



The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

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SUMMER 1980



AT FALLS ON STREAM FROM SLIDE LAKE TO BUCK LAKE

— 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 Diana Brebner 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.

STOP PRESS!

Doug Knapp, founding member and past president of the R.T.A., was presented with a special award at the recent Hike Ontario Conference in Peterborough. The award, in recognition of his services to the hiking movement in Ontario, was in the form of a skillfully crafted woodcarving of a hiker. Congratulations Doug!

"THE OLD COWMAN" by BADGER CLARK

With skyline bounds from east to west,
And room to go and come,
I loved my fellow man the best,
When he was scattered some.

Mike Cuddihey

REROUTING OF TRAIL

Due to closing of road allowance, on Map 5, Ottawa to Kingston direction kilometer 0.3 to 1.5 can no longer be used. Follow the River Road (16B) direct to Merrickville instead, until further notice.

KINGSTON RIDEAU TRAIL CLUB A.G.M. REPORT

The eighth annual meeting of the Kingston Rideau Trail Club was held on Saturday, April 2, at Christ Church Anglican Hall on Sydenham Road just outside of Kingston.

The meeting was chaired by Norm McLeod. Cathy Cutts gave the chairman's report and Arne Henrikson presented the treasurer's report. The new executive members, as elected for 1980-1981, are:

Chairman.....	Cathy Cutts
Past Chairman.....	Jack Watkins
Vice Chairman.....	David Smith
Treasurer.....	Arne Henrikson
Secretary.....	Caroline Gartenburg
Newsletter Editor.....	Colin Wright
Publicity Coordinator.....	Emma Martin
Routes and Negotiating.....	John P. Harrison
Maintenance Coordinator.....	Doug Knapp
R.T.A. Representatives.....	Doug Knapp and Norm McLeod

At this point a special presentation was made to Ed Ross (a framed picture of him) by Harry Dyer. Ed Ross is well known to Rideau Trail hikers for his enthusiasm and participation in many hikes and other Club events (especially notable for his 80 plus years).

After the business meeting an interesting talk and slide presentation was given by guest speaker Mabel Corlett (from Queen's geology department). Explaining the title "Hard Rock, Soft Rock", she talked about the different types of rock and the tools used by a geologist - a compass, knife, hammer, dilute hydrochloric acid (which makes limestone fizz) and a magnet. The geology of the Kingston area was described and explained, including the Holleford Crater (the result of a meteor crash).

Following the meeting a walk was to take place from Jackson Mills to observe some local geological features, but it was cut short due to rain.

Caroline Gartenburg

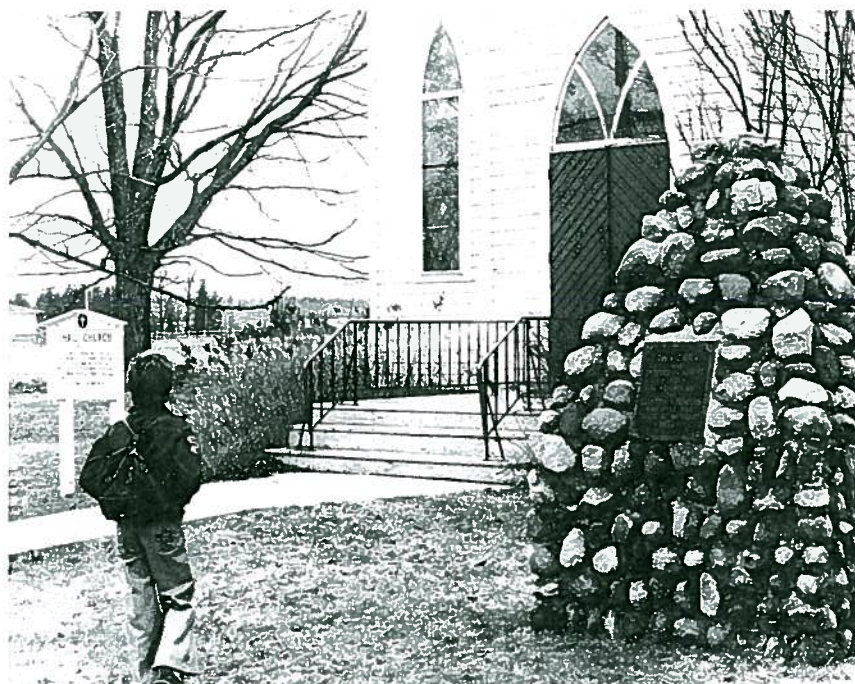
KINGSTON TRAIL CLUB HIKING

The Kingston Trail Club had a disappointing season re ski outings due to the small amount of snow. To offset this, the Slide Lake Hike and the Hike on the east side of Gould Lake were well attended.

The blackfly and mosquito season deter many from summer hiking, but for those who would like further information please phone Cathy Cutts at 613 542-5414.

OTTAWA CLUB HISTORICAL HIKE - BURRITT'S RAPIDS

On Sunday, April 20, 1980, 48 members and friends drove in convoy to Burritt's Rapids for the first hiking outing of the season. The weather wasn't too promising, in fact it drizzled a little and lunch time and was grey and cold most of the day, clearing up of course to a glowing sunset as we drove home. However, the weather could not spoil the treat in store for us, a guided tour, led by Pearl Peterkin, who has obviously taken great pains to learn about the history of the area and shared it with us as we walked along.



This is where we started, Christ Church, Burritt's Rapids, built in 1831.

The village is named after Colonel Stephen Burritt, who arrived by water in 1793.

The cairn commemorates the pioneers who build the Church

After walking through the village and across an old swing bridge over the Rideau Canal, we hiked along the River Road as far as Clow's Locks.

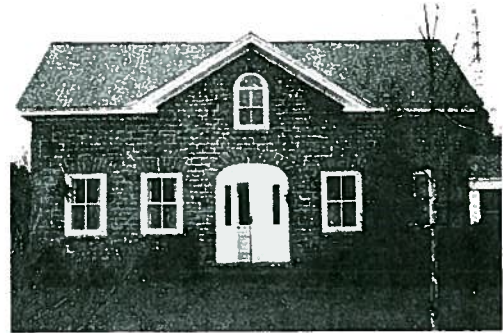
The first stone house we came to, the Mayo House, built in 1877, is a fine example of Victorian Gothic.

Note the gingerbread over the porch.



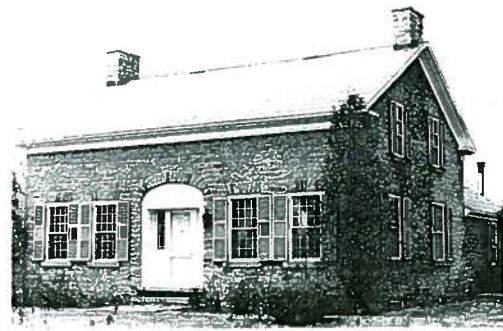
After the completion of the Rideau Canal in 1836, unemployed stonemasons were hired by the settlers to build these beautiful limestone and sandstone homes.

The Thatcher House, the next stone house on the righthand river side of the road, was built about 1840 by William Campbell, surveyor.



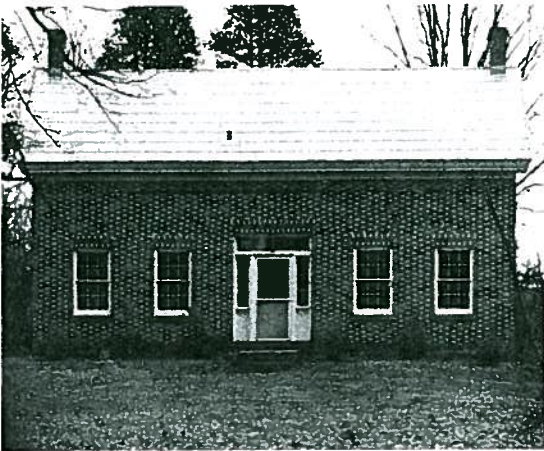
Note the elegant semi-elliptical transom with the semi-circular headed gable window above.

Passing from Oxford Township to Wolford Township, we came to the Martyn House, again on the river side.



This beautifully proportioned house is built in the early Georgian style, as demonstrated by its unbroken eave line and the wide chimneys at each end.

Around a bend in the road, we came on two interesting houses close to each other on the left hand side, one in brick and one of logs.



This is an example of a type of brick construction which is distinctive to this area - with red and yellow brick alternating along course.

The colour of the bricks, which appeared after firing, depended on the type of clay used. The red brick was produced in Merrickville and the yellow brick in Easton's Corners at Wickware's Brickyard.



A very typical handhewn, square timbered log house of the type built by the settlers when they first arrived on their land - and before they could afford to employ a stonemason!

On the river side of the road again, the Armstrong House stands on part of a lot which was a military grant in 1823 to William Jones, to settle the estate of his father Dr. Solomon Jones, a surgeon in Burgoyne's army.

William Jones, who lived elsewhere, sold this part of the lot in 1834 to Miles McGuigan who, in turn, sold it in 1839 to Thomas Jenkins, the first Lockmaster of Nicholson's Locks.

The present residence was built for Jenkins.



After absorbing all this brain food, we were ready for some real food and turned down to Nicholson's Locks, at Andrews ville for lunch.

Here we are, bundled up against the rain, looking for a dry spot to sit on.

After lunch, a short walk brought us to Clow's Locks where Spillway House owned by the Hilliards, stands.

This land was a Loyalist grant to Phoebe Nicholson, daughter of Robert Nicholson, after whom the Locks were named. Rideau Canal workers built the house to "discharge a debt". Phoebe married the aforementioned Miles McGuigan, and McGuigan's Cemetery is named after him.



Merrickville Historical Society is restoring this long neglected pioneer cemetery.

With kind permission of the owners, we were able to go into the cemetery, standing on a sandy knoll behind an orchard on the left hand side of the road, to examine the graves and gravestones of early settlers and canal workers, and of so many small children telling a pathetic tale of the hardship and disease against which they had to struggle.

As an added bonus, we were fortunate enough to catch several excellent views of Ospreys, as well as seeing a Pileated Woodpecker, a couple of Kingfishers and a swarm of swallows at the Locks. Walking home, too, we caught a glimpse of early, just-opening Bloodroot under a tree beside the road.

It is easy to understand the pride and affection the owners feel for these beautiful homes and we thank them for allowing us to share it with them.

Many thanks are also due to Pearl for a most enjoyable and informative day, and to Peter Armstrong who very kindly supplied the excellent photographs.

Eileen Evans

OTTAWA MEMBERS

DO YOU sometimes feel the same few people run everything
in your Club?

WOULD YOU like to see some of your ideas put into effect?

HAVE YOU ever thought about helping keep the Club going?

THEN, if you would like to serve on any committee or to
nominate anyone for any position

CALL Shirley Simpson - 828-1679 or
Dorice Joyce - 829-9130
for more information, before June 21.

It takes a lot of work to keep the Club going and help would
be much appreciated. There are positions vacant so NOW IS
YOUR CHANCE to share your time and talents.

Call Shirley or Dorice and
COME TO THE GENERAL MEETING, June 21, 1980.

OTTAWA CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All members and friends are invited to take part in the following activities.
Mark the dates on your calendar now! Unless otherwise stated, participants 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, 829-9130; Publicity, Eileen Evans, 741-0789; Diana Brebner, 236-8230.

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

Saturday, June 21	OTTAWA CLUB GENERAL MEETING. Something a little different this time! The meeting will be held "en plein air" out on the Earth Star Loop (Map 4). After the business meeting, we will hike the trail, past a beaver swamp, where there will be short talk on the life cycle of the beaver. In case of rain, the meeting will be held in the Old School House, followed by lunch and a hike, if the weather permits. IN ANY EVENT, SUPPORT YOUR CLUB and come on out to W.E.S.C. at 9:00 A.M. and bring your lunch. Hot and cold drinks will be provided.
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Sunday, September 21	A hike to look for mushrooms, led by Diana Brebner, at G. H. Ferguson Forestry Station near Kemptville (Map 5a). This should be very interesting and informative and, since it is the first outing of the season, we should all be rarin' to go. Meet at W.E.S.C. at 9:00 A.M. and bring a lunch. Also, bring a bag if you wish to collect specimens.
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Sunday, October 19	RESERVE THIS DATE NOW - for the Association Annual General Meeting - details in next Newsletter.
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RIDEAU TRAIL DIRECTORS MEETING

MAY 3, 1980 FOLEY MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AREA INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

It was a sunny spring Saturday...just made for hiking. We are at Foley Mountain Conservation Area, a part of the Rideau Trail that boasts spectacular views of the Upper Rideau Lake and the village steeples of Westport. Trilliums, hepatica and bloodroot were shyly starting to show their bloom. Flocks of geese passed low over the lake. Was this the site of the latest Rideau Hike?

No. The twelve Trail members who gathered there barely felt the sunshine as they conducted the business of the Association. It was the quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rideau Trail Association.

As members you are entitled to know about the decisions made at that meeting. Here are a few of them.

--Welcome to our new Publicity Chairman, Peter Andrews of Ottawa. Formerly a board director, Peter is looking for ideas on how to promote the Rideau Trail Association.

--As of May 3, thirty-five Rideau Trail members had registered for the Hike Ontario Conference in Peterborough. Read more about the conference results in the next issue.

--Al Gamble, Treasurer, presented the Financial Report. For the fiscal period September 1/79 to April 30/80, we spent \$1,015.16 more than we took in. New memberships and renewals should help that situation before the next meeting but we are considering raising fees. You will hear more about this issue at the Annual Meeting in October/80.

--The new map kits are underway. Our target date is the Annual Meeting. Rolly Hamilton of the Ottawa Club is in charge of the reprinting.

--A trip to the Perth Wildlife Reserve will be a feature of the R.T.A. Annual Meeting to be held October 19 in Perth.

The election of R.T.A. Officers will be held at that meeting. Bill Grant, Ottawa (820-0697) and Norman McCleod, Kingston (546-9440) are the nominating committee. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, give them a call.

--Parks Canada is going to feature our trail in an upcoming Rideau Canal newsletter.

--And last but not least, our newsletter editor for this issue, Diana Beenan of the Ottawa Club, has recently been married to Peter Brebner, also active in the R.T.A. Warm wishes Diana from all the Board Directors and the R.T.A.

--The next Board of Directors meeting will be held Saturday, September 13, at the Rideau Trail Cabin.

Jean Riddell
Secretary, R.T.A.

MURPHY'S POINT PROVINCIAL PARK

Murphy's Point Provincial Park is located about half along the Rideau Canal and roughly half way between Rideau Ferry and Narrows Lock on the west shore of Big Rideau Lake (Map 8). The Rideau Trail has been rerouted to turn off the highway between Perth and Westport, known as Lallys Lane, and now lies through the park running between Loon Lake and Hogg Bay, looping around the end of Hogg Bay and then continuing in a south-westerly direction to meet its original location.

The park is named for John Murphy who built a log house on what is now Hogg Bay Beach in 1856. His family lived on the point until 1930. No traces of the house remain but signs of settlement can be seen in the open fields in some areas of the campground. Logging was an important occupation for these early settlers and there was once a saw mill on Hogg Bay. Mining has also been carried on in the park and at various times since 1893 mica and other minerals were mined. The earliest apatite mining in Canada was done in the vicinity.

On a glorious, sunny May 3rd, thirty Ottawa Club members and friends invaded the park for a day's hike. We were very lucky to have Bob Stevens with us - Bob, a geologist with the Government, has taken us on walks before and they have always been most enjoyable. Before we started out, he gave us a brief geological history of the area and the park which is situated on an extension of the Canadian Shield known as the Frontenac Axis with outcrops of ancient bedrock in the rugged bush and as we went along he identified different rocks for us so samples could be taken.

We ate lunch in bright sunshine at the Pine Point Beach, entertained by a pair of loons, quite close in to shore and a turkey vulture lazily circling over the point. The woods through which we then hiked, north across the main point of land, were carpeted in places with hepatica, white and some very bright blue. The odd trillium was in bloom and some early saxifrage, while near the carpark sharp eyes discerned a stand of coltsfoot. In the moist, low-lying areas new heads of rattlesnake and ostrich fern were pushing their way through the dead leaves.

One amusing sight of the day was a plump porcupine, sunning himself in the branches of a tall tree and then, as we watched, waking up and climbing slowly up the trunk to a new perch.

All in all, it was a delightful day and, although the cold weather returned the next day, for a short time we were fooled into thinking summer was here! And thank you, Bob, for all the time and trouble you took to make it so interesting.

Eileen Evans

POINT OF INTEREST

When hiking in the Cedarview Road area of map 1, you might consider a small diversion in order to visit the Log Farm historical site. Simply continue walking south on Cedarview past the first intersection. There is a very good sign marking the entrance, so you needn't worry about being able to find it. On the map, it is the second set of buildings on the west side of the road.

The entire farm extends from Cedarview over to Moodie Drive where the Conservation Centre begins.

This is a marsh on this land which is drained by the Graham Creek into the Ottawa River. The creek, which has cut a significant ravine for itself a little ways north, has not done so here at its source. This can be accounted for by the presence of bedrock close the surface in this particular area which will resist efforts at erosion for quite a while. Once the stream leaves the farm, however, it encounters a deep layer of clay soil much more vulnerable to the wearing power of running water.

It is intended that this pioneer farm be actively worked as it was in the past. The soil, where it is deep enough for crops, will be plowed with primitive implements. I have seen the maple bush being tapped.

There is a squared-timber house and a barn and outbuilding still standing and in good shape. Restoration work was in progress when I was last there and a windmill was due to be erected. Everything should be finished by now.

There are opportunities to view a wide variety of animals in the woods, marsh and open fields. Woodchucks, amphibians, reptiles, birds and other rodents are represented, and there were plans to re-establish white-tailed deer.

As you stand at the entrance to the driveway which leads into the farm, you can look north and see that the suburbs have crept dangerously near. I'm glad that there was such a good reason for preserving this area. It might easily have been lost otherwise.

YOUR CORRIDOR PRESERVATION FUND

The appeal for contributions to your Corridor Preservation Fund is bringing gratifying results. Since June 1979 donations of over \$900.00 have been received bringing the balance in the fund up to \$1,435.00 at November 1, 1979. Our five year goal of \$10,000.00 certainly appears attainable.

The purpose, you will recall, is to build up a fund to help your R.T.A. retain the use of lands which become in danger of diversion to commercial purposes.

Your donation to this cause can be mailed to the Membership Secretary, P.O. Box #15, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 4V6. Official receipts for income tax purposes will be sent for donations of \$5.00 and over.

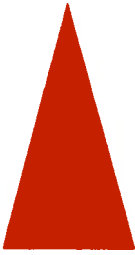
CORRIDOR PRESERVATION FUND PLEDGE FORM

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) Enamelled pin (\$2.50) _____
- (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.