

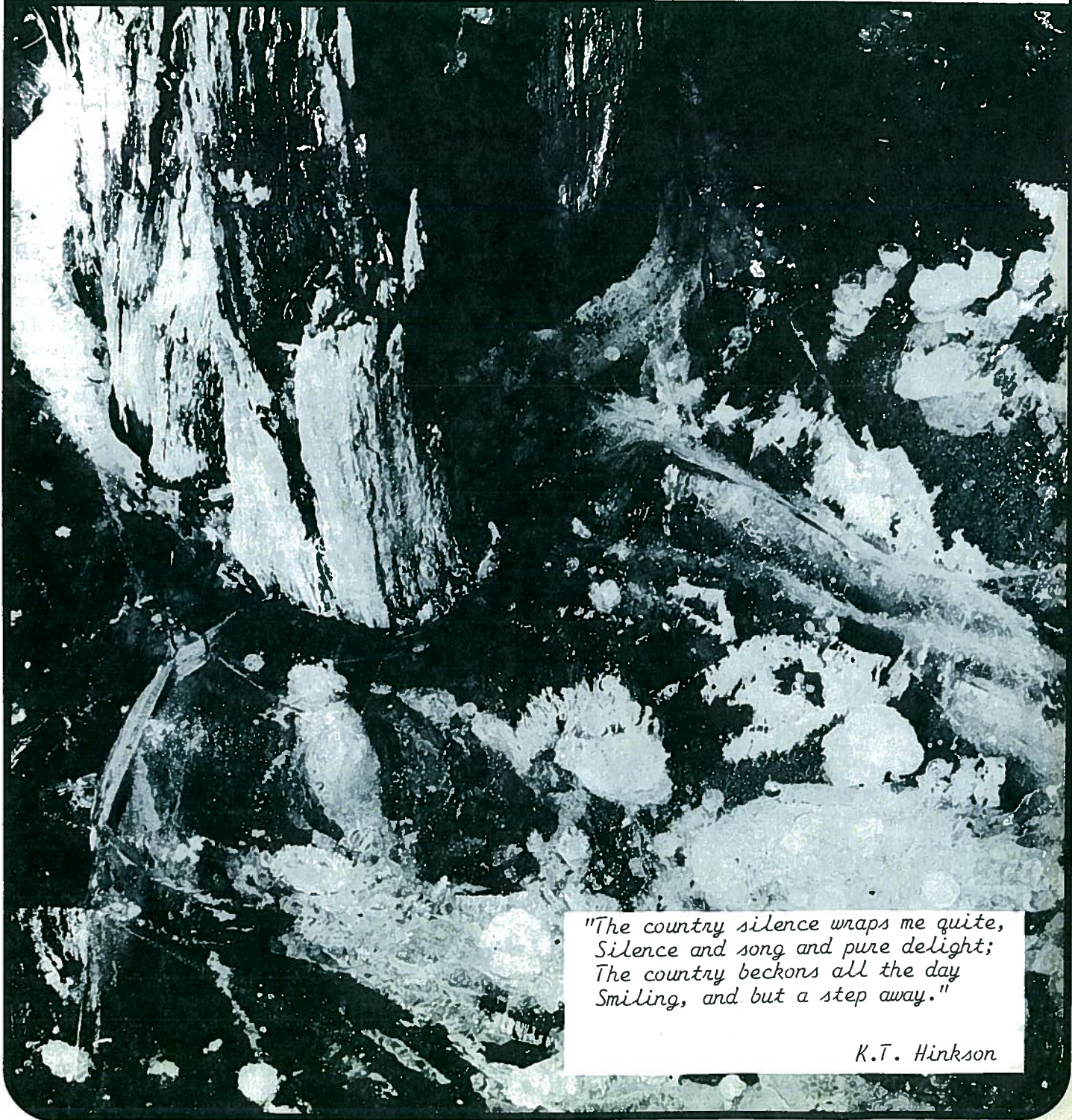


The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1986

ISSN 0709-7085

ISSUE No. 62

A black and white photograph of a forest floor. The ground is covered in a layer of snow, with several fallen tree trunks and branches scattered across it. The background is dark and shadowy, suggesting a dense forest.

*"The country silence wraps me quite,
Silence and song and pure delight;
The country beckons all the day
Smiling, and but a step away."*

K.T. Hinkson

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

Submissions for the next newsletter are welcome and should be sent by February 1, 1987, to Julie Webb, 49 Point St. Mark Drive, Kingston, Ontario K7K 1Y1, 549-0593.

The Rideau Trail is a member of Hike Ontario (F.O.H.T.A.).

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

ISSN 0709-7085

COVER: "Patterns in ice, en route to Birch Lake" by Su Nag.

FROM THE EDITOR

A special thank-you to everyone who sent articles, photos or notes to me for inclusion in this newsletter. It was a pleasure to receive all the mail whether solicited or not. If your article did not make this newsletter, please look for it in the next issue.

WANTED

Information about bed and breakfast accomodation near the Rideau Trail is being compiled. Please send information to

Rideau Trail Association
Box 15
Kingston, Ontario
K7L 4V6

CHRISTMAS GIFT HINTS

Do you have a problem person on your gift list ... someone who has everything? Why not consider a gift from the stores of the Rideau Trail?

RTA T-shirts	\$7.00 each
RTA Crests	\$1.00 each
RTA Pins	\$3.00 each
Trail Notes	\$5.00 each

In Kingston you can purchase these items from Cathy Cutts at 542-5414; in Ottawa from Elizabeth Mason at 729-6596.

Other gift suggestions for avid RTA trail maintainers include:

- hand pruners
- gardening gloves
- whistle
- compass
- first aid kit

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larger sums from other sources. Such seed money, made possible by the Corridor Preservation Fund, enables the Rideau Trail Association to play a key role in preserving land for our precious hiking corridor.

HIKING ON THE BRUCE PENINSULA by Jean Cottam

Early Sunday, September 28, eight RTA members set out in a rented van for a one week holiday on the Bruce Peninsula. As we drove to Midland, through woods ablaze with autumn colours, the day became sunny and warm. Here the group split into two parties. One group visited the recreated "Sainte-Marie among the Hurons" while the other party explored the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre.

The next day, after a good breakfast at Wasega Beach and a brief stop to get rid of an intruder - a bee - we arrived at Tobermory, the northern terminus of the Bruce Trail. That afternoon on our initial jaunt on the Bruce Trail, our two most experienced hikers got lost. The rest of the group ventured on without them knowing that they would turn up. They did in about an hours time.

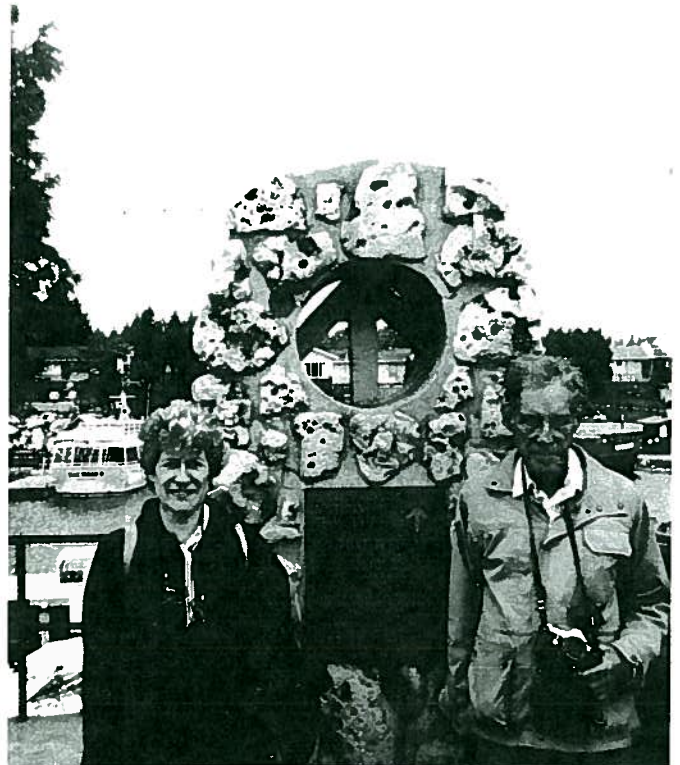
The Bruce Trail's northern portion runs over split and pock-marked dolostone rock developed from ancient coral reefs now overgrown with lichens. The predominantly dark outcrops resemble the broken gravestones of the pioneer cemetery at Marlborough Forest near Ottawa. This section is very rough and hazardous. Hikers are sternly reminded of this by prominent signs indicating that hiking boots are a must.

Our first full day hike began at Cyprus Lake Provincial Park. This was the most spectacular and difficult of our major hikes. We hiked up and down slippery rocks - at times precariously close to the precipice along the Georgian Bay. We also encountered long stretches of boulder beaches. We admired breath-taking views of weathered cliff faces with thier overhanging points, caves and grottos. After lunch at the picturesque Driftwood Cove, most of the group ventured on while two members returned to our

van. This allowed one-way hiking.

Wednesday dawned warm and sunny. In the morning we crossed over to Flowerpot Island on the M.V. Seaview III. On the way, through special transparent areas of the vessel's bottom, we saw two shipwrecks lying below the surface of the Bay. On the island we hiked along the Mountain Trail past two "flowerpots" - pillar-like rock formations. The 'flowerpots' are products of erosion by waves and frost. They have been reinforced by mortar to slow down the erosion process. Our vessel arrived back in time to take us for a tour around the island and then back to town for lunch.

On Wednesday afternoon we moved to Lion's Head, 50 km south-east of Tobermory. In contrast to Tobermory



Northern Terminus of the Bruce Trail. Photo by John Beech.

which is a port, a diving centre and a resort, Lion's Head is a picturesque village of about 400 permanent residents situated in a farming area. We stayed here for the balance of our hiking week.

The portion of the Bruce Trail in this area proved generally less rough and difficult, but almost as spectacular as at Tobermory. The outcrops were more discontinuous with parts of the trail resembling the Rideau Trail - both its low-lying and rocky sections - as well as some hiking trails in the Gatineau Park. On the way, we encountered some abandoned apple orchards - like those in Eastern Ontario - the apples we sampled were tasty.

The Indian summer continued on Thursday. On our hike to Cape Chin, we split into two groups and advanced from opposite starting points. One of the groups spotted our one and only Massasauga rattlesnake - a mere baby without rattles or venom. We met for lunch as planned. The day was warm and sunny so we cooled our tired feet in the refreshing clear waters, admiring the interesting rock specimens on our boulder beach. Towards the end of this hike we encountered a new hazard - fresh cow pies! On our return, one brave hiker dared to immerse himself in the frigid waters of Georgian Bay - he hastily withdrew after swimming a few strokes.

By Friday the good weather ended abruptly. When we awoke it was raining. Though the rain was heavy well into the afternoon, we went on a last hike. We climbed to the top of Sidney Cape Bluff, negotiating logs, rocks, mud and fallen leaves - all made very slippery by the rain. At the summit we stopped to admire the view which was somewhat obscured by rain and fog. At one point we had to negotiate an almost perpendicular portion of a cliff. The footholds were precarious. Grasping handy trees, we

transferred to a ladder to finish the descent. It was a "hair-raising" experience. However we were rewarded by a dry shelter in a nearby cave where we had lunch. The hike was somewhat abbreviated due to the weather but proved a fitting finale to our hiking week on the Bruce Peninsula.



A "Flowerpot" formation in Georgian Bay. Photo by John Beech.



New president, Pearl Peterkin, and former president, Moira Drummond, cut the cake to celebrate the RTA's 15th birthday. Photo by Aileen Wade.

RIDEAU TRAIL PADDLERS

by Ray Forester

On an overcast 23 of August at 10:00 a.m., five canoes departed from Lyndhurst Lake on the annual RTA overnight trip. All paddlers were suitably attired in colourful raingear which added a certain brightness to an otherwise dull and drizzly day. One of our party, who was just recovering from a separated shoulder, was paddled by two charming ladies while he lounged, quite comfortably, in the centre of the canoe and offered unsolicited advice to all the other paddlers.

The run down Lyndhurst Creek to Singleton Lake was quite enjoyable despite the weather. At the start several houses bordered along the creek. They gave way to wooded areas and pasture land.

From Singleton Lake we paddled into the Long Reach following a blue heron that seemed to lead us along this attractive stretch of water. The rocky and wooded shoreline added to the feeling of woodland solitude.

We stopped at Indian Island for lunch. Although this island offered good protection from the elements it also supported a healthy crop of poison ivy. This probably accounted for the lack of litter on the island.

After lunch we proceeded to Red Horse Lake. Although the rain became heavy at this point it did not appear to affect the morale of our group. Our map indicated an abandoned mine on this lake which we found and explored. It appeared to be an old quartz mine and several of us found crystals which we kept as souvenirs of our trip.

Upon reaching Black Rapids the canoe with the convalescent paddler left us. We wished them a soggy good-bye and pushed on to Lost Bay where we planned to set up camp. As

we arrived at our camping spot the rain stopped, providing us with an opportunity to remove our rain gear and set up a dry camp. Dennis located dry firewood and he and Barri demonstrated their expertise in wood cutting. Tom got a roaring fire going by his special method and supper was prepared. I have camped many a year with Tom and he always manages to forget something. He did not disappoint me as this time he said "Ray, I forgot my water!".

The next morning dawned overcast and windy but this allowed us to break camp with dry tents and equipment. We left Lost Bay and crossed The Crank into Red Horse Lake. The lake was sheltered and we had little difficulty with the wind. On our way up the lake, Tammy, my favourite bow paddler, and I saw an Indian tepee in a sheltered cove along the east shoreline. Although there was evidence of it being used we did not see any signs of its occupants.

As we paddled by Red Horse Cliff we saw the painted Red Horse. It is obviously a recent petroglyph as the date shown is 1979. At the far end of Red Horse Lake we stopped and walked the portage to Charleston Lake. Due to the above average rain this season the route was quite muddy. It was not pleasant walking - especially with a canoe.

Leaving Red Horse by way of the long reach we encountered strong head and cross winds which made paddling difficult and challenging. We managed to reach one of the islands where we stopped for lunch and rested before proceeding on up the Reach. Once we rounded the point the wind abated making paddling more enjoyable.

We arrived back at Lyndhurst around 1500 hours, tired but content. It

was a good weekend that was both challenging and satisfying. Topped off with excellent companionship what more could one ask?

NEW RIDEAU TRAIL GUIDEBOOK by Richard Cross

Have you ever searched for a winding country road only to discover that what you thought was a winding country road was really a contour line or even a stream? This can happen if you use black and white maps. The Rideau Trail Guidebook Committee hopes to overcome this problem - and many others - by publishing the next edition of maps in full colour!

And there is more! The maps and Trail Notes will no longer be published separately! They will be combined into a handy and compact Rideau Trail Guidebook which will fit neatly into your pocket. There will be twelve maps, as at present, but on a somewhat smaller scale than the current ones. Maps will unfold in three sections from the guidebook.

And still more! The Rideau Trail will be deemed to start in Kingston and to end in Ottawa. The Kingston area map will be map number one; the Ottawa area map will be map number twelve. This means that the trail description can be written in flowing, lyrical prose rather than the point form that is now used.

The anticipated date of publication is March 12, 1988. Watch for it!

WANTED

Larry Dowell is looking for 1 or 2 people to hike with during the week. He lives in Bowmanville. If interested, please contact Larry at Box 327, Bowmanville, Ontario, L1C 3L1 or by telephone at (416) 623-5926.

Always, In The Middle Of Winter by Diana Brebner

Always, in the middle of winter,
I get to thinking about forests,

not stately and literate forests,
the botanical captives of artists'

imaginations, but the real thing,
complete with black flies and old

mushrooms. The fine illustrations
in those books on natural history

include all the details and heavy
latin names settling at the bottom

of every page. What is never there:
a woman in rubber boots amid fetid

greenery; stooping to find the fungi
and flowers, wiping the blood from

the one place on the page where the
black flies are always biting, even

in the middle of winter.

RIDEAU CANAL CAMPERS

The policy of Parks Canada regarding use of camping facilities has changed. Now, at all Rideau Canal stations where camping is designated for Rideau trail users, a camping fee of \$5.00 per party per night will apply.

OTTAWA CLUB TELEPHONE

The Ottawa Club has installed a telephone to be used for information calls. The club number can now be found in the telephone white pages under "Rideau Trail Association" and in the yellow pages under "Clubs". The telephone has been installed for a trial period. The new number is 596-0572.

PROGRAMME

OTTAWA CLUB OUTINGS

Outings go no matter the weather. In the winter there may be last minute changes due to snow conditions. Please call the leader if you are planning to attend his outing - in particular if you do not have your own transportation. If the leader cannot be reached, call 829-3062 for information.

FRIDAY Dec. 12 CHRISTMAS SINGING

Enjoy an evening of Christmas carols. Bring along your favourite music to 1890 Wembley at 8 pm.

Call: Marie Andrews 728-3016

WEDNESDAY Jan. 7 WEDNESDAY WALKERS

The Wednesday outings continue during the winter - either cross-country skiing or snowshoeing, as weather permits. The group meets every Wednesday at 10 am at Booth and Albert.

Contact: Dorothy Belter 523-4420

SUNDAY Jan. 11 SCHOOL HOUSE LOOPS

Cross-country skiing or snowshoeing. Bring a lunch. Meet at Booth and Albert at 9:45 am.

Leader: Elizabeth Mason 729-6596

SATURDAY Jan. 17 GATINEAU PARK

Ski in the Lac Phillippe area of the Gatineau Park - trails 53 and 51 - then join the group afterwards for dinner in Wakefield. Phone Al or Marg Gamble by Thursday, Jan 15 if you plan to stay for dinner. Meet at Booth and Albert at 12:30 pm.

Leaders: The Gambles 729-5056

SATURDAY Feb. 7 CABIN

Ski to the Ottawa Club cabin. Meet at Booth and Albert at 9:30 am. and bring a lunch.

Leader: Ron Hunt 830-1592

SUNDAY Feb. 15 PINE GROVE

Enjoy 10 to 12 kilometers of flat skiing at Pine Grove. You are invited to Aileen's for hot chocolate afterwards. Meet at Booth and Albert at 11 am.

Leader: Aileen Wade 733-8952

SATURDAY Feb. 28 STONEY SWAMP

An afternoon of cross-country skiing at Stoney Swamp followed by a POT LUCK SUPPER at Pearl Peterkin's, 2576 Sackville. Phone Pearl by Friday Feb 27 to let her know you are coming so that she can co-ordinate the supper. Meet at Booth and Albert at 1 pm.

Leader: Pearl Peterkin 829-3062

SATURDAY March 7 DUHAMEL QUEBEC

See deer on the trails - the residents of Duhamel have been feeding the deer for several years and have attracted large numbers to the area. Cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing or walking - depending on the conditions. Bring a lunch. French cuisine near Buckingham on the way home. If you would like to join the group for dinner, phone Mary by Mar 4. Meet at Booth and Albert at 10 am.

Leader: Mary Breig 236-0042

SATURDAY March 28 TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Many parts of the trail will require clearing and cleaning - do your bit. Meet at Booth and Albert at 10 am. Bring a lunch.

Contact: Tom Bach 748-6266

KINGSTON CLUB OUTINGS

This schedule may have to be altered depending on weather conditions. Check with the leader nearer the time regarding events and charges for skiing. Suggestions for future events to be made to Su Nag (544-6505 until 10 pm).

SATURDAY Dec. 6 OPINICON LOOP

Hike from Lindsay Lake to the boundary of Leeds and Frontenac counties (Map 9). Bring a lunch. Meet at Sears north door at 9 am. Leader: Erwin Wendholt 542-5789

SUNDAY Dec. 14 OPINICON LOOP

This hike is from the boundary of Leeds and Frontenac counties to the Massassauga road (map 9). Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9 am. Leader: Keith Bull 546-9693

WEDNESDAY Dec. 17 WATERFRONT WALK

Walk along Kingston's waterfront followed by tea at Cathys'. Meet at Sears north door at 1:30 pm. Leader: Cathy Cutts 542-5414

SATURDAY Dec. 20 LEMOINES' POINT

Enjoy an afternoon walk or ski. Meet at Sears north door at 1 pm. Leader: Victor Hughes 549-6265

SUNDAY Dec. 28 SKYCROFT

Choice of trails available for hiking or skiing. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9:30 am. Leader: Tom Newton 542-9253

SUNDAY Jan. 4 MYLES ACRES

This is the annual get-together at Myles Acres. Ski, snow-shoe, skate or enjoy a sleigh ride. Buffet supper will be served. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. Time is 1:30 to 6:00 pm. Contact Nancy Young by Dec. 23 if you plan to attend. Contact: Nancy Young 549-8856

SATURDAY Jan. 10 GOULD LAKE

Afternoon ski from Desert Lake Road towards Gould Lake. Meet at Sears north door at 1 pm. Leader: Arne Henriksen 544-0465

SUNDAY Jan. 11 FRONTENAC PARK

Skiing along the swamps around Arab Lake. Not for novice skiers. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9 am. Leader: Janice Ley 542-9958

SUNDAY Jan. 18 CHARLESTON LAKE

Ski-trails of varying difficulty available. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9:30 am. Leader: George Muirhead 542-5851

WEDNESDAY Jan. 21 LITTLE CATARAQUI

Enjoy an afternoon ski on relatively flat terrain in the Little Cataraqui Creek conservation area. Meet at Sears north door at 1:30 pm. Leader: Emma Martin 542-1594

WEEKEND Jan. 24/25 OVERNIGHT TRIP

Ski, snow-shoe or skate on Gould Lake with an overnight stay at the barn. Bring sleeping bags and food. For information contact Tom Kaddits. Those not staying overnight but wanting a day outing should bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9:30 am on the 24th or at Gould Lake barn at 10:00 am. on the 25th. Contact: Tom Kaddits 546-0806

SUNDAY Feb. 1 CRAIG TRAILS

Rugged but scenic terrain. Homemade soup available at a charge or bring your own lunch. Meet at Sears north door at 10 am. Leader: Nancy Young 549-8856

SATURDAY Feb. 7 RIDEAU TRAIL

Ski the section from Railton Road to Sydenham over fields and gently sloping terrain (map 11). Meet at Sears north door at 12:30 pm. Leader: Mary Jane Bowes 544-2753

SATURDAY Feb. 14 CANADIAN FORCES

Skiing at the Canadian Forces Base. Suitable for skiers of all levels.

Meet at Sears north door at 1:30 pm.

Leader: Gaetan Lessard 389-4513

SUNDAY Feb. 15 FRONTENAC PARK

Ski the swamps in the southern section of the park. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9 am.

Leader: Eric Usherwood 544-2489

WEDNESDAY Feb. 18 LEMOINES' POINT

Enjoy an afternoon ski over fairly flat terrain at Lemoines' Point Conservation area. Meet at Sears north door at 1:30 pm.

Leader: Earna Smith 544-4386

SATURDAY Feb. 21 MURPHYS' POINT

Ski over varied terrain. Meet at Sears north door at 9 am.

Leader: Larry Dyke 389-6692

SATURDAY Feb. 28 RIDEAU TRAIL

Ski the section from Elevator bay to Bath Road (map 12). Meet at Sears north door at 1:30 pm.

Leader: Cathy Cutts 542-5414

SUNDAY Mar. 1 SLIDE LAKE

Ski from old Perth Road towards Slide Lake cabin (map 10). Not for novice skiers. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9:30 am.

Leader: Arne Henriksen 544-0465

SATURDAY Mar. 7 RIDEAU TRAIL

Ski the section from Bullen road towards Elginburg through fields (map 12). Meet at Sears north door at 1 pm.

Leader: Peter Skelton 544-0151

SUNDAY Mar. 15 RIDEAU TRAIL

Hike from Bedford Mills along the Massassauga road (map 9). Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9 am.

leader: Norm McLeod 546-9440

WEDNESDAY Mar. 18 LITTLE CATARAQUI

Walk through the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. Maybe the sap will be running. Meet at Sears north door at 1:30 pm.

Leader: Moira Drummond 544-9529

KEEPING THE TRAIL OPEN

by Don Green

We have an ongoing battle with nature and other elements to keep the Rideau Trail passable. Saplings grow, trees fall down, raspberry patches proliferate and juniper jumps up when least expected. The key to a usable trail is our system of maintainers. These are volunteers, both men and women, who agree to look after a section of the trail.

We owe a great deal to the present crew of maintainers and those who went before them. However, for various reasons maintainers drop out from time to time. They must be replaced. At the moment there are five sections in the Kingston area that have no maintainers. Ottawa has some over-worked people who are looking for help.

The maintainers job is reasonable. In spring when the snow, ice and floodwaters have gone, our maintainer is out on his section seeing what damage winter has wrought. If the work involved is great, he can call on a work party to give a hand. About June our maintainer is out again. Leaves are out now and he checks that signs are still visible, replacing and adding where necessary. Finally in the fall, he gives his section a final look-over before the snow flies. Hopefully, during the course of work on his section, he will meet the landowners. We are much obliged to these people for letting us cross their land. The maintainer is often the only personal contact these people have with our Association.

Now that is not what you would call an arduous job, is it? Well Rideau Trail members, and that means you too ladies, come forward and volunteer to lend a hand either as a section maintainer or as a helper. Contact Don Green in Kingston at 389-5458 or Tom Bach in Ottawa at 748-6266.

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Rideau Trail Association held its AGM recently. This year we celebrated 15 years as a hiking club. See page 4 for a photo of the cake cutting ceremony.

The new board of directors is:

President	Pearl Peterkin, Ottawa	829-3062
Past President	Moirra Drummond, Kingston	544-9529
1st V.P.	Ray Forester, Kingston	542-4385
* 2nd V.P.	Douglas Montgomery, Kingston	542-7236
* 2nd V.P.	Jim Fish, Ottawa	839-2262
Treasurer	Al Gamble, Ottawa	729-5056
Membership Secretary	Betty Richards, Kingston	487-2061
Secretary	Keith Arnold, Ottawa	234-3325
Publicity Coordinator	Cathy Cutts, Kingston	542-5414
Newsletter Editors	Julie Webb, Kingston	549-0593
	Elizabeth Mason, Ottawa	729-6596
Ottawa President	Ron Hunt, Ottawa	830-1592
Kingston President	Keith Bull, Kingston	546-9693
Central President	Jean Riddell, Perth	267-1451
National Trails Rep	Henry Heald, Ottawa	224-4471
Archives	Peter Brebner, Ottawa	729-8178

* The 2nd Vice-presidents are the RTA representatives to Hike Ontario.

A summarized Financial statement follows. A detailed statement can be obtained from the treasurer noted above.

<u>Operating Account</u>	<u>1985-86</u>	<u>1984-85</u>
Revenue	10712	11401
Expenditures	10463	10361
Gain for this year	249	1040
Balance from previous years	8590	7550
Balance this year-end	8839	8590
 <u>Publications and Merchandise Account</u>		
Revenue	2333	1858
Expenditures	172	4756
Gain for this year	2161	(2898)
Balance from previous years	5342	8240
Balance this year-end	7503	5342
 <u>Corridor Preservation Account</u>		
Revenue	3057	4090
Expenditures	1500	0
Gain for this year	1557	4090
Balance from previous years	11705	7615
Balance this year-end	13262	11705
 Balance as of August 31	 \$29604	 \$25637

ALGONQUIN PARK'S NEW TRAIL by Bill Grant

Most hikers are familiar with Algonquin Park's two back-packing trail networks - the Highland Trail and the Western Trail. They may also be familiar with the many short and very interesting walking trails leading off the highway 60 corridor.

There are two other trails, one of them only three years old, which are ideal for day hiking. Recently a group of seven Ottawa Club members devoted a three-day weekend to hiking on these two trails. We stayed at the Bear Trail Inn in Whitney - an establishment which provides excellent food, accommodation and facilities for a very reasonable price. (Editors note: I hear that the HOT TUBS are delightful).

The first day was devoted to getting to Whitney and taking a short warm-up hike. The second day was devoted to the relatively new Mizzy Lake Trail located towards the west end of the park. The trail passes nine lakes of varying sizes including Dizzy Lake, Mizzy Lake, March Hare Lake and, the evocatively named, Wolf Howl Lake. Three quarters of it is standard hiking trail (already well worn) through a variety of forest cover and including some very large white spruce and hemlock. (The white pine were cut in an earlier part of the century.) The gradient varies but is nowhere terribly difficult. There are good examples of beaver meadows, sphagnum bogs and climax forest. One quarter of the trail follows the track bed of the Ottawa, Arnprior and Parry Sound railway (the J.R. Booth line) described in loving detail in the book "Over the Hills to Georgian Bay". A side trail leads to a "Bears Nest" area where the marks of bear claws are clearly discernible on beech trees.

The group (and the other 50 or so hikers on the trail that day) were able to watch a moose browsing in March Hare Lake, and of course, a great blue heron in one of the marshes. Mushrooms were plentiful, thanks to recent rain, and there were a number of wildflower species.

This new trail is ideal for a one-day hike and presents enough variety to satisfy even the most particular hiker. When such a hike is followed by a hot tub at the lodge and a good dinner, a hiker's day is complete.

Before returning to Ottawa on the third day, the group hiked the six kilometer Booth's Rock Trail. Like the Mizzy Lake Trail, this one also follows in part the line of the famous railway. It also involves a good climb to the heights above Rock Lake through hemlock and maple forest. The heights (Booth Rock) are 300 feet above the lake and present a spectacular view of the surrounding countryside. Two other



Enjoying lunch at Wolf Howl Lake
on the Mizzy Lake Trail.
Photo by Linda Hayes.

lakes are passed on the hike and the remains of the Bartlett estate - one of the architectural features destroyed when the park was created - can be visited.

The "group of seven" all agreed that both trails represented superlative hiking and were enthusiastic enough to plan a second trip for the spring of 1987.

THE WEDNESDAY WALKERS
by Ruth Studd
and Catherine O'Keefe

The Wednesday walkers in both the Kingston and Ottawa Clubs are going strong.

Ruth tells us that in Kingston there is a scheduled walk once a month. This one is advertised in the newsletter. But for a long time now, anyone who arrived up in the northwest corner of the Sears parking lot at 1:30 pm on any other Wednesday - rain or shine - has been walking wherever consensus of the group decreed.

One day Cathy Cutts decided to put order into chaos (we all know what organized types teachers are). The decision was made to walk from Gould Lake to Kingston. A core group of 8 to 10 regulars, which sometimes swells to 15 or more, has been doing just that.

It has proven a good way of checking on trail maintenance. You are undoubtedly aware that the woods are like rainforests this year - lush with a growth that defies the most conscientious trail maintainers. So, as the walkers hike, they cast aside deadwood, cut-aside over-grown branches and tramp down under-growth. They note, for further attention, where trees have fallen and where paths have become almost impassable because of our monsoon-like rains or the activity of our dearly beloved Canadian nuisance - the beaver.

A more subtle result of this planned activity is the bonding - they are becoming a close-knit group. See them clustered around the open trunk of a car imbibing tea from a thermos - usually brought by Emma. Lately coffee has been appearing and zesty cheese crackers. Most of the group go home exhilarated by fresh air, physical exercise, the beauty of our woods and by good fellowship.

In case you hesitate to join them because you feel that you are too old, too young, too lazy or the wrong sex, let me tell you there are all ages, and though most times only one male, I know he would like company. There are also all degrees of physical strength and energy. The long straggling line inevitably has the striders out front and then the middle-of-the-roaders. The strollers bring up the rear.

Come out and join the Kingston Wednesday Walkers - it's fun.

If you live in Ottawa, then Catherine tells us that the Ottawa Wednesday Walkers after two years are still going strong - meeting every Wednesday and hiking in Gatineau Park. In the summer their destination is usually one of the small lakes off the beaten path where they can cool off. Sometimes hiking is combined with canoeing.

This past September 17 they celebrated the second anniversary of the group. There were twelve of them - their destination the "yellow box". They stopped for lunch on the rocky shores of a beaver pond and Max produced wine out of his magic packsack. Toasts were drunk and photographs taken. When they got back safely, Dorothy rewarded them with delicious homemode cookies.

This group will miss one of their members - Marjory Prior passed away this fall after a short illness.

If Wednesday hiking catches your

fancy, join the Wednesday Walkers in either Ottawa or Kingston.



Ottawa Wednesday Walkers pose around the "Yellow Box".
Photo by Ken Prior.

THE CORRIDOR PRESERVATION FUND by Al Gamble

The Rideau Trail is a legacy to future generations from the builders of the past. The vision of those first trail builders became a reality through efforts in planning and negotiating to obtain this 400 kilometer route through the scenic and historic countryside between Kingston and Ottawa. Those early negotiations with private land-owners, municipalities, conservation authorities and other agencies were the key to obtaining the best possible route at that critical time.

A growing population and pressures from expanding commercial and industrial interests pose obvious threats to the trail's route in the decades ahead. There will be opportunities to take advantage of better routings for the trail as ownership changes. Likewise, it seems wise to provide for natural

disasters to the trail (beavers in particular) which could force major re-routings. To face such possibilities without providing financial resources, would leave the trail in jeopardy and betray the trust of those whose work made it all possible.

Accordingly, as insurance for the future, the Corridor Preservation Fund was established in 1975. The initial objective was to collect \$10,000. The response of members and friends to this low-key appeal for funds has been most heartening. Donations ranging from \$3 to \$75 have come in steadily. The Association has added the annual interest from its Operating Fund. Bequests from Vi Humphreys, Elizabeth Slazor and Marion Webb have been allocated to Corridor Preservation. In 1985, the initial target of \$10,000 was reached and the Board of Directors established a new and even more ambitious goal of \$50,000.

Fortunately, no major threats to the trail have yet emerged to make demands on the Fund. Thus, it continues to grow as insurance to cover the inevitable problems of the years ahead. The Fund has been used in several situations:

- in 1984 a grant of \$200 was made to the "Heritage Job Fund" in Kingston to help repair the catwalks in the Cataraqui Marsh
- in 1983 a grant of \$500 was channeled through the city of Kingston to provide key help for obtaining land for conservation purposes
- in 1986 a grant of \$1,000 has been approved to help build a catwalk needed because of a flooded section due to beaver work

The first three grants listed above served as catalysts to attract much
...continued on page 2

OUTLOOK



Box 651, Station K, Ontario M4P 2H1

Conference high-point of Hike Ontario! year

By far the most positive and successful achievement of the past year was the second Hike Ontario! Conference held on the May long weekend in Guelph. This conference brought together members of the hiking fraternity from all parts of the province, and, indeed, the country. The 25 resolutions passed at the conference provided clear direction for future Hike Ontario! planning and activity, and provided an opportunity to strengthen the all-important com-

munications link between hikers and their provincial organization.

The success of the conference is in no small way due to the financial assistance of the BTA and the involvement and enthusiasm of many Bruce Trail Association participants. To all who contributed, a sincere thank-you from Hike Ontario!

Post-conference activity of Hike Ontario! has been primarily directed toward organizational restructuring. In the past, HO! has experienced difficulty recruiting and coordinating volunteers able to work effectively on projects of provincial scope. Under the plan currently under development the various areas of responsibility will be assumed, at least on a short term basis, by respective member trail associations. It is hoped that the Bruce Trail Association will assist HO! in the important government relations function — an area where it has demonstrated admirable ability and effectiveness.

Improving communication between the Bruce Trail Association and Hike Ontario! will be a high priority in the coming year. A proposal to increase the number of BTA representatives on the HO! board of directors will be considered at the

Reports back to the trail associations indicate the Hike Ontario! Broadening Horizons conference was an unqualified success and a great time had by all. As Gord Thompson points out, one result of the conference is an organizational restructuring of Hike Ontario! that can only benefit Ontario's trail associations and trails — and bring nearer every hiker's dream of a National Trail from sea to sea. Gord's report was given at the Bruce Trail Association's agm, the other reports first appeared in association newsletters.

next HO! AGM, along with a number of other necessary constitutional amendments.

The coming months promise to be interesting and important ones in the on-going work of Hike Ontario! I am happy to extend an invitation to any members of the Bruce Trail Association who wish to become involved. Contact me at home (416) 242-4397 or business (416) 791-1722. And to the members of other trail associations, too.

Gord Thompson
Hike Ontario! President

Conference is fun!

With all the talk about meetings, etc., you may think a hiking conference is Dullsville. 'Tain't so! Just ask any member who was at Guelph.

There were hiking opportunities (a red fox was spotted on one of the walks), in-city tours, energetic square dancing night, where amateurs had more fun than anybody. And, of course, good food at the Saturday barbecue and the Sunday pancake breakfast.

Highlight on Sunday was a slide presentation of the High Arctic by John and Janet Foster. After this, Beirido Brothers musical group captured their audience with entertainment ranging from fiddlers' reels to comic impressions (and have you ever seen a flute played by nose?).

Hike Ontario! executive and the Guelph trail members responsible for conference arrangements are to be congratulated. It was a great way to spend the weekend.

Jean Lawrence
Thames Valley Trail Association

Keep in touch, spread the word.
Please send news of your association's activities to:

Norman Day
Outlook editor
17 Marlborough Avenue
Toronto
Ontario M5R 1X5
Tel: (416) 964-7281

Conference a time for sharing

We shared ideas and experiences. We talked about existing trails and made plans for new trails. We took part in early morning bird-watching and jogging, and in a full programme of hiking on the area trails. We made use of the Nature Centre and Arboretum of the university, and took in the displays set up by the trail clubs and commercial enterprises.

Entertainment was varied and had something for everyone — slide shows, music, square dancing. The highlight for us all was Janet and John Foster's slide presentation

North to the Top of the World.

We ate very well. The Friday evening early arrivals enjoyed a wine and cheese party, on Saturday there was an outdoor barbecue lunch, on Sunday a pancake breakfast outdoors — the weather being reasonably co-operative! The banquet was held on Sunday night, at which time the Merit Awards were given out.

The Ministry of Natural Resources' representative, Norman Richards, gave us some insight into the evolving role of the Government in Ontario hiking trails. The focus was on

management plans and the possibility of resurrecting a committee of landowners, trail associations and government.

The opening panel discussed opportunities for Ontario hiking and the proposed National Trail. Trail managers were asked to look ahead and plan to achieve their goals. Workshops covered most pertinent areas.

I was a panel member at the Town Hall Meeting on Sunday morning where twenty-five resolutions came under discussion. Two of those approved pertained to leadership training for hike leaders, and a skills programme for trail maintainers, that these be taught to volunteers as part of on-going programmes.

Also approved was a resolution that work on trail expansions be developed by interested clubs to link and form a trail network in Ontario, to become part of the National Trail. It was also resolved that the principal follow-up activity of the conference

Conference a success!

Well, we pulled it off! The Hike Ontario Broadening Horizons conference held at the University of Guelph on the Victoria Day weekend was a success. Over 200 people attended the conference over the 4-day period. The weather was excellent Friday and Saturday, but slightly damp Sunday evening and Monday. The Guelph Trail Club and the Grand Valley Trails Association did an excellent job in organizing the conference.

On the Monday morning we held the draw for the two Robert Bateman prints. The winners were Brenda Vanstone from Toronto and Alan Watson from Guelph. Brenda selected the Arctic Terns and Alan selected the Morning Dew-Roe Deer. Congratulations to both winners and thanks to all who supported the conference by purchasing tickets.

Mike Curtis
Guelph Trail Club

should be a Ten Year Management Plan for Hike Ontario with specific goals and objectives and input from the executives of member trail clubs.

Compliments should go to the hosts, the Guelph Trail Club, for a

well organized meeting. If the interest aroused and the enthusiasm carries on, Hike Ontario! should have a lively and productive future.

Moir Drummond
Rideau Trail Association

The National Trail: What, where, when and how

It might be considered by some as a grandiose scheme to establish a trail from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Do not regard it as having originated from an urge for bigness, an offering to the great god Mega. No, our efforts are inspired by those same principles and yearnings shared by outdoor enthusiasts and nature-lovers, all the pleasures and benefits of the simple pastime of hiking.

While the association's objectives are to encourage and assist in the development of a national hiking trail system and to foster the growth of local and regional trails and clubs, we endeavour to achieve through these aims the preservation of places of natural and historic value; the promotion of healthy outdoor activities and the appreciation of our natural and cultural heritage.

Servant, not master

The trail is designed as a servant, not a master. If it has one unique feature, it is the potential and power to unite, to forge a physical bond unifying trail clubs, outdoor organizations and other supporting people across the country. That force is needed to give strength to individual club efforts and to help guard against such threats to club advancement or even existence as land or resource development.

I use the present tense in speaking of the national trail, although as yet not one trail-maker has been placed. In the first place, I have grown tired of talking in futuristic terms and, second, sections of trail already exist, though unrecognized, for great distances.

Trail guidelines

What are our guidelines for the plotting of a route? We look for existing trails which lie in a general east-west direction, preferably close to urban areas for greater convenience of the populace as well as to help protect regions of historic, scenic and natural value which might be under more imminent threat from development. Ease of access by good highways is a major consideration and altitude is a factor when we seek year-round use. We aspire to the most desirable route for the long term, but pay heed where ready access is available.

In total length, we are probably looking at the equivalent of fifteen Bruce Trails, a continuous chain spanning the mainland provinces and jumping to island trail systems.

National network

But we also look up from our efforts occasionally, like a hiker does from the immediate trail ahead to

search the horizon. It is not inconceivable that the national trail will become the backbone of an entire national trail network with intersecting systems. British Columbia has adopted the term "corridor" in its recreational trail proposals, as trails cannot be truly enjoyed without an agreeable border or buffer zone. That "thin line" on the map thickens.

Coast-to-coast parkland

Look ahead. Imagine a belt of parkland extending from coast to coast within two to three hours reach of most Canadians, wide enough to accommodate a multiplicity of trails with overnight shelters; parkland which is a haven for wild life and protects the grandeur of our landscapes for the future. That's what we can see on our horizon. For now, we concentrate on the thin line. It's within measurable reach. But we must look beyond.

Hikers don't look only at the horizon ahead, they look also behind, at the way they have come. Hikers of future years will look back at us to judge whether we knew where we were going.

Doug Campbell
National Trail Association
of Canada



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.

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() 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
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() Donation to RTA.....	_____*
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