

**G. Old Nipissing Road – 50 km**

This historic colonization road is part of the Trans Canada Trail system. It has been nicknamed 'Ontario's Ghost Road'. The Old Nipissing Road opened to year round traffic in 1874. The Canadian Government built the road to colonize the untouched lands of the Ottawa River and Georgian Bay areas. This road formed a 110 km bond between Lake Rousseau in the south to Lake Nipissing in the north. When the railway reached the area in 1886 the road and communities along its' path fell into disrepair. The Old Nipissing Road provides a tangible link to Almaguin's colourful past. This road is designated as a cycling/hiking route. Please do not attempt to drive its' entire length. There are areas where even 4 wheel and high clearance vehicles can no longer travel. The bridge at Commanda Creek is NOT usable by automobile traffic. **Magnetawan**  
Trailhead N45.41.554 W079.38.425

**H. Muskoka Trail– 2 km**

The Muskoka Trail follows along part of the original Muskoka Road. This part of the road was abandoned when other roads, which were easier to travel, were built in Machar Township. The path left in the roads place is now used by local residents and tourists alike for outdoor recreation. **Trailhead UTM**  
**Trailhead UTM**

*Rye: Named after the hamlet in England, Rye evolved into a thriving settlement along the Old Nipissing Road in the mid 1880's. Rye was a favourite stop for weary travelers because it boasted a general store, post office, church and some say as many as four hotels. All that remains of Rye today are a few house foundations and the cemetery.*

*Small lakes, streams and wetlands abound in the Almaguin Highlands and provide habitat for many species of animals and plants. Wildlife to watch for when passing by wetlands include Moose, Otter, Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Common Yellowthroat and Swamp Sparrow. Special wetland plants include the Round-leaved Sundew (which consumes small insects), Blue Flag Iris, Cotton Grass and Rose Pogonia (a native orchid). Wetlands are found along the Old Nipissing Road and Loxton Beaver Trails.*

**LEGEND**

- Non-motorized Trail
- Multi-use Trail
- Water Trail
- Bicycle Road Tours
- Road
- Highway
- Provincial Park
- Trans Canada Trail
- Canoe Access
- Trail Access

0 2.5 5 km

GPS coordinates are given metrically, projected as UTM NAD'83 Zone 17.

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*The Commanda Heritage Centre building was constructed by James Arthur in 1885. Families from the local area came to this general store to buy food, clothing, hardware and other goods. In 1961, a local historical society painstakingly restored and converted the Commanda General Store into a museum. Later, the downstairs living rooms were turned into a tearoom and gift shop, a must-see while touring the Old Nipissing Road.*

*The woodland areas contain a variety of nesting wood warblers, the jewels of the forest community. The most abundant species include the Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Blackburnian Nashville Warbler and Northern Waterthrush in the wetter areas. Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak can be heard calling from the top of the forest canopy. Over 120 species of birds breed annually in the area of the Forgotten Trails.*

*Mecunoma: Better known as 'Bummer's Roost', Mecunoma was settled by people of German and Swiss origin. The unusual name comes from the Ojibway and translates 'we have found a road'.*

*Eagle Lake Narrows features a popular sandy beach and wash/change rooms with access to beautiful Eagle Lake.*

*Eagle Lake Road was originally called 'Poor Man's Road' because the men who were hired by the South River Lumber Company to build it were paid in 'scrip' which was only redeemable at the country store.*

*The Magnetawan Historical Museum and Locks, once the site of a hydro electric plant, offers visitors the chance to view how electric energy was generated circa 1925. The original waterwheel and other pioneer artifacts, the rapids and the locks are features to be enjoyed.*

*While traveling the Old Nipissing Road watch for decaying 'snake' or rail fences of the trail's forgotten past.*

*While traveling through the Highlands, one is overwhelmed by the vast outcrops of granite rock which are characteristic of the Canadian Shield. These outcrops were formed over one billion years ago when the rock was subject to intense heat and pressure. The heat and pressure pushed them into their present formations. E.N. – shouldn't this be glaciation pushing them not heat and pressure??*

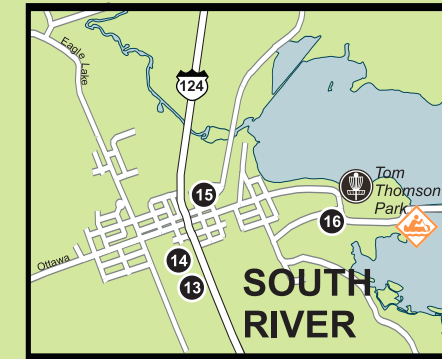
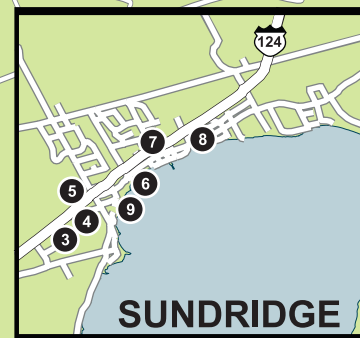
*In 1904, the Standard Chemical Company built a large sawmill and chemical plant in South River. Poor quality trees, unsuitable for building from Laurier Township were used by the chemical plant to produce charcoal, wood alcohol and acetate of lime. Due to the plants' success South River quickly became known as the 'Charcoal Town'. Today the former mill site is being transformed into Tom Thomson Park, featuring lakeside walkways and South Rivers' own disc course.*

*In 1854 a geological survey of the area named, what is today's South River, the Red Chalk River because of its' iron rust colour. The local Algonquin named it Namanitagong. (Paint River) for the same reason.*

*In art circles, South River was known as the favourite haunt of Tom Thomson (Group of Seven artist) when he came out of Algonquin Park for some civilization. When it was pointed out to him that there were other centers closer to the park, he replied 'Not by canoe'.*

*The forest of the Forgotten Trails and the Almaguin Highlands is part of the Great Lakes- St Lawrence Forest. It is a mixed forest characterized by Eastern White and Red Pine, Eastern Hemlock and Yellow Birch along with Sugar Maple, Red Oak and Beech, especially in the higher drier areas. In the lower and wet areas are typical boreal trees such as White and Black Spruce, Balsam Fir, Jack Pine and Trembling Aspen. White Birch, a typical boreal species, is present as a regeneration species. The forest is regenerating, having been heavily logged over 80 years ago.*

*Ontario's provincial flower, the White Trillium, can be found throughout the Almaguin Highlands in the spring. The Trillium received it's name from its' flower parts (tri = three). Native also to the Highlands is the Red Trillium which is also known as 'Stinkin' Johnny'.*



*The South River area was originally home to Huron Ojibway and Algonquin tribes. The tribes shared this vast area as a communal hunting and fishing ground. Joined by language and culture, the tribes lived in familial groups of 25 to 250 for 5,000 years before the Highlands were first visited by European settlers.*

**A. Moose Mountain Trail – 2 km Loop**

This beautiful trail offers the hiker several spectacular views along the way. While it isn't really a 'mountain' in the true sense of the word, hikers should be prepared for a moderately challenging climb. At the time of printing of this brochure, the FTA and other volunteers are working at relocating the most difficult parts of the climb to reduce the grades. **Trailhead** N45.56.594 W079.13.642

**B. Laurier Fire Tower Trail – 2 km**

This trail wanders through a majestic hardwood forest and offers a breathtaking lookout over the Almaguin Highlands. The trail was originally constructed by the MNR to access the fire tower which was decommissioned in the early 1960s when airplanes were put into use for fire spotting. The original foundation blocks and other remains can still be found. While the first km of the trail is gently graded, hikers should be prepared for a steep extended climb on the upper portion. **Trailhead** N45.54.840 W079.13.895  
**Lookout** N45.54.445 W079.13.310

**C. Loxton Beaver Trail – 8.5 km Loop**

This trail passes through stands of hardwood, a pine plantation and wetland areas. It will take hikers past Loxton Lake and Beaver Lake, both of which are visible from the trail. At one point the trail emerges at the Loxton Dam. Several areas can be wet at all times of the year. While the majority of the trail is moderate, it does feature a few challenging climbs and descents. **Main Trailhead:** N45.55.476 W79.13.312  
**Loxton Lake** N45.56.495 W079.13.321

**D. One-A-Day Trail – 1 km**

A comfortable walking trail which terminates at the picturesque One A Day Lake. **Trailhead** N45.54.731 W079.11.231  
**One A Day Lake** N45.54.766 W079.11.786

**E. Tom Thomson Portage Trail – 2 km to Mary Jane Lake**

This trail is part of the historic portage route used by Tom Thomson, Group of Seven Painter to access South River from his beloved Algonquin Park. Volunteers are actively restoring this route at the time of printing of this brochure. Canoeists wishing to use the entire length of the portage route are urged to contact the FTA by email to verify the condition of the rest of the portages. **Trailhead** – N45.53.955 W079.10.930  
**Mary Jane Lake** N45.53.338 W079.11.460

**F. River Run Canoe Route**

One of Ontario's lost canoe routes, the River Run offers a scenic day paddle. Be prepared in summer and during low water to walk shallow sections and to have to bypass logjams and beaver dams along the way.