



No. 88 SUMMER 2004

Published by the
VOYAGEUR TRAIL
ASSOCIATION

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The Voyageur Trail Association is a non-profit, volunteer group dedicated to building and maintaining a public hiking trail along the northern shores of Lakes Superior and Huron, from Thunder Bay to South Baymouth on Manitoulin Island.

*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

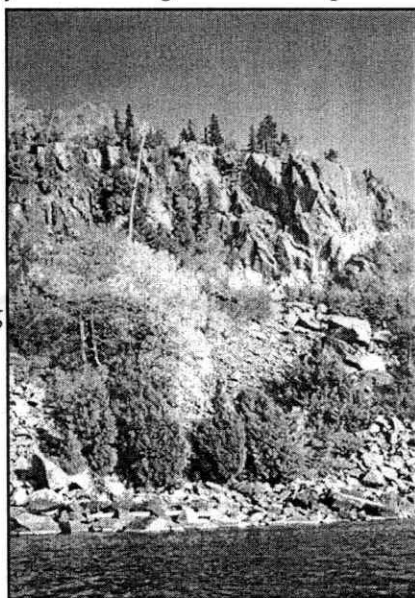
MIKE'S TOP THREE *by Mike Landmark*

I was asked awhile ago what my favourite areas to hike were. This was a difficult question to answer because the list is long and I have many great memories of hiking over the years. To make it easier, I have limited my choices to those sections of the Voyageur hiking trail that are within easy driving distance of my home in Gros Cap.

Closest to home, my favourite hiking trail is undeniably the Gros Cap Loop Trail. Built in 1974, this is the oldest section of the Voyageur trail system. A new addition to turn it into a loop was added in the year 2000. A few years ago, the landowner conducted selective logging on a section of this trail and, as a result, the sightings of wildlife, including birds, deer, moose and bear, have increased significantly as the new growth develops.

The changing faces of Lake Superior and Whitefish Bay are always fascinating to watch and allow a hiker to witness different facets of this natural wonder,

from storm-tossed waves to calm waters to a blank gray wall when the fog rolls in. As adopters of this section, Cheryl, Misty and I have hiked it for many seasons and know it the best. With the addition of a sign-in box partway along the trail, it seems many others are also enjoying this loop, judging by the signatures.



My next favourite hike would have to be the King Mountain/Robertson Cliffs section.

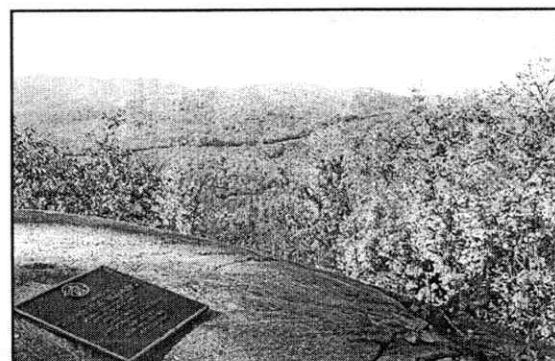


photo above: King Mountain with its dedication plaque to the memory of Steve Taylor, and below: Robertson Cliffs



The vistas from the lookouts are absolutely stunning and the steep parts give one a great physical workout, whether on foot or snowshoes. From the budding green trees in the spring to the spectacular colours in the fall, or the sight of a hawk soaring against the massive cliff faces, there is always something to thrill the photographer or the hiker who is simply content to stare in wonder.

My third choice would be the Shaw Dam section in the Thessalon area. The old trees, new plantations and the dam itself are definitely worth the hike. The dedication and the hardships the builders of the dam must



(Continued on page 2)

MIKE'S TOP THREE *(Cont'd page 1)*

have endured never cease to amaze me when I see this impressive structure. And, one of the other highlights of hiking this section in the summer is a stop at the Little Rapids General Store for ice cream (even Misty gets a baby cone!). Unfortunately, the Ministry of Natural Resources has deemed the Shaw Dam to be structurally unsound and has removed a section of it. Hikers are no longer allowed to cross over the top of the dam. Work is in progress to reroute this segment (see the article on Shaw Dam below).

So, there you have it, a very small sample of the many wonderful hiking trails that make up the Voyageur Trail system. Perhaps at a later date, I will write another article about sections further away from home and hiking opportunities that I experienced while participating in the Trans Canada Relay 2000.



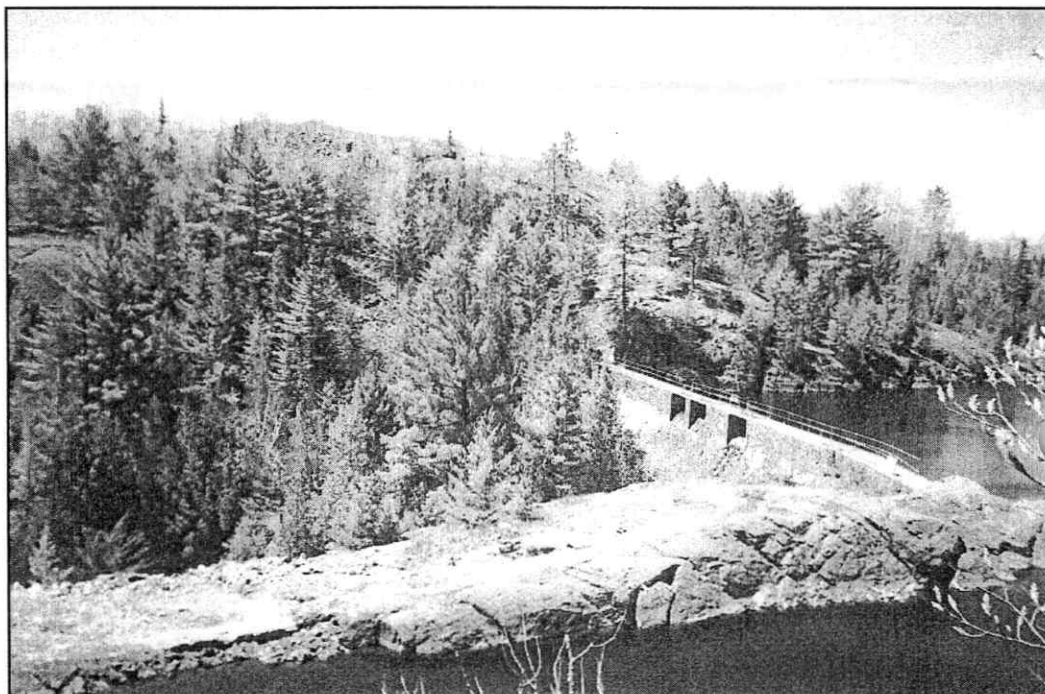
SHAW DAM *by Mike Landmark*

The Shaw Dam is located in the Thessalon section of the VTA trail system, just north of A4 and approximately 23 kilometres along the trail. This dam is the most northerly of the three water control dams on the Bridgeland/Little Thessalon River system that once supplied water to the Little Rapids generating station.

In 1931, the provincial government granted relief funding for construction of the dam. The authorities established a minimum wage of 35 cents per hour for a 10-hour day.

Construction started in January, 1931 and was completed in May, 1931, right on schedule. The names of those eighteen hardy men who mixed the mortar and laid the stones throughout the bone-chilling days of that winter are engraved in the cement on the top of the dam, but have gradually been worn away by wind and weather throughout the years.

The Shaw Dam is quite a unique structure. The granite masonry was blasted from a nearby cliff and slopes from the river bottom upward for 40 feet to the concrete deck at



the top, linking the rough granite bluffs on either side. Below the dam, the river drops away in a series of small falls and rapids to gentler waters below.

A few years ago, the Ministry of Natural Resources engineers inspected all dams in Ontario and declared that the Shaw Dam was not up to standard. In the spring of 2004, they removed approximately two metres of wing dam on the east side to reduce hydraulic pressure on the structure. At the same time, the MNR revoked permission for anyone to cross over the top of the dam. As a consequence, the Voyageur Trail in that area is currently in the process of being rerouted to cross the river south of the dam. However, it is still well worth your while to take a side trip to view this impressive structure and reflect on the hard work and endurance of the men who built it so many years ago.



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



VTA Membership Secretary
705-949-4105

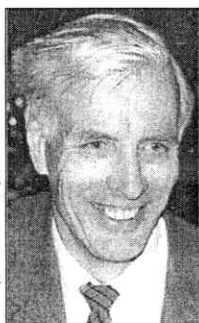
**If you go, consult access point A4 in the
Thessalon Section of the Voyageur Trail
Guidebook...pages 116 - 121 in version 3.2
(current) edition.**

SAULTEAUX CLUB HONOURS

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 outings honouring Patrick Capper on April 25th, and the late Ernie Pringle on May 23rd. We have more to honour in the winter newsletter, but for now, please help us to celebrate these two gentlemen...

PATRICK CAPPER by **Gayle Phillips**

Patrick Capper (a.k.a. Patrick Scissorhands) joined the VTA in early 1980 and in those many years, has served us as Trail Master and representative to Hike Ontario (which he is currently), but also as President in 1984, and Membership Secretary from 1986-1997, in the pre-computer days when files were kept on paper. We had this ancient machine (I'm not sure if it could be classified as an early computer) that you had to coax, fight with, and make promises to, three times a year to get newsletter labels out of it. But Patrick always had whatever it took to get this thing working. He was the only one! I remember even after we computerized our membership list, he was loathe to throw the thing out and tried to find other uses for it!



As our rep to Hike Ontario, he was constantly travelling to Southern Ontario for meetings several times per year and, in many cases, donating his expenses to the cause.

As trail master, pre web site, he kept books on the conditions of the trail sections. Patrick spent many an evening cutting blazes in his basement, stocking and re-stocking the VTA box of tools which is housed at his home, purchasing and marking new tools and, of course, attending many, many executive meetings over the years.

In his "spare" time, he has an adopted section of trail at the top of Mile Hill, is an avid cyclist on his Penny Farthing, enjoys Scottish Country dancing, walks Muffin his almost 17-year old dog, holds down a full-time job and raised a family.

I had the honour of watching Patrick do Scottish Country dancing once on cross-country skis on an outing he lead to the Pictographs. Some silly person didn't think it could be done!

A firm believer in not wasting even a minute, Patrick always hikes with a pair of clippers in one hand and a folding saw in his backpack, just in case he runs across a fallen tree. I have always admired his aim with those hand clippers and have tried hiking with a pair more than once. I almost never clip a branch the first time passing it, but

Patrick has deadly aim and does more trail maintenance on a hiking outing than most of us do on a work party!

So to wrap up, today's outing is dedicated to Patrick Capper and I think it is fitting that it is a work party, especially our annual "Go to Blazes" outing which kicks-off another year of trail maintenance!

P.S. Also, in another "fitting move", the weather the day this tribute was read was not fit for man or beast, so we cancelled the trail maintenance that day and went to breakfast instead!

ERNIE PRINGLE by **Susan Graham**

Today's work party is dedicated to one of our original VTA members, Ernie Pringle.

Ernie was a quiet, gentle man with a ready smile and a passion for trail building or maintenance. He and his buddy Tom Allinson spent countless hours working on the trail; in fact, the two of them practically built the section now called the Tom Allinson Spur Trail by themselves.



I met Ernie when I joined the VTA in 1987, and I believe he was on every work party I joined in on over the next few years. I always enjoyed a conversation with Ernie - you would end up sharing a laugh no matter what the topic or situation. He was like the tortoise in "The Tortoise and the Hare"--he moved slowly and deliberately, but had the stamina to cut through downed trees with a hand saw without complaint.

His trademark trail outfit consisted of plaid shirts and suspenders, a bit of an east-coast accent in his speech.

Ernie was forced to give up hiking and working on the trail as his health deteriorated in the 90s, but remained a supporter of the VTA until his death in July of 2001.

Many of the Saulteaux club members today did not know Ernie, and I felt it was important to remember him because of the work he did over a 20-year period. There are others out there, too, that have quietly contributed to the building and maintenance of the Voyageur Trail, and I want this dedication to go to them also. Some of our members may be better known, but the efforts of those who devote themselves to trail improvements are noticed by all.

So if you are another Ernie Pringle, we thank you. The footprint you have left on the trail made a bigger impact than you may imagine.



IF YOU CAN GIVE OF YOUR TIME OR TALENT...

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU! Contact Mike 1-877-393-4003 for info on VTA executive positions or other ways to help!



THE REAL SCOOP ABOUT WORK PARTIES *by Gail Andrew*

Clouds gathered in the west looking ominous and threatening, however they quickly moved off and large fluffy ones floated over and the sun made its appearance as we left the meeting place to clear the eastern section of the Tom Allinson Spur Trail.

These semi-annual outings are called "work parties" but not far along the soft leaf and moss covered hardwood forest trail, the conversation starts with catching up on what everyone has been up to since we last met, how each family is doing and the teasing (you're very fashionable today/same old pack?/did you bring your glasses?) and jokes start to be told.

Observations are made on the spring plants and flowers we are seeing and their various names like: adder tongue, dog-toothed violet, trout lily, fiddle heads, marsh marigolds, cowslips, blue violets, white violets, mayflowers, Dutchman's breeches, trillium, honeysuckle, winterberries, bluebead lily sprouts, solomom seal and a carpet of Carolina spring beauties.

As we make our way along replacing blue blazes; clipping small maple saplings, ferns blackberry and raspberry canes (nasty little----!) and clearing away at least 10 deadfalls, we navigate some boggy areas and a couple of babbling brooks to the sucking sounds telling us someone has their boots stuck in the mud and someone is not happy with

muddy pants! Unzipping the lower section of the pants isn't an option as the black flies are making their pesky little selves known, so we trudge on like true wilderness hikers prepared to don our bug jackets and fly dope, but then a breeze comes up and makes things a little more bearable.

We are now seeing various scat and asking, "Can anyone identify this scat?" We look closely and make our best guess--this is serious business! While above and around and below, two little orange salamanders hide under a log, the blue jay makes his presence known with his loud call and the sand hill crane makes a fly past, the ovenbird calls, "teacher, teacher, teacher" insistently, and the American Redstart flies back and forth giving us a wonderful chance to see his black and tangerine colours while the yellow-rumped warbler serenaded us with his sweet song.

We are especially grateful to see some other handsome birds like the "Horst Fly," the "Garry Grunt" and the "Carl Stihl-Bad," and of course, the beautiful "Judy Warbler" and two colour-coordinated "Gale/Gail" birds.

As you can now see, clearing a couple of kilometres of trail is the most satisfying work, with the added reward of looking back to see a handsome well-marked path, feeling "good"-tired and enjoy a cold apple juice, hot chocolate, sweetened coffee or Earl Grey tea at the coffee shop.

See you next time and thanks.



A LOVE STORY

This little note was passed to us at the Saulteaux Club Annual Dinner in April of this year so we could share it with everyone through this newsletter.

Thank you "Voyageur Trail Association"!

On September 12, 1998, spending their very first day on the trails as two new members, two strangers met the group that morning for the Goulais River Loop hike. For those Voyageurs who were on our first "hiking" date, I was the one who was trying to sell my house at Searchmont. Jim was the one groaning under his breath every time I mentioned it to the group.

Eventually, I did sell, but under very different circumstances that I ever thought possible.



I moved out of that house and into a relationship that, six years later, is still founded on solid friendship, respect, love of life and adventure. In fact, this fall, we wish to

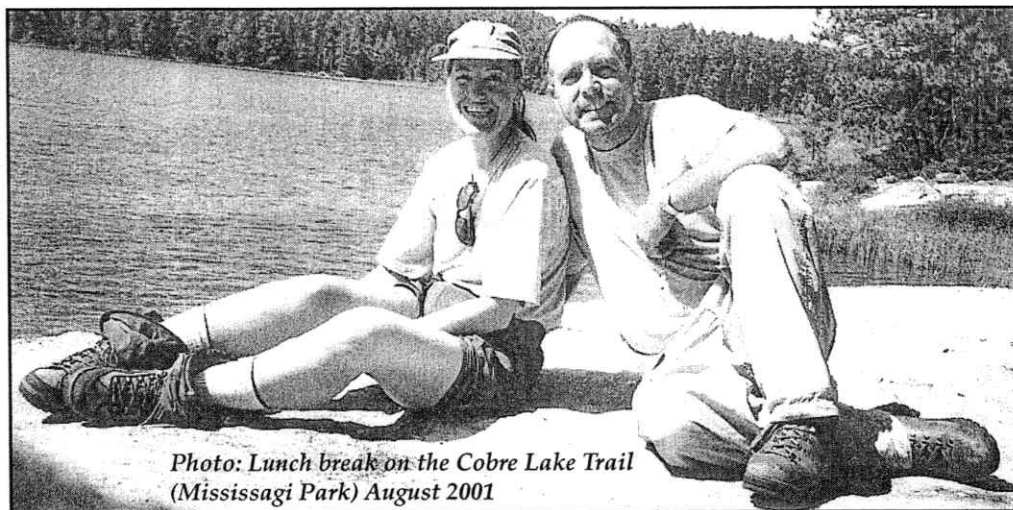


Photo: Lunch break on the Cobre Lake Trail (Mississagi Park) August 2001

start our retirement life in Kelowna, B.C. Jim and I owe the Association a debt of gratitude.

It is fitting that at this Spring Dinner, April 17, 2004, we formally thank you for your being unwitting participants in our destiny. After all, you got us on the right path!

Wishing you happy trails,
Sincerely, Claire Hamer and Jim Hooey.



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.

PLAY IT SAFE
During hunting season,
wear bright clothing.

*Sun., Aug. 22 - Hike King Mtn. with Ila (949-1097). Penningtons @ 9AM. Behaved pets welcome. (This outing is dedicated to the late Steve Taylor.)

*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, the late Tom Allinson.

Sun., Sept. 12 - Hike in the west end of town with Jack (779-3409). Market Mall @ 10AM. Pets ok.

*Sat., Sept. 18 - Hike Pancake Bay lookout trail with Ila (942-1761). Penningtons @ 10AM. Pets ok but bring a leash.

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

Sat., Sept. 25- Bicycle outing with Gail (942-0768). This easy-paced outing will be on a hard-packed, gravel country road. Market Mall @ 10AM.

*Sun., Sept. 26- Hike at Rock Lake with Patrick (253-4470). Churchill Plaza at 9:30 AM sharp. Pets ok.

*Sat., Oct. 2 - VTA Annual General Meeting and Coordinating Council Elections begins at 2:00 p.m. in the Bruce Mines arena with a hike afterwards. (Coordinating Council meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.) For more info, call Mike at 779-3409.



Sun., Oct. 3 - Ontario Hiking Day hike at Glenview Cottages on the new re-routed trail to the Root River with Don (946-9599). Penningtons at 10AM. Pets ok.

Sat., Oct. 30- Work Party with Gayle (942-1891) (This outing is dedicated to Ian Morrison and all those who long ago began it all!) Market Mall at 10AM. Tools will be provided. Pets ok.

*Sun., Nov. 7- Hike near Melwel Lodge with Patrick (253-4470). Churchill Plaza at 9AM sharp. Pets ok.

*Sat., Nov. 13 - Hike Stokely to Haviland Bay with Doris (942-9466). Afterwards, we will go to Buttermilk Restaurant for dinner. Penningtons at 10AM. Pets ok.

Mon., Nov. 15- Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting at 7PM. We will plan winter outings. Tel: 942-1891

Sat., Nov. 20- Gales of November work party with Gayle (942-1891). Market Mall at 10AM. Tools will be provided. Pets ok.

Sun., Dec. 12- possibly Outing Leaders/Trail Adopters Appreciation evening (by invitation only).

Tues., Dec. 21 - Winter Solstice Hike/ Snowshoe and bonfire with a potluck afterwards with Doris (942-9466). Meet at Market Mall at 7PM. Behaved pets welcome.

Sun., Dec. 26 - Boxing Day full moon snowshoe/hike with Don (946-9599) with campfire afterwards. Meet at Glenview Cottages at 7PM.

Sat., Jan. 1 - New Years Day snowshoe/hike with Ila (949-1097). Please call for meeting place and time.

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.



Looking to hide your millions?

The Voyageur Trail Association is a registered charity.

Send your tax deductible donations today!

(Outing schedules continue on page 6)



OUTING SCHEDULES

Coueurs de Bois Outdoors Club (Elliot Lake)

For fun, fitness and friendship. Meet at the Sears parking lot unless otherwise noted. For all outings bring water and lunch and dress appropriately. **Make sure your fitness level corresponds to the hike level you wish to participate in.** Be prepared to sign an Assumption of Risk agreement.

Hike levels:

Easy 2-3 hrs Level 1 Hike Ontario

Intermediate 3-4 hrs Level 2 Hike Ontario

Advanced 4-6 hrs Level 3 Hike Ontario

PLEASE PHONE OUTINGS LEADERS FOR MORE INFO.

AUGUST

17 Tue. 10:00 Easy Hike 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 Easy Hike Liz & Phil 848-8767

SEPTEMBER

All Tuesdays 10:00 Easy Hike Liz 848-8767

All Thursdays 10:00 Hike Robert 848-4030

4 Sat. 10:00 Easy Hike John 461-1026

8 Wed. Cycling Al 848-4372

11 Sat. 10:00 Easy Hike John 461-1026

18 Sat. 10:00 Hike Liz & Phil 848-8767

25 Sat. 9:00 Breakfast meeting & hike. Please phone to confirm before Sept. 18. Bill 848-7445

OCTOBER

All Tuesdays 10:00 Easy Hike Nancy-Jo 848-2947

All Thursdays 10:00 Intermediate Hike Fred 848-2956

Sat., Oct. 2 - VTA Annual General Meeting and Coordinating Council Elections begins at 2:00 p.m. in the Bruce Mines arena with a hike afterwards. (Coordinating Council meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.) For more info, call Mike at 1-877-393-4003.

3 Sun. 10:00 Easy Hike John 461-1026

3 Sun. Canoe & hike Old Baldy Alan 848-8776

9 Sat. 10:00 Hike Robert 848-4030

9 Sat. Cobre Trail Al 848-4370

16 Sat. 10:00 Hike Liz & Phil 848-8767

23 Sat. 10:00 Hike Robert 848-4030

30 Sat. 10:00 Hike Liz & Phil 848-8767

NOVEMBER

All Tuesdays 10:00 Easy Hike Nancy-Jo 848-2947

All Thursdays 10:00 Intermediate Hike Fred 848-2956

6 Sat. Hike Alan 848-8776

13 Sat. 10:00 Hike Robert 848-4030

20 Sat. 10:00 Hike Robert 848-4030

23 Tues. 7:00 pm General meeting at United Church basement

27 Sat. 10:00 Easy Hike John 461-1026

DECEMBER

All Tuesdays 10:00 Easy Hike Nancy-Jo 848-2947

All Thursdays 10:00 Intermediate Hike Fred 848-2956

4 Sat. 10:00 Easy Hike John 461-1026

10 Fri. Annual Christmas Dinner. Please phone Chuck before Nov. 30 to confirm. 848-1076

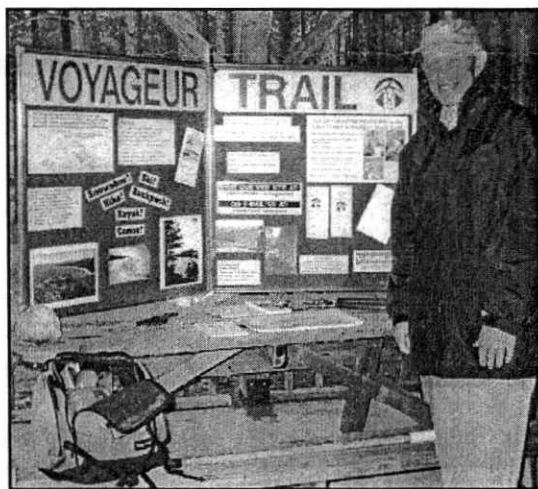
11 Sat. Outing Al 848-4372

11 Sat. Easy Hike John 461-1026

18 Sat., 10:00 Easy Hike John 461-1026

JANUARY 2005

1 Sat. Noon New Year's Day Easy hike & Mayor's Levee. Meet at Civic Centre. Bill 848-7445



The Voyageur Trail was represented at this year's Scouts/Guides Rendezvous in May at Garden River, just outside Sault Ste. Marie. Thanks to Jack Donald (in photo) and Gayle Phillips for "manning" the display.



VTA Merchandise For Sale:

- Memberships
- Guidebooks
- T-shirts (long & short sleeved)
- Crests
- Topo Maps
- Cdn. Geographic Guides

See page 9...

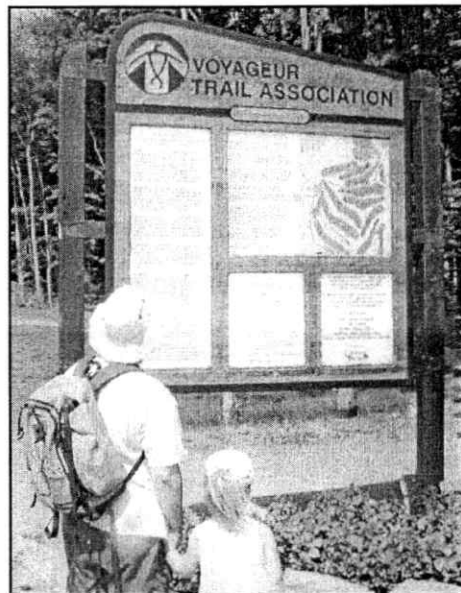


SAULTEAUX CLUB NEWS *by Gayle Phillips*

(Photos below): The Sault Ste. Marie trailhead sign has been successfully moved from the closed access at the bottom of the Gros Cap bluffs to the start of the Crimson Ridge Loop Trail (in photo on right).

A great big thanks to Don McGorman and crew (in photo on left) who removed the sign and moved it to where Mike Landmark could sand and re-finish it.

A HUGE thank you to Mike who stuck with the job, even when it turned out to be bigger than originally thought!



I want to thank Mark Crofts who offered to teach an ORCA certified canoe course this spring. We missed the printing of the last newsletter and I simply couldn't get the word out to our members fast enough so there wasn't enough interest to hold the courses. It was great that Mark offered it. Maybe next year...

Some of our trail at the Carpin Beach Road extension has become eight feet wide and super clean! No, it's not "trail cleaning by stealth"—the local snowmobilers have received landowner permission to route their trail down ours, however, it is not a well-used trail and they will have no problem sharing the route with snowshoers and skiers. They are putting up signs to tell their motorized users to slow down and watch for pedestrians on the trail.

Things are "revving up" for our bid to house a Trans Canada Trail Pavilion. Mike Landmark is looking for any and all help to see if we can break ground this fall. Please contact Mike at 1-877-393-4003 or 779-3409 if you can help him with getting quotes from contractors for the various components of a pavilion (eg: concrete, etc.), actual building

skills, or any of the paperwork that always surrounds a project of this magnitude.

I was part of an advance scouting party to investigate new ways to cross the Shaw Dam area near Thessalon. I must say, I had no idea of how much water was released over the removed section of the dam. What a nice waterfall there is now! It is a great spot for a picnic and we would like to still include it in our future re-route of the trail, even if it is just a blue side trail. If anyone is interested in helping re-route this section, contact me and I'll keep you posted as to when the work begins. (942-1891 or voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca)



Our annual Saulteaux Club Mother's Day hike is always popular with families. I think it's the hot dogs cooked over an open fire at the Wetzl homestead...

This year's Saulteaux Club Senior's Month evening stroll on the boardwalk attracted a few "youngsters".

See you in Bruce Mines October 2nd at the VTA Annual General Meeting! :-)



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT by *Mike Landmark*

Well, my second term as President of the Voyageur Trail Association comes to an end at the Annual General Meeting in October. Mine will be one of several vacant executive positions that need to be filled with new people, volunteers who can bring fresh, innovative ideas and perspectives to the table in order to further the VTA's objectives. These positions don't require full-time commitment. You don't have to quit your day job to sit in one of them. As with any volunteer organization, you can devote as much time and energy as you are able to and feel comfortable with. If you have a head full of great ideas just waiting to burst out, then why not consider standing for a position on the VTA executive? Like mosquitoes and vampires, we welcome new blood!



Speaking of the Annual General Meeting, one of the issues we will be discussing is a possible increase in membership dues, necessitated by rising operating costs and insurance premiums. This will affect all members of the VTA, so your views, suggestions, opinions, etc. are very important. Please attend the meeting and participate in the discussion of this matter.

One of the ongoing projects for the VTA is the construction of a Trans Canada Trail Pavilion in Sault Ste. Marie. Unfortunately, progress has been slow so far, but it is hoped that it will come to fruition in the very near future. Even though my term as President will be up in October, I will continue to work on this project. Also, there is good news on the pavilion front in Elliot Lake. All of the marble panels that were damaged by vandals have been replaced and rededicated. At a meeting I attended with the Trans Canada Trail Foundation in Montreal, discussion centred around Thunder Bay as the location for a possible third and final pavilion in the VTA area.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the Shaw Dam area of the Thessalon section is in the process of being rerouted, as access to the dam itself has been revoked by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Stay tuned for updates in this section as they become available.

Hope to see you at the AGM in Bruce Mines on Saturday, October 2, 2004.



VTA Coordinating Council members needed include:
President, Vice-Presidents-Central & East, Landowner Liaison

SAY HELLO TO TRAILSCANADA

Launched in June 2000, and working in partnership with COMPAQ Canada, and assisted by a Government of Canada Millennium Partnership Grant, Go for Green created a sustainable Internet resource to catalogue, support and promote Canadian trails, Canadian trail systems, and active transportation.

Four years later, we decided that it was time to change the name of the website to better reflect its objectives.

TrailsCanada will continue to provide all its on-line tools and support services for trail users and community trail groups:

- Inventories of Canadian Trails by region, accessible through hyper linked maps.
- Descriptive information on trail terrain, scenery, nature notes, accessibility, etc.
- Trail construction and advocacy tools for communities.
- On-line trail registry allowing community trail groups to promote their trails worldwide.
- News and information through an on-line newsletter.
- Accessibility designation if the trail is promoted as suitable for people using wheelchairs.
- Merchandise from community trail associations, the purchase of which will help build and maintain trails across the country.
- Calendar of Events allowing community groups to promote trail activities to a worldwide audience.

Our search-engine enables website visitors to search for trails by name or by community. Where possible, maps of the actual trails can be accessed through hyper links for more detailed information. Our inventory now contains more than 3,900 trails, with entries in every province and territory in Canada.

The new web address is www.trailscanada.com
Visit us soon.



There's nothing more disconcerting than seeing these large bear paw prints right over the top of your footprints on the Voyageur Trail!



Photo courtesy Mike Landmark

MUFFIN *by Patrick & Anne Capper*

Some hikers, love to come on hikes, never do any trail maintenance, always want a ride and never contribute for gas, don't pay membership dues but despite all this are still good company. Muffin was one of these.

Until old age got the better of her she was always ready (with one exception) to go for a walk or hike. Now after 17 years of active living, she has a permanent resting place on Fourth Line.

There were several memorable moments in her life. She traveled from coast to coast but found both the Atlantic and Pacific waters not to her taste. She went camping and on one quiet, still night, while in a badlands campsite, my cousin-sharing a tent with my daughter and Muffin was heard to exclaim, "Leave me alone! Stop bothering me! Settle down! Go to sleep!"

She did most of the Saulsteaux winter end-to-end hikes. On one, when we went to the overlook on the loop section of Susan Graham's section, Muffin thought Anne and I were behind her, so she doggedly returned the way we came in. Mike Landmark's calls to Muffin went unheeded, so I had to run (as much as possible on snowshoes), after her. I always found that Muffin responded to "Chocolate and Beef Jerky, or Polish Sausage" better than her own name. She ventured on many sections of the trail from Stokely mountains in the pouring rain, to Lake Superior's rocky shores, only once meeting anything larger than a squirrel - a woodchuck - which thankfully retreated into its hole.



Her most regular haunts were Bellevue Park and St Mary's Island. She was quite happy to lie down in puddles of ice water, or black muddy puddles, chase geese (getting, on one occasion, about 1000 geese off the grass into the water) or lying down in the water for a drink - only swimming when she misjudged the depth of the water. So, like that one day in winter with a blizzard raging, her walks are over. Farewell!



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; 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 / Family.....\$20 = _____ Cdn. Geographic Guide from SSMarie to Midland \$14.95 _____
Student.....\$10 = _____ Shipping & Handling for all mailed orders ADD \$ 5.00
Donations (tax receipt will be sent)..... = _____ Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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

Make cheques payable and mail to:

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION,

P. O. Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd.,

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada P6A 6W3

(Continued on back ➡)



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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 December 1, 2004.

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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

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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.

