

GROUP OF SEVEN CONTINUES

ALGONQUIN PROVINCIAL PARK AND HUNTSVILLE

DISCOVERY ROUTE

There is something very meditative about being in a quiet gallery space, contemplating a work of art and appreciating the skill and technique of the artists. In that moment, have you ever wondered 'where is this'? Now you can find out. Follow this discovery route and connect the art on the walls to the landscapes, vistas and waterways that inspired the artists of the Group of Seven and Tom Thomson.

Algonquin Provincial Park and area is known as "Tom Thomson" country. Although he died in mysterious circumstances in 1917 before the Group was officially formed, his influence was profound. Visit Algonquin Park to truly appreciate how active the artists were – always looking for the next inspiration – portaging, hiking and paddling as they pushed themselves to reach the next vista.

KEY STOPS, ATTRACTIONS AND LANDSCAPES

[Start your journey in Huntsville](#) where the 100th anniversary of Tom Thomson's disappearance and death is being marked with numerous exhibits and events, many noted below. Then if you are feeling more energetic, head out along Highway 60 into Algonquin Park to explore the land and waterways.

- 1 Bronze Statue Sculpture of Tom Thomson:** The bronze statue of Tom Thomson, located outside the box office of the [Algonquin Theatre](#) in downtown Huntsville, introduces you to this enigmatic man.

Thomson loved the wilderness and travelled extensively by canoe through Algonquin Park and elsewhere, as featured in *The Canoe* (c 1912, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto) (See painting below).



- 2 Group of Seven Outdoor Gallery:** Find 90 hand-painted murals on exterior walls of businesses and public buildings that are part of a unique outdoor mural trail that stretches from Huntsville, to Lake of Bays and the Algonquin Park region. Sign up for [guided tours of the Group of Seven Outdoor Gallery](#) available throughout the summer or use your phone to explore on [your own self-guided tour](#).

After watching the sun set during your outdoor mural tour, head inside where the light continues to shine with Harris' *Algonquin Park Sunburst*, (c 1912) (See painting below) currently on display at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection.



- 3 Algonquin Theatre:** Plan your trip to take in one of many events and exhibits hosted at the Algonquin Theatre in downtown Huntsville that commemorate Tom Thomson in 2017 and includes:

- Throughout July and August, "Through Tom's Eyes, a discovery of truth, light and colour" exhibits one local artist's tribute to Tom Thomson by re-creating art in the same places that Tom worked.
- A documentary "[Painting the Wilderness of the Oxtongues](#)" which features this region's inspirational role to the Group of Seven and Tom Thomson, presented July 1st
- "[When Winnie Knew](#)" is a theatre production, presented on July 16th that tells a story of Winnie Trainor's relationship to Tom Thomson.

- 4 Huntsville Festival of the Arts:** Watch for screenings of the Group of Seven documentaries 'Painted Land: In Search of the Group of Seven' on July 10th; *West Wind: The Vision of Tom Thomson* on July 19th and 'Where the universe sings: the Spiritual Journey of Lawren Harris' on July 24th and other Group of Seven-related programming as part of the Huntsville Festival of the Arts.

- 5 Group of Seven and Tom Thomson Outdoor Exhibit- self guided route:** Located at the western edge of the Oxtongue Lake bridge near Algonquin Outfitters Road, just off of Highway 60, look for a plaque that puts you in the same position where A.J. Casson stood as he painted "Early September, Oxtongue Lake" in 1969.

Compare what you now see to A.J. Casson's "Early September, Oxtongue Lake" (1969, Ottawa Art Gallery,) to the view you see now.

- 6 Ragged Falls Oxtongue River Provincial Park:** Get up close and personal, by land or by water, to the river and falls that inspired a number of works created by Tom Thomson and A.J. Casson, who joined the Group later. Pack a picnic and take a short hike from the parking lot to view these beautiful falls. Or book a self-guided canoe or kayak day trip with Algonquin Outfitters.

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KEY STOPS, ATTRACTIONS AND LANDSCAPES

As you head out of Huntsville towards or through Algonquin Park along Highway 60, you will have a number of ways to experience the landscapes and art of the Group of Seven and Tom Thomson.

7 Algonquin Provincial Park: Algonquin Provincial Park is the oldest Provincial Park in Canada and a designated National Historic Site. The Park itself encompasses more land area than the entire province of Prince Edward Island. Its rivers, lakes and landscape span far beyond your line of sight. Backcountry lakes, rivers and many portages inland away from the Highway 60 corridor are the key subject for sketches, studies and paintings by Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven.

Just past Dwight on Highway 60, you will enter Algonquin Provincial Park through the West Gate. This is Kilometre 0. Stop here at the Information Centre to get the most current information on events.

7a The Portage Store (Kilometre 14): Walk in Tom's shoes, and paddle where he paddled, on the [Tom Thomson Daily Guided tour](#). See where Tom lived and worked on Canoe Lake, learn about his mysterious death and see a cairn built in his honour.

Mowat Lodge, where Thomson stayed, was once a bustling resort for vacationers arriving at Canoe Lake by train. The path depicted in *Path Behind Mowat Lodge* (c 1917, Art Gallery of Ontario) (See painting below) is no longer visible.



7b Algonquin Art Centre (Kilometre 20): Located in the heart of the Park, the Algonquin Art Centre is a great place to view world-class art. Pick up a paint-brush in one of their instructed art classes or shop for an art-inspired souvenir. Their Gazebo Programs give you the chance to create art like the artists did; 'plein air' (outside) including painting wooden paddles, birch bark canoes, sliced rock, canvas, or sculpting clay, creating Algonquin mobiles and sketching.

After seeing the beauty of the landscapes within Algonquin park, experience what members of the Group of Seven saw including J.E.H. MacDonald's, *Snow Algonquin Park*, (c 1914) currently on display at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinburg, Ontario.

7c Bartlett Lodge, Cache Lake (Kilometre 23.5): If you are looking for a comfortable bed and fine dining at the end of your day exploring the Group in Algonquin Park, consider the [Bartlett Lodge - Tom Thomson Discovery Package](#). This package connects the art on the wall to the landscape on the ground as it includes 2 tickets to the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinburg or 2 tickets to the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa to view their collection of Thomson paintings.

After you have found your home away from home in the Park, appreciate the individual colourful brushstrokes that make up Arthur Lismer's *The Guide's Home, Algonquin* (c 1914 National Gallery of Canada).

7d Algonquin Park Visitor Centre (Kilometre 43): Plan a stop at the Algonquin Park Visitor Centre and wander out to the viewing deck to admire the breathtaking view of the Algonquin landscape that so inspired the Group of Seven. Plan to visit the special exhibit *Algonquin Park in the 1910's- A Tom Thomson Perspective* on display July 1st through September 4th 2017.

Red maples are synonymous with both the Canadian flag and the sprawling natural beauty found within the landscapes in Algonquin Park. Be sure to see an iconic representation of Canada with A.Y. Jackson's *The Red Maple* (c 1914, National Gallery of Canada) on the Ottawa leg of this Discovery Tour.

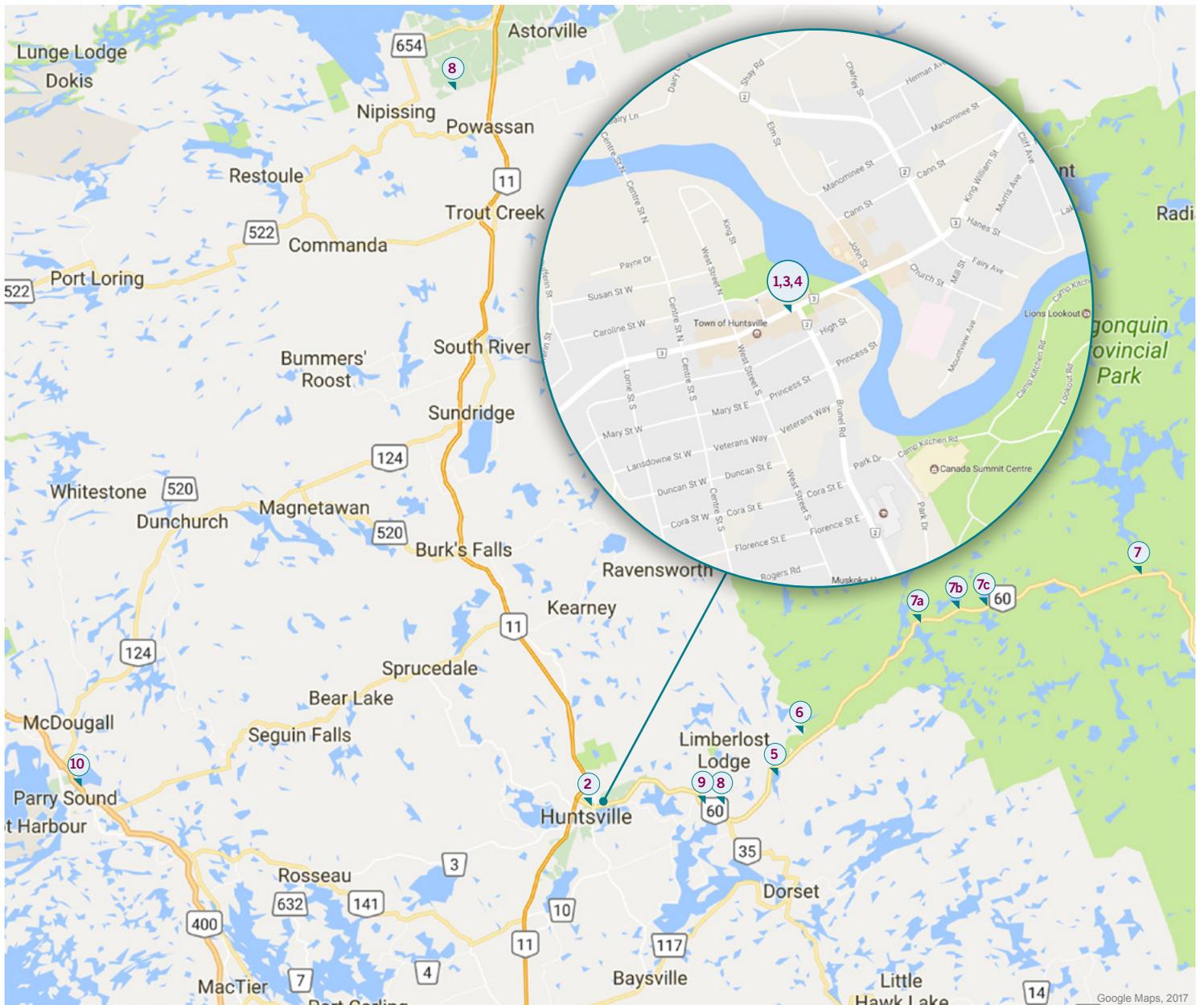
8 Algonquin Adventure Tours: Sign up for a private [VIP Algonquin Park motorized canoe trip](#) to follow in the footsteps Tom Thomson, perfect for those who want to relax or have their hands completely free for photography, sketching or fishing.

9 Friends of Dwight Public Library: Saturday, June 17 – Free public event. Unveiling of the Mural, 'Lawren Harris, Winter Sunrise, 1918 (MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina) and Art Show, with special guest speakers Brenda Wainman Goulet (sculptor), Rob Stimpson (photographer), Gerry Lantaigne (muralist) and Nancy Lang (filmmaker). For details (see Dwight Library): www.lakeofbayslibrary.ca

10 Festival of Sound, Parry Sound: Sunday, July 23 - An Afternoon with Tom Thomson. Enjoy a screening *West Wind: The Vision of Tom Thomson*, in the Stockey Centre located on Parry Sound's beautiful waterfront, followed by a lakeshore pilgrimage to the spot where Thomson painted *Parry Sound Harbour*, 1914 (National Gallery of Canada). To be greeted at trails end by Guy Few Brass Quartet. For more information: www.festivalofthesound.ca

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TIPS

- Plan your trip to Algonquin Park in the spring or early summer, or during the fall colour tours, late August wolf howls and other Park events can make the area very crowded. Winter opens up a whole new view.
- Consider taking the *Parkbus*, which offers transportation and trips from Toronto and Ottawa that include Algonquin Park.
- Watch *The Explorers: Paddle the Painted Landscapes* as Gary and Joanie McGuffin canoe through the Barron Canyon, to catch a glimpse of landscapes in the backcountry that inspired the work of the Group of Seven, Tom Thomson and contemporary artists.
- Read any one of the number of books that explore the Tom Thomson mystery.
- Attend talks at the *Active Living Centre* that include:
 - Jim & Sue Waddington talk 'Following the Footsteps of Tom Thomson & the Group of Seven' Friday June 2nd, 2017; 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
 - A Speaker Series Presentation – "Looking to Tom: The Enduring Fascination with Tom Thomson's Art" Tuesday July 4, 2017; 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

TRAVEL RESOURCES

- Explorer's Edge
www.explorersedge.ca
- Porter Airlines
www.flyporter.com