

The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

*Published by the Rideau Trail Association
Printed on recycled paper
Issue No. 32*

SUMMER 1979



THE RIDEAU TRAIL NEAR UPPER RIDEAU LAKE

— Michael Moran

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

Submissions for the next Newsletter are welcome and should be sent by August 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.

FIRST ONTARIO HIKING CONFERENCE AT PETERBOROUGH

Hikers will blaze a trail to Peterborough in spring 1980 for the first Ontario conference for hiking enthusiasts.

HIKE ONTARIO, May 16 to May 19 at Trent University, is sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations. FOHTA is the co-ordinating body representing the Avon, Bruce, Elgin, Ganaraska, Grand Valley, Guelph, Quinte-Hastings, Rideau, Thames Valley and Voyageur Trail Associations and 30,000 individuals who regularly use Ontario's extensive hiking trail system.

Some 750 participants are expected to attend HIKE ONTARIO. Sporting specially designed T-shirts, buttons, and emblems, they will participate in a holiday weekend for hikers and their families. Included will be a 'get-acquainted' pioneer breakfast, a cook-out luncheon, entertainment, displays, tours, a young people's program and hikes.

Several workshops are planned for an interchange of information about all Ontario trails; to exchange experiences and technical and educational information for the improvement of hiking trails and programs. The Conference will also provide a forum for identifying and discussing problems facing Ontario trails. Group sessions will allow delegates an opportunity to discuss how they can influence government decisions relating to hiking trails. Mr. Justice Thomas Berger, who headed the historic MacKenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry, will be the guest speaker at Sunday's banquet.

Besides excellent dormitory accommodation in the University residence, excellent camping facilities are being made available on campus, right on the banks of the beautiful Ottonabee River. Meals will be available in the residence cafeteria.

Plan now to attend - the whole family. May 16-19, 1980 will be an event to remember!

LIVING ON THE GREEN OF THE LAND

"Wait - don't step there! That's chenopodium album - great eating for tonight's supper. We can add it to the hemerocallis fulva buds we collected earlier on the hike."

If this doesn't even sound like English, translate "wild spinach" or "lamb's quarters" for "chenopodium album", and "day lily" for "hemerocallis fulva", two delightful dishes picked right beside the trail. More and more, people are becoming interested in the plentiful wild foods they pass in ignorance or even mow down in their own back gardens. This interest has spawned numerous magazine and newspaper articles and a host of excellent paperbacks like "Stalking the Wild Asparagus" by the master of the edible wild, Euell Gibbons.

Rideau Trail backpackers can enjoy this free harvest, supplementing canned and freeze-dried trail foods with tasty nutritious fresh salad or sautéed greens, baked tubers and tempting teas. And even if you are just day-hiking, bring along an empty plastic bread bag to carry home some wild fare that you're sure to pass along the way. Collectors have to be very sensitive to the environment, however. Serious consideration must be given to the perpetuation of the crop from any collecting area. That is, do not take so much from a given plant or plantation that the reproduction of that area is jeopardized in the future. If you cannot collect without endangering the future crop, don't collect!

New Taste Experiences

Wild plants, like cultivated plants, have their own distinctive flavours. Do not expect them to blandly duplicate the tastes with which you are familiar. Just as you needed to become accustomed to the pungent aroma of brussels sprouts and the strangeness of asparagus, wild greens have their own characters. Give yourself a chance to get used to them, and accept them as they are, not as duplicates of your usual domestic fare. And use your freezer. Like domestic plants, most wild plants can be preserved by freezing for use out-of-season. Many plants have a rather limited season for being at their best - often just a week or two, but this needn't prevent your enjoying your favourites all through the year.

Think Ahead

Don't go collecting with a supermarket mentality. Collecting wild greens takes time and knowledge. You cannot expect to go out for a stroll and just stumble over five different salad delights. (You might, but you probably won't.) You have to be alert when you walk, noticing and remembering the location of a good patch of wild leeks, water cress, and violet greens, so that when you decide that you want one of these you know exactly where to get it at any time in the future.

Take advantage of the plentiful library of publications on the subject of wild edibles. Besides specialized books on the subject à la Euell Gibbons, many magazines offer regular feature articles (Outdoor Canada) or occasional special features (Harrowsmith).

Collect notes and pictures of wild foods and recipes for their preparation.
Accumulate a scrapbook for convenient reference.

Some Common Edible Wilds in the Kingston-Ottawa Area

Drinks

Rose hips tea (fall and winter)
Mint tea (summer)
Sumac lemonade (summer and fall)
Clover blossom tea (late spring and summer)

Salad Fare

Jewelweed (spring and summer)
Orange lily shoots (spring)
Purslane (summer)
Amaranth (pigweed) (late spring)
Water cress (spring and summer)

Boiled or Sautéed Greens

Violet leaves and blossoms (spring)
Milkweed shoots (spring)*
Day lily blossoms (summer)
Milkweed flowers * (unopened) (June 1)
Nettle (spring)
Lamb's quarters (spring and summer)
Milkweed pods (June 15 $\pm$)
Vetch (spring and summer)
Jewelweed (spring)
Cattail shoots (spring)
Day lily shoots (spring)
Amaranth (pigweed) (late spring)
Cattail stamens (June 20 $\pm$)
Purslane (summer)
Curled dock (spring)
Plantain (spring)
Vetch (fiddlehead type) (spring and summer)
Fiddleheads (spring)
Wild leeks (spring)
Clover (spring and summer)
Marsh marigold leaves* (spring)

Miscellaneous

Orange lily tubers (summer and fall)
"Safe" mushrooms (puff-ball) (fall)
(shaggy mane) (late summer)
(morel) (spring)
Cattail pollen (July 1)
Wild ginger root (for candy) (spring)
Water lily seed "popcorn" (late summer)
Spring beauty tubers (spring and summer)
Leeks (spring)
Wild ginger root (spring)
Violet leaves (spring)
Violet blossoms (spring)
Curled dock (spring)

* Boil in two waters to remove bitterness

Doug Knapp

GEOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RIDEAU TRAIL

Editor's note: The first half of this article "Geological Highlights of the Rideau Trail" by Bob Stevens appeared in the Spring Newsletter.

Most of the area traversed by the trail has been ravaged by the Laurentide ice sheets of the last (Wisconsin) glaciation. In many places the movement of the vast ice sheets has scraped the underlying rocks entirely bare of surface deposits so that even today there are extensive areas of bare rock showing a variety of large and small scars, gouges and striations where the ice has dragged enclosed blocks and boulders across the surface. The orientation of these grooves and striations, together with the shape of the plucking and gouge marks can be interpreted to tell the direction of ice movement. Occasionally, after the ice melted, the blocks and boulders responsible for these scars have been left sitting just where they stopped, sometimes in the most exotic places. They are called glacial erratics and most of the boulders of granite and gneiss sitting in areas of Palaeozoic sedimentary bedrock are of such origin and they sometimes created problems for pioneer farmers who tried to move them to their field boundaries and fence lines.

Not all glacial effects were destructive however. Large piles of rock rubble from the front of ice lobes are called terminal moraines, while those along the edges are lateral moraines and they remain on the land surface when the ice retreats or melts. Many streams of meltwater form long, often rather straight channels under the ice and these drop their load of suspended sand and gravel to form elongated narrow ridges called eskers. As a glacier or ice sheet melts all of its frozen-in rock debris is eventually released to form new sedimentary deposits of bouldery till, sand and clay. All of these features can be recognized along or close to the trail route and it can be both exciting and instructive to go searching for them.

Can you imagine the fantastic weight of an ice sheet a mile thick and hundreds of miles wide? Well, I can tell you it sure was some heavy! Heavy enough in fact that it literally depressed the land surface just as the weight of your body depresses the surface of the mattress on your bed. The result was that much of the St. Lawrence Lowlands, including a large part of the Ottawa-St. Lawrence River Valleys, was depressed below sea-level. When the ice sheets began to melt, perhaps 15,000 to 20,000 years ago, they disappeared fairly fast (geologically speaking) and ocean water advanced into this below-sea-level area and formed the Champlain Sea which attained its maximum depth about 12,000 years ago.

The sediments deposited in the Champlain Sea now form, in part, the notoriously unstable clay beds (e.g. the Leda Clay). These marine clays, together with overlying non-marine sediments can be triggered into an almost liquid state by quite minor events and spectacularly oozy landslides result. In built-up areas these slides can be quite devastating and often result in extensive property damage.

Eventually the submerged land rose again as a kind of delayed action after the unloading of the glacial ice, the Champlain Sea withdrew into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the land surface with its new sediments came above sea-level once more. Erosion commenced again as weathering and streams worked away at the new surface and we are still in this phase today. Because the present topography is gentle the rate of erosion is also relatively gentle, but who knows what the future may hold? One thing is certain: we are not at the end of the geological evolution of our region. Geological processes of major magnitude happen over long periods of time and a human life-time is only a tiny fraction of an instant in geological perspective. Perhaps your great-great-great-... great-grandchildren will find out whether we are heading into another great glaciation, whether our cities and towns will be submerged to the bottom of another Champlain Sea, or whether we might even be elevated to higher altitudes by a continued post-glacial rise of the land surface. In any event you and I will be long gone, so we should best enjoy our Rideau Trail with its rocks, lakes, forests and animals as they are right now and do our best to protect them from man-made hazards.

Bob Stevens

H E L P ! ! !

In the Spring Newsletter the Kingston Club made an appeal for help - now it is the Ottawa Club's turn. We need it before June 10, 1979, the date of our Annual Meeting, and we need it badly - three executive positions being vacant.

For 2 years we have been a club without a CHAIRMAN - and that makes life difficult for the executive who have been taking turns chairing the meetings, adding greatly to their other responsibilities. The Chair presides over executive meetings, held approximately 10 times a year, and maintains close liaison with all other officers, as well as contact with necessary government departments, conservation authorities, etc. He or she also attends quarterly R.T.A. meetings usually held in the Central Region. The Chair has a finger in every pie and knows what's going on before everyone else - an interesting and rewarding job. Any takers!

On the publicity side, an EDITOR is required for the Newsletter twice yearly. This position also involves co-ordinating and delivering local material to Kingston for the two newsletters edited there and arranging for mailing of local members' newsletters, as well as generally masterminding publicity for the club.

Lastly, but not least, one person is needed for ASSOCIATION LIAISON, to attend the quarterly RTA policy-making meetings.

For all these jobs, present committee members will give assistance and support so come on, join us and give us the benefit of your ideas and enthusiasm - we need it! Call Shirley Simpson, 828-1679, or Dorice Joyce, 728-8848, who will see that your name is put on the slate of officers.

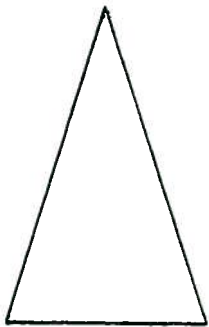
OTTAWA CLUB WINTER OUTINGS

Several very enjoyable ski and snowshoe outings were held this year though the weather varied greatly, from bitterly cold to almost summer heat! Good use was made of the new trails centering on the Old Schoolhouse this winter. These trails are varied and interesting, through woods and open fields, and it is possible to cross the road and join up with the trail to the log cabin on the club lot. It is certainly pleasant to come back for lunch to the Old Schoolhouse and to a fire lighted before setting out, and the organized outing in early January on this trail was well attended and much enjoyed.

The annual expedition from Nicholson's Locks to Merrickville was its usual success, though the weather was so hot jackets and gloves were discarded and it was on with the klister if one wanted to move at all. We got a warm welcome and an excellent baked bean buffet from the new owners of the Merrickville Hotel, which did not make the heavy going any easier on the way back!

Organized overnight winter camping seems doomed to disappointment - the designated weekend in February was the coldest of the winter and conditions were very icy, more like skating than skiing. About half a dozen members braved the weather for the day trip into the cabin, but only Ed Simpson planned to stay overnight. We helped him build his snow house and left him there with his supper warming on the stove. However, the weather was just too severe and, after discovering he could not feel his toes, he wisely packed up and left. The cabin has been used, though, on several other occasions for overnight stays, and much appreciated and enjoyed.

The last outing of the season was held in early March in conjunction with the National and Provincial Parks Association. About 15 people in all skied and snowshoed on the main trail and the Earth Star Loop. Again it was a very warm day, which resulted in heavy snow in the afternoon. After lunch, which we ate at the Circus, Bill Woodley of the N.P.P.A. gave us a very interesting talk on the Association's work and the future of the Regional Forest, followed by questions and discussion. We hope we can have more outings with this group next year.



RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION TRADE MARK

The familiar Rideau Trail isosceles triangle is now our registered trade mark. The triangle, without any designation as to colour, was registered on September 8, 1978. This was done to protect our trail as the sign cannot now be used as mark by anyone else without permission.

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

829 9130
PLEASE BE ON TIME! Outings will leave promptly at the time specified.

Sunday, OTTAWA RIDEAU TRAIL CLUB ANNUAL MEETING to be held at the Rideau
June 10 Trail Club lot (Map 4, Conc. VIII). Meet at W.E.S.C. at 9:00 a.m.
and hike into the lot, 2 1/2 miles (4.02 km) for the business
meeting at 11:00 a.m. If the weather is bad the meeting will be
held in the log cabin. Bring your own food, roastable if you
wish, to cook on the outdoor barbecue. Hot and cold drinks will
be provided. After lunch, help to plant sunflowers and shrubs
to attract birds and wildlife, or bring your own tree to plant
on the lot. There will also be a hike in search of wild flowers.
For further details, see special notice on page 5, of Spring 1979
Newsletter.

Saturday, In keeping with "The Year of the Child", there will be a hike on
June 23 the "Old Schoolhouse Loop) (Map 4) and a treasure hunt for the
young folk around the school yard. There will also be prizes,
in different age groups, for identification of wild flowers.
(See Winter 1978 Newsletter, page 10, for exact location).
Bring a lunch and meet at W.E.S.C. at 9:30 a.m. Come and bring
your friends, young and old, for this last hike until the autumn.

Sunday, A hike on one of the most spectacular, though fairly hilly and
September 9 rugged, sections of the Trail, in the Gould Lake area (Map 11).
Meet at the barn on Gould Lake at 10:30 a.m. For those interested
in camping overnight before the hike, there is a public campground
at the south end of the lake (tent, trailer). There is also
excellent canoeing and swimming, so bring your canoe, if you
wish, as well as your own food.

HIKING ANYONE?

If anyone in the Kingston area is interested in short midweek afternoon or evening hikes, they may call either of the following numbers and leave their names and telephone numbers for further information:

Cathy Cutts - 542-5414
Joyce Mayhew - 546-1950

RTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1979

Last year the RTA Annual General Meeting was switched from spring to fall, a switch eliminating billions of bugs and the bustling busyness of May. The move was permanent, so look forward to an autumn AGM from now on.

This year the AGM is being hosted by the Kingston Club and will be held on Saturday, October 13. Why not mark your calendar now and reserve the day for an enjoyable fall encounter with golden leaves and the outdoors? Details haven't been finalized yet, but will be presented in detail in the next Newsletter.

KINGSTON RIDEAU TRAIL CLUB AGM REPORT

The 7th Annual Meeting of the Kingston Rideau Trail Club was held on Saturday the 5th of May in the meeting hall of the Lions Club in the Village of Cataraqui just outside of Kingston. As Jack Watkins, the Chair, was unable to be present, his report was read by the acting Chair, Arne Henrikson, after which Jane Knapp presented the Treasurer's report. Reports on the year's activities were made by Doug Knapp on Maintenance, John Harrison on Routes and Negotiating and Cathy Cutts on Publicity. John Harrison indicated good progress in negotiating for a new section of trail to replace the 2 km section along the Perth Road from our new Slide Lake trail to the old trail running east from the Pert Road.

The new executive, elected for 1979-1980 is as follows:

Chair	- Cathy Cutts	Maintenance	- Doug Knapp
Past Chair	- Jack Watkins	Routes & Negotiating	- John Harrison
Vice-Chair	- David Smith	Newsletter Editor	- Marion Watkins
Secretary	- Caroline Gartenburg	Publicity	- Betty Morrell
Treasurer	- Arne Henrikson		

RTA Representatives are Norm McLeod, Doug Knapp and Caty Cutts.

After completion of the business, the fun parts of the meeting took place. First was an excellent presentation by Doug Knapp entitled "The Edible Wild", a description of many of the edible wild plants native to this region, their tastes, methods of preparation and seasons of availability. But descriptions alone were not enough. He and Jane Knapp had collected and prepared tasty salads and individual samples of many of the plants he had described. The members present were all invited to partake of this wild vegetarian feast, and I can attest to the fact that the delicious flavours could still be tasted several hours later. Some of the plants sampled were jewel-weed leaves, clover, marsh-marigold, wild leek, wild ginger root and milk-weed flowers (from their freezer). I am sure that all who tasted these delicious flavours would like to thank Doug for introducing them to these edible wild plants.

After this Doug lead a hike through the Cataraqui Cemetery to point out several trees that are among the largest of their species in Ontario, and Cathy Cutts took the children on a separate hike starting at the Bullen Road, near which can be seen the case of the disappearing creek. Fortunately the weather was cooperative and an enjoyable outing was had by all.

Arne Henrikson

Editor's Note: The following speech was presented by the Honorable René Brunelle, Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, at the sixteenth annual meeting of the Bruce Trail Association, 23 September 1978. It is included in this Newsletter because it outlines the present Provincial Government position with respect to the protection of Ontario Hiking Trails from the pressures of urban development and other "incompatible" uses.

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and gentlemen - It is a great pleasure for me to be here tonight. I think this is probably the first time in many years that I have met with as many members of the Bruce Trail Association since I participated in the official opening of the Trail in June 1967 at Tobermory.

Since then the Association has grown from a small group of very determined hikers to a group approaching a membership of approximately ten-thousand persons. I congratulate the Association in its continuing ability to attract new members. And speaking of dogged determinism and the ability of the Association to attract new people I feel I should single out the unstinting work of Ray Lowes who surely merits the title of Mr. Bruce Trail.

There is also another reason why I am pleased to be here. It represents the first opportunity for me to speak in a public forum on the Niagara Escarpment and why the government believes in the preservation of this valuable resource.

It is also appropriate that I should be sharing these views with you right on the Escarpment itself. This is a splendid location for your conference.

There are many of you here tonight who can recite to me the history of how the government came to embody the principle of preserving the Escarpment in its legislation. This in itself was a milestone, but the second major milestone will be achieved when the plan for the Niagara Escarpment is adopted.

For those of you who have not been associated with the history or indeed played significant roles in its development I thought that I would retrace some of the steps with you -- and reaffirm some points along the way. In a manner of speaking it will be similar to a mini hike along the trail for us all. In some parts the going has been hard but the experience at the special points of interest has been exhilarating.

While the Bruce Trail Association was in its formative stages in 1966, the government appointed Professor Gertler of the University of Waterloo to coordinate a study of issues and policies for the Niagara Escarpment area. Not all of Professor Gertler's recommendations were adopted by the government when the study was published.

The basic principles that were accepted were: the preservation of the land through a combination of government land purchases and land use regulation, the establishment of a network of parks, the adoption of standards to regulate the operations of the extractive mineral industry and the establishment of a joint provincial-municipal planning program.

The second step was taken in 1970 when the government initiated a more vigorous land acquisition program to purchase key areas along the Escarpment. The Niagara Protection Act was passed in the same year and a year later the Pits and Quarries Control Act.

Taking stock of the situation following the adoption of these measures it was decided to establish some basic goals and objectives for a planning program and to establish further priorities. Accordingly the government appointed a Niagara Escarpment Task Force in May 1972. The group of senior ministry officials appointed to the Task Force was given the task of developing overall priorities for land acquisition, and to recommend a system to ensure the appropriate use of lands. In carrying out its work, the Task Force also held many meetings along the Escarpment with local authorities, conservation groups and the public at large.

The report of the Task Force was completed at the end of 1972 and released six months later with the first reading of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act. The Act established the framework for a planning program that I still maintain to be one of the most innovative in North America in terms of the area of land included and its emphasis on the principles of environmental conservation.

Briefly, the Act embodied the following principles:

- First The goal to maintain the Niagara Escarpment as a continuous natural environment,
- Second Objectives to support this goal and to act as guidelines for the planning program,
- Third The establishment of a Niagara Escarpment Commission to prepare a plan for the Escarpment and to monitor the use of the land,
- Fourth The introduction of development control to regulate the use of the land.

With this mandate the Niagara Escarpment Commission set out to prepare the plan and to deal with the difficult task of administering the system of development control. You are all aware of the results of this more recent part of the story and the publication in February of the preliminary proposals for the Niagara Escarpment planning area.

In retrospect, the Act was introduced at a time when the notion of government initiative in large-scale planning programs seemed to be the right and proper role for it to play. Indeed, at the time the public's expectation of government intervention in many aspects of our society was probably at its height -- the economy seemed to be in good shape and we seemed to have sorted out some of the problems arising as a result of the social unrest in the 1960's. It was a time of optimism where only a few questioned the need for legislation to preserve the Niagara Escarpment.

Five years later, we find ourselves in quite a different situation. The government itself is going through a period of reappraisal and constraint in the light of substantial economic inflation and opposition from the private sector to regulation, red tape and the need to uphold the principles of environmental conservation.

It is not surprising then that when the Niagara Escarpment Commission published the preliminary proposals it unleashed a storm of public protest regarding the infringement of individual freedoms and unwarranted government intervention in the economic life of the communities directly affected by the proposals.

In effect, ladies and gentlemen, this year the notion of preserving the Niagara Escarpment reached an important crossroad in its progress.

It is only realistic to expect that the next few years in this province will be tough ones. The emphasis will be on improving productivity and the competitiveness of our economy in world markets; it will be a time when a readjustment must be made in our lifestyles so that our expectations do not continue to run ahead of our capacity to provide the goods and services to support this way-of-life. Given these conditions the government, for its part, must be more selective in the responsibilities it assumes and in the application of its resources.

It has been said that the difference between an optimist and a pessimist is that the optimist sees the doughnut and the pessimist the hole. I do not happen to be a pessimist about the ability of this province to pull through its current difficulties.

At the outset of this presentation I welcomed this occasion as an opportunity to express my views about the Niagara Escarpment. Let me reaffirm that the Government of Ontario perceives the Escarpment as a resource of provincial significance and supports wholeheartedly the legislative mandate given to the Niagara Escarpment Commission. I remain convinced that the objectives of that Act are fundamentally sound and their application would best serve the interests of the people of Ontario.

Let me be clear about this point. There are some areas of province-wide significance that require special consideration in planning. The Niagara Escarpment is such an area that has been recognized for many years as requiring planning with the priority given to the preservation of a natural feature. This is a goal that is not always easily accommodated in normal municipal planning.

Furthermore, the diversity of the many municipalities along the 460-mile length of the Escarpment and the wide variation of their planning capabilities renders it necessary that a single authority be made responsible for the task of preparing a plan for the area. I think the Niagara Escarpment Commission is fulfilling this task in a manner that deserves the commendation of us all, given the enormity of the task and the difficulties that have been encountered.

Some people have said that this approach excludes adequate consideration of the municipal point of view: and yet, half of the members of the Commission are elected representatives from municipalities along the Escarpment.

Furthermore, the Niagara Escarpment Planning & Development Act is drafted in such a way that municipal interests in planning matters can be taken fully into consideration. In some cases municipalities have accommodated the objectives of the Niagara Escarpment Planning & Development Act in their planning documents. In others, however, municipalities and the Commission have a long way to go before each other's objectives can be accommodated. I am encouraged to hear that in recent weeks the Commission has been receiving a great deal of constructive advice on the preliminary proposals from most municipal councils and the public.

When the preliminary proposals were published a large number of people indicated their concern that the area encompassed by the plan was far too large and that the objectives for the Escarpment could be achieved if the Commission concentrated its attention on a very narrow belt of land called the Scarp Protection Area. If implemented, such a restriction would have been totally unsatisfactory to the government and to the Commission.

Many of the concerns raised at that time appeared to be the result of misinformation generated by a vocal minority whose sole objective appeared to be to discredit the Commission and to seek its abolition. It was a situation that I found personally distressing and abhorrent.

In an attempt to allay some of these concerns the Commission advised the government that based on its experience in preparing the plan and its discussions with municipalities, it was possible for the objectives of the Act to be met if the plan covered an area smaller than the original, but larger than the Scarp Protection Area.

Based on this advice, on May 9th I announced that the planning process had progressed to a point where the Commission felt a reduction in the size at the area was practical without sacrificing the objectives of the Act. I, therefore, agreed with the Commission that the reduced area should coincide approximately with the section known as the Development Control Area.

In the remainder of the planning area, I proposed that municipal councils be entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that the government's objectives for the escarpment are incorporated in their plans. I understand the Commission is in the process of discussing the boundaries of the revised area with municipal councils.

For its part, the government will ensure that the ministries directly concerned with community planning will cooperate with municipalities to ensure that official plans reflect the government's basic objectives for the Escarpment.

I am confident that municipal councils will enter these discussions in a spirit of cooperation.

The Commission is now preparing what will be known as a Proposed Plan. The Proposed Plan will be based on the preliminary proposals released earlier this year and modified in accordance with the responses that have been received to it from municipalities and organizations such as your Association. Following the release of the Proposed Plan public hearings will commence into that document.

In order to foster good public relations and a greater awareness of the issues that are involved the Commission is now opening its meetings to members of the public and the press.

The government is also reviewing various aspects of the preliminary proposals, particularly in the case of land acquisition. I must emphasize that the government's current policy of restraint in capital expenditures will preclude substantial activity in this area however desirable and attractive the proposition may sound.

To be honest about it -- we simply cannot afford this kind of program and the obligations that would be entailed to manage and control the land. The manpower demands on a ministry with responsibility for a 460-mile trail could be significant. More important, it has been the experience of the government that once lands are in public ownership, there is an expectation of a high level of public service for these lands, with a consequent increase in the requirement for financial resources.

The old proverb says "In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider". Ladies and gentlemen, I and my staff have given this matter a great deal of consideration. The Niagara Escarpment Commission has also been consulted. The result of these deliberations is that tonight I have a challenge to make to you as members of the Bruce Trail Association.

I asked myself, if the government is not in the position of acquiring and managing land for the Bruce Trail, then why can't it be done through the Bruce Trail Association, with some assistance from the government?

The change in emphasis is this: that the Association itself could extend its mandate to acquire rights-of-way for the Trail over private land. These rights-of-way could be through easements, leases or outright purchases, the funds involved originating in the Association itself. If this idea is acceptable, then I would be willing to support representations from the Association for financial assistance to support this program.

Your Association is a well-known and well-respected organization. I think the added responsibility I am suggesting to you would enhance its position in the province, and particularly in those areas of the Escarpment where you have received the most opposition.

As a northerner I value the principles of self-help and self-reliance. I think this proposition could work rather than a program of full-scale intervention by the government. Given the climate of the times substantial government intervention could result in a repetition of the controversy and ill will that have characterized relations between the Association and landowners during the past few months.

I will ask the Niagara Escarpment Commission to discuss this idea in further detail with your Executive Committee so that I can take forward a proposal to my Cabinet colleagues for their views.

To give the matter a sense of purpose and priority I would be willing to establish a meeting between the Association, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Minister of Natural Resources to discuss the proposal in three months time.

In addition, the government is reviewing the whole question of the occupier and the law.

As many of you are aware, the laws of this province have established that the occupier of land is liable for injuries sustained by people while on that land. As a result, many landowners throughout the province have seen fit to deny trail associations access onto their land in order to protect themselves from any potential liability should somebody be injured.

I suspect this concern lies at the core of the reluctance of property owners along the Escarpment to permit the Association the opportunity of establishing a trail across their land.

A discussion paper detailing some areas for proposed change in the Legislation has been prepared and submitted to some organizations for their views. I do not think the Bruce Trail Association received a copy of this paper. If this assumption is correct, then I will ensure that your executive does receive one. I also suggest the matter could be placed on the agenda of the meeting I proposed a few moments ago. I look forward to a frank exchange of views at that time.

For my own part, in the forthcoming months I will continue to clarify the government's intention to preserve the Niagara Escarpment as a natural feature of substantial importance to the province of Ontario. The Bruce Trail acts as an important access to the Escarpment and a means for many people to enjoy its natural beauty. Together we must ensure the Trail is preserved for others to enjoy in the future.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for this opportunity to discuss my views with you. I hope the remainder of your stay here will be a pleasant one.

Editor's conclusion: In effect the Provincial Government has adopted a "Do-it-yourself" policy regarding the protection of Ontario Hiking Trails from the pressures of urban development. This speech suggests that if a Trail Association wants to protect its trails, it must do so itself.

Those who are concerned with this decision and the implications it could have on the future of the Rideau Trail, and indeed all Hiking Trails in Ontario, might consider writing to their M.L.A.'s. R.T.A. members' reactions would also be appreciated by the Editor of the Newsletter.

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.

