



No. 87 SPRING 2004

Published by the
VOYAGEUR TRAIL
ASSOCIATION

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

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VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT BY: Gayle Phillips

FRIENDS LOST...



**Norm Lediett
1913 - 2004**

The Voyageur Trail Association is sorry to report the passing of long-time member and VTA advocate, Norm Lediett in Blind River on Feb. 5, 2004.

Norm was instrumental in building the Voyageur Trail in and around the Blind River area and was our "chief sign maker" for a long time. He taught his family to love the outdoors and they report that, "Through his work with the Voyageur Trail Association, he found a vehicle by which his principles of sharing the bush could be manifested."

Our sincere condolences to the Lediett family.



John Kovala

The VTA's deepest condolences go out to the family of Mr. John Kovala of Sault Ste. Marie, who tragically passed away in early March of this year.

Mr. Kovala was an avid outdoorsman, who lived life to the fullest and enjoyed the spectacular beauty and uniqueness of our northern landscape. He enjoyed backcountry skiing, telemarking, biking and kayaking. He was also a geologist who loved exploring the wilderness and interpreting the mineral wealth out there.

While not a member of the VTA, he shared many of the values and interests of our Association.

The VTA would like to acknowledge and thank the families and friends of Norm and John for the many generous donations that were made in their memories to the Association. These monies will be used to further the common objectives shared by these two men and all of us who enjoy and participate in the great outdoors.

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 soon.) 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 for more info. Call (705) 949-4105.

A DAY IN MISSISSAGI PROVINCIAL PARK *by Kas Stone*

The day began like all my other days that week at Mississagi Provincial Park - being awakened shortly before 7:00 by the clatter of rain against my tent. With several damp days behind me, and only one (apparently equally damp) day left in the park before I was due to move on, I decided the best plan was to ignore the weather. So, while the few other campers in Mississagi's Semiwite Lake campground lingered over their bacon and eggs, I bolted down a bowl of soggy granola, packed provisions for the day, and set out with my yellow waterproof bag and my yellow Labrador retriever, Skye, for the day's adventure.

I launched my canoe into Flack Lake shortly afterwards. Across the lake, rising more than 700 feet from the mist on the far shore, was our destination - the rocky hump known as 'Old Baldy'.

Old Baldy, an outcrop of ancient quartzite jutting from the surrounding boreal forest, is an impressive example of the Canadian Shield landscape that sprawls across Northern Ontario. Mississagi Provincial Park is perched on the southern edge of this Shield. It is large, wild, and still delightfully undiscovered and unspoiled except for some lingering remnants of its logging past. It encompasses many rolling hills and craggy cliffs, numerous lakes and long sections of the Boland and Little White Rivers, and an expansive stretch of bog known as the Stag Lake Peatland. And Old Baldy, of course, on the western shore of Flack Lake. Which is where Skye and I were heading.

Flack Lake was completely deserted, with not a boater or a camper to be seen anywhere. It was, after all, mid-week in mid-September, a time when most holidays were over and most people had returned to work or school. So, apart from the inevitable pair of loons, we had the lake all to ourselves.

It was dead calm, and sultry. And from the west came the ominous grumble of distant thunder. They had been dogging me for several days, these grumbling thunderclouds. The weather all week had been grey and inclined to drizzle, but so far I'd been lucky with the thunderclouds, which had always managed to hold off until evening brought me back to the protection of my campsite. So I continued paddling, sticking close to shore 'just in case', aiming for the abandoned cabin at the end of the lake which was the starting point of the Old Baldy hiking trail.



We were almost there when the storm overtook us - a wall of ground-level cloud with earth-shaking claps of thunder and pelting rain. I dove for cover. Easier said



than done! The shoreline was little more than a jumble of jagged rocks rising up out of the water to meet a tangle of vegetation. I scratched quite a lot of paint off the bottom of my canoe as I dragged it ashore. Then I scratched a bit more off when I inverted it and wedged it into the branches overhead! For a full forty-five minutes we huddled beneath the boat, drinking tea from a thermos and sharing a bag of trail-mix, before the storm abated and enabled us to finish our paddle in safety.

At the abandoned cabin (once used by the people who manned the nearby, and now also abandoned, Wilkie Firetower), I hung my wet outer-clothes over its broken window-frames and spread various other soggy items around its comparatively dry interior. Shouldering my day-pack, I set out, initially along the track that leads inland towards the firetower, then sharply left to follow the trail upwards towards tiny Old Baldy Lake and its namesake beyond.

Part way up, I noticed several enormous, berry-filled mounds of rather fresh-looking scat. Undoubtedly they'd been left by several enormous, berry-filled black bears, which were almost certainly lurking behind the next rock. Knowing I was the only human for miles around, and knowing that the bear-bell on Skye's collar was completely inadequate for its intended purpose, I felt a little nervous. It didn't help that I kept getting lost along the trail, which was ill-marked, rock-strewn and overgrown. In the absence of any noisy kitchen utensils, there seemed to be no alternative but to sing, very loudly, a curious mixture of tunes from my distant past - old Beatles songs and church anthems. (I dare say it is the first time that Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da and Here Comes the Sun have been paired in a recital with O For the Wings of a Dove! And no doubt naturalists will be wondering next year what happened to the park's bear population.

(Continued on page 3)



A DAY IN MISSISSAUGI PROVINCIAL PARK *(Continued from page 2)*

I have the answer, which I shall call The McCartney-Mendelsohn Effect when I write a treatise about it someday! Anyway, with the bruins at bay, we proceeded upward.

As if in response to my songs, the swirling thunderclouds dissipated in the gathering wind, and the sun emerged as we did, onto the summit of Old Baldy.

What a view! It was much more than the 360 degrees that people always talk about, because I kept turning around and around to admire it - shimmering lakes and ribbons of river winding their way through the hills, and the whole scene crowned with sparkling blue sky, billowing clouds and glittering quartzite cliffs. There were only a few specks of human habitation to interrupt the scene - a bit of roadway clambering up Boland Hill to the north, the abandoned Wilkie Firetower poking through the forest to the west, and on the northern shore of Flack Lake where it tumbles down the river into Mikel Lake, a cluster of buildings at the Laurentian Lodge.

We parked ourselves at the top of a brilliant white rock and tucked into our lunch. It had been a long time since breakfast! The furnace stoked, we were ready for the rest of the day. After making our way down the path back to the cabin, I had a quick swim in the lake and retrieved my now-dry gear. Then we clambered into the canoe for a lengthy paddle, mostly (as usual!) into the wind, first northward to the rough portage into Mikel Lake, then westward to the disappointing trickle that, on the map, called itself Wilkie Falls. From there the homeward journey was more of a sail than a paddle, with a fierce westerly blow and a half-metre swell propelling us back to the Flack Lake launch - all I had to do was steer.

I returned to camp feeling windblown, sunburned, exhausted - and entirely satisfied. Surely there can be no greater pleasure than a day spent hiking and paddling in

beautiful northern country like that at Mississagi!

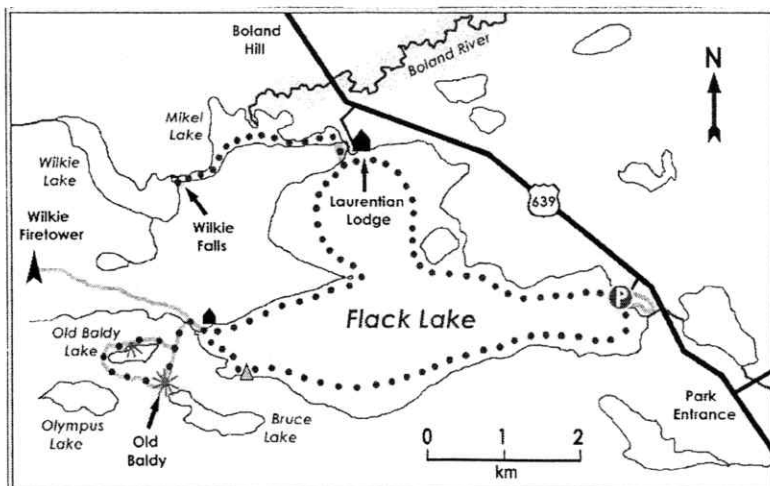
Practical Information:

How to get there: via Hwy 17 from the east (160kms from Sudbury) or west (190kms from Sault Ste. Marie), then north via Hwy 108 and 639 to the park entrance 25kms beyond Elliot Lake.

Mississagi Park: a 4,900-hectare Natural Environment Park, with more than 75kms of hiking trails, access to many kilometers of lakes and rivers for paddling, and camping at the 90-site Semiwrite Lake campground or one of the park's many backcountry sites. For more information call Mississagi at (705) 848-2806 (June to September) or (705) 865-2021 (October to May), or write P.O. Box 37, Massey, Ontario, P0P 1P0, or check the Ontario Parks website at www.ontarioparks.com.

Flack Lake and Old Baldy: via the Flack Lake access point (which has ample parking, toilets and a boat launch, and requires a day-use park permit, available at the park entrance), then a 6km paddle (each way) and a 5km hike (with a vertical climb of 215m).

Maps and Guides: an indispensable, detailed, waterproof, topographic colour map at a 1:50,000 scale, entitled Mississagi Provincial Park & Area, showing campsites, hiking trails, canoe access points and portages (and giving detailed natural and human history, together with hiking, paddling and other practical information on the other side!) is published by Chrismar Mapping Services as part of their Adventure Map series. For more information see www.chrismar.com. The map is available for sale at the park office, and from many outdoor supply stores across the province. An excellent hiking trails pamphlet is also available from the park office. As Old Baldy is technically outside the park boundary, it is not included in this guide, but many other admirable hikes, from the 0.8km Flack Lake Nature Trail to the 22km McKenzie Interior Trail, are included.



When does your
VTA membership expire?
Check the date printed on your
VT NEWS envelope label!

VTA Membership Secretary
705-949-4105



SAULTEAUX NEWS by Gayle Phillips

This year, 2004, marks the 30th year of the existence of the Saulteaux Club and to celebrate this accomplishment, we decided to pay homage to some very important members whose contributions to the Saulteaux Voyageur Trail Club and, the Voyageur Trail Association were and are above and beyond the call of duty. These two little speeches were read before two winter outings honouring Dr. Paul Syme on January 1st as we snowshoed from Maki Road to Goulais Avenue, and Dieter Ropke on February 29th as we snowshoed in the Gordon Lake area in the Desbarats section--Dieter's adopted home. We have more to honour in upcoming newsletters, but for now, please help us to celebrate these two gentlemen...

DR. PAUL SYME



On March 26, 1973, the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation for the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Harold A. Brain, convened a meeting at the Community Services Board Offices, then located in the Sault Memorial Gardens, of "persons interested in establishing a hiking trail along the precipice of the Cambrian Shield" from Gros Cap on Lake Superior to Hiawatha Park, just north of Sault Ste. Marie. One of those in attendance, Dr. Paul D. Syme, a Sault Ste. Marie research scientist and member of the Bruce Trail Association, immediately saw the possibility of extending this concept eastward to Espanola, then south across Manitoulin Island to link up with southern Ontario's Bruce Trail. The other seven persons at the meeting needed little convincing, and an association was born. Over the next several months, the group held informal meetings, recruited new members for the project and busied themselves learning the ABCs of trail building. Over the summer, Paul Syme, the acknowledged leader of the group, visited with officials of the Bruce Trail Association, soliciting advice and guidance. Finally, in the fall, the group met again at the Community Services Board Offices and shared their findings. It was at this meeting, on October 24, 1973, that the name "Voyageur Trail Association" was chosen, and that the decision was taken to follow the Bruce Trail model of dividing the trail (at this point the proposed trail eastward was to be known as the North Channel Trail, and the proposed trail to the north, the Superior Trail) into sections and assigning responsibility for trail building, maintenance, public hikes, etc. to local Voyageur Trail (VT) Clubs. Donald T. Myren was recruited to form a committee to draft a Constitution for the fledgling association. By the next meeting, held on November 15, 1973 in the library of the Great Lakes Forest Research Centre, Don Myren and Dieter Ropke had a draft Constitution to present and, on the basis of this, an interim Execu-



tive was installed (President, Paul Syme; Vice-President, Ralph Yanni; Treasurer, Ralph Wood). Ian Morrison acted as secretary at this meeting and was elected Secretary shortly thereafter.

The first of the Clubs formed under the new Constitution was the Sault Ste. Marie (the name was changed in 1975 to the Saulteaux) VT Club, which was organized in January 1974 (President, Bill Foster; Vice-President, Fr. Arnold Megan; Secretary, Rev. Andreas Kaellgren; Treasurer, Ken Griffiths).

Eager to get going on their own section, the Saulteaux VT Club members spent the summer of 1974 flagging trail and securing landowner permission along the route of what is now the Saulteaux Section. On November 23, 1974, the first construction actually took place. On that date, Ralph Wood, a trail enthusiast and VTA member who lived in southern Ontario and commuted to Sault Ste. Marie to participate in Association activities, led a party of nine hearty souls on a combination training-trail building session on the stretch from Maki Road to Goulais Avenue, the first trail constructed under the auspices of the VTA. Construction of the Saulteaux Section resumed in the spring of 1975, spearheaded by members such as Eve Kersey, Fr. Megan and Barb Triplett, and the Section was complete by late summer. The Saulteaux Section was officially opened on September 21, 1975 at a ceremony at Gros Cap, before a crowd of 150 persons.

The first President of the Association, Paul D. Syme, was wont to remark on the satisfaction that comes from being part of an idea that is greater than one's self. The Voyageur Trail is just such a idea. Members past and present have developed and maintained a major hiking trail through some of the most rugged, yet scenic, topography in eastern Canada—a remarkable accomplishment for an organization, the membership of which has probably never exceeded 250.

At the last VTA Executive meeting, I asked Dr. Paul Syme (now retired) which part of the Saulteaux Section was his favourite. He told me that the section from Camp Korah (Goulais Avenue) to Maki Road was his favourite (and now we all know why).

DIETER ROPKE



Today's snowshoe in God's country is dedicated to long-time VTA executive member, Dieter Ropke.

Dieter attended the very first meeting of the VTA in Harold Brain's office in 1972 and has been involved in the Association ever since.

(Continued on page 7)



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.

Participants in all paddling outings must be part of a properly equipped, self-contained canoe/kayak party.

June work parties marked with 3 asterisk (***) are dependent upon receiving permission to build another section of City Trail. Please call the leader to find out if this outing is on.

Sat., Apr. 17 - Saulteaux Club dinner at Buttermilk Hill restaurant. Tickets \$25/person. Call 949-4105 / 942-9466.

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!)

***Sat., May 8** - Hike in the Turkey Lakes area with the Koteles (949-1302). Penningtons @ 9:30AM.

Sun., May 9 - Annual Mother's Day hike with Horst (254-8504). Market Mall 10AM. Behaved pets welcome, but please leash at lunch time.

***Sat., May 15** - Hike the Pancake Bay Nature trail with Ila (949-1097). Penningtons 9:30AM. Behaved pets welcome, but bring a leash for the park.

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

Mon., May 17 - Saulteaux Club meeting at GLFC, 7PM. Gayle (942-1891)

Sat., May 22 - Paddle the Crystal Creek from Trout Lake to Thayer's Acres with Don (946-9599). Penningtons 9:30AM.

Sun., May 23 - Work party with Susan (949-4105). Market Mall @ 9AM. Behaved pets welcome. This outing is dedicated to long-time member Ernie Pringle.

Sat., May 29 - Maki Road to Crimson Ridge Loop Trail with Doris (942-9466). Market Mall @ 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

Thurs., June 3 - Walk on St. Mary's Island for Seniors Month (easy). Meet in the west end of the Zellers parking lot (Station Mall) @ 7PM. Behaved, leashed pets welcome. Landmarks 779-3409.

*****Tues., June 1** - Evening work party on city trail. Gayle 942-1891.

*****Mon., June 7** - Evening work party on city trail. Gayle 942-1891.

***Sat., June 12** - Lake Superior Provincial Park hike with Doris (946-9466). Penningtons @ 9:00AM. Behaved, leashed pets welcome.

*****Wed., June 16** - Evening work party on city trail. Gayle 942-1891.

***Tues., June 22** - evening paddle on Island Lake with Susan (949-4105). Penningtons @ 6PM. Please leave your pets at home.

*****Thurs., June 24** - Evening work party on city trail. Gayle 942-1891.

*****Tues., June 29** - Evening work party on city trail. Gayle 942-1891.

***Sun., July 4** - Paddle at Rock Lake with Gayle (942-1891). Meet at 9:30AM in the Churchill Plaza near Roger's Videos.

Sat., July 10 - Hike (easy) with Gayle in the Gros Cap area (942-1891). Meet 10AM in the Market Mall. Pets ok.

***Sat., July 17** - Paddle the Goulais River with the Landmarks (779-3409). Call for meeting place and time.

***Sun., July 18** - Hike the Orphan Lake trail (in LSPP) with Gale Koteles (949-1302). Penningtons @ 9AM.

Mon., July 19 - Saulteaux Club meeting at 7PM at GLFC. Gayle 942-1891. Plan fall/winter outings.

***Sun., July 25** - Work party with Gayle (942-1891). Meet at 9:30AM in the Churchill Plaza near Roger's Videos. Pets ok.

***Sat., July 31** - Hike (easy) with Gayle in the Tower Lake area (942-1891). Meet at 9:30AM in the Churchill Plaza near Roger's Videos. Pets ok.

***Sun., Aug. 8** - Hike with Gayle in the Haviland Bay area (942-1891). Penningtons at 9:30AM. Pets ok.

***Sat., Aug. 14** - Paddle with Dieter & Erika (942-9636) on the Thessalon River with a potluck afterwards. Please leave your pets at home. Wellington Square Mall @ 9:30AM.

(Continued on page 6)



OUTING SCHEDULES

Saulteaux Club (Continued from page 5)

*Sun., Aug. 22 - Hike King Mtn. with Ila (949-1097). Penningtons @ 9AM. Behaved pets welcome.

*Sun., Aug. 29 - St. Joe Island bicycle with the Landmarks (779-3409). Call for meeting place and time.

Mon., Sept. 6 - Labour Day holiday hike (easy) at Red Rock with Gayle (942-1891). Market Mall @ 10AM. Behaved pets welcome. *This outing is dedicated to long-time member, Tom Allinson.*

Sun., Sept. 12 - Hike in the west end of town with Jack (942-1761). Market Mall @ 10AM. Pets ok.

***Sat., Sept. 18** - Hike Pancake Bay lookout trail with Ila (949-1097). Penningtons @ 10AM. Pets ok but bring a leash.

Mon., Sept. 20 - Saulteaux Club meeting at 7PM at GLFC. Gayle 942-1891.



Coueurs de Bois Outdoors Club (Elliot Lake)

For fun, fitness and friendship. Meet at Sears parking lot unless otherwise noted. No motorized watercraft on canoe/kayak outings. ALWAYS CALL THE LEADER FOR DETAILS OF THE OUTING AS THERE MAY BE CHANGES. Please consider the level of activity you are undertaking. Make sure your fitness level corresponds to the hike level you intend to take part in. Again, talk to the leader he/she knows best what the conditions will be: telephone numbers are provided on the schedule. Be prepared to sign an Assumption of Risk Agreement. Easy (2-3 hrs); Intermediate (3-4 hrs); Advanced (4-6 hours) in length.

APRIL:

- 6 Tues-10:00 Hike-phone for details (Easy)
Thomas 848-7607
- 8 Thurs-10:00 Hike (Interm) Fred 848-2956
- 10 Sat-10:00 Hike-phone for details (Easy) John 461-1026
- 13 Tues-10:00 Hike (Easy) Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 15 Thurs-10:00 Hike (Interm) Fred 848-2956
- 17 Sat-10:00 Phone for details (Easy) Liz & Phil 848-8767
- 20 Tues-10:00 Hike-phone for details (Easy)
Thomas 848-7607
- 22 Thurs-10:00 Hike (Interm) Fred 848-2956
- 24 Sat-Phone for time & place (Interm) Thomas 848-7607

MAY

- 6 Thurs. 10:00 Hike (Interm) Robert 848-4030
- 8 Sat. Canoe/Hike Alan 848-8776
- 10 Mon. Cycling Al 848-4372
- 12 Wed. VTA Trail Exploration
Thomas 461-9668



- 13 Thurs. 10:00 Hike (Interm) Robert 848-4030
- 15 Sat. 10:00 Hike (Interm) Trail Clearing/Cobre
Thomas 461-9668
- 19 Wed. Canoe Bill 848-7445
- 20 Thurs. 10:00 Hike (Interm) Robert 848-4030
- 22-24 Sat.-Mon. Canoe/Portage/Camp Alan 848-8776
- 26 Wed. Canoe Bill 848-7445
- 27 Thurs. 10:00 Hike (Interm) Robert 848-4030

JUNE

- 3 Thurs. 10:00 Hike (Interm) Robert 848-4030
- 8 Tues. VTA Trail Exploration Thomas 461-9668
- 10 Thurs. 10:00 Hike (Interm) Robert 848-4030
- 11-12 Fri. & Sat. Cheer on our Relay for Life team
fundraising for Cancer Joanne 848-4421
- 17 Thurs. 10:00 Hike Robert 848-4030
- 18-20 Fri.-Sun. Canoe/Portage/Camp Alan 848-8776
- 22 Tue. VTA Trail Exploration Thomas 461-9668
- 24 Thurs. 10:00 Hike (Interm) Robert 848-4030
- 26 Sat. 4:00-7:00 Annual Potluck, Westview Park
Peter or June 848-4806
- 27-30 Sun-Wed. Canoe Lessons Bill 848-7445

JULY

- 1 Thurs. 11:00 Canada Day Hike Bill 848-7445
- 3 Sat. 12:30 Canada Day Parade/meet at Civic Centre
Bill 848-7445
- 6 Tues. 10:00 Hike (Easy) Liz & Phil 848-8767
- 7 Wed. Canoe Bill 848-7445
- 10 Sat. Maxine & Fred's Cottage Fred 848-2956
- 11-17 Sun.-Sat. Canoe/Portage/Camp Bob 461-9062
- 13 Tues. 10:00 Hike (Easy) Liz & Phil 848-8767
- 17 Sat. 8:00 Kayaking Sabine 461-6110
- 17 Sat. 10:00 Hike (Easy) Liz & Phil 848-8767
- 20 Tues. 10:00 Hike (Easy) Liz & Phil 848-8767
- 21 Wed. Canoe Bill 848-7445
- 23 Fri. Canoe/Hike Old Baldy Thomas 461-9668
- 24 Sat. Fun Day Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 25-31 Sun-Sat. Canoe/Portage/Camp Alan 848-8776
- 27 Tues. 10:00 Hike (Easy) Liz & Phil 848-8767
- 31 Sat. 10:00 Hike (Easy) Liz & Phil 848-8767

AUGUST

- 3 Tues. 10:00 Hike (Easy) John 461-1026
- 4 Wed. Canoe Bill 848-7445
- 7 Sat. 10:00 Hike (Easy) Liz & Phil 848-8767
- 10 Tue. 10:00 Hike (Easy) John 461-1026
- 17 Tue. 10:00 Hike (Easy) John 461-1026
- 18 Wed. Canoe Bill 848-7445
- 20-22 Fri.-Sun. Fun Weekend-Mississauga Park
Alan 848-8776
- 28-29 Fri.Sat. Camp/Canoe Massey to Spanish
Thomas 461-9668
- 28 Sat. 10:00 Hike (Easy) Liz & Phil 848-8767



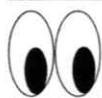
HELP WANTED (Desbarats): Person(s) to help with trail maintenance on the Desbarats Voyageur Trail. Call Dieter 942-9636.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by **Mike Landmark**

The Voyageur Trail Association has another busy year ahead of itself. There are many ongoing projects in the works, many of which will hopefully see completion by the end of the season when my term ends. One such project involves creating a list of businesses willing to offer discounts to our members. If anyone knows of such a business or organization, please forward the information to me. Once a list has been compiled, it will be distributed on our website and in the newsletter. Trail signage is another project, which we hope to have completed soon. The Great Lakes Heritage Coast signs have been distributed to the various clubs and are slated to be installed in the spring in most areas, along with the TCT Bronfman and Hike Ontario signs. The VTA sign, which was removed from the Gros Cap area in Sault Ste. Marie, has been re-designed and is ready for installation at the Crimson Ridge Golf Course. Unfortunately, the marble panels on the TCT pavilion in Elliot Lake were damaged over the winter and will hopefully be repaired soon. Another ongoing project is the establishment of a TCT pavilion in Sault Ste. Marie and, hopefully, one in Thunder Bay as well. This will give us three pavilions in Northern Ontario, which will be a great accomplishment for the VTA. The Coureurs de Bois club in Elliot Lake has applied to the HRDC to hire four students to develop VTA trail in the Elliot Lake area. Many thanks go to Tomas Benian, Alan Day and the Coureurs de Bois club for their commitment and hard work towards this goal. I have been working with the Trans Canada Trail Ontario Foundation to establish a business plan for Northern Ontario. This has been a slow process, due to the challenges posed by our rather unique and remote terrain and small, widely-distributed volunteer base, but we are making some progress. Hike Ontario is presently experiencing financial difficulties and is thinking of scaling back on some of the services that have been offered in the past. However, insurance is still one service that they will continue to provide for member clubs. Unfortunately, insurance premiums have increased drastically for this year, and the VTA will have to contemplate ways to obtain further funding to keep our insurance policy active. The re-opening of the Hiawatha Loop trail in Sault Ste. Marie is still ongoing. The VTA is working with the Sault Ste. Marie Conservation Authority to obtain permission to reestablish the trail. The training CD's, which are part of the Ministry of Tourism grant received by the VTA, should be completed shortly. Many thanks go to Alan Day and Gayle Phillips for their assistance in creating these CD's. As well, the first aid kits, which are also part of this grant, have been received and forwarded to all VTA clubs. Hopefully, we will never have to use them,

but at least if we do, we will be prepared. The VTA has been notified that repairs to the Shaw Dam in the Thessalon area will necessitate a re-route of our trail in that section. As information becomes available, I will forward it to the members. As you can see, the VTA has an ambitious schedule for the next year, but I'm confident that, with the continued commitment and dedication of our members, the Association will rise to the challenge.



Looking to hide your millions?

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

SAULTEAUX CLUB NEWS

(Cont'd. from page 4)

His enthusiasm has never faltered. Currently, he is serving as Treasurer extraordinaire!

But his fame comes not only from his involvement with the VTA over these many years, but from his enviable lifestyle. With his best friend, Erika at his side, the two are MY ideal of a retired couple! They travel, ski, snow-shoe, hike, and paddle in various locations around the globe every year. Between these holidays with Erika, Dieter finds the time to spend at their cottage with family and friends.

Dieter is a very talented photographer and sells his work along-side his wife's remarkable pottery. In addition, he does workworking, and has dabbled in computers and has taught himself to use the Internet. A long way from when I first met him, when he didn't want an answering machine because he didn't want to become a slave to machines! Now he has an answering machine, Internet hook-up, satellite dish and fax machine! (I predict a cell phone next!) You've come a long way!

Somehow he finds the time to maintain his involvement with the VTA and the local Naturalists club. In my opinion, I think he should do one more thing to improve the lives of the rest of us—write a book on how he finds enough time to do it all!

Today, I want to lead us all in letting Dieter know that his efforts on behalf of the VTA have not gone unnoticed over the years. Most of us here today were not involved with the trail 30 years ago but we are here to let Dieter know that we appreciate him and all of his efforts over the years. Because of the efforts of Dieter Ropke and a few others, the Association is still going strong after 30 years (and many organizations can't say that). Thanks Dieter!



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS *Since January 2003*

At-Large

Graham Carter
Larry Cornelis
Lori Coulter
Nathalie Falardeau
Hart Giesenhaus
Sarah Lawson
Arvo Niit
Margaret Niit
Paavo Viuhko

Bruce Mines

Adriana Holmberg
Erika Holmberg
Kevin Holmberg

Casque Isles

Joshua Tannahill
Marshall Tannahill

Coueurs de Bois

Chul-ui (Julie) Bailey
Steve Bailey
Robert Bingham
Dorothy Daly
Jean Debling
Kimberley Edmonds-Bayliss
William Edmonds-Bayliss
Ingrid Farquhar
Jacqueline Fletcher
Jim Fletcher
Judy Fletcher
William Foers
Marilyn Fraser
Ranny Fraser
Heather Fulford
Ted Fulford

Coueurs de Bois (cont'd.)

Jim Graham
Leslie Hardy
Jacqueline Horton
Hilkka Jaakola
Patricia Johnston
Paul Johnston
George Kelly
Ben Kunkel
Guy Laplante
Jean-Guy Letarte
Ness Martin
Ian McCombe
John Milligan
Annette Nichols
Dan Nichols
Reta Palmer
John Pomerleau
Sirje Pomerleau
Elizabeth Ritchie
Susan Smart
David Spanton
Cheryl Timlin
Ann Van Buskirk
John VanKooten
Judy VanKooten
Marretta Warianko
Robert Williamson

Desbarats

Jean Hershey

Michipicoten

Ron Hale
Shirley Hale

Saulteaux

Brian Anstess
Gavan Barrett
Norma Bernardi
Maureen Burtch
Ingrid Carlson
Ronald Chartrand
Kerry Coventry
Mary Coventry
Robin Dose
Rhonda Dunn
Martin Hall
Susan Hall
Cameron Halsall
Kara Koteles
John Larrivee
Mary-Anne Lash
Rob Luik
Wendy MacDonald
Marie McCulligh
Alvin Olar
Carey Olar
Dianne Payne
Franc Pridoehl
Vicki Reiter
Bryan Robertson
Marcella Ruscio
Donna St. Jules
Chris Uhlig
Leslie Uhlig
Nick Uhlig
Peter Uhlig
Anja Valja
Paavo Valja
Bev Wierzbicki
Barbara Wojtaszek
Phil Zagorc
Walter Zurby



TRANS CANADA TRAIL ONTARIO (TCTO) APPROVES MULTI-ROUTE TRAIL CONCEPT FOR NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO

TCTO is the provincial Board of Directors responsible for developing Trans Canada Trail shared-use recreational trails in Ontario. At the TCTO Board meeting, February 20th, 2004 in North Bay, Ontario, the Directors passed two (2) motions to accept and pursue partnership development (funding and support) for the unique Multi-Route Trail corridor proposal for Northwestern Ontario (Manitoba border to Thunder Bay) with regional, Provincial and Federal government agencies.



Armed with letters of initiative support from local trail groups, economic development agencies (CFDC's), regional First Nations and municipalities, Vicki Kurz, TCTO Regional Coordinator presented the

concept to the TCTO Board.

The proposal which includes establishing a regional waterway council, identifying and mapping the route, planning, product development and marketing of a designated Trans Canada Trail paddling route from Shoal Lake to Lake Superior. The proposed water route would connect to existing and locally developed Trans Canada Trail shared-use trails, area Provincial Parks and river systems. This concept includes, but is not restricted to, the communities of Kenora (Lake-of-the-Woods, Rushing River, Dog Tooth-Eagle), Machin (Blue Lake),



(Continued on page 9)

TCTO APPROVES (Cont'd. from page 8)

Dryden (Aaron), Ignace (Sandbar, White Otter, Turtle River), Atikokan (Quetico, Lac Des Mille Lacs, Dog Lake), Oliver-Paipoogne (Kakabeka Falls) and Thunder Bay (Sleeping Giant).

European exploration and the fur trade followed centuries of aboriginal settlement by Ojibway and Cree people across Northwestern Ontario. Canoeing is an endorsed Trans Canada Trail activity and is the only practical and feasible means to continuously link a trail system across Northwestern Ontario. The region is currently branded as a special place to go to get a wilderness experience and the canoe (small craft) route would enhance adventure, cultural, historical, educational and aboriginal tourism opportunities for tourist camp operators, communities and First Nations including, but not restricted to, Shoal Lake, Eagle Lake, Wabigoon Lake, Lac Des Mille Lacs and Seine River.

The cultural history of the region is rich and diverse and an attribute in any marketing endeavour. "The initiative is just in its infancy and numerous partnership opportunities for various levels of governments, economic development agencies, communities and First Nations alike are possible. The Trans Canada Trail water route combined with other area attractions, such as Quetico Park, could indeed enhance regional adventure tourism and lead to a marketable destination product" stated Dan Andrews, TCTO Manager.



PRIVACY ISSUES (January 2004)

Two members of the Coordinating Council (Susan Graham and Dieter Ropke) attended a presentation by Suzanne Salituri of Paper Chase Consulting, on January 16, 2004. This presentation was sponsored by the Communities Quality Initiative of Sault Ste. Marie and its title was: *The New Privacy Act, How it effects your Bottom Line*. While much of the talk focused on the application of the Act to private enterprise, there were implications for the VTA as well. Since all the information the VTA keeps on its members is supplied voluntarily by our members, privacy is implied. We use such information only for the day to day running of club activities and we NEVER share any of our data with other organizations. Our mailing list is **exclusively for VTA purposes**.

We found it noteworthy that the speaker emphasized that, when asked for personal information, you should question for what purpose the information is required and without an adequate explanation you can withhold such information.

Unfortunately Government agencies are subject to different rules as we found out recently when the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency asked for dates of birth, full names and addresses of our Council members (Directors of the VTA). We were told in no uncertain terms that noncompliance means withdrawal of our 'Charitable Donations' status.



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; Sojourn, Barrie; Mountain Equipment Co-op, Toronto & Ottawa; TrailHead, Ottawa.

----- ✂ ----- (clip and mail) ----- ✂ -----

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

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(Continued on back ➡) 9



Voyageur Trail News - Spring 2004

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VICE-PRESIDENT - CENTRAL:

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VICE-PRESIDENT - EAST:

vacant (Please contact us for info on this position)

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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, 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

☐ Sheguandah

☐ 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.

