



The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

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WINTER 1980

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 February 1, to Colin Wright, 70 Sherwood Drive, Kingston, K7M 2E3. Phone 549-5259.

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.

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"WHAT A LISTENER MAY HEAR"

While watching a snowfall one morning,
I was impressed by the fact that despite
the great tonnage of snow coming down,
it didn't make the slightest sound. It's
interesting how something that so often
produces such profound consequences can
be so unobtrusive in the process.

Mike Cuddihey

AN INVITATION TO YOU

All members of the R.T.A. are most welcome to contribute photographs (black and white if possible), sketches, and articles to the R.T.A. newsletter. No need for professional writing skills!

Brief articles concerning the trail, hiking, skiing, comments on past hikes or articles dealing with trail techniques, food, animal observations, conservation, etc., are needed. You name it, we'll most likely love it!

Younger members are welcome to send articles or drawings (3" x 5"). Small drawings are suitable for inside pages while larger drawings, suitable for cover illustrations, can be reduced by our printer.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW CONTRIBUTORS!

Send all material to the current editor (see masthead) and indicate whether photographs, drawings, etc., are to be returned to you or donated to the R.T.A. archives. Thank-you.

Diana Brebner

ONTARIO HIKING DAY - OCTOBER 5, 1980

Although the preceeding day was rather wet, Sunday was a beautiful day to enjoy the woods on the Mica Trail and in the Orser Road area. Both leaders reported good hiking conditions and on the Mica Trail hike the following comments were obtained from a delightful group of girls who attended.

The cave was dark and scary. This cave used to be a place for people to dig out mica. Now people don't dig there. Instead animals hibernate in it so be careful when you go there!!!

Catherine Vasa

There was a lot of mica along the trail. We went in a neat cave.

Lori Wojas

The trees were orange, red and green. Everything was beautiful.

Barbara Vasa

There were a lot of pits. Some of these pits were deep, some shallow. People mined mica from these pits. They were very interesting.

Christy Climehage

A HUNT FOR MUSHROOMS

For our first outing of the season we were lucky to have one of few pleasant days of a Fall that has been somewhat unpredictable from a weather point of view. This walk in the G. H. Ferguson Forestry Reserve, near Kemptville, was led by Diana Brebner who, with the help of Harry and Mildred Saunders, was able to identify the weird and wonderful mushrooms that were discovered.

After an interesting talk by Diana on the do's and don'ts of mushroom collecting - and eating - twenty-five of us spent a most enjoyable morning wandering along the trails and through the forest of this very pleasant reserve. Some lucky people even saw a deer and others watched a ruffed grouse at very close range as it stood on the road. Open areas between the trees were gay with golden rod and purple asters while along the road side we found fringed and bottle gentians and fringed ladies' tresses.

At lunch time we returned to the cars to spread out the treasures garnered during the morning, among which were various examples of boletus, lactarius deliciosus (with it characteristic orange 'milk'), deer mushroom (pluteus cervinus), blewit (lepista nuda), and the deadly poisonous fly agaric (amanita muscaria).

Thank you, Diana, for all the time and effort you put into making this a most interesting and informative day.

Eileen Evans

WILDERNESS CABIN

Beauty abounds in the silence of a winter night. Deep in the woods stark shadows lie black upon the snow, framed by cold moonlight. Only the occasional "hooo, hooo, ... hoo, hoo" of the great-horned owl and the sharp retorts and rumbling booms of tortured lake ice break the stillness.

You glide swiftly across the snow, savoring the perfect ski trail one more time. Then you call it a day, relaxing in the golden lamplight of a snug cabin with a cup of hot chocolate and a good book.

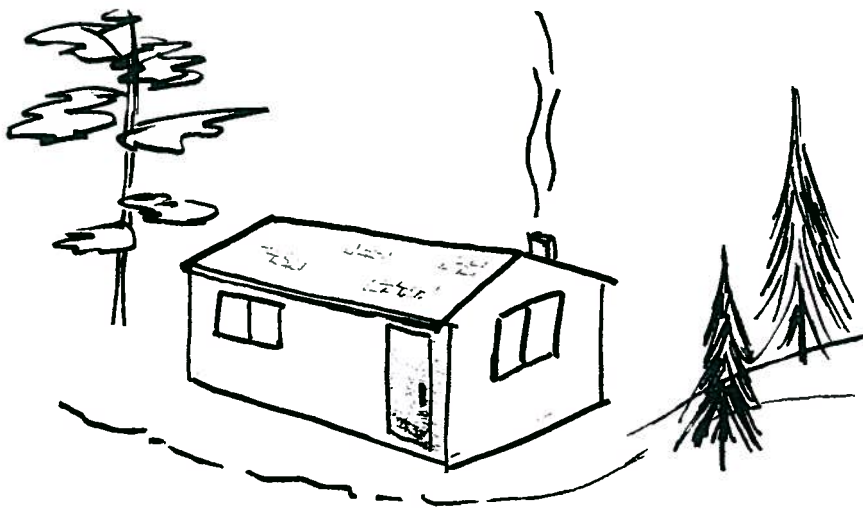
No, this isn't just a fantasy. At the Rideau Trail Association's cabin on Slide Lake in Frontenac Park everything is real and just as described (when weather cooperates, of course).

The cabin has six wooden beds, a wood stove for heating and cooking, a large table with benches, several cooking utensils, two kerosene lamps, and of course an outdoor privy (brrr!) A pleasant 5 km. ski (unfortunately too rough for beginners) from our parking lot on Perth Road will take you there. Reservations for overnight use may be made by calling Doug or Mike Knapp at 542-2039. No reservations are needed for day use - anyone is welcome anytime, but you will need to contact Doug or Mike to get the key.

Although there is no charge for use of the cabin, those using it overnight are asked to contribute to its upkeep by providing either some minor needed service or supplies.

Why not plan now to enjoy an adventurous overnight in the wilderness this winter?

Doug Knapp



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.

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| Sunday,
January 4, 1981 | Cross-country ski and snowshoe outing on the Old School House Loop (map 4) to start the cross-country ski season. Hopefully the weather will cooperate better than it did last year! This area has pleasant trails through woods and open fields and you can warm up with lunch around the stove in the School House. Meet at W.E.S.C. at 9:30 a.m. and bring a lunch. |
| Saturday &
Sunday,
January 24 & 25 | A backpacking and overnight winter camping ski trip to the Rideau Trail lot. Various winter shelters, i.e. snow caves, tents, and bivi will be available, weather permitting. Those wishing to take part, please call Peter Brebner, 236-8230 for information re equipment, food, etc. |
| Saturday,
January 31 | Come and cross-country ski or snowshoe on the Rideau Trail in beautiful Murphy's Point Provincial Park offering varied skiing through mixed woods with a few easy hills. Meet at W.E.S.C. at 9:00 a.m. and bring a lunch. |
| Sunday,
February 15 | Some of our members have been working very hard on a new trail in the Burritt's Rapid's area and a cross-country ski and snowshoe outing to try it out is planned. Meet at W.E.S.C. at 9:00 a.m. and bring a lunch. For further information call Dorice Joyce, 829-9130 or Eileen Evans, 741-0789. |
| Saturday,
March 7 | This will be the last cross-country ski and snowshoe outing of the season, the exact location of which will be determined later. It will probably be in the Kemptville area or near the Narrow Locks on Rideau Lake. Meet at W.E.S.C. at 9:00 a.m. and bring a lunch. For further information call Dorice Joyce, 829-9130 or Eileen Evans, 741-0789. |

PLEASE NOTE

The article entitled "Point of Interest" which appeared in issue #36 was contributed by Mike Cuddihey.

R.T.A. ARCHIVES

As the R.T.A. moves into its tenth year there must be many association members who have accumulated photographs, articles, newsclippings, documents, or just memories regarding the trail.

We would like to collect as much material as possible in order to build up a permanent archives for the R.T.A. If you have any material you would like to donate, lend (for reproduction i.e. photographs), or get rid of (your junk may be a goldmine for us) please send it to me (Diana Brebner) or give me a call and I will arrange to have it picked up at your home. If your material consists mainly of memories they may be most valuable. Let me know and I will send you a tape cassette.

Material collected for the archives will be used for such things as public displays, retrospective newsletter articles, and R.T.A. publicity. All material will be credited whenever possible.

Diana Brebner
Ottawa, 236-8230



REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1980, PERTH

How many pairs of running shoes do you wear out walking 200 miles? Ask Pearl Peterkin of the Ottawa Rideau Trail Club. She started her trek from Ottawa to Kingston in May 1979. It ended 1½ years later in plenty of time for her to receive the 200 Award at the Annual Meeting. Congratulations Pearl! (The 200 award certificate is presented to R.T.A. members who hike the trail end to end).

This year's annual meeting was held in Perth. Here are some of the other things of note from that meeting.

--Our bank balance, as of August 31, 1980 was \$6,497.87. Watch for a big change in that with the cost of reprinting maps this fiscal year.

--The Corridor Preservation fund contained \$2,253.53 as of August 31, 1980. Donations to this fund are tax deductible. That will give you an idea of what to do with any surplus income you may have this year.

--We're 779 members strong according to Mary Jane Bowes, membership secretary. Where do we come from? Three hundred members live at the Kingston end of the trail. Three hundred and six members live at the Ottawa end of the trail. One hundred and sixty three members are from "out-of-town".

--Doug Knapp, one of our representatives to F.O.H.T.A., brought us a report from that organization. The Hike Ontario conference in May was a very successful F.O.H.T.A. venture.

As part of the report we had a film and discussion on the new Ontario trespass legislation. Every hiker and landowner should be aware of the implications of this new legislation.

--Who's who in the R.T.A.? A new slate of officers was elected. Here they are. Let them know your ideas, dreams and pet peeves regarding the trail.

President.....	Larry McCurdy (Kingston)
Past President.....	Bill Grant (Ottawa)
1st Vice President.....	Tedd Jordan (Ottawa)
2nd Vice President.....	Cathy Cutts (Kingston)
Membership.....	Mary Jane Bowes (Kingston)
Secretary.....	Jean Riddell (Perth)
Treasurer.....	Al Gamble (Ottawa)
Publicity.....	Peter Andrews (Ottawa)
F.O.H.T.A. Representative.....	Al Gamble (Ottawa) and Doug Knapp (Kingston)

--The meeting ended with Al Gamble moving a vote of thanks to Bill Grant for his excellent leadership during his year as president.

After lunch the 26 members attending the meeting toured the Perth Wildlife Reserve.

Jean Riddell

KINGSTON RIDEAU TRAIL CLUB WINTER OUTINGS

As the weather is the unpredictable factor when planning outings at this time of year, it is advisable to check with the leader about the conditions. Snow depths vary somewhat depending on the location of the outing.

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| Saturday,
January 10 | Ski hike - Desert Lake Road just north of Kingston Ski Club to Gould Lake and around skiable trails and return. This trail is moderately rolling through interesting terrain but is good with a minimum of snow. Meet at the north door of Sears in the Shopping Centre at 1:00 p.m. or at the trail beginning at about 1:30 p.m. Phone Arne Henrikson, 544-0465 for details or information. |
| Sunday,
January 10 | Ski the marsh and woodland area from Elevator Bay to Bath Road and return. This is suitable for beginners. Meet at Sears North Door at 10:00 a.m. for a morning outing. Leader, Norm McLeod, 546-9440. |
| Saturday,
January 24 | Ski or snowshoe south from the Elginburg Road through fields and woods. Suitable for beginners. Meet at Sears North Door at 1:30 p.m. Leaders Don and Cathy Cutts, 542-5414. |
| Sunday,
February 1 | Come out and enjoy a scenic snowshoe hike on Opinicon Loop (from Upper Rock Lake). Meet at Sears North Door at 1:00 p.m. For more information contact Jim or Caroline Gartenburg, 542-8942. |
| Saturday,
February 7 | Join a family outing at Skycroft on Lake Opinicon to ski the groomed trails. A small fee will be charged. Meet at Sears North Door at 9:30 a.m. to co-ordinate transportation. Bring a lunch. Leaders Jack and Marion Watkins, 389-4354. |
| Sunday,
February 15 | Ski the Mine Loop at Gould Lake - Scenic terrain. Bring a lunch. Meet at Sears North Door at 11:30 a.m. Leader, Mary Jane Bowes, 544-2753. |
| Saturday &
Sunday
February 21 & 22 | Enjoy a 5 km. ski hike into the cabin on Slide Lake followed by a pleasant overnight stay and return the next day. Participants must pre-register with Doug Knapp at 542-2039 on a first come basis. Participants will need to bring lunch and dinner for Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. The trail is fairly rough and not recommended for novice skiers. |
| Sunday,
March 1 | Ski the trail north of Elginburg Road - woodlands and fields and beaver dams. Meet at Sears North Door at 1:30 p.m. Leader, Emma Martin, 542-1594. |

Saturday,
March 7 Cross-country ski from the Desert Lake Road to Big Salmon Lake along the west side of Frontenac Park. Suitable for a family outing. Bring a lunch. Meet at Sears North Door at 10:00 a.m. For information and confirmation phone John Harrison, 542-2970.

Sunday,
March 15 A late season ski trip to the cabin on Slide Lake and beyond. Don't be misled by snow conditions in Kingston - in past years it has been excellent here when snow has all but disappeared in Kingston. If weather is unsuitable, the hike will be put off until Saturday, March 21st. Meet at the North Door of Sears in the Shopping Centre at 10:00 a.m. or at the beginning of the Trail on the Perth Road at 10:40 a.m. Bring your lunch. This tour is not for beginning skiers. Call Arne Henrikson, 544-0465 for confirmation and information.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE

R.T.A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER 1980

Picture this: a rustic cabin, cozy with the warmth of a wood stove on a cool September day. This was the setting that greeted the Rideau Trail directors who packed their pencils in rucksacks and hiked to the Ottawa club's cabin for the quarterly director's meeting.

Here are some of the highlights from that meeting.

The R.T.A. established two new official positions on the Board of Directors for the trail's F.O.H.T.A. representatives. Previously the F.O.H.T.A. representatives were not board members.

The Spring '81 issue of the newsletter will be our 10th anniversary issue to commemorate the initial R.T.A. meeting held in May of 1971. A committee was formed to plan other 10th anniversary celebrations. If you have any ideas contact one of the board members.

Are membership fees going up? Not for at least a year. You came through with membership renewals and made the treasury look rosier.

The R.T.A. has a new newsletter editor. He's Colin Wright of Kingston. Welcome to the Board of Directors Colin!

The Kingston club has changed their policy re keys for the Slide Lake cabin. There will now be only one set of keys. Members who wish to use the cabin can get the key from Doug Knapp, 32 Gretna Green, Kingston.

The next R.T.A. Board of Directors meeting will be held Saturday, November 29 at the Town Hall in Smiths Falls.

Jean Riddell

HELP FOUND BUT STILL WANTED

The short article on page 2 of our last newsletter got instant action for two of the three trail maintenance sections needing an owner.

The section from the southwest boundary of Rideau Lake Park to the Trail junction with the main road through Murphy's Point Provincial Park (at km. 19.5, Kingston to Ottawa measurement, map 8) has been adopted by:

Brian Grant
Apt. 9, 462 Henrietta St.,
Gananoque, K7G 1X7

The section from the east limit of Perth to the Trail junction with the road at the eastern side of the Tay marsh (km. 25.7, Kingston to Ottawa measurement, map 7) is now the responsibility of:

Rev. Richard Cross
21 D'Arcy St.,
Perth, K7H 2T9

Another volunteer,

Brian Gilhuly
13 Mary St.,
Perth, K7H 2X1

has also helped solve another maintenance problem - an excessively long section belonging to Royce Frith on the west side of Perth. Brian has taken on the 8 km. from Glen Tay to the east side of Perth, leaving Royce with another 8 km. from Grant's Creek (km. 0, map 7, Kingston to Ottawa measurement) to Glen Tay.

These changes will help a lot but the section from the bridge over the Tay River at Port Elmsley to Smiths Falls still needs a maintainer. How about it? If you would like to volunteer or would like further information, please call Doug Knapp at 542-2039.

Doug Knapp

AN APOLOGY

Distribution of issue 37 of the newsletter (Autumn 1980) was late - 6 weeks in fact.

Besides contributing significantly to a sparsely attended annual general meeting at Perth on October 9, the lack of publicity dealt a deadly blow to organized activities of both Trail Clubs.

Our newsletter does have a publication deadline, along with a clear and obviously essential policy to respect them. Circumstances do occasionally arise, however, which tempt a short delay of publication in order to include a major contribution whose "imminent" arrival has been promised. Such was the case for issue 37 and, contrary to editorial policy, the new Kingston Editor was advised to wait the "few" days necessary.

We regret the obvious negative results of this decision but can at least acknowledge that the "lesson has been learned". Our apologies are extended to both Trail Clubs for the lack of publicity for their activities, and particularly to the Ottawa Club concerning the annual general meeting. In the future you should be able to set your calendar by receipt of your newsletter, the first week of December, March, June and September.

P.S. We expect that you did notice what a beautiful job our new Kingston Editor, Colin Wright, did on issue 37.

Doug Knapp

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.

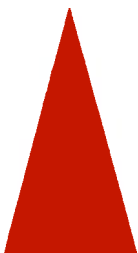
CORRIDOR PRESERVATION FUND PLEDGE FORM

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.