



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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PAINING BLAZES
ON THE
DESBARATS SECTION



VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the United Church Hall, Blind River, Saturday October 1, 1977 at 8.00 p.m. One of our members, Marcel Roy, will give an illustrated talk on the natural history of the Rocky Mountains where he and his wife, Shirley, hiked this summer. There will also be a movie. Come out and make this the best Annual General Meeting yet.

BOARD ACTIVITIES

The July Board Meeting was held Tuesday evening, July 26, in Thessalon, at the residence of Jack MacDonald, with representatives in attendance from Saulteaux, Echo Ridges, Desbarats, Thessalon and Penewobikong clubs. An important item of business was the formal recognition by the Board of four new clubs: Sudbury, Rainbow (Espanola), Michipicoten (Wawa), and Thunder Bay, bring the total of member-clubs in the Association to nine. At the same meeting elections were held for the positions of President and Secretary (officers are elected biennially on staggered terms), with the incumbants, P.D. Syme and I.K. Morrison being retained by acclamation. The Board also voted to retain V.T.A.'s membership in the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations, an affiliation which has been most beneficial to V.T.A. in the past, and also to join International Backpackers' Association, which is also expected to be beneficial to V.T.A. Other matters discussed included ways of overcoming problems faced by remote clubs in relation to attending future Board meetings, and the Lake Superior Provincial Park Master Plan and its implications for V.T.A.

Ian Morrison, Secretary

TRAIL NEWS

This summer saw the 10 mile "Superhike" loop of the Rainbow Section completely blazed and readied for unguided hiking. This was accomplished through the efforts of some of the Saulteaux Club members and a gang of enthusiasts from our newly formed Sudbury Club, under the able leadership of G.R. Morrison, Rainbow Club President. The Sudbury Club hopes to lend support in the construction of the northern extension of the Rainbow section this fall.

In Wawa, the Michipicoten Club hopes to begin trail construction this fall, and at the Lakehead, the Thunder Bay Club is organizing and planning.

Most of the side-trails on the Sauleaux section have been blue-blazed and several minor re-alignments have been made. Two other re-alignments around the gravel pits at Airport Road and west of Highway 17 north are underway or are pending construction developments.

With the Sauleaux and Desbarats sections of the Voyageur Trail complete and with significant portions of the Echo Ridges and Thessalon sections cleared, or cleared and painted, it is possible that with a strong effort on the part of our members, we can close those gaps this fall and have between 90 and 100 miles of continuous trail between Gros Cap and Highway 129 at Thessalon. This can only happen if we all pitch in and help clear trail. Remember, we are only as strong as our membership and you are our membership. Wouldn't it be nice to finish off the season with 100 miles of continuous trail? (that's 160 kilometers). There is little time left, so let's all work together to get it done.

P.D.Syme

V.T.A. SPRING HIKES - 1977

Having been on many Field Trip Committees I have come to believe that any field trip is a success if the leader and one other person arrive at the meeting place, go on the planned trip or an agreeable alternative and enjoy the day. Indeed, the occasional outing may be somewhat less than successful because of too many participants. With that in mind we can safely say that our hikes this year have been completely successful.

The public hike for Conservation Week in Sault Ste. Marie was well attended and enjoyed. The logistics of serving hot coffee proved a bit of a problem but this was not the main purpose of the day anyway. Since it was Sunday and the starting point was a church camp, a short service was held before the walk began - a fitting preliminary to the enjoyment of natural beauty. The weather was cool and somewhat overcast but the rain held off until the walkers were out of the woods. The long hike in June was dampened by a bit of rain but no less enjoyable for it. It took place north of Thessalon. The intrepid hikers, led by Don Fulton, set out from Highway 129 and walked 8 miles to the Shaw Road through wonderful rolling hills and beautiful country.

The evening walk in June took place on a very hot evening that may have discouraged some who thereby missed a fine time. Some new members and friends turned out and enjoyed it thoroughly; one from Finland was amazed at such wild beauty within the city limits. Our leader, Tom Allison, led us through deep woods which seemed remote from any civilization and yet was only a five minute

drive from a shopping plaza. The highlights were a view from a cliff-top of the Ste. Mary's River and international bridge and crossing the Root River on stepping stones at the end of the walk. We were back at the highway by 8 p.m. with plenty of time for other pursuits.

Eve Kersey, Activities Committee

MAP AND GUIDEBOOK COMMITTEE

Our first Guidebook should appear late next spring. Members of the Committee, Dick McCutcheon, Arnold Megan, Dieter Ropke and editor Bob Andrews are either in the process of collecting descriptions of each of the first four sections of the trail or preparing and validating maps. V.T.A. President Paul Syme is an ex-officio member of the Committee.

A THANK YOU

I'm sure everyone has noticed the beautiful pictures that have appeared on the covers of the last three issues of the Newsletter. The preparation of these cover pictures was by Mr. Gerry Ryckman and his students in the Graphic Arts area of Alexander Henry High School. We wish to express the thanks of the V.T.A. to Mr. Ryckman and his students for their efforts on our behalf.

THE 1977 V.T.A. PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Here is a chance for you photographers to show your skills - in the 1977 V.T.A. Photography Contest. If you have any slides or prints, colour or black and white, of the trail or trail activities, submit them. If you don't, take some and submit them. This year there will be a \$10.00 voucher for best overall picture, so get cracking and make this contest a real success.

Conditions of Entry:

1. Subject areas: (a) Club or trail activities. Emphasis will be placed on how well club activities or hiking are shown. Photographic excellence will be secondary.
(b) Trail views.
2. The competition is open to amateur photographers.
3. Three categories: (a) 2 x 2" slides in cardboard mounts
(b) black and white prints
(c) colour prints.