



No. 86 WINTER 2003/4

Published by the  
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And much, much more!

# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

Happy  
Holidays!



EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT BY: Gayle Phillips

## THE TWO FACES OF MOUNT GWYNNE: IMPRESSIONS OF A DAY-HIKER *by Kas Stone*

Mt. Gwynne, at 260 metres above the level of Lake Superior, is the highest point along the Voyageur Trail. For the day-hiker, reaching the summit is a challenge, not only because of its elevation, but also because of its remoteness. Located 5 km south of Hwy 17 and the nearest town, Schreiber, Mt. Gwynne has no easy access. The Schreiber Beach Road to the west and the Worthington Bay Road to the east are so rutted and muddy that they are no longer passable, except by all-terrain vehicle. So, from either direction, the starting point for a day-hike to Mt. Gwynne is near the highway, and, especially on the western side, it is a long day's hike from there. (Editor's Note: Shuttles can be arranged by contacting the local club.)

I have climbed to the summit twice. On my annual spring hiking holiday last year I approached it from the west; this year from the east. And although the objective was the same, the hikes, and the feelings I had about the mountain, were entirely and surprisingly different! I have put together the following summary for anyone wishing to tackle Mt. Gwynne as a day-hiker, which combines practical, how-to information



These "two faces" belong to Kas' dogs.

about the two approaches and my personal impressions from each direction.

### *The Western Face of Mount Gwynne*

From the west, parking is available in a small gravel area off Subway Street in Schreiber just after the road passes under the railway bridge. Proceeding on foot from there, walk west beside the railway line past half a dozen houses, then south along the Schreiber Beach Road. The road quickly becomes a rough track which descends for 2.3 km through a wooded valley to join the Voyageur Trail at Schreiber Beach, a crescent of sand and smooth rounded cobbles.

Turn left and walk along the beach to its eastern end, where the trail turns inland. It follows Cook's Creek upstream for several hundred metres, past little waterfalls and pools, then crosses the creek by means of a small but impressively constructed suspension foot-bridge. On the other side there is a scramble up a steep, moss-covered cliff onto higher ground, where the landscape alternates between damp, forested glens and rocky outcrops, as the trail continues gradually to climb.



(Continued on page 2)

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## THE TWO FACES OF MT. GWYNNE *(Continued from page 1)*

There are several lookouts during the ascent, with increasingly impressive views at each rise in elevation. The first two (un-named) lookouts, on beautiful pink granite dappled with green lichens, face westward over Collingwood Bay. The third, the Albyon lookout, is at the top of a steep cliff at the end of a 1km side-trail, and has a large talus field below and magnificent views to the west and south. Between the un-named lookouts and the Albyon lookout the trail passes Fourth Lake and numerous small ponds, many of them created by industrious beavers whose dams have diverted the creeks that spill down the hillside. A short distance beyond the Albyon lookout trail, the final 200-metre side-trail exits to the left, bringing the hiker huffing and puffing to the summit.

From the top of the Schreiber Beach road to the top of Mt. Gwynne, including the side-trips to lookouts, is a hike of about 8 km, and much of this distance is over rough terrain. So, from this direction, Mt. Gwynne feels a wild and secluded place. The only evidence of human influence, apart from the trail itself, is an old camper-trailer at the edge of Schreiber Beach and the remains of a small wooden cabin at Fourth Lake.

The approach from the other direction is quite different.

### *The Eastern Face of Mount Gwynne*

From the east, exit Hwy 17 onto the Worthington Bay Road about 4 km to the east of Schreiber and follow it for several hundred metres. There is a maze of small roadways here, used by gravel trucks coming and going from the quarries, so be sure to follow the 'main' road, which curves towards the right about 100 metres from Hwy 17. Conditions deteriorate soon afterwards when the road turns downhill, so park on the edge before becoming stuck in the mud and continue on foot. It is a 4 km trek down the valley to Lake Superior, where the road ends at a small gravelly beach on Worthington Bay. About 100 metres before reaching the lake, the Voyageur Trail exits on the right towards Mt. Gwynne. We will return to this exit shortly, after spending a few minutes at Worthington Bay. On the eastern side of the beach, across a small stream, the Voyageur Trail departs along the shoreline for Les Petits Ecris and Death Valley, the wild heart of the Casques Isles section of the trail. On the western side, cliffs with cave-like formations rise out of the lake, forcing the trail inland. Near the base of one of these cliffs, on a sheltered flat surface, can be found several faded red-ochre pictographs – evidence of the bay's importance to early aboriginal travellers. (Clearest amongst these pictographs is a figure that resembles, appropriately, a hiker on the Voyageur Trail!) More imme-



diately obvious at the edge of the beach is the debris of modern times – a cement foundation and an assortment of rusting machinery, the remnants of a gold mill that operated briefly at Worthington Bay in the 1930s.

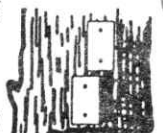
Schreiber, and much of the peninsula upon which Mt. Gwynne sits, is formed from ancient volcanic rocks – lava that erupted through cracks in the earth's surface some 2-1/2 to 3 billion years ago and then solidified. Subsequent geological processes have changed the original rocks, compressing, eroding and folding them into more complicated forms. Chemically, rocks created in this way typically contain minerals of economic importance. Base metals such as copper, nickel, lead and zinc are common, and to the prospector there is also the tantalizing possibility of precious metals like gold. Copper and zinc have both been recovered in significant amounts from mines in the Schreiber area. And gold, although at a scale disappointing in comparison with the massive finds at the Hemlo mines further east, was discovered in the rocks of Mt. Gwynne.

The Voyageur Trail follows the track used by miners to transport ore for crushing and processing at the Worthington Bay gold mill from mine-sites on the mountain. Return about 100 metres from the beach up the Worthington Bay Road and exit left onto the track we by-passed earlier. The track winds steeply uphill for 1.5 km, levelling out briefly on the way up where the miners' camp once stood and now only a few pieces of rotting timber remain. It passes several piles of rocky rubble and old mine adits, including one large water-filled hole that gapes ominously to the hiker's right. The track ends at a large field of tailings guarded by a giant, rusting sieve.

Beyond the tailings pile, the trail narrows and continues over rougher ground upward through a gulley for 1/2 km. There the Mt. Gwynne side-trail exits to the right for the final 200-metre scramble to the summit.

From the top of the Worthington Bay Road to the top of Mt. Gwynne is a hike of about 6 km. But from this direction only the last kilometre feels wild. The long roadway down the valley to Worthington Bay, with all its ruts and puddles, speaks of muddy journeys by modern visitors. The pictographs on the Worthington Bay cliffs recall the travellers of an earlier time – the native peoples who drew them, and the European explorers and fur-traders who followed afterwards, seeking refuge in the bay from the wrath of Lake Superior. And finally, during the climb from Worthington Bay to the sum-

*(Continued on page 3)*

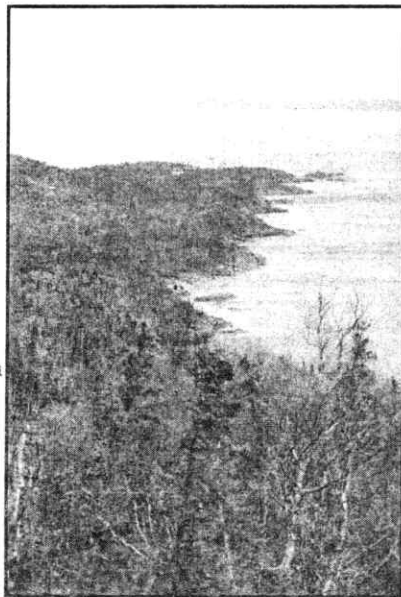


## THE TWO FACES OF MT. GWYNNE (Continued from page 2)

mit, it is difficult to avoid the ghosts of the miners who laboured there three-quarters of a century ago, chipping away at the mountain with their picks and shovels, toiling with their loads of ore along the track, and dreaming of golden fortunes. In fact, by the time the hiker has reached the final kilometre of the hike, the trail seems quite a crowded place!

### The Summit

Whether Mt. Gwynne is tackled from the east or from the west, the approach is forgotten when standing on the rocky summit. The view is truly glorious! To the west lies the Schreiber Channel with its many islands, framed on the horizon by silhouettes of the Nipigon hills. To the east, Death Valley beckons in the foreground, and in the distance the stacks of the Terrace Bay pulp-mill puff their vapours into the sky. To the north a ring of rounded hills enfolds the town of Schreiber. And to the south the magnificent expanse of Lake Superior stretches, it seems, into infinity.



A geodesic marker sits atop the summit's highest rock. Below it, a touching memorial has been erected to Tom McGrath "founder of the Casques Isles Section of the Voyageur Trail, who loved to hike this trail". Work on the trail was begun during the summers of 1975 to 1977, when students, under Tom McGrath's direction and funded by the Ministry of Natural Resources 'Experience' Summer Youth Program, cleared and blazed the 25 km from Terrace Bay to Schreiber. The trail was extended westward to Rossport in the early 1980s, doubling its length.

If the sun is shining and the wind isn't blowing a gale, it is possible to sit on the summit of Mt. Gwynne for hours, taking in all the details of the surrounding countryside. And it is the ultimate in perfect picnic places!

The first time I reached the summit, clouds seethed overhead and wind whipped snow pellets across the rocks. I huddled in a hollow, gnawing at my frozen sandwich, wearing every piece of clothing I'd brought with me, and wondering why I hadn't opted, instead, for a sun-drenched holiday on a Caribbean island. The

second time I was more fortunate. Although the wind was blowing (I suspect it is always blowing at the summit!), I could at least open my eyes without fear that they would be whisked from my face. And in a sunny corner my dogs and I dozed happily after our picnic before returning down the slope.

### The Return

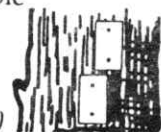
For the solo day-hiker there is no option but to return by the same trail as the outward one. On the eastern side of Mt. Gwynne that simply means following the miners' track back to Worthington Bay and the Worthington Bay Road back to the car. On the western side, however, there is a pleasant, and slightly shorter, variation on the return trip, by taking a less-well-used trail that exits to the right at Fourth Lake and makes its way past several ponds to the southeast corner of Schreiber. As the trail nears the town, the signage becomes confused, and there are several broken-down fences and "Private Property" notices. (These, I am told, are the unfortunate result of a mishap that led to litigation for the property owner, who then erected the signs but is content to let hikers ignore them.) Turn left at the hydro corridor, then right 50 metres later onto a secondary hydro corridor, and follow that to the water treatment plant at the bottom of Winnipeg Street. Continue up Winnipeg Street to the top of the hill and take the second left onto Columbia Street, where the car will be immediately visible at the curve in the road.

For hikers who can organise car-shuttles, leaving vehicles at the tops of both the Worthington Bay Road and the Schreiber Beach Road, it is possible to hike the entire (almost 15 km) trail across Mt. Gwynne in a single day, combining the natural landscape of the western face with the human history of the eastern face into a comprehensive portrait of the mountain as a whole.

### Practical Information

Town of Schreiber: Established in 1885 as one of several major centres across the north shore of Lake Superior to supply and service the newly constructed CP Railway, Schreiber was named after British railway engineer Sir Collingwood Schreiber, whose efforts were instrumental in the railway's completion. The town is still an important railway link, but now services travellers on the TransCanada Highway as well. Schreiber has an assortment of motels, a post office, laundromat, gas stations and stores with groceries and other basic supplies.

Tourism information is available at 1-877-247-3423 or online at [www.schreiber.ca](http://www.schreiber.ca).



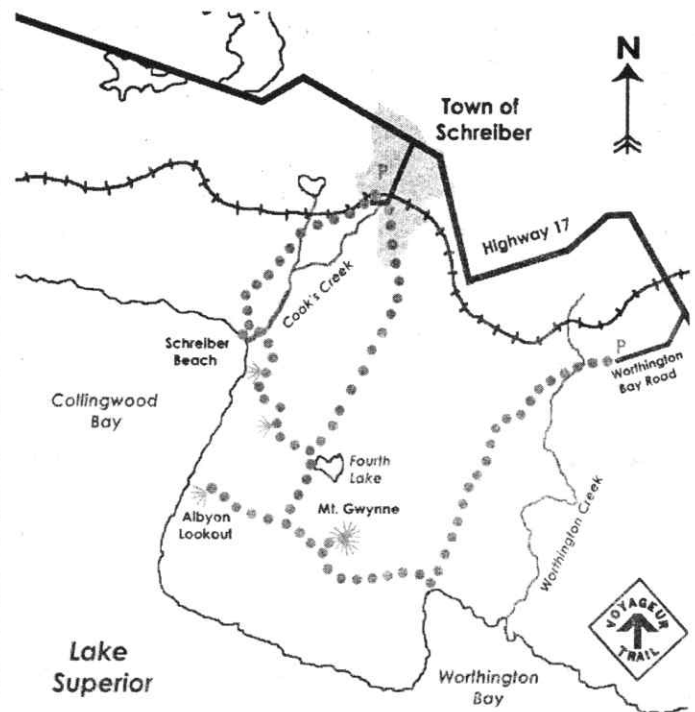
(Continued on page 4)



## THE TWO FACES OF MT. GWYNNE (Continued from page 3)

The Voyageur Hiking Trail Guidebook is an essential companion for the Mt. Gwynne hike. It contains topographic maps with the trail route and access roads clearly marked on them. It also gives a detailed description the route and features of note along the way. It is available at many outdoor stores across the province, or can be ordered directly from the Voyageur Trail Association. The cost for members is \$16.50, for non-members \$25.00.

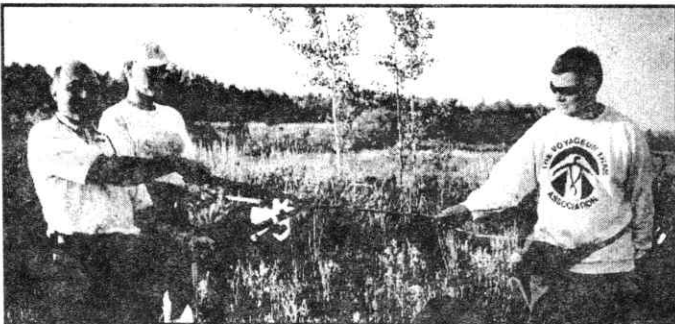
For information about current trail conditions and route updates, contact the Voyageur Trail Association at 1-877-393-4003 or online at [www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail](http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail). The main trail is generally easy to follow through the Mt. Gwynne section, with plenty of trail markers and signs indicating side-trail exits. Some of the side-trails and access trails are less easy to follow, as they are less frequently used and sometimes not as well cleared or marked as the main trail; still, with a little extra vigilance they should pose no great problem.



## SAULTEAUX NEWS by Gayle Phillips

Over 65 people attended the launch of a new city trail in October of 2003. The Saulteaux Voyageur Trail Club is part of a newly organized city group dedicated to implementation of the Sault Ste. Marie Master Trails Plan.

*[Photo L to R: Neil Delbianco (City Councillor), Jim Miller (Chair, Sault Trails Action Committee) and Mike Landmark (VTA President).]*



Due to beaver activity, there is a reroute on the Saulteaux Voyageur Trail section between Hwy 17 and Old Goulais Bay Road. Travelling west from Hwy 17, after crossing on or beside a long beaver dam, continue on the old logging road for a short way until going off it to the right. Follow the cream-coloured blazes put up with one nail each for about 200 metres until you cross a short beaver dam, then turn left on an old logging road for a short way before turning right and picking up the original route blazed with our traditional white blazes.



## AND THE WINNER IS...

The recipient of the Steve Taylor Volunteer Award for this year is Don McGorman of the Saulteaux Club for his dedication to trail maintenance/building. *Congratulations Don! (Photo: Don on left receiving award from Mike Landmark.)*



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# OUTING SCHEDULE

*This schedule was put together early and may have last-minute changes. Please call our Information Hotline at (705) 253-5353 and select message No. 9999 to check if any details of the outing have changed. This Hotline is updated regularly and will have the latest news on the next planned outing. The schedule is also on our web site <www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail> Unless otherwise indicated, these outings are all a Level 2, slow (according to Hike Ontario recommended ratings.)*

## 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. 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. 1st** - New Year's Day snowshoe/hike in the Camp Korah area with Ila (949-1097). Market Mall 10AM. Behaved pets welcome. (This outing is dedicated to the man who started it all—Dr. Paul Syme!)

**\*Sun., Jan. 11** - Snowshoe at Goulais with Patrick (253-4470). Penningtons 9:30 AM. Behaved pets welcome.

**Sat., Jan. 17** - Snowshoe with Doris (949-9466). Market Mall 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

**Sat., Jan. 17** - Sault Trails and Recreation (STAR) are having a free snowshoeing day at the Kinsmen Hall (Hiawatha Park) for the general public to come out and try out some snowshoes. We are looking for people to lend their small children snowshoes for this day and Gayle Phillips

will be in charge of getting the shoes out to STAR and returning them to you afterwards. If you have a pair of small children's snowshoes that you can lend, please call 942-1891.

**Mon., Jan. 19** - Saulteaux Club meeting. 7PM. GLFC. 942-1891.

**Sun., Jan. 25** - Snowshoe in the west end with Jack (942-1761). Market Mall 10AM. Behaved pets ok.

**\*Sun., Feb. 1** - Walk at Island Lake with Susan (949-4105). Penningtons 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

**Thurs., Feb. 5** - Moonlight snowshoe at Crimson Ridge with the Landmarks (779-3409). Meet at Crimson Ridge at 7PM. Please leave your pets home. Visit the web site or call the Info Line for more details about this Bon Soo event.

**Sat., Feb. 7** - Bon Soo Children's Snowshoe Experience. Again, we are asking for volunteers to be at Bellevue Park from noon to 4PM to help. Please call 942-1891.

**Sun., Feb. 15** - Surprise Snowshoe with Ila (949-1097). Penningtons 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

**\*Wed., Feb. 18** - Lake walk (bring snowshoes, just in case) with Marge (253-5888). Penningtons 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

**\*Sat., Feb. 21** - Snowshoe on Lake Superior with Doris (942-9466). Penningtons 9AM. Behaved pets ok.

**\*Sun., Feb. 29** - Leap year snowshoe in Desbarats with Gayle (942-1891). Churchill Plaza near Rogers Videos 9:30 AM. Behaved pets welcome. (This outing is dedicated to long time VTA executive member, Dieter Ropke.)

**Sat., Mar. 6** - Snowshoe on the Tom Allinson Spur Trail with the Landmarks (779-3409). Market Mall 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

**Sat., Mar. 13** - Bushwhack Ski (Level 3 challenging) with Gail (942-0768). Market Mall 10AM.

**\*Sun., Mar. 14** - Maki Lake snowshoe with Ila (949-1097). Penningtons 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

**Mon., Mar. 15** - Saulteaux Club meeting. 7PM. Agenda includes outing schedule planning. (942-1891)

**Sun., Mar. 21** - Snowshoe at Red Rock with Gayle (942-1891). Market Mall 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

**Sat., Apr. 17** - Saulteaux Club dinner. Tickets will be available at the March Saulteaux Club meeting or expect a phone call from our telephone committee.

**Sun., Apr. 18** - Hike in the Maki Road area with Ila (949-1097). Market Mall 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

**Thurs., Apr. 22** - Earth Day clean-up on the city trail at the bottom of Finn Hill with Gayle (942-1891). Meet at the terminus of Northern Avenue at 6:30 PM. Behaved pets welcome.

**Sun., Apr. 25** - Our kick-off to the work party season...the annual "Go to Blazes" work party! Penningtons at 10AM. 942-1891. Behaved pets welcome. (This outing is dedicated to a long-time member who is currently our Trail Master: Patrick Capper!)

**Sun., May 9** - Annual Mother's Day hike with Horst (254-8504). Market Mall 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

**\*Sat., May 15** - Hike the Pancake Bay Nature trail with Ila (949-1097). Penningtons 9:30 AM. Behaved pets ok.

**Sun., May 16** - Work party on the Tom Allinson Spur trail with Gail (942-0768). Market Mall 10AM.

**Mon., May 17** - Saulteaux Club meeting. 7PM. 942-1891.



## THE AGONY & THE ECSTASY: HIKING WITH THE SAULTEAUX CLUB *by Terry Wright*

Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> started well. It was dry, shirtsleeve weather that morning in Sault Ste Marie after days of rain. The 8-kilometre hike in the Red Rock area looked promising. We made introductions – twelve people and three dogs. Five hours later, after 33 water crossings under a steady drizzle (Patrick counted), we emerged from the trail sodden and dripping. We'd forded raging streams, balancing along slick, precariously placed logs. We'd fought our way through shoulder-high ferns and raspberry canes. And, we'd slogged through mud and over deadfalls the entire length of the Tom Allinson Spur Trail to a cold, grey Lake Superior. Still, we remained cheerful. Two weeks later, we hiked again. On Thanksgiving Saturday, eleven of us met to hike the 12-kilometre Pancake Bay Trail. This time, the sun shone. A gentle breeze blew. Gold leaves drifted down all around us. We were drenched in gold – and the oranges and reds of maple, oak, poplar and birch. When we emerged from the trail six hours later, we were warm and dry. We'd taken in the breathtaking view from the Pancake Bay lookout. We'd marvelled over thimble berry, mushrooms, moss, Solomon's Seal, striped Maple, moose tracks, bear scat, grouse, a tree frog, a beaver dam, and shelf fungus piled high with leaves. And, we'd hiked back along the Pancake River as it roared over boulders on its way to Superior. Bliss, pure bliss.



## SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT LISTS FOR WINTER OUTINGS *by Bill Ralph*

Wear clothing appropriate to the season. "Layering" is the recommended method of dressing for all outdoor activities. If you don't know what that means please phone the hike leader who will advise you. Carry one more layer of clothing than you think you will need because the weather can change quickly. It is always a good idea to wear water-proof hiking boots.

**Equipment for short winter outings:** whistle, compass and map, matches, pocket knife, first aid kit, water and snacks, extra socks and an extra warm layer, emergency space blanket.

**Equipment List - for other than short winter outings:** whistle, compass and map, matches, pocket knife and flashlight, first aid kit, water (or water filter) and energy food, container for boiling water, emergency space blanket, light rope (3 m.) and duct tape, extra clothing / rain gear, trail tape and small folding saw, notebook and pencil, small plastic bags to keep socks dry in wet boots, sunglasses and sunscreen, tarp, toilet paper.



HAPPY WINTER HIKING!

## VTA ANNUAL REPORT

*by Mike Landmark, President*

2003 has once again been a very challenging and busy year for the Voyageur Trail Association.

New and potential trail sections are being diligently worked on and will hopefully be completed in the near future. These projects include trails in the **Marathon** area, linking the town of Marathon to Neys Provincial Park. This section is progressing quite well and we hope to see a connection between the new trail and the existing **Casque Isles** section soon. There is a potential for new trails in the **White River and White Lake** area, connecting to Wawa and Pukaskwa National Park. **Sleeping Giant Provincial Park** has expressed an interest in possibly having their trail system become part of the VTA system. The **Coueurs de Bois VTA Club** in Elliot Lake has been working very hard to develop trails in that area. The existing 30 kilometres of VTA trail presently bypasses the city of Elliot Lake. The new trail of approximately 70 kilometres will connect directly to the city on the west side. There is also new trail being developed to the east of Highway 108 towards **Serpent River**. The local club is receiving great support from the City of Elliot Lake and the Shared Use Committee for these projects. Members of the **Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON)**, **British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)**, and the VTA conducted a work party in Wawa in September to clear new trail from Bridget Lake Road to Smoky Point in Lake Superior Provincial Park. These volunteers also completed clearing and blazing the trail from the Wawa Tourism Centre to Pinewood. (Photo-page 9) A **Hike Ontario Leadership** course was held in Sault Ste. Marie in September 2003 (photo below). Eighteen members of the VTA received the basic certificate and will be working towards completing the advanced course.



A **Wilderness First Aid** course was conducted on October 18-19, 2003 in Elliot Lake.

The video project undertaken by the VTA as part of the Ministry of Tourism grant received in the summer of 2002 has now been completed and a number of the videos have been distributed to the local VTA clubs and other organizations.

**Nine Great Lakes Heritage Coast** signs for the VTA have been completed and are now

(Continued  
on page 9)





## **HIKING HIGH** by *Harry Moerschner*

It had been raining overnight and continued during part of the day. Our small group, in multicoloured raingear, climbed a steep path along a creek. At one point we had to jump across a gorge with the creek rushing through it. Fog rolled in, making it a bit difficult to recognize the terrain, but our leader got us safely to our destination and back into base camp at Baker Creek in Banff National Park.

In 1983, that was my introduction to hiking and camping with the Skyline Hikers of the Canadian Rockies, a volunteer-run, non-profit, hiking club in Alberta.

It had been my dream to hike in the Canadian Rockies and the idea of carrying only a daypack and having someone else doing the cooking appealed to me, even though I had never slept in a tent in the wilderness. However, the encouragement of fellow hikers and the magic majesty of the mountains of Banff National Park left a lasting impression with me.

In the evening, after a good supper, which was a marvel under such primitive conditions, I joined the group in the big assembly tent, nicknamed "the Donut". After a lively singsong led by our camp musician, humorous hike reports were given and hike leaders explained the next day's hikes. More logs were stacked on the campfire to ward off the cool mountain air and hot cocoa and cookies were served. Laughter and singing made for a very sociable atmosphere. I stepped out into the night for a quiet moment. The stars shone brighter than I had ever seen them before, almost close enough to touch. Right then and there I promised myself that I would return.

My adventures include the experience of being a volunteer hike leader, using only a map and the reports of previous hike leaders as a guideline. At Nigel Pass, just south of the beautiful Athabasca Glacier, I led my first hike. Following game trails, crossing a stream 30 metres wide on a primitive log-bridge, walking through a quiet mountain forest, I led a group of five hikers into the wild and romantic Brazeau River Valley in Jasper National Park. It was one of my most memorable hikes.

The Skyline Hikers rotate campsites on an annual basis and hikers get to see the best of Banff National Park as well as other parts of the Canadian Rockies. Over the years my wife Carolyn and I have been to most Skyline campsites. We have also formed many long lasting friendships with fellow hikers, sharing a common bond camaraderie and an appreciation for the beauties of mountain wilderness hiking.

**For more information about the Skyline Hikers of the Canadian Rockies, contact: e-mail:**

< Skyhiker@telusplanet.net >

Ontario residents contact volunteer

Harry Moerschner, 705-445-0267;

e-mail: < moersch@bmts.com >



### **Skyline Hikers of the Canadian Rockies**

*Hike with the oldest hiking club in Canada.*

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Land costs approximately \$675.**

Includes return transportation from Banff to trailhead, tent accommodation with stove, hot water, wholesome meals, camp staff, guided day hikes in awesome back country evening camp fire and sing song. Hikers carry only a day pack but must be fit for mountain hiking.

**Registration starts January 2004.**

**For more information and brochure contact:**

E-mail: skyhiker@telusplanet.net

Ontario residents contact volunteer

Harry Moerschner 705-445-0267;

e-mail: moersch@bmts.com

## **Looking for the PERFECT GIFT for that hard-to-buy-for person on your list? Why not shop VTA?**

Besides VTA memberships, guidebooks, crests, t-shirts & sweatshirts, we are now offering a Canadian Geographic Ecotour Highway Guide for the area from Sault Ste. Marie, east to Midland for only \$14.95 (plus shipping). (The Sault Ste. Marie to Thunder Bay guide should be ready in 2004.) Full of up-to-date information, maps, photos and tidbits from history and special points of interest, this booklet is the ultimate tour guide through the area. Visit [www.canadiangeographic.ca](http://www.canadiangeographic.ca) for more info.

For quick delivery, call our Membership Secretary, Susan at (705) 949-4105.



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## ANNUAL REPORT (Cont'd. from page 7)

in the process of being installed in the various areas. We also have a number of **Trans Canada Trail Bronfman signs** that have been distributed to several clubs to be installed. The VTA has committed to two **Hike Ontario Landmark Legacy signs**, one for Sault Ste. Marie and one for Elliot Lake.

*Speaking of signs*, the Voyageur Trail Association sign located on the property of the former Blue Water Inn at Gros Cap has been removed. It will be revamped and installed near the Crimson Ridge trail in Sault Ste. Marie sometime in the spring.

The **VTA Annual General Meeting** was held on October 4, 2003 and had a fairly good turnout. One of the issues that arose from the meeting concerned canoe and power tools insurance. It was decided that we would continue to provide insurance coverage for canoe outings, but we will no longer use power tools as part of our trail maintenances. We will contract out for power tool work as required and if funds are available.

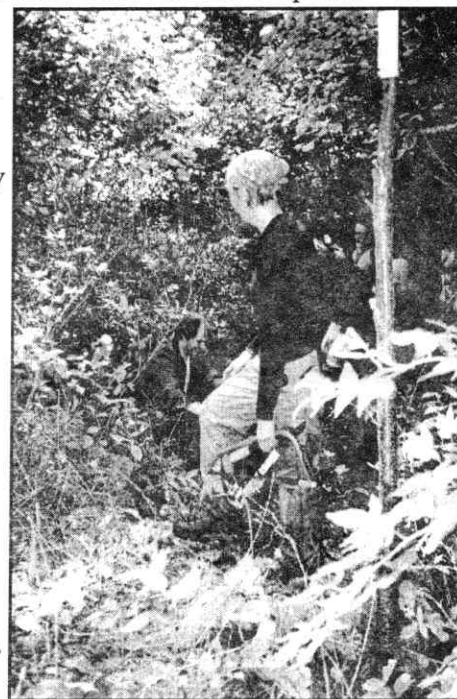
Membership in the Voyageur Trail Association has remained relatively stable over the past year. Please note that there is no longer a requirement to pay \$3.50 extra for each additional member of a family due to changes in the Hike Ontario insurance policy.

As of January, 2004, there will be a \$5.00 shipping and handling fee charged for every order of guidebooks or VTA merchandise shipped out.



## VOLUNTEERS EXTRAORDINAIRE!

Members of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and British Trust for Conservation Volunteers spent a week's "vacation" building trail south of Bridget Lake in Wawa. They were almost successful in reaching Smoky Point, the most northerly point in Lake Superior Provincial Park (LSPP)! In future years, we hope this connection will be made so eventually, the LSPP coastal trail will run continuously from the park to the town of Wawa!



The Voyageur Trail Association is a registered charity.  
Send your tax deductible donations today!

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.

(clip and mail)

## VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM (please print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov./State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Individual.....\$20 = \_\_\_\_\_

Student.....\$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

Donations (tax receipt will be sent)..... = \_\_\_\_\_

Charitable Reg. # 119261923RR0001

Guidebook (member) \$16.50 x \_\_\_\_ (non-member) \$25 x \_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Crest \$3 x \_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirts: sleeves -short \$12 x \_\_\_\_ -long \$15 (size \_\_\_\_).. = \_\_\_\_\_

Sweatshirt \$20 x \_\_\_\_ (size \_\_\_\_).. = \_\_\_\_\_

For Topography Maps call Steve (705) 946-2484

Cdn. Geographic Guide from SSMarie to Midland \$14.95  
**Shipping & Handling for all mailed orders ADD \$ 5.00**

**Total Amount Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make cheques payable and mail to:**

**VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION,**

P. O. Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd.,  
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada P6A 6W3

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## VTA CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL

### PRESIDENT:

Mike Landmark (705) 779-3409

### VICE-PRESIDENT - WEST:

Duncan MacKay (807) 825-3338

### VICE-PRESIDENT - CENTRAL:

vacant (Please contact us for info on this position)

### VICE-PRESIDENT - EAST:

vacant (Please contact us for info on this position)

### TREASURER:

Dieter Ropke (705) 942-9636

### GENERAL SECRETARY:

Cheryl Landmark (705) 779-3409

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Susan Graham (705) 949-4105

### PUBLICITY DIRECTOR:

Gayle Phillips (705) 942-1891

### TRAIL MASTER:

Patrick Capper (705) 253-4470

### LANDOWNER LIAISON:

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Joanne Marck (705) 843-2199

### COUREURS DE BOIS:

Thomas Benian (705) 461-9668

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

**Deadline for the next issue is April 1, 2004.**

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:** ☐ Outdoor Activities (eg: Trail maintenance/development, Lead Outings) Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Indoor Activities (such as: Newsletter, Publicity, Record Keeping, Special Events, Guidebook work, etc.) Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have any special skills?** (eg: leadership skills, computer skills, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Section

- ☐ Nipigon/Thunder Bay
- ☐ Schreiber/Terrace Bay
- ☐ Marathon
- ☐ Pukaskwa National Park
- ☐ Wawa
- ☐ Lake Superior Provincial Park
- ☐ Batchewana
- ☐ Harmony Beach/Havilland Bay
- ☐ Goulais
- ☐ Sault Ste. Marie

### Club

- Nipigon/Thunder Bay V.T.C.
- Casque Isles V.T.C.
- Michipicoten V.T.C.
- Saulteaux V.T.C.

### Section

- ☐ Echo Bay
- ☐ Desbarats
- ☐ Bruce Mines
- ☐ Thessalon
- ☐ Blind River/Iron Bridge
- ☐ Elliot Lake
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Massey
- ☐ Espanola
- ☐ Little Current
- ☐ Sheguiandah
- ☐ South Baymouth
- ☐ Sudbury

### Club

- Echo Ridges V.T.C.
- Desbarats V.T.C.
- Thessalon V.T.C.
- Penewobikong V.T.C.
- Coueurs de Bois V.T.C.
- Rainbow V.T.C.
- Sudbury V.T.C.

