



The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

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WINTER 1978



CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING ON THE RIDEAU TRAIL

—Boris Mather

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 welcome and should be sent by February 1, 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.

Unless otherwise stated, the opinions expressed in items in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Rideau Trail Association.

TO THE EDITOR

CLAUDE BENNETT AND THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

Claude Bennett, Ottawa M.L.A., as Ontario Minister of Housing, has ordered the Niagara Escarpment Commission to grant a development permit to Contrakon Limited of Ottawa to build a \$16 million hotel and conference centre at the most scenic point of the Niagara Escarpment. It involves 477 acres at the Forks of the Credit. Bennett's decision overrules objections by the Commission and a Caledon town planner. When questioned by the writer, Bennett said he was not going to be influenced by groups such as the Rideau Trail Association. He acknowledged that he had never visited the site and didn't intend to. He refused to discuss the precedent-setting implications of his decision.

The Ottawa Citizen of September 27 revealed that Bennett, and two other ministers in a position to assist, each accepted a \$500 election contribution from Contrakon. However, Bennett told the writer that his decision was not influenced by developers.

Ratepayers in the affected area are applying to the Supreme Court for a judicial review of Bennett's decision.

It is understood that Bennett, in another portfolio, was behind the move to commercialize Maple Mountain several years ago. Public outcry against that plan won the day.

Those who are concerned at Bennett's decision and the implications it could have on the future of the Rideau Trail might consider writing to their M.L.A.'s.

Al Gamble

Editor's note: Letters of concern should be addressed to:
Hon. René Brunelle, Queen's Park, Toronto
with copies to Hon. Wm. Davis and to
Ivor McMullin, Chairman Niagara Escarpment Commission,
232 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont. L6G 4B1
and to your local M.L.A.

The following report was presented by John Cameron at the Annual General Meeting of the Rideau Trail Association in Merrickville, 23 September, 1978.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT, 1978, JOHN CAMERON

Because the RTA Board of Directors may seem a little remote from the activities of your club and because it needs your interest and possible participation in future years, I want to tell you something about the concerns of the Board during the past year and what the incoming executive may have to contend with.

When you look at the outdoor recreation scene in southern Ontario it is apparent that increasing activity in this fairly densely populated region of Canada is creating problems.

Hiking is surely the simplest outdoor recreation, which by itself does minimal damage to the environment. But for some rural landowners who feel threatened by new zoning regulations, or the creation of conservation areas, we are being identified as the enemy, because we are highly visible and largely urban people.

Beyond that, we must recognize that some landowners have suffered real abuse and damage to their property caused by stupid people who assume that everything outside the city is more or less wilderness and open to all.

I don't want to place too much emphasis on such problems because they may be blown out of proportion. The Bruce Trail, because of its proximity to the large population of Toronto and the controversy over protection of the Niagara Escarpment is facing serious difficulties. On our Rideau Trail the problems are presently much less severe, but warning signs should alert us to the need to encourage better hiking manners.

We also probably need to become more visible and vocal in the affairs of local and regional governments. During the past year I took part in a number of meetings with landowners in the Ottawa-Carleton Region who were concerned about plans for conservation areas in the region. There seemed to be a good deal of ignorance concerning hiking and our trail, and I was shaken by the hostility that some landowners expressed towards our activities.

Related to this problem is the question of whether the Association should own land, or participate in public efforts to purchase land in order to preserve the integrity of the trail and the attractiveness of the region through which it passes.

In 1977, the RTA donated \$1000, to a campaign to protect the Little Cataraqui Creek Valley from over-development. This is a very

attractive region through which the trail passes. Our effort combined with support from Kingston and the conservation authority resulted in some important land acquisitions. The question is how far should our association go in this direction? Doug Knapp of Kingston has agreed to chair a committee to look into this question. There are certainly aspects that give us pause, particularly the responsibilities and risks involved in owning land. Perhaps the best kind of solution is to participate in a joint effort with other conservation organizations and government to acquire land.

The Rideau Trail passes through some lovely countryside. Inevitably, more of that land will be dug up, for gravel pits, housing developments or farms. Unique bogs and marshes may be drained to grow onions and interesting woods may be cut down to be replaced by monotonous rows of pine. Here we share a commonality of interest with other citizen's groups who want to protect the environment. In Ottawa-Carleton conservationists are dismayed by the way in which a plan to protect some of the interesting natural regions is now being drastically reduced because of the outcries of landowners.

I think we should be concerned. The trail is only an abstraction when you divorce it from the land over which it passes. To say that our main business is putting markers up on trees and clearing bush ignores why we do it. I suggest to you it is because we care about a certain quality of life that demands a healthy environment.

Despite the stress that I have laid on it, the long-range problem of preserving the integrity of the trail and the land through which it passes is not a major preoccupation of the Board of Directors. There are many practical matters, such as the marking of access points to the trail, newsletter policy, trail rerouting, reprinting of maps, construction of a cabin by the Ottawa club, development of policy, which occupy a great deal of the Board's time. But we have to think about the future.

Either we speak up for the values we hold and make sure that the politicians hear, or we can expect to spend more time walking on dusty roads with dogs yapping at our heels and cars roaring by.

Quite apart from the need for trails, should there not be a place for the pedestrian and the cyclist in our overly mechanized world? Do we not share a concern for an urban environment built to a human scale and not designed mainly to provide for automobiles?

There are two aspects to the Rideau Trail: the reality that you trod and what it symbolizes. It is a linear declaration that man's feet should have a place to wander that isn't all concrete and lawn. We are not asking that anyone should suffer from this wandering, but it is a human propensity that must be assuaged.

"What drew the legs along
Was the never-stopping,
And the senseless, frightening
Fate of being legs.

"Legs for the road,
The road for legs,
Resolutely nowhere
In both directions.

....

"Gently I touched my shins
The doubt unchained them:
They had run in twenty puddles
Before I regained them."

Robert Graves

NARROWS LOCK ON THE RIDEAU

Narrows Lock, at the southern end of the Big Rideau Lake is perhaps one of the least known locks on the canal system and this is a pity because it is a most attractive place, reached from the south by a winding county road off Highway 42 and backed on the north by a wooded rise up to the escarpment. There are no resort hotels or short-order restaurants here, just a well-restored blockhouse and a neat flower garden surrounding the lock and overshadowed by large trees.

But it was not always like this - in the 1830's it was an important strategic location in the engineering plans of Colonel By. "The oftener I examine the excavation now in progress... the more I am convinced it is going to be a more difficult piece than has been suspected" wrote the Colonel in connection with the excavation work at Newboro. The isthmus between Newboro Lake and the Upper Rideau Lake is the height of land for the canal and several hundred men sweated and strained - and died - digging and blasting a 2 km channel to link the Rideau and the Cataraqui systems. The dead, victims of the swamp fever, lie in a cemetery on Highway 42, just south of Newboro, now identified as the Royal Sappers and Miners Cemetery by a commemorative plaque on the highway. In the end, the solution lay with the Narrows - 7 km downstream. At this location, which had been the fording point for travellers between Kingston and Perth, Colonel By constructed a dam and thus raised the water level of the Upper Rideau by 1.2 metres. This substantially reduced the amount of excavation needed at Newboro and, incidentally, saved many soldiers' lives. The importance of this dam for navigation of the cut at the isthmus is shown by the blockhouse built in 1833 to defend the station and now faithfully restored.

It is almost impossible today, on a warm summer afternoon with the sun shining across the broad expanse of the lake and little waves lapping the shore, to visualize the scene as it must have been some 150 years ago, but when the cold winter wind sweeps across the water perhaps it is easier to imagine the toil and hardships endured by Colonel By's soldiers in their efforts to open up the canal for navigation. So, if you are hiking the trail in the vicinity of the Big Rideau, be sure to turn down towards the water at the point where the trail meets No. 3 road at the Narrows, and take time to enjoy a little of the past.

Eileen Evans

SCOUTS WIN "200 AWARD"

A unique achievement was marked this year at the general meeting of the Rideau Trail Association at Merrickville on September 23. Four Ottawa Scouts and their leader, David Houlton, were awarded the Association's "200 Award" for hiking the entire length of the Trail this summer. The boys are members of the 101st Ottawa St. Aidan's Troop and the hike was undertaken in connection with earning the Gold Stage Explorer Badge, one of the requirements for the Chief Scout Award. Sixteen boys started out from Richmond Landing, west of the Parliament Buildings and hiked to Bells Corners one weekend. The following weekend ten of the boys went from Bells Corners to Burritts Rapids, camping out overnight in the Carleton Forest.

But the final push was done in one continuous 11 day hike by four boys and Houlton, who estimate they must have covered about 20 miles a day, as 2 of the 11 days were spent resting in camp.

The four boys who received the award with their leader are Matthew Wooding, 17, Bruce Pilcher and Mark Houlton, 15 and Tad Higgins, 14. Well done!



TRAIL USE — A RESPONSIBILITY AS WELL AS A JOY

While hiking or skiing along a seemingly undisturbed and isolated stretch of trail, it is easy to consider it a purely natural resource quite devoid of human intervention. Such is not the case!

The Rideau Trail, for example, owes its beginnings and continued success to a relatively small but enthusiastic group of people. These members freely provide ingenuity, perseverance and hard work with a view to preserving a continuous, natural corridor in this area of southern Ontario.

It would be remiss not to over-emphasize the valuable contributions made by the many private landowners who have given the Rideau Trail right of passage. There is no better time to appreciate this than when you are forced to walk along a dusty concession road or along a busy highway rather than through some scenic but quite private forests. The quality of the Rideau Trail is very dependent on the continued goodwill of private landowners. Yet this goodwill ought not to be taken for granted - it is quite tenuous!

Although the Rideau Trail is not yet plagued by overuse, a number of instances of misuse and outright abuse on the part of a few "very inconsiderate trail users" (these people don't necessarily deserve this euphemism) has understandably provoked landowners. The predictable result has been the loss of a number of stretches of scenic trail - a serious threat to the quality and continuity of the Rideau Trail.

Invariably, a few continue to spoil it for the majority. What is the role of the hiker? Apart from personally protecting the environment and respecting the property of landowners on whose land the trail passes, we have the added responsibility of informing "trail abusers", in no uncertain terms, of the conditions under which the trail has been given its right of passage.

Although hikers, in general, might not be a particularly vocal group, please don't hesitate to speak out against such trail abuse as littering, destruction of wildlife and property, unauthorized fires, vandalism to ski-cabins, etc. We can all make a positive contribution by practising and encouraging proper use of trails and facilities.

Mike Moran

BIRD FEEDING STATION

RIDEAU TRAIL LOT

The bird feeding program was begun on October 22nd this year and will continue through the winter to mid-April. Volunteers are needed to fill the feeder. Phone Shirley Simpson at 828-1679.

Refundable bottles have been collected and will provide seed until the end of December. Donations of refundable bottles and cans or cash, can be dropped off at Simpsons', 1206 Placid St., Ottawa, Ontario K2C 3A6. If you require a receipt for income tax, please make your cheques payable to the "Rideau Trail Association Inc."

Lets keep that feeder filled!

Let us know if you have any unusual sightings at the feeder (R.T. Lot, Map 4, Conc. VIII).

OTTAWA CLUB FALL HIKES

The Ottawa Club has enjoyed three interesting hikes so far this fall. It seemed that our first hike of the season was going to be a complete washout - literally! The rain was coming down in buckets in the early morning and it was all one could do not to turn over in bed and forget about the whole thing. But the 15 to 20 hardy souls who decided to brave the weather were well rewarded. We had hardly set out from the Knoxdale Road parking lot when the weather cleared and the rest of the day was very pleasant. The trail from Knoxdale through to Richmond Road passes through mixed woods, cedar brush and some marsh land. There were still a good many fall flowers out and in one damp spot Fringed and Closed Gentians and Nodding Ladies tresses were all found within a few feet of each other, while bushy Joe-Pye-weed, Jewelweed and Boneset brightened the swampy areas.

On the weekend of Ontario Hiking day 5 energetic backpackers enjoyed an overnight camping trip to Frontenac Park and some strenuous hiking. Those of us who prefer to come home in the evening to a hot bath and our own beds took the easier way out and hiked the trail west of Merrickville to Rosedale and back. It was a beautiful day and the woods were at their best - glowing golds and yellows with here and there bright orange and scarlet. This is a very pleasant part of the trail - easy walking on a track through beautiful birch woods and past open fields - ideal for this time of year. We were joined at Merrickville by the Duncan Douglasses, who very kindly invited us back to their lovely old 19th century stone farm house on the river road for tea - a perfect end to the day.

Once again, on October 21st, the weather gods were with us - after a miserably cold week we chose the best weekend of the fall for a joint hike with the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club. Forty hikers met in Ottawa and a cavalcade of twelve cars proceeded in convoy to the Narrows on the Big Rideau. We had hoped to be able to leave some cars at Foley Mountain Conservation Area and thus walk right through to Westport, but it was just too difficult to work out owing to the distance between the starting and finishing points by road, so we all set out on the trail along the edge of the escarpment west of the Narrows. After leaving the road, the trail is quite rugged for nearly a mile through oak woods, past an old beaver pond and over huge outcroppings of pre-cambrian rocks. It then follows a narrow country road up and down along the lake shore with glorious views of the bright blue water and little islands of Upper Rideau Lake. It was hard to believe we were in late October - the day was as warm as summer and we all began to feel the effects of the heat and look forward with longing to our lunch stop, on a high bluff overlooking the lake. After lunch the majority voted to hike a little further towards Westport. This part of the trail again became more rugged with some quite steep climbs through varied terrain ending up right along the lake shore before climbing to the heights of Foley Mountain where one is rewarded with a spectacular view of the lakes and countryside with Westport spread out before you like a toy village.

This is a very interesting section of the trail and the whole day was most enjoyable from every point of view - good weather, good scenery, good hiking and good company! This was our first hike with the Field Naturalists, and we hope they enjoyed themselves as much as we did and that this joint walk will become an annual event.

Eileen Evans

END-TO-END HIKE: A SUCCESSFUL BEGINNING

The first two end-to-end hikes are now history and the third will probably be completed when you read this report. The eight people who participated in the first hike on September 24th included veteran hikers from Toronto and Brockville. The group was favored with ideal hiking weather as it followed the shoreline of the Ottawa River from the Mill restaurant (starting point of the Trail) to Britannia and then south to Bell High School on the city's southern outskirts.

The second hike, on October 22nd, was also favored by ideal hiking weather. On this occasion, the hikers were the first group to hike the newly rerouted trail from Bell High School to Twin Elms (10 Miles). The trail runs through the N.C.C. greenbelt, which is heavily forested in this area (mixed hardwoods and evergreens). This is one of the more attractive stretches of the trail. The hike ended near the hamlet of Fallowfield with its attractive churches and old stone house built in 1827.

The fourth hike takes place on December 17th and the group meets as usual at the west end Shoppers City, Woodroffe and Baseline, at 8.30 a.m. The hike will cover the northern section of the Carleton Regional Forest, finishing at the newly constructed log cabin.

Bill Grant

Editor's Note: The End-to-End Hikes are organized by an individual club member - not by the Ottawa Rideau Trail Club, as erroneously stated in the autumn issue of the newsletter.

Interested people should contact Boris Mather (238-6409) for further information about these hikes.

Please refer to Autumn newsletter for details of End-to-End Hikes No. 4 and 5.

OTTAWA SECTION - WINTER TRAILS

The Old Schoolhouse Trails will be available again this year with a few changes.

A new loop trail (2.5 km) has been added in the northern section and a link trail (6.5 km) has been made between this area and the main Rideau Trail.

We have also been granted use of the schoolhouse as a shelter. This will be open on weekends between 11 a.m. and dusk. The furnishings will be minimal - 2 picnic tables and a wood stove. No water is available, but the stove can be used for heating up food. Users are asked to help by taking their own garbage away with them. Two parking lots will be provided in the area, one in the same location as last year, the other in the schoolyard.

The main loop trails will be marked yellow, the interconnecting trails and the new loop will be marked blue. The adjoining map shows the trail layout and how to get there.

When you are tired of skiing in this area, don't forget to try the Earth Star trail in Concession III.

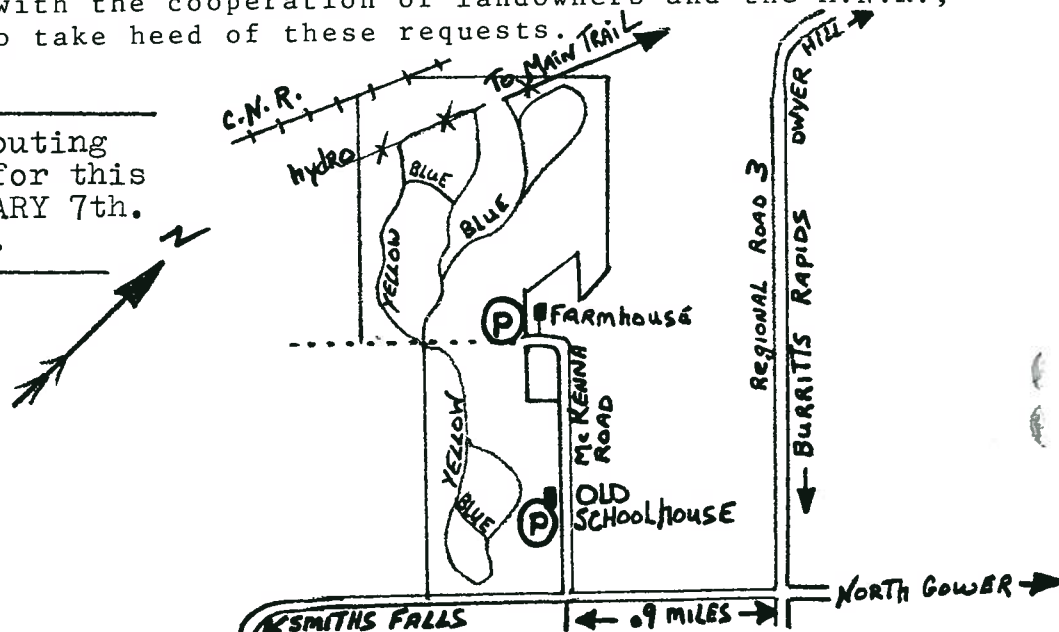
Anyone wishing further information, call Ray Billingham at 731-6071.

Please Note!

The Ministry of Natural Resources has requested that winter trail users, in the Carleton Forest area, do not take dogs along with them. This is to avoid any possible confrontation with deer. We have also been requested to refrain from using the main trail immediately north and south of the North Gower/Smiths Falls Road (Regional Road 4): this is also to avoid harassment of the deer which winter in this area.

We are gradually establishing a network of winter trails in the Carleton Forest with the cooperation of landowners and the M.N.R., so we urge you to take heed of these requests.

A ski and snowshoe outing has been organized for this area on SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th. See details page 11.



OTTAWA CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All members and friends are invited to take part in the following club activities. Mark the dates on your calendar now! Unless otherwise stated, hikers will meet at the West End Shoppers City (corner of Baseline Road and Woodroffe Avenue, meet near the Woodroffe Ave. 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.

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. Now's the time to get back into shape after the holidays!

Saturday,
January 27

Here it is again! our annual cross-country ski and snowshoe trip into Merrickville (Map 5). Ski into Merrickville from Nicholson's Locks for a hot lunch at the hotel, about 9 km each way. Ottawa section will meet Central section people at 10.30 a.m. at Nicholson's Locks. Ottawa people meet at W.E.S.C. at 9.30 a.m. Participants are asked to call Dorice Joyce (728-8848) or Eileen Evans (741-0789) before January 23rd so that we will know how many will be taking part.

Saturday &
Sunday
February 17 & 18

A back-packing and overnight camping trip on to the Rideau Trail Lot (Maps 3 & 4). The log cabin is now up and the well is working - all the comforts of home, almost! Ski tours of varying distance can be made from the lot. Meet at W.E.S.C. at 9 a.m. on Saturday. It is essential that you register your intended participation with Dorice Joyce or Eileen Evans in advance so you can be notified of any change due to bad weather.

Saturday,
February 17

For those who just wish a day's skiing - join the overnigheters for the day. Meet at W.E.S.C. at 9 a.m. and bring roastable food if you wish, for cooking on the barbecue.

Saturday,
March 3

Joint cross-country ski and snowshoe outing with the National and Provincial Parks Association on the Earth Star Loop in the Regional Forest. You may ski from 3.6 km to 14.6 km on this loop through cedar bush, deciduous woods and open country with a few small hills (Map 4). Since National and Provincial Park Association members will be joining us on this trip, you will have the opportunity to gauge for yourself the importance of protecting these lands by legislation.

PLEASE BE ON TIME! Outings will leave promptly at the time specified.

GOOD NEWS

R.T.A. WINTARIO GRANT APPROVED

The Rideau Trail Association's application for financial assistance from "Wintario" was officially approved on November 10, 1978.

Al Gamble accepted the grant on behalf of the Rideau Trail Association from Mr. Reuben C. Bates, Ontario Minister of Culture and Recreation.

The grant, not to exceed \$4,531.23, is being used in the construction of the ski cabin on the Rideau Trail Lot (Map No. 4). The lot, including cabin, well, privy and birdfeeder, has truly been a "lot" of work and perserverance.

While giving due credit for construction to those in the work-parties, special thanks is due Shirley Simpson, Peter Carruthers and Al Gamble for following the veritable trail of paperwork.

The following is an excerpt from the report presented by Grace Taugher to the Annual General Meeting of the Rideau Trail Association in Merrickville, 23 September, 1978.

REPORT FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, 1978

....

I suggest that we change the dates used for determining total membership figures to coincide with the financial year now ending August 31. This will provide up to date figures for the Annual meeting. Next year's report would then cover September 1, 1978 to August 31, 1979.

With this in mind I present a statement of members in good standing on August 31, 1978.

482	Ottawa
489	Kingston
224	Out of town
17	Affiliates
1212	Paying members
20	Honorary members - Kingston (mostly landowners)
27	Honorary members - Ottawa " "
39	Newsletter exchange (other Trail Clubs) & complimentary (publicity)
1298	Total mailing list

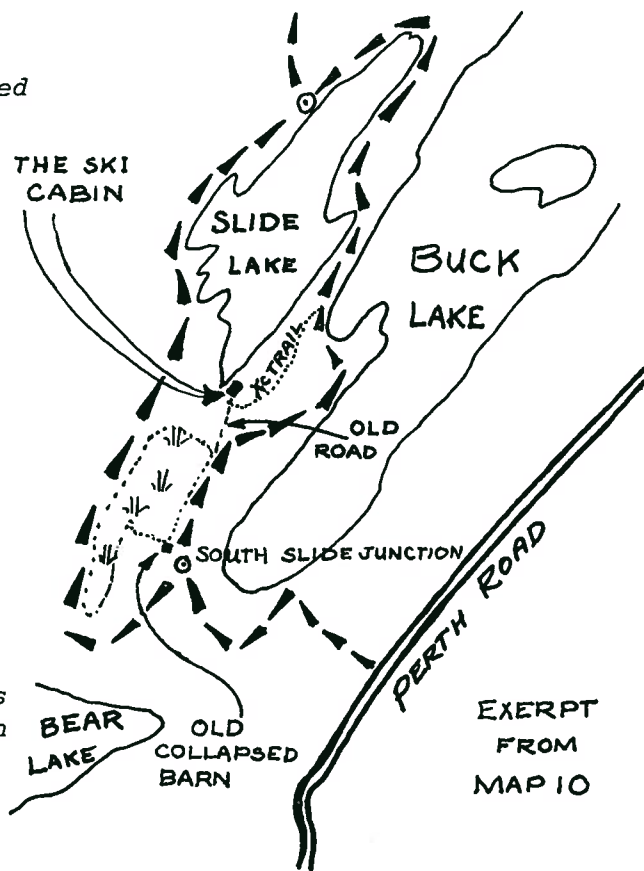
Grace Taugher, Membership Secretary

Creating a Ski Trail into Frontenac Park

On Saturday, October 21, an ambitious crew of twenty volunteers led by foreman Doug Knapp, cut, levelled, widened and marked a beautiful new 3 km trail section running from the east side of Frontenac Park to Perth Road. (See p. 5 of previous newsletter, issue 29, for map) The path has been cleared to a full one and one-half metres on level ground and wider on hills to create a first class cross-country ski trail. This new trail is suitable for anyone with moderate experience but is probably a bit too difficult for the novice skier.

Leading, as it does, to our ski cabin on Slide Lake, this is a particularly important trail section. The cabin contains a couple of beds, a table and bench, a cozy wood stove, and a few cooking utensils. It is available at no charge for day or overnight use by R. T. A. members. Reservations may be made through Jack Watkins in Kingston at 613-389-4354.

The cabin does not actually lie right on the Rideau Trail. A short unmarked side trail must be followed, whose location is detailed on the sketch map to the right.



WINTER EXPERIENCE AT SKYCROFT

Allan and Ellen Bonwill, landowners who have given freely of their time and interest to the R.T.A. (as well as having the Trail on their property), have an added attraction at their Skycroft Family Camp at Opinicon Lake this winter. For a small fee of \$7.00 your family (or a group of four) can enjoy an outing and stay overnight in a small cabin by the shore of the lake. The cabin features one double and two single beds with foam mattresses, electricity, sink (not with running water, but with a nearby spring), gas stove for cooking, and a nearby outhouse.

To reserve this cabin for a refreshing experience, call Bonwills at 1-359-5491.

Incidentally, there is a wood-burning stove available to make this a cozy cabin, but help is needed to move it and install it. If you have the interest and time to help in this project, please call the Bonwills who will appreciate some extra hands.

KINGSTON RIDEAU TRAIL CLUB

COMING EVENTS

- Saturday,
January 6 Ski hike - Desert Lake Road north of Ski club into Gould Lake and around skiable trails and return. Consult Whig Standard for details or phone Arne Henrikson, 544-0465.
- Saturday,
January 13 Ski hike by the light of the full moon from 7.30 p.m. until 9 p.m. Meet at the Bath Road A & P Store at 7.25 p.m. Hike suitable for beginners and led by Jane and Doug Knapp, 542-2039.
- Sunday,
January 21 Ski hike into Slide Lake cabin by the new trail. Meet at Sears North door at 10 a.m. or at the Trail intersection with Perth Road at 10.40 a.m. Bring a lunch. The Trail is fairly hilly and probably too rough for beginners. Total length is about 7 km. Hike leader is Norm McLeod, 546-9440.
- Saturday,
January 27 Ski from Bullen Road to Elginburg Road, 10 km. return. Meet at Sears North door at 1.30 p.m. The terrain is varied, with lots of flat areas but some exciting hills too. Leader, Marion Watkins, 389-4354.
- Saturday,
February 3 Ski, learn-to-ski, or improve your cross-country skiing at Skycroft. Meet at 12.30 p.m. at Sears North door, or about one hour later at Skycroft. Mr. Greg Derbyshire, professional instructor will be there to give instruction at all levels of experience at a cost of about \$2.50/person. If you don't need lessons, join us for a ski hike on the Groomed trails for a fee of \$1.00. Bring your own snack food; we will supply coffee and hot chocolate. The number at Skycroft is 1-359-5491, or call Marion Watkins, 389-4354. For snowshoe enthusiasts, Frank Blacharczyk will lead you on a separate walk. Same meeting details, etc.
- Saturday,
February 10 &
Sunday,
February 11 Overnight ski tour to Slide Lake and Caselle Gorge area. Pre-registration necessary! Participation limited. Contact J. Watkins, 389-4354.
- Sunday,
February 18 Cross-country ski with Dick Henriksen leading from Desert Lake Road to Salmon Lake, 12 km. return. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears North door at 9 a.m. Call 549-0412 or 547-6271.

Saturday, February 24 Ski tour - Knowlton Lake Road to Gould Lake and return. Meet at Sears north door at 9.30 a.m. Contact Jack Watkins, 389-4354.

Saturday, March 10 Ski tour. Elginburg Road to Van Order Road. Meet at Sears North door at 12.30. Contact person Cathy Cults, 542-5414.

Sunday, March 18 A late season ski tour to Slide Lake. Contact Arne Henrickson, 544-0465 for details or read Friday Night column in Whig-Standard.

YOUR CORRIDOR PRESERVATION FUND

Do you know about the Corridor Preservation Fund of the Rideau Trail Association?

The fund was established in 1975 to give your R.T.A. some means of helping to retain the use of trail lands which are in danger of being diverted to commercial purposes. Last year, for example, a stretch of pine forest at the Kingston end of the trail was about to be purchased by a developer. A donation of \$1,000.00 from your Corridor Preservation Fund enabled the Little Cataraqui Foundation to trigger off much larger contributions from public sources so that the land was purchased as a permanent conservation area. All of this was made possible by donations to the Fund from R.T.A. members and other friends.

However, this outlay has brought the Fund down to below \$500.00. The Board of Directors of your R.T.A. have set a 5 year goal of bringing the fund up to \$10,000.00. This will give the R.T.A. the potential of providing effective assistance in other situations.

Your donation to this cause can be mailed to the Membership Secretary, P.O. Box #15, Kingston K7L 4V6 - either as a separate gift or along with your membership fee. Official receipts for income tax purposes will be forwarded for all contributions of \$5.00 and over.

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.



If undelivered, please return to:

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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

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:

MEMBERSHIP FEE: \$ 5.00
SENIOR CITIZEN: \$ 3.00
PATRONS: \$150.00

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

*Map kits are sold to members only.

**This is a Kingston Areas Guidebook only.