

## A Guide to Rock Climbs at Bon Echo



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**106. Rediscovery 5.3**

Start: scramble up the gully just south of the narrows, until just before the rubble stops and slabby rock begins.

1. 25m Climb straight up the right wall of the gully until forced right by overhangs. Leftward up a broken up ramp on dark rock to a corner under an overhang with a very old rusty pin. Traverse right past the cedar until you can walk left up a ramp to the top.

History: FRA: Paul and Ruth Golightly, Aug 1981.

**107 Old Faithful 5.10 \*\***

A good sustained pitch.

Start: midway between two prominent quartzite bands at the bottom of the gully.

1. 30m Climb up and right into a niche below an overhang. Step right onto a steep brown face. Move right until it is possible to move up into a groove. Follow it for about 3m until it is possible to make an awkward move right onto ledges past the crux bolt (replaced 2001). Climb up and left over a steep wall past a second bolt (replaced 2001) to belay from rocks at the top.

History: FA: Michael Rosenberger, Helmut Microys, Aug. 1974.

FFA: Steve Adcock, Ron Halka, Aug 22nd 1982.

**108. The Rose Tattoo 5.6**

Start: between the narrows and Vertigenous, immediately to the right of a bushy area.

1. 15m Climb directly up the wall to a green bush. Belay above it, or if you have a 55m rope, continue.
  2. 35m Move right to an obvious left-facing corner that angles up and left, then go 10 meters until it is possible to gain the wall on the right. Traverse right and climb the wall to a large cedar (no slings on the tree!) near the summit. Exit easily above the cedar and head left up a ramp to a belay amongst the rocks at the top.
- 1(a) With 55m or longer ropes, this route is frequently climbed in one pitch. Move up, angling right to a pinm then continue up and traverse left to the bottom of the yellow left-facing corner. Then follow pitch 2 to the top.
- 1(b) 5.8 Instead of traversing right, continue up the left-facing corner until it is possible to clip the bolt on Old Faithful, to the left of the corner. A sequence of layback moves leads to a gear belay by a large cedar (no slings!) at the top of Old Faithful.

History: FA: Margaret Rose, Richard Dorling, Aug 21st 1965.

**109. Said And Done 5.9 !**

Start: at the lowest point of the buttress to the right of the start of The Rose Tattoo.

1. Climb a leftward slanting crack for 3m Climb straight up following a groove system through loose blocks, then across an open face until directly beneath a large left-slanting roof. Move left and up to a good stance.
2. Go left on a wall 3m above the line of The Rose Tattoo, joining that climb at a small cedar tree.

History: FA: Tom Gibson, Chris Rogers, Oct 31st 1981.

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### 110. Easy Way Down 4th class

A short clean slab separating the Rose Tattoo buttress from the Vertigenous buttress. Not recommended for inexperienced climbers.

### 111. What Frightens You 5.9 !

Start: at the start of the slabs up the gully just left of The Present Estate Of Pompeii, where a prominent crack splits the black roofs above.

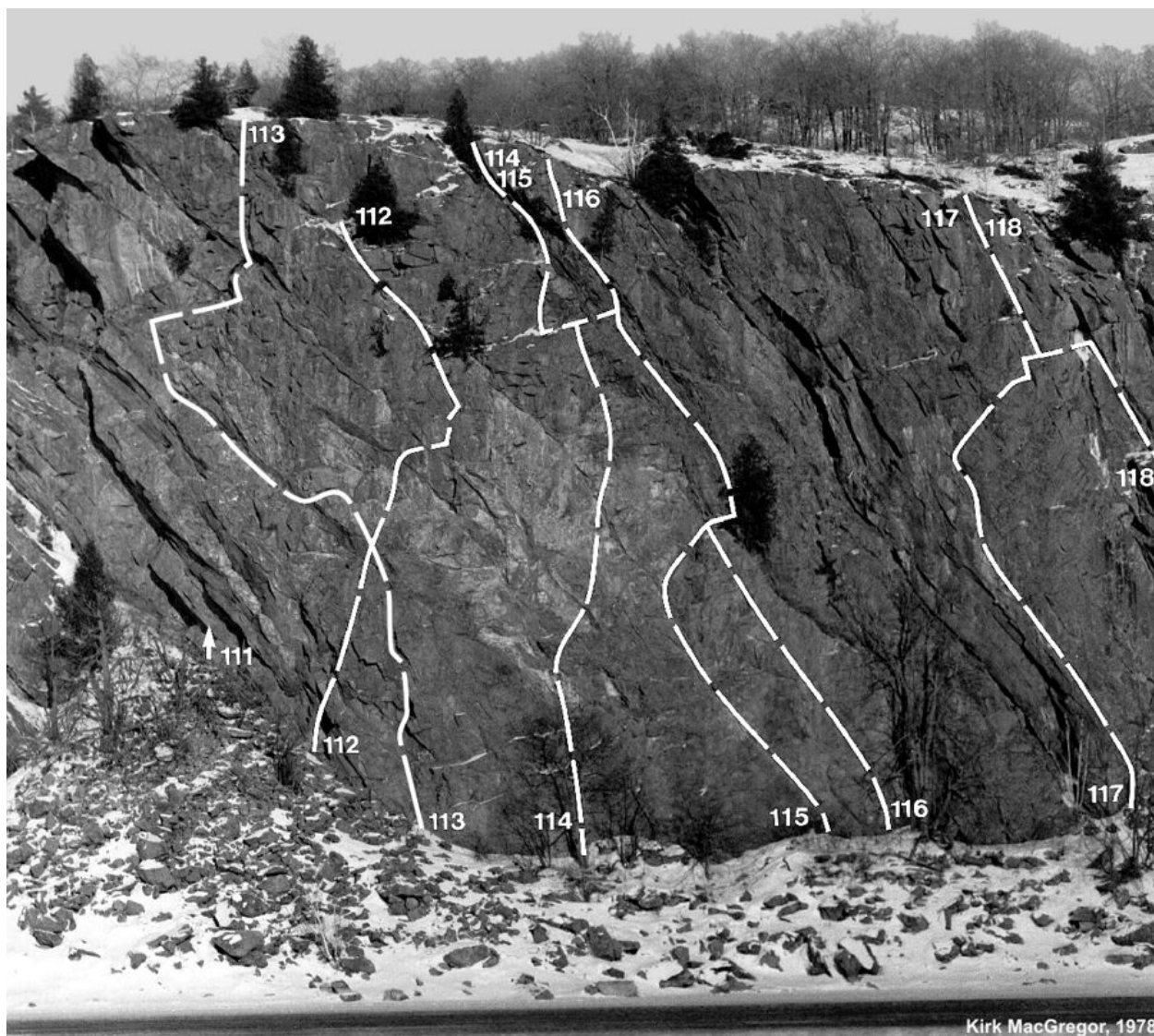
1. 30m Make exciting moves over large roof; climb up to ledge. Traverse right 4m and climb directly up a steep wall to a cedar tree.

History: FA: Rob Rohn, Tom Gibson, Oct 3rd 1981.



One of the permanent residents of the ACC cabin shouldn't be "what frightens you".

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- 111. What Frightens You 5.9 !
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- 113. Double Crux Bypass 5.9 \*
- 114. High Wind Over Jamaica 5.10

- 115. Vertigenous 5.5 \*\*\*
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- 117. Sweet Addiction 5.10 c/d !!
- 118. I Don't Know 5.7

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### **112. The Present Estate Of Pompeii 5.9**

Start: about 10m left of High Wind Over Jamaica, just around the corner towards the descent gully.

1. 5.7 Climb up bulges to a ledge with a small birch tree and old pins.
2. 5.9 Climb up a steep wall, then an overhanging traverse right until you are below a short left-facing leaning corner. Tricky move up, then continue up past cedar trees.
3. Avoid much loose rock on the left by heading up and right to the belay bolts at the top of Vertigenous.

History: FA: Rob Rohn, Tom Gibson, Oct 3rd 1981.

The old pins possibly date from a much earlier attempt by Leon Hawes, Peter Keeble and Pat Boswell in June 1967. Helmut Microys and Ruth Lister also climbed the lower section, so that Imre Michalik could take some movie footage. They did not attempt to climb higher.

### **113. Double Crux Bypass 5.9 \***

Start: at a left sloping crack

1. 5.7 Climb up and slightly left on flakes, then move right onto a small ledge under a left-facing, left-leaning corner. Climb the overhanging wall up and left on good holds. Continue upwards to a ledge with a small birch tree and a pin.
2. 5.8 Move up and left to a pin. Step left and down, and move several meters left and upwards following the natural weakness in the rock. Continue left for many meters until you are below the left end of a large ledge, then climb up to this ledge.
3. 5.9 Move to the right-hand end of the ledge and climb up over several overhangs to a small ledge below an obvious hand crack. Continue up through the crack in the steep wall to the top (crux).

History: FA: Steve LaBell, Ruth Dunstan, Sept 1984. The first ascent party used pitch 1 of The Present Estate of Pompei.

### **114. High Wind Over Jamaica 5.10**

Start: 10m to the left of Vertigenous at a vertical crack left of a quartzite band.

1. 40m Climb the crack to a ledge. Move right and up to a large black block. From this block continue up and right, mantling onto a stance beneath an overhanging headwall. Surmount this and move right onto a ledge. Follow the short overhanging corner above to the second belay ledge on Vertigenous.
2. Follow Vertigenous to the top.

History: FA: Rob Rohn, Tom Gibson, Sept 1979.

**115. Vertigenous 5.5 \*\*\***

Start: below a large cedar tree situated on a ledge a third of the way up the cliff.

1. 25m Make some difficult moves up a left-slanting weakness. After 15m, climb more easily up and then right to a ledge beside the large cedar tree.
2. 20m Climb the tree (gently) and up a steep wall. Follow the grain of the cliff up a ramp with black cokey rock, past a bolt (piton replaced 2001) until it is possible to traverse 3m left to a large stance. The start of the traverse is easy to miss. As an alternative to the ramp, the wall above and right of the “steep wall” has good holds and pro, and leads leftwards to the traverse.
3. 20m Move left 1m and climb a short steep corner to a ledge with a bolt. Continue up the crack and left of the cedars to the top. Belay at two bolt station.

History: FA: Brian Rothery ~1960. Long credited to John Turner, in 2004 an article by Kit Moore about Sweet Dreams on the Section web site triggered a message by John, giving credit to Brian.

**116. Vertigenous Direct 5.9**

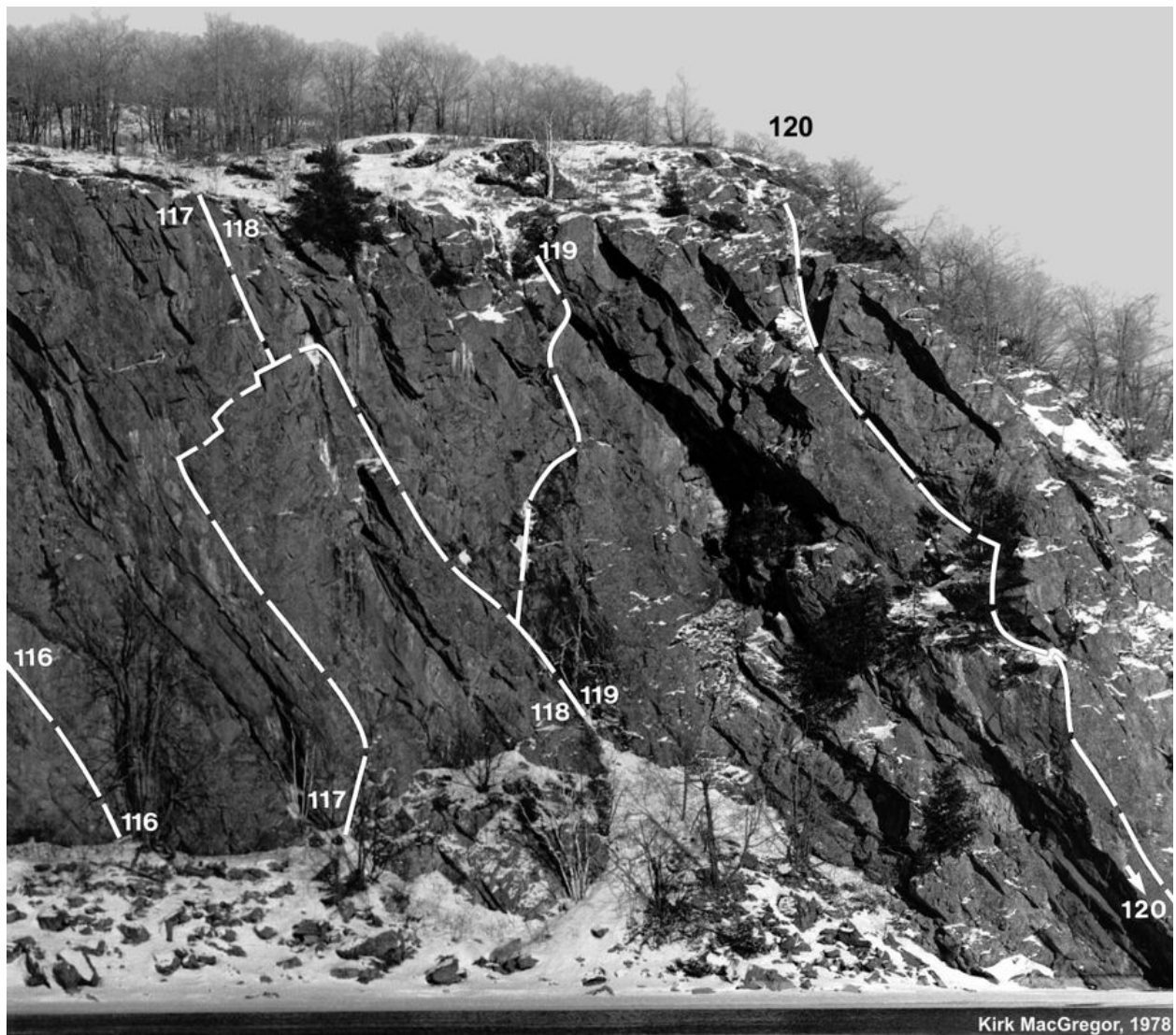
Start: 3m to the right of the start of Vertigenous.

1. 5.9 Climb up more or less directly to the cedar tree belay on the standard route, keeping 2 – 3m right of that route. It is possible to escape into Vertigenous at several places. Loose blocks in first half of pitch, creativity is needed in placing protection above.
2. 5.7 Follow the second pitch of Vertigenous until that route traverses left. Instead of traversing, go straight up for 5m to a small ramp sloping left. Traverse left a short way to large holds (some loose), mantle onto a ledge, then go straight up on good holds. Belay at two bolts (2004) at the top.

History: FA pitch 1: Tom Valis, Rick Hooper, June 26th 1983

FA pitch 2: Pam Burns, July 21st 1979.

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116. Vertigenous Direct 5.9

117. Sweet Addiction 5.10 c/d !!

118. I Don't Know 5.7

119. Roller Bearings 5.5

120. Venezuelan Beaver Cheese 5.9 !!

**117. Sweet Addiction 5.10c/d !!**

Start: 30m to the right of Vertigenous, at a cluster of silver birch trees.

1. 45m Climb cracks on the arête to a small sapling (good protection). Make committing moves up the face past two bolts. Move right at the second bolt to gain a ledge. Step right and follow good holds up the face past two broken corners to a small cedar tree. Surmount a bulge and climb straight up to the top.

History: FA: John Cotter, Dave Franklin, June 12th, 1988

**118. I Don't Know 5.7**

Start: as for Roller Bearings.

1. 5.0 20m Climb the obvious easy ramp up to a big ledge.
2. 5.7 20m Climb the offwidth crack above the ledge to a cave. Traverse left to a small cedar, then straight up to another small cedar and on up to the top.
- 2(a). Traverse left after the pin, making your way to the first cedar tree, and then follow the route to the top.
- 2(b). Climb the crack and continue straight up to the top.

History: FRA: Steve Adcock, Ron Halka, Aug 22nd 1982.

FA pitch 2(a): John Cotter, Dave Franklin, June 11th, 1988.

FA pitch 2(b): Philip Low, Geraldine Low, David Buck, 1987.

**119. Roller Bearings 5.5**

Start: right of Vertigenous beneath some large overhangs. Scramble steeply up through vegetation to the base of an obvious wide easy-angled left-sloping ramp.

1. 30m Follow the obvious brown band up the face to the right of the ramp, in a zig-zag fashion. Pass the conspicuous loose block halfway up on the left.

History: FA: Helmut Microys, Eric Marshall, June 1965, while trying to climb Womb At The Top. They were misdirected by somebody who supposedly knew where this route was – an inauspicious start to a highly successful partnership!

**120. Venezuelan Beaver Cheese 5.9 !!**

Start: down past the Narrows, where the cliff touches the water. The start cannot be reached on foot from the talus field.

1. Follow a curving crack up the slab, surmount a small overhang and move on up, following a crack to the left, to a ledge with a tree. Continue on up a short wall to another ledge and tree belay.
2. Follow the left-leaning ramp to the top.

History: FA: Dave Franklin, John Owen, July 1984.