



QUETICO

2023 INFORMATION GUIDE

WELCOME TO QUETICO PROVINCIAL PARK

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, the starry nights, and the majestic cathedral pines of a breezy island campsite that make this place so special.

This year, Lac La Croix First Nation will continue its longstanding operation and management of the Beaverhouse and Lac La Croix park entry stations, where rangers welcome visitors to the backcountry of Quetico. First Nation and Park staff are also excited to continue their work together to protect and maintain the backcountry of the park.

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If you explore the backcountry of the park this year, you may encounter evidence of 2021's wildfires. With the first fires beginning in early June, there was fire on the Quetico landscape for the majority of the paddling season in 2021. Approximately 40,000 ha of forest burned, primarily in the southwest/central area of the park. Different levels of fire severity throughout the fire area have left behind a mosaic of impacts on the landscape, contributing to the maintenance of the ecological integrity of the park, where fire is an important part of the ecosystem. Prior to travelling to an area of the backcountry impacted by fire, talk to a park ranger for up-to-date information on portage conditions and canoe route maintenance.

In 2021, Quetico joined neighbouring Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area and Voyageurs National Park in Minnesota as an International Dark Sky Place. The starry night skies free of light 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 recognise our amazing night skies, the park has successfully attained International Dark Sky Park designation from the International Dark Sky Association. 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 above you. Helpful materials such as star charts are available at park entry stations.

Every visitor to Quetico has a role to play in protecting the park. During your visit, please practice

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

Photos on front cover : Ron Breault (cover photo)
C. Stromberg (winter scene)

PARK INFORMATION

Park Office

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

Reservations:

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

<https://www.facebook.com/QueticoPP>

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



QUETICO FOUNDATION

By Katie Tripp - Quetico Foundation
Biology Team Lead 2022

The 2022 field season was full of collaborations, adventures and successful research. The Quetico Foundation biology team remained the same with both Katie Tripp and Kelsey Atatise returning. The



summer was filled with many beautiful and successful canoe trips into the park, with the help of Quetico staff and Ontario Fire Rangers, in addition to the Quetico Foundation biology team. The spring and

summer of 2022 was the opposite of 2021, with extreme high water and consistent rain levels throughout summer, a contrast to the drought and fires of 2021. The 2021 fires in Quetico brought a combination of benefits and challenges, with exciting glimpses of new life, to parts of the park, but also difficult portaging and camping.

Many of the projects completed this summer are reoccurring, like the long-term salamander monitoring, the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas and the lake trout habitat suitability surveys. A new project was burn severity ground truthing and analysis. The lake trout trips brought us to new and challenging terrain including the longest portages in the park (Cache Lake). The burn severity project brought us down rivers with burnt shorelines and showed us the variety of ways fire can burn a forest. Grateful for another incredible summer of collecting data in Quetico's backcountry!

Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas

The major focus of work in the early part of this season was collecting data to contribute to the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas. Every 20 years since 1981, a survey of the distribution and relative abundance of Ontario's bird populations is conducted which is known as the Breeding Bird Atlas. The surveys occur over a five-year period with the current survey happening from 2021 to 2025.



One concern of previous surveys is a lack of data from less accessible wilderness parks, so there has been an effort to collect more data from Quetico for this survey. Acoustic recording devices are placed in dozens of locations throughout

Quetico that are only accessible by canoe and walking. The recordings will be analyzed over the winter by experienced birders to determine the species found at each site.

Lake Trout (Namaygoos) Habitat Suitability Survey

Lake trout are one of the most important cold-water species in Quetico, as they are both keystone predators and loved by anglers. However, as climate change continues, lake trout habitat is at risk of shrinking and the threat of invasive species increases. Because of this, we collect a few data points to identify lake trout populations with a higher risk of being affected by climate change.

The main data point for each lake is the maximum depth of the lake, as well as an estimate on the bathymetry. This is used to estimate the volume of water in the lake and can be used to estimate how quick the lake will warm. Data on mineral content and water clarity is also collected. Collecting this data for dozens of lakes is an ongoing project.

Burn Severity Ground Truthing and Analysis

A new project this year, and a result of significant fires of 2021 in Quetico, was ground truthing a satellite imagery-based burn severity analysis. FOR35, the big Quetico Fire, along with fires from Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, were among the first to use this technique. To ground truth the data, a group of both park staff and Ontario fire rangers visited the burn site and conducted plots to assess the burn severity on the ground.

Water Sampling

This project, a collaboration between the MNRF and Quetico, is to sample 14 lakes within Quetico to investigate the potential impact forest fires may have on phytoplankton and zooplankton.

Long Term Salamander Monitoring

Using salamander boards, our long-term monitoring strategy for salamanders allows Quetico to assess changes in species populations and monitor species at risk. This summer we expanded our line to include a greater variety of habitats.

Visit: <https://queticofoundation.org/> for more information.



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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

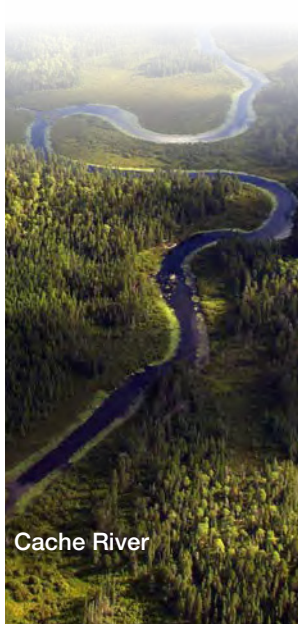
**1-888-ONT-PARKS
(1-888-668-7275)**

www.OntarioParks.com
Self-serve permitting is available in the off-season.

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





HEART OF THE CONTINENT

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 both 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.

Heart of the Continent Partnership (HOCP)

Several separately-managed protected 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 Verendrye Provincial Parks, and many of the fabulous Minnesota State Parks in the Iron Range and along Lake Superior.

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

Along with being the world's largest managed greenspace, the combined formally-designated dark sky areas of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Voyageurs National Park and Quetico Provincial Park make up one of the world's largest protected dark skies. It has also teamed with National Geographic to build an interactive MapGuide available at: traveltheheart.org/

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



EXPEDITION ON THE TRANS-CANADA WATER TRAIL

By David Jackson - Assignment Photographer and Director of Path of the Paddle Association

<https://www.pathofthepaddleassociation.com/info@pathofthepaddleassociation.com/>

If you paddle a thousand kilometers across Northwestern Ontario, you will experience the best of what canoe country has to offer. Lakes connected by labyrinth portages, shores swept with pines, campsites to lure the traveler for a night of thoughts as clear as the waters just beyond a campfires glow.

Best of all, the long trail exists, is active, and last summer, four paddlers had the chance to live by the fires glow while following an old trail known today as Path of the Paddle. For 29 days, four friends followed the route from Whiteshell, MB, to Thunder Bay, ON, and after three weeks of movement, were greeted by the timeless arms of Quetico Provincial Park.

Weather had been tough, storms abounded, winds

blew, rain seemed never far at bay, and northwesterly gales howled down through Pickerel Lake, pushing the team with a whisk before time stopped. Up and down, trail after trail, through a flooded falls chain, into an enchanting burn on the Agnes River, it felt like a dream. Soot coated hands, green crowns with burned trunks cloaked the ancient white pines high above charred undergrowth, green shoots sparkled in the black and white tone of regeneration.

By Kawnipi Lake, the trail wouldn't let them rest, and south they moved long into the evening until camp beckoned and walleye fell to pot, protein for the weeks remaining. By Cache Bay, powerful storms made open water an enemy, yet at the dock sat friends, and a legendary warden. Seconds before a torrent, the team gathered on the dock, Chris Stromberg grabbing packs. Stories beginning to roll, a scene as old as the trail, tales of the lakes, forests, and hard times best known as summertime in the north.

With a fresh wind at their stern, the team and old friends left into sprawling Saganaga Lake, the stories

carrying on between cadence, hills rearing up to the east as the height of land neared. On Marabouef Lake, paths diverged, the wardens on a celestial journey to read the nights' dark sky, the travelers to Lake Superior, where their long trail would end.

It's been written, and certainly the idea drives many to dream, yet forever it rings true that the virtues of paddling 1,000 km will leave a mark on your spirit as bold and brazen as the burns which enchant the midst of Quetico. If we can do anything as paddlers and visitors to the wild landscapes of Northwestern Ontario, it's to walk the trails, paddle the lakes, and support organizations which keep the tradition of summer travel alive.

The water trail called Path of the Paddle is a section of the greater Trans-Canada-Trail. Path of the Paddle is also a volunteer association in need of support to keep this ancient route alive, to keep the long trail not just a traveler's dream, but a planner's wildest idea.



Photos on pages 7 and 8 by David Jackson

Visit www.pathofthepaddleassociation.com to learn more and read about the team's 2022 journey.





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www.queticonorth.com

At the Gateway to Quetico Park

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) or lifejacket in or around the water.
5. Swim in only 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.**



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The Measure of a Canoe Trip

By Jill Sorensen, Quetico Park Librarian

This article is a polite rant from Quetico Provincial Park's Librarian Jill Sorensen.

We seem to constantly hear about expedition-style trips. Grunt narratives where people have broken speed records, paddled the longest distances, or have been the first to complete a route. The blisters. The sleep deprivation. The endurance.

And that is fine. I have no problem with kilometre tracking or race attempts. But if you insist on measuring all of your trips, may I suggest that you count something else? Something that instead connects you to the landscape, or a piece of cultural history.

A little less pace. A little more place.

Here are some suggestions of other things to count:

1. Waterfalls

What if you measured your trip by how many nights you could hear running water from your tent? How might your trip dynamic change by prioritizing waterfalls?

2. Nights under the stars

Quetico was recently designated a Dark-Sky park by the IDA. In a decade, how might you look back on a trip where you counted the total number of constellations seen instead of portage metres covered?

3. Types of fish you ate

Is walleye really worth the hype over bass? In a blind taste test can you or your canoe partner tell the difference between trout and pike? Try and sample a variety of fish types and satisfy your curiosity.

4. Swimming

There are some spectacular swimming holes and famous natural 'jacuzzi tubs.' Why not bring your bathing suit and see how many spots you can take a dip in? You may even find yourself noticing more turtles, ducks, and frogs.

5. Campfires

When I was 22, I spent a whole summer in the backcountry of Quetico without taking the time to have a single campfire.

It was go, go, go. Now, whether I'm paddling 10-hour days or not, lingering beside a fire at dusk is what I look forward to the most. What if you measured your trip by the quality of your campfire light?

6. Natural features you've identified

Ever drifted along a fen or creek and been intrigued by all the wildflowers? Or maybe you've always wanted to learn bird calls or about the lichen on those stunning cliff formations. If you intentionally plan your trip around a field guide, you may just catch yourself in an abundance of biodiversity.

7. Stories

You do not journey through a trackless wilderness. The land holds countless stories of those who came before you or are still present on the land. For instance, in Quetico, you could follow the paddle strokes of the Ojibwe past Warrior Hill, the voyageurs or Simon Dawson along the north end of the park, or Aldo Leopold along Basswood Lake.

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 trash and dispose of it at park designated garbage and recycling areas before heading home.



Perhaps you'll happen across an Indigenous pictograph.

The mysteries of their creation really begin to resonate as you drift back and forth along prominent rock walls. What height would they be at if they were painted by someone standing on a frozen lake, instead of leaning out of a canoe?

Who was there and what stories were they trying to share? How might measuring your trip in stories reveal your own sense of place?

When Bill Mason was asked why he paddled those "slow wood-canvas Prospector Canoes," he liked to respond, "Why would I want to go fast?"

Many campers must travel long distances to arrive at their entry station, only to race around the park.

Lingering beside waterfalls, pictographs or under starry skies may just offer a more enduring and meaningful narrative (and fewer blisters!).

So when campers phone to ask me how long they should take to complete a route, expect the reply, "As long as possible!"



Photo by Laura Myers



Recreational use of drones in provincial parks is not permitted.

Visit OntarioParks.com to learn about applying for authorization for commercial or research purposes.



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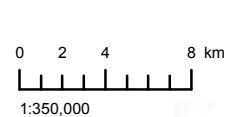


Quetico



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



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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

Atikokan, ON



visitatikokan.com
atikokan.ca



Atikokan has been a community that has been shaped by its people, its experiences, and in getting the most out of the beauty around it.



We're located 43kms (30 minutes) west of Quetico Provincial Park and are the nearest community to Quetico. We have all that you could need for your getaway to the Park. Whether it's essentials such as food and gas, gear for your trip, or to explore the beauty that we have to offer, we have you covered!

Atikokan is the Canoeing Capital of Canada, and is proud to service the needs of Quetico's visitors. We are home to world renowned canoe and paddle manufacturers, such as Souris River Canoes, Fletcher Canoes and XY Paddles.

While you're here, check out Little Falls (pictured above), the Atikokan Museum, or go for a round of golf at our beautiful Little Falls 9-hole Golf Course, one of the most challenging courses in the region. Enjoy a delicious cooked meal at one of the fine restaurants that we have in town, ranging from full-service to quick meals on the run.

We're happy to have you here whether it's for an hour, a day, or longer. We welcome you to visit and see what Atikokan has to offer!



QUETICO? WHY QUETICO?

By Ron Breault

 @swiftypaddler

“Quetico? Why Quetico?” Those are two questions I’m often asked when I tell folks I’m either planning a trip to Quetico or have just returned. For a park that’s more than 100 years old, has over 600 lakes, 2000+ backcountry campsites, and is considered by many to be one of the top canoeing destinations in North America, the answer seems obvious, at least to me; but it wasn’t always that way!

I’ve been paddling for over 40 years, with the majority of my time spent in Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec. Within an easy day’s drive, I have access to Algonquin, Killarney, and Frontenac Provincial Parks; the Great Lakes; the St. Lawrence River and the 1000 Islands; the Temagami region; Réserve faunique La Vérendrye in Quebec; and thousands and thousands of lakes with Crown Land camping. In short, to say I live in a part of the country rich in canoeing opportunities would be an understatement of Muskellunge proportions!

It wasn’t until the mid 1990’s that I first heard people talk about Quetico Provincial Park. The talk was mostly amongst those whom I considered to be “serious” canoeists. The way they described Quetico made it sound exciting, unique, and very, very remote.



Photo by: Ron Breault

“But it’s just another park with lakes, trees and campsites,” I thought. “Why bother? I have more options nearby than I can ever visit!”

As I grew in my skills, I began traveling farther and farther afield. The number of car camping trips decreased, while the number of backcountry trips increased. Many of the parks I explored started to look the same, and the feeling of “remoteness” that I had coveted was becoming more difficult to achieve.

I remembered the talk of years past concerning Quetico, and I began to day-dream of finding out for myself what it was all about. Going on a deep backcountry trip to Quetico soon made it onto the top of my personal bucket list.



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In 2021 an opportunity presented itself and I finally made my way to Quetico; dream became reality!

From my first day out, I fell in love with the park and the unique experience it presented me with. Unlike other parks I'd traveled, the portages are unmarked: you need to closely follow a map and pay attention to the terrain to find your way around. Similarly, campsites are unmarked; each is well established, but you have to paddle around to spot them. Combined, these differences alone make for a more challenging trip. Another aspect of Quetico which stands out is its official recognition as an International Dark Sky Park: a designation which effectively means the night sky you see is as dark and the stars as bright they would have appeared hundreds of years in the past; a rarity in our modern world. On several nights I was even treated to incredible Aurora Borealis displays dancing across the sky!

In 2022 I returned to Quetico for my second visit, exploring a different part of the large park, and this coming summer/fall, I will return for my third. I have a growing passion and respect for the park and the people that protect it, and am eager to experience more.

If you haven't taken your own backcountry trip into Quetico, I urge you make it happen. At least you know now how to answer the question when people ask you, "Why Quetico?"



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TICKS AND LYME

Do ticks and Lyme disease make you wary of going outdoors? 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. In Ontario, Blacklegged ticks are most commonly found in rural areas along the north shores of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River. Blacklegged ticks are known to feed on migratory birds and as a result, they can be transported throughout the province.

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.

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 to exposed skin and outer clothing.

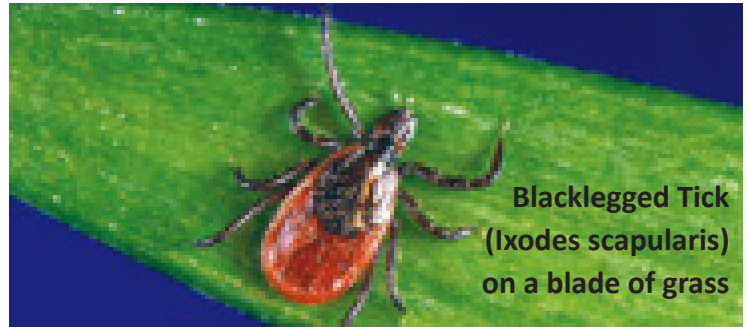


Photo by: Jim Gathany, CDC

4. Conduct a tick check when you come in from outdoors. Look on your clothes, body and pets. Pay close attention to your groin, scalp and armpits.
5. If you find a tick on your body, properly remove it and place it in a container.
Visit www.etick.ca for tick identification. Additionally, you may contact your family doctor for questions on Lyme disease and follow-up.

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>

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 (www.etick.ca)
- 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

Photo Caption and Credit:

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.



Join Discovery Guides at an Exploration Station during July and August. Bring along your Discovery Activity Book (or pick one up at the Exploration Station), and use the equipment and materials provided to explore the park, observe plants and animals, and discover the wonders of nature. Be sure to share your observations with Discovery Guides and take the Discovery Ranger Pledge!



Ask park staff for more information on weekly activities.



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THE FRIENDS OF QUETICO PARK

By John Guthrie

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

Established in 1984, FOQP continues to have a noticeable presence, and 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 that visit. We are pleased to have direct contact with Quetico's superintendent Trevor Gibb and his staff, who always provide us with their expertise, experience and collaborative attitude.

Specific Projects of the Friends of Quetico Park:

- 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
- Supporting research in the park
- Renewal of educational signage on trails and entry stations
- Further development of the Paul Kane exhibit and trail
- Helping to fund the Dark Sky Initiative and support the application for Dark Sky Park designation

- Provide ice-fishing equipment for use of winter campers at the Park
- Ongoing fundraising for the betterment of Quetico Provincial Park

Together we can contribute to the ongoing protection of the beauty of 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.

We invite you to join us. Please consider purchasing a membership, either online or at the Dawson Campground store. Perks include 10% off merchandise and a biannual newsletter. Plus, we always welcome passionate people to join us as a volunteer or a future board member.

You can find us on Facebook and Instagram [@friendsofqueticopark](#) or www.friendsofquetico.com

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Reservations are recommended

Bait, Cameras & Firewood - One Helps, Two Hurt

By Jared W. Stachiw - Park Biologist
Quetico Provincial Park

Louisa Falls is a cherished place for many Quetico canoeists. With a gorgeous natural shower and bathtub formation, it provides a unique and adventurous place to cool down. If you continue up the portage beside these bespoke falls to Louisa Lake and look closely at the landing at the top, you will be able to find dandelions. A common “weed” species found in mowed lawns and associated with urban and disturbed areas, the common dandelion is a species native to Europe, not North America. So, what is it doing all the way in the depths of a protected landscape surrounded by Quetico Provincial Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness? In short, the answer is us.

Parks are not isolated, closed systems – wildlife naturally migrates in and out of the park, which cannot be controlled, and humans also influence the environment with our recreation.

Species that arrive in an area they previously were not found are considered introduced, not all of which pose a significant risk to the environment. The species introduced, and whose introduction threatens the ecosystem, are what we call invasive species. These species can out compete native species for food, habitat, or other resources, leading to negative changes in how the environment functions.

While the dandelion at the top of Louisa Falls is an introduced species that does not pose a risk to Quetico’s forests, it does highlight just how easily species can spread with a little help from humans. This dandelion likely arrived in Quetico as a seed attached to some dirt on someone’s boot or pack, and from there was able to establish and survive, and might continue spreading along the disturbed portage trail. Species considered invasive and that negatively affect Quetico’s forests, lakes, and wetlands are also species that travel best with human assistance. These species include pathogens, insects, and aquatic invasive species that we are actively trying to either keep out of the park, or limit the spread of those already established in Quetico. A few examples of these species are spiny waterflea, black crappie, emerald ash borer, rainbow smelt, and rusty crayfish.

The number one way to limit the arrival or spread of invasive species is to limit human-assisted movement of the species. The absolute best way to keep them out of the park is to have you, the public, help by following a few rules and best practices that are only meant to protect this rugged landscape that we all love. You can also help by giving information to the park that helps us map invasive species and understand their spread and impact.

Bait and Other Best Practises

Approximately 80% of Quetico’s backcountry visitors will fish at some point in their visit. Fishing is a wonderful recreational activity, but is not without the risk of introducing invasive species. Quetico Park regulations allow for artificial lures only and prohibit the use of any organic/live bait (including fish, crayfish, leeches, insects, and earthworms).

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 

It is illegal to possess, use, or collect live bait within the park because bait can spread a variety of aquatic invasive species and diseases, which threaten the whole ecosystem and decreases recreational fishing quality. Aquatic invasive species and pathogens may be mixed in with the bait or may be in the water used to hold and transport bait. When unused bait and holding water are dumped into or near a lake, it can establish new populations and diseases.

Along with not using live or organic bait, there are a few best practices that will help reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species, including:

- Do not move water between lakes (for example in water bottles) as this can spread pathogens and zooplankton. If you do accidentally bring water across a portage please empty the bottle on dry land, far away from water.
- Inspect your canoe, paddles, and angling equipment before travelling to a new lake and remove all plants, animals, and mud.
- Never transfer fish between lakes.

Firewood

A campfire is an excellent way to unwind and experience a beautiful night in Quetico Park. It creates an inviting atmosphere that sparks conversation and reflection. It can also invite invasive species. Invasive insects and pathogens can easily accompany untreated firewood, and once they arrive at a new location they can quickly establish and infest forests. Always obtain firewood locally from where it is being burned, and never transport wood from a restricted area. Firewood is available for sale at the Dawson Trail Campground and from nearby businesses.

Of particular concern is the emerald ash borer, an insect with larvae that tunnel through tree's bark, cutting it off from water and nutrients, resulting in the death of the ash tree. The emerald ash borer will only travel a few kilometers per year on its own, however, it can easily be dispersed over long distances by people moving infested material. Once this insect infects a stand of ash, the tree mortality is greater than 99%. This would be disastrous to the black ash swamps of Quetico and the wildlife that rely on this type of forest.

Cameras

Please, take a picture! If you bring a camera or phone into the backcountry, or on your hikes around Dawson Trail, we encourage you to report your wildlife and plant observations. You can do this at www.inaturalist.org. Please see the new display in the Dawson Trail Pavillion for more information on reporting your sightings through iNaturalist.

Reporting what you see is a huge help in our battle against invasive species. If you come across an animal, plant, or insect that you think could be an invasive species, please try to get a picture to email to the Park Biologist at jared.stachiw@ontario.ca. Along with this photo, please provide a brief description (or GPS coordinates) of where the observation occurred. This information is incredibly helpful as we map invasive species distribution and work to better understand their spread throughout the park and the impact they are having on the environment.

This summer when you are visiting Quetico Provincial Park, remember that you are the first line of defense against invasive species. Stopping the spread of invasive species is critical, and you can help keep Quetico natural and beautiful by not moving firewood, never having live bait in the park, and reporting any possible invasive species to the Park Biologist.



Photo: Kelsey Atatise taking samples

RULES AND REGULATIONS IN QUETICO PROVINCIAL 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 2019
- 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 included 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 any 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:

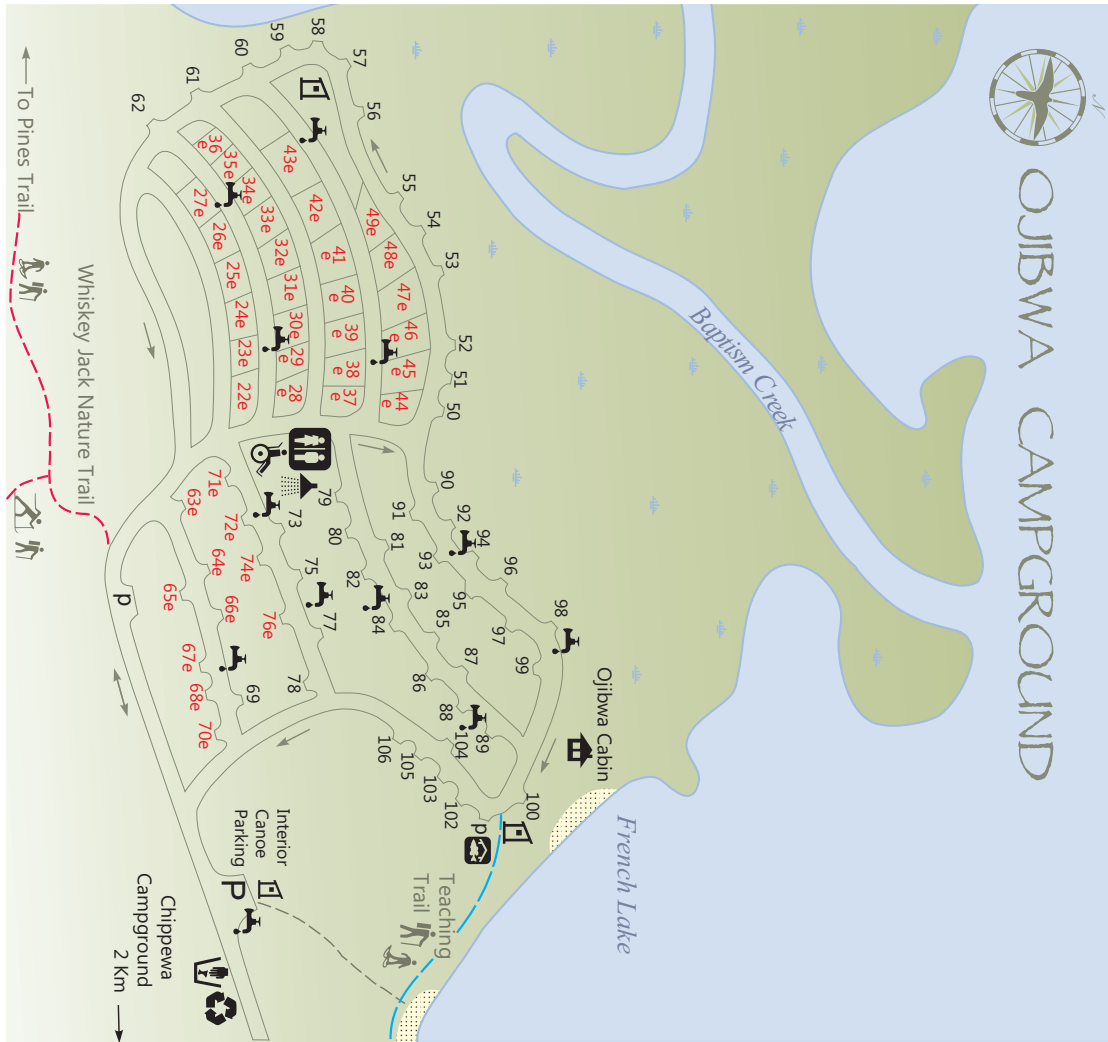
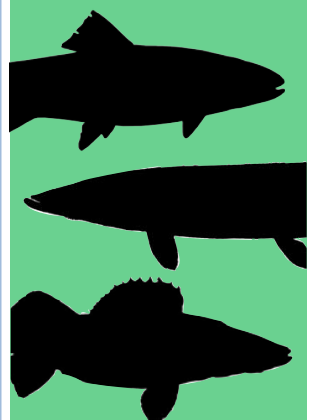
- One lifejacket or personal floatation device (PFD) of appropriate size for each person on board.
- One buoyant heaving line no less than 15 metres (49’3”)
- One manual propelling device (i.e. set of oars or paddle)
- One bailer or one manual water pump fitted with or accompanied by sufficient hose.
- 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!

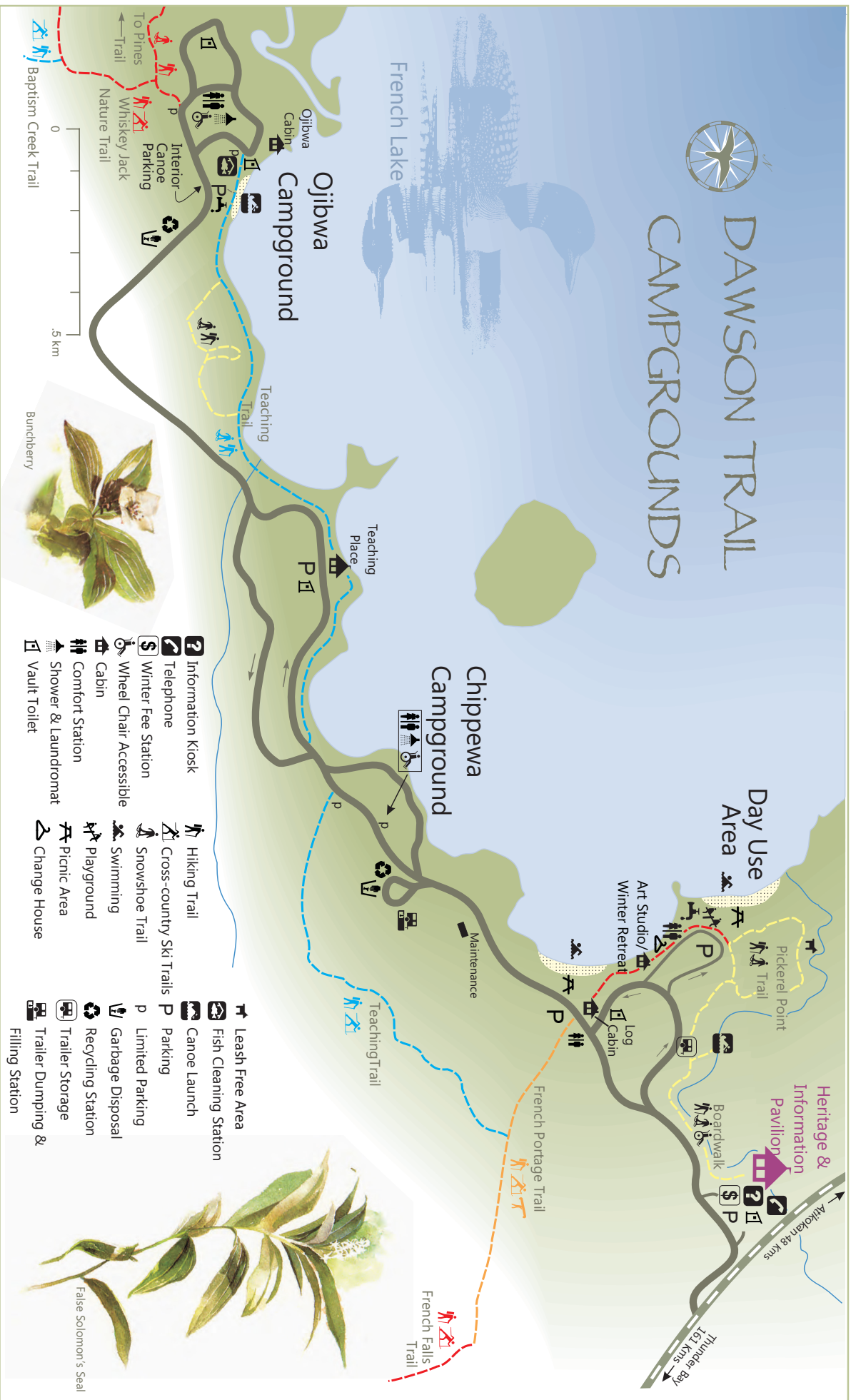
Some of rules and regulations which apply to anglers include:
(Refer to the "Recreation Fishing Regulations Summary" for more details and information)

- 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





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- Snowshoe Trail
- Swimming
- Playground
- Picnic Area
- Change House

- Leash Free Area
- Fish Cleaning Station
- Canoe Launch
- Parking
- Limited Parking
- Garbage Disposal
- Recycling Station
- Trailer Storage
- Trailer Dumping & Filling Station

Quetico Park Services

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

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