



No. 71 WINTER 1998

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VOYAGEUR TRAIL  
ASSOCIATION

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And much, much more!

# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT BY: Gayle Phillips

## 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)



### 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](mailto: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](mailto:sdominy@nrcan.gc.ca) >). Payment can be made upon receipt of maps.





## CONSIDERING TAKING THE PLUNGE? by Gayle Phillips

Recently, we've noticed that some of our members have inquired as to what it takes to serve in some capacity on the Voyageur Trail Association executive. This is good news for those of us who already serve, as it means the possibility of fresh ideas, enthusiasm and new friends.

I'll just give you a little bit of background. Each area of the Voyageur Trail is (or hopefully will be someday) represented by a "club". It takes only two members in an area to get together and establish a "club". As other members sign on, your "club" gets a portion of their membership fees to buy tools, etc. Your local club would be responsible for building/maintaining your section of hiking trail around your home town.

Each club is allowed two members to represent them when meeting with the overall Association. The Voyageur Trail Association oversees all the clubs in all areas of the trail, from Thunder Bay to Manitoulin Island. Everyone on it, including your two representatives, votes on issues. The Association makes the decisions that will affect all clubs along the trail route and they meet three or four times a year (we are looking into equipment that would make it possible for representatives who must travel long distances to these meetings to communicate by phone so they don't have to make the long trips but can still participate).

Top Voyageur Trail Association positions are selected from the representatives chosen by local "clubs". The Association selects and elects such positions as President, Vice-President (West, Central & East), Treasurer, General Secretary, Membership Secretary, Publicity Director, Landowner Liaison, etc. from this assembled representation from the various clubs along the trail route.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help, either in your own geographical area on the executive of a club, or as an Executive Board member can contact me any time at (705) 942-1891 or e-mail:

<voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca>.



Four drowned rats took part in the Canadian Canoe Route Association's Canadian Canoe Route Environmental



Clean-up Project this past July at Red Rock cottage area. (l to r): Cheryl Landmark, Gayle Phillips, Trina Fournier, Mike Landmark.

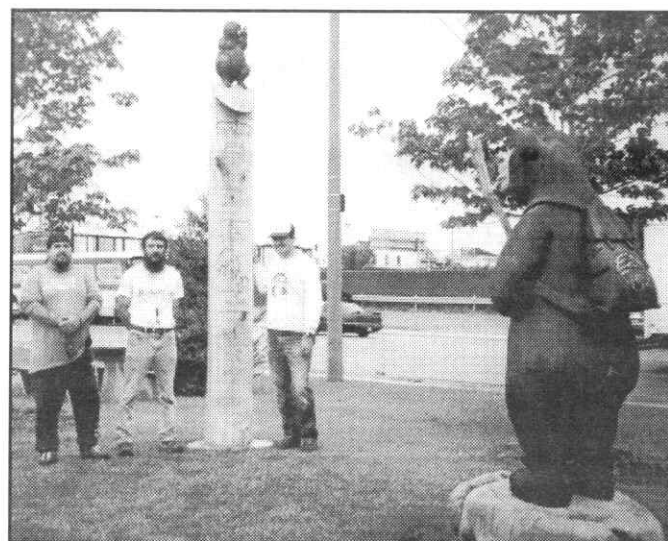
## WE'RE IN THE MONEY!

by Gayle Phillips

Earlier this year, Mike Landmark happened to be in the right place at the right time when a very successful Sault Ste. Marie Nevada ticket outlet was looking for recipients for their generosity. It all started when someone spotted his VTA crest on his hat (see, it pays to wear VTA sponsored clothing, see page 8).

A short time later, after some quick lessons in what it takes to get a licence, voila — the Stamping Ground Postal Outlet in the Market Mall in Sault Ste. Marie were selling Nevadas with the VTA in mind! Our first batch produced \$11,000 in net proceeds, which will be used for publicity/trail maintenance objectives. A couple of stipulations apply - the money has to be spent locally, within a year's time, and a detailed account of where it is spent must be filed. VTA Executive were quickly asked where the money could best be spent and several areas were identified. Funds have so far gone towards 25th Anniversary initiatives, Harvey the Hiking Bear carving (shown below) at the Sault Ste. Marie Gateway Tourist Information site, a computer and software to handle our ever-increasing membership database. Future considerations include a trail audit, a GPS unit, more colour brochures, and a whole list of other good ideas.

The VTA wish to thank the terrific staff of the Stamping Grounds for all their hard work and patience walking us through all the steps necessary to achieve some of these dream goals and look forward to working with them again in the near future.



(l to r): Craig Makay (Assistant), Mike Brouillette (Carver) and Mike Landmark pose with Harvey the Hiking Bear and his little beaver photographer friend at the Gateway Tourist Information Building on the corner of Huron & Queen Streets.



### GUIDEBOOK REVISED

by **Steve Dominy**

Edition 3.1 of the Voyageur Hiking Trail Guidebook was issued in June 1998. The revisions noted in previous issues of the newsletter have been incorporated, and two new trails have been added. Members will find these new maps (Harmony Trail and Gros Cap Loop Trail) within this newsletter.

Another addition to this edition is a blank form for recording trail conditions and other information (*see page 7*).

A small number of extra map pages is available should one wish to obtain the updated pages for a favourite section. These will be available on a first come-first served basis to guidebook owners by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the VTA, Attention: Steve Dominy (maximum five maps request).

The following retail outlets currently supply guidebooks to non-members (members should order through the VTA):

Blind River: Public Library  
Bruce Mines: The Gift Rack  
Elliot Lake: Red's Little Hooker Bait and Tackle Shop  
Lake Superior Provincial Park: Friends of LSPP Visitor's Centre  
Little Rapids: The General Store  
Pukaskwa National Park: Visitor's Centre  
Prince Township: Jan's Place  
Sault Ste. Marie: Clean North, Dunn's Authors, Joe's Sports and Surplus, Pickwick Books  
Terrace Bay: Travel Information Centre  
Thessalon: Forestland  
Thunder Bay: Take a Hike outdoors store  
Toronto: Mountain Equipment Co-op  
Wawa: Travel Information Centre, Young's General Store, Rainbow Gifts

Yes, it has only been a few months since Edition 3.1 was released, but there already a few changes to note. Please advise Steve Dominy (Tel: 705-946-2484 or E-mail: <sdominy@nrca.gc.ca>) of any additional trail changes.

#### **Desbarats Section:**

Mount Zion Road [5.5] to Randolph Lake [11.4]: Re-routed to follow logging roads. This section now takes approximately one and one-half hours to hike. Cleaned and blazed (August 8, 1998).

#### **Goulais Section:**

In the area of the boardwalk [2.4], the trail has been flooded by beaver activity. It is necessary to bushwack slightly to the west to avoid getting wet feet. The trail captain has been

advised of this situation, and will have the boardwalk moved and the trail re-blazed as soon as possible.

#### **Saulteaux Section:**

After crossing Highway 17 [40.0], remain on Sixth Line between the Root River bridge and the railway crossing, rather than leaving the road. The landowner has asked hikers to avoid his property owing to ongoing logging activity.

#### **Stokely and Harmony Sections:**

The approximately 5 km access trail from Havilland Bay to the junction of the Harmony and Stokely Sections is shown in the new guidebook as being blue-blazed. As of the newsletter deadline, this trail is blazed in dark blue only to the junction of the lookout trail, and is white blazed from there to the main trail. Dark blue blazes lead to the lookout. This is the only case on the trail system where we have a side trail from another side trail. In order to avoid confusion, signs will be added and the white blazes will be replaced with a light blue blaze.

On the main Stokely trail, about a 15 minute walk from Tier Lake, the trail markers have vanished and the trail is impossible to follow. Nails holding vinyl blazes had been inadvertently driven right into the trees in this area, not allowing for tree growth. Consequently, the blazes have been popping off. The Trail Master has been advised of this situation, and hopes to have it corrected by next summer.

Note that in the new guidebook (Edition 3.1), the distances on the Stokely Section have been changed owing to the linking of the Harmony Section north of Tier Lake. The total trail length is now 11.7 km, 1.8 km shorter than before. The Havilland access trail [A1] is now 1.8 km longer.

#### **Thessalon Section:**

After the sentence with the reference [16.5] in it, replace the rest of the paragraph with the following:

It drops into a stream valley and crosses the north flowing stream on a beaver dam 50 m S. It passes through a mixed conifer woods for 50 m before picking up the end of an old tote road which the trail follows E for the next 2.8 km. Along the way you will pass through a hardwood forest, a swale, a wet cedar swamp then climb a hill reaching a spot with a view [\*]. Dropping slightly then reaching another crest it then crosses a bush road. Cross another bush road 300m on as you continue through a jack pine plantation. The road dips to cross a stream [18.9].

Please also note that Highway 561 is also designated as 638 on the highway sign and on some maps.



## 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.**

#### **Tuesday, December 8, 1998 -**

The Voyageur Hiking Trail is closed. (To keep the trail from becoming a "public right-of-way" we protect our landowners by closing the trail for one day a year.)

#### **Friday, January 1, 1999 - New Year's Day Snowshoe**

Patrick Capper again leads us on a snowshoe outing to ring in the new year! Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Zellers parking lot behind Pennington's to car pool. Behaved pets are welcome. Call Patrick at (705) 253-4470.

#### **Saturday, January 9 - Snowshoe**

Join us as we snowshoe the area off Goulais Avenue near Camp Korah with Frank Brooks. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Market Mall parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets are welcome. For info, call Frank at (705) 949-9560.

#### **\*Sunday, January 17 - Ski (suitable for young children)**

Susan Graham will lead an outing to McNearney Lake Ski trails in the U.S. (warm-up cabin on site). Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the U.S. Tourist Information building. Please leave your pets at home for this outing. For more info, call Susan at (705) 949-4105.

#### **Monday, January 18 - Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting**

Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre. For info, call Susan Graham at (705) 949-4105.

#### **\*Saturday, January 23 - Family Toboggan, Ski or Snowshoe (suitable for young children)**

Join Trina Fournier as she leads us to Centennial Park on St. Joseph Island for some wintertime family fun! Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Churchill Plaza

parking lot to car pool. Please leave your pets at home for this outing. Call Trina at (705) 253-3359.

#### **Saturday, January 30 - Snowshoe**

A snowshoe outing is planned on part of the Tom Allinson Spur Trail in the Red Rock cottage area. Behaved pets are welcome. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Market Mall parking lot to car pool. Call Gayle Phillips at (705) 942-1891.

#### **Wednesday, February 3 - Paddling Partners Video Night**

Plan on joining the Paddling Partners at 7:30 p.m. at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre, as we watch a video (and dream) about the north shore of Lake Superior called "Under the Shadow of the Gods". Call Trina Fournier at (705) 253-3359.

#### **Saturday, February 6 - Bon Soo Family Snowshoe Experience**

This popular Bon Soo event has been an annual tradition. Join us as we strap snowshoes on children for their first snowshoe experience as part of Bon Soo's Family Fun Day at Bellevue Park. To volunteer, call Susan Graham at (705) 949-4105.

#### **Sunday, February 14 - Valentine's Day Bushwhack Ski or Snowshoe**

Join Gayle Phillips as she leads us for our first winter outing on the new Gros Cap Loop Trail. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Market Mall parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets are welcome. For info, call Gayle at (705) 942-1891.

#### **Sunday, February 21 - Family Snowshoe (suitable for young children)**

Bring your family along and join Susan Graham as she leads us on a short snowshoe in the Thayer's Acres area. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Zellers parking lot behind Pennington's. Please leave your pets at home for this outing. For more info, call Susan at (705) 949-4105.

#### **Saturday, February 27 - Moonwalk**

(please call (705) 779-3409 before leaving home, as the weather conditions will determine whether this will proceed or not)

Weather permitting a moonlight ski, snowshoe or stroll will take place (depending on ice conditions) at 7:00 p.m. at Gros Cap. Afterwards we will gather at Castellino Dis-Similar for a warm "mug-up". Behaved pets are welcome. Call Cheryl Landmark at (705) 779-3409.

#### **\*Sunday, February 28 - Bushwhack Ski or Snowshoe**

Join Gale Koteles on the Goulais River Loop Trail. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Zellers parking lot behind Pennington's to car pool. Please leave your pets at home for this outing. For more info, call Gale at (705) 949-1302.

#### **Saturday, March 6 - Bushwhack Ski**

Depending on ice conditions we would like to try to ski along the ice from Gros Cap to Red Rock cottage area where we will enjoy a warm "mug-up" and possibly ski back! Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Gros Cap Blue Water Inn parking lot. Behaved pets are welcome. For more info, call Mike Landmark at (705) 779-3409.

#### **Saturday & Sunday, March 13 & 14 - Weekend at Snowshoe Camp**

Mike Landmark has offered to try to arrange a weekend of snowshoeing, skiing and ice fishing at Snowshoe Camp. Cabins (sleep 4) are available for Saturday night (one night) for \$85, or two (Friday & Saturday) nights for \$150. The lodge will again offer us a delicious dinner on Saturday evening for \$13 per person. For more info, or to book your space call Mike at (705) 779-3409. Deadline to book cabins is January 31, 1999.

(Continued on page 6)





## OUTING SCHEDULE

(Continued from page 5)

### Monday, March 15 - Bi-Monthly Saulteaux Club meeting

Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre. After the business meeting, the Saulteaux Club's Annual Dinner plans will be finalized. Call Susan Graham at (705) 949-4105.

### Sunday, March 21 - Bushwhack Ski,

Gail Andrews invites everyone on a bushwhack ski to a "secret location". Meet at the Zellers parking lot behind Pennington's at 9:30 a.m. sharp to car pool. Please leave your pets at home for this outing. Call Gail at (705) 942-0768.

### \*Saturday, April 3 - Bushwhack Ski or Snowshoe to the Pictographs

Join Patrick Capper as we bushwhack ski or snowshoe in from Highway 17 North to the Pictographs in Lake Superior Provincial Park (*ice conditions permitting*). Meet at 9:00 a.m. sharp at the Zellers parking lot behind Pennington's to car pool. Please leave your pets at home for this outing. Call Patrick at (705) 253-4470.

### Wed., April 21 - Earth Day Clean-Up (suitable for young children)

Our annual Earth Day clean-up will take place at Thayer's Acres near Hiawatha Park with a campfire to follow at dusk. Garbage bags will be supplied. Bring your own work gloves and campfire treats. Meet at the Zellers parking lot behind Pennington's Store at 6:30 p.m. Behaved pets are welcome. Call Susan Graham at (705) 949-4105.

**April 1999** - Watch for details about the Annual Saulteaux Club Dinner in the next edition of the VT News on your doorstep early in April.



## THE VOYAGEUR SPIRIT LIVES ON

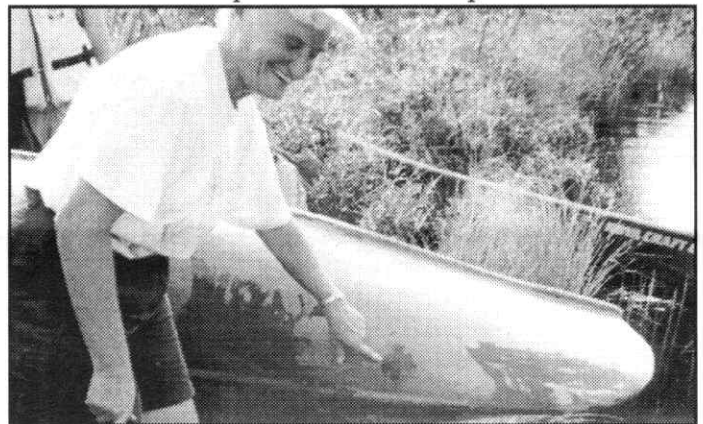
by Joan Foster



What do adventuring Voyageur Spirits actually do on a warm, lazy September 19th morning? Why, they pack up their gear, canoes, kayaks and dogs and, under the enthusiastic guidance of Don McGorman, launch their crafts at Trout Lake for a day of paddling and portaging — or, was that portaging with some paddling, Don!

Water levels had dropped dramatically over the season, leaving shorelines and creeks a bit more rocky and swampy. As we paddled through Trout and Caribou Lakes, the mist lifted and the sun came out revealing a glorious panorama of early autumn colours, particularly from the Crystal Creek lookout (*shown above*). After a lazy lunch and refreshing swim (*kudos to Mary-Ann, Cynthia and Joan who braved the waters*), we portaged and canoed on to Crystal Creek. Suddenly, Ila Aho's old, faithful red canoe experienced a serious puncture and

quickly took on water. Not to worry! With a wad of freshly-chewed bubblegum and the old duct-tape band-aid trick (*see right*), we were once again afloat. Many large moose tracks were seen along the muddy banks of the creek, but no wild-life was spotted except for us "Voyageuring Spirits", who enjoyed a glorious day of fun and adventure.



**The Penokean Hills Field Naturalists in Elliot Lake** have invited anyone who may be in their area to join them for their weekly Sherriff Creek Sanctuary outings on Fridays, usually at 10:00 a.m. Also, they are planning their annual Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, December 27th. On Sunday, January 17th they will have a special "tracking" outing in Mississauga Provincial Park. For more information about any of their activities, call Erwin Meissner at (705) 848-0815 or Jim Johnston at (705) 848-7377.

## MABEL LAKE WEEKEND GETAWAY *by Pim Delfgou*

Five intrepid hikers from the VTA conducted an overnight hike to Mabel Lake on the August 22-23 weekend. The long, warm summer made it perfect to get out of the house and spend a night in the bush without having to travel far. We arrived at Thayer's Acres just after 10.00 am, and after unloading our gear, set off down the trail. The going was clear, thanks to two work parties who cleared and blazed the trail and developed the campsite. The trail went through a mixed forest at first and was dry. We made a stop at a side trail to a beaver pond and then climbed two ridges before arriving at Mabel Lake just before lunch. The weather was sunny and hot, so when we reached the campsite, we immediately went for a swim, and then had lunch. After we got the tents set up, we spent the afternoon fishing, taking photographs or just taking it easy. A couple more swims later, it was time for a short hike up the trail and then upon returning, to have supper. I got a campfire going down by the lake and we all sat around it watching the loons and other wildlife. Clouds moved in and it started to rain by the time we went to bed. Fortunately, it stopped by dawn, but some fog moved in. After breakfast, we found conditions ideal for some more fishing and photography. By late morning, we broke camp and headed off up the trail. We returned via the Connor Road. Along the way, we stopped at the trail to Crystal Lake and had lunch. The return hike was easy over the road, and we reached the parking area around 2:00 pm. It was an enjoyable outing, and weather conditions co-operated, raining at night, and after we got back home.



### Skyline Hikers of the Canadian Rockies

A non-profit society established in 1933.

**Offering 5 six-day wilderness camps  
in the spectacular Canadian Rockies.**

**July 12 - August 9, 1999**

total cost per person for each camp  
**approximately \$525**

Price includes transportation from Banff, all meals, tent accommodation and guided day-hikes from the base camp.

For a free brochure, call (403) 282-2752 or

e-mail to: [skyliner@connect.ab.ca](mailto:skyliner@connect.ab.ca)

Ontario residents, contact Harry Moerschner at (705) 445-0267.

## A GIFT FOR YOU!

*The form below can be copied, cut out and punched with holes to fit your Voyageur Trail Association Guidebook.*

*Using this form can help you to keep track of where you hiked, when, and the condition of the trail at that time.*

*We hope it will also remind you to report the condition of the trail to us so we can update our web site and plan our trail maintenance outings to be the most effective that they can be.*

### BEEN THERE, HIKED THAT!!

*Trail record/diary - copy for future use if desired.*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Companions: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

Distance: \_\_\_\_\_

Difficulty: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Points of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the trail need work? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

What work? \_\_\_\_\_

Contacted Trail Master or a Board member about  
need for a work party? \_\_\_\_\_

**To order a Voyageur Trail Guidebook in time for  
Christmas, call Steve at (705) 946-2484 or Gayle at  
(705) 942-1891.**



## FOR SALE:

- 1 Lightweight External Frame Backpack \$10
  - 1 Raleigh 10-speed Mountain Bike \$100
  - 1 pair Splitken Cross-Country Skis (205) (waxable) \$10-15
  - 1 pair Rossignol Cross-Country Skis (200) (waxable) \$10-15
  - 1 Day pack \$10
  - 1 Fanny pack \$10
  - 2 pairs Cross-Country Ski Poles \$2 each
- Call (705) 942-0768**

## CASQUES ISLES CLUB REPORT

We elected an executive in the spring and set a schedule of events for the 1998 hiking season. Unfortunately, with our intrepid leader, Mike Scott, gone for the summer, some of the events didn't happen as we lacked leadership. As well, other events were cancelled due to weather. The events that did take place, however, were successful, with groups attending from Thunder Bay.

The entire trail system was cleared by a student that we hired in the spring. He did a good job, the trails are in top notch shape.

The Ontario Trails Council (OTC) held an information session on the Trans Canada Trail here in September. The OTC was scouting for people to organize a group to help develop the trail system through Northern Ontario. There were a few reps from the Nipigon Red Rock Hiking Club that attended as well.

The Molson bridge was built and installed over Cook's Creek on the weekend of October 3rd-4th.



## BEEN THERE, HIKE THAT!!

*Trail record/diary - copy for future use if desired.*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Companions: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

Distance: \_\_\_\_\_

Difficulty: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Points of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the trail need work? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

What work? \_\_\_\_\_

Contacted Trail Master or a Board member about need for a work party? \_\_\_\_\_

**Christmas is  
Coming and We  
Have Perfect Gifts  
for the Outdoors  
Person on  
Your List!**



Voyageur Trail Association Membership - \$20  
(Students - only \$10!)

VTA Guidebook - \$15 for members,  
\$25 for non-members

Long-sleeved T-shirts: \$15

Short-sleeved T-shirts: \$12

Sweatshirts: \$20

Crests: \$3 each

Pins: \$3 each (hurry--only 4 left!)

To insure you get your order before  
Christmas, call Susan at (705) 949-4105  
or Gayle at (705) 942-1891 a.s.a.p.

## Hiding Your Millions??

*Did you know donations to the VTA are tax deductible?*

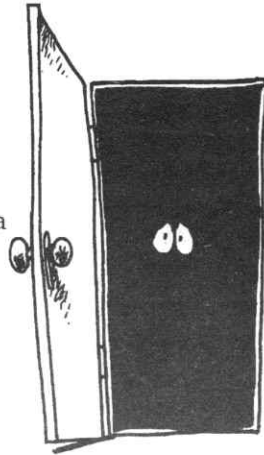




## WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

by Jack Donald

On a hike during the summer, a relatively new member remarked that she did not know what she should wear on the trail or where suitable gear could be purchased at a reasonable cost. While the more experienced hikers no doubt will have settled on clothing that is right for them, some discussion here might provide useful information to the newcomer and also bring forth suggestions and ideas which would be helpful to all members.



In selecting clothing, the operative word is "layers". Rather than one thick, heavy sweater, two or three thinner garments will permit adjusting the weight as the body heats up or cools down. Deciding what to wear on the bottom is a little trickier because putting on or taking off a layer is a bit of a job (particularly when wearing snowshoes). Long johns or pyjama bottoms can be worn under pants; however, it seems that if the upper body is warm enough, it's possible to go a little lighter on the legs, particularly when working hard. I have found that a two-piece nylon wind suit with lightweight lining is an excellent outer layer. It stops the wind without being heavy or bulky.

For cold weather, Kristin Hostetter of Backpacker magazine suggests a polyester next-to-skin layer to wick sweat away from the skin; then one or more middle or insulating layers of lightweight fleece; on the outside, a tightly woven shell to cut the wind and repel moisture.

This leaves the head and feet. A supportive and comfortable pair of boots is probably the most important item — if your feet hurt, you're not having any fun! Don't skimp on time or money when selecting boots — the right footwear will feel good from day one and will serve you well for many years. Thin nylon socks under warm wool socks will keep the feet warm and dry. Pick hats that will keep the head warm in winter and shaded in summer. If your head is cold, you are cold all over.

Hikers with thick wallets can go to one of the well-known outdoors shops and get themselves fitted with all the right attire for a few hundred dollars. However, except for boots, suitable gear can be found in a run-of-the-mill department or discount store for considerably less money. Boots are best purchased where knowledgeable staff are available to assist.



## WE SAW A BEAR!

by Patrick Capper

Apart from owners' dogs, I have rarely seen large animals while hiking along the trail, so it was quite a thrill to see a bear while on the August 16th outing to Griffon Lake. At first, some of us thought it was a beaver swimming across the lake, but with binoculars a yellow nose was quite evident and, when it clambered out on the far shore, it was clearly a youngish bear. This was the first sighting I have had of a bear while hiking.

It started me thinking about how rarely large animals are seen while on organized hikes. The biggest thrill was last September 6th 1997 when a large bull moose galloped across the trail - in front of three hikers and behind the other nine, while hiking on the Tom Allinson Spur Trail. Unfortunately, this was not repeated on this year's November 1st hike when the best we could do was see a rabbit.

I think the reason for seeing few animals is that the conversations are often animated and the few creatures there are in the area are scared away (and, who wouldn't be by seeing some of us!), so one is much more likely to see a bear, moose or deer while driving to or from our trails.

Other sightings I recall were a baby raccoon on the Pictured Rocks trail in 1985, a porcupine near Shaw Dam on May 13 1989, and one heard but not seen by Dieter Ropke at Rhyolite in June 1986 as it munched on plywood near his tent and kept him awake most of the night. I have also seen a woodchuck on the coastal trail near Sinclair Cove in 1995.

Bird sightings can also be quite infrequent and it was unusual to see so many while driving along the bush road to the Thessalon trail on October 31st. We also saw a pair of bald eagles while working on the trail there. Our expert naturalists can often recognize birds by their song even when the bird is hidden in the bushes but, when we are cycling and someone says there's a black and white, most of us start looking for the police car.

When hiking or paddling in a small group, the chances are better for seeing wild life. In Pukaskwa Park, Gayle Phillips saw a bear on the trail near the White River and my son and I saw one near the Willow River back in 1987. Dieter recently saw a bobcat while paddling in his canoe. A few of us saw a beaver when on the Paddling Partners outing on the Echo River. In fact, beaver are probably the most common large wild animal sighted while hiking/paddling.

(Continued on page 10)



### WE SAW A BEAR!

*(Continued from page 8)*

So, for those hikers from Southern Ontario who come North and expect the place to be teeming with wildlife, they are most likely to be disappointed. For those afraid of beasties, they are likely to be glad that bears aren't there to welcome them to the backcountry campsite. The ones you really have to be on guard against are mice or chipmunks that for some strange reason like to chew holes in the plastic hose on water filters or chew through fabric to get at a tasty treat hung up in the trees to be safe from bears!

The biggest danger is running into a large animal while driving along the highway at night. Deer are often seen in upper Michigan and St. Joseph Island and moose are common around the Lake Superior Park and White River area.



### AUTUMN TREKKING AT PANCAKE BAY *by Joan Foster*



Who could resist hiking the Pancake Bay Provincial Park Trail on a misty September 27th autumn day? Even Barbara Ann and Misty, our two faithful dogs, were eager to trek the 9-kilometre trail. The autumn colours were inspiring and much time was spent at the two look-outs identifying the various islands, bays and points of interest around the calm expanse of Pancake Bay. Lunch was eaten near a beaver pond and then it was on to the bubbling waters of the shallow Pancake Falls where we marvelled at the sights and sounds of autumn, while the dogs enjoyed refreshing dips. We then double-backed on part of the trail, through some muddy sections, to the road and thus, back to the parking lot.

How lucky I feel to be a Voyageur and experience the rugged beauty of Algoma during all four seasons, along well-marked trails and waterways, at the same time enjoying the knowledge and enthusiasm of fellow hikers and boaters.



### MEMBERS OF THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION RECEIVE:

- the *Voyageur Trail News*, a top-quality newsletter containing information of use and interest to members, including regular notification of trail changes delivered right to your home
- a membership card to be carried at all times on the Trail, and which provides discounts at businesses along and near the Trail route\*
- free advertisements in the *Voyageur Trail News* and the Internet web site for members selling used trail equipment and supplies
- voting privileges at general meetings
- a discount on the purchase of the *Voyageur Hiking Trail Guidebook*
- the knowledge that you are aiding in the development and maintenance of a 1,100 kilometre-long (when complete) volunteer hiking trail through some of Ontario's most spectacular scenery.



*\*If you own a business and would like to offer a discount to our members, please contact Mike Landmark at (705) 779-3409 and we will advertise it for you.*

*VTA Members are asked to abide by our Trail Users' Code which sums up our thoughts about our trail and our wilderness in general...*

#### 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!**

## VTA MEMBERSHIP (at Nov. 1, 1998)

\* means have already renewed for 1999

### Association-at-Large:

Carolyn Adolph, Ottawa, ON  
 Kay Cartwright, Kingston, ON  
 John Hannon, Pinawa, Manitoba  
 Neil G. Isham, Albion, Michigan  
 James Kelly, Waterford, Michigan  
 Peter Kloestra, Walkerton, ON  
 Sister Marie Kopin, Mount Pleasant, Michigan  
 Rick Lalonde, Windsor, ON  
 L. L. Lemanski, Lansing, Michigan  
 John & Jill Leslie, Guelph, ON  
 Leah Mullen, Thornhill, ON  
 Walter Muma, Cambridge, ON  
 \*Beverly S. Osborne, Dafer, Michigan  
 Donald Riche, Toronto, ON  
 Robert W. Slack, Caledon East, ON  
 David Spector, Nepean, ON  
 Henri M. van Bommel, Toronto, ON  
 Pete Wiedemann, Thunder Bay, ON  
 Laurie Ane Whitt, Chassell, Michigan

### Thunder Bay:

Dr. Connie Nelson  
 George P. Rhine  
 Brian Stewart  
 Stanley Voogt, White Sand Lake, ON

### Casque Isles (Schreiber/Terrace Bay/Rosspoint):

Margarids Antunes, Terrace Bay  
 Sharon Batty, Terrace Bay  
 Mary Deschatelets, Terrace Bay  
 Duncan MacKay, Terrace Bay  
 Pat Maenpaa, Terrace Bay  
 Mark Malashewski, Terrace Bay  
 Lisette & Glen McGee, Terrace Bay  
 Michael G. Scott Schreiber  
 Rev. John Sovereign, Schreiber  
 Maureen Tychoniak, Terrace Bay  
 Dr. K. & Mrs. E. Wilkes, Terrace Bay

### Michipicoten Club (Warwa):

Peter Burgoyne  
 Dorothy Egan  
 Bob Elliot  
 Eddie Kotscheider  
 Agnes Ostermeier  
 R. G. Reid  
 Peter & Kristine Stinnissen  
 David Wells

### Saulteaux Club (Sault Ste. Marie):

#9 Greenwood Scout Group  
 21st Eastside Rovers  
 Algoma Adventures  
 Ila Aho  
 Gail Andrew  
 Robert Backstrom  
 David Balderston  
 K. Baldwin & M. L. Murphy  
 Andrew Barcis  
 Greg Barrett  
 \*Dr. Don Bent

James Bethke, Spring Lake, Michigan  
 Greg Bridgewater  
 Frank Brooks  
 Theresa Brownwright  
 Lisa Buse  
 Wendy Butcher  
 Patrick Capper  
 Central United Group Committee (c/o Joy McPhee)  
 P. Ciaschini  
 Joy & Robert Cohen  
 Alan Comfort  
 Community Living Algoma (Kim McBride & Patty Boucher)  
 Drs. D. Crookston & D. Deluca  
 \*Laura Cruse  
 \*Bob Currell  
 \*Pim Delfgou  
 \*Steve Dominy  
 Jack Donald  
 Jean Paul Dubreuil  
 Jack & Paula Dunning, Echo Bay  
 Daniel Fitz-Morris  
 Joan Foster  
 Trina Fournier  
 Jack Freiburger & family  
 Carol Gartshore  
 Susan & Cliff Graham  
 John Granton, Paris, ON  
 Larry Gringorten  
 Carl Gruhzit, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  
 Claire Hamer, Searchmont, ON  
 Sheila & Ian Hamilton  
 Barry Hansen, Batchewana Bay  
 Maureen Hare  
 Dr. George T. Harvey  
 \*Mark Harvey & family  
 \*Mary Ann Hayman  
 Dave Haynes  
 \*Monica Hilton  
 \*Colleen Hirschfeldt  
 Helen Hutchinson  
 George & Brenda Ireland  
 Marybelle Jarvis  
 Ron & Marge Kelland  
 Len King, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  
 Garry Koteles & family  
 Joel Krupa, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  
 Dona Kyostia  
 Marguerite La Haye  
 Darlene Lamport  
 \*Mike & Cheryl Landmark  
 Barb Lapointe  
 Roddie Larsen, Menasha, Wisconsin  
 Alfred Lauzon  
 Myra MacDonald, Echo Bay, ON  
 Eileen M. MacKay  
 Virve Männiste & Jack Squire  
 Barb & Kim McArthur  
 Janet McCann, Guelph, ON  
 Donald McGorman  
 Richard McGorman  
 \*Helen S. McIntomney  
 Barbara & Bill McLeod  
 Barry Miles  
 James & Janice Miller  
 Aldona K. Mitrikas-Colyer

(Continued on page 12)





## Saulteaux Club (Sault Ste. Marie) continued:

Dr. & Mrs. Ian Morrison  
 Gail Murdock & Jessie  
 Maurice Nadon  
 Betty Nasso, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  
 Darcy Ortiz  
 \*Fred Oswin  
 Lou Pagnotta  
 \*John, LeeAnn & Katie Pearson  
 Joe & Helen Petrolo  
 Mike Petzold, Goulais River, ON  
 Dave Phillips  
 \*Gayle Phillips  
 C. Pouw  
 Anne Prickett  
 Linda Rea, North York, ON  
 Jason Reid  
 Terry Reid  
 Shawn Richards  
 Bill Robinson & P. Wilson  
 \*Bev & Verna Scott  
 Doreen Shaw & Brad Houle  
 \*J. Dwight Stafford  
 Josephine Stewart, Richards Landing, ON  
 Cynthia Suhay  
 \*April Sullivan  
 \*Daniel & Loretta Sweezy  
 Dr. Paul D. Syme  
 \*Michael Thompson  
 Noreen Towers  
 Susan & David Tyrrell, Echo Bay, ON  
 \*Kees van Frankenhuyzen  
 Lisa Venier  
 Jan Wainwright  
 Doris Welz  
 Dr. M. H. West  
 \*Don Wierzbicki  
 Brian D. Williams  
 Rick Wytsma  
 Austin Youngson & Franca Wright

## Desbarats Club:

Doug & Nan Cressman  
 Cathy Magill & Tom Krickl, Calumet City, IL  
 Dieter Ropke

## Thessalon:

Ute Kissau  
 Gisela Roemer

## Penewobikong Club (Blind River):

Barb Lawrence, Gore Bay, ON  
 \*Norman K. Lediett  
 Vernon A. Lediett, Guelph  
 Mr. A. & Mrs. W. Van Roon  
 Dan Wheeler

## Coureur de Bois Club (Elliot Lake):

Ginette Bedard  
 Ray Cormier  
 George Krause, Sarnia, ON  
 \*Klaus Landmark

## Sudbury:

Mario Bianconi  
 \*Karl Giesbrecht  
 Mike Natti



## MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE DRAW

You too could be a winner like Cathy Magill from Calumet City, Illinois! Cathy was the lucky recipient of the Membership Incentive Draw for 1997. She received a beautiful piece of handcrafted pottery from Erika Ropke. This year's prize is a carved wooden hiking bear crafted by Mike Brouillette, a local carver. The bear is a smaller version of *Harvey the Hiking Bear* installed recently at the Tourist Information Centre on Queen Street in Sault Ste. Marie. So hurry! Renew your VTA membership before January 1, 1999, and you will have a chance at winning this fabulous prize!



**JOIN THESE EARLY BIRD 1999 VTA MEMBERS** in our **Membership Incentive Draw (see above)** as well as those in previous list marked with a "\*" "

## Association-at-Large:

Donald & Ruth King, Tweed, ON

## Casque Isles (Schreiber/Terrace Bay/Rosspport):

Rainbow Falls Provincial Park  
 Rob Stewart, Kashechewan, ON

## Michipicoten Club (Wawa):

Ralph H. Mills

## Saulteaux Club (Sault Ste. Marie):

Ken Hagerman  
 James Hooey  
 Pathfinders #4  
 John & Heather Smith



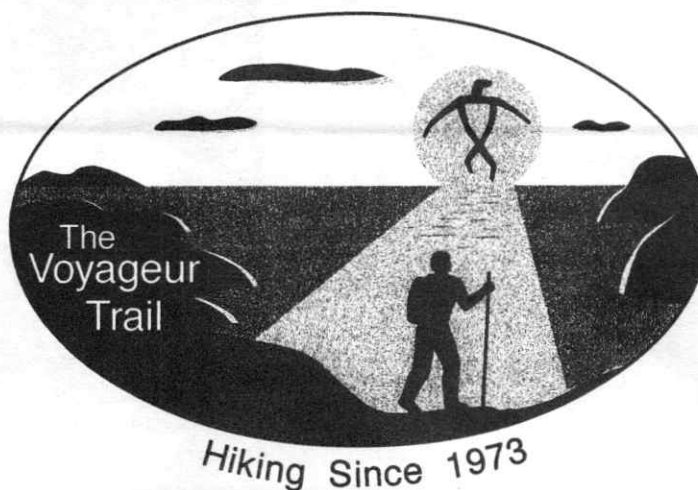
The **VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS** is published three times a year. Your articles and photos are always welcome!

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 1, 1999.**

## Introducing Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Logo

The logo shown here, was designed by Peter Stinnissen, VTA Vice-President West, with help from Wawa Graphic Artist, Dan Klassen. The island on the left represents Manitoulin Island and the point of land on the right represents Thunder Bay, the eventual route of the Voyageur Hiking Trail. The logo is our yellow and navy blue colours and can be embroidered on a whole selection of clothing. See below for prices and ordering information.



## JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT-GIVING!

Order any of these sweatshirts or vests below and get our 25th Anniversary logo fully-embroidered in colour on the left chest side. Call Sault Promo (705) 759-2827 with your order today!

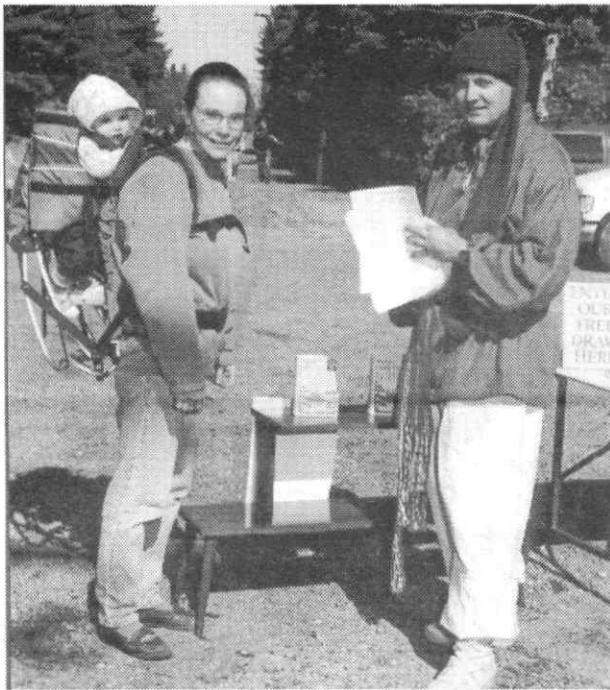
- Leisureware sweatshirt - \$33.75
- NonFiction crewneck sweatshirt - \$35.50
- English Bay full-zip vest - \$38.25
- English Bay garment dyed sweatshirt - \$35.95
- English Bay 1/4 zip garment dyed - \$42.25
- English Bay stonewashed sweatshirt - \$38.25
- English Bay stonewashed cowl neck - \$44.75
- English Bay stonewashed hooded - \$51.80

***The Voyageur Trail Association's Family Fun Day which took place on Saturday, October 3 in Sault Ste. Marie was a huge success!***

***Photos Inside***

*Here is a glimpse of all the goings-on at our 25th Anniversary free Family Fun Day which took place at Kinsmen Park in Sault Ste. Marie on Saturday, October 3, 1998.*

**The day started with an official "welcome" from our "Voyageur" (Mike Landmark)...**



**We unveiled our new sign which will be installed near Crystal Falls in Kinsmen Park**



*(l to r): Tony Martin MPP, Susan Graham (Saulteaux Club President), Steve Butland (Sault Ste. Marie Mayor), Dr. Paul Syme (VTA original founder)*



**The children's rides, popcorn and cotton candy provided by the Steelworkers Community Services Committee were a hit!**





There was hiking complete with astounding fall colours.



The hot dog/sausage barbeque was too successful, with supplies running out not once, not twice, but three times!

The 'Comedics' entertained the crowd with music and laughter...  
(with our very own VTA landowner, Dr. R. Maloney on the far right!)



All the children received a free frisbee and there were guidebooks and topo maps for sale...all in all a terrific day with over 550 people attending!



A very big thank you to all of our sponsors (see next page) & volunteers who made this day an outstanding success!

All photos by: Ed Hay, Photographer, Phone (705) 759-9081

## Winners, Winners, Winners!

by Steve Dominy

Door prize winners at the 25th Anniversary Jubilee Family Day held on Saturday, October 3, 1998 were:

- ✓ Heyden Ski Hill Annual Pass: Nadine Roehrig (Sault Ste. Marie)
- ✓ VTA 25th Anniversary Logo English Bay Vest: Barry Woods (Sudbury)
- ✓ Free VTA one-year membership: Mary Ann Hayman (Sault Ste. Marie)

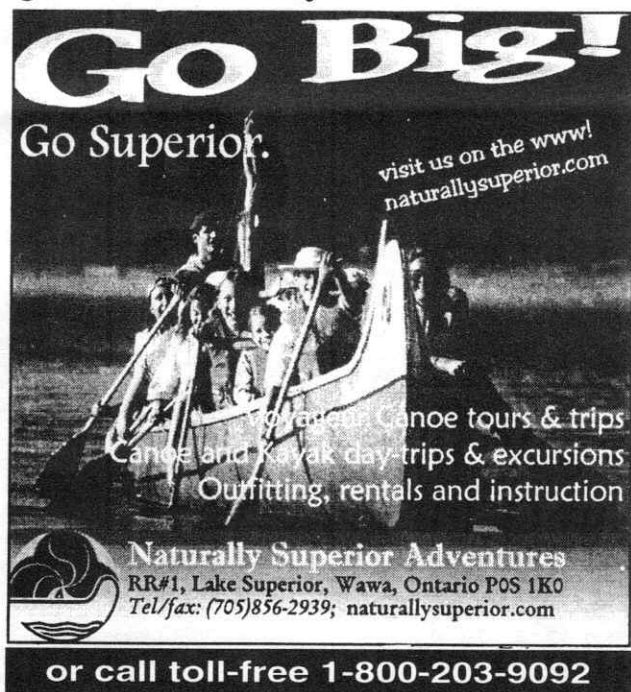
On Ontario Hiking Day, Sunday, October 4, 1998, a draw for five guided trips for two by Naturally Superior Adventures' 36-foot Voyageur canoe (3 days, 2 nights on Victoria Day weekend, 1999) was made and the lucky winners were:

- ✓ Bev and Verna Scott (Goulais)
- ✓ Dan Sweezy (Harmony)
- ✓ Jean Paul Dubreuil (Sault Ste. Marie)
- ✓ Steve Dominy (Sault Ste. Marie)
- ✓ Larry Lemanski (Michigan)

Also, on Ontario Hiking Day, a draw was made for subscriptions to Explore Magazine and the winners were:

- ✓ Robert Backstrom (Sault Ste. Marie)
- ✓ David Wells (Wawa)
- ✓ Bill Robinson (Sault Ste. Marie)

*Congratulations to everyone!*



**Go Big!**  
Go Superior.

visit us on the www!  
[naturallysuperior.com](http://naturallysuperior.com)

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or call toll-free 1-800-203-9092

### *We couldn't have done it without you!*

The **VOYAGEUR HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION** would like to thank those who helped to make our *25th Anniversary Family Fun Day* such a success:

- Atlas Auto Parts
- the Comedics
- Community Operated Police Store Front (C.O.P.S.)
- EJLB Corporation
- Heyden Ski Hill
- Hiawatha Lodge
- Investors Group
- M & M Meats
- Market Mall Postal Outlet
- Northern Credit Union
- Sault Kinsmen Club
- Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority
- Steelworkers Community Services Committee
- Teen Centre
- Wardlaw Fuels
- Y.M.C.A.



and the many volunteers who took the time from their busy schedules to lend a hand! **THANK YOU!**

**Found:** At the Saulteaux Club Jubilee Family Day Oct. 3rd at Kinsmen Park, one checked lumber shirt.  
To claim, please call Steve Dominy at (705) 946-2484.

**VTA 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY INSERT**