



Date of Peak Fall Colours (average is September 27)

The Raven is available online at www.algonquinpark.on.ca and a limited number of complete sets of the previous year's Raven are available at the Visitor Centre or the main gates.

When will Algonquin's leaf colour be at its peak?

Algonquin colour admirers understandably want to know when the colours will be at their peak but this is difficult to say ahead of time. We have no crystal ball, however, fall leaf colour is usually best from late September through early October. Our graph illustrates the "peak" dates since the 1970s. This may help when you plan your autumn visit to Algonquin.

You can check for regular updates on the Park's leaf-colour status by visiting: www.algonquinpark.on.ca or www.OntarioParks.com

When in the Park, trails with good views of maple colour include:

- **Hardwood Lookout** (at Km 13.8)
- **Track & Tower** (at Km 25)
- **Centennial Ridges** (2 km South from Km 37.6)
- **Lookout** (at Km 39.7), and
- **Booth's Rock** (9 km South from Km 40.3).

Enjoy the view!



Algonquin Park is Black Bear country!

Bears are a natural part of the Algonquin landscape and, as a visitor camping in bear country, you have a responsibility to follow the bear rules and know what to do if you encounter a bear.



If you leave your campsite during the day, ensure that all food, coolers and garbage are stored properly. (Campers can be charged for failing to keep a clean campsite and unlawfully storing wildlife attractants.)



For more information on Black Bears and camping in bear country, see page 20 of the *Algonquin Information Guide*, check out the Black Bear exhibit at the Visitor Centre, or attend an interpretive program on bears (see *This Week in Algonquin Park* for dates and times).

Looking for Internet access?

The Visitor Centre now offers free WiFi internet access... and while there, don't forget to check out The Friends of Algonquin Park bookstore, or enjoy a light snack or meal at the Sunday Creek Café.



Never feed or approach a bear

Bears can quickly become accustomed to human sources of food and people who feed bears create problems for both other campers and the bear.

Store your food properly

In picnic areas and campgrounds, store all food inside the closed trunk of your vehicle.

In the backcountry, put all food in a pack and hang it well off the ground and away from your tent.

Keep your campsite clean

Clean your dishes and cooking equipment immediately after each meal. Deposit your garbage, compost and recycling **daily** in the bear-proof containers within your campground.

Help us keep our wild animals wild.... observe the bear rules!



Vol. 52, No. 2

Autumn Issue

September 1, 2011

A Thanks Well Earned

By Rory MacKay

Recently Algonquin Park has encouraged the adoption of the *Leave No Trace* philosophy. Put simply, it means that campers and staff should respect the landscape they are visiting and endeavour to have no detrimental effect on the Park environment. It is a good thing for which to aim, but we people do leave evidence that we were here: trails get worn; Park facilities are constructed and used; buttons, coins and other items of a personal nature get lost and buried in the soil. That is not a new phenomenon; it has been going on for centuries. Algonquin Park has a very rich human past.

Scattered throughout the hills and valleys of the Park are abandoned structures of an older age: logging camps such as the Perley and Pattee camp on the Big Pines Trail; the remains of farms that supplied the lumber companies; settlers' dwellings, railway buildings, old hotels, former cottages and ranger cabins. Most are now simply earthen mounds in the forest. Scattered along shorelines are ancient campsites, which archeologists tell us were used by First Nations people. Some of them were used three or four thousand years ago while others have been in continuous use to the present.



Although some cultural structures like old ranger cabins still exist in the park, many have slowly disappeared. Photo Credit: Dave Hall

One might ask just how Park staff can manage to keep track of and protect cultural heritage sites in an area that is greater in size than the Province of Prince Edward Island. As in any such task, the first step is to find out what sites there are to be protected. Beginning in the 1960s, a few Park staff began marking the locations of known historical and archaeological sites on maps. Then in 1968, and again in 1973, and 1976, around the time of the first Master Plan, historians were sent out to travel the Park, to verify the location of sites that had been previously reported. Information was also obtained from conversations with Park "old timers".

Moving toward a Cultural Heritage Management Plan, in 1980 all of the information that had been previously gathered was compiled as one large inventory of cultural heritage sites. However, even with historic site information all in one place, it was still difficult to quickly find information on any particular site. For some sites the location given was approximate to within 500 metres only. As the Park entered the Twenty-First Century,

since its beginning. Before an area of forest is to be harvested by the Algonquin Forestry Authority (AFA), a crew of AFA tree markers goes out to survey and mark the area. They look for certain trees to be cut, or left, and they mark no-cut areas along shorelines. They also look for hawk nests and verify any mapped cultural features within the harvest block. During forest management planning, all of the natural and cultural heritage information about an area to be cut is gathered and indicated on maps. Then sites to be protected during logging operations and their locations are determined. Those protected areas are marked on the ground. The tree markers are always on the lookout for new cultural sites not yet mapped - if mounds that appear to mark a foundation are found in the forest, a buffer zone of a minimum of thirty metres is marked on trees surrounding the site, and its location is noted, with a hand-held GPS device. Information about the nature of the site and its location is added into the database at Park headquarters, along with a label to represent that site on Cultural Heritage Values maps. The Forest Management Plan contains the direction for the required buffer zone to be left on each feature. As with any information about rare resources in the Park, the maps are used on a "need to know" basis. If it should become necessary that a site be disturbed, an archaeologist can be hired to completely investigate that site, so information about that site is not lost.

Avocational and volunteer archaeologist William Allen, who studies ancient spiritual and habitation sites of First Nations people in the Park, recently wrote about how vital Park river systems were for the First Nations people who once roamed this area, and stressed how important it is for all of us that



Mounds in the forest, such as this one at the Big Pines Trail, can be a sign of a cultural site

that cultural heritage information was added into the Park's computerized Geographic Information System (GIS). That mapping system and associated data base increased the efficiency with which staff could get access to hundreds of individual records and site maps. Global Positioning System (GPS) technology enabled field workers to identify the location of any particular site with a high degree of accuracy.

Ontario Parks personnel continue to add to the accuracy of information of known cultural heritage locations, making locations of historical and archaeological sites available to planners so the sites may be protected throughout the Park, but especially within the Recreation/Utilization Zone.

Management and harvesting of the forest has been a part of Algonquin Park

archaeological and historical sites within Algonquin Park -- itself a designated National Historic Site -- continue to be investigated and preserved.

Although researchers like Allen will likely find and study additional cultural heritage sites in the Park, most of the "new" old sites that are found will be



Algonquin Park Loon Survey - 2011

No one who has ever camped in Algonquin can ever forget the magical laughter and wails of the Common Loon. But that doesn't mean we can take this embodiment of wild northern lakes for granted either. Late in the fall our loons migrate to the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States and, unfortunately, many of them fail to return. Sometimes thousands of loons succumb to heavy metal poisoning or botulism and wash up on southern beaches. Even back here, there are grounds for concern. Although we have not yet documented any significant damage to our lakes from acid rain, it is obvious that lakes turned fishless would no longer support loons.

In 1981, we began a project to document just how well our loons were doing and, with your help, we will continue this summer. Only a long-term monitoring program can distinguish real trends from normal yearly fluctuations and we need observations from as many lakes as possible. Please give us a hand!

through the efforts of the workers in the bush: loggers, tree markers, and managers of the AFA, as well as Park staff. We raise our hat to them, in thanks, for working together to protect the cultural heritage resources of Algonquin Park for the people of Ontario.

Loon Reproduction in Algonquin Park Since 1981

Year	Number of lakes surveyed	Percent with nests/young
1981	121	38%
1982	184	28%
1983	237	21%
1984	298	34%
1985	210	37%
1986	216	35%
1987	261	43%
1988	260	40%
1989	240	41%
1990	248	40%
1991	201	50%
1992	203	39%
1993	232	43%
1994	183	46%
1995	223	45%
1996	219	42%
1997	173	45%
1998	175	42%
1999	190	33%
2000	216	44%
2001	168	39%
2002	143	41%
2003	120	46%
2004	144	41%
2005	156	40%
2006	147	41%
2007	138	43%
2008	169	39%
2009	146	40%
2010	138	36%

Leave No Trace

Leave No Trace is about respecting and caring for natural areas, doing your part to protect our limited resources and future recreational opportunities. Here are the seven principles as they relate to your visit to the campgrounds or trails in Algonquin Park.

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare

Why? • Ensures the safety of your group

How? • Be informed

- Familiarize yourself with Park features, facilities, rules and regulations
- Accept responsibility for your actions
- Ensure clothing and gear are appropriate and in good repair

2. Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces

Why? • Prevents soil erosion and vegetation damage

How? • Travel on designated walking and bicycle trails

- Use middle of trails even when wet or muddy
- Camp on designated campsites

3. Dispose of Waste Properly

Why? • Respects the environment and other park users

• Eliminates wildlife attractants

How? • Minimize garbage before your trip

- Practice good sanitation
- Do not burn garbage or food scraps in fire pits
- Dispose of gray water in a vault privy or, if in an RV, at the trailer sanitation station
- Dispose of waste properly
- Separate waste into Containers, Paper, Organics and Garbage
- Do not leave garbage on the ground or in parking lots

4. Leave What You Find

Why? • Increases sense of discovery for others

• Prevents lasting damage to trees, plants, historic and cultural sites

How? • Leave plants, rocks and cultural artifacts as you find them

- Treat living plants with respect
- Do not pick or harvest any plants or strip bark from trees
- Do not hammer nails or carve into trees
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native plants or animals, e.g. baitfish

• Respect all park property

- Refrain from defacing or damaging signs, picnic tables, ranger cabins and other structures

5. Minimize Campfire Impacts

Why? • Standing and downed woody debris is an important ecological component of the forest

• Garbage in fire pits can attract wildlife

How? • Consider alternatives

- Use a lightweight stove for cooking
- Build a low-impact fire
- Use only locally purchased firewood
- Collection of live or dead wood is prohibited in campgrounds
- Be fire smart
- Keep fires small and use existing fire pit

6. Respect Wildlife

Why? • Respects the lives, habitats and needs of wildlife

• Minimizes our impact on their behaviour

How? • Enjoy wildlife at a safe distance

- Approach or photograph wildlife in a non-intrusive manner
- View wildlife through binoculars
- Never feed or attract wildlife
- Store your food properly
- Keep a clean campsite
- Avoid sensitive habitats/seasons
- Avoid areas with wildlife that are nesting, mating or raising young
- Control your pets
- Pets must always be under control and on a leash

7. Be Considerate of Others

Why? • Respects the quality of the outdoor experience by others

How? • Leave all areas of the park in a better state than you found it

- Be courteous
- Keep noise levels at a minimum
- Ensure your activity is appropriate for the location
- If necessary, yield to others on trails

