

The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

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FALL 1978



ON THE RIDEAU TRAIL WITH ALAN BQNWILL AT SKYCROFT.

—NORM McLEOD

The Rideau Trail Newsletter is published quarterly in December, March, June and September by the Rideau Trail Association. The Editor of this issue is Marion Watkins for the Kingston Rideau Trail Club. Submissions for the next Newsletter are welcome and should be sent by Nov. 1, to Mike Morin, 66 Havelock St., Ottawa, Ont., K1S 0A6. Phone 235-3005. Photographs are very welcome also, but please send only black and white prints or slides.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Madam:

Being a land owner and a snowmobiler in the Regional Carleton Forest, I was quite upset after reading about "Snowmobiling in Frontenac Park" (Summer issue, 1978).

You put down snowmobilers as if they are the only offenders on the trails. Maybe in Frontenac Park they are, but in the Regional Carleton Forest where the groomed Skidoo trails are, I have come across some of your so-called skiers; I don't mind (them), if they like the groomed trails which our club maintain all winter, if they want to co-operate with us. Every skier that I came across last winter I gave a big wave. They stood there with long faces or they would stop dead in the middle of the trail and would not let me pass. Then they would say "I didn't hear you."

What about all these skiers that bring their loving pet dogs with them, running loose to chase whatever they want including the deer. (It) has been proven that pet dogs kill more deer than anything else. This is a very sore subject with me as I live near the forest area and have seen deer areas wiped out by pet dogs.

The snowmobiler gets along fine with sled-dog owners who use these trails as well but not with all skiers.

Don't put all the blame on snowmobilers.

Mrs Connie Pratt
R.R.#1,
North Gower,
Ontario.

Response to "It Happened About July" (Summer 1978)

As a concerned conservationist who hunts and deeply resents libel directed at me for that fact, this is just one more occasion on which I am obliged to defend myself.

In fine and predictable style was Mike Pedde who, although I agree with him in part about what he said, I will have know my indignation over the fact that he lumped me indiscriminately with the individual who killed that beaver. I too, find it a bitter and difficult thing to see developers move onto a piece of land and leave no reminder, no indication of the life that was there before.

But, let's get down to the actual matter of the article, the killing of a beaver, which will explain my resentment. First of all, if "It happened about July", then what we are dealing with here is a poacher since the latest date in Ontario on which beavers may legally be taken is May 15th, (Ontario Regulations which apply to Trapping and Fur-Dealing p.2.), which speaks for itself. The author was quite right, the pelt would look best on the beaver; the trapping season was well over because pelts are well out of prime condition by July. The weather is mild, why have a thick, luxurious fur to stay warm?

What Mike Pedde described was a criminal act and the waste of a good fur which might have helped some guy make ends meet the following Winter.

How he erred was in attributing to those who hunt, fish and trap within the seasons and conditions specified by the Ministry of Natural Resources, fight and pay for the cause of conservation well beyond a \$3.00 licence and whose very last desire is to detach themselves from nature, the attitudes which prompt the wrongful killing of wildlife and lack of feeling for the places wherein they live.

In a way, I value Mike Pedde's article. It is vital that we speak out against the callousness which largely threatens the existence, never mind the quality, of nature around us. But, in assigning guilt for our planet's despoilment, please bear this one thing in mind: conservation-minded sportsmen and trappers kill some wildlife, knowing and desiring that they will be replaced-that they are well managed-and their habitats remain. But, the originators of "progress" bulldoze, dig up and pave over the land and, far too often, pay no mind unless forced to.

Mike Cuddihey

HELP PRESERVE THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

To the Rideau Trail Association:

This is an urgent plea to you and your Club to start a letter-writing campaign to your local M.P.P. If he happens to be a Cabinet Minister, so much the better; it will have more impact.

The problem is "THE PRESERVATION OF THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT." So far, letters arriving at Queen's Park have been 80% in favour of scrapping the Niagara Escarpment Act and the Niagara Escarpment Commission. Our voice is not being heard. Please get your members to start writing at once, emphasizing our support of Bill 129 (N.E.Act) and the Commission.

There is no time to lose. I know we can really change the picture if we try hard enough. I also know we can rely on you to get the ball rolling.

Yours sincerely,

Lyn MacMillan.
F.O.N. Niagara Escarpment Coordinator.

Did the Rideau Trail Association forget to hold its Annual General Meeting in the Spring this year? No! The Annual Meeting has been intentionally scheduled for the Fall and the date to mark on your calendar is Saturday, 23 September, 1978.

The Community Centre is a large white building at the west end of Main Street (approximately 3 blocks from the Block House Museum, which is at the corner of St. Lawrence St. and Main St.). It is difficult to get lost in this friendly town.

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon - Business Meeting.

12.00 noon - 1:30 p.m. - Lunch - bring your own food.

- coffee and cold drinks will be served.

1:30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. - A guided Walking Tour of the historical buildings, including the Block House Museum.

Members and friends are invited to attend. Remember, the Rideau Trail Association depends upon your interest and involvement!

The Ottawa Rideau Trail Club is beginning a series of End-to-End hikes which will eventually cover the entire Rideau Trail from Ottawa to Kingston in 10-mile stages. Once a month there will be an all-day hike of approximately 16 kilometers (10 miles.). The first hike is on Sunday, September 24.

End-to end hike #1. From "The Mill" Restaurant (0.0 km.) to Bell High School (15.9 km., Map 1), 15.9 kilometers (10 miles) - a long level stroll beside the Ottawa River. Bring a lunch and meet at 8.30 a.m. at the West End Shopping Centre. No dogs please.

End-to-end hike #2. From Bell High School (0.0 km). to Twin Elms bridge (15.2 km, Map 2), 15.2 kilometers (9 1/2 miles.). Some roadwork, some woods, some swamp. Bring a lunch and meet at the West End Shopping Centre

at. 8.30 a.m. No dogs please.

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 19

End-to-end hike #3. From Twin Elms Bridge (0.0 km) to Stapledon (14.4 km, Map 3), 14.4 kilometers (9 miles). A long hike north-west of Richmond across Carleton County farmland. Bring a lunch and meet at 8.30 A.M. at the West End Shopping Centre. No dogs please.

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 17

End-to-end hike #4. From Stapledon (14.4 km, Map 3) to the Rideau Trail property (29.2 km, Map 4), 14.8 kilometers, 9 miles. A lot of walking on country roads, possibly some cross-country skiing, depending on the weather. Strenuous. Bring a lunch and meet at 8.30 A.M. at the West End Shopping Centre. No dogs please.

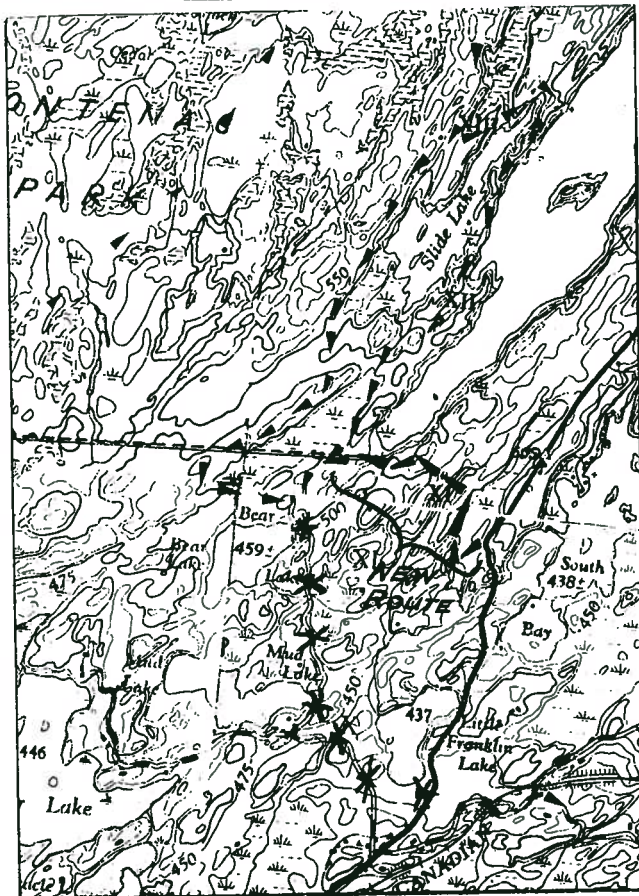
SUNDAY
JANUARY 21

End-to-end hike #5. From the Rideau Trail property (0.0 km) to Dwyer Hill Road (14.7 km, Map 4), 14.7 kilometers (9 miles) across country through the woods; strenuous. Bring a lunch and meet at 8.30 A.M. at the West End Shopping Centre. No dogs please.

NEW TRAIL TO FRONTENAC PARK

Rideau Trail members will be well aware of the Trail closure into Frontenac Park from the east, as reported in our last Newsletter (issue 28, Summer 1978). Fortunately we have obtained permission from the landowner for an excellent alternative route to the north and this was explored, blazed and roughly cleared this summer by Doug Knapp, with help on one occasion from John Case. The new route is a little rougher than the former, but should still be cross-country skiable for experienced skiers. The route is shown on the accompanying excerpt from map 10, with the closed path indicated thus; [***] It is recommended that you transfer this rerouting to your own copy of map 10, and similarly cross out the obsolete route.

In order to bring the new path up to cross-country ski standards (no sharp turns on slopes, no steep slopes, a minimum of 1 1/2 meters clear width), a work party is necessary and being planned for all day Saturday, October 21. If you would like to help (and we do need lots of help), call Doug Knapp (job foreman) at 542-2039 to let him know.



ONTARIO HIKING DAY 1978

The fourth annual Ontario Hiking Day is being held this year on Sunday, October 1. Its purpose is to focus public attention on hiking right across the Province, and to publicize local trail associations such as the RTA as well as the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations (FOHTA). We urge you to make a special effort to promote the success of this event. "Talk up" hiking with your friends. Get them to join you in one of the organized hikes of the day or on your own favorite section of the Rideau Trail, to enjoy the full glory of early fall colours.

See the description of the Ontario Hiking Day hikes listed in the calendar of events following, for each of our Clubs.

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 Woodroffe Avenue exit) at the time specified. If you wish further details, please contact members of the Club Executive-Social Convenor, Dorice Joyce 728-8848; Secretary, Sandra Winter 749-4264; Publicity, Eileen Evans 741-0789.

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|---|---|
| SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 10 | A hike from the Rideau Trail Parking Lot on Knoxdale Road to Richmond Road (Map 2). This is a mixed woods area, and the trail crosses a boardwalk and passes a beaver dam. Bring a lunch and meet at W.E.S.C. at 9.30 A.M. |
| SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 23 | Big Doin's in the Ole Town today! Annual General Meeting of the Rideau Trail Association at Merrickville Community Centre. See special advertisement on page 4 of this issue. |
| SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 30 -
SUNDAY
OCTOBER 1 | Annual backpacking weekend in beautiful Frontenac Park. (Map 10) Meet at W.E.S.C. at 8.00 A.M. on Saturday. Please call Dorice Joyce 728-8848 or Eileen Evans 741-0789 so we can notify you in case of any change. |
| SUNDAY
OCTOBER 1 | ONTARIO HIKING DAY! This is the one day you should get out, even if you can't at any other time. Hike from Rosedale, off the North Gower/Smith Falls road (Map 5) through beautiful deciduous woods, at their best in this autumn season. About 3.2 km (2 miles) each way. Meet at W.E.S.C. at 9.30 A.M.. Don't forget your lunch. |
| SATURDAY
OCTOBER 21 | A joint general interest walk with the Ottawa Field Naturalists on the central section of the Rideau Trail from the Narrows on Big Rideau Lake (Map 8). Here's a chance to meet the members of the Field Naturalists Club and hike an attractive part of the trail along the edge of the escarpment at the same time. Meet at W.E.S.C. at 9.00 A.M. and bring lunch. Ottawa group will meet Central Section hikers at the Blockhouse at the Narrows on the Big Rideau at approximately 10.30 A.M. |

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 5

The last hike before the snow. We will hike into the Rideau Trail Lot in the Regional Forest (Maps 3 & 4) to see the new cabin, well and bird feeder, a distance of about 4.8 km (3 miles) each way. Meet at W.E.S.C. at 9.30 A.M. and bring roastable food for an outdoor barbecue. Come out and admire all the hard work that has been done on the lot this year.

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 28

A film and social evening in the meeting room at the Nepean Public Library, Main Branch, 1541 Merivale Road, at 7.30 P.M. Films on cross-country skiing, wildlife and the outdoors in general will be shown. Members and friends welcome. Refreshments will be served.

SUNDAY
JANUARY 7,
1979

A cross-country ski and snowshoe outing on the Old Schoolhouse Loop. This is a new trail through varied country. (Map 4). Meet at W.E.S.C. at 9.30 A.M. and bring a lunch.

N.B. Please be on time as hikes will leave W.E.S.C. SHARPLY at the time specified.

KINGSTON CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

K.R.T.C. Members and their friends are invited to join in the following hikes and meetings. We have arranged the meeting point at Simpsons Sears, north door in order to provide transportation for those people without cars. (Of course, if you have no extra room in your vehicle or don't want company, go ahead to the hike starting point.

Check the Friday Night column, Whig-Standard on the Friday before each scheduled event in case of unforeseen changes.

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 10

Cataraqui marsh hike, 7.00 A.M.
First of a series of four hikes in the marsh area between Front Road and Highway 2. Each walk will start at A. & P parking lot, (Bath Road), and will last approximately 1 1/2 hours. The early start allows observation marsh activity at its peak. Explore this unique part of the Trail that is within the city limits.
Contact person: Marion Watkins, 389-4354.

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 14

A backpacking seminar with Professor Bert Horwood will take place at 8. P.M. in Stirling Hall, Theatre A, Queen's University. This June, Bert made a solo hike on the Rideau Trail from Kingston to Westport. He will share his experiences on that trek to help others plan their own trips. The seminar will be aimed at the novice and intermediate level.
Contact person: Frank Blacharczyk, 389-4727.

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 16

SKYCROFT AREA (see cover)
This ever popular area will be the site of an afternoon hike of about 2 hours. With luck there may be a sighting of turkey vultures. Meet at 12.30 p.m. at Sears, north door. Suitable for children. Contact person: Frank Blacharczyk, 389-4727.

- SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 17 CATARAQUI MARSH, 7.00 A.M. (see Sept. 10 description).
- SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 23 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION. (see page 4).
- SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 24 CATARAQUI MARSH, 7.00 A.M. (see Sept. 10 description).
- SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 24 FOLEY MOUNTAIN.
Explore the newly-blazed and cut trail which is now open for hiking in this scenic area. Frequented by deer, partridge, and foxes, this area has not been accessible to hikers in the past. Meet at 1.P.M. at Sears, north door or at Foley Mountain Nature Centre 1 hour later. Contact person: Norm McLeod, 546-9440.
- SUNDAY
OCTOBER 1 ONTARIO HIKING DAY! Start with the 7.00 A.M. Cataraqui Marsh hike. (see Sept. 10 description).
Join others all over Ontario by participating in a day of fun, fellowship and hiking. Hikes of varied lengths and degrees of difficulty will take place in the beautiful Gould Lake area and all will terminate at approximately the same time so that those interested may share a picnic supper. Gould Lake has a swimming area, clean water, bar-b-que pits and picnic tables. Bring your picnic meal: we will supply coffee, orange drink and marshmallows.
- ONTARIO HIKING
DAY HIKE #1. The longest and most difficult of the day's walks will go along the west side of the Lake. This hike is strenuous in spots but suitable for older children and those adults wanting a good workout. There is an excellent spot for rest, refreshment and a swim at the north end of the Lake. Approximately 4 hours in length. Those interested in hike #1 should meet at Sears, North door at 12 noon, or at Gould Lake barn 1 hour later.
- HIKE #2 Explore the rugged East shore of Gould Lake, following the Tom Dixon and Mica Trails. This is an area of beautiful scenery and interesting history of mining. Several mica pits are passed by the Mica Trail. Again, this hike will be strenuous in places but well worth the effort and suitable for older children and energetic adults. Sturdy footwear suggested. The hike will be approximately 2 to 3 hours. Meet at Sears, north door at 1 p.m. or at Gould Lake Barn one hour later.
- HIKE #3. A series of shorter hikes at Gould Lake, not very strenuous but nonetheless interesting. Explore the Mine Loop and with time, shorter trails in the area. Samples of rock containing mica and feldspar can be found. Meet at Sears, north door at 1. P.M. or at Gould Lake Barn an hour later. Contact person for Ontario Hiking Day: Jack Watkins, 389-4354.
- SATURDAY
OCTOBER 21 Work party on the "new trail to Frontenac Park." (see article, page 5).

THE R. PRIDDLE FAMILY OF OTTAWA
CLIMB A STEEP HILL, PART OF THE
TRAIL TO BE WALKED BY THE HIKERS
ON HIKE #1, OCTOBER 1.
ONTARIO HIKING DAY.



SUNDAY
OCTOBER 22

BULLEN ROAD TO ELGINBURG ROAD (approximately 10 km. return).
An afternoon hike in an area close to town. Features of this trail include a spring, an old dam, an old stone foundation and limestone caves and sinkholes. Meet at Sears, north door at 1 P.M. Contact person: Cathy Cutts, 542-5414.

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 28

ELGINBURG ROAD TO ORSER ROAD.
Approximately 18 km return, this will be an all-day hike, but not a difficult one. Bring a lunch. Features of this hike, which continues on from last week's walk, include a beaver dam, limestone areas and a stream issuing from underground. Meet at Sears, north door at 10 A.M. Contact person: Cathy Cutts, 542-5414.

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 4

SLIDE LAKE
A great favorite - the Slide Lake Loop, only with a difference. The hike will follow the new trail into Frontenac Park (see page 5) thus providing an opportunity for everyone to get to know it, and enjoy its unique features. Total length is about 12 km and the hike will take all day. Participants are asked to meet at 8.50 A.M. at Sears north door, or at 9.30 A.M. at the southern end of Perth Road village on the Perth Road. Call Doug Knapp at 542-2039 for further information.

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 28

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI SEMINAR

Starting at 8.00 P.M. in St. Lawrence College Amphitheatre, this annual and popular event will focus on the basics of cross-country skiing including types of skis, equipment needed, and basic instruction in waxing and pine tar application. Hopefully there will be a film on skiing technique. Led by Sepp Walzl of Sepp's Ski Shop, the session promises to be informative and practical in nature. Contact person: Jack Watkins 389-4354.

MORE MARSH MEANDERING

In June, a 100 metre catwalk was constructed across a deep bay of the Little Cataraqui Creek in Kingston. This eliminated the former route through a woods, an apartment parking lot and driveway, and Queen Mary Drive - replaced by natural and publicly owned land alongside the Creek all the way north to the Bath Road.

Water depth for about 30 metres was too great for the use of even eight foot T-bar supports and so wooden posts had to be driven into the muck, using a boat as a pounding platform. These greatly increased the cost and even though \$180 was contributed by the Conservation Authority, the RTA share was around \$500.

Job foreman was Doug Knapp, assisted on two lengthy work sessions by John Harrison and Larry McCurdy, and on one session by Lee and Steacy Groat, Susan and Brian Knapp, Paul Megginson, Don Tayfel, Kevin Parker and four "Experience '78" girls from the Conservation Authority. In total, about 110 manhours was volunteered and the RTA can be proud of another significant trail improvement.

OTTAWA RIDEAU TRAIL CLUB OFFICERS 1978-79

CHAIRMAN - vacant

ROUTES AND NEGOTIATIONS

Peter Andrews (Chairman)	728-3016
Bill Baker	820-0433
Harry Bare	225-4535
Alex Macklin	729-7086

MAINTENANCE

Ed Simpson (Chairman)	828-1679
Wayne Elwood	684-4599
Bill Garton	225-5980
Ted Jordan	825-1538
Frank Scott	733-4092
Bill Grant	820-0697

SECRETARY

Sandra Winter	749-4264
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Treasurer

Ted LeSage	828-6015
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PUBLICITY

Michael Moran	235-3005
Eileen Evans	741-0789

SOCIAL CONVENOR

Dorice Joyce (Chairman)	728-8848
Eileen Evans	741-0789

ASSOCIATION LIAISON

Michael Moran	235-3005
Ted Jordan	825-1538
Rolly Hamilton	828-3172

RIDEAU TRAIL LOT DEVELOPMENT

Shirley Simpson (Chairman)	828-1679
Trix Geary	722-2736
Rolly Hamilton	828-3172
Dorice Joyce	728-8848
Ted LeSage	828-6015
Harry Gardner	722-0402
Frank Scott	733-4092

WINTER TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Ray Billingham	731-6071
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PHONING, ADDRESSING ENVELOPES.

Judith Mason	824-8760
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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.

TYPISTS NEEDED

The K.R.T.C. is responsible for editing, typing and preparing the R.T.A. Newsletter twice each year. Your current editor is not a typist. If you are a good typist (fair speed, few mistakes) and would be willing to donate a couple of evenings every six months, please call Marion Watkins at 389-4354.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OTTAWA RIDEAU TRAIL CLUB

The annual general meeting of the Ottawa Rideau Trail Club was held on May 27, 1978, at The Baxter Conservation Area Interpretive Centre, near Kars. (Ed.'s note: due to space limitation only some of the year's accomplishments are included).

ROUTES AND NEGOTIATIONS: Plans are underway for the Jock River bridge. It is intended to erect a sign at the start of the trail at The Mill Restaurant and to complete a link-up of the Old Schoolhouse Trail with the main trail. Only one landowner has requested that the trail be removed from his land on account of vandalism and it was agreed that landowners should be visited once a year.

MAINTENANCE: 158 km of trail have been covered at least once by work parties for maintenance, replacement of markers, etc. Offers of help in this area are always welcome.

LOT DEVELOPMENT

An outdoor privy has been constructed, an additional 100 trees planted and a bird feeder has been erected in memory of Harry Walker. Cash donations, as well as returnable bottles or cans, are always gratefully received in order to keep the voracious birds fed. A well is planned and the log cabin has been started. The foundation is poured and the door frame completed in 6-log high walls.

WINTER TRAILS:

Six miles of ski trails were added last year and the parking lot kept well ploughed. The remaining money from a \$400 grant from the Ministry of Natural Resources will be used for a bridge and a 10 mile ski trail between the cabin on the Rideau Trail lot and the Old Schoolhouse is contemplated.

SOCIAL CONVENOR:

There have been 17 social outings this year - the highlights of the outdoor activities perhaps being the annual cross-country ski trip into Merrickville and a geology hike in the Tay River area. Two successful and well attended workshops were held, one on cross-country skiing and one on topographical map reading.



If undelivered, please return to:

Rideau Trail Association
Box 15
Kingston, Ontario
K7L 4V6
Canada

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please check whether.... New membership_____or Renewal of membership_____

NAME(please print):_____

MAILING ADDRESS:_____

(Please include postal code.) Telephone:_____

I enclose \$_____to cover the following:

PATRONS \$150.00
MEMBERSHIP FEE: \$5.00
Senior Citizen: 3.00

(a) Membership fee	_____
(b) Plastic map kit(\$3.00)	_____
(c) Crest (badge) (\$1.00)	_____
(d) Guidebook* (\$1.00)	_____
(e) Donation	_____

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

* This is a Kingston Areas Guidebook only.