



VTA NEWS

SPRING 2025 | Issue #138

Ruminations From the President

Most hikers understand the concept of “staying on track.” Even with many years in hiking boots, I will always let my wife know where I am going, what piece of trail I will be on, and when I intend to be home. To me, this is basic in planning any outing. It is important that I follow the plan, staying on the track of the trail and paying attention to the time and reporting if I will be late.

For users of the Voyageur Trail, staying on track is important for many reasons. By far, most of our paths are primitive, wildland trails in rugged country. Part of our due diligence in maintaining the trails is to ensure that they are marked in such a way that they are easy enough to follow. Of course, there will always be annual growth and fallen trees that may obscure the trail. This is one of the reasons why so much time and effort has gone into creating our maps on the Ondago App. If you download the maps to your device and have your location turned on, you can follow the trail line on the App to get you back on track.

Here is your reminder! Log in to the website, go to “Downloads” and then follow the instructions to unlock the 2025 Access Code for the revised maps. Then ensure

that you download the 2025 maps on your device.

Almost every year there are reroutes on the trails, mostly by request of a private landowner. We respect the wishes of all landowners along the trails; indeed, we have specific landowner agreements with many of them. Crossing a landowner’s property is permitted, but going off the trail constitutes trespassing.

The Voyageur Trail passes through diverse ecosystems. By keeping to the trail, we help preserve the flora and fauna for future generations. Here are two examples of routing a trail to protect local assets. The Algoma Highlands Conservancy has rerouted part of the trail at Robertson Cliffs to protect the peregrine falcon nesting areas. And along the Great Lakes shorelines, the trail may be routed to protect disjunct plant species found far from their usual areas.

Spring is here; enjoy every minute of your time in nature. Get out and explore a new trail this year and remember to follow the VTA Trail Users Code. Be a low-impact hiker!

I’ll be seeing you on the trail. ■

— Matt Borutski, VTA President

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ANATOMY OF A Good Hiking Boot



This article, adapted from an [Alamo Shoes blog](#), explores the key components and features that make a hiking boot not just good, but great.

Hiking is an exhilarating outdoor activity that brings us closer to nature, but it also places unique demands on our feet and ankles. Whether you're a seasoned hiker or just starting, one of the most important decisions you'll make is choosing the right hiking boots. To do that effectively, you need to understand the anatomy of a good hiking boot.

Outsole

The outsole is the bottom part of the boot that makes contact with the ground. It's typically made of rubber and is responsible for traction and durability. The lug pattern on the outsole is designed to provide grip on various terrains, from rocky trails to slippery surfaces. Look for boots with deep, multidirectional lugs for better traction.

Midsole

The midsole is the layer between the outsole and the insole, and it's crucial for shock absorption and comfort. Most hiking boots use EVA (ethylene-vinyl acetate) or polyurethane for the midsole. EVA is lighter and more cushioned, while polyurethane is more durable. Some boots combine both materials for a balance of cushioning and support.

Insole (footbed)

The insole, or footbed, is the part of the boot that your

foot rests on. It provides additional cushioning and support. Many hiking boots have removable insoles, allowing you to replace them with custom orthotics or insoles that suit your specific needs.

Upper

The upper is the part of the boot that covers your foot and extends to your ankle. It's responsible for providing protection and support. Hiking boot uppers are made from various materials, including leather, synthetic fabrics, and a combination of both. Full-grain leather offers durability and water resistance, while synthetic materials are often lighter and quicker to dry.

Toe Cap

The toe cap is a reinforced (usually rubber) section at the front of the boot that protects your toes from rocks, roots, and other hazards. A good hiking boot will have a sturdy toe cap to prevent injuries.

Toe Box

While the toe cap is clearly a physical thing, the toe box is more of a concept; it refers to the cup-like area at the front of your hiking boots. It primarily comprises the leather or fabric upper, but it also includes the toe cap. It's basically the "box" in which your toes sit.

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Rand

The rand is a strip of rubber that covers the joint between the upper and the sole, either encircling the entire boot or covering the toe area only. Rands protect the material of the upper from abrasions and your toes and the lower part of your foot from bangs and bruises from rocks or debris.

Tongue

The tongue is the part of the boot that lies under the laces. A gusseted tongue is attached to the sides of the boot, keeping debris like dirt and rocks from entering the boot. This feature is especially helpful on the trail.

Collar

The collar is the top part of the boot that surrounds your ankle. It should provide support and cushioning. Padded collars enhance comfort and help prevent blisters.

Lacing System

A secure lacing system is essential for a snug fit and foot stability. Some hiking boots feature speed lacing or hooks for easy adjustment. Look for boots with durable laces that won't easily break on the trail.

Heel Counter

The heel counter is a reinforced section at the back of the boot that supports your heel and prevents excessive movement. It is essential for stability, especially when carrying a heavy backpack.

Waterproofing

Many hiking boots come with waterproof membranes, such as Gore-Tex, to keep your feet dry in wet conditions. While waterproof boots prevent water from entering, they may also trap moisture, so proper ventilation is important.

Insulation

If you plan to hike in cold or snowy conditions, insulated hiking boots are crucial. Thinsulate® and PrimaLoft® are common insulation materials used to keep your feet warm.

Shank

A supportive structure that lies between the midsole and the outsole, the shank provides stiffness and prevents the boot from twisting. A flexible shank is suitable for light hiking, while a rigid shank is better for challenging terrain.

Weight

The weight of a hiking boot can significantly impact your hiking experience. Lightweight boots are suitable for day hikes, while heavier boots offer more support and protection for backpacking and rough trails.

Understanding the anatomy of a good hiking boot is the first step in selecting the right pair for your adventures. Consider the terrain, weather, and your specific needs when choosing your hiking boots. A well-fitted, high-quality hiking boot can make all the difference in your outdoor experiences, ensuring you stay comfortable and protected while exploring the beauty of the great outdoors. ■

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FIND YOUR "TRUE NORTH" EXPERIENCE



Saulteaux Section and Algoma Paddlers

Montreal Voyageur Canoe

What an adventure I had today. There were 14 of us canoeing on Lake Huron in a 36-foot Montreal Voyageur Canoe. After learning the different paddle commands, and what to do if we capsized, we were off!

We left the Desbarats boat launch and paddled our way up the lake along Kensington to the 'Hole in the wall.' We stopped the canoe at a dock that was a perfect fit, ate our lunch, and celebrated Jean's birthday. She was kind enough to bake her own lemon yogurt cake and shared it – yummy!

We continued to paddle between little islands and towards Campement d'Ours Island, where we had to remove our mast to go under a bridge and then through a very narrow channel. We stopped to play a little squash in a 101-year-old building on the edge of the island.

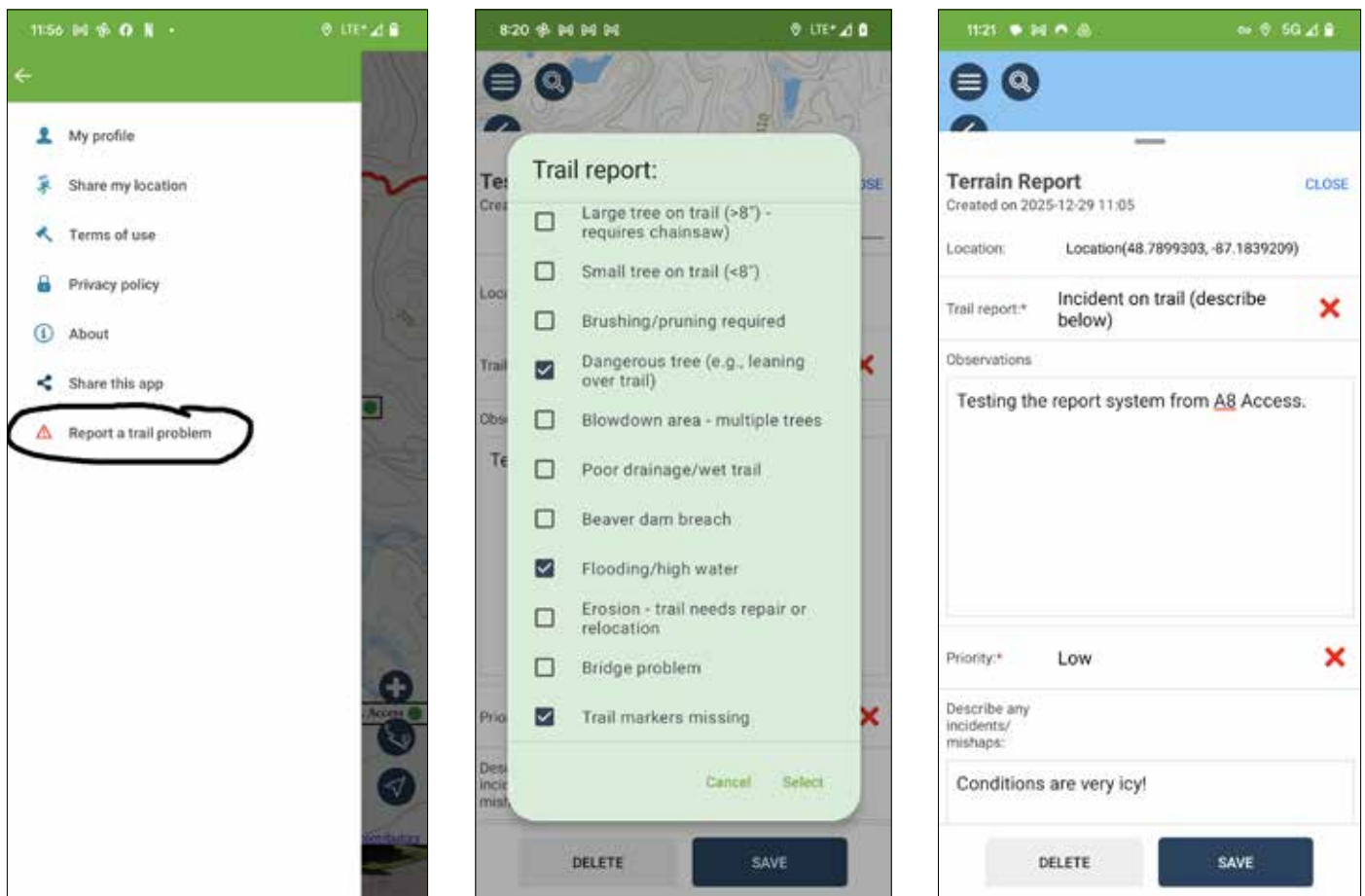
Continuing across Lake Huron, we sang songs and performed cheers for people on the mainland as we paddled by. We saw many birds including two baby eagles in a nest! We also saw a deer and several beautiful flowers. The rain held out for the most part and the winds were calm. This was a great way to spend my Saturday on this incredible canoe with experienced and avid canoeists. I will certainly go back for more adventures! Thank you to Algoma Paddlers for bringing this canoe up from Blind River.

– Angelene P.

The VTA Saulteaux Club organized two other "big canoe" outings in 2024, using the Parks Canada Fort St. Joseph "north" canoe, which is 24' long and sits eight paddlers. Over the two paddling adventures, we had 13 different people in the canoe, including seven people whom had never paddled the big canoe before. On June 10 we launched from Bells Point and paddled up the Root River and on June 12 we paddled the Echo Bay marsh.

These paddling events help us develop and maintain big canoe paddling skills. We use these skills to help Parks Canada deliver big canoe programming at Fort St. Joseph.

The big canoes are a great way to explore the original Voyageur Trails in Algoma! ■



Cellphone screenshots of the VTA Ondago Maps app, which show the steps necessary to report a trail problem.

What's New with Your Ondago Maps: Report a Trail Problem

By Steve Dominy, VTA Trail Maps Coordinator



A new feature recently added to the Voyageur Trail maps on the Ondago app is 'Report a Trail Problem.'

VTA members can now submit instant reports of problems they encounter on the trail. These could range from a fallen tree to flooding, missing trail markers, erosion or other issues. The problem can be prioritized so a trail crew can be scheduled accordingly.

To use this feature you must be on or near the trail where you wish to report the problem. With the trail map open (member-only access), tap on the icon with the three bars in the upper left corner of the screen. At the bottom of the list you'll see the 'Report a trail problem' option (see the above screenshots). [If you don't see the 'Report a Trail Problem' option, check to see if you have updated the map.]

Select the option to open a report form, where you can enter

details of the problem. Most of the form can be filled in using dropdown menus and checkboxes, along with the option to add more information. If desired, a photo can also be added. When finished, click 'SAVE', which will send the report to an administrator.

After saving the report, the location is identified on the map by a yellow symbol and an '!'. To view your reports, tap on the symbol and then click on the 'INFO' icon.

Note that you can report a problem even when you don't have a data connection. After clicking 'SAVE', the app will hold the report and location data in memory, sending it to an administrator when you reach a point where you have a connection.

Be sure to check out the Ondago app tutorial (on the VTA website, under Trails | Trail Maps) to learn about all the available features. The tutorial was recently updated. ■

*Signage at entry of Thunder Bay Field Naturalists property on the Lyda Bay Segment on the Casque Isles section.
Photo by Matt Borutski.*

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Landowner PROTECTION

Mark Crofts, Voyageur Trail Association Vice-President Central, created this document in 2021 to share the information included with landowners along the trail. It is an important outreach document for the VTA.

Disclaimer: This document is intended as a convenient source of information about key sections of the respective Acts (Provincial) and the Criminal Code (Federal). It is for your information and assistance only. **It is not a legal document.** If you need details or exact language, please refer to the specific Acts and Code themselves and their regulations.

This following information should not be used as or considered legal advice. **If you're unsure about anything in this document please consult a lawyer, a local VTA Club President or email us at info@voyageurtrail.ca.**

There are many private landowners who generously allow recreational trails to be used on their property. It may not be generally known that there are protections in place for those landowners.

There are now three laws that exist in Ontario to protect the property rights of landowners (or their tenants) known as occupiers and at the same time encourage them to make their land available for a variety of recreational activities. These are the **Occupiers Liability Act**, the **Trespass to Property Act** and the **Ontario Trails Act**.

The **Occupiers' Liability Act** defines the liability of all the occupiers of land. It protects occupiers of most rural land from being sued for damages by most people who come onto their land.

The **Trespass to Property Act** provides protection from trespass to land, should the occupiers wish to prevent others from entering or to control the use of their land. Together these acts outline the rights and responsibilities of both occupiers and visitors and are designed to encourage continued cooperation between them.

The purpose of the **Ontario Trails Act** is to; 1. To increase awareness about and encourage the use of trails. 2. To enhance trails and the trail experience. 3. To protect trails for today's generation and future generations. 4. To recognize the contribution that trails make to quality of life in Ontario.

The laws in effect today establish a **Basic Duty of Care**. It requires that occupiers do what is **reasonable** in the circumstances to see those persons using their premises are not harmed, either by the condition of the property or by activities on the premises.



There are many private landowners who generously allow recreational trails to be used on their property. It may not be generally known that there are protections in place for those landowners.

The **Basic Duty of Care** doesn't apply to the following types of entrants. These are people who willingly assume their own risks or who are deemed by law to assume their own risks. The third type are non-paying but permitted recreational entrants on most rural land;

- Any non-paying entrants are responsible for their own safety when they enter rural premises for permitted recreational purposes. Rural premises include cultivated fields, orchards, pastures, woodlots and forested or wilderness premises.
- Non-paying entrants are also responsible for their own safety when they enter road allowances, reasonably marked private roads and recreational trails.
- The law reflects the self-reliance of most people who enjoy sports and recreation in our countryside. You accept and respect the environment as you find it.

The **Trespass to Property Act** is designed to give occupiers clear control over the entry and use of their premises. The act also facilitates recreational use of private land by providing a simple marking system to indicate where and how the property may be used. The intent of the act is to encourage shared recreational opportunities while discouraging trespassing.

Anyone who enters the premises or engages in a prohibited activity without express permission, is guilty of an offence as is anyone who fails to leave the premises immediately after being told to do so.

The law states that entry to certain premises is prohibited, even though no notice is given. Such property includes:

- Gardens, fields or other land under cultivation;
- Winter crops, orchards, vineyards or lawns;
- Premises where trees of less than two meters (six feet) have been planted;
- Woodlots on primarily agricultural land;
- Land enclosed in such a way as to keep people out or animals in.

Where entry is prohibited by Notice or Signs...

The occupier of property may prohibit entry to premises, either orally or by written notice, which may be in the form of a letter. It is then an offence for an uninvited person to enter.

An occupier of premises can use written signs or graphic illustrations of activities allowed or prohibited. A diagonal line drawn through the word or illustration gives notice that entry or a specific activity is prohibited.

It is an offence to enter any property where signs have been posted showing that entry is prohibited. Such signs include "No Trespassing", "No Entry", "Entry Prohibited", or "Keep Out."

(continued on page 8)

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There are several places on the VTA where a "No Trespassing" indicator is found on one tree and a VTA blaze on the next tree. The VTA has received permission from the landowner as long as hikers are abiding by the VTA **"Trail Users Code."**

When a sign indicates that one or more activities is permitted, that sign is also legal notice that any other activities are prohibited. If a sign indicates that only horseback riding is permitted, all other activities are prohibited and anyone engaged in those activities on the land could be prosecuted. A sign that prohibits just one activity, such as fishing, will not permit prosecution of anyone engaged in other activities such as riding, skiing or hiking. All signs posted should be clearly visible in daylight under normal conditions. They should also be visible from every ordinary point of access to the premises.

Notice by coloured markings...

Notice can also be given by posting with red or yellow markers. RED markings mean that entry is prohibited. YELLOW markings mean that only certain activities are acceptable. It is then the responsibility of the person who wishes to enter to find out what is permitted.

Also note that it is a criminal offence to enter private property at night near housing or home whether or not there is a no trespassing sign. Section 177 of the criminal code.

Landowners can easily look these up at the following links:

- <http://www.ontario.ca/laws>
- Occupiers' Liability Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.2
- Trespass to Property Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. T.21
- Ontario Trails Act, 2016, S.O. 2016, c. 8, Sched. 1

The Voyageur Trail Association (VTA) supports and protects landowners through our policies and procedures:

The VTA has **"Conditions of Use."** These are listed on the VTA website and occasionally reiterated in communication with members. All VTA Trails are non-mechanized trails. Sanctioned uses are hiking, snowshoeing and backcountry skiing. If a landowner finds someone hunting or mountain biking on the VT, then those users are trespassing and may be treated as such.

The VTA has a **Risk Management Plan** which documents the many and varied methods by which the VTA manages risk, including but not limited to:

- 1) Trail maintenance – The VTA maintains records of trail maintenance activities and trail condition audits. Trail conditions are communicated via the VTA website and emails to club members.
- 2) Signage – The VTA uses a system of signs and blazes as wayfinding aids, trail condition warnings, land ownership status, etc.
- 3) Trail Difficulty Rating System – The VTA has adopted the Parks Canada Trail Classification System. Most of the VTA trails are rated as "difficult" reflecting the wilderness or semi-remote nature of the trail.

The VTA holds insurance through our association with Hike Ontario (HO). The HO **insurance** covers property owners for the following;

A blanket endorsement for ALL landowners will be in effect for the term of the insurance. This means that all landowners on whose land member organizations have a trail are protected under the Commercial General Liability Insurance = Coverage at \$5 million and will come to the landowner's defense should the landowner get sued for a hiking trail related claim (i.e. they won't have to call on their own insurance). This coverage obviously only applies to any "trail related" accidents or property damage such as Hiking, Member Training Events, Sanctioned Non-Hiking Activities and Trail Maintenance.

Effective May 1, 2019 all landowners, sponsors, government departments and municipalities are added as additional insureds but only with respect to liability caused by the negligent operations of the named insured as stated in the declarations of the insurance policy.

Landowner communications:

If a landowner wishes, they may be granted "member" status to the VTA and will receive all VTA member communications (newsletters, trail condition notices, event notices, etc.). ■

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Building Partnerships on the Casque Isles Section

By Matt Borutski, VTA Casque Isles President

In 2018 the Casque Isles Club began development and modernization of their campsites along the trail system.

Chris Dube, a member of the Club and the teacher at Lake Superior High School (LSHS) in Terrace Bay, applied for a grant to purchase the materials needed to reduce the environmental footprint at the sites. The decision was made to purchase bear boxes and a metal fire ring for each site. Included in the grant were funds to purchase the lumber needed to build thunderboxes and to retrofit the picnic tables that would be brought to each site.

The students (Stingers) of LSHS built the thunderboxes and painted the frames of the picnic tables and applied the lumber. As time passed, all the materials were boated in or brought in by ATV and snowmachine. In the years since the inception of the campsite plan, the Stingers have also built seven benches and other picnic tables that have been placed strategically along the trail.

In September of 2024, Larry and Ursula Schleen visited the area and helped to assemble the last table that had been delivered by boat to the site, one km west of Schreiber Beach.

At the beginning of the 2024 school year, the Stingers built three picnic tables and asked for a donation to acquire them, with that donation going to the LSHS School Snack Program. The Casque Isles Club jumped at the opportunity to help their partners and were able to get one of the tables which was delivered to the Worthington Bay campsite. This site sees a lot of traffic as it is used by residents, kayakers and hikers. There was a need to upgrade the site due to this, and because the Seventh Fire Secondary School had planned another two visits to the site as their home base for their Experiential Education Program.



Above: The new picnic table at Worthington Bay. Below, LSHS Principal Sara Curtis accepting donation from VTA Casque Isles President Matt Borutski.



Matt and Sue Borutski visited the site and were pleased to report that the area was perfectly clean after the visits

from Seventh Fire the week before. The students are incentivised to keep the site clean, as each piece of trash found during daily sweeps means 10 push-ups for the whole group!

The Casque Isles Club is blessed with friends of the trail who donate funds in appreciation of the work done by the volunteers. Those funds have been put to good use in building these benches and picnic tables that are enjoyed by everyone that uses the trail.

These partnerships haven't just benefitted the Club financially, but also help to fulfil the strategic goal of having more young people use the trail system. This helps to educate the students about the trail and grows their appreciation of the natural spaces that surround them. This is a total win-win for everyone involved and the future looks bright for this partnership to flourish. ■



Prescribing "Time in Nature"

By Steve Dominy, Saulteaux Club Trailmaster

In an era where pharmaceutical solutions often dominate health care, a growing movement is advocating for a simpler, natural approach to healing: prescribing time in nature. Park Prescriptions began as a grass-roots movement in the United States over a decade ago, and has now spread to countries around the world, including Canada.

The Healing Power of Nature

The concept of nature as medicine is rooted in many cultures, acknowledging that humans are deeply connected to the natural world around them.

However, many believe that this connection has been disrupted, and in many cases, replaced with industrialization and the digitization of our lives. Scientific studies have repeatedly confirmed that time spent in nature can have positive impacts on a person's physical and mental health.

One 2019 peer-reviewed article published by Scientific Report provides particularly compelling evidence for the health benefits of nature. The study analyzed data from nearly 20,000 participants and found that individuals who spent at least 120 minutes per week in nature were significantly more likely to report good health and high well-being compared to those with no nature contact. This positive association was consistent across different age groups and health statuses, highlighting the universal benefits of spending time in natural environments.

Research shows that kids and adults who spend more time in nature are happier and healthier. Kids who play in green spaces focus better, master motor skills faster and move more. From diabetes and heart disease to anxiety and depression, research shows that connecting to nature is a powerful way to improve your health.

Halton Healthcare (Ontario), which operates hospitals in Oakville, Milton

and Halton Hills, just became the first hospital network in Canada to partner with PaRx. Prescribed patients can now access Conservation Halton Parks for ten free visits, which includes scenic trail hikes, wildlife spotting and nature photography.

What Counts as Nature Time?

Research shows that the health benefits of nature start to add up when you feel like you've had a meaningful nature experience, whether it's sitting on a park bench or hiking up a mountain peak. So just get outside and start enjoying some of the many side effects, which may include:

- Living longer
- Increased energy
- Better mood
- Pain reduction
- Reduced stress and anxiety
- Improved heart health
- Better brain health

Happy trails! ■

These simple tips can help you make the most of your "nature prescription."

1. Spend at least two hours a week in nature, 20+ minutes at a time.
2. Make easy green tweaks to your routine.
 - Book a lunchtime walk in the park with a coworker. Do your next cardio workout on a trail instead of at the gym. There are so many ways to add more nature to your life without adding extra hours and effort.
3. Write nature into your schedule.
 - Schedule and prioritize green time like you would a doctor's appointment or a dinner date. That means entering it in your day planner.
4. Phone a friend (or family member).
 - Sometimes we need a little extra help to establish a good habit.



Snowshoe at Gros Cap, Saulteaux Section, on Lake Superior. Photo by Steve Dominy.

Blazing/Marking Practices on the Voyageur Trail

By Steve Dominy, Saulteaux Club Trailmaster

Trail marking is a critical aspect of trail building, and we follow a set of standards across our trail network. Read on to learn more.

As you explore the Voyageur Trail you may notice two main types of trail blazes or markers.

1. Most Sections use rectangular (usually vinyl) blazes, or rarely, paint blazes applied directly to trees.

- These are almost always attached to trees, but painted blazes may be on a rock face or cairn in open bedrock areas.
- The trail markers follow this colour scheme: white for the main trail, blue for side access trails, and yellow for trails forming circuits or complete loops.
- A double blaze marks a notable turn, with the top blaze offset in the direction of the turn.

2. Some trail Sections (e.g., Casque Isles, Nor'wester) use diamond-shaped 'hiker silhouette' markers.

- Blue markers with a white hiker silhouette signify the main trail, and white markers with a blue hiker silhouette signify a side trail or access route.



The frequency of blazes/markers depends on the forest type.

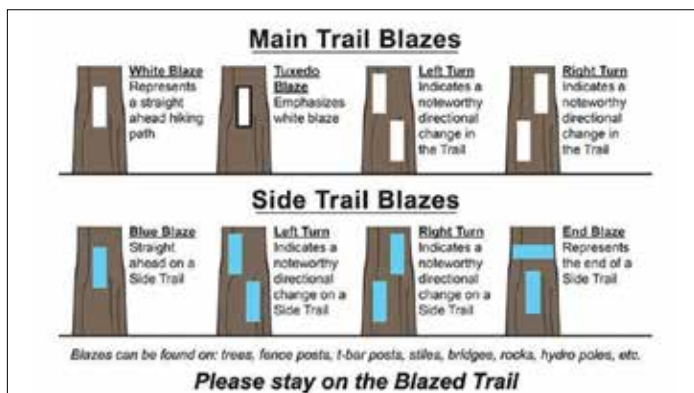
- In deciduous forests where fallen leaves quickly cover the footpath and undergrowth obscures the trail and blazed trees (i.e., the eastern part of the trail system between Harmony Bay and Blind River), a user should be able to see the next trail marker when standing at or near the previous marker.
- In the mainly boreal (coniferous) forest sections where the undergrowth is less and the footpath remains more clearly defined, markers are less frequent.

Arrow signs are used to indicate notable turns.

- As arrows are very visible, these signs can be found on exits of shorelines, at intersections and other places where trail direction needs to be emphasized.

Marking on boulders and rock cairns.

- In some areas, such as shorelines and boulder fields, markers may be painted on the shoreline or the top rock of a rock cairn may be painted white.
- Rock cairns may not have the top rock painted, but are used in areas where trees are not present to attach markers to.
- Where rock cairns are used they may require frequent maintenance, as they can be damaged by bears looking for insects.



FIELD NOTES

1. If marking the trail for the first time, we walk the route and plan how we intend to mark it.
2. We mark the trail in one direction at a time. A partner is helpful to determine appropriate marker placement. Having another hiker unfamiliar with the trail follow the route after it's marked can identify problems.
3. We try to install markers so that a hiker can follow the trail without referring to the guide map and/or text.
4. We try to use separate trees for north and southbound markers so that if a tree falls, the opposite direction marker remains.
5. Before installing markers on a tree, we look up and see if the tree is healthy. We normally don't put a blaze on a dead or dying tree.
6. We try to avoid putting a lighter-coloured blaze on white birch and aspen trees. If a blaze must be placed on a light-coloured bark, we paint a dark border ('tuxedo') around the blaze so it is more easily seen.
7. When nailing markers to trees, we use 1 ½-inch (38 mm) aluminum nails and leave about ½-inch (1 cm) of exposed nail to allow for tree growth.
8. We install the markers at eye level, 5-6 feet (~1.8 m) high.
9. We align markers facing the hiker so that the marker is seen when looking down the path. We avoid placing markers at right angles to the direction of travel.
10. Immediately after a crossing or turn at a road, brook or trail junction, we add a confirmation marker for reassurance. We add a second marker 10-25 m away in sight from the crossing/turn in case the first marker disappears.
11. We brush out obstructions in front of trees where markers are located.
12. We try to pull old nails out slightly using a nail puller, or replace them before tree growth buries the nail head. Aluminum nails are soft and may be hard to remove. The nails are reused if not too badly damaged.
13. After removing damaged nails and blazes (and signs), we carry out and properly dispose of them, although sometimes we have to drive the nail in flush with the trunk if it can't be extracted.
14. When painting markers on shorelines, care must be taken to ensure that the painted marker is not visible to those passing on watercraft of any kind. These markers should be painted in nooks or crannies so that the hiker can safely navigate the trail, and that the view from the water is not ruined by our efforts. ■



VTA Photo Gallery

Show us where you've been on the Voyageur Trail!

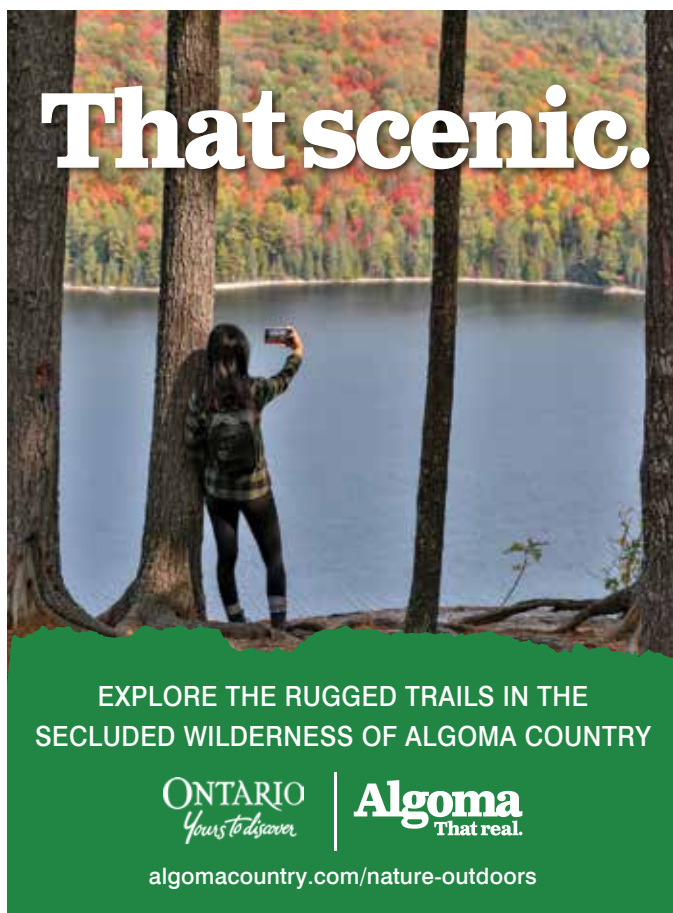
Submit your favourite high-resolution photos with the trail location and photo credit name to info@voyageurtrail.ca.



On the Trail at Highway 129 and Tea Lake, Desbarats-Huron Shores Section. Photo by Steve Dominy.



Wawa 
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Trail Users' Code:

- Hike only along marked routes. Do not take short cuts.
- Do not climb fences.
- Carry out all garbage (if you 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 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.

Be a low-impact hiker!

The Voyageur Hiking 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. All outdoor activities involve some degree of risk. Please, remember that your safety is your personal responsibility; be well prepared for your chosen activity and route. Use at your own risk.



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Visit our website at: www.voyageurtrail.ca

Your articles and photos are welcome! Articles may be edited due to space constraints. Submissions deadline for our Fall 2025 Newsletter is September 28, 2025.

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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 Sudbury.

The VTA is a member of Hike Ontario and Trans Canada Trail.



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