



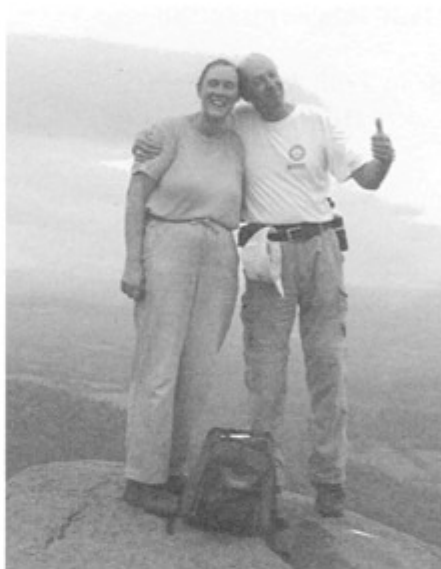
The Rideau Trail

SPRING 2007

ISSUE NO. 143



Suitably attired hike leader Audrey Sanger pipes the group of hikers along the Cataraqui Trail.



"We're on top of the world!" Jennifer and Mark Collier on the top of Stowe Pinnacle, Vermont 2006.



Lunch stop overlooking Democrat and Republican Islands in Charleston Lake.

Cover photos by Mark Collier



Hike leader Watson Ogilvie leads the way across the Lamoille River on the Long Trail, Vermont. If only the RTA had funding to build bridges like this!



Rideau Trail Association Newsletter
Issue 143 Spring 2007

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The Rideau Trail Association is a member of
HIKE ONTARIO.

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Editor of this issue: Bob Gordon, Kingston Club

Submissions for the Next Newsletter

The Summer Newsletter will be prepared by the Ottawa Club. Submissions are encouraged. If possible, text should be sent electronically with no document formatting. Pictures are also welcome, either in colour or in black and white, with good definition and contrast. Please ensure that all items arrive by **May 1, 2007** and that they are sent directly to the Ottawa editor:

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RENEWAL FORM 20

THE RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION
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RENEW YOUR RTA
MEMBERSHIP NOW !

Presidents Message

A proposal to increase the membership fees will be tabled by the Board of Directors at the annual General Meeting (AGM) on June 16, 2007. It is proposed that the annual individual membership be increased from \$20 to \$25 and that the household membership (two adults living at the same address) be increased from \$25 to \$30.

The individual membership fee has not changed since 1995. The annual household membership was introduced in 2003 at \$25.

Why is the increase being proposed? The balance sheet for the past two years shows income from membership fees did not cover our operating expenses. The shortfall was \$33,230 in 2005 and \$8,380 in 2006. We need to address the deficit to ensure the long term financial health of our Association.

It should be noted that income from the sale of the RTA Guidebook is used to recover the cost of producing the next edition of the guidebook. These funds do not con-

tribute to our operating expenses. Also it is our current policy not to use funds from donations to cover operating expenses. Income from donations is used for major projects and trail preservation initiatives.

The cost of running the RTA over the past few years has been affected by inflation. There has been a 26% increase in the consumer price index (CPI) since 1995, affecting such things as printing, postage and insurance costs to name just a few of our expenses.

The annual individual membership fee in the Rideau Trail Assoc is lower than other trail associations of a similar size to ours. This will still be the case if the increase is approved.

I look forward to discussing this with you further at the AGM on June 16 at Jones Falls. In the meantime if you have any comments or suggestions to make on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the other members of the Board of Directors. See you on the Trail.

David Armitage

Rideau Trail Association 36th Annual General Meeting Saturday June 16, 2007

Hotel Kenney, Jones Falls

Registration: 9:30

Meeting: 10:00 - 12:00

Lunch: Bring your own or purchase on-site

(Cost: \$8.95 per person. Please see reservation instructions below)

Afternoon Hikes:

Historic Tour of Jones Falls Dam OR Short and Long Rock Dunder Loops

Dinner: 5:30 - 7:30

(Cost: \$25.00 per person including taxes. Please see reservation instructions below.)

Guest Dinner Speaker: Doug Knapp - Founder of the Rideau Trail
"The Evolution of Walking Trails in Ontario"

Lunch reservations must be received no later than May 31, 2007. No advance payment required (payable on-site) but Rideau Trail Association must provide Hotel Kenney with total number of lunches required. Please advise Kathryn Fournier at 613-248-0006 if you wish to purchase lunch.

Dinner reservations must be received no later than May 31, 2007. Please send a cheque or money order for \$25, made out to RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION IN TRUST to:
Kathryn Fournier, 2071 Riverside Drive, Ottawa Ontario K1H 7X2

There are a limited number of rooms available at Hotel Kenney. Please contact Hotel Kenney directly at 1-866-536-6397 to make reservations. Hotel Kenney advises that reservations should be made before April 15, 2007.

For further information or to make enquiries about car-pooling from your location, please call your Club Representative (see newsletter page 2) or call Kathryn Fournier at 613-248-0006. (fournierk@inac.gc.ca)

The Rideau Canal - World Heritage Site?

I represented the RTA at the 2006 Rideau Waterway Symposium held at Codes Mill in Perth on Nov 22nd 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to launch the celebrations for the 175th Anniversary of the opening of the Rideau Canal and also to draw attention to its possible designation as a World Heritage Site. The main theme for the day was "Rideau Canal on the World Stage". The keynote speaker was Francois Bordry, President of Navigable Waterways of France who shared his experiences of managing the Canal Midi, a World Heritage Site.

Other guest speakers were from Parks Canada, The Rideau Canal, The Heritage Network, Rideau Heritage Route Tourism Association and the Heritage Planners Network. There was a packed audience consisting of personnel from Parks Canada, Rideau Canal, Chambers of Commerce, Travel Agencies, Heritage and Environmental organizations as well as politicians and representatives of the many businesses located along the Rideau Corridor. Discussion continued throughout most of the day.

The main idea that emerged from the meeting was that the Rideau Canal was a prime contender for recognition as a World Heritage Site and that the "Eyes of the World will be upon us". It was suggested that organizations within the corridor should be prepared to develop activities and provide accommodations that will attract visitors to the region.

The only reference to hiking during the day was when Francois Bordry mentioned that visitors enjoyed walking along the side of the Canal Midi.

The decision is to be made by an International Committee meeting in New Zealand. An announcement is to be made on June 30, 2007. If there is a positive result it will no doubt impact on the RTA as we too are part of the culture of the Rideau Corridor.

David Armitage.

Words of Wisdom for RTA Leaders

The 4th edition of the RTA *Guide for Leaders* has been published and is being distributed to Leaders in the three Rideau Trail Clubs. The *Guide for Leaders* provides guidelines for planning and leading RTA activities such as organized hikes, walks, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing outings.

The new version of the *Guide for Leaders* reflects lessons learned from the last two decades, and will be of interest to both new and experienced leaders. It describes situations that could arise during an outing and provides guidance on how to prevent and deal with those problems.

An electronic version of the *Guide for Leaders* can be accessed by clicking on the link For Our Leaders on the RTA website www.rideautrail.org.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the team of volunteers who contributed to the preparation and publication of the 4th edition of the *Guide for Leaders*: Graham Creedy (project coordinator), David Armitage, John Barron, John Haley, Denise Hudson and Mohan Taa-gopera. We are also grateful to Loretta Craig-Taylor who provided editing assistance.

Hike Ontario offers a one-day Hike Leader Certification Course. This may be of interest to Leaders who would like to augment their knowledge or who want to obtain formal certification as a Hike Leader. The next course will be offered on April 28, 2007 at Frontenac Provincial Park; the instructor for the course is David Armitage. For further information visit the Hike Ontario website at www.hikeontario.com/services/hikeleadcert.htm#one.

If you would like to become a Leader please contact one of the Rideau Trail Club Chairs listed on page 2 of this Newsletter. *Ron Hunt, Vice-President*

RIDEAU TRAIL CLOSED ON TUESDAY, MARCH 20 2007

The Rideau Trail, where it crosses private land, will be closed on this day. 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.

Rideau Trail Celebrates 35 Years

On the first weekend of November Rideau Trail members gathered twice to celebrate the creation of the Rideau Trail. A third event would follow on Wednesday. Saturday thirteen members and guests followed the hike leader along the paths in the Opinicon area, eventually ending up at the Allan and Ellen Bonwill Shelter for lunch. The contribution of these folks was recognized. We also acknowledged the contributions of those hardy trail maintainers, having met one earlier in the day. On returning to the cars, anniversary cupcakes were enjoyed by all. It took quite a bit of perseverance to light the candles in the light breeze, but one member was determined to do it.

On Sunday members made the pilgrimage to the rock in Foley Mountain Conservation Area which contains the plaque unveiled at the official opening 35 years ago. While some people hiked from the Lion's Club Beach, others started within the park. This allowed for a maximum number of participants of various hiking levels to be involved in the celebration. All three clubs of the Rideau Trail Association were well represented. Once we had converged upon the rock, President David Armitage welcomed us with a few opening remarks. Founding member Doug Knapp was also present, and gave us some insight into the early days of the Trail. While neighbouring communities also received government monies to establish trails, the Rideau Trail is the only one still in existence. He gave credit to the hard work of the membership for the success of this trail. Doug also had with him his collection of photos and news articles from the early days of the club, which he shared with us. Following the remarks members made their way to the Conservation Interpretive Centre, where they had lunch, and were treated to coffee and tea by the staff and Friends of Foley Mountain. Two hikes followed lunch. The hiking that day was great, but better yet was the opportunity to share with fellow members our love of the Trail, past experiences, and future plans. Yes, some of us are already thinking about the next landmark anniversary!

Jane Hough



Saturday hikers gather for celebratory cupcakes.



Some of the Sun hikers gather at "The Rock".



Doug Knapp points out pictures in his scrapbook.

Photos by Jane Hough.

RENEW YOUR RTA MEMBERSHIP NOW !

Membership renewals are due March 31.

The Summer Newsletter will not be mailed to those who have not renewed.

Support the Rideau Trail !

Use the renewal form on the back page.

RTA Kingston Club – Annual Vermont Hiking Trip -- Green Mountain Area

Monday 10 September to Friday 14 September 2007

Kingston Rideau Trail Club is again offering its annual hiking trip to the Red Fox Alpine Lodge near Smugglers' Notch in the scenic Green Mountains of Vermont. The trip includes four nights co-ed bunk accommodation, hearty breakfasts each morning and dinner each evening. Lunches, if required, can be purchased locally. Cost will be approximately Can\$200 per person.

Depending on participant numbers and weather conditions, a choice of hikes ranging from moderate clambers to challenging ascents will be available to participants each day. However, because of the generally mountainous terrain, participants should be fit experienced hikers. Information on, photographs of and directions to the Red Fox Alpine Lodge are available at www.roundearth.com/page.asp?name=red_fox

To reserve a place on this trip, please send a Can\$75 per person cheque together with the name(s) and address(es) of participants, phone number and e-mail address (if you have one) to:

Mark Collier
4808 Huntbach Lane
RR2 Battersea
ON, K0H 1H0.

Note: Space is limited to 40 participants on a first come, first reserved basis.

For further information, contact Mark Collier at 613-353-9988 or at jenmarkcollier@earthlink.net. Additional information will be provided to those registered for the trip in early September. Receipt of registration requests and cheques will be acknowledged as soon as possible after receipt by Mark. The balance of the trip cost is payable in Canadian dollars on 13 September. Please carpool among yourselves. Contact Mark for a list of prepaid participants from your area if you require transportation to or from Vermont.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations after 31 August 2007 will forfeit their deposit.

Note: This activity is not sponsored or endorsed by the Rideau Trail Association and is published for information purposes only.

RTA Kingston Club – Annual Fall B&B Trip

Tuesday September 18 to Thursday September 20, 2007

In response to popular demand, Bob Chadwick is organizing a return to Spectacle Lake Lodge and Algonquin Park, a successful trip that we took two years ago. For more information please call him at 613-352-1052 and for best choice of accommodation please send a downpayment cheque for \$100 per room with your name, address and telephone number and an indication of whether you will need a ride or plan to drive and if you can take passengers.

Bob's address is 31 Abbey Dawn Drive, Bath ON K0H 1G0. Gourmet meals plus comfortable accommodation in lodge or cottages should be less than \$250 per person total for the 2 nights. For share of gas and park admission allow about \$40.

Membership Help Needed

The RTA requires one or more people to help with the work of maintaining memberships. Membership work is key to the association. It ensures an up-to-date list of members for newsletter mailings and for clubs.

The membership work is under review. This is an opportunity for you to participate in the re-engineering of the job.

Three major areas are involved:

- empty Kingston mailbox weekly and distribute mail to appropriate parties
- maintain the membership list on the computer and produce statistics as required
- pack and mail items ordered by members

The person handling the mailbox must reside in the Kingston area. The person maintaining the computer files must have experience working on computers and have their own computer with Windows 2000 or Windows XP or compatible software. The membership software is written in MS Access 2000. The packing and mailing of ordered items is a manual process. The person handling the computer work or the packing/ mailing could reside anywhere.

It is estimated that in the busiest times – March to June – about 8 hours a week in total is required to fulfill the

-continued on p. 9

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION – KINGSTON CLUB ACTIVITIES

The meeting place for our activities, unless stated otherwise, is the **Canadian Tire parking lot, along Bath Road towards the gas station**. Be there shortly before the departure time indicated. Bring lunch, extra water, insect repellent 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. 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. Leaders may obtain blank sign-in sheets from Joan Bailey at 613 389-1935, and should return completed sheets to her at 709 Davis Drive, Kingston, K7M 7X5. See note on **Participants Responsibilities and Levels of Difficulty on p. 15**. Please note pace scale: **slow 2-3 km/hr, moderate 3-4 km/hr, fast 4-5 km/hr, very fast 5+ km/hr**.

Wednesday Walkers depart at 1:30 p.m., except on the second Wednesday of the month when an all-day outing is scheduled (see below). For information on these afternoon walks, call the Milloys at 613 530-2142.

Tuesday, March 20

RIDEAU TRAIL CLOSED FOR ENTIRE DAY

Saturday March 24

Cataraqi Trail

Hike on the trail for a maximum of 10 km. Level 1.

Meet to depart at 9:00 a.m. Gas \$4

LEADER: Gloria Seeley 613-546-2503

Saturday March 24

Spring Pot Luck Party

BYOB and favorite appetizer, entree or dessert to celebrate the arrival of spring. Meet at 6:00 p.m. Location: Queens Womens Association, 144 Albert Street.

RSVP: Linda Line 613-531-4353

Sunday, March 25

Annual visit to Maple Sugar Shack 8 km at fast pace, Level 1. Meet at 10:00 a.m. Kingston Centre. Gas \$4. Maple Syrup available to purchase. LEADER: Bill Murdoch 613-389-3023

Saturday March 31

Rideau Trail

Enjoy a stylish hike on the trail along Kepler Road. Slow pace for 12 km. Level 1 Meet to depart at 9:00 a.m. Gas \$3.

LEADER: Audrey Sanger 613-384-6244

Sunday April 1

Charleston Lake

Tallow Rock Bay Loop (West Side Trails) Level 3 hike for 10 km at a moderate pace. Meet to depart at 9:00 a.m. Gas \$6 plus park fee.

LEADER: Susan Irving 613-544-3110

Sunday, April 1

April Fools Day Historic

Perth Walk Kingston and Ottawa Club members are again invited to participate in a level 1, approx. 6 km walk in Perth. Meet in the Atrium, Codes Mill building (opposite the Park and Big Ben statue) at 10:30

a.m. Contact: Margaret Lafrance 613-267-4360 or e-mail margaretlf@sympatico.ca

Cataraqi End-to-End Challenge

The Cataraqi Trail End-to-End Challenge, begun last October, continues in April. Cataraqi Trail badges are available for \$5 from Don Coulter, 613-542-9998.

Saturday April 7 Cataraqi Trail End-to-End #6

Level 1 Newburgh to Yarker for 15 km at a moderate pace. Meet to depart at 9:00 a.m. Gas \$5.

LEADER: Don Coulter 613 542-9998

Sunday April 8

Marble Rock Conservation Area.

Hike the Marble Rock Blue Trail. 11 km Level 3

Meet to depart at 9:00 a.m. Gas \$5

LEADER: Bruce Bromfield 613 634-9409

Tuesday April 10 Hike Leaders Planning Meeting.

Help plan the summer schedule. All hike leaders bring yourselves and your ideas to the Party Room at 117 Park Street for 7:00 p.m.

CONTACT Linda Line 613-531-4353

Wednesday April 11 Mill Pond Conservation Area.

Explore and hike this little known but scenic area off Highway 15 near the Old Kingston Road south of Rideau Ferry adjacent to Big Rideau Lake. Distance under 10 km Level 2. May be muddy in places. Meet to depart at 9:00 a.m. Gas \$7

LEADER: Bob Chadwick 613 352-1052

Saturday April 14 Cycle on Wolfe Island to Big

Sandy Bay. Meet at Ferry Dock for 9:30 a.m. ferry.

LEADER: Pat Casey 613 385 2356

Sunday April 15 Cataraqui Trail End to End #7
Forfar Cheese Factory via Portland. (Lakeside lunch stop) to City Road #5. Total 14.7 km (12.2 km on trail, 2.5 km off trail) Level 1. Meet to depart at 9:00 a.m. Gas \$7
LEADER: Bob Chadwick 613-352-1052

Thursday April 19 Thursday Evening Hike
Start at Tim Hortons near the Ferry Dock. Hike around Fort Henry & R.M.C. Level 2 Possible refreshment stop afterwards. Depart 6 p.m. at Canadian Tire. Gas \$2
LEADER: Elgin Bock 613-389-4216

**Kingston Club - Annual General Meeting
Saturday, April 21, 2007**

**Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area
Outdoor Centre**

09:30 Coffee, Juice and Muffins
10:00 Business Meeting
12:00 Brown Bag Lunch followed by Level 1 and 2 hikes

Sunday April 22 Frontenac Park
Hike the Gibson Lake Loop from the Kingsford Dam. Good woodland trails with some long hills. A good spring conditioning hike. Moderate pace for 17 km. Level 2+. Meet to depart at 9:00 a.m. Gas \$5
LEADER: John Cornish 613-382-4778

Saturday April 28 Cataraqui Trail End-to-End Hike #8 Final Section! Portland to Smith Falls. Level 1. Meet to depart at 8:30 a.m. Gas \$7
LEADER: Jim Lorimer 613-373-2847

Sunday, April 29 Depot Lake Conservation Area
12 km. Level 1. Moderate pace Meet to depart at 9:00 a.m. Gas \$5
LEADER: Audrey Sanger 613 384-6244

Kingston Section End-to-End Challenge

The Kingston club is planning a series of end-to-end hikes of the Kingston Section of the Rideau Trail, to commemorate the 35th year of the Trail. There will be a special badge for those members who complete the Kingston end-to-end before November 7, 2007, and submit a written log of their hikes. The first hike is on May 5, and the hikes will continue till October.

Saturday May 5 Kingston Section End to End #1
Lally Farm in Murphys Point Provincial Park to the Nar-

rows. 20 km Level 2. Meet to depart at 9:00 a.m. Gas \$6. LEADERS: Jane & Robert Hough 613-373-2268

Sunday May 6 Lemoine Point Trillium Walk
Level 1 Depart at 10:00 a.m. Gas \$2
LEADER: Sheila Needham 613-389-1894

Wednesday May 9 Sheffield Conservation Area
Highway #41. Unique flora and fauna. 8-10 km at a moderate pace. Some bushwhacking to cross the creek on logs. Meet to depart at 9:00 a.m. Gas \$7.
LEADER: Allan Tattersall 613-549-4080

Saturday, May 12 Frontenac Park
Bufflehead Loop. Moderate pace 13 km, Level 2. Meet to depart at 9:00 a.m. Gas \$5 + park fee
LEADER: Elgin Bock 613-389-4216

Sunday, May 13 Gould Lake
The Ridge Walk with lunch at Point Spur. Moderate pace. Meet to Depart at 8:30 a.m. 15 km Level 3. Gas \$5 + park fee. Optional refreshment stop after hike.
LEADER: Bill Murdoch 613-389-3023

Saturday, May 19 Kingston Section End to End #2
Hike the Rideau Trail from Narrows Lock to Westport via scenic Foley Mountain. Level 2 at a moderate pace for 14 km. Meet to depart at 9:00 a.m. Gas \$6
LEADER: Mark Collier 613-353-9988

Sunday May 20 Cycle Amherst Island
Cycle on lovely and scenic Amherst Island. Meet at the ferry dock to take the 9:30 a.m. ferry. Bring lunch. Distance and return time will depend on weather and cycling ability of attendees. \$1.00 charge for return trip on ferry.
LEADER: Elgin Bock 613-389-4216

Saturday, May 26 Gould Lake
Hike the Rideau Trail from the gate to the barn. Take the Ridgway and return on the main trail. Level 2 for 13 km at a moderate pace. Meet to depart at 9:00 a.m. Gas \$5
LEADER: Gunter Heyland 613-634-9298

Sunday May 27 Frontenac Park
Arkon Loop. 14 km Level 3, at a moderate pace. Meet to depart at 9:00 a.m. Gas \$5 plus park fee
LEADER: Joan Bailey 613-389-1935

Saturday, June 2 Frontenac Park to Flagpole Hill
15 km Level 3 at a moderate pace Gas \$5 plus park

fee. Depart at 9:00 a.m.
LEADER: Stan Huff 613-548-3003

Sunday, June 3 Charleston Lake
Tallow Rock Bay Trail. Level 3 for 10 km. Moderate
pace. Gas \$6 plus park fee. Depart at 9:00 a.m.
LEADER: Audrey Sanger 613-384-6244

Saturday, June 9 Skycroft to Chaffeys Locks
We will have lunch beside locks. Stop for ice-cream af-
ter. 16 km Level 2. Fast pace. Meet to depart at 9:00
a.m. Gas \$5
LEADER: Bill Murdoch 613-389-3023

Sunday, June 10 Frontenac Park
Cedar Lake Loop. Level 2 for 14 kms at a moderate pace
Gas \$5 plus park fee. Meet to depart at 9:00 a.m.
LEADER: Lynn Nolan 613-389-8747

Wednesday, June 13 Mystery hike
Hike with Allan Tattersall. Some level 3 terrain but at a
level 1 pace. Meet to depart at 9:00 a.m. Gas \$5
LEADER: Allan Tattersall 613-549-4080

**Saturday, June 16 Rideau Trail Association AGM -
at Jones Falls.** See notice on p. 3.
Hike the new Rock Dunder loops.

Sunday June 17 Kingston Section End to End #3
Westport to Bedford Mills on the Rideau Trail. Moderate
pace, 18 km Level 2. Gas \$6. Meet to depart at 9:00 a.m.
LEADER: Audrey Sanger 613-384-6244

Thursday, June 21 Thursday Evening Hike
Mystery hike from the Trailhead to ??? Level 1 Meet at
6:30 p.m. at the Trailhead, King Street West.
LEADER: Elgin Bock 613-389-4216

Saturday, June 23 Hike the Rideau Trail
Freeman Road to Sydenham and return. Level 1-2 for 8
km at a moderate pace. Gas \$4. Meet to depart at 9:00
a.m. LEADER: Gunter Heyland 613-634-9298

Sunday, June 24 The Burch Trail in Skycroft Area
10 km Level 2 hike from Opinicon Road past Lindsay
Lake to Burch Trail, then Cataraqui Trail to Old Bedford
Road, returning to Opinicon Road. Moderate pace. Meet
to depart at 9:00 a.m.. Gas \$5.
LEADER: Don Coulter 613-542-9998

**Saturday, June 30 Kingston Section End to
End #4**

Bedford Mills to Upper Rock Lake Level 2, 19.5 km.,
moderate pace. Meet to depart at 9:00 a.m. Gas \$6.
LEADER: John Cornish 613-382-4778

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Kingston Club

Activity Coordination Team: one person to join the
4-member team who put together the Club activities
schedule each quarter. Most of the ideas are generated
through the Hike Leaders Planning Meetings. The
Volunteer would take the leadership for preparing one
quarterly schedule each year. Computer word-
processing ability would be an asset.

**Hiking Representative - Cataraqui Trail Manage-
ment Board :** the Kingston Club nominates persons
to represent the "Hikers" Interest Group. We are
seeking one or two individuals who will ensure that the
Cataraqui Trail will continue to be a high-quality hik-
ing Trail. The Board meets monthly on Thursday eve-
nings.

Persons interested in the above positions are requested
to phone JOHN CORNISH (613 3892 4778) or con-
tact him by e-mail at cornish@kos.net.

RENEW YOUR RTA MEMBERSHIP NOW !

-Membership Help continued from p. 6

membership work. A new model, possibly involving a
number of persons, is being sought. The board is con-
sidering remuneration or an honorarium for the com-
puter work that is needed. All expenses incurred doing
these jobs are reimbursed by the RTA.

If you can help the Association in any way please con-
tact Peter Hawkins at 613-749-2093 or e-mail to
pjhawkins@sympatico.ca.

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION - CENTRAL CLUB ACTIVITIES

The meeting place and time for Central Club activities is Conlon Farm in Perth at 9:00 am, unless otherwise noted. To reach this recreational area, take the main street (Gore Street) southeast through Perth to County Road #10 (Scotch Line), turn right towards Westport, then turn at the 4th side street on the right, Conlon Drive, to the Conlon Farm parking area. If in doubt regarding any aspects of the hike or other activity call the leader, or the Central Club hot-line at 613 264-8338. See note on **Participants Responsibilities and Levels of Difficulty on p. 15.**

MID-WEEK HIKES

Fairly long, Level 2 or 3 hikes will be held almost weekly, usually on a Wednesday, designed for hardier hikers. The venue will be decided typically on a week's notice, and will depend partly on weather forecasts. For current plans, call JOINT PERPETRATORS: Dave Miller 613-812-1131, or Janet Laraway 613-284-2127 or e-mail dustydave@sympatico.ca.

Tuesday, March 20

RIDEAU TRAIL CLOSED FOR ENTIRE DAY

Sunday, April 1 April Fool's Day Walk in Historic Perth

Combined walk with Kingston and Ottawa Clubs members. Level 1, approx. 6 km. Meet 10:30 am in the Atrium, Code's Mill building, corner of Wilson and Herriot Streets. (Opposite Big Ben statue) Contact: JOKER-FOR-THE-DAY Margaret Lafrance 613-267-4360 or e-mail margaretlf@sympatico.ca.

Sunday, April 8 Bathurst Snowmobile Trails

Level 1 hike, 12 km, stopping for soup at John and Veronica's. Gas \$3.

SOUPS ON AT: Veronica Airth's 613-264-8824

CENTRAL CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, April 15, 10 am

McMartin House, 125 Gore Street East in Perth

Meeting followed by a Level 1 hike in Murphys Point Provincial Park. NO FIREWORKS PLEASE! Information: Don Sherwin 613-264-5008.

Saturday, April 21 Maintenance Fun Day

Come out and bring your favourite loppers, machete, or just thick gloves. CUT AND THRUST EXPERT: Bruce Gourley 613-283-5967

Sunday, April 29 Alba Wilderness Area

Joint nature walk with Rideau Valley Field Naturalists. Level 2, 8-9 km, slow pace. Gas \$5.

ALBA GOOD TIME WITH: Susan Samila 613-264-1196. Leader: Howard Clifford.

Saturday, May 5

Merrickville Blue Loop and Long Bush

Level 1 hike, 12 km. Gas \$5. LOOP THROUGH THE TULIPS WITH: Janet Laraway 613-284-2127

Sunday, May 13

Little Clear Lake Loop,

Frontenac Park Level 2 hike, 14 km. Gas \$5. CLEAR THE WAY FOR CHEERFUL: Ernie Trischuk 613-283-8112

Saturday, May 19 Massassauga Road/Skycroft area Level 2 hike, 16 km. Gas \$5.

ROADRUNNER: Dave Miller 613-812-1131

Saturday, May 26

Hemlock/Gibson Lake Loop,

Frontenac Provincial Park Meet at 8:00 am. Level 3 hike, 18 km. Gas \$5, FAST-PACED DUO: Gunhild Karius and Bill Ottney 613-264-2861

Sunday, June 3 Marble Rock Conservation Area

Level 2 hike, 12 km. Gas \$5. SOLID AS MARBLE: Bruce Gourley 613-283-5967

Sunday, June 10 Canoe Day, Tay Basin to Smiths Falls

JOIN THE BIG BOYS: Dave Miller 613-812-1131

Saturday, June 16

RTA Annual General Meeting

Kenney Hotel, Jones Falls. See notice on p. 3. IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND CONTACT: Margaret Lafrance 613-267-4360

Sunday, June 17

Slide Lake Loop, Frontenac Park

Level 3 hike, 14 km. Gas \$5. A NICE STEADY DAY WITH: Margaret Lafrance 613-267-4360

Saturday, June 23

Canoe Day, Eagle Lake

EAGLE CAN LOOK BACK: Don Sherwin 613-264-0759

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION - OTTAWA CLUB ACTIVITIES

The meeting place for all Ottawa Club activities, unless otherwise stated below, is the parking lot of the R.H. Coats Building (Statistics Canada) on the west side of Parkdale Avenue just north of where it intersects with Scott Street. The Tunney's Pasture OC Transpo stop is one block away. Transportation for hikes is by car-pooling of private cars; passengers contribute to the driver's costs. Fees for parking and entry to parks and conservation areas are shared between the driver and the passengers. Scheduled activities take place regardless of weather. For more information about a particular activity call the leader at the number listed. If you are unable to reach the leader or if you need general information contact the Ottawa Club at 613-860-2225. **See note on Participants' Responsibilities and Levels of Difficulty on page 15.**

The Rideau Trail Association requires that participants sign an Activity Sign-up Sheet for the specific activity they are attending. The sign-up sheet is used by the leader to keep track of how many people are in the group. Participants are expected to read the "Release of Liability" preamble at the top of the sign-up sheet prior to signing. **Leaders:** Please send the sign-up sheets to the interim Activities Coordinator – Ron Hunt at 6121 Larivière Crescent, Ottawa, ON, K1W 1C6 (information is required for risk management and statistical purposes).

MOONLIGHTERS URBAN WALKS

Every Tuesday evening beginning March 20 through to April 17, there will be an Ottawa urban walk. We will also be stopping at a Pub for refreshments each evening after the walk. **DO NOT MEET AT TUNNEY'S PASTURE. MEET AT THE STARTING POINT OF THE WALK FOR DEPARTURE AT 6:00 p.m.**

Coordinator: Pat Archer 613-565-6149

March 20 Rideau Canal Bridges Loop
Meet at TD Canada Trust (Pretoria Bridge & the Drive-way) Leader: Jan Makins 613-721-8833

March 27 Hull Loop
Meet at Old Mill Restaurant (Western Parkway & Portage Bridge) Leader: Grant Malinsky 613-842-8736

April 3 Western Parkway/Bate Island
Meet at Tunney's Pasture (usual RTA meeting place) Leader: Terry Baker 613-825-5267

April 10 Eastern Parkway Loop
Meet at Aviation Museum Parking Lot (off the Eastern Parkway) Leader: Ralph Sullivan 613-749-5534

April 17 Ottawa/Hull Bridge to Bridge
(Portage/MacDonald Cartier)
** This walk is the beginning of the Rideau Trail **
Meet at Old Mill Restaurant (Western Parkway & Portage Bridge) Leader: Pat Archer 613-565-6149

Wednesday Walkers

Every Wednesday there are level 2 and 3 hikes in Gattineau Park. Departure time is 9:30 a.m. Call Dorothy Belter 613-523-4420 or Nanette Whitwam 613-747-2985 for more information including the meeting place. **Do not go to Tunney's Pasture.**

Impromptu Saturday Level 2-3 Hikes

Saturdays when no official level 2 or 3 hike is planned there are impromptu hikes in the Gattineau. Depart Tunney's Pasture at 9:30 a.m. Destination to be determined.

Warning: These outings are **NOT** for beginners, may be long and challenging, and are generally organized at the meeting point. **Note:** These hikes are new for Saturdays. The plan is they will be run on much the same basis as the Wednesday Walkers has been running for years. Be flexible and bring your own ideas. Depending on response and the availability of a leader, they may or may not take place. If you wish to confirm ahead of time, you could call one of the contacts, or just go to the meeting point and be ready to take things as you find them. Bring snowshoes if there's still snow on the ground.

Contacts: Alex Macdonald 613-237-6399, Chris Heap 613-740-9975, Wally Kalbfleisch 613-728-8072

MOONLIGHTERS - Tuesday Evening Hikes

Every Tuesday evening from late April until the end of August, there will be a short hike, either in Gatineau Park or in town, always within a thirty-minute drive. **Meet at Tunney's Pasture by 5:50 pm in the R.H. Coats Building parking lot for a 6:00 pm departure.** Hikes last until sunset. The pace is approximately 4 kilometers per hour. The level of difficulty is 1 or 2 and may include terrain that is hilly, wet and rough. During the hike there will usually be a 15 minute break. Bring water, snack, bug repellent, flashlight and proper footwear. Trudy Stephen (613-828-9313) is the Moonlighters Coordinator for 2007.

No	Date	Sunset	Leader	Description	Level	km	Gas
1	April 24	8:02	Liisa Pent 613-725-2541	Rideau Locks (future trailhead for the Rideau Trail) from Tunney's Pasture	1	10	0
2	May 1	8:11	Jean Sunter 613-828-6077	Lime Kiln from P11 Hunt Club Rd.W. east of Moodie (Bells Corners)	1	6	\$2
3	May 8	8:19	Ralph Sullivan 613-749-5534	Penguin Picnic Area from NCC Visitor Centre (Old Chelsea)	2	6	\$4
4	May 15	8:27	Grant Malinsky (613-842-8736)	NRC grounds to Ottawa River from Gloucester Centre parking at Starbucks	1	7	\$2
5	May 22	8:35	Lena Creedy 613-789-1657	Skyline from P7 (Kingsmere)	2	6	\$3
6	May 29	8:42	Dave Wardell 613-722-3752	Herridge Lodge from P16 (Pine Road/Meech Valley)	1	10	\$4
7	June 5	8:47	John Haley 613-225-0590	Shilly Shally from Bourgeois Lake parking lot (King Mountain area)	2	8	\$3
8	June 12	8:52	Joanne Tuttle 613-729-8787 Alex Macdonald 613-237-6399	Tawadina (Pulpit) from P13 (ascent from Meech Lake) Two groups this year.	2	10	\$4
9	June 19	8:54	Diane Dates 613-737-8702	Black Lake from P7 (Kingsmere)	2	7	\$3
10	June 26	8:55	Marion Dunning 613-226-4681	Western Lodge from P12 (ascent from Meech Lake)	2	8	\$4

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

Tuesday March 20 – RIDEAU TRAIL CLOSED

Saturday March 24 Rideau Trail

Level 1. 8 km. Hike the Rideau Trail from Burritt's Rapids to Merrickville. Enjoy a walk in early spring in an historic area with an old pioneer cemetery and many historic stone homes. Refreshments in a café in Merrickville after the hike. Hike begins at 11:00 a.m. at the Swing Bridge in Burritt's Rapids. Car shuttle. Hike Leaders: Fred Grodte 613 269-4306 and Denis Faulkner 613 269-2136.

Ottawa meeting: Ottawa members meet at Fallowfield Park and Ride. *Do not go to Tunney's Pasture.* Depart at 10:15 a.m. Gas: \$5
Contact: Nigel Brereton 613-596-6191

Sunday March 25

Urban Hike

Level 1.8+ km. Hike along the Rideau River from Strathcona Park to the Bank Street bridge and return on the opposite shore. Enjoy the warm sun as winter turns to spring. Meet at the parking lot in Strathcona Park – Range Road and Somerset Street East. *Do not go to Tunney's Pasture.* Meeting time 1:30 p.m.
Leader: Linda Haack 613 232-8129

Sunday March 25 Bushwhacking in Gatineau Park

Level 3. 12 km. Exploring high ground near Lusk Lake. Hike or snowshoe depending on conditions. Gas \$5. Departs 09:00 a.m.
Leader: John Barron 613 828-2296.

Summer Activities Schedule

It is time to plan the summer schedule. We need a volunteer to prepare the schedule. A list of hike leaders with their phone numbers and e-mail's is available as well as a copy of the last summer schedule. You need a computer, access to e-mail and hiking enjoyment to do the job. Can you help? I did the spring schedule and will be happy to provide guidance. Contact: Elizabeth Mason 613-729-6596

Sunday, April 1 - April Fool's Day Historic Perth Walk Kingston and Ottawa Club members are again invited to participate in a level 1, approx. 6 km walk in Perth. Meet in the Atrium, Code's Mill building (opposite the Park and Big Ben statue) at 10:30 a.m. Contact: Margaret Lafrance 613 267-4360 or e-mail margaretlf@sympatico.ca
Ottawa members meet at 9:15 a.m. to car pool. Gas \$6

Saturday, April 7 - Gatineau Park - Equestrian Trail, Pilon, Church Hill Escarpment Loop
Level 2. 8.5 km hike in the western part of Gatineau Park starting from the Church Hill parking lot on the Eardley Masham Road. Meet at 9 a.m. Bring a lunch and plan to hike for about 4 hours. Snow conditions may alter location of this hike. Gas \$5.
Leader: Nigel Brereton 613 596-6191

Saturday, April 14 Jack Pine Trails
Level 1. Jack Pine Trails and vicinity. About 7 km. Do not go to Tunney's Pasture. Meet at south end of Base-line Station Transitway Park-and-Ride at 12:30 a.m. Gas: \$2. Leader: K. Jean Cottam 613-726-1596 or cell: 613-299-8856

Sunday, April 15 Carman Trails
Level 2. 10 km. Hike the Carman Trails to Brown Lake. Gas \$5. Depart 09:30 a.m.
Leader: Peter Scott 613 729-9557

Ottawa Club Annual General Meeting Friday, April 20, 2007

Dominion Chalmers United Church
355 Cooper St., Ottawa
(Parking lot off Lisgar or O'Connor)

PROGRAM

7:00 pm—Coffee and tea
7:30 pm—Business meeting
9:15 pm—Guest speaker: Deb Jacobs
"Wildlife in the Marlborough Forest"

Saturday April 21 Adopt-a-road Cleanup
Adopt-a-Road-Right-of-way program. Roger Stevens Drive between McKenna Road and Cedar Grove parking lot. A minimum of 12 people are needed to pick up litter along the road allowance. **Please register in advance** so that enough equipment can be provided. "Rain date" will be April 28. Meet at Fallowfield/Woodroffe Park-and-Ride north-west section at 9:00 a.m. Do not go to Tunney's Pasture. Gas: \$5.
Leader: Suzanne Brown 613 224-6006

Saturday, April 21 Rideau Trail - Frontenac Provincial Park
Level 2+. 15 km. Visitor Centre to Flagpole Hill return. Late return. Departure: 8:00 a.m. Gas \$9
Leader: David Spector 613-270-1046

Saturday April 21 Hollow Glen
Level 3+. 12 km. Climb the escarpment from Chemin de la Montagne past a waterfall following a trail to the three original Champlain Lookouts. Lunch will be in the area of Huron Lodge. We will proceed along trails, cross the parkway and return to the start. Depart 8:30 a.m. Gas \$3. Leader: Alex Macdonald 613-237-6399

Sunday April 22 - Gatineau Park - Ridge Hike #4
Level 3. Approximately 14 km. #4 in a series of hikes along the Eardley Escarpment. Hilly terrain using faint trails and off-trail hiking in the area of Hollow Glen and King Mountain. Many nice spring views. There will be a car shuttle. Depart 09:00 a.m. Gas \$3.
Leaders: Ann Lane 613-741-3184
en814@freenet.carleton.ca and Dave Audette 613-224-1147 dg.audette@sympatico.ca

Sunday April 22 Rideau Trail
Level 1+. 9-10 km. Hike the Rideau Trail as it winds its way south from Corkstown Road near Moodie Drive to Richmond Road. Map 15. Look for deer along the route. Dress for wet areas. Car shuttle. Depart 1:30 p.m. Gas: \$2. Leader: Don Grant 613 828-1026

Saturday, April 28 Gatineau
Level 2. Hike in the Gatineau Hills, destination depending on trail conditions. Depart 9:30 a.m. Gas \$4.
Leaders: Marilyn Booth and Don Carpenter 613 730-3879.

Sunday April 29 Ottawa River East
Level 1. About 8 km. Join us for another Walk and Roll hike along the Ottawa river from Orleans to Greens Creek at Montreal Road and Hwy 174. This is the reverse of the hike done on Nov 18. Mostly on bicycle paths. Lovely views of the river in springtime. Probable

cold breeze off the river so dress accordingly. **DO NOT GO TO TUNNEYS PASTURE.** Meet at the OC-transpo 'park and ride' at Place d'Orleans. Arriving by bus at Place d'Orleans, go up the stairs and cross the highway on the pedestrian walkway. Meet at foot of steps or in the nearby shelter at 1:00 p.m. At end of hike we will be at the bus stop for the 95 bus. Possible stop for Tim Horton's coffee at end of hike.
Leader: Ruth Hutchinson 613-749-0990

Summer Newsletter

May is the month when Ottawa prepares the summer newsletter. The layout is prepared during the first two weeks of May. Mailing occurs when we receive the copy back from the printer at the end of May. Help is needed.

- 2 people are needed to do the address labeling. This job takes about 1 ½ hours.
- 1 person is needed to help bundle the newsletters into postal containers and carry them to the trunk of my car. This job takes 2 – 3 hours and is done the day after the labeling.

If you can help call Elizabeth Mason 613-729-6596

Saturday May 5 Larriault Trail
Level 1. 8 km. Hike the Larriault trail in the Gatineau. Enjoy the first spring blooms, two lakes and the bridal veil waterfall. Meet at 9:30 a.m. Gas: \$3.
Leader: Jean Sunter 613-828-6077

Saturday May 5 Tunnel Tour
Level 3. 12 km. Starts at Pine road and proceeds along Giant trail going past the ruins and through the tunnels under highway 5. Depart 9 a.m. Gas \$4.
Leader: Alex Macdonald 613-237-6399

Sunday May 6 Rideau Trail
Level 1+. 10 km. Hike the Rideau Trail south of Roger Stevens Drive passing Rogers Pond and continuing to the start of the Earth Star Loop and return. Enjoy the early spring. Prepare for some wet areas and please dress accordingly. Meet at the Fallowfield Park-and-ride at Fallowfield and Woodroffe. Do not go to Tunney's Pasture. Depart 9:30 a.m. Gas \$5.
Leader: Terry Baker 613 825-5267

Saturday, May 12 Nepean Sportsplex Area
Level 1 hike - Sportsplex/Slack Rd Trails. About 8 km. Do not go to Tunney's Pasture. Meet at south end of

Baseline Station Transitway Park-and-Ride at 12:30 pm. Leader: K. Jean Cottam 613-726-1596 or cell: 613-299-8856

Saturday May 12 Gatineau – Lusk Lake Area
Level 3. 10-12 km. Hike offbeat routes south of Lusk Lake. *The hike is only for those who are reasonably fit and like exploration.* Moderate pace subject to negotiation/bribery. Depart: 9:30 a.m. Gas \$5.
Leader: Graham Creedy 613-789-1657.

Saturday May 19 Morris Island
Level 1. 7-8 km. A pleasant walk along waterside trails in a Conservation Area on the Ottawa River. Possible tearoom stop in Arnprior after the hike. Meet at 9:30 a.m. Gas \$5. Leader: Ron Maybury 613-836-2953

Saturday May 19 Gatineau Park
Level 2 hike, approx 12 km in Gatineau Park. Meet at 9:30 a.m. Gas \$4
Leader: Alex Bissett 613-828-4363 or alexbissett@sympatico.ca

Monday May 21 Bike Ride
Level 1-2. 30-40 km. Cycle the Rideau Trail starting at Tunney's Pasture and going out to the Equestrian Park. The distance will be adjusted according to the comfort of participants. Return via another route. Bring lunch or stop along the way to buy food. Depart 10:30 a.m. Leader: Elizabeth Mason 613 729-6596

Saturday May 26 Rideau Trail - Foley Mountain
Level 2. 13 km. Hike the Foley Mountain Loop and an historic walk through Westport.
Departure: 9:00 am. Gas \$7.
Leader: David Spector 613-270-1046

Saturday May 26 Mont Tremblant
Level 3. 16 km, 2500 feet of elevation gain. This rugged, strenuous climb was very popular when run a couple of years ago. Great views. Gas \$10. Departs 07:30 a.m. Late return. Leader: John Barron 613 828-2296.

Sunday May 27 Rideau Trail
Level 1. 6-7 km. Hike the Rideau Trail from West Hunt Club Road to Fallowfield Road with a detour on the blue loop to see the lime kiln. Map 15. Prepare for wet footing. Meet at the Baseline transitway station parking (off Woodroffe). *Do not go to Tunney's Pasture.* Depart 1:30 p.m. Gas: \$2.
Leader: Jean Sunter 613 828-6077

**Have you ordered your dinner tickets for the
RTA AGM at Jones Falls?**

(See below under June 16 and notice on p. 3)

Please order them today. Call Kathryn Fournier at 613-248-0006 or Nigel Brereton at 613-596-6191.

Saturday June 2 Rideau Trail - Stoney Steps

Level 1. 9 km. Hike the new blue loop section of the Rideau Trail north of Burritt's Rapids. Explore a pioneer cemetery and an old farm settlement and enjoy a scenic waterfall. Car shuttle. Meet at Fallowfield Park and Ride. *Do not go to Tunney's Pasture.* Depart 9:30 a.m. Gas \$5.

Leader: Ron Maybury 613-836-2953

Saturday June 2 Gatineau Park

Level 3. Hike from the Lusk Falls area. May be a long hike which will depend on conditions. Depart 8:30 a.m. Gas: \$5. Leader: John Haley 613-225-0590

Saturday June 9 Gatineau Park – Pilon's Road

Level 2. 8-10 km. Pilon's Road up Chartrand Creek to the "Yellow Box" for lunch, then across to the Fire Tower and down via Luskville Falls. Car shuttle. Moderate pace. Depart: 9:30 a.m. Gas \$5.

Leaders: Graham and Lena Creedy 613-789-1657.

Sat. June 9 MacNamara Trail

Level 1. About 6 km. A final hike on this interesting trail. Perhaps we'll see the fringed ladyslippers at their height. Optional tea stop in Arnprior afterwards. Depart 11.00 a.m. Bring light snack if desired. Gas \$5.

Leader: Bill Grant-820-0697

Saturday June 16 RTA AGM

AGM meeting and dinner at Jones Falls. See item on page 3 of newsletter. If you need a ride or can provide a ride for someone please call Kathryn Fournier at 613-248-0006 or Nigel Brereton at 613-596-6191.

Saturday, June 23 Western Greenbelt

Level 1+. Trails 26-28 and vicinity. About 12 km. Do not go to Tunney's Pasture. Meet at south end of Base-line Station Transitway Park-and-Ride at 10:15 am. Gas \$2.

Leader: K. Jean Cottam 613-726-1596 or cell: 613-299-8856

**Vacant Positions - Ottawa Rideau Trail Club
Executive**

Volunteers needed as of the April 2007 AGM:

Activities Coordinator

Secretary

Treasurer

Make a difference! Put your talents to use! Be part of a team of volunteers that is dedicated to enhancing the reputation and profile of the Ottawa Rideau Trail Club as the premier group in the National Capital area for hiking, walking and snowshoeing activities.

For more details, please contact Ron Hunt, Chair – Ottawa Rideau Trail Club at 613-590-7467 or via email at re.hunt@sympatico.ca

Participants' Responsibilities

Participants should bring a lunch, drinking water, sun and insect protection and should wear appropriate footwear and clothing.

Participants are expected to choose a trip suitable to their physical abilities and skill level. They should inform their leader, at the start, of any health problems or of any existing or potential difficulties with their equipment. Each participant will respect all financial obligations. The volunteer leaders will expect the support and co-operation of each group member. Parents and guardians are expected to supervise their own children.

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.

Volunteer Profiles

ROBIN TURKINGTON

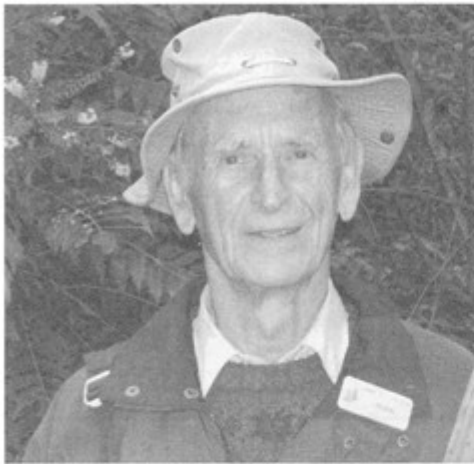


Photo supplied by Robin Turkington.

Kingston Club will be losing one of its premier volunteers when Robin Turkington and his wife Nancy move to the West Coast! For almost twelve years, as our Trail Maintenance Coordinator, Robin has been a constant presence on the 200 km. of Trail and blue loops in the Kingston section. He has organized and led the work parties for repairs and construction, recruited the maintainers and kept track of all the trail projects. If there's something that needs building or fixing or clearing, there you'll find Robin, usually with Tony Parfitt, Bill Murdoch and a posse of other volunteers. You seldom see Robin on the trail without a tool in his hand and a pocket full of markers. (Incidentally, Robin made those hundreds of markers you see on our trails, cut from large sheets of plastic using his "guillotine".)

Robin once described his truck as "well-worn". It was certainly a familiar "partner" on a hundred work parties. Over the years Robin must have covered thousands of km in it for the RTA, carrying tools, lumber and helpers to all sorts of sites, sometimes penetrating hard-to-reach locations. Just another contribution from this generous fellow.

A few years after Robin began as Maintenance Coordinator, the calamitous Ice Storm of 1998 devastated many sections of trail. Throughout the late winter and spring, Robin and others organized 36 work parties to clear and repair the damage, and had the trails ready for use by the time the rest of us came out of winter hibernation. For that and all his other hard labours, on the trails and with

-continued on p. 17

DOROTHY BELTER



Photo by Art Campbell.

For 22 years Dorothy Belter, a cover girl for the Winter 2006 NEWSLETTER, has been the "leader" of the Wednesday Walkers. "Leader" is a Rideau Trail Association term. It doesn't quite fit. If anyone else were in her position, I would say manager. But with Dorothy "manager" doesn't fit; "Sergeant Major" is more appropriate. Dorothy runs the Wednesday Walkers, and let us say Dorothy is more than a casual influence on the Friday satellite group (some wanted to call it the Friday Frolic, but some women misunderstood). Dorothy always has something in mind for every outing, including weekend outings, arranged on an ad hoc basis. In addition to her Wednesday Walker outings, Dorothy planned and led weekend hikes in the regular Rideau Trail Activities, for the unfortunate people who didn't have their priorities straight and thus hike and ski only on weekends.

Dorothy, along with two men, set up the Wednesday Walkers in 1984 when they decided that weekend skiing, or hiking, was not enough. Dorothy arranged her work schedule so that Wednesday was always free (other people have since done the same thing to join the Wednesday Walkers). Until 2000 there was at least one guide who planned the outings and, yes, guided. This led to some confusion with people who

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END TO END ACHIEVEMENT 2007

If you would like recognition for your Rideau Trail End-to-End achievement, for either the year round or Winter End to End version, please submit a request with hiking log to RTA Secretary Margaret Wild by May 31, 2007.

Your details should state your name (as you would like it to appear on the certificate), and a full postal address. In the log please give dates and details of hikes accomplished, including a start and finish date.

Presentation will take place at RTA Annual General Meeting in Jones Falls on Saturday, June 16, 2007. If you are unable to attend the AGM, the badge and certificate will be mailed to you.

MARGARET WILD,
677 RIVERMEADE AVENUE
KINGSTON, ON K7M-7Z7

613-542-9626
margaretwild@sympatico.ca

-Robin Turkington, continued from p. 16
the Club Executive Committee, Robin was awarded the Outstanding Service Award in 2001.

Thank you, Robin, for all that you have accomplished throughout the years. We're sure going to miss you!

Luckily, there are more than a few miles of trail in B.C. to keep Robin busy. No doubt it won't be long before he's seen, tool belt in place, on some misty western trail. We should look at it this way: Vancouver needs Robin to clear up the damage in Stanley Park

In Kingston, we are lucky to have found a new winning combination to carry on Robin's work. Jim Lorimer has accepted our nomination as Maintenance Coordinator when Robin steps down this April, and Don Bond has accepted as Vice-Coordinator. Thanks, fellas.

John Cornish

Donations to the Rideau Trail Association

(since the Winter 2006 Newsletter)

RTA Fund

Oonagh Berry
Ronald Hughes
Elizabeth Hamacher
Jean McCrae

RTA Preservation Fund

Jane and Robert Hough
Dorothy Forester
(in memory of husband Ray)
Ruth Hutchinson

-Dorothy Belter, continued from p. 16

joined the WWs; how could Dorothy be leader when someone else was in front? However, for long time members of the WWs, leadership was clear. Dorothy's "listen up you guys" got proceedings going at the parking lot. She announces where she is going, and then, when a second group was set up (by adherents of inside lunch), and then third and fourth groups, Dorothy called on each in turn to announce their intentions. The result was a number of hikes/skis/snowshoeing/canoeing outings, all level 2 or 3, maybe occasionally, maybe often, 3+ for Dorothy's group. (Paul called them character building. Paul was also the guy that said "the way women are taking over the world, if men didn't have duct tape, they wouldn't be anything).

In January of 2000, the Acting Chief Guide told Dorothy that he was concerned that periodically he would wander off trail, and when searching for a trail, cross it without seeing it, or find the trail and turn the wrong way. It was during that era that John Young answered the concerns of two new members who asked if we were lost. John said "let's say we are somewhat surprised by where we are". Those words became a defining phrase for the Wednesday Walkers. In January 2000 Dorothy took on the job of planning and guiding outings, always on Wednesday and often on Friday. The former Acting Chief Guide enjoyed watching Dorothy losing trails, turning the wrong way, walking across trails.....

And Dorothy also for a few years organized the 5 day ski outings in late January, early February, which have become another great tradition for the WWs.

I find my arithmetic skills are not adequate to calculate the number of outings which Dorothy has led. Well over 1,000 for the Wednesday Walkers....

On behalf of all the Wednesday Walkers I would like to thank Dorothy for everything she has done TO us over these many years.

Art Campbell

RTA PHOTO AND ANECDOTE CONTEST

Be one of Seven Big Prize Winners!

We want a big display of work from our talented membership for the 36th Annual General Meeting to be held in June.

All entries will be part of the display.

A 3-member jury selected from the Clubs will put their lives on the line by choosing seven prize winners whose art will grace future Newsletters and be featured in Association publicity.

Categories :

Best Nature Photo from a Rideau Trail Club Activity - 3 prizes

Best Hiking Photo from a Rideau Trail Club Activity - 3 prizes

Best Hiking Anecdote (written) may be combined with a photo or sketch - 1 prize

Rules:

Photos may be of any size, either colour or black and white.

A hard copy for the AGM display must be received by June 1, 2007. Mail entries to:

John Cornish,
26 Twin Oaks Lane,
RR#3
Gananoque, ON, K7G 2V5.

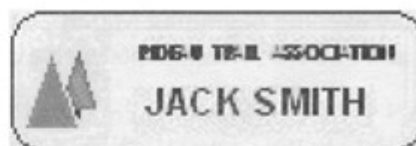
Submitted photos will not be returned.

Print name and phone number on back of photo entry along with a caption noting place and date taken.

Winners do not have to be at the AGM, but it would be wonderful to have you there when your name is announced to great applause!

Join the Fun! Get Clickin'!

RTA Hiker NamePins



GREAT IDEA , EH? If everyone on a hike wore one of these RTA Name Pins, think of how neat it would be - new members would be able to put names to the faces they're trying to remember. Us old veterans could keep straight those many names we've picked up over many hikes. It's just a lot friendlier, isn't it, when everyone has everyone's names straight?

Since they were introduced last year, over 250 RTA NamePins have been ordered.

You can get yours in time for the main hiking season.

You can order it when you renew your membership. Or order it separately. Use the back-page order sheet, or send \$6.00 plus the name you want on the pin (in CAPS) to RTA, P.O. Box 15, Kingston ONT K7L 4V6

RENEW YOUR RTA MEMBERSHIP NOW !

**Membership renewals are due
March 31.**

**The Summer Newsletter will not be
mailed to those who have not renewed.**

**Support the Rideau Trail -
its maintenance, improvement, extension
and improvement !**

Use the renewal form on the back page.

L'Estérel Once Again



Even with the threat of warming, RTA Kingston just completed another successful ski-weekend at L'Estérel on January 26-28. Apparently it was our tenth year at this scenic hotel, north of Montreal about four hours by bus/van from Kingston. The 65 (plus our 2 drivers) of us were joined by 3 from the Ottawa club.

There was snow and ice — albeit late in coming even for the Laurentians. Enough snow for losing oneself in the woods with faded signs and fallen trees. Enough thick ice for a smooth skate into Sainte-Marguerite for lunch, with the wind aiding the return.

The dogs were still barking — hoping for some action. And as the weekend gradually warmed up so did the outdoor activity of the human participants. After a few grumbles about weather and trails on Friday, many took Saturday by storm on ski, skate, and snowshoe — some led by Dugald Carmichael into the hinterland to break new ski trails.

The meals as usual were superb, and the service much speedier on Saturday so we could attend Heather Patterson's talk on Peru. Her magical tour through Peru ended at

Machu Picchu, and we had been transformed again by a wonderful experience in the Peckoverian tradition — this time by Peck's granddaughter. Heather was thanked by our youngest newcomer, and Konrad Wolf, our retired bus driver from former trips, thanked everyone for his surprise party at last year's ski-weekend.

Other traditions continue. Though most of us are repeaters, usually a few newcomers join us each year. This year's mix-and-match gathering on Friday before dinner had a beaver looking for castor or a fox looking for a renard, a variation of bon and bad cop. Thanks Sheila and Susan for making the list of French/English words for the mixer.

A special salute goes to Bob Sine who rescued Gayle Morrison when she slipped on the ice and broke her wrist. With further surgery in Kingston, Gayle is nicely on the mend.

The committee of John Page, Dukke van der Werf, Joan Patterson, and Lars Thompson reviewed the evaluation cards and voted to return to L'Estérel in 2008 on the weekend of January 25-27.

Lars Thompson

Photo:

Through the generations: Heather Patterson, Peck Peckover, and Joan Patterson.

Photo supplied by Lars Thompson.



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The RTA membership year runs from April 1 to March 31, but if you join after October 31, your membership will be extended to the end of the following membership year. Your fees entitle you to receive the quarterly newsletter and to vote at Association and local Club meetings, and they provide essential financial support for the continuous maintenance, improvement, extension and protection of the Rideau Trail. Mail this form (or download one from www.rideautrail.org) to: **Rideau Trail Association, P.O. Box 15, Kingston, ON K7L 4V6.**

All members must be at least 18 years of age. () Annual Individual Membership \$20.00 () Annual Household Membership (Two adults at the same address) \$25.00 () Patron (Life Membership) * \$500.00 () Trail Guidebook: <i>New edition 7 (2006)</i> insert only, members ** \$25.50 insert and cover, members ** \$35.50 insert and cover, non-members ** \$40.50 () Car Sticker (free to new members) \$1.00 () RTA Hiker Namepin - Please fill in name in box below. \$6.00 () Crest \$2.00 () Enamelled Pin \$6.00 () Wall map ** \$12.00 () Donation - Rideau Trail Association * \$ _____ () Donation - Rideau Trail Preservation Fund * \$ _____ Prices subject to change TOTAL \$ _____ * Qualifies for income tax credit (No 11911 9485RR 0001) ** Includes postage and handling	PLEASE INDICATE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY New () Renewal () Life () (Please Print) Name(s): _____ Address: _____ Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ () I wish to receive the RTA E-letter E-mail address: _____
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