


of Algonquin Park. It takes a team to make it all happen.

Over the years, the program has changed names a few times, including Nature Programme, Visitor Services, Natural Heritage Education (NHE) and now, in 2019 we are called the Discovery Program. The program has been reinvented across the province, while continuing to offer a variety of engaging and informative features. Interpretive programming is currently offered in over 60 Ontario Parks, and staff lead thousands of events annually. As you explore

Ontario Parks make sure to check out the great work of the Discovery staff.

Looking back at our history and tradition we are proud of what we have accomplished and look forward to continuing to tell the stories of Algonquin Provincial Park. To the Park visitors, we thank you for taking an interest in the natural and cultural history of the Park and being good stewards of the place. You are choosing to spend part of your vacation learning about this amazing park with us, and for that we are most grateful as we celebrate 75 years of sharing.



Open Daily **Open Daily**

9 am - 7 pm **9 am - 5 pm**
until October 14, 2019 October 15 to 27, 2019

Winter hours **Museum • Bookstore & Nature Shop • Café** **WiFi** **Holidays**

Weekends 9 am - 5 pm (full services) **Open Daily 9 am - 5 pm** (full services)

Weekdays 9 am - 4 pm (limited services) Christmas (December 27 to January 5, 2020)

October 28 to December 23, 2019 Family Day (February 17), March Break (March 16-20, 2020)

January 6 to April 26, 2020 (Closed December 24-26, 2019) Easter Weekend (April 10-13, 2020)

Algonquin Logging Museum - Open 9 am - 5 pm until October 20, 2019.
The 1.3 km trail with outdoor exhibits is available year-round.

J.R. Dymond – Scientific Research, Nature Reserves & the Interpretive Program in Algonquin NEW!





This 61-page softcover book is a biography of J.R. Dymond (1887-1965) who had an enormous impact on Algonquin Park, written by George Warecki, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of nature interpretation in Algonquin Park.


J.R. Dymond devoted his life to studying the natural world and sharing that knowledge to advance nature protection.

Available at the Algonquin Visitor Centre Bookstore & Nature Shop, East Gate and West Gate, or online at algonquinpark.on.ca

CONTRIBUTE TO CITIZEN SCIENCE!

By submitting your observations and photos to Citizen Science platforms like iNaturalist.ca, you can help park staff document biodiversity in the Park and even protect habitat. For more information join iNaturalist.ca, and check out Algonquin Provincial Park under projects.

-  Upload a picture of any wild plant, animal, or fungus
-  iNaturalist's community and image recognition software will help you identify it
-  Help out other naturalists by identifying their observations
-  Every observation becomes part of a growing record of Earth's biodiversity




Available on iOS, Android, and at inaturalist.org

iNaturalist Canada is run by the Canadian Wildlife Federation, the Royal Ontario Museum, and iNaturalist.org at the California Academy of Sciences.

Over **27,000** observations of over **2,900** species in Algonquin Provincial Park

HALLOWEEN

HAUNTED WEEKEND

Friday, October 25th • Saturday, October 26th

The fun begins on Friday night with our
TALES FROM THE CAMBOOSE SHANTY
 at the Algonquin Logging Museum

 **Spookiest Campsite Contest**

 **Trick-or-Treat**

 **Skeletons**

 **Pumpkin Carving Contest**

 **Marshmallows**

 **Wolf Howl**

Algonquin Provincial Park

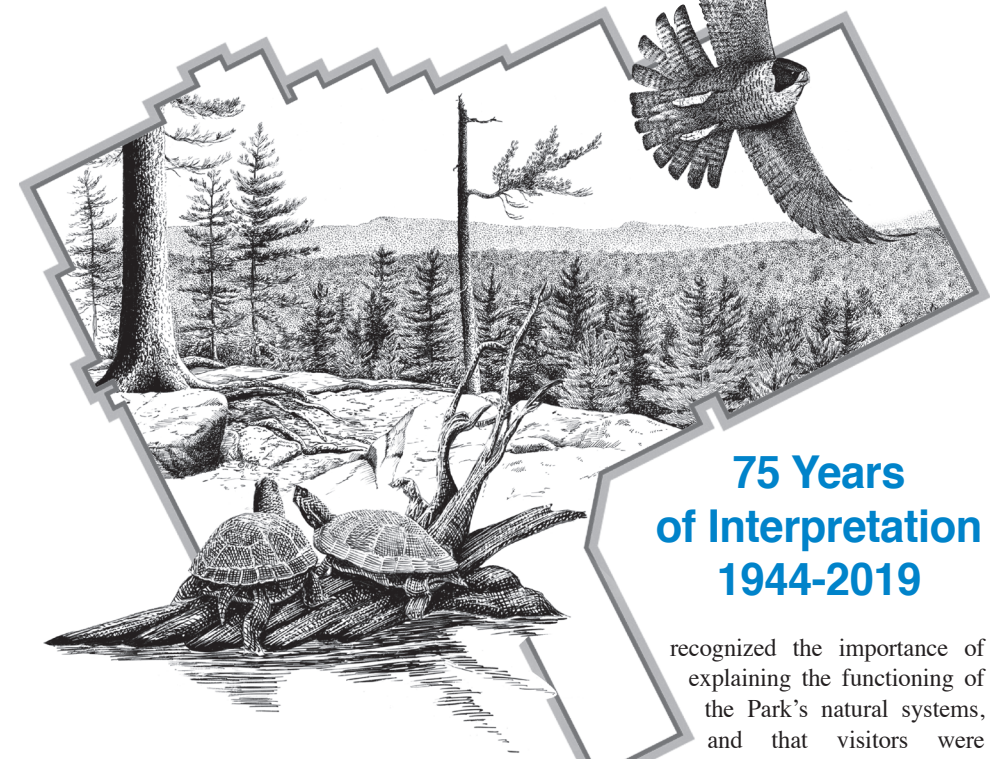
Join us at the Algonquin Visitor Centre on Saturday where a Park Naturalist will guide you through a collection of animal skeletons. Mew Lake Campground will feature "pick of the patch" pumpkin carving, spookiest campsite and best costume contests.

Everyone is invited to participate in trick-or-treating among the campsites at Mew Lake Campground and Two Rivers Campground on Saturday night, and later, for a howling good time at the nearby Old Airfield with a Wolf Howl.

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75 Years
of Interpretation
1944-2019

This year is the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the park naturalist/interpretation program in Algonquin Park back in 1944. The goal of the program has been to share information with visitors in order to increase their understanding and appreciation of Algonquin Park's human and natural history. It was started by Frank MacDougall who was the Algonquin Park Superintendent from 1931 to 1941 and later the Deputy Minister of the Department of Lands and Forests. During his tenure as Superintendent, MacDougall

recognized the importance of explaining the functioning of the Park's natural systems, and that visitors were interested in learning more about Algonquin's plants, animals and history. MacDougall asked Professor J.R. Dymond to lead 15 nature walks and make five visits to children's camps in Algonquin in 1944. Dymond had been teaching his fellow cottage leaseholders about plants and wildlife on outings of the Smoke Lake Nature Club since 1942 and was a very knowledgeable and accomplished leader. So began the first park interpretive program in Ontario, and perhaps the first in Canada.



Original tent museum at Cache Lake in 1948. The tent was located at Cache Lake from 1946 to 1948 and at Found Lake from 1949 to 1952. APPAC 3456



J.R. Dymond (left, holding hat) leading a hike on the Nature Trail which followed the portage from Cache Lake to Cranberry (Canisbay) Lake, c. 1944. MONTAIGNE, PEMBROKE

Dymond's nature hikes were popular and well attended. Starting in 1945, a couple of students were hired to assist him. The Royal Ontario Museum provided a 14 by 14-foot canvas wall tent and a number of mounted specimens of birds and mammals to display in it. The tent with its displays was erected on the edge of what

was then the leaseholder parking lot on the north side of Highway 60 at Cache Lake in 1946 and became the first Nature Museum in Algonquin. The tent museum continued at Cache Lake until 1948, attracting 7,000 visitors that year. The tent museum and the adjacent seasonal naturalist staff sleeping tents on wooden platforms were moved to Found Lake in 1949 in anticipation of the construction of a large museum building there. That facility was partially open to park visitors in 1952 and officially opened with completed exhibits in 1953, when it had 52,000 visitors. This was the first interpretive museum building in Ontario's Provincial Parks system. The Park Museum at Found Lake continued to operate until 1992. The building has been extensively remodelled and is now the Algonquin Art Centre. To celebrate the centennial of Algonquin Park and Ontario Provincial Parks in 1993, a spectacular new museum building was officially opened to introduce the world to Algonquin Provincial Park – the Algonquin Visitor Centre overlooking Sunday Creek.

Since the 1940s, Park naturalists have helped shape the visitor experience here in Algonquin, and across Ontario's Provincial Parks. They

lead the programming that many visitors take in each year, such as guided walks, children's programs, evening programs and special events. These activities are intended to inform the visitor about the natural and cultural features found in the Park. Even if you haven't been to a naturalist-led event, you have likely experienced other parts of the program such as the walking trails and guide booklets, interpretive historical site panels, the Algonquin Visitor Centre and Logging Museum, books and checklists, and even the issue of *The Raven* in your hands. Generations of Park visitors have learned about and enjoyed Algonquin through the knowledge and enthusiasm of the naturalists.

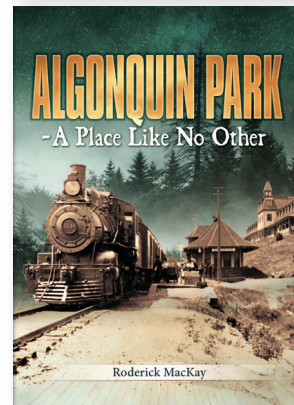
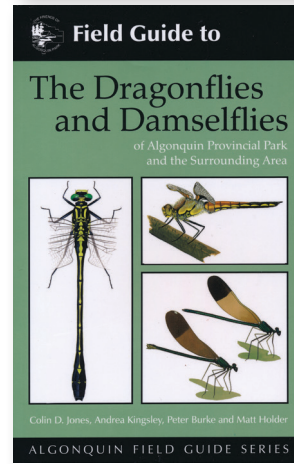
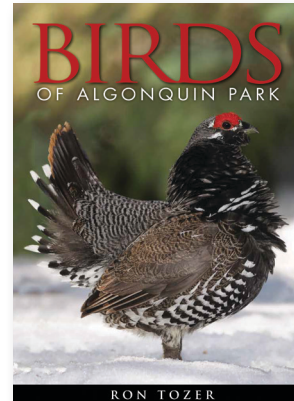
It would be easy to say that the role of Park naturalists is simply to inform, but taking a step back, we can see that over the 75 years they have done much more than that. Through educational activities, the program has altered camper behaviour, such as promoting practices to prevent human-bear conflict and reduce waste in the backcountry. Perhaps one of the greatest achievements has been changing public perceptions and attitudes about wolves through the popular Public Wolf Howls. Today, our programs continue in this tradition to help protect species at risk and prevent the spread of invasive non-native species.

The naturalists are not only a wealth of knowledge about the flora, fauna and cultural history of the Park, they also gather valuable records. The Visitor Centre collections room is home to an impressive insect collection

and plant herbarium, each with thousands of specimens. In addition, there are thousands of carefully organized paper records of species distribution and occurrence in Algonquin. The records have been utilized to create checklists of birds, butterflies and plants.

For decades, the arrival and departure dates of migratory birds, the emergence dates of insects, reptiles and amphibians and flowering dates of plants have been meticulously gathered and compiled. Even the dates that certain lakes freeze and thaw have been collected for many decades, long before the consequences of climate change loomed on the horizon. Staff have catalogued archaeological sites and maintain a collection of historical materials and photos. Numerous oral history interviews of people with valuable insights into Algonquin Park's past have been undertaken since the 1970s to help increase our knowledge. You can see some of this cultural history in action at special events, like Loggers Day or the popular Spirit Programs. All the natural and human history records and materials are housed in the Algonquin Provincial Park Archives and Collections (APPAC) at the Visitor Centre. Today, our naturalists continue to collect records, and you can too. Check out iNaturalist.org

under the Algonquin Provincial Park project. Currently there are over 25,000 observations of 2500 species.



Information in the Visitor Centre archives and collections has been utilized in numerous books over the years, including several by former park naturalists such as *Birds of Algonquin Park* by Ron Tozer; *The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Algonquin Provincial Park and the Surrounding Area* by Colin Jones, Andrea Kingsley, Peter Burke and Matt Holder; and *Algonquin Park – A Place Like No Other* by Rory MacKay.

While natural and cultural history is fascinating, and in many cases, strange, many of the interpreters have been equally interesting. If you have been attending naturalist-led programs over the years, you can probably recall a few characters and moments. Without naming names or particular incidents, we can say that without fail our naturalists have been led by their passion for the natural world. Their passion may have taken them wading chest-deep into mucky bogs in search of rare orchids and butterflies, to waking up well before dawn to go bird watching, or even maintaining a collection of tadpoles or caterpillars to

watch them grow. You can imagine the calamity that may ensue from these endeavours, such as over-flowing rubber boots, dropped binoculars, forgotten lunches, sunburns, and resounding laughter from the camaraderie of close friends with common interests and the excitement of discovery. In short, our naturalists are truly passionate about natural and cultural history, and sharing it with you, the visitor. These talented people, often university students, have contributed immensely to the enjoyment of visitors, and our understanding of the Park – and we sincerely thank them. Many of our naturalist alumni have gone on to become prominent biologists, scientists and educators, often citing their time in Algonquin as formative.

However, the naturalist program is much more than just interpreters. Everything we do relies on the hard work of many people such as administrators, publication production staff, information officers, trail and building maintenance staff, and of course, the staff, Directors, members and donors of The Friends



Some things never change – the naturalists are entertaining characters. ONTARIO PARKS



A Special Friend

In 1983, the Visitor Service program as it was then known made a new friend. The Friends of Algonquin Park (FOAP) was founded as a registered non-profit charitable organization, initially in response to a need to reprint official Park publications. Since then, the interpretive program and the FOAP have been working together to support programming; complete projects that help visitors learn more about Algonquin; operate the famous Algonquin Park bookstores, the former Pioneer Logging Exhibit and the current Algonquin Logging Museum; and cooperatively run the Algonquin Visitor Centre.