



The Rideau Trail

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1993

ISSUE No. 90



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

Submissions for the next newsletter are encouraged (pictures, preferably should be in black and white) and should be sent **BY FEBRUARY 1st to:**

**Patricia Hardy,
115 Wright Cr., Unit 12,
Kingston, Ont., K7L 4T8**

Phone: 548-1268

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

ISSN 0709-7085

THE RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1993-94

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Central Rep.			

PHOTOS:

COVER: Bottom of Blanchet Trail, courtesy Nanette Whitwam.

PAGE 3 Al Gamble & his wife - courtesy of the Gamble Family.

PAGE 4 The Alps - courtesy of the Hughes.

PAGE 5 South Windows, courtesy Nanette Whitwam.

PAGE 6 RTA Board Meeting, courtesy Frank Kemp.

PAGE 12 The Bridge at Richmond, courtesy "The Construction Team".

AL GAMBLE

An Appreciation

January 13, 1911 to September 28, 1993



Al is shown here with his wife, Margaret, as they set out on one of their many bicycle trips.

Al Gamble died in Ottawa on Tuesday, September 28, 1993, and the Rideau Trail lost a wonderful friend and enthusiastic supporter. Al was Treasurer of the Rideau Trail Association for 13 years, from 1977 to 1990. He was one of the founding executive of the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trails (now known as Hike Ontario), serving both as Treasurer and President. For his services to these, and many other volunteer and community organizations, Al was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 1989.

Al was an active member of the Ottawa Club for many years. Al and his wife Margaret, were among the group of Ottawa Club Members who built the log cabin in the

Marlborough Forest between 1977 and 1979. They often led hiking and cross-country ski trips. We particularly remember the Gatineau ski outings that they led every winter during the 80's. Their favourite trail ran from the parking lot on the Ste-Cedile-de-Masham Road to the Lac Phillippe Gate House, and back. This was always followed by dinner beside a roaring fire in the Earle House in Wakefield.

However, because he was always modest about his achievements, many Rideau Trail members may not be aware of how Al set the Rideau Trail on a sound financial footing. He suggested to the RTA Board in 1975 that a Corridor Preservation Fund be established, with contributions being eligible for income tax receipts, to provide the financial resources needed to maintain the integrity of the Trail. The fund, now at \$20,000, has been used to improve trail markings, purchase Trail plaques, and contribute to catwalk and bridge building. Also, when the first Rideau Trail Guidebook was planned in 1981 to mark the 10th anniversary of the Trail, Al applied for a Wintario Grant to cover half the publishing cost, with the Rideau Trail's share being contributed by many hours of volunteer labour in measuring and describing the Trail for the Guidebook text. As the First Edition sold, Al set the money aside so it would be available for future editions.

The Rideau Trail owes many thanks to Al for his foresight and wisdom. We will all miss his cheerful presence. We extend our deepest sympathy to Margaret and the rest of his family.

TRAVELS IN THE EUROPEAN ALPS

by Joan and Vic Hughes.

During last July, we toured France and Switzerland. We found the Massif Central good for hiking, but in particular we visited Zermatt and Chamonix.

We reached Zermatt by rack and pinion railway, found a delightful two star hotel, immediately took a two hour hike into the mountains and bought some delicious fresh goat cheese to have as a snack. On the following day, we visited the Alpine Museum. Of particular interest was the Whymper Room. Whymper was the first person to climb the Matterhorn, 4,480 m, in 1865. Seven climbers made it, but on the descent there was an accident. The rope broke, and four fell to their deaths. Only Whymper and two guides survived. That evening was spent watching the movie "Whymper's Weg", with commentary in German, French, and English. I had seen this same movie 37 years ago in the village hall, with commentary by the guide who made it. It tells of a 21 year old American, Christine Allen, who although a non-climber aspires to climb the Matterhorn. She is given intensive training; she must be able to lean out from the mountain where there is a 1,200 m vertical drop. Guides take her up the original route used by Whymper, which does not have a permanent rope! It was strongly advised to always use guides. This was emphasised when the movie showed two unaccompanied climbers, fall 1,200 m to their deaths.

Zermatt is very commercialized, and there was a great number of climbers in town, mostly day trippers, wearing regulation boots, climbing knickers, carrying back packs with rope, ice-pick, walking stick, and wearing traditional feather-trimmed hats. The Japanese were all correctly dressed and sported happy smiling faces. The others must have been thinking of the money they had spent on their equipment!

We visited the English Church, staffed by clergy from the U.K., also the cemetery with memorials to climbers who had fallen off the Matterhorn. The bodies of two members of the Cambridge Mountaineering club who fell to their deaths in 1958, were not recovered until 1988.

We went by rack railway up to the Gornergrat, 3,080 m, to view the glaciers and the Matterhorn, but the clouds were low, and there was a semi-blizzard. On visiting the Observatory there, Vic had the pleasure of meeting one of the astronomers who had worked with him in Holland, 13 years ago.

Chamonix is easily reached by car. It differs by being in a deep valley, with jagged peaks rising up to about 3,000 m above the town, which is at about 1,200 m. Again the town is highly commercialized and crowded with day trippers, all with correct gear. There are glaciers all around, in fact one appears to come down



TRAVELS IN EUROPEAN ALPS (Cont'd)

to the town. The Japanese were not so numerous. Here, the wear was not so much climbing knickers as shorts, and the shortest shorts were worn by the men!

In the afternoon we took the rack railway up to the Mer de Glace, and walked down towards the glacier. However, after going only half way, we decided to return. A tunnel has been dug under the glacier. This was a bit of commercialism we could forego.

Our recommendation would be to choose one of the centres for a longer stay, and take ones strongest boots. No need to climb the Matterhorn or Mont Blanc, or walk the glaciers, but there are many fine trails with breathtaking mountain scenery, which are just as safe as the Rideau Trail, but more strenuous. Information is easily available from the local tourist offices.

WEDNESDAY WALKERS

By Art Campbell

This article is about Wednesday Walkers, both Ottawa and Kingston varieties. A few years ago I would not have included the Kingston WWs since I have nether met them nor walked with them. But I have learned, at home and in the car on the way to the trail head, that contact with, or knowledge about, a subject is not necessary to talk or write about it.

The Wednesday Walkers, first and foremost are people who like to hike and ski. However, for at least two people, walking is secondary to talking. I have heard, several times "I walk with Wednesday Walkers because of the discussions"?. More on that later.

WWs are a talented bunch. Some are knowledgeable about fungi, some about birds, some about flora and some about fauna, some about the geography of Gatineau Park, one is a great leader. They have an opportunity to display their knowledge. Then there are those who are skilled in other areas. Map making for instance, cooking, finance and accounting,

computers; one is a forester, one has sailed the Atlantic. They no doubt think about their talents and knowledge. I tend to look at people, estimate when they retired, or when they will retire, and muse about how much they will lose through their pension plan. And wonder where I am.

Except for three exceptions, one notable, these other interests have not interfered with, and have added to, walks. One exception is bridge; one is politics; the notable exception is the infamous blueberry episode, where I learned that the Wednesday Walkers can be lead anywhere but through a blueberry patch.

Talking and walking can lead to some unexpected destinations. Being a mere male, I cannot talk, or be talked at, and navigate. As more than one Wednesday Walker has learned the hard way, turning points can be missed, or not encountered, if talk is involved. One such episode, where the tail enders saw the front enders coming back to meet them, resulted in that unfortunate phrase: "Are we lost?" To which John replied "Well let's say that we are somewhat surprised by where we are."

Talking while walking is bad enough, but offering praise to the navigator, at least this navigator, can be disastrous. Well, maybe it is coincidence. It was a beautiful long week end. I had been invited to navigate a group through part of a walk. I noticed a number of the walkers were not well equipped, and one was not the right shape, to hike the planned area. However, early in the walk, before I started navigating, one women



WEDNESDAY WALKERS (Cont'd)

kept remarking how well I found the trail, how much easier it was to walk where I had walked rather than where the current navigator was walking. For whatever reason, I forgot the obvious walking limits of the individuals, including the praiser. Then came my turn. Suffice it to say that she did not repeat her complements; the walk showed that people can accomplish a lot more than even they would expect, if pushed. Seven hours is a long four hour walk.

Walking does allow one to dwell on "problems"; the deficit and the children are examples. However, not so with winter and skiing. When one starts down a hill, on a narrow trail, knowing that around that bend at the bottom of the hill is a creek which may be open, "problems" like children and the deficit tend to disappear.

The next in this series will address an issue raised by the Fraser Forum (October 1993). "Is it ethical for vegetarians to eat carnivorous plants?"

This article was commissioned by 26 Wednesday Walkers, October 20th 1993, while seated on the lower escarpment, just above a freshly fertilized field.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

23rd OCTOBER, 1993

Ron Maybury chaired his first meeting as President of the Rideau Trail Association Board.

Su Nag will be our representative on the Ontario Trail Council.

Rideau Trail Trade Mark renewal was approved, this will be effective for 15 years; changes to the registration will be reviewed with legal advise.

Peter Roberts is the Ottawa Club Newsletter Editor.

Jean Thompson, Correspondence Secretary, advised the Board she had responded to four hundred letters and phone calls in this past year.

An "End-to-End" program of hikes will be set up by the Kingston and Ottawa Clubs to start the Spring of 1994.

Shirley Conkie, Kingston representative reported a very successful Hike Leaders Workshop covering their responsibilities and safety on the trail.

Linda Hayes, Ottawa Club Chair, along with other members of the Ottawa Trail Club, welcomed 22 members of the Bruce Trail Club who have completed their "End-to-End" hike of the Rideau Trail.

Ottawa Club members have now completed "The Bridge" across the Richmond (Mansfield) Drainage Ditch. The Bridge is to be named the "The Ken Prior" bridge. Ken was one of the founders of the Ottawa Club Wednesday Walkers.

Secretary Christine Banfill reported that 47 "End-to-Enders" were recognized in the 1992-1993 period.

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES OTTAWA CLUB

Ski outings are dependent on snow conditions and may be changed for this reason. Leaders are asked to notify Nanette Whitwam (730-5417) if the changes are known ahead of time or if ad hoc outings are planned. These can then be put on the Club Information tape

The **rendezvous** point is always the parking lot at the corner of **Booth** and **Albert St.** The time indicated is the **departure** time. Transportation is by private car pooling and passengers are asked to contribute to the driver's gas. (\$3.00 where not indicated). Participants should bring a lunch, plenty of fluids and appropriate clothing. It is better to wear several thin layers which can be removed as necessary to avoid overheating and subsequent chilling. For more information about particular events, call the Leader or the Club Information line (730-2229).

Leaders please send sign up sheets to Nanette Whitwam, 151 Glen Avenue, Ottawa, K1S 3A1.

Wednesday Walkers

We take to our skis as soon as conditions permit and we always go to the Gatineau Park for 4-5 hours. These are vigorous outings and are **NOT** for beginners! Call Dorothy Belter 523-4420 or Nanette Whitwam 730-5417 for more information.

Sat., Dec. 4. Rideau Trail.

Hike a section of the trail. Depart 9:00 a.m.

LEADER: Roger McCullough, 731-7596.

Sun., Dec.5. Destination to be determined by weather. Afternoon hike. Bring a snack.

Depart 12:30 p.m.

LEADER: Ann Bolster 731-8610, ext.2117 (day).

Sat., Dec.18. Party & Carol Singing.

338 First Avenue (numbers limited). Call Nanette 730-2229 or Erl 820-8157 to register before Dec.12.

Sat., Jan.8. Gatineau Park.

Intermediate skiers (if snow permits).

Depart 9:30 a.m. (parking fee).

LEADER: Nanette Whitwam, 730-5417.

Sun., Jan. 9. Southern Gatineau

No Park fee. Easy afternoon skiing. Some hills.

Depart 1:00 p.m.

LEADER: Elizabeth Mason, 729-6596.

Sat., Jan. 15. Herridge Cabin.

Easy skiing. Some long hills. Parking fee.

Depart: 9:30 a.m.

LEADER: Geoff Berry 731-4832.

Sun., Jan. 16. Gatineau Park

Blue and some red trails. **Not for beginners.**

Parking fee. Depart: 9:30 a.m.

LEADER: Dorothy Belter, 523-4420.

Sat., Jan. 22. Gatineau Park. (15-20 km)

Intermediate skiers. Be prepared for hills. Park fee. Depart: 9:30 a.m.

LEADER: Barbara Kreiger, 235-0604.

Sun., Jan. 23. Old School House.

Snowshoe Outing (With a fire to warm up!).

Beginner skiers can go on their own. Bring lunch. Depart 12:00 noon.

LEADER: David Spector, 829-6802.

OTTAWA CLUB contd.

Sun., Jan. 30. Gatineau Park.

Intermediate skiers. Park fee. Depart 9:00 a.m.

LEADER: Peter Brebner, 729-8178.

Sat., Feb. 5. Gatineau Park.

Moderate difficulty. Part fee. Depart 9:00 a.m.

LEADER: Alex Bissett, 828-4363.

Sun., Feb. 6. Crystal Bay Area.

Afternoon ski for beginning skiers (plus).

Depart: 12:30 p.m.

LEADER: Irene Elce, 829-3250.

Sat., Feb. 12. To Earth Star Loop.

Flat ski of approx. 12 km. Lunch around camp fire. Depart: 3:30 a.m.

LEADER: Nanette Whitwam, 730-5417.

Sun., Feb. 13. Gatineau Park.

Ski (not for inexperienced). Park fee. Depart 9:30 a.m.

LEADER: Bev. Armstrong, 738 0310

Sun., Feb. 20. Afternoon snowshoeing.

Destination to be determined. Depart 12:30 p.m.

LEADER: David Spector, 829-6802.

Sat., Feb. 26. Gatineau Park.

Experienced skiers only (4-5 hours ski).

Depart: 10:00 a.m.

LEADER: Elizabeth Mason, 729-6596.

Sun., Feb. 27. Jack Pine Trail.

Easy ski. Depart: 12:30 p.m.

LEADER: Jean Sunter, 828-6077.

Fri. March 4. Slide Night.

Emmanuel United Church, Smythe Road.

Bring up to 30 of your slides and share hiking, etc. experiences. Time 7:30 p.m. Cost \$3.00 includes refreshments.

Sat., March 12. Nakkertok North Trails.

Experienced skiers only. Depart 9:30 a.m.

LEADER: Phil Herbst, 828-0386.

Sun, March 13. Lusk Lake.

Experienced skiers only. Depart 9:30 a.m.

LEADER: Anneke Schwarz, 724-3247

SAFETY TIP

Leaders should always have a list of phone numbers and names of participants. However, many people live alone and therefore the number is of little help in an emergency. Anyone living alone, should always have on their person the name, phone number and address of one or two contact people. Just a card in your wallet and/or pack could save a lot of time, anxiety and frustration.

Submitted by Nanette Whitwam

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAINS

Do you hike in the Adirondacks and would like to know more about them?

Would you like to get together with other local hikers who enjoy your fondness for the Adirondacks?

Area members of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) are forming a local 'community', the purpose of which is to put like-minded people together who support the ADK's dedication to education, recreation and conservation.

Membership in the ADK includes a subscription to the club magazine **ADIRONDACK**, a 20% discount on publications, a 10% discount on club lodgings and a reduced rate on educational programs.

If you would like to know more about ADK membership or the local organizational effort, please contact Cliff Daly at 534-1851 (H) or at 990-2291 (W).

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES KINGSTON CLUB

The meeting place for all our outings is at the northwest corner of Sears parking lot, unless stated otherwise. When an hike is not listed on Wednesday, meet for a walk at 1:30 p.m. Always come prepared with suitable footwear for rugged hiking. Ill-equipped hikers will be discouraged from starting on hikes. If in doubt about your ability to cope with the outing, call the Hike Leader in advance. Bring a lunch and respect the Hike Leaders directions and decisions. Car pooling will be organized, with passengers contributing towards the gas. Leaders are reminded to send their attendance lists to Peggy Harding, 546-7202. Members willing to lead Spring outings are invited to contact Don Taylor, 384-0603, before the end of December.

Sat., Dec 11. Coffee and Desert Party.

Social gathering at Pat Hardy's place. Bring your favourite dessert. All members are invited to mingle and have fun at our Newsletter editor's home. Time is 7 p.m.

Phone Pat 548-1268 or Dale 384-2959.

Sun., Dec 12. Rideau Trail.

Hike from Sydenham to Gould Lake Conservation Area, about 10 km. Bring a lunch and meet in Sears northwest parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

Leader: Ed Luce, 549-5300.

Sat., Dec 18. Gould Lake.

Hike or ski the Wagon Trail into Gould Lake Barn. Bring a lunch and meet in Sears northwest parking lot at 10 a.m.

leader: Nancy Young, 549-8856

Sun., Jan 2. Rideau Trail.

Ski the hydro hill south of Murton Road, if snow. If ground is dry, hike from Elevator Bay to Bullen Road, 9km. Bring a lunch. Meet Sears northwest parking lot 9:30 a.m.

Leader: Jean Thompson, 544-0340.

Sat., Jan 8. Lemoines Point.

Ski or hike this Conservation Area from north to south. Bring a lunch and eat at Lynn's place. Meet in Sears northwest parking lot at 10 a.m.

Leader: Lynn Nolan, 389-8747.

Wed., Jan 12. Little Cataraqui Conservation Area.

Hike or ski these trails. Bring a lunch. Meet in Sears northwest parking lot at 10 a.m.

Leader: Pauline McMichael, 544-1648.

Sun., Jan 16. Family Day at Little Cataraqui.

Hike, ski, snowshoe or skate at the Conservation Area with family members. Bring your lunch. Meet in Sears northwest parking lot at 10 a.m. There is an entrance fee for each car.

Leader: Dale Ross, 384-2959.

Sat., Jan 22. Rideau Trail.

Hike from Sydenham to Gould Lake Conservation Area, about 10 km. Bring a lunch and meet in Sears northwest parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

Leader: Mike Amodeo, 634-8628.

Sun., Jan 30. Frontenac Park.

Ski or hike the ridge between Black or Bear Lakes and Little Clear Lake Loop. Suitable terrain for novices and intermediate skiers. Novices will pass difficult terrain, 12 - 17 km.

Wed., Feb 9. Frontenac Park.

Hike or ski the Little Salmon Lake Loop, 15 km. There is an entrance fee for vehicles to the park. Wear strong footwear and bring a lunch. Meet in Sears northwest parking lot at 10 a.m.

Leader: Joan Hughes, 549-6263.

Sun., Feb 13. Opinicon Loop.

Snowshoe or hike the Opinicon Loop, 18 km. Bring a lunch and meet in Sears northwest parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

Leader: Larry Dyke, 389-6692.

KINGSTON CLUB contd.

Winter Ski Weekend - Feb 25, 26, 27.

Ottawa weekend with x-country skiing in the Camp Fortune area. Bus leaves from Sears on Friday 9:30 am, returning Sunday evening. Skiing arrangements made by Arne Henrikson, 544-0465. Accommodations arranged by Peck Peckover 544-4190. Refer to Fall '93 Newsletter - issued 89, page 12 for details.

Sun., Mar 6, Charleston Lake.

Hike/ski Charleston Lake area. Group might be split into novices and advanced skiers, due to terrain. Distance up to 20 km. Bring lunch and meet in Sears northwest parking lot at 9 a.m.

Leader: Allan Tattersall, 549-4080.

Wed., Mar 9, Little Cataraqui Conservation

Area. Hike the various trails in this area. There is a vehicle entrance fee. Bring a lunch, meet in Sears northwest parking lot at 10 a.m.

Leader: Peggy Harding, 546-7202.

Sat., Mar 12, Rideau Trail.

Hike the trail from Cataraqui Cemetery to Elginberg Road, 9 km. Be prepared for wet areas. Bring a lunch and meet in Sears northwest parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

Leader: Alberta Edgar, 542-9662.

Sun., Mar 20, Kingsford Dam Trail.

Hike or ski in the northern area of Frontenac Park. Bring a lunch and meet in Sears northwest parking lot at 9 a.m.

Leader: Harry Burgstaller, 549-4832.

Sat., Mar 26, Rideau Trail.

Hike the Bullen Road to Elginberg Road and return. Waterproof footwear is advised. Bring a lunch and meet in Sears northwest parking lot at 10 a.m.

Leader: Betty McIver, 549-8028.

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES CENTRAL CLUB

Our winter venue will generally be cross country skiing and on occasions where there are no advertised outings we will most likely have outings to Murphys Point Provincial Park on their nicely groomed trails. For more information ring the hot line at 264-8338.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4. - MURPHYS POINT

PROVINCIAL PARK. Hike the point trail and spot the terrain for the upcoming skiing season. Wrap up well and bring a lunch and meet at Conlon Farm at 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Mary Charlton, 236-6802

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16. - PURDON FARM.

Join us for a ski over rolling country on unbroken trails. Not too difficult. Bring lunch and meet at Sylvania Lodge. near McDonalds Corners at 10:00 a.m.

Leader: Don Sherwin, 268-2447

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13. - MOUNT

PAKENHAM. Ski on well groomed trails at this resort. Some of the runs get the pulse in good order. Bring a lunch or Pig out on junk food at the snack bar. There is a trail charge of \$5.00 to \$6.00. Meet at Petrocan filling station at corner of Highways 44 & 15 at 10:00 a.m.

Leader: Don Sherwin, 268-2447

SUNDAY, MARCH 12. - MURPHYS POINT PROVINCIAL PARK.

Finish the season off with an outing at our home base with its gently sloping terrain. Bring lunch and meet at the ski lodge at 10:00 a.m.

Leader: John Miller, 264-8338.

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

September 1st, 1992 to August 31st, 1993

OPERATING ACCOUNT

REVENUE

MEMBERSHIP FEES;

nc6482

renewal 7942

life 2000

Total membership fees 16424

DONATIONS 1866

INTEREST 2171

MISCELLANEOUS 14

A.G.M. 845

TOTAL REVENUE 21,320

EXPENDITURES

NEWSLETTER;

printing 3017

postage, env./etc. 1957

Total Newsletter 4974

OPERATION COSTS;

postage/phone 1448

copies/paper/cards 95

PO Box 58

awards/certificates 303

Total Operation costs 1904

MEETINGS;

AGM 800

Board 551

conferences 167

Total Meetings 1518

CLUB SUPPORT;

Ottawa 1765

Kingston 1000

Perth 200

Total Club Support 2965

PUBLICITY;

Brochures 1192

Map lamination 147

LIABILITY INSURANCE 1150

AFFILIATIONS

FON, FFP, Trails 160

LEGAL COSTS 879

MISCELLANEOUS 146

TOTAL EXPENDITURE 15,035

GAIN FOR YEAR 6,285

PUBLICATION/MERCHANDISING ACCOUNT

REVENUE

SALE;

Guidebooks 14367

Wall maps 764

Pin 84

Decals 8

Crests 142

Postage recovered 574

TOTAL REVENUE 15,939

EXPENDITURE

Guidebook - 3rd Edition 11008

Guidebook - marketing, post 755

Wall maps - mailing tubes 63

TOTAL EXPENDITURE; 11,826

GAIN FOR YEAR 4,113

CORRIDOR PRESERVATION FUND

REVENUE

Donation 356

Bequests 0

Investment Interest 780

TOTAL REVENUE 1,136

EXPENDITURE

Bridge (Richmond) 1200

TOTAL EXPENDITURE 1200

DEFICIT FOR YEAR (64)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT AUGUST 31st.

Balances

Operation Account 24,368

Publications/

Merchandising 29,099

Corridor Preservation 19,880

Deferred Revenue 13,500

TOTAL 86,847

Reconciliation

Term Deposits 48,638

Savings -

Operating 10,168

Corridor Preservation 5,091

Chequing Account 22,950

TOTAL 86,847

THE RTA BRIDGE AT RICHMOND

by Peter Brebner

There was a day last November when I did not think that the drainage ditch near Richmond would ever have a footbridge crossing it. Snow was falling and normally I would be pleased at the possibility of an early ski season. The cartage of hydro poles had just been arranged and I phoned up John Murphy at Nepean Hydro to learn that the poles were no longer accessible because of the snow in their yard. The footbridge had certainly become what is commonly called "a learning experience." If the building of a footbridge over "that dam ditch" has tended to be of continued discussion in the Ottawa club it is because it represents a lot of things that we have never done before.

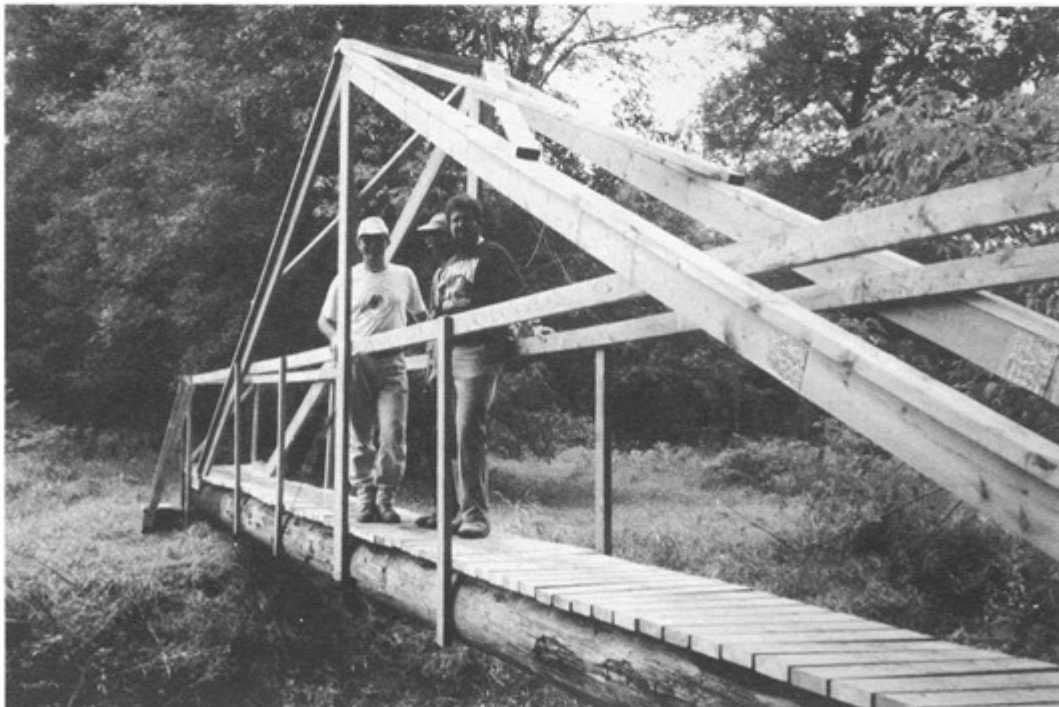
Firstly, it is a bridge over a municipal drainage ditch. We had to take our footbridge proposal to Goulbourn Township council for approval. The encroachment agreement that the council required then had to be checked by our insurance company then amended and approved by the RTA board of directors.

Being over a municipal drain our bridge had to satisfy the township's requirement of unencumbered flow of water and ice and a bridge

design that limited use to pedestrians only. A ditch thirty feet wide required searching for appropriate materials. Forty to fifty foot hydro poles were suggested by Jim Bradford of Nakkertok Ski Club. I soon found out that most of the hydro utilities cut up their used hydro poles thus saving themselves the expense of hauling them away on a trailer. When poles were found and transport had been arranged the snow was already falling.

Over the winter a very important thing happened. Leon Sokolowski, who had been hiking on many of the Ottawa club end to end hikes, offered his assistance to the club. As is the rule in all volunteer organizations this assistance met with immediate approval and the creation of a new position of Major Projects Coordinator in the Ottawa club. At one point I was afraid that the haste of Leon's elevation from assistance to coordinator would make him the shortest lived term on the executive in club history. Thankfully Leon did not bolt. Over the winter Leon reworked the design of the bridge, incorporating kingposts to strengthen the bridge.

At about the same time our involvement with the Eastern Ontario Model Forest was showing potential for funding assistance to the mounting expenses of the footbridge project.



This spring was long in coming and it was a wet spring. Poles were delivered to the end of the maintained road by Dundas Power Line. Ground conditions prevented a local farmer, Leonard McCoy, from hauling the poles across the drainage ditch until the end of July.

Once the poles were across the ditch the work began in earnest. A crew of five went out one weekend to place the poles on log cribs at either end. This involved the use of a chain hoist and derrick constructed of two by fours. Levelling of the two poles with two by fours was started but lack of materials prevented completion.

The next weekend lumber was delivered where the maintained road ends. Bob Drader, a local farmer, provided a wagon for the lumber and then hauled it out to the ditch for major construction to begin on Sunday August 14. While levelling was completed by one crew, another crew began cutting the decking for the bridge. As the decking was being nailed on Leon began building the kingposts for the bridge. The bugs were only a minor inconvenience and the open field to the north provided a small cooling breeze. The first kingpost went into place without any trouble but the second one did not fit. While about six of us held this triangular structure ten feet high and forty six feet long Leon decided quickly what should be done and soon the second kingpost was in place. A slight rain began about five o'clock but the work continued on the railings. The rails and stair case railings were completed on the labour day weekend.

The crew consisted of Tom Bach, Peter Brebner, Fred Grodde, Rolley Hamilton, Linda Hayes, Ron Maybury, Heidi Raeder, Wilf Raeder, Ed Simpson and Mark Watson. Special thanks to Fred Grodde for the use of the electrical generator and Geoff Barry for hauling in cut lengths of hydro poles last fall.

Finally, a very large thank you to Leon Sokolowski. A year has gone by and snow is falling again but it is also falling on a bridge over a ditch just west of Richmond.

WINTER ON THE RIDEAU

TRAIL by Hilary Girt

Last winter's deep snow and perfect conditions led me, a lapsed cross-country skier, to try it again. I discovered a new aspect of the Rideau Trail in Murphy's Point Provincial Park -- the Central Club's favourite winter rendez-vous.

In early February I was thinking of the snowdrops and crocii blooming in England, as the weather forecaster predicted a record low high of -20°C, with no sun, but fortunately little wind. This was my first venture into the park on skies along an erstwhile road whose dangerous curves had never before been apparent. Would I make it round the corner or slip down the steep embankment and crash into the lake meeting an icy death? My speed accelerated -- then I chickened out and decided to fall down.

Once in the park we skied along the trails groomed by the Tay Valley Ski Cross-country Ski Club, following roads and summer trails. At one point we set off through the bush and out onto the lake, pausing at the stark white frigid beach where a scant six months previously I had lounged in a swimsuit. It was difficult to imagine!

The following weekend 30 cm of snow had softly blanketed Eastern Ontario making a perfect day. Freshly groomed trails, - 10°C, very little wind and sunshine. Firs and pines near the park entrance were bowed down with dollops of icing, but birches, maples and other deciduous trees stood upright and naked, their twiggy shadows patterning the snow.

Traffic signs, change huts and half-buried picnic tables bore witness to the park's other life of stereos, dogs, beer, tents and children, but today all was silent. Plenty of signs of wildlife -- deer tracks, squirrels hopping down from trees and quickly up the next one, tiny mice and bigger porcupines, one perched high in a tree. The lake was frozen solid apart from incoming streams where water flowed between arctic-like snow floes.

An excellent feature of the park is the chalet, where we ate lunch in semi-warmth. Out of the window we could watch chickadees, nuthatches

WINTER ON THE RIDEAU TRAIL (Cont'd)

and squirrels scoffing at the bird feeder. After lunch we continued to ski around the park, absorbing the sunshine and fresh air. A perfect day!

Our final trip to the park was on March 21, the so-called "first day of spring". The previous week had seen the "Storm of the Century" and fresh snow made the scene anything but springlike. It was getting warmer, however, and there was a lightness about the bare brown branches of the trees, as sap began to rise.

Ski conditions were good, that is to say, slow and I learnt to control my skis better than ever before. I can now snowplough down hills and herringbone up them, a great improvement. I had a new red and white ski wax, which was much in demand -- perfect for the late winter conditions.

In the morning we skied two trails, spotting squirrels and hearing chickadees. After lunch at the chalet we set off towards McParland House, where we headed down to the lake past fresh deer tracks. We crossed a stream and noticed an aspen twig being pulled into a beaver lodge. A minute later and the beaver him\herself peeked out. The snow cover on the cliffs bordering the lake made the slope stand out in sharp relief, a vista you would never see later into the year. White birch trunks contrasted with green conifers, for a beautiful scene.

At the end of the day we headed up the road towards the exit of the park. It was now or never. At the top of the steeply sloping and dangerous curve I resolutely turned round and skied back down round the bend, terrified, but upright and exhilarated.

If you go:

The Tay Valley Cross-country Ski Club operates a heated chalet and 25 km groomed trails in the Murphy's Point Provincial Park south of Perth. The trails are divided into 4 loops of 6 km each, and are in the novice category. A car park for winter use is located 100 m from the main park entrance. Ski club membership for the season is

\$20 for an adult, \$15 for a student, and \$35 for a family. A day-use permit is also available for \$5 per car. The season membership includes a winter permit which can be used in all provincial parks.

GUIDEBOOK PUBLICATION

REQUEST FOR ROUTE CHANGES

The next edition of the RTA Guidebook is planned for publication in mid 1994 or as soon as current stocks are reduced.

The route committees are requested to submit approved changes to the address below before 1 March 1994.

Also, anyone who is aware of errors in the present edition or who have suggestions for improvement in future releases are invited to forward these to the co-ordinator at;

G.J. Hinderks,
2014 Hollybrook Cres.,
Gloucester, Ont., K13 7Y6

Phone: (613) 747-7751

FOUND A FILM CARTRIDGE

In the spring of this year Don Sherwin and myself (John Miller) were plotting out a new route around the old mining base and bunkhouse with Grover Lighthouse the property owner. During the course of our walk Grover found a film cartridge which had been dropped by a person using the trail. Grover volunteered to get the film developed, which he did, to find that the photographs were of wild flowers. If the owner would like to claim the films they can be obtained from Grover by phoning him at 267-1871 and reimbursing him for the cost of developing the film.

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION END TO END AWARDS

NUM	HIKER	START	FINISH	AWARD	LOCATION
<u>1992</u>					
109	Horst Dannehl	7 Sep 91	15 Sep 91	Sep 92	Ottawa
110	André Mercier	10 Nov 90	22 Oct 91	Sep 92	Kingston
111	Charles F. Rowe	Nov 90	30 Jun 92	Sep 92	Kingston
112	Christine Banfill	21 Sep 78	02 Aug 92	Sep 92	Ottawa
113	Lynne Hinderks	Mar 90	10 Aug 92	Sep 92	Ottawa
114	Peter Roberts	9 Apr 89	12 Aug 92	Sep 92	Ottawa
115	Maxine Oldham	9 Apr 89	12 Aug 92	Sep 92	Ottawa
116	Barbara MacVicar	Oct 91	12 Sep 92	Sep 92	Ottawa
<u>1993</u>					
117	Jean Valliant		14 Nov 92	Sep 93	Ottawa
118	Wilfred Raeder	20 Apr 92	15 Nov 92	Sep 93	Ottawa
119	Heidi Raeder	20 Apr 92	15 Nov 92	Sep 93	Ottawa
120	Leon Sokolowski	20 Apr 92	15 Nov 92	Sep 93	Ottawa
121	Laraine Laughland		15 Nov 92	Sep 93	Ottawa
122	R. John Haley	17 Aug 91	15 Nov 92	Sep 93	Ottawa
123	Liis Painter	17 Mar 90	15 Nov 92	Sep 93	Ottawa
124	Gertrude Garneau	Fall 88	15 Nov 92	Sep 93	Ottawa
125	Jacoba Fuykschot	19 Nov 88	22 May 93	Sep 93	Ottawa
126	Annette J. Murray	22 Sep 91	23 May 93	Sep 93	Ottawa
127	Don Landry	2 Jul 92	2 Jul 93	Sep 93	Montreal
128	Marion Landry	2 Jul 92	2 Jul 93	Sep 93	Montreal
129	André-Gil Cusson	21 May 93	30 May 93	Sep 93	Montreal
130	Jean Thompson	29 Apr 90	11 Aug 93	Sep 93	Kingston
131	Ian A. Reid	90	93	Sep 93	Ottawa
132	Hugh Pratt	Jun 91	Aug 93	Sep 93	Kingston
133	Wayne Clifford	18 Aug 92	21 Aug 93	Sep 93	Niagara
134	Shah Khan	18 Aug 91	21 Aug 93	Sep 93	Club,
135	Elsie Koop	18 Aug 91	21 Aug 93	Sep 93	Bruce
136	Willa Leach	18 Aug 91	21 Aug 93	Sep 93	Trail
137	Gloria Miskely	18 Aug 91	21 Aug 93	Sep 93	Assoc.
138	Cathy Mooney	18 Aug 91	21 Aug 93	Sep 93	
139	Josie O'Brien	18 Aug 91	21 Aug 93	Sep 93	
140	Gregg Trott	18 Aug 91	21 Aug 93	Sep 93	
141	Rob. W. Butler	4 May 93	3 Sep 93	Oct 93	Toronto
142	Louise Crawford	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	
143	Monica Feran	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	
144	Norman Preston	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	
145	Patrick Shipton	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	
146	Russell Short	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	
147	Joe Slaney	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	
148	Hana Zimmowitz	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	Bruce
149	Gwen Lynch	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	Trail
150	John Candra	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	Group,
151	Vlasta Candra	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	Toronto
152	Birley Cowan	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	
153	Ursula Nocon	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	
154	Margaret McCourt	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	
155	Pat Lever	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	
156	Vicky Gavino	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	
157	Joyce Taylor	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	
158	Doug Sloan	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	
159	Nina Carlisle	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	Bruce
160	Elsa Karko	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	Trail
162	Margaret Robbins	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	Group,
163	Reg Freeman	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	Toronto,
164	Rachel Bernard	17 Oct 92	16 Oct 93	Oct 93	

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AGM 1993 REPORT

The biggest item on the agenda of this year's Annual General Meeting of the Rideau Trail Association was a fee increase. Starting in April, 1994 the membership fee will be \$20 and life membership, which has been set up as a charitable donations to the Association, has gone to \$300. Membership in the RTA is still one of the best bargains you could find. The fee hike was passed 62 for, 18 against.

The goal of the fee hike is to make the cost of a membership cover the expenses of a membership, largely the expenses of producing and mailing the Newsletter.

The raise almost but not quite does this.

Betty McIver reviewed the report from the Strategic Planning Meetings which were a major effort of the Board this year. Items of particular interest to the membership were facilities on the trail, and merchandise (T-shirts).

Erwin Wenholt read the Membership Director's report, or, Paul's epistle to the Roamers, in the absence of Paul Smith. Total membership as of August 31st, 1993 was 1145.

The slate of officers and the list of end-to-enders and other awards are found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

OTTAWA CLUB - NEW YEARS EVE SOCIAL NIGHT:

Irene Elce is offering her home for a New Years Celebration with Rideau Trail Friends. Number is limited. Registration is necessary. Contact Laraine Laughland, 723-8851 by Dec. 24th.

SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATION: Membership year is from April 1st to March 31st. Dues paid after November 1st will be applied to the next membership year. 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 local club and association activities. **To join or renew complete the form below, place it in an envelope and mail to:**

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

Ottawa Phone Number (613) 730-2229
Kingston Phone Number (613) 545-0823
Central Phone Number (613) 264-8338

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| () | Annual Family Membership. | \$20.00 |
| () | Patron (Life Membership). | \$300.00* |
| () | Guide Book - Members. | \$15.00 |
| | Non-Members. | \$20.00 |
| | (plus \$2.00 postage and handling). | |
| () | Car Sticker (Free to new members). | \$1.00 |
| () | Crest. | \$2.00 |
| () | Enamelled pin. | \$3.00 |
| () | Rideau Trail Wall Map | \$10.00 |
| | (includes \$4.00 postage & handling). | |
| () | Donation to RTA. | (\$.)* |
| () | Donation to the Corridor fund | (\$.)* |

Prices subject to change.

* Qualify for income tax deduction.

PLEASE CHECK New ☐ Renewal ☐

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone: _____

CHARITABLE REGISTRATION No. 0041733-56-11.