



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

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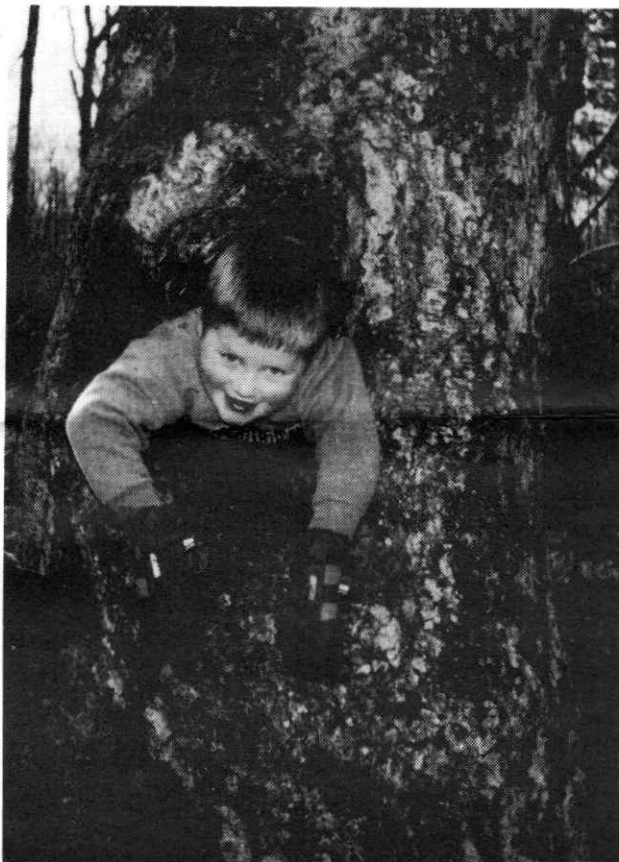
EDITOR: Virve Männiste Squire

FALL 1995

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Steve Dominy

It has indeed been a busy summer! The hot, dry weather didn't slow down activity by the VTA. In fact, it probably helped increase activity as there seemed to be fewer biting insects around than usual.

Efforts in the spring were focused on revitalizing Clubs in the eastern region. I presented evening slide shows in Blind River and Elliot Lake in May. Vice-President Dan Wheeler and Publicity Director Gayle Phillips attended both sessions. Several other Board/Executive members attended the Elliot Lake event. Objectives of the presentations were to increase awareness of the Voyageur Trail, and to try to attract new members to join and to encourage them to participate in the local Club, or revitalize a dormant Club. Attendance was 15-20 people at each event, with a high level of interest shown by the audience. The VTA display was erected and publications, tools, and equipment were put out on tables. Small door prizes were awarded to three lucky people each night. Two attendees participated the following day in a hike organized in conjunction with a Board of Directors meeting in the Espanola area. Attendees will be sent notices of the local Ontario Hiking Day (Oct. 1) event in their area, as a follow-up to the meeting.



Angus Bendeveridge checks out a tree, from the inside out!

Photo by Patrick Capper

These events provided a focus for some media coverage for the VTA. We received good publicity in the Blind River and Elliot Lake newspapers, and Gayle Phillips and I were interviewed by host Barry Mercer on the *Just After Four* show on CBC Radio (Sudbury). In addition, posters were put up around the local communities advertising the events. Combined with extensive distribution of the VTA brochure, and a week-long display in Station Mall in April, we are becoming better known around Northern Ontario. This is largely owing to the efforts of Gayle Phillips, who is doing a superb job.

In September, Gayle set up a display at the Tourist Information Centre in Sault Ste. Marie. Also, our mobile display will travel to Terrace Bay and Nipigon, in conjunction with publicity events in those areas. Despite these well-intentioned efforts, our best advertising will always be the word-of-mouth variety. The more members talk it up with friends and neighbours, the quicker our membership will grow.

Welcome to Ray Cormier who has volunteered to be our Sign Maker. We have been loaned a sign engraving machine (many thanks to the Canadian Forest Service), and Susan Graham has volunteered to find a space in her garage for it.

Ontario Hiking Day (Sunday, October 1) provides an excellent opportunity to invite prospective members out on the trail. This is the day when hiking organizations across the province make extra efforts to encourage the general public to explore the local trails in the company of knowledgeable hikers. Hikes are planned for a number of trail sections, so mark it down on your calendar.

Gayle Phillips was also instrumental in arranging another CBC interview in August. This time Dan Lessard interviewed Andy Rockall and myself

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(cont'd. from page 1)

on the *Just After Four* program. Andy was the British leader of the visiting trail blazers who constructed about 8 km of new trail in the Goulais River area (see "Blazin' Trails" article on page 7). He is a volunteer with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, an organization which has sent work parties in both 1993 and 1994 to help our expansion efforts. This year, the group was largely comprised of Southern Ontario volunteers, and I wish to extend sincere thanks to Jill Leslie of Hike Ontario for making the project possible.

The visiting work party achieved a couple of 'firsts' for the VTA. They blazed the first (and hopefully not the last) loop trail ever built by volunteers in our history. This is a pleasant walk through mature to semi-mature maple, birch and hemlock forest just south of the Goulais River (locally-known as the Mile Hill), and follows several old and newer logging roads, as well as some unroaded forest. The trail is a 'must do' in any season, although the views will be especially breathtaking when the leaves are off the trees. The loop is marked with yellow blazes, which we have decided on as a new standard. The second 'first' was the construction of a 32-foot section of pressure-treated boardwalk by this group. It was very educational to interact with this group and to see our trail through their eyes. Trails in the more populated areas face different challenges than we in the north, with overuse being a major concern.

The visitors certainly appreciated the spectacular scenery in the north, and commented on the warm hospitality provided by Chuck Peterson of Stokely Creek Lodge and members of the VTA. They commented that they would have enjoyed meeting more local VTA members. We will strive to encourage more locals to participate in future years (yes, Jill Leslie of Hike Ontario is already talking of organizing a return visit, and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) likely would include us in their schedule of international projects again, if asked).

Incidentally, for anyone interested in an international holiday volunteering on a conservation project, I encourage you to contact the BTCV. The 1995/96 brochure lists projects in 21 different countries (Canada is one of the most popular destinations!). The address is: International Conservation Working Holidays, BTCV, 36 St. Mary's Street, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 0EU, England.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Keeping the Association moving forward requires the commitment of a large number of volunteers. Many work behind the scenes, clearing a few kilometres of trail, serving on the phone committee, maintaining the tools, distributing brochures, performing secretarial or bookkeeping duties, and so on. Others have more visible roles. Each and every one who has chosen to devote a few hours to help out is invaluable to the organization.

We are an association of volunteers, and to help recognize the efforts of those who help out we have established the *Stephen (Steve) Taylor Volunteer Appreciation Award* (see details on page 6), in honour of our past president.

Nevertheless, volunteers come and go. This year Paul Syme was forced to resign as Landowner Liaison Officer for health reasons. Naomi Donat, who had offered to help Paul, accepted a job in B.C. This is a critical position which must be filled as soon as possible. Anyone with an interest in helping should contact a member of the Executive for details on the duties.

We also have openings for a number of Committee Members to help out on the Publicity and Guidebook Committees.

Keep in mind that volunteers don't have to be current members. If you know of someone who might be interested in volunteering with the VTA, please pass their name along to a member of the Executive.



THE VTA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

Saulteaux Section - Gail Farewell; Diane Hertz; Shawn Richards; Karen Brown & Randy Wilk; Jan Duggan; Dennis Gorsuch; Oli Hohmann; Mike & Cheryl Landmark; Rick Sherman; Elena Wentz; Christopher Aslett; Vicky, Janice & Fran Irving; Susan Kennedy; Gunnar Kristiansen; James & Janice Miller; Mary Beth Russ; Victoria, Mark & Stormer Santana.

Association - Terry Claydon, Scarborough; Debbie Gaines, Oakville; John Granton, Paris, Ont.; Pierrette Martin, Levack; Rene & Lisa Jansen, De Wal; Marion MacLeod, North York.

Elliot Lake, Coureurs de Bois Section - Mark Budker; Paul Fuller; Sabine Attelin; and welcome back to former members Oscar Mahlmann and Valerie Nolan.

Blind River, Penewobikong Section - Fred, Gladys & Herb Hinton (Happy Holiday Cottages).



THE HEAVEN'S GATE HIKE THAT WASN'T

by Patrick Capper

Perhaps going to Heaven is going to be very difficult judging by the difficulty of going through Heaven's Gate.

In preliminary discussions with the Anishinabe Spiritual Centre it appeared to be very practical for a group of Voyageur Trail members to backpack on the newly marked Heaven's Gate Trail between the microwave tower on Highway 68 and Fort La Cloche.



(cont'd. on page 3)

THE HEAVEN'S GATE HIKE THAT WASN'T

(cont'd. from page 2)

As correspondence and discussions continued it became clear that all the issues regarding the trail were not fully resolved and it was therefore prudent not to hike on the trail as originally planned. It is hoped that all the issues will be resolved by next year and a backpack trip is possible.

Therefore there was a quick change of plan and the group decided to backpack on the Lake Superior Provincial Park Coastal Trail instead. Nine hardy hikers met at the Trading Post on the morning of June 30th. By 11:30 we had spotted two trucks at Coldwater Creek, obtained camping permits and parked two vehicles at Gargantua and were crossing the creek on the bridge put in last year by the BTCV group. The weather was rather cool and there were quite a few showers. We found the trail easier to follow than the last time five of us had been on it in 1986; however, it is still a challenge to find the trail on some rocky sections, not helped by having some of the trail markers on horizontal trees rather than vertical ones!

We all learn lessons from backpacking. The universal one on this trip was that although it can be nice and warm in Sault Ste Marie, it can still be cold in the park. I was glad of my sub zero rated sleeping bag.

That night was spent at Rhyolite and as so often happens on these trips there is a lively discussion about

the natural wonders along the way. To set the record straight, the pamphlet on LSPG geology describes "Rhyolite as a unique rock formed from welded ash from an explosive volcano. It shows columnar jointing typical of slowly cooled volcanic flows."

It was always interesting to listen and learn from Dieter Ropke and Dennis Gorsuch on the different plants and birds. One interesting feature near the campsite was the layered spruce where the lower branches actually root in the thin soil. The next day the weather was a little better and significantly warmer as we made it to Beattie Cove. The rocks were still slippery, especially when covered with black lichen. Having misspent my youth hopping around on rocks I was less bothered by this than some of the shorter legged hikers, especially after a slip or two.



VTA Executive and guides on the Heaven's Gate trail near Espanola

overnight but footprints in the sand indicated a visit by a canine. We concluded that a coyote had passed by during the night.

That morning was an ideal day with mostly sunshine and not too hot and we reached the Baldhead River just after lunch, which was where we first met other people. Donna, Travis, Joan and Dennis camped there another night while Dieter, Erika, Jeff, Neil and I hiked up the Baldhead and reached Coldwater Creek about 3 o'clock in good time to drive back to Sault Ste Marie that night. As usual, I would like to give out awards to all the hardy hikers. This year I would also like to mention the lessons learned.

Jeff Hilderley gets the Rip Van Winkle award, as shortly after reaching camp he was fast asleep. Something about a late night was the excuse he gave. The lesson he learned was that you should be careful to whom you entrust your sole. One insole got slightly overcooked while he was away sawing logs. He also learned that it is

(cont'd. on page 4)



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The campsite at Beattie Cove was as beautiful as ever with the water level significantly lower than in 1987, as the little island was much easier to reach. I also discovered why water filters are useful. Soon after collecting water I walked past where I had collected water and found a dead otter washed up on the shore. The next morning there were no signs of bears

THE HEAVEN'S GATE HIKE THAT WASN'T

(cont'd. from page 3)

not wise to carry peaches for two days if you don't want to eat them.

Joan Belanger got the Early Bird award for being first up. She learned that pan handles can get very hot!

Dennis Gorsuch wins the Best Fishing Stories award for the fish he is about to catch. His lesson is that sleeping bags need careful attention as otherwise they get wet or disappear.

Travis Turcotte is awarded the Silence is Golden award. The lesson he learned is that soles can actually burn (in hell?)

Neil Capper's award is for the Most Interesting Conversations While Sleeping. He learned that sometimes, when fathers suggest taking a sweater, sons should pay more attention as on some rare occasions, fathers can be right.

Dieter Ropke's award is for the Best Stove. His stove had a little battery powered fan at the bottom and burnt short 1/4"-1/2" diameter sticks which is great for long backpacking trips in this part of the country. His lesson was that a sunglass case doesn't always contain sunglasses.

Erika Ropke gets the Cooking Award for the most ambitious meals, and she learned that clothes in a pack can still get wet.

Donna Weeks wins the Perseverance award for plodding on despite feeling exhausted. She learned that memory of a trail can fade in 8 years.

I have to give myself the Sawing and Clipping award for removing some of those twigs that tend to poke you in the eye, and for taking out a few windfalls that had come down since the trail was last cleared. The lesson I learned was that you should check all around the area before gathering drinking water.

As a postscript, I learned afterwards that Dennis *did* catch some fish in the Baldhead River and he *did* find his sleeping bag. It was interesting to see that each of us had our own favourite part of the trail, some liking the wonderful rock formations with others preferring the shaded forest trails or the scenic outlooks.



TRANS CANADA TRAIL UPDATE by Steve Dominy

Many members have been asking how the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) project fits with the objectives of our hiking trail. The TCT project has been widely publicized this year in newspaper inserts, advertisements in various media, and even videos on international flights. The goal of the TCT is to create, where feasible, a 5-metre wide multi-use trail from coast to coast to coast in Canada. The trail would be partially paved, and be suited to snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, horseback riding, and hiking. This is an ambitious project requiring many millions of dollars to complete. Funding is anticipated from private businesses, municipalities, and individual donors. The Ontario Trails Council is coordinating the TCT in Ontario.

The route through northern Ontario has yet to be selected. The TCT in southern Ontario will make extensive use of abandoned railway beds, and would like to do the same in

northern Ontario if one of the rail lines closes. They have not approached the VTA to make use of any part of our route; should they do so, trail use would remain restricted to hiking and possibly cross-country skiing. The VTA will continually monitor progress of the TCT and provide periodic reports to members.

The TCT is aggressively soliciting donations. As you know, the VTA is a registered charity, and provides tax-deductible receipts to donors. While donations to the TCT are not discouraged for those who support the concept, please also consider making a contribution to the Voyageur Trail. Our trail will form a major link in the National Trail. Founded in 1971, the National Trail aims to complete a coast-to-coast hiking path across Canada.



WATER WINDFALL WORLD by Patrick Capper

On August 5th four hardy hikers set out on what was advertised as a moderate to difficult brisk paced hike, and found that circumstances turned it into a difficult and unusually slow paced obstacle course.

The first sign of problem was when we drove up the east shore of Echo Lake and saw how many trees had fallen across the road during the July 15th wind storm and were grateful that the cottagers had already cleared them.

Our first problem was that the logging road along the north shore was very wet and many puddles had to be skirted or walked through. Although there was a big bridge built over the Echo River just below the dam, we didn't drive across as the road to it was blocked with a windfall. When we left the logging road and headed north away from Echo Lake, the trail went through an area where many small trees had fallen. We then had to do a balancing act on a

(cont'd. on page 6)



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OUTING SCHEDULE

SAULTEAUX SECTION

Sept. 30/95 (Sat.) Scheduled work party. Contact Alan Comfort at 945-9496 and let him know you can join in.



Oct. 1/95 (Sun.) CELEBRATE ONTARIO HIKING DAY

FOR FAMILIES: an easy 2 hour outing (rain or shine) on the trails near Glenview Cottages (Hwy. 17 N & 6th Line). Bring drinks, snacks and rain gear for your family. Meet at K-Mart Plaza parking lot, behind Red Lobster Restaurant at 1:30 pm sharp. Leader: Steve Dominy (946-2484).

FOR ADULTS: hike from Tower Lake to Gordon Lake, 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 at Market Mall parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Patrick Capper (253-4470)

Oct. 21/95 (Sat.) Scheduled work party. Contact Alan Comfort at 945-9496 and let him know you can join in.

Oct. 22/95 (Sun.) Join us for a hike on the 6 km. loop trail on the newly completed Goulais River Section. Easy afternoon stroll with spectacular views. Bring lunch and rain gear. The trail may be wet in places. Meet at K-Mart Plaza parking lot at 1:00 p.m. (behind Red Lobster). Leader: Tom Allinson (942-0768)

Oct. 28/95 (Sat.) All day hike from Havilland Bay to King Mountain, ending at Stokely Creek Lodge. About 12 km. This is a very demanding excursion, but hikers will be rewarded with spectacular vistas. *On King Mountain, a plaque commemorating Steve Taylor will be unveiled on this the 1st anniversary of his death.* Bring appropriate footwear and clothing, a hearty lunch and plenty of fluids. Car pool will leave from the K-Mart Plaza parking lot, behind Red Lobster, at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Steve Dominy (946-2484).

Oct. 29/95 (Sun.) Don't let the beautiful fall days go to waste. Autumn seems to be the most popular time to hike so join us again as we hike from Glenview Cabins to Horst Wetzl's cabin (approx. 8 km one way). Cars can be spotted at the end of Peoples Road (1 km to Horst's) or the top of Goulais Avenue (3.5 km further). Bring lunch and rain gear. Meet 10:00 a.m. at K-Mart parking lot (behind Red Lobster). Leader: Horst Wetzl (759-7656)

Nov. 4/95 (Sat.) Gales of November hike! Head out to the shores of Superior along the Red Rock section of trail. This easy hike follows the shoreline and returns the same route. Great for beginners! Bring lunch, rain gear and dress in layers for changing weather conditions. Meet 10:00 a.m. at Market Mall parking lot. Leader: Gayle Phillips (942-1891)

Nov. 18/95 (Sat.) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1995 Annual General Meeting will be held in the Algoma Board Room of the Civic Centre, Foster Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario beginning at 2:00 p.m. In addition to the usual brief reports to members, the first Volunteer Appreciation Award recipient will be announced. The meeting will be followed by a walk along the Boardwalk and to Whitefish Island (weather permitting).

Nov. 20/95 (Mon.) SAULTEAUX CLUB MEETING. Business agenda

7:00, general meeting at 7:30. Tonight, there will be a demonstration on preparing your skis for the winter. Bring your skis and base wax. Sault Conservation Authority Sugar Shack, Fifth Line. Contact Virve Männiste Squire for more information at 942-2370.

Dec. 5/95 (Tues.) The Voyageur Trail will be closed all day.

Jan. 1/96 (Mon.) Annual New Year's Day outing led by Patrick Capper. The location of the hike/ski/snowshoe outing will be determined just prior to Jan. 1 as weather conditions will be the deciding factor (Remember last year's green Christmas?). Leader: Patrick Capper (253-4470)

Jan. 15/96 (Mon.) SAULTEAUX CLUB MEETING. Contact Virve Männiste Squire for more information at 942-2370.

Jan. 20/96 (Sat.) Snowshoe hike in the Red Rock area. Dress in layers and bring a hearty lunch. Meet at Market Mall parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Gayle Phillips (942-1891)

Jan. 27/96 (Sat.) Ski outing in conjunction with the Sault Naturalists to McNearny Lake. For more information, call the Leader: Chuck Bosley at (906-248-3287)

NOTE TO LEADERS: Please report back to the Newsletter editor a brief summary of the day. Details might include number of participants, age range, interesting anecdote, duration and/or follow up social.

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). **THE HIKE LEADER HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANYONE NOT PROPERLY ATTIRED.**



WATER WINDFALL WORLD

(cont'd. from page 4)

couple of logs over the creek and had a short easy hike along a logging road until we reached an area with four trees across the trail. It looked as though the parallel logging road would be an easier route, but it proved to be very wet with many windfalls that we had to clamber over. We finally got to the stream crossing and decided to return on the marked trail, the start of which had a beautiful 15-18" diameter pine tree which had fallen straight down the trail. There were several other trees that had fallen in different directions in the same area. It would have been very frightening to have been in the area when the storm was bringing all the trees down. The main trail had many more windfalls but no worse than the route we had come on and the trail was a lot drier than the previous route. We were grateful we had not attempted to hike right through to the Garden River bridge as it would have taken much too long. I managed to give a good test to my Goretex socks and was the only one with dry feet at the end of the day.

On the drive back we saw several sandhill cranes in one of the fields and a bear cub at the side of the road through the Garden River Reserve. We all were a little stiff when we got out at Dairy Queen to get some refreshments.



FROM THE MAILBAG:

Following are excerpts from a letter sent by long-time member Jack Smit of Elliot Lake.

"If the [Voyageur] Trail is to be safe and successful, I feel both a once a year brushing and extending to meet Tobermory are the only way to go. By considering trail work in spring and fall mostly light to medium gardening work, it falls well within the comfort-safety-enjoyment zone of horticultural clubs and newly retired seniors. By tackling the easy accesses and going at a gardener's pace, the above-mentioned groups could do a high percentage of the

trail. The strength of a chain is in its weakest links. If some clubs are strong and some less so, a mobile crew that enjoys overnight backpacking could handle the difficult but challenging and enjoyable sections. A reporting method whereby hikers carrying packs could alert whether: a) the trail is in good shape, or b) the trail needs work. This idea, of course, is not new and is already part of the Voyageur Trail philosophy. Still, club members should be repeatedly told that by hiking and reporting on the trail they are doing is as important a job as those cutting new trail. Feedback is the only way to know where the work has to be focused. Luckily, a toasted cheese sandwich, a pot of tea, and the enjoyment of the outdoors all come cheap. By choosing good weather, an exploration like this is fun. Telling the local club of a new beaver dam or other observation is part of the discovery process, as well as being a vital part of updating the trail status."



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS - VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

At the May, 1995 Board of Directors meeting held in Espanola, a decision was made to initiate an annual award to recognize the outstanding efforts of a VTA volunteer. The award will be named The Stephen (Steve) Taylor Volunteer Appreciation Award, in honour of our past president. Nominations from members for the 1995 award recipient will be accepted up until October 27. Please convey nominations to any member of the Executive. The award will be presented at the Annual General Meeting in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario on Nov. 18, 1995 (see details on page 5).



ONTARIO HIKING DAY

Once again, the first Sunday in October (Oct. 1) has been designated Ontario Hiking Day. Hike Ontario, the umbrella organization for hiking organizations in the province, has provided colourful posters with which clubs can advertise their events

to the local people. The idea is to entice non-members on a pleasant outing on trails in their area, as a means of promoting the Voyageur Trail and hiking in general. Please participate in your local outing, and bring along some friends. See pages 5 & 8 for details on hikes along the Voyageur Trail route.



TRAIL MIX

In anticipation of the release of the 3rd Edition of the Guidebook, the Voyageur Trail Association has again received a grant from Mountain Equipment Co-op in the amount of \$5,000.00 to cover the cost of equipment and supplies for improvements to the Trail. We thank MEC for their generosity and encourage all our members to continue to support Mountain Equipment Co-op.

Congratulations to Judy Falkins for her two 3rd Place finishes in the Lake Superior Provincial Park Photo Contest. It was wonderful to see that her photo of VTA HIKERS lunching on the Coastal Trail rocks won in the People in the Park category. *Keep that camera clicking Judy!*

This past hiking season has been very successful in terms of number of hikers heading out. Our first hike of the season in April was attended by more than 30 hikers. The group split into two, with one group heading into the bush and wandering about in the area north of Gros Cap while the other group headed out with children to hike the North Section.

Two weeks later, 22 hikers showed up to hike the Hiawatha Highlands trails on the Conservation Authority hike. Of these hikers, 9 were children, the eldest being Kelly Duggan at 12 years of age, and the youngest was 3 month old Liam Ortiz, very comfortable in Mom's Snuggli.

The next day, over 30 hikers came to hike

(cont'd. on page 7)



TRAIL MIX

(cont'd. from page 6)

the Stokely Section. They were not disappointed and perfect weather allowed fabulous views from the top of the Robertson Cliffs. We continued on with the group quite spread out, the result being that only 5 of us made it to the top of King Mountain, with the rest of the hikers somewhere on the trail below us. We found pockets of snow in the ravines and canyons, resulting in a couple of very good snowball fights. The day was long, but the perfect weather and beautiful trail made it a day to long remember.

The annual Mother's Day hike was again well attended, despite the rain which fell for most of the hike. With the wood stove burning, Horst Wetzl's cabin was dry, toasty and very welcoming.

Another glorious day greeted us as we put away our hiking boots and hopped on our bicycles in early June. Dieter and Erika Ropke led us on a terrific bike tour around Gordon Lake. They even managed to find a lunch location with very few bugs. The highlight of the day was watching Patrick Capper on board his very unique bicycle (see photo on page 9).

In July, 10 hikers met in the rain and headed up to Lake Superior Provincial Park to hike the Coastal Trail between Sinclair Cove and the Barrett River. Although the skies threatened all day, the rain stayed away as we climbed over the slippery rocks (many of us imitating crabs). This is one of the most beautiful sections of the Coastal Trail and a recommended "must do" section.

On August, 9 hikers again headed out in wet weather to hike the trail north of Tower Lake. The rain stayed away, but the overgrown underbrush made sure we were all quite wet by the time we finished. Although at times quite arduous, everyone seemed quite pleased at the end.

This has been one of the most successful hiking seasons and shows no sign of ending soon. Rain or shine,

our members continue to hike our trail. What more could we ask for?

CORRECTION: It was mistakenly reported in the Spring 1995 newsletter that Lake Superior Provincial Park was no longer maintaining the Coastal Trail. In fact, the Park is continuing to maintain all existing trails.

Just a reminder to all members that donations to the Voyageur Trail Association are tax deductible.

The new VTA guidebook is well in the works. Members are advised not to order any more guidebooks as the new ones should be available in the new year.

Members are asked to report to the trailmaster on any section they have recently hiked. Feedback, positive or negative, will assist our trailmaster in preparing for work parties or hike outings. Please call Alan Comfort (945-9496) with any trail information you have.



EDITOR'S REPORT

Due to work commitments, my hiking season has come to an abrupt end - far too early, for autumn is my favourite time of the year to hit the trails (no bugs, cool, fresh days). I am now asking members to report on outings. Write down your thoughts of any hike you were on and submit it to the Newsletter. All submissions are welcome, and usually all submissions are printed. Also, any information pertaining to hiking, be it a new piece of equipment you have obtained, or a favourite recipe for trail snacks, please pass it on. This is *your* newsletter and we need your contributions. Enjoy the fall and winter, and I hope to see you on the trails again in the spring.



BLAZIN' TRAILS

by Lori-Ann Mitchell,

Corporate Communications Student, Seneca College

Wanted-No Experience Necessary: Adventurous, hard-working, conservation minded individuals, who want to vacation in Northern Ontario. *Sound interesting?*

In late August, a team of eight men and women from Britain and Southern Ontario took a holiday in picturesque Northern Ontario, a work holiday. Led by Andy Rockall, a volunteer from Britain, these adventurers spent their vacation blazing and clearing trails in the Stokely Creek area just north of Sault Ste. Marie.

Organized in part by Hike Ontario and the Voyageur Trail Association the crew spent four and one half work days carving eight kilometres of trail. Upon completing this section, hikers will be allowed to travel from Goulais River (north of Sault Ste. Marie) to Highway 108 (south of Elliot Lake).

Most importantly, this section includes the first loop trail to be built solely by outside volunteers.

Another stellar accomplishment by the hard-working volunteers was the completion of a 32 foot boardwalk made from pressure treated lumber. This will allow hikers a safe, dry, uninterrupted passage as they make their way through the newly blazed trail.

"The help from outside volunteers to build the new trail has been tremendous," says Steve Dominy, President of Voyageur Trail Association.

"It's hard enough maintaining the trails we have. We really need more people to get out and use the trails we already have."

A successful work holiday requires many

(cont'd. on page 8)



BLAZIN' TRAILS

(cont'd. from page 7)



key elements. First, a dedicated crew is needed. One that is willing to work on untamed trails with their only restitution being their gratification of seeing the trail completed.

Local support is also important. For instance, accommodations for the holiday were generously donated by Chuck Peterson from Stokely Creek Lodge and the Voyageur Trail Association donated tools and lumber.

"The Voyageur Trail Association put forth a great effort. They were well organized and supportive," said Jill Leslie a representative of Hike Ontario.

"Support from the local club is key to a successful work holiday."

These 'work holiday-ers' volunteer for this type of vacation for many reasons. Some believe travel should be educational, others believe in conservation, while most just want to see Northern Ontario.

"People get different things out of

these work holidays and they all come for different reasons," explains Andy Rockall, an 11 year veteran of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

"It's not completely work orientated. It's suppose to be fun. It is a holiday!"

After a long day of slashing, building and blazing, the crew enjoyed their beautiful surroundings by swimming at nearby Harmony Beach, canoeing down the Goulais River, hiking in Lake Superior Provincial Park and taking a climb up to Robertson Cliffs.

So next year when you are planning your summer vacation, consider a work holiday or call Hike Ontario to help clear a trail. Whatever you decide, be sure to take a hike on the Voyageur Trail!

A personal message to our volunteers: Thanks again for all your hard work and we promise that we will use the trail!



The Work Holiday-ers!

(left to right):

back row:

Anna Tilman (Aurora),
Jill Leslie (Guelph),
Sarah Jackson (Suffolk,
England),
Andy Rockall (Bristol,
England),
Jeff Comer (Cobourg).

front row:

Karen Sabourin
(Bramalea),
Hugh Carey (Listowel),
David Platt (King City).

OCTOBER 1st is

*Ontario
Hiking
Day*



To find out about a scheduled hike in your area, call in:

BLIND RIVER-Dan Wheeler
(705) 356-1195

WAWA-Peter Stinnisen
(705) 856-4270

TERRACE BAY-Dean Main
or Mike Moore
(807) 825-9721

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

WANTED:

Saulteaux Club members to help design and build a Santa Claus Parade float for the Voyageur Trail Association in Sault Ste. Marie in early November. Please call Gayle Phillips, VTA Publicity Director at 942-1891 if you have ideas!



LOOK what's happening at Hiawatha Lodge II!

Hiawatha Outdoors Market...

Sundays 10 am to 4 pm. Market features artists, craftspersons, collectors, etc. Special designated area for groups wishing to sell garage sale items (\$5 per table).

Sunday Pancake Buffet...

every Sunday in the Hiawatha Lodge II Restaurant 10 am - 2 pm
Scrumptious Finnish Pancakes (crepes), sausage, bacon, homefries, syrups, sauces, salads—all you can eat for only \$4.95!

FOR INFORMATION CALL 949-9757



Patrick Capper preparing for his 500 mile bicycle trek through Southern Ontario & Michigan

Incredible!



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 •)



VTA EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT

Steve Dominy (705) 946-2484

VICE-PRESIDENT - WEST

Peter Stinnissen (705) 856-4270

VICE-PRESIDENT - CENTRAL

Susan Graham (705) 949-4105

VICE-PRESIDENT - EAST

Dan Wheeler (705) 356-1195

TREASURER

Dieter Ropke (705) 942-9636

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Ian Morrison

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Patrick Capper (705) 253-4470

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

Gayle Phillips (705) 942-1891

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Alan Comfort (705) 945-9496

LANDOWNER LIAISON:

vacant

HIKE ONTARIO REPRESENTATIVE:

Patrick Capper (705) 253-4470

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(705) 942-1891



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 January 1, 1996.

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

- ☐ Thunder Bay
- ☐ Nipigon
- ☐ *Schreiber
- ☐ Marathon
- ☐ Pukaskwa National Park
- ☐ *Wawa
- ☐ Lake Superior Provincial Park
- ☐ Batchawana
- ☐ Goulais
- ☐ *Sault Ste. Marie
- ☐ Echo Bay
- ☐ Desbarats

Club

- Thunder Bay V.T.C.
- Casque Isles V.T.C.
- Michipicoten V.T.C.
- Saulteaux V.T.C.
- Echo Ridges V.T.C.
- Desbarats V.T.C.

Section

- ☐ Thessalon
- ☐ Iron Bridge
- ☐ *Blind River
- ☐ Elliot Lake
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Massey
- ☐ Espanola
- ☐ Little Current
- ☐ Sheguiandah
- ☐ South Baymouth
- ☐ Sudbury

Club

- Thessalon V.T.C.
- Penewobikong V.T.C.
- Coueurs de Bois V.T.C.
- Rainbow V.T.C.
- Sudbury V.T.C.