



The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2000

ISSUE NO. 116



"STRANGE, EH, HOW THEY FOLLOW EACH OTHER, JUST LIKE ... UH..."

The Rideau Trail Newsletter is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December by the Rideau Trail Association. The Editor of this issue is John Haley for the Ottawa Rideau Trail Club.

Submissions for the next Newsletter are encouraged and should be sent, to arrive by **August 1, 2000**, to:

Lynn Nolan & Lars Thompson

832 Wartman Avenue

Kingston, Ontario, K7M 4M5

Telephone: 613-389-8747

Text should be typed or mechanically printed. Pictures are also 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, opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Rideau Trail Association.

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	Kingston	Watson Ogilvie	Kingston	530-2378
	Central	John Miller	Perth	264-8338
Club Representatives	Ottawa	Bill Grant	Ottawa	820-0697
	Kingston	Bill Murdoch	Kingston	389-3023
	Central	Don Sherwin	Perth	268-2447

Rideau Trail Association

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Kingston, Ontario

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Subject

Sketch from an idea on a postcard.

Reprinted from the Summer 1988 Newsletter, Issue No. 68.

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Plans are under way to hold the Annual General Meeting on October 28, 2000 in the Legion Hall, Merrickville.

Full details and an Agenda for the day will be included in the Fall Newsletter.

END-TO-END AWARDS

Anyone who has completed hiking the Rideau Trail and would like to receive the End to End certificate and badge at the Annual General Meeting in October should submit a letter to the Secretary of the Association:

Lorna Thorburn
24 Westmoreland Road
Kingston, Ontario K7M 1J5

Include your name and address and something about your hiking of the Trail, including your starting and finishing dates. Comments about the state of the Trail will be forwarded to the Guidebook Editor or Trail Maintainers.

Please ensure that your letters reach the Secretary by September 1 to allow time for preparing lists, letters, badges, certificates, and presenters.

Please indicate whether you will attend the AGM or would prefer to have your award mailed to you after the event.

Lorna Thorburn

THE MANNING CABIN

RTA members are asked to no longer use the Manning Cabin or the spur trail leading to it.

Some years ago the Ottawa Club was offered the use of an old cabin in the Marlborough Forest. At the time the Club Executive decided not to adopt the cabin on an official basis as it was in a very poor state of repair. Individual members may have used the spur trail to it and the cabin from time to time.

The Club has received a letter, dated April 3, 2000, from the new owner of the property. Apparently Mr. Manning died in 1998, and the new owner writes that both cabin and spur trail are too dangerous to use. Consequently, please consider the property private and do not use it.

Peter Andrews
Ottawa Club Trail Coordinator

BEVERIDGE DAM

We have been advised by Parks Canada that, due to construction, the Beveridge Dam on the Tay River will be closed to all pedestrian traffic from July 1 to September 30, 2000. Hikers should check with their local Clubs &/or the RTA web site for an alternative route.

OTTAWA CLUB NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER

Please note that the Ottawa Club has a new telephone number: **613-820-2225**. Calls to the old number (730-2229) will be directed to the new number for a period of one year.

WILDFLOWERS ALONG THE TRAIL

The next edition of the Rideau Trail Guidebook will include additional information about items of interest along the Trail, including the flowers and other plants. I should be grateful if anyone who has information on the location of particular plants of interest would write and let me know, as precisely as possible, the section in which they occur and the season in which they can be observed.

Wilf Bradnock
75 Evergreen Drive, Nepean, ON K2H 6C5

HIKE ONTARIO AGM

The Kingston Club is hosting the Hike Ontario AGM, October 13, 14, & 15, 2000, in Kingston. Volunteers and billets are required. Please call:

Bill Murdoch 389-3023

CATARAQUI TRAIL OFFICIAL OPENING

On Sunday September 3, from 12:00 to 16:30, there will be a celebration at The Point, Sydenham to commemorate the official opening of the Cataraqui Trail and the arrival there of Relay 2000 water carriers, carrying water from the Arctic, Pacific, and Atlantic Oceans to Ottawa. The waters will be poured into a fountain at Jacques Cartier Park in Hull on September 9 with the opening of the Trans Canada Trail, of which the 104 km Cataraqui Trail forms part. All are invited to the various ceremonies and walk/hike/bike activities.

Jill Ferguson 613-376-3094

OTTAWA CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Ottawa Club was held on the evening of Friday, April 28. About 60 Club members attended the meeting and presentation. There were reports on major achievements of the year including completion of the Jock River Crossing near Richmond, membership growth, and Club activities; plans to broaden the range of activities with 1/2 day and educational hikes and more social events were discussed. The final draft of the new RTA brochure, expected to be available this summer, was presented to the members.

Members who volunteered their time and efforts to the Club and the Association were thanked for their support and hard work. The business meeting ended with the election of the new Club Executive listed below.

Following refreshments, Peter Andrews presented an outstanding historical and visual account of changes that have occurred along the Ottawa section of the Rideau Trail over the last 29 years. Slides of major projects including the Cabin (since burned down), the Ken Pryor Bridge, and various bridges over the Jock River were included. Members were impressed by the dramatic changes in the condition and tree cover of the Trail over a 20 year time span, as well as the devastating effect of ATVs on some sections of the Trail.

Thanks to those who attended and especially to Peter for his entertaining and thought-provoking presentation.

Ottawa Club Executive:

Chair	Lisa Buchner	729-4487
Vice Chair	Grant Malinsky	730-2772
Secretary	Barbara MacVicar	828-2383
Treasurer	Margaret Wood	236-8525
Trail Coordinator	Peter Andrews	728-3016
Activities Coordinator (exec)	Ruth Hutchinson	749-0990
Publicity Operations Coordinator	Ken Buckingham	234-5543
Publicity Media Coordinator	Vacant	
Human Resources	Bill Grant	820-0697
Newsletter Editor	John Haley	225-0590

Non-executive positions:

Trail Maintenance	Bill Shannon	722-6407
Landowner Relations	John DuVernet	738-8021
Activities Coordinators	Peter Scott (fall)	729-9557
	Barbara Dorrell (spring)	235-0604

Lisa Buchner

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING APRIL 16, 2000

GPS mapping of the Rideau Trail has been completed thanks to the efforts of a number of volunteers. A new RTA brochure has been prepared for distribution. The Board authorized an expenditure not to exceed \$1600 for the printing of 20,000 brochures. A revised wall map has been prepared. The Board approved a new pricing policy with reduced cost for maps which are not sent by mail.

Complimentary and life member lists were reviewed. To ensure consistency, organizations will now be placed on a supplementary mailing list rather than being listed as members. Complimentary members who are landowners will be contacted once a year by trail maintainers. Founding members will now be included as life members.

The Board authorized reserving accommodation for a 2-day AGM next year, the 30th anniversary of the RTA. That meeting is planned for October 13-14, 2001.

The President updated the Board on the Trans-Canada Trail and policies of Ontario hiking and trail groups. The Board voted to negotiate with Hike Ontario with a view to rejoining this fall. There are considerable advantages to the RTA in joining the organization, including reduced cost for insurance and the opportunity to better influence decision makers on the status of trails in the province. Hike Ontario has become much more responsive to issues of concern to the RTA. Discussions will continue to settle issues such as the status of paid members.

James Mabbutt, Vice President

During the brief period of snow last winter, it was deep, with no, or little base. Thus trail breaking was "character building", especially across beaver meadows, where low bushes were covered with snow. The skier at the head of the breaking line not infrequently sank up to the knees or hips, depending on stature.

On one outing with 7 skiers - 3 women and 4 men - the going was particularly arduous in an area that is difficult even under good conditions. Coincidentally, the 3 women were at the head of the line. I heard a female voice, making an undiscernable comment. Then, from behind me, a male voice "did I hear swearing up there?" And a female response: "Sometimes 'oh, my goodness' just isn't enough."

Art Campbell

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION – KINGSTON CLUB ACTIVITIES

The meeting place for all activities, unless stated otherwise, is at the Kingston Centre in the northwest corner of the existing Loblaws parking lot (next to the exit to Princess St), 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, insect repellent and sunscreen. Hikes may include a swim stop, therefore, be sure to bring along your swim suit. 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. The contribution towards gas is indicated for each hike. Drivers and passengers will share entry fees to Provincial Parks and Conservation areas, when applicable. See Pages 11 and 12 of this Newsletter for Activity Levels and Participants' Responsibilities.

Leaders are now asked to send attendance sheets to Ms. Patricia Hardy, Secretary, 12-115 Wright Crescent, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4T8.

Details on the **Millenium End-to-End Hikes** are on Page 10 of this Newsletter.

Sunday June 18 Frontenac Provincial Park

Hike the Little Salmon Lake trail and bring those swimming trunks along. Ellen is known to be an early bird swimmer. Level 3. 17 km. Departs 09:00. Gas \$3.
BIRDBATHER: Ellen Shepherd 541-1185

Saturday June 24 Amherst Island

Join Gilligan and the Skipper on a bike/hike of the Amherst Isle area. Level 1. Bikers can expect about 15 km and hikers 10. Departs 09:45. Gas \$1 plus Ferry fee.
CASTAWAYS: Sheila & John Needham 389-1894

Saturday June 24 Collins Creek Paddle

The Cataraqui Canoe Club has graciously invited us to join them on a paddle through Collins Creek to Collins Lake. You can get details of this day trip from the "Old Salt" himself.

OLD SALT: Don Harris 546-0842

Sunday June 25 Millenium End-to-End Hike #8

Join these two hombres on the Narrows Lock to Murphy's Point Provincial Park journey. Expect a "dust-off" in the lake after. Level 2. 17.8 km. Departs 09:00. Gas \$5.

VETERAN Peter Burbidge 634-1877
TUMBLEWEEDS: Murray Henderson 546-9906

Sunday July 2 Canada Day Weekend

Happy Birthday CANADA! No hikes planned for this weekend; enjoy the festivities!

Saturday July 8 Millenium End-to-End Hike #9

Murphy's Point Provincial Park to McLaren Lake. An interesting bush trail through historic Mica Mine territory, fields and road allowances. Level 2. 16.7 km. Departs 09:00. Gas \$6.

BUSH-WHACKER: Dave Armitage 634-4426

Sunday July 9 Massassauga Road's Invasive Species

On this botanical excursion, you can expect to pause and identify plants of foreign origin that are displacing native species, as well as other plants of interest. Some rough terrain. Level 2. 8 km. Departs 09:45. Gas \$3.

CONTACT: Dale Ross 384-2959

LEADER: Gerry Wyatt 542-6396

Wednesday July 12 Gould Lake Conservation Area

Hike the rugged Mica Loop and Point Spur; explore some big mica pits and have two dips in refreshing Gould Lake. A short but interesting outing. Level 3. Departs 10:30. Gas \$3.

DOUBLE DIPPER: Peck Peckover 544-9190

Saturday July 15 Charleston Lake Provincial Park

"Had an old dawg and his name was Blue ..." Well, it has nothing to do with this planned trek up Blue Mountain with the Man of Many Barks, but it grabbed your interest eh? Level 2+. 12 km. Departs 09:00. Gas \$5.

MAN OF MANY BARKS: Peter Murray 382-2824

Saturday July 15 - Friday July 21 Gary Melko Cycle Tour, Cataraqui Canoe Club Invite

In memory of Gary Melko, Gaetan has organized a cycling trip for six days of biking in Eastern Ontario. Enjoy beautiful back roads, great scenery, friendship and memories. For details, contact:

CHAIN GANG BOSS: Gaetan Lessard 789-6249 (Res)
995-0171 (Bus)

Sunday July 16 Millenium End-to-End Hike #10

McLaren Lake to Pretty Perth. Expect fields, muskrat villas, roads & bush trails. Level 2. 16.8 km. Departs 08:45. Gas \$6.

MEALMATE: Stan Huff 634-6146

Saturday July 22 Millenium End-to-End Hike #11

High-step it from Perth to Port Elmsley including the charming Tay Canal and tow path. Keep your eye out for osprey. Level 2. 16.4 km. Departs 08:45. Gas \$7.
CONTACT: Jean Thompson 544-0340

Sunday July 23 The Opinicon Loop

Bring your bathing suits on this hike and join Stan as he takes you around the Opinicon area with a swim/lunch stop at Lindsay Lake. Level 2. 12 km. Departs 09:00. Gas \$4.
THE BIG DIPPER: Stan the Man 634-6146

Saturday July 29 Frontenac Prov. Park/Rideau Trail

Enjoy a full summer's day on this hike of the Slide Lake Loop starting from Perth Road. Bring your swimming trunks for that hopeful dip. Level 3. 13 km. Departs 09:00. Gas \$3.
LEADER: Dave Armitage 634-4426

Sunday July 30 Millenium Hike End-to-End #12

Get your walking shoes on because you're doing the Port Elmsley to Rosedale trek on mainly road allowances. Yahoo! Level 2. 22.8 km. Departs 08:30. Gas \$8.
CONTACT: Bob Chadwick 352-1052

Saturday August 5 Frontenac Provincial Park

Join Skats on the hike to Mink Lake Lookout. Expect to stop at Campsite #4 and bring those swimming duds. Level 2. 12 km. Departs 09:00. Gas \$3.
HEAD MINK: Skats Sanger 384-6244

Wednesday August 9 Frontenac Provincial Park

Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer as Jean takes you out on the Arab and Doe Lake trails. Lunch and swim stop at the Visitor Centre after, followed by more hiking or the opportunity to just relax. Level 1. 4 km or more. Departs 09:30. Gas \$3.
LEADER: Jean Thompson 544-0340

Saturday August 12 Millenium End-to-End Hike #13

Ever mud wrestled? Perhaps you will on the Rosedale to Dwyer Hill Road trek. Some muddy sections; road allowances. Level 2. 17.3 km. Departs 08:30. Gas \$9.
MUD PUP: Watson Ogilvie 530-2378

Saturday August 12 Rideau Trail & 150th Anniversary of Cataraqui Cemetery

Hike from Elevator Bay to the Cataraqui Cemetery (return) and join in on the celebrations of the cemetery's new open air chapel on Chapel Hill scheduled for 2 p.m. Enjoy the historic grounds and beauty of this park-like setting with curved roads, rolling terrain, ponds, water courses and stately trees. A musical band will also be

entertaining to mark this special dedication. Bring lunch for break at Jean's Cafe. Level 1. 8 km. Departs 11:00.
LEADER: Jean Thompson 544-0340

Sunday August 13 Gould Lake Conservation Area

Hike the Mica Loop and adjoining trails, with a swim stop at the lake. Level 3. 10 km. Departs 10:00. Gas \$3.
LEADER: Peck Peckover 544-9190

Saturday August 19 Cataraqui Canoe Club Invite

Enjoy a one day paddle from Morton Creek to Lyndhurst through the Beverley Lake area. Please contact the organizer for more details.
SKIPPER: Don Harris 546-0842

Sunday August 20 Millenium End-to-End Hike #14

Dwyer Hill Road to Kettle's Road. Try out your wading skills (possibly) due to your local construction company (beavers!). Leave your horse and hike through the Marlborough Forest. Level 2. 17.2 km. Departs 08:15. Gas \$10.
CONTACT: Ellen Shepherd 541-1185

Sunday August 20 Quinte Isle Hike

Hike a variety of park and snowmobile trails in the McCauley Mountain region. The terrain is relatively flat with some hills. Bring your swim suit for a dip in Lake on the Mountain. Level 2. About 20 km. Departs 08:30. Gas \$7.
RUSTY (CONTACT): Carol Cain 548-4556
FRIENDLY GIANT: Morgan Harris 399-5590

Saturday August 26 Millenium End-to-End Hike #15

Kettle's Road to Twin Elm. This hike will take you through fields, forests, bush and over the new Jock River Crossing. Level 2. 21.6 km. Departs 08:15. Gas \$11.
CONTACT: Ellen Shepherd 541-1185

Sunday August 27 Rideau Trail

Enjoy this summer outing on the "Bill Murdoch Special" - Yippee-tie-yeh!! You'll be hiking through glorious fields and on to Orser and Railton Road and return. Level 1. 9 km. Departs 10:30. Gas \$2.
COWBOY: Wild Bill Murdoch 389-3023

Saturday September 2 Frontenac Provincial Park

Any salmon in Salmon Lake? Ask Martin as he takes you out on the Salmon Lake Loop. Expect snack breaks, scenic stops and a leap in the swimming hole. Level 3. 17 km. Departs 09:00. Gas \$4.
LEADER: Martin Reeve 548-4960

Kingston Club Activities Continue on Page 12

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION - OTTAWA CLUB ACTIVITIES

The meeting place for all Ottawa Club activities, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED BELOW, is the parking lot of the R.H. Coats Building (Stats Canada) in Tunney's Pasture on the west side of Parkdale Avenue just north of its intersection with Scott Street. OC Transpo riders use the stop for Tunney's Pasture. The times given below are departure times.

For more information about a particular activity, call the leader at the number listed. If you are unable to reach a leader, or for general information, call the **Ottawa Club** at the **new telephone number 860-2225**. See Pages 11 and 12 of this Newsletter for Activity Levels and Participants' Responsibilities.

The activities take place as scheduled regardless of the weather. Transportation is by pooling of private cars, and passengers contribute to the driver's costs. Please note the increase in gas contributions given below. Any other fees, e.g. for parking and entry to Conservation Areas, are shared among drivers and passengers.

Participants should bring a lunch, drinking water, sun and insect protection and should wear appropriate footwear and clothing. Leaders, please send sign up sheets to Ruth Hutchinson, 168-2111 Montreal Rd, Gloucester, Ontario K1J 8M8.

Rideau Trail End-to-End Hikes

Hikes in this series are listed below and more details are on Page 10 of this Newsletter.

The Wednesday Walkers

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

Saturday June 3 Rideau Trail End-to-End #5

Level 3. 24.3 km. Departs 08:00. Gas \$7.
OTTAWA ORGANIZER: Don Grant 828-1026

Saturday June 3 Gatineau Park

Level 2. 15 km. From Meech Lake (McCloskey) on various trails. Departs 09:30. Gas \$4.
LEADER: Alex Bissett 828-4363

Sunday June 4 Cycle

Level 1. Destination depends on weather; about 40 km. Departs 10:00.
LEADER: Margaret Lafrance 692-1810

Saturday June 10 Western Gatineau Park

Level 2+. A 10-15 km hike starting at Hammond Line. Travel the scenic NW trail along Curley Lake, following the "backbone route" to Lac La Pêche. Short bushwacking, beaver dam crossings, mostly on trail. Possible swim. Departs 09:30. Gas \$5.
LEADER: Rod Gaskell 725-2329

Saturday June 10 Canoe Lac La Pêche

Level 2. About 4 hours of paddling with lunch break on shore. Bring your own equipment. Rain date Sunday June 11. Departs 09:00. Gas \$5.
LEADERS: Marilyn Booth & Don Carpenter 730-3879

The Moonlighters

Every Tuesday evening until August 29 there will be a short Level 1-2 hike, usually in Gatineau Park, always within a 30-minute drive. Meet at Tunney's Pasture 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

Sunday June 11 Rideau Trail End-to-End #6

Level 2. 22 km. Departs Ottawa 08:00. Gas \$7.
OTTAWA ORGANIZER: Ron Hunt 590-7467

Sunday June 11 Cycle

Level 2. Leisurely cycle trip to St. Andrew West and Williamstown and return (50 km). Explore this interesting village, including Nor'westers Museum (if open, may be small fee). Possibility of early supper at Quinn's Inn in St. Andrew West. Departs 10:00. Phone if your car can take an extra bike.
LEADERS: Barri and Dennis Scully 565-7710

Saturday June 17 Rideau Trail End-to-End #7

Level 2. 13.3 km. Possible swim afterwards. Departs 08:30. Gas \$6.
OTTAWA ORGANIZER: Don Grant 828-1026

Saturday June 17 Western Greenbelt

Level 1+. About 12-15 km on hiking trails 26 to 29. Departs 10:00. Gas \$3.
LEADER: Jean Cottam 726-1596

Sunday June 18 Kanata ski trails, once again!

Level 1. About 7-8 km. Possible refreshments afterwards. Departs 10:00. Gas \$3.
LEADER: Bill Grant 820-0697

Sunday June 18 Western Gatineau Park

Level 2+. About 15 km. Mainly on trail. May be short bushwack. Departs 09:30. Gas \$5.
LEADER: Lisa Buchner 729-4487

Saturday June 24 Gould Lake Conservation Area

Level 3. Rideau Trail Ridge Walk. 18 km. Hilly and rough terrain, beaver dam to cross. Departs 08:30. Gas \$7.
LEADER: David Spector 829-6802

Saturday June 24 Purdon Bog

Joint hike with the Central Club to see the Lady Slipper orchids. Departs 08:30. Gas \$5.
OTTAWA ORGANIZER: Don Grant 828-1026

Sunday June 25 Rideau Trail End-to-End #8

Level 2. Gas \$5. Departs 08:30.
OTTAWA ORGANIZER: Grant Malinsky 730-2772

Sunday June 25 Cycle

Level 2 cycle to historic Pinhey's Point, about 80 km. Departs 09:00. Remote meeting point, about 09:30 at Andrew Haydon Park (washroom building) continuing on about 60 km. Call to confirm.
LEADER: Esther Hault 724-6106

Sunday July 2 Gatineau Park

Level 2. Distance and location will be adapted to weather conditions. Possible swim. Departs 09:30.
LEADER: Pat Clarkin 729-2737

Saturday July 8 Rideau Trail End-to-End #9

Level 2. Departs 08:30. Gas \$5.
LEADER: John Barron 828-2296

Saturday July 8 Gatineau Park, Wolfe Trail

Level 2. 15 km. Possible swim afterward. Departs 09:00. Gas \$4.
LEADER: Marion Dunning 232-8304

Sunday July 9 Gatineau Park, Eardley Escarpment

Level 3. 15 km plus. Travel a network of old trails east of the Luskville Falls. Great vistas. Some bushwhacking required. Departs 09:00. Gas \$5.
LEADER: Rod Gaskell 725-2329

Saturday July 15 Gatineau Park

Lac Philippe to Lac Monette. Swim at Lac Monette. Level 2+. Departs 09:30. Gas \$5.
LEADER: Gerry Schut 746-4548

Sunday July 16 Charleston Lake Provincial Park

Level 1. 7 km plus good swim. Long drive and relaxed day in pleasant surroundings. Departs 09:00. Gas \$6.
LEADER: Bill Grant 820-0697

Sunday July 16 Rideau Trail End-to-End #10

Level 2. Departs 08:30. Gas \$5.
LEADER: Ron Maybury 836-2953

Friday July 21 Canal Walk

Level 1. Meet in front of the restaurant at Dow's Lake boathouse. Possible cappuccino/snack afterwards. Departs 18:30.
LEADER: Barbara Sigurdson 521-7311

Saturday July 22 Rideau Trail End-to-End #11

Level 2. 16.4 km. Possible wet feet! Phone Organizer week prior to hike for more info. Departs 09:00. Gas \$5. Perth hike leader Mary Charlton.
OTTAWA ORGANIZER: Marg Wood 236-8525

Saturday July 22 Greenbelt, Jack Pine Trails etc.

Level 1. Departs 10:00. Gas \$3.
LEADER: Jean Cottam 726-1596

Sunday July 23 Northwestern Gatineau Park

Level 3. 15-18 km. Destination to be determined. Wilderness is guaranteed. Mainly on trails with bushwhacking required. Wet areas and beaver dams. Departs 09:00. Gas \$5.
LEADER: Rod Gaskell 725-2329

Saturday July 29 Afternoon Hike

Level 1. An interesting afternoon hike close to Ottawa. Bring snack and water. Departs 12:30. Gas \$3.
LEADER: Bill Grant 820-0697

Saturday July 29 Gatineau Park

Level 2. Meech Creek to the Mill and return to Macdonald's Bay for a swim. Departs 09:00. Gas \$4.
LEADER: Bud Massé 235-4670

Sunday July 30 Rideau Trail End-to-End #12

Level 2. 22.8 km. Departs Ottawa 09:00. Gas \$5. Perth leader Dave Miller.
OTTAWA ORGANIZER: Ruth Hutchinson 749-0990

Sunday July 30 Gatineau Park

Level 2 to Twin Lakes with option for a level 3 loop. Good hike, possible swim. Departs 09:30. Gas \$5.
LEADER: Graham Creedy 789-1657

Saturday August 5 Holiday Hike

Level 2 hike and possible swim. Departs 09:30. Call after July 20 for leaders' names and destinations.
CONTACT: Ottawa Club 860-2225

Sunday August 6 Holiday Hike

Level 1 and 2, possible swim. Departs 10:00. Call after July 20 for leaders' names and destinations.
CONTACT: Ottawa Club 860-2225

Monday August 7 Civic Holiday Hike

Level 1, to Lac Lapeche, possible swim. Departs 10:00. Gas \$5.

LEADER: Nanette Whitwam 730-5417

Saturday August 12 Rideau Trail End-to-End #13

Level 2. 17.3km. Departs 09:00. Gas \$5.

LEADER: Ron Hunt 590-7467

Sunday August 13 Cycling Ottawa-Stittsville Return

Level 2. 60 km, all flat, mostly bike paths. Bring lunch.

Dessert & refreshments will be supplied. Departs 09:30.

LEADER: Geoff Berry 831-5468

Saturday August 19 Greenbelt

Level 1. About 8 km. Half Day. Departs 10:00. Gas \$3.

LEADER: Jean Cottam 726-1596

Saturday August 19 Charleston Lake Provincial Park

Level 2+ hike. West Side trails. 14 km. Great views.

Possible swim. Long drive, probable supper stop on way home. Departs 08:30. Gas \$6.

LEADER: Dave Spector 829-6802

Saturday August 19 Gatineau Park

Level 3. Bushwhacking in Brown Lake area 10-15 km.

At least one chance to swim. Departs 09:00. Gas \$4.

LEADERS: Marilyn Booth & Don Carpenter 730-3879

Sunday August 20 Rideau Trail End-to-End #14

Level 2. 17.2 km. Departs 09:00. Gas \$4.

LEADERS: Wilf & Mary Bradnock 829-1403

Saturday August 26 Rideau Trail End-to-End #15

Level 2. 21.6 km. Departs 09:30. Gas \$4.

LEADER: Andrew Macdonald 235-8569

Saturday August 26 Western Gatineau Park

Level 3. A scenic and longer version of the Hay Lake

Loop. Mostly on trail. Minor bushwhacking. Some

challenging climbs. Stream crossings and beaver dams.

15 km plus. Departs 09:00. Gas \$5.

LEADER: Rod Gaskell 725-2329

Sunday August 27 Cycle

Level 2 cycle to the Herb Garden on Old Almonte Road

and count the varieties of basil. Start from Tunney's

Pasture, departs 09:00 for about 85 km return, or meet us

at the halfway point, Whalen Park, Kanata (Richardson

Sideroad entrance) departs about 10:45.

LEADER: Esther Hault 724-6106

Tuesday August 29 The Moonlighters

Join us for the last Tuesday evening hike this season.

Departs 18:00 sharp. Gas \$4.

CONTACT: Laraine Laughland 723-8851

Saturday September 2 Holiday Hike

Level 1, possible swim. Departs 10:00. Call after August 20 for leaders' names and destinations.

CONTACT: Ottawa Club 860-2225

Sunday September 3 Gatineau Park

Level 2. Lac Philippe to Lusk Cave and return. Possible

swim. Departs 09:30. Gas \$5.

LEADER: Margaret Lafrance 692-1810

Monday September 4 Labour Day Holiday Hikes

Half day level 1 and longer level 2. Departs 10:00. Call

after August 20 for leaders' names and destinations.

CONTACT: Ottawa Club 860-2225

Saturday September 9 Rideau Trail End-to-End #16

Level 2. 16 km. Departs 09:00. Gas \$3.

LEADER: Alex Bissett 828-4363

Saturday September 9 Schoolhouse Afternoon Hike

Level 1. Bring water, munchies. Departs 13:00. Gas \$4.

LEADER: Bill Grant 820-0697

Saturday September 9 Corn Roast

Celebrate the Millenium Odyssey 2000 End-to-End or

just come out for the fun of it! Food contributions

welcome but not essential. At the Schoolhouse from

17:30 to dusk. Please phone in advance to confirm

numbers and if need ride or to offer ride. Gas \$4.

ORGANIZER: Margaret Lafrance 692-1810

Sunday September 10 Rideau Trail End-to-End #17

Final Day! Level 2. 15.2 km. Departs 09:00. Gas \$3.

LEADER: Ann Bolster 521-6354

Saturday September 16 Marlborough Forest

Level 1. Departs 10:00. Gas \$4.

LEADER: Lena Creedy 789-1657

Saturday September 16 Northeastern Gatineau Park

Level 3. Carman Lake Circuit, rugged routes, cart tracks

and core trails, and a visit to Spring Lake. Incredible

views of Carman and Brown Lakes. Some wet areas and

bushwhacking. About 20 km. Departs 09:00. Gas \$5.

LEADER: Rod Gaskell 725-2329

Sunday September 17 Cycle

Level 2. Leisurely ride to Cumberland Heritage Village,

60 km round trip (20 km on highway). Small entrance

fee. Meet at Aviation Museum. Departs 09:30.

LEADERS: Dennis and Barri Scully 565-7710

Saturday September 30 Larose Forest

Level 1. 8-10 km. Possibility of finding and identifying

mushrooms. Departs 09:30. Gas \$5.

LEADER: Bob Bennett 749-7440

MILLENIUM RIDEAU TRAIL END-TO-END HIKES

This series of hikes, a joint enterprise of the RTA Ottawa, Kingston, and Central Clubs, covers the entire Rideau Trail beginning in Kingston in May 2000 and ending in Ottawa in September 2000. The hikes are strenuous (Level 2 & 3) and long (e.g. 20 km), and should be attempted only by people in good physical condition.

Long drives and long car shuttles are required, so a late return is the norm. Participants are welcome to do any or all of the hikes. The arrangements and meeting places are the usual ones for each local club (see the introduction to each Club's Activity Schedule). Gas contributions and departure times from Ottawa and Kingston are listed separately under each Club's Activity Schedule. A small gas contribution is also appropriate for each shuttle car driver, in addition to the gas contribution for the ride from Ottawa or Kingston to the trailhead.

The hike leader is appointed by the Club responsible for the trail segment being hiked; the other Clubs appoint organizers to make car pool arrangements from their own locations. For information about a particular hike, call the leader or organizer as listed in the Activity Schedule for your Club. For overall information about the series, in Ottawa call Ruth Hutchinson at 749-0990, and in Kingston call Carol Cain at 548-4556 (h) or preferably 533-6000 x77628 (w) or e-mail cainc@post.queensu.ca.

Map numbers refer to the 5th Edition of the Trail Guide.

Saturday June 3 End-to-End #5 Maps 3 & 4

Maple Leaf Road to Massasauga Rd.

Level 3. Some roads and forest trails.

Sunday June 11 End-to-End #6 Map 4

Massasauga Road to Lions Club Beach, Westport.

Level 2. Roads, road allowances, and trails. Some wet spots. Possible swim afterwards.

Saturday June 17 End-to-End #7 Maps 4 & 5

Lions Club Beach, Westport to Narrows Lock.

Level 2. Hilly and rocky trails and roads. Possible swim afterwards at beach.

Sunday June 25 End-to-End #8 Map 5

Narrows Lock to Murphy's Point Provincial Park.

Level 2. 17.8 km. Trails and cottage roads.

Saturday July 8 End-to-End #9 Maps 5 & 6

Murphy's Point Provincial Park to McLaren Lake.

Level 2. 16.7 km. Bush trail through Mica Mine region, fields, roads.

Sunday July 16 End-to-End #10 Map 6

McLaren Lake to Perth.

Level 2. 16.8 km. Fields, roads, bush trail. Possible very short stretch of knee-deep water.

Saturday July 22 End-to-End #11 Maps 6 & 7

Perth to Port Elmsley. Level 2. About 16.4 km. Short road walk, trails and fields, Tay Canal towpath. In crossing the weir there is usually about an inch of water to walk through. This year the dam will be under repair during most of the summer season. A re-route may be in effect which will mean fording the river at a different location, where water levels at this ford may be higher than we usually have to deal with. The hike leader will have more information close to the date. Please contact your organizer in Ottawa or Kingston during the week prior to the hike for details, and come prepared for the higher water level.

Sunday July 30 End-to-End #12 Maps 7 & 8

Port Elmsley to Rosedale.

Level 2. 22.8 km. Mostly on road. Short stretch of riverside trail.

Saturday August 12 End-to-End #13 Maps 8 & 9

Rosedale to Dwyer Hill Rd.

Level 2. 17.3 km. Road allowance and trails, some muddy sections.

Sunday August 20 End-to-End #14 Maps 9 & 10

Dwyer Hill Rd to Kettle's Rd at the style.

Level 2. 17.2 km. Beaver dam requires wading for short distance. Trail is prone to mud especially after rain. Access roads and tracks in Marlborough Forest.

Saturday August 26 End-to-End #15 Maps 10 & 11

Kettle's Rd at the style to Twin Elm.

Level 2. 21.6 km. New Trail - fields, forests and bush, including the new Jock River crossing (see re-route described in the Winter 1999 Newsletter).

Saturday September 9 End-to-End #16 Map 11

Twin Elm to Bells Corners.

Level 2. 16 km. Greenbelt paths and roads. Departs Tunney's Pasture in Ottawa 09:00.

Saturday September 9 Schoolhouse - Corn Roast

17:30, see Ottawa Club schedule. All hikers welcome.

Sunday September 10 End-to-End #17 Map 12

Bells Corners to Richmond Landing.

Level 2. 15.2 km. Urban Walk, cycle paths. Departs Tunney's Pasture in Ottawa at 09:00. Bring bus pass/tickets if you have them, for possible use in return to Tunney's Pasture after hike.

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION - CENTRAL CLUB ACTIVITIES

The meeting place for Central Club activities is Conlon Farm in Perth, unless otherwise indicated. To reach this recreational area, take the main street (Gore Street) southeast through Perth to County Road 10, turn right (southwest) towards Westport, then take the third road to the right (Conlon Drive) to the Conlon Farm parking area. If in doubt, call the hot line at 264-8338.

Saturday June 24 Purdon Bog

A muddy beginning. See the pretty orchids. Keep on the path and don't get lost. Bring lunch, bug spray and swimming costume. The willing can linger awhile after the hike to take in supper at one of the local hot spots.

This is a joint hike with the Ottawa Club so swim suits are desirable. Meet at Conlon Farm at 09:30 or Sylvania Lodge at 10:00.

FLOWER GIRL: Mary Charlton 267-6802

Sunday July 9 Hike And Maintenance Day Ferrier Road To Long Lake Road

Bring your thing and do your thing to justify our budget! Lunch would be useful and don't forget the water as the day will be one of action. Come and inspect DAVE'S bridge. Meet at Conlon Farm at 10:00.

CHAIN GANG LEADER: Bruce Gourley 267-3030

Sunday July 16 Canoe The Big Rideau At Nobles Bay

For the avid canoeist or the beginner this is a must. Bring your canoe or let us know well in advance whether you need a partner, etc. Lunch is required and bring your favourite dish as a contribution to the pot luck supper following the happening. Meet at Conlon Farm at 10:00.

OUR NOBLE HOST: Heide Gibbs 267-6848

Saturday July 29 Hike And Maintenance Day Frizell Road To Perth

Another get together to justify our existence. Bring your maintenance thing to do your thing. And don't forget the words to our theme song, which goes - HI HO! Remember the water. Meet at Conlon Farm at 10:00.

MEANTAINER WITH A FRIZELL ON TOP:

Jim Ronson 264-1937

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, August 11, 12, & 13 Canoe-Camping On South Crotch Lake

This is a repeat of last year's intended happening, but alas, weather was not EXACTLY on our side. Bring tent, canoe, lots of water and snacks. Food will be catered on a group basis. If you have particular likes or dislikes don't let us know! Call Don or Dave for details. This could be exciting.

LIFE SAVERS: Don Sherwin 268-2447

Dave Miller 826-2336

Sunday, August 27 Moulton Gorge, Frontenac Park

Join us for this 15 km hike on fairly level terrain. Level

1. Bring all your various needs and meet at Conlon Farm at 10:00.

GET LOST WITH: John Miller 264-8824

Sunday, September 10 Mill Of Kintail, Morris Island

The first port of call will be The Mill of Kintail with lunch at Blakeney Rapids and then a drive to Morris Island. Be prepared for a full day with a Peterson ice cream in Almonte at the end of the day. Meet at Conlon Farm at 10:00.

WANDERER: Wanda Pelletier 267-3630

Wednesday & Thursday September 20 & 21 Hiking From B&B In Prince Edward County

If we are lucky we hope to arrange a tea party with the Prince on one of the days. Very limited space, so if you are interested get in touch with Wanda before you read this notice.

OUR BUSY B: Wanda Pelletier 267-3630

Sunday September 24 Hike And Maintenance Day Poonamalie Road To Frizell Road

Everybody is invited to help us beautify the trail. No excuses. Be there. Meet with your thing at Conlon Farm at 10:00.

ADVISOR FROM THE PUNJAB:

Don Sherwin 268-2447

HIKE ACTIVITY LEVELS

Hikes are graded with the following Levels

- 1 Well defined trails, gentle inclines. Hiking boots not required, but trails may be very wet. Suitable for beginners and recommended for newcomers.
- 2 Generally on trail. May include hills, light bushwhacking, some rough spots or obstacles. Boots recommended.
- 3 May include one or more of rough terrain, long climbs and descents, rock scrambling, extensive bushwhacking. Boots, level 2 experience, and a high level of fitness essential. Long pants and sleeves recommended.

Kingston Club Activities Continued

Saturday September 9 Millenium End-to-End Hike #16

Twin Elm to Bells Corners includes greenbelt paths and roads. Level 2. 16 km. Departs 08:00. Gas \$11.
CONTACT: Watson Ogilvie 530-2378

Saturday September 9 Sandbanks Provincial Park

Generally easy terrain, but we will climb some high sand dunes in the latter half of this excursion and end with a swim in West Lake. Wear long pants due to potential poison ivy. Level 2 to completion or Level 1 at drop-out point. 10-20 km. Departs 08:45. Gas \$6.

JEROME (CONTACT): Dale Ross 384-2959

FRIENDLY GIANT: Morgan Harris 399-5590

Sunday September 10 Millenium End-to-End Hike #17

Bells Corners to Richmond Landing. This is an urban walk including cycle (not psycho) paths. Level 2. 15.2 km. Departs 08:00. Gas \$12.

CONTACT: Watson Ogilvie 530-2378

Sunday September 10 Rideau Trail

Don't forget who's boss on this hike and join Saskatchewan's neighbour on the Maple Leaf to Billy Greene Road and return. Level 1. About 12 km. Departs 09:00. Gas \$3.

TRUE PATRIOT: Alberta Edgar 542-9662

Wednesday September 13 Wolfe Island

By jove they've found it! Found what you say? Venture out on this short hike and beach walk on Wolfe Island to get your answer. Level 1. Departs 09:45 to make the 10:30 ferry. Gas \$1.

SHIPMATES: Lynda & Brian Rook 634-2510

Saturday September 16 Barnes Corners, New York

Another joint Rideau Trail/Adirondack Club venture.

Join our friends to the south and hike the length of the Rim Trail with beautiful views of the Inman Gulf. Level 2. About 12 km. Departs from Meadowcrest parking lot (corner of Hwy #15 and Kingston Mills Road) at 08:30.

Gas \$7. Bring health insurance coverage.

CONTACT: Carol Cain 548-4556

Kathy Disque 315-656-3383

PROPOSED KINGSTON CLUB TRIP DAY HIKING IN VERMONT OCTOBER 16-20, 2000

Depending on the level of interest shown, the Kingston Club is again considering a trip to the Stowe area of Vermont with lodging in the Mount Mansfield Hostel at the Vermont State Ski Dorm. Prices are quite reasonable at \$15 U.S., per person per night for lodging with breakfasts costing \$5 and dinners \$7. (Prices are before 9% tax and volume discounts.) At these prices, one can not expect luxurious accommodations, however, the hiking is extraordinary and well worth it.

Sleeping is in bunk rooms (separate as to sex) holding up to 25 people each. There are shower facilities and a wood-burning fireplace in the common room. Hiking ranges from the challenging Long Trail and the Mount Mansfield Side Trails, to the gentle but scenic 5-mile Stowe Recreation Path.

As we need a minimum of 10 people to make advance reservations, please contact Watson Ogilvie at 530-2378 for more information or to reserve. Time is of the essence as groups book well in advance, so please make your reservations as soon as possible.

Stowe is about a 5 1/2 to 6-hour drive from Kingston, so plan on 3 1/2 hiking days and 2 days driving. Gas TBA.

CYCLING ACTIVITY LEVELS

Bike outings are graded with the following Levels

- 1** Few hills, broad roads or bike paths, little traffic. Participants must be competent at riding their bicycles.
- 2** Some hills, narrower roads, some traffic. Participants should be fit and experienced.
- 3** Long hills, narrow roads. Excellent fitness and good cycling skills required.

PARTICIPANTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Participants must choose activities suitable to their physical capabilities and skill levels. They must inform the leader before the start about any health problems and of any existing or potential difficulties with their equipment. They must respect the leader's judgement and their own financial obligations for the activity. Parents and guardians must supervise their own children.

HIKING IN ATLANTIC CANADA

For those members who enjoy or would like to enjoy hiking in Atlantic Canada, which (except Newfoundland) is within a two-day drive of eastern Ontario, there are now hiking guidebooks for each Atlantic province. These can be purchased at the better outdoor stores and at some bookstores. Some of these guidebooks have been updated since the first edition, and others are new. All are arranged internally by geographical area of the province concerned.

We'll start with New Brunswick, which offers a good variety of hiking, from the coastal areas to the inland softwood forests and mountainous areas. "A Hiking Guide to New Brunswick", originally published some years ago by Goose Lane Editions (469 King St., Fredericton, NB E3B 1E5, phone 506-450-4251, fax 506-459-4991, e-mail gooselane@nb.aibn.com) and recently reissued, was found to be a very reliable guide by a group of Ottawa members hiking in the Acadian area of New Brunswick in 1996. It contains information on 105 trails, including those in Fundy and Kouchibouguac National parks and Mount Carleton Provincial Park, and a good number of others. There have been some new trails added since it was published, but it is still very useful and accurate. Hiking in Fundy National Park is particularly spectacular and scenic and one of those places worth re-visiting (See also the Fundy National Park Guide, published by Parks Canada).

The province which has been most richly covered by hiking and nature-related literature is undoubtedly Nova Scotia, which is represented, as a whole province, by two guidebooks - "Hiking Trails of Nova Scotia", sponsored by Hostelling International, also published by Goose Lane, and "Hiking Nova Scotia" by Joanne Light, published in 1995 by Nimbus Publishing, Halifax. The first book describes sixty trails, a third of them in the two national parks - Cape Breton Highlands and Kejimikujik. The second book describes "Thirty of Nova Scotia's Best Hiking Trails" and is only about 100 pages in length. It may be more difficult to obtain but contains excellent information and maps of the trails concerned. Nova Scotia trails, as in New Brunswick, represent a mixture of ocean views, inland forest, and mountainous areas.

From a guidebook standpoint, Cape Breton is almost treated as a separate province. There are a number of books describing its natural environment which are of at least indirect interest to hikers. The book of most direct interest to hikers is the 7th edition of "Hiking Trails of Cape Breton" by Michael Haynes, published as recently

as 1999 for Hostelling International - Nova Scotia by Goose Lane Editions. It has 290 pages of useful information, dividing Cape Breton into five parts for the purpose. In addition to describing the trails in Cape Breton Highlands National Park, it includes a separate section on the many trails in the highlands area outside the park. The three remaining sections cover the rest of Cape Breton, some of which is also mountainous. The book describes a total of 51 trails, each accompanied by a map. Of course, some of this information duplicates that in the main Nova Scotia trail guidebooks.

For the Internet-oriented, up-to-date information is available on this province. A newly-formed group has just completed an inventory of Nova Scotia trails and counted - believe it or not - 800! Detailed information on most of these is available at www.trails.gov.ns.ca. In this case, the information is organized by county, so a map of Nova Scotia is useful in obtaining information. This group will apparently carry out a similar inventory in the other provinces.

For PEI, "Your Guide to the Nature Trails of Prince Edward Island", published in 1996 by Ragweed - the Island Publisher, under the sponsorship of the Island and Nature Trust and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, covers the ground very thoroughly, containing descriptions of 78 hikes. Twelve of these are sections of the Confederation Trail, the former trans-PEI railroad, which now forms part of the Trans-Canada Trail. The other hikes in the guidebook are largely short trails in conservation areas, woodlots, and seashore areas. As it happens, six Ottawa club members spent a week in eastern PEI last summer exploring some of these trails and found them very interesting and enjoyable, albeit not physically challenging.

For Newfoundland, the trail guidebook, "A Hiking Guide to the National Parks and Historic Sites of Newfoundland", also published by Goose Lane Editions in 1994, covers the two national parks, Gros Morne and Terra Nova, in detail, and a number of other points which are of historic interest, e.g. L'Anse Aux Meadows. The coverage of the two national parks is limited to the day hiking trails, but is complete in other respects. A new trail, almost as long as the Rideau Trail, has just been developed along the coast of the Avalon Peninsula (St. John's is on this peninsula). It is called the East Coast Trail and, as the name implies, is a coastal trail, albeit in a heavily forested area. Information is available by writing to East Coast Trail Association, P. O. Box 8034, St. John's, NF A1B 3M7.

Continued on Page 15

BUILDING THE RIDEAU TRAIL

Note: This article is the first of a planned series on the history of the Rideau Trail.

From an intriguing idea to a finished trail in less than a year – that is how quickly the Rideau Trail was built. The venture involved the newly-created Rideau Trail Association and co-operation with federal and provincial government agencies, student workers and many volunteers. Governments are not noted for moving rapidly, especially when they have to co-ordinate with other governments, so the speedy completion of this project is all the more remarkable. By any standards, the story is inspiring.

The concept of a hiking trail between Kingston and Ottawa developed in early 1971. At a meeting of the Kingston Field Naturalists in February 1971, Douglas Knapp proposed the construction of a hiking trail in the area north of Kingston. The idea was warmly received, and it developed into a plan for a trail all the way from Kingston to Ottawa.

A steering committee was formed, headed by Dr. Frederick Cooke of Kingston, a director of the Ontario Field Naturalists. According to an article in the Ottawa Citizen of March 11, 1971, all the members of this original committee were Kingston people, except for one Ottawa representative, Dr. Ted Mosquin, a biologist at the Central Experimental Farm. Like Fred Cooke, Ted Mosquin was a director of the Ontario Field Naturalists. The Citizen article appealed for more Ottawans to support the project.

Events then proceeded quickly. Many Ottawa people expressed interest. Two public meetings were held, one in Kingston and one in Ottawa, to consider a proposal for the formal creation of a Rideau Trail Association. This association would then oversee the construction of the Rideau Trail, by volunteers, over five years. In both cities, the proposal was eagerly approved, and Fred Cooke became the first president of the RTA.

Around the same time, the federal government announced a summer employment program for students, OFY (Opportunities for Youth). Students at three universities, Queen's, Carleton, and the University of Ottawa, saw the possibility of connecting the Rideau Trail project with OFY. They drafted proposals to build the entire trail in one summer, with the help of OFY funding.

Richard Davis, now an economist with the federal government, was then a student at Carleton University.

He and a friend wrote up the Carleton proposal. Richard remembers reading the Citizen article describing the Rideau Trail project. "I read it with great interest since I had already been bitten by the long-distance path bug", says Richard. "A group of us had made a trek to Virginia the previous year to hike a section of the Appalachian Trail. The idea of a long-distance trail has a very powerful appeal, like a mountain to be climbed. To have one on our doorstep seemed like a wonderful idea."

The three proposals by the students were approved by both the Rideau Trail Association and the federal government. The RTA set up Routes and Negotiation Committees in Ottawa, Smiths Falls, and Kingston. These committees had a lot of work to do, establishing the route for the trail. In some areas they chose a path through existing parks, and near Ottawa the trail frequently used National Capital Commission (NCC) land. But in some areas, the best route would traverse private land. Committee members had to negotiate with the landowners to obtain permission and to establish the conditions for access.

In May, an OFY grant of \$33,800 was bestowed on the project. The funding was channelled through the Rideau Trail group, who handled the administrative details, such as preparing the pay cheques for the students. A total of 27 students then started work on constructing the trail.

Richard Davis' group began the stretch from Ottawa to Burritt's Rapids. They would look over the proposed route, mark it with surveyor's tape, and do any necessary clearing. They would then hammer up the little orange triangles. "Someone was stamping out the triangles in a machine shop at NRC (National Research Council)", says Richard, "and we were always going over there to restock. In a week, 20 students can hammer up a lot of triangles."

Richard remembers working in the area of Acres Road and near the Queensway-Carleton Hospital. His group then proceeded to Stony Swamp, where they built walkways, using wood and other supplies provided by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. In this area the work took two weeks.

This group usually consisted of about six people. Mainly they lived at home and commuted to work each day, using their own cars. One fellow hitchhiked in from Carleton Place every day, and the others picked him up at Bells Corners. Very occasionally they camped out.

Once when Richard was clearing the trail through a field covered by underbrush, using a scythe to cut a metre-

wide path, he disturbed a wasps' nest. He suffered at least ten stings on his legs, and later had an allergic reaction which required medical attention. Today he tells this story with hearty laughter, but it must have been very painful at the time!

Richard says the organizers were astonished how quickly the students worked. "The core group were finding it hard to keep up with us", he recalls with a touch of pride. But he readily acknowledges the demanding work done by the core group. "The whole thing was amazingly well organized", he says. "We were able to simply follow instructions: where to go, what to do, where to get supplies."

By June, enough of the trail had been constructed that an inaugural hike could be held in the Gould Lake Conservation Area 50 km. north of Kingston. By the end of August, the sections prepared by the various student groups were connected, and a continuous trail, linking Ottawa and Kingston, had been completed.

As the students headed back to university for another year, they were proud of their achievement. "And", Richard comments, "all of us had had a wonderful summer".

Every hiker who has enjoyed tramping along the Rideau Trail can feel thankful for the hard work and the enthusiasm of the erstwhile students like Richard Davis.

Grace Hyam

Hiking in Atlantic Canada - continued from Page 13

Apparently as many as seventy people have been employed in creating the East Coast Trail.

Finally, a word should be said about a sixth publication, "The Atlantic Canada Nature Guide", published as recently as 1998 by Key Porter books. As the title implies, it describes the whole of the Atlantic provinces, on a province by province and area by area basis, from the standpoint of natural features, geology, botany, and forestry, and it includes information about hiking and descriptions of the main points of interest. It is a useful companion to the hiking guides and is beautifully illustrated. This book is also available in the better outdoor stores.

Happy Hiking!

Bill Grant

INDEPENDENT ACTIVITIES

The Rideau Trail Association accepts no responsibility for the following notices, provided for the information of RTA members, or for the activities to which they relate.

July 2 NCC-Sponsored Event Escapade 2000

Calling outdoor enthusiasts! Get your bike, skates, or feet in gear for this fun-filled tour that will dazzle you as you wend your way through the Capital! This free non-competitive day-long tour will challenge you to discover up to 60 km of the most scenic views in Canada's Capital Region. Short cuts will enable you to customize your journey. For more information, call 613-239-5000 or 1-800-465-1867, or click on "Millennium Events" at www.capcan.ca.

Ottawa Orienteering Club

Contact them (www.magma.ca/~ottawaoc) for information on their Summer Solstice Evening Series June 6 through June 27 and July 1 in the morning. Activities continue throughout the summer and fall seasons. A great introduction to map and compass. Richard Guttormson 226-3947

Ottawa Rambling Club

invites RTA members to participate in Fall 2000 out of town hiking trips:

Thanksgiving Adirondaks Hiking Adventure October 7-9, reservations deadline September 4;

Hallowe'en Weekend in Madawaska Valley October 27-29, reservation deadline October 1.

Full details of these trips are to be released in mid-July and posted on the ORC web-site:

www.visualcities.com/ottawa_rambling_club

Gregory Stack 741-5378 e-mail orc@visualcities.com

Actifest 2000

Volunteers are needed for the Ontario Senior Games which will be held in Ottawa August 8-10. Participants in the Games are over 55 years of age and have obtained entry by competing in games held at one of 39 district levels throughout Ontario. Contact volunteer coordinator Francois Dupont 834-8061.

Gatineau Park

will be seeking volunteers for the hiking patrol one day every two weeks from August through October. CONTACT: 239-5373



Return Address:
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P.O. Box 15
Kingston
Ontario K7L 4V6

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HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?
IF NOT, PLEASE RENEW NOW.
NOTE THE NEW OTTAWA CLUB TELEPHONE NUMBER: 860-2225

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
Ontario K7L 4V6

Ottawa Club Telephone: 613-860-2225
Kingston Club Telephone: 613-545-0823
Central Club Telephone: 613-264-8338

- | | | |
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| ☐ | Annual Individual / Family Membership | \$20.00 |
| ☐ | * Patron (Life Membership) | \$300.00 |
| ☐ | † Guide Book: Members | \$17.00 |
| ☐ | † Non-Members | \$22.00 |
| ☐ | Car Sticker (Free to New Members) | \$1.00 |
| ☐ | Crest | \$2.00 |
| ☐ | Lapel Pin | \$4.00 |
| ☐ | † Rideau Trail Wall Map (new) | \$12.00 |
| ☐ | * Donation to the RTA | \$ _____ |
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 Leading x/c ski outings ☐ Newsletter ☐
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PLEASE INDICATE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

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 New Member ☐ Complimentary Member ☐

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