



# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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## We're 20 Years Old!!!

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It is hard to believe 20 years have come and gone already. Mind you, we do have over 550 km, or half our target, of trail constructed, which is no mean feat. Of course, perhaps we have done the easy half, that closest to towns and cities. But with the same degree of perseverance and continued commitment from a host of dedicated volunteers, no doubt the dream of Paul Syme will come to fruition.

This issue contains a few pictures from past VTA activities. Some photos have been included showing some of the key people who

have made major contributions by walking on, building or clearing trail. New members may gain a sense of inspiration from these veterans, while the veterans will hopefully renew their commitment to our vision. Many thanks to Tom Allinson, Peter Stinnissen and Virve Squire for the photos.

In the next issue, the feature article will be a history of the VTA, being prepared by three founding members, Dr. Paul Syme, Dieter Ropke, and Dr. Ian Morrison. We will also include a number of additional photos.

### VTA Photo Contest - Last Chance

The deadline for submission of entries to the 20th Anniversary Photo Contest is fast approaching. You have only until Oct. 28, 1994 to submit your best slides or prints (any size) within the theme "**Fondest Voyageur Trail Memories**". People, scenery, and macro shots of flora and fauna all fall within this broad theme. Prizes are as follows:

1st prize: A \$25 gift certificate from Camera Craft in Sault Ste. Marie, plus a VTA Sweatshirt;

2nd prize: A two-year membership in the VTA;

3rd prize: A VTA T-shirt.

Entries will be judged by members attending the Annual General Meeting scheduled for Nov. 5, 1994 in Sault Ste. Marie (see separate notice).

**New Year's Day Hike, 1978, Saulteaux Section. Oskar Mahlmann, Father Meagan, Mrs. Mahlmann, Tom Allinson, Marg Dearing, Kevin Dearing.**



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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 January 10.**

# President's Report

This year has been another hectic one for VTA activities, and consequently for me. I lament the things that weren't done but could have been if there had been more time. It is then that I realize the importance of volunteers, and that we can use a few more. I welcome the recent inclusion into the pool of volunteers in the past year of Judy Falkins as Saulteaux Club President, and of Gayle Phillips as Publicity Director. Both of these individuals have brought enthusiasm and good ideas to the tasks they have chosen. Many thanks are also due to the volunteers who have been active for a longer time. We would not have an organization without you. Keep up the good work.

The following bits of news from around the VTA are noteworthy. Casque Isles has received another Environmental Youth Corps project to help with the trail. A large sign about the trail (being marketed as the North Superior Hiking Trail) has been erected at Aguasabon Falls. Some people are interested in forming a club again. The Penewobikong Section has received Section 25 funding; three energetic crew have been hired for 10 weeks to give the entire 44 km section a going over. Thanks are due to Barb Lawrence for persisting with this application. The new trail south of Espanola has been improved this year by the people from the Anishinabe Spiritual Centre. It is now a beautiful trail to walk. More information can be obtained from the Centre, located on Anderson Lake just south of Espanola. For the second year, volunteers from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers visited the Stokely Creek area to improve, measure and describe the new trail there. They are also lending a hand building a bridge near Gargantua Harbour, in Lake Superior Provincial Park. Pieces of trail have been built near Marathon and Nipigon this year. Although there are no VTA clubs associated with either of these at this moment, it is hoped that this will change in the future.

On a more negative note, more help is desperately needed in the Association Landowner department. There is more work at this time than Paul Syme can handle. Jack Smit reports that his attempt to build a Club in Elliot Lake is currently in limbo. Come on Elliot Lakers! Where are you? Wawa is much smaller than Elliot Lake and supports an active club. Some beautiful trail exists around Elliot Lake. The Penewobikong Club can only be described as semi-active. Maybe a challenge is in order between these neighbouring towns to see which one can create the strongest club.

Members should be aware that the guidebook and brochure are currently being revised. The new brochure should be out around the end of this year. A lot of work will have to go into the guidebook. New sections are to be added, existing sections revised, and possibly colour maps developed. Any ideas on this project would be welcome at this time and can be passed on to me.

*Steve Taylor*

**A Special Thank You (and Plea)**

If you have been noticing more and more vinyl blazes gracing the Saulteaux trail of late, two of the people you can thank are Les Fulcher and Tom Allinson. Les graciously donated, for the second time, a bundle of left over white siding. Tom ran it through his band saw to produce several hundred blazes, and claims his workshop looked like it had been hit by a summer snow storm when he was finished.

If anyone has any white vinyl siding, or blue for side trails, please consider passing it along to the VTA. Unlike paint, which fades and cracks in as little as

two years on the trees, vinyl or plastic holds up much longer. This is a particularly useful feature on the more remote sections of trail which cannot be brushed out every year.

**Board Members Still Needed**

The Board still has a two vacancies. There must be a couple of members out there who are willing to volunteer minimal time in exchange for the good feeling associated with helping a community organization prosper. The 2nd Vice-President position requires someone with reasonable organizational and communications skills. The person will support the 1st Vice-

President and President with duties which arise, and can take on independent projects if desired. The General Secretary position requires someone with good writing skills who is able to produce timely minutes at meetings and prepare occasional correspondence on Association-related matters. For both positions, attendance at three to four meetings per year is required.

**New Publicity Director Joins Board**

A hearty welcome goes out to Gayle Phillips of Sault Ste. Marie, who recently accepted the important position of Publicity Director. Gayle has worked feverishly over the summer to update the brochure, and worked closely with the media to publicize our outings. Welcome aboard, Gayle, and keep up the great work.

**A Sad Note...**

It is with great sadness that we note the death of a long-time active Saulteaux Club member, Dr. Don Myren. Despite failing health, Don captained a section of trail (Creek Rd. to Carpin Beach Rd.) until recent years. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



Lake Superior - Lake Barkas  
Environmental presentation sponsored by  
Michigan club and presented by Russian,  
Canadian and American Kavakers 1992

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# Annual General Meeting

**The annual meeting is set for Nov. 5, 1994 in Sault Ste. Marie.  
Algoma University College, Room 15, East Wing Lecture Theatre  
Time: 1:30 p.m.**

**Submissions to the 20th Anniversary Photo Contest will be shown and judged by members at this meeting.**

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