This *Master Trail Guide* describes the principal wilderness trails and unique natural and historical features of the Limberlost Reserve.

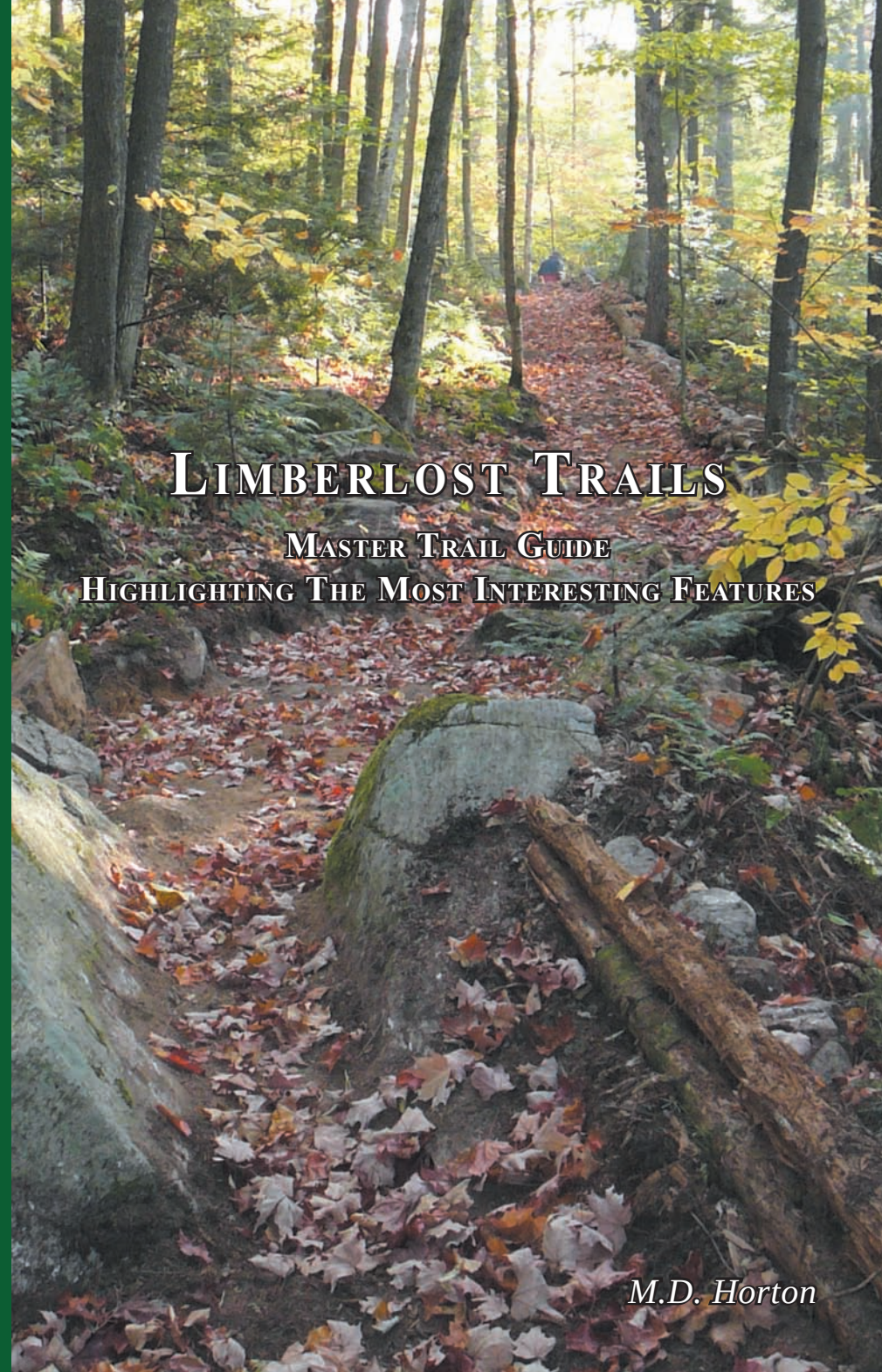
The objective is to assist visitors gain a better understanding of the natural environment as they hike and ski through Limberlost's mature coniferous and hardwood forests and discover its many pristine lakes, varied terrain and diverse wildlife.

May 2008 Publication: $5.00

Sale proceeds contributed to **TRAILS YOUTH INITIATIVES** *(www.trails.ca)*

Available in PDF format at *www.limberlostlodges.com*

LIMBERLOST TRAILS: Master Trail Guide Highlighting the Most Interesting Features



LIMBERLOST TRAILS

MASTER TRAIL GUIDE
HIGHLIGHTING THE MOST INTERESTING FEATURES

M.D. Horton

Limberlost Trails

Master Trail Guide
Highlighting the Most Interesting Features

A Limberlost Press Publication

Compiled by: M. Diane Horton

Other Limberlost Press Publications:

Limberlost's History and Popular Activities

Objective Ecology: A Study of Global Warming

The Summer of Ninety-Eight

A Summer with Uncle Joe

Nature Writings with Uncle Joe

Birds of Limberlost

A Personal Guide to Building and Enjoying Your Wilderness Trails

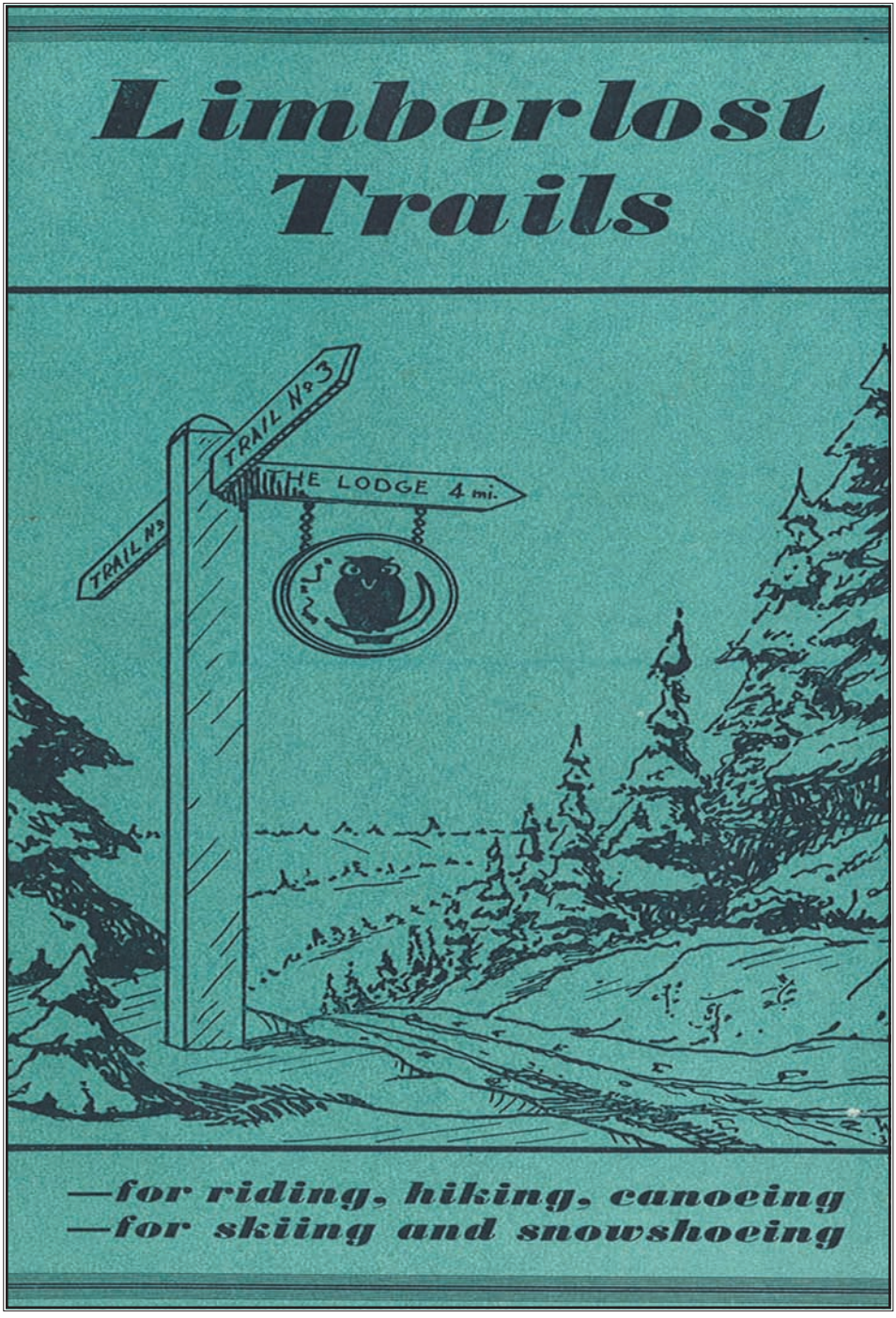
Printed and bound in Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Electronic version available at *www.limberlostlodges.com*

FSC Printed on Forest Stewardship Council certified paper

This book is dedicated to all those individuals who have extended our fascination with nature, from the northern forests to the southern oceans and beyond.

Contents



Cover page of an early Limberlost trail guide c.1939

Introduction

Limberlost's pristine lakes, varied terrain and diverse wildlife habitats ensure that there is always something new to discover with family and friends. The recent restoration of Limberlost's wilderness trails enables nature enthusiasts to once again explore this truly unique property in a safe and ecologically sensitive way.

As the current custodians of the Limberlost Reserve, we feel especially privileged to have participated in the restoration of the property's historic wilderness trails and to be able to welcome local residents as well as visitors from further afield to the reserve.

We are grateful to neighbouring cottagers who volunteered their time to work on the trails, as well as to those who contributed historical information for inclusion in this *Master Trail Guide*. This information should help visitors spend many safe and stimulating days enjoying and learning about nature.

Before describing the principal trails and the unique natural and historical features of the Limberlost Reserve, the introduction section of this guide pays tribute to the original builders and highlights the importance of safety when venturing into the wilderness.

Wilderness Safety Tips

- Take care on the ice and remain near the shore
- Always wear life vests when canoeing
- Ensure you make known your route and expected time to return.
- Take a compass with you when venturing off the trails
- Wear bear bells in the fall and spring
- Wear sun or safety glasses when roughing it through the forest
- Drive slowly and safely

Trail Builders

Bobbie Burns is the individual credited with laying out the original system of hiking trails on the Limberlost Reserve. He was known to have had an uncanny knack for finding the most direct route through the densest forest.

Bobbie Burns, an early settler and Limberlost's master trail builder c.1940s

In his early twenties, Bobbie Burns acquired land from his family to farm next to the Limberlost Reserve where he built a cabin on the east side of Poverty Lake in 1907.

After farming proved unproductive, he decided to devote his life to developing and maintaining a network of trails which at their peak were reputed to exceed 150 kilometres. He also acted as a hiking, hunting and fishing guide for guests staying at the Limberlost Lodge.

Bobbie Burns remained active until he died at 90 years of age and was buried on the grounds of the Hillside Church, not far from the entrance to Limberlost Road.

Bobbie Burns' cabin on Poverty Lake, c.1940s

Without the personal care provided by Bobbie Burns the trails would have gradually become overgrown and essentially unusable, were it not for Joe Cotterchio, who owned a log cabin on Little Twin Lake. As a dedicated conservationist, he not only contributed to maintaining many of the trails, but also to safe-guarding Limberlost's wildlife.

Horseback riders heading out on the Limberlost Trails, c.1940s

Starting in the early 1990s, local cottagers began volunteering their time to recover and upgrade additional Limberlost trails. The initial objective was to make the trails safer and easier for visitors wishing to explore the pristine lakes and enjoy the stunning vantage points overlooking the surrounding forests.

Working mostly on weekends, 70 kilometres of hiking trails have since been re-established, ranking them once again among the very best in the country. A further 30 kilometres have been identified for future restoration, but are currently in medium to rough condition.

The trail system is critical in qualifying Limberlost as a sustainable forest wildlife reserve, as distinct from a park or a nature conservancy. Parks are designed essentially for human recreation, whereas nature conservancies are dedicated to plant and animal life, with minimal human intrusion. Limberlost limits woodland roads, log landings, cottage clearings and beach-

Mission Statement

Limberlost's mission is to be one of the safest and most interesting forest wildlife reserves in Canada.

We will support our hiking trails with Maps and Trail Guides which highlight the reserve's most interesting natural features.

We will safeguard the pristine nature of our lakes and waterways by improving the quality of our forests and by prohibiting the use of pesticides and other contaminants.

We aim to continually upgrade our forests through sustainable and selective thinning to promote the growth of the healthiest trees.

We are pleased to share the forest, hiking trails and woodland roads with visitors from local communities and nearby lakes, while reserving the tennis courts and fishing in stocked lakes for paying guests who provide the revenues to sustain these amenities.

We will facilitate and try to encourage the discussion of environmental issues through study groups and a variety of publications.

We will help underprivileged groups enjoy our guest facilities and other amenities during the off-peak periods.

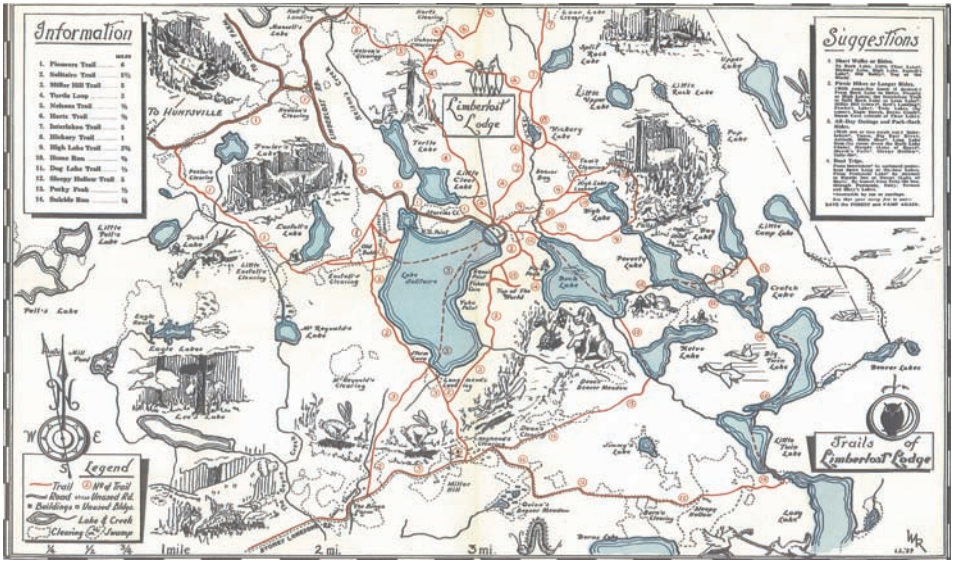
Ted Rivers

front areas to less than two percent of the reserve's land area, while its hiking trails facilitate forest stewardship and reduce the need for logging roads.

By maintaining well groomed trails, visitors to the reserve are encouraged to remain on the established routes and not venture off them and thereby damage animal habitats and plant growth. Furthermore, large segments of the reserve experience virtually no human activity, including designated wetlands and the secluded valleys in the western and southern quadrants of the reserve.

Visitors will note from the numerous tracks left on the surface of the hiking trails that both large and small animals use them to ease their movement between foraging areas, fresh water and the areas where they bed down.

Because of the high quality of the trails, artists, wildlife photographers and bird watchers are able to walk silently through



1939 Limberlost Trail Map

the forest and wetland meadows without being concerned about snapping twigs or rustling leaves which could forewarn animals and birds of their approach.

During the course of restoring the trails a number of new natural and historical features were discovered. These, together with Limberlost's many other unique features, are described in this *Master Trail Guide* with the objective of making every visit an enjoyable learning experience.

Rocks removed during trail construction line a portion of the Turtle Lake Trail

Wide, visible trail along Lake Solitaire

Our Sacred Trust

Wilderness land is a precious treasure, my friends,
Treat it as a sacred trust.
To be worthy and deserving, my friends,
You must take care and be just.

All land is held in trust, my friends,
From now 'till our dying days.
For the land we love will remain, my friends,
Long after we've passed away.

When you enter the forest with care, my friends,
You'll be keeping the land fresh and whole.
Relish the sounds of the wilderness, my friends.
For they should warm your heart and soul.

Take care of the trails and streams, my friends,
For there's still much we need to do.
Protect the forests and lakes, my friends,
For this land now counts on you.

Live by this rule of the land, my friends,
What you take, you must put back.
You'll find such a life very full, my friends,
When it is time to shoulder your pack.

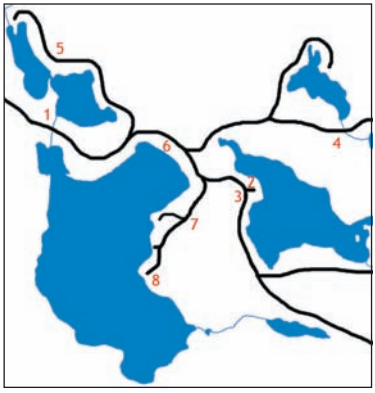
Thegar W. Henry
Abridged version

Safety Priorities

Initially, the Limberlost trails were designed to speed horseback riders across the property and into Algonquin Park. In time, however, they were used by hikers and safety became increasingly important. Today safety continues to be the highest priority and is expected to be practiced by all visitors using the trails.

Visitors are reminded about the importance of safety measures upon arrival at the Limberlost Reserve. They are asked to read and sign a *Safety Responsibility Contract* which highlights the need to be safety conscious at all times, and records their responsibilities in this regard.

To protect hikers and wildlife on the woodland roads, vehicles are required to be left at one of a number of designated parking areas. Each of these are a short walk to the start of a major hiking trail.



Parking Areas:

1. Solitaire Lookout
2. Buck Lake Landing
3. Lookout Trail
4. High Lake Trail
5. Turtle Lake Narrows
6. Solitaire Beach
7. Tree Tops
8. Water's Edge

To a large extent, the major trails are linked directly with other trails or by short walks along woodland roads. Visitors are therefore able to expand the length of their hikes to whatever distance they desire, assured that they can return safely along a trail or woodland road to their starting point.

GPS readings are listed for the major points of interest on each trail to help visitors locate them. These also assist visitors who

detour from the prepared trails, which is generally not encouraged, to return safely.

Trees along the trails are scaled, typically to a height of ten feet or more, to avoid injuries and minimize surprise encounters with black bears or other large animals.

Steps are added on steep inclines for safety

By providing the safest and most effective route, Limberlost's wilderness trails ensure visitors do not become lost. The trails also discourage individuals from trudging through sensitive areas where they could injure themselves or where their footprints could damage young plant growth, emerging fungi and hollowed-out areas used by small animals for shelter.

For safety reasons, until greater control is established over the road allowances on the southern and western boundaries of the reserve, visitors are encouraged to confine their hikes to the trails located in the central and northeast quadrants of the reserve.

SAFETY
Is The Highest Priority

- Visitors to the Limberlost Reserve are encouraged to think and practise safety at all times.
- The Safety Responsibility Contract signed when checking in at the office is a reminder that safety is a personal responsibility.
- Visitors are expected to remain on the prepared trails and woodland roads to reduce the risk of injury.
- ATV's, snowmobiles, skidoos and power boats are not permitted on the reserve to protect wildlife, and also for safety reasons.

Trail Publications

Trail maps are made available to visitors at no charge to ensure they find their way easily and safely about the reserve. These are prepared to increase the enjoyment visitors derive from locating old growth trees, lookouts on the crests of hills, or attractive rock outcrops.

Proceeds from the sale of this *Master Trail Guide*, which provides more detailed information on the reserve's most interesting features, are donated to Trails Youth Initiatives. This organization conducts two key outdoor programs at Limberlost each year for inner-city youth: (www.trails.ca).

Trails Youth Initiatives members after a trail work session

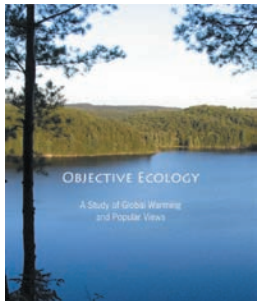
The *Master Trail Guide* is also posted on the Limberlost website and can be accessed at no cost: (www.limberlostlodges.com). In addition to describing each of the major hiking trails on the Limberlost Reserve, the guide provides more detailed information on the areas identified on the trail maps, including the reserve's towering cliffs, secluded valleys, pristine lakes, prominent tree species and other natural and historical features.

Key Limberlost Nature Publications

Limberlost's History and Popular Activities
Objective Ecology
The Summer of Ninety-Eight
A Summer with Uncle Joe
Nature Writings with Uncle Joe
Birds of Limberlost
A Personal Guide to Building Wilderness Trails

To further your enjoyment of the Limberlost Reserve, a number of other nature publications have been sponsored, many of which are also available on Limberlost's website.

These publications include three children's novels recording the adventures of two brothers and their older sister growing up on the Limberlost Reserve. These were written to encourage other children to make their own discoveries and share these experiences with their families and friends.



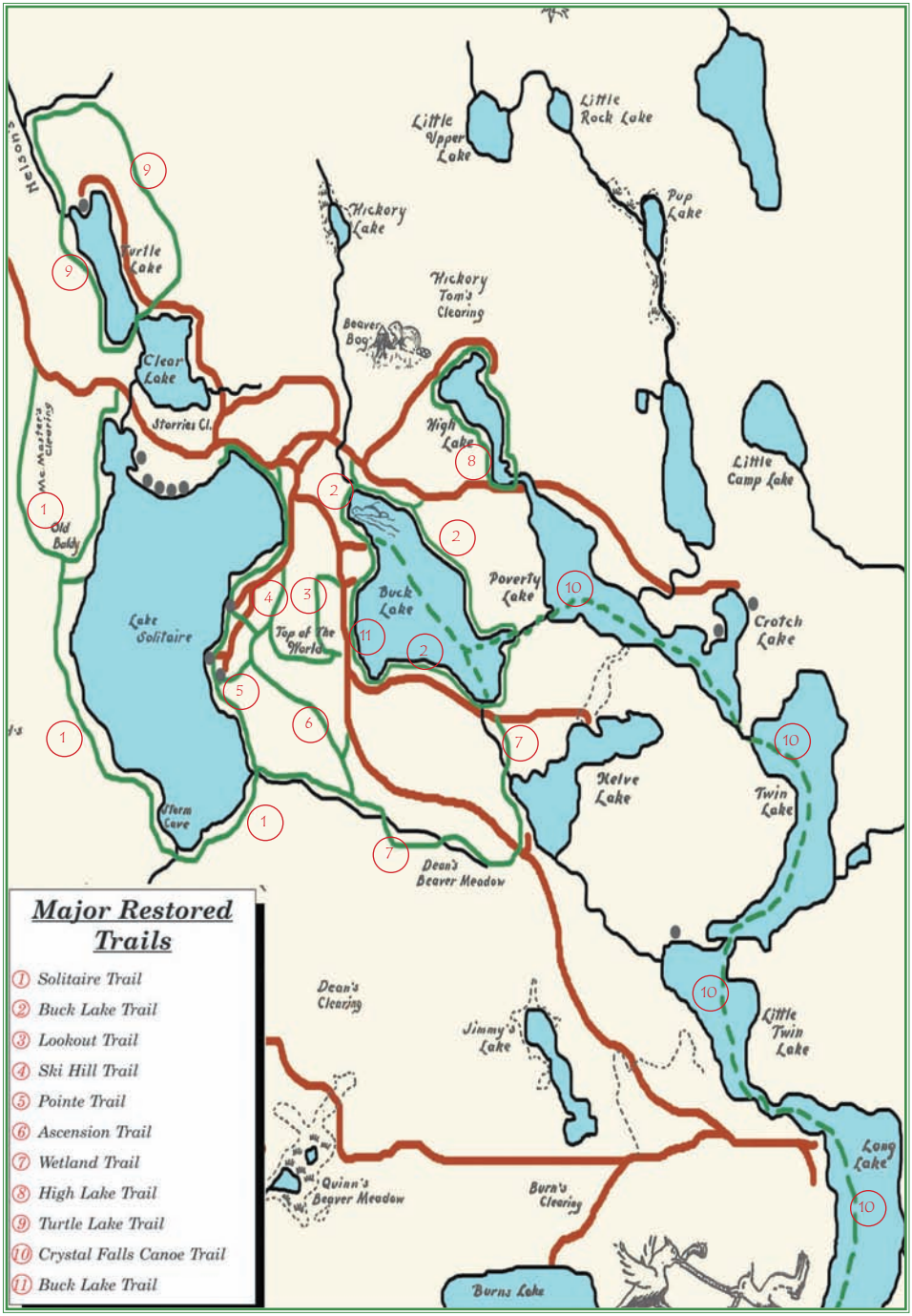
In addition, Limberlost has published a comprehensive study on climate change, which strongly supports conservation and the reduction of emissions of all kinds, irrespective of whether mankind or natural forces are the principal cause of the climate warming currently occurring.

A practical trail building guide summarizes lessons learned over the years in restoring Limberlost's hiking trails. This guide is also available on the Limberlost website for aspiring trail builders to refer to prior to planning their own trails.

Limberlost publications span all ages and are intended to add enjoyment to your family's visits to the reserve, by providing them with the opportunity to broaden their understanding of nature.

Ten Trail Building Tips

1. Think constantly of the safety of those building as well as those likely to use the trail.
2. Safeguard environmentally sensitive areas with bridges, boardwalks and stepping stones.
3. Carefully survey each trail's route in order to follow the natural contours of the land.
4. Even out the trail path to ensure that it is horizontally level.
5. Trim the trees on either side of the trail as high as can be safely reached to avoid accidents.
6. Maximize the educational value of each trail.
7. Highlight the natural and historical points of interest you choose to incorporate in each trail.
8. Complete each section of the trail to a consistent standard as you go along as it may be some time before you return to complete the work.
9. Encourage users of your trails to assist in maintaining them by removing fallen branches or logs.
10. Provide visitors with maps and other information to enhance their enjoyment.



Central portion of Limberlost Reserve showing Trails partially restored by 2003 when the reserve was re-opened to the public

Principal Trails

In setting out on a journey from one town to another, maps are usually consulted to determine the most direct or interesting route to a given destination. In the wilderness, hiking trails serve a similar purpose by providing the most efficient and safest way to explore and enjoy a chosen area.

More than two thirds of the trails on the Limberlost Reserve are groomed and qualify as high quality trails, as opposed to rugged hiking paths. As such, they are suitable for joggers as well as individuals who prefer to enjoy nature at their leisure.

Furthermore, large sections of the trails have been widened to enable hikers to walk abreast of each other and engage in conversations undistracted by concerns about stumbling and hurting themselves.

In addition, the reserve has many scenic woodland roads for hikers and skiers to use.

This section of the *Master Trail Guide* describes each of the hiking trails in greater detail than contained in the *Trail Maps* made available to the public at the Visitors' Centre.

Principal Trails

High Quality	KM	Steps
Solitaire Trail	13.0	16,400
Buck Lake Trail	8.5	10,700
High Lake Trail	9.0	11,300
Turtle Lake Trail	8.0	10,100
Kalonga Wetland Trail	11.0	13,800
Crystal Falls Trail	7.7	8,750
Lookout Trail	5.0	6,300
Ski Hill Trail	4.2	5,250
Echo Rock Trail	5.5	7,000
Lower Quality		
Backwoods / Pointe Trail	1.5	1,900
Ascension Trail	1.5	1,900
Helve Trail	1.5	1,900
Hickory Creek Trail	0.5	650
Hickory Lake Trail	6.0	7,650
McReynolds Valley Trail	8.0	10,100

Solitaire Trail

Beaver dam south of Windy Cave (#9)

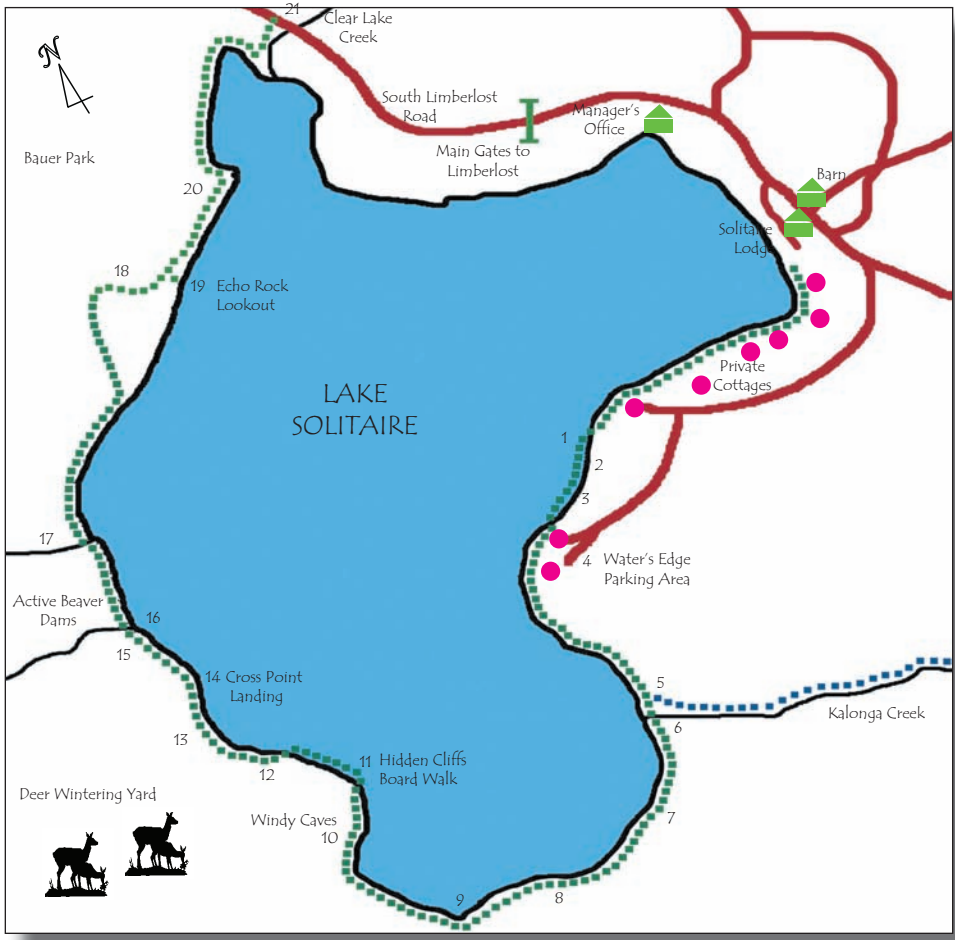
The Solitaire Trail circles around the largest lake on the reserve with a well-groomed path suitable for jogging and backwoods skiing. Other than the climb up to the Echo Rock Lookout, the grades are relatively gradual.

Kalonga Wetland turnoff (#5)

Access to Trail	Start at either the sandy beach in front of the Solitaire Lodge, or alternatively from the parking area near the Clear Lake Creek north of the main entrance gate.
Trail Links	The trail links up with the Kalonga Wetland Trail as well as Bauer Provincial Park, providing opportunities to extend your hike.
Distance	13 km
Number of Steps	16,400
Difficulty	Easy to moderate
Trail Description	Although this was the first trail to be restored, it remains one of the most popular and interesting on the reserve.

Little Echo Rock boardwalk (#1)

The trail passes by numerous unique natural features, including a large quartz outcrop, historical homestead sites, a massive rock overhang and a lookout with stunning views.



Solitaire Trail

Country Roads

Points of Interest

1. Little Echo Rock Boardwalk
2. Colmac's Way
3. Fisher's Cave
4. Waters Edge Parking Area
5. Kalonga Wetland Turnoff
6. Kalonga Creek Bridge
7. Teda's Hemlock Grove
8. Langmead Settlement
9. High Beaver Dam
10. Windy Cave
11. Hidden Cliffs Boardwalk
12. Interesting Rock Formations
13. Fungi Specimens
14. Cross Point Landing
15. Heron Nesting Ground
16. Giant White Pine Point
17. Boyenne River Wetland Turnoff
18. Large Quartz Outcrop
19. Echo Rock Lookout
20. Old growth Hemlock Forest
21. Clear Lake Creek Parking Area

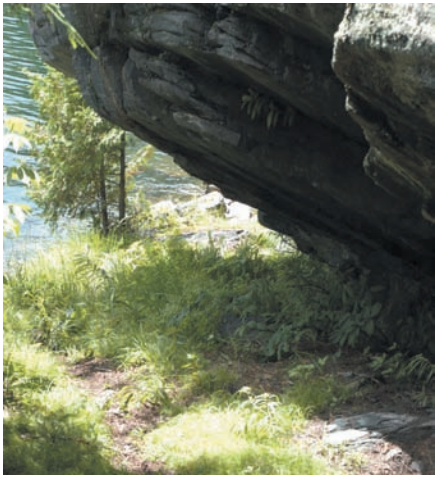
Large quartz outcrop (#18)

Echo Rock, at the northwest corner of the lake, is one of four prominent lookouts on the reserve. It provides a safe vantage point to enjoy breath-taking views of Solitaire Lake and the change in the colours of the deciduous tree leaves in the fall.

On the plateau to the south of Echo Rock you will encounter a large quartz outcrop. The size of the outcrop is unusual for this region of the country, making it well worth spending the time to examine its crystalline form.

Halfway down the west side of the lake you will find a giant white pine tree which has a girth of ten feet and is more than 150 years old.

Shortly after crossing a wooden boardwalk lying at the foot of the Hidden Cliffs, you will walk below a massive rock overhang which creates a cave-like structure where birds and a variety of animals seek shelter in inclement weather.



Rock overhang leading to the Hidden Cliffs (#11)

On the east side of the lake you will pass by Teda's Rest, a prepared picnic area nestled on a point among large hemlock and white pine trees.

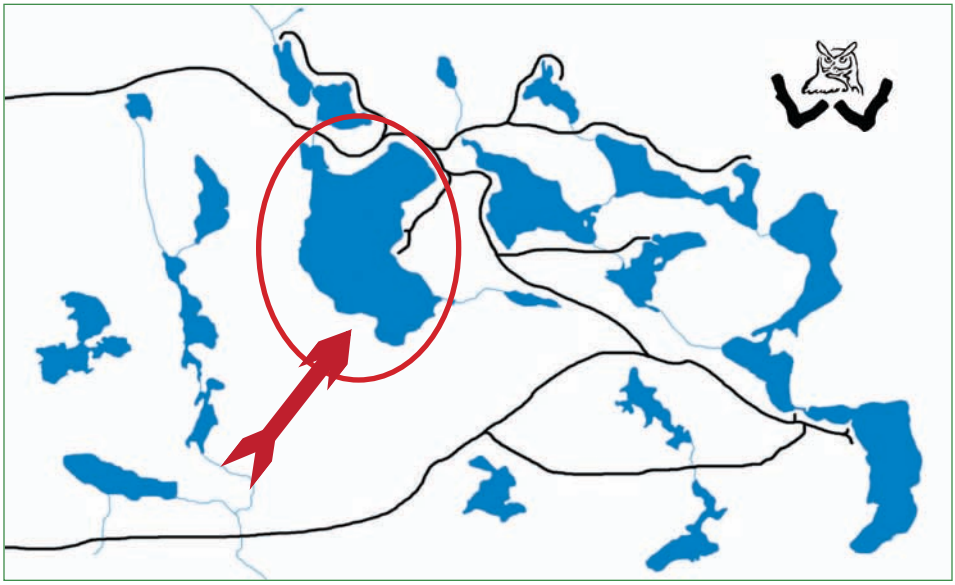
After crossing a bridge which spans Kalonga Creek, you will encounter the turn-off to the Kalonga Wetland Trail, which passes by a series of active beaver dams.

Colmac's Way (#2)

Half way up the east side of the lake is another more extensive boardwalk which allows you to pass below a secondary set of cliffs. This boardwalk provides an excellent platform to fish for smallmouth bass which frequent the rocky ledges lying offshore.

At either end of the boardwalk you will find two access points to the cliff path which enables you to extend your hike along a contour path to the Ski Hill and related trails.

The Echo Rock Cliffs viewed from the east side of Lake Solitaire (#19)



Points of Interest	GPS Co-ordinates	
Trail Start		
Solitaire Beach	N45° 23.848	W79° 00.066
Clear Lake Creek	N45° 24.038	W79° 00.066
Hemlock Forest	N45° 23.815	W79° 00.771
Echo Rock Lookout	N45° 23.665	W79° 00.854
Quartz Deposit	N45° 23.597	W79° 00.007
Giant White Pine	N45° 23.279	W79° 00.820
Windy Cave	N45° 23.097	W79° 00.595
Teda's Rest (camp site)	N45° 23.109	W79° 00.212
Kalonga Creek Bridge	N45° 23.159	W79° 00.142
Kalonga Wetland Trail (turn-off)	N45° 23.170	W79° 00.139
Cliff Paths	N45° 23.503	W79° 00.297
Eastern Boardwalk	N45° 23.518	W79° 00.294
Reazin's Pointe	N45° 23.611	W79° 00.228
Link trail to Solitaire Lodge	N45° 23.750	W79° 00.120

Trail Sections	KM	Rating
Solitaire Beach to Clear Lake Creek	1.0	8
Clear Lake Creek to Hemlock Forest	1.5	8
Echo Rock Lookout	1.5	10
Echo Rock to Quartz Deposit	1.0	10
Quartz Deposit to Giant White Pine	1.5	6
White Pine to Windy Cave	1.0	9
Windy Cave to Teda's Rest	1.5	9
Teda's Rest to Kalonga Creek Bridge	0.5	10
Kalonga Creek Bridge to Boardwalk	1.5	10
Boardwalk to Reazin's Pointe	0.5	10
Reazin's Pointe to Solitaire Beach	1.5	8
	13.0	

Ratings: 1 = very rough, 10 = high quality

Grades: 80% = slight grade, 10% = 20° grade, 10% = 20°+ grade

Safety is the Highest Priority

Buck Lake Trail

View from the bird sanctuary (#3)

The Buck Lake Trail remains close to the shoreline of the second largest lake and therefore, with few exceptions, is relatively level. It is easily accessed with a short walk from the two main lodges or from three designated parking areas.

Hickory Creek Ravine (#4)

Access to Trail	Start at either Buck Lake Landing or alternatively from the High-Poverty Road Junction, both of which have ample space to park cars.
Trail Links	The trail links up with the Buck Lookout, Ascension and Kalonga Wetland trails, providing opportunities to extend your hike.
Distance	8.5 km
Number of Steps	10,700
Difficulty	Easy to moderate
Trail Description	Although significantly shorter than the Solitaire Trail, this trail has as many points of interest and equally attractive features.

Buck Lake Lodge (#1)

The trail passes over an abandoned beaver dam which borders a secluded bird sanctuary and intercepts two portage routes. A rest cabin is located at the south end of Buck Lake to warm up in during the winter.

Points of Interest

1. Buck Lake Lodge
2. Buck Lake Landing
3. Bird Sanctuary
4. Hickory Creek Ravine
5. Link Road
6. High – Poverty Road Junction
7. Settlers' Farms
8. Mountain Ash Trees
9. Red Oak Trees
10. Spring Water Chute
11. Fox Den
12. Thegar's Rest
13. Winter Ice Cliffs
14. Poverty Portage and Bridgeway
15. Osprey Island
16. Wil Quinn's Rest Cabin
17. Quartz Outcrop
18. Helve Creek and Portage
19. Nugget Creek
20. Ascension Trail
21. Boardwalk

Natural water chute (#10)

Buck Lake Landing, a natural starting point for your hike, was cleared and levelled in the early 1900s to store logs cut during the summer and floated across Buck Lake. Today it provides an area to park, picnic or swim.

At the north end of the lake you pass through a secluded bird sanctuary where Sandhill Cranes and Great Blue Herons breed in the grassy wetlands created by an abandoned beaver dam. Crossing the beaver dam is the only unprepared portion of the trail where you may experience some difficulty.

At the east end of the abandoned beaver dam, a trail will take you up to the High Lake-Poverty Road Junction, should you wish to detour around High Lake.

When you reach the stream flowing into Poverty Lake at the southeast corner of Buck Lake, you will find an extensive boardwalk crossing the stream which flows out of the lake. There is also a portage trail leading to Poverty Lake and a trail along the west side of the lake to Poverty Road and High Lake.

Nugget Creek (#19)

By venturing off the Buck Lake trail shortly after passing the portage, you should find evidence

of an early homestead site, including underground winter storage caverns, iron stove remains and other metal objects. Many of the old tools and kitchen utensils recovered from this site are displayed in Wil Quinn's Rest Cabin.

Prior to reaching the cabin you will pass by Osprey Island where osprey have nested successfully in recent years. This area should be approached discreetly, especially during the spring and summer nesting periods.

Poverty Portage (#14)

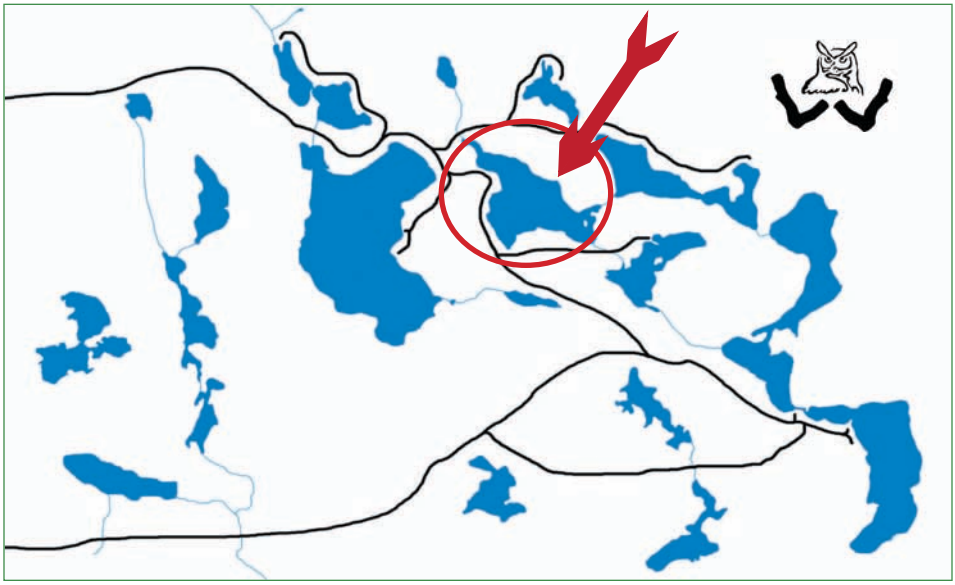
A few hundred yards further along the lakeshore you will find Wil Quinn's Rest Cabin set on top of a rock cliff. The cabin was rebuilt in recent years and today provides an attractive place to stop for lunch or use as a base to paint the scenery or warm up.

Further along the south end of the lake you will reach the Helve Portage which provides another opportunity to extend your hike by proceeding up to Helve Lake and returning down the Kalonga Wetland Trail.

Helve Creek and Portage (#18)

Half way up the west side of Buck Lake, you will encounter a boardwalk which enables you to pass beneath an extensive rock cliff. In the early spring, this is an attractive place to stop in the early mornings to enjoy the warm sunshine.

Buck Lake Trail – *continued*



Points of Interest	GPS Co-ordinates	
Trail Start		
Buck Lake Landing	N45° 23.725	W78° 59.734
Buck Lake Lookout Parking Area	N45° 23.618	W78° 59.682
Bird Sanctuary	N45° 23.845	W78° 59.682
Link Trail to High-Poverty Junction	N45° 23.863	W78° 59.742
Spring Water Chute	N45° 23.557	W78° 59.260
Winter Ice Cliffs	N45° 23.548	W78° 59.7264
Poverty Portage and Bridgeway	N45° 23.417	W78° 59.042
Homestead Site	N45° 23.390	W78° 59.044
Osprey Island	N45° 23.328	W78° 59.112
Wil Quinn's Rest Cabin	N45° 23.317	W78° 59.104
Helve Creek Portage	N45° 23.255	W78° 59.190
Ascension Trail Turn-off	N45° 23.321	W78° 59.665
Boardwalk below Rock Cliff	N45° 23.542	W78° 59.715
Buck Lake Lodge Detour Trail	N45° 23.631	W78° 59.610

Trail Sections	KM	Rating
Buck Lake Landing to Bird Sanctuary	1.0	9
Bird Sanctuary to Link Trail to Poverty Road	0.2	6
Link Trail to Spring Water Chute	1.5	7
Water Chute to Ice Cliffs	0.3	8
Ice Cliffs to Poverty Portage	1.0	10
Poverty Portage to Wil Quinn's Rest Cabin	1.0	10
Wil Quinn's Rest Cabin to Helve Creek Portage	0.5	8
Helve Creek Portage to Ascension Trail Turn-off	1.5	10
Ascension Trail Turn-off to Boardwalk	0.5	7
Boardwalk below Rock Cliff to Lookout Parking	0.5	10
Lookout Parking Area to Buck Lake Landing	0.5	10
	8.5	

Ratings: 1 = very rough, 10 = high quality

Grades: 70% = level, 10% = slight grade, 20% = 20°+ grade

Safety is the Highest Priority

High Lake Trail

Otter Bay (#11)

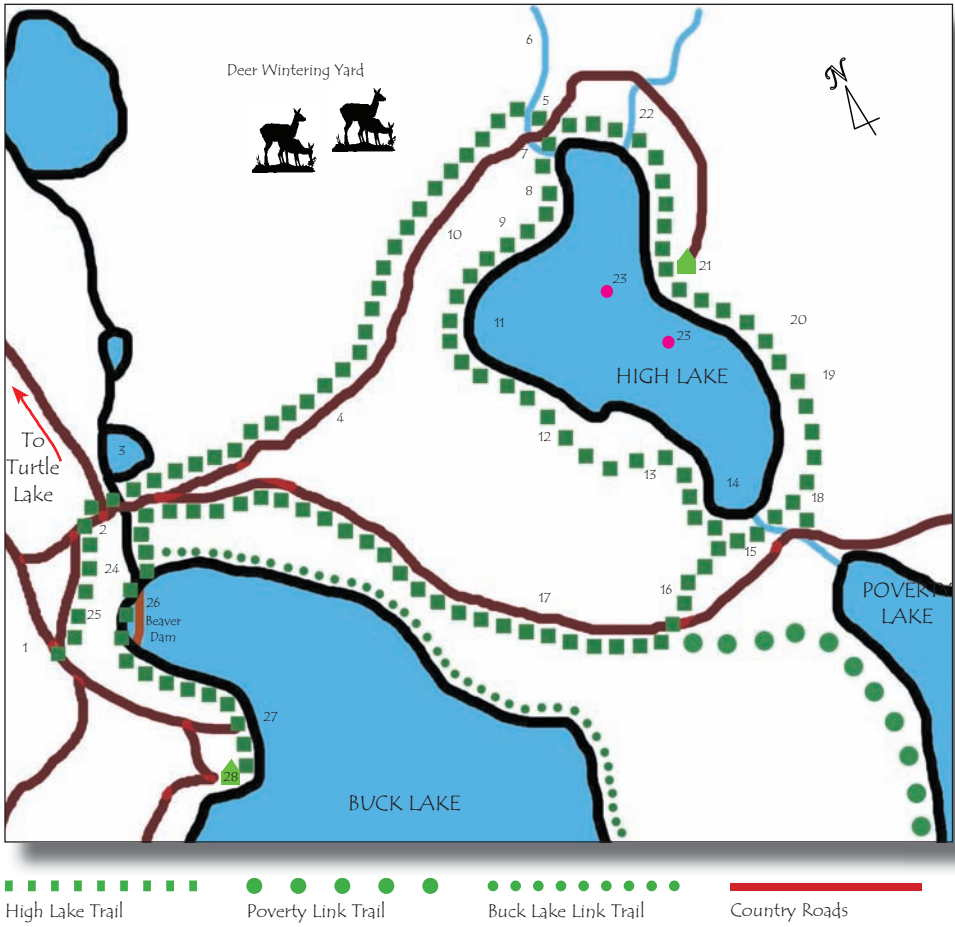
The High Lake Trail is in the northeast corner of the reserve and is less than a kilometer from the border with the Loon Lake Hunt Club. It is the highest lake in the region and the first of an eight lake chain which drains the eastern side of the reserve, over Crystal Falls and eventually into Lake of Bays.

Entrance to High Lake Trail (#5)

Access to Trail	Start at either the High-Poverty Junction or the designated parking area further along Poverty Road, near the High Lake outflow.
Trail Links	The trail links to a rough trail along the west side of Poverty Lake, leading to the portage at the southeast corner of Buck Lake.
Distance	9 km
Number of Steps	11,300
Difficulty	Easy to moderate
Trail Description	The trail differs from the other lake trails by meandering away from the shore into the forest, particularly on the west side of the lake.

Hickory Creek Beaver Dam (#3)

The trail passes by steep cliffs with rock caves, a variety of animal habitats, beaver dams and a rest cabin which can be used as a base for picnicking and swimming.



Points of Interest

1. Start of High Lake Trail
2. Clear Lake Trail turnoff
3. Hickory Creek Beaver Dam
4. High Lake Road
5. Entrance to High Lake Trail
6. High Lake Creek
7. Thegar's Bridge
8. Cliff Caves
9. Giant Yellow Birch
10. Attractive Ice Cliffs in Winter
11. Otter Bay
12. Wolf Ridge
13. Fox Den and Eastern Yew
14. Beaver Lodge
15. Southern Beaver Dam
16. Logging Road and Designated Parking Area
17. Poverty Lake Road
18. Steep Descent to Poverty Lake Road
19. Rough High Lake East Trail
20. Windfall Timber Area
21. Hickory Tom Rest Cabin
22. Northern Beaver Dams
23. Wind Powered Oxygenators
24. Hickory Creek Gorge
25. Buck Lake Bird Sanctuary
26. Buck Lake Beaver Dam
27. Buck Lake Landing
28. Buck Lake Lodge

An old logging road directly across from the designated parking area on Poverty Road leads up to the south end of High Lake and the large beaver dam which has raised the lake by approximately four feet above its natural level.

Hickory Tom Rest Cabin (#21) and floating Oxygenator (#23)

In heading west around the lake, visitors will encounter mature hemlock stands used by white-tail deer as wintering yards. Hemlock trees tend to hold the snow on their branches where it melts in the sunshine and results in low levels of snow accumulation on the ground.

Also on this side of the lake, healthy pockets of eastern yew grow under the mature trees in close proximity to the lake. Their leaves contain paclitoxel which is used to fight cancer and other diseases.

The bay at the northwestern corner of the lake is home to a family of otters which thrive on the rich aquatic life in and around the shores of the lake. They are known to have tunnelled holes in the main beaver dam on High Lake to feast on the fish and frogs as they flush through into Poverty Lake.

Winter ice cliffs (#10)

At the north end of the lake, ice cliffs form each winter from water seeping off a high plateau and over a rock face. The copper and other minerals leaching out of the surrounding rocks and soil provide a bluish luster to the ice.

Northern beaver dam (#22)

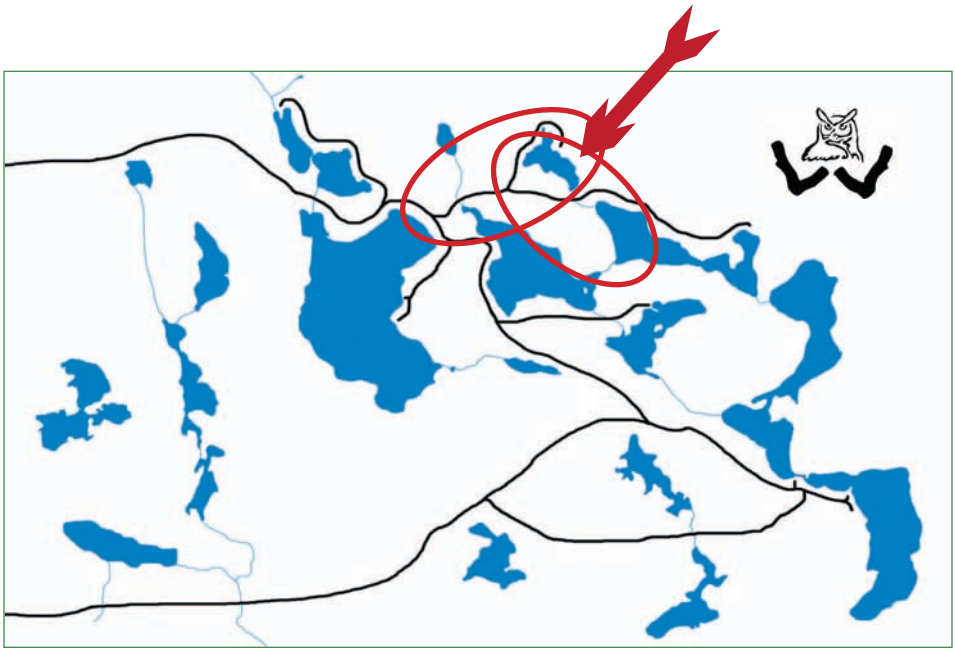
These cliffs also contain rock caves which are clearly visible in the summer months.

The restored Hickory Tom Rest Cabin is situated on the east side of the lake perched on a large rock outcropping. This cabin was restored using matching hemlock logs and is available for visitors wishing to swim, picnic or rest. A rustic wood stove can be used to provide warmth during the winter months.

Thegar's Bridge (#7)

Two platform mounted windmills are installed on the lake as an environmental experiment to add oxygen to the lake water in order to promote healthier aquatic growth. Over a five year period favourable results have been achieved.

High Lake Trail – *continued*



Points of Interest	GPS Co-ordinates	
Trail Start		
High-Poverty Road Junction	N45° 23.958	W78° 59.607
Poverty Road Designated Parking Area	N45° 23.753	W78° 59.188
Logging Road - south end	N45° 23.770	W78° 59.122
Beaver Dam at south end of High Lake	N45° 23.872	W78° 59.023
Deer Wintering Yard	N45° 23.927	W78° 59.233
Otter Bay	N45° 23.928	W78° 59.174
Cliff Caves	N45° 23.982	W78° 59.351
Giant Yellow Birch Tree	N45° 23.970	W78° 59.351
Bridge over Thegar Creek	N45° 24.027	W78° 59.283
Trail to Cabin	N45° 24.118	W78° 59.118
Hickory Tom Rest Cabin	N45° 24.018	W78° 59.134
Oxygenators	N45° 24.022	W78° 59.302
Direct Path to Poverty Road	N45° 24.870	W78° 59.060
Poverty Lake West Trail	N45° 23.700	W78° 59.192

Trail Sections	KM	Rating
High-Poverty Junction to Designated Parking Area	2.0	10
Poverty Road parking to High Lake Beaver Dam	1.0	7
Beaver Dam to Hemlock Deer Wintering Yard	1.0	10
Deer Wintering Yard to Otter Bay - west side	0.5	10
Otter Bay to Cliff Caves	0.5	10
Cliff Caves to Cabin Trail - east side	0.5	10
Cabin Trail to Hickory Tom Rest Cabin	0.5	10
Hickory Tom Rest Cabin to Lake Outflow - south end	1.0	6
Return along Poverty Road to Junction	2.0	10
	9.0	
Return to Junction via Poverty Lake West Trail and Buck Lake East Trail (net additional kilometres)	2.5	7
	11.5	

Ratings: 1 = very rough, 10 = high quality

Grades: 50% = level, 25% = slight grade, 25% = 20°+ grade

Safety is the Highest Priority

Turtle Lake Trail

Alternate route, used by a moose (#18)

The Turtle Lake Trail, in circling around the lake, extends two kilometres north of the lake to pass the wetlands which feed Oliver Creek. The grades are relatively moderate, with the steepest sections being on the east side of the lake.

Ethan Shale water course (#10)

Access to Trail	Start at the parking area at the narrows where Clear Lake joins Turtle Lake and walk along a high quality hiking trail on either the east or west side of the lake.
Trail Links	The trail links with the Solitaire Trail at its southern end along a rough path which exits at the parking area on South Limberlost Road.
Distance	8 km
Number of Steps	10,100
Difficulty	Easy to moderate
Trail Description	A large portion of the trail is at shore level, however on the east side of the lake the trail leaves the shore and climbs up a hill before descending to follow two streams back to the north end of the lake.

Herd of deer (#3)

The trail passes by a number of interesting natural features, including the rock formations known as Naomi's Rest and Ethan's Shale as well as a giant basswood tree, the largest tree on the reserve.

Turtle Lake Trail

Country Roads

Points of Interest

1. Designated Parking Area
2. Link Road
3. Deer Enclosure
4. Clear Lake Narrows
5. Black Cherry Tree
6. Wild Leek Field
7. Naomi's Rest
8. Return to Turtle Lake Road
9. Oliver Creek Beaver Dams
10. Ethan Shale Water Course
11. Large Maple Tree
12. Settlement Remains
13. Nelson River Bridgeway
14. Rockton Pointe (Private Cottage)
15. Cedar Tree Stumps
16. Heavy Woodpecker Activity
17. Giant Basswood Tree
18. Alternate Route
19. Limberlost Canoe Rack
20. Echo Rock Parking Area
21. Main Gate Parking Bay

Half way along the Turtle Lake Trail on the east side of the lake two large rocks, known as Naomi's Rest, protrude well above the surrounding landscape.

One explanation is that these rocks resulted from the massive meteorite impact which occurred at the Brent Crater approximately 450 million years ago.

Heavy woodpecker activity along west shore (#16)

At the northeast corner of the trail lies a series of beaver dams and wetlands, prolific with bird life. Water flows from these wetlands through Oliver Creek, cascading gently over the Ethan Shale during the spring breakup on the way to the Nelson River.

Oliver Creek beaver dams (#9)

It is in this area that the Nelson family settled around 1884. Evidence of their farm can be found on the higher ground south of Oliver Creek, including four distinct mounds on the east side of the Nelson River flanked with stones. This area is an ideal resting ground as it enjoys the afternoon sunshine and the constant gurgling of the river.

An extensive cedar bridgeway allows you to cross the Nelson River just below the abandoned beaver dam which holds back the waters of Turtle Lake.

Nelson River bridgeway covered with winter snow (#13)

A large basswood tree, which is also the largest tree in the region, is located on the west side of Turtle Lake on the northern bank of a year-round drainage area where it has ideal growing conditions with ample groundwater.

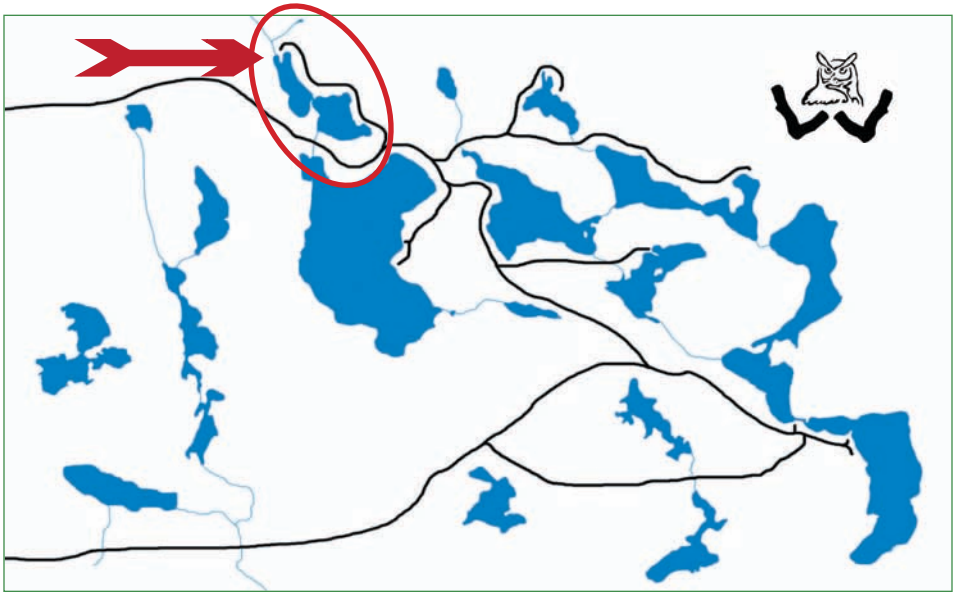
At the south end of Turtle Lake the trail emerges onto a well treed peninsula with large cedars, hemlock and white pine trees.

In order to link up with the Solitaire Trail, turn right and head west along the ridge of the peninsula to South Limberlost Road. Across the road is the Limberlost gate to the trail which leads to Echo Rock and the Solitaire Trail.

Trail along peninsula near the Narrows (#4)

Otherwise, continue around Turtle Lake to the eastern tip of the peninsula where you will find a solid footbridge across the narrows at the point where water flows into Turtle Lake from Clear Lake. From there it is a short walk up a hill to the designated parking area on the Turtle Lake Road.

Turtle Lake Trail – *continued*



Points of Interest	GPS Co-ordinates	
Trail Start		
Narrows between Turtle and Clear Lakes	N45° 24.295	W79° 00.574
Clear Lake Creek to S. Limberlost Road	N45° 24.062	W79° 00.701
Naomi's Rest	N45° 24.462	W79° 00.566
Northern Wetlands	N45° 24.711	W79° 00.754
Oliver Creek	N45° 24.700	W79° 00.776
Ethan Shale	N45° 24.650	W79° 00.850
Nelson Family Settlement	N45° 24.680	W79° 00.900
Nelson River and Oliver Creek Junction	N45° 24.677	W79° 00.985
Bridgeway crossing to west side of Lake	N45° 24.566	W79° 00.862
Old Cedar Tree Stumps	N45° 24.410	W79° 00.890
Giant Basswood Tree	N45° 24.315	W79° 00.771
Peninsula between Turtle and Clear Lakes	N45° 24.213	W79° 00.613
Bridge across Narrows	N45° 24.241	W79° 00.558

Trail Sections	KM	Rating
From Lodges to Turtle Lake Narrows	1.5	10
Narrows to Naomi's Rest	1.0	10
Naomi's Rest to Wetlands	1.0	8
Wetlands to Ethan Shale	0.5	7
Ethan Shale to Oliver Creek Junction with Nelson River	0.5	7
Junction to Bridge to west side of Turtle Lake	1.0	10
Bridgeway at Giant Basswood	1.0	8
Giant Basswood to Peninsula	1.0	8
Peninsula to Bridge across Narrows	0.5	10
	8.0	

Ratings: 1 = very rough, 10 = high quality

Grades: 50% = level, 25% = slight grade, 25% = 20°+ grade

Safety is the Highest Priority

Kalonga Wetland Trail

Kalonga Creek (#3)

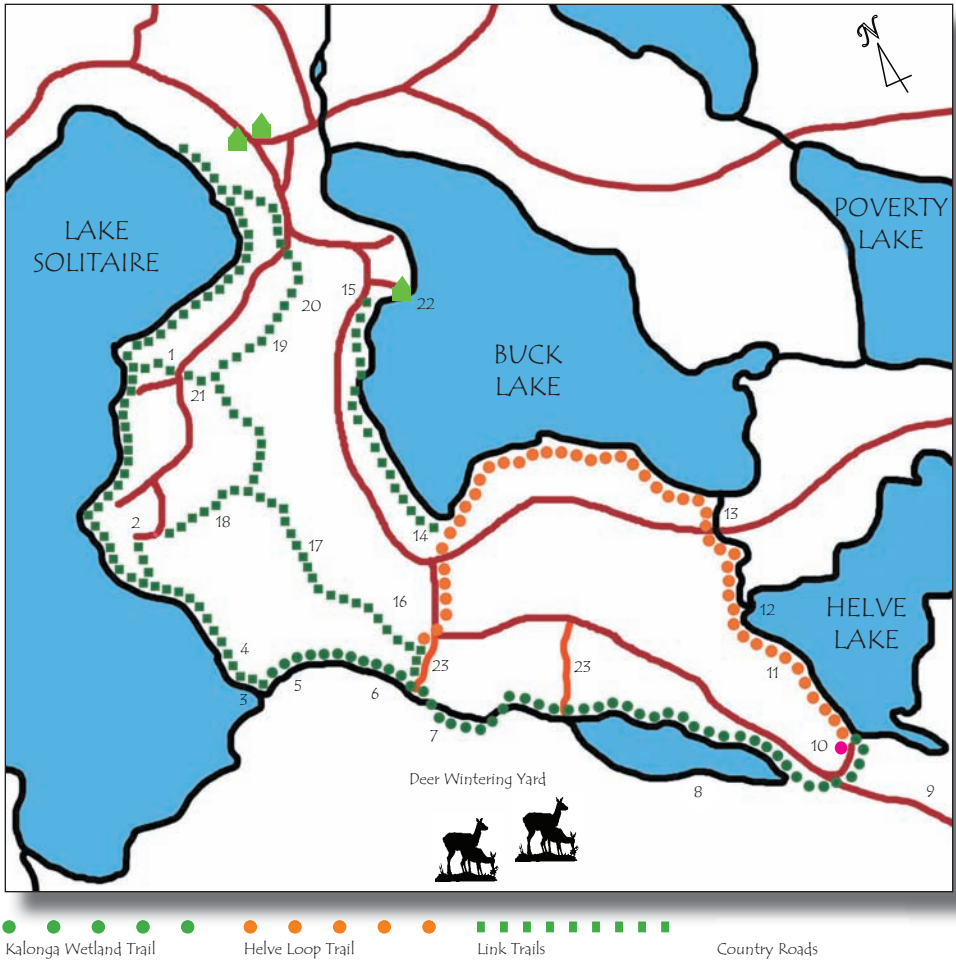
The Kalonga Wetland Trail passes through the secluded Kalonga Valley which is an important breeding and feeding area for a variety of wildlife. The trail ascends gradually up the Kalonga Creek from Lake Solitaire to its source near Helve Lake.

Edge of Beaver Meadow (#8)

Access to Trail	Start your hike from Lake Solitaire near the Kalonga Creek bridge and head eastward up the Kalonga Valley.
Trail Links	The trail links up with the Ascension Trail which leads to the Ski Hill, as well as with the Helve Trail which leads to Buck Lake.
Distance	11 km (including returning on Helve Link Trail)
Number of Steps	13,800
Difficulty	Easy to moderate
Trail Description	The rugged nature of the trail along parts of the route makes it best suited for more adventurous hikers.

Abandoned Wolf Den (#4)

The Kalonga Valley has twelve or more active beaver dams, in addition to large beaver meadows. These and the accompanying wetlands provide ample food and plenty of fresh water to attract moose, deer, wolves and a wide variety of bird life.



Points of Interest

1. Tree Top Parking Area
2. Waters Edge Parking Area
3. Kalonga River and Bridge
4. Abandoned Wolf Den
5. Intense Beaver Activity
6. Attractive Winter Ice Cliffs
7. Evidence of Mineral Prospecting
8. Large Beaver Meadow
9. Road to Long Lake
10. Helve Fishing Lodge
11. Helve Rock Cliffs
12. Large Flat Rock near Helve Portage
13. Portage to Buck Lake
14. Buck Lake Trail
15. Buck Lake Lookout Parking Area
16. Start of Ascension Trail
17. Black Cherry Forest
18. Pointe Trail
19. Backwoods Trail
20. Top of the Ski Hill
21. Solitaire Link Trail
22. Buck Lake Lodge
23. Old Logging Roads

Many visitors prefer to divide their exploration of the Kalonga Valley into two separate hikes by using the Ascension and Helve Trails to complete different loops which have their own starting and ending points.

Beaver pond along trail (#5)

The Ascension Loop can be started by descending to the Solitaire Trail from the Tree Top parking area. The Kalonga Creek runs into Lake Solitaire two thirds of the way down the lake. The Kalonga Trail heads up a hill before returning to the valley floor, which it follows closely for most of the balance of the trail. A rough logging road intercepts the trail where it turns sharply south for a short distance. This logging road connects with the Ascension Trail which climbs steeply up the back of the Ski Hill. Halfway down the front of the Ski Hill, turn left to return to the Tree Tops parking area.

Large beaver meadow (#8)

The Helve Loop can be started from the Buck Lookout parking area. Leave the Buck Lake Trail at the southwest corner of the lake to join the Kalonga Trail via the previously mentioned logging road.

The Kalonga Trail crosses the Kalonga Creek twice over sturdy wooden bridges. After the second

crossing, visitors will pass through the most intense beaver activity on the reserve, where dams can be seen from above and below each tier. At any one time twelve or more dams are usually active.


Intense beaver activity (#5)

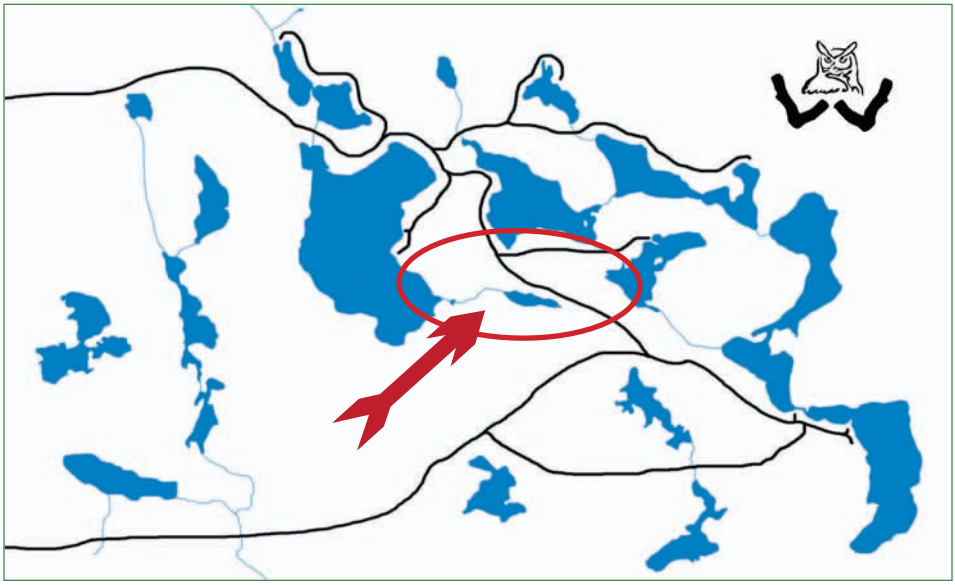
The largest beaver dam is near a second logging road which can be used to shorten the hike by proceeding directly to Long Lake Road and returning to the starting point for the hike.

When the large beaver dam at the top of the valley is breached, the meadow behind it becomes a favourite feeding ground for moose, deer and bird life.

At the end of the valley, the trail turns north to emerge near the Helve Lake Fishing Lodge. A rough trail follows the west shore of Helve Lake and the stream which flows out of the lake into Buck Lake. It is then an easy hike along the southern and western shores of Buck Lake back to the Buck Lookout parking area.


Looking out from the Helve Fishing Lodge (#10)

The principal attraction of the Kalonga Valley is the opportunity it provides to photograph a variety of animal and bird species found in the valley. It also provides attractive scenes for artists to sketch or paint.



Points of Interest	GPS Co-ordinates	
Trail Start		
From Solitaire Trail	N45° 23.173	W79° 00.163
From Ascension Trail Link	N45° 23.226	W79° 00.768
Top of hill before descending to Valley	N45° 23.165	W79° 00.112
Beginning of Valley Floor	N45° 23.144	W79° 00.083
Link Trail to Ascension and Buck Trails	N45° 23.173	W79° 00.836
First Bridge crossing the Kalonga Creek	N45° 23.148	W79° 00.814
Second Bridge crossing the Kalonga Creek	N45° 23.069	W79° 00.705
Beginning of series of Beaver Dams	N45° 23.051	W79° 00.655
Logging Road north to Long Lake Road	N45° 23.027	W79° 00.462
Large Beaver Dam / Meadow	N45° 23.009	W79° 00.476
Trail Exit to Helve Lodge	N45° 23.090	W79° 00.053
Start of outflow from Helve Lake	N45° 23.112	W79° 00.094
Helve Creek at Buck Lake	N45° 23.221	W79° 00.179

Trail Sections	KM	Rating
Tree Top Designated Parking Area to Kalonga Creek	1.5	8
Kalonga Creek to Top of Hill	0.5	10
Top of Hill to Logging Road link to Ascension / Buck Trails	1.0	10
Logging Road to Second Bridge	1.0	7
Second Bridge to Large Beaver Dam / Meadow	1.0	6
Large Beaver Dam to Helve Lodge	1.5	5
Helve Lodge to Helve Portage on Buck Lake	1.0	5
Portage to Ascension Trail Turn-off	1.5	10
Ascension Trail Turn-off to Ski Hill	1.5	7
Ski Hill to Tree Top Designated Parking Area	0.5	6
	11.0	

Ratings: 1 = very rough, 10 = high quality

Grades: 60% = level, 15% = slight grade, 25% = 20°+ grade

Safety is the Highest Priority

Crystal Falls Trail

Buck Lake Landing Picnic Area (#1)

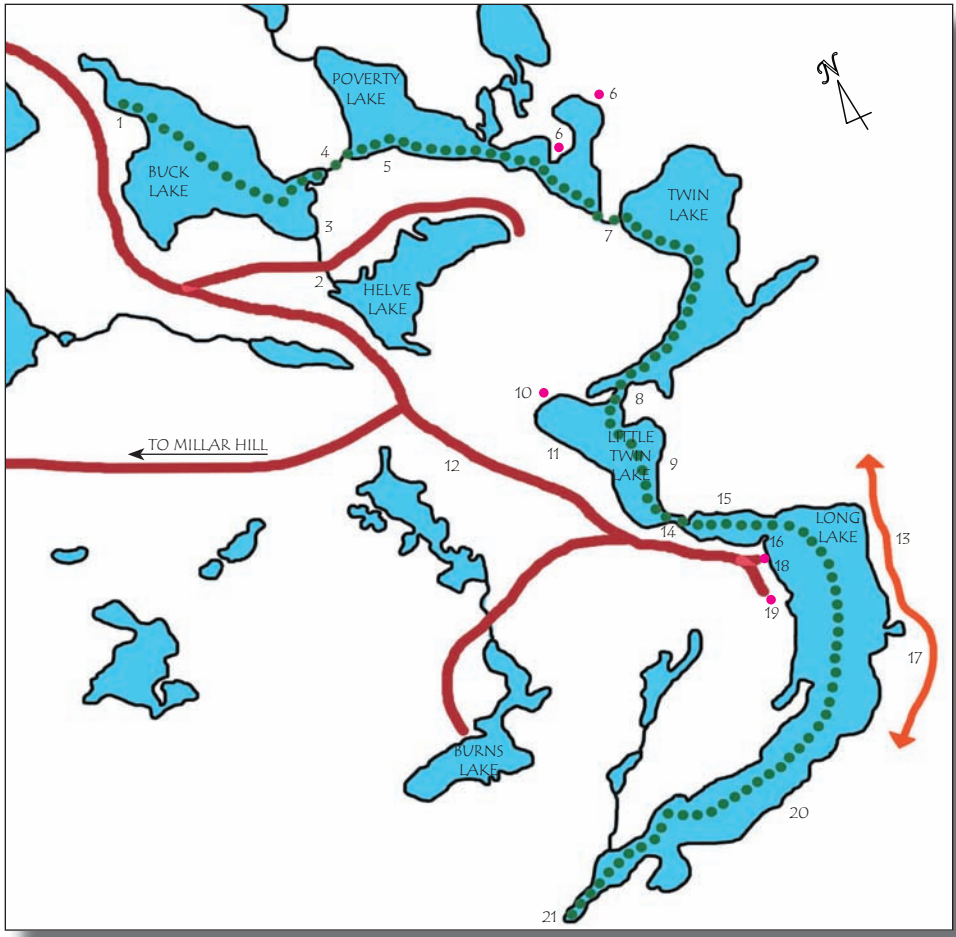
The Crystal Falls Trail passes through six pristine lakes with heavily treed shores and rocky cliffs. Most of the terrain covered is in a secluded wilderness area, far removed from roads and ski trails, and with few visitors during the course of any year.

Portage between Little Twin and Long Lake (#15)

Access to Trail	Start your canoe trip at Buck Lake Landing where canoes, paddles and life jackets are available.
Portages	Portages exist in the southeast corner of Buck, Poverty and Little Twin Lakes.
Distance	7.7 km (one way)
Difficulty	Moderate
Trail Description	The trip is conducted mainly on water with only three relatively short portages. Spare Grumman canoes are usually available at the north end of Poverty and Twin Lakes to hasten your passage.

Approaching Crystal Falls (#21)

The trail's key features include the Crystal Falls, which are the largest and most attractive waterfalls on the Limberlost Reserve, ample bird life, a wilderness-camp at the north end of Long Lake and evidence of the abandoned historical Bobcaygeon Trail.



Canoe Route

Country Roads

Points of Interest

1. Buck Lake Landing Picnic Area
2. Portage to Helve Lake
3. Quartz Deposit
4. Portage to Poverty Lake
5. Grumman Canoe
6. Family Cottages
7. Portage to Twin Lake
8. Twin Lake Channel/Beaver Dam
9. Little Twin Lake
10. Historical Cabin
11. Rock Slides
12. Twin Lake Road
13. Cedar Mile Posts
14. Porky's Camp Site
15. Large Culvert to Long Lake
16. Trout Spawning Beds
17. Bobcaygeon Way
18. Long Lake Point
19. Falcon's Bay Cabin
20. Angle Lake Portage
21. Crystal Falls

The canoe trip passes through a secluded wilderness area shared with three families who have for many years enjoyed their summer visits to this peaceful valley. It is important to respect their privacy by canoeing along the opposite shore as far from their cabins as possible.

Long Lake Cabin (#18)

Also remember, safety is the highest priority. Therefore, wear life jackets at all times and stay close to the shore in the early spring and late fall when water temperatures are low.

You can start your canoe trip at Buck Lake Landing where canoes, paddles and life jackets are available. If not, obtain these from the Manager's Office.

Head to the southeast corner of Buck Lake where the water flows into Poverty Lake. Since the portage to Poverty Lake is fairly short but rugged, an aluminum Grumman canoe is located at Poverty Lake, which enables Limberlost guests to leave a canoe behind at Buck Lake.

Continue heading southeast across Poverty Lake to the point where it joins with Crotch Lake. At the most southerly point of Crotch Lake you will locate the portage to Twin Lake. Another aluminum Grumman canoe should await you on Twin Lake.

At the south end of Twin Lake you will pass through a narrow channel which was created by removing rocks from the lake bed. After climbing over a low beaver dam you will enter Little Twin Lake.

At the southern end of Little Twin Lake an oversized steel culvert allows water to flow under an old logging road which intersects with the route surveyed for the historical Bobcaygeon Way. One hundred or so feet away from the shore, survey stakes and cedar mileposts can be found laying out this road, which was abandoned before it was built because of the rugged terrain.

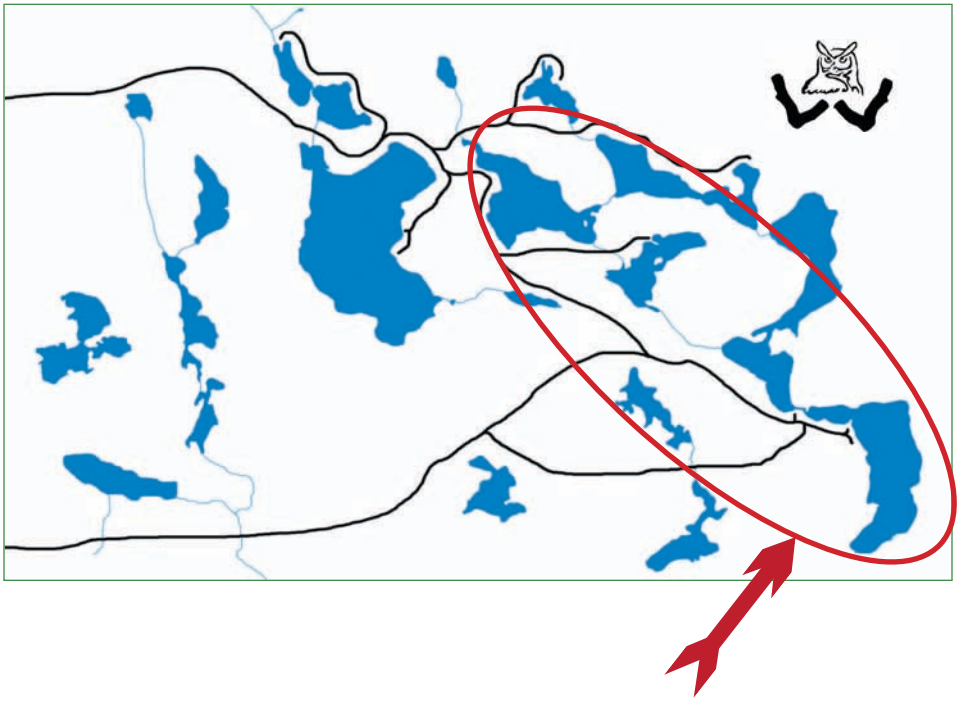
Crystal Falls, late in the spring (#21)

After passing through or over the culvert and manoeuvring your way through the wetlands which serve as fish spawning grounds, you will enter the main body of Long Lake. The lake is aptly described by its name.

A rustic log cabin, located on a peninsula at the north end of the lake, is used as a base camp by Trails Youth Initiatives and other similar groups to familiarize their members with the northern wilderness.

Three quarters of the way down the eastern shore of Long Lake, a portage leads to Angle Lake. Water flows from this lake over Angle Falls into Long Lake.

At the most southerly end of Long Lake, leave your canoe and follow the water outflow by hiking along a rough trail on the east side for approximately two hundred metres, at which point you will discover Crystal Falls.



Trail Sections	KM
Buck Lake Landing to Poverty Lake	1.5
Poverty Lake to Crotch Lake	0.8
Crotch Lake to Twin Lake	0.6
Twin Lake to Little Twin Lake	1.6
Little Twin Lake to Long Lake	0.6
Long Lake to Angle Falls Portage	1.6
Angle Falls Portage to south end of Long Lake	0.8
Outflow to Crystal Falls	0.2
	7.7

Canoe Safety

It is important to take extra care when canoeing in remote areas.

First, ensure life jackets are worn at all times and not used to sit on or to cushion your knees.

Second, place cameras, food and extra clothing in sealed plastic bags and attach them to the canoe with a rope.

Third, don't go out alone. You could sustain an injury and be alone when in need of help. In any event, make sure someone knows where you are going and when you plan to return.

Fourth, if members of your party cannot swim, keep close to the shore and away from swiftly flowing water.

If a storm blows in, return as quickly as possible to a safe place. Being in a canoe on an open expanse of water, especially in a metal one, is dangerous in case of a lightning strike.

Safety is the Highest Priority

Lookout Trail

Backwoods Trail (#7)

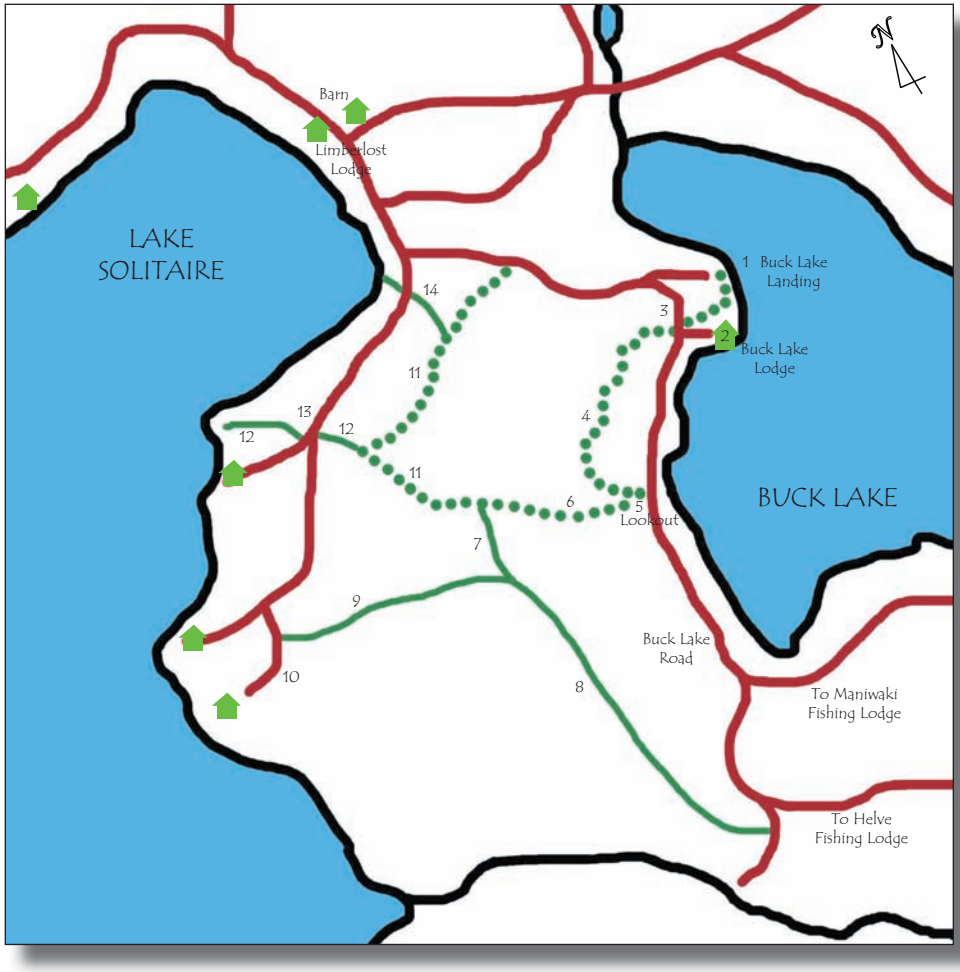
The Lookout Trail circles around the cliffs on the west side of Buck Lake. The trail ascends for the most part at a comfortable slope to the top of the cliffs, with secure rock steps in place in the steepest sections.

Buck Lake Landing (#14)

Access to Trail	The Lookout Trail starts at the parking lot across the road from the Buck Lake Lodge.
Trail Links	The trail links with the Ski Hill, Backwoods and Ascension trails to provide either short or lengthier return routes.
Distance	5 km by returning along the Ascension Trail
Number of Steps	6,300
Difficulty	Moderate to difficult
Trail Description	Steady climb to spectacular views over Buck Lake and surrounding forests.

Top of Ski Tow Lift (#3)

The trail passes few exceptional natural features, however the valley to the west of the trail is a secluded area where deer often browse or take shelter.



Points of Interest

1. Buck Lake Landing
2. Buck Lake Lodge
3. Lookout Parking Area
4. Trail Switchback
5. Lookout over Buck Lake
6. Ski Hill Tower
7. Backwoods Trail
8. Ascension Trail
9. Pointe Trail
10. Waters Edge Parking Area
11. Ski Hill Trail
12. Solitaire Link Trail
13. Tree Top Parking Area
14. Owls Nest Link Trail

Lookout Trail – *continued*

The Lookout Trail ascends for the most part at a reasonably comfortable slope from the parking lot across the road from the Buck Lake Lodge to the top of the cliffs on the west side of Buck Lake.

Entrance to trail at Buck Lake Lodge Designated Parking Area (#1)

The trail circles around the back of the cliffs and includes switchbacks to reduce the grade and has solid rock steps in its steepest sections.

The highlight of the Lookout Trail is the spectacular view from the clifftop across Buck Lake and the surrounding forests. The views from the Lookout are particularly stunning during the autumn change of colour.

The lookout at the top of the cliffs also provides an ideal place to rest for a while, read a book, meditate or enjoy refreshments or lunch with friends.

After viewing the forest to the east of Buck Lake, a short walk across the ridge to the top of the old ski hill will provide attractive views to the north over the forest surrounding High, Clear and Turtle Lakes and to the west of Lake Solitaire. This is also a safe vantage point to observe the northern lights on a clear evening.

Approaching Ski Hill Lookout (#4)

The shortest descent from this point is directly down the ski hill to the road which leads back to the Buck Lake Lodge.

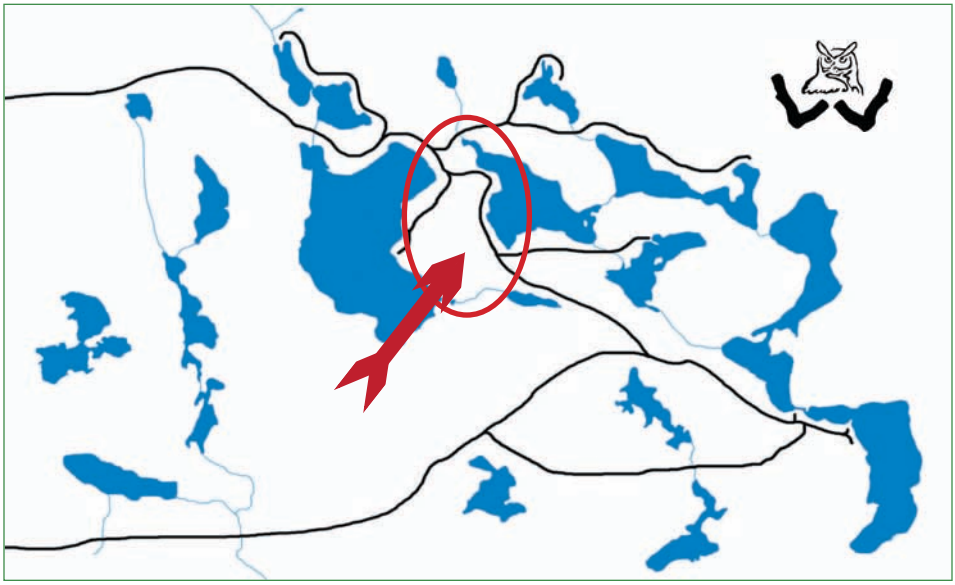
A lengthier return loop involves proceeding further along the ridge at the top of the ski hill until you encounter the entrance to the Backwoods Trail which enters the forest 200 metres west of the ski tow lift.

Along the Ascension Trail (#8)

The Backwoods Trail heads south to meet up with the Pointe and Ascension Trails. The Ascension Trail leads to the road which passes by the southwest corner of Buck Lake. The relatively short but attractive trail along the west shore of the lake emerges at the parking area in front of the Buck Lake Lodge.

View in the fall over Buck Lake from the Lookout (#2)

Lookout Trail – *continued*



Points of Interest	GPS Co-ordinates	
Trail Start		
From Buck Lake Lodge Designated Parking Area	N45° 23.618	W78° 59.676
From Buck Lake Landing	N45° 23.725	W78° 59.734
Lookout over Buck Lake	N45° 23.541	W78° 59.792
Start of Trail from Lookout to Ski Hill	N45° 23.536	W78° 59.791
Ski Hill Tow Tower	N45° 23.535	W78° 59.892
Ski Hill Lookout	N45° 23.593	W78° 59.905
Start of Backwoods Trail	N45° 23.548	W78° 59.963
Descent to bottom of Ski Hill	N45° 23.708	W78° 59.917
Descent through woods to Tree Tops Designated Parking Area	N45° 23.643	W78° 59.095
Ascension-Pointe Trail Junction	N45° 23.456	W78° 59.925
Bottom of Ascension Trail	N45° 23.173	W78° 00.163
Ascension Trail turnoff at Buck Lake	N45° 23.321	W78° 59.665

Trail Sections	KM	Rating
Buck Lake Landing to Buck Lake Lodge Designated Parking Area	1.0	8
Buck Lake Lodge parking area to Lookout	1.5	8
Lookout to Ski Hill and Backwoods Trail turnoff on Ski Hill	1.5	10
Backwoods Trail to Ascension Trail turnoff at Pointe Trail Junction	1.0	10
Ascension Trail to southwest corner of Buck Lake	1.5	6
Corner of Buck Lake to Designated Parking Area near Buck Lake Lodge	1.0	9
	13.0	

Ratings: 1 = very rough, 10 = high quality

Grades: 20% = level, 40% = gradual slope, 40% = 25°+ grade

Safety is the Highest Priority

Ski Hill Trail

Main Ski Run Descent, c.1930s (#11)

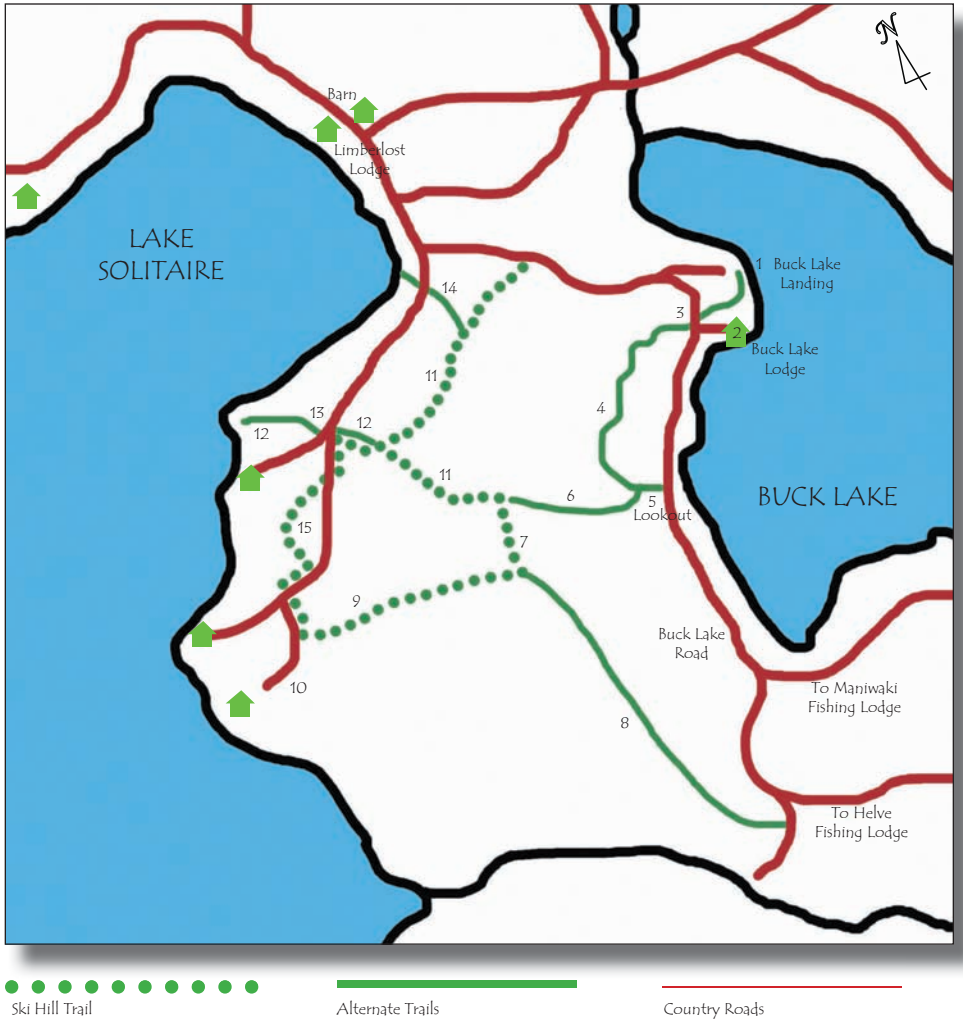
The Ski Hill Trail climbs to the top of the old ski hill with the opportunity to descend at a gradual rate along the Backwoods and Pointe Trails. There are a variety of alternate return routes and detours to satisfy all levels of hikers.

White-tail deer photographed on the ski hill (#11)

Access to Trail	Start from the base of the Ski Hill or alternatively from the designated parking area above the Tree Top Cottage.
Trail Links	The trail links up with the Ascension Trail which provides a return route along the west side of Buck Lake or down the Kalonga Wetland Trail to Lake Solitaire.
Distance	4.2 km
Number of Steps	5,250
Difficulty	Easy
Trail Description	The trail is wider than the lake trails to facilitate mechanical grooming for winter cross country skiing. The Backwoods Trail winds largely through deciduous forests, far removed from water.

Original ski tower and tow lines (#6)

This trail passes by a wide selection of tree species and the original ski tow facilities, which are still in existence after operating from the 1930s to the late 1980s.



Points of Interest

1. Buck Lake Landing
2. Buck Lake Lodge
3. Lookout Parking Area
4. Trail Switchback
5. Lookout over Buck Lake
6. Ski Hill Tower
7. Backwoods Trail
8. Ascension Trail
9. Pointe Trail
10. Waters Edge Parking Area
11. Ski Hill Trail
12. Solitaire Link Trail
13. Tree Top Parking Area
14. Owls Nest Link Trail
15. Contour Path

Ski Hill Trail – *continued*

A grass trail is cut each year up one of the original ski runs for those wishing to hike to the peak from the base of the hill.

The Ski Hill Trail can also be accessed from the designated parking area above the Tree Tops Cottage or from the Buck Lake Lookout parking area.

Lookout Trail and Ski Hill Trail in background (#2)

After crossing the road from the Tree Top parking area you can walk through the woods to join the ski slope half way up the hill.

A short distance from the top of the hill you turn to the right to head south down the Backwoods Trail. Prior to doing so you may wish to visit the Buck Lake Lookout by continuing in a westerly direction past the old ski tow to the cliff top overlooking Buck Lake, and then return down the Lookout Trail.

Ascension Trail descending towards the Wetlands (#8)

The Backwoods Trail, given its gentle decline, provides excellent conditions for cross country skiing. The high elevation generally ensures excellent cross country ski conditions from December until April. There is an opportunity for a more adventuresome descent to Buck Lake by skiing down the much steeper Ascension Trail.

At the Ascension Trail Juncture the Backwoods Trail meets the Pointe Trail which continues in a southerly direction descending at a gradual rate.

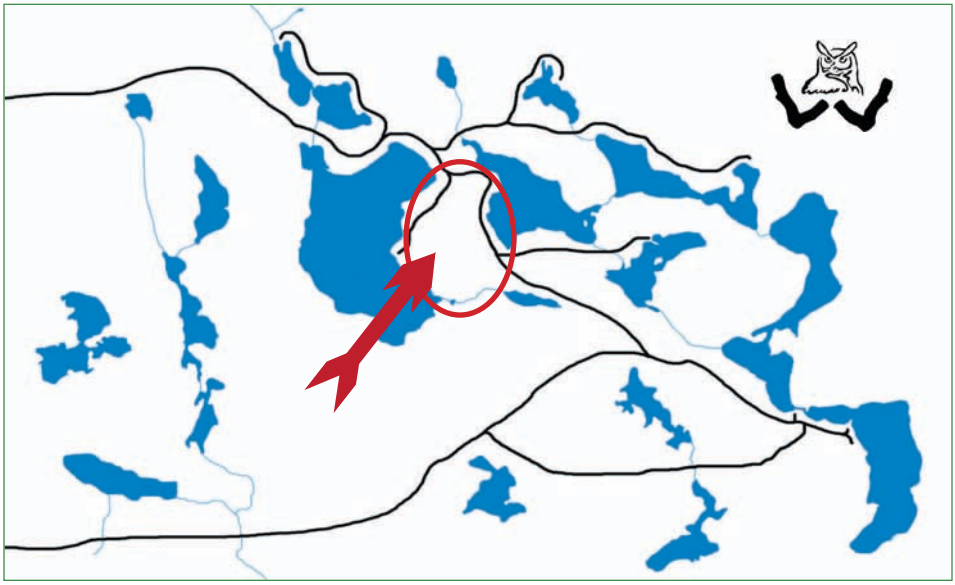
The Backwoods Trail (#7)

The Pointe Trail ends at Pointe Road. From there either descend to Lake Solitaire via the Waters Edge Cottage path or head north up the road to join the Contour Path which exits 200 metres south of the Tree Tops parking area.

A key feature of the Ski Hill Trail is its linkage with other trails. This enables users to vary the distance and the difficulty of their hikes at various points along the way.

The Main Ski Run Descent has been left to regrow with a hiking trail visible through the regrowth (#6)

Ski Hill Trail – *continued*



Points of Interest	GPS Co-ordinates	
Trail Start		
Tree Tops Designated Parking Area	N45° 23.668	W79° 00.092
Bottom of Ski Hill	N45° 24.708	W78° 59.917
Path from Tree Tops at the point it joins the Ski Hill	N45° 23.604	W78° 59.925
Top of Ski Hill	N45° 23.535	W78° 59.892
Entrance to Backwoods Trail	N45° 23.548	W78° 59.963
Ascension Junction with Backwoods and Pointe Trails	N45° 23.456	W78° 59.925
Exit from Pointe Trail on Pointe Road	N45° 23.437	W79° 00.360
Beginning of Contour Trail on Pointe Road	N45° 23.579	W79° 00.132
Exit from Contour Trail on Pointe Road	N45° 23.584	W79° 00.141
Return to Tree Tops Designated Parking Area	N45° 23.668	W79° 00.092

Trail Sections	KM	Rating
Tree Tops Designated Parking Area to Top of Ski Hill	1.0	6
Backwoods Trail to Ascension Junction	0.5	7
Ascension Trail to Pointe Trail exit	1.5	7
Pointe Trail exit to Contour Path entrance	0.5	10
Contour Path exit on Pointe Road	0.5	8
Return to Tree Tops Designated Parking Area	0.2	10
	4.2	

Ratings: 1 = very rough, 10 = high quality

Grades: 20% = slight grade, 30% = 20° grade, 50% = 20°+ grade

Safety is the Highest Priority

Echo Rock Trail

View of unfinished trail in winter (#2)

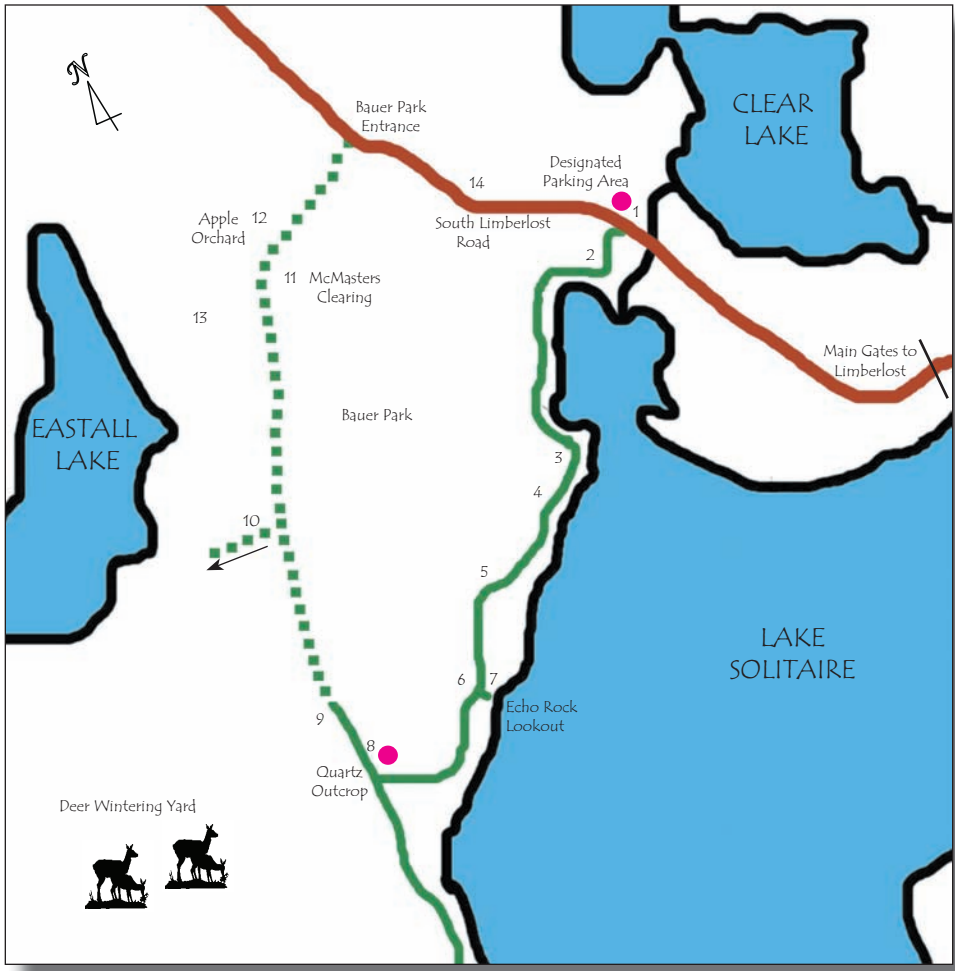
The Echo Rock Trail was restored to provide visitors with the shortest possible route to the top of the cliffs overlooking Lake Solitaire and beyond. The initial portion of the trail follows the shore of the lake before a fairly steep climb to the top of Echo Rock.

Parking along Limberlost Road (#1)

Access to Trail	Start at the parking area 400 metres before the reserve's main gates and immediately north of the creek flowing from Lake Solitaire into Clear Lake.
Trail Links	The trail passes through the southern end of Bauer Provincial Park to join the historic Lake Solitaire Trail near the giant Quartz Deposit. Alternatively you can return by proceeding north through the park.
Distance	5.5 km by returning through Bauer Park
Number of Steps	7,000
Difficulty	Well groomed but with a steep climb
Trail Description	The trail incorporates one of the best views on the reserve as well as passing through an attractive old growth hemlock forest.

Giant quartz boulder (#8)

In addition to the exceptional view from the top of the Echo Rock cliffs, the trail provides easy access to the giant Quartz Deposit and evidence of fields cleared by early settlers, including an old apple orchard.



Points of Interest

1. Parking Area
2. Boardwalk
3. Picnic Area
4. Old Growth Hemlock Forest
5. Switchback Section
6. Turn-off to Lookout
7. Echo Rock
8. Quartz Deposit
9. Start of Bauer Park Trail (rough)
10. Trail to Eastall Lake
11. McMaster Clearing
12. Apple Trees
13. Stone Walls
14. South Limberlost Road

Shortly after starting out on the Echo Rock Trail, just north of the creek which flows from Lake Solitaire into Clear Lake, you will pass over a low narrow bridging system built to protect a low-lying wetland area.

View from Echo Rock (#7)

Three quarters of a kilometre further along you will pass an attractive picnic area with a shallow gravel beach suitable for very young children to enjoy themselves.

This area is heavily forested with old growth hemlock trees, which makes it an attractive deer wintering yard. As you move out of the hemlock forest you start climbing through deciduous trees, gradually at first and then fairly steeply. A number of switchbacks and rock steps have been added to the trail to make it more accessible to less able hikers.

From the top of Echo Rock you can look out over Lake Solitaire to view the green coniferous trees along its shore line, contrasting in the autumn with the yellows and reds of the birches and maples rising up to the top of the surrounding hills.

Hemlock forest along shore of trail (#4)

The trail continues through a deciduous forest, which has an unusually high proportion of ironwood trees, to emerge at a giant quartz deposit. Some

of the largest trees in the area thrive on the sun drenched slopes of the hill.

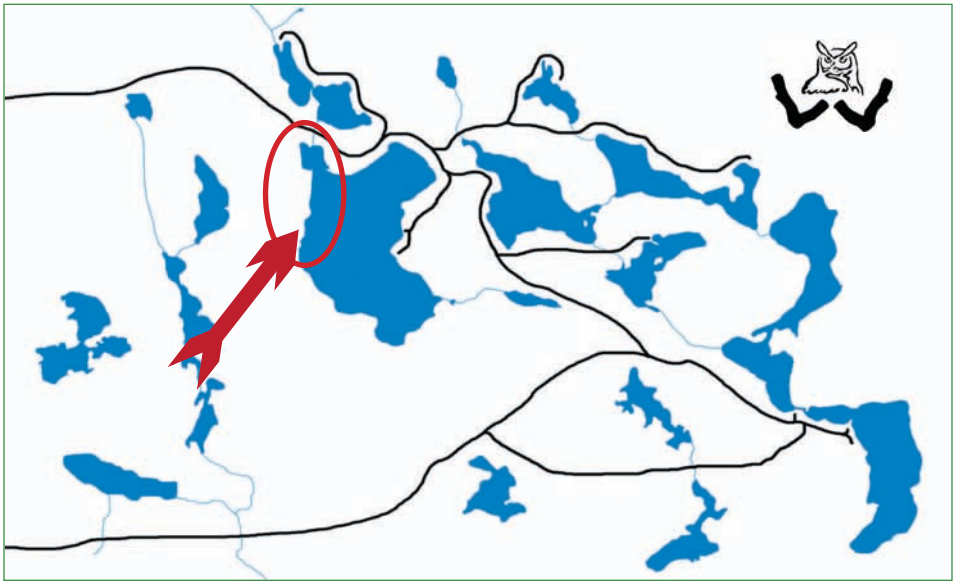
You can return to the parking area by retracing your steps or along the trail around Lake Solitaire. The third return route is north through Bauer Provincial Park past the McMaster Clearing. Some of the stone walls built from rocks cleared from the fields remain intact and an apple orchard still survives.

The deed creating Bauer Park, which is surrounded by Limberlost, stipulates that the park can only be used for hiking, swimming and viewing nature. Camping, ATV's, ski-doos, fishing and hunting are prohibited.

For more than 80 years, Limberlost's trails have been integrated with those in Bauer Park, however specific approval is now required before trail maintenance can be undertaken. As a result, fallen trees may remain across the park trails for extended periods.

Echo Rock viewed from Lake Solitaire (#7)

Echo Rock Trail – *continued*



Points of Interest	GPS Co-ordinates	
Trail Start		
Parking Area immediately north of Clear Lake Creek	N45° 24.038	W79° 00.066
Entrance to Bauer Park	N45° 24.131	W79° 00.987
Narrow Bridgeway through Cedar Wetland	N45° 24.025	W79° 00.757
Picnic Area	N45° 23.877	W79° 00.736
Old Growth Hemlock Forest	N45° 23.815	W79° 00.771
Start of Hill to Echo Rock	N45° 23.739	W79° 00.821
Echo Rock Lookout	N45° 23.665	W79° 00.854
Quartz Deposit	N45° 23.597	W79° 01.007
Eastell Lake Turnoff	N45° 23.860	W79° 01.030
McMaster Clearing	N45° 23.896	W79° 01.030
Apple Orchard	N45° 23.933	W79° 01.028
Return to South Limberlost Road	N45° 23.131	W79° 00.987
Stream near Picnic Site in Old Growth Forest	N45° 23.762	W79° 00.797

Trail Sections	KM	Rating
Clear Lake Creek to Narrow Bridgeway	0.3	10
Bridgeway to Old Growth Forest	1.2	8
Old Growth Forest to Echo Rock	1.5	10
Echo Rock to Quartz Deposit	1.0	10
Quartz Deposit to Eastell Lake Turnoff (through Bauer Park Trail)	0.5	6
Eastell Lake Trail to McMaster Clearing	0.2	6
McMaster Clearing to Bauer Park Entrance	0.5	6
Bauer Park Entrance to Clear Lake Creek Designated Parking Area	0.3	10
	5.5	

Ratings: 1 = very rough, 10 = high quality

Grades: 30% = slight grade, 20% = 20° grade, 50% = 20°+ grade

Safety is the Highest Priority

Hickory Lake Trail

Parking area at the Narrows (#13)

The Hickory Lake Trail links the Buck Lake Trail to the Turtle Lake Trail, directly and via a loop which circles around Hickory Lake. The Trail climbs steadily from Buck Lake to Hickory Lake, which is the highest lake on the reserve, and then descends fairly gradually to Turtle Lake.

Spring stream along trail (#9)

Access to Trail	Start at the designated parking area at the High-Poverty Junction or at the narrows between Turtle and Clear Lake.
Trail Links	The trail has a number of north-south logging road links to Clear Lake Road.
Distance	6.0 km
Total Number of Steps	7,650
Difficulty	Moderate to high, as ground leveling has not been completed.
Trail Description	The trail passes mostly through a deciduous forest with limited lake exposure.

Large beaver meadow below Gorge (#4)

In addition to fast running streams in the early spring and after heavy rains, the trail follows and then crosses over three north-south ridges with interesting wild flower growth and rock formations.

UNDER DEVELOPMENT (Summer 2008)

Points of Interest

1. High-Poverty Junction
2. Hickory Creek Trail
3. Lower Beaver Dam
4. Upper Beaver Dam
5. Rock Gorge
6. Historic Ski Trail
7. First Rock Ridge
8. Birch Tree Growing on Ridge
9. Main Stream Junction
10. Second Rock Ridge
11. Third Rock Ridge
12. Clear-Turtle Lake Narrows
13. Designated Parking Area
14. Stream Entering Clear Lake
15. High-Poverty Parking Area

The Hickory Lake Trail was historically a popular, wide cross country ski trail which later served as the main logging road for the area. Today the north-south portions of the Hickory Lake trail closely follow this route. In reality, the Hickory Lake Trail is two separate trails.

Birch roots descending rock ridge (#8)

The first trail starts at the High-Poverty Junction and passes along the east side of two large beaver dams/meadows fed by Hickory Creek before circling around Hickory Lake and descending on the east side along the old ski trail to Clear Lake Road. Alternatively, a descent can be made from the lake down a gorge to the bottom of the upper beaver dam to return to the High-Poverty Junction parking area.

Abandoned beaver dam at High-Poverty Junction (#3)

The east-west portion of the trail, which links the upper Hickory beaver dam/meadow with the Turtle Lake Trail, is new and much narrower. It intersects a number of north-south lying rock ridges by passing beneath them on the exposed east side before climbing fairly steeply to higher elevations.

The first large rock ridge encountered after turning west off

of the historical ski trail has fairly flat land at its base which makes walking easy. At the south end of the outcrop the roots of a mature birch tree cling to the cliff face covering an area of thirty feet by twenty feet. This is an exceptional example of the ability of birch trees to successfully send out exploratory roots over difficult terrain.

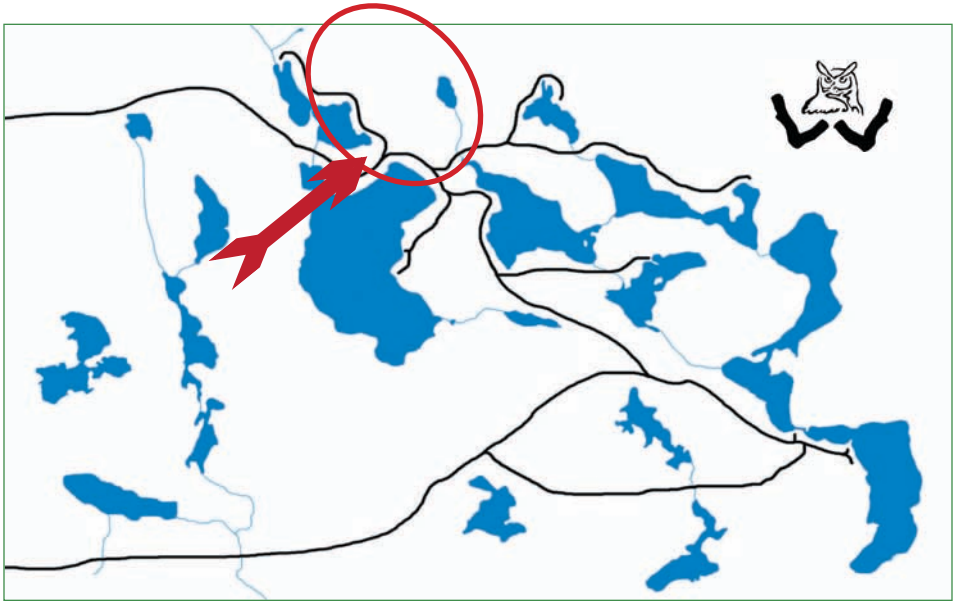
Further along the east-west trail, two major streams join together a hundred metres before the next large rock ridge. These streams flow strongly in the spring and after heavy rains into Clear Lake, draining the fairly large dome on the west side of Hickory Lake.

The rock ridges further north of the east-west trail have numerous caves which are known to be frequented by larger animals. Therefore, make sure to wear bear bells in the spring or make a fair amount of noise should you decide to approach these areas.

Upon reaching the Turtle Lake Trail, head south down the trail to emerge at the Clear-Turtle Lake narrows. You can return along the Clear Lake woodland road or continue your hike across the wooden bridge at the narrows to reach the Limberlost main gates.

Stream feeding into Clear Lake (#14)

Hickory Lake Trail – *continued*



Points of Interest	GPS Co-ordinates	
Trail Start		
High Lake - Poverty Road Junction	N45° 23.888	W78° 59.753
Clear Lake Road	N45° 24.096	W78° 59.910
Upper Beaver Meadow (south end)	N45° 24.146	W78° 59.745
Hickory Lake (south shore)	N45° 24.367	W78° 59.779
Top of Rock Gorge	N45° 24.332	W78° 59.773
Bottom of Rock Gorge	N45° 24.221	W78° 59.777
Intersection of East-West Ski Trail	N45° 24.174	W78° 59.975
Turn-off from Ski Trail to First Rock Ridge	N45° 24.171	W79° 00.016
First Rock Ridge with Clinging Birch Tree	N45° 24.162	W79° 00.053
Stream Junction	N45° 24.326	W79° 00.321
Second Rock Ridge	N45° 24.319	W79° 00.501
Third Rock Ridge	N45° 24.315	W79° 00.505
Intersection with Turtle Lake East Trail	N45° 24.301	W79° 00.550
Clear Lake - Turtle Lake Narrows	N45° 24.295	W79° 00.574

UNDER DEVELOPMENT (Summer 2008)

Trail Sections	KM	Rating
Hickory Lake Circle Trail		
High Lake - Poverty Road Junction to Upper Beaver Dam	0.5	5
Beaver Dam to Southeast Corner of Hickory Lake	0.6	5
Trail around Northern Section of Hickory Lake (unmarked)	1.0	3
Descent down Rock Gorge and Stream on Southwest End of Hickory Lake	0.3	4
Crossover Upper Beaver Dam and return to High Lake - Poverty Road Junction	0.6	5
	3.0	
Hickory Lake East-West Trail		
South end of Upper Beaver Dam along ridge to North-South Historical Ski Trail	0.6	4
Ski Trail and Turn-off to First Rock Ridge	0.3	6
First Rock Ridge to Junction of two Main Streams and Second Rock Ridge	1.0	6
Second Rock Ridge to Third Rock Ridge	0.6	6
Third Rock Ridge to Turtle Lake East Trail and Narrows	0.5	7
	3.0	
	6.0	

Ratings: 1 = very rough, 10 = high quality

Grades: 30% = slight grade, 40% = 20° grade, 30% = 20°+ grade

Safety is the Highest Priority

McReynold Valley Trail

McReynold Beaver Meadow (#11)

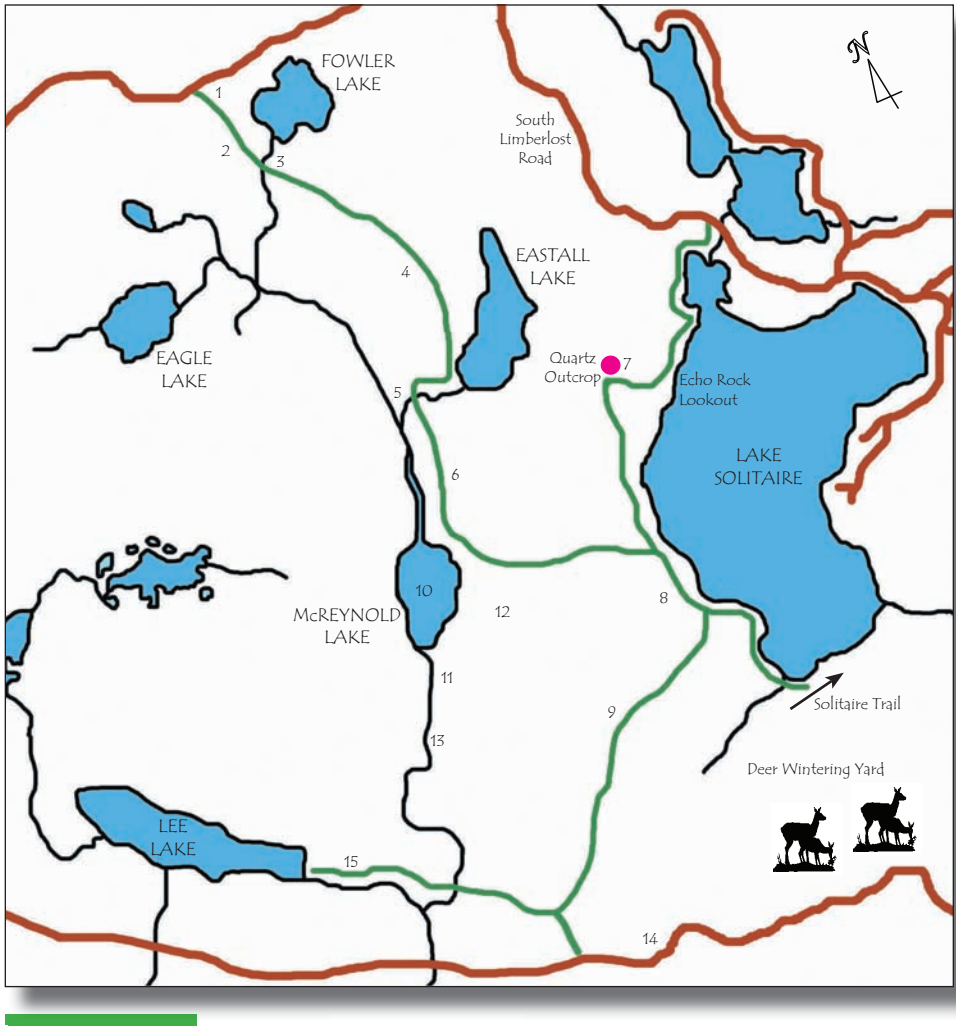
The McReynold Valley Trail is in the western quadrant of the reserve. It runs in a southerly direction from Limberlost Road following the natural water course which flows gradually down the valley floor to Millar Hill Road and beyond.

Fresh beaver cuttings (#8)

Access to Trail	Start from the third Limberlost gate on Limberlost Road, west of Fowler Lake.
Trail Links	The trail links with the Eastall Lake Trail and further south with the Solitaire Trail.
Distance	8 km
Total Number of Steps	10,100
Difficulty	High, as restoration has not commenced.
Trail Description	The trail is overgrown and difficult to locate in some areas and therefore best suited for more adventurous hikers.

Bank beaver lodge (#8)

The trail passes by pristine Eastall Lake, mature forests and large beaver meadows. It also passes by old homestead walls and other evidence of settlers.



Points of Interest

1. Entrance and Parking Area
2. Logging Road
3. Fowler Falls
4. First Deer Clearing
5. Eastall Outflow
6. Second Deer Clearing
7. Quartz Outcrop
8. Beaver Dams
9. Old Logging Road
10. McReynold Lake
11. Beaver Meadow
12. McReynold Homestead Site
13. Boyenne River
14. Millar Hill Road
15. Link Trail to Lee Lake

McReynolds Valley Trail – *contin-*

The McReynolds Valley Trail, starting from Limberlost Road, follows an old but well established logging road to the south end of Eastall Lake.

Entrance to McReynolds Valley Trail from Limberlost Road (#1)

In its current rough condition the logging road can be used only by an eight wheeled amphibious vehicle maintained by the reserve for rescue and monitoring purposes. Hiking is challenging but is possible.

Upon reaching Eastall Lake it is worth taking the time to walk along its west shoreline to observe the interesting rock formations and large mature hemlock trees. Eastall Lake is a pristine undeveloped body of water lying within the reserve as well as within Bauer Provincial Park.

Loon on McReynolds Lake (#10)

Eastall Lake and Fowler Lake to the north are the primary headwaters for the McReynolds water course, which emerges further south as the Boyene River, and crosses Millar Hill Road to eventually flow into Lake of Bays.

By following the outflow from Eastall you will reach McReynolds Lake and its related beaver meadows, which vary in size depending on the beaver activity and condition of their dams. Large stands of Eastern Larch border the beaver meadows.

The slopes of the valley contain evidence of the early settlers' failed attempts to farm the land they cleared. Stone walls, graves and metal from farm tools and utensils have been found.

After passing the main body of water in the valley, by heading east through the largely deciduous forest, you will eventually join up with the Solitaire Trail, south of the large Quartz Deposit.

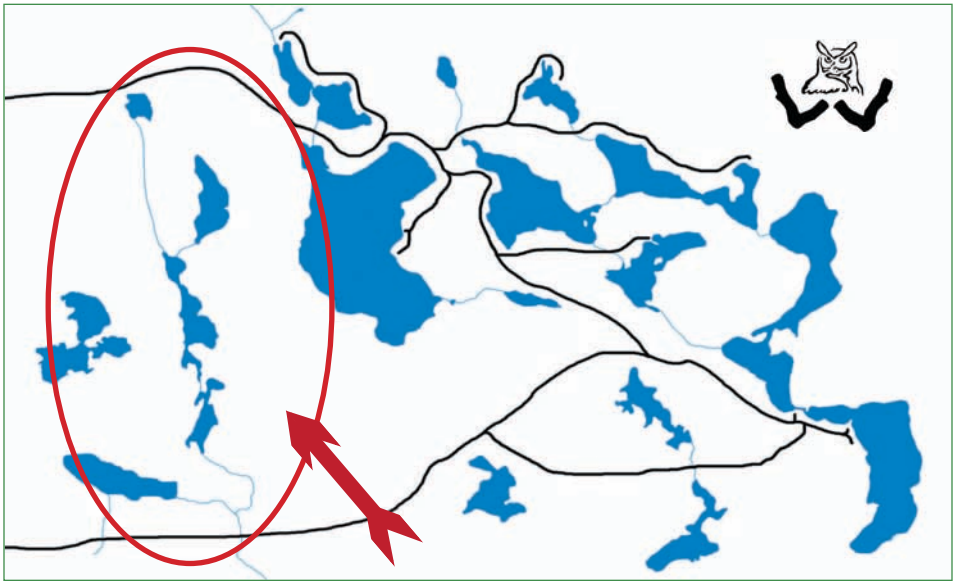
Wetlands below McReynolds Lake (#11)

As you approach the lake shore, search for a logging road which runs parallel to the lake set back approximately 100 metres from the water. The logging road continues past the south end of Lake Solitaire through a gravel deposit to emerge at the reserve's gates on Millar Hill Road.

A kilometre north of Millar Hill Road, a very rough trail heads west to link up with Lee Lake, which is another pristine body of water feeding into the Boyene River. A road leads directly south from Lee Lake to Millar Hill Road.

Limberlost gate on Millar Hill Road (#14)

Plans exist to improve the Lee Lake Trail and significantly upgrade the northern and southern sections of the logging roads which exit onto the Limberlost and Millar Hill Roads, respectively.



Points of Interest	GPS Co-ordinates	
Trail Start		
Third gate on Limberlost Road	N45° 23.xxx	W79° 01.xxx
Outflow from Fowler Lake	N45° 23.xxx	W79° 01.xxx
First Deer Clearing	N45° 23.xxx	W79° 01.xxx
Outflow from Eastall Lake	N45° 23.688	W79° 01.565
Second Deer Clearing	N45° 23.351	W79° 01.664
McReynolds Lake	N45° 23.190	W79° 01.706
Trail Link with Solitaire Lake	N45° 23.226	W79° 01.761
Outflow from McReynolds Lake into Boyene River	N45° 23.xxx	W79° 01.xxx
Turnoff to Lee Lake	N45° 23.xxx	W79° 01.xxx
Gravel deposit near Millar Hill Road	N45° 23.xxx	W79° 01.xxx
Boyene River at Millar Hill Road	N45° 23.xxx	W79° 01.xxx

Trail Sections	KM	Rating
Limberlost Road to Fowler Lake Outflow	1.0	5
Fowler Lake Outflow to First Deer Clearing	1.0	5
Deer Clearing to Eastell Lake Outflow	0.8	5
Eastell Lake stream to Second Deer Clearing	0.7	4
Second Deer Clearing to McReynolds Lake	0.5	4
McReynolds Lake to start of Boyene River	1.0	4
-Turnoff to Lee Lake	1.5	3
Lee Lake turnoff to exit onto Millar Hill Road	1.5	3
	8.0	

Ratings: 1 = very rough, 10 = high quality

Grades: 80% = slight grade, 10% = 20° grade, 10% = 20°+ grade

Safety is the Highest Priority

Link Trails

Along the Hickory Creek Trail

Link trails have been added to provide visitors with opportunities to customize the length of each outing. By joining the major trails with link trails and woodland roads, hikers can extend their hikes, assured that they can circle back to their starting point.

Hiking the Contour Path in winter

Ascension Trail	Links the Kalonga Wetland Trail to the Backwoods and Pointe Trails.
Helve Trail	Links the Kalonga Wetland Trail to the Buck Lake Trail.
Poverty Trail	Links the Buck lake Trail to the High Lake Trail.
Hickory Creek Trail	Links the Buck Lake Trail to Poverty Road and the High Lake Trail.
Solitaire Lodge Trail	Links the Solitaire lodge to the Lake Solitaire Trail.
Cliff Path	Links the Pointe Trail to the Lake Solitaire Trail.
Contour Path	Passes 50 meters above the Cliff Path to also link the Pointe Trail to the Lake Solitaire and the Ski Hill Trail.
Backwoods / Pointe	Links the Ski Hill and Ascension Trail with the Solitaire Trail.

Great Blue Heron on Hickory Creek Trail

The Helve Link Trail still requires upgrading, including tree scaling and levelling uneven surfaces. Until completed, this trail is best suited for more adventurous hikers.

Trail Sections	KM	Rating	Average Grades
Ascension	1.5	7	30°+
Helve	1.5	5	10°
Poverty	1.5	6	10°
Hickory Creek	0.5	7	30°
Solitaire Lodge	1.0	8	10°
Cliff Path	0.3	8	10°
Contour Path	0.5	8	5°
Backwoods / Pointe	1.5	7	15°

Ratings: 1 = very rough, 10 = high quality

Safety is the Highest Priority

Map of central and eastern portions of Limberlost Forest and Wildlife Reserve from Google Earth

Natural Features

A walk through an empty hall may only appeal to those interested in its architecture. However, fill the hall with valuable or historical objects, then many will return to re-examine favourite items.

Similarly, a simple, straight path through a desert is of little interest compared to a wilderness trail which meanders through a verdant forest. Add unique natural features and hikers will look forward to returning with their families and friends to share their discoveries.

Limberlost's wilderness trail system is laid out to enable visitors to chose from a variety of potential destinations and be assured of passing by numerous interesting and unique natural features along each trail.

This *Master Trail Guide* provides basic information on the most popular natural features together with GPS readings to ensure they can be easily located.

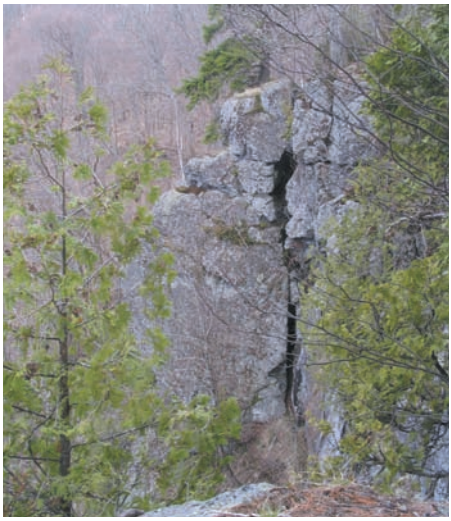
In addition, introductory talks are available for visitors staying in the Limberlost lodges and cabins to help them identify the trails which best suit their interests.

Lake Solitaire is a popular destination for Limberlost visitors

Topography

Limberlost's rugged topography includes four of the highest peaks in the region, towering cliffs, sheltered valleys, pristine lakes and three distinct drainage systems.

The reserve's topography, in addition to supporting a rich selection of plant and animal life, also exposes many types of rocks for those interested in studying or collecting them.



Granite cliffs below Buck Lake Lookout

From Limberlost's earliest days as a recreational resort, the four highest peaks on the property were popular destinations. Hiking and riding trails were developed leading to the crests of Echo Rock, the Ski Hill, Millar Hill and the Buck Lake Lookout.

The view from Millar Hill over Algonquin Park in the fall

The views from the Echo Rock and Buck Lake Lookouts, eastward over the lakes and beyond the Limberlost Reserve, are particularly attractive in the late fall. On a clear day, the view from Millar Hill over Algonquin Park is exceptional.

Limberlost is equally well endowed with secluded valleys. Of these, the Kalonga Valley with its active beaver population and other wildlife is one of the most interesting.

One of the many wetlands in the Kalonga Valley

Large beaver meadows, year-round streams and mature trees make the Kalonga Valley an ideal place for artists, photographers and birdwatchers. Early risers can witness animals coming down to the valley floor to feed and drink.

Many of the valleys have natural wetlands which absorb surface water runoff in the spring and then slowly release it in the dry season. This process helps recharge underground aquifers and enhances water quality by trapping sediments, which further helps to ensure the pristine nature of Limberlost's major lakes.

The most extensive wetlands lie in the McReynold Valley on the west side of Lake Solitaire, which drains through the Boyenne River into Lake of Bays. Other wetlands, prolific with bird life, include the plateau above Oliver Creek and a valley immediately north of Buck Lake.

Bird sanctuary at the bottom of Hickory Gorge

Pristine Lakes

Limberlost has more pristine lakes in relation to the size of its land mass than any other area in the region.

This is partly the result of its elevation and the fact that many of the valleys have been closed off over time by rock falls, beaver dams or glacial gravel deposits.

Turtle Lake feeds into Rebecca Lake through the Nelson River

For example, the waters of Lake Solitaire and Little Twin are held back by gravel deposits, whereas High Lake, Big Twin, Turtle and Lee Lake depend on beaver dams and sunken logs to maintain their water levels.

The Buck Lake waters are held back by a natural rock wall and a weir made of crushed limestone. The weir was built many years ago to regulate the water levels after repeated beaver dam collapses. Crushed limestone was chosen to help neutralize the downstream lakes.

Lee Lake, one of the reserve's most remote locations

The distinctive feature of the lakes on the reserve is their pristine nature. This is due to their catchment areas being located on the reserve and

many of the lakes being partly spring fed. By occupying the highest lands in the area, the reserve receives above average snow and rainfall which ensures the lakes are regularly replenished with fresh water.

The reserve is unique in having three distinct drainage systems so close to each other. The centre of the reserve drains to the north from Solitaire, through Clear and Turtle lakes into Rebecca Lake, while the eastern and western sections drain in the opposite direction down the McReynold Valley on the one side and a chain of lakes on the other.

Given Limberlost's high elevation and unique watershed, it is impossible for contaminated water to flow from neighbouring properties into the reserve's rivers and lakes.

Buck Lake Landing is ideal for swimming and family picnics

Principal Lakes

Northeast Quadrant	Access
Lake Solitaire	Well-groomed circular trail
Buck Lake	Well-groomed circular trail
Turtle Lake	Well-groomed circular trail
High Lake	Well-groomed circular trail
Helve Lake	Country road and link trails
Hickory Lake	Rough forest trail
Southeast Quadrant	
Poverty Lake	Link trail to west shore
Crotch Lake	Canoe and portage
Big Twin Lake	Canoe and portage
Little Twin	Country road and canoe
Long Lake	Country road and canoe
Angle Lake	Canoe and portage
Burns Lake	Country road only
Western Quadrant	
Lee Lake	County road and rough trail
Eastall Lake	Rough trail
McReynold Lake	Rough trail
Eagle Lake	Logging road and rough trail
Peeler Lake	Logging road and rough trail

Rock face along the trail on the east shore of Buck Lake

Limberlost is located on the Canadian Shield, which is the largest exposure of precambrian aged rock in the world and covers nearly half of Canada.

Limberlost lies in an area of the Canadian Shield in which these rocks were once buried deeply under the Earth's surface. In a collision of ancient continents they were thrust up to form hills and in some cases large mountain ranges.

During this mountain-building period the rocks were baked, squeezed, stretched and folded under immense temperatures and pressures.

Over millions of years, wind, rain and ice eroded these ancient mountain ranges to expose the hard metamorphosed granites, that were once deeply buried and today are the most prevalent type of rock found on the Limberlost property.

These metamorphic rocks probably came under intense heat and pressure a number of times, causing their texture and mineral content each time to change from their original form. A simple analogy would be the transformation of flour, yeast and water into bread when they are subjected to heat.

Layered sedimentary rock near the Crystal Falls

Following this process, subsequent geological shifts cracked the Earth's crust, creating fault lines which led to grinding, crushing and pulverizing of the rock along the faces of these fault lines, resulting in small cracks as well as large gaps. In some cases these were filled with a mixture of molten feldspar, quartz or even more valuable minerals.

Although rocks in the Muskoka region date back over one billion years, Limberlost's present physical features are mainly the result of more recent geological events which began less than two million years ago.

Crystallized granite near Poverty Lake

In what are known as the Great Ice Ages, vast sheets of ice began to descend beyond the polar regions to cover most of Canada.

Often two kilometres thick, these glaciers moved and picked up loose chunks of bedrock which ranged in size from small pebbles to house-sized boulders. These in turn scraped and scoured the bedrock, deepening any pre-existing zones of weakness such as fault and joints.

About 18,000 years ago, the last of the glaciers began to melt and about 8,000 years later the Muskoka region was again free of ice.

The repeated advances and retreats of continent-sized glaciers played a major role in shaping the surface of Limberlost as it is today. They removed pre-existing sediment and soils, carved, scoured and smoothed bedrock surfaces and deposited layers of sediment up to 200 metres thick in some places.

As a result, Limberlost has ample sand and gravel deposits for road building as well as the longest continuous sandy beach in the Muskoka region. In addition, it has a mica and garnet deposit which was mined commercially in the 1940s, a very large quartz outcrop and numerous other unusual rock formations.

Although not as dramatic as a two kilometre thick glacier, other natural forces continue to make changes, ever so gradually, on the surface and form of exposed rocks on the Limberlost Reserve. Temperature variations, moving water, ice, gravity and even lichen and fern growth contribute to breaking down and disintegrating rocks on the reserve.

Prepared with assistance from Vince Vertolli, Royal Ontario Museum

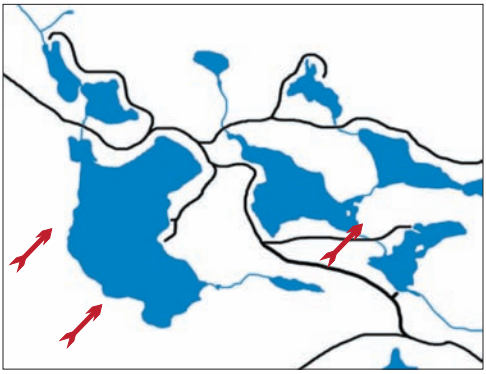
Granite cliff face on Lake Solitaire

Tree roots penetrating rock surfaces on Buck Lake

Lichen growth on boulders, Turtle Lake Trail

Fern growth on giant boulders which are at the canopy level near Turtle Lake

Quartz Outcrop



At the southern end of the plateau, which lies at the top of Echo Rock, more than 500 tonnes of opaque quartz protrude from the surrounding soil.

Less than fifty yards west, on the other side of the Solitaire Lake Trail, five or six smaller quartz outcrops are located, with others presumably hidden by the top soil and leaf mould.

One kilometre southwest, over 100 tonnes of highly crystallized quartz outcrops, partly covered by the decayed roots of dead trees. This outcrop also hosts sheets of mica between its seams.

Quartz found near Windy Caves west of the Solitaire Trail

The quartz outcrops on the west side of Lake Solitaire suggest that a quartz vein runs in a southwesterly direction on this section of the reserve.

Quartz is formed when silicon and oxygen, two common elements in the earth's crust, come together under immense pressure. Gold is often trapped either as specks or seams within the quartz.

When in the form of individual crystals, quartz is generally

clear, while in large masses such as the Echo Rock deposit it is more milky white.

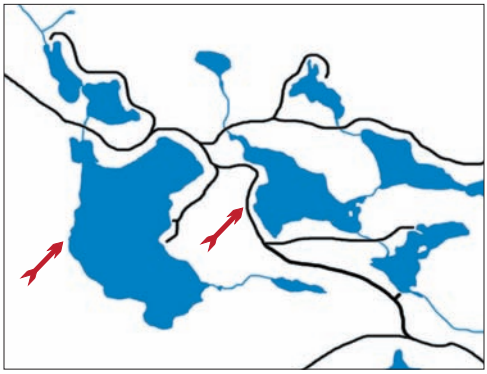
Quartz is extremely hard and can easily scratch hardened steel. It generally does not break along regular straight lines, as crystal-type faces are rare within their formation.

Quartz outcrop found along shore of Buck Lake

Because of its hardness, quartz was used by earlier humans to create cutting tools and weapons, long before it was used for decoration, jewelry, charms and more recently, in natural healing devices.

Large quartz outcrop near Echo Rock

Scenic Lookouts

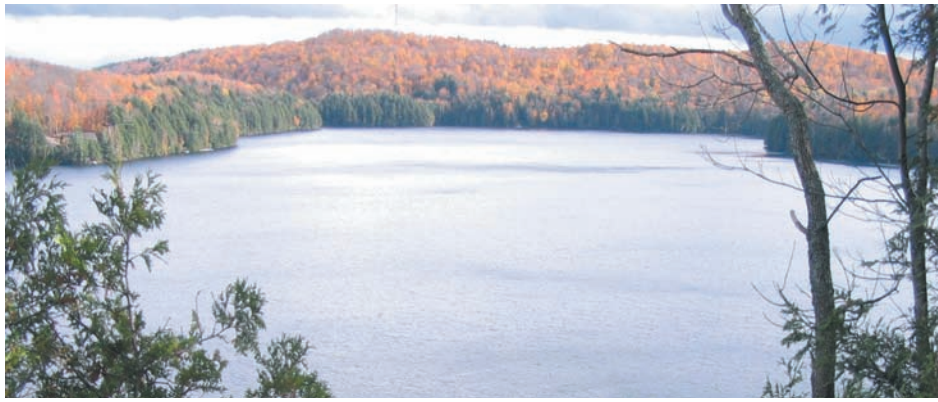


The mixture of red and golden-yellow colours of the deciduous trees in the fall is the most observed annual natural phenomenon in northern Ontario.

Limberlost, with some of the highest elevations in the region, looks out over hundreds of kilometres of forests. As a result, excellent vantage points can be found on the property to view the landscape as it turns from green into bright reds, yellows and golds in October and November of each year.

The top of Echo Rock and the cliffs on the west side of Buck Lake provide the most stunning lookout sites. From there you can look east and south over the lakes to view the green coniferous trees contrasting with the birches and maples, rising up to the top of the surrounding hills.

The Lookout Trail leads you to a spectacular view over Buck Lake and beyond



The view from Echo Rock over Lake Solitaire

The weather conditions leading up to the fall months determines the vibrancy of the colours that will show.

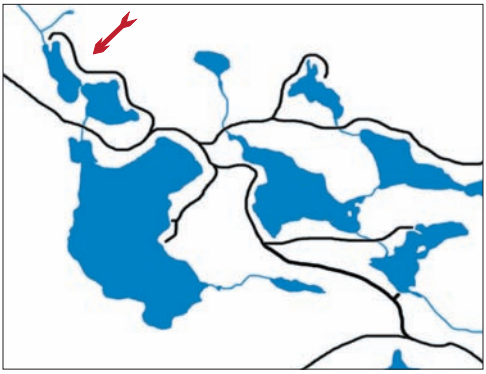
Each variety of tree has its own distinct colours, however, the green pigment from the chlorophyll in the leaves is the most dominant. Without the green chlorophyll the process of photosynthesis would not occur, which is critical for the production of sugars to provide nourishment for the trees.

Cool fall nights and warm, sunny days mean that the trees are unable to use all the sugars produced in the leaves. To avoid a toxic overload of sugar, the trees produce a chemical called anthocyanin, which creates the red and purple pigments in the leaves of red maple, mountain ash and flowering dogwood.

Overcast days and warmer nights will dim the display of colour, as will early frost, which often causes black spots to form on the leaves.

The crests of the old Limberlost ski hill and Millar Hill are also excellent places in the region to enjoy the spectacular fall colours.

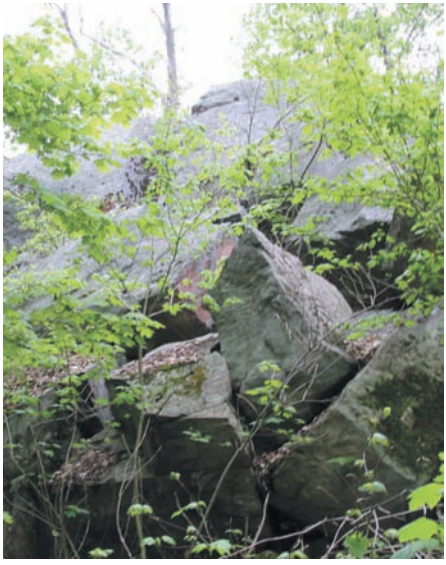
Naomi's Rest



An unusual rock formation can be found at a high point in the land lying east of Turtle Lake. Two rock outcrops, each the size of a large family home, protrude above the surrounding landscape.

A short detour from the Turtle Lake Trail winds its way to the top of the northern boulder, enabling visitors to stand at the tree canopy level and look over a rock canyon to view the abundant fern growth which covers much of the top of the southern boulders.

These large boulders are clearly out of character with the surrounding rocks left when the glaciers melted eleven thousand years or so ago.



Spring leaves begin to hide Naomi's Rest in the forest

One explanation is that the rocks resulted from a meteorite impact some 450 million years earlier which created the Brent Crater in the north-central sector of Algonquin Park.

In literally one second, a 600-metre deep hole in the earth's surface was created when billions of tonnes of rock were shattered and blasted high into the atmosphere, with some boulders falling 50 kilometres

or more away. The force of the explosion is estimated to have been fifty times greater than a nuclear bomb capable of obliterating the largest city on earth.

Sketch of Brent Crater rocks in Algonquin Park

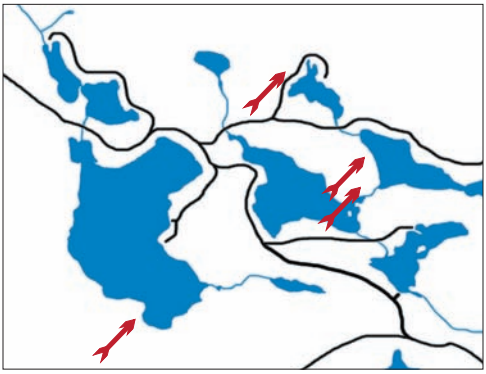
Scientists have determined that the shattered rocks near the Brent Crater are remarkably similar to those resulting from a controlled nuclear blast, and in stark contrast to the rocks left behind by a volcano or glacial deposit.

When you visit Naomi's Rest, you will notice the similarity with the Brent Crater boulders which are shown in the above sketch. It is also possible that this is one of nature's many coincidences.

Winter reveals the true scope of Naomi's Rest

For further information refer to Algonquin Park Brent Crater Trail Guide

Rock Caves



One of the most attractive sights on the Solitaire Trail is the approach from the southern entrance to the Windy Cave. You will be struck by the vast size and extent of this very large rock overhang.

The Windy Cave is immediately south of the Hidden Cliffs in the southwestern corner of Lake Solitaire. It is an attractive sight in both the winter and the summer.

The protection provided by the overhang and the nearby Hidden Cliffs provides shelter for many different animals and birds. When a storm is approaching, it is not unusual to find numerous birds congregating in the rock crevices and nearby trees.

View looking north from the entrance to the Windy Cave along the Solitaire Trail

Similar to the path above Teda's Rise on the east side of Lake Solitaire, the trail previously climbed up and over the Hidden Cliffs and the Windy Cave. The boardwalk was installed below the Hidden Cliffs to avoid this climb and to provide direct access to the cave.

Small caves entrances found above the trail near the Poverty Portage

This also removed the trail from an area which has large cavities between the rocks and where bears have been known to hibernate.

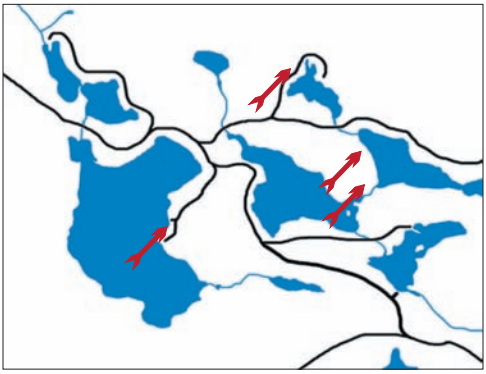
Triangular Cave entrance at north end of High Lake

Other caves of importance on the reserve include Fisher Cave on the east side of Lake Solitaire and Triangular Cave high up the cliff on the north end of High Lake. Fisher Cave in reality is also a large rock overhang which substantially closes in during the winter as an ice wall covers its open side.

An underwater cave is reported to exist beneath the cliffs at the south end of Buck Lake. In recent times attempts to locate this cavern have been unsuccessful.

Ice Cliffs

The Limberlost property is punctuated with a number of large rock faults. Where the Earth's surface has risen or collapsed, granite cliffs protrude and rock canyons are depressed into the landscape.



In time, many of these canyons filled with water to form lakes, with large sections being fairly deep, making them attractive for fish and other forms of aquatic life.

Ice Cliffs at the north end of High Lake

Some of the more attractive granite cliffs can be found on the northwest side of High Lake. Since these particular cliffs are sheltered from direct sunlight during the winter and spring months by tall, mature trees, water flowing from the plateau over the top of the cliffs and seeping down its upper face form large vertical sheets of ice.

The ice sheets form in much the same manner as stalactites do in calcium caves, hanging from the top of the cliffs and eventually anchoring themselves to the ice building up from the ground.

Many of the sheets of ice are detached from the lower cliff face, producing passages between the ice and the cliff base where ferns and more delicate vegetation are protected through the winter months.

The Solitaire Trail generally has several locations to see stunning ice formations

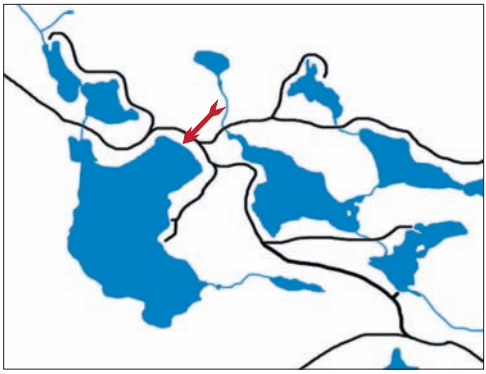
Copper and other minerals leaching out of the surrounding rocks and soil add to the beauty of the ice cliffs by colouring large sections with attractive blue and green hues.

Ice cliffs also form each winter on the sheltered east side of Lake Solitaire over Fishers Cave, whereas Echo Rock, with its sparse tree cover, has minimal ice formation.

The ice cliffs which form on the east side of Buck Lake are well worth visiting during the winter. They are located just a kilometer north of the bridgeway which crosses the area where water flows out of Buck Lake into Poverty Lake. This is a particularly attractive section of the forest with many mature trees.

The Buck Lake ice cliffs are well worth visiting in the winter

Sandy Beach



When the glaciers receded some eighteen thousand years ago, large deposits of gravel and sand were laid down along the northeast shore of Lake Solitaire.

Through erosion over many years, the sands were dispersed by winds and water to form the beach in front of the Lake Solitaire Lodge. These shore sands stretch well beyond the main beach, north into Bauer Park and south to Reazin's Pointe.

Much of the beach sand is, however, today hidden by cedars and other forest growth which extend down to the water's edge. The continuity of the sandy shoreline has created the longest stretch of continuous shore sand in the Muskoka region, where rock-lined shorelines generally prevail.

Solitaire Beach is well treed, giving shade to swimmers

It is on the Lake Solitaire Beach that Gordon Hill first met his wife, Marion, around 1920 when her canoe capsized not far from the shore. The couple soon married and set about building Limberlost into a year-round recreational wilderness resort.

Since then, tens of thousands of visitors have enjoyed summer days sunbathing on the

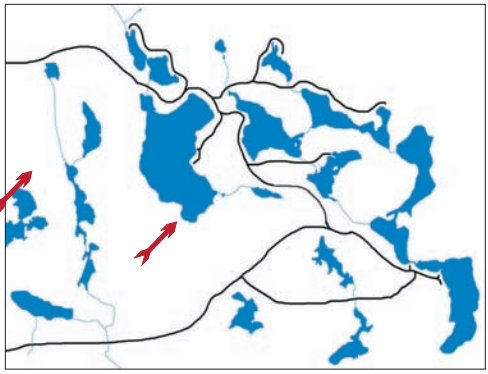
The sandy beach in front of the Solitaire Lodge is a favourite place for families with young children staying on the reserve

beach and swimming in the lake with its gradually sloping sandy bottom.

The large sand and gravel bar from which the Solitaire Beach was formed continues to separate Clear Lake from Lake Solitaire.

The gravel material which lies in between is significant and represents a valuable source of fill for building Limberlost's gravel-topped roads. After setting aside the topsoil, a two foot layer of gravel is being taken from the Storrie Clearing which borders Clear Lake.

Aerial view of Lake Solitaire Beach, c.1929



Limberlost, in addition to its sand, gravel and quartz deposits, has a partially mined mica outcrop and various garnet showings.

The mica mine can be located by entering the Limberlost Reserve through the first gate on Limberlost Road, immediately west of Peeler Lake. From the gate, the old mine road heads south for nearly two kilometres before it deteriorates into a rough forest trail.

The mica outcrop, which runs in a north-south direction, is approximately four hundred metres north of Eagle Lake. Mine tailings stretch along each side of the main dyke, piled fifteen to twenty feet high, and in most areas are heavily covered by years of leaf litter.

Relatively thick books of mica can still be found in the tailings and unmined sections. From these it is clear that the mine was high-graded, probably in response to the surge in demand arising from the introduction of electronic capacitors and other war time needs in the 1940s.

Mica ore with drill hole through the centre

One of the world's richest mica mines was discovered and mined directly north of Limberlost near Lake Nippissing.

The U.S. government is known to have funded this mine to build its strategic reserves during the Second World War.

The mine tailings are predominantly comprised of melon-sized blocks of opaque quartz and pink feldspar, which is used in the manufacture of glass, pottery and enamels.

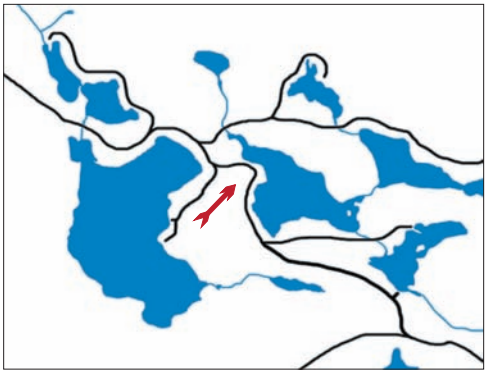
Garnet cluster in opaque quartz from the mica mine

Even more interesting are the grape-sized garnets that can be found attached to the feldspar and quartz rocks in certain areas of the mine. These are much larger than the garnets found in the shale rocks of the Windy Cave and elsewhere on the reserve. However, these garnets are more fractured than those in the deposit on the north shore of the Limberlost Outpost on Fishtail Lake, which is the largest garnet deposit in Ontario.

Large garnet with facets clearly showing, from Fishtail Lake deposit

Garnets are considered to be semiprecious stones, with the purest specimens reserved for jewelry while fractured stones are used for industrial abrasives, including sandpaper.

Ski Hill



Limberlost, with its high elevation, has always enjoyed consistently heavy snow falls during the winter months.

This creates excellent skiing conditions from December until April.

These ideal ski conditions led to Limberlost's early owners developing the hill which lies between Solitaire and Buck Lakes into an Alpine ski run. A stated objective was to offer every sport for every season.

Initially guests were transported to the "Top of the World" ski hill, as it was known at the time, in a converted truck fitted with treads attached to the rear wheel base and metal skis in front. Skiers could either sit in the truck or be towed to the top of the hill by holding onto ropes. This was known as ski-joring.

Top of the World base camp on Ski Hill, c.1960

In 1939, Limberlost was the first resort in the region to introduce a mechanized ski tow lift, which added to the popularity of Limberlost as a premier winter resort.

The ski hill ceased operating a number of years ago as guests began visiting Limberlost for its other attractions, and as a base for day trips to test their skiing

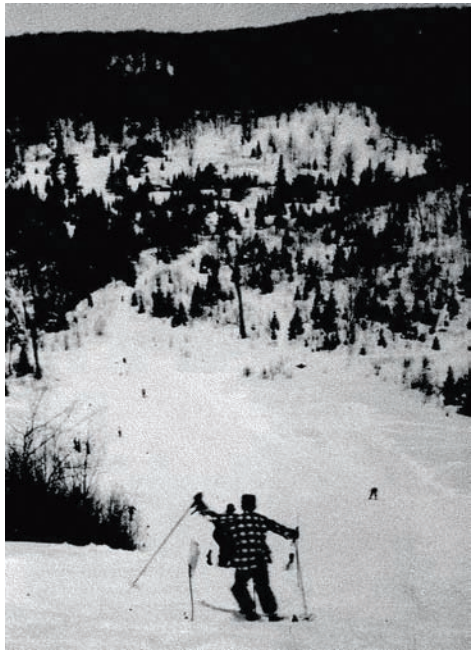
abilities at the more challenging Hidden Valley Ski Complex.

The Hidden Valley facilities are less than 20 km from Limberlost on the way to Huntsville.

Ski Hill Trail with historic ski tower and pull in background

A grass trail is cut each year down the main ski run for those wishing to hike to the peak to view the fall colours or as an alternate route to access the Ascension and Pointe Trails.

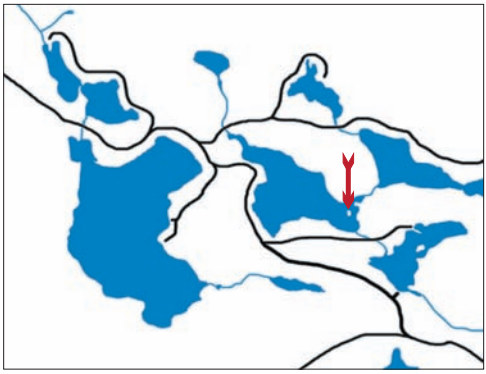
The main ski run continues to be used by guests during winter for tobogganing and as a return route from cross country skiing along various trails.


Descending from the Top of the World, c1946


Ski-joring, c.1925


Truck used to transport skiers to the Ski Hill, c.1925

Osprey Island



Osprey Island lies at the south-east corner of Buck Lake. Its distinguishing features are the tall white pines which tower over the surrounding vegetation, notwithstanding that one of them had its top broken off by winds during a severe winter ice storm.

For a number of years, the pine with its flattened top has provided a sturdy platform for a pair of osprey to build their large nest and breed successfully. The pair of osprey nesting on Buck Lake have body lengths of nearly two feet and extended wing spans of more than five feet.

In many respects, the island location is ideal as it is inaccessible for raccoons and other land based predators. It also provides a clear view of the surrounding terrain to protect against crows, owls or gulls approaching the osprey nest to steal their eggs or young if left unattended.

Osprey Island as seen in winter on Buck Lake

The island location also provides easy access to three nearby lakes with plentiful stocks of fish, the principal, and in some cases only source of food for osprey.

Hikers on the Buck Lake trail are requested to pass by the

island quietly to avoid disturbing the osprey family during the incubation period and the early weeks after the chicks have hatched.

If disturbed or threatened in any way, osprey will express their displeasure with shrill whistling cries which can carry for long distances.

Adult osprey landing in a nest on Buck Lake (M Walker)

Like other raptors who feed high up the food chain, osprey experienced serious breeding problems in many parts of North America starting in the early 1950s, due to the increased concentrations of poisons ingested through the food they ate. This was caused by the widespread use of pesticides in their winter range, which led to the thinning and breaking of the shells of their eggs.

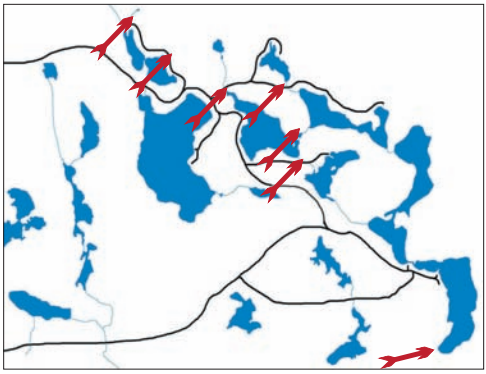
Osprey nest at sunset

The long life span of osprey of up to thirty years fortunately enabled them to survive the heavy pollution despite their inability to breed during this period. Since osprey usually mate for life, twenty years later with a healthier winter food supply, they have again started to reproduce.

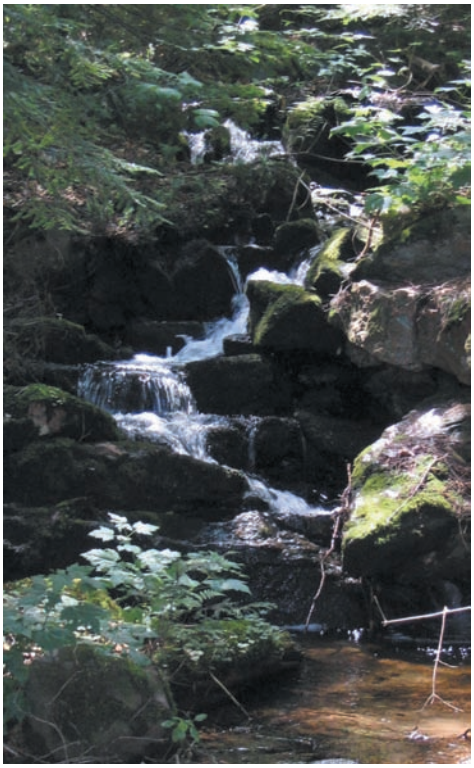
Because of their feeding habits, environmentalists view the presence of osprey and other large birds of prey as accurate reflections of the health of local lakes and surrounding areas.

Waterfalls

Crystal Falls, located at the south end of Long Lake, is the largest and most attractive waterfall on the Limberlost Reserve, especially in the early spring or after an extended period of heavy rainfall.



Although the elevation decline from High Lake to Poverty Lake is greater, the volume of water is far less than the amount which flows through the chain of lakes into Long Lake and over the Crystal Falls.



Water flowing into Buck Lake at the Helve Portage

The lakes which feed into Long Lake drain the eastern side of the Limberlost Reserve. A number of these lakes are fed not only by surface runoff, but also through underground springs. The water which flows over the falls eventually drains into the Lake of Bays.

Crystal Falls is particularly attractive in the middle of the day when the sun shines through the canopy and rainbows are created in the spray from the falls. This led to the falls also being referred to as the Shower Bath Falls.

The high level of moisture in the air around the falls has fostered prolific fern growth on the rock ledges and caves, which serve as animal habitats on the eastern bank of the falls.

During the early spring and late fall it is important for hikers to make sure they exercise caution by wearing bear bells or by making noises to indicate their presence to nearby animals, particularly when approaching the falls.

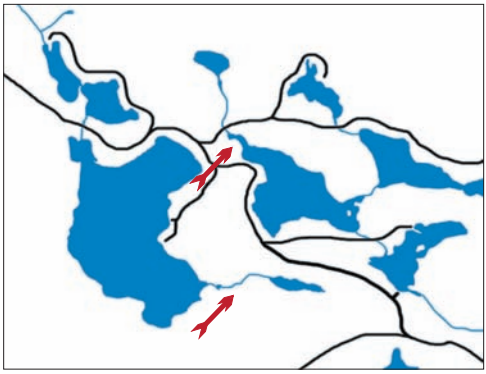
The second most attractive waterfall on the Limberlost Reserve is on the stream which flows out of Angle Lake.

Angle Lake can be located by hiking up the Angle Lake portage which runs parallel to the Angle Lake stream. Near the top of the climb, walk north to the stream to locate the falls.

Crystal Falls at the end of Long Lake in the late spring

There are many other attractive water flows which cascade over series of rocks and ledges. None of these, however, have as large a water volume or elevation drop as the Crystal Falls or Angle Falls. These other water cascades are located on the Nelson River, Oliver Creek, Helve Portage and Buck Lake Portage. Similar to the Crystal and Angle Falls, they are best viewed in the spring or after a heavy summer rainfall.

Wetland Meadows



Limberlost, with its three distinct drainage systems and numerous feeder rivers and streams, has many ideal locations for beavers to build their dams.

The most extensive areas of beaver activity exist along the Kalonga Valley wetlands which lie south of Helve Lake, and the McReynold Valley on the west side of Lake Solitaire.

The Kalonga River drains the valley flowing westward into Lake Solitaire. The valley is unique in that it has for many years had twelve or more active beaver dams at any point in time.

By flooding streams, beavers create reservoirs of water and then much later, when they abandon their dams, they leave behind rich meadows and often extensive wetlands which have an important part to play in a balanced ecosystem.

The Kalonga Valley wetlands are the headwaters for a series of lakes, starting with Lake Solitaire and including Clear, Turtle, Rebecca and Bella Lakes.

The McReynold Valley drains the west side of Solitaire from Fowler and Eastall Lakes through extensive wetlands populated by beaver activity. The valley drains into the Boyenne River which crosses Millar Hill Road and eventually flows into Lake of Bays.

The east side of the reserve drains from High Lake down a valley with steep sides and five lakes with few wetlands and beaver

dams. There are, however, a few bank beavers active in the area.

Wetlands perform the key ecological function of filtering out harmful impurities from runoff water and dealing with excess nutrients.

Wetland at the north end of Turtle Lake

Wetlands also store water when the surrounding lands are unable to absorb a heavy rainfall or when a rapid spring runoff occurs.

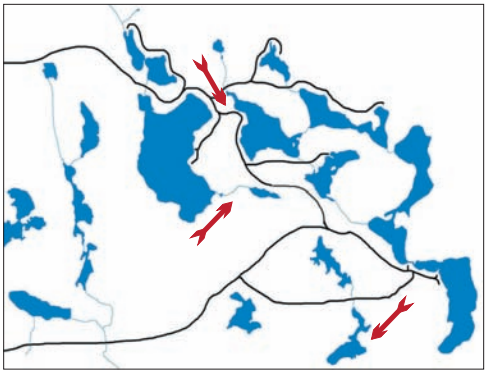
Water trapped in the wetlands is slowly released down streams and into underground aquifers to resurface through springs at lower elevations or directly into lakes.

Beaver activity on the Wetland Trail in the Kalonga Valley

Canada is considered fortunate to have nearly 25% of the world's wetlands, which is one of the reasons that it is exceptionally well endowed with fresh, clean water year round.

The Kalonga Wetlands rank among the most diverse and accessible wetlands in the Algonquin region. This makes them an ideal laboratory for students to conduct biological and environmental studies.

Bird Sanctuaries



Some would claim that Limberlost, in its entirety, is an ideal bird sanctuary given its topography and abundance of logs, snags and cavity trees that serve to provide shelter. Marion Hill, one of the founders of the historical Limberlost Lodge, was a keen ornithologist, cataloging 160 different species of birds within a three kilometer radius of the lodge.

Mrs. Hill's favourite area for bird watching was the secluded wetland at the northern end of Buck Lake, which continues to serve as a popular nesting area. The trail along the west side of Buck Lake provides guests with direct access to this secluded bird sanctuary.

A wide variety of bird life, including sandhill cranes and blue herons, breed in the mature trees which surround the grassy

The north end of Buck Lake is a favourite area for herons and other bird life

wetlands created by a long abandoned beaver dam.

By approaching the wetland area discreetly, you will minimize your impact on the wildlife in the area and will be more likely to view bird and animal activity.

Patient 'birders' are well rewarded in the Kalonga Valley

The Buck Lake bird sanctuary can also be reached by driving to the High Lake – Poverty Road Junction, and then hiking down a trail which follows the ridge above the Hickory Creek Ravine.

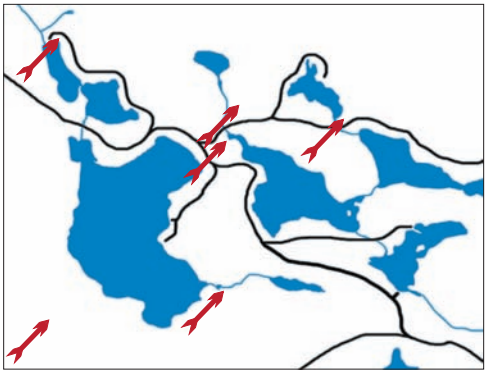
The Kalonga Valley is also a secluded sanctuary for birds to feed and nest. Owls which have long been associated with Limberlost are once again frequently seen swooping across the valley as well as around Burns Lake in the early evenings.

Owls, like other raptors which feed high up the food chain, experienced breeding problems starting in the 1950s due to the increased concentrations of poisons ingested through the fish and small animals they ate. Fortunately, initiatives to reduce the use of pesticides and other poisonous chemicals have been largely successful and the population of owls in northern Ontario is increasing.

Owls are often seen in the secluded area around Burns Lake

Deer Yards

High Lake is on the eastern boundary of a large deer wintering area. It is not unusual to see numerous deer foraging during the winter months in the forests on each side of the woodland road leading to High Lake.



Deer will often travel many kilometres from their summer homes to their winter range, which is usually at a lower elevation where the snow fall is lightest. However, the valleys around High Lake with their mature stands of hemlock and coniferous trees provide the desired degree of protection.

White-tailed deer in the winter

Hemlock are particularly effective in retaining large quantities of snow on their branches without breaking. The sun then dissipates the snow by either evaporating it or allowing it to fall to the ground as water. In this way, animals can move more freely in the forest unhindered even in years of heavy snow fall.

Deer, given their narrow hooves and relatively short legs, find it difficult to navigate deep snow and as a result,

starve if they cannot move about to forage for food. When snow is deeper than 40 centimetres and they are not in a sheltered area, deer will tend to follow previously broken trails. The quantity and quality of food that can be reached along these trails, however, quickly diminishes during a harsh winter.

White-tailed doe with two fawns in mid-summer

When deer are nutritionally weakened or can only move slowly in heavy snow, they are unable to defend themselves or their young from wolves hunting during the winter months.

A healthy herd is capable of almost doubling its numbers during one favourable year, which left alone would burden the food supply and lead to winter starvation. Predators, together with controlled hunting, help to keep the white-tailed deer population in balance with the available supply of nutritional winter food.

White-tailed deer on the edge of the forest near Burns Lake

Two experiments have been initiated to counteract environmental damage caused by acid rain. These efforts involve a limestone weir on Buck Lake and the placement of wind powered oxygenators on High Lake.

Many lakes in northern Ontario have been harmed by sulphur dioxide emissions originating from coal fired power plants and other industries operating hundreds of kilometres to the west.

Scientists claim that this has already had a major impact on fish populations and other aquatic life in the eastern Canadian lakes.

High Lake, being at the headwaters of a pristine chain of lakes, was chosen for an experiment to determine whether the addition of oxygen could protect a lake and hence promote healthier aquatic growth. Two platform-mounted windmills are anchored in the middle of High Lake to pump oxygen into its depths.

Oxygenators have increased the fish population on High Lake

Over a five year period, meaningful results have been achieved. The survival rate of stocked fingerlings increased and the size and health of the fish caught is much improved. These results are despite an active family of otters, and the kingfishers and other birds of prey which have returned to the area, including a recent sighting of a bald eagle on Limberlost Road.

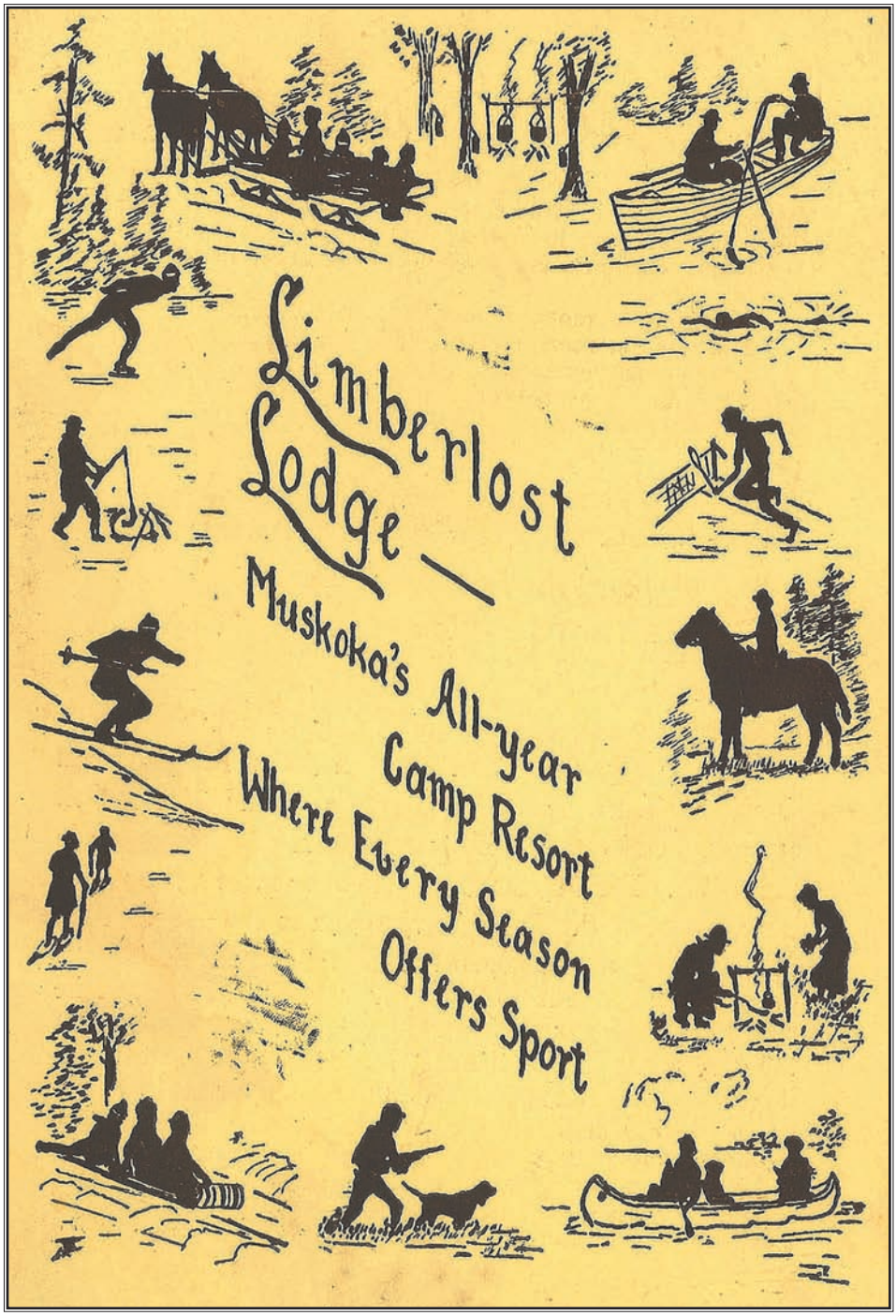
Another environmental experiment conducted on Buck Lake appears to have been equally successful. This involved repairing a weir with crushed limestone at the southeast corner of the lake. Water flows throughout the year over this weir through Poverty Lake and three other lakes before reaching Long Lake.

Bald eagle photographed by Mary Greenwood on Limberlost Road, 2008

Limestone weir on Buck Lake

The limestone has a positive environmental impact by helping to neutralize the acidity of the waters in the downstream lakes.

The weir construction was initiated in the late 1980s as a school group conservation project by Nancy Lynch, whose family has maintained cottages and protected the downstream lakes for the past fifty years.



This early Limberlost brochure and numerous photographs were kindly provided by Barbara Paterson, a resident of Bella Lake

Historic Landmarks

In order to settle the lands north of Lake of Bays, routes were surveyed around 1870 for two east-west roads which became known as Limberlost Road and Millar Hill Road. One-hundred acre lots were then laid out in grids on either side of these roads.

By 1877, virtually every lot in the Limberlost area had been allocated to a settler family. From the outset, most families found the land difficult to farm successfully due to the hilly, rugged terrain, and long, cold winters.

Although more than two hundred families attempted to settle north of Lake of Bays and south of the Big East River, less than a quarter were able to earn even a subsistence living from farming. The McMasters, Robinsons, Flemmings, Langmeads and McReynolds were among the more successful families. Because of the attractiveness of these farms they were acquired by Reverend Hill and later came to form the nucleus of the Limberlost Reserve.

This section of the guide describes the location of each of these farms, as well as the historic sites of log landings and cabins used by trappers and woodsmen to pursue their business.

Early map of North America, c.1763

Any book on the Limberlost Reserve would be incomplete without recognizing the role Gordon and Marion Hill played in building Limberlost into a pre-eminent wilderness resort.

Gordon and Marion Hill, c.1940

Gordon Hill was born in 1894, as the youngest of four children of Thomas and Annie Hill, and grandson of the Reverend Norton Hill, founder of the Hillside community east of Huntsville. The Hills were among the earliest European settlers in the region.

While Gordon Hill was the visionary, Marion Hill was the one who promoted the unique wilderness experience Limberlost came to offer. The creative advertising brochures and related promotional initiatives spearheaded by Marion Hill were well ahead of their time, including the owl motif used on all promotional material to foster a distinct Limberlost brand.

In many respects the Hills were early pioneers of eco-tourism as it is known today. They offered an opportunity to venture into the woods and enjoy the trees, lakes and wildlife in a pristine wilderness setting. There were plenty of adventures for guests to embark on as they found themselves constantly taking on fresh challenges and learning more about nature.

The Hills' development of Limberlost also brought significant economic benefits to the region. Their accomplishments encour-

aged others to establish similar northern resorts, which went on to achieve their own levels of success.

After Gordon Hill's untimely death in 1947, Marion Hill and her daughter Bobbie continued to operate Limberlost. However, with changing times Limberlost's fortunes faded.

Increased affluence enabled many families to acquire their own cottages and for others, the arrival of the large, more luxurious northern resorts seemed better attuned to their wilderness desires.

This led to Limberlost being sold around 1969 to local cottage owners, known as *The Friends of Limberlost*, who later re-sold it to a developer with plans to build a large townhouse community along the shores of Lake Solitaire. However, in the early 1980s these plans were shelved when the current owners acquired the property with a view to restoring Limberlost's renowned hiking trails and re-opening them to the public.

With the change in ownership, Ted and Judy Rivers arrived at Limberlost to make it their lives' work to re-establish the property as a preferred eco-tourism destination. Shortly thereafter, Lorraine Schamehorn joined them and together they set about re-establishing the reserve's pre-eminent wilderness ranking and introducing new forest stewardship practices.

Ted and Judy Rivers, 2003

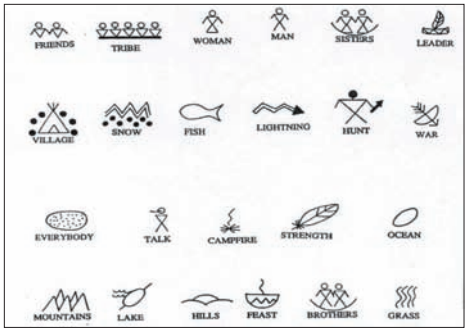
Early Inhabitants

There is archeological evidence of human travel along the rivers and lakes of northern Ontario for thousands of years before Native Americans or European settlers established homes in the area.

Council meeting between Iroquois and Champlain, July 1609

Among the first to actually settle in northern Ontario were the Algonquin speaking tribes, comprised mainly of the Ojibwa. The Iroquoian speaking Mohawk only moved into the area after the war with the Hurons during the French-English conflict over the control of the lucrative fur trade.

To date, no clear evidence has been unearthed of any native settlement having ever been established on the Limberlost Reserve, although pictographs, stone axe heads and fire pits with blackened rocks have been found. Some of these could have been left by nomadic hunters or geologists exploring for minerals.



Historic pictographs used by the Algonquin

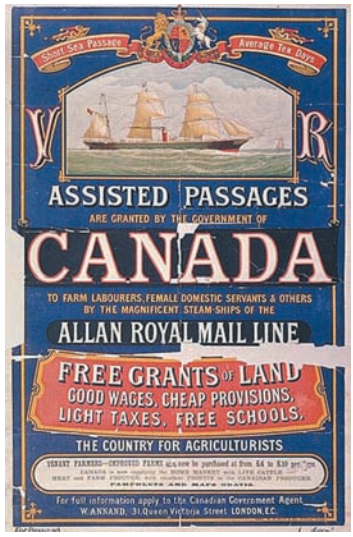
Around 1615, when Samuel de Champlain travelled through the Muskoka region using the northern lakes and the Severn River to reach Georgian Bay, his maps marked these waterways as the Lakes of the Hurons.

The Iroquois invasion of 1649, however, scattered the Hurons with some of the few surviving people seeking refuge in a settlement near Huntsville, which at one time numbered 2,000 to 3,000 Hurons.

Huron Chief featured in Canadian Illustrated News, c.1878

Approximately 150 years later, the British government commissioned Sir Isaac Brock to map the area north of Lake Ontario. His map, published in 1807, identifies the Algonquin, Haliburton and Lake of Bays regions as ones of immense, largely uninhabited forests.

By the mid-1800s most of southern Ontario had been settled and therefore it was natural for the British to look next to the untouched Canadian Shield, stretching from Georgian Bay to the Ottawa River and bordered in the south by the Severn River.

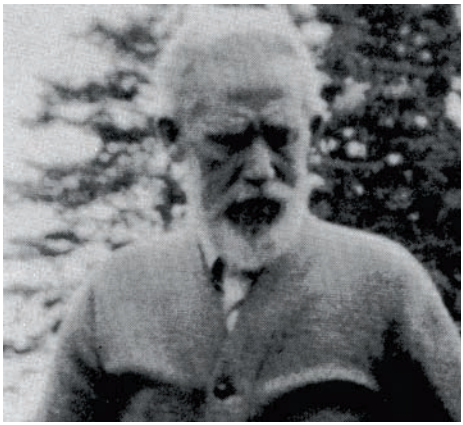


Advertisement for land, c.1870s

In 1862 the colonial government of Upper Canada set aside 500,000 acres of this wilderness to be allotted as land grants to attract new settlers to the region. Shortly thereafter, families began to arrive from Europe as well as southern Ontario.

McMaster Settlement

Among the most successful settlers were Matthew and Dorothy McMaster, who arrived with their family to take possession of their land around 1875.



Matthew McMaster, c.1900

Their neighbour to the west was John Eastall, who shared Eastall Lake with them. To the east, John Albert Bauer acquired two lots on either side of what is today South Limberlost Road.

The Bauer family many years later purchased the McMaster farm, which was combined with their own property and given to the Province of Ontario to create Bauer Park. As Limberlost expanded its land holdings it came to completely surround the park.

Life for the McMaster's was typical to the other settlers who came a while later. After three or four years of reasonable crops, they found their land became depleted of essential nutrients and their harvests declined.

McMaster farm house,c.1925

As a result they continued to clear new sections of land and by the time the McMaster's gave up farming they had one of the largest clearings which was distinctly identified on early maps.

Even today there is plenty of evidence of the McMaster property having been actively farmed.

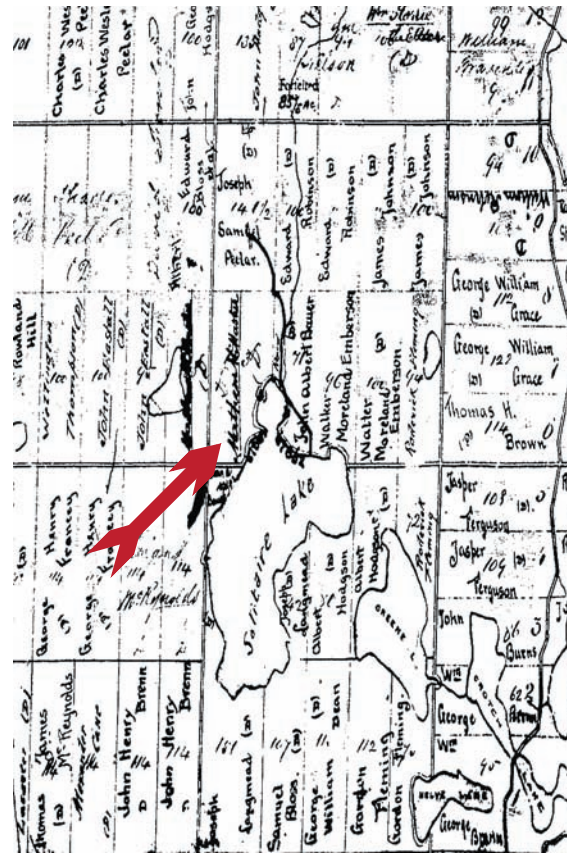
The McMaster family not only established large clearings in the area but also built extensive stone walls from the rocks cleared from their fields. Furthermore, apple trees from their fruit orchard still survive and bear fruit each summer.

From the early 1920s the McMasters appear to have worked closely with Gordon and Marion Hill in supplying fresh vegetables and meat to the Limberlost Lodge.

In addition, their main field was used each winter by Limberlost guests as a downhill ski run prior to Limberlost installing its own ski facilities, including a mechanized tow.

In later years, Limberlost staff used some of the farm buildings for accommodation prior to them being demolished.

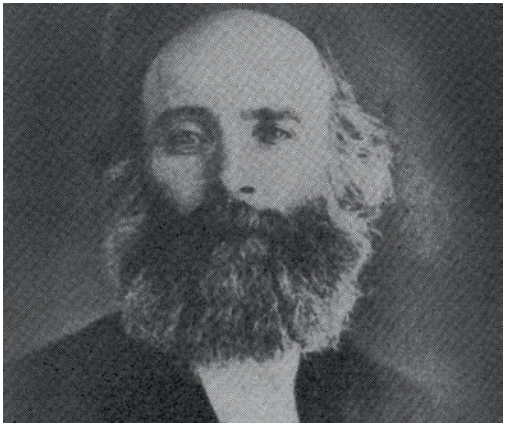
The apple trees and main farm fields are located near the rough trail which heads down to Eastall Lake.



Township Lot Map, c.1877: McMaster Farm

Robinson Settlement

To the east of Bauer Park and across the Nelson River, Edward and Margaret Robinson settled with their family in 1875.



William Nelson, c.1877

Early maps show a clearing attributed to the Robinson family, although today it has been totally recovered by a mixed deciduous forest.

Evidence can, however, be found of subsistence farming on the two hundred acres they received in return for clearing a portion of the land and keeping a section of the country road open during the winter.

The Nelson River flows through the property allotted to the Robinsons from Turtle Lake to Rebecca Lake. It is named after the family which settled immediately north on a lot which extended to Rebecca Lake. This lot was one of the least attractive with significant wetlands, which was probably the reason it was forfeited by the Nelson family in 1877.

Nelson River runs through the Robinson Settlement

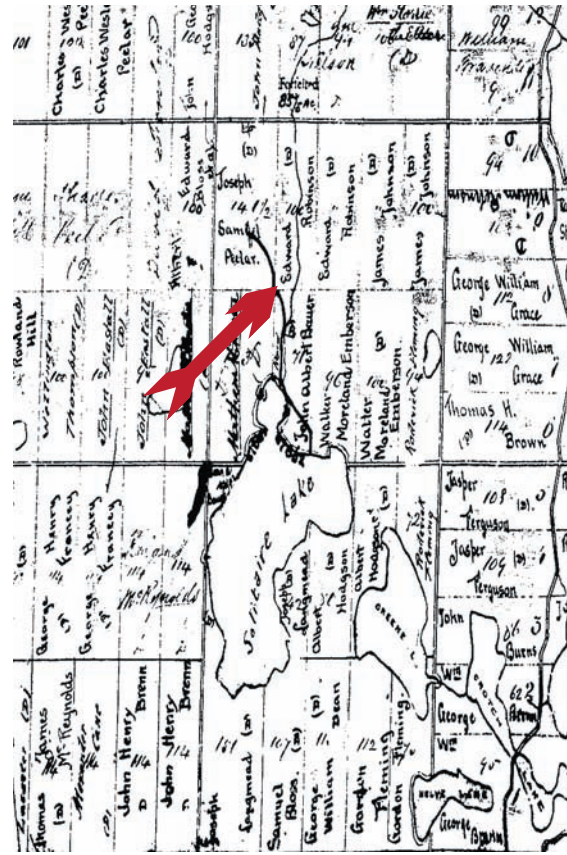
Of note are four distinct mounds of earth flanked with stones and unmarked headstones on the east side of the Nelson River bank. They are located in an attractive, gently sloping area which enjoys the afternoon sunshine and the

constant gurgling of water as it cascades over the rocks in the river bed. In many ways the area resembles a perfect site for a resting ground, as well as a peaceful place to contemplate the beauty of the trees, rock cliffs and water flows.

Because of the constant flow of water down the Nelson River, most sections do not ice over during the winter months, which enables American black ducks to remain and feed on the aquatic life in the river.

At the southern end of the Robinson property, approximately one hundred metres beyond Naomi's Rest, one of the last large patches of wild leeks in the region can be found.

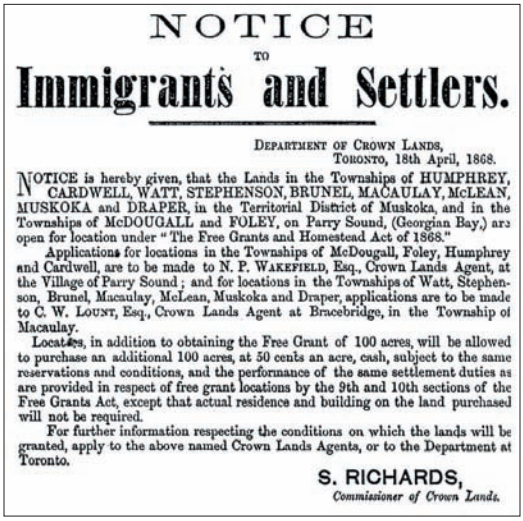
Native Americans and many of the settlers used wild leeks as a tonic in the spring as well as a base for cough medicines. Modern science confirms the medicinal value of leeks as they are high in vitamin C and effective in combating hypertension and heart disease.



Township Lot Map, c.1877: Robinson Settlement

Flemming Settlement

Well south of the Robinson settlement, Gordon Flemming and his brother Roderick settled on four lots east and south of Buck Lake.



NOTICE
TO
Immigrants and Settlers.

DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS,
TORONTO, 18th April, 1868.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Lands in the Townships of HUMPHREY, CARDWELL, WATT, STEPHENSON, BRUNEL, MACAULAY, McLEAN, MUSKOKA and DRAPER, in the Territorial District of Muskoka, and in the Townships of McDOUGALL and FOLEY, on Parry Sound, (Georgian Bay,) are open for location under "The Free Grants and Homestead Act of 1868."

Applications for locations in the Townships of McDougall, Foley, Humphrey and Cardwell, are to be made to N. P. WAKEFIELD, Esq., Crown Lands Agent, at the Village of Parry Sound; and for locations in the Townships of Watt, Stephenson, Brunel, Macaulay, McLean, Muskoka and Draper, applications are to be made to C. W. LOUNT, Esq., Crown Lands Agent at Bracebridge, in the Township of Macaulay.

Locatees, in addition to obtaining the Free Grant of 100 acres, will be allowed to purchase an additional 100 acres, at 50 cents an acre, cash, subject to the same reservations and conditions, and the performance of the same settlement duties as are provided in respect of free grant locations by the 9th and 10th sections of the Free Grants Act, except that actual residence and building on the land purchased will not be required.

For further information respecting the conditions on which the lands will be granted, apply to the above named Crown Lands Agents, or to the Department at Toronto.

S. RICHARDS,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Notice of Free Grant Lands, 1868

The top soil on these lands is unusually deep and therefore it was natural that this family continued their efforts to farm their lands longer than and well after others had given up in despair.

Piles of stones removed by the Flemming family to create their gardens and fields evidence the existence of farm clearings and agricultural activities. In addition, strands of fencing wire have been encountered buried under leaves and decaying tree branches. These were found in the process of restoring the hiking trail around Buck Lake.

Typical farm house built by early settlers, c.1890

When the Flemmings did give up farming, trappers moved in to occupy their abandoned houses and cabins. Most of them prospered for a while from the fur trade, until yields declined from over-trapping. Pelt prices also collapsed from increased supplies of fur from western Canada.

One of the more successful trappers was Wil Quinn who eventually built his own cabin near the portage which links Buck and Poverty Lakes.

This was an ideal site for a trapper's cabin as it provided easy access to six lakes, including Helve Lake to the south and the chain of lakes to the east leading all the way down to Long Lake.

Evidently Wil Quinn was more conscientious than others and ensured that he trapped on a sustainable basis. He also seems to have managed to avoid other trappers competing with him along his trap lines.

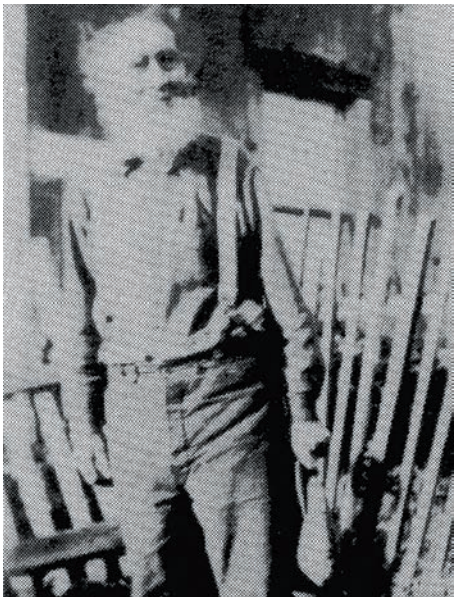
A wood-lined cold storage pit can be found approximately thirty feet south of the Buck Lake wilderness trail as you approach the Poverty Portage.

Whether the storage pit was built by the Flemming family for storing fruits and vegetables or was the work of Wil Quinn to safeguard his animal pelts is unknown.

Township Lot Map, c.1877: Flemming Farm

Langmead Settlement

The Langmead family were among the first to establish a farm along the shores of Lake Solitaire using the Millar Hill colonization road to access their lands. Joseph Langmead managed to secure nearly three hundred acres extending all the way from Millar Hill up the east side of Lake Solitaire to Reazin's Point.



Joseph Langmead, c.1900

Early maps indicate that the Langmead family established a landing and a clearing at the southern end of Lake Solitaire as well as an even larger clearing closer to the colonization road.

Being close to Millar Hill Road, it was natural that the Langmead's would play an important role in establishing the Millar Hill school and in attracting Dr. Henry Reazin as the schoolmaster.

Maple syrup collection, c.1900

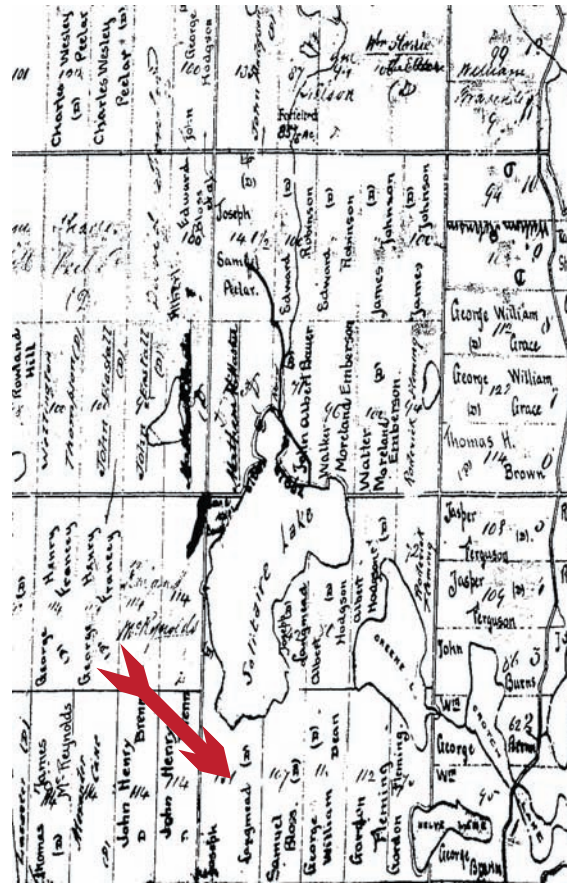
When Dr. Reazin retired he built a cabin on a point of land jutting into Lake Solitaire which he acquired from the Langmead's at the end of his career.

The only remaining evidence of the Langmead's main clearing is the stone walls built from rocks removed from the fields. Numerous pieces of iron from farm implements and parts of an iron stove have also been encountered.

Although the forest has reclaimed virtually all of the farm land over the course of the past one hundred years, a large bed of day lilies has managed to survive. This is surprising since a fairly dense maple forest has grown around the area, creating a solid canopy for most of the summer months.

The day lilies can be located one hundred feet to the east of the Solitaire Trail, a short distance from the second wooden bridge at the southern end of the lake.

The day lilies have managed to spread through the subdivision of their bulbs, notwithstanding their growth being stunted. When transplanted in a sunnier area they bloom prolifically.



Township Lot Map, c.1877: Langmead Settlement

McReynolds Settlement

The McReynolds family settled between the Boyene River and the slopes of the hill on the west side of Lake Solitaire. Their neighbours to the south were the Brenn and Millar families, and to the north, the McMaster and Eastall families.

Although somewhat isolated and a far distance from country roads, the family farm overlooked an idyllic valley. It had access to plenty of water which was gravity-fed and ran directly to their homestead from a small dam they created higher up the hill.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

EMIGRATION
TO THE
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

To Capitalists, Tenant Farmers, Agricultural Labourers, Mechanics, Day Labourers, and all parties desirous of improving their circumstances by Emigrating to a new country.

Attention is invited to the great advantages presented by the Province of Ontario, to various classes of new Settlers. Persons living on the interest of their money can easily get 8 per cent. on first class security in the Province of Ontario. Tenant Farmers, with limited capital, can buy and stock a freehold estate in Ontario with the money needed to carry on a small farm in Britain. Good cleared land, with a dwelling and barn on it, can be purchased in desirable localities at from 20 to 50 dollars, or £4 to £10 Stg., per acre. Farm hands can readily get work at good wages, with their board found.

INDUCEMENTS TO INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

FREE GRANTS OF LAND TO ACTUAL SETTLERS.

Land given away to all comers over 18 years of age. A family of several persons can secure a large block of land gratis.
The Government of Ontario offers as a Free Grant to any actual settler over 18 years of age, One Hundred Acres of Land in the Free Grant Districts.

THE FREE GRANT LANDS

Exhibited on the within Map are easy of access.

THERE ARE DAILY MAILS BETWEEN TORONTO AND THE FREE GRANT DISTRICTS.

Parties desirous of fuller information, concerning the Province of Ontario, will apply personally, or by letter, to WM. DIXON, Esq., Emigration Agent, 11 Adam Street, Adelphi, London; or to any of the Imperial or Dominion Emigrant Agents in Europe; or to the GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY OFFICES, No. 21 Old Broad Street, London; or to the GREAT WESTERN of Canada RAILWAY OFFICE, 126 Graham House, Old Broad Street, London, E. C.; or to the NORTHERN RAILWAY OFFICE, Messrs. CUTHILL, SON & DeLUNGO, No. 13 Gresham Street, London, E. C.; or to the CANADA COMPANY, No. 1 East India Avenue, Leadenhall Street, London; or to ALLAN BROS. & CO., James Street, Liverpool; JAMES and ALEXANDER ALLAN, Great Clyde Street, Glasgow; ALLAN BROS. & CO., Foyle Street, Londonderry; by whom Pamphlets, giving detailed information, maps, &c., will be supplied.
Emigrants bound for the Province of Ontario, will take vessel to Quebec, and proceed westward, either by Steamboat or Railway.
By reference to the Map, any desired point can be selected from which to look for a new home.

JOHN CARLING,
Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works for the Province of Ontario.
Toronto, Ontario, March, 1869.

Notice of Free Grant Lands, c.1869

Carefully assembled stone walls can be found in good condition together with evidence of a fairly extensive system of roads constructed on the hillside. There are also a number of mounds, which appear to be graves, neatly lined with round rocks, all of a similar size.

What is surprising are the numerous utensils and other tools the family left behind when they abandoned their land. The fact that these remained on the property is possibly because of its isolated location.

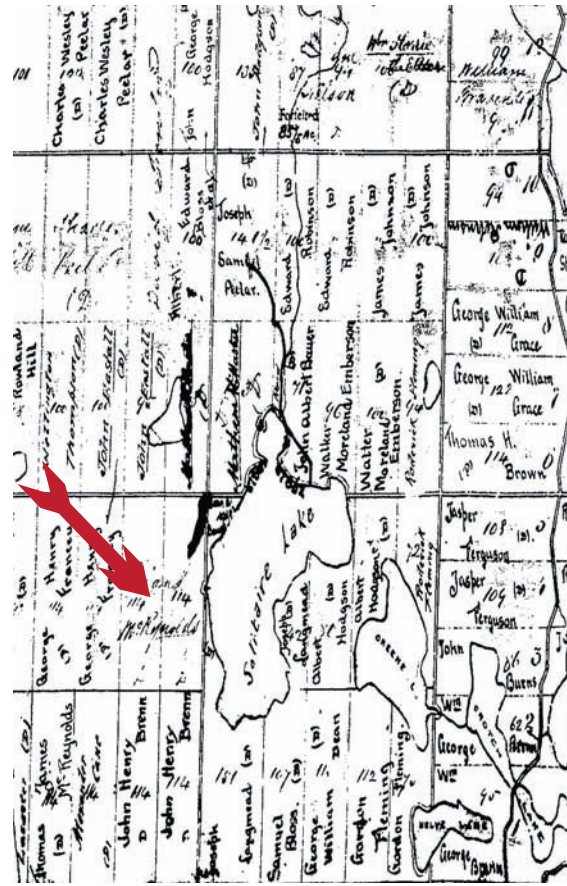
The area has never been disturbed by intensive logging due to it being difficult to transport logs through the extensive wetlands, either up or down the valley.

There can be no doubt that the settlers in the region north of Lake of Bays endured many hardships and probably had little assistance from government officials and others in adapting to their new environment.

This lack of support was especially true for settler families, such as the McReynolds, who were allotted isolated locations and lands which were difficult to farm. It is therefore understandable that they eventually abandoned their farms and moved west to more fertile and deeper soils.

There appear to be few books written about the successes and hardships experienced by the families who settled in the region.

To correct this, Limberlost is prepared to sponsor the publication of a book which describes how these families came to rely on each other and their heroic responses to the challenging environment they found themselves facing.



Township Lot Map, c.1877: McReynold Farm

Farm Clearings

Shortly after the formation of the Dominion of Canada in 1867, the Province of Ontario, like many of the other provinces, set about attracting immigrants to settle their more remote regions in order to increase agricultural output.

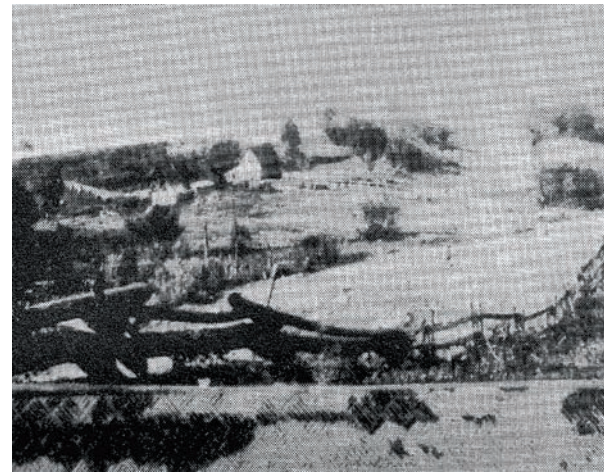
Under the Free Grant Act of 1868, anyone eighteen years or older could select a 100 acre lot in a surveyed township. A married couple could select two lots totalling 200 acres.

In order to induce settlers to clear and cultivate the land allotted to them, title was withheld until they had at least fifteen acres cleared and under cultivation within five years and an additional two acres for each additional year it took to meet the transfer requirements.

To ensure speculators did not select lots and hire others to clear them, settlers were required to build a home of at least sixteen feet by twenty feet. They were also required to reside continu-

Robert Storrie, extending the family's clearing near Clear Lake, c.1928

ously on the property and not be absent for more than six months in any one year.

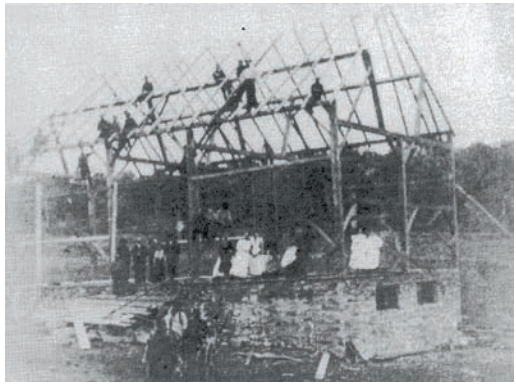


Millar family homestead on Millar Hill Road, c.1880

Farm clearings were carefully assessed and monitored by government officials which is the reason they are clearly identified on most of the maps prepared during this era. The fields cleared by each of the settlers mentioned in the previous sections of this guide all appear on the early maps of the area.

Once settlers obtained full title to their lands, they were free to pass them onto members of their families or sell them to others. They were also free to decide whether they would continue to cultivate their farm clearings.

Since many families found it difficult to farm successfully in the hilly, rugged Limberlost terrain, they eventually gave up farming and supplemented their living by trapping animals or logging. Others sold their lots for as little as 50 cents an acre and headed west to more fertile lands.



Barn raising on farm settlement, c.1880

Historic Lodge

In 1870 the Reverend Norton Hill and his family were the first settlers to establish a homestead east of Huntsville. They chose a gently sloping section of land overlooking Peninsula Lake, close to where a small island is located.

Reverend Norton Hill, c.1880

As previously mentioned, by the turn of the century many of the settlers in the area, having experienced difficulty farming, had decided to abandon their lots and move west to the more fertile lands being opened for settlement.

The Reverend Hill had the foresight to acquire lots from his congregation members when they departed. A number of these were passed on to his grandson Gordon Hill and his wife Marion who set about building the historic Limberlost Lodge into a popular recreational resort.

The original lands and subsequent purchases today provide Limberlost with most of the land between the central part of Limberlost Road and Millar Hill Road, as well as lands south of Millar Hill.

Solitaire Lodge at Limberlost, c.1950s

The Solitaire Lodge is the most prominent building remaining of the twenty or so constructed on the Limberlost property during the 1920 to 1950 period.

The main lodge and many of the other buildings were destroyed by fire over the years. As a result, the Horse Barn, the Longhouse and two small cottages are the only other buildings remaining intact.

A portion of the basement of the original lodge is, however, still intact. It is currently used as the Visitor Centre to display art and information boards describing the history of the property.

The chalet at the base of the ski hill was disassembled in the 1970s and rebuilt as the Manager's Office with a new roof structure and decking.

At its peak from the 1920s through the 1950s, Limberlost Lodge was the pre-eminent northern recreational resort, renowned as a location for honeymoons, matching Niagara Falls for its popularity.

Main Lodge with Echo Rock in the distance, c.1940s

Trapper Cabins

The settlers who arrived on the Limberlost property from the 1870s onwards for the most part made heroic efforts to farm their lands.

Hickory Tom Cabin was restored in 2004

For some, this was not sufficient, while others were lured away by the richer soils in western Canada. When they left, their lands were acquired mainly by lumber merchants, however in some cases their lands were abandoned and trappers moved into their homes.

Some settlers became trappers themselves, selling furs to the Hudson Bay and Northwest Companies. In addition, others arrived and attempted to make a living from the fur trade.

Tom Quinn homestead at Sleep Hollow, c.1890

There is evidence of at least eight settler cabins on the Limberlost property being subsequently occupied from time to time by trappers. The best of these was a solid squared log cabin which was restored and moved a number of years ago from Poverty Lake to a privately owned property on Little Twin Lake.

Four cabins were demolished in recent years for safety reasons, however a cabin at the north end of Crotch Lake has been left to stand as it provides an example of how trappers lived in close quarters with their animals. The stables were attached to the cabins to conserve heat. Being in a remote area, this cabin poses few safety risks.

The smallest cabin, originally occupied by a trapper colloquially known as Hickory Tom, is located on High Lake. Over the years it has been substantially rebuilt with replacement logs cut and shaped from fallen hemlock trees found on the reserve.

The Hickory Tom cabin is fitted with a rustic wood stove to provide warmth during the winter months for those hiking, snowshoeing or backwoods skiing.

Further south, Wil Quinn trapped and logged the Buck Lake area in the early 1900s, eventually building his own cabin near the Poverty Portage. This was disassembled for safety reasons and reconstructed as a rest cabin for hikers, backwoods skiers and artists to store their supplies while visiting Limberlost.

This cabin is also well suited for young children whose parents are guests at the Buck Lake Lodge to camp out and experience their first night under the stars, but yet have the security of the cabin nearby, and their parents a short distance across the lake.

Wil Quinn Cabin after being rebuilt as a rest cabin for hikers in 2006

Bobcaygeon Way

In order to encourage settlements around Huntsville and other northern regions, ambitious plans were developed in Ontario around the middle of the 1800s to build roads to transport settlers and their supplies.

The roads were to be laid down parallel to each other, running from the south to the north, and from the Ottawa River to Georgian Bay. They were known at the time as colonization roads.

The Bobcaygeon Way was one of the more important colonization roads planned. It was to commence at Lake Ontario in the south and pass to the east of Lake Simcoe, east of Lake of Bays and along the eastern border of Limberlost and on to Lake Nipissing in the north.

Surveyed route for section of Bobcaygeon Road never completed

The Bobcaygeon Way commenced in 1856 in the south and reached the Oxtongue River near Dorset seven years later, after which it encountered difficulties attempting to cross a rugged section of the Limberlost terrain.

Much of the Bobcaygeon Way up to the Oxtongue River continues to be used, having been incorporated into the current provincial highway system. The northern part, however, from Dorset on-

wards, was altered considerably with the section planned to border on and pass through the eastern part of the Limberlost property having never been completed and abandoned long ago.

However, the remains of a rough-cut trail laying out the Bobcaygeon Way can be located on the eastern side of Long Lake (also known as Sixteen Mile Lake). Amazingly, 150 year-old cedar stakes still exist at a number of the mile posts which marked the distances surveyed.

After following the eastern shores of Long and Little Twin Lakes, the Bobcaygeon Way was intended to cross at the narrows between Little Twin Lake (Seventeen Mile) and Twin Lake (Fifteen Mile), head north, well west of Twin Lake and cross to the east side of Poverty Lake (Hardup) at the narrows which separates it from Crotch Lake.

The Limberlost portion of the Bobcaygeon Way was planned to zigzag a great deal in order to pass through this intensive lake area and work its way up to Limberlost Road. From this point it was, however, built and exists today as a country road known as Billie Bear Road.

The surveyor responsible for this section of the Bobcaygeon Way perceptively reported in 1876 that the land in the region was best suited for "lumbering and tourism, with very attractive scenic views."

Map from history book authored by Florence B. Murray

Log Landings

Some of the areas first cleared by the early settlers were log landings on the banks of the larger lakes, such as the landing on Buck Lake.

Buck Lake Landing, 2005

The loggers generally sought fairly large and flat areas of land with two feet or more water depths along the shore to permit logs to be floated to the edge of the landing during the summer months.

The Solitaire Beach landing with its shallow gradual slope was only suitable for landing logs skidded across the ice during the winter months.

Long, straight logs were sought by the settlers to build their cabins, barns and other shelters. The most desirable trees grew close to the shores of the lakes where they received abundant moisture and sunlight.

Once cut down, logs were floated or skidded across the lakes and stored on the landings for hauling away on horse-drawn wagons in the summer and sleighs in the winter months.

It would appear that the Buck Lake Landing was one of the most actively used landings given the amount of equipment remnants uncovered around the landing in the process of restoring the Buck Lake Trail.

One hundred metres to the south of Buck Lake Landing, a workshop or storage shed appears to have existed.

Broken logging chains, crowbars, log rollers and other pieces of forestry tools were found in this area, together with metal sleigh runners similar to those attached to a truck used for ski-joring and transporting guests from the Huntsville railway station in heavy snows.

Today, the Buck Lake Landing, similar to the log landings on Lake Solitaire, Little Twin and Clear Lakes, provide visitors with safe, level areas to picnic and swim. Generally, the historic log landings have not become overgrown with trees because the soil is so heavily compacted.

Winter logging of Beech trees used for building horse carts and wagons, c.1920

School Sites

Following the arrival of Reverend Hill in 1870, a wave of other settlers arrived to settle east of Peninsula Lake. It was not long before the community erected their first school house near what became Hillside Village.

The Hillside schoolhouse was eventually replaced with a larger wooden frame building in 1897 to accommodate the increased number of children attending school and as a place of worship for the expanding Westleyan Methodist congregation.

With increasing numbers of families settling further east along what became Limberlost Road, a second log school house was built on the Nelson family property in 1880. This school house was also used on Sundays for religious services.

The Nelson school ceased to operate around 1907 when a wave of settlers left the immediate area to move to Manitoba and join other family members who had already settled there.

Soon thereafter the Nelson School House was dismantled and reassembled at the Limberlost Turn, which was the name used to describe the junction where South Limberlost Road begins. A number of settlers had remained in this area and had need for a school closer to their homes to educate their children.

Limberlost School, c.1940s

South of Lake Solitaire, similar needs had arisen. As a result, a log school house was built on David Millar's farm, which fronted on what became known as Millar Hill Road. In 1892 Dr. Henry Reazin was hired to serve as the school master, with the objective of providing more advanced courses in mathematics and science.

Millar Hill School, c.1916

Shortly after the closure of the Millar Hill School in 1916, Dr. Reazin purchased the building, floated the logs across Lake Solitaire and reerected the school house to serve as his home.

Dr. Reazin had selected an attractive grass point which jutted out into the lake and was protected by a smooth rock ledge that extended gently into the water.

Dr. Reazin lived for 38 years on this site, enjoying the majestic view of Echo Rock across the lake, while he continued his lifelong passion for learning and teaching young children.

Unfortunately, in 1954 Dr. Reazin's house burned down after being struck by lightening. It was another 40 years before this site became available and a new home was built. As a result, this section of the lake was re-opened, which in turn led to the renewal of Limberlost's historic system of hiking trails.

Road Allowances

In order for the settlers to obtain access to the lots they were allocated, rights of way were granted between every five lots going east to west and every two lots from north to south. In theory this meant every lot was accessible, although this could require going around the borders of two or three lots on designated road allowances to reach a destination.

In practice the rugged terrain, rock outcrops, numerous lakes and extensive wetlands prevented the settlers from building their secondary roads on the designated road allowances. Therefore they either obtained permission to cross their neighbour's properties on stable ground or deviated without their permission when obstacles were encountered.

The five lot block grid system for laying out lots with interspersed road allowances worked perfectly well in the lands south of the Severn River, which were relatively flat and free of major rock outcrops.

After crossing the Severn River, the surveyors should have abandoned the block grid system to layout lots. They should also have altered lot boundaries to match the prevailing topography.

On the Limberlost property, because of its rugged terrain, there is evidence of only two secondary roads having followed the designated road allowances. One leads to Eagle Lake and the other to Lee Lake. All other secondary roads and trails are not even remotely close to the designated road allowances.

There are compelling reasons for the secondary road between Peeler and Pell Lakes to have been built on the road allowance. Notwithstanding that this road allowance encompasses

steep inclines, the actual road follows the surveyed allowance. The owners of the two lakes insisted on the road conforming to the allowance, and since it was imperative for the owner of the Eagle Lake property to obtain access to Limberlost Road, they complied. The Eagle Lake property owner could afford the additional cost because a sizable mica and garnet deposit had been discovered on the property.

The Lee Lake secondary road follows a designated road allowance because the land is fairly flat, sloping only gradually towards the lake. It is one of the very few places on the Limberlost Reserve where hospitable terrain coincides with a designated road allowance.

Poachers are renowned for claiming that they have the right to be on historical road allowances, even though they stray far off of them. Because the road allowances have never been surveyed and are unmarked, arguments to the contrary are essentially useless.

Until the local authorities deal with this situation and limit road allowances to property owners wishing to access otherwise land-locked property, these abuses will continue with the attendant risks of accidents occurring. These concerns have led to focussing Limberlost's principal hiking trails on the central and eastern quadrants of the reserve, where it is very difficult for poachers to intrude and cause harm to delicate ecosystems.

Government offices in Town of Dwight, c.1903s

Grumman Canoes

The early traders relied almost exclusively on birch bark canoes to travel across the country and transport their beaver pelts.

Grumman canoe and a safety breach without a life jacket

David Thompson, the legendary surveyor for the Northwest Company, invented the cedar strip canoe in the mid 1800s, which immediately cut days off trips from the Lakehead to Montreal, due to the smoothness of their outer shells. This enabled the traders to obtain higher prices by being the first to bring their furs to market after the spring breakup.

The Second World War advanced the technology for using aluminum, especially for covering the wings and bodies of aircraft. After the war, Grumman, the builder of the famous fighter plane, adapted its aluminum fabrication techniques to making professional, as well as recreational, canoes.

The rugged Grumman canoes are much lighter and more maneuverable than their wooden counterparts. They are also virtually unsinkable with bow and stern flotation tanks, and can be scraped and banged with minimal resultant damage.

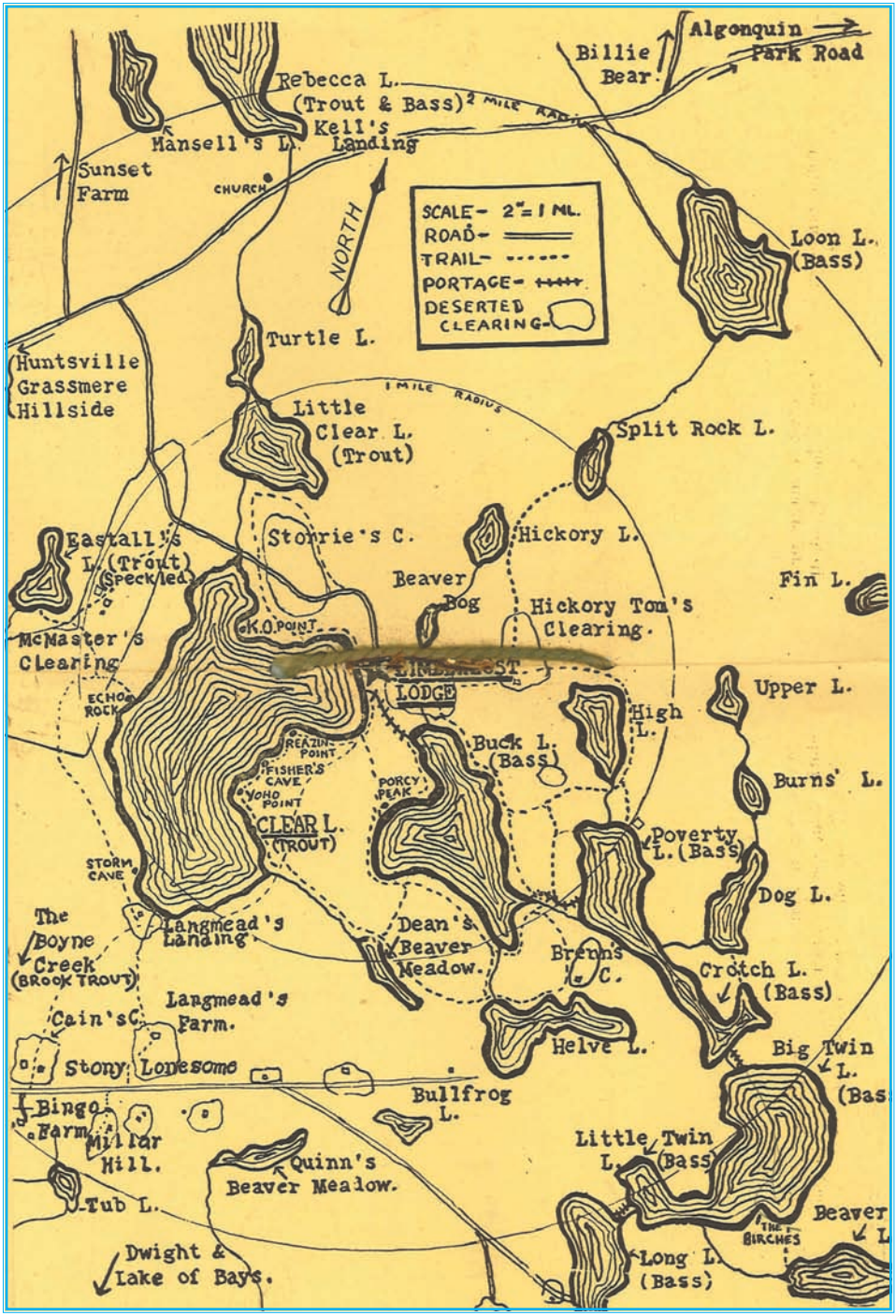
By the early 1950s, fiberglass and later Kevlar canoes became available. Although more costly to fabricate, they are significantly quieter on the water, which has made them better suited for hunting and nature studies.

As a result, Grumman canoes are no longer manufactured and have become somewhat a relic of the past, yet are still highly prized by many backwoods canoe trippers because of their ruggedness and ability to survive impacts with rocks and other objects.

Limberlost Reserve currently owns six Grumman canoes, having acquired and rebuilt a number of damaged canoes over the years. These supplement the ten historical cedar strip canoes which date back to the 1930s and require a higher level of annual maintenance.

Two Grumman canoes are located at the southern end of the two longest portages on the Chain of Lakes for use by those wishing to canoe to the Crystal Falls. When these canoes are used they are expected to be returned to their original locations the same day so that others can make use of them the following day.

1930s cedar strip canoe found buried under leaf litter on the shore of Buck Lake



One of the earliest trail maps of the Limberlost Reserve, c.1930

Forest Reserve

Limberlost's elevated topography provides it with heavy snow cover and generous rainfall to support a variety of coniferous and deciduous tree species. As a result, its forests are among the most attractive in the Algonquin region.

Woodland roads have been upgraded and new ones built to provide access to the forest and to facilitate the transportation of logs with minimal damage to the remaining trees and animal habitats.

The roads also provide hiking, jogging and cross country ski routes for visitors who prefer them to the narrower wilderness trails. Because the roads are used for recreational purposes, as well as to protect the wildlife, visitors are requested to leave their vehicles at one of the eight designated parking areas.

Driving beyond these points requires preauthorization and taking particular care to watch out for hikers walking along the scenic woodland roads, as well as for Limberlost work vehicles.

Principal Roads

- Gravel Topped Roads
  - Buck Lake Landing Road to Buck Lake Lodge
  - Buck Lake Road to south end of Buck Lake
  - Maniwaki Lodge Road from south end of Buck Lake
  - Helve Lodge Road from south end of Buck Lake
  - Long Lake Road from Helve Lodge to Long Lake Cabins
  - Burns Lake Road from Long Lake Road to Millar Hill Road
  - Jimmy Lake Road to Millar Hill Road
  - Clear Lake Road to Turtle Lake Narrows
- Historical Logging Roads
  - South of High Lake to Poverty Parking Area
  - McReynold Valley from Limberlost Road to Millar Hill Road
  - Long Lake Road to Kalonga Valley Trail
  - Hickory Lake to Clear Lake Road
  - Millar Hill Road to Lee Lake
- Cottage Access Roads
  - Turtle Lake Narrows to Rockton Pointe
  - Pointe Road from Ski Hill to Water's Edge Parking Area
  - Poverty Road from High-Poverty Road Junction to Poverty Lake
  - High Lake Cabin Road from High-Poverty Junction

Forest Management

Predominant tree types growing on the Limberlost Reserve include red and sugar maple, eastern hemlock, white pine, larch, basswood, white ash, white and yellow birch, American beech, white and black spruce, cedar, balsam fir, and to a limited extent, black cherry, red oak and ironwood.

Mixed forest along the shore of Turtle Lake

A century or more ago, portions of the Limberlost forest were high graded for the lumber produced from the giant white pine and cedar stands. Another high grading cut was made in the early 1950s to provide hemlock logs for shoring the underground tunnels which form part of the Toronto subway system.

Mixed forests along edge of wetlands

More recently Limberlost has been logged on a selective basis, harvesting only damaged and fallen trees, with the healthy trees retained for future growth.

In support of the enhanced attention being given to the health of the Limberlost forest, a formal management

programme was registered with the additional objectives of safeguarding the soil and ground water quality, as well as protecting diverse animal habitats.

These objectives are being achieved by promoting individual stand development with selective thinning of damaged and poor quality trees to increase the growth rate of the best trees.

The work of Dr. Peter Schleifenbaum on his family's 60,000 acre *Living Forest*, which lies between Limberlost and Algonquin Park, has been adopted as a model for the forestry practices being implemented at Limberlost: (www.haliburtonforest.com).

After years of careful sustainable management, the *Living Forest* is now much like it was in the early 1850s, before it was exploited through large scale commercial logging. The improved condition of this forest has increased the lumber component of logs harvested each year, which significantly enhances the returns generated.

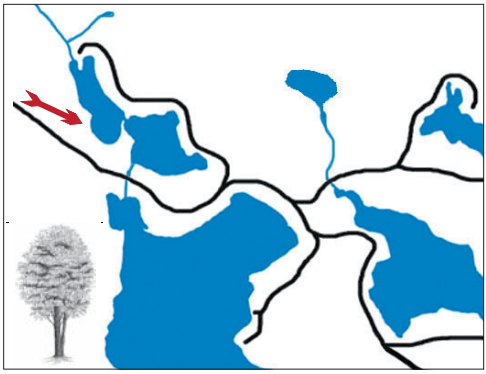
Implementation of Limberlost's current forest management programme will in time enable similar success to be achieved, including certification by the Forest Stewardship Council.

Coniferous forest on the edge of Buck Lake

Basswood

Basswoods are large trees with round, uniform crowns. When growing in a forest they have straight branch-free trunks.

Mature basswoods reach heights of 90 feet. They grow best in loamy soils that are fertile, moist and deep.



Giant basswood on Turtle Lake Trail

The largest basswood tree in the region, and also one of the largest trees on the Limberlost Reserve, is located on the west side of Turtle Lake on the northern bank of a year-round drainage area. This tree has ideal growing conditions with limited competing canopy cover and access to ample ground moisture.

Basswoods can also be found on the plateau between Echo Rock and the Quartz deposit on the west side of Lake Solitaire.

Basswood bark makes excellent, strong cords, including rope and string. Aboriginal people soaked the bark in water for two to four weeks, then twisted the

fibrous inner strands into cords for making fish nets, mats and other articles.

Basswood is light and usually has a straight grain, making it well suited for furniture, mill work, caskets, picture frames and for carving toys, masks and other such items, as the wood does not splinter easily.

Basswood leaves

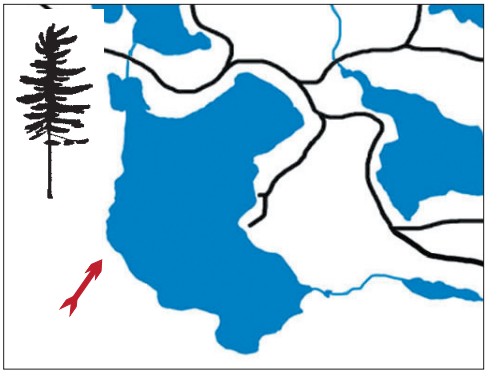
Basswood flowers are used to make Linden tea, which has sedative and sweat inducing properties. Linden tea was used extensively in earlier times to alleviate colds and induce restful sleep.

It is common for two or three basswood trees to grow clumped together. If cut down, the stumps will send up numerous young shoots, each of which can grow into a tree.

Basswood flower buds in spring

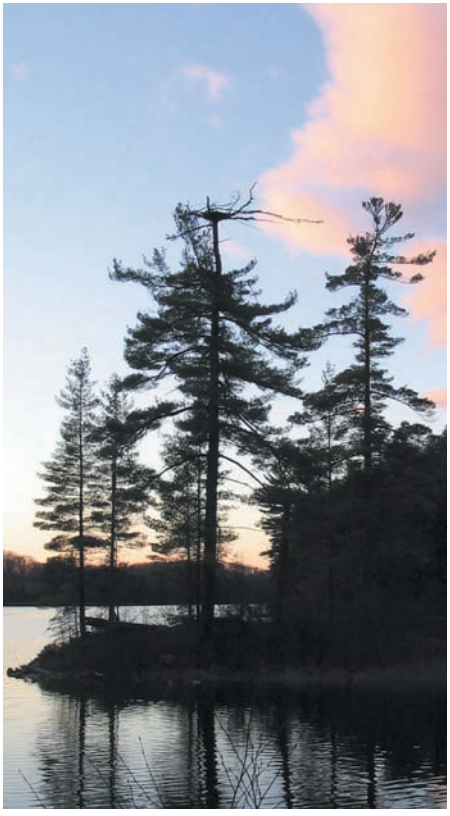
Fibres of the inner bark of a basswood twig

White Pine



The eastern white pine – also called the northern white pine – is the official tree of Ontario and the largest and tallest conifer in the eastern United States and Canada.

Lumber made from the eastern white pine has long been recognized for its special qualities and many uses, including ship masts.



Silhouette of white pines on Osprey Island

Being a softwood, it could be easily harvested in central Canada by the early settlers who floated the logs on the lakes and rivers to deliver them to southern markets. When the roads and railways were built, this increased the logging of pines and other large trees.

Typically, white pine grow for about 200 years and live as long as 500 years.

The tallest and largest white pine on the Limberlost property is on the west shore of Lake Solitaire. It has a girth of ten feet and is estimated to be at least 150 years old.

The great attraction and value of white pine timber unfortunately reduced its ranking from between 15% and 20% of Ontario forests in the 1850s to less than 3% today.

Close-up of white pine needles

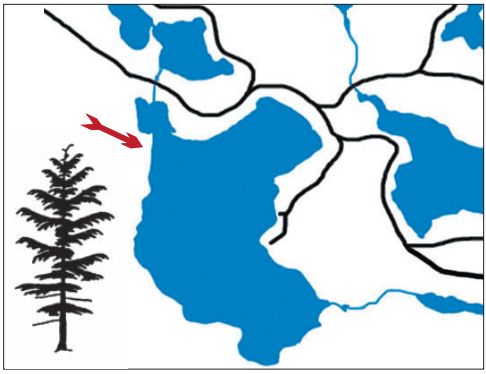
Black bears favour white pine as a sanctuary for their cubs, because its rough, craggy bark is easy for them to climb and its spreading branches provide ample support to form their nests.

For this reason, hikers should take particular care in announcing their presence with bells or other noises when hiking under or near white pine stands in the early months of spring.

Bark of mature white pine

Immature seed cones of a white pine

Eastern Hemlock



The eastern hemlock is the only hemlock native to eastern Canada. It is very different from the hemlock trees which grow on the west coast of Canada and the United States.

Lumber made from eastern hemlock is generally used as siding for houses, barns and fences.

Recently, the Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve started using hemlock logs in their EcoLog Homes, significantly increasing the demand for and the value of large tree-length hemlock logs.

A drooped crown is a key hemlock distinguishing feature

Hemlock lumber is unsuitable for furniture or other fine finishes because separation between the annual rings often occurs in living trees, resulting in lumber that is brittle or severely split. It is also not suitable for open fires because the burning wood throws off sparks.

Typically, an eastern hemlock will grow for up to 600 years reaching heights of more than 100 feet.

The tallest and largest hemlock trees on the Limberlost property lie in the area between East-all Lake and Limberlost Road South, as well as along the shore of Lake Solitaire, north of Echo Rock.

Seed cones in the fall on a hemlock branch

In the early 1950s, hemlock logs became a valuable commodity for shoring the underground tunnels built for the Toronto subway system. This led to significant high-grading of the province's northern forests, especially around the Algonquin region.

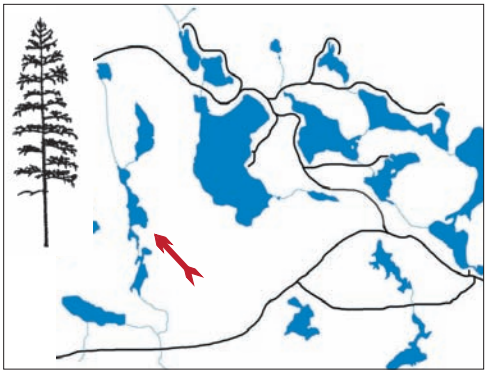
Bark of mature hemlock tree

The multitude of flat, finely toothed leaves on a hemlock tree and the resilience of their branches tends to retain snow, which then melts or evaporates at the canopy level.

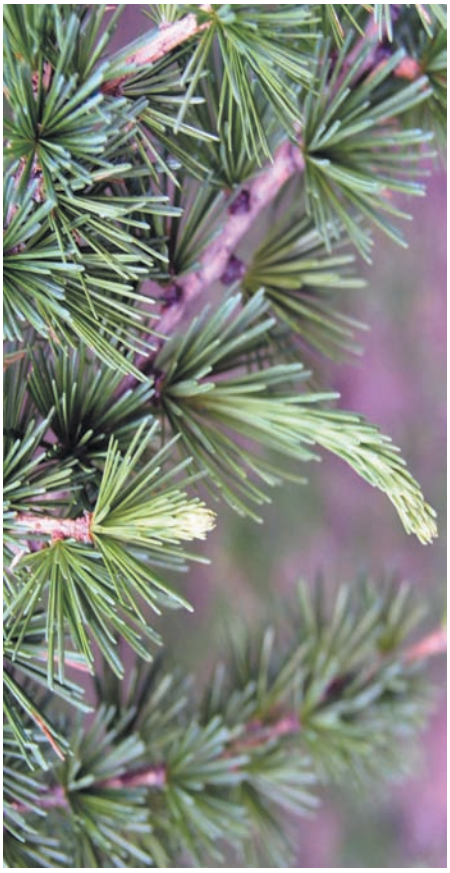
The low snow cover beneath mature hemlocks make their groves ideal for deer and other smaller animals to forage during the winter months.

Eastern Larch

Both coniferous and deciduous, the eastern larch, otherwise known as tamarack, can be found in every province and territory of Canada, and is abundant on parts of the Limberlost property.



Although it is a member of the pine family, the needles of the larch are deciduous and are fully shed in the autumn after changing their colour from green to yellow.



Fresh growth of needles on a larch in summer

Larch needles are very flexible, and the seed cones remain intact for several months after maturing.

Larch trees thrive in poorly drained sites, such as muskeg wetlands and bogs, and are often mixed within eastern white cedar and black spruce. These conditions prevail along the wetlands in the McReynold valley, which lies west of Lake Solitaire.

Larch are medium-sized trees that grow up to a height of 80 feet and live for over 150 years.

Their slender trunks produce wood which is hard and very durable, with a spiral grain. It is used for general construction, packing crates and pulpwood.

It is known to be well suited for structures that come into contact with water, including bridges, docks and boat timbers, and is one of the best conifers for firewood.

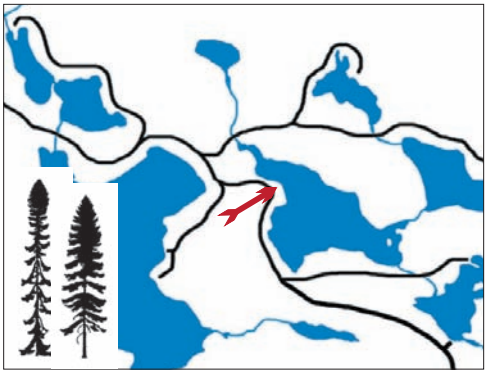
Seed cone and needles of an eastern larch

Seeds, bark, twigs and leaves from the larch are a good source of food for wildlife.

Yellow needles on the larch trees stand out against the fall colours of a wetland in the McReynold Valley

Spruce

There are five main species of spruce trees naturally found across Canada, and several species that have been introduced.



Although it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between the spruce species, their seed cones provide a definitive means of identification.

Upper branches of a young black spruce

In addition to being a good source of pulp wood, spruce are first among Canadian species in volume of lumber produced.

Spruce is used for general construction, plywood and for mill work and interior finishing. It is also used for food containers because it has little taste or odour.

Throughout the Limberlost Reserve, white and black spruce trees are abundant.

White spruce grow to a height of 80 feet and live to be 200 years old or more. They grow in a variety of soil types, often in mixed forests.

Black spruce are a relatively smaller species and grow up to a height of 65 feet and also live for approximately 200 years. They are slow growing and are more commonly found in poorly drained wetland areas.

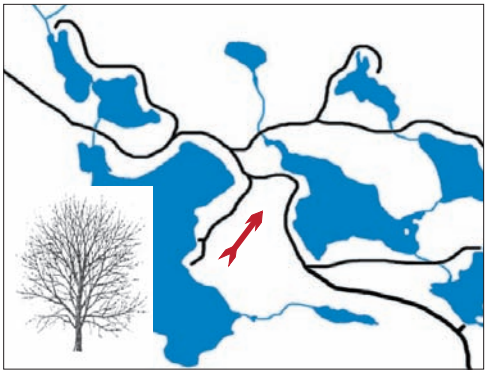
The largest spruce trees on the Limberlost property are located on the plateau just south of Oliver Creek, along the east side of the Turtle Lake Trail, as well as north of Millar Hill Road at the south end of the McReynold Valley.

Seed cones on a white spruce branch

Black spruce and white spruce are common along the shores of many of the lakes on the Limberlost Reserve

Maples

As Canada's national tree, the maple species are the most easily recognized in any forest or domestic landscape. Their brilliant colours in autumn attract tourists wherever they are abundant.



Red maples and sugar maples are the most common varieties that occur on the Limberlost property.

Yellow leaves of the sugar maple

Red maple trees will grow to a height of 80 feet over approximately 100 years and remain standing for another 50 or more years. In a well managed forest, red maple are often branch-free for half the length of their trunks, providing valuable knot-free lumber.

Sugar maple, also known as hard or rock maple, is a larger tree that grows for 200 years, up to 100 feet high. It produces a very heavy and strong hardwood, often with a curly grain, which is sometimes called bird's-eye. Sap from sugar maple is the principal source of sugar for

the maple syrup industry in Canada.

Maples are considered the most useful of the large hardwoods as they can be tapped for sugar, used to make high quality furniture and sliced into thin sheets and applied as attractive veneers to low-cost panelboard for flooring and other uses.

Seed flowers of a red maple

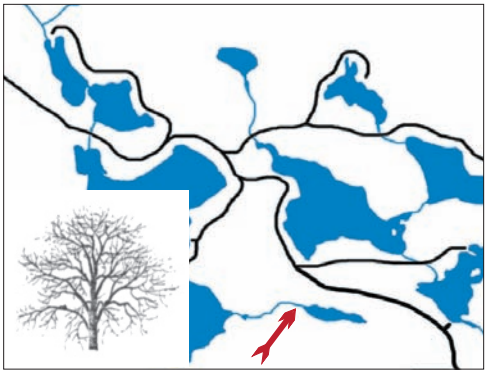
The largest maples on the Limberlost Reserve can be found on the west side of Turtle Lake. Large maples also exist half way up Oliver Creek and 100 feet below Naomi's Rest.

Red maple at the north end of High Lake

Sugar maples line many of the roads at Limberlost

American Beech

Although known as American beech, this tree is native to Canada. It is found throughout the Limberlost property, scattered within maple and hemlock stands.



The best specimens however are located on the southern slopes of Eastall Lake and the west side of Lake Solitaire.

Trunk of American beech in winter

Its smooth, light bluish-gray bark is a key distinguishing feature. The bark becomes darker with age, but is never shed. As a result the bark retains evidence of the slashes and scars caused by falling branches and the claws of bears and other animals ascending its trunk to obtain nuts to eat or store for the winter.

American beech are prolific producers of edible nuts. The nuts are protected by distinctive reddish-brown husks which ripen in the autumn, shedding pyramid shaped nuts.

As a food source, the early settlers gathered beech nuts in the

fall to supplement their food diet through the winter.

Beech trees will grow for 200 or more years to heights of 80 feet, occasionally larger. Beech wood is heavy, hard and strong and is used extensively for furniture, flooring and in the past, for horse and ox wagons.

Seed cones of the American beech

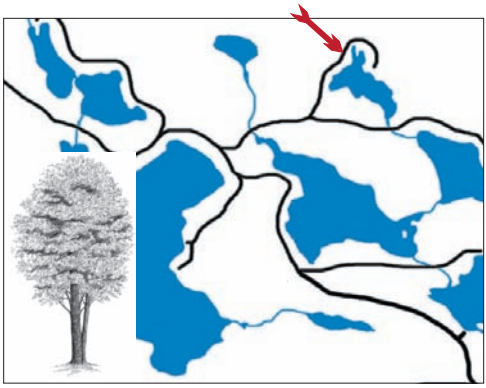
Scars from bears mark the bark of a beech tree

Leaves of American beech

Seed flowers appear on the beech trees in the spring

Yellow Birch

Yellow birch trees are the largest of the eastern birches and are well represented on the Limberlost Reserve.



The largest individual yellow birch is located along the High Lake Trail at the waters edge below the cliff caves.

Yellow birch is an important hardwood tree in eastern Canada. Its wood is used extensively for furniture. It is heavy with a wavy-grain, which when dried and exposed to light turns golden to reddish-brown colour.

Roots of yellow birch growing on decaying cedar stump

Birch trees from Limberlost and the surrounding area were harvested to create the high strength but relatively light plywood used to build the Mosquito fighter airplanes which defended Britain at the outset of World War II.

Considered to be a medium-size tree, yellow birch can grow up to a height of 80 feet and live for 150 years, occasionally growing larger and living much longer.

Pollen catkins are shed in late autumn that are about two centimetres long. They will often germinate on rotting logs or stumps, with explorer roots on or above the surface, particularly when they surround rocks and stumps of other trees.

Pollen catkin (l) and seed catkin (r) of yellow birch

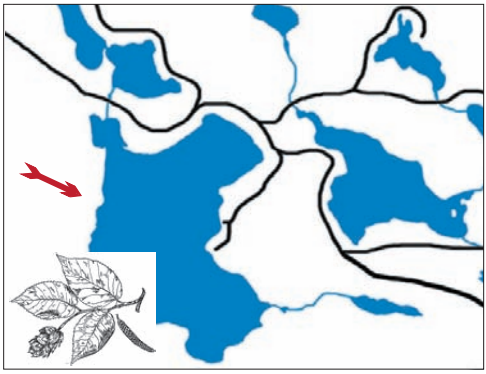
One of the largest yellow birch on the shores of High Lake

Bark of mature yellow birch

Leaves in summer on yellow birch

Ironwood

Ironwood is a colloquial term applied to the tree in a region which has the heaviest and toughest wood. There are 80 distinct species around the world referred to as ironwood.



In the northern United Sates and Canada, ironwood is actually eastern hophornbeam, which produces the densest wood of all Canadian trees.

Bark of young ironwood tree

In Canada, ironwood trees are slender with leaves similar to those of Yellow Birch, which is a relative species.

Being a small to medium-sized tree, reaching 30 to 50 feet tall and rarely growing to even 12 inches in diameter, ironwood is not ideal for the production of commercial lumber, but rather for hard-wearing specialty uses such as tool handles, mallets, ladder rungs, sled runners and fence posts.

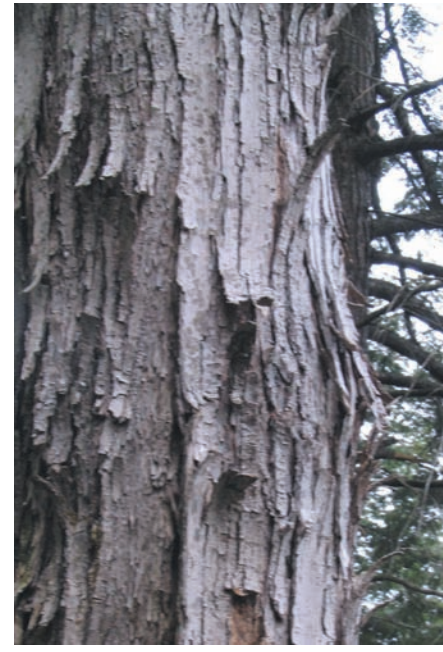
Ironwood also has excellent qualities as a firewood with its slow-burning nature.

Ironwood trees can be easily identified even in mixed forests by the grayish-brown colour of their furrowed bark, which in older trees separates into long narrow strips. It is seldom a dominant tree in mature stands.

Catkins form in the early summer

Ironwood trees prefer rich, slightly acidic but well-drained soils, and grow best in the partial shade of other trees. These conditions exist on the plateau above the Echo Rock Lookout on Lake Solitaire, where the most concentrated number of ironwood trees can be found on the Limberlost Reserve.

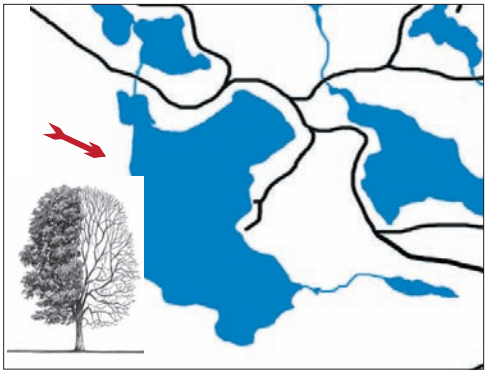
Ironwood flowers appearing in early summer



Peeling strips of bark on mature ironwood tree

White Ash

White ash trees flourish on the eastern slopes of Clear Lake and can be easily located on both sides of the trail to Oliver Creek.



A medium-sized tree, white ash grows to a height of 100 feet and lives for approximately 200 years.

Furrowed bark is a distinctive feature of white ash

The trunk is usually long and straight with mature trees being relatively free of branches almost to the top.

White ash wood is heavy, straight-grained, hard and strong. It is lightish in colour and relatively easy to work with in building furniture, especially drawers and boxes.

It is recognizable by the arrangement of its leaves, which are usually seven to a central stalk.

The leaves are oval to lance-shaped, gradually tapering to each end with the upper surface dark green and bale underneath.

The bark of a mature ash tree has distinctive intersecting furrowed ridges, arranged in a regular diamond pattern.

The pollen flowers and seed flowers, which emerge into seed wings, grow on separate branches.

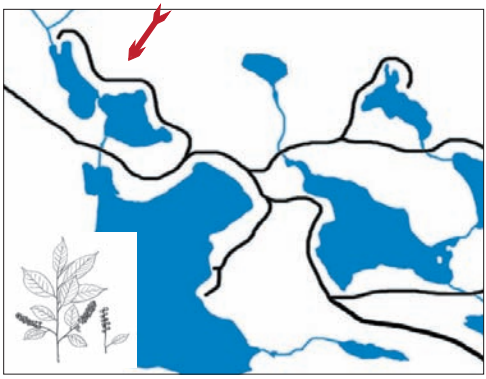
White ash seeds in late fall

Compound leaf structure of the white ash

Flowers of a white ash in early May

Black Cherry

Black cherry trees can be found in limited numbers in various locations on the Limberlost Reserve.



The closest mature black cherry tree to the main lodges stands between the tennis courts and the workshop, beside the canoe racks.

'Cornflake' appearance of bark on mature black cherry

Another easily accessible mature black cherry tree can be found 20 feet east of the road on the Turtle Lake trail as it heads north up the hill to Naomi's Rest.

The most concentrated specimens of black cherry trees lie between Hickory Lake and Clear Lake. They are also fairly prolific on either side of the Ascension Trail.

Black cherry trees grow to a height of 80 feet and live for about 150 years. Their trunks taper very slightly and produce moderately heavy hard lumber which is easy to work.

The bark, which is its principal distinguishing feature, is smooth and very dark reddish-brown when the trees are young. With age, the bark separates into squarish scales which curve outwards, creating a cornflake effect.

Colourful cherry tree leaves in the fall

The fruit flowers open when the leaves reach their full size. The fruit, which grows in clusters of six to twelve berries, ripens a dark reddish-black in August or early September.

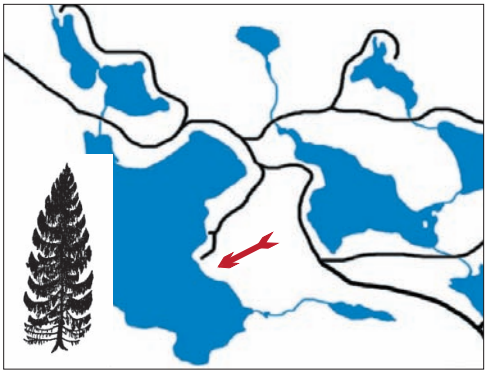
The berries are astringent, but edible. Abundant seed crops occur ever three to four years on mature trees.

Black cherry wood is highly valued for furniture making and other fine finishes.

Black cherry fruit ripens in the fall

Flowers open once the leaves have reached their full size

Eastern White Cedar



Eastern white cedar grow throughout southern Ontario in the boreal forest until the forest begins to change to tundra.

Mature cedar trees generally grow to a height of 15 to 30 metres and 80 centimetres in diameter and can live for 400 years or more.

Very large diameter cedar stumps can be found at the north end of Turtle Lake, having been logged by the early settlers a hundred years or more ago and floated down the lake to the Storrie Landing. The existence of these stumps is evidence of the ability of cedar wood to resist rot, whether exposed to damp soil or water.

Bark, shown peeling on mature cedar

The eastern cedar is one of the most valuable trees for wildlife habitats. It provides shelter and food for deer, other animals and many species of birds. With its dense evergreen foliage, whitetail deer take shelter in thick cedar stands during the winter to feed on the leaves which are one of their favourite foods.

Mature cedars provide seeds for squirrels, birds and other small animals.

Cedar wood is light, soft, uniform in texture, but comparatively weak. However, since it is resistant to decay, it is valuable for fence posts, cedar-strip canoes, roof shingles, log cabins and other structures that are exposed to moisture.

Seed cone cluster on cedar branch in winter

Native Americans and early settlers used cedar leaves to make a tea to avoid scurvy during the winter months. Today cedar leaf oil is used in medicines and perfume.

Close-up of cedar leaves

Eastern white cedar in winter

Early morning reflections on Turtle Lake

Acknowledgements

We wish to record our appreciation to the many local residents and visitors to the Limberlost Reserve who provided historical photographs and maps to illustrate this book. Thanks are also due to those who helped us identify the unique natural features of the property and key historical events. Without their assistance this *Master Trail Guide* could not have been prepared.

We would especially like to thank the following individuals:

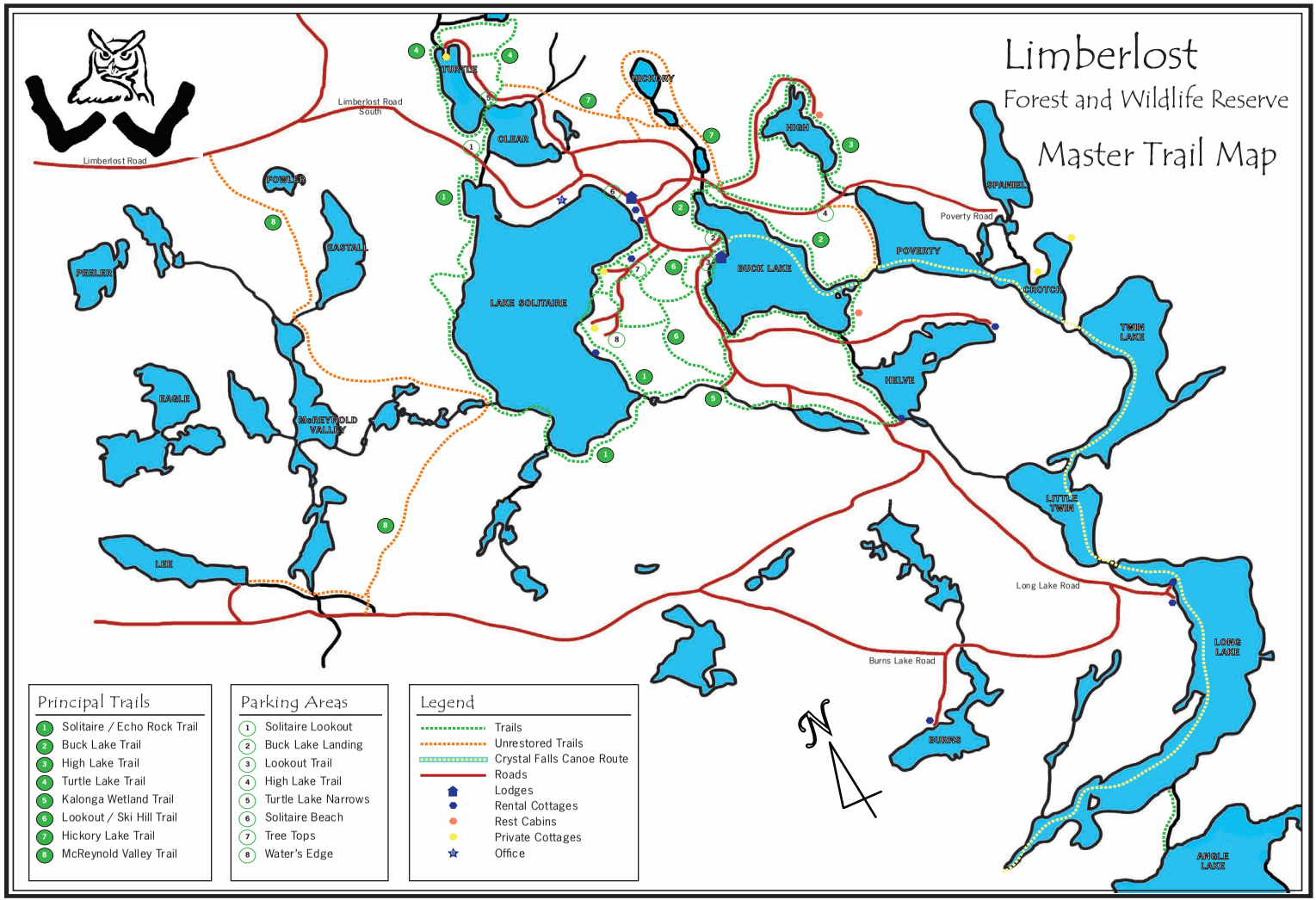
Peter Cotterchio	Barbara Paterson
Richard Hogg	Dr. Peter Schleifenbaum
Robert Hutcheson	Sunset Farm Hunt Club
Nancy Lynch	Vince Vertolli
Dan Mansell	Marlene Walker

To the entire Limberlost community of cottagers, friends and guests – too many to mention by name – we express our gratitude to each of you for helping with the ongoing maintenance of the trails and for the words of encouragement you generously extend to us when our paths meet. The pleasure Limberlost's trails bring and the kind words they elicit are the essence of what we are striving to achieve.

M. Diane Horton
May 15, 2008

Personal Observations

Trails Explored: Date:


Limberlost
Forest and Wildlife Reserve
Master Trail Map
Limberlost Road
Limberlost Road South
Poverty Road
Long Lake Road
Burns Lake Road
TURTLE
HICKORY
CLEAR
HIGH
SPANIEL
POVERTY
CROTCH
TWIN LAKE
LITTLE TWIN
LONG LAKE
ANGLE LAKE
BURNS
HELVE
BUCK LAKE
LAKE SOLITAIRE
FOWLER
EASTALL
PEELER
EAGLE
McREYNOLD VALLEY
LEE
Principal Trails
1 Solitaire / Echo Rock Trail
2 Buck Lake Trail
3 High Lake Trail
4 Turtle Lake Trail
5 Kalonga Wetland Trail
6 Lookout / Ski Hill Trail
7 Hickory Lake Trail
8 McReynold Valley Trail
Parking Areas
1 Solitaire Lookout
2 Buck Lake Landing
3 Lookout Trail
4 High Lake Trail
5 Turtle Lake Narrows
6 Solitaire Beach
7 Tree Tops
8 Water's Edge
Legend
Trails
Unrestored Trails
Crystal Falls Canoe Route
Roads
Lodges
Rental Cottages
Rest Cabins
Private Cottages
Office
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