



Lanark County Canoe & Kayak Journeys compiled in 2007 by Cliff Bennett for the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists (CAUTION: Conditions on some routes may have changed since publication)

Beckwith Township

#1 Glen Isle on the Mississippi River

How To Get There: From Ottawa take Hwy. 7 to Appleton Side Rd. (County Rd. 17 just east of Carleton Place). North to Cram Road. Trailer park at corner. **The Launch Site:** Left to end of Cram Rd. **The Paddle:** Historic Glen Isle is across the river. Paddle in either direction. Look for Lavalee Creek on south side, leading to Trans Canada Trail. A few picnic sites towards Carleton Place. **Watch For:** Rapids; many shore and water birds. **Seasonal Information:** Not advisable in spring floods.

Carleton Place

#2 Mississippi River and Lake from Carleton Place

How To Get There: From Ottawa turn right off Hwy. 7 at second traffic lights into Carleton Place; straight through town and turn left on High St. to Joseph St. Turn left towards river. **The Launch Site:** Centennial Park at river. **The Paddle:** Follow upriver to lake or downriver to bridge and public dock for shopping and food. **Watch For:** Carleton Place Canoe Club, Canada's oldest racing canoe club, across from park. Wildlife in bays and wetland. Explore two creeks on north side of lake. Bass spawning beds on south shore. Lake choppy when windy. **Seasonal Information:** Good until freeze-up.

Drummond/North Elmsley

#3 Mississippi River Downstream from Cnty. Rd 15

How to Get There: From Ottawa take Hwy. 7 past Carleton Place to County Rd. 15 and turn right towards Lanark. Travel through Fergusons Falls at the Mississippi River until you meet the river again. From Perth, take County Rd. 511 to County Rd. 15 and turn east to Mississippi River. **The Launch Site:** Southwest corner of bridge, across from campground. **The Paddle:** Go under the bridge and downstream to rapids at Fergusons Falls. **Watch For:** Three swallow species nesting under bridge. Excellent wetland with herons, ducks and passerines. Look for river otter. **Seasonal Information:** Good until freeze-up.

#4 Mississippi River Upstream from County Rd. 15

How to Get There: From Ottawa, take Hwy. 7 past Carleton Place to County Rd. 15 and turn right towards Lanark. Travel through Fergusons Falls at the Mississippi River until you meet the bridge again. From Perth take County Rd. 511 to County Rd. 15 and turn east to Mississippi River **The Launch Site:** Southwest corner of bridge across from campground. **The Paddle:** Upstream, under County Rd. 511 bridge to rapids. **Watch For:** Excellent wetland at bend in river where you can find exit of Fall River. Also look for entrance to Clyde River near rapids. Abundant wildlife. **Seasonal Information:** Good until freeze-up.

Lanark Highlands

#5 Joe's Lake

How to Get There: North of Hopetown on County Rd. 511 to French Line at Brightside. Go westerly on French Line and Lavant Darling Rd. to Joe's Lake, 15 km. Turn right on Flower Station Rd. just before the bridge. **The Launch Site:** Small park across from derelict ball diamond and huge gravel bank. **The Paddle:** Bear left, follow shore and you eventually reach a wetland channel leading into the Clyde River. Follow channel about 500 m to dam and picnic site. **Watch For:** Bluebirds as you approach lake and bitterns in reeded wetland. **Seasonal Information:** Good until freeze-up.

#6 Stump Lake and Mississippi River

How to Get There: Perth to Lanark Village on County Rd. 511. West on County Rd. 12 through McDonald's Corners to Elphin, north on County Rd. 36 for 2 km to Stump Lake. **The Launch Site:** Small park and dock. Picnic tables and privy. **The Paddle:** Clockwise and into river. Take left shore upriver to rocky area and rapids. Good spot to lunch and explore. Rugged, be careful. Return on north side and into branch of river to end and waterfall (McLaren Depot Snye). Return to launch site or explore Stump Lake. **Watch For:** Many bays and streams to explore. **Seasonal Information:** Good until freeze-up. Great autumn leaves.

#7 White Lake West End

How to Get There: From Perth take County Rd. 511 almost to edge of Lanark County. Watch for boat launch sign at White Lake Rd. Go 1.4 km to 3-way split. Take left fork onto Walabec Rd. 0.9 km, then turn right onto Walabec Side Rd., then 0.2 km to boat launch. **The Launch Site:** Gravel beach. Park at edge of lot to accommodate people with motorboat trailers. **The Paddle:** West end White Lake is like northern lakes with rocky shores, islands, wetland coves and bays. Interesting meander along shores and around islands. Several island picnic sites. **Watch For:** Unusual creek opening on north shore leading to falling brook. Interesting rock formations and wild flowers. Watch for Bald Eagles. **Seasonal Information:** Great fall colours. Good until freeze-up.

#8 Dalhousie Lake and Downriver

How to Get There: Perth to Lanark on County Rd. 511 west to McDonalds Corners on County Rd. 12, then north on County Rd. 8 to bridge. **The Launch Site:** Sylvania Lodge park on the lake side of bridge. **The Paddle:** Under bridge and down river as far as Sheridan Rapids. **Watch For:** Short channel into McCullough Mud Lake on north side. Wetland birds along shores. Beaver, muskrat, and otter. Lunch sites limited. **Seasonal Information:** Good until freeze-up. McCullough Mud Lake shallow in parts in late summer and autumn.

#9 Park Lake

How to Get There: From Perth, take County Rd. 511 north through Hopetown 2 kms. to County Rd. 16. From Ottawa, take Hwy 417, to exit for Hwy. 49 through Almonte. Pick up County Rd. 16 to Hopetown at County Rd. 511 and north to County Rd. 16 again. Pass through Poland about 1/4 km, turn south on Umpherson Mills Rd. Take left fork at Umpherson's sawmill. Turn right at first side road onto smaller but well-maintained road at property number 2571 for snowmobile clubs but does not appear on road maps. **The Launch Site:** Have patience! You eventually come to a launch site on right side of road. **The Paddle:** Circumnavigate the lake. Keep track of directions for you can get lost in multitude of bays and passages. Back at launch site, go downstream under culvert (if beavers haven't plugged it) to small lake with picnic island to left. **Watch For:** Most beautiful lake in the region. **Seasonal Information:** Good until freeze-up.

#10 Clyde River at Clyde Forks

How to Get There: From Perth take County Rd. 511 past Hopetown to French Line at Brightside. North on County Rd. 511 to French Line. Follow French Line and Lavant Darling Rd. to Joe's Lake. Take right on Flower Station Rd. and follow on to low dam beside road. **The Launch Site:** Above dam. This is Clyde River. **The Paddle:** Upriver, under bridge and veer right into Widow Lake. Take creek at north end of lake as far as you can go. **Watch For:** Beaver dams. West side of lake is roadway. This is the former K&P railroad bed. Beautiful, high bluffs abound. **Seasonal Information:** Good until freeze-up.

#11 Rivens Lake and Little Clyde River

How To Get There: From Perth take County Rd. 511 past Hopetown and next left past County Rd. 16 at Lammermoor Rd. From Ottawa take Hwy. 7 past Carleton Place to County Rd. 15 to Lanark Village and County Rd. 511, then north to Lammermoor Rd. **The Launch Site:** 1/2 km on Lammermoor to double culverts. This is Little Clyde River. **The Paddle:** Upriver as far as you can go (subject to beaver dams). For entrance to Rivens Lake, keep right. Small lake interesting to circumnavigate. Good picnic area on rocky bluff. For downriver, go through the culvert at launch site. **Watch For:** Nesting alder flycatchers and other marsh species. Portage beaver dams with caution. Downriver may be plugged at culverts. **Seasonal Information:** River best in spring and early summer.

#12 Clyde River at Lanark Village

How to Get There: From Perth take County Rd. 511 to Lanark. From Ottawa take Hwy. 7 past Carleton Place to County Rd. 15 and on to Lanark. **The Launch Site:** In village, just over the bridge and turn right past feed store to park. **The Paddle:** Explore downriver under bridges to dam. Then upriver through Kerr Lake and under County Rd. 511 bridge to rapids. Lunch at rapids or in the village. **Watch For:** In Kerr Lake, colonies of black terns. Wetland shores abundant with waterfowl. **Seasonal Information:** Good until freeze-up. Beware of duck hunters in autumn.

#13 Robertson Lake

How to Get There: From Almonte, take County Rd. 16 (Wolf Grove Rd.) to County Rd. 511 at Hopetown. Turn north to County Rd. 16 and West to Robertson Lake. Take sharp turn to Lavant. From Perth take County Rd. 511 north.

The Launch Site: Public park. Parking on site. Small car fee may be levied. **The Paddle:** Due to prevailing winds circumnavigate lake clockwise in morning, counter clockwise in afternoon. Return to park for lunch and swim at sandy beach. Picnic tables. **Watch For:** Marsh birds along shores. Bass spawning beds at far end of lake.

Seasonal Information: Picturesque and relaxing lake. Magnificent fall colours. Good until freeze-up.

#14 Taylor Lake

How to Get There: From Almonte take County Rd. 16 (Wolf Grove Road) 12km to Lanark Conc. 12. Turn north. **The Launch Site:** End of road. **The Paddle:** Circumnavigate lake. Watch for underwater stumps in bays. Lake was raised considerably two decades ago. Several lunch places. **Watch For:** Directly across lake from boat launch a road leaving the shore. Connecting these two points was a famous floating bridge, destroyed by Hurricane Connie in 1964. Many of the logs can be seen under water. Marsh birds along north shore and east end of lake. **Seasonal Information:** Good until freeze-up.

Mississippi Mills

#15 Appleton and Mississippi River downstream

How to Get There: From Ottawa Hwy. 7 to Appleton Side Rd. 3 km before Carleton Place. North to River Rd. and into Appleton village. Do not cross river. **The Launch Site:** Small park below falls. **The Paddle:** Explore bay and downriver towards Almonte. **Watch For:** Old mill ruins, small hydro generating station, wetland shores. **Seasonal Information:** Good until freeze-up.

#16 Clayton Lake

How to Get There: From Almonte, take County Rd. 16 (Wolf Grove Rd.) 12 km to County Rd. 9 (Tatlock Rd.). Turn north into Clayton Village. **The Launch Site:** At dam; parking on site. **The Paddle:** Circumnavigate the lake. Following northwest shore brings you into the mouth of the Indian River. Explore to bridge on Galbraith Rd. Lunch sites near bridge. **Watch For:** Extensive wild rice beds, ducks and marsh birds. **Seasonal Information:** Good until freeze-up. Wild rice best in autumn.

#17 Mississippi River from Pakenham Upriver

How to Get There: North from Almonte on Hwy. 29 to Pakenham, or from Ottawa, north on Hwy. 417 to Kinburn Side Rd. and west to Pakenham and over Five Span Stone Bridge. **The Launch Site:** In Pakenham, find park behind public school. Launch at swimming beach. **The Paddle:** Upriver to foot of Blakeney Falls. **Watch For:** Beautiful shorelines, herons and other birds. Indian Creek through tunnel under roadway, shoreline wild flowers. Lunch site at Falls. **Seasonal Information:** Good until freeze-up. **WARNING:** Don't get swept downstream from this launch site during spring flood.

#18 Mississippi River from Pakenham Downriver

How to Get There: North from Almonte on County Rd. 29 to Pakenham, or from Ottawa, north on Hwy. 417 to Kinburn Side Rd. and west to Pakenham and over Five Span Stone Bridge.

The Launch Site: Park at foot of Five Span Stone Bridge. Launch at riverside. **The Paddle:** Travel downriver as far as you wish, skirting shorelines for best effect. **Watch For:** Cody Creek on south shore. Red-headed woodpeckers nest in old trees. Many shoreline wild flowers. Otters are common. Lunch spots and tea rooms in village. **Seasonal Information:** Good until freeze-up. **WARNING:** Stay clear of rapids under bridge by launch site.

#19 Mississippi River from Almonte Upriver

How to Get There: From Ottawa, take Hwy. 417, Exit 155 at County Rd. 49 to Almonte, left on Martin St. South. **The Launch Site:** End of Martin St. South at river by lookout. **The Paddle:** Explore town and upriver towards Appleton. No landing spots except at fairgrounds across from launch site. **Watch For:** Abundant wildlife along shorelines. **Seasonal Information:** Strong currents and high water in spring, so don't paddle past bridge. Otherwise, good until freeze-up.

#20 Almonte and Mississippi River Downstream

How to Get There: From Ottawa take Hwy. 417 exit 155 at Hwy. 49 to Almonte. Metcalfe Park is below waterfalls on County Rd. 49, and part of downtown Almonte. **The Launch Site:** Beach in park. **The Paddle:** Explore foot of two waterfalls, shorelines downriver to Blakeney. Small park across road by bridge for picnic and exploring. **Watch For:** Large stone woollen mill at Almonte (now condominiums). Shallow rapids halfway to Blakeney. In low water walk canoe through. **Seasonal Information:** Strong currents and high water in spring

Perth

#21 Tay River into Tay Marsh to Beveridge Locks

How to Get There: From Ottawa take Hwy. 7 through Carleton Place to Perth. From Smiths Falls, take County Rd. 43 to Perth. Find Last Duel Park at east edge of town along Tay River.

The Launch Site: The dock at Last Duel Park. **The Paddle:** Downriver to Tay Marshes in Drummond/ North Elmsley. Then follow Tay Canal markers to locks (about three hours each way). For an additional short trip, follow upriver from Last Duel Park to centre of town. Picnic tables at locks or lunch in town. **Watch For:** Historic architecture downtown and stone walls of canal. Tay Marsh abundant in wildfowl and waterbirds. Be careful to follow green canal markers. Osprey nest as you near locks. **Seasonal Information:** Good until freeze-up.

Smiths Falls

#22 Smiths Falls Marshlands and Poonamalee Lock Station

How to Get There: Smiths Falls on Abbott St. **Launch Site:** Upper Reach Park by canal. Look for open cantilever bridge. Car charge \$3 at volunteer post. **The Paddle:** Extensive marshlands. Follow shoreline counterclockwise leading into canal channel with markers to Poonamalee Lock Station for lunch. **Watch For:** Teeming flora and fauna in marshlands. Osprey nest across from launch site. Martin house between boathouses. **Seasonal Information:** Best in spring until mid July and again in September/October.

Tay Valley Township

#23 Hogg Bay | Big Rideau | Loon Lake Loop

How to Get There: Six km south of Perth on County Rd. 1 to County Rd. 21. Turn towards Murphys Point Provincial Park, 12 km. **The Launch Site:** The main beach on Hogg Bay. Site fees apply. **The Paddle:** Recommended direction for prevailing winds from the west: paddle the narrow channel from Hogg Bay into Big Rideau Lake and keep to the left shore around the point into Noble Bay. Paddle almost to end of the bay, then portage 100 m into Loon Lake, then second portage of 100 m into Hogg Bay. Picnic at McParlan House (Hogg Bay), natural beach or point (Big Rideau) or Park Store (Loon Lake). Camping available at 14 boat-access campsites. Info: 613.267.5060 **Watch For:** Black Creek rapids, Burgess Sawmill ruins and restored homestead (Hogg Bay). **Seasonal Information:** Park open early May to Thanksgiving. Camping or day-use vehicle permit required. Canoe rentals available late June to Labour Day.

#24 Long Lake

How to Get There: South from Perth on County Rd. 1 towards Rideau Ferry to County Rd. 21. Turn towards Murphy's Point Provincial Park. Turn right at Long Lake Rd. (see sign for Scout Camp) and travel 3 km. **The Launch Site:** RVCA launch site on left. **The Paddle:** South shore and islands more interesting. Several good lunch and swimming locations. **Watch For:** Creek into wetland at east end. Interesting lichen on rock walls. **Seasonal Information:** Good until freeze-up.

#25 Tay River from Glen Tay to Perth.

How to Get There: Five km west of Perth on Hwy. 7 to traffic lights at Glen Tay. South over the railroad tracks to Christie Lake Rd. Left on Christie Lake Rd. and right onto Glen Tay Rd., to bridge over Tay River. **The Launch Site:** Northwest corner of bridge across from stone mill. Car park north side of white house by stone wall. **The Paddle:** Either shoot immediate rapids or walk canoe down rapids. Not suitable for less able persons. Paddle downstream to small dam at golf course. Portage (watch for flying golf balls) and on to point of land by red arched bridge. Beach canoe here to picnic, or cross park to explore numerous restaurants and shops. **Watch For:** Bountiful wildlife and wild flowers. **Seasonal Information:** Shallow in spots during low water. Fair current when water high. Takes longer to return to launch site.

#26 Pike Lake

How to Get There: From Hwy. 7 go into Perth (Wilson Street, then onto Gore Street) to County Rd. 10., then west towards Westport about 15 km. Watch for faded boat launch sign on left, 1 km past turn-off to Stanleyville. **The Launch Site:** The dam in Grant's Creek. **The Paddle:** Up creek into lake. Stay south (left), through islands and return. Good picnic sites on islands. **Watch For:** Small sandy beach in a mainland bay for swimming. Extensive wetland at east end of lake. **Seasonal Information:** Good until freeze-up.

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