



The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

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Poisonous Mushroom — Fly Agaric (*Amanita Muscaria*) — Frontenac Park — *The Simpsons*

The Rideau Trail Newsletter is published quarterly in December, March, June and September by the Rideau Trail Association. The editor of this issue is Mike Moran for the Ottawa Rideau Trail Club.

Submissions for the next Newsletter are welcomed and should be sent by 1 August, to Marion Watkins, 43 Huff Avenue, Amherstview, Ontario, K7N 1S5.
Phone 389-4354.

The Rideau Trail Association is a member of the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations.

F.O.H.T.A. NEWS
F.O.H.T.A. FEST: 1980

The Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations (F.O.H.T.A.) is planning to hold a gala convention for Ontario hikers during the Victoria Day weekend in May, 1980. This will be a weekend affair, probably running from Friday evening to Sunday evening, and will be held at a centre (as yet unselected) which combines meeting and eating facilities for 600 to 700 people, convenient nearby campgrounds, dormitory facilities and proximity to good hiking trails.

The primary objectives of this convention are political, informational and social. Firstly, we want to make the hiking fraternity visible so that our image is that of a significant portion of society and so that attention may be focussed on our needs and aspirations. Secondly, a convention like this gives a tremendous opportunity for each of us to share the knowledge and expertise of others, and to increase our awareness of Ontario's excellent hiking trails. Thirdly, we want to get to know one another a bit better. Hikers are a friendly lot, particularly with others who share our interest, and the enjoyment of social activities together will undoubtedly help to cement new friendships.

To attract such a number, we recognize that the programme must appeal to all ages. Besides a nationally or internationally known keynote speaker, workshops on "how to do it", trail tours via slide shows, interesting hikes, and fun social evenings will be part of the agenda.

At the moment, our need is for volunteers, from right across the Province, to form the necessary organizational committees. If you would be interested in helping to plan the first-ever F.O.H.T.A. convention, please write or telephone the Convention Director, Douglas Knapp, at 32 Gretna Green, Kingston, Ontario, K7M 3J2 (1-613-542-2039) to indicate the committees with which you would be interested in working. After collecting names of all volunteers, Doug. will assign each to one of the committees stipulated, according to geographical proximity with fellow committee members.

The committees needed are as follows:

- (a) Programme: Chairman, Ralph Wood, lives in Toronto area and will need many volunteers (12-20) from this region to help.
- (b) Locations: Chairman, Robert Fanning, lives in the area of Guelph. Only two or three additional committee members will be needed.
- (c) Publicity: A fairly large committee (8-12). Please volunteer.
- (d) Finance: A small committee (3-5). Please volunteer.
- (e) Accommodations: Medium-sized committee (5 to 8 people). Please volunteer.
- (f) Displays: Medium size also. Please volunteer.
- (g) Registration: Medium size also. Please volunteer.

If you have any specific ideas or recommendations that might help the work of any of these committees and thus help ensure the success of this convention, please communicate these with your Association's F.O.H.T.A. delegate or with Doug. Knapp.

If you are interested in serving on the "Programme" or "Locations" Committee, please contact the respective chairmen directly:

Programme Committee Chairman: Ralph Wood, (1-416-741-3399)
21 Waltham Drive,
Thistletown, Ontario, M9V 1S6

Locations Committee Chairman: Robert Fanning, (1-519-824-9826)
37 North Street,
Guelph, Ontario, N1H 5J6

TRAIL CLOSED

The Rideau Trail between the Danby's and South Slide Junction (km 23.6 to 24.8 in the direction of Kingston to Ottawa on Map 10, and page 17 of the Kingston Area Guide book) is now Closed.

Thoughtless hikers sitting on the Danby's flower gardens, blocking their driveway, bringing unleashed dogs to run over their yard, and calling at their house at 8:00 A.M. on a Sunday morning to request permission to ignore their "No Parking" sign has produced a perfectly predictable result.

The Danby's, people with strong empathy for hikers and the R.T.A., feel very sad about this decision, but also that they were given little alternative. We believe that most, if not all, the offenders are non-R.T.A. members but unfortunately that does not alter the result of such a lack of consideration.

Exclusion from this section of Trail not only means that its continuity is destroyed, but also that access to the popular Slide Lake loop and our ski cabin is prevented. Of course, an alternative route will be sought, but it will take some time before it can be negotiated, cut, marked, and re-mapped. How can we get hikers to wake-up and be considerate of those whose public-spiritedness makes the Trail possible?

OTTAWA CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All members and friends are invited to take part in the following club activities. Mark these dates on your calendar now! Unless otherwise stated, hikers will meet at the West End Shoppers City (corner of Baseline Road and Woodroffe Ave., meet near the car wash) at the time specified. If you wish further details, or have ideas for future activities, please contact members of the Club Executive - Social Convenor, Dorice Joyce 728-8848; Secretary, Sandra Winter 233-0981; Publicity, Eileen Evans, 741-0789.

Saturday A spring hike into the Carleton Forest area, on a very attractive
June 10 part of the trail through mostly woods and forests. (Maps 3 & 4)
Hike a distance of 4 to 6 miles and use the knowledge gained
at the map reading workshop. Meet at W.E.S.C. at 9:30 A.M. and
bring a lunch.

Sunday A hike from the Rideau Trail Parking Lot on Knoxdale Road to
September 10 Richmond Road (Map 2). Bring a lunch and meet at W.E.S.C. 9:30 - A.M.

GEOLOGY HIKE

On May 7th Bob Stevens led a most interesting geology hike in the Tay River area, south east of Perth. The morning was spent examining outcrops of rock of which Bob had drawn a large clear diagram, making it much easier for us to understand the layering and outcropping of rocks of varying ages. He showed us rocks containing garnets and mica and many other minerals, all right beside the highway.

After lunch we hiked a beautiful part of the trail, south from Glen Tay, through woods carpeted with spring flowers.

Bob went to a lot of trouble to arrange a most informative outing and, thanks to his clear maps, all of the cars arrived where they were supposed to! His efforts were most appreciated by all the participants and we would like to thank him most sincerely.

OUR RIDEAU TRAIL BIRDS

Our first year feeding the R.T. birds has been a tremendous success.

The feeder, erected in memory of Harry Walker on the R.T. Lot last Sept. 24, was maintained to the end of April.

In that time the birds managed to gobble up 435 lb. of seed at a cost of \$105.65.

No unusual sightings were reported at the feeder, but we did have a good variety

of the common birds:

juncos	downy wood pecker
chickadees	nut hatch
evening grosbeak	red polls
pine grosbeak	blue jays

Other wildlife included

red squirrels	porcupine	chipmunk
rabbits	moles	deer (tracks)
ground hog	mice	

It was necessary to fill the feeder twice a week, but this was no problem as we had a long list of enthusiastic people who volunteered to make the six mile return trip into the lot.

What could be more rewarding at the end of a ski or snowshoe trek, than to find a hoard of hungry little birds waiting just for you.

The purchase of seed was made possible by the generous donations from members of both cash and refundable bottles and beer cans.

Many of these bottles were picked up on the trail or along the roadside, so we are doing a double duty by keeping trails and roads clean and feeding wildlife at the same time.

Please keep the bottles coming. We keep a small box in the car and it is not unusual to have six to ten bottles or cans in it after a single day's outing.

If you wish to have your name on the list to fill the feeder this year, or if you would like to contribute to the Bird Seed Fund, please contact me.

Thank you, to all the members who have given so generously.

Shirley Simpson
1206 Placid Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K2C 3A6
Phone: 828-1679

OTTAWA CLUB WORKSHOPS

During the past year the Ottawa Club has had two very interesting and informative workshops. In November Dick Abbot conducted a very successful cross-country ski workshop, describing the finer points of purchasing, maintaining and using cross-country ski equipment, and in April Bob Snook, in a most informative talk, initiated us into the intricacies of topographical map reading. Both workshops were extremely well presented and both leaders had the happy knack of firing their audiences with enthusiasm. We may not all become marathon skiers and we may still find ourselves hopelessly lost on the trail but it won't be the fault of Dick Abbott and Bob Snook! We would like to thank them both very much indeed for the time and effort involved in presenting the workshops.

FOUND - on Rideau Trail near Gould Lake last December - a gold coloured single key on a black leather fob key ring. Owner may claim by writing to Rideau Trail, P.O. Box 15, Kingston, Ontario. K7L 4V6

The following is an excerpt from the Ontario Trails Council final report submitted to the Government of Ontario on August 31, 1977 as a guide for the implementation of a provincial trails program.

This selection outlines some of the aims and problems of the hiking fraternity in Ontario.

The final report is now available for \$2.00 from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Hiking

Opportunities for walking for pleasure and recreation have existed in Ontario for a long time, but it is only in the last generation or so that the increasing urbanization of the population has led to the need for organized hiking trails. In the last 10 to 15 years, a considerable number of walking trails have been developed and built by voluntary labor, mainly in the southern part of the Province. These trails are available for public use, and are not restricted to members of the organization which has built and is maintaining them. These trails rely heavily on permission from a variety of private landowners to cross their land, since the routes stretch from, or pass, urban areas into the countryside.

This has been done without Government assistance and without the establishment of a formal Ontario Trails Program. What hikers are looking for in an Ontario Trails program is to be allowed to continue developing these hiking trails, while looking to the Government for assistance only in those areas which are beyond the capability of individuals contributing their own resources of time and money. Hiking trail clubs are prepared to continue to plan, construct and maintain hiking trails for public use, and to educate and inform the clubs' members on the responsible use of the outdoors.

The problems facing hikers at this time include the following:

- a) loss of permission from current landowners;
- b) lack of permission from landowners of potential new trail locations;
- c) the legal liability of the landowner towards those using the trail on his land;
- d) the spread of urban development leading to loss of trail routes and mileage;
- e) incompatible trail activities being carried out on trails developed by hiking trail clubs.

Hikers look to the implementation of an Ontario Trails Program to assist them in maintaining the present trails, and in developing the new ones which are required to meet the increase in demand. The Council feels that its recommendations would generally meet the requirements of hikers, but two specific objectives are important enough to warrant separate identification:

- a) The first of these is route stability, that is, a permanent trail. Even where complete permanence cannot be justified by the usage or significance of the trail, all hiking trails should be provided with a greater degree of stability than is now possible. This will require acquisition of some trail routes in perpetuity, and other, less costly, means of increasing the length of the term of the current landowner agreements for other trails. Users of hiking trails have already contributed towards the costs involved with acquiring this route stability, and can be expected to continue to do so. However, since the trails are also used by the public, it seems fair that public funds should also be used to achieve this objective.
 - b) The second specific objective, is to be able to walk in an environment that will provide the quality of hiking experience that the hiker seeks on the trail. While this experience will vary from one person to another, there is a common factor, namely the desire to be in a undeveloped and natural environment. One can never expect to be completely free of those things that detract from this experience in the southern part of the Province. However, there are other recreational activities which do affect this experience to a significant extent. For this reason, hikers have stressed that their activity is incompatible with certain other recreational trail activities, particularly power activities. They ask that this incompatibility be recognized in the implementation of the Ontario Trails Program.
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SNOWMOBILING IN FRONTENAC PARK

In response to urging from individuals and groups, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources decided to call a public meeting on March 29, 1978, for the purpose of reviewing their policy banning the use of snowmobiles in Frontenac Park. The meeting attracted an agitated crowd of more than 500 people, of which perhaps 400 were pro-snowmobile. The other faction, opposed to opening the Park to these machines, was well prepared and presented more briefs (and, we believe, more credible arguments) than did the snowmobilers. The R.T.A. shares this opposition for reasons outlined in its brief reproduced below.

The outcome of this heated and emotional conflict will not be known until the Ministry has had time to digest the arguments and to weigh public support for each side. No deadline for the decision has been given. If you personally endorse the stand taken by the R.T.A., a letter to the Ministry office would undoubtedly help them to have the courage to stand behind their original plan, knowing that a very large segment of the population supports it. Address correspondence to Mr. Bob Bailey, District Manager, Ministry of Natural Resources, NAPANEE, Ontario, K0K 2R0.

Doug. Knapp

BRIEF TO THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGARDING THE USE OF SNOW MACHINES IN FRONTENAC PARK
March 29, 1978

The following brief is presented by the Rideau Trail Association which has constructed and which maintains a 388 kilometre hiking trail which passes through Frontenac Park on its way from Kingston to Ottawa. The local chapter of the R.T.A. represents about fifteen hundred individuals who live in the region of southeastern Ontario between Smiths Falls and Kingston--people who share a genuine need for the quiet revitalizing potential of a truly natural environment. Such people are concerned that those very limited natural environments which still exist close to urban centres be protected and preserved, free from the encroachments of any kind which conspicuously conflict with the character of a wilderness.

This Association strongly opposes the admission of motorized snow vehicles to Frontenac Park, for reasons as described in the remainder of this brief.

- I In 1975, the Ministry of Natural Resources created the Ontario Trails Council, a group of seventeen private citizens representing trail users of all types, including users of snow machines and cross-country skiers, of course. This Council held public meetings across Ontario for the past two years, receiving briefs from trail interest groups in order to be able to guide the Ontario Government in the drafting of legislation pertinent to trail development and use. Its final report, given to the Ministry on August 31, 1977, after two years of very thorough research, contains the following recommendation:

"Power and non-power trail uses are deemed incompatible in the same place at the same time with respect to providing each user the optimum quality of recreation experience."

The Rideau Trail Association vigorously supports this recommendation. Snow machine users are often very insensitive to this need, and most skiers can attest to at least one occasion in which their silent enjoyment of the forest was shattered by a crowd of noisy, smelly machines roaring past, sometimes far too close for comfort.

- II Accepting that cross-country skiers and snow machines cannot occupy the same trail, then the next obvious suggestion is why can't they both exist in the Park but with a good separation between them? The answer is simply the Frontenac Park is supposed to be a "Wilderness Park". Wildlife surveys of the area before it became a park showed conclusively that the population of larger wildlife was negligible. Now however, having had several years of park status, deer and their natural predators are returning. As wildlife is unquestionably disturbed by the proximity of noisy snow machines, we therefore must oppose their admission on the grounds that they violate the concept of a wilderness park as a wildlife refuge.
- III Snow machine operators often offer the hollow argument that since they pay taxes that buy public land, they should have equal rights to use it as anyone else. In fact they already have such a right - the same as everyone else. What upsets them is that they are not given a special privilege over others to degrade the wilderness experience. They fail to realize that by claiming their "right" to drive their machines throughout the Park, others are denied the right to breathe fresh air free from exhaust fumes and to enjoy the silent beauty of the wilderness.

If one were to credit such an unreasonable argument with any validity, one would then have to set aside equestrian trails, bicycle paths, A.T.V. paths, and roadways for "four-wheelers" who would naturally claim their similar "right". Such a scenario is obviously beneath serious consideration for a wilderness park.

- IV The proposal to permit snow machines on limited specified trails has the advantage of appearing to be a minor concession to be obtained from those who would prefer a truly wilderness park. However, those who know a bit about human nature understand well the concept of the "thin edge of the wedge". Little concessions often tend to grow, bit by bit, until they violate the environment into which they were first permitted. And to assume that snow machine operators would respect such restrictions is naive. Already this winter three quarters of a kilometre of what usually is outstanding cross-country ski trail in the south of the park near Slide Lake was ruined by heavy snow machine traffic.

CONCLUSION:

There is no shortage of excellent snow machine terrain around this part of eastern Ontario, but there are no other nearby wilderness parks where those who truly appreciate the wilderness can go. Snow machines must have a place to be used, but that place should not be Frontenac Park.

THE DEERFLY

What better way of spending one's time on a fine summer day than hiking along some long forgotten trail, or paddling down some quiet hidden lake.

Such an adventure has often ended prematurely with a hasty retreat, body covered with itchy and sometimes painful lumps the size of eggs. In extreme cases hands can be so swollen that the fingers cannot bend.

This unfortunate infliction has all the symptoms of the bite of an insect known as a Deerfly. This flying demon has the habit of maddeningly circling the head and eventually landing on exposed flesh to deliver a stinging bite. The pain of the bite can be compared to that caused by the touch of a glowing match head.

The deerfly, also known to some people as the "crazy fly", is related to the mosquito, housefly, gnat, fruitfly, and even more closely, to the horsefly. Unlike the horsefly, the deerfly has a dark mark in the middle of each of its two wings, is smaller, and more streamlined in shape.

Having preference for warmth, sunlight and moisture, the deerfly is active only during the day, and are numerous in low, wet areas. They are strong flyers and can disperse several miles from where they were reared.

Only the female bites, attracted to her prey chiefly by its motion. The shape and smell of the potential victim may also affect its attractiveness to the fly. The male, which is seldom seen, feeds on nectar and other moist nutritive material.

Blood is withdrawn from man, horses, cattle, as well as wild mammals such as deer. A bloodmeal is needed to provide the necessary nutrients for egg production. This pest may cause severe blood loss in many animals and can spread diseases.

The sharp, painful bite is caused by flattened sword-like jaws with a toothed edge. After alighting on a victim the jaws begin cutting in a fashion not unlike a pair of scissors. At the same time, some needle-like structures are drawn up and down like pneumatic drills. This helps the cutting process. Blood is sucked through the food tube which is embedded in the wound, while saliva is injected to keep the blood flowing freely. The saliva is the cause of the burning itch which begins after the bite.

Eggs are deposited near water, in masses, on grass, leaves, weeds, or stones. About a week later the tiny larvae, or maggots, hatch, drop into the water, sink to the bottom and bury themselves in the mud. After attaining their maximum size in late spring, the larvae move to drier soil where they pupate for several weeks. The flies appear in early summer to begin wreaking havoc among man and beast.

In defending yourself against these flies, wear long pants with legs tucked into your boots, and make sure your cuffs are buttoned. Clothing should be loose and light in colour. When hiking keep to the shores of lakes and to higher areas where there is usually a stiff breeze. Not many insects will bother battling a wind to get to your blood. Insect repellants help. Sprays should be avoided since they do not last as long on your skin as lotions, oils, foams, or jellies. Another defence is a good offence. If a fly is menacingly orbiting your head, wait for it to settle, then swat it. Your kill rate will be impressive!

Remember you can't stay inside all summer, so, be prepared, and keep in mind that the joys of outdoor life usually outweigh the temporary misery caused by insects such as the deerfly.

Brian Crawford

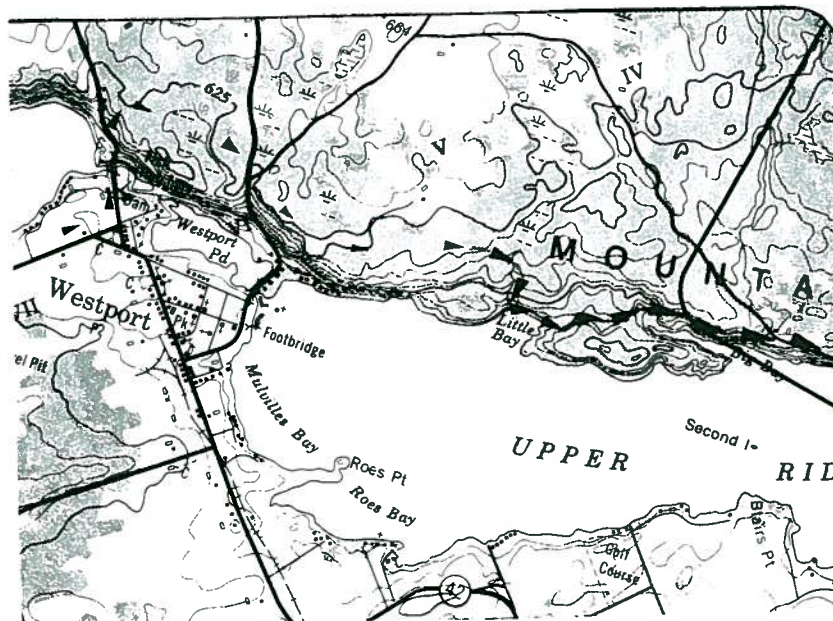
A TERRIFIC NEW TRAIL

Back when the Rideau Trail was officially opened in November of 1971, the Trail was not quite a continuous path. A single gap of about 2 kilometres between Westport and the Narrows Lock remained, obstinately refusing to be closed because of difficulty in identifying and locating its many owners. Last fall the big breakthrough finally came, as Kingston Club's Routes and Negotiating chairman, Dick Henriksen, managed to get it all together.

Then on April 8, plowing through deep snow in the valleys and over crisp leaves and bare rock on the ridges, nine of us followed Dick's blazes, cutting, pruning and marking a truly delightful trail section. As well as plentiful deer tracks, we managed to spot one of those responsible for the tracks - a mature doe which stood motionless as a rock while we admired it from fifty metres away. Fox scat and raccoon tracks also added their testimony to the evidence of a healthy wildlife population.

This new section follows Foley Mountain, a ridge about sixty metres high which forms the northern shore of Upper Rideau Lake, and which naturally offers some excellent outlooks over the countryside to the south. We are delighted to have this gap finally closed of course and hope that it will be as popular as its natural attributes merit. The route, shown on the section of map 9 reproduced here, should be drawn onto your own map for future use.

Doug. Knapp



KINGSTON CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

It seems that summer is a do-it-yourself season. Whatever the reason, our organized hikes during July and August have always gone over like proverbial lead balloons. June has a bit of a problem too, with bugs driving you buggy, so it's also not much of an organized month. However we do have one special event planned that should attract the naturalists and photographers amongst our membership:

Sunday, Along the Opinicon Loop there is a bog full of the most interest-
June 25 ing things - like orchids and carnivorous plants. If you have
 never visited a bog (it isn't a marsh or a swamp, you know),
 then come along. This is not a hike; it is just a visit to
 the bog. Rubber boots are the recommended footwear. However,
 after a while at the bog, you may be interested in exploring
 a bit of the nearby Opinicon Loop on your own so maybe you
 should bring along your hiking boots too.
 Meet at the north door of Simpson-Sears in the Kingston Shopping
 Centre at 1:30 p.m. Leader is Doug. Knapp at 542-2039.

Doug. Knapp

At the Kingston Trail Club executive meeting held on March 29, 1978, the following were appointed as members of the Routes and Negotiating Committee:

Harry A. Dyer	Chairman	546-3319
Al McGugan		544-7879
Marian Giles		544-4607

Much of the Rideau Trail still follows roads or road allowances. The purpose of the Committee is to seek out the alternative routes and, where necessary, obtain permission from landowners for the trail to go over their property.

Members are earnestly requested to contact the Committee with suggestions and/or offers of assistance.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP - NEW R.T.A. POLICY

Anyone who donates \$150.00 or more to the Rideau Trail Association becomes a patron of the Association and will have life membership. (See category on application form).

The Editor, The Rideau Trail Newsletter: While reading R.D. Abbott's account of his beachwalk in the Queen Charlotte Islands, I was reminded of my own backpacking experience in September 1976 on the West Coast Trail of Vancouver Island. The following account was published in the Bruce Trail News last summer telling my sad story...

Boris Mather

THE WEST COAST MUD TRAIL

"Advice to a young man about to marry - don't".

That old joke from Punch about summarizes what I would tell hikers considering hiking the west Coast Trail end-to-end.

The West Coast Trail, which is sometimes called the Shipwreck Trail, runs for 45 miles along the rugged west coast of Vancouver Island. It is now included in the Pacific Rim National Park. A guide-book published by the Sierra Club of B.C. has been widely circulated. It was through the guide-book that I first heard of the Trail.

Unfortunately the guide-book is quite misleading. I found their hiking times to be consistently one-half of the reality. The difficulties and dangers are greater than one would expect from the book. It is also five years out-of-date and in many cases the trail has gotten worse rather than better. People planning to hike on the trail are better advised to get the provincial government maps.

My first experience with the West Coast Trail was in September 1974 when I drove into the north end over 65 miles of logging road from Port Albernie. I then back-packed about seven miles to the Darling River where I spent a couple of days camping on the beach. That portion of the trail is well-maintained with good bridges and relatively smooth, though not level, terrain. The beaches where Michigan Creek and the Darling River meet the Pacific are simply magnificent.

After that experience I was determined to walk the trail end-to-end from south to north. That was a mistake. The first fifteen miles of the trail are so muddy and difficult due to deadfalls and steep gorges that there is just no fun hiking that section. I began at Thrasher Cove in 1976 and spent the first three days in muddy misery. The mud is not two or three inches deep, it is over-the boottops- deep. Fortunately during my session on the trail the weather was dry. I hate to think how bad the trail would be in the rain. I am a pretty experienced backpacker and hiker but my speed the first three days averaged half a mile an hour. Three days of wet boots can be discouraging too.

The last three days were a great improvement after I got out of the rain forest and onto the beaches. The beaches and the mighty Pacific rollers are just marvellous. The northernmost thirty miles are a delight. The National Parks Board crews are busy building boardwalks through the swamps, bridges over the gullies and ladders up the steepest slopes. It is still rugged hiking but rewarding.

My advice for people who are tempted to try the West Coast Trail is to approach it from the north, backpack in for a few days to the superb Tsusiat Falls or down to Nitinat Narrows or the ghost town of Clo-oose or even explore as far as Carmanah lighthouse or Walbran Creek. Forget the rest of the trail. It is no fun and there isn't even an End-to-End badge to be earned. I have suggested to the Sierra Club though that they produce such a badge with the motto "Never Again".

Boris Mather



—The Simpsons

THE BEAVER - AN ALLEGORY.

Slap! The sound echoed from the trees as a small brown form slipped quietly beneath the water. It was mid-October when the beavers first appeared at the swamp. It seemed confusing to most that a beaver would come to stay in a big city such as ours, but few knew that their original home, in a small forested area, was now part of a housing development. The beavers had but one choice really, leave, or be mercilessly bulldozed out of existence, as was their home. I never fully understood that senseless act - something to do with progress, I believe.

The swamp which was to be their new home was little more than a huge puddle when they came to it, after enduring a hot, dry, summer. There were dry patches everywhere, and the deepest channels, some of which were deepened and enlarged by the beavers, still had no more than a foot or two of water at the most. Yet, it seemed to suffice, and the beavers seemed to care little for such matters as they scurried around in an attempt to erect a lodge and store a supply of green branches in the mud as a source of food for the oncoming winter. They had a helping hand as well, that year, and in the year to follow.

Since a beaver has no idea as to where a tree is going to fall, and no directional cutting method, any trees that fall away from the water and are too big to drag over land, are left. This may seem wasteful at first, but is really a piece of nature's puzzle. When a forest, over a number of years, ages to such a point that all the trees are fully grown, many species of animals leave, for their food supply diminishes. The tender green leaves that nourish the deer have grown to high to reach, and insufficient light filters through to sustain the cool succulent grasses that many of the small animals feed on. When the beaver returns and cuts down the trees for its own purposes, younger trees start to grow, and the animals gradually return. The beaver, however, whose food supply is gone, moves on again. This cycle repeats itself over and over again. Where does man fit into this puzzle? He blows up their dams with dynamite, shoots the beavers, and for what? I know not.

Spring arrived and it was about April when the ice melted and the beavers were up and around again. The male was the biggest and boldest of the two and was, on occasion, seen swimming in the open in mid-afternoon while beavers normally worked at night. He has no natural predators there, save an occasional curious dog, and had gradually adopted a callous disregard for all who passed. That was to be his downfall.

It happened about July, I guess, I was heading out to the swamp for an evening watch to see how things were going. I couldn't believe my eyes, when they beheld that horrible sight. This bleak white form lying on the beach. It had been skinned, and the head, legs, and tail removed. I was struck dumb and could not bring myself to understand why. Why would anyone, anyone want to end the life of such a magnificent creature; one that provided with its work a supply of food and water for all who dwelled there? It was not for food surely, for the carcass was left on the beach to rot in the afternoon sun; and surely the pelt would look better on no one but the beaver himself!

The beaver was buried not far from there, in a small poplar grove, hidden so only the few would pass there, and none with an idea of what had happened. The other beaver, the female, survived the fall and winter by herself in the swamp. In a feeble hope to somehow repay her, she was provided with a steady food supply in order not to have to stray far from her lodge during the long, cold winter.

Come spring she was off probably to find another mate or possibly a place where she would be less tormented.

They're both gone now, victims of a careless wanton murder, but the lodge will stand for some time as a hollow monument of man's stupidity.

Man, the supreme animal, is the only one that kills, even his own kind, for sport. In an effort to place himself above nature, he has removed a part of it, and indeed, a part of himself.

The above is a true story. I somehow wish it wasn't.

CORRIDOR PRESERVATION FUND PLEDGE FORM

I pledge to donate the sum of _____ to the Rideau Trail Corridor Preservation Fund to help preserve the Rideau Trail corridor from incompatible uses.

DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

WITNESS _____

ADDRESS _____

This can be sent to Corridor Preservation Fund, Rideau Trail Association, Box 15, Kingston, K7L 4V6. Donations of over \$5.00 will be acknowledged by an official receipt.

LITTLE CATARAQUI ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION PLEDGE FORM

I pledge to donate the sum of _____ dollars to be held in trust for the purchase of land for public use along the Little Cataraqui Creek between Bath Road and Princess Street in Kingston

Date _____

Signature _____

Witness _____

Address _____

Please send this to Box 15, Rideau Trail Kingston, K7L 4V6, or phone Helen Henrikson, 544-0465, or Ella Sutherland, 542-5017 to have it picked up.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please consult your membership card as to your renewal date.
Use the form on the last page.

Men Make Animals React Dangerously

Bradford Angier- How To
Stay Alive In The Woods.

Wild animals who have been handled enough by men to lose their natural fear of human beings, as for example a fawn brought up on a bottle, may occasionally become dangerous.

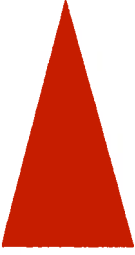
Males of the deer family as a whole sometimes prove truculent during rutting seasons, while later a mother may try to send an intruder away if she thinks her young are threatened. So, for example, will a bear. So will a tiny swallow. And if someone then runs, apparently frightened, the often followed impulse of both bear and swallow is to chase.

Sometimes, too, an animal will flee at a sound or odor and, not seeing an individual, may appear to be charging him. An animal who is or believes himself cornered may try to wipe a man out of the way. As for wounded animals, even a tiny squirrel will bite and scratch.

Suppose you come face to face with a large animal that shows no disposition to sift into the shadows? The best thing to do is to stand perfectly still and, my experience has been although all may not agree, to talk in as calm and as even a manner as possible. The choice of words makes no difference, for any unexcited and not unfriendly human monotone appears to have a soothing effect on an animal. Any I have so met in the open have, unless they bolted immediately, regarded me for a brief time and then moved away, usually slowly and in any event without sign of overmuch excitement.

If you have a firearm, you will naturally get that in position as calmly and as smoothly as possible, particularly if the animal is at such close quarters that any abruptness may provoke a similar reaction. Any movement should therefore be so extremely gradual as to be almost imperceptible. Unless absolutely necessary, it will seldom be wise under such conditions to shoot.

Suppose the animal shows no indication that it will give ground? You may prefer to leave with as much of an appearance of casualness as you can manifest, continuing to avoid any sudden movements and still talking quietly.



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* This is a Kingston Areas Guidebook only.