

The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

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Issue No. 52

SUMMER 1984



A Joint Ottawa-Kingston Club Hike

photo: Peter Andrews

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

Submissions for the next Newsletter are welcome and should be sent by August 1, 1984 to Johanna Koeslag, 18 Cowdy St., Kingston, Ontario, K7K 3V7. Telephone: 549-7502.

The Rideau Trail 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.

ISSN 0709-7085

MEMBERSHIP AND ADDRESSES

Thanks to Raxco Software Limited of Kingston, the RTA membership list is now stored electronically. In addition, Johanna Koeslag (our Kingston editor, who operates Raxco with husband Mike Draper) has stored membership expiry dates with members' names and addresses. If your address label needs correction, or if you haven't been credited with renewing your membership, call Johanna at 549-7502 or write to Box 15.

SPECIAL OUTINGS GROUP, OTTAWA RIDEAU TRAIL CLUB

Adirondack Park, August 4 - 6, 1984

Do you want to go hiking in the Adirondacks over the August civic holiday weekend? Ten people can be accommodated at South Meadow Farm Lodge, Lake Placid, N.Y. at \$40. per person per day for bed and 3 meals. The Lodge is in the High Peaks region of the Adirondacks, close to excellent hiking. So far, four hardy hikers from Kingston and Ottawa have signed up. Deadline is June 30. Please arrange your own transportation. Call Pearl Peterkin (829-3062) in Ottawa.

PERTH AREA - CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The Central Committee of the RTA has not scheduled any hikes or other outings during the summer. However, if any members would like an impromptu hike, Marg McLeod (267-1641) may be able to put them in contact with others. Marg will also do her best to supply information, as required, on the Trail in the Central Region.

WINTER IN FRONTENAC PARK

Life at -40 degrees Celsius can be beautiful, especially for a cross-country skier in Frontenac Park. In winter great vistas open up as cliffs and valleys that can be seen only in tiny glimpses in summer appear in massive sweeps. The incredible geology of the southeastern quarter, through which the Rideau Trail passes, is even more striking frozen, as beaver ponds become broad avenues rather than obstacles. I spent an unbelievably beautiful day in late March in shirt sleeves, skating (on skis) along Big Salmon, across the portage to LaBelle Lake and down part of the old Rideau Trail to an enormous beaver pond. This led me back to Camel Lake, through Little Black and Cedar, along half a mile of creek bed thick with red osier and through a stretch of open woods before finally arriving back at Arab lake. Another day, but at -25 degrees Celsius, travelling on lakes with the wind and through the woods when against it, we explored the old roads east of Little Clear, which make excellent easy cross-country trails.

At present, there is one main loop from the Trail Centre, a novice track of either 5 or 9 km. There are plans to add an intermediate level loop from Doe Lake to Arab Lake, and to open up the vast area in the southeast, where beaver ponds connected by short portages can be used in winter with practically no disturbance to the inhabitants.

The old road allowance beginning 4.2 km north of the Frontenac Park entrance provides a good novice trail to the Arkon Lake area. A drive to the Kingsford Lake dam gives access to more old roads and to the trail along the north edge of the Park to Tetsmine Lake, with several excellent hills and much evidence of former mining operations.

Virtually all hiking trails in the Park can be negotiated by a determined skier, although obviously some are more suitable than others. Unfortunately, Provincial Park policy prohibits the use of watercourses in winter, so the easiest routes will not be promoted as official winter trails. The past winter's snow conditions, a heavy snowfall topped by a thick crust, then more snow, provided ideal conditions for weeks. On hills where the trail plunged too narrowly, one could simply traverse off into the ironwood, returning farther down. Telemarks improve rapidly when they assist survival!

Wildlife, rather than being disturbed, frequently made use of our presence. Ski tracks made one day were certain to have been used by the next morning by deer, coons, skunks, and sometimes foxes, particularly after the heavy snow in late January. One day I stumbled unexpectedly onto the bedding down place of two deer and then, within 300 yards, discovered at least a dozen more icy "bathtubs". Fresh snow gives a clear print-out of many happenings. A fox's seemingly aimless wanderings, the sudden pounce, a little skip of paws and then the defined, clear tracks of the triumphant trot off to new pastures. The mother and fawn, tiny pointed tracks following closely as the larger hooves paw up mosses through the March crust. The sharp, perfect outline of a ruffed grouse's wings as he leaves his tiny overnight hollow.

Winter in Frontenac Park is a totally different experience from any other season. If you hike, you can cross-country ski, certainly enough to enjoy the Park with its frozen panoramas and its amazing variety of terrain within a very compact area.

Cookie Cartwright
C.S.P.S. Nordic Coordinator, 1984 - 85

Association Business

NEWS OF YOUR ASSOCIATION

Your Executive meets quarterly to discuss Association business and make those decisions necessary for its operation. The last meeting was in Perth, on April 14.

-A number of housekeeping items were looked after, including budgets.

-It was decided to go ahead with the production of page size posters that may be used to announce coming events and give the RTA publicity.

-The Membership Secretary reported that the current status of the Association membership was:

	<u>Full</u>	<u>Paying</u>
Kingston.....	364	315
Ottawa.....	350	310
Central.....	44	24
Out-of-town.....	146	140
Foreign.....	13	13
Life.....	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>
TOTALS	<u>933</u>	<u>818</u>

The Directors agreed that Jennie Ellis is doing a very efficient job keeping track of the membership and is to be commended.

-Twenty members of the Appalachian Club in Washington, D.C. are to visit Ottawa in July, and will be guided on hikes by Ottawa Club members.

-Our current supply of maps is nearly exhausted. Ron Hunt, our first V.P., is coordinating a new printing.

-Cathy Cutts, our Past President, is preparing a slate of candidates for the 1984 - 1985 RTA Executive. If you would like to become more involved with the Association, call Cathy (542-5414) or write to her at Box 15.

LIFE MEMBERS OF THE RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION - APRIL 1984

Bowes, Allan & Mary Jane.....	Kingston	Johnstone, J. L.....	Toronto
Buckmaster, Miss Hilda.....	Kingston	Kopp, Peter & Alice.....	Ottawa
Carson, Mr. & Mrs. R. B.....	Ottawa	Le Geyt, Mr. John.....	Manotick
Chown, Mr. Donald.....	Kingston	LeSage, Dr. T. W.....	Ottawa
Fish, J. A.....	Nepean	McCurdy, Larry.....	Kingston
Fox, Arthur M.....	Kingston	Morrison, Miss. B. A.....	Kingston
Gutteridge, Elizabeth.....	Toronto	Newton, T. W.....	Kingston
Haden, Ann Jessica.....	Kingston	Ross, Winnifred M.....	Kingston

ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WHEN: Saturday, September 22, 1984

WHERE: Perth, Ontario

AGENDA: 10 AM Coffee (Perth Public Library)

10:30 AM Hikes & Lunch

2:00 PM Business Meeting
(Perth Public Library)

3:30 PM "Painting Nature"--a talk by
nature artist Mary Bryant

5:30 PM Dinner (Perth United Church)

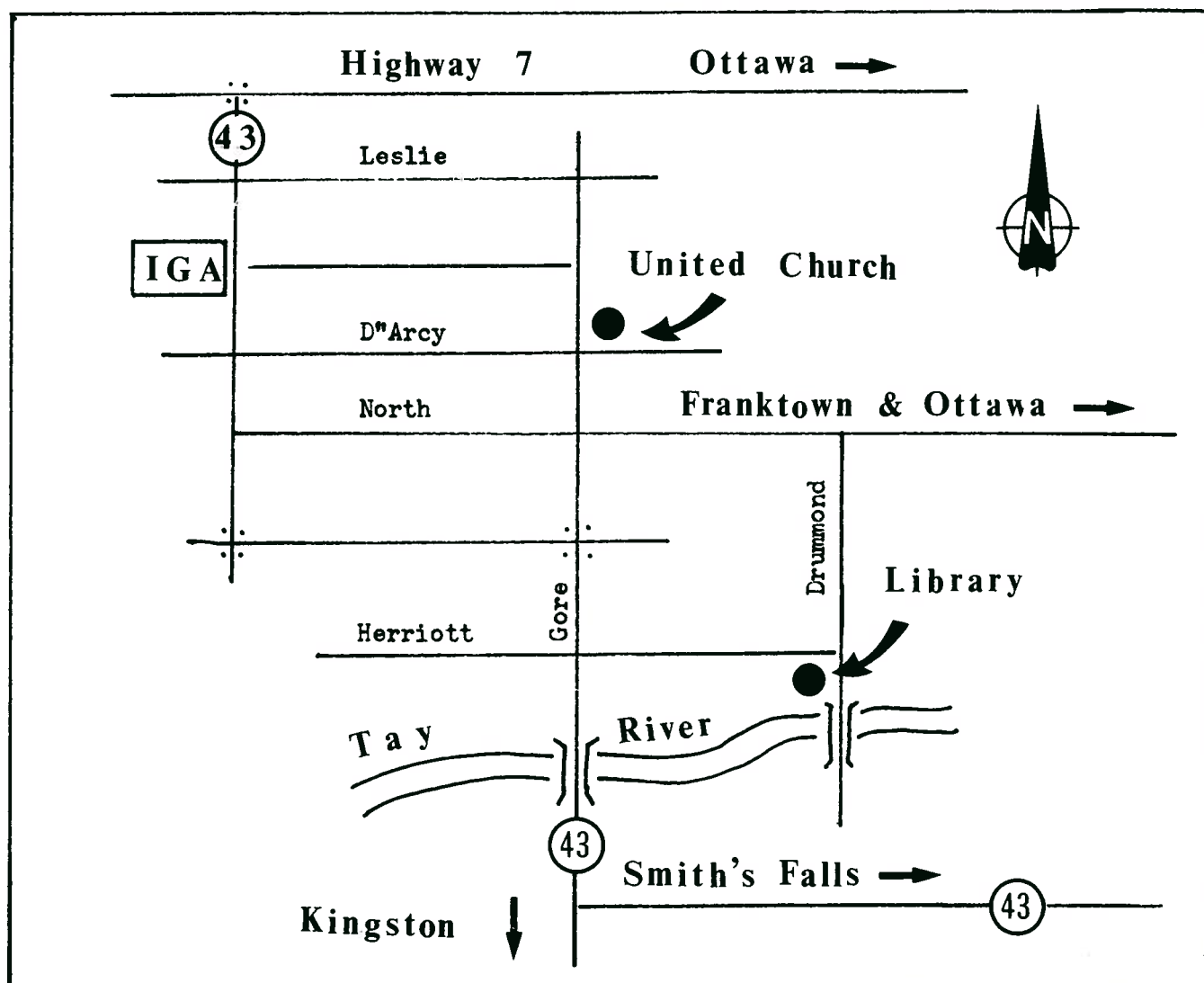
Dinner will be catered by the Ladies of Perth
United church. Price: \$6.50.

Reserve for dinner by phoning:

Kingston: Moira Drummond 544-9529

Perth: Marg McLeod 267-1641

Ottawa: Bill Grant 820-0697



Kingston Club — Outings

As you all know, the Kingston Club has a fairly ambitious hiking program. However, to maintain the current level of activity, we need to get some additional hike leaders. It seems that the same old group gets called upon to lead hikes every season and this is just not reasonable, or fair. Please call Peter Skelton (544-0151) or Cathie Cutts (542-5414) if you are willing to become a hike leader. You will be asked to lead only 3 or 4 hikes a year, at most. There will be a leaders' training session on Thursday evening, June 21 (see following program for details). Please plan to attend.

To alleviate the shortage of leaders, no hike leader will be allocated to the Wednesday hikes. A leader will be elected from those present at Sears north door. In response to a suggestion, we will try a Wednesday morning hike in August.

Please call the hike leader for information and to register your intention to participate. Prior registration will be mandatory for some events (e.g. overnight hikes and canoe trips).

Saturday, June 9

FRONTENAC PARK CANOEING

Come with us to Frontenac Park and enjoy a day of canoeing. Experienced paddlers, please bring your canoes and be prepared to take less experienced people with you. An objective is to encourage novices to come out and learn canoe safety and paddling skills, so novices are welcome. Please register with the leader ahead of time. Bring your lunch, canoe, paddles and D.O.T. approved life preservers, and meet at Sears north door at 9 AM. NOTE: There will probably be a park entrance fee for this event.

Leader: Terry Fuchs, 548-4143

Sunday, June 17

MAPLE LEAF ROAD

8 km

Hike the Maple Leaf Road, along the unopened road allowance from Buck Lake's south bay to the Leeds county line. Bring your lunch and bug repellent, and meet at Sears north door at 10 AM.

Leader: Norm McLeod, 546-9440

Thursday, June 21

ELGINBURG ROAD

4 km

Come and have a leisurely hike south of the Elginburg Road. Meet at Sears north door at 6:30 PM. The hike leader will point out a few practical aspects of hike leading and following the trail. Afterwards, the group will meet at the Cutts' house (15 Casterton Avenue), to discuss hike leading guidelines and to enjoy a snack and fellowship. There will be a small charge to cover the cost of refreshments. Anyone interested in the possibility of becoming a hike leader is urged to attend. There's no obligation.

Leader: Cathie Cutts, 542-5414

Saturday, June 23

MILL POND

10 km

Come and explore the Mill Pond Conservation Area, just north of Portland, off Highway 15. This a new area, with marshes, beaver (WE HOPE!) and a sugar bush. Bring your lunch and meet at Sears north door at 10 AM.

Leader: Peter Skelton, 544-0151

Saturday, June 30

CHAFFEY'S LOCK

10 km

There are two trails (non-Rideau) close to Chaffey's Lock. Come and explore these trails and enjoy a picnic lunch by the locks. Bring your lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9 AM.

Leader: Johanna Koeslag, 549-7502

Wednesday, July 4

LEMOINE'S POINT

3 km

Enjoy the cool breezes at Lemoine's Point, on what will likely be a warm summer afternoon. Meet at Sears north door at 1:30 PM and elect a leader. Have a good walk!

Sunday, July 8

BEDFORD MILLS

9 km

Explore Bedford Mills and then hike along the Rideau Trail to the Perth Road. How about driving past the Westport Fish Hatchery afterward, to see if it is open. If so, it would be well worth seeing. Bring your lunch and meet at Sears north door at 10 AM.

Leader: Joan Hughes, 549-6265

Sunday, July 15

FRONTENAC PARK

12 km

Hike from the Frontenac Park entrance parking lot, along the Rideau Trail and south of the Slide Lake loop, to the Perth Road (County Road 10). Bring your lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9:30 AM.

Leader: Arnold Pitman, 548-3486

Weekend, July 20 - 21

TALL SHIPS

The Kingston Club has invited the Ottawa and Perth Clubs to visit us while the "Tall Ships" are here. We hope to arrange for visits aboard some of the ships, late on the Friday afternoon. We will watch the "sail past" on the Saturday morning. Kingston Club members will billet the visiting Ottawa and Perth members in their homes on the Friday night. If you have room for one or more overnight guests, please call Peter Skelton (544-0151), as soon as possible.

Leaders: Arne Henrickson, 544-0465
Moir Drummond, 544-9529

Saturday, July 28

MURPHY'S POINT

various km

Come to Murphy's Point Provincial Park for a hike with members of the Ottawa Club. They will have about 15 members of the Appalachian Mountain Club with them. There will be a choice of shorter and longer hikes. As there may be a chance for a swim, bring your bathing suit with your lunch. Meet at Sears north door at 10:30 AM or at the entrance to Murphy's Point Park at noon.

Leader: Elmer Shepard, 389-4154

Wednesday, August 1

LITTLE CATARAQUI

8 km

Enjoy a morning hike at the Little Cataraqui Conservation Area. An early start will let us do the hike before the sun gets too hot. Meet at Sears north door at 8:30 AM and pick your leader.

Sunday, August 5

GOULD LAKE

Enjoy a family outing at Gould Lake. Good trails, of various lengths and difficulties, are there for hiking. There are good places for canoeing (bring your own canoe) and swimming. Picnic sites are available. Bring your lunch and whatever gear you need and meet at Sears north door at 9:30 AM. Please register with the leader ahead of time.

Leader: Don Cutts, 542-5414

Saturday, August 11

FOLEY MOUNTAIN

various km

This will be a joint outing with the Ottawa Club, at Foley Mountain. Hikes of various lengths are planned. Come prepared to hike, swim and socialize. Bring your lunch and swimming gear. Please register with the leader. Meet at Sears north door at 9:30 AM.

Leader: Mary Jane Bowes, 544-2753

Sunday, August 19

NARROWS TO RIDEAU LAKE PARK

11 km

Enjoy a hike from the historic Narrows Lock to the Rideau Lake Park campground. See the broad expanse of Big Rideau Lake in late summer. Bring your lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9:30 AM.

Leader: Jim Gartenburg, 542-8942

Weekend, August 25 - 26

CHARLESTON TO GANANOQUE

25 km

Come for an overnight canoe trip from Charleston Lake to Gananoque, camping at Marble Rock. The Gananoque River system is beautiful and well worth seeing. Please register with one of the leaders by August 17. Meet at Sears north door at 8 AM Saturday.

Leaders: Ray Forester, 542-4385
Tom Kaddits, 546-0806

Monday, September 3

NARROWS TO FOLEY MOUNTAIN

12 km

Hike this interesting section of the trail from the Narrows Lock to Foley Mountain. Bring your lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9:30 AM.

Leader: Sam Heusel, 542-2201

Wednesday, September 5

BELL'S ISLAND

3 km

Join us for a leisurely hike at Bell's Island. On the way out to the island, keep well to the edges of the golf fairways. Meet at Sears north door at 1:30 PM and pick your leader.

Annual Meeting Report

Kingston Rideau Trail Club held its thirteenth annual general meeting on Saturday, April 28, at the Frontenac Park Interpretive Centre. After the business meeting and a picnic lunch, an interesting slide presentation called "Spring in Frontenac Park" was given by Anne Robertson and Helen Quilliam of the Kingston Field Naturalists. This was followed by an auction of the poster "Dark Side of the Loon" and then hiking in the park.

Following is the new club executive for 1984 - 85.

Chairman:	Joan Hughes	549-6265
Past Chairman:	Arne Henrikson	544-0465
Vice-Chairman:	Keith Bull	546-9693
Secretary:	Caroline Gartenburg	542-8942
Treasurer:	Larry McCurdy	546-0683

Committee Chairman.

Routes and Negotiating:	Mary Jane Bowes	544-2753
Construction:	Peter Skelton	544-0151
Maintenance:	Tom Kaddits	546-0806
Newsletter:	Johanna Koeslag	549-7502

Members at Large.

Publicity:	Emma Martin	542-1594
Special Projects:	Moiria Drummond	544-9529
Hike Programme:	Cathy Cutts	542-5414
Rep. to RTA:	Norm McLeod	546-9440
At Large:	Ray Forester	542-5385

Ottawa Club — Outings

Sunday, June 10

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Club's AGM will be held at the Baxter Conservation Area between 10 AM and 3 PM. A hike will be led at 10:30 AM by Leanne Kane of the Centre. A picnic lunch is scheduled for noon, and the business meeting starts at 1 PM. To reach the Baxter Conservation Area follow Highway 16 south past North Gower. Turn left at the Kemptville Junction and follow the signs.

Saturday, June 16

GATINEAU HILLS

[see the spring newsletter for details]

Saturday, June 23

BEVERIDGE LOCKS

10 - 15 km

Explore the Rideau Trail in the area of the Beveridge Locks. Ford the Tay River on top of the Tay Dam (Map 7). Meet at West End Shopper's City at 9 AM. Bring a lunch.

Leader: Merv Brown, 226-5648

Sunday, July 8

HISTORIC WALK

10 km

Hike in the woods north of the Rideau River starting at the Dwyer Hill Road and ending near Merrickville. Stop for lunch where you can cool your feet in a rushing stream beside the ruined foundation of an old mill. Meet at West End Shopper's City at 9:30 AM with your lunch and insect repellent.

Leader: Pearl Peterkin, 829-3062

Wednesday, July 11

SLIDE SHOW

Take "A Walk Around the Lakes" while sitting. Peter Roberts of the Hostellers has offered to show us his slides of hiking in England. Please phone Mary by Sunday, July 8 for further details.

Contact: Mary Breig, H: 236-0042/0: 996-7217

Sunday, July 15

RAMBLERS OUTING

Rideau Trail has no scheduled outing today. Why not join the Ramblers at 10 AM on the steps of the Supreme Court on Wellington Street. A lunch, insect repellent and perhaps a swim suit are recommended. For more information on a typical outing with the Ramblers call Marg.

Contact: Margaret LaFrance, 692-4650

Weekend, July 20 - 22

VISIT KINGSTON

The Kingston Club has invited the Ottawa and Perth Clubs to spend a weekend in Kingston. Saturday is the day that the "Tall Ships" are scheduled to leave for Quebec City. Many activities are planned for us including an historic walk of old Kingston, a hike on the trail north of Kingston and visits to the "Tall Ships". If you wish to visit Kingston, contact Peter Andrews 2 weeks prior (by July 8).

Contact: Peter Andrews, 728-3016

Saturday, July 28

MURPHY'S POINT

A group of hikers from Washington, D.C. will be ending their week long stay in Ottawa this weekend. Help us bid them a friendly good-bye. This outing will be our annual hike, sun and swim day at Murphy's Point. Meet behind City Hall on Sussex Drive at 10 AM or at the entrance to Murphy's Point Park at noon. Bring your lunch and plan to have dinner at a restaurant on the way home.

Leader: Eileen Evans, 741-0789

Saturday, August 11

FOLEY MOUNTAIN FUN

Join the Kingston Club for a joint outing at Foley Mountain. Remember your swim suit lunch and even dinner if you wish (there are barbecues and picnic facilities). Meet at West End Shopper's City at 8:30 AM.

Leader: Monica Birt, 232-5640

Saturday, August 18

SUPRISE WORK PARTY

There is always work to do in maintaining the Rideau Trail. The Manning Cabin needs repairs, our own log cabin needs maintenance, trails need to be re-routed, maintained, cleared, etc. The list is endless. Today has been set aside for one of these tasks. Which one it will be is the SUPRISE! Meet at West End Shopper's City at 9 AM to lend a hand.

Contact: Ron Hunt, 746-1150

Sunday, August 26

CHARLESTON LAKE

10 km +

Charleston Lake Provincial Park, located on the rugged Frontenac Axis, offers a number of interesting hiking trails. At least one of these will be hiked and, weather permitting, a swim will follow. Bring a lunch. Meet at 9 AM on the steps of the Supreme Court on Wellington Street or at 9:30 AM at West End Shopper's City.

Leader: Bill Grant, 820-0697

Saturday, September 8

STAPLEDON TO TWIN ELM

14 km

Hike #3 of our hikes in the Ottawa area features prosperous farming land near Richmond. The trail is almost completely on gravel roads and farm concession lines. Meet at 2 PM on the steps of the Supreme Court Building on Wellington Street. Pack a picnic supper to enjoy on a warm summer evening.

Leader: Elizabeth Mason, 729-6596

Sunday, September 16

ROGER STEVENS ROAD TO STAPLEDON

14 km

Hike #4 of our special hikes takes us to the log cabin along a very pretty and little travelled stretch of the trail. Meet at Westgate Shopping Centre at 10 AM. Bring a lunch.

Leader: Andrew Oakes, 232-2755

Saturday, September 22

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Attend the Rideau Trail Annual General Meeting. See advertisement in this newsletter. Meet at 9 AM at West End Shopper's City.

Contact: Bill Grant, 820-0697

[NOTE: The meeting place at W.E.S.C. is on the west side by the laundromat.]

TAKE A BIKE HIKE

Sunday, May 13 was not only Mother's Day and the Ottawa Marathon but also the Ottawa Club's second annual bike hike. Ten enthusiastic cyclists met at Lincoln Fields. Our first few kilometres were on the Rideau Trail itself. We then moved to quiet roads as we left the city behind. Trilliums were out in profusion in the woods. Country roads wound through farm land, past old log buildings, abandoned stone schools and new luxury houses. On arrival in Carp we had an opportunity to see for ourselves the only barber shop in the area where a "shave and a hair cut" can still be had for one dollar! At a small restaurant we stopped for hot coffee. (Is it wise to advertise that there is a tradition on these bike hikes that the leader pays for all food consumed at the restaurant rest stop?)

Thanks to the preparation and leadership of Al Gamble, the Ottawa Club has enjoyed another successful bike hike. See you there next year!

Elizabeth Mason

PREPARED AS ALWAYS - by Stan Skirrow

October 31, I happened to be in Ottawa and October 31 happened to be the date of one of the Rideau Trail Association's hikes. I got to Ottawa's Westgate Mall at 10:00 and joined 23 other hikers. After introducing myself I received some questions about lunch, pack and boots. I assured my fellow hikers that though I had no pack I did have some lunch stuffed in my pockets. My street shoes were old and reliable and the toe rubbers would provide some traction.

We piled into cars and headed across the Ottawa River to the Gatineau Hills on the Quebec side. Soon I saw what was ahead, an 800 foot climb onto a ridge, and soon I knew why there was concern about my footwear. The scramble was over sloping slabs of rock covered with slippery oak leaves. Fortunately, my toe rubbers held and I managed with sufficient dignity. True, I didn't bound over the rocks. The one fellow who did received a goat call from other hikers. [continued on page 15]

Ontario!



Hike Ontario, Box 422, Cambridge, Ontario, N1R 5V5.

[Note: HIKE ONTARIO has been selected as the name by which the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations (FOHTA) is to be known to the general public. For legal purposes the longer name will continue to be used. From time to time HIKE ONTARIO's newsletter Outlook will be included in our own to help RTA members keep abreast of hiking in the province.]

The Directors of HIKE ONTARIO met for one of their regular meetings on May 5 in London, Ontario. Henry Heald, one of our representatives, attended the meeting and submitted the following report:

Most of the routine agenda of the meeting was set aside for full discussion of the National Trail Association and the report of William Thorsteinson, who's firm of consultants had been engaged by HIKE ONTARIO to evaluate its organization and to direct its long term plans.

The National Trail Association: A report of the March 3 - 4 conference in Ottawa was presented. (Henry's own report on this conference is below.)

HIKE ONTARIO endorsed the concept of the national trail, committed itself to serving as the sponsoring organization for the Ontario region, and confirmed Doug Robertson and Paul Symes as the two Ontario directors. Symes is a past president of the Voyageur Trail Association and immediate past chairman of HIKE ONTARIO. He lives in Sault Ste. Marie.

The executive committee will meet in Alberta in October and plan for the first annual general meeting, probably in Ottawa, in May of 1985.

The Voyageur Trail will be a major, and crucial, link in any cross-Canada trail, although portions of the Rideau, Ganaraska and Bruce trails could also be included.

Where Do We Go From Here?: William Thorsteinson and Associates were hired last winter to undertake a study of HIKE ONTARIO to help the directors see where the organization was heading and to direct long-range plans.

His report, completed in February, was the subject of a special meeting in Toronto on March 31. (The Rideau Trail Association was represented by six delegates.) The report of that meeting came back before the directors on May 5 for study and action.

Nine priorities for action were identified and ranked in the following order:

- 1] Leadership development and volunteer motivation.
- 2] Support for clubs including helping new clubs get started.
- 3] A HIKE ONTARIO conference.
- 4] Ontario Hiking Day.

- 5] Development and improvement of the Outlook newsletter.
- 6] Public relations.
- 7] Government relations.
- 8] Development of a trail network.
- 9] A trail rating and research project.

It was suggested that "Leadership Development and Volunteer Motivation" could be the theme of the next HIKE ONTARIO conference. The Rideau Trail Association's view that spring of 1985 was premature for a conference was noted. The plan now aims at spring of 1986. Another RTA viewpoint--that a full-time director for HIKE ONTARIO should be given a high priority--was not discussed in detail.

A CROSS - COUNTRY HIKING TRAIL?

The hikers' dream of a footpath from St. John's to Victoria took a major step closer to reality on the weekend of March 3 - 4, 1984 with the establishment of a provisional Board of Directors for a National Trail Association. Doug Campbell of Calgary, who has promoted the dream for the past 14 years, was elected president of the association at the conference, held at Ottawa's Roxborough Hotel. Vice-president is Jim Rutter of the B.C. Federation of Mountain Clubs; secretary-treasurer, Mike Fedak of the Manitoba Nature Federation; fund raising director, Doug Robertson, executive director of the Bruce Trail Association and publicity director, John Saywell, director general of S nitters Quebec, the federation of Quebec hiking clubs.

The conference, sponsored by Fitness Canada, brought together two dozen representatives of provincial trail associations and outdoor organizations as well as officials of national bodies with an outdoor or fitness bent, such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, the Canadian Hostelling Association, Katimavik, the Alpine Club, the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association and the Canadian Nature Federation. Dr. Ted Storey, professor of recreation at Carleton University, was moderator for the two-day session.

Campbell's dream lit a spark among the delegates who spent all day Saturday and Sunday morning putting together the basic organization and defining goals. Dr. Storey said he had never worked with a more dedicated and intelligent group of people. He said, "Doug had a dream. Some people may think that a cross-Canada foot trail is an impossible dream. But we must not discount our dreams. We have to work to make them possible. Canada itself is a miracle of faith."

Gerry Giuliani, Director of Program Services for the Boy Scouts of Canada, said a national trail "would appeal to scouts and help them meet their goals. It would also promote the concept of national unity and encourage conservation." Barbara Crocker of the Girl Guides of Canada added her support, noting that hiking and the outdoors "are an essential part of the Guide Program." Dan Boudreau, technical director of the Canadian Hostelling Association, said a national trail system would benefit his organization's 31,000 members and help to attract more visitors from other countries.

The national organization, composed of three directors from the Atlantic provinces, two each from Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, and three from the Prairie provinces, will focus on promotion of the concept and work on winning cooperation and financial support from federal, provincial and private agencies.

It will be up to each of the five regions to sell the idea to their provinces. Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia are the only provinces so far with provincial trail associations, although many hiking trails already exist in every province.

Doug Robertson said he would be making a proposal to FOHTA [the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations] seeking its support for the national trail concept. He said a national trail could make use of parts of the existing Rideau, Ganaraska and Bruce trails, as well as virtually all of the 250 kilometres of the Voyageur Trail along the north shores of Lake Huron and Lake Superior.

Nick Coomber of Parks Canada suggested that assistance could be provided through the Cooperative Heritage Areas program. Parks Canada has already helped to establish the Alexander MacKenzie Trail in British Columbia and he thought the agency would encourage use of the national parks for the trail route.

Sue Cousineau of the Ministry of Fitness and Amateur Sport said the government's support so far was just for the cost of the weekend conference, but suggested that it would also be willing to pay for an executive meeting this fall and the first annual meeting of the association in May, 1985. She said, "Fitness Canada supports the trail because hiking contributes to helping Canadians adopt a more active life style."

RTA'S REPRESENTATION ON HIKE ONTARIO

Our Association has two positions on HIKE ONTARIO's Board of Directors. These positions are included in the slate of candidates elected at the Association's Annual General Meeting. The Nominating Committee, under the leadership of Cathy Cutts of Kingston, will be seeking to fill both positions. One is currently unfilled, and Henry Heald is resigning from the other because of other commitments.

The job entails attending HIKE ONTARIO meetings, normally in Toronto, but with expenses paid, and RTA Directors' meetings. Anyone interested in representing the RTA with HIKE ONTARIO should contact Cathy, or any member of the Executive.

[continued from page 12]

Enjoying unbelievably warm weather, we descended part way down the other side of the ridge to Lac Charette, bushwacked our way around the lake, regained the ridge and then made our tricky descent down to the cars. All got down without accident which amazed me. I guess federal civil servants are tough. The young fellow who received the goat call on the way up had been most helpful in easing people down. He was given an oak leaf cluster.

We were all invited to the next hike which would be on the Rideau Trail itself. I, in turn, invited them to try Waskahegan's interesting and usually extremely safe trails.

[Reprinted from the newsletter of the Waskahegan Trail, Edmonton, Alberta.]



If undeliverable, please return to:

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



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Rideau Trail Association
P.O. Box 15,
Kingston, Ontario K7L 4V6

Membership year, April 1st to March 31st

Your membership in the Rideau Trail Association provides the financial support essential for the continuous maintenance, improvement, extension and protection of the Rideau Trail network. As a member you will receive the quarterly newsletter and special mailings, as well as voting rights in both Club and Association activities.

() Annual Family Membership.....\$ 10.00
() Patron (Life Membership)..... 150.00*
() Map Kit (13 maps) Members only..... 4.00
() Vinyl Case for maps..... 3.00
() Trail Notes Members..... 5.00
Non-members..... 8.00
() Car sticker (FREE to New Members)..... .50
() Crest..... 1.00
() Enamelled Pin..... 3.00
() Donation to RTA..... *
() Donation to Corridor Preservation Fund... *

TOTAL _____

PLEASE CHECK New () Renewal ()

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Postal Code.....

Telephone.....

* Qualify for Income tax deduction. Charitable Registration No. 0041733-56-11