

The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

*Published by The Rideau Trail Association
Issue No. 12*

Summer 1974



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION

May 4th, 1974

The past year has been one of continued growth and expansion of the Rideau Trail Association as it has been for trail hiking throughout all of Ontario. I would like to briefly describe some of the many developments which have taken place.

The first of these was the Ontario Trails Symposium held last June by the Ministry of Resources under the Hon. Mr. Bernier. All trail interest groups across Ontario of which the government was aware were invited to send a delegate or two to provide primary input. This was intended to help direct the provincial government in the drafting of appropriate legislation which would assist in the creation and preservation of recreational trail systems such as our own. Over two hundred delegates were present and by means of small group discussion centres, genuine communication was really possible. One of the significant proposals to result from this symposium was the plan by the Ontario government to establish the Trails Advisory Board - a body of about fifteen individuals who would separately represent each of the trail interest groups such as hikers, cross-country skiers, canoeists, snowmobilers, horseback riders, etc. On such an advisory board, hikers will presumably have one representative.

Such a likelihood led directly to the second major development of the year - the formation of the Ontario Federation of Hiking Trail Associations. In December, 1973, the R.T.A., the Bruce Trail Assn. and the Guelph Trail Club almost simultaneously decided that such a federation had become essential in order to provide a single voice to represent hikers on the Ontario Trails Advisory Board. Accordingly all known hiking trail associations in the province were contacted and an exploratory meeting was held in Guelph at which seven associations were represented. At a second meeting in February the Ontario Federation of Hiking Trail Associations was quietly but officially born. At the present there are eight member organizations as follows:

- The Bruce Trail Association - 400 miles Niagara to Tobermory
- The Rideau Trail Association - 200 miles Kingston to Ottawa
- The Quinte Trail Association - 250 miles Belleville to
- The Guelph Trail Club - about 50 miles from Cambridge to Limehouse
- The Grand Valley Trail Assn. 70 miles from Cambridge to Elora
- The Thames Valley Trail Assn. - along the Thames R., centred about
London
- The Voyageur Trail - 650 miles from Sault St. Marie to Thunder Bay
- The Ganaraska Trail - eventually from Port Hope to Collingwood, about
80 miles complete at present.

It is our feeling that the creation and existence of this federation will serve to provide a voice for hikers with the Ontario Government that can only help to stimulate greater official awareness of our need for protection and encouragement.

A third positive feature of the year is the continued growth and strengthening of our own association. Membership has climbed from about 750 at the beginning of May, 1972, to about 1,000 on May 1st, 1973, to 1337 at the present. Not that membership is necessarily a good criterion of strength and success, but it does mean at least that our financial position is reasonably healthy. A healthy financial position, in turn, opens the door to expanded activities such as the development of camp sites and the acquisition of property. We have been moving steadily toward our first land acquisition for several months now and are awaiting the completion of the formal transfer. The land in question is about five acres just beside the trail 25 miles from Ottawa and was donated to us by Mr. Peter Cameron of Ottawa. We intend to construct a campsite involving clear ground for tents, a well, privy, picnic table, fireplace and garbage receptacle. A second campsite, with the same amenities, is being constructed on private land adjacent to the trail just north of Millhaven Creek about 1 mile west of Sydenham.

Another activity of which you should be aware is the work of the association executive throughout the year. The executive meets the fourth Wednesday of every month in the council chambers of the city hall at Smiths Falls at 8 P.M. and deals with an amazing number of considerations until everyone is exhausted at about 11:15. Typical agenda involves discussion of major expenditures, the newsletter, input to the government, involvement with the Federation of Hiking Trail Associations, special requests for information, rescue teams for lost hikers, special events such as Kingston's Tercentenary celebrations and annual general meetings.

My previous comments have all concerned the past year. Let me now look with you to the future for a few minutes. We must all seriously consider where we ought to be heading - what our priorities ought to be. Several possibilities have been suggested by the executive and perhaps you will want to add a few more or suggest different priorities than those proposed. Such suggestions are seriously encouraged and the future executive is prepared to direct our activities in accordance with any such direction. In any case, here are the major objectives and priorities identified by the retiring executive:

1. Revitalizing the Central Trail Club
2. Rerouting trail sections which lie on open roads
3. Construction of a chain of campsites along the trail
4. Protection of the trail through land acquisition.

The first priority objective listed above is of obvious importance. A trail is like a chain which is no stronger than its weakest link. Unfortunately interest and support for the trail in the central region has lagged far behind that shown at either of its extremities. Membership in the Central Trail Club is almost too small to properly maintain the 60-or-so

miles for which it is responsible, and plans to reroute the trail off the roads in this region are clearly impossible without a great number of volunteer workers.

With regard to the second objective mentioned, I consider the task of getting the trail off the roads as a very high priority. A dusty road just cannot compare with a path through the forest, across a meadow or along the edge of a marsh. In our initial construction in the summer of 1971 we were suddenly confronted in April with the prospect of 25 student working under an O.F.Y. grant to construct the trail and scheduled to begin in May. Routes were hastily selected and negotiations conducted with landowners and it is a continuing source of wonder to me that such a small amount of the trail ended up on roads. For this we must credit the tremendous efforts of the volunteer teams of route negotiators under Dick Henrikson in Kingston, Ray Billingham in Ottawa and Howard Raper in the central region. After three intervening years to settle down and become more organized we are now ready and prepared for the second frontal attack on all parts of the trail which remain on opened roads. This will cost very little financially, but require the dedicated contribution of many volunteers to plan the new route, negotiate with landowners, construct the trail and provide accurate maps of the relocations to keep us up-to-date. In many ways the work will be an even greater challenge and accomplishment than the original trail construction. After all, we will not have 25 full-time, paid employees doing the work. We must do it ourselves.

The third priority objective mentioned was that of constructing a chain of campsites along the trail. This will not require so much manpower as negotiating and rerouting, but it is going to take far more money.

The fourth objective mentioned was the acquisition of property across which the trail passes. Although we basically have no wish to become landowners, it is only through the acquisition of property that we may protect some parts of the trail whose integrity is threatened. We would generally prefer that local conservation authorities make such purchases, but often this may be quite impossible.

Both of the last two objectives involve large expenditures of money and of course we cannot do anything at all if the funds are not available. Memberships and donations have provided all of our capital up to this point, but there may be a possibility of receiving grants from various foundations if our objectives seem sufficiently worthy.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for attending today, and for your continued support toward the strengthening of the Rideau Trail. Working on the trail as president, as maintenance coordinator for the Kingston Trail Club, or as a "garbage-picker-upper" along the trail when I hike gives me a great satisfaction which I hope that you, too, have felt. I feel that I am creating something of value - not for just today, but for future generations who will be thankful that the "pioneers" in the olden days of 1970 cared enough about them to help preserve some of the countryside that we all appreciate so much.

Thank you.

Doug. Knapp
President R.T.A.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE
RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION
April 1st, 1973, to April 30th, 1974

RECEIPTS:

Memberships	\$ 5,444.00
Government grant	1,750.00
Donations	513.15
Sale of crests	228.75
Sale of maps	60.00
Barbeque tickets	223.50
Advertising	7.00
Sale of stile	6.00

\$ 8,232.40

Bank balance as of April 1st, 1973

\$,8,882.54

Prepared by Jane Knapp
Treasurer

DISBURSEMENTS:

Postage, phone	\$ 805.41
Newsletter printing	1,300.57
Maps	2,693.55
Printing, stationery	750.15
Shoulder flashes	211.39
Barbeque catering	400.00
O.T.C. membership	50.00
N.S.F. cheques	56.75
Insurance	47.20
Misc. bank charges	33.31
Map folders	789.66
Travel expenses	25.00
Return of part of F.O.N. gift	250.00
Other memberships	15.00
Lawyer's fees	70.40
Refreshments	20.15
Advance	25.00
Post-dated cheque	6.00

\$ 7,549.54

Bank balance, April 30th, 1974

\$ 8,882.54

B U D G E T
1974-1975 Program

Expected expenses

Newsletters	\$ 1,500.00
Telephone	50.00
Postage	750.00
Travel expenses	100.00
Stationery, advertising	750.00
Map kits	550.00
Metal triangles	50.00
Insurance	50.00
F.O.N. gift	250.00
Crests	200.00
Trail clubs Kingston	82.00
Ottawa	96.00
Central	25.00
Land acquisition	450.00
Trail expansion	1,247.00
Carryover	500.00

\$ 6,650.00

Expected Income

Memberships	\$ 5,000.00
Donations	450.00
Sale of crests	200.00
Balance on hand March 31, 1974	1,000.00

\$ 6,650.00

Prepared by Harry Walker, Jane
Johnson and Ted LeSage

An Excerpt From WHITE OWL CONSERVATION AWARDS "NEWS", Vol. 1, No. 2 -
April 16, 1974.

Hiking, camping, and other "back to nature" activities are growing in popularity, and nature is showing the signs of heavy wear.

Among the most enthusiastic of hikers and campers are the Boy Scouts. Concerned about the mark they were leaving on the landscape, the Calgary Regional Council of the Boy Scouts critically reviewed its outdoors philosophies and practices. The result has been an about-face from the old concept of conquering nature to one of living in harmony with the environment.

One of the first fruits of this development was a scouting handbook "21st Century Approach to Camping", which was published with a White Owl grant. Next, the Council began to train adult leaders in this new approach. Now, on May 14, the Calgary Scouts are about to embark on a three-year program on the "Live in Harmony with the Environment" theme.

What concrete changes are they talking about? For one thing, scouts are asked to leave their hatchets at home. To camp and leave no trace means no boughs are to be cut for beds or shelters, no hip holes or drainage ditches to be dug. Modern technology has provided light weight equipment which eliminates the need for these damaging rituals. A pad of urethane foam is more comfortable than any bed of boughs, and doesn't leave a litter of dying branches behind.

Besides leaving ugly scars, a campfire destroys four square feet of soil, and consumes 11 pounds of wood. Clearly fires must be reserved for emergencies only, and light-weight gas stoves will serve efficiently for camp suppers.

Living things are not to be disturbed. Plant specimens will not be gathered, but will be studied on the spot.

There are related good deeds to be done too. For instance, scouts are encouraged to pack out garbage left by others as well as their own (no more burying!). When they come across the debris of old campfires, they scatter the rocks and cover the burned-over spot in a thick layer of dead pine needles.

This camping guide for today is available for \$1.50 plus postage from the Boy Scouts of Canada, Box 3247, Station B, Calgary, Alberta, T2M 4L8.

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SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Who do you think our reporters are? You - that's who - in theory at least! What are your views? Send any material that you think would be of interest to members of the Rideau Trail Association to any member of the executive (club or association) who will see that it gets to the editor. Your contributions are definitely wanted, so cut loose - express yourself!

OTHER HIKING TRAILS IN ONTARIO - PART II

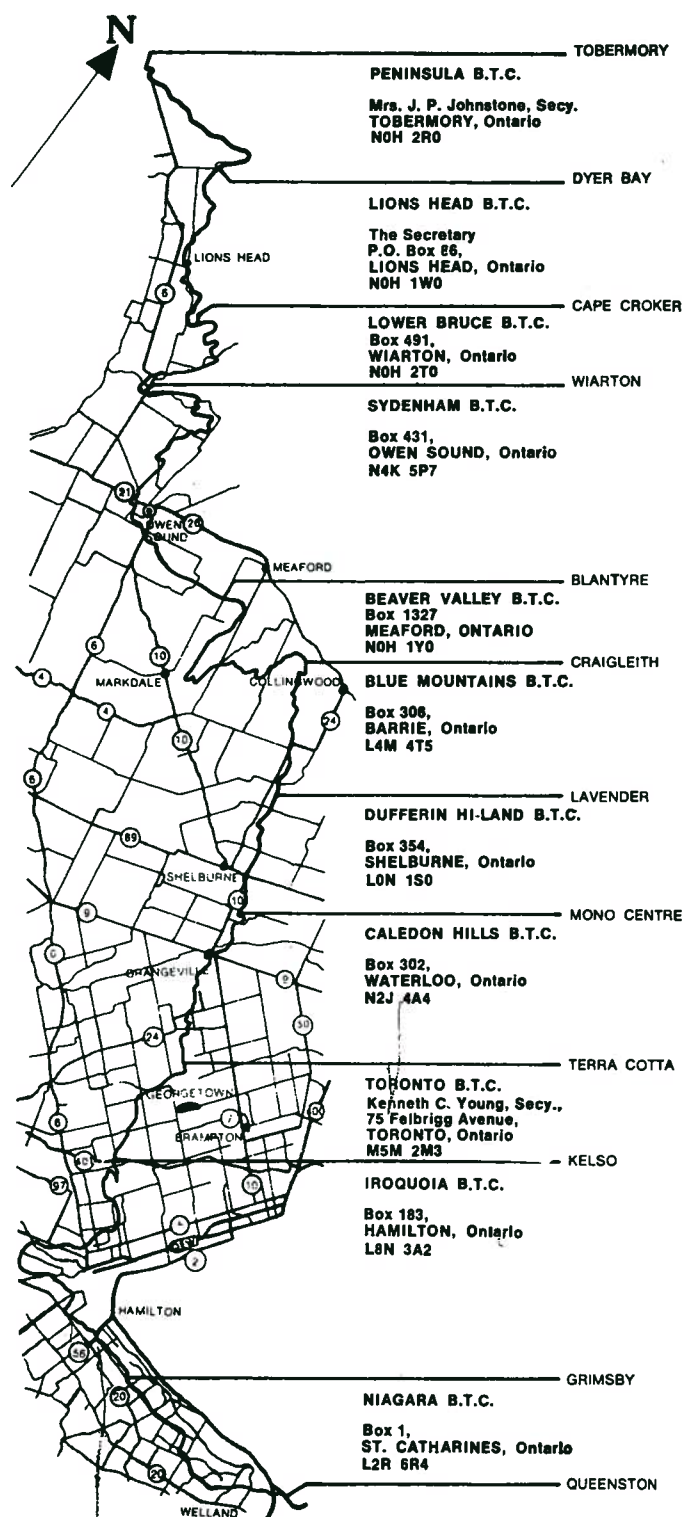
In the Spring newsletter, three other Ontario Trails were briefly described. These were the Grand Valley Trail, the Ganaraska Trail and the Thames Valley Trail. In this issue we shall describe two more trail systems, and in the Fall newsletter, we shall complete the current inventory with the remainder.

The Bruce Trail

Most members of the R.T.A. are familiar to some extent with the granddaddy of Ontario trails - the Bruce Trail. Indeed, many of our members are also members of the Bruce Trail Association. When the Rideau Trail Committee was seriously wrestling with all the organizational problems prior to the creation of the Rideau Trail Association in 1971, almost all of our decisions were based on the experience of the directors of the Bruce Trail Association. Thus we feel a special kinship with this longest of all existing Ontario trails, running 490 miles from Niagara to Tobermory. The map to the right shows not only the route of the trail, but also how the Association is divided up into eleven trail clubs. These trail clubs play the same role as our three trail clubs, planning organized hikes, meetings and instructional classes, being responsible for maintenance and trail routes and providing local publicity.

History of the Bruce Trail

The idea of a continuous footpath which would wind its way along the Escarpment from Queenston to Tobermory was proposed to the Hamilton Naturalist's Club by Ray Lowes in 1959 and further elaborated in a letter to the Federation of Ontario Naturalists on March 11th, 1960. The proposal was welcomed enthusiastically by the F.O.N. who suggested that he form a Committee to look into the mechanics of carrying out the idea. Accordingly, the Bruce Trail Committee was formed and held its first meeting on September 23rd, 1960.



The general address of the Bruce Trail Association
is 33 Hardale Crescent, Hamilton, Ontario L8T 1X7

After considerable organizational planning a brief was submitted to the Atkinson Foundation requesting a grant to expedite the project. This was received late in 1961 and it made it possible to appoint Phil Gosling as a full-time Trail Director for one year starting from around May 1st, 1962. He devoted his undivided attention to exploring the Escarpment, finding local volunteers to plan and build the Trail and organizing such volunteers into Clubs or working groups responsible for a particular section of the Trail. This approach served its purpose extremely well and the Clubs are still the backbone and strength of the Association.

The entire Trail was completed as a Centennial project in 1967 and was officially opened by Hon. Rene Brunelle, Minister of Lands and Forests, on June 10th, 1967, at Tobermory, where a cairn marks the northern terminus.

Since that time, the Clubs have continued to maintain and improve the Trail. On Sept. 19, 1970, the Tenth Anniversary of the founding of the Association, a second cairn, to mark the southern terminus, was unveiled at Queenston Heights.

Bruce Trail Guide Book

The Bruce Trail Guide Book contains 32 strip maps of the entire Trail, in sufficient detail to enable you to find the Trail at any access road and to hike along it without getting lost. The maps point out the locations of campsites, grocery stores and points of interest. The accompanying text describes the Trail mile by mile, giving advice and warnings on any difficult or dangerous parts. It also points out and describes features of beauty or great interest. Campsites and facilities are listed, complete with addresses and telephone numbers. Accurate mileages are recorded. At present, the Guide Book sells to members for \$3.00 per copy (limit two per issue), and can be ordered through the Association or through a Club if you belong to one. Price to non-members is \$5.00 each.

Since the Trail is being altered here and there all the time, a new edition of the Guide Book is published as required. It is advisable to buy a new Guide Book at least every three years.

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Guelph Trail Club

The Guelph Trail Club which was created in 1972 has established and maintains two main trails and their related side trails. The main trails are marked with orange blazes and the side trails are marked with blue. The Guelph Radial Trail generally follows an abandoned electric railway line from the east side of the City of Guelph, through the valley of the Eramosa River and its tributary Blue Springs Creek, to the Bruce Trail near Limehouse.

The Speed River Trail begins at the west side of the City of Guelph and follows the Speed River in a south-westerly direction to (Preston) Cambridge near where the Speed flows into the Grand River.

There is no trail blazed through the City of Guelph but a pleasant route, most of it through parkland, joins the Club's two trails.

The Guelph Trail Club publishes an excellent little guide book measuring about 4 inches by 5 inches and in which are two fold-out maps which show the two trails, altogether a distance of somewhere around thirty miles.

Inquiries about membership or further activities of the club should be directed to: The Guelph Trail Club, P.O. Box 1, GUELPH, Ontario, N1H 6J6.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The big objective this year is to get the trail completely off the roads. This is a tremendously ambitious undertaking which needs lots of interested, charming, diplomatic, energetic, wise, strong volunteers. Does this describe you? If you would like to help by negotiating with landowners or constructing trail, let your club's routes and negotiating coordinator know.

In Kingston area, this would be R. Henrikson: 547-5536
In Central area, call Ath. Moxley at 264-4655.
In Ottawa, the man to see is Ed. Simpson. Phone 828-1679.

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DO YOU WANT A GOOD OUTDOOR PAINT?

Many of our triangular markers were initially painted without primer and these have deteriorated rather badly. Some others were painted with a fluorescent orange paint which faded dramatically. We have solved the problem now, though. We use International Paint Company's two-part primer - a base and an accelerator or catalyst. When you mix these two parts together they form an excellent prime coat which grips the metal with unusual tenacity. The orange surface coat, again an International Paint Company product, is then applied, and we obtain the tough, durable, sun-resistant coating you find on new marker triangles.

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THE 200 AWARD

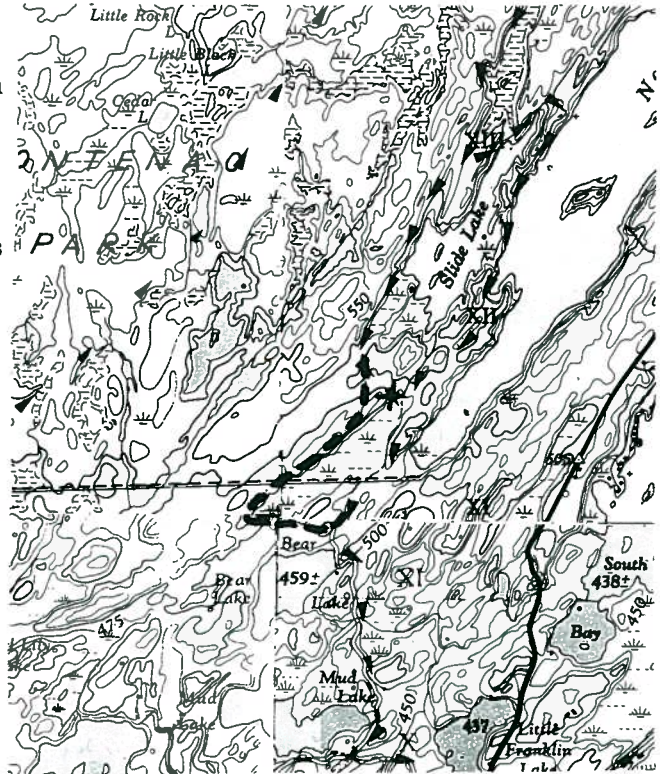
How many people have hiked the whole trail? Not very many that we know of - just ten people! The complete distance is about 200 miles and so the award for this accomplishment is called the "200 Award".

At this year's annual general meeting, one "200 Award" was presented to 14 year old Ralph Hueller of Ottawa. Perhaps you read Ralph's account of the trip in the Winter 73-74 issue (No. 10) of the newsletter. Our sincere congratulations to Ralph.

If you hike the whole trail - either as one continuous hike or as a series of shorter hikes - inform someone on the R.T.A. executive or on your club executive. Preferably, send a brief description in writing, stating when and where you began and finished and including any useful information which you think the executive would appreciate knowing.

CORRECTION TO MAP 10

The very popular section of the trail in Frontenac Park to the south of Slide Lake has been incorrectly shown on Map No. 10 since the beginning. A corrected version is shown with heavy dotted line in the excerpt to the right. The erroneous part shows each of the triangle symbols crossed out with an "x". It is suggested that you might copy this correction onto your own map.



1974-75 EXECUTIVE

Rideau Trail Association Executive

President:	Doug. Knapp, 32 Gretna Green, Kingston, K7M 3J2	542-2039
Vice Presidents:		
Ottawa:	Jane Johnson, 11 Laurentian Place, Ottawa K1Y4C9	722-5018
Central:	Vacant	
Kingston:	Guy Thorne, 254 Collingwood, Kingston	547-5536
Secretary:	Hugh Munro, 1781 Laxton Crescent, Ottawa, K2C 2N4	225-2136
Treasurer:	Ted LeSage, 56 Aleutian Road, Ottawa	828-6015
Membership Secretary:	Helen Quilliam, R. R. #1, Kingston	542-6211
Publicity Coordinator:	Harry Walker, 5 Deerlane Ave., Ottawa K2E 6W7	825-2193

Kingston Trail Club Executive

Chairman:	Vacant	
Vice-chairman:	Jack Watkins, 32M Manitou Cres. W., Amherstview K7N 1B7	389-4354
Secretary-Treasurer:	Gerald Seguin, 188 Pine St., Kingston	544-5370
Routes & Negotiating:	Dick Henrikson	547-5536
Maintenance:	Doug. Knapp, 32 Gretna Green, Kingston	542-2039
Publicity:	Judy Maloney, 1153 Johnson Ave., Kingston	544-5965

Central Trail Club Executive

Chairman:	Vacant
Vice-chairman:	Vacant

Secretary-Treasurer: Mary Forbes, 33 Jasper Road, Smiths Falls 283-4364
Routes & Negotiating: D. Douglas & Ath. Moxley, R. R. #4, Merrickville
Ath. Moxley 264-4655
Maintenance: Vacant
Publicity: Rita Burtch, 40 Elmsley South, Smiths Falls 283-2231

Ottawa Trail Club Executive

Chairman: Ray Billingham, 1841 Illinois Ave., Ottawa K1H 6W5 731-6071
Treasurer: Ted LeSage, 56 Aleutian Road, Ottawa 828-6015
Secretary: Joan Moorman 2304 Samuel Drive, Ottawa 733-5694
Routes & Negotiating: Ed. Simpson, 1206 Placid St., Ottawa 828-1679
Publicity: Harry Walker, 5 Deerlane Ave., Ottawa K2E 6W7 825-2193

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AN AMBITIOUS TRAIL REROUTING IN KINGSTON

Heading north along the trail between the Bath Road and Princess St., the trail follows the route of an easement provided several years ago for the construction of a parkway which has subsequently been deleted from the official plan. From this easement along the west side of Balsam Grove subdivision the trail then moves onto a private roadway of the Cumberland Apartments, follows this to Princess St., and then continues northward along the easement until it intersects Portsmouth Ave. The trail then follows Portsmouth to its end, turns left onto Counter St., and finally arrives at Cataraqui Cemetery. From the roadway of the Cumberland Apartments to the gate of Cataraqui Cemetery the trail has never been particularly attractive, but with the construction of the new C. N. station off Counter Street, it has become even more imperative to reroute this section of trail as soon as possible.

Negotiations have taken place and we now have permission to reroute the trail across the great marsh between the north-western corner of Balsam Grove Subdivision and the new C. N. overpass on Princess Street, just east of Cataraqui. We hope to "island-hop", linking up the islands with an elevated footpath. It will also be necessary to build a bridge over the Cataraqui Creek.

All of this construction will require a lot of materials and a lot of workers. We plan to make a concerted effort to do the whole job in August on the second weekend - Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 9, 10 and 11. If you would like to be part of the work party come on out! Be at the intersection of the trail and Princess Street at 9:30 a.m. any of the three days. Bring a sledge hammer if you can and some real old clothes. Foreman of the job will be WILLIAM COTTON. Call him at 389-6290 if you have any questions or suggestions.

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CLARIFICATION ON MAP 12

On map 12, a location of drinking water and a place to camp is shown near the north-west corner of the sheet. The drinking water is available to Rideau Trail hikers at a pump on the front lawn of the house at the end of the road, belonging to people by the name of Lalonde. The mail box is clearly identified. Please just go up and use the pump. Individual permission is

unnecessary. Mrs. Lalonde also is agreeable to hikers camping overnight of their property. It is expected that a cleared tent site with at least a fireplace and picnic table will be constructed at the site by the end of July.

CAMPSITE ON MAP 11

A campsite has been developed within the last month on the property of Mr. H. Alton just north of Millhaven Creek about one mile west of Sydenham. There is a stile over a fence on the east side of the trail and a short walk of about 150 feet puts you at the campsite. Although there is no water supply at the immediate site, and it is not recommended to drink the water of Millhaven Creek, water may be obtained at the Alton's farm on the north side of the road linking Sydenham and Harrowsmith just 600 feet north of the campsite. Enquire at the Alton's house.

ARE YOU GOING TO THE CANADIAN NATURE FEDERATION MEETING?

Are there any Rideau Trail Association members out there who plan to attend the Canadian Nature Federation annual meeting, Aug. 21-27, at the University of Western Ontario, London?

If you are, could you also help RTA at the same time?

Like other nature-oriented Ontario groups, we have been invited to provide materials for a visual display during the CNF meet. That's no real problem; your executive committee members think that with the help especially of Norm McLeod of Kingston we can put together a simple but effective exhibit.

The problem is that none of the executive plans to go to the CNF meet. That's not an insurmountable problem, but it would be handy and dandy if one of our RTA colleagues should happen to be going to London and he, she (they?) have some extra space in their car trunk to carry our exhibit.

In addition, to press our luck, if one of more persons were interested in volunteering, we would just love to include a slide-projector presentation as part of our display. But that would require someone to keep an eye on the display.

We can tailor our cloth to fit the circumstances. The main thing is to know as soon as possible is: Can anyone help? If so, please get in touch as soon as possible with Harry Walker, the RTA publicity co-ordinator, 5 Deerlane avenue, Ottawa, K2E 6W7, telephone 825-2193 after 6 p.m.

The Rideau Trail Association is grateful to the following
for their donations and support:-

Miss Jessie Anderson	Mr. K.J. Macleod
Mr. George Ashman	Miss Catherine M. Mathewson
Dr. Alex M. Bryans	Mr. & Mrs. D. E. McAllister
Miss Hilda Buckmaster	Mr. Glenn McLaughlin
Mr. & Mrs. A. Butterfield	Mr. Glen D. Miller
Lt.Comdr. S. Buxcey	Miss B. Morrison
Mr. Joseph Curtin	Mr. R. W. Mortimer
Mr. Harry A. Dyer	Dr. Donald Muir
Dr. A.J.Erskine	Mr. & Mrs. Nolan
Mr. W. G. Evans	Mr. Nils Olson
Mr. Henry Fliess	Miss C.C.Podowski
Mr. K.Forbes	Mr. Yves Roy
Mr. & Mrs. V. Gaizauskas	Dr. & Mrs. B. Smallman
Mr. John R. Gundy	Mr. C.Leonard St.Amand
Mr. Robert J. Hayes	Ms. Judith Stauffer
Mr. William E. Laundry	Mr. K.P.Swan
Rear Adm. Richard H.Leir	Mr. & Mrs. Rielle Thomson
Mr. W.B.Lewis	Mr. R.Clifford Walker
Mr. Robert Linscott	Mr. Daniel K. Wilberg
Mr. & Mrs John Livesey	Mr. Gerard K. Wyatt
Dr. J.S. Lott	

REGISTER OF MEMBERS WILLING TO ACCOMPANY INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS
ON HIKEs AT SHORT NOTICE

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	
		HOME	BUSINESS
Harry A. Dyer	54 Helen St. Kingston	546-3319	544-5770
Anyone who wishes to add their name to this list please submit same to any member of any executive and it will be passed along to the editor.			

SLIDE LAKE HIKE

by Harry A. Dyer

One of the most enjoyable and memorable days of my life (standing now at well over the half century mark) was spent hiking right around Slide Lake on Saturday, May 25th.

Regrettably, attendance was poor, though the day started with sunshine and promised to be suitable for hiking. In the event, the weather proved ideal, hence it should not be blamed for the low number. Perhaps word had previously been passed around that it was a tough, arduous hike, with some cliff climbing, thus causing a sparsity of hikers.

Non-participants will never fully know just how much they missed!

Our leader was Guy Thorne who performed a superb job, setting just the right pace, endowing us with his acute sense of observation, coupled with a considerable knowledge of bird life. His charming wife Susan ably assisted in both leading and "manfully" shouldering the back pack. We were fortunate, too, in having Norman McLeod along, with camera ever ready, and whose knowledge of hiking and wild flowers was of inestimable value.

Trilliums, violets of different hues, and other wild flowers abounded and, in patches formed a carpet delightful to the eye. These and all the plants and trees had a verdant freshness so typical of a spring day, albeit a slightly dull one.

We had a number of streams, water courses and swampy areas to cross, the great volume of water ample evidence of a wet May. At one tricky spot we were blessed with a courageous soul who "tight roped" his way across a log, below which rushed a veritable torrent of water. Then with the aid of a long pole, held at each end, the others were able to reach the other side with dry feet. In spite of the damp spots, everyone remained dry; a real tribute to group ingenuity and cooperation.

The narrow granite ridge between Slide and Buck lakes, ~~at the foot of the ridge~~ afforded a glorious view of both lakes, an interesting feature being a considerable disparity between the heights of the lakes above sea level; Buck Lake being much lower.

After much clambering up and down we reached the North end of Slide Lake only to discover that the actual trail was well submerged. However, a slight detour soon started us on our southward journey and arrival at the most "perilous" part of the expedition. What at first glance appeared to be an almost unscalable cliff turned out to be much less frightening because the trail followed a step-like break in the cliff.

Upon reaching the summit we decided to combine admiration of a beautiful panoramic view with a lunch break. Never could food and drink have been consumed under such "heavenly" conditions.

Back on the trail we paused awhile to admire a rose breasted grosbeak which conveniently flitted nearby voicing its' mellow but metallic 'eeh'. Later, Guy spotted cedar wax wings blending artfully with their tree perches.

At this juncture full credit must be given to Stan Segel and his team who blazed the new section of the trail. Sincere congratulations on a job exceedingly well done. The new markers were well placed and very easy to follow.

The last lap was much less strenuous, rather more like a Sunday afternoon stroll, but with a most gratifying difference, for at this stretch, paralleling a swamp dotted with dead trees, Guy drew our attention to a number of heron nests. The next ten to fifteen minutes were most pleasurable with a performance of ballet-like grace from these large birds who, even in agitation at our presence, executed a soaring and gliding and landing that defies adequate description. At a rough guess there were about fifteen of these exquisite birds, a remarkable feature being the varied stance each adopted when alighting so as best to conform to the configuration of the individual tree limbs. Norman was busily clicking away and it is to be hoped that he captured some good shots.

Thoroughly tired but equally elated, we strolled across the open field at the end of our journey, stopping momentarily to admire some gold finches.

We had taken a little over four and a half hours, a better way to utilise such a time does not exist. Just before parting Norman remarked that we'd sleep well that night - how right he was!

The Ottawa Trail Club plan to back pack the Slide Lake area on the week-end 5th. - 6th. October (see page 4, Spring Newsletter). Why not join them?

CREST CONTEST

Considerable discussion was held at the May Executive Meeting about the present design of our crest. The present crest is an orange isosceles triangle with the height equal to twice the base, but without name identification.

It has been decided that a prize of \$25.00 be awarded to the designer of the crest approved as most suitable for use by The Rideau Trail Association.

Guidelines for Crest Contest

1. Design must contain "orange isosceles triangle" with the height dimension equal to twice the length of the base.
2. Design must contain the words "Rideau Trail".
3. Entries to be submitted not later than October 31, 1974.
4. The panel of judges will be the Association Executive.



— LAKESHORE

— ROADS

— CREEKS

---- HIKING TRAILS

XC GOOD FOR CROSS-
- COUNTRY SKIING

*C NOT GOOD FOR
XC SKIING

TT PICNIC SITES

0 1000 2000

SCALE IN FEET

TRAIL JUNCTIONS

FA	FAMOUS JUNCTION
M	MICA JUNCTION
P	PORKY JUNCTION
F	FROG JUNCTION
H	HILL JUNCTION

RIDEAU
TRAIL
ASSOCIATION

TRAILS IN THE
GOULD LAKE
CONSERVATION AREA

APRIL 1974

DJK



R.T.A.
Box 15
Kingston. Ont.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - RENEW NOW FOR 1974

Please check: New Membership _____ or Renewal _____

Name (please print): _____ Telephone No. _____

Mailing Address: _____

City & Postal Code: _____

Student: \$3.00
Adult: \$4.00
Family: \$6.00
Senior Citizen: \$3.00
Affiliated Organization: \$5.00

I enclose \$_____ to cover:-

- (a) Membership fee _____
- (b) Plastic map case \$1.00 _____
 (supplied with each
 new membership)
- (c) Crest .50¢ _____
- (d) Donation _____

Make cheques and money orders payable to Rideau Trail Association
and send to:

P.O.Box 15,
Kingston, Ont.
K7L 4V6.