



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 Saulteaux 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

A DAY ON THE RAINBOW

Alice Holder and Eve Kersey

As you drive south from Espanola toward Manitoulin Island you may have looked across at the high-rolling pure-white hills of quartzite and wished you could penetrate into that country to see what is there. Now you can do so on the Rainbow Trail

The trail is roughly 10 miles long. It is rugged and hard but not difficult or dangerous. On the morning of Sunday, May 25, 1975 we set out on the second annual Rainbow Trail Hike from Highway 68 close to the Willisville Fire Tower. We followed a circular route, crossing a wide variety of terrain to emerge near Whitefish Falls where a bus took us back to Espanola that evening.

There is striking difference in the many habitats on the trail. It is not just the contrast between the boggy wetlands with their moisture-loving orchids and mosses and the drier uplands, but also the various plant associations in apparently similar areas. As we started we found solomon seal, false solomon seal, twisted stalk, bunchberry, clintonia, violets and goldthread in bloom, as well as acres of maianthemum; dainty and shining in the sunlight. Later, in the Kathie Lake stretch the gaywings appeared including a patch of white ones, and nearby a group of white ladyslippers. North of Kathie Lake we continued to see the usual pink ladyslippers--one patch had 30 blooms in a square meter along with barren strawberry and pipsissewa.

Lunch was combined with a swim at Horseshoe Lake where the water was found to be pleasantly warm. On the heights above Horseshoe Lake there was an opportunity to stretch out on the clean white smooth rock top of one hill, or to explore some caves high in the rock face of another hill. From that vantage point could be seen the magnificence of the Bay of Islands in the direction of Little Current. On a later section of the trail we were able to see an old mine site at House Lake, which is a long narrow lake eroded along a fault.

The Rainbow Trail is decidedly one to be sought out by the hiker. It offers everything - plenty of climbing ridges, an uncommon variety in woodlands, marshes and many lakes. But the most fantastic sight on the trail is what is not there - not a sign of human untidiness and sloth. There is no doubt about why it is so well kept. After our lunch stop the members of the Trailblazers Club of Espanola High School did what must have been a habit with them. They gathered up all the cans and crushed them, put them and other lunch debris in a plastic bag, and one carried it home in his pack. This is the club that developed and now maintains the trail. Their trail speaks for them. It is beautiful, interesting, well laid out and well kept. It is tremendous. They can well be proud of it.

FIRST VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST

Members of the V.T.A. and the general public are invited to submit photographs of the Voyageur Trail for exhibit at the Annual General Meeting in October, 1976. Ribbons and possibly Certificates will be offered for first, second and third place and honourable mention in each category.

Conditions of Entry

1. Subject areas: (a) Club or trail activities,
(b) trail views.
2. The competition is open to amateur photographers.
3. Three categories (a) 2 x 2" slides in cardboard mounts,
(b) black and white prints
(c) colour prints.
4. Entries may not exceed four photos per person.
5. Locations on the trail should be identified and the sender's name should be included.
6. A completed entry form or facsimile must accompany each entry and the total number of entries should be noted on each form.
7. Entry fee is \$1.00 per entry, with a maximum of \$2.00.
8. Entry receipt deadline is September 15, 1976.
9. Pictures must have been taken between September 15, 1975 and September 15, 1976.
10. Judging will be done before the Annual General Meeting and judges will include local professional photographers.
11. Entries will be publicly displayed and will be shown at the Annual General Meeting.
12. Entries will be returned to the owners within four weeks of the Annual General Meeting.
13. The Voyageur Trail Association may wish to acquire slides or prints for their own use after the Contest. Entries will receive every possible care but the V.T.A. cannot be responsible for loss or damage.

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.
-

FIRST VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST

Name _____ No. _____ of _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Member of V.T.A? _____

LOCATION ON TRAIL

JUDGES SCORE

AWARD

Send entry forms, fees and photos and address enquiries and requests for additional forms to:

Photography Contest Committee
Voyageur Trail Association,
Box 66,
Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.
P6A 5L2

THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION
Box 66, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 5L2

Sections

- ☐ Association-at-large
- ☐ Saulteaux T.C.
- ☐ Echo Bay
- ☐ Desbarats T.C.
- ☐ Thessalon T.C.
- ☐ Penewobikong T.C.
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Massey
- ☐ Rainbow T.C.
- ☐ Little Current
- ☐ Sheguiandah
- ☐ South Baymouth

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	DATE
...

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE (home) (business)

DECLARATION

I have read and will abide by the TRAIL USERS CODE

(signature)

FEEES

- ☐ Individual \$ 5.00
☐ Family \$ 5.00 .. number of family members ☐ (for association records only)
☐ Crests \$ _____ (\$ 1.00 each)
☐ Donations \$ _____ (receipt for income tax purposes will be sent)

Total amount enclosed \$