

Richmond Fen Wetland Excursion

The Friends of the Jock River will be leading two afternoon canoe/kayak excursions on Saturday May 8th and Thursday May 13th, into the Richmond Fen Wetland, the largest provincially significant wetland in Eastern Ontario.

The Fen is an incredibly diverse wetland populated by many birds, aquatic mammals (beaver, otter, muskrat) and plants. At this time of year, the leaves will be newly emergent so the trees, ferns and grasses will be electric green. Also, some of the trees will be in flower. NB: this is a special place, a remote part of the wetland that few people get into.

We will be canoeing/kayaking up the Jock River from the Richmond Centennial Golf Course into the Richmond Fen Wetland and will be returning to the same site. The entire trip should take less than 4 hours. A map of the area can be found at: <http://www.jockriverrace.ca/Map.html> (link is not hot). There are no rapids on the route and there is only a mild current; however, there are submerged hazards such as logs and old beaver dams. Further, there is at least one active beaver dam and a few logs that must be hoisted over, so participants must be comfortable and capable of exiting canoes onto/over potentially slippery and unstable logs and branches.

When: Meet at the noted meeting site at 12:00 noon for departure at 12:30PM on either Saturday May 8th or Thursday May 13th. Expected return about 4 hours later.

How to get there: Drive SW past the Village of Richmond 2-3 km along the Richmond Road and turn left at the Joy Side Road. At Ottawa St. jog right then immediately left and continue on the Joy Side Road past the Centennial Golf Course. The road becomes a bit rough near the river so do not attempt to drive all the way to the river. Park to one side of the road. DO NOT BLOCK THE ROAD. Carry your canoe or kayak the short distance to the river.

Who may participate: Anyone interested in the Jock River or in the beauty of the Richmond Fen Wetland. This excursion is not limited to members of the Friend of the Jock River. Advance registration is not required.

What to bring: Participants must supply their own canoes or kayaks, safety gear and transportation to the launch site. (NB: Trailhead, a corporate member of the Friends of the Jock River, rents canoes and kayaks.) Dress appropriately to the forecast (hat; rain gear) and the activity (potential for wet feet). Also, sun screen and bug repellent may be appropriate. Bring your camera, water and snacks.

Conditions: Participants are responsible for their own safety. Participants must be comfortable and reasonably competent in a canoe or kayak. They must be able to deal with submerged water hazards, and to traverse logs and beaver dams safely. Please note that Canadian Coast Guard regulations require the following in every canoe or kayak:

- Appropriately sized, Canadian approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) for each person in the craft.

The water at this time of year is cold so the PFD must be worn.

- Sound signaling device (pea-less whistle)
- 15m of buoyant rope for use as a throw rope.
- Manual bailer

Contact for further information: Brian Finch, tel. 613-825-8029

See you there.

Brian Finch
President
Friends of the Jock River