



Historic Ski Jump

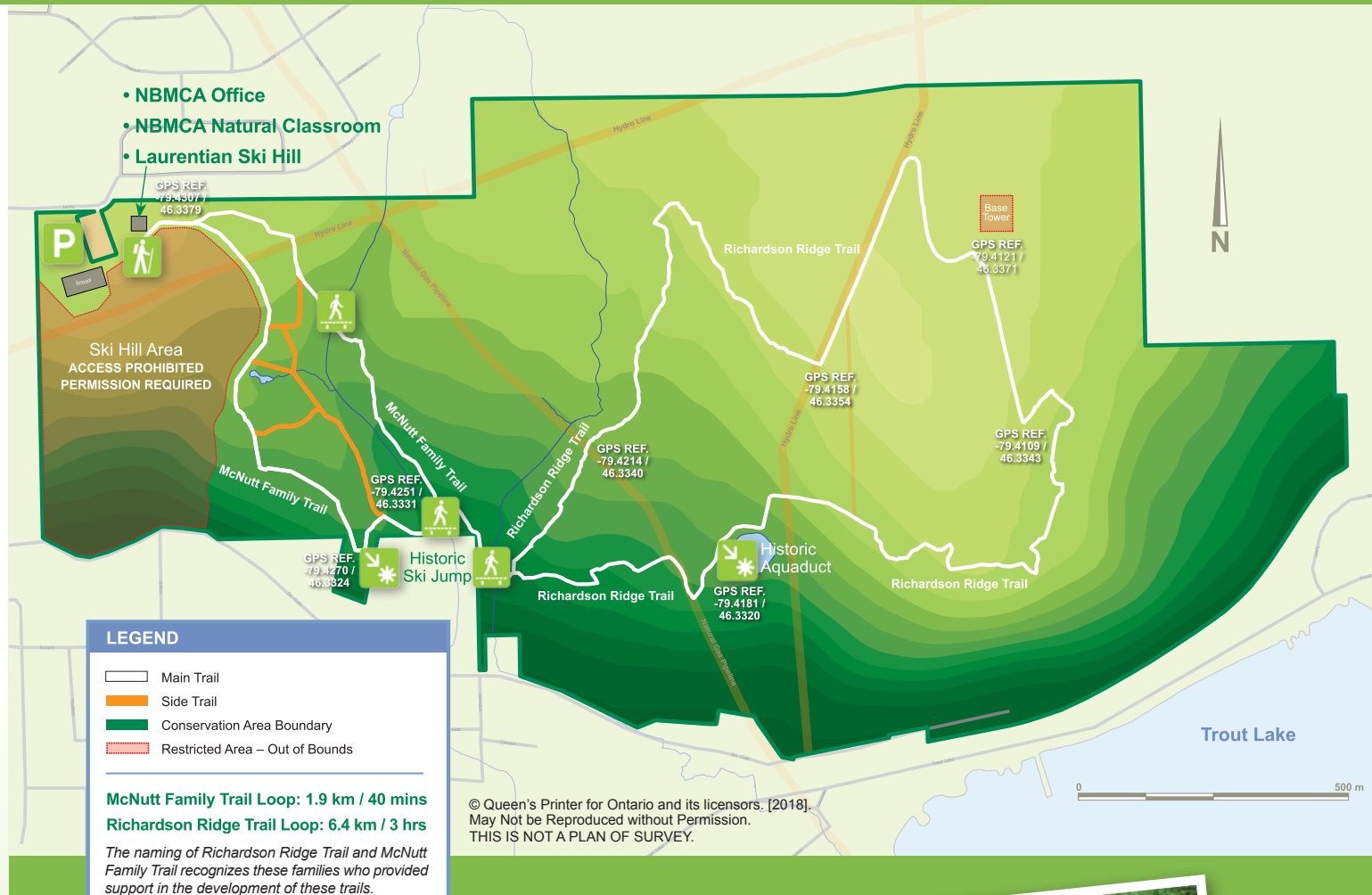
In 1935, the escarpment saw the construction of a 52.5 foot giant ski jump by Laurentian Ski Club volunteers. Skiers had used this hill on the McLeod family farm since 1929. Ski Club Road was a dirt road, closed to traffic in the winter. Early skiers had to first cross-country ski from town to reach the hill, then trek up the hill on foot to make their runs.



Photo credit: the late Jim Gatenby

Historic Aquaduct/Reservoir

Water was once pumped from Trout Lake up to this reservoir and distributed to homes and businesses in North Bay. This facility was retired in the 1970s when the Ellendale Reservoir (behind Widdifield Secondary School) came on line.



TRAIL USER'S SAFETY TIPS

- Be Bear Aware! Place your garbage in the bear-proof container at trailhead.
- Wear appropriate footwear for weather conditions.
- Do not climb fences or take shortcuts.
- Respect privacy of neighbouring property owners.
- Trails not maintained in winter.
- Use in daylight hours only.

- NOTICE**
- No alcohol consumption
 - No camping
 - No dumping
 - No excessive noise
 - No hunting
 - No motorized vehicles
 - No open fires
 - No removal of vegetation



FACILITIES & ATTRactions

- Bridge/Platform
- Parking
- Point of Interest
- Trailhead

PERMITTED USES

- Biking/ Multi Use
- Hiking
- Snow-shoeing
- Scenery/ Photography
- Wildlife Viewing
- Pets on Leash
- Poop and Scoop

The Laurentian Escarpment Story

As you're hiking the Laurentian Escarpment trails, look out over the city and imagine ice and water as far as the eye can see! That was one chapter in the Laurentian Escarpment Conservation Area's rich and vibrant history.

Half a billion years ago a seismic event formed the Ottawa Valley and the earth responded by pushing and shifting the land, creating new valleys and hills, including the Laurentian Escarpment.

70,000 to 11,000 years ago the Wisconsin glacier came, advancing and retreating under as much as two kilometers of ice until its final retreat. It left behind a proglacial lake that encompassed Lake Nipissing, Trout Lake and the northern portions of the Great Lakes called Lake Algonquin. The Laurentian Escarpment formed one shore of this great lake.

The landscape transformed from glacier to tundra (11,000 to 8,000 years ago), with climate and vegetation comparable to today's sub-arctic. It was home to moose, elk and especially caribou. The ice continued to retreat and the climate warmed fostering new vegetation (7,200 years ago). Alder, oak, elm and maple which favoured the newly formed glacial tills (soil), were common but less abundant than the dominant white pine, red pine, spruce and birch. The earliest signs of people found along Lake Nipissing was in the Archaic Period (8,000 to 3,000 years ago) who may have been ancestors to the Anishnabek People. These human signs did not reappear again until the Middle Woodland Period which existed from 1,500 to 1,000 years ago.

Today if you look out from the escarpment over the City of North Bay, you can see Trout Lake on your left and Lake Nipissing on your right. Three thousand years ago water from the west (Lake Huron) actually drained to the east through at least two large rivers that flowed through the present day North Bay, down the Ottawa River and out to the Atlantic Ocean. Today, a watershed divide separates Trout Lake (which flows east to the Ottawa River) and Lake Nipissing (which flows west towards Georgian Bay.)

As you walk the trails today, you may not see any caribou, but keep your eyes open for the tracks of deer, ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare and black bear.

NBMCA Conservation Areas and Trails



Explore these other fascinating Trails and Conservation Areas in your area.

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 JP Webster | 9 Shields-McLaren |
| 2 Powassan Mountain | 10 Eau Claire Gorge |
| 3 Kate Pace Way | 11 Shirley Skinner |
| 4 Laurier Woods | 12 Eva Wardlaw |
| 5 Kinsmen Trail | 13 Elks Lodge 25 Family Park |
| 6 Laurentian Escarpment | 14 Mattawa Island |
| 7 La Vase Portage | 15 Papineau Lake |
| 8 Corbeil | |

More detailed information about each Conservation Area and Trail can be found on our website

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Laurentian Escarpment Conservation Area Trails



**NORTH BAY-MATTAWA
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