



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

No. 72 SPRING 1999

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LAYOUT BY: Gayle Phillips

Published by the
VOYAGEUR TRAIL
ASSOCIATION

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



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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!



VOLUNTEER AWARD

The winner of the 1998 Steve Taylor Volunteer Recognition Award, for the second year in a row, is Mike Landmark of the VTA Executive and the Saulteaux Club in Sault Ste. Marie,



shown here accepting his award from VTA President, Gayle Phillips. Once again, Mike has shown his tireless commitment and willingness to promote and publicize the VTA whenever and wherever he can. Along with these publicity efforts, he has organized and led numerous outings, has planned and built the new Gros Cap Loop trail, has been an active participant in most of the scheduled outings, has sparked new interest in the VTA in the eastern part of the region, and has continued to bring fresh and innovative ideas forward. The VTA is very fortunate indeed to have a member who is as dedicated and committed as Mike is.
Congratulations, Mike!



WISH YOU WERE HERE!

Lorie of Sault Promo is asking anyone in the VTA who aspires to having one of their amateur photos grace a postcard to give her a call at the office. She is particularly looking for local Sault Ste. Marie area winter shots but will have a look at anything. If someone is successful in getting a postcard printed, they would have their name on it as photographer. If you are interested, call Lorie at (705) 759-2827.



LANDOWNER LIST

It has been mentioned that some members who have adopted a section of trail might be interested in having a list of the landowners along their section. If you would like this information, please call the Landowner Liaison, Jack Donald, at (705) 942-1761.



LOCAL STROKES WITH LOCAL FOLKS

by Trina Fournier

For as long as I can remember this part of Northern Ontario has been promoting itself as a snowmobiling-hunting-fishing Mecca. So, when the Provincial Parks started filling up and the City of Sault Ste. Marie declared itself "Naturally Gifted", I thought - finally! eco-tourism has come to Algoma.

Now an increasing number of wilderness travel companies are offering the full meal deal of adventure travel, everything taken care of just open your eyes and soak up some of the best canoeing, kayaking and hiking Algoma has to offer. That is great for those who have money to burn, but how many of us locals are going to pay to have someone show us around our own back yard for a week to ten days? So if you're not one to start your campfire with twenty dollar bills and it's paddling partners you're looking for, have I got a deal for you. With the Saulteaux Club Paddling Partners you can enjoy Algoma wilderness on a beggar's budget.

Last year we met for a camp stove potluck, participated in a shore line clean up on Lake Superior, paddled the Heyden Lake-Trout Lake Water Trail. We also dipped our paddles in the Thessalon River, Mississagi River, St. Mary's River, Echo River and neighbouring lakes. This year's schedule looks like it will be just as fun and maybe, just maybe, we won't have to paddle around a bloated, decomposing, moose carcass.

Unlike the big boys we don't provide meals or equipment, the trips are free and the shuttling is co-operative. And if you really, really enjoy yourself on one of the outings you can show your appreciation by leading the Paddling Partners to your favourite puddle.

Remember to check the VTA Information Line (253-5353 #9999) for additional outings or changes throughout the paddling season.



It's tax time again! Looking to hide your millions??

Donations to the VTA are tax deductible!



PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL

by **Mike Landmark**

The Voyageur Trail Association is able to offer its members and the general public a wonderful hiking trail that leads to all kinds of wilderness adventures. This is due in large part to the generosity and goodwill of private landowners, who are kind enough to allow us to trek across their properties. Continued use of the trail is dependent upon the proper care of the lands entrusted to us by these landowners. This permission is a privilege, not a right. If we abuse this trust, we not only spoil the adventure for ourselves but also for the countless others who enjoy the pleasures of a walk in the woods. Land use permission could be cancelled by a landowner, thereby permanently closing an important section of trail and causing major disruption to the existing trail connections. Please be respectful of the landowner's wishes and property and adhere to the Trail Users' Code at all times whenever you venture out on the trail. Have your Voyageur Trail Membership Card available should the landowner request proof of membership, which he/she is legally entitled to do.



BEARS

by **Mike Landmark**

As most of us are aware, the spring bear hunt has been

cancelled in Northern Ontario. This means that possibly more bears will be out and about as we trek through the trails. Extra care and caution should be taken at this time of year. Also, in the summer (mid-August), there is talk that a bear hunt will be extended, so when out at this time of year, be aware once again and dress appropriately so as to be visible to hunters. Being noisy may be in order also, thereby letting the hunters and the bears know where you are.



FOR SALE

1998 Rockwater Designs 69L internal frame pack, lifetime warranty against defects. Asking \$170. Call Karl at (705) 759-8026.



NOTICE OF TENDER

The Voyageur Trail Association is calling for tenders for a 1999 Trail Audit of all existing trails in the Voyageur Hiking Trail system (excluding the parks). The audit will include:

- hiking the trail(s) during leaf season (May to September) to check the description in our current guidebook,
 - making notes of any areas where major trail work or re-routing is needed,
 - adding flagging tape in areas where trail markings are missing,
 - possibly taking photos or slides, and
 - reporting back to the VTA Executive on a regular basis.
- f) Your proposal *may* include taking GPS readings (*please list this separately.*)

Please itemize your submission as much as possible. When considering your submission, please remember that the Voyageur Hiking Trail is a true wilderness trail with rugged terrain and sparse access roads. Personal safety concerns, reprovisioning stops, and time travelling to and from access points should be factored in to your submission.

List of trails to be audited:

- Elliot Lake to just north of Sault Ste. Marie (not including the Tom Allinson Spur Trail and from Glenview Cottages to Gros Cap);
- Michipicoten;
- Marathon;
- Casque Isles;
- Nipigon to Red Rock.

Submit all tenders and a list of your personal qualifications by April 15, 1999

c/o Trail Audit, Voyageur Trail Association,
PO Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd.,
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6W3



10% OFF for VTA Members!

J. B. Environmental Cleaning would like to remind you that VTA Members get a discount on any spring cleaning you have planned! Frank Brooks has equipment that can handle anything from ceilings and walls to lawn furniture, barbeques and car interiors!

Call (705) 949-9560 for more information, or a free estimate.

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, fly repellent and dress appropriately. Be prepared to sign an Assumption of Risk Agreement.

1999 Saulteaux Club Annual Dinner Saturday, April 24

Guzzo's Family Restaurant,
688 Great Northern Road,
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
Cocktails 6:00 ~ Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Presentation on "The Klondike Expedition" by Max Iland

Tickets are \$17 per person and may be purchased by mailing your cheque to:
V. T. Saulteaux Club
c/o 26 Primrose Drive
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 4E6

OUTING SCHEDULE MAY-SEPTEMBER 1999

This season, there will be a trail maintenance outing every Wednesday beginning May 5, 1999 with Frank Brooks. This provides ample opportunity for everyone to volunteer for their suggested 3 times a year cleaning duty! Contact Frank for details (705) 949-9560.

Saturday, May 1 - Annual "Go to Blazes" Trail Maintenance

Join Gayle Phillips as she leads us in our annual kick-off to another year of trail maintenance outings. The location will depend on how much snow is in the bush. Meet at 9:30 am sharp at the Zellers parking lot behind Pennington's to car pool. Tools will be

provided. Behaved pets are welcome. Call Gayle at (705) 942-1891.

Sunday, May 9 - Annual Mother's Day Hike

Horst Wetzl will again invite everyone to his home for a hot dog lunch after we hike from Goulais Avenue. Meet at 10:00 am sharp at the Market Mall parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets are welcome. For more info, call Susan at (705) 949-4105.

Saturday, May 15 - Canoe outing

Don McGorman will again show us one of his favourite canoe routes from Lower Island Lake to Heyden Lake via Finn Lake. There will be portages involved. Participants must be part of a fully-equipped, self-sufficient canoe/kayak party. For meeting place and time call Gayle at (705) 942-1891.

Saturday, May 22 - Hike

Susan Graham wants to check out her adopted section from Creek Road to Maki Road on this Victoria Day weekend. Behaved pets are welcome. For meeting time and place, call Susan at (705) 949-4105.

*Saturday, June 5 - Paddle

The North Shore offers a tremendous variety of landscapes. Come paddle with us as we explore this shoreline from Pine Island through the East Neebish Channel to Pumpkin Point. Strong winds on the open water can require physical endurance. You must be part of a fully-equipped, self-sufficient canoe/kayak party. Alternate foul weather day is Sunday, June 6. For meeting place and time, contact Trina or Ron at (705) 253-3359.

Saturday, June 19 - VTA Executive Meeting

*Saturday, June 26 - Paddle

Join us for a leisurely paddle from Pine Island along the North Shore past Port Findlay to the St. Joseph Island Bridge. We will have time for exploring among the small islands in Maskinonge Bay. You must be part of

a fully-equipped, self-sufficient canoe/kayak party. Alternate foul weather day is Sunday, June 27. For meeting place and time, contact Trina or Ron at (705) 253-3359.

*Saturday, July 10 - Paddle

Paddle among the many rocky islands in St. Joseph Channel. We will put in at the St. Joseph Island Bridge and follow a string of islands to the north side of Campement d'Ours Island and on to Portlock and Dawson Islands to Desbarats. You must be part of a fully-equipped, self-sufficient canoe/kayak party. Alternate foul weather day is Sunday, July 11. For meeting place and time, contact Trina or Ron at (705) 253-3359.

*Saturday, July 17 - Canada Parks Day

We will join Lake Superior Provincial Park staff as they explore Superior's rugged shoreline between Katherine Cove and Coldwater Creek. We'll take a closer look at arctic-alpine plants, coastal vegetation and the interesting geology exposed along the shoreline. The trail traverses rock outcrops and boulder beaches. Wear sturdy footwear and bring a lunch, water, rain gear and bug spray. Recommended for experience hikers; the terrain is rugged (approx. 4 hours)! Meet at Katherine Cove at 10:30 a.m. sharp. For more info, call the park at (705) 856-2284 or Gayle at (705) 942-1891. Pets must be leashed in the park & day permits may be purchased at Agawa Bay campground on your way by.

*Sunday, July 25 - Hike

Chuck Bosley will lead us on a hike around Clark Lake near Tahquamenon Falls. Bring your swimsuit and towel for a dip afterwards. Meet at 9:00 a.m. sharp at the U.S. Welcome Centre in Sault, Michigan. Please leave your pets at home for this outing. For more info, call

(Continued on page 6)



OUTING SCHEDULE

(Continued from page 5)

Chuck at (705) 949-8206 or
(906) 248-3287.

Thursday, July 29 - Evening Paddle

Join the Paddling Partners for a short evening paddle at Marks Bay near the Sault Ste. Marie airport. You must be part of a fully-equipped, self-sufficient canoe/kayak party. For meeting place and time, call Gayle at (705) 942-1891.

*Saturday, August 7 - Paddle

Paddling is an ideal way to enjoy the shores of St. Joseph Island. We will travel north from Sailor's Encampment through the Shipping Channel and around Stribling Point to Richards Landing. Strong winds on the open water can require physical endurance. You must be part of a fully-equipped, self-sufficient canoe/kayak party. Alternate foul weather day is Sunday, August 8. For meeting place and time, contact Trina or Ron at (705) 253-3359.

*Sunday, August 8 - Hike

Gail Andrews will lead a hike along the North Country Trail on the Michigan side. Meet at 9:30 a.m. sharp at the U.S. Welcome Centre in Sault, Michigan. Bring your swimsuit and towel for a swim after the hike. For more info, call Gail at (705) 942-0768.

*Saturday, August 14 - Hike

Hike and relax in the beauty of the Echo Ridges Section cut through maple and mixed forest just east of the Sault. Meet at the Churchill Plaza parking lot at 9:00 a.m. to car pool. Behaved pets are welcome. You may wish to bring your swimsuit and towel along for a dip afterwards. For more info, call Trina at (705) 253-3359.

*Saturday & Sunday, August 21 & 22 - Family or Beginner's Backpack (Overnight)

Steve Dominy will lead a family or beginner's backpack trip in the Thessalon Section from Highway 129 to Tea Lake (one night). Contact Steve at (705) 946-2484 by July 15th if you wish to attend.

Thursday, August 26 - Moonlight Stroll

Gayle Phillips will lead us on an evening stroll in the Gros Cap area to watch the sunset and possibly see the full moon come up. Meet at the Blue Water Inn parking lot at 7:00 p.m. Behaved pets are welcome. For more info, call Gayle at (705) 942-1891.

*Sunday, August 29 - Hike

This last weekend of August, we will visit a section east of the Sault for a hike. Meet at 9:30 a.m. sharp at the Churchill Plaza parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets are welcome. For more info, call Gayle at (705) 942-1891.

*Sunday, September 12 - Hike

Jack Donald will lead us in the Goulais River section of the Voyageur Hiking Trail. Meet at 9:00 a.m. sharp at the Zellers parking lot behind Pennington's Store to car pool. Please leave your pets at home for this outing. Call Jack at (705) 942-1761.

Saturday, September 18 - Hike

Larry Gringorten and Don McGorman invite us along on a hike into the Mabel Lake area from somewhere near Kinsmen's Hiawatha Park. Meet at 9:30 a.m. sharp at the Zellers parking lot behind Pennington's Store to car pool. Behaved pets are welcome. For info, call Larry at (705) 759-5740 ext. 2500 or (705) 949-7953.

Friday, September 24 - Hike Ontario Welcoming Reception 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. *Location to be announced.*

Saturday, September 25 - Ontario Annual Meeting, Presentation on the beauty of Northern Ontario, Hike and Fish-Fry

Plan to join our Hike Ontario guests visiting for their annual meeting. Lunch will be provided at a nominal fee. Afterwards, we are in the process of arranging a slide presentation of both Lake Superior Provincial Park and Pukaskwa National Park, and a short afternoon hike of the Gros Cap bluffs. Those interested in the hike only can meet at Blue Water Inn parking lot at 2:30 p.m. Behaved pets are welcome. Dinner will be a fish-fry at the Blue Water Inn for approximately \$10 per person (not including beverages.) Call Gayle at (705) 942-1891 for further details.

*Sunday, September 26 - Hike in honour of our guests from Hike Ontario

Since many of our Hike Ontario friends have travelled a long way to the area for their meeting, we wish to show them the beauty of our country with a hike in Lake Superior Provincial Park. Participants should prepare for a full day of hiking and travelling to and fro. Actual location will depend on the weather. Pets are welcome but must be leashed in the park. Day passes may be purchased from the Agawa Bay campground on the way by. Call Gayle at (705) 942-1891.

*For those visitors who wish to leave earlier and don't have all day to marvel at the autumn colours, Patrick Capper will take us on a morning hike to the top of King Mountain. Those interested should call Patrick for further details at (705) 253-4470.

Advance Notice: Sunday, October 3 - Ontario Hiking Day

Steve Dominy will lead a family hike and Bev & Verna Scott will lead a hike on the Pancake Bay Hiking Trail. *Watch the next newsletter for more details!*

SPECIAL NOTE:

Mike Landmark of the Trans Canada Trails Relay 2000 invites interested parties to accompany him when he GPS's and checks out the trails along the corridor between Winnipeg and North Bay. For more information call him at (705) 779-3409.

ALWAYS...

call the VTA Information Line at (705) 253-5353 (or 1-800-393-5353 where available) and select message #9999 to check on any last-minute changes to any of the outings listed.

Make it a habit!



UPCOMING EVENTS AT PUKASKWA NATIONAL PARK

All events take place at Pukaskwa National Park, Heron Bay, ON
tel: (807) 229-0801,
e-mail: Ont_Pukaskwa@pch.gc.ca

Spring/Summer 1999

Saturday March 27 - Moonlight Snowshoe Hike

Join us to explore the spectacular winter landscape of Pukaskwa under a full moon. Look for signs of nocturnal wildlife and learn about the benefits of the "snow blanket". We'll end the walk with hot refreshments around an outdoor fire. Bring your own snowshoes or call the park to reserve a pair in advance. For more info, call the park at (807) 229-0801.

Thursday July 1 - Canada Day Celebrations

Celebrate Canada's 132nd birthday! Special events will be happening all day long, including interpretive programs, children's activities and birthday cake. Be our guest - day use is free!

July 17/18 - Superior Weekend

Come out to celebrate the world's largest freshwater lake - and learn about the parks along its shores. On July 17, Parks' Day, take in special displays, a free BBQ, children's activities and an evening spirit hike. On July 18, it is Lake Superior Day! Take a toast to Lake Superior and enjoy interpretive programs about the cleanest great lake. For this special weekend, buy one day pass and get one free.

Visit Pukaskwa on the Internet at:
<http://parkscanada.pch.gc.ca/parks/ontario/pukaskwa/pukaskwae.htm>



VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE *by Gayle Phillips*

There are many ways to lead an outing. On February 14th, I think I invented a new one called "Empowering the Group"! Last year we had so many outings that



were for snowshoers, our bushwhack skiers felt left out, so this winter we planned some ski trips as well.

Even though my main focus on skis is to stay whole and in one piece, I volunteered to lead the Valentine's Day outing which was for skiers as well as snowshoers. Upon arrival, I warned the group that my main focus was to stay alive, so they were basically on their own! I also promised to provide the day's comic relief.

I knew I was in deep trouble when I noticed that two people who are expert skiers had brought snowshoes! Not a good sign!

Two others had intrepidly brought their skis so at least I wasn't alone.

Upon arrival at Marshall Drive (near Gros Cap), everyone took off walking for a distance along the road. As long as it was uphill, my skis remained firmly planted on my shoulders. As soon as the road levelled off, I donned the skis and tried to catch up to the snowshoers. It's a good thing they had to stop at the trailhead to put their shoes on or I never would have caught them!

I pulled out ahead for a short distance, intent on proving to the other skiers that you don't necessarily HAVE to stick to the trail when it gets rough. I attempted to skirt around the first hill. After extracting myself from a set of bushes, I noticed the snowshoers had pulled out ahead and the other two skiers had followed them! Every time I lifted my face out of a snowbank or pushed my way through some brambles, the snowshoers passed me by. I thought skiing was supposed to be faster?

I played catch-up throughout the 4 kilometre loop trail flinging myself from tree to tree. Those who happened to find themselves close by enjoyed a few belly laughs at my technique.

Finally, breaking through a cleft in the rocks, I knew the worst downhill was just ahead. All the snowshoers and skiers had gathered at the bottom of the hill to watch the fun as I descended. I explained that I had to protect SOME of my dignity as I walked out of the bush dragging my skis.

After a leisurely lunch atop the cliffs overlooking Whitefish Bay, we carried on down the main trail. Still not being able to keep up, I immediately took my place at the end of the line.

As I approached Jackson Island Road, the group was nowhere in sight.

Thinking they were again leaving me in the "dust", I hot-footed it down Jackson Island Road and then Marshall Drive back to the vehicles. The joke was on me! Everyone had stopped at the last lookout and I had passed them without knowing it. Upon arriving back at the vehicles, I couldn't figure out what had happened to my group! Some leader I was. Everyone got lost except me. Thank goodness, there they come, happily bouncing over the hill, having thoroughly enjoyed their day of empowerment.

(Note: For those of you who would like to lead but are unsure of your leadership skills, not to worry...VTA outings usually have plenty of experienced people to assist you...lucky for me!)



FRIENDS OF THE BRUCE DISTRICT PARKS ASSOCIATION

The Friends of the Bruce District Parks Association will be holding three fund-raising events in June, 1999 to help them in their support of the programs of the two national parks at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula. All three events will be led by Ross McLean, a long-time Bruce Trail volunteer and an Honorary Member of both the Bruce Trail Association and the Friends of the Bruce District Parks Association. All proceeds from these events will go directly to the Friends. If you are interested in attending any of these outings, contact: Friends of the Bruce District Parks Association, P.O. Box 66, Tobermory, ON N0H 2R0.

1) June 4-11/99 - Volunteer Vacation at the Tip O' the Bruce

Join Ross for a volunteer vacation on Flowerpot Island, six kilometres from Tobermory in Fathom Five National Marine Park.

During the week on the island, you will be hosts for day visitors and will paint the interior of the 1901 lightkeeper's home. Water transportation from Tobermory is provided, and accommodation will be in a more modern lightkeeper's home, which has electricity, indoor plumbing and hot and cold running water. You will work for about four hours a day and spend the rest of the time enjoying the natural beauty of the island. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to Tobermory and their own food and drink on the island (there is a full kitchen). As well, they should bring their own sleeping bag. The cost for a week on the island is \$25.00/individual (non-members), or \$10.00 (members of the Friends). Enrolment is limited.

2) June 11-13/99 - An Introduction to the Beauties of the Upper Bruce

Join Ross at the Bruce Peninsula National Park for an exploration of the treasures of the Upper Bruce. Ross is the author of Country Walks: The Niagara Escarpment and Trails at the Tip o' The Bruce. Included is two nights of camping at the national park (Cyprus Lake), but, if you wish to stay in



Tobermory, you can arrange this personally. A list of motel accommodations will be mailed out to each participant. There

will be an introductory hike on Friday evening to the spectacular shoreline of Georgian Bay. On Saturday, you will explore parts of the Bruce Trail and Dorcas Bay, and, on Sunday, visit the Devil's Monument and White Bluff.

Participants are responsible for their own transportation, camping equipment and food (some assistance may be possible with camping equipment). The registration fee includes access to the national park, free camping at Cyprus Lake, two books about natural history and trails of the area, and hike leadership. Cost is \$50.00/individual. Enrolment is limited.

3) June 20/99 - The Anniversary Hikes

The Peninsula Bruce Trail Club and the Friends of the Bruce District Parks Association invite you to join either of the two Anniversary Hikes on Sunday, June 20th, commemorating the official opening of the Bruce Trail in Tobermory in 1967. The longer hike is NOT for beginners! At 25 kilometres in length, it runs from Halfway Log Dump to Little Tub Harbour in Tobermory along what the Trail Reference calls "the most spectacular part of the Bruce Trail". As it crosses rocky headlands and boulder beaches, it is also the most challenging section. At 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, participants will be bused from Tobermory to the start of the hike. Registration is \$25.00/person.

The shorter hike is approximately 12 kilometres in length and will cover the most northerly section of the Bruce Trail.

Participants will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the cairn in Tobermory and car pool to the starting point. Registration is \$20.00/person.

Each participant in either hike will receive a ticket to the Saturday evening fish-fry at the Tobermory Community Centre, a part of the weekend Chi-cheemaun Festival marking the opening of summer in the Peninsula. Each hiker will also be given a badge or pin of the Friends of the Bruce District Parks in celebration of their participation.



Call the Voyageur Trail Info Line

for key contact people, their telephone numbers and up-to-date news reports, including the latest word on scheduled outings. Dial (705) 253-5353 (or 1-800-393-5353 where available) and select message #9999 on your touch tone phone.

THANK YOU...



(left to right): Eileen Hurdon of the Sault Market Mall Post Office recently presented VTA President, Gayle Phillips with a final cheque for Nevada Ticket sales. Nevada ticket monies were used to purchase the "Hiking Bear", signage, the VTA membership database and computer, and will fund the trail audit (see page 4). The balance will be used for publicity and trail development initiatives. But it all couldn't have happened without the hard work of the Market Mall Post Office staff. Thank you!

EXPERIENCE NORTH ADVENTURES

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Visit our web site at: www.exnorth.com

-----✂-----✂----- (clip and mail) -----✂-----✂-----

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM (please print)

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ Prov./State: _____ Postal/Zip Code: _____
 Please check one: New Member Renewal Phone (home): _____ (work): _____
 E-mail address: _____ OK to put on VTA website? yes no

MEMBERSHIP FEES: (January 1st to December 31st—fees paid after October 31st will be applied to the next membership year)

Individual (includes liability insurance for one person only)..\$20 = _____
 Family/Group (\$3.50 per additional member at the same address, to cover optional liability insurance coverage for outings—please supply name[s]) = _____
 Student.....\$10 = _____
 Donations (tax receipt will be sent)..... = _____
 Charitable Reg. # 119261923RR0001
 Guidebook (member) \$15 x _____ (non-member) \$25 x _____ = _____
 Crest \$3 x _____ = _____
 T-Shirts: sleeves -short \$12 x _____ -long \$15 (size _____).. = _____
 Sweatshirt \$20 x _____ (size _____)..... = _____
 For Topography Maps \$10 / Tyvek \$11 -
 Call Steve (705) 946-2484

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make cheques payable and mail to:
VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION,
 P. O. Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd.,
 Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada P6A 6W3

For non-members, the Guidebook is now available from Pickwick Bookstore, Clean North, Dunn's Authors, Joe's Sports & Surplus, and Jan's Place in Sault Ste. Marie; the Travel Information Centres in Wawa and Blind River; the Blind River Public Library; The Gift Rack in Bruce Mines; Forestland in Thessalon; the Little Rapids General Store in Little Rapids; Red's Little Hooker Bait & Tackle in Elliot Lake; Lake Superior Provincial Park Visitor's Centre; Pukaskwa National Park Visitor's Centre; Take a Hike in Thunder Bay; and Mountain Equipment Co-op in Toronto.

(Continued on back -) 9



VTA EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT:

Gayle Phillips (705) 942-1891

VICE-PRESIDENT - WEST:

Peter Stinnissen (705) 856-4270

VICE-PRESIDENT - CENTRAL:

Mike Landmark (705) 779-3409

VICE-PRESIDENT - EAST:

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Steve Dominy (705) 946-2484

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

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(705) 779-3409

Layout by: Gayle Phillips



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

Send them to Cheryl Landmark, c/o Voyageur Trail Association, PO Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd., Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6W3
Tel: 705-779-3409

e-mail to:

< cheryl.landmark@sympatico.ca >

Deadline for the next issue is August 1, 1999.

Articles in this newsletter may be copied if credit is given to the Voyageur Trail Association.

Voyageur Hiking 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!**

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DECLARATION: I understand that the Voyageur Trail is a wilderness trail and some remote or little-used sections may be in poor condition due to fallen trees or regrowth of vegetation. I understand I hike it at my own risk. I have read and will abide by the Trail Users' Code. *(signature)* _____

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail development | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter, guidebook, photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hike leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner liaison, records, maps | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization—executive, directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Special events; conferences, dinners | |

Please consider me a member-at-large or a member of (*check one below*): (*denotes active sections)

Section

- Thunder Bay
- Nipigon
- Schreiber/Terrace Bay
- Marathon
- Pukaskwa National Park
- *Wawa
- Lake Superior Provincial Park
- Batchewana
- Harmony Beach/Havilland Bay
- Goulais
- *Sault Ste. Marie
- Echo Bay

Club

- Thunder Bay V.T.C.
- Casque Isles V.T.C.
- Michipicoten V.T.C.
- Saulteaux V.T.C.
- Echo Ridges V.T.C.

Section

- Desbarats
- Bruce Mines
- Thessalon
- Iron Bridge
- Blind River
- *Elliot Lake
- Spanish
- Massey
- Espanola
- Little Current
- Sheguiandah
- South Baymouth
- Sudbury

Club

- Desbarats V.T.C.
- Thessalon V.T.C.
- Penewobikong V.T.C.
- Coueurs de Bois V.T.C.
- Rainbow V.T.C.
- Sudbury V.T.C.

