



RIDEAU TRAIL
ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025

Issue No. 217



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Central Club: (613) 267-5756
Kingston Club: Nil
Ottawa Club: (613) 860-2225

The RTA does not share its mailing list with other organizations.

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<https://www.instagram.com/rideautrail/?hl=en>
<https://www.facebook.com/rideautrail>



Next Newsletter: **Winter Deadline November 1st, 2025**

We want your submissions! If possible, text should be sent electronically with no document formatting. Pictures with good definition and contrast are most welcome.

Send material directly to the Editor: newsletter@rideautrail.org

Directors

(Chair) Rusty Bassarab. Mary Carlson, Randy Goodfellow, Hua Lei, Susan Long-Poucher, Jim Moss, and Alan Smith.

Margaret MacSween (Kingston Club Rep.),
Dorothy Hudson (Central Club Rep.),
Alan Johnson (Ottawa Club Rep.)

RTA Officers

President: Rusty Bassarab; president@rideautrail.org
Vice President: ***VACANT***
Treasurer: Hua Lei; treasurer@rideautrail.org
Secretary: Eileen McNally; secretary@rideautrail.org
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Activities Coordinator: Jim Moss; activities@rideautrail.org
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Marketing/Communications: Karen Toon;
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central.chair@rideautrail.org
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ottawachair@rideautrail.org

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it.coordinator@rideautrail.org
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Past Chair: ***VACANT***
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McInnis and Louise Langlais
Wednesday Walks Coordinator:
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Events Coordinator:
Jennifer Cakir
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Linda Hachmer
Member at large:
Annette Lebrun, Tania
Mason, Meg Taylor Picard

Ottawa Club Executive

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Vice Chair: Melodie Mortensen
Past Chair: Peter Weir
Secretary: Denise Hall
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Bridget Daley
Activities Coordinators:
Ingrit Monasterios and Carol
Seal
Publicity and Communications:
Kevin Chapman
Member at Large: Brian Grant
eNewsletter Editor: Peter Weir

Front cover: Osprey in flight
taken by Peter Weir summer

Member Services

(Who gets your question?)

Whatever the question, just call the RTA for your club (page 3) or email: info@RideauTrail.org

Address Changes / Paper Newsletter

To stop it, or to receive it, call or email:

membership@Rideautrail.org

DIY Option: "Update your Preferences"

You can update your membership preferences [here](#) or from the link provided at the bottom of membership related emails.

End to End Badges

Keep track of the details of your hikes, whenever you did them: Date, start and end point of the hike and the leader's name. Send questions or claims to the RTA by phone, or you can email the appropriate club contact.

Getting Involved

It's a busy organization, volunteers are always welcome. Please contact those listed on (page 3) indicating your volunteer interest such as co-leading hikes, supporting your club's committees, working on the Trail maintenance or any other interest you may have.

What Will the Outing be Like?

The three main factors in rating an outing are Effort Intensity, Technical Challenge and Pace Intensity. For each, Moderate is defined this way:

Effort Intensity: similar to walking on a hilly forest trail

Technical Challenge: similar to needing careful footing

Pace Intensity: steady, with periodic breaks and allowance for unplanned breaks

The Levels serve to summarize that detail.

Level 1: All parameters are "Low" or up to one parameter may be moderate. The least difficult type of outing.

Level 2: At least 2 parameters are "Moderate" and no more than one parameter is "High". An outing with mid-range difficulty.

Level 3: At least 2 parameters are "High" or at least 1 parameter is "Very High". The most difficult type of outing.

Note that you can also find the latest, detailed guide to the Hike Classifications by going to the 'RTA Calendar Help' (<https://teamup.com/ks4o7f1oa94o7taugd>) and click on "Outing Classifications".

Hike Leaders can gain further assistance on completing the Hike Description portion by clicking on the "Leader Instructions" link in the area immediately under that.

Badge Request Contacts



Entire End to End

(Winter or otherwise)

awards@rideautrail.org

Rideau Trail Secretary



Kingston Club

jkbrinkman59@gmail.com

Jennifer Brinkman,
Kingston Club Volunteer



Central Club

hmrob@storm.ca

Mary Robinson,
Central Club Secretary



Ottawa Club

ottawasecretary@rideautrail.org

Denise Hall
Ottawa Club Secretary



Blue Trails

Submit your record of hiking the designated Blue Trails to your Club's secretary / badge volunteer.



Locks Endeavor

Submit your record of hiking the designated hikes to your Club's secretary / badge volunteer.

Coming Events - Fall 2025

What to Bring

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Lunch or snack • Identification • Footwear (suitable for the outing) • Emergency contact info | <p>In Season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of medications • Hat and Sunglasses • Insect repellent/treatment • Sunscreen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handwarmers • Spare hat • Dry mitts • Lock de-icer (also good for frozen bindings) |
|---|--|---|

Carpooling and Fees

Be at the meeting place at least 15 minutes before the departure time.

Where a gas share is indicated, it is a suggested, voluntary contribution. Fees for parking and entry to parks are shared among the driver and passengers.

Questions?

Contact the leader or Club's activity coordinator.

Note

Hiking boots are recommended for hikes rated at Level 2 or higher. A **high level of fitness** is required for Level 3 outings.



Activity Calendar

Each club uses email to remind members of hikes and other outings.

Check the member hub at <https://www.rideautrail.org/member-hub/>

<https://teamup.com/ks4o7f1oa94o7taugd>



Participants' Responsibilities

Participants are expected to choose a trip suitable for their physical abilities and their skill level. At the start they should inform their leader of any health problems or potential difficulties with their equipment. Each participant will respect all financial obligations. The volunteer leaders will expect the support and cooperation of each group member. Parents and guardians are expected to supervise their own children. Dogs are not generally permitted.



Trail Markers



Orange

North-bound
Rideau Trail



Orange-Yellow Tip

South-bound
Rideau Trail



Blue

Side trail or
Blue Loop

Events / Dates

See details in the Activities Calendar.

Special Events

Frontenac Hiking Cove Inn Trip Oct 14-17

Frontenac Challenge (Sep and Oct)

Fall 2025 Algonquin Park Hiking (Herman Doornbos organizing)

Foley Mountain (November 8th) Commemorating the first RTA Hike in 1971.

Outings

Regular weekly outings in each club, in season.

Events are added to the Calendar all the time. Check it often, so you're there in time!

<https://teamup.com/ks4o7f1oa94o7taugd>

Mobile?

Before you go, check the
Trail Alerts

Remember to display the **Rideau Trail brand**.

Report Trail issues/ideas



Emergency in Greenbelt or Gatineau Park?

Is it a life threatening emergency? Call 911! As a second step or for any other emergency, call
613-239-5353



News and Notes from the Clubs - Fall 2025

Central

When attending an outdoor event, be safe; be prepared (page 5). Remember, for the safety of the group, a leader can refuse to accept a participant who is not ready for the outing's challenges.

MEETING PLACE

Unless otherwise specified, meet at Conlon Farm in Perth. Gore St. southeast through Perth to County Road 10 (Scotch Line), turn right towards Westport, then turn at the 4th street on the right (Conlon Drive) and proceed to the Conlon Farm parking area. GPS: 127 Smith Dr. K7H 0A3

Questions/Contacts

General: central@rideautrail.org

Activities: activities.central@rideautrail.org

Events and Activities

Although emailed notices might come from the Club, be sure to check the **Activities Calendar** for the latest updates. <https://teamup.com/ks4o7f1oa94o7taugd>

Special Events

- Locks Endeavour (Bike Portion, central led)
- Bike rides
- E2E (continues, Central Portion)

Please sign up on Team Up Activities Calendar so we have an idea of numbers for both activities.

Regular Activities

(Every week, conditions permitting)

Wednesday Wanderers - Shorter, leisurely hikes for those who want a mid-week stretch.

Friday morning walks—Every Friday from the Hour Glass Coffee Show parking lot

Other Outings

The Central Club offers hiking at Murphys Point and at various conservation areas.

Remember: <https://teamup.com/ks4o7f1oa94o7taugd>

Ottawa

When attending an outdoor event, be safe; be prepared (page 5). Remember, for the safety of the group, a leader can refuse to accept a participant who is not ready for the outing's challenges.

Meeting Places

Transit construction can affect access to the meeting places. Check with the Calendar or the leader.

Kichi Zibi Mikan: Parking lot at the south east end of the Champlain Bridge often used in winter for hikes but also used in other seasons by some leaders

Tunney's Pasture: The government parking lot on the west side of Parkdale Avenue just across from Emmerson Avenue.

Fallowfield Park & Ride: The northwest parking lot of the Park & Ride station, off Fallowfield Road west of Woodroffe Avenue. Park near the drop-off area by the bus shelters.

Bate Island: In Spring, Summer and Fall, meet on the east side of Bate Island. In the winter, meet in the NCC parking lot at the south east end of the Champlain bridge.

Questions/Contacts

General: ottawa@rideautrail.org

Activities: ottawa.activities@rideautrail.org

Calendar of Events:

<https://teamup.com/ks4o7f1oa94o7taugd>

Events and Activities

A monthly eNewsletter from the Club advises of coming events, but be sure to check the **Activities Calendar** for last minute updates.

<https://teamup.com/ks4o7f1oa94o7taugd>

Special Events

- Bi-monthly Social
- Adopt a Road (October)
- Trails for all Seasons
- Frontenac Challenge

Regular Activities

(Every week, conditions permitting)

Events include a stop for lunch, sometimes **outdoors**.

Tuesday Trail have returned: Impromptu, sometimes rugged level 2 hikes. Kathryn Fournier

lou_daybreak@hotmail.com

Other Outings

Weekend events are also plentiful with various levels. Outings might visit Marlborough Forest, Hollow Glen, Mer Bleue, Lac Philippe and other locations.

Remember: <https://teamup.com/ks4o7f1oa94o7taugd>

Kingston

When attending an outdoor event, be safe; be prepared (page 5). Remember, for the safety of the group, a leader can refuse to accept a participant who is not ready for the outing's challenges.

Questions/Contacts

General: kingston@rideautrail.org

Events and Activities

The Club sends regular notices by email. Be sure to check the **Activities Calendar** for the latest updates.

<https://teamup.com/ks4o7f1oa94o7taugd>

Special Events

- Frontenac Challenge and Frontenac Trek
- Bon Echo PP (Abes and Essens Loop)

- Blue Trail Challenge (Small Slide Loop)
- Great Gould Lake Challenge
- 10K Trails
- Truth and Reconciliation Walk
- Kingston Clean Up
- Monthly Socials

Regular Activities

(Every week, conditions permitting)

Tuesday hikes at Lemoine Point for those interested in a brisk 10 km walk.

Wednesday Walks - Ideal for people interested in healthy exercise walking at a comfortable pace with some social interaction. Walks depart every Wednesday at 1:30 pm (9:30 am, July and August)

Contact Jennifer at wednesdaywalks60@gmail.com

Thursday - In Little Cataraqui Conservation Area, Lemoine Point and other local areas for those interested in a brisk 10 km walk.

Benefits of Membership

The Rideau Trail Association is committed to preserving and promoting the use of over 400 km of Trail system between Kingston and Ottawa.

Volunteers do the work, but membership fees pay for the upkeep and improvements to the Trail, including construction materials, signage, insurance, mapping, etc.

Benefits include

- Access to the RTA Members only Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rideautrail>
- Access to the website's Member Hub <https://www.rideautrail.org/member-hub/> which gives you access to the Activities Calendar, badges, newsletter archives and other information available only to RTA members
- Participate in organized hiking challenges such as hiking the Rideau Trail from end to end and earn badges for your backpack.
- Hikes lead by trained hike leaders anywhere between Kingston and Ottawa and beyond.
- Quarterly Newsletter; News from the clubs
- Retail discounts
- Voting privileges
- The knowledge that you are protecting this world-class treasure.

Discounts for Members

- 10% off at Ottawa stores Trailhead Paddleshack, Bushtukah, Great Escape Outfitters, 10% off at Novel Idea in Kingston, and 10% off at Smith Army Surplus, 10% off at Vamos Outdoor in Almonte, 10% off Annual Pass purchased at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area and a discounted Winter Trail Pass at Gatineau Park

Levels of Difficulty

FROM THE RIDEAU TRAIL GUIDE FOR LEADERS

Hiking/Snowshoeing

Level 1 Well-defined trails, gentle inclines. Hiking boots not required but trails may be wet. Suitable for beginners. Recommended for newcomers to club activities.

Level 2 Generally on trail. May be hilly with some rough spots. Boots recommended.

Level 3 Rough terrain, one or more places, steep sections, long climbs and descents, rock scrambling, beaver dams or other obstacles. Boots and level 2 experience are essential. Long pants and sleeves are recommended.

Cross-country Skiing

Level 0 Easy, short, slow pace. All other levels require some experience and may be long (more than 15 km).

Level 1 Easy. Small hills, wide trails (green).

Level 2 Intermediate. Narrower, steeper trails (blue).

Level 3 Expert. Steep narrow trails (red/black).

LEVELS ARE BASED ON MAINLY TERRAIN DIFFICULTY OR SIMILAR CRITERIA, NOT ON DISTANCE. IF A PARTICULAR TRIP HAS SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS, THIS SHOULD BE EXPLAINED IN THE EVENT DESCRIPTION.



Welcome to all our new members

OTTAWA

Saadia Amzil
Mawy Bouchard
Tom Bryant
Ruth Chamberland
Adrian Colp
Iain Cruickshank
Justin Davis
Edith Fraser
Nidhi Gupta
Zahia Lahoua
Andre Langlois
Ron McBride
David Ojedele
Harshit Rajaiya
Wynet Smith
Jasmine Thibault
Stefano Vocisano
Jadwiga Zolkiewski

CENTRAL

David Carlson
Sharon Costello
Jeff Furman
Oonagh Maley
Jim McDougald
Jack Neilson
Ruth Saunders

KINGSTON

Gillian Arnold
Jill Atkinson
Diane Barnett
Elizabeth Collie
Susanna Fabio
Mary Jane &
Scott Gordon
Mathew Greenwood
Iwonka Jagaciak

Kathryn Lanthier
Khalid M
Jason McCready
Annick Spoden
Erin Szumsky
Dozie Ubosi

NO CLUB AFFILIATION

Kerri Choffe

**WELCOME TO THE
RIDEAU TRAIL
ASSOCIATION**

**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL
ON THE TRAILS THIS
FALL**

"I don't need therapy, I just need to go hiking."

First Aid/CPR Refresher Courses by Lynn Esau



RTA members continue to benefit from the skills and experience of Emergency First Aid/CPR instructor John Osborn. John taught two more half-day refresher courses in Kingston on June 5. A retired firefighter and a hiker himself, he uses realistic scenarios and step-by-step sequences to teach lifesaving skills we can use both on the trail and in our daily lives.

John guided the morning class through a scenario involving a fallen hiker with possible spinal damage who had stopped breathing. Here, Kingston members Jim, Sylvia and Robert learn how to work in tandem to rotate injured hiker Cathy so that CPR can be administered. Many thanks to John for recertifying 24 RTA members for another year.



RTA plaque at Richmond Landing replaced

by Ian Campbell, Ottawa Trail Maintenance Coordinator

In 2024, the National Capital Commission informed the Rideau Trail Association that our historic plaque at Richmond Landing had been stolen, likely for its scrap metal value. The plaque marked the arrival place of disbanded soldiers from the War of 1812 on their way to settle in the town of Richmond. The Landing is also important as it was once the northern end of the Rideau Trail, before it moved to the Rideau Canal locks beside Parliament Hill.

The plaque has been replaced with a new laminated version that has the same text and map, but no scrap metal value. We hope that it will provide information to passers-by on the landing itself and the Rideau Trail for many years to come. It is located just northeast of waypoint 19G near the Mill Street Brew Pub, with a beautiful view of Parliament Hill.



The text is below due to the picture not being very clear

The Rideau Trail

From here at Richmond Landing, disbanded soldiers from the War of 1812 and other pioneers travelled inland to settle in and around the present town of Richmond.

Today, the Rideau Trail passes by Richmond Landing as it winds its way over 300 kilometers to Kingston following hiking trails, footpaths and back roads.

Completed in 1971, the trail is maintained by the Rideau Trail Association. The route is marked by orange triangles.



Le Sentier Rideau

C'est à partir d'ici, au débarcadère Richmond, que les soldats démobilisés de la guerre de 1812 et d'autres

pionniers ont voyagé à l'intérieur des terres pour s'établir dans la localité actuelle de Richmond et aux alentours.

De nos jours, le débarcadère Richmond fait partie du sentier Rideau, un parcours de plus de 300 km jusqu'à Kingston, qui comporte des sentiers de randonnée, des voies piétonnières et des routes secondaires.

Le sentier, terminé en 1971, est entretenu par la Rideau Trail Association. Il est indiqué par des triangles orange.

Canadian National Volkssport Walking Festival

On 24 -26 May 2024, the King's Town Trekkers Volkssport Walking Club (KTTVWC) hosted the Canadian National Volkssport Walking Festival, and they needed extra help to run the event. The RTA assisted by providing walk leaders for 10 of the walks. In appreciation, the KTTVWC donated \$2000 to the RTA. The Kingston Club decided to use these funds to install benches at suitable trailside locations.

The benches the Kingston Club used come as a kit form and are carried to and assembled on site. The bench ends are made from recycled plastic, and the backrest and seat are made from 2" x 4" x 6' pressure-treated wood.

The cost of each bench is approximately \$200.



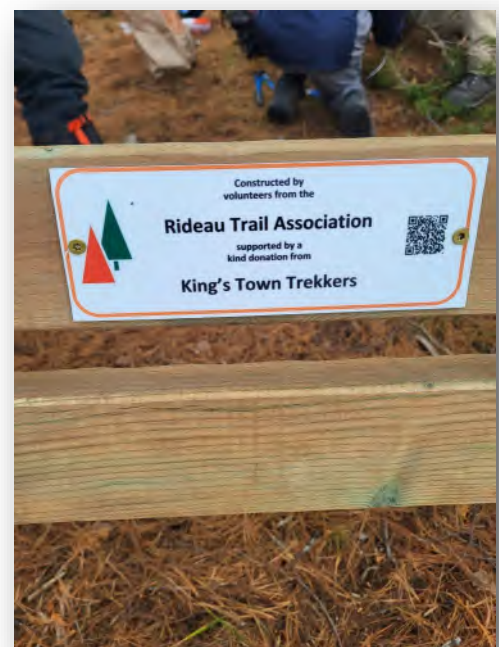
Where to install these benches? Jim Moss led several hikes with the purpose of looking for suitable bench locations.

- On 24 November 2024, a Kingston Club work party installed a bench in Gould Lake Conservation Area at the northeast end of the Mica Loop at point 44.47439, -76.57549.
- On 27 November 2024, a Kingston Club work party installed a bench in the southwest corner of Marble Rock Conservation Area at point 44.400, - 76.163.
- On 18 April 2025, a Kingston Club work party installed a bench northwest of RTA waypoint marker 05F at point 44.50926868095, -76.41454244367. Victoria Johnson, the landowner, had kindly given the RTA permission to install a bench on her property.
- On 8 May 2025, a Kingston Club work party installed a bench at Frank's Culvert on the Cataragui Trail at point 44.50776, -42849.
- On 23 April, a Kingston Club work party relocated the bench that was installed at point 44.47439, -76.57549 in the Gould Lake Conservation Area.

Tim Yearington, an Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, writer/ author, and wilderness guide, informed the RTA that there was a raven's nest on the cliff on which the bench overlooked, and a bench at this location would be obtrusive to the ravens. Jim Moss conferred with Tim Yearington, and with Tim's recommendation, the bench was moved to another location on the Mica Loop approximately 200 meters north.

Thanks to Kingston Club bench installation work party volunteers, Wen Bogues, Robert Charest, Glen Green, Andy Glazin, Stan Huff, Ed Jezak, Louise Langlais, Jim Lorimer, Asnat Macoosh, Karin McInnis, John McNinch, Jim Moss, and Carol VandenEngel.

There is still KTTTVWC donation money left over for more benches!



2026 RTA ASSOCIATION PICNIC

No, I did not get the year wrong.

This year's Association Picnic was a big success. You will see many pictures in this Newsletter, and a lot of thanks needs to go to Sue Lansing, Monica Hilton, Peter Weir, Herman Doornbos and many others for all their work in making it happen.



So the plan is to do it again in 2026 to celebrate the Club turning 55 years old. Likely the same location, same time, same set up (other than having two Cornholes set ups going) . I imagine we can still do it for the same \$5/person too as long as the Association contributes the same amount as this year. We came in under budget this year.

We have even picked a date – July 11th 2026. Mark it on your calendar. It is even on the calendar already so you can sign up. You now know you have about 340 days to practice Cornhole!



The Ottawa club has a trillium hike this and every May led was held by Elizabeth Mason. They saw trilliums galore and wanted to share some beautiful pictures.

The following pictures were taken by Rosie Tay.

Sorry folk but this is a little late, but this submission was missed in the last edition



2025 Rideau Trail All Club Picnic Rideau Ferry Conservation Area—12 July 2025

Pictures of the day



Thank you to Kevin
Chapman for the
great photos





White Oak Tree Peter Mitchell Murry



Red Oak Tree John Cornish

Cornish - Murray Trees, Gananoque, Ontario

A couple of years ago the Kingston Club of the RTA bought two oak trees (one red, one white) for John Cornish and Peter Murray. A memorial was held on 13 July 2024 behind the City hall in Gananoque and was followed by two hikes lead by Jim Lorimer and Stan Huff.

They both have plaques, and are planted in the grounds of Gananoque Town Hall, between the building and the baseball diamond. Despite initial concerns about how well the trees were doing, they now look to be doing really well! These pictures were taken on August 2nd 2025. Please let me know if the trees start to not do so well. I seem to recall we had a few year guarantee on them.

If you are in Gananoque, maybe stop by and enjoy the lovely park and pay your respects to John and Peter. End your visit with a walk along the Gananoque trail.

Jim Moss

The Environment Corner By Alan Smith

Welcome back to our fourth regular feature.

The boot brush stations on our network are rapidly expanding to support the PREVENT stage of our plan, and currently there are 14 on our network, with permission already granted for a few more. There are boot brush stations at the eastern entrance to Frontenac PP, Marble Rock, Red Rock, Foley Mountain, Lemoine Point, Westport, Bedford Mills, Gould Lake and Opinicon Rd. We have drawn on the experience from other hiking organizations in their design, but we will no doubt need to test and adjust in this first year as we better understand the maintenance requirements and issues with individual locations. For example, the boot brush station at Marble Rock was rapidly overtaken by tall plants and needed some serious clearing and mulch to maintain accessibility. Please use the trail report form on the RTA website to give feedback on the boot brush stations, and also report any other trail issues.



I have had a few requests to conduct led hikes to identify invasive plants recently, which I have been happy to do, as it supports the AWARENESS stage of our plan. In May, the Wednesday Walkers visited Lemoine Point and in June at the request of an RTA member I led a hike for the Ottawa Naturalist Club at Lime Kilns (there were 2 RTA members in the group). Both were highly successful at helping others identify invasive species and I also learned more myself as a result.

On the latter hike we got to witness the introduced beetle larvae consuming the Purple Loosestrife; this was a first for me. If there is an interest in more of these hikes, please reach out to me and I will endeavor to make time.



Continues Next Page....

.... Environmental Corner continued

While planning these hikes I really saw the utility of Eddmaps for improving our UNDERSTANDING of invasive plants on our trails. I used the app to identify areas that had a good selection of invasive plants with locations already identified (you need to know what plants you are looking for as the application only allows you to search for an individual species). With this information I planned a hike route that took in a number of known locations for different species and we as a group were able to use the map function on the App to navigate to individual locations. And of course we were able to record new sightings that we made on the way. Once again I recommend that you all experiment with Eddmaps.org or the EDDMaps App and record your observations of invasive plants on your local trails.

<https://www.eddmaps.org/>

Finally, you will no doubt have all seen the prominent tall purple flowers of Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) in late summer in wetland habitat across the area (it is prolific in my area as I write this article). The presence of the invasive plant in dense clusters diminishes biodiversity by displacing native plants and the density of its growth reduces the number of nesting sites for native wildlife. It is native to Europe and Asia and it is suspected that it was introduced in the 1800s through livestock feed and ships ballast. Purple Loosestrife spreads rapidly through root fragments and the production of up to 2 million seeds per plant. Bio controls have been introduced through the black margined loosestrife beetles and golden loosestrife beetles, with limited success. While the bio controls will help reduce the intensity of large infestations, interested parties can have the most impact by tackling newly established infestations. Small plants can be dug out, but caution must be exercised not to disturb the soil and seed bank too much, and not to leave any root fragments from which it can regenerate.





Trail Reports by Al Smith

Kingston

New Trail Alert - Flooding between 7A and 7B - The beavers in this area have caused some flooding and currently some wading is required in the area of the small boardwalk. We are currently investigating solutions and hikers should avoid this area temporarily.

The Gould Lake trail maps have been updated

Central

Permanent trail reroute in Smiths Falls 12C-12D - The trail between 12C and 12D that originally passed through the industrial area of town has been rerouted to follow the river west on highway 43 and through more residential areas. Map 12 has been updated.

Ottawa

Temp Reroute 19G to 19H - Now expected to complete in Spring 2026

Rideau trail maps and supplement can be found at the following link:

<https://www.rideautrail.org/discover-the-trail/maps/>

Trail Alerts at this link:

<https://www.rideautrail.org/discover-the-trail/trail-alerts/>

Donations to the Rideau Trail Association



Barb Yeo

Cecile Trepanier in memory of Lars Thompson

Patricia Nekus in memory of John Beck

Robert Ainsworth for Bob and Sharon Ainsworth in memory of John Beck

Dieter Wolters

Thank you for all your support



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS COMING UP – FALL 2025/WINTER 2026

As the thermometer says just over 37 deg C, it is hard to say that Summer is starting towards its end, but as it does, hiking gears up again. So, here are a few of the Association Level things coming up in the next six months or so.

- ♦ Frontenac Challenge. Starts Sept 1st. If you have not done this yet, it is rather addictive once you get started. Runs through the end of October. Lots of hikes already on the Calendar, though many more to come too!
- ♦ Truth and Reconciliation Hikes on Sept 30th. Don your Orange Shirt and come out hiking to support this National Day
- ♦ The Cove, Westport (14th – 17th October). Hikes around Westport, including in Frontenac.
- ♦ Algonquin Park (Early November) – hike in Algonquin Park, while staying in Whitney
- ♦ Blue Trails in Winter – starting December 21st we will meander 5 of the Blue Trails this winter. Complete the other 5 next winter
- ♦ Rideau Canal Skating – January 24th 11am if the weather cooperates
- ♦ The RTA Turns 55 in 2026 – a variety of Events to celebrate the Association turning 55 and to earn the all new (yet to be designed actually) “RTA 55 Badge”!
- ♦ ‘My Favorite Hike’ – Leaders pick out and then lead their ‘Fave’ hike. Goal is to have 6 hikes per Club at some stage during the year. Come out and see why the leaders love their hikes.

If you have any ideas about things to do, or places to go, we would love to hear from you. You can e-mail activities@rideautrail.org, or talk to your Club Activities/Outings Coordinator. We all get together and chat every 4 – 6 weeks.

Hope to see you out there at these events! Jim Moss



You might meet or already have met a Snapping Turtle along the trail, here are some facts about this amazing animal.

- The most prehistoric-looking of all of Ontario's native species, the snapping turtle has triangular spikes along its tail.
- Most likely to be confused with musk turtles, snapping turtles are significantly larger and grow up to 47 cm long.
- Not the strongest of swimmers, these aquatic turtles are usually observed walking on the bottom of small ponds and rivers or crossing roads.

Fun fact: Most Ontario turtles only lay somewhere between three and 15 eggs. The snapping turtle lays around 50



Cornhole is serious stuff!

Sarah Cleary (Ottawa) and Helene Brillon (Kingston) at this years RTA all clubs Picnic. Cornhole is clearly serious stuff!

New trail to explore - Marble Woodlands

Marble Woodlands is a 200-acre property owned by Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust (MMLT) in central Lanark County, in the town of Mississippi Mills. The name "Marble Woodlands" is derived from its marble bedrock, which accounts for the unique diversity of ecosystems throughout the property. The main trail loop takes visitors through the key features of the property, including large rock outcrops, wetlands, giant spruce trees, and more.

Length: 3.7km marked trail

Location: 45.15319375220504, -76.2366438900058

W3W: ///balanced.animate.pealed

<https://www.mmlt.ca/properties/marble-woodlands>



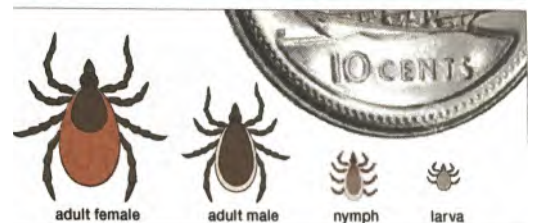
Avoid Tick Trouble

- Stay on the trail
- Dress appropriately
- Use a repellent
- After hiking, 'roast' clothes in dryer before washing
- Check yourself for ticks

More information:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/lyme-disease>

Box 3. Blacklegged Ticks at Various Stages and Safe Tick Removal



For more images, please go to: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.](https://www.cdc.gov/nczod/dzdx/tick-bites/)



Kingston's Wednesday Walkers

Alan Smith joined the Wednesday Walkers at Lemoine Point on May 28, 2025 to give a talk about invasive plants. Prior to the walk, Alan installed a boot brush at the north entrance. A few of us helped to unload and lay down the gravel. A boot brush was installed at the south entrance after the walk.



Photo credit goes to Monica Hilton for the first two photos.

Photo credit goes to Chuck Paterson for the third photo.



NEEDED — NEWSLETTER EDITOR

If this is in your background, or if you'd like to help out or learn more about it, The Newsletter Team is looking for some help.

We will train you, but use of Microsoft Publisher is helpful

If this interests you, please contact:

Newsletter@RideauTrail.org



IMPORTANT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Our Association is urgently in need of a new Membership Officer. The incumbent, Evert de Boer, has already done two extensions. Plans were in place for a handover this fall, but unfortunately the situation has changed and we need to find a new replacement.

The Membership Officer coordinates all aspects of membership and membership records, an essential component in RTA Operations. The Membership Officer is part of the Operational Support and Administrative Services Committee but is not a Director and does not need to attend RTA Board Meetings.

Key Duties and Responsibilities

- Maintain accurate membership records (currently done using MailChimp software).
- Oversee membership renewal processes and make recommendations for suggested and/or required changes.
- Oversee processes for new members to join and make recommendations for suggested and/or required changes.
- Liaise with the RTA Treasurer to ensure that all funds received for memberships are accounted for and deposited in the RTA bank account.
- Safeguard membership information in accordance with the RTA Privacy Policy.
- Routinely provide membership lists to Board members, RTA Officers, and Club Executives when the requirement is justified and in accordance with RTA Privacy Policy.
- Prepare the membership list portion of the mailing list and pass to the Newsletter Editor(s) for quarterly newsletters.
- Attend RTA Administration Committee meetings, or other RTA Officer and Board Meetings as required.
- Provide quarterly, or when requested, membership reports to the Board.

Desired Skill Set

The Membership Officer should have some experience in the administration of databases like a membership database. Advanced IT skills are not required (though are certainly a plus), but it is necessary for the Membership Director to be able to access the RTA Google Drive (via an RTA provided login) and to be able to participate in virtual meetings. Previous experience with the use of Mailchimp is desirable, but not essential. Mailchimp training can be arranged, and paid for, using RTA funding. A detailed handover with the incumbent will be possible between now and the end of 2025.

More Information and Application

More information can be available by making contact with Evert de Boer at: membership@rideautrail.org or by contacting the President at: president@rideautrail.org.

DON'T BE SHY!!

HUNTING SEASON

Included in the activities that come with fall in Canada are a series of hunting seasons, each one for various wildlife species and some with limitations on what weapons can be used for hunting. In our part of Ontario these stretch from September all the way until the end of December, though generally the season that has the biggest impact to RTA trail use is deer season, with the important dates for the fall of 2025 being from Monday November 3rd to Sunday November 16th when rifles, shotguns and muzzle loading guns can be used in addition to bows.

It is important to remember that the lands that our trails go through do not belong to the RTA, they belong to various kinds of landowners. In some cases, the properties are owned for the specific purpose of being used for hunting when hunting is authorized. This does mean that significant portions of our trails will not be usable during rifle based deer hunting season, as well as some portions for other periods. We will be posting known restrictions to the Trail Alerts portion of the RTA website. We do not always find out that hunting is permitted and taking place in the area of our trails. So, for safety reasons the private property sections of RTA trails are closed for the November 3-16 period. Only hikes that are conducted in Provincial Parks, Conservation Areas, public areas and confirmed areas where there is no hunting are permitted (see the Trail Alerts page of the RTA website for further information). Through-hikes of the entire trail should NOT be undertaken in this time frame.

Hike leaders/hikers should do the following: Check the Trail Alerts portion of the RTA website to ensure that where you plan on hiking is permitted. Throughout the full hunting season timeframe, even if there is no specific alert, efforts should be made to ensure that there is definitely no hunting in the area of the proposed hike.

Wear bright/easily visible clothing. Look for any signs indicating that an area is closed or that hunting is ongoing

**DO NOT PROCEED IF
THERE ARE SIGNS!**

Look for any evidence that hunters are in the area and leave that area if there is such evidence.



Trail Closed
Deer/Rifle Hunting Season
No Trespassing

<https://www.rideautrail.org/>



The Kingston Wednesday Walkers enjoyed a walk at Lake Ontario Park on June 25, 2025. Photo credit to John Rowe

Locks Endeavour Hikes #3 and #4 — Locks 17-20 Burritts Rapids and Nicholsons Lock Hike 26 July

A group of us were hiking the Locks Endeavour and these two folks (Sarah Cleary and Adriana Faria) came wearing almost identical outfits.

Picture from Mary Carlson



Inside **Fall**

EDITED BY PETER WEIR (OTTAWA) NEWSLETTER@RIDEAUTRAIL.ORG

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PM40022816

Return undeliverable Canadian
addresses to:
RIDEAU TRAIL ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 15
KINGSTON ON K7L 4V6

MARKETING MATERIAL AND MEMORABILIA

If anyone is in possession of any marketing or promotional material that belongs to the RTA that was lent to you or used over the last few years, can you send us an email to let us know what you have and its status/location We are taking inventory of all items that can be used for promotion of the trail and to update our records.

If you no longer wish to hold onto any of these items, also let us know and we will take them from you and store them with the club

Email Peter at newsletter@rideautrail.org

Thank you



Your pack.
Your adventure.

5607 Hazeldean Road | 203 Richmond Road | 2016 Tenth Line Road

www.bushtukah.com

  /bushtukah

 **BUSHTUKAH**