

PUBLISHED BY THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

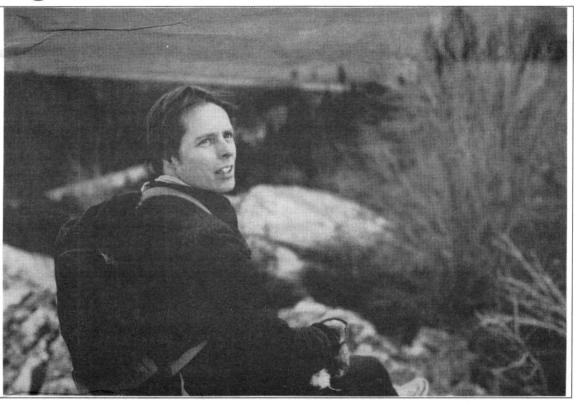
PO BOX 20040 150 CHURCHILL BLVD. SAULT STE. MARIE ON P6A 6W3

No. 59

IN MEMORY OF STEVE TAYLOR August 17, 1956 - October 28, 1994

by Steve Dominy and Virve Männiste Squire

Steve touched



many lives, and his death sent shock waves throughout the region. To be cut down in the prime of life, at age 38, was hardly a just fate for such a compassionate individual. His good humour, insightful conversation, energy and passion for outdoor activities, and love of nature will be greatly missed by those who knew him.

As we commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Voyageur Trail, we also note with sorrow the passing of our President, Steve Taylor, who lost a valiant two-year battle with cancer on October 28, 1994. A 12-year veteran of the Voyageur Trail Association, Steve served as Newsletter Editor, President of the Saulteaux Club, and for the past five years, President of the Association. Steve made a tremendous contribution to the goals of the VTA. He was involved in all facets of Association and Club activities. Steve led and participated in hikes and work parties. He routed, flagged, meas-

ured, described and mapped new

trail, and secured funds to hire workers for special projects. He was also an enthusiastic spokesperson for the Association.

Steve was a fighter. In his fight with cancer, as in all things, he remained confident and believed he would win. Knowing the odds were against him only hardened Steve's resolve and he tried several treatments, both conventional and experimental. Steve never let the treatments stop him from enjoying life. He continued to work, play in the outdoors, and maintain his President's responsibilities to within days of his death, an indication of Steve's positive attitude towards life and living.

To honour Steve, a memorial hike was held on November

5, following the Annual General Meeting in Sault Ste. Marie. During the hike, ashes were scattered by Steve Dominy at Gros Cap in a symbolic ceremony, and the following Finnish song recited (this song was found among Steve's possessions.) Steve's family has offered to provide a plaque commemorating Steve's contribution to the VTA. The Board has agreed that this should be placed in the King Mountain area, north of Sault Ste. Marie, and that the trail be named in his honour as Steve was instrumental in seeing the completion of this trail over the past two years.

(cont'd. on page 2)

IN MEMORY OF STEVE TAYLOR

(cont'd. from page 1)

Niin kaunis on maa

Sun is rising there is dew on the ground It is time to wake up to get up and go To meet the dearest of friends

Land is so beautiful sky is so high In the singing of birds you can hear flowering fields And shadows on waters and shadows on waters

The day is clear only wind in the forest It's time for laughter and play and joy The dearest of friends is along

Chorus

The sun is going down shadows are getting longer It's time to depart and to say goodbye The dearest of friends is gone

Written by Kari Rydman

Steve will be missed by his friends, colleagues and so many others whose lives he touched. We all have special memories of special times with Steve, as he led countless outings for the Voyageur Trail, from gruelling backpacking trips to mornings spent leading children on their first hike experience. His energy for administrative duties (which we all cringe from) was unparalleled, from securing funds for the club through grants and work projects to sitting as Director at Hike Ontario. His energy and dedication to our club will remain an inspiration for all who follow.

Jill Leslie writes in Outlook (Hike Ontario's Newsletter): "Steve will be missed for his work for the Voyageur, his love of nature, his generosity and his spirit, but most of all for his friendship."

In Elliot Lake, Jack Smit of the Coureurs de Bois Section remembers Steve as a tremendous bundle of energy who never hesitated in providing his support for this fledgling club. "What you do defines who you are. There are those, who like an April snowstorm make a good first effort but quickly fade away. There are those who put in a good first season but quit as soon as the weather gets bad. There are those who work and sometimes complain. Then, there are those precious few, who year in and year out, in good times and bad, smile and support everyone they come in contact with. The Voyageur Trail has the rare substance of a great beauty, real freedom, epic challenges, varied adventures and peace for the weary soul. While Steve supported the trail, I am certain the trail also supported Steve. It prepared him never to give up and now he is exploring the other side of the mountain. As an inspiration, Steve remains an active member of the Voyageur Trail Association."

Many of us feel Steve will always be with us as his spirit will always be on the Trail we hike. Guy Smith (with acknowledgement to inspiration from Robert Frost) penned these lines as he remembers a backpacking trip to Gargantua Harbour a few years ago.

THE GUIDE

With the spirit of a voyageur You shared the trail you loved Leading friends to nature's treasure No charge for food and wine Just laughter around your fire And sparks to light moments of leisure

I saw rhyolite and ochre
I tasted the wild leek
I met the bird that hops down the tree
Like the truest of guides
You led me to hidden places
Where tiny pools of life are bigger than me

I can see your footprints in the hall And on the trail in the forest tall Tracing paths no one else could make With you I dipped the waters And sailed across the snow To the edge of the sacred lake

We hiked into the land of legend
Of ghostly frames and sunken toil
Golden leaves blew across the stone floor
I stood frozen at the opening
And as you entered the blackness
I thought of souls guided there before

The world turned to ice—cold granite
As I groped along the walls
Seeking the ledge where courage did hide
Then your guiding hand caught me
We talked an hour or more
Your laughter echoed in the forest outside

I can see your footprints in the hall And on the trail in the forest tall Tracing paths no one else could make With you I dipped the waters And sailed across the snow To the edge of the sacred lake

In time our roads diverged
And I watched you walk alone
No doubt yours was the less travelled way
But the autumn woods are warm
And a seasoned hiker feels
The company of friends every day

In our haste, way leads onto way
And we lose sight of the trail
But the guide keeps it clear, it's in his care
We will often cross his path
His marks are on the trees
He'll take us back and walk with us there

I can see your footprints in the hall And on the trail in the forest tall Tracing paths no one else could make With you I dipped the waters And sailed across the snow To the edge of the sacred lake

November 4, 1994

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Steve Dominy

As I write this my first Report, 1994 is drawing to a close. In reflecting on the past year, there is much for the VTA to rejoice. Of course, any celebration is clouded by the passing of our long serving President, Steve Taylor. Steve's shoes will be difficult to fill, but thanks to Steve's final efforts the task is made easier. Steve left the Association with a strong base of dedicated volunteers, and others whom he inspired have recently come forward to offer their assistance. I am confident that the VTA will continue to grow and prosper under the guidance of these and other capable members, and that Steve's legacy will live on.

I was acclaimed as President at the November 5 Annual General Meeting. I bring 11 years of association with the VTA. I was Membership Secretary and President of the Saulteaux Club before leaving northern Ontario for several years, and since returning I served as newsletter editor. I have captained a section of trail in the Echo Ridges Section, led and participated in numerous hikes and work parties, and participated in numerous other VTA activities. I believe this background gives me the experience necessary to fulfill the duties of Association President.

At the November 5 Board Meeting, a by-law was drafted (and passed at the Annual General Meeting) which

affects the day-to-day operation of the organization. The former positions of 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents have been replaced by three section Vice-President positions: West, Central and East. These positions will be responsible for regular regional activities such as liaising with local clubs, promoting the VTA, monitoring trail status where active clubs have not been established, assisting in the formation of new clubs, and helping to secure grant money, especially for the construction and maintenance of trail in sparsely populated areas. This will remove considerable burden from the President, who formerly attempted to single-handedly carry out many of these activities and more.

Despite the loss of our President, there was cause for celebration in 1994. The VTA acheived its 20th anniversary, and has now completed about half its total length. New sections were completed and hundreds of kilometres received regular maintenance, not only by VTA members but also by many nonmember volunteers and grant–paid workers.

Undoubtedly, 1995 will bring many new challenges and opportunities. Among the planned activities are the completion of the 3rd edition of the Guidebook, the revision of the advertising brochure, and the establishment of a Hike Hotline on a trial basis. Volunteer help is always needed, so if you have a special talent and would like to share it with the VTA, please contact an Executive member.

A Special Word of Thanks

Thank you to all those who volunteered time towards VTA activities in 1994. Whether you helped on the newsletter or guidebook committee, held an executive position, led one or more hikes or work parties, captained your own section of trail, or simply hiked on the trail, your contribution means a great deal. In addition, thanks to the many landowners who continue to allow the trail to cross their properties.

Welcome New Volunteers

It is always a pleasure to welcome new volunteers to the roster. At the risk of omitting someone, I will list a number of these. The Executive welcomes Dan Wheeler of Blind River, and welcomes back Past President Peter Stinnissen, both to the positions of regional Vice-President, and congratulates Susan Graham in her move to regional Vice-President in the recent reorganization. The Guidebook Committee welcomes Donna Weeks, Patrick Capper, and Ray Cormier. The Newsletter Committee welcomes Virve Männiste Squire as Editor, and Gayle Phillips (layout). A further welcome goes to Gayle Phillips, who assumed the role of Publicity Director in 1994. Additional expertise in map design is still required for the guidebook. Contributing writers are always welcomed for the newsletter.

We continue our celebration of 20 years of the Voyageur Trail Association with photographs of many memorable Trail events taken over the years.

VOYAGEUR TRAIL-STOKELY SECTION

by Steve Taylor

This hiking trail passes though some of the spectacular landscape that makes up Algoma. It features lookouts with great views, dense forest, gorges, waterfalls and lakes. Some of the trail is quite demanding due to large elevation changes but the middle section is quite easy. Some of the trail makes use of the Stokely Ski Trail system.

The Stokely Trail was built in 1993 by the Voyageur Trail Association and a group from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. Chuck Peterson, owner of the Stokely Creek Lodge, generously donated some of the lodge facilities to help with this project. The Trail is intended to be part of the larger continuous Voyageur Trail which will run from Thunder Bay to Manitoulin Island when complete. The Voyageur Trail presently about 300 km long, will in turn be part of the coast to coast National Hiking Trail. Although the Stokely Trail is separated from the Voyageur Trail by about 25 km, the connection is almost ready to proceed.

Although the Stokely Trail can now be hiked, some work is required. It has been cleared and flagged with blue flagging, but only partly blazed. The Trail will use the hiking standard, which consists of white rectangular blazes. Hikers should be outfitted for Algoma's weather. In addition, take along extra food and water, bug dope in bug season, a compass (you can get to roadways anywhere by heading west) and a good map. Access points are from Haviland Shore Drive and Highway 17, Stokely Lodge (with permission) and Robertson Lake Road. Stokely does request that hikers on this section sign at the lodge on a list or

blackboard at the door. Most of the route is on Stokely property.

Begin by parking in the Old McCauley's Motel parking lot (on Haviland Shore Drive) and walking about 100 m south to a road on the east side. Walk uphill on this road for about 3/4 km and watch for the trail to go left (blue blazes at trail junctions).

At the end of the blue trail, go left for about 1 km to the lookout over Batchawana Bay or right to Tier Lake. It descends down to Tier Creek and crosses it below a beautiful waterfall. It then goes uphill beside it past a series of small cataracts for a few hundred meters before going left sharply uphill for about 200 m to an intersection. To the left you will go to a lookout over Lake Superior and the eventual continuation of the Trail. To the right, you will descend down to the creek again. Cross it and pass beside a pond before going uphill to the road again. After a short distance, you will go back into the woods on the left. Cross the creek again at the west end of Tier Lake on a beaver dam.

For over a km, the trail goes east along the north side of Tier Lake. It is right beside the lake in places and just in the woods in other areas. It climbs a rocky bluff half way around the lake and crosses a boggy meadow near the east end. Just past this meadow, it comes to an old road. Go south about 100 m before turning left into the woods. At this turn, one could camp in a clearing beside the lake and the road.

The trail up to here has been quite rugged, but now comes several easier kilometres. From Tier Lake, it passes gently through a draw between hilltops through a rather pleasant hardwood forest for about 1.2 km before coming out on the ski trail partly up the north side of Jackrabbit Hill. Turn left and descend down the ski trail for about 300 m before turning right at ski trail point 24. Cross

the hydro cut south to point 15 at Walker Lake. Turn left and cross the bridge at the south end of Walker Lake. This area makes a fine campsite.

Just past Walker Lake, the trail takes a jog into the woods on the left to avoid a wet area on the ski trail. It rejoins it and continues about 1 km to ski trail marker 13. Turn right then left after less than 200 m and proceed 300 m to ski trail marker 19. Then turn right (S) and go for about 800 m to the top of Julie's trail. Turn left onto Julie's trail and follow it about 2 km to the Peterson Trail. At the bottom of the hill part way along Julie's Trail, if one goes off the trail about 100 m to the left, one will find a picturesque waterfall on Sayer Creek.

At the Peterson Trail one could turn right and proceed along the ski trail which goes beside Stokely Creek back to the lodge where the trail can be accessed at the parking lot.

The next 2.5 km take the hiker on a tough journey uphill to the West peak of King Mountain. The elevation gain is about 300 m. After crossing the Peterson Trail, the hiking trail proceeds uphill for about 1 km to the King Mountain Run ski trail, where it turns left, and then right after about 100 m at ski trail marker 50. The cool dark forest through here is a mature maple stand with little understorey. The water gullies down King Mountain add interest to the landscape.

After point 50, there is a sharp uphill climb to a level area between the West and East peak of King Mountain. Pass through this area for about 600 m before turning left and coming out on to an old road. If you turn right, about 300 m of uphill walking will take you to a spectacular view from the West Peak of King Mountain. The remains of an old cabin are here. If you proceed left, the hiking trail

(cont'd. on page 5)



VOYAGEUR TRAIL - STOKELY SECTION

(cont'd. from page 4)

follows the old road for 500 m to the Haken Lien ski trail at marker 37. Cross the ski trail and proceed south downhill for about 1 km to another ski trail.

Turn left on the ski trail and follow it to Taylor Creek. The next 600 m along the ski trail takes the hiker uphill through the Low Taylor Creek canyon beside and across the creek to ski trail marker 53. Turn right and follow a road uphill. After about 300 m, the trail leaves the road right and crosses the creek, then follows it on the other side for 200 m. It then crosses the creek again. Look for a patch of Maidenhair Fern here which is at the north edge of its range. Then go uphill to the top of Robertson Cliffs.

The trail winds along the top of Robertson Cliffs for about 500 m with several spectacular views over the Goulais Valley. Be very careful near the edge of these 150 m high sheer cliffs. The trail then proceeds eastward on a 1.8 km (appr.) descent to the Robertson Lake Road at a spring. Not far from the top, there is a 200 m

jog right (s) along a small tumbling stream. Access to the trail can be had at the Robertson Lake Road, about 5 km east of the Buttermilk Downhill Ski Resort.

ACCESS POINTS

- 1. To get to King Mountain from Stokely Lodge: Follow trail up creek, cross Higham's Bridge over creek and after 30 m turn right up steep narrow trail to hydro line. Cross hydro line and continue on ski trail in same direction. Pass trail marker 30 and keep in same direction following route posted to King Mountain Summit. Just before trail marker 50, (about 1/2 hour walk from lodge) join blazed trail that comes in from left. Follow white blazes until you reach a sharp left to a logging road. To get to summit, turn right and follow blue blazes to summit (5 min. walk).
- 2. Access 4.9 km along Robertson Lake Road (trailhead on left, well marked with white blazes).
- 3. The trail can also be accessed by going on Robertson Lake Road, then

left on Rose Road at corner. Go straight and at dip before bed and breakfast at end of road (Richard Kargl – 649–1174), hike on logging road at right to Taylor Creek Canyon (look for blue blazes). Park in a way that neither road is blocked.

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Members judged the following photos best of the crop at the Annual General Meeting. First prize went to Darcy Ortiz for his 'Natural Ice Sculpture'. Second prize was awarded to Steve Dominy for his 'Rest on Cliff in Autumn'. Darcy also claimed third prize with his entry 'Elm Tree Silhouette'. Many thanks to all who submitted entries and participated in the judging. Special thanks to Camera Craft Ltd. in Sault Ste. Marie for contributing a gift certificate. Watch for the winning photographs in the next issue of the Voyageur Trail News!



(L-R)
Woody Meadows,
Ed Seal, Len Munt
(foreman),
Dave Zanatta,
Steve Calvert, Dan Ross
of the Section 38 Crew,
Forestry Job Corps,
Fall 1988



(L-R)
David Crosswaithe and Gary Keith ice fishing at Orphan Lake, 1987



(L-R)
Erika Ropke, Betty
Nassoiy, Duke Nassoiy and
Dieter Ropke hiking along
Shotwatch Creek gorge in
Pukaskwa National Park,
1980s



Patrick Capper and 'Winston' in Stokely Creek area, 1984



(L-R)
Donna Kidd, Steve Dominy
and Ernie Pringle on a
Saulteaux Section work
party, 1984

A HIKER'S CONCERNS ON THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL

Robert W. Slack of Caledon East recently hiked a section of the Voyageur Trail and writes to let us know of his experience:

"Your recent newsletter got me thinking about finally writing to you to relate my experience in trying to hike the Voyageur Trail.

The first week of September, I started out to walk from Iron Bridge to Highway 108 over one week, armed with your Guide Book, compass and the full pack for the week. On the way to Iron Bridge, I reported in to the OPP in Blind River to give them my plans.

In Iron Bridge, I had to get help from Mike Vincent to find the trail as no markers existed along Chiblow Lake Road and no sign indicated King St. It was across from his house so I was in the right place. He kindly had me park on his lot and phoned the OPP to tell them where the car was, as they had requested.

I camped at Bay Lake, after making great time under a heavy pack. The first day's hike was encouraging as it was not difficult going and interesting.

More bush and travel on footpaths made the next day better. However, past 15 km, I came out of the bush and searched for blaze marks on a portion of the trail that the guide book indicated should go ESE. I went as far as I dared by compass, found no blazes, and returned on the opposite heading. By the grace of God, I found the trail where I had left it; my compass experience is minimal.

I could have headed off by compass and tried to find the road up ahead. I believe that I could have gone across country, knowing that a hike south to highway 17 was always a last resort. However, I did not want to proceed, having lost the comfort of seeing blaze marks. Also, I wanted to be on the trail in case some accident prevented me from proceeding.

After I walked back to Iron Bridge, I went to Laurentian Lodge and spend the rest of the week there.

Since returning, I have taken an orienteering course at Humber College. It is excellent as a basic course. I now have to get some practice when I can get a top map of the area near my home (they are out of print, likely being revised).

Your blaze marks should be clear and need some repainting. In places, I could see 3 ahead of me and in others I had to look around a bit but had no real difficulty until the point at which I turned around.

Better maps, in a larger scale to show more detail and in colour to clearly distinguish more features would be great but I don't know whether this is realistic. Without a better map in the guide book, I would certainly get a top map before setting out again on the Voyageur.

Although I will not get to use your trail often, I will support it through membership and hope that it continues toward completion. I hope also that it gets enough use to justify maintaining the trail well....

Robert W. Slack"

Our President, Steve Dominy replied with a letter addressing Mr. Slack's concerns. Below are excerpts from that correspondence which should remind all hikers that the Voyageur Trail truly is a wilderness trail that requires a different type of planning.

Dear Mr. Slack:

Thank you for your letter relating your experiences hiking the Voyageur Trail. You were obviously very safety conscious in your trip planning, and took the necessary precautions when you encountered a poorly marked section...

As we stress in our literature, our Trail is rugged, often remote and in places not regularly maintained...

I would like to strongly advise that you add the following items to your checklist if you venture onto the Voyageur Trail in the future. First, you should hike with a companion as a safety measure. Hiking partners can be found in a number of ways, such as joining group outings in your area, or by placing ads in newsletters. Second, you should contact the Association in advance of your trip to enquire about the state of your destination trail. The Trailmaster should be able to provide you with this information, or you could contact the appropriate regional Vice-President. You will notice in the upcoming newsletter names and telephone numbers for these people...

Thank you for your suggestions on improving the guidebook. We are in the process of updating it, and will take your comments into consideration. The use of larger, more detailed maps with colour has already been discussed, and is under careful consideration. Also, your letter has prompted me to ask the editor to include some safety tips for hikers in an upcoming newsletter.

Steve Dominy

See next page for the "Take a Hike!" sheet that we mail to new VTA members...



TAKE A HIKE!

The Voyageur Trail Association welcomes you to its hundreds of kilometres of trail. You may wish to become familiar with the trail and enjoy the company of others by joining your local club on scheduled outings (hikes, trail maintenance, snowshoe and cross-country ski outings), or strike out on your own. It is important that you equip yourself with the few basic necessities listed below. If you do hike alone, be sure to inform someone of your plans.

What do I need to wear for hiking? Sturdy, comfortable footwear is essential; blisters and sore feet will make your hike a miserable experience. A lightweight hiking boot offers support as well as helping to keep you dry on wet sections of the trail. Dress appropriately for weather conditions and in layers so you can add or remove clothing as your body temperature or weather changes. You should have a sun hat and a rain suit with you and a change of socks. Long pants will

help keep your legs from getting scratched, particularly on sections of trail that are not well-groomed.

What else should I bring?

Outings are usually several hours in length, so you should bring your lunch and/or snacks. Bring plenty of water to drink, sunscreen, insect repellent (in season) and a basic first aid kit. A copy of the VTA Guidebook, a map and compass are also a good idea, particularly if you are going out on your own.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Trail conditions vary because of a number of factors: amount of use along a section, logging activity, topography, weather, trail maintenance, etc.

All hike leaders are unpaid volunteers. You are invited to participate but you do so at your own risk.

You have to bear the responsibility for judging your own level of fitness and endurance. All participants must be self-reliant, aware of the risks that do exist and able to estimate their own abilities. If you have any doubts about the difficulty of the hike, please contact the hike leader(s).

On all group hikes, obey the instructions of the hike leader. Stay behind the leader and ahead of the end person (the "sweep"). Be sure to inform either of these people of any problems encountered on the hike. If you leave the trail for a "pit stop" leave your pack on the trail where you exit, or notify the sweep.

The hike leader has the right to refuse anyone not properly attired. Should adverse weather conditions exist on the day you intend to participate in a listed hike, please contact the hike leader(s) for further information.

On out-of-country outings, participants should have appropriate health insurance coverage.

We hope you enjoy the Voyageur Trail, and invite you to explore its length.





Ernie Pringle backpacking along the 'fault' on the Coastal Trail in Pukaskwa National Park, 1979



(L-R) Dorothy Egan and Louisa Crosswaithe near Rhyolite Cove, Lake Superior Provincial Park, 1988



(L-R) Dr. Tom Kearns and son on work party in the Echo Ridges Section, 1980.

OUTING SCHEDULE

SAULTEAUX SECTION

Feb. 4/95 (Sat.)

Ski the St. Ignace Sand Dunes Trail in Michigan with the Sault Naturalists. Meet for this moderate outing at the Michigan Tourist Centre (MITC) at 9:00 a.m. or at the new Tourist Information Centre (southeast corner of Huron and Queen Streets) on the Canadian side at 8:30. Bring lunch and dry socks. Leader: Chuck Bosley (906-248-3287)



Feb. 5/95 (Sun.) Bon Soo Family Day -The VTA is

sponsoring

the children's ski/snowshoe experience by the duck pond at Bellevue Park from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. To make this the success it was last year, volunteers are needed again. Please contact Judy Falkins at 942-3749

Feb. 11/95 (Sat.)

Ski an abandoned section off Red Rock Road toward Thompson Lake (moderate difficulty). Bring lunch and meet at Market Mall (Second Line and Korah Road) at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Tom Allinson (942-0768)

Feb. 18/95 (Sat.)

Moderate ski into the 'Canyon' beyond Peoples Road. Bring lunch and meet at Market Mall at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Horst Wetzl (759-7656) Feb. 26/95 (Sun.)

Ski McNerney Lake, Michigan (Strong's Road area). Bring lunch and meet at MITC at 9:30a.m. Leader: Chuck Bosley (906-248-3287)

Mar. 11/95 (Sat.)

Ski to the pictographs in Lake Superior Provincial Park (weather and conditions permitting). Meet for this moderate ski behind Red Lobster at K-Mart Plaza at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Patrick Capper (253-4470)

Mar. 19/95 (Sun.)

Ski North Carpin Beach Road area. Bring lunch and meet at Market Mall at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Tom Allinson (942 - 0768)

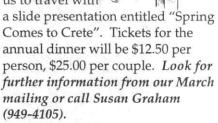
Mar. 26/95 (Sun.)

Ski the Clark Lake area, Tahquamenon Falls with the Naturalists. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the new Visitor Information Centre in Sault, Ontario or 9:30 a.m. at the Michigan Tourist Centre in Sault, Michigan. Leader: Chuck Bosley (906-248-3287)

10 CM

Apr. 8/95 (Sat.)

Saulteaux Section Annual Dinner at the Caswell Hotel. Long time member Dieter Ropke will once again entice us to travel with



Apr. 23/95 (Sun.)

Spring hike in the Gros Cap area. Spring conditions will decide route of hike. Bring lunch and dry socks and meet at Market Mall at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Tom Allinson (942 - 0768)

May 6/95 (Sat.)

Annual hike in conjunction with the Sault Conservation Authority in the Hiawatha Highlands area. This family oriented hike (children are encouraged to attend) will meet at the Sugar Shack on Fifth Line at 10:30 a.m. Leader: Virve Männiste Squire (942-2370)

May 7/95 (Sun.)

Hike the new section of trail -Stokely Lodge to Robertson Lake Road. This difficult hike has some good climbs and is not recommended for beginners. Meet at the K-Mart Plaza behind Red Lobster at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Patrick Capper (253 - 4470)

May 14/95 (Sun.)

Annual Mother's Day Hike. Meet at Market Mall, Second Line at 10:00 a.m. for the annual hike followed by hot dogs cooked over an open fire. Leader: Horst Wetzl (759 - 7656)

June 3/95 (Sat.)

Sylvan Valley Bike Trip. Bike for approximately 30 km, mostly on paved roads, circling Gordon Lake. Meet at Churchill Plaza at 9:00 a.m. Leaders: Dieter and Erika Ropke (942 - 9636)

And an advanced peek at some planned events for

summer:



(cont'd. on page 10)



OUTING SCHEDULE Saulteaux Section

(cont'd. from page 9)

Jul. 1–3/95 – CANADA DAY BACKPACKING WEEKEND.

Three full days of exploring the new Espanola Section. This 40 km trip is for experienced backpackers only. Hikers will camp at Chutes Provincial Park Friday night to allow for car spotting and to ensure a necessary early start Saturday morning. Leader: Patrick Capper (253–4470) Possibility of a fourth day with Donna Weeks leading.

Aug. 12-13/95 – BEGINNER'S BACKPACKING WEEKEND

on the new Stokely Section of the Voyageur Trail. Limit of 6–8 hikers. Leader: Virve Männiste Squire (942–2370)

Sep. 17/95 (Sun.)

Batchewana Mountain Plus – A short but steep ascent to the top of this mountain with a magnificent view of Lake Superior and the Canadian Shield followed by a brief hike into an interesting valley nearby. Moderate to difficult. Bring hiking boots, lunch and raingear. Meet at K–Mart Plaza behind Red Lobster at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Gary Koteles (949–1302)

Oct. 1/95 (Sun.)

Hike from Tower Lake to Gordon Lake. Hike part of the Desbarats Section, approx. Il km, enjoy lunch on top of the ridge flanking Gordon Lake. Bring hiking boots, lunch and rain gear on this moderate to difficult hike. Meet at Churchill Plaza at 9:30 a.m. Leaders: Dieter and Erika Ropke (942–9636)

So there is NO EXCUSE for you couch potatoes—come and join us!



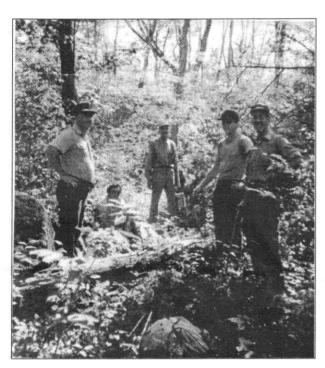


(L-R) Ernie Pringle, Erika Ropke, Dieter Ropke, Tom Allinson in the early '80s



(L-R) Patrick Capper and Brian Williams at border of Saulteaux Section in the early '80s

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(L-R) Dave Maltby, Frank Murphy, Vic Tonan, Steve Dominy, George Harvey on a work party east of Mabel Lake, September 7, 1983



(L-R) Pete Stinnissen,
Kris Stinnissen,
Dorothy Egan,
Carl Bodemeade,
Adam Sejewicz,
Phil Egan, Ross McLean,
Agnes Ostermeier,
Louisa Crosswaithe
in a 'wicky-up' on
Michipicoten Island,
1989



(L-R) Dick McCutcheon and two children, Kevin Dearing, Marg Dearing, Tom Allinson, Eve Kersey, Bert Dearing on Jordan Mine Road in the Saulteaux Section, August 1979



(L-R) Tom Allinson, Donna Kidd, Brian Williams, Steve Taylor skiing in Gros Cap area, March 1985

SECTION NEWS

MICHIPICOTEN SECTION

Peter Stinnissen reports from Wawa that the last outing of the year for the Michipicoten Section was held on December 29 when the club held a bird count. Surprisingly, at this late date, 108 robins were counted! Our unseasonably mild December had obviously delayed their migration, making this outing quite a different success.

The club also wishes a speedy recovery to Section President Phil Egan who recently underwent surgery. All members are anxiously awaiting his return to club activities.

SAULTEAUX SECTION

At a recent meeting of the Saulteaux Club, renewed interest was demonstrated by a large group of enthusiastic members. By the time the dust settled, the Saulteaux Section had filled executive positions, hammered out an outing schedule and resolved to have club meetings on a regular basis.

The Saulteaux Section executive is: Judy Falkins, President; Donna Weeks, Vice–President; Susan Graham, Treasurer; Gayle Phillips, Interim Recording Secretary; VTA Board Reps, Judy Falkins and Virve Männiste Squire.

Club meetings will now be held bimonthly on the third Monday of the month, beginning March 20, 1995 at the conference room of the Great Lakes Forestry Centre, 1219 Queen Street East. A business agenda will be discussed from 7:00 until 7:30, followed by a presentation on subjects of interest to members. Members are welcome to attend the presentation only at 7:30. The topic for March 20 will be "I hike, therefore I am". Bring 10 slides (or

photos) and be prepared to tell us why these slides demonstrate your love of this pastime. For more information, contact Donna Weeks at 759–6819 after 6:00 p.m. or Virve Männiste Squire at 942–2370.

The next scheduled meeting date is May 15, 1995.

Members continue to find unique uses for our sweatshirts. In January of 1994, Mary McKinnon used her VTA sweatshirt on a wooden cross to point the way to her place at Gordon Lake. This definitely qualifies as the 'Most Original Direction Sign'.

Meanwhile, on the Ontario Hiking Day trek to Mabel Lake, 2 year old Ian Graham fell into the water while exploring the shoreline. By putting his legs into the arms of his Mom's sweatshirt, turning it into makeshift overalls, his legs were protected from scratches while riding in his Dad's back carrier.

The bird sighting of the year was on January 8, 1994 between Camp Korah and Long. Four skiers and 2 snowshoers confirmed sighting of a Black Backed, Three–Toed Woodpecker.

FROM THE DESK OF VTA'S PUBLICITY DIRECTOR:

In response to a request at the Executive Meeting in November, the following is a list of the businesses and organizations I have contacted to post our VTA outings poster in Sault Ste. Marie. As you visit these businesses/organizations, don't forget to mention that you are member of the VTA and appreciate seeing our poster on display.

Algoma University College All Seasons Sportswear Bridgewater Fitness Centre Chamber of Commerce

Christie Campers Club Cabana Fitness Centre Creed's Fitness Centre Duke of Windsor George Leach Centre Group Health Centre & GHC West Joe's Sports & Surplus Mulligan's Golf No. 1 Nautilus Fitness Centre Northern Credit Union Northern Lights Health & Fitness Ontario Travel Information Sault College Sault Community Information Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Soo Sports **Sport Connection** Station Mall The Old Ski House The Trading Post Verne's Bicycle Shop Weight Watchers Y.M.C.A.

The updated version of the VTA's brochure is hot off the presses and now available. If you can think of anywhere we can send posters for public display or brochures, please contact Gayle Phillips, Publicity Director.

PUKASKWA FEE STRUCTURE TO CHANGE FOR 1995

A letter was received from Sharon Otiquam, Chief Management Services, Pukaskwa National Park, outlining the proposed fee schedule for the operation of the park. The park, under direction from the Federal Government, will start to focus attention on revenue generation in addition to preserving and protecting the park. This is an important issue because a portion

(cont'd. on page 13)



PUKASKWA FEE STRUCTURE TO CHANGE FOR 1995

(cont'd. from page 12)

of the revenue generated will be used in the maintenance of Pukaskwa National Park.

The new camping rates for the Hattie Cove campground will be: Regular – \$14.00; Shoulder season – \$10.00; Electrical – \$17.00, Reservations – \$6.00.

Pukaskwa will also be implementing user fees for day use. This fee will cover a portion of the costs for park services. Some of these services are personal reception, communication and presentation of information, plaques, information request and basic personal safety services. The rates will be: Adult – \$3.00; Senior – \$2.25; Children – \$1.50 (6 and under free).

Of special concern to VTA members will be the changes in backcountry travel. Reservations will be taken for backcountry travel. There will be a registration fee of \$25.00 per group and a nightly backcountry camping fee of \$10.00 per group. The fee for day trips to White River is \$10.00 per group. The maximum number in a group is 8. The registration fee will cover the cost of pre–trip information, maps, and personal orientation of the trail.

The prices listed above are all proposed and are subject to change. These fees are effective April 1, 1995. If you have any questions or concerns, please write to the following address:

Superintendent, Pukaskwa National Park, Hwy. 627, Hattie Cove, Heron Bay, Ontario. POT 1R0

TRAIL CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE

A significant portion of trail marking has been switched from painting blazes to fixing white vinyl markers on trees. The use of anything other than ALUMINUM nails is tantamount to spiking trees. Ordinary nails could injure or kill people 50 years from now as such trees are utilized. It could also damage equipment, notably veneer knives.

The trail is there because of public spirited landowners who gave us permission to cross their land. Let us always know such spirit.

USE ALUMINUM NAILS ONLY – and please don't drive them home, leave room for the tree to expand.

Power and telephone poles are often climbed with spurs. The use of any metal, vinyl or nails of any kind is not compatible with the activities of the pole owners. Use PAINT ONLY on ALL POLES carrying electric and/or telephone lines.

EDITOR'S REPORT

In the summer of 1989, I took on the position as Editor of the Voyageur

Trail News and, for personal reasons, reluctantly gave up the position in the fall of 1991. I had every intention of taking up the job again. "Sooner or later" I had always said, "just not now". Just days before

he passed away, Steve Taylor once again asked me if I was ready to assume the position, to which I again replied "just not now". A few days later, he was gone, yet with his passing, a new energy seems to have settled upon the club. Enthusiastic members are taking on tasks and forming committees to keep the club active. Perhaps Steve left behind some of that endless energy he had. I now seem to have found the time for this task and hope to continue to bring together a readable newsletter.

The task is much easier now. Gone are the days of coaxing the old Gestetner into printing barely readable text. With the help of computers and the layout software and skills of Jack Dunning and Gayle Phillips, the Voyageur Trail Association now produces a newsletter we can all be proud of. Please continue to submit your comments, letters, stories, poems, articles, recipes, photos and anything else which would be of interest to our members. Remember, the submission deadline for the next newsletter is April 1, 1995.

FOR SALE:

2 TENTS, one 4-person canoeing & car camping tent \$75; one 2-person backpacking tent with vestibule \$55.

Phone (705) 942-9636 for details.



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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

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If your name does not appear here, but should contact Patrick Capper Membership Secretary. If you would like to join or renew your membership for 1995, see last page of this newsletter.

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Judith L. Falkins

THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL: THE EARLY YEARS by Ian K. Morrison

It's hard to believe. The Voyageur Trail Association is over twenty years old! It was on March 26, 1973, that the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation for the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Harold A. Brain, convened a meeting at the Community Services Board Offices, then located in the Sault Memorial Gardens, of "persons interested in establishing a hiking trail along the precipice of the Cambrian Shield" from Gros Cap on Lake Superior to Hiawatha Park, just north of Sault Ste. Marie. One of those in attendance, Dr. Paul D. Syme, a Sault Ste. Marie research scientist and member of the Bruce Trail Association, immediately saw the possibility of extending this concept eastward to Espanola, then south across Manitoulin Island to link up with southern Ontario's Bruce Trail. The other seven persons at the meeting needed little convincing, and an association was born. Over the next several months, the group held informal meetings, recruited new members for the project and busied themselves learning the ABCs of trail building. Over the summer, Paul Syme, the acknowledged leader of the group, visited with officials of the Bruce Trail Association, soliciting advice and guidance. Finally, in the fall, the group met again at the Community Services Board Offices and shared their findings. It was at this meeting, on October 24, 1973, that the name "Voyageur Trail Association" was chosen, and that the decision was taken to follow the Bruce Trail model of dividing the trail (at this point the proposed trail eastward was to be known as the North Channel Trail, and the proposed trail to the north, the Superior Trail) into sections and

assigning responsibility for trail building, maintenance, public hikes, etc. to local Voyageur Trail (VT) Clubs. Donald T. Myren was recruited to form a committee to draft a Constitution for the fledgling association. By the next meeting, held on November 15, 1973 in the library of the Great Lakes Forest Research Centre, Don Myren and Dieter Ropke had a draft Constitution to present and, on the basis of this, an interim Executive was installed (President, Paul Syme; Vice-President, Ralph Yanni; Treasurer, Ralph Wood). Ian Morrison acted as secretary at this meeting and was elected Secretary shortly thereafter.

The first of the Clubs formed under the new Constitution was the Sault Ste. Marie (the name was changed in 1975 to the Saulteaux) VT Club, which was organized in January 1974 (President, Bill Foster; Vice-President, Fr. Arnold Megan; Secretary, Rev. Andreas Kaellgren; Treasurer, Ken Griffiths). The Saulteaux VT Club was followed later that year by the Desbarats VT Club, organized largely through the efforts of Dieter Ropke and, in 1975 by the Penewobikong VT Club, organized through the efforts of Norm Lediett. Another club formed early in the life of the Association was the Thessalon VT Club, organized mainly through the work of Don Fulton. By mid-1978, the Association had grown to ten VT Clubs: Thunder Bay, Schreiber (in 1980, renamed Casque Isles), Michipicoten, Saulteaux, Echo Ridges, Desbarats, Thessalon, Penewobikong, Rainbow and Sudbury.

In 1975, as the Constitution was being refined, the Association became aware of an organization in Thunder Bay with similar objectives which also called itself the Voyageur Trail Association. This conflict was resolved very amicably by the two organizations and our VTA undertook to apply for a Charter from the Province of Ontario. On July 3, 1974, the Asso-

ciation was formally chartered as a Corporation Without Share Capital. This status proved valuable shortly thereafter for, in 1976, a serious conflict involving our name arose. Most people are aware of those brown signs along the length of Highway 17 that read Voyageur Route. Well, when first deployed (in mid-1976), they read Voyageur Trail. The Ministry of Industry and Tourism had blithely gone ahead and designated Highway 17 from the Quebec border to Thunder Bay the Voyageur Trail! We objected, noting that we had exclusive rights to the name and, besides, Highway 17 in our view was hardly a trail. Our protests were either ignored by the bureaucrats, who were reluctant to admit their gaff, or were brushed off with arguments suggesting that the Cabot Trail is a highway or that perhaps, we could both use the name Voyageur Trail to our mutual benefit. Getting nowhere, we wrote to the Minister (with copies to several of his Cabinet colleagues) citing our Charter rights and rejecting the proposal that we share the name Voyageur Trail. We indicated that renaming Highway 17 "The Voyageur Trail" would be no less confusing than renaming Highway 6 from Hamilton to Tobermory "The Bruce Trail". The government backed down and the signs were changed. Highway 17 to this day is known as the Voyageur Route.

If the Sault Ste. Marie Section can boast the first club in the Voyageur Trail system, it is the Rainbow Section that can boast the first hikeable trail. George Morrison, a teacher in Espanola, had one of his outdoor classes develop a loop trail in the Espanola area, known as the Rainbow Trail. This trail existed

(cont'd. on page 16)



THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL - THE EARLY YEARS

(cont'd. from page 15)

prior to the formation of the Association. VTA members from Wawa, Sault Ste. Marie and Thessalon were invited by George Morrison to hike the Rainbow Section one weekend in June 1974. This was the first organized outing of the VTA. This led to further exchanges and a tradition of one VT Club helping another. A particularly memorable trailbuilding event in the early years took place in May 1976, when, in addition to VTA members, one Harvey Macklin brought a busload of Bruce Trail Association members from southern Ontario to help out on the Rainbow Section.

Eager to get going on their own section, however, Saulteaux VT Club members spent the summer of 1974 flagging trail and securing landowner permission along the route of what is now the Saulteaux Section. On November 23, 1974, the first construction actually took place. On that date, Ralph Wood, a trail enthusiast and VTA member who lived in southern Ontario and commuted to Sault Ste. Marie to participate in Association activities, led a party of nine hearty souls on a combination training-trail building session. If one excludes the Rainbow pre-build, the stretch from Maki Road to Goulais Avenue completed that day was the first trail constructed under the auspices of the VTA. Construction of the Saulteaux Section resumed in the spring of 1975, spearheaded by members such as Eve Kersey, Fr. Megan and Barb Triplett, and the Section was complete by late summer. The Saulteaux Section was officially opened on September 21, 1975 at a ceremony at Gros Cap, before a crowd of 150 persons. Tom Allinson's faithful trail building and maintenance efforts,

beginning during this period and extending over the next twenty years, were major contributions to the Voyageur Trail. The next section to open was the very scenic Desbarats Section, the official opening of which took place on November 6, 1976, followed by the Thessalon Section (1978) and the Echo Ridges Section. With the opening of the Echo Ridges Section in 1980, the Association could boast a continuous footpath from Gros Cap on Lake Superior to Iron Bridge, as well as significant stretches of hikeable trail in the Casque Isles, Michipicoten, Penewobikong and Rainbow Sections.

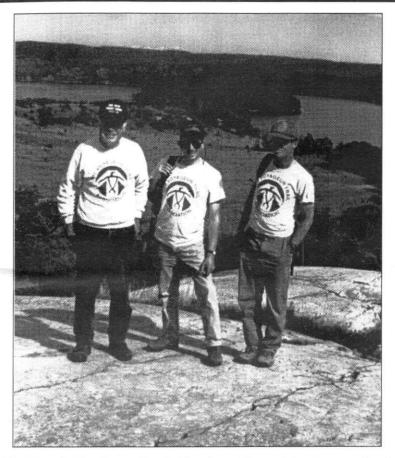
The design used by the Association for its trail markers goes back to 1974 when, at a meeting on May 6, resolutions were passed defining the form ("being an arrow pointed upwards surrounded by the words Voyageur Trail") and colour (blue on yellow) of trail markers. Norm Lediett, a retired highway sign-maker (the same Norm Lediett who was instrumental in forming the Penewobikong VT Club) directed the production of trail markers, producing at least a decade's worth in very short order! The blueon-yellow colour combination was chosen for the Association's stationery as well. The thunderbird logo dates from a year later (1975) and was designed by Janet Clark.

The Voyageur Trail News also has a history dating back to the early years of the Association. During 1973 and 1974, it was customary to circulate copies of the Minutes of meetings to members and other interested parties. This was soon replaced by a newsletter, the Voyageur Trail News, the first issue of which was published on January 15, 1975. The VT News has been published regularly ever since. The first Editor was Ken Griffiths, who remained in that post until 1978, when he was succeeded by Mary-Ellen McCallum. A member who contributed significantly to the Association in the early years in terms of ideas and contacts was Bob Andrews. Bob was able to arrange for printing of many of the early newsletters.

Over the past twenty years, the Voyageur Trail Association has evolved from a mainly trail building organization to a trail building-andhiking organization. Hikes on various sections are held throughout the year. Some of these outings have a tradition all their own. For example, the Saulteaux VT Club first held a Conservation Week hike in 1975 and its annual New Years hike dates back to 1976. Also, the first Mother's Day hike, which ends with a hot dog social at the Horst Wetzl homestead, took place in 1986, and has been an annual event ever since. The first President of the Association, Paul D. Syme, was wont to remark on the satisfaction that comes from being part of an idea that is greater than one's self. The Voyageur Trail is just such a idea. Members past and present have developed and maintained a major hiking trail through some of the most rugged, yet scenic, topography in eastern Canada — a remarkable accomplishment for an organization, the membership of which has probably never exceeded 250. If we continue to exhibit the same dedication as we have shown over the past twenty years, we can make the next twenty even better.

Again, a big thanks to Tom Allinson, Peter Stinnissen, Virve Männiste Squire, Patrick Capper and Judith Falkins for the photos, and the walk down memory lane.

Winter 1995



(L-R) Chuck Bosley, Jack Squire, Steve Taylor on lookout over Ottertail Lake, Desbarats Section

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED AND ALWAYS WELCOME!

Please contact any of the VTA Executive if you can offer assistance with:

- guidebook
- publicity
- newsletter
- landowner contacts
- hike leader
- trail development
- club development
- trail maintenance.



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VOYAGEUR TRAIL	ASSOC	IATION MEM	BERSHII	P FORM	M (please print)			
Name:								
Address:								
City:		Prov./State:						
Postal/Zip Code:		Phone (home):		(work):				
Please check one:	Rene	ewal						
MEMBERSHIP FEES: (January 1st to	December 31st–	-fees paid after October 31st	will be applied to	the next membe	ership year)			
Adult\$15.00 Family/Group\$15.00		Total Amount	Enclosed:	\$				
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Guidebook (member) \$5.00 x Guidebook (non-member) \$8.00 x	=	VOYAGEUR TR	VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION, P. O. Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd.,					
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Sweatshirt \$20.00 x (size			(cont a. or	n back 🖝)				

Y G E U R A R A I

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Editor: Virve Männiste Squire

(705) 942 - 2370

Layout: Gayle Phillips Jack Dunning

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, 1995.

The Trail User's Code

- Hike only along marked routes. Do not take short cuts.
- Do not climb fences.
- Carry out all garbage (if you carry it in, you can carry it out).
- Light cooking fires at official campsites only. Drench fires after use. (or better still, carry a lightweight hiker's stove)
- Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy.
- Do not damage live trees or strip off bark.
- Protect and do not disturb wildlife.
- Keep dogs on a leash, especially on or near farmland and in parks.
- Respect the privacy of people living along the trail. Walk around the edges of fields, not across them.
- Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photographs.
 BE A LOW-IMPACT HIKER!

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*:		————(clip and mail) -			*				
DECLARATION: I have read and will abide by the Trail User's Code. (signature)									
I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH:									
☐ trail development		☐ trail maintenance		newsletter, gu	idebook, photography				
☐ hike leader	☐ landowner liaison, reco		ls, maps		mittee				
☐ organization—executive, directors ☐ special events; conferences, dinners									
Please consider me a member-at-large or a member of (check one below): (*denotes active sections)									
Section	Club		Section		Club				
☐ Thunder Bay	Thunder Bay	V.T.C.	☐ Thessalo	n	Thessalon V.T.C.				
☐ Nipigon			☐ Iron Brid	ge					
□ *Schreiber	Casque Isles	V.T.C.	■ *Blind R	liver	Penewobikong V.T.C.				
☐ Marathon			☐ Elliot La	ke	Coureurs de Bois V.T.C.				
☐ Pukaskwa National Park			☐ Spanish						
□ *Wawa	Michipicoter	n V.T.C.	Massey						
☐ Lake Superior Provincial Park			□ Espanola		Rainbow V.T.C.				
☐ Batchewana			☐ Little Cu	rrent					
☐ Goulais			☐ Sheguian						
☐ *Sault Ste. Marie	Saulteaux V.	T.C.	☐ South Ba	ymouth					
☐ Echo Bay	Echo Ridges	V.T.C.	☐ Sudbury		Sudbury V.T.C.				
Desbarats	Desbarats V.	Г.С.			~				