



# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

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

NEWSLETTER NO. 4

April 15, 1976

The Voyageur Trail is envisaged as a continuous hiking trail across the central part of northern Ontario. For the most part, it is still just an idea, but we trust that you, as a member of the Voyageur Trail Association, think it is a good idea.

What is the Voyageur Trail Association? According to our Charter, the V.T.A. is a volunteer, non-profit, citizen's group dedicated to the developing and maintaining, for the use of the public and with the co-operation of the landowners along the route, a continuous hiking trail, known as the Voyageur Trail. Now there is the problem. Although we can be proud of the excellent progress we have made to date in trail construction (40 miles on the ground, or 15% of the east-west section), we must continue to fuse our volunteer efforts to the business of trail construction, to make the Voyageur Trail a reality.

When the V.T.A. was first formed, we were a small group of ardent volunteers who gladly took on required tasks. We have been growing in size, however, and we have forgotten to keep up the personal contact with more recent members. The tasks and the requirements grow with time, but the proportion of people with known talents and the willingness to use them is decreasing. We are still faced with the enormous task of trail planning, construction and maintenance, along with the associated tasks of maintaining a viable and growing Association.

So, we are now asking all of our members to think about your place in the V.T.A., and to indicate, if you would, on the list of volunteer tasks on the next page the ones that you feel competent to do. Mail the completed form at your earliest convenience. Please note that just because you have listed your name you may not necessarily be called. There may be too many in your category, or there may be no present need for that service.

In addition, if every member signed on a new member, our membership would double and we would be much better off. So talk to a friend and enlist him or her. If you are presently a member, you are holding an application form in your hands right now - one that you don't need. It is on the last page of this newsletter. Use it. Find a friend who is interested and give it to him or her. Do it now. We need you and more of you.

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER ROSTER

1. Bridge-building, 2. Carpentry, 3. Stone Masonry, 4. Trail building, 5. Trail Maintenance, 6. Contacting Landowners, 7. Leading Hikes, 8. Map-making, 9. Publicity, 10. Display Designing, 11. Photos and Slides Clearing House, 12. Fund-raising, 13. Publications, 14. Editorial Work, 15. Typing, 16. Legal Advice, 17. Correspondence, 18. Envelope Stuffing, 19. Serve on Board of own club or V.T.A., 20. Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

V.T. CLUB AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Voyageur Trail Association,  
P.O.Box 66,  
Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.  
P6A 5L2

VICTORIA DAY WEEKEND - MAY 22-23, 1976

The Bruce Trail Association is sending a busload of workers to help clear some of the Voyageur Trail. They will be self-sufficient regarding food, tents and tools. They will arrive early Saturday, May 22, at Espanola and, depending on the numbers, we will bring some of them to Rydal Bank to help clear trail in the Desbarats - Thessalon area. We need experienced and inexperienced trail builders at both places to help these B.T.A. volunteers. So set this date aside and plan to join us. On Sunday evening, at both Desbarats and Espanola, the V.T.A. will pay tribute to these people with a social evening. If you can't join the work parties, join the social party anyway and show these people who are coming 3-400 miles to help build our trail some northern hospitality. If you plan to join the Espanola group please call or write Paul Syme (254-4791), Box 66, SS Marie. For details on the Desbarats outing see page 4.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1976 Annual General Meeting of the Voyageur Trail Association will be held on Friday, October 1, in Sault Ste. Marie. Our guest speaker for the occasion will be Mr. Ray Lowes, Secretary and originator of the Bruce Trail Association. As the originator of Ontario's first major hiking trail Mr. Lowes will undoubtedly have some interesting accounts to relate to us. An added attraction will be the newly released film of the Bruce Trail. Mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend. On the following day, October 2, phase III of the Sauteaux end-to-end hike will take place (see the events page accompanying this newsletter). This will be an all day hike over some rather rugged territory, so come prepared.

## ONTARIO HIKING DAY

Sunday, May 16 is Ontario Hiking Day, 1976, sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations. On that day, people all over the province will be urged to "Put a spring in your step when you step into spring" by hiking on the many available trails. So let's participate and if your section of the Voyageur Trail has some walkable parts, invite your friends and the public to take a walk on it.

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## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CARRIED

The constitutional amendment presented to all members for mail ballot in the January 15, 1976 News, proposing a preamble (concerning the relationship between constitution and charter) to be added to the Constitution, was carried by 22 to 1, exceeding the 2/3 majority required by the Constitution.

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## BOY SCOUT POSTER CONTEST

"The last line of the Trail Users' Code" is the theme of a province-wide poster contest sponsored by the Boy Scouts Association and open to all cubs, scouts and venturers. The Voyageur Trail Association is participating by donating V.T.A. crests to all group winners, and prizes to overall district winners. Judges locally will be Mr. Peter McIntyre, Boy Scout District Commissioner; well-known artist Mr. Ken MacDougall; and cartoonist and illustrator Miss Constance Plexman, representing the V.T.A.

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## V.T.A. CRESTS

Those beautiful blue-on-yellow, diamond-shaped crests are still available. You can order them when you renew your membership, or if you have already done that, you can use the membership form on the last page of the Newsletter to order them.

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We would like to add the name of Cochrane-Dunlop Ltd. to the growing list of local firms who have made material donations to the cause.

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We hear that both the V.T.A. and the B.T.A. crests will soon appear on the Tobermory - South Baymouth Ferry. We understand that this is to suggest to avid hikers that it is not really necessary to swim across in order to get from one trail to the other.

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## TRAIL NEWS

## RAINBOW SECTION

If you want to join in the work and fun with the Bruce Trailers, mentioned on p.2, let your intentions be known to George Morrison, (869-2778) and make this a big weekend in Rainbow Country.

## DESBARATS WORK-CAMP-OUT, May 23-25

V.T.A. members are invited to participate in trail construction on the Desbarats section. Do as little or as much as you are able to or just come out for the Sunday night get-together. A group of Bruce Trailers will be coming up from southern Ontario to work with us on trail construction.

Place- Plummer Twp., off the Rydal Bank Road between Gordon and Ottertail Lakes. Drive north for about 7.5 miles on the Centre Line road to Graham's Country Store, turn right (east, towards Rydal Bank) and drive 1.1 miles, watch for a narrow driveway on the left and a V.T.A. logo, we will be camping on a sidehill with a southern exposure.

Time - The Bruce Trailers are expected to arrive in Plummer Twp. by midmorning, Saturday, May 22, 1976. Work parties will drive short distances to various segments of the Desbarats trail and go to work. Sunday night, May 23, 1976 a campfire get-together is planned, meet with your supper around campfire at 6.00 p.m. Bruce Trailers will leave by noon Monday May 24 for their return trip south. Painters wanted - in addition to trail construction we also hope to accomplish considerable trail marking. Experienced painters please step forward.

Contact - If you plan to participate phone Dieter Ropke (253-8375) or Paul Syme (254-4791). Bring gloves and hand tools if you have them.

## SAULTEAUX TRAIL CLUB

Annual Meeting - the annual meeting was held on February 9, 1976 in the Civic Center. Elections for the 1976 executive were held with the following results:

President - Ralph Yanni  
 Vice-President - Barbara Triplett  
 Secretary - Constance Plexman  
 Treasurer - Ken Griffiths

The club has had a very successful year. Our section of the trail is now laid out and we have a paid-up membership of 50. Representatives of the Sault Naturalists Club and the Saulteaux Trail Club have joined forces to form an Activities Committee, and the first results of this cooperation are to be found in a list attached to this Newsletter.

A winter hike was held by 9 scouts and leaders of the 17th River-view Scouts on February 7, 1976. It proved to be a real challenge since there was a lot of snow and a lot of uphill on the section they travelled. It is good to learn that the trail is being used in the winter.

Conservation Week - On Sunday May 9, the Saulteaux club kicks off Conservation Week in Sault Ste. Marie with a public hike on one of the more easily traversed sections. The hike starts at 2 p.m. at Camp Korah (Nettleton Lake), at the top of Goulais Ave. Join us and get your first taste of hiking this spring.