

Paddle Routes OF THE OTTAWA VALLEY



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Valley

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ONTARIO'S ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

Healthy Living Partnership and Renfrew County and District Health Unit

The Healthy Living Partnership and the Renfrew County and District Health Unit have supported the creation of this guide in order to promote opportunities for regular physical activity for everyone. It is our hope that this guide will allow you to be more active as you discover the trails of the Ottawa Valley.

Discover the Benefits of Physical Activity

- Physical activity reduces fatigue and increases energy.
- Physical activity relieves stress and tension.
- Physical activity strengthens bones and helps control osteoporosis.
- Regular physical activity increases the number of calories you expend. When combined with healthy eating, being active will help you maintain a healthy weight and positive body image.
- Regular physical activity can reduce blood pressure and elevated blood fats.
- Regular physical activity can reduce the risk of developing heart disease, stroke and some cancers.

Healthy Living Partnership

The Healthy Living Partnership is an alliance of organizations working together to strengthen the ability of groups and individuals in our community to take action on reducing the prevalence of the modifiable risk factors for chronic diseases in our community. The Healthy Living Partnership is sponsored by the Renfrew County and District Health Unit. For more information please call 613-735- 8651.



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

Healthy Living
PARTNERSHIP
Eat smart. Be active. Clear the air.

Introduction

Waterways have been the life veins of Canada for millennia - used by our First Nations people, early European explorers, missionaries and soldiers, traders and voyageurs, loggers and settlers and now - recreational paddlers. The Ottawa River was the primary access route to much of North America in the early years of exploration and settlement. The Ottawa and its' many tributaries flowing out of the Laurentian Mountains of Quebec and the Algonquin Highlands of Ontario, provide thousands of kilometres of rivers, lakes, rapids and wetlands - something for every paddler to explore and enjoy.

This collection of paddle routes is assembled to help you explore the many waterways of the Ottawa Valley. Please bear in mind that this is not a complete listing but is a representative sample of the many paddling opportunities for canoeists and kayakers of all skill levels and interests. We have selected a range of trips from a few hours and kilometres in length to weekend and multi-day routes.

What will you experience when you Paddle the Ottawa Valley?

You will enter a Paddlers Paradise!

Streams and creeks, marshes and wetlands, rivers and lakes, rapids and waterfalls, cliffs and forests are all here for you to experience and enjoy. Wildlife abounds with moose and deer, beavers and bears, eagles and hawks, wolves and waterfowl - all for you to see, photograph and remember.

While we provide some of the information you require to plan your paddle trips in the Ottawa Valley, we strongly encourage you to prepare yourself with additional research. Our travel directions to put-ins and take-outs are not always the only possible routes. We list routes that are the simplest to describe from major centres or transportation corridors. Consult road maps and other resources to determine the route best suited to your starting location and personal knowledge of the area.



Economic Development

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www.ottawavalley.org

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The Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) as well as its partners, members and any other businesses, individuals, agencies, associations listed in this guide assume no liability for any damages or injuries received during the use of any of the information, paddle routes, waterways, portages, trails, roadways and facilities listed in this guide.

Any use of these paddle routes, waterways, portages, trails, roadways and facilities is entirely at your own risk.

Portage and route descriptions can vary due to changes in water levels and property rights. Any attempts at whitewater running should never be considered without prior personal inspection. We have endeavoured to ensure that the information provided in this guide is accurate, but users of this information should be aware that the information contained here is derived from a variety of sources including; old route descriptions, trip logs, personal experience and map sources. As a paddler, you must be able to determine whether the actual conditions on the water match those described herein, and have the ability to assess whether your equipment and skill level are appropriate to paddle the route safely. This information is for reference use only, and as such, you use it entirely at your risk. We accept no responsibility for any death, loss, injury or damage incurred while using this information.

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GENERATION

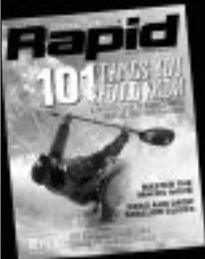
Celebrate Canadian Rivers Day
by taking part in this annual
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Safety

Paddlesports by nature are inherently risky as they involve being on waterways, often in wilderness areas where accessibility is limited. Emergency assistance is not always readily available. Please paddle within your ability and fitness level and exercise caution concerning weather, water temperature and conditions, and distance to be traveled.

Classification of Waterways and Whitewater Rapids - The guide describes the type of waterway as: flatwater, lake, whitewater, wetland or a combination of these types of waters, so that you have an idea of what to expect on a specific route. Where there are rapids we have assigned a 'Class' from 1 to 6 based on an international standard where 1 is least dangerous and 6 is most dangerous. Here is a summary of the whitewater classification system.

Please remember - always scout a rapid.

Class 1 Moving water with a few riffles and small waves, few or no obstructions.

Class 2 Easy rapids with waves up to 1 meter high, wide clear channels. Some maneuvering is required.

Class 3 Rapids with high, irregular waves capable of swamping an open canoe. Narrow channels that often require complex maneuvering.

Class 4 Long; difficult rapids with constricted passages that often require precise maneuvering in very turbulent waters. Rescue conditions are difficult. Generally not possible for open canoes. Paddlers must have ability to roll their craft upright if it is flipped.

Class 5 Extremely difficult, long and very turbulent rapids with complicated routes. Rescue conditions are difficult. Significant hazard to life in the event of a mishap.

Class 6 All the difficulties of Class 5 rapids carried to the extreme of navigability. Very dangerous, for experts with team and rescue support only.

Take a Lesson - Certainly you can learn to paddle yourself but it is beneficial to learn from a professional instructor. Our list of [Local Resources](#) identifies Ottawa Valley paddlesport outfitters who provide instruction, shuttles, equipment sales and rentals.

Which side of the River? - An international convention to determine which side of a river is being referred to is utilized in this guide, and most others across the world. Left and right on a river become River Left or River Right, determined by the direction of flow of the water. River Left is the left side of the river when facing downstream and River Right is the right side of the river when facing downstream. Once that is established the sides of the river are referred to on that basis, even when looking upstream.

Prepare - You must educate, equip and prepare yourself in order to minimize the likelihood of placing yourself and your companions in a dangerous situation and so that you can properly deal with any emergencies that might develop. Adopt the Boy Scout motto and "Be Prepared". Maps and guidebooks do not replace common sense.

Communications - There presently is cell phone service along the Highway 17 and Ottawa River corridor and increasingly along Highways 60 and 41. However, cell service is not consistent across the Ottawa Valley. Do not count on cell phones for emergencies.

Float Plan - It is critical to write out a float plan - information about where you are paddling and when you expect to return. Leave it with someone responsible so that authorities have a good idea of where you might be found, should you be overdue and authorities are called in to locate you.

Water Temperature - Exposure to cold water can result in hypothermia and death so it would be prudent not to paddle far from shore when water temperatures are cold, unless your party is properly dressed in wetsuits or drysuits. Generally, lakes and rivers in the Ottawa Valley do not warm up to tolerable temperatures until mid-June and have cooled off significantly by mid-October.

Lif jackets/Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) - Every person in a watercraft must have an approved PFD. The best thing to do is to wear your PFD. An emergency is sudden and unexpected - you won't receive a warning that it is time to put on your PFD and safety gear.

Provincial Parks - Some of the paddle routes guide you into provincial parks. All rules and regulations of provincial parks must be adhered to when traveling within provincial park boundaries. Registration is often required, sometimes in advance and, in some parks, fees are payable for day use, overnight camping and vehicle registration. Camping is only permitted on approved and marked campsites. Hunting is not permitted.

Portages and Campsite - Not all portages and campsites are marked and maintained on the routes listed. Even in some of the provincial parks maintenance and marking of campsites is not always assured. Exercise caution, especially around rapids so that you do not pass the portage point.

Farm Property and Farm Animals - Please stay clear of farm animals, structures and buildings.

Private Property - Please respect private property and any signage, fencing or indicators of 'no trespassing'.

Safety Equipment - Here are the basic safety equipment requirements of the Canadian Coast Guard/Transport Canada for canoes and kayaks less than 6 metres in length. For additional information and details: www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety.

- 1 Canadian-approved personal flotation device (pfd) or lifejacket of appropriate size for each person on board.
- 1 buoyant heaving line no less than 15 metres (50 feet) in length
- 1 spare paddle
- 1 bailer or manual water pump
- A sound-signalling device - whistle, air horn
- Navigation lights, if the vessel is to be operated after sunset

Algonquin Bound – Madawaska
800-704-4537 • 613-637-5508
www.algonquinbound.com

Algonquin East Gate Motel and Outfitters – Whitney
613-637-2652
www.algonquineastgatemotel.com

Algonquin Portage – Pembroke
613-735-1795
www.algonquinportage.com

Barry's Bay Outfitters – Barry's Bay
888-779-7705 • 613-756-9009
www.barrysbayoutfitters.com

Campers Life Canoe and Kayak Rentals – Eganville
613-628-1300

Greater Madawaska Canoe Rentals – Griffith
613-333-2240

Esprit Rafting – Quebec
800-596-7238
www.espritrafting.com/thepointe.html

Linke to the Outdoors – Pembroke
613-732-8575
www.linketotheoutdoors.com

Madawaska Kanu Centre
Barry's Bay
613-756-3620
www.owl-mkc.ca

Opeongo Outfitters – Whitney
800-790-1864 • 613-637-5470
www.opeongooutfitters.com

OWL Rafting – Foresters Falls
800-461-7238
www.owlrafting.com

Paddler Co-op – Palmer Rapids
613-758-2772
www.paddlerco-op.com

River's Edge Canoe Co.
Haley Station
613-432-6283
www.riversedgecanoe.ca

Riverland Camp and Outfitters
Madawaska
800-701-8055 • 613-637-5338
www.riverlandlodge.com

RiverRun Rafting & Paddling Centre
Foresters Falls
800-267-8504
www.riverrunners.com

Valley Ventures – Deep River
613-584-2577
www.valleyvent.ca

Wilderness Tours Whitewater Rafting and Adventure Resort
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County of Renfrew 1.800.273.0183
www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca

Enterprise Renfrew County 1.613.432.6848 1.613.735.8224
www.enterisereenfrewcounty.com

Algonquin Provincial Park 1.888.668.7275
www.algonquinpark.on.ca

- ✓ Campsite Reservations
- ✓ Permits & Information

Friends of Algonquin Park
<http://store.algonquinpark.on.ca>

- ✓ Source for maps and guidebooks
- ✓ Waterways, trails and nature

Bonnechere Provincial Park 1.888.668.7275 1.613.757.2103
www.ontarioparks.com/english/bonn.html

Friends of Bonnechere Park
<http://www.bonnecherepark.on.ca/html/friends>

- ✓ Source of maps and guidebooks about waterways
- ✓ Trails and nature in and around Bonnechere Provincial Park and the Bonnechere River

Interactive Mapping Tool - Renfrew County GeoSmart
www.renfrewcountygeosmart.ca

- ✓ Find points of interest
- ✓ Locate waterways
- ✓ Create maps

Float Plane Service - Air Swisha 1.877.610.3474
www.airswisha.com

- ✓ Dumoine River
- ✓ Noire River
- ✓ Coulonge River
- ✓ Custom Flight Service

Madawaska River – Palmer Rapids

A popular spot on the Madawaska River in Eastern Ontario. This is a really excellent place to learn the basic skills of paddling. The rapids are divided into three sections starting just below the dam with an easy rapid, which leads into a short steep Class 3 chute to the right of an island. A flat section now leads into the final long Class 2 rapid which has a nice play spot at the bottom. This whole section can be very exciting in high water.

How to get there

From Eastern Ontario, Ottawa, and Montreal: take Hwy 417 and 17 west from Ottawa until you reach Renfrew. Take the second exit (Hwy 60). From there you have options. You can stay on Hwy 60 to Eganville, turn south on Hwy 41, and soon after, west on Hwy 512 to Foymount. Alternatively, you can take Hwy 132 out of Renfrew as far as Dacre, turn north on Hwy 41, and soon after, west on the Opeongo Road (#64) to Foymount. (The latter route may be slightly shorter). Either way, at Foymount, take Hwy 515, cross the Madawaska River at Latchford Bridge, and re-cross it again at Palmer Rapids.

From Southern Ontario, Toronto and the Hwy 401 corridor: take Hwy 62 north from the 401 to Bancroft, then Hwy 28 east to Road 514 north to Palmer Rapids. (see *Lower Madawaska profile*)

Put-in/Take-out

On County Road 515, approximately 3 km west of the village of Palmer Rapids turn west onto Palmer Rapids Dam Road. 250 metres(m) down the road turn left into the public access area put-in, with parking and toilets.

Lat. N 45.328854

Long. W 77.536499

On-Water Directions

➤ This is a “park and play” spot where you will stay in the general area of the rapid portaging and running the rapid repeatedly. Those using this area as the starting point for an actual river trip will most likely wish to travel downstream to benefit from the current rather than having to fight against it.

Description:

Whitewater

Ratings: Class 2 to 3

Season: May to October

CAUTION: *Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Caution: Ontario Power Generation (OPG) operates hydroelectric power generating dams and stations along this river, and many others. For safety reasons they request that you stay well clear of all hydroelectric stations, dams, shorelines and surrounding waterways. Portage routes are signposted and cleared for your use - please stay on the portage trails. Be alert for and obey all warnings, signs, audible alerts, booms and buoys.*

STAY CLEAR AND STAY SAFE!

Things to see:

- ☞ Scenery
- ☞ Wildlife
- ☞ Palmer Rapids Twin Music Festival www.palmer Rapids.ca/
- ☞ Palmerfest Whitewater Paddling Festival (www.rapidmedia.com/palmerfest)

Resources:

“Madawaska River – Opeongo River Whitewater Guide” by George Drought; Published by Friends of Algonquin Park

“Scout the Madawaska River “
Multimedia Tripguide
www.riverviewmultimedia.com

Madawaska River – Lower Section

The Madawaska (nicknamed the Mad) is a paddler's playground. There are a few mandatory portages like Slate Falls, so care and proper scouting should always be observed before attempting any rapids.

Like the Upper section, classic Canadian Shield but with much easier rapids. Long flatwater paddle to the first rapid, popular with canoeists all summer long. High to medium flows, especially in spring, are appealing to kayakers and lower summer flows suitable for novice paddlers and groups with young children. The Lower Mad is an excellent learning river.

Description:

Flat to whitewater

Ratings: Class 1 to 6

Season: April to November
Spring levels are high

CAUTION: *Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Caution: Ontario Power Generation (OPG) operates hydroelectric power generating dams and stations along this river, and many others. For safety reasons they request that you stay well clear of all hydroelectric stations, dams, shorelines and surrounding waterways. Portage routes are signposted and cleared for your use - please stay on the portage trails. Be alert for and obey all warnings, signs, audible alerts, booms and buoys.*

STAY CLEAR AND STAY SAFE!

Things to see:

- ☞ Scenery ☞ Wildlife
- ☞ Madawaska Valley Art and Craft Festival
- ☞ Wooden water tower - Barry's Bay
- ☞ Zurakowski Park, 1/3 scale model of Avro Arrow and tribute to test pilot of the Avro Arrow - Barry's Bay
- ☞ Campsites are marked Provincial Park – note periodic maintenance

Resources:

"Madawaska River – Opeongo River Whitewater Guide" by George Drought; Published by Friends of Algonquin Park

"Scout the Madawaska River "
Multimedia Tripguide
www.riverviewmultimedia.com

This section is controlled by dams, which can affect the flow.

Islands create different channels and routes at some rapids.

How to get there

The Lower Madawaska is a 40 km trip, 2 to 3-day paddle from Aumond's Bay, Palmer Rapids to the village of Griffith at Hwy 41. One-day trips are possible from Aumond's Bay to Buck Bay or from Buck Bay to Griffith.

Put-in

At Aumond's Bay near Quadeville and Palmer Rapids.

Lat. N 45.268045

Long. W 77.379045

Take-out A: Buck Bay

From Quadeville follow the Green Lake Forest Access Road for 13 km to the Buck Bay access sign. Turn right and follow Buck Bay Road for 1 km to a gate and open area. Walk or portage the remaining 200 m to the river's edge.

Lat. N 45.229339

Long. W 77.305848

Take-out B: Griffith at Hwy 41

From Quadeville follow the same road as for Buck Bay right through to its junction with Hwy 41. There is parking just upstream off the highway bridge along the river left side.

Lat. N 45.242933

Long. W 77.177345

Madawaska River – Upper Section

This section is controlled by dams, which can affect the flow. The Upper Madawaska is 27 km of challenging whitewater, running almost due east from Whitney to just short of the village of Madawaska.

An excellent and difficult spring run, which can be done in one day, with most of the water disappearing by the end of May. The first two-thirds of its route runs through fairly rough but attractive country with lots of rock outcrops causing many of the rapids. In the final 5 km, the country starts to open out into what becomes a quiet, winding river. If pushed, and traveling light, you can travel the whole section in a day. There is an abandoned railroad bed running along the rivers right side for the entire run so scouting and portaging is simple.

Some of the rapids are very serious high water and should be approached with great caution.

How to get there

The village of Whitney is located on Hwy 60 just east of Algonquin Park.

Put-in

On the west bank of the river, south of the highway, and just below the dam and bridge.

There is public parking.

Take-out

From the village of Madawaska on Hwy 60 follow the Victoria-McCauley Lake Road northwest until it crosses the Madawaska River about 7.5 km from Hwy 60.

Shuttle 22 km each way.

On-Water Directions

➤ Start just below the dam in Whitney at the Hwy 60 bridge. End at McCauley Lake Road, Madawaska (Hwy 60).

Description:

Whitewater

Ratings: Class 2 to 5

Season: May to early June

CAUTION: Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Caution: Ontario Power Generation (OPG) operates hydroelectric power generating dams and stations along this river, and many others. For safety reasons they request that you stay well clear of all hydroelectric stations, dams, shorelines and surrounding waterways. Portage routes are signposted and cleared for your use - please stay on the portage trails. Be alert for and obey all warnings, signs, audible alerts, booms and buoys.

STAY CLEAR AND STAY SAFE!

Things to see:

- 🏞 Scenery
- 🦋 Wildlife

Resources:

"Madawaska River – Opeongo River Whitewater Guide" by George Drought; Published by Friends of Algonquin Park

"Scout the Madawaska River"
Multimedia Tripguide
www.riverviewmultimedia.com

No permit is needed

Madawaska River – Calabogie to Burnstown

The Madawaska River originates in Algonquin Park flowing hundreds of kms until it reaches the Ottawa River at Arnprior. Ontario Power Generation (OPG) has recently built portage routes for paddlers around their hydropower dams and installations to aid paddlers. While the Madawaska has many rapids, further upstream this section is largely flatwater except in the spring and high water situations (heavy rainfall and peak hydro power demand) when a class 1-2 rapid develops around Springtown, midway to Burnstown. There is a steady current downstream so it is recommended that you plan a one-way trip and set up a shuttle at the public beach in Burnstown.

How to get there

Exit Hwy 17, midway between Renfrew and Arnprior, onto County Road 508 (Calabogie Road) and travel 23 km to Calabogie. Don't forget to set up your shuttle in Burnstown.

Description:

Point to Point
Flatwater with a few swifts

Ratings: Class 1 to 2

Season: May to October

CAUTION: *Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Caution: Ontario Power Generation (OPG) operates hydroelectric power generating dams and stations along this river, and many others. For safety reasons they request that you stay well clear of all hydroelectric stations, dams, shorelines and surrounding waterways. Portage routes are signposted and cleared for your use - please stay on the portage trails. Be alert for and obey all warnings, signs, audible alerts, booms and buoys.*

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Things to see:

☞ Scenery - Steep forested hillside
☞ Wildlife - Osprey - Bald Eagle -
Waterfowl - Muskrat

Resources:

"Scout the Madawaska River "
Multimedia Tripguide
www.riverviewmultimedia.com

Put-in

Cherry Point picnic site on Hwy 508,
3 km east of Calabogie.

Take-out

Public beach on Hwy 508, 500 m east
of downtown Burnstown.

Lat. N 45.385602

Long. W 76.568529

On-Water Directions

➤ Paddle 13 km downstream to
Burnstown. You will travel through the
old bridge pylons, then under the
elevated Burnstown Bridge.

➤ Shortly after the bridge you will be
at Burnstown Beach, which is located
on your left. There are washrooms
onsite.

Madawaska River at Burnstown

Burnstown is a small, historic hamlet located at the junction of County Road 508 and County Road 52. This is a particularly scenic flatwater stretch of the Madawaska River and there is a public beach, which is an ideal put-in for paddle trips located 400 m east of Burnstown on Hwy 508.

Put-in/Take-out

There are two ways to get to the canoe launch. Go north of Arnprior on Hwy 17 to the turn off at Hwy 508 to Burnstown and Calabogie. About 1 km before Burnstown is a municipal park along the Madawaska River where you can put in the canoe. ***Depending upon availability, there will be someone who collects \$1.00 for launching canoes.***

The second way to get there is to turn west in the village of Pakenham on Waba Road (Scoops is just around the corner) and travel to White Lake. Turn north at the intersection and Burnstown is the next hamlet. At the junction just over the big bridge, turn right and the park is down that road about 1 km.

Lat. N 45.389813

Long. W 76.570735

On-Water Directions

➤ Launch your canoe and travel down stream (to the left) following the shoreline and exploring the little bays. Upon arriving before the big Stewartville Dam, glide across the river to a sloping pasture, where you can stop for lunch. After lunch, follow the south shoreline back to the park.

Description:

Flatwater

Season: May to October

CAUTION:

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Caution: Ontario Power Generation (OPG) operates hydroelectric power generating dams and stations along this river, and many others. For safety reasons they request that you stay well clear of all hydroelectric stations, dams, shorelines and surrounding waterways. Portage routes are signposted and cleared for your use - please stay on the portage trails. Be alert for and obey all warnings, signs, audible alerts, booms and buoys.

STAY CLEAR AND STAY SAFE!

Things to see:

- 🏞️ Scenery
- 🦋 Wildlife

Resources:

“Scout the Madawaska River “
Multimedia Tripguide
www.riverviewmultimedia.com

Bissett Creek

Bissett Creek flows from Big Bissett Lake in Algonquin Park to the Ottawa River. Waterloo Lake (lake trout and brook trout), drains via Waterloo Creek into Bissett Creek near the Algonquin Park boundary. Closer to Algonquin Park, Bissett Creek is more rugged, containing small waterfalls and large boulders in the creek bed. Bissett Creek is flatter and shallower as it meanders through relatively flat terrain towards the Ottawa River.

How to get there

North eastern section (starts outside park) off Hwy 17 at the village of Bissett Creek.

Put-in/Take-out

Hwy 17 at village of Bissett Creek.

Lat. N 46.22450

Long. W 78.06841

On-Water Directions

➤ Out and back trip from the village.

Description:

Flat to whitewater out & back

Ratings: Class 1 to 2

Season: May to October

Things to see:

- ☞ Scenery
- ☞ Wildlife – Moose
- ☞ Fishing

Grants Creek

This canoe route winds through small lakes, a large marsh (a provincially significant wetland) and includes rapids, a waterfall and plentiful wildlife, on the northern tip of Renfrew County. The headwaters of Grants Creek are at Chateau Lake located on the border of Algonquin Provincial Park, and travels 18 km to Grants Creek Bay on the Ottawa River. The creek is an Ontario Provincial Park due to its ecological importance. An easy half-day trip takes you 4 km return to a pleasant picnic and swimming spot. A one-day trip is 12 km return, with 3 portages: 200 m (steep); 200 m (very steep and rocky); 600 m (flat and easy going) through a winding creek, small lakes and a large marsh.

How to get there

Travel 3 km west of the village of Stonecliffe on Hwy 17.

Easy half-day trip: 4 km to first portage and back.

Moderate one-day trip: 12 km to the end of the marsh and back.

Put-in/Take-out

3 kms west of Stonecliffe on Hwy 17, on the south side of Hwy 17 is a parking area and put-in.

Do not drive over the wooden bridge as it is designed only for snowmobiles.

Lat. N 46.211958

Long. W 77.929509

On-Water Directions

- Canoe up the creek until you reach a set of rapids.
- Those wanting an easy half-day trip can walk without their canoes over the steep 200 m portage (left of the rapids) to Logslide Lake. Those on the full-day trip portage to Logslide Lake.
- Cross Logslide Lake and view the crashing waterfall. Take a 200 m portage left of the waterfall. This is a steep and rocky portage to Spencer Lake.
- Canoe across Spencer Lake and take a 600 m level, easy-going portage to Grants Creek Marsh.
- Canoe through the Marsh. Look out for the Great Blue Heronry that is situated on the western side, about halfway, along the marsh.
- At the end of the 3 km long marshy area is another of several portages that take you further along the creek, especially in high water. However, it is recommended for the day trip to turn around at the end of the marsh and go back the way you came to your vehicle.

Description:

Flatwater with waterfalls that must be portaged.
Half day trip – easy
Full day trip – moderate

Ratings: Class 1

Season: May to October

Things to see:

- ☞ Scenery
- ☞ Wildlife
- ☞ Many picnic and swimming opportunities.
- ☞ There are Pitcher plants that feed on insects on the island in the middle of the marsh.
- ☞ Paddle by an active Great Blue Heronry.
- ☞ Watch for ducks and Double-Crested Cormorants.

Please be considerate of this fragile natural environment. View the heronry from afar; do not approach or disturb the nesting birds.

Indian River

This section has a gentle flow of water and with the exception of Indian River Falls, has no excessively challenging rapids or portage points. Intersecting with Hwy 17, County Road 58, Sandy Beach Road, Dorset Trail and Springdale Access Road, much of the river is road accessible along its 35 km length. This creating many opportunities for paddle trips ranging from a few hours to a full day or more. While it is located conveniently close to many roads this is hardly noticeable as one paddles along the river. In most places the most one would probably notice the roads and highway is the rumbling sound of trucks in the distance. The route offers beautiful wooded slopes, which are especially beautiful as deciduous trees change colour in the fall.

In dry periods low water levels may make some sections of the river difficult to paddle over.

This route is ideal for families and casual adventurers who want to spend a day or two on the river

Description:

Narrow winding river with wetland sections. Best water levels in spring and early summer.

Ratings: Class 1 to 2

Season: May to October

CAUTION: *Look out for strainers, especially in the early season.*

Things to see:

- ☞ Scenery
- ☞ Wildlife
 - Blue Heron
 - Ducks
 - Beavers
 - Moose
 - Otters
 - Mink
 - Waterfowl
 - Songbirds
 - Deer
 - Turtles

Put-in A:

Indian River Bridge at Road 58

Lat. N 45.735359

Long. W 77.336296

Put-in B:

Village of Alice, Borne Road

Lat. N 45.763689

Long. W 77.286651

Take-out:

Farmers Market, Pembroke

Lat. N 45.828427

Long. W 77.114225

On-Water Directions

- As there is a steady current in most of the river all season you should plan your trip for mostly downstream travel and arrange a shuttle.
- Lower summer water levels may require walking or lifting your craft at shallow sections.
- Be prepared to maneuver over many beaver dams.

Snake River

This route is wonderful for nature and wildlife viewings, it runs through the Snake River Conservation Reserve, a provincially significant wetland system.

Samuel de Champlain also passed this way in 1615, when he canoed along the lake on his exploration of the Ottawa River.

How to get there

On Hwy 17, about 12 km west of the village of Cobden, turn northeast onto Cornerview Road and follow the road to the next intersection. The put-in is located here.

Put-in/Take-out: Muskrat Lake

Turn right at the intersection and park your car on the shoulder of the road.

Lat. N 45.715859

Long. W 76.967341

On-Water Directions

➤ Paddle southwest to the right or “up” Muskrat Lake from the put-in. Muskrat Lake is 14 km long and lies in a preglacial valley that occupies an old fault line. The western shore of this long, narrow lake abuts a clay plain, while to the east an escarpment of Precambrian Rock rises more than 60 m.

➤ Enter the Snake River, which flows into Muskrat Lake from the west. Paddle upstream as far as your time permits.

Description:

Easy flat water

Season: May to November

Things to see:

- ☞ Scenery
- ☞ Wildlife
 - Migrating ducks
 - Otters and muskrat
 - Sandhill Crane
 - Wood ducks
 - Green heron

Chalk River

This is an easily accessible paddle on flatwater, suitable for novices. The easiest put-in is at the bridge, approximately 5 km east of the village of Chalk River, where Hwy 17 crosses the Chalk River. Paddling upstream there are several kms of meandering through a marsh area with many wildlife-viewing opportunities. The Petawawa Research Forest access road is at this put-in point and offers an interesting opportunity to view forest ecology.

Washrooms, forestry and tourism information is available during the summer season. Parking is available spring-fall.

Drive, hike or bike around the research forest as an additional activity.

How to get there

The Chalk River lends itself to a range of different day (or partial day) trips, through the lower marsh to Corry Lake and return in an hour or two.

Put-in/Take-out

From Hwy 17 turn onto Clouthier Road at Petawawa Research Forest Visitor Centre and park across the road at the shoreline. Out & back trip from Hwy 17 at Petawawa Research Forest.

Lat. N 45.992828

Long. W 77.399840

On-Water Directions

➤ From Hwy 17 paddle upstream.

Description:

Flatwater, small lakes

Season: April to November

Things to see:

📷 Scenery

- 📷 Wildlife
- Red winged blackbirds
 - Turkey vultures
 - Water fowl
 - Moose
 - Black bear
 - Various turtles

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OTTAWA VALLEY

Ottawa River

The Ottawa River offers many possible paddle trips and is ideal for touring kayaks and canoes. The Ottawa resonates with history as it was a travel route for First Nations people and then the primary access route to much of North America for European explorers, missionaries, fur traders, lumbermen and settlers.

The Quebec shoreline is dominated by the Laurentian Mountains and there are a number of huge cliffs right at the waters edge. The most spectacular of these cliffs is Oiseau Rock, approximately 12 km downstream of the town of Deep River. Many rivers and streams tumble out of the mountains and there are miles of sand beaches. Campsites are abundant and the water is warm enough for swimming from June to October.

Whitewater enthusiasts, please see our introduction to the world-class whitewater section of the Ottawa, the Rocher Fendu near Beachburg and Foresters Falls. The route descriptions within this guide - Ottawa River - Rocher Fendu and check out some of the excellent and comprehensive guidebooks available.

While we cannot describe all the possible routes on the Ottawa you can create a trip from a few hours to a few weeks in length. Over the flatwater sections of the Ottawa there is very little current - hydroelectric dams have created a series of long lakes for the most part. There are major rapids near the upstream end of Allumette Island, near Chapeau, Quebec and at the downstream end of Allumette Island, near Pembroke, Ontario.

From any town, campsite or resort along the river, you can initiate a river trip. With little discernible current you can choose an out & back trip to reduce your logistical/shuttle requirements. Most point-to-point paddlers do plan their trips to travel downstream. Hwy 17 provides easy access all along the Ontario shoreline from Arnprior (near Ottawa) to Mattawa. From Mattawa downstream to the Pembroke area, much of the shoreline of the Ottawa is public land available for camping. Along the entire length there are also campgrounds and resorts.

Here are just a few suggested routes:

1-Day Out & Back

- Deep River to Frasers Landing
- Rapides des Joachim to Point Alexander
- Pembroke to Allumette Island
- Petawawa to Fort William
- Arnprior to Norway Bay

2 - 3 Day Point to Point

- Deep River to Petawawa
- Mattawa to Bissett Creek
- Portage-du-Fort to Arnprior

Multi-Day Expeditions

- Mattawa to Arnprior (or Ottawa) (10 to 18 days)
- Rapides des Joachim to Petawawa (2-4 days)
- Petawawa to Arnprior (3 to 5 days)

Description:

Mostly flatwater
Rapids around Alouette Island and the Rocher Fendu.

Season: May to October

CAUTION: Ontario Power Generation

(OPG) Caution:

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) operates hydroelectric power generating dams and stations along this river, and many others. For safety reasons they request that you stay well clear of all hydroelectric stations, dams, shorelines and surrounding waterways. Portage routes are signposted and cleared for your use please stay on the portage trails. Be alert for and obey all warnings, signs, audible alerts, booms and buoys.

STAY CLEAR AND STAY SAFE!

Ottawa River Caution: The Ottawa is a big river and wind can create large waves capable of swamping a canoe. Beware of high wind and large wave conditions. Stay close to shore in spring and late fall when the water temperature is dangerously low.

Restricted Access: On the Ontario shoreline between Deep River and Petawawa there are two large federal government reserves; Atomic Energy of Canada (AECL) and Department of National Defense Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Petawawa. Public access is not permitted and the risk of personal injury from unexploded ordnance is very real. Please obey all signs and restrictions.

Things to see:

- ☞ Scenery
- ☞ Wildlife
- ☞ Beaches

Resources:

"Scouting the Ottawa River"
Multimedia Tripguide
www.riverviewmultimedia.com

"Ottawa River Whitewater"
2nd Edition by Jim Hargreaves

Ottawa River – Oiseau Rock

Oiseau Rock (Bird Rock) is a sheer cliff of granite, about 150 m high, situated on the Quebec shore of the Ottawa River at the bottom of the Deep River Reach. A half-dome mountain formed when the Ottawa Valley Fault sheared a mountain in half. The cliff has been a sacred spot to the First Nations for thousands of years, as

evidenced by pictographs, and tales of offerings left here. Tragically, many of the pictographs have been defaced by modern graffiti. The rock was much commented on by the European explorers. In the late 1800s, it was regularly visited by the steamboats plying the upper Ottawa. Currently, it is a favourite haunt of local boaters and paddlers. There is a beautiful lake at the top of the rock so bring your towel and swim suits. It is spectacular to view the rock from river level then hike 20-30 minutes to the top for a view of the Ottawa Valley and River.

Plan at least a one day trip from the various put-ins and a two day or longer trip, with camping on one of the many beaches along the river.

How to get there

No roads lead to Oiseau Rock so all access is by water. Road maps will show you where the various towns are situated and the launching points are all to be found in the downtown sections of town. Obtain a topo map or river charts to plan your trip.

Put-in/Take-out

You may begin and end your trip at many places - here are the four best sites.

Deep River, ON

Lat. N 46.107927

Long. W 77.490305

Petawawa, ON

Lat. N 45.913849

Long. W 77.260108

Pembroke, ON

Lat. N 45.828603

Long. W 77.116542

Fort William, QC

Lat. N 45.971964

Long. W 77.278998

On-Water Directions

> You may choose to do out and back trips or point-to-point.

> It is best to land at the sandy beach downstream of Oiseau Rock and hike up the well-marked trail from there.

Description:

Flatwater paddle on large river where wind and waves can become an issue, large and powerful enough to keep you on shore or to create dangerous paddling conditions. Pay attention to the weather.

Ratings: Class 1 to 2

Season: May to October

CAUTION: *Visitors to the cliff summit may; unfortunately, throw things off so do not paddle close under the cliff face. There is no fencing at the cliff edge on the summit so exercise extreme care, especially with children.*

Ontario Power Generation (OPG)

Caution:

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) operates hydroelectric power generating dams and stations along this river, and many others. For safety reasons they request that you stay well clear of all hydroelectric stations, dams, shorelines and surrounding waterways. Portage routes are signposted and cleared for your use - please stay on the portage trails. Be alert for and obey all warnings, signs, audible alerts, booms and buoys.

STAY CLEAR AND STAY SAFE!

Things to see:

☞ Scenery - Hike to the top takes 20-30 minutes
- The highlands of Algonquin Park south west are visible from the top

☞ Wildlife

Resources:

"Scouting the Ottawa River"
Multimedia Tripguide
www.riverviewmultimedia.com

"Ottawa River Whitewater"
2nd Edition by Jim Hargreaves

Ottawa Run – Rocher Fendu

Whitewater

Whitewater section with middle and main channels is a world class, big water river trip and playground. No other river offers stellar play spots, warm water, deep rapids and pristine scenery like the Ottawa. The main channel always has more than enough water. In the spring it rivals the Grand Canyon with its big waves and holes. At normal summer levels, it is a freestyle kayaking playground and a thrill for canoeists. The Ottawa River always has something to offer!

Middle channel is novice and intermediate – lower volume technical rapids.

Main channel is intermediate and advanced with big rapids and high volume.

Rapids on the Ottawa River are easily scouted from the riverbanks and all rapids can be easily portaged which are unmarked but well traveled.

How to get there

Near the villages of Foresters Falls and Beachburg, west of Ottawa.

Put-in

Put-in at intersection of Grant's Settlement Road and Powers Road and McCoy's Chute Trail, a short side road off Grant Settlement Road near Beachburg, Ontario.

Lat. N 45.751294

Long. W 76.795729

Take-out

There are two take-outs on the main channel. Both are located 8 km south of the put-in along Grant Settlement Road. One is the Wilderness Tours paddler take-out, just downstream of their rafting take-out. The other is the next driveway at RiverRun Paddling Centre.

On-Water Directions

➤ Almost unlimited paddling and park and play options. Check out a guidebook or speak with the locals.

➤ Distance is 12 km.

Description:

Whitewater

Ratings: Class 2 to 5

Season: May to October

CAUTION: Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Caution: Ontario Power Generation (OPG) operates hydroelectric power generating dams and stations along this river, and many others. For safety reasons they request that you stay well clear of all hydroelectric stations, dams, shorelines and surrounding waterways. Portage routes are signposted and cleared for your use - please stay on the portage trails. Be alert for and obey all warnings, signs, audible alerts, booms and buoys.

STAY CLEAR AND STAY SAFE!

Things to see:

- ☞ Scenery
- ☞ Wildlife - Osprey

Resources:

"Scouting the Ottawa River"
Multimedia Tripguide
www.riverviewmultimedia.com

"Ottawa River Whitewater"
2nd Edition by Jim Hargreaves

Ottawa River – Bellows Bay

This former channel of the Ottawa River consists of an active sandspit, a deep bay and wetlands. A sandy point and beach ridges are also found here. There are no visitor facilities; however, hiking, swimming and nature study may still be enjoyed.

Description:

Flatwater

Season: June to October

CAUTION: *The Ottawa River is a large body of water and winds can cause dangerous wave situations and make paddling difficult. Pay attention to the weather. Until mid-June the water of the Ottawa River is cold so do not venture far from shore.*

Ontario Power Generation (OPG)

Caution:

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) operates hydroelectric power generating dams and stations along this river, and many others. For safety reasons they request that you stay well clear of all hydroelectric stations, dams, shorelines and surrounding waterways. Portage routes are signposted and cleared for your use - please stay on the portage trails. Be alert for and obey all warnings, signs, audible alerts, booms and buoys.

STAY CLEAR AND STAY SAFE!

The sandy shallows project out into the Ottawa River for hundreds of metres in some areas.

Look out for poison ivy in the dunes.

Please stay out of the dunes.

How to get there

Bellows Bay is approximately 3 km south or upstream of Westmeath.

Put-in/Take-out

The village of Westmeath public boat launch dock.

Lat. N 45.816266

Long. W 76.894343

On-Water Directions

➤ Paddle upstream or left from the boat launch. Explore the bay or land on the beach areas.

Things to see:

- ☞ Scenery
- ☞ Wildlife
 - Waterfowl
 - Shorebirds
 - Turtles nest in this habitat, which is also an important site for migrating birds.

Resources:

“Scouting the Ottawa River”
Multimedia Tripguide
www.riverviewmultimedia.com

“Ottawa River Whitewater”
2nd Edition by Jim Hargreaves

Arnprior – Ottawa River

This is a flatwater out & back trip along the Ontario shoreline of the Ottawa River. Arnprior is just west of Ottawa on Hwy 17 so this is an ideal half or one-day paddle for Ottawa area residents and visitors. You will pass some residences in the town of Arnprior, then a few cottages in a wilderness setting. Some potential destinations downstream include small sand beaches, wetland areas and the mouth of the Mississippi River.

Put-in/Take-out

Arnprior Beach, north end of John Street. Follow the blue and white signs for the hospital and at the hospital continue on John Street for 100 m, down the hill into the parking area for the beach and Robert Simpson Park.

Lat. N 45.443801

Long. W 76.350808

On-Water Directions

> Put in at the Arnprior Beach and paddle east, downstream, to your left. The beach is located at the junction of the Madawaska and Ottawa Rivers and you must exercise caution for a number of reasons.

1. At the mouth of the Madawaska there are often very strong currents - but no whitewater - so it is deceptively calm.
 2. Unless you are equipped with wetsuits or drysuits you should not consider crossing the Madawaska current in the spring or late fall when the water temperature is dangerously low.
 3. When the water is warm there will be swimmers in the area and you must keep your craft out of the buoyed swimming area.
 4. There is often motorized boat traffic in the area as the public marina and boat launch ramp are located 300 m upstream on the Madawaska.
- > Approximately 2.5 km downstream there is a small bay and wetland worth exploring for wildlife viewing-turtles, waterfowl, marsh birds, frogs.
- > Approximately 5 km downstream you will come to the mouth of the Mississippi River and have the option to extend your trip by exploring it towards the village of Galleta.

Description:

Flatwater; out & back

Season: May to October

CAUTION: *The Ottawa River is wide in this section and winds will create high wave and difficult paddling conditions.*

There is a hydro dam at Galleta -do not approach too closely as currents will be constantly changing.

Ontario Power Generation (OPG)

Caution:

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) operates hydroelectric power generating dams and stations along this river, and many others. For safety reasons they request that you stay well clear of all hydroelectric stations, dams, shorelines and surrounding waterways. Portage routes are signposted and cleared for your use - please stay on the portage trails. Be alert for and obey all warnings, signs, audible alerts, booms and buoys.

STAY CLEAR AND STAY SAFE!

Things to see:

- ☞ Scenery
- ☞ Wildlife
 - Turtles
 - Deer
 - Waterfowl
 - Osprey

Resources:

"Scouting the Ottawa River"
Multimedia Tripguide
www.riverviewmultimedia.com

"Ottawa River Whitewater"
2nd Edition by Jim Hargreaves

Dumoine River

The Dumoine River is a classic whitewater paddling river that slices through the Canadian Shield rock and forests in a remote area of western Quebec. It joins the Ottawa River 13 km upriver from Rapides des Joachim and begins at Machin Lake in Parc LaVerendrye running south to the Ottawa River. The Dumoine, consisting of more than 144 km of river with many rapids, swifts, chutes and waterfalls, is relatively isolated - rapids should be treated with respect. Le Grande Chute is a magnificent canyon and waterfalls area and a mandatory portage!

Description:

Whitewater
Suitable for all whitewater paddling skill levels if rapids are properly scouted and portaged as required.

Ratings: Class 1 to 5

Season: May to November

CAUTION: *Consult maps, guidebooks other paddlers as you plan this river trip. This is an isolated river with sections of serious whitewater. Novice paddlers should only do this river accompanied by experienced paddlers.*

Things to see:

- ☞ Scenery - The Great Fall is very spectacular to observe; the river falls 125 ft.
 - See the remains of the Great Slide (for the logs) that was used until 1895.
 - Eagle Cliffs that will dominate from the top with its 550 ft.
 - Old logging relic like "the alligator,"
- ☞ Wildlife
 - Eagles
 - Falcons
 - Herons
 - Kingfishers
 - Beavers
 - Otters
 - Muskrats
 - Minks
 - Black bears
 - Deer
 - A sharp eye can

sometimes see wolves

Resources:

"Rivers of the Upper Ottawa Valley"
by Hap Wilson

This river is ideal for the beginner to advanced paddlers, with camping areas all along the river.

Hap Wilson has written a wonderful guidebook with maps, descriptions of rapids, points of interest and historical background. It is available in many paddlesports and outdoor stores and an excellent aid to safely enjoying this magnificent river.

How to get there

By floatplane from Rapides des Joachim, ground shuttle or a rugged logging road partly accessible to the upper lakes.

With study and consultation you may determine the length of trip you wish to do, and the time within which you have, to complete the trip and thereby select your put-in/starting point.

On-Water Directions

> Depending on time and skill level, you may begin your trip anywhere from LaVerendrye Provincial Park to any point along the river.

> Most common access point is Rapides des Joachim; a small village in Quebec situated a few km north of the village of Rolphton on Hwy 17 mid-way between Ottawa and North Bay.

Black River/Noire

This is the little sister to the Dumoine River. With a length of 238 km, this is a spectacular whitewater canoe route filled with breathtaking views, wildlife and classic class 2 and 3 rapids. The Noire is a remote river located in Western Quebec and flows into the Ottawa River near the village of Davidson.

It is relatively small and the terrain alternates between Canadian Shield rock and sand.

The navigatable rapids are long and the portages are short.

The length is between 1 to 12 days with a distance of 255 km from Coughlin Creek.

How to get there

Consult guidebooks and maps for planning your route, put-ins and take-outs as there are many options depending on your time and preferences.

There is also the option to fly-in and paddle out.

Road access is possible along the bottom section for a 1-day trip.

On-Water Directions

- Coughlin Creek (245 km, 10-12 days)
 - Dorion Crossing (233 km, 10-11 days)
 - Lac St-Patrice (140 km, 6-7 days)
 - Lac Farant (125 km, 5-6 days)
 - Lac Raymond (100 km, 4-5 days)
 - Flying-in is recommended.

➤ Road access is possible along the bottom section for a 1-day trip.

Description:

Whitewater/Flatwater

Ratings: Class 1 to 3

Season: May to November

Things to see:

- ☞ Scenery
- ☞ Wildlife
- ☞ Numerous beaches

Resources:

"Rivers of the Upper Ottawa Valley" by Hap Wilson

Coulonge River

The river flows through classic Canadian Shield scenery, dropping nearly 700 feet as it cascades over a series of thunderous waterfalls and wanders through runnable rock-studded rapids.

There are up to 19 portages on the river, although most of them are relatively short-around waterfalls.

When the earth cooled 300 million years ago, faults scored huge channels into the rock of the Laurentians. The Coulonge River runs through one of these faults. Geographically, it's a very diverse river with a number of exciting chutes and waterfalls, laid out in a valley through the beautiful Laurentian forests.

The Coulonge is famous for its sand beach campsites and is an ideal group and instructional river.

How to get there

As the Coulonge River offers almost 250 km of paddling, your choice of put-in and take-out will be determined by your available time and trip preferences.

There are access roads that will lead to a number of put-in options.

Study guidebooks and maps are available to help make your plans.

Paddlers can fly-in to a number of starting points from the Rapides des Joachim airbase.

Description:

Whitewater/Flatwater

Ratings: Class 2 to 3

Season: May to October

Things to see:

- ☞ Scenery - 5,000 year-old copper works
- ☞ Wildlife - Moose
- Black bear
- Fox and mink
- Otter
- Beaver
- Turtles

Resources:

"Rivers of the Upper Ottawa Valley" by Hap Wilson

Put-in

From Lac Pomponne, on the edge of La Verendrye Park, down to Grande Chute is a 250 km shuttle. There are several other put-ins available.

Take-out

At Coulonge Chutes (aka Grande Chute) near Fort Coulonge. There are many take-out options but most trips end above Chutes Coulonge or in the town of Fort Coulonge.

On-Water Directions

➤ This trip can be run from a number of starting locations:

- Lac Ward (245 km, 10-12 days)
- Lac Pomponne (233 km, 10-11 days)
- Lac Bryson (140 km, 6-7 days)
- Lac Wright (125 km, 5-6 days)
- Lac Jim (100 km, 4-5 days)

Petawawa River – Brent

Brent is located in Algonquin Park, 40 km southwest of the village of Deux Rivieres on Hwy 17. This small, rustic base on Cedar Lake is the starting point for paddle trips into the more remote and less traveled north eastern and central region of Algonquin Park – notably the Petawawa River and Nipissing River regions. It also offers some of the best walleye fishing in the park.

The Petawawa River offers a wide range of rapids, the best whitewater in Algonquin Park and classic Canadian Shield scenery.

How to get there

Depending on the route you choose you may do a loop or out and back trip to finish back at Brent.

Put-in

On Cedar Lake in Algonquin Park.

Take-out

Two other common take-outs are downstream on the Petawawa. 2 to 3 days to Lake Traverse and an additional 2 to 3 days downstream to McManus Lake.

Description:

Flatwater/Whitewater

Ratings: Class 2 to 4

Season: May to November

CAUTION: *The section of the Petawawa River, downstream of McManus Lake, is part of a Department of National Defense live firing range.*

STAY OUT!

DO NOT paddle the Petawawa below McManus Lake.

Permits Required.

Things to see:

- 👁 Scenery
- 👁 Wildlife
- 👁 Fish

Resources: “Petawawa River – Whitewater Guide” by George Drought; published by Friends of Algonquin Park

Petawawa River – Lake Traverse to McManus Lake

This is an ideal section of river for those interested in learning some new river moves in a beautiful setting. Offering stunning nights at some of the park's lush pine campsites. Those who paddle the Petawawa experience one of Canada's classic canoe routes.

This run is punctuated by some good bouldery rapids. Whitewater sections like The Natch, and Rollaway Rapids offer good class 2-3 play. The Petawawa presents an exciting challenge for novice to intermediate paddlers. Long stretches of continuous class 1 rapids are an ideal opportunity to practice those peel-outs and eddy turns.

Description:

Flatwater/Whitewater

Ratings: Class 2 to 4

Season: May to November

CAUTION: *Scout all rapids and be especially careful of the final section of Crooked Chute.*

Things to see:

- ☞ Scenery - Beautiful gorge scenery
- Abandoned radio telescopes
- The Natch Cliff – subject of a Tom Thomson painting
- ☞ Wildlife - Moose
- Bears

Advance booking required.

In Algonquin Park you must book your interior campsite permit in advance. Call Ontario Parks at 888-668-7275.

Resources:

"Petawawa River – Whitewater Guide" by George Drought; published by Friends of Algonquin Park

This section can be run in a weekend but add an extra day or two to really enjoy it.

The distance is 45 km from Lake Traverse to Lake McManus. If you have time explore the remnants of a major radio observatory that was once operated at Lake Traverse by the National Research Council. Along with dozens of smaller receiving dishes, there is a single giant receiving dish, which towers over the trees.

How to get there

From Hwy 17 between Petawawa and Pembroke exit at Doran Road – there are signs directing you to Algonquin Park on Hwy 17. 300 m along Doran Road turn right onto Barron Canyon Road.

Put-in

There is an ideal put-in and camping area where the access road crosses the Petawawa River, just as it enters Lake Traverse.

Take-out

If your planned take-out is McManus Lake set up your shuttle on the way in. Follow Barron Canyon Rd.

On-Water Directions

> Paddle downstream

Petawawa River – Town Run

This is a run for experienced whitewater paddlers – or novices learning under the supervision of experienced paddlers. Flowing through the heart of the town of Petawawa, the river is a favorite with locals for its many access points and outstanding play spots. As an undammed river, the “Pet” peaks in late May, when Railroad, Lovers, and Suicide are truly huge (6 and up on the gauge). Most paddlers opt to park and play at high levels at the Catwalk or Gulf Course. Medium levels see the most interesting river running, and levels below 2 become technical rock gardens.

Local paddlers are on the river daily, especially in May and June when it runs high. Check local clubs for dates and times for group paddles – a good way to learn the river is paddle with a local.

How to get there

Hwy 17 bridge over river, exit Murphy Road west, take first right onto Rantz Road and park at the boulders beside the river.

The distance is 7 km for a half-day trip or just park and play.

Put-in

Put-in at Big Eddy the top of the run.

Lat. N 45.888424

Long. W 77.308797

Take-out

Take out is at the bottom of the run, just above the mouth of the Petawawa where it joins the Ottawa River. At Golf Course Rapid, exit Hwy 17 onto Murphy Road east (County Road 37), follow it through town - it becomes Civic Centre Road, turn left onto Laurentian Drive, turn left onto Tall Pines Road, park on the shoulder.

On-Water Directions

➤ Select any number of put-ins and play spots.

Description:

Flatwater/Whitewater

Ratings: Class 2 to 4

Season: April to November

Things to see:

- ☞ Scenery - Landmark Kiosk
- ☞ Wildlife
- ☞ White pines

Resources:

“Petawawa River – Whitewater Guide” by George Drought; published by Friends of Algonquin Park

Barron River – Barron Canyon in Algonquin Park

This 7 km long route is one of the most popular and awe-inspiring of the 1,600 km of established canoe routes in Algonquin Park. A one way excursion is to drive one vehicle at Squirrel Rapids parking area, then continue onto Brigham Chute parking area and start your paddle trip from there. The Barron Canyon rises 70 m.

Description:

Flatwater/Whitewater

Ratings: Class 2 to 4

Season: May to October

Permit required

CAUTION: *Exercise extreme caution near the cliff edge with children and pets. There have been deaths here from accidental falls.*

Things to see:

- ☞ Scenery
- ☞ Wildlife
 - Look out for Barn Swallows and Eastern Phoebes nesting on the canyon walls.
 - Rare relict plants of glacial times, such as the Encrusted Saxifrage and Fragrant Cliff Fern.
 - Ten thousand years ago, water from Lake Algonquin, formed by melting glaciers, thundered through.
- ☞ Barron Canyon Trail
- ☞ Eastern Pines Backpacking trail

Resources:

The Canoe Routes of Algonquin Park map brochure, obtained at the Sand Lake Gate, any Algonquin Park office and many outdoor stores, is an essential aid to a successful trip.

Be prepared to pay for day – use vehicle permit. There are also excellent publications about the Park, its flora, fauna and history, published by The Friends of Algonquin Park.

How to get there

From the intersection of Hwy 17 and County Road 58 west of Pembroke, drive 8 km northwest along Hwy 17 and turn left onto Doran Rd (County Road 26). Travel 300 m, and then turn right onto the Barron Canyon Road. Drive 26 km on pavement, then gravel, to the Sand Lake Gate of Algonquin Park. Continue west and you will find the Squirrel Rapids parking area just across the Barron Rapids parking area, across the Barron River Bridge. Further on you will see a left turn for the Barron Canyon trail parking lot. This short hike will give you an opportunity to see the Canyon from above.

A few km further you will find the Brigham Chute parking area to the left. The river distance from Brigham Chute down through the Barron Canyon to Squirrel Rapids is 7 km.

On-Water Directions

- > Park and leave your shuttle vehicle at Squirrel Rapids and drive on to Brigham Access. Unload your canoe and portage 200 m to the Barron Road.
- > Set off down river and take a 100 m portage followed by a 400 m portage after which you will enter the Canyon.
- > Carry on downstream past the Canyon to a 420 m portage then paddle onto the take-out at Squirrel Rapids.

Bonnechere River – Round Lake & Bonnechere Provincial Park

This route starts and finishes at Bonnechere Provincial Park, located on County Road 58, near the village of Round Lake Centre.

You will have to register and pay a fee at the park gate.

You will be rewarded with a great put-in area and dock, ample parking, washrooms and a great beach on Round Lake for a post-paddle swim. The river corridor is also a Provincial Park – Bonnechere River Provincial Park - so please observe Ontario Provincial Park rules and regulations.

A great trip for novices and families.

Put-in/Take-out:

Bonnechere Provincial Park off County Road 58

Lat. N 45.675199

Long. W 77.566695

On-Water Directions

➤ From the boat and canoe launch dock in Bonnechere Provincial Park the route takes you upstream. Observe the water flow and follow it upstream. There are many twists and turns here as the river has created a little delta. The put-in is very close to the mouth of the Bonnechere River, where it enters Round Lake. You may wish to add an exploration of the lake to your trip.

➤ Approximately 1.5 km upstream you will cross under County Road 58 and the river becomes a little straighter. The shoreline rises steeply in sand banks and there are a few private dwellings. The current becomes more noticeable here but it is easily paddled against - except in spring high water situations.

➤ Approximately 5 km upstream you enter Stevenson Lake. This is a good spot to stop for a picnic and a swim and as a turn around point. Depending on available time you could proceed further upstream. Your return paddle, downstream, will be a little bit faster and easier than the upstream portion of the trip.

➤ Longer and multi-day trips are possible on the upper reaches of the Bonnechere. Check out maps and consult with staff at Bonnechere Provincial Park.

➤ There is road access up along the river right to the border of Algonquin Park.

Description:

Flatwater- Out & Back

A gentle but steady current in some sections

Rating: Class 1 in spring with high water in a few sections.

Season: May to November

Things to see:

- ☞ Scenery
 - Sandy shoreline
 - Mixed forest
- ☞ Wildlife
 - Turtles
 - Waterfowl
 - Songbirds
 - Raptors

Calabogie Lake – Grassy Bay

A flooded wetland area, off Calabogie Lake, is a great place for “naturalist canoeing”. It is a designated Provincially Significant Wetland. Separating the bay from the lake is a causeway, originally built as a crossing for the K&P Railway line. The causeway acts as a barrier to the water currents created by the Madawaska River flowing through Calabogie Lake.

6 km round trip.

How to get there

Off Hwy 17, midway between Renfrew and Arnprior, take County Road 508 (Calabogie Road) turn-off and travel 26 km to Calabogie. Turn left onto County Road 511 (Lanark Road) at the Stinson gas station just as you reach Calabogie. Veer left through the village staying on County Road 511 and go over two bridges.

Description:

Flatwater

Season: May to October

Things to see:

- ☞ Scenery
- ☞ Wildlife
 - Waterfowl
 - Bald eagles
 - Osprey
 - Muskrat
- ☞ In late spring, turtles migrate from the Bay to the shore and roadside where they lay their eggs. One will often see the turtles lying on the gravel roadside of Barryvale Road and (unfortunately), later in the day see raccoons digging up the egg nests.
- ☞ During spring and fall, Grassy Bay is a favourite rest stop for migrating geese and ducks.
- ☞ Wild rice growth, which in past years was harvested by Native Indians.
- ☞ Watch for Blue Herons and Common Loons, which often nest and feed in this area.

Put-in/Take-out

Directly after crossing the second bridge, you will see the tourist information booth on your right, where you can park and launch your canoe at the public boat ramp.

Lat. N 45.294744

Long. W 76.715312

On-Water Directions

- > Once you have launched your canoe it is best to stay close to the left shoreline, as the river current in the centre can be quite strong. You will round a point on your left and easily notice the access opening cut through the causeway leading into Grassy Bay.
- > As you skirt the shoreline and reach the far side of the Bay you will come upon wild rice growth.
- > Working your way around the bay, you will travel through a marshy area, where the waterfowl are most predominant.
- > Just before you reach the causeway you will find an old sunken relic of some sort. After you have passed this, work your way along the causeway until you reach the opening that you first came through.
- > Once through the opening, trace your route back to the boat launch, being sure to stay along the shoreline to avoid the current.

Mississippi River – Pakenham to Hwy 17

This is an ideal out and back trip, downstream from Pakenham to Hwy 17 and back, or you may take out at the Hwy if you arrange a shuttle. It is feasible to do a bicycle shuttle on the country roads and old Hwy 17, which has been replaced by the parallel multi-lane Hwy 417.

How to get there

Pakenham is located east of Ottawa and south of Arnprior at the junction of Ottawa Road 20 and Highway 15. From Ottawa exit from Hwy 417 west at junction #169, Kinburn Sideroad, and travel 5 km south to the village of Pakenham. The Mississippi runs south to north and enters the Ottawa River at Lac des Chats near Fitzroy Harbour and the Chats Falls power dam of Ontario Power Generation.

Put-in

In Pakenham, immediately downstream of the spectacular five span stone bridge, is a municipal park on the west or river-left shoreline. Put-in here below the rapids at the bridge and proceed downstream.

CAUTION: The final drop off this ledge and drop rapids often creates a large and powerful hydraulic in which people have drowned. Be extremely cautious around the rapids.

Lat. N 45.20.09

Long. W 76.17.16

Take-Out or Turnaround

From Hwy 417, exit at the same junction #169 and travel north on Kinburn Sideroad to the intersection with old Hwy 17. Turn west and drive 2.8 km and make a right onto Hunt Line Road, stay left and park away from the road and the river. You will pass under the new Hwy 417 bridge and 1 km further down is the old Hwy 17 bridge.

Lat. N 45.23.16

Long. W 76.15.18

On-Water Directions

➤ The Mississippi flows gently and has no whitewater on the section down to Hwy 17, as it meanders through farmland, wooded areas and wetlands.

➤ There are two creeks which offer some diversity and exploration options. Cody Creek is 2.75 km downstream of Pakenham and Cartridges Creek is 5 km downstream of Pakenham.

Description:

Flatwater

Season: May to October

Things to see

- ☞ Scenery
- ☞ Wildlife
 - Waterfowl
 - Raptors
 - Osprey
- ☞ Wetlands
- ☞ Five Span Stone Bridge

Mississippi River – Hwy 17 to Galetta and further to the Ottawa River

6 km round trip

How to get there

Put-in

You may start at Pakenham (see the previous route description) or from the old Hwy 17 bridge. From Hwy 417 take exit #169, Kinburn Sideroad north for 1/2 km. At junction with Hwy 17, turn west for 2.8 km and then exit onto Hunt Line Road. Stay to the left and park away from the road and river.

Lat. N 45.23.16

Long. W 76.17.16

Take-out

There are a number of take-out options. You may arrange to return to the put-in or take-out at Galetta. You may also extend the paddle upstream on the Ottawa to Arnprior and take-out at the public beach near the mouth of the Madawaska River. See the Arnprior/Ottawa River route in this guide.

On-Water Directions

➤ About 8 km downstream watch carefully for an island in the river and stay to the west or river left side of the island. Stay well clear of the Galetta hydro power dam and related buildings and structures. The take-out and portage around the dam and rapids is located on the west or river left shore line. The portage (approx. 100 m) follows a private drive beside the bridge to the put-in below the dam. There is a small, swift below the dam which may be run if your skills permit, or you may carry or line down beside it.

➤ The rest of the route down to the Ottawa River and Lac des Chats is flatwater for about 5 km but watch for increased power boat traffic.

CAUTION: Stay well clear of the Galetta hydro power dam, the buildings, structures and tail race.

Description:

Flatwater with a portage at Galetta

Season: May to October

Things to see:

- 🏞 Scenery
- 🦋 Wildlife
 - Muskrat
 - Great blue heron
 - Osprey
 - Ducks
 - Turtles
 - Beaver



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