



The Rideau Trail NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1995

ISSUE NO. 98



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

Submissions for the next newsletter are encouraged and should be sent, to arrive by **FEBRUARY 1, 1996**, to:

Paul Johnston

80 Princess Street, Apartment 5

Kingston, Ontario, K7L 1A5

Telephone: 613-544-7213

Paul would like submissions on IBM-compatible disks if possible. Otherwise, text should be typed, and a printed copy to accompany a floppy disk is a good idea. Pictures are also welcome and, although colour photographs with good definition can be reproduced, black and white photographs are preferred because they print more clearly.

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

ISSN 0709-7085

THE RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1995-96

President		Jim Blain	Elgin	359-6282
Vice President		Graham Creedy	Ottawa	789-1657
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	Kingston	Allan Tattersall	Kingston	549-4080
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Club Representatives	Ottawa	Peter Andrews	Ottawa	728-3016
	Kingston	Bob Chadwick	Bath	352-1052
	Central	Don Boyle	Perth	267-2982

Photo Credits	Courtesy of	Subject
COVER:	Norm McLeod	Hike after Annual Meeting, Jones Falls, September 23, 1995.
PAGE 3:	Norm McLeod	Outstanding Service Award Recipient Emma Martin, Sep. 23, 1995.
PAGE 3:	Sig Swanbergson	Arch Mason at Flagpole Rock in Frontenac Park, November 4, 1986.
PAGE 13:	Art Campbell	Wednesday Walkers, Huron Lodge, Gatineau Park, September 20, 1995.
PAGE 14:	Sandy Benoît	Rideau Trail Association 25th Anniversary T-Shirt.
PAGE 16:	Erwin Wendholt	Timber on the Trail Volunteers. See Article, page 11. September 1995.

KINGSTON CLUB — OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD



In her 80th year, Emma Martin is being officially recognized for her cheerful and generous contributions to our club's operation. She joined the RTA in 1975 and the executive of the Kingston Club as Publicity Coordinator in 1980. At the 10th Anniversary mark, membership in the Association had fallen off and Emma did her utmost to change that. At the same time, leading the occasional hike was also on her agenda.

As a Trail Maintainer, passionately concerned about her section, days were filled with letter writing and phone calls as she negotiated for the trail down Portland Avenue in Sydenham, or agitated re garbage in the bush north of Gully Road. The latter problem was solved by personally opening garbage and finding the culprit's name. He'll remember Emma Martin!

Emma left the executive in 1987, and for a time manned the RTA phone line, responding to enquiries as they arose. Many an out of town hiker would be met and started on his way. In spite of her busy schedule, Wednesday Walkers are still often invited for tea after a hike.

Continued on next page

IN MEMORIAM — ARCH MASON



Arch Mason passed away at the Kingston General Hospital after a very brief illness, on September 29, 1995, just before his eighty-third birthday.

Arch moved to Kingston from Toronto in 1981 and made it his retirement home. His daughter Elizabeth, an active member of the Rideau Trail Association in Ottawa, presented him with a membership in the Kingston Club. From then on he was a dedicated member, participating in hikes, maintaining a section of the trail, and working at becoming an "End-to-End". He held various positions on the executive including Hike Ontario Representative and Vice President at Kingston. He received his "End-to-End" award in 1987 and took on a two-year stint as Membership Director, a time consuming and demanding position at which he worked faithfully and diligently.

Arch was always ready to step in where help was needed, whether it was mailing of the Newsletter, trail construction or trail clearing. The trail sections he adopted were east on the Narrows, then a portion of the Opinicon Loop,

Continued on next page

Emma Martin — continued

Other honours have also come to Emma this year. In June she was one of twenty-two to receive the "Ontario Senior Achievement Award" at Queen's Park. Then in July, "The City of Kingston Senior Citizen of the Year Award" was presented to her. A further exciting honour came when our Mayor announced that a small plot of land, bordering on the Cataraqui River, would be named "The Emma Martin Park". This bit of land has received tender loving care from Emma over the years, and her efforts have not gone unrewarded!

There are many tales we could tell you about our friend Emma. She has lots of heart and her outlook on life has always been "I just wanted to see if I could do it!"

Jean Thompson and Moira Drummond

Arch Mason — continued

and in later years the Elevator Bay section. On his 81st birthday he retired from active participation in the Association but still carried on as tax consultant with the Volunteer Bureau and as a driver for the Cancer Society. Just a week before he died, he successfully passed his annual driver's test.

He carried his Rideau Trail emblem proudly, on his favourite jacket, circled by his Volunteer, End-to-End and Life Membership awards. Arch walked much of the trail by himself, mainly in the Ottawa area, which meant going out and back to his car. He remembered particularly how cold and lonely the Eagleson Road was in November. By 1991 he had completed the final sections for a two-way hike of the trail for his own sense of achievement. He didn't make an official claim.

Arch loved conversation, and anyone who walked with him heard of his six children, his many bus tours and motor trips and his beloved cottage on Georgian Bay.

How well he is remembered by family and friends! Submitted for them, in loving memory, by

Moira Drummond

A LOOK AT THE FUTURE

At the end of my two-year term, I wish to welcome Jim Blain as the new President. I would like to review what has been recently accomplished, and to identify the challenges which remain to be dealt with.

In November 1994 at the Bass Lake Lodge, near Lombardy, a meeting was held to discuss the priorities which concern the future of the Rideau Trail. The routing of the Trail and the question of facilities on the Trail were considered. It was recommended that a Task Group be formed to look at the routing of the Trail and related matters.

The Task Group has been constituted with representatives from each Trail sector and from Parks Canada. We are also hoping to have a number of university students work with us on specific projects. Points of historical, geographical, geological, and environmental interest will be identified throughout the broad Kingston-Ottawa corridor, and an ideal route to include most of these features on the main Trail or on loops is to be drawn up.

From here, a realistic route will be planned, taking into account the realities of land ownership and the need for an attractive, hikeable Trail. The end result will consist of much of the present route, although a number of less attractive sections have already been slated for improvement.

The other concern discussed at the Bass Lake meeting was land ownership and relations with landowners. The appointment of a Trail Coordinator to the Board is one move towards improvement in this area. Regular meetings will be held with Club officers responsible for Maintenance and Routes & Negotiations. There is a critical need for identification of landowners and closer relations between Trail Maintainers and landowners. For the protection of all, a policy of risk management along the Trail is essential. Better signage, parking, and other facilities all require attention.

The year 1996 is the 25th anniversary of the Rideau Trail, and committees are already at work planning projects for this occasion. The Central Club has volunteered to host a very special Annual Meeting and a number of other special events will take place, as well as improvements to the Trail. We all hope to make this a very special year.

Ron Maybury

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORT, AUG. 31, 1995

OPERATING ACCOUNT BDGT. ACT'L BDGT.
 1994-95 1994-95 1995-96

REVENUE

Membership fees - new	4000	4763	4300
- renewal	10000	11475	10000
- life	<u>1800</u>	<u>880</u>	<u>1200</u>
Total membership fees	15800	17118	15500
Donations	1500	1511	1000
Bank & Investment interest	3000	3207	2000
Annual general meeting	800	34	300
Miscellaneous	<u>0</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>100</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	21,100	21,928	18,900

EXPENDITURE

Newsletter - printing	3500	3277	3300
- postage/env./etc	<u>3000</u>	<u>2909</u>	<u>3200</u>
Total Newsletter	6500	6186	6500
Operation costs			
- postage/phone	1700	1158	1700
- copies	400	132	300
- computer	650	57	300
- PO Box	60	62	70
- awards/certifs.	<u>300</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>250</u>
Total Operation costs	3110	1569	2620
Meetings - AGM	800	140	300
- board	300	138	300
- conferences	<u>200</u>	<u>556</u>	<u>800</u>
Total Meetings	1300	834	1400
Club support - Ottawa	2585	1000	3100
- Kingston	2100	1000	2100
- Central	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>
Total Club support	4885	2200	5400
Publicity - brochures	1200	963	1200
- miscellaneous	150	103	100
Liability insurance	1350	1447	1500
Affiliations - HO,FON,FFP,OTC	350	160	200
Legal costs & property tax	500	140	200
Computer, printer & software	0	0	250
Miscellaneous	<u>0</u>	<u>288</u>	<u>100</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	19,345	13,890	19,470
GAIN (DEFICIT)	1,755	8,038	(570)

PUBLICATIONS & MER- BDGT. ACT'L BDGT.
CHANDISE ACCOUNT 1994-95 1994-95 1995-96

REVENUE

Sales - guidebooks	8000	10210	8000
- wall maps	500	390	400
- pins, decals, crests	200	113	100
Postage recovered	<u>600</u>	<u>475</u>	<u>400</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	9,300	11,188	8,900

EXPENDITURE

Guidebook - publishing	11000	11441	12000
Guidebook - marketing, post.	600	1063	800
Wall maps - mailing tubes	70	46	100
Restocking - badges etc.	0	345	0
RT Anniversary T-shirts	0	100	200
Transfer to Preservation Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>16000</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	11,670	28,995	13,100
GAIN (DEFICIT)	(2,370)	(17,807)	(4,200)

RIDEAU TRAIL PRESERVATION FUND

REVENUE

Donations	300	785	400
Bequests	0	0	0
Transfer from Pub./Mer. a/c	0	16000	0
Investment Interest	<u>1000</u>	<u>1240</u>	<u>1500</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	1,300	18,025	1,900

EXPENDITURE

	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2000</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	0	0	2,000
GAIN (DEFICIT)	1,300	18,025	(100)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT AUGUST 31,1995

Balances

Operating Account	39,993
Publications/Merchandising Account	18,118
Rideau Trail Preservation Fund	36,736
Deferred Revenue (Life memberships)	<u>13,500</u>
TOTAL	108,347

Reconciliation

Term Deposits - Operating	58,726
- Rideau Trail Preservation	22,791
Chequing Account (less O/S cheques)	<u>26,830</u>
TOTAL	108,347

KILLARNEY AND MANITOULIN A LAND NOT FOR TAMING

It was July 31 when twelve intrepid hikers set out in sauna-bath heat for the northern rim of Georgian Bay. The next day, we rolled into the town of Killarney, which would be our base camp for the next week's hiking.

The land of Killarney Provincial Park and its surroundings is beautiful and ungentle, a land of rock. The pine forest wedges itself where it can among great humps and slabs of granite of many startling colours — in some places coral-pink, in others dun yellow or white. (My pen is weak; look at the Group of Seven paintings if you really want to know what it's like.) Through this rock forest climbs and twists the La Cloche-Silhouette Trail, which follows a circular route through the park. To hike the entire trail would take 7-10 days; our group took day hikes eastward and westward from the main parking lot at Lake George. "Not for the unfit" warn the signs at the trailhead, and how right they are! Those beautiful rocks are smooth, steep and treacherous (as one of our members discovered to his grief). The traveller does not walk here; he or she clambers and scrambles and occasionally slides. The hike up to "the Crack" at the top of Killarney Ridge finishes with several hundred chaotic feet of white slabs and boulders. There are a handful of shorter (2-3 mile) hikes, such as the Cranberry Bog and Chickanishing Trails, but in Killarney "shorter" does not necessarily mean "easier". Hikers are well compensated for their efforts, though; from every hilltop are views of the tree-strewn rock, glimpses of bright lake in the valleys, and on the horizon the blue expanse of Georgian Bay, sprinkled with islands and sails.

Hikes often ended with a swim in Lake George, where the water is a glass-like green and beautifully clear. Unfortunately, the clarity is due to acid rain emissions from nearby Sudbury and from the US, which have killed a number of lakes in the Killarney region — no vegetation, no insect life can survive in the tainted water. However, pollution controls have improved the air quality in the past few years, and experts believe that life may be returning to the dead lakes.

For the second week of the holiday, it was on to Manitoulin Island. The world's largest island in a freshwater lake, Manitoulin is gentle only by comparison to Killarney — rough scrub grass, long low hills, a profusion of goldenrod and Queen Anne's lace, and untidy villages, some of them seeming almost deserted. There was more touring than hiking on this portion of the trip. We took in two trails that climb up the northernmost

end of the Niagara Escarpment: the Cup and Saucer Trail (I still don't know why they call it that!) and the M'Chigeeng Trail on the West Bay Reserve. Both offer challenging climbs, pleasant walks among fern and cedar, and brilliant views at the end.

Many of the attractions on the island had nothing to do with hiking. There were the museums at Sheguiandah and Gore Bay, overflowing with artifacts from pioneer days, which do not seem as long ago in Manitoulin as they do in Ottawa. There was the drive through lonely miles of woodland to Meldrum Bay and the Mississagi Lighthouse at the westernmost tip of the island. There were the cave on the cliffside at Lake Kagawong and the long sands of Providence Bay. There was fresh fish right off the boat, and hawberries as made into ice cream and jelly. But for me the highlight of the week was the visit to the Pow-wow on the Wikwemikong Reserve. The "Wiky" Pow-wow is one of the biggest Aboriginal cultural events in North America, and people attended from all over Canada and the US: dancers in brilliant feathers and bells, some shuffling sedately in rhythm while others leaped and gyrated; drummers, singers, and row after row of craft stalls; and a blow-me-away guest appearance by a troupe of Aztecs from Mexico, with their bright flowing capes and three-foot feathered headdresses and their dramatic, whirling dance.

Many thanks, for their planning and coordinating and for arranging the perfect weather, to leaders David Spector (who stuck with us despite the cast — bravo David!) and Bill and Pat Grant. Thanks also to my fellow travellers for the campfires, the laughter, the lunches on the rock and dinners on the wharf, and many other memories.

Millicent Toombs

MISSISSAGI LIGHT

Restless the wavelets wash
and bubble among the black rocks.
The cormorant pauses, wings outspread,
gazing out to seaward,
seeking the silver dragons
at play beyond the world's end.

Millicent Toombs

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION — OTTAWA CLUB ACTIVITIES

The meeting place for all weekend activities is the entrance to the parking lot at Booth and Albert Streets. Car pooling is arranged and each passenger is asked to give a contribution for gas to the driver. In the Gatineau Park participants are liable for the trail fee. We suggest that anyone joining an outing to the Gatineau Park have previous experience of skiing there — hills are frequent and long, even on the easiest trails. Remember that outings are likely to be at least 3 hours or more. Dress in layers, and always have drinks and snacks. Snow conditions may change plans; if doubtful call the Ottawa Club line, 730-2229 or the outing Leader. Leaders, please send sign-up sheets to Nanette Whitwam, 151 Glen Avenue, Ottawa K1S 3A1.

Wednesday Walkers take to their skis as soon as possible. Non-drivers can be picked up at Booth & Albert parking lot entrance; drivers meet at Tom Brown arena, Bayview at Wellington, at 09:30. These are Level 2 or Level 3 outings. Call Nanette 730-5417 or Dorothy 523-4420.

Ski Levels

- 0 Flat terrain, variable length, little experience needed.
- 1 Gentle hills, may be long distance (e.g. > 15 km.).
- 2 Variable terrain, some steep hills, experience essential (Green & Blue trails in Gatineau).
- 3 Long, varied terrain, may be off trails. Level 2 experience essential (Red trails in Gatineau).

Snow-shoeing

David Spector will coordinate outings on Sundays when conditions permit. Call 829-6802 for details. Meeting place in West End of Ottawa.

Saturday December 9

Level 2. Hike/ski as conditions permit. Departs 09:30.
LEADER: Bud Massé 235-4670

Saturday December 16 Party

Celebrate Christmas, the end of the hiking and the start of skiing seasons. Bring finger foods. Time 19:30 at Valerie Wilson's, 151 Glen Avenue, Ottawa. For information call Nanette at 730-5417 or 730-2229.

Sunday January 7 Gatineau Park

Level 1+. Departs 09:30.
LEADER: Pat Clarkin 729-2737

Monday January 8 Meeting

We hope to put more weekend trips on the schedule next year. All interested in leading a weekend trip are invited to a meeting to consider planning requirements, destinations, and publicity. Time 19:30, place to be determined. Call for more information by January 3.
CONTACT: John Barron 828-2296

Saturday January 13 Gatineau Park

Level 2. Departs 09:30.
LEADER: Don Mitchell 749-9537

Sunday January 14 Gatineau Park

Level 1. Departs 13:00.
LEADER: Elizabeth Mason 729-6596

Saturday January 20 Gatineau Park

Level 2. Departs 09:30.
LEADER: Sandy Benoit 682-1087

Sunday January 21 Lac Philippe - Herridge Lodge

Level 1+, 21 km. round trip. Departs 09:00.
LEADER: Geoff Berry 731-4832

Saturday January 27 A Chance For Beginners!

Level 0, go as far as you want — School House available to warm up. Narrow bush trails. Departs 09:30.
LEADER: Nanette Whitwam 730-5417

Sunday January 28 Gatineau Park

Level 2, mainly blue trails. Departs 09:00.
LEADER: Mary Lefebvre 727-0754

Friday February 2 Slide Show

Share your hiking slides — bring about 35 to Emmanuel United Church, 691 Smythe Road at Botsford. Time 19:00 to 22:30. Refreshments provided. \$3 charge. Call 730-2229 for further information.

Saturday February 3 Gatineau Park

Level 2. Departs 09:30.
LEADER: Bev Armstrong 738-0310

Sunday February 4 Lac Philippe Area

Level 2. Departs 09:00.
LEADER: Dennis Scully 565-7710

Saturday February 10 Gatineau Park

Level 2. Departs 09:30.
LEADERS: Art & Ida Campbell 828-0426

Sunday February 11 Western Greenbelt

Level 1+. Departs 09:30.
LEADER: Jean Cottam 726-1596

Ottawa Club Activities Continued

Saturday February 17

Level 1. Departs 09:30.

LEADER: Barbara Thain 241-5082

Sunday February 18 Mer Bleue

Level 1. Departs 09:00.

LEADER: Linda Hayes 749-9537

Saturday February 24 Western Greenbelt

Level 0. Departs 12:30.

LEADER: Erl Cassells 820-8157

Sunday February 25 Gatineau Park

Level 3, no bushwhacking. Departs 09:30.

LEADER: Shirley Scott 747-9559

Friday March 1 Pot Luck Supper

New members welcome! Emmanuel United Church, 691 Smythe Road at Botsford, 18:30 to 22:00. Call 730-2229 to register or come with contribution. Small charge to cover room rental.

Saturday March 2 Gatineau Park

Level 2. Departs 09:30.

LEADER: Don Mitchell 749-9537

Sunday March 3

Level 0 ski with refreshments at the Bennetts'. Departs 12:30. Call 730-2229 to pre-register.

LEADER: Bob Bennett 749-7440

Saturday March 9 Earth Star Loop

Level 1+. Departs 09:30.

LEADER: Nanette Whitwam 730-5417

Sunday March 10 Gatineau Park

Level 2. Departs 09:30.

LEADER: John Young 828-0369

Saturday March 16 Gatineau Park

Level 2. Departs 10:30 (bring lunch).

LEADER: Elizabeth Mason 729-6596

RIDEAU TRAIL CONDITIONS

Comments on conditions along the Rideau Trail can be provided to the Trail Maintenance Coordinators. They will appreciate Trail reports with praises as well as offers of help and suggestions for improvement. They are:

OTTAWA: Peter Andrews 728-3016

CENTRAL: Don Sherwin 264-0759

KINGSTON: Bernie Gates 389-1835

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION CENTRAL CLUB ACTIVITIES

The winter schedule is again made up of cross country ski outings whenever weather permits. In addition to this list, ad hoc outings will be organized when the mood and weather are favourable. We seek your use of our hot line for upcoming events.

Call: 613-264-8338 or our Hot Fax: 613-264-0379.

Sunday December 10 Murphy's Point Prov. Park

Back to our base camp for the Winter. Bring lunch and cross country skis for a trial run! Meet at Conlon Farm at 10:00.

HOMER: John Miller 264-8338

Sunday January 21 Westport Ski Spots

Join our new experience at the winter haven nestled below Foley Mountain. Bring lunch and cross country skis for this leisurely sortie into the winter wilderness. Level 1. We will be led by the host of Gingerbread.

LEADER: Bob Bradley 273-7848

Sunday February 4 Murphy's Point Prov. Park

An active day on our home trail to keep us in shape for our much sought after outing to Mt. Pakenham. Bring lunch and meet at Conlon Farm at 10:00. Contact our WAXING SPECIALIST: Don Boyle 267-2982

Sunday February 18 Mount Pakenham

The height of our winter season is spent on the promised new slopes built up with straw to protect the posterior or other bouncing point. Bring lunch or buy junk stuff on the slope. Cross country skis are useful on this occasion. Meet at Conlon Farm at 09:00 or at Mount Pakenham at 10:00.

DAREDEVIL IN CHARGE: Don Sherwin 264-0759

Saturday March 2 Murphy's Point Prov. Park

A joint hike with our Kingston friends. Bring lunch and cross country skis and be prepared to learn the finer art of standing up on skis in order not to embarrass our cousins to the south. Meet at Conlon Farm at 10:00.

KELLY IN CHARGE: John Miller 264-8338

Sunday March 10 Burgess Would's!

If weather permits we will endeavour to traverse the trail from Burgess Road 5 to Ferrier Road now that the Ottawa Club headed by Geoff Berry has blazoned the trail.

Contact our

"LET'S DO IT" EXPERT: Don Boyle 267-2982

RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION — KINGSTON CLUB ACTIVITIES

The meeting place for all our activities is the northwest corner of Sears parking lot, unless stated otherwise. Wednesday walkers/skiers meet at 13:30, except on the second Wednesday of the month, when an all day outing is scheduled. During the cold season, hikes may be changed to x-country skiing; however, those choosing to snowshoe or hike are welcome to come along. Bring lunch and water, wear strong footwear, and come prepared for weather changes. If in doubt about your ability to cope with the outing, call the Leader in advance. Car pooling will be organized, with passengers contributing towards the gas and park fees. Leaders please send attendance lists to Helga Wennerstrand, 207-67 Village Drive, Kingston, On., K7K 6K6. Members willing to be Leaders for the Spring season, or who wish to suggest new locations to hike, are asked to call Watson Ogilvie at 530-2378 before the end of December.

Saturday December 9 Coffee & Dessert Party

Bring your favourite dessert. Landmark Condominium, 165 Ontario Street. Meet there at 19:00. Buzz Peckover to be let in.

CONTACT: Dale Ross 384-2959

Sybil Peckover 544-9190

Sunday December 10 Opinicon Loop

Hike in the Lindsay Lake area. Approximately 10 km. Level 2. Some bushwhacking possible. Gas \$4. Meet at 09:00.

LEADER: Dugald Carmichael 542-8628

Wednesday December 13 Gananoque

Some short trails in the Gananoque area. Level 1. Gas \$3. Meet at 10:00.

LEADER: Cathy Cutts 542-5414

Saturday December 16 Rideau Trail

Hike or ski Unity Road to Orser Road. 9 km. Level 1. Gas \$1. Meet at 09:30

LEADER: Watson Ogilvie 530-2378

Saturday December 30

Hike or ski. The location and activity to depend on the weather. Level 1. Gas will be determined. Meet at 10:00.

LEADER: Peck Peckover 544-9190

Sunday January 7 Lemoine Point

Hike or ski the Conservation Area from north to south. Bring lunch and eat at Lynn's place. Level 1. Meet at 10:00.

LEADER: Lynn Nolan 389-8747

Wednesday January 10 Parrot's Bay

Hike or ski in this Conservation Area. Gas \$2. Level 1. Meet at 09:30.

LEADER: Margaret Page 389-7840

Saturday January 13 Frontenac Park

Activity to depend on the weather conditions. Level 2. Gas \$4. Meet at 09:30.

LEADER: Arne Henrikson 544-0465

Sunday January 21 Family Outing

Enjoy a Family Day at Little Cataraqui Conservation Area. Ski, snowshoe or skate. Rentals available. Bring lunch to eat by the fireside. Meet at 10:00. Gas \$1.

LEADER: Dale Ross 384-2959

Saturday January 27 Gould Lake

Hike or ski the Wagon Trail to Gould Lake Barn. Level 1. Gas \$2. Meet at 09:30.

LEADER: Mike Amodeo 634-1847

Sunday February 4 #1 Opinicon Loop

Snowshoe the Opinicon Loop for up to 18 km. Gas \$4. Meet at 09:30.

LEADER: Ray Forester 542-4385

Sunday February 4 #2 Eel Lake

Ski this beautiful area near Sydenham. Suitable for all levels. Gas \$3. Meet at 09:45.

CONTACT: Watson Ogilvie 530-2378

Saturday February 10 Frontenac Park

Activity to depend on weather conditions. Level 3. Gas \$4. Meet at 09:30.

LEADER: Allan Tattersall 549-4080

Wednesday February 14 Rideau Trail

Hike or ski from Railton Road to Sydenham and return. Level 1. 8 km. Gas \$2. Meet at 10:00.

LEADER: Erwin Wendholt 384-7582

Sunday February 18 Charleston Lake

Hike or ski the Westside Trail. 12 km. of varied terrain. Level 2. Gas \$5. Meet at 09:00.

LEADER: Martin Reeve 548-4960

February 23-25 Haliburton Highlands Ski Weekend

Sold out, but see the notice on the next page.

Saturday March 2 Murphy's Point Prov. Park

Join the Central Club for x-c skiing in varied terrain. Suitable for all levels. Meet at Sears at 08:45 (Gas \$5), or at Conlon Farm in Perth at 10:00.

LEADER: John Miller 613-264-8338

CONTACT: Watson Ogilvie 530-2378

Kingston Club Activities Continued

Sunday March 10 Gould Lake

On and off-trail hiking on the west side of Gould Lake. Level 3. Gas \$3. Meet at 09:00.
LEADER: Dugald Carmichael 542-8628

Wednesday March 13 Rideau Trail +

Hike the Trail from Elevator Bay to Princess, and off the Trail to Counter and return. Level 1. 9 km. Gas \$1. Meet at 10:00.
LEADER: Jean Thompson 544-0340

Saturday March 16 Rideau Trail

Hike from Unity Road to Railton Road. Level 1. 10 km. Gas \$2. Meet at 10:00.
LEADER: Bernie Gates 389-1835

Sunday March 24 Foley Mountain

Hike this Conservation Area, up to 10 km. Level 2. Gas \$3. Meet at 10:00.
LEADER: Sam Heusel 542-2201

Saturday March 30 Rideau Trail

Hike from Bullen Road to Unity Road, and return. Level 1. 9 km. Gas \$1. Meet at 10:00.
LEADER: Betty McIver 549-8028

REMINDER NOTICE KINGSTON CLUB WINTER WEEKEND

Details of this winter holiday weekend, from Friday to Sunday, February 23-25, are in the Fall Newsletter. Our bus is full but we may have a cancellation or two before it's time to leave. So register with us if you'd like to be on the waiting list.

We're staying at PineStone Resort in the Haliburton Highlands, a 5-star lodging with lots of extras. Total cost is \$240 per person, including everything but trail passes and lunches. Send a cheque to Peter Murray, in trust, 120 First Street, Gananoque, K7G 2J1. For further information call Peter at 382-2824 or Peck at 544-9190.

ADVANCE NOTICE ANNUAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 1996

It is expected that next year the Annual Meeting of the Rideau Trail Association will be held earlier than usual, on September 7, 1996, as part of a 25th anniversary special weekend on September 7 and 8. Full details will be in the Spring Newsletter, but mark your calendars now for this special event!

1996 END-TO-END HIKE SERIES

Many will remember the series of End-to-End hikes that left Kingston in May, 1994, and traversed the entire Rideau Trail, arriving in Ottawa in early October of the same year.

As part of the 25th anniversary celebrations of the Rideau Trail Association, a similar series is planned in 1996, to start in Ottawa in May and end in Kingston in late September. The exact dates and details are not finalized at this writing, but you can expect to see the hikes listed in the Newsletter during 1996.

OTTAWA ORGANIZER: John Barron 828-2296

KINGSTON ORGANIZER: Watson Ogilvie 530-2378

GUIDEBOOK UPDATE

On page 70 of the Guidebook, at lines 6 to 13 of the paragraph under the heading **77.2 Mosquito Lake** Replace "After crossing ... to use it." by the following:

"Near where the Trail crosses Mississauga Creek Bridge, the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) has a small water-access primitive campsite for use by canoeists on Mosquito Lake. Small parties of Rideau Trail Association members hiking in the area have permission to use this CRCA facility, thanks to the generosity of the private landowners whose property surrounds the CRCA site. Care must be taken to use the private laneway marked by a blue triangle with C to gain access to the campsite, and to avoid intruding into the seclusion of these private properties."

ON THE LEVEL

The hike and ski levels given in the activity listings are intended as an extra measure which can help prospective participants to determine their match to each outing. In the interests of safety and enjoyment for all, participants are reminded of the following:

Beginners, and newcomers regardless of experience, should always start with an activity at Level 0 or 1.

Participants should only move up one level at a time, and only after comfortably completing a variety of outings at their present level.

If there is any doubt, always contact the Leader, be honest about your capabilities and limitations, and comply with the Leader's preferences and instructions.

TIMBER ON THE TRAIL

A call went out in Kingston — Timber on the Trail. The message was picked up by Trail Coordinator Bernie Gates. He organized a 6-man posse of sturdy trail clearing veterans to remove major obstacles on two sections of the Trail.

First of all they had to deal with a series of tree blowdowns on the Main Trail between Perth Road and the Slide Lake Loop Trail, east of Frontenac Park. Clearance was urgently needed for about 20 trees that would be blocking the path of two scheduled hiking parties — one from Ottawa and one from Kingston.

After accomplishing this task in one morning of intensive chain-sawing and lumber heaving, they moved south of Sydenham to another section of the Trail where there were 17 more trees down. This allowed them the satisfaction of accomplishing two major clearance jobs in one day. Fortunately the day was a fine one in mid-September.

The members of Bernie's posse were Stan Douglas, George Irwin, Bob Janik, Peck Peckover, and Erwin Wendholt. They were recruited from a roster of 20 such enthusiasts. Kingston members who would like to join Bernie's roster for special trail clearing missions such as this should give him a call at 389-1835.

Bernie's main role for the Kingston Club involves coordinating the activities of the maintainers, men and women who each volunteer time and energy to keeping a section of the Rideau Trail or its loops in good shape and easy to follow.

Despite the best efforts of these maintainers, you have possibly noticed that trail signage, stiles, bridges and clearance are sometimes less than perfect. To rectify this, the Association is making a special effort to upgrade the Trail with improved signage and maintenance in this our 25th anniversary year. Members, please ask your Trail Coordinators and section maintainers if they need some help.

Bob Chadwick

Editor's Note: As the Leader of the Ottawa Club hike in Frontenac Park on September 16, I would like to express thanks, on behalf of all 27 hikers that day, for the very extensive work which Bernie's team performed. We were all very appreciative.

Please see the related photograph on the back cover.

SCHOOL HOUSE NOTEBOOK

The Ottawa Club maintains an old School House, owned by the Ministry of Natural Resources, just off Roger Stevens Drive, between North Gower and Smiths Falls. The following is an update on recent activities.

1. On Sunday September 27 a wiener roast at the School House attracted about 50 members. The occasion was utilized to hold a ceremony to unveil a memorial to Mark Watson, who died while skiing in the Gatineau Park last February and who was very actively involved in maintaining the School House. The memorial* is a baked aluminum plaque mounted on a beautiful butternut base with the Association logo in relief. It is mounted on a wall inside the School House, together with Mark's skis. The work was generously contributed by RTA member Phil Herbst, an accomplished wood carver. A number of members contributed brief eulogies.

2. On the evening of October 28 about 30 members attended a pot luck Halloween at the School House.

3. Peter Andrews, Ottawa Club Maintenance Coordinator, informs us that there will be three hiking trails adjacent to the School House — the North, Central, and South Loops, marked with blue markers and ribbons. There is some wet ground on parts of the South Loop, but only after heavy rain. The North Loop is still under redevelopment: a new route will be found to avoid wet areas. The North Loop, which is to the north of the McKenna Road east-west extension, will be linked to the Central Loop by a north-south Link Trail. All of the trails will be wide enough for skiing.

4. The Major Projects Coordinator for the Ottawa Club, Leon Sokolowski, has been asked to inspect the roof of the School House to determine whether repairs should be undertaken.

W. G. Grant

* Editor's Note:

Various circumstances prevented an intended photograph from appearing here. The plaque reads:

IN MEMORY OF
MARK WATSON

Active Volunteer Of The Rideau Trail Association
Who Died Skiing In The Gatineau Park
on February 4, 1995

A GOOD FRIEND
WHO IS SADLY MISSED

THE VOLUNTEERS (3) by W. G. Grant

This article deals with the role played in the activities of the Rideau Trail Association (RTA) by the more active members other than those occupying Association and Club executive positions.

First, a word about participation in general by RTA members. The rate of participation in Association and Club activities is actually quite high as a proportion of the total membership. As many as eighty members have attended Club annual general meetings, which represents from 10 to 15% of the membership in the area. Few organizations can claim that high a participation rate. It is true that a majority of RTA members are neither seen nor heard from, but this is quite normal in voluntary organizations, and these inactive members contribute to the organization with their annual membership fee and, presumably, with word-of-mouth advertising of the RTA.

How then do the more active members contribute? They offer their time, talents, and labour in many ways. There are two essential Club activities, trail maintenance and hike-leading, which depend completely upon dozens of volunteers, and a number of other activities which draw on these and other members.

For trail maintenance, each Club has a number of volunteer maintainers, who are under the general coordination of the Trail Maintenance Coordinator, or equivalent officer on the Club executive. Each Club's portion of the Trail is divided into sections short enough to be walked both ways, and each section assigned to a single person or, in some cases, a pair of maintainers. The Bruce Trail Association uses the same system. The maintainers are expected to keep their sections properly marked, cleared of brush, obstacles, and unsightly litter. Some do a more conscientious job than others but, by and large, this system has been found to be effective. The Ottawa Club over the years has also had annual or semi-annual "Maintenance Days", when a number of members, including some of the official maintainers, make themselves available and are assigned in small groups to carry out particular maintenance tasks.

Just as there would be no Trail without the contribution of individual members, there would be no hiking activity without hike leaders, and some dozens of members have volunteered for this activity. The availability of these volunteers has enabled the Ottawa Club to have as many as four hikes on a weekend in the prime hiking season for the past year. Members usually volunteer (or are asked by the program coordinators) to lead hikes after they have

gained hiking experience and knowledge of specific hiking routes. Hike leaders usually choose their route, but they may be asked to lead a specific hike. Occasionally, hike leader workshops are held to discuss common problems and exchange ideas. In addition to, or instead of, hikes, some members volunteer to lead ski, bicycle, or canoe outings which now form a growing part of Club programs.

The two newsletter editors depend upon volunteers to assist in preparing the newsletter for mailing or distribution. Another regular group of volunteers delivers a major portion of the newsletters door-to-door in order to save postage costs.

Others volunteer to organize or assist in the organization of social events such as pot-luck socials, slide shows, combined hike/social events, and other socially-oriented activities.

Specific members are also called upon, from time to time, to participate in work parties for such purposes as bridge and boardwalk building and repair, maintenance of Association structures, new trail construction, or re-routing of trail. There is rarely any difficulty in obtaining willing volunteers for these activities.

Individual members may be asked to contribute their particular talents to such activities as writing articles (for internal or external use), revising the Guidebook or brochure, merchandising the Association's products, distributing publicity material, communicating with the media, contributing photographs and slides, and, in rare instances, contributing legal, accounting, or engineering expertise, or artistic talent. Others are asked to sit on special Association committees to carry out specific tasks related to the administration of the Association. To obtain information on members' capabilities, there is a brief questionnaire on the reverse of the membership application form, but specialized help is often located by word-of-mouth enquiry or specific request for volunteers.

This concludes this series of articles, designed to inform the membership at large as to how the Association and component clubs function. I hope that I have succeeded in convincing the reader, firstly, that things are never as simple as they look in ensuring the successful functioning of a voluntary organization, secondly, that we are a thriving organization, and, last but not least, that appreciation is owed to all those who contribute so freely of their time and talent to make that possible.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OCTOBER 28, 1995

Highlights by Graham Creedy

Trail Coordinator Linda Hayes met with Trail maintainers. Top priority is the need to identify all landowners along the Trail. Shelters and wells are not proposed, but improved signage would be worthwhile.

The Board confirmed that the target for the Trail Preservation Fund is to have \$50,000 in the fund by the 30th anniversary of the RTA (i.e. in 2001). The fund is now at about \$35,000, leaving \$15,000 to be raised over the next six years.

Some of this may be generated by the Clubs' fund raising for the 25th anniversary next year, which was a featured topic for this Board meeting. New blue loops are being considered, and plans are being laid for the 25th anniversary dinner and for a new series of End-to-End hikes in 1996. A special edition of the Guidebook, a

store display, special signs along the Trail, and featured events are being discussed for possible sponsorship by Mountain Equipment Co-op.

Proposals are being developed by the Ottawa Club for improved safety and protection from liability. The RTA insurance is being reviewed in connection with this and a survey being conducted by Hike Ontario.

Contacts continue with other hiking organizations. Rolf Calhoun is our new contact for the Ontario Trails Council. As the new Treasurer, Rolf is also upgrading the RTA's accounting system.

The computer system for keeping track of membership is working well, and the possibility of tracking and following up non-renewals is being examined.

A coffee percolator was presented to McMartin House in appreciation for the use of their facilities for Board meetings.

WEDNESDAY WALKERS by Art Campbell

The Wednesday Walkers held their 11th Annual Birthday Celebration on Wednesday September 20, 1995, this year at Huron Lodge in Gatineau Park, midst delectable snacks including shrimp, civilized beverages, and cookies.

33 walkers attended, arriving in three parties, and achieved four levels of effort. 29 made adequate preparation for the cookie feast by walking for 1 hour and

44 minutes, 33 minutes uphill and 5 minutes through bush made refreshing by the rain which was falling lightly. 27 made good use of the cookies, walking for 2 hours and ten minutes back to the trailhead, including an 18 minute tea break. 2 of the 29 made a lesser effort, joining two who had arrived and departed by another lesser climb. Two arrived and left by a decadent route; however, they did light a fire, useful for drying out 31 damp souls.



WALKING IN IRELAND

On the early morning of September 8, 1995, having arrived at Shannon Airport, I joined a group of 14 hikers and two leaders from the Colorado-based Walking the World. Here we boarded two rented vans that transported us and our belongings for 10 days, until the end of the tour on the morning of September 18.

Our visit to the pre-historic Celtic village of Craggaunowen was the highlight of our first day, and on the last day we attended a medieval banquet at Knappogue Castle. The evening's merriment ended with a visit to Bunratty's famous "Durtly Nellie's" pub founded in 1620. However, we spent most of our time hiking in counties Clare and Galway.

Our hikes in the Burren (the name given to the cracked limestone district located in both counties and noted for its unusual flora and fauna) were interesting, though insufficiently challenging for this RTA hiker. However, exploring the Cliffs of Moher on the Atlantic was more strenuous and offered spectacular vistas.

We spent two days on Inishmore, the largest of the three Aran Islands, to which we were transported by a swift ferry, the Aran Flyer. The destinations of our hikes on the island were pre-historic hill-top forts, Fort Angus and the Black Fort, situated on steep cliffs. Those of the Black Fort are constantly being eroded by the raging ocean, which strikes the cliffs with a thunder-like sound.

Yet none of the above prepared us for Connemara, the western seaboard of Co. Galway, where the combination of miniature Swiss and Norwegian landscapes was

breathhtaking. The Pass Inn at Kylemore, our headquarters in Connemara, provided us with easy access to the impressive Connemara National Park, as well as our spectacular hike alongside Killary Harbour — the sole fiord on the west coast of Ireland — and our steep, off-trail climb to the summit of Binn Bhán (Ben Baun) — one of the Twelve Bens, a mountain range in Connemara.

Connemara is a potentially challenging hiking area (RTA bushwhackers take note), largely unspoiled by tourism, and new trails are in the process of being developed. However, due to the boggy terrain, uncertain weather and insufficient trail network, hikers are well-advised to utilize local expert guides.

Our group was led in Connemara by Dave Hogan, an ecologist who had taught at York University and McGill and worked on the Baffin Island in the late seventies. In addition to conducting day hikes and arranging holiday packages, Dave and his wife Barbara are talented entertainers. Please give me a call at 613-726-1596 if interested in group hiking in Connemara.

Also, I spent 10 days in Northern Ireland, where there is great hiking potential as well, including the 560-mile Ulster Way. I climbed to the summit, Napoleon's Nose, of Belfast's Cave Hill. As well, I hiked on trails in the Mourne Mountains in Co. Down and along the famous Giant's Causeway on the northern Antrim coast. In both Ireland and Ulster I bought several guidebooks and trail maps as well as pamphlets and books, among them a history of all the Westports of the Western world.

K. Jean Cottam

25th ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRTS

For information about obtaining a 25th anniversary RTA T-shirt, illustrated on the right, please phone:

Ottawa:	Sandra Benoît	(819) 682-1087
Kingston:	Jean Thompson	(613) 544-0340



RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION END TO END AWARDS 1995

Number	Hiker	Start	Finish	Award	Club/City
188	Bob Janik	13 Jun 93	7 Nov 93	Sep 95	Kingston
189	Joanne Janik	13 Jun 93	7 Nov 93	Sep 95	Kingston
190	Sergio Scarabello	22 May 93	1 Oct 94	Sep 95	Toronto
191	Nora Scarabello	22 May 93	1 Oct 94	Sep 95	Toronto
192	Dale Ross		2 Oct 94	Sep 95	Kingston
193	Watson Ogilvie	18 Jun 93	2 Oct 94	Sep 95	Kingston
194	Dora Hunter	12 Dec 93	2 Oct 94	Sep 95	Kingston
195	David Farrington	24 Apr 94	2 Oct 94	Sep 95	Ottawa
196	Richard Coyle	5 May 94	2 Oct 94	Sep 95	Kingston
197	Christopher Coyle	5 May 94	2 Oct 94	Sep 95	Kingston
198	Beryl Arnold	14 May 94	2 Oct 94	Sep 95	Ottawa
199	Christine Banfill	14 May 94	2 Oct 94	Sep 95	Ottawa
200	Bill Chambers	14 May 94	2 Oct 94	Sep 95	Kingston
201	Fran Hollywood	14 May 94	2 Oct 94	Sep 95	Kingston
202	Gloria Seeley	14 May 94	2 Oct 94	Sep 95	Kingston
203	Ada Chambers	15 May 94	2 Oct 94	Sep 95	Kingston
204	Edward Lancaster	14 May 94	24 Oct 94	Sep 95	Ottawa
205	Ruth Hutchinson	7 May 94	13 Nov 94	Sep 95	Ottawa
206	Peck Peckover	13 Oct 91	6 Apr 95	Sep 95	Kingston
207	Sybil Peckover	13 Oct 91	6 Apr 95	Sep 95	Kingston
208	Jack Scrimgeour	23 Apr 93	18 May 95	Sep 95	Ottawa
209	George Hughes	18 May 95	29 May 95	Sep 95	Montreal
210	Ken Buckingham	Summer 90	Jun 95	Sep 95	Ottawa
211	Peter Murray	Summer 94	14 Jun 95	Sep 95	Kingston
212	Helga Wennerstrand		14 Jun 95	Sep 95	Kingston
213	Stanley T. Huff	10 Oct 92	3 Jul 95	Sep 95	Kingston
214	Jérôme McDuff	4 Apr 94	3 Aug 95	Sep 95	Kingston
215	Pete Golding	21 Aug 95	31 Aug 95	Sep 95	Maine
216	Jennifer Housden	14 May 94	Sep 95	Sep 95	Ottawa

HIKE BRITAIN '96

For anyone interested, we are advised that Vistas of Britain Walking Holidays has trips from Toronto to Cornwall and the Isle of Wight on June 28 to July 13, 1996, and to Northumbria and the Lake District on September 13 to 29, 1996. Details are available by calling 1-800-233-0597 or (519) 579-5140.

BRUCE TRAIL END-TO-END

Congratulations to the following Ottawa Club Members who completed the Bruce Trail during 1995:

Erl Cassells
Marion Dunning
John Haley
Bud Massé
Caroline Whaley



SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATION: The Membership year is from April 1 to March 31. 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 and mail it with your payment in an envelope to:

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

**Ottawa Club Telephone: 613-730-2229
Kingston Club Telephone: 613-545-0823
Central Club Telephone: 613-264-8338**

- () Annual Individual / Family Membership \$20.00
- () Patron (Life Membership) *\$300.00
- () Guide Book: Members \$15.00
- Non-Members \$20.00
- () (Plus \$2.00 Postage & Handling) \$2.00
- () Car Sticker (Free to New Members) \$1.00
- () Crest \$2.00
- () Enamelled Pin \$3.00
- () Rideau Trail Wall Map \$12.00
- (Includes \$4.00 Postage & Handling)
- () Donation to the RTA *\$_____
- () Donation to the RT Preservation Fund *\$_____

Prices Subject to Change

TOTAL \$_____

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR INTERESTS:

- Serving on executive () Secretarial ()
- Trail maintenance () Leading hikes ()
- Leading x/c ski outings () Newsletter ()

PLEASE CHECK MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

- Renewal () Already Life Member ()
- New Member () Complimentary Member ()

Name:
Address:
City:
Postal Code:

Telephone:

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