

Group of Seven Lake Superior Trail



Pic Island by Lawren Harris

Marathon



The Group of Seven

Canadian Landscape Painters in Marathon from 1921 - 1928





The Proposed Route of 'Group of Seven Trail'



Phase One

Current Activities:

- Created of a Group of Seven Lake Superior Trail Steering Committee
- Ongoing outreach with potential partner organizations to discuss ideas for collaboration and partnerships.
- Ongoing site identification, field work, mapping, and corresponding painting names provided
- Cabin designs for 3 rustic cabins
- A Trail Development
- Completed an Investment Plan & Unity Plan for new business development in Marathon around services and accommodation

Phase Two

Targets

- Community Build Trail on Peninsula Hill
- Theming the Town of Marathon with images of Lake Superior inspired by the group of Seven, artwork in all motels and other public spaces
- Encourage further investment in Marathon's service and accommodation sectors to support tourism

Phase Three

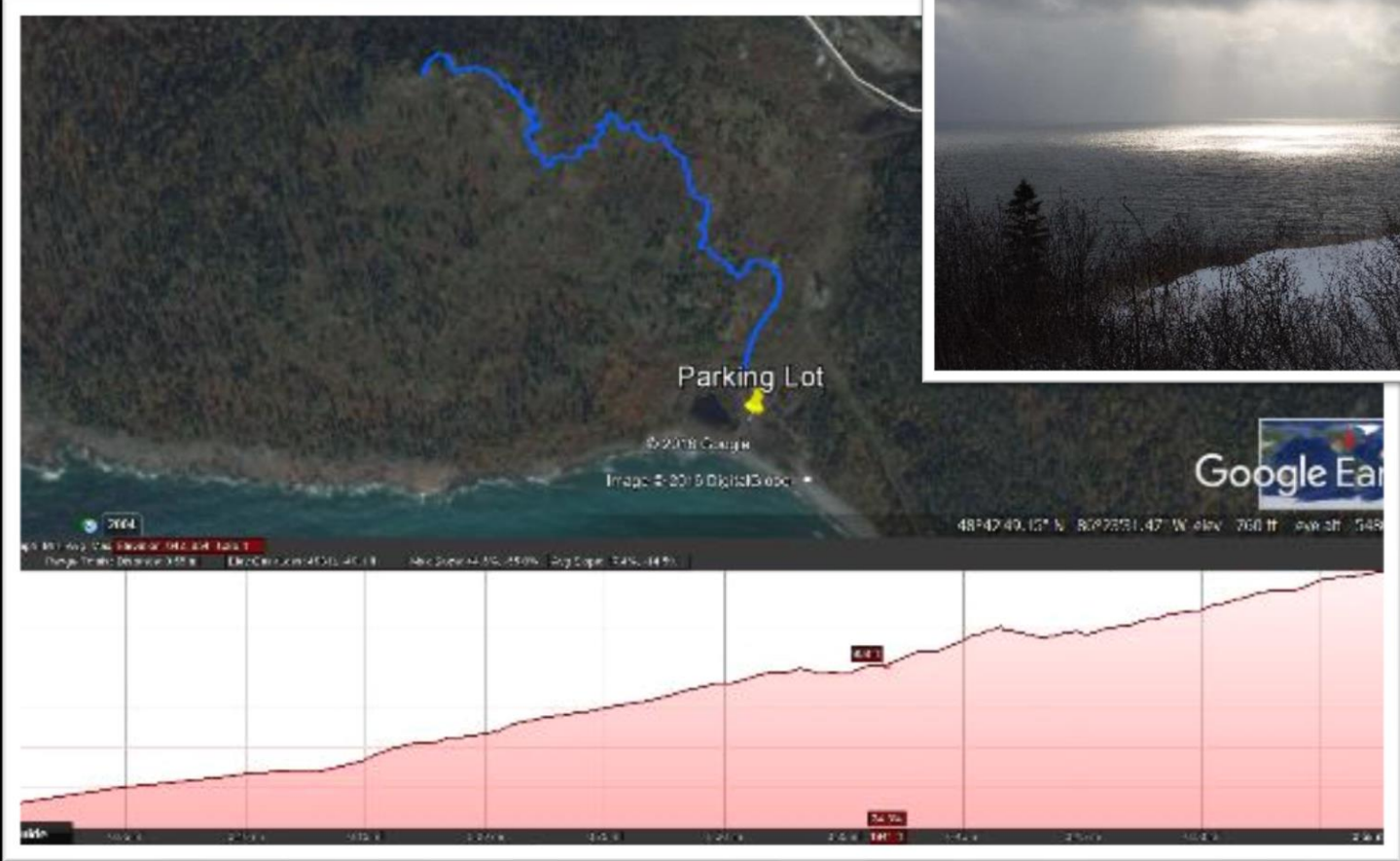
Targets

- Build 25-30kms of new hiking trail linking the Group of Seven painting sites to Coldwell
- A full signage program including trailhead, interpretive, and wayfinding.
- Construction of rustic cabins then full serviced cabins for trail users
- An interactive website with history of the Group of Seven painting in the Marathon area, photographs of the painting sites in present day, images of the paintings themselves which some haven't been seen by the public before, etc.
- Education program with local businesses and accommodation sector to educate service providers on the Group of Seven, knowledge of the trail and amenities, and develop a tracking system to assess economic impact of the Group of Seven Lake Superior Trail in Marathon.

Take Your Seat G7



Peninsula Hill Trail



Rustic Cabins



Alternative Accommodation

- Hotels
- B&B's
- Air B&B
- Campsites
- Cabins

Trailhead Signage



Trail Crew & Trail Opening



Partnerships

GROUP OF SEVEN CONTINUES MOMENTS OF ALGOMA AND THE NORTH SHORE OF LAKE SUPERIOR DISCOVERY ROUTE

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

Canada's internationally acclaimed Group of Seven artists were a hearty bunch riding the rails, hitching boat rides, scaling rock faces, hiking and paddling long and hard to reach inspiring vistas. They camped in the wilderness, stayed in vacant cabins and lived off the land, often in less than ideal conditions. Their artistic journeys took them wide and far, not only in Ontario, but across Canada.

KEY STOPS, ATTRACTIONS AND LANDSCAPES IN ALGOMA COUNTRY

To understand their development as individual artists and as a 'group' and to see the landscapes that inspired some of Canada's best-known art, plan on visiting Ontario's Algoma Country, the North Shore of Lake Superior and Sault Ste. Marie. Superior Provincial Park Visitor Centre, Agawa Bay to View the Group of Seven display and replica railway handcar. Hike along the Awawasec Trail with lookout over the bay, the Agawa River and the Montreal River Harbour.

- 1 Aubrey Falls Provincial Park**
Turn north along Highway 129 at Thessalon to find the Moments of Algoma interpretive sign in the shape of an artist's stool, in Aubrey Falls Provincial Park.

Tom Thomson paddled the Missisquoi River in an epic two month trip in the summer of 1912, six years before the later Group of Seven began their famous "bus-car excursion" to Algoma. As you travel to and from Aubrey Falls on highway 129, many sections of the drive take you along the banks of the river and the breathtaking scenery that Thomson described as "the finest canoe trip in the world".

- 2 Bruce Mines** Entering Algoma Country from the south, appreciate the landscapes around Bruce Mines, located 70 kilometres east of Sault Ste. Marie.

This area inspired Tom Thomson's *View Over a Lake: Shore With Houses* c.1912-13.

- 3 Agawa Canyon Train Trails**
Traveling the rails into the Algoma wilderness on the one day narrated Agawa Canyon Tour Train (make advance reservations), you'll pass several stunning views captured by the Group of Seven.

Sault Ste. Marie was the launching off point for their rail journeys into Agawa Canyon between 1918 and 1921, including J.E.H. MacDonald's *Solemn Land* at Montreal River and Agawa Valley, as the train descends to Agawa Canyon, and Distant Lake Superior (c.1921, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa). Once in the Canyon it's a short hike to reach Bridal Veil Falls. The light and shadows of these falls were beautifully captured by Lawren Harris in *Waterfall*, Algoma and in J.E.H. MacDonald's *Algoma Waterfall*.

- 4 Algoma Scenic Flight** Soar above the Algoma wilderness on a scenic aerial tour with the Sault Academy of Flight. Take in the natural beauty of Lake Superior, the largest of the great lakes, the Hiawatha Highlands, Pancake Bay, Batchawana Bay and Lake Superior Provincial Parks and the popular Agawa Canyon. The painting sites of the Group of Seven, scattered across the area, may be of special interest.

- 5 Algoma Central Railway Station** Find an original example of the type of handcar or 'jigger' used by rail workers to transport the painters travel up and down the rails at the Algoma Central Railway Station with a Moments of Algoma interpretive panel outside.

- 6 Art Gallery of Algoma** The permanent collection includes a number of Group of Seven sketches. The gallery offers guided tours of the exhibition and mini-painting lessons in the Group of Seven style. Shop for Group of Seven-related books, gifts, calendars and memorabilia in the gift shop. Look for the Moments of Algoma interpretive panel outside the gallery along the Riverside boardwalk.

- 7 Emerald-Clugnet National Historic Site** Watch for scheduled art-inspired dinners, hear inside stories and watch the one-man play 'Moments in Algoma' featuring Lawren Harris at Emerald-Clugnet National Historic Site.

- 8 Algoma Fall Festival** The Algoma Fall Festival features Group of Seven related programming in October.

- 9 Canadian Bush Plane Heritage Centre** Get the view from the pilot's seat of the Algoma wilderness in the Flight Adventure Simulator at the Canadian Bush Plane Heritage Centre.

- 10 Machine Shop** Visit the recreated Bozar #10557 that was used in a tour with the Sault Academy of Flight. Take in the natural beauty of Lake Superior, the largest of the great lakes, the Hiawatha Highlands, Pancake Bay, Batchawana Bay and Lake Superior Provincial Parks and the popular Agawa Canyon. The painting sites of the Group of Seven, scattered across the area, may be of special interest.

- 11 Chippewa Falls Rest Stop** Heading out of Sault Ste. Marie, 55 kilometres north on Highway 17, turn east into the Chippewa Falls rest stop.
A.T. Jackson captured this set of rapids in the sketch *Streambed, Lake Superior Country* (c.1955, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa).

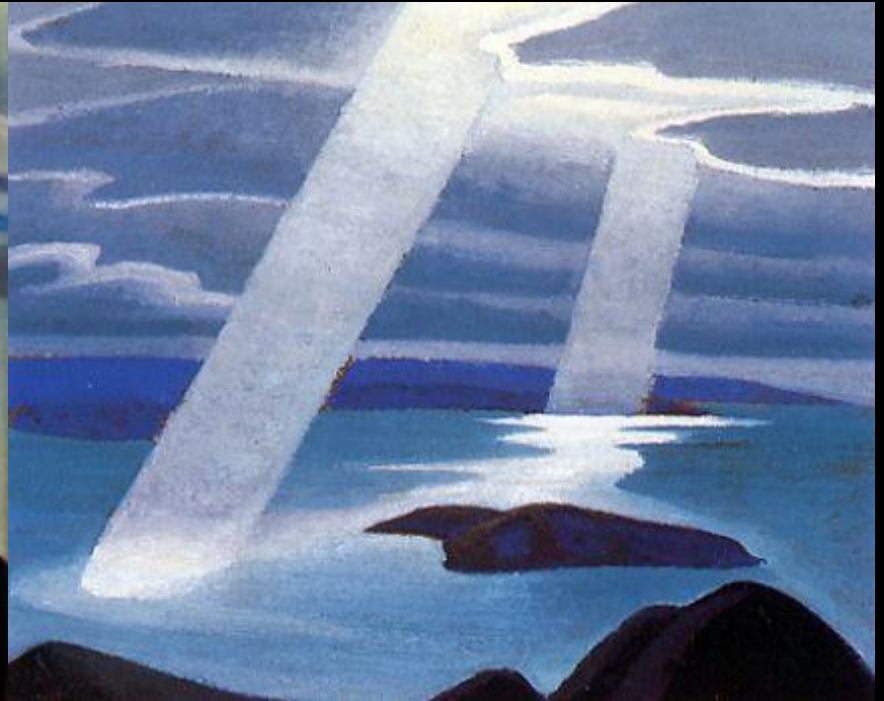
- 12 The Trading Post at Voyageur's Lodge and Cookhouse and The Agawa Crab and The Canadian Canoe** The Trading Post at Voyageur's Lodge and Cookhouse, 45 minutes north of Sault Ste. Marie overlooking Batchawana Bay sells Group of Seven reproductions and other art inspired merchandise. Plan to pick up arts and crafts at the The Agawa Crab and The Canadian Canoe in Pancake Bay.

ONTARIO
Heritage



Guided Tours

- McMichael Gallery FAM Tour – August 2018
- Outfitter Packages



The Group of Seven Lake Superior Trail

An Overview

- A world class trail on land (walking) along the north shore of Lake Superior with Marathon as the hub
- The trail, which traces the Group of Seven painting trips in the 20's, is being proposed between Pukaskwa National Park, to the east of Marathon and Neys Provincial Park to the west
- The project is in partnership between the Pic River First Nation and the Marathon Economic Development Corporation
- The trail will allow visitors to explore a unique coastline and visit site locations used by the Group of Seven
- An immersive experience will be offered in the study of native culture, history of the fur trade and railway as well as regional ecosystems
- There will be three phases to the trail project with completion projected in 2020

Connect with Us!

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