



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

No. 74 FALL 1999

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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.*

WANTED: TRAIL COORDINATOR (Service Contract)

The Voyageur Trail Association (VTA) was established in 1973 as a volunteer-based charitable organization with the goal of constructing a continuous hiking trail from Manitoulin Island to Thunder Bay. Several hundred kilometres of this trail remain to be completed.

In this new position, the Trail Coordinator will operate independently and report to the VTA Board of Directors. As a spokesperson for the VTA, the Trail Coordinator will establish effective collaboration with key organizations willing to build and maintain new hiking trail sections along the proposed route. While possessing strong administrative skills, the ideal candidate will also be capable of developing financial partnerships with key supporting agencies and organizations.

The individual would be expected to work from either their home office, or an office supplied in Sault Ste. Marie, and be prepared to travel extensively using their own vehicle. This is a two year, full-time contract, with the possibility of renewal.

Further information about this position can be found at
<http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail>

Please indicate in a separate cover letter how your skills, knowledge and experience relate to the desired qualifications. Replies with remuneration expectations should be received **no later than November 22, 1999** at:

Voyageur Trail Association, P.O. Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd., Sault Ste. Marie, ON
P6A 6W3 Attn: Trail Coordinator Position.

Only applicants short-listed for further consideration will be notified.



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WE GET E-MAIL!

The Goulais River Area Beavers would like to thank the VTA and British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) for the boardwalk. One section makes an excellent raft, another a good dock, and a third section, we found by incorporating it into our dam, helped give it good reinforcement. We left one section on dry land for those funny two legged critters to stand on and admire our workbeavership. Two were in there trying to help us by cutting down some alder along the dam so the two legged critters could get to the viewing platform we left for them, however, we much prefer poplars being cut down rather than the alders as poplars are much tastier. Happy paddling!

- The Goulais River Beavers.

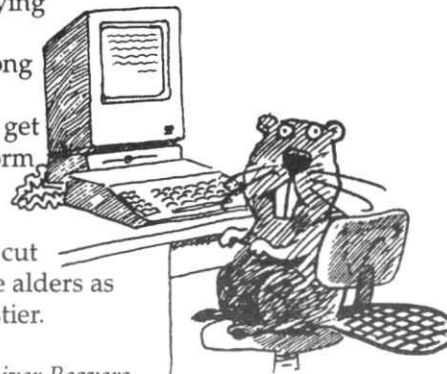
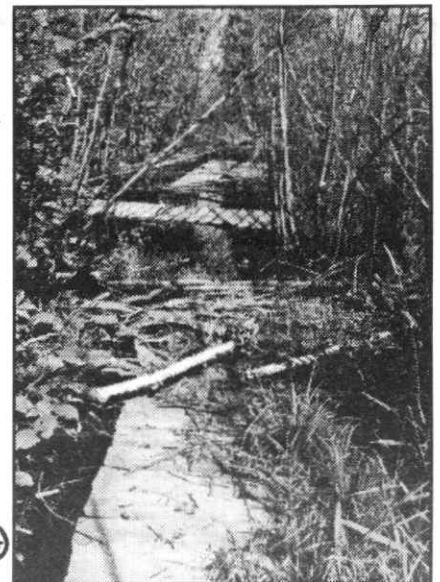


Photo courtesy Craig Zimmerman



NO WHINE FOR ME PLEASE

by Gayle Phillips

Have you ever picked up your VTA Newsletter, read the outing schedule and said, "Darn, why don't we have more ski outings?" or "Darn, why don't we have more hikes in the summer months?" Well why not lead one yourself? You see, outing leaders are regular VTA members who enjoy certain activities and have favourite sections of trail that they don't mind showing other people. Do you have a favourite section of trail? Maybe you have already taken a few of your closest friends to see this trail. If you have, you have already LEAD an outing, now all you need to do is let the rest of us in on it!

Leading is not as onerous a chore as one would think. You pick a date, pick a location and then show up! Usually, there are a number of experienced VTA members who show up at your outing and they don't mind giving you a hand with sweeping, for instance, or advice and support. The Association has a brochure entitled, "Tips for Outing Leaders" which is full of good advice and there are Assumption of Risk Agreements for participants to sign to keep track of how many people show up and where they are from. We would be happy to send these to you at any time—you just have to ask!

In the meantime, when you pick up a VT Newsletter and find yourself saying, "Darn, why don't we have more _____ outings?", pick up the phone and call your Club President and do something about it! If everyone lead just one outing a year...just ONE outing, imagine the varied and interesting locations we would visit and the memories we would create! Stop and think of the locations that you never would have seen, of the interesting people that you never would have met, of the good times you would never have had, if you hadn't gone on a specific outing on a certain day.

To those of you who DO offer to lead outings, we want to thank you. By giving the rest of us an opportunity to see where you like to go, and how you like to get there, you offer the hand of personal friendship and we appreciate it. Without you, there would be no clubs, no friendships formed, no opportunity to try something new or see a new location...no excitement in being members of our local clubs!

To those of you who support the VTA by your membership but do not live close enough to the trail to participate on outings, we thank you. I would like to encourage our outing leaders or participants to share your stories of the outing through this newsletter so these members can more easily feel a part of us.



Make a pact, right now, that in the year 2000 you will lead one outing! Pick up that phone right now and call your club President to select a date! I guarantee it will add a new purpose to your step and a renewed interest in your life.

Club Presidents:

Casque Isles - Dan McGrath (807) 824-2016
Michipicoten - Pete Burgoyne (705) 856-7107
Saulteaux - Susan Graham (705) 949-4105
Coureurs des Bois - Paul Fuller (705) 461-9080



Wilderness First Aid Courses are being offered to any VTA member who:

- will take the course in the next two months,
- will volunteer their free time to attend the course,
- will schedule to lead at least three outings in the upcoming year,
- upon completion, will produce a copy of your certificate to the VTA for reimbursement of \$95 towards your course fee.

Canadian Red Cross Wilderness First Aid courses are 16 hours over a Friday evening and all day Saturday. The First Aid and CPR certificates are good for 2 years. Upon certification, the Red Cross offers a \$10 Million Liability Insurance coverage when you use your skills as you were taught. Anyone interested, please contact Gayle at (705) 942-1891.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Gayle Phillips

Don
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As my first year as VTA President comes to a close, I reflect back proudly on what the Association and our Clubs have accomplished.

- revitalized clubs in Elliot Lake, Blind River and Schreiber/Terrace Bay/Rosspoint area
- new loop trails developed in the Saulteaux and Goulais River Sections
- blue side trail developed in Sault Ste. Marie to join our trail to the waterfront boardwalk area
- joining the Trans Canada Trail and the Ontario Trails Council
- renewing our affiliations with the National Trail and Hike Ontario
- erected two large signs and stocked 8-inch square green hiker signs for trailheads with a grant obtained through Mountain Equipment Co-op
- Assumption of Risk Agreements instituted at the club level
- testified in court on behalf of a landowner who caught motorized vehicles where they are not permitted
- supported the new bridge being built in Iron Bridge
- built a bridge on Casques Isles Section with a grant obtained through Molsons
- successfully hosted the Hike Ontario Annual Meeting and the Ontario Trails Council Executive meeting (the first time they left southern Ontario)
- began a review process of our Constitution and gathered information to begin to record a set of By-Laws and Policies
- issued three newsletters this year
- with our funds raised through Nevada Ticket sales we: paid for a complete trail audit including sending copies to all of our clubs, purchased a GPS unit, stocked biodegradable flagging tape for better protection of our wildlife, ordered 15,000 new colour brochures, designed and purchased 1,000 full colour posters, paid for hugely successful 25th Anniversary celebrations, installed a huge carving at the Ontario Tourist Information building at the Gateway site in Sault Ste. Marie, purchased a state-of-the-art computer for the Association and a membership/landowner database ... and there are still a few items we



Photo courtesy Monica Hilton

Don McGorman launches his loop trail with a hike in the Kinsmen Park area on September 18/99.

are considering to use the last of the funds wisely, such as, wilderness first aid courses for our hike leaders, signage for the trail, VTA car decals for publicity initiatives and trail building equipment.

We've had our set-backs too. We were turned down for grants to hire a summer student, and buy more colour brochures, but at least we tried. The Wawa club tried for funding to build a trail to the southern tip of Pukaskwa, which hasn't been accepted or turned down yet, so there is still hope.

The good news from all of this activity is we have had inquiries to build trail and/or start clubs from Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Spragge, Espanola and Iron Bridge, and, we will have a new full-time person to make these contacts happen! Yes, we have received notice that we have a two-year Trillium Foundation province-wide grant to hire a full-time Trail Coordinator (see page 1).

All in all, I think the past year has brought some notoriety and renewed interest to the VTA which will carry us nicely into year 2000. We just may see our dream of a trail from Thunder Bay to South Baymouth come true right before our eyes sooner than we think!



1999 Steve Taylor Volunteer Award Winner

Cheryl Landmark (right), VTA Newsletter Editor presents VTA President, Gayle Phillips with the 1999 Steve Taylor Volunteer Award for her efforts this year in organizing the Hike Ontario/Ontario Trails Council weekend, working on various committees, helping with publicity and the VTA newsletter. The Steve Taylor Volunteer Award was established in 1995 to honour a VTA volunteer who serves above and beyond the call of duty each year—something that its namesake, Steve Taylor, did until his untimely death in 1994.

Congratulations Gayle!

