

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

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

NO.49

Editor: Virve Manniste Squire

Fall 1991

## **OUR FIRST EVER PHOTO-ESSAY**

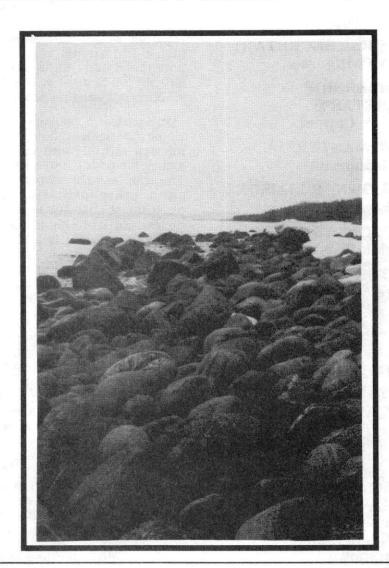
In October of 1990, after a request for photos to adorn the front page of our newsletter, I received a package from Craig S. Zimmerman, an Interpretive-Naturalist at Pukaskwa National Park.

Included with the usual photos of hikers on the suspension bridge over the White River, were photos from times and places that many of us have never experienced.

I found it difficult to select any one photo, so instead decided to try a first - the photo essay beginning on page 5 on Pukaskwa National Park a place where many members have spent many days hiking and exploring its beauty.

Thank you to Craig and other members who contributed their photos.

- Virve Squire



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#### VTA EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT Steve Taylor PAST PRESIDENT Peter Stinnissen 1st VICE-PRESIDENT Jesse Latendresse 2nd VICE-PRESIDENT Susan Graham TREASURER Dieter Ropke GENERAL SECRETARY Larry Gringorten MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Patrick Capper TRAILMASTER Bill Robinson LANDOWNER LIAISON Paul Syme HIKE ONTARIO REP. Patrick Capper EDITOR Virve Manniste Squire

## ON THIS ISSUE'S COVER:

Rocky shoreline, typical of the many cobblestone beaches which dot the Superior shoreline. (Photographer unknown.)



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Over the past few years, a number of people have asked me what my view was on certain interest groups using the Voyageur Trail. These interest groups could use dirt bikes, guns, snow machines, mountain bikes and all-terrain vehicles. My usual reply is to note that I don't think that the subject lends itself to a simple all-encompassing response.

One part of a response is obvious. We seek landowner permission to build and maintain a trail for pedestrian use only. Thus, unless the owners have given other permission, we must insist that our trail is for pedestrian use only (ie. hiking and skiing) when it is on private property. Aside from this situation, there are a number of pros and cons regarding the use of our trail by other interest groups.

On the negative side, in some types of sensitive terrain, even mountain bikes can result in degradation of the trail by making it less visually appealing and more difficult to hike, and by causing environmental damage. Erosion can occur on steep slopes. In wet areas, tire tracks can disrupt the drainage, resulting in formation of watery holes. The sense of a healthy outdoor experience is impaired for many when motorized vehicles are encountered. The noise disrupts the peaceful natural sounds and reduces the chance of seeing wildlife. There is also the potential for a dangerous situation to develop if the vehicles are travelling in an unsafe manner. In southern Ontario, extensive use of hiking trails by vehicles is a

major concern, and hiking groups are being forced to take stands against vehicular use of their trails.

In places along the Voyageur Trail, the situation is different from what it is for much of southern Ontario. Remote parts of the Trail are sometimes so under used and vegetation can grow so quickly that the only way hikers can follow it is by looking for blazes.

On the Sept. 21 hike in the Iron Bridge Section, hikers followed a beautifully beaten forest path through an enchanting garden of ferns. The path followed the blazes, but it had not been created by hikers. It had been beaten by quadrunners. The enchanting ferns would probably have been referred to in less endearing terms as hikers staggered through them had it not been for the vehicular use.

Some hikers even suggested (in jest I think) that we should try to purchase a quadrunner for our Association. Bird hunters and fishermen also contribute to improving quality of the trail in many areas by walking on it. In remote areas, mountain bikes and motorized offroad vehicles may someday facilitate trail maintenance by transporting people to degraded sections of trail more quickly (this ought to get the kids out too)

In the Penewobikong Section, several kilometres of our trail becomes a major snowmachine trail in the winter. The same route is in a convenient location for both trails, and as far



#### SAULTEAUX SECTION

Mon. Feb. 3, 1992 - Saulteaux Section General Meeting at F.H. Clergue School Library at 7:30 PM. We will be planning outings and the Annual Dinner.

Sat. Nov. 23 - Social Night & Slide Show - Algoma University Student Study Lounge (East Wing) at 7:30 p.m. Pizza will be ordered in; tea, coffee and pop will be available. BRING YOUR OWN MUGS. Cost \$2.00 per person. Our theme for the slide show will be "International Hiking", preceded by slides of club outings in the past year. (Remember: Depending on which side of the border you live, the U.S. and Canada are "international". We encourage you to share your slides and/or experiences with the group.)

Sun. Dec. 15 - Ski the Gros Cap area (intermediate). Meet at Market Mall (near the former gas station/car dealer) at 11:00 a.m. Leader - Tom Allinson. Wiener roast planned for lunch.

Tues. Dec. 31 - Annual New Year's Eve snowshoe north of the city (easy to intermediate). Meet at K-Mark Plaza (behind Red Lobster) at 10:00 a.m. Leader - Patrick Capper.

Sat. Jan. 11 - Ski "the canyon" and Horst Wetzel's area (intermediate). Meet at Market Mall at 10:00 a.m. Leader - Bill Robinson.

Sun. Jan. 19 - Snowshoe Thayer's Acres (easy). Meet at K-Mart Plaza at 10:00 a.m. Leader - Bill Robinson.

Sun. Jan. 26 - Ski the McNerny Lake Trail (Strong's Road area, Michigan). There are several loops, the longest is 8 miles (intermediate). Meet at the Soo Michigan Tourist Information parking lot at 10:00 a.m., or at the former Collegiate Sports parking lot, Soo, Ontario at 9:30 a.m. Leader - Chuck Bosley.

**Sat. Feb. 8** - Ski Bellevue Trestle area (intermediate). Meet at K-Mark Plaza at 9:30 a.m. Leader - Tom Allinson.

Sun. Feb. 16 - Snowshoe the Voyageur Trail - Glenview Cabins west (easy to intermediate). Meet at K-Mart Plaza at 1:00 p.m. Leader - Susan Graham.

Sat. Feb. 29 - Ski Lake Superior Provincial Park (depending on the weather) - pictographs north along the shore. Meet at K-Mark Plaza at 8:00 a.m. or Smiley's at 7:00 a.m. for breakfast. Leader - Bill Robinson.

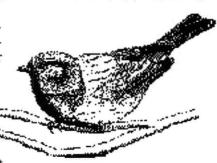
#### Mid-Week Skiing

There are some members who quite often ski mid-week (during the day). They mainly do back-country skiing. If you would care to join them, phone Tom Allinson at 942-0768 once the season starts.

#### MICHIPICOTEN SECTION

At press time, the Michipicoten Section winter schedule had not yet been planned. A complete list of events is always posted at the Tourist Information Centre in Wawa. For further information, call me at 856-4170 -

- Peter Stinnisen.



## REMINDER

## Social Night & Slide Show

Algoma University Student Study Lounge (East Wing) at 7:30 p.m. Sat. Nov. 23

## PLEASE NOTE

Outing leaders are unpaid volunteers. You are welcome to participate, but you must do so at your own risk. You should be reasonably fit. Always bring appropriate footwear and extra clothing and water (coffee, tea or soup in a thermos is welcome on a cold day). Some of our outings are into relatively remote areas. If you are interested and have any questions, please contact one of the people listed below. Transportation to hike locations from meeting places is by car pool.

#### Contacts:

Tom Allinson - 942-0768 Steve Taylor - 759-2480 Susan Graham - 949-4105

#### NEWS FROM OTHER CLUBS

From Footnotes: Toronto
Bruce Trail Club President Jeff
Hemming wrote a message in
the most recent issue of Footnotes, one which I feel affects
all clubs and should be reprinted.

"President's Ramblings - As I put pen to paper in preparation for this issue of Footnotes, my thoughts are not focusing as they should. The cause for this fragmentation is the recent loss of a Toronto Club hiker to a fatal heart attack while on a car hike in the Hockley Valley.

An unhappy occurrence affects us all from family members, fellow hikers and hiker leaders, to all those involved in organizing hikes for our club. There are always the questions asked of oneself, such as, could anything else have been done that would have prevented the loss.

With respect to the leader and those who assisted him, I can only express my deepest thanks for the leadership displayed. Their own personal preparation as fellow hikers ensured a competent handling of a serious situation. May we all learn from this experience and appreciate the necessity of preparing for an event that is generally perceived as never happening.

Such a tragedy should remind all hikers to be aware of their own level of fitness. There is no shame in telling the hike leader you have a medical condition that could affect your hiking ability or that you are not feeling well. The health and ability of the individual impacts on the safety of all the hikers.

To all leaders who have not updated their first aid and CPR certification, the time is never better." I feel the preceding message sends a very clear message to all leaders and hikers alike. As leaders, we should prepare ourselves as best as possible for unpredictable situations which may arise, and as hikers, we ourselves are aware of our strengths and capabilities, and if they are not up to the standards set by the leader and rest of the group, feel no shame or embarrassment in letting the leader know how you're doing. We are all out to enjoy ourselves not only as individuals, but as a group of

club hikers with essentially the same purpose. - Editor

Ganaraska News: It was reported in a recent issue that in addition to the usual sights along the Bruce Trail in the area of Osler Bluffs, local members were startled to come upon a nude hiker. It was not observed if he wore hiking boots, but the speed with which he retreated suggested maybe he wore running shoes. A second sighting by the same group returning confirmed it no sneakers OR hiking boots!!



# SUMMER WORK PROJECT UPDATE

The Voyageur Trail Association was able to obtain funding from three sources to operate projects during the summer.

Through the Ministry of Natural Resources Environmental Youth Corps (EYC) program, work crews were hired to upgrade and build trail in the Casque Isles Section and in the new Elliot Lake Coureurs de Bois Section. The efforts of Pete Stinnissen and Lorne Bourke (Casque Isles) and Jesse Latendresse (Coureurs de Bois) should be recognized. Sponsorship was obtained from the municipalities of Terrace Bay and Elliot Lake. Both sections of trail have been greatly improved. Campsites have been added, deadfalls have been removed, some pieces of trail were rerouted to better locations, vegetation has been trimmed, fresh blazing is up and the trail has been measured and described for these

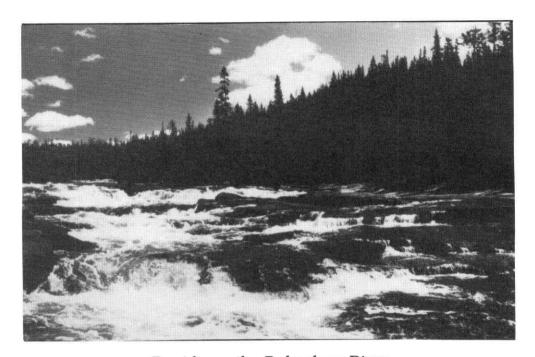
sections (descriptions to be made available at some point). Both of these trail sections can now be highly recommended for hiking and backpacking.

Funding was also obtained from Mountain Equipment Cooperative and from Shell through the Shell Environ-mental Fund. This funding allowed volunteers to have expenses paid to visit the EYC locations and provided a better expense budget for the operation of these projects. Without these funding sources, we could not have operated the EYC projects. Funding from these sources was also used to employ Tim Yanni to tackle the burdensome and essential job of updating our landowner files and to handle the new trail descriptions.

Steve Taylor helped to initiate and oversee all of the summer projects.

# A Pukaskwa Gallery

(All photos suppplied by Craig S. Zimmerman unless otherwise noted.)



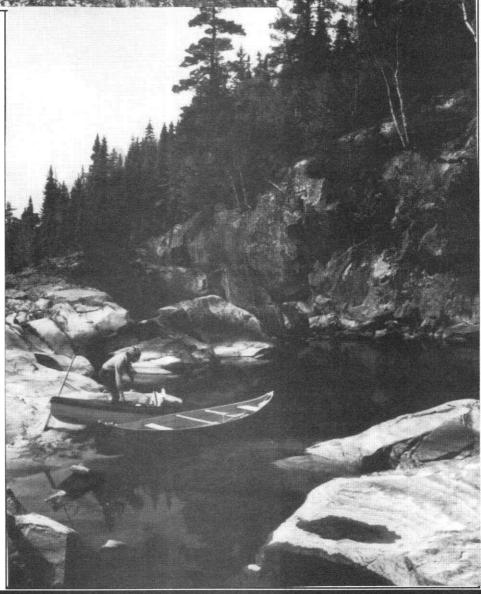
Rapids on the Pukaskwa River

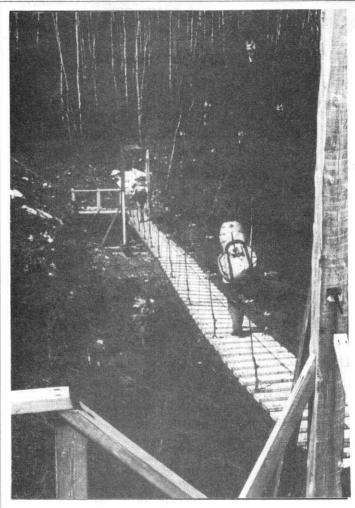
Historic photo - men with dogsled, Pukaskwa. Date unknown.



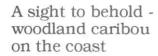
On the coastal trail looking north over Simons Harbour, from the hill just above the campsite at Hideaway Lake in August 1983. Photo by Larry Lemanski

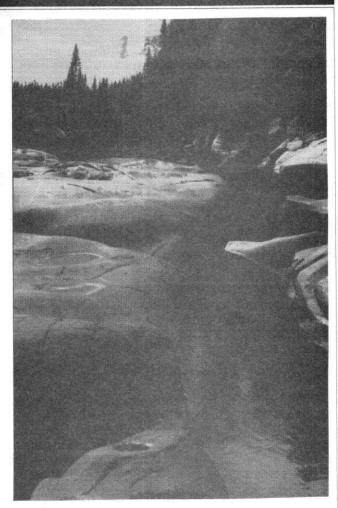
Canoe on the Pukaskwa River





Hiking the suspension bridge over the White River. Dieter Ropke is clearly identifiable by his "Yak Pak." (Photographer unknown.)





Smooth rocks on the Pukaskwa River



#### HIKE ONTARIO! NEWS

The feasibility study for Hike Ontario's proposed walking centre was completed in March, thanks to consultant Dr. Michael Haywood of the University of Guelph and to funding from the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. The board has accepted its main recommendation: that Hike Ontario should work towards setting up a walking centre. We are now actively involved in fundraising for this project, looking for a location, and drawing up a job description for an executive director.

We need the centre to provide a focus for our work - support for the trail clubs, supervision of projects, developing government partnerships, and providing information about hiking trails in Ontario - and as a permanent home for our materials.

We are looking for seed money for this project and for support from Hike Ontario members and friends. Your contribution will be very welcome.

Don't forget that individual memberships are available for Hike Ontario. Please check the last issue of the Newsletter for a membership enrolment form.

#### **NEWS FROM THE** NATIONAL TRAIL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

The good news is that the National Trail Association is very active again after a slack period. NTA's new president, Jim Feeley is putting together a submission for hikers for the upcoming Canadian Parks Service Policy Review. We'll be asking for a National Trail System as part of Canada's heritage program. Hearings will be held across Canada.

Our past president, Peter Stinnissen has been nominated to be on the NTAC board as an Ontario representative. If successful, judging from Peter's abundant energy displays in the past, the NTAC will be kept alive and kicking for quite some time.

The National Trail encourages citizens to:

- Develop the national hiking trail system.
- Support local and regional hiking trail clubs.
- Preserve places of natural and historic value.
- Undertake and promote healthy outdoor activities.

· Foster interest in our natural and cultural heritage.

Memberships are now being offered within the national organization and a very informative newsletter is being published. For further information, please contact the Editor of this newsletter or NTAC. Box 3098, Station B, Calgary, Alberta. T2M **4L6** 

Our Voyageur Trail plays an important role in the development of a National Trail in Canada, as it is the only Ontario trail which includes a lengthy article describing our beauti-

will be part of the National Trail along its entire route. The premier issue of Hike Canada, the newsletter published by the NTAC.

ful trail.

#### TRIP REPORTS

#### IRON BRIDGE SECTION OF TRAIL INVADED

Eighteen hardy souls (or should that be hearty appetites!) took to the trail on September 21 along the Mississaugi River in the Iron Bridge area. Perhaps because there were five new faces in the crowd that we didn't want to tire too quickly, we stopped at Bruce Mines after a strenuous drive for coffee and goodies.

Once we had restored our strength, we continued on to the Melwel Road, spotting cars to Iron Bridge and set off close to 12:00 p.m. A lovely spot alongside the river was found for lunch (even though it was only 12:30). Feeling a little guilty, the group set upon the trail with increased fervour doing trail maintenance as we went

Bill Robinson demonstrated the art of "tree bashing", while Gail Allinson performed admirably with Pat Capper's everpresent saw. I, myself, was subject to some teasing as a result of my "tree stuffing" and also "tree bouncing". This hard work (on the part of a few of us anyway) resulted in a welldeserved break when we caught up with the rest of the group (lazing away on a sundrenched ridge high above the Mississaugi River).

The view was quite lovely, despite the fact that the leaves were only just starting to The walk conchange. cluded along a camp road - easy walking and the opportunity to talk to several people at one time; not just the person ahead of or behind you. The weather and the route combined to make a great day!

The route is quite picturesque, and it is a botanist's delight. The Mississaugi River

bottomlands were especially interesting. The route went about a kilometre through waist high ferns at one point. Some impressive trees were also present along the route. Silver maple and hemlock are prevalent at some locations.

To those who wondered what some of the plants were, the vine with the fluffy tufts was Virgins Bower, the bunches of red fruits amongst the ostrich ferns were from Jack in the Pulpits and after the lookout, the plant with the attractive whorls of red and green leaves was Indian Cucumber Root.

Thanks Tom, for leading a great hike on a wonderful day.

- Susan Graham and Steve Taylor

#### THE VTA TAKES TO TWO WHEELS -CYCLING THE SOUTH SHORE

On June 16th, ten intrepid, would-be cyclists gathered in the parking lot of the Collegiate Sports store (now closed) and lamented the passing of the Duke of Windsor (now closed), thus leaving only the department stores, Verne's and the Old Ski Shop as the major sources for bicycles in Sault Ste Marie.

The bicycles perhaps appropriately tended more to the department store variety rather than modern high-tech speed machines.

Thankfully the bridge traffic was light, as, being true Canadians, the temptations of the United States were too great for us, or perhaps it was that we thought this was the only way to get two of our American members to join us.

We stopped at the Tourist Info office to discover that the Antique car crowd gathering there were quite content to ride in style rather than on two wheels. We wound through the back roads to stop at the Teepee at Brimley to join Betty Nassoiy and Chuck Bosley there.

We then went on to just past Bay Mills where we parked our four wheeled vehicles and took to two wheels. The piece de resistance of the convoy was Chuck's single speed Schwinn which looked like it had come from Verne's collection of historic bicycles. However, this didn't prevent him keeping up with the rest of the pack, which was more intent on recognising all the bird songs than breaking any speed records.

On one memorable occasion, Robert Cohen exclaimed there was a black and white. This resulted in half the group (the keen ornithologists), looking up in the trees, while the rest of us turned round looking for the police car. We made a stop at the fish hatchery as much for the luxury of flush toilets as to admire the king sized lake trout, and debated whether a fish fry lunch there would be appropriate!

At lunch we stopped by the beach and admired about 40 white admiral butterflies congregating there. We discovered that we had averaged 13 km/hour and travelled about 16 km. Tom and Gail decided to return while the other nine went a couple of kilometres further along the Curly Lewis highway. This was a little travelled paved road with a canopy of trees which provided shade for the group from the heat of the midday sun.

We returned to the cars soon after 2 o'clock, so plenty of time was left to stop at the Teepee for ice cream sundaes. Raspberry was the favoured selection until it was discovered that the raspberries had fermented and we didn't want to take any

alcohol when we were driving.

So ended a very pleasant day. Thank you Ken Kansikas for leading the group.

- Pat Capper

#### ECHO LAKE HIKE

Oscar Estrade Garcia came to Canada from El Salvador in December 1990. On May 21st Oscar and his father joined the Voyageur Trail group on a hike at the top end of Echo Lake. They had both been on a skiing trip to the Pictographs ( described in the Summer 91 newsletter) but this was their first trip in the spring into the Canadian Bush. I asked Oscar to write an account of this trip. I have made a few grammatical corrections, otherwise this is Oscar's account of that trip.

- Pat Capper]

#### HIKING THROUGH THE BUSH

Saturday was a very sunny day and a very good time to hike. There were eleven people ready to leave for the woods and they seemed happy planning the trip.

We went in two cars and a truck on Highway 17 for a few minutes then went on a side road to the place near Echo River where we were to start hiking. We crossed the river and started hiking.

I was surprised because in my country I never saw woods covering so large an area, and so beautiful, and green everywhere. But there was one thing I didn't like, the mosquitoes which followed me during all of the hike. However, they were no problem as a friend gave me a special liquid to stop the mosquitoes biting and to go hiking tranquil.

We walked on a very narrow road and enjoyed the fresh air and silence of the woods.

#### VOYAGE TRAIL URNE W

A few minutes later we went off the road looking for the white paint blazes, but didn't see any of them and had to go back to the road and found the blazes further along the road. We rested at a beach on Echo Lake for a few minutes and then went back to the same road, then we saw the white paint blazes following the middle of the woods.

There were many broken trees and we walked about 20 minutes until we crossed a brook on tree trunks. After 30 minutes we found a kind of a house that was many years old. and a little while later we stopped for lunch next to a brook.

The lunch was delicious as was the freshness of the brook. but the mosquitoes were a pest. When we finished our lunch two people hiked further along the trail, and the rest went back following a different road. We found a broken tree across the trail and Patrick, my father and me cut the tree to clean the road and hike with more

We some rejoined the same trail and returned to the vehicles. Near the river I saw a big rock similar to one in El Salvador near a lake called Lago de Illopango, but I had never seen so many trees.

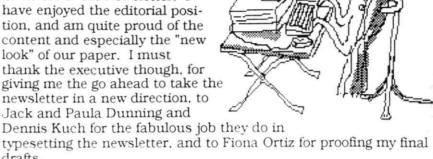
When we drove back we stopped at a little shop and ate ice creams, be-

cause we were very thirsty. On the way home my father was sleeping while I enjoyed the ride. I hope to see other woods because really liked hiking.

Oscar.

#### EDITOR'S REPORT

At the VTA Annual Meeting in Elliot Lake, on October 26, 1991. I regretfully resigned my position as Editor of the Newsletter. I have enjoyed the editorial position, and am quite proud of the content and especially the "new look" of our paper. I must thank the executive though, for giving me the go ahead to take the newsletter in a new direction, to Jack and Paula Dunning and



typesetting the newsletter, and to Fiona Ortiz for proofing my final drafts.

I hope to return to this position again sometime in the future, but personal commitments have hindered my ability to give all that is required to produce a quality newsletter.

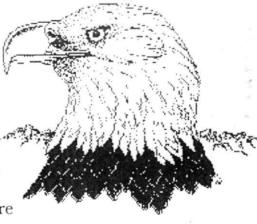
As of this date, the position is open. I will remain as acting editor until a replacement is found. This position is open to anyone who is committed to our Voyageur Trail, enjoys reading, and has a working knowledge of WordPerfect. A home computer, of course, would be an asset, but the Association does have a portable that is available to the Editor whenever required. The position is not exclusive to Sault Ste. Marie. With the portability of disks and delegation of duties, the job could quite easily be handled by any interested member, regardless of location. Interested applicants can contact me, at 942-2370, or the VTA address on the front cover.

Thanks again for the experience, and hopefully I can return at some other time as Editor of our newsletter.

- Virve Manniste Squire

## Attention Artists, Sketchers and Scribblers

We need your artwork to grace the pages of vour newsletter and brighten up the blackness of continuous print. Please send any line art you have to the editor for use in future issues.



And thanks to Tom Reaume (wherever you are) for the nature sketches in this issue.

### TRAIL MIX

- \* Our thanks go to the Golden Mile Loeb IGA store for donating the wieners for our Mother's Day lunch at Horst Wetzl's property following the hike.
- \* The Elliot Lake Coureurs de Bois Section now has good campsites at Turtle and McGiverin Lakes. A couple of scenic lookouts have been added to the trail, and a few reroutes have made the stretch from Turtle Lake to the Elliot Lake highway easier to walk. This section is now a must three day trip for backpackers.
- → Do you suffer from a shortage of small sealable containers when you go backpacking? One solution might be to recycle those black film canisters. They are great for spices. Now you too can practice cinnamontography and thyme lapse exposures.



THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS is published three times per year. Your articles and submissions are always welcome! Submissions for the Winter 1992 issue must be received by January 10, 1992. Send to Editor, VTA, Box 66, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. P6B 5L2

## Lake Superior Kayak Adventures

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New as well for 1991, we will be offering the fine line of OSTRUM packs and bags, internationally acclaimed as the best on the market.

159 Stanley St., Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. P6A 3K5 Tom Weldon Joe Meating

### President's Report . . .

as I know, both user groups get along, and trail clearing labour is effectively pooled. It is possible that different user groups working together may more easily obtain funding and publicity for the trail.

Hopefully, it is now apparent why the answers to the questions regarding other user groups on the Voyageur Trail are not short and concise. There is potential for problems between user groups, but often different user groups can benefit each other. Perhaps one must think before pointing finger at people representing other interests. I would rather suggest that we should take action only if it is needed. I would welcome open discussion on my comments from members and from people representing other interest groups.

Steve Taylor

#### VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Box 66 SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO

P6A 5L2

#### The Trail User's 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

## V. T. A. Membership Form

Please check one:  New Member Renewal	Name			790		
Sections (active sections in bold type)	Address			-,-		
Association-at-large Saulteaux Echo Ridges Desbarats Thessalon Iron Bridge Penewobikong (Blind River)	Postal Code  Check if you would like to help to have read and will abide by to				Other	٥
Coureurs de Bois (Elliot Lake)  Spanish Massey Rainbow	Signed	Date		2 .		- A
☐ Little Current ☐ Sheguiandah ☐ South Baymouth ☐ Sudbury	FEES Individual Family Student	@	\$10.00	=		
□ Thunder Bay □ Nipigon □ Casque-Isles □ Marathon □ Pukaskwa Park □ Michipicoten (Wawa) □ Lake Superior Park □ Batchawana	Crest	@ @ @	\$3.00 \$5.00 \$8.00	=		
☐ Goulais	Total Amount Enclosed					

The membership year of the Association runs from January 1st to December 31st. Dues paid after November 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 memberships) for each Club.