

landscape featuring rocky outcrops, forested hills and gnarled pines on lakeshores. The “north country” inspired artists such as Tom Thomson and The Group of Seven, who immortalized many Algonquin locales in iconic paintings, and defined a Canadian artistic style.

Algonquin started off rather large, 18 complete townships in 1893 that totalled about 4000 km<sup>2</sup>, but the Park has grown considerably since its birth. By 1962, the Park had largely achieved its modern shape (see map) and size, although a few small additions have been made since. Now, Algonquin measures 7635 km<sup>2</sup>, and is the third largest provincial park in Ontario.

Many things have changed in Algonquin over these 125 years, but some things will

last. The vision of Alexander Kirkwood grew into something enormous. Modern Algonquin sees nearly a million visitors a year, from all over the world. People are captivated by the rugged landscape and explore it by car along the highway, on foot on the trails and by water along the canoe routes. Since its creation in 1893, Algonquin has become entrenched in the Canadian identity. A protected place for the people to enjoy while adhering to principles of conservation continues not just here in Algonquin, but has grown into a whole system of parks. Ontario Parks plays a significant role in the protection of Ontario’s landscape and biodiversity—10% of the province and tens of thousands of species, all while providing recreational opportunities for people.

## Reminders while fishing in Algonquin

- 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.



## Fish Research on Lake of Two Rivers

If you catch a fish with a red tag, please release it.

Harkness Laboratory of Fisheries Research is conducting an in-depth population assessment and monitoring of fish movement in Lake of Two Rivers.

In May 2017, fisheries researchers caught 20 Lake Trout and 10 Smallmouth Bass and surgically implanted them with acoustic transmitters. The transmitter (about the size of one AAA battery) emits a unique sound frequency every 5 to 10 minutes. The sound from the transmitter is picked up by acoustic receivers in the lake, which are installed one metre below the surface of the water. With 49 receivers in the lake, the exact location and depth of each fish with a transmitter will be accurately determined. This study is anticipated to yield detailed information about habitat use.

If you happen to be fishing on Lake of Two Rivers, keep an eye out for fish with a small,

red tag near the fin on the back. If you do catch one, please release it, so it may continue to contribute to our understanding of its species. If it cannot be released, please return the transmitter to a Park Office. Keep in mind the fishing regulations prohibit the harvest of Lake Trout from Lake of Two Rivers with a total length between 40-55cm. This valuable research helps improve our understanding of Lake Trout and Smallmouth Bass by producing accurate population estimates and determining where and when fish use specific habitat. The results of this study will help inform future fisheries management planning and resource management decisions, not only for Lake of Two Rivers, but all of Algonquin.

For more information see the bulletin boards or park office.



NICK LACOMBE

## Birth of a Park

Really, it was not all that long ago when the landscape of North America was not spoiled. It looked relatively pristine before the industrial activities, rivers were dammed, forests were cut, and highways, farms and cities acted as huge patches and seams in an ever-expanding quilt covering Ontario. Big changes were on the horizon; industrialization and a population boom meant people moved farther and farther to make a living and carve out their piece of the world. At that time, no one was concerned with the loss of wild places because the continent was indeed too large and wild to ever be fully exhausted—the frontier would always move back. Today, we know this to be wholly untrue and the wild places have receded to

remote locations and require legal protection so that we do not harm them. Sadly, even today with our modern technology, awareness and ethics about protecting landscapes and what lives there, we continue to threaten our fragile and valuable places.

Perhaps because of our past abuse of the landscape or our current environmental challenges, it might seem rather amazing that over 125 years ago someone even had the idea to propose protecting a place from people, for the people and nature. This is exactly what happened and the legacy of this idea now protects over 10% of Ontario’s land and waters and is home to some of its most iconic landscapes.

Sunset on Proulx Lake in Algonquin Provincial Park. JUSTIN PETER



### Publications

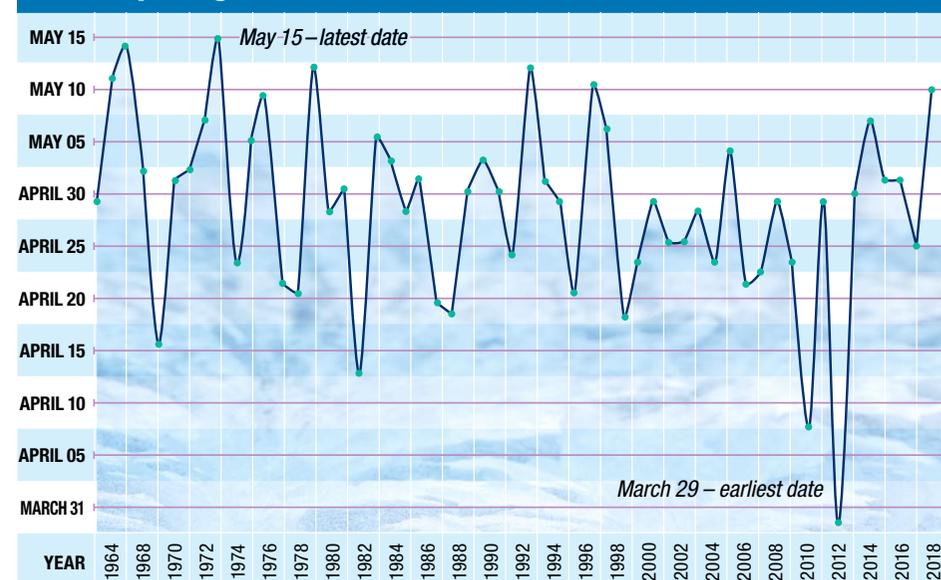
ONLY \$4.95

#### A Chronology of Dates & Events of Algonquin Provincial Park

The book presents, in chronological order, the year and a brief description of important facts and events in Algonquin Park’s history, plus some major occurrences elsewhere that affected the Park. This revised and updated edition includes archival photographs depicting many of the events described.

Available at the Algonquin Visitor Centre Bookstore & Nature Shop, East Gate and West Gate, or online at [algonquinpark.on.ca](http://algonquinpark.on.ca)

### Lake Opeongo Ice-out Dates Since 1964



Compiled by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry: Algonquin Fisheries Assessment Unit

## ALGONQUIN VISITOR CENTRE

HOURS OF OPERATION

Open Daily

9 am - 5 pm

April 21 to June 15, 2018

Museum • Bookstore & Nature Shop • Café



Open Daily

9 am - 7 pm

June 16 to October 8, 2018

Algonquin Logging Museum - Open 9 am - 5 pm June 16 to October 14, 2018.

The 1.3 km trail with outdoor exhibits is available year-round.

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[algonquinpark.on.ca](http://algonquinpark.on.ca)

The Algonquin highlands were among the last places in Ontario to be explored; the rivers flowing down off the high elevations made travel difficult. By the mid-1800s, timber was king in central Ontario and the vast forests of White and Red Pine were being cut at a feverish pace and their squared timbers were floated down rivers until reaching the seaport of Quebec. Later, surveyors inspected the landscape and made an assessment of the land's quality and suitability for timber and farming. Some saw the impressive growth of hardwoods as the hallmark of fertile soils, thinking it would be good for agriculture; however, this would turn out to be untrue. In the 1880s,

James Dickson surveyed some of the area and found that much of it would be rather poor for agriculture. He had a good view of the rocky, sandy soils too – significant areas had been burned to the ground, exposing bedrock in some cases.

By 1885, Ontario's Chief Clerk of Crown Lands, Alexander Kirkwood, encouraged Thomas Pardee, Commissioner of Crown Lands, to spare the area from agricultural and

settlement by somehow preserving the forests and wildlife found in the headwater regions of the Muskoka, Petawawa, Bonnechère and Madawaska Rivers. Even at this time in history, many people had observed the devastation and loss of wild places and the decline of wildlife resulting from human activities.

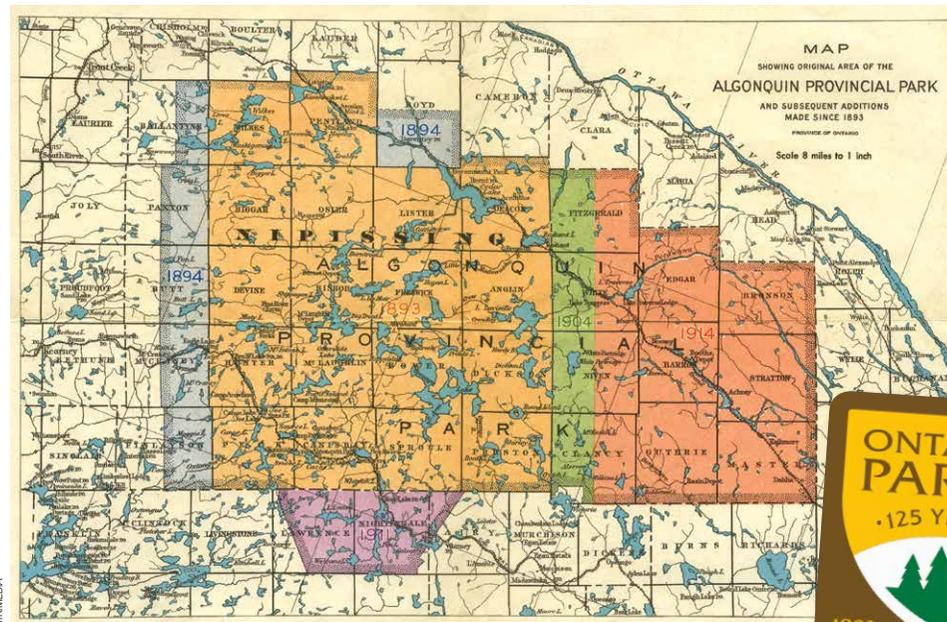
It did take a few years to identify the townships, draft the bill and complete the commission by a succession of bureaucrats to finally make Kirkwood's dream a reality with the passing of the Algonquin National Park Act in 1893. In the end, 18 townships were set aside for this park, and it would be named for the indigenous people that lived in this part of the province: Algonquin.

When Algonquin was established, it was really one of the first protected areas of its kind in Ontario. The province originally named it "Algonquin National Park", perhaps because the Park was considered of national significance. However, Algonquin was always an Ontario park. The official name was changed to "Algonquin Provincial Park" in 1913.



Alexander Kirkwood  
APPAC #586

Men in pointer boat beside a Barnet Lumber Co. alligator towing a log boom, 1908. APPAC #3005



WIKIMEDIA  
Additions to Algonquin Park: 1894-1914.

The Park was established with six goals: *"The preservation of streams, lakes and watercourses in the Park, and especially of the headwaters of those rivers which have their sources therein; the maintenance of the park in a state of nature as far as possible, having regard for the existing interests and the preservation of native forests therein, and indigenous woods as nearly as practicable; to protect fish, insectivorous and other birds, game and fur-bearing animals, and to encourage their growth and increase, to provide a field for experiments in and the practice of systematic forestry upon a limited scale; to serve as a sanitarium or place of health resort; and to secure the benefits which the retention of a large block of forest would confer upon the climate and watercourses of the surrounding portions of the Province"*.

These words, while perhaps flowery for a technical document of today, really do describe a vision that modern land managers can still agree with. This early statement allows for protection, recreation and science, which continue to be core items in the mandate of Ontario Parks. More or less, protecting a whole and large landscape is beneficial, and each of the native species (\*see contradiction

below) has a role to play in Algonquin.

This may seem like a tidy story about the creation of Algonquin, but it was far from simple. For example, the land was set aside as a timber reserve, where logging could continue with some (and increasing) regulation. There were a few "squatters" on family farms in the Park, which the government had to settle with in order for them to leave. A busy rail line crossed the southern portion of the Park and it brought visitors, small railway-based logging towns, fires started by sparks from steam locomotives, and other management issues. People entered the Park to illegally trap for furs, and they had to be thwarted, but by whom? Just as today, Algonquin was a complex place, and there were few people there to maintain the Park policies and uphold the rule of law.

The new park needed rangers, and the very first Chief Ranger was Peter Thomson. He, with a small group of rangers set out to establish a park headquarters and other buildings at Canoe Lake. The location was well-suited because of the access by canoe and it would be close to the Ottawa, Arnprior and Parry Sound Railway, then under construction. Park rangers cleared paths and portages so

they could patrol the new park. Because of the size of the Park, coming home at night was not an option while on patrol. So ranger cabins were built in the interior, roughly a day's travel from each other, on foot, dogsled or snowshoe. The cabins were equipped with bunk beds and a woodstove. Today, some of the remaining cabins are available for rental by interior campers.

To ensure that the place would be "park-like", the superintendent of the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park, James Wilson, came to inspect and create a report on how to improve Algonquin. He suggested moving headquarters to the less convenient, but more centrally located Cache Lake, where it remained for many decades. Wilson was taken with the beauty and wildness of Algonquin, appreciating the untamed nature of it. His comments on some of the Park's wildlife are in stark contrast to our current thinking; he stated that rangers should make a determined effort to destroy wolves, bears and foxes without mercy. Today, this view of predator control is grossly outdated; however, this practice was in line with the Algonquin Park Act which called for the killing of noxious wildlife, such as the species mentioned above, and wild cats, hawks, and even loons. It may surprise many readers that rangers did continue to kill wolves in Algonquin until the late 1950s. How far we have come!

Although it was originally used for transporting timber out of the Park, the railway became very important for bringing people to it. Not long after the establishment

of the Park and canoe routes, people began coming by train to experience the Park. Even in those days, there was concern for the urbanised population needing to spend time in clean air, to swim and enjoy nature. If they could only see us today! At first, people camped primitively, and many continued to, but a new sort of "roughing it" emerged. Modern people would have been in awe of the "glamping" available in the early 1900s at such luxury hotels as the Highland Inn on Cache Lake. Here, you could enjoy fine dining in a wilderness setting, play a great game of billiards, lawn bowling or tennis, and celebrate at the dance hall. Of course, you could still go canoeing, camping and fishing, with equipment, outfitting and guiding services available from the inn. Spending time at the lake was not just for recreational purposes; in fact, many doctors of the time were treating people with tuberculosis with the fresh air treatment. The clean air and relaxation was said to be very healthy. Today, some doctors are recommending time in nature, good old fresh air and exercise, to combat depression, obesity and many other modern ailments. Today, visitors no longer arrive by train, and the Highland Inn is gone, but people still come for many of the same reasons; to get away from the city, explore the landscape with family and friends and to connect with nature and history.

Although the early Park was still healing from the wounds of logging and forest fires, many places were rather picturesque. The changing seasons and temperamental weather were a backdrop for the rugged

Cache Lake station, circa 1950s. APPAC #1159

