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VOYAGEUR TRAIL
ASSOCIATION

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Hike Ontario,
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And much, much more!

VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

PLEASE RENEW
MEMBERSHIP

EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT BY: Gayle Phillips

RANDOM THOUGHTS *by Gayle Phillips, VTA President*

The Trans Canada Trail Relay 2000 passed through Sault Ste. Marie on July 22 and 23 and I must say what a grand experience it was! I was involved in organizing the local Relay celebrations which kept me pretty busy, but all in all, it was pure delight. I had opportunities to renew old acquaintances and make some new terrific friends. As the Pacific and Arctic Ocean water bottles were passed hand to hand across the country, each of those who carried it promised to join our country by trail. (Another interesting tidbit...even after all those thousands of miles of travel, the Arctic water is still colder than the Pacific!) The Trans Canada Trail Relay Regional Coordinator for the section from Winnipeg, Manitoba to North Bay, Ontario (among others) was our very own Vice President Central, Mike Landmark. The organization of this huge undertaking was (to say the least) most impressive. Well done, Mike and well done, Trans Canada Trail!



**Trans Canada Trail Relay 2000
crossing the new multi-use Iron
Bridge on Monday, July 24, 2000**



(l to r): Mike Landmark, Gayle Phillips, Monica Hilton, Marge Kelland (all VTA members!)

Speaking of joining our country by trail, Georgena MacDonald continues to find new opportunities for the extension of the Voyageur Trail.

There is a new club in Thessalon (contact Earle Jones 842-3226 email: eaj@sympatico.ca) and an active group from Iron Bridge joining the Penewobikong Club.

In the Thessalon Section, Ontario Rangers and Work Fare groups are assisting in the maintenance of trail between Melwel Road and Highway 129.

Al Wright from the Ontario Trails Council is working on developing a Regional Trails Committee and is looking for volunteers to donate their time and/or ideas. For more information, contact Al at (705) 946-8538 or email to: al.wright@sympatico.ca

The VTA Guidebook Committee under the leadership of Steve Dominy, and with helpful assistance from Don McGorman, are now making plans for the next edition. Plans include GPS readings throughout, improved maps and up-to-date descriptions. Contact Steve at (705) 946-2484 or email to: sdominy@NRCan.gc.ca

(Continued
on page 2)



RANDOM THOUGHTS

(Continued from page 1)

Our master proposal writer, Steve Dominy has secured a grant from Canada Trust Friends of the Environment to create a VTA Trail Workers' Guide. Requests for proposals were sent out in mid-April and Kathie Brosemer was hired with an aim of having the guide done by the fall. This guide will include all the information necessary to build trails to VTA standards and copies will be forwarded to all clubs before next year's maintenance season. Anyone wishing to contact Kathie can email to: alderego@madscientist.com or call at (705) 949-3862.

I have been receiving lots of contacts about the Voyageur Trail through our web site. The most unusual was someone inquiring about whether we allow llamas on our trail. Apparently in other parts of the world, llamas are used by outfitters as "pack animals". I passed this message around the executive and we all found out that we know very little about llamas. What do they eat? (We hoped 'maple saplings'!) What sort of terrain can they handle? Can they pass diseases/genes to farm animals? To be on the safe side for now, our answer to llamas on the trail would be 'on Crown land only please' until we can find someone who can authoritatively fill us in! (We would also appreciate hearing from any landowners on this subject.)

Our VTA Membership Secretary, Ron Fournier reported that we had 270 members as of early June. That has to be a record!

Hike Ontario announces that Ontario Hiking Day is Sunday, October 1st this year and that it is part of a province-wide project called "Legacy Trails". Hikes will be planned in all areas of the province. Get the family out and enjoy!

The Saulteaux Club is sad to report that Susan Graham has stepped down as President. The office remains vacant. Susan has graciously offered to help out with ongoing projects until a replacement can be found. Anyone wishing to volunteer to lead our largest club, please contact Susan at (705) 949-4105.

On a happier note, the Coureurs de Bois Club reports a new full executive: Ray Cormier (President), Bill Ralph (Vice-President), Maxine Forsyth (Secretary/Treasurer), Fred Forsyth (Trail Master). They also report their trail has been cleaned from Hwy 108 to Christie Creek.

The Casques Isles Club reports (in June) that their trails are 85% cleaned, some signs will be replaced this year, they are working on areas identified in the trail audit conducted last year, some new active members, a full hiking schedule for the season and that they are looking forward to working in partnership with members from the Nipigon to Red Rock area. In addition, they wanted to thank Rainbow Falls Provincial Park for their ongoing support and the promotional assistance they have received from Schreiber's Parks and Recreation department.



Many people have been inquiring as to which sections of the Voyageur Trail are registered as Trans Canada Trail. Basically, everything that is in the yellow binder, Edition 3.1 of the Voyageur Trail Guidebook is registered, but here is a detailed list:

Nipigon to Red Rock (Nipigon River Recreational Trail 8.2 km),
Rosspoint to Terrace Bay (Casques Isles Club 52.4 km),
Marathon (6.8 km),
Wawa (Michipicoten Club 16.0 km),
Harmony (Harmony Club 5.0 km),
Stokely Creek (11.7 km),
Goulais River (11.0 km),
Sault Ste. Marie (Saulteaux Club 54.5 km--includes Old Goulais Bay Road to Gros Cap section),
Echo Ridges (59.2 km),
Desbarats (21.9 km),
Thessalon (48.6 km),
Iron Bridge (9.2 km),
Blind River (Penewobikong Club 44.1 km) and
Elliot Lake (Coureurs de Bois Club 23.5 km).

This is a grand total of 372.1 km of registered Trans Canada Trail for two out of the five core uses: hiking and skiing.

The Annual Meeting, scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 21 in Elliot Lake (see page 5) will offer something truly special. With all this trail building going on, there has been a cry for lessons to better understand the basics of GPS (Global Positioning System) navigational systems. Dennis Paradine from Sault College has agreed to do a presentation after the Annual Meeting on October 21. (To take an actual college course in how to use a GPS would run you about \$300, so this is a truly once-in-a-lifetime offer! Don't miss out!) Plan to attend our AGM this year.

While you plan some time at the AGM, start thinking about who you would like to see on the Voyageur Trail Association's executive. Both Peter Stinnissen (Vice President West) and Gayle Phillips (President) have announced they will not stand for re-election, and all executive positions have to be filled. There are many talented members out there and lots of support from current and past executive members. If you think you might like to become more involved, you need not think you are alone!

Also at the AGM, the new VTA constitution and by-laws will be unveiled and voted on. Plenty to see and do this year, so don't miss it!



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TREES AND TRAILS by Georgena MacDonald, Trail Coordinator

Our needs are simple enough. A wilderness hiking trail that will take us over hills, across rivers and through the forest. There will always be hills and rivers, but what about the forest? How can we be certain that the hiking trails we develop will be there for a long, long time?

Thanks to sustainable forest management practiced on both Crown and private land, many concerns I may have had about saving hiking trails from the chainsaw have disappeared — well almost. (There is no accounting for the wood thieves.)

Domtar Forest Tour



In June, Mike Thompson, Domtar Forester, led seven VTA hikers on a forest tour in the Tower Lake area of the Echo Ridges Section. Thompson capably fielded a barrage of questions. Thanks to Thompson's down to earth and patient answers, any doubts we may have had about forest management practices under the new Crown Forest Sustainability Act were banished.

Thompson explained that former Forest Management Agreements were converted to Sustainable Forest Licences. The SFL holder can be one single licence holder or a partnership of companies. The licence holder (Clergue Forest Management in the Algoma Forest) is responsible for forest management planning, following MNR rules and renewal work.

Sustainable forest management practices include developing Forest Management Plans that are based on good silvicultural practices, not what the mills need, Thompson noted. Buffer zones along rivers and streams, provision of sufficient habitat for protected species, and considering other forest use values—cultural, heritage, trapping, fishing, hunting and hiking, are all part of management planning.

Planning teams Local Citizens Committee (LCCs) or Resource Management Advisory Committee (RMACs) including MNR staff, trappers, environmentalists, forest industry, First Nations, Economic Development and municipal representatives. The plans are for a twenty year time frame. Public meetings are held and annual reports and independent forest audits are done to assure compliance.

Harmony Forest Tour

In July, I spent a day touring access roads and examining harvest areas with forester George Schmitz in part of the 77,000 acres owned by Harmony Forest Inc in the Batchewana Bay - Montreal River area.

Schmitz has many reasons to be proud of his forest management. The tour commenced on Wolfe Lake Road where the property abuts Stokley Creek property owned by Chuck Peterson. This is just one of the areas where Schmitz crews have cleaned up unofficial garbage dumps.

There are no private property signs on the Harmony Forest lands, no gates, and Schmitz has a good reputation of supporting local community endeavours and working with people.

As the tour progressed, I learned that the forest is recovering from mismanagement of the past. The forests here were "highgraded" for many years for hemlock, pine, maple and birch, yet under Schmitz's management it is difficult to tell that the area has been logged.

I learned that the highly resinous stumps and diseased deadfall from former pine forests resist decay for decades. In a selective maple-birch harvest area, Schmitz noted, deciduous tops left on the forest floor will decompose within three years, leaving a nice clean floor. Schmitz showed me an area just south of Carp Lake logged 10 years ago, now a robust maple and yellow birch forest. The clean shaded under-story looked like a great place for a cool hike.

With Schmitz's help, we will identify appropriate and safe access, parking and loop trails in the harvested areas. The Harmony Forest holdings extend almost to the Montreal River. It took us six hours to travel half of the access roads. I look forward to more backroads exploring—this time with the GPS.

Thanks to both of these foresters. Their genuine commitment to their profession and to the forest will be appreciated by hikers for years to come. Once trails have been mapped and developed, both companies will provide no-cut buffer zones along the trail.

For more information:

- Visit your district MNR office and talk to the forestry staff. Read the forest management plan documents and look at the maps. Ask questions.
- Take a forest tour offered in many northern communities.
- Pick up a copy of "The Working Forest" from your local heavy equipment parts supplier, dealer or service centre.
- Web Sites of Interest:
 - http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/cfs/cfs_e.html
 - <http://www.cif-ifc.org/direct.html>
 - <http://www.algomaforest.com/>
 - <http://www.opfa.on.ca/>
 - <http://www.ofia.com/>



WHAT I'VE LEARNED SO

FAR... by *Georgena MacDonald, Trail Coordinator*

Since January I have traveled thousands of kilometers, met hundreds of people, taken dozens of pictures and scribbled volumes of field notes. I've collected and read maps, books, newspapers, and tourist information. I've searched web sites, attended conferences and gone to meetings.

I have learned that all northerners are very proud of their 'back yards'. Most are explorers, some are naturalists, others are photographers, campers, and rock-hounds. Some are artists and still others are philosophers. Some hike, some ride. Nature is our common love.

I have learned to keep my truck packed with signs, blazes, maps, t-shirts, camping gear, film, water and emergency equipment. I've learned that hiking is a challenge at any time of the year - and a raincoat in the backpack is better than a raincoat left in the truck.

I've learned a lot about forests lately, a little bit about wood turtles and peregrine falcons, and I now know what time the chip wagon closes at the Hepditch Market. I now know what a 'Persian' is too. It's found in restaurants near Thunder Bay and it's not trail food.

I've learned it is difficult to plan longer than a week ahead.

I learned that my dog and I both work at the hiking part of the job differently; he gets to wade in the rivers, roll in the sand, chase rabbit and grouse and share my lunch. I get to wade in the rivers, sit in the sand sometimes, and share my lunch. My dog Champ never gets lost in the bush. I do. He doesn't need a four-wheel drive, satellites, Interac, answering machines, maps, or a bug jacket. I do.

I'm still learning to keep my balance by limiting computer time, increasing expected travel time, maximizing hiking trail time and minimizing meeting time.

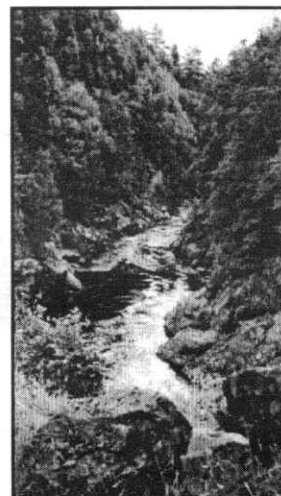
I've learned that I work for the best group of people anywhere.

So now what?

In the next few months I'd like to go hiking with every VTA club and find out what the challenges and local issues are and how I can help, meet more hikers and support people in communities along the new sections of trail, complete the trail plan for the Elliot Lake to Massey and the Harmony to Montreal River sections, help keep the Trans Canada Trail dream alive and work with Great Lakes Heritage Coast staff to make some positive and progressive changes in the north. This should keep me busy.

Oh, yeah, and I do need to get my wood pile off my lawn and into the basement before winter.

(below): Dog's Head Mtn., Nipigon



(above): Batchewana River rapids



(above): Lake Superior, north of Pancake Bay



(right): Harmony Trail, Harmony Beach



(above): Boland River near Elliot Lake



(left): Granary Lake from the Penewobikong Trail in Blind River



OUTING SCHEDULES

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> >

VTA's Annual General Meeting - Everyone's Welcome!

Saturday, October 21, 2000 at the Ski Chalet, Mount Dufour, Elliot Lake

(Mountain Road - 1st road on right, turn right as you enter town)

Executive Meeting 10:00AM ~ General Meeting 1:00PM

Followed by demonstration and instruction on GPS units.

On Sat., Sept. 23 There will be a VTA Executive Meeting (to finalize the Constitution & By-Laws before the Annual General Meeting) at 10AM, Great Lakes Forestry Centre, Sault Ste. Marie.

Saulteaux Club

(Sault Ste. Marie and area—outings marked with an asterisk are outside Sault Ste. Marie) For all outings, bring water, a lunch and dress appropriately. Be prepared to sign an Assumption of Risk Agreement.

***Sat., Sept. 9** Patrick Capper will lead a work party in the Echo Ridges Section. Meet at Churchill Plaza 9AM. Behaved pets welcome. 253-4470

Thurs., Sept. 14 Evening hike with Gayle Phillips from Goulais Avenue to Maki Road. Meet at 5:30PM at Market Mall. Behaved pets welcome. 942-1891

***Sat., & Sun., Sept. 16-17** Work party to re-establish the Noisy Bay trail in Lake Superior Provincial Park. (Camping at Rabbit Blanket Lake on Saturday night --no charge). 949-4105

Mon., Sept. 18 Saulteaux Club regular meeting at Great Lakes Forestry Centre, 7:30PM. Susan 949-4105.

Thurs., Sept. 21 Evening hike from Maki Road to Bennett Creek and return. Meet at Market Mall at 5:30PM. Behaved pets welcome. Leader: Susan Graham 949-4105.

***Sun., Sept. 24** Let's investigate some proposed new trail near Goulais River. Meet behind Pennington's in Zellers parking lot at 9:00AM. Behaved pets welcome. Leader: Gayle 942-1891.

Sat., Sept. 30 Bicycle the Old Goulais Bay Road. Meet 10AM at the end of the paved portion of Old Goulais Bay Road. Leader: Gail Andrew 942-0768.



Sun., October 1 Ontario Hiking Day.

Two outings to choose from:

Family Outing on the Gros Cap Loop trail (5 km). Meet at Market Mall at 10AM. Behaved pets welcome (should be leashed). Leader: Steve Dominy 946-2484.

**Longer outing on the Echo Ridges section with Gale Koteles leading (949-1302). (For experience hikers only.) Please leave pets at home for this outing.*

***Sat., Oct. 14** Hike from Melwel Road to Iron Bridge. Meet at Churchill Plaza at 9AM. Behaved pets welcome. Leader: Susan Graham 949-4105.

***Sat., Oct. 21 VTA Annual Meeting** in Elliot Lake... see above

***Sat., Oct. 28** Hike the trail at Pancake Bay (approximately 9 km). Good view of Lake Superior from the lookout. Behaved pets are welcome. Meet behind Pennington's in the Zellers parking lot at 9AM. Leader: Bev Scott 777-3053.

***Sun., Nov. 5** Brave the "Gales of November" with a hike on the North Country Trail in Michigan. Meet at the Michigan Welcome Centre at 9:30AM. Leader: Gail Andrew 942-0168.

***Sat., Nov. 18** Hike the Canadian Forestry Service Centennial Loop Trail at Havilland Bay (weather permitting) with Larry Gringorten (about 10 km). Behaved pets welcome. Meet in Zellers parking lot behind Pennington's at 9:30AM. Call 759-5740, ext. 2500.

Mon., Nov. 20 Saulteaux Club regular meeting at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre 7:30PM. Call Gayle at 942-1891.

Sat., Nov. 25 Hike or snowshoe from the top of Mile Hill to Old Goulais Bay Road. Meet at 9:30AM at the Zellers parking lot behind Pennington's. Behaved pets welcome. Leader: Patrick Capper 253-4470.

Sat., Dec. 2 Weather permitting, there will be a work party with Don McGorman on the Saulteaux section. Behaved pets are welcome. Meet at 9AM sharp at the Zellers parking lot behind Pennington's. Call 946 9599 or e-mail: mcgormd@hotmail.com

Tues., Dec. 19 The Voyageur Trail will be closed all day (to prevent it from becoming a public right of way).

Tues., Dec. 26 Work off those extra pounds you've gained over Christmas with a Boxing Day hike (or snowshoe) with Don McGorman. Behaved pets (that may have over-eaten, too!) are welcome. Meet at 10AM at the Zellers parking lot behind Pennington's. Call 946-9599 or email: mcgormd@hotmail.com

Mon., Jan. 1 Patrick Capper leads us on a snowshoe outing in the Camp Korah area to ring in the new year! Meet at 10AM at Market Mall to car pool. Behaved pets are welcome. Call 253-4470.

(More Outing Schedules on page 6)



OUTING SCHEDULES

(Continued from page 5)

For all outings, bring water, a lunch and dress appropriately. Be prepared to sign an Assumption of Risk Agreement.

Coueurs de Bois Club (Elliot Lake area)

PLEASE NOTE: All hikes start at 10:00 a.m. again beginning in September. Meet at Upper Plaza parking lot unless otherwise noted. Outings are held every Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Sept. 9 Walkaround Lake Stan Codlin 848-3087

" 16 Golf Course Area Al Carrier 848-4372

" 23 Semiwhite Bill Ralph 848-7445

" 30 VTA - Turtle Lake Bill Ralph 848-7445

Oct. 7 Helenbar Iris Ralph 848-7445

" 14 Cobre Lake Gord Bruce 461-3724

" 28 Spine Beach Ski Trail Alan Day 848-8776

Nov. 4 Semiwhite Gord Bruce 461-3724

" 11 Elliot Lake Dam Zdenek Pechous 848-9702

" 18 Helenbar Alan Day 848-8776

" 25 Sherriff Lake Carl Yohnke 461-3418

Dec. 2 Fire Tower Jessie Yohnke 461-3418

" 9 Quirke Lake Zdenek Pechous 848-9702

" 16 Mississagi Park (XC Skiing) Al Carrier 848-4372

Jan. 1, 01 New Year's Day - 11 a.m. Meet at Sherriff Creek Wildlife Sanctuary Ray Cormier 848-7979

Casques Isles Club

(Schreiber, Terrace Bay & Rossport area)

Contact Dan (807) 824-2016 or Duncan (807) 825-3338

Sat., September 23- Rossport to Rainbow Falls

Sat., October 14 - Kama Ridge to St. John's



"FIRSTS" by Gale Koteles

The first major hike of the season was a chance to introduce the newcomers to the first bugs of the season!

It was a good day – weather was sunny but not too hot. Wildflowers were out in full bloom.

A number of people (29 to be exact) arrived early at the meeting area and were anxious to get going. We were to meet a few people from Echo Bay and on we went.

Due to the poor condition of Lonely Lake Road, we hiked the lower end of the Echo Ridges trail around Tower Lake, then on to Hansen's Pond and had lunch at Wilson's Lake.

Some of the newcomers opted to return slowly to the parking lot. The rest hiked for another 30 minutes and returned rather quietly—perhaps tired. There was one hill which was a little steep for everyone.



A few stopped for coffee and butter tarts to make up for the energy used to climb that hill.



SIGNS, SIGNS by Mark Crofts

Students in the 3rd year Integrated Resource Management program at Sault College engraved over 150 trail signs for the Voyageur Trail Association. The students completed the work as part of their Resource Interpretation and Parks and Recreation Areas Management courses. With the help of Jeff Cartwright from the Natural Resources Program support staff, the students mastered the sign engraving machine that Don McGorman had provided us with.

Led by Don McGorman and Susan Graham from the VTA, the students went on two hikes to install some of the signs. The Old Goulais Bay road to Highway 17 section was snowshoed in February, and the new loop north of Connor Road was hiked in early April.

The students appreciated the donation that the Association made to their year end bar-b-que.

Note from Gayle Phillips: These small, unobtrusive signs include all the Access Points as listed in the VTA Guidebook, so anyone arriving at an access point would know which access he/she has found by the sign on the tree. We will be distributing signs to VTA Clubs by way of Georgena MacDonald's travels.

A very big thank you to Mark and students. We hope this is the beginning of a long, successful partnership!



(above): Bruce Lynne tames the engraving machine. (Note that the injury to his finger was not related to the project!!!)



(left): The start of the hike from Old Goulais Bay Road to Highway 17



VTA MEMBERS GOING

"AU NATUREL"! by Susan Graham

A growing number of VTA members have been seen on the trails this summer "au naturel". Gone are their familiar yellow shirts! "I like to be cool and comfortable when I hike," one person has been quoted. "Of course, all exposed skin needs sunscreen and fly repellent is a must if you are not covered in long sleeves and long pants."

If you are interested in joining this group of "au naturel" hikers, you may do so by purchasing our new "natural cotton"-coloured T-shirts and sweatshirts through the Saulteaux Club or on your membership renewal form.

Prices have not increased - short-sleeved T-shirts are \$12, long-sleeved T-shirts are \$15 and sweatshirts are \$20. The new shirts are a slightly heavier knit than the former yellow ones.

A reminder too, that the Saulteaux Club has a supply of the heavyweight, embroidered sweatshirts selling for \$45. Call Susan at (705) 949-4105 for more information.



(clockwise starting top left): sweatshirt \$20, long sleeved t-shirt \$15, short sleeved t-shirt \$12, VTA Guidebook \$15 for members, VTA crest \$3 (on right) embroidered Non-Fiction sweatshirt \$45



THE MONKEY ON MY BACK

by Dieter Ropke



No, I am not talking about one of my previous lives eons ago when I carried my offspring on my back. It is my daypack I refer to. Remember what it felt like to get that beast off your shoulders when you arrived at your destination backpacking - lunch was only halfway? You thought you were Karen Kain, a star in a ballet. You had forgotten how wonderful it is to walk without a burden.

Although your daypack should never be that onerous, the wrong combination could make your trip most uncomfortable. Just like the backpack, often referred to as 'your home on your back', a daypack needs to be right for you.

Since an empty packsack weighs little, it is probably not wise to buy the small \$20 daypack everybody is selling. Think of it this way, if you had a larger daypack and it is not full, you are just carrying a few extra grams. On your very next trip you may wish to pack extra due to the change in seasons or because your child goes along, etc. Wouldn't it be nice to have that extra capacity? AND a larger pack is much more comfortable to carry instead of the smaller model, which has everything rammed into it and now looks orbicular like a soccer ball with short straps.

Try it on for comfort. Does it have a breathable back and a comfortable waist strap? Are there extra and accessible pockets? Is there, perhaps, even a zippered pocket in your waist belt - so-o-o handy for car keys, drivers license and change for Tim Horton's! Is there a net pocket which lets you see what you may be looking for? Here is a partial list of what you may wish to take:

compass, knife, sunglasses, hat, warm sweater or jacket, extra socks, rain gear, matches, lunch, water or warm drink, sunscreen, mosquito dope, camera, binocs, mole-skin, trail guide or map, snack food, some string for repairs, etc.

If you are like me, I perspire already just thinking about work. It is a great comfort to change some clothing during, or after, the hike. You have been car pooling and the shirt you wish you had is back at the trail head.

I never go anywhere without my daypack. I can remove or add clothing and my hands are always free to throttle that marauding bear, to scratch my ear or to unwrap a toffee somebody donates.

A LARGE DAYPACK RAISES YOUR COMFORT LEVEL EVERY TIME YOU CARRY IT.



TIDBITS

Carbon Filter Recall

Mountain Equipment Co-op produces a monthly email newsletter full of interesting bargains and tips. In the July issue, this notice was posted...

"Carbon Filter Recall: You should replace the carbon filter in the Stop Top accessory for PUR Voyageur, Scout or Explorer model water purifiers with a free replacement available from PUR. Variations in the carbon used in the Stop Top may compromise the purifier's ability to kill viruses in backcountry water sources. For fastest service, contact PUR directly, as Canadian regulatory issues will delay the arrival of replacement carbon packs in MEC locations. Full details and free carbon replacement packs for the Stop Top are available by calling 1-800-319-7735 or by signing up at PUR's web site: <http://www.purwater.com/camping.shtml>"

To receive MEC's monthly email newsletter, visit their web site at: <http://www.mec.ca> and sign up for MECMAIL.

Inclination Considerations

Good quality compasses are balanced for the particular latitude zone they will be sold in. This means most compasses sold in Canada would not work in Australia. Why? Inclination refers to variations in Earth's magnetism based on zones of latitude (the distance from Earth's equator). The degree and direction of inclination can tilt a compass needle off-balance on its pivot, causing large errors, and in extreme cases preventing the needle from turning. A newer, more expensive "global" compass has a non-magnetized needle attached by gimbals to a pivoting center magnet, which allows the compass to read accurately at any latitude. Globe-trotting travellers should look for this feature or get another compass for use at a different latitude upon arrival.

Map Prices Increasing but Still a Bargain

The price of the NTS Series Tyvek topographic maps available through the Voyageur Trail Association has increased to \$13.50 (including 15% taxes). Paper maps are now \$11.25 (including taxes). Maps can be ordered by calling Steve Dominy at (705) 946-2484.

Don't Forget!

Draws will take place at the Annual General Meeting in Elliot Lake on October 21, 2000 for free VTA memberships for those who lead outings, or participated in trail maintenance outings. Names will be entered from the *Assumption of Risk Agreements* that everyone signs when participating in organized outings, but first these papers have to be handed in!

Send your filled-out Assumption of Risk Agreements to VTA Trail Master, Patrick Capper, c/o 167 Kohler Street, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 3V2.

If you have an adopted section of trail, please let Patrick know how many times you cleaned your section. Call (705) 253-4470 or email to: PCAPPER@algoma.com



HARMONY TO MONTREAL RIVER

by Georgena MacDonald, Trail Coordinator

A preliminary trail route has been determined, thanks to Al Wright of the Trans Canada Trail, who got things rolling when he called a meeting for trail developers at the Hilltop Restaurant in May. Since then, Neil Ray (Harmony Hiking Club president) and I traveled many of the interior roads, done some preliminary bushwhacking, and have penciled a few loop trails on our maps.

A route from Harmony River to Government Lake will take us through some interesting peaks. The loop north of Carp Lake will take us across both private and Crown land. We would like to link trails with existing routes and businesses. Once we confirm our trail routes with all concerned, we will map and mark the routes.

Neil and I are looking for more help planning and developing trails. I've parked my "Voyageur trailer" at Pancake Park for the summer. Call me (or Neil Ray in Harmony 705-649-0874) if you are interested in exploring the area. Toll free #1-877 393 4003, leave a message, or send an email Trail@onlink.net (I can't get email while on the road though.)



REGISTERING TRAIL

Many people are curious as the procedure to register a trail with the Trans Canada Trail. Firstly, if you live west of Terrace Bay, give Marion McAdam a call at (807) 548-2146. If you live between Terrace Bay and Sudbury, call Al Wright at (705) 946-8538. Marion and Al are the Regional Trans Canada Trail Coordinators who will ensure all of the required information is collected and sent to the Ontario Trails Council, along with a letter of support.

Registration requirements depend upon the location to a certain extent. If the trail is within an organized municipality, a resolution from Council is requested. If the trail is within an unorganized area and Crown land is being used, then the MNR must be involved for their approval/support. If ACR land is being used, approval/permission from Wagner Ontario Forest Management for the McDonald's Corporation would be required. The trail owner and trail operator are identified on the form. Sometimes these can be different, but they might be the same, i.e. a trail within a Provincial Park. The bottom line is that Al and Marion need to assure the Ontario Trails Council and the Trans Canada Trail Foundation that all of the partners are in agreement.

Registration with the TCT is primarily for informational purposes. No form or documentation is placed in the Registry Office or Land Titles Office.



ON THE INTERNET?

Pay a visit to the Voyageur Trail's newest web page dedicated to those businesses and organizations who have shown us their support by donating their treasure.

www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail

Click on "Recognition Page" link.



CADETS "CARE FOR CANADA"

by Susan Graham

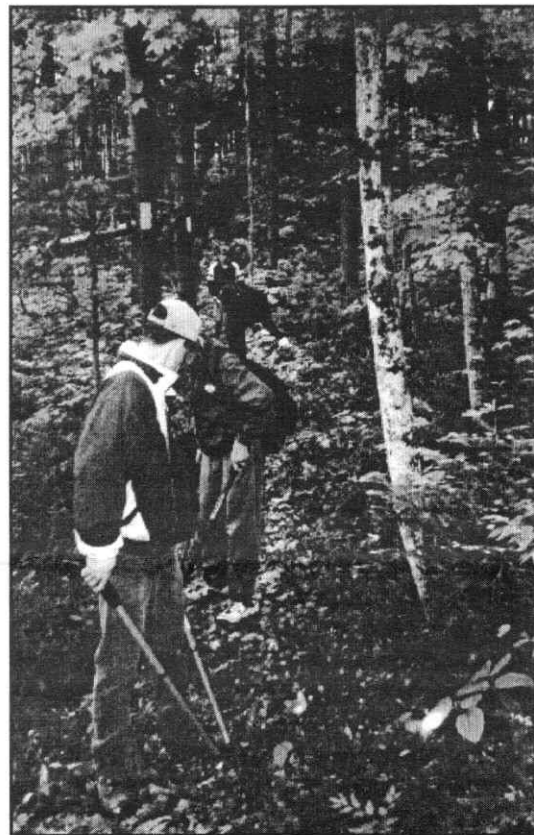
On Saturday, June 10 about 45 air, sea and army cadets fanned out on the Saulteaux and Goulais Sections of the Voyageur Trail and cleaned over 35 kilometres as part of their "Care for Canada" day celebrations.

"Care for Canada Day" is an initiative to promote environmental awareness and responsibility in its 70,000 participants nationwide. Local cadet groups identify a project to improve the environment and make their community more enjoyable, such as removing debris from natural and park areas, reforestation, trail improvement and maintenance of historic properties and buildings.

Susan Graham, past president of the Saulteaux Club says, "In the spring, I was approached by a cadet leader and asked if there was anything they could do for us. Well, you can imagine my delight! In the space of one day, our local trails were made ready for the upcoming hiking season—a chore that usually takes us until late fall!"

The cadets were divided into smaller groups and assigned a co-leader from the local Voyageur Trail Club. Along with a cadet officer and some parents, the groups attacked several sections at once, accomplishing hundreds of "man hours" of work. Afterwards, everyone was treated to a delicious buffet dinner at the Sault Armory.

"Everyone worked hard and seemed to find it enjoyable. We look forward to working with the local cadets again next year on the Voyageur Trail," Susan adds.



Looking to hide your millions?
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Voyageur Trail News - Fall 2000

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**Deadline for the next issue is
December 1, 2000.**

*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!**