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Ruminations From the President



Terrace Bay Red Chairs. Matt Borutski photo.

The VTA is growing! The Northwestern Ontario Recreational Trails Association (NWORTA) has agreed to join our Association effective April 1, 2026.

NWORTA is based in Thunder Bay and, in just five years, has developed over 100 km of new trails west of the city. Len Day, NWORTA President, has been coordinating with Steve Dominy and their trails will be available on the Ondago app in 2026. NWORTA works with local communities and TCT in the area and has ambitious plans for the future. We welcome them to the Association and look forward to growing together in the Thunder Bay region.

The Voyageur Trail in Wawa will also be getting some attention this year. With local interest in the Michipicoten Club trails declining, the Coordinating Council has stepped up efforts to promote the trails and recruit volunteers to reinvigorate the Club. We have been successful in our application for a TCT Trail Care Grant specifically for the Michipicoten Club, and we are working on a plan to audit, clear and mark the trails in Wawa this spring. We will be asking for volunteers to travel to Wawa to complete this work. More information on this plan will be provided as we gain a clearer understanding of the snowmelt conditions.

Speaking of snow, there seems to be no shortage this year! The mid-March storm that impacted our Clubs in Wawa, Sault Ste Marie and Blind River turned out to be only cold and windy for everyone else to the west. Here on the Casque Isles there is at least 1.5 m of compacted snow in the bush, and as I sit writing this on March 25, it is snowing again! While the accumulated amounts may not be record breaking, it appears that we may have to wait to get out clearing trails this spring.

I hope that you get as much joy in the snow as I do; the long cold months certainly challenge us physically and mentally. In my recent inspection of the Red Chairs Trail in Terrace Bay, I came upon the scene in the picture above. The warmer conditions made being exposed on the shoreline enjoyable, and the ice pack formed during colder days offered a beautiful contrast to the chairs installed there in previous years. Standing there admiring the work of our section of the VTA, a sense of pride grew in me of how the efforts of a few volunteers have created this place that everyone can visit. I hope that in your hikes on the Voyageur Trail that you too are stopped in your tracks by the splendor surrounding you.

I'll be seeing you on the trail! ■

– Matt Borutski, VTA President



2025 AGM Hike to the Picnic Table Lookout. Matt Borutski photo.

VTA 2025 Annual General Meeting

Once again, Steve Dominy receives the Steve Taylor Volunteer of the Year Award

The 2025 AGM was hosted by the Casque Isles Hiking Club on October 19, 2025. Matt Borutski led a hike to the Picnic Table Lookout in the afternoon, and dinner was provided at the Schreiber Legion by Breeze Bakery and Catering.

The AGM meeting began at 7:15 pm. Many officers allowed their names to stand again, and there were no other nominations. Positions still to be filled on the Coordinating Council are Vice President West, Trails Master, and Social Media Coordinator. The outline of the

duties of these positions can be found on the [VTA website](#) in the Coordinating Council tab found under the [About](#) drop-down menu. If you have the time to give, please contact president@voyageurtrail.ca.

For the second consecutive year, Steve Dominy received the Steve Taylor Volunteer of the Year Award. As Trail Maps Coordinator and Saulteaux Trailmaster, his ongoing leadership in maintenance and mapping makes this honour well deserved. Congratulations, Steve. ■

– Report submitted by Matt Borutski


Membership REPORT

February 22, 2026

At the last Coordinating Council Meeting, Membership Secretary **Brittany Soltys** reported that the VTA now has more than 500 members.

Strong membership numbers like these demonstrate your belief in the work the VTA has accomplished and your commitment to the development and maintenance of world-class wilderness recreational trails from Blind River to Thunder Bay.

We are 500 members strong – and still growing! The Coordinating Council sincerely appreciates your continued support. ■

Membership – By the Numbers							
CLUB NAME	MAY 2024	SEPT. 2024	NOV. 2024	JAN. 2025	JUNE 2025	OCT. 2025	FEB. 2026
At Large	16	24	25	31	21	24	29
Casque Isles	46	61	63	64	61	79	80
G7 Trail Marathon	5	9	9	9	9	8	9
Michipicoten	5	6	6	7	7	7	7
Nor'wester	12	14	15	15	16	14	16
Penewobikong	27	28	30	32	26	26	26
Saulteaux	296	311	318	334	314	328	347
Total	407	453	466	487	445	486	514

Got a knack for writing? We're looking for a Newsletter Editor

The VTA Newsletter Editor position is currently vacant. If you enjoy writing this might be a perfect fit for you. The newsletter is published twice a year, so the commitment isn't too onerous.

If you can help out or would like more information about this or another position, please contact president@voyageurtrail.ca.

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.



The Sault Naturalists on a winter hike with Saulteaux Club President Mark Crofts. Photo by Renee Wysynski.



Painting trail markers on the NWORTA trails. Photo by Len Day.

Greetings, fellow VTA members!

By Len Day, President
NorthWestern Ontario Recreational Trails Association
(NWORTA)

On behalf of our Board, and as president of North-Western Ontario Recreational Trails Association (NWORTA), I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Executive of the Voyageur Trail Association for accepting our request to become an active member. We are excited to join forces with the VTA and look forward to working with you all in our common goal of establishing and maintaining hiking trails in Northern Ontario.

We are “the new kid on the block” so to speak. NWORTA came to be during the height of Covid, which exposed the realization of the lack of connected trails in Thunder Bay and

Northwestern Ontario. Based out of Thunder Bay, we were formed in the spring of 2021 and are a registered non-profit charitable organization in Ontario. Shortly thereafter, we became affiliated with Trans Canada Trail and Hike Ontario.

Our Board then established a plan to create a five-phase contiguous trail network to connect communities beyond the borders of Thunder Bay. This new trail system would mirror, and eventually connect to, other world-class contiguous trail systems in the region. It is our hope to spark an interest in, and be a part of, an initiative to eventually form a contiguous route along the north shore of Lake Superior, and across Northern Ontario from the Manitoba border to Sault Ste Marie.

NWORTA's immediate mandate is to establish a 400-kilometre
(continued on page 5)



Above, NWORTA's proposed 5-phase trail network map, including Trans Canada Trail water trail (blue line).



Above and right, hiking on the Shabaqua Trail.

(continued from page 4)

trail network from Thunder Bay east to Nipigon, west to Atikokan, and south to Minnesota, with Thunder Bay acting as its hub. To date we have completed 50 kilometres of our planned system, with 45 of our 60-kilometre Shabaqua Trail (Kakabeka Falls to Shabaqua) and five km of our 30 km portion. The Kakabeka Falls Trail (Thunder Bay to Kakabeka Falls) is now completed and operational. These new trails will be on the ONDAGO app as of April 1, 2026.

In the very near future, we will be announcing our three-year "Connecting Communities Recreation Trail Expansion Project" which involves the addition of 200 kilometres of new trails. Our goal will be to complete the Shabaqua Trail connection to Kakabeka Falls itself in 2026, establish the Pigeon River Trail south to Minnesota in 2027, followed by the first phase of the Atikokan Trail (Shabaqua to Atikokan),

from Shabaqua to Quetico Provincial Park through 2028 and 2029. We have also identified a potential route from Thunder Bay to Nipigon, which we will tackle once these other trails are completed.

These are bold, ambitious goals, however, as a past founding member and president of the Thunder Bay Adventure Trails Snowmobile Club, I know what can be accomplished when there is a dream and a desire. We have that motivation within our Board, so now all we have to do is find the funding to "Build the Trails".

We are excited for the future of NWORTA and the VTA. We cannot wait to get out there and get going on our planned trails expansion. I am looking forward to meeting everyone as we continue our march towards "Connecting Communities" in Northern Ontario. ■



Be Bear Wise and avoid bear encounters

Black bears live in most parts of Ontario. Knowing what to do if you encounter a bear is being Bear Wise.

Avoid encounters:


- Make noise when you move through heavily wooded areas, especially if you are near a stream or waterfall where bears may not hear you.
- Singing, whistling or talking will alert bears to your presence, giving them a chance to avoid you.
- Keep your eyes and ears open and watch for signs of a bear, such as tracks, claw marks on trees or droppings.
- DO NOT wear headphones.
- Be aware of your surroundings, especially if you are doing activities outside (e.g. hiking, jogging, cycling, gardening, berry picking or camping) where bears may not realize you are there.
- If you are out with a dog, keep it on a leash. Uncontrolled and/or untrained dogs may actually lead a bear to you.


Think about safety:

- Carry a whistle or air horn.
- Carry and understand how to use bear spray.
- If you are in “back country” consider carrying a long-handled axe.

If you do spot a bear:

- Remain calm and do not run, climb a tree or swim.
- Slowly back away while keeping the bear in sight, but do not make direct eye contact.
- Watch the bear and wait for it to leave. If it does not leave, wave your arms and make noise.
- If you are near a building or vehicle, get inside as a precaution.

 /ONresources
TTY 705-945-7641

 Always call 911 in an emergency.
Call 1-866-514-2327 to report a sighting.



Be Bear Wise while camping

When enjoying Ontario's campsites, lakes, forests or hiking trails, remember you are in natural bear habitat. Bears have a keen sense of smell, and are attracted by the odour of all food and garbage. Avoid conflicts with bears while camping by being prepared and aware.

Prepare:

- Plan your trip with safety in mind by learning how to avoid attracting a bear.
- Teach children how to be Bear Wise and never approach or run from a bear. Keep children between adults while hiking.
- Think about how to safely store your food and garbage while on the campsite.
- Pack food with special care.



Be Bear Wise:

- Look for signs of bear activity near your campsite.
- Keep dogs on a leash. The bear may follow the dog back to its owner.
- Follow the advice set out by Ontario Parks or the private campground.
- Use bear-resistant containers or sealed plastic bags to store food when camping or in back country.
- Hang food at least 4 metres (13 feet) above the ground and 3 metres (10 feet) from tree limbs.
- Never eat, cook or store food, cooking equipment or toiletries in your tent.
- Clean up at your campsite:
 - Clean fish away from your campsite
 - Burn scraps and fat droppings
 - Drain dish water.

Visit ontario.ca/bearwise for more tips on being Bear Wise.

Packing checklist:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long ropes for hanging food and garbage | <input type="checkbox"/> Long-handled axe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle or air horn | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog leash |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bear spray | <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage bags |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Easily prepared food |

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TTY 705-945-7641



Always call 911 in an emergency.
Call 1-866-514-2327 to report a sighting.



TRAIL USE GUIDELINES

On Private and Public Lands

ACROSS THE ASSOCIATION, gracious landowners – including provincial, federal, and municipal authorities – allow our Clubs to cross their property. In most cases, it would be impossible to maintain a continuous trail without their permission. The VTA is deeply grateful to these landowners, and we ask all trail users to show their appreciation by following the VTA Trail Users' Code.

1. Hike only along marked routes. Do not take shortcuts.

You may not always be aware when you are on private property or when a landowner has granted permission for trail use only along a specific, cleared route. During annual trail audits, we ensure that the designated trail corridor is safe for use; other areas of a landowner's property may contain hazards. Leaving the marked route may result in trespassing and can jeopardize the relationship between landowners and the VTA.

2. Do not climb fences.

Fences, gates, and other structures mark property boundaries and help protect landowners' property. Climbing or crossing them may cause damage. Always stay on the marked trail.

3. Respect the privacy of people living along the trail.

Trails are generally routed away from residences. If a trail does pass close to a home and you encounter a landowner, please be respectful and consider expressing your gratitude for their support in allowing trail access.

4. Leave the trail cleaner than you found it – carry out all litter.

Pack a kitchen-sized garbage bag and pick up litter when you encounter it.



Entering TBFN property on the Casque Isles section.

If you find a large amount of litter, take note of the location (for example, with map coordinates) or use the "Report a Trail Problem" feature in the Ondago app to notify the local Club.

5. Light cooking fires at official campsites only. Drench fires after use. (Better still, carry a lightweight stove.)

Most landowners do not wish to accept the responsibility or liability associated with fires on their property. Check with the local Club to confirm which campsites permit fires. Remember that it is illegal to have an outdoor fire in a Restricted Fire Zone or during a Municipal Fire Ban.

6. Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy.

Landowners value the natural environment just as much as hikers do. Please leave plants, flowers, and fungi undisturbed for others to appreciate.

7. Do not damage live trees or strip off bark.

Damaging trees degrades the natural environment, may increase deadfalls along the trail, and detracts from the landscape. Leave the trail and surrounding

areas in as good condition as you found them.

8. Keep dogs under control (leash if necessary) and follow your club's guidelines concerning dogs.

Loose dogs can disturb wildlife and may cause issues for landowners' pets. Dogs have also been known to provoke bears, which can pose a serious risk to nearby humans. Some Clubs require dogs to be leashed at all times, so check local guidelines to ensure compliance.

9. Protect and do not disturb wildlife.

Observe wildlife from a distance and leave animals where you find them. Encountering plants, fungi, and wildlife along the trail is an important and enjoyable part of the hiking experience for everyone.

10. Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photographs.

Please use sign-in books where provided; the information collected helps us better understand and support our trail users. Feel free to take photos and share your favourites with us at president@voyageurtrail.ca. ■



the Trans Canada Water Trail by Voyageur Canoe

Editor's note: We're sharing this promotional article from one of our loyal supporters, Naturally Superior Adventures. You'll read that a portion of their Voyageur Canoe trip fees support the Trans Canada Trail, which is also a supporter of the Voyageur Trail.

The remote shores of Lake Superior guard some of the most rough and scenic landscapes in Canada. The extreme challenge of constructing and maintaining land-based trails means nearly 1,000 kilometres of the Trans Canada Trail through this part of Ontario is a designated water trail, giving visitors an extraordinary coastal perspective on this breathtaking landscape.

With 30 years' experience leading paddling expeditions on these challenging waters, Wawa-based outfitter Naturally Superior Adventures has partnered with the Trans Canada Trail to offer guided explorations of some of the water trail's most scenic and accessible sections. Travelling in a replica 36-foot voyageur canoe, hikers and new or less experienced paddlers can enjoy the water trail safely, while making a meaningful connection to Lake Superior's remarkable natural and cultural history.

Trips are offered in partnership with the Trans Canada Trail, with 15 percent of trip fees supporting the organization's ongoing development and stewardship of the world's longest network of recreational trails.

In 2025, popular guidebook author and *The Happy Camper* creator Kevin Callan, hosted the inaugural TCT Voyageur

Canoe trip to spectacular Denison Falls. Over five unforgettable days, paddlers experienced the mesmerizing sand beaches, granite headlands, and water-polished pebbles of the Lake Superior coast west of Michipicoten. A highlight of the route is the remote, 5-kilometre hike to Denison Falls, where the Dog River tumbles 40 metres down a shining bedrock staircase, sending warm mists swirling into mossy forest.

For 2026, Naturally Superior Adventures is offering two trips on different sections of the Lake Superior Water Trail. A six-day journey along the coast of Lake Superior Park with Callan hosting is already fully booked. A few openings remain on the all-inclusive, beginner-friendly, five-day Denison Falls section, with trip dates from **July 19-24, 2026**.

Learn about the intrepid voyageurs and their birchbark canoes – the resilient engines of the fur trade in early Canada, two centuries ago. Experience Lake Superior's sublime wilderness coastline and campsites while falling into the rhythm of your fellow paddlers and enjoying the speed and stability of a 36-foot voyageur canoe. Because everyone paddles together, this unique craft is suitable for outdoor lovers of all ages and abilities.

Discover the unrivalled scenery and solitude of the world's most expansive freshwater horizon on the Trans Canada's Lake Superior Water Trail.

Visit [Naturally Superior Adventures](https://www.naturallysuperioradventures.com) or call 1-800-203-9092 to learn more and to plan your trip. ■

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Casque Isles Guided Hike to Mount Gwynne, 2024.

THE TWO FACES OF MOUNT GWYNNE: IMPRESSIONS OF A DAY-HIKER

The original version of this article appeared in the Fall/Winter 2003/04 Voyageur Trail News. It's such a great tale about this trail on the Casque Isles Section that we thought we'd share it again, this time with a few updates.

By Kas Stone

Mt. Gwynne, at 260 metres above the level of Lake Superior, is the highest point along the Voyageur Trail. For the day-hiker, reaching the summit is a challenge, not only because of its elevation, but also because of its remoteness. Located 5 km south of Hwy 17 and the nearest town, Schreiber, Mt. Gwynne has no easy access. The Schreiber Beach Road to the west and the Worthington Bay Road to the east are so rutted and muddy that they are no longer passable, except by all-terrain vehicle. So, from either direction, the starting point for a day-hike to Mt. Gwynne is near the highway, and, especially on the western side, it is a long day's hike from there. *(Editor's Note: Shuttles can be arranged by contacting the local club.)*

I have climbed to the summit twice. On my annual spring hiking holiday last year I approached it from the west; this year from the east. And although the objective was the same, the hikes, and the feelings I had about the mountain, were entirely and surprisingly different! I have put together the following summary for anyone wishing to tackle Mt. Gwynne as a day-hiker, which combines practical, how-to information about the two approaches and my personal impressions from each direction.

The Western Face of Mount Gwynne

From the west, parking is available in a small gravel area off Subway Street in Schreiber, just after the road passes under the railway bridge. Proceeding on foot from there, walk west beside the railway line past half a dozen houses, then south along the Schreiber Beach Road. The road quickly becomes a rough track which descends for 2.3 km through a wooded valley to join the Voyageur Trail at Schreiber Beach, a crescent

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of sand and smooth rounded cobbles. Turn left and walk along the beach to its eastern end, where the trail turns inland. It follows Cook's Creek upstream for several hundred metres, past little waterfalls and pools, then crosses the creek by means of a small but impressively constructed suspension foot-bridge. On the other side there is a scramble up a steep, moss-covered cliff onto higher ground, where the landscape alternates between damp, forested glens and rocky outcrops as the trail continues gradually to climb.

There are several lookouts during the ascent, with increasingly impressive views at each rise in elevation. The first two (un-named) lookouts, on beautiful pink granite dappled with green lichens, face westward over Collingwood Bay.

The third, the Albyon lookout, is at the top of a steep cliff at the end of a 1-km side-trail, and has a large talus field below and magnificent views to the west and south. Between the un-named lookouts and the Albyon lookout, the trail passes Fourth Lake and numerous small ponds, many of them created by industrious beavers whose dams have diverted the creeks that spill down the hillside. A short distance beyond the Albyon lookout trail, the final 200-metre side-trail exits to the left, bringing the hiker huffing and puffing to the summit.

From the top of the Schreiber Beach road to the top of Mt. Gwynne, including the side-trips to lookouts, is a hike of about 8 km, and much of this distance is over rough terrain. So, from this direction, Mt. Gwynne feels a wild and secluded place. The only evidence of human influence, apart from the trail itself, is an old camper-trailer at the edge of Schreiber Beach and the remains of a small wooden cabin at Fourth Lake.

The approach from the other direction is quite different.

The Eastern Face of Mount Gwynne

From the east, exit Hwy 17 onto the Worthington Bay Road about 4 km to the east of Schreiber and follow it for several hundred metres. There is a maze of small roadways here, used by gravel



Mount Gwynne, Casque Isles trail section. Photo by Perry Hamel.

trucks coming and going from the quarries, so be sure to follow the 'main' road, which curves towards the right about 100 metres from Hwy 17.

Conditions deteriorate soon afterwards when the road turns downhill, so park on the edge before becoming stuck in the mud and continue on foot. It is a 4-km trek down the valley to Lake Superior, where the road ends at a small gravelly beach on Worthington Bay. About 100 metres before reaching the lake, the Voyageur Trail exits on the right towards Mt. Gwynne. We will return to this exit shortly, after spending a few minutes at Worthington Bay.

On the eastern side of the beach, across a small stream, the Voyageur Trail departs along the shoreline for Les Petits Ecrits and Death Valley, the wild heart of the Casque Isles section of the trail. On the western side, cliffs with cave-like formations rise out of the lake, forcing the trail inland. Near the base of one of these cliffs, on a sheltered flat surface, can be found several faded red-ochre pictographs – evidence of the bay's importance to early aboriginal travellers. (Clearest amongst these pictographs is a figure that resembles, appropriately, two hikers on the Voyageur Trail!) More immediately obvious at the edge of the beach is the debris of modern times – a cement foundation and an assortment of rusting machinery, the remnants of a gold mill that operated briefly at Worthington Bay in the 1930s.

Schreiber, and much of the peninsula upon which Mt. Gwynne sits, is formed from ancient volcanic rocks – lava that erupted through cracks in the earth's

surface some 2-1/2 to 3 billion years ago and then solidified. Subsequent geological processes have changed the original rocks, compressing, eroding and folding them into more complicated forms. Chemically, rocks created in this way typically contain minerals of economic importance. Base metals such as copper, nickel, lead and zinc are common, and to the prospector there is also the tantalizing possibility of precious metals like gold. Copper and zinc have both been recovered in significant amounts from mines in the Schreiber area. And gold, although at a scale disappointing in comparison with the massive finds at the Hemlo mines further east, was discovered in the rocks of Mt. Gwynne.

The Voyageur Trail follows the track used by miners to transport ore for crushing and processing at the Worthington Bay gold mill from mine-sites on the mountain. Return about 100 metres from the beach up the Worthington Bay Road and exit left onto the track we bypassed earlier. The track winds steeply uphill for 1.5 km, levelling out briefly on the way up where the miners' camp once stood and now only a few pieces of rotting timber remain. It passes several piles of rocky rubble and old mine adits, including one large waterfilled hole that gapes ominously to the hiker's right. The track ends at a large field of tailings guarded by a giant, rusting sieve.

Beyond the tailings pile, the trail narrows and continues over rougher ground upward through a gully for 1/2 km. There the Mt. Gwynne side-trail exits to the right for the final 200-metre scramble to the summit.

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From the top of the Worthington Bay Road to the top of Mt. Gwynne is a hike of about 6 km. But from this direction, only the last kilometre feels wild. The long roadway down the valley to Worthington Bay, with all its nits and puddles, speaks of muddy journeys by modern visitors. The pictographs on the Worthington Bay cliffs recall the travellers of an earlier time – the native peoples who drew them, and the European explorers and fur-traders who followed afterwards, seeking refuge in the bay from the wrath of Lake Superior. And finally, during the climb from Worthington Bay to the summit, it is difficult to avoid the ghosts of the miners who laboured there three-quarters of a century ago, chipping away at the mountain with their picks and shovels, toiling with their loads of ore along the track, and dreaming of golden fortunes. In fact, by the time the hiker has reached the final kilometre of the hike, the trail seems quite a crowded place!

The Summit

Whether Mt. Gwynne is tackled from the east or from the west, the approach is forgotten when standing on the rocky summit. The view is truly glorious! To the west lies the Schreiber Channel with its many islands, framed on the horizon by silhouettes of the Nipigon hills. To the east, Death Valley beckons in the foreground, and in the distance the stacks of the Terrace Bay pulp-mill puff their vapours into the sky. To the north a ring of rounded hills enfolds the town of Schreiber. And to the south the magnificent expanse of Lake Superior stretches, it seems, into infinity.

A geodesic marker sits atop the summit's highest rock. Below it, a touching memorial has been erected to Tom McGrath "founder of the Casques Isles Section of the Voyageur Trail, who loved to hike this trail." Work on the trail was begun during the summers of 1975 to 1977, when students, under Tom McGrath's direction and funded by the Ministry of Natural Resources 'Experience' Summer Youth Program, cleared and blazed the 25 km from Terrace Bay to Schreiber. The trail was extended westward to Rossport in the early 1980s, doubling its length.

If the sun is shining and the wind isn't blowing a gale, it is possible to sit on the summit of Mt. Gwynne for hours, taking in all the details of the surrounding countryside. And it is the ultimate in perfect picnic places!

The first time I reached the summit, clouds seethed overhead and wind whipped snow pellets across the rocks. I huddled in a hollow, gnawing at my frozen sandwich, wearing every piece of clothing I'd brought with me, and wondering why I hadn't

opted, instead, for a sun-drenched holiday on a Caribbean island. The second time I was more fortunate. Although the wind was blowing (I suspect it is always blowing at the summit!), I could at least open my eyes without fear that they would be whisked from my face. And in a sunny corner my dogs and I dozed happily after our picnic before returning down the slope.



VTA plaque on the Mount Gwynne Summit.

The Return

For the solo day-hiker there is no option but to return by the same trail as the outward one. On the eastern side of Mt. Gwynne that simply means following the miners' track back to Worthington Bay and the Worthington Bay Road back to the car.

On the western side, however, there is a pleasant, and slightly shorter, variation on the return trip, by taking a less-well-used trail that exits to the right at Fourth Lake and makes its way past several ponds to the southeast corner of Schreiber. As the trail nears the town, the signage becomes confused, and there are several broken-down fences and "Private Property"

notices. (These, I am told, are the

unfortunate result of a mishap that led to litigation for the property owner, who then erected the signs but is content to let hikers ignore them.) Turn left at the hydro corridor, then right 50 metres later onto a secondary hydro corridor, and follow that to the water treatment plant at the bottom of Winnipeg Street. Continue up Winnipeg Street to the top of the hill and take the second left onto Columbia Street, where the car will be immediately visible at the curve in the road.

For hikers who can organise car-shuttles, leaving vehicles at the tops of both the Worthington Bay Road and the Schreiber Beach Road, it is possible to hike the entire (almost 15 km) trail across Mt. Gwynne in a single day, combining the natural landscape of the western face with the human history of the eastern face into a comprehensive portrait of the mountain as a whole.

Practical Information

Town of Schreiber: Established in 1885 as one of several major centres across the north shore of Lake Superior to supply and service the newly constructed CP Railway, Schreiber was named after British railway engineer Sir Collingwood Schreiber, whose efforts were instrumental in the railway's completion. The town is still an important railway link, but now services travellers on the TransCanada Highway as well. Schreiber has an assortment of motels, a post office, laundromat, gas stations and stores with groceries and other basic supplies. Tourism information is available at 1-877-247-3423 or online at www.schreiber.ca.

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.



Algoma Highlands Conservancy and Stokely Lodge lead students on a winter forest adventure filled with learning and laughter. Photo by Miss Peters.



Along Granary Lake Road, Penewobikong Section. Photo by Melanie Hall.



Coastal Trail, Group of Seven Section in Marathon. Photo by Stephen Wilson.



Death Valley, Casque Isles Section. Photo by David Cader.

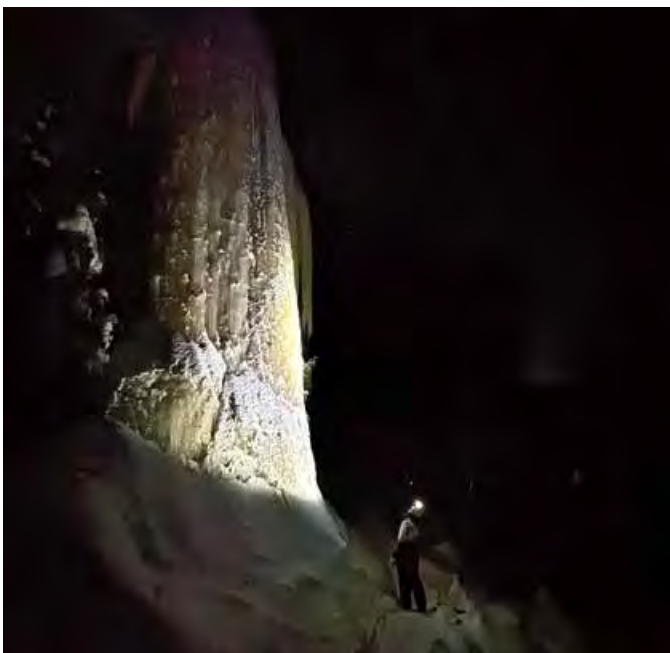
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Schreiber Channel Segment, Casque Isles section. Photo by Matt Borutski.



An evening at Mazukama Falls, Nor'wester section. Photo by Deanna Renaud.



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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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.



That scenic.



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