

A Guide to Rock Climbs at Bon Echo



88. Jugornot 5.9

Old Laughing Lady (winter ice climb)

89. Black Groove 5.7 **closed**

90. Yellow Groove 5.4

91. Conclusion 5.5

92. The Romp of the Geriatrics 5.11 !

93. Easy Way Up 5.0

88. Jugornot 5.9

Start: on good ledges 2m above water level, just right of the "Old Walt" carving.

1. 5.7 30m Go up the face above, following the easiest line until you intersect Black Groove. Traverse back left to a crack going up to the right side of an obvious overhang, just right of an area of orange lichen.
2. 5.9 10m Climb up to the overhang. Make hard moves over it to a belay.
3. 5.9 20m Traverse left along a horizontal crack, until it turns into a narrow ramp. Follow the corner above to the top.

History: FA: Chas Yonge, Pam Burns, John Kaandorp, June 1980.

Old Laughing Lady WI 4 (or harder, conditions vary)

The winter ice climb shown on page 52.

History: FA: Tom Gibson, George Manson, Chris Rogers and Rob Rohn, February 1979.

89. Black Groove 5.7

climb closed

Start: at the base of the prominent black groove on the right of the "Old Walt" inscription. Belay from the boat, or solo with some difficulty up to a ledge.

1. 20m Climb the groove to a good ledge.
2. 15m Follow the groove to an inclined chimney and slither to the top.

History: FA: Helmut Microys, Bob Adams June 27th 1965.

FFA: Bill Snider, Jim Mark, June 1971.

90. Yellow Groove 5.4

Start: at the first diagonal ramp south of Black Groove.

1. 20m Leave the platform to the left and climb the obvious fault on good holds. Continue up the fault and bear right to a large tree or do a semi-layback right and move left to the tree.
2. 25m Continue left up the ramp. Struggle past a small cedar, and climb straight up to the top.

History: FA: Bob Shaylor, Jim White, Ray Achurch, 1961.

91. Conclusion 5.5

The original route description is preserved for posterity. The climb starts about 25m south of Yellow Groove and follows the next diagonal line of weakness.

1st pitch: (Atherton and Adams, 1963) starts from low ledge, traverses low underneath a slight overhang then up ramp for a few feet and from layback to mantleshelf: traverse left then up small crack to major traverse of sloping wall, 1 piton; traverse 20ft. to left going high, then descend (underhand holds give control) to next piton; then ascend wall on outer corner and struggle over mantleshelf to first belay. About 90 ft.

2nd pitch: Follow diagonally up towards left passing through stalwart tree. An open sloping chimney leading to the top. Nose proves interesting and also the final mantleshelf to the nose for 2nd belay (1 piton). About 100 ft.

Finish: The climb concludes with a long step to the left underneath the overhang then up the corner over some biggish blocks to the trees.

A Guide to Rock Climbs at Bon Echo

2(a). Step right of the cedar, up an open book, to a large overhang. Traverse left to regain the normal route.

History: FA: Wilhelm Apflauer, David Atherton, Oct 1964.

Pitch 2(a) was climbed by John Lewis and Suze Woolf on Aug 30th 1975.

92. The Romp Of The Geriatrics 5.11 !

A well-protected boulder problem All of the difficulties are concentrated in the overhang on the second pitch. The route remains an enjoyable aid climb (5.5, A2) for a rainy day – no pitons are needed.

Start: as for Conclusion, directly beneath a large dead cedar tree, at a good ledge.

1. 25m Go left, then straight up and back right to a large dead cedar tree. Belay.
2. Climb the overhang at the obvious crack. Continue slightly right to the top.

History: FA: Jim Mark, Roger Parsons, Helmut Microys, Sept 1976.

FWA: Dave Franklin and Adam Gibbs, with aid, Feb 12 1983

FFA: Rob Chisnall, Ian McKay,
Oct 11th 1983.

93. Easy Way Up 5.0

The short ridge to the right of The Romp Of The Geriatrics provides a couple of nice easy moves, whilst being relatively steep.

History: The route was climbed by Helmut Microys and Ruth Lister so that Imre Michalik could film them. They also climbed the lower section of The Present Estate Of Pompeii on the same occasion.

A Guide to Rock Climbs at Bon Echo



- 94. Baby's Bottom 5.5
- 95. Womb at the Top 5.6 **

- 96. The Acme Handhold Co. 5.10
- 97. Easy Way Down third class

A Guide to Rock Climbs at Bon Echo

94. Baby's Bottom 5.5

Start: in the middle of the slab just left of Womb At The Top.

1. 20m Follow a crack running up to the right, then climb leftward up a steeper section. Climb straight up to the top of the slab.

History: FA: Jim White, Hans Joritsma, 1961.

FA: (more direct) Helmut Microys, David Wotherspoon, Nick Pawley, June 1967.

95. Womb At The Top 5.6 **

A very enjoyable short climb.

Start: about 70m north of the narrows, on the right of the prominent (Baby's Bottom) ramp.

Take off from a wide platform at water level just below a juniper bush.

1. 35m Climb up onto a block with a juniper bush on it. Go up and slightly left to a small tree; then back right to a sickly looking tree. Climb up 2m past it, then step right into a crack. Up this then traverse right towards an overhanging cleft (the "womb"). Exit directly through it.
 2. 10m Scramble up to the top and belay at two bolts (2001), one located just above the womb, the other 5m further up the exit ramp..
- 1(a). 5.8 Instead of going right to the sickly tree, go straight through the bulge, up an open book, and veer right.

History: FA: Arthur Large, Ken Davis, Aug 1963.

FRA: pitch 1(a) Dave Karner, Mike Biesiada, June 6th 1985.

96. The Acme Handhold Co. 5.10

Start: on a large stepped block 5m north of the point where the talus slope of the narrows ends.

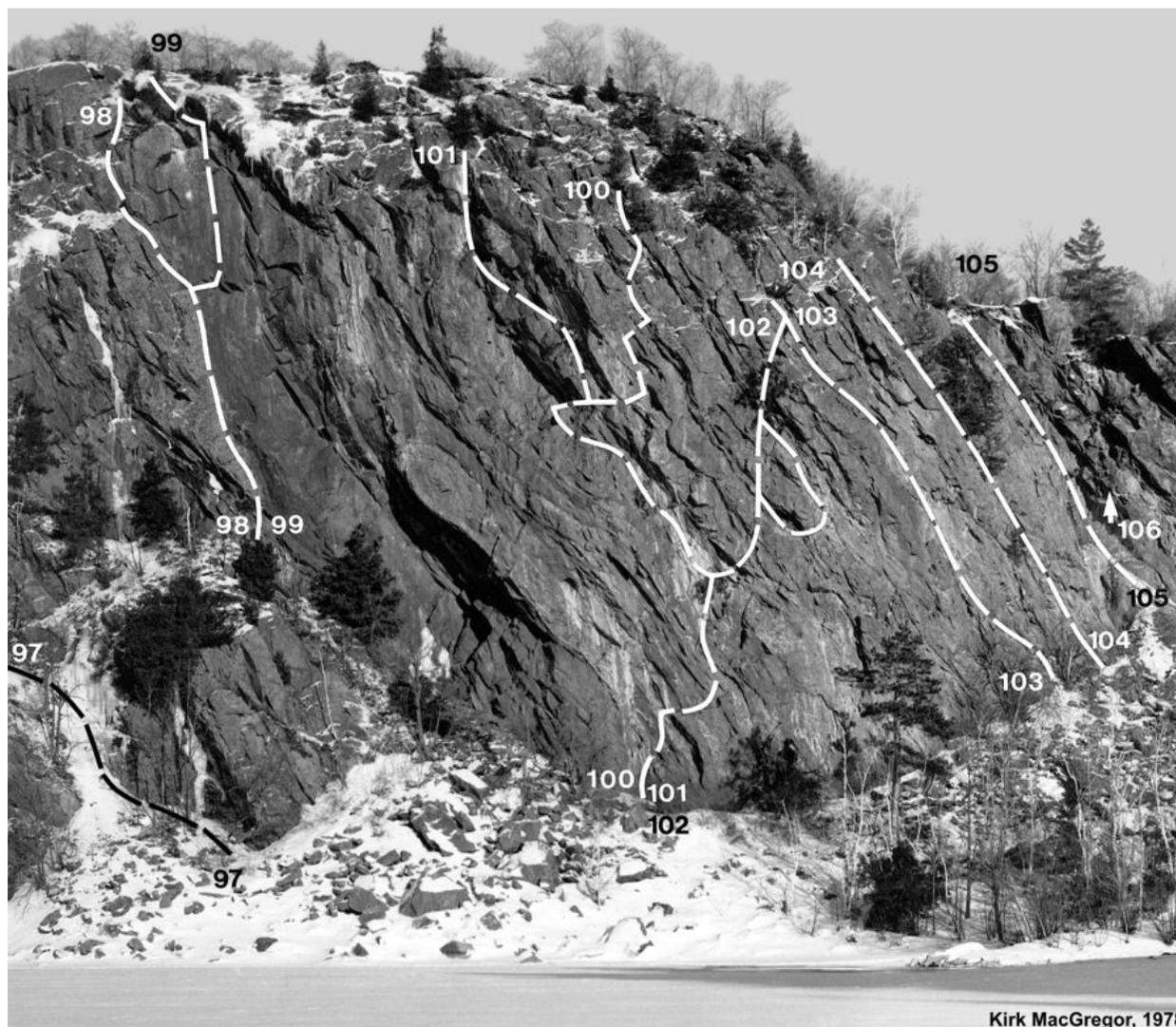
1. 5.9 25m Make a difficult move off the block to a small ledge above. Follow the band of black rock up to a large ledge and cedar tree.
2. 5.10 20m From the back left corner of the ledge, follow a large, steep flake system to a large black roof. Move 2 – 3m left and pull over it.

History: FA: Tom Gibson, Rob Rohn, Chris Rogers, 1978.

97. Easy Way Down 3rd class

The easiest easy way down on the cliff. Less easy if wet. From the Park lookout on the top of Knob Hill, go north and down the first small cliff band, turn left and look for a footpath near the edge of the main cliff. Turn left again. Stay close to the inside edge of the slab for most of the way. Remnants of the hotel's iron stairway can be seen.

A Guide to Rock Climbs at Bon Echo



- 97. Easy Way Down 3rd class
- 98. Inferno 5.9 *
- 99. Voodoo Wall 5.9 A3
- 100. Knob Hill 5.7 ***
- 101. Knob Heel Direct 5.9

- 102. The Dangler 5.8
- 103. Afternoon Delight 5.4 **
- 104. Sunday Delight 5.6
- 105. Easy Way Down 4th class
- 106. Rediscovery 5.3

A Guide to Rock Climbs at Bon Echo

98. Inferno 5.9 *

Start: between the narrows and Womb at the Top. Start up the easy way down and then go right, passing under an overhang, until you are beneath a very smooth-looking vertical wall. About halfway up the cliff is a prominent smooth vertical corner, flanked by a large vertical wall on the right. Start below this corner.

1. 35m Climb a large flake to a bolt (2004) by a small tree, continuing right and up the wall to a pin, and then to a large ledge below a corner. Climb the corner (small stopper useful) to a small ledge. This might be 5.10a since Joe Prokopiak pulled off a crucial flake. Continue up layback cracks (large cams useful) to a belay ledge.
2. Exit left and down from the belay, then scramble up gully.

History: FA: Richard Dorling, Imre Michalik, Brian Cook, Maurice Tyler, June 11th 1966.

FFA: Eric Marshall, Sept 1970.

99. Voodoo Wall 5.9 A3

Start: as for Inferno.

1. 25m As for Inferno.
2. Aid one move right and nail a long, very thin crack to the top.

History: FA: Dave Lanman, John Abercrombie, May 1979.

Top-roped without aid (5.12) by Rob Chisnall, Oct 1982.

FWA: Dave Franklin and Adam Gibbs, with aid, Jan 29 1983

100. Knob Hill 5.7 ***

Start: at a clearing in the trees, about 5m north of the narrows, beneath an obvious tree about 20m up. (Same start and first pitch as The Dangler, route 102)

1. 20m Start with difficulty from a jagged block and traverse right below an overhang. Continue right on a large ledge and up a wall on good holds to a tree. Belay here or continue.
2. 25m From the belay, move left 2m and then up to the top of a small ledge. Move up 2m and then left into a fault and up to a good tree. Continue up and left over pink rock to a vast belay beneath an overhang.
3. 20m Traverse right 8m past a bolt (replacing several pitons, 2008) to a large corner on “the edge of all things” (spectacular!). Continue up to a bolt (2001) by a small tree (optional belay using bolt and gear), then straight up on good holds to the top of the vertical rock. Belay there to maintain voice contact, or go up further, near the observation deck.

History: First two pitches: Tony Croft, Oct 1965.

Complete ascent: Richard Dorling, Bob Adams, Peter Keeble, June 5th 1966.

101. Knob Heel Direct 5.9

A variation finish to Knob Hill.

- 3(a). Step right and mantle up to a tree through very loose rock. Continue up and left until an orange groove is reached. A few moves put you on a small ledge, up crack in corner to small roof, move up and right to summit. Watch for rope drag at the crux at the top.

History: FA: Tom Gibson, Chris Rogers, Nov 1st 1981.

102. The Dangler 5.8

Start: at a clearing in the trees, about 5m north of the narrows, beneath an obvious tree about 20m up. (Same start and first pitch as Knob Hill, route 100)

1. 20m Start with difficulty from a jagged block and traverse right below an overhang. Continue right on a large ledge and up a wall on good holds to a tree.
2. 25m Climb above the tree to the right and up the wall to a large weakness running diagonally left. Either go straight up to a prominent tree or descend spectacularly for 3m around the arête (bad pins) and go up a wall to the tree (loose blocks).
3. 10m Follow the crack behind the tree to the top.

History: FA: Richard Dorling, Timothy Mephram, Oct 4th 1964.

FFA: Eric Marshall, Helmut Microys, late 60s / early 70s.

103. Afternoon Delight 5.4 **

A great climb for beginners. Avoid the poison ivy that grows in the bushes above the talus.

Start: 25m to the right of The Dangler, on a low angle slab hidden by large basswood trees.

1. 40m Climb the slab to a ledge with large spikes. Continue up the inside of the narrow ramp past an overhang which is turned on the left. At the end of the ramp, climb a short easy wall and belay, to minimize rope drag and communications problems. Scramble up an obvious trail to the top.

History: FA: Richard Lamb (roped solo), Aug 1976, although it is possibly the route climbed by Ken and Jeremy Hunt in 1975, called Steptoe and Son.

Later in August, Richard Lamb fell off a new route he was attempting, again roped solo, between Vertigenous and Roller Bearings. He died as a result of his injuries in early September 1976.

104. Sunday Delight 5.6

Start: at the base of an obvious ramp 5m to the right of Afternoon Delight.

1. 30m Climb the ramp and corner to a bolt (2008) by a tree (don't sling the tree!), then continue up and slightly left past a large tree to two belay bolts (2008) at the top. Avoid the loose rock in the upper corner by staying well to the left.

History: FA: Roger Parsons, Jim Mark, Helmut Microys, Sept 1976. This is possibly the same route as The Hitchhiker, climbed by Brian Kelly, Dave Wills and John Andrachuk in August 1969.

105. Easy Way Down 4th class

The gully to the south of Sunday Delight is dirty, steep and filled with poison ivy. Not recommended.

Instead, go north on the cliff top trail, over the top of Knob Hill and past the park lookout. After downclimbing the first small cliff band, turn sharp left and go towards the lake. Turn left again on the trail leading to Easy Way Down #97.