

GROUP OF SEVEN CONTINUES

OTTAWA AND THE OTTAWA VALLEY

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.

KEY STOPS, ATTRACTIONS AND LANDSCAPES

Ottawa is a must-visit destination for anyone interested in the Group of Seven and its role in Canadian history. It is here that you can view many of the Group's iconic and best-known works of art at the National Gallery of Canada and other area galleries. Coupled with journeys into the Ottawa Valley and the views in Bon Echo Provincial Park, visitors have many opportunities to experience the landscapes and waterways that appear in the Group's art.

- 1 Lake Clear:** If you are travelling into the area to or from Highway 60 corridor through Algonquin Park, it is an easy side trip to visit Lake Clear which was the site for A.Y. Jackson's 1961 painting with the same name. While you are in the area, explore Combermere, Palmer Rapids, Rockingham, Mount St. Patrick and Springtown, all areas that influenced A.Y. Jackson's artistic career.

Turn south from Highway 60 onto Hwy 41, travel west along County Road 512 along Lake Clear to Buelow Road. Take the walking path along the beach to find the same location where A.Y. created *Lake Clear* (c 1962, Private Collection).

- 2 National Gallery of Canada:** The National Gallery of Canada (NGC) is home to the largest collection of works by Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven, a pivotal part of its Canadian Collection.

The NGC will unveil its transformed Canadian and Indigenous Galleries in mid-June of 2017. Archival material will look at how the Group of Seven fits into the story of Canadian art, where they came from and their lasting impact and legacy. The addition of the McCallum Cottage, Taiga Garden outdoors and the Groups' field sketches of Algonquin Park provide a complete experience for anyone interested in the Group of Seven. Plan a visit to check out the exhibition entitled "[Canadian and Indigenous Art: From Time Immemorial to 1967](#)" starting June 15th 2017 and running until 2022. It will feature renowned artists and paintings such as *Tom Thomson's Sunset Sky* (c 1915).

See one of the most recognizable images, Tom Thomson's *Jack Pine* (c 1916-1917, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa) an icon for Canadians and the National Gallery of Canada.

- 3 Ottawa Art Gallery:** [A.Y. Jackson: Art and Life in the Ottawa Valley](#) is a digital presentation which highlights the history and career of this famed Group of Seven artist. It focuses on his time at his two homes, late in his life, in the Ottawa region-one in Manotick and the other in downtown Ottawa. Guided tours offered include the [Ottawa- Manotick Tour](#) that tells the story of A.Y. Jackson's life and work while in the Ottawa Valley and an overnight [Ottawa Valley Excursion](#) that includes a guided tour at the Ottawa Art Gallery, a road trip with scenic stops in Manotick, Barry's Bay, Wilno, and Eganville, with sketching sessions along the way.

Travel down Combermere Road, south of Barry's Bay and imagine it as one of the many logging roads in the area captured in A.Y. Jackson's *Morning Light, Combermere*, (c 1963, Ottawa Art Gallery).

- 4 A.Y. Jackson Trail:** For those looking for a self-guided option, [download or pick up a map for the A.Y. Jackson Trail](#) that winds from Springtown, near Calabogie to Algonquin Park. It is up to you how long to take as you wander the back roads of the Ottawa Valley. Experience your own inspiring landscape moment when you visit the Calabogie Lake Lookout on Barrett Chute Road or take in the panoramic view of Madawaska wilderness at Eagles Nest Lookout which parallels an old logging road, South of Highway #508, Calabogie Road.

- 5 A.Y. Jackson Park:** As you head out of Ottawa, go south along Highway 417 to Manotick and visit A.Y. Jackson Park. He lived in this community from 1955 to 1962, and the riverside park provides you an opportunity to learn more about the life and times of the famous Canadian painter.

After spending time in the country, head back to the city and find *Manotick Evening*, 1956 by A.Y. Jackson at the Ottawa Art Gallery as part of the Firestone Collection. This paper sketch is a great example of how an artist uses notations and numberings for future reference as they work on the final piece.

- 6 Bon Echo Provincial Park & Mazinaw Rock:** Travel along Highway 41 to Bon Echo Provincial Park, an area that enticed most members of the Group of Seven to paint and sketch. In search of the best view, some members even climbed up a metal staircase to the top of Mazinaw Rock, 100 metres high.

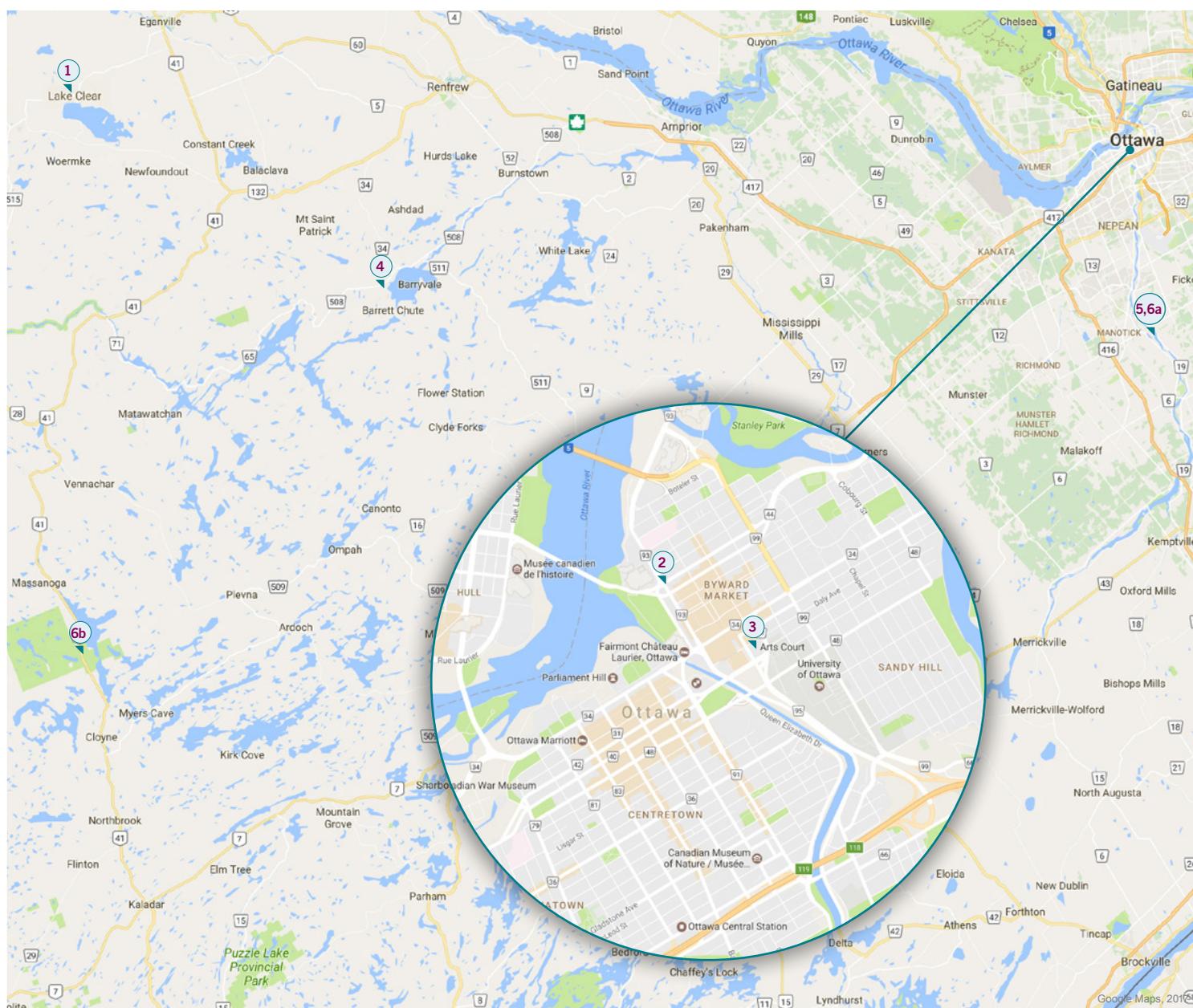
- 6a Wanderer Tour Boat, Lake Mazinaw:** Get out on the water to explore Upper Mazinaw Lake, Ontario's second deepest lake. Relax on the guided *Wanderer* Tour Boat that gets up close and personal to the Mazinaw Rock depicted in more than one work by the Group of Seven. Feeling adventurous? Rent a canoe or kayak and paddle over to the big rock at your own pace.

- 6b Bon Echo Provincial Park annual Art Show & Sale:** Plan your trip to coincide with the annual Art Show and Sale, held July 28-30, 2017.

Well-known paintings created from visits to the area include Lismer's *Bon Echo* (c 1922-23, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa) and *The Big Rock Bon Echo* (c 1922, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa).

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TRAVEL RESOURCES

- Ottawa Tourism
www.ottawatourism.ca
- Ontario's Highlands
www.ontarioshighlands.ca
- Porter Airlines
www.flyporter.com

TIPS

- Watch the National Film Board production on A.Y. Jackson and the Canadian Landscape, available [here](#).
- Consider taking the [Parkbus](#), which offers transportation and trips from Toronto and Ottawa that include trips to Algonquin Park, Killarney Park, Georgian Bay and Tobermory.