

Rideau Trail

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015
Issue # 175

RIDIN' THE FERRY AT BEDFORD MILLS!
(Story on page 2)



New Kingston End to End Badge

There are 5 Rideau Trail end-to-end badges, including one for each of the Club sections. The new Kingston badge reflects the present start of the Rideau Trail in Confederation Park in front of the Kingston City Hall opposite the Shoal Martello Tower, featured in the badge.

Those that have completed the Kingston section in the past may continue to display the old triangle badge with pride; as of now, those who complete the Kingston section will receive this new badge.



As for all badges, you must be a member of the RTA during the time you do your E2E. A log of the various sections of trail completed must be submitted to receive the badge. (For the Kingston section submit the log to the Kingston representative- Doug Hayes hayesd@ripnet.com, 613-925-5872 along with your address.) Kingston likes to present the badges at the Kingston AGM, the next of which is 22 April, 2015 at the Ongwanada Resource Centre.

The Rideau Trail is a living thing and recent rerouting and extensions have increased the total length to about 327 km. The Kingston section is now 153.2 km from Confederation Park to the Lally Homestead in Murphy's Point Provincial Park. Your log should reflect the length of the section at the time you traversed it. *Story & Photo by Don Coulter*



Cover Photo: Sarah van Tol (front) shows Ken Trischuk how it's done. To quote Sarah's Dad, Bryan (whom we thank for the photo): " No swimming required. The pull-wire ferry is a definite highlight on this part of the Rideau Trail. Aside from being a small scale feat of ingenuity, it also provides a fun example on the importance of teamwork and good balance."

Wouldn't it be great to have more families racking up shared memories of good times hiking together?

" Hey, what's the weight limit on this ferry??"

Photo left: Miu Lam

The ferry north of Bedford Mills is one of the truly memorable icons of travelling the Rideau Trail. The high beaver dam that formerly provided a somewhat precarious crossing, finally became too risky - as demonstrated by the total -immersion experiences of more than one crosser. So, Kingston Club's Tony Parfitt, then our Construction Coordinator, designed this ingenious ferry which can be retrieved by hikers from either side. Trail Maintenance boss Robin Turkington and a gang of sturdy trail sherpas hauled in the components on their backs. Reassembled on the spot, it has served for the better part of a decade. When

out of service, there is a picturesque blue trail which provides an alternate crossing. This part of the Trail is maintained by Linda Tucker and her family - quite a challenge, year after year. Thanks to all the named and unnamed volunteers who have kept this such a fun component of our Trail.



RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION 44TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, June 13, 2015

Royal Canadian Legion – 7 Main Street East, Smith Falls

9:30-10:00 am	Registration, refreshments, meet and mingle
10:00-12:00 pm	Business meeting and presentation of awards
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch – bring your own
1:00-5:00 pm	Hikes will be offered, or time to explore the town/museums
4:30-5:30 pm	Cash bar
5:30 pm	Dinner
6:30 pm	Guest Speaker: Guy Thatcher – author of books on the Camino

Dinner Menu:

Chicken, beef or vegetarian with salad, vegetables, potatoes, and dessert (pies, tea, coffee).

Reservation for & Payment for Meal:

Total cost for the meal is \$25.00 per person.

You must reserve ahead of time. Send a cheque made payable to “Rideau Trail Association in Trust” to: Denise Hall, 67 Palmadeo Dr., Nepean, ON K2J 4Z3. Please indicate your choice of meat (beef, chicken or vegetarian) when sending the cheque. Gluten free diets can be accommodated if indicated as well.

May 29 is the deadline to order a meal. Any questions concerning the meal please email rebeccahall@rogers.com or phone 613-843-8222. Reserved dinner tickets can be picked up at registration time.

Transportation:

If you require transport or are willing to be a driver contact:

Central Dorothy Hudson

dhudson9@cogeco.ca or 613-283-0332

Kingston Sharen Yaworski

sharenann@gmail.com or 613-544-6022

Ottawa Denise Hall rebeccahall@rogers.com or 613-843-8222

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

YOUR ACTIVITIES:

Kingston Club	9
Central Club	13
Ottawa club	16

Participants' Responsibilities

January Board Meeting Highlights	6
End-to-End Badges	7
Map & Compass - Finding His Way	8
Members' Corner - NEW FEATURE	8
Recent Donors	15
New Members	21
RTA Renewal & Order Form	21
Kingston Marshlands Boardwalk	23

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



WANTED: We really need someone to develop and maintain our presence on Facebook and Twitter. If you're a skilled social media user, we need YOU!

Contact Denise Hall
rebeccahall@rogers.com
or one of the Club chairs

MARCH IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Use form on Page 21

or

Renew online at www.rideautrail.org

Rideau Trail Association Newsletter

SPRING 2014 Issue 175

Rideau Trail Association

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

Telephone:

Kingston and RTA: (613) 545-0823

Central: (613) 264-8338

Ottawa: (613) 860-2225

Web Page: www.rideautrail.org

Electronic Mail: info@rideautrail.org

Webmaster: Paul Jean (613) 830-2853

web@rideautrail.org

E-Letter Editor: Sandra Lopes

e-letter@rideautrail.org

(The e-letter is an e-mailed monthly listing of activities and special notices that updates the Newsletter)

**The RTA does not share its mailing list
with other organizations.**

*The triangle design on the covers of this Newsletter is a
Registered Trademark of the Rideau Trail Association.*

*The Rideau Trail Newsletter is published quarterly in March,
June, September and December by the Rideau Trail Association.
Unless otherwise stated, the opinions expressed in this Newsletter
are not necessarily those of the Rideau Trail Association. .*

© 2014 Rideau Trail Association ISSN 0709-7085

Editor for this issue: John Cornish, Kingston

Summer Newsletter DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2015

We want your submissions! If possible, text should be sent electronically with no document formatting. Pictures are very welcome, with good definition and contrast.

Send material directly to Ottawa editor:

Steve Kelly 6 Beaverton Ave. Ottawa, ON K2P 1J7
stkelly@rogers.com 613 422-1318

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION is a
member of HIKE ONTARIO

Corrections and Apology:

Spring 2014 Issue, page 10: it was reported that free trail maps for SE Ontario could be obtained at www.explorethearch.ca. No longer true: free maps are now at:

www.frontenacarchbiosphere.ca/explore.

Editor John Cornish, who added this resource to Ken Gullins' article, apologizes for the error.

In the Winter 2014 issue, Gunhild Karius was given co-credit for the article re: Carol Singing on Foley Mountain. Sole credit should be Bill Ottney's. Sorry, Bill and Gunhild!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Currently Vacant
Past President:	Robert Groves, Lanark
(613) 259-3175	grovesgroup@sympatico.ca
Vice President:	Denise Hall, Ottawa
(613) 843-8222	rebeccahall@rogers.com
Secretary	Liz Choros, Nepean
(613) 224-9064	lizchoros@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Joy Webster, Perth
(613) 229-3224	jgweb@gmail.com
Membership Director	Sheila Menard, Kingston
(613) 544-3110	sushe@sympatico.ca
Trail Coordinator:	Jim Lorimer, Kingston
(613) 373-2847	lorimerjd@gmail.com
Marketing/Communications:	Currently Vacant
Newsletter Editors:	
Ottawa:	Steve Kelly, Ottawa
613 422-1318	stkelly@rogers.com
Kingston:	John Cornish, Gananoque
613) 382-4778	cornish@kos.net
Club Chairpersons:	
Ottawa:	Sheila Parry, Ottawa
(613) 737-4727	msparry@rogers.com
Kingston:	Sharen Yaworski, Kingston
(613) 544-602	sharenann@gmail.com
Central:	Dorothy Hudson, Smith Falls
(613) 283-0332	dhudson9@cogeco.ca
Club Representatives:	
Ottawa:	Graham Creedy, Ottawa
(613) 789-1657	gcreedy@rogers.com
Kingston:	Doug Hayes, Prescott
(613) 925-5872	hayesd@ripnet.com
Central:	Gill Hyland Perth
(613)-267-5756	ghyland2@cogeco.ca

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.

Friends Lost, but Not Forgotten

We are sad to have lost three longstanding and active members who were known and respected by so many in RTA. We will fondly remember their participation in and contribution to the activities of their Clubs and the Association.



Sybil and Peck Peckover

Sybil and Peck joined the Kingston Club in 1990, soon after their move from Montreal to Kingston. For more than 20 years, they enjoyed the friendships and memories forged through hikes and social events. Peck enjoyed his roles as trail maintainer and hike leader for many years, particularly leading the Thanksgiving hike up Rock Dunder, which earned him the name "Dunderhead"!

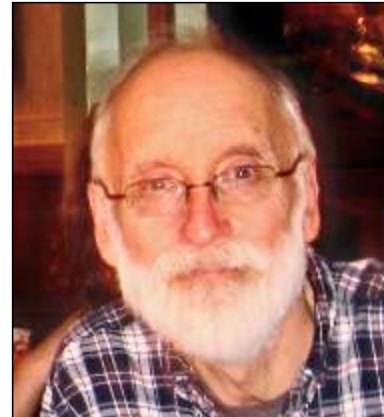
Highlights of their hiking career were completing the Rideau Trail end-to-end, the Grand Canyon rim-to-rim, the ancient city of Petra, and the Canadian far north. Sybil died on 15 January, 2015 at age 86, and Peck soon after her on 8 February at age 93. May they rest in peace.

Joan Patterson, daughter

About Peck

I never realized how much I would miss my dear old friend. He had become a part of my life - a relationship that began when sharing our Rideau Trail Club responsibilities. Dear Sybil appreciated our friendship which was verified by those around her. I will miss his phone calls each night and our regular lunches together. These lunches used to combine a walk. The walks had to cease when legs gave out. He spoke so well at Sybil's memorial service and then he was gone.

Jean Thompson



Grant Francis Malinsky

Oct.6, 1944 - Dec.5, 2014

It is with sadness that the Ottawa Club reports the recent death of one of its members.

Grant was an avid hiker who was an active member in the RTA until his illnesses began a few years ago. He could be likened only to "Jackrabbit-Johannsen" on snowshoes, as he was fast and strong.

Over his lifetime he went on many long treks in Ontario, in Spain and France.

He was a quiet, capable hike leader who was intelligent, respectful, and witty. He enjoyed the social comradery of sharing a beer with his hiking buddies at the pub.

We will miss you Grant!



Memorial Hike in honour of Sybil and Peck Peckover, as requested by the family:
ROCK DUNDER on Saturday, June 20.

RTA BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2015 McMartin House, Perth

By Denise Hall, Vice President

President: No report, due to the vacant position.

Treasurer: Joy Webster sent a written report. It was decided to defer the few questions that we had to our next meeting. Her analysis of the printing costs of our newsletter over 2013 and 2014 concluded that Printfusion in Kingston is giving us a generous price for the printing of our quarterly newsletters.

Membership: Sheila Menard sent a written report about how the club goes about reminding members to renew their memberships. The bottom line is, if one renews a membership in a timely manner it saves the club money and the extra work for Sheila. Currently our annual membership stands at **763**. ***We have 190 members with a membership expiry of March 31st 2016 or later, leaving about 573 members who will be up for renewal this coming March 2015.*** There continues to be a very positive response to PayPal and to the 2-year renewal option.

Communications and Marketing: This position remains vacant. A number of Board members as well as members from all three clubs attended a morning workshop on November 29, 2014 at McMartin House in Perth. Dr. David Large, a marketing specialist, conducted the workshop for us to address the issues of membership and our need for filling executive positions such as the role of Communications and Marketing. It was a positive meeting with good discussion. A number of recommendations were made which the executive will continue to work towards.

Trail Routing, Securement and Maintenance:

Trail coordinator **Jim Lorimer**, talked about the difficulty of keeping on top of change in ownership of landowner properties through which our trail runs. Landowners often do not inform the RTA Routes and Negotiations Coordinators of sales, so it is an ongoing challenge for them to keep their landowner data bases up to date. This can take a considerable amount of time, driving and effort. Jim has looked into a software package which would solve this issue of driving to township and land registry offices for information. It will cost money but would certainly be more efficient and perhaps cost saving in the end. The Board certainly recognizes the value in having this software and has given Jim the go ahead to keep researching the costs of the system..

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) is in negotiations with the Westport Lions Club to manage some of the Lions' property. Since our trail runs through part of this, it may affect the RTA in that we might have to make upgrades to our trail (RVCA standards are more stringent) in this area. David Miller, who has been associated with the RTA and who lives in Westport, will monitor the situation.

Jim will be sending a letter out to a number of parliamentary members including our premier bringing to their attention a Hike Ontario initiative, namely, **"A Trail Incentive for Rural Landowners"**. This incentive basically would give the landowners a tax property credit if they allowed clubs like ours to use a portion of their properties for our trails.

Newsletter: Steve Kelly, newsletter editor from Ottawa commented on the timely fashion that the winter newsletter was printed and delivered by Printfusion. 684 copies were mailed out to members and the remaining 116 copies that were distributed amongst the three clubs for administration and promotional purposes.

Club Report Highlights:

Ottawa: Sheila Parry reported that its AGM will be held on April 10th at the Canterbury Community Centre (this is a change from our originally planned location). Of the current executive, 5 positions will be vacant at the end of this term. Some of these positions have tentative names put forward but the roles of treasurer, publicity and routes/negotiations do not. Planning for the June 13th RTA-AGM is well underway (see advertisement). We have been contacted by a woman organizing a Jane's Walk event on the Rideau Trail in early May. If a leader is found to conduct a walk within the RTA it could help bring attention to our organization. The Ottawa Club has lowered its gas contributions for carpooling to events for now until such time gas prices rise again.

Central: Dorothy Hudson reported that a winter Family hike has been scheduled for February 7th at the Perth Wildlife Reserve. Snowshoes will be borrowed from a local school. A snowshoe conditioning class run by the Tay Side Reflections Gym and proposed and coordinated by RTA member Jim Ronson is going ahead with 9 participants. Work on the trail reroute from Frizell Rd. to Port Elmsley continues. The vacant Routes and Negotiations role has been filled. Recruitment for a Vice-Chair is underway. The Central Club will hold an Open House at McMartin House on March 29th. Jack Tannett will be presenting a slide show of his 2014 end-to-end hike on the Rideau Trail. Central's AGM will be held on April 19th.

Kingston: Sharen Yaworski reported that the Kingston RTA was holding its annual volunteer/landowner appreciation party on the 25th of January. With the intent of drawing in more members, Sharen signed up for the Kingston Outdoor Adventure Club on the "Meet UP" website and entered two of the Kingston RTA hikes. 9 respondents joined these hikes altogether. Kingston elected to design a new end-to-end badge for the Kingston section. A Spring End-to-End is planned. It will start at the northern end on April 11th at Lally Farm and it will end on June 13th in downtown Kingston. A dinner will be planned at some downtown establishment where the new badges can be distributed to the participants. The Kingston AGM will be held on April 22nd. The position of secretary is still vacant.

SKYLINE HIKERS OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES



*Celebrating 82 years of
backcountry hiking in the Canadian Rockies!*

Enjoy a first class wilderness experience with this non-profit organization. Hikers carry only a daypack, but must be fit for mountain hiking.

2015 Base Camp Location: Palliser Pass in Banff National Park. *Camp fee is \$1,035 per person, per camp, and includes return bus transportation from Banff to trailhead, tent accommodation with stove heat, wholesome meals, hot water, camp staff, guided day hikes and evening campfire program.*

2015 Camp dates:

Camp # 1 July 13 to July 18
Camp # 2 July 20 to July 25
Camp # 3 July 27 to August 1
Camp # 4 August 3 to August 8
Camp # 5 August 10 to August 15

For information & free brochure contact:

1-866-445-3774

e-mail: registrar@skylinehikers.ca

website: www.skylinehikers.ca

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.albn.com

www.brownrabbit.nl.ca

March is "Renew your Membership" Month!

Don't know if you've paid?

Check your mailing label on the Back Page to see your renewal date.

Use the form on Page 21.

Or Renew On-Line at www.rideautrail.org - Fast & Easy !

*Mailing renewal reminders costs RTA a lot of money.
You Can Help.*

End-to-End Badges

If you have completed the Rideau Trail end to end from Kingston to Ottawa, and would like to receive a badge at the June 13, 2015, Annual General Meeting, please notify Board Secretary Liz Choros (lizchoros@gmail.com, 613-224-9064) by June 8. Badges will be mailed to those hikers who are 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, listed on the Page 4 of the Newsletter.



"Thumbs Up For Two Valuable and Fun Programs."

I started hiking this last year. While bushwhacking, and even sometimes when on trail, I would quickly lose my bearings. My primary means of navigation was to blindly follow the hike leader - not so effective if I was to become separated from the group.

When I saw the **Map and Compass course** offered by Cliff and Gloria Daly listed in the RTA Newsletter, I immediately signed-up. I had fond memories of my first (and only) compass which I found in a Christmas stocking decades ago. The red end of the needle pointed north -what could be simpler? When I purchased my new compass, it had a bezel, degrees, a mirror, scales and what looked like an extra needle; quite intimidating for someone who took months to master his television remote control.

Things went from bad to worse when I decided to get a "head start" before the course by going to the internet. I was soon overwhelmed by topographical maps, contour lines, grid scales and magnetic declination. It seemed that an advanced degree in mathematics was a prerequisite for learning.

Fortunately the course was well organized, clearly presented and at a pace I could keep up with. My fellow participants were at a similar level and it was great to meet people I would be hiking with. The learning was reinforced by a short hike in Gatineau Park which allowed us to practice our new skills. The bad news was that, with my memory, much would be lost by the next day.

Not to worry. Cliff and Gloria also created **Navigation (NAV) Days** which they, Pauline Daling and Dick Stewart offered throughout November and December. These days are hikes intended to reinforce and develop map and compass skills. I signed up for a couple and they afforded me the opportunity to "get my feet wet" navigating in a more demanding environment.

While practice has not yet made me perfect, the coaching (and patience) I received substantially increased my level of confidence, both on and off trail.

These programs are suitable for newbies like me, experienced hikers looking to reinforce and develop their skills and for aspiring hike leaders.

Thumbs up for two valuable and fun programs!

MEMBER'S CORNER

Editors Steve and John have been thinking that the Newsletter might devote a small section, when space permits, to highlighting the personal needs, thoughts or requests of individual members.

Need some gear? Selling some Gear.? Need company on a journey you're planning? Need a platform for a viewpoint? You get the idea. Not everything can or should be in the Newsletter. The "referee" of what's included will be the editor.

Hey, let's give it a try! Here's the first:



Seeking Accommodation and Tips For Rideau End to End Walk Fall 2015

"They say we grow old when we stop challenging ourselves." I am 68. I love to walk. In keeping with self-challenges, I have decided to walk the Rideau Trail from end to end. I expect to start mid September. And I am looking for accommodation along the way.

If you are willing to have me as a paying guest for a night or can recommend a bed and breakfast near the trail, please let me know.

My plan is to start in Kingston and walk home to Ottawa. I walk about 20 km a day carrying only a light sleeping bag, clothing and a mid-day meal. I am looking for 18 places at approximately 20 kilometer intervals along the trail where I can have supper, breakfast and be provided with a packed lunch. I won't require linen, just a warm room and a hot shower! A cushy mat on the floor is quite fine. I have no food allergies, no special dietary requirements other than that I like to eat healthy.

Advice is welcome, as in any words of wisdom, especially from someone who has recently walked the trail. Where did you stay, what did you like, what was hard, were hiking boots necessary or were trail shoes more appropriate??

I walked the Camino 8 years ago and from Ottawa to Golden Lake last year and continue to embrace the journey. I look forward to hearing from you. I can be contacted at:

Sue Smee 1208 - 370 Dominion Ave.
Ottawa, ON K2P 1J1
suesmee@rogers.com 613 232-0704

KINGSTON CLUB ACTIVITIES - SPRING 2015

The meeting place for our activities, unless stated otherwise, is the **Canadian Tire parking lot**, along Bath Road, towards the gas station. Be there shortly before the departure time indicated. Bring lunch, extra water, insect repellent, and sunscreen. Wear strong footwear and come prepared for weather changes. Car pooling will be organized. The contribution for gas is indicated for each hike. Car entry fees for Provincial Parks and Conservation Areas are to be shared.

See **"Levels of Difficulty and Participants' Responsibilities"** on **Page 11**

If in doubt about your ability to cope with the outing, call the leader in advance.

Pace Levels: Slow 2-3 km/hr; Moderate 3-4 km/hr; Fast (or Brisk) 4-5 km/hr; Very Fast 5+ km/hr

Hike Leaders: obtain Sign-Up Sheets from Lorna Deyo (613 536 5567). Please forward completed forms to her at 148 Stephen St., Kingston, ON K7K 2C7 or email: lornadeyo@yahoo.ca

SPECIAL NOTICES

KINGSTON CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 22 6:30 p.m. Ongwanada Auditorium, Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston

Guest Speaker: Land Conservancy of KFL&A

See the activity listing for full details

ANNUAL SPRING POTLUCK DINNER : Saturday, March 14

This is one of our most popular social event of the year. Plan to be there!

See details in the Activity listing

INTRODUCTION TO HIKING COURSE

Saturday, May 2, 2015

The Kingston Club and the Cataraqui Conservation Authority (CRCA) are sponsoring a Hike Ontario full-day course for new hikers, and those interested in tips to make hiking safe and enjoyable.

COME YOURSELF - HAVE A FRIEND WHO'D LIKE IT?

Topics include hike planning, preparation, packing, outfitting and on-trail procedures, plus an orientation to hiking with a guided group. The day includes a short hike to practice your new skills.

See the activity listing for full details

KINGSTON SECTION END-TO-END SERIES: See our whole section in a series of hikes. You're welcome to choose those that appeal to you. Or do them all and earn the striking new Kingston E2E badge!

See hikes in listings identified with the  icon.

CATARAQUI TRAIL END-TO-END Starting in April, the Central Club is planning to walk the length of the Cataraqui Trail in a series of hikes ending in the Fall. Please check out www.cataraquitrail.ca for more information on the trail. Hikes are identified in the Central Club listings with the  icon.

HIKE LEADER TRAINING: See **Page 13 Special Notices for Details**

WEDNESDAY WALKERS : We depart at 1:30 p.m. each Wednesday. In addition, an all-day hike is scheduled on the second Wednesday of the month (see activity schedule below for all-day hikes).

The afternoon Wednesday walks are ideal for those who wish some healthy, social exercise at an easy pace.

Information: John Beck, 613-544-6119

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Sunday March 1 Amherst Island Hike or Bike

Level 2, easy pace, 17 km. Hike or bike 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 for bike). Possible visit to Owl Woods. Call leader to find out if it is a bike or hike, Leader: Audrey Sanger 613 384 6244

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 501 Express Bus back to 1000 King St W from Bagot/Brock St. (\$2.75 Adult/\$2.50 Sr.-- exact change) Optional lunch downtown. Meet and Depart Trailhead on King St. West at 9:30 am. Leader: Audrey Sanger 613 384 6244

Sunday March 8 Local Kingston Walk

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

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.

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Queen's Women's Association, 144 Albert Street.

Fee: \$3 per person at the door towards room rental fee.

RSVP: Linda Line Tel: 613-531-4353

Sunday March 15 Local Hike in Kingston

Level 1, easy pace, 12 km. Walk from the old Trailhead to Cataraqui Cemetery and return. We will have lunch/coffee etc in the train station on our return. Gas \$2. Depart CTC parking lot at 10:00 am. Leader: Sandra Muis - 613.484.6110.

Saturday March 21 Gould Lake Conservation Area

Level 2-3, moderate pace, ~12 km. Here's a blast to kick-off Spring! Starting at the Barn, doing the Trail, returning the Ridge Walk. Gas \$4 and share park fee. Depart at 9 am. Leader: John Cornish 613 382 4778

Saturday March 28 End-to-End #1

Lally Farm to Narrows Lock

Level 2, moderate pace, 16 km. Hike the Big Rideau Waterway. Meet at Narrows Lock at 9:30 am and shuttle to Lally Farm. Important for E2E Hikers: Arrive at starting point with only 2 people per small car or 3 if you can take two additional people. RT Map 08. Leader: Don Coulter 613 542 9998

Sunday March 29 End-to-End #2

Narrows to Lions Club Beach

Level 2, moderate pace, 13.6 km Hike the heights of Rideau Lake and Foley Mountain Conservation Area. Meet at Lions Club Beach at 9:30 am. and shuttle to the Narrows. Important for E2E Hikers: Arrive at starting point with only 2 people per small car or 3 if you can take two additional people. RT Maps 07/08. Leader: John Cornish 613 382 4778

Sunday April 5 Little Cataraqui Conservation Area

Level 1, easy pace, ~5 km. All the Easter Bunnies will hop to the Sugar Bush whether or not the sap is running, with opportunity for restaurant lunch to follow. Depart CT 9.30 am. or Little Cat Education Centre at 10 am. Gas \$2 plus park fee. Leader: Bob Chadwick 613 544 9222

Saturday April 11 End-to-End #3 **Lions Club Westport to Bedford Mills**

Level 2, moderate pace, 16.7 km Will the ferry be running? Meet at Bedford Mills (church) at 9:30 am. and shuttle to Lions Club Beach. Important for E2E Hikers: Arrive at starting point with only 2 people per small car or 3 if you can take two additional people. RT Maps 06/07. Leader: Sandra Muis 613 542 8224

Tuesday April 14, Small Slide Lake Loop Level 3, fast pace, 14 km. Hike in from 6767 Perth Road to South Slide Junction, then scramble counterclockwise along the rugged trail through mixed hardwood and a vast network of granite outcrops. We'll take a break on Whale's Back to enjoy Frontenac Park's most spectacular springtime view. Depart CT at 8:30 am. Gas \$4. Leaders: Lynn Esau 343-363-0384 (esaulynn@gmail.com) and Miu Lam 613-544-6201 (ymiu.lam@gmail.com)

Saturday April 18 Frontenac Park Arkon Loop

Level 2 Moderate pace, 13 km. A favourite intermediate hike. Quoting Goldilocks, "Not too long, not too short; not too easy, not too hard" Depart CT 9 am. Gas \$4 plus share park fee. Leader: John Cornish 613 382 4778

Sunday April 19 Local Hike in the Kingston Level 1, easy pace, 6-8 km. Visit historic Barriefield; move onward for lunch on the base - Tim Hortons. Meet at the Fort Henry sign, where we will park cars. Depart at 10 am. Gas \$2. Leader: Sandra Muis 613 484 6110

Wednesday, April 22
Kingston Club Annual General Meeting

Ongwanada Resource Centre Auditorium, 191
Portsmouth Avenue (next to the KFL&A Health Unit)
6:30 pm - 7:00 pm. - Registration, Meet & Mingle,
Refreshments, Door Prizes,
7:00 pm: Business Meeting
8:00 pm. Guest Speaker: A Representative of the Land
Conservancy, KFL&A.
Information: Linda Line 613-531-4353



Saturday April 25 End-to-End #4
Bedford Mills to Opinicon Access

Level 2, moderate pace, 15 km. Hike the bush trails and
railline. Meet at Opinicon Access Road on the Opinicon
Rd. and shuttle to Bedford Mills. RT Map 06. Leaders:
Gunhild Karius karius1@cogeco.ca or Bill Ottney 613-
858-3183

Sunday April 27 Cycle Wolfe Island to Big Sandy Bay

Moderate pace for 15 km. Hike into the beach and see
the wild flowers. Stroll along the sandy beach where we
will have our lunch at a look out. Meet for the 9:30 am.
Ferry. Leader: Pat Casey 613 385 2356

Tuesday April 28, Gould Lake East Side Trails

Level 3, fast pace, 14 km. Spring wildflowers will be
abundant today. We'll zip into the Conservation Area
along the Rideau Trail, then follow the shore-hugging
Tom Dixon Trail to the rugged Mica Loop. Depart CT at
8:30 am. Gas \$3. Leaders: Lynn Esau 343-363-0384
(esaulynn@gmail.com) and Nancy Hunter 613-372-
2157(nancynelles@gmail.com)



Introduction to Hiking Course
Saturday, May 2, 2015

The Kingston Club and the Cataraqui Conservation
Authority (CRCA) are sponsoring a Hike Ontario
full-day course for new hikers and those interested
in tips to make hiking safe and enjoyable.

Topics include hike planning, preparation, packing,
outfitting and on-trail procedures, plus an orienta-
tion to hiking with a guided group. The day in-
cludes a short hike to practice your new skills.

Where: Little Cataraqui Conservation Area, 1641
Perth Rd. (Division Street) Kingston

Time: 9:15 am. to 4:30 pm. The program will start
at 9:30 am. sharp.

Cost: 75\$ including a one year membership in the
Rideau Trail Association (\$50 for members of
RTA), plus \$5.50 Gate Fee unless you are a mem-
ber of the CRCA.

Bring your lunch, a backpack, water, refreshments,
and comfortable clothing for the weather.

To register, or for information contact:

Peter Burbidge at peterbur@kingston.net or call
613 634 1877



Sunday May 3 End-to-End #5
Opinicon Access to Maple Leaf Road

Level 2, moderate pace, 17 km. Beautiful section of the
trail with many ups and downs. Meet at Maple Leaf
Road at 9 am. and shuttle to Opinicon Access Rd.
Important for E2E Hikers: Arrive at starting point with
only 2 people per small car or 3 if you can take two
additional people. RT Map 05. Leaders: Gunhild Karius
karius1@cogeco.ca or Bill Ottney 613-858-3183

Participants' Responsibilities

Participants are expected to choose a trip suitable to their physical abilities and their skill level. At the start they should inform their leader of any health problems or potential difficulties with their equipment. Each participant will respect all financial obligations. The volunteer leaders will expect the support and cooperation of each group member. Parents and guardians are expected to supervise their own children. Dogs are not generally permitted.

Levels of Difficulty

Hiking/Snowshoeing

Level 1 Well defined trails, gentle inclines. Suitable for beginners.

Level 2 Generally on trail. May be hilly, light bush-whacking, some rough spots or obstacles. Boots are recommended.

Level 3 Rough Terrain. One of more of: extensive bush-whacking, steep sections, long climbs and descents, beaver dams or other obstacles, rock climbing. Boots, Level 2 experience and a high level of fitness essential. Long pants and sleeves recommended.

Saturday, May 9 Cataraqui Trail

Level 1, moderate pace, 14 km. New hikers welcome on this easy outing. Hike the Cataraqui Trail from Harrowsmith to Sydenham and return. Lunch stop at Restaurant or bring your lunch. Gas #3. Depart CT 9:30am. RT Map \$3.

Leader: Stan Huff 613 548 3003

Sunday May 10 Mother's Day Paddle and Hike

Paddle Mazinaw Lake and enjoy the views of Mazinaw Rock. See the Aboriginal rock paintings. We will then paddle over to Mazinaw Rock where we will hike (Level 2) to the top and enjoy the views from the look out. Depart CT at 9 am. Gas \$12.00 plus park fee and canoe rental. Leader: Pat Casey 613-385-2356

Tuesday May 12, Big Salmon Lake Loop Level 2/3, fast pace, 19 kms. Circle this sparkling lake at the heart of Frontenac Park. The rugged, rolling trail alternately hugs the shoreline and ascends to the surrounding cliffs. Depart CT at 8:30 am. Gas \$4 plus shared Park fee. Leaders Nancy Hunter 613-372-2157 (nancynelles@gmail.com) and Miu Lam 613-544-6201 (ymiu.lam@gmail.com)

Thursday May 14 Reddendale Area Stroll Level 1, moderate pace, distance tbd. Meet at Centre 70 parking lot off Days Road/Front Rd. at 6:30 pm. Leader: Elgin Bock 613 389 4216

Saturday May 16 Blue Mountain Charleston Lake Level 2, moderate pace, 12 km. We'll stop and smell the flowers, check the views (all views are welcome!) Gas \$6. Depart CT at 9 am. *If you can meet the group for the leader, please call!* Leader: John Cornish 613 382 4778

Sunday May 17 Lemoine Point Walk Level 1, easy pace, 5 km. Gas \$2. Depart from CT at 10 am. Count the different wild flowers. Lunch on the trail. Leader: Sandra Muis 613 484 6110

Sunday May 24 End-to-End #6

Maple Leaf Road to Salmon Lake Road

Level 2, moderate pace, 15 km. Hike through Frontenac Park with great highs and lows. Meet at Salmon Lake Road at 9 am. and shuttle to Maple Leaf Road. Important for E2E Hikers: Arrive at starting point with only 2 people per small car or 3 if you can take two additional people. RT Maps 04/05. Leader: Jim Lorimer 613 305 2849



Tuesday May 26, Upper Rock Lake to Lindsay and Long Lakes Level 3, fast pace, 15 km. Starting at Opinicon Road, this vigorous loop hike incorporates the Rideau and Cataraqui Trails and an exciting segment of bushwhacking. Depart CT at 8:30 am. Gas \$4. RT Map 05. Leaders: Lynn Esau 343-363-0384 (esaulynn@gmail.com) and Miu Lam 613-544-6201 (ymiu.lam@gmail.com)



Saturday May 30 End-to-End #7 **Salmon Lake Rd. to Freeman Road**

Level 2, moderate pace, 15.2 km. Meet at Freeman Road at 9 am. and shuttle to Salmon Lake Rd. Important for E2E Hikers: Arrive at starting point with only 2 people per small car or 3 if you can take two additional people. RT Map 04. Leaders: Jane and Robert Hough 613 373 2268



Sunday May 31 End-to-End #8 **Freeman Road to Unity Road**

Level 2, moderate pace, 19 km. Hike through fields and the K&P Trail from Sydenham. Meet at Unity Road at 9 am. shuttle to Freeman Rd. Important for E2E Hikers: Arrive at starting point with only 2 people per small car or 3 if you can take two additional people. RT Maps 02/03. Leader: Audrey Sanger 613 384 6244



Saturday June 6 End-to-End #9 **Unity Road to City Hall**

Level 2, moderate pace, 22.3 km. Hike the K&P Trail and the Trail through the city to the City Hall Trailhead followed by dinner and presentation of Badges. Meet at Unity Road at 9 am. Volunteers will return drivers to Unity Rd at end of hike. RT Maps 01/02. Leader: Sharen Yaworski 613 544 6022

Saturday June 13
RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION
44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SMITHS FALLS
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

Sunday June 14 Frontenac Park Gibson Lake Loop from Kingsford Dam Level 2-3, moderate pace, 16 km. Some big hills, but still your leader's favourite Frontenac hike. Gas: \$5 Depart CT 9 am. Leader: John Cornish 613 382 4778

Saturday, June 20 Rock Dunder Memorial Hike for Sybil & Peck Peckover
See Summer Newsletter for details.

CENTRAL CLUB ACTIVITIES - SPRING 2015

Meeting Place: for all Central Club hikes, unless otherwise specified, 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. For those of you using GPS the postal code is K7H 0A3.

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.

For more information on each event, please call the leader.

If in doubt about any aspect of the planned hike or other activity, or its suitability for your fitness level, please contact the leader.

Read Participants' Responsibilities & Levels of Difficulty (Page 11)

SPECIAL NOTICES

CENTRAL CLUB AGM Sunday, April 19 10 a.m. McMartin House, Gore St., Perth. The executive would love to meet you!! Come and find out how the club works and ask questions. Bring lunch or buy it in Perth and then join a walk.

For more information contact: Dorothy Hudson dhudson@cogeco.ca 613-283-0332

HIKE LEADERS TRAINING: Saturday, April 25 Foley Mountain 10am. Anyone interested in leading hikes, either shorter mid-week walks or longer weekend outings should plan to attend this hike leaders training session. *Members of all three RTA clubs are welcome to come.* Please contact Margaret Lafrance margaret.lafrance@bell.net

CENTRAL CLUB OPEN HOUSE Saturday, March 21 from 2 – 4 p.m.

McMartin House, Gore St., Perth Invite your friends and neighbours to come and join us to learn more about the Rideau Trail, our outings and the wonderful countryside around Perth. See the activity listing for all the details including the special presentation.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE DAY : Friday, May 1 : see listing for all the details

CATARAQUI TRAIL END-TO-END Starting in April, the Central Club is planning to walk the length of the Cataraqui Trail in a series of hikes ending in the Fall. Each hike will require a car shuttle. For some of the hikes, gas amounts will be a little more to take into account the longer distances. Please check out www.cataraquitrail.ca for more information on the trail.

Hikes are identified in the listings with the  icon.

KINGSTON CLUB END-TO-END: Qualify for one of the striking new Kingston E2E badges and/or complete hikes for your RTA E2E. They're in the Kingston listings identified with the  icon.

Wednesday Walkers

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

**Saturday, March 7 Murphys Point
Cross-country ski outing.**

Level 2, 10km. Moderate pace. |Starting at Lally Homestead parking lot, we will ski the 10km. loppet course. The terrain is gently rolling and lovely for XC skiing. We may see otter slides. When we return to Lally, we will start a wood fire in the chalet stove and have a picnic together. Skiers should be intermediate level. It is important to have confidence snowplowing down and herringboning up hills. Participants must be able to ski for 2+ hours without difficulty. Meet at 9:30am. Gas \$2 Park fee Leader: Nancy Goudreau ndgaud@gmail.com 613 300 9532

**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. Meet at 9:30am, gas \$5. Leader: Brenda Ethier brendaethier@ripnet.com 613 464 8746

**CENTRAL CLUB OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, MARCH 21 from 2-4 p.m.**

McMartin House, Gore St., Perth from 2 – 4pm
Invite your friends and neighbours to come and join us to learn more about the Rideau Trail, our outings and the wonderful countryside around Perth. You'll meet our very own award winning photographer – Jack Tannett. Jack will give a talk about his end-to-end trip along the Rideau Trail last year. A passionate hiker and member of the RTA Central Club, Jack moved to Perth last June and almost immediately started to explore the trail. He says: *"It just took hold of me, and I ended up completing the whole 330 km trail last year, in nineteen stages, from south to north"*. He completed the final leg to the Ottawa Locks on November 2nd. Jack will show some of the photos he took along the way, and will discuss why he feels so passionately that more people should discover and enjoy this magical and under-used trail.

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. Meet at 9:30am gas \$3, park fee. 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.** Meet at 9:30am gas \$4. Leader: Nancy Gaudreau ndgaud@gmail.com 613 300 9532

. Saturday, April 4 Calabogie Mountain Trails

Level 3, 8-10 km, moderate pace. Explore the rugged terrain and scenic vistas of the Skywalk and Lost Valley Loops before the trees are in leaf. A map of the trails is available at www.greatermadawaska.com Meet at 9am. Gas \$6 Leader: Dorothy Hudson dhudson9@cogeco.ca (613) 283-0332

Wednesday, April 8 Hike Leaders Planning

Meeting. Let's come up with a great schedule for the lazy, hazy days of summer. Please meet at the Batchelor's home in Perth at 7pm. RSVP patbatchelor@sussexsystems.ca 613 264 1559



Saturday, April 11 Cataragui Trail #1

Level 1, 9.1 Km, moderate pace. Join us for the first in a series of hikes along the Cataragui Trail. We will walk from Smiths Falls to Lombardy. Car shuttle. Meet at 9am. Gas \$2 Leader: Yvonne Kennedy yvnkenedy@gmail.com 613-267-9817

CENTRAL CLUB AGM

Sunday, April 19 10 a.m.

McMartin House, Gore St., Perth.

The executive would love to meet you!! Come and find out how the club works and ask questions. Bring lunch or buy it in Perth and then join a walk. For more information contact: Dorothy Hudson dhudson@cogeco.ca 613-283-0332

Saturday, April 25 Hike Leaders Training

Foley Mountain 10 a.m. Anyone interested in leading hikes, either shorter mid-week walks or longer weekend outings should plan to attend this hike leaders training session. Members of all three RTA clubs are welcome to come. Please contact Margaret Lafrance margaret.lafrance@bell.net

Sunday, April 26 Rock Dunder

Level 2, 6 Km, moderate pace. Come and enjoy a perennial favourite. Take in the grand views from the summit and see wetlands, beaver ponds and rocky ridges as you climb. Spring flowers will be in abundance. Donations to the Rideau Waterway Land Trust are encouraged to help with trail maintenance. Meet at 9am. Gas \$4 Leader: Gill Hyland ghyland2@cogeco.ca 613-267-5756

Friday, May 1 Trail Maintenance Day.

What could be better than helping spruce up the trail with a group of friends? Bring work gloves, snippers and loppers if you have them. Meet at 9am. For more information contact Jack Tannett jtannett@cogeco.ca 613-466-0417 or Peder Krogh pederkrogh5@gmail.com 613-456-6085

Sunday, May 3 Cataraqui Trail Hike #2

Level 2, 15.7 Km. Moderate pace. The walk will take us from Lombardy to Portland. Car shuttle. Meet at 9am, gas \$3 Leaders: Peder Krogh and Maida Murray. pederkrogh5@gmail.com 613-456-6085

Saturday, May 9 Rideau Trail

Lally Homestead to Powers Road

Level 2, 10 km. Slow/ moderate pace. Enjoy the scenic countryside, wildflowers and the magic of spring as we walk from Lally Homestead in Murphys Point Park to Powers Road. Car shuttle. Gas \$2 Meet at 9am.

Leader: Susan Samila ssamila@storm.ca 613-264-1196

Saturday, May 16 Cataraqui Trail #3

Level 1, 9.7km. Moderate pace. Follow the trail from Portland to where it crosses Hwy. #15 south of Crosby. Car shuttle. Gas \$3 Meet at 9am. Leaders: Howard and Mary Robinson hmrob@storm.ca 613 256 0817

Sunday, May 24 Rideau Trail Loop

Level 2, 10km. This hike takes in an interesting and varied section of the trail. Starting at McLaren Point Road we go through woods, across streams and meadows to Ferrier Road. Then back along quiet country lanes to the start. Please wear sturdy, waterproof boots. Gas \$2 Meet at 9am. Leader: Brenda Ethier brendaethier@ripnet.com 613 464 8746

Saturday, May 30 Cataraqui Trail #4

Level 1, 8.6 km. Moderate pace. This section of the trail takes us from Hwy#15 past the village of Chaffey's Lock, over the Iron Bridge to Indian Lake Road. Car shuttle. Gas \$3 Meet at 9am.

Leader: David Allcock daveonottylake@gmail.com 613 706 3562

Saturday, June 6 Cataraqui Trail #5

Level 2, 17.6km. Moderate pace. This is the longest, uninterrupted section we will be walking. There are no drop out points. We go from Indian Lake Road to Perth Road Village. Car shuttle. Gas \$6 Meet at 9am.

Leader: Tom Pearcey pearceys@cogeco.ca 613 284 1294

Saturday June 13
RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION
44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SMITHS FALLS
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

Sunday, June 14 Frontenac Provincial Park

Slide Lake (Little loop)

Level 2, 14 km. Moderate pace. Enjoy a walk through this wonderful wilderness. Gas \$5 Meet at 9am.

Leader: Nancy Gaudreau ndgaud@gmail.com 613 300 9532

Saturday, June 20 Canoe/Kayak the Clyde River.

Level 2, 12km. Come and join us for the first paddle of the season. Bring Dad to celebrate Fathers' Day!!

We'll go from Lanark Village to Kerr Lake and return. Don't forget safety equipment, life jacket, lunch and water. Leaders: Howard and Mary Robinson hmrob@storm.ca 613 256 0817

Sunday, June 28 Rideau Trail

Foley Mountain to Narrows Lock

Level 1-2, 12 km. Moderate pace. Start off in the conservation area then follow the trail along the edge of Big Rideau Lake to Narrows Lock. Car shuttle.

Park fee. Meet at 9am. Leader: David Batchelor dlhbatchelor@sussexsystems.ca 613-264-1559

RECENT DONORS - Thank you for Supporting the Rideau Trail !

David Allcock	Cam T. Hodges	Maryetta & Hugh	Janice Ley & Eric
Elizabeth Choros	Bert Horwood	McDowell	Usherwood
Linda Dahms	Steve Kelly	Hugh & Shirley Pratt	Marie Warner
Denise Hall	Marion & Don Landry	Elsie Stresman	
Elizabeth Hamacher	Robert Lantos	Jean Thompson (in	
Douglas Hitchcock (On	Peter Leeney	memory of Sybil	
behalf of Peggy Lepper)	Adèle Mayers	Peckover)	

OTTAWA CLUB ACTIVITIES - SPRING 2015

Level 1 activities are easy, level 2 intermediate and level 3 advanced, requiring experience and a *high level of fitness*.
Read “Participants’ Responsibilities and Levels of Difficulty” (page 11) 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

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

Call the NCC's number first. They can help first responders reach you quickly, because they know your location.

Note: the number is 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).

SPECIAL NOTICES

OTTAWA CLUB AGM Friday, April 10, 2015

AGM will be held 6:00 - 10:30 p.m. at Canterbury Community Centre at 2185 Arch Street in Elmvale Acres. Arch Street is located between Pleasant Park Road and Saunderson Drive.

NAV DAYS - Mid March through April - Gatineau Park

Practise your on and off-trail Map and Compass skills in a small group of motivated and friendly fellow navigators over a defined hike route, coached by either Cliff and Gloria Daly or Dick Stewart and Pauline Daling. Watch for schedule in the March and April E-LETTERS! For more info, email

cliff.daly@rogers.com.

ACCESSIBLE HIKES : April 12 and May 31 :

These hikes are suitable for people in wheelchairs or with limited mobility or anyone who enjoys a leisurely walk in beautiful surroundings. See listings for details

HIKERS AT PLAY : Sundays April 19 and 26

Check out this combo : hiking and culture! Take a hike and then attend a live play.. See details in listing.

SPRING ADOPT-A-ROAD CLEAN-UP: Sunday, April 26 - see listing for details

WHITE MOUNTAINS HIKING WEEKENDS:

Mon June 8th - Fri Jun 12th,; Sun Oct 18th - Thurs Oct 22nd

Level 3, Three full, mid-week days of hardy hiking in the stunning White Mountains of New Hampshire. Stay and dine at the Kinsman Lodge <http://www.kinsmanlodge.com/> in Franconia, N.H. For rates and information, please contact the trip leaders, Cliff and Gloria Daly, at cliff.daly@rogers.com or phone 613-224-4413. **NEW - THIS SPRING ONLY** - Tour Of Mt. Washington's Alpine Garden In Bloom! Photographers take note! For rates and information, please contact the trip leaders, Cliff and Gloria Daly, at: cliff.daly@rogers.com or phone 613-224-4413.(

(NOTE: for information only. Due to being out of country, this is not an official RTA activity.)

KINGSTON CLUB END-TO-END: Qualify for one of the striking new Kingston E2E badges and/or complete hikes for your RTA E2E. They’re in the Kingston listings identified with the  icon.

CATARAQUI TRAIL END-TO-END: Central Club is organizing an E2E series on the Cat. Check Central's listings marked with the  icon.

MIDWEEK 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.

TUESDAY EVENING URBAN WALKS

Every Tuesday evening beginning March 24 through to April 21, there will be an Ottawa urban walk/hike. There “may” also be a refreshment stop each evening for those who are interested. Coordinator: Trudy Stephen, 613-828-9313

MEET AT THE STARTING POINT OF THE WALK FOR DEPARTURE AT 6:00 p.m.

March 24 Ottawa River Parkway/Island Park Drive
Meet at north end of Tunney’s Pasture parking lot
Leader: Joanne Tuttle, 613-729-8787

Leader: Jean Gauthier, 613-422-3997 or e-mail
(jrrgauth@teksavvy.com).

March 31 Sir John A MacDonald Parkway (formerly Ottawa River Parkway) about 7 km at leisurely pace on flat terrain. Crampons and/or snowshoes depending on conditions. Bus access: #2 or #153 or any bus to Lincoln Field Station. Meet at northeast corner of Lincoln Field shopping centre parking lot near Pizza Pizza to Westboro Beach and back. Note that the NCC does not clear the path that follows the Parkway so it is difficult to tell whether there will be snow or ice on it at that time of year, snow most likely.

April 7 Nepean Sportsplex on Woodroffe Avenue
Meet at east end of parking lot on east side of building.
Leader: Trudy Stephen, 613-828-9313

April 14 New Edinburgh/Vanier to Richelieu Park
Meet at New Edinburgh Park, 192 Stanley Avenue
Leader: Pat Archer. 613-565-6149

April 21 Hull and back
Meet on east side of National Archives building
Leader: Dora Ashiq, 613-792-4966

MOONLIGHTERS - TUESDAY EVENING HIKES

Every Tuesday evening from late April until the end of August there will be a short hike in Gatineau Park. Hikes last until sunset. The pace is approximately 4 km per hour. The hikes are a level 1 or 2. There may be some hilly, rough or wet terrain. Please bring your own water, snack, bug repellent, flashlight and proper footwear. There is usually a short break during the hike as decided by the hike leader.

Meet at Tunney’s Pasture parking lot, closest to the Parkway, at 5:45 pm for a prompt 6:00 pm departure.

Coordinators: Hazel Miller 613-232-6558 and Dora Ashiq 613-792-4966. Hike leaders will be contacted by one of the coordinators prior to their hike.

April 28, sunset 8:06 Lac des Fees from Gamelin Blvd.
Level 1 - 7 km. : Jean Gauthier, 613-422-3997

May 5, sunset 8:14 Lauriault Trail from Mackenzie King Estate
Level 1 - 6 km. Leader: Hazel Miller 613-232-6558

May 12, sunset 8:22, Visitor’s Centre, Old Chelsea, to Penguin picnic area up to Ridge Rd
Level 2 - 7 km. (steep hills) – Leader: Kathryn Fournier 613-248-0006

May 19, sunset 8:31, Skyline trail from P7
Level 2 - 7 km. Leader: Hazel Miller 613-232-6558

May 26, sunset 8:38, Meet at Mine Rd., turn on to Rue Marie Burger (where we can park) and hike to Pink Lake Level 2 -10 km. Leader: Dora Ashiq 613-792-4966

June 2, sunset 8:44, P12 to Western Lodge
Level 2, - 8 km. (steep hills) Leader: Lena Cready 613-789-1657

June 9, sunset 8:49, P16 to Healey
Level 2 - 10 km. Leader: Trudy Stephen 613-828-9313

June 16, sunset 8:53, P7, - trail 8 to Keogan return via Ridge Road
Level 2 - 11 km. Leaders: Gloria and Cliff Daly 613-224-4413

June 23, sunset 8:55, Wolf Trail from P13
Level 2, - 10 km. Leader: Dora Ashiq 613-792-4966



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 Emerson 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.

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.

Leader: Jean Gauthier, 613-422-3997

(jrrgauth@teksavvy.com). Co-leader: Diane Clarkson.

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. Meet at Tunney's Pasture at 9:15 for departure at 9:30.

Leader: Terry McComb, 613-820-3936.

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.

Leader: Denise Hall, 613-843-8222

(rebeccahall@rogers.com)

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.

Leaders: Pauline Daling, Dick Stewart, 613-421-6494

(pdaling@rogers.com, dickstewart@rogers.com)

Sunday, March 8 Snowshoe in Gatineau Park

Level 2, Lac Philippe Meet at Tunney's Pasture at 9:15 for departure at 9:30.

Leader: Sheila Parry, 613-737-4727

The Ottawa RTA Executive Needs You

This year, four members of the executive have given notice of their intent to step down: President Sheila Parry, Routes & Negotiations Jim Fox, Treasurer Jane Mulvihill and secretary Donna Shields. As well the Publicity/Media Relations position remains vacant.

Denise Hall, currently Vice President/Human Resources has indicated an interest in moving to President, and members Sandy Freeman and Dawn Carrick have put their names forward to fill the positions of Vice President and Secretary respectively.

Members should assume that there are 3 executive positions vacant (Treasurer, Routes & Negotiations and Publicity) and consider putting their names forward to fill the vital role that these positions play in the day to day operation of the Ottawa Club.

Denise Hall as the Human Resources person on the Executive would be pleased to provide you with a job description or alternatively feel free to contact the current member to discuss their role on the executive.

Now is the time for all members to consider giving back to the Club

NAV Days - Mid March through April Gatineau Park

Practise your on and off-trail Map and Compass skills in a small group of motivated and friendly fellow navigators over a defined hike route, coached by either Cliff and Gloria Daly or Dick Stewart and Pauline Daling. Watch for schedule in the March and April E-LETTERS! For more info, email cliff.daly@rogers.com.

Friday, April 10, 2015- Ottawa Club AGM

6:00-10:30 p.m. - Canterbury Community Centre at 2185 Arch Street in Elmvale Acres. Arch Street is located between Pleasant Park Road and Saunderson Drive.

Saturday, April 11 Gatineau Park Hike

Level 2+ to 3, at least 10 km. Climbing, possible stream crossings and some bushwhacking will be involved. Leave Tunney's Pasture by 9:20 a.m. Watch for firm details in weekly notice as the destination and hike will depend on weather and terrain conditions. Leader: Denise Hall, 613-843-8222 or (rebeccahall@rogers.com)

Sunday April 12. Accessible Hike, 3-4 km. Slow Pace. From Tunney's Pasture, we will walk along Ottawa River and back. This hike is suitable for people in wheelchairs or with limited mobility or anyone who enjoys a leisurely walk in beautiful surroundings. Meet at Tunney's Pasture at 1 p.m. Kathryn Fournier 613-248-0006.

Introduction To Map and Compass Navigation: One-Day Clinics

Thurs Apr 16th, Sat Apr 18th, Thurs Apr 23rd Gatineau Park

A one-day clinic designed for current or potential hike leaders who wish to learn map and compass basics for both on-trail and occasional off-trail travel. Topo maps supplied, provide your own compass. Maximum of six participants per clinic. \$10 fee. For more information and to sign up, email cliff.daly@rogers.com or phone 613-224-4413. To sign up electronically, see the March and April E-LETTERS.

Leaders: Cliff and Gloria Daly.

Saturday, April 18 Western Gatineau Park

Level 2, 10 to 12 km. This hike up from the Eardley-Masham Road has lovely viewpoints along the Hay Ridge and likely some tricky water crossings and beautiful cascades. A fair bit of up and down, some steep, but all on faint trails. Lunch outdoors. Meet at Tunney's by 9:15 am to depart at 9:30.

Leader: Ann Bolster, 613-828-5131 (ann_bolster@hotmail.com)

Sunday, April 19 Hikers at Play #4 - Perth

A hike followed by a matinee play (subject to tickets, \$24 cash only, being available at the door) - "The Salvage Shop" at the Studio Theatre in Perth (www.studiotheatreperth.com). The hike may be the Mackler Side Road loop, level 2, about 9 km, at a fast pace. Gas contribution \$8. Departs from Baseline Park & Ride at 9:00 am, back about 5:15 pm.

Leader: John Haley 613-225-0590

Sunday, April 26 Hikers at Play #5 - Smiths Falls

A hike followed by a matinee play (subject to tickets, \$20 cash only, being available at the door) - "Love From A Stranger" at the Station Theatre in Smiths Falls (smithsfallstheatre.com). The hike may be to the RTA Lot, level 2, about 11 km, at a fast pace. Gas contribution \$7. Departs from Baseline Park & Ride at 9:00 am, back about 5 pm.

Leader: John Haley 613-225-0590

Sunday, April 26 Spring Adopt-A-Road Clean-Up

Consider joining us for a few hours to clean 5.5 km of road allowance along Roger Stevens Drive, south west of North Gower. If you have your own work gloves please bring them. Many of us often stop in at the Marlborough Pub in North Gower for refreshments/lunch after the clean-up. Meet at Fallowfield Park and Ride for 9:00 a.m. Gas \$5.00. Note that this activity will take place rain or shine. If you can, register in advance by emailing the leader, Brian LaDuke at (yellow.bumper@hotmail.com) or calling 613-534-8535. Alternate contact, Denise Hall, email (rebeccahall@rogers.com), phone 613-843-8222.

Saturday May 2 Greenbelt Hike in Pinhey Forest.

Level 1 about 7.5 km. We will hike trails 31 and 32 behind the Nepean Sportsplex from P14. The terrain is flat with one small hill. Bring a snack and water. Wear good footwear as it could be very wet. Meet at the Baseline Park & Ride to depart at 9:30 am.

Leader: Grace Strachan, 613-721-1421 (gstrachan99@bell.net)

Saturday, May 2 Gatineau Park from Ramsay Lake parking lot

Level 3, about 12 km. with some climbing and off trail/faint trail. Good boots and lunch needed. Will visit Clear Lake, Monette Lake, Kidder view. Depart from Tunney's Pasture at 9:30 am.

Leader: Jim Leeson, 613-829-1083, (jleeson@storm.ca)

Sunday May 3 Old Quarry Trail.

Level One, 6 - 8 km at a brisk pace. Starting from P20, we will explore several loops on trail 51. Meet at Tunney's Pasture at 1 p.m.

Leader: Kathryn Fournier 613-248-0006

Saturday May 9 Tim Road - Nepean Greenbelt

Level 1, about 6 km. We will hike two connecting trail loops which are mostly flat with gently undulating hills and beautiful woodland and wild flowers. Could be wet so waterproof boots are probably best. Meet at Baseline Station at Woodroffe Park and Ride at 9:30am.

Leader: Jean Sunter, 613-828-6077

Saturday, May 16, 2015, Spring Hike near Bell Arena

Level 1, 7-8 km along NCC trails 26 and 27. We will start at Parking Lot 13 at Bell Arena. Mostly forested terrain, relatively flat with some minor hills. Bring lunch, snack and water. Depart Baseline Park & Ride at 10:00 am.

Leader: Marilyn Schwartz, 613-828-4488 or (marily_sch1970@yahoo.ca)

Sunday, May 17 Larriault Trail Gatineau Park

Level 1.5, about 7 km. We will hike through a few hills with beautiful wild flowers in all directions plus views of the Ottawa River and Valley, the MacKenzie King Estate water fall and Kingsmere Lake where we will enjoy lunch. Meet at Tunney's Pasture Parking Lot to depart at 9.30 am.

Leader: Jean Sunter 613-828-6077

Monday, May 18 Victoria Day hike in Gatineau Park

Level 2, approx. 8 km. Scenic hike along Meech Lake to the ruins of the historic Carbide Mill, and on to the Capuchin Chapel. Bring lunch and insect repellent. Depart from Tunney's Pasture at 10:00 am.

Leader: Ethel Archard, 613-592-7733 or e-mail (ethel.archard@sympatico.ca)

Saturday, May 23 Rideau Trail - Marlborough Forest

Level 1, 10 km. Hike to and from the Rideau Trail property via the Ruffed Grouse Trail. Bring lunch and insect repellent. Depart from west side of Fallowfield Park & Ride at 10:00 a.m.

Leader: Ron Hunt, mobile: 613-298-1626 or (re.hunt@sympatico.ca)

Sunday, May 24 Spring Wildflower Hike in Gatineau Park

Level 2, about 6 km. Leisurely hike to spot and identify the many wildflowers along trails 40, 33 and 2 from P12. Bring camera, lunch and insect repellent. Meet at Tunney's Pasture at 9:30.

Leader: Judy Leeson, (613) 829-1083 (jleeson@storm.ca)

Sunday May 31, Accessible Hike. 3- 4 km, slow pace. We will start at Mooney's Bay and explore both sides of Hog's Back Road. This hike is suitable for people in wheelchairs or with limited mobility or

anyone who enjoys a leisurely walk in beautiful surroundings. Meet at Mooney's Bay parking lot (OCTranspo 87) at 1 p.m. Kathryn Fournier 613-248-0006.

Saturday, June 6 Doors Open Ottawa

Level 1. Explore a few of the city's historically, culturally, and functionally significant buildings in the Hintonburg area. Bring a lunch or plan to grab a bite at one of the eating places along the way. Depart from Tunney's Pasture at 10 am.

Leader: Ethel Archard, 613-592-7733 or e-mail (ethel.archard@sympatico.ca)

Sunday, June 7 Walk From Kanata To Stittsville Plus Visit to "Art in the Park" Exhibition

Level 1 - Have a leisurely walk approx. 10 kms along the railway bed from Kanata to Stittsville. Once in Stittsville, we will then have the opportunity to view the 'Arts in the Park' exhibition in the Village Square Park. Bring a lunch. Meet at Baseline Park and Ride at 10:30 am.

Leader: Maureen Dawson, 613-226-3864 or (Maureen.Dawson@rogers.com)

Mon June 8th - Fri Jun 12th, White Mountains Hiking Weekend**Sun Oct 18th - Thurs Oct 22nd**

Level 3, Three full, mid-week days of hardy hiking in the stunning White Mountains of New Hampshire. Stay and dine at the Kinsman Lodge

<http://www.kinsmanlodge.com/> in Franconia, N.H.

NEW - THIS SPRING ONLY - Tour Of Mt.**Washington's Alpine Garden In Bloom!**

Photographers take note! For rates and information, please contact the trip leaders, Cliff and Gloria Daly, at cliff.daly@rogers.com or phone 613-224-4413.

(NOTE: for information only. Due to being out of country, this is not an official RTA activity.)

Saturday June 13

**RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION
44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SMITHS FALLS
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS**

Sunday June 21. Mer Bleue Area.

Level One, 6 - 8 kms., brisk pace. From P5, we will explore loops on trail 23. Meet at Tunney's Pasture at 1 p.m. Leader: Kathryn Fournier 613-248-0006'

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to Rideau Trail Association.

See you "On the Trail" !

CENTRAL CLUB:

David Ellis - Baldachin Inn
Elsie Day
Caitlin Doyle
Holmes McCullough
Linda McLaren
Richard Marquardt
& Kate McLaren
Edwina Schneiderman

KINGSTON CLUB:

Bob & Sue Clinton
Laura Cruse
Amanda Goerzen
Mary and Peter Gray

Corinne Harrison

Paige Humber
Wayne Marszalek
Monica & Jeff Miller
Dr. Graham Moores
Joyce & Brian Patterson
Katrin Schubert

NON-AFFILIATED:

Sandra Carlson
Victoria Best & Ronald
Granger
Marion & Don Landry
Mic Whitehorn-Gillam

OTTAWA CLUB:

Maggie Arbour
Cheryl Arratoon
Sally Arsove
Denise Brookfield
Adam Crupi
Lucie Essiembre
Jackie Flowers
Maria Guevremont
Dr. David W. & Olivia
Large
Reg & Hanka Latreille
Jerome Cyr & Marilyn Le
Lorrain
Peggy Lepper

Ann Davidson & Fred
Mohlmann
Joseph Hilaire Nicolas
Edward Parsons
David & Francine Paull
Trina Piché
Marie Rollin
Linda Schiffo
Tony Shaw
Angela Simnick
Peter Stoop
Richard White

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 pay online:*** www.rideautrail.org

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

() 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

() Donation, Rideau Trail Association* \$ _____

() Donation, 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 be extended to the end of the following membership year.

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)

Membership Category (**circle**): New Renewing

(Please Print)

Name(s):

Address:

Postal Code: Telephone number(s):

E-mail address (optional) for monthly e-letter, quarterly Web newsletter and occasional other communications):

() 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.

- () 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): _____

Comfortable Hiking Holidays

Hike an adventure. Rest in comfort.

Toll free 1 (866) 449-1908 • info@letshike.com • www.letshike.com

KENYA

July 5 to 17, 2015

Have you always wanted to go on a safari but can't see yourself sitting in a jeep all day long, day after day?

For active travellers like ourselves, a **walking safari** is the perfect way to get to know Kenya. It really gets you up close & personal with the animals - and there are A LOT of animals to be seen. In addition, there is the natural beauty of the land and the proud heritage of its tribes; we have included many extras as part of our program so that you will have a complete Kenyan experience.

As animal lovers, walking amongst giraffes and zebras is a big draw but we felt that the trip should encompass the culture too.

So we added a lecture by a Kikuyu tribeswoman, a visit to a weaving cooperative, visits to a Masai homestead, to an elementary school, and to a local market, and a tour of a tea plantation.

We are very proud of the program we have put together and this trip has easily become one of our favourites of the year. Take **a walk on the wild side** with us this July; it's one of the coolest months 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.

**Do not to delay in making your reservation.
Inca permits must be booked now to ensure we get into Machu Picchu on our desired date!**

From the Sacred Valley, we then journey south to Lake Titicaca for hikes on Uros, Amantani and Taquile islands.

TURKEY

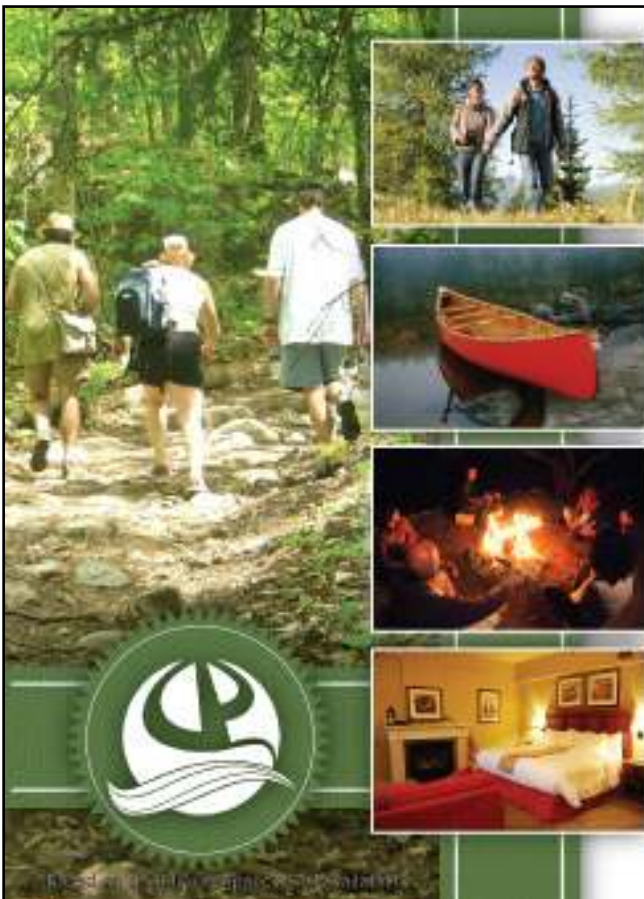
October 17 to 28, 2015

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 1 to 13, 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.



Adjacent to thousands of acres of Crown land and situated between the shores of Calabogie Lake and Dickson Mountain, **Calabogie Peaks Resort** is one of Ontario's premiere hiking destinations.

Experience Eagle's Nest and the Madawaska Nordic Trail Systems as they wind through picturesque pine forest landscapes and spectacular mountain top vistas.

The country warmth of our boutique hotel and one to three bedroom condominiums, high speed Wi-Fi, indoor pool, fitness room, 9-hole golf course, beach and lake and onsite Canthooks Restaurant are some of the offerings that make Calabogie Peaks...

A Hiker's Home in the Ottawa Valley

Relax at the Calabogie Peaks Hotel
starting at \$65 per person.*

1-800-669-4861 calabogie.com

Chilly Work! Kingston Marshlands Boardwalks Repaired.



Story: Jim Lorimer

Photo: Stan Huff

Late November, Kingston Club maintenance volunteers completed major repairs on both the north and south Marshland Conservation Area boardwalks. Work must be scheduled for late October to early December, when the water level in Lake Ontario has fallen, resulting in the water in the marshland falling as well. With low water levels, work can proceed around and underneath the boardwalks; nevertheless chest high hip waders and/or knee high rubber boots are still essential as the water is still hip high in areas.

Thanks to our hardworking and ageless wonders, Bill Birdsall, John Bugera, Dugald Carmichael, Don Coulter, Gunther Heyland, Stan Huff and Ed Jezak. And let's not forget all the other maintenance volunteers who helped in all those previous years!

A Vital Link

The Marshland Boardwalks are a vital part of the urban portion of our Trail, connecting the Lake Ontario Waterfront Walkway northward along the Little Cataraqui River. As the RT heads north, it is squeezed between the wetlands to the west and the Cataraqui Golf and Country Club. The only way to cross these marshy areas is via two boardwalks, originally completed in 1971 by RTA summer students. The southern boardwalk is 106 meters in length and the northern 54 meters.

It has been an ongoing challenge to maintain these boardwalks. Every year the Kingston Club brings them up to a safe standard, and every winter Mother Nature does its best to undo our work.

The Challenge

The boardwalks, now 42 years old, are reaching the end of their life cycle. Many of the original posts and much of the decking and structural elements have rotted and require replacement. The posts, installed in marshy ground, are adversely affected by the freeze/thaw cycle of the seasons. This has caused the posts to shift and move, resulting in an uneven and unsafe walking surface.

With last winter's exceptionally cold temperature, the posts of the north boardwalk had tilted approximately 30 degrees off vertical, resulting in risky walking surfaces. As well, the tilting of these posts triggered a rippling effect causing the entire boardwalk to tilt to one side. The posts of the south boardwalk had splayed apart resulting in that end of the boardwalk dropping into the marsh. So, besides the yearly replacement of rotted posts and decking, a ton of additional work and time was required to repair these other major faults.

Working with Others

The RTA and the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority share a mutual interest to ensure the boardwalks are maintained to a safe standard. While CRCA has assumed ownership of the boardwalks, this is a key section of the RT, in that it follows a natural wildlife corridor through an urban area.

Also, this section of the trail sees a lot of use, from dog walkers to bird watchers to joggers or citizens using the trail as a shortcut through the city. As such the Kingston Club and the CRCA have formed an agreement to maintain the boardwalks, where the Kingston Club provides all the labour and maintenance while the CRCA provides the material (and funding) for repairs.

There are ongoing discussions between the Kingston Club, the CRCA, the City of Kingston and the Cataraqui Golf and Country Club to upgrade the trail between Bath Rd and King St, which may result in the installation of a brand new and upgraded boardwalk.



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



A January Break in Gould Lake - Peter Burbidge Leads the Singalong *(photo by John Bugera)*

MARCH IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!
Use form on Page 21 or renew online at www.rideautrail.org