



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

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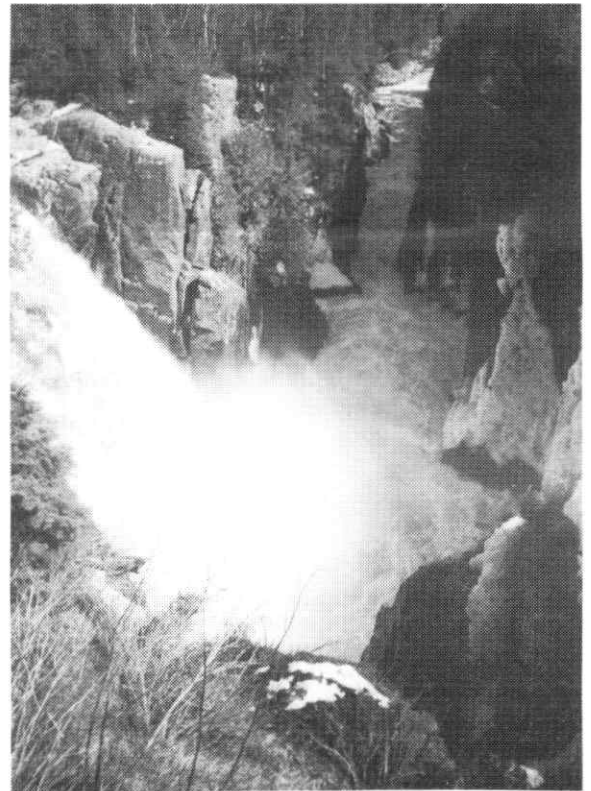
CASQUE ISLES HIKING CLUB STARTING UP AGAIN

by *Mike Scott*

The Casque Isles Hiking Club is back, after having been dormant for more than 10 years! A few past members, and some new people, have been working to revive interest in the club.

The Casque Isles Club is responsible for administration, maintenance, and improvements to the hiking trail between Rosspport and Terrace Bay. This 52.4-kilometre section of the Voyageur Trail roughly follows the rugged shoreline of the northernmost point of Lake Superior.

The entire trail can be hiked in one three- or four-day stretch, but is more enjoyable to do in smaller sections (there are five). This allows time to take in the spectacular scenery, such as Aguasabon Gorge shown



above. One can also enjoy northern hospitality in the towns of Rosspport, Schreiber, and Terrace Bay, at the end of the day.

Besides me, the people interested in reviving the club are Dan McGrath, Lorne Burke, Clay Gordon, and Mike Moore. We've already held a preliminary meeting, and set a tentative plan for the coming season. The first priority is to inform the public, and see how many local people are willing to help the club, or become members.

A public meeting was held May 7 at the Terrace Bay Recreation Office. Gayle Phillips and Mike Landmark were there to show the VTA slide presentation and answer questions. The attendance that evening, a subsequent article printed in the *Thunder Bay Chronicle*, and the many phone calls, have convinced us it is time to re-form the club.

(Continued on page 2)



The Voyageur Trail is no longer Northern Ontario's best kept secret! From left, Mike Landmark, Susan Graham, Gayle Phillips are ready to greet visitors at the Sault Ste. Marie Sportsman's Show in March. See page 3.



CASQUE ISLES CLUB

(Continued from page 1)

On May 17, we held our "Go to Blazes" trail maintenance outing on the Lyda Bay trail. The tentative schedule for the rest of the Casque Isles Hiking Club 1997 activities follow:

Saturday, June 14 Hike the Les Ecris Section. Rain date is June 15, as parts of the trail are dangerous when wet.

Wednesday, July 2 Hike the Lyda Bay Section from Terrace Bay (Aguasabon Gorge) to Hydro Bay, to coincide with Terrace Bay's 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Wednesday, July 9 General Meeting - *Everyone welcome.*

Wednesday, July 23 Hike the Mount Gwynne Section, from Schreiber to Mount Gwynne via the access trail, then to Schreiber Beach, and back to Schreiber, to coincide with Schreiber Heritage Days celebrations.

Saturday, August 16 Hike the Schreiber Point Section, Worthington Beach over Mount Gwynne to Schreiber Beach, with picnic lunch on top of Mount Gwynne.

Wednesday, September 10 General Meeting - *Everyone welcome.*

Saturday, September 13 Hike Schreiber to Rainbow Falls Provincial Park.

Saturday, October 4 Hike Schreiber to Rainbow Falls Provincial Park, hopefully including some park staff.

Wednesday, November 12 General meeting: elect executive for club, plan winter activities, meetings, etc.

If anyone is interested in helping with these activities, joining us for a hike, finding out exact dates for hikes and meetings, or simply wants more information on the Casque Isles Club, please feel free to call Mike Scott at (807) 824-2052 (home) or (807) 824-2054 (w), or write: Casque Isles Hiking Club C/O Mike Scott, P.O. Box 947, Schreiber, Ont., P0T 2S0, or e-mail msscott@schreiber.lakeheadu.ca.

Mike Moore is also available during the day at the Terrace Bay Tourist Information Center, at (807) 825-9721.



HELP WANTED:

The Voyageur Trail Association has a vacancy on its Executive. If you can volunteer for the Trail Master position, please contact Larry Gringorten at (705) 949-7953.



NEW TRAIL TO HARMONY BEACH

by Neil Ray

The Harmony/Haviland section of the Voyageur Trail Association is pleased to announce the extension of the Voyageur Trail north from Haviland Bay to Harmony Beach. We would like to thank landowners Chuck Peterson and Michael Stanghetta for their kind permission to use their property.

This trail provides access to some beautiful views, including two small lakes, a large beaver pond and a stand of huge fir trees. The trail, to be called the Harmony Trail, is only partially flagged and cleared, but we expect to have it ready for this summer.



On Sunday, February 23, a group of 12 hikers (photo above) set out on the new trail by snowshoe. We stopped for a quick lunch about the halfway mark near the north end of Sam Lake. Then the group split in half and six of us continued in spite of an unexpected snow storm. We completed the 10-kilometre trail.

A special thank you to the following members who attended our first scheduled outing:

Patrick Capper	Pim Delfgou
Mike Landmark	Cheryl Landmark
Myra MacDonald	Ruth MacDonald
Gayle Phillips	Anne Prickett
Neil Ray	Dieter Ropke
Francois Auclair (guest)	
Shaunagh Gravelines (guest)	

And a thank you to the folks at Harmony Beach Lakeview Resort and McCauley's Motel for allowing the group to park our vehicles.

If you are interested in exploring this trail, please contact Neil Ray at (705) 649-0875 or e-mail to harmony2@ican.net for information. (Also, see the insert in this issue.)



VTA PUBLICITY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Gayle Phillips

I'm finding that one of the sure signs of spring is the flurry of activity in the VTA's public relations efforts. Here are some of the highlights.

In January, the VTA was featured in Peter Denley's Outdoors column in *The Sault Star* newspaper. In February, Mike Landmark staffed a booth at the Sault College Wellness Fair display.

The Sault Ste. Marie Sportsman's Show took place March 21, 22 and 23. This is the first year we staffed our own table at the show. Every kind of outdoors-related organization was represented. Friends of the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, Fort St. Joe, and Pukaskwa National Park donated a spot for us, and we are extremely grateful to them! Space is an expensive commodity!!

Thanks must also go out to those who took the time from their busy weekends to provide assistance at the show: Mike Landmark, Susan Graham, Judy Falkins, Steve Dominy, Pim Delfgou and Frank Brooks. A special thanks again to Mike Landmark who presented our slide show twice on the weekend in the 'theatre.'

In April, two presentations were made to local Boy Scout leaders to try to get more Scouts involved in the local trail maintenance outings. A special thank you to Susan Graham who helped present our story and keep us on schedule.

On April 10, the Recreation Committee of Bruce Mines/Plummer Additional Township



Gayle Phillips awards Danielle Deschamps (left) a VTA T-shirt at the Blind River Home and Sports Show.

invited the VTA to their meeting to give a slide presentation about the Association. It seems they have an interest in building a hiking trail from Bruce Mines to the Voyageur Trail. Tourists and residents will then be able to access the Voyageur Trail right from downtown! Hopefully we will hear more from the committee in the near future.

From Sunday, April 20 to Thursday, April 24, the VTA's Earth Week display was set up in the Station Mall in Sault Ste. Marie. Our brochures were a hot item.

The weekend of April 25, 26 and 27 found our VTA traveling show in the town of Blind River at their annual Home and Sports Show. This show intrigued me because we were so warmly welcomed when I called to book a space. I wasn't disappointed! Approximately 3,000 people from Elliot Lake, Blind River, Massey and points close attended the show and much interest was shown in the trail.

On May 2, the Prince Township Centennial Loop Trail was officially unveiled. It was the culmination of much work, especially by Mike Landmark in planning, clearing, blazing, and describing the trail. A new brochure was also created. A full page story about the loop trail in *The Sault Star* newspaper by Marguerite La Haye was a terrific boon to our advertising efforts.

Wednesday, May 7, we gave our slide presentation in Terrace Bay, the home of the newly revitalized Casque Isles Club. The excitement stirred by a new club certainly is infectious! I think we will be hearing much more from this nucleus of activity in the near future. Plan to join their hikes on your holidays this year (see page 2).

On the weekend of May 8, 9 and 10, I found myself at the Thunder Bay Trade Show and Exposition. This show is the biggest I've seen anywhere! There are five buildings containing displays and 30,000 people attend annually! Thunder Bay has many hikers and quite a few are excited about the prospect of having a Voyageur Trail Club in town building trails. Watch for future updates as this progresses.

This year's "between season" activities will certainly be a good indication of the response generated by attending local spring trade shows. I, for one, am very interested to hear any results of our efforts.

Hopefully, next newsletter, I can report back some good news in the way of new clubs forming and increased membership. Keep your fingers crossed and stay tuned!



GET THE LEAD OUT!!!!

by *Mike Landmark*

At the March 17 meeting of the Saulteaux Club, the theme was green — since it was held on St. Patty's day. A topic that was of interest to me was lead in the water. As an angler and hunter, I have unknowingly added to the lead pollution in our drinking water system and also endangered wildlife with lead shot and sinkers. The hunting of waterfowl using lead shot is now banned in the U.S. and Canada.

Lead may be harmful through two pathways, direct ingestion and absorption through the food chain or water. Ducks, geese and loons commonly ingest gravel from the bottom to assist digestion. If, for example, even one lead shot sinker is swallowed, the loon will probably die within four to 21 days. This lead in the system may then be passed on to predators that consume the sick or dead water bird. So losing just one sinker while fishing can deprive us of the sound of the loon or watching a raptor fly overhead.

Lead is also slowly soluble in water but this is sped up when the pH is lowered by acid rain common in eastern Canada. The lead is absorbed by the aquatic life and passed up the food chain. Man is at the top of this food chain!! Here's what I learned from the literature on the subject:



- lead affects the nervous system
- if each licensed angler in Ontario lost one ounce of sinkers, an additional 62 tons of lead could be added to the water in our province
- studies in New England found 55 per cent of dead adult loons died from ingesting lead sinkers
- use of lead in Canada's national parks is now illegal

On the plus side, other materials have been found to replace lead sinkers and jigs. Tin, bismuth and stainless steel are the most common. A local company, Bi Logic Tackle, located in Thessalon, has developed a line of tackle made from bismuth, which lacks the toxic properties of lead but has a fairly high density (86.4 per cent of lead). The paint used on the jigs by this company is also non-toxic.

For more information on this topic, you can contact Mike Landmark at (705) 779-3409, or Larry Kissau, 1-800-363-2369, or any environmentally friendly sporting goods store in your area.



FOR SALE:

First Need Microfiltration System water filter. Ideal for backpacking. Asking \$17.00 Call (705) 942-9636.

SAULTEAUX CLUB NOTES

by *Susan Graham*

Interest in the Saulteaux Club outings and the Voyageur Trail remains high. A record number of people (and dogs) were on the annual Mother's Day hike — 56! Our thanks to Horst Wetzl and Lise Reid for their hospitality and ability to manage such a large crowd.

A surprising number (25) turned up for the Trout Lake to Thayer's Acres canoe outing (surprising only because of the poor weather. The canoe route is very nice.) There have also been several requests recently from youth groups for slide presentations and talks on hiking as well as outings.

The long, cool spring has proved ideal for trail maintenance, and we appear to be making gains after several years of struggling. I would encourage all members to make the effort this year to do at least one trail maintenance outing, rather than leaving it up to a dedicated few. Overall, the Saulteaux section is pretty good, and planned trail maintenance over the next while should clean up the rough spots.

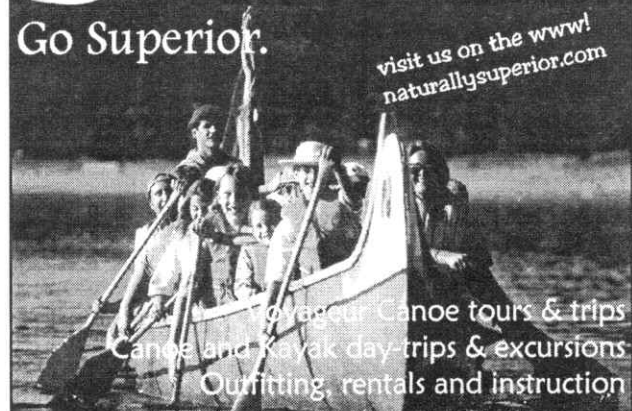
I hope you will enjoy the summer/early fall schedule that has been planned. Please call Susan Graham (705) 949-4105 with your suggestions for outings later in the fall that will be printed in the October newsletter. Good hiking.



Go Big!

Go Superior.

visit us on the www!
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Voyageur Canoe tours & trips
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Outfitting, rentals and instruction



Naturally Superior Adventures
RR#1, Lake Superior, Wawa, Ontario P0S 1K0
Tel/fax: (705)856-2939; naturallysuperior.com

OUTING SCHEDULE

This ambitious schedule was put together early in May and may have last-minute changes from time to time. Please call our Information Hotline at (705) 253-5353 or 1-800-393-5353 (where available) and select message No. 9999 to check if any details of the outing have been changed. This Information Hotline is updated regularly and will have the latest news on the next planned outing. The schedule is also on our web site. Visit: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail>

Saulteaux Club

(Sault Ste. Marie and area—outings marked with an asterisk are outside Sault Ste. Marie)

For all outings, bring water, a lunch, fly repellent, and dress appropriately.

Saturday, June 14 - Fun Walk/Run

Join the 2nd Annual Chiropractic Run/Walk at 10 a.m. at the White Pines High School. A \$20 registration fee paid that morning entitles you to a T-shirt, and a chance at many prizes. Proceeds will go to spinal research.

***Saturday, June 21 - Bicycling**

It's Summer Solstice and we are celebrating the longest day of the year with a bicycle outing to St. Joseph Island. (Bike rentals are available in Richards Landing at (705) 246-3172.) We will be biking a loop from the old "Cornfest" grounds to Sailor's Encampment, to Richards Landing and back to the cars. Afterwards we will have a picnic in the park near the bridge to watch the sun set. Meet at 2 p.m. at the car pool parking lot at the St. Joseph Island highway turn-off. For more information, call Susan Graham at (705) 949-4105.

***Sunday, June 29 - Hike**

This weekend is Elliot Lake's Homecoming Celebrations. Join Mike Landmark as he leads a short hike on the Helenbar Trail in Mississauga Provincial Park to celebrate. For more information, call Mike at (705) 779-3409 or (705) 848-2306 in Elliot Lake.

***Saturday, July 5 - Hike**

Hike from Shaw Dam Lake to Hwy. 129. Meet at the Churchill Plaza parking lot at 8:30 a.m. sharp. We will regroup at Bobbers Restaurant in Bruce Mines at 9:15 a.m. Please leave your pets at home for this outing. For more information, call Steve Dominy (705) 946-2484.

Sunday, July 6 - Trail Maintenance

Join us on a trail maintenance outing in the Mabel Lake area. Meet at the

Hiawatha Lodge parking lot at 9 a.m. Please leave your pets at home for this outing. Leader: Mike Landmark (705) 779-3409.

***Saturday, July 12 - Hike**

Hike the Lake Superior Provincial Park Coastal Trail from Barrett River to Katherine Cove (8 km). Meet at the K-Mart Plaza parking lot at 8 a.m. Bring your swimsuit. Leashed pets are welcome. For more information, call Linda Badowich (705) 254-5270.

***Sunday, July 13 - Hike/Swim**

Join us as we hike around Clark Lake (in Michigan near Tahquamenon Falls). Bring your swimsuit for a swim afterwards. Meet at the U.S. Information Centre at 9 a.m. to car pool. Please leave your pets at home. Leader: Chuck Bosley (906) 248-3287 or (705) 949-8206.

Saturday, July 19 - Canada Parks Day (3 hikes to choose from)

Hike Lake Superior Provincial Park

*In honour of Canada Parks Day, Lake Superior Provincial Park (LSPP) staff member, Carol Dersch, will lead an approximate 5-km hike from Katherine Cove to Robertson Cove, return. VTA members have the option of continuing to Coldwater Creek if they prefer a longer hike. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at Katherine Cove in LSPP. Pets must be on a leash for this outing. For more information, call Carol at (705) 856-2284.

Hike Elliot Lake

*Mississauga Provincial Park (Elliot Lake) is also holding a hike to celebrate Canada Parks Day. Call the Park at (705) 848-2806 for more details.

Museum Tour and Moonlit Hike

We will join the Sault Ste. Marie Canal Celebrations with a moonlit walk around the Attikamek Trail. Tours of the museum and the Superintendent's house will be available before the hike. Bring a flashlight and meet at the Sault Locks parking lot at 10 p.m.

(9 p.m. if you wish to go on the tours). Leashed pets are welcome. Call Eileene Johns (705) 941-6213 at the Sault Canal for more information.

***Saturday, July 26 - Trail Maintenance**

Gayle Phillips will lead a trail maintenance outing in the Thessalon/Bruce Mines area. Meet at the Churchill Plaza at 10 a.m. to car pool. Please leave your pets at home for this outing. Call Gayle at (705) 942-1891 for more information.

***Sunday, August 3 to Friday, August 8 - Five-Day Backpack**

Hike the Coastal Trail in Pukaskwa National Park from Hattie Cove to Oiseau Bay, 30.5 km. Participants will hike the trail one-way and share the cost of a boat ride back. Backpack approximately 4-5 hours per day (mornings). Afternoons will be spent setting up camp and relaxing. This trip is for experienced hikers only. Leashed pets welcome. For more information, call Linda Badowich at (705) 254-5270.

***Sunday, August 10 - Hike**

Join us on a hike at Cataract Lake in the Blind River area. Meet at the Blind River Tourist Information Centre at 10 a.m. sharp. For more information, call Mike Landmark (705) 779-3409 or Andrea (705) 356-7126. Behaved pets are welcome.

***Sunday, August 17 - Hike/Swim**

Join us on a walk and swim at Naiomikong Point in the U.S. Meet at 9:30 a.m. sharp at the U.S. Tourist Information Centre. Please leave your pets at home for this outing. For more information, call Chuck Bosley at (906) 248-3287 or (705) 949-8206.

(Continued on page 6)



OUTING SCHEDULE

(Continued from page 6)

*Saturday, August 23 - A Weekend of Fun in Wawa!

Join our true "Voyageurs" as we canoe in Naturally Superior Adventures' 36-foot Voyageur Canoe (first 14 adults/4 children to book). Other canoes are available. (\$30 per person or \$90 per family.) Afterwards, join us at a whitefish barbecue for an extra \$10. Free wilderness camping is available on Naturally Superior Adventures' beach. For more information, call Susan Graham at (705) 949-4105 or Naturally Superior Adventures at (705) 856-2939.

*Sunday, August 24 - Trail Maintenance

Stay in Wawa for our trail maintenance outing (approx. 7 km south of Wawa) from Fort Friendship to Bridget Lake (4 kilometres). We start at 10 a.m. For more information, call Susan at (705) 949-4105.

*Saturday, August 30 - Labour Day Weekend

Join us as we day hike to Warp Bay in Lake Superior Provincial Park. Bring your swimsuit. Meet at the K-Mart Plaza at 8:30 a.m. sharp to car pool. Behaved pets are welcome, but must be leashed in the park. If you have always wanted to backpack to Warp Bay, but are not sure of how to get there, this may be your opportunity to accompany day hikers in and stay for the long weekend. For more details, call Gayle Phillips at (705) 942-1891.

Saturday, September 6 - Hike

Join us as we hike on the Tom Allinson Spur Trail. Meet at the Market Mall Plaza at 10 a.m. sharp to car pool. Behaved pets are welcome. For more details, call Gayle Phillips at (705) 942-1891.

*Saturday, September 13 - Algoma Forest Management Tour

The Algoma Forestry Coalition is hosting a day-long outing to view harvesting and regeneration activities north of Sault Ste. Marie. Bring a lunch and dress appropriately. Transportation and refreshments provided by the Coalition. Contact Jim Miller at (705) 254-7494 if you would like to attend.



*Sunday, September 14 - Hike

Day hike in the Thessalon area on the Cummings Lake trail as well as others. Meet at the Churchill Plaza parking lot at 9 a.m. sharp and regroup at the Tunnel Lake Trading Post at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call Susan Graham at (705) 949-4105. (For those interested in spending the entire weekend in the area, accommodations are available at Limberlost Lodge, Snowshoe Camp and Tunnel Lake Campground. Please make your own arrangements. Limberlost Lodge (705) 841-2521 (cottages only); Snowshoe Camp (705) 759-2985 (cottages and campground facilities); Tunnel Lake Campground (camping only).

Monday, September 15 - Saulteaux Club Bi-Monthly Meeting

General meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre. After the general meeting, we will be entertained by Neil Ray's video production of the Peregrin Falcon Release Program which took place on Robertson Cliffs. For more information, call Susan Graham at (705) 949-4105.

Sunday, September 21 - Trail Maintenance

Trail maintenance outing on the Saulteaux Section with Susan Graham. Call Susan at (705) 949-4105 for more details.

*Saturday, September 27 - Hike

Patrick Capper will be leading a hike from Robertson Cliffs to King Mountain at Stokely Creek. There will be an option for hikers to turn back after lunch should anyone wish. Meet at the K-Mart Plaza at 9:30 a.m. sharp to car pool. For more information, call Patrick at (705) 253-4470. Please leave your pets at home for this outing.

Sunday, September 28 - Mushroom Hunt

Check out the mushrooms on the trails at Glenview Cottages with Evelyn Simon and Chuck Bosley. Meet at the K-Mart Plaza at 10 a.m. sharp to car pool. Please leave your pets at home for this outing. For more information, call Chuck at (906) 248-3287 or Evelyn at (705) 949-8206.

Sunday, September 28 - Trail Maintenance

Mario Festival will be leading this outing. Call the Information Line at (705) 253-5353 or 1-800-393-5353 (where available) and select message no. 9999 closer to the date for all the last-minute details.

Saturday, October 4 - Trail Maintenance

Call the Information Line at (705) 253-5353 or 1-800-393-5353 (where available) and select message no. 9999 closer to the date for all the last-minute details.

Sunday, October 5 - Ontario Hiking Day (two hikes to choose from!)

Family Hike

Join us on a short, family hike from Creek Road to Red Rock Road (approx. 5 km.) with Steve Dominy. Meet at the Market Mall Plaza at 10 a.m. sharp to car pool. Please leave your pets at home for this outing. For more information, call Steve at (705) 946-2484.

*Day Hike - Thessalon area

For hikers who enjoy longer excursions, Dieter Ropke will lead a hike in the Thessalon Section. Meet at the Churchill Plaza parking lot at 10 a.m. sharp to car pool. Behaved pets are welcome on this outing. Call Dieter at (705) 942-9636.

... And some advance warning ...

Trail maintenance outings will be scheduled on: Saturday, October 18 and Saturday, October 25. Call the Information Line (705) 253-5353 or 1-800-393-5353 (where available) and select message no. 9999 closer to the dates.



NOTE: We are compiling a list of those lucky people who are available during the week to go on an outing (hike or trail maintenance). Those members could then contact someone else on the list if they are looking for a hiking or trail maintenance companion. If you wish to be on the list, call Susan at (705) 949-4105.

THE PRINCE TOWNSHIP CENTENNIAL LOOP TRAIL

This trail was completed in May 1997, the 100th Anniversary of Prince Township.

This is a pleasant trail which follows several old and newer logging roads. The trail offers wide views over Whitefish Bay at the blue-blazed lookouts. There are wet sections on the trail, but these can generally be avoided by detouring into the bush and paralleling the trail for a short distance.

A great deal of this trail is on private land, so please carry your membership card when hiking this section.

References in the text, for example, [A5], refer to access points contained in the *Voyageur Hiking Trail Guidebook*, which can be purchased through the association if you are a member. If you are not a member, the Guidebook may be purchased at: Dunn's Authors, Clean North office, and the Trading Post in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Follow the Main (white-blazed) East-West Trail which begins at Blue Water Park at the end of Highway 550 at Gros Cap (west of Sault Ste. Marie) [A5]. Information, lodging and food can be obtained from May to mid-October at the Blue Water Inn.

Begin at the west end of the parking area, where a plaque commemorating the 10th anniversary of the completion of the Saulteaux Section can be found. The path then crosses a filled area, veers right along a gravel roadway, and climbs steadily, first to the left, then to the right, for the first 0.5 kilometres, before bending east. Near the hilltop, the Main Trail leaves the road to the left (blazed white).

The start of the Prince Township Centennial Loop Trail follows the yellow blazes to the right of the Main Trail.

Go east along an old logging road for 180 metres through a maple and birch stand of trees. Continue past a "keep out" sign (we have permission from the landowner) along a skidder trail for 150 metres. There is a slight uphill. Keep to the right trail (it is dryer with better footing) until you reach a small gravel pit. The trail forks here.

If you go west (left) here for 240 metres, you can rejoin the main Voyageur Trail (white blazes) which overlooks Lake Superior at three blue-blazed side trails, and eventually brings you back to the Blue Water Inn parking lot (approx. 1.75 km).

If you go east (right) here, proceed past the gravel pit for 240 metres. You will notice a house on the right by a driveway. Keep to the northwest side

road and it is 150 metres to a sugar bush maple stand. Another 150 metres will take you to a gate (Jackson Island Road) and power line which follows Marshall Road (connects to the North Gros Cap Road). If you wish to stop your hike here, follow Marshall Drive southeast for 3.2 kilometres, and you will come to the Highway 550 access point [A4] (approx. 4.6 km).

If you wish to continue hiking, go west on the Loop Trail. There is a slight uphill for 100 metres through a maple stand. Another 240 metres will bring you to the Coast Guard Aid to Navigation tower. To the north, one of the Twin Lakes can be seen. Follow the road for 450 metres to the Access Point No. 4 sign and the Tom Allinson Spur Trail to the east.

If you continue west along the Main Trail for 2.1 kilometres (be careful to take the correct route) you will return to the Blue Water Inn parking lot (approx. 4.3 km).

Go south on a bush road for 30 metres and re-enter the bush. The trail parallels the road south for a short distance. As you come out to the road again, you re-enter the bush with Lake Superior to your right.

Watch for three blue-blazed side trails which take you to vistas overlooking the lake to your right. This trail takes you back to the intersection of the main white-blazed trail and the yellow-blazed Prince Township Centennial Loop Trail at the top of the hill. Descend the hill to the Blue Water Inn parking lot.



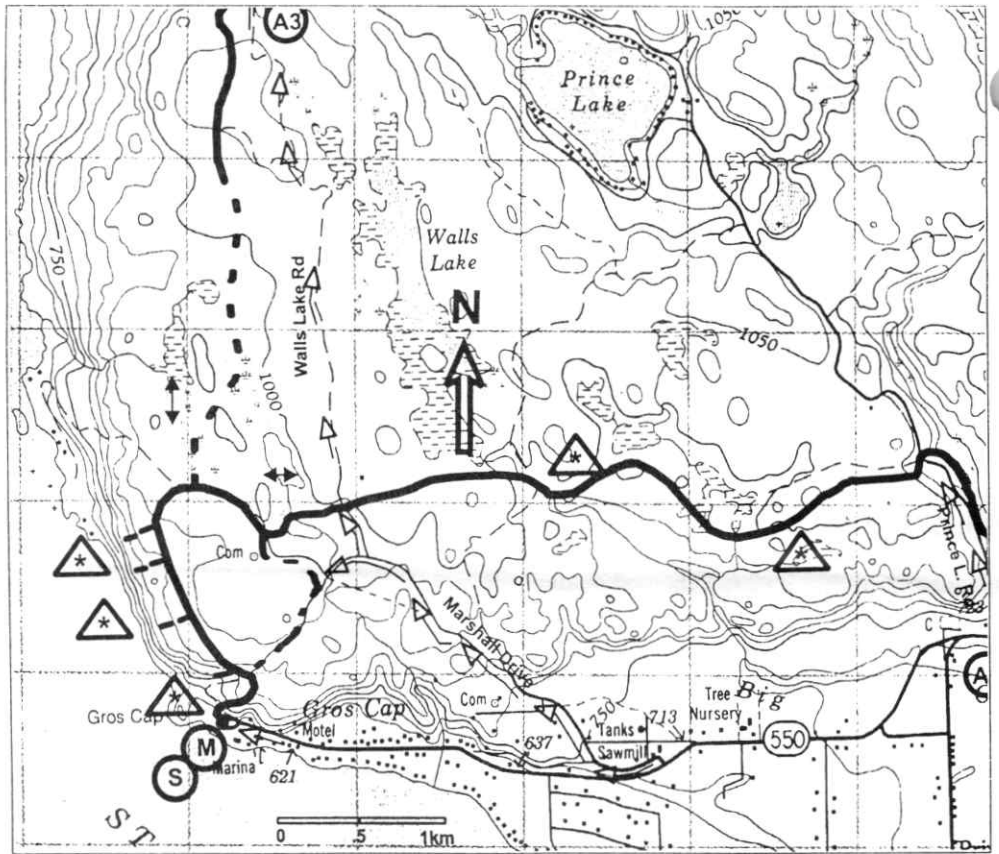
(map on reverse)



Opening ceremonies for the loop trail took place May 2, 1997. Attending are Peter Kucherepa, Counsellor Leslie Cassidy Amadio, Reeve David Edgar, Counsellor Lucy Konkin, Mike Landmark and Councillor Clayton Deans from Prince Township. Also present are VTA President, Larry Gringorten and Saulteaux Club President, Susan Graham.

The map on the right is of the Prince Township Centennial Loop Trail.

If you would like a guidebook-sized copy of these two trail descriptions and maps for your *Voyageur Hiking Trail Guidebook*, call Steve Dominy at (705) 946-2484. The inserts will be available for a nominal fee after the next printing of the Guidebook.

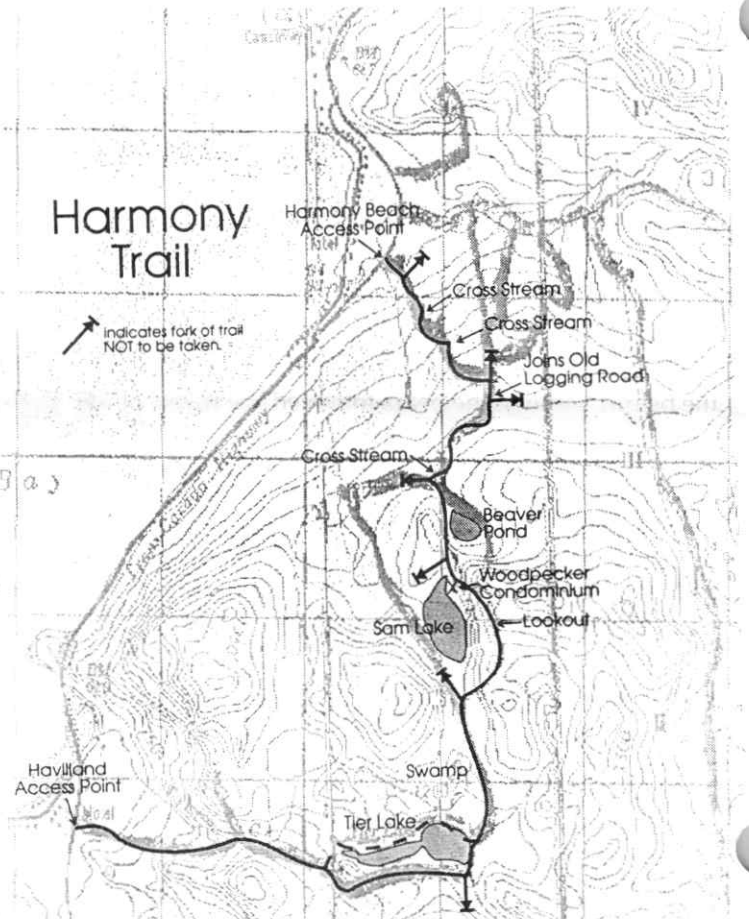


LEGEND: — White-Blazed Trail - - - Yellow-Blazed Trail ▲ Blue-Blazed Lookout

HARMONY TRAIL

Northern Access point is about 60 m. N of Harmony Beach Lakeview Resort sign on the E side of Hwy. 17N. Follow the stream SE for about 100 m. Turn S for 10 m and then turn SE and climb ridge. Head SE then turn S and cross small stream at "Y". Continue S to large stand of Balsams. Continue E and SE for about 0.5 km. Cross another small stream and turn E for about 0.5 km. to a low (swampy) area. Turn S for about 30 m. to join an old logging road (snowmobile trail). Continue S and SW about 1 km. and cross a small stream. Look for an old snowmobile sign "SM/3". Turn SE and go uphill past a large beaver pond. Descend back downhill to Sam Lake. Keep left (E) when you see Sam Lake. Notice the large standing dead tree (Woodpecker Condominium). There is a steep climb uphill with Sam Lake on your right (W). At the top, there is a nice lookout. This is probably the highest point on this trail. Descend the hill to the S and SW until you come to the snowmobile trail junction, (look for the "SM/3" sign), and turn S. Continue past the swamp on your right and then turn W. Follow the trail to the NE end of Tier Lake. This is the end of the Harmony Trail and it joins with the Stokely Trail at the 1.8 mark on the map.

(If you are planning on travelling in winter, be advised - DO NOT TAKE THIS TURN. Continue S to the SE end of Tier Lake and turn W (right) on the old logging road. Continue W for about 3 km. to Hwy 17N at Haviland Bay.)



The map above is of the new Harmony Beach to Haviland Bay Trail.

BLACK BEARS: PREVENTIVE CARE *by Pim Delfgou*

Most outdoor enthusiasts like to see wild animals, and the black bear is high on the list. Many people, unfortunately, help to kill bears during their visit. Here's how it happens.

The bear, like most animals, is always looking for the food it needs to survive. Bears are omnivores and will eat anything, but mostly they eat berries, grubs, small animals, nuts, and fish. One day, some foolish tourists spot the bear at the highway and begin throwing food to it. The ever-hungry bear is attracted to the food so much that it eventually overcomes its natural fear of humans, and gets the food.

After a few similar experiences, the bear no longer fears humans.

Bear problems in campgrounds and cottage developments did not come by themselves. They have been caused by carelessness and stupidity. Bears are a creature of habit, and they have a natural fear of humans. When they overcome their fear by intentional or unintentional feeding, they become a nuisance and wreak havoc on supplies and camping gear. Ultimately, they have to be destroyed.

In the past decade, a few people were mauled by bears, sometimes with fatal results. Far more common, however, authorities killed dozens of bears because they got into the food supply and garbage at cottages and parks. In Lake Superior Provincial Park, for example, a bear went through Agawa Bay campground 10 years ago. It damaged tents, coolers, a luggage box on a car, and even opened the garbage shed. This bear raid spared only half a dozen campsites from damage before park security were able to catch and remove the bear.

Until the Ministry of Natural Resources closed the garbage dump near the Frater Road recently, campers asked activity staff where the dump was, and then went there to watch the bears. Some of the bears followed the tracks of these people back to the campground. When the humans left a food pack in their tent, they woke up the next morning to find a new door in the tent and the food gone.

The Ministry had removed problem bears from campgrounds and cottage developments by trapping and drugging them, using bear traps that resemble a culvert. This only postpones the date the bears have to be shot. Bears return to the same location over long distances to collect food. Even if they don't come back, there is no shortage of canoeists and hikers in the wilderness that they can raid on, so they haven't solved that problem. The only real solution to the bear problem is by prevention in the first place. To avoid bear trouble, observe these rules.

- Provincial parks and most privately-owned campgrounds have centralized bear-proof garbage disposal

sheds. Dispose of your garbage each day, preferably before retiring for the night. Never leave garbage on the campsite or on your picnic table, and keep it away from your cottage. Cottagers should build a garbage shed, and dispose of the garbage at the nearby garbage dump on a regular basis.

- Always keep your food locked in your vehicle or cottage, or suspended in a tree if you're backpacking or canoe tripping. Alternatively, if you are canoe tripping and you have a strong wannigan (pack box) that is sealed, place the box well away from the tents, and be sure the lid is locked tight. Leaving food around the campsite is inviting trouble.

- Always wash your dishes right after dinner, and away from the campsite and bodies of water. Dirty dishes attract flies, bears and other animals. Similarly, keep the campsite or cottage grounds as clean and uninviting as possible.

- Never store food or cook inside your tent. Leaving food in a tent or cooler will result in a ripped tent or a damaged cooler. If you're inside the tent at the time, you may risk a bad scare and possible injury. Also, don't store food under your canoe, or you may have a shipwreck on land.

- NEVER feed or approach a bear. Feeding a bear will cause it to lose its fear of humans, to become a nuisance, and eventually to be destroyed, as well as putting you at risk of injury.

- If backcountry camping, burn all garbage that can be burned, and hang the rest along with the food in a tree at least 10 feet from the ground and the trunk. Always pack out garbage when you leave the campsite.

By following these guidelines, you can reduce the problem with bears and other animals, and ensure your vacation is more enjoyable and trouble-free.



TOPOGRAPHIC MAP UPDATE

by Steve Dominy

Be sure to stock up on topographic maps for the hiking season.

Maps are available from the VTA at a cost of only \$9 and are delivered to your door. These maps typically cost \$9.60 at retail outlets.

A Sault-area map has now been produced on waterproof Tyvek paper. The Sault Ste. Marie 1:50,000 map (041-K09) is available for \$10.50.

Call Steve Dominy (705) 946-2484 to place an order or to enquire.



AT LEAST THERE WERE NO BUGS! by Cheryl Landmark

Ten brave (or, foolhardy, I'm not sure which!) souls and three dogs attended the Beginners' Backpack Outing May 3 and 4, from Gros Cap to Red Rock.

We started out from the Castellino Dissimilar (that's the Landmark's house at Gros Cap) and, as a warmup for our long trek, trudged slowly up that wonderful big hill. We continued our walk along part of the new Prince Township Centennial Loop trail, which officially opened 6 p.m. the previous evening.

Weather forecasts throughout the week were somewhat discouraging with dire predictions of rain and snow for Saturday. But we took the chance that the weather person would be wrong (as he or she so frequently is!) and the weather turned out great with lots of sunshine and clear skies. It was quite cool and windy at our campsite along the shore of Lake Superior on Saturday afternoon and Saturday night was, to say the least, just a touch nippy! But, on the positive side, there were definitely no bugs!

We encountered very little snow along the trail except for a few small patches here and there near Red Rock, but there were a lot of wet and swampy areas to slog through. Fortunately, no one ended up with a major soaker, although it was quite tricky jumping from clump to clump with a 35-lb. pack on one's back!

Sunday morning, our intrepid leader, Mike Landmark, made some bannock, which turned out to be pretty good once you got past the burnt part. And, as she is wont to do sometimes, Gayle Phillips turned this "fun" weekend into a work party. Some of us backtracked a little to clear part of the trail coming down to the lake and to put up some blazes.

On the way out to Red Rock, we were met by Patrick Capper, Anne Prickett and Muffin, Patrick's dog. Patrick had very kindly come out to offer to ferry some of our group back to Gros Cap. We really appreciated his thoughtfulness.

Hopefully, this weekend experience will be a prelude to many more such outings over the summer and fall. Unfortunately, we may not in future be able to say there were no bugs!!



The Beginner's Backpack on May 3 and 4 was a good warm-up for the hiking season. Clockwise starting at back row are Linda Badowich, Mike Landmark, David Rea, Pim Delfgou, Jim Miller, Andrew Miller, Andrea Kidd, Cynthia Suhay, Cheryl Landmark and Destiny, Gayle Phillips and Barney the Lead-Bottom and Sheba the Wonder Dog.

SECOND GUIDEBOOK EDITION ON ITS WAY

by Steve Dominy

Sales of the 1996 *Voyageur Hiking Trail Guidebook* have been so brisk that the VTA is preparing for a second printing this summer. The first 500 are almost all sold.

Compare this to the previous edition, where 500 books lasted almost nine years!

Undoubtedly, this bodes well for the VTA and its trails, as more people with Guidebooks equals more feet on the trail. Hopefully our membership numbers will start to edge upwards.

The reprinting will likely contain one or two updates. (See the *Insert* in this newsletter.) Watch the next newsletter for details.



Canoers/Kayakers:

Would you like to meet others who share interest in your sport? I would like to arrange a meeting for those interested in paddling together to plan excursions for safety, as well as, the social aspects of the sport. Call/Fax Joan Foster at (705) 759-8811 for more info.



WEREWOLVES AT GROS CAP?

by Cheryl and Mike Landmark

It was the night of the full moon. Several strange figures could be seen slipping across the ice at Gros Cap, howling and moaning, as the moon rose to a ghostly luminence above the dark bluffs. Were they werewolves, drawn to the strange, compelling power of that mysterious lunar body? No, they were members of the VTA and the public enjoying the club's first ever "moon walk" at Gros Cap on Friday, February 21.

Mike Landmark led the outing, which consisted of 17 people and six dogs. One of the dogs barked not at the moon but at the flashlight beams on the ice (I won't mention any names but his nickname is Barney the Lead-Bottom!). The walk started off at the Blue Water Inn and proceeded down the lake to Jackson Island and back. Walking on the ice of a lake at night is quite different from walking on it in the daylight, and the booming and cracking of the ice added spice to the venture! The full moon almost didn't co-operate because of the overcast, but by 9 p.m., it began to glow palely through the clouds and provide enough light that the flashlights were not required on the return trip.

Afterwards, we all retired to the Castellino Dissimilar (the Landmark residence), where another full moon hung suspended in the big oak tree on the front lawn (no, it wasn't Mike!). Members of the outing enjoyed a witch's brew of hot apple cider and delicious strawberry punch by a cosy wood fire. One couple who joined us on the outing enjoyed it so much that they signed up then and there to become new VTA members!

Due to the success of this walk, I would suspect that many people have a little werewolf in them, attracting them to the full moon! Perhaps this event could become a regular feature of the VTA schedule, taking place not only annually but several times throughout the year. Until next time.....HHHOOOWWWLLL!!!



Skiers descend to the canyon near Horst Wetzl's property, under the watchful eye of landowner and leader, Horst. The ski outing was held February 16.

GO TO BLAZES DAY

by Steve Dominy

The 1997 Go to Blazes Day was held April 27, and once again the climate was cool and the snow was deep. We had an enthusiastic group, including two Australian visitors who had never met previously, and two new members.

However, the snow soon produced soggy feet and sore muscles, causing the leader to suggest the revitalizing powers of ice cream. Thank goodness the Little Rapids General Store sells this heal-all substance year-round!

Many thanks to the seven hardy souls who came out, and I promise to take you somewhere snow-free next time.



FOR SALE BY OWNERS:

600-ACRE WOOD LOT, approximately 20 miles north of Sault Ste. Marie. Call (705) 779-2621 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

LAKE SUPERIOR FRONTAGE LOTS FOR SALE - a hop, skip and a jump from the Tom Allinson Spur Trail in the Pebble Beach/Red Rock cottage area • Less than one-half hour's drive from Sault Ste. Marie • Year-round road will be built this year • Rocky shoreline • Call Madeleine at (705) 945-9525



SNOWSHOE CAMP: THE WILD GUYS (AND GALS) by Pim Delfgou

A dozen intrepid winter enthusiasts headed east for a weekend of fun north of Thessalon March 1. Dieter and Erika Ropke and I were excited about going away to the winter camp as we packed the truck with all the necessities, including skis and snowshoes. Our destination was Snowshoe Camp.

We left Friday afternoon to make this a two-night affair. The weather started off nice as we headed down the highway. After an hour and a half on the road, we turned onto a snow-covered bush road and made our way to the lakeside camp.

As it turned out, most of the other campers were eager to begin the weekend and had also arrived early. Dieter and I immediately unloaded the truck and set up in a small cabin next to the larger one the other group occupied. With about an hour to go to dinner, we decided to snowshoe along the south shore, passing several cliffs and rocks along the way. The sun had already set by the time we returned to camp.

We gathered in the largest cabin for a potluck supper. Following dinner, we relaxed for a while, talking about previous winter outings. Mike Landmark and I finished off the day with a moonlit snowshoe jaunt over the lake.

The weather fouled over night, and by morning, it was freezing rain. We cooked up a hot breakfast and debated our plans for the day. In the end, we stuck to our original

plan to circle the large island in the middle of Wakamata Lake.

It was just above freezing and still raining when we headed out, but the rain stopped as we crossed the frozen water to the island. We made our way alongside the island shoreline, admiring the scenery. Gayle Phillips turned back when her dog, Barney, began to tire.

After rounding the far end of the island, we lit a fire and had lunch. After eating, we returned along the north side of the island. There were a number of ice fishing parties we met along the way.

By the end of the 14-kilometre trek, many of us were tired. We all relaxed in the big cabin, with the three canine escorts, sprawled on the floor.

Doug and Diane, who operate the camp, fixed a buffet dinner for our group Saturday night. It was the perfect end to a long day outdoors.

Sunday skies cleared. Our group split up for the day. Six of us snowshoed to trails nearby to investigate things inland. We went to Damn Lake for a shore lunch. Another group tried their luck ice fishing. Some walked up a trail to see a nearby waterfall.

After packing our bags, we got together once more for a farewell.



HIKE ONTARIO WORK VACATIONS

Once again Hike Ontario clubs are hosting trail work crews this summer, with each crew consisting of about 12 participants, British and Canadian. These vacations are a great opportunity to show our British visitors some of Ontario and are a lot of fun for all concerned.

Caledon Hills: Tues., July 22 to Thurs., July 31.

Build a new 4 km. section of the Bruce Trail, on its optimal route, including a small bridge and slope control. Accommodation will be at the Ecology Retreat Centre in Hockley Valley, in a comfortable bunkhouse in a rustic setting in the woods. Some work will also be done at the Ecology Centre itself. There is a swimming pool for off-time, a campfire circle, as well as a side trail leading to the Bruce. Cost: \$180 per person.

Albion Hills: Tues., August 5 to Mon., August 18.

Build trail in the Humber Valley (including a bridge and boardwalk)

and on the Oak Ridges Moraine and stream restoration in the Albion Hills Conservation Area. Accommodation will be on group campsites at Albion Hills; bring your own tent. Albion Hills has a swimming beach and a wide variety of hiking trails in attractive countryside. Cost: \$230 per person.

Registration for these projects will be through the Federation of Ontario Naturalists "Working for Wilderness" Expeditions Program organizers, Graham Bryan and Lisa Nevar. They can also send details of other outdoor work vacations, for example:

Butterfly Count at Point Pelee, Fri., August 9 to Sun., August 11.

Build Flowerpot Island composting toilets and restore Cootes Paradise marshland sometime in the Fall.

For more information and registration forms, please contact: The Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Attn: Graham Bryan, 355 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, ON M3B 2W8 Tel.: (416) 444-8419, (800) 440-2366; Fax: (416) 444-9866; e-mail: fon@web.net



WEB SITE EXPANDS!

by Gayle Phillips

We have found yet another use for our internet web site — a trail conditions log book!

For the past 24 years, trail maintenance was recorded manually in a log book. Any reports of problems that hikers encountered were also recorded in the log. This gave the Trail Master an idea of where work parties were needed, and the general conditions of any section on the trail, should anyone call to ask.

Steve Dominy (I wish I had thought of it myself, but I have to give credit where credit is due) came up with the brilliant idea of putting our "log book" on-line! Hikers and trail cleaning parties can now check our web site before venturing out on a particular section of trail to find out when it was last hiked/cleaned and the condition of it at that time.

When they return from their "adventures," they will hopefully provide a report of the condition of the section of trail that they hiked so I can update the web site. Now our Trail Master's "log book" is available to anyone who can surf the web!

I think this is a first on the internet. I have not seen any other hiking organization who has thought of this yet. It is a terrific use of the medium and it's very exciting!

Speaking of our web site, I have already received a half dozen inquiries from interested parties, from Sudbury to Winnipeg, and the U.S.A.

Our Membership Secretary reports that we have received our first membership from the internet!

In a CBC radio interview recently, I was asked why a hiking club would want to be on the internet—it will be interesting to watch as the answer unfolds.



WEB SITE GAINS EXPOSURE

The Voyageur Trail Association web site — <http://www3.sympatico.ca/voyageur.trail> — is now listed in the Lycos City Guide for Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

Lycos City Guide (<http://cityguide.lycos.com>) is a directory of over 500 cities, counties, and districts across the world, which includes descriptions as well as links to the hottest sites in each city. City Guide made its debut in September 1996, and is now an integral part of the Lycos site.



-----✂-----✂----- (clip and mail) -----✂-----✂-----

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM (please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov./State: _____

Postal/Zip Code: _____ Phone (home): _____ (work): _____

Please check one: New Member Renewal

MEMBERSHIP FEES: (January 1st to December 31st—fees paid after October 31st will be applied to the next membership year)

Adult.....	\$20	= _____
Family/Group.....	\$20	= _____
Student.....	\$10	= _____
Donations (tax receipt will be sent)		= _____
Guidebook (member) \$15 x _____		= _____
Guidebook (non-member) \$25 x _____		= _____
Crest \$3 x _____		= _____
Pin \$3 x _____		= _____
T-Shirt \$12 x _____ (size _____)		= _____
Long-Sleeved T-Shirt \$15 x _____ (size _____)		= _____
Sweatshirt \$20 x _____ (size _____)		= _____
Topography Maps \$9 - Call Steve (705) 946-2484		

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make cheques payable and mail to:

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

For non-members, the Guidebook is now available from Pickwick Bookstore, Clean North, Dunn's Authors, and The Trading Post in Sault Ste. Marie, the Travel Information Centres in Wawa and Blind River, the Blind River Public Library, Lake Superior Provincial Park office, Pukaskwa National Park Visitor's Centre, Take a Hike in Thunder Bay, and Mountain Equipment Co-op in Toronto.

(Continued on back -) 11



VTA EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT

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VICE-PRESIDENT - WEST

Peter Stinnissen (705) 856-4270

VICE-PRESIDENT - CENTRAL

Mike Landmark (705) 779-3409

VICE-PRESIDENT - EAST

Dan Wheeler (705) 356-1195

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Dieter Ropke (705) 942-9636

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The VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS is published three times per year. Your articles and submissions are always welcome!

Send them to Linda Badowich, 1748 Queen St. East, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 2H1 or phone (705) 254-5270

e-mail to: lbadowich@sympatico.ca

Submissions for the next issue should be submitted by August 18, 1997.

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 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. **BE A LOW-IMPACT HIKER!**

----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- (clip and mail) ----- ✂ ----- ✂ -----

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:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail development | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter, guidebook, photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hike leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner liaison, records, maps | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization—executive, directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Special events; conferences, dinners | |

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

Section

- Thunder Bay
- Nipigon
- *Schreiber
- Marathon
- Pukaskwa National Park
- *Wawa
- Lake Superior Provincial Park
- Batchewana
- *Harmony Beach/Havilland Bay
- Goulais
- *Sault Ste. Marie
- Echo Bay

Club

- Thunder Bay V.T.C.
- Casque Isles V.T.C.
- Michipicoten V.T.C.
- Saulteaux V.T.C.
- Echo Ridges V.T.C.

Section

- Desbarats
- Thessalon
- Iron Bridge
- Blind River
- Elliot Lake
- Spanish
- Massey
- Espanola
- Little Current
- Sheguiandah
- South Baymouth
- Sudbury

Club

- Desbarats V.T.C.
- Thessalon V.T.C.
- Penewobikong V.T.C.
- Coureurs de Bois V.T.C.
- Rainbow V.T.C.
- Sudbury V.T.C.

