux Section and the entire Echo Ridges Section.

This was not achieved without hard work and difficulties. Because the work took place in the fall, we had trouble finding employees to work for minimum wage as students had returned to school. Other problems were either mechanical or financial. This created a rapid rotation of workers, somewhat lessened with the strike at Sault College. I would like to say that all crew members were very hard workers and very understanding of the situation the VTA was in.

This work project had been organized and started by Peter Stinnissen and Tom Allinson. The field work actually started on August 10. It took slightly more than a month to clean the Echo Ridges section due to very little usage and poor maintenance. Of all the trails I have worked on, this section of trail is one of the most enjoyable to hike through: majestic hemlocks surrounding numerous clear water lakes and trails that are challenging without being too difficult.

During the next two months, the crew and I cleaned most of the Saulteaux Section and parts of the Desbarats and Thessalon sections. North Gros Bay, along Lake Superior

was measured, blazed, cleared and readied for the spring; it has some amazing scenery of Lake Superior.

After discussion with Steve Taylor, we decided to work on the North Saulteaux Section which now branches north off the VTA trail on the Old Goulais Bay Road. The new section extends to the top of the Mile Hill where it can also be accessed by vehicle. We attempted to continue the construction of the trail toward Kirby's Corners, but due to logging and early snowfall, we were not able to achieve this goal.

Because the snow now kept us from working outdoors, I assigned the crew various activities to help me in my duties; newly built trail descriptions were written for the guidebook, a phone survey was done to help evaluate the work needed in respect to publicity, and other maintenance work on the tools was completed.

The crew finished work on December 15. Even though many mistakes were made and we had quite our share of bad luck, especially with our vehicle, I believe the crew enjoyed themselves and now have a different perspective of our environment.

Since then, I have been working alone on various publicity ideas and whatever work the VTA and its clubs have given me; my duties have ranged from labourer to accountant.

I would like to thank all the people I have worked with