



No. 89 WINTER 2004/5

Published by the
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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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And much, much more!

VOYAGEUR TRAIL

Happy Holidays!



EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT BY: Gayle Phillips

NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING PRESIDENT

by *Mike Landmark*

The VTA Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, October 2, 2004 at the Bruce Mines Arena in Bruce Mines. Thank you once again to Allan Beilhartz and the Bruce Mines and Plummer Additional Recreation committee for organizing and hosting the AGM for us. Unfortunately, turnout for the general meeting was disappointing once again this year. However, we did recruit one new member, so that was a positive outcome. Elections for the Coordinating Council executive positions took place and the results were as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| President | -> vacant |
| Vice-President East | -> vacant |
| Vice-President Central | -> Mike Landmark |
| Vice-President West | -> Duncan MacKay |
| Treasurer | -> Dieter Ropke |
| General Secretary | -> Cheryl Landmark |
| Membership Secretary | -> Susan Graham |
| Publicity Director | -> Gayle Phillips |
| Trail Master | -> Patrick Capper |
| Landowner Liaison | -> vacant |
| Hike Ontario Rep | -> Patrick Capper (alternate -> Alan Day) |

As you can see, we have three vacant positions on the Council. For the moment, Duncan MacKay and I will be fulfilling the duties of the President until such time as someone comes forward to accept the position. We really would like to see some new blood and fresh ideas on the VTA executive, so if you are interested in filling any of the vacant positions, we encourage you to contact any of the Council members and let us know. The duties are not difficult and, as with any volunteer organization, the time and effort you put into them is up to you. To give you an idea of just what duties are involved, here is a brief description.

President:

- develops in conjunction with the Recording Secretary, the agenda for Council meetings and the Annual General Meeting, and chairs such meetings
- coordinates Association-wide activities in conjunction with the three Vice-Presidents
- prepares a report to members three times a year for publication in the Voyageur Trail News
- serves as spokesperson for the entire Association.

- monitors, and coordinates where appropriate, activities of executive and committee members

Vice-President East:

- east is designated from Manitoulin Island to Melwel Lodge Road
- monitors, and coordinates where appropriate, activities of clubs within his/her region
- coordinates region-wide activities in conjunction with club presidents
- assists the President as requested to carry out Association-wide activities
- gathers regional trail status reports for presentation at meetings and in the newsletter
- assists the Publicity Director in publicizing the VTA within his/her region

Landowner Liaison:

- maintains accurate, up-to-date records of all landowners along the route of the Voyageur Trail (local clubs will provide this information to the Landowner Liaison)
- provides the Membership Secretary with mailing list changes as appropriate
- addresses any complaints from landowners

Another issue that was addressed at the Annual General Meeting was an increase in the membership fee to help offset the rising costs of insurance and administration. A motion was passed to increase the individual membership fee to \$25.00 and the Family/Group fee to \$30.00 to be effective March 31, 2005. So, renew now at the old rate and save yourself some money! Plans are in the works for a total revamping of the Voyageur Trail guidebook in the near future. This project will be an ambitious one and will require a lot of volunteer work to make it happen (*see page 8*). A committee will be struck with a targeted completion date for the guidebook of March 31, 2006. Also, the Trans Canada Trail Business Plan is complete and available free-of-charge on the TCT web site < www.tctrail.ca >. The winner of the Steve Taylor Volunteer Award for 2004 was Alan Day of the Coureurs de Bois club in Elliot Lake (*see page 6*). The winners of the draw for free VTA memberships were Troy Pine, Gayle Phillips and Erika Ropke. *Congratulations!*



THANK YOU to all of our landowners for another year of allowing us to hike over your lands.
And thanks to Jack Donald for serving as Landowner Liaison for so many years. Happy Holidays!

10 FAVOURITE LOOKOUTS ON THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL *by Kas Stone*

One of the things I enjoy most about hiking on the Voyageur Trail is the frequent scramble to an exposed height of land to take in a spectacular view. Some of my satisfaction may be the physical exertion of the scramble itself and the restorative picnic lunch with which I feel compelled to reward myself upon reaching the summit. Then there is the view - the pure aesthetic delight of a wilderness of rock and trees and water stretching out before me towards the horizon. And, if I'm in a philosophical mood, the view also puts life into comforting perspective, the tribulations of my daily routine lulled into insignificance by the vast beauty of the natural surroundings.

The clifftop lookout has become, for me, something of a mecca. I am a lover of wide open spaces - big sky, large lakes, bleak landscapes and panoramic vistas. I confess that I become claustrophobic (irritable, say my hiking companions!) when a trail winds very far through the forest. I will hike many kilometres for the promise of a patch of highland tundra, and I feel (a little guiltily) pleased when the trail passes through an area of forest fire burnout. I will only stop for my picnic lunch when I have found an appropriate view to accompany the meal and I prefer, even in a howling gale, to perch with my sandwich on top of a cliff than to take shelter at its base.

The Voyageur Trail has a wealth of splendid lookouts, especially (to my eyes anyway) along the coastal sections beside Lake Superior. Several billion years of geological jostling has created some dramatic topography in the ancient bedrock here - steep valleys, high hills, sheer cliffs, and the massive rift basin of the 'inland sea'. The awe-inspiring expanse of Superior with her moods, both benign and savage, provides the backdrop for this rugged northern shore, and the lichen-dappled rocks, twisted trees and sparkling streams adorn the foreground.

Of the hundreds of lookouts along the length of the Voyageur Trail, the following (from west to east) are my favourites. All are accessible by day-hike, though in some cases the day's hike is long and rough. Their locations are indicated on the accompanying map (see page 3), and access instructions are given for each lookout, together with a brief description of the view. Some photos are included too, and more may be found on the VTA Photo Gallery website (click on the link at www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail) - revealing that I am not alone in my love of the Voyageur Trail's vistas!

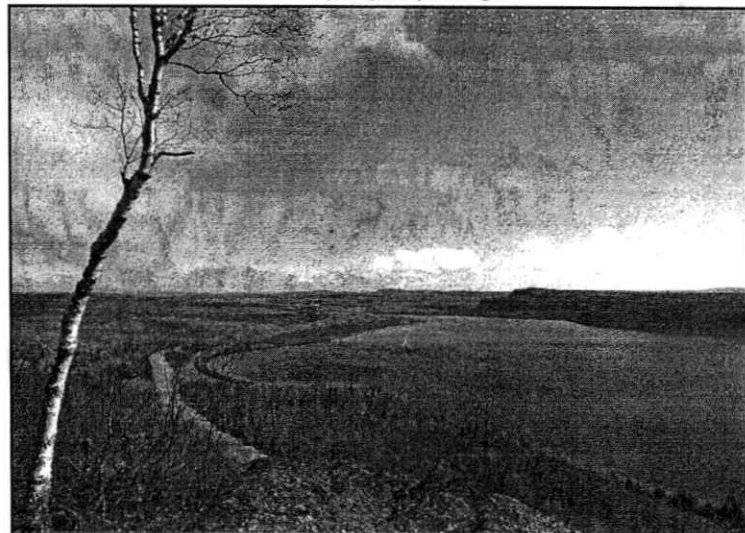
1. Eagle's Ridge Lookout

- Location: on the Nipigon River Recreation Trail that runs between Red Rock and Nipigon.
- Access: park at the southern end of Newton Street in Nipigon, take the 0.5 km access trail to Sawmill Point and follow the Nipigon River Recreation Trail south for 2 km, where it climbs (luxuriously up a set of stairs!) to the lookout at the top of Eagle's Ridge.
- View: the Nipigon River Valley towards the north, and Nipigon Bay with its scattered



islands towards the south.

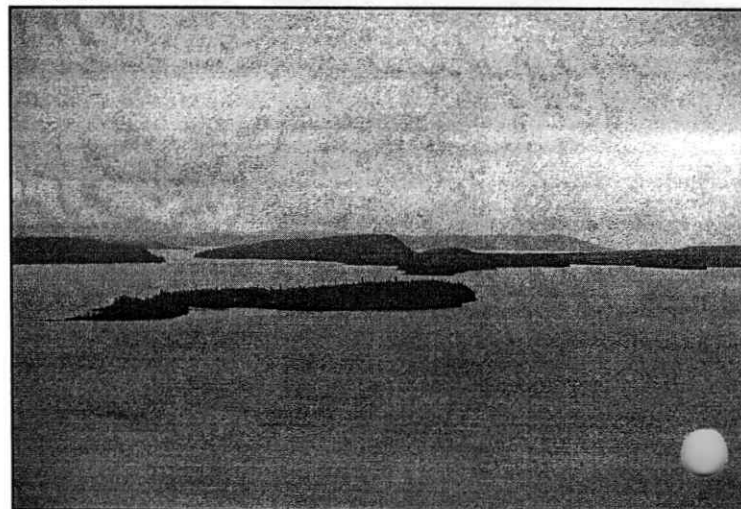
- Note: there are two other lookouts (Nipigon Bay Lookout and Lloyd's Lookout) on the Nipigon River Recreation Trail about 2 km further south; the 10 km round-trip hike to take in all three lookouts is a satisfying day-long excursion.



Eagle's Ridge Lookout (north up the Nipigon River)

2. Selim and Winston Point Lookouts

- Location: on the Casques Isles Trail near Rainbow Falls Provincial Park's Whitesand Lake campground.
- Access: park on the gravel road across Hwy 17 from the campground entrance and follow the Voyageur Trail south eastward for 1 km to the Selim Lookout and another 1.2 km to the Winston Point Lookout. (The last time I visited these lookouts the Winston Point Lookout sign was in the wrong place - posted prematurely on a tree just 0.5 km past the Selim Lookout - for the real view keep hiking!)
- View: Schreiber Channel and islands.
- Note: on the Voyageur Trail inside the western boundary of Rainbow Falls Park is another lookout, about 1 km beyond the waterfall that gives the park its name. The park's Back 40 Trail also climbs to a lookout, so there are plenty to choose from in the area!



Selim Lookout (west over Schreiber Channel and its islands)

(Continued on page 3)

