



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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NEW Web Site at:
www.voyageurtrail.ca
(set your bookmarks)

E-mail:
voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca

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.



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ADS NOW BEING SOLD IN 2006 EDITION VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION GUIDEBOOK

- Costs: Full page inside front or back cover (3.25 x 6 inches) only \$500 ~ interior page \$300
- Business card size 3.25 x 1.75 inches only \$100
- Web page address mention only \$25

- Ads will also appear on a page on our web site

Call Steve at 705-946-2484

GEOCACHING-HIGH-TECH TREASURE HUNTING

by *Steve Dominy*

Okay picture this. You're spending a few days in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Your work is finished for the day, you've had a good meal, and you feel like taking a walk to get some fresh air. You could strike out in a random direction from your hotel and follow a circular route; however, you don't know the area very well. Then you remember that you packed your GPS receiver, and can log onto the Web through the hotel's Internet Café. A few minutes later you have downloaded onto your GPS the locations for a number of geocaches, within a few kilometres of the hotel, and you strike out to find some. Not only does your walk now have new purpose, your GPS unit will tell you how far you are from your hotel and in which direction you need to walk to get back to your point of origin!

Sound far-fetched? Think again. Last November when on a business trip, a colleague of mine from Alberta spent each evening using his GPS unit to hunt down treasure hidden around Fredericton's downtown. I joined him one evening and actually found my first geocache, that he had been unable to locate.

What is Geocaching?

Geocaching is a relatively new activity that combines hiking, treasure-hunting and a Global Positioning System (GPS). In the previous newsletter I described what GPS is and how to select a receiver. Besides being useful to keep you from being lost, a GPS unit can be used to find treasure hidden all over the world.

Geocaching involves two separate parties, which are composed either of individuals or

groups. One party hides a cache anywhere in the world and records the latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates using a portable GPS device. The cache is usually composed of a small, watertight plastic container that houses some small items such as key chains, trinkets or coins. The coordinates and related information regarding the location of the hidden cache are publicized on an Internet site. Geocachers search for these hidden caches using their own portable GPS devices in conjunction with maps and clues. The coordinates will get them within a few metres of the cache, and then they start an intensive search.

When they finally discover the cache, they may take one or a few of the items and leave a few different ones for future geocachers. Items traded are usually of equal or greater value. They sign their user name and date in a log book / sheet contained with the treasure, and log their visit on-line. They are expected to re-hide the cache after finding it. □Some enthusiasts simply enjoy the thrill of the hunt. They take nothing and leave nothing. Basic rules include never leaving food in a cache (animals will almost certainly find it), don't bury it, and avoid putting dangerous items into a cache.

As geocaching becomes more and more popular, some participants are adding new levels of complexity to keep it interesting. For example, some geocachers hide caches in particularly difficult locations such as underwater or up in a tree. Some geocachers hide caches in series such

(Continued on page 2)



Geocaching *(cont'd from page 1)*

that a first cache includes instructions to discover another cache, and so on. Travel Bugs and GeoCoins—numbered metal tags or coins that can be registered by the owner and their movements tracked on-line—can be hidden (see Website for more information). Some folks will select a future date when they will hide their cache, and post that on the Website. The game for some is then to be the first to find it.

How can I get started?

Anyone can create an account and view all the caches in their area by simply inputting a postal or zip code. The site will show how far a cache is from your location (in order from nearest to farthest), when it was placed, the level of difficulty of finding it, a few clues, when it was last found, and other information. There is plenty of information for beginners on the Website (geocaching.com is the most popular).

Who is doing this activity?

As of March 14, 2006, there were 244,254 active caches in 221 countries! Within a mere 10 mile / 16 kilometre radius of my house in Sault Ste. Marie there were 45 caches! Expanding that circle to 50 miles / 80 kilometres, there were 161 caches. This is hard to believe given that the activity was only born in 2000 in Oregon when the first cache was hidden and the GPS coordinates posted on-line.

Geocachers tend to be an environmentally-conscious bunch. They have established formal events such as Cache In, Trash Out for picking up trash along trails in parks and other popular geocaching locations. Parks Canada and Ontario Parks both have policies prohibiting the placement of physical geocaches in parks, as it is at odds with their mandate. Only virtual caches (existing landmarks such as a natural feature or statue, for which you have to answer a very specific question to provide the “cache” owner proof that you were there) are permitted in such parks. Some Conservation Authorities have developed guidelines for the placement of physical geocaches.

Granted, geocaching is not for everyone. There is a bit of cult around this activity to the point of a new vocabulary for geocachers. For example, a geomuggle, is defined on www.geocaching.com as [a non-geocacher]. Based on “Muggle” from the Harry Potter series, which is a non-magical person. Usually this term is used after a non geocacher looks puzzled at a geocacher making circles with their GPS receiver, or when a non-geocacher accidentally finds a cache. Geomuggles are mostly harmless.

What's in it for me?

If you're looking to add a new dimension to your outings, this may be the activity for you. There are no age limits. World travellers are doing this as a way to explore a new territory and have some fun at the same time. I foresee a time in the not too distant future when a large percentage of Voyageur Trail users will be geocachers. Even if the treasure is not found, you



will have explored a new area, enjoyed a pleasant outing, and perhaps met some new friends along the way.

Final thoughts

You may be wondering if I have purchased my own GPS unit yet. The answer is no. I've narrowed down my selection to two or three models and am waiting until the spring to make this purchase. However, I am already thinking ahead to a planned family summer trip to England and France when I can put the new purchase to work and explore some out-of-the-way places at the same time. Now that I've found my first geocache (albeit, in Fredericton), I'm rather intrigued by the activity and plan to become more active.

The Voyageur Trail Association is continually striving to attract new users, and this activity may be a way to introduce a new group to our wonderful trail system. I advise as a courtesy to ask permission of a private landowner before placing a geocache, if possible. However, if placed close to the existing trail, I suspect it would rarely raise objections. I'd be happy to hear from any of our landowners on this subject.

Watch for a pending announcement of a geocaching conference in the Sault.

Other resources: Ontario Geocaching Association
www.ontgeocaching.com/



SKYLINE HIKERS OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

Hike with the oldest hiking club in Canada.

Non-profit organization offers five 6-day wilderness base camps annually in the Canadian Rockies from mid-July to mid-August.



Land costs approximately \$840 p/p

Includes return bus transportation from Banff to trailhead, tent accommodation with stove, wholesome meals, hot water, camp staff, guided day hikes, evening campfire program and sing songs. Hikers carry only a day pack, but must be fit for mountain hiking.

For a free brochure contact:

Telephone: 1-866-445-3374

e-mail: registrar@skylinehikers.ca

Web: www.skylinehikers.ca

Ontario residents contact:

Volunteer Harry Moerschner: 705-445-0267

e-mail: moersch@bmts.com

THE "VOYAGEUR" SHIRT REACHES NEW HEIGHTS!

by *Claire Hamer & Jim Hooey (Kelowna, BC)*

This awe-inspiring view of the Rockies can be appreciated only after a climb of 3,000 feet. Lineham Ridge was too windy for lunch, and so we sat on a ledge 3 feet below.

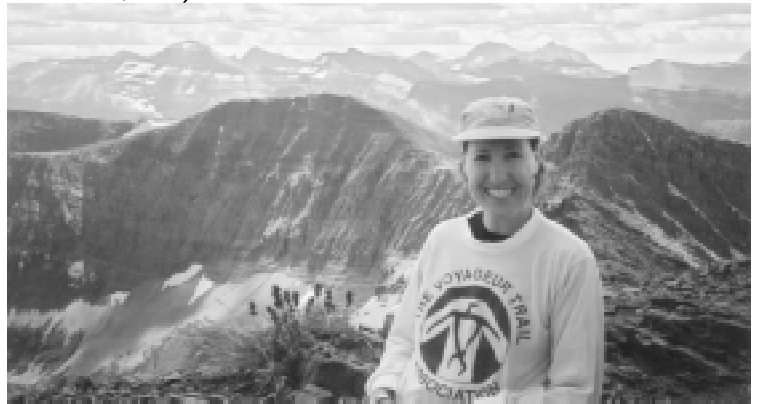
Having memberships in the Okanagan Naturalists' Club, Jim and I joined a group travelling to Waterton National Peace Park located along the Alberta/U.S. border. There we spent 5 days rising above the tree lines via switchbacks, walking on very narrow scree trails, and scrambling over rocks.

Needless to say, we are facing new challenges as we hike the various mountain ranges of Western Canada. In retirement, we continue to develop our hiking skills, but it was through the "Voyageur Trail Association" that we discovered our love of hiking and of each other. (See the article "A Love Story" published summer, 2004)

Next year Revelstoke??

We wish you "Happy Trails Always"!

EDITOR'S NOTE: It is always a pleasure to hear from you, Claire & Jim. "Retirement" is looking good on you!



LAST CHANCE TO PRE-PURCHASE EDITION 4.0

The new and greatly improved Edition 4.0 of the Voyageur Hiking Trail Guidebook is scheduled for release this fall (2006).

Members and non-members can still take advantage of the pre-purchase special offer. You can pre-purchase it at the old price, PLUS have your name put in the draw for a **Garmin eTrex Venture GPS unit** (a \$189.99 value), compliments of **Western Automotive (Sault) Limited**.

The deadline for pre-purchases has been **extended to August 30, 2006**, so don't delay. □

To pre-purchase your 2006 Guidebook (expected shipping date is October, 2006), just mail your order and cheque payable to Voyageur Trail Association c/o PO Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd., Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6W3.

Be sure to state that you are pre-purchasing Edition 4.0.

VTA Members \$16.50 + \$8.00 shipping/handling

VTA Non-members: \$25.00 + \$8.00 shipping/handling (Cdn funds).



LANDOWNERS & MEMBERS IN-GOOD-STANDING: Free advertising in the VT News! Call the Editor, Cheryl Landmark at 1-877-393-4003 or 705-779-3409.

MEMBERS: Don't forget to check your newsletter envelope to see when your membership expires!



DISCUSSION GROUP by Gayle Phillips

At the last Voyageur Trail Association (VTA) Coordinating Council meeting, we discussed incidents that were reported on outings. (Did you know that there is a spot to record "incidents" on our Assumption of Risk Agreements?) An idea percolated to discuss these "incidents" here.

Dog Etiquette

The Voyageur Trail Association allows each individual club to set the guidelines around dogs on club outings. In the Sauleaux Club, we have decided to allow the outing leader to decide whether dogs are allowed or not and to advertise this on our outing schedule to avoid the embarrassment to the dog owner of bringing along pooch when pooch isn't wanted. Outing leaders are in the best position to decide whether the outing is suitable for "man's best friend" and whether any "special rules" should be laid out. For instance, a trip to a provincial park requires following park rules and in most parks, dogs should be on a leash. A leash is a good idea if you are crossing busy roadways or near high cliffs. In our club, we ask that dogs be leashed when lunches or snacks come out. There's nothing worse than having a pooch steal your lunch when you look away! Some other good tips for dog owners: try to hike at the very front of the group. That way your dog will run ahead of the group instead of back among them. When crossing streams or beaver dams, etc. unleash your dog and go first. When you get safely to the other side, leash your dog so it doesn't run back and forth across the stream and possibly push others off balance. Plan to bring your own vehicle or car pool with someone who doesn't mind taking dogs (especially if they are wet or muddy). Plan to bring some snacks and water for your dog (if there are no clean water sources on the hike). Keep an eye on your pet on outings. Sometimes when we get deeply involved in a conversation with others, we forget about watching where the dog is and keeping an eye on what he is doing. We once almost lost a

beloved old dog on an outing, because the owner was at the front of the group and the dog had decided that we had left her behind. The dog was headed completely the wrong way and I (as sweep) had an awful time trying to relay a message through the group to the front of the line fast enough before the person's dog wandered off in the wrong direction and got lost! Make sure that your dog is under control at all times. This includes mingling with other dogs or chasing wildlife!

Life Preserver Etiquette

The laws are now in place that everyone in a water craft has to have a life preserver that fits them. If you are going on a canoe/kayak outing, please WEAR your life preserver! Sitting on it will not help you when you hit the water! When you go out in a group, it offers you a measure of safety knowing that others are around if the unforeseen happens and you overturn. It ruins EVERYONE's day if they have to doubly worry about you because you are not WEARING your life preserver! The water in Northern Ontario is usually cold no matter what time of the year you are out in it. Hypothermia can set in even on the warmest days. Please, don't spoil everyone's day by refusing to wear your life preserver. In the Sauleaux Club, we support our outing leaders if they refuse to take someone if they will not WEAR their life preserver. It has been proven time and time again that over 95% of accidental drownings are because someone thought the life preserver looked better on the seat of the boat than on their back!

If you have any situation that you would like discussed in this forum, email: voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca
Please, fill in the "incident" area of your Assumption of Risk Agreement so the VTA Coordinating Council can get a better idea of what is happening on your outings and better prepare for future events.



BON SOO FUN WITH THE SAULTEAUX CLUB



Here's a glimpse of the over 195 children and others who enjoyed this year's Bon Soo Family Snowshoe Experience thanks to our Ministry of Tourism and Recreation Communities In Action grant which allowed us to purchase 54 pairs of children's snowshoes.



Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to help the kids put on their snowshoes. Everyone had a wonderful time!



OUTING SCHEDULE

This schedule was put together early and may have last-minute changes. Please call the outing leader listed to check if any details of the outing have changed. This schedule is also on our web site

< www.voyageurtrail.ca > Unless otherwise indicated, these outings are all a Level 2, slow (according to Hike Ontario recommended ratings.) Meeting location addresses: Funktion, 589 Second Line East (in Goodlife building); Market Mall 275 Second Line West (on Korah Road corner); Churchill Plaza 150 Churchill Blvd., (on Trunk Road between Lake and Wellington Streets); Wellington Square Mall, 625 Trunk Road.

Saulteaux Club

(Sault Ste. Marie and area—outings marked with an asterisk (*) are outside Sault Ste. Marie.) **For all outings, bring water, lunch, dress appropriately and be prepared to sign an Assumption of Risk Agreement.**

Sat., Apr. 22 - Earth Day clean-up hike with Gayle (942-1891). Meet 1PM at Funktion. Please bring work gloves. Behaved pets welcome.

Sun., Apr. 23 - Hike with Ila (949-1097). Meet 9:30AM at Funktion. Pets ok.

Sun., Apr. 30 - 'Go To Blazes' Work Party to kick-off another season with Gayle (942-1891). Meet 9:30 AM in Churchill Plaza near Beer Store. Tools will be provided.

Mon., May 8 - Work party Creek Road to Maki Road with Susan (949-4105). Tools will be provided. Meet at Funktion at 9AM. Pets ok.

Sat., May 13 - Camp Stove cook out with Mike (779-3409). Share your one burner camp stove delight with fellow outdoor enthusiasts. Bring your own stove, copies of recipe to share and food to prepare. Meet at 2PM Market Mall to car pool to the Red Rock area. Short hike possible before cooking starts. Leave pets at home please.

Sun., May 14 - Mother's Day hike with Horst (971-4812 or 542-8978). Meet 10AM in Market Mall parking lot. Behaved pets welcome but please leash at lunch.

Mon., May 15 - 7PM. Saulteaux Club meeting at Funktion. Call 942-1891.

Sun., May 28 - Work Party with Gail (942-0768). Meet at Market Mall at 9:30AM. Tools will be provided.

Sat., June 3 - Take Heart's celebration of Ontario Trails in Bellevue Park from 10 AM to noon.

***Sun., June 11** - Canoe part of the Goulais River with the Landmarks. Call 779-3409 for more info.

Sun., June 18- Evening hike on St. Mary's Island with Gayle (942-1891). Meet 7 PM at the Sault Canal Tourism building parking lot. Behaved, leashed pets welcome.

***Sun., June 25** - Hike in LSPP with Ila (949-1097). Meet 9AM at Funktion. We may stop for dinner on the way home.

***Mon., July 3rd** - Hike with Gayle (942-1891) at Tower Lake with possible swim afterwards. Meet 10AM in Churchill Plaza near Beer Store. Behaved pets welcome.

***Sat., July 8**- Cycle on St. Joseph Island (25-30 km). Contact the Landmarks 779-3409 for more info.

Mon., July 17 - 7PM. Saulteaux Club meeting in Funktion. We will do the fall outing schedule. Call 942-1891.

***Sun., July 23** - Hike the Pancake Bay Lookout Trail with Ila (949-1097) and stop for a swim at Batchewana on the way home. Meet at Funktion 9AM.

Sun., July 30 - Work party with Gayle (942-1891). Meet Funktion at 10AM. Tools will be provided. Behaved pets welcome.

Mon., Aug. 7 - Civic Holiday hike along the Red Rock shoreline with Gayle (942-1891). Meet 10AM at Funktion. Behaved pets welcome.

***Sat., Aug. 12** - Hike in LSPP with Doris (942-9466). Meet 9:30 AM at Funktion. Behaved pets sure-footed on rocks ok.

***Sun., Aug. 20** - Hike Robertson Cliffs with Ila (949-1097). Meet Funktion at 9AM. Bring a leash for your pet.

***Sat., Aug. 26**-Hike the Desbarats Trail with Dieter and Erika (942-9636). Meet Churchill Plaza near Beer Store at 9:30AM. Potluck supper to follow hike. Behaved pets OK.

In the month of September, Susan (949-4105) will be leading a mid-week work party. Call for details.

***Sun., Sept. 17** - Tier Lake hike with Ila (949-1097). Meet 9:30 AM at Funktion. Bring a leash for your pet.

(Continued on page 6)



WINNERS ALL!

Congratulations to the *Coueurs de Bois Voyageur Trail Club* in Elliot Lake for winning the 2005 **Steve Taylor Volunteer Award** for all their hard work expanding their trails!

Winners of a free membership as drawn from the Assumption of Risk Agreements handed in:

- 1) John VanKooten (*Elliot Lake*)
- 2) Dieter Ropke (*Desbarats*)
- 3) Lorna Ferguson (*Sault Ste. Marie*)

Don't forget to send in your Assumption of Risk Agreements so they can be entered into our yearly draws. Also, email your nominations for the Steve Taylor Volunteer Award to: voyageur.trail@sympatico.ca anytime.

All winners are announced at the VTA Annual meeting held in the fall of each year.



Coueurs de Bois Outdoors

Club (Elliot Lake) For fun, fitness and friendship come and join us at the Sears Outlet parking lot at 10AM unless otherwise noted. For all outings bring water, lunch, dress appropriately and be prepared to sign an "Assumption of Risk Agreement". Make sure your fitness level corresponds to the outing level you wish to participate in.

Hike Levels

Easy 2 – 3 hours Level 1 Ontario
Intermediate 3 – 4 hours Level 2 Ontario
Advanced 4 – 6 hours Level 2 Ontario
 (Note the Coueurs de Bois have NO Level 3 hiking routes--our advanced level is relative to time on the trail only.)

Canoe Levels

All canoe outings are flat (lake) water, easy level. Any trips including portages will be specified.

In the event the designated Hike Leader is unable to take the hike, an alternate leader will be appointed. Always check with the events schedule in the Elliot Lake Standard for details of the following week's activities.

PLEASE PHONE OUTING LEADERS FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING THE ACTIVITY.

APRIL

- 18 Tues. – John 461-1026
- 18 Tues. 7PM Club Meeting at the Snowbirds Clubhouse**
- 20 Thurs. – Fred 848-2956
- 22 Sat. Easy or Intermediate Hike/ Snowshoe/Ski (Fun Day Cookout) – Jean & Heather 848-9320
- 25 Tues. – Nancy Jo 848-2947
- 27 Thurs. – Fred 848-2956
- 29 Sat. Easy or Intermediate Hike/ Snowshoe/Ski (Fun Day Cookout) – Liz & Phil 848-8767

MAY

- All Tuesdays are easy hikes Nancy-Jo 848-2947
- 4 Thursday Intermediate Hike, Liz and Phil 848-8767
- 6 Saturday Cobre Trail Hike and Trail Clearing up to 6 hours contact Alan 848-8776 (9 am start at Sears)



- 11 Thursday Intermediate Liz and Phil 848-8767
- 13 Saturday "The Red Briffett Trail" Hike, Intermediate, Alan or Diana 848-8776
- 18 Thursday Intermediate call Di 848-8776
- 20 Saturday Voyageur Trail Hike, Blind River to Rossmere Creek. Hike leader must be contacted for transportation arrangement (set down at Blind River pick up at Rossmere Creek) and advice on equipment. Call Alan 848-8776
- 25 Thursday Intermediate Hike, Phil and /or Liz 848-8767
- 27 Saturday Intermediate Hike Jean-Guy 848-2544

JUNE

- All Tuesdays are easy hikes Jean-Guy 848-2544
- 1 Thursday Intermediate Hike, Liz and /or Phil 848-8767
- 3 Saturday Intermediate Jean-Guy 848-2544
- 9/10 June Friday pm to Saturday am. Relay for Life (if sufficient interest).
- 15 Thursday Intermediate, Di 848-8776
- 17 Saturday Canoe Elliot Lake Alan 848-8776
- 22 Thursday Intermediate, John Burns 848-3515
- 23 Friday Pot Luck in Westview Park 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Reta 461-9193
- 24 Saturday Canoe, Jean-Guy 848-2544
- 29 Thursday Canoe Mississagi Delta, Alan 848-8776

JULY

- All Tuesdays are easy hikes, John 461-1026
- 1 Saturday Jewel in the Wilderness Parade, Reta 461-9193
- 4 Tuesday Canada Day President's Hike and Trail Dedication, Easy, Alan 848-8776
- 6 Thursday Canoe, Ranny and Marilyn 848-7411
- 8/9 Saturday "At the Cottage" with Fred and Maxine, Pot Luck/BBQ, Canoe at Thessalon 848-2956. Camp overnight if desired.
- 13 Thursday Intermediate, Liz and Phil 848-8767
- 15 Saturday Advanced Hike Jean-Guy 848-2544
- 20 Thursday Intermediate Hike John Burns 848-3515
- 22 Saturday Hike or Canoe to Quirke Beach Fun Day, Elizabeth 461-7760 and

Heather 461-3099
 27 Thursday Canoe Depot Lake with Di and Alan 848-8776

AUGUST

- All Tuesday hikes are easy, John 461-1026
- 3 Thursday Intermediate Hike Liz and Phil 848-8767
- 5 Saturday Canoe Flack Lake and hike Old Baldy (6 hours) Alan 848-8776
- 10 Thursday Intermediate hike John Burns 848-3515
- 12 Saturday Intermediate hike Liz and Phil 848-8767
- 18 Thursday Intermediate hike
- 19/20/21 Friday evening/Saturday/Sunday Weekend in Mississagi Park. Camp or Day Trip as required. Canoeing, Hiking, Camp Fire. Pot Luck supper and BBQ on the Saturday night. Alan 848-8776
- 24 Thursday Intermediate hike Liz and Phil 848-8767
- 26 Saturday Fun Day at Thomas's Cottage, Massey. Canoe on the Spanish River, Hike the trails, check out the bees at work. Pot Luck Picnic and BBQ. Thomas 461-9668
- 31 Thursday Intermediate hike Phil and Liz 848-8767



Casque Isles Hiking Club

(Terrace Bay, Schreiber, Rossport)

Saturday, April 15 - Family hike and Easter Egg hunt to Danny's Cove from Terrace Bay Beach. Meet at Terrace Bay Beach at 1pm. Hike is suitable for beginners. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information contact Pat Maenpaa at 825-3642

Sunday, April 23 to Sunday April 30- Work week- To volunteer or for more information contact Doug at 824- 2724

Sunday, May 7 - Mother's Day hike from Schreiber Beach to Mount Gwynn and return. Hike is rated intermediate. Meet at the top of Schreiber Beach Road at 10am.

(Continued on page 7)



Casques Isles Schedule *(continued)*

Monday, May 22 - Hydro Bay to Worthington Bay (Death Valley section) Suitable for advanced hikers and those wishing to do some clean up work along the trail. For more information contact Dan McGrath at 824-2016

Saturday, June 3 - Terrace Bay Beach to Hydro Bay. Suitable for intermediate hikers. Meet at Terrace Bay Beach at 10am.

Sunday, June 11 - Schreiber Beach to Rainbow Falls Park. Suitable for intermediate hikers. Meet at the gazebo at Schreiber Beach at 10am.

Wednesday, June 21- Summer Solstice hike from Terrace Bay Beach to Pumphouse Beach. Suitable for beginners. Meet 6pm at Terrace Bay Beach. Contact Duncan Mackay at 825- 3338

Sunday, July 2- Terrace Bay Canada Day celebrations- Red & white hike from Terrace Bay Beach to Lyda Bay and return. Suitable for intermediate hikers. Meet at the beach at 10:00 am. Wear red or white, bring a lunch and water. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



COME BE A 'NUT' WITH US ON THE BLACK WALNUT END TO END HIKE-OCTOBER 14 & 15

The Grand Valley Trails Association is organizing a special event on October 14 and 15 to hike the Grand Valley Trail through Waterloo Country in two days. The hikes will be approximately 33 km/day on average and will total 67 km. There will be checkpoints each day providing refreshments to participants. Participants who finish the entire section will be given a *Black Walnut chevron* in recognition of the achievement. It is a good way to keep fit and get to know the Kitchener-Waterloo area thoroughly. We invite you to join us! You can register by sending a \$20 cheque payable to: The Grand Valley Trails Association, 75 King Street South, PO Box 40068, RPO Waterloo Square, Waterloo, ON N2J 4V1. Include your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address. For more information, visit www.gvta.on.ca or e-mail: gvta@golden.net



PROPERTY FOR SALE IN PRINCE TOWNSHIP (near Sault Ste. Marie) BY VTA LANDOWNER: 160 acres with road access. Asking \$150,000. Call 705-779-2749 for details.

GUELPH HIKES

You're invited to join us!

LIMEHOUSE TO GLENN MORRIS, GHTC AND CAMBRIDGE TRAILS IN 4 DAYS

Sunday, May 7 LIMEHOUSE TO GLENN MORRIS, □day 1 20.3 km

We will be hiking from Limehouse to Glen Morris using the Guelph Trail and the trail systems through the Cambridge areas of Hespler, Preston and Galt, connecting with the GVT in Glen Morris. These hikes will require registration. The rest of the hikes will be completed Victoria Weekend. Day one we depart from 2nd line, south of 30th sideroad at 8:30 a.m. From Hwy 401 take exit 312 Guelph Line north to 30th sideroad, turning west (left), then left onto 2nd Line. OR from Hwy 7 turn (south) right, on Guelph Line, right (west) on 30th sideroad, left (south) on 2nd Line, where parking is roadside. The trails vary with hilly sections requiring hiking boots. Lunch and water are essential. This hike may be logged towards a GHTC End2End badge which covers section 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 of the Radial Line Trail along Eramosa River.

Saturday, May 20 LIMEHOUSE TO GLEN MORRIS, □day 2 21.3 km

These hikes require registration. Depart is for 8:30 a.m. from Sideroad 10 in Guelph. We will continue on the Guelph Trail along the Eramosa and Speed Rivers. The trails vary with hilly sections requiring hiking boots. From Hwy 401 exit 295, Hwy 6 north.. Turn left (west) onto Laird Rd. W. In town travel Downey Road south to turn right onto Laird Road. Here turn right (north) onto Sideroad 10 where there is roadside parking just north of the bridge over the Speed River. The trails vary with hilly sections requiring hiking boots. Lunch and water are essential. This hike may be logged towards a GHTC End2End badge. It covers RLT Section 1, 2, 3; plus, SRT Section 1, 2, 3.

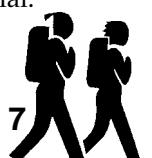
Sunday, May 21 LIMEHOUSE TO GLEN MORRIS, □day 3 21.3k

These hikes require registration. Depart at 8:30 a.m. from Bean Ormston Park on Fountain St. in Cambridge. From Hwy 401 exit 275, Homer Watson Blvd/Fountain St. Travelling south-east on Fountain St. towards Preston/Cambridge. Bean Ormston Park is approximately 1/2 km east of the bridge over the Grand River. The trails vary with hilly sections requiring hiking boots. Lunch and water are essential. For those hikers finishing the Guelph Trail, an end2end badge is available for \$10. Dine to celebrate at a local restaurant in Cambridge after hike.

Monday, May 22 LIMEHOUSE TO GLEN MORRIS, □day 4 20.7k

These hikes require registration. Depart: 8:30 am, Cambridge to Paris rail trail parking lot, Washington St. in Glen Morris, south of Cambridge. From Hwy 401 exit 282 Hespler/Hwy 24 south. Travelling south on Hwy 24 merge right onto Regional Rd. 14/River Rd. E. In Glen Morris turn right onto Washington St. There is a parking lot at the Cambridge to Paris rail trail. We will finish this end-to-end by hiking through the historic Cambridge area. The trails vary with hilly sections requiring hiking boots. Lunch and water are essential.

Leaders: Cathy Johnstone at: johnstone_cathy@hotmail.com
Alicja Muszynski at: alicia@watarts.uwaterloo.ca
Level 2. Speed Moderate.



THANKFUL FOR SUPPORT!



Our VTA Guidebook Committee has been busy accepting donations on behalf of the VTA's new guidebook which will be released this year. In photo above on left: Neil Delbianco (Sault Ste. Marie City Councillor), David Oraziatti (Sault Ste. Marie MPP), Mike Landmark (VTA Past-President), Steve Dominy (VTA Guidebook Committee Chair), and Lou Madonna (representing Prince Township) announce the Ontario Trillium Foundation \$25,000 grant in support of the guidebook project. In photo above on right: Tony D'Agostino (YMCA), David Oraziatti (Sault Ste. Marie MPP), Sherri Smith (Sault Ste. Marie Sports Council) and Terry Wright (VTA Guidebook Committee) gather to announce the Active 2010 Communities In Action grants, of which, the VTA received \$10,000 to go towards the guidebook project. In addition, The United Steelworkers Local 2724 (in Sault Ste. Marie) has donated \$500 towards the effort. The VTA is most appreciative to all of these fine organizations who support our efforts to release this next guidebook edition.



SORRY TO SEE THEM LEAVE...

At the annual Saulteaux Club dinner on April 8, 2006, we said an "official" goodbye to Patrick and Anne Capper who are moving to warmer climes in southern Ontario.

Patrick has been a very active VTA member since 1980 and has served on the executive for several years in various positions, the latest has been Hike Ontario representative and "tool keeper".

At the dinner, along with some parting gifts (most notably--the original painting by Horst Scheliga shown below), Patrick was



awarded the *Golden Clippers Award* for his trail cleaning abilities when on even the smallest of hikes, and Anne was awarded the *Clean Sweep Award* for being resident sweep on many of our outings.

We will sorely miss you, Patrick and Anne! Please visit often!



Sault Ste. Marie & Area Readers:

Stay tuned to local media for an announcement of a competition for a logo concept to represent the HUB Trail. Even if you can't draw, you can enter your idea. The winner of the contest will win a bicycle worth \$1,000 from Andre's Bike Shop! Call 705-942-1891 for further details.



NOTE: The Voyageur Trail Association's *Annual General Meeting* will take place in Wawa Sat., October 14th so pencil the scenic autumn drive in your calendar. Stay tuned for final details in the next edition of your VT News!
Everyone's welcome!



VTA LOGO SWEATS AND Ts BECOME COLLECTOR'S ITEMS!

Due to sagging sales and the ever increasing cost of mail orders, the VTA has decided to discontinue the pre-order of VTA merchandise (see clearance ad in adjacent column).

Anyone interested in purchasing an item of clothing with the VTA logo on it however, can still order their item from Memoirs in Sault Ste. Marie at 232 Queen Street East (Tel: 705.946-0202) or e-mail them at: memoirs.ssm@shaw.ca If you are not in the Sault Ste. Marie area, you can still contact the store and arrange payment and delivery directly.

The VTA logo has been given to them and they can add it to any item that you wish to purchase at their store for an additional cost of only \$5.50 per item.

This quality 2-1/2 inch high, 9000 stitch embroidered logo can be added to caps and hats, sweaters, t-shirts, vests--anything you pick out in your own size and favourite colour. Memoirs always has lots of varied items in stock, but if you don't see what your heart is desiring, they can usually order items in less than a week's delivery.



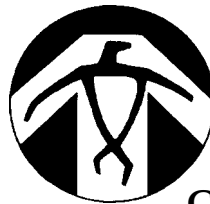
VTA NEWSLETTER IS NOW ON THE INTERNET

A full pdf version of this newsletter and all future editions will be posted on our web site at www.voyageurtrail.ca We know that many of our members are into saving trees and recycling so we would like to offer you a choice in how you receive your future newsletters.

If you would prefer, instead of mailing a newsletter to you, if you send us your email address we will send you a short message when the newsletter is posted, so that you can download it directly from our web site. Send your email address to: kathy@hiawatha.ca



VTA Clearance on the Last of our Logo Sweats & Ts...



1 M / 3 X-L Sweatshirts \$20,

1 M long-sleeved T-shirt \$15, Crests \$3.

Call Susan 705-949-4105



For non-members, the Guidebook is now available from Dunn's Authors, Joe's Sports & Surplus, Bush Plan Museum, ACR Gift Shop, Airways Genral Store, Algoma's Water Tower inn, The Trading Post, Sault Ste. Marie; Red Top Inn, Iron Bridge; Forestland Clothing & Gifts, Thessalon; Lake Superior Provincial Park Visitor's Centre; Rainbow Gifts, Wawa; Agawa Indian Crafts, Pancake Bay; Lakehead University, Thunder Bay; Rainbow Country Travel, Sudbury Welcome Centre, Sudbury; Running Free, Markham; Algonquin Outfitters, Dwight; Sojourn, Barrie; Mountain Equipment Co-op, Toronto; World of Maps, Ottawa.

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FORM (please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov. / State: _____ Postal / Zip Code: _____

Please check one: New Member Renewal Phone (home): _____ (work/cell): _____

E-mail address: _____

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Individual ~ \$25 / Family or Group ~ \$30..... = _____

Student ~ \$10..... = _____

Donations (tax receipt will be sent)..... = _____

Charitable Reg. #119261923RR0001

Guidebook (member) \$16.50 x ____ (non-member) \$25 x ____ = _____

Shipping/Handling for ALL MAILED Guidebooks \$ 8.00

For topography maps, call Steve (705) 946-2484

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please send my VTA newsletter via:

Reminder to upload pdf from VTA web site

My email is: _____

Snail mail to my home address.

Make cheques payable and mail to:

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION

PO Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd.

Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6W3

cont'd on back



VTA CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL

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vacant
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VICE-PRESIDENT - CENTRAL:
vacant
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Alan Day 705-848-8776

(For information on any of these positions [especially the vacant ones], please contact us at our toll-free number 1-877-393-4003.)

The VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS is published three times a year. Your articles and photos are welcome!

Deadline for the next issue is:
August 1, 2006

Mail to Cheryl Landmark, c/o Voyageur Trail Association, PO Box 20040, 150 Churchill Blvd., Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6W3
Tel: 705-779-3409 or E-mail to: <cheryl.landmark@sympatico.ca >
Articles in this newsletter may be copied if credit is given to the Voyageur Trail Association.



Voyageur Hiking Trail Users' Code

- Hike only along marked routes. Do not take short cuts.
- Do not climb fences.
- 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 (or better still, carry a lightweight hiker's 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.

DECLARATION: I understand that the Voyageur 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. I understand I hike it at my own risk. I have read and will abide by the Trail Users' Code.

(signature) _____

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH: Outdoor Activities (*eg: trail maintenance/development, lead outings*) Tel: _____

Indoor activities (*such as: newsletter, publicity, record keeping, special events, guidebook work, etc.*) Tel: _____

Do you have any special skills? (*eg: leadership skills, computer skills, etc.*) _____

Please consider me a member-at-large or a member of (*check one below*):

<u>Section</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Club</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Nipigon/Thunder Bay	Nipigon/Thunder Bay V.T.C.	<input type="checkbox"/> Echo Bay	
<input type="checkbox"/> Schreiber/Terrace Bay/Rosspoint	Casques Isles V.T.C.	<input type="checkbox"/> Desbarats	Desbarats V.T.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Marathon		<input type="checkbox"/> Bruce Mines	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wawa	Michipicoten V.T.C.	<input type="checkbox"/> Thessalon	
<input type="checkbox"/> Batchewana		<input type="checkbox"/> Blind River/Iron Bridge	Penewobikong V.T.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Harmony Beach/Haviland Bay		<input type="checkbox"/> Elliot Lake	Coueurs de Bois V.T.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Goulais / Stokely		<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sault Ste. Marie	Saulteaux V.T.C.	<input type="checkbox"/> Massey	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Espanola	Rainbow V.T.C.
		<input type="checkbox"/> Little Current	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sheguiandah	
		<input type="checkbox"/> South Baymouth	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sudbury	

