

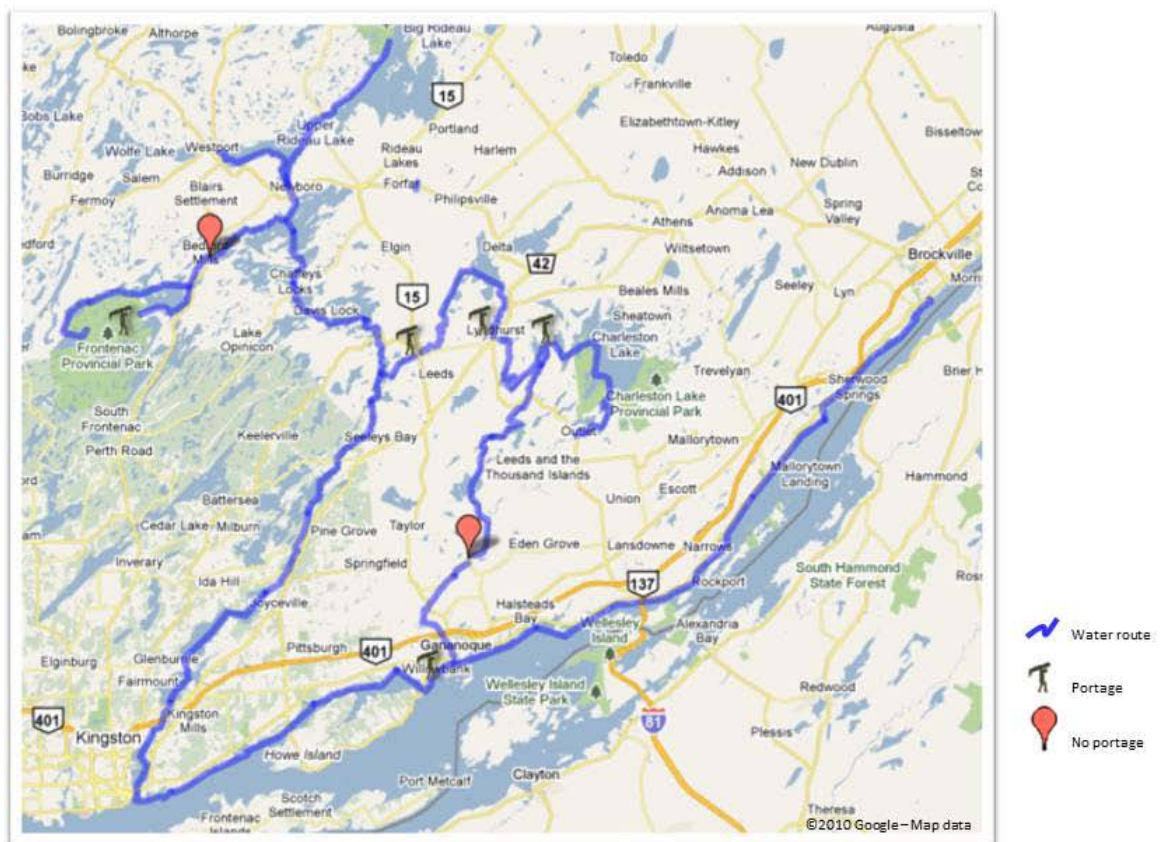
OUR INAUGURAL NEWSLETTER:

ON THE WATER

CONNECTING PLACES AND PEOPLE THROUGH PADDLING AND PRESERVATION

THIS ISSUE: THE MISSION, THE TRAILS, THE FUTURE

Frontenac Arch Paddling Trails
Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve and Area



The Frontenac Arch Paddling Trail encompasses a large area within the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve. As seen on a preliminary map being developed by Frontenac Arch Paddling Trails (FAPT), four distinct trails exist: The Rideau, Frontenac, Gananoque River and the 1000 Islands. Eventually, each trail will be numbered and have a designated trail name.

THE MISSION: TO GET MORE PADDLERS ON THE WATER MORE OFTEN

FAPT strives to work with partners and paddlers through value-based collaboration in order to improve information and access to historic trails for safe recreational paddling. In doing so, FAPT's purpose is to enable a healthy active lifestyle, improve the quality of life and ensure sustainability. In essence, the group believes that actively participating in an outdoor activity that unites you with our environment and others will help you be healthy of both mind and body.

The committee of six volunteers is committed to this mission and its purpose. Presently, the committee is working predominately on the development of trails that can be used by everyone to achieve its mission's core values.

Four trails are being developed (see next page) within the UNESCO Frontenac Arch Biosphere. The committee's role is one of advocacy and collaboration with many different partners that include municipalities, outside agencies and private individuals. The actual ownership of the infrastructure lies solely with our partners. We are the facilitators with a vision and mission to get more paddlers on the water more often.



Mitchell Creek

THE FUTURE: FUNDING, MARKETING AND ORGANIZING

As development of the trail system proceeds, the small committee will be addressing a number of issues: funding, marketing and organizing. A first has been attained regarding funding through the Leeds County Stewardship Council that leads directly into a marketing based approach that will assist in further funding. Using this money, FAPT is targeting some primary market research. Also, money was obtained to have paddling docks built designed specifically with paddlers in mind: environmentally friendly, low in the water for easy launching and boat access, and none scratching. These docks were built by volunteers!!! Thank you for the hard work!!

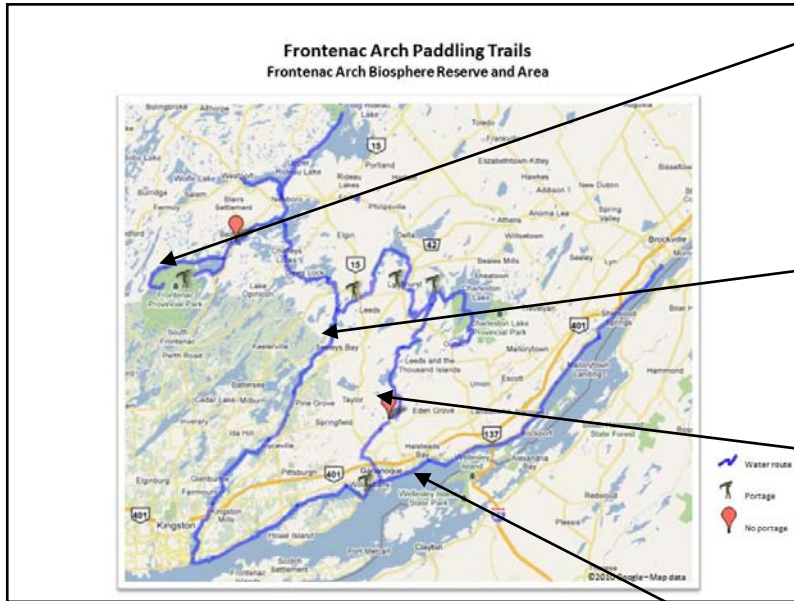
Since the formation of small committees in April 2010, many accomplishments have taken place with a path to the future being created.



Kingsford Lake

Canoe Dock, Steelworkers Park, Gananoque

THE TRAILS: A BREAK DOWN OF THE FOUR TRAILS



Frontenac Provincial Park:

This trail is accessed from the Rideau Canal N.H.S via Loon Lake and a portage at Bedford Mills. The trail travels in and around Frontenac Provincial Parks.

Rideau Canal National Historic Site:

Kingston to Murphy's Point Provincial Park. Of course, one may continue to paddle to Ottawa and other point of interest along the way.

Gananoque River Trail:

Paddlers travel along an ancient paddling trail from Gananoque to Morton with a side trail into Charleston Lake Provincial Park. This trail traverses a number of lakes and rivers and requires portaging at various points.

Thousand Islands:

Kingston to Brockville This trail utilizes a group of islands operated by the Parks Canada - St. Lawrence Islands National Park.

ACCESS AND PORTAGING:

As the trails are developed, portaging signs and trail maps will follow. At the present time of publication, only the Rideau and Thousands Islands section are fully navigable without encroaching on public lands.

THE TRAILS: CONNECTING TRAILS & SECTIONS FROM ONE TO ANOTHER



Trail Developments:

Two priorities are in the works. At the present time, there is no public access for portaging from Loon Lake (Rideau Trail) to Devil Lake (Frontenac Trail). FAPT is currently in negotiations to solve this problem. If all goes well, the solution is close at hand.

The second is securing a portage trail safe for the public at Marble Rock on the Gananoque River Trail.

Stay tuned for updates in the next newsletter.

THE TRAILS: DESCRIPTIONS OF THE FOUR TRAILS

Rideau Canal National

Historic Site:

Although the Rideau Canal stretches 202 km north from Kingston, Ontario to our nations capital, Ottawa, only part of the trail exists in the Frontenac Arch Biosphere - from Kingston to Murphy's Point Provincial Park. This historic trail traverses a variety of scenery ranging from Class 1 wetlands to granite faced Canadian shield. Leaving the southern end paddling north, paddlers will pass through 8 of 24 lockstations that continue to operate as they did at their completion in 1832 by the British Military. Originally constructed to defend Canada against our now American friends to the south, the canal now serves many recreational purposes that includes camping with modern washroom facilities. Paddlers can choose whether to portage the locks that they encounter or pass through for a historic experience. Paddlers can feel the presence of past paddlers exploring the waters of this rich area or explore the historic ambience that exists today. A favorite stop along the way is Jones Falls. This lockstation features the largest locks on the canal, an 1888 Hotel at its base, the largest dam in North America at its completion in 1832, and two living mid 1800's buildings: a defensible lockmasters and a working blacksmiths' shop.

Thousand Islands:

This trail extends from Kingston, Ontario along the St. Lawrence River to Brockville, Ontario. The paddler can spend the majority of the day wandering through the countless

islands each with its own beauty and unique qualities. As you are paddling among the St. Lawrence Islands, you are actually paddling in one of the first national parks in Canada: St. Lawrence Islands National Park. This small fractured national treasure is home to unique flora and fauna that is protected by Parks for present and future Canadians, as well as, visitors from around the world.

You may choose from paddling into deep bays with towering cliffs, through rich marshlands, between multiple National Park Islands, over shipwrecks. You may decide to go for a swim, hike and cast a line to try your luck at fishing.

Perhaps, a stroll on one of the many islands is more to your liking after a hard day of paddling. A great way to stretch your legs and let your mind wander over the landscape.

Gananoque River Trail:

This historic canoe trail passes over or by many modern advances that are the busiest in Canada: a communications link, a highway, a rail line, and gas and oil pipelines. Although most of Canada's Gross National Product passes through here at one point or other, the Gananoque River valley is remarkably almost untouched by civilization. Paddlers at Marble Rock, which is the demarcation line between the Frontenac Arch and the St Lawrence Lowlands, will encounter a dam originally built circa 1820. At Wiltse Creek, paddlers will have chance to paddle the Big Marsh: a major wetland in Southern Ontario. At Lyndhurst, one can explore where the first iron smelter in Upper Canada

blew up in 1811 causing a large fire that destroyed much of the village. In Delta, the first stone mill in Upper Canada still stands and has been restored to a very fine museum and much more. As one dips their blade into the quiet waters, one can imagine the first nations families who spent their summers on these lakes and in these woods gathering berries, hunting, fishing and drying food to feed their clan over the next winter, which they mostly spent at their clan longhouses at the Bay of Quite or at Cornwall Island.

Frontenac Provincial Park:

The only wilderness provincial park takes one through stunning untouched beauty within the Frontenac Arch Biosphere. The only way to access this park is either through paddling or hiking. It is unspoiled of anything modern. The park offers gorgeous campsites overlooking the many lakes that exist with the parks boundaries or on the edge. After entering Devil Lake from the Rideau sections paddlers can explore the many lakes and hiking trails that traverse this rich area. Perhaps, an overnight night stay at a designated camp site overlooking Birch Lake from above is just what the doctor called for. Frontenac is the ultimate retreat that is close to home. Paddle, explore, enjoy. Campsite permits are required and available online.

NEWS: NEW DOCK

The Rideau Canal N.H.S of Canada received funding in June 2010 from the federal infrastructure program for the development of new paddling docks specifically designed for canoeist and kayakers. During the the summer months, the docks were designed to meet the specific requirements that paddles desire: low in the water, stable, paddler dedicated, easy on boats surface and environmentally friendly. On Jan. 10, 2011 construction began of 74 docks that will be placed at most lockstations along the 202 km corridor. The docks are being using local white cedar with the aluminum frames being constructed locally as well. A team of three Rideau Canal employees will have the docks built by March 31. Once the ice is off the lakes and rivers, the docks will start to installed at the various lockstation, including one at Morton. The Morton dock will provide paddlers continuity from the bottom of Morton Creek to Morton Bay. The picture shows the aluminum frames that are being used to build these sturdy docks.



If you want to help with some aspect of paddling or trail development, volunteers are always needed. If our discussions go well, we need people to clear a portage trail connecting the Rideau to the Frontenac section. If you are interested in helping, please contact Don MacKay: Forgedincanada@ripnet.com.

FAPT would like to thank all the people that made FAPT possible - the many volunteers, members of the committee, key partners, and contributing partners.

CALENDAR

Summer, 2011

Newsletter #2

May 20, 2011

Rideau Canal N.H.S open for the season

June 26, 2011

National Canoe/Kayak Day

June 25, 26, 2011

1000 Island Paddle Festival

Paddle the Arch, 6 locations

www.1000ikc.com

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Network Website

KEY PARTNERS



OTHER CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS (APOLOGIES FOR ANY MISSING)

