



The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

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FALL 1981

1981 — The Rideau Trail's 10th Anniversary



On Trail — east of Narrow Locks

Norm McLeod

The Rideau Trail Newsletter is published quarterly in December, March, June and September by the Rideau Trail Association. The editor of this Newsletter is Liz Harrison for the Kingston Trail Club. Submissions for the next Newsletter are welcome and should be sent, by November 1st, to Diana Brebner, 57 Harmer Avenue, North Ottawa, K1Y 0T7, telephone 729-8178.

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

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

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** Rain or shine this year's A.G.M., masquerading as a tenth
** anniversary Birthday Party, promises to be a great day, so
** plan to be there on September 26th. Call now to reserve
** your banquet tickets:
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** Mike Knapp in Kingston: 542-2039
** Eileen Evans in Ottawa: 741-0789 (home)
**                        563-3200 (office)
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NOTICE

A proposal to amend By-law No.1 section 3 will be presented at the Annual General Meeting. It is proposed that the words "no person other than an ex officio member of the board shall be a member of the board for more than three consecutive years" be deleted and rewritten as follows:-

"the positions of President, Vice-President and Second Vice-President shall be limited to a term of three consecutive years"



humungous (3)
- hew-mun-gus
adj.; great,
terrific,
memorable

** HAPPY
** HAPPY TENTH
** HAPPY TENTH R.T.A.

YOU ARE INVITED.....
to a celebration of our
birthday.
Our tenth anniversary is a
bit of a kilometre stone
("milestone" to any
Neanderthals) and the R.T.A.
is throwing a humungous
party which will double as
our 1981 Annual General
Meeting. Please note
that a prompt reply is
required for the dinner.

Date: Saturday, September 26th, 1981 .
Location: Foley Mountain Nature Centre, Westport.
Programme:

- 10.00 - 11.00 Displays, informal R.T.A. slide show, socializing,
coffee and juice, sale of R.T.A. pins.
- 11.00 - 11.45 Annual business meeting (with simultaneous
children's programme).
- 11.45 - 1.00 Picnic lunch. Here's your chance to enjoy an
old-fashioned family picnic in a beautiful
setting on the edge of Upper Rideau Lake.
- 1.00 - 2.30 Feature Presentation
"Nahanni Trailhead" by JoAnne and John Moore
(Read JoAnne's book, available in any bookstore).
- 2.45 - 3.30 Discussion groups on the R T.A's next ten years.
Groups of 12 - 15 with chairperson and secretary
will consider and make recommendations on the
direction of the R T.A's. second decade.

(4)

- 3.30 - 4.00 Reports by the secretaries of discussion groups
(Children's programme continues.)
- 4.00 - 6.00 Four or five guided hikes on beautiful Foley
Mountain. A simultaneous showing of short,
interesting M.N.R. films in case of inclement
weather (or sore feet).
- 6.00 - 8.30 Banquet - dinner honouring R.T.A. founders.

Dinner Menu:

Juice

Salad Bar

Filet of Sole Appetizer
(baked in lemon-butter sauce)

Hot French Bread

Roast Beef
Pommes de Terre Parisienne
Vegetables Parisienne

Apple Crisp
or
Ice cream Sundae

Tea, coffee or milk

N.B. A limited number of banquet tickets (110) is available
on a first come first served basis. These must be
reserved before September 20th.

Cost: \$7.00 for adults and \$3.50 for children under 12.

Reservations: Call Mike Knapp in Kingston at 542-2039, or Eileen
Evans in Ottawa at 741-0789 (home) or 563-3200 (office).

DID YOU KNOW THAT.....

- Emma Martin, who is responsible for publicity for the Kingston Club, was awarded a scroll by the Kingston Business and Professional Women's Club, in recognition of her role as a "faithful worker in club work and in helping our elderly". Congratulations, Emma!
- as members of F.O.H.T.A. we receive newsletters from other trail clubs We have information on trails in many areas including Barrie, the Quinte - Hastings area, the Finger Lakes, Kitchener, Stratford and others If you would like to borrow them, contact Liz Harrison at 542-2970 (R.T.A. members only).

THE FUTURE OF THE RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION

We have a great deal to be proud of on our 10th anniversary. We have the trail itself, and many kilometres of side trails and loops. Our maps are up-to-date and we are producing an excellent guide book to add to the pleasure of hiking our trails. We have helped form a Federation of hiking trail clubs in Ontario, and our own clubs in Ottawa and Kingston have developed a healthy individuality, with activities and achievements well suited to their local areas. These are just a few of the obvious achievements which clearly indicate that the R.T.A. is strong and vigorous on its 10th birthday.

However, there is also cause for concern on this occasion. It is very difficult to get people to serve in club executive positions or to assist with trail maintenance and negotiations. Only a small minority of our membership has ever been actively involved in the operation of the Association and there is a real danger that the key people, who have done so much over the past ten years, will become discouraged and drop out completely. Another concern is the nature of our membership. There is a tendency for people to join the club for information (maps, etc.) but not to continue their membership beyond one or two years. In most cases they continue to use the trail but do not contribute anything to support it. Consequently, thousands of people have belonged to our club over the past ten years, but current membership is gradually declining and now runs at about six or seven hundred.

Our tenth year therefore finds us in a period of transition. The past ten years have been exciting and challenging as the trail was created, defended and established, but that is history now. Today the reality is maintenance, rerouting and renegotiation. With this shift from creation to maintenance, enthusiasm has faded, membership has declined and it has become harder to find people to do the necessary work.

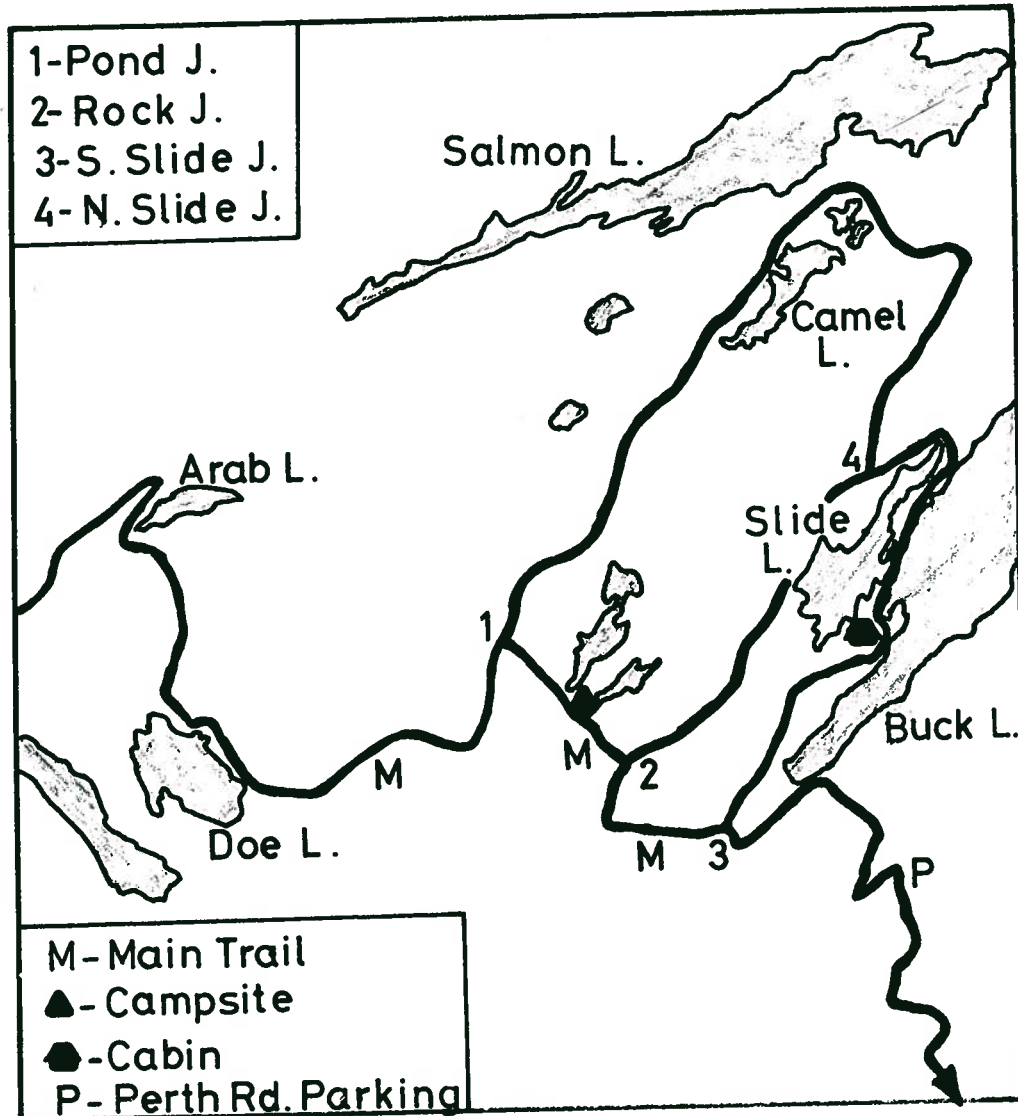
We have a different challenge for the next ten years - survival! We need new ideas, new enthusiasm and new members to guide us through the next decade and beyond. The Annual General Meeting, on September 26th in Westport, provides us with an ideal opportunity to discuss the future and we intend to use this occasion to develop a comprehensive plan for the next decade. Everyone will be involved by using small discussion groups, and the ideas generated will be collected and summarized for action by the Association executive.

Please give this some thought and come to the Annual General Meeting with your ideas, observations and experience. If you cannot attend the meeting, please send us your ideas or telephone an executive member. Let's make the next ten years even more successful than the first!

Larry McCurdy

THE RIDEAU TRAIL IN FRONTENAC PARK

The Rideau Trail within Frontenac Park has been changed over the past year. This article explains the changes and describes the new trail system. To learn more and to test the new trail, come out on ONTARIO HIKING DAY (October 4th) and join the guided hike.

Background.

When the Rideau Trail was first founded, Frontenac Park was itself young and no detailed plans for its use had been made. Over the past few years the Ministry of Natural Resources (M.N.R.) has laid out and is now constructing an extensive hiking and cross country ski trail system. The time has come for the Rideau Trail to blend in with this new system. There were two other reasons for considering changes. First many groups, not always connected with the R.T.A. and not always with sufficient experience, are using the trail, and the M.N.R. was justifiably concerned for their safety on the long stretch from Otter Lake to the Perth Road via Camel Lake. Also, the central part

of the trail is remote and time-consuming to maintain. There was concern that hikers unfamiliar with the trail might lose their way. One purpose of the changes, therefore, was to have a shorter route which would be easier to maintain and would fit in with the trail system laid out by the M.N.R. The second concern was that the trail in Frontenac Park has long been acknowledged as a precious section of the entire system and should be preserved as R.T.A. loop trails. With the co-operation of the M.N.R. we are confident that we have satisfied both goals.

The Main Trail

Starting at the Otter Lake entrance to Frontenac Park the main trail follows the Salmon Lake road to Arab Lake. The M.N.R. plans to build a Park Centre and parking lot at this point and it will be a focal point for much of their trail system. There follows a combined park trail and Rideau Trail to Doe Lake. (N.B. This section should be complete by the time this Newsletter is published. If the M.N.R. summer work parties are again diverted to fighting forest fires, then the old trail from Salmon Lake road to Doe Lake road should be used.) At Doe Lake the park trail and the Rideau Trail divide. The Rideau Trail follows its old route past the high look-out at "Smooth Rock Runway" to the new Pond Junction. The main trail now forks right and passes the result of some intense beaver activity, joins the Slide Lake Loop at Rock Junction, follows the southern loop to Slide Lake Junction and out to the Perth Road.

The Loop Trails

The M.N.R. have agreed to our continued use of the Slide Lake Loop. Eventually the Slide Lake Loop north of Rock Junction and South Slide Lake Junction will be marked with blue markers. We have also continued use of a loop trail around Camel Lake.. In the short term this will consist of the old Rideau Trail from Pond Junction to North Slide Junction. Eventually the loop will change to a combined park trail/Rideau Trail from Doe Lake to Camel Lake and a Rideau Trail link from Camel Lake to Slide Lake. Further notice will be given when this change is made. These two loop trails are considered to be very important to the R.T.A. as they give access to some of the best scenery in Eastern Ontario. Please make use of them and keep the Kingston Club informed of any problems with routing or maintenance.

Campsites and the Cabin

There will no longer be a Rideau Trail campsite at Doe Lake (if there ever was). Frankly, the site there is a mess with many individual fireplaces and charred wood spread around, abandoned scraps of aluminum foil, etc. However, two sites have been put at our disposal by the M.N.R. The first, already designated, is 0.4 km. west of Rock Junction, 50 m. north of the beaver dam, on flat ground by a lake with a pleasant view of pine trees on the other shore. The side trail to the campsite is marked with blue triangles. The

second site, not yet designated, will be on the link between Camel Lake and North Slide Junction. Overnight camping at these sites is a privilege granted to R.T.A. members who should carry their cards. Camping elsewhere is not permitted. In the future there will be interior park campsites to be used by permit holders, similar to those in Algonquin Park.

The cabin on Slide Lake continues to be available to members of the R.T.A. for overnight visits. This depends upon active use and maintenance of the cabin. The cabin can be reserved and the key picked up by contacting Doug Knapp at 613-542-2034.

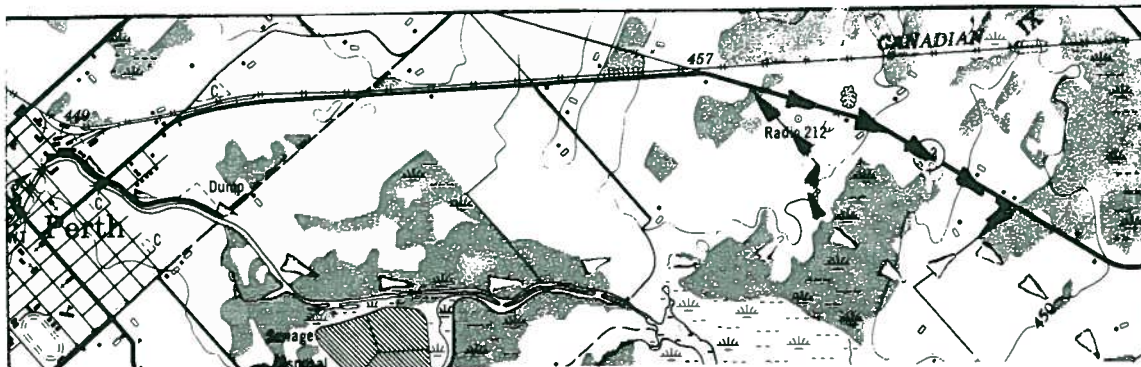
Acknowledgements

I should like to acknowledge the assistance and understanding of the M.N.R. and in particular that of Mr. Karl Montgomery, the Superintendent of Frontenac Park. The rerouting of the main trail link between Pond Junction and Rock Junction was achieved in one strenuous day with help from Don Galloway, Dan MacDonald, Wotjek Mizera, John Page, Chris Sayer and John and Mark Waldron. I would also like to thank Stan Segel and Peter McLellan for a flurry of maintenance last fall that has left the loop from Pond Junction to North Slide Junction, via Camel Lake, easy to follow again.

John Harrison
(Routes and Negotiating)

A NEW WET WEATHER SIDE TRAIL

Between Port Elmsley and Perth the Rideau Trail cuts across the narrow northern part of the Tay Marsh managing to remain high and dry most of the year by following small ridges and beaver dams. However, the trail is decidedly submerged during wet seasons, so a wet season side trail has now been marked as shown on the following map. We now anticipate that a more scenic and natural alternative may soon be available, but for the moment, if the marsh is submerged, follow the blue triangles around the road.



Main trail shown in open triangles:  
Side trail shown in solid triangles:  

KINGSTON CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Saturday
September 12 Glen Tay to Perth. Meet at the bridge over Tay River just south of Glen Tay, km 8.6 of map 7, at 10.00 a.m. Hike into Perth by 1.00 p.m. for lunch at Stewart Park or one of Perth's many pleasant restaurants. This 6.4 km.hike will be led by Brian Gilhuley of Perth, tel. 267-6703.
- Saturday
September 19 Continuing the Kingston club's sequential hikes, our second last one picks up at 11.00 a.m. at the LAST DUEL PARK in Perth (on Highway 43) and follows the Tay River downstream 6 or 7 km.to the eastern side of the Tay Marsh. Bring a lunch. Leader is Richard Cross of Perth who maintains this section. A car shuttle will be organized to make this a one-way hike to finish about 2.30 or 3.00 p.m. If you are interested, call Richard at 1-267-4270.
- Saturday
September 26 Rideau Trail Association Annual General Meeting. See page 3
- Sunday
October 4 ONTARIO HIKING DAY
Join one of four special hikes planned for this day. Hikers all over Ontario will be out in force enjoying the early fall weather and collectively showing their interest in and support for hiking. Plan now to dust off a few of your more sedentary friends and introduce them to its pleasures as well.
- a) To complete the Kingston Club's sequential hike series, join hike leader Jean Riddell of Perth to walk over the 9.5 km.section which she maintains between the eastern side of the Tay Marsh (east of Perth, map 7) and Port Elmsley. Hikers should meet at the bridge over the Tay River at the west side of Port Elmsley (see map 6) at 10.30 a.m. A car shuttle will be arranged so that this can be a one-way hike. Bring a lunch. Contact Jean at 1-267-1276.
- b) Bullen Road - Jackson Mill area. Meet at Sears' north door at 2.00 p.m. for a short, leisurely hike through an area of interesting geology. Suitable for all ages. For information call Cathy Cutts at 542-5414.
- c) Frontenac Park. This is a chance to hike the new trail across the park (see page 6 of this Newsletter). Meet at Sears' north door at 8.45 a.m.

or at the parking lot on the Perth Road, north of Perth Road Village, at 9.30 a.m. We will then take a bus to the Otter Lake entrance to Frontenac Park. The 9.30 a.m. start should allow time for hikers from the Ottawa area to drive down. The hiking time should be four to five hours. Boots or sturdy walking shoes are recommended. Please preregister with the hike leader, John Harrison (tel. 542.2970) who will try to coordinate transportation to the parking lot for those in need of a ride.

d) Join the Kingston Field Naturalists for a combined hike from the Desert Lake road towards Gould Lake. We will be passing through the new addition to the KFN Nature Sanctuary. This will be a leisurely hike on rugged terrain. Meet at Sears' north door at 1.00 p.m. Leader is Larry McCurdy, 546-0683.

Monday
October 12

Come and bring the family for a Thanksgiving Day hike at beautiful Gould Lake (east side). Meet at Sears' north door at 10.00 a.m. and bring a lunch. For more information call Caroline Gartenburg at 542-8942.

Sunday
October 18

Slide Lake Loop. Rugged terrain and spectacular views make this one of the finest sections of the trail. Bring your camera, lunch and sturdy foot wear. Distance approximately 13 km. Meet at Sears' north door at 9.00 a.m. Leader will be Norm McLeod, 546-9440.

Saturday -
Sunday
October 24 - 25

Try a backpack overnight across Frontenac Park with its spectacular and rugged terrain. Granite rocks, clear lakes and beaver ponds are features of this challenging territory. Please register with Arne Henrikson prior to the hike so that plans and transportation can be arranged. For more information call Arne at 544-0465.

Sunday
November 1

Opinicon Loop. This walk will start where the Rideau Trail leaves the Opinicon Road at Upper Rock Lake and finish where the trail again comes close to the road 2 km. from Chaffey's Locks (about 14 km). Meet at Sears' north door at 9.00 a.m. Hike leader is John Harrison, 542-2970.

Saturday
November 7

Hike the west side of Gould Lake to Desert Lake Road and return. This is a rugged and scenic section of the trail with steep inclines and swampy valleys as well as panoramic views of

Gould Lake. Meet at Sears' north door at 9.30 a.m. or at the Gould Lake barn at 10.30 a.m. Contact Jack Watkins at 389-4354.

Sunday
November 15

Elginburg Road to County Road #5 (Sydenham to Harrowsmith Road). Take a late season 15 km. walk on a less hilly section of our trail. There are some wet spots and rugged sections so wear good boots. Meet at Sears' north door at 11.00 a.m. and bring your lunch. For more details call Emma Martin at 542-1594.

Saturday
November 21

Visit the beautiful area of Bedford Mills on a walk led by Jim Smith. Whether the hike is one-way to Westport or go-and-return will be decided at the time. Meet at Sears' north door at 10.00 a.m. or at 10.40 a.m. at Bedford Mill. For information call Ossie Studd at 546-4396.

Sunday
November 29

Join Rory McKay for a hike to the cabin on Slide lake. Be prepared to do some work to put it into shape for the coming ski season. A bit of carpentry, wood gathering and general tidying up will make it more enjoyable in the winter. Meet at Sears' north door at 9.30 a.m. or at the parking lot on Perth Road north of Perth Road Village at 10.15 a.m. Don't forget your lunch. Call Rory at 544-5734 for instructions.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF TRAIL

While on holiday in Cape Cod, we walked along a trail built and supervised by the National Seashore Commission. The trail was called Buttonbush Trail and was laid out specifically for blind or partially sighted people. Thick rope edged the rather wide trail and was used as a guide. The rope was knotted at places where people were supposed to step up or down. Large pieces of circular cork were placed at various places along the rope to indicate that a description board was in reach. A short description of what was to be found in this area was written in Braille and also in large letters for the partially sighted. The boards instructed the reader to smell the flowers and leaves, to listen to different sounds of nature and feel the bark of trees, etc.

This trail was useful and different because it encouraged blind people to rely on their other senses to learn about nature.

Fiona Harrison

OTTAWA CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All members and friends are invited to take part in the following activities. Mark the date 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: Eileen Evans, 741-0789 or Elizabeth Mason, 729-6596.

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

Saturday, September 26 The Big One! Rideau Trail Association Tenth Anniversary. (See notice elsewhere in the Newsletter) Don't Miss This!

Sunday
October 4

ONTARIO HIKING DAY

For this special day, we have planned our 4th Annual Joint Outing with the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club and we will explore the trail through Murphy's Point Provincial Park on Big Rideau Lake, where interesting flowers and geological formations can be seen. Meet at W.E.S.C. at 9.00 a.m. and bring a lunch. For information call Dorice Joyce, 829-9130, or Eileen Evans, 741-0789.

For those looking for a really strenuous hike, John Harrison of the Kingston Club, is leading one through Frontenac Park and Ottawa members are welcome to join him. This is for experienced hikers only - see Kingston Calendar of Events. Call Eileen Evans, 741-0789, by Wednesday, September 30th, if you wish to join this hike.

Saturday - Arne Henrikson, of the Kingston Club, is leading
Sunday, an overnight camping hike in Frontenac Park (see
October 24 - 25 Kingston Calendar of Events) and Ottawa members
are welcome to join him, but again this is for
experienced hikers. Call Eileen Evans, 741-0789,
by Tuesday, October 20th, if you wish to go on
this trip.

Sunday,
November 1

A hike on the Opinicon loop trail from Skycroft Camp to Upper Rock Lake, approximately 16 km in all (map 10). This is a very enjoyable hike, well described by Terry Fuchs in his Opinicon Diary in the summer 1981 Newsletter. Bring a lunch and wear good footwear. Meet at W.E.S.C. at 8.30 a.m. for a one hour (approx.) drive to the Chaffey's Lock area. Due to the length of the drive, we would request that car passengers donate \$2.00 to the driver to offset costs. Leader is Joe Parton, 733-7624, for further information.

Saturday,
November 28

A hike in the Gatineau Park Ridge Road and Black Lake area of approximately 13 km. There will be some rugged walking, so wear good boots and bring a lunch and hot drink. For this hike there will be a change in the meeting place. Please note we will meet on the front steps of the Supreme Court Building on Wellington Street at 9 30 a.m. Leader is Joe Parton, 733-7624, for further information.

Sunday,
January 10

The first cross country ski and snow shoe outing - hopefully there will be some snow this time! We will ski into the cabin (map 4) and eat round the stove, so bring a lunch. Meet at W.E.S.C. at 9.00 a.m. Leader is Elizabeth Mason, 729-6596.

HIKING IN CANADA'S HIGH ARCTIC

Last summer my wife, Helen, and I decided to take a different, at least for us, type of vacation. This was not strictly speaking a hiking trip, but as hiking was involved on almost every day, I thought you might like to hear about it. This trip was put on by the Canadian Nature Federation and the Federation of Ontario Naturalists who jointly sponsor a number of trips to the arctic regions each year. The trip we chose started from Montreal and had as its destination the community of Pond Inlet at the north-east corner of Baffin Island, latitude about 73°N or some 450 miles north of the arctic circle and therefore well into the land of the midnight sun.

We started off from Montreal on the first hot humid day of the summer carrying winter clothing but trying not to look like tourists unfamiliar with our summer weather. Straight north to a short stop at Frobisher Bay which is in the Arctic region but considered by far northerners as a southern town, and then another 2½ hour flight to Nanissivik at the north-western tip of Baffin Island. The reason for this airport is a nearby lead-zinc mine, the most northerly operating mine in the world. When we touched down here on a gravel runway we knew we were in the north. This is as far as the jet would take us so we transferred to a de Havilland Twin Otter for the 150 mile flight east to Pond Inlet. This transfer took two flights because of the number of people and amount of baggage to be moved. In addition to flying through snow flurries and ice forming on the plane, the ice cover on the inlets below served to remind us we were now in the north. After interminable waits (one always seems to be waiting for something to happen in the north) we were finally all loaded aboard a freight canoe about 25 feet long, 5 feet in beam and powered by a 65 HP motor. Our Inuit pilot got us safely through the ice to our first camp on the banks of the Salmon river about 6 miles to the west of the town of Pond Inlet. Here we had our first meal, supper at 10.30 p.m. with the sun shining brightly high in the sky. In fact, it never got lower than about 15° above the horizon in the north so it was difficult to get to bed. Some in the group got very little sleep because of the urge to make use of every minute of sunshine there was. And there was a lot - 24 hours per day! The Inuit of Pond Inlet work all "day" and still go out hunting at "night" so rifle fire is heard at all times over the inlet.

The next day we started on our many hikes, this one taking us along the river to the south to find snow geese which were supposed to be nesting in that area. Hiking across the tundra is a real test for hiking boots. Mine had been completely waterproof for years but after only a few miles were soaked through. This area was the so-called wet tundra. Hummocks of moss, flowers and low arctic willows, the only trees of the arctic but only about 6 inches high, were all interspersed with hollows of water, while 6 inches down was the ice of the permafrost. A light drizzle this day did not help to keep one dry, but at least there were no mosquitoes or flies around. A ten to twelve mile walk netted us the sight of one nesting snow goose and many other species of bird life. Loons, golden plovers, jaegers and lapland longspurs were in abundance and with patience one could discover the nests of some of these ground nesting types. The scenery was absolutely grand with high snow covered mountains to be seen in all directions. The mountains of Bylot Island, just across the inlet, appeared to be only about 5 miles away but in reality were more than 20 miles away and rising right out of the sea to elevations of over 6000 feet. The clear air and cold water played many optical tricks which were sometimes baffling. Another hike the next day along the sea shore and then back across country gave a different view and the find of a caribou antler indicated that large animals do exist up there. However, we did not catch sight of any form of animal, not even a lemming, at this location. Another find out in the middle of nowhere was a broken down trail bike, partly disassembled and several years old judging by the licence plate, but just left as is with no attempt to salvage it.

The next morning, after a delicious meal of arctic char, we packed up and were transported back to Pond Inlet where we set up camp on the outskirts of town. That afternoon the ice drifted back into the bay and, had we not come when we did, we would have been stranded for another day or two with no food. Two rivers between us and the town would have made for a difficult walk back. One has to be ready to change plans at a moment's notice in the arctic and be aware of what might happen at all times.

From our new camp we also took long daily hikes but over a different kind of terrain, so-called rocky tundra. This consisted of literally square miles of broken rock varying from roughly a foot to several feet in diameter, all partly covered and interspersed with flowers, grasses, etc. and water. Whatever the difficulties of hiking on broken rock, at least one's feet could stay dry. One hardly dared lift one's eyes without stopping first. It was in this area that someone spied a rare form of club moss, the lycopodium, which brought everyone to his or her knees to examine it. Not being a biologist or botanist, I did not know what the fuss was all about, but I soon began to see this "rare" plant almost everywhere. In spite of all the plant life in this area, the main impression I got was one of utter desolation for miles around, but this was tempered by the beauty of the scenery and the variety of floral displays all around and between the rocks. There were times we hated to walk because of the numbers of flowers that would be crushed in the process. Also, it was difficult to keep one's head down to see where one was going because of the glorious views in all directions. On Bylot Island, for example, which I mentioned before, there were three large glaciers coming down to the sea directly in front of us. The snow-covered mountains all around called for skis, but of course it was not a practical possibility.

Finally, the last day arrived. This gave us an unforgettable experience of a 500 mile plane ride at 200 - 300 feet around Bylot Island, across Lancaster Sound (the Northwest Passage) with a landing on an old gravel beach on Devon Island. We then made a second crossing of Lancaster Sound and back to Baffin Island, landing at the village of Arctic Bay. On this trip we saw whales, walrus and polar bears below us, and, each time one of these was spotted by the pilot, he would pivot around on a wing tip so that we could get a second view. A mini-bus took us back to the airport of Nanissivik and then back to the south. Stepping out into 30°C heat and 90% humidity made us want to catch the next plane north.

I have only been able to give you a very brief sketch of what we did and saw during this short one-week vacation, but I hope I have been able to transmit to you some of the enthusiasm we felt for the arctic. It was an experience we will remember for a long time and one we hope we can repeat in the future.

Arne Henrikson

DEATH AND DESTRUCTION ON THE RIDEAU TRAIL

The crackle of flames grew louder and the pall of grey smoke made breathing more and more unpleasant. Suddenly an orange tongue of flame leaped out of the dry cattails right beside the nesting mallard and she knew that it was fly or die. Reluctantly she leaped into the air, abandoning her four little balls of fluff hatched only two days earlier.

Huddled fearfully in its nearby den of mud and cattail leaves a muskrat waited, knowing that something was wrong but not understanding what it was. Even breathing at several times its normal rate did not satisfy the frightened creature's need for oxygen and its tough little heart, with a heady input of adrenalin, beat a rapidly accelerating tempo. Suddenly it relaxed. Both heart and breathing had stilled forever as it lay dead, suffocated in its humble shelter.

Throughout the Little Cataraqui Creek marsh in Kingston similar scenes were repeated as gallinules, redwings and terns took to the air, reluctantly abandoning their tiny offspring to the crackling horror. We will never know what numbers of wildlife perished in that awful blaze, but when it was all over a large area of fascinating marsh, through which the Rideau Trail meanders, had been burnt and over two hundred metres of valuable catwalk were totally destroyed. Hikers are now forced to detour around the marsh by way of city streets (Parkway Avenue and Princess Street). Material loss to the R.T.A. was around \$2,000, but perhaps even more significant is the loss of this prime section of trail.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, these catwalks were prone to vandalism and required a lot of time and energy to maintain. Whether they are rebuilt depends on many factors, not the least of which is the obtaining of a committed group of volunteers to undertake the construction and future maintenance. The Kingston Rideau Trail Club will be considering future alternatives shortly and would appreciate hearing from anyone interested enough to contribute time and energy.

Doug Knapp



If undeliverable, please return to:

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND MAP KITS

Your membership provides the financial support essential for the continuous maintenance, improvement, extension and protection of the Rideau Trail network. A new edition of our map kit is now available. As well as being updated, the kit lists more than 20 campsites between Ottawa and Kingston.

* Map kits are sold to members only.

Membership.....	\$5.00
Senior Citizen.....	3.00
Map Kit*.....	4.00
Crest.....	1.00
Enamelled Pin.....	2.50
Donation	
(Tax receipts sent for donations over \$5.00)	

Name _____
Address _____

Postal Code _____