



Algonquin Backcountry Recreationalists represent the concerns of those who want to preserve, protect & enhance wilderness-like experiences in the backcountry of Algonquin Park. The ABR's objectives are ...

- To minimize backcountry recreationalists' impact on the campsites, portages and hiking trails of Algonquin Park.
- To minimize backcountry recreationalists' impact on the environment of Algonquin Park, its forest and lakes.
- To convince society at large to protect and improve wilderness-like recreational opportunities in Algonquin Park.
- To react against influences which may negatively impact wilderness-like recreational experiences in Algonquin Park.

LEAVE NO TRACE

ABR is proud to announce the partnership with *Leave No Trace Canada* (LNT). This is a partnership that we hope will be a benefit to both the outdoor enthusiast as well as Algonquin Park itself.

As we all know, Algonquin Park is a delicate network of natural and wilderness-like protected zones and watercourse setbacks.

Polluted water, displaced wildlife, eroded soil, and trampled vegetation are just some of the impacts linked directly to recreational activities. Even our mere presence has an influence.

Considerable damage could be prevented if all recreationalists were well informed, complied with regulations, and applied Leave No Trace skills and ethics.

In partnership with Leave No Trace Canada, we have produced a booklet which is a special adaptation of Leave No Trace principles for Algonquin Park, the aim of which is to be part of the solution.

At the heart of Leave No Trace are seven principles for reducing the damage caused by outdoor (non-motorized) activities and recreation. The booklet we have produced takes us through these seven principles of Leave No Trace, as they apply to Algonquin Park's backcountry and its unique circumstances.

Algonquin Backcountry Recreationalists are happy to provide this booklet online for you to download and, hopefully, put into practice what is contained within. You can download the booklet in PDF format at:

www.abrweb.ca/docs/ABR-LNT-L50S.pdf

MEMBERSHIP

Our numbers are continuing to grow, but we need the help of our current members to spread the word about ABR.

Send a link to our website and our membership page to any friends and family that share an interest in keeping Algonquin's backcountry in the best possible shape.

Tell them to sign up, to surf our site and find out who we are and what we are doing, and to add their voice to ours in doing what we can to help Algonquin Park.

All they need to do is e-mail their full name, location address, mailing address, phone number and e-mail address to Sean Rowley at ragingriverstudios@rogers.com OR just click on Sean's name on the membership page and fill out the information required.

Without your help, we cannot continue to grow and be as successful as we have been.


<http://www.abrweb.ca/Members.htm>

**BACKCOUNTRY OF
ALGONQUIN PARK**


**Leave No Trace
Outdoor Skills and Ethics**

presented by ...

**Algonquin
Backcountry
Recreationalists**



in partnership with ...



leave no trace
CANADA

CANOE SAFETY

Canoe season is back! HOORAY!!!!

But before you get too excited, jump into your canoe and go paddling away, now is the time to check your safety gear.

In Ontario, you must have a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) or life jacket for each person in the canoe, as well as a bailing bucket, a sound signaling device (such as a whistle), a buoyant heaving line of at least 15 metres and a waterproof flashlight.

It only takes a moment to put new batteries in the flashlight, check the heaving line for fraying or breaks, blow the whistle to see if it still works, and check your bailing bucket for holes.

Check that your PFD still fits properly after your long winter hibernation in front of the TV, and if not, get a new one.

Remember, this equipment is not a recommendation, it is the law and it may save your life or the life of someone you love.



A THOUGHT

One sunny day as my young son and I were watching the Black Capped Chickadees hop from branch to branch in the trees near our campsite, he asked me why there were only black capped Chickadees and not blue or red or green ones.

I didn't have a real answer for his question, but it did get me to wondering how different Algonquin Park might look if Mother Nature had a 9 year old helping her out.

PHONE NUMBERS AND LINKS

Here are some phone numbers and websites that may come in handy this summer.

Algonquin Park Information ~ 1-705-633-5572
www.algonquinpark.on.ca

Ontario Parks Reservation ~ 1-888-668-7275
www.ontarioparks.com

Forest Fire Reporting
Pembroke ~ 1-800-853-4937 or 613-732-5541
Haliburton ~ 1-888-239-4565 or 705-457-2107

Natural Resources TIPS Line
1-877-TIPS-MNR or 1-877-847-7667

Algonquin Backcountry Recreationalists (ABR)
www.abrweb.ca

Leave No Trace Canada ~ 1-877-238-9343
www.leavenotrace.ca

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

It is common for all of us to get caught up in our day to day lives, especially over the winter with hockey, curling, figure skating, work, family, etc... Then, come spring and summer you remember the ABR and think *'hmmmm, what have you done for me lately?'*

Well, check out our new ACCOMPLISHMENTS page to see what we have been doing. There are some pretty remarkable things going on.

<http://www.abrweb.ca/Accomps.htm>

VOLUNTARY DONATIONS

While there are no dues being charged for membership, the ABR will be depending heavily on support donations.

Voluntary donations will enable us to better develop our website presence, to start publishing educational material, and to eventually register and operate as a Non Profit Organization. Check out PayPal and other options at:

<http://www.abrweb.ca/Help.htm>



4) At the end of a long and hot portage, you may feel the need to sit down and take a break with some water and a snack. As with the beginning of the portage, it is just as important at the end to make sure your canoe and gear are well clear of the landing. This way, you will not hinder any other parties that may be landing at the portage or coming over the portage behind you.

5) Don't be afraid to offer someone a hand with their gear if you see them struggling. They may not be in your party but they will appreciate it regardless. You may sit and look at them wondering why they would bring so much gear, but we have all been there starting out and had all wished someone would have lent us a hand.

With a few manners and some good etiquette, portaging can be a more friendly experience for all involved.

PORTAGE ETIQUETTE

So you managed to load up your canoe with all sorts of gear. Then you jumped in and paddled across the lake. Now that you are there, you are faced with a portage. This will be easy, you think. *BUT WAIT!!* There is something called *portage etiquette* that you may need to polish up on first.

Just as you need manners at the dinner table, there is a certain degree of the same need for manners out in the backcountry. There are certain do's and don'ts that you need to acknowledge. There is more to portaging than just tossing all your gear out of the canoe, carrying everything to the next lake and tossing it all back in. Oh yes, there are a couple points of etiquette that need to be followed.

1) When you get to a portage, do not just throw your gear all over the place and clutter up the landing. By doing this, you risk losing / breaking things and you make it difficult for other parties to use the landing area.

The object of the game is to get your canoe and gear out the landing area and off to the side as quickly (and safely) as possible. If other parties are coming up behind you or are waiting to use the landing area, this makes everyone happy and does not cause any unnecessary delays.

2) While you are toodling down the portage with a pack on your back and munching on trail mix and you happen to see someone with a canoe on their shoulders headed your way, yield the right of way. The person carrying the canoe is focused on the weight, the pain, and making sure they retain their footing.

If this meeting happens on a narrow boardwalk, announce your presence and stand as far to the side as possible to let them pass.

3) If you are moving slowly along a narrow portage and there are people behind you, do the nice thing and let them pass. Their loads may be heavier than yours and you are not making any friends by making them carry the loads longer than they need to.



TRIPPER'S RESOURCE

We all know that a good map can sometimes make or break a trip. It seems to be pretty common knowledge that there is an online canoe route map that goes beyond just giving directions. Check it out for yourself and you be the judge.

www.algonquinmap.com

