

Outcrops

**An Eternally Incomplete
Compendium of Ontario
Shield Esoterica**



**Bark Lake, Aylen Lake,
and Kluge Lookout,
Madawaska Highlands.**

Danylo Darewych

“Other than Bon Echo, Rattlesnake Point and the Gatineau, climbing areas in Ontario have been relatively unexplored. Now that winter travel and camping have become more extensive, rock and ice climbing can be found in many places in Ontario, especially along the southern limits of the Canadian Shield. ... we have been able to explore and climb many rock outcrops and faces in the area stretching from Deep River to Lake Superior, from Cobalt to south of Algonquin Park. It seems the more you look the more possibilities crop up, almost by “wishful thinking”. The type of rock varies from the solid red granite of the Shield to limestone and the magnificent white quartzite of Espanola and Killarney Park.”

Uwe Embacher, *Canadian Alpine Journal*, 1977

Front Cover: Stefan Kloppenborg on the first ascent of *Exoteric* at Aylen Lake.
Back Cover: Justin Bryant smiling on the first ascent of *Starting Line*, Aylen Lake.

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Many thanks to the climbers who provided information and photos. Some route descriptions were provided by the first ascensionists (their initials appear after the route descriptions). The photos were usually taken by me, Danylo Darewych, unless otherwise noted.

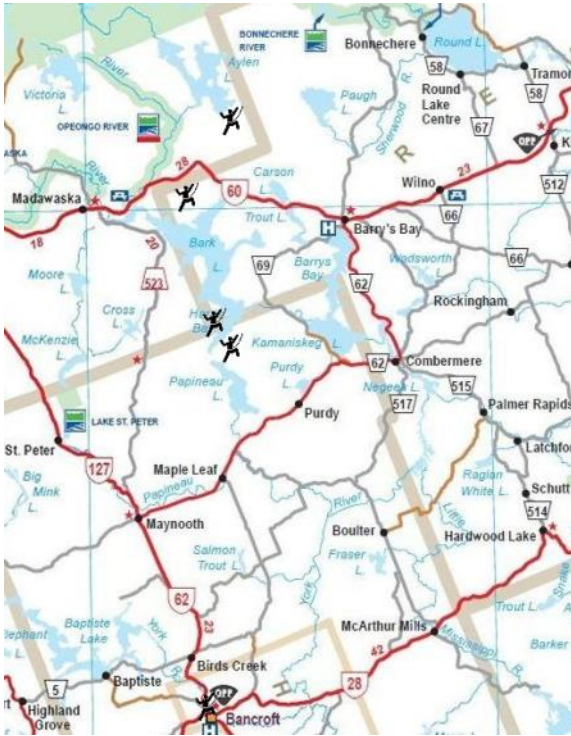
If you have any additions, corrections, questions etc, please feel free to contact me (Danylo) at dedokvadratu@yahoo.ca

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Introduction

This mini-guidebook describes some exploratory rock climbing done in three locations in the Madawaska Highlands between Maynooth and Barry's Bay, some 400 km northeast of Toronto, ON. The locations described in this mini-guide are:

- 1) Harris Bay of Bark Lake, east of Maynooth
- 2) Kluke Lookout (Bear Mountain) and
- 3) Aylen Lake, both of which are east of the town of Madawaska



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for Ontario, 2012

Head North, young man, head North!

The Madawaska Highlands area of Southern Ontario is a gold-mine of untapped potential for rock-climbing. Ontario rock climbers are wont to drive long distances to such climbing hotspots as the Red River Gorge, Seneca Rocks, the Adirondaks, the Gunks, New Hampshire etc. Frankly, I think we're missing the boat. We're ignoring our own backyards. The granite of Southern Ontario and the Near North is deserving of some of the same attention we grant to points south of the border — there are some beautiful and spectacular rock faces hiding beneath layers of lichen and under the cover of trees. Unless we start investing some time and effort in polishing up these hidden gems, we will be forever destined to travel to other people's playgrounds.

Truth be told, there are people exploring cliffs and putting up routes on cliffs in Ontario cottage country in Haliburton and Muskoka. Everybody seems to know somebody who's put up a line at some secret cliff. Unfortunately, most of this development stays firmly off the radar, because of that bane of Southern Ontario climbing — access problems. Reliable and readily available information on routes on Ontario granite is hard to come by. Consequently, newly-established routes don't see regular traffic, lapse into obscurity and are reclaimed by the lichen.

We've had a lot of fun in exploring and putting up the routes in this guidebook. There's nothing quite like standing at the base of a big cliff and stepping up into the unknown—not knowing whether the line will go, whether there will be protection, whether you will be able to make the moves. The challenge becomes as much a mental one as a physical one—and as a result the experience is doubly rewarding.

The quality of the lines put up so far varies greatly—from the good, to the bad, to the downright ugly. But go ahead and make our day — visit the cliffs described in this guidebook, climb the routes and tell us what you think of them, or better yet, put up some new routes of your own.

We hope this mini-guidebook partially fills the void of information on Ontario granite and encourages other climbers to start exploring.

Climbing on Madawaska Granite — A Word of Caution

This ain't the Escarpment, Dorothy! You won't find any clean or polished lines here. None of the cliffs described here are what you would term developed, none of the climbs are what you would call firmly established. Rather these are exploratory routes on backwoods cliffs. None of them have been climbed twice. The routes were climbed from the ground up with no prior inspection* and with just enough scrubbing of lichen and excavation of cracks to get to the top. These are not climbs that have been prepped and cleaned for further ascents. Expect to find loose rock, dirty cracks and lichen. Bring your own scrub brushes and be prepared to use them (wire brushes are fine).

The protection is generally good or at least sufficient, but since the cracks are rarely completely clean, learn to place your cams as you would nuts—behind slight constrictions or rugosities; or else be prepared not to trust them and avoid falling. Sometimes you will need to resort to ironmongery and pitoncraft. We have noted where we have used pins on routes. It does not hurt to have a hammer and pitons (usually knifeblades) along on these routes at all times. Ironmongery may seem like a dark art, but there's really nothing too tricky about pounding a pin—just listen for the rising ping sound.

The rock quality runs the gamut from generally very sound at Aylen Lake and Bark Lake to suspect blocks and hollow flakes in some sections of Kluge Lookout. Be aware that the rock you're climbing on is millions of years old and has been exposed to weathering and erosion for 12,000 years (since the last ice age in Southern Ontario). The surface layer of rock can sometimes have a slightly crumbly and friable nature to it. In the route descriptions we have tried to note where we found the rock loose or the route run-out, but this information is by no means exhaustive or complete. Use your good judgement, test the rock and the holds and tread lightly when necessary. Be prepared to retreat — carry extra cordelette, slings, a knife and quicklinks or rap rings. Wear a helmet.

* The lone exception is *Flow of Drought* which was cleaned on rappel.

BARK LAKE

Harris Bay at the south end of Bark Lake is a Southern Ontario granite-and-lichen-aficionado's dream. There are 5-6 different cliff faces scattered around the south end of Bark Lake in Harris Bay. Opportunities for exploration and adventure on new rock routes abound, as long as you are patient and willing to scrub lichen. A canoe is necessary to reach these cliffs.

Directions

From Bancroft head north for 23 km on Highway 62 to Maynooth. From Maynooth continue east on Highway 62 for 12 km to Papineau Lake Rd (past the town of Maple Leaf). Turn north on Papineau Lake Rd. which goes up the west side of Papineau Lake, then around the northern end of Papineau Lake. Go along Papineau Lake Rd for 11 km to the far northern end of Papineau Lake, where you turn left (north) onto Bark Lake Rd. Go north on Bark Lake Rd. for 500 m and park in the big parking lot on the left at the end of the road. The big hill/mountain at the south end of Bark Lake will be plainly visible from the parking lot.

Big Hill Cliff

The Big Hill Cliff is the tallest of the Bark Lake cliffs. It is found at the base of the big hill that rises prominently at the south-east corner of Harris Bay.

The Big Hill Cliff is clearly visible from the boat launch at the south end of Harris Bay and can be reached by a short 5 minute canoe ride across the bay (and probably by a nasty bushwack along the south-east shore from the end of Bluff Road – there is currently no established trail).





Above: Big Hill Cliff with the line of *Wounded Raven* marked.
Below: The first corner of *Wounded Raven*. Photo by Stefan Kloppenborg.

Wounded Raven, 5.4, 40 m (FA Stefan Kloppenborg, Dave Broadhead, May 19, 2012)

Somewhat right of the center of the cliff, there is a sloping ledge that can be easily accessed by scrambling about 5-7 m up some loose and dirty terrain. From this sloping ledge, there is a blocky right facing corner perhaps 10 m tall. About half a metre left of this corner there is an irregular hand crack. Climb this corner and adjacent hand crack to a ledge. Once on this ledge, look slightly to the left for a crack that is fist-size at the bottom and gradually widens to offwidth. Climb this crack. (This crack was dripping wet during the FA, which was during a particularly dry spell, so this crack is likely always wet.) Belay off a large tree and enjoy the scenery. *S.K.*



Hidden Paradise Cliff

The Hidden Paradise Cliff is located about 2 km along the western shore of Harris Bay. It is not visible from the boat launch at the south end of Bark Lake. Head first for a cliff that is visible from the boat launch, approximately 1 km north on the western shore of Harris Bay. This cliff is characterized by lovely, swirly orange-coloured rock where it rises directly from the lake (photo on page 9). Past the Orange Swirl Cliff is a small, narrow bay – paddle past this and the next small point, and the Hidden Paradise cliff will come into view.

The Hidden Paradise Cliff is split by two large corner systems – a larger one, more or less in the center of the cliff, and a slightly shorter one further right. These two corner systems are what attracted us to the cliff – from the lake they appeared to be 2 plumb lines ripe for the pickin' (Holy bad mixed metaphor, Batman!). However, from closer up the right hand corner system proved to be very grassy in the bottom half, while the second corner system was ruled by a raucous raven from its roost about 10 m up. The left side of the Hidden Paradise Cliff consists of steep compact slab, which is guarded by a short vertical wall capped by an overhang formed by a horizontal crack system that runs continuously along the base of the cliff 5-8 m up.

The Hidden Paradise Cliff is about 45 m high at its tallest point. The foliage at the base of the cliff is quite verdant and luxurious, and the talus blocks quite impressive. It is easiest to beach canoes at the left side of the cliff where the forest is sparser.

Why Hidden Paradise? Think Erik the Red and Greenland.



Pete Masens Memorial Route, 5.5, 45 m (FA Dave Broadhead, Stefan Kloppenborg, May 19, 2012).

Start 12 m right of the Raucous Raven's Roost Corner. Scrub vigorously. Climb through a bush. Scrub vigorously. Climb up an obvious crack until it ends 5 m below a roof. Scrub vigorously. Step right to another crack system that leads to the roof. Placate the raven. Scrub vigorously. Surmount the roof and follow inobvious,

yet good holds to the top. Scrub vigorously. Wasp repellent may be useful. Pitons definitely useful. *DB*

Named in memory of Pete Masens, a “regular” at the Newmarket Of Rock and Chalk climbing gym, who passed away unexpectedly in 2012.

Dave Broadhead on the first ascent of the *Pete Masens Memorial Route*. Photo by Stefan Kloppenborg.



I'd Rather Be Climbing, 5.5/5.6, 50-55 m (FA Danylo Darewych, Kim Jean, May 19, 2012).

Located about 30-40 m climber's left of the Raucous Raven's Roost Corner, slightly uphill and left of a vague low-angled, treed buttress. This is the section of the cliff with the overhang 5-7 m up (which was mentioned in the intro). Look for a slab split by two short cracks in its upper section leading to the overhang.

- Pitch 1, 5.6, 20 m. Climb up the short slab split by a couple of cracks to the roof,* traverse right under the roof for 5-6 metres to another crack/weakness at the right end of the roof, head up over the roof and more slab above for 5m, then head right to a small tree belay on a small bushy ledge.

- Pitch 2, 5.4, 14 m. From the belay head up to the left through the branches of a pine tree/bush, then up the slab above following a small sloping left-trending corner created by a big block onto another ledge and head right to another small tree belay in a bit of an alcove. There is a big pine tree on the ledge another 5 m further along and a nice crack heading up from it (only visible from the lake, not from the belay; but the traverse to the pine might be tricky)

- Pitch 3, 5.5/5.6, 20 m. Climb out of the alcove on blocks on its right side, then traverse right beneath a bush for 2-3 metres, and then head up to the right on easier ground, and finally cut back to the left to top out.

Double ropes are useful. Gear is generally OK. No pins needed. We rapped from a tree about 10 m to climber's left of where we topped out.

* The crack continues straight through the roof, but surmounting the roof at this point would mean stepping on a precariously perched block. I decided not to risk it.



Left:: The initial slab-to-roof section of *I'd Rather Be Climbing*.

Right: Danylo Darewych looking for pro on the second pitch of *I'd Rather Be Climbing*. (Photo by Stefan Kloppenborg)

Below: A winter shot of the Paradise Cliff with the line of *I'd Rather Be Climbing* marked out.



Love/Hate Cliff

This cliff is located 3.5 km down the east shore of Harris Bay of Bark Lake. Boat access necessary. Look for a big grey cliff in a bay that drops straight into the water (pictured below). This isn't it. Head another 150 m north to a shorter-looking cliff set back a little bit (40 m) from the water's edge. Appearances are deceiving—there is a lot of good looking, steep, featured rock on the central part of this cliff and the taller, far left side which isn't visible from the lake.

Are You Ready to Rumble?, 5.9+, 19 m (Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, September 17, 2015).

The climb is located on the far left end of the cliff. Look for corner/crack system that runs the full height of the cliff and ends in an overhanging chimney. Establish yourself somewhat awkwardly in the base of the corner and step, stem and jam your way up the crack, stare in horror at the roofs above you, pull left onto a semi-ledge, then strain, press and squeeze strenuously to enter the base of the bomb-bay chimney, gratefully pausing for a rest on good footholds in a pod in the chimney, before stepping out over space onto the prow and following the face left of the crack to the top. Belay at a tree. Walk-off climber's left. Not for gym climbers used to crimping face holds.



Mike Grainger getting sucked into an all-out fight as he heads into the chimney of *Are You Ready to Rumble?*, Sept. 17, 2015.



Another cliff in Harris Bay waiting to be climbed. March 15, 2013.

KLUKE LOOKOUT (BEAR MOUNTAIN)

Kluke Lookout is a tantalizingly big cliff (c.100 m) hidden out of view from any road in the Madawaska Highlands. The size of the cliff is enticing, but the nature of the rock is confounding. There are no obvious lines running vertically from bottom to top. There are sections of compact, run-out slab, interspersed with horizontal ledge systems and broken corners, often capped with vertical or overhanging walls.

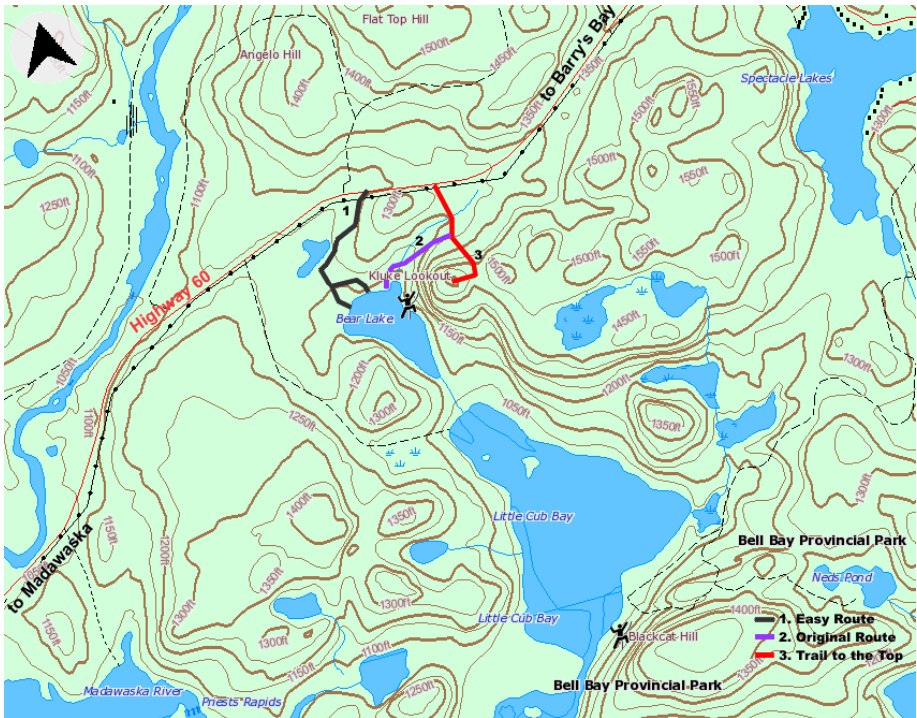
It's called Kluke Lookout on the topographic maps, but named Bear Mountain on the sign at the start of the trail (because it lies on Bear Lake)..

The cliff makes an almost 90° bend with one side facing north and the other facing west. The cliff tapers off at either end with the high point being at the vague “prow” more-or-less in the middle at the apex of the bend. Travel is fairly easy along the west-facing side of the cliff, but gets increasingly more nasty as you head east along the base of the north-facing side of the cliff.

Directions to Kluke Lookout

Kluke Lookout is located approximately 8 km east of the town of Madawaska. It's a long drive from Toronto (330 km) and 30-45minute approach from the road. From Toronto you can get there either by taking Hwy 11 north to Huntsville and then Hwy 60 east through Algonquin Park, or by heading through Bancroft.

If you're going through Bancroft, from Bancroft head north for 23 km on High-



way 62 to Maynooth. In Maynooth turn left (north) onto Highway 127. After 4.5 km turn right onto Madawaska Rd (which becomes Highway 523; don't turn on the Old Madawaska Rd). Go 34 km to Madawaska (about 30 minutes drive from Maynooth). From Madawaska head east on Highway 60, past the lumber yard, over the Madawaska River bridge and over the Opeongo River bridge.

There are several different ways of getting into Kluke Lookout (Map# 31 F/12 Reference 737448):

Approach 1— The Easy Route: At approximately 8 km east of Madawaska (or 19.8 km from the Beer Store in Barry's Bay), look for a sign with the number 23573 (it looks like the address number signs that mark driveways). It will be just at the end of a guardrail on your right at a point where the hydro wires come back close to the road. Park just past the end of the guardrail (GPS co-ordinates: N45 31.601 W77 54.001). A well used ATV trail heads south into forest here. Follow this trail into the north end of Bear Lake. At one point the trail splits. Both branches of the path lead to Bear Lake: the right branch heads straight to Bear Lake, the left branch leads to a nice campsite on the lake. This is the most direct route into Bear Lake (1 km, 20min).

Approach 2— The Original Route: At approximately 8.5 km east of Madawaska (or 19.3 km west of the Beer Store in Barry's Bay) there is a small swampy area on the north side of the road and the road makes a slight uphill turn to the north. Before this uphill curve to the north, look for a ATV path/hiking trail heading south into the woods. The trail entrance is now marked by a sign with the number 23471 (it looks like the address number signs that mark driveways). It is also marked with pairs of orange disks nailed to trees on either side of the entrance. (There is also a pair of orange disks nailed to the third utility pole back from the curve, next to the trail entrance). Park on the shoulder (GPS co-ordinates: N45 31.557 W77 53.655). Hike down the trail. There is a sign near the entrance stating the distance to Bear Mountain (0.7 km). The trail will head downhill and cross a creek, then start to head slowly back uphill. Just before the trail starts to head more steeply uphill (to the top of Bear mountain), look for red flagging tape and/or a faded old yellow blaze (on a birch tree) on the right side of the trail (GPS co-ordinates: N45 31.343 W77 53.640). Follow the flagging tape and/or yellow blazes (they run almost together), contouring around the slope for 75-100m, then heading downhill past a hunting platform up in a tree (GPS: N45 31.367 W77 53.768), then more sharply downhill, back across the creek, then finally up a slight slope on the north end of Bear Lake. From here you have a good view of the northern end of the cliff and the central part of the cliff. Head down onto the lake (from where you can see the rest of the cliff) and contour around it to get to the cliff. The distance is about 1.2 km and the approach takes about 30 minutes.

This approach has become quite hard to follow, because the blazes are very hard to spot and trees have fallen across the path in a couple of places. If in doubt, simply follow the stream downhill.

Approach 3 — The Over-the-Top Route: You can reach the climbs by heading over the top of Kluke Lookout/Bear Mountain. Simply follow the trail to the top of Kluke Lookout/Bear Mountain (when the trail branches, turn right) and then head down the southern slopes of the mountain towards the lake. The travel is quite easy through a pleasant oak grove at the top and only gets bushwacky towards the bottom.

If you have the opportunity, head to the top of Kluke Lookout/Bear Mountain.



The north side of the cliff at Kluge Lookout with the line of *Corners* marked out. Photo from March 2006. The bottom of the route is obscured by trees in summer.

Corners, 5.7 A0 (C0), 65 m, 3 pitches (Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, July 5, 2012)

Start about 100 m left of the foot of the cliff/*Peruvian Mafia*. Look for a crack system in the back of a big corner.

- Pitch 1, 5.7 18 m. Climb 3-4 metres up the main crack system in the back of the corner to a small grassy ledge, then step left 2-3 m along the ledge to a slightly easier and cleaner crack with a fin of rock sticking out of it. Climb up this secondary crack (7 m), then step back right into the main corner. Follow the main corner up, carefully avoiding some loose blocks to another ledge under a low (1.5m), slight overhang. Climb over this overhang next to a clump of birch trees on your left and into another wide corner on a big ledge. Belay from another stand of birch trees.

The crack up the back of the new 6m corner above the belay was too thin for clean pro (would have needed to use pins); the step onto the arête on the right was too airy — so we traversed left along a big ledge for 25m (even literally crawling under a low overhang for 2-3 m) to another big corner. No rope necessary (although we were roped up). You can get to the base of this second corner by scrambling up and left from the first corner.

- Pitch 2, A0 (C0) (5.10+?) 20 m. Climb up the corner (9 m; we both pulled on gear to get up this corner) to a ledge on the left wall, then another 3-4 metres up the more vegetated, easier angled continuation of the corner onto yet another ledge with lots of loose blocks. The exit above was a slightly overhanging awkward rock bulge, so we traversed left 5m, stepping gingerly around a column of stacked blocks, then up past some more birches onto another ledge to a belay (on gear) di-



Left: The first corner of the route *Corners* — although the route mostly goes up an easier second crack just out of the photo to the left. Right: The second corner of *Corners*. We had to scrub off a lot of lichen on these corners.

rectly above the top of the corner system.

- Pitch 3, 5.1 30 m. Traverse up and right past two short corners (or go up one of them if you wish; I went around them on lead, Mike went up the second corner) to the base of a 10-12 metre slab. I tried going up the slab, but backed down when the lack of pro, loose moss, and dehydration got the better of me). Skirt the left side of the slab, then head up and left for 10-15 m over bushes to any tree that strikes your fancy to set up your belay.

From the belay trees on the left it's one double-rope rappel to the ground (55m; the ropes pulled cleanly) or you can make two shorter rappels (there are solid trees halfway down). Traverse (climber's) right along the base of the cliff, past the base of the second corner, then down and further right to get back to the base of the first corner.

Old Enough, Don't Know Any Better 5.7 35+ m? (FA Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych Sept 2, 2012)

Follow the base of the cliff left and slightly uphill from *Peruvian Mafia* for about 30m until you get to a couple of big flat rocks under a shady tree at the base of a low-angled slab.

Head up and slightly right up the slab (lack of pro at first) or traverse right across the slab for 5-7m before heading up on easier/bushier ground. From the right side of the slab head back left and up to the base of a vertical corner. Climb the corner (watch out for a slightly loose, but critical handhold), stepping right, then back left to a ledge. From the ledge climb up a short vertical step at some spindly birches and traverse left and up into a wide fissure behind a block (body belay; no



Above: *Old Enough, Don't Know Any Better*. Still a lot of slab climbing above. Photo by M. Grainger. Below: Mike Grainger leading *Old Enough, Don't Know Any Better*.

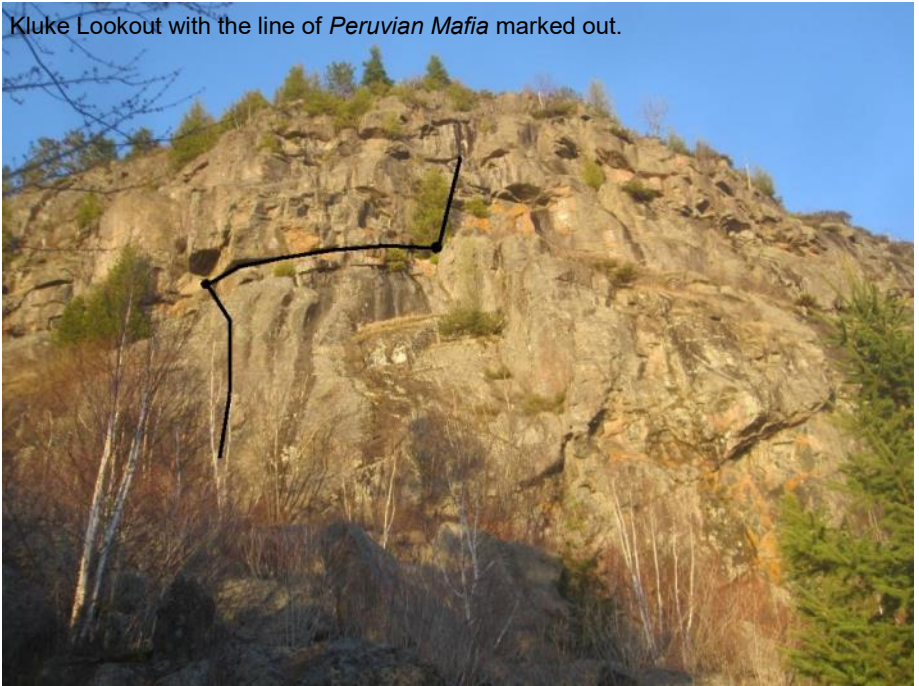
cracks for belay) or step back down to a big cedar on a ledge to the left. Rappel from the big cedar (I believe a single rope rappel was enough).

The next three lines share a common start at the left side of big slabby section of rock located more-or-less in the middle of the cliff where the cliff turns from south/north to west/east. A fairly prominent black water streak comes down the slab at this point. At the base of the big slab there is a big flake resembling a barn door, just right of a small clump of birch trees. (About 200 m right of the ice climb *Ursus*). GPS coordinates: N45 31.147 W77 53.904



Pierced and Roasted 5.5, 20 m
(Stefan Kloppenborg, Kitty Thompson, Sept 2, 2012)

Kluke Lookout with the line of *Peruvian Mafia* marked out.

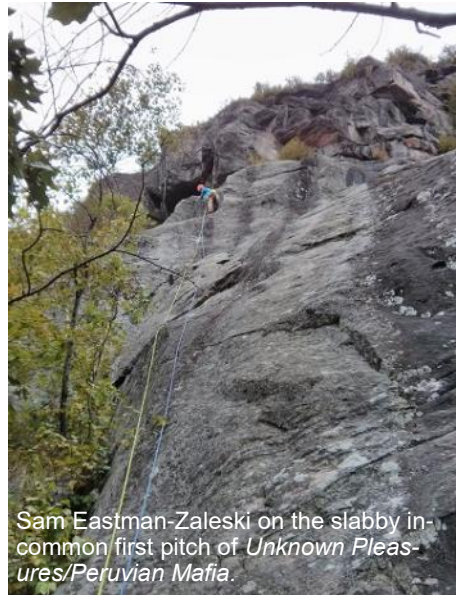


Climb the big flake on the left side of the big slab to a good stance at the top of the flake (bolt/ fixed piton), then head up and left over a short vertical step and slab above to a belay at a tree.

Unknown Pleasures/Cryptkeeper, 12c/d, 50 m (Sam Eastman-Zaleski, Sept. 2013).

- Pitch 1 (Unknown Pleasures), 10c/d, 40 m. Climb up the left side of the big slab. The crux, a strange mantle, comes after the first bolt. Continue up past two more bolts and head left to the anchors! Small gear is needed - 1 inch to 000 cams, but all in very solid granite placements.

- Pitch 2 (Cryptkeeper), 12c/d, 30 m. Climbs past 3 bolts, past the crux boulder problem 12c/d into a very tight corner with some good but small 0-000 cams (11+-12-). Once you emerge out of the corner onto a big protruding head of rock, continue up a splitter flake past one more bolt a foot from the top of the corner. Unfortunately, you need to make a gear



Sam Eastman-Zaleski on the slabby in-common first pitch of *Unknown Pleasures/Peruvian Mafia*.



The second pitch of *Unknown Pleasures/Cryptkeeper* from below (left) and from afar (right). Photos from Sam Eastman-Zaleski.

belay (bolting on lead my drill died), and you have to rap off a tree. All gear is solid, no death defying run outs. *SE-Z*

Peruvian Mafia, 5.9+ RX (Sam Eastman, Matt Norman. November 2011).

- Pitch 1, 5.9 R, 40 m. Climb the big flake at the left side of the slab (medium nut placements and 1 good green #.75 Camalot about halfway up the flake; 5.4). At the top of the flake you will reach a good rest. Now the serious business starts. On your left will be a fixed bugaboo piton (banged in with a rock though). You can back this up with a #000 (purple) Camalot C3 right below the pin. This might just be your last piece of pro. Now carefully step up on some sloping bumps and generally not so nice holds (crux, runout) until you reach the full headwall.(5.9RX) Right above the top out is an interesting little crack where you can get a #2 yellow Camalot, a #4 red TCU, and a #75 green Camalot - a pretty decent belay. Watch out for loose plates of rock on the ledge.

- Pitch 2, 30 m. Climb up into a corner - medium sized cams and small nuts useful. Now it gets funky. Climb out the right side of the corner (#4 Camalot useful), and down onto some greasy looking feet. Traverse carefully, placing medium sized cams including a #1 Camalot in a horizontal seam, then climb past and above a small bush ending up on a sloping ledge to gain a big ol' tree you can hang off. Belay here. (Be very careful of loose rock - a car door sized flake came off on the FA here.) This is a very good place to rap from because the next pitch is an all around horror show - use discretion.

- Pitch 3, 5.9+ RX, 50 m. Climb up onto a grassy ledge, from where you can do 2 things: climb dirty tricky roof/face or climb the big ol' belay tree. The purpose of both is to get onto a ledge with a big flake/detached rock on it. You should now be

under 3 roofs. Place what you can, then if you're still sane, run it up the face to the left of the 3 roofs (5.9+ RX - this felt harder than 5.9+, but I was so scared my judgment was quite impaired). Find a big belay tree.

It can be quite hard to get to the bottom of the cliff, so rapping from the top tree to the second pitch belay tree is also possible with 2 ropes.

Pins recommended for whole climb. *S.E-Z.*

(This route does not go to the top of the cliff. There is more climbing above the point reached by Sam and Matt, but the climbing looked really hard and by that point they had had enough excitement.)

The start of the *Arctic Front*.



Arctic Front, M4 (Justin Bryant, Jim Elzinga, January 2, 2012).

Justin and Jim went to Kluke Lookout looking for ice and didn't find it (it was a very poor ice year), so instead they dry-tooled their way partway up the cliff. Their line can probably be climbed in the summer on rock, although it will probably seem a lot mungier in summer. Look for a long up-and-right arching crack system running under a roof (approximately 35 m right of *Peruvian Mafia*).

- Pitch 1. Follow the crack to a fixed pin, then head right over lower angled ground to a belay at a headwall.
- Pitch 2. Traverse right at the base of a steep step for 30 m to a clump of birch trees. Justin and Jim rappelled off a tree from this point, as they were both too cold to continue to the top.

Smell the Flowers, 5.8 A0, 80 m? (Sam Eastman-Zaleski, Daniel McKay, Danylo Darewych, April 7, 2012).

From the corner/foot/low point of the cliff head towards the right (south) end of the cliff along the cliff base. You will pass below a long, up and right curving crack that runs along the base of right facing arching overhang (*Arctic Front*). About 25 m right of this look for a slab with a broken, dirty, left-facing corner on it's right side. The route starts in the broken corner. To the right (and slightly lower) of that will be an overhang. If you start heading uphill along the base of a slightly overhanging, shorter 13-15 m wall, you've gone too far.

• Pitch 1, 5.6, 20 m?. Head up easy-angled, grassy rock for 5-6 metres past a small sapling to a steeper licheny corner/crack above (decent gear), then step right onto a ledge above the corner. You could continue straight up, but the slab above is much steeper and has no pro. Go rightwards around the steeper slab for 5-7 m until you can gain the slab where it's lower angled. Head up and left over the slab for 10-15 m, to a crack in the slab where you can set up a belay (cams).

• Pitch 2, 5.4, 18 m?. Head more or less straight up from the belay over easy angled slab and one slightly steeper bulge to a short 3-4 m right-facing crack with a



The west face of Kluke Lookout, showing (approximately) from left to right the lines of *Peruvian Mafia*, *Arctic Front*, and *Smell the Flowers* (incomplete topo — the third pitch finishes up by heading up and right). Photo from March 2005.



Left: Sam Eastman-Zaleski hoping to *Smell the Flowers*, but finding lichen and dirt instead on the start of the route. Right: *Dead End* crack.

loose-looking block on top. Climb up the crack, avoiding the block, and then set up a belay either on the grassy ledge on the left (past some shrubs, a good crack for cams 5m along, low down) or head right to a frail tree (we belayed on the grassy ledge on the left, but ended up climbing right).

- Pitch 3, 5.8 A0, 30 m?. Above the grassy left belay there is steep 8-9 m licheny wall (no pro) and a licheny, loose looking corner/chimney further left. We went right along the ledge to where the wall was shorter and easier angled. Climb a 4-5 m step below a juniper bush (5.8; poor pro; there is an overdriven pin at the base of the step; sling the bush to protect the seconds.) Then traverse left and up for 10-15m to another short/steep 4-5 m step. We banged in a couple of pins (which we removed later) and used aiders to get over this step (A0), because there weren't decent foot placements and the top-out was a mossy slab. Continue up and right over progressively dirtier and mossier ground for another 15-20 m to belay under a slight overhang with an arching crack (the crack is somewhat hollow sounding).

- Pitch 4, Grade 4, 20 m. Walk right over juniper bushes then scramble up easy-angled, broken slab steps to wherever you feel comfortable.

Dead End, A0, 12 m (FA Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, August 28, 2011).

Another 20-30 m past *Smell the Flowers* the vague path that runs along the base of the cliff starts to head slightly uphill beneath a short overhanging wall. Find a cleaned out crack towards the right side of the wall and climb it straight up to a wide sloping ledge with some big boulders on it. It's a nice crack, but unfortunately it pinches down to smaller than finger width and there's only a grass-and-rubble slope above.

I'm not sure what the grade would be - I aid-climbed the crack in order to clean it - but it's harder than my meagre 5.7 lead climbing skills.

AYLEN LAKE—BLUEBERRY BLUFF

Blueberry Bluff is a 15-45 metre high, 200 m long crag at the south end of Aylen Lake. The rock is generally solid granite with lots of features. There are currently nine routes on the cliff, but there's room for many more, if you're prepared to scrub lichen. The cliff is called variously Blueberry Bluff, Blueberry Cliff, and Blueberry Mountain by local cottagers.



General location

North of Highway 60 between the towns of Madawaska and Barry's Bay.

Directions to south end of Aylen Lake

From the town of Madawaska head east on Highway 60 for 12.4 km, then turn left (north) onto the Aylen Lake Rd. for 7.6 km. At the Aylen Lake dam there is an intersection of roads. Turn right here onto Gaffney Rd. (Fire Road #2) for 4.5 km, then turn right again onto Burnt Depot Bay Road (do not follow Gaffney Road to its end). The road will drop steeply straight downhill to a creek/bay, then rise just as steeply on the other side, but with a curve. Park at a small pullout located at the top of the hill after the curve. Look to your left as you are heading down the hill and you might be able to glimpse the cliff across a small bay.

Directions to Blueberry Bluff

Walk 100 metres down Burnt Depot Bay Road until you reach the first driveway on your left (#4B3). Continue along another 20-30 m past the aforementioned driveway, then turn left into the forest and bushwack roughly parallel to the driveway for 100 m. At this point you should find yourself in a vague depression/low point in the forest between a small rocky knoll in the woods on your left and gentle

uphill slope to your right. Head up the gentle slope on your right, always trying to head slightly left and uphill towards the high point of land in the area. If you're lucky, you'll pick up a very faint trail that will lead you to the top of the cliff. The trail will first come out onto a small secondary point with views of Aylen Lake, but this is not the main cliff – keep on going along the trail (which becomes a fairly clear path at this point) through another grove of trees until you reach the top of the main cliff. The top is obvious – nice, unobstructed views of Aylen Lake. There's a well beaten path along the top of the cliff itself that eventually drops down to the lake on the far side of the cliff. Total distance from the parking spot to the top of the cliff is about 500m or 12-15 minutes.

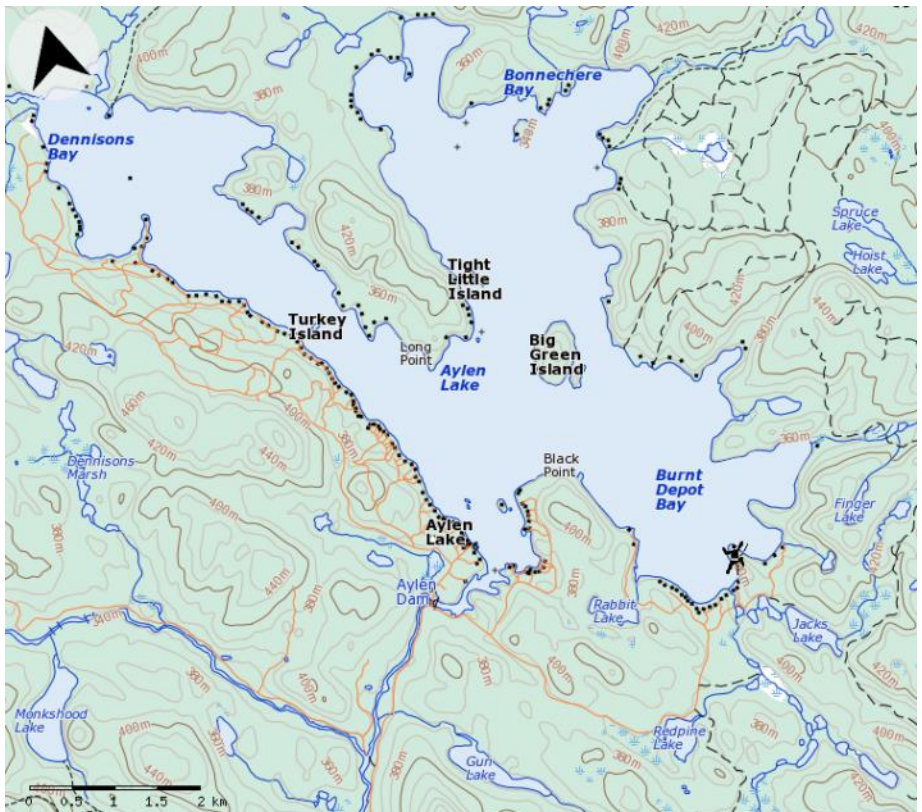
Getting to the base of the cliff:

You have 3 options: a) rappelling

b) descending at the south end of the cliff

c) descending at the north end of the cliff

a) Rappelling. You can rappel from many sturdy trees located along the cliff top, but in some cases you will need to rappel on two ropes. We've rappelled from a big pine located right at the cliff's edge next to a v-notch type groove in the top of the cliff (GPS N45 35.049 W77 49.560). This point is not too far from where the



trail comes out of the forest onto the cliff top. The groove is easy angled and grassy and leads down to wide grassy ledge before dropping off steeply. From the top you will see a smaller birch or poplar below you on the left (skier's left) on the edge of the grassy ledge and big pine on the right at the cliff's edge. The start of *Third Time Lucky* lies more or less directly below the v-notch groove, but 50m below and out-of-sight. The big pine below you on the right is the end of the first pitch of *Third Time Lucky*. The route tops out at the pine about 10 m to (skier's) right of the v-notch groove. This rappel is approximately 45m long.

b) South end descent. Walk down along the south (skier's left) end of the cliff. This is a fairly easy descent with no exposed scrambling or down-climbing required, but then you have to make your way along the base of the cliff. This is interesting, because you get to see the south end of the cliff face, but fairly bush-wacky. Stick close to the cliff face for easiest travel.

c) North end descent: Walk along the path that runs atop the cliff to the far north end. The path eventually starts to drop to the lake past some low angled slabs. Pick the easiest line down to the lake and scramble along talus and through bush to the base of the cliff. This is the longest way down.

You can descend down either end of the cliff and make your way to the other end along the base of the cliff. There is, however, one tricky section when traveling along the base of the cliff where the cliff drops straight into the water and you have to balance your way across a fairly narrow grassy ledge or the rocky narrow ledge just above it. This is slightly unnerving with a heavy pack. It's about 200m from one end of the cliff to the other.

Route Descriptions:

The routes are described right to left (south to north)

STARTING LEDGE AREA

As you are going along the south-side descent path you will pass beneath a somewhat sloping ledge that runs below an initial, shorter vertical wall. There are several interesting cracks that run up this wall. Two have been climbed.

Starting Line, 5.6, 15m (FA Justin Bryant, Doug Smith, May 20, 2012).

At the far right (south) side of the ledge is a wide crack that runs rightwards up the wall. Climb up to this crack and step along it to the right and then continue up and left to a ledge. Pitons are necessary.

Exoteric, 5.7, 30 m (FA Stefan Klop-penborg, Danylo Darewych, Kim Jean, May 20, 2012).

A clean and aesthetic line. Minimally



Slabular Saltation, 5.4

Flow of Drought, 5.10a

Cooler in the Shade, 5.5

Grovelling Groove, 5.5/5.6

Clean Sweep, 5.6

Green Grass, Running Water 5.8

Kitty's Keys, 5.5

Roadside Assistance, 5.7

Love at Last, 5.5

Third Time Lucky, 5.5

Hotfoot, 5.6

Ode to A-Len, 5.8

Exoteric, 5.7

Starting Line, 5.5
(not drawn in)



esoteric: that is to say, most will enjoy it.

Located about 15 m left of *Starting Line* along the ledge. Look for a pair of converging cracks that end at a ledge with a block about 12 m up. Start very slightly right of the right crack. Traverse under the crack. The very bottom of the crack will take a knife-blade which will be your only meaningful pro before the crux a move or two later. You might

choose to clip your etrier to this blade if you're under 6'0" - it's okay: in this

area you're unlikely to need to bear the shame of aiding a 5.7 move in front of anyone besides your belayer. Climb this crack until reaching a ledge. From here, climb the offwidth behind a huge left-facing flake/block. Once on top of this, head a few feet to the right to where the top of the flake joins the wall and climb up. A few face moves separate you from a notch at the top of the cliff. There are some horizontal cracks that will take a lost arrow and some cam placements further up. Once on top, head back from the edge and slightly right to find some placements to build an anchor. Take in the scenery and start thinking of a refreshing swim in the lake. S.K.



Stefan Kloppenborg on the FA of *Exoteric*, May 20, 2012. Photo by Kim Jean.

Left to right: *Hofffoot*, *Ode to A-Len*, *Exoteric*.



Ode to A-Len, 5.8, 25 m (Randy Kielbasiewicz, Danylo Darewych, Graeme Taylor, November 11, 2016).

Located 3 m left of *Exoteric*. Follow the initial crack line to its end. Climb slightly left up smooth wall to ledge. Follow easier groove to top.

Two bolts for anchors at top (spaced far apart one above the other for securer access from the top; bring long slings).

Randy's Route, 5.7, 25 m (Randy Kielbasiewicz, Graeme Taylor, November 18, 2016).

Start on the left end of the ledge, about 7 m left of *Ode to A-Len*. The ledge drops down one metre at the far end. Best to belay from that lower ledge/step. Climb up and left and mantle onto small ledge in a tight dihedral. From there, follow jugs up right and follow a right hand crack system. Head through triangular notch at top of cliff. At the end of the notch exit right. Two bolts for anchors at top (spaced far apart one above the other for securer access from the top; bring long slings). *RK*



Randy Kilebasiewicz on *Ode to A-Len*, Nov. 11, 2016.

Cleaned but Not Climbed, 5.8, 25 m. *Project – please stay off.*

Start is the same as for Randy's Route. At the triangular notch follow a crack straight up to incut rail, mantle and climb up slab to a right-trending crack line. Follow this mantling up ledges. Look carefully for pro (hidden cam placement – smallest Mastercam). Move up and left to rightward diagonalling crack line and follow it to top of cliff. One bolt plus solid juniper bush anchor. *RK*

TALL WALL AREA

After you go past the end of the Starting Ledge you will come to a 15 m wide section of cliff where two corners face each other across a steep slab.

Hotfoot, 5.6, 40 m (FA Justin Bryant, Doug Smith, May 20, 2012).

Head up the slab midway between the two opposing corners, aiming for a very thin crack that splits the steeper face above. If the melting rubber of your shoes starts burning your feet (as it did for the first ascensionists), hotfoot it away from the thin crack towards the easier terrain of the right-facing corner on your left, and follow this to the top (4th class at the top).

Third Time Lucky, 5.5 40 m (FA Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, August 27, 2011).

This route is located at the second major left-facing corner/break in the cliff when approaching from the southern end of the cliff. Another identifying feature is a big pine tree 25m above and slightly to climber's left of the start of the route. Or rappel directly to the base of the route as described in the instructions in the intro.
GPS — N45 35.045 W77 49.576

A decent, two pitch route that has a bit of crack, a corner, and some slab.

- Pitch 1, 5.5, 25 m: Step up and right over an initial steep 4m section to a crack. Follow this easy-angled crack to the base of another, longer vertical face. Climb the face just to the left of the corner up to a flake, then step across back to the right to a ledge at the top of the corner.* Climb the next corner (crux) and top out awkwardly (I had to grab some shrubbery) onto another ledge in the corner. Continue up the corner (be careful of loose blocks) and near its top traverse up and to the left to a large pine tree (watch for rope drag). Belay off the tree.

- Pitch 2, 5.2, 14 m: Climb the easier angled slab above the pine tree following a left trending crack to another pine tree at the top of the cliff.

*I tried heading straight up over the flake and then left to a crack, but backed off because moving to the left was too far to go without decent pro over licheny ground. Looks like steeper, interesting climbing that would lead directly to the big pine belay tree.



Justin Bryant *Hotfoot-ing it.*



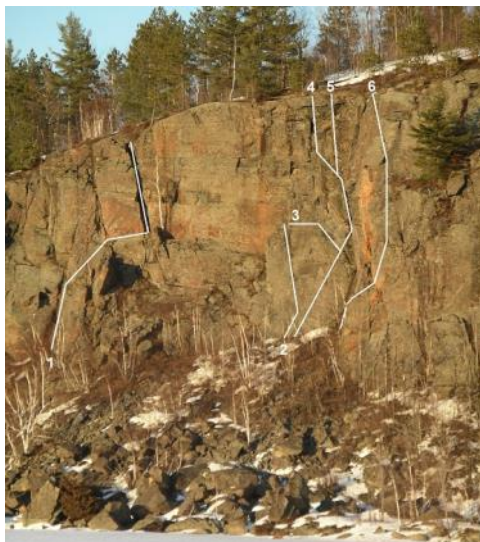
Mike Grainger on pitch 2 of *Third Time Lucky*

SHORT SLAB, BIG BUTTRESS CORNER

About 20 m left (north) of *Third Time Lucky* you will walk past a major buttress, and head uphill to the base of a short, less-than-vertical slab with several cracks running up it, and then much steeper terrain above. There is a steep gully of 80° grass running up behind the left side of the slab. Several routes start in this area.

Love at Last, 5.4, 40m (FA Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, Sept. 1, 2012).

Start on the face of the left-facing buttress/arête. Look for a birch tree with a largish rock sitting on its trunk/main branch. Step over the main branch of the birch and head up and right to a break in the arête. Step around the arête onto the easier angled face to its right (this is the same face on which *Third Time Lucky* is found). Climb up staying near the arête on your left. Near the top head left of a big boulder perched precariously on a ledge, and top out along a small ledge at the very edge of a drop to your left (or head right on easier ground).



1) Clean Sweep 2) Green Grass, Running Water 3) Kitty's Keys 4) Roadside Assistance 5) Alternator 6) Love at Last.



Left: Danylo scoping out the route before stepping out around the arête on *Love at Last*. Photo by MG. Right: Mike Grainger on the upper half of *Love at Last*.

Hanging' Out, 5.11, 15 m (Sam Eastman-Zaleski, Justin Bryant, Stefan Kloppenborg, Danylo Darewych*, Sept. 1, 2013).

Located on the face of the left-facing corner just left of the start of *Love at Last*. Climb the face and follow a thin crack over a bulge to the edge of the ridge above. Gear belay.

Kitty's Keys, 5.4 (FA Stefan Kloppenborg, Kitty Thompson, Sept. 1 2012)

Located on the right side of the short slab. Climb the thin, vegetated crack that trends to the right until arriving at a large loose left-facing corner with blocks so large and loose that they share absolutely nothing in common with the namesake entrapped keys. Traverse left to escape, moving over a corner to the small ledge belay of *Green Grass*. Descend down the steep fourth class grassy gully. Kind of a non-starter. *SK*

Roadside Assistance, 5.7, 25 m (FA Stefan Kloppenborg, Kitty Thompson, Sept. 1, 2013).

A more satisfying ending to *Kitty's Keys*. Start as for *Kitty's Keys* up the initial slab, but where *Kitty's Keys* bails left, head right to a big flake in the corner. Climb up the crack behind the flake (big pro), up, then step left and up a final crack system.

Alternator, 5.7, 25 m (FA Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, Sep. 15, 2015).

An alternate ending to *Roadside Assistance*. Start as for *Kitty's Keys* and *Roadside Assistance*, heading up the slab and flake, but where *Roadside Assistance* heads left and up to exit, step right and up a crack with an awkward pod to exit.

Green Grass, Running Water, 5.8, 15 m (FA Daniel McKay, Danylo Darewych April 8, 2012).

Follow the crack that runs up the left-hand side of the slab, past a very small sapling (we both grabbed it for



Kitty banging on a recalcitrant pin on *Kitty's Keys*, while Stefan looks on. Sept. 1, 2012. Photo by Mike Grainger.



Above: Daniel McKay on the FA of *Green Grass, Running Water*.

28 * This hasn't been led cleanly yet. Justin tried first—couldn't do it. Sam finished the lead, but had to hang a couple of times. Justin, Stefan and I then seconded the route. One of them did it cleanly. I pulled on multiple pieces. *DD*



Grovelling Groove on left, Clean Sweep on right. Below: Clean Sweep chimney

balance) to a small ledge on the edge of an arête. This route does not go to the top of the cliff. The gear placements for the belay are suspect (small gear in loose blocks). Down-climb the grassy gully behind the slab to the base of the cliff.

Clean Sweep, 5.6, 28 m (FA Danylo Darewych, Matt Zaleski April 8, 2012).

Look for a chimney located above and right of a fin (half-buttress) of rock, about 25 m further left of *Green Grass, Running Water*. The route starts on the other (left, north) side of the rock fin in a short groove, but you can get directly up to the base of the chimney by scrambling easily up to the top of the fin of rock from the right side over grassy ledges.

- Pitch 1, 5.6 18 m: Don't head up the short groove proper (because it's



got dirt and loose rocks), but rather up the crack on the 8-10 m high right wall of the groove. There are some loose blocks at the base of the crack, but they are solid enough to stand on if you're careful. Above the crack, scramble up over easy ground to the top of the fin, then traverse right 4m along a ledge to the base of the chimney and set up a belay.

- Pitch 2, 5.5 14 m: Climb up the chimney to the top of the cliff. There is good gear in the right wall of the chimney and the chockstones you see from below are wedged in solidly (although there is some loose rock resting on the chockstones proper; the belayer should stand around the corner of the chimney base). There is a lone pine tree at the top of the route for a belay. You can reach the base of the cliff with a single rope rappel of about 25 m.

Grovelling Groove, 5.5/5.6, 25 m (FA Danylo Darewych, Kim Jean, Stefan Kloppenborg, May 20, 2012).

This route starts approximately 15 m left of *Clean Sweep* and 15 m right of the awkward, narrow traverse ledge. Look for a narrow slot/groove/chimney in a right-facing corner. Climb an initial 3-4 m steep section capped by some chockstones (and a very small sapling), then head into the back of the slot and climb the steep, narrow (and dirty) chimney for 7-8 m. Continue over easy-angled rock, past some trees and cut left to exit up another very narrow, chest-high slot.

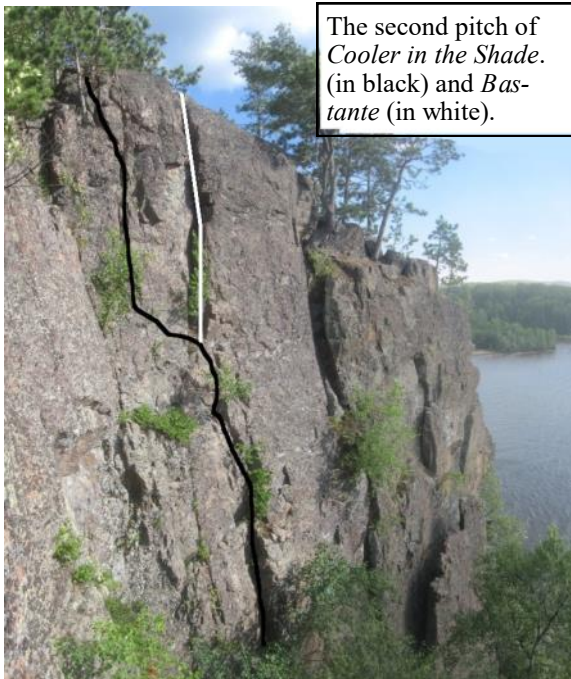
NORTH END

About 10 m left (north) of *Grovelling Groove* the cliff drops into the water and you have to balance your way across a fairly narrow grassy ledge or the rocky narrow ledge just above it. This brings you the northern end of the cliff.

Cooler in the Shade, 5.5,* 30 m (FA Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, July 4, 2012).

This route is located in a north facing corner of the cliff, some 25 m left (north) of the awkward traverse ledge, and just left of a huge free-standing fin of rock (that looks like part of the cliff until you look behind it).

- Pitch 1, 5.5, 12 m. Head up a thin crack that trends up and left (and sounds somewhat disconcertingly hollow)



The second pitch of *Cooler in the Shade*. (in black) and *Bastante* (in white).

past a birch sapling to a small bushy ledge, then left 3 m along the ledge to a belay from a group of birch trees.

- Pitch 2, 5.5, 20 m. Head up the crack that starts above the belay stance. Cut left to a neighbouring crack system near the top. There are some loose blocks half-way up. Good stances. Double ropes useful.

Bastante (Enough Already), 5.8/5.9, 30 m (Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, September 15, 2015).

A harder, more direct, alternate ending to *Cooler in the Shade*. Where *Cooler in the Shade* cuts left on the second pitch, head straight up the right-hand crack system above instead. Tricky moves over bulge and to top out. A pin protects the exit moves. Be prepared for a moment of dismay.

Flow of Drought 5.10a?, 18 m

(FA Sam Eastman-Zaleski, Daniel McKay, April 8, 2012).

Located in an alcove near the north end of the cliff. There are two parallel cracks running up the alcove about 4 metres apart. Climb the right side crack. Bring large cams (Camalot #4, #5). There are two fixed pins on route. Slightly overhanging in places.

Sam's Solo, 5.9?, 18 m (FA Sam Eastman-Zaleski, Sept. 1, 2013).

The left hand crack in the alcove. Start on the right crack as for *Flow of Drought*, but transfer over to the left-hand crack at the ledge 5 m up.

Dodger, 5.5 25 m (FA Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, Sept. 1, 2012).

Start on the face left of the alcove where *Flow of Drought* is located, about 5 m left of that route at a wide fissure. Head up the fissure into the corner. There is interesting looking climbing in the steep face of the wall on your right, but it proved difficult and hard to protect, so we kept dodging left on easy, broken, less-vertical ground until it was possible to head up a shorter section of the steep wall. The top out is tricky (I dodged left again). Pins useful on the last steep section.



Flow of Drought - the right side crack.
Sam's Solo - the left side crack.

NORTH END SLAB

At the very far-north end of the cliff, just before the northern descent trail, there is a section of low-angled slab.

Slab in g# Minor, 5.5, 20 m (FA Stefan Kloppenborg, Kitty Thompson, Sept 1, 2012).

Right of the main slab is a ramp that is, on average, steeper than the main slab with a short vertical section at the top. Climb this ramp. Belay from a large tree. *SK*



Stefan Kloppenborg enjoying *Slabular Saltation*.

Slabular Saltation 5.4, 20 m (FA: Stefan Kloppenborg and Kitty Thompson, Sept. 1, 2012).

About 3 m from the left edge of the main slab, there is a small crack system. Start at the ledge at the base of the ramp to the right of the main slab, traverse left to the crack system and climb up. At the top of the slab, there is a steeper section. Step slightly left and up. Belay from a tree. *SK*



An unexplored cliff in the northeast corner of Dennison's Bay, Aylen Lake.

Ontario Shield Geology*

The Canadian Shield is the ancient bedrock that underlies most of central and northern Ontario (and of much of Canada). Geologists divide the Canadian Shield in Ontario into 3 areas or provinces: the Superior Province, the Southern Province and the Grenville Province.

The Superior Province is the oldest and largest part (70%) of the Canadian Shield. It was formed between 4.5 billion and 2.49 billion years ago. It stretches

north and west of Sudbury. It is composed primarily of intrusive igneous rocks and is indeed predominantly granite.

The second oldest is the Southern Province which was formed between 2.49 billion and 570 million years ago. It stretches in a narrow band from Sault St. Marie along the north shore of Lake Huron, past Sudbury and then north to Kirkland Lake, but is also found in two spots north of Lake Superior. It is composed primarily of sedimentary rocks, but also partially of volcanic rocks.

The youngest part of the Canadian Shield is the Grenville Province. It was formed 1 billion to 570 million years ago. It stretches from south of Sudbury through Algonquin Park and to the St. Lawrence River (in Eastern Ontario). It is composed of metamorphic rock in its northern part; and of sedimentary and volcanic rocks which have been metamorphosed in its southern part.¹



Map by Dr. K. Tait, ROM, from http://www.davidkjoyceminerals.com/pagefiles/articles_cobaltgowganda.asp

¹ Ministry of Northern Development and Mines Ontario. **ROCK ONTARIO**. Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, ROCK ON Series 1, 1994, p. 27-28.

Camping

Madawaska Area

If you want toilets, showers and other facilities, and don't mind paying, there are many options in the general area, including:

- 1) Riverland Lodge and Camp, Madawaska. On Highway 60 just east of the intersection with Hwy 523 on the Madawaska River. \$31 a campsite. (613) 637-5338
- 2) Red Deer Lodge and Campground. 2 km south of Madawaska on Hwy 523, \$40 a campsite. (613) 637-5215.
- 3) All Star Resort, Madawaska, 500 m north of Hwy 60 along the Major Lake Road. \$36 a campsite. (613) 637-5592.
- 4) Algonquin Provincial Park, \$36-\$47 depending on the campsite (not including backcountry campsites).

However, opportunities abound for free camping on Crown Land in the area. There are many old logging roads and ATV trails where you can find campsites. In fact, the northwest corner of Bark Lake, appears to be the promised land of free RV camping. There are signs posted on the trees stating that camping on Crown Land for more than 21 days is prohibited, yet the RVs parked among the trees seem to be semi-permanent fixtures with Christmas lights, satellite dishes, picnic tables, out-houses, flagpoles, docks, floating docks, etc. It looks like the place is quite busy on summer weekends. Although the best sites lakeside will probably be taken on a weekend, try the dirt roads marked #5468, #5474, #5602 (these look like private house/driveway numbers, but they're not) about 6-6.5 km south of the town of Madawaska on Hwy 523. Two of these are basically right on Bark Lake, #5602 heads through a forest before coming out onto Bark Lake.



The Tom and Mick Murray Memorial Park, another kilometre south on Highway 523 (or 7.5 km south of the town of Madawaska) has picnic tables, outhouses, playground and a nice sandy lake bottom for swimming. There's no overnight camping allowed there, but you can eat dinner there and then go camp on the Crown Land spots mentioned above nearby.

There is also a very nice picnic area 4 km east of the town of Madawaska where Highway 60 crosses the Opeongo River (east of the river, north side of the Highway). There's no overnight camping allowed, but once again you can cook dinner there, and then find a spot to camp on the dirt road/ATV trail that runs along the other side of the river.

Maynooth Area

There's a clearing partway down the Bark Lake Road on the west side as you're heading into Harris Bay at the south end of Bark Lake where you could probably

set up a tent for the night. The boat launch on Harris Bay nearby doesn't have an outhouse — not sure where the closest toilets are in that neck of the woods.

If you don't mind spending some money, then you can stay at the South Algonquin Backpackers Hostel/Arlington Hotel in downtown Maynooth (that's an oxy-moron) for \$20 per person for a bunkroom; \$25 for a 2-person room. (613) 338-2080; 1-800-595-8064 www.AlgonquinBackpacker.com



Showers? We don't need no stinking showers! Mike and Danylo looking good at the top of Kluge Lookout after a day of scrubbing lichen and cleaning dirt out of cracks — twigs in hair, dirt in beard, grime on face, glasses askew (well, OK, the glasses are always askew).

