

One Fine Day

in South Algonquin

***A Community Zine from the Heart of the
Villages of Madawaska & Whitney***

**SOUTH
ALGONQUIN
BUSINESS
ALLIANCE**



Issue 3 - 2023
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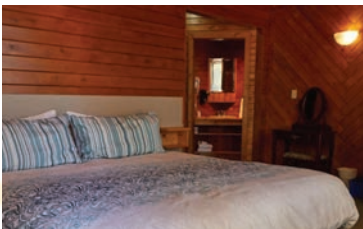


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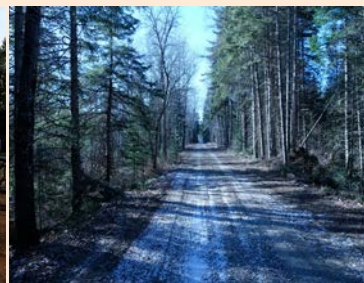
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Welcome to the Beautiful Township of South Algonquin.

As part of your welcome to our area, I would like to do a land acknowledgement. We acknowledge that we are gathered on the unceded Traditional Territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg people, specifically the Matouweskariini (people of the Madawaska River.)

We further acknowledge that the Algonquin People have been stewards of this land since time immemorial and we strive to treat the land along with the flora and fauna it supports, the people, their customs and traditions, with honour and respect. Today, this area is home to people of all walks of life, and we acknowledge the shared opportunities and responsibilities to live, work and survive within this beautiful territory. Chi-miigwetch. All my relations.

South Algonquin is in Northeastern, Ontario, directly adjacent to the world-famous Algonquin Provincial Park. It is accessed from the east and west by Provincial Hwy. #60 and from the South by Provincial Highways #127 and #523. South Algonquin is the southernmost municipality in the District of Nipissing. To the south it borders Hastings County, and to the west and east respectively, it borders Haliburton and Renfrew Counties.

South Algonquin has two villages within it. The Village of Whitney and Madawaska.

The Township's location on the Eastern edge of Algonquin Park, along with its own abundance of natural and recreational amenities, tourism has come to play an important role in the local economy. Visitors enjoy the beautiful flora and fauna, the wildlife and numerous lakes for fishing, boating and canoeing in this Township and in Algonquin Park. Many tourists come here to sleep under the stars that can be seen for miles and miles on a clear night.

On behalf of the Township Council and Staff, Welcome to South Algonquin.

Mayor Ethel LaValley

Top Photo: Steve Dunford/ Photographer

Tim Hortons

19407 Opeongo Line,
Barry's Bay
613-756-0008



Letter from the Editors

Dear Readers,

G'day and welcome to South Algonquin – Ontario's Hinterland – a region off-the beaten path, and just beyond the big city.

In 2018, a small group of us took a chance on a conversation about the future. Our population, in free fall for decades, took another blow when schools started closing. Not only was no one coming to save our businesses or our community, the cost of creating the thriving ecosystem we needed was way beyond our reach. And on top of that, we had no idea at all a global pandemic that would test our commitment to this place we love – and each other – was just a breath away.

So we did what any farmer with an empty barn would do. We planted seeds. We created a plan, ignored the doubters, and began to out-think the difficulty. We built a framework of authentic values to live by, earned a seat at the RTO12 Board, and built relationships with dozens of different associations, including most recently Fednor, the Enabling Accessibility Fund, and the Eastern Ontario Trails Alliance. We helped our local businesses access grants. No one person or business could do it all, but lots of people showed up and each one did something, according to their capacity.

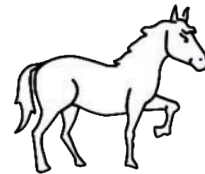
With such collective effort, the right conditions, a bit of time and a lot of hope, sprouts appeared. We turned an idea and a \$10,000 grant for wheelchairs into nearly \$2,000,000 worth of tangible accessibility improvements including landscaping and paving, picnic areas, wider doors, updated accommodations and accessible bathrooms. The highlight of

our work right now is South Algonquin's newly redeveloped Old Rail Trail: 40+ kilometers of multi-use, multi-season accessible trail that runs the entire length of the township west to east. Our goal, now bolder than ever, is to become the most accessible community in Ontario – we want people from all ages and stages of life and all abilities to visit South Algonquin confidently: confident in an enthusiastic home-town welcome, safe spaces, and plenty of inclusive outdoor opportunities for everyone. We are getting there, day by day.

People say they don't want change, but no one complains about too much growth at harvest time. Not only do we have more and better spaces to share than we did five years ago, we also have at least 6 new businesses, 15+ more jobs, and 10 jobs saved – all at a time when the future we thought we were headed for looked very different. We are so grateful to all of our neighbours, partners, volunteers and funders – and to YOU, our friends from away, because we know you love this place as much as we do. Thanks to all of you, 2023 is a bright new year!

**All the best from the South Algonquin
Business Alliance,**

Loretta Neil and Angela Pollak
Editors of One Fine Day



Where's the Mare?

In a nod to our logging and blacksmithing past, the Where's the Mare contest is back. Spot the mare hidden carefully among these pages, then send the page number you found it on, your contact info, t-shirt size and a note telling us about why you love South Algonquin to gday@mysouthalgonquin.ca before December 31, 2023. We'll draw from the winning entries and give away some free My South Algonquin swag. Congratulations to Colin Hunter from Waterloo Region, our 2022 winner, who can't wait to advance his understanding of the universe under South Algonquin's dark and friendly night skies. (It was on the map on page 26, near Madawaska).

Cover Photo - Steve Dunsford
Graphic Designer - Kelly Leigh Martin
Editors - Loretta Neil & Angela Pollak

SABA Board Members:

Angela Pollak - Chair
 Gabriela Hairabedian - Secretary/Treasurer
 Barney Baker
 Deborah Alexander
 Edward Lentz
 Evelyne Lesage
 Loretta Neil
 Steve Dunsford

One Fine Day is an annual community zine highlighting the best parts of living, working, and playing in the Township of South Algonquin.

We hope the content helps us get to know ourselves, each other, and our shared past, present and future better. Wildly imperfect, but also wildly beautiful and wildly fun, the content is written by the people, for the people. Many thanks to the volunteers who made this happen this year, including Deborah Alexander, Barney Baker, Steve Dunsford, Gabriela Hairabedian, Edward Lentz, Loretta Neil, Kelly Martin, and Angela Pollak. Published in Whitney, Ontario, Canada by the South Algonquin Business Alliance (SABA).

All proceeds go toward publication costs and the ongoing non-profit community development work of SABA.

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You can reach us at: zine@mysouthalgonquin.ca.

ISSN 2816-4059 (Print) ISSN 2816-4067 (Online)



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www.MySouthAlgonquin.ca
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Fondly remembered
Eldon Perry (1931-2022)
www.heubnerfuneralhome.ca/obituary/Eldon-Perry

Allow the Forest

Exploring Stress Relief through

By: Erin Morlock and Kari Krogh. Research collaborator Dr. Kirsten McEwan Derby University

Are you busy? Do you have time to read this or are you multitasking? Are you on holiday but feeling a sense of urgency as you try to “fit in” all the fun? Do you ever wonder how you might slow down? What if we told you there was a way to take an enjoyable and rejuvenating “time-out” that can improve your physical and mental health dramatically and... that you can easily learn a set of practices that can be done to maintain these benefits, for free!

No special diets or expensive gym memberships required. It's called Shinrin Yoku or Mindful Nature Connection. The EcoWisdom team offers in-person and online programs for individuals and groups that are designed with neuroscience in mind. They guide you in exploring a range of helpful and relaxing nature-based practices that you can then do regularly in your everyday life.

EcoWisdom provides in-person services across the South Algonquin region. They also offer online programs to teach mindful nature connection practices to support wellbeing. Some people choose to do these virtual programs to learn techniques that they then use while on holiday and others join the online programs to maintain the wellbeing benefits of their get-away.

What is Shinrin Yoku?

Shinrin Yoku is a practice that originated in Japan to address stress-related health concerns. It has since gained popularity around the world. It involves slowing down, opening the senses, and noticing colours, gentle movements, textures, patterns, and soundscapes of the natural world. Sounds simple, right? And yet it can be hard to slow down on our own. This is where a guide comes in. Having someone familiar with the science and practice of mindful nature connection can be essential for moving into a state of deep calm. It is also great to have a shared experience with others in a group to build a sense of community and connection.

The direct English translation of Shinrin Yoku is Forest Bathing – but don't worry, there is no actual bathing involved! It refers to the invisible chemicals called phytoncides that are “showered” down upon us without us even realizing it when we walk among the trees.

Did you know that one study showed that spending a long weekend in nature can increase your natural killer cells by 40% and that these improvements were maintained for weeks afterwards? These tiny NK cells fight off infection. Other studies have shown how these invisible gems in the air improve our mood!

Health Benefits of Mindful Nature Connection

EcoWisdom's programs are designed to meet the needs of both the general public and special populations. An international team of forest medicine researchers found, for example, that EcoWisdom's 2.5-hour virtual mindful nature connection program significantly reduced pain (27%), fatigue (24%), depression/anxiety (32%), and memory/concentration problems (34%) among their participants living with chronic illnesses/mobility impairments. These forest bathing programs were also found to increase social connection while reducing rumination - the habit of replaying distressing worries or negative thoughts in our minds.

Most people who engaged in EcoWisdom's virtual nature programs were able to use mindful nature connection practices independently afterwards. This might explain why these benefits were maintained when measured a month later.

There are a growing number of studies documenting how Shinrin Yoku offers numerous benefits to all kinds of people – ranging from stressed executives to those who are worn out by the demands of caring for young children or aging parents. Forest bathing can lower blood pressure, blood sugar, and heart rate while increasing cancer fighting proteins. It can also support mental health, social connection, and creative expression. And the list goes on!

Nature Connection at Night

Mindful nature connection does not have to happen only in the daytime. The dark night skies of South Algonquin are brilliant with stars on clear nights. Away from urban lighting, the Milky Way rotates across the sky.

Continued next page

to Speak to You:

gh Mindful Nature Connection

When you visit, notice the special magic of the moon as it changes over the month – waxing and waning - from the full moon that creates moon shadows among the trees to the darkness of the new moon. You can sign up for a guided night-sky event, or simply take a blanket outside for a great family activity as you lay and watch for meteors, perhaps using a pair of binoculars to see the moon's craters. South Algonquin's public beaches are a great place to stargaze – they have parking, bathrooms, and often the sky reflects on the water creating an incredible scene. Allow yourself to be captivated by the beauty and awe of the experience!

Come to South Algonquin

So many of us live in urban spaces where we cannot just step outside to take a quiet walk surrounded by lush greenery or wake to the morning loon calls on a lake. Do you live in one of these places? If so, we invite you to visit South Algonquin to experience a meaningful and mindful encounter with nature.

South Algonquin, known as Ontario's hinterland – just beyond the bustle of the city – is an ideal location to try mindful nature connection practices like forest bathing and nature-based meditation. We have groomed forest trails, pristine lakes, and gorgeous night skies jam packed with bright stars! We also have certified Nature and Forest Therapy Guides trained at the nearby EcoWisdom Forest Preserve. Perhaps you'll want to attend one of their programs hosted at Hay Lake Lodge, Four Corners Algonquin or elsewhere in our community. Afterwards you can take what you have learned into Algonquin Park for an even richer and more memorable experience!

We warmly welcome you to explore ways EcoWisdom can support you in developing mindful nature connection skills – as an individual, business, group or as someone wishing to become an EcoWisdom-Certified Nature and Forest Therapy Guide. We work in a variety of locations within the Madawaska River watershed, which is on the traditional home and unceded territory of the Madaoueskarini Algonquin People. Eco-Wisdom offers virtual and in-person mindful nature connection programs as well as Nature and Forest Therapy Guide training.

Erin Morlock is an environmental educator and EcoWisdom- certified Nature and Forest Therapy Guide. She enjoys watching sunsets from a kayak on Hay Lake in summer and hearing the wind blow across the frozen lake in winter. Kari Krogh, PhD Psychology, is a meditation teacher and a co-founder of EcoWisdom Forest Preserve with environmental educator David Gordon.

Photos Kari Krogh

Contact Erin and Kari at
info@ecowisdom.ca

Watch for program announcements here:
<https://ecowisdom.ca/appreciatingalgonquin/>

Register for night sky programs at
www.fourcornersalgonquin.ca

Learn more about the area:
www.mysouthalgonquin.ca/
Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/Ecowisdom_Forest_Preserve

Exciting news: the first peer-reviewed academic publication of ecowisdom's work has now been published: Full paper:
<https://www.mdpi.com/1999-4907/14/5/1033>



Forest Bathing in Pictures -

You can use the images and prompts below to imagine yourself walking along a meandering forest trail or if you are able, you can visit the Old Rail Trail in Whitney or Madawaska to enjoy the experience in real life. Here are some tips to get the most out of your experience:

- If you go into the forest, choose a safe place to walk, like a public trail or pathway and be aware of any potential hazards.
- Bring a friend with the understanding that this will be done slowly and mostly in silence, pausing from time to time to share what you are noticing.
- Be patient with yourself. Slowing down can be hard.
- Move slowly, notice the environment around you with your senses – sights, sounds, smells, and touch.
- Absorb what is most pleasant in your surroundings - this will be unique to you!
- The key activities are: Pause. Breathe. Notice. Feel.

Pause

For a few moments, walk outdoors slowly, sit by an open window, or choose a picture to focus on. There are many things to discover! You can take time now to delight in whatever you find intriguing, beautiful, or relaxing.

Breathe

Take three slow breaths while gazing softly upon an image or at something in your surroundings. With each exhalation see if you can release some stress from the body. What you are noticing externally through your senses – sight, touch, sound? If it feels comfortable, pay attention to your body - your eyes, your jaws, your shoulders, etc. Do you notice relaxation?

Notice and Feel

As you look at the images or move your gaze around your surroundings do you notice feelings of resting in the body or a reassuring sense that you are a part of the natural world? Is there a pleasant memory that arises from a past experience in nature? If these arise, linger there! After your experience out on the trail or with these images, see if you can carry these images and feelings of comfort and calm with you – try to revisit these pleasant feelings throughout your day and week.

Invitation

The trees, rocks and ferns of beautiful South Algonquin welcome you. Come ~ your body, mind and spirit will thank you!



How many shades of green are you noticing?



Imagine reaching out to a tree, allowing her roots to ground you.

Continued next page

Watch for program announcements here:
<https://ecowisdom.ca/appreciatingalgonquin/>
Register for night sky programs at
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Learn more about the area:
www.mysouthalgonquin.ca/

A Self-Guided Experience

Photos by Kari Krogh.



Can you breathe in the expanse of the sky and feel a sense of possibility?



As you gaze softly upon this image, can you feel the temperature, texture, and comfort of moss?



Can you pause and consider what your body, mind or heart might need in this moment?



Can you absorb the calm of your surroundings into your body and keep this with you?

Billy Bennett

A Short Story in Four Parts

Article by Angela Pollak

Billy Bennett is the stuff legends are made of. Although he died decades ago, you don't have to go too far to find people who remember him. And if they don't remember him personally, they remember hearing stories about him.

I was told that the Bennetts were a family like any other, until the father died. They lived down on the main road in Whitney. Losing a parent figure is devastating any time, but at that time, he was also the breadwinner.

Ann Boldt recounted once that the times were really hard back then, and they had to go on living somehow. "I can remember her goin' around, you know, she'd pick flowers and sell them and stuff, and go door to door." People understood that they struggled and "were good and would feed them, and give what they could."

Loretta Neil tells me "He used to come around to talk to my granny, and she would send us kids down with loaves of bread for him." I've heard stories like this from many folks, always about wholesome home-cooked food and garden-grown vegetables generously given, usually quietly so as to maintain his dignity. It was always with a smile and a happy heart, and no expectation of return – unconditional no matter the circumstances of the family who shared.

In fact, this is one of three stories about Billy that come up over and over again. Billy was poor – probably the poorest person in Whitney, where many people found it difficult to survive. Through no fault of their own, everyone lived a hard life. Yet even in the hardship there were degrees of separation - some lived harder than others and Billy lived the hardest life. Which makes the stories of dignity, respect, compassion, kindness, friendship, care and concern in the face of overwhelming difficulty remarkable and moving.

The second part of Billy's story is about how he was always covered in soot. Ann told me that after Billy's mom died, he "moved his house from there, down on the road where you go to the Adventure Lodge. He had a little shack down there... But he was dark because he used to burn that old stove oil. So Billy was quite dark.



And he walked all hunched over," she continued. In fact, he was black with dirt and soot and ash from head to foot most of the time from heating his home with old oil. I heard that once someone gave him a mattress to sleep on and he burned that for warmth too. His home didn't have water to bathe or wash clothes in, or hydro to warm him or to light his way. As Billy made his rounds, he wouldn't go into people's houses because if he leaned on anything, he would leave the soot behind on everything he touched.

But Billy's spirit was not dark. In fact he carried a remarkable light within, and his memory shines so brightly today, despite his appearance, in the stories that people gladly and frequently share. Billy roamed the village and the woods, looking for food to sustain himself, knocking on friendly doors. Often he didn't even have to knock – people knew he would come and they were ready. He didn't complain. He rarely asked for anything as I understand it. He always had a kind word, and a thankful heart. People let him live how he liked, without judgement. It went on like this for years until someone became really concerned about his safety. Ann told me that "he just literally, he got sick or froze his feet or something and they took him out."

Continued next page

The third part of Billy's story is from a time when he was finally being cared for well. "Taking him out" means that social services stepped in to find him a home in an assisted living facility. After that, Billy wandered no more. They bathed him. They clothed him. They fed him three square meals a day. People who knew him visited and marveled at the transformation. "Myrtle Sovie went down to see him and took pictures. You wouldn't know he was the same man." Ann finished her story to me by saying, "Whitney had its characters. We still have some. But basically I find the people are very good-hearted. If something happens, right away we're all banding together to help and that's a good thing."

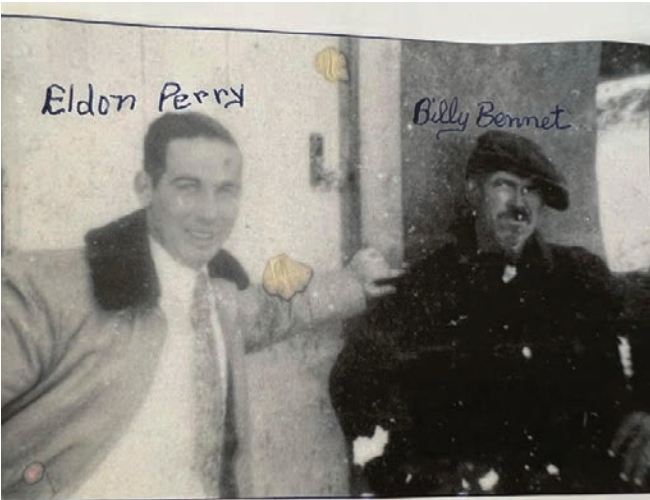
Based on piecing Billy's story together, we're pretty sure he passed away in Prince Edward County. His grave marker shows a death date of 1990, but no birth date, which leaves us unsure how old he was when he passed.

I don't believe it's an accident that the people who share Billy's story in words and pictures today are and were also mothers, grandmothers, wives and sisters. I'd be willing to bet that almost everyone who met Billy and most who have heard his story have passed it on to their children too, because it is compelling, and because no matter our careers, many of us are hardwired to see humanity and do the hard work of home and family and community first, regardless of cost. His story lives on. It's a curious tale, of a curious man, and a community caring for its own in a time and place where the environment was unforgiving and there was no cavalry coming to the rescue.

I believe it lives on because there is something as evergreen as a white pine in both its message and the messengers who share it. Now you know it too and I'd wager if you care enough to sit with it for a spell, you'll find something worthwhile in it also.



*Fondly Remembered
Two unique men Residents
of Whitney.
Eldon would take Billy for
rides through Algonquin Park
Eldon befriended Billy and they
were the best of friends
Submitted by
Hazel Switzer*



Opeongo Outfitters Since 1936



Anyone who's been here before, knows that a stop at Opeongo Outfitters is a very special experience. So much more than just a place to buy things, you feel the nostalgia every single time you walk in the door, where four generations of our family have had the privilege to know and serve just as many generations of your families. Whether you're looking for gifts or gear, to purchase or rent, we're the last stop before heading east into the Park, and your last chance to browse or buy before you begin your adventure. We see so many familiar faces year over year, you may be surprised to know that we often don't need a computer to tell us who you are. If you've been here before, we are likely to remember you, and many times we know your family too. It's this type of connection that has kept us in business for so many years. And whether we know you or not, we are dedicated to making your experience in our village of Whitney and neighbouring Algonquin Park the best it can possibly be. But don't take our word for it, here are some testimonials from our 'extended' family...

Jimmy and his crew took amazing care of us. We had a group of 40 and the tents, canoes, and all camping items were perfect. Jimmy also went out of his way to provide us with water when a water advisory took place the afternoon of our arrival. Look no further for all your needs in Algonquin. Thanks Opeongo!- **Richard Annesley**

Amazing service and absolutely wonderful staff. Best place to rent canoes from in all of Algonquin. The owner Jimmy is very helpful and is a man of his word. The girl in the store is friendly and makes you feel like a valued customer every time

I visit.- HC

Best outfitters and chip truck in Algonquin! Do not miss out on Avery's Chip Truck! Best fries ever and the cheeseburgers are charbroiled to perfection with fresh buns and lots of fresh toppings. We come here everyday. They are open when we are in the park - it's that good. Nice picnic tables and umbrellas to enjoy it all in the fresh air away from the road near the canoes. Chipmunks and birds provide entertainment! 10/10 recommendation!! -**Linda McDougall**

I've been dealing with Opeongo Outfitters for many years and have had nothing but positive experiences. Being a canoe guide in the Park I've had the pleasure of purchasing as well as renting top rate gear. Taking the awesome cedarstrip water taxi on Lake Opeongo has always been an amazing worthwhile experience. After a canoe trip I always stop for a tasty cheeseburger and fries from the friendly cook in the chip stand beside the Outfitter.

Giving back to the community to me is a sign of truly great operation. That's exactly what Opeongo Outfitters, the Avery family and staff did in donating items to be raffled off in the "raise the roof" campaign. I was extremely lucky to win 1st. prize (a H20 kevlar canoe). Almost 10K was raised to go directly back into the community by this raffle. Hats off to everyone involved and thanks again for your efforts in support not only to the people in Whitney but visitors to Algonquin Park alike!

Cheers and happy paddling, Richard Harris

Opeongo Outfitters ... at the East Gate Algonquin Park

**Generations
of Experienced
Outfitters since 1936**





The Carriagehouse Maynooth

The Carriagehouse in Maynooth is a retail storefront for local artists, crafters, market vendors, & entrepreneurs.

Located at 32965 Hwy 62 in the historic former Metropolitan Bank, we are at the intersection of Hwy 62 & 127 on your way to Algonquin Park. This area of town is commonly referred to as "The 4-Corners in Maynooth".

Come experience an eclectic mix of clothing, décor, art, gifts, unique handknits, maple syrup, honey, & energy channeling products. We also provide free community support services (mending, paperwork, fundraising) and general information about the area.

They call us "Maynooth GOOGLE!"

Open year-round
Please call if you are in the area and wish to stop in at your convenience.

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We are Nomad Vintage, made up of Michele, my daughter Rowan and sometimes my husband, Paul. Our name NOMAD speaks to our travels through areas of Southern, Eastern and Central Ontario hunting for those unusual, one-of-a-kind items that we hope our friends and customers find as interesting as we do.



We sell consignment items from local artisans.
ALSO BUYING estates interesting and unusual items.
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The Evolution of the Whitney Blackfly Festival

It was 2016, and it was the anniversary of our first year of living in Whitney. We had lots to celebrate: buying our first home, starting our own business, and making so many friends in a completely new place. Since we had met so many musical locals, we decided to celebrate by having a bigger than usual campfire in front of our log cabin lodge. We invited local musicians Adam Ruzzo and Brian Bouwmeester to play a set before we took the stage. The flies were a little thick, so we handed out bug nets to everyone that came out to enjoy the evening. So many people remarked that they wouldn't usually choose to spend their free time outdoors on a warm day in June due to these little biting creatures, but everyone was in such great spirits. We thought to ourselves, this is something to be proud of: we all have the fortitude and the love for our area that we can be outside no matter what Mother Nature throws at us. In that moment, the Blackfly Festival was born.

The next year, our festival grew a little bigger and Whitney band The Mad River Ramblers played some amazing country classics, followed by Bancroft band Appalachian Celtic. After the night was over, people kept asking us if this was going to be an annual thing, and it was pretty clear to us that we had something special on our hands.

Since then, we've hosted bands from all over Ontario, and we've gone from a small, unlicensed, bring-your-own lawn chair party to a larger organized staffed event with vendors, food and liquor sales, and of course our mainstay Whitney Blackfly Band a.k.a owners Bongo and Andrea.

We have been blown away by everyone's enthusiasm and excitement for our little event at this special time of year. In 2023, we're going to be bigger and better than ever – after our COVID hiatus we are so excited to return and we're doing so with a big splash of great performers and vendors, including 2019 favourites the Kyle Felhaver Band and the Wilno Blues Band. We have a limited number of 250 tickets available for each evening at \$15 each plus tax. Since the festival is now licenced, it will be a 19+ event, so make sure to bring your ID's!

We can't wait to see you at the Bongopix Tavern on June 9 & 10, 2023 for great music, food, and fun. We are so thankful to call this little community home, and we are always humbled by the awesome support of everyone here in the Township of South Algonquin. We wouldn't be able to do this without all of you!

Peace, love, and blackflies!
-Bongo & Andrea



South Algonquin Politics Facebook Group



2022 Christmas Stocking Giveaways were a Big Hit

In December 2022, the South Algonquin Politics FB group gave away 26 Christmas stockings and Santa's sacks.

"I'd come on nightly at 6:00pm," Loretta said, "even though I was sometimes late... I had to wait until whatever storm was brewing at the house subsided into organized chaos!" The anticipation was more than the crowd could bear, with Leah saying, "I have my timer set for 5:50pm every day!" Loretta Continued, "we survived through storms of all kinds, and power outages that caused us to miss nights, that then caused us to double up on other nights." It was a full month of fun, and every time, there was a crowd that was so eager they pressed for more and more games.

Loretta – always eager to please the crowd – dug deep in her attic and found a whole bunch of cool 'extra' prizes to keep people's enthusiasm up. So many games, and so many laughs! By the end, the stockings were gone, and Loretta went to take a long winters nap.

Did you miss the giveaways? Join the South Algonquin Politics FB page and we promise you won't be left out of the fun!

2023 promises a whole new month of excitement <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2175494726099478/>

And if you think this page is a hoot, you might also try, "If You Grew Up in Whitney" - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1741135412818581>

**Respect from
Andrew and Loretta
Admins of South Algonquin Politics Group**



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Night Sky Photography in

Trade the light pollution of the city for the authentic beauty of a rural, dark sky friendly night at Four Corners in starry South Algonquin where you can capture your own Instagram worthy selfie with the Milky Way. For the full text of this abridged interview, visit FourCornersAlgonquin.ca/blog

Article by Angela Pollak of Four Corners Algonquin

So many people who visit South Algonquin comment on the brilliance of our night skies, and with good reason: the night sky is one of the most awe-inspiring sights in the world if you're lucky enough to see it in its full glory. Although dark sky designations that protect the night sky from light pollution are becoming more common, our location just east of Algonquin Provincial Park, and west of nowhere in particular means that the stars shine brightly on their own here, without much fuss, formality or intervention.

In fact, on a clear night the stars shine so brightly that you can observe many night sky objects and events with the naked eye including the North Star, the Big Dipper, the Milky Way and shooting stars. All you really need for a memorable experience is a blanket, a cup of your favourite beverage and a clear sky. If you want to level up, download a free app that maps the night sky out for you and tells you what you're looking at. Telescopes, binoculars, or other equipment can help keeners with more complex knowledge see remote or difficult to spot events in more detail.

Angela Pollak from Four Corners Algonquin interviewed long time Whitney resident and astro-photographer Steve Dunsford from the MadMusher Restaurant and Impressions of Algonquin Gallery in Whitney. Read on to learn more about long time Whitney resident and astro-photographer Steve Dunsford's tips and tricks for how to catch the perfect image.

FCA: Steve, you've been in Whitney for a long time and you've taken some really striking nature photographs, including this year's stunning image of the northern lights on our cover. Can you tell me about how you got started in photography.

SD: Well, I suppose the bug first caught up with me when I was six years old. My first camera was a

double-bubble bubble gum camera. If you saved 100 bubble gum wrappers and sent them in with shipping costs, they'd send you a free camera. I still have a couple of photos I took in 1966 at Disney with that camera. About ten years ago I was inspired by some of my restaurant customers who would take images in the park and share them with me. I thought, I see these things too – I should get a camera and take my own pictures too.

FCA: How hard is it to capture night sky events?

SD: The technical and mechanical part of using a camera to shoot the night sky isn't very difficult to learn. The most challenging part tends to be finding the subject you're looking for. With the northern lights, for example, you don't see them every night around here. Meteors are the hardest event to capture because they're random, very quick, and there's an element of luck involved because a wide angle lens will only capture a small section of the sky. Nine times out of ten the meteor is not in the section you're looking at. On the other hand, the aurora is fairly easy – when it appears, it's just there. You point your camera at it and click.

FCA: Do you have any tips for how to find a good setting for night sky images?

SD: The difference between a so-so photo and a high-quality image comes down to interest and composition. You want the shot to have visually interesting things going on. I like water as a foreground because you get really nice reflections in the photo. Honestly, the best way to find a good (and safe) location is in the daytime. If you're looking to photograph the northern lights, you need a good location that looks toward the north. Do your scouting during the day, and pick something that doesn't put you at risk of injury when you go back after dark.

Continued next page

Starry South Algonquin

Photos by Steve Dunsford
Impressions of Algonquin

FCA: Tell me more about timing... how do you know when?

SD: Some night sky events are known ahead of time, so you'll want to pay attention to forecasts, lunar eclipses, comets... those are events that you can know ahead of time and happen according to a predictable schedule. For other events, you don't get a lot of prior warning. An app like AuroraNow for northern lights alerts is helpful. You want to pay attention to the KP – the higher the number, the farther south the aurora is visible. KP-1 is visible in the far north. KP7-8 is visible in the US. KP of 5+ means good potential in the South Algonquin area.

FCA: Have you ever encountered any surprises while out? I think a lot of people might be afraid of being out in the woods after dark...

SD: I have often heard wolves when I shoot near the east gate of the park – there is a pack in the vicinity and I often hear them howling. Sometimes I even howl to them and they've responded. I don't know if the animals are aware of the northern lights, but wolves, loons, even geese, you can hear them at night. They seem to be more vocal when these events happen, at the beginning of the event and just before it. I often hear branches breaking, or owls at work. I once had an owl swoop at me after it viewed a light on my camera! Beavers will come by and snap their tails in front of me. They're quiet, so you don't hear them coming – it scares me every time. Thankfully I've never heard or seen a bear or moose at night.

FCA: What does your tool box look like?

SD: A lot of night shots require long exposure,

which then requires use of a tripod. You want a wide-angle lens (F2.8) to capture as much of the night sky and to let in as much light as possible. I use a "Canon 5-D Mark 3 Full Frame Camera" and a Sigma 20mm lens. I start with setting the lens to 2.8, the ISO to 3200, and the exposure to 25s. This is a good starting point for darker events like the Milky Way and meteors, but it's way too much light for auroras. I bring water and snacks if I'm going to be out for a long period of time and maybe a chair to sit in. I'm careful to dress for the elements and time of year. Winter is great for pictures because there's less dust in the air (fewer wildfires). There's a lot of humidity and dust in the summer. I also keep spare batteries. In the winter I put them in my pockets so my body warms them and they last longer. I've also noticed that shooting multiple shots in the winter produces heat which causes condensation on the lens, so I use hand warmers to keep them warm. An elastic secures it to the lens, but there are fancier devices you can buy if you have the budget.

FCA: Have you got any advice for cellphone warriors trying to capture the night sky on a mobile device?

SD: A lot of my advice applies no matter what camera you're using. Be alert to the forecasts, pay attention to the composition, keep your equipment close at hand to capitalize on the randomness of night sky events. And if you're able, bring a tripod or set your camera down on a flat surface to keep it steady during longer exposures. Most importantly, be patient, try things and have some fun. You get better with practice!

Continued next page

Night Sky Photography in

2023-24 Night Sky Events

Visit seasky.org for a complete list of night sky events.

2023

- May 19 – new moon
- June 1-2 – Mars in the Beehive Cluster
- June 4 – full moon
- June 12-13 – Venus in the Beehive
- June 18 – new moon
- June 21 – summer solstice
- July 1 – conjunction of Venus and Mars
- July 3 – full moon supermoon
- July 17 – new moon
- July 29-30 – Delta Aquarids meteor shower
- August 1 – full moon supermoon
- August 12-13 – Perseids meteor shower peak
- August 16 – new moon
- August 24 – moon occults Antares
- August 31 – full moon, bluemoon, supermoon
- September 15 – new moon
- September 19 – Neptune at opposition
- September 23 – fall equinox
- September 29 – full moon supermoon
- October 8-9 – Draconids meteor shower
- October 14 – new moon
- October 14 – annual solar eclipse
- October 21 – Orionids meteor shower
- October 28 – full moon
- October 28 – partial lunar eclipse
- November 3 – Jupiter at opposition
- November 4-5 – Taurids meteor shower
- November 13 – new moon, Uranus at opposition
- November 17-18 – Leonids meteor shower
- November 27 – full moon
- December 12 – new moon
- Dec 13-14 – Geminids meteor shower
- December 21-22 – Uranides meteor shower
- December 22 – winter solstice
- December 27 – full moon

2024

- January 3-4 – Quadrantids meteor shower
- January 11 – new moon
- January 25 – full moon
- February 9 – new moon
- February 24 – full moon
- March 10 – new moon
- March 22 – spring equinox
- March 25 – full moon
- March 25 – penumbral lunar eclipse
- April 8 – new moon, total solar eclipse
- April 22-23 – Lyrids meteor shower, full moon
- May 6-7 – Eta Aquarids meteor shower
- May 8 – new moon
- May 23 – full moon
- June 6 – new moon
- June 20 – summer solstice
- June 22 – full moon

Photos pages 22-25
by Steve Dunsford
Impressions of Algonquin

Starry South Algonquin

Where to stargaze in South Algonquin

The best locations in the township are easily accessible and designed with public safety in mind. Bridges, beaches and public parks are pretty spectacular and well maintained, often with public parking and restroom facilities, making them perfect for visitors who want to experience the night sky with less effort and less risk. Have a look at our township map to find the spots below.

Beaches

Beaches offer amazing composition with sky visible over water so you'll see some great reflections.

Galeairy Lake beach faces west for spectacular cotton candy sunsets.

Bark Lake beach faces east for beautiful sunrises, with some northern views.

Bridges

The Airy Trestle bridge faces north for the Northern Lights.

Looking toward the **Madawaska Rail Bridge from JR Booth Memorial Park** you're facing north again.



Tips for Night Sky Photography

Safety first!

Bring a flashlight, don't wander at night, and always be aware of your surroundings.

Location, location, location

Scout for a safe place during the day and pay attention to safety signage.

Composition of the shot

Use water in the foreground for stunning reflections.

Pay attention to night sky forecasts

Check out the local night sky forecast at www.fourcornersalgonquin.ca/algonquin-stargazing

Equipment - use a wide angle lens and tripod

Technique - shoot with long exposure and have fun!

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29588 Hwy 60, South Algonquin, ON
(5 minutes east of Algonquin Park in Whitney)



The Historic Cross Lake School, S. S. #3 Lyell

PHOTO: According to Ruth (Lentz) Coulas this photo shows, Mrs. White as teacher. Ruth is the student in back row with white tam.

By Edward Lentz

The first school was erected in 1908, but was burned shortly after by a forest fire. In 1912, with a government grant, and with lumber from the sawmill of Henry Schmidt (Smith) , a new school was built and clad entirely with metal. It was built on an acre donated by the Urban & Sarah Brown family, who were the first settlers of the growing Cross Lake community.

Urban was on the School Board, as was his son-in-law Patrick Ward, Alex Hass and William Helmer. The first teacher was Mr. Harper.



PHOTO: Tom's youngest son Dowdall Murray is shown here with his class at the Cross Lake School in 1945. In 1947 he joined Murray Brothers Lumber Company and eventually become president.

When Tom and Mick Murray formed Murray Brothers Lumber Company and moved to Cross Lake in 1930-1950, many new families moved into the settlement and built homes near the Lumber yards, bringing new students to the school. Casey Murray, Tom's son, was brought into the business as secretary treasurer and married Edith Post from Whitney and they built their log home on the lake. The other son, MJ Murray joined the Company after the war and lived with his parents in Barry's Bay.

Mick's son Tommy Murray entered the Company under his father's support. He married Claire Buckley, a teacher at the school and they built their home on the lake across from the mill. Two of their sons Jerry and Michael were born here and later joined the Company. The home was purchased by Wesley & Mary Buder with their young family, in 1949.



PHOTO: Class of Teresita Murray L to R - Grace Brown, Alice Trolley, Irene Lentz, Anne Ward, Jack Hilderbrandt, Shirley Jessup, Ronnie Cybulskie, Betty Sharrow, Hazel Jessup, Shirley Lentz, Gladys Wasmund Front row - Leeburn Jessup, Gilbert Trolley, Edward Lentz, Rita Hilderbrandt, Bessie Brown, Marlene Jessup, Phyllis Jessup, Josephine Lacombe, Nelson Cybulskie, Robert Cybulskie, Gerald Sharrow

Two students in this class – Edward & Josephine Lentz - eventually met after getting their high school education in two different communities, and married and moved to Ottawa. After raising a family of five, they returned to the community for recreation and later retired here, became volunteers and started a small farm business, Madawaska Maple Products.

Continued next page ...



PHOTO: Edward & Josephine (Lacombe) Lentz 1960

Edward was grateful to Murray's as he worked in the lumber yard in the summer after graduation from Peterborough Teacher's College in 1960 and was able to buy a car and rent an apartment in Ottawa where he started his teaching career in Blossom Park.



Stanley Jessup, Melvin Jessup, Raymond Jessup, Leonard Jessup, Phyllis Brown, Carl Lentz, Beverly Jessup, Carol Anne Lacombe, Jean Lentz, Eleanor Coulas, Rose Jessup, Ivan Jessup, Joyce Brown, Francis Coulas, Reginald Lacombe, Alice Jessup Two of these students would become husband and wife!

In 1963 the pupils were bused to Madawaska and the school became home to Roy Hergott, a veteran who brought his wife Muriel when he retired from his job as Premier Davis's chauffeur.



Cross Lake School - 1947

Used as a church on Sundays

Mary Ward, Mr. & Mrs. Allan Wasmund, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Lentz, Agnes Lentz, Mrs. Bill Lentz, Hazel Jessup, Bella Trolley, Ruth Lentz, Mr. Bill Lentz, Mrs. Wesley Brown, Adeline Lentz, Lornie Lentz, Florence Brown, Verna White (Brown), Edna Brown, Roy White, Irene Lentz, Alice Trolley and Shirley Lentz.

The Old school – New Use

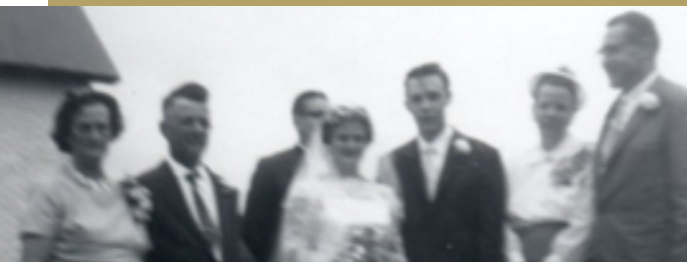
The Old school became a new church for the community of Cross Lake. Many of the teachers became brides of young men of the community. Two weddings would be in the church before it was amalgamated with St. Paul's United in Madawaska in 1967. It was purchased by former members of the community, Reverend Arthur & Pearl Lentz who built their retirement home on the lot in 1976 and retired here in 1982. Arthur continued his work for the United Church. The old school became his work shop.



PHOTO: A new school was built in 1950 on an acre of Wesley Brown property. The teacher was Mrs. Proudfoot



James and Phyllis (Brown) Thom and Philip and Shelby (Armstrong) Lentz



Explore South Algonquin's

If you're looking for the best Ontario hiking trails, look no further than the newly upgraded Old Rail Trail in South Algonquin! South Algonquin offers scenery second to none in the province, accommodators who go above and beyond to offer one-of-a-kind experiences, and a host of free or nearly free things to do while you're here, which makes planning the best hiking vacation ever an absolute breeze.

With a growing number of businesses joining the Ontario By Bike network, it's also one of the best biking vacations ever! Plus, even in the busiest summer season, not only can you carve out time away from the crowds here, you can actually enjoy solitude if that's what you're looking for.

Whether you travel by bike, or hike trails by day, check out the My South Algonquin business directory for a current list of places to stay!

Historical Rail Trail

The former Ottawa-Arnnprior-Parry Sound Railway operated from 1897-1959 and for much

of that time was among the busiest routes in the province, carrying timber, wood products and grain from Canada's west and Ontario's North to the St. Lawrence River for the JR Booth Lumber Company.

In addition to serving a supply chain purpose, its length through Algonquin Park was a popular tourist route, carrying people to the Highland Inn on Cache Lake for many years. Long since decommissioned, portions of this old rail line have become a staple among the best hiking places in the province.

The Park To Park Association, for example, began with a goal of connecting Kilbear Provincial Park in Parry Sound to Algonquin Park's west gate at the edge of Muskoka, resulting in what's now known as the Park to Park trail. And the Old Railway Bike Trail at Lake of Two Rivers that runs from Mew Lake to Rock Lake is also a refurbished portion of this old rail line.

Continued next page



newly upgraded Rail Trail

A New Hiking Trail in Ontario: The Rail Trail in South Algonquin

In South Algonquin, the trail is known as The Old Rail Trail, crossing a distance of about 45km along the north side of the township heading east/west.

Primarily used by ATVs and Snowmobiles up until recently, thanks to \$300,000 in partnership and grant funding, the South Algonquin Business Alliance has brushed the trail and upgraded the surface to multi-season, multi-use, accessible standards. The new surface means that the trail is now open for use by all kinds of motorized and non-motorized sport purposes also, such as dirt bikes, atvs, snowmobiles, walking, hiking, running, cycling, and adaptive/para sports such as electric bicycles, adult tricycles and trail accessible wheelchairs.

No matter your age or physical ability, whether you're pushing a baby buggy or being pulled in a bicycle wagon, the trail is not only peak outdoor sport enjoyment for any sport, the trail is wide enough for multiple uses at the same time.

The Eastern Ontario Trails Alliance investment in our community is a real gift to our community. In addition to funding the redevelopment, they will be active partners in helping the community maintain the trails and keep them up to standards which they fund through a voluntary, paid trail pass system and their own grant writing activities. EOTA's interactive trail system map, including the portion in South Algonquin, is available at no charge on their website and can help you plan both day trips and multi-day excursions along their extensive network of trails.





Hiking the Rail Trail: One of Ontario’s best hiking destinations

South Algonquin’s Old Rail Trail starts at the boundary of Algonquin Park in Whitney, Ontario, ending at the eastern boundary of the township where South Algonquin meets the Township of Madawaska Valley (Barry’s Bay). Across that distance, it passes through two additional provincial parks - Upper Madawaska River Provincial Park and the Opeongo River Provincial Park. Although there are no visitors’ facilities available at these parks (or perhaps because there are no visitors’ facilities), these are amazingly quiet places to visit even in the busiest seasons.

While Opeongo River Provincial Park is a canoe access-only park outstanding for water sport enthusiasts (you start your journey by canoe in Algonquin Park and canoe south to Madawaska), the Upper Madawaska Valley Provincial Park follows the Madawaska River east, is closer to the Old Rail Trail, and has a highway access point in Madawaska making it easier to access both the river and the trail. Whitewater canoeing is possible in spring at Opeongo River Provincial Park.

In both parks, visitors can enjoy recreational activities such as canoeing, kayaking, fishing, hunting, camping, cross-country skiing and some of the best hiking in Ontario. Home to more than 34 distinct forest communities, including mixed hardwood, speckled alder, winterberry, holly and shrubs, white birch, white pine, sugar maple, and poplar, visitors may also encounter wet meadows and shoreland habitat in the area.

If you’re looking for a more low-key activity to do while hiking the trail, try forest bathing. We’re proud to be located near an expert Nature and Forest Therapy Guide program at Eco Wisdom Forest Preserve. Take a moment to review their tips for forest bathing and get the most out of a mindful nature experience!

You can also access the Old Rail Trail in all seasons from the centre point, located at the Recreation Complex in Madawaska. Staying at a mid-point accommodator like Four Seasons Algonquin Cabins located almost directly on the trail, lets you enjoy both directions of the trail from one starting point. It also makes a great mid-point stop along a one way journey in either direction. With the Madawaska Country Store nearby, Madawaska makes a great basecamp from which to enjoy the trail without straying too far from amenities. On the eastern portion, trail route #159 that runs south from the Old Rail trail connects to the Spectacle Lake, Bear/Burnetts Mountain (SLBM) Trail system, another great all-season hiking opportunity with spectacular sunrise and sunset views at different points.

The SLBM Trail sits almost entirely within the territory of the Algonquins of Ontario Land Claim area. According to the government of Ontario, “the claim covers a territory of 36,000 square kilometers in eastern Ontario, an area with more than 1.2 million people. If successful, the negotiations will produce the province’s first modern-day constitutionally protected treaty.” The South Algonquin Business Alliance supports the Algonquins of Ontario in their claim to “Aboriginal rights and title that have never been extinguished.”

Planned upgrades by the end of 2023 include the #159 trail Multi-season, multi-sport accessible surfacing and a new parking lot at the trailhead mean more and better travel and parking options. We are grateful to have received support from the Algonquins for the parking lot project, as well as funding from the Enabling Accessibility Fund and EOTA to pay for these upgrades, which we hope will improve safety and encourage more people to get out and enjoy the trails.

Continued next page

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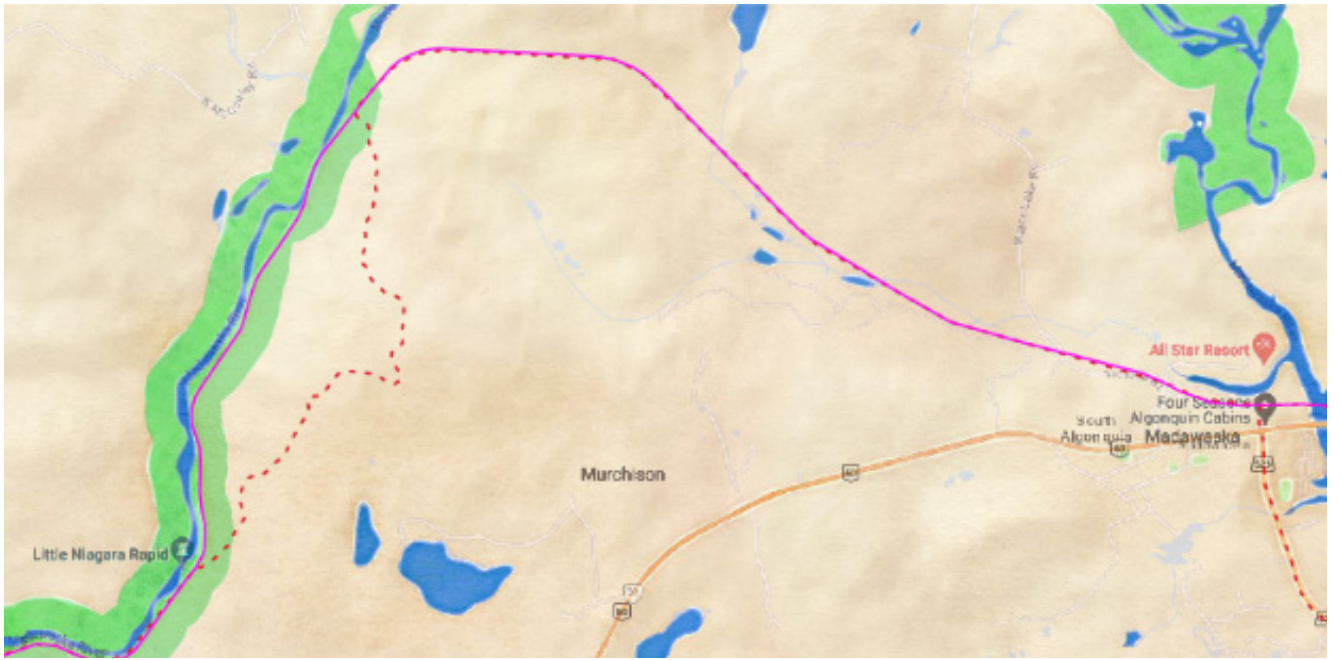
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The Turtle Bypass

Visitors who travel the entire distance of the trail will also enjoy the stunning scenery of four waterfalls, as well as an ecologically sensitive turtle breeding area. While the trail's eco-sensitive area is accessible by foot or non-motorized sports for people who seek an up close and personal look at turtle habitat, a portion known as the Turtle Bypass allows motorized sport enthusiasts to avoid disturbing the turtles. Many online reviews highlight how bumpy this bypass has been. Now leveled out and regraded, the bypass also includes an elevation change, which adds an enjoyable level of difficulty for enthusiasts crossing the otherwise level terrain on ATVs and snowmobiles, without all the bumps.

The Turtle Bypass Trail (dotted pink line) takes you around important turtle nesting habitat and adds challenge to the route for snowmobilers and ATV riders.

Planning a Hiking or Biking Trip in Ontario: Go to South Algonquin

Let's face it. Summer is a busy time. Just because you might be on holiday, doesn't mean you get to - or maybe even want to - rest. There are goals, budgets, hopes and dreams, promises and plans to make and keep. What you really want is to make the most of your weekends, vacation, and precious family time and come away with equally precious memories.



Help us find out just how far our little book goes. Send us an email and tell us where you're reading this zine from. We'll enter your name in a draw for some cool swag.

zine@mysouthalgonquin.ca

Now imagine a place where you could do it without breaking the bank, or even breaking a sweat (unless that's your thing). Sounds nice, eh?

South Algonquin offers scenery second to none in the province, accommodators who go above and beyond to offer one-of-a-kind experiences, and a host of free or nearly free things to do while you're here, which makes planning the best hiking or biking vacation an absolute breeze.

Plus, even in the busiest summer season, not only can you carve out time away from the crowds, you can actually enjoy solitude if that's what you're looking for. (Try finding that in Muskoka these days!)



Low Cost, High Reward Things To do in the Summer in South Algonquin



If your budget is higher than zero dollars and thrills are your currency, maybe some more advanced outdoor sport opportunities are up your alley? Check out Algonquin Outfitters in Madawaska, or Opeongo Outfitters in Whitney for the low down on day trips, self-guided water experiences and renting canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards. Or use South Algonquin as a basecamp for a day trip further afield, like this hiking trip at the Barron Canyon and High Falls.

Talk about one of a kind views and the best hiking in Ontario!

If you prefer cycling, bring your own bicycle or rent one locally from Algonquin

Accommodations. Ontario By Bike also hosts an interactive map of local bicycle friendly businesses if you're looking for great places to stop or stay.

Four Seasons Algonquin Cabins, Algonquin Accommodations, MadMusher Restaurant and Four Corners Algonquin are listed as bicycle friendly businesses.

If being one (and alone) with nature is more your speed, try a mindful nature or forest bathing experience offered through Ecowisdom at Hay Lake Lodge.



Winter Hiking in Ontario on the New Rail Trail

Winter enthusiasts are a special breed - all weather champions of snow, ice and cold, unbothered by the white stuff in the air or on the ground. While some like to rough-it outside in the winter (yes - winter camping is a thing!), and others like it warm by the fireplace after dark, South Algonquin is ready to deliver whatever it is about the winter that calls to you.

Typically by early December and lasting into late March, our winter hiking trails transform into a frosty paradise and can accommodate nearly whichever winter sport fills the desire, including winter fat-biking. Trails groomed by SnowCountry and the Opeongo Snowbirds mean that with proper permits, snowmobilers can ride directly to the township from destinations in southern or eastern Ontario, no car required. Imagine a trip from Toronto to South Algonquin and back again entirely on snowmobile. We see lots of people every year who do just that!

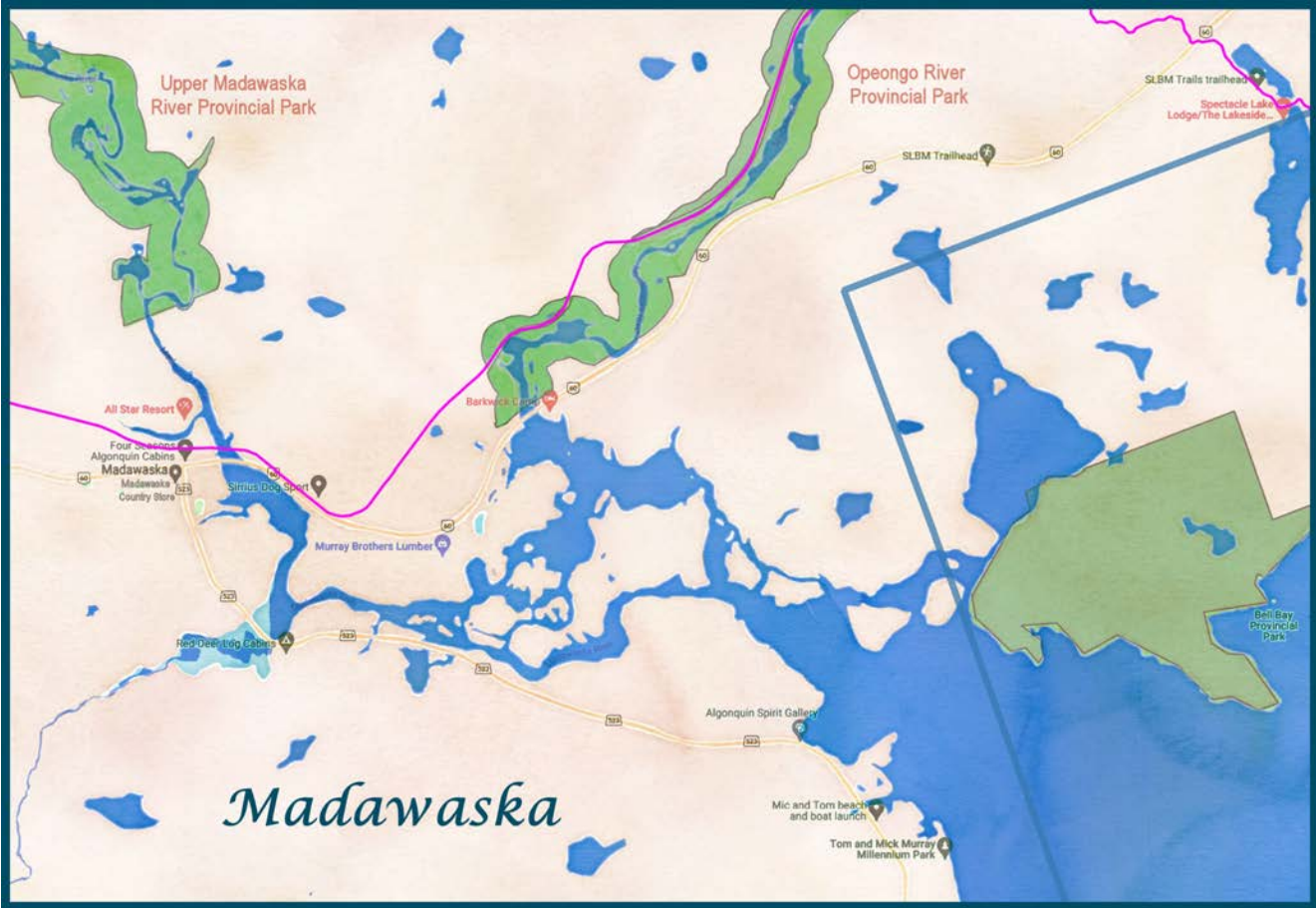
Programming in Algonquin Park continues through the winter as well, with ice skating and winter camping at Mew Lake, back-country camping and some of the best winter hiking places available in the province.

South Algonquin's overnight accommodators (Bongopix, Algonquin Accommodations, and

Four Seasons Algonquin Cabins) are increasingly offering winter outfitting, making, cross-country skis, snowshoes and skates available for rent saving you both the cost of owning and inconvenience of transporting these bulky items to and from home. Best saved for January and February, Spectacle Lake Lodge in Madawaska even offers ice fishing experiences for those who want to try a hand at a Canadian winter sport as old as time itself. And if all you can stand of the cold stuff is ten minutes, well, feeding the chickadees is a much less labour-intensive experience that never ceases to thrill.



Photos by Steve Dunsford
Impressions of Algnquii



Free things to do in South Algonquin



Free Things To do in South Algonquin

Animal watching: Easily in the top 3 of “free things to do” here, so many people arrive hoping to leave with memories of an encounter with a moose, bear, fox or other wild animal to share with friends. Animal sightings are all rather random, but plenty of people leave absolutely thrilled to have had their wish come true!

Swim at one of our beaches: The township has 3 gorgeous beaches within a 20 minute drive of each other.

Watch the sun go down at Galeairy Lake Beach in Whitney

Watch the sun come up at the Tom & Mick Murray Beach in Madawaska

Splash in the water at Booth Memorial Park in Madawaska

Stargaze: be dazzled by the magnitude of the night sky and the Milky Way from one of our beaches or Trestle bridges along the Old Rail Trail

Fish from Shore: check out google maps to find locations that are great for shore fishing with your friends or children. Borrow free gear from Tackleshare

Go for a Walk: listen to the sound of water crushing over the rocks along the Madawaska River in Whitney or Madawaska as you one of the best hiking places in Ontario

Visit Algonquin Park: Some of our accommodators include a free park pass with your reservation, or complimentary sport equipment rentals (Check out Algonquin Accommodations and Four Corners Algonquin).

Enjoy that Campfire Culture: Smores anyone?

Whether grilling veggies for dinner or enjoying a lakeside fish bbq, absolutely nothing beats good food, good friends, and a good campfire.

Visit one of our art galleries: whether for an hour or for a day, the Algonquin landscape offers plenty of creative expression, and you can take it all in at one of the three art galleries in our township, or at the two galleries in Algonquin Park.



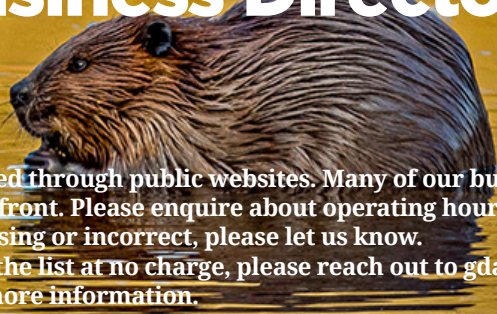
Photos by Steve Dunsford
Impressions of Algonquin

South Algonquin Business Directory

We encourage you to find out more about these businesses
by googling them.

The following South Algonquin Businesses have been identified through public websites. Many of our businesses are small part time operations and they may not have a storefront. Please enquire about operating hours before visiting. If you see something below that is missing or incorrect, please let us know.

If you are a local business and would like to be added to the list at no charge, please reach out to gday@mysouthalgonquin.ca for more information.



ACCOMMODATIONS

HAY LAKE

Elder's Cottage
Hay Lake Cabins
Hay Lake Lodge

MADAWASKA

Algonquin's Edge Resort
All Star Resort
Four Season's Algonquin Cabins
Madawaska Lodge & Restaurant
Nick's Retreat
Red Deer Log Cabins
Riverland Camp & Lodge
South Algonquin Historic Log Cabin
Spectacle Lake Lodge

WHITNEY

Adventure Lodge
Algonquin Accommodations
Bellwood Inn B&B
Camp Bongopix
Couples Resort
Dreamcatcher Motel
East Gate Motel
MadMusher
Rolling Rapids
Waterfront Gallery House of David Kay
Whitney Cabins

BAKED GOODS

Little Bear Bakes in the Woods

CAMPGROUNDS

Algonquin Wilderness Campground
Barkwick Camp
Four Seasons Algonquin Cabins
Four Corners Algonquin

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Aylen Lake Community Association
Aylen Lake Cottagers
Flying Feathers Archery
Madawaska Public Library
South Algonquin Business Alliance
Whitney Public Library

CONVENIENCE

Madawaska Country Store

CONSTRUCTION

Atcon (Aggregate)
Madawaska Stove & Chimney
KM Construction

CULTURAL SERVICES

Waaseyaa Consulting

ENTERTAINMENT

Camp Bongopix (Music)

FIREWOOD

Algonquin Outfitters
Bellwood Inn B&B
Downtown Whitney
Dreamcatcher Motel
East Gate Motel
Four Corners Algonquin
Freshmart in Whitney
Rolling Rapids Motel
Madawaska Country store
Algonquin Lunch Bar
Bongopix
Lakeside Grill
Madmusher
Madawaska Lodge & Restaurant
Moccasin House (ice cream)
Opeongo Outfitters Fish & Chips Truck
Perry's Pitstop Ice Cream Truck

FUEL

MacEwen
Perry's Pitstop
Madawaska Country Store

GALLERIES

Algonquin Spirit Gallery
Gallery House by David Kay
Gertrud Sorensen
Impressions of Algonquin

GROCERY & LIQUOR

LCBO Whitney
Madawaska LCBO

GUIDES (Hunting & Fishing)

Duncan Lines Fishing Guide
Wild North Outfitters

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Whitney Pharmacy

INDUSTRIAL

Murray Brothers Lumber
McRae Lumber Company

MAPLE SYRUP

Madawaska Maple Products
McRae Family Maple Syrup
Carrick Brothers Maple Syrup

OUTFITTERS

Algonquin Bound Outdoor Store
Camp Bongopix
Opeongo Outfitters
Four Corners Algonquin
East Gate Motel

PLACES OF WORSHIP

St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church (Whitney)
St. Anthony's Anglican Church (Whitney)
St. Matthew's Catholic Church (Madawaska)
St. Paul & St. James United Church (Madawaska)
Holly Trinity Anglican Church (Madawaska)

RETAIL

Moccasin House
Oh So Mad Designs
Viking Wood Products
MenWahTay Gift Store

SERVICE - SMALL

ENGINE REPAIR

Madawaska Canoe Company of Canada
L & R Canoes, Marine and Small Engine Service

SERVICE - TRUCK/AUTO

Brown's Auto and Truck Repair
Perry's Pit Stop
D&H Heavy Equipment Repair

TECHNOLOGY

Eric Fixes IT



BE BEAR AWARE

North American black bears are smart, curious, powerful and potentially dangerous. **And they don't like surprises.** If you are a camper, hiker, cyclist, jogger, berry picker or you plan to spend time in "bear country" learn to be Bear Wise to avoid an encounter.

STOP. DO NOT PANIC. REMAIN CALM.

Generally, the noisier the bear is, the less dangerous it is, provided you do not approach it. The noise is meant to scare you off and acts as a warning signal:

- ✓ Keep the bear in sight, slowly back away & wait for it to leave.
- ✓ If the bear does not leave, throw objects, wave your arms and make noise with a whistle, car alarm or air horn.
- ✓ Prepare to use bear spray.
- ✓ If you are near a building or vehicle get inside.
- ✓ Drop any food you are carrying and slowly move away.
- ✓ If a bear is in a tree, leave it alone. Leave the area. The bear will come down when it feels safe.

NEVER:

- ✗ Run, climb a tree or swim
- ✗ Kneel down
- ✗ Make direct eye contact
- ✗ Approach the bear to get a better look
- ✗ Attempt to feed a bear

**NON-EMERGENCY
BEAR HOTLINE
1-866-514-2327**

**FOR EMERGENCIES
DIAL 911**

BE PREPARED!

While you could encounter a black bear at any time of the day or night, bear attacks are **extremely rare**. A threatened black bear will give off warning signs to let you know you are too close. A black bear standing on its hind legs is not a sign of aggressive behaviour. The bear is trying to get a better look at you or catch your scent.

A defensive or threatened bear will:

- Salivate excessively & exhale loudly
- Make huffing, moaning, clacking and popping sounds with its mouth, teeth and jaws
- Lower its head with its ears drawn back while facing you
- Charge forward, and/or swat the ground with its paws (known as a 'bluff' charge)

A predatory bear:

- Will approach silently
- May approach regardless of attempts to deter it with noise or throwing rocks

If the bear attacks:

- Use bear spray
- Fight back with everything you have
- Do not play dead unless you are sure a mother bear is attacking in defence of her cubs

DID YOU KNOW? THERE IS ONE BEAR PER 4 KM² IN THIS REGION!

People Caring For People



M.G. DALY

Funeral Home Ltd.

☎ 613.338.3259 • F.613.338.5641
200 Old Hastings Rd. Maynooth
www.dalyfuneralhome.ca

BEAR SAFETY WHILE CAMPING

THE NUMBER ONE RULE FOR BEAR SAFETY: ALWAYS KEEP A CLEAN CAMPSITE!

SAFE FOOD STORAGE

- Always store human and pet food and containers in a locked vehicle.
- Do not allow people or pets to eat inside your tent.

SAFE GARBAGE STORAGE

- Store waste in a locked vehicle or dispose of it in a bear-tight receptacle.
- deposit it directly at a landfill.
- Wash empty food containers & lids with a strong-smelling disinfectant (bleach).

THOROUGHLY CLEAN YOUR COOKING AREA AND BARBECUE

- burn off food residue and wash the grill right away.
- empty the grease trap every time you barbecue.
- remove and wash all utensils, dishes & food after eating.

ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY SCENTS AND ODOURS

- Soap, toothpaste, candles, perfume products etc. can attract bears.
- Leave scented products at home.
- Store the rest in a vehicle.

KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE

- Feed your pet(s) at scheduled times.
- Leash dogs when walking in bear country to reduce the potential of dogs harassing a black bear or of being attacked by one.
- check for the presence of bears before letting your dog out.

SKIP BIRDFEEDERS AND FRUIT TREES

Bears love bird feeders and the fruit from wild and domestic fruit trees.


- Avoid camping near wild fruit trees.
- Leave the bird seed at home.

AVOIDING BEAR INTERACTIONS

Alert bears to your presence so they can avoid you. Make noise, such as singing, whistling or talking while in areas with restricted visibility or with high background noise, such as near streams and waterfalls. While outdoors:

- travel in groups of two or more—people who travel alone are most vulnerable
- scan your surroundings and do not wear music headphones
- watch for signs of bear activity such as tracks, claw marks on trees, flipped-over rocks or fresh bear droppings
- Carry a whistle or air horn in an easy to access spot and know how to use it.
- Consider carrying a long-handled axe, especially if you are in remote areas or deep in the forest.

MORE INFORMATION? CHECK OUT THESE LINKS!

Layout  2023
www.fourcornersalgonquin.ca
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Ontario Bear Wise Information:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/prevent-bear-encounters-bear-wise>

Be Bear Aware Campaign

<https://bebearaware.org/>



SEPTIC PUMPING

50 Cameron St, Box 226
Killaloe, Ontario, Canada

613-756-0235

CAMPFIRE SAFETY GUIDE

Campfires are a Canadian right of passage enjoyed for recreation, warmth, cooking, and ceremonies. They also pose a risk for properties, people and entire communities. Read on to learn how to enjoy your campfire safely and within the rules.

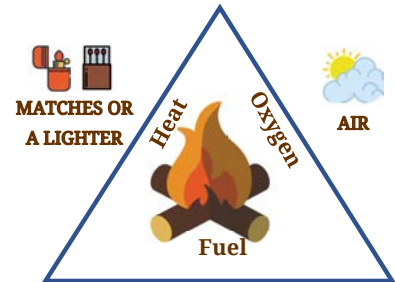
ARE THE CONDITIONS SAFE?

Start a campfire **only** if there is no fire ban **AND** you can answer **yes to all** these questions:

- ✓ Do you have permission of the property owner to have a campfire?
- ✓ Is the fire pit less than 1m in diameter (39") and less than 1m high, with a non-combustible ring (metal or rocks for example)?
- ✓ Is the fire pit at least 3m away from other flammable materials, including overhanging branches or vegetation?
- ✓ Can the fire burn safely from start to extinguishment?
- ✓ Is there a competent adult in charge of the fire at all times?
- ✓ Can you summon assistance if the fire gets out of control?
- ✓ Are you burning only "Class A" carbon based combustibles such as wood, paper, leaves (no plastic or other materials)?
- ✓ Is it during the prescribed time (no more than 2 hours before sunset, or later than 2 hours after sunrise)?
- ✓ Do you have enough water available to put the fire out with?

THE FIRE TRIANGLE

Fires need three things: **heat, oxygen & fuel**



BURN FIRST AID

1. Remove any clothing and jewellery. Clothes hold in the heat and can make a burn worse.
2. Never use ice, butter, toothpaste or creams.
3. Apply 20 minutes of cool running water.
4. Cover with a clean cloth, gauze or bandages.
5. Seek medical advice if the skin is broken or the burn area is larger than a 25 cent piece.

Note: small cooking fires are permitted at all times, but must be extinguished when cooking is complete.

DO NOT

- ✗ NEVER use an accelerant to start a campfire
- ✗ NEVER leave a fire unattended, or kids/pets unattended with a fire
- ✗ NEVER leave your fire until you are CERTAIN it is out
- ✗ NEVER bury hot coals or ashes
- ✗ NEVER burn plastic, glass or metal
- ✗ NEVER horseplay around a campfire

**IN CASE OF
EMERGENCY DIAL
911**



Community Futures Development Corporation

of North & Central Hastings and South Algonquin

Providing Advice, Financing and Support
for Your Business

www.community-futures.ca

HOW TO BUILD A CAMPFIRE

1. Gather three types of material. (**NEVER** use flammable liquids to start a campfire.)



Tinder - dry twigs, paper, lint, cotton, leaves



Kindling – dry sticks no bigger than 1” diameter



Firewood: wood up to about 10” in diameter

2. Choose your campfire style, then build it.



Tipi

Arrange your tinder underneath your kindling. Then stack the wood on top in a cone shape



Crossfire

Place tinder & kindling between two parallel logs. Lay more pieces of wood across the top as fire burns down



Log Cabin

Build layers of wood around the tinder & kindling in perpendicular pairs. Top it off with more kindling

3. Ignite the tinder, and fan the flame to provide oxygen until the logs catch fire.

EXTINGUISHING A FIRE - “DROWN-STIR-DROWN-FEEL”

1. Allow your campfire to burn completely to ashes.
2. Pour water on it to cool the ashes. Stir the ashes with water to make a ‘mud pie’. When you think the fire is out, add more water.
3. Check with your hand just above the ash to sense if the ash is still hot. **DO NOT TOUCH** the ash or you might burn yourself!!! If you feel heat, add more water.
4. **REMEMBER: If it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave!**

MORE INFORMATION? CHECK OUT THESE LINKS!



2023

www.fourcornersalgonquin.ca
Images from The Noun Project, SVGRepo, Flaticon, Freepic.

Ontario Forest Fire Map:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/forest-fires>

How to prevent forest fires

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-prevent-forest-fires>

Municipal Burn Rules:

www.southalgonquin.ca

ON Assoc. of Fire Chiefs – Campfire Safety

<https://www.oafc.on.ca/spring-summer-fire-safety-tips>

Content reviewed by firechief@southalgonquin (2023-04-24)





The Township of South Algonquin the five original townships

By Roderick MacKay

Roderick MacKay is the author of Algonquin Park – A Place Like No Other: A history of Algonquin Provincial Park. It is available through The Friends of Algonquin Park.

Back in the 1890s, long before there was a Township of South Algonquin, the historical townships of Airy, Dickens, Lyell, Murchison and Sabine were being surveyed for settlement. From a government perspective those lands were not occupied, even though those lands were not really “empty”. They had for centuries served as the traditional hunting territory of the Algonquin people, but extensive logging activity had rendered the land less than suitable for subsistence hunting.

There was great pressure by government to open up the “undeveloped lands” for settlement, since most of the land to the south, along the north shore of Lake Ontario, was fully occupied. So, the land throughout the District of Nipissing was divided into townships, concessions and lots for settlement. As each survey progressed, first the boundaries were established and then thirty-five 200 acre lots, numbered from west to east, in fourteen concessions, numbered from I to XIV, were laid out.

The Survey Crew

Each survey was led by an Ontario Land Surveyor, experienced in public lands surveys. A typical survey party comprised the following: one surveyor; a trained survey assistant; a cook, preferably a good one; and five axemen to clear survey lines through the bush. Those men would spend five or six months together on the survey of a township; all but the surveyor were paid a daily wage; the surveyor was paid by the job after all his time and expenses were tallied.

Individual members of the survey crew were hired by the surveyor as he travelled to the township to be surveyed, where he would establish a base camp. The camp would be moved repeatedly as the survey progressed.

Beginning in the morning of moving day, all the men carried as much as they could on their trip to the new camp. There, the cook and an assistant set up the kitchen. The rest of the men set up the rest of the camp, before continuing on the survey. One man would trek back and forth to the previous camp to bring the rest of the supplies, over a period of days.

The surveyor would be responsible for his own surveying instruments. That would include a transit for making straight sight lines and measuring angles, a stadia rod, a 66-foot chain of 100 links, and a large compass, as well as paper and pen for making field notes and writing a diary of the survey. With these instruments he would lay out straight and accurate lines on the landscape.

Survey Kit

When planning what else to take on the survey, especially in remote areas, everything had to be anticipated; one could not take a drive to Bancroft or Barry’s Bay to get a forgotten item. And there was a lot to transport, whether by canoe or by wagon where there were logging roads.

A typical survey kit would include the following, as described by W.R. Burke in 1892: “Five tents, all moderately small and light, made of [cotton] drill, one for the cook and another man, one for provisions etc, at camp, and another for the storage of the bulk of supplies at a point perhaps where you enter the township; eight pairs of double blankets;

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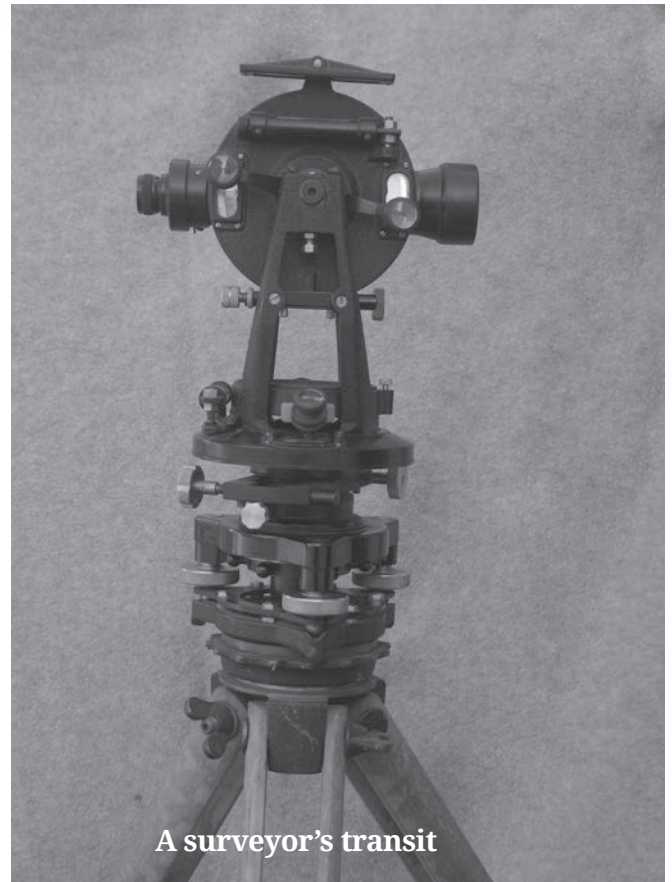
South Algonquin: al communities

three or four rubber sheets are very comfortable and useful to take along; one light tarpaulin, eight leather packing straps [tumplines] with headpieces to rest on head when carrying; six axes, weighing about 3 ¼ pounds each; one small axe with leather cover for head chainman; two brush hooks; one small grinding stone; some small whet stones; one ball of strong twine; ten common table knives; ten common table forks; one large carving knife; one large iron fork; one large iron spoon; ten small tin spoons; one frying pan, small size; one dozen tin plates; one iron shovel, called an Irish shovel, without handle (handle can be made at each camping place); one tin dipper; a scribe or marking iron, for marking posts with; five or six pounds of pitch for canoes; two tin pails; holding about three quarts each; two tin pans to hold bread, etc. , when cut up; two wash kettles; one dozen tin tea dishes; one large tin bake dish; three bake kettles, made of heavy tin, made to fit one inside the other; If you take a reflector with you, which is a very convenient article, one or two bake kettles would do. Three oval shaped tin kettles, made to fit one inside the other, for boiling pork, making tea in, etc., towelling; some extra cotton bags; one dozen axe handles . . ." and some fly ointment in small bottles for each man. Add clothing for eight men to that. Of course, what clothing the men would wear depended on the season during which the survey was conducted.

It was expected that each man would consume 2 to 3 pounds [0.9 to 1.3 kg] of food a day. Food provisions usually included a large quantity of pork, yeast and flour for the making of bread, beans, dried apples, raisins, rice, currants, sugar, salt, pepper, and tea. Generally the food was carried in fifty-pound [22.6 kg] sacks.

Detailed field notes were taken and at the end of each survey and a summary report of observations made was sent to the Crown Lands Department in Toronto. In reading selected quotations (rather than paraphrasing) from each of these five reports, provided with permission to reprint by the MNRF Office of the Surveyor General of Ontario, we can get a sense of how the landscape appeared in this area over 130 years ago.

Continued next page



A surveyor's transit

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NOV 3, 4, & 5, 2023

SIGN UP AT:

<https://howlphotocon.com>



KEYNOTE
HEADLINER:
JOHN E.
MARRIOTT

The Township of S the five original

Sabine Township

Thomas Bolger penned his report on the Survey of Sabine in the District of Nipissing in 1873. He had much difficulty in getting a full crew to do his survey of the township of Sabine because men for hire were “very scarce”. As a result he had to change the sequence of his work. It should be noted that on the first page of the report in his field book there seem to be letters and words missing on the right side, making that section difficult to transcribe. He wrote: “With regard to the land in the township . . . with the exception of some hardwood tracts it is of a very inferior quality. . . . This tract of hardwood extends west . . . from the Hastings Road . . . and through this section a great many of the lots are fit for settlement. The timber here is chiefly maple, birch and Beech of not very large growth with an occasional large pine scattered throughout. The southeastern corner of the township has been considerably lumbered over for square timber which was drawn a distance of twelve and fourteen miles to Bark Lake. There is a large tract of country of very inferior quality so far as settlement is concerned which stretches diagonally across the township from southwest to northeast and which is covered chiefly with a dense growth of balsam, spruce, and small white birch with a large quantity of white pine.

In some places this pine is sufficiently plentiful to form groves . . . but the most of it is scattered. This tract is not remarkably hilly but rough and scraggy in the extreme and coming around to the southward of the hardwood tract above mentioned it reaches northward between the hardwood and the road. . . there is better land which surrounds Hay Lake and embraces the northwest quadrant of the township. The timber through there is chiefly maple, Beech, Birch and Balsam with some scattering pine.

Some of the land is very fair. The soil in the flat and wet tracts is very rich and fertile but the ridges are for the most part stony. Altogether I

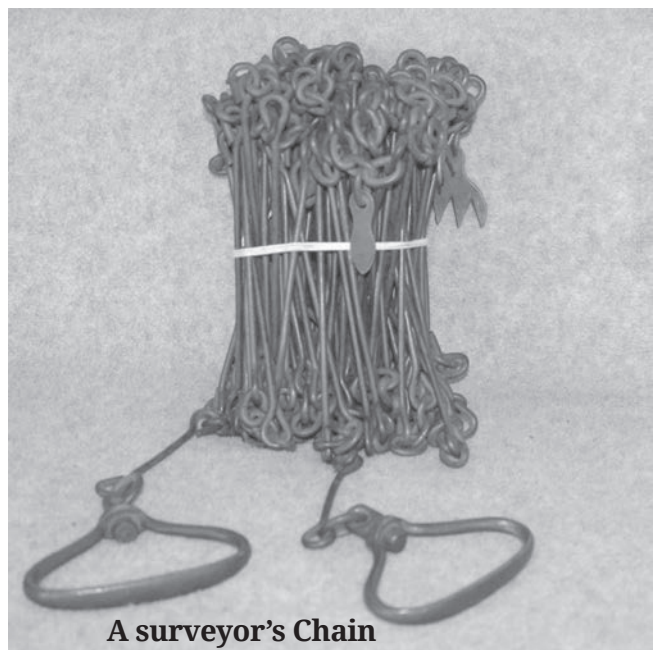
would say that not more than thirty percent of the land in this township is fit for settlement.

The principal sheet of water in this township is Hay Lake which empties itself into the Madawaska River. This lake abounds in very fine trout. It and its outlet will . . . be used for driving the logs and timbers which will be taken in the southern and western portion of the township.

McKenzie is the only other lake of any size and it also empties itself into the Madawaska. Its outlet could also be utilized for driving logs. This lake is said to be without fish . . . Deer are scarce in this part but fur-bearers abound.

“The only settler in the township is a man named Coughlin who lives on the Hastings Road. . . . Settlers could do well in this part by picking out a good lot and raising stuff for the lumbermen. . . . I am satisfied were the road made passable into these townships many settlers would come in”.

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A surveyor's Chain

South Algonquin: al communities

Lyell Township

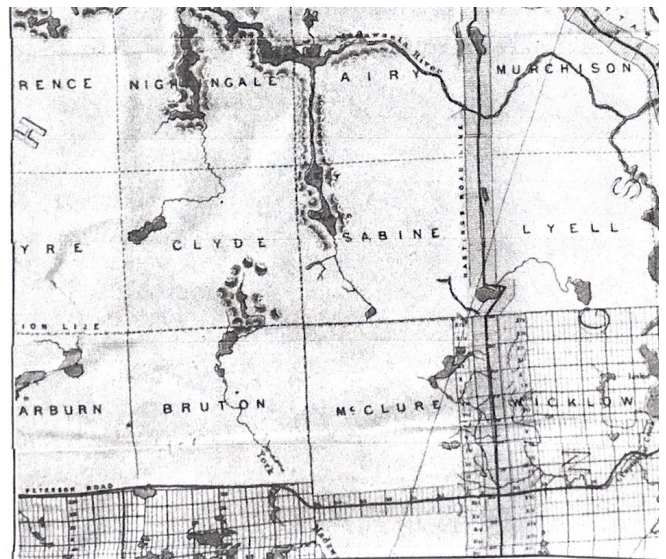
An 1873 report on the survey of Lyell Township by Thomas Bolger O.S.L. included the following: "A block of hardwood extends along the south boundary varying in width. In the southwest portion it extends to the north a distance of two or three miles while in the southeast it runs north a depth of four or five miles. . . . Some of the land is excellent, especially in the south east quarter where it is more free from stone. . . . The extensive lumbering operations . . . offer a great inducement to settlement in this quarter, as a good market would be had, and plenty employment. Another hardwood block . . . covers quite a portion of the northwest corner. "A man named Dunn is settled in this block He is a very industrious settler with a large clearing

"A very large portion of the township, in fact the whole heart of it, is unfit for any other purpose than lumbering. The surface is either very rough and broken by rocky ridges or a low flat with sour soil, and if possible more stony than the higher land. It is covered with a dense growth of small balsam, spruce, birch etc. The northeast quarter of the township has been fearfully ravaged by fire. Its timber has been entirely destroyed. Large portions of it have been level flats covered originally with Red Pine. This portion of the country is now quite unfit for anything. The township has been extensively lumbered over in all directions. Still a large quantity of pine remains, enough to keep lumbering operations in the township for many years.

"Most of the lakes in this township are very small and insignificant. The only ones worthy of note being Moore's Lake and Cross Lake. . . . Of the Madawaska [River] little need be said. Its banks are generally high and its waters deep as in its passage through Lyell very few rapids occur. The geological features of Lyell are similar to those of Sabine; the grey gneiss rock predominates.

"I am of the opinion that there is more land available for settlement in this township than in Sabine. Still the amount is small only about forty percent. I think . . . that a good road would induce settlement".

Continued next page



This space is reserved for everyone who said they would participate but didn't. And everyone who didn't say they would participate but should have. You know who you are. Call me.
~Retta



The Township of S... the five original

Dickens Township

is of a rolling character covered with mixed green woods of average growth, red and white

It was almost twenty years before the three more northerly townships were surveyed, each by Ontario Land Surveyor James W. Fitzgerald. He began with a report on the survey of Dickens in 1894: "The Opeongo branch of the Madawaska River enters the township at its northwest angle . . . and flows in a generally straight course southerly . . . Thence to a somewhat winding course southwesterly, passing out of the township at the east boundary . . . The river is nearly of uniform width in its course . . . being about one and a half chains, its depth varying from one to eight or nine feet at the time of survey, the general average being about two feet. The banks are chiefly stone or rock, in places sloping, at other places more or less abrupt, the land on both sides rising to a considerable height. The current is strong, and rapids are of frequent occurrence, thus affording a large measure of water power.

“The few remaining lakes are relatively small, partaking, however, of the same general features as to shore lines, surroundings, etc. All the lakes and streams are of good, clear water, and are supplied with the usual kinds of fish indigenous to the district. A few deer and other kinds of game have been seen, but it is believed that, on account of the incessant noise caused by the rock-blasting on the railway under construction, most of the game have been temporarily frightened out of the neighbourhood. The country around the north and east shores of the Little Opeongo,

"In this part of the township there is not a large area of good farming land, though several fairly arable tracts occur suitable for cultivation and capable of producing the usual kind of crops grown in the more settled parts. South of the lake the land has been burnt over very considerably, and . . . there is not a large area suitable for agricultural purposes. In 1891 the country around here was over-run by a great fire which practically destroyed all marketable timber upon it, leaving little behind save clusters of charred trees and entangled masses of fallen ones. It is now covered, many stretches of it, with a dense growth, almost impenetrable in places, of small poplar, birch, cherry, willows etc.

“The prevailing soil on the slopes and uplands is a mixture of sand and clay-loam of varying depth and fertility, resting on beds of stiff reddish clay, gravel, stone and rock (gneiss). In the valleys the soil is mostly alluvial, and by drainage . . . might be converted into first-class hay and grass land. In the township, owing largely to its inaccessibility, there is so far but one settler, of many years’ standing, his place being used as one of accommodation for the lumber camps and parties passing to and fro, but it is expected that on completion of the railway

Continued next page

South Algonquin: al communities

quite a number of the workmen employed upon it will take up lots, now that the land is surveyed. . . . The railway – Ottawa, Arnprior and Parry Sound – . . . runs northwesterly, about five miles, along a natural depression to the junction of the streams already mentioned This junction is known as The Forks . . . From this point the railway turns . . . and follows southerly the valley of the Madawaska branch to its exit from the township. . . . When open for traffic the effect of this important inland railway must be to promote very greatly the development of the forest, mineral and agricultural resources of the extensive territory traversed by it, to hasten settlement, and to create along its course a demand for labor and a market, and the means of getting to market, for all the crops and products of every kind that can be raised and manufactured in the country.

“Needless to say the country has for many years been lumbered over for pine timber, but there still remains an enormous quantity of red and white pine of good quality, beside the almost untouched kinds of timber, such as hemlock, black birch, maple, ash, etc., that are rapidly coming into commercial use.

“The old Opeongo Colonization Road, still in a state of comparatively good repair passes through the township northwesterly. . . . There is a good wagon road leading from a point on the Opeongo Road four miles south of Dickens, to the south bay of Little Opeongo [Aylen] Lake, where an old lumber depot and a clearing of about eight acres exists, made by McLachlin Bros.

A year later Fitzgerald conducted the survey of Murchison Township. He commented: “The Ottawa, Arnprior and Parry Sound Railway runs through its south part, and at the time of survey, afforded passenger accommodation as far west as the village of Whitney in the adjoining township of Airy. The railway seems to have been substantially built, well ironed and on easy grades . . .

“In its general aspect the township is very similar to those surrounding it which have already been reported upon. The surface is mostly uneven and . . . more or less rounded with valleys and marsh and swampland interspersed between. Some of the latter, when cleared and opened, make good land and this is also true of many of the lower slopes and side hills, which however are found to be more or less stony.

“The township, at various times, has been over-run by fire and at present is, for the greater part, denuded of its original woods, in the place of which there is generally a dense growth of white birch, poplar, cherry, alder and willows. There are however several tracts of fine pine and hardwood still remaining, especially in the northeast quarter of the township. There are already eight settlers, (some of them having families) in the township, most of whom have large clearings, well-cultivated farms and good houses with outbuildings.

Continued next page

Murchison Township



JOHN YAKABUSKI, MPP

RENFREW-NIPISSING-PEMBROKE

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or to book an appointment.**

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The Township of S the five original

Murchison Township Continued ...

The settlers, some of them are of old standing, having taken up land before the township was surveyed, the clearings were made at random . . . some of them occupying parts of two or three lots, while in other places two or more are found to be settled on the one lot thus showing the desirability of having the surveys made in advance of settlement.

“The Madawaska River, a rapid enough stream, averaging about two chains in width and three feet in depth enters the township . . . and after a rather meandering course leaves the township . . . It is, like its tributary stream well stocked with speckled trout and other small fish. The banks of the river are gradual and composed of stone and boulders with stretches of sand beach intervening.

“Moose and deer are . . . rapidly increasing in the district, as are also beaver, otter, and other fur-bearing animals. The mineral resources of this section are as yet but little known . . .

“The township as a whole will afford homes for many industrious settlers and I am of the opinion that 30 to 35 per cent of the land area may be considered fairly suitable settlement, while a good proportion of the remainder, including beaver meadows and marsh, will supply good pasturage.

Airy Township

Finally, Fitzgerald did a survey of Airy Township, in 1896. He wrote: “That part of the township bounded by Hay Creek on the west by the Madawaska River on the north and by the sideline . . . on the east . . . is a very fair tract of land for this country. It is composed of a sandy clay loam of average depth and tolerably free from stone and where not burnt there is a fair growth of mixed bush, the hardwood kind predominating. On this land there are already

some fifteen settlers who are hewing out for themselves comparatively good homes . . .

“The small tract west of Hay Creek and all the remainder of the township north of the Madawaska are broken by gneiss ridges and rock outcrops more or less rugged, but in the valleys between, stretches of fertile alluvial soil are frequently met with. This rough country is densely wooded with a mixed bush chiefly White Pine with balsam, spruce, cedar, birch and willows in about the orders named.

The pine is a fair quality and size while the other woods attain average size, but at the present time are not deemed of much commercial value.

The Madawaska River which flows in a southeasterly direction through the township is a rapid stream averaging about two chains in width and eighteen inches deep, having a stony bed and flat rocky banks for the greater part. . . . The township is generally overspread with lakes and streams, all of them of good clear water, but contain very little fish of value.

“The Village of Whitney, [is] exclusively the property of the St. Anthony Lumber Company . . . The company's large sawmill is on . . . the southeast shore of Long [Galeairy] Lake. It is fitted with all the modern appliances such as band saws, gates, etc. and has a working capacity of 400,000 feet B.M. [board measure] per twenty-four hours. The mill is lighted by electric light manufactured by the company's plant on the premises. Up until the 1st September the mill was run day and night, but after that date in the daytime only until the close of the season. There was in the piling yard in September about 30 000 feet pine B.M. On lot 7 there is a planing mill which is used mainly for local purposes.

Continued next page

South Algonquin: al communities

"The village has a population of about four hundred. There are about fifty buildings, clapboard, one church, one school, one general store (company's), post office, bakery, blacksmith and barber's shops. On the north side of the river . . . there is a group of eight or ten houses and two stores, having a population of probably forty or fifty people. A little further to the northeast . . . there is another small hamlet called Nipissing of some seventeen log [cabins] occupied, also by employees of the St. Anthony Company, numbering about fifty or sixty, this giving a total resident population in connection with the company operations of five hundred."

Fitzgerald ended his report with the comment: "viewing the township as a whole, I consider forty percent of the land area is suitable for cultivation, while a large percentage of the remainder can advantageously be used for pasturage and other purposes. Around this growing village many settlers have taken land during the summer and I have little doubt but in the near future it will become a thriving and prosperous place of business."

In looking to the present, it would seem that Fitzgerald's prediction could be applied to some extent in all five historical townships which make up the current Township of South Algonquin.



ABOVE PHOTO: James Dickson of Fenelon Falls was one of the surveyors hired to lay out the Nipissing District.

Given the chance to help create the Ontario's Provincial Park, James Dickson had many ideas of how to make it succeed. He proposed a guide book, maps and marked trails. He suggested banning hunting in the park, reducing the wolf population to increase the number of deer, and stocking animals such as beavers. His ideas laid out what Algonquin Park would be when it opened in 1893.

A photograph of two large moose standing in a field of tall, dry grass. They are facing each other, and their antlers are visible. The background shows a forest of evergreen trees.

Tips for Finding Wildlife

By Helen E. Grose



As we scroll through social media these days, we see so many amazing wildlife images. It can be easy to think we're simply unlucky when we don't encounter as many animals as it seems everyone else does. I promise you're not alone in feeling that. I hear it all the time!

to chance. If you create a plan about where to go and when, based on the research you've done, you'll have a better chance of being in the right place at the right time.

3. **Go early. Stay late.** Most animals are more active around dawn and dusk, which also coincides with golden hour when the light is warmer and softer. While you may spot animals at any time during the day, your plan should include the hours around sunrise and sunset. If you need a break, take it mid-day when the light is harshest.

There's a lot more to wildlife photography than simply going out and taking photos. Besides camera equipment, and settings, there are things that go on behind the long lens that will help you have more wildlife encounters.

Here are my top 3 tips for finding wildlife to photograph:

1. **Research the animals you're interested in photographing.** By understanding more about an animal – such as the type of habitat it lives in, what it eats, and its behaviour – you can make informed decisions about where and when to go to find them.
2. **Create a plan for your day.** While you may have some success by simply driving back and forth along Highway 60, you're leaving a lot up

If you have limited time for research, or don't know the area well, hire someone who has intimate knowledge of the area and its residents and can lead you to opportunities. Whether you'd prefer the individual attention of a one-on-one adventure, or the comradery of an interactive small group workshop, I would love to be your guide.

Visit www.helengrose.ca/workshops to see which option is right for you.

A stylized logo consisting of a large, white, handwritten-style letter 'H' followed by a period.

Helen E. Grose Photography
www.helengrose.ca
info@helengrose.ca

Welcome to *Algonquin's Quiet Side*

Hay Lake Lodge has been hosting anglers, hunters and family visitors to Hay Lake and Algonquin Park for almost 70 years and the Morlock family has welcomed guests for 40 of those years. With the Lodge no longer offering short term accommodations, Phil Morlock, Angela and their staff will continue to welcome guests to **Hay Lake Cottages** with two of our popular fully equipped lakefront log cabins.

The most unexpected surprise when guests arrive from the city is being greeted by the sound of silence and the fresh scents of clean air, the lake and the forest.

No highway sounds – only the lake breeze and waves, birds and maybe a boat passing by. Our cottages are private and well spaced with shoreline decks.

Hay Lake is 16 km (10 miles) long with islands, marshes and creeks to explore or fish by canoe, kayak or boat and portions of the lake are within Algonquin Park. Local residents are loons, otters, waterfowl, herons, deer, moose and our friendly foxes. The east gate to the park is an easy 20-minute drive. Come and experience Algonquin's Quiet Side where relaxing and unwinding are always a priority.

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THE EERIE ECHO OF THE GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY

The Grand Trunk Railway, also known as the J.R. Booth Railway, was a historic railway line that operated from 1852 to 1919 when the company declared bankruptcy and the Canadian National Railroad took over. Known for its impressive infrastructure and engineering feats, the Grand Trunk ran through Algonquin Park and South Algonquin and played a significant role in the development of the region. With its advanced technology and innovative design, the Grand Trunk Railway revolutionized transportation of both lumber and tourists and made a lasting impact on the local communities.



According to legend, on dark, foggy, moonless nights, the sound of the steam engine whistle can be heard for miles from the old railway line. The exact origin of this legend is unknown, but it is believed to be a result of the strong emotional connection that many people have with the railway and its impact on the region. Some people believe that the sound is a ghostly manifestation of the spirits of the workers who built and operated the railway, their spirits forever tied to the tracks they worked so hard to build. Others believe that the sound is the residual energy of the steam engine echoing through the area, a reminder of the grandeur and power of the Grand Trunk Railway. Regardless of its origin, the legend of the Grand Trunk Railway's whistle continues to captivate the imaginations of people and remains a popular story in the region. It serves as a testament to the enduring impact that the railway has had on the area and to the emotional connection that people have with this important piece of history.

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UNLEASH YOUR INNER ADVENTURER ON THE OLD RAIL TRAIL IN SOUTH ALGONQUIN

Are you ready for an unforgettable adventure that takes you through stunning natural landscapes and offers a range of exciting outdoor activities and physical challenge? Look no further than the newly upgraded Old Rail Trail in South Algonquin! This remarkable trail, part of the historical Ottawa Arnprior Parry Sound Railway which operated from 1897 until 1959, follows the Madawaska River for over 40km through the Township of South Algonquin. Our cozy lodges and cottages, located on the river right at the beginning of this magnificent trail system, provide easy access to the trail and a comfortable place to rest before and after your adventures. Adventurers who take the Old Rail Trail its entire distance will visit no fewer than four stunning waterfalls along the way. These breathtaking sights



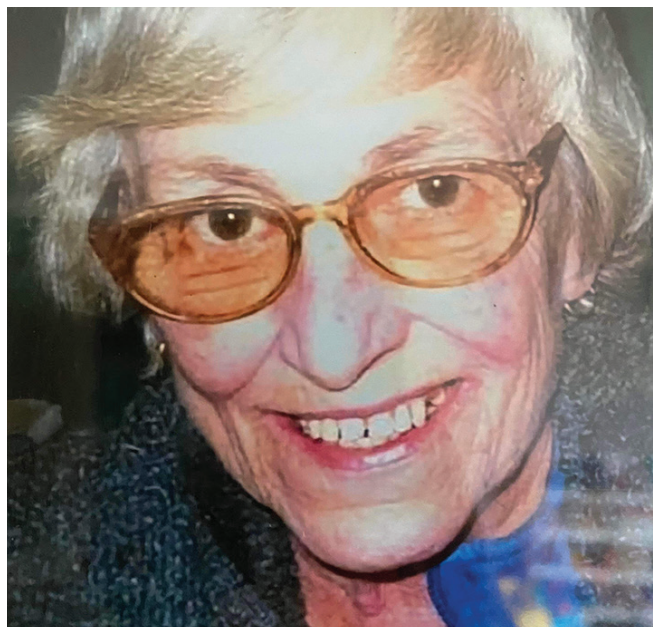
offer a refreshing break during your getaway. The trail, which follows a typically flat plane, also boasts side trails that take you up to mountain vistas, making it a perfect adventure for outdoor enthusiasts looking for an extra challenge, and no matter what sport you take along the route. What truly sets the Old Rail Trail apart is its accessibility. Thanks to the South Algonquin Business Alliance and recent investments from the Eastern Ontario Trails Alliance and the government of Canada, it has been designed to multi-season, multi-use standards, which means it is fully accessible for people with mobility challenges, making it a trail that can be enjoyed by everyone. That means that whether you're walking,

biking, ATVing, skiing or snowmobiling, this is the perfect trail for you. Although many do take the trail its entire distance, the Old Rail Trail also provides fun opportunities for fishing and kayaking, making it an ideal destination for those who love to be near the water. The Madawaska River is home to a variety of fish species, including trout, bass, and pike. The trestle at Rapid Lake provides an excellent location to capture views of the milky way, so even stargazers will find the trail attractive. The adventure doesn't end when you leave the trail. At Algonquin Accommodations, we offer a range of accommodations to suit every need and budget. Plus, our Rolling Rapids Motel now offers four newly renovated waterfront units that are fully accessible for those with mobility challenges. These units boast stunning new bathrooms with widened doorways, grab bars, and zero clearance showers, making them ideal for guests who want to enjoy a comfortable and convenient stay with us. New in 2023, your stay comes with a free park pass to let you also explore nearby Algonquin Park at no extra cost, and FREE rental equipment to match the season and help you get out on the trails. Whether you're looking for snowshoes or bicycles or something in between, we've got you covered. In summer, trail and beach accessible wheelchairs are also available for borrowing at no charge through Four Corners Algonquin down the street. With our updated rooms, FREE park passes, FREE equipment rentals, FREE WIFI and more, Algonquin Accommodations has the best value in the area!



Are you ready to find your path to adventure on the Old Rail Trail in South Algonquin? Book your stay with us now! Visit www.algonquinpark.com and experience the best of Ontario's wilderness.

Elva Gorgerat and Whitney's Twin 'E' Shop



1939-2022

View Elva's obituary at MG Daly Funeral Home. Elva always said she'd live to 105, and she put up a great fight. She made it to 83 years.

Elva and her husband Ernie owned and operated Whitney's Twin 'E' shop for 41 years. It was a fixture in the community, right in the centre of town. Kids went there for candy & snacks. Everyone else went for the coffee and conversation. During her many years at the Twin E shop, she was always there, bright and early with the coffee on. Oh how she loved that place!



Elva was quick-witted and had strong opinions she wasn't afraid to share, whether you wanted to hear them or not. She was a generous, strong, independent woman, always up for a challenge



and had a heart of gold. She was always there to lend a hand or a listening ear.

Anyone who knew Elva knew she was a jack of many trades: restaurant owner, running tow truck, catering weddings and different events such as the Loggers' Day Lunch. She played a large role in our community in so many ways.

People have said she was a woman who would give you everything and keep nothing for herself. But she wasn't just a business-woman. She was a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a great grandmother and friend who taught us to love unconditionally, to forgive, to move forward every day and to never let anything hold us back or get in our way.

With love, Hailey



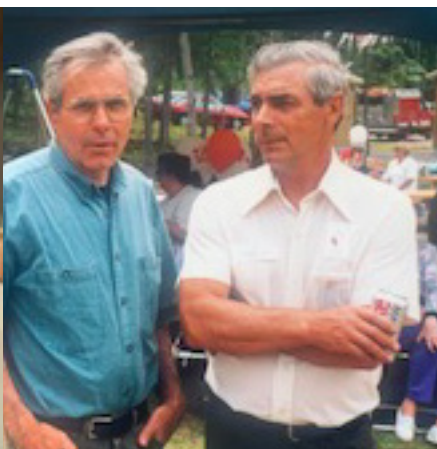
Cheater Fisherman



This picture was taken over where Eldon Perry was building his family's house at the time. That's Linda Lynch and me holding two of Eldon's fish that didn't get away. He came home with fish one day, and that's the picture someone took - it was about 1968 or so. We didn't catch that fish. I wouldn't have minded catching it, but I didn't. ~Hazel Switzer



Garrance and Edna (Brown)
Hamilton of Madawaska



Carl Lentz & Lucien Lacombe
- both loved the North Woods



Irene (Lentz)
Spence with Ruth
(Lentz) Coulas

In Memorium

Laurena Parks

By Loretta Neil

Our mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, sister-in-law, wife and friend was an extraordinary woman.

Laurena was born on November 4, 1910. Rena, as she was known, grew up married Acie Parks in 1928 in Whitney and they had 13 kids!

She was a loving and kindhearted soul. She worked endlessly, of course, with a family that big. I remember her cooking and cleaning and drawing water from the ole spring at Hay Creek.

She baked bread - and she shared. Billy Bennett would often receive a loaf as he walked by the house.

She loved the kids, and their kids too, and she especially loved seeing everyone come home. I remember the tables lined up from the kitchen to the living room for Christmas dinner.

She lived her days dedicated to family, but most of all, her faith and hope was in God, and the eternal salvation promised to those who follow! Granny would delight in reading Bible stories to all us kids, and we loved being around her. She shared the plan of salvation with many and lived a Christian life, letting her light shine.

I'm super proud of her. I had the privilege to call her my Grandmother!

Thanks Granny and May You Rest in Peace



If You Grew Up in Whitney

Come join us in the “If You Grew Up in Whitney” Facebook group and reminisce about the Good ‘Ole Days. This is a picture of the old St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in Whitney. Members were asked, what does this picture make you think of?

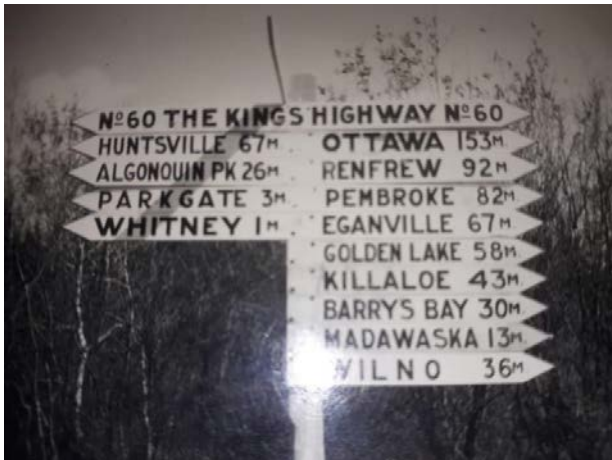
We were married in this St. Martin’s church fifty years ago! ~Pat H.

I was just a little girl and remember when they had a movie night. Cost 50 cents. First movie I saw there was Bonnie and Clyde. ~Karen R

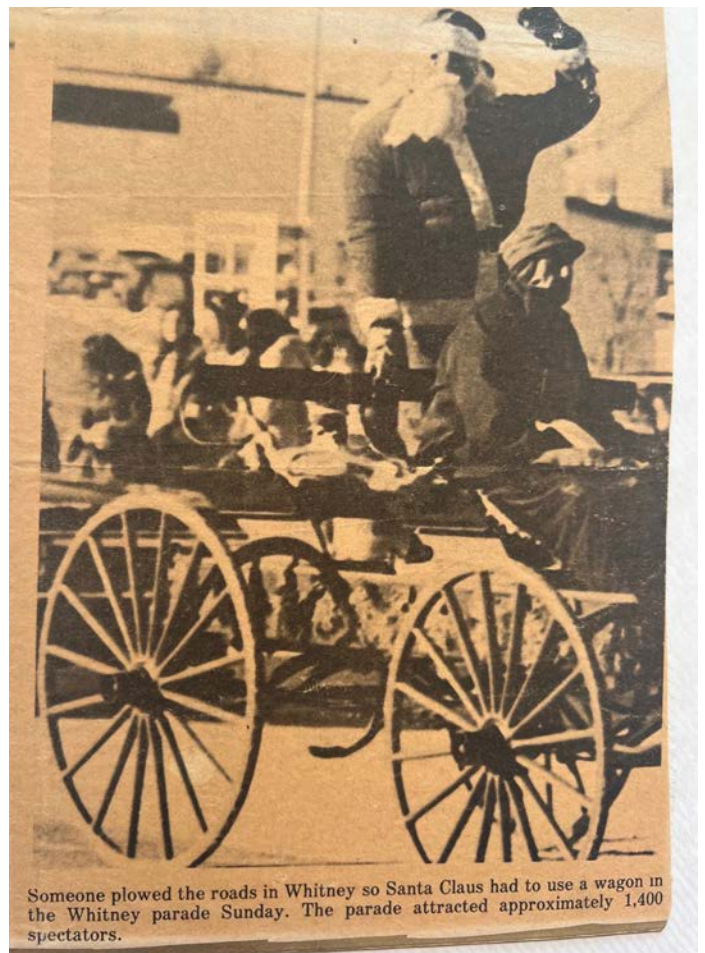
My sister’s wedding, Dorothy and Elmer. ~Linda R

We were married there fifty years ago yesterday! Our son was baptized there also! ~Elaine P

I remember the older gentlemen gathered in the corner on the steps and the wall of the church to have their weekly chat after Mass on Sundays.
~Maureen L



This is the old highway sign that used to be at the intersection of Highways 60 and 127. Does anybody remember the year the sign was installed or taken down?



Someone plowed the roads in Whitney so Santa Claus had to use a wagon in the Whitney parade Sunday. The parade attracted approximately 1,400 spectators.

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- Gas station

Congratulations on Your Retirement Kevin Ferrigan

Kevin retired in 2022 after 55 years service with Ontario Parks. Enjoy this flashback to 1987 from Kevin's memory book.

Kevin goes back a long way, working in Algonquin. He can remember when camping was \$3.50 per day and if you stayed for five days, the sixth day was free. Wood was free and so was room and board.

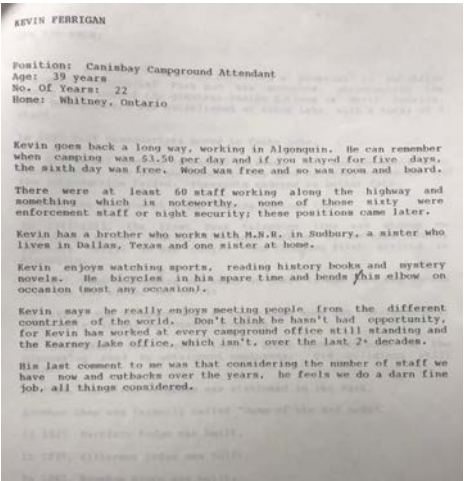
There were at least 60 staff working along the highway and something which is noteworthy, none of those sixty were enforcement staff or night security; these positions came later.

Kevin has a brother who works with the M.N.R. in Sudbury, a sister who lives in Dallas, Texas and one sister at home.

Kevin enjoys watching sports, reading history books, and mystery novels. He bicycles in his spare time and bends his elbow on occasion (most any occasion).

Kevin says he really enjoys meeting people from different countries of the world. Don't think he hasn't had opportunity, for Kevin has worked at every campground office still standing, and the Kearney Lake office, which isn't, over the last 2+ decades.

His last comment to me was that considering the cutbacks over the years, he feels we do a darn fine job, all things considered.



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Photo: Steve Dunsford

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The cabins are not housekeeping, so bring dishes and cutlery for outdoor cooking. When you arrive for your stay, beds are made. Towels and washcloths are provided, along with soap and shampoo.

If you are looking to get away from it all,
but still want the best, come here for a great rest!

Contact us at whitnecabins@gmail.com



whitnecabins@gmail.com

Nature Scavenger Hunt



- ☐ Pine Cone
- ☐ Green Leaf
- ☐ Brown Leaf
- ☐ Wildflower
- ☐ Spider Web
- ☐ Feather
- ☐ Bug
- ☐ Seeds
- ☐ Grass
- ☐ Pine Needles
- ☐ Bird
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Clouds
- ☐ Flying Insect
- ☐ Colourful Rock
- ☐ Fallen Branch
- ☐ Sea shell
- ☐ Chipmunk
- ☐ Animal Tracks
- ☐ Drift Wood

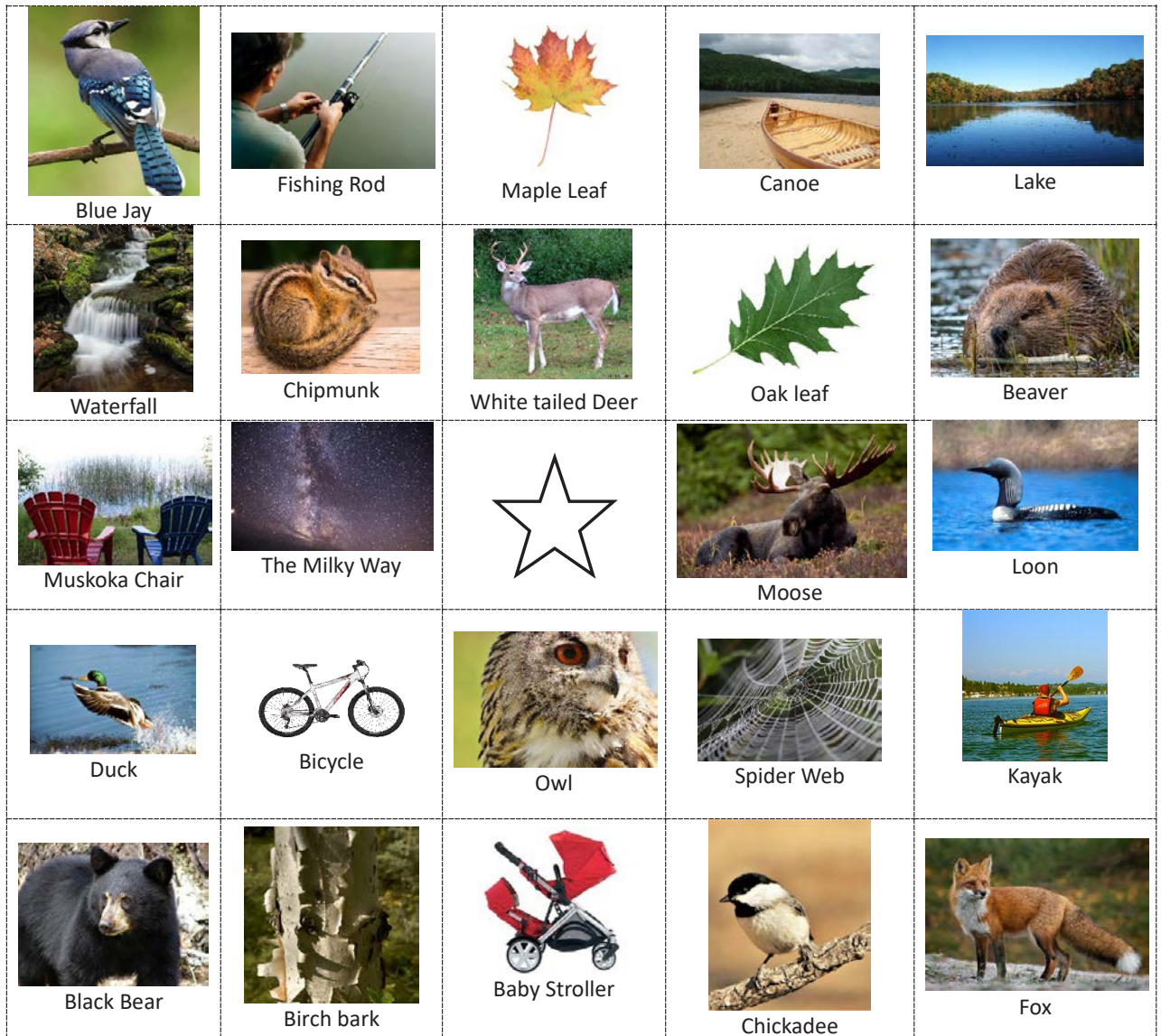
Nature Word Search



- Sea
 - Nature
 - Sand
 - Beach
 - Leaves
 - Winter
 - River
 - Storm
 - Trees
 - Fruit
 - Stone
 - Water
 - Flood
 - Pond
 - Hills
 - Lake
- Snow
 - Rain
 - Wind
 - Weather
 - Rainbow
 - Summer
 - Forest
 - Flower
 - Insects
 - Daffodil

Nature Bingo

How many of these items can you spot during your stay in South Algonquin?



Who am I?

A poem by Emily Dickinson

A fuzzy fellow, without feet, Yet doth exceeding run! Of velvet, is his Countenance, And his Complexion, dun!

Sometime, he dwelleth in the grass! Sometime, upon a bough, From which he doth descend in plush, Upon the Passer-by!

All this in summer. But when winds alarm the Forest Folk, He taketh Damask Residence — And struts in sewing silk!

Then, finer than a Lady, Emerges in the spring! A Feather on each shoulder! You'd scarce recognize him!

By Men, called Caterpillar! By me! But who am I, To tell the pretty secret Of the Butterfly!



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