

The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1998

ISSUE NO. 107



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The Rideau Trail Newsletter is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December by the Rideau Trail Association. **The Editors of this issue are Lynn Nolan and Lars Thompson for the Kingston Rideau Trail Club.**

Submissions for the next newsletter are encouraged and should be sent, to arrive by **May 1 1998**, to:

R. John Haley
433 Viewmount Drive
Nepean, Ontario, K2E 7P1 Telephone: (613) 225-0590

Text should be typed or handwritten. Pictures are welcome and, although colour photographs with good definition can be reproduced, black and white photographs are preferred because they print more clearly.

Unless otherwise stated, the opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Rideau Trail Association.

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Page 13

Courtesy of

Peck Peckover
Jean Thompson
Norm McLeod

Subject

Elevator Bay, Icestorm'98
Norm McLeod, 1994
Photo Bedford Mills, 1984

KINGSTON CLUB AGM

Saturday, May 2, 1998 at 9:30 a.m. at the Little Cataraqui Conservation Area Outdoor Centre.

Program:

9:30 Coffee

10:00 Business Meeting

12:30 Brown Bag Lunch

With hikes to follow

Cold drinks and hot chocolate are available from the snack bar. Members requiring transportation should meet at Sears 09:15.

OTTAWA CLUB AGM

Friday, April 24, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. at the Glebe St. James United Church, 650 Lyon Street South, Ottawa.

Program:

7:00 p.m. Coffee and Tea

7:30 p.m. Business Meeting

9:15 p.m. Guest speaker and slide presentation (to be announced)

BED AND BREAKFAST OUTING

June 16 and 17 are the dates for hiking in the Westport area and visiting some Rideau Canal Locks. There is a limit of 12, and the cut-off date is June 14. For information call Cathy or Donald Cutts, 542-5414.

TRAIL CLOSURE

The Rideau Trail, where it crosses private land, will close Tuesday, March 31, 1998. This action is necessary to protect the landowners who generously allow us to cross their land the remainder of the year. Please take care not to trespass on this day.

KINGSTON CLUB INFORMATION NIGHT

The Kingston Club will be holding an Information Night on Thursday April 23 at the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library on Johnson Street from 7:30 to 10:00. While this event is primarily for the benefit of non-members, members are welcome to attend and are encouraged to bring friends who may be interested in joining the Rideau Trail Association.

For additional information please call Peck Peckover at 544-9190.

OTTAWA OPPORTUNITIES

Anyone who has expertise, skills, or special knowledge relating to a particular area or subject, who would be willing to share this from time to time with other hikers, is asked to let Bill Grant know by calling him at 820-0697. You don't need to be a hike leader for this.

The Ottawa Club is looking for a member to assist the Newsletter Editor with the distribution of the Newsletter. This requires an organized approach for a few hours at the end of February, May, August, and November. Please contact John Haley at 225-0590 for more information.

Membership Year Ends March 31, 1998

Please note that in order to reduce postage costs, the newsletter is no longer mailed in an envelope. This means that our old membership renewal card can no longer be included in the newsletter. Please remember to renew your membership as soon as possible using the membership form on page 16.

Many thanks.

TRAIL CHANGES CENTRAL

By Linda Hayes
Trail Co-ordinator

Under Map 7 Smiths Falls, replace the current text under the heading 55.0 Smiths Falls beginning "The Trail turns right onto Elmsley Street..." with the following:

The Trail turns right off Lanark Road #43 (Cornelia Street) onto William Street West, then follows William for 800 metres, proceeding past the Smiths Falls Railway Museum. Bearing right onto Abbott Street, it crosses the Rideau River on the Abbott Street Bridge. Note: there is ample parking in the Parks Canada lot on the west side of the road. Observe the optical illusion of boats sailing on the canal apparently moving uphill in the easterly (downstream) direction. Past the bridge, the Trail turns left into the town's and Parks Canada's public park system, recrossing the Rideau River on two foot-bridges to reach the north bank and the town's public swimming area. Toilets and drinking water are available here in season. The Trail continues along the north bank of the canal skirting Centennial and Memorial Parks then, just past the lock house, crosses over the Combined Locks (one of only three automated lock systems in the Rideau Waterway) and the old locks they replaced in 1974, to reach the south bank of the canal system. Here the Trail intersects the recreational pathway, turns left, and follows the paved path under Beckwith Street South and along the river to Lower Reach Park, finally reaching Old Slys Road. Note: parking, and toilets and drinking water in season, are available on the north side of the road bridge crossing over the canal system.

58.5 Old Slys Road

The Trail crosses Old Slys Road and into a small park flanking the Heritage House Museum. Turning left through this park, it

crosses the Rideau River over a waste weir dam, and the Rideau Canal over the lower of the two Old Slys Locks, beneath the VIA Rail overpass. Turning right and proceeding along the edge of the lock, the Trail enters the woods for 100 metres, turns left, and ascends the bank, passing on private land along the chainlink fence surrounding the Smiths Falls sewage treatment plant to reach Lanark Road #43 (Queen Street). Crossing the busy highway (please use caution), the Trail follows Hershey Drive past the Hershey chocolate factory (tours are available), crosses Lorne Street, and continues along Alice Street to Third Street, turns left on Third to Rideau Avenue South, right on Rideau to King Street, left on King to Smiths Falls Avenue, and right on Smiths Falls to reach Chambers Street at the CP mainline railway underpass.

This text is incorporated into the Fifth Edition of the Rideau Trail Guidebook, due for publication in May 1998.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Larry Crosley

The Ottawa Club notes with regret the death of former member Larry Crosley. Mr. Crosley was a noted composer who provided musical scores for many films; perhaps the best known was *The Man Who Skied Down Everest* which won an Academy Award for Best Feature Documentary. Larry donated his talent to the RTA by composing the music for the Rideau Trail Audio/visual package, recording the narration, and combining the music, narration and electronic slide cues into a single tape which runs the AV package. He died on January 24 of ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

by Linda Hayes

KINGSTON CLUB ACTIVITIES

The meeting place for all activities, unless stated otherwise, is the northwest corner of Sears parking lot, before the departure time indicated. Wednesday walkers depart at 13:30, except on the second Wednesday of the month, when an all day outing is scheduled. Bring lunch, water and sun screen if required. Wear strong footwear and come prepared for weather changes. If in doubt about your ability to cope with the outing, call the leader in advance.

Car pooling will be organized. There is no gas allowance but contributions to the driver for gas would be appreciated together with entrance fees to Provincial Parks and Conservation Areas, when applicable. If asked, the Leader will suggest an appropriate amount.

Leaders are reminded to send attendance lists to Helga Wennerstrand, 207-67 Village Drive, Kingston, ON, K7K 6K6. Members willing to be leaders for the summer season, or who wish to suggest new locations to hike, are asked to contact Carol Cain at 548-4556 or Watson Ogilvie at 530-2378 before the end of April.

Sunday Mar 8 Rideau Trail

Hike the Billy Green Road from Maple Leaf Road to the woods. Easy terrain, approx 12 km. Level 1. Departs 09:30.

LEADER: Peck Peckover 544-9190

Wednesday Mar 11

Hike and location to depend on trail and weather conditions. Level 1. Departs 09:30.

LEADER: Jean Thompson 544-0340

Saturday Mar 14 Opinicon Area

Ski or hike the Opinicon Area. Ski dependent upon snow conditions. Level 2+. Departs 09:00.

LEADER: Allan Tattersall 549-4080

Saturday Mar 21 Pot Luck Party

The time is 6 p.m. For location and what to bring please call Peggy Harding at 546-7202 or Lynn Nolan at 389-8747.

Sunday Mar 22 Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area

Hike or possibly ski or snowshoe (dependent upon conditions) with a brown bag lunch in the Outdoor Centre. Suitable for all levels, equipment rental available. 14 km. Departs 09:00.

LEADERS: Murray Henderson (snowshoers) 546-9906, Carol Cain (skiers) 548-4556

Saturday Mar 28 Gould Lake

Dependent upon weather conditions, hike from Desert Lake Road to the Gould Lake barn and return. 12-15 km Level 3. Departs 09:30.

LEADER: Audrey Sanger 384-6244

Tuesday Mar 31 Membership Year Ends

Please renew your membership now using the form provided on page 16 in order to continue receiving your copy of the newsletter.

Sunday Apr 5 Foley Mountain Area

Hike the Trail starting from the Lions Club Beach. 13 km. Level 2. Departs 09:30.

LEADER: Dale Ross 384-2959

Saturday Apr 11 Wait'n See Hike

Hike dependent upon conditions. Approx. 15 km. Level 3. Departs 09:00.

LEADER: Gloria Seeley 546-2503

Sunday Apr 19 Rideau Trail

Hike from Sydenham to the Gould Lake Barn and return. 14 km. Level 1. Departs 09:00.

LEADER: Peter Murray 382-2824

Saturday Apr 25 Depot Lakes

Hike the area's lakeside trails. Approx 10 km. Level 2. Departs Sears at 09:30 or meet at the Conservation Area entrance at 10:15.

LEADER: Bob Chadwick 352-1052

Saturday May 2 Kingston Club Annual General Meeting

See notice on page three for details.

Sat May 9 Rideau Trail Highlight Hike #1

See details on page 12. Departs 09:30.

LEADERS: Watson Ogilvie 530-2378
Audrey Sanger 384-6244

Wednesday May 13 Sandbanks Prov. Pk.

Hike the varied terrain and check out the spring flowers and migrating birds. Level 1. Departs 09:15 or join us on the 10:15 ferry at Adolphustown.

LEADER: Bob Chadwick 352-1052

Thursday May 14 Indoor Wall Climbing

Try out this fun sport at the Boiler Room, 4 Cataraqui St., in Kingston, 19:00 to 22:30. Group rate \$15 plus GST (including shoes). No climbing experience necessary. Call Dale to register by May 1st.

ORGANIZER: Dale Ross 384-2959

Sunday May 17 Gould Lake Cons. Area

Hike the main trail with a stop at Ridge Rock before the bugs realize its Spring and you're lunch! Level 2+. 13 - 15 km. Departs 09:00.

LEADER: Allan Tattersall 549-4080

Saturday May 23 Bicycle Trip

An Easy bike trip to Cape Vincent, N.Y. Meet at the Wolfe Island ferry dock at 09:15 to catch 09:30 ferry. Bring proper identification for entry to U.S. and return to Canada.

LEADER: Watson Ogilvie 530-2378

Sun May 24 Rideau Trail Highlight Hike #2

See details on page 12. Departs 09:00.

Kingston Coordinator: Murray Henderson 546-9906

Sunday May 31 Gould Lake Cons. Area

Hike the East side trails 12 km. Level 2. Departs 09:30.

LEADERS: Lynda and Brian Rook 634-2510

Sat Jun 6 Rideau Trail Highlight Hike #3

Details on page 12. Departs 09:00. Kingston Coordinator: Gloria Seeley 546-2503

Sat/Sun Jun 6/7 Canoe Trip

An overnight shake-down cruise for up-scale canoe tripping. Annual pilgrimage to Harte Lake and environs. Space is limited; book ahead with trip leader before May 31 to coordinate crews and gear. Departs 09:00.

LEADER: Allan Tattersall 549-4080

Wednesday Jun 10 Quinte Cons. Area

Hike the loop trails and other trails in the Belleville-Quinte area. Level 1. Departs 09:00, or meet at 10:00 at the area, 5 km west of Belleville at the northwest corner of Highway #2 and County Road 1.

LEADER: Bob Chadwick 352-1052

Sunday Jun 14 Frontenac Park

Hike the Gibson Lake Loop. 17 km. Level 2+. Departs 08:30.

LEADER: Murray Henderson 546-9906

Sunday Jun 21 Rideau Trail Highlight #4

See details on page 12. Departs 09:30.

LEADER: Klaus Stegemann 542-5375

KINGSTON CAMP/CANOE/HIKE WEEKEND

Last August the 8th, 13 campers set up their tents on one of Bon Echo's secluded group sites beginning what proved to be a most enjoyable weekend. Ray Forester led the Saturday canoe trip and Lynn Nolan the hiking venture along the Abes and Essens Trails. A Sunday paddle along the base of the cliffs to see the petroglyphs was followed by a climb to the cliff top to view the lake and Bon Echo park. A paddle, swim, and lunch on Joe Perry Lake completed the outing.

A weekend can be arranged again for Summer'98. Please give me a call to indicate your interest, and some suggestions, by early April when the parks begin taking registrations, and Ray and I will see what can be coordinated. Lynn Nolan 389-8747.

CENTRAL CLUB ACTIVITIES

The spring outings will be devoted to getting the trails back in order after the ice storm. We will all have to pull together to complete this mammoth task. We request that trail maintainers report their section of the trails they maintain as soon as possible and advise Don Sherwin at 613-264-0759 of any help they may need. As usual, we will meet at Conlon Farm unless otherwise indicated. Conlon Drive is the third road on the right off County Road 10 heading out of Perth towards Westport. You are reminded to bring a lunch, plenty of water and to wear suitable clothing and accessories for the occasion. For further details or to leave a message call 613-264-8338.

Saturday Mar 14 Mount Pakenham

Time to test the nerves on the x-country ski course. Level 3. Meet at Conlon Farm at 10:00. Peg Leg John Miller 264-8824

Tuesday Mar 31 Membership Year Ends

Please renew your membership now using the form on page 16. The RTA appreciates your continued support.

Sundays Apr 5, 12, 19. All Hands on Deck.

We will spend three days surveying our trail section and setting a maintenance plan to bring our trails up to par. As we are a small group we will need your assistance to carry out this task. Please bring a maintenance instrument you feel comfortable using. Please participate in at least one of these days. Meet at Conlon Farm at 10:00. Maint. Co-ord. Don Sherwin 264-0759

Saturday Apr 25 Maintenance Day

Maintenance on areas identified on our earlier reconnaissance. Bring your clippers etc. to ensure that we can enjoy some hiking in May. Ottawa and Kingston maintainers are requested to assist us. Meet at Conlon Farm at 10:00. Dir. of Maintenance: Don Sherwin 264-0759

Sun. May 3 Mill of Kintail and Morris Isld.

Join our ramble to some small points of interest in Lanark County. Our day will culminate with an English Tea or Petersons ice cream in Almonte. Level 1-. Meet at Conlon Farm at 10:00. Ramble with Wanda Pelletier 267-3630

Sat May 16 Ferrier Rd to Long Lake Rd.

The spring flowers will be out and we can hike the most interesting and scenic part of the whole trail. Level 2-. Meet at Conlon Farm at 10:00.

Birthday Boy: Don Sherwin 264-0759 or 268-2447

Sun May 31 Foley Mtn. to Narrows Locks

It's been two years since we held our spring 'welcome back the birds hike' and we are sure that this has had an effect on the volume of chirping in the valley. We are sorry and wish to make amends this year. Level 2. Meet at Conlon Farm 10:00. Birdman: John Miller 264-8824

Sunday Jun 7 Park Lake.

We will try again to find a way to explore this interestingly secluded and picturesque paradise near the Village of Poland. Level 2+. Meet at Conlon Farm at 10:00. Get lost in paradise with: John Miller 264-8824

Weekend June 20/21 Dave's surprise on Morton Creek.

Plans are under way to lily dip in or out of a canoe from Jones Falls to Charleston Lake. Come and join us! Leave Saturday morning and stay Saturday night in a Chalet in Delta. We need to reserve the Chalet so commitments must be made by May 24 (cancellation fee would apply). One portage on the 1st day and 2 portages on the 2nd. Meeting place to be announced at time of booking.

Morton and Wise: David Miller 826-2336

Saturday June 27 Purdon Conservation Area

A joint hike with Ottawa Club to see the Lady Slipper Orchids and more. The hike has become no longer a mystery and as we can now easily find our way it is time to change! Level 3-. Meet at Conlon Farm at 9:30 or Sylvania Lodge at 10:00. Orchid wader: John Miller 264-8824.

OTTAWA CLUB ACTIVITIES

The activities described below take place as scheduled regardless of the weather. The rendezvous point for hikes is the entrance to the parking lot at the corner of Booth and Albert Streets in Ottawa **UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED** at the departure time indicated. Transportation is by pooling of private cars, and passengers are asked to contribute to the driver's gas cost.

Parking at Booth and Albert is courtesy of Allpark. Hikers should bring a lunch, drinking water, sun and insect protection and should wear appropriate footwear and clothing. Leaders, please give or send sign up sheet to Ruth Hutchinson, 168-2111 Montreal Rd., Gloucester, Ontario K1J 8M8. For more information about a particular event, call the leader at the number listed below. If you have trouble reaching a leader, or for general information, call the Ottawa Club at 730-2229. Participants are expected to: Select a trip suitable to their physical ability and skill level. Inform the leader prior to the event of any health problems or possible difficulties with their equipment. Respect all financial obligations. Volunteer leaders will expect the support and cooperation of each group member. Parents and guardians are expected to supervise their children.

Wednesday Walkers. Every Wednesday there are Level 3 hikes in the Gatineau Park. Departure time is 09:30. Call Dorothy Belter (523-4420) or Nanette Whitwam (730-5417) for more information.

The Moonlighters. Every Tuesday evening from April 28 to late August there will be a short Level 1-2 hike, usually in the Gatineau, always within a 30 minute drive. Meet at Booth and Albert by 17:55 to depart at 18:00 sharp. Hikes last until sunset or shortly after (20:00 - 21:00). Bring water, snack, bug repellent, and flashlight. Coordinator: Laraine Laughland (723-8851)

Wednesday Wanderers (Evenings)

Same format as the moonlighters (above) but west of Ottawa (Greenbelt, Rideau Trail. etc.). Wednesdays starting 27 May. Meet at the Baseline Transitway Station Park 'n Ride to depart at 18:45. Leader: David Spector (829-6802).

The Sierra Club - Ottawa Chapter organizes outings that may interest you. For more information phone 241-4611 or write Suite 412, 1 Nicholas Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7.

Note: Because of damage caused by the ice storm, trail conditions are uncertain at printing time. Leaders will vary the hikes according to the conditions on the day. Please contact the leader a few days prior to the hike if you have urgent questions.

Sunday, March 15

Gatineau Park, hike or ski, Level 2. Depart 9:00.
Leader: John Barron 828-2296

Saturday, March 21

Gatineau Park, Level 2. Probably a ski. Depart 9:30. Leader: Bud Masse 235-4670

Sunday, March 22

Gatineau Park, Level 2. Hike or ski depending on conditions. Depart 9:30.
Leader: Andrew Macdonald 235-8569

Sunday, March 29

Gatineau Park, Level 2. Hike or ski depending on conditions. Depart 9:30.
Leader: Bill Shannon 722-6407

Tuesday, March 31

Registration deadline for Easter weekend trip with the Ottawa Rambling Club. Contact Gregory Stack at 741-5378 or write to Ottawa Rambling Club, Box 587, Station B, Ottawa, K1P 5P7

MARCH 31ST - PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP USING THE FORM ON PAGE 16.

Saturday, April 4

Urban walk or hike, depending on conditions.
 Level 1, probably wet, maybe through snow.
 Depart 9:00.
 Leader: Alex Bissett 828-4363

Sunday, April 5

Sugar Bush, Fulton's in Pakenham. Level 0 to 1.
 Pancakes, followed by short walk through the
 maple groves. Depart 10:00.
 Leader: Lucy Petraroja 731-3533

Monday, April 6

Call to reserve a space for pot luck brunch and
 walk Saturday April 11.
 Contact: Caroline Whaley 726-0237.

April 10 - 13 Weekend Trip with the Ottawa Rambling Club

The Ottawa Rambling Club is planning an Easter
 weekend (10-13 April) hiking trip to Frontenac
 County and is negotiating a group package rate
 (accommodation and meals) with The Opinicon,
 Chaffey's Locks. Reservation deadline is 31
 March. Contact Gregory Stack at 741-5378 or
 write to Ottawa Rambling Club, Box 587, Station
 B, Ottawa, K1P 5P7.

Saturday, April 11

Pot luck brunch. Call by April 6 to reserve a
 space and to coordinate menu. 10:00 am brunch
 followed by walk in the Greenbelt.
 Leader: Caroline Whaley 726-0237

Saturday, April 18

Frontenac Park, Level 1, about 13 km. Little
 Clear Lake loop. Depart 8:30.
 Leader: David Spector 829-6802

Gatineau Park, Level 2. Probably on trail but
 route dependent on conditions. Depart 9:30.
 Leader: Ann Bolster 521-6354

Sunday, April 19

Gatineau Pk. (probably), Level 2-. Destination
 dependent on conditions. Depart 9:30.

Leader: Barbara Kreiger 235-0604

Carman Trails, Level 2, 12 km. Depart 9:30.
 Leader: Peter Scott 729-9557

Friday, April 24 Ottawa Club Annual General Meeting

Details on page 3.

Saturday, April 25

Plaisance, Level 1, less than 10 km. View migrat-
 ing Canada geese at conservation area and walk to
 a spectacular waterfall. Possible small trail fee.
 Depart 9:30.
 Leader: Bob Bennett 749-7440.

Gatineau Park Level 2. About 10 km. Wolfe
 Trail. Probably muddy. Soup after in Old
 Chelsea. Depart 9:30.
 Leader: Ruth Hutchinson 749-0990

Cycling, Level 1+. Aylmer via bike path (3-4 hr).
 Bring lunch or snack. Depart 10:00.
 Leader: Elizabeth Mason 729-6596

Sunday, April 26

Greenbelt, Stoney Swamp, Level 1+. Possible
 wet areas. Depart: 10:00.
 Leader: Jean Cottam 726-1596

Gatineau Park, Level 2. About 12 km. King
 Mountain, spectacular views. Depart 9:30.
 Leader: Bev Armstrong 738-0310

Thursday, April 30

Register for May 15 to May 18 weekend trip with
 the Adirondak Club, Day Hiking in New
 Hampshire's White Mountains. Contact Cliff
 Daly at (613) 834-1851 for more information.

Saturday, May 2

Russell to Embrum, return. Level 1, 10 - 12 km
 on former railway line. Possible stop at tea room
 in Russell after the hike. Depart 10:00.
 Leader: Kay Méthot 526-5589

Saturday May 2

Gatineau Park, Level 2, 14 km. Kennedy Road (P17) Depart 9:30.

Leader: Gary Kyer 748-0373

Sunday, May 3

Gatineau Park, Level 2, 15 km. Enjoy the spring flowers. Depart 9:30.

Leader: Jean Sunter 828-6077

Leader Training. Learn or practice leadership techniques during a level 2 EVENTFUL HIKE in the Gatineau. All welcome, novice to expert. Depart 9:30.

Organizer: John Barron 828-2296

Registration deadline for the Ottawa Rambling Club Victoria Day weekend (16-18 May).

Contact Gregory Stack at 741-5378 or write to Ottawa Rambling Club, Box 587, Station B, Ottawa, K1P 5P7.

Saturday, May 9

Introduce a friend to the Ottawa Rideau Trail hiking club. Executive members will be available to answer questions. Please encourage potential members to attend.

Bluebird Acres, Westport, Level 1-. Picnic lunch and 3 km guided nature tour in the afternoon - suitable for families. Cost for guided tour: Adults, \$2; children 5-12, 50¢; under 5, free. Depart 10:30.

Leader: Bill Grant 820-0697

Rideau Trail near Westport and Bluebird Acres, Level 2. 6 km hike on Foley Mountain in the morning, picnic lunch and 3 km guided nature tour in the afternoon. Cost for guided tour: Adults, \$2; children 5-12, 50¢; under 5, free. Depart 9:00.

Leader: Pearl Peterkin 747-2985

Saturday, May 9

Rideau Trail Highlight #1. See details on page 12. Depart Ottawa 8:00.

Sunday, May 10

Mer Bleue, Level 1. Maximum 10 km. Be prepared for wet ground and bugs. Depart: 9:30.

Leader: Linda Hayes 749-9537

Gatineau Park, Level 3. Wolf Trail to the South Window, some bushwhacking. 16 km. Depart: 8:00.

Leader: Dave Wardell 722-3752

Cycle tour with brunch at the Aylmer Marina. Depart 9:30.

Leaders: Barri and Dennis Scully 565-7710

May 15 - 18 Weekend Trips - with Adirondak Club and Ottawa Rambling Club

Friday, May 15 to Monday, May 18 Day Hiking in New Hampshire's White Mountains, Wayside Inn, Bethlehem, NH. Arriving at the Wayside Inn in Bethlehem on Friday evening, we day hike in the White Mountains on Saturday and Sunday, an intermediate/difficult on each day and perhaps an easy hike on Monday, or hike on your own!

Includes 3 nights accommodation, 2 full dinners, 3 full breakfasts, 2 pack lunches, all meal tips and all taxes. Estimate \$250-\$300 per person, double occupancy.

Must register by 30 April 1998. Contact Cliff Daly at (613) 834-1851 for more information.

The Ottawa Rambling Club has scheduled a Victoria Day weekend (16-18 May) hiking trip to the Lake Placid region of the Adirondaks, with accommodation and meals at the Whiteface Chalet. Reservation deadline is May 3. Contact Gregory Stack at 741-5378 or write to Ottawa Rambling Club, Box 587, Station B, Ottawa, K1P 5P7.

Saturday, May 16

Gatineau Park, Level 2. O'Brien to MacDonald Bay. 12 to 14 km. Depart: 9:30.

Leader: Laraine Laughland 723-8851

Sunday, May 17

Gatineau Park, Level 2. Destination dependent upon weather conditions. Depart 9:30.
Leader: Patrick Clarkin 729-2737

Saturday, May 23

Gatineau Park, Level 1+. 10 - 12 km. Lac Phillippe area. Depart 9:30.
Leader: Millicent Toombs 521-6693

Gatineau Park, Level 3. About 20 km.
Possible wet sections. Depart 8:00.
Leader: John Haley 225-0590

Sunday, May 24

Rideau Trail Highlight # 2. See details on page 12. Depart Ottawa 9:30
Leader: Nanette Whitwam 730-5417

Saturday, May 30

Wild Flower Walk, Level 1, 10 - 12 km. Bell Corners area. Depart: 9:00.
Leaders: Wilf and Mary Bradnock 829-1403

Rideau Trail, Level 2. About 12 km.
Frontenac Park Trail Centre to Gould Lake, rocky and hilly. Depart 8:30.
Leader: David Spector 829-6802

Sunday, May 31

Morris Island, Level 1. About 8 km.
Refreshment stop after. Depart 10:00.
Leader: Bill Grant 820-0697

Gatineau Park, Level 2. Route dependent on conditions. Depart: 9:30.
Leader: Patrick Clarkin 729-2737

Cycling, Level 2, 90 km. Roads and bike paths to Pinhay's Point. Depart 9:00.
Leader: Bill Armstrong 737-3567

Saturday, June 6

Rideau Trail Highlight # 3. See details on page 12. Depart Ottawa 9:30

Saturday, June 6

Cycling, Level 2, 70 km. To Stittsville. Meet at Champlain Bridge (leave cars at Booth and Albert). Depart 9:30. Please confirm meeting place and date with the leader.
Leader: Coby Fuykschot 722-6022

Sunday, June 7

Rideau Trail, Level 2, about 14 km. Munster Road to Roger Stevens Road, possibly wet .
Depart 9:00.
Leader: Ron Hunt 736-9887

Cycling, Level 2, 65 km. To Manotick via bike paths and roads. Depart 9:30.
Leader: John Barron 828-2296

Saturday, June 13

Gatineau Park, Level 1. Black Lake to Boureoise Lake. Short day but bring lunch.
Depart 9:30.
Leader: Laraine Laughland 723-8851

Cycling, Level 2. 70 km. Cycling paths and roads to Old Chelsea. Depart 8:00.
Leader: Dave Wardell 722-3752

Sunday, June 14

Greenbelt Stoney Swamp area, Level 1.
Depart: 10:00.
Leader: Jim Fish 599-4806.

Gatineau Park, Level 2+. Lac Renaud to Twin Lakes. About 10 km. Some bushwhacking.
Depart 9:30.
Leader: Gerry Schut 746-4548

Sunday, June 21

Rideau Trail Highlight # 4. See details on page 12. Depart Ottawa 8:00.

Saturday, June 27

Purdon Bog Hike with Central Club. More details in next newsletter. Leader: John Miller 264-8338

1998 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RIDEAU TRAIL SYSTEM

The 1998 Highlights of the Rideau Trail system is a joint venture between the Ottawa, Kingston and Central Clubs of the Rideau Trail Association. The hikes are long and Level 2 or 3, and should be attempted only by individuals in good physical condition. Long drives and car shuttles are required so plan for a late return.

The arrangements and meeting places are the same as for each local clubs' normal hikes. The leader is appointed by the club responsible for the trail segment being covered. The other clubs appoint a coordinator to make transportation arrangements from their location. For more information about any hike, call the leader or coordinator in your city.

Coordinators, contact your leader for details such as rendezvous points and confirmation of times.

Saturday May 9

Rideau Trail System Highlight #1. Perth Road to Frontenac Park Trail Centre. Rugged. Level 3, 15 km.

Leaders: Watson Ogilvie 530-2378 and Audrey Sanger 384-6244. Ottawa Coordinator: Ken Buckingham 234-5543

Sunday May 24

Rideau Trail System Highlight #2. Dwyer Hill Road to Roger Stevens Road, including the Earth Star Loop. Level 2, 13 km. Leader: Nanette Whitwam 730-5417. Kingston Coordinator: Murray Henderson 546-9906

Saturday June 6

Rideau Trail System Highlight #3. Rosedale to Dwyer Hill Road. Level 2, 17 km. Road allowances and trails. Some muddy sections. Leader: Ron Maybury 836-2953. Kingston Coordinator: Gloria Seeley 546-2503

Sunday June 21

Rideau Trail System Highlight #4. Slide Lake Loop, Level 3, 13km. Rugged trail, possible swim. Leader: Klaus Stegemann 542-5375. Ottawa Coordinator: Mayilyn Booth 730-3879

HIKES ARE GRADED WITH THE FOLLOWING LEVELS

1 Suitable for beginners. Well defined trails, gentle inclines. Hiking boots not required, but trails may be very wet.

2 Generally on trail. May include hills, light bushwhacking, some rough spots or obstacles. Boots recommended.

3 Rough terrain, difficult hiking and extensive bushwhacking. Boots, Level 2 experience, and a high level of fitness essential. Long pants and sleeves recommended.

ICE, TREES, AND THE RIDEAU TRAIL

by Bill Grant

Setting aside the inconvenience and, in more than a few cases, tragic aspects of the recent ice storm, the most evident and long-lasting effects are what has happened to the trees. The full effects on the trail will only be known in the spring, but we can assume that with many fewer trees standing, there will be ecological effects. For example, because of the increased sunlight, the wildflower pattern will change and animal life will be affected by the vegetation changes. In short, the trail and its surroundings will be quite different.

Those members who have been in the bush right after the storm will have seen that the trail could not be followed because of the fallen trees and branches and that any trails not clearly marked might as well have not been there at all.

It occurred to me therefore that the long years of careful marking of the Rideau Trail are going to pay off. Most of the markers remain in place and whatever changes the storm will have caused, we will be able to find the trail and follow it as usual. There are a few people who regard finding the trail as a challenge, but most hikers want to walk it in a relaxed way (often talking to others) and not have to be constantly eyeing their surroundings looking for traces of the trail.

So good luck to all maintainers as you resume your efforts this spring!

IN REMEMBRANCE

J. Norman McLeod

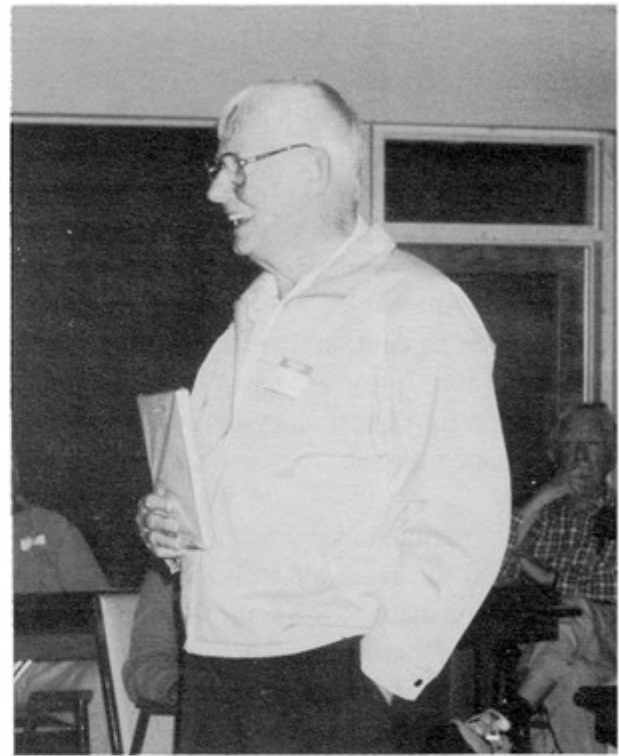
Norm McLeod, Treasurer of the Kingston Club, died January 28, 1998. He is survived by his wife Gertrude. Speaking at his funeral service, Doug Knapp remembered Norm fondly as a keen participant on hikes and for "his ever-present camera". Norm was the Kingston Club's recipient for the 1994 Outstanding Service Award, and Doug read the following article written by Allan Tattersall for the Winter 1994 Newsletter. "Norm McLeod is, and always has been, an outstanding example of what it means to volunteer one's time and effort to the Rideau Trail Association. While not a founding member, Norm joined the RTA on the first scheduled hike on the west side of Gould Lake in July, 1971. Shortly thereafter he accepted the position of Vice Chair of the Kingston Club, taking over as Chairman in 1973. He served as the RTA Secretary in 1975-76 and as the Kingston Rep. from 1979 to 1990. Since 1991 he has been and continues as the Kingston Treasurer.

Throughout his membership Norm has been active in the Association - a ready and willing volunteer, hike leader, maintainer, a resource person to represent the RTA at meetings and conferences, and a key staff writer in putting together the Constitution of the RTA.

But perhaps Norm is best known for his photography. He has and maintains a tremendous library of photographs of RTA activities from over the years - many of which you are familiar with from their appearance on newsletter covers - a sampling of which was on display at the AGM in Smith Falls. You might also recall the first slide show of the RTA which was put together largely with Norm's photography.

The Kingston Club is pleased to have recognized Norm McLeod's exemplary service to the RTA by this award for 1994."

Our sympathy to Norm's family. He will be missed.



Norm accepting Outstanding Service award 1994



Bedford Mills, 1984 by Norm McLeod

ICE DAMAGE RESTORATION ON THE RIDEAU TRAIL

by Linda Hayes, Trail Coordinator

The ice storm that blanketed eastern Ontario in early January caused a great deal of damage to vegetation along the whole Rideau Trail; it has made the Trail impassable. People using the Trail should exercise due caution; the trail is presently considered unsafe. If you are using the Trail, please report on the conditions you find to your local Club phone number.

A great deal of maintenance work will be required to clear the Trail, but ice in the bush and on fallen trees means that work at this time is still very hazardous. When it is safe to do so, and weather permits, the Club will begin the work of clearing and remarking the Trail.

The Ottawa Club will organize a series of work parties, led by experienced maintainers. Members who have expressed an interest in trail maintenance can expect to be called and invited to help in this work. Others who would like to volunteer should contact Peter Andrews at (613) 728-3016.

The Central Club will have a series of reconnaissance parties on the first three Sundays of April, to check on the condition of the Trail and establish priorities for work. On Saturday, April 25, the Central Club will have its first Trail Maintenance Day. Help is needed from all three clubs to clear the Central section of the Trail. Anyone willing to help should contact Don Sherwin at (613) 264-0759.

The Kingston Club advises that at the present time access to Gould Lake and Frontenac Provincial Park is not permitted while the damage is assessed. Robin Turkington and his team began clearing the Trail from Elevator Bay north and he advised that by mid-February the Main Trail has been cleared through Gould Lake to the

Frontenac Park Trail Centre. Robin has written all property owners advising that clearing on private properties will begin as soon as possible and asking for their "special requests." Robin has also asked Trail Maintainers to call him to report excessive damage or to request material or work party support. If you wish to help, or need help, please direct your calls to Robin Turkington at (613) 549-4139.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RTA BOARD MEETING JANUARY 17, 1998

by Allan Tattersall

The former CNR ROW Strathcona-Smiths Falls is now owned by the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) and is known as the Cataraqui Trail. The Cataraqui Trail will be operated under a Board of Management which is anticipated to become active in February.

Bob Chadwick of the Kingston Club obtained signatures of Association and component clubs to the agreement for preservation of archival material by Queen's Archives. Bob will co-ordinate the flow of suitable material for preservation.

Work continues on the production of the next guidebook. An expenditure not to exceed \$200.00 was approved to enable the use of more accurate trail mapping using the already accumulated data from Global Positioning Systems (GPS) work done in Gould Lake, Frontenac Park and the Opinicon Loop. Clubs are requested to submit material in parcels as completed without waiting for the deadline of 28 Feb. 1998.

Tom Bach has the RTA web site up and running. Trail closures due to Ice Storm '98 are reported. It is intended to include up to date information on trail changes, rerouting etc. as they occur.

Work is proceeding on the development of Association policy to reimburse member's

expenses when undertaking Association directed activities - e.g. attendance at conferences etc. Clubs would be expected to operate within these guidelines for such things as major construction and maintenance projects.

Ice Storm'98 has caused extensive damage on many sections of the Trail. Clubs are developing work programs to restore the Trail. The Trail Coordinator Linda Hayes will have more on this subject elsewhere in the newsletter. We can expect considerable unforecast expenditure to restore the Trail to full, safe, use.

The RTA relationship with Hike Ontario (H.O.) is once more in question as H.O. has cancelled associate member status which we previously enjoyed. Clarification of our relationship will be sought and reported upon at a future date.

THE ICE STORM

by Moira Drummond
Kingston

The Ice Storm of January 1998 had a "Terrible Beauty". I looked out of the window about 2:30 a.m. after the power had gone off. It was an eerie sight - ghostly trees, wires and buildings covered in ice. The morning streetscape was shocking. Trees split with many branches down and wires everywhere.

It was great to see a neighbour's face at the door saying she was going for coffee did I want some? Yes! It was great to get a call from Betty who said she was doing a "coffee run." It was great to get a call from Peck who was checking on some of us to see what might be needed, and yes, a 9 volt battery for my transistor radio was delivered. I watched Arnold and a neighbour remove a large branch from a car and cover the broken window with a tarp. Later Arnold and another neighbour sawed up some of the branches in our backyards.

I know that Allan ran a soup kitchen out of his garage and connected generators for those lucky enough to have them. I know that Bob and Bernie arranged for extra fuel for Allan's coleman stove to keep the soup bubbling. I called Jean (among others) and ensured she was fine with candles, duvet, her cat and a good book - eating some meals out. My daughters called and offered to come and take me away from it all but I was lucky to have neighbours with a wood-burning fireplace who offered to take me in. So I spent my days there and slept at home each night.

Gert phoned to tell me Norm was in hospital after a heart attack. They spent 5 nights in a shelter and unfortunately a short time after returning home we lost Norm. He will be sorely missed. Robin and his crew got out on the trail as soon as possible to start clearing branches and brush from the Main Trail. It gave me a good feeling to know that people cared, that we did not feel alone. There will be stories to share over the years -- you know, remember when? Cheers and thanks to our Rideau Trail members.

HISTORY FOR HIKERS

by Mary Breig

If you enjoy learning about the historical and cultural background of the areas in which you hike, then you might be interested in *"The Enduring Spirit: The History of Frontenac Provincial Park from 1783-1990,"* by Christian Barber with Terry Fuchs, published in late 1997.

As most readers know, our Rideau Trail runs through Frontenac Park. In Ottawa, the book was spotted in the window of Place Bell Bookstore recently. *The Enduring Spirit* - a nice title.

Editor's note: *The Enduring Spirit* can be purchased at many Kingston's bookstores, including: Indigo Books, The Novel Idea, and at Frontenac Provincial Park.



Rideau Trail Association
P.O. Box 15
Kingston, Ontario
K7L 4V6



<http://www.ncf.carleton.ca/rta>

This is the address for the RTA's new web site; rta can also be entered in capitals as RTA.
Many thanks to Tom Bach for his work on this.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: The Membership year is from April 1 to March 31. Your Membership in the Rideau Trail Association provides the financial support essential for the continuous maintenance, improvement, extension, and protection of the Rideau Trail network. As a Member you will receive the quarterly newsletter and special mailings, as well as voting rights in local Club and association activities. To join or renew, complete the form below and mail it with your payment in an envelope to:

Rideau Trail Association
P.O. Box 15
Kingston, ON. K7L 4V6

Ottawa Club Telephone: 613-730-2229
Kingston Club Telephone: 613-545-0823
Central Club Telephone: 613-264-8338

- () Annual Individual/Family Membership \$20.00
- () Patron (Life Membership) * \$300.00
- () Guide Book: Members \$17.00
- Non-Members \$22.00
- (includes Postage & Handling)
- () Car Sticker (Free to New Members) \$1.00
- () CREST \$2.00
- () Enamelled Pin \$3.00
- () Rideau Trail Wall Map \$12.00
- (Includes \$4.00 Postage & Handling)
- () Donation RTA * \$_____
- () Donation RT Preservation Fund * \$_____
- Prices Subject to Change**
- TOTAL** \$_____

* Qualifies for income tax credit
Charitable Registration No 0041733-56-11.

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR INTERESTS:

Serving on executive () Construction ()
Trail maintenance () Leading hikes ()
Leading x/c ski () Newsletter ()
Other: _____

PLEASE INDICATE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

Renewal () Life ()
New () Complimentary ()

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone Number _____