



No. 75 SPRING 2000

Published by the  
VOYAGEUR TRAIL  
ASSOCIATION

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Foundation.



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And much, much more!

# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT BY: Gayle Phillips

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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!



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#### 2000 Spring Schedule

##### Rolling Clinic:

April 7 & 8, John Rhodes Pool, Soo

##### AECSKO 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





## FEBRUARY FAMILY FUN by Susan Graham



My husband, son and I don't get out with the hiking club as often as we used to, for various reasons, so I made sure we had the first weekend of February free to join in a couple of VTA activities.

The first was the

Bon Soo Snowshoe experience held in conjunction with the Polar Bear Swim at Bellevue Park. We headed down to the park following a morning ski at Hiawatha. After my husband, Cliff, and 7-year-old son Ian had watched the daredevils (idiots?) jump in the river (my brother included), they joined me and the other volunteers at the snowshoe event. Ian put some snowshoes on, just to try a different style to what he has at home, then joined in getting other children outfitted. Sylvie Reid brought along her Little Sister Tiana, who was also enthusiastic about helping. It was great to see the two of them assisting. We then headed down to the Bon Soo Fantasy Kingdom to put in a 2-hour shift supervising there, giving Ian lots of time for bum-sliding.

Sunday morning we picked up Auntie Brenda to join us skiing at McNearney Lake, west of Brimley, Michigan. I had volunteered to lead the outing, and it was a pretty simple task, considering only 2 other members showed up! The day was cool, but bright and we all enjoyed the McNearney trails, which traverse gentle, rolling hardwood forest with groves of spruce in the lower parts. Ian was

leading the way much of the time (his skiing ability is much-improved this year!), and was enjoying Auntie Brenda's antics on the hills, including face-plants, side-launches and her unique "shuffle halfway down before starting because I'm a chicken!" Lunch was consumed in comfort around the wood stove in the warm-up hut, and then we headed home in time for Gayle Phillips to still do grocery shopping!

It was a pooped little boy that we tucked into bed that night, but we all agreed it had been a fun weekend, and we enjoyed the opportunity to be together in our activities.



## KINDRED SPIRITS

*by Georgena MacDonald, VTA Trail Coordinator*

"Kindred spirits are not so scarce as I used to think. It's splendid to find out there are so many of them in the world." *L.M. Montgomery*

One of the things I've discovered in my work for you as trail coordinator is that as hikers you seem to have characteristics in common that are manifested by certain physical reactions when speaking of hiking trails and expeditions. It doesn't seem to matter if you are speaking of past or future hikes. It doesn't matter if it rained, or if you were exhausted, or had great blisters on your feet. Hiking matters.

The overall benefits and symptoms/manifestations are: a bright outlook, (a sparkling from the eyes), an ability to speak with eloquence and passion about hiking (confident and calming patterns of speech, certain musical mystical tones of voice, occasional wistful sighs), and an infectious desire for more outdoor activity (subtle changes in posture, 'restless foot' movements, more noticeable as hiking season approaches).

I guess these are the telltale signs of kindred spirits.



  
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----- To order: trim here, attach cheque and mail. -----  
**Saulteaux Club Annual Dinner Tickets Order:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$16 for adults

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$10 for children 12 & under

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total Please find my cheque for this amount  
payable to: Saulteaux Voyageur Trail Club,  
c/o 26 Primrose Dr., Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 4E6

☐ Please call me and I'll pick them up.

☐ Please mail them.



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

#### April 1 - Saulteaux Club Dinner

Social Hour 5:30 pm & Dinner 6:30 pm  
at Masonic Hall, 378 Albert St. East  
(parking across the street)

After dinner, VTA member  
Doris Welz will entertain us  
with her slide presentation entitled,  
"Looking for the Lost Water  
in Mongolia".

Hot & Cold Buffet Menu includes:

meatballs,  
baked beans,  
scalloped potatoes,  
cold turkey and ham,  
potato salad,  
macaroni salad,  
bean salad,  
cole slaw,  
tossed salad,  
rolls, relish and pickle tray,  
tea/coffee,  
assorted squares.

**Price:** \$16 adults  
and \$10 for children 12 and under.  
Contact Susan Graham a.s.a.p.  
at (705) 949-4105 for tickets  
(or mail in coupon from page 4)

#### Thurs., April 20 - Earth Day Clean Up Hike

Susan Graham (705-949-4105) will again lead as we clean up a section of trail near Kinsmen Park with a bonfire afterwards. Meet at 6:30 pm at the Zellers parking lot behind Penningtons. Bring work gloves and marshmallows for roasting.

#### \*Sat., April 22 - Go to Blazes Trail Work Party

We kick off the new season of trail maintenance with a visit to the Echo Ridges section. Meet at 9:30 am sharp

at the Churchill Plaza to car pool. Tools will be provided. Behaved pets are welcome. Leader: Patrick Capper (705) 253-4470.

#### \*Sun., April 30 - One Horse Lake Hike

Gale Koteles (705-949-1302) leads as we visit this area near Echo Bay. Meet at 9:30 am sharp at the Churchill Plaza parking lot to car pool. Please leave your pets at home for this outing.

**Beginning in May**, Frank Brooks would like to organize work parties on Wednesdays (when he is available). If you can spare some time on a Wednesday and would like to get out for some fresh air and exercise, give Frank a call at (705) 949-9560.

#### Sat., May 6 - Tom Allinson Spur Trail Work Party

Gail Andrew (705-942-0768) would appreciate some help on her adopted section of trail. Meet at 9:00 am sharp at the Market Mall parking lot to car pool. Tools will be provided.

#### Sat., May 13 - Paddle / Hike

This outing in the Hiawatha Highlands Conservation Area will begin as a 2-km paddle through several beaver ponds to a place where we will beach the vessels and then follow a 2-km trail to Mabel Lake; after lunch we will return by the same route. There are no portages apart from crossing a few beaver dams. Paddlers must come organized into their own groups complete with vessel, paddles and life jackets. Anyone unable to paddle is welcome to join us by hiking the 7-km to Mabel Lake along the Voyageur Trail. Meet at 9:30 am sharp in the Zellers parking lot behind the Pennington's store. Behaved pets are welcome. For more information please contact Don at 705-946-9599 (e-mail: [mcgormd@hotmail.com](mailto:mcgormd@hotmail.com)).

#### Sun., May 14 - Annual Mother's Day Hike

Join us again for our annual salute to moms by taking a hike from Goulais Avenue to the Wetzl homestead at the end of Peoples Road where we will enjoy hot dogs cooked over an open fire. Meet at 10:00 am at the Market Mall parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets are welcome, but must be leashed at lunch time. Leader: Horst Wetzl (705) 254-8504.

#### Mon., May 15 - Saulteaux Club Meeting

7:30 pm at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre. Call Gayle (705) 942-1891 for more info.

**Thurs., May 18 - Short Evening Hike**  
Call Gayle Phillips for details at (705) 942-1891.

#### \*Fri., May 19 through Mon., May 22 Water Trail Reconnaissance

A small group of independent paddlers is planning to spend a good part of the Victoria Day long weekend exploring the water trails of Jarvis Township. Contact Don (705-946-9599) [e-mail: [mcgormd@hotmail.com](mailto:mcgormd@hotmail.com)] for more information.

#### \*Sat., May 20 - Full Day Hike

Patrick Capper (705-253-4470) would like to invite you for a full day's hike on the Espanola Trail. Call for further information.

#### Sat., June 10 - "Care for Canada Day" Work Party with Cadets

A large group of air, sea and army cadets have volunteered to do trail maintenance as their project for this special day. Because it is somewhat of a waste for 50+ people to go out on one section of trail, we need to split

(Continued on page 7)



## OUTING SCHEDULE

(Continued from page 6)

into smaller groups and hit a few different areas that are in need of attention. We need experienced VTAs to go out with the several groups to different areas of the trail. Contact Susan Graham (705) 949-4105 to help.

### Wed., June 14 - Evening Hike at Fort Creek Conservation Area

Meet at Fort Creek Conservation Area at 7:00 pm. Behaved pets are welcome. Leader: Patrick Capper (705) 253-4470.

### \*Sat., June 17 - Domtar Forest Management Tour

Domtar, as part of their Forest Management Plan, has been logging the area around Tower Lake, including near the Voyageur Trail. A Domtar Supervisor has offered to tour us through the area to show us their progress. Meet at the Churchill Plaza at 9:00 a.m. Contact Mike at (705) 759-1500 ext. 321 for more information.

**\*Sat., June 24 - Thessalon Work Party**  
Patrick Capper (705-253-4470) leads as we clean a section near Thessalon. Tools will be provided. Behaved pets are welcome. Meet at the Churchill Plaza at 9:30 am sharp to car pool.

### Thurs., June 29 - Short Evening Paddle

Gayle Phillips will lead us on a short, 2 hour paddle beginning at 7:00 pm. You must be part of a fully-equipped canoe or kayak party to participate. Call (705) 942-1891 for meeting place/time.

### \*Saturday, July 8 Flat-water Canoeing in Jarvis Township

Don McGorman will lead this ten-hour day trip beginning at 8:30 am. There will be several portages (each about 600 meters) to contend with. You must be part of a fully-equipped canoe or kayak party to participate. Meeting place & time call (705) 946-9599 (e-mail: mcgormd@hotmail.com).

### Sat., July 15 - Work Party

Tools will be provided. Behaved pets are welcome. For meeting place/time, contact Gayle (705) 942-1891.

### Thurs., July 20 - Evening Hike

Join Horst Wetzl (705-254-8504) at his homestead at the end of Peoples Road for a short evening jaunt along one of his loop trails. We will meet at the very end of Peoples Road at 7:00 pm.

July 21 - see listing for Aug. 19 & 20!

### Sat., July 22 - Trans Canada Trail Relay 2000 arrives!

Join us as we welcome the Arctic and Pacific water when it arrives in Sault Ste. Marie at approximately 2:00 pm. The Relay celebration will join Rotaryfest and take place in the vicinity of Clergue Park at 4:00 - 4:30 pm. For details of the route and/or what you can do to help, call Gayle at (705) 942-1891.

### Sun., July 23 - Trans Canada Trail Relay 2000 leaves

Join the Water Carriers as they leave the Clergue Park area at 8:00 am and wind their way through the city streets and out the eastern end. Call Gayle at (705) 942-1891 for info.

### Sun., July 30 - Work Party

Gayle Phillips (705-942-1891) will lead as we clean another section of the Voyageur Trail. Tools will be provided. Behaved pets are welcome. Call for meeting place and time.

### Sat., August 5 - Hike at Red Rock

Join Gale Koteles (705-949-1302) for a hike along the shoreline at the Red Rock cottage area on the Tom Allinson Spur Trail. Meet at 9:30 am sharp at the Market Mall parking lot to car pool. Please leave your pets at home for this outing.

### \*Sat., August 12 - Hiawatha Highlands Hike

Don McGorman (705-946-9599 e-mail: mcgormd@hotmail.com) will lead us on a number of little known paths from Kinsmen Park to Crystal Lake and back (14 kms). Bring your swimsuit and towel and meet at Zellers behind Pennington's at 9:30 am sharp to car pool. Behaved pets are welcome.

### Sat., August 19 & Sun., August 20 - Beginners Backpack

Steve Dominy (705-946-2484) will lead beginners and/or families for a weekend of fun! Experienced backpackers who want to go easy on their bodies are also welcomed. Steve has several trails in mind and will settle on which one to tackle closer to the date. The location will be selected to favour the swimming potential of the campsite area. Behaved pets are welcomed. Anyone interested in going, please contact Steve by July 21 so he can arrange an informational/organizational meeting. Don't miss this one! (Last year it was a blast!)

### Sat., August 26 - Paddle & Potluck

Dieter & Erika Ropke will lead us on a flatwater canoe trip in the Gordon Lake area (50 km drive). You must be part of a fully equipped, self sufficient canoe party to attend. Meet at the Churchill Plaza parking lot at 9:00 am sharp. Bring a cold dish to share for supper. No pets, but behaved owners are welcome. Phone (705) 942-9636.

### \*Sun., August 27 - Goulais Hike

Jack Donald (705-942-1761) will lead us on a section of the Goulais River Trail. Behaved pets are welcome. Meet at 10:00 am at the Zellers parking lot behind Penningtons to car pool.

**Sept. 4-8 Week - Trail Building** from Harmony Beach to Old Mill Bay. Call Neil Ray at (705) 649-0874.

## Bruce Mines Outing Schedule

### \*Sun., May 7 - Hike

Bring lunch, water, dress appropriately and meet at Bobber's Restaurant in Bruce Mines at 10:00 a.m. sharp. For more info, contact the Township Office at (705) 785-3479 or Allan Beilhartz at (705) 785-3889.

At press time, no other club schedules were submitted. Call The Helpful Pages, (705) 253-5353 and select #9999 for the latest news.

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## A HUGE JOB, WELL DONE *by Gayle Phillips*

On February 5, I had the honour of attending the grand opening of the new 202-foot bridge over the Mississauga River in Iron Bridge on behalf of the Voyageur Trail Association (VTA). The bridge was highly touted as built to move hikers, skiers, equestrians and cyclists off the Trans Canada Highway, as well as, to bring snowmobilers into the heart of the town, but I saw it as much more than that. I saw it as a testament to the human spirit, a monument to what can be accomplished when all the citizens of a community (all 900 of them), work towards a goal.

Lead by Project Bridge President, Joanne Marck-Rivett, a dedicated group of local volunteers had to raise over \$330,000 for the project. Because the Voyageur Trail runs over the bridge, the Trans Canada Trail Foundation chipped in \$65,000 towards the cost. The bridge was lowered in place on a cold day in November by two huge cranes to the cheers of a large group of onlookers. From 20 to 30 volunteers, many of them retired Hydro workers, worked cold November days, evenings and weekends to lay down planks and railings spurred on by volunteers who erected temporary lighting, and served hot coffee and homemade baking. On December 10, the finished bridge was unofficially opened with Iron Bridge resident and Project Bridge backer, Betty Beharriell, confined to a wheelchair, one of the first to cross. Volunteers



Photos courtesy Georgena MacDonald

*Snowshoers wait their turn as a snowmobile passes over the new bridge.*

wanted to make sure the bridge would be usable for the upcoming snowmobile season, and it was.

As I watched Joanne warmly congratulate her volunteers, many of whom had packed the Lions Club Hall to a standing room only capacity, the spirit of community touched me deeply.

*Well done, Iron Bridge! Very well done! You are an inspiration.*

P.S. When the Trans Canada Trail Relay 2000 passes over the bridge on July 24, another celebration will take place welcoming it into the Voyageur Trail and Trans Canada Trail systems. Try not to miss it. These people know how to party!



## Coueurs de Bois Club Outing Schedule

(Elliot Lake area) For all outings, bring water, a lunch, and dress appropriately. Be prepared to sign an Assumption of Risk Agreement. All outings will start at 9 am unless otherwise indicated. We will meet at the upper plaza.

**Every Tuesday at 10 am – 9 am  
starting in May**

Ray Cormier (705) 848-7979

**Every Thursday at 10:00 am – 9:00 am  
starting in May**

Fred Forsyth (705) 848-2956

**Sun., March 26, 2000 - SNOWSHOE**  
Little Quirke - meet at 10:00 am - Ray  
Cormier (705) 848-7979

**Sat., April 1, 2000 - HIKE**

Chutes, Massey, - meet at 10:00 am -  
Paul Fuller (705) 461-9080

**Wed., April 19 - Cobre Lake Trail**  
(maintainence)

Al Carriere (705) 848-4372

**Sun., May 7 - Christie Creek** (may  
require some maint.)

Lee Miller (705) 844-1027

**Sat., May 13 - Elliot Lake Dam**

Carl Yohnke (705) 461-3418

**Sun., May 21 - Lookout/Horne Lake  
Trail**

Gord Bruce (705) 461-3724

**Sat., June 3 - Spine Beach Trail**

Iris Ralph (705) 848-7445

**Sat., June 10 - South Lake**

Jesse Yonke (705) 461-3418

**Sat., June 17 - Cobre Lake Trail**

Bill Ralph (705) 848-7445

**Sun., June 25 - Christie Lake**

Stan Codlin (705) 849-3094

**Sat., July 15 - McKenzie Trail,**

Mississagi Provincial Park

Bill Ralph (705) 848-7445

**Sun., July 30 - Quimby Lake**

Ray Cormier (705) 848-7979

**Sat., August 5 - Walkaround Lake**

Iris Ralph (705) 848-7445

**Sat., August 19 - Christie Creek**

Gord Bruce (705) 461-3724

**Sun. August 27 - Little**

Quirke

Ray Cormier (705) 848-7979



## TRANS CANADA TRAIL RELAY 2000

The most exciting thing to happen this summer is the Trans Canada Relay 2000 which began on Saturday, February 19, 2000 when water was drawn from the Arctic Ocean in Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories and began to wind its way by dogsled and snowmobile towards us. (Visit the TCT web site for the latest pictures and report of where the Relay is today < [www.tctrail.ca](http://www.tctrail.ca) >)

Celebrations are being planned all along the Voyageur Trail route to welcome the water as it arrives. Contacts:

Thunder Bay: Paul (807) 475-1638  
Red Rock: Maureen (807) 886-2284  
Nipigon: Celeste (807) 887-3586  
Red Rock First Nation: Cindy (807) 887-2510  
Pays Plat: Ray (807) 824-2541  
Schreiber: Michele (807) 824-2317  
Terrace Bay: Darlene (807) 825-3542  
Marathon: Brian (807) 229-0391  
White River: Vince (807) 822-2551  
Wawa: Lori (705) 856-2321  
Sault Ste. Marie: Gayle (705) 942-1891  
Garden River: Lorna (705) 946-6300 ext. 285  
Thessalon: Velma (705) 842-3045  
Huron Shores (Iron Bridge): Debbie (705) 843-2033  
Spanish: Ron (705) 844-2300  
Twnshp of North Shore (Algoma Mills): Nelson (705) 849-2213  
Elliot Lake: Terry (705) 461-7221  
Blind River: Pat (705) 356-2251 ext. 13  
Sables-Spanish Rivers (Massey): Dave (705) 865-1269  
Espanola: Mark (705) 869-1961  
Sudbury Region: Melissa (705) 674-4455 ext. 4611



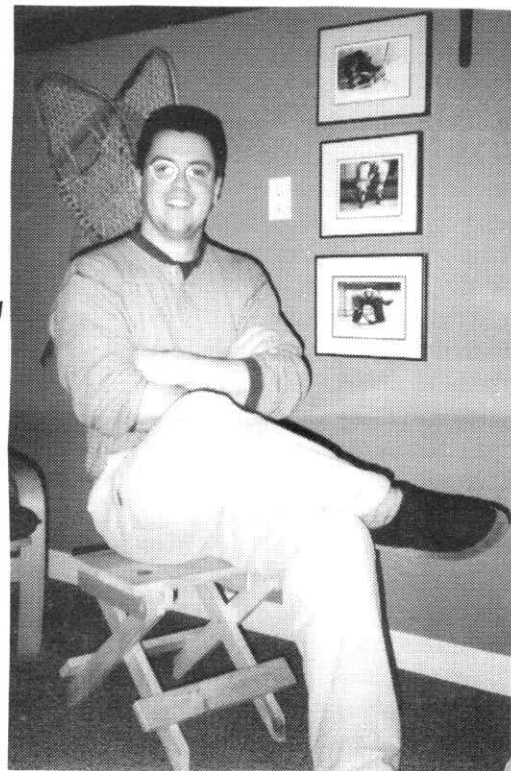
## YEAR 2000 MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE DRAW WINNER

**Ron Fournier**  
of the  
**Saulteaux**  
**Voyageur**  
**Trail Club**  
(and our own  
Membership  
Secretary)

was the happy  
winner of the  
handcrafted  
camp stool  
donated by

Pete  
Burgoyne of  
Out of the  
Woods Wood-  
working,  
Wawa,  
Ontario (and  
our own

President,  
Michipicoten Club). Congratulations Ron!



## TIDBITS

### **No Trespassing** by Jack Donald

Members may have noticed "No Trespass" signs at two locations on the Goulais section: at Access A3 at the top of Mile Hill and at the beaver pond (guidebook pg. 106, line 2). In both cases, the landowners, following discussions, have given their permission for continued use by groups on VTA outings. For us, it's business as usual.

### **Illegal Logging** by Jack Donald

A landowner, whose property is located just east of Old Goulais Bay Road, has advised that someone has logged illegally on his land. He has suggested that it would be helpful if a member seeing anything unusual along the trail would inform the landowner through the club. If we can assist our landowners in this way, we should do so.

### **Coffee Drinkers & Outings** by Dieter Ropke

Please remember to get your coffee BEFORE you meet the group. Once we leave for the trailhead, we cannot stop for "coffee to go" since drivers are often not certain about the location of the trailhead. Anybody who stops for coffee at that time compels the entire convoy to wait, which is hardly fair. So, please get your coffee before you go to the carpooling area or bring a thermos with you. Thanks!



### **Scaring Bears Away** by Patrick Capper

When discussing with another accordion player about how my dog and his cat retreated when the accordion was played he commented that the best way to scare away bears was to play a harmonica (mouth organ) - this being easier than hiking with an accordion and used by some berry pickers. I personally can't verify the accuracy of this but it sounds reasonable and worth a try. Does anyone know of a garbage dump infested with bears where this could be tested! ??

### **Wildlife Sighting** by Patrick Capper

You never know what you might see on an outing. As usual we saw many animal tracks in the snow but this year was more rewarding than most. On the January 29th outing while driving across the bridge at Rydal Bank we saw a young eagle sitting on the Thessalon river ice. Then on the way home near Desbarats we saw a deer crossing Highway 17 - close enough to have a good look but not so close that there was danger of a collision. Last and most exciting was on the trail itself near Red Rock on February 19th the whole 15 snowshoers were delighted and surprised to get a good look at a Great Gray Owl - apparently the first sighting of this owl this year and certainly the first I've ever seen during a hike/snowshoe outing.





## In Memoriam:

The Voyageur Trail Association would like to acknowledge a donation in honour of long time member and tireless VTA trail worker, Ken Kansikas, who passed away October 13, 1999 in Oshawa, Ontario. Ken is survived by his wife Elaine, 2 children and 2 grandchildren.

## Littlest Snowshoer!



Meaghan Fournier (pictured here with her father Ron) showed us all how to snowshoe on a beautiful, sunny outing to the Desbarats Section on February 19, 2000.

## TOURING KAYAK FOR SALE

Perception (Aquaterra) Sea Lion-S with retractable rudder, 16'8" long, 54 lbs. fiberglass with kevlar inserts, 8050 cu. in., dry storage. Includes neoprene spray skirt, bilge pump, 2 pc. Grey Owl paddle, Sea Wings, hip and thigh pads. \$2600. Contact 705-253-3359 or email bugmapper@sympatico.ca

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E-mail: exnorth@ssm.ca

Visit our web site at: [www.exnorth.com](http://www.exnorth.com)

**Plan to attend our 2nd Annual Agawa Bay Sea Kayak Symposium June 30, July 1 & 2!**

Volunteers needed for wood turtle survey. Contact Bob Knudsen (705) 942-2127.

"Towards a Sustainable Conservation Authority" public forum, Tues., Mar 21 7 pm. Call (705) 942-3119.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Individual (includes insurance for one person only).....\$20 = \_\_\_\_\_

Family/Group (\$3.50 per additional member at the same address, to cover optional insurance coverage -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, Experience North, Joe's Sports & Surplus, ACR Gift Shop & Jan's Place, Sault Ste. Marie; the Travel Information Centres in Wawa and Blind River; the Blind River Public Library; Red Top Inn, Iron Bridge; The Gift Rack, Bruce Mines; Forestland, Thessalon; Little Rapids General Store; Red's Little Hooker Bait & Tackle, Elliot Lake; Lake Superior Provincial Park Visitor's Centre; Pukaskwa National Park Visitor's Centre; Take a Hike store, Thunder Bay; & Mountain Equipment Co-op, Toronto.

(Continued on back - )



