



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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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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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

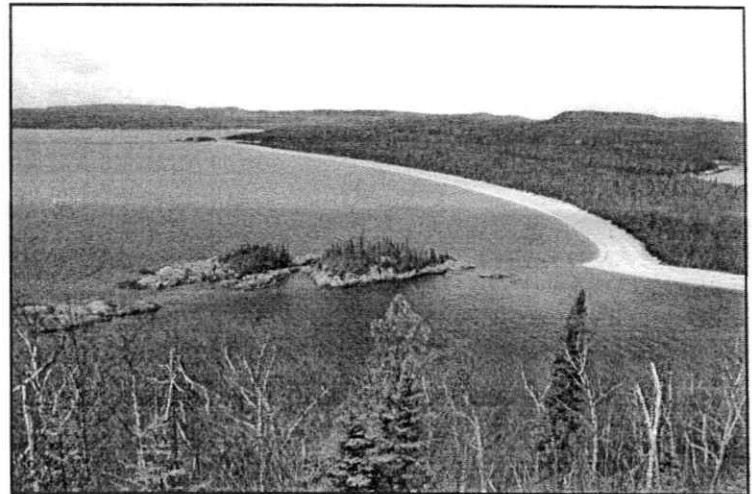


- **Location:** on the recently-opened (July 2002) section of the Voyageur Trail that runs south from Marathon to Pukaskwa National Park.



- **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.

(Continued on page 3)

