



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

No. 71 WINTER 1998

EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT BY: Gayle Phillips

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](http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail)

1998/99 VTA EXECUTIVE

The new 1998/99 executive was elected at the VTA Board and Executive meeting held on October 24, 1998 in Wawa.

President	- Gayle Phillips (705) 942-1891 e-mail: voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca
Vice-President East	- vacant
Vice-President Central	- Mike Landmark (705) 779-3409 e-mail: cheryl.landmark1@sympatico.ca
Vice-President West	- Peter Stinnissen (705) 856-4270
Membership Secretary	- Virve Männiste Squire (705) 942-2370 e-mail: atbvirve@age.net
Treasurer	- Dieter Ropke (705) 942-9636
Publicity Director	- Mike Landmark (705) 779-3409 e-mail: cheryl.landmark1@sympatico.ca
General Secretary	- Cheryl Landmark (705) 779-3409 e-mail: cheryl.landmark1@sympatico.ca
Trail Master	- Patrick Capper (705) 253-4470 e-mail: anne@soonet.ca
Hike Ontario Rep.	- Patrick Capper (705) 253-4470 e-mail: anne@soonet.ca
Landowner Liaison	- Jack Donald (705) 942-1761
Guidebook Committee	- Steve Dominy (705) 946-2484 e-mail: sdominy@nrca.gc.ca
Newsletter Committee	Editor - Cheryl Landmark (see above for contact information)
	Layout - Gayle Phillips

MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT

by *Gayle Phillips*

Hello, Voyageur Trail Association members and landowners! This is my first foray into being VTA President and I'm sure I will learn as much from this experience as I did when I volunteered to be Publicity Director so many years ago.

This is truly an exciting time for our organization as we jump feet first into the Trans Canada Trail. Many of us bought into the dream of a hiking trail from Thunder Bay to Manitoulin Island and, now, not only is it possible, but very likely to happen before the year 2000!

As a matter of fact, this historic move was what prompted me to step forward to lead this organization for the next two years. I have become involved with the whole concept through various meetings and correspondence with the Trans Canada Trail, Ontario Trails Council and National Trail Association and, at first, I confess, I had my doubts. But now, I know that this project WILL succeed, with US playing an integral role.

The Trans Canada Trail is as excited as we are. Northern Ontario is a huge challenge to them because of the distance, terrain and sparse population. It is a pleasure to deal with an organization who can appreciate the hard work and dedication it took to get our trail system to what it is today, and recognize it as the achievement that we all know it is.

They have and will give us a great publicity boost, coast-to-coast. People all across Canada will know what the Voyageur Trail is. Our membership will surely increase.

(Continued
on page 2)



INSIDE

25th ANNIVERSARY INSERT!

Considering?..... 3

Guidebook Changes... 4

Outing Schedule.....5/6

Casque Isles Report.... 8

'98 Membership List...11/12

And much, much more!

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

Already, there are movements afoot in Thunder Bay to start building trail towards Terrace Bay. I hear the city itself is willing to kick in money to get it going!

In Sudbury, the Economic Development Office has taken the lead in trail building and getting all the interested parties together. They were delighted when they found out they only had to build a trail east to the Elliot Lake highway to join up with the Voyageur Trail.

There are stirrings of new trail in the Montreal River area and some interest in re-building the section south from Wawa, not only to Noisy Bay (where it existed before), but beyond to Indian Harbour to join up with the existing Lake Superior Provincial Park Coastal Trail.

If Thunder Bay and Sudbury could establish clubs with a membership as large as Sault Ste. Marie ... well, the possibilities are endless! Do you feel the excitement in the air yet? This must have been what it felt like when the Voyageur Trail started 25 years ago and how wonderful that some of us who weren't around then, are here now to feel it!

What can YOU do? Talk it up! Even if you can't actually get out on the trail to do some maintenance, or build it, you can still make a worthwhile contribution. Tell your town councils about it. Demand they get involved. If every little town along the way took lessons from Nipigon or Terrace Bay and built a connecting trail right into the heart of their community, and then advertised it to bring traffic to the trail, it would help. Every hiker who uses our trail needs supplies to do it. Businesses would benefit, towns would benefit, jobs would be created...well, you get the picture.

Be a trail advocate in your community. Find out who in your community is involved and contact them to offer your support and find out what is being done in your own backyard.

If there isn't a Voyageur Trail contact person in your community, consider becoming one. Even if you can't organize outings or build a club, you could still field inquiries about the Voyageur Trail. We have members in lots of communities from Sudbury to Thunder Bay, but few contact people. Consider becoming one. We have a wonderful, fully-involved executive who would be only too glad to provide you with educational materials to help you speak for the organization.

You can buy a metre of Trans Canada Trail for yourself or those you care about for \$40. Anyone interested in finding out more about TCT metre sales or merchandise can contact them



at: 1-800-465-3636, Fax 1-514-485-4541, write c/o: 43 Westminster Street North, Montreal, Quebec H4X 1Y8, or visit their web site at: < <http://www.tctrail.ca> >.

Consider serving on the "umbrella organization" we have volunteered to become involved in. This umbrella group will bring all the Trans Canada Trail users (hikers, mountain bikers, snowmobilers, equestrians) together to try to find ways to create the "tapestry of trails" to move everyone across Northern Ontario. I have volunteered to serve on this committee myself. I believe that opening a constructive dialogue between all the user groups can only lead to bigger and better things for everyone who lives in Northern Ontario.

If you're not sure what you would like to do, contact me. I want everyone in the VTA to know that my "door is always open" to comments, suggestions or for offers to assist. Write me at our Post Office Box address, call me at (705) 942-1891, or e-mail me: < voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca >.

In closing, I want to reassure all of our members and landowners that the Trans Canada Trail has accepted us "as we are", which means that we will not be changing our pedestrian-only trail as it exists now into multi-use. We have promised them that we will assist them in whatever capacity we can with getting the other user groups across Northern Ontario, and I have pledged my own personal support for this purpose.

In future months, I will do my best to keep everyone informed about all the happenings through this newsletter and the web site.



TOPO MAPS by Steve Dominy

The VTA continues to maintain a dealership for NTS topographic maps (1:50,000 and 1:250,000). More map sheets have recently been produced on Tyvek (waterproof) material. Maps can be obtained for anywhere in Canada, so keep that in mind if you are planning a trip. The paper map prices were recently increased by our supplier, so we now charge \$10 for these. The Tyvek maps remain at \$11 each. We are now stocking a small supply of maps (paper and Tyvek) which are frequently ordered, thus eliminating the previous waiting period for these maps. We also supply corporate map needs, and can normally fill orders of 10 or more maps within one week. All orders should be placed with Steve Dominy (Tel. 705-946-2484 or E-mail < sdominy@nrcan.gc.ca >). Payment can be made upon receipt of maps.

