



# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

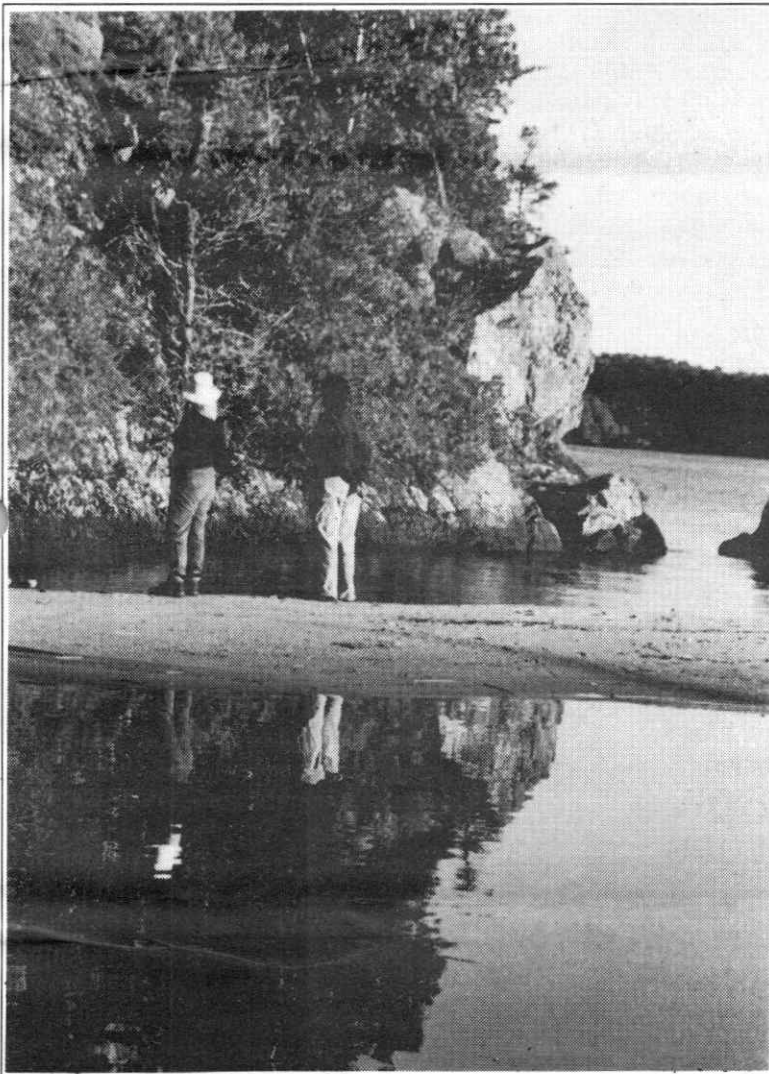
PUBLISHED BY THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

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

No. 60

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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 Saulteaux Section End-to-End hikes.**

*Photo by Virve Männiste Squire*

The Saulteaux 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 Voyager Trail and I suspect only a handful can claim rights to two or more sections.

As for the Saulteaux 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 Nassoiiy, Brian Williams, Dick McCutcheon and Delmar Ellis could all rightly claim Saulteaux end-to-end credits. I'm also sure that although Tom Allinson has probably spent more hours on the Voyager 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.

