



## MAROOCHY WETLANDS SANCTUARY - SUPPORT GROUP

# HERITAGE FACT SHEET

SOURCE: 1992 edition of the Oxford Dictionary

---

### THE CORDUROY ROAD

Corduroy was a term invented by the English. This was the name for the sealing of some roads with cut timber logs, because it is said that the logs lying side by side in the form of pavers resembled the ridges on the long pants that the early english workers wore.

The word itself was supposedly from the french *corde du roi*, king's cord, however there is no record found to date that the french ever used the word.

Corduroy was used quite often in the Canadian Rockies and also on the plans of America to describe timber laid side by side over wet sections of road especially in the snow country.

The first reference to the word in England appears to have been around 1790, in relation to roads.

The word itself was actually coined (again supposedly from the french word) for the corded fustian (cloth) which was heavily ribbed and furrowed. These roads appeared to be the same and were very rough and ready to travel on, the coach bouncing itself from log to log.

However, they did the job and often kept the roads open after heavy rain that would normally have been closed to traffic until they dried out.

An example of corduroy road can be seen on the Punt Road, although today rotting slowly away, it is still nevertheless an example that man can often achieve a lot with very little to work with.

THE END

