



The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2002

ISSUE NO. 123



The Barrow Boys at work - see article on page 4



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

Submissions for the next newsletter are encouraged and should be sent, to arrive by **May 1, 2001**, to:

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Text should be printed, typed, or in electronic format with accompanying hard copy. 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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THE RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2001-2002

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Picture Credits: Cover photo by Tony Parfitt. Photo on page 4 thanks to Lars Thompson. Maps on page 13 are from the Rideau Trail Guidebook, 6th edition, 2001.

Highlights of the RTA Board of Directors Meeting – January 19, 2002

Present at the meeting in Perth were 13 directors as well as guest Marilyn Levitan from the Ottawa Club. Marilyn presented her ideas on the introduction of a Bi-weekly E-Mail letter to be sent out to members. Such a letter, it was suggested, would contain up-to-date news and information. It would also improve internal communication within the Association. It was agreed that the Ottawa Club would set up a pilot project to assess the plan and report back to the Board at a later date. This idea is not meant in any way to replace the Newsletter.

Insurance companies have not finalised their rate setting procedures at this date. Rates are expected to rise significantly. Our RT Association insurance expires soon and negotiations are continuing with some urgency.

Amalgamation has extended the borders of the City of Kingston to Orser Rd. Concern has been expressed over projected urbanisation in this area as this could jeopardize the future of the Rideau Trail. It is vital that this situation be addressed as soon as possible. The K&P Trail could provide a possible solution. The former rail-bed property is owned by Bell and they are prepared to sell should a suitable purchaser be found. Apparently some Kingston City councilors have reacted positively to the idea of a linear park. Allan Tattersall is representing the RTA on a K&P Trail committee to promote and monitor this proposal.

The membership directors are negotiating to upgrade their computer system so that software can be used to integrate the membership with related bookkeeping records. A sum of \$500 has been allocated to cover this expense and a contract is expected soon.

It has been adopted that memberships have to be renewed in order to receive a Summer newsletter. A follow up letter is to be sent out in early May as a reminder. Total membership is up 7% from Feb. 2001 making a total of 973 as of Jan. 13, 2002. There are now 149 life members.

The 2001 edition of the RTA Guidebook has been selling well and is also available at several retail book stores.

The RTA AGM is to be held on Saturday Oct 19 at the Lombardy Golf Club, Smith Falls.

David Armitage

Allan Bonwill

Allan Bonwill died on January 19, 2002. We will always remember him as a man who loved this land and had done his best to conserve the property we know as Skycroft. Part of our Trail system runs through Skycroft property, which has since been sold to Queen's Biology Station. As far as we know these trails will remain part of our system, as long as we maintain them.

Allan and his wife Ellen (previously deceased) came from the USA. Allan had been in the area on camping trips as a Boy Scout, and grew to love this land. He wanted to impart his knowledge to others, especially to children. So he and Ellen decided to establish an Outdoor Centre in 1973. Land was acquired on Lake Opinicon and thus Skycroft was born. Now it is a Family Campground, where learning continues. Anne, their daughter, and her husband, Jim, will continue this tradition. Allan liked nothing better than to go with you on a hike on one of his trails, as long as he was able.

Some of us have camped at Skycroft with our families. I have stayed at "The Little House" where Allan and Ellen lived while they built "The Big House". My first solar shower was taken there — leaves at my feet, spiders crawling up the wall and birds flying overhead! The RTA has held meetings in the Barn. One, I remember in particular, as I watched a tiny brown bat attend the meeting by hanging under the clock on the wall, asleep and swaying gently in the breeze. This was the meeting that Allan had put a slide show together on the history of the area, and as he was our guest speaker, gave us a very enjoyable talk that evening.

The shelter on our Trail there was built as a memorial to Allan and Ellen Bonwill. We hope it will do just that. We will think of you as we use the trails, and we will miss you both, Allan.

Moir Drummond

Please Continue Your Support of the Rideau Trail

...by renewing your membership by March 31. Memberships provide financial support for the continuous maintenance, improvement, extension, and protection of the Rideau Trail network.

Rideau Trail Closed on Tuesday, March 26, 2002

The Rideau Trail, where it crosses private land, will be closed on Tuesday March 26, 2002. This action is necessary to protect the landowners who allow us to cross their land the remainder of the year. The Rideau Trail Association would like to thank all landowners for their generosity. Please take care not to trespass on this day.

E-Letter Pilot Project

The Board has authorized the development of an e-letter to supplement the RTA Newsletter. The Ottawa Club will conduct the pilot project.

All members interested in subscribing (at no extra cost) to such a service are requested to check the box in the membership renewal form and to include their e-mail address on the form. Interested members may also submit their e-mail address to the RTA website.

The Barrow Boys

The most southerly section of the Trail, between Bath Road and the Trailhead on Front Road in Kingston, known as the Wetlands Trail, crosses woodland and marshes belonging to the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority. It incorporates two lengthy boardwalks, constructed by the RTA about ten years ago.

At times the Trail has become almost impassable due to mudholes, fed by runoff from the adjacent golf course. Using gravel provided by the C.R.C.A., a team of RTA volunteers with wheelbarrows have carried about 40 loads of gravel across the south boardwalk and filled in the mudholes. The worst hole has been bypassed, and while the Trail is much improved, there is more to be done next year.

A number of hikers have already expressed their appreciation of the efforts of the "Barrow Boys":

Don Bond, John Critchley, Bill Murdoch,
John Page, Tony Parfitt, and Robin Turkington

See picture on the front cover.

Ski Weekend at L'Estérel



The Rideau Trail Ski Weekend, initiated thirteen seasons ago by members (Bull, Fox, and Wolf) was another success. There was snow in the Laurentians — not as much as other years but more than in Kingston and its hinterlands.

Over seventy animals skied, some skated, others swam — all gourmandised. The founding animals contributed: Wolf (Konrad) did the driving again; Bull (Keith) gave the slide presentation and talk (rafting the Horton River in the N.W.T.); and Fox (Arthur) operated the projector in support of Bull and asked the best questions.

According to questionable archival sources, this year was our thirteenth venture and our fourth at L'Estérel. The Laurentians have never failed us for snow and hospitality. From the opinions expressed by old and new participants, at our bargain rate (under \$300 for two nights' accommodation, five meals, bus/van, ski, skate, swim, and amenities) many would go again.

While the two served meals were leisurely, the cuisine again received high marks. The evening programs began after nine, a wee bit late for some of us. That, too, can be corrected. The Friday afternoon (5 to 6) mixer was endorsed as a good way to match sayings and names, for both old and new. Several participants were from faraway places like Toronto and Belleville — but none from Ottawa this year. Over twenty new people joined us this year.

The bus (56 seats) was filled before the end of September. With over twenty on the waiting list, we gambled that a van (14 seats) would not seriously jeopardize our waiting list. (Yes, we need a waiting
-continued on page 11

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION - KINGSTON CLUB ACTIVITIES

The meeting place for all activities, unless stated otherwise, is in the **Kingston Centre**, north parking lot next 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. **Contact Donald Cutts at 542-5414 for details or location of Wednesday walks.** Bring lunch, water, and sunscreen.

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. Levels of difficulty are described on page 11. Car pooling will be organized. The contribution towards gas is indicated for each hike. Car entry fees for Provincial Parks and Conservation areas are to be shared.

Members willing to be leaders, or who wish to suggest new locations for the summer seasons, should contact David Armitage at 4323 Bath Rd., Kingston, K7M 4Z1, telephone: 634-4426. Leaders should send their sign-up sheets to the above address.

Wednesday March 13 Little Cataraqui Cons.Area.
Hike or ski the trails in the conservation area. Bring lunch to eat at the Outdoor Centre. Level 1 10 km.
Gas \$1 Departs 09:00
Leader: Peggy Harding 546-7202

Saturday March 16 Rideau Trail
Hike the Billy Green Rd. from Maple Leaf Rd. to the woods. Level 1. 12 km. Gas \$3 Departs 09:30
Leader: Peck Peckover 544-9190

Sunday March 17 Rideau Trail
Spring is in the air! Hike the trail in the Bullen Rd. – Unity Rd. area and beyond.
Level 1. 9-15 km. Gas \$2 Departs 09:00
Leader: Betty McIver 549-8028

Saturday March 23 Pot Luck Supper
6PM. At Margaret and John Page's. Bring your own favourite dish and B.Y.O.B. For details and to confirm, call Barbara Pusch at 544-0933.

Tuesday March 26 Rideau Trail Closed.

Saturday March 30 Gould Lake
Hike or snowshoe some of the scenic woodland trails in the Conservation Area. Level 2-3. Approx. 8-10 km.
Gas \$3 + park entry fee. Departs 10:00
Leader: Margaret Spicer. 530-2308

March 31 Membership Year Ends.
Please renew your membership using the form on the back page in order to keep on receiving your newsletter.

Saturday April 6 Rideau Trail
Hike from the Marshlands to the Cataraqui Cemetery.
Level 1. 6 km. Departs 10:00
Leader: Peggy Harding 546-7202

Sunday April 7 Rideau Trail - Frontenac Park
Hike the Slide Lake Loop starting from Perth Rd. Experience spectacular granite ridges and scenic vistas. Level 3. 14 km. Gas \$3 Departs 09:00
Leader: Dave Armitage 634-4426

Wednesday April 10 Mystery Hike
Once the state of the weather and the condition of the trails have been assessed, Martin will reveal the location. Please call the leader for details.
Level 1-2. About 10 km. Departs 09:00
Leader: Martin Reeve 548-4960

Saturday April 13 Rideau Trail
Hike the trails between Bedford Rd and Westport.
Level 1 Approx: 10 km Gas \$3 Departs 09:00
Leader: Betty McIver 549-8028

Sunday April 14 Rideau Trail
Enjoy a relaxing early spring hike on the Rideau Trail through meadows and along forest paths from Freeman Rd. to the Gould Lake Barn.
Level 1. 9 km. Gas \$3 Departs 09:30
Leader: Gloria Seeley 546-2503

Saturday April 20 Sheffield Conservation Area and Sharbot Lake Provincial Park
In the morning we will hike the short but scenic trail through the Sheffield Conservation Area, which is located 41 km north of Hwy. 401. Some steep sections. After lunch by a lake we will drive to Sharbot Lake and hike several short but picturesque trails. Level 3 About 10 km. Gas \$6 + park entry fee. Departs: 09:00
Leader: Watson Ogilvie 530-2378

Sunday April 21 Charleston Lake Provincial Park
Hike up Big Blue Mountain at Charleston Lake. It has been said that on a clear day one can see all the way to the Adirondack Mountains! Level 2+. Approx. 12 km. Gas \$4 Departs: 09:00
Leader: Peter Murray 382-2824

Saturday April 27 Kingston Club A.G.M. at the Little Cataraqui Conservation Area Outdoor Centre
See notice on page 7 of this Newsletter.

Sunday April 28 Frontenac Provincial Park
Enjoy a pleasant hike along the popular Bufflehead Trail. Interesting features include a scenic ridge overlooking a creek valley and beaver ponds. Moderate terrain. Relaxed pace.
Level 2. 8 km. Gas \$4 + park fee Departs 09:00
Leader: Lynn Nolan 389-8747

Saturday May 4 Frontenac Provincial Park
Hike the Big Salmon Lake Loop. Experience the spring flora, and animal and bird life, as you walk along this scenic trail. Lunch at an attractive spot.
Level 2 19 km. Gas \$4 + park fee Departs 09:00
Leader: Ellen Shepherd 541-1185

Sunday May 5 Cataraqui Trail (Bicycle)
Cycle the most picturesque section of the Cataraqui Trail, between Maple Leaf Rd. and Chaffeys Lock. Lunch at the Lock before returning. Meet at the Shopping Centre 09:00 to drive to the start. If you have room to carry more than one cycle, please advise the leader. Level 1. Approx. 35 km
Leader: Dave Armitage 634-4426

Wednesday May 8 Depot Lakes Cons. Area
Hike on the Lakeside Trails and enjoy fine displays of wildflowers. Moderate pace. Level 2. Approx. 10 km. Gas: \$3 + entry fee Departs: 09:00
Leader: Bob Chadwick 352-1052

Saturday May 11 Lemoine Point Cons. Area
Join this popular annual hike to view the trilliums, violets and other wildflowers, as well as to enjoy the attractive scenery and companionship.
Level 1. 5 km. Gas \$1 Departs 10:00
Leaders: Sheila and John Needham 389-1894

Sunday May 12 Rideau Trail
Starting at the Narrows Lock, hike along diverse terrain including forest trails, cottage roads and across beaver

dams to Murphy's Point Provincial Park where our hike ends.

Level 3 19 km Gas \$5 Departs 09:00
Leader: Bill Murdoch 389-3023

Saturday May 18 Rideau Trail
See the woodlands and pastures in spring garb from Freeman Rd. to Sydenham and return – with lunch at a local tearoom. Level 1, 8 km Gas \$2. Departs 10:00
Leader: Peck Peckover 544-9190

Sunday May 19 Frontenac Park
Experience the sights and sounds of spring as you hike the Cedar Lake Loop. Interesting scenic views of marshland areas and Big Salmon and Doe Lakes.
Level 2 15 km Gas \$3 + entry fee Departs 09:00
Leader: Audrey Sanger 384-6244

Saturday May 25 Cape Vincent N.Y., USA/ Wolfe Island (Bicycle)
This cycle trip will take us across Wolfe Island to Cape Vincent, USA, with lunch at the lighthouse at Tibbets Point and return. Bring I.D. Meet at the dock in time to catch the 09:30 ferry. Level 1
Approx. 40 km U.S. Ferry fee \$2 each way
Leader: Bernie Gates 389-1835

Sunday May 26 Rideau Trail
Join Bill on this annual hike between Orser Rd. and Railton Rd. Enjoy the sights and scents of lilacs and other wildflowers.
Level 1, 9 km Gas \$2. Departs 10:00
Leader: Bill Murdoch 389-3023

Saturday and Sunday June 1 & 2 Weekend/Canoe/Camping
Hart Lake overnight canoe trip. Shakedown for summer. Canoe camping with emphasis on gourmet campfire cooking. Book before 27 May as space is limited.
Leader: Allan Tattersall 549-4080

Saturday June 1 Frontenac Park
Experience the wildlife and spring scenery along the Doe and Arab trails in the Provincial Park.
Level 1 Approx. 6 km Gas \$3 + entry fee
Departs: 09:00
Leader: Audrey Sanger 384-6244

Sunday June 2 Rideau/Cataraqui Trails
Hike through mixed bush in the Skycroft area. Lunch overlooking Stonehouse Lake and a possible swim at

Lindsay Lake. Return along Cataraqui Trail.
Level 2 20 km Gas \$4 Depart: 09:00
Leader: Bill Murdoch 389-3023

Saturday June 8 Rideau Trail/Foley Mountain

Take a relaxing walk up Foley Mountain to Spy Rock starting at the Lions Club Beach in Westport. Enjoy panoramic views of Upper Rideau Lake and the picturesque village of Westport below. Bring swimsuit, insect repellent and lunch

Level 2 10 km Gas \$4 Departs: 09:30
Leader: Dale Ross 384-2959

Wednesday June 12 Gananoque

Hike Little Blue Mountain with scenic views of the countryside and the Gananoque River.

Level 2 10 km Gas \$4 Departs: 09:30
Leaders: Paul & Eva Smith 542-6003

Saturday June 15 Amherst Island

Enjoy the island scenery, wildflowers and quiet country roads. Hike or cycle. Meet at the Kingston Shopping Centre to leave promptly at 9:45, or at the Ferry Dock in time for the 10:30 ferry.

Level 1 10 km or cycle 20 km Gas \$1 plus ferry fee
Leaders: John and Sheila Needham 389-1894

Sunday June 16 Rideau Trail-Frontenac Park

Hike from the Trail Centre in Frontenac Park to Flagpole Hill and return. Enjoy the extensive scenic vistas.

Level 2 15 km Gas \$4 + park fee Departs: 09:00
Leader: Stan Huff 548-3003

Saturday June 22 Frontenac Park

Marie will guide you around the Little Salmon Lake Loop. Enjoy scenic lakes and ponds as well as the sights and sounds of early summer. Possible swim.

Level 3 17 km Gas \$3 + park fee Departs: 09:00
Leader: Marie Poisson 389-2473

Sunday June 23 Rideau Trail/Gould Lake

Experience spectacular views as you walk from Bedford Rd. to the Gould Lake Barn and return.

Level 3 13 km Gas \$3 Departs: 09:00
Leader: Audrey Sanger 384-6244

ADVANCE NOTICE

New members of the Kingston Club since May 2001: please mark your calendars, September 7, 2002 - Garden Party at 9 Kennedy St. Includes a morning hike and information session.

**Kingston Club
Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday April 27, 2002
Little Cataraqui Conservation Area
Outdoor Centre**

Program : 09:30 Coffee
10:00 Business Meeting
12:30 Brown Bag Lunch, with Hikes to follow

Attention all Kingston Club Members:

Anyone willing to let their name stand for a position on the Kingston Club Executive, please contact Bill Murdoch at 389-3023.

**Retailers Serving Kingston Club
Members**

The retail market for hiking and camping gear continues to change in Kingston. **Hikers Haven** in Kingston Centre is unfortunately closing. At the same time, a new **Jack Wolfskin** store has opened at Brock and Wellington Sts. and a second one is planned for the Kingston Township area. **Trailhead** has moved to 272 Princess St.

Discounts from regular prices to Rideau Trail members (showing their membership cards) are offered at:

- A-1 Clothing: 10% off clothing and backpacks
- Trailhead: 10% off clothing and footwear
- The Wanderer: 10% off all maps except Ontario base maps
- Jack Wolfskin: 10% off clothing, footwear, hiking and camping gear and accessories.

Peck Peckover

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. Levels of difficulty are described on page 11.

Scheduled activities take place regardless of the weather. 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 860-2225.

Transportation is by pooling of private cars, and passengers contribute to the driver's costs. 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 foot wear and clothing. Leaders, please send sign up sheets to John Haley, 38 Vaan Drive, Nepean, Ontario K2G 0C6.

The Moonlighters

Every Tuesday evening starting April 30 to late August, there will be a short level 1-2 hike, usually in the Gatineau Park, always within a 30 minute drive. Meet by 17:55 (5:55 p.m.) to depart 18:00 (6 p.m.) sharp. Hikes usually last until sunset. Bring water, snack, bug repellent and a flashlight.

Laraine Laughland 723-8851

The Wednesday Walkers

Every Wednesday there are Level 3 hikes in the Gatineau Park. Departure time is 9:30. Call Dorothy Belter (523-4420) or Nanette Whitwam (730-5417) for meet location.

Sunday, March 3

Osgoode

Level 1 ski, snowshoe or hike. Departure time 9:30 a.m. Gas \$4

LEADER: Dave Miller 826-2336

Saturday, March 9 Mont Bleu to Kingsmere Ruins and return.

Level 2+ ski. Departure time 9:30 a.m. Gas \$3

LEADER: Bud Massé 235-4670

Sunday, March 10

Along the Ottawa River in Aylmer.

Level 1 snowshoe or walk, followed by hot cider at leader's house. Departure time 1 p.m. Gas \$2

LEADER: Ann Bolster 819 684-8781

Saturday, March 16

Lime Kiln Trail

Level 1 snowshoe or hike. Departure 10 a.m. Gas \$2

LEADER: Jean Cottam 726-1596

Sunday, March 17

Kilmarnock Locks

Level 1. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a walk along quiet country roads through scenic Kilmarnock and on to Merrickville for a refreshment stop. Departs 9:30 a.m. Gas \$5

LEADER: Kay O'Méhot 526-5589

Saturday, March 23

Moonlight Ramble at the Schoolhouse

Level 1 ski, snowshoe or hike. Bring a hot drink, snack and a flashlight. Departure time 1800 (6 p.m.) Gas \$4

LEADER: Nanette Whitwam 730-5417

Sunday, March 24

Cataraqui Trail

Level 1+ hike on an old abandoned railway line.

Departure time 9:30 a.m. Gas to be determined.

LEADER: David Spector 829-6802

Tuesday, March 26

Rideau Trail Closed

Friday, March 29

Slide Show

Location will be determined at a later date. Numbers limited. Call for details and to reserve by Wednesday, March 27

CONTACT: Margaret Lafrance 692-1810

March 31 Please renew your membership now.

Monday, April 1

Manotick

Level 1. An Easter and April Fool's Day hike followed by refreshments at a local restaurant.

Departure time 10 a.m. Gas \$3

LEADER: Margaret Lafrance 692-1810

Saturday, April 6 Along the Raisin River from Martinstown to Williamstown. Level 1. A 12-14 km historical walk. Departure time 9 a.m. Gas \$6
LEADER: David Spector 829-6802

Sunday, April 7 Wakefield Covered Bridge/Karen Road Loop. Level 1 hike along the Gatineau River followed by a lunch stop at Wakefield café. Departs 10:00 a.m. Gas \$4
LEADER: Marilyn Levitan 828-2281

Saturday, April 13 Ottawa River Parkway
Level 1 hike on the Rideau Trail with a stop for coffee. Departs 10:00 a.m.
LEADER: Coby Fuykschot 722-6022

Saturday, April 13 Gatineau Park
Level 3. An exploratory hike on rugged terrain, possibly some bushwhacking. Good physical conditioning required for this one. Departs 9 a.m. Gas to be determined.
LEADER: Lisa Buchner 729-4487

Sunday, April 14 Carman Lake Area
Level 2 hike to possibly discover some new trails in this area. Departure time 9:30 a.m. Gas \$4
LEADER: Peter Scott 729-9557

Friday, April 19 Ottawa Club AGM
See notice on page 11 of this Newsletter.

Saturday, April 20 Gould Lake
Level 3. Spring flowers probable. Superb rugged trails, may be wet in parts. Long day, supper at Westport, late return. Departs 08:00. Gas \$7.
LEADER: John Haley 225-0590

Sunday, April 21 Luskville Falls Area
Level 2 in the Gatineau Park. Departs 8:30 a.m. Gas \$5
LEADER: Helmut Alexander 725-3338

Saturday, April 27 Plaisance Nature Reserve
Level 1 hike to see migrating Canada geese and a spectacular waterfall. Departure time 9:30 Gas \$5
LEADER: Bob Bennett 749-7440

Sunday, April 28 New Edinburgh
A walk to look at the fine architecture of New Edinburgh's lovely old houses, followed by a pub stop. Departs 1 p.m. Gas \$2
LEADER: Bill Grant 820-0697

Tuesday, April 30 Moonlighters' Hikes Start

Friday, May 3 Basic Map Reading
This introductory-level classroom course is intended for those who have little or no knowledge of maps or how to use them to find their way around, but would like to learn. Small charge to cover expenses and materials. Time 19:00 (7:00 p.m.). For registration, place and details contact instructor Graham Creedy 789-1657

Saturday, May 4 Gatineau Park
Level 3, Luskville Falls and much more. Departs 08:30 a.m. Gas \$5
LEADER: John Haley 225-0590

Saturday & Sunday, May 4 & 5 Richmond Landing to Ottawa St., Richmond
Level 2 2-day hike. Saturday, May 4 departs Tunney's Pasture 8 a.m. Distance 23.4 km. Sunday, May 5 departs Bell's Corners 8 a.m. Distance 24.1 kms. Gas to be determined.
LEADER: Wilf & Mary Bradnock 829-1403

Friday & Saturday, May 10-11 Map & Compass Instruction. This intermediate to advanced-level course explains how to use a map and compass for off-trail navigation, including leading off-trail hikes and how to handle common problems. The course consists of 3 hours of classroom instruction on the Friday evening, and a full day of field practice on the Saturday where participants divide into small groups and apply the techniques as they navigate their way round a route of increasing complexity. Small charge to cover expenses and materials. Time 19:00 (7:00 p.m.) For registration, places and details contact instructor Graham Creedy 789-1657. Pre-registration is essential for this course, and space is limited.

Saturday, May 11 Stony Swamp/Lime Kiln
Level 1 hike to enjoy the spring flowers. Departs 9 a.m. Gas \$2
LEADERS: Wilf & Mary Bradnock 829-1403

Saturday, May 11 Frontenac Park
Level 3 hike on the Arkon Lake Loop with lookout over Little Salmon Lake. Long day with possible supper stop on way home. Departs 8:30 Gas \$7
LEADER: David Spector 829-6802

Sunday, May 12 Luskville Falls to McKinstrey
Level 2 hike. Departure time 9 a.m. Gas \$5
LEADER: Peter Freyseng 224-5451

Sunday, May 12 Beveridges Locks to Perth

Level 2, 16-18 km hike on the Rideau Trail.

Departs 9 a.m. Gas \$5

LEADER: John Barron 828-2296

Saturday, May 18 Centre Forestier du Lac LeBlanc, Mayo, Quebec. Level 2 hike . Departs 9:30 a.m. Gas \$5

LEADER: Pearl Peterkin 747-2985

Sunday, May 19 Farris Creek to Luskville Falls

Level 2 interesting and "off the beaten path" hike in

Western Gatineau Park Departs 9:30 Gas \$5

LEADER: Pat Clarkin 729-2737

Victoria Day, Monday, May 20 Spring Picnic and hikes in Perth

An opportunity for new members to meet old members at a joint Ottawa/Central Club activity with a choice of a Level 1 or 2 hike on the Rideau Trail followed by a picnic in Stewart Park, Perth.

COORDINATOR: Margaret Lafrance 692-1810

Level 1 Tay Canal Walk to possibly see Dame's

Rocket wildflowers. Depart 10:00 a.m. Gas \$5

LEADER: Bill Grant 820-0697

Level 2 Rideau Trail, Mica Mines Area,

12-14 km. Departs 9:00 a.m. Gas \$5

LEADER: Dave Miller 826-2336

Friday, May 24 Evening Horror Hike

Level 1 in Stony Swamp. Bring flashlight, fluids, snack to enjoy with Vincent Price at the Lime Kiln, & rat repellent Departs 18:45 (6:45 p.m.) Gas \$2

LEADER: John Haley 225-0590

LEADER: John Haley 225-0590

Saturday, May 25 Gatineau Park

Level 2 hike to see the spring flowers Departs 9:30 a.m.

Gas \$4

LEADER: Jean Sunter 828-6077

Sunday, May 26 Curly Lake, Lac Lapeche, Gatineau Park. Level 2+ hike. Departs 9:30 a.m. Gas \$5

LEADER: Ron Maybury 836-2953

Saturday, June 1 Carbide Mill Ruins, Gatineau Park

Level 2 hike from Pine Road to MacDonald Bay.

Departs 9 a.m. Gas \$4

LEADER: Grant Malinsky 730-2772

Saturday, June 1 Gatineau Park

Level 3 hike on the Wolf Trail to the North Window.

Long hike on rugged terrain with some extensive

bushwhacking. Participants should be in good physical

condition for this one. Possible swim afterwards.

Departs 9:30 a.m. Gas \$4

LEADER: Don Carpenter 730-3879

Sunday, June 2 Cycle on a Mystery Tour

Level 2 cycle outing. Departs 9:30 a.m.

LEADERS Dennis & Barri Scully 565-7710

Saturday, June 8 Frontenac Park

Level 3 hike A long day with a supper stop on the way home. Departs 8:30 a.m. Gas \$7

LEADER: David Spector 829-6802

Sunday, June 9 Meech Lake to Larrimac

Level 2 hike in the Gatineau Park. Departs 8:30 a.m.

Gas \$4

LEADER: Marilyn Levitan 828-2281

Friday, June 14 Evening Canal Walk

Meet at Dow's Lake Boathouse at 18:00 (6:00 p.m.).

Possible parking across street.

LEADER: Hendrika Exel 836-2153

Saturday, June 15 Westport to Narrows Locks

Level 2 hike with possible swim on scenic section of the Rideau Trail. Departs 8:30 a.m. Gas \$6

LEADER: Don Grant 828-1026

Saturday, June 15 The Pulpit (Tawadina) from Cregheur Road

Level 3 hike in the Gatineau Park. Long hike, with steep ascents, rugged terrain. Good physical conditioning required for this one. Departs 10:00 am. Gas \$4.

LEADER: Peter Hawkins 749-2093

Sunday, June 16 Canoe the Kemptville Creek

Level 1 canoe outing followed by a short walk in Kemptville for an ice cream or hot drink.

Departs 10 a.m. Gas \$5. Call the leader if you are looking for a canoeing partner.

LEADER: Margaret Lafrance 692-1810

Friday, June 21 Evening Cycle Outing to Aylmer Marina

Level 1. Celebrate the first day of summer and the longest day with an easy cycle ride.

LEADER: Marilyn Levitan 828-2281

Saturday, June 22 MacNamara Trail, Arnprior

This short interpretive trail created last year is very interesting and with luck we may see the fringed lady slippers. Tea stop in Arnprior. Departs 10 a.m, Gas \$5

LEADER: Bill Grant 820-0697

Saturday, June 22**Wolf Trail**

Level 2 hike in the Gatineau Park.

Departs 9 a.m. Gas \$4

LEADER: Marion Dunning 232-8304

Sunday, June 23**Westport to Bedford Mills**

Level 2 hike on the Rideau Trail. Departs 8:30 Gas \$4

LEADER: Ron Hunt 590-7467

Sunday, June 30 Gatineau Parkway Bicycle Paths

Level 2 cycle outing Departs 9:30 a.m.

LEADER: Bev Armstrong 738-0310

Levels of Difficulty

Hiking:

Level 1 - Well defined trails, gentle inclines. Hiking boots not required, but trails may be wet. Suitable for beginners. Recommended for newcomers to Club activities.

Level 2 - Generally on trail. May be hilly, light bushwhacking, some rough spots or obstacles. Boots recommended.

Level 3 - Rough terrain. One or more of extensive bushwhacking, steep sections, long climbs and descents, beaver dams or other obstacles, rock scrambling. Boots, level 2 experience, and a high level of fitness essential. Long pants and sleeves recommended.

Cycling:

Level 1 - Few hills, broad roads or bike paths, little traffic. Participants must be able to ride a bicycle.

Level 2 - Some hills, narrower roads, some traffic. Participants should be fit and experienced.

Level 3 - Long hills, narrow roads, excellent fitness and good cycling skills required.

Skiing:

Level 0 - Flat terrain, variable length.

Level 1 - Gentle hills, may be long distance (eg 15 km).

Level 2 - Variable terrain, some steep hills. Level 1 experience needed. Green and blue trails in Gatineau Park.

Level 3 - Long, varied terrain, may be off trails. Level 2 experience essential. Black trails in Gatineau Park.

Ottawa Club Annual General Meeting

**Friday, April 19, 2002, 7 pm
St. Giles Presbyterian Church**

1st and Bank Streets, Ottawa
(parking north of the church)

Program: 7:00 pm Coffee and tea
7:00 pm Business meeting
9:15 pm Slide Presentation -
"Travel and Hiking in the Patagonia Region of
Argentina and Chile", by Alex Bissett

L'Estérel Ski Weekend, continued from page 4

list for unexpected cancellations — this year a broken wrist, but Bruce Antliff came with his broken leg.)

When Konrad found Bob Sine (a professional driver) we added the van which proved to have other uses.

Next year it could be used to take demanding skiers to challenging trails beyond! The use of a van adds a modest amount to the whole package (around \$10 per person). With seventy-one paying clients, we stayed within our budget of \$20,000.

Most of the opinion sheets have been received. They indicated a willingness to return once again to L'Estérel with a few suggestions mentioned above. One other suggestion worth considering is eating our final meal earlier, say 2 or 2:30, with an earlier departure on Sunday. We then could be in Kingston closer to 8 than 10. The drive back in dark, snow, rain, and wind was horrendous this year (praise to thee, Konrad and Bob - that was some hill!).

A few volunteers (Margaret, Allan, Joan, and Lars) will be consulted before the final decision is made and advertised for next year. But we need to decide before all good dates and places are lost for February 2003.

Lars Thompson

Keep Receiving Your Newsletter !

Membership renewals are due March 31, and this will be your last newsletter if you do not renew. Use the renewal form on the back cover page. Please continue your support of the Rideau Trail.

Rideau Trail Association - Central Club Activities

The meeting place for Central Club activities is Conlon Farm in Perth at 9 am, unless otherwise indicated. To reach this recreation area, turn right from the main street (Gore Street) onto County Road 10 towards Westport, and take the third road to the right (Conlon Drive) to the Conlon Farm parking area. Come prepared for the conditions: bring water, lunch, bug spray, rain gear, etc. Levels of difficulty are described on page 11. Shorter, easier hikes can be arranged where conditions permit.

Tuesday 26 March *Rideau Trail Closed*

March 31 **Please renew your membership now.**

Saturday, April 6 **Armstrong Road, Maberly to Sharbot Lake.** Join us for a trip on the old rail bed which runs from Glen Tay to Havelock. We will have a leisurely stroll ending up at Grandma's - renowned for their lovely English tea pots. Level flat. Approx. 12 km. Don't pick the pussy willows! John Miller 264-8824

Sunday, April 21st - Central Club Annual General Meeting. See notice on this page.

Saturday, May 4th **Linda's Loop**
A first official two-leader hike. One for the 'Gung Ho!' and the other for 'normal people'. The older you get the more normal you become!! Both hikes will be level 2, but within the same capability range. Don't be shy. Turn up at Conlon Farm and enjoy the day. Bring lunch. As normal as a Gung Hoer gets: - Dave Miller 826-2336

Monday, May 20th **A "Perth Venture"**
Again two hikes! Count them: Level 1 and Level 2; what a choice! Our friends from Ottawa will be joining us and the guest conductor for level one will be Bill Grant. Our own Bruce Gourley at 267-3030 will set the bar for the Central Club. A picnic will be held in Stewart Park (Central Perth) following the day's activities. Bring your gourmet delights!

Saturday, June 8th

Heart Lake

Come along for the ride and enjoy the scenery at a new spot on the map. Should be an exciting day of canoeing or hiking depending the whether or not. Bring lunch. Level 2. Get level from Don Sherwin 268-2447.

Sunday, June 16th **Up the Creek at Kemptville**

No fear. Our intrepid windmill paddler will lead us through the broad and narrow for a day of water extravaganza. Bring canoe, swimming costume, food and water. Level 2. Have fun with Dave Miller 826-2336

Sunday, June 23rd

Bottle Lake

No black flies at this location. Contents of bottle keep them at bay! Level 2. Near Lavant on Robinson Lake. Bottle Opener John Miller 264-8824

Central Club - Annual General Meeting

**Sunday April 21, 2002, 10 am
at McMartin House**

All members are invited to attend and participate. We need your input to enable the club to design its activities to meet the members' needs. A short hike will be held after the meeting. Bring lunch. Coffee & tea provided in the morning.

!! Volunteer Needed !!

The Kingston Club Executive is looking for a member to fill the vacant position of
RTA CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

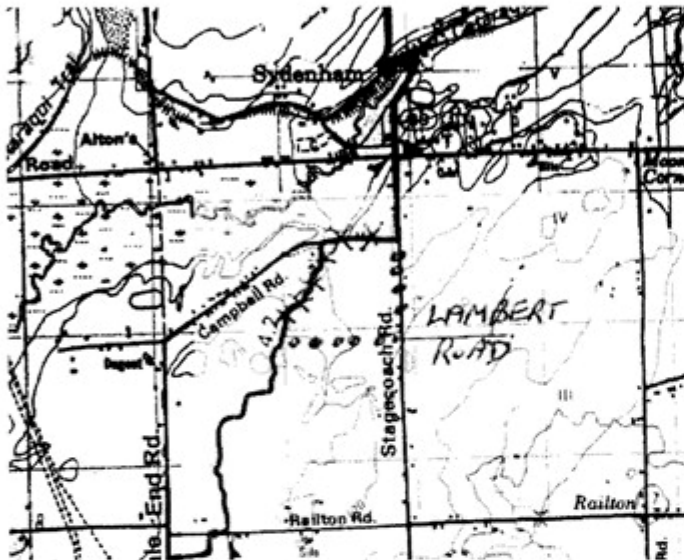
Currently this person is responsible for providing general information about the RTA to the public, but the job description is under review. (This is an RTA Board, not a Kingston Club Executive, position.) If interested, please contact Cam Hodges at 545-0823.

Rerouted Trails and Changes to the Trail Guide

Closed portions of the trail are marked by xxx. New portions are marked or ____.

Map 2, South of Sydenham. The first paragraph on page 27 of the Guide should read:

The Trail continues north and east around fields and through wooded country for 3 km until it reaches Stagecoach Road at Lambert Road, where it turns left (north) into Sydenham.



Map 2

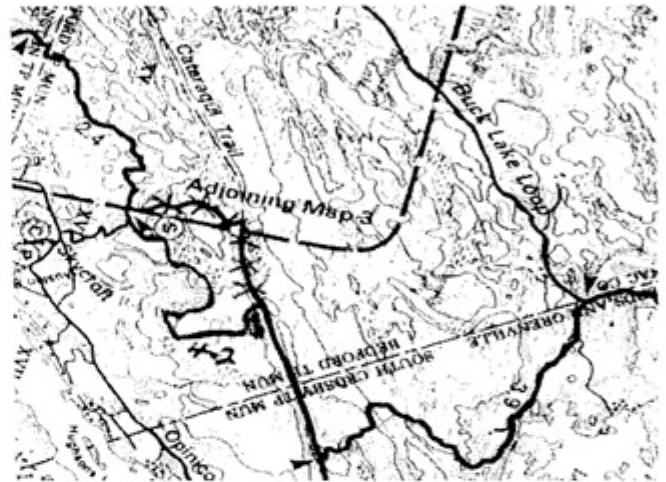
Map 5, Ghost Town. The Ghost Town is on Cooper Dr. as indicated below, not as shown on Map 5. The description on page 56 of the Guide is correct.



Map 5

Map 4 (and adjoining part of Map 3) near km 81.3. The first paragraph on page 42 should read:

The Trail continues through mixed woodlands and crosses a bridge beside Two Island Lake. It returns to the CT, turns right (northeast) for 1.5 km, then turns left. (Distance between markers increased from 3.3 to 4.2 km.)



Map 4 (and adjoining part of Map 3 in upper left corner)

Bill Murdoch

Bed and Breakfast Trip

A midweek bed and breakfast trip is planned for late September, 2002. Details are yet to be finalized. If you are interested, please phone Bob Chadwick at 613-352-1052.



Other Activities

The activities listed below are not sponsored by the Rideau Trail Association, and the Association accepts no responsibility for them. These notices are published as a service to RTA members.

Hike Ontario Activities

March 13-17. Canada Blooms, The Toronto Flower and Garden Show. South Building, Metro Toronto Convention Centre. www.canadablooms.com Come see exhibits by Hike Ontario, The Bruce Trail, the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust and more.

Sunday April 7. World Health Day. This year's slogan: "Move for Health." Information at www.who.int/hpr/index.htm

Monday April 22. Earth Day. www.earthday.net

April 22-28. Pitch-in Canada Week. The theme is "Earth - our living room - keep it clean!". www.PITCH-IN.ca

Saturday May 11. Jamboree on the Trail (JOTT), an annual day for the World Scout Movement to hike together. <http://jott.org/index.en.shtml>

Saturday June 1. National Trails Day in the United States. www.americanhiking.org

September 30 - Oct. 6. Ontario Hiking Week, sponsored by Hike Ontario. www.hikeontario.com

Tuesday October 1. International Walk to School Day. www.goforgreen.ca

Sunday October 6. Ontario Hiking Day. Events hosted by hiking groups throughout Ontario. www.hikeontario.com

Hilly Hike 15, 17-20 May 2002

Day hiking in the White Mountains over the May long weekend; accommodation (3 nights) and all meals at the Wayside Inn, Bethlehem, N.H. About US\$190 per person, double occupancy, all inclusive. Payment deadline 26 April. Contact Cliff Daly at 613-746-5063.

Trip to NWT, Nunavut, Arctic

In summer 2003 I plan to hike for 4-5 weeks through parts of the NWT, Nunavut, and perhaps the Yukon. I wonder if someone in the RTA knows of any organized groups that undertake this sort of trip; if not, could we organize one ourselves for approximately six people.

Please contact Irma Stegner at (home) 613-825-3290 or (work) 613-941-0189.

Hike the Rideau Trail Canada Day Weekend with the Toronto Bruce Trail Club

This is an opportunity to hike the 300 km Rideau Trail in the rugged Canadian Shield from Kingston to Ottawa. Traverse an area of varied geological and ecological systems, steeped in early Canadian history. These are hikes #6 - 10 of a 15-hike end-to-end endeavour. Further hikes are planned for Labour Day weekend 2002. For details of all hikes, and to register, contact leaders **Tom Hall at 416-239-6578, tomjhall@rogers.com, or Larry Haigh at 416-432-1239.**

Saturday June 29. Upper Rideau Lake, Foley Mountain, and Westport. Today we hike through the town of Westport and to the top of Foley Mountain. Here we reach the highest elevation of the Rideau Trail, 207 metres above sea level. We hike along the north shore of Upper Rideau Lake. Maps 4 and 5. 22 km, level 3, departs 08:30 from 126.7 km, map 5, Narrows Lock Rd. southwest of Rideau Lake North Shore Rd., just before lockstation.

Sunday June 30. Murphy's Point Provincial Park and Big Rideau Lake. Today we hike through cottage country along the north shore of Big Rideau Lake and enter Murphy's Point Provincial Park. Map 5. 21 km, level 3, departs 08:30 from 147.9 km, map 5, corner of County Rd. 21 (Elm Grove Rd.) and Long Lake Rd.

Monday July 1. Perth and Mica Mines. Come celebrate Canada Day as we hike through rocky pastures and mature woods, past beaver ponds and abandoned mica mines to the historic town of Perth. Maps 5 and 6. 21 km, level 3, departs 08:30 from 169 km, map 6, Conlon Farm Recreation Area, Perth, one long block northwest of County Rd. 10 (Scotch Line).

-continued on page 15

Tuesday July 2. Port Elmsley to Perth. Today we hike through the historic town of Perth, site of Canada's last duel. Following the Tay River and the Rideau Canal through the summer countryside, we reach the village of Port Elmsley. Maps 6 and 7. 17 km, level 3, departs 08:30 from 185.6 km, map 7, Township Office on County Rd. 18 (Port Elmsley Rd.), 1 km south of the intersection of County Rd. 43.

Wednesday July 3. Smiths Falls to Port Elmsley. Today we hike through the historic town of Smiths Falls, situated on the Rideau River. For those of you with a sweet tooth, the trail leads past the Hershey chocolate factory. Maps 7 and 8. 22 km, level 3, departs 08:30 from 207.6 km, map 8, at the corner of County Rd. 23 (Rosedale Rd.) and Guthrie Rd.

Skyline Hikers of the Canadian Rockies

Non-profit organization offers five 6-day wilderness base camps in the Canadian Rockies, July 15 to August 12, 2002. Total cost approximately \$620 includes bus transportation, tent accommodation with stove, hot water, all meals, camp staff, guided day hikes, and evening campfire program. Hikers carry only a daypack, but must be fit for mountain hiking. Registration starts January 2002. For a free brochure call 780-289-6272 or e-mail skyhiker@telusplanet.net. Ontario residents contact Harry Moerschner at 705-445-0167, e-mail moersch@bmts.com.

Horse Riding in the Wakefield Area

Last summer five of us enjoyed horse riding in the countryside near Wakefield. We found a stable that accommodated all levels of rider, from beginner to experienced; some took a lesson while others went out on the trails. We brought a picnic and either stayed by the Gatineau River or drove elsewhere, one time to a lake and the Trans-Canada Trail near Gracefield. We plan to begin riding again this spring. How about giving those legs a rest and letting the horse do the work? Contact Theodora Newton at 613-569-3540.

Guided Algonquin

Have you or someone you know ever wanted to experience the wilderness but just not had the confidence to do it yourself? Maybe you would just like someone there to help with the little things that can make or break a good trip? Guided Algonquin may be the answer.

Guided Algonquin is a wilderness canoe tripping company which operates on the beautiful lakes and rivers of Algonquin Provincial Park. We offer three, four, and five day wilderness canoe trip adventures to people of all ages. Operating out of the Portage Store on Canoe Lake, packages include all food, tents, canoes, and an experienced guide. You will experience waking to the haunting calls of the loon on the misty morning lake, dining over an open fire, wildlife in its natural environment, old growth forests which remain only in small selected pockets, not to mention northern lights, meteor showers and spectacular sunsets.

Trips follow routes forged by the surveyors and loggers of the area in the late 1800's. All of Algonquin is soaked with the rich history of the early settlers; old farms and logging camps can be found throughout the vast web of canoe routes. These lakes were an inspiration to some of Canada's most famous artists.

For your summer vacation this year, consider getting a little closer to the natural beauty of this country, and what better way than in a canoe. For more information call the Portage Store winter offices at 705-789-3645, fax 705-789-6955, or e-mail at portagestore@info.com.





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

Canada Post
Publications Mail
Agreement No. 40019036

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE MARCH 31
SUPPORT THE RTA AND MAIL YOUR RENEWAL TODAY !
The Summer Newsletter will not be sent to those who do not renew.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: The membership year is from April 1 to March 31. Applications for new memberships dated November 1 - March 31 will be valid for the following membership year. 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, please complete the form below and mail it with your payment to: **Rideau Trail Association, P.O. Box 15, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 4V6.**

- | | |
|--|------------|
| ☐ Annual Individual/Family Membership | \$20.00 |
| ☐ Patron (Life Membership) | * \$300.00 |
| ☐ Guide Book: Members | ** \$22.00 |
| (6th edition, 2001) Non-Members | ** \$27.00 |
| ☐ Rideau Trail Wall Map (new) | ** \$12.00 |
| ☐ Crest | \$2.00 |
| ☐ Lapel Pin | \$4.00 |
| ☐ Car Sticker (free to new members) | \$1.00 |
| ☐ Enamelled Lapel Pin | \$3.00 |

Prices subject to change

- | | |
|---|------------|
| ☐ Donation to RTA | * \$ _____ |
| ☐ Donation to RT Preservation Fund | * \$ _____ |

TOTAL \$ _____

- * Qualifies for income tax credit
Charitable registration # 0041733-56-11
** Includes postage and handling

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

- New Member ☐ Renewal ☐
Present Life Member ☐ Complimentary Member ☐

PLEASE INDICATE A DESIRE TO HELP WITH

- Serving on Executive ☐ Leading Hikes ☐
Leading x/c Ski Outings ☐ Trail Maintenance ☐
Trail Construction ☐ Other (specify): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

☐ I wish to subscribe to an RTA e-letter.