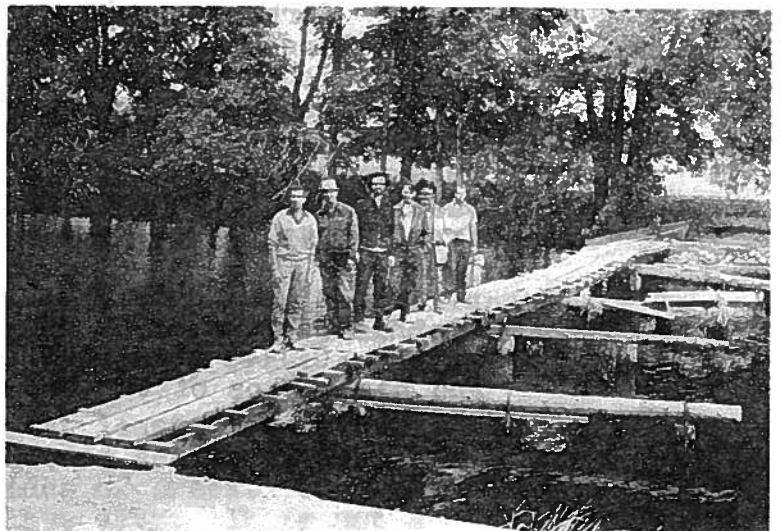
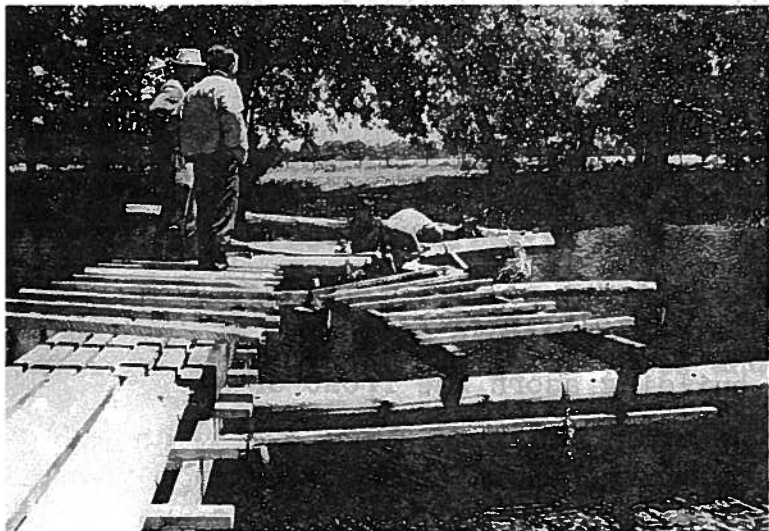
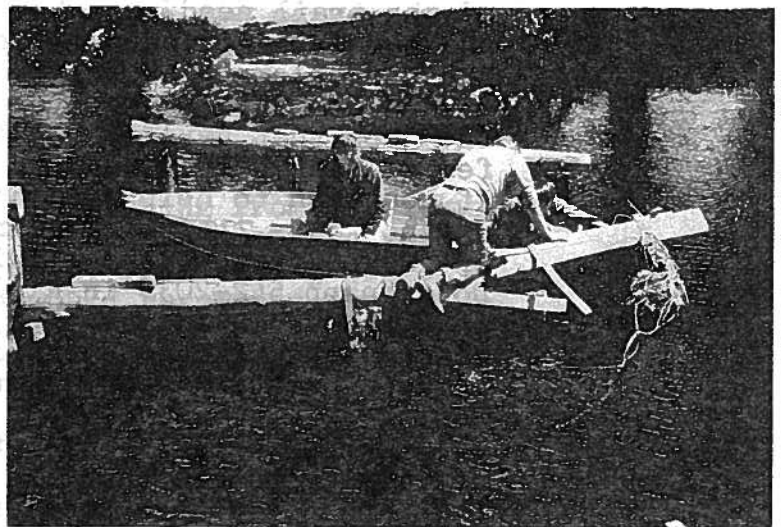


The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

Published by The Rideau Trail Association



FALL 1972

Message from the President

It is just about a year now since the trail was officially opened by the Honorable Jack Davis, Minister of the Environment. Perhaps this is the time to assess the achievements of our first year.

Three members, Frank Cooke, Jim Smith and Peter vander Sar, to our knowledge, have walked the whole trail. Jim and Peter did it in a number of stages and Frank did it all in one stretch. Our congratulations to them! Some of Frank's comments on the trail are reported later in the Newsletter. Clearly from his observations some sections of the trail need our attention; some stiles are defective and some bridges need to be built. We can only correct these problems with help from our members. One of the disappointments of the year has been the fact that most of the jobs that have to be done, fall on the shoulders of a few willing helpers and we need more people to help us. If you wish to help with the organization, contact Jim Smith, 545-7287, chairman of our nominating committee, or if you prefer to help with trail maintenance, phone Doug Knapp 542-2039 in Kingston or Ray Billingham 731-6071 in Ottawa. In addition we hope that you will fill in and return the enclosed questionnaire. It will provide us with some information about what you, our members want.

Membership continues to increase healthily and it is gratifying to see that the trail is well used. The Gould Lake and Slide Lake sections are popular though there is some confusion as to which is main trail and which is side trail. Perhaps the biggest disappointment of the year was the failure of an energetic group of students to get an OFY grant which would have allowed the trail to be expanded. In the absence of the grant your executive went out on a limb and hired Rob Cook for the summer months. This might have been a hazardous undertaking but for two very generous donations, \$400 anonymously from one of our members and \$500 from Labatt's brewery. We are most grateful for this help.

Last year your executive adopted a policy of bilingualism. In this Newsletter is our first article in French. The author, Gilles Côté is the new chairman of the Ottawa club, and his photos of the bridge building adorn the front of the Newsletter.

Fred Cooke

Trail Reroutings

1. Vicinity of Bur Creek - Map 13

Directly north of the corners shown as Bur Creek on map 13 the trail is shown as proceeding due north across a loop in the train track. The trail was rerouted in Sept. so that at the Bur Creek intersection (heading northward) it now proceeds about 200 feet east of the intersection and enters the property of Mr. Allison. The trail generally parallels the train track but to the east of it now, rather than to the west as it was formerly. After about 1/2 mile, the trail connects again with its previous route.

2. Vicinity of Westport Sand Lake - Map 10

The trail which formerly skirted the north shore of Westport Sand Lake has been rerouted to follow the east-west county road which runs near and parallel to the south shore of the lake. On meeting the north-south road at the west side of the village of Westport the trail swings northward along this road until just before the top of the Westport "mountain" it turns to the east again into the woods.

Please don't forget to fill in the questionnaire.



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Membership

Membership Periods

The normal membership period will run from 1 April of a given year to 31 March of the following year. Thus all association memberships will become due for renewal on 31 March of each year. Newsletters and other forms of communication will encourage members to renew early (but this should not be encouraged prior to 1 November of the current subscription year). All members who have not renewed prior to 1 April will be sent a reminder and a subscription form.

Then, on 1 November of each year those members who subscribed for the previous year but have not renewed for the current subscription year will be dropped from the association mailing list.

Thus members who do not renew early (prior to 31 March of the current subscription year) will receive a reminder soon after 1 April. They will be carried as members for the first 7 months of the next subscription year and will then be dropped if they have not renewed.

The scheme for new memberships will hinge on the 1 November date also. New subscriptions received prior to 1 November will be accepted as current subscriptions, and as such will be due for renewal at the end of the current subscription year. Subscriptions received after 1 November will be accepted as subscriptions for the next subscription year and subscription for the remainder of the current year (to 31 March) will be included as a bonus.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE CHECK:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| ☐ NEW | ☐ RENEWAL |
| ☐ Student | \$2.00 |
| ☐ Adult | \$4.00 |
| ☐ Family | \$6.00 |
| ☐ AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION | |

The membership year of the Association is from April 1st to March 31st. Dues paid after 30th November will be for the following year.

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION,
P.O. Box 15,
Kingston, Ontario, Canada

Name _____

Address _____

Membership Fee _____

Donations _____

Extra Crests (@ .75) _____

Total _____

Please indicate which Trail Club you would like to be a member of: OTTAWA, CENTRAL, KINGSTON.

Club News

Centre Rideau Trail Club

The Central Rideau Trail Club organised a walk on Sunday, October 15 at Limerick Forest. Although it was a cool, windy afternoon approximately twenty hardy souls gathered at the camping grounds in the western end of Limerick Forest near Newmanville. The group followed the main fire road southwesterly through the rows of pines and spruce into a mixed bush of colourful maples, birch, and poplars before looping back through a myriad of trails to the start point.

Ample opportunity to view nature's workman, the beaver, was afforded when the group discovered a beaver pond, complete with dam and freshly felled trees. Special thanks should be given to Ath Moxley for his able identification of local flora, which helped to make this four mile hike an enjoyable outing for all.

Ted Cooper

Ottawa. Routes Committee

Maintenance parties were organised on May 13th, May 27th and June 4th. During the last trip we discovered that Mr. R.M. MacVicar's bridge across the Jock River had been wrecked by the spring thaw and could not be rebuilt before the winter. Rather than have this section of trail inoperative for the whole season it was decided to construct a foot-bridge on the site using materials which he very kindly supplied. This was accomplished on June 11th by a working party of six. Shortly after this, the rainy season started and sections of existing trail became water-logged. Also areas to be explored proved impassable because of flooding. A request was received to re-locate a 3/4 mile section of trail which had been placed on private land and this work required three field trips since the new trail passed through dense bush. Early in August torrential rains raised the level of the Jock River sufficient to threaten the new foot-bridge. Three sections were ready to float downstream; these were hauled out and stored on the river bank above flood level. Three weeks later a working party restored the bridge to its pre-flood condition but also discovered that another small foot-bridge across a tributary of the Jock was missing - a victim of the same flood. On a subsequent week-end this foot-bridge was also found and relocated. In all, twelve maintenance field trips were made with the number of people involved ranging from twelve to two on any one day.

A few field trips were made to check out proposed new trails. Two new loop trails, one four mile circuit and one ten mile circuit were marked out. These loops, which are both in Marlborough Township, should produce some good skiing and snowshoeing in the coming season. Winter trail facilities have also been further enhanced in the Moodie Drive/Stoney Swamp area by efforts of the Department of Natural Resources, details of which are mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter.

A number of new members volunteered their services for trail maintenance, so our work list is looking healthier. Holidays and other commitments make organizing a work party frustrating at times when many volunteers are essential. If you feel like offering your services, please give us your name and number.

Finally, many thanks to those people who, by giving of their time and energy, made all the above possible.

Ray Billingham

Forthcoming Events

Kingston Rideau Trail Club - Winter Activities

Sunday, January 21 - Snowshoe Hike

Meet at Bullen Road and old Highway 38 at 1:30 P.M.
- a walk of about three miles

Sunday, March 11 - Cross-country Ski Hike

Meet at Murvale on Highway 38 at 1:00 P.M.
- approximately 5 miles

Ottawa Rideau Trail Club Walks

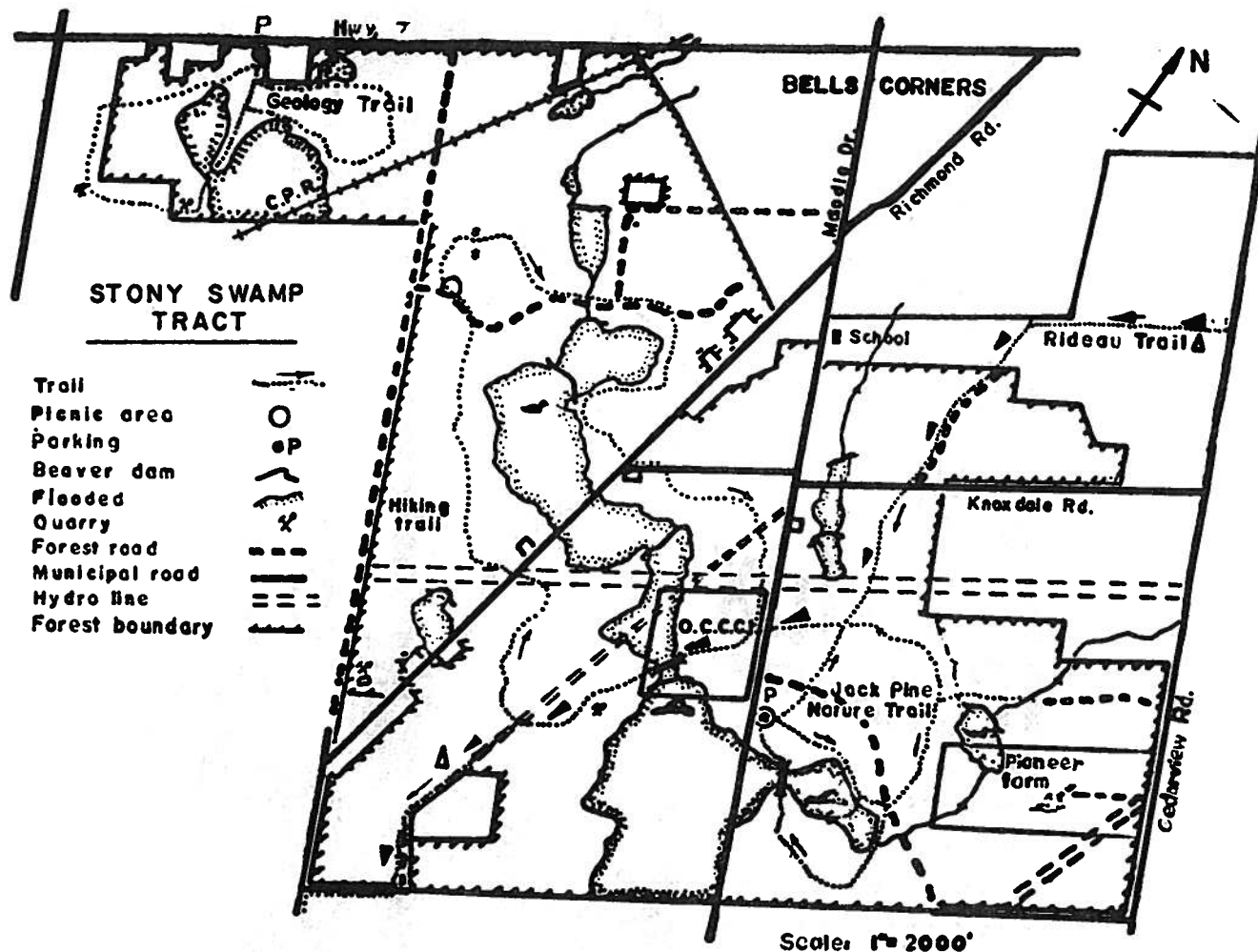
Sunday, December 10, 1972

Sunday, February 4, 1973

Please meet at Bell High School, Cedarview Road,
at 9:30 a.m. with lunch, snowshoes, cross-country skis.

For further information or questions contact:

Trix Geary - telephone 722-2736

GREENBELT FORESTSTONY SWAMP TRACT

Stony Swamp is located just south of Bells Corners. There are parking facilities at the beginning of both the Jack Pine Nature Trail on Moodie Drive and the Geology Trail on Highway 7. Stony Swamp is a 3,000 acre tract of reforested agricultural land. There are more than 10 miles of forest roads and trails including the Jack Pine Trail (3 1/2 miles), the Stony Swamp Trail (4 miles), the Geology Trail (1 mile) and the Rideau Trail (3 miles). There are picnic areas on both the Jack Pine and Stony Swamp Trails. The area has excellent opportunities for Bird watching, Snowshoeing and Cross-country Skiing and Bicycling as well as being a sanctuary for many types of plants and animals.

Stony Swamp is well worth a visit any time of the year.

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Un jour passé à travailler sur le sentier Rideau

Gilles Côté

Le 10 Juin, j'ai reçu un appel téléphonique de Ray Billingham, me demandant d'offrir mes services à reconstruire un pont de piétons. L'ancien pont, qui franchissait le rivièrè Jock, avait subi des avaries aux glaces du printemps. L'invitation me semblait intéressant, ainsi j'ai décidé de l'accepter.

Dimanche le 11 Juin, un beau jour de printemps, mon frère Normand et moi nous sommes rendu à la demeure de Monsieur R.M. MacVicar, le propriétaire, où nous avons fait la connaissance de plusieurs autres membres. Des matériaux utilisés pour construire le pont, le R.T.A. n'avait seulement qu'à fournir les portées principales. Le reste du bois a été généreusement fournis par M. MacVicar. Nous ne pouvons pas exprimer en mots combien nous apprécions son aide et son encouragement.

Pendant que quelques membres se sont servis d'une chaloupe pour déterminer la condition des pieux, les autres ont commencé à construire les cadres de portée individuels. Lorsque les cinq cadres étaient complétés, un d'eux fut placé de telle manière à former la première portée et le pontage fut ajouté. Puis, celle-ci servit à marcher dessus afin d'y placer la deuxième.

Lorsque le pont fut à demi fini, nous avons été obligés de cesser afin de se reposer et manger un petit goûter.

Se sentant beaucoup mieux nous avons fini d'installer les derniers cadres et de placer le pontage, si bien que nous sommes presque tombés à l'eau quelques fois.

Environ quatre heures de l'après-midi, pendant qu'on était occupé à placer la dernière planche de pontage, les premiers excursionnistes (une femme et ses deux jolies petites filles) sont arrivées, juste en temps pour se servir de notre nouveau "chef-d'oeuvre".

Après avoir fini la construction du pont, on m'a suggéré d'écrire mes impressions de la journée. Par surprise, je suis venu à réaliser que c'était une excellente idée, puisque, de cette manière, je pourrais communiquer aux autres membres non-informés, du plaisir dérivé de faire les nombreuses tâches d'entretien sur notre magnifique piste Rideau, d'observer la flore et la faune aussi bien que de jouir de la compagnie de joyeux vivants.

Étant un membre passé du Club du sentier Bruce, proche de Toronto, je suis conscient que nous avons un excellent sentier qui a besoin de nombreux embellissements puisqu'il est tout nouveau.

Pour leurs efforts de bon aloi, je crois que l'Association de la piste Rideau doit un gros merci aux personnes suivantes: Ray Billingham, Jim Poole, Normand Côté (non-membre), Frank Chellingworth, et Ed Simpson.

The Rideau Trail - End-To-End

Since the conception of the Rideau Trail I have read articles and reports of sections of trail and of work done by volunteer and paid workers.

Fred Cooke, Rolly Hamilton, Doug Knapp and Ray Billingham became familiar names. The Trail was their baby and they were proud of it!

Having hiked briefly over some of the Perth - Westport section, I became curious about the rest of the trail. Was it really complete as a hiking trail? What about overnight camping, possible accommodation, food supplies, and water? There was only one way to find out. Do it.

The fall of '72 seemed a good possibility, what with the wet spring, wet summer, and wet early fall, something had to give, and I couldn't wait too long or the frosty fingers would be nipping.

On Saturday 30 September at 06.30 hrs at Richmond Landing, near the Mill Restaurant Ottawa, I started down the trail, in the dark, in the pouring rain. My son Timothy holding fire in the car, in case I chickened out.

I arrived at the trail's end, Cataraqui Bay, 17.00 hrs Sunday 8 Oct., not alone, as my son Christopher had walked the last 22 miles with me, not in the dark, glad, but damn tired.

What happened between, the trials and tribulations I experienced would fill a small book. However, for the benefit of the reader and trail organizers alike, here is some constructive criticism.

1. Uni-Directional Markers

Due to a combination of poor visibility, no sun for reference, constantly changing direction of trail and poor directional placement of markers, I got changed around completely 3 times, twice on the Kingston side near the Slide Lake loop, once near Nichols Creek.

2. Colour of Markers

A good percent of people are colour blind, particularly in red. The markers colouring range from dull red to light orange. I would recommend all markers to be coloured bright orange. In the fall particularly, a colour blind hiker would have a heck of a time picking up the marker.

3. Sectional Detailed Write Ups or Maps

I have the detailed reports from Ottawa to Merrickville. They are good, I don't know about the rest of the trail, but I think it is important these reports be available. In addition I would recommend strategic or difficult sections be illustrated on detailed maps, not less than 2"/mile scale.

4. Spurs and Loops

There are several spurs, to points of interest and red/orange marked loops, with the same markers as the main trail. I would recommend spurs and loops, (I am not talking about blue loops,) be marked for at least 3-5 markers from the junction, with a SPUR or LOOP sign.

5. Lack of continuity of Markers on road cross-overs and open ground

This was perhaps the most frustrating from Merrickville to Kingston in general. To give credit, some were good, others were very poor. I spent many frustrating hours trying to pick up the trail. I would recommend the following: At all open ground areas, road cross overs and directional changes, the continuing markers should be displayed in such a manner that the hiker can see this marker from where he or she stands at the last marker. In any case the continuing marker should be not more than 50 feet from the last marker.

6. Trail Sections

Sections of note poorly maintained:

a. Black Creek Sheet 9, where ? is located. If this was properly marked it would be O.K. The markers appear to end at a beaver dam. You end up in a thorn thicket. Pick up the trail again and then lose it. A wooden bridge directly across the creek might be a more direct approach.

b. Slide Lake - Otter Lake: A poorly made bridge collapsed, a long time ago, over a creek which was about 7 feet deep. I found a bridge of trees and precariously crept across.

c. Gould Lake to Kingston - On at least 4 occasions I had to wade thru creeks or beaver flooded sections. The trail marker plainly showed on both sides of creek. The beaver flood required a 1/4 mile wade knee deep. It is not a pleasure in the late fall.

d.* Kingston end of Sand Lake - After last stile, I found no markers for approx. 3 miles. Luckily a cottager was at home and confirmed I was indeed on the right road. For Hikers going the opposite way it would indeed be confusing.

e.* The unfinished section before Westport, from Ottawa end - Try as I might I could not pick up the trail, hence I walked along the road coming out near the R.V.C.A. sign above Westport. After a scout around I found the markers continuing to Sand Lake, on the other side of the road. However, it wasn't long before I hit the road again with a profusion of signs showing the way to the Fish Hatchery and on? Frustrated I headed along the high ground side of Sand Lake where I knew the trail should be. Eventually I picked up the trail. There are more sections poorly marked or maintained. This leads me to the recommend.

f. There should be a concerted effort to recruit reliable Trail Sections Leaders for:

- (1) Each 20 miles or practicable length, or better still,
- (2) Each 10 miles or practicable length.

Each T.S.L. should be provided with an incentive; it seems to work on parts of the Appalachian Trail, and be required to write a section report perhaps quarterly.

g. Painting of Markers on Posts - Inevitably the paint fades.

h. Broken Stiles - At least 4, 3 dangerous, 1 thrown aside.

Conclusion

I enjoyed hiking the trail even though I was frustrated many times. I think if some of the items suggested can be accommodated into the Rideau Trail organization, the rewards of complimentation by members will be worthwhile. I would not recommend the normal hiker to traverse the complete trail, in one hike, in its present state. I sincerely hope I may have been of some help.

Frank Cooke

* This has now been corrected. See p. 3 of the Newsletter.

Rideau Trail Association & Clubs
Membership Canvass

The Rideau Trail Association, and the three regional Clubs, are your organizations. They want to function the way you want them to function. This questionnaire is an effort to find out (1) what role you want the Association and Clubs to play and (2) what role you want to play in the activities and operation of the Association and Clubs. Please complete the questionnaire and return it to the appropriate club as indicated in the last question.

1. Have you hiked on the trail? Do you have any suggestions for improvement? Did you have any problems?

2. Would you like your Trail Club to be more active in sponsoring activities?
Which? (a) organized hikes
 (b) meetings, discussions, slide shows, etc.
 (c) other

3. Would you like to be more active in the Clubs' activities?
In what capacity? (a) trail maintenance
 (b) organizing and leading hikes
 (c) Committees (see below)
 (d) other

4. Would you be interested in serving on a Committee for either the Association or a regional Club? The following committees and working groups need help. Please indicate your willingness.
A. Publicity Committee
 (a) newsletter, editing & format
 (b) writing for newspaper &/or newsletter
 (c) fund raising
 (d) manning display booths, etc.

- B. Membership Committee
- (a) responding to new members
 - (b) maintenance of membership records
- C. Other work to be done.
- Groups need to be organized to do an inventory of Rideau Trail facilities. e.g. potential camp sites, water supplies, hotels, stores. Also to establish an optimal use inventory for various sections of the trail. e.g. short vs. long hiking, snow-shoeing, cross-country skiing, horseback riding.

How would you like to be involved?

5. Other comments and suggestions.

6. With which Regional Rideau Trail Club do you consider yourself affiliated? Please return the questionnaire to the appropriate Club address.
 - A. Ottawa Rideau Trail Club
Box 2111
Station D
Ottawa K1P 5W3
 - B. Central Rideau Trail Club (includes area from Westport to Kemptville)
c/o Mrs. Joyce Halliday
212 Ryan St.
Smith Falls, Ontario
 - C. Kingston Rideau Trail Club
Box 15
Kingston, Ontario K7L 4V6
 - D. No Club Affiliation (intended for people outside area of R.T.) (respond to Kingston Address)

NAME _____ Phone No. _____

ADDRESS _____
