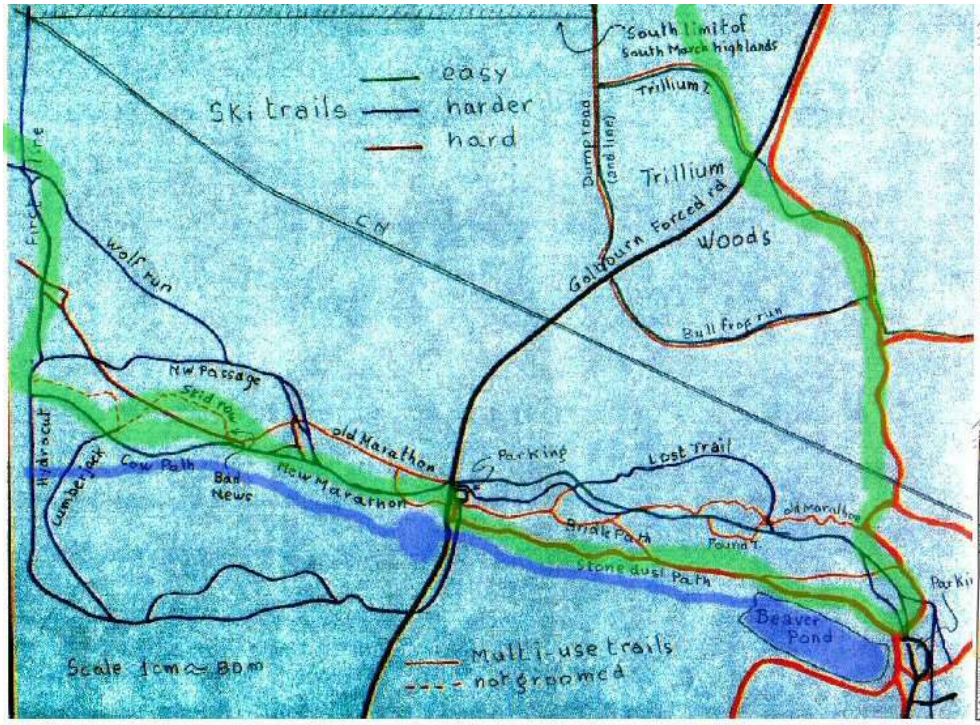
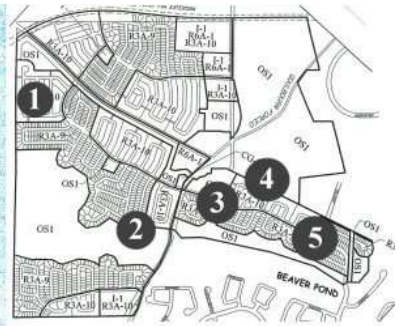
PRESERVING THE BEAVERPOND TRAIL





Unless we take action to protect our rights we will soon lose most of the trails in the Beaverpond area, and lose the opportunity to enter the remaining forest areas from Kanata Lakes and Beaverbrook via natural trails as opposed to city sidewalks.

Our rights were supposed to have been protected by the Campeau agreement, which requires that 287 acres of forest (NEA) land be preserved, by the Official Plan which requires that a substantial stand of black cherry trees in the Beaverpond area be protected, and by an OP requirement that where possible there should be connectivity between natural areas, not only in the form of paths for people but also to ensure that the connections serve as links for plants and animals as well.

The City has not honoured those commitments, and we have a right to appeal such City decisions, but to do so we need to hire experts who are qualified to give evidence at an Ontario Municipal Board hearing. That costs money, but if the hundreds of people who have expressed their dismay at these City plans are willing to contribute the equivalent of a golf green fee or a ski lift ticket then we could afford to mount a proper appeal.

The map shows the trails as they exist, with green shading showing what is needed to provide connectivity across the property (here called the Beaverpond Trail for the sake of clarity). Note that there was once a second trail system south of Kizzel Creek, but that trail system was destroyed in the “Kanata Tree Massacre”. To add insult to injury, that open area is now included as part of the “NEA” allocation. Much of the balance of that allocation has been dissipated to provide open areas around the site, most of which will in time be developed under the City's intensification program. The map with the numbers 1 to 5 shows the trail areas that are obstructed, for which we need to restore some of the intended allocation, and the orange areas in the other map show where the required allocations might come from.

You can help by printing this message and posting it on local bulletin boards, and by making donations. Contributions should be made out to “Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital”, noting “Kanata appeals” in the MEMO space. Send them to Mik Svilans, 84 Kenins Cr., K2K 3E5. Further information can be found on the web site shown in the tags below.

kanata-forum.ca/omb-appeals.htm
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