



The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1985

ISSN 0709-7085

ISSUE No. 56



THE RIDEAU TRAIL NEWSLETTER is published quarterly in December, March, June and September by the Rideau Trail Association. The editor of this issue is Brian Lunergan for the Ottawa Rideau Trail Club.

For conservation purposes, this publication is printed on paper containing recycled fiber.

THE RIDEAU TRAIL NEWSLETTER invites correspondence, illustrations, accounts, reports, photographs, tall tales, opinions, cartoons, queries and anecdotes on all aspects of hiking, conservation and the outdoors. All correspondence, inquiries and submissions for the next issue should be sent by August 1, 1985 to Johanna Koeslag, 18 Cowdy Street, KINGSTON, Ontario K7K 3V7 (549-7502).

The Rideau Trail Association is a member of Hike Ontario (FOHTA).

THE RIDEAU TRAIL NEWSLETTER assumes no responsibility for loss of, or damage to, manuscripts, photographs or artwork. Contributors must warrant that their material does not infringe on the rights of others and that it is released for publication without further approval. The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily reflect those of THE RIDEAU TRAIL NEWSLETTER or the Rideau Trail Association.

ISSN 0709-7085

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1984-85

PRESIDENT	Ron Hunt, Gloucester	830-1592
PAST PRESIDENT	Richard Cross, Perth	267-4270
1st. VICE PRESIDENT	Moirra Drummond, Kingston	544-9529
2nd. VICE PRESIDENT	Pearl Peterkin, Ottawa	829-3062
TREASURER	Al Gamble, Ottawa	729-5056
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Elizabeth Palmer, Kingston	542-6493
SECRETARY	Margaret McLeod, Perth	267-1641
PUBLICITY COORDINATOR	Cathy Cutts, Kingston	542-5414
NEWSLETTER EDITORS	Johanna Koeslag, Kingston	549-7502
	Brian Lunergan, Nepean	829-0609
FOHTA REPS.	Margaret Lafrance, Manotick	692-4650
	Ray Forester, Kingston	542-4385
ARCHIVES	Peter Brebner, Ottawa	729-5056
OTTAWA REP.	Bill Grant, Nepean	820-0697
KINGSTON REPS.	Joan Hughs, Kingston	549-6265
	Norm McLeod, Kingston	546-9440
CENTRAL COMMITTEE	Jean Riddell, Perth	267-5017

ON THE COVER:

A look back to the cover of Issue #27 and a view of the falls between Slide and Buck Lakes. (Photo Credit: Norm McLeod)

TRAIL MAINTENANCE - OTTAWA RIDEAU TRAIL CLUB

by
Jim Fish

Much has been accomplished to maintain and improve the trail over the past few months, thanks to the efforts of our regular maintenance volunteers, the people who came out on our special "maintenance days", and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Carleton Place District.

Nearly all of the trail is now under the care of individuals who have taken responsibility for specific sections, although a volunteer is still needed for a 3 to 4 mile long stretch on a wooded road allowance north of Richmond. There are 15 people who have committed themselves to review trail sections (replacing markers and trimming any obstructing brush) a maximum of twice per year.

A number of trail routings and improvements, particularly in the Marlborough Forest, have occurred over the past few months. The route changes have been required primarily because of beaver activity. Although the beaver population and the number of dams is being reduced by the Ministry of Natural Resources, there is no guarantee that further changes won't be necessary. All changes to date will be shown on the new set of maps to issued in the near future.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, in particular Mark Schaeffer of the Carleton Place District Office, have been very helpful over the past winter. They have had a winter works crew widening and improving the trail through the Marlborough Forest, and they have also constructed a very sturdy shelter for us in the lower part of the forest which will be much appreciated by both hikers and skiers.

The Ottawa Club now has a new maintenance coordinator, as I will be moving some distance out of Ottawa this summer to my own "mini-conservation area". By the time you read this, Jorge Puysegur will have taken on the job, and he can be reached at 745-0563. I'm sure Jorge will do a creditable job for the club.



FOHTA AWARD - NOMINATIONS

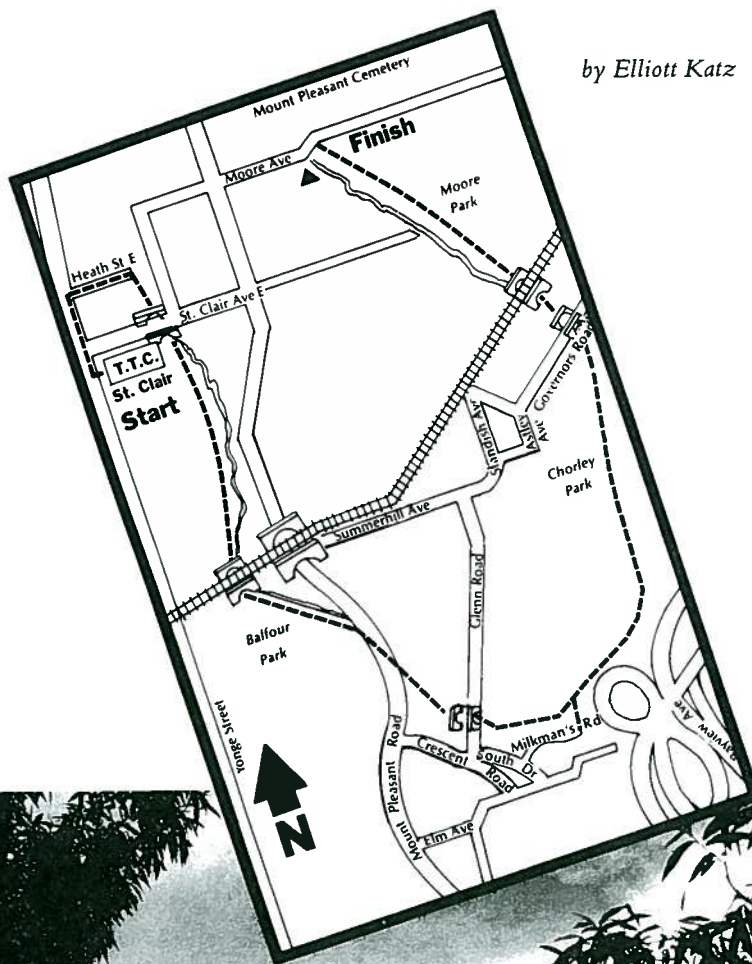
The Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations (FOHTA) Award is presented annually to members of Ontario hiking organizations who have made substantial contributions to hiking in Ontario.

If you know of someone who should be recognized for long meritorious service please write to Ron Hunt, President, Rideau Trail Association, Box 15, KINGSTON, Ontario K7L 4V6 or call him at (613) 830-1592 in the evening.

The award will be presented at the Annual General Meeting on September 21, 1985.

COUNTRY HIKING IN CAN

by Elliott Katz



A THREE-MINUTE WALK from the corner of Yonge and St. Clair streets in the center of Toronto is a hiking trail through a ravine forest brimming with wildflowers, birds and animals, where you feel miles away from the city. Yet thousands of people work, shop or commute on these main streets of Canada's largest city unaware of this quick escape to the wilderness of the Rosedale Ravine. From the Humber River in the west, to the Rouge River in the east, Toronto has a variety of trails along waterways through natural areas where you're in the country without having to leave town.

In Montreal of two decades ago if you asked for a nature hike, most Montrealers would proudly direct you to Mount Royal, the mountain park in the middle of the city. But there were few other public natural places within easy reach. In the past ten years the need to preserve natural areas for everyone in Montreal has been realized. Pathways have been opened along the



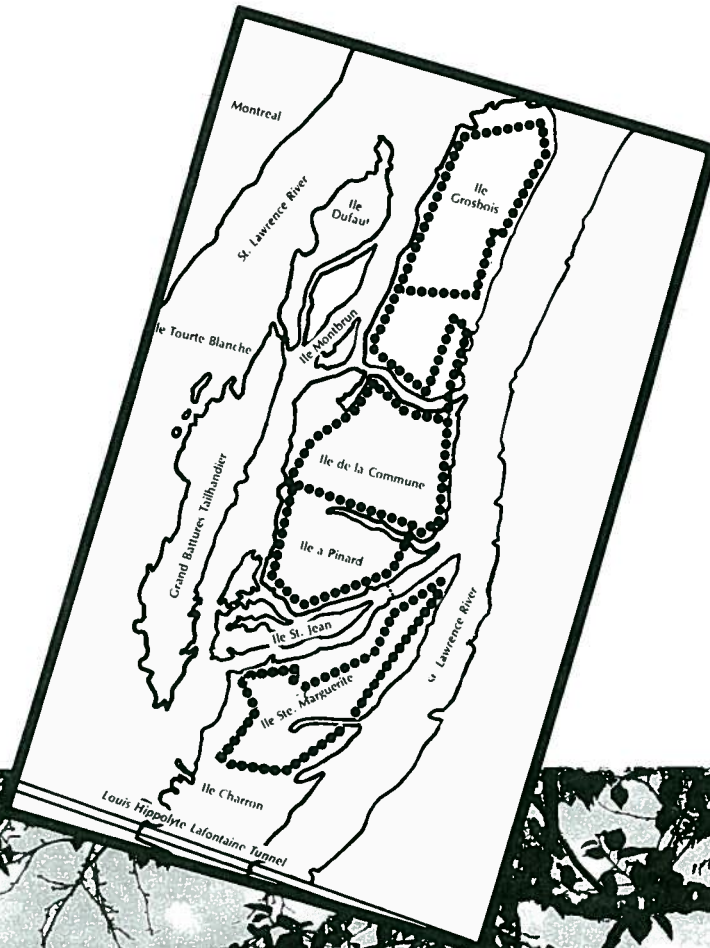
MINISTRY OF TOURISM & RECREATION

CANADA'S TWO LARGEST CITIES

historic Lachine Canal and on the dike of the St. Lawrence Seaway. The Boucherville Islands, an archipelago of islands in the St. Lawrence River north of downtown Montreal, have been rural since the settlement of New France in the 17th century. The islands are now a provincial park, three times larger than Mount Royal Park, and Montreal's newest and not yet well-known escape to nature.

Toronto and Montreal, Canada's two largest cities, are known for their fast pace. Taking a walk with nature is a refreshing break from hectic city life. A hike releases stress and helps you sort out your thoughts to let ideas and solutions to problems come to you.

Country hikes in the city are great for introducing friends to the freedom and exhilaration of wandering wilderness trails, exploring nature with children and for picnics with family and friends without having to drive a long distance. Discovering a place of scenic natural beauty is one of the joys of hiking. If you live in or visit Toronto



or Montreal, here are some country trails to these special places on your doorstep:

Toronto's Rosedale Ravines: Wilderness three minutes from the center of town

When author and naturalist Ernest Thompson Seton was a boy in Toronto of the 1870s, he built a small cabin in the Rosedale Ravine where he retreated after school to collect shells and live a Robinson Crusoe-type life. "To a small boy, as I was then, it was a wild and distant country. To me, it was paradise," he later wrote. Seton went on to become the author of 40 books. His first, *Wild Animals I Have Known*, published in 1898 and a bestseller, included stories about the personalities and adventures of animals he observed here. A park along the West Don River in Toronto is named after him.

Public Transit: From the St. Clair subway station (on the Yonge Street line), walk north on Yonge Street. Turn right on Heath Street East and walk to the end of the street. Here is a sign reading "Nature Trail," and the start of the walk.

Automobile: Drive to the corner of Yonge Street and Heath Street East, just north of St. Clair Avenue. Go east on Heath Street East to the end of the street and a sign reading "Nature Trail." Parking in this area can be difficult, and you would probably be better off taking public transit.

The Walk: (5 km/3 miles) Follow the arrow of the "Nature Trail" sign and descend the steps into the ravine. At the bottom, turn right and follow the path along the brook, called Yellow Creek. Pass under the St. Clair Avenue bridge, and after crossing a wooden footbridge enter David Balfour Park. Going south through Balfour Park you pass under the Summerhill railroad bridge and soon reach busy Mount Pleasant Road. Carefully cross Mount Pleasant Road – there is no traffic light – and follow the path indicated by the "Park Drive Reservation" sign.

YOU SOON REACH A TRAIL junction. Near this junction was the location of E. T. Seton's cabin. If you want to end the walk, you can take the path leading to Creighleigh Gardens and take Milkman's Road to South Drive. From there you can take the Rosedale 82 bus to Rosedale subway station (on the Yonge Street line), or the Sher-

bourne 75A bus to the Sherbourne station (on the Bloor-Danforth line).

To continue this walk, go right at this junction and follow the sign to the Moore Park Ravine. The path enters the Don Valley and skirts one of the ramps of Bayview Avenue. You also pass the old Don Valley Brick Works, founded in 1882. Near it is the pit from which the clay was taken to be made into bricks. The trail goes near the fence around the pit which measures 30 meters (100 feet) deep and 150 meters (500 feet) from end to end.

Follow the path north along a ridge through the maples and willows of Moore Park ravine and gradually ascend to Moore Avenue.

Getting Back: From Moore Avenue, cross the street and take the South Leaside 88 bus back to your starting point at the St. Clair subway station.

The Rosedale Ravines walk is excerpted from the Elliott Katz's book Great Coun-

Toronto and Montreal, Canada's two largest cities, are known for their fast pace. Taking a walk with nature is a refreshing break from hectic city life.

try Walks around Toronto, available in bookstores or for \$2.95 from Great North Books, Box 507, Station Z, Toronto, Ontario M5N 2Z6.

Montreal's Iles de Boucherville: New park in the St. Lawrence River

For three hundred years since the settlement of New France, the Boucherville Islands have been rural land. Though situated north of downtown Montreal, the islands were not easily accessible. The construction of the Louis Hippolyte Lafontaine Tunnel-Bridge in 1967 linking Montreal with the Boucherville Islands and the south shore of the St. Lawrence River sparked interest in creating a park here.

The Islands were part of the Seigneurie de Boucherville granted in 1672 to Pierre Boucher, after whom it was named. ("Seigneuries" were the feudal land grants given to "seigneurs" and settled by "habitants" to colonize New

France.) Boucher had arrived in New France in 1634 at the age of 12. He lived with the Indians to learn their language and then worked as an interpreter.

IN 1984, 7-KM² (2.7-SQUARE mile) Iles de Boucherville Provincial Park was established encompassing Ile Charron, Ile Ste. Marguerite, Ile St. Jean, Ile à Pinard, Ile de la Commune and Ile Grosbois. A network of 18 km (12 miles) of hiking trails and 23 km (14 miles) of bicycling trails follow the shores of the islands past fields, bushes and forests. An abundance of waterfowl can be seen here. Canoeing circuits on the park's waterways range from 3.5 to 15 km (2 to 9 miles) in length. Picnic facilities are located on Ile Ste. Marguerite and Ile Grosbois.

Hours: Ile de Boucherville Provincial Park is open from 7 a.m. to sunset from the beginning of April to the end of September, and from 9 a.m. to sunset from the beginning of October to the end of March. You can contact the park at: Iles de Boucherville Provincial Park, 55 Ile Ste. Marguerite, Box 30, Boucherville, Quebec J4B 5E6, (514) 873-2843.

Public Transit: From Radisson Metro station (on Metro line 1), take the CTRSM bus No. 61 which stops along its Boucherville route near the park entrance on Ile Charron. After emerging from the Louis Hippolyte Lafontaine Tunnel, the bus exits onto Ile Charron and stops at the Sheraton Hotel. Get off the bus here. The park entrance is to the left of the hotel.

Automobile: From downtown Montreal, go east on Metropolitan Boulevard or Sherbrooke Street East to the Louis Hippolyte Lafontaine Tunnel. Go through the tunnel and exit onto Ile Charron (Exit 89), which is the first exit after emerging from the tunnel. Pass the Sheraton Hotel, enter the park and drive to the parking area.

The Walk: The park's network of 18 km (12 miles) of hiking trails along the shores of the islands offer circuits of varying length.

From the parking lot or from the park entrance, follow the trail along the eastern bank of Ile Ste. Marguerite along the St. Lawrence to the cable ferry. Take the ferry across the Chenal Grande Rivière to Ile à Pinard. The trail skirts the shore of Ile à Pinard and adjoining Ile de la Commune. Cross the bridge over La Passe waterway to Ile Grosbois, the largest of the park's islands. The hiking trail follows the shores of Ile Grosbois and traverses the island's wooded area. ◇

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION 14th. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

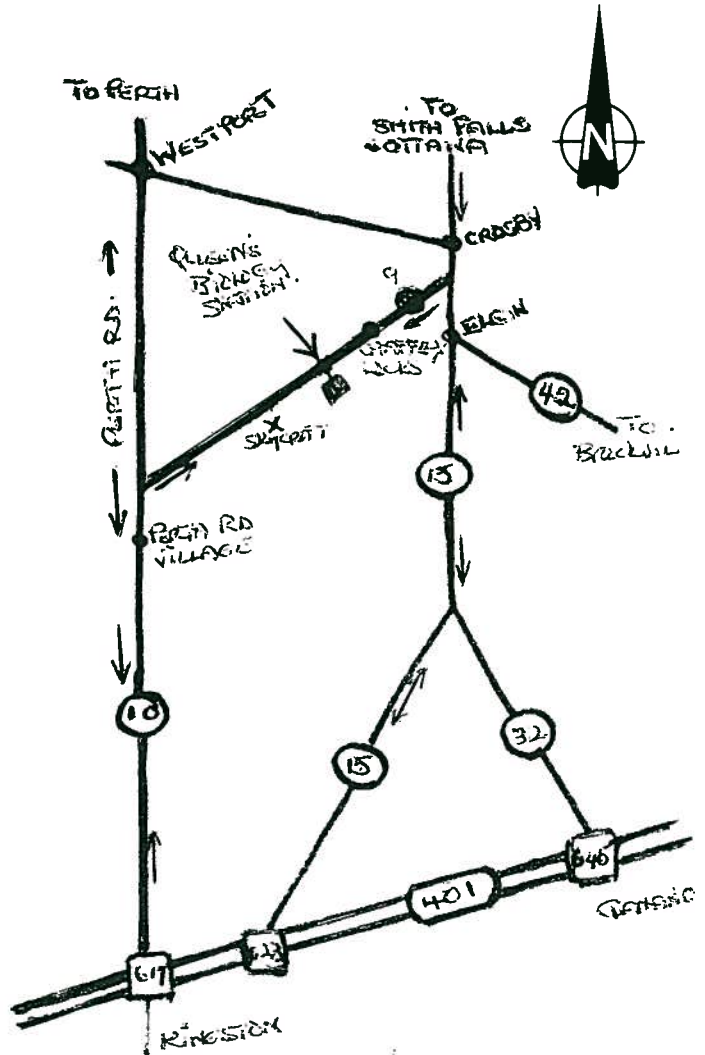
Saturday, September 21, 1985

Queen's University Biology Station
Chaffey's Locks, Ontario

(Organized by the Kingston Trail Club)

- 10 h 00 - Coffee time at the station
- 10 h 30 - Program by Frank Phelan,
Manager of the station
- 12 h 00 - Lunch break (Brown Bag It!)
- 13 h 00 - Business meeting, Election
of officers
- 14 h 30 - Take a hike—Your choice
- 1) "Walkabout" on the station
 - 2) Leisurely hike on Plantation
Trail
 - 3) Hike a section of the Rideau
Trail
- 17 h 00 - Supper (The time is approx-
imate. Arrangements and
cost to be finalized. Tick-
ets should be purchased by
September 17 and are avail-
able from Elizabeth Mason
(729-~~9856~~) or Moira Drummond
(544-9529).)

The Biology Station is located on Lake Opinicon (see map), one of the Rideau Lakes north of Kingston. The area includes 344 ha of forest, wetland and farmland. Students attend courses run by the University Field Programme of Ontario in Biology. During the summer about 20 research workers are in residence at the station. Parking is available on the station, but we do request that you arrange car pools to save space.



PROGRAMME

OTTAWA CLUB

Hikes leave from the corner of Booth and Albert Street in rain, sleet, sunshine...any kind of weather. If you do not have a car, please call the hike leader to indicate that you need transportation from the meeting place. If the leader cannot be reached, call 829-3062 for information.

Wednesday, June 12

The Wednesday walkers continue to meet every Wednesday morning at 10:30 AM.
Contact: Patricia Harrison, 746-0806

Saturday, June 15

Canoe trip on the Madawaska River from Calabogie. Bring lunch and insect repellent (It's probably too early to swim). Anyone interested in the trip should contact the leader by June 9.

Leader: Jim Fish, 226-7236

Sunday, July 7

Hike and swim in the Gatineau Park. Meet at 10:30 AM. Bring a lunch, insect repellent and swim suit.

Leader: Pearl Peterkin, 829-3062

Sunday, July 28

The annual hike, sun and swim day at Murphy's Point. Meet at 10 AM with your lunch and bathing suit. Plan to have dinner on the way home. Let the hike leader know you're coming by Thursday, July 25, so that dinner reservations can be made.

Leader: Eileen Evans, 741-0789

Sunday, August 18

Join the Kingston Club for a joint outing at Foley Mountain. Remember to bring your swim suit and lunch. Meet in Ottawa at 9 AM or at the Spy Rock parking lot at 11 AM.

Leader: Barri Scully, 233-3770

Saturday, September 7

Hike from Fallowfield to the Ottawa River. Meet at 2 PM. Pack a picnic supper to enjoy on a warm summer evening.

Leader: Elizabeth Mason, 729-6596

Sunday, September 15 - Trail Maintenance

Do your part to keep the Rideau Trail in good condition. Meet at 9 AM.

Leader: Jorge Puysegur, 745-0563

Saturday, September 21

Annual General Meeting at Chaffey's Locks. Details elsewhere in the newsletter.

CENTRAL CLUB

Sunday, June 16

Treat your Dad to some fresh air and exercise. Join the Father's Day hike near Murphy's Point Provincial Park. Meet at the IGA parking lot at 10 AM. Bring a lunch.

Leader: Marg McLeod, 267-1641

Sunday, August 18

Join the Ottawa and Kingston groups for a outing at Foley Mountain. Meet at the IGA parking lot at 10:25 AM or the Spy Rock parking lot at 11 AM. Be sure to bring your swimming gear and a lunch.

Contact: Marg McLeod, 267-1641

KINGSTON CLUB

For the summer months we have included some bicycle and canoe outings. Some events involve a fee and some require registration. PLEASE CHECK EARLY! Don't forget swimsuits and insect repellant. Cathy Outts has planned this programme but suggestions for the fall one may be made to Su Nag (544-6505).

Saturday, June 1 - Rock Dunder

On a clear day the views are spectacular. Rough terrain on the ascent but well worth the effort. Visit Jones Falls while in the area and have dinner at Hotel Kenny. Check with Su about reservations. Meet at Sears north door at 1:30 PM.

Leader: Su Nag, 544-6505

Wednesday, June 5 - Camden Lake Wildlife Area

Near Camden East. Bring binoculars, repellant, and lunch. Meet at Sears north door at 10:30 AM.

Leader: Moira Drummond, 544-9529

Sunday, June 9 - Little Cat (off Division Street)

Enjoy a leisurely walk beside marshes, through pine woods and in the Sugar Maple bush. Meet at Sears north door at 1:30 PM.

Leader: Wilhelm Dietrich, 542-7913

Saturday, June 15 - Gould Lake

Enjoy a short hike and canoe outing. Suitable for young children. Bring canoe life jackets, swim gear and lunch. Meet at Sears north door at 10 AM or the Gould Lake barn at 10:30 AM.

Leader: Jim Gartenbury, 542-8942

Sunday, June 23 - Kingston Mills

This hike is in conjunction with the Kingston Bike Path and Walkway Group. Details were not finalized as this issue goes to press so watch the local media for announcements.

Weekend, June 29 - 30

Overnight hike along the west side of Gould Lake. Day hikers may wish to accompany the group part of the way. Please register one week ahead.

Leader: David Roeder, 546-7352

Kingston Club Programme (cont.)

Wednesday, July 3

Gully Road to Sydenham. Lunch at Grasshopper Hill Shoppe. Please let the leader know one week ahead if you wish to reserve for lunch. Meet at Sears north door at 10 AM.

Leader: Cathy Outts, 542-5414

Sunday, July 7

Bicycle outing over Pittsburgh Township roads. Bring a lunch. Meet at the information booth at the foot of Old Fort Henry Hill at 9:30 AM. Non-cyclists walk around historic Barriefield village and Fort Henry Hill.

Leader: Tom Newton, 544-1517 (office)/542-9253 (home)

Saturday, July 13

Railton Road to Sydenham. Field paths and woods, then lunch at the beach on Sydenham Lake. Bring lunch and swimming gear. Meet at Sears north door at 9:30 AM.

Leader: Johanna Koeslag, 549-7502

Sunday, July 21

Frontenac Park, 12 kilometres. Challenging terrain. Strong footwear needed. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Sears north door at 9:30 AM.

Leader: John Harrison, 542-2970

Monday, July 22 to Thursday, July 25

Explore some of the trail between Perth and Ottawa. Choice of camping or Bed & Breakfast. Phone Early if you want to attend a planning meeting.

Contact: Cathy Outts, 542-5414

Saturday, July 27 - East side of Gould Lake

This hike will include a swimming spot. Bring a lunch. Meet at Sears north door at 10 AM.

Leader: Keith Bull, 546-9693

Monday, August 5 - Charlston Lake Provincial Park

A choice of trails with scenic look-outs. Bring a lunch. Meet at Sears north door at 9:30 AM.

Leader: Don Green, 542-4043

Wednesday, August 7 - West side of Gould Lake to Spur Point

Bring a lunch and swimming gear. Meet at Sears north door at 10 AM.

Leader: Emma Martin, 542-1594

Saturday, August 10 - Wolfe Island Bike Ride

Non-cyclists could enjoy the ferry ride and a short walk. Meet for the 9:30 AM ferry.

Leader: Tom Kaddits, 546-0806

Sunday, August 18 - Foley Mountain Conservation Area

Members from Perth and Ottawa will be joining us. Bring a lunch and swimming gear. Meet at Sears north door at 10 AM or the Spy Rock parking lot at 11 AM.

Leader: Cathy Outts, 542-5414

Saturday, August 24 - Skycroft near Chaffey's Locks

Hiking, swimming, boat and canoe rentals. Bring a lunch. Two dollars (\$2.00) per person. Meet at Sears north door at 9:30 AM.

Leader: Don Galloway, 548-8109

Kingston Club Programme (cont.)

Weekend, August 24 - 25 - Overnight Canoe Trip

The exact location is not yet finalized. Members must register one week in advance.
Contact: Ray Forester, 542-4385/Tom Kaddits, 546-0806

Monday, September 2 - Elevator Bay to 401

Marshes, woods and cemetery. Not much driving! Meet at Sears north door at 1 PM.
Leader: Cathy Cutts, 542-5414

NOTICE:

The Ottawa Rideau Trail Club is planning a week-long hike in the Shenandoah National Forest, on the Potomac section of the Appalachian Trail. PATC cabins can accomodate 10 to 14 people at a nominal cost. The trip would begin on the long week-end in October, when the weather and foliage should be beautiful. Anyone interested in joining the trip should contact Linda Hayes (234-1045) or Su Nag (544-6505).

FRONTENAC PROVINCIAL PARK WILDERNESS SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM SCHEDULE SUMMER 1985

Orienteering, Map and Compass - June 8	(Presented by: Silva Limited)
Family Canoeing Day - June 9	(Presented by: Harbourfront Canoe School)
Canoe Certification Weekend - June 22 and 23	(Presented by: Harbourfront Canoe School)
Canoeing Clinic - July 14	(Presented by: Norm Light)
Canoeing and Kayak Touring - July 21	(Presented by: Pack and Tent/Trailhead)
Fishing Demonstration - August 18	(Presented by: Loyalist Sport Fishing Association)
Hiking Equipment Demonstration - September 15	(Presented by: Pack and Tent)
Lightweight Nutrition - September 22	(Presented by: Fresh Air Experience)
Orienteering, Map and Compass - September 28	(Presented by: Silva Limited)
Photography Workshop - October 5	(Presented by: Martin Sundland)
Thanksgiving Canoe Trip - October 12, 13 and 14	(Presented by: Harbourfront Canoe School /Frontenac Park)

For further information contact Mike Walton at 376-3489, or write to Frontenac Provincial Park, Box 11, SYDENHAM, Ontario K0H 2T0. Brochures describing the course offerings should also be available at local outdoor equipment stores in the Rideau Trail area.

PATRONS AND LIFE MEMBERS

The list of generous friends who have become Patrons of the Rideau Trail Association, and thus have been made life members, continues to grow. All those volunteers who give of their time and talents to the work of the Association and its Clubs are heartened by this support. The list of patrons appears below (April, 1985).

Bowes, Allan and Mary J.....	Kingston	Kopp, Peter & Alice.....	Ottawa
Buckingham, Ken & June.....	Kingston	Le Geyt, Mr. John.....	Manotick
Buckmaster, Miss Hilda.....	Kingston	LeSage, Dr. T.W.....	Nepean
Carson, Mr. & Mrs. R.B.....	Ottawa	MacNaughton, Peter.....	Nepean
Chown, Mr. Donald.....	Kingston	McCurdy, Larry.....	Kingston
Covington, Mrs. A.E.....	Ottawa	Morrison, Miss B.A.....	Kingston
Outts, Mr. & Mrs. D.G.....	Kingston	Newton, T.W.....	Kingston
Fell, Albert P.....	Kingston	Palmer, Elizabeth.....	Kingston
Fish, J.A.....	Nepean	Peterkin, Mrs. Pearl.....	Ottawa
Fox, Arthur M.....	Kingston	Redmond, Derek.....	Kingston
Gutteridge, Elizabeth.....	Toronto	Ross, Winnifred M.....	Kingston
Haden, Ann Jessica.....	Kingston	Stegemann, Mr. Klaus.....	Kingston
Johnstone, J.L.....	Toronto	Thompson, Mr. Gord.....	Kingston
Westaway, Mr. Peter W.....	Toronto		

COMMON SNAKES IN THE RIDEAU TRAIL AREA

by

Jason and Kevin Bowles

(With editorial help from their mother, Mrs. Wanda Bowles.)

(Jason and Kevin are 10 and 8 years old respectively. We welcome them in their debut as contributors to the newsletter, and invite other young members to join them. Ed.)

There are fourteen species of harmless snakes, and only two species of venomous snakes in Ontario. E.B. Logier's book The Snakes of Ontario and Barbara Froom's book The Snakes of Canada both give detailed descriptions of all varieties of snakes, their habitat and distribution. This report is to summarize and list the common snakes that might be seen during a day's hike along the Rideau Trail.

General Features of Harmless Snakes

The harmless snakes may be recognized by the following features:

- 1) the tail is without a rattle, and tapers to a point,
- 2) the eye pupil is round, not vertical like a cat's, and
- 3) there is no pit in the side of the face between the eye and the nostril.

These distinctions do not apply in all parts of North America, but are perfectly safe in our area of Ontario.

Seven Common Harmless Snakes

Half of the snakes found in Ontario would not usually be seen in our area. Here are the most usual for our area:

1) The Northern Water Snake

This snake is usually about four feet long. It's colour is generally brown. There is a mid-dorsal row of squarish dark blotches, and a lateral row of smaller ones on each side. On the forward part of the body, these blotches merge to form wide cross-bands, giving the snake a banded appearance. Older snakes appear almost a solid, dark colour as the markings become dull with age. The belly may be creamy, yellowish or reddish, commonly with dusky mottling. This is a very aquatic snake, frequenting lakes, streams, ponds and marshes. It's shy and watchful and difficult to approach. It will bite viciously. It is generally common.

2) The Red-Bellied Snake

Our smallest snake, rarely exceeding one foot in length. The colour is from light to dark brown or gray. There is a lightish vertebral stripe bordered on each side by a dusky line; another dusky line on the first row of scales of each side. A yellow spot is present on the back of the neck and one along each side. The belly is red or pink, with a band of dark speckling along each side.

It inhabits light woods, clearings, farms, fields and roadsides. It remains concealed during most of the day, coming out of hiding and wandering about toward evening. It is entirely gentle and makes a pleasing pet. It is common, having the widest range next to the common garter snake.

3) The Black Rat Snake

This is our largest snake, reported to occasionally reach a length of eight feet. It is uniformly black above, or marked with obscure black blotches which are large in the dorsal row. The black rat snake prefers open woodlands, rocky, scrubby, rough country and upland, often away from water. When first caught it is sometimes irritable, biting, vibrating its tail and using an unpleasant secretion of its scent glands. It is fairly common in Frontenac and Leeds counties.

4) The Eastern Milk Snake

The milk snake is two to three feet in length. The ground colour above is pale to medium gray or brown. There are five rows of black bordered, brown blotches, the dorsal row is large and saddle-shaped; those of the lateral rows are smaller. The belly may be white, but is usually marked with squarish black blotches. This beautiful and very useful snake inhabits light woods, clearings, farmlands, rural gardens and barns. When first caught, the milk snake may be irritable and turn and bite slowly and deliberately. It has a habit of vibrating the tip of its tail when annoyed. It is moderately common.

5) Dekay's Snake

This small snake rarely attains a length of more than fifteen inches. The colour above varies from light to darkish brown, or grayish brown. There is a lightish vertebral stripe equal in width to four scales, bordered on each side by a slightly darker tone, and by a row of dark spots which often encroach upon it. The belly is pale brown or slightly pinkish. The little brown snake inhabits light woods, clearings, farms, fields and roadsides. This gentle little snake, which never attempts to bite, makes an attractive pet. It is common.

6) The Eastern Garter Snake

This snake attains a length of rarely more than about forty inches. The dorsal colour may be black, olive or brown, normally with three yellowish stripes (a dorsal and two lateral). The lateral stripe of each side lies on the second and third scale rows. The belly is yellowish or greenish. This is the commonest and most widely distributed snake in Ontario. It is found in woods, clearings, on farms, along roadsides, in marshes and on the shores of lakes, ponds and streams. Most individuals are good-tempered but some will strike repeatedly when caught. They all use their scent glands at first.

7) The Eastern Smooth Green Snake

This slender, beautiful little snake attains a length of from sixteen to twenty inches. This snake is a uniform grass green above, pale yellow or whitish beneath. It inhabits grassy fields, clearings and open woods. Though normally a ground snake, it is a fair climber. It is entirely gentle, and is fairly common.

Ontario's Venomous Snakes

Canada's only dangerous snakes are the rattle snakes. Two kinds are found in the west, and two in Ontario. They have the following features:

- 1) rattle at end of its tail,
- 2) triangular head and relatively thin neck,
- 3) a deep pocket (the pit) between the eye and the nostril,
- 4) cat-like vertical pupils, not round as in harmless snakes, and
- 5) colour pattern of darker blotches or crossbands on a lighter ground colour, unless actually black.

The Eastern Massasauga

This is a thick-bodied snake, usually two to three feet in length. It has all five features as above. It is a mild-tempered snake but the venom is about five times as deadly as that of the Texas Rattler. The snake expert, E.B. Logier, writes "The chance of any particular person receiving a bite is extremely small, unless he tampers with a snake, and in Ontario the odds against it are millions to one." This snake has killed only one person in this century. It is found mainly near Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Georgian Bay and the Bruce Peninsula.

Timber Rattlesnake

This is a large, thick-bodied snake, occasionally reaching five feet in length. It has all of the five features as above. There are no known Canadian fatalities from it. It is found only in the vicinity of the Niagara gorge, and is now nearly extinct in Ontario.

PHOTO CALL:

Clear winter photographs of historic buildings along the trail corridor are being sought for the cover of the winter edition of the newsletter. They should be vertical format (the long edges of the slide or print form the sides), with the top clear of important detail (this area will be covered by the masthead). Either black and white print or colour slide are acceptable.

Great Country Walks Around Toronto

A unique guide to the best and most scenic country trails around Toronto — for walking, running, picnicking, bird-watching, and exploring — all within easy reach of public transit.

Paperback \$2.95

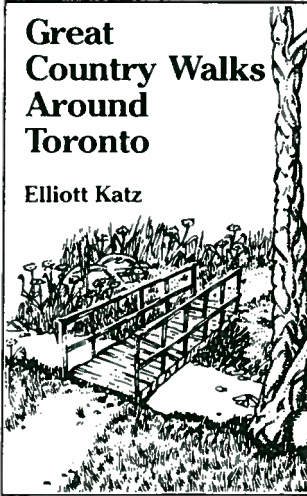
Distributed by
Firefly Books Ltd.

Available from your favourite bookseller, or by mail
from: **Great North Books, P.O. Box 507,
Station Z, Toronto, Ont. M5N 2Z6.**

**Watch for THE GREAT TORONTO
BICYCLING GUIDE coming in May!**

Great Country Walks Around Toronto

Elliott Katz



Please send me _____ copies of Great Country Walks Around Toronto
Enclosed is \$_____. (No extra charge for postage and handling.
Make cheques or money orders payable to Great North Books). Mail to:
Great North Books, Box 507, Station Z, Toronto, Ont. M5N 2Z6.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Province _____
Postal Code _____



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 (includes map index). 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