



The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2002

ISSUE NO. 126



From the President

You might be tempted to think that now that there is actually permanent "white stuff" on the ground, the hiking season is over. Nothing could be further from the truth! I would encourage you to continue your outdoor activities just as you have been doing. "How?" I hear you cry. "Quite simple, really. Snowshoe!"

I don't mean those large, old-fashioned bear-paws or beaver-tails, that take a lot of hard effort to master. I am advocating the newer high-tech type of snowshoe. They are easy to learn to use, and most people seem to forget about having to manage them after about an hour. Your leg motion is just like normal spring-summer-fall hiking. Swing your leg through, land on your heel, then push off on your toe. It means that your favourite trails are still accessible to you even if there is lots of snow. Like all challenges, you will have to find out how much you can do at any one time, how to dress for the weather (layers, naturally), and to pack extra calories, especially a hot lunch. While these snowshoes are not terribly expensive, beginning around \$120 and up, they can usually be rented inexpensively from many of the outdoor stores where we already shop.

Where will you go? Well I know that the Ottawa Club has an active program, and has planned 10 Sunday outings that you can read about in this newsletter. I also hear Bill Murdoch has planned a winter end-to-end and I think that you will need to snowshoe a good part of it. And there are lots of informal explorations going on all the time. So....get out there this winter and have fun.

Peter Hawkins

Editor's Note

You will likely notice some changes in the format of the newsletter. I'm experimenting with this issue a little to try to simplify the format and cut down on the amount of time it takes to get one of these "beasties" off the ground. Articles and photos are not only welcome, but necessary and all submissions are appreciated – even if space doesn't permit everything to be included. However, please submit them by e-mail and in MSWord if possible; it is time consuming to type out handwritten submissions or "phoned-in" submissions. Many thanks.

Janice Miller

New Activity: Winter End to End Weekends of Jan. 4-5, 18-19, Feb 15-16, 22-23

Experience the beauty of the Rideau Trail in winter.

The first hike will leave the Mill Restaurant parking lot in Ottawa at 08:30 a.m., January 4, 2003 and continue on the following day, January 5th. The next hike will be on Jan. 18th and 19th. In February, the dates allotted are: 15&16, and 22nd & 23rd. Starting points after the first hike can be determined by contacting the local contact persons, as follows: Ottawa – Grant Malinsky (730-2772); Central – Bruce Gourley (264-2478); Kingston – Bill Murdoch(389-3023).

Participants must expect (be able) to be on the trail at least 5 hours and travel a minimum of 15km on foot or snowshoes. Skiers are welcome but must arrange their own transportation. Locations, departure times and gas are to be determined. See schedules for further details. Not snow, not wind, not temperature will stop us, but freezing rain will!

Bill Murdoch

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS

Kingston Club – Betty McIver

The Kingston Club was pleased to nominate Betty McIver as their recipient for the Outstanding Service Award in appreciation of her continued service and support to the RTA.

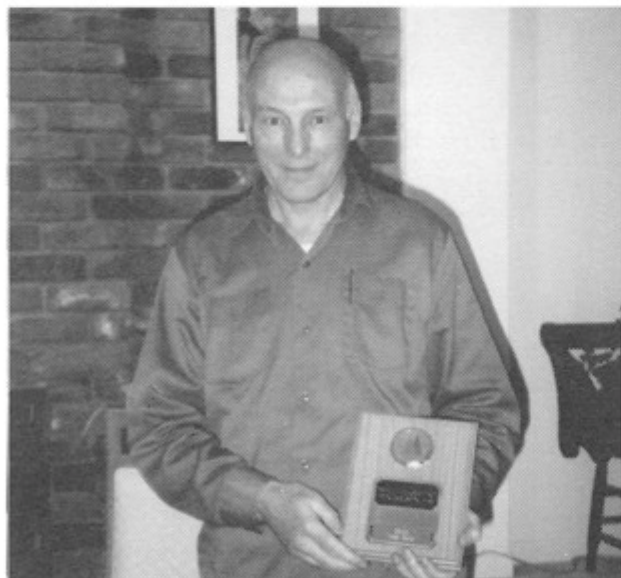
Over the years Betty has completed the 'end-to-end', and has spearheaded, with Ray Forrester, a series of hike-leaders' workshops for the Kingston Club. In the mid 1980s she was serving on the Kingston Club Executive Committee, maintaining a section of trail, and leading hikes. In the early 1990s she became a member of the Board and served for 6 years: as Vice-President, President. During her Presidency, Betty initiated and co-ordinated the planning process to define the Rideau Trail of the future. Betty has continued her participation in the Kingston Club activities and is currently serving as the Club Executive's Routes & Negotiations Co-ordinator, as well as providing telephone responses to enquiries regarding the RTA. Thank you, Betty. **Cam Hodges**.

Ottawa Club – Tom Bach

The Ottawa Club is pleased to present its Outstanding Service Award to Tom Bach for his work in setting up and managing the membership data base for the RTA. Tom joined the RTA in 1987 and served the Ottawa Club as Trail Maintenance Coordinator. In 1994 when Tom retired from his job at National Research Council of Canada, he was asked to purchase a computer and software and set up a membership data base for the RTA. In short order, Tom had transferred all the membership information to the database – just in time to print labels for the Winter newsletter. Within a year, the Association stopped keeping manual membership records.

Tom always does more than he's asked. Not only is he meticulous in keeping accurate records, he is always looking for ways to produce more useful lists for the clubs and the Board.

In 1997 Tom established a web page for the RTA. It contains a description of the RTA and its activities, with a partial list of current outings. It also features an e-mail address so that anyone can contact the RTA electronically. And Tom is the one who answers these inquiries, either himself or with a referral to another member of the clubs. In effect, Tom is our electronic corresponding secretary. We thank Tom for bringing us into the electronic age. **Linda Hayes**



Don't Forget!

Renew Your RTA Membership Before March 31st, 2003.

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION – KINGSTON CLUB ACTIVITIES

The meeting place for all activities, unless stated otherwise, is in the NE corner of the Kingston Centre north parking lot near the Canada Trust Building, 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 detail or location of Wednesday walks. Bring lunch and a thermos with a hot drink. Wear strong, warm 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. 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 winter season should contact Donald Bond at 1161 Front Rd. Kingston K7M 4M2, 634-9353. Leaders should send their sign-up sheets to the above address.

Saturday December 7 Dessert Party, Party time! Let's get together and start the holiday season with a bang. Bring your favorite dessert to St. Lawrence Place on Ontario St. at 6:30 pm for our annual dessert party.

CONTACT: Linda Simpson 345-5664

Sunday December 8 Rideau Trail. Hike the Rideau Trail south from Westport to Bedford Mills. Rocky wooded areas and abandoned farmlands. Level 3, 17 km. Gas \$3. Departs 9:00. LEADER: Bill Murdoch 389-3023

Wednesday December 11 Prince Edward County. We will be hiking in the sheltered wooded areas of the Beaver Meadows Conservation Area. Level 1, 10 km. Gas \$6. Departs 9:00 LEADER: Bob Chadwick 352-1052

Saturday December 14 Rideau Trail Hike from the Narrows Locks, along the north shore of Big Rideau Lake to the Ghost Town and return along the blue trail. Level 1, 12 km. Gas \$4. Departs 9:00. LEADER: Bob Tolley 542-9626

Saturday December 28 Parrotts Bay Conservation Area. Hike the trails at Parrotts Bay. Level 2, Approx. 6 km. Depart 10:00. Gas \$2. LEADER: Barbara Pusch 544-0933

January 4&5 Rideau Trail Winter End-to-End, Day 1 and Day 2 CONTACT: Bill Murdoch (613)389-3023

Saturday January 4 Frontenac Park Enjoy the winter scenery in the Park. Hike or snowshoe along the Corridor Trail to Big Salmon Lake and return along the road. Lunch at the Trail Centre. Level 1, about 10 km. Gas \$3 + park fee. Departs 9:00. LEADER: Audrey Sanger 384-6244

Sunday January 5 Lemoine Point Hike or ski from the South parking lot (near the airport). Bring a lunch to eat at Lars and Lynn's, coffee/tea brewed and served by Lars. Level 1, 5+ km. Gas, \$1. Departs 10:00 from Kingston Centre. LEADER: Lynn Nolan 389-8747

Wednesday January 8 Little Cataraqui Conservation Area, Hike or ski the trails in the Conservation Area. Bring lunch to eat at the Outdoor Centre. Level 1, about 10 km. Gas \$2. + entry fee. Departs 9:00 LEADER: Martin Reeve 548-4960

Saturday January 11 Little Cataraqui Conservation Area, Ski or hike the trails in the Conservation Area. Bring lunch to eat at the Outdoor Centre. Level 1, about 10 km. Gas \$2. + entry fee. Departs 9:00 LEADER: Stan Huff 548-3003

January 18&19 Rideau Trail Winter End-to-End, Day 3 and Day 4, CONTACT: Bill Murdoch (613)389-3023

Saturday January 18 Rideau Trail Ski or Hike from Railton Road to Sydenham and return. Bring lunch or eat at a restaurant in Sydenham. Level 1, about 8 km. Gas \$2. Departs 9:00. LEADER: Watson Ogilvie 530-2378

Saturday January 25 Frontenac Park, Hike or ski the Arkon Trail from the Trail Centre. Level 2, about 17 km. Depart at 9:00. Bring a lunch to eat at the Trail Centre. Gas \$3.+ Park fee.LEADER: Dave Armitage 634-4426

January 31-February 2 Get-away ski weekend-Hotel l'Esterel. for up-to-date information,
CONTACT: Lars Thompson 389-8747

Saturday February 1 Gould Lake Snowshoe or hike the Blue Trails. Level 2 & 3. Approx. 10km. (The distance will depend on condition of the trails.) Gas \$3. + entry fee. Depart 9:00. LEADER: Donald Bond 634-9353

Saturday February 8 Rideau Trail, Hike from the Trailhead to Cataraqui Cemetary and return. Bring lunch. Level 1, 10 km. Gas \$1. Depart 9:00 LEADER: Peggy Harding 546-7202

Wednesday February 12 Cataraqui Trail Mystery Hike on the Cataraqui Trail. Level 1, approx. 10 km. Gas \$3. Depart at 9:00 LEADER: Audrey Sanger 384-6244

Saturday February 15 Frontenac Park, Snowshoe or hike the Corridor Trail and perhaps a partial loop, depending on conditions. 10 + km, Level 1 & 2. Gas \$3. and Park fee. Bring lunch. Depart 9:00
LEADER: Gloria Seeley 546-2503

February 15 & 16 Rideau Trail Winter End-to-End Day 5 and Day 6. CONTACT: Bill Murdoch (613)389-3023

February 22 & 23 Rideau Trail Winter End-to-End Day 7 and Day 8 . CONTACT: Bill Murdoch (613)389-3023

Saturday February 22 Opinicon Area Ski the trails in the Opinicon Area. Level 2, approx 15 km. Bring lunch to eat around a campfire. Gas \$4. Depart 9:00 LEADER: Dale Ross 384-2959

Saturday March 1, location to be determined depending on weather conditions. Depart 9:00. Gas TBD
LEADER: Barbara Pusch 544-0933

Saturday March 8 Myles Acres Ski or hike the trails at Myles Acres, depending on conditions. Bring lunch to eat in clubhouse. Level 1-2, distances variable. Gas\$2. Departs 9:30 LEADER: Marie Poisson 389-2473

Wednesday March 12 Charleston Lake Hike various trails in the Park as conditions permit. Bring a lunch. Level 1-2, Distance variable. Gas \$4 + Park fee. Depart 9:00 Leader: Ellen Shepherd 541-1185

Saturday March 15 Rideau Trail Hike the Rideau Trail from Bullen to Unity Road and return. Level 2, 10 km. Gas \$2. Depart 9:00. LEADER: Betty McIver 549-8028

Saturday March 22 Cataraqui Trail Hike the Cataraqui Trail from Harrowsmith to Sydenham and return. Level 1,13 km. Gas \$3. Depart 9:00. LEADER: Alberta Edgar 542-9662

Hike Leader Training Course

A standardized course for hike leader training will be given on March 29th, 2003, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. (Exact location to be confirmed.) Successful candidates will receive a certificate and a hike leader badge. Their names will also appear on the Hike Ontario website indicating that they are 'qualified' to lead day hikes. The cost is \$5 for members of Hike Ontario and \$30 for non members. (This price includes membership in Hike Ontario). There may also be additional costs to cover expenses for photocopying etc. Those interested should contact David Armitage at (613) 634 4426 or Bill Murdoch at (613) 389 3023.

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION - OTTAWA CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

Transportation is by pooling of private cars, and passengers voluntarily contribute to the driver's gas costs. Any other fees, e.g. for parking and entry to Parks and Conservation Areas, are shared among the driver and passengers. Trail fees in Gatineau Park are the responsibility of each individual participant.

Leaders are requested to send sign up sheets to John Haley, 55 Maple View Crescent, Nepean, Ontario K2G 5J7.

For more information about a particular activity, call the leader at the number listed below. If you are unable to reach a leader, or for general information, call the Ottawa Club at 860-2225.

Special Notice for Ottawa Activity Leaders

If you have not already done so, **please call now with your preferred dates and details of activities that you wish to lead this Spring**, up to June 22. All leaders are invited to the supper and planning meeting on January 16. See schedule below. If you want to lead but don't know where or when, call now so something to suit you can be discussed and scheduled. Thanks!

CALL: John Haley 225-0590

Tuesday Evenings - Canal Skating & Social

Canal skating (after dark) is planned at 18:00 (6 p.m.) each Tuesday evening in January and February, 2003, provided the canal is open for skating (call 239-5234 for canal conditions). Non-skaters may wish to walk and join us for a refreshment stop afterwards. Meet at the change hut on the canal at Fifth Avenue. These activities are subject to weather and ice conditions, so call ahead to confirm for each Tuesday: John Haley (225-0590).

Wednesday Walkers take to their skis as soon as possible. Meet at 09:30 every Wednesday morning. For information on meeting place for these level 2 or level 3 outings, call in advance: Dorothy Belter (523-4420) or Nanette Whitwam (730-5417).

Saturday December 7 Western Gatineau Park, Level 3, off-trail. Departs 09:00. Gas \$5

LEADER: Graham Creedy 789-1657

Saturday December 7 New Edinburgh, Ottawa, Level 1 afternoon walk to look at the fine architecture of New Edinburgh's lovely old houses, followed by a pub stop. Departs 12:00. Gas \$2. LEADER: Bill Grant 820-0697

Saturday December 7 Pot Luck Supper & Social. This event has been cancelled.

Saturday December 14 Pine Road - Herridge Lodge, Level 1 hike, 10 km. Departs 09:30. Gas \$4.

LEADER: Marilyn Levitan 828-2281

Saturday December 14 Christmas Lights Walk, Level 1, subject to weather conditions. Call leader for meeting place. Stop for coffee and munchies after. Departs 16:30 (4:30 p.m.). LEADER: Barbara Sigurdson 521-7311

Sunday December 15 Afternoon Walk & Pub Stop, Level 1 walk in historic Manotick Village and surrounding affluent neighbourhoods followed by a visit to one of the local pubs. Departs 13:00 (1 p.m.). Gas \$3.

LEADER: Margaret Lafrance 692-1810

Sunday December 29 Gatineau Park, Level 2 ski. Departs 09:30. Gas TBD. LEADER: John Barron 828-2296

**Notice - Snowshoe Series #1 - #10
Sundays, January 5 to March 9**

These snowshoes are joint activities of the Ottawa Rambling Club and the Ottawa Rideau Trail Club. **For each of these 10 snowshoe activities only, the meeting place is the East side of the Supreme Court on Wellington Street, due north of Kent Street, and the departure time is 10:00.** Actual snowshoeing times are estimated. For safety, these snowshoe activities are dependent on weather conditions. If in doubt, check with the leader. For general questions on these activities, CONTACT: Peter Hawkins 749-2093

Wednesday January 1 New Year's Day Merrickville An easy-going level 1 hike or ski near Merrickville. Hot tea to warm up after. Meet at Merrickville Blockhouse at 10:30. For transportation from Ottawa and to confirm conditions, please phone leader a few days before. LEADER: Fred Grodde 269-4306

Saturday January 4 Rideau Trail End-to-End #1, see notice on page 3. Departs 08:30 from The Mill restaurant parking lot, Ottawa River Parkway just west of Portage Bridge. Distance to be determined by weather, as will be the case with each activity in this series. OTTAWA CONTACT: Grant Malinsky 730-2772

Sunday January 5 Rideau Trail End-to-End #2, see notice on page 3. Call Saturday January 4 (evening) for meeting place and time. OTTAWA CONTACT: Grant Malinsky 730-2772

Sunday January 5 Snowshoe Series #1, Pulpit (Tawadina) via Wolf Trail (3.5 hours) or Trail 16 (easier, 2 hours). See Notice above. Gas \$3. LEADERS: Ariane Bissonnette & Judith Hawkins 749-2093

Saturday January 11 Greenbelt Ski, Level 1+. Departs 10:00 from south end of parking lot at Baseline OC Transpo Station. Gas \$1. LEADER: Jean Cottam 726-1596

Sunday January 12 Snowshoe Series #2, Meech Valley area with lunch at the Carbide Mill ruins. 3.5 hours. See Notice above. Gas \$3. LEADER: Roger Stacey 737-0889

Thursday January 16, Special Activity for Leaders, existing and potential leaders of Ottawa Club activities are invited this evening to a supper and planning session to complete the spring activity schedule. A separate letter with more details is being sent to activity leaders. If you have an interest but have not received this letter by January 2, 2003, please call Bill Grant at 820-0697.

Saturday January 18 Rideau Trail End-to-End #3, see notice on page 3. Call for meeting place & time. Feel free to join on any section that interests you, but please be aware of your ability and the Winter End-to-End Notice. OTTAWA CONTACT: Don Grant 828-1026

Sunday January 19 Rideau Trail End-to-End #4, see notice on page 3. Call Saturday January 18 evening for meeting place & time. OTTAWA CONTACT: Don Grant 828-1026

Sunday January 19 Snowshoe Series #3 Lac Philippe snowshoe trail from P19. 4 hours. See Notice above. Gas \$4. LEADER: Nel Ahmed 592-2891

Saturday January 25 Skating, Potluck Supper, all invited - party room, Ann Manor, 71 Somerset St. W. Ring code 242. Parking access from 50 Cooper St. Drop off supper contribution from 2:00 pm. Skate or walk on the canal. Non-skaters can stay for games, music, chat; bring your favourite board games or music. Return for appetizers. Potluck supper about 5:30 pm. Bring potluck item, plate, cutlery and own drinks. Volunteer assistance welcome. A contribution toward costs will be requested. Numbers are limited to 40-50: phone in advance. CONTACT: Theodora Newton 569-3540

Sunday January 26 Gatineau Park Ski, Level 2 ski on trails from P12 to Huron Lodge. Departs 09:30. Gas \$4. LEADER: Peter Scott 729-9557

Sunday January 26 Snowshoe Series #4, From Carman Hostel, via beautiful overlook of Carman & Brown Lakes, lunch at Source Lake. 4 hours. See Notice on page 8. Gas \$4. LEADER: Ann Lane 741-3184

Saturday February 1 Gatineau Park Ski, Level 2, 15 km. Gas \$4. LEADER: Alex Bissett 828-4363

Sunday February 2 Snowshoe Series #5, Lac Philippe area from P19, with late lunch at Lusk Caves. 4.5 hours. See Notice on page 8. Gas \$4. LEADER: John Haley 225-0590

Saturday February 8 Rideau Trail Ski, Level 2. Departs 09:00. Gas \$2. LEADER: Don Grant 828-1026

Saturday February 8 Greenbelt Snowshoe, Level 1. Departs 10:00 from south end of parking lot at Baseline OC Transpo Station. Gas \$1. LEADER: Jean Cottam 726-1596

Sunday February 9 Gatineau Park Ski, Level 2, distance 20 km. on green trails, Lac Philippe to Herridge Lodge. Departs 09:30. Gas \$5. LEADER: Geoff Berry 831-5468

Sunday February 9 Snowshoe Series #6, Ben Lake & Lac La Pêche. 4 hours. See Notice on page 8. Gas \$4. LEADER: Nel Ahmed 592-2891

February 15-16 Keskinada Loppet weekend

Saturday February 15 Dim Sum and Winterlude Level 1 activities (walk, skate, visit sculptures). Program and meeting point to be confirmed. Reservations for Dim Sum are required so **call by Thursday, February 13**. LEADER/CONTACT: Theodora Newton 569-3540

Saturday February 15 Rideau Trail End-to-End #5, see notice on page 3. Call for meeting place & time. OTTAWA CONTACT: Shawn Hutchinson 820-1463

Sunday February 16 Rideau Trail End-to-End #6, see notice on page 3. Call Saturday February 15 evening for meeting place & time. OTTAWA CONTACT: Shawn Hutchinson 820-1463

Sunday February 16 Snowshoe Series #7, Hay Knob loop from Twin Pines on Eardley-Masham Road. 4 hours. See Notice on page 8. Gas \$4. LEADERS: Elizabeth Kirchhoff 225-2694 & Grace Hyam 829-7252

Saturday February 22 Gatineau Park Ski, Level 2, O'Brien to Herridge Lodge, 20 km. Discovery Trail 36. Departs 09:30. Gas \$4. LEADER: Bud Massé 235-4670

Saturday February 22 Manotick, Level 1 ski/snowshoe, followed by refreshments at Miller's Oven. Gas \$3. LEADER: Margaret Lafrance 692-1810

Saturday February 22 Rideau Trail End-to-End #7, see notice on page 3. Call for meeting place & time. OTTAWA CONTACT: Carl McLaughlin 820-3078

Sunday February 23 Rideau Trail End-to-End #8, see notice on page 3. Call Saturday February 22 evening for meeting place & time. OTTAWA CONTACT: Carl McLaughlin 820-3078

Sunday February 23 Snowshoe Series #8, Lac Richard, details to be determined. See Notice on page 8. Gas \$4. LEADER: Roger Stacey 737-0889

Saturday March 1 Schoolhouse Ski or Snowshoe, Level 1 ski or snowshoe at the Schoolhouse. Departs 09:30. Gas \$4. LEADER: Nanette Whitwam 730-5417

Sunday March 2 Snowshoe Series #9, From Cregheur Road to The Pulpit (Tawadina) and South Window. 4 hours, see notice on page 8. Gas \$4. LEADER: Peter Hawkins 749-2093

Saturday March 8 Greenbelt Ski, Level 1 ski. Departs 13:00 (1 p.m.). Gas \$2. LEADER: Jean Sunter 828-6077

Sunday March 9 Snowshoe Series #10, Discovery/exploratory, depending on weather conditions. Call leader in advance to confirm this activity. See Notice on page 8. Gas TBD. LEADER: Ann Lane 741-3184

Saturday March 15 Afternoon Snowshoe, Level 1, Ottawa River Parkway. Departs 13:00 (1 p.m.). LEADER: Jean Cottam 726-1596

Sunday March 16 Gatineau Park, Level 2 ski or hike depending on conditions. Departs 09:30. Gas TBD.
LEADER: John Barron 828-2296

Saturday March 22 Cake Walk, Level 1. Walk along Bank Street between Heron Road and Wellington Street with stops for goodies at selected bakeries. 10 km. Departs 09:30. Gas \$2. LEADER: Dan Byrne 730-1039

Sunday March 23 Beyond Perth, Hike, snowshoe, or ski depending on conditions. Details to be determined.
LEADER: Dave Miller 692-5055

Sunday March 23 Sock It To Me! Information and social evening. Learn about hiking footwear, then enjoy potluck dessert/social. Bring dessert, utensils, plate, mug, & folding chair. Tea/coffee provided. 19:00 (7 p.m.) at Bushtukah, 203 Richmond Road at McRae. CONTACT: Theodora Newton 569-3540

Sunday, March 23, Cataraqui Trail. Level 2, 16 km. Hike or ski, area between Perth Road and Chaffey's Locks
LEADER: Veronica Airth 264-8824

Saturday, April 12 AGM Central Club, McMartin House, 125 Gore Street, East, Bring ideas, and lunch. Short hike in afternoon.

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 fourth road to the right (Conlon Drive) to the Conlon Farm parking area. If in doubt, call the hot line at 264-8338. For more information about a specific hike or conditions, please call the leader.

Saturday, January 11, Trillium Trail. Level 1, 12 km. Starting at Sharbot Lake, hike to Maberly on CP Line rail trail. Bring lunch, and after the hike check out the new restaurant in Maberly. LEADER: Susan Samila 264-1196

Sunday, January 26, Round Lake Loop, Murphy's Point Provincial Park. Level 2. 12km. Favourite winter hike! Hike or ski. LEADER: Don Sherwin 264-0759

Saturday, February 8, Big Clear Lake Access, North Frontenac Park. Level 2, 10 km. Ski or hike. Be prepared for a beautiful day. LEADER: Bruce Gourley 264-2478

Sunday, February 23, Marlborough Forest. Level 1, 8.5 km. LEADER: Dave Miller 692-5055

Saturday, March 8, Foley Mountain. Level 2, 10 km. Hike or ski favourite spot in any season.
LEADER: John Miller 264-8824

Sunday, March 23, Cataraqui Trail. Level 2, 16 km. Hike or ski, area between Perth Road and Chaffey's Locks
LEADER: Veronica Airth 264-8824.

Saturday, April 12, 10 a.m., Central Club AGM, McMartin House, 125 Gore Street East, Perth. Bring your ideas and your lunch. Short afternoon hike.

In Memoriam: Victor Hughes and Sam Heusel

Victor Hughes, along with Joan and their blended families maintained the trail from Sand Lake to Foley Mountain and its environs. Often, friends joined in the work parties, such as Cathy and Don Cutts and me. Lunch at Spy Rock and weather permitting, a swim was always on the agenda at the beach area. Victor's great interest was in astronomy and through him we saw the heavens and its constellations.

Sam Heusel was a scout and an environmentally concerned person. I first met him hiking on Rock Dunder. Sam had obtained permission for us to hike on this scout property. The view from the top, where we ate our lunch, made the climb worthwhile. I saw my first eagle that day --taking advantage of the thermals as it rose higher and higher.

I know the families of these fine gentlemen miss them. So do we. **Moir Drummond**

Other Activities

L'Esterel Weekend-January 31-February 2, 2003

There are still a few spaces available for this cross-country ski weekend, sponsored by the Kingston Club of the Rideau Trail Association. The cost is \$290 per person for double occupancy and \$390 for single. The price includes five meals, trail fees, and gratuities. Saturday and Sunday lunches are at your expense. Activities include a get-acquainted program on Friday (before supper), all-day skiing at Morin Heights (at your request), and a Saturday evening slide program. For further information and registration. CONTACT: Lars (613)389-8747.

The Ganaraska 500

In 2003, it will be 35 years since the Ganaraska (Hiking) Trail Association came into being. To celebrate, the Association is exploring whether to do the 'Ganaraska 500' again in 2003. The Ganaraska 500 is a series of end-to-end hikes along the entire trail. A decision to proceed will depend on the number of people who want to participate in this adventure; if not enough people are interested, the plans will be canceled. The challenging Wilderness hikes are about 20 km each; the others average 25 km. The pace will be about 3 km/h on the Wilderness hikes and the others between 4.5 and 5 km/h. Parts of the Wilderness require backpacking. There will be 21 hikes in all, spread out over 11 week-ends in the spring and fall. If you are interested in participating, send an e-mail to: admin@ganaraska-hiking-trail.ca before January 31, 2003 and whether you will definitely 1) come to all hikes in the series 2) hike only the parts of the trail you have not hiked yet, or 3) come once in a while, but don't plan to complete the trail.

Polar Bear Express : Cochrane to Moosenee.

Theodora Newton would like to hear from anyone interested in taking this wonderful trip next summer (2003.)If there is enough interest, Theo will coordinate a repeat of her interesting five-day trip enjoyed last summer in late August 2002.Contact Theo for information at (613) 569-3540. All RTA members welcome.

Highlights of the Frontenac Six-Day Challenge

A small but high-spirited group of hikers left Murphy's Point Provincial Park on Sept.30, 2002. The temperature soared as we made our way over the beaver dams and cottage roads on the way to Foley Mountain. It was a very long and hot day and the last 3km.seemed to take forever. Hiking 31.5km. in the heat took its toll on our feet; however we were all still standing up at the end -- but only just.

The next two days were hot and humid and involved hiking along a lot of cottage and concession roads. We had fun using the new ferry at the beaver dam north of Bedford Mills. The trail from Massassauga Rd.was rugged and spectacular. The pond and wetland scenery along the Cataraqui Trail was also impressive. This was the end of the first phase of the challenge and it was time to heal sore muscles and aching feet.

On the first day of the Thanksgiving weekend there was drizzle and intermittent rain. The trail through the Gould Lake Conservation Area was still magnificent despite the weather. As we looked back from high points on the trail, outlines of the islands and horizon were eerily silhouetted against the mist.

For me the climax of the Challenge came at the top of Flagpole Hill. We had spread out along the trail and arrived one by one at the summit where we congregated. Four young backpackers joined us and we shared our experiences. The drizzle turned to rain as we stood admiring the view. The maple trees were a brilliant red and still resplendent against the darkening sky.

The rain continued throughout the fourth day. As we moved south of Sydenham the heavens opened and water soon penetrated my light rain gear. I felt the cold moisture against my skin and my feet squelched as I walked. However the rain soon turned to fine drizzle and the sky began to clear. We continued to remain in high spirits regardless of the weather and the humorous banter that went back and forth kept us going. The sun shone on the last day and we soon made short work of the last 20km, hiking at a speed of over 5km an hour and arriving at the trailhead by early afternoon.

Thanks to Bruce, Gloria, Robert, Jane, Bill, Elke, Janet, Linda, Na, and J.B. for participating. Also our appreciation to Betty Murdoch for providing the juice and cookies at the checkpoints. Thanks to Cam, Jean and Peck for meeting us halfway with refreshments on the first day and to Bill Murdoch for keeping a close eye on the proceedings.

David Armitage

The New Ferry

For some years a war has been going on between Rideau Trail maintainers and some very determined beavers, at a point on the trail between Bedford Mills and McAndrews Road. There, the trail has to cross a strait between lakes, where there are two beaver dams. In the past there was a boardwalk across the lower dam, which gradually disappeared because the beavers kept adding material. In a dry summer hikers can walk over the upper dam, but in spring and wet summers both dams become impassable.

The narrowest place for a bridge would be below the lower dam, but the width of water varies with the season, and the approaches would be very steep. The pond between the dams is full of water lilies. The upper lake is wider (about 35 m) but at constant level because the dam acts as a weir.

What to do? Well, we decided to build a ferry rather than provide the beavers with a framework for another dam. This ferry was constructed this summer, and is now in operation. It consists of a pontoon with outrigger stabilizers, and runs along a fixed wire cable. It is loosely tethered to each bank by two polypropylene ropes, which are used to 'summon' the ferry from the opposite bank, and to propel it.

The ferry is supported on three floats, designed to US Army Corps of Engineers specifications, each filled with foam. The stabilizers comprise four sealed pipes, also filled with foam. The frame is made of red cedar below the waterline and the deck is made of pressure-treated wood.

The ferry is equipped with handrails and an emergency buoyant throwline. It is designed to carry a maximum of three people.

Because the site is 1.5 km from the nearest road, the ferry was dismantled after construction and carried into the site by a team of volunteers. It was then reassembled on the steeply sloping bank and launched from there. A ramp was installed on each bank as a landing stage. In winter the ferry will be pulled out of the water.

Hikers are warned that they use the ferry at their own risk, but no one should have any difficulty in using it. Remember to leave the rope neatly coiled, ready to be paid out by the next user, who may arrive on the same or the opposite bank.

Tony Parfitt, Robin Turkington

So Many Stories: Ten Years of Moonlighters Hikes

Since the Spring of 1993, there has been an Ottawa Rideau Trail Club hike every Tuesday evening from late April to the end of August, amounting to 19 hikes each year. The end of the 10th season was celebrated by a dinner at La Roma on September 3, 2002. The Tuesday evening hikes were conceived while Roger McCulloch and John Haley were pre-hiking one evening in September, 1992. The evenings were already growing short, so they began hiking around 5 p.m. Along the way Roger voiced the idea of having regular hikes on summer evenings in easily accessible areas of Gatineau Park, the Greenbelt and Ottawa locations. Over the winter Roger talked about the idea with Laraine and other hikers. A notice was put in the Winter Newsletter suggesting a series of evening hikes during the long evenings in June and July. There was not much reaction.

Roger decided to proceed anyway and he began on April 26, 1993. Tuesday evenings were chosen in order not to conflict or compete with other hiking activities. Leamy Lake, the destination for the first hike, drew five participants. We were quite familiar with the area well before the Casino was built and, while you couldn't walk around the Lake, there were plenty of decent paths for a good outing. Leamy Lake became the location of the first hike each season until spring floods hampered progress and that location was moved to the end of the season.

The group departs from Tunney's Pasture promptly at 6 p.m. to ensure enough time before dark for a worthwhile hike. If you arrive at 6:01 PM, the group has already departed and you're on your own. One group of hikers who used to travel from Barrhaven, were often late for the hike or became lost en route to the trailhead. One of Roger's treasured photos shows two of them in T-shirts stating, IF LOST RETURN ME TO ROGER.

By August news of the hikes had spread and the initial average of 8 persons per hike rose to 14 hikers. The largest group of 21 provided a valuable learning experience. We were on relatively unfamiliar trails between Fortune Lake and Western Lodge and got delayed, hiking the last section in the dark -- sharing four flashlights! Our late arrival back at the cars as the moon was coming up gave rise to the name "Moonlighters".

On one hike with a mere three hikers exploring near Asticou, we discovered a set of trails between the Gatineau Parkway and Mountain Road. We eventually saw looming up ahead a weird sort of establishment with walls, towers and fences, as if we had been transformed through a time and space warp into a set for Indiana Jones. Checking the map the next day, we discovered that we had found the Hull Jail! The area around Lac des Fees and into the jail surroundings is still a favourite early season hike.

For the first 5 years (1993-97), Roger explored, planned and led all of the hikes, except when he was out-of-town and required a replacement. Roger did extensive pre-hiking on possible routes with friends and consulted with others who were familiar with Gatineau Park and the Greenbelt. He quickly learned to plan ahead for at least one week as eager people continually asked where the next week's hike would take place.

In order to ensure the continuation of the hikes, in 1996 Roger started a Guide called "Trail and Hike Descriptions for Tuesday Evening Hikes". This covered most of the different hikes he and others had used in the series up to date, and included details on car access, descriptions and features of trails, and suggestions on which hikes were most suitable on given dates, depending on the length of the evening. Ottawa West hikes were on familiar trails and their descriptions were not included in the Guide.

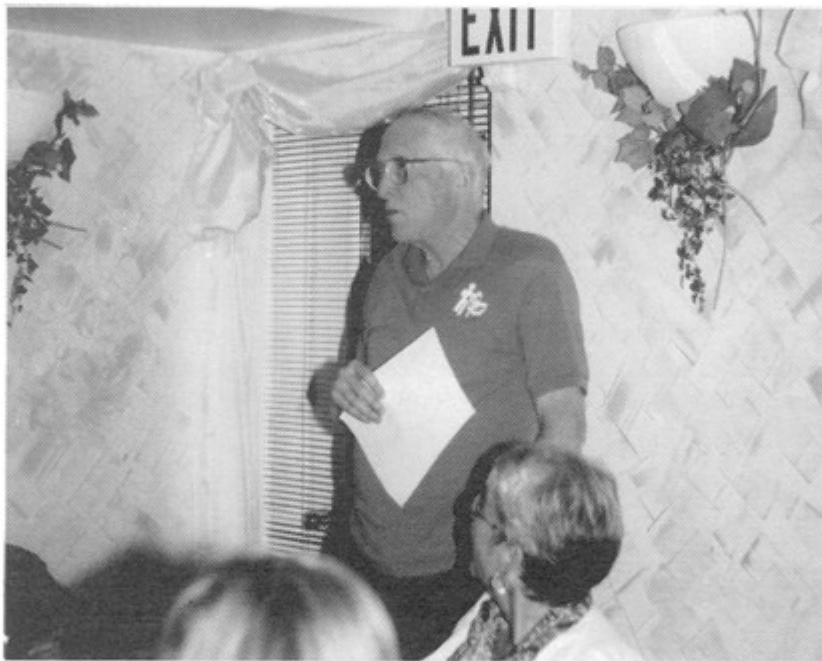
By 1998 when Roger decided he could no longer be the full-time leader, the Guide was ready. As co-ordinator, Laraine took the sensible approach of enlisting the help of a variety of leaders. Initially the Guide was used to assist leaders in planning their routes. New leaders have joined the Moonlighters with their own ideas on routes and an expanded version of Roger's Guide is being prepared. With the participation and enthusiasm of a number of experienced leaders, the hikes continue and the groups become larger. The last hike of the 2002 season, led by John Haley, brought out a record-breaking 50 hikers.

This year's annual, end-of-season dinner (started last year by John Crysdale) took the group to La Roma, a location suggested by hiker Jane Mercer. Jane's son, Kent was extremely entertaining, as well as being a polished server for about 33 hungry hikers, all dressed up and unrecognizable. Entertainment was added to the evening by Cliff Taylor (not only a hiker but a very capable Orpheus chorister) who entertained us with his guitar and base voice.

Although the season ended, one group of hikers just refused to quit; they continued on after the season's end with in-town Tuesday evening hikes. Their final hike took place October 22nd. Perhaps it is the post-hike social and refreshments that kept them going?

While there has always been a core group in the Moonlighters, that group has changed over time. Inspired by the enthusiasm of the hikers and leaders, Laraine will continue to plan Tuesday evening outings for yet another season. The camaraderie is unsurpassed and one has to wonder what we ever did on Tuesday evenings before Roger brought the Moonlighters to birth.

Roger McCullough and Laraine Laughland



Ottawa Club E-Letter

The e-letter, which began as a pilot project by the Ottawa Club about 6 months ago, is developing into a broader based communication to members. More Kingston and Central Club members are signing up daily and hike leaders and organizers in those clubs are asking me to post information about their events. A couple of issues ago we began a new section called "volunteer profile" and once a month or so the e-letter will contain a write up about special members and some of their contributions to the club. The e-letter is currently edited by Marilyn Levitan and managed by Tom Bach. Members wishing to subscribe can get in touch with Tom at: rta@ncf.ca

Highlights of the Rideau Trail Association Annual General Meeting, Oct.19 2002.

Despite the wet and blustery conditions 77 members and guests attended the AGM at Lombardy Glen. President Peter Hawkins kept the business proceedings moving forward with few delays. Treasurer Rolph Calhoun gave a thorough assessment of our 2002 Year End Financial Statement and revealed a surprisingly healthy net income balance of \$17,449. (If you would like a copy, please e-mail the Ottawa Newsletter Editor, Janice Miller at janicemiller@cyberus.ca)

The main topics of interest to be dealt with were related to membership fees. It has become difficult to sustain life membership at the current rate and it was moved that it be raised from \$300 to \$500. Most agreed and the motion was passed. A further motion to increase family membership to \$25 was vigorously debated. Attempts to define "family" in modern terms remained unresolved. However the motion passed by a small majority and is to be effective April 4 2004. Family membership refers to 2 named persons over 18 years of age residing in the same household. Single membership will remain at \$20.

End-to-end awards were announced and certificates given to those who attended the meeting in person.

Outstanding Service awards were presented to Betty McIver and Tom Bach in recognition of their dedicated efforts over many years to make the Association a better place for all of us. Afternoon hikes were led by Bruce Gourley and Bob Chadwick to the Millpond Conservation Area and along the Cataraqui Trail.

The accommodations at the Lombard Golf Club were ideal and the atmosphere congenial. Fifty members stayed to enjoy an excellent dinner. A vote of thanks is due to all those who contributed to making this such a successful day.

David Armitage

Rideau Trail End-To End Awards

Congratulations to the following people who hiked the entire trail!

Langley R. Muir, John Golemic, Bernard Kerr, Brian Overton, Susan Muehlherr, Corrie Robillard, Donald Maurais, Wanda Maurais, Carol Fernandes, Rudi Bosshard, Martha Campbell, Paula Carson, Graham Carter, Donna Cowan, John Cummings, Manuel Da Costa, Larry Haigh, Tom Hall, Daphne Hull, Cathy Johnstone, Helene LeBlanc, Elviera Mueller, Alicja Muszynsky, Deborah Wong, Tom Wong, Dave Flowers, Michael Franklin, Cam Hodges, Nicole Florent, Erlinda Biondic, George Biondic, Rose Millett, Wendy Noble, Kenneth Whitwell, Regina Prokopczuk, Grace Schwartkop, Linda Turnbull, Peter Verbeck, Ronald Wallace.





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Publications Mail
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**This Newsletter lists more than 60 activities for
 RTA members to participate in freely.
 That's a great deal, worth renewing a membership for!**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: The Membership year is from April 1 to March 31. Applications for new memberships dated November 1 to March 31 will be valid to the end of the following Membership year. Membership in the RTA provides the financial support essential for the continuous maintenance, improvement, extension, and protection of the Rideau Trail network. Members receive the quarterly newsletter and special mailings, as well as voting rights in 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

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

web page: www.ncf.ca/rta e-mail: rta@ncf.ca

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| ☐ Annual Individual / Family Membership | \$20.00 |
| ☐ * Patron (Life Membership) | \$500.00 |
| ☐ † Guide Book: Members | \$22.00 |
| ☐ † Non-Members | \$27.00 |
| ☐ Car Sticker (Free to New Members) | \$1.00 |
| ☐ Crest | \$2.00 |
| ☐ Enameled Lapel Pin | \$4.00 |
| ☐ † Rideau Trail Wall Map | \$12.00 |
| ☐ * Donation to the RTA | \$ _____ |
| ☐ * Donation to the RT Preservation Fund | \$ _____ |
| Prices Subject to Change | |
| TOTAL | \$ _____ |

† Includes Postage & Handling
 * Qualifies for income tax credit
 Charitable Registration No. 1191194485 RR 0001

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Present Life Member

Name:

Address:

Postal Code:

Telephone:

E-mail:

PLEASE INDICATE A DESIRE TO HELP WITH:

- ☐ Maintaining trails ☐ Leading hikes
☐ Leading ski / snowshoe outings
☐ Communicating with members
☐ Word processing ☐ Publicity activities
☐ Hosting social events ☐ Executive, serving as:
☐ Other, please specify: