



No. 68 WINTER 1998

Published by the
VOYAGEUR TRAIL
ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 20040
150 Churchill Blvd.
Sault Ste. Marie Ontario
P6A 6W3

e-mail address:
voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca

INFORMATION LINE
705-253-5353 or
1-800-393-5353
(where available)
Select message No. 9999
on your touchtone phone

Visit our web site at:
<http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail>



INSIDE

Outgoing President's
Report..... 2

Casque Isles Club
News..... 3

Volunteer Awards..... 5

Outing Schedule..... 6

Michipicoten Club
News..... 7

And much, much more!

VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

PLEASE RENEW
MEMBERSHIP

EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT BY: Gayle Phillips

SILVER JUBILEE!

by Cheryl Landmark

*1998 marks the 25th anniversary of
the Voyageur Trail Association!*

The Association would like to encourage ALL member clubs to help celebrate this special silver milestone by planning an activity or series of activities. This could be anything from a weekend hike/get-together hosted by each club, to an official ceremony marking the opening of a new section of trail, unveiling of a new sign, etc. The details would be up to the local club.

In order to allow maximum participation by members from other clubs and the general public, these activities could be staggered throughout the forthcoming year. To assist the clubs, the Voyageur Trail News will advertise these events. The Jubilee committee and V.T.A. Editor require from you the date(s) and ideas for proposed activities before February 15, 1998.

Also, a special Jubilee edition of the newsletter is planned to be issued sometime during the summer of 1998. Ideas and submissions are encouraged and welcomed. You can help make 1998 a very memorable year!

Please contact the Editor at
<cheryl.landmark1@sympatico.ca> or
(705) 779-3409, or the publicity director
at <voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca>.



*On a sad note...long time Voyageur
Trail Association member,
Tom Allinson passed away in
October 1997. Tom was extremely
active in the Saulteaux Club area
building and maintaining trail and will
be sorely missed. See pages 4 and 5.*

1998 VTA EXECUTIVE

No nominations were put forth at the annual Board and Executive meeting held on November 15, 1997. Aside from three positions (President, Trailmaster and Membership Secretary) which were left vacant at that time, all other Board members agreed to stay on for another term.

Vice-President (West) is Peter Stinnissen, Vice-President (Central) is Mike Landmark, Vice-President (East) is Dan Wheeler, Treasurer is Dieter Ropke, General Secretary is Ian Morrison, Publicity Director is Gayle Phillips, Landowner Liaison is Jack Donald, Hike Ontario Representative is Patrick Capper, Guidebook Committee Chair is Steve Dominy, and Newsletter Committee is Cheryl Landmark (Editor) and Gayle Phillips (Layout).

Since the meeting, Frank Brooks has volunteered to be Trailmaster and Virve Männiste Squire has agreed to take on the position of Membership Secretary, starting in January.

That leaves the President's position still open. If you are interested in this position, contact the Nominating Committee at <voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca>, or call Gayle Phillips, (705) 942-1891, Jack Donald (705) 942-1761, or Neil Ray (705) 649-0875.



OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S REPORT *by Larry Gringorten*

After two years in the president's chair, I can look back with much satisfaction on numerous achievements by our volunteers. In my view, the best indicator of the overall success of the VTA has been the increase in hiking activities and the marked increase in participation by both members and the general public in these events. No doubt, this has been driven in large part by all the profile-raising activities of our publicity director, Gayle Phillips, central vice president, Mike Landmark, and guidebook editor, Steve Dominy. Notable among these activities have been their participation in trade shows, the establishment of the web site, e-mail and information phone line, and the issue of the new edition of the trail guidebook. In fact, the guidebook was so well received and sales so brisk that a second printing is required.

The startup of the new Harmony Club, reactivation of the Casque Isles Club, affiliation of the Land of the Nipigon Waterways Development Association with the VTA as an association member were other notable success stories.

New trail construction is up and, at the far western end of the trail, the Thunder Bay Tourism office has also expressed interest in establishing ties with the VTA and extending the trail. All in all, our house appears to be in order and the future looks good.

Nevertheless, I cannot shake an uneasy feeling that there are problems that could seriously undermine this rosy picture.

The turnover in membership has kept our numbers pretty well at the same level that it was 10 years ago and our volunteer base has remained quite small. The untimely death of Tom Allinson, one of our most dedicated and stalwart members, and the retirement of others from active participation in VTA activities have left a void that will be difficult to fill.

With a few notable exceptions, the executives of both the VTA and Saulteaux Club still consist of "recycled" volunteers. The elections at the last annual board meeting left positions either filled by the same persons by acclamation or vacant. Sensing the slight reluctance of some of those who volunteered to serve again, I wondered if the VTA was at the beginning of a downward spiral out of existence.

As a result of the expiry of my own term, the VTA is now without a president (a VTA bylaw, as well as new family commitments, prevent me from accepting a new term as

president) and the president of the Saulteaux Club has now expressed a wish to step down. If you have read this far, please consider yourself cordially invited to contact anyone on the executive to volunteer to help run this worthwhile association. We need new blood or one day it may be "last one out, please turn out the lights."

An unfortunate issue that developed during the last two years has been the necessity for the VTA executive to concern itself with liability insurance. In this increasingly litigious society, we have had to face up to the reality that both the association and its volunteers require protection from potential lawsuits. This has not only contributed to past fee increases, but has now also forced us to reassess the family/group membership fee and consider requiring participants to sign a waiver form at all VTA outings. The present insurance policy provides the necessary protection to VTA and member club executives, official volunteers and all hikers who are individually registered as VTA members, but not to others in a family or group, unless they have registered separately. The result has been the necessity to do away with our single-tier fee structure and impose an additional fee of \$3.50 for each family/group member who wishes to be officially registered as a VTA member and have the liability protection. The only saving grace is that it is optional and participants in VTA events can waive this insurance coverage if they wish. There was no other way to deal with the issue and keep costs to members to a minimum.

And so, I leave with guarded optimism and the hope that someone will step forward to take over the reins as president of the VTA as it begins its jubilee anniversary year.

(Oh, by the way, I volunteered to be vice president of the Saulteaux Club.)

See you on the trail.

Happy hiking.



Clean your house or apartment the economical, environmentally-friendly way with a pressurized dry steam system and non-toxic, biodegradable, enzyme-based cleaning solutions!

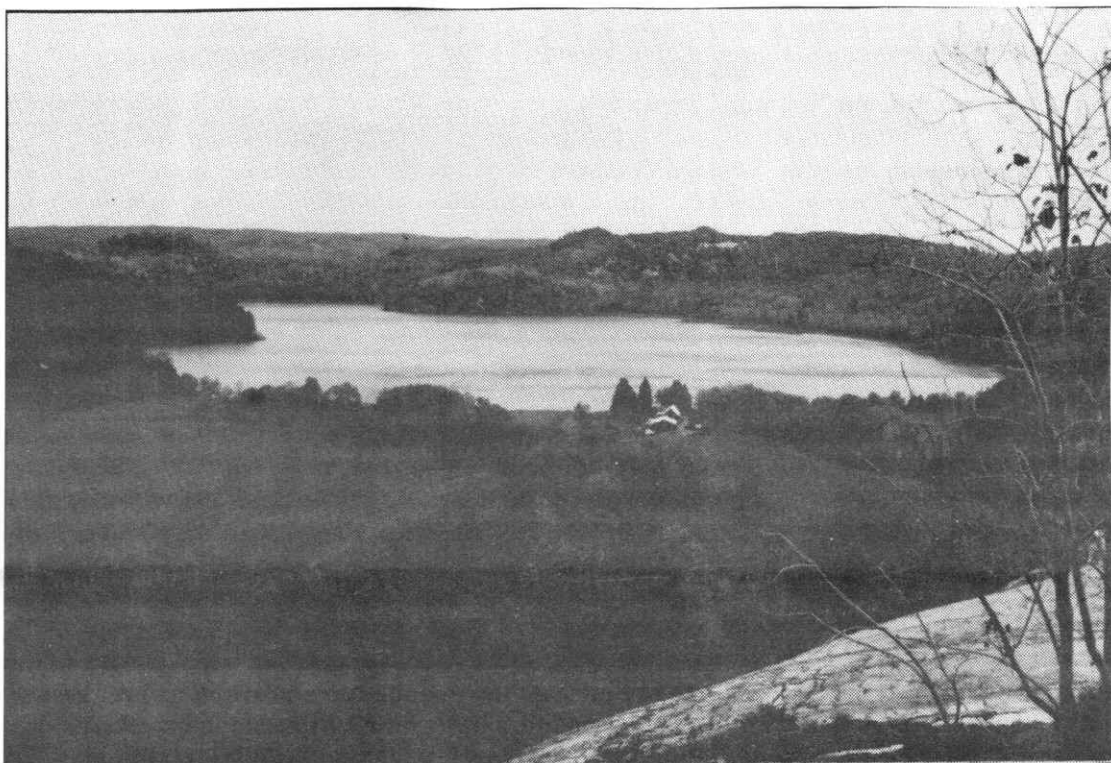


J B ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING
Call (705) 949-9560 for an estimate.



WHO WON? Whoever renewed their membership by January 1st, 1998 is eligible to win a beautiful piece of handmade pottery by Erika Ropke. Watch for the announcement of who won in the April edition of the **VTA NEWS!**

An Ontario Hiking Day bird's-eye view from a lookout on the Desbarats Section of Voyageur Hiking Trail



ONTARIO HIKING DAY FAMILY OUTING

by **Steve Dominy**

On Sunday, Oct. 5, 1997, the fall colours in the Sault area were at their peak. The temperature was quite comfortable, and the absence of black flies and mosquitoes did not go unnoticed. It was under these conditions that a group of Voyageur Trail members gathered at the Market Mall parking lot to embark upon a 6 km. stroll along a portion of the Saulteaux Section. The participants ranged in age from just less than two to well beyond. The toddler was of course carried most of the way, but when on the ground demonstrated a great fascination with flowing water and cliff edges (Dad couldn't take his eyes off her for a minute). Three other youngsters in the 6 to 8 age range expressed a keen interest in dried puff ball mushrooms, and proceeded to poke at or step on every one they saw, often creating a cloud of spore dust. Leaf collections were also the order of the day. As for the four adults, they enjoyed lively and varied conversations. Topics included hiking, camping, canoeing and kayaking stories, and general "get-to-know one another" exchanges. A light rain shower near the end of the hike did little to dampen the pleasant experience. The one-way trip was felt to be a good way to explore the trail from Red Rock Road to Creek Road. The two lookouts were well worth the detour. However, the highlight of the day, at least for the little kids, was a stop at the donut shop on the way home.



CASQUE ISLES CLUB NEWS

by **Mike Scott**

We decided to hold a few events in the winter months, but have not determined dates yet. We want to do a snowshoeing event followed by a chili potluck after. We will plan our next meeting for March.

The Town of Terrace Bay found some extra money in their recreation budget which they decided to donate to the club. There were two conditions—one, that we use the money exclusively for trail maintenance and possible extension, and two, that we submit a report to the town council about what we did with the money. The amount is \$1,900. Deposited with the \$350 from the original Casque Isles club that Lorne Burke signed over to me when he left, we have a pretty healthy bank account. Dean Main suggests that we use the money from the town to hire a contractor to go through the entire trail, removing deadfalls, stumps, and brush, and putting up new blazes where required. I think it sounds like a good idea, and a good way to quickly get the trail back in excellent condition from start to finish.

I reminded everyone to either renew VTA memberships, or get them. Hopefully in March we'll be able to have elections. In the meantime, I have been declared Acting President, so that's a start to an executive, anyway. The last newsletter for 1997 should be out soon.

For more information, call (807) 824-2052, or e-mail to msscott@Schreiber.Lakeheadu.Ca.



TRIBUTES TO TOM ALLINSON *by Gayle Phillips*

I was at a convention in Toronto when the word reached me—Tom Allinson had passed away on his section of Voyageur Trail with his wife, Gail, and good friends by his side. My whole busy world suddenly came to a standstill. Tom, more than anyone else in the VTA had influenced and quietly encouraged me to develop my “bush” and “leadership” skills. Tom, Gail and Betty Nassoiy were the first people to greet me and introduce themselves at my very first VTA function, an annual meeting in 1993.

Tom took me “under his wing” as he has with so many of us. He tried his best to teach me bushwhack skiing and always said, “The more you do it, the better you’ll get.” That first winter, I spent many memorable moments with Tom, Gail and Betty flinging myself from tree to tree.

He was an example of the perfect outing leader. Someone you literally trusted your life with. It seemed that no matter what type of “emergency” popped up, Tom would pull something out of his pack that would fix it. His directional skills with a map and compass were impeccable. And in his own way, he taught me many things about being hike leader. He showed how leaders should always be “aware” of how participants were making out, especially new members—always watching for fatigue signs. He would find an ‘excuse’ to stop for breathers if he could see someone was struggling, so the person would not have to admit to himself, or others, that maybe the outing was a bit too much at this point.

Tom tried to instill in us that we always have to be aware of our surroundings, even if we weren’t leading. Many times, he would allow us to pass by turns in the trail because we were too busy talking to notice the markers. Then he would gently chide us, “Has anyone noticed anything?”

He had a great sense of fun and humour. Last fall when we were hiking the Tom Allinson Spur Trail, we were lucky enough to actually see the beautiful bull moose that has taken up residence on the Spur Trail. The moose loves the trail so much, we were following his tracks the whole way from Red Rock Road to the beach. Tom told us that he had “hired” the moose to walk the trail, “since no one else uses it!”

And of course, he pointed out that the “social” aspects of the hike were as much a part of the outing as the rest. We always stopped for a “Dutchie” at the nearest coffee shop on the way home.



Tom Allinson doing what he did so well—bushwhack skiing.

No one knew the trail like Tom. Every old cabin had a story, every bush road was explored fully.

His thirst for knowledge was remarkable. He was always taking some class or other. In his early 70s he bought himself a computer and went on the Internet! My favourite comment was when he told a group of us that “women have already secretly taken over the world” because every class he took was full of women and the men were “at home lying on the couch with a remote in their hands”.

Tom was a unique individual, whose presence and friendship will be sorely missed by those of us who knew him. But, his spirit will remain with us for a long time, as we hike the trails that bear many of his footprints.

*(Tributes to Tom continue
on page 5)*



TRIBUTES TO TOM ALLINSON

(Continued from page 4)

by **Steve Dominy**

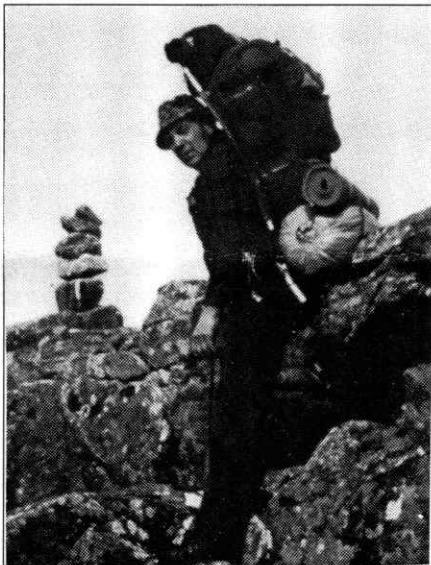
I was deeply saddened to learn of the sudden death of my good friend and hiking companion. Tom brought joy and enthusiasm to all his pursuits. He was always ready to lend a helping hand when it came to leading hikes and work parties. He and Ernie Pringle single-handedly (practically) developed what is now the Tom Allinson Spur Trail, and Tom spent hundred of hours with others maintaining that and other portions of the trail. Tom met his wife, Gail, on the trail, I believe during a hike that I led in the Tower Lake area.

My fondest memory of Tom was from the five-day backpacking trip that he and I took in the mid-80's in Pukaskwa National Park. We shared with a Bruce Trail group a boat ride from Hattie Cove to Simon's Harbour. Tom and I disembarked there while the remaining group proceeded to the North Swallow River. Tom and I shared many personal stories and thoroughly enjoyed one another's company during those days. Tom made a lasting impression on all those he encountered. His distinctive style (unique hat, walking stick, the many badges of honour sewn on his pack, bandana, whistle and compass) were unforgettable.

I, along with so many others, will miss you, Tom. However, I am sure you have now found other trails to explore.



Tom Allinson in earlier times, backpacking on the Lake Superior coastline in Pukaskwa National Park.



A few years ago the section of Sault Ste. Marie Voyageur Hiking Trail from North Gros Cap Road, to the shoreline of Lake Superior, to the Red Rock Road was named the Tom Allinson Spur Trail in honour of the hard work and dedication to the trail by Tom. It stands now as a lasting tribute.

VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Winner of a 1997 Hike Ontario Recognition Award for the "outstanding contribution to hiking in Ontario" is Mike Scott from the Casque Isles Club.

Mike has been instrumental in sparking a new interest in the Casque Isles Section of the Voyageur Trail.

He requested that a VTA representative do a slide presentation this spring in Terrace Bay and advertised it well before they arrived. He arranged for press coverage in the Thunder Bay Chronicle. A new club was formed and first order of business was to make sure the trail was in tip top shape for public hikes. The newly formed club hadn't elected an Executive yet, when a full slate of public hikes were planned, some with picnics and barbeques afterwards.

Mike is always looking for new initiatives to advertise and spread the word about his club. They have started their own newsletter and have met with transportation representatives to investigate having highway signs erected. News of the Casque Isles Club has spread to hikers in Thunder Bay and they often drive for hours to join in the public hikes near Terrace Bay. He keeps in close contact by e-mail with the rest of the VTA Executive.

Mike Scott embodies a man with a mission—to promote hiking as an important pastime and tourist attraction in the Terrace Bay, Rossport, Schreiber area and he is more than willing to ensure that hikers will enjoy a positive experience when they hike these trails.

Winner of the 1997 **Steve Taylor Volunteer Recognition Award** is Mike Landmark of the VTA Executive and Saulteaux Club in Sault Ste. Marie.

Mike became a new member to the Executive (in late 1996) as Vice-President of the Central Region. Since then, he has updated and scripted our slide presentation, he has given numerous presentations on behalf of the VTA, helped with displays, obtained vinyl siding for blazes and actually cut hundreds of them, volunteered to take over the sign-making which includes storing the rather large machine. He has come up with fresh ideas, for instance, the draw for a prize if you renew your membership before year's end; he planned, built, blazed and launched the new Prince Township loop trail, and has been instrumental in keeping brochures available for it.

He is an avid hike leader, and has planned and lead special outings such as the Moon Walk and Beginner's Backpack to add some spice to our local hike schedule.

He continues to encourage membership and participation from areas outside Sault Ste. Marie with new approaches for contacts and ideas to promote hiking all along the trail.

We are fortunate that these men came along when they did with fresh new ideas to rejuvenate us.

Congratulations to Mike Scott and Mike Landmark!



OUTING SCHEDULE

This schedule was put together early 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 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)

For all outings, bring water, a lunch, and dress appropriately.

FOR ALL END-TO-END OUTINGS, PLEASE CALL THE LEADER IN ADVANCE AND LET HIM/HER KNOW OF YOUR INTENTIONS TO ATTEND. IF THE WEATHER IS INCLEMENT ON THE MORNING OF THE OUTING, THE LEADER WILL CONTACT YOU TO RESCHEDULE.

Behaved dogs are welcome, but **MUST** be leashed at lunch time.

Sunday, January 25 - second leg of the Winter Saulteaux Club End-to-End Series

Cheryl Landmark will lead us from Prince Lake Road to the Airport Road (approx. 7.5 km). Call Cheryl at (705) 779-3409 for this outing.

Saturday, February 7 - Bon Soo Children's Snowshoe Experience

This year we will again assist children to don their snowshoes and give the sport a try—some of them for the first time. If you can volunteer for this very popular Bon Soo Family Day event, call Susan Graham at (705) 949-4105.

Sunday, February 8 - 3rd leg from Airport Road to Creek Road 5.0.

There is some rough terrain on this section. Call Frank Brooks at (705) 949-9560 for information.

Sunday, February 15 - 4th Leg from Creek Road to Red Rock Road (approx. 7.0 km).

Call Garry Koteles at (705) 949-1302 for this outing.

Saturday, February 28 - 5th Leg from Red Rock Road to the Wetzl homestead at the end of Peoples Road (approx. 7.5 km).



Call Susan Graham at (705) 949-4105 for this outing.

Saturday, March 7 - 6th Leg from the Wetzl homestead at the end of Peoples Road to Glenview Cottages on Hwy 17 North (approx. 7.8 km). Horst Wetzl will lead but call Gayle Phillips at (705) 942-1891 for this outing.

Sunday, March 15 - 7th and Last Leg from Hwy 17 North to Mabel Lake (approx. 8.0 km). There will be an "End to the End-to-Ends Celebration" afterwards. Call Mike Landmark at (705) 779-3409.

Monday, March 16 - Bi-monthly Saulteaux Club meeting at 7:30 pm at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre. The next outing schedule into the late fall of 1998 will be discussed. Call Susan Graham for more info, at (705) 949-4105.

Saturday, March 21 - Ski to the 'canyon' with Horst Wetzl. Meet at the Market Mall parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Behave pets are welcome. Call Gayle Phillips at (705) 942-1891.

Winter Activities Disclaimer

It is important to note that the Voyageur Trail Association does not provide formal instruction for snowshoe and ski activities. Each participant in our winter activities is assumed to:

- understand the causes, preventive measures and treatment for hypothermia
- dress appropriately, bring lunch and water, and be prepared for unforeseen delays on the trail
- understand that changes in weather and snow conditions can affect the difficulty level of a given trail
- have experience on and be familiar with his/her own equipment
- for skiers, be able to perform the basic manoeuvres (such as snowplow and herringbone) under a variety of snow conditions, for a period of four hours.

Saturday, April 18 - Saulteaux Club 1998 Annual Dinner

at the Schnitzel Haus in Buttermilk Alpine Village. Afterwards, Architect, Chris Tossell will present "A Hike Through History—A Tour of Notable Buildings in Downtown Sault Ste. Marie" (in preparation for our hike on the 19th). In honour of the 25th Anniversary year, we will draw for 25 door prizes! (see insert for details)

Sunday, April 19 - Poker Hike

Walk the downtown area to view the buildings highlighted by Chris Tossell in his presentation. This will be a poker hike, with cards distributed along the route. Best hand at the end of the hike wins a prize. Meet at the Visitor Information parking lot at the Sault Canal at 1:30 p.m. For more info, call Susan Graham at (705) 949-4105.



NEED SNOWSHOES TO PARTICIPATE?

Contact Mike Landmark at (705) 779-3409 for more information.

Bi Logic Tackle

Bi Logic Tackle provides "lead free", environmentally friendly fishing tackle made from bismuth and tin.

By using this product, you will not only be preventing the needless loss of loons and other wildfowl due to lead poisoning, you will also be improving your chances of catching fish!

It has been found that fish hang on to these jigs longer because they do not sense the toxic lead scent given off by lead jigs.

Call 1-800-363-2369 for info.



TRAIL MAINTENANCE REPORT *by Don McGorman*

Several years back, I volunteered to adopt the section of trail between Highway 17 and Mabel Lake.

For the first few years, I managed to get out working on the trail about twice a year. That meant covering long distances each time out, trying to hit the worst areas. All in all, the trail was "passable" at best.

In 1997, I set myself a goal of getting the whole of my adopted section in "good" shape, and now I'm happy to report that this goal has been attained.

Mike Landmark helped kick things off by organizing a work party in early July, when six of us spent half a day repairing the log walkway across the cedar swamp north of Mabel Lake. This was followed up with five more days in September and October, each time going out with five volunteers from the John Howard Society. The result is that the trail section from Connor Road to Mabel Lake has brush cleared back at least one meter on each side and three meters above ground. I'm hoping this new and improved standard might encourage more use of the trail by hikers, cyclists and horseback riders, which in turn will better establish the footpath through competing vegetation.

One task still to be completed is putting up blazes in a few locations. There is one place near Kinsmen Park where the Voyageur Trail intersects with two ski trails and two mountain bike trails, all within 30 meters of one another, and it's easy to turn the wrong way. On a few other stretches, it can take over a minute to walk between places where blazes can be seen, so a blaze here and there will help reassure folks they are still on the trail.

One thing I noticed this fall was that someone else had been out in the past year or so putting up white vinyl blazes along the trail east of the snowmobile bridge at Thayer Acres. The reason I noticed is that I found about ten blazes on the ground, most with one or two nails still stuck through the vinyl. What may have happened is that the person only put the nails in half way and then when

the tree bark dried out, the nails came loose and the wind blew the blaze off the tree. The lesson here is to place nails deeper and/or use longer nails, so solid wood is penetrated.

About half way between Thayer Acres and Mabel Lake, a 100 meter side trail has been cleared up to a small unnamed lake on the south side of the trail. There is a rock outcrop on the shore of the lake which makes a nice spot for lunch or to catch a breeze and get away from the bugs. If the VTA will permit me to put up blue blazes, I will mark this trail in 1998.

My other pet project in the Hiawatha Highlands is maintenance of the water trail on the Crystal Creek between Trout Lake and Thayer Acres, as well as connecting trails to Heyden Lake and Lower Island Lake. This includes about a dozen portages and four campsites. I look forward to leading a few canoe outings in the area in 1998.

If anyone has questions, comments or suggestions about the section of trail between Highway 17 and Mabel Lake, or the above mentioned water trails, please give me a call at (705) 945-6697 or via e-mail at mcgormd@gov.on.ca.



MICHIPICOTEN CLUB NEWS

The 1997 hiking activities ended on Ontario Hiking Day, Sunday, Oct. 5th. Even though the weather was inclement, Agnes and Max Ostermeier led a party of hardy hikers from the post office to Vallee Park.

On Sept. 21st, Pete Burgoyne led a hike up Peat Mountain to enjoy the spectacular fall colours. The weather was perfect, and, although no Wawa hikers participated, four people and 2 dogs from Sault Ste. Marie drove up to take part in the hike.

Work parties were a great success this year. In late August, members from Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa cleared and marked the trail from Fort Friendship to the Bridget Lake road.

The Michipicoten Club also took part in the Lands for Life Project. A presentation was made to the panel on behalf of the club, recommending a 2-km coastline reserve on Lake Superior for the future route of the Voyageur and National Trail.

For more information on upcoming club activities and membership for 1998, call (705) 856-4270.



❄️ **Want a nice weekend
getaway this winter?** ❄️

Why not reserve a cottage at Snowshoe Camp on beautiful Wakomata Lake north of Thessalon?

- ❄️ two or three bedroom cottages
- ❄️ snowmachine rentals (with cottage)

10% DISCOUNT

for Voyageur Trail Association members!

SNOWSHOE CAMP
(705) 759-2985



GUIDEBOOK UPDATE

by **Steve Dominy**

Please note that portions of the Stokely Trail may be difficult to follow owing to a preponderance of blazes having popped off the trees in 1997. This was a result of the nails having been driven right into the trees about three years ago. The worst area is near kilometre 2.5 of the section, between Tier Lake and Walker Lake. Also of note is some beaver flooding in the area near the east end of Tier Lake (km 1.8). Part of the Trail in this area is completely submerged, and hikers must follow the edge of the new pond until encountering the trail again. Anyone planning a hike into the area might first contact our Trailmaster, Frank Brooks to learn if the problems have been rectified.

The Guidebook will now be reprinted this winter, and will include the new Harmony Trail and the Gros Cap Centennial Loop Trail. Those with the 1996 edition will be advised through the newsletter how to obtain an update.



TOPOGRAPHIC MAP NEWS

by **Steve Dominy**

Now is the time to start planning your outdoor itinerary for 1998. If you need maps, why not plan ahead and order them now from the VTA?

Following is a listing of 1:50,000 Tyvek (waterproof) maps for the area of existing Voyageur Trails available through the VTA:

41-I/04 Whitefish Falls
41-I/05 Espanola
41-K/09 Sault Ste. Marie
41-K/16 Searchmont

We can supply any NTS regular (1:50,000 and 1:250,000) or Tyvek map (1:50,000 only) for anywhere in Canada as well, so if you have a specific question, please call Steve Dominy at 705-946-2484. Prices are \$9.50 for regular and \$11.00 for Tyvek maps, tax and postage paid. Please allow up to three months for delivery. Rush orders can be accommodated, but an additional charge may apply.



Hiding Your Millions??

Did you know donations to the VTA are tax deductible?



EDITOR'S NOTE

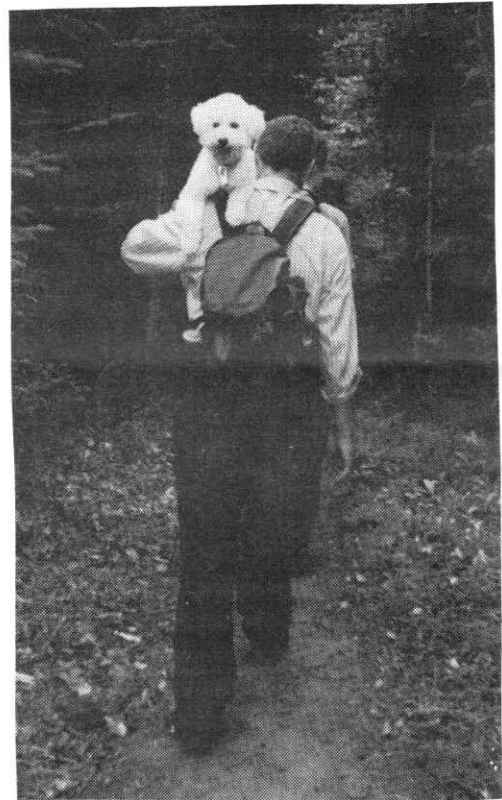
by **Cheryl Landmark**

At the VTA annual Board and Executive meeting held on Saturday, November 15, 1997, it was decided that the newsletter will be issued a minimum of twice a year, with an optional third issue at the editor's discretion. Starting in 1998, following the mailing of this issue, the newsletter will now be mailed to members by April 15th and December 1st. This means that the submission deadlines will be March 15/98 and November 1/98. As the April issue will be covering the period from mid-April to December 1st, it is important that any outings/activities be planned well in advance (by March 15th) in order to be included in the newsletter. If you have any outings or activities that you would like to lead in 1998, or any articles or tidbits you would like to see in the newsletter, please submit them to me as soon as possible.



WANTED: Photos or slides of earlier years in the VTA for a special 25th Anniversary collage. Please contact the Editor, Cheryl Landmark at (705) 779-3409 or e-mail to: cheryl.landmark1@sympatico.ca

*"This hiking-thing isn't so tough Dad.
How come you're so tired after you do it?"*



(Garry Koteles and 'Julian' on the way home from Warp Bay in Lake Superior Provincial Park)

WINTER EXCURSIONS AT PUKASKWA NATIONAL PARK

by Robin Heron Promaine, Heritage Outreach & Extension Coordinator, Pukaskwa National Park

Author's note: While reading through my copy of Voyageur Trail News the other day, I was pleased to discover that Pukaskwa is actually considered part of the Voyageur Trail! I thought members would be interested to know what is happening on our piece of the route this time of year.

Winter has finally arrived to Pukaskwa! Just after Christmas, we received a nice dusting of snow to cover the bare ground we've endured through December. With a few more snowfalls, we will open our groomed cross country ski trail from the Administration Building to Hattie Cove.

But for the well-prepared adventurer, Pukaskwa offers so much more than skiing! Our road is closed in the winter, so visitors leave their vehicles at the barricade, and travel a snowy trail through the boreal forest down to Lake Superior. Try it yourself, and you may encounter flocks of boreal chickadees, or gray jays along the way. Tracks of wolf, fox and snowshoe hare are often seen, and you may even catch a glimpse of a marten loping gracefully over the snow.

Winter camping is an option for the very well-prepared. Every winter, a few hardy souls travel to Pukaskwa to enjoy the brisk nights and complete solitude of overnight camping in the Hattie Cove campground.

Perhaps the most appealing aspect of Pukaskwa in the winter is its utter stillness. No motorized vehicles are

permitted in the park, so visitors can gaze at the icy depth of Lake Superior with nothing but the sound of the wind in their ears.

This winter, we are offering a series of guided outings in the park. The afternoon of January 24, come and find out what the Park does in the winter months at our Open House. On February 21 we will discuss the traditional methods of snowshoeing and trapping, and compare it with modern methods. On March 21st, we will demonstrate winter camping and safety.

Come out and discover a quiet, yet accessible stretch of your Voyageur Trail. Pukaskwa National Park is located halfway between Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay, just east of the town of Marathon, on Highway 627.

Give us a call to find out more - (807) 229-0801.



For a virtual tour of Pukaskwa National Park on the internet, visit

<http://parkscanada.pch.gc.ca/parks/ontario/pukaskwa/pukaskwae.htm>

Friends of Pukaskwa Park have an internet site also, at:

<http://204.225.39.2/~friends/friends.html>

Voyageur Trail News - Winter 1998

VTA EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT

(position available)

VICE-PRESIDENT - WEST

Peter Stinnissen (705) 856-4270

VICE-PRESIDENT - CENTRAL

Mike Landmark (705) 779-3409

VICE-PRESIDENT - EAST

Dan Wheeler (705) 356-1195

TREASURER

Dieter Ropke (705) 942-9636

GENERAL SECRETARY

Ian Morrison

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

(acting) Patrick Capper (705) 253-4470

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

Gayle Phillips (705) 942-1891

TRAILMASTER

Frank Brooks (705) 949-9560

LANDOWNER LIAISON:

Jack Donald (705) 942-1761

HIKE ONTARIO REPRESENTATIVE

Patrick Capper (705) 253-4470

GUIDEBOOK COMMITTEE

Steve Dominy (705) 946-2484

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Editor: Cheryl Landmark
(705) 779-3409

Layout by: Gayle Phillips
(705) 942-1891



The VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS is published two or three times per year. Your articles and photos are always welcome!

Send them to Cheryl Landmark,
c/o Voyageur Trail Association,
PO Box 20040
150 Churchill Blvd.,
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6W3
or phone (705) 779-3409
e-mail to:
<cheryl.landmark1@sympatico.ca>

**Deadline for the next issue is
March 15, 1998.**

Trail Users' 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 under control (*leash if necessary*) and follow your club's guidelines concerning dogs.
- 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!**