

VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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Editors: Peter Frederick & Pim Delfgou

Winter 1993

92

Winter Wonderland at Walls Lake

The Market Mall was the location that five cross country skiers met for a day of skiing under the sun at the Walls Lake area. Despite a cold start in the morning, it became a beautiful day.

We had no problem getting there. At the end of Marshall Drive, we left our vehicles and skied up a snowmobile trail to a creek. As water in the stream was still open, we spent half an hour looking for a suitable crossing. Tom Allinson and Chuck Bosley crossed a log over the river, bringing back memories of Betty Nassoij nearly taking a bath in a creek on a snowshoe trip last year. The rest of us were more sensible and crossed a dam at a small lake before we met further up in thick spruce.

It seemed that otters were everywhere as tracks criss-crossed the snow. Although we didn't see wildlife, we also saw tracks of snowshoe hares and foxes. The tracks led us to a chain of swamps.

See *Winter Wonderland...p. 3*



Winter companion on the trail

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

Please note that membership renewals for 1993 are due! Please renew soon, as members who have not renewed their memberships will not be receiving a newsletter after the next issue.

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**SAULTEAUX
CLUB NEWS**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1993 should be a year of interesting events. I would first like to welcome the new members who joined via the Hiawatha paddlers. Welcome aboard! Hopefully, this organization will offer something for you.

The upcoming year looks like a year of renewed trail maintenance as well as trail building and planning. Much of the activity should involve extending trail north from Sault Ste Marie. There are also signs of development from Elliot Lake East. Welcome aboard Barb Lawrence as president of the Penewobikong Section and Alan Comfort as trailmaster for Sauleteaux. The Sauleteaux President position still needs to be filled and this is the most urgent situation at the moment.

Some connections have been made from outside the area. First, Ron Baylis from Comfortable Hiking Holidays in southern Ontario plans to bring a group of hikers to Algoma in September. Also in late August or September, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and Hike Ontario along with the VTA may be able to pool efforts to bring a group of volunteers from England over to give us a hand with maintenance. This could turn into an exciting venture.

I must apologize for slow movement on the executive director position. The proposal has been completed, but it has not gone anywhere yet. I hope to

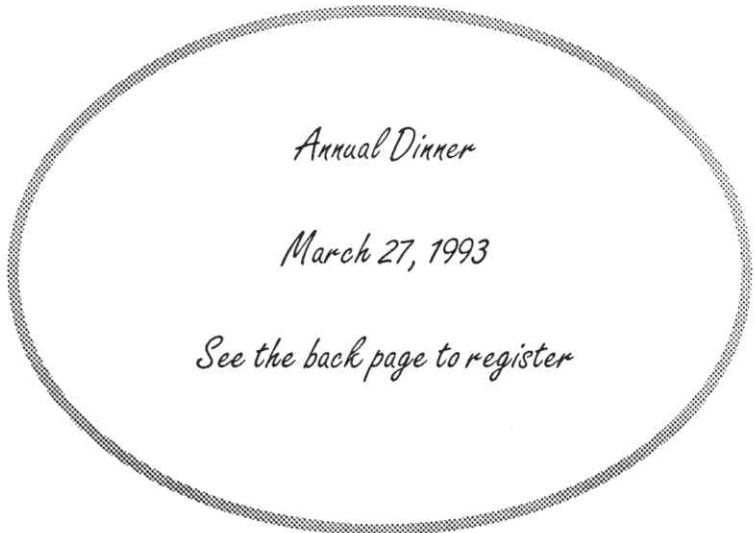
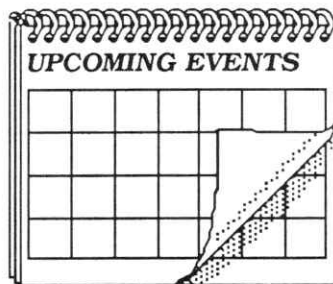
get somewhere with this task this year. For those who are not aware, the executive decided to pursue funding to hire an executive director for 3-4 years. This person could really put the club on the map, and bring hikers into the area.

I have one more note to pass on to members. This seems to be the era of committee proliferation. The VTA has been asked to sit on several committees recently. With the volunteer base that we have, we have to be selective. Most hikers don't seem to want to sit on committees. We decided that two committees seemed to be worthwhile. Thus the Voyageur Trail Association now has representation on the Four Seasons Shared Trail Council, which is a Council formed on a Sault Ste Marie City initiative with implications for all of Algoma. We are also represented on the Ministry of Natural Resources citizens committee for resource management. Both of these committees are new, and will probably tackle issues of interest to our Association. If anyone actually likes sitting on committees, let me know because I can probably find committees for you.

Another ambition of mine is to get more inter-club activities going. We are going to tackle a campout again in 1993, and the initial idea is that it will be east of the Sault this year, possibly in Mississauga Provincial Park.

THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS is published three times per year. Your articles and submissions are always welcome! Send them to Editor, VTA, Box 66, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6B 5L2

Submissions for the Spring 1993 issue should be received by April 15, 1993.



Annual Dinner

March 27, 1993

See the back page to register

**SAULTEAUX CLUB
EVENTS**

Feb 20 - In conjunction with the Sault Naturalists - Bushwhack skiing in the Walls Lake area. Bring lunch. Several km but not too hilly. Meet 10:00 am at the Market Mall, Second Line. Steve Taylor to lead.

Feb 27 - Ski the Bellevue Trestle area. Several km with some hills. Bring lunch and meet K-Mart Plaza parking lot by gas bar at 9:30. Tom Allinson to lead.

March 13 - Sometimes March can bring some of the best winter weather for outdoor activities and skiing is believing. Ski into some of the neat areas past the end of Goulais Ave. Meet Market Mall at 10:00 with lunch. Steve Taylor to lead this outing which will cover about 10 km.

March 20 - If snow permits, Tom Allinson will lead a group out to beat the late winter blahs. Location to be determined (possibly by conditions). Meet at Market Mall at 10:00 with lunch.

April 24 - Join the Saulteaux Club for an Earth Day Cleanup and Hike. The location has not been decided, but the media should have more details around that time. Meet at Market Mall at 10:00 with lunch.

May 8 - Family hike in conjunction with the Conservation Authority. Walkers will have the opportunity to hike about 4 km, or do an easy hike of about 1 1/2 km. Ideal for the whole family. Meet at the Conservation Authority main office and Sugar Shack on 4th line at 10:00.

May 9 - Also good for the whole family will be the Mothers Day outing which has become quite popular. Hopefully, some of the early spring wildflowers will be out. The hike will be around 4 km. Meet at Market Mall at 10:00.

...Winter Wonderland (from p. 1)

leading from it; a ruffed grouse crash-landed and ran off after it jumped out of the tree.

We returned over another snowmobile trail which took us past a trapper's hut.

The outing ended on a downhill note - literally. Thanks to Tom for taking us to the wetlands of Walls Lake.

Pim Delfgou

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