Moose Viewing Tips
In spring, Moose can be seen regularly along Highway 60, attracted to the slightly salty water left in roadside ditches after winter road maintenance. Unfortunately, the proximity of Moose to Highway 60 can create a serious hazard for motorists. Stay alert as Moose can be on the road or standing in the ditches and are often surprisingly hard to see. Each year too many Moose and other wildlife are killed in vehicle collisions. Reduce your speed (especially at night) and help save the lives of Algonquin Park’s wildlife and possibly even your own.

If you see a Moose, pull safely off the traveled portion of the road and turn on your hazard lights to warn other drivers. If possible, park in a nearby parking lot. If drivers flash their vehicle headlights at you in Algonquin, there’s a good chance a Moose is ahead or maybe even a “Moose jam” (a traffic jam caused by Moose watchers). If you exit the vehicle, watch for traffic and ensure you keep a safe and respectful distance from wildlife.

Moose are large and powerful animals. Please show respect.

WINTER TICK IN SPRING

The winter tick is one of many parasites that affect moose. The aggressive engorgement of female winter ticks causes moose to obsessively groom, scratch with their hind hooves, and rub furiously against trees to relieve the irritation. This vigorous grooming results in damage to their protective coat of hair leading to premature winter hair loss.

Be FishingSmart…

Reminders while fishing in Algonquin:

- Trout fishing season opens April 26, 2014.
- No live baitfish are permitted.
- No fishing is permitted within 100 m of a water control dam.
- No fishing within 300 metres downstream of Lake Opeongo’s Arnee Bay dam.
- Daily catch and possession limit for Lake Trout is 2 per person (1 per person with a Conservation Licence).
- Daily catch and possession limit for trout is 5 per person, no more than two of which can be Lake Trout (2 per person with not more than one Lake Trout, with a Conservation Licence).
- Be aware some lakes have slot limits. Check the Algonquin Information Guide for a list.
- Worms are not native to Algonquin and remaining worms should be taken home – earliest date

Lake Opeongo Ice-out Dates Since 1964 Showing Trend

Try to imagine Algonquin Park without the mighty rapids and wide valley of the Petawawa River below Lake Travers, without the sandy beaches of Grand Lake, without the cliffs of the Barron Canyon, and without the Little Bonnechere trails and the Eastern Pine Backpacking Trail. The Algonquin Park of 1913, with its twenty townships and an area of about 1 million acres, was an impressive territory, but the addition of six full townships and another four half-townships on the east side of the Park a century ago in 1914 is well worth celebrating. That addition of land brought the Park closer to being an area of “between twenty and thirty townships,” which Clerk of Forestry Robert Plipp had proposed as a Forest Reserve in 1884. Legislation passed in 1910 had permitted additions of lands adjacent to the Park by Provincial Cabinet alone, thus streamlining acquisitions.
Algonquin Park Archives: V.B. Gray

Grand Lake on the Barron River. Opeongo on the Madawaska River, Golden Ottawa River or at smaller outposts at Lakefdfn.

Animals were trapped and exchanged for metal with the spring melt-waters. Traditional hunting us that for thousands of years the Algonquin People and their ancestors seasonally hunted and fished the lands and waters that would become Algonquin Park. After first contact with Europeans in 1613, that traditional usage began to change. Beaver and other fur-bearing animals were trapped and exchanged for metal axes and cooking pots, at trading posts on the Ottawa River or at smaller outlets at Lake Opeongo on the Madawaska River, Golden Lake on the Bonnechere River, and (possibly) Grand Lake on the Barron River.

The land yielded other important resources. Great forests of pine grew on the sandy soil along the tributaries of the Ottawa River. Loggers in search of pine suitable in size to square into timbers for export to England began to work their way up the Ottawa River, deep within what would become the Algonquin Park territory that the Superintendent of the Park had to watch for poachers, and especially to patrol in the summer months to prevent settlement by all but a very few hardy souls.

A few squatters (settlers without deeds) cleared small farms along the Bonnechere River in the 1870s. A rail route had been surveyed through the Bonnechere Valley and then west and north to Koshikokki Lake, there to join with the Canadian Pacific Railway. The railway was constructed along the Ottawa River rather than along the Bonnechere route. Although the prosperity anticipated by settlers working on a railroad did not materialize, squatters Paddy Garvey, Dennis McGuey, James McIntyre, and Ronald McDonald remained on their farms. They grew crops, raised livestock, cut more trees, and, as did the other squatters, provided supplies and lodging for men travelling to and from the lumber camps nearby. The men worked at whatever they could to earn extra money. Some were hired as government fire rangers, or were hired as dam operators for the lumber companies. Some mined a local clay deposit. Any extra cattle were sold “on the hoof” to the local lumber camps. Their boys grew up without benefit of formal schooling, and were hired out to lumber camps as early as age ten. The girls learned about household chores and had a few lessons in reading and writing from their mother. Annie Roach was the oldest daughter of the man who ran Basin Depot for the McLachlan family. For a time she taught her sisters and a few McGuey children in the small log building that stands there to this day.

Then in 1914 Algonquin Park was expanded. These settlers of the Bonnechere and the Barron had not given up their farms earlier were required to leave. Although not having title to the land, Garvey, McGuey, the widow McDonald, and Tom O’Hare, who had been fire rangers and were financially compensated for their abandoned claim, continued to work on the forest and their farms of time. Sleighs continued to transport supplies to Basin Depot and north to Lake where J. R. Booth ran a lumber camp.

Basin Depot cabin was built in 1902 and is the oldest building still standing in Algonquin Park. It is used today as a storage facility for the nearby logging depot and a 1900s lumbering camp.

In the 1880s, surveyors dividing up the townships of the Nipissing District for settlement noted the extent to which the forests had been burned. The old-time loggers had left wood chips, branches and other debris in their wake, a result of the retreat and human-caused. As was the case with the townships included in the Algonquin Park of 1897, the poor quality of the soil that remained in these East side townships prevented settlement by all but a very few hardy souls.

A few squatters (settlers without deeds) cleared small farms along the Bonnechere River in the 1870s. A rail route had been surveyed through the Bonnechere Valley and then west and north to Koshikokki Lake, there to join with the Canadian Pacific Railway. The railway was constructed along the Ottawa River rather than along the Bonnechere route. Although the prosperity anticipated by settlers working on a railroad did not materialize, squatters Paddy Garvey, Dennis McGuey, James McIntyre, and Ronald McDonald remained on their farms. They grew crops, raised livestock, cut more trees, and, as did the other squatters, provided supplies and lodging for men travelling to and from the lumber camps nearby. The men worked at whatever they could to earn extra money. Some were hired as government fire rangers, or were hired as dam operators for the lumber companies. Some mined a local clay deposit. Any extra cattle were sold “on the hoof” to the local lumber camps. Their boys grew up without benefit of formal schooling, and were hired out to lumber camps as early as age ten. The girls learned about household chores and had a few lessons in reading and writing from their mother. Annie Roach was the oldest daughter of the man who ran Basin Depot for the McLachlan family. For a time she taught her sisters and a few McGuey children in the small log building that stands there to this day.

Then in 1914 Algonquin Park was expanded. These settlers of the Bonnechere and the Barron had not given up their farms earlier were required to leave. Although not having title to the land, Garvey, McGuey, the widow McDonald, and Tom O’Hare, who had been fire rangers and were financially compensated for their abandoned claim, continued to work on the forest and their farms of time. Sleighs continued to transport supplies to Basin Depot and north to Lake where J. R. Booth ran a lumber camp.

Farm supplies may also have been carried by carriers using a canoe. The first of the fire rangers who patrolled in the summer of 1914 was also an artist, Stationed at Acnray in a cabin dubbed the “Out-Side-In,” Thomson painted many of the scenes of the landside, including one at Grand Lake from which he took the famous canvas “The Jack Pine” was painted. The rugged landscape that Thomson painted is the same landscape that we see today, with the scrubby second-growth forests of 1914 having grown to replace them, and supports the local economy.

The University of Toronto held student forestry camps at Achray, from 1924 to 1935.

Some of the pioneering techniques of modern forestry were developed in the Petawawa Management Unit, which was established in 1945 and was one of the first such management areas in Canada. The last river drive of logs down the Petawawa River took place in 1959 and a sawmill operated on Lake Travers until mills were removed from the Park in the early 1970s.

The rugged landscape that Thomson painted is the same landscape that we see today, with the scrubby second-growth forests of 1914 having grown to replace them, and supports the local economy.

The University of Toronto held student forestry camps at Achray, from 1924 to 1935.

Some of the pioneering techniques of modern forestry were developed in the Petawawa Management Unit, which was established in 1945 and was one of the first such management areas in Canada. The last river drive of logs down the Petawawa River took place in 1959 and a sawmill operated on Lake Travers until mills were removed from the Park in the early 1970s.

Fishing party loading canoes on train at Achray in 1925.

Artist Tom Thomson fishing, c. 1915.

Park Superintendent Frank MacDougall established a Deputy Chief Ranger’s Unit at Achray in 1937. Construction of the Stone House to provide an office and accommodation for the rangers began in 1938.

Designated as a Deputy Chief Ranger’s headquarters in 1931, Achray has seen many transformations. Over the years many lake and river names have changed. The track of diesel engine and the length of rail cars were commonplace interruptions to the view. The entrance to that section of the Canadian National Railway line closed in 1995. A station building came and went, as did various maintenance buildings. The stone house (completed in the 1940s) and the log cabin in which Thomson stayed are physical reminders of times past. Interior camping facilities are now in campground. Despite the comings and goings of people, the landscape has remained remarkably wild.

Michael Runtz, naturalist and author of The Explorer’s Guide to Algonquin Park, considers the East Side to be a special place. One reason is that it is much less travelled than the west side of the Park, since it is along the canoe routes. He considers a visit to the East Side to be a natural tonic, an escape into “the real world” away from the world of computers and onerous obligations:

“I love that part of Algonquin for a number of reasons. You can go for hours without seeing a person. Yet there is as much diversity of life there as in other parts of Algonquin. Also it is very different because of the geological history, its deadwood plain; the forest type is different, and the elevation is lower. And you have a lot of interesting plants and animals not found in western Algonquin. The very fact that it is not explored that often is also a big thing: when you go there you make new discoveries.”

Whether your personal discovery is a fungus, plant or animal, an old foundation, a scenic vista, or a wilderness camping experience, the East Side of Algonquin Park is worth a visit.

We can all be thankful the lands added to the Park in 1914 had attracted so few settlers, so that one hundred years later we can celebrate the inclusion of those townships in Algonquin Park.

Whether your personal discovery is a fungus, plant or animal, an old foundation, a scenic vista, or a wilderness camping experience, the East Side of Algonquin Park is worth a visit.

We can all be thankful the lands added to the Park in 1914 had attracted so few settlers, so that one hundred years later we can celebrate the inclusion of those townships in Algonquin Park.