A full scale replica of a camboose shanty is one of the treasures to be found in the Algonquin Logging Museum, which follows the history of logging from the 1830s to the modern day. The central fireplace, or camboose, was the focus of the culinary and social universe for the fifty two shantymen who slept and ate in this kind of dwelling: the only source of light; the only source of heat for cooking; the only warmth for fending off the bitter cold of an Algonquin winter’s night. Given its importance in the lives of Woodchucks are unusual among birds in that they are partial to acorns. A number of these shrew-like rodents live in Algonquin Park and spend the winter sleeping. The Blue Jay numbers of birds we can see may be quite different from one year to the next. Some year-round residents are present only in low numbers in winters when the natural food supply is meagre. For example, most Blue Jays will leave if the autumn crop of acorns (the fruit of the Red Oak) or of other tree seeds is poor. In autumns when there is a large acorn crop, Blue Jays can store them, and later retrieve them, thereby allowing them to get through the winter here. Along these lines, other birds that usually reside farther north all year may show up in Algonquin in good numbers, if their habitual food source is sparse. An example of this is the Pine Grosbeak, a large finch the male of which is particularly attractive. Pine Grosbeaks are usually only seen in good numbers here if crops of Mountain-Ash fruit upon which they feed are poor farther north. Another interesting thing about winter

### Schedule of Events

8:30 am - 10:00 am  
Guided Winter Bird Walk at Spruce Bog Boardwalk Trail

9:00 am - 10:00 am  
Winter Landscape Photography Tips with Peter Ferguson in the Visitor Centre Theatre

10:30 am - 12:00 pm  
Winter Wildlife Excursion by Snowshoe at the Visitor Centre

11:30 am - 1:30 pm  
Tours of the Algonquin Park Visitor Centre Collections Room

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm  
Winter Wildlife Photography Tips with Peter Ferguson in the Visitor Centre Theatre

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
Guided Winter Bird Walk at Spruce Bog Boardwalk Trail

3:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Ice Skating, Campfire and BBQ at Mew Lake Campground

3:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Winter Camping Demonstrations at Mew Lake Campground

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Fireside and Night Hike/Wolf Howl Program at Mew Lake Campground

Events are subject to change. Please check online for a current list of events: www.algonquinpark.on.ca

### Seeing Red and Blue this Winter

Those of you who have visited the Park during the spring and summer may have appreciated the high level of bird activity during those times of year, at least as far as hearing birds is concerned. Even though fewer birds are present in the Park during the winter, they can still enhance your excursions. The interesting thing about winter birds is that the types and numbers of birds we can see may be quite different from one year to the next. Some year-round residents are present only in low numbers in winters when the natural food supply is meagre. For example, most Blue Jays will leave if the autumn crop of acorns (the fruit of the Red Oak) or of other tree seeds is poor. In autumns when there is a large acorn crop, Blue Jays can store them, and later retrieve them, thereby allowing them to get through the winter here. Along these lines, other birds that usually reside farther north all year may show up in Algonquin in good numbers, if their habitual food source is sparse. An example of this is the Pine Grosbeak, a large finch the male of which is particularly attractive. Pine Grosbeaks are usually only seen in good numbers here if crops of Mountain-Ash fruit upon which they feed are poor farther north. Another interesting thing about winter

### Winter in the Wild Festival

February 16, 2013 • Family Day Weekend

All activities during the festival are free with the purchase of a Daily Vehicle Permit or Camping Permit with the exception of food.

Make memories in Algonquin this Family Day weekend.
the shantyman, a replica of a shanty and its camboose should match the historical record. When the Algonquin Logging Museum shanty was constructed in 1992, flat rocks were used to hold back the sand in the camboose structure. It was discovered that arrangement did not match with the four existing nineteenth century photographs of shanty interiors or with first-hand accounts, which indicated that in most shanties large flat rocks were used to hold back the sand on an 1871 camboose along the Madawaska River was held in place by the remains of log posts, but apparently not all shanties had them. Nearby the top of the sand there were also large stones that would have made an additional fireplace surround.

Careful excavation of a sandy mound – the former camboose — centrally located within a rectangular set of foundation mounds revealed that the sand of that camboose was held in place by the remains of log beams on all four sides. There was no evidence of vertical posts, but apparently not all shanties had them.

Thus, a more improved representation of a winter camp from over a century ago has been achieved…but only in part. Missing are the tall tales shared around the fire, the smell of wood smoke and tobacco, the essence of a fiddle on a Saturday night. Lacking also are the smell of wood smoke and tobacco, the essence of the tea or beans, found through archaeological investigation in the remains of an 1871 shanty camboose. stones that would have made an additional fireplace surround.

Algonquin Logging Museum camboose shanty in 2012, following its reconstruction.

A camboose from 1900.