



# HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Friday, October 26th • Saturday, October 27th

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

- 🎃 Spookiest Campsite Contest
- 🎃 Skeletons
- 🎃 Costume Contest
- 🎃 Trick-or-Treat
- 🎃 Pumpkin Carving Contest
- 🎃 Marshmallows
- 🎃 Wolf Howl

## Algonquin Provincial Park

Join us at the 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 on Saturday night, and later, for a howling good time at the nearby Old Airfield with a Wolf Howl.

## ALGONQUIN PARK IS BLACK BEAR COUNTRY

For most Park visitors, seeing a Black Bear in its natural environment is an exciting experience. However, the excitement diminishes when that Black Bear is rummaging through your cooler or tent, searching for food. As visitors camping in bear country, you have a responsibility to follow the bear rules and to know what to do if you encounter a bear.



PETER FERGLISON



### Rules in Bear Country

Each year, Park staff spend hundreds of hours dealing with problem bears – help our staff by following the rules when camping in bear country.

#### 1 Never feed or approach bears

The Black Bear is an intelligent animal, with the ability to remember food locations and can quickly become accustomed to human sources of food. People who feed bears create problems for everyone.

#### 2 Store food out of reach of bears

In campgrounds and picnic areas, store all food (including pet food) inside the closed trunk of your vehicle, if possible. Do not store food, cooking utensils or fragrant items, such as soap, toothpaste, or shaving cream in your tent.

When camping in the backcountry, put all food in a pack and hang it well off the ground – at least four metres off the ground and two metres away from the tree trunk – and away from the vicinity of your tent.

#### 3 Keep your campsite clean

In campgrounds, reduce the availability of garbage, and consequently garbage odours, by depositing your sealed bags of garbage daily in the bear-proof waste containers. Clean your picnic table and barbecue after every use, and clean up any spilled grease.

When camping in the backcountry, burn any food scraps and fat drippings thoroughly in a hot fire. Any remaining garbage should be placed in your litter bag and suspended along with the food. To eliminate food odours, dishes should be washed immediately after each meal (preferably well away from your campsite).

**Charges can be laid for leaving out items which may serve as attractants to any wildlife.**

## ALGONQUIN VISITOR CENTRE

HOURS OF OPERATION

Open Daily

9 am - 7 pm  
until October 8, 2018

Winter hours

**Weekends** 9 am - 5 pm (full services)  
**Weekdays** 9 am - 4 pm (limited services)  
October 29 to December 23, 2018  
January 7 to April 18, 2019 (Closed December 24-26, 2018)

Open Daily

9 am - 5 pm  
October 9 to 28, 2018

WiFi

Holidays

**Open Daily** 9 am - 5 pm (full services)  
Christmas (December 27 to January 6, 2019)  
Family Day (February 18), March Break (March 9-17)  
Easter Weekend (April 19-22, 2019)

**Algonquin Logging Museum** - Open Daily 9 am to 5 pm until October 14, 2018.  
The 1.3 km trail with outdoor exhibits is available year-round.

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Algonquin

The

# Raven

A Natural and Cultural History Digest

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Throughout 2018, we have been celebrating the 125th anniversary of Ontario Parks. It all started in 1893 with the creation of Algonquin Provincial Park. In 1993, our centennial anniversary, we opened the Algonquin Visitor Centre and Dan Strickland, the long-time author of *The Raven*, wrote the following article describing the purpose and features of the new building. Although we have made some modifications over the years, the overall design still works and the Visitor Centre continues to act like a window into the past and present Algonquin Provincial Park. The iconic building, exhibits and view have introduced over 5 million visitors to the park and inspired them to discover more.

*Aerial view of the Algonquin Visitor Centre and Sunday Creek and Norway Lake.* PATRICK MOLDOVAN

Despite being the “new visitor centre” at 25 years old, it might be the only visitor centre you and your family are familiar with. To get a sense of what the previous visitor centre was like, visit the Algonquin Art Centre at km 20 where you can see the original building, now converted to a beautiful gallery dedicated to art inspired by Algonquin. In addition, you can visit a third facility, the Algonquin Logging Museum at km 54.5, which highlights the fascinating and rich logging history of the Park.

Algonquin’s past continues to shape its future. It is a place where people, wildlife and wilderness meet. The stories of Algonquin continue to be written and the Visitor Centre continues to be a place where those stories are shared.





# A Lot to be Thankful For

by Dan Strickland

It would be a very rare reader of *The Raven* who did not realize that 1993 is an extra special year in the history of Algonquin. In fact, just one month from now, on May 27th, the Park will pass its one hundredth birthday and start into its second full century. As with all major milestones in the evolution of great institutions, it is only fitting that we observe such an important occasion in appropriate ways. That is why a whole host of new facilities, books, and events have been prepared (or soon will be) to mark Algonquin's centennial year. Some have been done by the Ministry of Natural Resources, some have been done by The Friends of Algonquin Park, while still others are the work of the private sector or just ordinary Park visitors who wanted to express how important Algonquin has been in their lives.

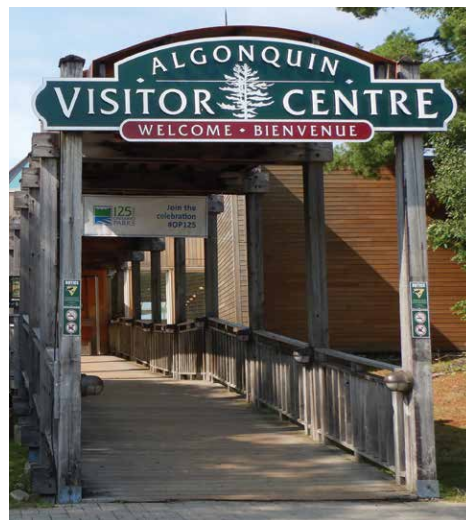
Those of us who are privileged to work in the Park have no doubt about how precious Algonquin is to hundreds of thousands of visitors every year and so, in a way, we are not terribly surprised by all the outpouring of affection on the occasion of the Park's big birthday. Still, it is also human nature to take things for granted in this world, especially things that have been around for a hundred years! We will confess to being more than a little moved, therefore, by all the expressions of reverence for Ontario's great flagship park in this, the year of its centennial.

For our part, in this year's series of *Ravens*, we also propose to partake in the ongoing celebration of Algonquin Park and its one hundredth birthday. From time to time through the coming summer we will devote issues to such topics as some of the special park experiences staff and visitors have had over the years and perhaps to a few personal reflections on what great parks like Algonquin mean to our society.

We have a lot to be thankful for in Algonquin Park and this, of all years, is the year to say so. That's what we intend to do, so please join us whenever you can. Let's start right here with a preview/description of the biggest of all the Algonquin centennial celebrations...

## CENTENNIAL CENTREPIECE

Of all the ways we will be observing the Park centennial there can be no doubt that the biggest and most important is the fabulous new Algonquin Visitor Centre at km 43, just east of the Spruce Bog Boardwalk. It will open its doors on Saturday, May 22 and, as we were going to press, we can tell you that it was the scene of incredible hustle and bustle as staff and contractors raced against the clock to get everything ready (we hope!) in time for the opening.



Entrance to the Algonquin Visitor Centre. DAWN SHERMAN

This new building, the successor to the old Park Museum at km 20, has 2600 square metres (25,000 square feet) of floor space and is fully ten times bigger than the old facility. The structure of the new Visitor Centre was completed in the spring of 1992 and the time since then has been spent on the exhibits and all the supporting systems that go on behind the scenes.

The best way to appreciate this marvellous facility of course, will be to see it firsthand but we also think it worthwhile to tell you a bit about the thinking that led up to the final design. In our view a museum or visitor centre can never be a substitute for the real



Black Bear exhibit at the Algonquin Visitor Centre. DAWN SHERMAN

thing (in this case the actual living landscape of Algonquin itself). What a visitor centre can do, however, and what it should do, is serve as an introduction to the Park for our visitors. It should be a place where people can leave their cares behind, learn about the wonders and beauty of the Park and then, armed with that knowledge, directly go out and marvel at a magnificent sweep of Park landscape to see with their own eyes what the building had just introduced them to. We believe that our chosen site, a ridge over-looking the scenic Sunday Creek Valley, fulfils this purpose admirably.

An actual visit to the building will take you through three exhibit areas. The first shows how the Park's upland topography played a key role in shaping Algonquin's climate, forests, wildlife and human history, including the establishment of the Park in the first place. In the following gallery,

devoted to Algonquin's natural history you are introduced to the Park's five major natural habitats chiefly through the use of dioramas (very realistic three dimensional displays in which you see typical plants and animals in a recreated natural setting blending off into a painted backdrop).

Examples include a doe and her fawn in a June hardwood forest, a bull and cow moose in the fall, a pack of wolves in a spruce bog, a cross section of a beaver lodge and pond and last but not least, a voyage to the bottom of Lake Opeongo. These displays are chiefly the work of background artist Dwayne Harty and taxidermist Kevin Hockley. Both these men have done similar work for the Royal Ontario Museum and we know you will find their Algonquin displays to be absolutely stunning.

Moving to the third gallery you will trace our human involvement with the Park, from the time of native peoples right up to the

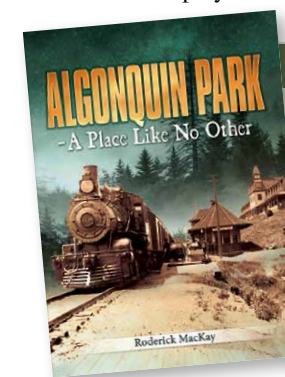
modern Algonquin Park we know today. By this time you will be back to the lobby where you started your visit. There you might have a look at our display of memorable Algonquin photos taken by Park visitors. This will take place in July and August followed by an autumn display of Park landscape paintings by members of the East Central Ontario art association. Or you might choose to go directly to the Visitor Centre theatre. An audiovisual program will celebrate and sum up for you Algonquin's rich natural and human history, and then invite you to go out onto the viewing deck. There, stretching out before you, will be that magnificent sweep of landscape we spoke of earlier. As far as the eye can see will be lakes and bogs, hills and valleys, conifers and hardwoods—the wild and rugged Algonquin scenery that is loved by so many.

Perhaps you will see a moose down on the valley floor or a faraway canoe being paddled slowly down Sunday Creek towards Norway Lake. Perhaps you will pause a moment to

reflect on how lucky we are to have a place like Algonquin and how important a role wild country has played in shaping the history and people of Canada.

When you leave the viewing deck and go through the Visitor Centre, past the restaurant and the bookstore, through the lobby and out the door, your visit to the building will be over but we hope, at least partly because of what you have just experienced, that your visit to Algonquin will just be beginning.

We are very excited by the new Visitor Centre. With its superb view, first class exhibits, and terrific bookstore we are confident it will introduce many thousands of visitors to a new and deeper enjoyment of the Park itself and of the province's precious natural and cultural heritage. Given all that Algonquin has meant to so many thousands of Ontario citizens and visitors since its beginnings one hundred years ago, we can think of no more fitting way to celebrate its centennial and to wish our great park well as it enters its second century.



## Algonquin Park—A Place Like No Other

This new title combines archival sources and “tales told” to explore the rich history of Algonquin Provincial Park. Long-time cottager and director of The Friends of Algonquin Park, Brian Maltman stated, “This is the definitive work on the human history of the Park, and how it has been shaped by the people who explore, work in, live in and love this place”.

Available at the Algonquin Visitor Centre Bookstore & Nature Shop, East Gate and West Gate, or online at [algonquinpark.on.ca](http://algonquinpark.on.ca)

Illustration of Sunday Creek in all seasons as it is viewed from the Visitor Centre deck. PAINTINGS BY DWAYNE HARTY

