

VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

No. 91 FALL 2005

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LAYOUT: Gayle Phillips



Published by the
VOYAGEUR TRAIL
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[www3.sympatico.ca/
voyageur.trail](http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail)

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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.

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



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DEAR LANDOWNER:

The Voyageur Trail Association would like to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to you for your continued support and generosity in allowing us to have access to your property.

Our members agree to abide by the following 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.

Our motto is: **BE A LOW-IMPACT HIKER!**

We look forward to our continued partnership in the years to come and thank you again for being so public-spirited.



MEMBERS: Don't forget to check your envelope to see when your membership expires!

VTA AWARDED GRANT

Toronto, August 9, 2005 – The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) has awarded \$26,582,000 to 478 charitable and not-for-profit organizations across Ontario. Many of these grants, announced today by Ontario's Minister of Culture Madeleine Meilleur, will assist community organizations in building their capacity.

"Investments from the Ontario Trillium Foundation build healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario," said Minister Meilleur. "The Foundation achieves its broad mission in partnership with community organizations. With OTF funding, they can strengthen their capacity and be more effective, provide better and more relevant services, and achieve sustainability. These creative partnerships are producing long-term benefits for the voluntary sector and making a real difference in the lives of Ontarians across our province."

"People of all backgrounds, abilities and interests rely on community organizations for the many valuable services they provide," said Helen Burstyn, Chair of OTF Board of Directors. "OTF funding does more than people realize. It enables community organizations to deal with increasing demands, develop new programs and marketing initiatives, recruit volunteers and provide ongoing training to staff and volunteers."

The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives annually \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative. OTF builds healthy and vibrant communities throughout Ontario by strengthening the capacity of the voluntary sector, through investments in community-based initiatives.

**THE ONTARIO
TRILLIUM
FOUNDATION**



**LA FONDATION
TRILLIUM
DE L'ONTARIO**

Voyageur Trail Association

\$25,000 over one year to update the current Voyageur Trail guidebook incorporating the use of Global Positioning System technology in order to promote and increase usage of this hiking trail system along the north shores of Lakes Huron and Superior.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT *by Mike Landmark*

Due to other time commitments, I have not been able to get all the projects that I wanted to work on as far along as I would have wished, but here is an update on what was done.

The insurance issue as reported in the last newsletter is still active. We have one more year of operation (until May 2006) and, hopefully, with the work from Hike Ontario on getting the liability act updated to protect volunteers, we will be able to continue to operate after that. The letters of support and emails to the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation at tim.peterson@mtr.gov.on.ca are helping and, for the people who have not yet sent their letter, please do so now and send a copy to the VTA as well. You can also send your letter by snail mail to Tim Peterson, MPP, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, Hearst Block, 9th Floor, 900 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E1.

The John Kovala Trail in the Batchewana Mountain area is progressing slowly and I anticipate continuing to scout the area to find the best possible trail. This project will be ongoing into the fall. Once again, anyone who wants to help with this venture, please contact me at (705) 779-3409.

The Trans Canada Trail pavilion for Sault Ste. Marie is pushing ahead slowly, with the City Council hoping to have everything established at Clergue Park by the fall of 2005.

The VTA guidebook, under the chairmanship of Steve Dominy, is forging ahead. We have been successful in obtaining a grant from the Trillium Foundation. The GPS work is

progressing nicely with our dedicated volunteers, which is greatly appreciated. Some assistance in writing, advertising, etc. is still needed. Please contact Steve if you find you have some time to devote to this worthwhile project.

I wish to extend the appreciation of the VTA to all those who supported us earlier this year when the insurance issue reared its ugly head and almost caused the demise of our fine organization.

But, I would like to make another appeal to our membership. Not only is insurance a problem, but lack of internal support could also cause the VTA to cease to exist. The active members of the Coordinating Council have dedicated many hours of committed service to the VTA, but they are showing signs of fatigue! Some members, due to their dedication to the organization, have taken on more than one executive position to keep the operation functioning. This sustained effort is taking its toll. We also have people on the executive who will shortly be leaving us, and we will lose their expertise and enthusiasm. Many hands make light work, but we are quickly running out of hands! If we don't get more people volunteering soon to assist the existing executive and learn from them, I'm afraid that the experience and knowledge from these Council members will be lost if they decide to leave.

Between now and the elections at the AGM in the fall, I ask that all club executives and members think long and hard about stepping forward, as they did concerning the insurance issue, to assist the VTA in staying healthy and alive for many more years to come.

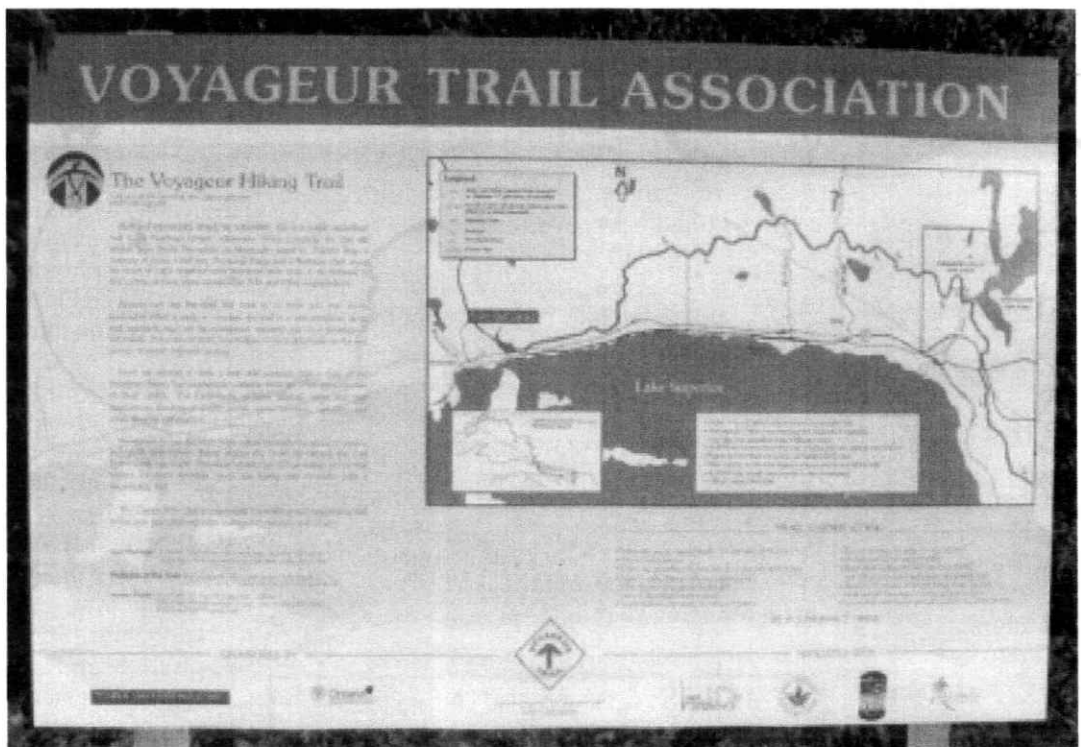


TRAVELING THIS FALL?

Pay a visit to our trailhead signs (this one's located in the park in Rosspoint) sponsored by the Great Lakes Heritage Coast.

There are nine signs located across the breadth of Northern Ontario describing the Voyageur Trail section in the particular area the sign's posted in.

The Casques Isles section is so large that it was split into three signs—one in Rosspoint, one in Schreiber and one in Terrace Bay (shown on page 6)



THIS AND THAT *by Patrick Capper*

For those who don't like DEET, there are now two good alternatives: Cutter Advanced - containing picaridin which, according to independent reports, prevents aggressive mosquitoes for 2-3 hours, lazier ones for 8 hours.

Another alternative is Repel Lemon Eucalyptus which prevents aggressive mosquitoes for 4-7 hours, lazier ones for 12 hours, does not damage plastics, but feels tacky and stains leather.

While cycling through New Jersey, I saw quite a few deer—one doe with two fawns. Apparently, they are quite a garden pest. It makes you realize why they are the cause of more deaths in North America than any other animal.



We spent a short time on the Appalachian Trail in Virginia. The information office at Afton near Staunton had a list of "angels" who could be called to ferry hikers from the trail into town. They also mentioned one single hiker had never camped alone on his trek along the trail.

On a short trip on the trail, I met a work party who were from all over the country. They were sleeping in tents a couple of miles away and were improving the trail. At one point, there were substantial steps made of thick wooden blocks.



THE MARKETPLACE

FOR SALE:

- 2 pair fibreglass PLUS 1 pair wooden cross-country skis (200 cm)
- hobby and craft wood—mostly maple. Various lengths and widths; wooden wheels & dowels; craft items. Best Offer. Call 705-942-0766.

FOR SALE: Camera, 35mm SLR Nikon F 601, AF Micro-Nikkor 60 mm (macro) lens, AF zoom-Nikkor 35-135 mm lens, professional flash Nikon Autofocus speedlight SB-22, all manuals, Pelican case (waterproof) 12 x 13.5 x 6". Reasonable. Phone 705-942-9636.

FOR SALE: Computer, Intel Pentium 3, 64 MB memory, 20 GB hard drive, Windows ME, 52X CD Rom drive, 1.44 floppy drive, 56 K modem, speakers, keyboard, mouse, Office 2000, MX Works Suite 2001 incl. WORD, still in use. Good buy @ \$ 125. Phone 705-942-9636.

WANTED: Two (2) river kayaks in good condition. Call Doug 705-779-3283

LANDOWNERS & MEMBERS IN-GOOD-STANDING: Free advertising in the VT News! Call the Editor, Cheryl Landmark at 1-877-393-4003 or 705-779-3409.



NEWS FROM THE SAULT *by Gayle Phillips*

As Saulteaux Club President, working on the HUB trail committee has been an adventure. The city of Sault Ste. Marie is certainly on board and, from the number of people interested in the project, I can say with certainty that citizens have been waiting for an urban trail in this city for a long time!

We were fortunate enough to receive a grant to hire professionals to layout, plan, design and cost the proposed HUB trail. We received several really good proposals and it was a difficult decision, but we were confident that whomever we chose, we would have good people working for us. We finally chose the firm of Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan with Doug Clute as our local contact. They have a wonderful background in trail design and a history of some of the finest trails in the province and outside the province.

For the most part, we amateurs must have done a pretty good job because they have stuck with our first pick for the route with just a few variations.

Watch for their public information session in September before they issue their final report is in the late fall. I hope you will attend. With this final report, we can say with some degree of certainty, how much each particular section will cost to have the trail fully built, with the ownership, width, surfacing, landscaping, etc. in place. With this report "under our belts", we can begin the process of finding the necessary funds to actually build the HUB trail.

To sum up, it is gratifying to work on a committee and attend meetings when you can see the progress towards your goal. Which brings us to our next topic, why we can't seem to attract new people with new ideas to serve on our executives—even in a small capacity!!

Is it the meetings? We don't have that many... the VTA proper has about three meetings a year. The Saulteaux Club has a meeting every second month, but we try to run through our issues pretty quickly and the meetings are usually only about an hour-and-a-half long. We usually have a pretty good time talking with other members—they aren't solemn occasions. The Saulteaux Club is in desperate need of a "tool-keeper". This person would put the box of tools on their property where work party leaders would sign out tools before an outing and put them back afterwards. We have had a couple of offers to "house" our toolbox, but they are people who are located at extreme ends of the city—we would really like to keep the toolbox more centrally located.



The Voyageur Trail Association itself could really use some Vice-Presidents, who are the "go to" person for an area, e.g. Vice-President-Central would be the go to person for the area from

White River to Iron Bridge. Our Membership Secretary has expressed a desire to pass along the computerized "books" to someone who is good on computer and has email access. This job is perfect for someone who wants to work from their home (except if they choose to attend the three meetings a year). If you have some time and want to make some close friends, please volunteer to take on a job—any job—even a little one! If you are unsure, contact us and let us know your limits and we'll find a job that might suit you. We have 'em all—big and small.

This leads nicely into a plea for participation in work parties.

With the entire length of trail being walked in the next year to GPS it for the new edition of the guidebook, some sections of trail are in bad need of maintenance. In the Saulteaux section, we have to re-route our trail in a couple of spots in the upcoming year, due largely to the withdrawal of landowner permission. There is a desperate need for both leaders and participants in work parties.

If you have never been on one, maybe you don't know what to expect, so I thought I would explain it here. We provide hand tools for you to choose from. On a work party, you select your own tool—be it a small hand pruner to prune away branches which obscure blazes, or the larger long-handled pruners which can be used to remove small trees and bushes which obscure the path. We also take along a supply of blazes, nails and a hammer to replace blazes that have fallen down or been "popped" off the tree by its growth. Other than pruning, and blazing, all we do is move debris off the pathway. Nothing is onerous and we don't cover a long distance when we do work parties. This leaves plenty of time and breath to talk with other workers and, of course, the obligatory visit to the local donut shop afterwards! All in all, we have a pretty good time and our accomplishments make us feel good afterwards when we lay about on the couch at home.

I'll sum up with one final message to the membership. A big THANK YOU to those who volunteer to lead outings—be they work parties, hikes or snowshoes—I want to thank you. Without you, we would not have the nicely filled-out schedules in each season with the variety of locations and type of outings that we enjoy. Even if a volunteer leads once a season—it helps our club offer a variety of outings to satisfy everyone—from the mom with small children and a dog, to the ardent long-distance hiker. There are a variety of outings to choose from. Over the years, no matter what type of publicity we do, we always get our most new members from the general public who come out on a hike or work party. They enjoy themselves and welcome the warm companionship on the trail—so they join. Thank you leaders—you are the best!



OUTING SCHEDULE

This schedule was put together early and may have last-minute changes. Please call the outing leader listed to check if any details of the outing have changed. This 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.) Meeting location addresses: FUNKTION, 589 Second Line East (in Goodlife building); Market Mall 275 Second Line West (on Korah Road corner); Churchill Plaza 150 Churchill Blvd., (on Trunk Road between Lake and Wellington Streets); 625 Wellington Square Mall, Trunk Road (near Boundary Road crossing).

Saulteaux Club

(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.

Sun., Sept. 11 - Work party with Gayle (942-1891). Meet 10AM at Funktion. Behaved pets welcome. Tools will be provided.

***Sat., Sept. 17** - Hike from top end of Echo Lake eastwards with Patrick (253-4470). Meet 9AM in Churchill Plaza near BEER STORE. Behaved pets welcome.

***Sun., Sept 18th** - Work Party tentatively in Garden River reserve from Garden River bridge eastwards with Patrick (253-4470). Anyone planning on bringing their vehicle MUST call the leader as soon as possible. We will need to know your licence plate number, etc. ahead of time to get second Garden River Reserve vehicle permit. No pets please. Meet 9AM Churchill Plaza beer store area. Tools will be provided.

Mon., Sept. 19 - Saulteaux Club meeting in Funktion room at 7PM.

***Sat., Sept. 24** - Hike King Mountain with Ila (949-1097). Meet Funktion at 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

***Sun., Sept. 25** - Family camp road walk at Island Lake with weiner roast lunch with Susan (949-4105). Meet 10AM at Funktion. Good for families with small children. Please leave your pets at home for this outing.

Sat., Oct. 1 - VTA Annual General Meeting 2PM at the Conservation Authority. Call Mike at 779-3409.
Coordinating Council meeting @ 10AM

Sun., Oct. 2 - (Ontario Hiking Day) Jack Donald (942-1761) will lead a hike in the Glenview Cottages/Connor Road area. Meet 10AM at Funktion. Behaved pets ok.

Tues., Oct. 4 - Possible work party with Sault College students. If you can help, please contact Don at 946-9599.

***Sat., Oct. 8** - Hike from Tower Lake to Centre Line Road (9 km) with Dieter & Erika (942-9636). Meet at 9:30 AM in the Wellington Square Mall. Behaved pets welcome.

***Sun., Oct. 16** - Hike in the Robertson Lake area with Ila (949-1097). Meet 10AM at Funktion. Behaved pets welcome.

Sat., Oct. 22 - Work party with Susan (949-4105). Meet 10AM at Market Mall. Tools will be provided. Behaved pets welcome.

Sat., Nov. 5 - Gales of November hike with Gayle (942-1891). Meet 10AM at Funktion. Behaved pets welcome.

Sun., Nov. 20 - "Mystery" outing with Ila (949-1097). Meet 10AM at Funktion. Behaved pets welcome.

Mon., Nov. 21 - Saulteaux Club meeting at 7PM in Funktion. After the meeting we will begin the winter outing schedule. Call Gayle at 942-1891.

***Sat., Dec. 10** - Hike in Goulais area weather - snow conditions allowing. Check with leader first. Call Patrick at 253-4470. Meet 10AM at Funktion. Behaved pets welcome.

Fri., Dec. 23 - The Voyageur Trail is closed in honour of our landowners.

Mon., Dec. 26 - Boxing Day snowshoe with Don (946-9599). Meet 10AM at Funktion. Behaved pets welcome.

Sun., Jan. 1 2006 - New Year's Day snowshoe with Ila (949-1097). Meet 10:30 AM at Funktion. Behaved pets welcome.



EARLY PLANS

The Friends of Pukaskwa are planning a hiking symposium for the 3rd Saturday of July 2006. It will be the same weekend as Parks Canada Day and Lake Superior Day. Any thoughts or suggestions would be greatly appreciated as we have never run one before.

~ Rob Woito <rwoito@nwconx.net>



COME TO GUELPH in '06 INVITE

(Can we get a volunteer to organize a group down?)

Hello Voyageur Trail Association Friends.

I would like to invite your club to come down and visit. Our own GHTC trail goes right through Blue Springs Scout Camp, just west of Acton. Blue Springs is within a 10 minute drive of the Bruce Trail and a 25 minute drive of the GVTA. This would be an excellent opportunity for your members to come down and sample some of our local trails, and camp out cheaply at Blue Springs.

We would also put on some sort of BBQ for you while you are in town. If you are interested in setting this up for next year, we will check into campsite availability at Blue Springs, and I will have our activities coordinator, Sue Bard lay on some good local hikes for that weekend.

Happy Hiking
Andy Cann, President, Guelph Hiking Trail Club
<the_canns@porchlight.ca>



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.

Back-Up Leaders for Tuesdays and Thursdays are Phil and Liz @ 848-8767

SEPTEMBER 2005

- 1 Thurs. - Intermed. Hike. Fred 848-2956
- 3 Sat. Canoe Depot to Grandeur Lakes.
Alan & Di - 848-8776
- 6 Tues. Easy Hike. Nancy-jo 848-2947
- 8 Thurs. Intermed. Hike. Fred 848-2956
- 10 Sat. Hike. Robert 848-4030
- 12 Mon. Intermed. hike (Boland Creek).
Liz & Phil 848-8767
- 13 Tues. Easy Hike. Jean-Guy 848-2544
- 15 Thurs. Intermed. Hike. Fred 848-2956
- 17 Sat. Easy Hike. John 461-1026
- 19 Mon. Intermed. Hike (Victoria Mtn.)
Liz & Phil 848-8767
- 20 Tues. Easy Hike. Nancy-jo 848-2947

TUESDAY - 20 - GENERAL MEETING - SNOWBIRD'S CLUB HOUSE

- 22 Thurs. Intermed. Hike. Fred 848-2956
- 24 Sat. Advanced Hike. Bill 848-7445
- 27 Tues. Easy Hike. Jean-Guy 848-2544
- 29 Thurs. Intermed. Hike. Fred 848-2956

OCTOBER 2005

Sat., Oct. 1 - VTA Annual General Meeting at 2PM in Sault Ste. Marie at the Conservation Authority. Call Mike at 1-877-393-4003.

Coordinating Council meeting @ 10AM

- 1 Sat. Intermed. Hike. Di 848-8776
- 4 Tues. Easy Hike. Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 6 Thurs. Intermed. Hike. Fred 848-2956
- 8 Sat. Hike. Robert 848-4030
- 11 Tues. Easy Hike. Jean-Guy 848-2544
- 13 Thurs. Intermed. Hike. Fred 848-2956
- 15 Sat. Cobre Trail "Tailgate Party"
Alan & Di 848-8776
- 18 Tues. Easy Hike. Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 20 Thurs. Intermed. Hike. Fred 848-2956
- 22 Sat. Advanced Hike. Bill 848-7445
- 25 Tues. Easy Hike. John 848-3515
- 27 Thurs. Intermed. Hike. Fred 848-2956
- 29 Sat. "Red Briffett" Trail.
Alan & Di -848-8776

NOVEMBER 2005

- 1 Tues. Easy Hike. Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 3 Thurs. Intermed. Hike. Fred 848-2956
- 5 Sat. Cranberry Outing. John 848-3515
- 8 Tues. Easy Hike. John 848-3515
- 10 Thurs. Intermed. Hike. Fred 848-2956
- 12 Sat. Robert 848-4030
- 15 Tues. Easy Hike. Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 17 Thurs. Intermed. Hike. Fred 848-2956
- 19 Sat. Advanced Hike. Bill 848-7445
- 22 Tues. Easy Hike. John 848-3515

22 TUESDAY - CLUB MEETING @ 7:00 PM - SNOWBIRD'S CLUB HOUSE

- 24 Thurs. Intermed. Hike. Fred 848-2956
- 26 Sat. Easy Hike. John 461-1026
- 29 Tues. Easy Hike. Jean-Guy 848-2544

DECEMBER 2005

- 1 Thurs. Intermed. Hike. Fred 848-2956
- 3 Sat. Intermed. Hike. Chuck 848-1076
- 6 Tues. Easy Hike. John 461-1026
- 8 Thurs. Intermed. Hike. Fred 848-2956
- 10 Sat. Robert 848-4030
- 13 Tues. Easy Hike. Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 15 Thurs. Intermed. Hike. Fred 848-2956
- 17 Sat. Advanced Hike. Bill 848-7445

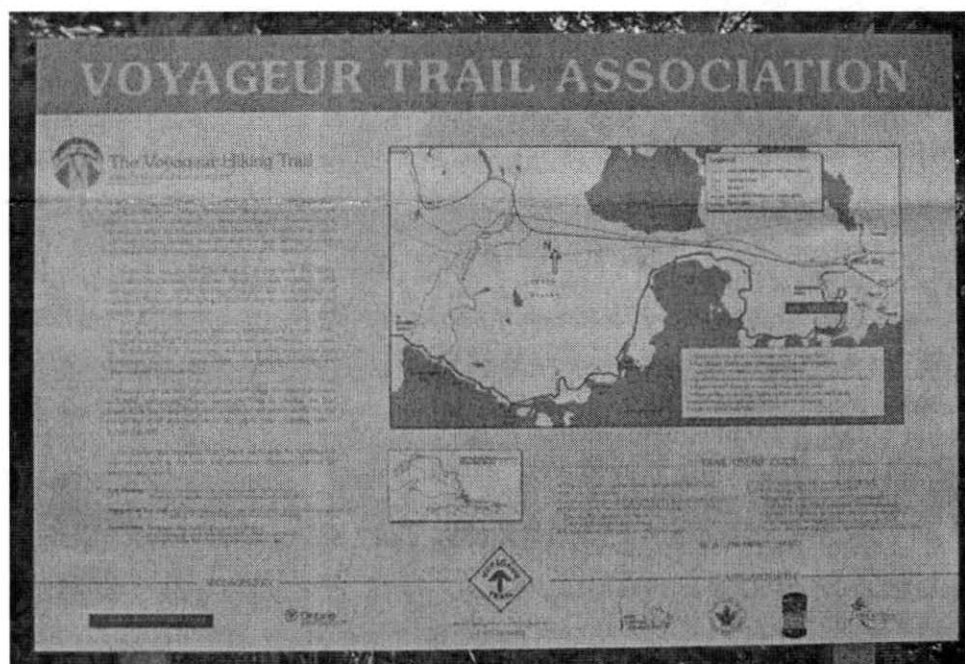
17 SATURDAY - CHRISTMAS PARTY at Curling Club - 6:00 PM - Phone Thomas @ 461-9668

- 19 Mon. Intermed. Hike.
Liz & Phil 848-8767
- 20 Tues. Easy Hike. Jean-Guy 848-2544
- 22 Thurs. Intermed. Hike. Fred 848-2956
- 23 Fri. - The Voyageur Trail is closed.**
- 27 Tues. Easy Hike. Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 29 Thurs. Intermed. Hike.
Fred 848-2956



Paddler's Rendezvous - St. Joseph Island
September 15-18, 2005.
Email: gdekock@gmail.com
or call Gayle at 705-942-1891.

TERRACE BAY SIGN



This Great Lakes Heritage Coast-sponsored trailhead sign is located at the Tourist Information building in Terrace Bay. See page 9 for more about these highly visible markers.



Safety Tip: Be aware of hunting seasons in the bush & wear appropriate colours!

HIKE ONTARIO'S SAVE OUR TRAILS

from the Spring/Summer edition of Hike Ontario News (used with permission)

Dear Hikers, Walkers and Concerned Citizens of Ontario,
The future of hiking and walking trails in Ontario is threatened. This is an issue that has reached a crisis for some volunteer-based organizations across Ontario and threatens to spread. Hike Ontario is working with the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation to remedy this issue.

The primary issue affecting trails is the crippling effect of liability insurance, because of exposure to unfounded or frivolous claims, which must be defended, regardless of their validity. Many volunteer organizations face extinction from increases to their liability insurance premiums.

The Voyageur Trail, the Ganaraska Trail and the Sudbury Hiking Club have been struggling because their supporting volunteer associations cannot afford the new high premiums, due to the high cost of insurance. The Avon Trail may not make it at all. Most trail organizations' liability insurance policies increased by over 40% in 2004 and by that much again in 2005.

Why are trails so important?

The network of long-distance hiking trails in Ontario is an asset to the health of Ontarians, to our tourism and recreation industries, and is a vital part of the government's official Ontario Trails Strategy. However, the Ontario hiking trails network is almost entirely created and maintained by volunteers. Most of these trails rely heavily on informal permissions from private landowners, who are increasingly withdrawing permission because of liability worries. The system is in danger of collapsing and would be almost impossible to recreate if the volunteer support were lost.

It is ludicrous that volunteers, who, through goodwill and hard work, create a path for walkers, should be judged to have created a liability for themselves. If we build a bridge or steps to make passage easier and to reduce the impact of foot traffic on the environment, we should NOT be legally liable for the safety of users, who would otherwise have to scramble through the countryside's inherent hazards. Such implied liability is a major cause of the litigation that is so widespread in our society and the cause of such a chill on many worthwhile activities. The answer is not a dollar cap on settlement amounts, but a legislated redefinition of responsibility. Life is not risk-free; people in general must be made to take responsibility for their own activities and to stop trying to blame other people for their misfortunes or imprudence.

The same issues apply to almost all trail users and all volunteer-based organizations in the province. With 45,000 not-for-profit organizations and millions of volunteers, the impact would be huge.

It is time for the trail supporters to join this common cause and work with provincial government for additional protection for landowners, trail organizations and volunteers. We

need to band together with the snowmobile associations and the other trails groups to work with the government to create an amendment to the Occupiers Liability Act.

The future of the Ontario Trails Network is threatened. If we can't improve the legislative protection of the trails and trail organizations as they have in other jurisdictions like Nova Scotia, BC and New Hampshire, the future of Ontario's gift of access to the world of nature may be lost forever.

It is up to every one of us to help "SAVE OUR TRAILS"!

What can you do to help?

- 1) Become a regular user of the hiking and walking trails in Ontario. Support the "Active 2010" program to help all citizens become active and live a healthy lifestyle.
- 2) Become a member of your local hiking or walking club and support their activities.
- 3) Bring the children of Ontario out to the Trail Network and teach them the "ways of the woods" as families, in school programs or in youth programs (i.e. Scouts, Duke of Edinburgh's Award).
- 4) Contact your MPP and Provincial Government Ministers and ask them to support the trails by working with Hike Ontario to amend the Occupier's Liability Act and create new legislation to protect the trails, the trail organizations, the landowners and volunteers. Write letters, place phone calls, visit your MPP and communicate your passion to SAVE OUR TRAILS and the need for their support. Rising insurance costs will result in the closure of parts of the trail network in Ontario.
- 5) The network of hiking trails in Ontario has been constructed and is maintained by volunteers—become a volunteer with one of the trail clubs and do your part.

The trail network in Ontario has created a half billion-dollar industry with more than 45,000 km of trail.

Do NOT allow Ontario's Trails to be put at risk.

It is in every citizen's interest to take action to help save our trails.

Don't wait till it's too late.

Do your part NOW.



(Continued on page 8)



HIKE ONTARIO's SAVE OUR TRAILS

(cont'd from page 7)

Everyone should do three things TODAY,

1) Send this message to ten of your friends who want to save the trail network in Ontario.

2) Write, fax or e-mail your concerns to:

Tim Peterson, MPP

Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation

Hearst Block 9th Floor

900 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E1

Tel: 416-326-9326

Fax: 416-325-2752

E-mail: tim.peterson@mtr.gov.on.ca

3) Contact and write your MPP and share your concerns.

It is time that we work together to "SAVE OUR TRAILS".

Other comments:

"It defies common sense to think that a person would sue the owners and operators of wilderness areas when they fall off their bike while riding on a trail." -Enterprise Bulletin, Collingwood, May 6, 2005

"Lawsuits could do incredible damage to what is maturing into a spectacular network of trails and accompanying recreational opportunities throughout Ontario. It will damage legitimate and responsible businesses through no fault of their own. It may dissuade municipalities to open up recreational and nature trails." - Editorial - Orillia Packet & Times, Saturday, April 8, 2005

Hike Ontario, a volunteer not-for-profit organization provides the voice for hikers and walkers in Ontario and is the umbrella group for the long-distance trails associations.

We act as a liaison amongst pedestrian trail users, governments and other organizations, to increase public awareness of hiking and its related benefits.

The membership of Hike Ontario is comprised of 23 long distance trail associations and walking/hiking clubs with memberships totaling over 13,000 people across Ontario.

Our Mandate: To promote recreational walking, hiking and trail development in Ontario.

Our Mission Statement: To provide support, education and representation while promoting hiking and walking in Ontario.

Contact Us: Hike Ontario, The Gate House, 13990 Dufferin St. North, King City, ON L7B 1B3

Tel: 905-833-1787 Fax: 905-833-8379

Email: info@hikeontario.com

Web site: www.hikeontario.com



See next column for local contacts.

MPPs in Northern Ontario:

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WE GET LETTERS

(regarding the tribute to the late Delmar Ellis in the VT News #90-Spring 2005 issue)

Dear Steve (Dominy),

What an exciting surprise I had when I opened Voyageur Trails News! What a super tribute you kindly wrote. Del was one of a kind. I have a folder to prove it. Need I say your contribution will be added to it. You have great writing ability.

My father, a former GMCC boss, was thrilled when I married a farmer's son who knew nothing of our super outdoors. He delighted in teaching him all he knew and Del absorbed it like a sponge.

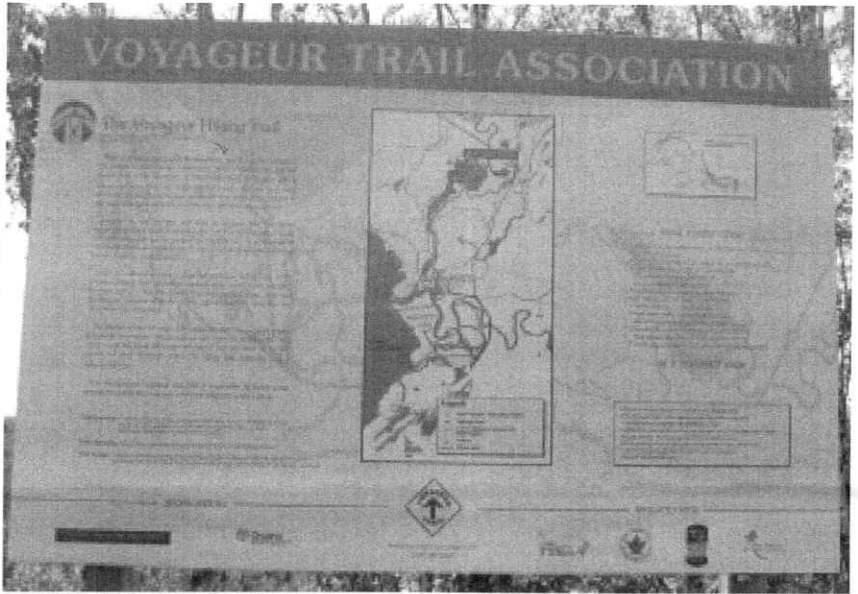
One of Del's scouts who spoke at our happy service said he was teaching his 7 year old twins all that Del had taught him. In this way we never die.

I will get multiple copies of the wonderful bonus you gave Del - you will be read and read. You, like Del, are teaching others - and making a difference. I thank you. Carry on and on.

Most grateful,
Maxine (Ellis)



WAWA TRAILHEAD SIGN



This Great Lakes Heritage Coast-sponsored trailhead sign is located in Wawa at the Tourist Information building which also sports the famous Wawa goose! The trailhead signs were designed in 2003 to highlight trail points of interest in nine Northern Ontario communities: Rosspoint, Schreiber, Terrace Bay, Marathon, Wawa, Iron Bridge, Blind River and Elliot Lake. They were sponsored by the Great Lakes Heritage Coast, Ontario's Living Legacy. If you snap a photo of a sign in your travels, please forward it to us for publication. (Thanks to Steve Dominy who took these photos of the three signs used in this publication.)

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 or Group ~ \$30..... = _____ 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)..... = _____

Charitable Reg. #119261923RR0001 Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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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(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:

December 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.

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/Rosport	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	
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		<input type="checkbox"/> Sudbury	

