



No. 84 SPRING 2003

Published by the
VOYAGEUR TRAIL
ASSOCIATION

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A member of
Hike Ontario,
Hike Canada En Marche,
Ontario Trails Council, and
Trans Canada Trail.

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.And much, much more!.

VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT BY: Gayle Phillips

VTA's 30th ANNIVERSARY *by Gayle Phillips*

Think about it for a minute. Do you remember what was going on in your life 30 years ago? It's relatively easy for me—I was expecting my first daughter! I suppose that means I can be forgiven for not remembering the birth of the Voyageur Trail Association!

Here it is, thirty years later and the idea of building and maintaining a pedestrian hiking trail across Northern Ontario is still as popular an idea as it was 30 years ago! That's pretty unusual in an age where ideas are so fleeting that they change almost the next moment!

I am appealing to members and landowners to share their stories over the years on the Voyageur Trail. They should be recorded for posterity this year in our newsletters so we never lose touch of our humble beginnings.

Some day, someone will write an article for our 60th Anniversary newsletter and will want to re-print these stories of conquest of the last of the great wilderness in Northern Ontario!

For me, I will never be able to re-pay the Voyageur Trail for all it has given me—breathtaking views, moments of wonder and solitude, lots of fun times, and life-long friends. So forgive me if I can't remember what was written about in the local newspaper 30 years ago, but I promise to pay attention from now on!

NEWS FROM THE WEB

The Voyageur Trail Association web site now sports a link to a photo gallery! Some terrific photos have been submitted of various sections of the Voyageur Trail and now, with the addition of another free web site spot, we can showcase them!

Thanks to David, Pat and Kas Stone for the most recent additions. If you have any photos that you think should be showcased on our site, please contact me at: voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca (no large file attachments or video please!)



SOMETIMES EVEN BUTTERFLIES FEEL



THE NEED TO CONSULT A VOYAGEUR TRAIL GUIDEBOOK!

VTA member Doris Welz stops to consult her VTA Guidebook when this little butterfly decided to do the same.



VTA GETS A GRANT *by Mike Landmark*

The Voyageur Trail Association was the proud recipient of a generous grant of \$15,600.00 from the Regional Services Branch of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation this past summer. This funding was intended to produce an educational video and training modules for the VTA.

To date, the VTA has completed phase one of the video, which should be available shortly to all local clubs. The second component of the grant involves developing training modules, such as hike leadership, CPR and First Aid, utilizing the Hike Ontario Leadership Program. Even if you are a competent hike leader already, you can always enhance your skill and knowledge level by taking the hike leadership course. It doesn't hurt to learn from someone else's point of view or gain additional knowledge in order to make the VTA outings more enjoyable and less stressful for all participants. The course is tentatively scheduled for some time this fall, as Hike Ontario is presently revamping their course. Hike Ontario uses a manual called "The Backpacker's Field Manual" by Rick Curtis as part of the curriculum of the course. Even if you don't want to participate in the course itself, this manual contains very valuable information. It is available at any bookstore.

We are also offering a 2-day Wilderness First Aid course on the weekend of June 7 & 8th. This course ordinarily costs \$165 but the VTA will cover half the cost or \$80 per person. These courses will be offered in Sault Ste. Marie, but, if enough interest is generated, we may also be able to offer them at a local club level. For more information, or to sign up call (705) 779-3409.

As part of the training module component, the VTA is also working on PowerPoint presentations, such as "Bear Awareness", which will be available on CDs to all local clubs in the near future.



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

- free Algoma map
- services of tourist coordinator
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- password for personal web access to the Great Lakes Explorers Club Secret Tips

Quote code #1200 when booking & the Voyageur Trail gets a donation!

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Tel (705) 949-8111 • Toll-Free: 1-800-461-0800 • Fax: (705) 949-1912
Internet: www.watertowerinn.com Email: resort@watertowerinn.com

As a hotel guest let us connect you with local individuals and businesses with specialized services such as equipment rentals or guiding services. Each Trailhead package is designed to be as unique as you are to make this a truly memorable vacation!



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

Water, water everywhere, but...?

It's the first day of spring, the snow is melting, and soon the ice will be off our rivers and lakes. Naturally your thoughts turn to planning all those wonderful outdoor activities during the upcoming spring, summer and fall months. Thoughts of hiking the trails (both day hike and perhaps longer backpacking trips), of canoeing or kayaking. It's time to consider the question about WATER. You can't live without it and it can also be hazardous to your health. It can even kill you.

DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH TO DRINK?

Whatever you are doing when out and about, you will naturally have sufficient water to drink for that 3-5 hour day hike (about 2 litres). Your water is readily available on your hip or the straps of your pack. So it's a beautiful day and you decide to keep going for another hour or so. An accident might happen keeping you on the trail longer. You might find somebody else on the trail in distress. You might get a severe cramp and have to slow down.

It is always advisable to carry extra water in your pack to meet any emergency. In addition, your personal emergency kit (first aid, etc.) should contain one of those water treatment kits so you can get additional water from a creek, stream or lake. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding the retention times to ensure the water is safe to drink, but you will ensure you can have enough water.

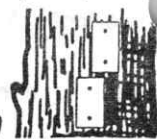
Also, in your kit, you should include some electrolytes you will need to maintain your electrolyte levels. As a bonus, if you have to use your water treatment kit, it helps take the taste away.

On your longer trips you should carry sufficient treatment kits for your daily requirements plus two additional days. The alternate is a good quality water filter.—the filter removing micro organisms and bacteria. If viral infections are suspected in your water source, you will need to treat the water with iodine prior to filtration. Now you have a good supply of safe drinking water at all times.

WHAT'S THAT IN THE WATER?

Of course paddlers and hikers are not the only creatures to emerge in the spring. In about 6-8 weeks all those dormant larvae will start their life cycle in water and BUG SEASON will be upon us. With the (ever increasing) risk of West Nile Virus spread by the female mosquito (the males don't suck blood), it is wise to take precautions. Carry a BUG SHIRT (jacket and pants). Be prepared to wear long sleeves and long pants, especially in the early mornings and the evenings when mosquitoes are at their

(Continued on page 3)



YOU'RE GOING TO DO WHAT? by Jack Donald

That was the reaction of a few when I mentioned, last December, a trip I had signed on for.

On the evening of January 31st, twelve brave souls from across Canada gathered at Toronto's Pearson Airport—destination Guyana. Remote Area Medical Volunteers (Canada) was taking another medical team (about 15 teams have gone over the past eight years) to treat patients in the remote areas of Guyana. This team was made up of two medical doctors, one dentist, one optometrist, three nurses, a team leader, and four support staff to assist wherever needed. Since we had to be completely self-supporting, we had about 800 pounds of food, cooking equipment, and medical supplies and equipment.

Guyana is a former British colony on the northeast coast of South America, bordered on the west by Venezuela, the south by Brazil, and the east by Surinam (formerly Dutch Guiana). The population of 700,000 is made up mostly of the descendants of immigrants from India and black slaves from Africa. We visited native (called "Amerindian") villages located along rivers well away from population centres.

An overnight flight from Toronto took us to the capital, Georgetown, a grubby city with little going for it and a great deal of street crime. We were advised to not walk the streets even in daylight. After a long drive from the main airport to a smaller one, we packed ourselves and all our stuff into two small ancient piston-engined aircraft, which did not engender feelings of confidence, and struggled into the air for a one hour flight over solid jungle, to an Indian village with an airstrip.

On landing, we transferred all our cargo to a 30-foot open boat with outboard motor, for a two-hour trip up the river to our first work location. Every arrival and departure from this craft involved negotiating a steep and sometimes slippery riverbank.

Over the next ten days, we visited five villages, working one or two days at each. Each village had a medical building with some basic supplies, and a Medical Worker with qualifications lower than an RN but with some midwife training—family planning is nonexistent and babies are plentiful. We would set up shop in or beside this building with our gaggle of sleeping tents nearby. The people are relatively small with round faces and chocolate-coloured skin. They are very shy at first and soft-spoken, but if we talked to them and played with the kids, they would eventually become more open and communicative. The official language is English, although there are also local native languages. Elementary school attendance is compulsory, and neat, clean uniforms are worn. The people are all well-dressed and appear to be well-fed.

The villages operate almost as a cashless society. They grow all their own food and their only source of income is if some of the men get work in one of the mines in the region. They have no opportunity to sell any excess

produce which they might grow.

Travelling on the rivers, we might go 30 minutes without seeing a sign of human habitation, and then we would see one or two people in a dugout canoe, fishing or travelling down the river.

At the end of our work schedule, the team had seen over 1,200 patients, dispensed 230 pairs of glasses, and extracted 230 teeth.

Near the end of our stay, there were two noteworthy events. Someone discovered a metre-long snake in the process of eating a huge lizard. We all watched closely as, for about 20 minutes, the lizard very slowly disappeared inside the snake. Just when the action was completed, one of the locals came along, declared it to be a poisonous snake, and promptly clubbed it to death. Then on our return flight to Georgetown to return home, we detoured for a brief stop at the very impressive Kaieteur Falls with a vertical drop of 740 feet, one of the highest in the world. All the cameras were clicking.

Our return trip home was uneventful, but, having had good weather, good food, and a great group of people, nobody regretted having made the trip. On the trip home, there was much talk about a possible return trip sometime down the road.



BACK-COUNTRY TIPS

(Continued from page 2)

most active. Use a good BUG REPELLENT. DEET is still the best, even if Health Canada in its infinite wisdom has placed limits on its strength—down from 98% to 30%!

WATER CAN KILL!

Sad to report in Canada in 2002, there were over 600 deaths by drowning, many of which involved canoes and kayaks. NONE OF THOSE DROWNED WERE WEARING THEIR PFDs (personal flotation devices)! Between the opening of the water and August of 2002, 11 people died in canoe/kayak related drownings in Ontario. Over 93% of these fatalities would have been prevented if those involved had worn their PFDs. 25% of these fatalities also involved alcohol or drugs.

The moral of this unhappy tale is:

ALWAYS wear your PFD when on or near the water. ALCOHOL and/or DRUGS don't mix with paddling. ALWAYS ensure your canoe/kayak is equipped with all the safety equipment required by law.

NOTE: The OPP and the Coast Guard can and will stop and inspect any vessel. For each item of missing statutory, required equipment, a fine of \$100 can be imposed!

Water, water everywhere, so enjoy all of the pleasure it brings, but be prepared for its hazards.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS IN 2002!

Casque Isles:

Dorothy Daly
Jason Nesbitt

Coueurs de Bois:

Elizabeth Barnes
Theresa Bernier
Robert Bingham
Anne Brant
Jim Carter
Dorothy Daly
Jack Gorman
Hilkka Jaakola
Johan Kamps
Guy Laplante
Britt Lindgren
Diana MacGowan
Dave Matheson
Irene McCone
Marie Murphy-Foran
Theresa Naughton
Robert Neave
Nicole Patoine
Paulette Tessier
Elizabeth Titherington
Lois Turner
Diane Verrette
Renee Wilkie
Chuck Zietsma

Desbarats:

Jean Hershey

Nipigon/Thunder Bay:

Howie Chaboyer
Roland Choiselat
Dean Hagglund
Allan MacKenzie
Lois Nuttall

Nipigon/Thunder Bay:

(cont'd)

Tasha Sutton
Jo Anne Zamparo

Penewobikong:

Christine Beharriell
Faye Huckabone
Joyce Ratz

Saulteaux:

Howard Dupuis
Greg Elsby
Trevor Frech
John O'Donnell
Pierre Pelletier
Sharon Robbins
Brenda Scott
Wayne St. John
Elisa Sturgeon
Harold Tausch

Thessalon:

Cathy Jarratt

At-Large:

Roger Blanchard
Ken Coulter
Richard Drouin
Nathalie Fatardeau
Don Hall
Steve Monks
Arvo Niit
David Rutila
David Sands
David Stone
Kas Stone
Doug Welker



SAULTEAUX CLUB HAPPENINGS

by Gayle Phillips

Tickets are now available for the **Saulteaux Voyageur Trail Club's annual dinner** taking place on **Saturday, April 12th 6 pm** at the **Schnitzel Haus** at Goulais River. The family-style menu includes:

Dinner Rolls
Salad Bar
Wiener Schnitzel
Roast Chicken
Green Beans
Roast Potato
Coffee/Tea

Black Forest Cake & Apple Strudel!

After dinner, Patrick Capper will entertain us with a slide presentation entitled, "*High Bicycling in Northern France—Retracing the 1879 Trip by Wm. Catford*". Tickets are \$20 per person and available by calling 942-1891. If you need to car pool, please mention it and maybe something can be arranged.

The Sault Ste. Marie Master Trail Plan has been officially approved by City Council and now we would like to help see that it comes to pass, so this summer, we have scheduled some evening trail maintenance outings to help build and mark what we consider the most popular section, from Finn Hill to Second Line along the Black Road. If you can spare a couple of evenings to help, that would be terrific! We will finally be able to complete our trail which leads right through the middle of downtown Sault Ste. Marie!

We have also scheduled some short, evening family hikes. This is in direct response to those with small children who would like to get them out on an outing from time-to-time. These would also be good for beginners, as long as they didn't plan on working up a sweat! See you on the trail!



NEW BUSINESS

Voyageur Trail members, John O'Donnell and Paula Trus have started a business providing guided hiking tours in Lake Superior Provincial Park on the Coastal Trail. They provide 7-Day Guided Treks from Agawa Bay to Chalfant Cove on start dates in 2003; Aug 2, Aug 16, Aug 30 for \$950 Cdn.

They also have 3-Day Fall Colour Treks on these 2003 start dates; Sept 20, Sept 27 and Oct 4 for \$400 Cdn. Treks include meals, tents, fuel, stoves, water filters, park fees for camping, Finisher's Certificate and photo. For more information call 705-256-2653, or Toll Free in Canada and USA 1-866-625-0692; e-mail: john.odonnell@sympatico.ca



When does your VTA membership expire?

Check the date printed on your

VT NEWS envelope label!

VTA Membership Secretary

705-949-4105



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, fly repellent and dress appropriately. Be prepared to sign an Assumption of Risk Agreement.

Sat., April 12 - Saulteaux Club annual dinner 6 pm at the Schnitzel Haus at Goulais River. After dinner, Patrick Capper will entertain us with a slide presentation entitled, "High Bicycling in Northern France—Retracing the 1879 Trip by Wm. Catford". Call 942-1891.

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

Sat., April 26 - Earth Day Clean-Up Hike with Gayle (942-1891) suitable for children. Meet at 1PM behind Penningtons. Bring work gloves.

Sun., April 27 - Go To Blazes work party with Gayle (942-1891). Meet at 10AM behind Penningtons. Behaved pets welcome.

Sun., May 4 - Work party on the Tom Allinson Spur Trail with Gail (942-0768). Market Mall @ 10AM.

***Sun., May 4 - Hike** in the Bruce Mines area. Meet 10AM at the Bruce Mines Central Algoma Centennial Centre (arena). 785-3791 or 785-3889.

Mon., May 5 - 7PM ribbon cutting ceremony on new Crimson Ridge Loop/VTA video launch for next Saulteaux Club meeting at Crimson Ridge golf course. Gayle 942-1891.

Thurs., May 8 - Work party from Creek to Maki Road with Susan (949-105). Market Mall @ 9AM.

Sun., May 11 - Mother's Day hike/ weiner roast with Horst (254-8504) 10AM at Market Mall parking lot.

***Sat., May 17 - Adventure hike** (bushwhack) in the Turkey Lakes area with Garry (949-1302). Penningtons 10AM. Pets ok but bring leash.

Sun., May 18 - Crystal Creek canoe with Don (946-9599). Penningtons 9AM. You must be part of a fully-equipped, self-sufficient canoe party to participate.

***Mon., May 19 (Victoria Day Holiday) - Hike** in Bruce Mines area with Erika (942-9636) Churchill Plaza at 9:30 am. Behaved pets ok.

***Sat., May 24 - Carp Lake hike** with Garry (949-1302). Penningtons 10AM. Pets ok but bring leash for the cliffs area.

***Sat., May 31 - LSPP hike** from Sinclair Cove to Agawa Bay with Doris (942-9466).

Mon., June 2 - Gayle's evening paddle at Upper Island Lake. Meet at 6PM behind Penningtons. You must be part of a fully equipped, self sufficient canoe/kayak party to attend. (942-1891)

Sat., June 7 & Sun. June 8 - Wilder-ness First Aid course. Call 779-3409.

Thurs., June 12 - Gayle's evening work party. Meet at 6PM Prince Charles School parking lot, 550 Northern Ave East. (942-1891)

Sat., June 14 - Work party on the Tom Allinson Spur Trail with Mike (779-3409). Market Mall at 9AM. Behaved pets welcome.

***Sun., June 15 - Canoe around** Camp au dours near St. Joseph Island with Ila (949-1097). You must be part of a fully equipped, self sufficient canoe/kayak party to attend. Meet 9AM at Churchill Plaza parking lot.

Tues., June 17 - Gayle's evening work party. Meet at 6PM Prince Charles School parking lot, 550 Northern Ave East. (942-1891)

***Sat. & Sun., June 28 & 29 - Paddlefest-Naturally Superior** Adventures in Wawa. Call 1-800-203-9092.

Mon., June 30 - Short family hike with Gayle (942-1891). Meet at 6:30 PM at the Sault Canal parking lot.

Tues., July 1 (Canada Day) - Hike along the beach at Red Rock with Gayle (942-1891). Meet at 10AM in the Market Mall parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets are welcome.

***Sat., July 5 - Canoe the Goulais** River from Karalash Corners to Hwy 17 bridge with Mike (779-3409). Penningtons at 9AM.

Wed., July 9 - Gayle's evening work party. Meet at 6PM Prince Charles School parking lot, 550 Northern Ave East. (942-1891)

***Sat., July 12 - Paddle at Rock Lake** with Gayle (942-1891). You may wish to bring a swimsuit for a dip afterwards. You must be part of a self-sufficient, fully equipped canoe/kayak party to participate. Meet 9:30 AM in Churchill Plaza parking lot.

Sat., July 19 (Parks Day) - Call Lake Superior Provincial Park for celebrations planned. (705-856-2284)

Sun., July 20 - Hike in the Hiawatha Highlands with Ila (949-1097). Meet 9AM behind Penningtons. Behaved pets welcome.

Mon., July 21 - Saulteaux Club meeting at GLFC at 7:00 p.m. Gayle 942-1891. After meeting, we will plan the fall outings.

(continued on page 6)



OUTING SCHEDULES

(Continued from page 5)

***Sun., July 27** - Hike the Haviland Bay lookout trail with Gayle (942-1891). Meet 10AM behind Penningtons to car pool. You may wish to bring a swimsuit for a dip afterwards.

***Sat., Aug. 2** - Hike at Tower Lake with Gayle (942-1891). Meet at 10AM in the Churchill Plaza parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets welcome. You may wish to bring a swimsuit for a dip afterwards.

Sat., Aug. 16 - Work party on the Crimson Ridge trail with Doris (942-9466) Market Mall at 10AM.

***Sun., Aug. 17** - Hike with Ila (949-1097) around Tier Lake. Meet at 9AM behind Penningtons. Behaved pets welcome.

Wed., Aug. 20 - Short, family hike in the Kinsmen Park area with Gayle (942-1891). Meet at 6PM behind Penningtons to car pool. Behaved pets ok.

Sun., Sept. 7 - Hike in the west end of the city with Jack (942-1761). Market Mall 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

Sun., Sept. 14 - Hike in the Hiawatha Highlands with Ila (949-1097). 10AM behind Penningtons. Behaved pets welcome.

***Sun. Sept 21 to Sat., Sept. 27** - FON Working for Wilderness at Naturally Superior Adventures, Wawa (942-1891 for info)



LATEST VTA PAMPHLET SPORTS NEW LOOK...

Kas Stone from Southern Ontario took this beautiful photo of Aquasabon Gorge from the Casques Isles section of the

Voyageur Trail booming with the spring run-off. This photo was selected to grace the front of the VTA's new pamphlet. Visit our new web site photo gallery to see more photos by Kas.



Coueurs de Bois Outdoors Club (Elliot Lake area)

For fun, fitness and friendship. Meet at Sears parking lot unless otherwise noted. Behaved pets welcome unless noted otherwise. PLEASE PHONE OUTINGS LEADERS FOR MORE INFO.

APRIL:

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

MAY:

3 Sat 10:00 Hike Cobre Trail (everybody) all day Barry 848-2947
6 Tues 10:00 Hike 3 hours Nancy-Jo 848-2947
10 Sat 10:00 Canoe Flack Lake / Hike Old Baldy all day Alan 848-8776
13 Tues 10:00 Hike 3 hours Nancy-Jo 848-2947
15 Thur 10:00 Walk 2-3 hrs Nicole 848-8317
15 Thur 7:00 General Meeting - United Church Hall
20 Tues 10:00 Hike 3 hours Nancy-Jo 848-2947
23 Fri 10:30 Canoe - meet at Depot Lake Alan 848-8776
24 Sat Cycling-advanced - call for time and place Theresa 461-3337
27 Tues 10:30 Hike - meet at Westview Park 2-3 hrs Alan 848-8776

JUNE:

3 Tues 10:30 Hike 2-3 hrs Dennis 848-4593
3-6 Tues -Fri Canoe, Portaging & Camping - call for details Alan 848-8776
9-14 Mon to Sat 9:00 Canoe Instruction - phone Norm to confirm attendance Norm 461-1563
12 Thur 10:00 Walk 2-3 hrs Nicole 848-8317
17-20 Tues-Fri Canoe, Portaging & Camping Alan 848-8776
21 Sat 10:00 Kayak Demo - meet at Spine Beach Romeo 461-3337
21 Sat 4:00 Annual Summer Potluck - Westview Park Iris 848-7445

(Continued on page 7)



ROUTING SCHEDULES

(Continued from page 6)

24 Tues 10:00 Hike 3-4 hrs Alan 848-8776
26 Thur 9:00 Canoe and Picnic Paul and Lisa 848-4363
27 Fri BBQ Westview Park / Opening of Trans Canada Trail Alan 848-8776
28 Sat 12:30 Canada Day Parade -meet at Civic Centre Bill 848-7445

JULY:

1 Tues 11:00 Annual Canada Day Hike - meet at Mt Dufour Bill 848-7445
5-6 Sat-Sun Fred and Maxine's Cottage Day - come for the day or camp overnight Forsyths 848-2956
8-11 Tues-Fri Canoeing, portaging and camping Alan 848-8776
12 Sat 10:00 Canoe & Beach Day (Hikers, too) at Quirke Lake's Panel Rd. Beach Nancy-Jo 848-2947
13 Sun 4:00 Picnic at Fire Tower Di 848-8776
20-26 Sun-Sat Canoe and Camp Bob 461-9062
24 Thurs 10:00 Walk 2-3 hrs Nicole 848-8317
27 Sun 4:00 Fun Day/BBQ at Spine Beach Pat & Eric 461-9898

AUGUST:

9-12 Sat-Tues Canoe and Camp Norm 461-1563
14 Thurs 10:00 Walk 2-3 hrs Nicole 848-8317
16 Sat 10:00 Canoe all day Nancy-Jo 848-2947
22 Fri 9:00 Walk - call Elizabeth to confirm 848-6079
22-24 Fri-Sun Mississauga Park - Fun Weekend Come for the day or camp overnight Di & Alan 848-8776
23 Sat 10:00 Hike the Mackenzie Trail - meet at Mississauga Park CdeB campsite 5-6 hrs Barry 848-2947

SEPTEMBER 21st to the 27th:

Plan to join the Federation of Ontario Naturalists Working for Wilderness at Naturally Superior Adventures in Wawa.

Call 942-1891 for more information.



PUKASKWA BECKONS

by Rob Woito and Friends of Pukaskwa National Park

Pukaskwa National Park near Marathon, Ontario invites you to some special gatherings this summer:

Sat., July 19 - *Parks Day* and we invite you to "take a hike!"

Sat., August 9 - *Ho-Down at the Depot*...an evening of story telling, song and fun based on the old logging days at the park's visitor centre.

Sun., August 10 - *Hike or Paddle for a Cancer Cure*. This is the 3rd year we give you a choice to paddle or hike as a fundraiser to fight cancer.

Sat., August 16 (tentative) - "*Spirit*" hike...meet ghosts of Pukaskwa's past in this evening's entertainment. For more information, call 807-229-0801 ext. 233, fax 807-229-2097, email: rwoito@nwconx.net or visit us on the web at: www.friendsofpnp.ca



NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES ON THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL-- THIS MEANS YOU!



(photo by Mike Landmark)

80 ACRES FOR SALE BY LANDOWNER:

80 acres NE 1/4 SE 1/2 of sect.26 just west of Sault Ste. Marie....the Voyageur Hiking Trail crosses the corner of the property and then parallels the northern edge.

Looking for \$11,000 or best offer.

Inquiries to: 416-250-9320 or

e-mail to: j.schroeder@sympatico.ca



**Skyline Hikers
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e-mail: skyhiker@telusplanet.net

Ontario residents contact:

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

A NETWORK OF LAKES AT YOUR DOORSTEP! (AND WHEN NATURE CALLS)

by Peter Burtoft

There are no reservations required and definitely no line-ups when planning a canoe trip in and around Elliot Lake. Unlike Algonquin, Killarney, or Quetico, our local canoe routes offer the 'paddler' a true wilderness experience with only a very remote chance of seeing anything other than 'nature's own' for days at a time.

The various campsites throughout the pristine lakes of our region are getting spruced up with the installation of a campers' own 'private privy'. One of these units is being erected within close walking distance of each campsite located on lakes; Grandeur, Astonish, Upper Mace, and Ezma, with another station being assembled at a second campsite on Ezma Lake. The campsite 'privy' enables the camper in the wilderness to have a 'place to go'. More importantly, this helps to reduce the human impact on the environment by preventing contamination of our crystal clear creeks, rivers, and lakes.

The Coureurs de Bois Outdoors Club is accomplishing the foregoing in cooperation with the Economic Development Office of the City of Elliot Lake and the Tourism Director, Carmaine McCallum. Our club members are also helping with the maintenance and signage of the numerous portages which link many of our region's lakes.

The new owners of Dunlop Lodge, Doug and Diana Fuller, provided parking, served coffee, and then permitted the launch of the Coureurs de Bois canoes onto Dunlop Lake. The group proceeded with their respective precious cargo of 'ready-to-assemble privys' destined for a base camp located 25 kilometres away on Ezma Lake.

Upon arrival in mid-afternoon, the Coureurs de Bois members unloaded the canoes and set up their tents for the overnight stay. The first 'privy' was assembled, checked for correct height and degree of comfort prior to being hauled down a well marked trail to a suitable location. Specifications call for a cavity of sufficient depth to be dug in organic soil at a prudent distance from any source of water. A privacy blind is enhanced with extra foilage on the one side thus creating one of the world's most spacious comfort stations!



The balance of the privys were installed during mid-July (02) when a group of ten members of the C de B paddled out to the

various sites from a base camp located on Ezma Lake. During the week long stay, fresh caught lake trout and wild blueberry pancakes complimented the regular 'camping fare'. Great weather was experienced all week with sunny days and the moon proved to be more than anyone could bare!

Many thanks go out to Bill and Iris Ralph, Carl and Jessie Yohnke, Alan and Diana Day, Artur Rosnau and Julie Hong, Gordon and Esther Bruce for helping to make our wilderness outings more comfortable.



ADVENTURES OFFERED

Call Roger Blanchard, Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan at (906) 253-9316 or e-mail rblanchard@LSSU.edu (prices in U.S. dollars)

North Country Trail Backpack Adventure

May 24 - 31 * We'll avoid an unsettling, upwelling boat crossing of Lake Superior on the Vomit Comet by hiking a section of the North Country Trail instead. We'll hike from Tahquomenon Falls to Grand Marais. Neither gale force winds nor driving rain will slow our march from start to end. There could be a few mosquitoes along the way so be prepared for combat. Trip cost will include food, camping permits and any extraneous expenses. The trip is limited to 10 individuals.

The Mighty Manistique Canoe Adventure

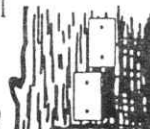
June 13 - 15 * The mighty Manistique River offers a major challenge to the adventurous canoeist and we'll challenge the river by canoeing the wild stretch from Germfask to Manistique. Hopefully we can negotiate the river without major mishaps. Trip cost will be \$75 for canoe rental and transportation from the outfitters lodge and back. This trip is limited to 10 hardy individuals.

Eastern Michigan Upper Peninsula Bicycle Tour

June 22 - 28 * Experience the eastern UP from a unique vantage point; the seat of a bicycle. It's a good time to be on the road, and away from the mosquitoes. We'll cycle around Whitefish Bay, along Lake Michigan and along Lake Huron. Trip cost will include food, camping permits, and any extraneous expenses. The trip is limited to 8 individuals.

Quetico Provincial Park Canoe Adventure I

July 13-21 * This trip of a lifetime, or at least the summer, will start at Beaverhouse Lake. We'll canoe and portage through a series of lakes and with luck, miraculously come out on Quetico Lake from which we'll return to our starting point. Along the way we'll see pictographs, bald eagles, osprey,



(Continued on page 9)

ADVENTURES *(Continued from page 8)*

moose, mosquitoes, black flies, and loons. We'll have ample time for swimming, fishing, photography, and bear viewing. Trip cost will be \$150 from the outfitters cabin and back. The trip is limited to 8 individuals.

Quetico Provincial Park Canoe Adventure II

July 27 - Aug. 2 * We'll start at French Lake and go where few sane men have ever gone before, hopefully reaching Kawnipi Lake. There are quite a few waterfalls and rapids along the way including Grand Rapids, Chatterton Falls, Split Rock Falls, and Snake Falls. The falls and rapids should provide ample opportunity for disaster which we'll do our best to avoid. We should see beaver, moose, loons, mosquitoes, eagles, osprey, flesh flies, and otter. Trip cost will be \$150 from the outfitters cabin and back. The trip is limited to 8 individuals.

Two Hearted River Adventure

August 9 - 10 * We'll adventure through the rugged wilderness of the Two Hearted River region in the U.P. Trip cost will be \$75 for canoe rental and transportation from the outfitters lodge and back. This trip is limited to 10 hardy individuals.

Pukaskwa National Park Canoe Adventure

August 17 - 23 * We'll try our luck canoeing down one of the wildest rivers in the Great Lakes region. This river

has numerous big rapids and waterfalls, the biggest of which is Umbata Falls at 96 feet. Survivors from previous White River trips have rated the river highly. We'll start at White Lake and if we can avoid going over Umbata, or any of the other falls, we'll come out at Lake Superior. Trip cost will be \$200 from the outfitters cabin and back. The trip is limited to 8 individuals.



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Call Steve (705) 946-2484

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For non-members, the Guidebook is now available from Dunn's Authors, Joe's Sports & Surplus, Bush Plane Museum, ACR Gift Shop, Airways General Store, Algoma's Water Tower Inn, The Trading Post, Sault Ste. Marie; Red Top Inn, Iron Bridge; The Gift Rack, Bruce Mines; Forestland Clothing & Gifts, Thessalon; Lake Superior Provincial Park Visitor's Centre; Rainbow Gifts, Wawa; Chaltrek, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay; Rainbow Country Travel, Sudbury Welcome Centre, Sudbury; Running Free, Markham; Algonquin Outfitters, Dwight; Almaguin Highlands Information Centre, Emsdale; Sojourn, Barrie; Mountain Equipment Co-op, Toronto; Mountain Equipment Co-op, TrailHead, Ottawa.

(Continued on back ➡) 9



Voyageur Trail News - Spring 2003

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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, 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!

--- ✂ --- (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, photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hike leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner liaison, records | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization—executive, directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Special events; conferences, dinners | <input type="checkbox"/> Guidebook, maps |

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

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Section <input type="checkbox"/> *Nipigon/Thunder Bay <input type="checkbox"/> *Schreiber/Terrace Bay <input type="checkbox"/> *Marathon <input type="checkbox"/> Pukaskwa National Park <input type="checkbox"/> *Wawa <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Superior Provincial Park <input type="checkbox"/> Batchewana <input type="checkbox"/> *Harmony Beach/Havilland Bay <input type="checkbox"/> Goulais <input type="checkbox"/> *Sault Ste. Marie <input type="checkbox"/> Echo Bay | Club Nipigon/Thunder Bay V.T.C. Casque Isles V.T.C. Michipicoten V.T.C. Saulteaux V.T.C. Echo Ridges V.T.C. | Section <input type="checkbox"/> Desbarats <input type="checkbox"/> Bruce Mines <input type="checkbox"/> Thessalon <input type="checkbox"/> *Blind River/Iron Bridge <input type="checkbox"/> *Elliot Lake <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Massey <input type="checkbox"/> Espanola <input type="checkbox"/> Little Current <input type="checkbox"/> Sheguiandah <input type="checkbox"/> South Baymouth <input type="checkbox"/> Sudbury | Club Desbarats V.T.C. Thessalon V.T.C. Penewobikong V.T.C. Coureurs de Bois V.T.C. Rainbow V.T.C. Sudbury V.T.C. |
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