



The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

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ISSUE NUMBER 16



RIDEAU TRAIL SKIRTING BEVERIDGE LOCKS ON THE TAY CANAL

-- Photo by Ray Billingham

THE RTA ANNUAL MEETING: "SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY"

Despite the change of venue from the Canadian Legion Hall to the Lanark campus of Algonquin College at the edge of town, which some members had not learned about 'til the morning of May 10th, the fourth annual meeting of the Rideau Trail Association held in Perth began at 11:15 a.m. with 72 members and guests present. Under the chairmanship of President Doug Knapp, the assembly whipped through an agenda that was perhaps as varied as the interests of the membership: There was something of abiding interest to everyone. And if he or she or they didn't care for the indoor activities, there was a whole afternoon available for tramping the Trail, which meanders through Perth, or visit the historic charms of the Tayside town.

The program, orchestrated by Gary Davies and Ray Billingham, included participation by several Association members. Secretary Hugh Munro made sure the constitutional niceties were observed. Past President Fred Cooke as nominating-committee chairman, aided by Trixie Geary and Joyce Halliday, presented a slate of officers that won easy acceptance. (See separate report on page 4.) Vice-President for Kingston Guy Thorne explained our new status as an incorporated entity, no longer relying on a "constitution" but on "by-laws". Treasurer Ted LeSage had pretty cheering news about the Association's financial situation (see his report on page 5) and presented a fairly detailed plan of proposed financial action for the next fiscal year (see the proposed budget on page 6).

Retiring Membership Secretary Helen Quilliam told us that the RTA membership now stands at 1337: Kingston and area 481; Ottawa area 435; central 42; other areas 204; affiliated organizations 27; and honorary 62. Wally Schlegel introduced us to Derek Redmond, winner of the Association's prize for best design of an RTA crest and presented him with the award. Jane Johnston drew our attention to the display of hiking and camping equipment by Black's, Norm McLeod's beautiful color transparencies of the Trail, guests from the Ministry of Natural Resources' local district headquarters, and to Carol Rossen of the University Women's Club of Perth, about to start up historic walking tours of Perth. Ray Billingham was responsible for two films which helped provide a "balanced" program. (One caused us to look at how others see us as walkers; the other gave us a peak into the beauties of the new Kluane National Park in the Yukon.) There was a table of enlarged black-and-white photos of the Kingston Club's new marsh catwalk taken by Norm McLeod and a table of miscellaneous literature. And there was Doug Knapp's comprehensive round-up of significant happenings during the past year and peaks into the future. His report is reprinted on pages 3 and 4.

To many of us, the piece de résistance was the charming recital of Perth's early history by Mrs C. C. Inderwick, who made events of a century ago come alive by relating them to some of Perth's colorful leaders--especially the clergymen and the military. She was introduced by Gary Davies and thanked by Duncan Douglas. Some members took advantage of her invitation to visit the Perth Museum in Matheson House. Others took advantage of one or more of the Lanark County By-Way Tours, which include drives and walks. Still others took to nearby sections of the Rideau Trail to take advantage of the cloudless sky, the honking of Canada geese, the sound of the brown thrasher, the sight of an unidentified large turtle in the Tay River, and the sight of countless Trail markers blasted by shotgun shells. It's going to be a hard act to follow.

-- Harry Walker,
editor of this issue

STATUS REPORT ON GIFT OF LAND

The gift to the Rideau Trail Association by Mr E. Peter Cameron of Ottawa of a parcel of land (see Fall 1974 Newsletter for details) is still not complete. An amendment to a "Zoning Order" made by the Ontario Government, which would permit the gift to proceed, was expected some time ago, but the approval process seems to be proceeding rather slowly.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
PERTH, ONTARIO - SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1975

The past year has been one of continued activity toward the improvement and preservation of our trail system, and I am pleased to report on the following developments:

- (i) The Rideau Trail has been formally recognized by the City of Kingston in its official plan and, in a similar manner, by the Ottawa-Carleton region. As well, we are involved in discussions with the Smiths Falls Regional Planning Board for the same purpose.
- (ii) The Rideau Trail Association was invited to participate in the planning of two new provincial parks through which the Trail passes. These are Frontenac Park, about 25 miles north of Kingston, and Murphys Point, about seven miles southwest of Perth. In both cases, the Trail forms a major focus of the parks' design.
- (iii) Incorporation of the RTA was finally completed in February, along with authority to issue tax-exemption receipts for donations and exemption from federal and provincial taxes on printed matter.
- (iv) As a founding member of FOHTA (the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations), we have established a recognized voice with the Ontario Government, which we plan to exercise in order to stimulate much greater Provincial awareness and assistance for our needs. In order to further this awareness and to help promote local trail associations, FOHTA held the first annual "Ontario Hiking Day" on April 27. Support across the Province was excellent. Over 500 hikers participated in organized hikes that day on the Rideau Trail alone, and undoubtedly many more hiked in their own private groups.
- (v) Some progress has been made toward removal of the Trail from roads. Within the City of Kingston, over a mile of road was eliminated by rerouting the Trail over catwalks through an extensive marsh. Near Gould Lake, another third of a mile of road was eliminated, as have several miles between Smiths Falls and Merrickville. Several other reroutings are still in the planning stage and volunteers are badly needed to scout out possible routes, identify and negotiate with landowners, and to help in the construction of new trails. If you would like to help, inform someone on your trail club or the RTA executive.

Future Activities. Long-term preservation of the Trail is an essential responsibility of the RTA. Along with our efforts through FOHTA, the RTA board of directors is pursuing dialogue with the Federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the government agency which, along with the Ontario Government, is responsible for implementing the CORTS (Canada-Ontario Rideau-Trent-Severn Waterway) report. As well, the board has been studying the possible creation of a Rideau Trail Corridor Preservation Fund, whose purpose would be the acquisition of endangered sections along the Trail route.

Another project in the organizing stage is the distance measurement of our trails, from which we will be able to identify trail sections, distances and specific locations in a much more concise and useful manner than at the present. This, in turn, will permit us to promote much broader winter use of the Trail. For example, certain sections which are suitable for cross-country skiing will be able to be easily identified, such as "from kilometer 8.4 to kilometer 14.9" (naturally, we will be metric).

Central Trail Club. On a disappointing note, I must report to you that this past year saw the demise of the Central Trail Club. Last May the Central Club was unable to acquire either a chairman or vice-chairman for the incoming executive, in spite of a healthy attendance at the annual general meeting of the Club, and in February the Club officially folded. A maintenance committee still exists, however, and three representatives of the

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (concluded)

central region will continue to represent the area on the RTA board. It is our hope that a new club will rise like a Phoenix out of the ashes of the old, although perhaps this time its plumage will be a bit different. Why not a Perth Club, for example? Legitimate responsibilities of a trail club, as well as representing a region on the RTA board, include the sponsorship of cross-country skiing clinics, classes on backpacking, the organization of group hikes, social happenings, the organization and responsibility for trail maintenance, and the stimulation of local interest and support. Clearly these are worthwhile responsibilities and trail clubs have an important role to play. If anyone present from the Perth area would be interested in the creation of a 'Perth Trail Club', please see Gary Davies after the meeting.

In conclusion, I want to thank Gary Davies for his excellent work in arranging today's meeting, and I want to thank you all for your patience in listening to this long-winded report, and for your support in attending today. I am sure that we will all enjoy Perth's historic beauty with the help of Mrs Inderwick, as well as the more rugged attractions of the nearby Rideau Trail after the meeting. Thank you.

-- Douglas J. Knapp

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION

This is the slate of executive officers elected for 1975-76 at the annual general meeting of the Association held in Perth, May 10, 1975:

President:	Douglas Knapp	32 Gretna Green, Kingston K7M 3J2	telephone 542-2039
Secretary:	Norm McLeod	153 Morenz Crescent, Kingston K7K 2X4	546-9440
Treasurer:	Ted LeSage	56 Aleutian Road, Ottawa	828-6015
Membership Secretaries:	Arne and Helen Henrikson	56 Sherwood Drive, Kingston K7M 2E3	544-0465
Vice Presidents: Kingston--	Guy Thorne	254 Collingwood Street, Kingston K7L 3X8	544-3232
Central--	Harry McCoubrey	130 Brockville Street, Smiths Falls K7A 3Y8	283-7276
Ottawa--	John Cameron	915 Elmsmere Road, Apt. 106 Ottawa	749-3512
Past President:	Fred Cooke	9 Grenville Road, Kingston	542-8062
Publicity Coordinator:	Harry Walker	5 Deerlane Avenue, Ottawa K2E 6W7	825-2193

DONATIONS TO RTA NOW TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

The Federal Department of National Revenue has registered the Rideau Trail Association as a charitable organization. This means that anyone making a donation to the Association, as distinct from purchasing a membership, will receive a receipt, permitting him or her to deduct the amount of the donation from his or her income for income-tax purposes. The Department's approval has been back-dated to January 1, 1975, so that members or others who have made donations since that time will receive receipts.

RTA FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE ELEVEN-MONTH PERIOD OF APRIL 30, 1974-MARCH 31, 1975

Balance in the bank as at April 30, 1974 \$1,333.00

Receipts:

Memberships	\$4,495.40 (80.24%)	
Donations	939.75 (16.77%)	
Sale of crests	147.50 (2.63%)	
Sale of Rideau Trail map kits ..	<u>20.00 (0.36%)</u>	<u>\$5,602.65</u>
		<u>\$6,935.65</u>

Disbursements:

Postage	\$ 501.13
Phone	22.16
Advances	60.00
Annual Grants: Kingston Club ..	162.50
Ottawa Club ..	162.50
Central Club ..	25.00
Service charges	4.73
Stencils	1.25
Refreshments	9.60
Stationery	49.64
Printing and typing	1,617.45
Lawyers' fees	69.24
Travel	86.00
"Not-sufficient-funds" cheques ..	10.00
Miscellaneous--	
Trail markers	41.08
Hardware	33.48
Insurance	66.80
Gabions	177.73
Lumber and nails ..	1,149.89
Publicity and ads ..	53.85
Paint	18.94
Rubble (for fill) ..	34.49
Rent (Foley Mountain) ..	<u>25.00</u>
	<u>\$1,601.26</u>

\$4,382.46

Balance in the bank as at March 31, 1975 \$2,553.19

Loan outstanding: \$400.00

(From statement submitted by Treasurer Ted LeSage to RTA annual general meeting.)

HALF-MILE GAP PRESENTS PROBLEM

Midway between Westport and Narrows Lock (see map 9), there is a half-mile gap in the Rideau Trail where the route has never been successfully negotiated with the landowner. The main difficulty seems to stem from the remoteness of the location and our subsequent failure to get someone to pursue this negotiation to its conclusion. In the event that negotiation should fail, the follow-up would then be to scout and negotiate a suitable alternative route. This is not a formidable undertaking. After all, over 100 miles of our Trail lie on private property, all of which has been negotiated by volunteer workers. Will someone volunteer to help forge this final link? If you would be willing, please contact Doug. Knapp at 32 Gretna Green, Kingston, phone 542-2039. Please help.

RTA'S PROPOSED BUDGETARY PLAN FOR 1975-76

For the information of members, Treasurer Ted LeSage presented at the annual general meeting in Perth on May 10th a proposed plan of estimated receipts and expenditures of money by the Rideau Trail Association during the current year. Keep in mind that the following figures are estimates only. Some of it may be crystal-gazing, but it is a first attempt to set out financial guidelines to ensure optimum use of your funds.

Balance of money on hand by RTA as of March 31, 1975 (precise)	\$2,553.19
EXPECTED INCOME: (estimates)	
Membership fees	\$5,000.00
Donations	900.00
Sale of crests	150.00
Sale of map kits	20.00
EXPECTED EXPENSES: (estimates)	
Newsletter and postage	2,300.00
Postage and stationery	200.00
(for miscellaneous uses)	
Insurance	70.00
Map sheets	500.00
Gift to Federation of	
Ontario Naturalists	250.00
Crests	400.00
Trail Club grants:	
Kingston	162.50
Ottawa	162.50
Central	25.00
Travel	125.00
Ottawa Trail Club capital	
Boat	350.00
Toilet	120.00
Kingston Trail Club	
Campsites	
Trail markers	
Miscellaneous for bridge	400.00
Official receipt forms	200.00
Membership in Federation of	
Ontario Hiking Trails	
Association	10.00
Flyers, circulars	400.00
EXPECTED CREDIT BALANCE AT END OF FISCAL YEAR, March 31, 1976 (estimate)	
	TOTAL EXPECTED INCOME \$6,070.00
	TOTAL MONEY ON HAND AND INCOME .. \$8,623.19
	TOTAL EXPECTED EXPENSES \$5,675.00
	\$2,948.19
	\$8,623.19

Note that although some of the expenses listed above have already been committed by the Board of Directors, all expenditures must be authorized by the Board of Directors.
(Editor)

NEWS OF TRAIL CLUB ACTIVITIES

Ottawa Trail Club

OTTAWA'S "PACKAGE DEAL"

By the time this issue reaches you, the Ottawa Rideau Trail Club will have carried out its annual meeting on Saturday, May 31st, as a combined hike, picnic and business meeting, held on the four-acre lot donated to the Rideau Trail Association by Mr Peter Cameron. Ottawa members were officially notified by a special "flyer" mailed to them.

THE GIANTS OF CATARAQUI

So you thought there were no more giants, did you? Well, just north-west of Kingston there are a half-dozen or more living in Cataraqui Cemetery, right beside the Rideau Trail. These fellows are enormous (as any self-respecting giant must be), and of course they are also very old.



TAMARACK



NORWAY SPRUCE



HEMLOCK

The living giants of Cataraqui are those upstanding paragons of beauty, shelter and utility--trees. Some individuals may well qualify for the official honor roll of Ontario trees, being the largest specimen of that particular species in all of Ontario. To qualify for this distinction, a point system involving trunk diameter, height and crown width is used. The table below gives the data on the Cataraqui giants and also for the incumbent "honor roll" specimen. Blank spaces indicate that some information is incomplete.

CATARAQUI GIANTS						HONOR-ROLL INCUMBENTS				
SPECIES	Height	Crown	Diameter	State	Points	Height	Crown	Diameter	State	Points
Tamarack	69'	43'	31.5"	good	179	84'		28"		
Norway Spruce	84'	38'	36"	poor	207	84'	53'	35"	good	207
Sugar Maple			43"			73'	71'	72"	fair	316
White Oak			54"			60'	86'	64"	good	283
Hemlock	71'	66'	41"	good	216	91'	36'	37"	fair	216

If you can top any of these contenders with other giants along the Trail, why not let the Newsletter editor know?

-- Doug Knapp

Friends We Meet on the Trail

THE RACCOON

This is an animal which can easily be identified because of its black mask and ringed tail. It is very adaptable and is flourishing throughout its range, which includes the Rideau Trail area, while other animals are becoming endangered by the incursions of man. Preferably a tree-dweller, it will, if necessary, make its home in caves, mine shafts, deserted buildings and even occupied homes.

Though classified as a carnivore, the raccoon is by habit omnivorous. Its diet includes frogs, crayfish, snakes, small birds, mice, fruit, berries, and especially sweet corn--which does not endear it to farmers! But with this wide choice of food it is still not above cleaning out garbage cans when it gets the chance.

The innate curiosity of the raccoon will often lead it into trouble, especially where man is concerned. Its sense of hearing is good and second only to its sense of touch and nimble forepaws. Its eyesight is also good; in daylight its eyes are shiny black and at night show up as a green or reddish color when reflected in a car's headlights.

Friends We Meet on the Trail

THE RACCOON (concluded)

A typical litter would be born in late April and consist of four babies, whose care falls solely on the mother's shoulders. Within three weeks of birth, the young ones show their distinctive face and tail markings. Usually the young stay with their mother until late fall when the family breaks up to retire for the winter. Raccoons do not hibernate, but sleep out the colder parts of winter, sallying forth for food whenever milder temperatures prevail. They utilize body fat stored in the pre-winter months to tide them over the cold periods.

The passing of a raccoon can often be seen in the tracks left in the muddy banks of a creek where so much time is spent in search of food. The tracks are fairly easy to identify; they look like a human hand-print with a tiny claw mark at the tip of each "finger".

Apart from man, raccoon's worst enemy has to be the dog. If a fight ensues, the dog usually wins from sheer weight and size, though it is no fault of the raccoon, for he is a formidable opponent when roused. Happily, since it is no longer considered profitable to kill them in large numbers, there will be some of these rascally creatures around for some time to come. I certainly hope so.

-- Ray Billingham

REROUTING ON MAP 11

About one and one-half miles of the Rideau Trail have been rerouted north of Sydenham, as shown on the accompanying map. It is recommended that you alter your own copy of map 11 accordingly. The old Trail route shown on the map has its triangles covered by two "X's".

The new route now takes in a short but very attractive section of shoreline on Knowlton Lake. At the point just before the new section of the Trail swings to the east away from the Lake, there is a lovely spot to picnic. Drinking water from a spring is also available at this location. The rerouting has also succeeded in removing another third of a mile of the Trail from the road.

As an experiment, a part of this new section has been blazed by painting the trees directly, rather than using the usual metal triangles. Some of our first triangles, installed in 1971, are being "devoured" by the trees, and perhaps in a year or two we may decide to eliminate the metal markers in favor of direct blazing. This experiment will help us decide.



OTTAWA-CARLETON FOREST IS YOUR FOREST

The Ottawa-Carleton Forest is a rapidly expanding "agreement" forest in Marlborough Ward of Rideau Township. (See Rideau Trail Map 4.) An agreement was made between the County of Carleton and the Department of Lands and Forests in 1964 to manage the 680-acre Dwyer Hill tract for forestry purposes for a 40-year period. Since that time, the forest has expanded to an area of 4,090 acres, with plans for future land acquisition. The Rideau Trail threads its way through much of Ottawa-Carleton Forest before it exits at Burritts Rapids.

"Forestry purposes" is defined as including "the production of wood and wood products, provision of proper environmental conditions for wildlife protection against floods and erosion, recreation, and protection and production of water supplies". Most of the Agreement Forests in Ontario began as a means of reclaiming drifting sandy land. The most noteworthy in Eastern Ontario is the 26,000-acre Larose Forest owned by the United Counties of Prescott and Russell.

Recreation is the main feature of Ottawa-Carleton Forest. As lands are acquired, a network of narrow forest access roads will be developed. These will act as extraction routes for forest products, emergency access for forest protection, and walking, skiing and snowmobiling trails for recreationists. "Snowmobiles" are offensive to some. They have been banned from the National Capital Commission Greenbelt surrounding Ottawa, and the only large tract of land they can enter legally, in close proximity to Ottawa, is the Ottawa-Carleton Forest. Special trails will be allocated to these vehicles and it will be up to their organizational integrity to remain on them.

Two picnic areas are planned on Regional Roads 3 and 4. From these will radiate a series of loop trails totaling over 10 miles in length. These will connect with the existing Rideau Trail and will be designated for hiking and cross-country skiing.

With a rapidly expanding urban population only 30 miles away, Ottawa-Carleton Forest will become a major open-space entity. In its infancy, I invite anyone with ideas as to its management to voice his or her opinions. This is your forest.

-- Mark Schaefer, R. P. F.,
Forest Supervisor,
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

NEWS OF TRAIL CLUB ACTIVITIES

KINGSTON TRAIL CLUB HOLDS ANNUAL MEET AT SKYCROFT

Skycroft on Lake Opinicon was the place chosen for this year's annual general meeting. A group of 35 people, including the Bonwells on whose property we were assembled, were present for the short business meeting. Norm MacLeod, who was stepping down after three years as chairman, gave a report on the past year's activities of the club. A cross-country skiing session, a backpacking seminar, and Ontario Hiking Day walks had highlighted the organized events sponsored by the Kingston Trail Club during the past year. All events were well attended, especially the hikes organized for April 27.

Norm mentioned also recent trail rerouting in the Kingston area, including the ambitious construction of the 275-metre catwalk and adjoining 30-metre bridge begun in the summer of 1974, and the present route development south of the Gould Lake Conservation Area, which will alter the trail to bring it closer to Knowlton Lake. Norm said he felt the recent policy of developing campsites at intervals along the trail should be pursued. Another priority of the club, he noted, was the removal of the trail from roads--a continuing project which needs both co-operation from landowners and the volunteer labor of members.

KINGSTON TRAIL CLUB HOLDS ANNUAL MEET AT SKYCROFT

Continued from page 9

Doug Knapp, in charge of maintenance, elaborated further on trail rerouting and development, emphasizing the constant need for volunteers to help construct and maintain sections along the trail. As more of the trail is being converted away from the roads, more work will be required to blaze new routes--and for that, volunteers are desperately needed. At present, extensive rerouting is being undertaken throughout the jurisdiction of the Kingston Club, including the Buck Lake area and the rerouting to Knowlton Lake.

Another concern of the Kingston Club has been the proposed rezoning in the Cataraqui Marsh area. The Rideau Trail Association is in danger of losing much of this area to kinds of development which would decimate the wildlife and restrict natural development to the point where the area would lose its value as both a recreational resource and a wildlife study area. The pine woods west of the Grenville Park district are of particular concern. Letters have been forwarded to the Planning Department and the Planning Board of the City of Kingston stating our disapproval of the new proposed zoning and submitting a suggestion that the land in contention be purchased by the Cataraqui Conservation Authority. A letter of concern to your alderman would certainly help us in this regard.

The treasurer's report showed:	Balance 1974	\$ 45.13
	Money received from the Association	162.50
	Interest on the account	1.26
	Balance 1975	\$208.89

Our household budgets should be so simple!

Cathy Cutts, who along with Stan Segel comprised the nominating committee, announced the new slate of officers for 1975. Your new Kingston Trail Club officers are:
Chairman: Mrs Wally Schlegel, 15 MacPherson Ave., Apt. 17-302, Kingston, tel. 548-3211
Vice-chairman: Jack Watkins, 43 Huff Ave., Amherstview 389-4354
Secretary: John Harrison, 142 Campbell Crescent, Kingston 542-2970
Treasurer: Gerald Seguin, R. R. 1, Inverary KOH 1X0
Routes and Negotiating: Dick Henrikson 547-5536
Maintenance: Doug Knapp, 32 Gretna Green, Kingston 542-2039
Publicity: yet to be nominated
Representatives to the Rideau Trail Association Board of Directors' meeting, which are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month in Smiths Falls, will be Norm MacLeod and Arne Henrikson.

Following the short meeting and then lunch, several members spent the warm afternoon walking the many trails, one of which is the Rideau Trail, on the Skycroft site. The Kingston Trail Club would like to thank the Bonwells for kindly allowing us to have our annual meeting at the Skycroft Camp. It would be extremely difficult to find a more pleasant convention centre: a camp spot with a deep blue sky above and the cool lapping waters of Lake Opinicon 15 metres below. It was a delight for all of us.

-- Wally Schlegel

NEWS OF TRAIL CLUB ACTIVITIES

Kingston Trail Club

A CHILDREN'S WALK

With the help of two members of the 300th Kingston Rangers, the Kingston Trail Club sponsored a children's nature-discovery walk on Saturday, April 26th. Brenda Ruttle of Kingston and Lisa Johnson of Elginburg, serving as leaders for the group of 25 people, began the walk at 1:45 p.m. at the end of Van Order Road (see map 12).

The first section of the route, still somewhat wet from the spring runoff, was slightly difficult to cross. However, in the moist ground the children noticed and followed the clearly distinguishable tracks of raccoons (see article on page 7) and squirrels. A pond, divided by the path we were on, provided a great deal of amusement for the young ones. Minnows and tadpoles were spotted near the bottom of the pond, while skippers were seen skimming quickly above them.

Next, the walkers moved through a short section of brush. Here, the cockspur hawthorne constantly annoyed the adults, but the children passed by untouched by the thorns. Red-winged blackbirds accompanied the party of hikers who crossed a farmer's field to a patch of dense woods beyond. Before entering the woodlot, the group was attracted by a colony of groundhog burrows. The children, of course, were the first to notice them and a flurry of questions followed the discovery. Unfortunately, no groundhog made an appearance, and soon we were off and running again.

In the woodlot we discovered our first blooming spring flower, appropriately called "the spring beauty". Only slightly higher than the dead leaves surrounding it, the dainty pinkish-white petals were first observed by the children. Although no other flowers were spotted, the mottled green and brown leaves of the trout lily springing up in patches over the forest floor were pointed out and identified.

A young gentleman stumbled upon a short piece of dead wood on which he found a cuplike fungus, slightly larger than a quarter with a yellowish exterior and a deep crimson interior. No one could identify the find, but upon investigation later it was revealed to be a fungus called the 'scarlet cup', one of the harbingers of spring. (See a similar reference in Harry Dyer's story in "Hike #2: Orser Road to Bullen Road, page 12)

Once out of the woods, the walkers came to a swamp which signalled the end of the trip. Here, the din from the frogs was overpowering and, of course, to the children, disappointing because they never could find one frog, despite all the noise. From this point, we retraced our steps back along the same route we had come.

Total time for the round trip was two hours. In the author's opinion, the walk was too long. The route had been selected for the variety of terrain which could be crossed in a short time. To gauge the time, the author had leisurely walked the route one way in a 20-25 minute period and so allowed 45 minutes for the walk with children. The time allotted was not sufficient. As a result, the last half-hour became tedious for the children. If such a walk is planned in the future, which I hope it will be, the time factor should be considered of paramount importance and determined by multiplying the leisurely walk-time of an adult by a factor of three.

The children were extremely observant and constantly inquisitive. They found wild strawberry leaves and the spring beauty; they spotted the scarlet cup and the animal tracks; they felt the velvety staghorn sumac and eyed the growing buds on the trees. In short, the children were diligently searching and duly impressed with what they found.

-- Wally Schlegel

NEWS OF TRAIL CLUB ACTIVITIES

Kingston Trail Club

ONTARIO HIKING DAY IN KINGSTON

On Sunday, April 27, Kingstonians visibly demonstrated their support for Ontario Hiking Day. A total of 350 people, from babes in arms to octogenarians, participated in the three organized hikes. In addition to the planned walks, many members organized or took part in privately sponsored walks. As always, the Gould Lake and Slide Lake areas attracted many hikers.

At the most popular walk, an afternoon hike from Elevator Bay through the Cataraqui Marsh to the Cataraqui Cemetery, there were 140 participants. The other walks were also successful: an 11-kilometer walk from the Orser Road at the northern bounday of Kingston Township south along the Rideau Trail to the Bullen Road (see following story) attracted 86 hikers, and a short 4-km. walk in the Westport Conservation area drew a crowd of 114.

Mr Syl Apps, the local Member of the Legislative Assembly, speaking at the Cataraqui Marsh walk, commented on the increasing popularity of hiking throughout the province and expressed the hope for continued development of hiking trails, a hope many of us share. Ontario Hiking Day 1975 was thus a resounding success in the Kingston area. Taking individual outings into account, the Kingston Trail Club can reasonably claim that more than 400 people participated. Because of the enthusiastic response, the provincial government will hopefully recognize the need to protect and sustain hiking trails. Now is the time to introduce adequate and responsible legislation for the preservation of hiking trails for both the present and future generations.

-- Wally Schlegel

Kingston Trail Club

HIKE #2: ORSER ROAD TO BULLEN ROAD

Eighty-six! Well, to be precise, 86 people and one dog. That was the number that turned out for the Kingston Trail Club's Hike #2 to celebrate Ontario Hiking Day. The weather was perfect: bright and sunny with a cool breeze. Hike #2 started where the Trail crosses Orser Road and proceeded south to Bullen Road (see map 12).

Everyone gathered for our hike at the Cataraqui Community Centre at 10:30 a.m. The bus was quickly filled to overflowing. After a short address by Deputy Reeve Peter Beeman who filled in for Reeve McEwen of Kingston Township, we were on our way. On the Trail, within the first few hundred yards, we encountered some soft ground resulting in some damp feet. We were to experience a few more muddy and watery patches, but it was miraculous how vast areas of water observed the previous weekend had dried up. In fact, on the preceding Saturday, the section just east of Van Order Road was a veritable lake so the question of modifying the hike was seriously considered.

Very soon the army of hikers spread out to occupy about a quarter mile of the Trail. The youngsters forged ahead at a fast clip which, coupled with the slower gait of their elders and the 'concertina effect', quickly put them way ahead of those at the rear. Some restraint was achieved by calling for a short halt at the Van Order Road stile. The wooded area about half a mile east of the Van Order Road 'dead-end' was carpeted with the mottled leaves of the trout lily, promising a picturesque sight for anyone revisiting this part of the Trail about one week later. Also seen were spring beauty and hepatica. Later, Wally Schlegel told us that Dutchman's breeches, bloodroot and other wildflowers had been observed.

We paused to watch a porcupine high in a tree nibbling at the bark. On some small pieces of dead wood we found what looked like a cupped mushroom with a crimson inner surface, which was later identified as 'scarlet cup', a fungus and not a mushroom after all.

After crossing a kind of grassy causeway, we headed south toward the Elginburg Road and an eagerly awaited lunch break. The size of our group caused bird activity to be minimal, but we did sight one great blue heron heading north. Meanwhile, Brian Crawford had remained at the rear to shepherd those who went off track and to help where necessary. The walk south of the Elginburg Road through the 'Christmas tree' property was enjoyable, though the swathe being cut across this area (for a road?) gives rise to some trepidation.

Upon arrival at the top of the hill overlooking Burr Creek (steadfastly referred to by the locals as Jacksons Mills), it was disappointedly found that the streams which had babbled merrily and swiftly a scant seven days previously were now completely dried up. Now on the home stretch, we wound our way down to where the Trail crosses the CPR track at Burr Creek. Long before this, our one big party had broken up into many smaller groups. Some stuck to the Trail in spite of the fact that much of this last section was water-logged. Others decided to take the more circuitous route to the finishing point on Bullen Road via the railroad track and Highway 38.

Anyhow, a happy-but-tired group ended up relaxing on the verge of Bullen Road enjoying cool drinks and cookies. The latter had been baked by Wally, who happily bemoaned the fact that, of 16 dozen cookies, not a single one had been left for her husband, who was shortly due back home. To conclude: a beautiful sunny spring day, pleasant countryside, sharing the comradeship of kindred spirits. What more could one ask of life?

-- Harry Dyer

To commemorate this first-ever day, the Ottawa Trail Club organized a group walk on the Rideau Trail in the Ottawa-Carleton Forest, which is about 25 miles southwest of Ottawa. (See the article on the Forest by Mark Schaefer on page 9.)

About 20 cars gathered at the rendezvous, which was the parking lot of a west-end shopping plaza. We learned something about car parades on that occasion. We had hoped to "despatch" the carloads in lots of five or six. In the event, two separate groups moved out, with about seven minutes between them, in an effort not to cause any traffic problems. Trixie Geary, who was unable to be present, had prepared a triangular flag as the rallying point for the troops. It was energetically waved by Shirley and Ed Simpson.

At the hike starting point on the edge of the Forest, we were joined by about six more cars. We estimate that between 70 and 80 people participated, ranging from 1½ years of age to senior citizens. Some walked round a 10-mile loop, others only two or three miles. Any fears that we might have had about coping with large numbers of people with disparate interests were dispelled as individual persons, families or small groups paced themselves along the well-marked Trail. Each did his or her "own thing" without much guidance, except to draw natural phenomena to the attention of others within earshot.

Many of the participants were not Club members, and during the walk we had about six applications for membership in the Association. We were accompanied, in part, by two television crews carrying portable equipment for later broadcast. The following week our publicity co-ordinator appeared on CBC radio to talk about the hike.

A highlight of the walk was the large number of eastern garter snakes that were encountered--sometimes as many as six coiled in a heap. There was not much bird activity, but we saw some white, pink and mauve hepaticas. The weather was sunny but cool, ideal for walking. There were still patches of snow in semi-open places and quite a bit in the shade of evergreen trees. Much of the Trail was under water. There was a consensus among Ottawa Club members that April 27 was too early in the spring to provide a choice of walk locales, since most of the Trail sections in the Ottawa area were under water. But there seemed no doubt that those on the Carleton Forest walk enjoyed themselves very much.

NEWS OF TRAIL CLUB ACTIVITIES

Ottawa Trail Club

A WINTER OVERNIGHT OUTING

Can you ski or snowshoe with a 30-pound pack on your back? Can you sleep outdoors in winter (and survive to tell the tale)? Can you prepare and cook tasty and nutritious meals outdoors in frigid weather? Perhaps the biggest question is: Can you do all of these things and enjoy the experience?

The answer is a big yes, so far as some Ottawa Rideau Trail Club members are concerned. On March 1st and 2nd, 12 members proved it could be done. We set out on skis and snowshoes at about 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. The weather was a sunny -7° Celsius. We travelled about four miles to our destination in the Ottawa-Carleton Forest in plenty of time to set up our overnight camp.

It was interesting to exchange and test ideas. Some people had tents, some built snow forts, and one inventive person burrowed into the snow like a mole. The interesting thing was that everyone's method seemed to work.

It was fascinating to watch the meal preparation. One idea was to tuck cheese and meat into Lebanese bread, wrap it in foil, and toss it on the coals to heat. This is great: no dirty pots! Others interested in testing their culinary skills cooked exotic stews, omelets and even bannock. Freeze-dried foods were present as well.

The weather co-operated overnight and remained a few degrees below zero Celsius. We were thankful for this, as most of us were experiencing winter camping for the first time. Although everything is frozen and dormant in winter, there are still many things to do. Bird-watching, star-gazing, observing animal tracks and the animals themselves were some of the activities that occupied our time. Everyone agreed it was indeed an enjoyable weekend and the exchange of recipes, tips, and bits of knowledge was of benefit to all. We were delighted to welcome five new members on this outing and look forward to their company in future.

What would our story be if the temperature had been 20 or 30 degrees colder? I wonder.

-- Shirley Simpson

Ottawa Trail Club

PLANNED HIKING BECOMES SKIING

Our program of future activities had said it was to have been a hike on April 5th, but the weather had other ideas. About 12 members of a cross-section of all ages turned out on Saturday to enjoy some spring skiing on about five or six miles of the Trail near Brassil's Creek. The snow conditions were mixed and between us we must have used almost any wax you cared to name, but each to his own. Of wildlife, we saw nothing in the mammal line but tracks. Of birds, we saw the occasional chickadee and early robin, but it was quiet and clean and invigorating. It was enjoyed by all who came.

-- Ray Billingham

COMPANY WANTED ON HIKES

Many hikers and would-be hikers have indicated that they would appreciate being able to contact others for company on hikes. So long as there is interest, the RTA Newsletter will publish a register of such persons as a regular feature. If you wish to add your name to this list, please send the pertinent information to the RTA at the address shown on the back page.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Type of Hikes</u>
Harry A. Dyer	54 Helen St., Kingston	546-3319	short day hikes
Mrs Wally Schlegel	15 MacPherson Ave., Apt. 17-302, Kingston	548-3211	short and long day hikes
Roy Wilson	348 Nelson St., Kingston	544-9225	day hikes, overnight and longer hikes
Barbara and Jim Kormos	54 Connaught St., Kingston	542-3097	weekend hikes
Len Leparskas, aged 20	199 Burris St., Hamilton L8M 2J7	(416) 549-8465	about a week in June, July, Aug., or Sept.; has tent and cooking equipment that could be shared

(As can be noted in other pages of the Newsletter, the Kingston and Ottawa Clubs of the Rideau Trail Association sponsor group hikes and other outings, especially during spring, fall and winter months.)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DONATIONS

The Rideau Trail Association is grateful to the following for their donations and support over and above their regular membership fees received since the last Newsletter:

Mr Fred Armstrong	Mr W. H. Joyce	Mr R. D. Owen
Mr R. E. Bark	Mr Kenneth Kane	Mr and Mrs Roy N. Osborn
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Mr V. Gaizauskas	Mr J. M. O'Hara	Mr Charles R. White
Mr Robert E. Johnston		Mr R. B. Wolton

(See relevant note on page 4.--Editor)

-- Helen Quilliam,
Membership Secretary

TRAIL CLUB FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Ottawa Trail Club

Saturday, June 21: Hike and weiner roast.

Time: 9:30 a.m. at rendezvous point, Bell Arena.

This will probably be the last organized outing before the school summer holiday period of July and August, so don't miss it. Bring weiners and any other roastable food. For further details contact Trix Geary at 722-2736.

If undelivered, please return to:

Rideau Trail Association
Box 15, KINGSTON, Ont., K7L 4V6
Canada

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - RENEW NOW FOR 1975

Please check whether.... New membership ____ or Renewal of membership ____.

NAME (please print): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

(Please include postal code.) Telephone: _____

FEES:

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

I enclose \$ _____ to cover the following:

(a) Membership fee _____

(b) Plastic map case (\$1.00) _____
(Supplied free with each
new membership.)

(c) Crest (badge) (\$1.00) _____

(d) Donation _____

Please make cheques or money orders payable to the "Rideau Trail Association"
and mail remittance to Rideau Trail Association
Post Office Box 15
KINGSTON, Ontario
K7L 4V6