

Newport Forest

August 16 2000

1:45 - 4:15 pm

**Weather:** mixed sun/cloud, cooler 24C, light wind from NW

**Purpose:** to extend OCF trail

**Participants:** Kee & Edgar Hurdle

On this trip I brought 8 bags of wood chips sufficient, I thought, for somewhat over 80 m of trail. Nic couldn't make it, so I prevailed upon Edgar Hurdle to lend me a hand. He was willing, so we drove down to the OCF entrance and went in the OCF trail. We took turns chipping and hacking, talking occasionally, but keeping at it until we had gone quite a distance. Out of curiosity, I paced it out: 95 metres. "Let's make it an even 100," I said. So we cleared and chipped another 5 metres.

During one of our occasional back-and-forthings Edgar told me that over the years "quite a few Walnuts" were harvested in the OCF. He also mentioned that the power lines still carried power! This shocked me because Harvey had told me they had been closed down a few years ago.

The trail is now just under the east side of the power lines and bending north to skirt them, still following the foot of the Hogsback. On the next session we should be in sight of the deer-hunting blind. There are perhaps another 200 metres to go before we are in the RSF.

We went out to the river for a sit-down before returning to Edgar's place. "I hope you don't mind goofing off," I said. Edgar replied: "It's what I do best!" He has always enjoyed the property, particularly the river. At the moment, the gravel bars are exposed for the fifth time this summer -- but more than ever. Edgar said he was sitting down by the river once when he saw a large Mink over on Eva's property. It was going up and down the bank, sometimes plunging into the water to get something, then returning up the bank with it. He listed the fish that people usually catch in the river: Channel Cats, Pickeral, Suckers, and Mulletts (I still don't know what these fish are. The name is not listed in the index our fish guide.