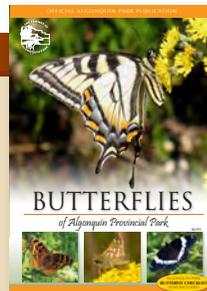


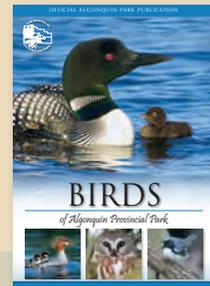
NEW PUBLICATIONS

Butterflies of Algonquin Provincial Park

In Algonquin, 88 butterfly species have been identified representing most of the North American butterfly families. The new 2013 edition includes the Checklist and Seasonal Status of the Butterflies of Algonquin Provincial Park.



ONLY \$4.95



Birds of Algonquin Provincial Park

Over 50 years of careful data-keeping on the 279 bird species that have been recorded in Algonquin has uncovered some significant ecological trends in Algonquin's bird populations, resulting in a special 5-page section in this new edition.

SHOP ONLINE:
algonquinpark.on.ca



Available at the Algonquin Visitor Centre Bookstore, the East Gate and West Gate

Moose Viewing Tips

In spring, Moose can be seen regularly along Highway 60, attracted to the slightly salty water left in roadside ditches after winter road maintenance. Unfortunately, the proximity of Moose to Highway 60 can create a serious hazard for motorists. Stay alert as Moose can be on the road or standing in the ditches and are often surprisingly hard to see. Each year too many Moose and other wildlife are killed in vehicle collisions. Reduce your speed (especially at night) and help save the lives of Algonquin Park's Moose and possibly even your own.



Bull Moose in spring.

PETER FERGUSON

If you see a Moose, pull safely off the traveled portion of the road and turn on your hazard lights to warn other drivers. If possible, park in a nearby parking lot. If drivers flash their vehicle headlights at you in Algonquin Park, there's a good chance a Moose is ahead or maybe even a "Moose Jam" (a traffic jam caused by Moose watchers). If you exit the vehicle, watch for traffic and ensure you keep a safe and respectful distance from wildlife.

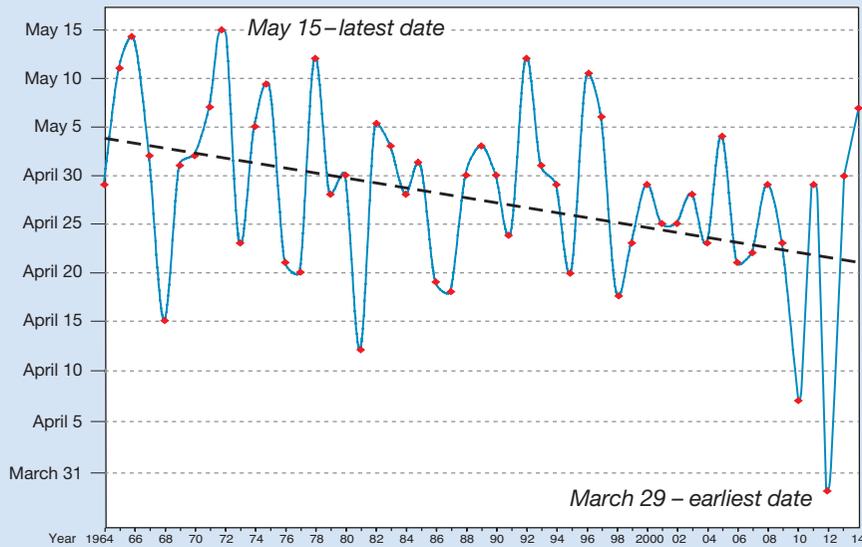
Moose are large and powerful animals. Please show them respect.

WINTER TICK IN SPRING

The winter tick is one of many parasites that affect moose. The aggressive engorgement of female winter ticks causes moose to obsessively groom, scratch with their hind hooves, and rub furiously against trees to relieve the irritation. This vigorous grooming results in damage to their protective coat of hair leading to premature winter hair loss.



Lake Opeongo Ice-out Dates Since 1964 Showing Trend



Compiled by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources; Algonquin Fisheries Assessment Unit

Be FishingSmart...

Reminders while fishing in Algonquin:

- Trout fishing season opens April 26, 2014.
- No live baitfish are permitted.
- No fishing is permitted within 100 m of a water control dam.
- No fishing within 300 metres downstream of Lake Opeongo's Annie Bay dam.
- Daily catch and possession limit for Lake Trout is 2 per person (1 per person with a Conservation Licence).
- Daily catch and possession limit for trout is 5 per person, no more than two of which can be Lake Trout (2 per person with not more than one Lake Trout, with a Conservation Licence).
- Be aware some lakes have slot limits. Check the Algonquin Information Guide for a list.
- Worms are not native to Algonquin and remaining worms should be taken home or thrown in the trash—not on the ground!

* refer to the Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary for complete details



The Visitor Centre offers **FREE WiFi** internet access ...and while there, don't forget to check out The Friends of Algonquin Park Bookstore and Nature Shop, or the Sunday Creek Café.

algonquinpark.on.ca

MNR# 4575 3K P.R. 06 01 14
ISSN 0701-6972 (print) ISSN 1927-8624 (online) © Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2014

Algonquin

The Raven

A Natural and Cultural History Digest

Vol. 55, No. 1 • June 1, 2014

East Side Story: A Celebration

by Rory MacKay

Try to imagine Algonquin Park without the mighty rapids and wide valley of the Petawawa River below Lake Travers, without the sandy beaches of Grand Lake, without the cliffs of the Barron Canyon, and without the Little Bonnechere trails and the Eastern Pines Backpacking Trail. The Algonquin Park of 1913, with its twenty townships and an area of about a million acres, was an impressive territory, but the addition of six full townships and another four half-townships on the east side of the Park a century ago in 1914 is well worth celebrating.

That addition of land brought the Park closer to being an area of "between twenty and thirty townships," which Clerk of Forestry Robert Phipps had proposed as a Forest Reserve in 1884. Legislation passed in 1910 had permitted additions of lands adjacent to the Park by Provincial Cabinet alone, thus streamlining acquisitions.

100 YEARS | 1914 - 2014



HOWARD CONE/BEARE

Algonquin's East Side

It has often been said that there are two Algonquin Parks: the developed area along the Frank MacDougall Parkway/Highway 60 corridor; and the much less visited and less accessible Park interior. In fact there are three Algonquin Parks; the two already mentioned and the much different "East Side," the story of which we relate here.

The forests of the East Side are different from those on the west side of the Park. Being lower in elevation the climate is warmer, receiving on average 21 more frost-free days a year. It is also drier because as the prevailing westerly winds rise above the uplands to the west they cool and drop much

of the moisture they contain as snow or rain, leaving the "east side" in a partial rain shadow. Also, water drainage through the sandy soils in the east is more rapid than in the richer soils of glacial till to the west. The sands and deep river channels of the Petawawa and Barron rivers are remnants of the major melt-water



drainage system that flowed there about nine thousand years ago as a result of the retreat of the massive glaciers that once covered much of Canada.



Fishing party loading canoes on train at Achray in 1925.

Exactly when humans arrived on the scene is uncertain. Archaeological evidence tells us that for thousands of years the Algonquin People and their ancestors seasonally hunted and fished the lands and waters that would become Algonquin Park. After first contact with Europeans in 1613, that traditional usage began to change. Beaver and other fur-bearing animals were trapped and exchanged for metal axes and cooking pots, at trading posts on the Ottawa River or at smaller outposts at Lake Opeongo on the Madawaska River, Golden Lake on the Bonnechere River, and (possibly) Grand Lake on the Barron River.

The land yielded other important resources to Europeans. Great forests of pine grew on the sandy soil along the tributaries of the Ottawa River. Loggers in search of pine suitable in size to square into timbers for export to England began to work their way up the Petawawa (then Neswabic), Barron (then Pittowais) and Bonnechere rivers as early as 1830. By 1867, they had reached the headwaters of those rivers, deep within what would become the Park. Hundreds of men, in groups of about fifty, spent the winters living in camboose shanties scattered through the forests of pine. The thousands of hewn timbers they cut were moved to the seaport of Quebec, and as many saw logs were taken to Ottawa, all floated along with the spring melt-waters. Traditional hunting

grounds of the Algonquin People changed and diminished as the loggers advanced.

Back then, there was no Sand Lake Gate and no road midway between the Petawawa and the Barron rivers as today, at least until the early 1950s. Public access to Achray was only by train until 1963. By no means was the area “roadless” during the Nineteenth Century. Each lumber company constructed “tote roads” and “portage roads” through the forest, to bring in supplies and “winter roads” over which horse-drawn sleighs carried timbers and logs to the waterways. As early as 1852 a road extended through the

valley of the Bonnechere River, connecting Eganville with the lumber company depot farms at Basin Depot near Basin Lake, on the upper Bonnechere at a place called “The Village,” at Chamberlain’s Depot at White Partridge Lake, and at the depot farms of Mr. Varin and Mr. McDonnell south of Radiant Lake. Branch roads extended to Grand Lake and Lake Travers. Stuart and Grier’s depot farm near Pretty Lake was accessed from the north, over a bridge crossing the mighty Petawawa River not far downstream from Lake Travers.



Basin Depot cabin was built in 1892 and is the oldest building still standing in Algonquin Park. It is located adjacent to the site of an 1850s abandoned logging depot and a 1950s lumbering camp.

In the 1880s, surveyors dividing up the townships of the Nipissing District for settlement noted the extent to which the forests had been burned. The old-time loggers had left

wood chips, branches and other debris in their wake that became fuel for fires, both natural and human-caused. As was the case with the townships included in the Algonquin Park of 1893, the poor quality of the soil that remained in these East Side townships prevented settlement by all but a very few hardy souls.

A few squatters (settlers without deeds) cleared small farms along the Bonnechere Road in the 1870s. A rail route had been surveyed through the Bonnechere Valley and then west and north to Kioskokwi Lake, there to join with the Canadian Pacific Railway. The railway was constructed along the Ottawa River rather than along the Bonnechere route. Although the prosperity anticipated by settlement near a railroad did not materialize, squatters Paddy Garvey, Dennis McGuey, James McIntyre, and Ronald McDonald remained on their farms. They grew a few crops, raised a few sheep and cattle, and, assisted by their wives, provided lodgings for men travelling to and from the lumber camps nearby. The men worked at whatever they could to earn extra money. Some were hired as government fire rangers, or were hired as dam operators for the lumber companies. Some mined a local mica deposit. Any extra cattle were sold “on the hoof” to the local lumber camps. Their boys grew up without benefit of formal schooling, heading off to the lumber camps as early as age ten. The girls learned about household chores and had a few lessons in reading and writing from their mother. Annie Roach was the oldest daughter of the man who ran Basin Depot for the McLachlan Company. For a time she taught her sisters and a few McGuey children in the small log building that stands there to this day.

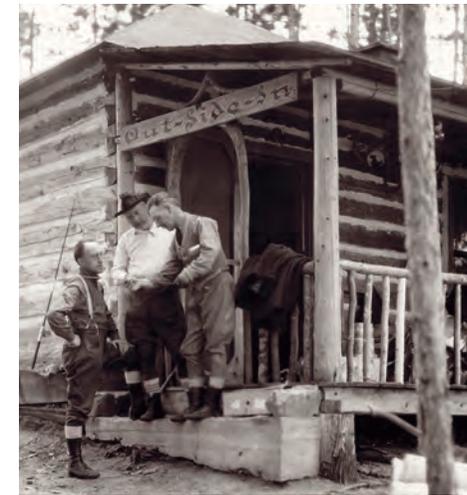
Then in 1914 Algonquin Park was expanded. Those settlers of the Bonnechere who had not given up their farms earlier were required to leave. Although not having title to the land, Garvey, McGuey, the widow McDonald, and Tom O’Hare, who just had a small clearing, were financially compensated for their abandoned buildings. Sleighs continued to transport supplies to Basin Depot and north to Grand Lake where J. R. Booth ran a lumber camp and

farm. Supplies may also have been carried that way to support the men constructing a new rail line across the east and north side of the Park. Opened in 1915, it was part of the Canadian Northern Railway, a transcontinental route to compete with the Canadian Pacific Railway.



Achray train station.

Rangers were assigned to the new section of park to watch for poachers, and especially to patrol the new rail line and the men working on it. There were so few lakes in the new territory that the Superintendent of the Park recommended that the park rangers in the Bonnechere country particularly be supplied with a horse rather than a canoe.



Canada’s famous landscape artist Tom Thomson worked as a fire ranger at Achray during the summer of 1916. He stayed in this ranger cabin and painted the “Out-Side-In” sign and placed it on the porch of the cabin where a replica is now.

Before 1930, a separate group of rangers patrolled for fire. One of the fire rangers who

patrolled in the summer of 1916 was also an artist. Stationed at Achray in a cabin dubbed the “Out-Side-In,” Tom Thomson painted many sketches of the east side landscape, including one at Grand Lake from which his famous canvas “The Jack Pine” was painted.

The rugged landscape that Thomson painted is the same landscape that we see today, with the scrubby second-growth forests of 1914 having grown into timber that still supports the local economy. The University of Toronto held student forestry camps at Achray, from 1924 to 1935.

Some of the pioneering techniques of modern forestry were developed in the Petawawa Management Unit, which was established in 1945 and was one of the first such management areas in Canada. The last river drive of logs down the Petawawa River took place in 1959 and a sawmill operated on Lake Travers until mills were removed from the Park in the early 1970s.



Park Superintendent Frank MacDougall established a Deputy Chief Ranger headquarters at Achray in 1931. Construction of the Stone House to provide an office and accommodation there began in 1933.

Designated as a Deputy Chief Ranger’s headquarters in 1931, Achray has seen many transformations. Over the years many lake and river names have changed. The roar of diesel engines and the screech of rail cars were



Artist Tom Thomson fishing, c. 1915.

commonplace interruptions to the sleep of campers, until that section of the Canadian National Railway line closed in 1995. A station building came and went, as did various maintenance buildings. The stone house (completed in the 1940s) and the log cabin in which Tom Thomson stayed are physical reminders of times past. Interior campsites became the drive-in campground. Despite the comings and goings of people, the landscape has remained remarkably wild.

Michael Runtz, naturalist and author of *The Explorer’s Guide to Algonquin Park*,

considers the East Side to be a special place. One reason is that it is much less travelled than the west side of the Park, since there are fewer canoe routes. He considers a visit to the East Side to be a natural tonic, an escape into “the real world” away from the world of computers and onerous obligations:

“I love that part of Algonquin for a number of reasons. You can go for hours without seeing a person. Yet there is as much diversity of life there as in other parts of Algonquin. Also it is very different because of the geological history, with its outwash plain; the forest type is different, and the elevation is lower. And you have a lot of interesting plants and animals not found in western Algonquin. The very fact that it is not explored that often is also a big thing; when you go there you make new discoveries.”

Whether your personal discovery is a fungus, plant or animal, an old foundation, a scenic vista, or a wilderness camping experience, the East Side of Algonquin Park is worth a visit.

We can all be thankful the lands added to the Park in 1914 had attracted so few settlers, so that one hundred years later we can celebrate the inclusion of those townships in Algonquin Park.