



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 20040 150 CHURCHILL BLVD. SAULT STE. MARIE ON P6A 6W3

NO. 56

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Winter 1994

Kitchitwaa Shkwaandemm - New Addition to Voyageur Trail System

I had spent the summer working along with a great group of young people from the Manitoulin Island area who, with support from the Anishinabe Spiritual Centre at Anderson Lake in Espanola, brought the vision of creating this 40 km trail through the western end of the La Cloche Mountain range to life. Sharing the work this summer, deciding what the trail meant to us, and trying to figure out how we could bring those lessons learned to its management, made this a powerful experience. I was eager to return to the trail simply to enjoy the scenery and meet the

physical challenge of moving over this rough terrain. Thanksgiving weekend made for an ideal opportunity, and Russell joined me as an enthusiastic hiking partner.

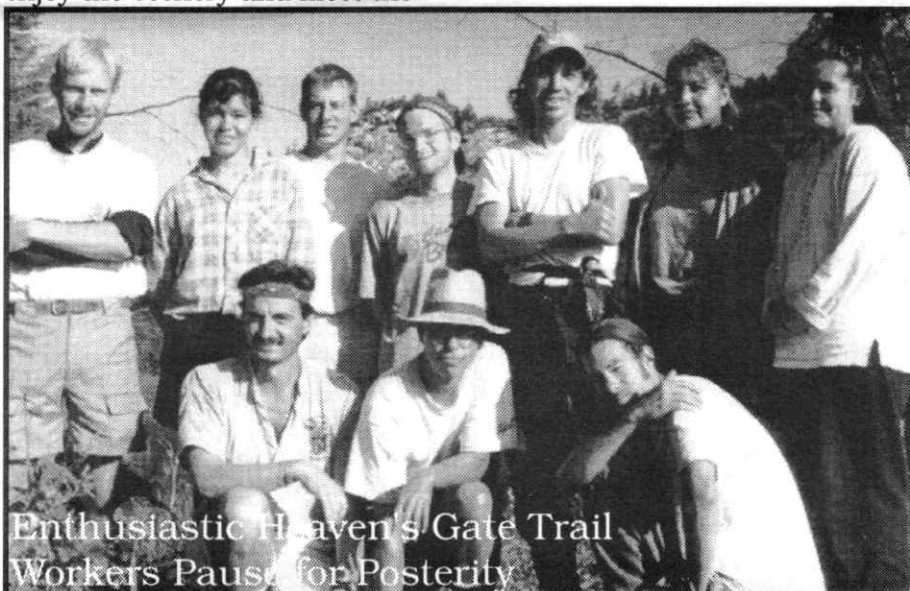
The views along this trail are panoramic, taking in the eastern La Cloche of Killarney Provincial Park, the islands of the North Channel, and the full extent of Manitoulin Island. Climbing over Mount Ararat, the first of many demanding hikes on the trail, we came upon one of the many magnificent vistas. The vivid yellows, reds, and oranges of the deciduous trees mixed with evergreens coloured the valley

between us and our destination a couple of hours away. Standing out among the colours was the white quartzite rock, typical of the range. Where other mountain ranges have long since worn down, the La Cloche, which are really the buckled sedimentary remains from the bottom of a once massive river system, remain quite high and will stay that way thanks to the durable silica component of the quartzite. Arriving at our camp about 5:00, we were in good position to cover a fair distance along the trail the following day.

We set out to go as far as we could in four hours. Although cloudy and snowing in the morning, it brightened up in the afternoon, and Russell could see for himself the views that I had described to entice him along. While the vistas always stand out, the mountain valley wetlands and hemlock forests, the windswept white pines, and other features have a subtle beauty that captures my attention more each time I go out on this trail.

Before I arrived in the summer the trail team had done some scouting through the mountains, at one point finding themselves

Kitchitwaa Shkwaandemm... p.8



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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 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd. Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6W3. **Submissions for the next issue should be received by April 1 (No Kidding).**

President's Page

Annual Board and General Meetings

The 1993 AGM held in Wawa on Oct. 23 produced a number of items of interest to the membership.

* A total of about 80 km of new trail was built in 1993, including 10 km in the Casques-Isles Section, 30 km in the Stokely Creek area near the Sault, 35 km in the Espanola area, and 5 km in the Coureurs de Bois Section.

* The Trans Canada Trail, a new national trail concept, was the subject of lengthy discussion. The VTA is in the process of determining its position on the initiative, so expect a report in the next issue.

* All current officers were re-elected to their posts by acclamation. Several positions remain vacant, as noted elsewhere in this issue.

* Funding for VTA trail projects will continue to be sought in 1994. The further involvement of the Native Community in these projects is desirable.

* Hike Ontario! will double its per-head fee to member clubs in 1995, raising it from \$.50 to \$1.00.

* The VTA will be obtaining liability insurance in 1994, through Hike Ontario!.

* A per diem of up to \$10 per year for board members attending meetings, was approved. The per diem is intended to defray meal costs.

* A membership dues increase to \$15 (regular) and \$10 (student) was approved, beginning in 1995, to compensate for higher operating costs.

* At the President's discretion, the VTA may fund selected individuals wishing to take a certified chain saw course.

* At the General Meeting, Steve Taylor announced that individual membership in Hike Ontario! is available for \$15 per year.

Volunteers Needed

A number of vacant and pending positions are currently available in the VTA. Anyone who can spare a little time to help out should contact Steve Taylor. These positions are: General Secretary, Publicity Director, and Guidebook Committee member.

Bigfoot Invades Queenstown

The Santa Claus Parade on November 20 featured an entry from the Voyageur Trail Association. Following a late decision to enter, we spent several evenings creating our entry.

The parade began moving at 11:00 sharp, and everything fell into place with me doing my first ski outing for

the season despite limited snow on an asphalt covered Queen Street. This was preceded by the sign reading "Dear Santa, We want Need New Hiking Boots. Thanks, VTA.", and Donna's truck carrying the boot. Kim, Scott, Gail, Judy, Steve, Cheryl and Colleen also joined the procession.

We are determined to participate in future parades with a new pair of boots of a stronger design. Special thanks to Judy Falkins for organizing this unique outing, Steve Taylor for providing his basement, and the rest of the crew for making the day a success.

— Pim Delfgou

Saulteaux Club Helping with Bon Soo Winter Carnival

On Sunday, **Feb. 6**, the Saulteaux Club will volunteer at the Children's Snowshoe Experience and Bon Soo Ski Loppet at Bellevue Park. Members can help the children experience the joy of these winter sports, while promoting our Club. If you would like to donate time to this endeavour, please call Judy Falkins (942-3749) and leave a message.



VTA Santa Claus Parade Float (by Steve Dominy)

Greetings From the Bingham's

Bob and Shirley Bingham, known to many members, recently sent us the following note. "Our friends will be glad to know that we are alive and well in our new home, and would be delighted to hear from or see said friends. Greenfield is close to Peterborough, N.H., and is a fine base for visiting Boston or the White Mountains. Our address is: RFD 1, Box 379, Greenfield, N.H. 03047, telephone (603) 924-6995. Thank you all for being such good friends and great Voyageurs.

Espanola Area Gets 35 km of Trail

In the spring of 1993, President Steve Taylor worked with Father Michael Murray and Dieter Pudwill of the Anishinabe Spiritual Centre at Anderson Lake, south of Espanola, to develop a proposal for the Environmental Youth Corps program. The project, to construct a new section of the Voyageur Trail west from Whitefish Falls to Fort La Cloche, was approved and proceeded during the summer. There was much help from the Native Community and others, including many volunteers.

Apparently, the hard working crew also had a good time. Thanks to Dieter, Father Murray, and all others who helped make the construction of the Kitchitwaa Shkwaandemm trail a reality.

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