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VOYAGEUR TRAIL
ASSOCIATION

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And much, much more!

VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

Happy
Holidays!

EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT BY: Gayle Phillips

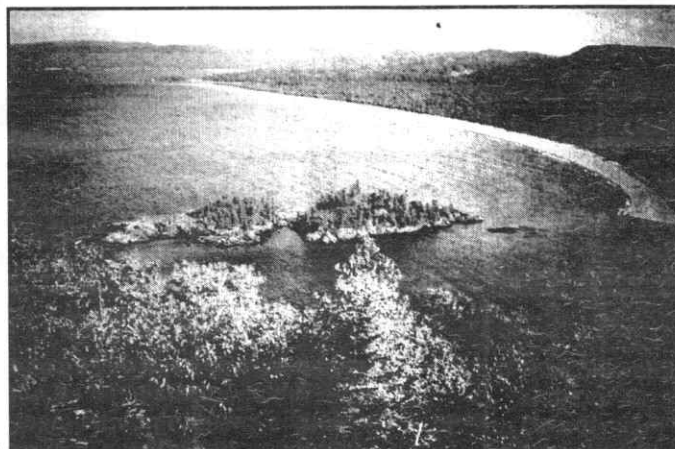
WORKING VACATIONS ARE GREAT! by Gayle Phillips

Maybe it was the sunny, warm weather...or maybe it was the scenic location on Lake Superior at the mouth of the Michipicoten River...it could have been the wonderful meals...or the paddling opportunities...or the folk concert...or the Voyageur Canoe ride...or the campfire get-togethers...or maybe the work itself, on a trail that was calling out to us for attention.

No, I think it was the **people** who made everything so special on our Wawa trail cleaning week September 14 to 19th. The VTA played host to six people from Britain, volunteers with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV), six from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON) who organized the trip, and two Bruce Trail members from Southern Ontario. To participate in BTCV "working vacations," visitors must pay their own transportation costs to and from Canada. The VTA defines the project, supplies the tools and provides accommodations.

The FON provides transportation to and from the area that needs the work and liaisons with BTCV to arrange flights and projects. The Federation of Ontario Naturalists is a charitable organization protecting Ontario's nature through research, education and conservation action. FON "Volunteer for Nature" participants get the opportunity to learn skills and participate in hands-on conservation projects throughout Ontario.

What a hard-working bunch they were! The Wawa area was hit hard last year with some terrible storms that had uprooted many, many trees and even though we only worked with hand tools, this group managed to clean and blaze all eight kilometres of trail in the Wawa area. They seemed to



(Photo) Without all the hard work, no one would be able to enjoy this Bridget Lake Trail view over our "home" for the week, Naturally Superior Adventures.

relish attacking a section that hardly resembled a trail at all. They worked hard, but at the end of a day, they still had energy to play!

Naturally Superior Adventures provided our "home base" for the week. And what a home base to enjoy! We tented on their wonderful sand beach and enjoyed all our meals together in the lodge overlooking Lake Superior. (A special thanks to Melissa Murray of NSA for all her hard work shepherding us through meal preparation and clean-ups every day.)

We were treated to an evening paddle in NSA's 36-foot Voyageur Canoe to Silver Falls along with some history about the Voyageur way of life from David Wells, NSA manager. On a half-day off, several of us participated in a paddle down the Michipicoten River in kayaks and canoes.

Most evenings were spent swimming, paddling kayaks or canoes, and of course, campfires! One evening, NSA hosted a Canadian folk singer and some of us attended her concert.

Our last evening at the lodge

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WORKING VACATIONS ARE GREAT! *(Continued from page 1)*

was a fantastic whitefish barbecue dinner with slide show about Lake Superior. Several members of Lake Superior Provincial Park staff attended to say goodbye to the group. (The group had worked for the Park in the week previous.) Howard Whent, Councillor with the Township of Michipicoten attended and thanked the group for re-opening the local hiking trails by presenting them with a Wawa pin. He explained how eco-tourism was becoming very important to the town and having proper trails to send visitors out on was a major local concern.

All in all, the week couldn't have been more perfect. But best of all was meeting people from all walks of life and other corners of the globe who share a common interest in nature and the outdoors way of life.

Participants included: Kevin Callender, Lisa Cooper, David Grimshaw, David Hanlon, Chris Morgan, Gaynor Rees from Britain; Larry Cornelis, Barry Wallace,

Christopher Guselle, Edward and Willma Lang, and Howard Lyn from Southern Ontario FON; Finlay and Margaret Morrison from the Bruce Trail in Southern Ontario; Shaun Parent from Montreal River; Mike Landmark, Gayle Phillips, Allison Norg, Myrtle Buller and Marie Foster from the Saulteaux Club, Sault Ste. Marie; Duncan MacKay from the Casques Isles Club, Terrace Bay; Bob Elliot and Carol Dersch from the Michipicoten Club, Wawa.

Thank you to everyone involved!

(Watch in upcoming newsletters for the final arrangements for FON's Working Vacation taking place September 21-28, 2003 in Wawa again!)

For more information visit these web sites:

Federation of Ontario Naturalists: www.ontarionature.org

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers: www.btcv.org

Bruce Trail Association: www.bruce-trail.org

Naturally Superior Adventures: www.naturallysuperior.com



WE ARE IMPRESSED

by Dieter & Erik Ropke

On the 17th of August a bunch of people came to canoe down the Thessalon River. Weather conditions were dismal, driving rain showers, whipping gusts of wind and a forecast just as bad. Loretta and Dan had their canoe off first with the obvious motto 'when the going gets tough, the tough get going'. Gordon Lake was white with rollers and the rain never ceased. One young man from Great Britain, Phillip, tried a wet exit with his kayak albeit it was an involuntary exit. Elaine, Ellen and Nancy did a canoe rescue of the young man under actual field conditions, a rare opportunity since this manoeuvre is usually practiced under perfect summer conditions on a small lake in mid July.

The soaked trippers piled out like wet rats before they reached Ottertail Lake. What an intrepid group of optimists. Everybody changed and enjoyed a potluck. Trips like this are fun in retrospect but most important, they give you perspective and let you recognize the scale of outdoor activities. The camaraderie was palpable. We salute you for being a tough bunch!



Looking for the PERFECT GIFT for that hard-to-buy-for person on your list? Why not get a VTA membership?

Guidebooks, crests, t-shirts & sweatshirts are also available.

For quick delivery, call our Membership Secretary,

Susan at
(705) 949-4105.



Booking 2003 Holidays?

Remember: Plan to join the Federation of Ontario Naturalists Working for Wilderness at Naturally Superior Adventures in Wawa from September 22nd to the 26th, 2003. Plans in the works include a backpack of the Towab Trail in Lake Superior Provincial Park including a train ride on the Agawa Canyon route for a special price! Plan your holidays early!

When does your VTA membership expire?

Check the date printed on your VT NEWS envelope label!

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



Trailhead Packages for 3 or more day stays for 2 include:

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VTA ANNUAL REPORT

by **Mike Landmark** (as presented at the 2002 Annual Meeting)

The Voyageur Trail Association's Trails Coordinator, Georgena MacDonald, finished her contract in February, 2002. Her contributions to our Association during her tenure were greatly appreciated.

The VTA also hired a FedNor intern, Evan McCaul, from December, 2001 to April, 2002, at which time he moved on to a full-time position elsewhere. Evan was very instrumental in organizing several projects for the Association and in meeting with various groups within the VTA's far-reaching trail system. A second FedNor intern, Allison Norg, was hired in June, 2002, to replace Evan for the remainder of the FedNor grant, and is also busy working on various projects for the VTA.

During 2002, the VTA partnered with a group in Marathon and Pukaskwa National Park to create 25 kilometres of new trail between Penn Lake and the west end of the park. This is a very welcome addition to the Voyageur Trail Association's trail system and we appreciate all the hard work and time that went into creating it.

Version 3.2 of our guidebook was completed early this year and has been distributed to the various outlets, who have generously offered to carry the guidebook for the VTA. Partial sections of the guidebook are also available to those who do not wish to purchase the entire book.

A trail cleaning project was scheduled for the Wawa area of the VTA trail system in September, 2002. Members of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, the Bruce Trail Association, and the Voyageur Trail Association spent a week in this area working to ensure that the trail is properly blazed and cleared for the enjoyment of hikers.

In August, 2002, the VTA received a grant of \$15,600 from the Ministry of Tourism. This very welcome funding will be used to produce a training video and materials.

In November, we received a grant from the Great Lakes Heritage Coast to purchase nine trailhead signs. Tourist Information Centres throughout Northern Ontario have been provided with VTA information packages and display boards.

The VTA has several ongoing projects in the works, including 1) finding suitable locations for Trans Canada, Hike Ontario Legacy and Great Lakes Heritage Coast signs throughout our trail system, 2) working towards having a Trans Canada Trail pavilion constructed in Sault Ste. Marie, 3) re-routing the Elliot Lake trail to connect to the city, 4) extending our trail north to Batchewana Mountain and south from Wawa to Lake Superior Provincial Park, 5) trail from Marathon to White River.



Participants in 2002's Annual VTA meeting in Elliot Lake were treated to a guided hike of the Horne Lake trail in the last of autumn's coloured leaves.

In conclusion, 2002 has been a busy and challenging year for the Voyageur Trail Association, but it has also been very rewarding in terms of growth and affiliations. Our volunteer base has remained fairly steady, and we hope this will continue in the future.



WINNERS

Winners of a free membership for 2003 drawn after the Annual General Meeting are: Susan Graham and Gayle Phillips (*Saulteaux Club leaders*), and Marge Kelland (*Saulteaux Club work party participant*). Congratulations!

To get your chance to win next year, make sure your outing leader sends your club's Assumption of Risk Agreements to Patrick Capper, 167 Kohler Street, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 3V2.

Outing leaders and all participants on work parties are eligible to win.



Gayle Phillips, VTA Publicity Director congratulates Mike Landmark, VTA President on winning the 2002 Steve Taylor Volunteer Award. The award was established in 1995 to honour those VTA volunteers who go above and beyond the call of duty on behalf of the Voyageur Trail.



TIPS FROM BILLY'S BACK-COUNTRY *by Bill Ralph and Alan Day*

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THAT CUT, STING ETC?

I am sure we have all had a wonderful summer and enjoyed the great outdoors, hiking, canoeing, camping etc. etc. Of course there were NO BUGS to sting or bite, NO SHARP TWIGS to snag, puncture, or cut into your skin, NO ROCKS OR STONES to trip over or to slip on, NO BROKEN GLASS ON THE BEACH to cut into your feet. We all know this wasn't so, at least not anywhere we travelled this summer.

The RED CROSS advises that a stocked first aid kit should be kept in every home, automobile or boat. A fat lot of good that will do you if your emergency is 25 Km and two portages into a weeklong canoe trip! Of course your emergency could be 3 days into a 10-day wilderness backpacking adventure, or even 5 Km into a 10 Km day hike. Either way, a First Aid Kit in your car back at the trailhead is of NO USE TO YOU. Nor the person requiring First Aid! You should have your own personal First Aid Kit in your pack. You should consider having First Aid Kits for day hiking, longer distance backpacking and canoe tripping (or for any other activity you have plans for). Check with your local Red Cross for their recommendations for First Aid Kit contents, but for a start you should consider the following:

Emergency Telephone Numbers for the area in which your activity is taking place. (For the area North of Elliot Lake the nearest pay phone is in Elliot Lake), but generally in Elliot Lake (check for your area):

- OPP 1-888-310-1122
- Ambulance - Dial "0" and ask for Zenith 900000
- Poison Control 1-800-268-9017
- Hospital - Elliot Lake 1-705-848-7181
- Forest Fire 1-888-863-3473

Some coins for the pay phone.

You should have these numbers printed out and pasted inside the lid of your First Aid Kit(s). In addition, in your personal kit, you should have listed the telephone number of your personal physician(s) and the phone numbers of family members and/or friends who should be contacted in an emergency.



You can buy good First Aid Kits at your local outfitter, Canadian Tire Store, etc. Get one for your daypack, one for your backpacking trip and one for those wonderful canoe trips. Keep them up-to-date and add your own personal items, (examples being knee, elbow, wrist, and ankle bandages which come in your size). Also over-the-counter medications examples being ibuprofen, aspirin (ASA) and antihistamines, and, antiseptic and antibiotic ointments should be included.

Other things you might consider, Duct Tape (thanks Red Green). With a saw, some sticks and Duct Tape you can make splints or a stretcher and get friends out of the bush. You should consider attending a Red Cross course during the winter months. This training will give you the confidence and knowledge to react quickly and effectively in an emergency situation.

Finally, don't be shy, contact your local Red Cross and ask what YOU should be carrying in your backpack to suit your outdoor activity.

SO NOW YOU'RE LOST (OR ARE YOU)?

SURVIVAL IN THE WILDERNESS

- STAY CALM AND DON'T PANIC.
- SURVEY YOUR SITUATION. THAT THING IN YOUR HEAD-YOUR BRAIN-IS THE VERY BEST SURVIVAL TOOL YOU HAVE.

Stay where you are until help arrives within the following guidelines.

Finding shelter and conserving energy are your first priority. Your physical condition, your clothing, the weather, and the resources at hand will determine the seriousness of YOUR situation.

In the winter months, avoid excessive activity and sweating, conserve your energy, but you must maintain blood circulation. (Clap your hands and/or stamp your feet.) This can also apply to other times of the year, spring, fall and even summer, you still need to prevent getting cold. Look at what you have in terms of clothing, add or remove layers.

If you provided friend/relatives/police, etc. with an activity plan, then help will arrive relatively quickly. (IF YOU DIDN'T, THINK ABOUT THE FOLLOWING...)

(Continued on page 8)



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.

VTA 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.

Tues., Dec. 17 - Trail closed.

Thurs., Dec. 26 - Boxing Day snowshoe/hike at Glenview with Don (946-9599). Penningtons at 10AM. Behaved pets welcome. Afterwards we will warm up inside Glenview Cottages reception room.

Wed., Jan 1, 2003 - Hike/Snowshoe at Camp Korah with Ila (949-1097). Market Mall 10AM. Pets ok.

Sun., Jan. 12 - Snowshoe at Red Rock beach with Gayle (942-1891). Market Mall at 10AM. Pets ok.

Thurs., Jan. 16 - Ski with Horst (254-8504). Meet 10AM at northern terminus of Peoples Road. Pets ok.

Sat., Jan. 18 - Moonwalk/snowshoe with the Landmarks. Call 779-3409 for more info.

Mon., Jan. 20 - Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting. GLFC 7:30 PM. Afterwards, we will have our end-of-the-year social. Bring your photos to share. Pizza will be available at a nominal fee.

Thurs., Jan. 23 - Ski with Horst (254-8504). Meet 10AM at northern terminus of Peoples Road. Pets ok.

Sun., Jan. 26 - Snowshoe with Jack (942-1761). Market Mall 10AM. Pets ok.

Thurs., Jan. 30 - Ski with Horst (254-8504). Meet 10AM at northern terminus of Peoples Road. Pets ok.

Sat., Feb. 1 - Snowshoe behind Nettleton Lake with Doris (942-9466). Market Mall 10AM. Pets ok.

Thurs., Feb. 6 - Ski with Horst (254-8504). Meet 10AM at northern terminus of Peoples Road. Pets ok.

Sat., Feb. 8 - Bon Soo Snowshoe Experience, Bellevue Park noon to 3:00 PM. Volunteers needed to help strap snowshoes on to young children's feet. Call 942-1891.

Thurs., Feb. 13 - - Ski with Horst (254-8504). Meet 10AM at northern terminus of Peoples Road. Pets ok.

Sat., Feb. 15 - Snowshoe the new Crimson Ridge Loop Trail with Doris (942-9466). Market Mall 10AM. Pets ok.

Wed., Feb. 19 - Lakes walk in the Trout Lake area with Marge (253-5888). Penningtons 10AM. Pets ok.

Thurs., Feb. 20 - Ski with Horst (254-8504). Meet 10AM at northern terminus of Peoples Road. Pets ok.

Sun., Feb. 23 - Snowshoe in the Tower Lake area with Patrick (253-4470). Churchill Plaza at 9:30 AM. Pets ok.

Thurs., Feb. 27 - Ski with Horst (254-8504). Meet 10AM at northern terminus of Peoples Road. Pets ok.

Sun., March 2 - Snowshoe/hike near Gordon Lake with Dieter/Erika (942-9636). Meet Wellington Square Mall at 10AM. Pets ok.

Thurs., Mar. 6 - Ski with Horst (254-8504). Meet 10AM at northern terminus of Peoples Road. Pets ok.

Sun., March 9 - Snowshoe in the Upper Island Lake area with Susan (949-4105). Penningtons at 10AM. Pets ok.

Thurs., Mar. 13 - Ski with Horst (254-8504). Meet 10AM at northern terminus of Peoples Road. Pets ok.

Sat., March 15 & Sun., March 16 - possible weekend at a lodge in the Thessalon area. Call Mike at 779-3409 for more info.

Mon., March 17 - Saulteaux Club meeting at 7:30 PM, GLFC. After the business meeting we will plan the summer outing schedule. Call 942-1891 for more info.

Thurs., Mar. 20 - Ski with Horst (254-8504). Meet 10AM at northern terminus of Peoples Road. Pets ok.

Sun., Mar. 23 - Snowshoe with Ila (949-1097). Penningtons 10AM. Pets ok.

Thurs., Mar. 27 - Ski with Horst (254-8504). Meet 10AM at northern terminus of Peoples Road. Pets ok.

Sat., April 12 - Saulteaux Club annual dinner. Call 942-1891.

Sun., Apr. 13 - Hike with Ila (949-1097). Penningtons 10AM. Pets ok.

Sat., April 26 - Earth Day Clean-Up & Hike. Call 942-1891 for more info.

Sun., April 27 - Go To Blazes Work Party. Our annual kick-off to the trail maintenance season. Call 942-1891 for more info.



NEW...group forming to encourage the building of non-motorized trails as laid out in the Sault Ste. Marie Master Trail Plan. Call 942-1891 if you wish to participate.

OUTING SCHEDULES

(Continued from page 5)

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. Behaved pets welcome unless noted otherwise.

JANUARY:

- 1 Wed 12:30 Happy New Year's Snowshoe (3 hrs) Bill 848-7445
- 2 Thur 10:30 Snowshoe moderate (3-4 hrs) Fred 848-2956
- 4 Sat 1:00 Snowshoe demo at Red's Bait Shop in Oakland Plaza Bill 848-7445
- 5 Sun 1:00 Snowshoe (2 hrs) easy Klaus 848-1250
- 7 Tues 10:00 Slowpoke snowshoe (2hr) easy Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 9 Thurs 10:30 X-C ski (3-4 hrs) moderate Fred 848-2956
- 10 Fri 10:00 Snowshoe (3 hrs) moderate Norm 461-1563
- 11 Sat 11:00 X-C Ski at golf course area (3 hrs) Alan 848-8776
- 12 Sun 1:00 X-C Ski (2 hr) easy Klaus 848-1250
- 14 Tues 10:00 Slowpoke snowshoe (2hr) easy Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 16 Thurs 10:30 Snowshoe moderate (3-4 hrs) Fred 848-2956
- 17 Fri 11:00 Easy ski & Wiener roast Hilda 461-9974
- 18 Sat 11:00 Snowshoe local trails (3hrs) Alan 848-8776
- 19 Sun 1:00 X-C Ski (2 hr) easy Klaus 848-1250
- During Week of 20-24 Expert X-C ski call Al 848-4372 for details
- 21 Tues 10:00 Slowpoke snowshoe (2hr) easy Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 23 Thurs 10:30 X-C ski moderate (3-4 hrs) Fred 848-2956
- 25 Sat 11:00 X-C ski Lacnor/Milliken area (3-4 hrs) Alan 848-8776
- 26 Sun 1:00 X-C Ski (2 hr) easy Klaus 848-1250
- 28 Tues 10:00 Slowpoke snowshoe/ski (2hr) easy Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 30 Thurs 10:30 Snowshoe moderate (3-4 hrs) Fred 848-2956
- 31 Fri 10:30 Snowshoe Banana Lake (3-4 hrs) Moderate Chuck 848-1076

FEBRUARY:

- 1 Sat 9:30 Snowshoe Cobre trail (6 hrs) advanced Barry 848-2947
- 2 Sun 1:00 Snowshoe (2 hrs) easy Klaus 848-1250
- 4 Tues 10:00 Slowpoke snowshoe/ski (2hr) easy Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 5 Wed 10:00 Snowshoe (3 hr) moderate Di 848-8776
- 6 Thurs 10:30 X-C ski (3-4 hrs) moderate Fred 848-2956
- 7 Fri 1:00 X-C ski (2-4 hrs) easy Hilda 461-9974
- 8 Sat 10:30 Snowshoe (4 hrs) advanced Theresa 461-3337
- 9 Sun 1:00 X-C Ski (2 hr) easy Klaus 848-1250
- 11 Tues 10:00 Slowpoke snowshoe/ski (2hr) easy Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 12 Wed 11:00 X-C ski Spine Beach (intermediate) Alan 848-8776
- 13 Thurs 10:30 Snowshoe moderate (3-4 hrs) Fred 848-2956
- 14 Fri 10:30 Snowshoe (4 hrs) advanced Theresa 461-3337
- 16 Sun 1:00 Snowshoe (2 hrs) easy Klaus 848-1250
- Sat 15-Sun 16 Dog Sled races on Spine Beach trail
- During Week of 17-22 Expert X-C ski call Al 848-4372 for details
- 18 Tues 10:00 Slowpoke snowshoe/ski (2hr) easy Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 20 Thurs 10:30 X-C ski (3-4 hrs) moderate Fred 848-2956
- 20 Thurs 7:00 GENERAL MEETING United Church basement (back entrance)
- 22 Sat 11:00 X-C ski Nordic Hills (Intermediate plus) Alan 848-8776
- 23 Sun 1:00 X-C Ski (2-3 hr) easy Klaus 848-1250
- 24 Mon 10:30 Snowshoe (4 hrs) Advanced Romeo 461-3337
- 25 Tues 10:00 Slowpoke snowshoe/ski (2hr) easy Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 27 Thur 10:30 Snowshoe (3-4 hrs) moderate Fred 848-2956
- 28 Fri 10:30 X-C Ski to Upper Summers Lake (4-5 hrs) Intermediate Chuck 848-1076



MARCH:

- 1 Sat 10:30 X-C Ski (4 hrs) advanced Romeo 461-3337
- 2 Sun 1:00 Snowshoe (2 hrs) easy Klaus 848-1250
- 4 Tues 10:00 Slowpoke snowshoe/ski (2hr) easy Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 6 Thurs 10:30 X-C ski (3-4 hrs) moderate Fred 848-2956
- 8 Sat 10:30 X-C Ski (3-4 hrs) intermediate Barry 848-2947
- 9 Sun 1:00 X-C Ski (2 hr) easy Klaus 848-1250
- During Week of 10-15 Expert X-C ski call Al 848-4372 for details
- 11 Tues 10:00 Slowpoke snowshoe/ski (2hr) easy Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 13 Thur 10:30 Snowshoe (3-4 hrs) moderate Fred 848-2956
- 14 Fri 5:00 Roast Beef Dinner at Fireside Inn Elizabeth 848-6079
- 15 Sat 11:00 Fun Day-Wiener Roast ski & snowshoe Di 848-8776
- 16 Sun 1:00 Snowshoe (2 hr) easy Klaus 848-1250
- 18 Tues 10:00 Slowpoke snowshoe/ski (2hr) easy Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 20 Thurs 10:30 X-C ski (3-4 hrs) moderate Fred 848-2956
- 22 Sat 10:00 X-C Ski (20-25 km) Intermediate Alan 848-8776
- 23 Sun 1:00 X-C Ski (2 hr) easy Klaus 848-1250
- 25 Tues 10:00 Slowpoke snowshoe/ski (2hr) easy Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 27 Thurs 10:30 Snowshoe (3-4 hrs) moderate Fred 848-2956
- 29 Sat 2:30 CANOE instruction at the Pool Norm 848-1250
- Please call Norm before March 22 if interested.
- 30 Sun 1:00 Snowshoe (2 hr) easy Klaus 848-1250

APRIL:

- 1 Tues 10:00 Slowpokes Hike (2 hrs) easy Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 3 Thur 10:30 Hike (3-4 hrs) moderate Fred 848-2956
- 6 Sun 1:00 Hike (2-3 hrs) easy Klaus 848-1250
- 8 Tues 10:00 Slowpokes Hike (2 hrs) easy Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 10 Thur 10:30 Hike (3-4 hrs) moderate Fred 848-2956
- 13 Sun 1:00 Hike (2-3 hrs) easy Klaus 848-1250
- 15 Tues 10:00 Slowpokes Hike (2 hrs) easy Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 17 Thur 10:30 Hike (3-4 hrs) moderate Fred 848-2956
- 19 Sat 10:00 Hike / Work Party Cobre Trail Alan 848-8776
- Everyone welcome
- 20 Sun 1:00 Hike (2-3 hrs) easy Klaus 848-1250
- 22 Tues 10:00 Slowpokes Hike (2 hrs) easy Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 24 Thurs 10:30 Hike (3-4 hrs) moderate Fred 848-2956
- 26 Sat 10:30 Hike (3 hrs) moderate Dennis 848-4593
- 27 Sun 1:00 Hike (2-3 hrs) easy Klaus 848-1250
- 29 Tues 10:00 Slowpokes Hike (2 hrs) easy Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- Additional outings and work parties will be added at Feb meeting and according to the weather. Please call Bill 848-7445 for scheduling changes.



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footprintstours@yahoo.ca

FOOTPRINTS' MARCH SPECIAL: 16 days walking in various areas of Kenya. The itinerary and schedule for 'Escape to the Highlands of Kenya' are detailed in the website (www.footprintstours.com). The airfare-inclusive cost from Toronto is \$3,975 Cdn or \$2,650 U.S.

CASQUE ISLES TRAIL REPORT 2002 *by Dan McGrath*

Our year started off on a good note as we were approached by the local director of Ontario Works responsible for the Workfare Project. We were asked if we would be interested in participating in the program by coming up with a plan to provide work for the volunteers involved. This enabled us to hire a supervisor and purchase equipment such as a chainsaw and all the necessary safety gear to operate it properly. Our members were also given the opportunity to participate in a chainsaw operators training course. We also purchased trail markers and a digital camera to record our progress. This project ran for 16 weeks and we managed to clear and properly mark all of the existing trail. Due to the fact that this program involves personnel who are looking for work and will leave if they find it and because of the high incidence of forest fires in our region we kept losing people and had trouble maintaining a constant workforce. For this reason we didn't accomplish everything we had set out to do but we are happy with the positive results of this project.

Our club scheduled hikes in May, June, July, August, September and October with some good turnouts and some no-shows. We will continue to offer guided hikes for next year as it is an opportunity for anyone interested to enjoy the beautiful landscape around them.

We have developed a club logo and have purchased a number of t-shirts with the logo placed on them and have them for sale. We can also have the logo placed on hats, sweatshirts or any other choice of apparel that we feel people will wear and will promote our club. This is done by a local supplier at a reasonable price. They will be available for purchase at Rainbow Falls Provincial Park, the tourist information centres in Terrace Bay and Schreiber and at local businesses.

We will be having our yearly wrap up meeting in the next few weeks.



**Skyline Hikers
of the
Canadian Rockies**

*Non-profit
organization offers
5 six-day wilderness
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For a free brochure call: 403-289-6272

e-mail: skyhiker@telusplanet.net

Ontario residents contact:

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

COUREURS DE BOIS REPORT 2001-2002

The Club continues stronger than ever as an Outdoors Club with:

- An average of 3 outings per week: Winter- hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and skating; Spring/ Fall - hiking and trail maintenance; Summer - hiking, canoeing, bicycling and camping.
 - Membership of 85 with average of 10-15 per outing and 30-40 members per meeting/5 meetings a year.
- We participated in the City's Christmas and July 1st parades, and enjoyed many other social outings and "Fun Days" throughout the year.

Canoeing became very popular this summer with club members. One of our highly experienced canoeists very generously gave of his time and expertise to teach the newcomers how to enjoy the sport.

Voyageur Trail

The 23 km trail was cleared and signed from Hwy 108 to Intersect Lake (Blind River boundary) in May. Thanks to the Saulteaux Club for their most welcome help.

The Hope Lake extension eastward from 108 has been pushed through to the Spanish boundary and that completes our section of the Voyageur Trail. We will do some more detailed clearing in the winter.

Ways of bringing the trail into Elliot Lake have been looked at and more work will be done in the year ahead to make that a reality.

A group of members under the direction of Trail Master Alan Day and in conjunction with the City of Elliot Lake earned \$1200 for the club by clearing and marking portages and installing 5 P-3s (bush loos) on canoe routes around the City.

We continue to enjoy excellent co-operation with the City of Elliot Lake and many of our members are active in City Tourism and Environmental initiatives.

We have established good communications with Rio, Denison and Billiton Mines (landowners) and The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (watchdogs). The landowners have been given copies of our insurances and in return we continue to enjoy many of the trails on their properties which are off-limits to motorized vehicles.

We also continue to have good relations with other trail users (ATV Club, Snowmobile Club) in our area. We have participated in the Algoma and Area Regional Trails initiative, the LIO, the Legacy signs project and the TCT guidebook project.

We enjoyed meeting and working with our interns Evan and Allison and with Tracy Arial, journalist, who is hopefully going to put Elliot Lake "on the map" as a recreational destination in her guidebooks [for the Trans Canada Trail].

We have had a good and busy year and look forward to more of the same next year.



BILLY'S TIPS *(Continued from page 4)*

SHELTER

Look for ready-made shelter, a cave, under root or trees, the lee side of cliffs, etc. These will protect from wind and rain. In snow, dig a snow trench, the best insulation ever, use your emergency blanket (of course you have one) as a shelter or blanket.

FIND A CAMPSITE

Camp near water, (you can survive for days without food, but not very long without water) and timber, if possible also near a clear area for signal fire(s).

Boil the water if you can.

DO NOT eat snow. Melt ice and snow for drinking water. Clear down to the earth to make a fire site. In winter, stamp down the snow and build a platform of green logs. You will have difficulty keeping a fire going on snow. Collect plenty of dry firewood sufficient for every hour of darkness plus the early evening and early morning. About one armful of logs 3-4 inches in diameter per hour is about the right quantity.

Remember to look up for dry wood. Most trees have dead lower branches which stay reasonably dry even in rainy weather. Gather twigs and sticks for kindling.

Use birch bark, fire-starters, candle or fuel to start the fire. (To do all this you are using those emergency tools you always carry in your pack, that small saw, your knife and matches kept in a waterproof container.)

SIGNALLING

THREE of any or all of the following:

- Campfires in triangle formation.
- Smoke in a triangle formation (add wet green materials to your camp fire(s)).
- Whistle blasts, three blasts-pause-three blasts-pause, etc.
- A mirror or emergency blanket to reflect sunlight.
- SOS stamped into snow or formed with rocks and/or branches, etc.
- Arrows pointing in the direction of travel.

These last two signals need to be quite large in order to be seen from the air.



TRAVELLING

If you must travel do it from the morning to the EARLY afternoon. Find and build a camp site well before night-fall (see above).

Use a compass or the path of the sun to identify direction of travel. If you don't have a compass or are unsure of using the sun for travel direction STAY WHERE YOU ARE, otherwise you will only walk around in circles.

Travel slowly conserving energy.

Travel in open areas wherever possible and leave markers for the people searching for you.

Don't waste time and energy searching for edible roots or berries etc., the effort is not worth the return.

REMEMBER:

- STAY CALM
- CONSERVE ENERGY
- FIND SHELTER
- USE YOUR BRAIN, IT IS YOUR MOST IMPORTANT SURVIVAL TOOL.



A GOODBYE NOTE ...

As most of you know, I have been working for the Voyageur Trail Association for about 6 months now. At this time I have found more permanent employment as a Ski Patroller with Searchmont Resort (ski hill in the Sault) and will be leaving my position as trail development intern. I'd like to thank you all for your help and support through out my contract and I hope that we will cross paths in the future.

Sincerely,

Allison Norg

Trail Development Intern,
Voyageur Trail Association



A NOTE FROM MIKE LANDMARK, VTA PRESIDENT:

On behalf of the VTA executive, I would like to thank Allison for her work and wish her all the best in her new job.

WANTED *used baby carrier backpack. Please call Trina at 705-253-3359*

DEAR VOYAGEUR TRAIL

Oct. 15, 2002

We have recently returned from three wonderful weeks spent camping and hiking along Lake Superior from Agawa Bay to Sibley. The scenery was spectacular, the camp grounds comfortable (though we wish more of them would stay open longer), and the Voyageur Trail a source of great enjoyment - and challenge - for two senior hikers. We tasted only a little of your wonderful land and look forward to returning as soon as we can. We were especially impressed with the excellent trails - beautifully located, and well managed and blazed in often difficult circumstances. We especially enjoyed walking what we could of the Casque Iles trails, the new section north of the Pic River and the trail from Red Rock to Nipigon. We thank all who have put so much effort into such a fine trail system and encourage you to continue your great work.

We would like to join your association and hope that the enclosed donation may be helpful in your trail building. When our photographs are ready, we will send you some to add to your photo library if you wish. Best wishes!

David & Pat Stone, Toronto, Ontario.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY *by Don McGorman*

In September 2002, the VTA received a substantial donation of new white vinyl siding from **Northern Exteriors Wholesaling** of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario and their supplier, **Mitten Vinyl**. The two hundred square feet donated, along with another six hundred square feet supplied at cost, will be processed by VTA volunteers over the coming winter to produce 9,600 trail marker 'blazes'.

That's enough markers to blaze fifty kilometres of trail in both directions!



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Voyageur Trail News - Winter 2002/3

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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
April 1, 2003.**

Mail to Cheryl Landmark, c/o Voyageur Trail Association,
PO Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd., Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6W3
Tel: 705-779-3409 or E-mail to: <cheryl.landmark@sympatico.ca>
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!