

ALGONQUIN

Detailed map of Highway 60 and ski trails inside



ALGONQUIN WINTER GUIDE

The mood of Algonquin in winter is very different from the summer scene familiar to most Park visitors. On clear, frosty days after a fresh snowfall, there are breathtaking views of frozen lakes ringed by snow-covered conifers. Although many animals are hibernating, winter is still the best time of year to see signs of wildlife such as tracks of deer, moose, marten, fisher, otter, fox, and wolves—and occasionally the animals themselves. Winter can be an excellent time to see some of the northern bird specialties found here such as Canada Jay, Boreal Chickadee or Spruce Grouse.

As a visitor to Algonquin Park, there are activities unique to the season and this brochure will help you plan your trip. However, the winter season also presents some serious safety challenges and being unprepared could result in trouble.

SAFETY IN WINTER

We advise against ice travel, as ice conditions vary and hazards are difficult to detect.

On day trips, monitor your time and progress to allow enough time to get back to your vehicle before dark. Although Park staff do some limited patrols during the winter months, your safety in Algonquin Park is ultimately YOUR responsibility. Be prepared! Check the weather before you plan your trip.

For additional information check:

GENERAL PARK INFORMATION
East and West Gates: FM102.7

WEATHER
www.weatheroffice.gc.ca



INFORMATION

Information (including all Algonquin Park publications) is available at the East and West Gates and the Visitor Centre; by calling the Park Information Office; or by checking online.

West Gate:

Friday to Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (May be open additional days during busy times.)

East Gate:

Daily, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

(Both gates closed December 24 and 25)

Algonquin Park Information:

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (705) 633-5572
Email: algonquin@ontario.ca

Park Administration:

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (613) 637-2780

Mailing Address:

Algonquin Provincial Park
P.O. Box 219, Whitney, ON, K0J 2M0

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP):

1-888-310-1122

Ambulance

Barry's Bay (613) 756-3090
Huntsville (705) 789-9694

To Report Natural Resources Violations

1-877-TIPS-MNR • 1-877-847-7667



KILOMETRE MARKERS

Use these markers to locate park facilities. West Gate is at km 0.



CELL PHONE SERVICE

Limited along Highway 60 and trails.



HAYLEIGH CONWAY

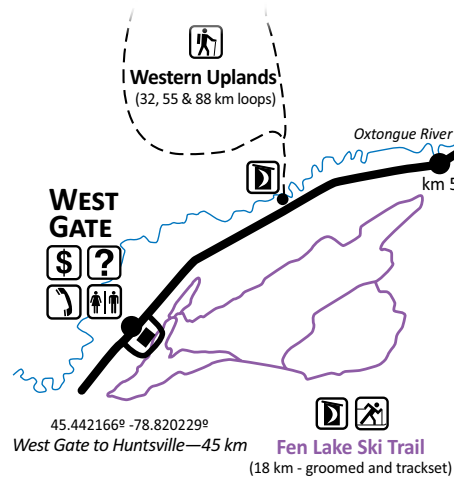
Algonquin Park in Winter

HIGHWAY 60 CORRIDOR

The only part of Algonquin that can be easily visited in winter is along Highway 60 which travels 56 kilometres across the Park's southwestern corner. The highway is plowed and sanded all winter. There is limited cell phone coverage along the highway and very limited to no coverage off the highway.

Heated washrooms are located at the West Gate, East Gate, Mew Lake Campground and at the Visitor Centre during operating hours. The locations of outdoor privies are indicated on the inside map. Gasoline, groceries, and lodging are only available outside the Park during winter months. Outfitters located outside the Park rent winter equipment (skis, snowshoes, camping equipment, etc.).

Vehicles left on the shoulder of Highway 60 may be ticketed by the Ontario Provincial Police and towed away at the owner's expense. Do not park in unmaintained parking lots.



Recommended Winter Trails on Highway 60

TRAIL NAME	LENGTH	RATING	TIME (hrs)	FEATURES
Mizzy Lake	10.8 km	•••	6	ponds; wetlands; NO DOGS allowed
Track and Tower	7.5 km	•••	4	scenic lookout; abandoned railway
Hemlock Bluff	3.5 km	••	2	mixed forest; view of Jack Lake
Bat Lake	5.8 km	•••	3.5	hemlock stand; lookout; acidic Bat Lake
Old Railway Bike Trail	16 km	•	-	flat multi-use trail good for cross country skiing, snowshoeing and fat biking
Two Rivers	2.3 km	••	1.5	pine-clad cliff; recommended as an intermediate snowshoe trail
Spruce Bog Boardwalk	1.5 km	•	1	northern spruce bogs; also recommended as a beginner snowshoe trail
Algonquin Logging Museum	1.3 km	•	1	outdoor exhibits on logging history, also recommended as a beginner snowshoe trail

Additional Trails on Highway 60 (conditions permitting)

TRAIL NAME	LENGTH	RATING	TIME (hrs)	FEATURES
Hardwood Lookout	1.0 km	••	0.75	scenic lookout
Peck Lake	2.3 km	••	1.5	lake shoreline trail; also recommended as an intermediate snowshoe trail (limited parking)
Centennial Ridges	10.4 km	•••	6	high ridges; scenic lookout (road closed in winter)
Lookout	2.1 km	••	1.5	scenic lookout
Big Pines	2.9 km	••	2	old growth White Pine; remains of 1880s logging camp
Beaver Pond	2.0 km	••	1.5	views of two beaver ponds

- LEGEND**
- Information
 - Fee Collection
 - Flush Toilet
 - Vault Toilet
 - Telephone
 - Wheelchair Accessible
 - Visitor Centre
 - Ski Trail
 - Recommended Trail (day)
 - Backpacking Trail (overnight)
 - Bike Trail
 - Picnic Ground
 - Campground
 - Birdwatching
 - Lookout
 - Snowshoeing
 - Dogsledding staging area



Mew Lake Campground

Mew Lake Campground (km 30.6) is situated in a coniferous forest setting dominated by beautiful White Pine on the shore of Mew Lake. Electrical and non-electrical sites as well as Yurts are reservable by calling the Ontario Parks reservation service at 1-888-668-7275 or by reserving online at www.ontarioparks.com/reservations. Whether you are camping, or visiting for the day, Mew Lake offers a heated comfort station, an outdoor skating rink (late December to March weather permitting), and access to the multi-use Old Railway Bike Trail (walking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing or fat biking).



Algonquin Logging Museum

Although the reception building is closed in the winter, the 1.3 km outdoor exhibit trail is open year-round and excellent to hike or snowshoe while exploring the exhibits showcasing the rich logging history of the Park.



Algonquin Visitor Centre

The Algonquin Park Visitor Centre has world class exhibits on the Park's natural and human history, an art room and an excellent bookstore and nature shop operated by The Friends of Algonquin Park. The bird feeders located below the deck are a highlight in winter. A replica Fire Tower cupola offers an alternative view of the Sunday Creek valley (weather permitting). A small selection of light snacks and drinks are available for purchase courtesy of The Friends of Algonquin Park.

Weekdays: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(limited services)

Weekends and Holidays: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

See algonquinpark.on.ca for more information. (613) 637-2828

Algonquin Ski Trails

Information for Skiers

Two of Algonquin's ski trails are groomed and track-set and marked with levels of difficulty. These symbols appear on the trail maps, along with the point to point distances in kilometres, to help you plan a trip. All intersections are labeled with a letter both on the map and on the trails. A rustic warm up cabin, heated with an efficient woodstoves is a great place to take a break and enjoy the scenery.

Leaf Lake and Fen Lake trails are packed and groomed to provide a flat, even surface for skiing. Trail conditions are posted regularly at the Leaf Lake trail head, the East and West Gate, and online.



PAUL JORGENSEN

Emergency Supplies

Cabins on the Leaf Lake and Fen Lake ski trail networks are equipped with a basic first aid kit, duct tape, toilet tissue, ski trail maps, a wood-burning stove, firewood, matches, and stove-operating instructions.

Emergency barrels contain a basic first aid kit, duct tape, matches, fire starter, and basic survival equipment. If contents are used, please leave a note at the trail entrance or report it to the East or West Gate.

As sensible precautions, carry a map, first aid kit, waterproof matches, a flashlight, spare socks and wool mittens, an extra sweater or vest, a spare ski tip, electrical tape, a small piece of wire or nylon cord to repair poles or bindings, and emergency food rations. You can easily carry all of these items in a small day pack.



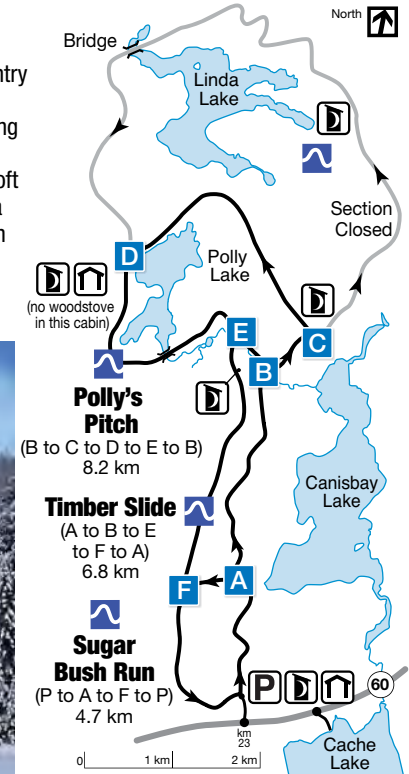
Minnesing Wilderness Ski Trail

18.4 kilometres

The Minnesing Trail is maintained for backcountry wilderness skiing and is not groomed. Wide touring skis and large-basket poles are essential for soft snow conditions. Carry a spare ski tip and ski with caution as there is no winter removal of fallen trees and branches.



PETER FERGIJONSON



Fen Lake Ski Trail

18 kilometres groomed and trackset

Much of the Fen Lake Ski Trail travels through hardwood forest, typical of Algonquin's west side – with Sugar Maple, Yellow Birch, American Beech, and Eastern Hemlock being the most prominent species.



Snowshoeing is **NOT** permitted on Fen Lake Ski Trail.



Easy



More Difficult

— Trail groomed and trackset

? Information

P Parking

\$ Fee Station

☎ Telephone

♻️ Flush Toilet

🚽 Toilet (outdoor privy)

🏠 Warm-up Cabin

🚑 Emergency Barrel
Ambulance (705) 789-9694

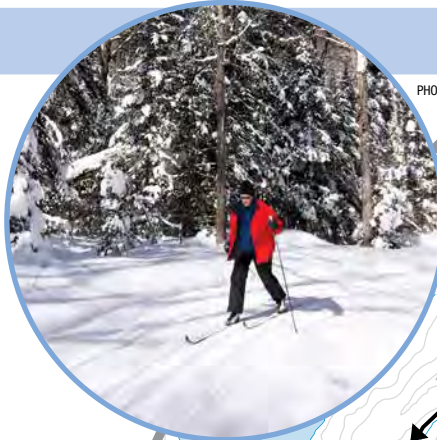
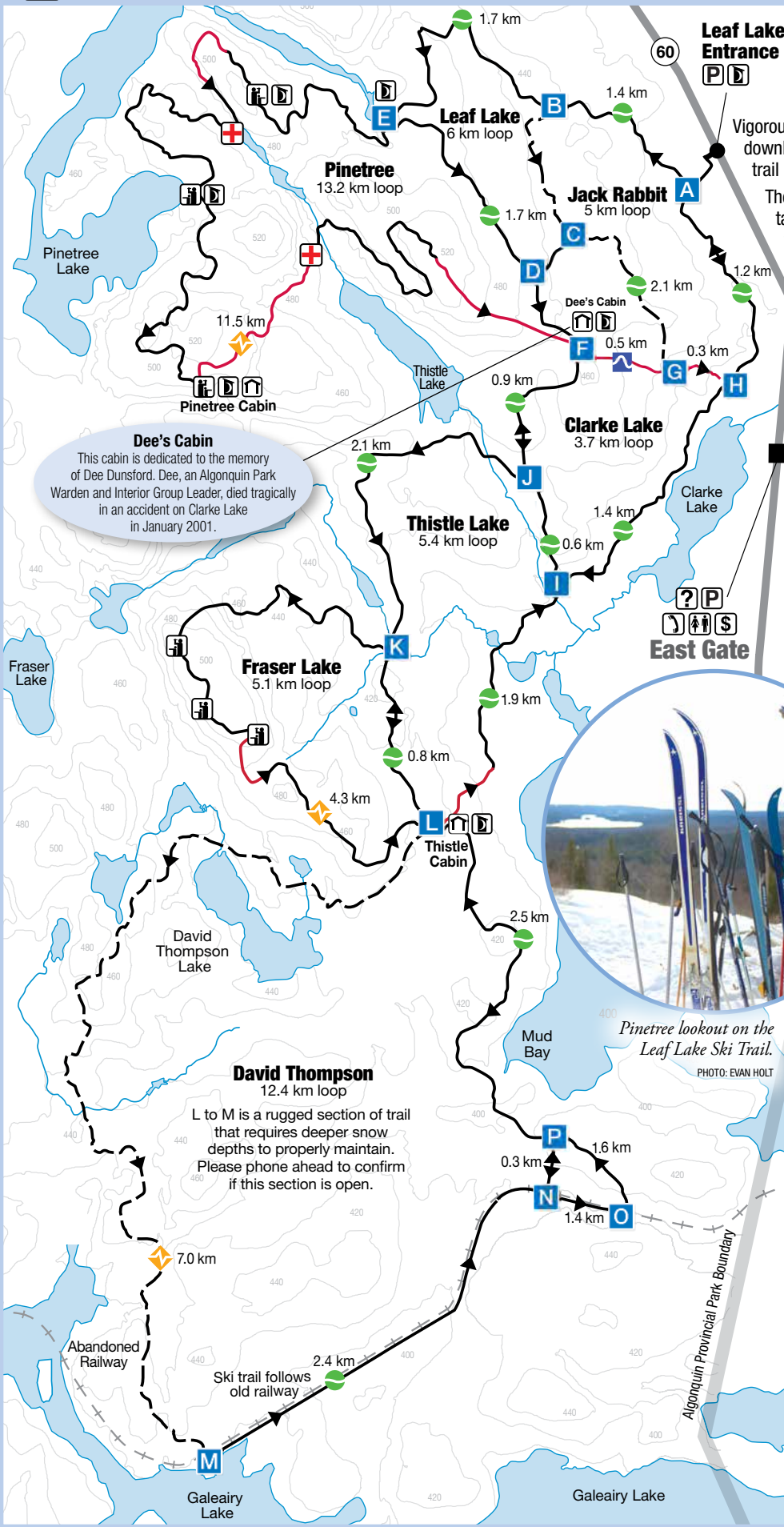


PHOTO: DOUG HAMILTON





Leaf Lake Ski Trail



Leaf Lake Entrance
P D

45 kilometres groomed and trackset
The Pinetree Loop is probably the premiere ski trail in all of Ontario for experienced skiers. Most loops are wide enough for both classic or skate skiing. Vigorous uphill climbs are combined with long exhilarating downhill runs. Built through rugged terrain, at one point the trail passes through a narrow gap in a scenic rock wall.

The relatively short, but challenging, Fraser Lake Loop takes you on a steep climb of 125 metres for about two kilometres to the top of a level granite ridge. Here, amongst poplar, oak, and conifers, the skier is rewarded with westward views over Fraser Lake followed by the compensating descents—sometimes steep, long and thrilling—to Thistle Cabin. This rustic cabin is heated by an efficient woodstove. A great place to take a break and enjoy the scenery.



Snowshoeing is **NOT** permitted on Leaf Lake Ski Trail.

Dee's Cabin
This cabin is dedicated to the memory of Dee Dunford. Dee, an Algonquin Park Warden and Interior Group Leader, died tragically in an accident on Clarke Lake in January 2001.



Pinetree lookout on the Leaf Lake Ski Trail.
PHOTO: EVIAN HOLT

- Easy
- More Difficult
- Most Difficult
- Trail groomed and trackset
- Rugged section of trail (please phone ahead to ensure this section is open)
- Steep downhill

- Information
- Parking
- Fee Station
- Telephone
- Flush Toilet
- Toilet (outdoor privy)
- Warm-up Cabin
- Scenic Lookout
- Emergency Barrel
Ambulance (613) 756-3090

L to M is a rugged section of trail that requires deeper snow depths to properly maintain. Please phone ahead to confirm if this section is open.

SKIER'S CODE

- Ski within your capabilities. Assess all risks and act to prevent accidents. Use extra caution during changing weather, or icy conditions.
- Do not ski alone. Trails are not supervised.
- Do not venture or stay out on any trails after dusk; allow enough time to return safely in daylight hours.
- Remain on marked trails. It is easy to lose your sense of direction once off the trail.
- Ski in the indicated direction, and observe all signs.
- Always ski to the right when passing an oncoming skier and when skiing on a double track.
- Do not obstruct the trail. Move quickly off the track if you fall, and step off the trail during breaks.
- Yield the track to faster skiers, or skiers saying "TRACK," by stepping off to the right.
- Skiers should yield to trail grooming equipment.
- To minimize damage to trails, dogs, snowshoeing, walking, toboggans, and sleighs are not permitted on ski trails.
- Do not litter. If you pack it in, pack it out.

Winter Activities in Algonquin Park



Interpretive Trails

Plan ahead and purchase your trail guide booklets online, or during operating hours at the East and West Gates and the Visitor Centre. Parking is available at many of the self-guided interpretive trails. However, from late October to early May trails are not maintained and guide books are removed from trailhead dispensers.

Know your limitations...

- Allow enough time to be back to your vehicle before dusk.
- During the winter months, do not start out on any trail after 3:00 p.m.
- Wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the time of year (ice grips/snowshoes may be required). Trails may be icy.



Cross-country Skiing

See insert for details.



Snowshoeing

Snowshoeing enthusiasts can go virtually anywhere (except the groomed ski trails). We do not recommend snowshoeing on lakes. If you prefer to stay on a marked trail, check out one of the recommended short interpretive walking trails along the highway. See map on reverse.



Skating

Pack your skates on your next visit to Algonquin Park. An ice rink is maintained at the Mew Lake Campground (weather permitting) near the comfort station.



Birdwatching

Spruce Bog Boardwalk, Opeongo Road and the Visitor Centre feeders are good places to look for birds in winter.



Camping

Mew Lake Campground is open year-round and has electrical sites, non-electrical sites and Yurts. Reservations are required (no first-come, first-serve sites) by calling the Ontario Parks reservation service at 1-888-668-7275 or by reserving online at www.ontarioparks.com/reservations. Please use your confirmation letter as your permit (printed or electronic). You are not required to check-in at the park in person. One vehicle permit is included with your camping reservation. To purchase other additional vehicle permits, or to obtain a refund, please call the East Gate at 613-637-2780 ext. 229 during office hours. A valid credit card is required. You must speak with a park representative to validate your transaction. Firewood can be purchased at Mew Lake at the self-serve wood shed. Volunteer hosts may be available on site to assist with Park information.



Accommodations

No lodges operate in the Algonquin Park during the winter however Yurts are available for rent at Mew Lake Campground. Yurts are eight-sided, tent-like structures mounted on a wooden deck floor and can sleep 6 people. They have electric or propane heat, lighting and are situated on a campsite with a 15A and 30A receptacle. Each is furnished with bunk beds, table, chairs, outdoor fire pits and a picnic table. No dogs allowed except for Yurt #65. Yurts can be reserved by calling the Ontario Parks reservation service at 1-888-668-7275 or by reserving online.



Backcountry Camping

Camping in the Park Backcountry is permitted; however, winter backcountry camping is not permitted on designated summer campsites nor within 30 metres of a lakeshore, trail, or portage. We recommend that you camp in low, sheltered areas where there is a good supply of standing dead firewood for warmth and cooking.

Backcountry camping must be reserved by calling the Ontario Parks reservation service at 1-888-668-7275 or by reserving online at www.ontarioparks.com/reservations. The Park has established, reservable, designated winter camping areas along Hwy 60 that will have a plowed parking lot for your vehicle. If you prefer to camp outside of these designated areas, we advise that you call Park Information (705-633-5572) before making your reservation to determine if your desired location is accessible.

Winter camping requires even more care and attention to equipment. Temperatures may go down to -40°C at night and you must be prepared to handle these conditions. On any extended trip in the Park it is wise to tell someone back home of your exact itinerary and expected return date.



Dogsledding Staging Area

A dogsledding trail is available along the Highway 60 corridor (parking at the Sanitary Station) for both commercial operators or for independent users. Commercial operators may offer day or overnight trips and should be contacted directly for details and availability. If you wish to use the trails independently, contact the Algonquin Information line. Reservations are required for overnight stays. Detailed trail maps are available at the East Gate and West Gate. Walking is not permitted on dogsled trails as deep tracks can result in injuries to sled dogs. Snowshoers and skiers must yield the trail to dogsledders.

Fishing



Winter fishing is not permitted in Algonquin Park.

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leave no trace

Leave No Trace is about respecting and caring for wild lands and doing your part to protect our limited resources and future recreation opportunities.

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Walk on designated trails
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of others

Call the Algonquin Park Information Office or check online for more details.