

Hiking Report - October 6, 2003 - Mag C

Please note: The report on the number of hikes, leaders and destinations is based on the full 2003 hiking season from the beginning of April to the end of December. Comparisons are to the same period last year. This also corresponds to the work of the year's Hiking Co-ordinator (since the Fall schedule is planned before the AGM).

1. Total number of hikes: Every effort was made to offer three hikes every Sunday during the most popular hiking seasons, spring and fall, with the aim to keep the hikes to a more manageable size, and to offer a full range of levels. Also, due to the demand, official hikes were organized on holiday weekends, such as Easter and Thanksgiving. The overall result was a 167.5% increase in the number of hikes:

Season	2002	2003
Spring	17 hikes	23 hikes
Summer	15	29
Fall	20	25
TOTAL	52	77

2. Number of leaders: Efforts were made to involve as many new leaders as possible -- graduates of the Leadership Training Weekends, people who volunteered on their membership forms and others who expressed interest. Many thanks also to the seasoned leaders who once again volunteered their time. This year 49 leaders were involved in leading hikes, as opposed to 25 last year - nearly double.

3. Variety of Hikes: While Gatineau Park remains the members' most popular destination, there was an increase in the number of daytrips to explore other destinations on both the Ontario and Quebec sides -- seven this year as opposed to two last year. This trend seems to be appreciated by the membership.

4. Hike Inventory: Work was begun to compile an inventory of hiking trails for both day and weekend trips, complete with all the necessary information and description. This will facilitate the job of both the co-ordinators and leaders, and will effectively comprise the collective experience of OHOC on the hiking front.

5. Multi-Day Trips: The number of hiking multi-day trips was down this year, from 7 or 8, to 6. This is largely due to the fact that two of the most active leaders were unable to lead trips this year. It is hoped that more people will come forward to lead multi-day trips in 2004.

6. Number of participants: Note: this information is based on the AGM year, from the beginning of October to the end of September the following year, since this is how the Club records are kept. The number of participants from October 2001 through Sept 2002 was approximately 590. The number of participants during the 2002 to 2003 period was up slightly to approximately 640.

7. Revised hike level definitions: Overall the hiking season has been a success in terms of hiker enjoyment. No major incidents were reported. There were some problems as a result of people signing up for what they thought was a Level One hike, but ended up being a Level Two, with bushwhacking and difficult terrain. The revised, more precise level descriptions will hopefully eliminate this problem.

8. Most of all, a very big THANK YOU to all the leaders for their invaluable contribution!