



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

No. 72 SPRING 1999

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>

A member of
Hike Ontario,
National Trail Association,
Ontario Trails Council, and
Trans Canada Trail
Foundation.



INSIDE

- President's Report..... 2
- Steve Taylor Award..... 3
- Paddling Partners..... 3
- Outing Schedule..... 5/6
- Valentine's Day Ski..... 7
- Friends of the Bruce... 8
- And much, much more!

WELCOME!! *by Cheryl Landmark*

The Voyageur Trail Association is pleased to announce the rejuvenation of a former member of our family! A club has formed once again in Elliot Lake, thanks to the tireless efforts of Mike Landmark, V.P. Central and Publicity Director, and the many avid people in Elliot Lake and the North Shore, who share the visions and goals of the VTA. President of the club is Paul Fuller, (705) 461-9080, Vice-President is Ray Cormier, (705) 848-7979, Secretary-Treasurer is Jocelyne Breive, (705) 848-0405, and Trail Master is Al Carriere, (705) 848-4372. We would like to welcome the Coureurs de Bois back into the Association fold!

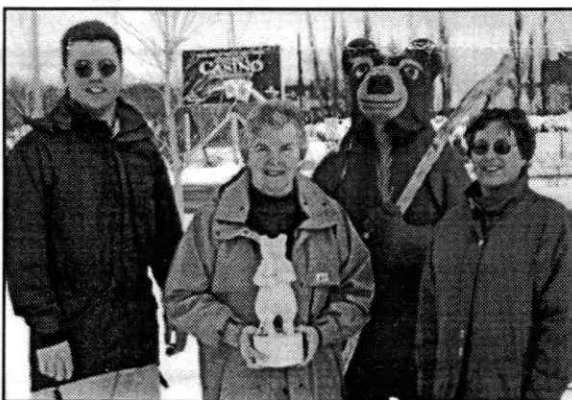
It is hoped that new clubs will also form in Blind River and Iron Bridge in the near future. Rumbblings of interest are coming out of those areas, so, hopefully, they can be fanned into full-fledged activation.

Thanks to the increased publicity efforts of the VTA and the Trans Canada Trail in the past few years, the level of awareness of the VTA has been tremendously boosted and we are enjoying a resurgence of new ideas and enthusiasm. We have had in excess of 30 brand-new members for 1999, so something certainly is working right! As we move ahead into the new millenium, all indications are that the VTA will continue to grow and build upon the dream that was started twenty-five years ago.

Welcome also to Ron Fournier, who is our new Membership Secretary, and to Ray Cormier, who has volunteered to be acting Vice-President, East until the next elections. We hope that you enjoy your stint on the VTA executive and we look forward to working with you both in the future.



MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE DRAW



And, the winner is....!

Helen Hutchinson of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario is the lucky recipient of the Membership Incentive Draw for 1999. Ron Fournier, VTA Membership Secretary and Cheryl Landmark, VTA Newsletter Editor/General Secretary (*on right*) are shown here in front of the full-sized *Harvey the Hiking Bear* presenting Helen with her prize, the cute, smaller prototype. Both bears

were crafted by Mike Brouillette, a local carver. Helen's name was drawn from a total of 129 people who signed up as VTA members by January 1, 1999. *Congratulations, Helen!* (Watch for next year's prize to be announced shortly.)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please be advised that the editor's e-mail address is changed to: cheryl.landmark@sympatico.ca

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by *Gayle Phillips*

First of all, let me congratulate Mike Landmark who has landed a full time job with the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) Foundation for the next two years. In the year 2000, water from all 3 oceans will be "relayed" across the country by way of the Trans Canada Trail route, to a grand opening ceremony at the National Capital Commission Site. Mike has been put in charge of the relay logistics from Winnipeg, Manitoba to North Bay, Ontario.

The TCT Foundation has generously allowed Mike to keep his Vice-President and Publicity Director positions on the VTA Executive which has allowed him to talk VTA with various "movers-and-shakers" in the hiking communities across the north. The first results of this huge boon for the VTA were announced on page one of this newsletter, as the Elliot Lake Club has re-formed and is actively working on a busy summer schedule. Watch for lots of action from this hiking town and, I hope, the first of many more to come!

The Ontario Trails Council has also hired Al Wright from Sault Ste. Marie as a part time representative responsible to establish the "umbrella" organization to plan and implement the TCT across Northern Ontario. Marion MacAdam from Kenora was also hired part time. Their mandate is to actually get the trail "on the ground" by the year 2000 so they will be working to complete our dream as well.

I hope we all do what we can to help these two achieve their goals, as they will be working feverishly to accomplish ours!

- The 1999 Hike Ontario Annual Meeting will take place in Sault Ste. Marie on Saturday, September 25, 1999. This could be an important event for us in a number of ways: we can introduce people from (mostly) southern Ontario to our beautiful but rugged country, and we can use the occasion to prove to our city that we *can* bring in tourism dollars by bringing conventions, etc. here. September 25 is a terrific time for people to come to the Sault, but it is not without its problems—as it is the busiest weekend of the year for the Agawa Canyon Train Tour! If you can offer to billet one or two people for the weekend, please contact me (705-942-1891) or Susan Graham (705-949-4105).



So far the weekend is scheduled as so:

Friday, September 24 evening 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Welcoming Reception

Saturday, September 25 - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Meeting, Lunch and Presentation

2:00 - 6:00 p.m. *Hike of the Gros Cap bluffs*

6:00 p.m. - *fish-fry at Blue Water Inn, Gros Cap*

Sunday, September 26 - two hikes to choose from:

- 1) a morning excursion to the top of King Mountain with Patrick Capper (705-253-4470);
- 2) an all day trip to hike in Lake Superior Provincial Park with Gayle Phillips (705-942-1891).

All Voyageur Trail members are encouraged to attend any or all of the weekend events. Look for more information in the late August/early September newsletter.

- Apparently, deer and moose find flagging tape irresistible but it doesn't sit too well in their stomachs and can cause long-term complications. With this in mind, the VTA executive has decided to pay a little extra for their flagging tape and buy biodegradable, which apparently does little or no damage to the animals.

- Ron Fournier has our new membership database program up and running smoothly and thank goodness he volunteered when he did! We had some difficulties with our computer having no system on it when it arrived, so with Ron's help, we purchased our own copy of Windows 98 and installed it. Everything is going along wonderfully now and this computer should do us well into the next millenium.

- You can expect to see an Assumption of Risk Agreement appearing at VTA outings. These agreements serve a couple of purposes: they reinforce that participants are ultimately responsible for their own level of fitness, and they help the hike leaders keep track of who /how many people are on their outing.

- Glad to report that one of our favourite landowners, Horst Wetzl, is feeling better and looking forward to welcoming us to his property, yet again this year for our annual Mother's Day hike!

See you on the trail!

