



No. 89 WINTER 2004/5

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

Happy Holidays!



EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT BY: Gayle Phillips

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.

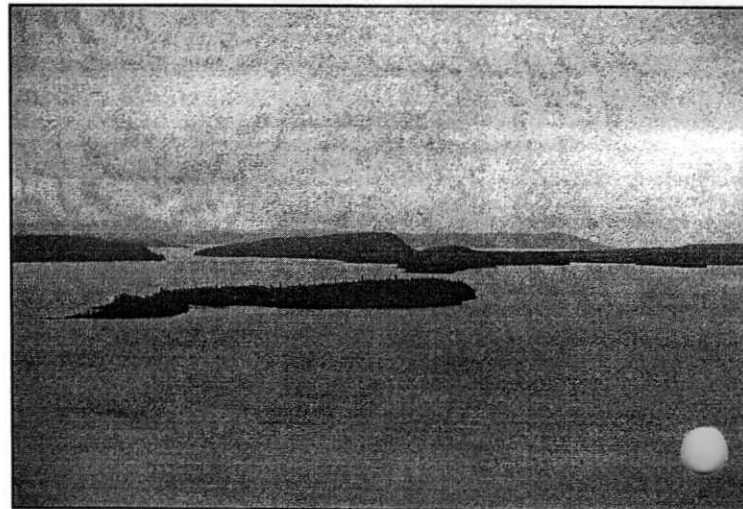
- Note: there are two other lookouts (Nipigon Bay Lookout and Lloyd's Lookout) on the Nipigon River Recreation Trail about 2 km further south; the 10 km round-trip hike to take in all three lookouts is a satisfying day-long excursion.



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)

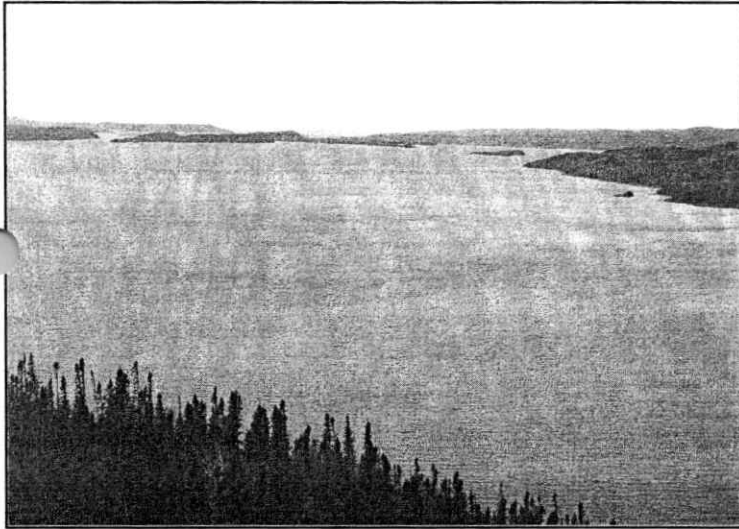
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10 FAVOURITE LOOKOUTS *(cont'd from page 2)*

3. Albyon Lookout

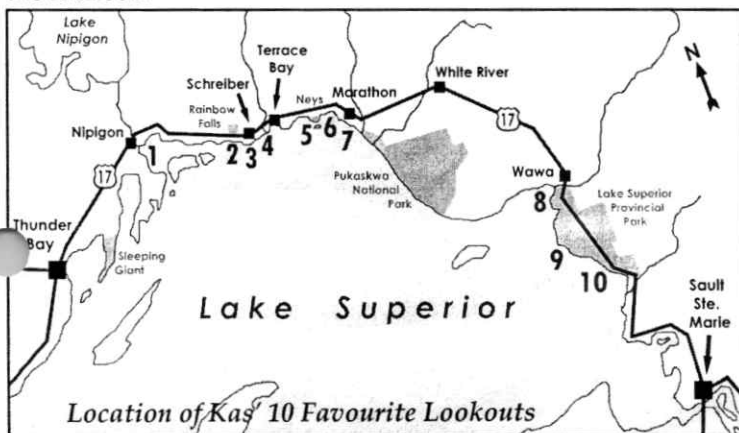
- **Location:** on the Casques Isles Trail up the hill between Schreiber Beach and Mount Gwynne.
- **Access:** park in a small gravel area off Subway Street in Schreiber just after the road passes under the railway bridge. Follow the railway tracks west for a few metres to the Schreiber Beach Road, which quickly deteriorates past the houses and descends the hill for 2.5 km to Schreiber Beach. Pick up the Voyageur Trail at the east end of the beach and follow it for 3.7 km up the hill (passing two un-named lookouts over Collingwood Bay along the way) to the 1 km Albyon Lookout access trail.
- **View:** the Schreiber Channel and islands to the west and Lake Superior to the south, and an impressive field of talus at the bottom of the cliff.
- **Note:** anyone climbing to the Albyon Lookout will undoubtedly be aiming for the summit of Mount Gwynne afterwards, 1 km further along the trail and 100 m higher in elevation, for a panoramic view in all directions - including Death Valley and Worthington Bay to the east and the wooded hills around Schreiber to the north.



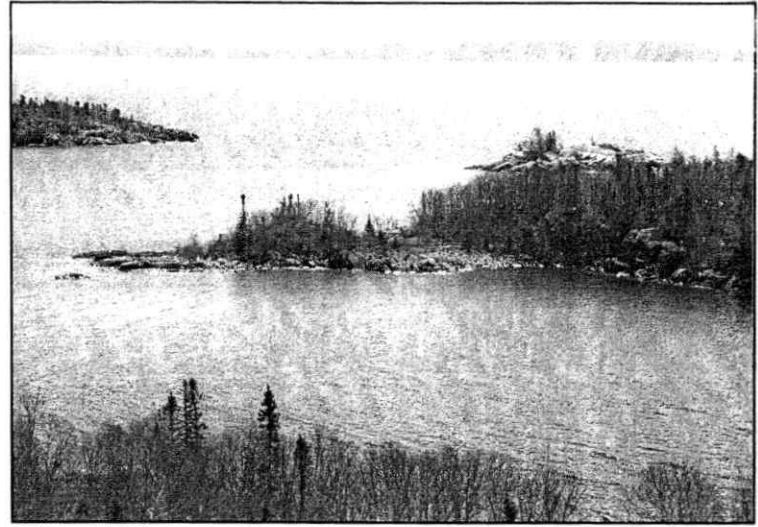
Albyon Lookout (west along the Schreiber Channel)

4. Lyda Bay Lookout

- **Location:** on the Casques Isles Trail near Terrace Bay, west of the Aguasabon River.
- **Access:** park at the popular Aguasabon Falls parking lot, stop at the viewing platform to admire the falls, then pick up the Voyageur Trail at the edge of the Aguasabon Gorge and follow it for 4.2 km south and westward along the shoreline to the lookout.



Location of Kas' 10 Favourite Lookouts

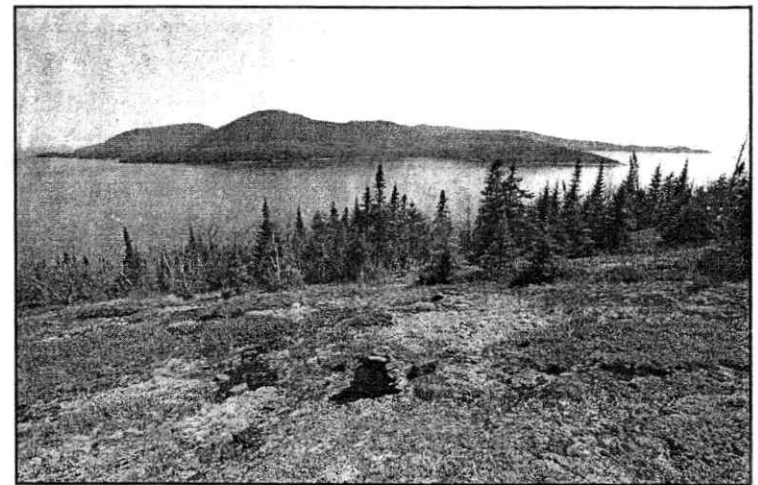


Lyda Bay Lookout

- **View:** the official lookout over Lyda Bay is obvious along the trail about 0.5 km beyond the sandy beach at Lyda Bay, just a few metres to the right after the trail scrambles up a steep cleft. There are also lovely views to be had from the headland, which can be accessed by a short (30 metre) bushwhack to the left at the top of the cleft; here the view is more expansive - westward towards Terrace Bay, eastward towards Lyda Bay, and out into Lake Superior with the Slate Islands and Pic Island visible in the distance.

5. Pic Island Lookout

- **Location:** on the only-just-completed Neys Provincial Park coastal trail along the Coldwell Peninsula shoreline.
- **Access:** park at the Point Trail parking lot at Neys Provincial Park, follow the Point Trail, then the Under the Volcano Trail to pick up the Coastal Trail along the shore of Ashburton Bay. Continue south on the Coastal Trail for 6 km. Shortly after crossing over the Guse Point headland the trail emerges from the forest onto an open ridge with lots of lookout points.



Pic Island Lookout

- **View:** across Thompson Channel to the brooding hills of Pic Island.
- **Note:** this trail is not for the faint of heart, as it is long (15 km return), very rugged, and because it is still under development it does not yet have adequate signage or the well-worn feel of a frequently trodden path.

Kas' 10 Favourite Lookouts continues in the next issue of the Voyageur Trail News...



SAULTEAUX CLUB HONOURS

This year, 2004, marks the 30th year of the existence of the Saulteaux Voyageur Trail Club and to celebrate this accomplishment, we decided to pay homage to some very important members whose contributions to the club and to the Voyageur Trail Association were and are, above and beyond the call of duty. These honours were read out at recent outings dedicated to these three individuals.



STEVE TAYLOR by Steve Dominy

Steve Taylor moved to Sault Ste. Marie and joined the Voyageur Trail Association in 1982. His infectious enthusiasm for hiking attracted many of his friends to accompany him on outings, ranging from work parties to backpacking trips. He assumed a variety of positions within the organization, including serving as Association President for a

number of years. Most notably, he laid out and helped build the Stokely Section of the trail from Robertson Cliffs to Havilland Bay. This trail was built with the help of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, the Bruce Trail Association, and Hike Ontario, a partnership Steve was instrumental in arranging, and which has continued to help the VTA build and maintain trail.

Steve met an untimely death to cancer in 1994 at the age of 38. His memory lives on, and the plaque on King Mountain is a tribute to his contribution to the VTA. Horst Wetzel, a VTA landowner who knew Steve well, has also erected a memorial on his property along the trail near People's Road.



TOM ALLINSON by Gayle Phillips

(as read at the hike on the Tom Allinson Spur Trail on Labour Day, September 6, 2004)

Today's outing is dedicated to Tom Allinson. The trail we hike upon today is named in honour of him—the Tom Allinson Spur Trail.

Tom was instrumental in building and maintaining the trail in the Sault and surrounding area. He knew this country like the back of his hand.

Some newcomers wouldn't have known Tom, as he passed away in the fall of 1998, but I was very fortunate to have met him and been taken under his wing as have many, many others in the VTA. Tom taught us many lessons as hikers. I remember how he used to let us walk right by double blazes while we were deeply engrossed in some conversation. We would get 50 feet or so beyond a turn-off and he would stop

and say, "Has anyone noticed anything?" We would look around and immediately notice that there were no blazes in sight. Then he would say, "Even if you're not leading, you have to pay attention!"

Tom always kept a close eye on newcomers, to ensure that they were enjoying their outing and he always had something in his pack for every emergency that came along.

The entire section from North Gros Cap Road to the shoreline of Lake Superior to the Red Rock Road was dedicated to Tom in the mid 90s as a tribute. And he looked after the whole stretch until his untimely death. We were fortunate to see a large bull moose once on this trail and Tom joked that he had hired the moose to walk the trail because no one else does! Gail Andrew and the Landmarks can attest to this remark today, as they are the two parties who took over the section after Tom passed away.

Tom enjoyed hiking all summer long and when winter arrived, he loved to bushwhack ski. He tried and tried to teach me the techniques of skiing but I was never very good at it. I remember once when I showed up with a pair of snowshoes on his ski

outing and he had a "bad taste look" on his face. On that particular outing, several people had trouble with their ski equipment and the group had to stop quite often for some reason or other allowing me to easily catch up. I remember snowshoeing right up behind Tom once as he was bent down helping someone with their ski bindings, and I shouted "Track!" Even he had to smile at that one.

I think of Tom often, especially when I hike this trail that we will be hiking today. I like to think that his spirit still hikes there.



IAN MORRISON

by Larry Gringorten & Gayle Phillips

Ian K. Morrison was one of the founding members of the VTA when it started in 1973. He served as its first general and membership secretary (it was a combined position at the time) from 1973 to the early '80s. He also served as general secretary from 1995 to 1998. In

1976, Ian was the VTA's point man in its confrontation with the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Tourism (OMIT) over the rights to the name "Voyageur Trail." OMIT had posted signs with that name all along Hwy 17, but as a result of Ian's intervention (arguments based on the VTA's charter and legal right to the name), the OMIT had to change all its signs to the present-day name, "Voyageur Route."

Ian has played the role of the VTA's unofficial historian and archivist by filing all of the early VTA newsletters from the very first one in January 1975, and by chronicling all of the VTA's key activities from 1973 to 1994.

After 36 years of research at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre, Ian has decided to retire on December 15th, 2004. He will stay on as Emeritus for awhile to close off projects. The VTA wishes to congratulate Ian on all of his accomplishments throughout the years for both the Voyageur Trail and the Great Lakes Forestry Centre, and we wish him a long and happy retirement!



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.)

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.

Sault Ste. Marie and area—outings marked with an asterisk (*) are outside Sault Ste. Marie.) For all outings, bring water, lunch, dress appropriately and be prepared to sign an Assumption of Risk Agreement.

Sault Ste. Marie and area

Tues., December 21 - Winter Solstice hike/snowshoe with bonfire and pot-luck afterwards with Doris (942-9466). Market Mall 7PM. Behaved pets ok.

Fri., December 24 - The Voyageur Trail is closed for the day.

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

Sat., Jan. 1 - New Year's Day snowshoe/hike with Ila (949-1097). Meet 10AM at Penningtons. Behaved pets welcome.

Sat., Jan. 8 - Snowshoe the Crimson Ridge Loop with Doris (942-9466). Meet at 10AM in Funktion (in Goodlife building, 589 Second Line E). Behaved pets ok.

Sat., Jan. 15 - STAR Family Snowshoe Experience at Kinsman Park with guided snowshoe hikes at 10AM and 1:30 PM. Free snowshoe loan available. Call STAR at 945-6444 to register.

Sun., Jan. 16 - Bushwhack ski on the Tom Allinson Spur Trail with Mike (779-3409). Market Mall 10AM. Pets ok.

Mon., Jan. 17 - Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting at Funktion (in Goodlife building, 589 Second Line East) at 7PM. Call Gayle 942-1891 for info.

Sat., Jan. 22 - VTA Coordinating Council meeting at 10AM at Funktion (in Goodlife building, 589 Second Line East) and Moonlight Snowshoe at Mark's Bay with Mike (779-3409). Meet 7PM in the Market Mall parking lot. Limited billeting available.

***Sat., Jan. 29** - Snowshoe with Patrick (253-4470) in the Tower Lake area. Churchill Plaza at 9:30AM. Pets ok.

Thurs., Feb. 3 - Crimson Ridge (CR) Bon Soo Snowshoe event. CR Clubhouse at 7PM for guided snowshoe with Don (946-9599). Bon Soo button admission.

Sat., Feb. 5 - Bon Soo Family Snowshoe Experience at Bellevue Park from noon to 3PM. Volunteers needed. Please call Gayle at 942-1891.

Sun., Feb. 6 - Ski with Horst (542-8978). Meet at 10AM in the Market Mall parking lot. Behaved pets welcome.

***Sat., Feb. 12** - Snowshoe the trails at Searchmont with Doris (942-9466) and dinner afterwards. Meet at 10AM in Funktion (in Goodlife building, 589 Second Line East).

***Thurs., Feb. 17** - Lake walk/snowshoe with Marge (253-5888). Penningtons 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

***Sun., Feb. 20** - Island Lake family walk/snowshoe (easy) with campfire. Meet at 1PM at Funktion (in Goodlife building, 589 Second Line East). Bring water and snacks. Susan (949-4105).

Sun., Feb. 27 - Snowshoe in the west end of the Sault with Jack (942-1761). Market Mall @ 10AM. Behaved pets ok.

***Sat., Mar. 5** - Snowshoe near Gordon Lake with Dieter & Erika (942-9636). Churchill Plaza at 10AM.

Sun., Mar. 6 - Snowshoe in the Airport Road Extension area with Mike (779-3409). Market Mall 10AM. Pets ok.

Sun., Mar. 13 - Ski with Horst (542-8978). Meet at 10AM in the Market Mall parking lot. Behaved pets welcome.

***Sun., Mar. 20** - Snowshoe at Echo Lake with Patrick (253-4470). Churchill Plaza 9:30AM. Behaved pets welcome.

Mon., Mar. 21 - Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting at Funktion 7PM. Call Gayle (942-1891) for more info.

Sat., Mar. 26 - Family snowshoe (easy) with Gayle (942-1891). Good for beginners/children. Meet 1PM at Funktion (in Goodlife building, 589 Second Line E).

***Sun., Apr. 3** - Snowshoe at Goulais with Patrick (253-4470). Penningtons 9:30AM. Behaved pets welcome.

Sat., Apr. 9 - Saulteaux Club Annual Dinner at Buttermilk. After dinner slide show by *Caribou Expeditions*. Call Susan (949-4105) or Doris (942-9466) for tickets.

Sat., Apr. 23 - Earth Day clean-up hike with Gayle (942-1891). Meet 1PM at Funktion (in Goodlife building, 589 Second Line E).

Sun., May 1 - Annual Go To Blazes kick-off to the work party season! Call Gayle (942-1891) for info.



Looking for that perfect gift for that hard-to-buy-for person in your life?

How about a VTA membership? Guidebook? Sweatshirt? T-shirt? Crest?

Call Susan 949-4105 for quick service!



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, lunch, dress appropriately and be prepared to sign an Assumption of Risk Agreement. Make sure your fitness level corresponds to the outing level you wish to participate in.

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 OUTING LEADERS FOR MORE INFORMATION. Check The Standard for changes

For X-Country Ski Lessons call Bill at 848-7445

JANUARY 2005

1 Sat. - Noon New Year's Day Hike & Mayor's Levee

@ Civic Centre - Bill & Iris 848-7445

All Tuesdays 10AM Easy Snowshoe - Nancy-jo 848-2947 or John 461-1026

6 Thursday 10AM Intermediate Snowshoe - Fred 848-2956

8 Saturday 11AM Snowshoe - Alan 848-8776

9 Sunday 1PM x-Country Ski - Chuck 848-1076

13 Thursday 10AM x-Country Intermed Ski - Fred 848-2956

15 Saturday x-Country Ski - Jean-Guy 848-2544

20 Thursday 10AM Intermediate Snowshoe - Fred 848-2956

21 Friday x-Country Ski - Al 848-4372

22 Saturday 10AM Intermediate Snowshoe - Robert 848-4030

22 Saturday - VTA Coordinating Council meeting at 10AM at Funktion (in Goodlife building, 589 Second Line E, Sault Ste. Marie) & Moonlight Snowshoe at Mark's Bay with Mike (779-3409). Meet 7PM in the Market Mall parking lot. Limited Sault Ste. Marie billeting available on first-come, first-serve basis.

27 Thursday 10AM x-Country Intermediate Ski - Fred 848-2956

29 Saturday x-Country Ski - Romeo 461-3337

29 Saturday 10AM Easy Snowshoe - John 461-1026

30 Sunday 1PM x-Country Ski - Chuck 848-1076

FEBRUARY

All Tuesdays 10AM Easy Snowshoe - Nancy-jo (848-2947) or John 461-1026

3 Thursday 10AM Intermediate Snowshoe - Fred 848-2956

5 Saturday x-Country Ski - Jean-Guy 848-2544

6 Sunday 1PM x-Country Ski - Chuck 848-1076

10 Thursday 10AM x-Country Intermediate Ski - Fred 848-2956

12 Saturday 11AM Fun Day @ Nordic Lake - Di 848-8776

15 Tuesday 7PM General Meeting at United Church basement

17 Thursday 10AM Intermediate Snowshoe - Fred 848-2956

18 Friday x-Country Ski - Al 848-4372

19 Saturday 10AM Easy Snowshoe - John 461-1026

19 Saturday Snowshoe @ Cobre Trail - Romeo 461-3337

20 Sunday 1PM x-Country Intermediate Ski - Chuck 848-1076

24 Thursday 10AM x-Country Intermediate Ski - Fred 848-2956

26 Saturday 10AM Intermediate Snowshoe - Robert 848-4030

26 Saturday 11AM x-Country Ski - 20km. Lacnor Route
- Alan 848-8776

MARCH

All Tuesdays 10AM Easy Snowshoe - Nancy-jo 848-2947 or John 461-1026

3 Thursday 10AM Intermediate Snowshoe - Fred 848-2956

5 Saturday x-Country Ski - Romeo 461-3337

5 Saturday 10AM Fun Day @ Sheriff Lake - John 461-1026

10 Thursday 10AM x-Country Intermediate Ski - Fred 848-2956

11 Friday x-Country Ski - Al 848-4372

12 Saturday 11AM Snowshoe/Cookout @ Hope Lake -
Di 848-8776

17 Thursday 10AM Intermediate Snowshoe - Fred 848-2956

19 Saturday 11AM Snowshoe from Golf Course to Ski Hill
- Alan 848-8776

24 Thursday 10AM x-Country Intermediate Ski - Fred 848-2956

26 Saturday 10AM Intermediate Snowshoe - Robert 848-4030

31 Thursday 10AM Intermediate Snowshoe - Fred 848-2956

APRIL

All Tuesdays 10AM Easy Hike - Nancy-jo 848-2947 or John 461-1026

2 Saturday Outing Romeo 461-3337

7 Thursday 10AM Intermediate Hike - Fred 848-2956

9 Saturday 10AM Easy Hike - John 461-1026

14 Thursday 10AM Intermediate Hike - Fred 848-2956

15 Friday Cycling - Al 848-4372

16 Saturday 11AM Hike - Alan 848-8776

19 Tuesday 7PM General Meeting at United Church basement

21 Thursday 10AM Intermediate Hike - Fred 848-2956

23 Saturday 10AM Intermediate Hike - Robert 848-4030

28 Thursday 10AM Intermediate Hike - Fred 848-2956

30 Saturday Canoe (conditions permitting) Bill 848-7445

WINNER!



Winner of the 2004 Steve Taylor Volunteer Award is Alan Day of the Coueurs des Bois Club (on right). Outgoing VTA President, Mike Landmark presented Alan with his award at the Annual General Meeting on October 2nd. This award is presented every year to the one volunteer who truly goes "above & beyond the call of duty" in his/her accomplishments on behalf of the VTA. Thanks, Alan, for all your hard work!



Is YOUR membership due?
Check your newsletter label or
call 949-4105 for information.

HIGH TECH SNOWSHOES

by Dieter Ropke

Traditional wood and gut snowshoes require maintenance which is increasingly more difficult to obtain. Unless such snowshoes are well varnished at the end of each season (several coats), the gut webbing tends to soak up moisture late in the season, the webbing stretches and sags and the snowshoes pick up significant weight.

Under certain conditions (snow melt late in the season) high tech snowshoes sometimes accumulate balls of hard snow in the crampons. Otherwise the light weight aluminum framed snowshoes are a delight to wear. Many of them carry a life-time guaranty including the harness.

It is unfortunate however, that there is so much poorly designed junk out there which is especially lamentable for novices who are then often turned off snowshoeing altogether.

Avoid all plastic frames and plastic or vinyl like decking. Look for aluminum frames, a claw or crampon under the front part of the foot and a second one, stationary under the heel of the foot (attached to the decking).

The most important feature to insist on is the Pivoting Rod. When you wear the snowshoe and you lift your leg up high, the whole snowshoe should dangle and freely swing on your foot when you flex or move your boot using your toes. The snowshoe must swing freely like a door on a well oiled hinge. If there is no rod but a stiff rubber or vinyl like band, such a band will always tend to return to its original position. People who wear such shoes tend to walk like a duck and they are actually fighting their snowshoes.

If a pair of snowshoes is tied together and hanging on the dealer's rack, untie them so you can look for the pivoting rod and see both crampons or claws. Grab the front of the toe binding (where the front of your foot would be if you strapped the snowshoe on) and if the shoe will gently swing as you move the toe piece, the snowshoe can be worn with almost no effort. If, however, the snowshoe is stiff as you gently move the toe piece, walk away from that make.

Reputable makers have size charts based on your weight (fully dressed with daypack). Several manufacturers also supply some models which have been especially modified for women (Tubbs and GV).

A special note for parents who are buying snowshoes for children. The above comments are probably applicable because children and other novices may very well have such a difficult time in the bush fitted with the wrong snowshoe that it may turn them off this enjoyable winter activity for life.



A REQUEST FROM HIKE ONTARIO

by Wendy Hoernig

It is becoming more and more apparent that having statistics will be powerful tools in procuring grants and convincing governments that Hikers are an immense group of Ontarians that packs a mighty economic punch, and that our activity causes minimal environmental damage while having positive health and quality of living benefits for all sectors of the population.

It is essential that we start keeping records now.

Would ALL clubs start now to record the volunteer hours worked by your trail crews, trail rangers and executives, as well as the numbers of people participating on each of your organized events? It would be extremely beneficial if you could also keep track of the #s in the different age groups that take part in your events.

If you could also come up with an estimate of volunteer work hours over the last year, we would appreciate having those figures as well.

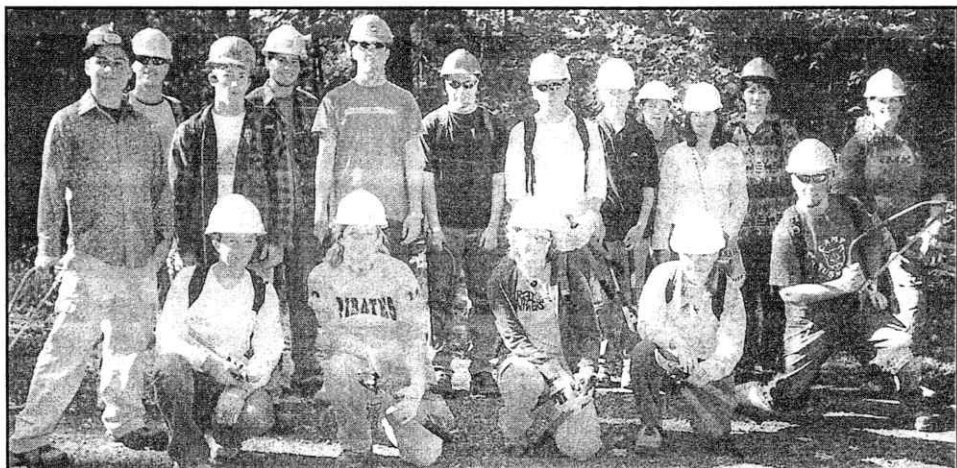
Hiking isn't noisy and stinky - we aren't as obvious as the mechanized sports. It's time to start collecting information to show how important, numerous and valuable we are. Information collected can be sent to Mike Landmark c/o Voyageur Trail Association address.



MAP PRICES INCREASE

Due to increased cost from the supplier, map orders through the VTA have increased in price. Paper maps (shipped folded) are now \$13.00 and Tyvek (waterproof) maps for popular areas are now \$17.00—still less than most retail locations.

To order maps, call Steve at 705-946-2484. (Please add \$2.00 postage and handling for orders of less than 3 maps.)



Again this year, Sault Collège Outdoor Recreation students helped us clean a section of the Voyageur Trail from Hiawatha Park towards Mabel Lake. Thanks students for your hard work! It is appreciated!



HELP WANTED by Steve Dominy

The Voyageur Hiking Trail Guidebook was revamped into the current binder format about 8 years ago. The update entailed the production of digitized maps of the route, review and revision of the trail description, and putting it all into a new format. However, the effort really paid off, as the book is a hot seller. We have sold about 1000 copies over that period to members and hikers across Ontario and Michigan. However, we know we can do even better! Thus, the time has come to make the next leap in design and have the trail route fully digitized and mapped using GPS and GIS technologies. If you aren't familiar with those 'names', they are in essence high-tech ways to very accurately map the trail route. While we're at it, we're going to re-write in a consistent manner the trail descriptions, some of which have become quite dated.

The Guidebook Committee tends to sit idle for long periods between major revisions. In that time, members drift away and the committee becomes a one-person show - the chairperson! This is where you can help. To complete this new Version 4.0 of the guidebook by our target of March 2006, a small group of dedicated folks is required. A list of the major tasks is as follows:

- Assist with writing, costing, review and/or reporting related to grant applications
- Assist with hiring, supervision, and/or ground support for a trail auditor/writer
- Assist with reviewing new guidebook text
- Assist with GIS mapping of the trail and related features (some of this may be contracted out if funding is secured)
- Assist with design and layout of the Guidebook
- Assist with development of a Web-based system to access the trail maps (perhaps fee-for-service)
- Assist with printing and distribution

If you feel you can spare some time to help with one or more of these tasks, please contact the Guidebook Committee Chair, Steve Dominy (705-946-2484).



paid advertisement

SKYLINE HIKERS OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

Hike with the oldest hiking club in Canada.



Non-profit organization offers five 6-day wilderness base camps annually in the Canadian Rockies from mid-July to mid-August.

Land costs approximately \$730 p/p.

Includes return bus transportation from Banff to trailhead, tent accommodation with stove, wholesome meals, hot water, camp staff, guided day hikes, evening campfire program and sing songs.

Hikers carry only a day pack, but must be fit for mountain hiking.



For a free brochure, contact:

E-mail: registrar@skylinehikers.ca

Web: www.skylinehikers.ca

Ontario residents contact volunteer:

Harry Moerschner, Tel: 705-445-0267;

E-mail: moersch@bmts.com

MORE HELP WANTED

What is the job?

Before June 25, 2005, to walk the 8 km section of the Voyageur Trail between Shaw Dam Lake and Highway 129, placing flagging in any areas where the trail is difficult to follow.

Why would I do this?

Because the Ontario Forest Ranger program has generously offered once again to provide in that area crews for trail clearing work in the summer (July/August) of 2005. It is imperative that they can easily follow the trail.

What's in it for me?

The satisfaction of knowing you have played a part in improving one of the sections of trail that does not see regular maintenance owing to the absence of a local club in the Thessalon area.

Who do I contact?

Call our toll-free number 1-877-393-4003 and Mike Landmark will see to it that your name gets to me.

Are there other similar tasks I could help with?

You bet! Trail sections are available for adoption across the trail system. Mike Landmark (1-877-393-4003) can advise of one near you.



HIKING THE EAST COAST TRAIL by Carolyn & Harry Moerschner

In early July 2004, we hiked along a section of the East Coast Trail from Pouch Cove to Cape St. Francis, on the Avalon Peninsula in Newfoundland. Following directions from our hostess, Elke Dettmer, owner of Points East B & B, our hike took us over rocky, hilly terrain. Since this was a sunny day and our first hike in this beautiful part of the country, we enjoyed the views, sometimes walking on the edge of towering cliffs or out to headlands, always the wide expanse of the ocean close by.

During the next couple of days, the weather changed and the sky was overcast. Fog gave the landscape an eerie feeling. We could hear the waves crashing against barely visible cliffs, as we hiked past patches of bunchberries in bloom and through silent groves of trees stunted by the wind.

As we continued our journey south of St. John's, Elke dropped us off at Cape Spear for our 12 km hike to Maddox Cove, while she drove on to deliver our luggage to our next B & B. The early morning fog had lifted and it turned out to be a sunny day. Hiking along the cliffs, we took our time, often causing to take pictures, admire the vistas and watch the whales. At trailhead, Reg Carter was waiting to take us to Orca Inn at Petty Harbour, where we received a hearty welcome from the delightful Carter family.

(Continued on page 9)



HIKING THE EAST COAST TRAIL

(cont'd from page 8)

After 4 days of hiking, we decided to have a day of rest. In true Newfoundland fashion, their daughter, Susan, kindly drove us to the Geo Centre in St. John's, located on Signal Hill, where we spent a leisurely and enjoyable afternoon.

Moving on, we hiked from Bay Bulls past dramatic coastal views, to our next stop, Elaines B & B, at Witless Bay—a large home with fabulous views of the ocean. During a supper of fish cakes and beans, fellow hiker, who had been kayaking, were raving about their encounter with the whales. The weather cooperated and next morning, we put on orange survival suits and boarded a Zodiac, operated by Danny, Elaine's husband. After observing 2 eagles at a nest in a tall spruce tree on the shore, Danny pointed the Zodiac to the open waters and drove towards the islands of the Witless Bay Ecological Reserve. Finback, Humpback, and Minke whales put on a great show for us. Danny shut off the motor for a few minutes, as a Finback whale, the second largest mammal in the world, crossed right under our Zodiac, curiously looking us over. Happily, he didn't disapprove of what he saw, to our great relief. We continued to the islands, where thousands of Atlantic Puffins, Common Murres, Kittiwakes and Herring Gulls scattered out of the way, diving or flying overhead. When we arrived back at the dock, we were like in a trance from this extraordinary experience. It was one of the highlights of our trip and the memories of that trip are permanently etched in our minds.

Staying at Brown Rabbit Cabins, Tors Cove, we hiked along the cliff edge to the abandoned fishing village of La Manche. A suspension bridge, built by the ECTA, replaces a traditional bridge, which was washed out in 1966, when the villagers were forced to relocate.

At the end of our vacation, we spent time in St. John's walking a good number of the many wonderful local trails, including one along the Battery up to Signal Hill for an amazing view of city, harbour and ocean. We also made contact with officials of the ECTA to discuss future plans of hiking and the possibility of helping with their trail development.

As we reflect on our adventure, we recall the warm hospitality of the Newfoundlanders, the vast expanse of the ocean, waves crashing against cliffs, boardwalks on peat bog trails, cliff side trails and frolicking whales spouting in the distance (and nearby). All of this made it a most memorable trip and will bring us back again to the land of the Tuckamore.

For information on the East Coast Trail Association and Trail Connections, write to: PO Box 8034, St. John's, NL, A1B 3M7, Telephone (705) 738-4453, web site: www.ecta.nf.ca

Trail Connections is an affiliation of B & Bs along the trail providing hikers with transportation, accommodation and meals as well as, hike planning.

Coordinator: Elke Dettmer,
Telephone (709) 335-8315,
e-mail: edettmer@nf.sympatico.ca



For non-members, the Guidebook is now available from Dunn's Authors, Joe's Sports & Surplus, Bush Plan Museum, ACR Gift Shop, Airways Genral 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; Agawa Indian Crafts, Pancake Bay; Lakehead University, Thunder Bay; Rainbow Country Travel, Sudbury Welcome Centre, Sudbury; Running Free, Markham; Algonquin Outfitters, Dwight; Sojourn, Barrie; Mountain Equipment Co-op, Toronto; World of Maps, Ottawa.

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FORM (please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov. / State: _____ Postal/Zip Code: _____

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

E-mail address: _____

MEMBERSHIP FEES: (NOTE: As of March 31, 2005, fees will increase: Individual Fee will be \$25 and Family/Group Fee will be \$30)

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 x _____ (size _____)	= _____	
Sweatshirt \$20 x _____ (size _____)	= _____	
For Topography Maps, call Steve (705) 946-2484		

Make cheques payable and mail to:
VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION
PO Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd.
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6W3

cont'd on back



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(alternate) Alan Day

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(For information on any of these positions [especially the vacant ones], please contact us at our toll-free number 1-877-393-4003.)

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

Deadline for the next issue is:

April 1, 2005

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 can 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!

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/Rosport
- ☐ Marathon
- ☐ Wawa
- ☐ Batchewana
- ☐ Harmony Beach/Haviland Bay
- ☐ Goulais / Stokely
- ☐ Sault Ste. Marie

Club

- Nipigon/Thunder Bay V.T.C.
- Casques 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
- ☐ Shesguandah
- ☐ South Baymouth
- ☐ Sudbury

Club

- Desbarats V.T.C.
- Penewobikong V.T.C.
- Coueurs de Bois V.T.C.
- Rainbow V.T.C.

