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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.*

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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VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT: Gayle Phillips

HIKING THE MAGNIFICENT TRAILS OF CASQUE ISLES!

by Cheryl Landmark, VTA General Secretary

The Voyageur Trail Association (VTA) held its spring Coordinating Council Meeting in Schreiber on Saturday, May 5, 2007. The meeting was generously hosted by the local VTA Casque Isles hiking club at 'The Centre' in Schreiber and was attended by five of its members, along with three members of the Coordinating Council from Sault Ste. Marie. We had a chance to see some of the beautiful new trailhead signs that have been locally produced, thanks to a generous Trillium grant, and samples of the proposed highway signs touting the hiking and natural wonders of the Schreiber/Rosspport/Terrace Bay areas.

After the meeting, three other VTA members, who also made the trip from Sault Ste. Marie (VTA Saulteaux Club), joined us on a hike to Mount Gwynne.

The six members from Sault Ste. Marie remained in the Schreiber area until Tuesday, May 8th, to explore and hike the many wonderful trails that abound here.

The newly revamped 4.0 version of the Voyageur Trail Association's guidebook, with its GIS-produced full colour maps and rewritten trail descriptions, was a big help to us as we climbed and rock-hopped and generally enjoyed the diverse hiking experiences. The scenery was breathtaking, the weather was perfect (lots of sunshine and no flies!), and the trails were in excellent shape, despite it being so early in the hiking season.

There wasn't time on this trip to complete all the trail sections in the area, but I know for certain that my husband, Mike, and I (along with Pierre the Bear and Misty the Dog) will be back in the not too distant future to continue our exploration of this magnificent part of the country.

On behalf of the Voyageur Trail Association, I would like to thank the friendly and helpful



(In photo, Left to Right) Dean Main (Casque Isles Club), Gayle Phillips (VTA Publicity Director), Dan McGrath (Trailmaster, Casque Isles Club), Warren Pearen (Casque Isles Club), Doug Stefurak (President, Casque Isles Club), Ila Aho (Saulteaux Club), Pat Maenpaa (Secretary-Treasurer, Casque Isles Club), Erika Ropke (Saulteaux Club), Dieter Ropke (Saulteaux Club), Cheryl Landmark (VTA General Secretary), Mike Landmark (VTA Membership Secretary), Pierre the Bear, and Misty the Dog.

people of Schreiber, Rosspport and Terrace Bay, and, in particular, the Casque Isles club, for making our visit so enjoyable.



MEMBERS:

*Don't forget to check
your newsletter
envelope label to see
when your membership
expires!*

PIERRE THE BEAR: GREAT ADVENTURES - PART 1

by *Pierre the Bear*

Bonjour! I am Pierre the Bear and I live in Gros Cap, west of Sault Ste. Marie. I am what you call a voyageur, you know, those guys that paddle on the big lake. But, when I read in the newspaper about the Voyageur Trail Association's revised guidebook, Edition 4.0, I think, hey, good time to put away the paddle and use the feet instead! *Mais oui!* Let's see what great adventures I can find in this book.

This spring, my explorations started on a trail near my home, named for that great guy that was a long time in the Association, Tom Allinson. I took along *mes amies*, Mike and Cheryl and Misty. Good thing, too. My legs are so short, I had a hard time climbing over some of the logs and rocks! Because I am

such a little guy, Mike had to carry me on his back-pack for most of the hike. But, the



view was *fantastique* from up there! We started out at one of those big white things I think they call a windmill in the Prince Township Wind Farm. *Mon Dieu*, I could not believe how tall that thing was! Mike and Cheryl and Misty have done much work on the trail since it was closed two years ago so all those big white things could be built. When we reached the big lake, we rock hopped along the shore for awhile and had lunch near an old boiler that lies a little ways offshore. The water was so low, we could see quite a bit of the boiler sticking out. Then, we had to hike mostly uphill back to the van. Good thing for me that *mon ami* Mike wasn't too tired to carry me back or I never would have made it on my short legs!

Next, I had an adventure up in a little town called Schreiber. The VTA invited me to attend their spring meeting there, so I said, *bien sûr*, why not? At the meeting, I saw some *magnifique* signs that the Casque Isles club will be installing at trailheads and along the highway. *Très bien!* After the meeting, Monsieur Doug Stefurak, President of the Casque Isles club, led eight of us on a hike up Mount Gwynne. Along with Mike and Cheryl and Misty, there was also Dieter and Erika Ropke, Ila Aho and Gayle Phillips.



Monsieur Doug was the engine of our little train of hikers and Erika and Ila were the caboos. Partway up the mountain, the caboos somehow got ahead of the engine and the rest of the train

could not find them for awhile. What an adventure that was! It turned out okay, though. We finally all got back together again and Doug the engineer, he was happy! We hiked on



more trails in the Casque Isles area for the next two days. It was a good time. The weather, she was

good, and no pesky flies bothered us.

Me, I am a great explorer at heart. I like to paddle the big lake, but this hiking thing is good, too. There are many more trails in the VTA guidebook, so I will tell you all about my other adventures in the future.

