



# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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## OUR FIRST EVER PHOTO-ESSAY

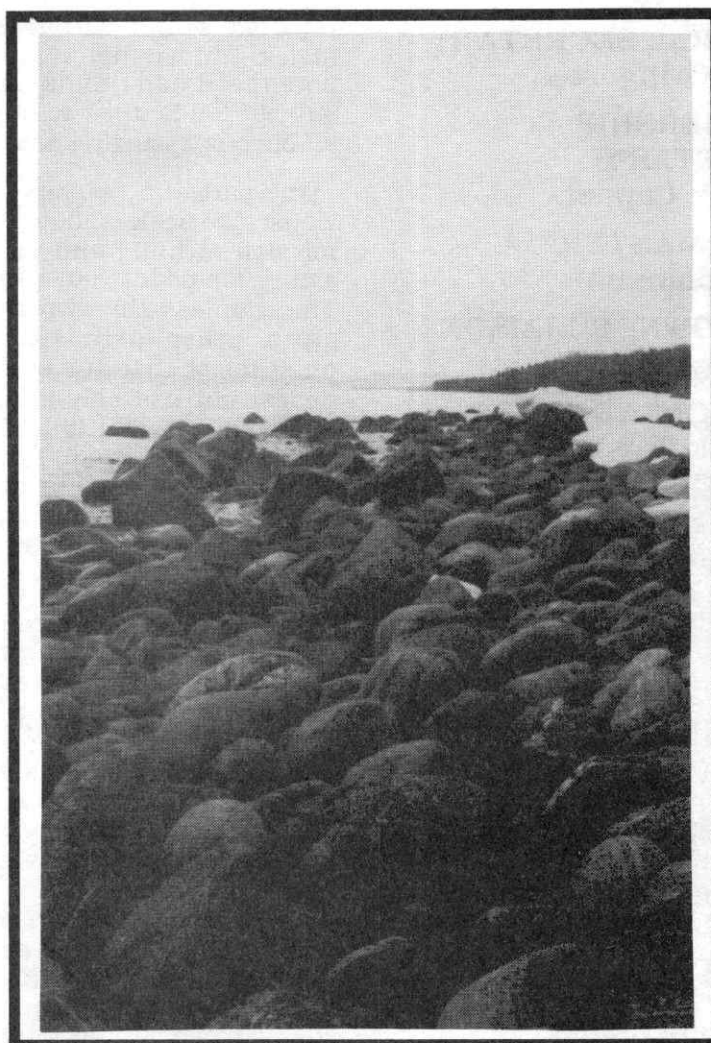
In October of 1990, after a request for photos to adorn the front page of our newsletter, I received a package from Craig S. Zimmerman, an Interpretive-Naturalist at Pukaskwa National Park.

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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**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 off-road 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

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**ON THIS ISSUE'S COVER:**

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



**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