



No. 79 FALL 2001

Published by the
VOYAGEUR TRAIL
ASSOCIATION

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VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT BY: Gayle Phillips

WELCOME! WELCOME!

Our welcome mat is out to the brand new Nipigon/Thunder Bay Voyageur Trail Club! Watch for further good news from the western end of Lake Superior. In the meantime, Connie Nelson has graciously volunteered to be contact person for this welcome addition to our family. Connie can be reached at 807-343-8447 or e-mail to: connie.nelson@lakeheadu.ca



THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL CHALLENGE by Cheryl Landmark

It wasn't quite the Borneo Eco-Challenge, but it came close!

The premise was enticing. The reality was a little more challenging than expected.

Eight intrepid hikers decided to backpack from Elliot Lake, Ontario to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario on the Voyageur Trail, a distance of approximately 208 kilometres, and to perform GPS readings of the trail at the same time. The idea was to complete the trip in ten days, with an overnight stop in Iron Bridge after four or five days for the re-provisioning of supplies for the second leg of the journey.

On May 7, 2001, two hikers from Sault Ste. Marie (along with their faithful pooch, Misty), four hikers from Elliot Lake, and two hikers from Nova Scotia began the trek at the Highway 108 access of the Coureurs de Bois section of the Voyageur Trail. The day started out on a promising note with bright sunshine and warm temperatures and no flies. The schedule called for us to backpack to McGivern Lake, a distance of approximately fifteen kilometres, and camp there for the night. However, by mid-afternoon, the skies had clouded up and rain began to fall. The trail was fairly rugged and the moss and rocks became slippery and challenging to negotiate. By mutual consent, the group decided to camp beside Turtle Lake, approximately six kilometres from McGivern Lake. Fortunately, the rain stopped while we were setting up our tents and the evening was fairly pleasant (aside from tired muscles and a few blisters!).

The next day again started out relatively nicely, but the black flies and mosquitoes began to make their appearance known in unpleasant ways. The trail was rugged, with the hikers having to negotiate narrow, wet beaver dams and steep climbs up and down hills. The scenic lookouts from the top of the hills were fantastic, but the trip up and down the steep elevations was not quite as enjoyable with backpacks! Some of the group began to experience equipment problems and two others, who were recovering from bad colds and asthma, began to find the challenging hike taking a toll on them. Our original plan had been to camp that evening at Intersect Lake, but, again, we stopped several kilometres short of our goal on the banks of a small creek. By now, the flies had become a downright nuisance. A short dousing of rain occurred just after we set up the tents, and then the skies cleared up and we were able to enjoy a pleasant evening around the campfire. After some discussion, it was decided that, due to the equipment problems, the health problems and the increasing annoyance of the black flies and mosquitoes that we were experiencing, we would continue on to Blind River the next day and end our backpacking trip there, instead of pushing on to Sault Ste. Marie as originally planned for the next week. The couple from Nova Scotia expressed an interest to continue on as far as Iron Bridge and we bid them good luck early next morning.

The third day was quite warm and sunny and the trail began to



(Continued on page 2)

The Voyageur Trail Association sadly announces that we lost another long time member recently, Ernie Pringle. Ernie was instrumental in building trail in and around the Sault Ste. Marie area. Our condolences go out to Ernie's family and friends.

TRAVELS WITH ERNIE

by Dieter Ropke

Where would the VTA be today without the input of that intrepid duo, Tom Allinson and Ernie Pringle? They worked together on the trail until Ernie's knees gave out. Since Ernie was somewhat vociferous at night, Tom would park his tent as far away as possible and urge us to do the same. Meanwhile, Ernie claimed that Tom was the loud one. I think they both were.

We hiked Isle Royale together, end to end. Ernie saved the day with his Coleman Peak I, which had just come out. Water filters were in their infancy then. Due to the interaction of moose and wolf, there was a nasty organism in the water, forcing us to boil all water. As soon as we reached our campsite - it was hot that May - Ernie would fire up his stove and boil water, batch after batch since we were dehydrated. By the time my Optimus 8R had decided to light after all, Ernie had already boiled two batches. We dayhiked the Porcupine Mountains together and had a good time.

Ernie hailed from New Brunswick and, while he made a living in Sault Ste. Marie, his heart was back home, and his stories were always interesting, since they covered the early lumbering days, long forgotten by most, and considered a myth by the very young.

Ernie became a bit of a convert and preached Shaklee products. His earnest postulations were something to behold. But I loved his chuckle most, it was spontaneous and with much joy.

Ernie was a faithful friend and always good company. I will miss his earthy pioneer spirit.



Mother's Day Hike...



Photo courtesy Dieter Ropke

Isn't that what Mother's Day is all about? Helping mom do a standing long jump over a stream!



THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL CHALLENGE

(Continued from page 1)

flatten out a little as we trudged towards Blind River, although there were still a few hills to negotiate. By mid-afternoon, we reached Birch Lodge on Highway 555, fifteen kilometres from Blind River. This was the closest access point to Blind River for the Voyageur Trail. Arrangements were made for us to be picked up and returned to Elliot Lake. Meanwhile, the proprietors of Birch Lodge were very friendly and allowed us to enjoy their hospitality and the beautiful scenery of their lodge on Granary Lake.

Two days later, the backpackers from Nova Scotia completed their trip in Iron Bridge and were returned to civilization.

Four of the eight backpackers decided to hike some of the beautiful trails in Lake Superior Provincial Park two days later, after we had rested up a little from the Elliot Lake trip. The Coastal Trail from Sand River to the Agawa Pictographs (approximately eleven kilometres) was hiked on a gorgeous sunny day with a bit of an offshore breeze that kept the pesky flies and mosquitoes at bay. The young couple from Nova Scotia remained in Lake Superior Park for the next two days and backpacked the scenic, but challenging, Towab trail.

All in all, the backpacking adventure on the Voyageur Trail did not turn out quite the way it was originally planned, but valuable lessons were learned nevertheless and, hopefully, future outings of this nature will be more successful.



NIPIGON-THUNDER BAY VOYAGEUR TRAIL CLUB

by Connie Nelson

The brand new Nipigon-Thunder Bay Voyageur Trail ClubHikers (the name is not final yet...) have been busy. They were joined by the Thunder Bay Hiking Association members for a hike at both Cavers and Dog's Head. Among the hikers at Cavers was a visiting professor from south China. His longer term research is to study the use of microrhizae for its potential as an alternative to the use of herbicides in replanting forest areas.

In July, they joined the Casques Isles Club for a hike up Mt. Gwynn as part of the Schreiber Annual Heritage days. A few members of the Nipigon Club took Thunder Bay photography club representatives on a hike on upper Kama to get acquainted with the trails for future photography. They were especially interested in the old growth cedar forest and the magnificent vistas of Lake Superior. Now that's networking!

You're invited to catch up to this active group. Join us on our fall hikes (see page 6). I look forward to some wonderful hikes, good company, great photo opportunities, good laughs and some challenging exercise.



BLOWN AWAY BY SANTORINI *by Dieter Ropke*

This gem of Greek Islands (often shown by its ancient name *Thira*) shares its history with that of Crete in that the massive volcanic action of circa 1650 BC originating near Santorini created tidal waves and destruction, which are thought to have led to the demise of the Minoan civilization at Knossos. We arrived by sea on a turbulent day. The 400 m cliffs were topped by two spectacular villages clinging to the top like an icecap and suggesting a swallow's nest, white droppings on the edge. The view from the sea was awesome (*you'd miss it if you arrived by air*). The waves were bashing the base of the cliffs. Before the island was really discovered by tourists, donkeys would take people up to the top via cobbled switchbacks.

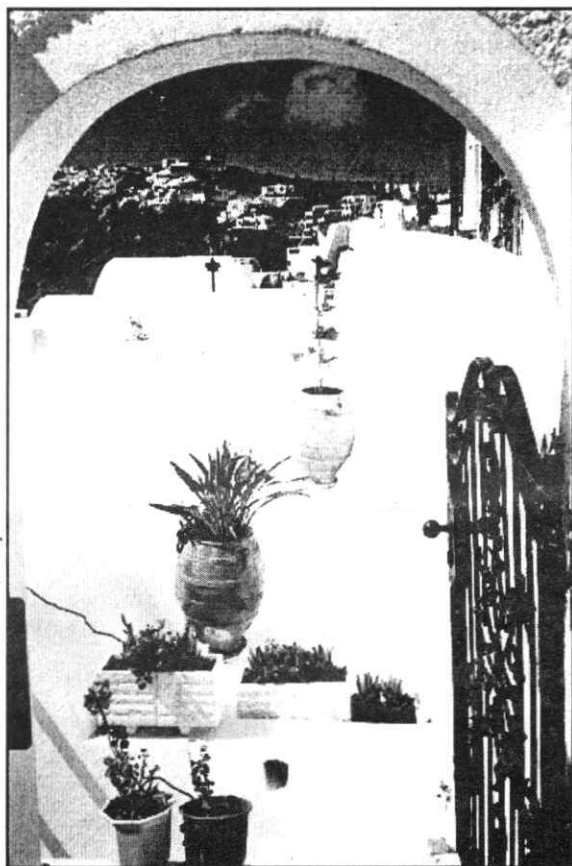
When we arrived there, the ferry captain announced that 'we will attempt a landing'. Since the sea (*crater*) is some 400 m deep here, you cannot anchor. At a controlled engine thrust, we backed into the quay, the large steel landing platform was lowered and, as huge waves battered the pier, we rushed off the ferry. A bus took us up to the village of Fira, scaling the cliffs by way of serpentine switchbacks. The two villages perched on the edge of the precipitous face are Fira and Oia (*silent O*). Most of the habitations and shops pasted to the cliffs were whitewashed and many have domed roofs to facilitate runoff and minimize heat absorption. The architecture is a feast to the eye with colour accents, weathered and new window frames and doors, exquisite shops full of fine jewellery and art objects, the bulk of which is of excellent quality and uniquely Greek. In particular, we saw some very attractive paintings and very artistic pottery. In fact with the architecture, angles, colours, shops, people, one does not know where to look, it is an absolute visual delight unlike anything I have ever experienced.

One afternoon, we hiked the crest between Fira and Oia. The vistas were mind-blowing. Much of the crest was overlain by huge deposits of sand-coloured ash with rounded black stones ranging from a few cm to some 30 cm in size. These were embedded in this finer material. Due to temperature differences on exposed cuts, the black stones would loosen over time and fall out, leaving interesting cavities. We saw this pattern incorporated in the architecture of villages on all four islands we visited with equally pleasing effect. In other places, there were successive thin layers, which weathered and oxidized into a range of spectacular colours from sulphur, ocher and gold to rust red and magenta. What a magnificent exhibit of nature's fury, beautiful to look at and yet testimony of an enormous catastrophe. Temperatures that day were about 21 degrees and yet it was impossible to dress properly. There were clefts and gullies where the wind whistled up from the sea, picking up momentum as it went up the crest, where we bore the brunt of gale force winds, and it seemed to me that, in addition to being blown away by Santorini, we came close to being blown off Santorini. Mary Poppins

would have been fine with an umbrella the size of a loony. At the westerly end of Oia, we had some Ouzo served with a glass of cold water and a dish of peanuts. We wanted to wait for the sunset but it was just too windy to be com-

fortable, and we found a more sheltered outside restaurant where we had a great dinner, finishing off with yogurt and local honey. The 8 km hike on the crest of that spectacular geology was the highlight of our 15 days hiking on four Greek Islands.

If you go: go light – carry-on bag and daypack – off season only April-May, Sept.-Oct., fly to Athens, take the airport bus into town, and here you find lots of accommodations with a short walk to the old city – Plaka – and the Akropolis. The subway runs all the way to Peiraias for the ferries to the islands. The ferries are seaworthy, modern and clean and a bargain at circa \$20 for the 5 to 7 hour passage to Santorini. At twice the cost, the Flying Dolphins take you there in one half the time. If you go off season, you need not book ahead and you'll have much more fun that way.



FOR SALE

**Coast Mountain Multi-Day Backpack,
Internal Frame**

40" long x 12" across x 6" deep.

Extendible lid enlarges the pack even more.

Colours: Blue, Green and Black.

In very good condition - \$30

Call 705-253-3359



WEB SITE REDESIGNED by Gayle Phillips <voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca>

The Voyageur Trail Association web site has a new look.

Over the years, I have heard the cry for more photos and this new site is loaded with them. Our "what to expect" link has become a fountain of all knowledge! It is loaded with information about what to expect when you hike the various sections of Voyageur Trail, and what to expect of, and when doing, trail maintenance.

Our home page lists links to a Voyageur Trail History page, a Recognition page (*for those organizations and businesses who have assisted us over the years with their donations*), a Newsletter link (*with tidbits from the latest VT News*), a Miscellaneous Links button (*for other interesting hiking-related web pages on the Internet*), and a Membership/Store button where new members can sign up!

Information about all the clubs is now organized into locations. This makes it easier for a potential hiker to look up information about the cities/towns they are planning to visit.

If a hiker is planning a trip to Rossport, for example, he/she could look up the Casques Isles Club link and find out about club executive and contact phone numbers, a little history about the club, where the guidebook is available to purchase, trail conditions, outings the club has planned, and links to other interesting local links, such as campgrounds, etc.—all on one page. This makes it easier to print out and carry with you when you travel through the various cities and towns along the Voyageur Trail route.

Now we need your help. A club's web page is only as good as YOU make it! E-mail me trail condition reports as you hike your local trail; local links to related or supportive businesses in your town; historical facts that you may know of about your club...don't assume someone else will do this updating, take it upon yourself as a member of a Voyageur Trail Club to e-mail me directly with your information.

Each club's page can be accessed directly, if you wish, so pick your club's address (*listed next column*) and set a "Bookmark" or "Favourite" at its location. (*To those of you who are directly involved in publicity efforts about your club, these addresses can be used on posters, press releases, etc. as the address of your club. Please use them!*)

SAULTEAUX SECTION COLOUR MAP NOW ON SALE!

**Experience North Adventures,
1156 Great Northern Rd &
Algoma's Water Tower Inn,
360 Great Northern Rd.
(in Sault Ste. Marie, ON)**



Nipigon-Thunder Bay Club:

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail/nipigon.html>

Casques Isles Club (Terrace Bay, Schreiber, Rossport):

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail/casques.html>

Pukaskwa National Park:

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail/pukaskwa.html>

Marathon:

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail/marathon.html>

Michipicoten Club (Wawa):

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail/michipicoten.html>

Lake Superior Provincial Park:

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail/LSPP.html>

Harmony Beach/Havilland Bay Club:

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail/Harmony.html>

Goulais River/Stokely Creek:

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail/Goulais.html>

Saulteaux Club (Sault Ste. Marie):

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail/saulteaux.html>

Echo Ridges:

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail/echo.html>

Desbarats & Bruce Mines:

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail/desbarats.html>

Thessalon:

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail/thessalon.html>

Penewobikong Club (Iron Bridge/Blind River):

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail/penewob.html>

Coueurs des Bois Club (Elliot Lake):

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail/coueurs.html>

Any and all comments about the Voyageur Trail web site are always welcome. *Click me!*



**Does your VTA membership expire soon?
Check the date printed on your
VT NEWS envelope label!**

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.**

***August 20 - 24** Week of hiking in the Casques Isles Section. Contact Gayle 942-1891 or Mike 779-3409 for details.

***Sat., August 25** - Voyageur Canoe day trip at Naturally Superior Adventures, Wawa. Adult fare \$29. Special children rates. Call Gayle @942-1891.

Sun., August 26 - Hike in the west end of the city with Jack (942-1761). Market Mall @10AM. Behaved pets OK.

***Sat., Sept. 1** - Work party with Gayle (942-1891). Churchill Plaza near Roger's Video @10AM. Behaved pets welcome. Tools provided.

☞ Sat., Sept. 8 - Hike Prince Lake Road to Airport Road extension with Monica (254-5029). Market Mall @9:30AM. Behaved pets welcome. (Final in our year 2001 end-to-end series.)

***Sun., Sept. 9** - Hike around Tier Lake with Ila (949-1097). Zellers behind Pennington's @9AM. Behaved pets OK. (Potluck at Stokely Lodge afterwards.)

Sat., Sept. 15 - Easy family hike from Creek to Maki Road with Susan (949-4105). Market Mall @10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

***Sun., Sept. 16** - Hike to Robertson Cliffs with Gayle (942-1891). Zellers behind Pennington's @10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

Mon., Sept. 17 - Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting @ Great Lakes Forestry Centre, 7:30PM. Call Gayle for more information at 942-1891.

Sat., Sept. 22 - Crystal Creek canoe with Don (946-9599). Zellers behind Pennington's @9:30AM. You must be part of a fully equipped canoe party.

***Sun., Sept. 23** - Hike with the Nipigon visitors to Carp Lake Trail with Georgena (1-877-393-4003). Zellers behind Pennington's @9AM. Behaved pets welcome, but please bring a leash (cliffs in the area).

Sat., Sept. 29 - Work party on the Tom Allinson Spur Trail with Gail (942-0768). Market Mall @ 9:30AM. Tools provided.

***Sun., Sept. 30** - Hike at Pancake Bay (about 4 hours) with Bev and Verna (777-3053). Call for meeting place.

***Sun., Sept. 30** - Cycle outing with the Sault Cycling Club from Leeburn to Bruce Mines (+ return trip adds up to 60kms.). Meet at Tim Horton's (across from water tower) at 9AM sharp. Call Jim Miller at 254-7494.



Sun., Oct. 7 (Ontario Hiking Day) - Two outings to choose from...

***For families with small children**, join the Fournier family (253-3359) for a "pumpkin pie" hike east of the Sault. Meet at 10AM, Churchill Plaza near Roger's Video.

For an 8km, more difficult outing, join Doris (942-9466) as she hikes the Tom Allinson Spur Trail from Maki Road to the Red Rock cottage area. Meet 10AM, Market Mall. Behaved pets welcome.

***Sun., Oct. 14** - Join Gale (949-1302) on a hike east of the Sault. Churchill Plaza near Roger's Video @9:30AM. Please leave your pets at home.

Sat., Oct. 20 & Sun., Oct. 21 - Weekend trail cleaning party at Stokely Creek Lodge (tentative). Packed

lunches and a delicious dinner provided when you return to the lodge. Call 649-3421 for more information.

Sun., Oct. 21 - Hike in the Hiawatha Highlands area with Ila (949-1097). Behaved pets welcome. Zellers parking lot behind Pennington's @9:30AM.

Sat., Oct. 27 - VTA Annual General Meeting, 2PM at Prince Township Community Centre, 3054 Second Line W., Sault Ste. Marie. Hike afterwards. *Everyone's welcome!*

Sun., Oct. 28 - Hike from Goulais Avenue to the Wetzl homestead with Doris (942-9466). Market Mall @10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

***Sat., Nov. 3** - Work party with Don (946-9599). Churchill Plaza near Roger's Video @10AM. Behaved pets welcome. Tools provided.

Sat., Nov. 3 - Outing Leaders/Trail Adopters Appreciation night (by invitation only) hosted by Erika and Dieter Ropke. (Invitation by mail.)

Sat., Nov. 3 & Sun., Nov. 4 - Weekend trail cleaning party at Stokely Creek Lodge (tentative). Packed lunches and a delicious dinner provided when you return to the lodge. Call 649-3421.

Sun., Nov. 4 - Hike of Hwy 552 (Goulais Section) yellow loop trail with Bev and Verna (777-3053).

Sat., Nov. 10 - 'Gales of November' hike of the Gros Cap Loop and the Tom Allinson Spur Trail with Gayle (942-1891). Market Mall @10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

Sat., Nov. 17 - Work party in the Echo Lake area (weather permitting). Churchill Plaza near Roger's Video Store @9:30AM. Behaved pets welcome. Call Patrick 253-4470.

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SAULTEAUX CLUB

(Continued from page 5)

Mon., Nov. 19 - Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting, Great Lakes Forestry Centre, 7:30PM. After the meeting, we will plan our winter outings. Call Gayle at 942-1891.

Sat., Nov. 24 - *Surprise outing!* (Call Gayle closer to the date to see what and where it is @942-1891.)

Tues., Dec. 18 - *Trail closed.* (Every year the VTA closes the entire trail for one day to keep it from becoming a public right-of-way, to honour our landowners.)

Wed., Dec. 26 (Boxing Day) - Work off those Christmas calories with a snowshoe at Glenview Cottages with Don (946-9599). Zellers behind Pennington's Store @10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

Tues., Jan. 1 (New Year's Day) - Start 2002 right with a snowshoe from Camp Korah to Maki Road with Ila (949-1097). Meet Market Mall @10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

Sun., Jan. 6 - Snowshoe with Gayle at Red Rock (942-1891). Market Mall @10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

Sat., Jan. 12 - Snowshoe to the Desbarats Caves with Patrick (253-4470). Churchill Plaza near Roger's Video @9AM. Behaved pets welcome.

Sun., Jan. 20 - Snowshoe in the west end of the city with Jack (942-1761). Market Mall @10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

Sat., Jan. 26 - Snowshoe with Doris (942-9466) in the Goulais Avenue area. Market Mall @10AM. Behaved pets OK.

Sun., Feb. 3 - Heyden Lake to Trout Lake winter walk with Bev and Verna Scott (call 777-3053 for more details closer to date).

OUTING SCHEDULES (continues)

Penewobikong Club (Iron Bridge/Blind River)

Call Joanne at 843--2199 for more info.

Coueurs de Bois Outdoors Club (Elliot Lake area)

Meetings—The next General Membership Meeting will be held Thursday September 20th, and every odd numbered month thereafter (Nov. Jan. Mar. etc) on the third Thursday at 7 PM. Meetings are held at the E.L. Snowbirds club house, Highway 108 North.

Wednesday evening hikes (6 PM) will continue until the end of October. Call your Leader—Jackie Hall @ 848-6134

HIKES WILL START AT 10A.M. BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

SCHEDULE

September 22 @10:30 - Dumbell Lake area. Leader: Bill Ralph 848-7445

September 29 - Jerry Bertrand 461-1444

October 6 @10:30 - Helenbar Lake Trail Alan Day 848-8776

October 13 @10:30 - Cobra Lake Trail Bill Ralph 848-7445

October 20 @10:30 - Semiwhite Lake Trail Alan Day 848-8776

October 27 - Elliot Lake Dam Stan Pechous 848-9702

November 3 - Gordon Bruce 461-3724

November 10 - Jerry Bertrand 461-1444

November 17 - Alan Day 848-8776

November 24 - Gordon Bruce 461-3724

January 1st, 2002 @11AM - Meet at Sheriff Creek Sanctuary. Leader: Ray Cormier 848-7979

Other outings will be scheduled as leaders become available.

Don't forget your snowshoes and cross-country skis. (If you can walk, you can snowshoe.)

Casques Isles Club (Schreiber/Terrace Bay/Rosport area)

Aug. 20-24 Week - Hikes with Saulteaux visitors.

Nipigon-Thunder Bay Club

Sat., Sept. 8 - Ruby Lake hike with the Thunder Bay Hiking Club. Meet at the Husky at 9AM in Nipigon. Call Howie 807-887-2606 or Jim 807-887-2700.

Sat., Sept. 29 - Hike for Health from Red Rock to Nipigon. (There is a small fee for this hike which is donated to the Nipigon Hospital.) Begins with breakfast at the Red Rock Hotel and ends with entertainment & a box lunch at the Nipigon Marina.

Sun., Sept. 30 - Upper Kama hike. Meet at the Husky in Nipigon at 9AM. Call Howie 807-887-2606 or Jim 807-887-2700.

(End of September...meeting to set winter schedule. Call Connie 807-343-8447.)

Sat., Dec. 8 - Hike along shore from Ruby Bay to Dog Head Canyon.

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Sat., October 27 - Annual General Meeting, 2PM at Prince Township Community Centre, 3054 Second Line W., Sault Ste. Marie. Hike afterwards. Everyone's welcome! (Tues., December 18 - TRAIL CLOSED.)



PLAY IT SAFE
During hunting season,
wear bright clothing.



WORKING FOR WILDERNESS TO VISIT

by Neil Ray

A dozen members of the Ontario Federation of Naturalist's "Working for Wilderness" volunteer program will be joining us for a working holiday in September. Stokely Creek Lodge has graciously offered accommodation in their summer staff quarters. Participants are scheduled to arrive on Saturday, September 8th, and will be departing on September 15, for a second week of work and educational activities in Lake Superior Park. A full week of trail work and activities has been planned. The following is a tentative schedule. *If any VTA members would like to join us in welcoming our guests, or to help with any activities please call Neil Ray, Harmony Club president at 705-649-0874.*

Sat., Sept. 8 - 5 to 8PM; Stokely bunkhouse. Welcome, introductions, familiarization.

Sun., Sept. 9 - Hike to Tier Lake with Ila Aho. Meet Sault hikers at 9.30AM at Shelbi's Diner (old McCauley's Motel).

Evening: Pot Luck Supper at Stokely Lodge bunkhouse..

Mon., Sept. 10 - 9.30AM leave from Stokely Lodge for 10AM Harmony Trail work party on the new extension and lookout. Lunch on lookout. Afternoon: Harmony Beach - swim. Afternoon/evening: George Schmitz, Forester, Harmony Forest Inc. presentation "Responsible Forest Management."

Tues., Sept. 11 - 9:30AM leave from Stokely. 10:30AM Carp Lake Trail hike and maintenance. Lunch on trail. Afternoon - Batchewana Park Information Centre - Swim and beach walk. Evening: free time.

Wed., Sept. 12 - 9.30AM leave from Stokely. Trail maintenance on the Harmony Trail. Evening: Neil Ray video "The Falcons of Algoma" at Stokely bunkhouse, 7.30PM.

Thurs., Sept. 13 - Robertson Cliffs (to view falcons) or explore cliffs on Mile 38 Road. Lunch on trail. Afternoon swim at Batchewana Bay Park. Evening: Bob Knutson Presentation "Wood Turtles," Stokely bunkhouse 7.30PM.

Fri., Sept. 14 - Leave Stokely at 9.30AM. Stop at Chippewa Falls and hike part of Pancake Park trails.

Evening: fish fry at Buttermilk Ski Lodge.

Sat., Sept. 15: Agawa Canyon Tour Train.



IS IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE WILDERNESS TRAILS THAT WILL SUIT EVERYONE?

by Georgena MacDonald

How to build trails for the tortoise and the hare and the birdwatcher and the tourist and the skier and the photographer and the backpacker and the family dog.



Everyone, it seems, has a different idea of just what the perfect trail is.

That's probably because some people want the challenge of a workout that includes walking for miles, and others are only interested in short brisk hiking, while still others want to stroll slowly and carefully on almost perfect pathways. Some want to carry backpacks and to camp on the trail, some are happy only when climbing up and down and over rocks, some enjoy teetering on cliff edges, and some don't want to carry, climb, or teeter ever. Some want all season trails, on which they can snowshoe, ski and hike. The good news is, yes, you can have the trail you want.

There are three easy steps:

- 1) Pick up a copy of our new *Guide To Establishing And Maintaining Hiking Trails* and read it.
- 2) Find a friend or friends with similar interests.
- 3) Get out there.

P.S. If you need a hand, call me. I'd be glad to help.

P.P.S. Thanks goes out to Kathy Brosemer for writing and illustrating our latest publication.

Georgena will be passing out free copies of our "Guide to Establishing and Maintaining Hiking Trails" to all clubs along the route.

Ask your club leader for your copy today!



LEGACY TRAILS-TAKE A HIKE by Jackie Hall

Over the last ten years hiking has grown in popularity in Ontario and we in Elliot Lake are lucky indeed to have so many wonderful trails to hike - trails for the beginner, as well as for the intermediate and experienced hiker. We are also lucky to have our own hiking club, *The Coureurs de Bois Outdoors Club*, part of The Voyageur Trail Association which was first organized in 1973 by a group of hikers who dedicated themselves to developing and maintaining a continuous hiking trail for public use across Northern Ontario. The Association is divided into many local clubs with the *Coureurs de Bois* being the Elliot Lake Branch, responsible for the maintenance and development of trails in and around Elliot Lake. The enormous growth in the popularity of hiking is fairly recent but for over 25 years, Hike Ontario has been representing the interests of hikers and hiking clubs. Hike Ontario has now formed a province-wide project called "Legacy Trails" which consists of a network of existing trails across the Province, together with scheduled events to bring them to the public's attention and activities designed to encourage the participation of both novice and experienced hikers. Hiking is a wonderfully healthy pastime and also a wonderful way to meet new friends or to share an interest with old friends. For information on how to become part of this adventure please contact Ray Cormier, President, *Coureurs de Bois Outdoors Club* at (705) 848-7979.



TWO NEW TRAIL SECTIONS - CAVERS AND CARP LAKE

by Georgena MacDonald

Cavers Hill, an old and dangerous section of highway, makes a great trail entrance.

I believe I first heard of the Cavers area from either George Rhine of Thunder Bay or Stanley Voogt and John Sovereign in Schreiber. Or was it from Duncan McKay? I recall a discussion of aerial photos and maps and the possibilities of a trail starting from a section of old Trans Canada Highway 17 near the Gravel River. Howie Chaboyer and Jim McCullough of Nipigon had tales of train tunnels, fabulous views, waterfalls and lookouts. One thing I'm sure of, hiking trails emerge from such talk.

Then, there's the hard work...

Thanks to the guys I now think of as "The Nipigon Independent Trailbuilders and Friends", a wonderful new 12 km loop trail known as the Cavers Trail is a reality. I had the pleasure of hiking it on a beautiful blue-sky day on May 14, Mother's Day. My companions for the hike were trail-builders Howie and Jim, Dan McGrath of Rossport (*president of the Casques Isles Hiking Club*), and Elizabeth Francis (*Elizabeth is working on the Ontario Living Legacy Lake Nipigon Basin signature site for the MNR.*)

The trail entrance is located less than an hour's drive east of Nipigon between the Gravel River and Pays Platt. The trail is rugged, but the pathways for climbing are well chosen.

The Lake Superior vistas were wonderful. While walking the Kathy's Creek section we scared up two peregrines, and Howie and Elizabeth spotted two mature eagles.

The trail features the "Not Yet" rest stop (*named by Jimmy of course*), "Connies Loop", (*named for Connie Nelson of Thunder Bay, who was among the first to snowshoe the trail*), and "Franks Falls" (*a wonderfully secluded picturesque waterfall named, apparently, by rock climber Shaun Parent*).

Watch for scheduled hikes or snowshoe expeditions here, or, if you're really keen, call Howie or Jim.

A ridge of rock makes for a great view over Batchawana Bay.

My first view of the Carp Lake cliffs was from the flatlands at the southern tip of Carp Lake. At the time, I was on a tour of Harmony Forest property with forester George Schmitz. I had heard about the trail possibilities along the east-west running ridge from a number of local sources - from Dale and Marlene at the Hilltop Motel Restaurant, from logger Wayne Pickard and from Mike Thompson, a forester with Domtar.



The cliffs are some 400 feet (120 meters) above the lake level. It has taken some time to find



Photo courtesy Gayle Phillips

Carp Lake Trail lookout--one of seven overlooking Carp Lake & Batchewana Bay.

the right approach around the talus slopes and skidder trails and to develop the main trail, but thanks to Howie Chaboyer of Nipigon (*again!*) and our summer student Kealy Sweet, hikers can now enjoy a great view over Lake Superior from the top of the cliff.

While working on the trail, we were treated to fly-bys from both a local family of Turkey Vultures (*who have a real estate option on the cliffs*) and a small flock of Canada Geese who reside in the area. Loons on the lake below and a shady canopy above make for an enjoyable hike. A giant slice of rock that has rolled down the hill, lies on the forest floor below the cliffs. It will make for an interesting side trail some day.

The Carp Lake trail, located just north of Batchawana Bay, some 60 km north of Sault Ste. Marie, is a work in progress. The main trail section, located on Crown land, is complete, and can be accessed from the Tribag Road, but we still need landowner permission to cross property to access the trailhead. The trail will soon be developed, we hope, to cross the East Carp and Carp Rivers (*an artist's dream*) and hook into the Gimlet Creek area and from there into the Pancake Bay Provincial Park trail system.

If you would like to explore the area or work on the trail, call me 1-877-393-4003. A hike is scheduled for Sunday September 23. (*see page 5*)



CHRISTMAS IS COMING, Arg!

What to get for that hard-to-buy-for person on your list...

a VTA membership, or...

(clockwise): sweatshirt \$20, long sleeved t-shirt \$15, short sleeved t-shirt \$12, VTA Guidebook \$15 for members, VTA crest \$3. Call Susan at 705-949-4105 for fast delivery!



Voyageur Trail News - Fall 2001

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

**Deadline for the next issue is
December 1, 2001.**

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*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!**