



# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

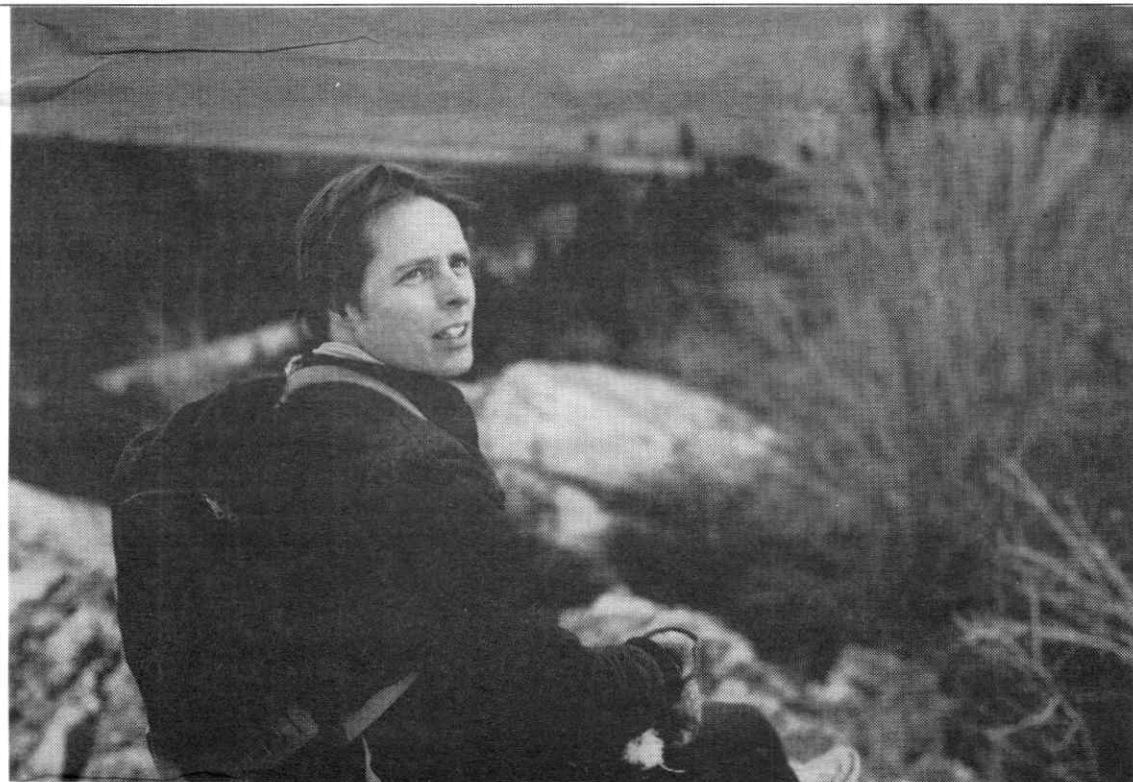
PUBLISHED BY THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

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.

To honour Steve, a memorial hike was held on November

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, measured, 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.

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 achieved 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 non-member 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 establish-

ment 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.**