

VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS



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The Voyageur Trail Association is a non-profit, volunteer group dedicated 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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And much, much more!

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.

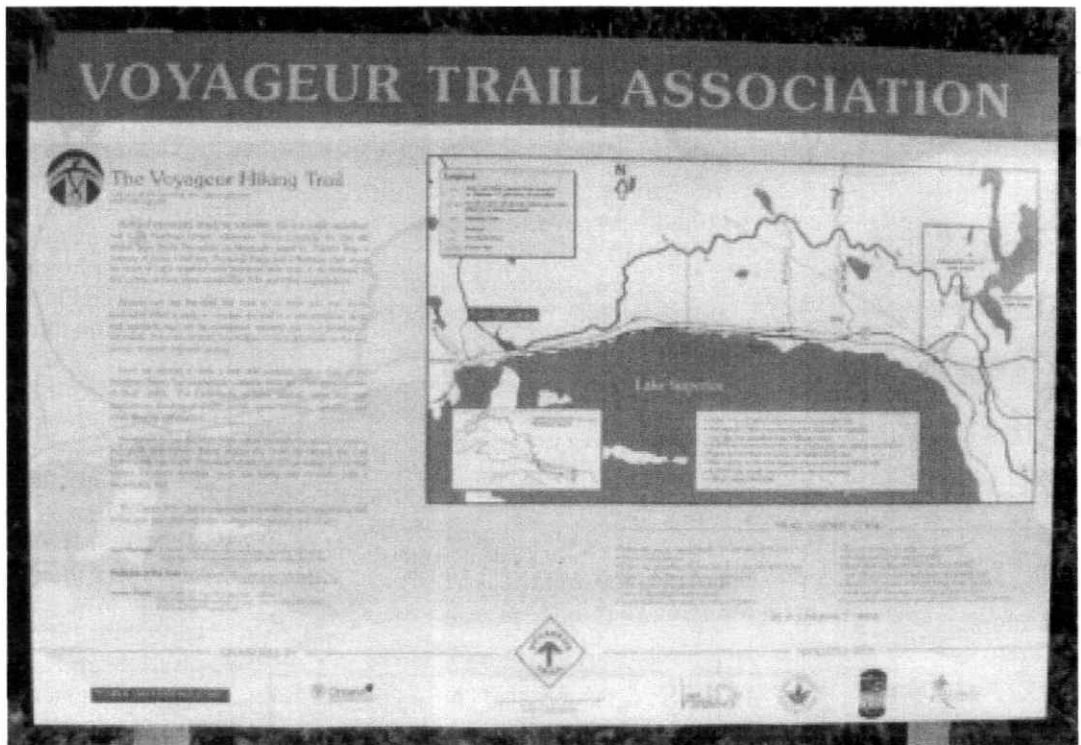


TRAVELING THIS FALL?

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.

