



VOYAGEUR TRAIL



Happy
Holidays!

NEWS

No. 92 WINTER 2005/6

EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT: 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

NEW Web Site at:
www.voyageurtrail.ca
(set your bookmarks)

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.

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



INSIDE

Discussion Group.....3

Saulteaux Club News...4

Outing Schedules..... 5/6

The Insurance Issue.... 7

And much, much more!

GPS Receivers - Taking Hiking into the 21st Century *by Steve Dominy*

It's somewhat ironic that I am writing an article about GPS. If you think I'm an expert you're sorely mistaken - in fact, I don't even own a unit. However, that is likely to change soon as I have discovered through research and conversations with GPS owners the power of this device. Following is what I have learned - I hope you will find these gizmos as fascinating as I do.

What Is GPS?

GPS stands for the Global Positioning System. It refers to a system of satellites and receivers that allows people and devices to pinpoint their precise location on the earth. The heart of the system relies on 24 satellites that orbit the earth twice per day. Devices equipped with GPS equipment receive transmissions from at least a few of the satellites at any given time and are able to calculate very precise positioning data using triangulation. By recording one's position every 30 seconds or so, a GPS track is created for the route followed.

As the technology has improved, the cost of GPS devices has plummeted while the accuracy has increased. Small portable GPS receivers have become very affordable, and the accuracy is amazing. Accuracy varies based on various factors, but it can be as good as a few metres! On 2 May 2000, the U.S. Department of Defence switched off selective availability which made GPS readings less accurate. They reserve the right to turn it back on during national crises and the like, but for the most part GPS devices are now about 10 times more accurate than they were when selective availability was turned on!

What Use is GPS to Hikers?

Many new cars are being equipped with GPS systems to help drivers with navigation. The military uses GPS to guide cruise missiles to pre-specified targets. Portable GPS devices are used

by fisherman and hikers to help navigate in the wild, and they even work under overcast conditions. If you have the GPS on for the duration of a linear hike, the GPS track makes retracing your steps to your vehicle a snap. Are you getting interested yet?

You need not travel off well-marked trails to appreciate a GPS receiver while hiking. A GPS receiver is valuable for navigating in areas where there are no trails and/or few landmarks. But even on well-established trails, a GPS receiver can show you your exact position (as either latitude and longitude coordinates, or Easting and Northing UTM coordinates in metres), distance travelled, direction and speed - it can even calculate when the sun will set! A GPS receiver is invaluable in poor weather or when it is hard to see your surroundings. Another nice feature is the ability to mark and label waypoints or points of interest that you may wish to return to, such as a bountiful berry patch!

Edition 4.0 of the Voyageur Hiking Trail Guidebook, set for release in 2006, will offer for the first time accompanying GPS tracks for the trail, either on disk or the website. Hikers having topographic maps installed on their GPS unit will be able to download these tracks to make navigating the trail easier and safer. For example, you will be able to visually compare your position relative to the trail location, which is handy if you happen to lose the trail. The GPS track you downloaded will help guide you back to the trail. It will also help you find those sometimes elusive trail access points!

Buying a GPS Unit

Hikers should look for receivers that are small, lightweight and easy on batteries. Receivers that can connect to a computer to download tracks and waypoints before the hike or upload them after the hike

(Continued on page 2)



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

GPS Receivers *(cont'd from page 1)*

are a great plus. As with many electronics, more features equal greater cost. GPS units can range from \$100 to \$1000 depending on the kind of capabilities you are looking for. A used unit may meet your needs, but make sure it has 12 parallel channels – most receivers manufactured since 1997 have this capacity. Following are some additional features to consider.

- **Basemap.** This is highly recommended. The additional cost is marginal, and the increase in the equipment's usefulness is substantial.
- **External antenna jack.** Although not essential, hikers will benefit from the ability to safely store the receiver inside a pack with a small antenna attached to backpack shoulder straps. In addition, a magnetic antenna allows the equipment to be mounted inside a vehicle and the antenna on the roof. It is not always possible to obtain good satellite coverage through a front windshield.
- **Memory.** This is used to load detailed topographic or street-level digital maps into the receiver. As topo maps use up a great deal of memory, capacity should be at least 8 megabytes, or the receiver should include the ability to accept a memory card.
- **WAAS.** This stands for Wide Area Augmentation System, which increases GPS receiver accuracy from about 15 m to 3 m.
- **Interface.** If using the receiver with a computer, be sure that it includes data in/out ports.
- **Power source.** If you're hiking you'll be using plenty of batteries, so make sure to carry spares and consider rechargeables. If you plan to use the unit a lot in your car, you may want an adapter for your vehicle's cigarette lighter.
- **Rocker keypad.** This is useful (but not crucial) if you plan to enter lots of text, such as waypoint labels.
- **Screen size.** For visual ease of operation, use a receiver with the largest screen that can be realistically carried. Colour is great and helps better define map features, although it does reduce battery life.
- **Waterproof.** Get gear that is at least water-resistant. Plastic bags and boxes give electronics a little additional protection.

Many hikers will probably not have the receiver on all the time, but will take it out occasionally to see where they are. Cost-conscious hikers can get satisfactory performance out of a base model GPS receiver that does not have built-in maps or advanced features, by using the receiver only to determine their current position and for tracking their progress on a paper map. □

VTA Goodies for that Hard-to-Buy-For Person on your list...



membership \$25, Guidebook \$16.50 (members), Sweatshirt \$20, T-shirt \$15 & \$12, Crests \$3...Call Kathy 705-949-9847

Final Word on GPS

If you do buy a GPS receiver, you should still carry a map and compass and know how to use them in case the unit fails. GPS technology will undoubtedly improve the comfort level for Voyageur Trail users, particularly given the wilderness nature of our trail and frequent lack of a defined footpath. The availability in 2006 of GPS tracks for our trail will make the hiking experience even more enjoyable. The VTA is presently investigating the possibility of loaning GPS units to members – stay tuned.

You may be interested in sharing GPS tracks for trails you have hiked in exchange for GPS data for other trails. The website <<http://www.trailpeak.com/>> www.trailpeak.com offers such a service, and also includes a GPS tutorial novices may find valuable. □

One lucky individual who pre-purchases Edition 4.0 of the guidebook at the old price of \$16.50 for members will win a **Garmin eTrex Venture GPS** receiver valued at \$189.99, generously donated by **Western Automotive** on Queen St. in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. □

In the next newsletter issue I'll tell you about the newest sport that uses GPS – geocaching!

References

Latham, Lawrence. 2003. *GPS Made Easy ^ Using Global Positioning Systems in the Outdoors*. 4th Ed. Rocky Mountain Books, Calgary. 208 p.

<<http://www.trailpeak.com/index.jsp?cat=def&con=sp&val=gps>>
<http://www.trailpeak.com/index.jsp?cat=def&con=sp&val=gps> GPS Tutorial.
 Elsewhere on this website GPS data can be exchanged.



THE MARKETPLACE

FOR SALE: (Sorry, incorrect phone number on this ad in last edition.)

- 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 705-942-0768.

WANTED: used canoes, row boat, mountain bikes and steel beams. Call Ron at 705-248-2666.

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.



DISCUSSION GROUP by Gayle Phillips

At the last Voyageur Trail Association (VTA) Coordinating Council meeting, we discussed incidents that were reported on outings. (Did you know that there is a spot to record "incidents" on our Assumption of Risk Agreements?) An idea percolated to discuss these "incidents" here.

Incident #1: How do you handle someone wanting to leave an outing?

Firstly, you should determine their reasons for wanting to exit. If they feel like they are in "over their head", ie: the group is going too fast or too far or over too much rough terrain, etc. OR if they don't "feel well", then you as leader should not leave them alone. If you can't find an experienced volunteer to go back with them, then you should turn back the group. As a leader, you may well have a destination or goal in mind for the outing, but attendees should know that you are flexible enough to make certain ALL people are comfortable and enjoying their day. Plans can change at a moment's notice if someone were badly hurt, for instance, so why not change your plans if someone might be headed for a "rescue" situation? None of us wants to perform First Aid on an outing! If a person is showing all the signs and symptoms of exhaustion or some other condition, why would you push them further? That goal of getting over the next hill will have to wait for another day!

If someone wants to leave because they are not enjoying themselves or they need to be back for an earlier time, did you not explain to the group fully at the start what type of terrain to expect and how long you were expected to be? Even if this person is experienced, if at all possible, try not to leave them alone. For one thing, we usually car pool. Would this person leaving create a problem for getting the rest of the group home? Once everything is considered, have the people leaving "sign off" the Assumption of Risk Agreement and/or appoint witnesses (and have them sign the form). The leaving group should ALWAYS leave a note on a vehicle back in the parking lot as to what time they actually got back to their vehicle and left.

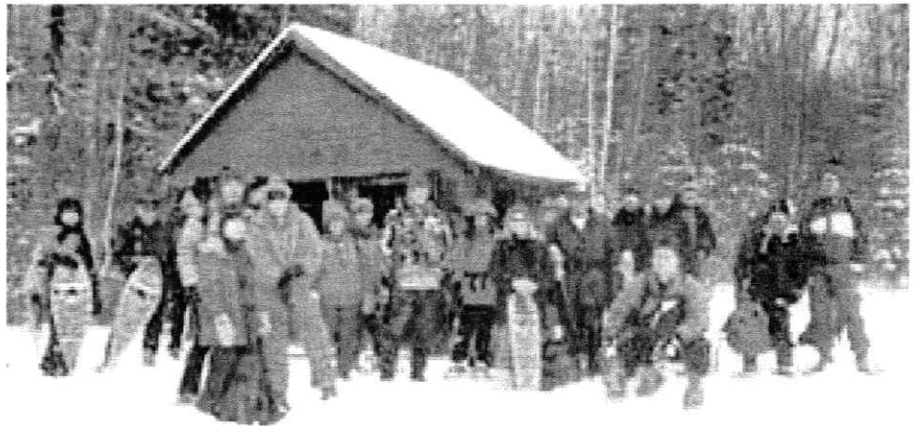
Incident #2: What should you do if a person's conversation makes another "uncomfortable"?

As is on any street, or in any office, if someone's conversation or joke is making another uncomfortable, they must speak up for themselves first. They should tell the offending person that their remark makes them feel uncomfortable and to please stop. Do it loud enough so that at least one other person hears you do it. Then let the leader know as well. The leader should always support the offended person. This type of behaviour is a throwback to the way of the world in years past. Modern, educated people know that the crude jokes and remarks of the past are no longer tolerated in polite society. If

the offending person refuses to control themselves, they could be asked to either step to the front of the group and "find the blazes" so they are removed from the rest of the group, or they could be asked to leave (with witnesses appointed). Most people are reasonable and when they find out that their comments are hurtful to someone, they will stop. Even in the "middle of nowhere" on an outing, basic human rights must be protected. This is supposed to be an enjoyable outing for all. No one should be made to feel uncomfortable in the midst of a group.

Next newsletter, dog etiquette, life preserver etiquette.

If you have anything to contribute to our "discussion", please email voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca or write c/o Newsletter Submissions, VTA, PO Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd., Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6W3.



Snowshoers on Saulteaux Club end-to-end in 1998.

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>



NEWS FROM THE SAULTEAUX CLUB *by Gayle Phillips*

As I sit here writing this, winter has hit Northern Ontario! There is already a good four inches on the ground with the promise of more to come!

It will be a long, good snowshoe season! This is an opportune moment to announce that there are now 54 pair of children's snowshoes at the Sault Trails and Recreation (STAR) facility in Hiawatha Park in Sault Ste. Marie, largely due to efforts by the Saulteaux Voyageur Trail Club. We were fortunate enough to receive a grant from the Communities In Action Fund of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation to purchase the snowshoes. There are several businesses (including STAR) who have snowshoes to rent for adults, but there was no where to go if you wanted to see if your children would enjoy a snowshoe outing! Now there is. For this inaugural year, STAR is lending the children's snowshoes at no charge! Just call 945-6444 and reserve today!

These snowshoes will be well-used at Bon Soo's Family Fun Day on Saturday, February 4th in Bellevue Park. Please get the word out to classrooms, scout/guide troops, Big Brother/Sister groups, and other groups who may wish to plan a winter outing with their group. On a personal note, does anyone have any idea of how much room is required to unpack 54 pair of snowshoes in the living room of your one-bedroom apartment?

The official plan for the Sault Ste. Marie HUB Trail (multi-use city trail) is almost completed and will be sent to our City Council for adoption. Once this last step is taken, building the trail will become another priority in the eyes of City Hall. I am hoping to have the entire route mapped for inclusion in our upcoming VTA Guidebook.

We have set a date for our Annual Saulteaux Club Dinner—Sat., April 8th at Buttermilk Hill. Susan Graham and Doris Welz have volunteered to organize the event again! This was the duo who did such a bang-up job on last year's event, that we had more people show up for our annual dinner than we actually had in club membership! Stay tuned for more information about this year's evening.

A new business has started up in the Echo Bay area (adjacent to Sault Ste. Marie) called "Summertime Base Camp One". They will cater to long-distance cyclists and backpackers with facilities to stay overnight, dry clothes and equipment, etc. In addition, they are hoping to attract busloads of visitors to the area to backpack the Voyageur Trail. They plan to have remote "camps" installed, so hikers can do a day hike in to a "camp", but the business will deliver a hot meal to them for their dinner. *Roughing it—in velvet!* In addition to offering wilderness backpacking, they plan to offer mountain biking and horse-back riding to these "camps" as well as bed-and-breakfast accommodations for visitors.

The Saulteaux Club is planning an afternoon of snowshoeing/bushwhack skiing to their "Base Camp" location in Echo Bay on the afternoon of



Sunday, January 15th. We will get a tour of their facilities and, after our little excursion, we will enjoy a bonfire. Don't forget to bring some snacks to share around the fire! For more information, call Ron at 705-248-2666 or email: ronson1914@sympatico.ca

Finding executive for our club as well as the VTA Coordinating Council is still a problem. I know that NO ONE enjoys going to meetings, but if the clubs and VTA are going to survive, they are a necessary evil! We do make every effort to make them fun and short. We can work with people who would like to "share" a position. We would also like to encourage "mentoring". If you have an interest in any of the positions, please contact me and we'll see what we can arrange to fit you! We can tailor any job—big or small—to fit your time allowed and interests. Give it a try! At the very least, you will make some great friends (even if I do say so myself!)

Here is a list of some of the jobs that you could get involved with: At the club level: Presidency, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Outing Leader or Sweep, Event Planning, Trail Building/Maintenance, newsletter article writing or photography, etc., etc.

At the Association level, pay a visit to the last page of this newsletter. There are many positions listed as "vacant" AND, even the positions that are currently occupied could use some help! If someone came along that expressed an interest, many of these council members would be more than willing to take on an "apprentice"!



Andy Penikett shows off the Blind River trailhead sign installed last summer (photo by Patrick Capper)

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>

OUTING SCHEDULE

This schedule was put together early and may have last-minute changes. Please call the outing leader or check to see if any details of the outing have changed. This schedule is also on our web site

< www.voyageurtrail.ca > 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.

All winter, evenings & weekends, VTA volunteers will be grooming selected snowshoe trails in the Hiawatha Highlands, Crimson Ridge, and Glenview, as required after every snowfall. To participate contact Don at 946-9599.

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.

Wed., Jan. 4 - Snowshoe with Patrick (253-4470). Funktion at 10AM. Pets ok.

***Fri., Jan 6 & Sat., Jan. 7** - Free skiing at Stokely Creek Lodge with the Soo Finnish Ski Club. Ski / waxing lessons and candlelight dinner for a fee. Call 649-3421 or visit www.sooфинnishnordic.com/events/events.htm

***Sat., Jan. 7** - Goulais section snowshoe with Patrick (253-4470). Funktion at 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

Sun., Jan. 8 - Crimson Ridge snowshoe with Doris, (942-9466). Meet Funktion at 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

Wed., Jan. 11 - Snowshoe with Patrick (253-4470). Funktion at 10AM. Pets ok.

Sun., Jan. 15 - Snowshoe or Bushwhack Ski at *Summertime Base Camp One* in Echo Bay area with potluck and bonfire afterwards. Meet Churchill Plaza near the Beer Store at 1PM. Please leave your

pets at home. Call Gayle at 942-1891.

Mon., Jan. 16 - Saulteaux Club meeting at 7PM in Funktion. Gayle 942-1891.

Wed., Jan. 18 - Snowshoe with Patrick (253-4470). Funktion at 10AM. Pets ok.

Sat., Jan. 21 - VTA Coordinating Council meeting 10AM. Location TBA.

Sun., Jan. 22 - Snowshoe with Ila (949-1097). Meet 9:30AM at Funktion. Pets ok.

Wed., Jan. 25 - Snowshoe with Patrick (253-4470). Funktion at 10AM. Pets ok.

***Sat., Jan. 28** - Tower Lake snowshoe with Patrick (253-4470). Churchill Plaza near Beer Store at 10AM. Pets ok.

Sat. Jan 28 - Moonlight snowshoe to the Sugar Shack where there will be refreshments available in conjunction with the Bon Soo lantern ski. Meet 6:45 pm at the STAR office on Landslide Road. Snowshoe rental available from STAR (945-6444). For more info contact Don at 946-9599.

Sat., Feb. 4 - Bon Soo Children's Snowshoe Day. Call Gayle (942-1891) if you can volunteer some time to help.

Sun., Feb. 5 - Snowshoe with Doris (942-9466). Funktion 10AM. Behaved pets ok.

Sun., Feb. 12 - Family snowshoe at Kinsmen Park with Gayle (942-1891). Children's snowshoes are available for loan at STAR office (945-6444). Funktion at 1PM. Please leave pets at home.

Thurs.
***Wed., Feb. 16** - Lake walk (snowshoe) with Marge (253-5888). Funktion at 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

Sat. Feb 18 - Moonlight snowshoe to the Sugar Shack where there will be food and refreshments available in conjunction with the Valentines lantern

ski. Meet 6:45 pm at the STAR office on Landslide Road. Snowshoe rental available from STAR (945-6444). For more info contact Don at 946-9599.

Sun., Feb. 26 - Snowshoe with Ila (949-1097). Meet 9:30AM at Funktion. Pets ok.

***Sat., Mar. 4** - Snowshoe or ski at Pancake Park with Doris (942-9466). Funktion 10AM. Behaved pets welcome.

***Sat., Mar. 11** - Snowshoe in Desbarats section with Dieter and Erika (942-9636). Meet Churchill Plaza near Beer Store at 9:30 AM. Behaved pets welcome.

Sat., Mar. 18 - Bushwhack ski (moderate ability) with Gail (942-0768) in the Camp Korah area. Meet Market Mall at 10AM.

Mon., Mar. 20 - Saulteaux Club meeting at 7PM in Funktion. Gayle 942-1891.

Sun., Mar. 26 - Snowshoe with Ila (949-1097). Meet 9:30AM at Funktion. Pets ok.

***Sat., April 1** - Lake Superior Provincial Park outing with Susan (949-4105). There may be a stop for dinner on the way home. Funktion at 9AM. Pets ok.

Sat., Apr. 8 - Saulteaux Club Annual Dinner at Buttermilk Hill. Call Susan at 949-4105 or Doris at 942-9466.

Sat., Apr. 22 - Earth Day clean-up hike. Call Gayle at 942-1891 for final details.

Sun., Apr. 23 - Hike with Ila (949-1097). Meet 9:30AM at Funktion. Pets ok.

Sun., Apr. 30 - 'Go To Blazes' Work Party to kick-off another season. Call Gayle at 942-1891 for final details.

See Winter Activities Disclaimer on page 6.



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.

Tuesday hike/snowshoe/cross-country skiing are always easy level and Thursdays are always intermediate. Back-up leaders for Tuesdays and Thursdays are Phil & Liz @ 848-8767 and John @ 461-1026

DECEMBER 2005

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

JANUARY 2006

1 Sun. Hike or Snowshoe - Mayor's Levee - Reta 461-9193

3 Tues. - Reta 461-9193

5 Thurs. - Liz & Phil 848-8767

7 Sat. Easy or Intermediate Hike/Snowshoe/Ski (Fun Day Cookout) Jean & Heather 848-9320

10 Tues. - Jean Guy 848-2544

12 Thurs. - Fred 848-2956

14 Sat. Easy or Intermediate Hike/Snowshoe/Ski - Jean Guy 848-2544

17 Tues. - Nancy Jo 848-2947

19 Thurs. - Liz & Phil 848-8767

21 Sat. 10AM VTA Coordinating Council Meeting in Sault Ste Marie - Call 1-877-393-4003



21 Sat. Easy or Intermediate Hike/Snowshoe/Ski (Fun Day Cookout) Liz & Phil 848-8767

24 Tues. - John 461-1026

26 Thurs. - Fred 848-2956

28 Sat. Easy or Intermediate Hike/Snowshoe/Ski - Robert 848-4030

29 Sun. 1PM Intermediate Ski - Chuck 848-1076

31 Tues. - Nancy Jo 848-2947

FEBRUARY

1 Wed. 10AM Easy ski - Thomas 461-9668

2 Thurs. - Liz & Phil 848-8767

4 Sat. Easy or Intermediate Hike/Snowshoe/Ski - John 461-1026

7 Tues. - Jean Guy 848-2544

9 Thurs. - Fred 848-2956

11 Sat. Easy or Intermediate Hike/Snowshoe/Ski - Jean Guy 848-2544

12 Sun. 1PM Intermediate ski - Chuck 848-1076

14 Tues. - Nancy Jo 848-2947

15 Wed. 10AM Easy ski - Thomas 461-9668

16 Thurs. - Liz & Phil 848-8767

18 Sat. Easy or Intermediate Hike/Snowshoe/Ski - Robert 848-4030

21 Tues. - John 461-1026

21 Tues. 7PM Club Meeting at the Snowbirds Clubhouse

22 Wed. 10AM Easy ski - Thomas 461-9668

23 Thurs. - Fred 848-2956

25 Sat. Easy or Intermediate Hike/Snowshoe/Ski - Thomas 461-9668

28 Tues. - Nancy Jo 848-2947

MARCH

1 Wed. 10AM Easy ski - Thomas 461-9668

2 Thurs. - Fred 848-2956

4 Sat. Easy or Intermediate Hike/Snowshoe/Ski (Cookout at Sheriff Lake Chimney) - John 461-1026

7 Tues. - Jean Guy 848-2544

9 Thurs. - Fred 848-2956



Ontario Trails Council sign on Blind River section. Photo by Patrick Capper.

11 Sat. Easy or Intermediate Hike/Snowshoe/Ski - Jean Guy 848-2544

14 Tues. - Nancy Jo 848-2947

16 Thurs. - Fred 848-2956

18 Sat. Easy or Intermediate Hike/Snowshoe/Ski - Robert 848-4030

21 Tues. - John 461-1026

23 Thurs. - Fred 848-2956

25 Sat. Easy or Intermediate Hike/Snowshoe/Ski (Spring Equinox) - Thomas 461-9668

28 Tues. - Nancy Jo 848-2947

30 Thurs. - Fred 848-2956

APRIL

1 Sat. Easy or Intermediate Hike/Snowshoe/Ski - John 461-1026

4 Tues. - Jean Guy 848-2544

6 Thurs. - Fred 848-2956

8 Sat. Easy or Intermediate Hike/Snowshoe/Ski - Jean Guy 848-2544

11 Tues. - Nancy Jo 848-2947

13 Thurs. - Fred 848-2956

15 Sat. Easy or Intermediate Hike/Snowshoe/Ski - Robert 848-4030

18 Tues. - John 461-1026

18 Tues. 7PM Club Meeting at the Snowbirds Clubhouse

20 Thurs. - Fred 848-2956

22 Sat. Easy or Intermediate Hike/Snowshoe/Ski (Fun Day Cookout) - Jean & Heather 848-9320

25 Tues. - Nancy Jo 848-2947

27 Thurs. - Fred 848-2956

29 Sat. Easy or Intermediate Hike/Snowshoe/Ski (Fun Day Cookout) - Liz & Phil 848-8767

VTA Winter Activities Disclaimer: It is important to note that the VTA does not provide formal instruction for snowshoe and ski activities. Each participant in our winter activities is assumed to:

- understand the causes, preventive measures, and treatment for hypothermia;
- dress appropriately, bring lunch and water and be prepared for unforeseen delays on the trail;
- understand that changes in weather and snow conditions can affect the difficulty level of a given trail;
- have experience on, and be familiar with, his/her own equipment;
- for skiers: be able to perform the basic manoeuvres, such as snowplow and herring bone under a variety of snow conditions for a period of several hours.



THE INSURANCE ISSUE HAS NOT GONE AWAY

...It will rear its ugly head again in March when we renew our insurance for another year.

Late Breaking News! Nova Scotia has passed an act which protects any persons or groups doing volunteer work. It may give volunteer organizations a needed break from high liability insurance for their volunteers. This could be an answer to sky rocketing liability insurance in Ontario.

Visit: <http://www.canlii.org/ns/laws/sta/r1989c.497/20051019/whole.html>

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.

MPPs in Northern Ontario:

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

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

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

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

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

Visit: www.protectourtrails.com

and send an email to Premier Dalton McGuinty



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

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; 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..... = _____

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 mailed orders 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



VTA CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL

PRESIDENT:

vacant

VICE-PRESIDENT - WEST:

Duncan MacKay 807-825-3338

VICE-PRESIDENT - CENTRAL:

vacant

VICE-PRESIDENT - EAST:

vacant

TREASURER:

Dieter Ropke 705-942-9636

GENERAL SECRETARY:

Cheryl Landmark 705-779-3409

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Kathy Brisco 705-949-9847

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR:

Gayle Phillips 705-942-1891

TRAIL MASTER:

vacant

HIKE ONTARIO REPRESENTATIVE:

Patrick Capper 705-253-4470

(alternate) Alan Day

GUIDEBOOK COMMITTEE:

Steve Dominy 705-946-2484

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Editor: Cheryl Landmark 705-779-3409

Layout by: Gayle Phillips

CONTACTS:

NIPIGON/THUNDER BAY:

Connie Nelson 807-343-8447

CASQUES ISLES:

Duncan MacKay 807-825-3338

MARATHON:

Rob Woito 807-229-0265

MICHIPICOTEN:

Bob Elliott 705-856-0484

GOULAIS RIVER/HARMONY BEACH:

Neil Ray 705-649-0874

SAULTEAUX:

Gayle Phillips 705-942-1891

BRUCE MINES:

Allan Beilhartz 705-785-3889

PENEWOBIKONG:

Joanne Marck 705-843-2199

COUREURS DE BOIS:

Thomas Benian 705-461-9668

(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:
April 1, 2006

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):

Section

- ☐ Nipigon/Thunder Bay
- ☐ Schreiber/Terrace Bay/Rosspoint
- ☐ Marathon
- ☐ Wawa
- ☐ Batchewana
- ☐ Harmony Beach/Haviland Bay
- ☐ Goulais/Stokely
- ☐ Sault Ste. Marie

Club

- Nipigon/Thunder Bay V.T.C.
- Casques Isles V.T.C.
- Michipicoten V.T.C.
- Saulteaux V.T.C.

Section

- ☐ Echo Bay
- ☐ Desbarats
- ☐ Bruce Mines
- ☐ Thessalon
- ☐ Blind River/Iron Bridge
- ☐ Elliot Lake
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Massey
- ☐ Espanola
- ☐ Little Current
- ☐ Shesguandah
- ☐ South Baymouth
- ☐ Sudbury

Club

- Desbarats V.T.C.
- Penewobikong V.T.C.
- Coueurs de Bois V.T.C.
- Rainbow V.T.C.

