



NO. 105 SPRING 2010

Published by the

VOYAGEUR TRAIL

ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 20040

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Sault Ste. Marie, ON

P6A 6W3

Visit our web site at:

www.voyageurtrail.ca

Email address:

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.

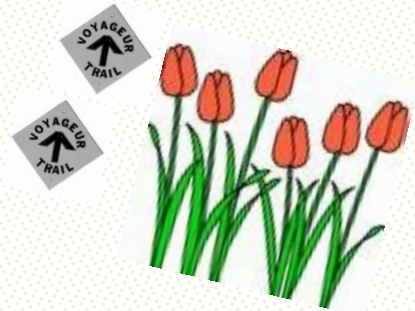
The VTA is a member of Hike Canada En Marche, Hike Ontario, Ontario Trails Council, and Trans Canada Trail.

If you would prefer us to email you a short message when the VTA newsletter is available on our website, just send an email to: cheryl.landmark@sympatico.ca

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VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS



EDITOR: Cheryl Landmark

LAYOUT BY: Dawn Elmore

Back on the Voyageur Trail - by Kas Stone

For many years I made a twice-annual pilgrimage to Lake Superior to hike on the Voyageur Trail. Then suddenly I found myself diverted to other parts of the country by various writing and photographic projects. Several years were devoted to Georgian Bay, doing research for my *Paddling & Hiking* guidebook, followed by a lengthy trip to Quebec's Côte-Nord, Labrador and western Newfoundland in 2007, and a visit to the Gaspé Peninsula in 2008. Now I don't want you feeling sorry for me! It's not that I didn't thoroughly enjoy these expeditions. But at the end of each year I felt I was missing something.

Lake Superior wasn't completely off my radar during that time. In fact, I enjoyed two splendid paddling holidays in the western region of the lake, poking among the islands of the new Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area. But not much hiking.

I set out on the trail last year almost by accident. It was early spring, and I'd spent some time around Thunder Bay, exploring Pigeon River, Ouimet Canyon, Kakabeka Falls and Sleeping Giant Provincial Parks. I was supposed to launch from Silver Islet for a few days of paddling. But the weather was miserable, and if truth be told I'm getting older and more fond of creature comforts, and I just didn't fancy another bitter night on

an isolated cobble beach, struggling with frozen fingers to light the stove for a cup of tea in the morning. So off to the Rosspoint campground I retreated. Nice soft grass under the tent. Picnic table. Comfort station. Flush toilets. Hot showers. And the Casque Isles section of the Voyageur Trail!

The next few days were some of the happiest I've had in ages. I climbed Mount Gwynne and

admired the view, and this time I was able to identify most of the islands (I swear I could see the Battle Island lighthouse tower through my binoculars, though perhaps I was just imagining it). I found the Worthington Bay photographs again, looking only just slightly more faded than they had the last time I was there. I marvelled at the spring flow over Aguasabon Falls and the beautiful cascades down Rainbow Falls. I played with the cobbles on Schreiber Beach – and said a few words of thanks for that brilliant new road that allowed me to *drive* down the hill from town. I scrambled rather more gingerly than I used to over the talus and raised beaches near Lyda Bay (my dog Skye is 10 now, and



One of the new signs along Hwy 17 that promotes hiking on the Casque Isles Trail.

had to be *carried* part of the way). It was like visiting old friends!

Well, the upshot is a feature article, "Hiking and History on the Casque Isles Trail", that *Superior Outdoors* magazine has scheduled for their Summer 2010 edition. I hope it inspires other people to come and see this gorgeous part of the world for themselves – *and* to support the Voyageur Trail Association with membership fees and volunteer efforts. It remains one of my very favourite trails, and one to which I will continue to escape to every chance I get!

Kas Stone is an avid hiker, paddler, photographer and author. www.kasstone.ca.

Betty Nassoiy (1922-2009) *by Dieter and Erica Ropke*

In May 1979 Betty, her husband Duke, Tom Allinson, Erika and I backpacked from the Pic River to Oiseau Bay (Pukaskwa National Park). There were no bridges across the Pic and Willow Rivers and the White River was in spring flood, the trail under water with some serious bushwhacking for our group. Nevertheless it was a memorable trip with its camaraderie and the stunning panorama.

Betty had always looked forward to a long retirement with Duke who, as an Air Force pilot had been away for so much of their married life. It was not to be, as he died in 1983. Betty felt cheated and she was so distraught and needed to mitigate those feelings. She asked Tom Allinson, always a faithful friend, to accompany her on a bushwhacking trip from the mouth of the Red Rock River to Hwy. 17 (L.Superior Prov. Pk.). It was a trip from hell; it rained hard throughout and the terrain was

formidable but it did help her come to grips with what had happened.

Betty made frequent wilderness trips with Robyn, her grandson in the Gulf Islands. She was also an intrepid world traveler and made friends wherever she went.

She had vitality, joy and spontaneous humor. All eyes lit up when she showed up for an outing, she was such good company. Betty was fond of the word 'elegant'. Little did she know that we considered her elegant; she had class.

Over the years we sometimes mused that, with Betty's genes and her laudable lifestyle, we would some day see her photo on the front page of the Chippewa News to celebrate her 105th birthday. The only question being, would we still be around to celebrate that birthday with her.

Betty always had a special relationship with Canada. Her parents were born in Saskatchewan. Betty felt at home here and especially during the 'shrub' years

when she enjoyed talking politics in a country where 'liberal' was not a four-letter-word. Until she got quite ill she was a frequent visitor, often driving home late at night. Even totaling a car in a deer collision and losing another one with electrical faults which even the dealer was unable to fix, you could count on her showing up for the Algoma foreign films.

Betty's demise was a continuum of her life; she aged with grace and died with dignity. 'Life goes on' is more than a cliché. We celebrate who she was and we are all richer for having had her in our lives.

Ed. Note: Betty Nassoiy was a long-time member of the Voyageur Trail Association and lived in Brimley, Michigan. Dieter's and Erika's tale truly captures the spirit of this special woman and echoes the sentiments of all those who had the pleasure to know her. We will think of Betty often, and fondly.



Betty on a 2002 canoe trip along the San Juan River ('4-corners' area of US Southwest).

Snowshoeing on Arctic Ice Flows?? *by Steve Dominy*

Picture this... Sunny skies, temperatures in the high teens, snowshoeing in shirt sleeves. What comes to mind? Whistler in April? Labrador in June? Well, brace yourself – this was the scene on March 13, 2010 at Red Rock along the Voyageur Trail. It wasn't your ordinary outing, either. A very special visitor came along – Aimee Nassoioy. Aimee is Betty Nassoioy's daughter who lives on Lopez Island, Washington.

We were all saddened by Betty's passing in her late 80's on Sept. 2, 2009. Betty had been an injection of free spirit and joie de vivre in Voyageur Trail outings since the 1970s. She and her husband Duke discovered the trail through people like Dieter and Erika Ropke and Tom Allinson. They frequently backpacked together along the Lake Superior coast in Pukaskwa National and Lake Superior Provincial Parks. After Duke's untimely passing in 1983, Betty continued to explore the trail, making (and keeping) new friends on each outing. Her infectious laugh and indomitable attitude made each hike, canoe trip or backcountry ski a sheer pleasure for everyone who could enjoy the pleasure of her company. Dieter and Erika Ropke have captured the essence of what Betty meant to many of us in their tribute in this newsletter. To read more about this special woman visit the Sault Naturalists webpage at <http://soonats.pbworks.com/>.

Having Aimee along on a hike along the Lake Superior coastline was very fitting. Although I had not previously met Aimee, it became immediately clear that she shares her mother's love of adventure. She made the trip across the international bridge alone to join the Saulteaux Section members on this Saturday morning. This was something Betty would have done perhaps hundreds of times in her lifetime, and Aimee knew she was traveling in her mother's footsteps. Ironically, the forecast had been for rain, and yet the sun shone brightly when we started out, and not a cloud was seen all day. There could be no better reflection of Betty's sunny dispo-

sition.

The 17 intrepid explorers that day walked on bare ground from the road to the shoreline, where we witnessed what mighty Lake Superior had been up to over the winter months. Donning snowshoes, we trekked over snow and ice that had been pushed into artistic shapes by the lake. We walked on what resembled snow balls spread out by children having the fight to end all fights, but what was in fact snow that had been carved by the wind and heat from the sun into patterns one dared not disturb by walking on it. There were caves and tunnels in the ice mounds, and many relived their childhood when climbing in and around these. The bare rocks along the treeline were well heated by the noontday sun, thus serving as a lunch spot with near-magnetic properties. The trek-

kers had to be pried off the rocks when the time finally came to retrace our steps. The trail that paralleled the shoreline was mainly bare and reasonably dry, so several folks chose to return on foot via that route. Others continued to work on their winter tans on the snow fields. It turned out to be the last gasp of the 2010 winter, but one of the most memorable snowshoe outings on the Voyageur Trail. This was truly a day for the record books, in more ways than one. The perfect day culminated in an 'après-snowshoe' at Tim Horton's. Thanks to Dieter and Erika Ropke for leading such a wonderful excursion.



Val Walker, Dieter Ropke and Aimee Nassoioy admire Lake Superior's handiwork.



The March 13 outing contingent.



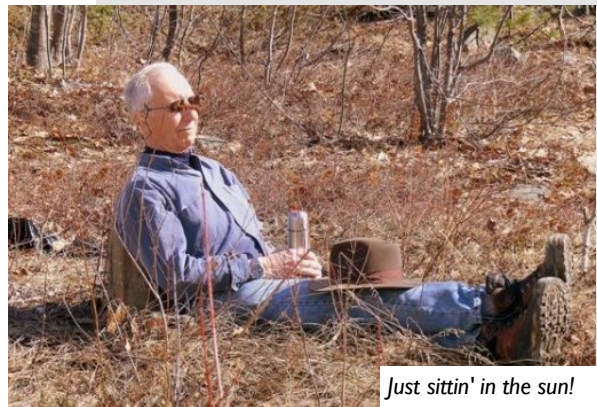
Nature-made snow and ice balls.



An Arctic ice floe?

Coueurs de Bois Club Takes to the Trail *by Phil Barnes, Coueurs de Bois Club*

It's that time of year again. The snow has either hardened into something between ice and slush and the trails are getting wet and muddy. Old logging roads and mining properties are the best bet for hiking and people still want to get out in the fresh air. This year has seen an early end to snowshoeing and skiing with temperatures well above normal. Attendance at most hikes has been very high and last Tuesday, 16th March was no exception for an easy hike on an old logging road near the Elliot Lake airport. 34 hikers turned out, including 2 grandchildren of one member. The track alternated between dry and firm to icy snow in the shadows. Lots of muddy areas in between. We walked in about 3 km. and then had a lunch break alongside the road where a waterfall descends to the road. A sure sign that we will probably have a dry spring is the small volume of water at the falls and very little snow left in the bush.



Outing Schedules

Typical meeting locations: Goodlife building, 589 Second Line East (Second Line side); Market Mall, 275 Second Line West (on Korah Road corner); Churchill Plaza, 150 Churchill Blvd (on Trunk Road between Lake & Wellington Streets) near Beer Store; Wellington Square Mall, 625 Trunk Road, near the now closed restaurant.

Saulteaux Club

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

Sat., May 1st ~ "Go to Blazes" work party on the TAST with Gail (942-0768). Meet at Market Mall at 9:30AM. Tools will be provided.

Sun., May 2nd ~ Robertson Cliffs hike with Mark (254-2356). Meet 10AM in the Goodlife parking lot to car pool.

Sat., May 8th ~ Hike Leader's course at Glenview Cottages. Cost \$25. Contact Dawn at 649-4936 for more info or to register.

Sun., May 9 ~ Annual Mother's Day Hike and Hot Dog Roast at the Wetzl homestead (end of Peoples Road). Bring water, snacks and meet in the Market Mall parking lot at 10AM to car pool.

Sun., May 16 ~ 2nd Annual Geocaching event at Glenview Cottages. 1-4p.m. All required equipment is supplied and no experience is necessary. The event will start with an indoor briefing and end with an après-hike. Pre-registration by May 10 is requested by calling Steve at 946-2484 or e-mailing dominyzhou@sympatico.ca.

Mon., May 17 ~ Saulteaux Club meeting at 7PM in the Civic Centre. Call 942-1891 for more info.

Sun., May 23 ~ Hike with Gayle (942-1891). Please call for meeting place and time.

Sat., May 29 ~ Hike with Doris Welz (942-9466). Please call for meeting place and time.

Sat., June 5 ~ Trout Lake paddle with Mark Crofts. Call 254-2356 for meeting place and time.

Sat. June 12 ~ Opening ceremony for Finn Hill section of HUB trail and Jim Miller dedication ceremony. 10AM-2PM. Jim Miller dedication at 12:00. Call Susan at 949-4105 for info.

***Sun., June 13** ~ Hike in LSPP with Carole & Chris (649-2235). Car pool leaves Goodlife at 9AM. Be prepared to stop for dinner on the way home.

***Sun., June 20** ~ Hike to Pancake Bay lookout with Ila (949-1097). Meet 9:30 AM in the Goodlife parking lot to car pool. Behaved, leashed pets welcome.

***Sat., June 26** ~ Hike in the Bruce Mines area (50 km drive) and potluck to follow with Dieter & Erika (942-9636). Meet at 10AM in the Wellington Square. Please leave your pets at home for this outing.

Sun., July 4 ~ Hike with Gayle (942-1891). Please call for meeting place and time.

***Sat., July 10** ~ Kayak Lake Superior at Montreal River with Mark Crofts. Call 254-2356 for meeting place and time.

***Sat., July 17 and Sun., July 18** Backpack outing to LSPP contact Mike for details at 705-779-3409.

Mon., July 19th ~ Saulteaux Club meeting at 7PM in the Civic Centre. We will plan our fall outing schedule. Call 942-1891 for more info.

Sat., July 24 ~ Hike with Doris (942-9466). Please call for all the details.

Sun., August 1 ~ Hike in the Hiawatha Highlands with Ila (949-1097). Meet 10AM in the Goodlife parking lot to car pool. Behaved pets welcome.

***Sat., August 7** ~ Paddle the Goulais River (2-3 hours) with Carole & Chris (649-2235) and bring a dish to share at potluck afterwards. Call for meeting time and place.

***Sat., August 14** ~ Hike the North Country Trail and swim in Lake Superior afterwards. Bring lunch, water and swimsuit. No pets please. Meet at 9:30AM at the Michigan Welcome Center. Contact Gail at 942-0768 for more info.

***Fri. Aug. 20th to Sun., 22nd** ~ LSPP Mijjin Lake or Gargantua kayak with Mark Crofts. Call 254-2356 for meeting place and time.

***Sun., August 22** ~ Hike to Griffin Lake Peak (3rd highest peak in Ontario and across from Batchewana Mountain). Lots of uphill on this hike! Contact Dawn Elmore at 649-4936 for meeting place and time.



This schedule was put together early and may have last minute changes.

Please call the outing leader listed

to check if any details have changed. This schedule is also on our website:

www.lvoyageurtrail.ca/saulteaux.html

Sun., August 29 ~ Hike with Gayle (942-1891). Please call for meeting place and time.

Mon., Sept. 6th ~ Labour Day family hike with Gayle (942-1891). Behaved pets welcome. Call for meeting place and time.

SuperiorOutdoors

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Voyageur Trail Association

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Voyageur Trail Association is on Wikipedia *by Steve Dominy*

The Voyageur Hiking Trail is now included in the Wikipedia Encyclopaedia. An article giving an overview of the trail and its history has been started under the title "Voyageur Hiking Trail, Ontario, Canada". Surprisingly, if you search Voyageur Trail online you'll find a number of hits, so this title distinguishes our trail.

Members are invited to review the article and improve it. This is a place where you can include the types of information you think others would be interested in reading. The article is a work in progress, and is written by anyone who takes an interest in the Trail. Please tell your friends, and let your Coordinating Council know what you think. The URL is: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voyageur_Hiking_Trail,_Ontario,_Canada.

Guidebook Updates

UPDATE to the 2007 GUIDEBOOK DESCRIPTION for Penewobikong section where it meets the Coureurs de Bois (Elliot Lake) section (Page 130, approx. km 44.0 to 45.5):

Following text to be inserted just add new after ...between Intersect and Granary Lakes (and replacing all following text).

"Follow it N for 100m until meeting a blue side trail that heads east up a rocky ridge. Continue following the white blazes N on the portage trail for approx. 500m. The trail is quite steep here, notice a rock face and talus slope through the trees to the East. At the bottom of the hill meet an ATV trail. Turn E and follow for approx. 900m (there are some very wet sections) and continue until you cross Intersect Creek. This is the end of the Penewobikong Section."

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Jeanette Biemann | Barton Thomson |
| Malcolm Bridgen | Sonya Tuomi |
| Justin Campbell | Austin Walker |
| Rick Cathrae | Laurie Walker |
| Pam Cathrae | Ryan Walker |
| Ray Charron | Mike Walker |
| Adam Collins | Wendy Walker |
| Vicki Collins-Therault | Laura Waters |
| Linda Coulter | Tim Waters |
| Joy Croft | Emily Waters |
| Bill Elliott | Maggie Waters |
| Chris Filioglou | Chris John |
| Marcel Gagnon | Cleghorn |
| Don Harvey | Ian Laws |
| Melissa Hemy | Donna Hakansson |
| Philip Hemy | Brigitte Orchard |
| Jackie Hemy | Barbara Cloughley |
| Alison Hemy | Dave Rogers |
| Erika Holmberg | Anita McConnell |
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| Shirley Mantyla | Ruth Beaumont |
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| Murry McLean | Allan Rutherford |
| Gene Monin | Charlotte |
| David Ness | Rutherford |
| Otto M. Pedersen | |
| Cathie Randell | |
| Hannah Randell | |
| Corey Randell | |
| Matthew Therault | |
| Christine Thomson | |

VTA MARKETPLACE

FOR SALE
CURRENT DESIGN KAYAK
Asking \$800.00
Call 705-949-1302

FOR SALE
Land along the Tom Allinson Side Trail beside Lake Superior
517-896-9815

FOR SALE
Land between A2 and A3 of the Saulteaux section by the Walls Lake Area
403-341-5390

VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FORM

(please print)

*Name(s): _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ Prov./State: _____ Postal/Zip Code: _____
 Please check one: New Member Renewal Phone (home): _____
 (work/cell): _____ Email Address: _____

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

- Individual—\$25.00 = _____
- Family or Group—\$30.00 = _____
- (*please provide names)
- Student (full-time) - \$10.00 = _____
- Donations (tax receipt will be sent) = _____
- Charitable Reg. #119261923RR0001
- VTA Crest—\$3.00 = _____
- 2007 Guidebook**: _____
- Members \$25 = _____
- Non-Members \$35 = _____

(*limit of 2 per member)
 Shipping for mailed guidebooks—\$8.00 = _____
 For topography maps, call Steve at 705-946-2484
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED = _____

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 Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6W3
 12/09 *cont'd on back*



Please send my VTA newsletter via:
 Reminder to upload pdf from VTA web site.
 Email address: _____



The Voyageur Trail News is published three times per year. Your articles and photos are welcome!

Deadline for the next issue is August 1, 2010.

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 can be copied if credit is given to the Voyageur Trail Association.

We're on the Web!
www.voyageurtrail.ca

Contacts:

Casques Isles: Doug Stefurak 807-824-2724

Marathon:

Volunteer contact needed

Michipicoten: Andy Stevens 705-856-2884

Saulteaux: Gayle Philips 705-942-1891

Bruce Mines/Thessalon: Volunteer contact needed

Penewobikong: Joanne Marck 705-843-2199

Coueurs de Bois: Phill Barnes 705-848-8767

Voyageur Trail News—Spring 2010



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Data Management -

Bob Sinclair 705-946-3126

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Alternate (vacant)

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Alan Day (Acting) 705-848-8776

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Debbie Morettin 705-785-3247

Guidebook Committee -

Steve Dominy 705-946-2484



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

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 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!!



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 falling 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:

- ◇ TRAIL DEVELOPMENT
- ◇ HIKE LEADER
- ◇ ORGANIZATION—EXECUTIVE, DIRECTORS
- ◇ SORRY NOT AT THIS TIME
- ◇ TRAIL MAINTENANCE
- ◇ LANDOWNER LIAISON, RECORDS, MAPS
- ◇ SPECIAL EVENTS, CONFERENCES, DINNERS
- ◇ NEWSLETTER, GUIDEBOOK, PHOTOGRAPHY
- ◇ PUBLICITY COMMITTEE



- ◇ 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 a member of the following club _____.

