



# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

No. 91 SPRING 2005

EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

Layout by: Gayle Phillips

Published by the  
VOYAGEUR TRAIL  
ASSOCIATION  
PO Box 20040  
150 Churchill Blvd  
Sault Ste. Marie Ontario  
P6A 6W3

Toll Free 1-877-393-4003

Web site at:  
[www3.sympatico.ca/  
voyageur.trail](http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail)

e-mail:  
[voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca](mailto: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!**

## 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**  
Office of the Parliamentary Assistant

Tim Peterson  
Hearst Block, 9th Floor, 900 Bay Street, Toronto, ON  
M7A 2E1  
T: 416-326-9326  
E: [tim.peterson@mtr.gov.on.ca](mailto:tim.peterson@mtr.gov.on.ca)

### Sault Ste. Marie

David Oraziotti, 726 Queen St. E., P6A 2A9  
T: 705-949-6959 F: 705-946-6269  
E: [doraziotti.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:doraziotti.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

### Algoma/Manitoulin

Mike Brown  
5 Elizabeth Walk, Elliot Lake, ON P5A 1Z2  
T: 705-461-9710 F: 705-461-9720  
E: [mbrown.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:mbrown.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

### Sudbury Rick Bartolucci

100 Elm St., Sudbury, ON P3C 1T5  
T: 705-675-1914 F: 705-675-1456  
E: [rick\\_bartolucci-mpp@ontla.ola.org](mailto:rick_bartolucci-mpp@ontla.ola.org)

### Thunder Bay/Atikokan

Bill Mauro  
240 South Syndicate Ave., Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1C8  
T: 807-623-9237 F: 807-623-4983  
E: [bmauro.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:bmauro.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

### Thunder Bay/Superior North

Michael Gravelle  
Ste. 101, 215 Van Norman St., Thunder Bay, ON  
P7A 4B6  
T: 416-325-1559 F: 416-325-1564  
E: [mgravelle.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:mgravelle.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

Visit:

[www.protectourtrails.com](http://www.protectourtrails.com)  
and

send an email to Premier Dalton McGuinty

