



# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

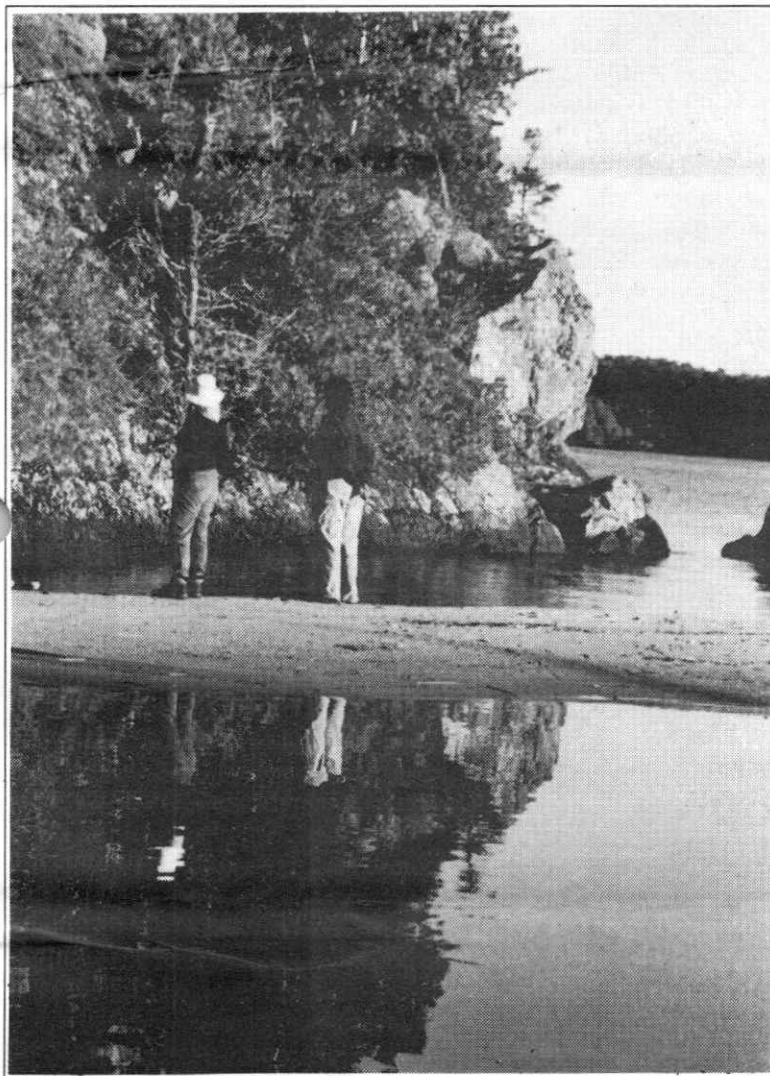
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No. 60

EDITOR: Virve Männiste Squire

SPRING 1995



***Gayle Phillips and Doris Welz  
admiring the sun-drenched  
headlands in the late afternoon  
at Warp Bay, Lake Superior  
Provincial Park***

***Photo by Judy Falkins***

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**by Steve Dominy**

As spring arrives and our thoughts return to the pleasures we will experience this year hiking the Voyageur Trail, members can be assured of excellent opportunities for both group and family outings. The Saulteaux Club, being the largest and most active, has again organized an outstanding selection of hikes and backpacking trips in the east, central, and northern regions of the trail. In addition, a bicycle tour has been slated for those so inclined. All members are invited to participate in any of these outings. Why not plan a vacation to include an outing? Also, local clubs are always looking for extra help in maintaining existing trail, so how about offering to join a work party or get some friends together for a working holiday? Sound far-fetched? Members of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers will be once again paying for the privilege of doing this in August, 1995, on the Ganaraska Trail near Peterborough, Ontario.

This is shaping up to be a busy year for the VTA. The three hard-working vice-presidents and myself have some busy months ahead helping to revitalize clubs in the Elliot Lake, Blind River, and Schrieber-Terrace Bay areas, and establish a new club in the Nipigon area. In Terrace Bay and Nipigon, the local communities have supported the construction of new hiking trails, bringing the Casque Isles Section total to 45 km and creating 21 km of new trail between Nipigon and Red Rock. These trails will be added to the revised 1996 Voyageur Trail Guidebook, with the assistance of these two communities. In addition, the Heaven's Gate Trail south of Espanola, will be mapped and described for inclusion in the Guidebook, with the assistance of the Anishnabe Spiritual Centre. Other additions to the Guidebook will be the Stokely (Goulais Bay) and Coureurs de Bois (Elliot Lake) Sections.

It is hoped that, perhaps with the help of energetic volunteers from the larger southern Ontario Hike Ontario member associations, that 15 km of new trail will be completed

(cont'd. on page 2)



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(cont'd. from page 1)

between the Saulteaux Section north and the Stokely Section, resulting in the completion of a continuous trail from Haviland Bay on Lake Superior to the Elliot Lake highway. Preliminary work has also been commenced to connect the Elliot Lake and Espanola area trails.

The efforts of local communities in building trails along the north shores of Lakes Huron and Superior is testimony to the recognized economic value of such a hiking trail system. We are seeing, as the baby boomer population approaches early retirement ages, an increase in the popularity of hiking through natural areas. This healthy and revitalizing form of physical activity, known for years to many of us as a low cost and enjoyable pastime, is now rapidly gaining support. This demographic shift can only benefit the Voyageur Trail Association as we move closer to our goal of a continuous hiking trail from Manitoulin Island to Thunder Bay.

I encourage all able-bodied members to devote a day or two to trail clearing activities this year, and to get out for as many hikes as can be fit into your schedule. If hiking on an unknown portion of trail, I recommend that hikers contact a local member of the Board for information. They may not know the answer, but they will know who to ask. The better equipped you are with knowledge about the trail, the more enjoyable will be your outing.

Happy hiking!



## FROM THE PUBLICITY DIRECTOR by Gayle Phillips

Our efforts to get the Voyageur Trail Association name before the public is working tremendously. Pamphlets are going like hot-cakes and we have less than 800 left. We owe a great debt of thanks to the *Ontario Minis-*

*try of Culture, Tourism and Recreation* whose grant allowed us to print thousands of these brochures to assist in our publicity efforts.

I hope you caught the Voyageur Trail Association display in the Station Mall in front of Coles Book Store for Earth Week (April 18 to April 23). We sure went through a lot of outing schedules! Maybe we'll see some new faces on our next few outings!

A great big thank you to the *Sault Ste. Marie Conservation Authority* for allowing me to put some of our VTA brochures at their booth in the Sportsman's Show in March. Without this assistance our group would not have been represented at all as booth displays were charged over \$200 to attend.

And as long as we are handing out 'thank you's', a great big one to our long-time supporters - *Camera Craft*, *The Old Ski House* and *Superior Watersports* for supplying the door prizes at the Saulteaux Club's Annual Dinner in April. When you shop at these local businesses, please let them know that you appreciate their ongoing support of the VTA.

Watch for a Voyageur Trail Association exhibit at the new Tourist Information Centre for the month of September.



## NEWS FROM OTHER CLUBS

### *Penewobiking Section:*

Last fall, our able President Barbara Lawrence obtained a grant to hire three men in the make-work project to work on our trail for 10 weeks. Our new member and Vice-President East, Dan Wheeler was supervisor and I was advisor.

The result was that they practically rebuilt the 44 km of trail with new, plentiful white blazes and also blue blazed several trails to access points and/or seven scenic lookouts.

**by Norm Lediett**

Norm has also asked that we let the membership know that he has now

retired from active trail work. We thank him for all the years he spent building and maintaining the Penewobikong Section of the Voyageur Trail. As one of the founding members of the VTA, he has been very active in trail building, trail maintenance and has been the heart of the Penewobikong Club for years.

### *Coueurs de Bois Section:*

Jack Smit reports that the French high school has offered to work on the trail from Highway 108 to Granary Lake. Maintaining trail is at times even tougher than building it. Jack does have a suggestion for June days. We should all get out on those rare, cool, dry, windy yet sunny days in June and tramp ferns. Not just walk through ferns, but tramp them. The cool weather is ideal for hiking and ferns are a major problem. When brush is cut in early May to avoid insects, the ferns are not yet up. Crushed ferns make for an easy to follow, enjoyable trail. Something to consider, as Jack reports that ferns have been a major problem in both the Elliot Lake and Blind River sections.

## LAKE SUPERIOR PROVINCIAL PARK UPDATE

Peter Stinnissen informs us that the Coastal Trail Section through the Park is currently not being maintained. For the past two to three years, cuts to Park budgets have meant temporarily abandoning the trail until the completion of new trail to Old Woman Bay. At that time, the entire Coastal Trail will be opened. Unfortunately, there are no plans for construction of the new trail in 1995. Maps are still available showing the route of the 55 km of existing trail, but hikers should be advised that trail conditions are unpredictable.



# SAULTEAUX END-TO-END by Patrick Capper



**Patrick Capper and Horst Wetzl congratulate each other upon completion of the Sauteaux Section End-to-End hikes.**

*Photo by Virve Männiste Squire*

The Sauteaux end-to-end hikes last year were on September 18th, 24th and October 2nd. Although intentions were good only two hikers managed to complete the full course: Horst Wetzl and Patrick Capper.

On all three hikes the weather was great—not too hot, no rain and blessed with beautiful fall colours. There were no spectacular sightings of wild life but we did find a grass snake and an American toad.

In all but one occasion, when people lost the trail, it was for the usual reason. You get to hike on a nice old logging road, get into some fascinating tale or debate and next thing you know, you have walked right past where the trail turns off the logging road. On one occasion on the first leg, someone managed to lose the trail on a rocky outcrop where there

wasn't a good place for blazes.

The first hike was quite strenuous and didn't end until about 5 p.m. and our new member Jin Ji-Zhong was having a struggle—even after finding out, much to his surprise, that he wasn't the oldest hiker in the party. I thought he would be out of commission for several days and was relieved to hear that his wife's Chinese formulation had him up and walking the next day without even a limp. It was certainly a case of the marvels of Chinese medicine.

After the hikes, I also wondered who else could rightfully claim end-to-end badges for the Voyageur Trail and I suspect only a handful can claim rights to two or more sections.

As for the Sauteaux section, I'm sure Steve Taylor has hiked it all, and

Steve Dominy has hiked all but the short section from Glen View Cottages to O'Connor Road. Bill Robinson was the only hiker to complete the 1990 end-to-end. I couldn't find any official end-to-end hikes listed in the 1982-1989 period, but perhaps this short note will spur on some old timers to recollect their end-to-end hikes. I suspect that Paul Syme, Tom Allinson, Betty Nassoioy, Brian Williams, Dick McCutcheon and Delmar Ellis could all rightly claim Sauteaux end-to-end credits. I'm also sure that although Tom Allinson has probably spent more hours on the Voyageur Trail than anyone else, it will be quite a while before anyone can claim to have hiked as large a percentage of the whole trail as Steve Taylor.





## EXPLORING AT YOUR DOORSTEP SHORE RIDGES CONSERVATION AREA



The Shore Ridges Conservation Area, managed by the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority, provides 443 hectares of property and approximately 4 km of easy to moderate trails for family enjoyment. Found within the city limits, the area is located at the junction of Sunnyside Beach Road and Walls Road.

The uniqueness and the beauty of this area is due to the geological process that shaped the features. Three thousand years ago, the shores of Great Lake Nipissing stood here. When the waters of this lake receded, the shoreline remained. Now referred to as the ridge, it is the prominent feature of this property. The beach terrace, on which the Beaver Trail is located, was created by the erosive forces operating at each stationary stage of the receding Lake Nipissing.

### INDIAN RIDGE TRAIL

The Indian Ridge Trail, situated on the escarpment, allows a striking view of Lake Superior and the surrounding forest. Notice how the vegetation reflects the geology. Tree

species such as red oak, red maple, stiped maple, and large tooth aspen have adapted to this drier environment on the ridge. Twinflower, an uncommon wildflower, along with golden rod, tufted vetch, yarrow, and the common daisy greet you as you walk down the trail.

Wildlife is plentiful. Squirrels and chipmunks are quite loud, drawing attention to themselves. Some of the more shy animals make their presence known by tracks, droppings, or feeding activity. These mammals which hide in the thick undergrowth include white-tailed deer, skunk, mink, and hares as well as the occasional fox or Canadian lynx.

### HISTORY

The Indian Ridge Trail was named for its historical use. The Ridge served as the ideal route from the Ojibway Indians' camp at Gros Cap, to the Hudson's Bay Post where trading occurred with the Champlain tradesmen. Arrowheads and other artifacts are constantly being uncovered, reinforcing the past importance of the route. Perhaps, you will find something to remind you of the history of the Indian Trail.

### BEAVER TRAIL

An entirely different atmosphere awaits you as you proceed from the upper ridge down to the Beaver Trail and the marsh areas that accompany it. Located within the beach terrace, the Lower Beaver Trail provides the hiker with many opportunities to investigate natural features including fresh water springs, clay beds, natural erosion, and sand deposits.

If you don't mind getting your feet wet, the scenery is spectacular and well worth it. The Beaver Trail demonstrates typical wetland habitat due to the accumulation of runoff contained behind the ridge. This has provided ideal conditions for leatherleaf, bog laurel, bog rosemary and labrador tea which make it their home. Sphagnum moss forms a soft mat on the floor of the bog providing a vital function, a solid base for cedar, speckled alder, tamarack, and other bog plants.

Red maple, trembling aspen, sumac, willow, white birch, and tamarack reside in the less swampy areas. Scattered throughout the wetlands are wildflowers including the rare pitcher plant, bracken fern, red and yellow hawkweed, the blue flag iris, ox-eyed daisy, and trillium. Strawberries, blackberries, and raspberries are also found throughout the area providing a treat for the hiker during the summer season.

Green frogs, spring peepers, snapping turtles, snakes, insects, fish, birds, and mammals such as black bear, and beaver are just a few of the wildlife frequently spotted. Numerous waterfowl including sandhill crane, great blue heron, mallard, and herring gull are species that you can identify as you tread through the marshland.

(cont'd. on page 7)



# Coming events

## OUTING SCHEDULE

**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. Refreshments will be available at the Sugar Shack for a nominal charge after the hike. 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 climbs to the top of Robertson Cliffs 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 13/95 (Sat.) GO-TO-BLAZES DAY!** Bring along nothing but a desire to get out into the bush and find out how much fun work parties can be. Some members actually prefer clearing trail to hiking it! All tools and materials will be provided but do bring a good lunch as you will have a hearty appetite. Meet at Churchill Plaza parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Alan Comfort (945-9496)

**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 at the Wetzl homestead. Leader and hosts: Horst Wetzl and Lise Reid (759-7656)

**May 15/95 (Mon.) – SAULTEAUX CLUB MEETING.** Business agenda at 7:00, general information meeting at 7:45. Tonight's topic is "FOODS FOR THE PACK – FROM DAY

HIKES TO LENGTHY TREKKING". There will be a demonstration on how to pack these foods as well as tips on preparation and recipes. Bring along your best pack recipes and suggestions on how to pull truly delicious meals out of a pack. Great Lakes Forestry Centre, 1219 Queen Street East. Call Virve Männiste Squire at 942-2370 for more information.

**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)

**June 10/95 (Sat.) COMING OF SUMMER FESTIVAL (Sault Canal)** As part of the festivities, the Saulteaux Voyageur Trail Club will lead a hike from Roberta Bondar Park to the canal and around St. Mary's Island. Enjoy the walk and the various displays at the canal. Meet at 1:00 p.m. near the "big tent". (NOTE – Volunteers are needed to attend the VTA display at the canal from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Please call Susan Graham at 949-4105)

**June 21/95 (Wed.)** – Join us on our evening boardwalk hike which starts at the locks and can end up hoisting a cool one at one of the local establishments. Meet at the Locks at 7:00 p.m. Leader: Susan Graham (949-4105)

**July 1-3/95 – CANADA DAY BACKPACKING WEEKEND.** Three full days of exploring the new Espanola Section. This challenging and strenuous 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. At time of printing, this outing has the maximum number of participants

signed up. You may leave your name on a wait list with the leader in case of a cancellation. Leader: Patrick Capper (253-4470) Possibility of a fourth day with Donna Weeks leading.

**July 16/95 (Sun.)** Beach walk and potluck picnic at Betty Nassoio's (Birch Point Road, Brimley area). Bring canoes and kayaks also, as there is a nice island to paddle to. Those who need to barbeque in the summer, please bring your own portable barbeque or hibachi. 2:00 p.m. to after dinner. Call Betty for more information at (906) 248-5451

**July 17/95 (Mon.) – SAULTEAUX CLUB MEETING.** Business agenda at 7:00, general information meeting at 7:30. Tonight's topic is TENTS. Bring your tents out and demonstrate ease of set up and take down. This will allow those looking for a good, functional tent to see what's available. Bring bathing suits for a quick swim in the pool (weather permitting). Location: 130 Florwin Drive Contact Virve Männiste Squire at 942-2370 for more information.

**July 22/95 (Sat.)** Head to the shores of Lake Superior Provincial Park as we hike the coastal trail from Sinclair Cove to the Barrett River with an option to carry on to the Sand River (if the weather is great). This hike involves climbing the headlands north of Sinclair Cove but lots of beach walking north of the Barrett River. Bring hiking boots, sunscreen and a lunch. Meet at K-mart Plaza behind Red Lobster at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Virve Männiste Squire (942-2370)

(cont'd. on page 6)



## OUTING SCHEDULE

(cont'd. from page 5)

**Aug. 5/95 (Sat.)** The bugs should have settled enough by now that a hike through the Echo Ridges sections can be enjoyed. Join us on this moderate to difficult, quick paced hike. Approx. 13 km. Bring hiking boots, bug dope and a lunch. Meet at Churchill Plaza at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Patrick Capper (253-4470)

**Aug. 12-13/95 - BEGINNER'S BACKPACKING WEEKEND** on the new Stokely Section of the Voyageur Trail. If you have always wanted to try a backpacking outing, but unsure of how to begin, this is your introduction. We will meet ahead of time to go over equipment and food needs. Limit of 6-8 hikers. Leader: Virve Männiste Squire (942-2370)

**Aug. 26/95 (Sat.)** Hike Tower Lake to Wilson Lake. Approximately 8 km one way. Cars will be spotted, or the hearty can walk back along the road. Bring swimsuits for a dip in Tower Lake afterwards. Meet at Churchill Plaza 10:00 a.m. Contact Virve Männiste Squire for more information. (942-2370)

**Sep. 9/95 (Sat.)** Hike from upper Echo River area to Coffee Creek. This hike will follow the Echo River, climbs up to a wonderful view high above Coffee Creek and finishes with a hike out to the road. Approx. 8 km. Meet at Churchill Plaza 10:00 a.m. Leader: Alan Comfort (945-9496)

**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)

**Sep. 18/95 (Mon.) - SAULTEAUX CLUB MEETING.** Business agenda 7:00, general meeting at 7:30. Tonight, Sault Search and Rescue will do a presentation on safety on the trails and what to do in case of an emergency. Great Lakes Forestry Centre, 1219 Queen Street East. Contact Donna Weeks for more information at 759-6819.

**Oct. 1/95 (Sun.) CELEBRATE ONTARIO HIKING DAY** with a hike from Tower Lake to Gordon Lake. Hike part of the Desbarats Section, approx. 11 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)

**Oct. 14/95 (Sat.)** Hike the north section of trail to Red Rock. Actual section hiked will be determined closer to the hiking date as loggers are quite active in this area now. Enjoy the beauty of Lake Superior before the storms begin. Meet Market Mall parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Patrick Capper (253-4470)

**NOTE:** During some of our hikes, Sault Search and Rescue will be conducting air searches as part of their training. Air traffic may be observed during the hikes, but the aircraft will not acknowledge having spotted you. This is for training purposes only.

### A NOTE TO ALL HIKERS:

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

You have to bear responsibility for judging your own level of fitness and endurance. If you have any doubts about the difficulty of the hike, please contact the hike leader(s). Be on time at the meeting place, and check in

with the hike leader on arrival. Don't plan to rush off to an appointment after the hike - hiking times are difficult to forecast as the leader can't speed it up on request.

Come prepared with a lunch, plenty of liquids, sunscreen, a hat (preferably wide-brimmed), rain gear, and comfortable, sturdy boots. Dress in layers. **THE HIKE LEADER HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANYONE NOT PROPERLY ATTIRED.** Dogs are permitted on hikes, but must be on a leash.

When on a hike, always respect the final decision of the leader. **IT IS THE LEADER'S DECISION TO CANCEL THE HIKE, OR, ONCE A HIKE IS IN PROGRESS, TO RETURN WHENEVER HE OR SHE FINDS CONDITIONS TOO DANGEROUS.** On most group hikes, someone will be assigned each end. Stay behind the leader and in front of the 'sweep' (end person), and be sure to inform either of these people of any problems encountered on the hike, or if you have to leave the hike. If 'nature calls', leave your pack on the trail. This alerts the sweep to wait for you.

If in doubt about the difficulty of the hike, by all means, call the contact person in advance to discuss.



## THE SAULT STE. MARIE REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

*A Proud Landowner  
on the Voyageur Trail*

Come visit us at our Conservation  
Centre of Excellence



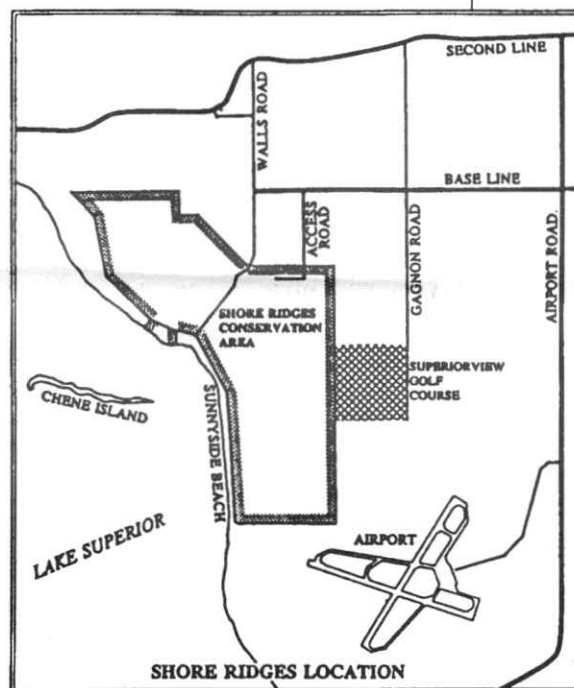
1100 Fifth Line E., Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.  
Ph. (705) 946-8530



## SHORE RIDGES CONSERVATION AREA

(cont'd. from page 4)

For just a walk in the fresh air or a day of adventure, Shore Ridges has something for everyone.



### Access Points:

1. West on Second Line Road (Hwy. 550), turn south on Walls Road, proceed east on Baseline and enter by Access Road. The approximate address of the Access Road is 2789 Baseline. Look for a brown sign about 8 m off the road to welcome you.
2. West on Second Line Road (Hwy 550), turn south on Walls Road proceed past the property, turn left on to Sunnyside Beach Road.
3. From Second Line (Hwy 550), head south on Goulais Ave., west on Baseline until the Access Road.

For more information on Shore Ridges or any of the other Conservation Areas, feel free to call us at (705) 946-8530, or visit us at 1100 Fifth Line East.



## BIG BEASTIES

by Patrick Capper

One of the fears of back packers new to the area is the fear of a bear attack. Although this is a real danger the chances are very small, especially along most of our trail which is so little used that bears haven't become attracted to the campsites as a source of easy food.

Therefore I was very interested in the account of a bear attack in the Feb/March 95 issue of Explore magazine. This happened in the far north by the Beaufort Sea. The two kayakers were asleep in their tent when one was disturbed by "a cuff to his forehead, followed by a low growl and claws driven into his right shoulder." This was followed by the bear seizing his foot in its mouth. The fellow kayaker finally located the gun and fired a warning shot through

the roof of the tent and scared the bear off. They attributed the attack to food odours in the tent from eating soup in the tent to get away from the flies. They never did see the bear but believe it was a polar bear and were lucky in not being injured severely.

Moose aren't normally dangerous but a 33 year old Norwegian skier was charged and knocked down by a moose 80 KM north of Oslo. The moose pinned her down in the deep snow with one hoof and kicked her with the other. She kicked and stabbed with the ski poles to no avail, then guessed that moose might be like horses and have sensitive noses, and stuck her thumb in one nostril and a finger in the other and pinched with all her might. The moose leaped away shaking its head and snorting furiously. This may be a very useful lesson for hikers if they are ever in similar circumstances.



## VTA LAUNCHES MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Members may be noticing copies of the new VTA brochure appearing in previously-unseen places. Thanks to a generous grant arranged through Hike Ontario, our Publicity Director has been organizing the distribution of 4000 brochures throughout Ontario and northern Michigan. The response to this membership drive is being closely monitored to determine its effectiveness. Past experience has shown that the best form of advertising is word-of-mouth. Thus, members are encouraged to talk it up with fellow workers and friends. Often, inviting someone to join you on a hike of your favourite trail is enough to hook them for life. That's what happened in my case, when Steve Taylor introduced me to the Tower Lake portion of the Echo Ridges Section back in 1983.

The Voyageur Trail Association welcomes the following new members:

**Association members** – Mike and Anne Olson, Toronto; J.L. Panagopoulos, Bellaire; Edith Garrette, Howland; Land of the Nipigon Water, Nipigon; Sue Thomson, Sioux Lookout; Stephen Crouchman, Wasaga Beach; Renea Weesner, Riverside, CA.

**Saulteaux members** – Barbara Campbell and Brian Seemayer; Denis Godin; Beth Hronek; Ralph Koehler; Art Osborne; Cassie Shirling; Anne Prichett; Dona Kyostia; Doreen Shaw and Brad Houle.

**Penewobikong** – Utters Island Resort; A. & W. van Roon. We also extend a hearty welcome back to former members who have renewed their memberships after a period of absence from the club.

Dr. Michael West, SSM (1985); Doris Welz, SSM (1992); Jill Leslie, Guelph (1991) and Daniel & Loretta Swezey, SSM (1986)



## HIKE ONTARIO NEWS

Hike Ontario is now located at 1185 Eglinton Avenue East, #411, North York, Ontario M3C 3C6

The WALKING CENTRE is staffed Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2-4 p.m. and Thursday from 6-8 p.m. It stocks guidebooks and hiking books, Fact Sheets, brochures from trail organizations and provincial parks and much other information. Call or drop by for more information. The telephone numbers are (416) 426-7362 or (800) 422-0552.

### What is Hike Ontario?

As the voice of hikers and walkers at the provincial level in Ontario, and the umbrella group for the long-distance trail associations, Hike Ontario works hard to promote walking, hiking and trail development in Ontario. Hike Ontario provides an information service for hikers, publishes a quarterly newsletter, organizes workshops and conferences on trail topics, raises hikers' concerns with the government, encourages university research on trail and landscape, promotes Ontario Hiking Day, works with sister organizations, and encourages and assists in the development of local trail groups.

As 1995 gets well underway, Hike Ontario continues to work on a number of projects and new initiatives. One project we are excited about is the recent completion and release of fourteen fact sheets about walking and hiking in Ontario. These provide information on various topics ranging from an *Introduction to Backpacking to Best Walking in Provincial Parks, Recommended Toronto Walks and Walking and Hiking Vacations in Ontario*. These sheets will be distributed to tourism offices across the province, and used to answer questions which come to the Walking Centre. The complete set of sheets is available at

the Walking Centre for just \$10.00, including postage.

Other projects in the works include developing curricula for hike leader training and trail maintenance training, and organizing international volunteer work vacations for trail development.

All these projects are happening because of the hard work and dedication of volunteers.

(Reprinted from Footnotes, Spring 1995)



## International Work Vacation on the Ganaraska Trail Tuesday Aug. 1, to Tuesday Aug. 15, cost \$125 per week.

There is something special about people who offer their time, skill and enthusiasm towards conservation projects; the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) is made up of more than 84,000 such people, many of whom travel around the world to help inspire others. During August 1995, there will be an opportunity for Ontarians to participate in a collaborative effort between Hike Ontario, the Ganaraska Trail Association and the BTCV in an International Working Holiday, staying at the Ganaraska Forest Centre. Projects will include improvement of the Pine Ridge section of the Ganaraska Trail, training in managing trail maintenance working groups and many opportunities to show the British visitors something about Ontario. The vacation cost of \$125 per week includes accommodation and meals. One or two cars may be needed, in which case car mileage costs will be paid. For more information contact the Hike Ontario Walking Centre.



## TRAIL MIX

Perhaps more useful in the long run is the news from Russia that their scientists have developed a bacteriological weapon against mosquitoes. Victor Khodyrev says the substance is effective over long periods and can destroy mosquitoes at all stages of their development.

One member claims you should never leave home without a spool of dental floss when hiking on your own on our trail. This is not a hygiene issue but a tool to prevent getting lost. When that next blaze is invisible you can tie the end to the last known part of the trail and then sweep around in the most likely direction spooling the floss out, which can then be used to find your way back to the trail. Of course, when you find the trail, you can still floss if you want to.

The Guidebook Committee of the Voyageur Trail Association is considering some job creation projects for 1995. These may include tasks such as trail enhancement, mapping, interviewing members, doing sketches of trail features and work processing. The Committee would like to judge the availability of currently unemployed VTA members, particularly those presently collecting Unemployment Insurance. Please contact Steve Dominy if you fall into this category.

## DONATIONS REQUIRED

We require wire coat hangers and newspapers for a pilot trail project. The hangers and newspapers (without inserts) can be dropped off at 118 River Road.

The VTA is also looking for white vinyl siding to be used as trail blazes. If you have any, or can get some, please contact Steve Dominy.

Members should carry their current membership card with them when hiking on the trail. Much of the trail is on private land, and hikers should be able to produce their card should a landowner question them.





## ONLY A BACKPACKER WILL UNDERSTAND...

*You know you were out on the trail too long when...*

You get up in the morning and start stuffing the blankets and sheets into your pillowcase.

You fire up your gas stove on the kitchen table to make coffee.

You wear the same clothes to work for the fourth day in a row.

You set off the fire alarm in McDonald's when you try to burn your toilet paper in the bathroom.

You meet someone in the hallway at work and ask them when they started and how far they are going.

At lunch with your co-workers, you ask the waitress for a Powerbar and some trail mix.

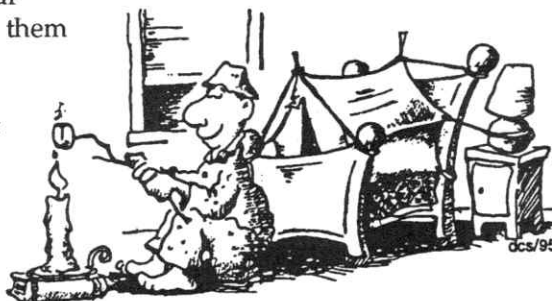
You stop, rinse out your bandanna and wash your face in the water fountain downtown.

You put a cup of sugar and two iodine tablets in the lemonade you are making.

After eating dinner, you lick your fork and spoon clean and throw them back in the drawer.

It starts getting dark outside and you pull out your flashlight and candle-lantern, in the living room.

You crawl into bed, pull up the covers and reach for the zipper.



Contributed by Ross McLean

from Hike Ontario *Outlook*

—(clip and mail)—

## ECONOMICAL ECOTRIPS'95



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See you on  
the trail!



## VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM (please print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov./State: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ (work): \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

**MEMBERSHIP FEES:** (January 1st to December 31st—fees paid after October 31st will be applied to the next membership year)

Adult.....\$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Family/Group.....\$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Student.....\$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Donations (tax receipt will be sent) = \_\_\_\_\_

Guidebook (member) \$5.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Guidebook (non-member) \$8.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Crest \$2.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Pin \$3.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt \$10.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ (size \_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_

Sweatshirt \$20.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ (size \_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheques payable and mail to:

**VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION,**  
P. O. Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd.,  
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada  
P6A 6W3

(cont'd. on back ➡)



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Editor: Virve Männiste Squire  
(705) 942-2370

Layout: Gayle Phillips



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 September 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!**

— ✂ — — — — — (clip and mail) — — — ✂ —

**DECLARATION:** I have read and will abide by the Trail User's Code. (signature) \_\_\_\_\_

### I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> trail development                 | <input type="checkbox"/> trail maintenance                    | <input type="checkbox"/> newsletter, guidebook, photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hike leader                       | <input type="checkbox"/> landowner liaison, records, maps     | <input type="checkbox"/> publicity committee                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> organization—executive, directors | <input type="checkbox"/> 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
<input type="checkbox"/> Thunder Bay	Thunder Bay V.T.C.	<input type="checkbox"/> Thessalon	Thessalon V.T.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Nipigon		<input type="checkbox"/> Iron Bridge	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Schreiber	Casque Isles V.T.C.	<input type="checkbox"/> *Blind River	Penewobikong V.T.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Marathon		<input type="checkbox"/> Elliot Lake	Coueurs de Bois V.T.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Pukaskwa National Park		<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Wawa	Michipicoten V.T.C.	<input type="checkbox"/> Massey	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Superior Provincial Park		<input type="checkbox"/> Espanola	Rainbow V.T.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Batchewana		<input type="checkbox"/> Little Current	
<input type="checkbox"/> Goulais		<input type="checkbox"/> Sheguiandah	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Sault Ste. Marie	Saulteaux V.T.C.	<input type="checkbox"/> South Baymouth	
<input type="checkbox"/> Echo Bay	Echo Ridges V.T.C.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sudbury	Sudbury V.T.C.
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