



QUETICO

WELCOME TO QUETICO PROVINCIAL PARK

One of Ontario's finest wilderness canoeing destinations. With over 450 000 hectares of protected wilderness filled with thousands of interconnected lakes, rivers and streams, Quetico truly offers a lifetime of canoe tripping opportunities. It's not just the variety of canoe routes that draw people to Quetico. It's the special trips shared with family and friends that create lifelong memories, the quiet solitude of a misty lake in the morning and the majestic cathedral pines of a breezy island campsite that make this place so special.

Quetico is excited to be continuing our longstanding partnership with Lac La Croix First Nation in 2021. Together we will continue to work on natural resource management initiatives such as aquatic ecosystem planning, and fire history research, and work together to maintain and protect the park.

This year brings some exciting news for Quetico Provincial Park. The starry night skies free of light

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pollution over Quetico are an important part of the natural environment and have been a source of awe and wonderment for generations of visitors. To help protect and recognize our amazing night skies the park has successfully attained International Dark Sky Park designation from the International Dark Sky Association (IDA). With the support of Starry Skies Lake Superior IDA chapter and the Heart of the Continent Partnership, Quetico becomes the 3rd public land unit in the region to achieve a Dark Sky designation following Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota. This unique international partnership is building on a long history of cooperation to create a unique and internationally significant area of pristine protected night skies in Northwestern Ontario and Northeastern Minnesota. If there is a clear night during your visit make sure you take the time to go down to the lake shore or any other area with a clear view of the sky and appreciate the beauty of the night sky. Helpful materials such as star charts are available at park entry stations.

If you visit the northeastern portion of Quetico's backcountry this summer, you may paddle by a nearly 3000 hectare area north and east of Russell Lake and Alice Lake that was burned in a natural wildfire in 2018. Fire is an essential part of the parks ecosystem and plays a role in maintaining the ecological integrity of Quetico by renewing forests, and in turn creating a patchwork of different habitats for the parks wildlife. In the short term, much of the burnt area may appear desolate and blackened, but even this year, less than 3 years after the fire, vegetation will begin to recolonize the burned areas. If you pass by this large area burned in 2018, take a moment to reflect on the natural processes at work, and try to imagine what this area might look like 20, 50, or 100 years in the future.

There are several educational activities happening at the park this year. Discovery activities will happen at the Dawson Trail Campground throughout the summer and artists of various disciplines enrolled in our Artist in Residence program will be completing their residencies at the Dawson Trail Campgrounds. During your stay check with a park ranger or postings on park message boards for more information about Discovery activities, and other park news.

Every visitor to Quetico has a role to play in protecting the park. During your visit, please practice a leave no trace approach to camping and familiarize yourself with special park regulations intended to minimize human impact in the park. To help with our International Dark Sky Park efforts you can be a dark sky friendly camper by following these voluntary guidelines:

- Use outdoor lights and lanterns only when necessary and shut them off when you go to sleep.
- Don't install solar powered garden lights that stay lit all night long
- Don't install lighting on your campsite such as string lights.

You can also help us care for the park by recording and reporting any species at risk or invasive species you might encounter while in the backcountry. Together we can ensure that Quetico's pristine environment remains safe for years to come. Have a safe and enjoyable stay.

Trevor Gibb

Park Superintendent



Cover top photo by David Jackson, Photojournalist

PARK INFORMATION

Park Office 807-597-2735
108 Saturn Ave., Box 2430, Atikokan, ON P0T 1C0

Reservations ontarioparks.com/reservations
..... 1-888-ONT-PARK (1-888-668-7275)



EMERGENCY CALL - 911

INFORMATION

Hospital 1-807-597-4215
Clinic 1-807-597-2721
Poison Control 1-800-268-9017
OPP Police 24 Hrs..... 1-807-683-4200
Fire - MNR 1-888-310-FIRE (3473)
Ambulance
Local 1-807-597-1305
Central Dispatch 1-877-351-2345



Message from the Lac La Croix **FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP**

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the visitors of Quetico Provincial Park to our traditional territory and homeland. We hope you will enjoy what the park has to offer. We have occupied this land long before the creation of the park and are in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources in managing it, which falls under our Agreement of Co-Existence.

Within the park you will experience the majestic beauty and strength of this land. There is nothing more satisfying than being able to breathe in the fresh air and take in the serenity of the land and the pristine waters. You will witness awesome sunsets and wake up to beautiful sunrises. Most of the vast forests and spectacular landscapes are untouched. The variety of wildlife you might see, add to the overall beauty of the land and the fishing is great. The waterfalls and rapids are exciting and refreshing but can be dangerous if you are not careful and respectful to them, which brings us as to how the name Quetico came to be.

The name “Quetico” comes from the Ojibway word, “gwe taa maang”. This refers to how we view this sacred land. There is a place in the park that is named Quetico Lake. The lake is sacred, meaning it is occupied by living spirits that have been here since time immemorial. You hear stories from our elders of unexplained and unusual events at this lake, which can only be explained by our spiritual ways. The lake is very sacred and spiritual to us. We are told to be mindful and respectful of the power it holds. “Gwe taa maang” means we sacredly respect that area for the spirits that dwell there. Everything that is alive has a spirit. It is a lake we revere. We have many great stories, legends and teachings that come from our homeland and this just one of them.

Quetico Provincial Park holds a lot of Lac La Croix and Sturgeon Lake Bands rich history. The Sturgeon

Lake Band was forced to merge with Lac La Croix, when the park was in creation by the province, as our people were displaced out of the 24C Reserve to make way for the ever spectacular Quetico Provincial Park, as it sits today.

You will come across some of our sacred sites which were used for different ceremonies in our homeland. You might see some of the pictographs that were left there for future generations to see. They too tell stories and legends of the great history of our people and they are protected and upheld in the greatest honour from our people, for they are places of sacred ceremonial grounds too. You will cross some of the many portages our people have used. Within the park, we still practice our inherent rights to our traditional territories as you might see us fishing, hunting, collecting, gathering medicines and berries. You might come across one of us doing our ceremonies. You might hear the drums and songs of our people in ceremony in your travels. All we ask is that you respect our lands, our home, and our culture as we continue to live in harmony with all our natural surroundings.

Again, we welcome you to our sacred, traditional territory and homeland where you will find great mysteries, healing, excitement, peace, relaxation, beauty, strength, wisdom, tranquillity and hopefully deep and meaningful spiritual experiences, just as we have been blessed with it for thousands of years. The land, waters, forest and all the beings that dwell here are near and dear to our hearts and complete our circle of life. This place is amazing and truly unique.

When visiting our home, please try to leave it as you found it, for we need to preserve and keep the uniqueness, beauty and strength it holds for future generations and visitors to enjoy.

Meegwetch (Thank You)

Book your visit to Quetico!

QUETICO PERMITS

You need to have a permit to be in the park. Back country permits, day-use permits, seasonal and campground permits are available. Make sure you check in at one of our entry stations to register.

RESERVATIONS

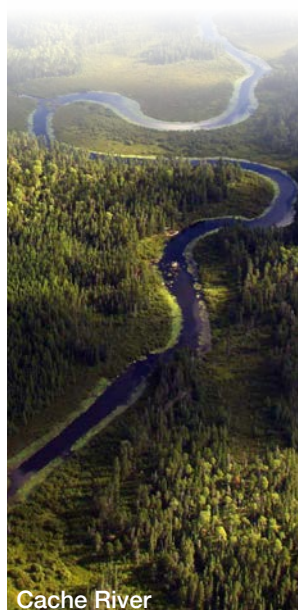
**1-888-ONT-PARKS
(1-888-668-7275)**

www.OntarioParks.com
Self-serve permitting is available in the off-season. Please refer to the Ontario Parks Guide

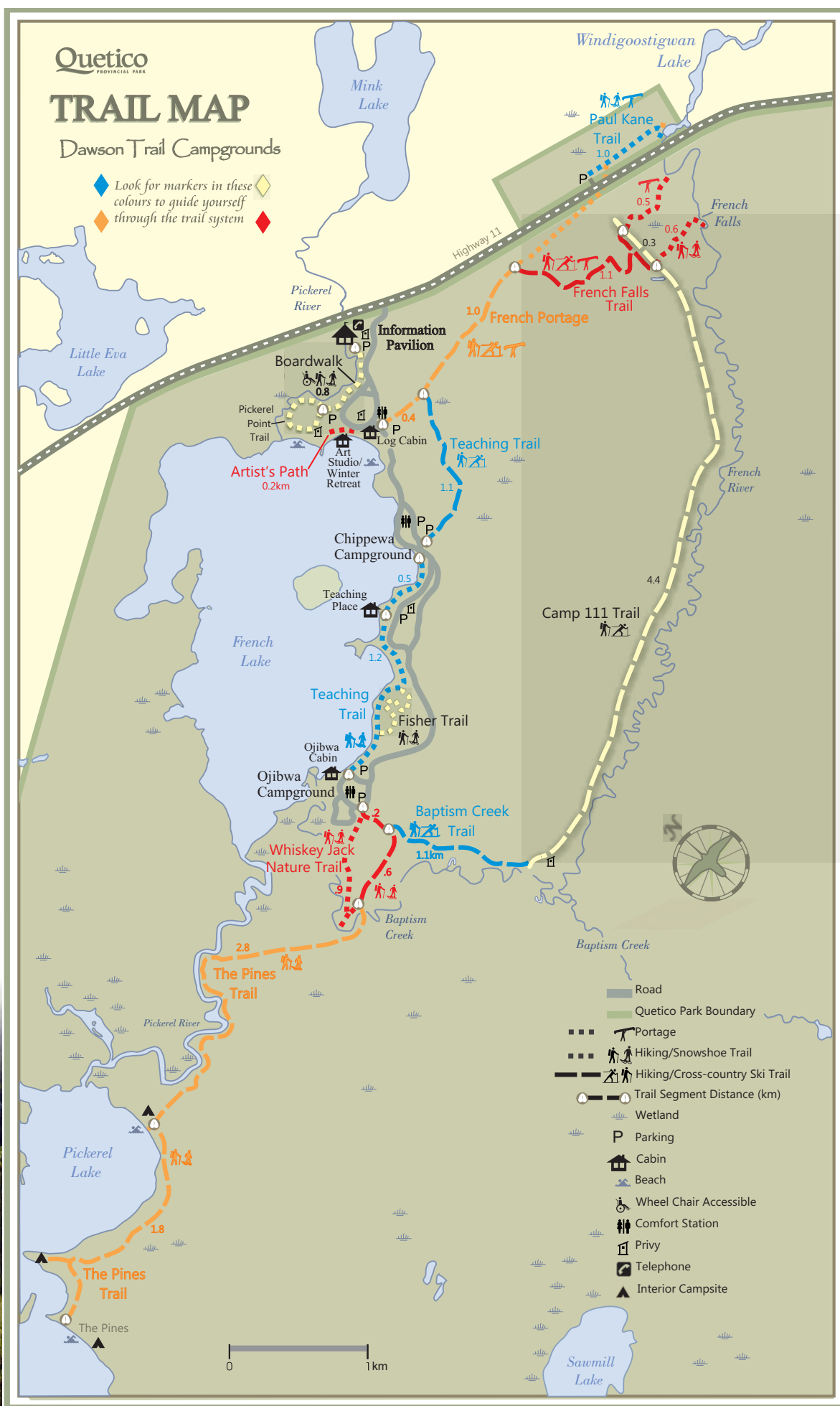
QUETICO PARK INFORMATION

Mon. to Fri., 8:30 am to 12:00 pm,
1:00 pm to 4:15 pm.
1-807-597-2735.

www.ontarioparks.com/park/quetico



Cache River



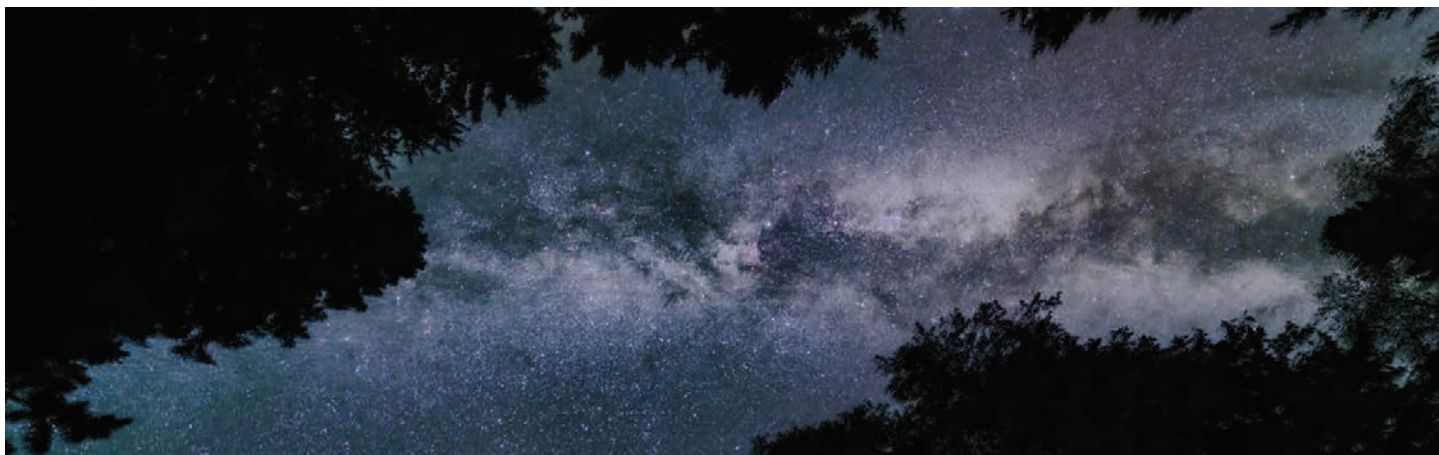


Photo by Kay Lee

NIGHT SKY WATCHING IN QUETICO

Article by Brian Jackson, Quetico Park Biologist

Quetico Provincial Park joins Voyageurs National Park, and The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, as a dark sky designated area by the International Dark Sky Association (darksky.org) in recognition of exceptional quality of its starry nights and an environment that is specially protected to preserve its night skies for scientific, natural, educational, cultural heritage, and public enjoyment.

As Bob DeGross, superintendent of Voyageurs National Park put it:

“Attaining this designation provides an opportunity for us to be recognized and to celebrate this resource that many, especially in urban areas, no longer have the ability to experience unimpeded. Our natural dark skies provide the ability to experience northern lights, view the Milky Way, and see meteor showers the way people have for millennia.”

While just taking in the vastness of the universe on a clear night is an incredible experience, if you get more curious about what you are seeing, there are numerous guides and resources to help you out.

Guides and Apps

Sky Chart (for iPhones/iPads) and *SkyMap* (androids) are both popular apps for your phone that can help you identify the stars, constellations and planets you are looking at.

For those without a phone, there are numerous printed sky maps and star finders that can help identify stars and constellations. There are also some excellent books on the subject (*Nightwatch* by T. Dickinson is a favourite)

There are also apps that can provide predictions on when potentially good periods for viewing the Aurora

Borealis will occur based on recent sunspot activity. Two of these are *My Aurora Forecast* and *Aurora Borealis Forecasts & Alerts*.

Tips:

- If you have a pair of binoculars, they can help you see details you often can't see with your naked eyes. Try seeing if you can find the double stars on the handle of the Big Dipper/ Great Fisher, explore the moon's craters or look into the depths of the Milky Way.
- Avoid looking at bright lights while you're stargazing. It is important to give your eyes 15 to 20 minutes to adjust to the darkness to get the best view of the night sky. If you need a light, try using a red coloured flashlight as it is better at maintaining your night vision.
- Get a copy of the book ***Ojibwe Sky Star Map - Constellation Guidebook: An Introduction to Ojibwe Star Knowledge*** by Annette Lee, William Wilson, Jeff Tibbets and Carl Gawboy © 2014 to learn what the Anishinaabeg call the constellations and the stories behind the names. There is a copy available at the John B.Ridley library in the Dawson Trail Pavilion.
- Follow Quetico's Dark Sky Friendly Camper guide including
 1. Using outdoor lights and lanterns only when necessary and shut them off when you go to sleep.
 2. Don't install solar powered garden lights that stay lit all night long
 3. Don't install lighting on your campsite such as string lights.

BARRIER FREE AT QUETICO!

Beaches and sight-seeing can be an accessibility challenge for park visitors..

At Quetico we have been working to make these experiences more accessible to all.

An all-terrain wheelchair has large wheels to make movement over bumps, across gravel or grass and getting to a sandy beach easier.



Beach mats at the Grassy beach, Day Use Beach at the Dawson Trail Campgrounds helps walkers, wheelchairs or parents pushing strollers to venture out closer to the water or to access viewing sites.



This season we are introducing a new Mobi Chair

The Mobi Chair is **buoyant and with assistance can be used to access the water.** You can borrow the Mobi Chair for free at the front desk of the Dawson Trail Heritage Pavilion.

Seventy-six provincial parks across Ontario have at least one barrier-free campsite, and a growing number have either all-terrain and/or water buoyant Mobi chairs. More information can be found on Ontario Parks Blog - <http://www.ontarioparks.com/parksblog/beach-accessibility-ontario-parks/>



CAMPERS AND DAY-VISITORS!

Please help us keep parks clean and dispose of all garbage correctly.

Garbage can result in human-wildlife conflict and become a hazard to park visitors.

We suggest bringing a garbage bag with you to collect your trash and dispose of it at park designated

garbage and recycling areas regularly.

We appreciate and encourage park-lovers who are committed to protecting our environment for the future.





THE FRIENDS OF QUETICO PARK

The Friends of Quetico Park, (FOQP), established in 1984, is a registered non-profit organization. It is composed of a volunteer board of directors, as well as people who have paid for a membership and staff to serve administration and sales needs. The Friends are dedicated to promoting and protecting the park, so that future generations may enjoy it as much as we do today.

FOQP continues to have a noticeable presence as we have been involved in a number of projects to promote and support education and protection initiatives at the park. Our goal is to better the experience for those who visit. We are pleased to be working directly with Quetico's superintendent Trevor Gibb who brings his expertise, experience and a collaborative attitude to our gatherings.

Current and Past Friends of Quetico Park Projects

- Supporting the development of the Red Pine Fire History Interpretive Display at the Dawson Trail Campground, in partnership with the Quetico Foundation
- Operate a retail outlet at Dawson Trail Campground, and remote entry stations
- Renting of kayaks and paddleboards at French Lake
- Supporting the Traction Control Project at the Dawson Trail Campground
- Prepare and distribute bi-annual newsletters
- Funding books, pamphlets and related educational literature



Photo by John Guthrie

- Supporting research in the park
- Supporting the renewal of educational signage on trails and entry stations
- Supporting the development and preservation of the Paul Kane exhibit and trail
- Helping to fund the Dark Sky Initiative and support the application for Dark Sky Park designation
- Ongoing fundraising for the betterment of Quetico Provincial Park

Together, we can contribute to the on-going protection of our beautiful Quetico. We hope that the future of Quetico continues to provide the serene experience that campers and paddlers enjoy. The Friends of Quetico Park are proud to be able to work and be involved with one of Ontario's first and finest wilderness parks, and one of the greatest paddling destinations in the world.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram
@friendsofqueticopark or online at
www.friendsofquetico.com



Photo by John Guthrie

WATER SAFETY - IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

1. There are no lifeguards on our beaches. Water safety is your responsibility at all times.
2. Take the steps to be safe around water. Learning how to swim and water survival techniques help keep us all safe.
3. Always supervise children and non-swimmers by watching them when they are in or around the water.
4. Ensure children and non-swimmers wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) in or around the water.
5. Swim only in designated swimming areas. When the water is rough, or conditions are not clear - **STAY OUT!** Never swim alone. You should always swim with a buddy.
6. Using a floatie? Offshore winds often blow inflatables out into dangerous waters. Ensure



- inflatable rafts or toys are used in shallow water areas only and pay attention to changing wind conditions.
7. Be responsible. Avoid substance use when involved in water-related recreational activities.
 8. Protect your neck. Never dive into shallow or murky water.
 9. If you suspect a drowning or any other type of water emergency, call 911 and contact the park office immediately.

ONTARIO PARKS BEACH POSTING FACT SHEET

Recreational water quality is routinely monitored at Ontario Parks designated beaches. Samples are tested at Public Health Ontario Laboratories for *Escherichia coli* (E.coli), an organism found in the intestines of warm-blooded animals.

Water Quality Factors

Recreational water quality is influenced by a number of factors, and can change between sampling periods. Influences include:

- Heavy rainfall
- Large numbers of water fowl
- High winds or wave activity
- Large number of swimmers

Beach Posting

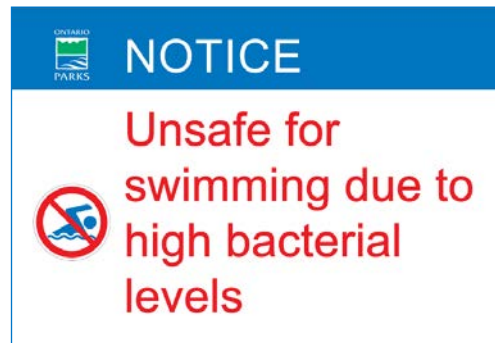
Ontario Parks staff post signage at beaches (example to the right) when E.coli levels in the water exceed provincial standards. Signage is placed to warn bathers that the beach water may be unsafe for swimming. Swimming in beaches that are posted for elevated bacterial levels may cause:

- Skin infections/rash
- Ear, eye, nose and throat infections
- Gastrointestinal illness (if water is consumed)

Beach postings are based on E.coli counts in beach water samples taken within the past 24 hours, and are removed when test results show bacterial levels

are acceptable.

Beach water quality can change at any time and guests should avoid swimming during and after storms, floods, heavy rainfall, or in the presence of large numbers of waterfowl.



How you can help

Ontario Parks guests can help maintain our beach water quality by following these simple guidelines:

- Do not feed birds or other wildlife
- Leave nothing behind- dispose of all garbage/ food waste
- Use designated pet beaches when swimming with your dog – pets are not permitted in Ontario Parks public beaches
- Do not let children swim in soiled diapers
- Do not use shampoos or soaps in lake water



©Erik Fremstad

Congratulations!

DARK SKIES IN THE HEART OF THE CONTINENT

Each of these agencies, public lands that neighbour each other have received dark sky status from the **International Dark Sky Association**.

- Sept 2020 **The Boundary Water Canoe Area Wilderness** received Dark Sky Sanctuary designation (photo above by Erik Fremstad)
- Dec 2020 **Voyageurs National Park** received Dark Sky Park designation (bottom left by Jeff Kantor)
- February 2021 **Quetico Provincial Park** received Dark Sky Park designation (photo below by Kay Lee)

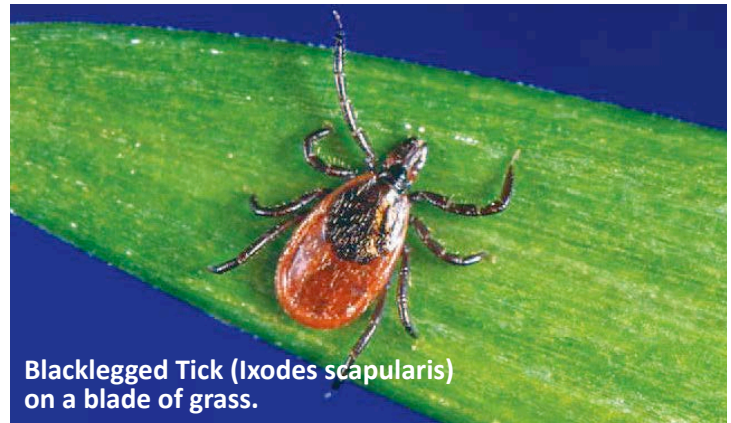


TICKS AND LYME DISEASE

Do ticks and Lyme disease make you wary of going outdoors this summer? By being aware of ticks and understanding the role they play in spreading Lyme disease you are taking the first step to protect yourself and your loved ones.

There are many different species of ticks and not all of them carry Lyme disease. The most common tick you may encounter is the American Dog Tick, which does not carry Lyme disease. The only tick that carries Lyme disease in Ontario is the Blacklegged (Deer) Tick, *Ixodes Scapularis*. Both ticks can be found in wooded areas or tall grass habitats. Public Health Ontario's "Ontario Lyme Disease Estimated Risk Areas map") shows areas in Ontario where they estimate you are more likely to find blacklegged ticks. (Blacklegged ticks are known to feed on migratory birds and deer and as a result, they can be transported throughout the province. Therefore, while the potential is lower, it is possible for people to encounter Blacklegged ticks, or to be infected with Lyme disease from the bite of an infected Blacklegged tick, almost anywhere in the province. Ticks are most active in spring and summer, but can be found at any time of the year when the temperature is above freezing.

Ticks feed slowly, and an infected tick must feed on a person for at least 24 hours in order to infect them with the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. Because of this delay, prompt detection and removal of ticks is one of the key methods of preventing Lyme disease. If you become infected from a tick bite, symptoms usually begin within 1 - 2 weeks, but can take as long as one month to begin. The "classic" symptom is a bulls-eye rash that can develop anywhere on the body; however, this rash may not occur in all cases. Early symptoms of Lyme disease can include flu-like symptoms such as fever, headaches, stiff neck, jaw pain, and sore muscles. If untreated, problems with the heart, nervous system, and joints can occur months or years later. Lyme disease is easily treated in the early stages so seek medical attention if you feel unwell.



Blacklegged Tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) on a blade of grass.

Photo by: Jim Gathany, CDC

When you are out in tick habitat you can better protect yourself by taking a few precautions:

1. Wear long sleeves and tuck your pants into your socks.
2. Wear light coloured clothing so you can detect ticks before they attach.
3. Use insect repellent containing "Deet" (please follow manufacturer's directions). Apply it to your skin and outer clothing.
4. Conduct a tick check. Look on your clothes, body, children and pets. Pay close attention to your groin, scalp and armpits.
5. If you find a tick on your body, properly remove it (*see instructions on next page*) and place it in a container. Contact your local health unit to inquire about having the tick sent for identification and testing. This test may take several months and is not diagnostic. Additionally, you may contact your family doctor for questions on Lyme disease.

By following these simple suggestions, you can have a safe and enjoyable time exploring Quetico Provincial Park.

For more information please consult the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's website:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/lyme-disease>

Public Health Ontario Risk Map:

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/1/2020/lyme-disease-risk-area-map-2020.pdf>

Photo Caption:

These Blacklegged Ticks (Ixodes scapularis), are found on a wide range of hosts including mammals, birds and reptiles. Blacklegged Ticks Ixodes scapularis are known to transmit Lyme disease Borrelia burgdorferi, to humans and animals during feeding, when they insert their mouth parts into the skin of a host, and slowly take in the nutrient-rich host blood.

FOUND A TICK?

DO

- Use fine point tweezers
- Grasp the tick as close to your skin as possible
- Gently pull the tick straight out
- Disinfect the bite area with rubbing alcohol or soap and water
- Save tick (alive if possible) in a jar, with a piece of damp paper towel for identification and potential testing. Park staff can provide contact information for the local Health Unit, or alternatively you can take the tick to your family doctor for testing.
- Watch for symptoms and seek medical attention if you feel unwell or if you cannot safely remove the tick.

DON'T

- Grasp around bloated belly and squeeze the tick
- Use a match, heat or chemicals to try and remove it
- Twist the tick when pulling it out

Discourage uninvited guests



Bears are attracted to anything that looks or smells like food. Items like unwashed utensils, food packaging, toiletries and trash are tasty treats for bears.

Be **BEAR WISE** when camping:

- Don't leave food or scented items unattended on your campsite
- Pack and store these items in your vehicle, out of sight, with windows closed
- Clean food preparation areas promptly after use
- Routinely take your garbage to the park's waste depot

Let's all be Bear Wise



Always call 911 in an emergency
Call 1-866-514-2327 to report a sighting

ontario.ca/bearwise

Ontario 

ABOUT HOCP



Heart of the Continent Partnership (HOCP)

Quetico Provincial Park lies within the "Heart of the Continent", a magnificent natural world that includes over two million hectares of public land "as it originally was with its game, its forest, its lakes and its richly romantic past".

The Heart of the Continent Partnership (HOCP) is a volunteer Canadian/American coalition of land managers and local and tribal stakeholders working together across borders to promote the economic, cultural and natural health of the lakes, forests and communities on the Ontario/Minnesota border.

Several separately managed natural areas are encompassed by this ecosystem at the "heart of the continent," including Quetico Provincial Park, Superior National Forest, Voyageurs National Park, Grand Portage National Monument, Sleeping Giant, La Verandrye Provincial Parks, and other Minnesota and Ontario state/provincial parks and forests.

With these entities, local residents and stakeholders, HOCP works to

- Develop a common identity and sense of belonging
- Increase respect for the land and its people
- Collaborate across national, state, provincial and municipal boundaries
- Promote scientific research and its applications
- Build awareness and support of public lands
- Share resources to benefit the land and its neighbouring communities

To learn more about our **Dark Sky Initiative** or other projects we are working on visit www.heartofthecontinent.org



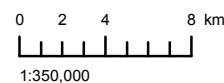


Quetico



Legend

- Community
- Entry Station
- Entry Points
- Parking (No Overnight Camping)
- Ski/Hiking Trails
- Portages
- Trans Canada Trail/ Path of the Paddle
- Highways
- Primary Roads
- Canadian National Railway
- International Boundary
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Quetico Provincial Park
- Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness
- Superior National Forest
- First Nation Reserve



Published April, 2018
©2018, Queen's Printer for Ontario.

This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of routes, locations of features, nor as a guide to navigation.

Projection: UTM Zone 15
Datum: North American Datum 1983
Base Derived from: LIO (Land Information Ontario)
Minnesota data courtesy - MN DNR
Produced by: Ontario Parks

THE LOSS OF AN EXCEPTIONAL PARK RANGER



Janice Matichuk, the longest-serving interior ranger in the history of Quetico Provincial Park. Matthew Baxley | WTIP



Janice Matichuk talks to a group from Chicago in 2018 at the Cache Bay Ranger Station. Matthew Baxley | WTIP

Depending on who you ask, Quetico's Cache Bay Entry Station, the gateway to the southeastern part of the park, is also known as Janice's Island. In the summer of 2020, Janice Matichuk passed away and Quetico lost its longest serving ranger. Known far and wide for her passion for Quetico, dedication to her job as a park ranger and her caring for park visitors and park staff, Janice Matichuk touched countless lives in her 36 seasons at the Cache Bay Entry Station.

Starting in 1985 until her passing in 2020, park ranger Janice Matichuk welcomed tens of thousands of canoeists to Quetico from all around the world and made sure they were well prepared for their journeys into the park. Over her 3 plus decades at the Cache

Bay Entry Station, Janice left a positive impact on park visitors and park staff and forged many special relationships. Janice would always go above and beyond to help others and is also remembered for a number of life-saving rescues she performed at Cache Bay over the years. Through her hard work and dedication as a park ranger, Janice was a tireless advocate for the protection of Quetico and the promotion of sustainable recreation in the park by wilderness paddlers. Thanks to Janice, generations of paddlers have experienced safe and enjoyable trips into Quetico.

There will never be another park ranger like Janice.



Photo by Chris Stromberg

STARS ABOVE CIRRUS LAKE

Article by Sam Cook

I have never forgotten the night, many years ago, on Cirrus Lake.

My wife and I were camped on a spit of rock somewhere in the western arm of that long, lean lake in Ontario's Quetico Provincial Park. We could neither see nor hear any other campers -- just the way we like it.

Supper was over, the dishes long since done.

We probably sat around the evening fire for a while, maybe a long while, just staring into coals that seemed alive.

But at some point later in the evening, we stepped away from the fire and gazed up at the night sky. It was deep and black and spangled with so many

Of course, we could see the great pale swoosh of the Milky Way across the dome of the sky, as if some celestial artist was trying to spread the last wash of white from her brush through the heavens.

Such profound moments make us want to speak in hushed tones out of sheer humility.

Some human beings -- perhaps most -- never see a sky that dark, brimming with so many stars.

Lying on a finger of glacier-scraped rock, looking into that kind of sky for long enough, one's entire perspective changes. You begin to understand your true place in the universe. You realize that you are but a speck -- that the Earth itself is but a speck -- in the grand scale of the heavens. You realize what a



Photo by Bob Panther

stars we were stunned. Understand, we get into the wilderness frequently in all seasons. We've seen plenty of night skies. But that night was so spectacular that it holds a reverential place in our memories.

"Remember that night on Cirrus?" one of us will say.

"Yeah. Amazing," comes the reply.

The day had been warm, and the finger of rock that jutted into the lake from our camp still held heat. We plopped right down on that rock and lay there for a long time, just gazing upward.

Because the million-acre wilderness park is somewhat remote in the first place, and because the area surrounding the park is so lightly populated, virtually no human-generated light dilutes the intensity of the night sky. The result is a sky so dark that the casual observer's first thought is, "Where did all these stars come from?"

great stroke of fortune it was that you happened upon this planet with all its oceans and oxygen and warmth.

One doesn't have to camp in Quetico to come across skies this dark. I have seen similar skies over the North Dakota Badlands of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I've witnessed them over a sliver of sand on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. I've seen them on crisp October nights from the yard of a little farmhouse in western Minnesota.

Still, they are rare enough that when you happen onto such a night, it is not just remarkable. It is transformative.

SAM COOK, a frequent visitor to Quetico Provincial Park, was outdoors writer at the Duluth (Minn.) News Tribune from 1980 to 2018. He is the author of several collections of essays.

PATH OF THE PADDLE ASSOCIATION

Path of the Paddle Association is pleased to have been asked to submit an update in this publication. The organization has had some busy and productive years since our last submission. POPA continues to be managed by volunteers and in 2019 completed the planning of a 5 year Business Plan. The mission and vision of the organization was renewed and the vision states:

As a wilderness segment of The Great Trail, the Path of the Paddle will be recognized as a world-class trail network connecting waterways, municipalities and Indigenous communities across Northwestern Ontario, providing a recreational relationship with nature, history and culture for people of all ages and abilities, for generations.

The goal is also to work side by side with the Land Managers of the Provincial Parks within the trail's 1100 km. From the east to west of the water and land trail, adventurers will travel through Fort William Historical Park, Pigeon River PP, La Verendrye PP, Quetico PP, Rushing River PP and Whiteshell PP.

In 2019 an overview map was prepared with the help of the GPS data collected by staff and volunteers. The map includes portages, campsites and was created by a company named Canadian Mapmakers. It is a perfect starting point for planning your next trip. Funding from Destination Northern Ontario supported 50% of the project and in April of 2020, 3000 maps were delivered. We launched their sale in September 2020 and we look forward to our partners at the Parks featuring them. You can find them for sale on our website now.

www.pathofthepaddleassociation.com/shop

Funding was received from Trans Canada Trail to

support several projects throughout 2020 and to be completed by summer 2021. Travellers will find new signage at several locations as well as enhancements to the Provincial Park sections of the trails. We also were able to create some interesting features on our trails which visitors have been delighted to find. Quetico Park benefited from traction aid being installed on the Dawson Trail Boardwalk. POPA purchased the netting and Friends of Quetico are installing. Four beautiful signs were designed by Quetico staff and printed by funding from TCT.

In other parks and public lands, you will find some "thunder boxes" at the campsites on Lake Superior and at the western end "garden thrones" at some busy campsites in Whiteshell Provincial Park. Several benches have been built and located at popular spots. These benches include a sign in log. At the Pigeon River Lookout trail, which is the beginning of our land links from Lake Superior to La Verendrye Park, the sign in log is nearly full. Other projects included



the addition of traction strips and nose guards on 60 steps at Rushing River.

The funding is also providing points of interest along the trail. By summer you will be able to paddle and locate 30 geocaches south of Dryden plus make use of some canoe lockers and portage carts. The POPA website is getting refreshed and by June will be transformed to be more user friendly. Watch for updates and inside information on our new features as they are completed. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and check out newsletters on our website. We are seeking new Board members. Please contact us if interested!

Thank you to Quetico Park plus all lovers of paddling and the outdoors. Keep calm and paddle on.

Submitted by Clara Butikofer

Chairperson of Path of the Paddle Association
info@pathofthepaddleassociation.com



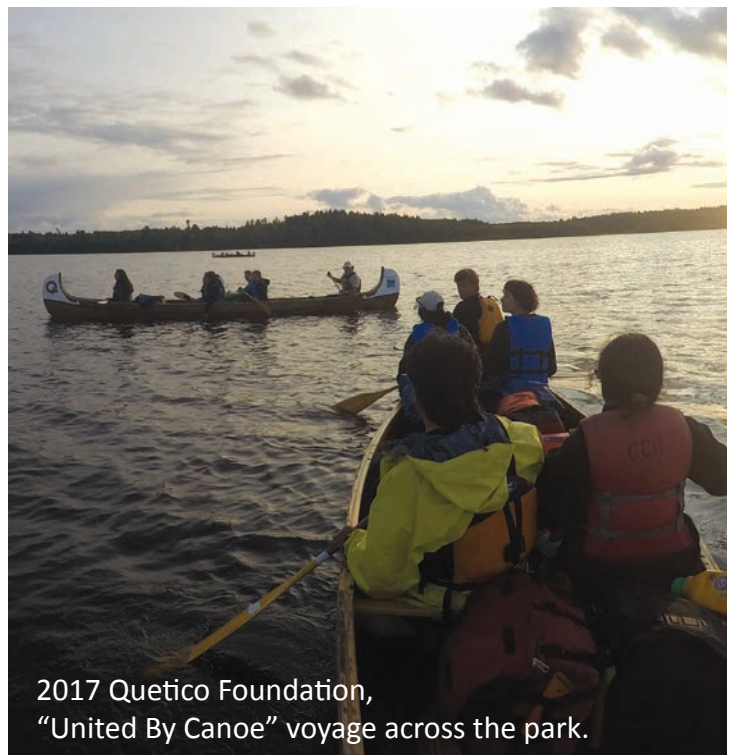


For the past 65 years, the Quetico Foundation's focus has been on protecting Quetico Provincial Park. The Foundation's vision of scientific stewardship has led it to be recognized as an influential and credible leader for protection of wilderness values and ecological integrity in Ontario.

In addition to advocating on behalf of the Park's wilderness area and working closely with Quetico Provincial Park staff and community partners, the Quetico Foundation supports the Park through a variety of science based programs. These include the annual sponsorship of biology interns working closely with the Park Biologist to contribute to scientific studies including forest fire research, white pine, red pine, and species at risk. This year, working in collaboration with Lakehead University, the Foundation has sponsored and is in the second year of a three-year research program to investigate invasive species in the Park and their affect on the Park's fisheries and other aquatic life.

The Quetico Foundation has always believed that education is integral to wilderness protection and sustainability. Plan to visit the John B Ridley Research Library, established in 1986 by the Foundation in memory of one of its founding members and explore the vast array of resources and materials related to the history and natural ecology of Quetico Park! Our longstanding and locally awarded Shan Walshe Memorial Bursary is offered to high school students who are pursuing postsecondary studies in the environment field. A final Foundation initiative created the Artist Studio on French Lake, to attract to the Artist in Residence Program individuals who have a passion for the beauty of Quetico. Join their workshops and visit their studio to experience Quetico Park through their eyes!

As a charitable organization, all our programs and activities are supported by the generous contributions of those forward-thinking individuals, corporations and organizations who share our love of Quetico and believe in our vision for the future. Quetico Provincial Park serves as an important icon for wilderness protection in Ontario and in Canada. Please visit us at www.queticofoundation.org and friend us on Facebook and support our vision for another 65 years!



2017 Quetico Foundation, "United By Canoe" voyage across the park.

QUETICO'S TROUT PONDS: HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

Article by James Burns, Portage Crew 2000-2013

Quetico Park is a cool place for a lot of reasons. If you're reading this, you probably know this already. But what I'm going to talk about is something that probably isn't appreciated even by those of you who are here for the fishing. So, listen up, fish nerds, because there's going to be some insider info in here and, more important, some lake name dropping.

Lake Trout, or *Salvelinus namaycush*, if you want to get all scientific. Quetico holds one of the highest concentrations of lake trout lakes in Canada, south of Northwest Territories. Do I have fancy statistics to back this up? No. But take my word for it, or look into it yourself. Personally, I think this is very cool because the lake trout literally requires some very cool water to live, year-round. Given how far south Quetico lies on the map, it is pretty amazing these fish are here at all, let alone in a very high concentration. And the coolest part of all is that some of the smallest lakes on the map are the lakes that maintain the most concentrated populations of lake trout.

Speaking of maps, grab one now. Normally in these articles you don't reveal the actual lakes you are talking about but, in this case, I'll name several because there is no danger of the lakes in question being overrun, due to their location. Grab your maps, paddles, fishing rods and frying pans if you're so inclined; Amok, Cone, Cullen, and Hoare. These are a few tiny little lakes that hold significant populations of lake trout. Not exactly destination lakes for the park's fishing contingent – but they should be.

When I looked at a map to pick some lakes to point out, I had to cull a few of my favourites because they are literally too small to have a name. If these lakes were outside of the park and had road access, they would be closed to fishing because of the vulnerability of the trout populations. Yet within Quetico I doubt that more than a few people wet a line there on any given year and those who do are casting the shore for bass.

But here's the thing: There are no bass. These little lakes represent the last of the remote sanctuaries that have escaped the introduction of smallmouth



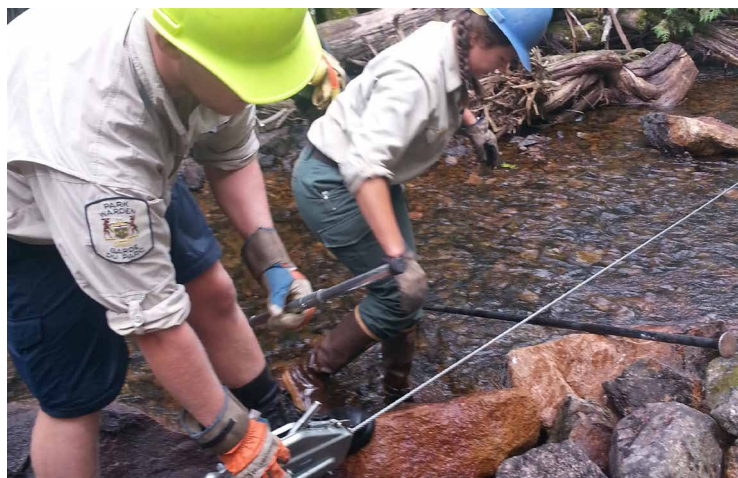
bass: This is what allows lake trout to dominate both the deep and shallow water ecosystems in both the winter and summer. I don't have room to get into the ecosystem disruption that smallmouth bass cause in a lake trout population but let me drop one last lake name: Ferguson Lake.

If you want to catch a 5lb lake trout in 15 feet of water in July, check it out. But you aren't going to catch any bass there; or in a lot of the tiny little clear water lakes in Quetico, especially the lakes on the far eastern side of Quetico. And that's not to say that Ferguson Lake is a tiny lake. But the thing is that the amount of water that is deeper than 40 feet is very limited. The entire eastern basin of the lake consists of shallow water and this, in essence, makes it uninhabitable for lake trout in the summer. But the western basin is deep and perfect sanctuary for lake trout when the weather turns hot. As the old saying goes, nature hates a vacuum. With no bass to dominate the upper regions of the lake's ecosystem, the lake trout are free to make time-limited forays into the shallows, briefly populating that vacuum, before darting back to their deep, cool sanctuaries.

Only about one percent of Ontario's lakes (i.e. ~ 2,300) contain Lake Trout, but this represents 20-25% of all Lake Trout lakes in the world (roughly 10,000 lakes). FMZ 5 has about 25% of lake trout lakes in Ontario or >5% of the lake trout populations in the world.

Quetico has about 20% of FMZ5 Lake Trout lakes (or ~5% of Ontario lakes or 1% of the world's populations). In Quetico, >15% of all lakes larger than 10ha are known to have trout (compared to 1% in the province and less than that across their range). The three hotspots for trout density in Ontario are Quetico/Atikokan, Blind River area and Algonquin area

What I'm trying to emphasize here is that dozens of the lakes on your map of the park hold some of the best trout fishing you've ever had, and you may be about to paddle right over top of it. So, the next time you're paddling from one "destination" lake to the next, stop and take a look at what's sitting right under your butt. Could it hold lake trout? Is the water clear and you can't see bottom? Take a few seconds, drop a line and get ready. You could be in for some of the best fishing of your life.



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Jordon Boileau taking down Sky Quality Meter information during the new moon in September 2020. (Photo above)

2019 Backcountry Rangers from Quetico and Superior National Forest team up on joint shared portage project. (Photo on the left)



THE TRAILS LESS TRAVELLED

Article by David Jackson, Photojournalist

If anything can be left behind from those who walked before us, it is the trodden trails of many feet on the earth and the stories they tell. Pushed down into moss, knee deep through sphagnum, scraped on bare rock, these paths read like heartbeats through the labyrinths of lakes, rivers, and forests that we love. A fire may burn down blazes, a blowdown could hide the clues, but trails can last forever, as long as we know the way. The thing is, so many choose to go where others go, to travel the places we know to be dear, but it's the far off forgotten lakes that give us reasons to veer. On particularly long carries, we pass by places that otherwise can be forgotten, hikers on a trail encumbered by heavy load, sometimes, this is

where the big tree's hide. On lakes we jump across, wetting a line might reveal feisty, and numerous, trout. In a swamp we learn that there is no easy way but through, in a downpour we always keep our eyes peeled, for at a moments notice, skies can part and rainbows collide. The trails less travelled might be long, or grown in, or drowned by beavers but for those willing to go, we nod our head for they are the keepers of history, holders of the torch, and for them we should always hold a special place in our hearts. If all you find at a trails end is an ache in your shoulders and tenderness in your feet, then we hope you didn't miss the moose and her calf, or the aroma of dinner over an open fire. In Quetico, these trails exist in length and demand gritty endurance. In and out of Cache Lake, the marches to Delahey, we hope you go, for these trails need feet, and we can all be keepers of their stories.



ROOFED ACCOMMODATION IN ONTARIO PARKS

Open Year Round

Quetico is one of the gems of our park system and one of the finest paddling destinations of the world. Dawson Trail, Quetico's only campground has been a favourite destination for summer visitors and is becoming popular year-round to take in the splendours of all the seasons. Quetico's roofed accommodations make for a comfortable option during any season and as an alternative to tent camping, appealing to those that are looking to sleep off the ground in a comfortable cabin.

In the winter, visitors can ski or snowshoe from their doorstep; venture out on classic wilderness trails deep into the woods; or skate ski groomed skate lanes within the campgrounds. Awaken to the sun sparkling on the snow covered lake with only the sound of the breeze and the winter birds waiting outside your door. Sleep in cozy comfort, well rested for another day of adventure.

During the summer, there are beaches next to the cabins, trail to hike, and endless water routes to paddle into the backcountry. After a day of adventure, enjoy time around a campfire and take in the stars featured in Quetico's dark skies.

Questions on Quetico and its roofed accommodations please call (807) 597-2735.

Nearby Parks with roofed accommodations are: Sleeping Giant, Blue Lake, Rushing River, and Neys
www.ontarioparks.com/roofedaccommodation

Nineteen provincial parks offer some of Ontario's best cross-country skiing. Get the latest ski conditions from **The Park Ski Report @**
www.ontarioparks.com/skiereport

For more information, or to make an online reservation, visit www.ontarioparks.com

To reserve by telephone, call **1 888 ONT PARK**

Accommodations that Suits Your Nature



RULES AND REGULATIONS IN QUETICO PARK

To ensure our guests enjoy their visit to Quetico

Park Wardens are on patrol to:

- provide information
- ensure the safety of park visitors
- protect Quetico Park and its resources
- enforce park rules and regulations

Within a Provincial Park, a Park Warden has the same authority of an Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officer and enforces the following legislation:

- Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006
- Highway Traffic Act
- Liquor Licence Act
- Trespass to Property Act
- Off-road Vehicles Act
- Forest Fire Prevention Act
- Motorized Snow Vehicles Act
- Ontario Fishing Regulations
- Criminal Code of Canada

Rules and regulations in provincial parks are intended to ensure the safety of park visitors, protect the park and its resources, and ensure our guests have an enjoyable stay. When in doubt, ask a Park Warden.

The following are some (not a complete list) of the more common laws enforced at Quetico provincial park:

- Permits are required for all visits to a park. Ensure your permit is readily available to present to an officer upon request.
- Additional vehicles must be registered at the gatehouse.
- Campsites must be vacated by 2:00 p.m. on the permit expiry date.
- No more than six people are permitted on a campground site unless they make up a single-family group of parents and children.
- A maximum of three pieces of shelter equipment are permitted on a site. Only one of which can be a trailer.
- Alcohol is restricted to a registered campsite only, and is prohibited in all public areas including beaches and roadways.
- Fireworks are prohibited.
- Firearms are prohibited. The definition of a “firearm” includes a rifle, shotgun, hand gun, air gun, pellet gun, paint ball gun, slingshot, bow or crossbow.
- In campgrounds, removal or collection of live or dead wood is prohibited.
- Rowdy behaviour, excessive noise, and obscene

language is not tolerated at any time of day or night and may result in charges being laid and eviction.

- Pets must be kept under control at all times, and on a leash not longer than two metres. No pets in swimming areas or on beaches. You must clean up after your pet. Dogs should not be left alone on campsites to bark and disturb other campers. A leash-free area is designated on the Pickerel Point Trail and the adjacent beach (see campground map for details). Pets are not allowed in public buildings.
- Rules of the road (speed limits, seatbelts, stop signs, etc.) apply in Quetico. All roadways, including those in campgrounds, fall under the Highway Traffic Act which is enforced by Park Wardens.
- Campsites must be kept clean and free of attractants for wildlife (e.g., bears, mice, ducks, squirrels, etc.) at all times.
- Mechanized travel (*including gas and electric motors*) is not allowed.

As well as many of the rules and regulations listed above, special rules and regulations apply to guests in the Park Interior (backcountry):

- Cans and bottles are prohibited.
- If you pack it in, then pack it out. DO NOT LITTER.
- Leave only footprints. Establish your campfire
- in the designated fire ring, do not leave your fire unattended, and make sure it is DEAD OUT.
- Remember it is against the law to cut or damage any live vegetation including trees, shrubs, wildflowers, mosses, and lichens.
- No more than nine persons may occupy an Interior campsite. No more than three sleeping shelters, one cooking shelter and one tarp per site.

Canadian Boating Safety Regulations require:

- One lifejacket or personal floatation device (PFD) of appropriate size for each person on board
- One buoyant heaving line no less than 15 meters (49' 3")
- One manual propelling device (i.e. set of oars or paddle)
- One bailer or one manual water pump fitted with or accompanied by sufficient hose
- Sound signalling device (whistle)
- Water-tight flashlight if paddling at night (batteries must work)

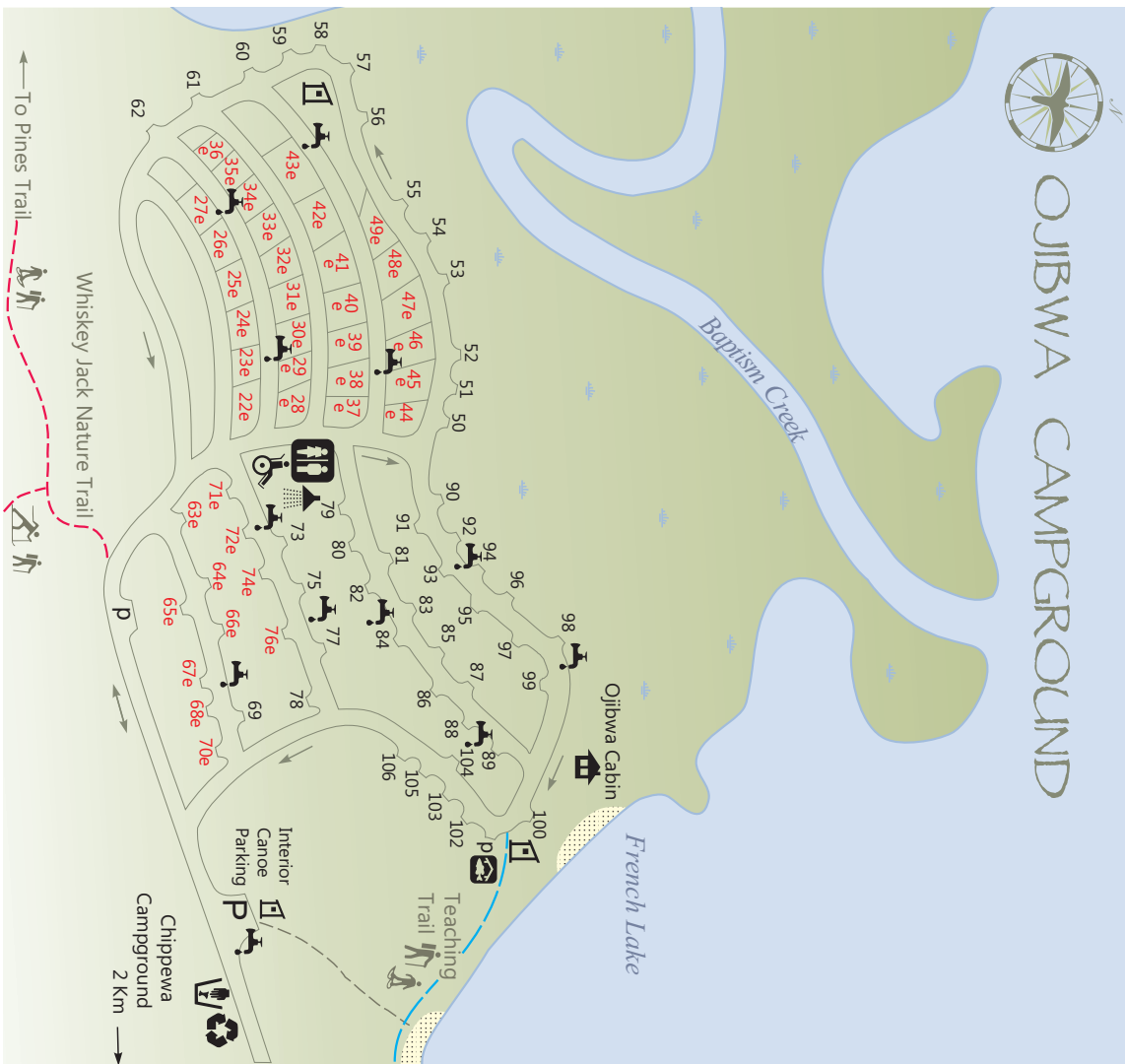
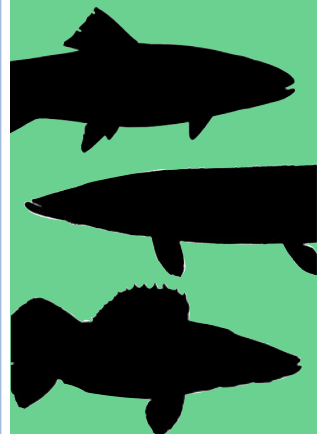
Please check current boating regulations to ensure regulations are met at www.boatingsafety.gc.ca

ATTENTION ANGLERS!

Some of rules and regulations which apply to anglers include:

(Refer to the "Recreation Fishing Regulations Summary" for more details and information)

- Most Canadian residents need a licence to fish in Ontario (if at least 18 years of age but not 65).
- All non-residents (age 18 years and older) require a licence to fish in Ontario.
- Licence holders must ensure their licence is readily available to present upon request to an officer.
- Fish should be packaged individually in clear plastic. A large patch of skin should be left on all fish fillets for identification purposes.
- Only artificial lures may be used in Quetico Provincial Park
- Angling with barbed hooks is prohibited

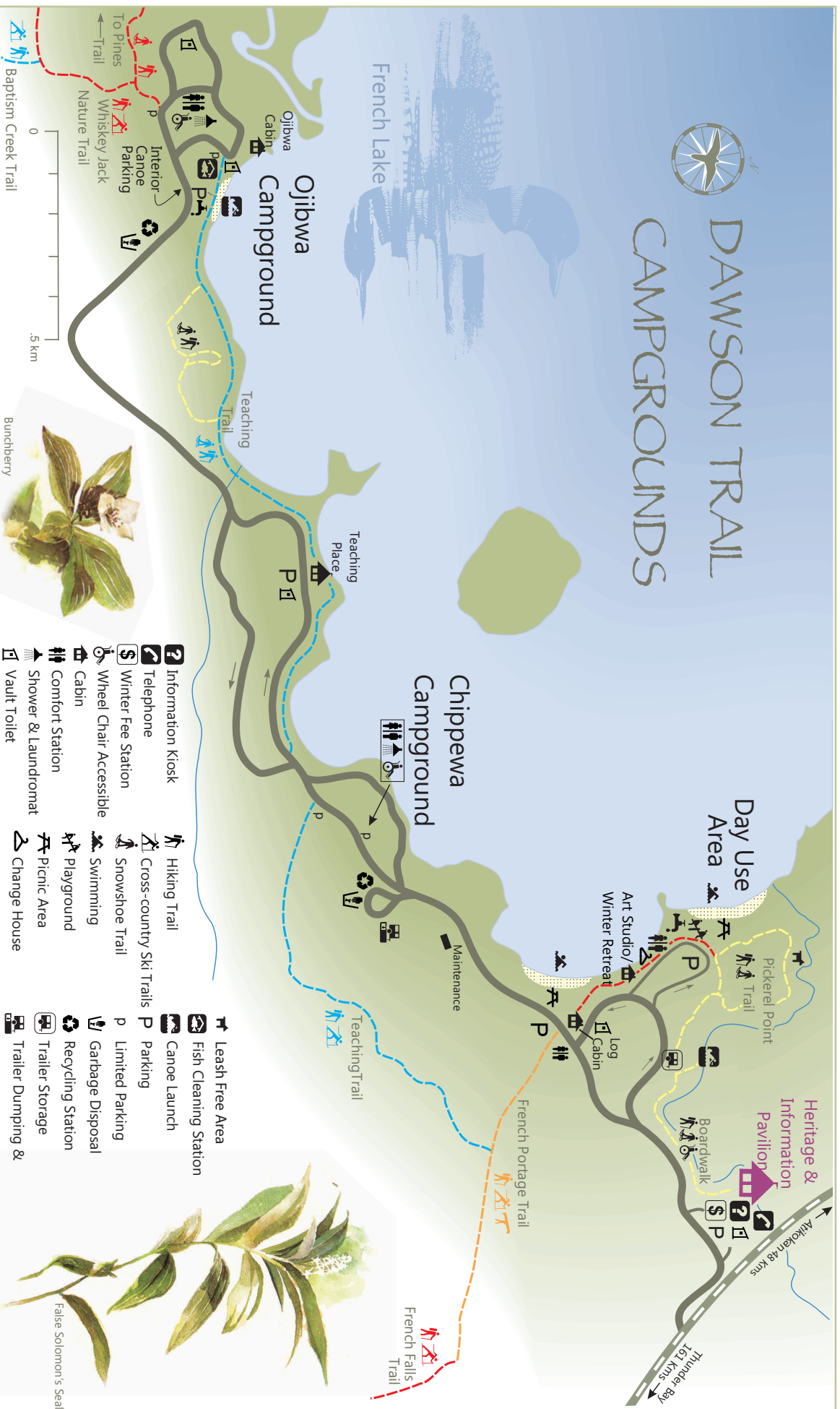


Legend

- Comfort Station
- Shower & Laundromat
- Wheelchair Accessible
- Drinking Water
- Electrical Hookup
- Privy
- Fish Cleaning Station
- Trailer Dumping & Filling Station
- Canoe Launch
- Cabin
- Parking
- Limited Parking
- Hiking Trail
- X-Country Ski Trail
- Snowshoe Trail
- Recycling Station
- Garbage Disposal
- Wetland



DAWSON TRAIL CAMPGROUNDS



Quetico Park Services

Emergencies after hours: O.P.P. 911 or 1-807-683-4200

Nearest pay phones located at Pavilion in the park and 4 km west of Dawson Trail at Quetico North Outfitters

Quetico Headquarters 1-807-597-2735

Reservations 1-888-ONT-PARKS or www.ontarioparks.com/reservations

Park security is on duty most evenings

First aid kits are available in all Ministry vehicles and at all entry stations.

Around Town - Atikokan

Chamber of Commerce: 807-597-1599-(1-888-334-2332)

Open May long weekend to end of August

Check out the web sites:

www.atikokaninfo.com

www.atikokanchamber.com