

VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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TRAIL NEWS

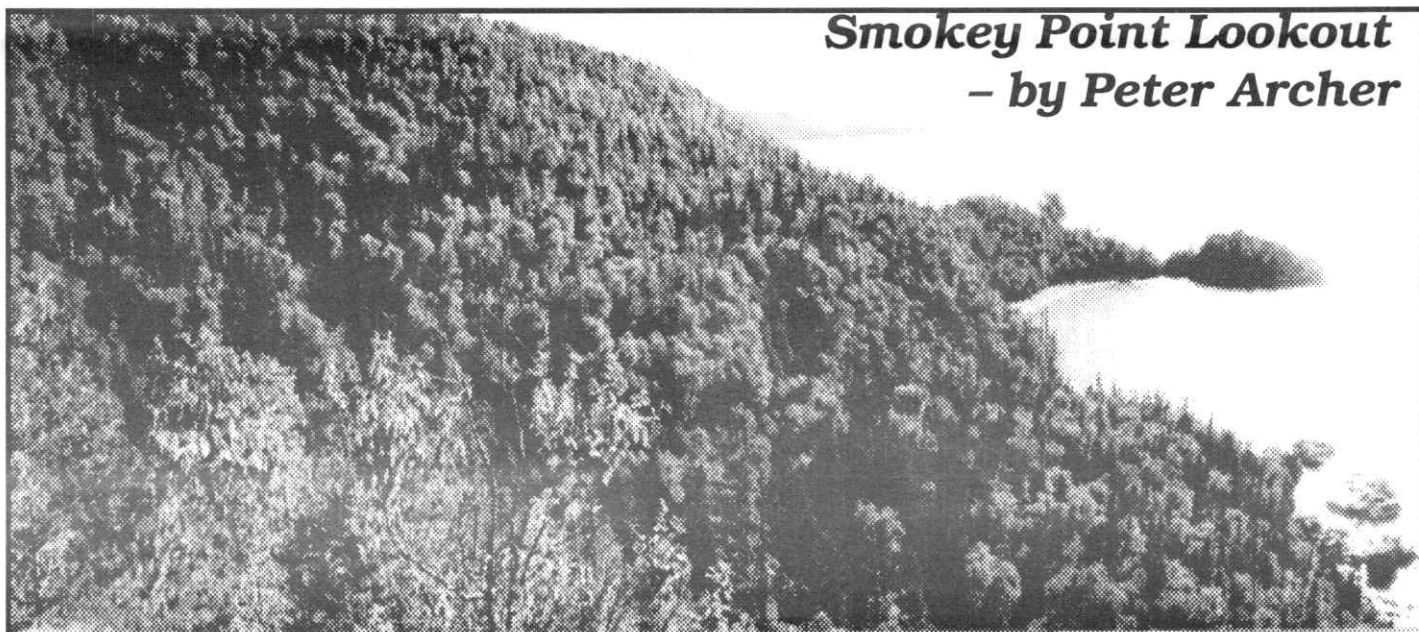
Hikers using the VTA's east trail or the cross country ski trails at the Thayer's Acres area will notice a new bridge spanning Crystal Creek between the Voyageur Trail and the camping area. The bridge was completed this past November to link two snowmobile trails and a new cross country ski trail through Thayer's Acres, and is available for hikers to use during the summer.

TRAIL EXPANSION

New trail is planned in

several areas this year, with several diverse groups participating. The British Conservation Volunteers are planning to make a field trip to Sault Ste. Marie from England to build trail in the Stokely Creek area. Current plans call for them to be here from August 28 to Sept 11, staying at Stokely Creek. Local volunteers will be welcome to go up and spend the day, build trail, and meet some kindred souls from across the Atlantic. Help will also be needed in marking a route for the trail -- if you are interested please contact Steve Taylor.

The Anishinabe Indian Band at Espanola has contacted the VTA concerning a youth project to build a part of the VTA trail in that area -- a welcome addition to the trail, and hopefully, membership. As the VTA trail crosses Reserve land in a number of places, active cooperation with First Nations peoples should be of mutual benefit. There are also plans to extend the trail at Terrace Bay, Blind River, and on Manitoulin Island. This will extend the trail at both ends and fill in some of the missing bits in the middle.



Smokey Point Lookout
- by Peter Archer

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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 next issue should be received by September 1.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Voyageur Trail Association Annual Meeting will be held on Oct 23 in Wawa this year. The Directors meeting will be at 10:00 am and Annual Meeting for regular members at 1:30 pm followed by a hike. Sault and East members contact Steve Taylor or Pat Capper. Wawa members and others North of Sault contact Pete Stinnissen for more details.

Attention all hikers!

I know you are attached to that favourite shirt you always wear on the outings, but have you taken a good look at it lately? (Faded, baggy, etc) Why not treat yourself to a new official VTA T-shirt or sweatshirt. They are still available at the bargain basement price of \$10 for T-shirts and \$20 for sweatshirts. They make great gifts, too. Contact Susan Graham at 949-4105 for yours!

Trail Maintenance

Large sections of the VTA trail get very little traffic, and some

Subterranean news

Hi! How are you? I'm your local earthworm. I especially like those Vibram soled hiking shoes that are a bit softer when you step on me. I must get one to see if I will be able to get off the trail faster. Actually, I have been stepped on fewer times in recent years because I have become faster at getting into my hole. By the way; who threw the styrofoam coffee cup annelid too at me last year. I hope it wasn't a hiker.

I guess you hikers get to see a lot on your outings. Actually, underground, I get to see a lot too. Did you know that most of a mushroom is under ground? So are all the brown parts of all the green plant things you see. I get lots of soil visitors, such as all the microbial critters like nematodes and bacteria that break down all the bits of gorp you folks drop. I especially

are in need of re-blazing and re-routing due to weather and logging activities. Some of you have been contacted already for work parties, and the rest of you should be soon. We are attempting to get as much of the trail in good shape as possible this year, and hope to keep it that way. Major efforts will be mounted this Spring (late April to early June) and in the fall (early September to early November, weather permitting). This schedule will hopefully permit a good deal of work without most of the bugs!

If you have been on any of the more remote parts of the trail, please contact someone on the executive committee or the Trailmaster and let us know what condition the trail is in!

Thanks!

Thanks are in order to T.J. Roofing for their generous donation of vinyl siding which has been cut up for use as trail blazes. Tom Allinson also deserves thanks for cutting up the siding. After this job, his shed looked like a snowstorm had hit it.

like rubbing my segments on the nitrogen fixing nodules on the roots of alders.

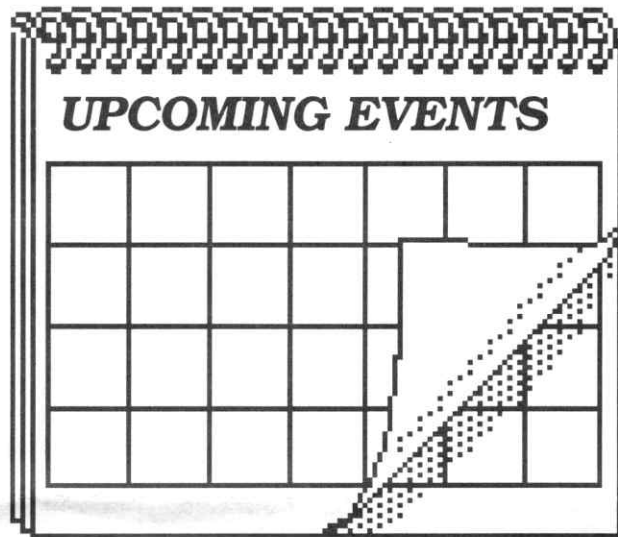
Boy did I get a good scare last year when I came face to face with a groundhog.

I made a discovery last year. Did you know that the Squawroot found around Gros cap only seems to grow under oaks? It doesn't get its energy from the sun. It somehow gets it from decomposing matter. Believe me, decomposition is important where I live. I help to decompose soil as well.

I regret to report that one of you hikers stepped on my brother or sister (it really doesn't matter which, as brothers and sisters are the same sex with us guys).

I must be going. I'm going to help a friend of mine catch a fish. Think about me next time you go walking.

---Steve Taylor



SAULTEAUX SPRING SUMMER AND FALL OUTINGS

June 13: Bike trip from Iroquois Point to Red Pine Picnic area. Bring lunch and a bike and race the bugs (ha ha). Meet at the Tourist Information area on the American side at 9:30 am. Leaders Tom Allinson and Bill Robinson.

June 29: 7:00 pm. Boardwalk hike for the "Coming of Summer Festival". About 3 k easy walking. This is a public event we are hosting in connection with the Coming of Summer Festival taking place in Sault Ste. Marie on the week. Meet on the boardwalk in front of the Holiday Inn. There should be a number of cultural activities happening nearby at that time.

July 10: Hike the Red Rock Section (near Gros Cap). Bring lunch and swimming gear. Meet at 10:00 am at the Market Mall. Leader Patrick Capper.

August 21: Beach Walk and potluck barbecue at Betty Nassoioy's (Birch Pt. Road, Brimley area). Bring something to barbecue and something to share! Nice island to canoe or

kayak to, also. Meet behind the Greyhound Bus Terminal at 1:00 pm or the US Tourist Information at 1:15 pm. Barbecue at 5:00 or when everyone gets hungry.

VTA Summer Campout-Aug 13-15, Mississauga Provincial Park. We will meet on the Friday or Saturday morning by 10:00 am. The weekend will include hikes and some other surprise events. Saturday's dinner will be pot luck. The lunches and Sunday breakfast are for you to bring for yourself. Contact Steve Taylor (759-2480) or Susan Graham (949-4105) by Aug 10 to confirm attendance and for co-ordination of transportation. Members of all clubs welcome. Elliot Lake members could contact Jack Smit.

Sat. Sept. 25: Hike the Desbarats Section -- Rock Lake to Rydal Bank (11k). Easy walking, bring lunch and raingear. Meet at Churchill Plaza at 9:00 am. Leaders Dieter and Erika Ropke.

Oct. 3: Ontario Hiking Day. Hike the new trail in the Stokely Creek area (10k) and plan to have dinner at McCauleys after. Meet at KMart at 11:00 am. Leader Steve Taylor.

Oct 9-11: The backpacking trip on the Elliot Lake trail that was cancelled last year has been re-scheduled to this year. Contact Steve Taylor to confirm by Oct 4. Thirty km appr of wilderness hiking with campsites on McGiverin and Turtle lakes.

October 16 Hike the Basswood Lake area from Chapleau Road to Cottage Road (9k), and have chili Joy McFee's after! Meet at Churchill Plaza at 8:30 am. Leader Joy McFee.

MICHIPICOTEN CLUB EVENTS

June 12: Go to Blazes. Meet at Scenic High Falls 9:00 am. Trail will be cleaned for about 3 hrs followed by pop and cookies provided by the club.

June 16: Evening wildflower hike on the Nokomis trail. Meet at the post office at 6:30 pm.

Sept 19: Peat Mountain Fall Colour Hike. Meet at the ubiquitous Post Office at 1:00 pm. Moderately difficult 3-4 hr hike.

Oct 3: Ontario Hiking Day. Hike on Vallee Park Trail. Meet once again at the Post Office at 1:00 pm.

