

VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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

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

NO. 53

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 Saulteaux. The Saulteaux 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

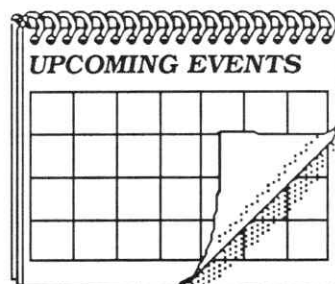
get somewhere with this task this year. For those who are not aware, the executive decided to pursue funding to hire an executive director for 3-4 years. This person could really put the club on the map, and bring hikers into the area.

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.



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.

Annual Dinner

March 27, 1993

See the back page to register

...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

Notes From the Editors (And Others)



Thanks to all of you who sent things in to include in the newsletter! We are very grateful for any and all items for inclusion (which, incidentally, relieve us of the necessity of writing them!).

Pictures are needed for the cover!! We don't have many at the present time, and can always use extra ones. Most any subject to do with hiking or the outdoors is fine!

PETER FREDERICK RESIGNS AS EDITOR OF VTA NEWSLETTER

It is with deep regret that I am forced to announce that I will be resigning as Newsletter Editor. I will be leaving the Soo at the end of March (for locations unknown at the moment) due to the expiration of both my Post-Doctoral contract and my work authorization. I have enjoyed being co-editor, and would gladly continue, but for the minor inconvenience of probably being a thousand miles away somewhere. Pim will continue on, and there are several other people who have expressed an interest in being Editor, so I leave the Newsletter in good hands. Thanks to all of you who have been such good help, and happy hiking!

Peter Frederick

CANOEISTS AND KAYAKERS BOARD THE GOOD SHIP VOYAGEUR TRAIL

The Saulteaux Club will be getting some new members from the wet side of things. The Hiawatha Paddlers decided to merge efforts with the Saulteaux Club of the VTA because of insufficient Volunteer Commitment. Many of the members are joint members anyway, but others are new. The Saulteaux Club welcomes you aboard. The Hiawatha Paddlers had a bank account, and the decision was made to use most of this to provide a free one year membership in the Voyageur Trail Association for the new members.

Some of you are thus receiving this Newsletter for the first time. The VTA News can also be a vehicle for information of use to paddlers, and those of you who want to canoe can also put your events in this Newsletter.



Hopefully, some of the terrestrially inclined members will also benefit with some of the new info provided by the aquatically inclined members, and we may see

some of the paddlers on the trail this summer. I guess all outdoors people are adaptable anyway.

SAULTEAUX TRAILMASTER POSITION

We are Pleased to announce that Alan Comfort has accepted the Saulteaux Trailmaster position. This position now appears to be in capable hands, and we should have a slate of work parties in 1993. Thanks to Alan for accepting the task. Saulteaux members are encouraged to help out on work parties, phoning etc.

WELCOME BACK

Saulteaux members who remember Steve Dominy who made a major contribution to the Club in the 1980's will be pleased to hear that he will be returning to the Sault this February. He now has a wife (Hui Karen Zhou) and daughter (Leah) so he will probably be less active than in the past, but we should see all of them on the trail. Welcome Back!

NOTE.. The Voyageur Trail will be closed to members and the public on Monday March 1.

SOME INFO FOR FILTER FEEDERS...

(AN EQUIPMENT REVIEW ON PORTABLE WATER FILTERS)

Most experienced outdoor people in Ontario have been told not to drink water directly from rivers, ponds, lakes or streams in Ontario. This recommendation is one that we wish to make sure that VTA members are aware of. The main reason is a single celled protozoan organism called Giardia, which has a nasty habit of messing up your digestive track for an extended period of time, enabling its victims to explore many more washrooms than planned. The effects can also be much more serious than a lengthy bout of diarrhoea, in fact most people feel very uncomfortable, often for months, so you don't want to let Giardia into your body.

This brings up the question of how to obtain water on a canoeing or backpacking outing. If the outing is short enough, bringing sufficient water along is an option. Anyone who has backpacked on a hot summer days knows that 'short enough' is a day or less. For longer trips, the best method is to bring a portable water filter. Boiling may not get rid of Giardia as it can go into a heat resistant cyst form and chemical treatments are not reliable and tend to render the water almost undrinkable.

We have been able to come across the name of four water filters on the market. They are the Katadyn, the First Need, the MSR Waterworks and the Pur Explorer. All of these were reviewed in greater detail than this in the July

1992 issue of Canoe Magazine.

The Katadyn filter is the most expensive filter, and is available from Mountain Equipment Co-op for around \$250.00. We have heard no complaints about this filter. It is durable, and it filters down to 0.2 microns. This means that it will filter out Giardia, and also most other organisms including viruses. The biggest problem with it is its price, but it is the recommended filter for foreign travel where waterborne viruses are a problem, and it will certainly do for Ontario. Filters can be cleaned several hundred times before replacement is needed.

The First Need filter seems to be the most popular one in our experience. The Canoe Magazine article suggests that this popularity is justified. It filters down to 0.4 microns, which will filter out Giardia. It is probably sufficient for use in Canada but it will let more viruses through than the Katadyn filter and thus may not be suitable for use in other parts of the world. The good news is that it is available in the \$70 range from Trailhead in Toronto or Superior Watersports in Sault Ste Marie (order in advance). It is compact, and recent improvements have made it easier to use. The spigots occasionally broke on older models, but in cases we know of, they were replaced by First Need, and recent improvements seem to have reduced the potential for that

problem. Filters will need replacement after extended use, but these are cheap and easy to obtain. The replacement filter for the Katadyn cost twice as much as the whole First Need system, although the Katadyn filter may last longer.

A few years ago, one of the authors of this article was witness to a "pumpoff" between a First Need filter and a Katadyn. Both filters pumped at almost the same rate. Participants in this event noted that visible objects were removed by both filters (a reassuring trait indeed). Only the First Need filter removed a peaty colour that was present in the water, although we weren't sure of the practical significance of this observation.

The MSR Waterworks filter is available from Mountain Equipment Co-op for about \$140. We have not seen one in operation, but word of mouth has stated that this filter is light, effective, and field maintainable. The down side is that field maintenance may be a frequent requirement for this system because of the number of parts involved. This filter may become more popular with improvements over time.

We found no information on the Pur Explorer other than that in the Canoe Magazine article. It was suggested that the combination of filters and chemical treatment would make the water taste bad. This is also a relatively untested new product.

As a closing note, these filters are designed to remove bio-

See Filters p. 8...

VTA SURVEY UPDATE

Recently a questionnaire seeking your opinions, insights and experiences on the Voyageur Trail was mailed to you. If you have already completed and returned it to us please accept our sincere thanks. If not, please do so today.

The large number of questionnaires already returned is very encouraging. But, whether we will be able to describe accurately how Voyageur Trail Association members feel about these important issues depends upon those of you who have not yet responded. This is because out past experiences suggest that those of you who have not yet sent your questionnaire may hold quite different preferences with respect to the Voyageur Trail than those of you who have.

This is the first Canadian study of this type that has ever been done. Therefore, the results are of particular importance to the many trail users, trail planners and lawmakers now considering how to plan and manage trail opportunities so as to best meet the needs of persons such as those of you who have not yet responded. The usefulness of our results depends on how accurately we are able to describe what the members of the VTA want.

In case our other correspondence did not reach those of you whose response is needed, please call (519) 885-1211 ext. 3894 and we will get another questionnaire in the mail to you as soon as possible. May we urge you to complete and mail it as quickly as possible.

Mark Robson, Research Assistant & Paul Eagles, Associate Professor, University of Waterloo

...Filters (from p. 5)

logical contaminants. They may not remove chemical contaminants, so your source of water should be relatively free of chemical pollution.

Let the editor know of any experiences or information on filters that you may have. This type of info should be made available to members.

Steve Taylor and Tom Weldon

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New for 92/93 we will be offering the fine line of FIRST NEED water purifiers from General Ecology. No back country hiker or canoeist should be without one!

159 Stanley St., Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. P6A 3K5
Tom and Linda Weldon

(705) 759-2757

Gales of November...

Nine hikers showed up on November 14 to participate in a "Gales of November" hike northwest of town. There were two Gails present, but to our relief they were of the girls' name kind; the Gale in the title did not materialize. As a matter of fact, we enjoyed quite a bit of sunshine during the day. We missed the Carpin Beach Road turnoff on the way out. Some members were inclined to accuse the leader of either stupidity or insanity. The leader insisted that it was a test. In any case, we finally arrived at the top of Carpin Beach Road.

There was about six inches (15 cm) of snow on the ground which made for fairly tough hiking. We slogged along north of the gravel pit. The swamps were snow covered which nicely concealed the wa-

ter holes. Some of us who discovered the hard way, to our dismay, that we could not walk on water. On the positive side, the alligators have all gone south.

We came upon a porcupine, hiding in a tree about four feet off the ground. (We figured it had attended the same survival school as our hiking leader.) We also sighted a bald eagle soaring overhead. It had a magnificent wingspread.

Noon arrived, signifying lunch time. A rather smoky fire was lit and we dined. We had hoped to pick up the old Korah (Sault)-Prince Township line (from where Town Line Road to the south is named after), but it eluded us. This was surveyed back in 1860 so the blazes are hard to locate. Mid-afternoon saw us ensconced in "Ye Olde Coffee

Shoppe". Consensus of opinion was that the hike was a success and that the sunshine was indeed a welcome bonus.

Tom Allinson

ADDRESS CHANGE

The VTA will have a new mailing address soon:

**PO BOX 20040
150 Churchill Blvd
Sault Ste. Marie, ON
P6A 6W3**

An Invitation To Attend the Saulteaux Club - Voyageur Trail Association

ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday, March 27, 1993

The Pavilion

Water Tower Inn

Cocktails: 6:00 pm

Dinner: 7:00 pm

Menu

Relish tray

Mixed green salad

Roast Pork Tenderloin

(Red Wine Sauce with Dijon Mustard)

Baby Red Potatoes

Vegetable

Rolls and Butter

Coffee and Tea

English Trifle

After dinner, Tim Lynham and Kathie Brosemer will present slides of

Travel in Costa Rica

Tickets: \$18.00 per person (includes taxes and gratuity). Children under 10 only \$9.00. Tickets also available from Steve Taylor and Donna Weeks.

Tickets available until March 20. Mail the section below with your cheque or money order, in Canadian funds, payable to: Saulteaux Club, V.T.A.

Name:

[REDACTED]

Address:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Postal/Zip Code:

[REDACTED]

Number of Tickets:

[REDACTED]

Amount Enclosed:

[REDACTED]

Mail to:

Mrs. Susan Graham
26 Primrose Drive
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
P6B 4E6

Telephone: (705) 949-4105 for further information