



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

BOX 66, SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO P6A 5L2

NEWSLETTER NO. 5

September 15, 1976

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION RECEIVES GRANT

The Voyageur Trail Association has received a grant of \$1,000.00 from Wintario to purchase tools. However, this money has to be matched dollar for dollar. Because of our extraordinary purchases of letter-head, envelopes, brochures and crests within a short period, our funds are very low and it will be virtually impossible to raise all this money from our regular sources - fees. We ask you to seriously consider a donation, large or small, at this time to help raise the required \$1,000. To this end, the Algoma Central Railway has offered to purchase the necessary tools to outfit the entire Sauleteaux club. We don't expect this to be a continuing state of affairs, but this is a one-time opportunity and we would like to make the most of it. Remember, receipts for donations may be used for income tax purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual General Meeting is being hosted by the Sauleteaux Club this year. It will be held at 8 p.m. in the Algoma Board Room of the Civic Centre, 99 Foster Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, on Friday, October 1, 1976. The guest speaker will be Mr. Ray Lowes, founder of the Bruce Trail. Ray will be speaking on hiking trails (of course) and will show the new movie of the Bruce Trail. There will be displays of trail progress and activities, so bring a friend and join us in Sault Ste. Marie this year.

BACKPACKERS AND HIKERS UNITE

The International Backpackers Association invites all V.T.A. members to join the I.B.A. to help strengthen a unified voice for hikers in North America. Interested parties may write I.B.A., P.O. Box 85, Lincoln Centre, Maine, U.S.A. 04458

VOYAGEUR TRAIL BUILDING

Harvey Macklin

The following article has been borrowed from the Summer/Fall 1976 issue of Footnotes, the newsletter of the Toronto Bruce Trail Club.

May 21/22 - 21 eager backpackers left Toronto at midnight by bus to drive to Espanola to help the Voyageur Trail Association extend their trail in the vicinity of Espanola. Arriving at 6 a.m., the group were met by Paul Syme, President of the Voyageur Trail Association. Paul was presented with a sash in V.T.A. colours. Also present was George Morrison, leader of the Espanola group. George was presented with 16 gallons of latex trail blazing paint, a number of swedish saws, and some block and tackle for heavier work.

After an enthusiastic breakfast in Espanola at a restaurant gently persuaded to open early, our Trailways bus took us to the road end nearest the trail. From here on it was packs-on and walk in to set up camp. A small group was organized to explore the trailway into base camp. The larger group set out along the southwest shore of Bass Lake through some beautiful stands of hardwood and brush, clearing about a mile and a half of trail to good standard.

Saturday evening was spent around the camp fire chatting with Paul Syme, George Morrison and trail master Ralph Wood until the rigours of the day and the long drive brought sleep to everyone.

Sunday the main group continued the trail for another mile along high ground about 50 to 100 feet from Bass Lake shoreline. Occasionally a small group would drop off to tackle localized problems such as fixing the trailway and bridges. By Sunday evening 2.5 miles of trail had been completed with only minor work to be done on the trailway.

This section of the trail belongs to the Rainbow Trail Club who were delighted with the efforts put in by the group. The group taking part in the work were from various Trail Associations in Southern Ontario and about half were from the Toronto Bruce Trail Club. Part of the fare for the trip was sponsored by a local corporation and this was used to take along the Venture Scouts and Ranger Guides who enjoyed the opportunity to leave the pavement for three days.

The group was accompanied by Ron Zisman, creative editor of Backpacker Magazine, who took photographs and wrote a story as well as lending a willing hand to cut the trail. The story will probably appear in the October issue of Backpacker.

FOR PLANT LOVERS

As part of the Algoma Fall Festival, Mr. Jack Lord and Mr. Jim Skye of the Royal Botanical Gardens will be in Sault Ste. Marie, Saturday, September 18.

Lecture: 'Beads, Rattles and Woodsmoke' - deals with aspects of Indian culture including food plants and medicines. 10.00 a.m., Conference Room, Great Lakes Forest Research Centre.

Nature Walk: "The uses of native plants". 2.00 p.m. Wishart Park.

Voyageur Trail Association members are cordially invited to attend.

DISCOUNTS TO HIKERS

Kinney Shoes of Canada Ltd. is offering a 10% discount on hiking boots. The local store in the Station Mall, Sault Ste. Marie offers this discount to V.T.A. members upon presentation of a current V.T.A. membership card.

Margesson's Sports Ltd. in Toronto is also offering a 10% discount on most camping equipment. Members must present their membership card to qualify for the discount. If ordering by mail, a photostat of the membership card is necessary. Margesson's 1976 camping catalogue is now out. It can be obtained by writing:

Margesson's Sports Ltd.
17 Adelaide St. E.
Toronto, Ontario M5C 1H4

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST

A reminder that the deadline for submitting your entries to the Photographic Contest is September 15, 1976

TRAIL NEWS

Penewobikong Trail Club

Norm Lediett reports that this club has been doing considerable scouting of trail route, and has received permission from the Town of Blind River to utilize about 4 miles of Town property on the waterfront.

Echo Bay Trail Club

Most of this section has been walked and flagged and members are in the process of contacting landowners. It is expected that clearing will commence this September.

Saulteaux Trail Club

The Saulteaux club has produced a fine schedule of hikes in cooperation with the Sault Naturalists. These hikes have been well attended and the club is to be congratulated on its efforts. A couple of more miles of trail remain to be cleared in this section and it is expected that this will be done as soon as appropriate permission has been obtained.

Conservation Week, Sault Ste. Marie - the club sponsored a public hike to start off Conservation Week, on Sunday, May 9. About 80 people turned out on a gloriously sunny day to hike 3 to 5 miles return trips east or west of Nettleton Lake. Coffee and cookies were served to participants through the kind efforts of Mrs Marion Edgar and Mrs. Sybil Harvey.

Ontario Hiking Day - 1976 - Ontario Hiking Day was held on Sunday May 16. Sault Ste. Marie, like most of the province, experienced a wet, foggy day. Despite the inclement weather, 18 persons turned up at Gros Cap and were driven varying distances to each of several starting points. All participants apparently enjoyed the hiking and were treated to coffee and dessert afterwards, courtesey of the Bluewater Inn and the Saulteaux Club. Our participants compared quite favourably in numbers with those turning out at some of the other hikes in southern Ontario.

Rainbow Section - Harvey Macklin hopes to bring another group of hikers up to Rainbow Country to continue trail clearing on the Thanksgiving weekend, October 9 - 11, 1976. Hopefully, we can link 2 major parts of that trail at that time. Experience has shown us that we will need experienced trail workers to help coordinate the work, so consider setting that weekend aside for a real work party. All are welcome, regardless of experience. People in or close to Sault Ste. Marie, please contact Paul Syme if you are interested at 254-4791.

Desbarats Section - The May long-weekend brought out some 15 eager hikers from all sections to help construct part of the Desbarats Trail. The crew worked as a trail auger and was able to extend the trail for several miles in the Gordon Lake area. Most of the participants camped privately near the site and found it a rewarding experience to work as a team. Many thanks to all the helping hands; it was great working with you.

DESBARATS TRAIL OFFICIAL OPENING

The second section of the Voyageur Trail will be officially opened on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1976. Meet at Tower Lake at 10:00 A.M. There will be a short informal walk as part of the opening ceremony and a two hour hike for those who are able to stay for it. A special invitation is extended to Desbarats Section landowners. Phone Bill Gunn (246-2127) or Dieter Ropke (253-8375) for details.

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Box 66

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

FINANCIAL STATEMENT as of 31 August 1976

RECEIPTS

Previous Balance - 10 October 1975	\$	167.52
Membership Fees	\$	671.00
Donations	\$	36.00
Maps and Crests	\$	141.50
Bank Interest	\$	<u>2.63</u>
total receipts	\$	<u>1068.65</u> =====

DISBURSEMENTS

Administration	\$	211.76
Publicity	\$	203.62
Purchase of V.T.A. Crests	\$	155.01
Trail Operations	\$	100.29
Refunds to Clubs and membership fees in Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations	\$	257.20
Bank Charges	\$	<u>2.16</u>
total disbursements	\$	<u>928.04</u> =====

balance on hand, 31 August 1976 \$ 140.61
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Dieter Ropke
Treasurer

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting, October 2, 1976, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

SECRETARY'S REPORT

BOARD

The Board met twice since the last Annual Meeting: (1) Nov. 6, 1975, (2) July 19, 1976. Representatives are as follows:

Saulteaux: I. Morrison, P. Syme
Echo Bay: R. Andrews, B. Hansen
Desbarats: W. Gunn, D. Ropke
Thessalon: D. Fulton, T. Miller
Penewobikong: N. Lediett, I. Merseth

OFFICERS

In accordance with the Constitution, elections were held for the positions of Vice President and Treasurer at the July Board Meeting. Officers are now:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Until</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Club</u>
President	1977	P. Syme	Saulteaux
Vice President	1978	D. Fulton	Thessalon
Secretary	1977	I. Morrison	Saulteaux
Treasurer	1978	D. Ropke	Desbarats

In addition to elected positions, the following appointments are in effect.

Trailmaster	R. Wood
Deputy Trailmaster	A. Megan
Public Relations Officer	H. Macklin
Editor	K. Griffiths
Map & Guidbook Comm.	R. McCutcheon
F.O.H.T.A. Reps.	P. Syme, R. Wood

CLUBS RECOGNIZED The Echo Bay Trail Club was formally accepted as a member club of the Voyageur Trail Association. Member clubs are now: Saulteaux Trail Club, Echo Bay Trail Club, Desbarats Trail Club, Thessalon Trail Club, and Penewobikong Trail Club.

CONSTITUTION

The membership was polled concerning Constitutional amendments twice since the last Annual Meeting.
January, 1976 - accepted
September, 1976 -

F.O.H.T.A.

The Voyageur Trail Association retained its membership in the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations.

CRESTS

The Board adopted the trail marker design as the design for a woven badge which was subsequently produced and made available to members and