



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

No. 75 SPRING 2000

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
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

- Werewolves Return..... 2
- Sweatshirt Alert!..... 3
- Kindred Spirits..... 4
- Outing Schedules...5/6/7
- Huge Job, Well Done... 7
- TCT Relay 2000..... 8
- And much, much more!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *by Gayle Phillips*

As promised, year 2000 is starting out to be the busiest on record!

The Voyageur Trail Association (VTA) is delighted to announce the successful applicant to the Voyageur Trail Coordinator position—**Georgena MacDonald**. Georgena hails from Spragge, a small town on Highway 17 just west of the Elliot Lake turnoff. She has a wealth of varied work experience in her background and was a member of the VTA before she landed the job. January was spent going through old minutes, notes, files and getting her home office in order. In February, she made a quick 'get acquainted' tour to points east, including Elliot Lake and Spanish and points west, including Iron Bridge, Blind River, Wawa, Schreiber, and Thunder Bay, gathering contacts and news along the way. She is busy now contacting people in Massey, Espanola and on Manitoulin Island. Very soon Georgena will hit the road again, which I'm sure will become the "road well-travelled" with this lady on the job!



Things have already started happening! Thessalon is hard at work on the way to a club of their own. There are groups in Iron Bridge, Spanish, Thunder Bay, and Marathon considering the VTA and what it can offer. Georgena plans to work with all of them and more, to give them the assistance they need to form clubs and build trail.

In her travels across the north, Georgena has generously volunteered to carry along our supply of VTA t-shirts, sweatshirts, guidebooks, crests, etc. and sell them to members and non-members alike. This is a perfect opportunity for our members to see the merchandise before purchase and it saves the Association the cost of postage.

Georgena's position was funded with a generous two-year grant from the Trillium Foundation, an organization who believes that with a little assistance, our dream of having a continuous pedestrian trail from Thunder Bay to South Baymouth on Manitoulin Island is achievable in the very near future. We all hope they are correct in their assumption.

If you have contacts for Georgena or assistance to offer, phone her at (705) 849-0082; Fax (705) 849-0449 or e-mail to: trail@onlink.net

Let's give her a warm VTA welcome and wish her all the best in her endeavours!

Somewhat behind the scenes, the VTA Executive has been working to organize ourselves a little bit better in anticipation of new clubs coming along. Much headway has been made on revamping our **Constitution** and setting down a set of **By-Laws**. This tedious work will pay off in the end, as we will have some paperwork to give local clubs to inform them of who we are and how we work.

A couple of executive decisions were made recently that will be of interest to our members.

You will notice that there is no longer a line on your membership form that reads "Fees paid after November 1st will cover entire following membership year." That is because we have changed the "**Membership Year**". For the past 26 years, no matter when you paid your membership fee, your membership ran from January to December. Currently, thanks to the advent of our membership computer database, **your membership begins the day you join until a year from that point**. The newsletter you receive just before your membership expires will be stamped "Please Renew". Now a year's membership will be for the term of one year, no matter which month you join.

(Continued
on page 2)



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

Because we have gone to an individual membership year, we can no longer hold our "Membership Incentive Draw" as we have in the past, so we have come up with a new format. In year 2000, all members who sign up to **lead an outing, or participate in a trail maintenance outing** (signs the Assumption of Risk agreement) will have their name entered in a yearly prize draw which will take place each fall at the annual general meeting. If you lead more than one outing, or participate in more than one trail maintenance, your name will be entered as many times as you participated. In addition, if you have an adopted section of trail, your name will be entered into the draw **upon your report of work done** to the Trail Master, Patrick Capper (705-253-4470) or the Web Master, Gayle Phillips (e-mail to: voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca).

Of course, this means that **outing leaders will have to turn in their signed Assumption of Risk agreements** to either of the two people listed above, or mail them to our post office box (listed on the front page of this newsletter.) We hope this new draw method will reinforce some positives for the VTA like signing the Assumption of Risk and reporting work done to update the web page.

As a VTA member, we all should try to get out and do a bit of trail maintenance three times a year. Trail maintenance outings are very different from hiking or skiing outings. First of all, you don't travel as far or as fast, as you are stooping to clip brush or putting up blazes. This gives you ample opportunity to talk with others. (I know I can't hike and talk at the same time. I guess it's like walking and chewing gum!) Usually, you clip branches or put up blazes for a couple of hours, stop for a leisurely lunch, work a little longer and then, get the satisfaction of hiking out over your freshly cleaned and blazed trail. You aren't out to make a destination or set a world record, just to enjoy a day of accomplishment in the fresh air with a few friends.

Of course, if you don't live along the route of the Voyageur Trail, attending outings of any kind may be difficult. You are always welcome to join organized, advertised outings on your holidays.

We also have, among our membership, those who support us in concept only. These members know they will probably never see the Voyageur Trail, but they support our efforts with their encouragement and membership fees. These members are important to us too, and we appreciate their unselfish public spirit.

So as you can see, year 2000 holds some changes, but we hope for the better, as we improve our ability to expand.



RETURN OF THE WEREWOLVES

by Cheryl Landmark

They're ba-a-ck!! The werewolves from two years ago returned to Gros Cap on Friday, February 18, 2000 to howl at the full moon that illuminated the clear northern sky. Fifteen people and three

domesticated wolves participated in this year's Moon Walk and the night could not have been more perfect.

Flashlights were not required as we spent about an hour and a half snowshoeing on the Gros Cap Loop Trail in bright moonlight. On the way back, several of the "werewolves" made their way along the shore on the ice.

One of them even entertained us with a few dance steps that had a few of the participants on shore thinking the ice on the lake was cracking into a million pieces!

After the hike, we retired to Cocomo Joe's for a few refreshments and socializing.

Fortunately for the rest of us, Mike DID NOT participate in the karaoke entertainment! He said he couldn't do it because his singing partner, Anthony Sharp, was not available to help him out (thank you, Anthony, for being in Montreal!). All in all, it was an enjoyable outing and, hopefully, a tradition that will continue in the future. For those of you who missed out on this year's fun, come on out and HOWL with us next time!



Naturally Superior Adventures

Wawa, Ontario

1.800.203.9092

www.naturallysuperior.com

Located on Lake Superior's Heritage Coast

2000 Spring Schedule



Rolling Clinic:

April 7 & 8, John Rhodes Pool, Soo



AEC SKO Certified Sea Kayak Guide Course:

May 1 - 6, Rock Island, Wawa



ORCA Certified Basic Tandem & Solo Canoe:

May 12 eve, 13 & 14, Rock Island, Wawa



ORCA Certified Moving Water Canoe:

May 20 & 21, From Rock Island, Wawa



Sea Kayak Fundamentals:

Jun 16 eve, 17 & 18, Rock Island, Wawa



Annual Paddlefest Sea Kayak Symposium:

June 30 eve & July 1st Long weekend

SAULTEAUX CLUB NOTES

Hi! It's Susan Graham writing. Since the same few faces show up at the Saulteaux Club meetings, I thought I should pass along some information via the newsletter. First, I want to point out the Saulteaux Club Annual Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, April 1. It seemed a good idea to me to hold it that day so it would not interfere with members' Easter plans and other annual dinners that are also in April. However, after I made the arrangements, it was pointed out to me that members would not be receiving their newsletters until mid-March! So check out the dinner details on page 5 of this newsletter, check your calendar, then immediately arrange for your tickets! There will be tickets available at the March 20 Saulteaux Club meeting, or you can mail in your request (below) to me. I must let the cooks know the number to expect by March 27. If you are too late to mail me your request, please phone prior to the 27th so I can include you in the head count, and I'll get your tickets to you. (I will be the April Fool if the guest speaker, Doris Welz and I are the only ones there! But, boy, will we eat well!)

Saulteaux Club elections will be held at the dinner. We are in need of a new President this year, as I am definitely stepping down as of May the 1st. (I was coerced into staying on the last time, but feel it is time to let someone else take the reins.) Please consider taking on the job yourself - especially if you have been "wishing the club would do". I find myself going on fewer and fewer of the planned outings and somewhat out of touch with many members.

The spring and summer outing schedule appears in this newsletter, and I thank all those that are leading outings. Please note the work party scheduled for June 10 with the

Cadets. There will be several groups going out to different areas, and we will need leaders and other experienced people to direct the cadets. We should be able to blitz the trail and clean up a number of areas, so plan on joining in that day.

My thanks to "the faithful few" who came out again this year to the Bon Soo Snowshoe event at Bellevue Park. This is a very popular event for the children, plus a few adults, to try snowshoeing. Don McGorman, Jack Donald, Frank Brooks, Sylvie Reid, myself and a few other conscripts were kept busy for 3 hours putting snowshoes on various shapes and sizes of boots (some more successfully than others). There is usually a big rush after the Polar Bear Swim, and we could always use more hands, so please keep it in mind for next year.

If you completed the entire Saulteaux Section (Gros Cap to Mabel Lake) over the winter, let me know. The club has winter end-to-end crests as well as the regular crests. We take you at your word that you did the whole distance, knowing our members' integrity.

We always have requests for various activities, but we can't do any of them without leaders. There were some comments made about the number of canoe outings last summer, but that's the best we could do with the number of leaders we had available. If you have a favourite place you'd like to share with the club, please consider leading a group. It's not a big responsibility, and our new Assumption of Risk forms have a nice little checklist in the corner for the hike leader.

If you have led outings over the past year and still have your Assumption of Risk forms, please pass them on to me to file (and thanks for leading!).



SWEATSHIRT ALERT

The first order last September for the heavy-duty, embroidered sweatshirts went over well, and the Saulteaux Club will be putting in another order for those who missed out the first time or just want another. These are good quality, all-cotton sweatshirts by Non-Fiction in a light navy colour, with our anniversary "hiker" logo (pictured). Return the form below to Susan Graham by April 3 to order yours. (You could bring it to the next Saulteaux Club meeting on March 20, or the Annual Dinner on April 1.) Out-of-town members will need to add mailing costs or make arrangements to pick them up by some means.

*NOTE: Cost change to \$45 (including taxes).



----- *To order: trim here, attach cheque and mail.* -----

Please order me _____ sweatshirts at \$45 each in the following sizes _____ . My Total order is \$ _____

Please find my cheque enclosed, payable to:

My name & address is:

Saulteaux Voyageur Trail Club,
c/o 26 Primrose Drive,
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 4E6

Phone me at _____ and I'll pick it up.

see over

