



NO. 123 SPRING 2016

Published by the

VOYAGEUR TRAIL  
ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 20040

150 Churchill Blvd.

Sault Ste. Marie, ON

P6A 6W3

Visit our web site at:  
[www.voyageurtrail.ca](http://www.voyageurtrail.ca)

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[info@voyageurtrail.ca](mailto:info@voyageurtrail.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 Sudbury.

The VTA is a member of Hike Canada En Marche, Hike Ontario, Ontario Trails Council, and Trans Canada Trail.

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# Voyageur Trail News



No. 123, Spring 2016

EDITOR: Fiona Ortiz

## Trail Maintenance Week 2016 *by Carole Blaquiere*

Trail Maintenance Week will start on May 14th this year and will go until May 22nd. In the Sault, we will be kicking off the week with an event at the Sault Ste. Marie Regional Conservation area Sugarshack. We will invite various groups to help spruce up the trail in the area. So if you are in the area, please consider joining us. We may even have a chili supper afterwards.

Please consider a trail maintenance event in your area either on May 14th or anytime during that week. If you would like to advertise your maintenance project to attract volunteers please let both Jim Kohut ([jameskohut6@gmail.com](mailto:jameskohut6@gmail.com)) and me know. We will collect these events and broadcast them out to the membership as well as to other hiking clubs.



Thanks to Kimlan Bell for submitting this photo of the September 2015 hike up Griffon Mountain led by Mark Crofts.



## Hiking the Chilkoot Trail

A big thank you goes out to Cliff Graham for a very interesting presentation on hiking the Chilkoot Trail. We think Cliff would have been a prospector if he was born in the right century! The Parks Canada website states: “a safe and enjoyable trip on the Chilkoot requires careful planning. You must be well equipped, self-sufficient and in good physical condition as the terrain is rough and the weather often extreme. The Chilkoot Trail traverses rocky, very steep and sometimes snow covered terrain. The trail can be rough with deep mud, standing water, unstable boulders, slick rocks and roots making footing difficult.” Congratulations to Cliff and Susan (and their niece) for completing this challenge. We expect it helps that they were “persons who are physically fit and experienced in hiking and backpacking”, as recommended by Parks Canada.



*Miners and packers climbing the Chilkoot Pass, September 1898, during the Klondike Gold Rush (photo from Wikipedia)*



### Surveys

We have prepared two surveys and we would like your input.

The Voyageur Trail User Survey will provide us with feedback on trail use:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VoyageurTrailUserSurvey2016>.

While the VTA Board survey is to connect with stakeholders in the VTA and to gather feedback on our mission, vision, services and programs:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VTABoardSurvey2016>

Make your views count by filling out the on-line surveys.



## Sign, Sign Everywhere A Sign *by Susan Graham*

Our adventures in Alaska and the Yukon last year took us to Watson Lake, home of the Signpost Forest. We thought we should leave our mark with an appropriate sign representing ourselves and the Soo area. So there is now a VTA marker in the Signpost Forest. I challenge you to find it if you go for a visit! The Signpost Forest is very popular, and new posts fill up quickly. We had a hard time finding a space to mount ours.



*Susan and Cliff with their personal sign at Signpost Forest, Watson Lake, Yukon*



*The Voyageur Trail now has a proud place at Signpost Forest, Watson Lake, Yukon*

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### Work Parties

Interested in work parties?

Trimming trees and putting up blazes is an ongoing job on the Voyageur Trail. Work parties are put together spring, summer, and fall. If you can spend some of your time with us helping to keep the undergrowth from taking over and keeping the trail well-blazed, send your contact information to Don at [705-945-1573](tel:705-945-1573) (leave message) or at: [mcgormd@hotmail.com](mailto:mcgormd@hotmail.com)



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It was interesting spotting Trans Canada Trail signs and pavilions along the way, too. We suspect many visitors would not even notice them if they are not trail users, but we enjoyed seeing them.



Susan at the Klondyke Millenium Trail in Dawson City. Can you spot the Trans Canada Trail Sign? (photo by Cliff Graham)



Susan at the TCT Pavilion in Whitehorse (photo by Cliff Graham)



## Saulteaux Club Outing Schedule (Sault Ste. Marie)

Typical meeting locations: Goodlife building, 589 Second Line East (Second Line side); Market Mall, 275 Second Line West (on Second Line side near Country Style Donuts); Wellington Square Mall, 625 Trunk Road (near the corner of Trunk Road and South Market Street). All outings are volunteer-led. If you participate, you do so at your own risk. Call the outing leader listed for more information about that specific outing.

To see the outing schedules for other clubs, check the VTA website or call the local contact in the community of interest.

Interested in work parties? Trimming trees and putting up blazes is an ongoing job on the Voyageur Trail. Work parties are put together in spring, summer and fall. If you would like to spend some time helping us to keep the trail well-marked and free from undergrowth, send your contact information to Don at: mcgormd@hotmail.com or call 705-946-9599.

### \*Indicates an out-of-town Outing

**Sat., May 14** ~ Trail Maintenance Week Kickoff Day with Carole. Meet at 10AM at the Hiawatha Sugar Shack. Snacks, some equipment and supplies will be provided. There is a rumour of a pot of chili for participants! Call [705-649-2235](tel:705-649-2235) for more details. Open to all!!

**Mon., May 16** ~ Saulteaux Club bi-monthly meeting advertised earlier is CANCELLED. Sorry for any inconvenience.

**Mon., May 16** - Trail maintenance on the Saulteaux section. Call Susan at 949-4105 for details.

**Sat., June 4** ~ Paddle Trout Lake with Mark. All watercraft must be equipped with safety gear according to Coast Guard rules and regulations. Call [705-254-2356](tel:705-254-2356) for all the details.

**Sun., June 26** ~ Hike with Carole. Call [705-649-2235](tel:705-649-2235) for meeting details. Location will be decided one week before outing and posted on the web site at [www.voyageurtrail.ca](http://www.voyageurtrail.ca) in the calendar.

**\*Sat., July 9** ~ Annual cycle loop tour on St. Joe Island's scenic secondary roads to Hilton Beach. Meet at 10:30 am in the car pool area on Hwy 548, just off Hwy 17. Bike helmet is mandatory. Bring water, snack, & (if necessary) rain gear. Bring your own lunch or dine at one of the eateries before returning. Total return distance about 35 km. Easy to moderate pace on paved roads. Register in advance with Larry at [705-541-5674](tel:705-541-5674), [705-949-7953](tel:705-949-7953) or [lgringo@nrccan.gc.ca](mailto:lgringo@nrccan.gc.ca). Contact Larry or check the Saulteaux Club events page for July at <http://www.voyageurtrail.ca/eventssaulteaux.html> for possible weather-related or route changes.

**\*Sun., July 17** ~ Hike at Katherine Cove in Lake Superior Provincial Park with Park staff. Meet at 8:45 am sharp in Goodlife parking lot to car pool. For more info, call Gayle at [705-942-1891](tel:705-942-1891).

**\*Sat., July 23** ~ Kayak to Batchewana Island with Mark. All watercraft must be equipped with safety gear according to Coast Guard rules and regulations. Call [705-254-2356](tel:705-254-2356) for all the details.

**\*Sat., Aug. 6** ~ Cycle the Echo Bay loop with Larry: 17B to Echo Bay, continue to Watson Rd., north to Pioneer Rd., and then loop back on 638 to Echo Bay. Meet at 10.00 am at the eastern (Food Basics) end of Wellington Square Mall. Bike helmet is mandatory. Bring water, snack, & (if necessary) rain gear. Bring your own lunch

or dine at one of the restaurants in Echo Bay before returning. Total return distance about 55 km. Easy to moderate pace on flat, paved roads. Register in advance with Larry at [705-541-5674](tel:705-541-5674), [705-949-7953](tel:705-949-7953) or [lgringo@nrccan.gc.ca](mailto:lgringo@nrccan.gc.ca). Contact Larry or check the Saulteaux Club events page for August at <http://www.voyageurtrail.ca/eventssaulteaux.html> for possible weather-related or route changes.

**\*Sat., Aug. 13** ~ Bike the west side of St. Joseph Island on Hilton Road - 548 and loop to Richards Landing. After lunch, we complete the loop to Kents Corners. Meet at 10AM in Mom's Restaurant parking lot at Kents Corners. Register in advance with Larry at [705-541-5674](tel:705-541-5674), [705-949-7953](tel:705-949-7953) or [lgringo@nrccan.gc.ca](mailto:lgringo@nrccan.gc.ca). Contact Larry or check the Saulteaux Club events page for August at <http://www.voyageurtrail.ca/eventssaulteaux.html> for possible weather-related or route changes.

**Sat., Aug. 20** ~ Kayak with Mark. All watercraft must be equipped with safety gear according to Coast Guard rules and regulations. Call [705-254-2356](tel:705-254-2356) for the location and all the details.

**\*Sun., Aug. 28** ~ Hike in Lake Superior Provincial Park with Gayle, Call [705-949-1891](tel:705-949-1891) for meeting place and time.



**Sun., Sept. 11** ~ Hike with Carole. Call [705-649-2235](tel:705-649-2235) for meeting details. Location will be decided one week before outing and posted on the web site at [www.voyageurtrail.ca](http://www.voyageurtrail.ca) in the calendar.

**\*Sat., Sept. 17** ~ Hike from Robertson Lake Road to Stokely. Call Susan at [705-949-4105](tel:705-949-4105) for all the details.

**Sun., Sept. 25** ~ Hike with Gayle to view the autumn colours. Call [705-949-1891](tel:705-949-1891) for meeting place and time.

**\*Sat., Oct. 1** ~ Hike Griffon Peak with Mark. This hike is not for the faint of heart! Call [705-254-2356](tel:705-254-2356) for all the details.



## Report from the Coureurs de Bois Club *by Astrid Turner*

It's been a busy time for the Coureurs de Bois club these past few months! We have continued to offer four hikes per week ranging from leisurely Monday strolls to energetic Thursday outings with in between hikes on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Attendance on all hikes has increased as we have seen a definite gain in membership numbers. We now have well over 100 members!

The first weekend in March the club hosted the Family Snowshoe Stroll as part of the City of Elliot Lake's Winterfest. Close to 30 club volunteers led hikes from the ATV clubhouse at the bottom of the ski hill to a blazing bonfire on Horne Lake island where all enjoyed hot dogs and hot chocolate. We had 104 members of the public participate, an increase of over 1/3 from last year.

The following day we assisted the Elliot Lake Snowmobile Club with their "Show your Wares" exhibit wherein several snowmobile vendors set up booths to showcase the latest and greatest sleds to the public. We doled out lots of hot chocolate to stave off winter's chill, and the kids dubbed our hot dogs "the bestest!"

The snowshoes have now been stored, and road hikes are the order of the day until the ground dries.

This spring we will be trail clearing in Mississagi Park as well as acting as Park Ambassadors for the camping season. Although a provincial park, Mississagi is run by the City of Elliot Lake. The club is given a complimentary campsite for the season and volunteers lead hikes, answer questions and generally act as a liaison between park management and campers. This summer will be our third in this capacity.

Other outings include two joint hike 'n paddle ventures with the Algoma Paddlers based in Blind River. These events combine the best of two terrific outdoor pursuits. Tired hikers and paddlers alike enjoy a wonderful potluck at the end of the day.

Happy Hiking!

### Logging on the Voyageur Trail *by Bob Sinclair*

Please be aware of the following planned logging activities along the VTA trail in 2016 when you plan your upcoming hikes:

- \* Echo Ridges Section: there will be logging near Two Horse and One Horse Lakes.
- \* Huron Shores Section: there will be thinning in the Kirkwood Forest
- \* Coureurs de Bois Section: there will be continuing logging south of Rossmere Lake and a new cutting block north of Spanish in the Horseshoe Lake area.

Hikers encountering logging activity should use extreme care in using the trail. Logging companies are required to keep the VTA trail clear of slash or other obstructions. If hikers encounter logging activity obstructions on the trail they should contact the Forest Management Companies, or contact Bob Sinclair by email [bob.sinclair1@shaw.ca](mailto:bob.sinclair1@shaw.ca) or phone: 705-946-3126.

### VTA Membership

We currently have 309 members. Here is a list of clubs that currently have active members:

Casques Isles	16
Coureurs De Bois	100
Desbarat	2
Huron Shores*	5
Marathon	1
Michipicoten	4
Nipigon	1
Nor'wester	1
Penewobikong	6
Saulteaux	150
At large	23

\*formerly Thessalon

Any questions about VTA Memberships, contact Chris Kuntz at 705-649-2235'





# Property Rights of Landowners on the Trail

Hike Ontario President Tom Friesen has passed along this information put together by Bill Walker, MPP for Bruce--Grey--Owen Sound to assist landowners in understanding that trails are not a threat to their property rights. Below is an excerpt from an official Media Release issued by his office on March 18th, 2016:

“Many landowners are calling and e-mailing their local MPPs in fear that the trail on their land would turn into an easement because of rumours and speculation they have heard about Bill 100. I am writing to clarify these points. Bill 100, also known as the Supporting Ontario’s Trails Act, will not create unwanted or automatic easements and will not take away any property rights. So, the key points I want to reiterate are: 1) This is all voluntary. No property owner will be compelled to provide an easement unless they agree to do so. 2) Your rights to your land will not be impacted if you do not sign to allow an easement. 3) Promoting the use of trails is good for tourism. If neighbours begin rescinding permission from here on, then trail use looks grim for the future, as does the future of snowmobile and ATV clubs in our region, decreasing tourism activity and hurting the local economy. Simply put, without access to trails the sector collapses.”

## Free Park Admissions

Did you know about free use of Ontario Provincial Parks on July 15, 2016?

On July 1, celebrate with free admission at all national parks, Parks Canada-administered national historic sites and national marine conservation areas. In 2017, admission for all visitors to National Parks will be free to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation.



# VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION & STORE (please print legibly) 04/16

(For more details and to purchase products and memberships visit our secure on-line store at [www.voyageurtrail.ca](http://www.voyageurtrail.ca))

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ (work/cell): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Prov./State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Please check one:  New Member  Renewal

**MEMBERSHIP FEES:** Prices subject to change without notification.

For: GPS maps (Garmin units only) & PDF Hiking trail guide individual sections } visit our on-line Store.

Individual: yearly @ \$25 or three-years @ \$70 = \_\_\_\_\_

Family or Group: yearly @ \$30 or three-years @ \$85 = \_\_\_\_\_

Full-time Student @ \$10 yearly = \_\_\_\_\_

Donations Charitable Reg. #119261923RR0001 (tax receipt will be sent) = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Crest @ \$3 each = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Guidebook (limit 2) @ members \$30/non-members \$40 = \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping/handling for ALL MAILED Guidebooks.....=\$12

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Cdn. funds).....= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ If this is a gift please provide name & address for the mailed acknowledgement.

Please send my VTA newsletter via:  Postal delivery to above address.  
 Reminder to download PDF from VTA web site  
My email is: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make cheques payable and mail to:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION**, P. O. Box 20040,  
150 Churchill Blvd., Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Canada P6A 6W3

(over)

**The Voyageur Trail News is published three times per year. Your articles and photos are welcome!**  
**Deadline for the next issue is August 1, 2016.**

Mail to Fiona Ortiz, c/o  
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Tel. 705-942-5709 or e-mail to  
 info@voyageurtrail.ca

Articles in this newsletter can be  
 copied if credit is given to the  
 Voyageur Trail Association.

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.voyageurtrail.ca](http://www.voyageurtrail.ca)

**Contacts:**

**Nor'wester:** Kirsten Spence  
 807-889-0602

**Casques Isles:** Chris Dube

**Marathon:** Bob Hancherow  
 807-229-1340 ext. 2226

**Michipicoten:** Andy Stevens  
 705-856-2884

**Saulteaux:** Gayle Philips  
 705-942-1891

**Bruce Mines/Huron Shores:**  
 Patricia Wynter 705-842-0123

**Penewobikong:** Joanne Marck  
 705-842-2659

**Coueurs de Bois:**  
 Astrid Turner 705-578-2095



**VTA CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>President -</b><br>Carole Blaquiére 705-649-2235                          | <b>Membership/Landowners -</b><br>Chris Kuntz 705-649-2235                                      | <b>Data Management -</b><br>Bob Sinclair 705-946-3126                         |
| <b>Vice-President West -</b> Kirstin<br>Spence 807-889-0602                  | <b>Publicity Director/Social<br/>Media Coordinator -</b><br>vacant                              | <b>Director(s) -at-Large (2) -</b><br>Dawn Elmore 705-649-4936<br>Amber Jones |
| <b>Vice-President Central -</b><br>Vacant                                    | <b>Hike Ontario<br/>Representative -</b><br>Carole Blaquiére 705-649-2235<br>Alternate (vacant) | <b>Newsletter Editor:</b><br>Fiona Ortiz                                      |
| <b>Vice-President East -</b> Patricia<br>Wynter 705-842-0123                 | <b>Insurance Coordinator -</b><br>Larry Gringorten 705-949-7953                                 | <b>Newsletter Layout by:</b><br>Dawn Elmore 705-649-4936                      |
| <b>Treasurer/Tools Inventory -</b><br>Kees van Frankenhuyzen<br>705-255-2177 | <b>Guidebook Committee -</b><br>Steve Dominy 705-946-2484                                       |   |
| <b>General Secretary -</b> Tricia<br>Kelly 705-910-1795                      |   |   |

*For information on any of these positions (especially the vacant ones), please email us at info@voyageurtrail.ca.*

**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 light-weight 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 off 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!!

**I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH:**

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail maintenance                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail development  | <input type="checkbox"/> Hike leader         | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization—executive, directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter, guidebook, photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner records, maps  | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Special events                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sorry, not at this time.           | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Contact me with information on what's needed, and I'll decide then.</b> |  |  |

- Please add my membership to the membership list of the club closest to my home, OR  consider me a member-at-large, OR  consider me as a member of the following club \_\_\_\_\_.

**Voyageur Hiking Trail Users' Code**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Hike only along marked routes. Do not take short cuts.   | • Protect and do not disturb wildlife.  |
| • Do not climb fences.   | • Keep dogs under control (leash if necessary) and follow your club's guidelines concerning dogs.         |
| • Carry out all garbage (if you carry it in, you can carry it out).  | • Respect the privacy of people living along the trail. Walk around the edges of fields, not across them. |
| • Light cooking fires at official campsites only. Drench fires after use. (or better still, carry a lightweight hiker's stove) | • Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photographs.  |
| • Leave flowers and plants for others to enjoy.  | <b>BE A LOW-IMPACT HIKER!</b>   |
| • Do not damage live trees or strip off bark.  |   |

**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 (above).

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