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<http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail>A member of
Hike Canada En Marche,
Hike Ontario,
Ontario Trails Council, and
Trans Canada Trail.**INSIDE**

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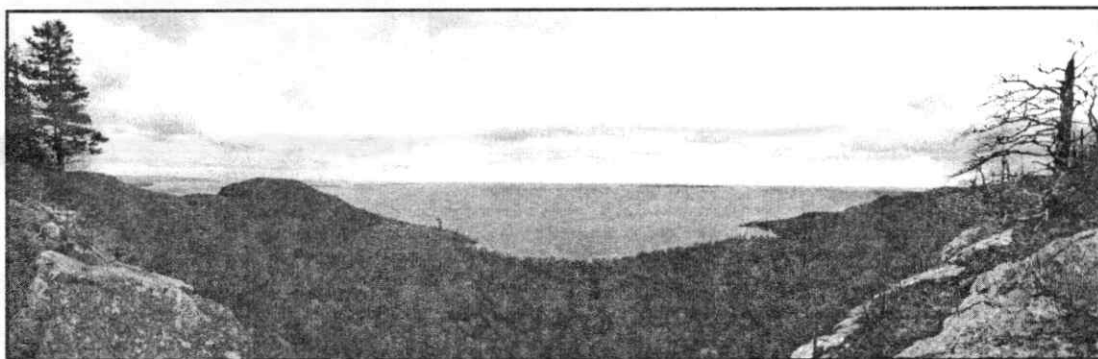
And much, much more!

VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT BY: Gayle Phillips

NORTH vs SOUTH: WHY I'M HEADING FOR THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL! *by Kas Stone*



Coastal Trail panorama at Baldhead, Lake Superior Provincial Park

Sadly, I live in the south. Whenever I get a day off, I like to hike. There are lots of trails to choose from: the Bruce Trail, the Oak Ridges Trail, Lake Ontario's Water-front Trail, or a trail in one of the local Provincial Parks or Conservation Areas. But there are also several million other people living here, and on sunny Sundays they all seem to pile into their SUVs and head to a trail! If I'm organized and get to the trailhead really early, or if I'm lucky and the weather is lousy, I sometimes don't see too many people – maybe just a dozen or so. But there are other days when it becomes so crowded that I feel like an ant in a marching column.

That's when I think wistfully of the time I have spent hiking on the Voyageur Trail – whole days, just me and my dog, without seeing another soul. I love the solitude. I can move at my own pace without holding up or having to overtake anyone else. I can always find an uncluttered spot to stop to take a photograph or eat a picnic lunch. I don't have to talk or listen politely to anyone. And I can think my thoughts, ponder life's questions, and enjoy the natural surroundings in peace.

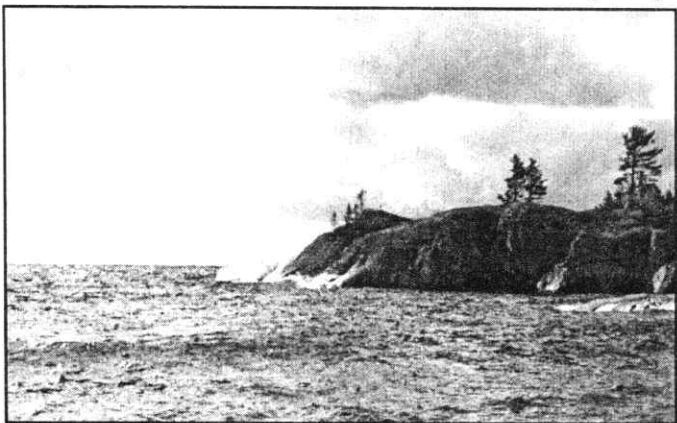
In the south it's hard to find a quiet place. The chatter of other hikers and the squeak of mountain-bike brakes are frequent intruders along the trail. Almost always in the distance can be heard the rumble of traffic on highways and the whistle-blasts of trains on tracks that seem to converge wherever I am. And in the sky above, a succession of enormous jets roar as they take off or land at Pearson International Airport.

The north, of course, is not immune from human noise. That ribbon of TransCanada Highway and its companion, the CP Railway, generate their share. But there are long segments of the Voyageur Trail, especially in Lake Superior Provincial and Pukaskwa National Parks and along the Casques Isles trail, which depart from the highway-railway corridor, leaving its noise behind. Above the trail, the aircraft fly so high that the only evidence of them is a fluffy streak across the sky. And the trail's low density of hikers and its complete impossibility for bikers make on-trail chatter an uncommon, indeed almost a welcome, occurrence. So if one stops to listen, usually the only sound is of wind and waves, punctuated by the cry of birds.

(Continued on page 2)



NORTH vs SOUTH (Continued from page 1)



Sinclair Cove from the Lake Superior Provincial Park Coastal Trail

Still, in the south we're lucky to have any trails at all. And we are grateful to the local hiking clubs, nature associations and enlightened private property owners for these small, protected spaces. They are tiny swatches of nature in a patchwork landscape that is primarily human in character, tucked in amongst the golf courses, gravel quarries, farms, cottage properties, equestrian stables, suburban estates and industrial parks. How nice it would be if the swatches were bigger and the trails longer. It's difficult to hike for more than two or three hours in the south without going around in circles!

The north, too is very lucky to have its trails. But their presence is not constrained as it is in the south by human sprawl. From cliff-top lookouts or from heights of land like Mount Gwynne, one gets an overwhelming sense of the wild landscape. Man-made intrusions into that landscape – an occasional radio tower, a tiny ribbon of roadway, even the incongruous stack of a pulp-mill – seem utterly insignificant compared with the expansive boreal wilderness and the vastness of Lake Superior. A hike along the Voyageur Trail can be many hours long, days even, without running out of turf.

No, what makes the north fortunate in its trails is the small group of VTA volunteers who build and maintain them. These people give their time and energy every year to clear away deadfall, refresh blazes, put up cairns, build bridges, negotiate new routes and update maps. So that, when frazzled southerners like me escape to the north to hike, the trail is followable – over hundreds of kilometres of relentlessly rugged terrain!

I 'discovered' the Voyageur Trail on my first visit to Lake Superior two years ago. And I am busily packing my gear for another visit – my fourth in those two

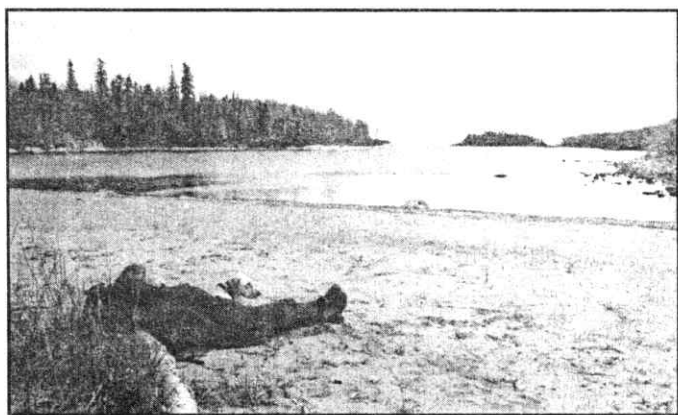


years – to that magnificent trail. I will spend the next two weeks having a wonderful hike. My sincere thanks to the VTA for making it possible!



Sinclair Cove from the Lake Superior Provincial Park Coastal Trail

(Below) Kas and "Skye" relax at Kelly's Harbour after a long day on the Casque Isles section of the Voyageur Trail



Nominate your candidate for this year's **Steve Taylor Volunteer Award** (to be announced at the Annual General Meeting, see pg 3). Tell us how your nominee has gone 'above and beyond the call of duty' with their volunteer duties in Voyageur Trail initiatives and email to voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca or mail c/o Gayle Phillips. Entries must be received **before Sat., Sept. 20/03**.



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

- free Algoma map
- services of tourist coordinator
- detailed local travel maps
- 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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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!

FROM THE PEN OF THE PRESIDENT

by Mike Landmark

It appears that all the dedication and hard work of our volunteers is indeed paying off. The VTA has received many complimentary comments from users of our trail system in our sign-in books and in conversations with people on the trail. The tireless efforts of those volunteers who spend hours to ensure that our trails are enjoyable for everyone are definitely being noticed, and I want to thank you once again for your commitment to the VTA. Keep up the good work.

We are also very fortunate that the majority of our trail users respect our landowners' wishes in those areas where our trail crosses private property. It is because we are considerate stewards of the land that the VTA has been able to enjoy our trails for thirty years. If we continue to show the same thoughtfulness and respect in the future when using the trails, I am certain there will be little danger of the VTA having to close sections because the landowner has denied us permission.

In order to alleviate the liability risk to VTA members, it has been suggested that power tools (chain saws, brush saws, etc.) no longer be permitted on trail maintenance outings. If major work has to be done on our trails, the VTA could look at the possibility of contracting such maintenance out to a third-party whose liability insurance would cover the use of power tools.

The VTA Annual General Meeting will be held in Sault Ste. Marie on the weekend of October 3-5, 2003. We have decided to make it a three-day event this year. Friday evening, we will have a "Meet & Greet". Saturday's itinerary includes an executive meeting at 10AM, the public Annual General Meeting at 1PM, a short hike and group dinner arrangement. Sunday, there is a longer hike planned. There are limited shared accommodations available for out-of-town visitors on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please call 705-779-3409 or 1-877 393-4003 for more information.

A Wilderness First Aid course is scheduled for October in Elliot Lake (\$80) and a Hike Ontario Leadership course is taking place in Sault Ste. Marie on Sat., September 13th. Both courses are presently full but we are putting names on a waiting list. If you are interested, call 705-779-3409 or 1-877 393-4003.

The VTA Coordinating Council presently has several vacancies, which I would like to see filled as soon as possible. The positions include Vice-President Central, Vice-President East, and Hike Ontario Representative. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact your local club executive or any member of the Council. Your ideas are important to the VTA. Without your voice and input, other people can make decisions on your behalf, which you may not agree with or like.



The VTA now has several copies available of a new 15-minute video on safe hiking and trail maintenance on the Voyageur Trail. Funding for the video production and underwriting the costs of first aid & hike leadership courses was provided by a

grant from the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation (MTR). (Photo above) VTA President, Mike Landmark accepts the cheque from Ruth Galinis (Regional Services Branch, MTR). To order a video for your VTA Club, call 1-877-393-4003 or 705-779-3409.



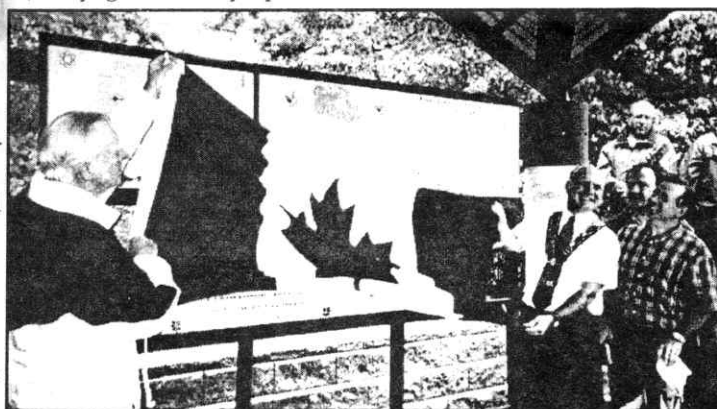
TRAIL AUDIT CHALLENGE

Here's an opportunity to explore a new section of trail and help the VTA at the same time. Here's how it works:

- Pick a section of trail that you have not visited before (or, for at least one year).
- Obtain a trail audit checklist form from the VTA.
- If possible, find at least one person to accompany you (for safety and logistics with transportation).
- Walk the section of trail, ideally in both directions, and complete the checklist.
- Return the completed checklist to the VTA.
- You and anyone else that assisted you with the audit will have their names entered in the next membership incentive draw.

The VTA will use the information collected to advise hikers of current trail condition and to help plan maintenance work parties. The last formal audit of the complete trail was conducted in 1999.

Please consider the Trail Audit Challenge as an ongoing opportunity to explore sections that you have never visited. Consider setting a personal goal of completing a 'trail audit' end-to-end over a number of years. Call Gayle at 705-942-1891 [voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca] for more information.



(Above) Grand opening ceremony of the first Trans Canada Trail Pavilion in the VTA area took place in Elliot Lake on June 29, 2003. Our own Coureurs de Bois Outdoors Club played an important part in the construction of this monument. VTA member Alan Day (far left) and George Farkouh, Mayor of Elliot Lake hold the flag.



THE VTA RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

In order for the Voyageur Trail Association to reduce its liability risk and keep insurance premiums at a minimum, the following risk management policy has been adopted:

- * Hike Ontario's Risk Management Manual has been adopted as a reference source.
 - * The VTA has published its own comprehensive "Guide to Establishing and Maintaining Hiking Trails."
 - * The VTA distributes fact sheets and brochures to its volunteers on the subject of safe hiking, including hike preparation, tips for outing leaders and the Search and Rescue "Trip Plan for Outdoor Survival."
 - * A declaration of risk assumed by hikers is stated in the VTA newsletter and website and on membership applications forms.
 - * An Assumption of Risk statement is signed by hikers and work-party participants at the beginning of each outing.
 - * Hike leaders are instructed to exercise a Right of Refusal to prospective hikers deemed at risk.
 - * A "sweep" is appointed on all hikes.
 - * A first-aid kit is taken on all outings.
 - * When deemed necessary, a member trained in first-aid/CPR is present on outings.
 - * Hike leaders provide a written trail report at the end of each outing.
 - * Periodic trail audits are carried out.
 - * Trail signage is updated regularly and maintained.
 - * The VTA has published a trail guidebook with maps and narrative.
 - * The VTA website contains information about trail conditions.
 - * The VTA sponsors member participation in hike leader courses.
 - * The VTA sponsors member participation in first-aid, wilderness first-aid and CPR courses.
 - * The VTA sponsors member participation in trail development and tool training courses.
- If you have any questions about the above program, please do not hesitate to contact any of the VTA Coordinating Council members.



REQUIEM FOR A LOGO by Doug Campbell, Board of Directors, Hike Canada En Marche

(as submitted in Hike Canada En Marche magazine)



We say good-bye to a logo. It served us well for a third of a century. Few fathomed its language, some read other meanings, most merely frowned and accepted.

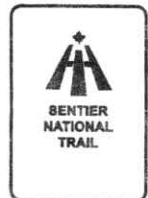
Less than half the 26 characters of our alphabet that are the building blocks of our communication have vertical mirror symmetry. Taking two of them, the letter 'H' for Hiking trail and superimposing the figure '1' in Roman numerals, we took the bold and presumptive position of declaring our route to be the first and foremost of cross-Canada trails. The top end of the configuration was compressed to form the directional arrowhead common among other hiking trail systems of the day. On letterhead it donned the green garb of conservation, print-shop black for the newsletter masthead and on trail-markers spread across the country it shouted red-on-white, its tip crowned with a maple-leaf.

The symbol lacked French interpretation, yet one enterprising view was that the three converging uprights indicated the bringing together of the three founding cultures! Others saw the green tree of conservation or the simple big 'H' of international greeting along the trail. Too obscure, cried the critics, and too remote. Remote? Just how remote is the symbol of a seashell for a gas station, a rearing horse for a bank and, amid the plethora of rings

and loops of automobile builders, who really grasps the significance of the three-spoked circle, and who really cares? Recognition by association is the key.

Now, we are in the age when emblems and badges themselves must speak and the eye

must perceive, register and lead to comprehending within four seconds or it's said the message is lost. More to the point, the proliferation of trail system groups: multiple use, limited use (non-motorized), single use and year-round motorized use moves us to choose a more fitting proclamation of our creed. The new logo does that well, this time catching the French inflection. Vive l'ogo (Our Great Outdoors)!



WATCH FOR THEM!



Thanks to a generous grant from the Great Lakes Heritage Coast, Ontario's Living Legacy you will soon see nine of these beautiful trailhead signs gracing our trails in Rossport, Schreiber, Terrace Bay, Marathon, Wawa, Bruce Mines, Iron Bridge, Blind River and Elliot Lake.



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.**

Sun., Sept. 7 - West end hike. Market Mall 10AM. Jack 942-1761. Pets ok.

Sat., Sept. 13 - Hike Ontario's Standard Hike Leaders Course. (waiting list only). Call 779-3409.

Sun., Sept. 14 - Hiawatha hike. 10AM behind Penningtons. Ila 949-1097. Behaved pets welcome.

Mon., Sept. 15 - Bi-monthly meeting. 7PM. Great Lakes Forestry Centre. Gayle 942-1891.

***Sat., Sept. 20** - Echo Ridges work party. Churchill Plaza 9AM. Patrick 253-4470. Tools provided. Pets ok.

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

Sat., Sept. 27 - Bicycle from 6th Line to waterfront. Meet northern end of Peoples Road 10AM. Gail 942-0768. Beginners/Children welcome.

Sun., Sept. 28 - Tom Allinson Spur Trail hike. Meet Market Mall at 10AM. Pets ok. Doris 942-9466.

Fri. & Sat., Oct. 3 & 4 - VTA ANNUAL MEETING. Meet & Greet 7PM at *Glenview Cottages Friday evening.

General public meeting (everyone welcome) Saturday at 1 PM with short hike afterwards. Dinner at Buttermilk follows. Limited shared accommodations available. Call Mike 779-3409.

*Special discount rates apply at Glenview Cottages for RV/campground, cottages and camper's cabins. (Mention that you are a VTA member coming for this special event.) (759-3436 or 1-800-668-3100). [www.glenviewcottages.com] BOOK EARLY as this is still prime autumn colour season and space is filled FAST!

Stay one more night for hike on Sunday (see Oct. 5th listing).

***Sun., Oct. 5** - Ontario Hiking Day Hike in Bruce Mines. Bruce Mines Central Algoma Centennial Centre (arena) 10AM. Call Allan 785-3889.

***Sat., Oct. 11** - Pancake Bay Hike. Behind Penningtons 9AM. Pets ok but bring leash. Ila 949-1097.

***Sat. & Sun., Oct. 18 & 19** - Wilderness First Aid course in Elliot Lake. (Waiting list only). Mike 779-3409.

Sat., Oct. 25 - Crimson Ridge Loop Trail hike. Market Mall 10AM. Pets ok, bring leash. Doris 942-9466.

Sun., Nov. 9 - Gales of November hike. Market Mall 10AM. Behaved pets welcome. Gayle 942-1891.

Mon., Nov. 17 - Bi-monthly Saulteaux Club meeting 7PM at GLFC. We will plan the winter outing schedule. Gayle 942-1891.

Sun., Nov. 23 - Work party. 10AM Churchill Plaza. Tools provided. Pets ok. Gayle 942-1891.

Tues., Dec. 23 - Voyageur Trail is closed in honour of our landowners.

Fri., Dec. 26 - Boxing Day snowshoe/hike. 10AM at Glenview Cottages. Pets ok. Don 946-9599.

Thurs., Jan. 1 - New Year's Day Camp Korah Snowshoe/Hike. Market Mall 10AM. Pets ok. Ila 949-1097.

Sat., Jan. 17 - Camp Korah snowshoe. Market Mall 10AM. Pets ok. Doris 942-9466.

Sun., Jan. 25 - West end snowshoe. Market Mall 10AM. Pets ok. Jack 942-1761.

PLAY IT SAFE

*During hunting season,
wear bright clothing.*



On a windy day in May '03, (l to r) Don McGorman (trail builder), Gayle Phillips (Saulteaux Club President) and Doris Welz (landowner) cut the "branch" to officially launch the Crimson Ridge Loop Trail in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. 5



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. Behaved pets welcome. PLEASE PHONE OUTING LEADERS FOR MORE INFO. Starting after Labour Day, join us for easy hikes (2-3 hrs) every Tuesday (Call Nancy-Jo 848-2947) and intermediate hikes (3-4 hrs) every Thursday (Call Fred 848-2956). [Advanced hikes are 4-6 hours in length.]

SEPTEMBER:

6 Sat. 10AM Hike Intro Alan 848-8776

7 Sun. 10AM Hike Nancy-Jo 848-2947

13 Sat. Hike Leadership Course in Sault Ste. Marie (waiting list only)

15 Mon. 11AM Canoe Depot Lake Bill 848-7445

18 Thurs. 7 PM Meeting/Elections - United Church

20 Sat. 10 AM Hike Rainbow Trail Di 848-8776

SEPTEMBER 21st to the 27th: Join the Federation of Ontario Naturalists Working for Wilderness at Naturally Superior Adventures in Wawa. Call 942-1891 for info.

27 Sat. 10AM Canoe Flack Lake/Hike Old Baldy Alan 848-8776

OCTOBER: (Cobre Trail work party TBA. Call Alan 848-8776)
3, 4 & 5 Fri-Sun. Annual VTA meeting, Sault Ste. Marie (see pg 5)

11 Sat. 10AM Intermediate hike Chuck 848-1076

18/19 Sat.&Sun. Wilderness First Aid (waiting list only)

25 Sat. Hike the Helenbar Trail Alan 848-8776

NOVEMBER:

1 Sat. 10AM Nordic Hills hike Alan 848-8776

8 Sat. 10AM Intermediate/Advanced hike Barry 848-2947

15 Sat. 10AM Advanced hike Chuck 848-1076

17 Mon. 7PM General Meeting United Church

22 Sat. 10AM Advanced hike Gordon 461-3724

29 Sat. (phone for time & place) Advanced hike Theresa 461-3337

DECEMBER:

6 Sat. Advanced hike Gordon 461-3724

12 Fri. Annual Christmas Dinner (confirm by Dec. 1st) Chuck 848-1076

20 Sat. (phone for time & place) Advanced hike

Romeo 461-3337

23 Tues.-Voyageur Trail is closed in honour of our landowners.



Photo: "caves" south of Pictographs in LSPP by Patrick Capper.



NEW HIKE RATING FOR ONTARIO HIKE LEADERS!

After careful review of each hike grading system used currently in Ontario, the Certification and Awards Committee of Hike Ontario is pleased to announce the following hike rating system meant to aid all hike leaders in planning their hikes.

THE TERRAIN

LEVEL 1- Well defined trails, gentle inclines. Hiking boots not required, but trails may be wet. Suitable for beginners. Recommended for newcomers to club activities.

LEVEL 2 - Generally on trail. May be hilly, light bushwhacking, some rough spots or obstacles. Boots recommended.

LEVEL 3 - Rough terrain. One or more of extensive bushwhacking, steep sections, long climbs and descents, beaver dams or other obstacles, rock climbing. Boots, Level 2 experience, and a high level of fitness essential. Long pants and sleeves recommended.

THE SPEED

Moderate 3-4 km/hr

Fast 4-5 km/hr

Very Fast 5+ over km/hr

THE DISTANCE

Number of km

SPECIAL FEATURES

Parking fee, entrance fee, special hazards, unique features seen on hike.



Example: an advertised hike could be described as a Level 2, Moderate, 18 km

HIKE ONTARIO OBJECTIVES

- To promote walking for recreation, transportation and health
- To promote and facilitate trail development for pedestrian use throughout Ontario
- To encourage volunteer development and good trail maintenance and hiking practices
- To promote research into the health benefits and other aspects of walking
- To promote conservation and the appreciation of the natural environment



When does your VTA membership expire?

Check the date printed on your VT NEWS envelope label!

VTA Membership Secretary

705-949-4105

A DAY-HIKE ON THE NEW MARATHON TRAIL *by Kas Stone*

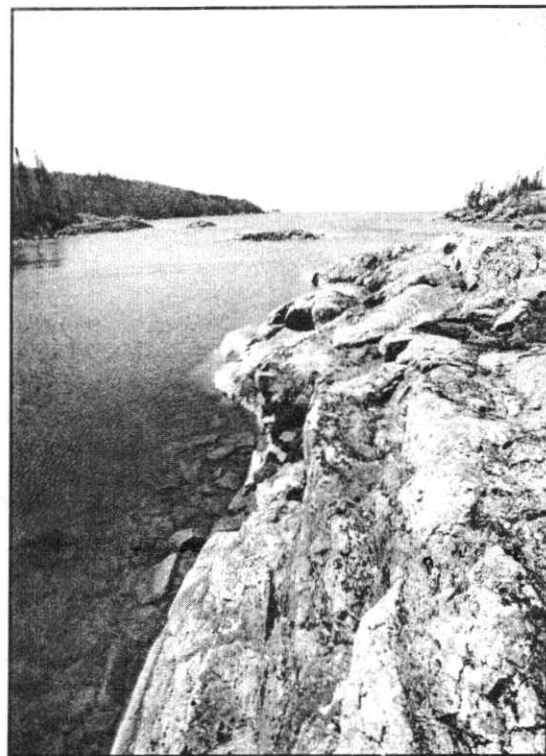
A new section was added to the Voyageur Trail last summer between the town of Marathon and Pukaskwa National Park. The Fall 2000 Voyageur Trail News described an end-to-end hike by Allison Norg and companions on July 20th to celebrate its official opening. Inspired by this description, I decided to explore the trail myself while vacationing on the north shore of Lake Superior this year in early May. I spent one day along the southern section of the trail starting at the Pic River, and a morning in the middle section near Heron Bay.

After my time on the trail, I am full of admiration for those people who hiked its entire length in a single day. There is no way that my middle-aged bones could manage the rigours of 25 kilometres in 12 hours over such rugged terrain! Because of its newness, the trail did not yet have that well-worn, easy-to-follow feeling that comes with time and the passing of many pairs of hiking boots. And the familiar hiker-icon markers had not yet been put up, so the route was marked with pink plastic flagging, which in some places had slipped off the trees. Extra time and vigilance were required, therefore, to avoid losing the trail.

Despite these minor inconveniences it was one of the highlights of my vacation. The trail had lots of interesting variety – an impressive beach with massive sand-dunes, several small driftwood-littered bays, pretty inland lakes and bubbling streams, forested glens with moss-carpeted paths, barren rocky highlands, cliffs with jumbles of talus to scramble over, and many magnificent vistas. It is within easy reach of travellers staying at Pukaskwa's Hattie Cove campground and it gives another opportunity for hiking, beyond the short campground trails and

the park's coastal backpacking trail. I would heartily recommend it, and I have put together the following description, with approximate distances and hiking times, for anyone who, like

me, enjoys a challenging day-hike with an attractive mix of landscape, lots of photo opportunities and at least one perfect picnic place.



Access

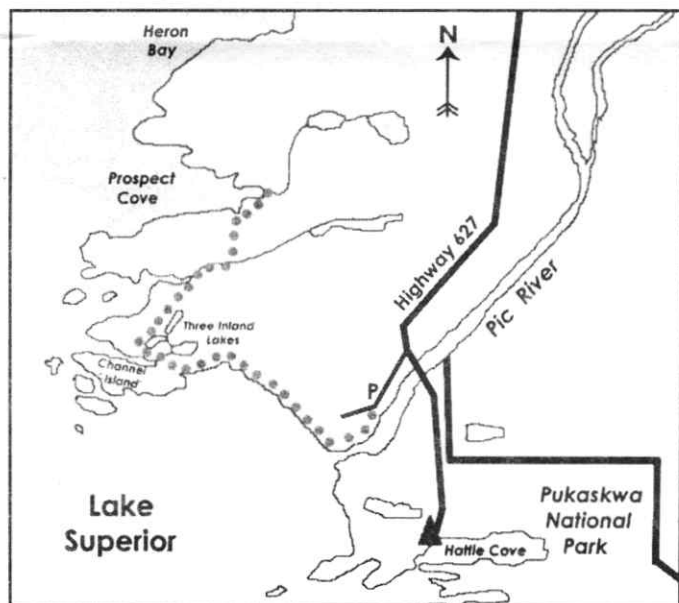
Exit Hwy 17 onto Hwy 627 about 7 km east of Marathon. Continue along Hwy 627 for about 12 km through the town of Heron Bay towards Pukaskwa National Park. Just before the Pic River bridge, turn right onto a gravel road that runs parallel to the river. Park on the side of this road where it curves to the right about 200 metres from the turnoff.

Route Description

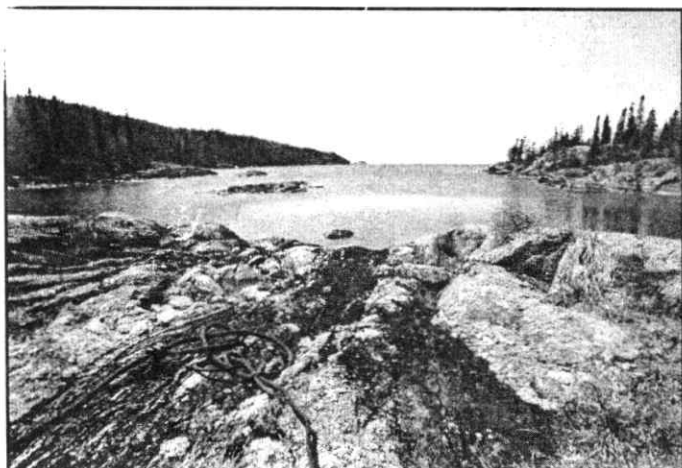
1st Section: Pic River (1/2 km, 5-10 minutes). From the roadside parking area, follow the track alongside the Pic River. The first thing one notices is the massive barrier of logs across the track – relics from the river's human history – the logging drives of the late 19th and early 20th centuries when the area's forests yielded trees with diameters of a metre or more! The Pic River was then a major transportation route for timber cut in the interior; now logs are transported by the inland road or rail route instead. The Pic River probably gets its name from the Ojibway word *pekatek*, which means muddy, and one glance at the river will confirm that the appellation is an appropriate one!

2nd Section: the beach (1-1/2 km, 30-40 minutes). At the mouth of the Pic River, where it empties its sediment into Lake Superior

(Continued on page 8)



MARATHON *(Continued from page 7)*



and turns the water brown, there is a magnificent beach that stretches more than a kilometre along the shore. Behind the beach is also an impressive system of sand dunes, the largest on Superior's north shore. A fragile environment, held together by driftwood and a few tough grasses, the dunes are in constant motion, advancing gradually inland and leaving spruce trees buried in their wake. This area has been a site of human settlement for two thousand years. The Pic River has been a main passage into the interior, and has provided human inhabitants with access to waterways stretching as far as James Bay. Following centuries of aboriginal occupation, the site was taken over by Europeans, first as a fur-trading post and then as a logging camp. Today it has reverted to its native roots, the few buildings at the river-mouth belonging to the nearby Pic River Indian Reserve. Follow the beach to its northwest end, where the Voyageur Trail markers begin.

3rd Section: the beach to Channel Island (1 km, 30-40 minutes). As the crow flies, it is just a kilometre from the end of the beach to Channel Island. But hikers (unfortunately, it seems at times!) are not crows, and this section is particularly rough and may take more than half an hour to cover. The trail clambors up and down steep gullies, slithers across mossy rocks, stumbles over twisted cedar roots, and weaves around huge chunks of talus fallen from the cliffs above. Then it emerges suddenly into the open. On current NTS topographic maps, what lies ahead here is called 'Channel Island'. But the 'current' map was published in 1979, based on an aerial survey done in 1976. Even the glacial pace of geology is faster, apparently, than NTS updates. In the intervening quarter-century, deposits from the Pic River have created a sand-and-driftwood tombolo which now solidly connects Channel Island to the mainland.



4th Section: Channel Island to the three small inland lakes (1-1/2 km, 40-50 minutes). The trail follows what was once the main-

land shoreline, and then curves towards the right over a flat sandy delta through which a tiny stream meanders. The stream drains three small inland lakes, which the trail now visits on its way northward. The first small lake is just a few metres upstream to the right of the delta area. To get to the second small lake, the trail scrambles up a cleft in the cliff on the north side of the delta and crosses a barren, rocky highland where the route is marked by cairns. It skirts the western end of the second lake, then clambors over several more rocky outcrops and mossy depressions before arriving at the third small lake. A well-used animal track leads 10 metres from the trail to a lovely rock ledge at the edge of this lake, making a perfect picnic place and turnaround for anyone weary enough to wish to return now.

5th Section: three small inland lakes to muddy bay (3/4 km, 20-30 minutes). From the third inland lake the trail climbs to a sparsely-treed height of land with glimpses out to Lake Superior and then descends through woodland to a shallow, muddy bay with a grassy shoreline. The entrance to this bay is partly obscured by a tiny rocky island, and the smooth rocks on its eastern side make another nice picnic and turnaround place; just walk along the shoreline around the bay to get there.

6th Section: muddy bay to Prospect Cove (1-1/2 km, 50-60 minutes). A pretty stream flows into the muddy bay. The trail follows this stream up a steep valley, then scrambles up a cliff to the left of the stream. The going becomes easier at the top as the trail crosses over higher ground and descends gradually to lake level, emerging at Prospect Cove. Here it is easy to become distracted by the view and lose the trail, which jogs slightly inland and uphill to avoid cliffs along the shoreline. An animal track appears at first a more attractive path, but it slithers alarmingly along the moss-covered cliffside, and so (speaking from experience!) it is best avoided. The trail descends to Prospect Cove again at a tiny bay with another pretty stream. A smooth finger of rock slides into the water here. Closer inspection reveals some rusting hooks and cables in the rock - anchors for the log booms that once were tethered to the shore. This makes a final picnic and turnaround place for the day-hike. (From Prospect Cove the trail turns inland again for several kilometres over a headland before arriving at Heron Bay, which is still less than half the total length of the new trail to its terminus at Penn Lake in Marathon!)

7th Section: homeward (about 7 km as the crow flies or 3-3-1/2 hours for the hiker). Return by the same route and enjoy the scenery from a different perspective. After a long day's scramble over much rough ground, the final stroll along the beach is a welcome conclusion to the hike.

(Continued on page 9)



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MARATHON *(Continued from page 8)*

Useful Information

Topographic Map: NTS# 42D/9 Marathon, available from any topographic map supplier (I have had good service via the internet from Federal Maps Inc. www.fedmaps.com)

Pukaskwa National Park: Hattie Cove, Heron Bay, Ontario P0T 1R0, (807) 229-0801 www.parkscanada.gc.ca

Friends of Pukaskwa: P.O. Box 1840, Marathon, Ontario P0T 2E0, (807) 229-0801, ext. 233 www.friendsofpnp.ca

Town of Marathon: 1-888-545-8111
www.town.marathon.on.ca



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 & Ottawa; TrailHead, Ottawa.

A Tribute to an Avid VTA Hiker...

D - Destinations mattered not
E - End to Ends a cinch
S - Seasons could be cold or hot
T - To hike each mile and inch
I - In memory, Des will linger on
N - Near every trail and tree
Y - Yes, her body may be gone
But, her spirit still runs free.



Destiny Landmark - April, 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
November 1, 2003.**

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Articles in this newsletter may be copied if credit is given to the
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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!