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ASSOCIATION

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VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT BY: Gayle Phillips

TRANS CANADA TRAIL

Recently, the Trans Canada Trail Foundation (TCT) approached the VTA with the proposal that we join their trail system. An information session with John Bellini, Executive Director of the TCT, and Anthony Sharp, Publicity Director, was held on May 1, 1998 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

The TCT is very interested in having our organization join with them because Northern Ontario presents a major challenge to their dream of building a nation-wide trail. They were excited to learn that we have almost 600 kilometres of completed trail already, which would certainly be an enormous boost to their proposal. The TCT is hoping to complete a large portion of the trail across Northern Ontario by the year 2000, and this project is being considered as one of the millenium projects by the federal government.

The TCT's mandate is to have a multi-use trail, which includes hiking, cycling, horse-back riding, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling (where possible/desired). They would like to see at least two of the five uses on the trail (preferably in both summer and winter). At the information session held recently, the VTA made it clear to the Trans Canada Trail Foundation that our mandate has always been to build and maintain a "pedestrian" hiking trail and that we would like to continue with that tradition. Our major uses are hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. In most of the Voyageur



Trail corridor, canoeing is also possible by following the shorelines of Lakes Huron and Superior and should be considered as a fourth use. We have emphasized that there are to be no motorized vehicles of any kind on the Voyageur Hiking Trail. The TCT has indicated that they are flexible and may make some exceptions for our trail system.

By joining the TCT, the VTA will not lose its identity nor will it surrender any management responsibility. Nothing will change from the current situation other than we will have national recognition and the clubs that are maintaining the trails in the Manitoulin Island - Thunder Bay corridor will have some financial support.

One of the major benefits of joining with the TCT is that we would be eligible for funding for building trail. The Foundation does not fund 100%, but would contribute a considerable amount towards the cost of materials, transportation, etc. All monies that are raised in Ontario for the TCT are to be spent in Ontario and 80% of this goes into building trail.

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TRANS CANADA TRAIL

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The second benefit is the insurance policy provided by the TCT. Since we are a member of Hike Ontario, which, in turn, is a member of the Ontario Trails Council (the provincial branch of the TCT), we are already covered under the insurance policy.

A third benefit to our association would be the nation-wide publicity exposure that we would receive for our trail system through the TCT. Establishing a route across Northern Ontario would be a major coup for the Foundation and they would plan a huge publicity campaign around the VTA's acceptance into the TCT if we should choose to join.

At the present time, discussions are still ongoing between the VTA and the Ontario Trails Council and the TCT. Nothing definite has been decided yet. While the TCT is clearly excited about the prospect of obtaining 600 kilometres of completed trail to add to their existing system, they recognize that this is an important decision for our association as well and all aspects must be evaluated before a final decision is made. However, timing is a critical consideration and it is expected that a mutually agreeable resolution will be reached by the VTA Annual General Meeting on October 24, 1998.

If anyone has any questions/concerns/opinions about this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact the Voyageur



(l to r) Anthony Sharp (TCT Publicity Director), John Bellini (TCT Executive Director), and Mike Landmark (VTA Central Vice-President) take a hike at Gros Cap (and compare walking sticks).

Trail Association executive at our e-mail address, voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca or our mailing address,

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



GREAT OUTDOORS SHOW/HOME SHOW by Gayle Phillips

On March 27, 28 and 29, 1998, the Voyageur Trail Association was fortunate enough to have a table at the Sault Ste. Marie Great Outdoors Show. This very expensive commodity was donated by Parks Canada, including the Sault Canal, Fort St. Joseph and Pukaskwa National Park.

Without their assistance, our organization would not be able to afford a presence at this well-attended show.

My thanks to Parks Canada, as well as those who helped me staff our booth, including: Mike & Cheryl Landmark, Frank Brooks, Trina Fournier, Pim Delfgou, Susan Graham, and Janet McCann. Again, thanks to Mike Landmark who presented our slide show in the theatre

portion of the event. Many hands really do make light work!

A month later, on April 17, 18 and 19, Frank Brooks donated a table to us again at the Sault Ste. Marie Home Show. Frank had a booth for his business, J.B. Environmental Cleaning, and was most generous in letting us use a good portion of his valuable floor space for our display.

Thanks, Frank!

Between these two shows, hundreds of VTA brochures and outing schedules were distributed to all those interested.



LANDOWNERS: As a free service to landowners, the *Voyageur Trail News* will publish, free-of-charge "**Land for Sale**" ads. Our strategic questionnaire (done a couple of years ago) indicated that there are people (especially in Southern Ontario) who may be interested in purchasing a property with a section of the Voyageur Hiking Trail running through it. If you are planning to sell your property, contact the VTNews Editor at P O Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd., Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6W3.



ANNUAL SAULTEAUX CLUB DINNER *by Susan Graham*

Due to the generosity of VTA members and local businesses, the Saulteaux Club was able to not only reach, but exceed, their goal of having 25 door prizes for their annual dinner on April 18, 1998. Thank you to all members who donated prizes and to those members who solicited prizes on behalf of the club.

The following is a list of the prizes, donors and winners.

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| 1. Naturally Superior Adventures
Winner: Gayle Phillips | Voyageur Sash |
| 2. Dieter Ropke
Winner: George Ireland | Attaché Case |
| 3. Guillevan International
Winner: Karen Zhou | Mini Light |
| 4. Group Health Centre
Winner: Mike Landmark | Sweatshirt |
| 5. J.B. Environmental Cleaning
Winner: Judy Falkins | Gift Certificate |
| 6. Sault Scuba Centre Ltd.
Winner: Carol Gartshore | Safety Blaster |
| 7. Soo Promo
Winner: Helen Hutchinson | VTA T-Shirt |
| 8. Pim Delfgou
Winner: Doreen Guerriero | Framed Photograph |
| 9. Duke of Windsor
Winner: Kim Capell | Skier's Gift Pack |
| 10. John Vince Foods
Winner: Fiona Ortiz | Hiker's Gift Bag |
| 11. Group Health Centre
H.R. Lash Men's Wear
Winner: Gail Andrew | Sneaker Day T-Shirt
Baseball Hat |
| 12. Ontario Clean Water Agency
Winner: Noreen Towers | Jacket |
| 13. Old Ski House
Winner: Gale Koteles | Salomon Turtleneck |
| 14. Duke of Windsor
Winner: Steve Dominy | Skier's Gift Pack |
| 15. Clean North (Don McGorman)
Winner: Susan Graham | Domtar Cap,
Chia Buddy & Clock |

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| 16. John Vince Foods
Winner: Darcy Ortiz | Hiker's Gift Bag |
| 17. Mike and Cheryl Landmark
Winner: Scott Capell | Framed Photograph |
| 18. Ontario Lottery Corporation
Winner: Paul Syme | Sweatshirt |
| 19. Trina Fournier
Winner: Patrick Capper | Swiss Army Knife |
| 20. Gayle Phillips
Winner: Jack Squire | Bug Head Net |
| 21. Clean North (Deanna Maki)
Winner: Larry Gringorten | Jam, Coffee |
| 22. Lamon's Printing
Winner: Alfred Lauzon | Laser Engraved Box |
| 23. Northern Credit Union
Winner: Anne Prickett | Baseball Hat,
Polo Shirt |
| 24. Wine Barrel
H.R. Lash Men's Wear
Winner: Bill McLeod | T-Shirt
Baseball Hat |
| 25. Voyageur Trail Association
Winner: Eric Eagleson | 1998 Edition Guidebook |
| 26. Horst Wetzel
Winner: Pat & Chris Tossell | One Quart of Maple Syrup |
| 27. Barb Lawrence
Winner: Horst Wetzel | Mary Kay Hair Products |

In addition to the door prizes, a \$25 gift certificate from the Canadian Motor Hotel for dinner was awarded to Mike Landmark in appreciation for his efforts over the course of the winter end-to-end outings.

A prize was also given to Caroline Pouw at the conclusion of the walk following the dinner on April 19, 1998. It consisted of a fanny pack and energy bar donated by the Duke of Windsor Sports Shop, and three topographical maps of the Sault Ste. Marie area donated by the Voyageur Trail Association.

To show our appreciation, please endeavour to support the businesses that supported our efforts.

