



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS



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VTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING by Cheryl Landmark

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The VTA Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, September 29, 2007 at Bellevue Bed and Breakfast in Goulais River. Highlights of the meeting include changes to the Coordinating Council positions and a potential new club in Marathon.

Visit our web site at:
www.voyageurtrail.ca

e-mail address:
info@voyageurtrail.ca

A new position called Database Manager has been added to the Coordinating Council to maintain the enormous amount of GPS data and GIS map work that was collected during the recent revision of the guidebook. Bob Sinclair, who contributed a great deal of time and effort in compiling this data for the guidebook, has generously volunteered to take on this position. Bob's above and beyond volunteer work on the guidebook also earned him a nomination for the Steve Taylor Award this year. The VTA welcomes him to the Council and looks forward to working with him in the future.



interested in filling positions on the executive remains a huge problem for the Association. The current members of the Council are doing a tremendous job of trying to keep the VTA viable, but many of them are showing signs of burnout and fatigue. We need new people to fill the ranks and bring fresh, new ideas to the table to revitalize the Association. Please think about donating some time and effort towards keeping the VTA alive and well for many more years to come.

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 available on our web site, just send an email to: cheryl.landmark@sympatico.ca

Other changes to the Council include combining the Landowner Database Administrator role with the Membership Secretary position and combining the Tool Master role with the Treasurer position.

There is good news out of Marathon. Interest is high in that area for forming a VTA club. There are several independent trails already built in and around the Marathon area that could be combined into a formal system as part of the VTA. Thank you to Glen Labrash and the other members of the Marathon community who are helping to generate support for a club.

THANK YOU LANDOWNERS!

Once again, the VTA would like to acknowledge and thank our landowner partners for their generosity in allowing us to access their lands with our trail systems. Your continued support is greatly instrumental in providing an opportunity for the public to enjoy beautiful Northern Ontario!

A letter will be circulated to each landowner with this newsletter. Please take the time to respond so that the VTA can keep its landowner database current and accurate. Wishing you and your families a wonderful holiday season and all the best for the new year!



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NEWS FROM THE ALGOMA HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

Dear friends of the Algoma Highlands Conservancy:

Last month, we released the great news that Stokely Creek Lodge will be in full operation this winter! Just in case you've been out of touch, the agreements that we've reached with Astina provide us with a 10-year licence for exclusive use of the entire Stokely trail system for silent sport recreation and a 2-year option to purchase the 2600 ac below the Tupper-Van Koughnet line (i.e., all lands immediately beyond the Lodge, through to King Mountain, and beyond, to the Robertson Cliffs). AHC Board member Gaylen Byker, his wife Susan, daughter Tanya, and son-in-law Ian Phair will purchase and operate the Lodge under the name "Stokely Creek Lodge". See our October 11, 2007, newsletter for more details (www.algomahighlandsconservancy.org).

To date, binding agreements have been executed and Jamie Martin, Susan McCauley, Alex Lapensee, and Richard Kargl have been busy readying the Lodge and trails for the upcoming season. Final closing is pending completion of a survey of the access road leading up from the parking lot.

From our perspective, the remaining details are procedural and we are considering the deal all but closed! Please plan on joining us for a celebration of Stokely's new future at an open house to be held at the Lodge on Saturday Dec 29th.

On the AHC side, we have just established a dedicated account for donations towards the King Mountain property purchase! As such, we now encourage you to honor your pledge and make your donation in time for deduction in the 2007 tax year. To reiterate, we currently have approximately \$340,000 in private pledges, including Gaylen's matching commitment. We also have approximately \$300,000 of AHC funds which will be applied to this effort; so we are just shy of half way to our \$1.5-M target for the 2600-ac purchase. We must all keep in mind that this purchase is critical to the long term health and survival of the Lodge, and will also guarantee a solid, protected, 3000-ac land base for the AHC to use as a platform for conservation, silent-sport recreation, outdoor education, and research - in perpetuity. All available AHC funds and donations will be applied to this purchase and we will be pursuing potential corporate and government sources to supplement your donations.

Please feel free to circulate this newsletter and encourage others to help us. We also encourage you to email us any questions that you have and/or provide us with your full contact information, including email, so that we can update our files and keep you better informed about new developments at Stokely. Please forward your contact information to (info@algomahighlandsconservancy.org) or, if you do not have access to email,

please send the information to either our Canadian or American office address.

Canadian Office
P.O. Box 20076, 150 Churchill Blvd.
Sault Ste Marie, ON, P6A 6W3
Ph: 705-949-9017

U.S. Office
c/o CBSI 905 Ashmun St.
Sault Ste Marie, MI, 49783

We respect your privacy and will not forward your contact information without your permission.

In closing, we are proud of the partnership that we have forged with Astina and Stokely Creek Lodge - it represents a very positive and critical turning point in our securing a long-term future for the Lodge AND conserving the ecological and silent sport recreational values of the surrounding lands that we all love! Please be generous.

Doug Pitt, President
Steve Holmes, Vice-President
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MOSQUITOES?

So you don't like those pesky mosquitoes, especially now that they have the potential to carry the West Nile Virus. Here's a tip that was given at a recent gardening forum.

Put some water in a white dinner plate and add a couple drops of Lemon Fresh Joy dish detergent. Set the dish on your porch, patio, or other outdoor area.

Not sure what attracts them, the lemon smell, the white plate colour, or what, but mosquitoes flock to it, and drop dead shortly after drinking the Lemon Fresh Joy/water mixture, and usually within about 10 feet of the plate.

Check this out---it works just super!

May seem trivial, but it may help control mosquitoes around your home, especially in the south and elsewhere where the West Nile virus is reaching epidemic proportions in mosquitoes, birds, and humans. Please pass this along!



THE STEVE TAYLOR VOLUNTEER AWARD

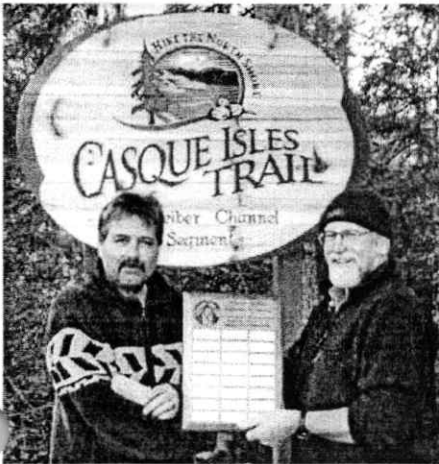
Steve Taylor was a long-time President of the Voyageur Trail Association who, in 1995, passed away of cancer in his thirties.

At the time, the Steve Taylor Volunteer Award was created in his memory to be awarded each year to honour an individual or individuals who, during the course of the previous year, contributed in an outstanding way to the goals of the Association, as Steve always had.

This year, the following folks were nominated:

- 1) Bob Sinclair for above and beyond work on new guidebook and volunteering to keep the database up into the future.
- 2) The entire Guidebook (GB) Committee for their hard work over the past three years putting together the new GB which was well-received.
- 3) Steve Dominy for providing the driving force and spearheading the Guidebook Committee.
- 4) Susan Graham for volunteering to lead lots of trail maintenance outings in the spring and fall in the Sauleaux section.
- 5) Jim Miller (*posthumously*) for leading outings for the Sauleaux Club and being a friend of the VTA.
- 6) Doug Stefurak for his driving force in revitalizing the Casque Isle Club and spearheading the purchase, design and installation of many new signs in the section.

The votes were tallied and at the VTA Annual General meeting, it was announced that Doug Stefurak was this year's recipient.



Congratulations to Doug (shown here on the left accepting the award from Duncan McKay, VTA Vice-President, West) and ALL the VTA folks who were nominated. This year, we had more nominations than any year in our past and we feel that all these folks deserve our special recognition and thanks.

To nominate someone for the 2008 Award, please email your nomination anytime to: voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca



REMEMBERING NORM LEDIETT

Members of the Penewobikong Voyageur Trail Club have installed a plaque honouring the late Norm Lediett on Fire-tower Mountain, a picturesque spot along the Voyageur Trail in the Blind River area.

Norm, who passed away at age 91 in 2004, was a long-time founding VTA member in the Blind River area. He also created the yellow and blue "diamond" blazes that grace our trail to this day.

