

SUMMARY OF OFFICIAL REGULATIONS

This is an unofficial condensation of the regulations governing activities in the park interior. For detailed and up-to-date accuracy, see MNR documentation.

1. Possession of Permit: A camping party must possess a valid Interior Camping Permit. A copy must be displayed on the vehicle dash.

2. Size of Party: Number of people permitted to camp at one campsite in the Park Interior is limited to 9. Larger groups may travel and eat together but must break up to camp and should plan their trips accordingly. Each campsite is designated by an orange campsite poster.

3. Respect for Vegetation: It's forbidden to cut or damage any live plant. This prohibits practices such as cutting evergreen boughs for bedding and cutting birch bark from living trees.

4. Firearms Prohibited: Except for legal hunts it is forbidden to possess firearms in Algonquin Park.

5. Can and Bottle Ban: This applies everywhere in the park except campgrounds and picnic areas with regular garbage collection. Non-burnable disposable food and drink containers (and eating utensils) are prohibited. Returnable bottles are banned, but not those such as cups or pitchers designed for repeated use. Metal foil is permitted, as are containers of fuel, insect repellent, medicine, or non-food or drink items.

6. Motor Boats: Motor boats are not permitted on Algonquin lakes. There are however, four groups of exceptions:

(a) Motors of unlimited horsepower may be used on Galeairi and Opeongo Lakes.

(b) Motors of 20 horse power or less may be used on the following lakes: Bonita, Cache, Canoe, Cedar, Kingscote, Kioshkowi, Little Cauchon, Rock, Smoke, Source, Tanamakoon, Tea, Two Rivers and Whitefish.

(c) Motors of 10 horsepower or less may be used on the following lakes: Cauchon, Cauliflower, Grand, Joe, Little Joe, Madawaska, Manitou, North Tea, Radiant, Rain, Teepee and Travers.

(d) Motors of 6 horsepower or less may be used, except from the last Friday in June to the first Monday in September inclusive, on the following lakes: Big Crow, Hogan, La Muir, Proulx (and river to), Little Crow and White Partridge.

7. Caching of Motor Boats and Canoes: Canoes and boats may not be left unattended in Algonquin except by written authority from the Park Superintendent, except on Little Cauchon Lake at the Carl Wilson Lake portage; Little Cedar Lake at the entrance to Aura Lee Lake; Manitou Lake at the Three Mile and Shada Lake portages; North Tea Lake at the Manitou Lake portage; Opeongo

Lake at the Happy Isle, Redrock, Proulx, and Wright Lake portages; Rock Lake at the Pen and Louisa Lake portages; and Smoke Lake at the Ragged Lake portage, and all marked portages off of Cedar, Grand, Kioshkowi, Mangotasi, and White Partridge. All boats and canoes must be removed from the Park at the completion of each trip.

8. Camping in the Park Interior: Camping on canoe routes (and backpacking trails) is permitted only at designated campsites. Each one is marked on the ground by an orange sign and on the official Canoe Route Map by a red or black triangle. To avoid overcrowding, the number of camping parties is limited. To avoid disappointment, use the Reservation Service at **1-888-668-7275** and at **www.ontarioparks.com/reservations.html**. At the time you reserve or buy your permit, you will be asked to specify your route. If space is available, your permit will then list certain lakes where you may camp and the nights when you may camp on those lakes. You must not camp on other lakes or at times not specified on your permit because they may be reserved to other groups.

9. Closed Roads: Roads not shown on the large Canoe Route Map are closed to vehicles and, except where noted in #10 below, to bicycles also. Road closures in the field are indicated by gates and/or signs, and/or red circles on either side of the road.

10. Bicycles: Bicycles and other pedal-operated conveyances are permitted off public roads in Algonquin only on designated trails and (otherwise closed) roads - indicated on a smaller map on the back of the Canoe Routes Map, by thin solid red lines.

11. Noise Restrictions: To preserve the tranquility ...

(a) The possession or use of chainsaws, powersaws, or similar devices are prohibited in all of Algonquin Park from April 1 through the Monday of the (Canadian) Thanksgiving Weekend.

(b) The possession or use of gasoline generators, radios, cassette players, or other electronic listening devices (except two-way radios or Walkmans) are prohibited in the Interior of Algonquin Park from April 1 through the Monday of the (Canadian) Thanksgiving Weekend.

12. Pet Regulations: All pets must be on a leash not greater in length than 2 metres at all times.

You must be in control of your pet at all times. Poop and scoop is mandatory.

Dogs are permitted on many hiking trails (on leashes) but are always prohibited on the Mizzy Lake Trail.

These summarized regulations represent the official enforceable rules that govern our behavior in the interior of the park. The other side of this pamphlet provides ethical guidelines that help to preserve and protect Algonquin, to guard our wellbeing and to smooth our social interactions while in the park.



GUIDELINES FOR THE INTERIOR OF ALGONQUIN PARK



Algonquin's solitude and beautiful natural environment attract us to its lakes and hills. However, unless we take special care, our own activities can degrade the very qualities for which we appreciate Algonquin.

There are a number of official regulations governing our activities while in the park. Also, there are numerous ethical practices which help us to further preserve and protect Algonquin's unique environment.

This pamphlet is a collection of practical and ethical guidelines for caring for Algonquin's lakes, rivers, forests, campsites, portages, trails, wildlife and peaceful beauty ... as well as for outdoor etiquette and safe practices.



You're encouraged to incorporate these guidelines into your personal outdoor ethics as you enjoy the wonders of Algonquin. This pamphlet is produced by **www.algonquinadventures.com**, a website for campers, canoeists, hikers and naturalists who enjoy Algonquin Park.



GUIDELINES FOR THE INTERIOR OF ALGONQUIN PARK



Planning:

When you spread out your canoe route or hiking trail map, the paddling, portaging or hiking distances and their corresponding travel-times appear to be the main planning factors. However, you should maintain an honest awareness of stamina, skills and activity preferences.

Do you want a grand tour, seeing as many lakes as possible with long demanding days? Or, do you want chances to explore, see wildlife, fish, swim and relax?

Campsites:

Some campsites don't have enough flat areas for more than a couple of tents. Groups with more than a pair of tents should check that a site will accommodate their group, before unloading canoes or packs. It's not acceptable to destroy vegetation to make a tent-site.

Overworn sites are often closed and posted with a symbol-sign showing a red line through a tent. Don't use these sites for anything more than rest-stops.

Vegetation:

The harming of live trees eventually opens up the overhead canopy. This allows rain to erode a site's humus floor, exposing roots and rocks. This results in an oversized, rough and hard-packed site. The repetition of this process around a site's edge enlarges it even further.

Bring along a collapsable saw for cutting dead-wood fuel. Hatchets and axes are too dangerous in remote areas, far from medical aid. They also tempt careless and destructive use that damages live trees. Bring carrying-cord and be prepared to walk a distance to find dead wood for fuel.

Campfires:

Only use an existing fire-pit. It's a pit hacked out of the organic soil, filled with mineral soil and topped with a ring of containment stones. These stones should not be moved to a location more to your liking. Without the barrier of mineral soil, a campfire can smolder through organic soil and flare-up later. Re-aligning containment stones inward, can reduce a fire-pit's size and cut fuel consumption by up to 75%.

Food Storage:

Food should be kept in airtight containers and stored in a food-pack, hung at least 10' off the ground and 7' from adjacent trees or branches, well away from your tent. Ropes should be strong, narrow and in lengths of 40' and 20' .. each end equipped with a metal snap. Either hoist the food bag straight-up over an overhead branch or midway between two trees. A circular plastic disk (bottom of a plastic pail), threaded above your hanging food pack, serves as a barrier to descending raccoons and mice.

Fire Bans:

Fire bans are provincial regulations invoked under extremely dry local conditions, requiring campers to use alternative means of cooking. Bans are posted at Access Points and are also communicated verbally.

Portable stoves are a quicker and easier way to cook. When it's raining, the wind is high or firewood is unavailable .. a stove is the best way to cook. Always carry one along.



Clean Sites:

Campsites should be kept clean of food and food wrappers. Every size of creature, from mice to bears, can be attracted to a campsite that smells of food. Discarded food scraps will encourage them to search further, into packs and tents. If you cannot promptly burn such items, they should be stowed in an airtight plastic container and then hoisted-up in the yellow garbage bag that's provided at each Access Point office, along with your food pack.

If you are cleaning fish, do so at a great distance from any campsite, disposing of unwanted parts far from sites, lakes and streams.

A vinyl collapsable bucket is the ideal thing to wash dishes in. Use bio-degradable soap and dispose of dishwater far from campsite, thunderbox, streams and shorelines.

Toilet use should be restricted to the wooden "thunderbox" provided at each campsite. If one has to "go" while travelling, use a location well away from trails, shoreline or streams. Dig a 4 to 8 inch "cat-hole" and cover it over when finished.

Control of Dogs:

If you do bring your dog along, don't let it loose to explore. It could easily meet a bear and come running back to you, with the bear right behind. Dogs can also get themselves into dangerous encounters with skunks, porcupines, wolves and other wildlife.

A child can easily be scared or bitten by a dog that's running

loose. Letting a dog run up-and-down a portage is dangerous to other people who are trying to carry canoes and heavy packs over rocks and boardwalks. A dog's barking is not appreciated by other campers, nor by the wildlife. Most importantly, wildlife doesn't deserve to be harassed or attacked by dogs.

"Poop-and Scoop" is standard practice at campsites and on portages. Carry adequate small plastic bags for the chore. Most dogs don't enjoy being kept on a leash in such surroundings. It's usually kinder to all involved to leave one's dog at home in someone else's care.



Social Etiquette

Bad weather or a medical problem may force you to stay at a site until conditions improves. If you're located on a large lake, chances are that empty sites remain to counter your unplanned presence. However, if you're located on a lake with a small number of sites, you should appreciate the awkward position your presence puts arriving canoeist in. If you're "shorebound" due to dangerous lake conditions, any other party unfortunate enough to be searching for a site on your windswept lake, deserves your welcoming gestures and open hospitality. Under such conditions, generously sharing the site is the decent thing to do.

Likewise, if you find the only site on your scheduled night's lake occupied by someone with an incapacitating migraine or a swollen ankle, don't wave your permit in their face and try to send them packing. Rather, insist on being their site-neighbour and on helping them however you can. Again, generosity and camaraderie are called for.

The same considerations and generosity toward others should extend to encounters out the water, as well as when on portages and trails.

The innocent shrieking of children or a paddle banging on an aluminum canoe can easily take on the dimensions of disruptive noise.

On the other hand, the soft laughter of children or a gentle campfire sing-song wafting across a lake after sunset can add the pleasing realization that others are also under Algonquin's wonderful spell.

