



The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1987

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ISSUE No. 66



MADE IN CANADA

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 1st, 1988, to:

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

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 Photo: Skiing at the School House by Van Nguyen.

FROM THE EDITOR

Articles and photographs are always greatly appreciated by your editors. Thank you, everyone for the items you sent me for this newsletter. I would like to extend a very special thank you to two people who have helped put this edition together. Thank you Patricia (Mickey) Narraway for the typing, the proof-reading, and the "running around" you again cheerfully did for me this issue, and thank you, Pearl Peterkin, for the unlimited use of your word processor. Without this invaluable help, the editor would have been up late every night in November!

NOTICE OF TRAIL CLOSURE

The Rideau Trail, where it crosses private land, will be closed on Tuesday, December 15, 1987. This action is necessary to protect the landowners who generously allow us to cross their land the remainder of the year. Please take care not to trespass on this day.

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HIKING HIGH WITH THE SKYLINE HIKERS

by Linda Hayes

One of the best kept secrets in the RTA is that over the past 20 years individual members have been quietly going off to Banff National Park for six days of hiking among some of the most spectacular scenery in Canada. Ken and Marjory Prior talked about their Skyline Hikes for years, and I always thought, when I heard them, "if Marjory Prior can do it, I can do it."

The Skyline Hikers have offered group hiking in Banff National Park for 55 years. They are the only organization allowed to bring large groups into the Park, and they are very careful to minimize the environmental damage. The group has six or seven sites; each year one site is chosen and five groups are brought in, one after the other. All equipment, baggage and food goes in on horseback. The outfitters are responsible for cooking, wood and water supply, transport and camp maintenance (such as repair of a biffy when a porcupine chews through one of its tentpoles).

This year's camp was in the Owl Lake area, east of Mount Assiniboine and south of the town of Banff. There were 63 hikers in my group when the bus left Banff on July 27. I boarded the bus in Canmore, took the only remaining seat, and discovered that the man seated next to me had a Rideau Trail pin on his hat. It was a two-hour ride along the Spray Lake road (about halfway along you pass a sign saying Caution - Road Not Maintained Beyond This Point). Then it was an 18 km hike, with a 300 m climb, to the camp site, in 34 ° C weather. Fortunately, you can fill your water bottle at almost any stream along the way, as long as you remember to do it upstream from the horse crossing. We filled ours where Bryant Creek gushes full force out of the ground. I was one of the last arrivals in camp that day, and it took me another hour to stop puffing.

The hikes for each site are all planned, mapped and marked in advance. With four or five leaders, they are repeated over the course of the week so that every hiker can do every route. Some take a lot more energy than others; about 20 people did the one to the top of Mount Byng, an elevation gain of 3400 feet almost straight up. Towering over our campsite, it was a challenge and a temptation. (I had enough trouble with hikes that included a climb - I wasn't tempted by a climb which did not include a hike).

The campsite, at 6400 feet, lay in a high valley surrounded by ridges and peaks. Early the first morning, elk grazed on the ridge above the camp. We heard very few birds; their chirping was replaced by the cries of the columbia ground squirrels who sounded just like little birds. They were everywhere, and since they felt compelled to chirp a warning whenever anyone walked by, the camp each morning and evening enjoyed a background noise of whistling hysterics. In between, they raided the tents for anything that wasn't out of reach. As dusk fell the first evening, we were called away from the campfire to see a magnificent bull elk grazing in the meadow with the horses, while two female elk emerged cautiously from the edge of the woods.

On a 16 km hike to Redman Pass (7900 feet), we arrived at the highest point just in time to see a flock of mountain goats moving over the edge of a ravine. (That was the hike on which the slow group got separated from the fast group, made an unscheduled re-routing and came home by an easier route). Several hikes included a stop at Cabin Lake, named for a trapper's cabin at its edge. Seated by the lake, we memorized the names of the peaks in view: Byng, Aurora, Eon, Aye, Lunette and Assiniboine. I swam in Cabin Lake where the water temperature was 56 ° F, and later that day in a second lake

that seemed warm at 63 ° F. After the second swim, the group was sitting beside the lake warming up in the sunshine when a hiker spotted a bear on the opposite side. Feeling safe in numbers, and with the lake between us and him, we watched a young grizzly make his leisurely way along the opposite bank. Only a low "Can he swim?" betrayed any anxiety.

The makeup of the group would be familiar to any Rideau Trail member: aged from 40 years to 70 and over, with one 82-year-old who out-hiked everyone except his wife. There was singing around the campfire every evening, and hike reports on the day's activities. (Some of these were hilarious: the one on the Cabin Lake hike included the fact that "three of our hikers knocked themselves out on the low door of the cabin - and two of them were Linda.")

Cost for a six-day camp was \$325, plus \$15 membership, plus transportation to Banff. Groups fill up by March. After that, one goes on a waiting list. The club address: Skyline Hikers of the Canadian Rockies, PO Box 3514, Station B, Calgary, Alta, T2M 4M2.



Hikers along the Spray Lake Reservoir on their way to Owl Lake - an 18 km hike.
photo by Linda Hayes

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION LIFE MEMBERS

The Board of Directors wishes to express its appreciation to Life Members for their generous contribution to the financial stability of the Association.

Mike Amodeo
Isobelle Anstice
Tom Bach
Allan and Mary Jane Bowes
Mary Breig
Roger Scott Brown
Ken and June Buckingham
Hilda Buckmaster
Mr. & Mrs. R.B. Carson
Donald Chown
Mrs. A.E. Covington
Donald and Cathy Cutts
Violetta Czasak
E.H. Dudgeon
Wilhelmina Easton
Deborah Elliott
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Fell
Jim Fish

Arthur Fox
Vera and Ed Gill
Elizabeth Gutteridge
Ann Jessica Haden
Ruth E. Hodge
Mr. & Mrs. D. M. Holman
Joan and Vic Hughes
J. L. Johnstone
Peter Kopp
John Le Geyt
Ted and Rose Le Sage
James Lewis
Janice Ley
Peter MacNaughton
Paul Manley
Larry McCurdy
D.D.C. McGeachy
Stephen McPherson

Don Mitchell
Miss B.A. Morrison
Sukriti Nag
Peter Nelson
T.W. Newton
Elizabeth Palmer
Pearl Peterkin
Derek Redmond
Winnifred Ross
Michael and Dorothy Shaw
Klaus Stegemann
Robert Taylor
Gord Thompson
Eric Usherwood
Raymond Watts
Peter Westaway

CANOE/CAMPING IN ALGONQUIN

by Janice Freeman

Labour Day weekend saw 8 Ottawa Club members enjoying a canoe/camping weekend in Algonquin Park. We gathered early Saturday morning outside Pembroke; then ate each other's dust as we travelled into the park interior. Since interior camping permits require the visitor to canoe to a campsite, we loaded our canoes and headed for the closest spot. Our heavily loaded canoes made slow progress. We sent the fastest canoe ahead to check the campsite. Why was he taking so long? Was he signalling us to follow? We eventually followed and discovered a camp spot that passed even the outhouse inspection.

The site was not only suitable; it was perfect. The stately white pines surrounding the rocky point provided shade, shelter and security for our six tents. In a flurry of activity, we set up camp, prepared lunch, and chose our afternoon activities. Most of the group set off down the lake for a paddle. A few swam. One person slept. (It was not Elizabeth.) We regrouped over dinner to compare the day's activities. Pearl reported pleasant dreams; the canoeists saw several mergansers, blue herons, red-tailed hawks and water snakes; the swimmers encouraged the others to try the clear cool water.

The evening activities centered on food. After a chaotic but substantial dinner, we decided to hang the rest of the food in trees rather than share it with the bears. It took at least half an hour to find the right combination of branches, rocks and ropes but we were finally finished and ready to relax around the fire. We passed the time teasing one person who didn't know much about refrigerating food and another who brought prepackaged food which required him to "pre-heat oven to 450 deg." Popcorn sent us to bed full, warm and content.

Early next morning, the one early-bird among us went for a paddle accompanied by an otter. Gradually other people awoke, although some late sleepers could only be tempted from their tents by promises of tea. After a leisurely breakfast we set out for the Barron River canyon. To eliminate some of the longer portages and to allow us to do the trip in a single day, we drove to a portage near Brigham Lake and shuttled the cars. Paddling was excellent. Portaging was another story ... especially for the canoe carriers.

Paddling down the canyon was well worth the effort it took to get there. The sheer rock walls towered 100 meters above our heads. We were surprised to see and hear hikers at the top of the ridge. One paddler seemed determined to set a new speed record through the canyon but our wise leader halted the procession mid-way for lunch. Those of us who'd remembered our bathing suits swam after lunch. One energetic person scaled the canyon wall. Others just sat in the sun and relaxed. Since we were through the canyon and back to the cars fairly early, we decided to hike the canyon trail on our way back to the campsite. The view of the river from the top was awe-inspiring. To add to our enjoyment, we picked up a guidebook about the trail and entertained each other with tales of the history, geography, fauna and flora of the area. We then returned to our campsite to indulge in another gourmet dinner.

Our last evening on Grand Lake was bathed in the light of the full moon. We sat on the rocks by the lake, enjoying the warm evening. We debated about the identity of the bright heavenly bodies, especially over the eastern horizon. Speculations ranged from the light at the top of a radio tower to a star or a planet. The moonlight was too bright for sleeping. Luckily, the eerie calls of the loons helped us to drift off.

The next morning after a pre-breakfast swim, two members of the group headed home. The weather reflected the sadness of their departure. The clear sky turned threatening. We broke camp early and set off in search of Tom Tomson's famous Jack Pine. We found what we speculated was its stump. After a short paddle into Stratton Lake, we stopped for lunch and a swim before heading back to civilization.

The rain held off until we reached the first fast food restaurant in Pembroke. Fortified by burgers, we parted company and headed for home. We will, all of us, relive the good memories of this Algonquin Park trip for some time to come.

WEDNESDAY WALKER'S THIRD ANNIVERSARY HIKE

by Dorothy Belter

On September 23, 1987, the Wednesday Walkers celebrated their third anniversary with a hike to the yellow box. This time, because we took a different trail to the box, we started by dropping off 6 of the hikers at the bottom of Lusk Falls. The other 3 hikers had to park the cars on Pilon Road and then return to the falls to catch up with the others. Although cloudy and rainy it didn't dampen the spirits (in this case wine) of those who tromped along. We had our lunch, complete with the wine and fruit cake, at the cabin by the fire tower.

After lunch, we tramped through some beautiful country with lots of water and beaver dams to cross. One of us fell into a beaver pond but since we were all so wet it didn't matter much. When we finally did reach the yellow box, it was nothing but a pile of rubble. By then it was tea and picture taking time. We all had refreshments before descending, with extreme caution, down the escarpment back to the cars.

In spite of the rain, it was a beautiful hike and one we decided must be done again, in the sunshine. Next time though, we'll bring hammers nails and yellow paint and rebuild the YELLOW BOX.

KINGSTON RIDEAU TRAIL CLUB ESSAY COMPETITION

This competition is open to 7th and 8th grade school students in Kingston and the surrounding area.

TOPIC:

- Rideau Trail Club related activity - hiking, canoeing, skiing

FORMAT:

- Maximum length is 4 double spaced typed pages or 110 lines. One page of black and white illustrations may be added.
- Prizes will be awarded at the annual general meeting of the Club in April 1988.
- Prize winning essays will be printed in the Club newsletter.

DEADLINE:

- 15th March, 1988
- Mail entries to:
Chairman, RTA Kingston Club,
71 Wolfe St.,
Kingston, Ont., K7M 1H4

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR RETURN ADDRESS

PRIZES:

- 1st prize - \$50.00
- 2nd prize - \$35.00
- 3rd prize - \$20.00

SPONSORS:

- Vern Napier's Cameras Ltd
- Quattrocchi's Specialty Foods
- Medical Arts Pharmacy
- Mr. George N. Northcott

NEEDED

The Kingston Club is looking for a Human Resource Co-ordinator. The job will entail keeping track of Kingston members, monitoring hike participation and other co-ordinating jobs based on the membership. We need your help. Please phone Su Nag at 546-6041 to volunteer your services.



OTTAWA CLUB OUTINGS

Unless otherwise stated, outings leave from the corner of Booth and Albert Streets regardless of weather. There is a charge for gas if you are a passenger in someone else's car. For information about specific hikes, phone the hike leader indicated below. For general information, phone Bill Grant, Outings Organizer at 820-0697 or the Club's general number 596-0572.

Hike leaders are reminded to collect names and phone numbers of participants and send the list to Linda Hayes, Ottawa Rideau Trail Club, P.O. Box 4616, Station E, Ottawa, Ontario, K1S 5H8.

FRIDAY DEC. 18 CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Annual carol singing at 1890 Wembley Ave. (Carlingwood-Maitland area) at 8:00 P.M. Bring along your favourite Christmas music. Refreshments.
CALL: Marie Andrews 728-3016.

WEDNESDAY JAN. 6 WEDNESDAY WALKERS

The Wednesday outings continue during the winter months as cross-country ski outings. The group meets at Booth and Albert streets every Wednesday at 9:30 A.M. Bring a lunch.
CALL: Dorothy Belter 523-4420.

SUNDAY JAN. 10 GATINEAU PARK

The year's first ski outing, in the Ridge Road area of the park, stopping at a ski chalet for lunch (bring your own). Some hills, but not too difficult. Booth and Albert at 10:00 A.M.
LEADER: Bev Armstrong 738-0310.

SATURDAY JAN. 23 MARLBOROUGH FOREST

A ski outing to the club's log cabin on easy, flat trails. Booth and Albert at 9:30 A.M. Bring a lunch.
LEADER: Ron Hunt 830-1592.

SUNDAY JAN. 31 SCHOOL HOUSE LOOP

A good ski-run on flat trails at the school-house property (Franktown Road), followed by a pot luck supper at the Gambles, 598 Courtenay Ave. (West end

Ottawa) at 6:00 P.M. If interested in the pot luck supper, phone Marg Gamble 729-5056 or Pearl Peterkin 829-3062. Skiers meet at Booth and Albert at 10:30 A.M. Bring a lunch.
LEADER: Elizabeth Mason 729-6596.

SATURDAY FEB. 6 MOONLIGHT SKI

A vigorous ski outing in full moonlight to a mystery destination. Booth and Albert at 4:00 P.M. Bring meat for barbecuing and liquid refreshments.
LEADER: Marg Lafrance 692-4650.

SUNDAY FEB. 14 PINE GROVE

Celebrate Valentine's day with an easy afternoon ski outing of approx. 10 to 12 kilometres in the green-belt south-east of Ottawa followed by appropriate après ski refreshments at Aileen's (optional). Bring a snack for mid-afternoon. Booth and Albert at 12:00 Noon.
LEADER: Aileen Wade 733-8952.

SUNDAY FEB. 28 GATINEAU PARK

A cross-country ski tour around the "Wakefield Triangle", approx. 20 km but on green (easier) trails. From parking lot 17 the group will ski along trails 52 and 50, return by trails 54 and 52. A wonderful outing for a sunny spring

day. Meet at Booth and Albert at 9:00 A.M. Bring a lunch.
LEADER: Barri Scully 233-3770.

SATURDAY MARCH 12 DUHAMEL

The second annual outing to see the famous deer at Duhamel, Quebec, north of Buckingham. Skiing, snow-shoeing or walking depending on conditions. French cuisine near Buckingham on the way home - be prepared for a full day's outing. Bring a lunch. Booth and Albert at 10:00 A.M.

LEADER: Nanette Whitman 733-2118.
Call Nanette by March 10th re dinner.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OUTINGS

MONDAY DECEMBER 28 BIRD COUNTING

Join the Rideau Field Naturalists for their Christmas bird count. An excellent opportunity to ramble with knowledgeable birders.

CONTACT: Nora Mansfield 283-1173.

SUNDAY JANUARY 10 SKI/HIKE

Ski or hike depending on conditions. Meet at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 10 Sunset Blvd., Perth, at 1:00 P.M. The outing will be about 2 hours.

CONTACT: Jean Riddell 267-1451

OTTAWA HIKES GROW IN POPULARITY by Bill Grant

During this summer and early autumn, the Ottawa club's outings attracted unprecedented numbers. Both aspiring hikers who had only recently heard of the club through the media, and members who had not often participated in any of the organized hikes joined the outings. On Ontario Hiking Day about fifty people participated in the walk from Burritt's Rapids to Merrickville.

The club looks forward to similar numbers next summer. Weekly hikes are contemplated. A workshop for hike leaders is planned for the spring to discuss how to effectively lead large groups.

HIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

All trails lead to London where the third annual Hike Ontario Conference will be held in May 1989.

To promote this event, hiking clubs have been asked to encourage their members and the general public to hike. To make the hiking especially worthwhile, a HIKE-A-THON has been organized. The HIKE-A-THON will raise money for heart-valve research.

In January, Rideau Trail members will receive a letter giving details on how to participate in the HIKE-A-THON. We hope you will register, pick up your pledge kit and actively join in this worthwhile endeavour. For further information, contact:

Ottawa:	Pearl Peterkin - 829-3062
Kingston:	Ray Forester - 542-4385
Perth:	Jean Riddell - 267-1451

GUIDEBOOK UPDATE by Richard Cross

Don't leave without it! "It" is the new Rideau Trail Guidebook. For the past 18 months Pearl Peterkin, Cathy Cutts, Linda Hayes and Richard Cross have been working diligently to prepare it. Rolly Hamilton supplied helpful advice and cartographer, Bob Farmer, was engaged to produce the full-colour maps.

Full-colour maps are not the only change! Maps and Trail Notes have been combined into one handy Guidebook; now Map 1 covers the Kingston area, and Map 12, the Ottawa area, a reverse of the previous numbering; the trail is described from south to north; and map overlap lines, missing from the last edition of the Maps, have been restored.

The price will be \$10.00 plus \$2.00 to have it mailed to you. Order your copy when you renew your 1988 RTA membership next March!

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION

KINGSTON CLUB OUTINGS

There may be changes in this schedule depending on weather conditions. Also, there may be a charge for skiing at certain locations. Call leaders for information nearer the time. Suggestions for future events may be made to Alberta Edgar, 542-9662.

Saturday December 5, Rideau Trail, Coffee and Dessert

Hike the first section of the trail from Elevator Bay along Cataraqui creek to Cataraqui Cemetery (Map 12). Meet at Sears north door at 1 pm.

Leader: Cathy Cutts, 542-5414

Get-together for coffee and dessert at 8 pm. at Peter and Libby Skelton's house. Contact Mary Jane Bowes, 544-2753 for information

Sunday December 13, Sydenham Area

Hike through fields from Railton road to Sydenham (Map 11). Meet at Sears north door at 1 pm.

Leader: Mary Jane Bowes, 544-2753

Saturday December 19, Bath

View old buildings in Bath area followed by tea. Meet at Sears north door at 1 pm. Leader: Alberta Edgar, 542-9662

Sunday December 27, Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area

Hike or ski in the area. Meet at Sears north door at 1 pm.

Leader: David Roeder, 545-0516

Sunday January 3, Gould Lake Conservation Area

Bring the family to a get-together in the New Year and participate in varied activities - hiking, skiing, skating, snow-shoeing or tobogganing. Pot-luck supper planned at the barn for 4.30 pm. Meet at Sears north door at 12.30 pm. Contact: Mary Jane Bowes, 544-2753.

Wednesday January 6,

Walk the Roger's side road and the wooded area to the west. Meet at Sears north door at 1 pm.

Leader: Emma Martin, 542-1575

Saturday January 9, Wagon trail

Ski from Desert Lake Road towards Gould Lake. Meet at Sears north door at 1 pm.

Leader: Arne Henrikson, 544-0465

Sunday January 17, Bedford Mills

Ski touring in this area. Medium difficulty. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9 am.

Leader: Janice Ley 542-9958

Saturday January 23, Skycroft

Choice of trails available for skiing. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9.30 am.

Leader: Tom Newton, 542-9253

Weekend January 30-31, Gould Lake Conservation Area

Enjoy winter activities and stay overnight at the barn. Bring your own gear and food and meet at Sears north door at 9.30 am. Those wanting a day outing meet at the same time on Saturday and at Gould lake barn at 10 am. on the 31st. Leader: Tom Kaddits, 546-0806

Saturday February 6, Foley Mountain Conservation Area

Skiing with spectacular views. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9.30 am. Leader: Keith Bull, 546-9693

Weekend February 6-7, Ottawa

Join the Ottawa Club members for a moonlight ski followed by an overnight stay with members of the Ottawa club. Skiing in Gatineau Park on Sunday. Contact: Gaetan Lessard, (389-4613) by 3rd February.

Wednesday February 10, Lemoine's Point Conservation Area

Ski or walk in this area. Meet at Sears north door at 1.30 pm.

Leader: Norm McLeod 546-9440

Sunday February 14, Snow-shoeing

May be in the Opinicon Loop area. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9.30 am. Leader Tom Kaddits 546-0806

Saturday February 20, Murphy's Point Provincial Park

Skiing in scenic but varied terrain. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9 am.

Leader: Larry dyke, 389-6692

Sunday February 28, Frontenac Park

Skiing 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 March 2, Cataraqui Cemetery

Hiking followed by tea. Meet at Sears north door at 1.30 pm.

Leader: Jen A'Court, 548-7588

Saturday March 5, Slide Lake Cabin

Depending on the weather this may be a ski or hike to the cabin. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9 am.

Leader: Arne Henrikson 544-0465

Sunday March 13, Rideau Trail

Hiking on the Maple Leaf Road towards the south bay of Buck Lake. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9.30 am. Leader: Norm McLeod 546-9440

Saturday March 19, Little Cataraqui Conservation Area

Hike in the area and sample pancakes with maple syrup for a fee. Meet at Sears north door at 1 pm.

Leader: Joan Hughes, 549-6265

UPDATE ON THE AUDIO-VISUAL DISPLAY

It is coming ... slowly. We hope to premier our new audio-visual display of the Rideau Trail at the next Annual General Meeting of the Association.

We are asking for any of your interesting, funny, sad, or beautiful slides. We need pictures of the Trail in all its moods, in all seasons, in all weather - especially people oriented.

Please send us your slides as soon as possible - they just may be included - and compensation is possible! Send your slides to:

Moira Drummond
c/o Rideau Trail Association
P.O. Box 15
Kingston, Ont.
K7L 4V6

WANTED

The position of Newsletter Editor for the Kingston area is vacant. Why not try your hand at it? The Kingston editor is responsible for two newsletters. The Spring newsletter is prepared in February and the Fall newsletter in August. The editor's job involves collecting, editing and preparing articles for the newsletter. The preparation is for "camera ready" duplication. The availability of a typewriter, or better still, a word processor is a definite asset. Newsletter guidelines exist to help you with your job. Take this opportunity to get involved. Phone the President, Ray Forester at 542-4385 to volunteer your services. (Note that this editor must come from Kingston.)

WINTER OVERNIGHTING AT THE SLIDE LAKE CABIN

By Doug Knapp

"Hoo hoo...hoo hoo", I called, doing my best imitation of the great horned owl.

From back behind the cabin in the dark, snowy woods, came the response "Hoo hoo...hoo hoo".

"Great stuff", I thought - moonlight chats with owls in the heart of Frontenac Provincial Park. I wasn't totally sure of the topic of our conversation, but conversing with an owl was unquestionably something different in the line of evening entertainment.

"Hoo hoo...hoo hoo", I called again, and again the response returned "Hoo hoo...hoo hoo". For five minutes we kept it up and I smiled with delight at being able to fool this wise old night hunter.

"Hoo hoo...hoo hoo", once more I called, but this time I got the surprise of my life. "Hoo hoo...hoo hoo" came back again, followed immediately by "Hiya, Daddy!" in the same owlish voice.

My sons, Peter and Kerry, and I were overnighing at the little cabin on the shore of Slide Lake. After settling in and enjoying superb cooking, the ice-covered moonlit lake beckoned irresistably. As I strolled away from the cabin I recalled my previous successful communication sessions with magnificent great horned owls.

On one occasion the owl perched atop a hydro pole about 20 m away and seemed to have decided that it was going to teach me to speak "great horned owl". It hooted and I'd respond, a pleasant conversation for two or three minutes, until it obviously decided that I had mastered the language and flew away.

But back to my story. My boys, having remained behind in the cabin, overheard

my attempt to charm the neighbourhood owl population into stimulating conversation and decided that a little fun was in order. A great joke on Dad!

The cabin is at the south east corner of Slide Lake, four and one half kilometers from Perth Road. Winter access requires snowshoes or skis - at least intermediate skill is needed for ski access.

Furnishings consist of sleeping accommodations for six, a table large enough for eight or ten, a woodstove in rather poor condition with one cooking element on top, a bench and about three metres of kitchen counter and cupboards.

Other supplies and equipment include three kerosene lamps, kerosene, numerous candles, matches, a swede saw, tea, dishwashing detergent, paper towels, pot holders, sauce pans, frying pan, kettle, dishpan, dishcloths, can opener, broom, dustpan, miscellaneous cutlery, plastic dishes and tumblers - and oh yes, a supply of toilet paper for the privy.

R.T.A. members are encouraged to enjoy this excellent resource. The cabin is kept locked. The key may be obtained for day or overnight use from myself, Doug Knapp, at (613) 542-2039 (in Kingston). Overnight use is by reservation only. To ensure availability, please call Doug well in advance of the date of your intended use.

Users are charged \$3.00 per person per night for use of the cabin and are expected to leave it clean and tidy with firewood replenished, hopefully just as they found it. There is no charge for day use.

Why not plan now to enjoy a little winter adventure? Give Doug a call and make your reservation.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A new slate of directors was voted into office at the Annual General Meeting in September. The directors for the 1987-88 year are:

President	Ray Forester, Kingston	542-4385
1st Vice-President	Nanette Whitwam, Ottawa	733-2118
2nd Vice-President	Jim Fish, Ottawa	839-2262
Secretary	Keith Arnold, Ottawa	234-3325
Treasurer	Al Gamble, Ottawa	729-5056
Membership Secretary	Arch Mason, Kingston	544-5690
Publicity Co-ord.	Cathy Cutts, Kingston	542-5414
*Past-President	Pearl Peterkin, Ottawa	829-3062
Newsletter Editors	Kingston position vacant	
	Elizabeth Mason, Ottawa	729-6596
Club Representatives:	*Su Nag, Kingston	546-6041
	*Norm McLeod, Kingston	546-9440
	*Ron Hunt, Ottawa	830-1592
	*Jean Riddell, Central	267-1451
National Trail Rep.	Henry Heald, Ottawa	224-4471
Archives	Peter Brebner, Ottawa	729-8178

*Positions are not voted for.

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

Year Ended August 31, 1987

The detailed statement of Revenue and Expenditures 1986-87 was distributed at the Annual General Meeting. A copy can be obtained from the treasurer, Al Gamble. A summary of the statement follows.

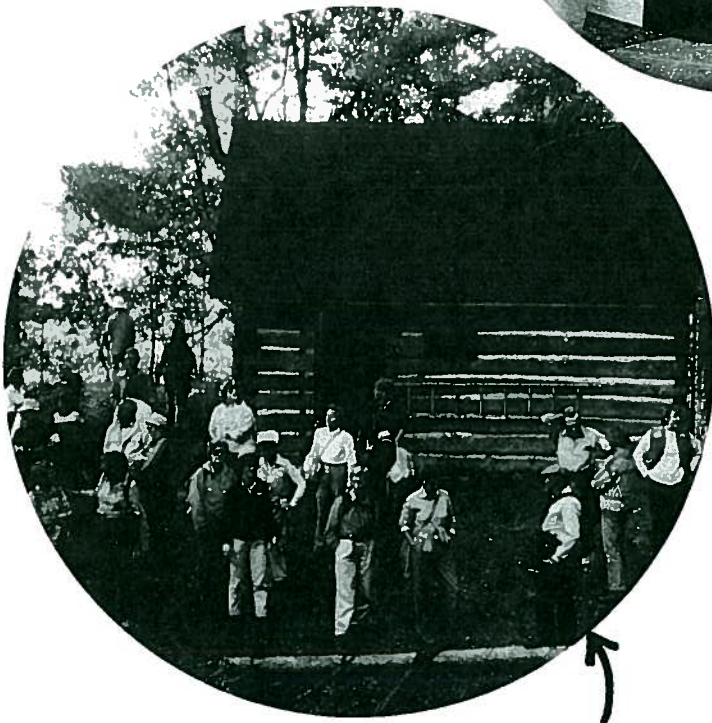
<u>Operating Account</u>	<u>1986-87</u>	<u>1985-86</u>
Revenue	10,232	10,712
Expenditures	11,840	10,463
Gain (Deficit) for year	(1,608)	249
Balance from previous years	<u>8,839</u>	<u>8,590</u>
Balance this year-end	7,231	8,839
 <u>Publications and Merchandising Account</u>		
Revenue	2,417	2,333
Expenditures	1,177	172
Gain (deficit) for year	1,240	2,161
Balance from previous years	<u>7,503</u>	<u>5,342</u>
Balance this year-end	8,743	7,503
 <u>Corridor Preservation Account</u>		
Revenue	1,570	3,057
Expenditures	664	1,500
Gain (deficit) for year	906	1,557
Balance from previous years	<u>13,262</u>	<u>11,705</u>
Balance this year-end	14,168	13,262
 Total All Accounts	 \$30,142	 \$29,604

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Lunch by the Locks
(What is she slipping into that cup?)



For some,
the award presentations
provided the highlights,
for others



The Rock Dunder Hike was especially popular.



Some of the End to Enders

HIKING THE BRUCE TRAIL-SYDENHAM SECTION
by Bill Grant

On Thanksgiving, October 12, fourteen Ottawa Rideau Trail Club members and friends left Ottawa for five days hiking on the Bruce Trail. The objective was to complete the Sydenham section, from Wiarton at the base of the Bruce Peninsula to Blantyre (south-east of Owen Sound), a total distance of 100 kilometres, conveniently divided into five twenty-kilometre units.

The trip was planned and organized by Elizabeth Mason, assisted by Pearl Peterkin and others. Three planning meetings were necessary before the actual event. This careful planning ensured that there were not too many of the surprises and uncertainties which can spoil such an outing. For example, preparation of the evening dinners was assigned, in advance, to a different pair of hikers each day. This approach worked very well.

Driving in three vehicles, we had an uneventful trip to our rendezvous at Louis' Steak House on the outskirts of Owen Sound. After a sumptuous repast, we booked into the Southshore Cottages just east of Wiarton. This establishment provided adequate and economical accommodation; living conditions were somewhat crowded, but convivial.

The first two days were spent walking along the escarpment east and south from Wiarton to the outskirts of Owen Sound. This section is very scenic and features a succession of fissures (crevices) and even the occasional cave in the limestone. There is not much climbing and descending, but the ground is rough. Bruce's Caves were visited on the first day. Soon we were on Skinner's Bluff overlooking Georgian Bay and some of the islands.

A few kilometres further saw us looking down on the "Slough of Despond" - shades of Pilgrim's Progress. On the third day, after another stretch of escarpment, we were out into open

farmland and the western outskirts of Owen Sound.

On the two remaining days, we were back in the country again, working our way south-east of Owen Sound to visit the picturesque Inglis Falls Conservation Area. We hiked through magnificent stands of hardwoods ... maple, birch, ash and black cherry.

Finally, in the late afternoon of the fifth day, we reached the hamlet of Blantyre, where some of us were able to play good samaritan for a local resident who was locked out of her car.

For simplicity's sake, I have described our progress as one group. In fact, each day we divided into two groups and each group started at different ends of the day's section exchanging vehicle keys when we met. This system worked well, and had the added advantage that the "purists" who were determined to walk all 100 kilometres were able to do so while the "slow" group accommodated those who were more inclined to cut the occasional corner.

At any event, when Saturday night arrived, all were content with our achievements. We celebrated with a final dinner in the main lodge. There was satisfaction that we had, for the most part, walked about one-seventh of the total length of the Bruce Trail.

During the entire 5 days we encountered only one other group of hikers, about a dozen members of the Cleveland, Ohio hiking club. A pleasant surprise was the large number of wild flower species so late in the year, possibly from the long warm summer just passed.

Most participants agreed, as we returned tired but satisfied to Ottawa, that the week had been very successful and worth repeating.

REGISTRY OF RIDEAU TRAIL END TO ENDERS

Listed below is a registry of all people who have hiked the Rideau Trail from end-to-end.

Please send information by January 15, 1988 regarding any errors or omissions in this Registry to:

Secretary,
Rideau Trail Association
PO Box 15
Kingston, Ont, K7L 4V6

<u>NO.</u>	<u>NAME (AGE)</u>	<u>BEGAN</u>	<u>COMPLETED</u>	<u>200 AWARD</u>
1.	Jim McCalla Smith	07/72		05/73
2.	Peter van der Sar	07/72		05/73
3.	Frank Cooke	30/09/72	08/10/72	05/73
4.	Chris Cooke			
5.	Dave Pratt			05/73
6.	Rob Linscott			05/73
7.	Paul Morgan			05/73
8.	Dave Baird			05/73
9.	Piers MacDonald			05/73
10.	Alex J Dutkewych	06/73	06/73	08/73
11.	Ralph Hueellar (14)	08/73	09/73	09/74
12.	Robert Kuder (15)	07/76	07/76	09/78
13.	Henry Heald	09/75	11/76	09/77
14.	Betty Hallman	07/74	09/77	09/82
15.	Mark Priddle (13)	Easter/76	09/77	09/78
16.	Stephen Priddle (15)	Easter/76	09/77	09/78
17.	Roland Priddle	Easter/76	09/77	09/78
18.	Peter W. Westaway	05/77	10/77	09/78
19.	Jinny Shanks	05/77	10/77	09/78
20.	Katherine Shanks	05/77	10/77	09/78
21.	David Houlton	06/78	07/78	09/78
22.	Mark L. Houlton	06/78	07/78	09/78
23.	Matthew Wooding (17)	06/78	07/78	09/78
24.	Bruce Pilcher (15)	06/78	07/78	09/78
25.	Tad Higginson (14)	06/78	07/78	09/78
26.	Pearl Peterkin	05/79	09/80	09/80
27.	Thelma Quinn	08/81	09/81	09/81
28.	Gordon Quinn	08/81	09/81	09/81
29.	Elizabeth Mason	04/81	12/81	09/82
30.	Bob Tysen ***	05/83	05/83	05/83
31.	Cathy Cutts		09/83	09/83
32.	Bernard Powis Barsby	09/83	10/83	12/83
33.	Margaret Warren Thompson	09/83	10/83	12/83
34.	Mary Cross			09/84
35.	Richard Cross			09/84
36.	R.Watts	04/84	12/85	
37.	Archibald Mason	/82	04/87	09/87
38.	Dorothy Shaw	04/86	06/87	09/87
39.	Michael Shaw	04/86	06/87	09/87

*** He jogged the Trail in 3 days, 11 hours, 3 min.!



If undeliverable, please return to:

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

Ottawa Phone Number:
613-596-0572

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
Effective April 1st, 1987

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 Club and Association activities.

() Annual Family Membership.....	\$ 10.00
() Patron (Life Membership).....	150.00*
() Map Kit (13 maps) Members only.....	4.00
() Trail Notes Members.....	5.00
Non-members.....	8.00
() Car sticker (FREE to New Members).....	.50
() Crest.....	2.00
() Enamelled Pin.....	3.00
() Donation to RTA.....	-----*
() Donation to Corridor Preservation Fund.....	-----*

PLEASE CHECK New () Renewal ()

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Postal Code.....Telephone.....

Prices subject to change. TOTAL -----

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

