

Introduction

The Temagami region contains numerous patches of old growth White and Red Pine forests, perhaps the largest concentration found in temperate climates.

Less than 2% of these Pine forests remain today because they are valued for their timber.

The old growth Red and White Pine remaining here in the White Bear Forest provide an example of the type of forest that was more widely distributed throughout parts of Ontario when the European settlers arrived in Canada.

Many of the trails of Caribou Mountain and the White Bear Forest offer hikers an opportunity to travel through a forest, that has never been logged or mined, and remains as a self sustainable ecosystem, with flora and fauna that are unique to old growth forests, containing trees that are between 150 - 350 years in age.

The forest is the traditional land of the White Bear family and their descendants are members of the Temagami First Nation. Archeological evidence indicates that the portages between Snake Island Lake and Cassels Lake are about 3,000 year old.

Caribou Mountain and the White Bear Forest were protected as a Conservation Reserve, by the Ministry of Natural Resources, in 1996.

A new fire tower lookout and observation decks were built by the Municipality of Temagami shortly after, offering visitors, a unique 360° view of the surrounding forest and lakes.

Visitors are encouraged to explore the trails on snowshoes or cross-country skis during the winter months.

For further information visit the Temagami Information Centre 1-800-661-7609, www.temagamiinformation.com.

For historical information visit the website run by Ancient Forest Exploration and Research: www.ancientforest.org



Temagami Old Growth Trail Partnership

The trail signage, maps, kiosk, interpretive descriptions and dock were made possible by generous donors. Please help us support the trail network with a donation.

Go to: www.temagamicommunityfoundation.com or www.canadahelps.org to make an online donation and receive a tax receipt.

Trail maintenance is done by volunteers.



Pictures courtesy of Gooderham Photography www.gooderham.photoshelter.com

EXPERIENCE Temagami



White Bear Forest Old Growth Trails

THE MUNICIPALITY OF Temagami

TEMAGAMI FIRST NATION
Bear Island, ON

TEMAGAMI LAKES ASSOCIATION

Temagami & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

TEMAGAMI COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

friends of Temagami

Nastawgan TRAILS INC.

The Trails

The trails of Caribou Mountain and the White Bear Forest offer terrain suitable for all hikers, ranging from novice to expert. Each trail is given a rating of 1 (novice), 2 (intermediate) 3 (expert), to match the hiker to the trail. *Ratings are based on terrain, not distance. Refer to trail descriptions.*

Caribou Trail (1)

This is a family friendly trail, and can be traveled by people of all ages. It can be accessed from the entrance to the Trans Canada pipeline on O'Connor Dr., the Red Fox Trail, or Hwy 11 across from Finlayson Point. It travels along the shores of both Caribou and Pingue Lakes. This trail uses the existing pipeline trail as part of the walk. The Caribou Trail is shared by hikers, cyclists, cross country skiers and the occasional ATVer. Approximately 2.8km long, it takes 2-3 hours to complete.

White Bear Trail (2)

One of the newer additions to the White Bear Trail System. This trail varies from intermediate to advanced level and offers the quickest access to a large stand of old growth pines (40-45"), within a short distance from the fire tower. Approximately 2.7 km. long, it takes 2 hours to complete.

Red Fox Trail (2)

This is a challenging trail varying from intermediate to advanced level. The access points for this trail are at the Beaver Pond and Pingue Lake along the Caribou Trail. It crosses the Ontario Hydro power lines in two locations. Once you arrive on the shores of Pleasant Lake, you will begin to see the characteristics of an old growth forest. The trail is approximately 5km long and takes 2-3 hours to complete.

Old Fire Ranger & Fox Run Trails (2)

Considered an advanced trail due to its steep incline, the Old Fire Ranger Trail can be accessed by Jack Guppy Way or the White Bear Trail. Used in the past by fire rangers to access the Fire Tower from Caribou Lake. This short hike can be extended by linking up with the Fox Run Trail and meet the Red Fox Trail at the Beaver Pond. This trail is best used going down hill.

Link & Cross Trails (2)

The Link and Cross Trails are considered advanced, taking hikers over rugged and varied terrain. These trails are used primarily to access the more remote northern trail systems on Cassels Lake. Link and Cross Trails can be used to access the Beaver Trail, or as an addition to the Peregrine Trail. Approximately 2 km. long in total.

Peregrine (2)

Considered an advanced trail, the Peregrine Trail offers a great look at the old growth, while walking along rugged terrain, varying elevations, and meeting the shoreline at multiple points. Access this trail for a full day hike from Red Fox Trail, or by canoe from Snake Island or Cassels Lake. This trail provides the main water access to the northern trail systems from Cassels Lake and Pecours Bay. Approximately 5 km. long, it takes 2-3 hrs. to complete.

Pad Lake Loop (2)

This trail connects up with the Peregrine Trail and includes the Pad Lake Trail extension. It can be accessed a variety of ways, including the portages from Poison Pond and Flood Lake. Approximately 1 km long, it takes 1 hour to complete.



Beaver Trail (3)

The Beaver Trail is considered the most advanced of all the trails due to its rocky terrain and steep hills. It takes hikers through the heart of the old growth forest and boasts many beautiful lookouts. It can be accessed from the Link & Cross and Peregrine Trails. Approximately 1.5 km. long, it takes 1 - 1.5 hours to complete.

This map is produced in part with data provided by the Ontario Geographic Data Exchange under Licence with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2015

