



No. 77 WINTER 2000/1

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VOYAGEUR TRAIL
ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 20040
150 Churchill Blvd.
Sault Ste. Marie Ontario
P6A 6W3

Toll Free 1-877-393-4003

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>

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VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT BY: Gayle Phillips

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



*Best wishes to everyone for the holiday season
and happy hiking in 2001!*

**Still looking for the perfect gift for that
hard-to-buy-for person on your list? How about
a VTA membership? Guidebook? Sweatshirt?
T-Shirt? Crest? Call Susan today at
(705) 949-4105 to expedite your order!**



FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT *by Mike Landmark*

As the new President of the Voyageur Trail Association, I would like to introduce myself. For those of you who don't know me, I have been a member of the VTA for several years now and have served on the Coordinating Council (executive) for the past four years, as Vice-President Central and Publicity Director. In these two capacities, I have tried to promote and publicize the VTA as much as possible throughout not only our existing trail system but in other parts of the province as well. Thanks to the efforts of myself, and the VTA as a whole, the Voyageur name is becoming more and more widely known. In my recent capacity as Regional Logistics Coordinator for the Trans Canada Trail Water Relay 2000, I also tried to promote the VTA wherever I could in other parts of Canada.

Thank you to all the members of the Coordinating Council who volunteered to stand in their positions for another two-year term, and welcome to those new members who were elected to the Council. Your new Council is as follows:

President	- Mike Landmark
Vice-President (East)	- Ray Cormier
Vice-President (Central)	- vacant
Vice-President (West)	- Duncan MacKay
Treasurer	- Dieter Ropke

Recording Secretary	- Cheryl Landmark
Membership Secretary	- Susan Graham
Trail Master	- Patrick Capper
Hike Ontario Representative	- Patrick Capper
Landowner Liaison	- Jack Donald
Publicity Director	- Gayle Phillips

My aims for the VTA in the next two years are to continue to enhance the membership base, especially in the outlying areas, and to encourage the building of new trail. Our Trail Coordinator, Georgena MacDonald, has been and, will continue to be, a great asset in this area.

Our guidebook is presently in the planning stages for a new edition to be published within the next few years. Meanwhile, edition 3.1 is still a good buy for anyone interested in purchasing one. Some of the proposals for the updated version include GPS waypoints, colour maps, and local history along the trail system. Anyone who is interested in helping out with the guidebook is asked to contact myself (705-779-3409) or Steve Dominy (705-946-2484).

I look forward to working together with all the members of the VTA for the next two years and hope to see some exciting and challenging times ahead of us.



YEAR 2000 STEVE TAYLOR AWARD RECIPIENTS



For the first time in its short history, the prestigious Steve Taylor Volunteer Award has gone to two VTA members for the year 2000! Andy Penikett from the Penewobikong Club in Blind River (in middle of photo on left) and Don McGorman of the Saulteaux Club in Sault Ste. Marie (on left in right photo) will share the plaque for six months each, but will get to keep their own Trans Canada Trail Walking Stick. In these photos, incoming VTA President, Mike Landmark and out-going VTA President, Gayle Phillips present Andy and Don with their awards. The Steve Taylor Award was established in 1995 to honour those VTA volunteers who have gone 'above and beyond' in their volunteerism. Both Andy and Don were instrumental in organizing and participating in many, many trail maintenance outings this past year. A great big thanks to Andy and Don for their dedication!

WELCOME TO NEW VTA MEMBERS IN YEAR 2000

John Abbott
Ruth Abbott
Sabine Atteln
Marg Barek
Doug Barker
Chad Beharriell
Gail Bennett
Jerry Bertrand
Jeff Black
Dan Boileau
Ron Boissineau
Myrtle Buller
Paul Burke
June Burtoft
Peter Burtoft
Gwen Calhoun
Elizabeth Campbell
Linda Clemens
Francine Codlin
Arthur Coggan
Marlene Coggan
John Cooney
Donna DiAngelo
Paul Echle
John Edmands

Laurie Elward McBay
Enos Evans
George Farkouh
Diane Farrell
Maxine Forsyth
Debbie French
Max French
Rene Gagnon
Gorden Garrett
Murley Gilbert
Richard Gollain
Sylvia Gollain
Kevin Good
Ruby Goreham
Jennifer Grant
Jacqueline Hall
Margaret Hawton
Kerstin Hedgecock
Patty Henderson
Rob Henderson
Anne Hillstrom
Bruce Holden
Earle Jones
Ernest Jones
Gisela Kados
Joseph Keleher
Edith Kirkby
Herb Kirkby
Carol Kirkland-Boissineau

Oskar Mablmann
David MacGillivray
Denise MacGillivray
Howard Malach
Steve Meawasige
Jack Moffat
Suzanne Moul
John Needham
Marie Price
Nicole Rouillard
Stella Rouillard
Michael Ryan
Edena Sinacola
Lawrence Souchereau
Lorrie-Ann Souchereau
Gerhard Strieck
Lloyd Tanner

Jim Tucker
Jan Vassbotin
Eric Vincent
Pat Vincent
Barry Wannan
Nancy-Jo Wannan
Isabella Wehner
Nicole Welvaert
Marcella Whillans
Alexis White
John Williams
Victoria Williams
Fred Young
Lynda Young
Shirley Young
Frank Zaleski



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THOSE WERE THE DAYS...

by Susan Graham

Some of the best days I have spent with fellow members of the VTA haven't involved any hiking whatsoever. Such was the case twice this past hiking "season".

The first outing I am referring to was a canoe outing in August down the Thessalon River/Gordon Lake followed by a pot-luck dinner led and hosted by the Ropke's. The day was overcast, and I wondered if there would be a good turnout. I need not have wondered! In fact, Erika Ropke looked rather worried as the cars started arriving at the meeting point - she only had 24 plates at her cabin! (Some people thought to bring their own dishes anyway, and I was quite willing to improvise and use the frisbee in our vehicle.) Getting underway took a while, as the entry point into the river presented a bit of a challenge portaging the canoes down a clay bank. Once underway though, we enjoyed easy canoeing down the river and across the lakes. There was very little development along the banks of the river, as this is a farming area. My husband and I were paddling at the front of the group for a while, and were able to spot a mink on shore - about the only wildlife we saw. There was no wind, and the cloudy conditions meant sunburn was not a problem. Dieter and Erika must have influence in high places, as they arranged for the sky to clear as we were approaching the landing. By the time we shuttled all the vehicles to Rydal Bank and drove to the "Ropke country estate", we had clear skies and sunshine. The meal was wonderful, thanks to everyone's contributions. A number of people had enough energy left to explore the trails around the property before heading home - some just enjoyed the view from the deck! Cliff and I agreed it had been a "10" on the Enjoyment Scale.

Another great day was spent cycling the Old Goulais Bay Road with Gail Andrew as leader on a perfect fall day. Our eight-year-old son, Ian was with us, so we were a little slower than the rest of the group on the way (uphill) to Mile Hill, as Ian doesn't have a gear bike and had to rely on the strength of his legs to get him there. (I was glad to have Ian as an excuse for going a little slower anyway!) We caught up to the group at the lunch spot overlooking the Goulais River valley and Robertson Cliffs. As many times as I have seen that view in my lifetime, I was astounded by the scene as we came out of the bush into the clearing - the hills in their fall colours against a clear blue sky. It was spectacular! After lazing in the sun on the rocks for a while, we headed back the way we came (only it was mostly downhill now - and Ian was up at the front this time!) Upon arriving back at the vehicles, we decided it was much too nice a day to go for coffee at Tim Horton's - Dairy Queen sounded like a much better idea! Again, we decided this was a "10" kind of a day.

I'm thankful that the Saulteaux Club recognizes that many of our members like all kinds of outdoor activities and has people willing to lead some great outings like these two. While I've done some really great hikes, I appreciate the change once in a while. I wonder what's in the works for this winter?



Dennis Paradine of Sault College (second from left) shows VTA Annual Meeting attendees the finer points of GPS technology. The Annual Meeting took place in Elliot Lake on October 21, 2000 and was well-attended.

NEW INCENTIVE DRAWS

The new format for the Membership Incentive Draw was unveiled at the October 2000 Annual Meeting. Those who lead VTA outings and those who participated in trail maintenance outings and, who signed the Assumption of Risk Agreements at these times, had their names entered into the free draw. The more outings you attend, the better your odds.

Winners of one year's free VTA membership were: Gale Koteles, Patrick Capper and Gayle Phillips. All three winners attended trail maintenance outings to qualify. A new year and a new collection of names from the Assumption of Risk Agreements has begun. Agreements should be mailed attention to our Trail Master, Patrick Capper to get in on the draws at the next Annual Meeting.



ADDITIONS TO WEB SITE

by Gayle Phillips < www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail >

I am delighted to report that the VTA can now take donations over the Internet. This wonderful service is provided by "Charity.ca" an organization created by the Ivey Foundation to help small charities reap all the benefits of being on-line. Visitors need only click on the button on our home page to safely donate.

As VTA Web Master, I get a lot of inquiries from people wanting to hike long distances on our trail. Having no idea of the hiker's background or if they have ever hiked in Northern Ontario, I never know what to tell them. Our trail is a true wilderness trail that I don't think exists anywhere else in North America, or the world for that matter! How do you tell people what to expect? Hopefully there is a way. On the home page of our web site, there is now a link called "What to expect". This link gives visitors an idea of terrain, trail conditions and what wildlife there is on our trail, complete with photos. Please pay our home page a visit and e-mail me at: voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca with your thoughts.



SCENES FROM THE ROAD photos by Georgena MacDonald



(left): Ruby Lake Trail in Nipigon



(above): near Government Lake Road, Harmony Beach



(below): Carp Lake cliffs, Batchewana

LONG-TIME VTA FRIEND PASSES AWAY by Larry Gringorten

The VTA was saddened to learn of the death of Chuck Peterson, owner of Stokely Creek Lodge, on September 21, 2000, at the age of 79.

Chuck was born in Highland, Michigan, and was a chemical engineer by profession. He first came to the Algoma region around 1955 and Stokely soon became a favourite winter retreat for him. In the mid-70s, he purchased the land at Stokely and over the years developed it into one of the region's finest cross-country ski resorts. A ski enthusiast himself, he was famous for his boundless energy and active participation in trail work parties. He encouraged environmental protection and was a keen promoter of outdoor activities. He helped the causes of conservation groups such as the Algoma Highlands Conservancy and was a true friend of the VTA, avidly supporting its program and the development of hiking trails on his property. Although he was not native to the Algoma region, he became a long-time seasonal resident and knew more about the history of the region than many other residents. At the dedication of the Centennial Loop Trail at Havilland Bay last year in honour of the 100-year anniversary of the Canadian Forest Service, Chuck spoke eloquently on the region's history and development, and impressed all who heard his talk on the depth of his knowledge and the obvious attachment he had for the land and its recreational opportunities. He will be missed by all who shared his love of the outdoors. The VTA extends condolences to Chuck's family.



FOR SALE:

210 Fischer Classic cross-country skis with Tyrola size 11 boots, bindings and poles, and 210 Big Step cross-country skis

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4 Bic Sport Rack for 50-56" gutter; holds 5 sets of skis \$50. Call (705) 779-3409.



BUSHWHACKER NOTICES US

by Gayle Phillips

In no less than TWO issues of Bushwhacker Magazine this year, the Voyageur Trail was mentioned.

In the August/September issue, writer Boris Swidersky records his enthusiasm backpacking in Mississauga Park with members of the Elliot Lake Coureurs de Bois Voyageur Trail Club. Stan Codlin, Gordon Bruce and Bill Ralph (who utters to Boris those famous Voyageur Trail words, "We're going to start off with a bit of a climb,") accompanied Boris on the Cobre Lake Trail.

In the recently released December/January issue, writer Chris Bosman reports that backpacking the Casques Isles Voyageur Trail "exceeded all expectations" and he is "making plans to return." (In this issue, I particularly enjoyed the article entitled, "Seven Ways to Kill Your Bow Paddler".)

Bushwhacker is an outdoor adventure magazine published six times a year and available at various locations throughout Ontario free-of-charge, or mailed to your home for a small fee. For information on where you can pick up a copy, call (705) 435-1211 or e-mail: bushwhacker@sympatico.ca



REMINDER by Gayle Phillips

In several areas, the Voyageur Trail crosses, if not shares, snowmobile trails. In talking with the Sault Ste. Marie Trailblazers snowmobile club, I found out that a well-used snowmobile trail averages anywhere from 200 to 500 machines a day! Personal experience has educated me that snowmobiles are becoming increasingly quieter! Please be extra careful when anywhere near a groomed snowmobile trail. Riders can't hear you coming on your snowshoes! I would rather eat some snow getting out of the way safely, than eat a snowmobile cowl in a lost game of chicken! And while you are at it, please stay on the marked trail, especially when on private land. Sometimes the landowner lives nearby and you may end up walking down his or her driveway, giving them quite a start.



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 and dress appropriately. Be prepared to sign an Assumption of Risk Agreement.*

Winter Activities Disclaimer: It is important to note that the VTA does not provide formal instruction for snowshoe and ski activities. Each participant in our winter activities is assumed to:

- understand the causes, preventive measures, and treatment for hypothermia
- dress appropriately, bring lunch and water and be prepared for unforeseen delays on the trail
- understand that changes in weather and snow conditions can affect the difficulty level of a given trail
- have experience on, and be familiar with his/her own equipment
- for skiers: be able to perform the basic manoeuvres, such as snowplow and herring bone under a variety of snow conditions for a period of several hours.

This year being the first year of the new millennium, the Saulteaux Club will celebrate by holding an end-to-end. This end-to-end will be done section-by-section throughout the year 2001. End-to-end outings will be marked in the schedules with .

Tuesday, December 26 - Snowshoe with Don McGorman (946-9599). Meet at 10AM at the Zellers parking lot. Behaved pets are welcome.

Monday, January 1 - Snowshoe with Patrick Capper (253-4470) in the Camp Korah area. Meet at 10AM at Market Mall. Behaved pets welcome.


Saturday, January 6 - Ski with Horst Wetzl at the end of Peoples Road. Meet at 10AM at the Market Mall to car pool. Behaved pets are welcome. For more info, call Horst at 254-8504.


***Saturday, January 13** - Third Annual Snowshoe Symposium at Heyden Ski Hill 10AM to 4PM sponsored by Joe's Sports & Surplus. Try out GV Snowshoes free of charge. Saturday

evening, try some winter camping and navigation in the dark. Call Ed at Joe's Sports 253-2361.


***Sunday, January 14** - Heyden Ski Hill Snowshoe Symposium continues.

Monday, January 15 - Bi-Monthly Saulteaux Club Meeting and Beginner's Corner at 7:30PM at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre. Tonight is the "wrap-up the year 2000" pizza night! Bring your photos of year 2000 outings to share. Call Gayle at 942-1891.

 **Sunday, January 21** - Snowshoe with Jack Donald (942-1761) from Camp Korah to Maki Road. Meet at 10AM at Market Mall. Behaved pets are welcome.

 **Saturday, January 27** - Six kilometre snowshoe from Old Goulais Bay Road to Highway 17. Meet at Zellers Plaza, behind Pennington's, at 10AM to car pool. Behaved pets welcome. Leader: Don McGorman 946-9599.

***Saturday, February 3** - Join Bev and Verna Scott on a hike (hard packed trail) in the Heyden area. Meet at 10AM at the Aweres School parking lot. Behaved pets are welcome. You can bring your snowshoes if you want, but the trail is hard packed and you should be able to walk. Contact Bev or Verna at 777-3053. (*Bon Soo Lantern Ski is this evening as well.*)

 **Sunday, February 4** - Combination Ski and Snowshoe with Horst Wetzl and Gayle Phillips from Peoples Road to Old Goulais Bay Road. Meet at 10AM at the Market Mall to car pool. Behaved pets are welcome. Contact Gayle at 942-1891 or Horst 254-8504.

Saturday, February 10 - Bon Soo Children's Snowshoe Experience at Bellevue Park from noon - 3PM. Volunteers needed! Please call Gayle at 942-1891.


Saturday, February 10 - VTA Outing Leaders/Trail Adopters Appreciation Moonlight Snowshoe (*by invitation only*). Tonight we show our appreciation to all those who lead outings and keep their adopted sections of trail in good repair. Invitations to those involved included with this newsletter.

Friday, February 16 - Soo Finnish Club's Valentine Lantern Ski

***Saturday, February 17** - Ski on St. Joe's Island with Trina Fournier. Meet at 9AM at the Churchill Plaza to car pool. Please leave your pets at home for this outing. Call 253-3359 for info.

***Saturday, February 24** - Ski with Garry & Gale Koteles east of the Sault. Meet at 9:30AM sharp at the Churchill Plaza parking lot to car pool. Please leave your pets at home for this outing. For more info, call 949-1302.

Sunday, February 25 - Soo Finnish Club's Mabel Lake Backcountry Tour

 **Saturday, March 3** - Snowshoe the Tom Allinson Spur Trail with Mike & Cheryl Landmark (779-3409). Full distance is 16Km, but possible to join in or exit at the 8 Km location at Red Rock access A2. Meet at 8AM at the Market Mall parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets are welcome.

Friday, March 9 - Moonlight Snowshoe at Camp Korah with Don McGorman. Meet at Camp Korah (end of Goulais Avenue) at 9PM. Afterwards we will have a warm-up in the Camp Korah facilities. For more info, call Don at 946-9599.

(Continued on page 6)



OUTING SCHEDULE

(Continued from page 5)

Sunday, March 11 - Ski with Horst Wetzl (254-8504). Meet at 10:00 AM at the Market Mall parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets are welcome.

***Saturday, March 17** - Snowshoe north of Gordon Lake with Trina Fournier (253-3359). Meet at 9AM at the Churchill Plaza to car pool. Please leave your pets at home for this outing.

Monday, March 19 - Saulteaux Club Meeting at 7:30PM at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre. After the business meeting and Beginner's Corner, we will plan our next outing schedule. Call Gayle at 942-1891 for more info.

Saturday, March 24 - Snowshoe with Patrick Capper (253-4470) from Creek Road to Red Rock Road. Meet at 9:30AM at the Market Mall parking lot. Behaved pets are welcome.

Sunday, April 22 - Earth Day family clean up hike with Gayle Phillips in the Hiawatha Highlands area. Meet at 1PM at the Zellers parking lot behind Pennington's to car pool. Bring work gloves. Behaved pets are welcome. For more info, call Gayle at 942-1891.

Saturday, April 28 - Annual Saulteaux Club dinner, 6:30PM at Giovanni's Restaurant. Tickets \$20 per person. Seating limited to 40. Our guest speaker is Barry Lyons, a terrific underwater photographer. Barry will present slides from his diving trips to the Caribbean and the Red Sea. For tickets, contact Gayle at 942-1891.

Sunday, April 29 - Join us for our annual kick-off to the upcoming trail maintenance season - *Go to Blazes Day!* This year we will be cleaning from Old Goulais Bay Road towards the Root River. Tools will be provided. Behaved pets are welcome. Meet at 10AM at the Zellers parking lot behind Pennington's to car pool.

Call Gayle 942-1891 for more info.



OUTING SCHEDULE

Coueurs de Bois Outdoors Club (Elliot Lake area)

Please note: All hikes start at 10:00 AM. Meet at Upper Plaza parking lot. Outings are held every Tuesday and Thursday. For more information on Saturday outings please contact the hike leader.

Jan. 6	Fred Forsyth	848-2956	(X-Country)
Jan. 13	Stan Codlin	848-3087	(Snowshoe)
Jan. 20	Alan Day	848-8776	(X-Country)
Jan. 27	Al Carriere	848-4372	(X-Country)
Feb. 3	Gord Bruce	461-3724	(X-Country)
Feb. 10	Alan Day	848-8776	(X-Country - moonlight - 7 PM)
Feb. 17	Al Carriere	848-4372	(X-Country)
Feb. 24	Paul Fuller	461-9080	(Snowshoe)
Mar. 3	Paul Fuller	461-9080	(Snowshoe)
Mar. 10	Al Carriere	848-4372	(X-Country)
Mar. 17	Alan Day	848-8776	(X-Country)
Mar. 24	Al Carriere	848-4372	(X-Country)
Mar. 31	Bill Ralph	848-7445	(X-Country)
Apr. 7	Hilda Gilbert	461-9974	(Hike-Fire Tower)
Apr. 14	Fred Forsyth	848-2956	(Hike)
Apr. 21	Alan Day	848-8776	(Canoe)
Apr. 28	Nancy-Jo Wannan	848-2947	(Hike-Cobre Trail)

Note: X-Country ski lessons for beginners at golf course, 1:00 P.M. Wednesdays. For more information call Bill Ralph 848-7445. Anyone interested in advanced x-country ski lessons please contact Al Carriere 848-4372.



The next VTA Coordinating Council Meeting is
Saturday, January 13 at 10AM at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre in Sault Ste. Marie. Each club is allowed two representatives. Contact Mike (705) 779-3409 for more information.

PENEWOBKONG CLUB REPORT

by **Andy Penikett**

The Blind River and Iron Bridge clubs have decided to join together. The executive for the combined clubs is as follows:

President:	Joanne Marck
Vice President:	Willie Van Roon
Treasurer:	Tom Van Roon
Trail Captain:	Andy Penikett

Thanks to the above for volunteering to fill these positions as we move to becoming more active as a combined club.

Our hope for the next year is to improve awareness, increase membership, and to finish bringing the 53km. of trail up to at least a minimum standard. Trail improvements should increase use and allow for better promotion as a local ecotourism tool.

In the past summer the club has worked on trail improvements, reblazing, brushsawing and chainsawing from [1.9] Airport Road east to [19.7] Whitefish Falls. This included making the changes as suggested in the 1999 Audit.



NORTHWATCH

In January of 1988, Northwatch was founded with the aim of building skills and experience in forest management planning across northeastern Ontario. It is a regional coalition of environmental and citizen organizations and individual members of the general public.

Northwatch's priority issues include energy use, generation and conservation; forest conservation and wild areas protection; waste management and water quality issues; mining; and militarization. In addition to acting on these issues as a representative body, Northwatch provides support to local citizens' groups addressing these and other environmental concerns in their community. Since 1988, Northwatch's membership has grown from a half dozen groups to more than twenty in the 90s. The membership is spread from the northern Muskokas to Cochrane District, and from Nipissing to Lake Superior. The coalition is also affiliated with a number of provincial, national or international organizations, as a member group or project partner.

If you are interested in becoming a Northwatch member, the following fees apply:

Group or Family	\$40.00
Individual	\$25.00
Seniors & Students	\$10.00

There is also a Sustaining Donor program and charitable receipts are available for monthly donations.

Contact Northwatch at Box 282, North Bay, ON P1B 8H2, (705) 497-0373, fax (705) 476-7060, email nwatch@onlink.net, or visit their website at www.onlink.net/~nwatch.



TRANS CANADA TRAIL RELAY 2000 EXHIBIT

by Cheryl Landmark

The Trans Canada Trail Relay 2000 is now over, but its legacy will live on for many years to come. An exhibit has been set up in the Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec, located in a prime area on the main floor just outside of the IMAX theatre. It is approximately 16-18 feet long along the main windows of the Museum. In addition to the water bottles used to carry the water, the Relay uniform worn by the carriers, and the log books signed by each community the water passed through, the exhibit also features video footage of the Relay. If you look closely, you will see your past and present Presidents hiking the Voyageur Trail! The Museum of Civilization is one of the most visited ones throughout Canada with over 1,350,000 visitors per year, who come from all over the country as well as from many foreign countries.

If you are ever in Ottawa or Hull, be sure to visit the Museum and relive the history-making project that has garnered nation-wide attention for the "Trail of Dreams".



TAKE TRAIL MAINTENANCE OUT OF THE CLOSET

(adapted from *The Register*, a newsletter of the Appalachian Trail, and from *Caledon Comment*, a newsletter of the Caledon Hills B.T.C.)

Long-distance hikers are thought of as the elite of the sport. The picture of the self-sufficient hiker striding through a thousand miles of back country is a lot more exciting than that of the maintenance volunteer creeping along a few miles of trail in the hot sun clearing briars and picking up garbage as he goes.

We have to get away from looking at maintenance as a "duty" and as "work", and start selling it as a fun sport separate from hiking - with its own types of equipment, styles, methods, approaches, rewards, etc. Maybe we should go out on a limb and sell maintaining as the sport that gets you into nature (literally!). Unlike simple hiking, maintenance exercises the whole body, requires a variety of skills and knowledge of the outdoors, and makes a contribution. We all know that, with modern equipment, it is possible to backpack without ever having to touch the ground.

Let's take trail maintenance out of the closet. Why is the maintenance volunteer looking up to the hiker? Why is the greater dream to walk 2000 miles and not to maintain the perfect five mile section?

We can improve our trail maintenance by recognizing the efforts of the people we have and by recruiting more people through a program that demonstrates our true concern for, and belief in, the importance of maintenance.



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Ontario residents, contact Harry Moerschner at (705) 445-0267 or e-mail to moersch@bmts.com



TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP GRIDS ARE CHANGING by Gordon Haggert

This article originally appeared in the May 1999 edition of "Canews", the Magazine of the Ontario Recreational Canoeing Association (<http://www.canoeontario.on.ca/>): Editor is John Rudolph. Reprinted with permission.

On a trip in the Algoma District our group was trying to identify exactly where we were on a long shoreline using triangulation and comparing our grid references. When looking at two maps we realized the grids on our Canadian 1:50 000 topographic sheets were not in the same positions. The maps appeared the same but the grid lines had shifted by over 200 metres. Was there a misprint on the maps?

Canoe trippers should be aware of what has happened. We were using two editions of the same map. Edition 3 of our map was based on "North American Datum 1927" or "NAD 27" (shown in the bottom margin of topo maps) but Edition 4 of the same map was based on "North American Datum 1983"; or "NAD 83".

In 1927 a complete survey of North America was completed to define positions in latitude and longitude and all survey networks which also included the 1000 metre grid pattern that we all have been using on Canadian topo maps. The introduction of navigation satellites has allowed cartographers to define the shape of the earth and the positions of features on the earth more precisely than before. The system as revised in 1983 was officially adopted by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources (now Natural Resources Canada) in May of 1990. The United States, Mexico, Denmark (Greenland) and Canada had reached agreement on the definition of the datum in 1983, hence the name NAD 83. Other departments of the Government of Canada and provincial governments have adopted NAD 83 as their geodetic reference system for new maps.

NAD 83 is based on the Earth's centre of gravity and also is a more accurate mathematical representation (ellipsoid) of the shape of the earth than was NAD 27. NAD 83 is therefore more compatible with the co-ordinate system used to compute the orbit of satellites used for surveying and for the use of GPS receivers.

The National Topographic System is revising all existing maps to NAD 83 and since April, 1989, all new mapping has been computed using NAD 83 values. Maps not scheduled for revision for a long period of time will not be converted, but instead, will be overprinted with notes, usually in the bottom margin, enabling the conversion of the map grid of the geographic co-ordinates to NAD 83.

CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 FEET
Elevations in Feet above Mean Sea Level
North American Datum 1927
Transverse Mercator Projection

Figure 1 - Datum Note, found in margin of map.

This example from the margin of a current map shows that the grid is based on "North American Datum 1927".

Alongside this information is a conversion table to use if you want to know where the new NAD 83 grid would be on a revised map. The Latitude and Longitude changes slightly but for canoe trippers, you would add 10 m to the Easting and 222 m to the Northing to locate where the new grid lines would be on a NAD 83 map. Any specific map reference point would also move in the same manner. The more up-to-date Canadian topo maps already have printed the NAD 83 grid on them and the co-ordinate conversion is from NAD 83 to NAD 27. On the chart the WGS 84 designation means World Geodetic System 1984 which is consistent with the NAD 83 reference system and used in orbit computation of satellites in the Global Positioning System.

Fortunately for canoe trippers or for map reading classes, confusion can be avoided by everyone in the group using the same edition of the map. Conversions of co-ordinate references from NAD 27 maps to NAD 83 maps (or from NAD 83 maps to NAD 27) are possible if you have the NAD shift information from Natural Resources Canada, or if it is printed in the map margin.

Each map in each of 50 different zones across Canada can be converted using different values. You may want to learn more on the Geodetic Survey's home page and related sites: <http://www.geod.NRCan.gc.ca/>. The maps at 1:250 000 scale have been adjusted to more accurately show positions of features but the differences are not measurable at the 1:250 000 scale and therefore changes in grids have not been applied to the maps.

Many maps for canoeists and hikers in the United States show only tick marks in the margin indicating the 1000 m grid so that users have to join the tick marks for practical purposes. Canoe trippers in Canada can enjoy the usefulness of the completely printed grid and by being aware that the conversions are being made as time goes on.

Gordon Haggert is the Publications Chair of the Ontario Recreational Canoeing Association, and may be contacted at: ghaggert@mnsi.net



If you have an article to contribute to our Ontario Recreational Canoeing Association's Guest Columnist page, please contact us at topo.maps@NRCan.gc.ca. Articles must be submitted in electronic format, and address a topic related to National Topographic System maps.

Not sure if your VTA membership expires soon?

Check the date now printed on your VT News envelope label!



"Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature nor do children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing. To keep our faces towards change and behave like free spirits in the presence of fate is strength undefeatable."

- Helen Keller (1940)

ENJOYING THE FALL

by Gail Andrew

The bicycle outing held on September 30, 2000 was a lot of fun. It was a beautiful, warm fall day with brilliant fall colours and lunch overlooking the valley of the Goulais River. The day was completed with ice cream at the Dairy Queen (it was too warm for coffee!).

The Gales of November hike held on November 5, 2000 was another gorgeous day with temperatures around 12°C. The flat, sandy trail wound through pine, oak and maple forests and we had lunch on an open plain in the National Forest of Upper Michigan. We were thirteen women and one man, hiking and singing and enjoying a great day. The coffee and cinnamon buns topped the outing. We are not sure if Terry bragged or complained to the guys at work the next day, but we had a great group with four first-timers.



LONG TIME NO SEA

(from the June issue of Reader's Digest)

For our boating trip, my husband, Mike, two sons, 93-year-old father-in-law, Fred, and I had to renew our supplies. As we were wheeling three heavy shopping carts back three kilometres to the dock, I broke my sandal. Since there was a lot of broken glass around, I didn't want to walk barefoot. As Mike and I discussed how we'd get the supplies back, Fred rummaged around in the backpack he carried with him everywhere. He pulled out of it a long leather thong with three strands on it. "Will this help?" he asked. It did, and as I tied it around the remains of my sandal I thanked him profusely.

"I'm glad," he said, and while I was thinking he was glad to have solved our problem, he continued, "I've been carrying that around for 63 years, and this is the first time I've found a use for it."

- Ann Rooney, Calgary

Note: Could this be your pack?



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.

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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 & Airways General Store, 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 -)

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NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Editor: Cheryl Landmark
(705) 779-3409

Layout by: Gayle Phillips



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

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

e-mail to:

< cheryl.landmark@sympatico.ca >

Deadline for the next issue is April 1, 2001.

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!**

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

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

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH:

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

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

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

Club

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

Section

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

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