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VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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THE VTA JOINS THE WORLD WIDE WEB!

by Gayle Phillips

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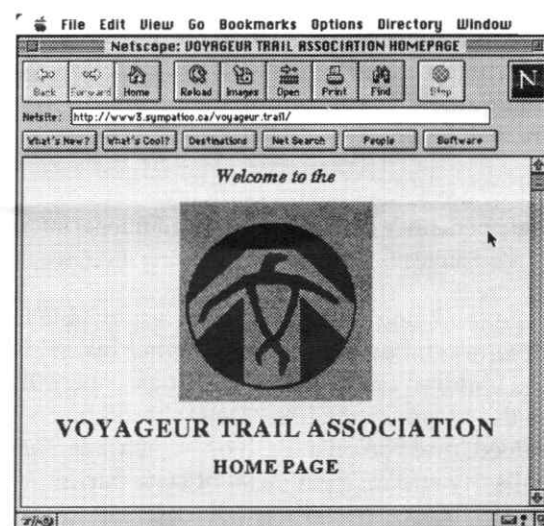
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The Voyageur Trail Association has made the jump to the information superhighway! The VTA now has a web site on the internet at <http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail>. Along with the web site is an e-mail address: voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca

More and more people turn to the internet when planning their vacations and when relocating to new areas. Our presence on the internet will hopefully stir some interest in areas that presently have no organized clubs.

When I designed the site, I surfed the web to find out what works and what doesn't work. I quickly found out what I *didn't* like—a lot of slow-loading graphics, links that didn't go anywhere and unclear link names. In our web site, the first window that opens has our philosophy, street address and e-mail link. From there you can select any of the other seven windows: map, membership, code, schedules, clubs, favourites or newsletter.

The map shows an overview of existing and proposed trails. From the membership link, a prospective member can join the club by printing a membership form and mailing it with a cheque to the VTA. The Trail Users' Code comprises the next link, called code. Under schedules, the outings planned by clubs are posted. In the clubs link, all of the towns and cities along the proposed route are listed. Updates will be posted regularly on the contacts for organized clubs in each area. Where an organized club doesn't exist, an appeal is made to anyone living in the area who might wish to start one.



The link that I hope VTA members will find helpful is the favourites link. From here, browsers can visit Hike Ontario, other Hike Ontario trail associations with web sites, interesting 'hiking' places, web sites for each of the towns and cities along the proposed route of the Voyageur Trail and others.

I've also introduced a section for VTA members who have web sites, no matter what their business. I thought it would be interesting to see what businesses our membership is in! Anyone who is on the web, and would like to advertise their web site is welcome to submit their address for consideration.

With the release of this newsletter, I added a newsletter link to our web site with "tidbits" from the VT News.

Anyone wishing more information, can contact me at (705) 942-1891 or send e-mail to: voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca. All comments are welcome!



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HELP WANTED: The Voyageur Trail Association has two vacancies on its Executive. If you can volunteer for the Trailmaster or Membership Secretary position, please contact Larry Gringorten at (705) 949-7953.

VTA OUTINGS AND DOGS *by Susan Graham*

At the Voyageur Trail Association Annual Meeting in November, the membership discussed whether dogs should be permitted on organized outings. We'll maintain the current policy of allowing individual clubs to implement their own rules concerning dogs and inform members through a newsletter article (perhaps annually).

We also plan to discuss updating the Trail Users' Code at the next VTA executive meeting. Here is the proposed wording concerning dogs on the VT: "Keep dogs under control (on a leash if necessary) and follow your regional club guidelines concerning their control." Your comments are welcome.

Below are some general guidelines for dog owners taking their pets on VTA outings. (For additional information on VTA's Saulteaux Club rules concerning dogs, see the article right.)

In general, dog owners must be responsible for their pet at all times and be considerate of other hikers. Some adults and children are frightened of dogs, especially dogs excited by the prospect of a hike. Dogs should be on a leash, and indeed, must be on a leash on some trails, for example, trails in national, provincial or state parks.

There are times, however, when a dog on a leash would cause the owner to lose his or her balance, for example, crossing slippery rocks and streams. While the dog is loose, ensure the animal does not knock someone else over! Also, be aware dogs can scare any wildlife that may be around, or perhaps get into trouble with a skunk or porcupine.

Dogs must be on their leash and out of reach of others' lunches at mealtime.

"Poop and Scoop" is the requirement when a pet defecates on the trail.

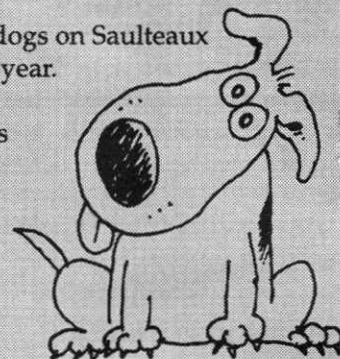
Owners should be prepared to take their own vehicles, as some people don't want dogs in their vehicles.

If you are planning on taking your dog on an outing, have some consideration for the terrain and the dog's physical limitations. Dogs often have difficulty walking in deep snow, so they tend to stay on ski tracks, where they jeopardize themselves and skiers. If dogs defecate along the ski trail, it can be a real problem for the skiers that follow!

On snowshoe outings, dogs tend to walk on the back of snowshoes. Also, it is difficult to ski or snowshoe with a dog on a leash. For these reasons, dog owners may want to consider a separate romp in the snow with their dog.

Dogs and the Saulteaux Club

We have had a number of dogs on Saulteaux Club outings over the past year. Since there had been no information regarding dogs given to new members, there were some questions and complaints from dog owners and other hikers alike. We hope to remedy this by sending a welcome letter to new members mentioning the basic considerations for bringing dogs on outings.



The VTA's Saulteaux Club will allow hike leaders to decide whether dogs are permitted on the hikes they lead. For information on whether dogs are permitted on an outing, contact the hike leader. When possible, information on whether dogs are permitted on a given outing will be published in the newsletter.

If the hike leader permits dogs on an outing, the animal should be on a leash until the hike is underway. Then, provided the outing is not in a park that prohibits loose dogs, those wishing to let their dog off lead can move to the front (just ahead of the leader).

Very often, the happiest hikers are the dogs who go bounding along the trail, tongues and tails going furiously. Let's work together to accommodate them.

DOG BISCUIT RECIPE

Courtesy of Pat Platt

3 cups all-purpose flour
3 cups whole wheat flour
2 cups bulgar or cracked wheat flour
1 cup corn meal
1/2 cup instant non-fat milk powder
4 tsp. salt
2-3 cups chicken broth or water
Milk

Preheat oven to 300 degrees F. Mix flour, corn meal, dry milk powder and salt. Add 2 cups broth and mix well, with hands. Continue adding broth, if necessary, until mixture is the consistency of bread dough. Roll out to 1/4-inch thickness on a lightly floured board. Cut with cookie or dog bone cutter. Place on ungreased baking sheet. Brush each biscuit lightly with milk. Bake 45 minutes, then turn oven off and leave biscuits overnight. (If you find the biscuits are too soft, you can bake them longer.) Makes 3 1/2 dozen.



If you are having a problem with a dog on an outing, please mention it to the owner. It is most likely there is a simple solution.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT: MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS, MUCH WORK

by Larry Gringorten, President

During 1996, the Voyageur Trail Association achieved a number of major projects – everything from promoting the club to improving the trail. Here are the highlights:

- **Surveyed members and landowners on a wide range of issues concerning policy and direction of VTA activities;**
- **Established a VTA information hot line;**
- **Published several new brochures—*Voyageur Hiking Trail, Tips for Outing Leaders* and *Trail Cleaning Guidelines*;**
- **Published the new, revised *Voyageur Hiking Trail Guidebook*, a high-quality, comprehensive guide that's earning the VTA kudos from other hiking organizations; and**
- **Hosted, for the fourth year, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. Along with southern Ontario and VTA volunteers, the BTCV refurbished 28 kilometres of trail. The visit was publicized by the media, including interviews by the CBC and *Sault Star*.**
- **Developed a VTA web site.**

In addition to these major projects, VTA work parties organized by member clubs in the spring and fall continued the effort at trail reclamation. The 23-km trail in the Elliot Lake section was cleared this summer, thanks largely to the work of local VTA members and two volunteers, George Krause and Delmar Ellis, from southern Ontario.

Grants and material support for VTA projects this year were obtained from Mountain Equipment Co-op, the Shell Environmental Fund, the Laidlaw Foundation, Human Resources Development Canada, Clean North and Natural Green.

1997 Projects

Two new trail projects are scheduled for 1997. In honour of its 100th anniversary, Prince Township will construct a trail in the Gros Cap area, tied into the Voyageur Trail system. The Prince Township Centennial Trail is an initiative of the township's recreation committee.

The second trail, spearheaded by Neil Ray, will run between Haviland Bay and Harmony Beach. There may also be an opportunity to establish a new VTA club in the area.

A third project, proposed by the tourism office of the Thunder Bay Corporate Services Department, is the construction of a trail from Thunder Bay to the Minnesota border. And last, there's discussion underway about a trail from Thunder Bay to Nipigon (See Guidebook Update, page 8).

Many Activities

There was a notable increase in the number of participants on scheduled hikes this year, with numbers often reaching the mid-twenties for Saulteaux Club hikes. A record number of members also completed this year's series of end-to-end hikes in the Saulteaux Section.

Ontario Hiking Day was celebrated with three hikes, one in Wawa, one in Thessalon and one in Sault Ste. Marie, specially geared to families with younger children.

Promotional activities continued at the energetic pace set last year by our publicity director, Gayle Phillips. Slide shows and poster displays at local and regional community events were carried out by Gayle with the help of Mike Landmark, including participation in the Federation of Ontario Naturalists Annual General Meeting and Conference this past May. A 400-word article on the Voyageur Trail prepared by Steve Dominy and Gayle Phillips was published in the *Sault Star* in a special supplement devoted to National Forest Week.

Membership Needs Boost

As a counterpoint to these achievements, there were also some unsettling developments that should be dealt with in the coming year. VTA membership (families or individuals) remains static at 175 and consists primarily of Saulteaux Club members.

Both association and club programs continue to operate from a very small volunteer base, and it is a constant struggle to recruit new people to serve in executive positions. Both the VTA trailmaster and membership-secretary positions are now vacant, as a result of recent resignations.

Two clubs, Penewobikong (Blind River) and Coureurs de Bois (Elliot Lake), have become inactive, as they are no longer being served by an executive. To some extent this was offset by the recent affiliation of the Land of the Nipigon Waterways Development Association with the VTA: the new 8.2-km Nipigon River Recreation Trail is now part of the Voyageur Trail system.

There is a pressing need to find solutions for injecting life into VTA regional clubs outside Sault Ste. Marie. We also need to broaden the VTA's base of volunteer support. As 1997 begins, I encourage you to make a difference in the association. You can help by joining work parties, volunteering for special projects or serving on the executive. (Next Executive meeting is Saturday, Feb. 22, 9:30 a.m., Great Lakes Forestry Centre.)



A TRAIL OF YOUR OWN *by Susan Graham*

Have you given any thought to adoption? That is, adopting a section of trail that you would maintain. There are a number of advantages to doing this, both to the member and to the Voyageur Trail Association.

Members can work on their adopted section of trail at their leisure. That may be an afternoon or evening for a couple of hours, or a full day. Many people prefer this type of trail maintenance to club-organized work parties. You may want to enjoy the solitude or enlist the help of fellow VTA members, family members or friends.

Members that have adopted a section of trail will have VTA tools available to them. You may want to keep a pair of clippers at home. Should major work be required along your adopted section, you can request help from an organized work party.

The VTA benefits from adopting out designated sections of Voyageur Trail. Fewer work parties need to be organized and the adopted sections will have work done on them over the course of the year. As well, the members familiar with the section can answer any questions or lead a hike.

If you adopt a section of trail, try to walk it early in the hiking season to assess what work it needs and request help if necessary. Generally, re-blazing, clipping small branches and removing debris annually will go a long way in keeping a section in decent shape.

If you decide to give up your adopted section, please inform the trailmaster.

The VTA will post signs in 1997 indicating adopted sections and the name of the individual or group who is responsible for that section. If you hike an adopted section and notice work that needs to be done, you can call the appropriate person to let them know or call the trailmaster.

Many thanks to all the members who have volunteered to maintain sections of Voyageur Trail. Here is a list of who has adopted what section:

Tom Allinson Trail

- Saulteaux trail to Lake Superior: Richard McGorman and Austin Youngson
- Lake Superior to Red Rock Road: Tom and Gail Allinson

Saulteaux Section

- Gros Cap to Airport Road: Mike and Cheryl Landmark

- Airport Road to Creek Road: AVAILABLE
- Creek Road to Maki Road: Susan and Cliff Graham
- Maki Road to Goulais Avenue: James Behtke
- Goulais Avenue to Old Goulais Bay Road: Horst Wetzl
- Old Goulais Bay Road to West Branch Root River: Alan Comfort
- West Branch Root River to Highway 17 North: Steve and Karen Dominy
- Highway 17 North to Mabel Lake: Don McGorman

Northern Extension

- Old Goulais Bay Road to Highway 17 North (not including along Old Goulais Bay Road): Patrick Capper
- Robertson Lake Road to Taylor Creek: Kathy Briscoe
- Taylor Creek to King Mountain summit (including side trail to peak): Mario Festival
- Walker Lake to Highway 17 North: Goulais Venturers
- Echo Ridges - kilometre zero to Echo River: Alan Comfort (this becomes effective when the new trailmaster is appointed)
- One Horse Lake Road to power line: Gerry Kennedy and Dave Healey
- Power line to Peter Lake: John and Donna Kelso

The "Far East"

- Tower Lake to 0.5 km east of Thessalon River: Mark Harvey
- 0.5 km east of Thessalon River to km 19.4: Dieter and Erica Ropke
- Kilometre 19.4 to end of Desbarats section: John Keast

To Be Assigned

- Doreen Shaw and Brad Houle want to adopt a section in the Bruce Mines area
- Mike McGrath wants to maintain trail in the Echo Ridges section.

These will be assigned in the spring of 1997.



FREE ADS FOR LANDOWNERS!

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LAKE SUPERIOR FRONTAGE LOTS FOR SALE

A hop, skip and a jump from the Tom Allinson Spur Trail, lots are for sale in the Pebble Beach/Red Rock cottage area:

- Located on the road to Access No. A2 in the Saulteaux Section of the *Voyageur Hiking Trail Guidebook*.
- Less than one half hour's drive from Sault Ste. Marie.
- Road is accessible in summer only, but year-round access road will be completed this year.
- Rocky shoreline.

For more information, call
Madeleine Skouris at (705) 945-9525.

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ONTARIO HIKING DAYS TAKE THE HIGH TRAIL

by Pim Delfgou

With a weekend full of activities, Ontario Hiking Day on Oct. 6 could have been more aptly named Ontario Hiking Days.

I chose to join two back-to-back trips on cliffs. Virve Squire led the Saturday, Oct. 5 outing on the Robertson Lake cliffs to look at the fall colours north of town and check out the peregrine falcon boxes.

After we shuttled vehicles to Stokely Creek Ski Lodge, we set off from Robertson Lake Road. Right off the bat, it was tough going for the trail immediately began a long, steep climb. One soul couldn't make it up and that left 13 climbers when we topped the hill.

While the colours were flat with overcast weather conditions, the views from the three lookouts were spectacular over the Goulais Valley. We saw the peregrine falcon hack boxes on the brink, a reminder of Project Falcon. Ministry of Natural Resources staff reintroduced the dive-bombing birds to the cliffs after the birds were nearly wiped out in the 1960s from DDT in pesticides. The falcons were poisoned when they preyed on contaminated animals.

The trail dipped through a canyon on Taylor Creek and picked up a ski trail from Stokely Creek. After following it for a kilometre, we turned on to a fire tower road that went up the west peak of King Mountain. This trail had served the King Mountain Fire Tower until it was taken down in the late 1970s.

Just before the top, we left the fire tower trail and came onto the overlook over the ski area. Space was limited on the rock where we settled down for lunch. I took a few photographs and checked out the Steve Taylor Memorial plaque. Once we finished eating, we descended via another ski trail. The Voyageur Trail shared this path until it crossed Stokely Creek and went on to the ski lodge.

While I waited for the drivers to retrieve their cars parked at Robertson Lake Road, I went behind the lodge to check out some waterfalls.

The next day, Mike Landmark organized a trip east to Thessalon (see story on page 9).

Both outings were enjoyable despite the steep climbs. Incidentally, Steve Dominy led a hike in Kinsmen Park for Ontario Hiking Day that tackled some hills around Crystal Falls.

Thanks go to Virve and Mike as well as Ute Kissau for the hospitality at Limberlost Lodge.



Eyesore up in smoke

Four Voyageur Trail Association members improved the view from King Mountain recently.

The group, Cheryl and Mike Landmark, Larry Gringorten, and Dieter Ropke, disassembled and burnt a collapsed hut on King Mountain in November. Besides burning the rotten wood, the group picked up a large number of nails, joist hangers and other metal.



The venture was endorsed by Chuck Peterson of Stokely Lodge. Thanks to the efforts of all, the magnificent view is now restored to its pristine setting.



OUTING SCHEDULE

This ambitious schedule was put together early in January and may have last-minute changes from time to time. Please call our Information Hotline at (705) 253-5353 or 1-800-393-5353 (where available) and select message No. 9999 to check and see if any details of the outing have been changed. This Information Hotline is updated regularly and will have the latest news on the next planned outing. The schedule is also on our web site. Visit: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail>

Saulteaux Club

(Sault Ste. Marie and area—outings marked with an asterisk are outside Sault Ste. Marie)

Sunday, Feb. 2-Bushwhack Skiing

Join us as we ski at Gros Cap. Meet at the Market Mall parking lot at 10 a.m. sharp. Bring water, a lunch, and dress appropriately. Behaved pets welcome. Leader: Mike Landmark (705) 779-3409.

Saturday, Feb. 8-Volunteering

Bon Soo Children's Snowshoe Event. We could use help as we again strap snowshoes on children and give them their first snowshoeing experience as part of Bon Soo's Family Day activities. Hours are noon to 3 p.m. Due to the nature of this get-together, please leave your pets at home. Call Susan Graham at (705) 949-4105.

Sunday, Feb. 16-Bushwhack Skiing

Join us as we ski to the "canyon" behind Peoples Road. Meet at the Market Mall parking lot at 10 a.m. sharp. Bring water, a lunch, and dress appropriately. Behaved pets welcome. Leader: Horst Wetzl. For more info, call Gayle Phillips at (705) 942-1891.

Friday, Feb. 21-Moonlight Ski and Snowshoe

It's the night of the full moon and we will take advantage by having a moonlight snowshoe/ski outing at Gros Cap. Refreshments to follow at the Landmark residence. Meet at the Market Mall at 7 p.m. Behaved pets welcome. For more info, call Mike Landmark at (705) 779-3409.

***Sunday, Feb. 23-Long Snowshoe**

Join us as we snowshoe the proposed new route for the Voyageur Trail



between Harmony Beach and Haviland Bay. This is a distance of approximately 12 kilometres, so it is not for the faint-of-heart! Bring water, a lunch, and dress appropriately. Behaved pets are welcome, but please bring a leash for the two highways we must cross. Meet at the K-Mart Plaza at 9:30 a.m. sharp. Leader: Neil Ray (705) 649-0874.

***Saturday, March 1 & Sunday, March 2 - Weekend of Bushwhack Skiing, Snowshoeing and Ice Fishing**

Interested in a weekend snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and ice-fishing at Snowshoe Camp near Thessalon? See the article on page 8. For info, call Mike Landmark (705) 779-3409.

***Sunday, March 9-Bushwhack Skiing**

Join us as we ski to the Pictographs in Lake Superior Provincial Park. Bring water, a lunch, and dress appropriately. Meet at the K-Mart Plaza parking lot at 8:30 a.m. sharp to car pool. Please leave your pets at home. Leader: Patrick Capper (705) 253-4470.

Saturday, March 15-Bushwhack Skiing

Join us as we ski in the west end of town. Bring water, a lunch, and dress appropriately. Meet at the Market Mall parking lot at 10 a.m. sharp. Please leave pets at home. Leader: Tom Allinson (705) 942-0768.

Monday, March 17-Meeting

Saulteaux Club Bi-Monthly Meeting at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre at 7:30 p.m. This month's theme is "green" in honour of St. Patrick's Day. We will have videos on the Shell Oil situation and we encourage you to bring along your "green" tips to reduce, reuse and recycle. For more info, call Susan Graham at (705) 949-4105.

Saturday, March 22 and Sunday, March 23-Display

We will have a table at the Sault Ste. Marie Great Outdoors Show. If you can volunteer a couple of hours, call Gayle Phillips at (705) 942-1891.

Sunday, March 23-Family Snowshoe

Join us on a short, family snowshoe, for beginners or small children. Meet at the K-Mart Plaza behind the Red Lobster Restaurant at 1 p.m. sharp. Afterwards, warm up with refreshments at the Grahams' residence. Please leave your pets at home. For more info, call Susan Graham (705) 949-4105.

Saturday, March 29-Bushwhack Skiing

Join us as we ski at the end of Peoples Road with Horst Wetzl. Bring water, a lunch, and dress appropriately. Meet

(Continued on page 7)



OUTING SCHEDULE

(Continued from page 6)

at the Market Mall parking lot at 10 a.m. sharp. Behaved pets are welcome. For more info, call Gayle Phillips at (705) 942-1891.

Sunday, April 6-Bushwhack Skiing

Join us as we ski at Gros Cap. Bring water, a lunch, and dress appropriately. Meet at the Market Mall parking lot at 10 a.m. sharp. Behaved pets welcome. Leader: Mike Landmark at (705) 779-3409.

Saturday, April 19-Annual Dinner

Saulteaux Club Annual Dinner at the Alpen Hof Restaurant, 674 Great Northern Road. Tickets are \$17.50 per person and are available by calling Susan Graham at (705) 949-4105, or filling out and mailing the enclosed form. After dinner and elections, Dr. Paul Syme will give us a slide presentation about his summer 1996 trip to the Yukon.

Sunday, April 20-Clean-up Hike

Join us as we do our part for Earth Day and clean up a section of trail. Call our information line at 253-5353 or 1-800-393-5353 and select message No. 9999 closer to the date of the hike for the outing location and meeting place. Due to the nature of this outing, please leave your pets at home. Leader: Steve Dominy (705) 946-2484.

Sunday, April 27-Trail Maintenance

Join us as we kick off another season of trail cleaning on the Voyageur Trail on our annual "Go To Blazes" day. Location of this year's work party will depend on conditions. Call the Information Line at 253-5353 or 1-800-393-5353 and select message No. 9999 for more info closer to the date.

Saturday, May 3 and Sunday, May 4-Overnight Beginner's Backpacking

If you have always wanted to try backpacking, this is your chance. Join us on an overnight beginner's backpack from Marshall Road to Red Rock camping area. We will have a

meeting with participants before the event to discuss equipment and supplies. For more info, call Mike Landmark at (705) 779-3409.

Sunday, May 11-Mother's Day Family Hike

Join us on our annual Mother's Day Hike on the Voyageur Trail from Goulais Avenue to Peoples Road culminating with a hot dog roast at the Wetzl homestead. Meet at 10 a.m. sharp at Market Mall. Behaved pets welcome. Bring water and dress appropriately. For more info, call Gayle Phillips at (705) 942-1891.

Sunday, May 18-Day Canoe Trip

Canoe the Crystal Creek from Trout Lake to Thayer's Acres with Don McGorman. Departing on the water from Trout Lake Resort at 10 a.m., this one-day canoe trip involves several hours paddling on lakes and ponds, five portages (three 40-metre portages, one 400-metre portage and one 150-metre portage), as well as, beaver dams. Participants must have canoe,

paddles, lifejackets, lunch, water, etc. We will coordinate vehicles so that some will be parked at Thayer's Acres. NOTE: For those who do not wish to attempt the two longer portages, there is the option of canoeing back to the starting point after our lunch stop on Crystal Lake. For more info, call Cynthia Suhay at (705) 949-3642.

Saturday, May 24-Trail Maintenance Outing

Call our information line at 253-5353 or 1-800-393-5353 and select message No. 9999 closer to the date to find out the location and leader.

Monday, May 26-Meeting

Saulteaux Club Bi-Monthly Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre on Queen Street East. The topic for this month's presentation will be advertised on the Information Line at 253-5353 or 1-800-393-5353 and select message No. 9999 prior to the date.



To Our Landowners:

We won't let another minute of the new year go by without saying "thank you" to our public-spirited landowners. We are grateful for your continued support and wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous 1997!



GUIDEBOOK UPDATE

by **Steve Dominy**

Sales of the third edition of the *Voyageur Hiking Trail Guidebook* have been brisk, particularly before Christmas. Many people are discovering the Voyageur Trail as a result of the guidebook, which is quite encouraging.

There is particular interest from Thunder Bay in starting a regional club.

There are two groups interested in pursuing different goals there. One group would like to work towards Nipigon, and the other would like to push towards the Minnesota border. The Voyageur Trail could eventually join the North Country Trail on the south side of Lake Superior, creating a circle route. However, there's no doubt the VTA should concentrate on completing and maintaining the northern side.

There is only one minor change to report in the guidebook, around kilometre 38 of the Saulteaux Section (page 76 of the guidebook). There are now two sets of steps installed near Glenview Vacation Homes. Many thanks to land-owner Jim McComb for building the second set, which has greatly improved the trail.

Several new dealers have been added to the list where non-members can buy a guidebook or members can buy additional gift editions.

The book is now available for \$25 from Pickwick Bookstore, Clean North, Dunn's Authors, and The Trading Post in Sault Ste. Marie, the Travel Information Centres in Wawa and Blind River, the Blind River Public Library, Lake Superior Provincial Park office, Pukaskwa National Park office, Take a Hike in Thunder Bay, and Mountain Equipment Co-op in Toronto.

We continue to seek additional outlets in other communities, so please call Steve Dominy at (705) 946-2484 if you know of any.



It's tax time again. Looking for a good tax shelter? Remember: gifts to the Voyageur Trail Association are tax deductible.



TRADITIONAL KAYAK-BUILDING COURSE

Naturally Superior Adventures will be sponsoring a 10-day traditional Greenland-style kayak building course from April 19 to 28.

The course is being given by Mark Rogers of Superior Kayaks Inc. Mark has studied extensively on his own and with Svend Ulstrup, one of Europe's most accomplished skin kayak builders. Each boat is built using traditional methods and materials and according to the personal dimensions and requirements of the builder. No special woodworking experience is necessary.

Naturally Superior Adventures is also offering a variety of outdoor workshops including Outdoor Leadership (March 7-8), Basic Survival (May 9-10), and Outdoor Education (May 23-24), in addition to our regular 36-Foot Voyageur Canoe and sea kayak programs.

For more information about any of these programs call/fax David Wells at (705) 856-2939 or email: dwells@onlink.net



SNOWSHOE CAMP

Interested in a weekend to snowshoe, cross country ski or ice fish? Mike and Cheryl Landmark have organized a weekend outing March 1 and 2 at Snowshoe Camp near Thessalon.

The cost is \$130 plus tax per cabin for Friday and Saturday (or \$65 plus tax for just Saturday). Cabins have two bedrooms and sleep four people. There is a 10 per cent discount for VTA members.

As well, there will be a buffet supper available at the main lodge on Saturday for a cost of \$12 plus tax per person.

Here are more details:

- No running water or indoor toilet facilities.
- Bring a warm sleeping bag.
- Road is plowed.
- Five-kilometre walk into camp for the adventurous.
- Behaved pets are welcome.

If you would like more information, contact Mike Landmark at (705) 779-3409.



THE LIMBERLOST EXPERIENCE by Mike and Cheryl Landmark

The trails of Limberlost Lodge, about 30 kilometres north of Thessalon on Highway 129, were the setting for one of the Oct. 6 Ontario Hike Day activities.

The turnout for the hike was great. We had 20 people and four dogs, with the participants coming from both the Sault Ste. Marie and Thessalon areas. The weather co-operated wonderfully, with plenty of sunshine and warm temperatures.

The hikers gathered at the Tunnel Lake Trading Post about nine kilometres south of Limberlost Lodge, and were met there by Ute Kissau, co-owner of the lodge, and her dog, Sasha.

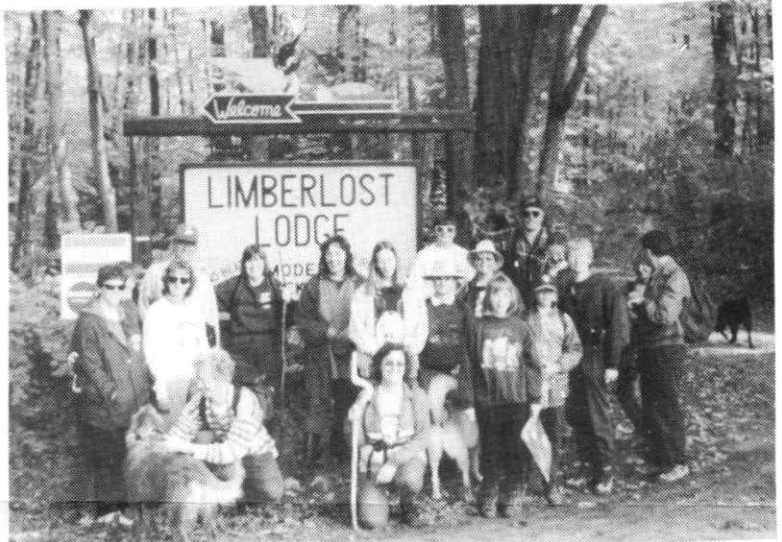
The day of hiking began with a gradual but fairly substantial climb to the top of Rock Candy Mountain overlooking Cummings Lake (photo below). The view from the top was spectacular, even though the fall colours were not quite as beautiful as they normally are at this time of year. There are several lookouts on top of the mountain, providing numerous opportunities to enjoy the sweeping panorama of Cummings Lake and the adjoining Tunnel Lake.

After spending some time on top of the mountain, we climbed back down and drove a little further along the highway to a gravel pit where we spotted a couple of vehicles. Then, we continued to Limberlost Lodge itself, where the hikers chowed down on well-earned lunches. Ute and her husband, Larry, kindly offered cold lemonade and hot coffee.

The lodge on Chubb Lake boasts a wonderful sand beach.

Lunch over, we started off on one of the Limberlost trails that begins just behind the lodge and winds its way to the back end of Chubb Lake where a smaller lake called Little Chubb Lake adjoins the bigger one.

The trail is approximately three kilometres long and is



Participants pose at trailhead.

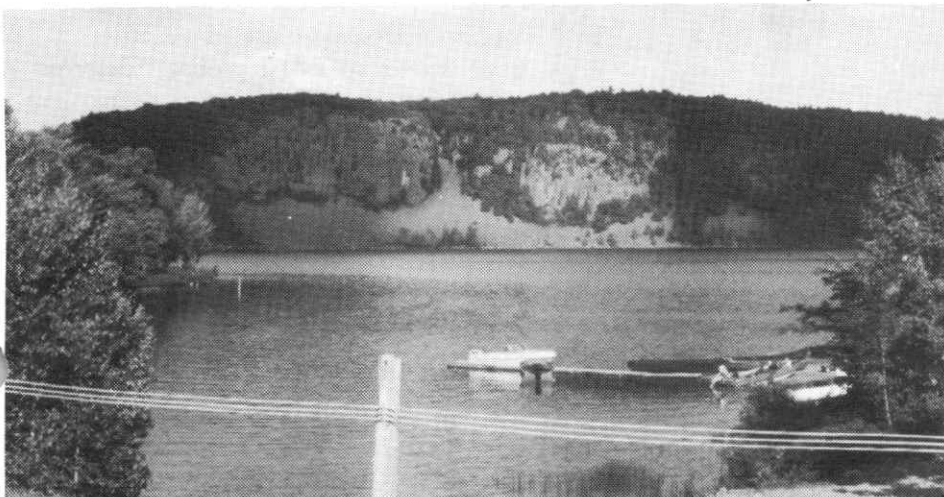
well-maintained and quite wide, providing opportunities for hikers to walk side by side and carry on conversations. Of course, there are some low-lying areas, which were a little wet, but we hardy northern hikers are used to that sort of thing and took it all in stride!

Ute and Larry have also made the trail into an educational experience by posting signs on the various tree species along the trail and inviting hikers to guess what kinds of trees they are. Ute informed us that the trail is also used as a cross-country ski trail in the winter and no snowmachines are allowed on it.

After a rest break at the end of the trail at Little Chubb Lake, we headed back towards the lodge. Approximately halfway along the trail, another trail heads south for about 1.5 kilometres towards the gravel pit where we had spotted the vehicles earlier. Thirteen people and three dogs elected to continue towards the lodge and seven people and one dog took the trail to the gravel pit. Again, the trail is wide and well-maintained by Larry and his trusty Argo.

Everyone met back at Limberlost Lodge to socialize a bit at the end of the hike and to enjoy some more of Ute's lemonade before heading home. The rain decided to hold off until we had almost reached Sault Ste. Marie.

All in all, we are certain that everyone who attended the hike will agree it was quite enjoyable and worth repeating in the future. We wish to thank Ute and Larry Kissau for a wonderful experience and for introducing us to the hiking pleasures north of Thessalon.



ENDER BENDER

by Pim Delfgou

Fourteen people and two dogs from the Voyageur Trail Association's Saulteaux Club (including yours truly) earned the distinction of completing the 1996 end-to-end outings covering the VT's Saulteaux Section.

We started off on the section between Gros Cap and Airport Road. To avoid making the long uphill climb near the Gros Cap end, we reversed the direction of travel, starting from Airport Road.

Although the going was moderate, we had an interesting obstacle. After lunch, we had to cross a paintball range by Superior Paintball! As it turned out (fortunately), no one was battling it out.

The second installment had us walk east from Airport Road to Camp Korah near the top of Goulais Road. The trail passed some nice waterfalls and lookouts along the way. We stopped at one overlooking Third Line for lunch, hoping that a bear Susan Graham saw on a previous work party wouldn't emerge to swipe anyone's food.

The trek was easier from there as much of the trail followed old roads and equestrian trails from Bar X Ranch. We came out at Nettleton Lake where the weather managed to hold off before the skies unloaded the rain on our return trip to the city.

The third section ran from the top of Goulais Avenue to Glenview Cottages. With a river and gravel pit to cross, this part was hillier and wetter. Nevertheless, there were by now 14 contenders to do all end-to-end sections. We had lunch at Horst Wetzel's cabin and made a short side trip to see Steve Taylor's memorial built on the hill behind Horst's cabin. The Root River was low and made crossing straight forward. We stopped at a giant white pine before arriving at Glenview Cabins and the end of the third section.

We did the last section Sept. 29. That took us from the highway to Mabel Lake via Kinsmen Park and Thayer's Acres. The trail became quite swampy past Thayer's Acres, coupled with several streams resulting in wet feet. The lunch stop at Mabel Lake was cut short by a down-pour and hence, we carried on to the end of the Saulteaux Section.

When we reached the sign, we exchanged congratulations with the 14 people (and two dogs!) to have done the Voyageur Trail's entire Saulteaux section. From there, we came out on Connor Road and made our way out of the bush and to the Gateway Restaurant for our "Ender Bender" social.

There have been rumours about a wintery version on skis. Time will tell when and if one will take place. In the meantime, congratulations to all those who completed the entire Saulteaux section.



Congratulations to our 1996 and past Saulteaux Club End-to-Enders! (Clockwise starting back row on left) Paul Syme, Frank Brooks, Bill Robinson, Pim Delfgou, Patrick Capper, Gail Allinson, Betty Nassoiiy, Tom Allinson, Mike Landmark, Gayle Phillips, Cheryl Landmark, Anne Prickett and Linda Badowich.

Absent from photo are Evelyn Simon, Chuck Bosley, Bev Scott, Gale and Garry Koteles, Ernie Pringle, Alan Comfort, Delmar Ellis, Virve Männiste Squire and Horst Wetzel.



ORDERING TOPO MAPS

Need a topographic map? The Voyageur Trail Association has offered 1:250,000 and 1:50,000 topographic maps for sale to members and others for approximately one year at a cost of \$9 per map.

Originally, the VTA's policy was to accumulate orders and place a bulk order three times a year. This probably deterred some people from ordering maps, particularly if they needed them on short notice. However, the policy minimized handling charges paid to the Canada Map Office.

Recently, the VTA Executive decided that more frequent orders should be placed. Should you require a map on short notice, there may be an additional handling charge if it's the only map order needed at the time. For more information or to place an order, call Steve Dominy at (705) 946-2484.

