



No. 81 SUMMER 2002

Published by the
VOYAGEUR TRAIL
ASSOCIATION

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*A member of
Hike Ontario,
National Trail Association,
Ontario Trails Council, and
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VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT BY: Gayle Phillips

ADOPT A TRAIL (or How To Be a Bush Parent) by Mike Landmark

Have you ever thought of adopting a trail? The Voyageurs have many kilometres of trail looking for someone like you to look after it. Seeing a section of just-cleaned trail being used by the public and knowing this was your work is a great feeling. The distance is up to the individual or family group to decide but easily recognizable landmarks (no pun intended) should be used. If the distance is found to be too long or short, changes can be made at any time. The local club will/should have hand fools and blazes available for you to clean the trail. Some clubs like the Saulteaux even have a year end wrap up party for adopters. Your name goes into a draw for prizes at the annual general meeting as well. The time commitment requested is a traverse of at least twice a year—spring, to determine how the winter changed the trail, and again sometime during

the middle of summer after fly season. You get to set your own cleaning outing times. If major blow downs are found, a call to the local trail master will have your section put on the outing schedule for a group clean-up. All work and trail conditions MUST be forwarded to the newsletter editor and/or web mistress so the members and public can be informed of trail conditions. This can be done by email:

(Editor - cheryl.landmark@sympatico.ca / Web - voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca); phone: Editor (705) 779-3409; Web (705) 942-1891; or fax to (705) 779-1111. If you are interested, or have any questions about this adopting option, give us a call. Cheryl and I have approximately 16 Km adopted and we think most of the problems that you may encounter we can answer.



GOODBYE...NOT!



(l to r): Gayle Phillips; Publicity Director; Steve Dominy, Guidebook Coordinator; Georgena MacDonald, VTA Trail Coordinator; Dieter Ropke, Treasurer; Mike Landmark, President.

The Voyageur Trail Association Co-ordinating Council honoured Georgena MacDonald with a Trans Canada Trail hiking staff on the occasion of the finish of her two-year contract. Thanks Georgena, for all your hard work and, welcome as the VTA's Vice-President East!

VTA Intern Evan McCaul has moved on as well and we wish him all our best in his new endeavours.

The VTA will miss both of these people. Their work has benefited us greatly.



When does your VTA membership expire?

**Check the date printed on
your VT NEWS
envelope label!**

**VTA Membership Secretary
705-949-4105**

TIPS FROM BILLY'S BACK-COUNTRY

by Bill Ralph and Alan Day

HYPOTHERMIA

So you think you only get or need to watch for HYPOTHERMIA in winter—right? WRONG!

Hypothermia is a hiking YEAR ROUND hazard. It must not be underestimated. Unarrested hypothermia is FATAL. The victim may be underdressed or perhaps even overdressed for the activity. For example, the victim could get soaking wet from a sudden rainstorm or even heavy perspiration. In an exposed area and/or on cessation of activity, even a light wind can chill the body very rapidly. Such things as not drinking water or isotonic drinks (*Gatorade for example*) to replace lost electrolytes or insufficient intake of food, are major contributors to this condition.

Prevention...

Prepare for your trip carefully.

Make sure you have a sufficient meal prior to starting out, and ensure you have good meals at breaks on the trail. Carry high energy snack food and have it readily available. Water and/or isotonic fluids should be readily available at all times and not stored in your pack.

Wet clothing has no insulation value. Keep rain gear in the top section of your pack so it is ready for immediate use at all times.

Events can overcome the best planning. Weather, blocked trail, swollen creeks, etc. could delay your planned arrival at your destination. You may even have to stay in the bush overnight. Remember the old Boy Scout Rule "BE PREPARED". *Happy trails and good hiking!*

SUMMER IS COMING, SO IS THE CANOE!

So your summer program includes canoeing either as a day trip, or perhaps several days away enjoying the great outdoors?

IS YOUR BOAT READY?

1) Do you have the latest issue of the SAFE BOATING GUIDE published by Fisheries and Oceans Canada Coast Guard? If not, get one. They are obtainable free-of-charge at your local outfitters, marina or bait shop, etc.

2) Ensure you have all the equipment that is required by LAW in Canada. Refer to page 30 of the guide.

3) As a brief reminder, every canoe, kayak, rowboat and rowing shell must have:

- (a) An approved personal flotation device (excluding a floating cushion) for each occupant of the boat.
- (b) One floating line not less than 15 metres in length.
- (c) One spare paddle secured to the boat so it will not be lost in the event you capsize or otherwise lose your paddle.
- (d) One bailing device capable of removing one litre of water at a time.
- (e) One signaling device.
- (f) One floating flashlight.

Have a fantastic summer of canoeing!



GREETINGS FROM THE SAULTEAUX CLUB

by Gayle Phillips

Leading a Voyageur Trail Club has many rewards and challenges! Currently, the Saulteaux Club is going through a bit of a challenge.

For personal reasons, our Treasurer and Recording Secretary have had to "retire". That leaves me with only one executive member (Larry Gringorten, Vice-President) to help me.

Larry is a great and efficient Vice-President but WE ARE LONELY AT THE TOP!

I realize that there are very few people out there with extra time on their hands these days, but neither position requires a great deal of time. The Treasurer balances the chequebook of our club once a month and the Recording Secretary records the minutes at our bi-monthly meetings. We could combine the two jobs into one "Secretary-Treasurer" and it still would not be an onerous job.

I even have an old Macintosh computer and printer that could be lent to the volunteer who offers to help out! It is old, but can still be used to print out minutes and play games!

If anyone out there in the Saulteaux Club has any questions about either position, please contact me at 942-1891 or voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca

The Annual Saulteaux Club Dinner and slide show is coming up fast! Don't be disappointed-get your tickets today!

This year, we are going to Aurora's-West End restaurant on Saturday, April 20 and looking forward to feasting on soup, salad, roast potatoes, ribs, pasta, and coffee/tea.

After dinner, we loosen our belts, lean back and watch Dieter Ropke as he presents his presentation entitled, "Hiking the Greek Islands".

Everyone attending will be eligible for many, many door prizes, including very nice donations from the Sault S.C.U.B.A. Centre Ltd. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children 10 and under, and children under 2 eat for free.

See page 3 for a mail-in coupon to order your tickets today!



See you on the trail!



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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 fly repellent, water, a lunch and dress appropriately. Be prepared to sign an Assumption of Risk Agreement. For paddling outings, participants must come as part of a self contained canoe team (i.e. vessel, pfds, paddles, partners, etc.)

Sat., Apr. 20 - Annual Saulteaux Club Dinner at Aurora's-West End featuring, Dieter Ropke with his slide presentation, "Hiking the Greek Islands". Dinner at 6PM. Elections will be held (volunteers always welcome for executive positions.) Tickets \$20 each. Children under 10, half price & under 2-free. For tickets, call Gayle 942-1891.

Sun., Apr. 21 - Earth Day clean-up with Gayle (942-1891). Zellers behind Penningtons at 10AM. Behaved pets ok.

Sun., Apr. 28 - "Go to Blazes" trail maintenance with Gayle (942-1891). Market Mall 10AM. Behaved pets ok.

Thurs., May 2 - Saulteaux Section work party with Susan Graham. Call 949-4105 for meeting place and time.

***Weekend-Fri., May 3 to Sun., May 5** Backpacking work party weekend from Blind River towards Turtle Lake, return. Call Gayle 942-1891.

***Sun., May 5** - Join Allan Beilhartz for a hike in the Bruce Mines area. Meet 9AM. For meeting location call 785-3889.

Thurs., May 9 - Saulteaux Section work party with Susan Graham. Call 949-4105 for meeting place and time.

Fri., May 10 - Campstove Potluck 6PM at Landmarks, 4794 Second Line West. Cook your favourite recipe on your campstove to share. 779-3409.

Sun., May 12 - Mother's Day Hike with Horst Wetzl (254-8504). Market Mall 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

Mon., May 13 - Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting at 7:30PM Great Lakes Forestry Centre. Gayle 942-1891

Thurs., May 16 - Saulteaux Section work party with Susan Graham. Call 949-4105 for meeting place and time.

Sat. May 18 - Canoe the Crystal Creek from Trout Lake to Thayer Acres. Involves several portages with a combined length of 1200m. Meet at 10AM behind Penningtons at the Zellers Plaza. Contact Don (946-9599).

***Sun., May 19** - Beach/Nature Trail hike at Pancake Bay Park with Ila (949-1097). Zellers behind Penningtons 9AM. Pets welcome but bring a leash.

Thurs., May 23 - Saulteaux Section work party with Susan Graham. Call 949-4105 for meeting place and time.

***Sat., May 25** - Bike in Leeburn area. Churchill Plaza 9AM. Mike 779-3409.

Sun., May 26 - Work Party. Market Mall 9:30AM. Tools will be provided. For more info, call Gail at 942-0768.

Thurs., May 30 - Saulteaux Section work party with Susan Graham. Call 949-4105 for meeting place and time.

Sat., June 1 - Hike (10k) in the Hiawatha Highlands. Behind

Penningtons in Zellers Plaza 10AM. Behaved pets ok. Don (946-9599).

***Sat., June 8** - See Penewobikong Club hike (Iron Bridge)

Thurs., June 13 - Short evening paddle with Gayle (942-1891). Market Mall 6PM.

***Sat., June 15** - Possibility of Carp Lake Trail Hike. Call Gayle 942-1891.

Sun., June 23 - Hike with Gayle (942-1891). Zellers behind Penningtons at 10AM. Behaved pets ok.

***June 29/30** - Paddlefest Sea Kayak Symposium at Naturally Superior Adventures in Wawa. 1-800-203-9092.

Thurs., July 11 - Short evening hike in Goulais Avenue area with Ila (949-1097). Market Mall 6:30PM. Pets ok.

Sun., July 14 - Hike with Gayle (942-1891). Churchill Plaza near Rogers Video at 10AM. Behaved pets ok.

Mon., July 15 - Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting at 7:30 PM at GLFC. Call Gayle for more info at 942-1891.

***Sat., July 27** - Hike from Sinclair Cove to Barrett Creek in LSPP. Zellers behind Penningtons 9AM sharp. Behaved pets welcome, but bring leash. Call Doris Welz at 942-9466.

Mon., Aug. 5 - Hike with Gayle (942-1891). Zellers behind Penningtons at 10AM. Behaved pets ok.



(Continued on page 4)

--- ✂ Please clip and mail ✂ ---

Please send me _____ tickets to the 2002 Annual Saulteaux Club Dinner taking place April 20, 2002 at Aurora's-West End (Adults \$20 each, children under 10 - \$10 Children under 2 - free) for a total of \$_____. My cheque is enclosed. (Please do not send money.) Seating is limited and tickets are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Name: _____ Tel: _____

Address: _____

Mail to:
Saulteaux VT Club
c/o 25 Pardee Avenue
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 1V9
Tel: 705-942-1891



SAULTEAUX CLUB *(Continued from page 3)*

***Sat., Aug. 10** - See Penewobikong Club canoe (Iron Bridge)

***Sat., August 17** - Canoe/Kayak the Thessalon River, 15k flat water tripping, followed by a potluck dinner. Wellington Square Mall 9AM. Call Dieter or Erika Ropke 942-9636.

Thurs., August 22 - Short evening family hike with Gayle Phillips. Call 942-1891 for more info.

***Sat., Aug. 24** - Bike St. Joes Island. Meet at Churchill Plaza 9AM. Call 779-3409.

Sat., Sept. 8 - Hike in the west end of town with Jack (942-1761). Market Mall 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

***Sat., Sept. 14** - Forestry tour of Ranger Lake area with Jim Miller of Clergue Forest Management Inc. (942-7706). Call to reserve your spot.

***Sat., September 14 to Thurs., September 19** - Ontario Federation of Naturalists will work on the Bridget Lake Trail and stay at Naturally Superior Adventures in Wawa. Call Gayle at 942-1891 for more info.

Sat. Sept. 21 - Canoe the Crystal Creek from Trout Lake to Thayer Acres. Several portages with a combined length of 1200m. Meet 10AM behind Penningtons-Zellers Plaza. Contact Don (946-9599).

***Sun., Sept. 22** - Hike the Pancake Bay Lookout Trail with Ila (949-1097). Zellers behind Penningtons 9AM. Behaved pets welcome, but bring a leash.

Mon., September 23 - Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting at 7:30 PM at the GLFC. Call Gayle for more info.

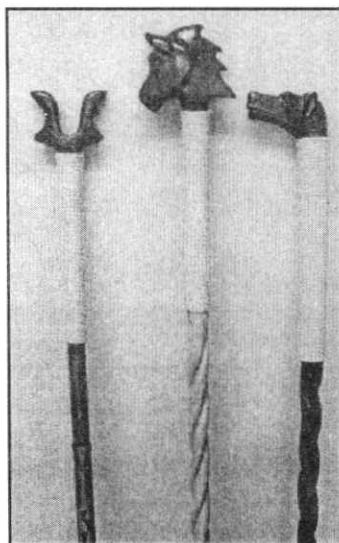
Sat., Sept. 28 - Bicycle outing with Gail Andrew (942-0768). Market Mall at 10AM.

***Sun., October 6** - *Ontario Hiking Day* - Join Allan Beilhartz for a hike in the Bruce Mines area. Meet at 9AM. For meeting location, call Allan at 785-3889.

***Sat., October 12** - See Penewobikong Club hike (Iron Bridge)

NEW LOCAL ARTISAN HAND CARVES HIKING STICKS!

Sault Ste. Marie artist, Guy Tallon sells these hand-crafted hiking staffs for between \$40 and \$80. To contact him for further information call Karen at (705) 946-3740.



Penewobikong Club *(Iron Bridge/Blind River)*

1) If the Trail Captain cannot make the outing, he/she is responsible for a replacement.

2) All hikes/canoe trips are rain or shine. Please prepare accordingly.

3) Pack your water and a lunch, but be careful, someone may want to swap with you.

4) And most important, have fun, and nature will teach you all you need to know.

Sat., April 13 - Hike from Iron Bridge walking bridge to Melwel Road (7.7 km). Meet at 9:00 am at the Red Top Motor Inn, Iron Bridge. Call Will Samis 843-5567.

Sat., May 11 - Hike from Granary Lake to Upper Cranberry Lake (9.3 km). Meet at 9:00 am in the back parking lot of Value-Mart Grocery Store in Blind River. Call Tom Van Roon at 356-7382.

Sat., June 8 - Hike from Iron Bridge walking bridge to gas line (11.0 km). Meet at 9:00 am at the Red Top Motor Inn in Iron Bridge. Call Joanne Marck at 843-2199.

Sat., July 13 - Hike from Blind River to west of Canoe Lake (10 km). Meet at 9:00 am in the back parking lot of Valu-Mart Grocery Store in Blind River. Call Willy Van Roon at 356-7382.

Sat., August 10 - Canoe trip from Goldenberg Melwel Road, where the Little White River meets the Mississauga River to Red Rock Dam (15 km). Meet at 9:00 am at the Red Top Motor Inn in Iron Bridge. Call Dave Ratz at 842-6135.

Sat., September 14 - Hike from Blind River to Upper Cranberry Lake (6 km). Meet in the back parking lot of the Valu-Mart Grocery Store in Blind River at 9:00 a.m. Call Andy Penikett at 356-7696.

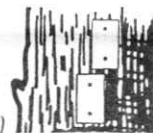
Sat., October 12 - Hike from Melwel Road to Highway 129 (9.2 km). Meet at 9:00 am at the Red Top Motor Inn in Iron Bridge. Call Joanne Marck at 843-2199.

Casques Isles Club *(Schreiber/Terrace Bay/Rosport area)*
Call Duncan at 807-825-3338 for info.

Nipigon-Thunder Bay Club

Call Connie at 807-343-8793 for info.

(Outing Schedules Continues on page 7)



Skyline Hikers of the Canadian Rockies

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e-mail: skyhiker@telusplanet.net

Ontario residents contact:

Harry Moerschner: 705-445-0267 or e-mail: moersch@bmts.com

OUTING SCHEDULES

(Continued from page 4)

Coueurs de Bois Outdoors Club (Elliot Lake area)

For fun, fitness and friendship. Meet at Sears parking lot unless otherwise noted. For more information, phone outing leaders. No pets please. Children under 16 MUST be accompanied by a responsible adult.

APR 20 Sat 10:30 **Hike/Snowshoe** (3-4 hrs) Peter 848-4806
22 Mon 10:00 **Cycling** (4 hrs) Hazel 848-5996
23 Tues 10:00 **Hike** (3 hrs) Stan 848-3807
27 Sat 9:30 **Cobre Trail Clearing** Fred 848-2956
28 Sun 10:30 **Cycling** (3 hrs) Klaus 461-3694
30 Tues 10:00 **Hike** (3 hrs) Stan 848-3807

MAY 3 Fri 9:00 **Christie Creek Trail clearing**, meet at trailhead Hwy 108. Al 848-4372
3 - 5 Fri - Sun. 9:00 **VTA Trail clearing**. Alan 848-8776
7 Tues 10:30 **SLOW POKES WALK** (1 hr, easy). Nancy-Jo 848-2947
7 Tues 11:00 **Cycling** (3 hrs, moderate). Klaus 849-5225
11-12 Sat-Sun 10:30 **Introduction to Backpacking & Overnight Camping**. Hope Lake. Intermediate. Alan 848-8776
14 Tues 10:30 **SLOW POKES WALK** (1 hr, easy). Nancy-Jo 848-2947
16 Thurs 7:00 PM **General Meeting**-Snowbirds Club-house. Jerry 461-1444
17-19 Fri-Sun Meet at 11:00. **Introduction to Canoe/Camp** (Easy-No Portage). Depot Lake and beyond. Alan 848-8776 or Gord 461-3724
21 Tues 10:30 **SLOW POKES WALK** (1 hr, easy). Nancy-Jo 848-2947
21 Tues 10:30 **Cycling** (3 hrs, moderate). Gord 461-3724
21 Tues 9:00 **Trans Canada Trail signage**. Jerry 461-1444

JUNE 2 Sun 10:00 **Cycling** (3 hrs, moderate). Klaus 849-5225
8 Sat 9:00 **Flat water canoeing**, moderate. Paul 461-9080
10 Mon 10:30 **Hike** (3 hrs, moderate). Hilda 461-9974
11 Tues 10:00 **Cobre Trail Hike** (Intermediate, approx. 13 Km). Gord 462-3724
15 Sat 2.00 **Pot Luck Picnic**-Westview Park. Jessie 461-3418
22 Sat 9:30 **Fun Day**-Maxine & Fred Forsyth's cottage. 848-2956
25 Tues 9:00 **Trail signage**. Jerry 461-1444
27 Thur 10:00 **Canoe Flack Lake & Hike Old Baldy**, 4-5 hrs, Intermediate. This outing dependent on weather conditions, contact leader to confirm. Gord 461-3724
29 Sat 12:45 **"Jewel in the Wilderness" festival parade**. Meet at Collins Hall. Come and join in the FUN and FESTIVITIES. Contact Peter 848-4806.

JULY 1 Mon 10:00 **Festival Hike** to the Fire Lookout Tower. Meet at Mount Dufour. Peter 848-4806
2 Tues 10:00 **FUN DAY** Canoe, Swim or Hike. Julie 848-4846
4 Thur 10:30 **Cycling** (50 Km, intermediate). Gord 461-3724
5 Fri 10:00 **Canoe** (easy) Diana 848-8776
6 Sat 6:00PM **Pizza**, etc. Esther 461-3724
8 Mon 10:30 **Hike** (moderate, 3 hrs) Hilda 461-9974
9 Tues 9:00 **Trail signage** with Jerry 461-1444
13 Sat 5:00PM **BBQ** Spine Beach with Maxine 848-2956
19 Fri 4:30PM **Fire Lookout Tower Picnic**. Elizabeth 848-6079

23 Tues 10:00 **Hope Lake Hike** (3-4 hrs, intermediate) Gord 461-3724
25 Thur 9:00 **FUN DAY** with Esther 461-3724
26-28 Fri-Sun **Mississagi Provincial Park Weekend**. Hiking, canoeing, swimming, etc. Alan & Diana 848-8776
30 Tues 9:00 **Easy 2-3 hr Walk**. Nicole 848-8317

AUG 2 Fri 5:00 PM **Easy Hike & Picnic**, Beaver Mountain. Diana 848-8776.
4-7 Sun-Wed **Cycling trip** (3-4 days, intermediate). Please confirm participation **by June 30** to Al 848-4372
8 Thur 10:00 **Cycling** (4 hrs, intermediate). Gord 461-3724
13 Tues 9:00 **Trans Canada Trail signage**, Jerry 461-1444
16 Fri 9:00 **Breakfast** at the Fireside Restaurant followed by an **easy walk**. Elizabeth 848-6079
20 Tues 10:00 **Nordic Hills Hike** (4 hr, intermediate). Gord 461-3724
24 Sat 10:30 **Cobre Trail Hike** (13k, intermediate). Alan 848-8776
27 Tues 10:00 **VT Hike** (4-5 hrs, intermediate) Blind River to Granary Lake. Alan 848-8776

Introduction to Canoeing and Camping including one portage (2-3 days, intermediate). Dunlop Lake to Claim Lake. Dates to be confirmed (will be July or August) Call Bill or Iris 848-7445.

Week Long Canoe Trip proposed dates July 14-20. These dates will be confirmed after publication of this newsletter. Those who call will be advised of the confirmed dates. Will include some portaging. ALL participants need to be self-sufficient. If you need help with preparation or explanation call Alan Day, Bill Ralph or Gord Bruce. Space is **STRICTLY LIMITED** to a maximum of 10 canoes.


Confirmed reservations must be received by June 15.



The Coueurs des Bois Voyageur Trail Club wishes to acknowledge our sponsor, Red Briffett of Red's Little Hooker and Bait Shop. He gives club members a 15% discount on anything we buy there! We're all thinking of you Red!

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ECO-NORTH CONFERENCE

TOURISM IN OUR BACKYARDS *by Evan McCaul*



At the beginning of February, I had the opportunity to attend the Eco-North conference in Sudbury. The conference brought together experienced outfitters, operators, guides, and consultants from Northern Ontario as well as speakers from B.C., the Yukon, and across the United States. The conference lasted three days and included guest speakers and discussion panels on a

wide range of trends, developments and perspectives on eco-tourism with a Northern Ontario theme. With all this expertise in one spot I knew there was a lot to learn, so I brought my pen and paper to record what was new in tourism and trails development.

It was interesting to hear about the growth of tourism both on a world basis and in Canada. Would you have guessed that over 550,000 jobs in Canada are currently linked to tourism related activities? The reason Northern Ontario is becoming a destination is that people who spend most of their time in crowded urban environments are seeking an escape. Northern Ontario with its vast open spaces, endless lakes, rivers and rocky country provides a prime opportunity to seek solitude or adventure! What else makes Northern Ontario a good place to travel to? It's close-by! Nearly 60 million people live just to the south of us in the border States and southern Ontario. That's not too far to travel, especially with the recent trend to travel by car as opposed to by air.

Trails development in Northern Ontario was the topic on the second day of the conference. Some of the speakers included Ken Buck, a Trail Development Consultant and Al MacPherson, a professor of the Ecotourism Management and Adventure Management programs at Sir Sandford Fleming College in Peterborough. As a trail development consultant, Ken Buck studies both the potential for trails in an area and uses models to predict the economic value associated with tying trails into a community. In a recent study done by Ken in the Bruce-Grey townships in southern Ontario, trails and their links to communities were calculated at adding 42 million dollars annually through hiker visitation. When completed, studies like this one help to encourage community investment in trails.

Al MacPherson talked about types of trail development. He felt that nature trails are of growing importance for attracting visitors. Nature trails are designed to provide an awareness of the local nature and history of the area. Interpretive signage and trail brochures are among the ways of getting the information across. Development of these trails helps attract visitors by providing a better understanding and appreciation of the area. Al also suggested adventure races as a future potential for the Voyageur Trail. Adventure races are growing in popularity

and involve a team relay of paddling, hiking, climbing, rappelling, or a combination of these activities. With the Voyageur Trail being a long-distance, wilderness trail, it would be

ideal for an adventure race that would draw publicity for the trail.

After listening to these perspectives on trail development, I was able to give the Voyageur Trail a boost with a slide show I'd prepared outlining the route of the Voyageur Trail and some of the challenges that we face in trail development. I have to admit it was a bit intimidating speaking in the company of Professors and real-life businessmen!

There was a good response though and I was able to distribute many copies of our trail-development handbook afterwards. I am hoping we might have a few extra hands on the trail this summer as a result!

Northern Ontario is on the edge of rapidly expanding eco-tourism market. As the North's first ever Eco-tourism Conference and trade show, it was great to see the exchange of ideas and overall interest in tourism in the area. Thanks goes to the town of Sudbury for hosting this conference and to Fednor for supporting the event.

I will leave you with a trivia question to ponder. What is the most important factor that people look for before visiting a lodge? A) The Food B) Service C) A Fridge Answer C) A Fridge - Don't ask me where this poll came from, but it was one of those things that I had to record from the conference.



COUREURS DE BOIS *by Peter Burtoft*

It's Saturday morning and our destination is Hope Lake which is located about 28 kilometres southeast of Elliot Lake. Our 'Outing Leader', Fred Forsyth, with nine other members of the Coureurs de Bois, gather at the 'Sears' parking lot at 10:30am. After signing in and discussing our plan of action, we carpool down highway 108 to the start of a ten plus kilometre hike on snowshoes.

The sky is nothing but blue with full sun. Temperature is -8 celsius with a light breeze. It's approximately five kilometres into Hope Lake traversing fairly level terrain all the way. With a good 8 to 12 inches of snow on top of the base, breaking trail requires plenty of energy which is provided by Gordon Bruce who is up front. Following the trail becomes rather tricky at times due to encountering several hefty trees that nature has decided to place horizontally across this well-marked route. Making our way around these obstacles, we take note of the windfall and our Spring agenda will include a return visit with bow saws, loppers, and axes.

The tracks of a large moose are easily detected as they extend down into the snow a good two feet. . . she followed the trail for a while and then waded into the bush to lunch on some striped maple.

The breeze begins stirring the upper half of the forest and the heavy stands of pine with their snow laden branches provides our group with



(continued on page 9)



COUREURS DES BOIS (Cont'd from page 8)

periodic 'snow showers'. The odd small creek creates a situation for all to walk carefully over and around before we finally approach Hope Lake.

A large marsh now confronts us which is naturally covered in snow and easily walked upon. The exception being a good sized creek, which is barely discernable under the snow, feeding out of the lake itself. As one Coureurs de Bois member gently crosses the rather spacious indentation in the landscape, the person following put two snowshoes together and jumped mightily to the other side. Upon impact, the 'other side' was a steep embankment which resulted in two 10" x 37" snowshoes sliding backwards into the frigid running waters. Trying to break free from such an awkward position proved challenging but with the assistance of fellow hikers a soggy recovery was accomplished.

Being only a few minutes away from our pre-determined rest stop enabled 'yours truly' to sit with toes wiggling by a cozy campfire. Two pairs of socks, (one being thermal) were provided by fellow members along with two plastic bags to wear over the socks against the boots which were still rather moist after being submerged.

Our packsacks became lighter after hot tea or coffee together with sandwiches, snacks and/or fruit were consumed. While four of us stayed back and kept the fire going, the other six hikers, including our 'Trailmaster', Alan Day, headed out down the lake to scout the area for establishing the continuation of the VTA trail to points east



(Photo): Peter showing off his "barefoot snowshoeing" technique.

of here. Within the hour the 'explorers' returned and after a brief rest we threw several scoops of snow on the fire and snuffed it out.

It is now 2:20pm and the return trek was quite uneventful in comparison to our morning 'walk'. We covered the distance in under an hour and arrived at our vehicles for a brief 'chinwag' and then loaded everything on board and headed back home to Elliot Lake.



VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM (please print)

Name: _____

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City: _____ Prov./State: _____ Postal/Zip Code: _____

Please check one: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal Phone (home): _____ (work): _____

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Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make cheques payable and mail to:

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION,
P. O. Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd.,
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For non-members, the Guidebook is now available from Clean North, Dunn's Authors, 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; Wanderer Travel Books & Maps, Kingston; Running Free, Markham; Mountain Equipment Co-op, Toronto.

(Continued on back ➡) 9



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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 August 1, 2002.

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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!

-----✂----- (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)

Section

☐ *Nipigon/Thunder Bay

☐ *Schreiber/Terrace Bay

☐ *Marathon

☐ Pukaskwa National Park

☐ *Wawa

☐ Lake Superior Provincial Park

☐ Batchewana

☐ *Harmony Beach/Havilland Bay

☐ Goulais

☐ *Sault Ste. Marie

☐ Echo Bay

Club

Nipigon/Thunder Bay V.T.C.

Casque Isles V.T.C.

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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

Club

Desbarats V.T.C.

Thessalon V.T.C.

Penewobikong V.T.C.

Coueurs de Bois V.T.C.

Rainbow V.T.C.

Sudbury V.T.C.

