



# **The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER**

**WINTER 1989**

**ISSUE No. 74**



The Rideau Trail Newsletter is published quarterly in March, June, September and December by the Rideau Trail Association. The editors of this newsletter are Wanda Baburek and Bill Wright for the Ottawa Rideau Trail Club.

Submissions for the next newsletter, articles, photographs and items of interest, are welcome and should be sent by February 1, 1990 to:

Christine Barker  
40 Bonny Lane  
Kingston, Ontario  
K7K 6E2

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

ISSN 0709-7085

#### **COVER PHOTO:**

The long awaited lunch by Su Nag

#### **The Rideau Trail Association Board of Directors for 1989-90**

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| Archives                 | Peter Brebner, Ottawa      | 729-8178 |
| F.O.N. Representative    | Larry McCurdy, Kingston    | 389-6427 |
| Guidebook                | Pearl Peterkin, Ottawa     | 829-3062 |

## **A Sanctuary for Fox**

Rideau Trail Writing Contest, 1989

*B.S. Warren*

*Grade 8, Winston Churchill Public School*

It was during the dew of an April morning when silently his black slippered paws padded through the frosted meadow grass. His sleek auburn coat showed, with burrs and thorns, the miles of woodland he had travelled. His bushy tail was tattered and his lacy white fur that trimmed his tailored fox suit hung in torn strands. The air was crisp to his burning lungs and his dry mouth longed for fresh, cool water. He had spent days searching in vain for the right place to live.

Fox had been travelling lone and barren fields all his journey. He was almost glad to see different surroundings. Woven through the edge of a thick jade forest, an aged, wooden fence intersected Fox's path. The familiar smell of man filled his nostrils. Puzzled but not frightened, he found the aroma almost friendly. Fox did not stop himself from crawling through the fence. He smelled the air for danger then trotted down a grassy path, enjoying the cool shade of an archway of leafy boughs. Clearly the path had been trampled down by humans. A pale blue sky streaked with billowing clouds smiled down on him.

Needing to find water soon, Fox slowed to a walk, panting. He noticed the birds sang sweeter here than he had ever heard them. Fox teased the bluejays, and yipped as they screamed their disturbances. Fox tried to stretch a smile with his dry lips.

Up ahead a little wooden bridge arched over a rippling brook. He galloped the last few strides and waded into the cool dark water until it tickled his belly. Well quenched, Fox sauntered over the bridge, his fur still dripping wet.

He wandered down a wide, wooden boardwalk that wound through the bulrushes of a swamp land. The evenness of the planks stretching into the horizon was beckoning Fox as he walked on almost in a trance. He must go further. Another forest was in sight. Perhaps here he could dig a den.

The boardwalk gradually transformed to the familiar dirt path as Fox entered the canopy of gnarled oak trees.

A rabbit darted from a patch of trilliums carpeting the forest floor. Fox bounded after the jittery creature deeper into the silent woodland. He was suddenly filled with new energy.

Fox will always be close to man, but will live in harmony with man. His territory is part of the Rideau Trail. His life will be happy and peaceful with no threat of hunters or famine as he shares the land with other wildlife.

## **Thoughts on Road Walking**

*Elizabeth Mason*

In 1981 when I hiked the entire Rideau Trail, I remember being disappointed because of the amount of trail that was actually a road. But today, having been active in the Ottawa Club for many years, it annoys me when people complain about the trail being flat and boring. The Rideau Trail Association is doing its very best to move the trail of roads.

Road walking, I have discovered, is not all that bad. It is pleasant to walk double files along a road chatting with an old friend or a new member. Have you ever tried carrying on a conversation with someone as you wind single file through the trees or pant up a hill?

Road walking can be financially rewarding. It is surprising how many beer tins and bottles can be collected from the ditches along roads. I have heard of people earning over a hundred dollars in a year by returning used beer containers. You can double the benefit of collecting bottles by donating the money to your favourite charity or to the Rideau Trail Corridor Preservation Fund.

The next time you hear someone complain about road walking, point out the advantages of flat, even terrain. Then suggest that they volunteer their time to the Rideau Trail to help make the trail better.

## **NEW ZEALAND ANYONE?**

I am planning to go to New Zealand in January of 1991 for a hiking and birding trip. Return airfare at present is \$2162. If anyone is interested in coming too please call Pearl Peterkin at 829-3062.

## **High Participation in October Outings**

*Bill Grant*

At the spring meeting of hike leaders the Ottawa club decided to experiment with double hikes on weekends. The month of October was chosen and for the last three weekends (after Thanksgiving), outings were scheduled for both Saturdays and Sundays. The total participation exceeded 156, with some keen hikers coming out on both hikes. This is an average of 26 per outing. This suggests that, at least in the prime hiking months, there is room for two hikes per weekend. It has the advantage of limiting the numbers on each hike, while not prejudicing the success of any outing.

## Winter Overnights at the Slide Lake Cabin

*Doug Knapp*

In Frontenac Park at the south end of Slide Lake there is a small cabin belonging to the Ministry of Natural Resources but under the care and control of the Kingston Rideau Trail Club. This cabin is available for day and overnight use by Rideau Trail members throughout the cold season - from Nov. 1 to mid April.

The cabin is equipped with six beds, a large picnic table (sufficient to accommodate from 8 to 10 people), wood stove, kitchen cupboards and counters and an assortment of kitchen and household utensils (pots, frying pans, 4 kerosene lamps, a swede saw, dish-pan, kettle, can opener, miscellaneous cutlery, cups and dishes, paper towels, toilet paper, candles etc.). Overnight users need only to bring their own foam pads or air mattresses, sleeping bags and food. Users are expected to replenish the firewood, to leave the cabin clean and tidy, to remove any noncombustible garbage they have generated, to ensure that the cabin is carefully shuttered and locked when use is finished and to communicate promptly any problems or need for supplies to the cabin over-seer. There is a \$3.00 per person per night charge for the use of the cabin. Day use is free, but day users are, of course, expected to replenish any firewood they may have used.



Slide Lake Cabin  
Photo by Su Nag

Reservations for use of the cabin as well as the key may be obtained from:

Doug Knapp  
32 Gretina Green  
Kingston, Ontario K7M 3J2  
(613) 542-2039

Reservations for the season are accepted on a first come, first served basis, so contact Doug as soon as you have organised your plans. The cabin is seldom used on weekdays but tends to be well used on weekends.

Some reasons you may want to consider a winter overnight at Slide Lake are:

- ☺ to listen to the deep, almost inaudible booms of the lake ice cracking due to temperature changes
- ☺ to see the northern lights put on their magnificent winter display
- to follow the tracks of deer with a chance of close encounter
- ☺ to savour the silence of the winter wilderness
- ☺ to enjoy the company of friends in a cosy, fire warmed cabin.



Photo by Bill Wright

## Rideau Trail Wall Map

The souvenir wall maps of the Rideau Trail are now available at a low price of \$6.00 each. Great Christmas Gift! Call Pearl Peterkin at 829-3062 in Ottawa or Ron Beacock of the central club at 267-4204.

## 1989 END-TO-ENDERS

*Elizabeth Mason*

This year was a good year for Rideau Trail End-to-Enders. Twelve hikers completed the 200 miles of the Rideau Trail to earn their 200 Award and End-to-End badge.

55. Don Mitchell
56. Carol Swanbergson
57. Sigfus Swanbergson
58. John Beech
59. Mabel Bennett
60. Bob Bennett
61. Lucille Birtch
62. Pat Thurlby
63. Chris Jones
64. Pat Smith
65. Rick Revelle
66. Andrew Oakes

Don Mitchel, John Beech, Mabel and Bob Bennett, Chris Jones and Pat Smith were part of an Ottawa area Wednesday End-to-End group. The group formed in 1988 in order to ease the hiking in the area between Perth and Kingston. Hiking with a group of people is a lot of fun and full of adventures. On one of their first hikes, the group was joined by a dog. Near Gould Lake he tangled with a porcupine. The group heard an awful howling and then saw the dog with a nose full of quills. Two of the hikers tried to extract the quills by hand but with little success. Being good Rideau Trailers, they took the dog back to the location where he had joined the hike and were lucky enough to find his owner.

Carol and Sig Swanbergson met Lucille Birtch and Pat Thurlby at an annual general meeting. When they discovered that they had the same goal - hike the entire Rideau Trail - they joined forces and enjoyed many hikes together. Some of their most memorable hikes involved wildlife. Behind Bedford Mills they surprised two deer on the trail. At Jackson Mills it was a mother with her fawn. Coming into a clearing near Orser Road they spotted a wolf. The tides turned when they were frightened by cows and the odd bull who wee curious about them. Once they were walking in the middle of nowhere and kept hearing the sounds of a party. The noise kept getting louder. They went down into a swamp area and the party noise stopped abruptly. So did they ... What was going on? They remained very quiet, waited, and the noise began again. The party was a colony of herons up in the trees!

Rick Revelle and Andrew Oakes did much of

their hiking alone. Excerpts from Rick's diary have appeared in past newsletters. Andrew began hiking in the summer of 1981. He soon discovered that fall is much better hiking weather and that joining a group makes the hiking more enjoyable.

It takes determination and perseverance to hike any trail - especially one that is two hundred miles long. Congratulations to our new end-to-enders.



Photo by Bill Wright

## Heard at the RTA Sept.'89 AGM

*M. Drummond*

- "A great advantage is the people you meet"
- "Found - beer bottles?!?! "
- "Who was that masked man that went down the trail?"
- "My wife thought I was nuts anyway!"
- "Build a raft!"
- "Finished the Rideau Trail - best thing I've done in my life!"
- "Green Hell!!!"
- "Plenty of perseverance to become an *End-to-Ender*."
- "We've walked it - all of it!"
- "Interested in rails becoming trails?"
- "National Trail - a time not yet come, but a dream to keep alive."
- "Old members never die - they just walk away."
- "Thanks for the memories."

**RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL SUMMARY**  
**YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31, 1989**

The following is a summary of the financial statement as presented at the Rideau Trail Association Annual General Meeting on September 16, 1989. For full details regarding this statement, please contact the Treasurer, Al Gamble at 613-729-5056.

**OPERATING ACCOUNT**

|                                    |              |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total Revenue                      | 15,550       | 13,247       |
| Total Expenditures                 | 16,807       | 14,089       |
| Gain (Deficit) for year            | (1,257)      | (842)        |
| Balance forward from previous year | <u>6,389</u> | <u>7,231</u> |
| Balance this year end              | 3,856        | 6,389        |

**PUBLICATIONS AND MERCHANDISE ACCOUNT**

|                                    |               |              |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Total Revenue                      | 5,574         | 22,222       |
| Total Expenditures                 | 3,951         | 16,992       |
| Gain (deficit) for the year        | 1,623         | 5,230        |
| Balance forward from previous year | <u>13,973</u> | <u>8,743</u> |
| Balance this year end              | 10,496        | 13,973       |

**CORRIDOR PRESERVATION ACCOUNT**

|                                    |               |               |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total revenue                      | 2,014         | 2,645         |
| Total Expenditures                 | 1,402         | 415           |
| Gain (deficit) for the year        | 612           | 2,230         |
| Balance forward from previous year | <u>16,398</u> | <u>14,168</u> |
| Balance this year end              | 17,010        | 16,398        |
| <b>TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS</b>          | <b>31,362</b> | <b>36,760</b> |

**Frontenac Prov. Park**  
**Wilderness Skills Training**

Frontenac Park will be offering wilderness skills training programmes starting in January. The following is a listing of the courses. For complete descriptions or to register contact the Co-ordinator Agnese Bortolussi at:

Frontenac Prov. Park  
P.O. Box 11  
Sydenham, Ont. K0H 2T0  
613-376-3489

|                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Ice Fishing                      | January 7      |
| Cross-Country Skiing & Waxing    | January 14     |
| Cross-Country Skiing Safety      | January 21     |
| Snowshoeing Clinic               | January 28     |
| Winter Camping                   | February 3 & 4 |
| Wilderness Safety                | February 18    |
| Winter Photography               | February 25    |
| Winter Trip Planning             | March 11       |
| Wilderness Survival for Children | March 14       |
| Canoe & Paddle Workshop          | March 25       |

# RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION OUTINGS

## Kingston Club

Due to uncertain weather conditions there may be changes in this programme. Call leaders prior to the event for an update as alternate outings will be scheduled.

Car pooling is encouraged to facilitate parking; however drivers would appreciate a contribution towards gas.

Hike leaders are reminded to collect the names and phone numbers of all participants and forward them to Shirley Harmer 549-4852

### Saturday December 9 Hiking/ Coffee & Dessert

Leisurely ramble east of Perth Road towards Chaffey's Locks. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9:30 am.

LEADER: Norm McLeod 546-9440

Our annual coffee and dessert get-together will be held at 8 p.m. For information call Lynn Nolan 389-7840

### Wednesday December 13 Cataraquai Cemetery

Leisurely walk through this area. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 10 a.m.

LEADER: Cathy Cutts 542-5414

### Sunday December 17 Lemoines Point

Good area for a brisk walk or ski. Meet at Sears north door at 1:30 p.m.

LEADERS: Marg & John Page 389-7840

### Saturday December 23 Rideau Trail

Hike from Bullen Road to Elginburg Road. Meet at Sears north door at 12:30 p.m.

LEADER: Su Nag 546-6041

### Monday January 1 Hiking/Get-Together

Hike or ski from Lake Ontario park via the Rideau trail to Bath Road. Meet at Sears north door at 1 p.m.

Get-together for light refreshments at 4 p.m. Nominal charge. Children welcome. For information call Lynne Nolan 389-8747

### Saturday January 6 Wagon Trail

Skiing on the wagon trail east of Gould Lake. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 10 a.m.

LEADER: Martin Reeve 548-4960

### Sunday January 14 Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area

Variety of trails for walking or skiing. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 10 a.m.

LEADER: Mike Amodeo 384-623

### Wednesday January 17 Rideau Trail

Skiing north of the Elginburg Road. Meet at Sears north door at 1 p.m.

LEADER: Bernard Gate 389-1835

### Ski Weekend January 19-21 Whitney

Enjoy a weekend stay at the Bear Trail Inn and the varied skiing in the area. For information call Keith Bull 546-9693

### Saturday January 20 Rideau Trail

Ski the section between Railton Road and Elginburg Road. Meet at Sears north door at 12:30 p.m.

LEADER: Mary Jane Bowes

### Sunday January 28 Bedford Township

Ski the Old Bedford Road between Massassauga Road and Skycroft. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9:30 a.m.

LEADER: Janice Ley 542-9958

### Weekend February 3-4 Slide Lake Cabin

Ski or snow-shoe in the area with an overnight stay at the cabin. Bring your own food and gear. Places limited so register with the leader as soon as possible.

LEADER: Tom Kaddits 564-0806

### Weekend February 10-11 Ottawa

Join the Ottawa club members for a moonlight ski to a mystery destination. You will be billeted at homes of Ottawa Club members. Those planning to attend should call Arne Henrikson 544-0465 by February 4th.

### Sunday February 11 Charleston Lake Provincial Park

Trails suitable for novice and intermediate level

# RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION OUTINGS

skiers. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9:30 a.m. LEADER: Keith Bull 546-9693

## **Wednesday February 14 Rideau Trail**

Ski the trail from Elevator Bay to Bath Road. Meet at Sears north door at 12:30

LEADER: Cathy Cutts 542-5414

## **Sunday February 25 Frontenac Park**

Skiing into the interior of the park via swamps. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9:30 a.m.

LEADER: Anne Henrikson 544-0465

## **Saturday March 3 Murphy's Point Provincial Park**

Groomed trails, scenic terrain. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9 a.m. LEADER: Larry Dyke 389-6692

## **Sunday March 11 Perth Road Village Area**

Hiking west of Perth Road on the abandoned CNR railway tracks. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 9:30 a.m.

LEADER: Norm McLeod 546-9440

## **Wednesday March 14 little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area**

Variety of trails over relatively flat terrain. Bring a lunch and meet at Sears north door at 10 a.m.

LEADER: Patricia Selkirk 546-3993

## **Central Club Outings**

Hikes will normally take place regardless of weather. If weather does not permit skiing, a hike will take place. The rendezvous point is normally indicated in the details of each outing. Information on outings can be obtained from the contact person for the outing or by calling John Miller 267-1493. John should also be contacted should transportation assistance be required.

## **Sunday, January 21 Foley Mountain**

Bring your snowshoes, hiking boots or if energetic, cross country skis, for this joint outing with the Perth Outing Club. Meet at Colon Farm at 9:30 a.m. Bring

a lunch. Contact John Miller 267-1493

## **Sunday, February 14 Murphy's Point Park**

Enjoy a day's cross country skiing. A both vigorous and a relaxed day is planned, bring skis or snow shoes and a hearty lunch. Meet

at the Park ski parking lot at 9:00 a.m.

Contact: Ron Beacock 267-4204

## **Sunday, March 4 perth Wildlife Sanctuary**

A relaxed stroll to observe the birds and wildlife. The Sanctuary is located approximately 2 miles from the town boundry, on the Rideau Ferry Road. meet at 1:00 p.m. Contact: Ron Beacock 267-4204

## **Sunday, April 1 Mill Pond**

Joint outing with the Ottawa Club. A visit to the Mill Pond Conservation Area to watch maple syrup being made. We will also hike for approximately 6 km. Bring a lunch and good footwear. meet at Conlon Farm at 10:00 a.m. Leader : Margret LaFrance 739-1121 or contact John Miller 267-1493.

## **OTTAWA CLUB OUTINGS**

Hikes normally take place regardless of the weather. The rendezvous point is at the corner of Booth and Albert streets at the time stipulated for each hike. The only charge for the hike is for gasoline since private cars are used for transportation to the trail-head. A guideline on this subject has been issued to the hike leaders. Outing leaders are asked to collect names and phone numbers of all participants and to forward the names to Bill Grant. Information on specific hikes can be obtained by calling the hike leader on the evening before, if possible.

Wednesday Walkers continue their outings during the winter months as cross-country ski trips in the Gatineau. The group meets at Booth and Albert Streets Wednesday at 9:30a.m. Bring a lunch and wear appropriate clothing. Contact: Dorothy Belter 523-4420 or Nanette Whitwam 733-2118.

## **Sunday, Jan. 7 Gatineau Park**

The year's first ski outing and our third annual ski in the Ridge Rd. area, with a lunch break at the chalet. A vigorous outing. Bring a lunch and a hot

# RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION OUTINGS

drink. Booth and Albert 9:30 a.m.  
LEADER:Bev Armstrong 738-0310

## **Sunday Jan. 14 Larose Forest**

Our third annual ski outing in this forest east of Ottawa, with delicious refreshments afterwards at Pat Smith's. Bring a snack.

Booth and Albert 9:30 a.m.

LEADERS: Pat Smith 443-2241  
Chris Jones 824-3512

## **Saturday Jan. 20 Marlborough Forest**

A ski outing to the club's log cabin on easy, flat trails. Bring a lunch.

Booth and Albert 9:30 a.m.

LEADER:Ron Hunt 830-1592

## **Sunday Jan. 28 Dwyer Hill Rd. To Merrickville**

If ski conditions permit, an easy 15 Km. (approx.) outing. Bring a lunch and hot drink. Booth and Albert 9:30 a.m.

LEADER:Elizabeth Mason 729-6596

## **Sunday Jan. 28 Pot Luck Supper**

At the Gambles', 598 Courtenay Ave. (west end of Ottawa) at 6:p.m. If you are planning to attend, phone Pearl Peterkin 829-3062 by Jan 25th.

## **Sunday, Feb.4 Schoolhouse Loop**

Visit the newly painted schoolhouse (historical research currently underway) and ski the Schoolhouse Loops - an easy ski. Peter de Lepper will have the fire going. Bring a lunch and a hot drink. Booth and Albert 9:30 a.m.

LEADER:Eileen Evans 741-0789

## **Saturday, Feb. 10 Moonlight Ski**

A vigorous ski outing in full moonlight to a mystery destination. Bring meat for barbecuing and liquid refreshment. Booth and Albert 5:00 p.m.

LEADER:Marg Lafrance 739-1121

## **Sunday, Feb. 18 Pine Grove**

Our annual ski outing in the south-eastern greenbelt. An afternoon of easy skiing, about 12 km; have your lunch first and bring a snack for mid-afternoon. Booth and Albert 12:30 p.m.

LEADER:Aileen Wade 733-8952

## **Sunday, Feb. 25 Gatineau Park**

Cross-country ski tour around the "Wakefield Triangle" approx. 20 km. on green (easier) trails. The trip starts and ends at parking lot 17 (Wakefield). Anticipated route west on trail 53 (Kenedy Rd.) s.w. on Lac Phillippe and return on trail 52. Bring a lunch and a hot drink. Booth and Albert 10:00 a.m.

LEADER:Barri Scully 233-3770

## **Sunday, March 4 Jack Pine - Stoney Swamp Area**

A gentle ski outing in the western greenbelt, followed by refreshments at Erl Cassell's. Booth and Albert 1:00 p.m.

Phone: Jean Sunter 828-6077 or Erl Cassell 820-8157

## **Saturday, March 10 Duhamel**

Our fourth annual outing to see the famous deer at Duhamel, north of Buckingham, Quebec. Skiing or walking, depending on conditions. French-Canadian cuisine at Thurso on the way home. Be prepared for a full days outing and Bring a lunch. This may be our last visit to Duhamel. Call Nanette by Mar. 9 if you are going. Booth and Albert 10:00 a.m.

LEADER:Nanette Whitwam 733-2118

## **March 17-18 Slide Lake**

Backpack/snowshoeing to Slide Lake cabin.

Phone Andrew Oakes by March 14 to ensure your participation

LEADER:Andrew Oakes 225-8982

## **Sunday, April 1 Mill Pond**

It's April Fool's Day and we are making our second visit to this Conservation Area to experience the maple syrup-making. Bring a lunch and good footwear. Booth and Albert 9:30 a.m.

This is a joint outing with the central club.

LEADER:Marg Lafrance 739-1121

## **Sunday, April 8 Bourget Geese**

A walk, (flat but rough underfoot) of approx. 10 km along an abandoned railway route east of Ottawa. With luck, we'll see Canada geese at one of their main feeding area. Bring a snack and hot drink only. Booth and Albert 1:00 p.m.

LEADERS:Pat Smith 443-2241,Chris Jones 824-3512

## Prancing Through The Peaks Bakers Creek July 1989

*Chris Jones*

Last July a small number of Ottawa Rideau Trail members flew out to Calgary to join the "Skyline Hikers of the Rockies" for a week of non-flat land hiking. A few of us had never seen a mountain before let alone climbed one! (one can hardly count the Gatineau Hills)

The evening before our trek to get-together meeting was held at the local Fire Hall in Baniff where we introduced ourselves. Many were repeating trips of many years duration (survivors!) I believe the eldest was 76 and the youngest 10. The next morning we boarded a bus to the Trail Head carrying our day packs; our equipment was carried by pack horses to the camp. We were all provided with hearty lunches. A hike of approximately 13 kms. through beautiful forested country, quiet except for occasional chattering and the sound of plodding hiking boots. At least we came upon the camp site nestled in a meadow at the foot of Anthrozan Mountain.

Here we found a number of large tents plus a cooking area and an eating area, discreetly placed were a number of biffies and the Do-nut; a large tent open to the sky where we gathered each evening to re-hash the days hikes.

The tents, surrounded by an electric fence (for bears) were quite large with a wood burning stove provided; also foam bases, so our air mattresses and plastic ground sheets we were quite cosy - however one had to take care to position one's bedding between small trees growing through the tent floor. This made the inside very interesting and somewhat of an obstacle course!!

Two hearty meals a day were provided, breakfast and dinner, with more than adequate lunches packed by the staff. Hot water was provided; one bowl morning and evening. Its amazing how one can make a small amount go a long way; start at the top and work your way down and if your feet are not too dirty you can wash your hair...the alternative an icy creek!

That evening we were given a list of hikes to choose from; each one lead by a competent leader and rated thus:

| Western Rating | Our Interpretation            |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Easy           | Hard                          |
| Medium         | Difficult                     |
| Hard           | Are you kidding?              |
| Difficult      | You must be out of your mind! |

Space does not permit a complete description of each and every hike, elevation above camp varied from 800 to 3,000 feet, some terrain straight up, others pleasant walks through alpine meadows, trails beside rushing streams, through quiet forests and even patches of snow; the scenery breath taking and the weather co-operative. Our flower enthusiasts armed with their books identified about 62 Alpine flowers. Each evening after we gathered in the Do-nut to rehash the days events; this was enormously entertaining with hikers from Sweden, New Zealand, United States, England and that other part of Canada.

Our last evening consisted of a number of skits, the talent was incredible, not withstanding our own skit on the Government which brought the house, or rather the tent, down. We ended the evening a little sad at parting after a week of comradeship.

At last the hike back to the Trail Head- many good-byes to new friends, thanks to our great staff- a tired, grubby and somewhat smelly group with visions of hot steaming baths, long running showers and clean clothes in their heads.

As one weary member of our group put it; what a wonderful week - thank God it is over!

Any information re cost and the Skyline hikers will be gladly given by Chris Jones 824-3512

## Travelling

Looking for a travelling companion on an excursion? Let the newsletter editor know and we can place an *ad* for you.

Looking for interesting places to travel to? Get in touch with the corresponding secretary as she often receives brochures and travel information for trips of interest to hikers.

## Certificates of Appreciation

Certificates of appreciation are being awarded to the following retiring members of the RTA executive:

Arch Mason for 2 years of service.  
Elizabeth Mason for 3 years of service.  
Jean Riddel for 12 years of service.  
Cathy Cutts for 15 years of service.

## Rideau Trail Association

### Life Members (as of Oct.15/89)

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

Mike Amodeo  
George and Janet Anderson  
Isobel Anstice  
Tom Bach  
Christine Banfill  
Garry W. Beckman  
Allan and Mary Jane Bowes  
Mary Breig  
Roger Scott Brown  
Ken and June Buckingham  
Hilda Buckmaster  
Harry Burgstaller  
Keith Bull  
Mr. and Mrs. R.B. Carson  
Donald Chown  
Jim Clare  
Mrs. A. E. Covington  
Donald and Cathy Cutts  
Violetta Czasak  
E. H. Dudgeon

Wilhemina Easton  
Deborah Elliott  
Chris Eyres  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Fell  
Jim Fish  
Ray and Dorthy Forester  
Arthur Fox  
Mrs. J.E. Fuyschot  
Cornelia Fuyschot  
Vera and Ed Gill  
Marianne and R. P. Groves  
Elizabeth Gutteridge  
Ann Jessica Haden  
Ruth E. Hodge  
Mr. and Mrs. D.M. Holman  
Joan and Vic Hughes  
J.L. Johnstone  
Peter Kopp  
John Le Geyt  
Henri Lemelin  
Ted and Rose LeSage  
James Lewis  
Janice Ley  
Peter McNaughton  
Paul Manley  
Larry McCurdy  
D.D.C. McGeachy  
Stephen McPherson  
Don Mitchell

Miss B.A. Morrison  
Orla and Dale Myrfield  
Sukriti Nag  
Peter Nelson  
T.W. Newton  
Maxine Oldham  
Pearl Peterkin  
Roger and Roberta Rathburn  
Derek Redmond  
Winnifred Ross  
Bird Sampson  
David Seto  
Michael and Dorthy Shaw  
Helga Stegeman  
Klaus Stegeman  
Robert Taylor  
Gord Thompson  
Jean Thompson  
R.E. and Mrs. Tolley  
N. Tunnaciffe  
Douglas A. Tutty  
Eric Usherwood  
John A. Waldron  
Raymond Watts  
Elizabeth Wendholt  
Erwin Wendholt  
Peter Wetaway  
Dr. A. K. Wylie

The following article, which appeared in the London Times Sept. 28/89, was submitted by Keith Bull. Reading this article may help us appreciate the Rideau Trail even more.

#### **Ramblers face 25,000 miles of unusable paths by Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent**

Ramblers in England and Wales have on average only a one-in-three chance of completing a two mile country walk along public rights of way without meeting some kind of obstruction, according to a report published by the Countryside Commission.

Those planning a more ambitious five mile walk have no more than a 10 per cent chance of completing their intended route, while horseriders have a less than 2 per cent chance of success over a 10 mile ride on the bridleways.

On the basis of its most extensive survey yet undertaken, the commission estimates that

25,000 miles or 18 per cent, of the 140,000 miles of footpaths, bridleways and byways in England and Wales are unusable.

Ploughed surfaces or growing crops, impenetrable natural vegetation, and fences, hedges or walls without stiles or gates, are the main obstacles. Only a third of footpaths are signposted at the point where they leave roads and half the unsigned paths are difficult to find.

The commission calculates that the 103 highway authorities in England and Wales could restore the entire path network to a useable state by the end of the century if they increased their annual expenditure on rights of way from £14 million to £21 million.

Think about that the next time the minor inconvenience of walking a road for a short stretch.

## Good Hiking on The Bruce

*Elaine Vininsky*

This is the third time Ottawa members have headed northwest to hike along the Bruce Trail. This time the goal was to hike the 80-Kilometre Beaver Valley section starting from where some of us left off two years ago at Blantyre, and continuing on to Craigeleath.

Two organizational meetings served to unite the 17 participants into a friendly, cohesive group. During these sessions it was determined that members didn't want to "rough it" as much as in 1987, when some stayed in cold cabins in Wiarton and prepared their own meals. This time organizers opted for three Bed and Breakfasts, and Where to Eat in Canada style suppers. Most hikers had their lunches packed by the hostesses.

Instead of renting an expensive vehicle to shuttle 10 of the hikers; we opted for cars and a member's van. The passengers paid their drivers' gas costs. A dollar a day from each of the non driving members built up a fund to reimburse all those who used their vehicles to get to the trailheads. The week-long outing cost about \$250.

Fortunately the Beaver Valley Section is U-shaped. This led to pleasant car shuttles of no more than 30 minutes from our nucleus of Clarksburg.

We couldn't believe our good fortune when we gathered that Sept. 18 morning in front of the Hillside B&B, and discovered that light jackets would later give way to T-shirts. With the cold weather that swept through Ottawa the week before, we had expected to be bundled up at least in the mornings.

As earlier agreed, the 17 formed themselves into a "fast" and a "slow" group; the idea being to start from different ends of the trails and cross paths around lunchtime and exchange keys. As the week progressed, we became more sophisticated and had drivers start off with different cars and then end up walking toward their cars at day's end. This worked very well.

On this beautiful day, the nine or 10 members of the "slow" group drove to our starting point at Spruce Meadows and waited briefly for RTA alumni Boris Mathers to lead us to our destination, Kalapore. Now a bearded Bruce Trailer, Boris lives in Toronto and maintains a segment of the Beaver Valley Section. As we hiked, he treated us to a bit of history of the section, and gossip about the trailmaintainers and landowners.

As we stopped in front of a lovely sprawling home, he told us of being turned down by the owner when the routers asked to cross a remote corner of her land. Resourcefully, they went to a neighbour who cheerfully agreed to let the club walk along his fence-line in clear view of the lady's property.

When the mansion owner saw 35 hikers coming so close to her door on a subsequent outing, she called the club and suggested they cross further down the road, the very routing they had requested in the first place.

We enjoyed a history lesson when we came to the first bit of sharp-edged limestone. This chert, explained Boris, was used in Precambrian times to make arrows and tools.

We didn't have to pay to see the flowerpot formations of dolomite cap and limestone bottom united by a thin neck. Hart's tongue fern and yellow Jewelweed were the flora sight of the day.

That evening some members drove to Meaford to a Beaver Valley meeting where they enjoyed a slide show of the area and mingled with the Bruce Trailers. It was rationalized that this meeting would give credence to our eventual request for Chevrons, the Beaver Valley end-to-end crest.

The next day we proved we were a flexible lot. Originally the plan was to hike the 80 kilometres in four days and take a day off mid-week or whenever the weather looked threatening. After the 20 kms the slow group traversed the first day, members decided to take their time and use all five days to do the trek. This resulted in shorter Tuesday and Wednesday hikes, which pleased those with sore feet.

It was a little early to enjoy the full beauty of the fall colours but the many maple stands had already begun to show their red hues. This led to a silly contest of who could find the largest and reddest leaf to adorn one hiker's hat.

Even though we were to be doing a shorter hike the second day, we were still able to rendezvous with the fast group by starting off on a blue loop. This tangential trail led us through the Duncan Crevice Caves Conservation Area and offered us some good views of crevices.

Lunch at Kolapore Creek gave our group the chance to cross the new 130 foot wooden bridge shown in the previous evening's slide show. Quite an engineering feat!

The highlight of the day, and probably even the trip, was climbing over Metcalfe Rock. This rock cleft forced us to literally stretch our legs but the cool air was so welcome from the heat of the day. A fantastic cedar root was a photographer's delight.

A little further in at Brown's Bluff the fast group saw the only people we would encounter that week - two climbers hanging from ropes and taking pictures.

The third day we headed out to amble along a nine kilometre section ending at Kimberly, while the fast group headed off to explore the source of the trail at Tobermory. We passed through some lovely forests. From the top of Old Baldy, we had a good view of the Kimberly resort area and of the next day's difficult terrain.

We had an eerie start on day four as we were serenaded by howling dogs while warmed up on a surprisingly steep descent. Luck befell us when identified an American elm. Hikers later pondered over the union of a beech and cherry in a lover's embrace and a smooth round stone nestled in a tree stump. Earlier we had seen some Calico asters.

The road to Epping, our destination, offered a good view of some prosperous dairy farms. We awoke the next day to see a threatening sky and marched wet along the trails for hours with few breaks. A plum tree and wild grapes were the bright spots along the way. One lucky hiker saw a deer.

As we stumbled through the forest onto the road at Blantyre, many had a déjà vu feeling. After all, we had been in this same area two years ago. But we were saddened to stand on the burned out remains of a friendly resident's home. She had promised us each a cup of tea after we helped to open her locked car back in 1987. Tired, we drove away to heat up our cold, tired bones and plan our departure on Saturday.



The group gathered in front of the Hillside Bed & Breakfast; missing is photographer Bob Bennett

## Central Club Formed

The Central Club has a new executive for 1989-90 as follows:

|            |                |          |
|------------|----------------|----------|
| Chairman   | Ron Beacock    | 267-4204 |
| Sec/Treas. | Ian Cameron    |          |
| Publicity  | Dorothy Hudson |          |
| Outings    | John Miller    | 267-1493 |

## Refurbishing The Gould Lake Boardwalk

*Allan Tattersall*

Anyone who has walked the trail north of Gould Lake recently is well aware of Mother Nature's impact of on the boardwalk about 100 metres east of Hill Junction. Thanks to the efforts of the Kingston Club volunteers, a renewed, safe boardwalk is now in place. While the Kingston Club Executive approved and allotted funds for the project at its meeting in June. Who in their right mind wants to work in a swamp at the height of the blackfly and/or mosquito season? Besides the only reasonable time to haul heavy construction material into the site is over the winter ice!

Such pragmatism notwithstanding, the existing boardwalk was judged too hazardous for use this fall. Hence the decision to proceed in the summer. While the notice in the fall issue of the Newsletter elicited little response, a much appreciated positive response to personal telephone requests for help obtained a dozen willing volunteers.

Thanks to Tom Kaddits, who borrowed his brother's ATV trike and trailer, and to Bernie Gates the three of us hauled the material (50 sixteen foot planks) into the site on Friday September 15. It wasn't all that easy, the execution varying somewhat from the plan.

In the first stage, the lumber was readily transported in four lots from the barn to the Boardwalk. We then constructed three five-plank-wide pads to be used successively as a mobile roadway over the beaver dam and under the ATV and trailer load of lumber. This great idea proved too hazardous. Both Bernie and I were quite adverse to the very likely prospect of spending the bulk of the day recovering a drowned ATV and sunken trailer! So the three of us man-packed two planks each per crossing over the beaver dam, reinforced by planks here and there to improve the "going". Determined to maximise the use of the ATV, and thereby to save our backs, Tom and Bernie then man-handled the ATV trike over the beaver dam by keeping the steering wheel up on a two plank "roadway". It was then a relatively simple, though hair raising ride, to skid six plank loads up the ridge to Hill Junction. A few planks were required to recover the ATV over the worst parts of the beaver dam which was well beaten down into a walkway by now. These planks were then left to be picked up by the construction crew on its way into the site on Saturday...

Upon which morning Stan Douglas, Harry Gardner, Don Green, Arnie Henrikson, Doug Knapp, Ed Luce, Dale Myrfield, Martin Reeves, and David Roeder joined me for the reconstruction task. After picking

up the remaining planks enroute to the site, I briefed everybody on the job, divided people into teams and allotted tasks; all according to a carefully devised plan to ensure ease of construction on this restricted site. We all then fell to it with enthusiasm and no heed whatsoever to previous direction, but rather permitting the knowledge and experience of our members to take charge. Spurred on by scintillating discussions on the relative merits of hand over swede saws, enlightening examples of the correct use and incorrect use of hammers, pinch and crow bars and numerous examples of innovative initiatives to reinforce the perceived weaknesses in the boardwalk we completed three of the five main spans by lunch break.

As we were progressing so well it was decided to take the opportunity to improve the near end of the Marian Webb Memorial boardwalk, the use of which, you might recall, becomes rather tenuous during the spring run off. So Harry Gardner, assisted by Dale Myrfield, went off to complete his favourite project while the rest of us completed the boardwalk and improved access by extending approach at either end. The end result is a renewed, longer boardwalk over the marsh and a sloping access to the east end of the Marion Webb Memorial boardwalk. Doug Knapp was able to recover enough material to improve going further along his section of the trail. We were back at the barn shortly after 2:00 pm, happily congratulating ourselves on a job well done.

## INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP DUES

A membership dues increase was approved at the Annual General Meeting in September. The new fees will be:

Annual membership dues increase to \$15 from the present \$10 and lifememberships will go to \$200 as compared to \$150.

These increases are necessary to eliminate a loss in the operating accounts. The price increase takes effect with the expiry of this year's membership; so you may still renew now, or take out a life membership, at the old rates before the expiry date.

### HELP

In order to complete our inventory would members of the Ottawa Rideau Trail Club who have stashed away equipment for trail maintenance; eg. railway ties! steel girders! hammers! clippers! saws- circular or otherwise please call Pat (443-2242) or Chris (824-3512) so we can arrange for pick up. Thanks a lot!

## Diary of a Rideau Trail Hiker

*Rick Revelle*

Here is a continuation of my walk to become an end to ender on the Rideau Trail.

JUNE 3, 1989

- Hugh McDonald and I parked one car in Smith Falls and the other on the Dwyer Hill Road
- Set off at 6:30 A.M. from Smith Falls - spent the first 3 hours walking on the Road to Rosedale and beyond
- When we entered the woods at Railroad Road and the Rough Track the mosquitos hit like a sleet storm, but I had some woodsman delight muskol which held them at bay but did nothing to hold the deer flies off. They can really take a chunk out of you.
- We reached Dwyer Hill Rd at 1:00 P.M. and drove back to Smiths Falls where we ate
- Started again at 2,30 p.m.
- Today we waded in water up to our knees, 3 times. Extra socks come in handy. The longest stretch of water was about 1 km. southeast of CN Line where Nichol's Creek runs
- Reached our car on Munster Road around 8:30 P.M.

47 kilometres 12 ½ hours

JULY 19th, 1989

- Parked my car on Munster Road at 6:30 a.m.
- At the intersection of Jock Trail and Green Road I came face to face with 5 highland cattle, one of which was a bull who gave me a few subtle glares, but luckily they continued down the Jock Trail Road as I hastily turned up Green Rd
- I did not bring anything to drink on this final trek. The temperature today was about 80°F. I figured I would come across a store in Franktown or Fallowfield area, but I was mistaken.
- At about noon I stopped at a small garage near Fallowfield and got a drink of water (warm water too).
- When I reached the Bell's Corner Arena, at 3:30 p.m. I took a detour and went to a Mac's Milk. I drank a quart of milk and four cokes while I read the Ottawa paper and relaxed for an hour in a nearby park.
- After another change of socks I went off again at 4:30 pm and made my drive for that elusive cairn with the plaque at Richmond Landing.
- At Baseline Rd I was intrigued by the garden plots that people rent from the city to grow vegetables. I had never seen anything like that before except in Taiwan.
- The NCC Recreational Path was a beautiful walk. A very refreshing breeze came off of the Ottawa

River.

- Finally at 9:10 pm I reached Richmond Landing, but lo and behold there were no brass band or local dignitaries to welcome me. I guess they forgot I was coming.

- I went back to the Mill Restaurant where friends from Ottawa waited for me with a large thermos of ice cold water and a ride back to my car on Munster Road.

53 kilometres - 14 hrs and 45 minutes

So finally after 22 months, I reached the end. Believe me it was well worth the effort and the few blisters.

Next stop - maybe the Appalachian Trail - who knows.

Sept. 16, 1989 JONES FALLS

- I sat and watched a very impressive meeting of the RTA and watched the dedicated volunteers that make this association one of the finest around. As I also work with a couple of organizations and am the President of two, I know the work that it takes to run one. You people deserve a very well deserved pat on the back. Volunteers are the life blood of this country.

- I considered it a real honour to have my Certificate and Crest for being an end to ender presented by the then President Mr. Ray Forester.

- He said some very nice things about me, especially since we had never met.

- I was very proud to receive the award but even prouder to see all the people at the meeting who make it possible for people like me to be able to walk this excellent trail. It is these people who should be getting the awards for keeping this trail maintained. All I did was walk it. They did all the work.

Many thanks RTA members.....

## Writers/Typsts

If you are interested in writing, or helping with inputting, for *your* newsletter we can certainly use your assistance for the summer and winter issues. Kingston editors could also use your assistance I am sure. For those of you with (or access to) computers we can directly handle Wordperfect, Multimate, Wordstar or ASCII files. Many others can be converted. Even good clean typewritten, single spaced, for scanning into the computer would be helpful. This information can be sent on 5 ¼ " diskettes (DSDD) or by modem to Bill Wright at:

P.O. Box 89  
Limoges, Ont. K0A 2M0  
613-443-2580

## Archives Update

*Peter Brebner*

Presently the RTA archives consist of an incomplete set of club and executive meetings minutes, a set of each map and guideline edition, photos, a complete set of news letters, news clippings and other memorabilia. Organized materials presently fill one and a half R - Kive boxes. I have another two boxes of unsorted materials that consist mainly of executive minutes. Despite the repetitious nature of the material there are often small gems found.

At the last Executive meeting a motion was passed to deposit the RTA archives material at Queen's University Archives in Kingston. This is being done to establish a permanent organized record for the RTA and also to provide safe long term storage.

I would like this depositing of archival material to be as comprehensive as possible. In the next newsletter I will inform you as to what official records I do not possess. All other materials, eg. photos, newsclippings, etc. are welcome anytime.

All I ask is that you inform me that you are sending the material and by what means. The receipt of a box of material fourth hand makes it difficult to answer a donor a year later who asks if I received their material.

If you wish to send photographs, a few details would be appreciated. Location, date and participants names in order of appearance typed on an address label put on the back is tremendous. Map co-ordinates, shutter speed, f-stop, ASA (ISO), water temperature and depth, velocity of tripping/falling hiker and cost of additional copies are optional.

If you are uncertain about the material in your possession please contact me.

Peter Brebner  
1055 B Gladstone Ave.  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1Y 3G6  
613-729-8178

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Ken Prior, long time member of the Rideau Trail Association, passed away early last summer. Ken joined the association in 1981. He was an enthusiastic hike leader of the Wednesday walkers when they began in the fall of 1984. He was an avid photographer and loved sing-a-longs. He died of cancer on June 5, 1989 at 77 years of age.

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