

The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2014–2015

ISSUE NO. 174



**A Festive RTA Tradition and How It
Began (see page 6)**



Above: Friend to many in the Rideau Trail, the late Bill Mayers in the front row at the inaugural event, is flanked by Margaret Lafrance and Adèle Mayers (in blue).

Left: Carollers and the Dick Ready tree on Foley Mountain.
Cover and related photos by Bill Ottney.

See Sounds of the Season, page 6.

Are turtles ticklish? See Family, page 23.

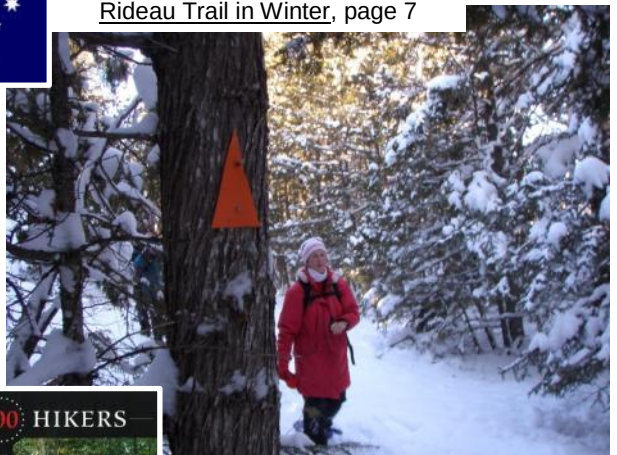


Good Citizens, page 6



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Rideau Trail in Winter, page 7



October Ice in the Whites, page 7



100 Hikers 100 Hikes, page 20

Rideau Trail Newsletter

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Editor of this issue: Steve Kelly, Ottawa Club

Spring Newsletter

Submissions are encouraged. If possible, text should be sent electronically with no document formatting. Pictures are also welcome, in colour or black and white, with good definition and contrast. Please ensure that items arrive by **February 1, 2015**. Send to cornish@kos.net or John Cornish, 26 Twin Oaks Lane, Gananoque ON K7G 2V5; phone 613-382-4778.

Rideau Trail Association

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e-letter@rideautrail.org (The e-letter is an e-mailed monthly listing of activities and special notices that updates the newsletter.)

The RTA is a member of Hike Ontario.

The Rideau Trail Association is now on Facebook and Twitter! Follow @rideautrail for trail updates and conditions, photos, hike information, and other news.



Do you have a following? We could use your help. Please contact [Denise Hall](#) or one of the Club Chairpersons.



Where not indicated, photo credits belong to the relevant article author.

Board of Directors

President: [position vacant](#)

Past President: Robert Groves, Lanark, 613-259-3175, john.robert.groves@gmail.com

Vice President: Denise Hall, 613-843-8222, rebeccahall@rogers.com

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Membership Director: Sheila Menard, Kingston, 613-544-3110, sushe@sympatico.ca

Marketing & Communications Director: [vacant](#)

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Welcome, New Members!

Central Club

Penny Baker
Peter Dixon
Rosemarie Hoppe-Wilhelm
Bob & Bonnie Strachan

Kingston Club

Melodie Adler
Patricia Mills & Don Tardio

Ottawa Club

Stephanie Amos
Irene Gauthier
Susan Laurie-Bourque
Susie Mattson
Terry & Nicole Melnyk
Vesna Obradovic
Helen Quenneville
Niels Rasmussen
Enza Scalia
Laura Smith
Michel Vachon

Non-affiliated

None

HIGHLIGHTS OF OCTOBER 25, 2014 RTA BOARD MEETING

by Denise Hall, Vice President

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am. by John Cornish at McMartin House in Perth.

Reports:

President: None, due to the vacant position.

Treasurer: Joy Webster, gave an in-depth analysis of our current operating assets and fund balances as compared to last year's as of September 30th. Our operating fund proposed budget from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015 sits at \$28,000 in estimated revenue with estimated expenses of \$25,500 which generates an estimated surplus of \$2,500.

Membership: Membership Director **Sheila Menard** reported slightly fewer non-renewals this past year. The 2-year renewal option is definitely helping with membership retention. Our current membership stands at **874** which is a slight increase over last year's tally (**714 annual members + 160 life members**).

Communications and Marketing: This position is vacant. Later, during our meeting, Past President, **Robert Groves**, reported on a committee meeting that comprised of himself, John Cornish and Walter Baker, an RTA member. They met to review the role and importance of filling this position and then to identify appropriate strategies and tactics to target. They concluded that it is extremely important to fill the **Marketing/Communications role** ASAP in order for our organization to function effectively and to grow in the future. From the committee's recommendations it was decided that we would start by recruiting a volunteer Marketing/Communication Consultant to spend a day with us to put us on the right track, using a workshop/meeting in the near future.

Trail Routing, Securement and Maintenance: Trail coordinator **Jim Lorimer**, gave a detailed report on what has been happening in all three of our clubs. The Central Club, for example, has rerouted the "blue" side trail between Port Elmsley and the Tay River dam. The trail will now go from the east side of the Tay River dam and follow the Beveridge Lock Rd to Beveridge Bay, bypassing Port Elmsley Rd.

Jim has done a lot of research into identifying key pieces of property through which our Rideau Trail traverses, and obtaining their

background information. This proactive work will prepare us for future dealings with landowners, in the event that we consider purchasing property.

Newsletter: **John Cornish**, newsletter editor from Kingston, reported that our photo contest for the coloured Fall Newsletter was a lot of work and he acknowledged the assistance of **Paul Jean**, our webmaster. Facilitating the voting for the contest was especially challenging. John stressed the importance of how our newsletter communicates to all the membership. The Fall edition generated considerable positive feedback from many of our members, because of the coloured pages. After a short discussion, the Board decided to continue to produce our newsletters with a colour cover, and to perhaps extend the use of colour to additional pages in the future.

RTA 44th AGM

June 13, 2015

Royal Canadian Legion in Smith Falls
Details in Spring newsletter.

Club Report Highlights:

Ottawa: Denise Hall presented the report on behalf of Chair, **Sheila Parry**. The Ottawa RTA – AGM will be held on Friday, April 10, 2015 at St. Andrew's Church in Ottawa. The RTA – AGM has been set for Sat., June 13, 2015 and will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion in Smith Falls. Despite efforts to acquire a volunteer to take on the role of Publicity, this position is still vacant. On the evening of Sept. 29th Tony Barnes, our hike coordinator, and Graham Creedy, Ottawa Representative, held an event for leaders and aspiring leaders to plan the winter activity schedule. There was also time allotted to share

experiences and get advice on how to plan a winter outing. The NCC has implemented trail user fees for snowshoeing in Gatineau Park. Sheila Parry has enabled our members to obtain a trail pass at a discounted rate. (Page 7.) A winter snowshoeing pass for adults aged 18-59 is \$50.00 for the season and \$45.00 for those over 60. The NCC is willing to give our members a 15% reduction for their passes if one does so before Dec. 1st.

Central: Gill Hyland presented the report on behalf of Chair, **Dorothy Hudson**. The fall Family Hike was a great success with lots of publicity both before and after the event. (Article, page 23.) Planning is underway for the next event, scheduled for

February 7th. The Running Goat Ultra Marathon scheduled to be run on Oct. 26th was cancelled by the Running Goat Club. The Central Club was to be involved as volunteers. The Club advised against future participation. The trail reroute around the Wright property continues. For now the trail follows along Hwy 43 until a more suitable route can be negotiated.

Rideau Trail Closed Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Our trail, where it crosses private land, will be closed on this day to protect the property rights of the landowners, who allow us to cross their land the rest of the year.

The RTA sincerely thanks all landowners for their generosity.

Please take care not to trespass on this day.

Kingston: Chair, **Sharen Yaworski**, reported that the Kingston Club is holding a Hike Leader Potluck on Nov. 13, 2014. These events always are well attended and are a great way to share information and concerns. The Kingston RTA – AGM is set for April 22, 2015 from 6-9 pm at the Ongwanada Resource Centre. A Landowner and Volunteer Appreciation Party will be held in Kingston this winter. A Safe Hiker course is being planned for May 2, 2015 at the Cataraqui Conservation Area. Ron Hunt will be invited to conduct the course. The Kingston “End to End” badge is being revamped. The position of Secretary is still vacant.

Next Board Meeting: Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2015.

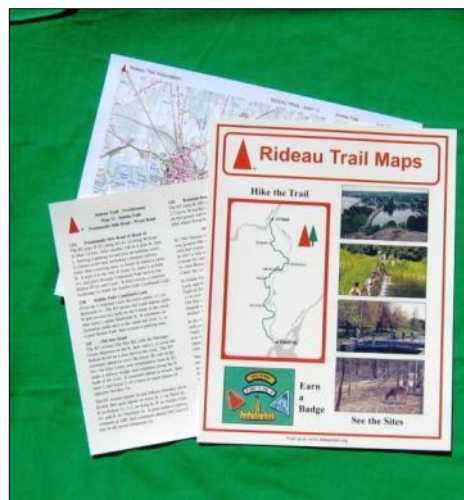


Trail Alerts

The RTA has a new service to alert hikers to situations on the Rideau Trail that they may need to know about or that may involve temporary or permanent changes to the route of the trail.

On the Web site now are “Trail Alerts”, which can be accessed at rideautrail.org/maps/alerts.html or by a link in the upper right of the home page, under the heading “News”.

So before you set out on a hike on the Rideau Trail, we recommend that you check the RTA Web site for the latest word on potential problems. You can also verify that you have the latest version of the map that covers your route. The maps are also dated.



Rideau Trail Maps: a Practical Gift for a Hiker

Set of 21 on waterproof paper

\$30 with the form on the back cover of this newsletter or \$31 online with PayPal (www.rideautrail.org).

Or save by buying in person from a local club representative.

- * Kingston: Bill Murdoch, 613-767-4858
- * Ottawa: Elizabeth Mason, 613-729-6596
- * Perth: Mary Stewart at The Running Goat, 72 Foster St. 613-267-9804

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

by Bill Ottney and Gunhild Karius

One of winter's delights is the drive from Kingston into the village of Westport on a crisp, clear eve. As you descend the hill about a kilometre before Perth Road intersects with Hwy. 42, look slightly off to your left towards the horizon. In the distance, like a sentinel overlooking the village, is a large Christmas tree, its lights piercing the darkness and adding a seasonal glow to the snowy panorama.

In December 2006, on just such a night, the thought came to mind that we should try a pre-Christmas outing to Foley Mountain with friends. With a stack of carol sheets and our flashlights we headed down from Conlon Farm in Perth. What we lacked in tonal quality was more than offset by enthusiasm. The outing was so successful and so much fun that we decided to schedule the Foley Mountain Christmas Tree Hike and Sing as an annual RTA event.

2013 was the 7th year for what has become one of the most popular outings that we lead. The walk in along the forested Park road from the gates of the Foley Mountain Conservation Area to the Christmas tree is pleasantly serene, especially if we are fortunate enough to have a fresh covering of snow festooning the evergreen trees. The walk can be icy, especially on Spy Rock, which overlooks the village of Westport. As we have learned over the years,

icers are highly recommended.

The location of the Christmas tree, near the edge of the impressive Spy Rock formation, affords the singers a spectacular view of the village of Westport. On a winter's evening the scene is like a post card spangled with twinkling lights, one of the best views in Eastern Ontario. Warm clothing is de rigueur, however, as the winds flowing up over the rock face can be bitterly cold. Warm mitts are a must.

In December 2013 we sang all the favourite carols from the song sheets. In previous years the chill and the beckoning warmth of The Cove in Westport diminished our carol count but never dampened our enthusiasm. Fellowship at the inn after our outing is always a pleasure. We warm up, enjoy some sustenance, listen to a live band and dance if so inclined.

With the guidance of the Friends of Foley Mountain, who have joined the carolling every year since 2008, we learned through *The Review-Mirror* about what is properly called The Dick Ready Memorial Tree. That year, 2013, was the 25th anniversary of local resident Robbie Merkley's tending to the tree. Lighting the tree involves pulling a 500-ft cable up the mountain, stringing and maintaining hundreds of lights, and securing local sponsorship to "keep the lights on", so to speak. Mr. Merkley had taken over the task from his friend, Dick Ready, when Dick died.

Donations can be made to The Dick Ready Memorial Tree account at the Bank of Montreal's Westport Branch.

Join us Friday, December 5 for this wonderful way to kick off the rapidly approaching holiday season. Details are in the Activities pages.

Friends of Foley Mountain with the RTA group in 2013



THANK YOU



I've seen the view from Perth Road, described above. It's quite a sight. There had to be a story. Thanks to Gunhild and Bill, now I know.

Thanks too, to my predecessor, Ann Bolster. Using this story for the cover was the foundation she offered. More than that, she and John Cornish contributed hours to helping me get started as your new Editor. Thank you, both.

The colour? You liked it in the Fall issue, so it's here to stay. Look through this issue and see how many contributors you know. Anyone can do it. Send us your ideas, your articles and reports. Do you have a 'Favourite Place'? I can't wait to hear about the ones you send to John for the Spring edition. Happy Trails! - Steve



Photo: Paul Jean

SNOWSHOEING FEES FOR GATINEAU PARK

Gatineau Park announced that beginning this winter, "A pass is now required to access snowshoe trails in Gatineau Park." The daily fee is \$7 for adults 18-59, and \$5 for others. Season passes cost \$50 and \$45, respectively. Free use of a pass is possible by borrowing one from the public library in Ottawa or Gatineau.

The lowest price for purchasing a season pass is available to those who take advantage of the Ottawa Club's group discount before the December 1 deadline:

1. Connect to https://www.demsis.ca/skiparcdelagatineau.ca/groupe_login_en.php
2. Enter our group password for this year:
rtc2015 (case sensitive)

This can be used for purchasing either a cross-country ski pass or a snowshoeing pass. Ski passes will be honoured at snowshoe access points. Snowshoe pass holders who want to ski will require a ski pass/ticket. Snowshoeing is not permitted on the ski trails.

More information about the Park's snowshoe trails, fees and conditions is available on their web site: <http://www.ncc-ccn.gc.ca/places-to-visit/gatineau-park/things-to-do/snowshoeing-gatineau-park>

Emergency in the Park? Call the NCC's number (on your pass). They can tell first responders where to find you.



WINTER END-TO-END HIKING AND SKIING: EDITION 13!

The Rideau Trail in winter? Leader Bill Murdoch says the adventure will start with a night hike in Merrickville on Friday, January 2. The 2015 series is the 13th Winter 'E2E'. Why not join in the fun and work on your Winter badge?

Weekend 1: Night Hike (2 hr), Merrickville-Friday, January 2. Meet to leave at 7 pm. opposite the Mainstreet Family Restaurant (112 Main St. W).

Saturday, January 3. Meet to leave at 9 am. opposite the Mainstreet Family Restaurant (112 Main St. W).

Sunday, January 4. Meet to leave at 8:30 am from Dwyer Hill Rd. and Heaphy Rd. (14BC, map 14).

Weekend 2: Saturday, January 17. Meet to leave at 8:30 am from Cedar Grove parking lot on Rogers Stevens Dr. (15B, map 15).

Sunday, January 18. Meet* to leave at 8:30 am.

Weekend 3: Saturday, February 7 and Sunday, February 8. Meet* to leave at 8:30 am.

Weekend 4: Saturday, February 21 and Sunday, February 22. Meet* to leave at 8:30 am.

* Unlisted meeting points will be determined according to the conditions and series progress.

Participants must be prepared for a 5 hour/10 km day in winter conditions. Skiers are welcome but must provide their own transportation. For further information, contact Bill at 613-767-4858 (or, cell 613-483-7909). In Ottawa, contact Audrey Stewart: audrey.j.stewart@gmail.com.

Come and see the Trail from a whole new perspective. You'll be pleasantly surprised.



Photos by Lib Mendonca (far left), and Marilyn Crummey.



BEATING THE HEAT IN JANUARY (Walking Down Under)

by Fran Cutler

Ah, Sydney - beaches, barbecues, ballet and bushwalking...

Yes, Sydney is a walkers' paradise, with hundreds of coastal, mountain, and urban park hikes accessible through the city's vast network of trains, buses and ferries. And Summer weather lasts from October to May, with a cooling breeze coming up virtually every day in late morning.

There are dozens of bushwalking clubs in this city of over 4 million which sprawls over 150 kilometres west, north and south, along the

rugged, beach-studded coast of New South Wales. The largest, the National Parks Association Bushwalking Club offers walks every day of the week in a weekly email. For Saturday in a recent one, it offered five walking options, ranging from 5 to 28 kilometres, and a cycling trip of 35k on a coastal pathway.

Here's a sampling:

Blue Mountains National Park, Grade 3, 12k, 300m. ascent/descent.

Spectacular scenery from many lookouts, waterfalls, and beautiful Leura Forest. All on track, steep steps!

This would involve a 2 hour train trip from central Sydney, with the walkers meeting at the scheduled time on the upper deck of the second car from the front.

Kurnell! One of my favourites...

Kurnell, Grade 3, 15k.

Coastal walk via beach, rock platforms, and tracks, some wet, boggy or slippery surfaces.

The Kurnell peninsula was the first place Captain James Cook landed in Australia. Interpretive displays give details of the expedition's explorations of the area and of the lifestyle of local aboriginal people who had been there for tens of thousands of years.

The network of gently undulating trails crisscrossing the peninsula goes through eucalyptus, giant fig and angophora trees. These latter have striking rust coloured trunks and are always cool if you hug them on a hot day! Your walking buddies are the same mix of welcoming, interesting, knowledgeable people you find in the RTA.



On more leisurely walks you often hear lively discussions about the many varieties of native orchids or ferns along the track, and whether they are blooming early or late. Flower lovers use the Latin botanical names most of the time, which impresses and confounds me. There are exceptions, as in the case of an exultant leader who shouted, "Look, there's a mozzie!" I didn't think a mosquito deserved this kind of attention, even though you don't encounter them very often. It turned out she was surprised to see a delicate little mosquito orchid.

Speaking of wildlife, you may be wondering about snakes. True, all ten of the world's most dangerous species live in Australia, but they are wary of large two-legged creatures. In fifteen years of bushwalking, I have only seen one - a two metre red bellied black snake curled up a few steps off

a suburban sidewalk next to a patch of wetland.

As in Canada, the worst you might encounter are bees and wasps.

Coastal walks often include a chance to swim in the surf or tidal fed rock baths built on most of the dozens of beaches. So don't forget your "cozzie", or swimming costume. If you're keen on surf, swim between the flags on patrolled beaches, as "rips" and rogue waves can spell danger.

So c'mon down undah, mate! (Yes, they really do say "mate" a lot.)

<http://www.npansw.org.au/index.php/bushwalking>
<http://www.wearamblers.org.au/>

More? Contact Fran Cutler (francutler@bigpond.com), in Ottawa or Sydney.

Are you going away this winter?

Why not renew your membership before you leave? You can use either the form in the back or the Web version: rideautrail.org

Consider renewing for 2 years: you'll save some money.

experience The East Coast Trail with Brown Rabbit Walkabout

Hike 250 kms of beautiful coastal trails on the Avalon Peninsula in Newfoundland with our help.

We provide transportation from & to St. John's Airport, to and from trail heads, and three meals a day with accommodations.

For prices and information contact Isa.



Phone: 1-709- 334-2208 Fax: 1-709- 334-3601
email: brownrabbitcabins@nf.aibn.com www.brownrabbit.nl.ca

HIKERS AT PLAY

by John Haley

Recognizing that the Rideau Trail is less attractive near Ottawa, I wanted to compensate by taking advantage of other qualities accessible to us.

For many years, I have enjoyed the finer arts on hiking trips away (see "The Play's The Thing" by Roger McCullough, RTA Newsletter No. 86 (Winter 1992), in the [on-line archives](#)). Gananoque theatre has been part of my hiking and camping trips to Charleston Lake, but it was only this fall that I thought to incorporate theatre into day outings.

The idea is simple: identify a Community Theatre within an hour's drive from Ottawa that has weekend

matinee performances, select a hike in or near that community, and combine the two as one activity. The dates and times of the activities are determined by the theatre schedules.

Our first visit was to Perth's Studio Theatre, only 50 m from the Rideau Trail, for "Crimes of the Heart." It was Thanksgiving weekend and there had been only one notice of the activity, so we could all fit into one car. A week later we hiked the lagoons at Richmond and the park system of Smiths Falls. In the afternoon it was "Educating Rita" at the wonderful Station Theatre in Smiths Falls.

The dedication of the people involved and the quality of both productions made them a treat to enjoy

I intend to schedule more of these activities in April, so please look out for them in the Ottawa listing in the Spring Newsletter. Of course, members of the other Clubs are welcome. I am listing the hikes as Level 2 to keep a flexible choice about where we may end up hiking. When you come with us, remember that most Community Theatres require cash for tickets sold at the door. They cannot accept credit/debit cards.

I hope that you will join us. For more information, please give me a call
(613) 225-0590.



HILLY HAPPENINGS 2014

by Cliff Daly

Insulating layers on? Check. Pit zips closed, ice cleats underfoot? Check. Hold it. Ice cleats in mid-October? Just where are we?

This is what my wife Gloria and I call the Hilly Hike, based at the Kinsman Lodge in Franconia, NH. - the White Mountains. Above treeline, we'll be greeted by a thin mantle of snow, black ice and freezing winds, so best come prepared. Our outing's thirteen participants, are from Ottawa, Kingston, Hamilton and Potsdam, NY. We have diverse hiking motivations, but we share a strong desire to get out and enjoy what the mountains have to offer.

On our sopping first day, nine of us took on the ledgy, steep and open terrain of Welch-Dickey while a group of Ottawa RTAers led by Liette Laniel went to the northern Whites' to snag Mt. Cabot, one of the White Mountains forty-eight peaks that exceed 4000 feet in elevation.



The Kingston Contingent - Marianne Hebert

Sunday was far drier but misty in the northern half of the Whites. It was easier going, but the view from rocky Owl's Head resembled a "white cow in a snow storm." Farther south, Liette and company conquered Waterville Valley's big ski hill, Mt. Tecumseh. Our threesome on North Moat's Red Ridge, were buffeted by 70 kph mountain winds that were just too much for hats.

On Monday, by the time our Franconia Ridge gang emerged above tree-line, we were bundled head to

foot. Greeting us the massive Mt. Lafayette summit was signage, encrusted by rime ice. Scampering eastward and dropping ten feet landed us in a Shangri-La of a protected lunch site – no wind and lukewarm sun makes it feel like, well, October!

Thanks to the clear air we feasted on the beauty of many of the White's loftiest peaks, from the northern Presidentials through the Twin Range and dramatic Bondcliff, on to the southeast and Mt. Carrigain. That's where Liette and her climbing buddies chose to spend the day. White Mountain aficionados claim it hosts the finest views in the entire region.

Back at the Kinsman, having been warmed by the fireplace, our appetites sated by a lovely pork roast dinner, we retired to the living room to rate our hikes. Soon it became clear that trail joy is a nuanced affair. Taking the path less travelled and overcoming the challenges of daunting terrain add much sizzle and satisfaction to our experiences!

CENTRAL CLUB ACTIVITIES — WINTER 2014-2015

For all Central Club hikes, unless otherwise specified, the **meeting place is Conlon Farm in Perth**. To reach Conlon Farm, take the main street (Gore) 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) and proceed to the Conlon Farm parking area. (GPS: 127 Smith Dr., Perth K7H 0A3; 44.890128 N, 76.253030 W) When carpooling, the amount quoted for gas is a suggested voluntary contribution. Fees for parking and entry to parks and conservation areas are shared among the driver and passengers. Be sure to contact the leader in advance, to obtain more information about an event. Please review the Participants' Responsibilities on [page 20](#).

Hiking pace scale: slow = 2–3 km/h; moderate = 3–4 km/h; fast = 4–5 km/h; very fast = 5+ km/h.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Wednesday Wanderers. These shorter mid-week outings allow us to get a breath of fresh air and a stretch while in good company. Details are sent by email every Monday. Be sure to contact Margaret Lafrance to get on the list. margaret.lafrance@bell.net 613-264-0057

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Friday, December 5

Annual Foley Mountain Christmas Carol Sing

Level 1, Cover story. 1.4 km, leisurely pace from Park gates to Christmas Tree. Get into the spirit of the season by joining the Kingston Club for the 8th annual carol sing on Foley Mountain, overlooking Westport. Carol sheets provided. Optional refreshments/dinner at the Cove Inn, Westport afterwards. Please bring flashlight and icers. Meet at 5:45pm. at Conlon Farm. No dogs please (except service animals). **Please contact the leaders** if you plan to go for refreshments as The Cove requires reservations. Due to limited parking, we request that drivers park facing the Park fence.

Leaders: Gunhild Karius and Bill Ottney 613-858-3183
karius1@cogeco.ca

Sunday, December 7 Narrows Lock to Miner's Point Road

Level 1, 10 km, moderate pace. Enjoy a scenic hike along the Rideau Trail and North Shore Road with views of Big Rideau Lake. Car shuttle, gas \$3. Meet at 9:30 am Leader: David Allcock, 613-706-3562 daveonottylake@gmail.com

Saturday, December 13 Christmas hike and/or Dinner

Level 2, 6 km, moderate pace. Come and work up an appetite at Millpond Conservation area. Then join us for dinner at Michael's Table in Perth at 5:30pm or just come for the dinner and social. Gas \$2 Meet at Conlon Farm at 11:00 am Hike leaders: David & Pat Batchelor, patbatchelor@sussexsystems.ca 613-264-1559 For dinner **RSVP by December 5th to Yvonne Kennedy**, 613-267-9817 yvnkennedy@gmail.com



Winter End-to-End Weekend 1

Merrickville to Roger Stevens Dr. - hiking or skiing.

Friday January 2- Night Hike

About 2 hours- meet in Merrickville to leave at 7 pm.

Saturday January 3 Meet to leave at 9 am.

Sunday January 4 Meet to leave at 8:30 am.

Details on page 7. Leader: Bill Murdoch 613-767-4858 (or cell 613-483-7909)

Saturday, January 3 Rideau Trail - Perth

Level 1, 10 km. moderate pace. NEW YEARS RESOLUTION WALK/SNOWSHOE Come for fun and fresh air after the holiday festivities and feasting! We'll walk from Conlon Farm through town then along the towpath to as far as we like then return. Meet at 9:30 am Leaders: Howard and Mary Robinson, hmrob@storm.ca 613-256-0817

Sunday, January 11 Cataraqui Trail

Level 1, moderate pace, 10 km. Snowshoe/hike along the Cataraqui Trail from Chaffey's Lock, out and back. Gas \$4. Meet co-leader Susan Samila at 9:30 am. Hike leader: Doug Hayes, hayesd@ripnet.com

Wednesday, January 14 Hike Leaders Planning Meeting

Think spring!! All hike leaders are invited to bring ideas, and suggestions for the next session of hikes to a meeting at the Batchelor's home in Perth at 7pm. RSVP patbatchelor@sussexsystems.ca 613-264-1559



Winter End-to-End Weekend 2

Saturday-Sunday, January 17-18

Meet to leave at 8:30 am. [Details](#) on page 7.

Sunday, January 18 Rideau Trail - Marlborough Forest

Level 1, moderate pace, 8-10 km. Enjoy a snowshoe/hike along this section of the Rideau Trail without the bugs of summer or the wet sections of spring! We'll walk north of Roger Stevens Drive, out and back. Gas \$4, meet at 9:30 am. Leaders: David and Pat Batchelor, patbatchelor@sussexsystems.ca 613-264-1559

Sunday, January 25 Foley Mountain

Level 1- 2, moderate pace, 8 km. Snowshoe/hike along a variety of trails through the conservation area. Park fee, gas \$3. Meet at 9:30 am. Leader: Susan Samila, ssamila@storm.ca 613-264-1196

There are events on this page for March!

You've already renewed your membership, right?
Either works: the [form in the back](#) or the Web version:
rideautrail.org

Sunday, February 1 Murphy's Point Loop

Level 1-2, moderate pace 10 km. Come and explore the Park in winter. Snowshoe/hike from Lally Homestead through the Park and along the Round Lake trail. Park fee, gas \$2. Meet at 9:30 am. Leaders: Peder Krogh and Maida Murray, pederkrogh5@gmail.com, memmurray@hotmail.com 613-456-6085



Winter End-to-End Weekend 3

Saturday-Sunday, February 7-8

Meet to leave at 8:30 am. [Details](#) on page 7.

Saturday, February 7 Family Day at Perth Wildlife Reserve

Winter fun is for families!! Come for a hike or snowshoe outing, suitable for children. We'll look for animal tracks and winter homes and enjoy hot chocolate at the cabin afterwards. Join us at the Wildlife Area at 1pm. Parking \$6 per vehicle. Leader: Dorothy Hudson, dhudson9@cogeco.ca 613-283-0332

Saturday, February 14 Beckwith/Goodwood Trails

Level 1, moderate pace, up to 10 km. Bring your sweetie for a snowshoe/hike outing along trails near Carleton Place. Weather will dictate how long we are out on these trails which are through forests and alongside open fields. Gas \$3. Meet at 9:30 am. Leaders: Mary and Howard Robinson, hmrob@storm.ca -613-256 0817



Winter End-to-End-Weekend 4

Saturday-Sunday, February 21-22

Meet to leave at 8:30 am. [Details](#) on page 7.

Saturday, February 21 Foley Mountain

Level 1-2, moderate pace. 10 km. Enjoy the views and the quiet of the winter woods as you snowshoe/hike through the conservation area. Park fee, gas \$3. Meet at 9:30 am. Leaders: Peder Krogh and Maida Murray, pederkrogh5@gmail.com, memmurray@hotmail.com 613-456-6085

Saturday, February 28 Millpond Conservation Area

Level 1-2, moderate pace. 6 km. Ski or snowshoe through this picturesque conservation area. Gas \$2, meet at 9:30 am. Leader: Yvonne Kennedy, yvknennedy@gmail.com 613-267-9817

Saturday, March 7 Mount Pakenham

Level 1-2, moderate pace, 5-10 km. Come and try cross-country skiing at Mt. Pakenham with hot drinks to follow. Gas \$4, meet at 9:30 am. Leader: Gill Hyland, ghyland2@cogeco.ca 613-267-5756

Sunday, March 15 Frontenac Park – Tetsmine Loop

Level 2, moderate pace, 12 km. Enjoy the Park as you snowshoe/hike and look for signs of spring. Gas \$6, meet at 9:30 am. Leader: Gill Hyland, ghyland2@cogeco.ca 613-267-5756

Sunday, March 22 Foley Mountain

Level 1-2, moderate pace, 8-10 km. We'll explore the conservation area in early spring either on snowshoes or hiking, depending on the conditions...but waterproof boots recommended. Park fee, gas \$3, meet at 9:30 am. Leader: Tom Pearcey, pearceys@cogeco.ca 613-284-1294

Saturday, March 28 Wheeler's Sugar Bush

Level 1, 8 km moderate pace. Explore the maple bush, on snowshoes or with waterproof boots, depending on conditions. After working up an appetite, try delicious pancakes and sausage in the restaurant and visit the maple museum. RSVP as this is Wheeler's busy season and we need to reserve a table or two. Gas \$4, meet at 9:30 am. Leader: Nancy Gaudreau, ndgaud@gmail.com 613-300-9532

Central Club Executive, 2014-2015

Chair: Dorothy Hudson
Vice Chair (Board Rep.): Gill Hyland
Secretary: Don Sherwin
Treasurer: Joy Webster
Trail Maintenance: David Allcock
Routes and Negotiations: **vacant**
Activities: Hike Planning Committee
Publicity: Mary Robinson
Social Convenor: Yvonne Kennedy

BEHIND THE SCENES: HIKE PLANNING

by Pat Batchelor

It's now early October and I've just sent a reminder to the Central club hike leaders about the upcoming planning meeting. Despite the vibrant fall colours all around, it's time to think of snowshoe and ski outings for January, February and March!

When we get together, we'll toss around ideas, discuss concerns that have come up on previous hikes and think of ways to make the whole experience more enjoyable. Things we have to consider include: requests for types and lengths of hikes, special dates for activities such as hunting (which restricts where we can walk) and weather

conditions. After blocking in the dates and prospective routes, we'll break for refreshments.

The willingness of leaders to take groups is dependent upon their own comfort levels and familiarity with the area. We have developed a list of folks who are willing to pre-hike routes with leaders to ensure the trails are safe and well marked. Many of the Central Club's leaders have come from the ranks of the Wednesday Walkers (also a great source of new members). Prospective leaders are often invited to attend our planning meeting so they can find out what is involved.

After the planning meeting, the leaders prepare write-ups for the outings. The whole schedule is then sent to the group for proofreading, before it goes to the Newsletter.

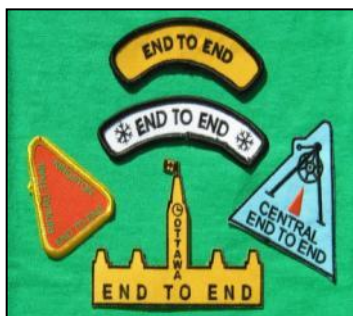
So, next time you're out with the Club, please give a tip of the hat to the leader, and think about joining their ranks.

Pat Batchelor is Hike Co-ordinator for the Central Club.

Hike leaders at the Ottawa Club planning meeting last September - Steve Kelly



END-TO-END BADGES



Members can earn 5 end-to-end badges by hiking the entire Rideau Trail or major sections. Any of the badges can be earned by hiking short sections over a span of months or years; just keep track of where you hiked, when and with whom.

If you have completed the RT end to end between Kingston and Ottawa and wish to receive a badge at the June AGM, notify Board Secretary Liz Choros (lizchoros@gmail.com, 613-224-9064) by June 8. Badges will be mailed to hikers unable to attend the AGM. Members wishing to receive a Kingston, Central or Ottawa section end-to-end badge should contact that club's representative, as listed at the front of the newsletter. Hikers must belong to the RTA to receive a badge.

Consider trying this winter's end-to-end hikes to see our trail in its snowy beauty (see [page 7](#)).

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep sadness that Central Club reports the death of two of its members.

Alan Hurd 1941-2014

Al joined the RTA in 2001 as part of his rehabilitation after a stroke, which forced him to retire as a science teacher. He passed away August 7.

Despite his difficulties, Al was always cheerful and companionable on the trail. Although declining health eventually curtailed his hiking, he and wife Lynne remained members of RTA.

Robert Trower 1946-2014

Rob and wife Sue joined RTA in 2011. His interest in snowshoeing brought Rob to the Club, but he was an avid outdoorsman in all seasons. He succumbed to a brief illness August 10, 2014.

- Don Sherwin

OTTAWA CLUB ACTIVITIES — WINTER 2014-2015

Level 1 activities are easy, level 2 intermediate and level 3 advanced, requiring experience and a *high level of fitness*. See “Participants’ Responsibilities and Levels of Difficulty” (page 20) for details. Hiking pace scale: slow = 2–3 km/h; moderate = 3–4 km/h; fast = 4–5 km/h; very fast = 5+ km/h. If you are still unsure whether a particular outing is suited to your ability, contact the leader in advance. Scheduled activities usually take place regardless of weather, but if conditions are questionable, contact the leader in advance. Arrive at least 10 minutes before departure time. Transportation is by carpooling. Passengers contribute to the driver’s gas costs and fees for parking and entry to parks.

* * * Trail Fees in Gatineau Park * * *

Gatineau Park collects user fees at its snowshoeing and skiing parking lots. See [page 7](#). Fees could apply, whether an outing description mentions trail fees or not.

Emergency in Gatineau Park or the Greenbelt? Call 613-239-5353

Keep this NCC emergency number handy if you are there hiking, snowshoeing or skiing.

Note: it's on the back of every plastic Trail Pass

Leaders: Waiver/sign-up sheets and incident-report forms are available on the RTA Web site (www.rideautrail.org). Forward completed sign-up sheets to Tony Barnes, 54 Evergreen Dr., Ottawa ON K2H 6C9 or scan them and send by e-mail (fellwalkerca@gmail.com).

Look for More Activities in the Monthly e-Letter and Check the Weekly e-Notice

Additional activities, including short-notice outings, may be announced in the monthly e-letter and weekly e-notice. If you do not currently receive these electronic communications, send your e-mail address to membership@rideautrail.org. If you do not use email, arrange to keep updated through a friend, relative or buddy in the RTA.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Wednesday Walkers: Level 2 and 3 hiking, skiing or snowshoeing in Gatineau Park for the day. Depart at 9:30 am. For information, including meeting place, contact Tony Barnes, 613-828-1216 fellwalkerca@gmail.com.

Saturday Skiers (December to March)

As soon as skiing starts, the Saturday Skiers get together each week to enjoy the cross-country trails in Gatineau Park (level 2 or 3). No dates are listed in the Calendar below; if there’s snow, we go. Bring lunch and ideas for the day, and meet for a prompt 9:30 departure from Tunney’s Pasture. For more information, contact Steve Kelly, 613-422-1318 stkelly@rogers.com.

Tuesday Morning Skiing in Gatineau Park (Every Tuesday in January and February)

Level 1 or 2 for a 2-hour ski. You need to be able to snowplow down hills for skiing in Gatineau Park. The route will be chosen to match the ability of the skiers who attend. Eat a hearty breakfast; you will be home for lunch. Meet at the NCC parking lot on the south end of the Champlain Bridge for a 9:30 am departure. Most trips will not stop at a hut. Outings will go regardless of weather, barring rain. We'll snowshoe if the snow is insufficient for skiing. Call the leader if conditions are questionable. Bussing it? Call the leader who can pick you up at the Westboro station.

Leader: Elizabeth Mason, 613-729-6596.

Ottawa Club Executive, 2014-2015

Chair: Sheila Parry Vice Chair/Human Resources: Denise Hall Board Rep.: Graham Creedy	Secretary: Donna Shields Treasurer: Jane Mulvihill Trail Maintenance: Ron Arsenault Routes and Negotiations: Jim Fox	Activities Coordinator: Tony Barnes Publicity and Media Relations: vacant Newsletter Editor: Steve Kelly
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SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

The meeting place is usually one of the following locations along or near the OC Transpo Transitway.

Tunney's Pasture: The parking lot on the west side of Parkdale Avenue just across from Emmerson Avenue.

Fallowfield Park & Ride: The northwest parking lot of the Park & Ride station, off Fallowfield Road west of Woodroffe Avenue. Park near the drop-off area by the bus shelters.

Baseline Park & Ride: The parking lot at the Park & Ride station on Woodroffe Avenue south of Baseline Road. Meet at the south end of the parking lot, farthest from the bus stop.

For other December activities, see the Fall newsletter. Check the monthly e-letter and weekly e-notice for updates.

Friday, December 5

Annual Foley Mountain Christmas Carol Sing

Level 1 Cover story. Leisurely 1.4 km from Park gates to Christmas Tree. Get into the spirit of the season by joining the Kingston & Central Clubs for the 8th annual carol sing on Foley Mountain, overlooking Westport. Carol sheets provided. Optional refreshments/dinner at the Cove Inn, Westport afterwards. Please bring flashlight and icers. Meet at 5:45pm. at Conlon Farm, or meet at Park gates 6:15 PM.. No dogs please (except service animals). **Please contact the leaders** if you plan to go for refreshments as The Cove requires reservations. Due to limited parking, we request that drivers park facing the Park fence.

Leaders: Gunhild Karius and Bill Ottney 613-858-3183 karius1@cogeco.ca

Saturday, December 13 Snowshoe in Gatineau Park

Level 2, about 5 km. Hike or snowshoe on Trails 64 and 65. Leisurely pace on fairly rugged terrain with lots of ups and downs. Wear good boots, with snowshoes and/or spikes (depending on the conditions). Outside lunch. Gas \$3. Depart Tunney's Pasture at 9:30 am. Leader: Jean Gauthier, 613-422-3997 jrrgauth@teksavvy.com

Saturday, December 20 Ski in Gatineau Park

Level 1 Ski up the Gatineau Parkway from P3, depending on the conditions. If skiing is poor, we'll hike a more suitable route. Lunch outdoors. The usual Trail fees apply. Gas \$3. Meet at Tunney's Pasture at 9:15 for departure at 9:30. Leader: Terry McComb, 613-820-3936.

Saturday, December 27 Snowshoe or Spike in Western Gatineau Park

Level 2 to 2+, about 6 to 9 km, depending on ground conditions (check that week's e-notice for any update). Enjoy a quiet trail, away from the holiday crowds! This hike east from the Eardley-Masham Road has several lovely viewpoints (Grandview, Church Hill ridge) from moderate heights. Some steep bits, some off-trail possible. Lunch outdoors. Meet at Tunney's by 9:15 am to depart at 9:30. Gas share \$6. Leader: Ann Bolster, 613-828-5131 ann_bolster@hotmail.com

Saturday, December 27 Hike or Snowshoe in North Kanata

Level 1, about 6 km. easy pace. Scenic South March Highlands Conservation Forest. Slightly hilly in parts. Optional coffee stop afterwards. Gas \$3. Depart at 12:30 pm from Baseline Park & Ride. Leader: Ethel Archard, 613-592-7733 ethel.archard@sympatico.ca



Winter End-to-End Weekend 1

Merrickville to Roger Stevens Dr. - hiking or skiing.

Friday January 2- Night Hike

About 2 hours- meet in Merrickville to leave at 7 pm.

Saturday January 3 Meet to leave at 9 am.

Sunday January 4 Meet to leave at 8:30 am.

Details on page 7. Contact Audrey Stewart:
audrey.j.stewart@gmail.com

Saturday, January 3 Bell Arena Snowshoe

Level 1, 6-8 km along NCC trails 28 and 27 in Bells Corners. Mostly forested terrain, relatively flat with some minor hills. We will start at Parking Lot 12. Bring snack, water and snowshoes. Gas \$3. Depart from Baseline Park & Ride at 12:30 pm. Leader: Marilyn Schwartz, 613-828-4488 marilyn_sch1970@yahoo.ca

Saturday, January 3 Snowshoe in Gatineau Park

Level 2, about 9 km, leisurely pace from P15 on Trail 70. Some climbing. Indoor lunch at Healey cabin. Wear good boots, with snowshoes and/or spikes (depending on the conditions). Gas \$5. Depart from Tunney's Pasture at 9:30 am. Leader: Jean Gauthier, 613-422-3997 jrrgauth@teksavvy.com

Saturday, January 3 Ski in Gatineau Park

Level 2, 8 to 10 km. Ski an easy Level 2 on Ridge Rd. from P7, with lunch at Keogan or Shilly Shally. Gas \$4. Meet at Tunney's Pasture to depart at 10 am. Leader: Elly Khazaei, 613-829-7140 elly.kaz@gmail.com

Saturday, January 10 Hike or Snowshoe, Asticou

Level , about 6 km. Generally not difficult, with a few steep ups and downs on Trails 64 and 65. Bring water and a snack. Gas \$3. Depart from Tunney's Pasture at 9:30 am. Leader: Grace Hyam, 613-829-7252

Saturday, January 10 Snowshoe

Level 2, about 12 km from P15 on Trail 70 and 71 with some off-trail possible. Late lunch at Healey Cabin. Gas

\$5. Meet at Tunney's pasture, depart at 9AM. Leader: Na Lin, 613-601-4864 linnakgh@yahoo.ca

Saturday, January 10 Ski Lac Philippe

Level 2, 20km. Cross-country ski from P19 Lac Philippe for lunch at Healey Cabin. Gas \$6. Depart from Tunney's Pasture at 9:30 am. Leader: Dave Audette, 613-601-2833 dg.audette@sympatico.ca



Winter End-to-End Weekend 2 - hiking or skiing.

Saturday-Sunday, January 17-18. Details on page 7.

Contact Audrey Stewart: audrey.j.stewart@gmail.com

Saturday, Jan. 17, Snowshoe at Mud Lake

Level 1, about 6 km (2 hours). Note the meeting place. Snowshoe around scenic Mud Lake on flat terrain. Bring a snack to eat while enjoying the view of the Ottawa River and the Deschenes Rapids. Meet at 10 am at Britannia Park bus stop at Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre. Leader: Jean Gauthier 613-422-3997 jrgauth@teksavvy.com

Ottawa Stores Offering a 10% Discount on Regularly Priced Goods to RTA Members

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5607 Hazeldean Rd., 613-831-3604

The Expedition Shoppe

43 York St., 613-241-8397
369 Richmond Rd., 613-722-0166

Trailhead Paddle Shack

1960 Scott St., 613-722-4229

Saturday, January 17 Snowshoe in Gatineau Park

Level 3, about 8 or 9 km. Starting from Cregheur Road, we will ascend the Eardley Escarpment to enjoy great views on a loop that takes in the Alpine cabin site, Teepee, the Balcony-South Window ridge, Peak 79 and Gallery. New route to Peak 79! Lots of climbing (more than 1400 feet of total ascent), some steep, and lots off-trail. Lunch outdoors. Meet at Tunney's by 9:15 am to depart at 9:30. Gas share \$4. Leader: Brian Worobey, 613-882-0741 brianworobey@rogers.com

Saturday, January 17 Ski in Gatineau Park

Level 1, Ski from P8 to P9 and back on Parkway - about 7 km. Easy hills. Bring water and a snack. The usual Trail fees apply. Gas \$4. Meet at Tunney's Pasture at 9:15 am for departure at 9:30 am. Leader: Terry McComb, 613-820-3936

Saturday, January 17 Ski and Pot Luck Supper

Level 2, 14 km. Cross-country ski from P10 for supper and good cheer at Western Lodge. Bring a light, and some food to share with others. Out by Trail 1, return by Parkway. Gas \$4. Meet at Tunney's Pasture to depart from at 3:00

pm. Trail pass required. Leader: Dave Audette, 613-601-2833 or dg.audette@sympatico.ca

Saturday, January 24 Snowshoe Marlborough Forest

Level 2, 8.5 km. From Rogers Pond to Deliverance Cabin for lunch and return. Depart from Fallowfield Park and Ride at 10 am. Gas \$5. Leader: Doug Parsons, 613-723-0726

Saturday, January 24 Gatineau Park Ski

Level 2, 12 km at a relaxed pace: P19 to Lusk cabin. Gas \$6. Meet at Tunney's Pasture at 9:15 am for departure at 9:30. Leader: Harrienne Rosenes, 613-232-1661.

Saturday, January 31 Snowshoe Forêt la Blanche

Level 2, 8 to 10 km. La Blanche is a tract of old-growth forest with many lakes, north of Buckingham, QC. Trails around Park headquarters are supplemented by off-trail snowshoe opportunities, which we will explore. Indoor lunch at headquarters. Gas share \$8, plus \$5 admission fee. Meet at Tunney's Pasture at 9 am for a 9:15 departure. Leader: Roger Bird, 613-232-2262.

Saturday, January 31 Easy Greenbelt Ski

Level 1, less than 2 hours. Western Greenbelt trails on both sides of Timm Drive. Rolling terrain through a lovely forested area - no challenging hills. Gas \$3. Meet at Baseline at 12:30 pm. Leader: Ethel Archard, 613-592-7733 ethel.archard@sympatico.ca

MONDAY, February 2 Moonlight Ski/Snowshoe

Level 2 Will the Groundhog see its shadow? This is a joint outing for us and the Ottawa Rambling Club. Skiers and snowshoers will rendezvous at Healey Cabin to share BYO snacks/beverages. The usual trail fees apply. Gas \$5. Meet at 6:15 Monday EVENING at Tunney's Pasture. Leaders: Pauline Daling and Dick Stewart, 613-421-6494 pdaling@rogers.com, dickstewart@rogers.com

How about it?

Now that you've saved a few bucks, why not renew your membership today? You can use the [renewal form](#) in the back of this newsletter or do it online at rideautrail.org



Winter End-to-End Weekend 3 - hiking or skiing.

Saturday-Sunday, February 7-8. Details on page 7.

Contact Audrey Stewart: audrey.j.stewart@gmail.com

Saturday, February 7 Snowshoe at Mer Bleue

Level 1, approx 6-8 km. on Greenbelt Trail 53. Possibly some boardwalk crossings but no significant inclines. Bring water and a snack. Optional coffee/lunch stop afterwards. Please contact the leader in advance for meeting place and time: Rowena, 613-731-4452

Saturday, February 7 Ski in Gatineau Park

Level 1 Ski part of Trail 53 from P17. Distance depending on the conditions. Wide trail with a few gentle hills, so

experience with herring-bone and snowplough will be an asset. Possible ski into Wakefield for indoor lunch, otherwise, lunch outdoors. The usual Trail fees apply. Gas \$5. Meet at Tunney's Pasture at 9:15 am for departure at 9:30. Leader: Terry McComb, 613-820-3936

**Sunday, February 8
Afternoon Ski in Gatineau Park**

Level 2, 8 to 10 km. Ski from P7 on main or back trails to Keogan. Enjoy the hills, the woods and the silence. Gas \$4. Meet at Tunney's Pasture to depart by 1:30 pm. Leader: Elizabeth Mason, 613-729-6596

Saturday, February 14 Snowshoe, Graham Hill

Level 3, from P19. We get to the hill's easier north slope via a creek between Graham and Wrong hills along Trail 74. Depending on how much trail-breaking is needed, we may or may not make it to the top of Graham for a (spectacular) view of lakes Philippe, Renaud and Taylor. Gas share \$6. Meet at Tunney's Pasture at 9 am. for a 9:15 departure. Leader: Roger Bird, 613-232-2262.



Winter End-to-End Weekend 4 - hiking or skiing.
Saturday-Sunday, February 21-22. Details on page 7.
Contact Audrey Stewart: audrey.j.stewart@gmail.com

Saturday, February 21 Snowshoe in Gatineau Park

Level 3 A heart-warming hike from Cregheur Road. Gas: \$4. Meet at Tunney's Pasture by 9:15 am to depart at 9:30. Leader: Ann Lane, 613-741-3184 ann.l@ncf.ca

Saturday, February 21 Backcountry Ski

Level 3, 10-12 km. Starting at P19, ski towards Lusk Cabin on Trails 50 and 54, leaving #54 to access a set of linear ponds and connecting marshes circling north and west of Lusk Hill, then exploring the highlands south of Lusk Lake. Lunch at Lusk Cabin. Return route dependent upon conditions. Gas share \$6.00. Leaders: Pauline Daling and Dick Stewart, 613-421-6494 pdaling@rogers.com, dickstewart@rogers.com

Sunday February 22 Snowshoe in Greenbelt

Level 1, 4- 6 km at a leisurely pace. From P20 on Anderson Rd, along Trail 50 and Dewberry Trail. Gas \$3. Meet at Tunney's Pasture at 1 pm. Kathryn Fournier, 613-248-0006

Saturday, February 28 Snowshoe in Gatineau Park

Level 3, 9 km/1,100' ascent. Faris Creek to Roof Top Lakes: This hike will explore the head waters to Lusk Falls. We start off with an energetic climb up Faris Creek. If it's too cold to eat outdoors-lunch at McKinstry. Please

note that you need to bring Micro Spikes (available at MEC). Last year these light weight traction devices were essential for navigating the thick ice on the way up Faris. Expect a total hike time of just over 5 hours if conditions are good. Gas \$5. Depart Tunney's Pasture 9:30 Leaders:

Tom & Karen Cole, 613-825-4498.

**Saturday, February 28
Snowshoe in Gatineau Park**

Level 2, about 5 km. Hike or snowshoe on Trails 64 and 65. Leisurely pace on fairly rugged terrain with lots of ups and downs.

Wear good boots, with snowshoes and/or spikes (depending on the conditions). Outside lunch. Gas \$3. Depart Tunney's Pasture at 9:30 am. Leader: Jean Gauthier, 613-422-3997 jrgauth@teksavvy.com

Saturday, February 28 Ski in Gatineau Park

Level 2, about 12 km from P12. Enjoy a variety of ski trails, with and without machine grooming. Meet at Tunney's Pasture to depart at 9:30 am. Gas \$4. Leader: Steve Kelly, 613-422-1318 stkelly@rogers.com

Saturday, March. 7 Snowshoe Mer Bleue

Level 1, 6 km at a leisurely pace on mostly flat terrain: Greenbelt Trails 53A and 53, from P21 (corner of Anderson Rd. and Ridge Rd.). Lunch outdoors. Snowshoes or spikes depending on the conditions. Depart Tunney's Pasture at 10:00 am. Gas \$4.00. Leader: Jean Gauthier 613-422-3997 jrgauth@teksavvy.com. Co-leader: Diane Clarkson.

Saturday, March 7 Snowshoe in Gatineau Park

Level 2 or better, approx. 11 km. A short distance on trail (#70 and #71) from P 15 to the old Fire Pit area. Off-trail from here to Healey Cabin for indoor lunch. Return via other ponds and Trail #70. Meet at Tunney's Pasture around 9:00 am. for departure at 9:15 am. Gas \$5.00. Leader: Denise Hall 613-843-8222 rebeccahall@rogers.com

Spring is coming.

Friday, April 10, 2015

AGM at St. Andrew's Church (Kent/Wellington)

Saturday, March 7 Ski in Gatineau Park

Level 1 Ski from P19 along trail 50 at a moderate pace. Distance depending on the conditions. Wide trail with a few gentle hills, so experience with herring-bone and snowplough will be an asset. Lunch outdoors. The usual Trail fees apply. Gas \$6. Meet at Tunney's Pasture at 9:15 for departure at 9:30. Leader: Terry McComb, 613-820-3936.

Saturday, March 7 Backcountry Ski

Level 3, about 7 km. Starting from the sandpit on the Eardley Masham we will head east along the Lac au Foin watershed for approximately 3.5 km. We will then circle back in a westerly direction, following a series of ponds, which will include some climbing, as we head back to the Eardley Masham Road just south of the sandpit. Total distance approximately 7 km. Gas share \$6.00. Leaders:

Pauline Daling and Dick Stewart 613-421-6494
pdaling@rogers.com, dickstewart@rogers.com

Sunday, March 8 Snowshoe in Gatineau Park

Level 2 Lac Philippe Gas \$6. Meet at Tunney's Pasture at 9:15 for departure at 9:30. Leader: Sheila Parry, 613-737-4727

RTA Donations

Consider a donation to the Rideau Trail Association or the Rideau Trail Preservation Fund to celebrate those important events (Christmas, anniversaries, retirement, Mother's Day, etc.), or in memoriam. An official receipt for income tax purposes will be issued for a donation of \$10 or more. Now you can donate online at <http://rideautrail.org/onlineorderform.html> or use the [membership application](#).

Many Thanks to Our Recent Donors!

Dora Hunter (in memory of Patricia Henderson)
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ISRAEL

March 9 to 22, 2015

Fascinating and complex, Israel offers immense diversity. Hike the lush vineyards of the Golan Heights & the deep canyons of the Judean Desert, plus the famed Jesus Trail from Nazareth to the Sea of Galilee. We shall visit Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, Masada, Bethlehem and Tel Aviv, and although this holiday is not religious by design, we cannot help but be immersed in the dominant role it has played for centuries.

CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

April 15 to 27, 2015

Thousands of pilgrims have walked before us, and it is finally time to add our own footsteps to this historical journey in the north of Spain. Walk the last 152km, staying in lovely hotels along the way while having your luggage transported for you. Meet other pilgrims and share your stories, finally concluding your adventure in Obradoiro Square overlooking the gothic cathedral that has inspired so many. Collect your "compostelas" and forever wear this trip as a badge of honour. "Buen camino!"

KENYA

July 5 to 17, 2015

Don't just *drive* through Kenya – hike it too! Imagine encountering herds of zebras, giraffes and gazelles right on your path! Travel to 3 different parts of the country, take in incredible sunsets over the savannah, visit Masai herdsman in their homes and, of course, see lions, elephants & leopards on our game drives. Accommodations include luxury tented camps and one night at The Ark! And did you know that July is the coolest month of the year in Kenya?

PERU & MACHU PICCHU

September 12 to 25, 2015

Spend a week exploring the Sacred Valley of the Incas by hiking through the famed salt pans of Maras, the ancient ruins of Pisac, and trekking high up into the Urubamba mountain range. Then that all important day arrives when we hike into Machu Picchu – rounding the corner of the Sun Gate and seeing Machu Picchu with your own eyes will give you goose bumps. From the Sacred Valley, journey south to Lake Titicaca for hikes on Uros, Amantani and Taquile islands.

TURKEY

October 17 to 28, 2015

Hike in Cappadocia with its secret frescoed churches, underground cities and volcanic tuff sculpted into fairy chimneys. Visit ancient ruins, shop the bazaars of Istanbul and take a history lesson through time. Steeped in tradition and a masterpiece of nature, Turkey will impress you.

CUBA

November 15 to 27, 2015

Forget the resorts and come see the real Cuba! Hike through jungle-like forests, picturesque colonial towns & sugar cane fields. Explore the Viñales Valley, swim in the San Juan River pools & have lunch on a coffee plantation. Get a true feel for what Cuba is really all about – culturally, scenically and historically, and have yourself an experience you will talk about forever.

KINGSTON CLUB ACTIVITIES — WINTER 2014-2015

The meeting place, unless stated otherwise, is the **Canadian Tire parking lot**, along Bath Road, towards the gas station. Be there shortly before departure time for carpooling. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, etc. Wear strong footwear, and come prepared for weather changes. Passengers are asked to share fees for parking and park access, and to contribute towards gas costs. Please review the Participants' Responsibilities on [page 20](#). If questions arise, please contact the leader in advance.

Leaders: Waiver/sign-up sheets are available on the RTA Web site (www.rideautrail.org) or from Sharen Yaworski. Please forward completed forms to her: 51 Connaught St. Kingston K7K 4W4 sharenann@gmail.com

Hiking pace scale: slow = 2–3 km/h; moderate = 3–4 km/h; fast = 4–5 km/h; very fast = 5+ km/h.

Look for More Activities in the Monthly e-Letter

Additional activities may be announced in the monthly e-letter and will appear on the RTA Web site. RTA members who do not currently receive the e-letter and wish to can send their e-mail address to membership@rideautrail.org. If you do not have Internet access, arrange to keep updated through a friend, relative or buddy in the RTA.

Wednesday Walkers depart Canadian Tire at 1:30 for a Level 1 walk every Wednesday afternoon. These are ideal for those who would like some healthy social exercise at an easy pace. For information call John Beck, 613-544-6119.

Ski Weekend in the Laurentians Friday to Sunday, January 30 to February 1

Skate, ski XC or DH, snowshoe... Cost: \$350, double occupancy- includes return bus from Kingston or Brockville to Hôtel Le Chantecler in Ste. Adèle., QC. Contact John Page (613) 389-7840 or Joan Patterson: jpatterson@maritimetravel.ca Full details are on page 5 of the Fall newsletter.

Friday December 5

Annual Foley Mountain Christmas Tree Hike and Sing

Level 1 Cover story - easy pace, 1.4 km. from Park gates to the Christmas Tree. Get into the spirit of the season by joining us for our 8th season as we sing traditional carols by the base of the Christmas tree on Foley Mountain. Optional dinner/refreshments afterwards at The Cove in Westport. The Cove does require a reservation, so contact the leaders if you plan to attend. Bring a flashlight and your icers. Carol sheets are provided. Depart from Kingston at 5:30 pm. Not meeting as a group at Canadian Tire, so call or e-mail ahead to arrange car-pooling, or meet at Park gates 6:15 pm. No dogs please (Service Animals excepted).

Leaders: Gunhild Karius and Bill Ottney,
karius1@cogeco.ca 613-858-3183

Saturday Dec 6 Lemoine Point Walk

Level 1, easy pace, ~10 km. Walk the trails at Lemoine Point taking in the lake vistas with a visit to the plant nursery and dog park including a discussion about these

places. Depart CT 10 am or meet at the Coverdale Parking Lot (north side) at 10:15 am. Gas \$2. Leader: Bruce Bromfield 613-634-9409

Sunday Dec 7 WildWood and Gananoque Trails

Level 1 or a bit of Level 2, depending on weather conditions. About 10-12 km, moderate pace. No inside lunch break this time. Depart 9 am. Gas \$3 (If you can meet the group for the leader, please call!) Leader: John Cornish 613-382-4778.

Saturday Dec 13 Frontenac Park Dedication Trail

Level 2, moderate pace, 10 km. Hike or Snowshoe the newest trail in Frontenac Park from the Trail Centre and enjoy the early winter scenery. Depart CT at 9:30 am. Gas \$4 plus share of Park entry fee. Leader: Peter Burbidge 613-634-1877

Sunday December 14 Local Kingston Walk

Level 1, easy pace, 5-8 km (about 3 hrs). Walk from former King St. West Trailhead for a pleasant view of the Lake or Cataraqui River depending on direction taken and the trail conditions. Option to gather at restaurant afterward. Meet at Trailhead 9:30 am. Leader: Bob Chadwick 613-544-9222

Saturday Dec 20 Little Cataraqui Conservation Area

Level 1-2, easy pace, ~10 km. Walk, or ski around the lake and enjoy the winter scenery close to home. Depart CT at 10 am. Gas \$2 plus share of entry fee. Leader: Audrey Sanger 613-384-6244



Winter End-to-End Weekend 1

Merrickville to Roger Stevens Dr. - hiking or skiing.

Friday January 2- Night Hike

About 2 hours- meet in Merrickville to leave at 7 pm.

Saturday January 3 Meet to leave at 9 am.

Sunday January 4 Meet to leave at 8:30 am.

Details on page 7. Leader: Bill Murdoch 613-767-4858 (or cell 613-483-7909)

Sunday January 4 Cataraqui Trail

Level 1, moderate pace. Distance dependent on conditions. Hwy 15 to Chaffey's Lock. Depart at 9 am. Gas \$4 (If you can meet the group for the leader, please call!) Leader: John Cornish 613-382-4778

Saturday January 10 Lemoine Point Ski or Walk

Level 1, easy pace, ~5 km. Meet at 10:30 am. at Lemoine Point Front Road parking lot. Outing to be followed by brown bag lunch at leader's home, tea or coffee provided. Leader: Lynn Nolan 613-389-8747
lynn.m.nolan@gmail.com.

Sunday January 11 Local Kingston Walk

Level 1, easy pace, 5-8 km (about 3 hrs). Walk from former King St. West Trailhead for a pleasant view of the Lake or Cataraqui River depending on direction taken and the trail conditions. Option to gather at restaurant afterward. Meet at Trailhead 9:30 am. Leader: Bob Chadwick 613-544-9222



Winter End-to-End Weekend 2

Saturday-Sunday, January 17-18

Meet to leave at 8:30 am. Details on page 7. Leader: Bill Murdoch 613-767-4858 (or cell 613-483-7909)

Saturday January 17 Frontenac Park

Level 3, moderate pace, 12 km. Snowshoe the Bufflehead Trail from the Trail Centre. Enjoy the ridges and valleys of this beautiful winter wonderland. Depart CT at 9 am. Gas \$4 plus share of Park fee. Leader: Peter Burbidge 613-634-1877

Sunday January 18 Local Kingston Walk

Level 1, easy pace, 5-8 km (about 3 hrs). Walk from former King St. West Trailhead for a pleasant view of the Lake or Cataraqui River depending on direction taken and the trail conditions. Option to gather at restaurant afterward. Meet at Trailhead 9:30 am. Leader: Bob Chadwick 613-544-9222

Saturday January 24 K&P Trail Extravaganza

Level 2, moderate pace, ~10 km. Come and ski, hike, or snowshoe where the trains used to go. Listen for the whistle. Depart CT at 9:30 am. Gas \$2. Leader: Audrey Sanger 613-384-6244

Friday-Sunday Jan. 30-Feb. 1 Laurentian Ski Weekend

Contact: John Page (613) 389-7840

Saturday January 31 Lemoine Point Conservation Area

Level 1, moderate pace, 10 km. Ski, hike or snowshoe. Lots of wildlife to see. Bring lunch. We will have hot or cold drinks at Tim Hortons in the afternoon. Depart CT at 10 am. Gas \$2. Leader: Stan Huff, 613-548-3003

Mark your spring calendar.
Kingston Club Annual Meeting
Wednesday, April 22, 2015
Ongwanada Resource Centre



Winter End-to-End Weekend 3

Saturday-Sunday, February 7-8

Meet to leave at 8:30 am. Details on page 7.. Leader: Bill Murdoch 613-767-4858 (or cell 613-483-7909)

Saturday February 7 Gananoque Provincial Wildlife Area Snowshoe or Hike

Level 2, moderate pace, distance dependent upon conditions. Enjoy this back-country realm we have not visited for a while. Depart at 9 am. Gas \$3. (If you can meet the group for the leader, please call!) Leader: John Cornish 613-382-4778

*** Thursday * February 12 Market Square Skate**

Lace up and skate under the stars or snowflakes. Rehydration and conversation to follow. Meet at the rink at 7 pm. Leader: Elgin Bock 613-389-4216

Sunday February 15 Little Cataraqui Conservation Area

Level 1, moderate pace, 10 km. Ski on trail or walk beside it. Wildlife in the trees. Lunch in a warm building. Enjoy the outdoors, fresh air and friends old and new. Depart at 10 am. Gas \$2 plus Park fee. Leader: Stan Huff 613-548-3003



Winter End-to-End-Weekend 4

Saturday-Sunday, February 21-22

Meet to leave at 8:30 am. Details on page 7. Leader: Bill Murdoch 613-767-4858 (or cell 613-483-7909)

Saturday February 21 Frontenac Park

Level 1, easy pace, 8 km. Ski, or snowshoe from Trail Centre to Big Salmon Lake and return. Enjoy winter scenery and participate in challenge to identify wildlife tracks with free hot chocolate at the Trail Centre for the winner! Depart CT at 9 am. Gas \$4 plus share of Park fee. Leader: Elgin Bock 613-389-4216

Sunday February 22 Winter E2E

Meet to leave at 8:30 am. Contact leader for location. Leader: Bill Murdoch 613-767-4858 first, or 613-483-7909

Sunday March 1 Amherst Island Cycle

Level 1, easy pace, 17 km. Ride the eastern part of Amherst Island enjoying the vast vistas of Lake Ontario.

Meet at Ferry Dock to leave on the 9:30 am. Ferry (\$1.50 fee). Leader: Peter Burbidge 613-634-1877

Adopt a Trail?

Could you cover a short section of the Trail to keep it clear of debris? Stan Huff, Trail Maintenance Coordinator for the club, will look after the big stuff. Contact Stan at 613-548-3003 or stanandlouise@gmail.com.

* Thursday * March 5 Kingston Historical Walk

Level 1, easy pace, 6 km. Meet at Tim Hortons by the ferry dock and walk to Fort Henry and return. Leader: Peter Burbidge 613-634-1877

Saturday March 7 Kingston Waterfront Walk

Level 1 or 2, easy pace, 7 or 14 km. Here is your chance to walk from the old Trailhead downtown along the new Rideau Waterfront Trail and return on foot or take the bus back. Lunch downtown. Meet and Depart Trailhead on King St. West at 9:30 am. Leader: Audrey Sanger 613-384-6244

Saturday, March 14 – Annual Spring Pot Luck Dinner Party

Step out of winter and walk into spring. Join us for this special pot luck dinner to kick off the season. BYOB. Fruit punch, coffee, tea provided. \$3 per person at the door towards room rental fee
Time: 6:00 pm at 144 Albert Street. (Queen's Women's Association,)

RSVP: Linda Line Tel: 613-531-4353

Please tell Linda you'll lend a hand with this special event.

Kingston Club Executive, 2014-2015

Chair: Sharen Yaworski
Past Chair: Don Coulter
Vice Chair (Board Rep.): Doug Hayes
Secretary: **vacant**

Treasurer: Lynn Esau
Publicity and Communications: Lynn Nolan, Lars Thompson
Construction: Jim Lorimer
Maintenance: Stan Huff

Outings: Peter Burbidge
Routes and Negotiations: Susan Irving
Special Events: Linda Line
Human Resources: Lorna Deyo
Newsletter Editor: John Cornish



100 Hikers 100 Hikes: This soft cover book is a collection of brief, hiker-written accounts and stories of trails hiked in Canada and elsewhere.

The locations include all the continents except Australia. Trails throughout Ontario are prominent, but it also includes the Rockies, Newfoundland, the Camino and many others.

Bill Murdoch ([page 7](#)) bought a few extra, discounted copies and will share the savings with interested members.

Participants' Responsibilities and Levels of Difficulty

Choose a trip suited to your abilities. Inform the leader, at the start, of any health problem or potential difficulty with equipment. Respect financial obligations. Supervise your child. Support and cooperate with the leader.

Hiking/Snowshoeing Levels of Difficulty

Level 1: Well-defined trails; gentle inclines.

Level 2: Generally on trail. May be hilly, with light bushwhacking, rough spots or obstacles.

Level 3: Rough terrain. One or more of extensive bushwhacking, steep sections, long climbs and descents, rock climbing and obstacles. Level 2 experience and **high level of fitness essential**.

Cross-Country Skiing Levels of Difficulty

Level 0: Easy, slow, short (15 km or less).

Level 1: Easy. Small hills; wide trails.

Level 2: Intermediate. Narrower, steeper trails.

Level 3: Expert. Steep, narrow trails and/or bushwhacking

WALK THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

Self-guided walks starting in Leon, Spain

\$2300 Cdn (based on double occupancy) includes:

- 13 nights pre-booked accommodation in comfortable small hotels and inns with private bath
- Breakfast daily plus 12 dinners including table wine
- Luggage transfer from inn to inn (one bag per guest)
- Maps, route notes, guide book, use of a Spanish cell phone, pilgrim credentials
- Local English-speaking host on call for assistance
- Train ticket from Madrid to Leon

Itinerary can be customised with shorter daily distances
Guided group walks in May and September.



Walkers World / Teachers' Travel

21 St Clair Ave E # 1003, Toronto, ON M4T 1L9

Phone 416-922-2232 1-800-268-7229

e-mail info@teacherstravel.com

Visit our website

www.walkersworld.com

tico 1185985



Bruce and the Unknown Picker

**"It makes you feel like a
good citizen!"**

Last October, 16 RTA volunteers arrived to help with our 'adopted road' clean up, where Rogers Stevens Drive crosses the Trail.

The rain held off, and it was a welcome lunch at the pub afterwards. Thanks to Brian LaDuke, Gail Clement and Denise Hall for organizing this activity, each spring and fall.

With files and photos from Denise Hall



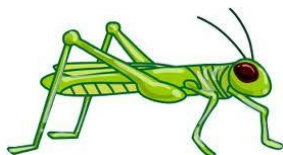
Brian Distributes the Gear

HELP PRESERVE THE LEGACY!

The RTA is committed to preserving Ontario's second-longest continuous footpath and encouraging use of its trail system through nearly 400 km of scenic beauty between Kingston and Ottawa. Your membership provides essential financial support to protect and improve this world-class treasure. Mail this form with a cheque to Rideau Trail Association, PO Box 15, Kingston ON K7L 4V6 or use <http://rideautrail.org/onlineorderform.html> and pay online.

Individual Membership (age at least 18 years) ☐ One year \$25.00 ☐ Two years \$45.00 Household Membership (2 adults, 1 address) ☐ One year \$40.00 ☐ Two years \$75.00 Trail Maps: available at www.rideautrail.org FREE ☐ Set of all 21 maps on waterproof paper \$30.00 (see page 5 to save by buying in person) Accessories ☐ Car Sticker (free to new members) \$1.00 ☐ RTA Hiker Name Pin. Fill in box below \$7.00 ☐ Cloth Crest \$2.00 ☐ Enamelled Pin \$6.00 Merchandise with RTA logo: see page 22 Donations ☐ Rideau Trail Association* \$ _____ ☐ Rideau Trail Preservation Fund* \$ _____ TOTAL \$ _____ Prices subject to change * Qualifies for official receipt for income tax purposes if \$10.00 or more (Charitable Reg. No. 11911 9485RR 0001) Membership year is April 1 to March 31. If you join after October 31, your membership will extend to the end of the next membership year.	Membership Category (circle): New Renewing (Please Print) Name(s): _____ Address: _____ Postal Code: Telephone Number(s): _____ E-mail address(es) (for the monthly e-letter, the weekly Ottawa e-notice, occasional other e-mailed communications and Web access to the newsletter): _____ ☐ Please do not send me a printed copy of the newsletter. I will use the Web version. The RTA does not share member information with other organizations.
In addition to enjoying hiking and other activities sponsored by the local clubs, there are many other ways to be actively involved in the RTA. Check any activities on the right that interest you. You will be contacted when your help is needed. Name on name pin (please print in CAPITAL LETTERS)	☐ Maintaining a section of the trail ☐ Helping with construction projects ☐ Leading hikes ☐ Leading cross-country ski or snowshoe outings ☐ Helping with publicity ☐ Organizing social events ☐ Serving on the Executive ☐ Other (please specify): _____

What was going on at the Perth Wildlife Reserve last September?



FAMILY NATURE HIKE

by Mary Robinson

If you were one of the blue jays at the Perth Wildlife Reserve that Saturday afternoon you would have seen children whooshing butterfly nets and waving plastic containers shouting, "Look what I found!" or "Ah, it got away!" You would also have observed adults taking bugs from nets and from little hands and putting them in a glass cage for viewing. Adults and children were looking here and there - on plants, in the meadows, in the woods for bugs, butterflies and other creatures. Everybody was involved and having fun!

The event was a Family Nature Hike led by nature guide and member Jim Ronson and hike leader Dorothy Hudson. It attracted children ranging from pre-school to junior high. Enjoying the day with them were their parents, grandparents, friends and Central Club members.



Woolly Bear...



...Caterpillar - becomes a Tiger Moth



With several pairs of eyes looking, we found many interesting creatures within a couple of hours. Among the highlights

were a wood frog (pictured at right), several meadow-hawk dragonflies (vicious creatures which attack prey much bigger than themselves), grasshoppers and a baby water-snake. Other discoveries included crickets, butterflies, a spider, a bumble bee, and the blue jays who observed all the activity.

Not only did we find animal creatures in the fields, Jim pointed out beautiful wild flowers that anybody would be proud to have in their garden. We also saw parachute seeds in the milk weed pods, spore cases on the ferns, a 'muscle tree' in the woods, and a gorgeous clump of trees in fall colours.



Wood Frog



Painted Turtle

Later in the afternoon over refreshments, Jim asked the participants what creature they liked the best. Answers varied, but it seemed to be a draw between the little painted turtle and the baby water-snake.

The Central Club of the Rideau Trail is trying to encourage children to become more involved with nature. A winter family hike is scheduled for February 7. Stay tuned for more in the spring.

Photos credits: Tiger Moth unknown; others by Howard Robinson



PM40022816
RETURN UNDELIVERABLE
CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO
Rideau Trail Association
PO Box 15
Kingston ON K7L 4V6

MY FAVOURITE PLACE

Are you a regular visitor to the Rideau Trail? Do you often hike in Frontenac Park? For many members of the Ottawa Club, Gatineau Park is their playground. Some have a place or two they fondly consider to be a favourite place. It might be a pond or a viewpoint, or might be a the location of a significant event.

If you have a favourite spot, how about sharing your joy with the rest of us? Just send a few details to the Newsletter Editor. What do you call it, where is this place, and why do you like it? A photo or two would help to complete the feature.



HARRIENNE'S BENCH

Most of the hikers and skiers in the Ottawa Club know Harrienne Rosenes. Many of them know that the rest stop that Gatineau Park placed on Burma Road (Trail no. 3) has been claimed by Harrienne as her own. She has dibs on the naming rights, unofficially of course. Everyone is welcome to pause there for a rest. "I love the way the afternoon sun in winter lights the pond and warms this spot." Photos: Steve Kelly

WAIT 'TIL NEXT YEAR



If winter seems to drag on, take heart. Spring and summer offer splashes of colour along the Rideau Trail. Here near Roger Stevens Drive, the characteristic blue of the rare, Fringed Gentian (right) is a treat, but spotting a Yellow Ladyslipper (left) is no less interesting. Thanks for the bouquet to Trail Maintainers Micheline and Claude Bouchard.

