



No. 90 SPRING 2005

Published by the
VOYAGEUR TRAIL
ASSOCIATION

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Visit our web site at:
www3.sympatico.ca/
voyageur.trail

e-mail:
voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca

*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

ACTING PRESIDENT / VP CENTRAL REPORT

by **Mike Landmark**

Congratulations to Gayle Phillips for writing and obtaining a grant from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation for the purchase of snowshoes for youth. The snowshoes will be made available to all clubs (by appointment). Contact us for booking for the next snowshoe season.

I have been in contact with the La Cloche Ridge Conservation Reserve in Espanola, regarding trails in that region that the VTA may be able to use. At one time, the trails in that area were part of our system, but due to landowner issues, we have not been advertising them for a number of years. The Heaven's Gate trail is the third most popular trail in the Conservation Reserve, and hiking is the most popular activity surveyed. I will provide further updates for hiking in that area as they become available.

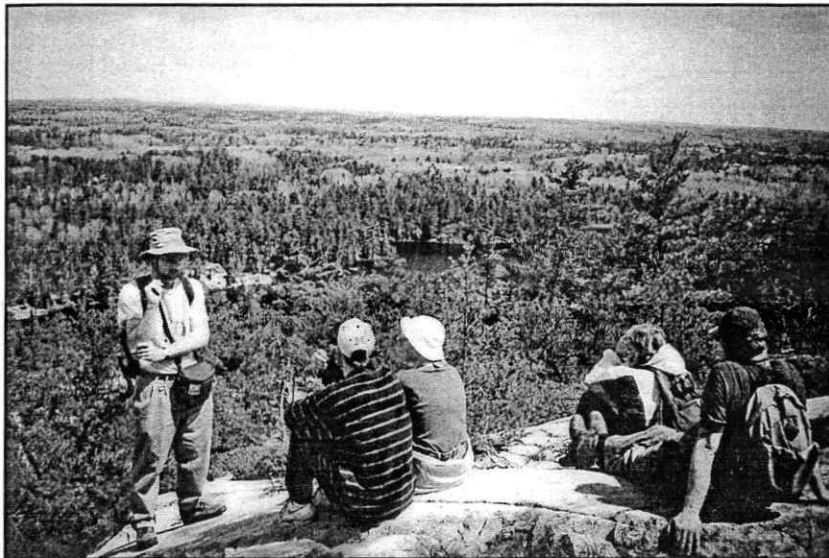


Photo of VTA executive on Heaven's Gate trail in 1995

The Old Sawmill Bay extension to Batchawana Mountain, the John Kovala section, is ongoing, and I am in the process of obtaining permission from the MNR and other land owners. I am hoping to have the trail ready by the fall of 2005. Anyone interested in helping out with blazing, trail building, etc. are asked to contact me at (705) 779-3409.

I am working with Chairperson, Steve Dominy, on revising the guidebook (Edition 4). This is going to be a major undertaking and any assistance would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to help with writing, GPS, travel support, advertising, distribution, etc, we want to hear from you. Contact either Steve Dominy at (705) 946-2484 or the toll-free number, 1-877-393-4003.

The reroute of the Shaw Dam section is ongoing and, hopefully, will be completed this spring.

The Tom Allison Spur Trail section, the Gros Cap Loop Trail and the main trail west of Creek Road in Prince Township will be closed for 2005 due to the construction of the wind energy farm in this part of the VTA trail system. For safety reasons, it is not recommended that any hiking

take place while this is ongoing. I will keep everyone informed as more information becomes available. Check our web site for regular updates on the Saulteaux section page.

While progress on the Trans Canada Trail pavilion in Sault Ste. Marie has been slow, it is still hoped that the unveiling of this project will occur in the fall of 2005.

We are considering a partnership with the mountain biking component of the

Sault Cycling Club for trail development and maintenance in the central section of the VTA system.



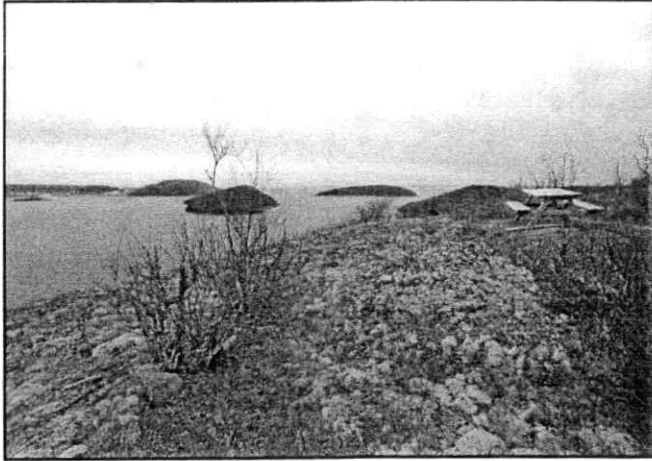
HELP WANTED!
on the new Voyageur Trail
Guidebook Committee...
see page 7

10 FAVOURITE LOOKOUTS ON THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL by Kas Stone

(This was the intro from our Winter 2004/5 newsletter.)

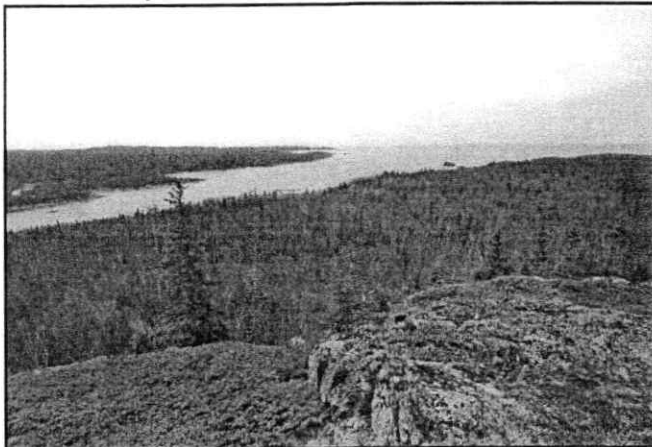
One of the things I enjoy most about hiking on the Voyageur Trail is the frequent scramble to an exposed height of land to take in a spectacular view. Some of my satisfaction may be the physical exertion of the scramble itself and the restorative picnic lunch with which I feel compelled to reward myself 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. ...and now, we continue...

6. Picnic Table Lookout (looking east over Peninsula Harbour)



- **Location:** on the Voyageur Trail north of Marathon.
- **Access:** park at the end of the gravel road that exits the main Marathon Road 3.2 km from Hwy 17 on the right (immediately after the golf course), pick up the Voyageur Trail at Carden Cove and follow it westward for 2 km to the steep side-trail leading to the hilltop lookout.
- **View:** across Peninsula Harbour and its hummocky islands towards the town (and pulp mill) of Marathon to the south-east, and the shoreline of Peninsula Bay and Lake Superior to the west and south.

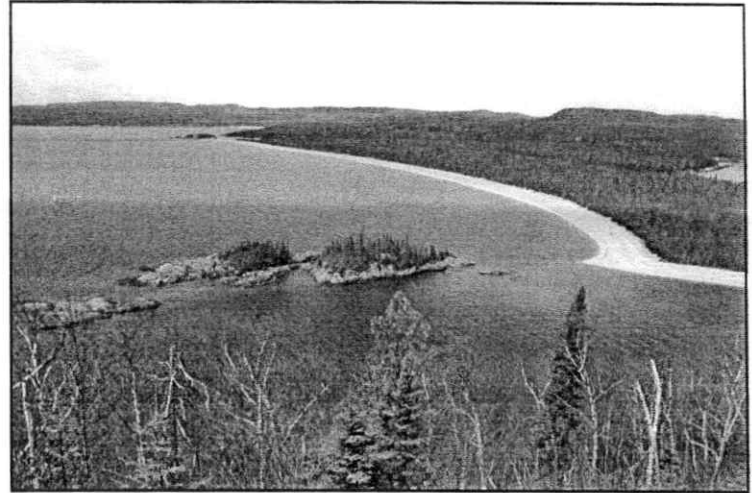
7. Heron Bay Lookout



- **Location:** on the recently-opened (July 2002) section of the Voyageur Trail that runs south from Marathon to Pukaskwa National Park.

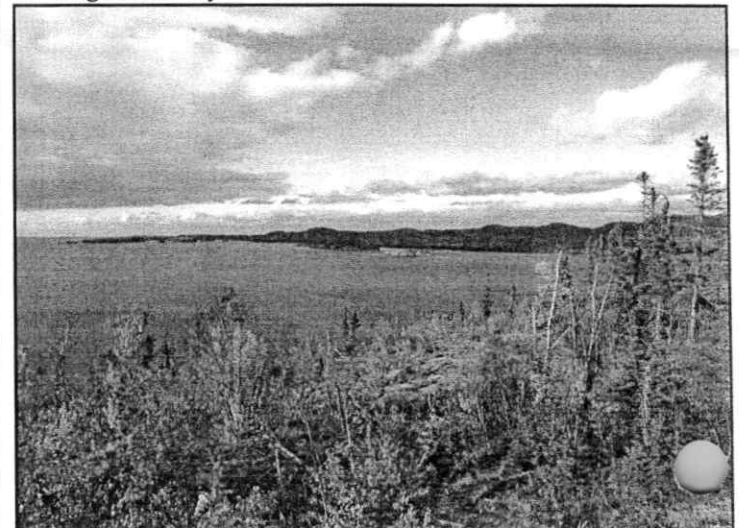
- **Access:** park at Heron Bay 1.5 km along the gravel access road from Hwy 627, pick up the Voyageur Trail across the road and follow it for 1 km over a set of railroad tracks and up the hill to an open ridge with lots of lookout points.
- **View:** over Heron Bay and CPR Island to the south, along the coast to the Coldwell Peninsula and Pic Island in the north, and inland across an impressive valley towards the hills of Pukaskwa.

8. Driftwood Beach Lookout



- **Location:** on the Michipicoten section of the Voyageur Trail south of the Michipicoten River.
- **Access:** exit Hwy 17 to the right onto an unmarked (and easily missed!) gravel road 1.2 km south of the Michipicoten River bridge and park 1.7 km down the road at the ruins of Fort Friendship. Pick up the Voyageur Trail southward and follow it up the hill past Mission Lake to several lookouts along the ridge.
- **View:** Driftwood Beach and the winding course of the Michipicoten River in the foreground, with the Wawa hills in the background to the north.

9. Gargantua Bay Lookout



- **Location:** on the south side of Gargantua Bay along the Lake Superior Provincial Park Coastal Trail.

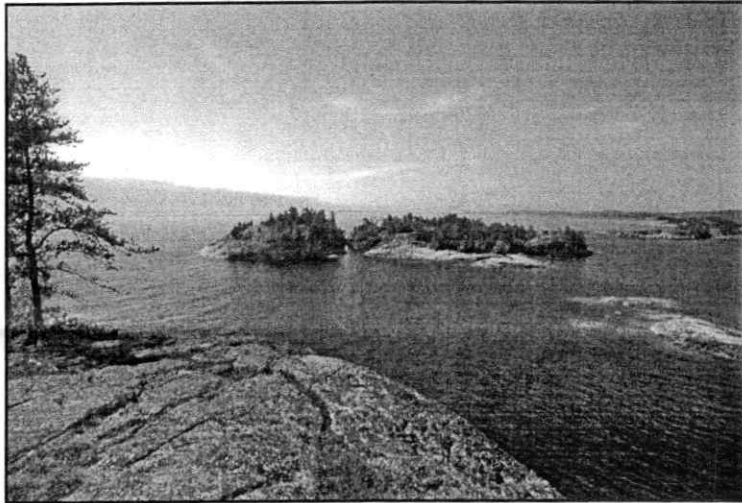
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10 FAVOURITE LOOKOUTS *(cont'd from page 2)*

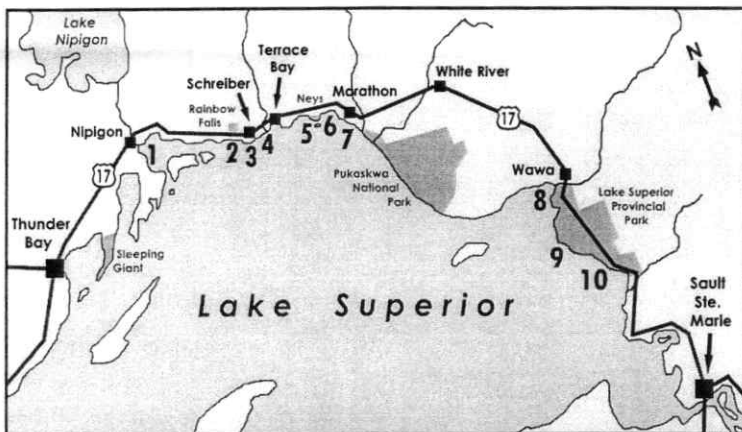
- * **Access:** park at the end of the Gargantua Road and follow the Coastal Trail south for 2.5 km around the Bay and steeply up the cliff to the barren headland at the mouth of the Bay.
- * **View:** north across Gargantua Bay to the islands and channels off Cape Gargantua, and westward over Lake Superior.

10. Sinclair Cove Lookout



- * **Location:** on the Lake Superior Provincial Park Coastal Trail between Sinclair Cove and the Agawa Rock pictographs.
- * **Access:** park in the gravel area at Sinclair Cove (500 m down the hill past the main Agawa Pictographs parking lot), pick up the Coastal Trail at the south end of the parking area, follow it for 25 m then turn right onto the lookout side-trail which scrambles steeply to the top of a rocky headland.
- * **View:** Sinclair Cove with Sinclair and Barrett Islands and numerous rocky shoals.
- * **Note:** a delightful day's outing can be had by extending the hike along the Coastal Trail for another 3 km, visiting the Agawa Rock pictographs, scrambling through an amazing jumble of talus tunnels and climbing to another lookout (over the Agawa Islands).

Location of Kas' 10 Favourite Lookouts



To see Kas' 10 Favourite Lookouts in its entirety, AND in colour (with extra photos), visit the VTA web site at: www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail and follow the links. ALSO, see page 9 for an exciting announcement for Kas Stone fans!

MYSTERY SOLVED!



We finally managed to meet our elusive author, Kas Stone (kneeling in the foreground on the right). Kas nips in and out of Northern Ontario taking wonderful photographs on the Voyageur Trail and submitting them along with interesting stories to this publication. It was a real treat to finally meet face-to-face! Also in the photo, Gayle Phillips (also kneeling in foreground), Mike Landmark (standing on left) and Rick Chuchra. Kas' dog Skye faces the camera while Mike's dog, Misty, won't let us catch her face until we talk to her agent!

VOLUNTEER FOR NATURE

The Marsh Monitoring Program (MMP) is looking for interested naturalists to monitor birds, amphibians and their habitats in marshes throughout the Great Lakes basin in both Canada and the United States.

MMP volunteers conduct surveys during spring and early summer in marsh habitats, documenting the presence and abundance of birds and amphibians within these biologically rich environments. To date, data submitted by MMP volunteers have been used to detect significant changes in population trends of marsh birds and amphibians, to develop indicators of wetland health, and to provide practical information for marsh habitat management.

For more information about the program and how to participate, please contact Kathy Jones at aqsurvey@bsc-eoc.org or 1-888-448-2473 ext. 212.

The Marsh Monitoring Program is delivered by Bird Studies Canada in partnership with Environment Canada Conservation Branch - Ontario Region, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency - Great Lakes National Programs Office. Additional financial support is provided by the Toronto Dominion Friends of the Environment Foundation.

Visit their Web Page at www.bsc-eoc.org.



OBITUARY *by Steve Dominy*

A long time friend of the Voyageur Trail Association passed away in 2004.

Mr. Delmar Ellis of Sarnia first visited our northern trail system in the early 1980s, where he undertook to clear and re-blaze the now unused Rainbow (loop) Section of the trail south of Espanola. I had the privilege to meet Delmar about two years later in May of 1984. At the time I was membership secretary and my phone number was printed in the newsletter, so Delmar called to advise that he had been on a section of trail that day and could not follow it - he wasn't upset, but merely wanted to let a local member know of a problem area. In the course of our conversation, I learned that Delmar had hiked from Gros Cap to Highway 17 the previous day, a distance of 38 km! That was when I knew I had to meet Delmar, so I invited him to my place for dinner. I found Delmar to be extremely knowledgeable in a wide range of topics, from outdoor survival to healthy eating. We struck up a lasting friendship, and stayed in touch via various means over the years.

As my last Christmas card had gone unanswered and his phone was out of service, I tracked down a new phone number and spoke with Delmar's wife Maxine. She advised that Delmar had passed away of Multiple Myeloma, a devastating cancer of the plasma and bone marrow. The tribute to his life was incredibly uplifting, with over 300 people in attendance. Maxine said there was much laughter of the good memories invoked by his many colleagues, particularly the Boy Scout members he had touched during his long life.

Delmar mentioned to me in 1984 that he was 67 years old. At the time, I knew of no hiker who had completed the 38 km stretch Delmar had seemingly eased over the day before our first conversation. Being in my mid-twenties at the time, I convinced my friend Steve Taylor that we should not let someone 40 years our senior show us up. That September we made the 38 km hike, starting at daybreak (7 a.m.) and arriving at Gros Cap just as the sun was setting 12 hours later. The pain of that day's excursion will stay with me forever! (Never try to break in new boots on an extended hike!) Many thanks to Delmar for engendering in some distant acquaintances the will to stretch their capabilities. Your enthusiasm for life and living is truly an inspiration to us all. May we meet again at some distant time and place.



member advertisement

FOR SALE (best offer)

X-country skis 210 cm size 9 (43) boots, poles. Like new!

Traditional snowshoes - ash.

Call Barry 949-2688.



HIKE ONTARIO EVENTS

Hike Ontario is dedicated to promoting hiking in Ontario. To do this effectively, we need your support, guidance and participation. As your provincial organization, one of our core services and priorities is to assist in promoting your club. Therefore, the more information we receive on a regular basis the easier the task!

2005 Event Dates:

30th Anniversary of Ontario Hiking Day, April 24, 2005

International Trails Day, June 4, 2005

Ontario Hiking Week, September 25 - October 3, 2005 -
registration deadline is June 15, 2005

Please keep in mind that you do not have to plan special or extra hikes to celebrate these days. Feel free to submit your regularly planned and scheduled hikes.

Hike Ontario News - Quarterly Newsletter submission deadlines:

Spring edition:	February 1
Summer Edition:	April 1
Fall edition:	July 1
Winter edition:	Oct. 1

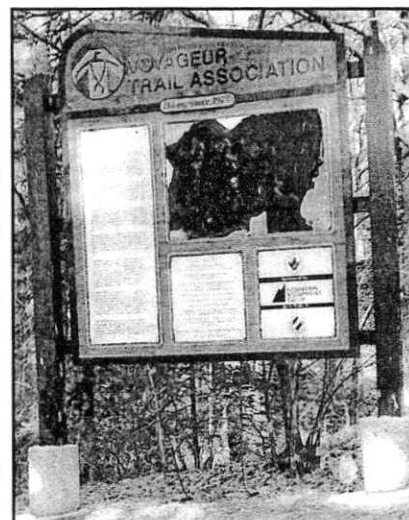
Let's work together and offer Ontario more hiking opportunities than they can imagine! I look forward to hearing from you.

Happy hiking,

Terri LeRoux, Vice President, Hike Ontario
E-mail: hikerhamilton@hotmail.com
Web: www.hikeontario.com



VANDALIZED!



Unfortunately, signs in isolated locations give vandals more time to work on them! This sign used to be located at the top of Crystal Falls in Kinsmen Park near Sault Ste. Marie, but was moved to a busier and more visible location at Glenview Cottages & Vacation Home for its own protection.



OUTING SCHEDULE

This schedule was put together early and may have last-minute changes. Please call the outing leader at least the day before an outing to check if any details of the outing have changed.

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, lunch, fly repellent, dress appropriately and be prepared to sign an Assumption of Risk Agreement.*

Sat., April 16 - VTA Coordinating Council Meeting at 10AM in Funktion *(in Goodlife building, 589 Second Line E).*

Sat., Apr. 16 - Saulteaux Club Annual Dinner at 6PM Buttermilk. After dinner slide show by *Caribou Expeditions*. Tickets \$25/person by calling Susan (949-4105) or Doris (942-9466).

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

Sun., May 1 - Annual Go To Blazes kick-off to the work party season! This half work party, half hike will take place on the Crimson Ridge section. Meet 10AM at Funktion. Behaved pets welcome. Call Gayle (942-1891) or Doris (942-9466) for more info.

Sun., May 8 - Mother's Day hike & hot dog roast at the Wetzl homestead (Horst 542-8978). Meet at the Market Mall at 10AM sharp to car pool. Behaved pets welcome, but please leash at lunch.

***Sun., May 15** - Pancake Bay Nature Trail hike with Ila (949-1097). Meet behind Penningtons Superstore at 10AM sharp. Behaved pets welcome.

Mon., May 16 - Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting at 7PM in Funktion *(589 Second Line E)*. Call 942-1891.

Sat., May 28 - Work party on the Tomlinson Spur Trail with Gail (942-0768). Market Mall at 9:30 AM. Tools will be provided.

Thurs., June 16 - Discover the proposed city HUB Trail - #1 (70% sidewalk + 30%

bush through Fort Creek) Third Line to boardwalk. Meet 6PM at the corner of Third Line & Old Goulais Bay Road. Call Gayle at 942-1891. Easy Level.

***Sat., June 25** - Trout Lake paddle and dinner at Trout Lake Resort with Garry (949-1302). Meet at 9:30 AM behind Penningtons Superstore. You must be part of a fully equipped, self sufficient canoe/kayak party to participate.

Tues., July 5 - Discover the proposed city HUB trail #2 (100% sidewalk). From the boardwalk to Bellevue Park. Meet 6PM at the Tourist Information Centre on the corner of Queen and Huron Streets. Call Gayle at 942-1891. Easy Level.

***Sat., July 9** - Hike in LSPP with Doris (942-9466). Meet at 9:30 AM sharp in Funktion to car pool. Behaved pets welcome, but bring a leash.

Mon., July 11 - Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting at 7PM at Funktion *(589 Second Line E)*. Will plan autumn outing schedule.

***Sat., July 16** - Hike on the Desbarats Trail with a potluck afterwards. Meet 9:30 AM in the Churchill Plaza parking lot to car pool. Please leave your pets at home for this outing. For more info, call Dieter or Erika at 942-9636.

***Sat., July 23** - Hike the Pancake Bay trail with Jim (254-7494). Meet 9AM at Funktion *(589 Second Line E)*. Pets ok.

Thurs., July 28 - Discover the proposed city HUB trail #3 (100% sidewalk). From Lake Street to the bottom of Finn Hill. Meet at the waterfront in Bellevue Park at 6PM. Call Gayle at 942-1891. Easy.

Mon., Aug. 1 - Civic Day holiday - Discover the proposed city HUB trail #4 (100% bush walking). From Finn Hill to the new hospital site on Third Line. Meet at the bottom of Finn Hill at 1PM. Call Gayle at 942-1891.

Sat., Aug. 6 - Work party on the Saulteaux section with Gayle (942-1891).

Meet 10AM in Market Mall. Tools will be provided. Pets ok.

***Sat., Aug. 13** - Paddle in the Echo Ridges area with Garry (949-1302). Meet in the Wellington Square Mall at 8:30 AM. You must be part of a fully equipped, self sufficient canoe/kayak party to participate.

***Sun., Aug. 14** - Hike to Tier Lake with Ila (949-1097). Meet behind Penningtons Superstore at 9:30 AM sharp. Pets ok.

Sun., Aug. 21 - Hike in the west end of the city with Jack (942-1761). Meet Market Mall at 10AM. Behaved pets ok.

***Sat., Aug. 27** - Awaussee Trail in LSPP with Marge (253-5888). Meet at Funktion 9:30 AM sharp. Behaved pets welcome but bring a leash. Be prepared for uphill terrain *(but we will take our time)* and bring sandals for stream crossing. We will stop for dinner on our way home.

Sun., Sept. 11 - Work party on the Saulteaux section with Gayle (942-1891). Meet 10AM in Market Mall. Tools will be provided. Pets ok.

Sun., Sept. 18 - Hike north of the city with Jack (942-1761). Meet at Funktion 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

Mon., Sept. 19 - Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting at 7PM in Funktion *(589 Second Line E)*. Call 942-1891.



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

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!**



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/snack, 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.

APRIL

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

14 Thursday 10AM Intermediate Hike - Fred 848-2956

15 Friday Cycling - Al 848-4372

16 Saturday 10AM - VTA Coordinating Council Meeting at 10AM in Sault Ste. Marie at Funktion (289 Second Line E.)

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

MAY

All Tuesdays 10AM Easy Hike - Nancy-jo 848-2947

All Thursdays 10AM Intermediate Hike - Liz & Phil 848-8767

1 Sunday 9AM Hike/Clean-Up Cobre Trail - Al 848-4372

7 Saturday 10AM Intermediate Hike "Red Briffet Trail" - Di 848-8776

14 Saturday 9AM All-day "Little White River Canoe" - Thomas 461-9668

21 Saturday 10AM Easy hike - Lois 848-1441

24 Tuesday 7PM General Meeting, Snowbird's Clubhouse (tentative)

28 Saturday Canoe portage clean-up. Call Thomas 461-9668

JUNE

All Tuesdays 10AM Easy Hike - John 848-3515

All Thursdays 10AM Intermediate Hike - Liz & Phil 848-8767

4 Saturday 8AM All day hike on the "Cup & Saucer", Manitoulin Island with Ross 848-7517

11 Saturday 10AM Hike (lunch after at Truffles) - John 461-1026

18 Saturday 4PM Annual "Potluck in the Park" Westview Park

25 Saturday Canoe Portages clean-up - Thomas 461-9668

JULY

1-3 Heritage Festival / 50th Anniversary of Elliot Lake events

1 Friday 11AM Festival Ceremonial Flag-Raising, Hike & Beach Party

2 Saturday Festival Parade (we need volunteers for our float and walkers) John or Judy 461-1026

All Tuesdays 10AM Easy Hike - John 848-3515

7 Thursday 10AM Intermed. Hike - Robert 848-4030

9 Saturday 10AM Fun Day - Liz & Phil 848-8767

14 Thursday 10AM Intermed. Hike - Robert 848-4030



continues in next column

16 Saturday Parks Day in Mississagi! 10AM Easy Hike on the Helenbar Trail followed by a tailgate party - John & Judy 461-1026

Anyone interested in a Parks Day Intermediate hike of the Semiwhite Trail or an Advanced hike of the Mackenzie Trail can call John at 461-1026

21 Thursday Canoe & Hike "Old Baldy" - Alan 848-8776

23 Saturday Canoe, Hike or Bike at Quirke Lake Fun Day - Nancy-jo 848-2947

28 Thursday 10AM Intermediate hike - Thomas 461-9668

AUGUST

All Tuesdays 10AM Easy Hike - John 461-1026

4 Thursday 10AM Intermediate Hike - Robert 848-4030

6&7 Saturday & Sunday Hike the VTA Elliot Lake to Blind River (Granary Lake). Come out and enjoy our new section of trail! Thomas 461-9668

11 Thursday Intermediate hike - Robert 848-4030

13 Saturday Fun Day & Potluck at Fred & Maxine's cottage near Thessalon - Fred 848-2956

15 Monday 5-day Mountain Biking Trip (weather permitting) - Al 848-4372

18 Thursday 10AM Intermediate hike - Thomas 461-9668

20 Saturday 10AM Hike & BBQ - Jean 848-9320 or Elizabeth 461-7760 or Heather 461-3099

25 Thursday Canoe with Alan 848-8776

27 Saturday Fun Day at Thomas & Marg's in Massey - Thomas 461-9668



MORE HIKING OPPORTUNITIES!

Watch the VTA web site (www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail) for backpacking opportunities (supported by boat) in Pukaskwa National Park near Marathon in late May or early June, and again in July or August. Contact: Glen Labrash at 807-229-0801 ext. 233 or visit www.friendsofnpn.ca

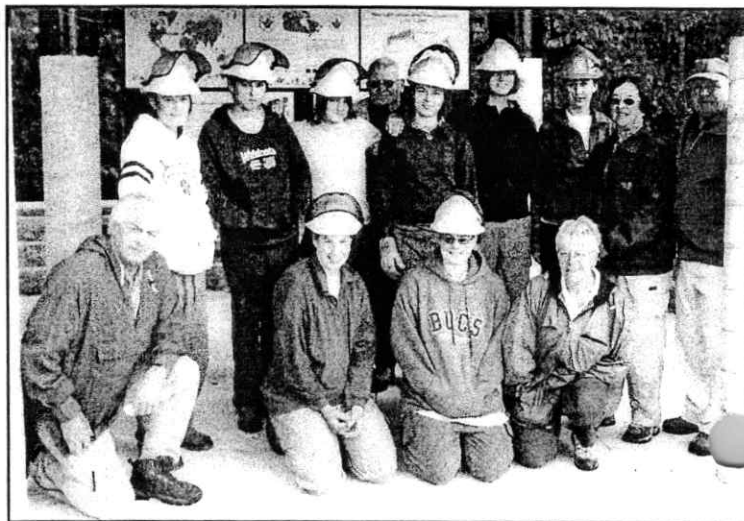
Watch the VTA web site

(www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail)

for hiking opportunities in the Wawa area.



THANKS FOR YOUR DEDICATION!



A dedicated group of Junior Rangers spent part of their summer assisting the Coueurs de Bois Club in building the Voyageur Trail through the city of Elliot Lake.

MIKE'S NEXT THREE

by **Mike Landmark**

Continuing with the theme of my favourite sections to hike on the Voyageur Trail, as started in the summer 2004 issue of the Voyageur Trail News, this time I will range a little further from my home in Sault Ste. Marie. The sections will go from east to west, but this doesn't mean they are in any particular order of preference.

I'll start with the original **Coueurs de Bois** section from Hwy 108 west towards Blind River. This section starts about 16 kilometres south of the city of Elliot Lake on Hwy 108 by the Christie Creek area. It's a very rustic trail and is quite challenging since it has only two access points. The centre section doesn't see a lot of use and this is part of its charm. But, such isolation also makes the trail more difficult to follow, due to windfalls and re-growth of vegetation. The reason I like this trail is that it's physically challenging and the varied topography and multitude of biosphere types found along its length make it an outdoor enthusiast's dream. The trail is about 25 kilometres long and is a very hard day trip or a nice 3-day overnighter. If you are planning on hiking this section of trail at some point in the future, you should be aware that it is no longer being maintained and is considered a wilderness trail. The Coueurs de Bois club in Elliot Lake is in the process of developing new trail that will be included in the new edition of the guidebook, which we hope to have available in the near future.

The next trail I'll talk about is the **Michipicoten** section in Wawa from the Bridget Lake Resources Road north to the Tourist Information Centre in the town. The section of trail from the Bridget Lake Resources Road to Fort Friendship is not widely used and, as a result, is very rustic but scenic. There are some spectacular views over Driftwood Beach and Lake Superior. The section from High Falls towards the Tourist Information Centre is more popular with hikers and the terrain is not quite as rugged. However, logging has taken place in this area, so extra caution should be used when hiking it. There may be blazes missing and the trail may not be as easy to follow in some places. However, the scenic gorges and falls are well worth seeing.

My third choice of interesting hikes is the **Casque Isles** section between Terrace Bay and Rossport. I haven't completed a full end-to-end of this particular section yet, but what I have hiked I have enjoyed immensely. The views of Lake Superior will take your breath away and you will see many examples of glacial activity in the area. And, a hike in this section is not complete without a trip to the spectacular Aguasabon Gorge and Mount Gwynne. The trail is rugged and recommended for experienced hikers. Shuttling of vehicles is also required to facilitate getting from one access point to another.

Again, this is only a small sampling of the diverse and interesting Voyageur Trail system. There are many other sections that I would recommend to those who love the great outdoors and physical challenges.



HELP WANTED by **Steve Dominy**

The Voyageur 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 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



Brown Rabbit Walkabout Tour

Hike the east coast trail located on the Avalon Penn. Newfoundland.

~ 400km. of beautiful coastal trails.

For information on our tours call Isa (709) 334-2208 or email: fritzd250@aol.com or check the website www.brownrabbit.nl.ca



NEW LSPP WEB SITE

Niijkiwenhwag - Friends of Lake Superior Park have developed a comprehensive website about Lake Superior Provincial Park. We realized the need for our own site as the Ontario Parks website is massive and visitors interested in only information about Lake Superior Provincial Park have often had a difficult time finding the information they seek.

Our site will be providing up-to-date information about:

- Camping (backcountry and campgrounds)
- Hiking trails
- Canoeing and kayaking
- Fishing and Hunting
- Park news
- Programs and special events
- Fees, dates and facilities
- The Friends organization
- Park location
- Current weather conditions
- The park's cultural and natural history
- How to contact the park for more information
- Local attractions and services (links)

For any questions that are not answered directly by our website, our knowledgeable park staff will also be answering email inquiries sent by online visitors.

Please check out our new website at
< <http://www.lakesuperiorpark.ca/> >.

We would appreciate any feedback.

Thank you, Friends of Lake Superior Park

P.S. The Voyageur Trail web site now hosts a link to this site on our Lake Superior Provincial Park page.



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



SIGNS INSTALLED

Thanks to Hike Ontario and the Trans Canada Trail Foundation, three signs pointing out natural features of the trail were installed in 2004. The first one shown below graces the top of the cliffs at Gros Cap and points out the significance of the St. Mary's River system.



Instrumental in the ordering and installation of this sign was Mike Landmark and his dog Misty (this time we spoke with her agent).

The signs shown below depict a fisher and ferns common to the North Shore area of Lake Huron. They can be enjoyed on the Iron Bridge section of Voyageur Trail.



(Photos by Patrick Carper.)

THE 10,000 STEPS PROGRAM

How many steps a day do you think you walk? Want to find out? Why not try the 10,000 Steps Program recommended by the Algoma Health Unit?

It's a simple 8-week program that involves using a pedometer to count your steps and help you increase your physical activity and improve your health. Wear the pedometer every day and gradually work your way up to walking 10,000 steps a day.

All public libraries in the Algoma region, from Wawa to Elliot Lake, have pedometers available to sign out free of charge.

If you find you want to buy one for yourself, they are available in many department and sports stores for approximately \$20.

For more information on this program, contact the Algoma Health Unit at 705-759-5417 or www.ahu.on.ca



SNOWSHOEING IS POPULAR!



The differences of opinion persist! Is it the lack of bugs? Cabin fever? Or just plain gorgeous sunny days that bring out the crowds all winter long?!



Photos: Camp Korah outing near Sault Ste. Marie courtesy Terry Reid.



Exciting News at our Press Time!

The VTA's favourite author, Kas Stone (see pages 2 & 3) has authored a book which will be available in your favourite book store this month. It's called, "Paddling & Hiking - Ontario's Southern Shield Country"; published by The Boston Mills Press; ISBN 1-55046-437-X

Kas writes about single day excursions by paddle and hiking boot in 12 locations, including Mississagi and Lake Superior Parks!

Don't miss this great gift for the outdoors person in your life! Get yours today!

And from the VTA, good luck Kas in your endeavour!



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:

Individual..... \$25 = _____

Family / Group..... \$30 = _____

Student..... \$10 = _____

Donations (tax receipt will be sent)..... = _____

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

*Cdn. Geographic Guide from SSMarie to Midland \$14.95 = _____

Shipping & Handling for all orders (marked *) ADD + \$ 5.00

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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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(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:
August 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 Fax: 705-779-1111
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):

<u>Section</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Club</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Nipigon/Thunder Bay	Nipigon/Thunder Bay V.T.C.	<input type="checkbox"/> Echo Bay	
<input type="checkbox"/> Schreiber/Terrace Bay/Rosspoint	Casques Isles V.T.C.	<input type="checkbox"/> Desbarats	Desbarats V.T.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Marathon		<input type="checkbox"/> Bruce Mines	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wawa	Michipicoten V.T.C.	<input type="checkbox"/> Thessalon	
<input type="checkbox"/> Batchewana		<input type="checkbox"/> Blind River/Iron Bridge	Penewobikong V.T.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Harmony Beach/Haviland Bay		<input type="checkbox"/> Elliot Lake	Coueurs de Bois V.T.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Goulais / Stokely		<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sault Ste. Marie	Saulteaux V.T.C.	<input type="checkbox"/> Massey	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Espanola	Rainbow V.T.C.
		<input type="checkbox"/> Little Current	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sheguiandah	
		<input type="checkbox"/> South Baymouth	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sudbury	





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voyageur.trail](http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail)

e-mail:
voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca

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

*The VTA is a member of
Hike Canada En Marche,
Hike Ontario,
Ontario Trails Council,
and
Trans Canada Trail.*

**SPECIAL
EDITION!**

VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

Layout by: Gayle Phillips

WHEW...AND THANK YOU, HIKE ONTARIO!

by the VTA Coordinating Council

This past month was very nearly the end of the Voyageur Trail Association (VTA).

The cost of maintaining our liability insurance was just too overwhelming (\$15,000 for one year's coverage).

Hike Ontario had a very short time frame to investigate options, but they came through, for not only us, but many hiking clubs and associations in the province. We owe them a debt of gratitude for working so hard on our behalf, and "pacing the floor" with us!

THANK YOU!

For those who contacted us by email and phone call to indicate your support, thank you, but we still need your help! If Ontario doesn't enact some legislation in the coming year to protect our volunteers with liability protection, we will no doubt, end up doing the same thing next year!

"Black Days for Ontario Hiking Trails" is a demonstration mounted by other Hike Ontario member clubs in an effort to close all Ontario hiking trails for a demonstration in late April or May. This effort is to show Ontarians, what their world may be like without hiking trails and to encourage them to contact their MPPs to demand that legislation to protect volunteer trail workers is passed in the province. A sample letter imploring government support is enclosed. Please sign and mail it today! (Addresses in next column.) We are not re-inventing the wheel...such legislation already exists in Nova Scotia and the Trans Canada Trail, among others, is asking other provinces to follow suit.

The Saulteaux Voyageur Trail Club in Sault Ste. Marie will hold a public "demonstration and celebration for the Voyageur Trail" at the bottom of Finn Hill at 6PM on Monday, May 9th (please spread the word) as part of "Black Days for Ontario Hiking Trails."

We will have a short ceremony of celebration for the "saving" of our trail. We will share memories of hikes and outings past and wear black arm bands to honour those clubs who are still struggling to survive. EVERYONE is invited, not just Voyageur Trail people. Anyone and everyone who believes that any kind of trail in Ontario is worth protecting, is invited.

Hope to see you on the trail, now that we know it will be around for another year!

Ontario Ministry of Tourism & Recreation

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www.protectourtrails.com

and

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