



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT BY: Gayle Phillips

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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>



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MEMBERSHIP FEES AND INSURANCE

There appears to be some confusion regarding the membership fees for 1998. The fee for an individual is \$20.00, which includes liability insurance for that one person only.

The fee for a family or group membership is \$20.00 for one adult, plus an additional \$3.50 per person to insure other members of the family or group.

The \$3.50 is optional but, if it is not paid, that means your family/group members are not covered by insurance should they decide to hike the Voyageur Trail.

For example, if there are two adults in the family, the total cost of the membership fee would be \$23.50, if the second person wants to be insured as well. If there are two adults and a child and all three want to be insured, the total cost would be \$27.00, and so on.

The names of all members who are to be insured must be listed when registering.

We hope that this alleviates some of the misunderstanding.



DEAR LANDOWNER:

The Voyageur Trail Association would like to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to you for your continued support and generosity in allowing us to have access to your property. Our members agree to abide by the following 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.

Our motto is: BE A LOW-IMPACT HIKER!

We look forward to our continued partnership in the years to come and thank you again for being so public-spirited.

Voyageur Trail Association



Here's how it all started-- the very first Saulteaux Club Winter End-to-End! See page 2 for details.

WINTER 1998 END-TO-ENDERS *by Mike Landmark*

Here's how it all ended--with 14 happy wintertime end-to-enders completing the entire 40+ kilometres of Voyageur Trail in the Sauleteaux Section.



It started out as a tiny acorn and grew into a giant oak! Who would have believed that the idea of snowshoeing the Sauleteaux section end-to-end in the winter of 1998 would prove to be so popular? It was an idea conceived by myself last fall as an activity for my wife, Cheryl, and I and possibly one or two other people to participate in. We had already done the end-to-ends in the fall two years ago and wondered what it would be like to do the same thing in the winter. In discussing the idea with other members of the VTA, it was suggested that the outing become part of the VTA schedule for the winter of 1998. The die was cast and my brain child became a seven-part series in the calendar of events.

The turnouts for the outings were nothing short of incredible! We averaged 20 people per outing (with the highest being 30 and the lowest being 17) and had a remarkable number of new faces attend as well. A total of 50 people participated altogether. That's pretty darn impressive! I think the mild weather we had this winter was also a big contributing factor to the higher-than-average turnouts.

At the end of it all, 14 people (including five couples) and 2 dogs completed the whole section of trail, with yours truly doing all but two sections twice! The hardy end-to-enders include: Cheryl and Mike Landmark, Trina and Ron Fournier, Erika and Dieter Ropke, Gayle Phillips, Susan Graham, Pim Delfgou, Anne Prickett, Patrick Capper, Kaarina Kada, Larry Gringorten and Doris Welz. The dogs are Destiny and Max (who probably did the end-to-ends at least twice, if not more!)

It was debatable for awhile whether we would get to complete the last two sections. Our snow almost disappeared on us in late February, but we still had enough in the bush to provide us with a trail to walk on (even though most of us carried our snowshoes instead of wearing them!) and the mid-



March winter blast gave us more snow for the last outing to Mabel Lake.

Some of the highlights include: the most participants (Cheryl Landmark with 30), the most skiers (Garry Koteles with 3), the sunniest and warmest weather (Susan Graham), media coverage from MCTV (Horst Wetzel), the most snowshoes used (Larry Gringorten), the best mug-up afterwards (the Mabel Lake outing), and the most outings led (Mike Landmark with 3). Many thanks to the Sauleteaux Club and its president, Susan Graham, for a great "End to the End-to-Ends Celebration"!

I must say that I never envisioned the tremendous response that these outings engendered, but it certainly is pleasing and, I hope, an indication of how future outings will be attended. It was especially gratifying to see so many new faces because this means that word is getting around that the VTA is a great place to come for exercise, fresh air and camaraderie. These end-to-end outings have been an impressive start to our Jubilee year. Let's keep the momentum going on into the rest of it and beyond!



This fall we are going north!

Not to Alaska, although I'm sure Wawa probably feels much like Alaska sometimes in the winter! The VTA Annual General Meeting for 1998 will be held in Wawa on Sat., October 24, 1998 at the Community Centre. The meeting begins at 2:00 p.m. Everyone's welcome. Refreshments will be served.

On Sun., October 25, 1998, the Michipicoten Club will be hiking the "fume kill" area, so plan on camping overnight and joining the club on this hike. For more information, contact Peter Stinnissen at (705) 856-4270.

I ALMOST MADE IT!

I nearly made the end-to-ends. I was all ready to go on the first outing, but it was just too cold. My feet bother me too much when it's cold, as I am getting along in years. It was the same problem with the second leg of the outings and then I was O.K. I really enjoyed the company and some of the lunches were really good, especially when Mike Landmark gave me some of his beef jerky. The trail was easy to find — all I had to do was follow the path made by the people in the front. However, trail maintenance could have been better as there were branches across the trail and in my face at times. The only time I had trouble was at the lookout on Garry Koteles's outing. I think it's called a lookout because you have to look out that you don't get lost! Mike tried to tell me I was going the wrong way, but I couldn't understand what he was saying. So, I went back the way I came in, but soon caught up with everyone else. I hear they may even name the lookout trail in my honour! Of all the hikes, the last leg was the toughest. It was very cold at the start and having to return along Connor Road made the hike the longest. However, my best friends, Max and Destiny, came along and I really enjoyed the day. I had a good supper when I got home and, after a long snooze, I felt as good as new the next day. Perhaps next winter, Patrick will take me on the first two sections.

That is, if I'm not too old for these long winter hikes then! I'll be eleven in May, so one never knows.



by 'Muffin' Capper (Pat Capper's little dog)



Special Announcement for 1998 Anniversary VTA Members Only!

As a special treat for Voyageur Trail Association members only in this our 25th Anniversary Year, the Association is holding five draws for two seats in Naturally Superior Adventures' 36-foot Voyageur Canoe for the 1999 May Victoria Day weekend May 22, 23 & 24. This guided trip is to a favourite Bill Mason remote location, Denison Falls on the Dog (University) River, 5 km. from Lake Superior near Wawa, Ontario.

Five lucky couples will canoe as the "voyageurs" did, under the watchful eye of Naturally Superior's professional guide for three days and two nights of history, breathtaking natural beauty, solitude, and great companionship.

If you are a VTA member in good standing in 1998, your name will automatically be entered in this draw. If for any reason, you do not want your name to be entered, please contact Membership Secretary, Virve Männiste Squire at (705) 942-2370.

Another good reason for joining the VTA!

Thank you to Naturally Superior Adventures for donating this terrific prize! Visit their web site at:
<http://www.naturallysuperior.com>

TRAIL RUNNING

by Mario Festival

In the last newsletter, I wrote about my intentions of running a long section of the Voyageur Trail. I was hoping at least one other person would be crazy enough to try it with me. I got my wish. Larry Tomie and I set out early on the morning of November 8th. Larry is a very accomplished local athlete and has competed at both the Hawaii and Penticton Ironman Triathlons. In other words, for Larry, there is no such thing as too long or too tough.

We started at Gros Cap and followed the trail all the way to where it crosses Highway 17 North at Glenview Cabins. From there, we followed the roads to my place on Fourth Line. The run/walk took a total of just over 7 hours. We had very good weather for that time of the year and the overall experience was very enjoyable.

The only mishap occurred at a creek crossing at the north end of Peoples Road. I slipped on a log and fell into a deep section of the creek up to my neck. Larry displayed very good restraint by not laughing until several hours later. Since the temperature was only around 7 degrees, this dunking really encouraged me to pick up the pace to keep warm.

I would like to thank my wife Kathy for providing food and drink at two spots along the trail. I am also grateful that Mike Landmark (and others?) coincidentally remarked a section of trail west of Creek Road just days before the run. The area was recently logged and, without the new trail blazes, we would have easily gotten lost.

Well, we had so much fun, I am planning another run this spring. It is tentatively scheduled for the last weekend of April. There will be no bugs and the blazes will be easy to see without the summer foliage.

The plan is to start where the Voyageur Trail crosses the Echo River and finish at Hiawatha Park or my place on Fourth Line. It is roughly the same distance as the first run and, therefore, I estimate it should take around the same amount of time. If anyone is interested, please let me know by calling (705) 949-9847, or e-mailing me at < kathy.mario@sympatico.ca >.



IF YOU CAN GIVE OF YOUR TIME OR TALENT...WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU!

Contact Gayle Phillips (705) 942-1891 or e-mail to:
< voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca > for more information on open positions in the Voyageur Trail Association and Clubs.

