



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS



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The Voyageur Trail Association is a non-profit, volunteer group dedicated to finding 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.*

If you would prefer us to email you a short message when the VT newsletter is posted on our Internet site, just send an email to: cheryl.landmark@sympatico.ca

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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.



LSPP COASTAL TRAIL - THE SAGA CONTINUES

by Elizabeth Walter & Ian Evans

We had a great time. I've spent a lot of time in Algoma country and relish each return visit. This was Ian's first time on Lake Superior and he is now a convert. We loved being so close to the lake and experiencing its many moods. Here is brief synopsis of the route we took and the time it took to cover the distance. We flew our own plane to Sault Ste Marie. We took a taxi from the airport to Lake Superior Provincial Park. We had planned to hike down Gargantua Road from Hwy 17 but thankfully managed to get a ride all the way to the parking lot at the end. It was a hot, sunny day and that 14km on the road would have been a soul-destroying slog. It was 2:30 before we started our hike and we made it to the first campsite at Devil's Chair just before 6:00. I should say at this stage that I'm 60 and Ian is 50; so we're not young but are fit and very experienced backpackers. The next day, after a 9:00 am start, we returned to Gargantua Bay and stopped at the first campsite south of the parking lot. We like

to stop early each day after hiking for about six hours so that we can relax and not feel that we're on a forced march. We found the terrain very easy the first two days and it gave us a chance to get used to carrying the packs again. We made very slow progress on days three and four. We made it only as far as Rhyolite Cove on day three and to the second campsite past that on day four. It was very hot and sunny and we found it slow-going on the rocks and boulders. It was frustrating to crawl along at such a slow pace. We're not the type to try to eat up the miles as fast as possible but over the two days, we advanced no more than 6 or 7 km. We got really fed up with negotiating our way through, around and up and over boulders. We looked forward to any break in the woods. Day five was much more pleasant both in terms of being cooler and making more

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LSPP COASTAL TRAIL (cont'd from page 1)

progress. There were still a lot of boulders but because it was cooler, your energy wasn't sapped. We made it to an Orphan Lake campsite after another 6-hour hiking day. Day six was also more rewarding. We stopped at Robertson Cove for the night. This may be our favourite campsite. It really was idyllic, sitting on the rock on the point watching the sun set and the moon rise. Unfortunately, thunderstorms rolled in from across the lake in the night and we got high winds and rain. We've hiked a lot in rain in the past (Gross Morne Long Range Traverse in Newfoundland certainly comes to mind!) but the wet rocks and boulders made progress the next day even slower than usual. It took us two hours to get to Katherine Cove. We had intended hiking all the way to Agawa Bay. We got a weather forecast from some kayakers at Katherine Cove and when we learned that more rain was on the way, we knew we'd never make it to Agawa Bay in the time we had available. We knew that if we had to negotiate more slippery rocks, we'd be creeping along the trail. So we got a ride to Frater Road and after walking to the station, caught a train from Frater to the Soo.

We have mixed feelings about our experience. We're sorry that we didn't finish what we set out to do. We see two main reasons for that. The first is that we didn't have enough detailed information about the terrain south of Katherine Cove. We didn't know if we were going to be spending our time on rocks or on trail in the woods. I don't think it's enough to warn people that the rocks are slippery when wet. Once you are on the trail, it is almost impossible to know what the weather will be like for the next few days and without easy access to the road, you have no choice but to make your way over slippery rocks and boulders. The second reason is related to the first. It is very difficult to plan how many days it will take to hike a trail if you don't have details of the terrain. Usually, a topographic map provides the information you need but in this case, the map gave very few clues. We could see when we were headed more inland and climbing up over a hill but we had no advance information about the trail right along the coast.

The past two years, we hiked the East Coast Trail (<http://www.eastcoasttrail.com/>) along the Atlantic coast in Newfoundland.

This is a 220km trail which hugs the coastline from St. John's to Cappahayden. In 2004, we hiked from St. John's to La Manche and last year we started in Cappahayden and hiked north to La Manche. There are very detailed topo maps of each section of the trail with descriptions of the terrain on the back. I know how difficult it is to build trails and provide information about them, but we wish that we'd had the same sort of information provided by the East Coast Trail about the Coastal Trail. We could have planned our time and route more efficiently.

All this being said, we're glad that we had the opportunity to experience Lake Superior along the Coastal Trail. We will definitely return and spend more time in Algoma country.

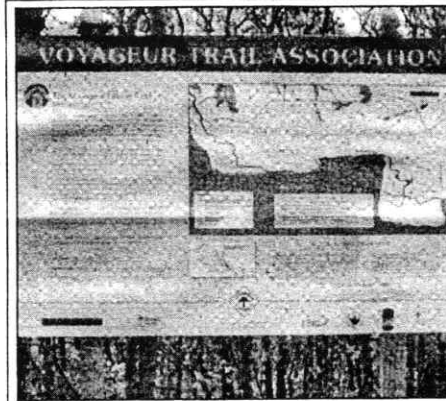
I hope the comments we've made are of some use to you.



Editor's Note: We introduced these intrepid two to our VTA Guidebook AFTER their trip.



VTA SIGNS IN NEWS



New Signs For Casque Isles Hiking Section

One of three trailhead signs has been installed at the top end of Isbester Drive by the Township of Schreiber, a project by the Voyageur Trail Association (VTA). The two other trailhead signs are located at Wardrobe Park in Rossport and at the Terrace Bay Beach. Each sign shows a map of the respective area of the Casque Isles section as well as general information about the Voyageur Trail. 84 new informative signs have also been placed over the entire 52km trail between Rossport and Terrace Bay this spring. These signs either identify a location or give a distance to another location. For more information see www.voyageurtrail.ca. Much appreciation to the many volunteers who have cleared trail. Submitted by Doug Stefurak, Casque Isles Hiking Club. Jennifer Richter - Photo

from June 13th, 2007 edition of the Terrace Bay - Schreiber News

Three trailhead signs depicting the Great Lakes Heritage Coast were installed on the Casques Isles section of Voyageur Trail and covered in their local news. They also announced the new trail marker signs that the Casques Isles Voyageur Trail Club have been busily putting up along the route.



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