



# VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

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## ERNIE PRINGLE

This picture could have been taken anywhere on the trail because Ernie Pringle has blazed and cut trail along the whole route.



## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

V.T.A. Annual General Meeting, 1977

I'd like to talk to you tonight about our progress, where we stand and where we are going, as I see it. I'll not speak about the details of each club's progress - that was covered in our last Newsletter and little has been done since then, but I would like to express my and your executive's satisfaction and pleasure with the formation of 4 new clubs in the past year. Actually, one was merely a formalization but the other 3 extend our influence over most of the entire geographic area we hope to see the Voyageur Trail eventually cover. These are the Thunder Bay, Michipicoten, at Wawa, and Sudbury Clubs. All are small at this time but with a nucleus of enthusiastic members and anxious to grow.

The excellent progress of our other clubs as outlined in our last Newsletter is heartening, and they are all to be congratulated. I only wish that local membership could be increased more quickly when it is needed most.

A year ago I made note of our expected 100 miles of continuous trail and it was mentioned again in our recent Newsletter. I truly believe that that accomplishment will not only give us greater publicity and public credibility and support, but will act as a real stimulus to all of us. With new clubs at Wawa and Thunder Bay, and activity beginning in Lake Superior Provincial and Pukaskwa National Parks, we must soon turn our efforts towards the north shore of Lake Superior. Let us finish off this leg of significant length first though, to gain those benefits. It is within our grasp.

Another facet of trail development has arisen now that we have some sections of usable trail. This is not so pleasant and if we look to the south of us we can see its results. Trail misuse in the south is a serious problem and such things as litter, broken fences, opened gates, inconsiderate parking, etc., have forced the rerouting of many sections of trails. The use of the northern rugged section of the Bruce Trail by inexperienced, ill-equipped hikers has led to a brief of protest by the O.P.P. on their own behalf and on that of the O.M.N.R. This details the large number of people who get lost or otherwise come to grief on that section of the Trail, through lack of experience and being improperly equipped. It proposes more education of would-be trail users and the general public.

Fortunately, we have not experienced this activity yet. Indeed, I have received several compliments on the condition and neatness of our Voyageur Trail, the lack of litter and the courtesy of the users. However, with increasing use, the risk rises. Let us head off the problems before they befall us. Be a conscientious hiker and rectify the mistakes of others. Carry out the litter that you might find. If you find garbage dumped on or by the trail, report it to your local club. Above all, we must get into a publicity campaign that is ever on-going, to educate all potential users of the Voyageur Trail in

Trail etiquette. I would urge you all, when you talk to your friends about the Voyageur Trail, to stress courtesy on the trail. I would also solicit your suggestions of groups that might be amenable to a slide talk about the Voyageur Trail and its proper use. Remember - the Voyageur Trail belongs to our landowners and we owe them the respect that we would expect from visitors to our own houses.

I'd like also to make a comment on our growth. We ended our last membership year by topping 200, almost doubling that of a year ago. Of course, we cannot hope to grow exponentially forever, but we've had a good start and with effort on your part, we can continue to grow. Members are our greatest asset and our greatest need. This is not the time to be complacent - to rest on our laurels. There is much more to be done. A completed Section is something to be proud of to be sure, but a Section alone or several of them do not make the Voyageur Trail as we envisage it. It will take many sections, joined end to end, to make the Voyageur Trail complete. So, talk up the vision, the potential, with your friends and associates. Get them to join in a venture that you, as shown by your presence here, must find challenging, fulfilling and enjoyable.

Lastly, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all of the dedicated workers in this Association and especially those who put out that extra effort. I'll not name names, there are too many and I'm sure to miss someone. But you know who they are, at least within your own club, and they know who they are. We all owe them an extra vote of thanks and they can be proud of their contributions.

It's been another good year of progress, but there is a lot to do yet and we can do it. Let's forge ahead and get it done by helping each other in the common cause of the Voyageur Trail.

Thank you,  
Paul Syme

#### V.T.A. LANDOWNERS - TAKE NOTE

The final report of the Ontario Trails Council has been placed in the hands of the Minister of Natural Resources and among the many recommendations it makes about trails of all kinds, one stands out above all others. The Council found that concern for landowner's liability was of prime importance, both to trail groups and, of course, to landowners, who graciously grant permission for trails to cross their land. The Council has recommended that the Government of Ontario should enact legislation respecting occupier's liability immediately, and presents a model for such legislation as Appendix 2 in the Report. It is our understanding that the Government is already looking into this and it is hoped that we will soon see some legislation in Ontario that relieves our landowners of civil liability.



## THE TRAIL USER'S CODE- IN DEPTH

P. D. Syme

If you look at the back of your V.T.A. membership card, or on the back page of this Newsletter, you will find the Trail User's Code. Have you read it? Could you recite the rules? How many are there? Most importantly, do you follow it? Following the Code when you are following the Trail comes down to simply being courteous. Look at each item in the Code and consider what MIGHT happen if you broke that particular rule. Of course, nobody will know if you break the Code, will they? But, they might know that SOMEBODY broke the code, perhaps by the litter on the trail, or the stripped birch bark. If you feel that a slight slip once in a while doesn't matter, then think what would happen if EVERYONE who uses the trail did the same thing. Of course, that's ridiculous; everyone wouldn't do it. But what gives you or me the right to do something we don't expect others to do? Think about that. If you and I, the members who support, build and maintain the trail, don't set a sterling example, then what can we expect of others.

I'd like to consider some of the reasons behind each part of the Code, in turn, and I will begin with the first item: "Hike only along marked routes." Why? Well, first of all, on private land, we have asked and received permission to hike along the trail, but not to wander all over the landowner's property. Perhaps the landowner doesn't mind us straying over his or her property, but we don't know this and there could be all sorts of valid reasons why he or she doesn't want us on other parts of the property. Another reason for staying on the trail is to lessen the chance of destroying some sensitive area that the trail may pass. Studies in Ohio have shown that the detrimental impact on the forest floor, especially the flowers, drops off dramatically from the centre of a well-trodden pathway, so that within less than a meter there is virtually no effect at all. For this reason, it is best to walk single file and stay right on the path. There is a great temptation to skirt the trail where it is damp, but by doing this, we create a wide track of spoiled vegetation that is unsightly. Waterproof footwear is the correct solution. There are some sections of other trails in Ontario that have been ruined by such action. If you discover such situations on the Voyageur Trail, notify your trail captain and perhaps the trail can be rerouted around the wet area. There are, however, some areas where there is no choice, such as in crossing a swampy river valley. Here, you just grit your teeth and stay on the marked route. Isn't it nice though, to have unspoiled vegetation and wildflowers growing right up to the edge of the path, where you are constantly aware of them?

A third reason for hiking only along the marked route is so that you don't become lost, especially in unfamiliar country. It is easy to get turned around in the bush, but with those white blazes

in front of you, you know you will come out to your intended destination sometime. If you misjudge your time and don't turn up when you should, you will be easier to find if you are on the trail. Be courteous to our landowners and to our fellow hikers. Hike only along marked routes.

#### HELP WANTED

The Voyageur Trail Association wants to form a Publicity Committee. If you feel that you would like to contribute to this committee, or if you are interested, please call or write Paul Syme, 254-4791.

#### LOGAN BREAD -A SOLID FOOD FOR PACKING

(A 2 x 2" square will sustain a man for a day)

1 quart water	1 1/4 cups cooking oil
4 lb. whole wheat flour	1 cup sesame seeds
1 1/2 lb. raw or brown sugar	2 cups honey
12 oz. non-fat dry milk solids	1 1/2 cups wheat-germ
2 tablespoons baking powder	1 cup blackstrap molasses
2 tablespoons salt	

Preheat oven to 300 F. Mix all ingredients in a bowl and when well mixed, put into a greased roasting pan. Bake 1 hr. Cut into squares and air-dry until semi-dry.

In our last issue we noted that the V.T.A. had joined the International Backpackers Association. The Autumn 1977 issue of "The Trail Voice," the International Backpackers Association magazine, acknowledges our affiliation with this organization and recommends that their members support our efforts. Thank you "Trail Voice."

#### NOTICE

The Voyageur Trail will be closed for one day, the first Monday in February, February 6, 1978.

## V.T.A. ACTIVITIES WINTER 1977-78

- Jan. 1. SHAKE OFF YEAR END BLAHS--START NEW YEAR FITNESS PROGRAM  
 2 p.m. Meet: 6th Line and Landslide Road for 2 hour hike or snowshoe walk, depending on snow level.  
 Leader: Bert Dearing, 256-7796
- Jan.29 Ski Echo Ridges Trail. A circle route will be followed.  
 10 a.m. Meet: Echo Bay School - on main street.  
 Leader: ? He or she will be there (Ed.)  
 Bring lunch
- Feb.12 Ski Carpin Beach Road area.  
 2 p.m. Meet: North end of Carpin Beach Road near Third Line  
 Leader: Barb Triplett, 253-3788
- Feb.25 Wawa ski or snowshoe tour to Magpie Falls and return.  
 12.30 pm Meet: New Era Motel in Wawa  
 Leader: Peter Stinnisen, 856-4270
- Feb.26 Ski Thessalon trail over a flat plain through pine forest.  
 11 a.m. Meet: in Rydal Bank at the bridge.  
 Leader: Don Fulton, 842-2944. Bring lunch.
- Mar.12 Desbarats Trail snowshoe hike  
 11 a.m. Meet: Grahams Store, Centre Line, 6 mi. N. of Hwy 17E  
 Leader: Deter Ropke, 253-8375  
 Bring lunch and pail for making tea.

## SUDBURY V.T. CLUB FOUNDING MEETING

An illustrated talk on the Voyageur Trail by Paul Syme highlighted the Founding Meeting of the Sudbury V.T.Club on October 13, 1977, which was attended by over 20 interested hikers and naturalists.

The first organized hike was set for Oct.16 and although cold winds and the first snow of the season cooled the enthusiasm of some of the new members a small group hiked the Rainbow section of the Trail. The day turned out to be an excellent one for walking after all, and those who climbed Mt. Ararat were ecstatic about the view of the countryside.

A number of club activities were discussed at a second meeting which included work on the Voyageur Trail as well as local projects and hikes which could serve to publicize the V.T.A. in the region. A club executive consisting of the following people was elected:

President: Robert Brown  
 Secretary-treasurer: Bill Este  
 Activities Committee: Graham Medley, Art Brandry  
 Barry Weight  
 Publicity: Terry Gaffrey

Graham Medley was hike leader for a 7-mile walk along the Onaping River on November 13th. Seventeen eager hikers showed up for the start of the walk, under clear and sunny skies, and all ended up safely at Onaping Falls by mid-afternoon, leg weary but in good spirits after a lovely day.

Members in the Sudbury area are urged to forward suggestions for winter outings to one of the activities committee members - cross country skiing, snowshoeing,..... The executive may then assess support for such activities and organize some outings over the winter season.

#### A REMINDER TO WINTER HIKERS

This is addressed to the many hikers who like to take their small child along with them in a carrier when they are hiking. Because the child is inactive in the carrier he or she is not generating much heat and may actually start to lose body heat more rapidly than it is being produced, even when the temperature is not very low. This can be dangerous to the child.

#### DISCOUNTS TO HIKERS

Joe's Sports and Surplus, 9 Queen St. East, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. offers a 10% discount to V.T.A. members on presentation of a current membership card. Sales items and all "Woods" brand articles are excluded.

Kinney Shoes of Canada Ltd. offers a 10% discount on hiking boots to V.T.A. members on presentation of current membership card, at the local store in the Station Mall, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

Margessons of 17 Adelaide St. East, Toronto M5C 1H4 offers a 10% discount on most camping items to V.T.A. members. Margessons issue a camping catalogue which may be obtained by writing to them.

#### 1977 V.T.A. PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Last Call For Entries

The rules and entry form for this contest are on the next page

Have you entered yet?



## 1977 V. T. A. PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

### Last call for entries

#### Conditions of Entry:

1. Subject areas: (a) Club or trail activities. Emphasis will be placed on how well club activities or hiking are shown. Photographic excellence will be secondary.  
(b) Trail views.
2. The competition is open to amateur photographers.
3. Three categories: (a) 2 x 2" slides in cardboard mounts  
(b) black and white prints  
(c) colour prints
4. Entries may not exceed four photos per person.
5. Location on the Trail should be identified and the sender's name should be included.
6. A completed entry form or facsimile must accompany each entry and the total number of entries should be noted on each form.
7. Entry fee is \$1.00 per entry with a maximum of \$2.00.
8. Entry receipt deadline is February 1, 1978.
9. Pictures must have been taken between January 1, 1977 and January 1, 1978.
10. Judges will include local professional photographers and judging will be done as soon as practicable after the contest closes.
11. Entries may be publicly displayed.
12. Entries will be returned to the owners within 4 weeks of the judging.
13. The Voyageur Trail Association may wish to acquire slides or prints for their own use after the contest. Entries will receive every possible care, but the V.T.A. cannot be responsible for loss or damage.

#### SECOND VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST

Name \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Member of V. T. A.? \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION ON TRAIL	JUDGES SCORE	AWARD

Send entry forms, fees and photos and address enquiries and requests for additional forms to:

Photography Contest Committee,  
Voyageur Trail Association,  
Box 66,  
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario  
P6A 5L2





## VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

### THE TRAIL USERS CODE

- Hike only along marked routes. -Do not climb fences, use the stiles.
- 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 (better still, carry lightweight hiker's stove).
- Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy.
- Never strip bark from trees. -Protect and do not disturb wildlife.
- Keep dogs on the leash on or near farmland.
- Walk around the edges of fields, not across them.
- Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photographs.

### VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER ROSTER

- |                      |                       |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Bridge-building   | 8. Map-making         | 14. Editorial Work    |
| 2. Carpentry         | 9. Publicity          | 15. Typing            |
| 3. Stone Masonry     | 10. Display Designing | 16. Legal Advice      |
| 4. Trail Maintenance | 11. Photos and Slides | 17. Correspondence    |
| 5. Trail Building    | Clearing House        | 18. Envelope Stuffing |
| 6. Contacting        | 12. Fund-raising      | 19. Serve on Board of |
| Landowners           | 13. Publications      | own club or V.T.A.    |
| 7. Leading Hikes     |                       | 20. Other             |

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

#### Sections (please check)

- ☐ Association-at-large
- ☐ Saulteaux V.T.C.
- ☐ Echo Ridges V.T.C.
- ☐ Desbarats V.T.C.
- ☐ Thessalon V.T.C.
- ☐ Iron Bridge
- ☐ Penewobikong V.T.C.
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Massey
- ☐ Rainbow V.T.C.
- ☐ Sudbury
- ☐ Little Current
- ☐ Sheguiandah
- ☐ South Baymouth

- ☐ Thunder Bay
- ☐ Nipigon
- ☐ Terrace Bay
- ☐ Marathon
- ☐ Pukaskwa Park
- ☐ Wawa V.T.C.
- ☐ Lake Superior Park
- ☐ Batchawana
- ☐ Goulais

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (home) \_\_\_\_\_

(business) \_\_\_\_\_

#### DECLARATION

I have read and will abide by the TRAIL USERS CODE

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

#### FEES

- ☐ Individual \$ 5.00
- ☐ Family \$ 5.00
- ☐ Student \$ 2.00
- ☐ Crests \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$ 1.00 each)
- ☐ Donations \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (receipt for income tax purposes will be sent)

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SIGN UP A FRIEND