

North of Huron Ice

**A Guide to Ice Climbs
in South-East Algoma**



**Elliot Lake, Blind River
Iron Bridge, Kynoch**

By 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

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

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Front Cover: Ray Rutitis on *Go, Go Beavers*, Granary Lake, Blind River. February 16, 2013.

Back Cover: David Broadhead on *The Crown Jewel*, Shotgun Cliff, Kynoch. January 25, 2015.

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Introduction

This guidebook provides a description of ice climbing and mixed routes north of Lake Huron, in the south-east corner of the district of Algoma, Ontario. It describes almost 200 routes, ranging in difficulty from WI2 to WI5 and M7, from 8 m to 80 m.

The Promised Land

The area north of Lake Huron described in this guidebook was completely unknown territory to me when I first drove through it in March 2011. I was stunned by what I saw there. I couldn't believe how many cliffs I was seeing really close to the road and how much ice climbing and rock climbing potential there was on these cliffs. I also couldn't believe that I had never heard about it from other climbers and that there were almost no documented climbs in the area.

The area quickly became my favourite ice climbing destination. I would make the 6 hour drive from Toronto every chance I could – over the Christmas Holidays, over the February Family Day long weekend, over March Break and even over regular weekends with whomever I could convince to join me. At first it was slightly difficult to scare up partners, but that quickly changed as people started to see the ice climbing potential there. Almost every trip resulted in the climbing of 2-3 new routes and the discovery of 2-3 more potential routes to be climbed in the future.

A large part of the draw of the area was, in fact, the exploration of new terrain and the search for unclimbed ice. Ice climbing is an addictive sport to start with; seeking out unclimbed ice is even more so. My friends and I poured over topographic maps, satellite images and websites, looking for cliffs and potential ice flows. We drove down many a remote side road, crossed over frozen streams and lakes, and bushwacked through forests into obscure crags. Sometimes these efforts would lead to dead ends, but more often than not we found climbable ice.

The ice we were finding was not just scrappy little flows, but often beautiful, majestic flows of 30, 40, 50 metres, or sites with multiple flows. Now, this might not seem impressive to those used to climbing in the Rockies, Quebec or the Adirondaks, but to us from Southern Ontario, where many of our climbs top out at 20-25 m, this was exciting stuff. Walking into crags like Granary Lake, Lake Lauzon, Intersection Rock or Constance Lake for the first time and viewing multiple large flows was a real revelation. We took to calling the area the Promised Land.

The Promised Land truly is an area of great natural beauty, with large cliffs rising above river valleys, frozen lakes, and boreal forest. The area has a remote, wild feel. There are not a lot of people in this neck of the woods. You are likely to have whatever site you visit completely to yourself, since the area is far from major concentrations of climbers and a relatively new discovery in the ice climbing world. The ice will likely be untrammelled.

My friends and I have had a great time in the last 12 years exploring and climbing new ice routes in Algoma. In our opinion it is well worth the 6.5 hour drive from Toronto. Why drive 7 hours from Toronto to the Adirondaks to stand in line at the base of popular climbs and climb picked out routes when you can climb untouched ice in Algoma far from the crowds? But don't take my word for it. Check out Algoma for yourself. You won't be disappointed.

General Information



The climbing areas described in this guidebook are located north of the towns of Elliot Lake, Blind River, Iron Bridge and Thessalon, roughly midway between Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury. Some sites are as close as 10 km north of these towns, some much farther — 50-80 km north.

From Toronto to Elliot Lake or Blind River is approximately 550 km - a 6 hour drive. Iron Bridge is another 25 km beyond Blind River, and Thessalon is 27 km beyond Iron Bridge. From Detroit to Iron Bridge is 677 km (7 hours?); from Chicago 875 km (9 hours?).

Season, Approaches, Aspect

The ice climbs are usually in best shape from the start of January to the end of February. Some of the ice climbs are located on lakes or across rivers, so you have to wait for the lake or river ice to freeze before you can reach the climbs. Smaller lakes, such as Constance Lake, are usually frozen by mid-December; larger ones, such as Lake Lauzon don't freeze over completely until the first week of January. Also, most of the ice climbs are on south-facing cliffs and so start to deteriorate quickly towards the end of February.

However, there are enough crags that can be accessed over land or that face west, east, or north, that you can climb from mid-December to mid-March. The earliest I've climbed there is Dec. 20, 2013 at Constance Lake; the latest was May 2, 2015 at the Beach.

Surprisingly, the majority of approaches are less than 30 minutes, some as short as 10 minutes. A couple, however, are as long as an hour.

Land Access Crag:

Intersection Rock/American Wall (5 min)
Cove (20 min)
Shower Stall/Shotgun (10 min)
Constance Lake (45 min)
Trapper's Cliff (15-25 min)
Endikai Riverside (30-45 min)
Pastry Crag (15 min)
Highway 129 Crag (20-30 min)

Lake/River Crossing:

Lake Lauzon (45 min)
Granary Lake (25 min)
Eyeball (30-45 min)
Constance Lake (20 min)
Endikai Riverside (25 min)

South Facing Crags

Granary Lake (north side)
Lake Duborne
Intersection Rock
Shower Stall (south-west)
Shotgun (south-east)
Eyeball (south-east)
Endikai Riverside
Pastry Crag
MBO (south-east)
Bog Wall (south-east)

Other Direction Facing Crags

Lake Lauzon (north)
Granary Lake (south side cliffs face north)
Constance Lake (west)
Trapper's Cliff (north-west and southwest)
Stoney Creek (west by south-west)
Basswood Lake (faces west)
Quirke Lake (west and north-west)

First Time Visitor

If you're visiting the area north of Lake Huron for the first time, then your best bets for consistent, quality ice with multiple routes and ease of access are likely the following 4 crags: Granary Lake, Lake Lauzon, Intersection Rock/American Wall, Constance Lake.

A Word of Caution

If you haven't figured out yet that ice climbing can be dangerous, you shouldn't be doing it. Take up croquet.

Be Prepared for the Roads

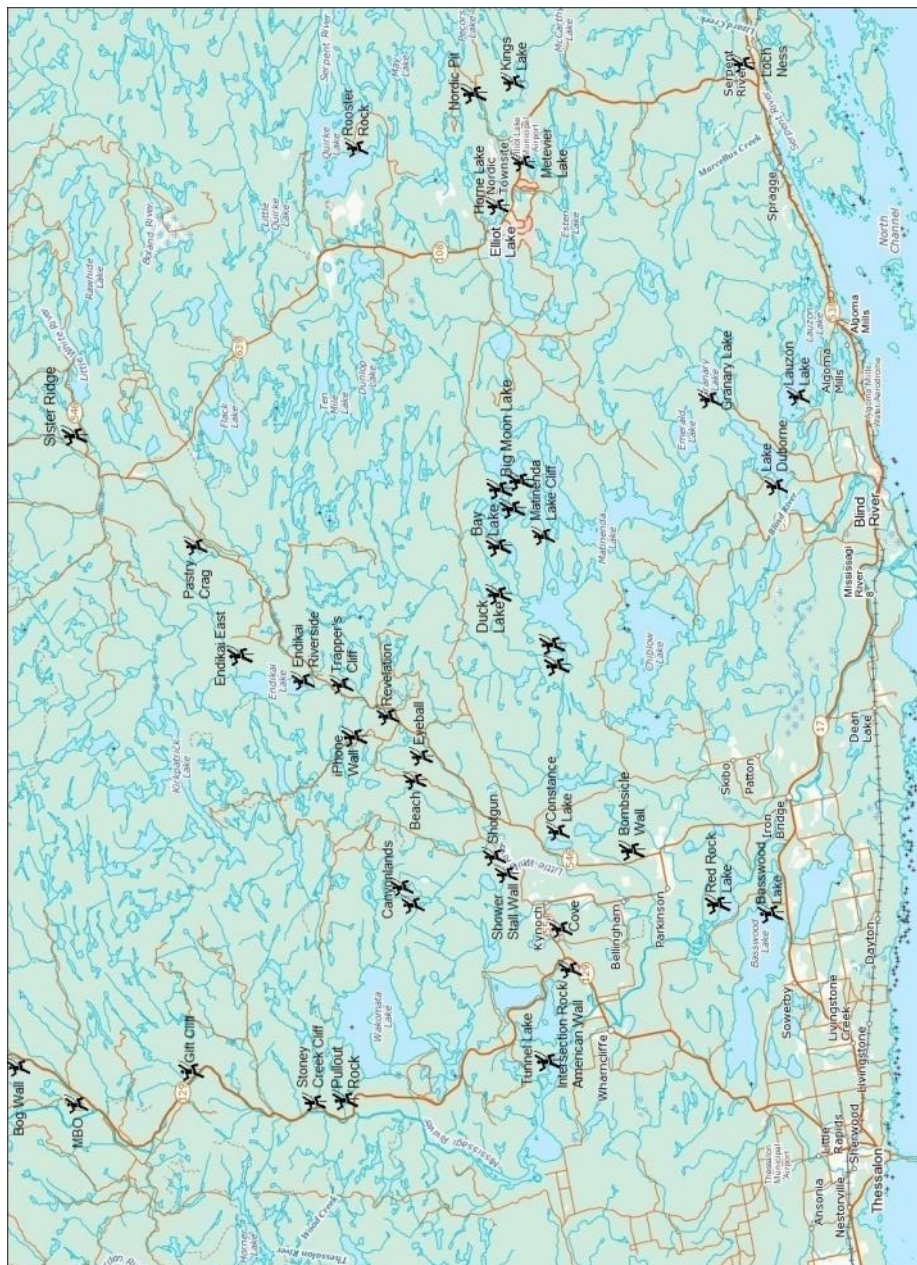
Make sure you have snow tires on your car. The main highways are generally well plowed, the side ones and logging roads - not so much. Don't park on the shoulder of a highway during/after a snowfall and before the road has been plowed. Also, carry a solid metal shovel, in case you need to shovel out/widen out a parking spot at the side of the road.

This is especially true of the logging road north of Kynoch which can be quite narrow in places and is used both by logging trucks and pick-up trucks hauling snowmobile trailers. The loggers keep it plowed for logging purposes, not for our recreational purposes. Don't obstruct the road.

Cell phone reception is spotty - don't rely on it.



Ray Rutitis having a chat with the very nice snowplow driver on the logging road north of Kynoch, January 18, 2017.



First Glance

In mid-March, 2011 I was driving back home to Toronto, alone, after a disappointing ice climbing trip to the Canadian Rockies. I had driven out West in February with high hopes of testing my abilities on Rockies classics, but things hadn't gone as planned. First, my ice climbing partner got deported to Mexico, then temperatures hit the deep freeze for weeks on end. I climbed almost nothing I had set my sights on and departed Canmore with my tail firmly between my legs. Then, to add insult to injury, my crampons broke while making a brief stop in Orient Bay.

I made one last end-of-season ice climbing stop in Batchawana Bay, north of Sault Ste. Marie, to visit Shaun Parent., whom I'd met in Agawa Canyon in 2009. Shaun is the doyen of ice climbing on the Lake Superior coast – he's been at it since 1980 and knows more about the ice in that neck of the woods than anyone. Shaun graciously put me up for the night, and we climbed together the next day. As I was leaving, Shaun suggested that, if I wanted to see more interesting ice on the way home, I should make a detour and take a drive up Highway 129 north of Thessalon, a small town midway between Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury.

I took his advice and was flabbergasted by what I saw: big cliffs on both sides of the Mississagi River valley, sometimes dropping right down to the highway. And ice lines all over the place.

Inspired, I took out my road map to see what other detours I could make along other side highways. I was soon motoring merrily up Highway 546 along the Little White River. More amazement and stupefaction – more big cliffs, more ice lines. Lots of rock and ice climbing potential everywhere. Yet I'd never heard of the area before from any Ontario climbers. I couldn't believe it. It was no further than the trips that Toronto area ice-climbers regularly make to the Adirondaks or Quebec when looking for larger concentrations of bigger ice routes than Southern Ontario has to offer. Clearly we were missing out on opportunities in our own back yard. I vowed to return.



The Stoney Creek cliff on Highway 129, north of Thessalon, March 16, 2011.

Elliot Lake Area

There are no ice climbing venues with large concentrations of routes in the Elliot Lake area. There are individual climbs scattered about at different cliffs. That being said, there's still lots of terrain to be explored in the Elliot Lake area.

Most of the information below has been taken from the old **Southern Ontario Ice** guidebook by Norbert Karter and Marc Bracken. I've not climbed at all of the places mentioned below.

South of Elliot Lake

Loch Ness Climbs

These climbs are located along Highway 17, 1.8 km east of the Highway 108 turn-off to Elliot Lake. Park at the west end of the highway barrier. Walk north from the highway for about 150 m across a short bench, then down a slope and through some trees to the cliff line facing the highway. The old **Southern Ontario Ice** guidebook mentions an old road and a pond (neither of which exist now) and three ice climbs.

Loch Ness Left, WI 3, 13 m (FA Michael Stein, Dave Franklin, early 1990s?)*

Located at the left (west) end of the cliff line. A steep 6-7 m curtain followed by some easy-angled ice. There is an easy-ish descent slope on the left.

Loch Ness Central, WI, 15 m (FA Michael Stein, Dave Franklin, early 1990s?)

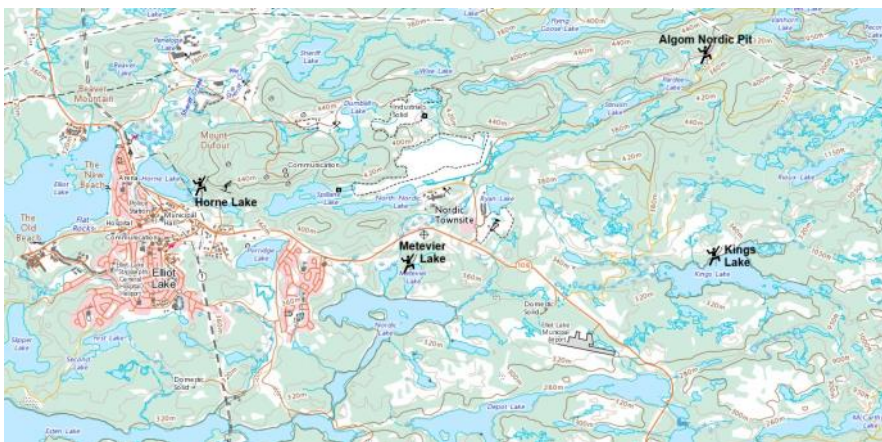
Located near the centre of the former pond, according to the old guidebook.

Loch Ness Right, WI+, 12 m (FA Michael Stein, Dave Franklin, early 1990s?).

Located near the right end of the former pond, according to the old guidebook.

Kings Lake Icefall (FA S. Montgomery)

Kings Lake is east of Highway 108, some 8.5 km south of Elliot Lake, more or



8 * I climbed *Loch Ness Left* in March 2014, thinking I was doing a new route. I called it *Guy Drove by This?* Guy Lacelle might have, but Mike and Dave didn't.

less opposite the turn-off for the Elliot Lake Airport. Hike in 1.5 km to the north-east shore of the lake. There might be some rough roads/trails you can follow part-way in. I've never tried climbing here.

Algom Nordic Pit Cliff

The Algom Nordic Pit Cliff has some really nice ice lines, but getting to it can be a slog. Three routes have been climbed here..

To get to these climbs turn right (east) from Highway 108 onto the Algom Nordic Road (Stone Ridge Golf Course) about 4.5 km south of Elliot Lake. This road is usually plowed for the first 1.3 km (past the golf course), after which it may be a snowmobile trail or a plowed logging road depending on the year. Even if it's plowed, a 4-wheel drive is preferable, as the road is rough and crosses 2 creeks. The first creek, some 3.4 km (?) along the road, is small - a truck can get across. The second one, some 4.1 km along the road, near the south-west end of Stinson Lake has steep, deep banks. You'll likely have to park your vehicle and continue on foot. Follow the road/snowmobile trail along the south shore of Stinson Lake and then Pardee Lake. Here the road will make a sharp left-hand turn and then head through the Nordic Pit. You will see a cliff line north of the road. The ice flow *International Connection* should be easily visible from the road. The total distance is about 6.7 km from Highway 108 (or about 2.6 km from the second creek).

International Connection, WI2+/3+, 27 m

(Marco Foladore, Artur Makos, Preet Singh Aulakh, January 31, 2021).

A prominent ice flow that spills down a left-facing corner. Various lines can be



Left: *International Connections*. Right: Artur Makos leading up *Cavemen*. Photos by Marco Foladore.

climbed on it. It faces south and gets baked quite quickly. N46 23'35" W82 31'03"

The next two climbs are not visible from *International Connection*—they are found some 200 m to the right, around the next point in the cliff from *International Connection*.

Stuck Between a Rock and an Ice Place, WI4, 45 m

Located about 150 metres right of *International Connection*. Two possible starts lead to a steep, narrow column in a chimney/corner.

"We partially topped this as it was crumbling under us and there were missing portions of ice. But when its in it'll be a skinny fun route. Reminded me a bit of *Dirty Harry* but skinnier and longer." MF

The Cavemen, WI 2+/3+, 45 m

(Artur Makos/Marco Foladore/Preet Singh Aulakh, January 31, 2021)

Located about 50 m right of *Stuck...*, sheltered behind a right-facing buttress. Climb an easier-angled line up a ramp on the left or a stepper line on the right. The ice actually spills into a deep cleft in the rock to your left—quite cool. N46 23'38" W82 30'54"

Metevier Lake Icefall, WI3, 30 m (FA S. Montgomery)

Metevier Lake is located west of Highway 108, about 4 km south of the town of Elliot Lake; or 1.5 km past the turn-off for the Stone Ridge golf course. Park at the side of the highway and bushwack 600 m into the northwest shore of the lake. There is a small cliff face there. I've only been there in the summer. To me it looked like the iceflow would be about 15-17 m long and fairly easy-angled.

For the record - there is no significant ice on the spot labelled Ice Mountain on the Elliot Lake town map, on the south-west outskirts of the town of Elliot Lake between First Lake and Second Lake. It's not a mountain and not particularly icy - just some 4-5 m large icicles.

Horne Lake Flows

Horne Lake is located right opposite downtown Elliot Lake. There is large open cliff face visible on the east side of the lake. There is at least one icefall (pictured on the next page) on this open face, but it appears to be a hard mixed route in its upper part and it's hard to catch in shape. There are several easier WI2-3 flows located on a more broken cliff face behind the trees south of the open face, not off the lake proper.

Park at the site of the former Civic Centre (or Tim Horton's). Follow a trail downhill from the parking lot, across a boggy section on a boardwalk and then turn left (north) at the end of the boggy section. Head north along the trail through the woods - after about 300 m you'll see a talus slope and a broken cliff face through the trees on your right. The icefalls are located here. It's a 10 minute walk.

The first flow you will see is a small 3 stepped one of about 12 m, some 25 m off the trail. Might be hard to spot under snow.



Left: The upper section of the second Horne Lake ice flow. Right: A really bad photo of the *Horne Lake Icefall* - the whole upper section isn't visible. February 23, 2020.

WI2-4, 30 m (?). The second flow is further back across an annoying right-trending talus slope. It's a longer, steeper flow, that is probably best done in two pitches. It starts with a short, steep column/curtain, then there's a ramblly easier section around trees to a platform. Above the platform is a steep pillar/curtain on the left (WI4) or a an easy-angled ramp on the right (WI2).

Along the ramp, 20 m to the right is another nice 10 m exit flow (WI3).

Horne Lake Icefall, WI2-3, 20 m (FA S. Montgomery).

The main flow is located furthest along in a recess in the cliff, at the highest point of the talus slope. The easiest way to get there is to follow the Horne Lake Trail uphill until it reaches the edge of the cliff band and then traverse right along the cliff base for 50 m to the iceflow.



Unclimbed/unnamed ice/mixed route at the main Horne Lake cliff. It's hard to catch this one in good shape.

North of Elliot Lake

Rooster Rock, Quirke Lake



Photo by Marco Foladore.

Rooster Rock is a tall 90 m cliff located on Quirke Lake north of Elliot Lake. It has two large ice flows and several smaller ones. The ice here forms inconsistently.

Access Issues

Rooster Rock is a decommissioned uranium mine site. Stanrock Mine No 2, operated by the Denison Mine Company, was located here. In the summer you can see the capped/covered mine-shaft entrance in a field below the north face of the cliff. There are signs on the gate at the entrance to the property that warn that the area is the private property of Denison Mines and not to remove any material because the site may contain low grade radioactive material. There didn't used to be any "No Trespassing" signs, only a "use at your own risk" sign, however circa 2018 "No Trespassing/Trespassers Will Be Prosecuted/Security Cameras in Use" signs were added to the gate.

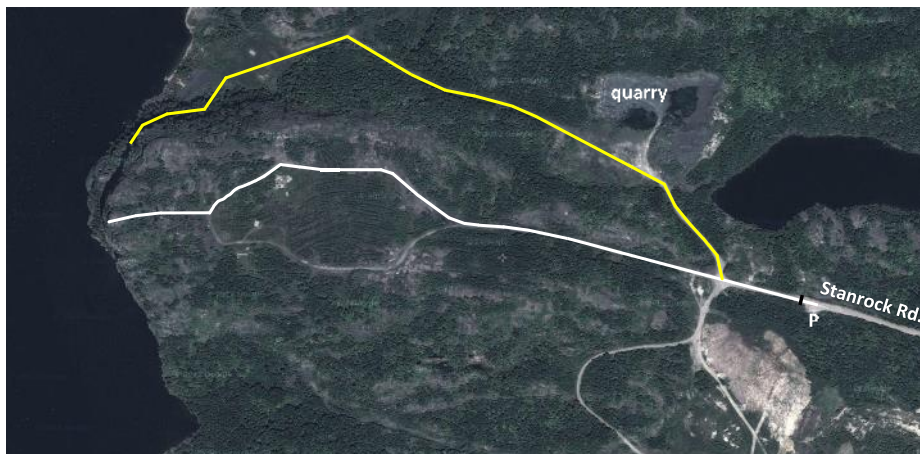
It is difficult to know how to take these signs, since the "enter at your own risk" sign is also still there. In the past trespassing wasn't an issue - we had bumped into locals out for a walk on the top of the cliff on several occasions. One of the people we met was an employee of Denison Environmental Services, a local company that specializes in cleaning up and decommissioning old mine sites. Apparently they monitor and test the site regularly, including the water in Quirke Lake, and it's clean.

Directions/Approach

From Elliot Lake head north on Highway 108 for 10 km to Stanrock Rd. Turn east on Stanrock Road. Where you go from here depends on whether you decide to approach the cliff by walking across the lake to its base or by rappelling from the top or by walking down from the top around the northern side of Rooster Rock.

Walking across Quirke Lake

There are several different ways of getting to Rooster Rock by walking across Quirke Lake:



- a) From Highway 108 drive down Stanrock Road for 7 km and then turn left onto Sandy Bay Point Road and then drive down it for 1 km to Bobcat Trail. Either ask one of the home owners along Bobcat Trail whether you can cross their property to get to the lake.
- b) Or drive towards the end of West Bobcat Trail where there is some lakeside bush before the last two houses and cross down to the lake there. It's about 1.5 km to Rooster Rock from Bobcat Trail.
- c) Or keep driving along Stanrock Road to a boat launch on the south shore of Quirke Lake at the 8.9 km mark. There is snowmobile parking across the road from the boat launch. From the boat launch to Rooster Rock is about a 2.8 km walk.

Clifftop Approach

To approach the cliff from the top, drive along Stanrock Road all the way around the bay until you come to a closed gate for the now abandoned Stanrock Uranium Mine (total distance about 12 km). Park here.

Go around the gate and follow the road straight ahead. About 75 m after the gate you will come to a fork/intersection in the dirt road – keep going straight ahead. Some 350 m further along you will come to another fork where the trail actually forms a big loop – go straight ahead (on the right hand branch of the loop). Keep going to approximately the far point of the loop (the communication antenna will be almost directly behind you) where a fainter side path veers away from the main path towards the cliff edge. You should come out on a rocky point with a small juniper bush on it very close to the cliff edge – Juniper Bush Point (GPS coordinates N46 28.336 W82 33.785).

Rappel

From Juniper Bush Point head over to the next rocky point over to skier's right – Boulder Point (easily identifiable by a small round boulder sitting on top). Walk below the boulder on slab/grass towards a line of cedar trees and look for webbing and rap rings on the last tree in the line, on a ledge about 4 m below the top of the cliff. The rap station is a bit hard to spot. The rap is located directly above the ice flow. It's two raps – the first is shorter (20 m) and not so vertical to a large cedar. The second is almost a full 30 m from the cedar to the base of the cliff.

Walking Descent Route

You can also walk down and around to the base of the cliff. 75 m after crossing the Denison Mine gate you'll come to a fork/intersection in the dirt road. Take the right-hand fork all the way downhill past a small quarry to where the road ends in a grassy field. The capped mineshaft of Stanrock #2 is located in the middle of this field. The shorter north face of Rooster Rock lies above the the field. One ice flow, *Roy's Motel*, sometimes forms on the right side of this face. To get to the main face head uphill towards the cliff past *Roy's Motel*. Don't drop down to the lake, as this puts you on a lower ledge system that ends under an overhang at the lake's edge. Stay high near the base of the cliff and bushwack around the corner on a steep treed slope. This will eventually put you on big, wide, treed ledge system – the Dead Bird Ledge – that winds around the cliff and eventually slopes down to the water's edge in the centre of the cliff. The walking isn't that bushwacky, as long as you walk right along the cliff face. The whole approach takes between 30 minutes once you know where you are going.

North Face

The north face of Rooster Rock is much shorter than the main face facing the lake. It's about 25 m in height. One ice flow is found on the north face.

Roy's Motel, WI3+/4-, 18 m

(FA Danylo Darewych, Jonathan Goss, Eric Csekey, February 21, 2026)

Located towards the right side of the north face. Climb some 10 metres of easier-angled ice (and through some shrubs) to a ledge and then the vertical face above. Belay from a tree further up the slope from the top of the climb. I'm not sure how consistently this flow forms up.



Danylo Darewych leading *Roy's Motel*. Photo by Jonathan Goss.

Dead Bird Ledge

The next three routes are found on the big ice flow that starts from Dead Bird Ledge, the big ledge 25 m above lake level, towards the north-west shoulder of Rooster Rock.

I Love You, Einstein, WI3+, 28 m

(FFA Artur Makos, Dustin Hooey, March 5, 2020; Top roped by Marco Foladore, Chris Lill, January 3, 2010).

This line climbs the left side of the flow, up a bit of a corner and ramp to a cedar tree belay. Grade will depend on the amount of ice on the ramp.



Artur Makos leading *I Love You Einstein* on the left, while Marco Foladore on the right leads *Toxic Drip*. *Rooster Booster* lies in the middle. March 5, 2020. Photos from Marco Foladore. Below: Marco Foladore high on *Nuclear Winter*, February 10, 2020. Photo from Jon Gullett.

Rooster Booster, WI4-, 28 m

(TR by Marian Povazan March 5, 2020).

The middle line on the ice flow.

Grade will vary dependent of quantity of ice.

Toxic Drip, WI4+, 58 m

(FFA Marco Foladore/Marian Povazan, March 5 2020)

Climb the right side of the flow to the top of the cliff. A bit of snow slogging at the top.

Nuclear Winter, WI5-, 42 m

(FA Marco Foladore, Randy Kielbasiewicz, Jon Gullett, February 10, 2020).

An impressively steep line located on the right end of the cliff, straight off the lake. You have to construct a v-thread to descend. Rarely forms.



Blue Run, WI3, 20 m

(Danylo Darewych, Nicholas Peniak, February 1, 2020)

Green Run, WI2, 15 m

(Danylo Darewych, Nicholas Peniak, February 1, 2020).

These two shorter, easier climbs are located 10 m apart at the far right end of the cliff. They consist of ice bulges with snow slopes between them. The left one - Blue Run - is steeper. Tree belays.



From left to right: *Nuclear Winter, Blue Run, Green Run*. Feb 1, 2020.

Southern Slopes, WI2-3, 15-20 m (Danylo Darewych, January 2, 2018).

The treed southern slopes of Rooster Rock have 3 easy-angled, intermittent ice flows spilling down over short rock steps. You have to wander uphill from the lake to get to them. The steepest and longest is on the left, the easiest on the right. There is a fourth small flow on a rock outcrop another 75 m further right in the trees.

Boat Launch Ice, WI2, 10-15 m

(Danylo Darewych, Michael Lisenko, March 17, 2017).

This ice flow is found approximately 9 km down the Stanrock Rd, past Sandy Bay Point Road and Stanrock Lane, directly opposite the public boat launch. The boat launch is on the left (north) side of the road; the ice is on the right (south) side of the road. There is a convenient plowed out snowmobile access parking area on the right side as well. Walk across (or around) a frozen swamp to its far side where a series of short, fat ice flows drop down to the swamp and adjacent creek. Climb whatever line suits your fancy.

Sister Ridge

Sister Ridge is an area of multiple short, fat ice climbs that spill down over 3–4 tiers of small cliffs. There are over 10+ flows here that range in difficulty from wide, easy WI2 rollers to thin, steep WI4 pillars. The climbs are all short. They are located a mere 50 m to 250 m from the road, but not visible from the road, because of trees. I have dubbed the area Sister Ridge, because it is located just north of the Sister River. The ice here is reliable—it was plentiful and fat in January–March of 2025 in an ice-climbing season that was mediocre at best elsewhere in Algoma. The cliff faces south, but the lower tiers are protected by trees.

Directions

Follow Highway 108/639 north from Elliot Lake for 37.5 km to Highway 546. Turn right onto Highway 546 and follow it north, then east for 5.4 km. Park on a short, straight section of Highway 546, just west of a couple of slight curves. If you reach Wilderness Lodge on Mount Lake, you've gone too far. From the parking spot walk another 150–200 m east on Highway 546 along the curved section of road. At the northern apex of the curve (46.677197, -82.771703) walk north into the bush into a forested, flat (frozen bog?) area. You will reach the first of multiple short, cliff bands about 50 m from the road.



For top-rope purposes, the First and Second Terraces can be reached by heading left past the first cliff band and uphill until you reach an overhanging cliff band that arches up to the right. You can walk along the base of this wall and then head right either onto the Second or Third Terrace. There is yet another short, wide unclimbed wall about 25 m further left of the left end of the overhanging wall.

Ground Level

Lower Sister, WI2, 10 m (FA Alec Cooper, Danylo Darewych, March 8, 2025).

A fat 20 m wide flow of ice on the right side of the first cliff band.

First Terrace

Sisters of Mercy, WI4-, 9 m (FA Alec Cooper, Danylo Darewych, March 8, 2025).

A short, vertical pillar about 30 m left of the top of the *Lower Step* along the First Terrace. In a good year it is likely that there are a couple of other steep flows before you reach *Sisters of Mercy*. There are also very easy-angled, wide, rolling ice flows 20 m right of the top of the *Lower Sister*.



Left: *Lower Sister*. Right: *Sister Moon*. Photos by Alec Cooper, March 8, 2025.

Second Terrace

Sister Moon, WI2+, 8 m (FA Danylo Darewych, Alec Cooper, March 8, 2025).

Head uphill for 20 m to the next short cliff band. There is a short, but fairly wide flow there. Easier on the left.

Middle Sisters, WI2-3+, 5-9 m (FA Alec Cooper, March 8, 2025).

From the base of *Sister Moon*, walk right for some 40 metres until you come to a long, low wall of almost continuous ice, broken roughly into a left, middle and right section. We soloed up the shorter, easier ice in the middle (*Solo Sister*, WI2, 5 m). There are steeper, more vertical pillars/flows on the right.



Left: *Solo Sister*. It was less steep when we climbed it 5 weeks later. Right: The right side of the *Middle Sisters*. Photos taken on January 28, 2025.

Heading further right past the *Middle Sisters* along the Second Terrace will bring you to the base of *Bad Habits*.

Third Terrace

The tallest, fattest, widest ice flows are located on the Third Terrace. The Third Terrace can also be reached by hiking to the right around *Screw Loose* (the furthest right climb) and then heading uphill and back left.

Big Sister, WI2 to WI3, 10-12 m

(FA Danylo Darewych, Alec Cooper, March 8, 2025).

A 40 m wide flow of fat ice with many possible lines. There is a small stream of water trickling along the base of the flow in the middle. We climbed easy-angled slab ice on the left (WI2, 10 m), a slightly steeper line right in the middle (WI2+, 12 m) and a steeper line in the middle right (just left of some cedar trees; WI3-, 12 m).

Heading right 50 m from *Big Sister* along the Third Terrace will bring you to the climb *Mother Superior*.



Left: *Big Sister*, centre line. Photo by Alec Cooper. Right: Danylo Darewych leading *Nonsense*, belayed by Eric Csekey. *Snowshoe Chute* is just visible on the right. Photo by Mark H.

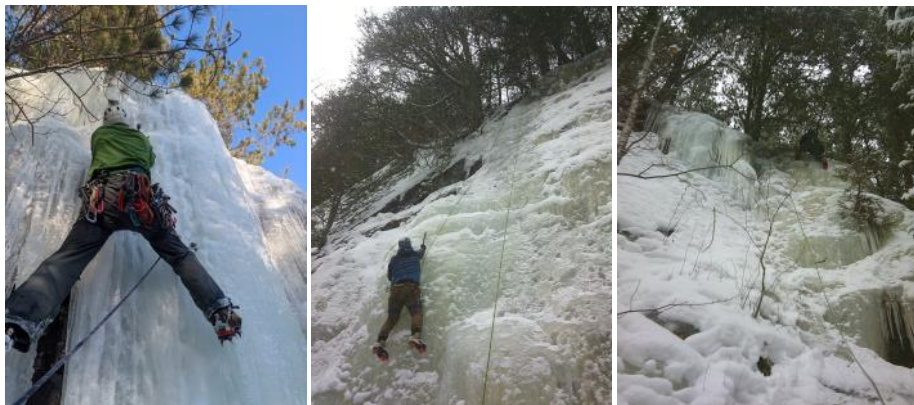


Going rightwards past the *Lower Sister* and then diagonaling rightwards up easy slopes (past the easy-rolling right-side ice flows of the First Terrace) for 50 m will bring you to a slight notch with a two-stepped ice flow identifiable by two possible starts in the lower half and by a short vertical pillar in the upper half.

Nonsense, WI3+, 5-6 m

(FA Danylo Darewych, Eric Csekey, Mark Hurst, March 29, 2026)

Located on a short, steep wall just left of the bottom of the notch/*Snowshoe Chute*. Climb straight up to a big ledge and continue up either on the second half of *Chicken Run* (straight ahead) or *Bad Habits* (to the right). *Nonsense* doesn't form every year. There is another, easier-angled flow up a notch 7 m to the left.



Left: Danylo Darewych leading *Bad Habits*. Photo by Alec Cooper. Middle: Mark Kit on *The Nun*. Right: Mark Kit leading *A Screw Loose*.

Snowshoe Chute, WI2+, 5-6 m

(FA Danylo Darewych, Alec Cooper, March 8, 2025).

The left-hand start up a short corner of ice. This wasn't formed in early February, but climbable in early March. No, you can't climb this in your snowshoes (but you can toss your snowshoes down it). May be almost entirely snow-covered.

Bad Habits, WI4-, 7 m

(FA Danylo Darewych, Alec Cooper, March 8, 2025).

A short, dead vertical pillar that starts on the small ledge above *Snowshoe Chute* and lower *Chicken Run*.

I backed off this climb on my first attempt in early February, but managed to climb it on my second attempt in early March when the flow was slightly wider and the ice heroically soft. Should probably be climbed as one continuous line with either *Snowshoe Chute* or lower *Chicken Run*, but I wasn't sure I could lead it successfully and wanted my belayer close by with less potential rope stretch, so the line was broken into two halves. *DD*

Chicken Run, WI 2, 17 m

(FA Danylo Darewych, Chris Talbot, Mark Kit, Feb. 8, 2025).

Climb the right-hand start of easier, fatter bulges (6-7 m) to a small ledge, bypass the steep vertical pillar of *Bad Habits* and exit up the short ice notch (5-6 m) on the left (over annoying fallen tree branches).

The Nun, WI3, 14 m

(FA Danylo Darewych, Chris Talbot, Mark Kit, Feb 8, 2025).

Continue rightwards another 30 m from *Snowshoe Chute/Bad Habits/Chicken Run* around a slight buttress and slightly uphill to a ledge with a 10 m wide flow above it. The ice was only protectable on the left-hand side and very thin half-way up in early February, but by March another protectable line had developed to the right. Bushy top-out.



Two views of *Mother Superior*: on the left on Feb. 8; on the right on March 10, 2025. Right photo by Alec Cooper. The climb in the back corner is *Jumped the Gun*. We haven't climbed it yet - please leave it be. Alec wants to give it a go.

Screw Loose, WI2, 11 m

(FA Mark Kit, Chris Talbot, Danylo Darewych, Feb. 8, 2025).

An easy-angled, stepped flow located 50 m right of *The Nun*.

Mother Superior, WI4-, 14 m

(FA Danylo Darewych, Alec Cooper, March 10, 2025).

Mother Superior is located on the right side of the Third Terrace, roughly above *Bad Habits* and *The Nun*. It can be reached by climbing *Bad Habits*, *The Nun* or *Screw Loose* or by going right of *Screw Loose*, then uphill and back left for 40 m.

Mother Superior is the most impressive flow on Sister Ridge. Early in the season it is a vertical pillar of golden ice. The ice fattens up and starts covering up the wall to the right later in the season. The ice is quite cauliflowered for the first two-thirds of the climb. This makes protection tricky, but provides decent foot stances and alleviates much of the strain on the arms.

Bad Zoot, WI4-, 14 m

(FA Mark Hurst, Danylo Darewych, March 29, 2026)

Bad Zoot is the steep, far right side arête of the *Mother Superior* ice flow. It forms up in a good year.



Left: Mark Hurst contemplating "just a little bit of peril" on *Bad Zoot* and then climbing *Bad Zoot*.

The next two climbs are located another 1 km further east along Highway 546. They are about 6.5 km from the intersection of Highway 639 and Highway 546 and about 100-200 m short of the western end of Mount Lake. Look for a significant boulder on the north side of the road and ice just visible amongst the trees further above. If you reach Wilderness Lodge on Mount Lake, you've gone too far.

Blobtastic, WI2, 12 m

(FA Danylo Darewych, January 27, 2025)

Blobtastic is the smaller ice flow on the left. It is about 40 m left of *Icing on the Cake* around a small rock outcrop and slightly further uphill. I'm not sure that it forms every year. It consists of easy, small bulges on the left (WI2) and steeper, slightly taller ice on the right (WI3).

Icing on the Cake, WI2-3, 20 m

(FA Rafael Kolodziejczik, Danylo Darewych, Randy Kielbasiewicz , January 22, 2017).

Icing on the Cake is the bigger, fatter, more noticeable, right-side flow. It is only about 30-40 m from the road, slightly uphill.

Icing on the Cake heads straight up the middle of the ice flow. Climb an initial 10-12 m step (WI3) to a big ledge, then climb another 5 m step above. There is an easier ramp on the left (WI2) and a steep 9 m pillar (*The Knife*, WI4-) on the right around the arête/prow of the outcrop, and yet another easy ramp on the far right.



Left: Rafael Kolodziejczik leading *Icing on the Cake*, belayed by Randy Kielbasiewicz.
Right: *The Knife* (on the left side of the photo).

Big Brother Is Watching

One of the simple joys of exploring and climbing in the Algoma Region and other parts of Northern Ontario is the absence of the access issues that plague many of the cliffs and climbing areas in Southern Ontario. The cliffs up north are usually on Crown Land, and even if they're not, northern property owners will often let you cross their property without much concern over liability and lawyers.

So, in January 5, 2014, as Tiago, Daniel and I stood at the end of Highway 146 gazing at a half ajar gate with snowmobile tracks leading through it, we didn't hesitate long before marching straight through the gate and through the territory of the hunting and fishing lodge on the other side. We figured the snowmobile tracks indicated a publicly used snowmobile trail and, if not, we'd simply ask for permission from whomsoever we chanced to meet. However, no one challenged us as we strolled past the main lodge and a series of cottages.

We were on an ice-hunting mission to Rawhide Lake. The topographic maps showed a tightly-spaced grouping of contour lines along the south shore of that lake. It appeared that there was a significant cliff system along the south shore. I was convinced we'd find massive, unclimbed ice flows there. The approach was a fairly lengthy one – 6 kilometres over 3 lakes, but we were confident it would be worth it.

We made one wrong turn leaving Mount Lake and ended up following a trail that dead ended at a small electricity-generating dam at the head of a stream. Tiago went down to the dam to ensure there was no way around it and then we backtracked to the correct path that led onto Rottier Lake. There was another dam here at the outflow of the creek. We gave it a wide berth before stepping onto the lake ice – the ice near dams is suspect because of the turbulence of the waters. Plus, it was still fairly early in the season – there could be thin spots in the ice.

In fact, a lady living on Rottier Lake who saw us passing by, sent her husband out on a snowmobile to warn us (gotta love the North!) that the ice on Rawhide Lake was dangerous this early season. He said that they usually didn't venture out onto it with their snowmobiles until the end of January. We thanked him for their concern for our safety and assured him we'd travelled over frozen lakes many times before and that we'd be checking the thickness of the ice on Rawhide Lake as we crossed it.

Crossing Rawhide Lake did prove to be spooky. Firstly, the ice was completely clear with no snow on top. You could see straight through it into the black depths below. It was difficult to gauge the thickness of the ice – you couldn't tell where the ice ended and the water began. Only the thin white cracks that snaked their way through the ice gave some indication of the ice thickness – but seeing them underfoot everywhere was hardly reassuring. Secondly, the ice on the lake was cracking and settling



with loud snapping and booming sounds. It was highly disconcerting at first. The first couple of retorts had us jumping out of our skins in fright, but after realizing that the ice wasn't breaking apart, we calmed down. We tested the thickness of the ice with ice screws, just in case – sure enough the ice was plenty thick enough.

The cliffs on Rawhide Lake turned out to be a bust from an ice climbing standpoint. For one, they weren't

nearly as tall as the contour lines had implied, because they were located on top of a massive, steep talus slope (Because of this it was difficult to estimate the height of the cliff face – probably around 30 m). Secondly, the land above the cliff appeared to slope away from the crest. We saw ice in only one spot – way up high near the top of the cliff. It appeared to consist of steep, but short (10-12 m) pillars. We didn't even bother slogging up for a closer look and headed back out, disappointed.

There was a welcoming party of one waiting for us at the hunting lodge on the way out. A man strode purposefully towards us from the main building. It looked like trouble.

The man was the custodian of the lodge. He informed us that we had, in fact, trespassed on private property and that there was a public snowmobile trail we should have used to get to Rawhide Lake. We pleaded innocence and apologized profusely. But he seemed more irritated and concerned for our safety than truly upset. He'd received multiple phone calls from security people both at the phone company and the hydro utility. Apparently, there were security cameras trained on the utility tower near where we'd parked and the dams we'd passed by. The custodian had gotten reports of a family of three – a man, woman, and child – hiking in dangerous terrain. They'd even captured us peeing on the trees at the side of the road. I suspect that I was identified as the woman, because I have long, blond hair (even though I'd also peed against a tree). I'm not sure who was the child, since both Tiago and Daniel are on the shorter side.

The custodian seemed relieved that our "family" had returned safely. We assured him that we were well aware of the thin ice dangers near dams and had given them a wide berth. He let us off with a warning and a request to ask for permission in the future before crossing private property.

The custodian did give us a parting gift - he told us where we could find some beautiful blue-green ice so big you could walk behind it. I'd tell you where it is, but I haven't been there yet, because it's 20 km down a logging road that's not always plowed in winter, followed by a slog through the bush. It's in the middle of nowhere on Crown Land - far from private property and far from the watchful eyes of Big Brother.



Rawhide Lake cliff

BLIND RIVER AREA

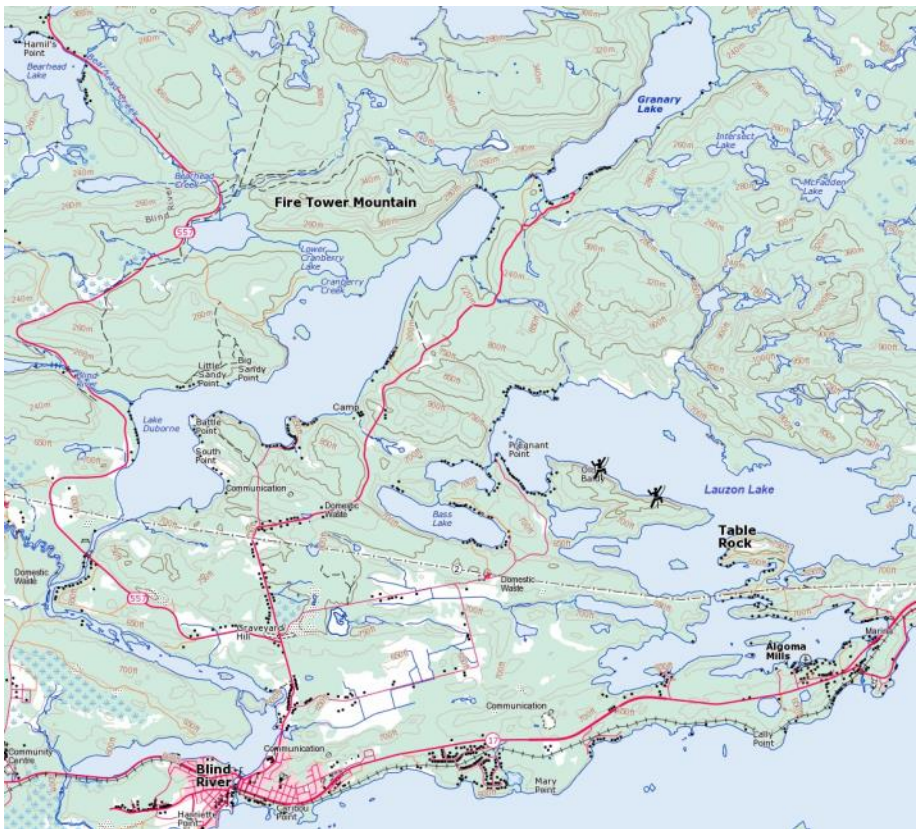
Lake Lauzon

Lake Lauzon has close to a dozen ice routes, most of which are WI2-WI3 and between 20-30 m. Lake Lauzon is located in Algoma, near the town of Blind River. The crag faces north and thus the ice can be incredibly brittle. If you're intelligent, you won't climb there on a cold day (I'm not so smart – I've only climbed there in -20° C weather).

Location/Directions

Lake Lauzon is located in Algoma, east and north of Blind River, midway between Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie. From Toronto drive north to Sudbury on Highway 400/69 (about 380 km), then west on Hwy 17 (the Trans-Canada) in the direction of Sault Ste. Marie to Blind River (another 160 km). You can do the drive in 5.5 hours if you don't stop.

You will be driving just south of Lake Lauzon as you get close to Blind River from the east, but it seems that the distance to walk to the ice routes from the south



would likely be long, thus the standard approach is from the west even though the drive is longer.

From Blind River head north on Hwy 557, and keep going straight onto Granary Lake Rd when Highway 557 makes a sharp turn to the left (west), 3 km north of town. Almost immediately turn right (east) onto High Rd at the cemetery. Drive east along High Rd. After about 5 km the road will make a leftward (northward) turn near a hydro line. Follow the main road to its end, by-passing a left-hand turn to Bass Lake. The road ends at a public boat launch. It's approximately 7 km from the Granary Lake Rd, 10 km total from Blind River.

From the boat launch head out into a small bay, then turn right and head west for 1 km to the north shore of a big peninsula jutting into Lake Lauzon (passing to the right of a large island). A long discontinuous cliff line runs for over 2 km along this peninsula. The cliff varies in height from 15 m to 60 m. In places it rises straight out of the water, in other places it is set back from the shoreline 20-30 m. The rock is slabby and compact, with many small features and very few continuous crack lines, between 75° and 90° in steepness. The high point of the cliff is named Old Baldy on maps. Its far western end is called Pregnant Point (you'll understand why when you see it).

History

The ice routes at Lake Lauzon were first climbed by the late Ernie Tymeczko of Elliot Lake and his wife, Karen Houle-Tymeczko. Ms. Tymeczko told me of the climbs here. I am not certain exactly which routes the Tymeczkos climbed at Lake Lauzon or when. I showed Ms. Karen Houle-Tymeczko several photos and she identified *Battle of the Bulge* (see descriptions below) and *Himalayan Monk Pants* as routes that the Tymeczkos had climbed. However, given the difficulty in distinguishing between the very similar looking ice lines on what I have termed the East End, any definitive identification will probably require a walk with Ms. Tymeczko along the routes at Lauzon. Thus, the route names and FA info for the routes listed below are given primarily for identification purposes, since I presume that most, if not all, of the routes have been climbed before.

Route Descriptions

The ice flows at Lake Lauzon are found in 3 distinct areas along the cliff line:

- 1) The West End – several short flows approximately 150 m past Pregnant Point. About 1.2 km from the boat launch.
- 2) The Central Area – basically just the long, beautiful ice flow of *Notorious for Wolverines*. About 2 km from the boat launch.
- 3) The East End – a group of several fat longer flows almost at the end of the cliff line, past a small bay. About 3.2 km from the boat launch.

The routes are described from west to east.

WEST END

The cliff line at the west end rises straight out of the lake. The cliff line here is fairly short and interspersed with treed slopes and gullies. There are several shorter ice flows here, two of which have been climbed.

The Smiling Bohunk, WI3, 10 m (FRA David Broadhead, Randy Kielbasiewicz, Danylo Darewych, Monday, February 17, 2014).

Climb a short, steep curtain of ice.



The Demon Magarac on the left, Smiling Bohunk on the right. Photo by Randy Kielbasiewicz, March 27, 2014.

The Demon Magarac, WI3, 17 m

(FRA Randy Kielbasiewicz, David Broadhead, Monday, Feb. 17, 2014).

Located in the corner of a small “bay” along the cliffline, some 20 m left (east) of the *Smiling Bohunk*. Climb the ice straight up to some trees.

CENTRAL AREA

Continue east along the cliffline for another 500 m. The cliff line rises higher in a series of rocky knobs/outcrops as you head east. Then the cliff recedes back from the shoreline some 20-30 m. On this section of cliff there is a lone, prominent ice flow. The flow is wide up top, but narrows to a thinner tongue of ice down low.

If you approach from the top the coordinates at the top of the climb are N46 13'28" W82 51'44".

Notorious for Wolverines, WI 3+, 35 m

(FRA Danylo Darewych, Tiago Varella-Cid, Monday, February 17, 2014).

Climbs the left-hand side of the ice flow on short vertical steps, interspersed with easier-angled ice. The right-hand side is much steeper up top (WI4+), but rarely in.



Jacob Matos heading up *Notorious for Wolverines*, February 19, 2017.

Hook, Line and Sinker

The Family Day weekend of 2014 saw a group of 14 Toronto ACC members come up to Algoma to sample the ice climbing. We'd had two good days of climbing – a sunny day at Granary Lake and another at Intersection Rock. We were safely ensconced in the warmth of the 17 Restaurant in Blind River, discussing over supper where to go the next day. It would have to be a short one, as everybody had to make the long drive back to Toronto. I suggested Lake Lauzon, which was a short drive away, on the way home, and had reliable ice with many possible lines. I'd walked in there three times before while exploring, but had only climbed 1 route and was eager to go back and try more.

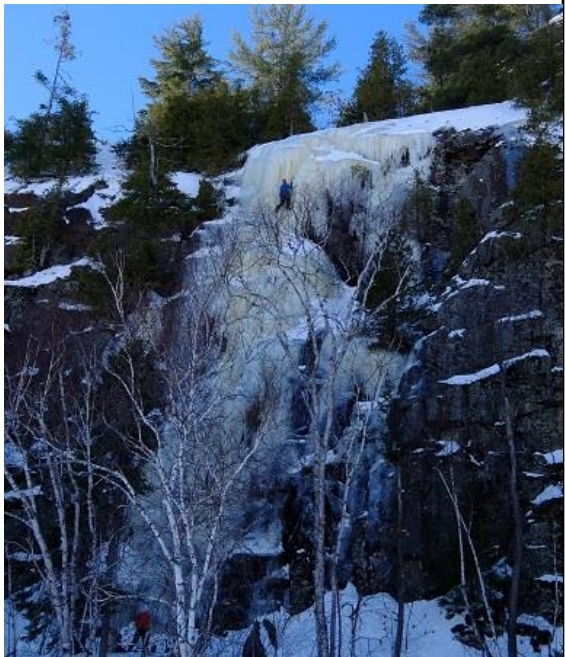
At this point the waitress volunteered that she lived on Lake Lauzon. This instantly got my attention. On a previous outing to Lake Lauzon, Stefan and I had seen what appeared to be a largish animal running along the lake ice at the foot of the cliff before bounding off into the trees. I'd wondered what had moved with such agility – wolf, lynx, bobcat? The tracks it left in the snow were surprisingly small, but unfortunately, neither of us was adept at reading animal tracks. I was eager to tap into local knowledge; perhaps the waitress would know. I explained the situation to her.

- "Have you seen any large animals on the south shore of Lauzon near the cliffs? Are any predators known to frequent the area?" I asked.

- "Well..." she replied thoughtfully, "Lake Lauzon is notorious for wolverines."

- "Aah, that explains it!" I exclaimed happily, before noticing the slight smile curling up around the edges of her mouth. As the whole table erupted in laughter, it slowly dawned on me that I'd been had – there are no wolverines in Central Ontario.

The next day proved to be bitterly cold. The temperature was -20° C, and there was a nasty wind blowing out of the north – not a good thing on a north-facing crag. As I battled my way up a beautiful, frozen iceline, swinging 4,5,6,7... times to get a decent stick in the horrifically brittle ice, it occurred to me that I'd been had again. All the other routes that day were baptised with names relating to the biting cold – *Himalayan Monk Pants*, *Dinner Plate Blues*, *Into the Wind*, *Cold Plates*. I, however, named the route I climbed after the biting wit of the waitress – *Notorious for Wolverines*.



Danylo Darewych leading *Notorious for Wolverines*.
Photo by Jacob Matos, February 19, 2017.

LAKE LAUZON - EAST END



The right side of the East End on Lake Lauzon. Right to left: Mark Hurst (up high) leading *Himalayan Monk Pants*, Jon Gullet leading *Dinner Plate Blues*, Joe Palma and Astrid Palantzas at the base of *Cold Plates*, David Britnell leading *Into the Wind* (between stands of trees), Randy Kielbasiewicz kneeling at the base of *Battle of the Bulge*, February 17, 2014. Photo by Chelsea Mccune.

Continue east along the shoreline for another 600-700 m. The cliff line peters out after about 200 m in a bay and becomes merely a treed slope for 200 m. The cliff line reappears again on the far side of the bay. It doesn't look particularly high from a distance, nor does there appear to be much ice, but first impressions are deceiving. There are 8-10 lines located in close proximity (within 100 m) of one another on this slabby section of cliff. The ice on the right side and centre of the slabs comes in fat and reliably every year. The ice on the left side tends to be a thin veneer down low.

Magic Carpet Ride, WI2, 10 m (FA Dane Graham, Randy Kielbasiewicz, Danylo Darewych, March 16, 2015).

A short flow located 50 m before (right) of the main area.

The next three routes (pictured above) are all basically variants that go up the same iced up slab.

Himalayan Monk Pants, WI 2+, 30 m (FA Ėrnie Tymeczko, Karen Houle-Tymeczko, Date: ?)

Located on the far right end of the iced-up slab, in a bit of a gully left of a



Dane Graham and Randy Kielbasiewicz below *Magic Carpet Ride*, March 16, 2015.

slight rib of rock. Solid blue ice.

Named by Mark Hurst who climbed it on a bitterly cold February day and overheard Jon Gullett nearby claim it was so cold he'd stuff a Himalayan monk down his pants...

Dinner Plate Blues, WI 3, 25 m (FRA Jon Gullett, Kim Gullett, Feb. 17, 2014).

Located about 5 m left of the previous line. Start between bushes/shrubbery down low and head straight up the centre of the first iced up slab. Named for the colour and brittleness of the ice that day. *JG*

Cold Plates, WI 3, 25 m (FRA Joe Palma, Astrid Palantzas, Feb. 17, 2014).

Another line up the first iced-up slab. Climbs the left side.

Into the Wind, WI 3-, 25 m (FRA Dave Britnell, Jessica Cao and David Lamb, Feb. 17, 2014).

Climb up a slight gully/runnel filled with thick ice some 15 m left of the first iced-up slab. "As steep as the center ramp at Bow Lake. It was a hell of a lot harder in the cold." *DB*



Left: *Cold, Hard and Britnell*. Middle: *Battle of the Bulge* with *Battle of the Branches* on the left. Right: Randy Kielbasiewicz near the top of *Battle of the Branches*. All photos taken on March 3, 2015.

Battle of the Bulge, WI 3, 20 m (FA Ernie Tymeczko, Karen Houle-Tymeczko, Date ?; FRA David Broadhead, Randy Kielbasiewicz, Feb 17, 2014).

Located 8 m left of *Into the Wind*, on the other side of a clump of trees, or 25 m left of *Cold Plates* and *Dinner Plate Blues*. Climb up fat ice over the namesake bulge midway up. In a really fat year the bulge will blend into the ice around it.

Battle of the Branches, WI2, 20 m (FRA Danylo Darewych, Randy Kielbasiewicz, Dane Graham, March 16, 2015).

A variant of *Battle of the Bulge*, located 4 m left of that route in a slight groove just past a small rock outcrop. Climb up the groove, weave through the branches of a tree 7 m up, and continue up to a second tree.



Left: *Death by Tatonka*, March 3, 2015. Right: *Dü It*, March 3, 2015.

Cold, Hard and Britnell, WI2+, 37 m

(FRA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Graeme Taylor, January 13, 2015).

Located 15 m left of *Battle of the Bulge*. Climb an ice-filled groove/gully. The only solid belay trees are set back an additional 8-10 m from the top of the cliff. Head right to rappel off the rap station above *Cold Plates*.

Named for Dave Britnell who upon seeing the line the previous February muttered his timeless mantra “Nice gully.”

Dü It, WI3+, 30 m (FRA Dane Graham, Randy Kielbasiewicz, March 27, 2014).

Located 20 m left (east) of the *Cold, Hard and Britnell*. Climbs very thin ice on a 70° slab. Start left of center. Finishes in the middle dodging some trees. *RK*

Death by Tatonka, WI3 X, 30 m

(FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Dane Graham, March 14, 2015).

Located another 15 m left of *Dü It*. Another climb up thinly iced-up slab. No pro for the first 15 m. Scary, but not nearly as debilitating as Tatonka - the mix of Zubrowka and apple juice concocted by Raphael the night before and foisted upon



an unsuspecting former Seventh Day Adventist.

Bunny Hill, WI2+, 15 m
(FRA Graeme Taylor, Randy Kielbasiewicz, January 13, 2015).

Located another 75 m left of *Death by Tatonka* in a low point of the slabby cliff-line. Climb a short, fat, wide flow of ice.

Better than Nothing Right, WI3, 25 m (FA Dane Graham, Randy Kielbasiewicz, March 14, 2015).

Better than Nothing Left, WI3-, 25 m (FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Dane Graham, March 14, 2015).

These two routes are located another 300 m left of the *Bunny Hill*, in a separate small bay. The two routes share a common start.

The Tao of D, WI3-, 10 m (FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, and a reluctant Graeme "Is it worth it?" Taylor).

Climb a short flow of blue ice straight off the lake.

LAKE LAUZON - SPOONER'S BAY

A short, wide flow is located on the south shore of Spooner's Bay, the central bay on the west side of Lake Lauzon. We got there by snowmobile, but the shortest approach is likely from High Road, about 650 m past the Bass Lake turnoff. From High road head east through the forest for 200 m, then along the south shore of Spooner's Bay for 500 m. The ice is on a low cliff band, mostly hidden by trees.

Stupid Is as Stupid Does, WI2+, 8 m (Randy Kielbasiewicz, Danylo Darewych, March 12, 2019).



Dane Graham leading *Better Than Nothing Right*. *Better Than Nothing Left* heads up a narrow slot to the left (not visible in photo). Photo by Randy Kielbasiewicz, March 14, 2015.



Dane asking Randy whether he trusts his belayer, March 16, 2015.

Granary Lake Ice Climbs

Granary Lake is a beautiful lake in Algoma with two excellent longer ice flows, several shorter routes (and good potential for rock climbing).



The north shore cliffs at Granary Lake as viewed from the access point on the south shore. *Go Go Beavers* is the big climb just right of centre in the photo, *Breaking All the House Rules* is further right. Feb. 16, 2013.

Location/Directions

Granary Lake is located in Algoma north of Blind River, midway between Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie. From Toronto drive north to Sudbury on Highway 400/69 (about 380 km), then west on Hwy 17 (the Trans-Canada) in the direction of Sault Ste. Marie to Blind River (another 160 km). You can do the drive in 5.5 hours if you don't stop. From Blind River head north on Hwy 557, and keep going straight onto Granary Lake Rd when Highway 557 makes a sharp turn to the left (west) about 3 km north of town. Follow Granary Lake Rd. almost to its end to the boat launch on the south side of Granary Lake (another 14.5 km).

The driveway down to the boat launch is very steep and can be icy (there is a sand box there if needed). If you're driving a regular car, it might be best to check out the condition of the driveway first. You might have to park up top on the side of Granary Lake Rd. From the boat launch head north-east for 1.8k m across the lake to the big cliffs on the north shore. It's about a 25 min walk to the cliffs.

Ice Route Descriptions

Routes are described from left to right, using *Go Go Beavers* as a reference point. *Go Go Beavers* is the first obvious big flow visible on the cliff as you approach it. If it's not in, the location of the climb can be identified by the waterfall falling down the face over a Canadian flag painted at the top of the cliff.

Easy Pickings, WI3-. (FA Danylo Darewych, Ray Rutitis, February 16, 2013)

Located at the left end of the cliff on a short cliff band, some 100 m left of *Go Go Beavers*.



- Pitch 1: WI3-, 17 m. Start with a 6 m vertical pillar right off the lake and some easier bulges above, then head left on a snowy ledge and up some more easy-angled rolling ice to a belay at a tree.
- Pitch 2: WI2+, 12 m. Tromp 30 m through the trees, heading slightly left to the start of the second pitch. Two variations are possible, a left and right, both heading up a series of steps and bulges. Belay at a tree.

V0, WI2- (FA Chai Molina, Tom Kitta, February 16, 2013).

V0 connects a series of discontinuous ice blobs. Start on short (6 m) ice ramp/



Easy Pickings on left, V0 on right.



Second Pitch of Easy Pickings.

step about 5 m right of *Easy Pickings*, belay off a tree. Plod uphill through the snow, bearing slightly right, for some 20 m, then boulder a short, fat pillar of blue ice (3 m). Walk uphill another 15 m, and climb another 4 m step to the top of the cliff band. Walk off to climber's left.

Hero Worship, WI3- (FA Chai Molina, Tom Kitta, February 16, 2013).

A wide fat flow located on the upper cliff band, some 50 m right of the starts of *Easy Pickings* and *VO*. Climb a fat flow (10 m), easy angled at first, with a vertical step partway up. Walk over a bunch of boulders to a short 3-4 notch/dihedral to the right. A few easy mixed moves on rock and thin ice bring you to a huge belay tree at the top of the cliff band.

Chai and Tom climbed *Hero Worship* after walking off *VO*, but the logical start would be from the lake on some easy-angled rolling ice (WI2-, 17 m?) directly below *Hero Worship*.



Energizer Bunny. February 18, 2012

Polish Direct, WI2 (FA Tom Kitta, Chai Molina, February 16, 2013).

The right-side variation to *Hero Worship* on slightly easier bulges.

Energizer Bunny, WI3, 14 m

(FA Danylo Darewych, David Britnell, February 18, 2012).

Located at the top of the slope 25 m to the left of *Go Go Beavers*, roughly at the same level as the top of the main cliff. Climb up several meters of easy-angled ice, then up the vertical top section.

The Sloth, WI1, 5.0, 45 m (FA Danylo Darewych, David Britnell, Feb. 18, 2012).

Start as for *Go Go Beavers*, but continue up the rising left-trending ramp along the base of the cliff. More of a scramble with very little ice and technical climbing. An interesting way to take a closer look at the rock and remnants of ice, if *Go Go Beavers* has disintegrated.

Go-Go Beavers, WI3, 30 m

(FA Danylo Darewych, Tiago Varella-Cid, Daniel McKay, January 4, 2013).

The big ice flow at the left end of the main cliff face (visible over the top of the trees as you're driving down the final section of Granary Lake Rd.). Crampon up the easy-angled snow/ice slope for 20 m to the base of the vertical ice. Climb straight up. Easier, shorter and fatter on the left; slightly harder and longer on the right (35+ m).

This climb has a consistent, heavy water flow feeding it and faces south, so it falls apart rather quickly after a warm spell. Probably in best shape from mid to late January.

The next lines are located about 200 m to the right of *Go Go Beavers* on a big, 60 m wide, iceflow. In general the flow can be divided into 3 sections: the *Sledhead Slabs* on the left (mostly easier WI2-3), the *Curtain* in the middle (harder WI4-5) and the right side flows in the *Alcove* (WI3-4).

The amount of ice, and consequently the routes that form here, vary from year to year. In a lean year the ice is restricted to an alcove on the right side of the flow; in a fat year the ice completely fills the alcove and comes spilling down the face to its left in a huge, wide sheet of ice. The ice on the slabs and curtain also faces south and deteriorates quickly in the sun (by the end of February?), but the ice in the alcove is more sheltered and lasts longer.

The Goot, the Bad and the Ugly, WI3, 40+ m (FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Kim Hickman, Feb. 15, 2014).

Start at the far left end of the wide sheet of ice, straight off the lake. Head up to the big ledge and left to a big tree, climb straight up from there.

Hats Off to the Sledheads, WI3-, 40+ m (FA Danylo Darewych, Stefan Kloppenborg, December 28th, 2013).

Located on the left side of the wide ice flow (on the face 20 m left of the alcove). Climb an initial 7 m near-vertical step straight off the



Above: *Go Go Beavers* is the big flow. *The Sloth* heads up the rock ramp to the left. January 4, 2013.

Below: Danylo Darewych leading *Sledheads* while Jon Gullet starts up *Gong Show*, December 28, 2013. Photo by Graeme Taylor.





Left to right:

- A) Sledhead Slab: 1) *The Goot, the Bad and the Ugly*, WI3 (not fully formed in this photo)
 2) *Hats Off to the Sledheads*, WI3-
 3) *Gong Show*, WI3
- B) Curtain: 4) *Funnilingus*, WI4 (not quite formed in this photo)
 5) *Final Frontier*, WI5- (not formed in this photo)
 6) *Naked Edge*, WI4/4+
- C) Alcove: 7) *Speed Bump*, WI3+/4-
 8) *Breaking All the House Rules*, WI3
 9) *...Waive the Rules*. WI3+/4-

February 16, 2013.

lake to a wide ledge, then follow rolling ice bulges to a final near-vertical exit curtain or pillar.

Gong Show, WI3, 40+ m

(FA Jon Gullet, Graeme Taylor, Randy Kielbasiewicz, December 28th, 2013).

Located on the right side of the face (13 m left of the alcove). Start in a small 5 m corner (awkward exit move). An easier ramp to its left is also possible. Head up.

Funnilingus, WI4, 45 m (FA Joe Palma, Astrid Palantzas, Feb. 15, 2014).

Start a couple of metres right of the corner start of *Gong Show*. Climb carefully up a steep, thin, curtain (7 m) that spills over a small overhang, then continue on slightly easier ground.



Left: Joe Palma on the thin curtain of *Funnilingus*. Photo by Astrid Palantzas.

Above: Jon Gullett on *Final Frontier*. Photo by Mark Hurst. February 15, 2014.

Final Frontier, WI5-, 45 m (FA Jon Gullett, David Broadhead, Feb. 15, 2014).

The steepest line on the ice spilling over the face. Climb the straight-up vertical central pillar. Led with one rest/take.

Naked Edge, WI4/4+, 43 m (FA Danylo Darewych, Ray Rutitis, Feb. 16, 2013).

Located on the main wall at the left edge of the alcove (not in the alcove itself). Climb 12 m of off-vertical ice (WI3-) and then up a vertical column (12 m; one decent rest stance) that spills over a roof in the cliff. Finish on some easier angled ice bulges and rolling ice to the top.

Speed Bump, WI3+/WI4-, 45 m (FA Chris Talbot, Elaine Taylor, Feb. 16, 2013).

Located in the alcove proper, just to the left of the groove/line of least resistance that is *Breaking All the House Rules*. Climb a ramp of ice that gets progressively steeper as you get to the top.

Breaking All the House Rules, WI3, 45 m

(FA Danylo Darewych, David Britnell, Feb. 18, 2012).

Located in the alcove. Head up over some easy iced-up rock ledges for 10-15 m, then head left up the path of least resistance in a bit of a groove/corner in the ice for another 20 m. Harder (WI4) if you exit straight up, right of the easy groove.

...Waive the Rules, WI 3+/4-, 40 m

(FA Tiago Varella-Cid, Danylo Darewych, Daniel McKay, January 4, 2013).

The right side exit of the ice flow in the alcove. Start up the easy-angled iced up



Above: Elaine Taylor on *The Naked Edge*, Ray Rutitis on ...*Waive the Rules*, as interested cottagers look on. February 16, 2013 Photo by Tom Kitta.

Below: More views of the same ice flow. Left – Randy Kielbasiewicz on *Speedbump*, Dec. 28, 2013. Photo by Graeme Taylor.

Right: Tiago Varella-Cid leading the right-hand exit, ...*Waive the Routes*, Jan. 4, 2013.

rock steps as for *Breaking All the House Rules*, but then head right up an initial 10 m vertical ice section to a ledge, then up another final 8-10 m vertical section to the top.



First Swings – Granary Lake

February 2012. It had been a mild winter in Southern Ontario and the ice climbing season was already coming to a premature conclusion. In an attempt to stave off the inevitable, I recalled all the ice I had seen north of Lake Huron the previous March when driving home from out West and convinced my climbing buddy, Dave Britnell, that we should take a chance on the unknown and head beyond our usual stomping grounds over the Family Day long weekend. As always, he didn't need much convincing.

Granary Lake, just north of the town of Blind River, was the first place we checked out by dint of the fact that it was closest to the Trans-Canada Highway. It hadn't been one of the places I'd seen the previous March – instead I'd come across a picture of ice there by searching on the internet. I had no idea what it would look like in reality or where exactly it was on a rather big lake.

Upon arrival, I popped excitedly out of the car, eager to take a look. Dave, as he is often wont to do, simply popped the passenger seat back, and proceeded to take a nap. I took a good long walk along almost the whole length of that lake. There were cliffs everywhere. The north shore of the lake was lined with over a kilometre of various cliff bands from 20-40 m tall. There were more cliffs off in the woods beyond the shoreline. There was yet another cliff band on the south shore.

And there was ice on those cliffs – or rather the vestiges of it. Water poured off the clifftop where one iceflow had completely collapsed, revealing a Canadian flag painted on the clifftop. Another major flow was rotting out in the sunshine with rock protruding along its base. All of the ice was unfortunately on south-facing walls and looked suspect. I walked back to the car thinking that we had made the long 6 hour drive for nothing.

Dave - God bless him - proved to be of a completely different opinion altogether. He took one look at the photos I showed him and proclaimed without any hesitation: "Let's go!"

He proved to be right – we found a line in the back corner of a big-iced up alcove that was somewhat sheltered from direct sunlight. The sticks were mushy at first, but became solid where it counted in the back of the groove as the ice steepened. Enjoyable stemming led to the top. We had climbed the first of many ice climbs in our Algoma explorations – *Breaking All the House Rules*, WI3, 40 m.

(Incidentally, the name *Breaking All the House Rules*, comes from the title of a song by the Welsh hard rock band Budgie. Great riff.)



Danylo heading up *Breaking All the House Rules*, Feb. 18, 2012. Photo by David Britnell.

The next two (smaller) climbs are located side by side another 200-300 m further right (east), past a bit of a point. The lakeside vertical cliff face peters out at this point for a while (it crops up again further along) and is replaced by steep slopes with some broken rock faces. The climbs are found slightly uphill some 50 m back from the lakeshore behind some trees.

Slush Fund, WI3, 20 m (Dave Broadhead, Shaun Parent, March 9, 2013).

Climb a 3 m vertical column, traverse left 12 m to higher 8m flow.

Clueless in Algoma, WI3, 18 m (Josh Burden, Danylo Darewych, March 9, 2013).

Climb a tricky, thin 3 m ice step in a corner to a ledge, head left past a small sapling to a fatter, thicker ice flow above.



Left: *Slush Fund* and *Clueless in Algoma*, Dec. 28, 2013.

Right: Josh Burden on *Clueless in Algoma*, March 9, 2013. Photo by Dave Broadhead.

Long May You Run, WI4-, 5.3, 15 m

(Danylo Darewych, Randy Kielbasiewicz, Feb. 3, 2018).

Located another 300 m along the north lakeshore, past another point, in a small bay on a short cliff band set 40 m back from the lake's edge. The climb is just right of a right-facing corner on the left end of the cliff band. Climb a steep, narrow, thin flow, stepping left the corner on rock ledges near the top (cams useful), then back right around an overhang to exit. The ice does not form to the top every year.

GRANARY LAKE - SOUTH SIDE

There are several smaller climbs located on the south side of Granary Lake. Although they are not nearly as interesting as the big climbs on the north side, they do have the advantage of facing north and staying fat and blue long after the south-facing climbs on the north side have baked out.

From the last driveway head east along the south shore of Granary Lake, past 3 cottages until a big cliff comes into view. There is a small ice flow seeping out at the base of the cliff (unclimbed), but continue on past the cliff to a little bay. Cut south through the forest here (watch for unfrozen marsh), heading towards the back (east) side of the big cliff. There will be a 12-15 m high cliff band here. The first flow spills down over a shorter section of cliff at the left end.

Unwelled, WI3, 7 m (Danylo Darewych, Jacob Matos, Monday, February 20, 2017).

Climb the dead vertical, fat, blue pillar. Jacob's boot broke apart at the front welt as he was climbing this route a second time, ending his climbing day prematurely

Bagman, WI3, 18 m (Danylo Darewych, Michael Lisenko, February 20, 2017).

Located about 200 m left past *Unwelled*. Con-tour around and up the hill. You will not see the climb until you are almost directly below it as it flows down a narrow notch behind a small pinnacle. Climb the ice up the notch over several vertical steps. Thin at the bottom with semi-awkward swings in a confined space.

I broke a rivet on my snowshoe after climbing this route and had to semi-posthole to the next route. One of the buckles on Jacob's snowshoe also stopped functioning.

Rainbow, WI3, 11 m (Danylo Darewych, Michael Lisenko, February 20, 2017).

Located another 250 m left (east) of *Bagman*. Head back downhill, then east along a faint trail to the next small cliff outcrop. There will be several flows of fat ice here. *Rainbow* is the biggest one - fat, blue ice. There was an easier groove up the middle when we climbed it. It's steeper to both sides.

I broke my crampon bail while leading this one and had to borrow Jacob's crampons to finish the route. It was a bad day for gear. I was getting a wee bit ticked. The double rainbow that appeared in the sky above the climb cheered us all up.



Top: Jacob Matos just before his boot came *Unwelled*.

Middle: Michael Lisenko belaying Danylo Darewych on *Bagman*.

Bottom: Danylo on *Rainbow*.

Lake Duborne

There are a several climbs located on cliffs on the north-west shore of Lake Duborne. They get baked out quickly by the sun.

Location

Lake Duborne is located north of Blind River, just east of Granary Lake. From Blind River head north on Hwy 557, and keep going straight onto Granary Lake Rd when Highway 557 makes a sharp turn to the left (west) about 3 km north of town. Follow Granary Lake Rd north for another 2.2 km and then turn left (north) onto Leisure Bay Rd/Lake Duborne Rd. Follow it for 1.4 km to Lake Duborne. There are cottages along the lake here. You might have to ask for permission to cross someone's property. Head north across the lake to the north shore of Lake Duborne (1.3 km).

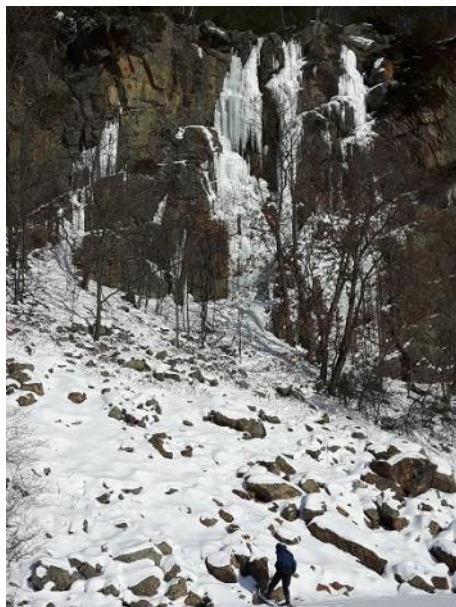
If you don't want to chance crossing private property, you can continue driving along Highway 557 for another 13.5 km and turn right onto Old Steel Rd. Drive down Old Steel Rd. for 2.5 km and park at just past the first house. To access the lake, backtrack 200 m to where the road curves next to the lake. Walk south and right around the point for about a km to the ice climbs.

Climbs are described from left to right (west to east). The main cliff is on the left with a smaller outcrop 150 m to the right.

Chimney Ice, WI2+/3-, 20 m

(Randy Kielbasiewicz, Dane Graham, March 16, 2014).

Located at the back right corner of the main cliff, stands a small pinnacle, not clearly visible from the lake. The route climbs the ice behind the small pinnacle. You can also walk up the gully behind the pinnacle to access the top of the cliff.



Top: Lake Duborne Ice. Photo by Chris Talbot. Bottom: Randy Kielbasiewicz leading *Chimney Ice*, March 16, 2014. Photo from Randy Kielbasiewicz.



Left: Randy Kielbasiewicz leading , Jan. 18, 2020. Photo by Rafael Kolodziejczyk.

Bottom: Dane leading *Ladies and Escorts*, March 16, 2014. Photos by Randy Kielbasiewicz.

Born of Age and Wisdom, WI3+, 23 m

(TR by Randy Kielbasiewicz, Daunte Rezaie, Jon Gullett, Rafael Kolodziejczyk, January 18, 2020).

The flow just left of *Route of the Thick Headed*, on the other side of a small rock rib. The spelling of the name is not a typo - you need to understand French in order to appreciate Randy's wit in route-naming.

Route of the Thick Headed, WI4/4+, 23 m

(Randy Kielbasiewicz, Daunte Rezaie, Jon Gullett, Rafael Kolodziejczyk, January 18, 2020).

The steep flow on the right side of the cliff. Awkward chandeliered ice. There might be a complete absence of ice upon topping out the pillar (The FA leader needed a rope dropped by a friend to reach a safe stance).

About 150 m right (east) of the main cliff lies a smaller outcrop with a small ice flow on it, at the top of a slope.

Gentlemen's Entrance, WI3, 8 m

(Randy Kielbasiewicz, Dane Graham, March 16, 2014).

The left side of the ice flow.

Ladies and Escorts, WI3+, 8 m

(Dane Graham, Randy Kielbasiewicz, March 16, 2014).

The right side of the ice flow, up a short curtain.

THE SLEDLANDS



The Sledlands is the area where some of the longest ice flows in the region north of Lake Huron can be found. The Sledlands are located north of Blind River in the northern part of Lake Matinenda and the lakes north of it. They are between 12 and 20 km from the nearest road. As the name suggests, they are best accessed by snowmobile.

Matinenda Lake

Lake Matinenda is a big lake located north of Blind River. There are several big cliffs on this lake. One of them has yielded a long ice climb. You're going to need a snowmobile to get to it.

Location

Lake Matinenda is located north of Blind River, Ontario. From Blind River take Highway north for 22 km to its end at the south end of Matinenda Lake. Head north across the lake for 11-12 km. The cliff is located on the north shore of the lake across from the north-west end of Graveyard Island.

Lake Matinenda Ice, WI3, 90 m (Dylan Cumming, Jon Lediet, February 15, 2015).

The route is at the west end of the crag at the edge of talus field. Hike up the talus for a couple hundred feet. The route is plain to see as soon as you can see the crag from the lake.

- Pitch 1, WI3, 40 m. Climb up to a very large leaning pine on climber's left of the ice flow. Resist the urge to set up a station at the first awesome ledge, unless you want to do a third really short very easy pitch to top out. Belay from the tree.
- Pitch 2, WI2, 50 m. Climb rampy ice with a few steeper sections, which keeps it



fun. Belay at top from another very large and obvious white pine directly above the route. Two raps from the same stations get you right back down. *DC*

The next area of ice is located another 8 km further west, at the far north-west end of Lake Matinenda where a 2 km long narrow bay leads towards Crosby Lake. A small creek spills into this bay from the north. There are cliffs on either side of this creek, set some 300 metres back from the shore.



The Lake Matinenda cliff and iceflow. Photo by Dylan Cumming.

Constant Barfies, WI3+, 60 m (Randy Kielbasiewicz, Daunte Rezaie, Jon Gullett, Thursday, Feb 13, 2020).

This climb is located on the west-facing cliff to the east of the creek. A snowmobile trail starts from the west shore of the bay 250 m east of the creek mouth and leads to the cliff. The climb is located on the right end of the cliff.

It's Longer than It looks, WI 3+, 60 m (Daunte Rezaie, Jon Gullett, Friday, February 14, 2020) .

This route is located in the middle of the south-facing cliff to the west of the creek. It goes up the main part of the ice-flow, on the left.

That's What She Said, WI3+, 60 m (Dane Graham, Randy Kielbasiewicz, Friday, February 14, 2020).

This route starts in the same spot as *Longer than It Looks*, but heads up a gully on the right to a ledge, then climbs the vertical wall above and bumps to the top.

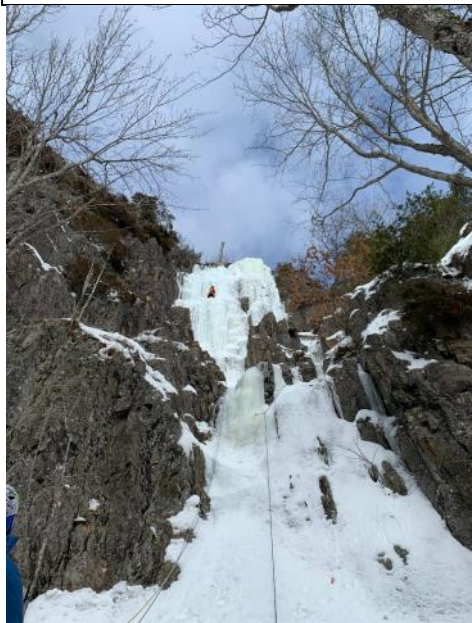
More climbs are looked further west in a hidden valley.

To the Bar Yardsale, WI4+ (Randy, Jon, Daunte?)

Located on the east-facing nose of the next cliff to the west.



Above: *Constant Barfies*. Photo by Jon Gullett. Below: Daunte Rezaie leading *Longer than It Looks*. A second rope is leading off to the right to *That's What She Said*. Photo by Randy Kielbasiewicz.



Bay Lake

Several longer ice flows are located on a large cliff system that heads into the forest from the west bay of Bay Lake.

Bay Lake is located north of the central section of Lake Matinenda. We accessed it on snowmobile by heading north out of the north-central arm of Lake Matinenda into the south bay of Bay Lake by way of a 300 m long overland section of snowmobile trail through trees. Head into the west bay of Bay Lake where a big cliff will be visible on the north shore. Follow the cliff-line into the forest. Several ice flows are found between 250- 500 m walk along the cliff line.



Left: *Feeling Groovy*, March 11, 2019. Right: *Sand and Bikinis*, March 10, 2019.

Feeling Groovy, WI3-, 18 m (Danylo Darewych, Randy Kielbasiewicz, March 11, 2019).

This is the first ice flow you see as you walk along the cliff line. Climb a groove of ice left of a slight rib of rock. A harder, steeper, thinner variation is possible on the right.

Sand and Bikinis, WI3, 25 m (Daunte Rezaie, Jon Gullett, Rafael Kolodziejczik, Dane, Randy Kielbasiewicz).

Located right of a right-facing corner about 100 m left (west) of *Feeling Groovy*.

Sufferin' Succotash, WI3, 25 m (Randy Kielbasiewicz, Danylo Darewych, March 11, 2019).

This is a big, wide flow located another 100 m?? left of *Sand and Bikinis*. Climb



straight up the ice flow. Belay trees are a way back.

Exit Stage Left, WI3, 30 m (Randy Kielbasiewicz, Rafael Kolodziejczik, January 2019).

Same start as *Sufferin' Succotash*, but heads left to the trees.

UNNAMED, WI3+, 28 m (Jon Gullett, Randy Kielbasiewicz, February 17, 2020).

This climb is located in the south bay of Bay Lake. A large, prominent cliff rises from the east shore of this bay. The ice climb is not located on this large cliff, but on another cliff, some 400 m to the north, that is set further back from the shoreline. The cliff faces south-west. From the lake head straight up to the cliff. The climb is just visible from the lake on the right margin of the cliff, close to the trees.



Above: *Exit Stage Left*,/*Sufferin' Succotash*
Below: *Unnamed* at Bay Lake. Feb. 17, 2020. Photo by Jon Gullett.

Big Moon Lake

There are two cliff systems with some shorter ice routes on Big Moon Lake. Big Moon Lake is located north-east of Lake Matinenda. We accessed it on snowmobile by heading north out of the north-central arm of Lake Matinenda into the south bay of Bay Lake by way of a 300 m long overland section of snowmobile trail through trees; then east out of the east bay of Bay Lake into the west end of Big Moon Lake via another overland section of snowmobile trail, 1.3 km long.

The first cliff system with ice is located on the west end of Big Moon Lake (at N46° 25.287' W82° 53.449'), some 300 m west of the entrance of the snowmobile trail onto the lake. A fat ice flow spills over a shorter section of cliff in a corner between two taller, steeper faces. Two variations have been climbed on this ice flow.



Left: *Moon-light* on the left, *Walking on the Moon* on the right., March 10, 2019.
Right: Randy Kielbasiewicz leading *Walking on the Moon*, March 10, 2019.

Walking on the Moon, WI4, 13 m (Randy Kielbasiewicz, Danylo Darewych, March 10, 2019). The steeper right side of the flow.

Moon-Light, WI2+, 18 m (Danylo, Darewych, Randy Kielbasiewicz, March 10, 2019). The easier, stepped, bulgy, left side of the flow.

The second cliff system with ice is located in the south-west arm of Big Moon Lake (at N46° 24.536' W82° 53.144'), some 1.6 km south of the first cliff, around a

small point. Several routes have been climbed here. They are described from north (right) to south.

Unnamed, WI2+, 25 to 40 m
(Rafael Kolodziejczyk, Randy Kielbasiewicz).

The first flow. Starts at the lower end of a broken cliff-band to the right of a large snow slope. Head up bulges and steps. The ice really kicks, eases off at the top and continues for a long way.

Fancy-Free, WI3, 18 m
(Danylo, Darewych, Randy Kielbasiewicz, March 10, 2019).

Located in the middle section of the cliff system, spilling off the right shoulder of a steeper buttress. Starts about 20 m further up the snow slope and to the left from *Unnamed*.

I Dunno, Do You Know? WI3+, 30 m
(Jon Gullett, Daunte Rezaie, January 19, 2020).

Located circa 30 m left of *Fancy Free*. Follow a series of pillars past several ledges until blocked by a steep overhanging rock wall, sneak around this to the right and exit up the gully.

Footloose, WI2+ to WI3, 18 m
(Randy Kielbasiewicz, Danylo Darewych, March 10, 2019).

Located towards the left end of the cliff system in a slight notch. Easier on the left, steeper on the right.



Top: *Unnamed* on the right and *Fancy-Free* on the left, March 10, 2019.

Bottom: *I Dunno*, January 19, 2020. Photo from Jon Gullett.



Left: Randy Kielbasiewicz leading *Footloose*, March 10, 2019. Right: Randy Kilebasiewicz climbing *Another Pointless FA*, February 11, 2020. Photo by Jon Gullett.

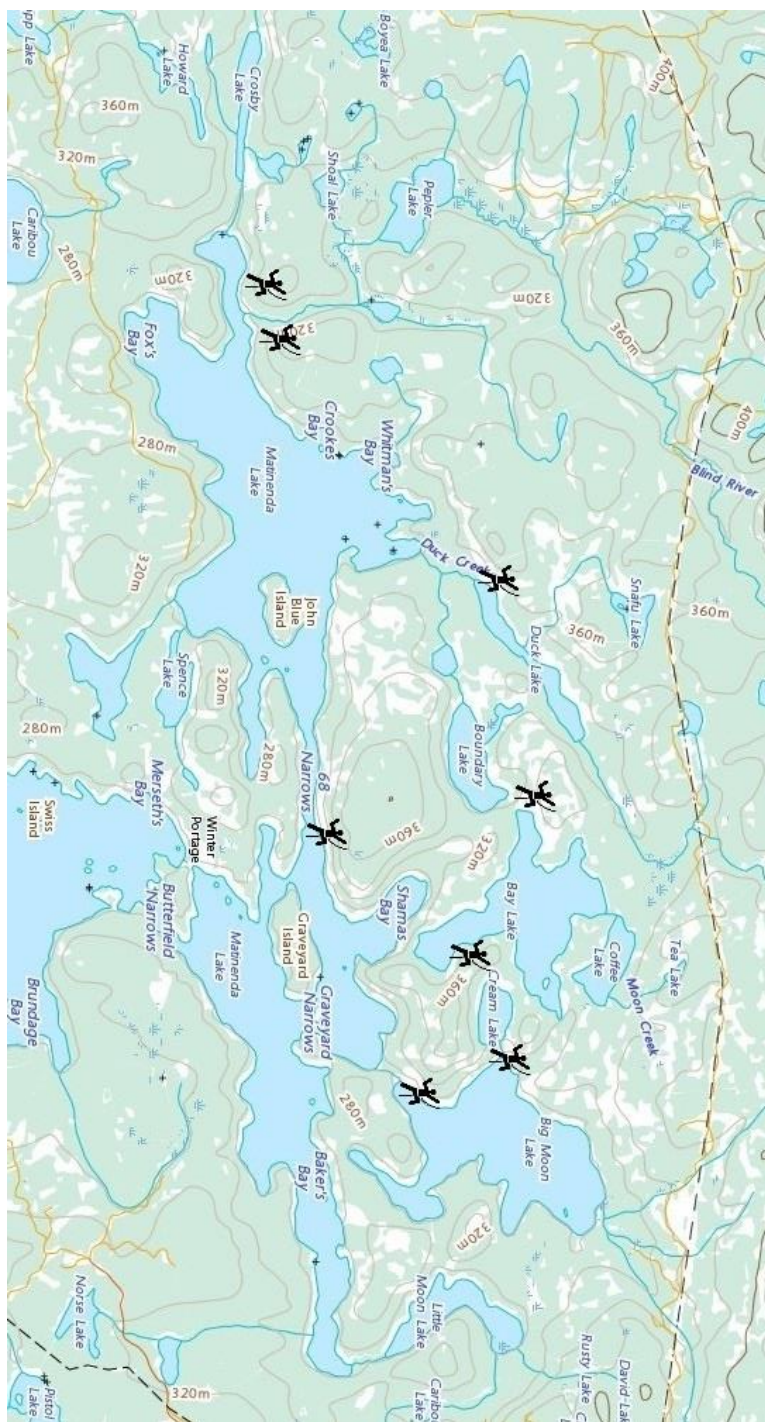
Bottom: *Footloose*, March 10, 2019.

Just Another Pointless FA, W14-, 35 m

(Jon Gullett, Randy Kielbasiewicz, February 11, 2020).

Located at the far left end of the cliff, on the big rock wall between *Footloose* and the hanging daggers on the far left end. Climb the thin ribbon of ice. Not pointless at all.





Duck Lake

There are some very long ice routes on Duck Lake. Duck Lake is located north of the north-eastern section of Lake Matinenda. To get there follow the directions for Lake Matinenda, then DIRECTIONS ???

A long, high cliff system is found on the north shore of the west end of Duck Lake and continues into the trees beyond the end of the lake.

The routes are described from right to left (east to west).



Left: *Big Line*, February 15, 2020. Photo by Jon Gullett. Right: Randy Kielbasiewicz leading *Gamechanger*, March 18, 2018. Photo from Jon Gullett.

Big Line, 80 m, WI3+ (left side: Daunte Rezaie, Alex Perel, Jon Gullett; right side: Randy Kielbasiewicz, Dane Graham, Saturday, February 15, 2020).

This is the big, fat flow located on the far right (east) end of the cliff system that runs along the north shore of Duck Lake. First pitch on both sides goes at WI3+, second pitch of both at WI2+.

Gamechanger, WI3+, 80 m (Randy Kielbasiewicz, Jon Gullett, Dylan Cummings, March 18, 2018).

This route starts just left of the main flow. It follows an ice filled chimney for 50 m to a tree on a ledge, then out right onto easier ice on a slab for 35m to the big pine tree with rings. *JG*

This Goot's a Hoot, WI3+, 35 m (Jon Gullett, Daunte Rezaie, February 15, 2020).

Located about 50 m left of *Gamechanger*, right of a gully. Climb a series of bulges and pillars.



Left: Kyle Manning on *This Goot's a Hoot*, February 15, 2020. Photo by Jon Gullett.
 Right: Daunte Rezaie gazing at *Da Ribbon* February 16, 2020. Photo by Jon Gullett.
 Bottom: Daunte Rezaie and Jon Gullett standing in front of their namesake couloir.

Da Ribbon, WI4, 28m PROJECT (Randy Kielbasiewicz, February 16, 2020)

Located ????? m left of this *Goot's a Hoot*. Climb a narrow ribbon of ice to an overhang with an ice dagger. Two bolts to protect the moves up the narrow hanging dagger. RK

Gullett-Rezaie Couloir, (aka Pointless Gully), WI3+/4-, 69 m (Jon Gullett, Daunte Rezaie, February 16, 2020).

Located another 200-250 m west of *Da Ribbon* where the cliff line runs west of the lake into the forest. A snowmobile trail runs west from Duck Lake not far from the base of the cliff.

LEFT OF POINTLESS GULLY?, WI3+, M3, 25 m (Randy Kielbasiewicz, Dane Graham, Kyle Manning, February 16, 2020).

Located 10 m left of *Gullett-Rezaie Couloir/Pointless Gully*. Climb the right-facing corner of ice, struggle past a large cedar. Head up and right on steep, scary snice and branches to a bolt and dry-tool up the groove in the steep rock wall. Tree belay.



IRON BRIDGE AREA

Red Rock Lake

Red Rock Lake has several shorter flows on a broken cliff band. It's a short drive from Iron Bridge, but a fairly long walk across the lake.

Red Rock Lake is located just north of Iron Bridge. From the corner of Highways 17 and 546 in Iron Bridge head north on Highway 546 for 3.5 km and then turn left (west) on Red Rock Lake. Head down it for 4 km to the Hydro dam. Park on the upper road at the dam. Walk across the lake to the cliff. Be wary of the ice near the dam. The cliff is found on the north shore of the lake towards the west end. It's about a 2.7 km long walk (45 min). You can't see the cliff from the dam.



An aerial view of Red Rock Lake with the dam in the bottom right and the ice flow visible as small white streak in the middle left.

Hydraulic Jump, WI2 to WI3, 14 m

(Chris Talbot, Danylo Darewych, January 25, 2019).

The wide ice-flow on the right. Several lines are possible. It's easier straight up the middle, steeper on either side.

Red Rackham's Treasure, WI3, 20 m

(Danylo Darewych, Chris Talbot, January 25, 2019).

Located about 50 m left of *Hydraulic Jump*. Another wide ice flow with several possible lines. We climbed the right side (the rest was looking slightly delaminated). Climb 10-12 m of short steps/bulges and then continue up a very easy-angled snow/ice slope to a belay tree.



Red Rackham's Treasure



Hydraulic Jump

Basswood Lake



Basswood Lake (or Big Basswood Lake, as it is sometimes called) has a cliff system that contains some fickle ice lines that are hard to catch in climbable condition. The cliff is 20-40 meters high and about 200 m long. The cliff faces west and north-west.

Directions/Approach

From the town of Iron Bridge drive west for 7.8 km to Melwel Road, turn north onto Melwel Road for 800-900 m past an eastward curve and park on the side of the road on a straighter section of road. Melwel Road is not a busy road.

Head north through the woods, passing under hydro lines 200 m from the road, then hiking up, down and around hills and gullies. You will either pop out onto the eastern bay of Basswood Lake (Melwel Bay), or if your navigation is good, somewhere above the cliff. If you come out onto Melwel Bay, head west along the lake around a prominent point to reach the cliff on the far side. If you come out above the cliff line, you can descend to the lake or base of the cliff by means of a long, wide, easy-angled snow gully lined with cliffs on both sides at the northern end (skier's right) of the cliff line, or conversely down forested slopes on the southern end of the cliff line. The gully is located at these coordinates: 46.305287, -83.322357 (46° 18'19.2"N 83°19'20.7"W)

The distance is only about 800 m by the most direct line as the crow flies, but the approach will take at least 30 minutes, especially if the snow is deep. Snowshoes are a must.

Part of the approach is on crown land, part of it is on private property, according to the Ontario Crown Land Policy Use Atlas. The cliff itself appears to be on private property, but there are no houses in the vicinity of the cliff and I don't know whom the land belongs to in order to ask for permission to cross.

If you want to avoid the hills on the approach you can attempt to drive down one of the cottage lanes west of Melwel Road (if they're plowed), park somewhere near the lake and walk east along the lake to the cliff. You're likely going to have to knock on doors and ask for permission to cross private property, if you take this approach.

The cliff is steepest and tallest in its central section. This central portion of the cliff is set back from the shoreline by about 75 m. You have to hike uphill through fairly steep forested slopes to get to it. The north end of the cliff is split by the aforementioned easy snow gully. Left of the gully the cliff is more easy-angled and broken. At the far northern end, on the point at climber's left, easy-angled slabs come down to the lake. The cliff peters out into steep forested slopes on climber's right side, but then there is more short cliff band lakeside around the point to the right (south end).

Routes

Routes are described left to right (north to south).

Bushwack to Heartbreak, WI3-, 7 m

(FA Jonathan Goss, Eric Csekey, Danylo Darewych, February 22, 2026)

A short, two-stepped flow, located at the north end of the cliff, right at the shoreline in a small alcove, some 50 m climber's left of the descent gully. There is an easier variation to the right.



Jonathan Goss experiencing ... *Heartbreak*, as Eric Csekey belays.

Incomplete, WI3+, 22 m

(FA Eric Csekey, Jonathan Goss, Danylo Darewych, February 22, 2026)

Located in the centre left section of the cliff. Look for a short corner/dihedral above a snow/ice slope. Approach from the lake. Climb an initial wide 2-4 m ice step or go around it on the right and wallow up to a second larger ice step. Set up a belay stance here. Climb the 4-5 high vertical step (easier on the far right), step up to the 6 m dihedral/crack above and climb up it using tools in the thin ice at the back of the crack and occasionally stemming onto the rock face on the left to a tree belay on a ledge higher up.

The amount of pro will depend on the amount of ice in the dihedral which can vary from none to a wide strip. Rock pro may or may not be useful. It was run-out on the first ascent.

Eric named the route *Incomplete*, because I razzed him about not dry-tooling up the final 5-6 m exit crack right of the belay tree. *DD*

006, WI3-, 20 m

(FA Danylo Darewych, Eric Csekey, February 22, 2026)

Located about 50 m right of *Incomplete*, in the next vague amphitheatre in the cliff system, on the left wall of the amphitheatre. Climb an initial easy ice slab, then a series of short vertical steps that get progressively narrower as you get higher. Belay from a tree another 10-15 m higher up the slope above the ice.



Top: Eric Csekey leading *Incomplete*.
Bottom: 006.



The route is called *006* because the ice on the ice steps was not quite Bond-ed on the first ascent.

There are more routes to be climbed at this cliff, if you can catch them in condition.

LITTLE WHITE RIVER ROAD AREA

Bombsicle Wall

The Bombsicle Wall is a smaller, almost roadside cliff with ice that forms solidly only once in a blue moon. Jump on it, if you that the ice is in shape.



The Bombsicle Wall. *Bombsicle 16* is on the left, *Popsicle* on the right. Below: *Bombsicle 16*.

The Bombsicle Wall is located 13 km north of Iron Bridge. From the corner of Highways 17 and 546 in Iron Bridge head north on Highway 546. At the 10.9 km mark - instead of heading straight ahead onto the 554 – continue on Highway 546 as it turns right (north). 2 km north of the junction with Highway 554, Highway 546 goes down a small hill and the cliff is visible on the right. A map showing the location can be found in the next section on Constance Lake.

Bombsicle 16, WI4, M3, 20 m

(Brent Elliot, Laura Duncan, February 17, 2023).

Climb up onto a ledge (many options).
Up the ice under a roof to 2 bolts on the



face right of the ice. Could go through the roof with some effort and maybe a couple more bolts. A couple finger sized rock pieces make this comfortable if the ice is thin. *BE*

Popsicle, W14-, M3, ??m

(Laura Duncan, Brent Elliot, February 17, 2023).

Start 25 m right of the *Bombsicle* in a gap in the cedars below a small roof at the top of the climb. Up the stepped ice to a potentially rocky, dry finish. A couple 1-1.25" pieces may be useful at the top. *BE*



Laura Duncan leading the *Popsicle*. Photo by Brent Elliot.

Constance Lake

Constance Lake in Algoma is home to one spectacular ice flow and host of other smaller ones, plus several interesting mixed routes. Well worth a visit.



Approaching the ice at Constance Lake. February 19, 2012. Photo by David Britnell.

Location/Directions

Constance Lake is located in Algoma, north of Iron Bridge, midway between Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie.

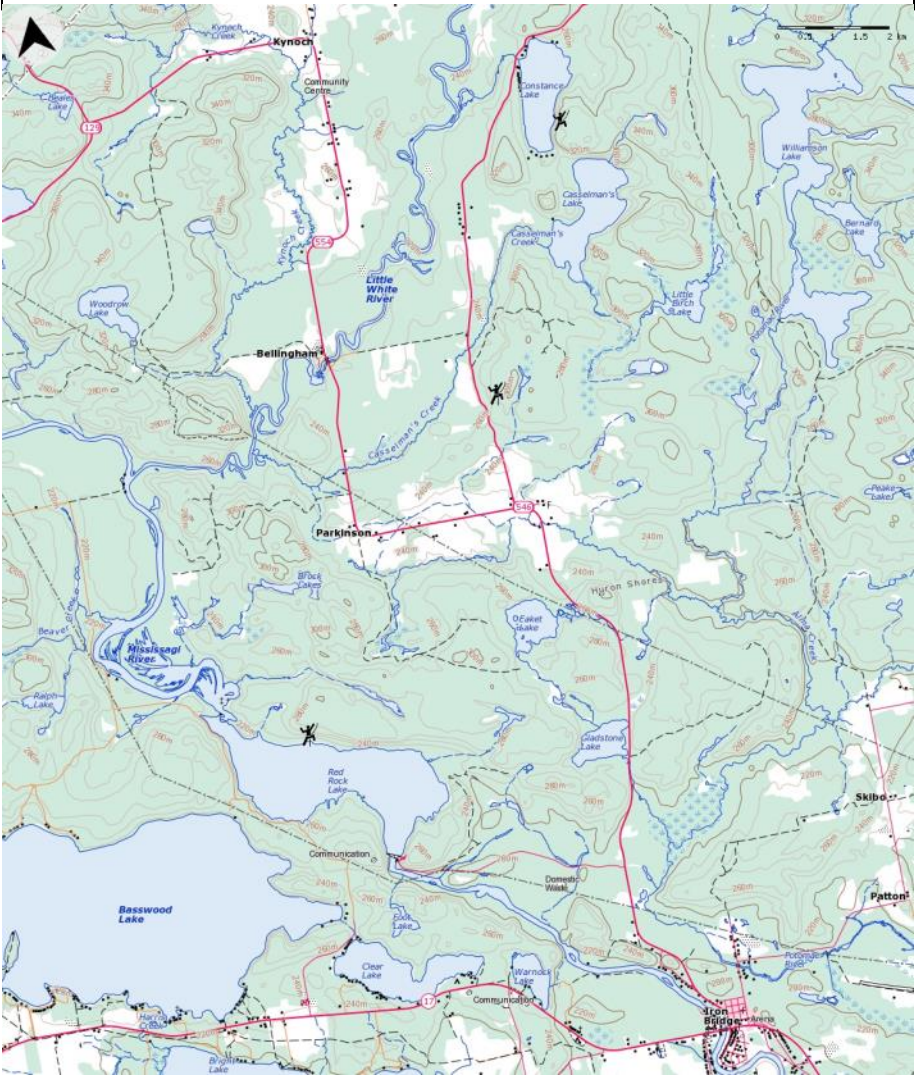
From Iron Bridge head north on Highway 546, but at the 10.9 km mark - instead of heading straight ahead on the 554 – continue on Highway 546 as it turns right (north). Constance Lake is another 8 km north of this intersection or 19 km total from Iron Bridge. Park at the road leading to the garbage dump at the north-west corner of Constance Lake. From here you should be able to look across the lake to see whether the ice is in (binoculars would be useful).

Lake Approach Directions. Cross the road from the dump and walk along the nearby creek for 50 m to the lake (watch for thin ice at the mouth of the creek), then head southeast across the lake to the big cliff on the eastern shore. It's about a 20 min walk to the cliffs.

Overland Approach Directions: If the lake ice is not solid, then you can get to the ice climbs overland. Drive past the dump on the north-west corner of Constance Lake to the northern side of the lake. Park at the side of the road next to the driveway to house number 39. Next to this driveway is an ATV trail. Walk down the ATV trail for 1.3 km (17 min) until you're next to a small creek/swamp/beaver pond where the ATV trail starts to head east. Cross the creek (not difficult) and then head south for another km towards the ice climbs, roughly paralleling the lakeshore to your right (usually out of sight through the trees though), but staying high along the hill/ridge crest. The top of the main wall should be fairly obvious – snow-covered, open, slab of rock with a water running over it and a good view of the lake. This is the top of the climb *Constance Setbacks (aka Waiting for Godot)*.

You can rap down to the base of the cliff on 60 m ropes from trees at the top. Or you can walk down skier's right of the cliff along slopes and ledges that come out skier's right of *Salve for the Wounded Pride*. You'll likely have to put on crampons to cross the lower section of *Salve* or make a short 8 m rappel down a small cliff band next to it. To get to the climbs further south, simply continue further south along the cliff-top for 5 minutes until you hit the next waterflow/small creek (*Non-stick Coating*). There might be a snowshoe trail used by local cottagers along the top. About 2.5 km total walking distance (45 minutes) from Highway 546.

Map showing the locations of Red Rock Lake, Bombsicle Wall and Constance Lake Ice.



Route Descriptions

Routes will be described from north to south (left to right) in relation to *Constance Setbacks* (aka *Waiting for Godot*) which is the massive ice flow visible from across the lake. Most of the other climbs are harder to spot at first.

The first 3 routes are located on a couple of shorter cliff outcrops found up high on the hillside about 150 m left (north) of the main wall/flow. These climbs are probably only worth climbing, if you are hiking in from the north on the overland approach (which is how we came across them). Otherwise you'd have to put your crampons on to cross the lower section of *Salve for the Wounded Pride* to get to them from below. I do not know if they form every year.

Constantini, WI 2, 20 m (FA Jaime Beecroft, Garry Reiss, Danylo Darewych, Dec. 29, 2014).

Located on the left/back side of the farthest left outcrop. Easy angled ice for 13 m (a more vertical section in the centre) to a tree with even easier angled ice (WI 1) for another 7-10 m higher up to the top of the dome. Tree belay.

Learning to Skate, WI 3+, 14 m (FA Garry Reiss, Jaime Beecroft, Danylo Darewych, Dec. 29, 2014).

Located 15-20 m right of *Constantini*. Start up a short 3-4 m vertical step to a platform, then climb a slightly longer 5-6 m vertical step to the top. Tree belay.

The Steps, WI 2, 35 m (FA Danylo Darewych, Jaime Beecroft, Garry Reiss, Dec. 29, 2014).

Located 30 m right of *Learning to Skate*. Climb a series of 4 short vertical steps separated by ledges. Tree belay. Walk down to the left (climber's left).



Left: Jaime Beecroft leading *Constantini*, Right: Garry Reiss leading *Learning to Skate*, Dec. 29, 2014 Dec. 29, 2014.



Left: *Salve for the Wounded Pride*. Right: *Wagon Wheels*. Feb. 19, 2012. Below: Peter Hoang on *Kindergarten Column*. March 29, 2014. Photos by David Broadhead.

Salve for the Wounded Pride, WI4, 23 m

(FA Danylo Darewych, David Britnell, February 19, 2012).

Located at the top of a slope 50 m left of *Constance Setbacks* (aka *Waiting for Godot*). Climb up some initial easy-angled ice, then straight up a vertical section. I don't quite remember the height of the vertical – I do remember getting quite pumped.

Wagon Wheels, WI2+/WI3+, 20 m

(FA Danylo Darewych, David Britnell, February 19, 2012).*

Climb the ice into the narrow gully/cleft located 10 m right of *Salve for the Wounded Pride*. Some awkward moves

Kindergarten Column, WI 3+, M4, 10 m

(FA Peter Hoang, David Broadhead, Andriy Kolos, March 29, 2014).

Start left of the main flow (*Constance Setbacks*), just left of an obvious tree. Climb up onto a block then gently up the column above (two bolts). A fun and easy warm up for the bigger lines on the main face. Bolted anchor.



* *Wagon Wheels* may be the same climb as the WI3 gully climbed by Jean Belanger and Shayne Grenier in the winter of 1997 (see log on page 47). Or Right-Side Gully might be their climb.



Salve for the Wounded Pride on the far left and *Constance Setbacks* (aka *Waiting for Godot*) on the right. February 19, 2012.

Fat Seven Year Old, WI3+, 17 m

(FA Josh Smith, Danylo Darewych, December 23, 2013).

Climb the slightly iced up corner just to the left of the main ice of the *Constance Setbacks/Waiting for Godot* to a ledge. Continue up 2-3 metres to a tree, traverse right to fatter ice and up to a big ledge and a screw belay. Poor protection at the crux. Doesn't ice up every year. Likely possible as a mixed climb.

Constance Setbacks (aka Waiting for Godot), WI 4/5-, 50 m

(FA Steve Foster, Kelly "Shmay" Raymond, around 1996 or 1999; or Shayne Grenier, Jean Belanger, winter 1997).*

The big, obvious ice flow – it's very wide on top, but usually only one column spills down over overhangs to the ground on the left. (The view of this column is mostly obscured by trees when viewed from the parking area, so it is best to venture slightly onto the lake to see whether the lower part of the climb is in).

Start up some initial iced up steps for 5-7 m, then climb the vertical column (partially attached to the rock behind it) for 15 m, and continue up a series of ice steps for another 35 m to the top. The vertical column can vary in conditions from desperately thin and steep to a fatter and friendlier sheet, hence the difference in grading difficulty.

AWOL, M5+, 25 m

(FA Dave Broadhead, Peter Hoang, Andriy Kolos, March 29, 2014).

Start up ice to the right of the main curtain. Then climb rock up and slightly right to a bulge. Climb past this to the ice at the top of the rock. Bolted anchor on

* I came to this route 3 seasons in a row, hoping to climb it, but kept finding the climbing conditions too difficult for my liking. Nonetheless, Andriy Kolos included it in the new SO Ice guidebook as *Waiting for Godot*. I finally climbed it on Dec. 26, 2014 with Jon Gullett. However, it



Left: Danylo Darewych on *Constance Setbacks* (aka *Waiting for Godot*). *Fat Seven Year Old* is the thinner line in the corner 3 m to the left. Dec. 26, 2014. Photo by Jon Gullett.
Right: Andriy Kolos disproving the *Waitress*, Dec. 23, 2013.

the block just right of the top of the curtain. The route ends when the rock does. Or better - continue to the top for a long, fun climb. Named for a friend that spotted the line but was unable to attend the FA. *DB*



1) *Fat Seven Year Old* 2) *Constance Setbacks* 3) *AWOL* 4) *The Waitress Called Me a Pussy* 5) *Trepidation* 6) *Right Side Gully*

It's All Been Done

The main ice flow at Constance Lake is a majestic, stunning piece of ice. It rises 50 m tall, straight from the lake. The top 2/3 is a wide sheet of fat ice; the bottom is a series of daggers that spills over a roof 15 m up. The ice only touches down on the left side, in a steep, wide, semi-attached pillar.

I had stood before this flow 2 years in a row without climbing it. In February 2012 it had bonged too hollowly for my liking; in 2013 I had visited it twice, only to find that it was much too thin for my abilities on both occasions. I really wanted to get the first ascent, even though it was a bit of an empty gesture at this point. My harder climbing buddies had done a bunch of mixed routes up blobs and hanging daggers left and right of the main line, but had kindly left me the main pure ice flow since I have an avowed dislike of mixed climbing and since I had introduced all of them to the area in the first place. But Andriy Kolos had included the route in his just-published Southern Ontario Ice guidebook, so I was feeling pressure to get up the climb.

On December 26, 2014, Jon Gullet and I took a chance on finding better conditions in an early season attempt and were rewarded with plenty of ice. I started up the centre of the flow only to find a fragile latticework of icicles and air that I couldn't protect. I retreated, disheartened at having failed to do the route yet again.

Jon, an eternal optimist, suggested I should take a closer look at the left side.

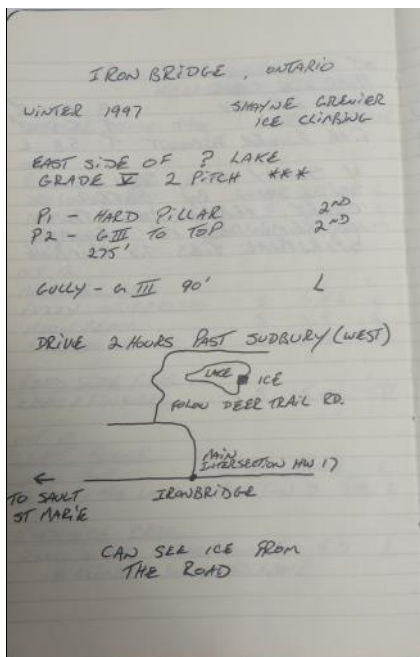
"Too close to the edge of the ice," I grumbled. "It'll crumble."

But being bereft of any better ideas, I went up for a look. The ice proved to be surprisingly solid and the screws more trustworthy than I had thought. Plus, the climbing was broken up by little ledges that made the whole affair manageable. I found myself at the top of the vertical section sooner than I could have hoped with 30 m of gloriously fat bumps and rollers above. Needless to say, Jon and I whooped and hollered from the sheer joy of it all once we got to the top. No more *Waiting for Godot*, WI4, 55 m.

I shouldn't have fretted about getting the FA. Turns out that the route had actually been climbed many years previously. First, Steve Foster from Sault Ste. Marie got in touch to inform me that he and Kelly "Shmay" Raymond had climbed the route either in 1996 or 1999 (he couldn't remember exactly when) and named it *Constance Setbacks*, because they had to keep going back to the car on the approach to get



Danylo looking for solid pro up the middle, before backing down. Dec. 26, 2014. Photo by Jon Gullett.



Left: The page from Jean Belanger's climbing diary for Constance Lake. Right: Jean Belanger's framed photo of a really fat *Constance Setbacks/Waiting for Godot*, winter 1997.

important pieces of gear, like cigarettes, that Kelly had forgotten in the car.

Then, in August 2016, while making my way back from the Rockies I made a one day stop in Canmore for the Canmore Climbing Festival. I found a lone empty seat in the very last row of the local high-school auditorium, packed with 250+ climbers eager to hear presentations from Alex Megos and Tim Emmett. I struck up a conversation with the person sitting next to me. His name was Jean Belanger. Turns out that he was from Ontario too, from the Ottawa area. Turns out that he had gone to post-secondary school in Sudbury. To my surprise he had even done some ice climbing west of Sudbury. He had a vague recollection of climbing some big ice north of Iron Bridge with a friend. The friend was Shayne Grenier, who was a friend of my climbing friends. Small world. Jean and I exchanged emails. He promised to send me some info on the ice climbs that he'd done.

Sure enough, several weeks later I received an email from Jean with a scan of a page from his climbing diary for the winter of 1997. The page described two routes climbed at an unnamed lake, but the hand-drawn map clearly showed the lake to be Constance Lake. The description of a long, 275 ft, grade V route with a hard pillar on the first pitch made it obvious that they had also climbed *Constance Setbacks/Waiting for Godot*. The clincher was a copy of a framed photo of the climb that Jean had hanging in his house.

"It's all been done before," long-time Southern Ontario climber and route developer Randy Kielbasiewicz is wont to tell me when I get into a new-routing tizzy. I hate it when he's right.

The Waitress Called Me a Pussy, M5+, 17 m (Andriy Kolos, Josh Smith, Fernando Nuño, December 23, 2013).

Located 10 m to the right of the main ice of *Constance Setbacks/Waiting for Godot*. Climb up some initial easy-angled ice steps, then dry-tool on rock to gain a pick-swallowing layback crack that ends under a roof, step right onto a blob of ice and then up over a short bulge to a two-bolt anchor. Bolted.

Trepidation, M5+, WI4, 55 m (FA Dave Broadhead, Jon Gullett, March 14, 2014). Start 5 m right of *AWOL*. Angle up and left across rock following a line of bolts to a stance behind a hanging dagger/curtain of ice. Swing out onto the front-side of the curtain, climb the steep ice of the curtain for several metres and then head for the top on easier ice (or stop at the anchors of *The Waitress*).

Right-Side Gully, WI 3+, 5.4, 40 m

(FA Danylo Darewych, Randy Kielbasiewicz, March 15, 2014).

Climb the gully on the right side of the main cliff face.

- Pitch 1, WI 3+, 15 m. Climb up some easy initial bulges, then up a thinly iced corner. Follow the ice through some twigs/shrubs/small trees. The thickest ice will continue up trees (almost literally – would be extremely annoying to climb), so step right 4-5 metres and set up a belay from trees on a platform.

- Pitch 2, WI 2, 5.4, 22 m. Continue up the gully on blobs of ice, turf sticks and rock. Bring rock pro.

Cleft, WI3+, 9 m (FA Danylo Darewych, Ray Rutitis, February 18, 2013).

Located on the left wall of a narrow cleft about 50 m left (north) of *Non-stick Coating*. Climb straight up just off-vertical ice to a belay tree on a ledge.



Left: *Cleft*. Right: The initial flow of *Non-stick Coating*. February 18, 2013.

Non-stick Coating (aka **The Constance Lake Waterfall**), **WI3+**, **50 m*** (FA Chai Molina, Tom Kitta, Danylo Darewych, Ray Rutitis, February 18, 2013).

Located in the middle section of the crag where many low angled flows of gently rolling ice of various lengths (from 8-18 m) come spilling down to the lake. Climb a flow to your liking, then tromp uphill through trees for 50m. You will arrive at a big, wide, honking fat flow created by creek spilling from a pond above. Many starts are possible, from a prominent steep nose/prow on the left to easier angled ice on the right. Chai and Tom climbed up the right side of the prow; Ray and I started further right.

The initial section is from 15-20 m tall. All the lines come together on a big flat, ledge, where you have to wallow through some deep snow for 10 m, before climbing out on another nice 10 m vertical step. Belay trees are set a ways back on the left and right (60 m double ropes are a must). We walked off to climber's right along a snowshoe trail beat in by local cottagers, then down an easier slope.

Californication, **WI3-**, **14 m** (FA Tom Kitta, Chai Molina, February 18, 2013).

An easier, shorter variation start to *Non-stick Coating* that heads up just to the left of the big prow on "soft Lee Vining, California style hero ice." *TK*

The Wind Wall, **WI 3-ish**, **c 20 m** (FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, David Broadhead, Danylo Darewych, Chris Lovett-Doust, Garry Reiss, Jaime Beecroft, Dec. 29, 2014).

On the southern cliff band between *Non-Stick Coating* and *Dreams of Hot Babes*, numerous flows come spilling down the face directly to the lake, some slightly easier, some slightly harder, some shorter, some longer. Climb whatever line strikes your fancy. These lines rarely form, or don't always reach the ground, or dry up and sublimate away.

Dreams of Hot Babes, **WI3-**, **22 m** (FA Ray Rutitis, Danylo Darewych, February 18, 2013).

Located in a slight gully towards the right end of the shorter cliff band rising straight out of the lake on the right. Climb straight up the gully.



Left: *Wind Wall*, Dec. 29, 2014. Right: *Dreams of Hot Babes*. February 18, 2013.

* The 50 m length refers to just the upper pitch, not to the total length starting from the lake. That would make the total length much larger. The ice by the lake can mostly be easily soloed.

The Eyeball

The Eyeball is a stupendous cliff system 2.5 km long and 115 m tall at its highest point. It has many different faces of different heights, sizes, angle and rock quality. However, we have found ice at only 2 places along the cliff line, since a lot of the land above the cliff slopes away from the cliff edge. These ice climbs are located towards the southern end of the cliff.

Location/Directions

The Eyeball is found to the north of the Little White River, in other words on the other side of the river from Highway 546 (Little White River Road). In summer it is possible to reach this cliff on logging roads through Kynoch (described in the Kynoch section on page ____), but in winter these roads are not usually plowed and impossible to travel on unless you have a snowmobile. Thus, in winter it is usually only possible and easier to get to the ice climbs at the Eyeball by crossing the Little White River (after it freezes).

From Iron Bridge head north on Highway 546, but at the 10.9 km mark - instead of heading straight ahead on the 554 – continue on Highway 546 as it turns right and heads north. At about 24.4 km from Iron Bridge Highway 546 starts to run along the Little White River. After about 30 km start looking at the numbers on the Hydro poles on the west side of the road. Look for number H3203 (N46° 29.630' W83° 07.527'). Park at the side of the road. (If you have very sharp eyes you'll be able to catch a glimpse of the *Three Daughters* through the trees somewhere along here as well.)

From the road bushwack a short way (100 m) to the Little White River. Cross the river. The river is usually frozen by mid-January (the earliest we've crossed it is December 31). Bushwack another 500-600 m through the forest in a NNW direction to the base of the cliff. The bush is fairly thick at first, but thins out as you get out of the planted trees and closer to the cliff. You should come out on the cliff at its shorter southern end.

Route Descriptions

Wisdom Wall

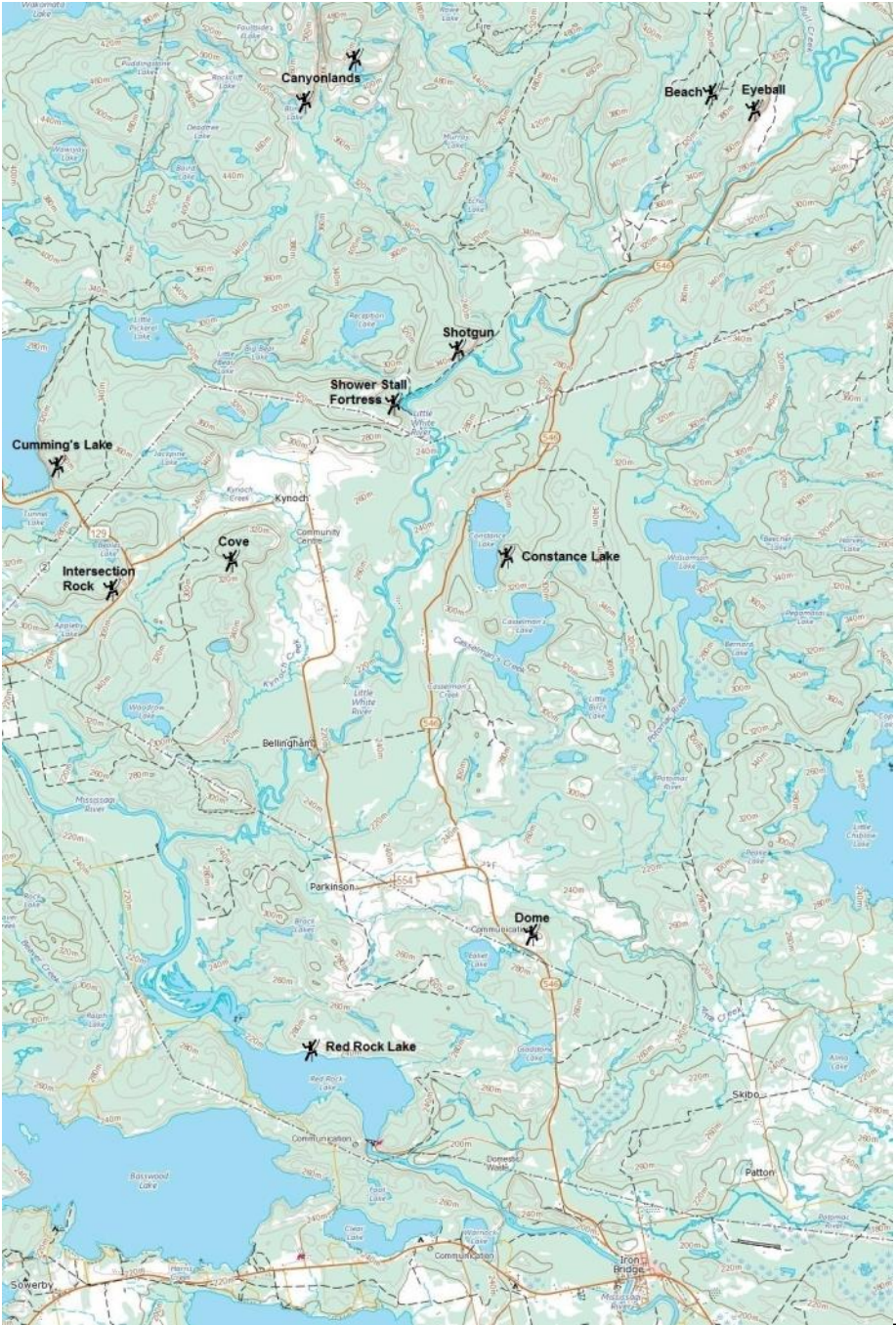
Three lines are located in close proximity to one another on the short, southern end of the cliff (N46° 29.823' W83° 07.986'). These are named after the three daughters of St. Sophia* (Wisdom) – Faith, Hope and Love. Two of these have been climbed. There is a large talus slope at the base with some steep, large blocks at the edge of the talus field directly below the climbs. Best to avoid the big blocks by approaching across the talus from the right.

Faith, WI3+, 17 m

(FA Danylo Darewych, Rafael Kolodziejczyk, Jon Gullett, David Broadhead, Randy Kielbasiewicz, Dane Graham, Chrys Lovett-Doust, March 15, 2014).

The left-hand of the three routes. Climb several ice steps and duck into a cave on the left for a rest, before swinging out on a vertical, final step/curtain on the right. I exited back left above the cave where the top-out was less shrubby. More sustained and harder, if the cave is blocked and you have to go straight up.

* I spent most of my career as a teacher working at St. Sofia Byzantine Rite Catholic School in Mississauga. Sofia means wisdom in Greek. DD



A map showing the location of the Eyeball and other rock and ice climbing cliffs in the area.



Above: *The Three Daughters of St. Sophia*, Dec. 31, 2013. Photo by Jon Gullett.

Hope, WI3, M4, 18 m

(FA David Broadhead, Jon Gullett, Randy Kielbasiewicz et al, March 15, 2014).

The middle of the three lines. This route was quite badly melted out on the first ascent, so it was climbed partially (at the bottom) via a mixed variation on the left.

Love, unclimbed. The right-hand of the three routes. If somebody climbs this and names it *Man*, *Ernie II*, I'll kill them.

Good Things Come to Those Who Don't Wait, WI3+, 50 m

(FA Stefan Kloppenborg, Jon Gullett, Danylo Darewych, December 31, 2013).

Located about 500 m right of *The Three Daughters of St. Sophia* at a taller section of the cliff in a big, deep cleft formed by a left-facing wall (N46° 30.019' W83° 07.751').

Climb the ice that comes spilling out of the cleft and follow it to the top via the far back end of the cleft. It's fat, soft and blue initially, but becomes extremely brittle and hard when you step into "the freezer" - the dark recess of the cleft. When you lose the feeling in your fingers, you can get a no-hands back rest in the cleft. This climb seems to have a steady water supply and gets continuously fatter all season.

Honesty, WI4, 50 m (FA Dave Broadhead, Randy Kielbasiewicz, Danylo Darewych, Astrid Palantzas, March 15, 2015).

A variation to *Good Things* that starts up the same initial fat, lower flow, but goes up a slightly steeper line some 5 m right of the back of the cleft.

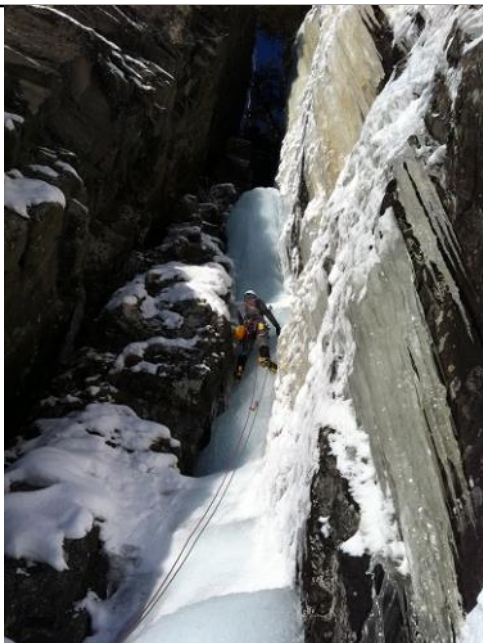
Sometimes Good Things Come to Those Who Don't Wait

December 31, 2013. Jon, Stefan and I stood on the snowy bank of the Little White River, and stared at the dubiously frozen surface of the river. It was a cold day, - 15° C, but there was glop under the surface ice and what appeared to be a thin patch on the far side. None of us wanted to find out the hard way that it was too thin – a bath would not be a pleasant experience. The safe thing to do was to come back in a couple of weeks when the river would definitely be frozen. But we didn't feel like waiting – we'd driven a long way, we knew there was a big cliff somewhere on the other side, just barely glimpsed over the trees from the road, and we were pretty certain we could see ice. So we undid our pack belts, took our tools in hand, and gingerly made our way across. Our luck held, as did the ice – we got across safely.

The cliff on the other side exceeded all our expectations – over 2 kilometres long and over 100 m tall in places. It didn't have much ice, but one deep corner slot was absolutely choked with it. It was Stefan's turn to lead, so he racked up and made quick progress up the initial ice ramp, getting one-swing sticks in the lovely blue ice warmed by the sunshine. He soon stepped across the sun/shadow line and into the dark recess of the upper slot. His progress slowed considerably. I started to fret impatiently in the cold.

"What's taking him so long? Why's he going so slowly? What's he futzing around with so many screws up there? Why's he leaning his back against that rock rib? It doesn't look that steep up there," I thought to myself.

I shouldn't have doubted Stefan's abilities. The answer to those questions became readily apparent when it was my turn to climb. As soon as I crossed the sun line into the slot, the temperature dropped – it was like stepping into a meat locker, a freezer, a cryogenic chamber. Apparently the sun didn't penetrate this section of the slot at all in winter. The ice was bulletproof and shattering in chunks. My fingers were going numb in a hurry, even though I was doing half the swinging my partners had had to. It was even difficult getting secure feet placements. I too found myself scumming gratefully with my back against the rock rib. Stefan and Jon grinned down at me from their sunny stance at the top of the slot. I was also grinning upon reaching the top – happy to be out of the freezer and even more happy that we'd found and climbed yet another memorable line in Algoma - *Good Things Come to Those Who Don't Wait*, WI3+, 45 m.



Stefan Kloppenborg on *Good Things...*, Dec. 31, 2013. Photo by Jon Gullett.

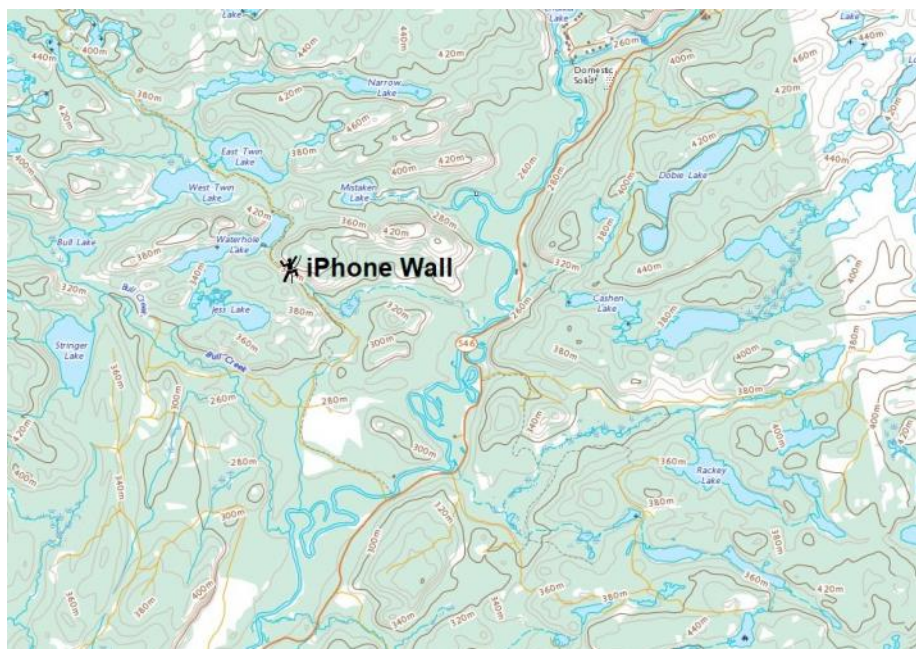
iPhone Wall

The iPhone Wall is a fairly distant crag located 4.6 km down a well-travelled snowmobile trail across the Little White River. Currently, only one wide, fat ice route has been climbed there. The crag is named after the fact that one of the first ascentionists, Laurie Snedeker, dropped and lost her iPhone X while climbing there.

Directions/Location

From Iron Bridge head north on Highway 546 for 34.6 km (past Constance Lake, LaJoule Creek and the Eyeball). At this point the Little White River makes a series of serpentine and is really close to the road down the embankment on the left. The river is very narrow (15 m) here and usually well frozen. A well used snowmobile/ATV track crosses the river here and heads north all the way to Kirkpatrick Lake. The location can be recognized by the canoes and boats that are chained up to trees here. A snowmobile parking/pullout is located 50 m back (make sure you park well to the side).

Cross the river and head north along the snowmobile trail for 4.6 km towards Waterhole Lake. Before reaching the lake the trail will head uphill up a notch with a big broken cliff on the right. The climb is located halfway along this cliff band, 100 m from the trail. It is easily visible from the trail.



256 Gig, WI2-3+, 15-20 m

(FA Marvin Egner, Laurie Snedeker, January 16, 2020).

A wide, fat flow with several possible lines. Easier and longer on the left, shorter and steeper on the right. The ice flow is sheltered behind trees.

Danylo Darewych, Marvin and Laurie also climbed a second, shorter 7-8 m “pitch” 40 m uphill from the first one. Not really worth it unless you head up to enjoy the view (you can just see the Big Wall at the Eyeball off in the distance to the south).



Left: Marvin Egner rappelling down the middle of 256 Gig. Photo by Danylo Darewych.

Right: Danylo Darewych leading further right. Photo by Laurie Snedeker. Feb. 22, 2020.

Revelation Crag

Revelation Crag is a small crag just across the Little White River with a steep flow that spills over an overhanging cliff.

Directions

This crag is located 24.2 km north along Highway 546/Little White River Rd from its intersection with Highway 554. At this point the Little White River is fairly close to the road, some 80 m away on the left hand (north) side of the road. The cliff is 100 m further across the river. The cliff and the top part of the ice flow should be visible from the road. If you reach a left-hand turn with the Little White Rd right next to the road and an unplowed logging road (called Country Rd, formerly known as the Cannon Mine Road) heading right (south), then you've gone about 200 m too far.

The river needs to be frozen to get to the Revelation Crag. Fortunately, the river tends to flow slowly and freeze quickly right below the cliff. I've crossed it at this point with flowing water visible 100 m upstream and 100 m downstream. But be careful and test the thickness of the ice with ice axes or ice screws as you cross.

Ukrainian Tears, WI4+, 24 m

(FA Jon Gullett, Randy Kielbasiewicz, Daunte Rezaie, February 19, 2018).

Climb up the steep two-tiered vertical pillar at the left end of the crag. The rest stance half-way up is not as good as it appears.



Jon Gullett leading the *Ukrainian Tears* at Revelation Crag. Feb. 19, 2018.

Curveball, WI3, 6 m

(Danylo Darewych, David Britnell, January 12, 2013).

Another 1.4 km along the White River Road (or 25.7 km from the Highway 554 intersection) the road will make another left-hand turn next to a dry oxbow lake on the north side of the road. There is a very short crag hidden behind trees just south of the road at this point. You can sometimes spot the ice through the trees. It is about 100 m to the crag. The ice is very short, but steep and fairly wide. Another slightly taller flow might form to the left in a good year. There are more short flows uphill to the rights as well.

We climbed this rather unremarkable flow because it was the only ice we could find after having taken a chance and driving north from Toronto for 7 hours following a week of January thaw and rain. To add salt to the wound, 3 hours later I was curled up in a ball in the back seat of the car with immobilizing stomach pain. Sometimes life throws you curveballs.



Trapper's Cliff

Trapper's Cliff is a fairly large cliff system with several interesting, if somewhat inconsistent ice climbs. The cliff looks red in the summer. It has a house in front of it owned by a man who is a trapper/pro prospector and the house is guarded by a really yappy dog (fortunately in a kennel). Part of the cliff faces the road (west face), the rest bends away from the road to the east and faces south. There is more to be done here.



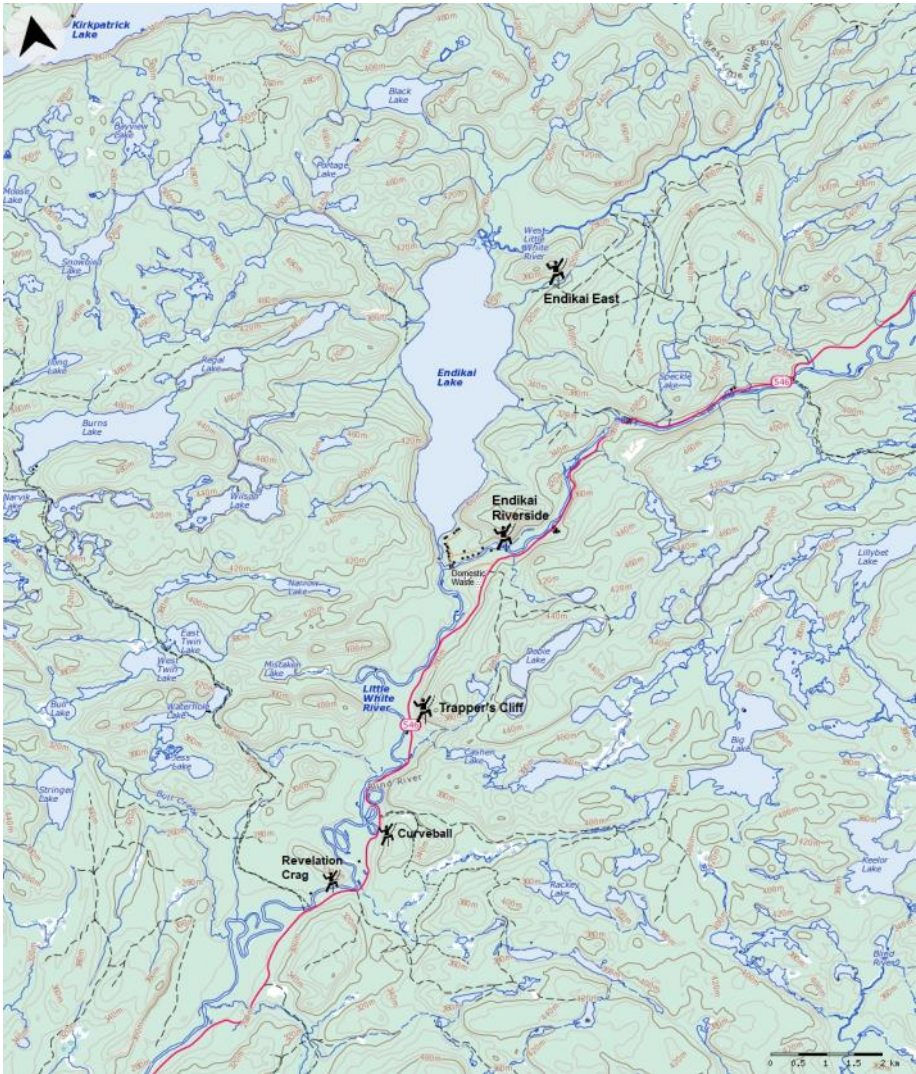
The south face of the Trapper's Cliff viewed from a small bridge over a creek on Highway 546. *Mixolydian Gulley* is the thin narrow climb on the left. Dec. 30, 2014.

Directions

From Iron Bridge drive north on Highway 546. Make sure that you make the sharp right hand turn to stay on Highway 546 at kilometre 11; Highway 554 continues straight ahead. From the intersection of Highways 554 and 546 continue north on Highway 546 for another 28 km. You will see a large cliff/hill on your right hand side with a large house in front of it. Park 100-200 m past the house on the side of the highway – there was a plowed out pull-out space when we were there. Total distance from Iron Bridge is about 39 km (40 minutes). If you hit the turn-off for Endikai Lake, you've gone too far.

Approach

Bushwack directly to the climbs from the road. It's a 10-15 minute walk to *Cold Pop* and *Little White River Stout* and 20-25 minutes to *Mixolydian Gully*. We stayed north of the house when bushwacking in. According to the owner of the house the climbs are all on Crown Land.



Route Descriptions

Routes are described from left (north) to right (south and east).

Ridonculous Wall, WI2-3, 12-35+ m

(FA Chris Talbot, Danylo Darewych, March 18, 2015).

Located on a slabbier extension 200-300 m to the north of the main Trapper's Cliff, set back 200 m from the road in the woods. You can only see a few glimpses of the ice from the road through the trees. It's a fat wall of beautiful golden ice, about 70 m wide, but mostly fairly short - 12-15 m, although the very easy, low-angled right side did have continuous ice for over 35 metres. It only catches late afternoon sun and thus lasts late into the season. There are likely more thin ice routes possible up the slabs to its right.



Left: The *Ridonculous Wall* as viewed from the trees on the approach. Right: Chris Talbot leading on *The Ridonculous Wall*. March 18, 2015.

The next 2 routes are located side by side on the shorter west face of the cliff facing the road. The amount of ice here varies from year to year — these two climbs are not always in.

Cold Pop, WI 3+, 22 m (FA Danylo Darewych, Jaime Beecroft, Garry Reiss, December 30, 2014).

The left hand route. Climb 5 m of easy angled ice to stance next to a pillar, climb the vertical pillar (5 m) and then head for the top on easier angled ice. Tree belay.

Little White River Stout, WI 4-, 22 m (FA Jon Gullett, Danylo Darewych, December 28, 2014).

The right-hand route in a chimney/corner. Climb an initial vertical step, then some easier angled ice and a final vertical section up the corner. Tree belay.



The west face routes *Cold Pop* and *Little White River Stout* as viewed from Highway 546.



Left: Garry Reiss on *Cold Pop*, Dec. 30, 2014. Middle: Jon Gullet on *Little White River Stout*, Dec. 28, 2014. Right: Dave Broadhead leading *Mixolydian Gulley*, Dec. 30, 2014.

Mixolydian Gulley, WI 4-, 42 m (FA David Broadhead, Stefan Kloppenborg, Jaime Beecroft, Garry Reiss, Danylo Darewych, December 30, 2014).

Climb an initial 8 m vertical ice step and then continue up a winding, narrowing gully above. Be careful of some loose blocks in the right-hand wall of the gully – test all holds first. Clamber over assorted debris (tree branches, shrubs) in the upper section of the gully to a tree belay.

Another two routes are located side by side some 200 m (10 minutes snowshoeing) further right (east) and up from *Mixolydian Gulley*.

Adagio, WI3-, 20 m (FA Alex Perel, Mark Hurst, Mike Personnic, February 14, 2015). Centre line on the wall.

B-flat, WI2, 15 m (FA Mark Hurst, Alex Perel, Mike Personnic, February 14, 2015). The ramp on right-hand end of the same wall. “The name came from an alpine knee exit. Not doing that again!” *MH*



Left: Mike Personnic on *Adagio*. Right: Alex Perel and Mike Personnic below *B-flat*, February 14, 2015. Photos by Mark Hurst.

Endikai Riverside Cliff

The Endikai Riverside Cliff is a large cliff along the Little White River with 1 spectacular ice flow and 4-5 others. It is a long cliff system and the ice climbs are scattered a fair distance from each other. The routes require some uphill slogging to get to and it is difficult (sometimes impossible) to get from one area to another by cutting across the slope.

The cliff can be divided into a Cirque on the left (west) side, a Central Section, and the *Secret Lasagna* area on the right (east side).

The climbs on this cliff face south and are usually baked out by early March.



The right side of the Endikai Riverside cliff with *Secret Lasagna* in the middle of the photo. February 14, 2015.

Directions

The Endikai Riverside Cliff is located 4 km past Trapper's Cliff along the Little White River Road (Highway 546). Follow the directions given for Trapper's Cliff on page ____ and then continue along Highway 546 for 3 km until you hit Endikai Lake Road. The cliff will be readily apparent at this point on the north side of the Little White River. The climbs in the Cirque are difficult to spot through the trees and under the snow, but the *Secret Lasagna* is clearly visible if you drive further down the road over a hill and down the other side.

Approach

Two approaches are possible, depending on what area you would like to climb at and on whether the Little White River is frozen and crossable.

1) *Land approach.* Drive down the Endikai Lake Road, across the bridge on the right, and when the road forks go to the right to the very end of the road (1 km?).

Park at a bit of a ploughed out area to the left of the final driveway. This is actually a hunt camp/cabin (not a permanent residence, as are some of the houses in the Endikai Lake Estates). If someone is there, ask for permission to cross the property. If not, a bit of a side trail leads around the cabin on the left, but you do end up crossing some private property (should be OK; the property is owned by a friend of Dylan's from Blind River). There are also No Trespassing signs further off to the left, but these are for another property. Pick up a vague trail that heads out the back side of the hunt camp and continue roughly parallel to the river to the area of your choice. This approach is necessary when the river is not frozen, but it is much longer, especially if you're headed to the *Secret Lasagna*. It is, however, the fastest way of reaching the Cirque Area.

2) *Across the River Approach*. If the river is frozen, park at the top of the hill past the Endikai Lake Road (but not if it's snowing and the road hasn't been ploughed) and drop downhill over the embankment to the rapids/narrows below. Surprisingly this area ices up/freezes over first, even when other areas of the river are open and flowing, because of the ice adhering to the rocks and the ice jams that form here. But test the ice carefully before you cross with a full pack. If it looks suspect, take the overland approach. Cross the river and head left and uphill for *Sodden* (obscured by trees) or right and uphill to the *Secret Lasagna* (clearly visible).

ABBDCPO, WI2, 60 m (?) (FA Dylan Cumming, David Broadhead, Jon Gullet, Rafael Kolodziejczyk, Danylo Darewych – all solo, one after another, March 14, 2015).

This climb is located on the central/left side of the cirque a fair ways uphill. It consists of a surprisingly long series of low-angled flows and short steps that weaves its way uphill. The lower section of ice is likely covered in snow earlier in the season.

There are several shorter flows towards the right side of the Cirque. They look intriguing when viewed through the trees from the road, but they're not very big when you get closer.

Little Bump, WI3, 6 m (FA Jon Gullet, Rafael Kolodziejczyk, March 14, 2015). A short vertical pillar.

Endikaiser, WI 3-, 25 m (FA Dave Broadhead, Dylan Cumming, Danylo Darewych, Christian Theoret, Anna Grant, Brandon Ranger, Klara Kluding, March 14, 2015).



Left: *Little Bump*. Right: *Endikaiser*. March 14, 2015.



Left: Dave Broadhead leads *Sodden* with a wet Danylo Darewych belaying. Dec. 27, 2014. Photo by Shaun Parent. Right: Jon Gullet leading the *Secret Lasagna*. Dec. 30, 2013. Photo by Stefan Kloppenborg.

Located 20 m right and downhill of *Little Bump* at the far right of the cirque. Climb up a steep pillar, then continue up easier bulges.

Sodden, WI3+, 22 m (FA Dave Broadhead, Shaun Parent, Jon Gullett and Danylo Darewych, December. 27, 2014). Located about 200 m right of the Cirque area, roughly above a set of rapids on the river below. Head about 75 m uphill. There are two ice flows here, side by side. *Sodden* is the left side flow.

Secret Lasagna, WI 2+, 55 m (Jon Gullett, Danylo Darewych, Stefan Kloppenborg, December 30, 2013).

The biggest ice flow at Endikai Riverside cliff, characterised by multiple hanging daggers spilling over an overhang on the left side above a right-trending ramp of fat rolling ice. Easily visible from the road. It's located a fair ways uphill up a gully (there is some really annoying shrubbery near the top of the gully; most easily avoided on the right, if memory serves me correctly).

The *Secret Lasagna* follows the line of least resistance up a groove to the ramp, then follows the ramp rightwards to a finish at the top through a notch. Beware the hanging daggers in a cold snap. Belay/rappel off trees (sling with maillon).

Boehner Schnitzel, WI4, 50 m (FA David Broadhead, Danylo Darewych and Jon Gullett, January 24, 2015).

A steeper variation to the *Secret Lasagna*. Start up the steeper ice to the right of the line of least resistance (the ice grows fatter and steeper on the right as the season progresses), up the easier rolling section and finish up the vertical pillar spilling over the right side of the overhang above. One hang by Dave on lead. Tree belay/rappel (sling with maillon).



Above: Dave Broadhead leading *Boehner Schnitzel*, January 24, 2015. Dave Broadhead collection. Below: Danylo Darewych (circled) leading up *Frozen Ravioli*, Feb. 15, 2021. Photo by Mark Hurst.

Frozen Ravioli, WI3, 25 m (Danylo Darewych, Mark Hurst, Cory Erwin, Monday, February 15, 2021).

Located about 300 m right around a buttress from the *Secret Lasagna*. At the start scramble 7-10 m up a narrow, snowy gully to the base of the ice. Climb a short ice step on the right to a ledge, then step back left up a body-length of vertical ice. Head up some easier angled ice and either climb a longer, steeper section of ice straight up the middle (I didn't) or even steeper on the left or dodge the difficulties (as I did) by heading right up a ramp around a frozen-over bush to a shorter body-length step of vertical ice and once again step back left up and over this. Follow some easier ice to the top. Belay off trees. Double ropes useful, if climbed as described above.





Secret Lasagna (left) and *Frozen Ravioli* (right), as viewed from the road, March 14, 2015.

Endikai East



Endikai East is a fairly remote cliff system, off in the bush east of Endikai Lake, that, at the moment, only has one ice route. Getting to it can be a long 6 km slog or a fairly short 1 km walk, if the logging roads are plowed for logging.

Directions

From Iron Bridge head north on Highway 546 for 50 km (past Constance Lake, Trapper's Cliff, the Endikai Lake Rd, past the bailey bridge). There will be a logging road turn-off on the left (north) side of the road here with a small parking area at a snowmobile trail trailhead 75 m down. In early season or when there is logging activity, it may be possible to drive down this road (in a truck). We used a snowmobile. Head north-west along the main logging road/snowmobile trail for about 4.5 km. The trail heads quite steeply up and down in a couple of places. At the 4.5 km point you will be at the junction of another east-west logging road. The beaten snowmobile track will turn right (apparently eventually ending at a hunt camp), but you head left (west) along the logging road for 400 m as a ridgeline/cliff with an iceflow slowly comes into view. Bushwack north another 500 m (20 minutes) through an old cedar forest to the base of the climb.

Stargazer, WI4-5, 30-40 m

(FA Danylo Darewych, Laurie Snedeker, February 22, 2020).*

This is a large, steep flow with several possible lines. I climbed a line of least resistance up the middle right side of the flow, starting slightly uphill and to the left of a big overhang/cave. The direct top-out is protected by a dense web of cedar and juniper branches, so I had to dodge right around them to exit.

We finished this climb in the dark. The snowmobile ride on the way out – under a canopy of bright stars – was beautiful.

I think there are other, shorter climb on that cliff, but we didn't have time to

* And a huge thanks to Marvin Egner who gave us a ride in on his snowmobile. Unfortunately, he didn't get a chance to climb the route, because we got there late in the day and it was already dark by the time Laurie finished seconding.



explore. That'll give us a reason to go back for another look.

Some Random History

Marco Foladore spotted this climb from the air and sent me an aerial photo and general GPS coordinates.

On December 28, 2018 I went looking for it for the first time with Jaime Beecroft and Kim Incheol. We slogged up the east shore of Endikai Lake for 5 km almost to its north end, then bushwacked east through the forest for a kilometre, then hiked east along a logging road for 1 more kilometre until we could finally spot the climb across a small valley. Unfortunately, it was already late in the day, so we slogged all the way back out without climbing anything. But at least I now knew exactly where the climb was.

In December 2019 Daunte Rezaie, Randy K. and I went for a drive down a logging road along the Little White River and helped out a logger who then showed us the logging road network that headed into the hilly terrain east of Endikai Lake. One good turn had led to another.



Danylo Darewych starting up *Stargazer*.

Bolger's Lake Cliff



Bolger's Lake is a small lake with a dramatic cliffline and one long ice climb located up high on the cliff.

Directions

Drive north out of Elliot Lake along Highway 108/639 for 38 km to its intersection with Highway 639. Turn left (south-west) on Highway 546 and drive for 8 km (see map two pages over). There will be a small plowed out trailhead on the right (north) side of the road. Park here. Hike fairly steeply uphill along a good ATV/snowmobile trail for 550 m to Bolger's Lake. There is a big cliff on the northeast shore of the lake. The ice climb is located on the shorter right end of the cliff, high above the lake atop a steep hillside. Slog up the hill over deadfall and boulders along a vague gully to the base of the climb. It's about 1.2 km and 1 hour to reach the base of the cliff from the parking spot.

Dancing Fools, WI3+, 45 m, 2 pitches (Artur Makos, Marco Foladore, Tim King-shott, Danylo Darewych, February 26, 2021).

There are probably multiple lines of varying difficulty on this ice flow when it's in fat shape, but we climbed it in deteriorating, sun-baked conditions with limited options.

- Pitch 1, WI3, 25 m: Climb up a short vertical step on the right side to a large slop-

ing ledge and then up another vertical ice step to a belay tree on a rock ledge on the right).

- Pitch 2, WI3+, 20 m. Step back down from the rock ledge and up a steep 4 -5 m pillar on the right side of the flow. Continue up to the right on an easy-angled ramp and over a final short, awkward ice step. A steeper exit variant is possible straight up.



Left: *Dancing Fools* as viewed from the base of the route. Right: Marco Foladore (left) and Artur Makos simul leading up the first pitch of *Dancing Fools*.

Pastry Crag

Pastry Crag is a smaller crag close to the road that is a good place to go to when it's cold, since it's a bit of a suntrap and sheltered behind trees. It also has a good variety of climbs. It's located along Highway 546 which runs along the Little White River northeast from Iron Bridge

Directions

a) From Iron Bridge. From the intersection of Highway 17 and Highway 546 in Iron Bridge head north on Highway 546 for 56.3 km (past Endikai Lake).

b) From Elliot Lake: Head north of Elliot Lake on Highways 108/639 (for 37 km), then turn left onto Highway 546 and head down it for 8 km.

The crag is on the north side of the road. The ice is just visible through the trees. Park the car on the side of the road. Bushwack some 100 m through the trees and then another 70 m uphill, left of talus field, to the base of the cliff. It's a 15 minute walk to the base of the ice.



Routes

Routes are described from left to right. All belays/rappels are from good, solid trees at the top. The top of the crag can be accessed on its left side on some very easy ice topped by a minor rock step.

Butter Tart, WI3, 20m (FA Chai Molina, Tom Kitta, February 17, 2013).

Start up a short (3-4 m), narrow vertical column (third from the right), cross some easy angled ice/snow and finish on a taller vertical step (5-6m) in a narrow notch/corner.



Pastry Crag Routes (left to right): *Butter Tart*, *Samsquanch* (variation start to *Butter Tart*), *Grandma Shannon's Coconut Cream Pie*, *Rise of the Snow Mexicans*, *I Don't Like Rhubarb*.

Samsquanch, WI2+, 10 m (FA Dave Britnell, Danylo Darewych, January 13, 2013).

This is a variation start to *Butter Tart*. Start up a short (3 m), narrow vertical step (second from right), immediately right of *Butter Tart*.

Dave and I first investigated this crag immediately following a big warm spell. We started up *Samsquanch* to take a look at the ice above in what later became the corner of *Butter Tart*, but it was a delaminated shower stall, so we bailed to the left and called it a day.

Grandma Shannon's Coconut Cream Pie, WI3, 23 m (FA Elaine Taylor, Chris Talbot, Ray Rutitis, Danylo Darewych, Chai Molina, Tom Kitt, February 17, 2013).

The wide flow in the middle of the crag. Climb an initial vertical bump, cross a sloping snow/ice ramp, head up the main middle vertical section to a ledge and exit up a final vertical ice step. Many variations possible. Easier on the left, steeper on the right.

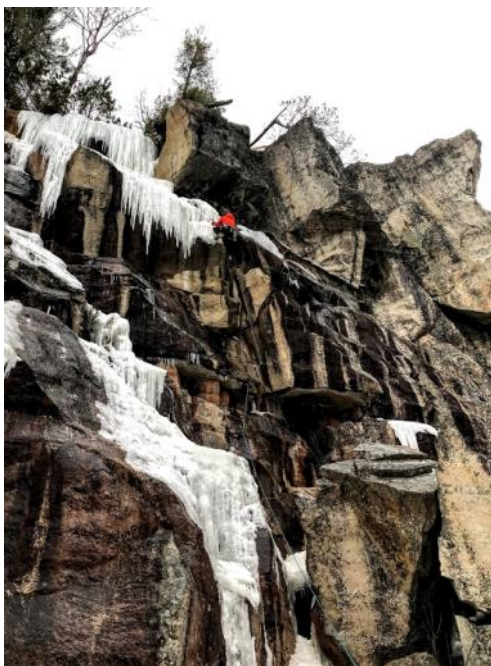
Rise of the Snow Mexicans, WI3, 30 m (FA Rafael Kolodziejczyk, Jon Gullett, Stefan Kloppenborg, Randy Kielbasiewicz, January 29, 2017). Located 7 m right of *GSCCP*. Start at a 4-5 m tall, small left-angling ice ramp (might be snow/rock), step up right onto some ice blobs, then continue up a longer, left-angling ice ramp to a ledge. Finish on the upper curtain (which was a 6 inch wide pillar on the FA). It's hard to catch this route in good shape as the bottom delaminates quickly.



Left: Climbers on *Butter Tart* and *GSCCPie*, December 29, 2013. Photo by Randy Kielbasiewicz. Right: Chai Molina on *GSCCPie*, Feb. 17, 2013. Bottom: Garry Reiss leading *Giving Up Icing for Lent*, Dec. 29, 2020. Photo by Randy Kielbasiewicz.

I Don't Like Rhubarb, WI2+, 27 m (FA Danylo Darewych, Ray Rutitis, February 17, 2013). The ice flow at the right side of the crag. Head up a steep, slabby ramp following the line of least resistance up a slightly leftward leading groove and exit over a vertical ice step. The route would be much steeper and more difficult if you go straight up further right – unfortunately the ice was thin and delaminated when we were there..

Giving Up Icing for Lent, WI3+, M6+, 27 m (Equipped by Randy Kielbasiewicz; FA Garry Reiss, Randy Kielbasiewicz, December 29, 2019). This is a mixed climb that goes up a left-facing corner system on the right end of the crag. Follow a line of 7 bolts over mixed terrain to a curtain of hanging daggers, pull over it and follow easier angled ice to a steep exit pillar at the top.



Kynoch Area

Several cliffs with ice on them are located on logging roads north of the tiny hamlet of Kynoch. The cliffs and ice routes vary from the very small and very easy to the very tall and very hard. The area is well worth visiting if you like getting off the beaten track. However, access depends on whether the local logging road is being plowed.* Otherwise, you're in for a long ski.

Location

Kynoch is located north of the towns of Iron Bridge/Thessalon, in the district of Algoma, roughly midway between Sudbury and Sault Ste.-Marie, Ontario. The cliffs are found on logging roads heading north of Kynoch. Access can be somewhat difficult, even when the road is being plowed for logging purposes. *It's advisable to carry a good metal shovel in your car.*

Directions to Kynoch

If you're coming from the east, in Iron Bridge turn north from Highway 17 (Trans-Canada) onto Highway 546. Head north for 10.9 km. At this point Highway 546 veers sharply right. Continue straight ahead on Highway 554 for 12.1 km to Kynoch (a small settlement of farms and houses with no road sign declaring its existence). It's 23 km from Iron Bridge to Kynoch (a 20 minute drive).

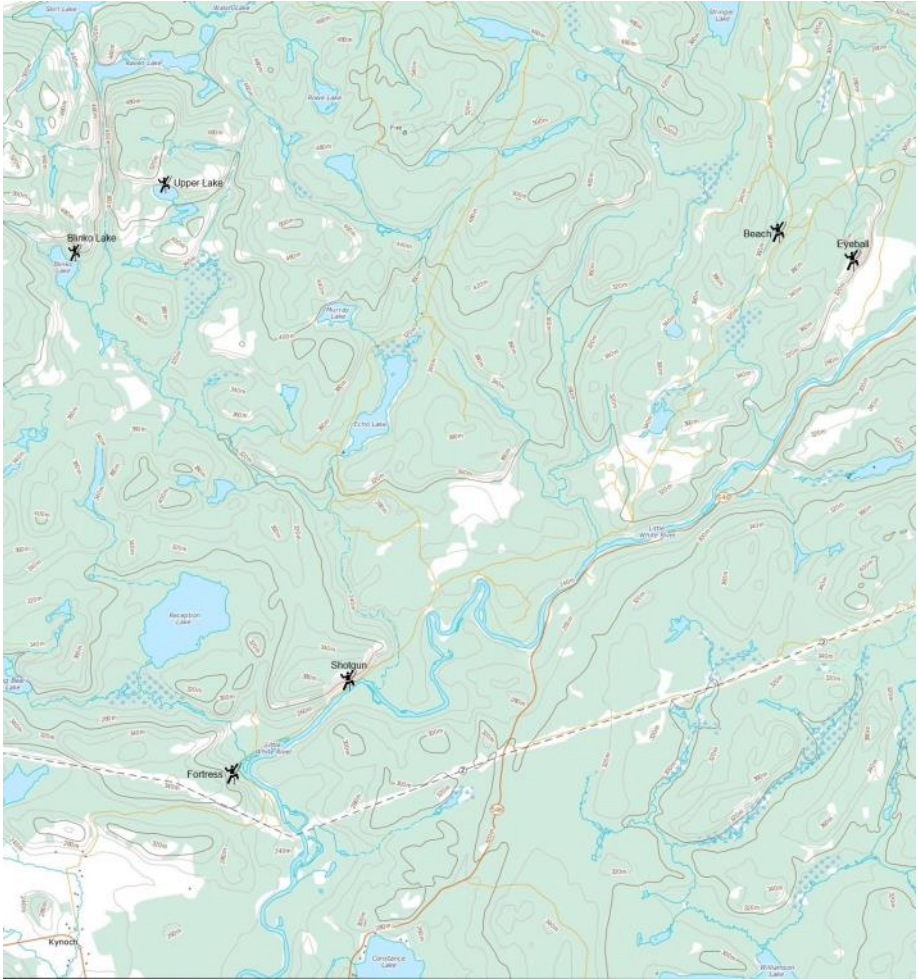
If you're coming from the west, from Thessalon head north on Highway 129. At about 31 km north of Thessalon turn right onto Highway 554 and head east for 4 km to Kynoch.

Directions to the Cliffs

In Kynoch Highway 554 makes a sharp bend. At this bend look for Brock's Road to the north. Turn onto Brock's Rd. At first, Brock's Road looks like a driveway for several farms and it will seem that you are simply driving onto someone's farm (which you are in fact doing). At 1.3 km along Brock's Rd., just past the main house on the hill on your left and some big barn structures to your right, you will reach a closed farm gate. You have to head up to the house and pay the Brocks \$20 (per car) to pass through the gate. However, there is absolutely no access through this gate from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset (see the Access Restriction explanation two pages down). After the gate, the road heads slightly uphill into a forest and becomes a logging road. Here are some of the landmarks along this logging road:

- at 4.1/4.2 km you will cross a hydro line,
- at 4.5 km there will be a small road coming in from the right that leads to a hunt camp (this is also the end of the ATV by-pass road, see the next page)
- at 4.6 km the road will start to run along the Little White River. You will see a "smaller" vertical cliff of red rock ahead of you. This is the Fortress.
- at 4.9 km on your left you will be passing the Shower Stall Wall, a small ice climbing area on the left side of the Fortress cliff (the ice is just visible through the trees in winter).
- at 5.0 km you will be just below the main face of the Fortress
- at 5.1 km the road will turn sharply to the right.

* The logging road was not being used and plowed for the first time in the last 13 years in the winter of 2022-2023. I'm not sure what the loggers' future plans are.



- at about 6 km you will start to see a large cliff towering over the road and trees ahead of you. This is the Shotgun Cliff.
- at 7.0/7.1 km the Shotgun cliff rears almost directly above the road.
- at 7.6 km there is a bridge over a small creek (this is past the Shotgun Cliff)
- at the 8.6 km mark there will be a fork in the road. The road is NOT USUALLY PLOWED beyond this point in winter, but if by chance it is, or if you have a snowmobile or ATV, you can continue down the right fork to the Beach and the Eyeball, or down the left fork towards the Canyonlands..
- at the 10.9 km mark there will be another small bridge over a creek (THIS BRIDGE WAS REMOVED in 2025)
- at about the 12.7 km mark you will pass a hunt camp on the left side of the road (Brown Camp), situated on a small lake
- at 14.8 km there will be a small track to the right that leads to another hunt camp in the forest (a trail continues past this hunt camp down to the Little

White River, fairly close - 200 m - to the south end of the Eyeball Cliff). I've never tried this approach in winter.

- at 15.1 km there will be a small pit on the right, followed immediately by a small field
- at about 15.8 km, on the left side of the road, some 100 m downhill from the road, (almost) invisible behind the tree lies a short 10-15 m cliff band with multiple ice lines. This is the Beach
- at the 16 km mark at a flat spot at the top of the hill (with another hill visible in the distance) there will be another, smaller logging road headed right. This is the road that leads down to the Eyeball. N46° 30.628' W83° 08.080'

Access restrictions

The road leading to the Eyeball does indeed pass through private property, namely the farm that you pass by a kilometre from Highway 554. The farmers who own this property are devout Seventh Day Adventists. For Seventh Day Adventists Saturday is the holy day of the week. As a result the farmers close and double lock the gate opposite their house from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. There is absolutely no getting through the gate from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset.

Alternate/by-pass access route

About 800 m south of Brock's Road on Highway 554 there is a community centre on the east side of the highway. There is a dirt ATV track here that heads east and then north, by-passing the Adventist farmer's property and joining the main logging road some 4.6 km further along. This dirt by-pass track is a snowmobile trail in winter.



Shower Stall Wall

The Shower Stall Wall is a smaller crag with shorter routes. It is located some 4.9/5.0 km along the logging road from Highway 556. Look for a small cliff line running away from the road on the left (north) side of the road, just before the more obvious red cliff of the Fortress looms above the road. The Shower Stall Wall is, in fact, the left flank of the same rock formation/height of land as the Fortress. The climbs are just visible through the trees.

We climbed the routes on a really warm day in March when there was water running down the faces of all the routes, hence the name of the crag. The ice seems to form here reliably.

Route Descriptions

The routes are described from right to left as you would come to them when hiking in from the road. It's about 75 m to the first ice.

Selson Blue, WI3, 30 m of ice (FA Dave Broadhead, Josh Burden, Danylo Darewych, March 11, 2013).

- Pitch 1: WI3-, 18 m. A nice, fat, blue ice pitch.
- Pitch 2: WI3, 14 m. Located about 15 m uphill from the first pitch to the right of a small rock outcrop. Climb some easy-angled ice, and then a steep vertical step. In a good year, both pitches can be combined into one continuous 60 m pitch.

Baby Shampoo, WI2, 20 m of ice (Danylo Darewych, Shaun Parent, March 11, 2013). Located about 10 m left of *Selson Blue*.

- Pitch 1: WI2, 12 m. A nice pitch of fat, rolling ice. There are left-hand and right-hand variations.
- Pitch 2: WI2, 20 m. Walk 10 m uphill, then up a semi-frozen creek bed, and



Left: *Baby Shampoo* on left, *Selson Blue* on right. Right: The upper pitch of *Selson Blue*.
March 10-11, 2013.



Left: *Sub-par Plumbing*. Right: *Irish Spring*, March 10-11, 2013.

Below: Bums in the sun – Dave Broadhead, Jon Gullett and Danylo Darewych enjoying the views and the sun near the top of *Rainmaker*.

finish on a 5 m vertical pillar on the left side of a rock outcrop.

The next two climbs are located fairly close together another 60 m (?) further left and up the slope. They are similar in that both are fairly short with an initial steeper section, followed by easier ice.

Sub-par Plumbing, WI2, 18 m (FA Josh Burden, March 11, 2013).

Irish Spring, WI3, 18 m (FA David Broadhead, March 11, 2013).



Shotgun



Top: The Shotgun Cliff, as viewed from the river in summer. Part of the cliff is out of sight on the left. Photo by Anna Grant.

The Shotgun is a stunning, tall cliff towering right above the logging road and the Little White River with some equally stunning ice lines. The cliff is probably close to 100 m tall and some 600 m long. The closest (and tallest) section, the Nose, is a mere 50 m from the road. The further sections are some 150 m away. The rock is mostly very compact and solid with no continuous crack lines. It's also incredibly shattered and poor in a couple of sections. A lot of the rock appears to be slate or very close to it - it's incredibly smooth and slippery. Most of the cliff is plagued by poison ivy at the base – there is a veritable sea of it at the right end. It should be covered by snow in the winter, but beware.

Location

The Shotgun Cliff is located approximately 7 km down the logging road north of Kynoch, as described in the directions on page _____. All the routes are accessed directly from the logging road. Try to park at wider sections of the road as it is used fairly frequently by pick-ups hauling snowmobiles (on weekends) or even logging trucks (during the week).

Route Descriptions

The first group of climbs is located about 450 m before the Nose of the main cliff on a small, short cliff band just above the road.

Lucky Misdirection, WI 3+, 18-20 m (Rafael Kolodziejczyk, Margaret Kolodziejczyk, Alex Perel, Ian Cable, February 14, 2016).

The leftmost and steepest route. Does not always form.



Left: Rafael Kolodziejczyk leading *Lucky Misdirection*, Feb. 14, 2016. Right: Jon Gullett leading *The Guy from the Car*, February 15, 2016. Photos from Rafael Kolodziejczyk.

The Guy from the Car, WI3, 16 m (Jon Gullett, Margaret Kolodziejczyk, Rafael Kolodziejczyk, February 15, 2016). Located about 5 m right of the previous route on a rib of rock. Thin at the start.

Valentine's Day Present, WI 2, 13-15 m (Rafael Kolodziejczyk, Margaret Kolodziejczyk, February 14, 2016). Located another 7 m right of the *Guy from the Car*.

My Crampy Valentine, WI2, 12 m (Alex Perel, Ian Cable, Margaret Kolodziejczyk, Rafael Kolodziejczyk, February 14, 2016). Located another 7 m right of *Valentine's Day Present*.

Rainmaker, WI3, 53 m (FA Dave Broadhead, Danylo Darewych, Shaun Parent, Josh Burden, March 10, 2013).

Located 300-400 m left of the main (roadside) Shotgun cliff face, about 100 m uphill at a vague drainage. Perhaps the easiest way of finding it is to locate the *Crown Jewel* first (it's really obvious) and then backtrack some 380 m. You can just spot the *Rainmaker* while peering uphill through the trees. Park at the side of the road and slog uphill 100 m to the base of the route. Stay high on the left bank of the drainage at first. You gain 40 m of elevation.

Rainmaker is a fat, wonderful ice climb. It's easier on the



Above: *Valentine's Day Present* on the left, *My Crampy Valentine* on the right. Photo by Rafael Kolodziejczyk.



Left: Dave Broadhead starting up *Rainmaker*. Right: A wet, but happy Shaun Parent, Josh Burden, Dave Broadhead after climbing *Rainmaker*. March 10, 2013.

left (WI3), steeper and harder on the right (WI4). Deceptively long. The first half is quite wide, but the climb narrows down and finishes over a series of ice bulges above the visible initial section. Forms consistently every year.

The Insatiable in Full Pursuit of the Ephemeral, WI3+, 23 m (FA Danylo Darewych, Dustin Hooey, February 2, 2020).

Continue up the talus/snow slope past *Rainmaker* to a right facing corner/cleft with a narrow flow of ice. Climb thin, steep ice to start; fatter ice in the middle; follow a thinner bird-shit stained vein of ice up the back of the cleft until under a huge chockstone; make an airy traverse right out the recess of the cleft to a final short, steep, thin exit pillar. Solid belay trees are located another 7 m higher in the gully above. Full 30 m rappel.

The following two climbs are located somewhere near the *Crown Jewel*, but I'm not sure of the exact location. I received the information from Steve Foster of Sault Ste. Marie

Vegematic, WI 2+, 25 m (Colin MacGregor, Ian Dunlop).

Kynoch side of *Three Way*. *SF*

Three Way, WI?, M?, 20 m (Steve Foster, John Myles).

Ice snot up to overhang



Left: Danylo Darewych starting up *The Insatiable* ...Photo by Dustin Hooey.
Right: Steve Foster on *Three Way*. Photo by John Myles.



Above: Dave Broadhead leading the *Crown Jewel*, January 25, 2015.

Below: *Cousin It*, Dec. 25, 2014.

and dry tool up the rock face. Tough move on the overhang but managed. This climb was on the same side of the road as *Crown Jewel* toward Kynoch. *SF*

Crown Jewel (aka *The Thing*), WI5, 55 m

(FA Dave Broadhead, Danylo Darewych, Jon Gullett, January 25, 2015)

The big, obvious iceflow on the main Shotgun Cliff, easily visible from the road. Park at the side of the road and head 60 m up the talus slope to the base of the climb. The bottom section is a tall, steep, frequently chandeliered, vertical pillar with a rest behind the pillar on the right 1/3 of the way up. The top section is fat, rolling, easier-angled ice. Tree belay.

The bottom part of the vertical pillar of *The Crown Jewel* does not form completely/or in solid shape every year, as it faces south-east and is exposed to the sun. The upper part of the vertical pillar is more solid as it is somewhat shaded because it's in a corner formed by the big roof to the left.

If the lower part of the pillar is not touching down you might be able to reach the upper pillar by way of a line of 5 (?) bolts to the left of the bottom ice. These are covered by ice when the *Crown Jewel* is in fat shape. There are also another two bolts to the right of the bottom of the *Crown Jewel* that can be used to access ice higher up.

Beefeater, WI5, M6, 45 m (Andriy Kolos Mike Makischuk, Danylo Darewych, February 27, 2021 with Josh Smith's original ground-up work in a polar storm 5

years earlier) .

Rock climb up the left side of the rock pedestal upon which *Crown Jewel* touches down. Continue up the natural weakness until faced with the first of many ice blobs. Get out your tools and tackle ice cruxes head-on. Good rests throughout. Stop at a mid-way anchor point on a small ledge on the right (below the tree) or continue another 20 m to the top of the easier angled ice above.

Cousin Itt, WI3+/4-, M4/5, 120 m, 5 pitches

(FA by Randy Kielbasiewicz and Daunte Rezaie, Feb. 11, 2023)

Located some 130 m right of the *Crown Jewel* on the right side of the Shotgun Crag. This is a long, very thin route that doesn't ever seem to come in fat (especially in the lower half) and melts out quickly. Try catching it after a quick December/January freeze before the sun hits it.



Cousin Itt. December 25, 2014.

“Cool line. Pretty chill except for the mixed crux. OK so not the most classic lol. But an adventure nonetheless. We are coining OA grades (Ontario Alpine) as it's likely the future of our declining winters. An ice climb with 2 m of ice and 22 m of turf sticks.”

- Pitch 1: Climb It Change, OA3 M4, 26 m?

Climb a semi-steep face on good turf sticks and typical mixed chicanery. Traverse right across a sloping snow slope. Dry tool your way up past a left facing corner (1 bolt) exiting past a blob of ice. Couple of screws, gear to 2 inches.

- Pitch 2: My Cousin Vinny, OA2 WI3 M3, 24 m of gold baby.

Climb a 3 m right facing corner with an awkward top out to the left. Follow glorious turf sticks to a rock band. Move left and “delicately weave your way through the branches” aka fight like hell... Rack gear to 2 in.

- Pitch 3: Humpday, WI3+/4, 30 m.

Take the line of preference. It's harder on the right. Was hollow for the first few body lengths on the FA. Likely a common occurrence given the dark rock.

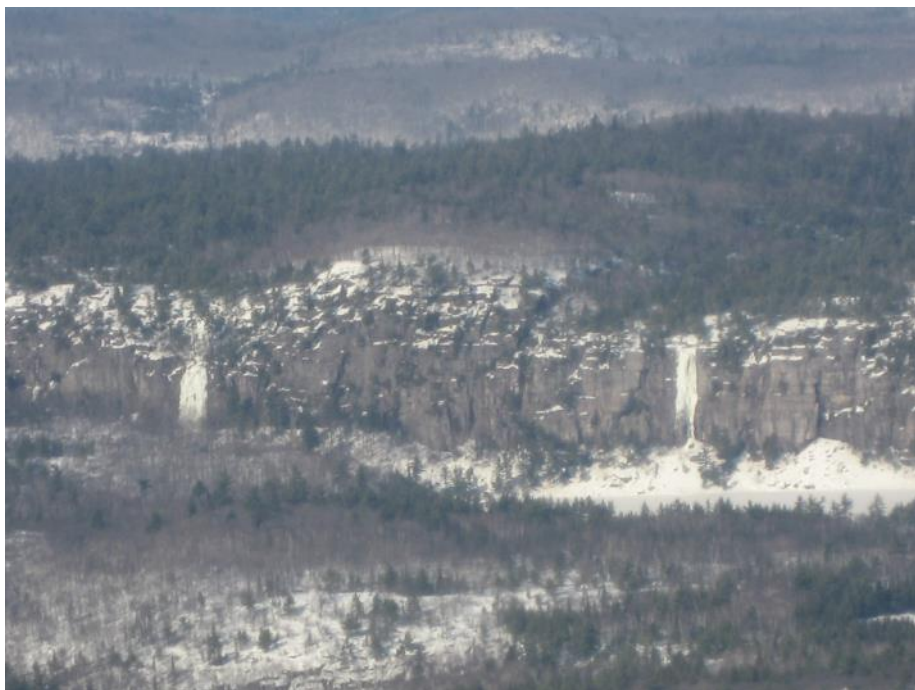
- Pitch 4: It's Better Toasted, WI3+/M3, 18 m.

Cool pitch, shortish but fun. Tight chimney. More ice would make it easier but there are lots of options using the rock. Ice will likely never be thick enough for pro. Feel free to clip the 3 bolts from the neighbouring sport climb.

- Pitch 5: “Would You Like Jam on That?” M4/5, 22 m. One bolt, gear to 2”.

Tree with sling on top. Watch for the struggle past the choke stone. *RK*

Canyonlands



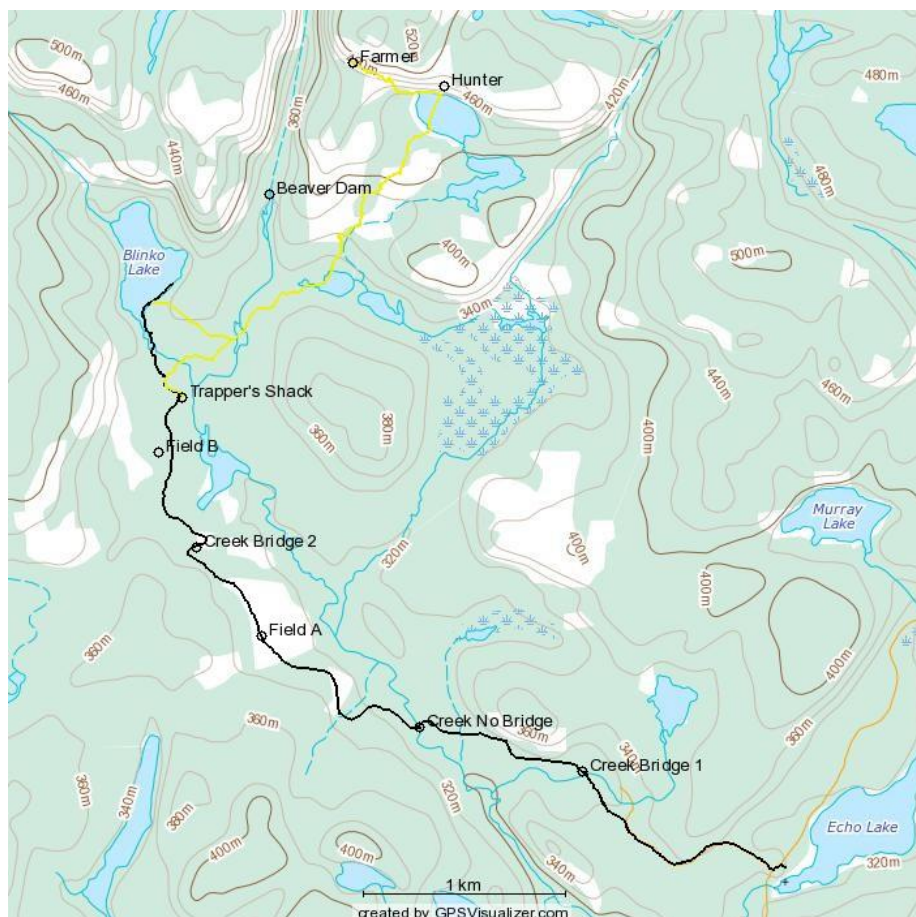
An aerial photo of the cliff at the Upper Lake. *The Hunter* is on the right. Photo by Marco Foladore, March 15, 2009.

The Canyonlands is a remote area of wilderness with big cliffs and deep ravines. It was so named by Marco Foladore who spotted it from the air while flying a helicopter. In order to climb here you will need either a wide/long track snowmobile or to haul sleds with camping gear. I wouldn't bother trying to get in here unless the snowpack is 100% supportive - otherwise it'll be a postholing sufferfest.

Location/Directions

The Canyonlands are located deep in the bush, well north of Kynoch. Head down the logging road leading north from Kynoch through Farmer Brock's property (see description on page ____). Go past the Shotgun cliff to the fork in the road at 8.6/8.7 km. Snowmobilers often park their trucks and trailers here. From here take the left fork (if it's plowed) for another 2.7 km to the south end of Echo Lake. There will be a narrow side track heading off into the forest on the left and an unplowed pull-out to Echo lake on the right. Park the car here. Be prepared to spend up to two hours shovelling out a parking spot on the side of the road. This is an active logging road, so it's inadvisable to leave your car without shovelling out a spot.

Head down the narrow track on the left. It leads to a trapper's cabin south of Blinko Lake. The distance to the trapper's cabin is about 5 km of walking. It's an-



other 450 m to the south shore of Blinko Lake. The track is fairly easy to follow most of the way. It's mostly well cleared of deadfall and shrubbery. There are two tricky sections. The first is at about 2.2 km where the track crosses a creek that doesn't freeze. The creek is just wide and deep enough to be a problem. Try walking downstream along the bank to find a frozen-over crossing spot. The second tricky spot occurs at the edge of a large clearing at about the 4.5 km mark where you have to find the harder-to-spot start of the side trail that leads to the trapper's cabin. Some 400 m before this spot the track veers sharply right and crosses a creek on a small bridge, then turns back left and finally reaches the clearing. The side trail will fork off at a slight angle to the right and run roughly parallel to the big clearing for a while before dropping down to the cabin next to a small lake.

The trapper's cabin is a good spot to set up camp as it is sheltered and there is small stream of water running next to the cabin. Also, there is an outhouse there. The trapper's cabin itself is locked. The GPS co-ordinates for the Trapper's Cabin are: N46° 30.928' W83° 15.286'

CANYONLANDS - BLINKO LAKE

Immediately north of Blinko Lake lies a long system of cliffs. One ice route has been climbed here. There are more that haven't been climbed yet.

From the trapper's cabin, continue along the ATV/snowmobile track. After about 500 m it brings you to the south shore of Blinko Lake. The ice climbs are found on the section of cliff closest to Blinko Lake, on the north-east corner of the lake. The main flow should be clearly visible from Blinko Lake.

Main Flow, unclimbed, 45 m?

This flow is located about 100 m away from the shore of Blinko Lake, up a slight slope. It's big and wide in the upper part, but the bottom ice section on the lower cliff band wasn't climbable when we were there.

Electric Toothbrush, WI2, 45 m (Danylo Darewych, Michael Lisenko, March 2017).

This climb is located about 75 m left of the Main Flow in a gully/cleft that splits the cliff. The ice isn't continuous throughout the whole length of the gully. It's best in the bottom 12 m and the top 12 m. There are steeper variants up the left wall of the gully.



Danylo Darewych starting up the *Electric Toothbrush*, March 13, 2018. Photo by Janet Wong.

RAVEN RAVINE

Raven Ravine is an impressive, deep, long, narrow, rocky and remote ravine. The southern end of the ravine starts about 750 m north-east of Blinko Lake. From here the ravine runs north for about 1.5 km to Raven Lake. I think that it also continues another 750 m north from Raven Lake to Skirl Lake, but I don't know for sure, because we've only explored the southern third of the ravine.

Several short ice flows are located at the bottom of the ravine some 350 m (??) along the ravine from its southern end.

Directions

From the Trapper's Cabin follow the ATV track for 400 m to the shores of Blinko Lake as described on the previous page. Walk along the east shore of Blinko Lake and about half-way along, before you get to the far end where the land starts to slope uphill, turn east (right) and head east through the forest. In about 500 m (as

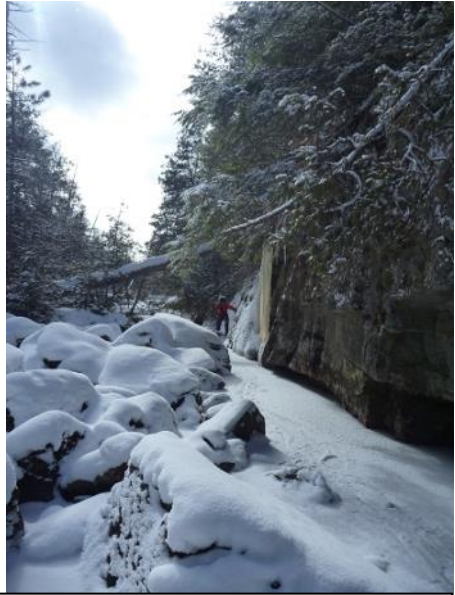
the crow flies) you should reach a north-south creek interspersed with marshy beaver ponds. You will be following this creek north to the ravine. You will sometimes be on the creek proper, sometimes on the east bank, sometimes on the west. The going is slow as there is lots of detouring around fallen trees and areas of thin ice where the current flows faster.

We crossed the creek and travelled along the east shore for the first part, then traversed back across the west bank, then dropped down into the bottom of the ravine proper, before being forced back up the now steep east bank of the river to a point opposite the ice flows. Watch out for snow-covered man-eating holes between the big boulders.

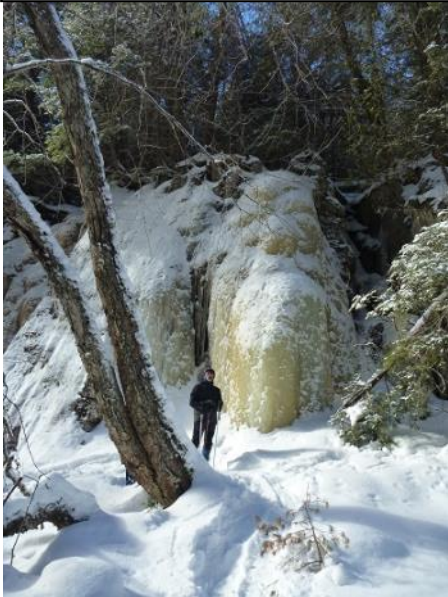
Several lines are possible. We only climbed one, as we were on a mission to explore further.

Snowshoe Hand Jam, WI3-, 10 m (Cory Erwin, Mark Hurst, Danylo Darewych, February 14, 2021).

Climb an iced-up groove towards the left end of the ice flows.



Below left: Mark Hurst standing in front of the iceflows at the bottom of Raven Ravine.
Below right: Cory Erwin topping out on *Snowshoe Hand Jam*.



CANYONLANDS - UPPER LAKE

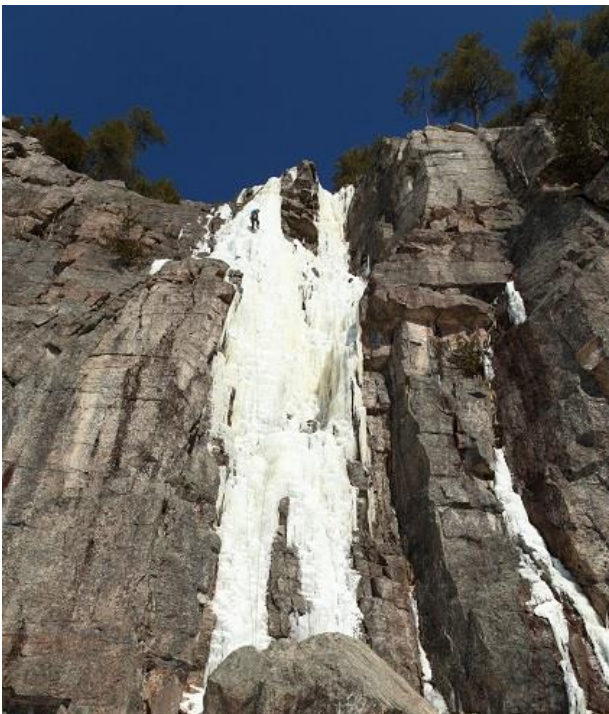
Several worthwhile ice climbs are found on the cliff-line that runs along the north shore of the Upper Lake, some 1.5 km northeast of Blinko Lake (as the crow flies). The lake is not named on the topographic map, but since you have to go uphill to get to it, we've started to refer to it as the Upper Lake.

Directions

It's best to have a GPS when trying to reach the Upper Lake, because you have to travel through sections of forest with no obvious landmarks. The forest is quite open and the travel easy, but you have to wind your way around a bit when following the path of least resistance.

If you're heading in there for the first time, it's probably best to take a slightly longer route by way of Blinko Lake. From the Trapper's Cabin follow the track for 400 m to the shores of Blinko Lake as described on the previous page. Walk along the east shore of Blinko Lake and about half-way along, before you get to the far end where the land starts to slope uphill, turn east (right) and head east through the forest. In about 500 m (as the crow flies) you should reach a north-south creek interspersed with marshy beaver ponds. Cross the creek. There might be areas of open water where the current flows faster, but most of this creek/pond system is usually frozen.

On the far shore, continue generally in a more north-easterly direction. In about 300 m (as the crow flies) you will cross another creek/small lake system that runs east-west. From the north shore of the small lake head north to the base of a steep hill with a system of rock ledges on it. Wind your way to the top of the hill (some 30 m of elevation gain). Here you will be travelling on snow-covered rock slabs. Continue north-by-north-east for another 200 m to the base of another hill. You will be forced to go through a small annoying, marshy/shrubby area to get to the base of this hill. Head up this hill at its right end (another 30 m elevation gain) and at the top head right to an open rocky knob (because it's there). Continue north-east for another 250-300 m until you reach the south shore of the Upper Lake. A big ice flow will be clearly visible on the north shore of the lake. The GPS coordinates for



Danylo Darewych rappelling down the *Hunter*, March 15, 2017. Photo by Michael Lisenko.

the base of the route are: N46° 31.757' W83° 14.275'

It is about 3 km walking distance from the Trapper's Cabin to the base of the cliff at the Upper Lake. It should take about an hour, if the snow is firm.

You can shorten the distance by about a kilometre if you by-pass Blinko Lake and head more directly for the first creek crossing. From the Trapper's Cabin cross the small lake/beaver bond where the cabin is located (you will be going to the far left end, if you're standing at the cabin facing the lake). From here you can cross over onto another, smaller lake and walk to it's far end. From here you head north-east to the first creek crossing. The rest of the approach is the same.

Hunter, WI3+/4-, 50 m (Danylo Darewych, March 15, 2017).

The *Hunter* is the tall, prominent ice-flow in the middle of the cliff on the north side of the Upper Lake. The first 8-10 m is easy climbing up a groove in the ice to a good stance at the top of a pedestal. From here the climbing steepens. The crux is a 6-7 m vertical section about half-way up, at the top of which you can traverse left to another rest stance on a big ledge. In the upper third of the climb the ice splits into two separate lines around a rock buttress. The left line consists of lots of short steep bulges; the right line looks steeper and harder.

An anchor tree is found 10 m back from the top of the climb. It's a full 60 m rappel to the ground.

The climb faces south and gets lots of sun. Climb the route as early in the day as possible and beware of ice falling off the top, which funnels down the bottom section of the route.

Huntress, WI4, 50 m (Dustin Hooey, Mike Park, February 21, 2021).

The steeper right hand side of the *Hunter*.

There are at 2-3 more routes on the cliff-line west of the west end of the lake. The most impressive one is big, wide, steep 40 m route about 275 m left of the *Hunter*, tentatively dubbed the *Trapper* (it can be seen in the overview photo on page ____). It was not in climbable shape when we were there. Another 200 m on lies the *Farmer*.

Farmer, WI2, 30 m (Michael Lisenko, Danylo Darewych, March 15, 2017).

Located at the far left (west) end of the cliffline just before the ground starts to drop steeply down towards the Raven Creek Ravine. It's a big, wide flow of ice that spills down over treed ledges. We climbed a line somewhere in the middle.



Dustin Hooey leading the *Huntress*.



Danylo Darewych sitting in front of the *Farmer*, March 15, 2017. Photo by Michael Lisenko.

Birdwatcher, WI2, 15 m (Danylo Darewych, Janet Wong, March 14, 2018).

Located another 50 m left of the *Farmer* where the ground starts sloping down towards the Raven Creek Ravine, but before the cliff turns to the right. This a small flow that emanates from partway up the cliff face (which is much shorter and less steep here). Climb straight up the ice. There is a small tree at the top to belay/ rappel.



Birdwatcher, March 14, 2018. Photo by Janet Wong.

The Beach

The Beach is a small, hidden crag with multiple fat, short ice lines. It is located about 15.8 km down the logging road, just before the turn-off for the Eyeball, on the left side of the road, some 100 m downhill from the road, (almost) invisible behind the trees. It is about 250 m long, between 8-14 m high. We named this ice-climbing crag the Beach because we climbed ice there in the sunshine in T-shirts and shorts in May 2015. I don't think that you can access this crag in the midst of winter, because the road isn't usually plowed this far, unless there is logging taking place. You might actually have to wait until the spring to climb here.

We climbed 6 lines at the Beach, all in the WI2-3 range. More can be done. The order of the routes/route names might be messed in the following descriptions.



Randy Kielbasiewicz. on *Broads on Quads* (left) and on *Randy's First* (right).

Broads on Quads (Graeme's First), WI2+, 14 m (Graeme Taylor, Danylo Darewych, Randy Kielbasiewicz, May 2, 2015).

Located at the left end of the crag next to some wavy rock. The first significant ice you come to. Starts with a 3-4 m vertical step, then eases off.

Randy's First, WI3- (Randy Kielbasiewicz, Graeme Taylor, Danylo Darewych, May 2, 2015). Located 25 m right of *Broads on Quads*.

Short Sleeves and Swimming Trunks, WI3- (Danylo Darewych, Graeme Taylor,



Left: Danylo Darewych on *Short Sleeves and Swimming Trunks*.

Right: Randy Kielbasiewicz on *Everything but the Beach Babes*.

Below left: Randy Kielbasiewicz on *Spring Showers Bring May Ice Climbs*.

Below right: Graeme Taylor on *Graeme's Second*.

Randy Kielbasiewicz, May 2, 2015).

A wide sheet of ice located 30 m right of *Randy's First*.

Everything but the Beach-Babes, WI3 (Danylo Darewych, Graeme Taylor, Randy Kielbasiewicz, May 2, 2015).

Located about 120 m right of *Short Sleeves and Swimming Trunks*.

Spring Showers Bring May Ice Climbs, WI3 (Randy Kielbasiewicz, Graeme Taylor, Danylo Darewych, May 2, 2015).

Located about 10 m right of *Everything but the Beach Babes*.

Graeme's Second, WI2 (Graeme Taylor, Danylo Darewych, Randy Kielbasiewicz, May 2, 2015).



Eyeball - Logging Road Directions

The ice climbs at the Eyeball are described in the Little White River section of this guidebook on page _____, because in winter it is easier to get to the Eyeball from the Little White River Road (Highway 546). However, should it be a low snow year, or should the road be plowed for logging, or should you have a snowmobile, it might be feasible to get to the Eyeball by the logging road that runs north-east of Kynoch. Directions for this approach are provided here. I've never attempted this approach in winter.

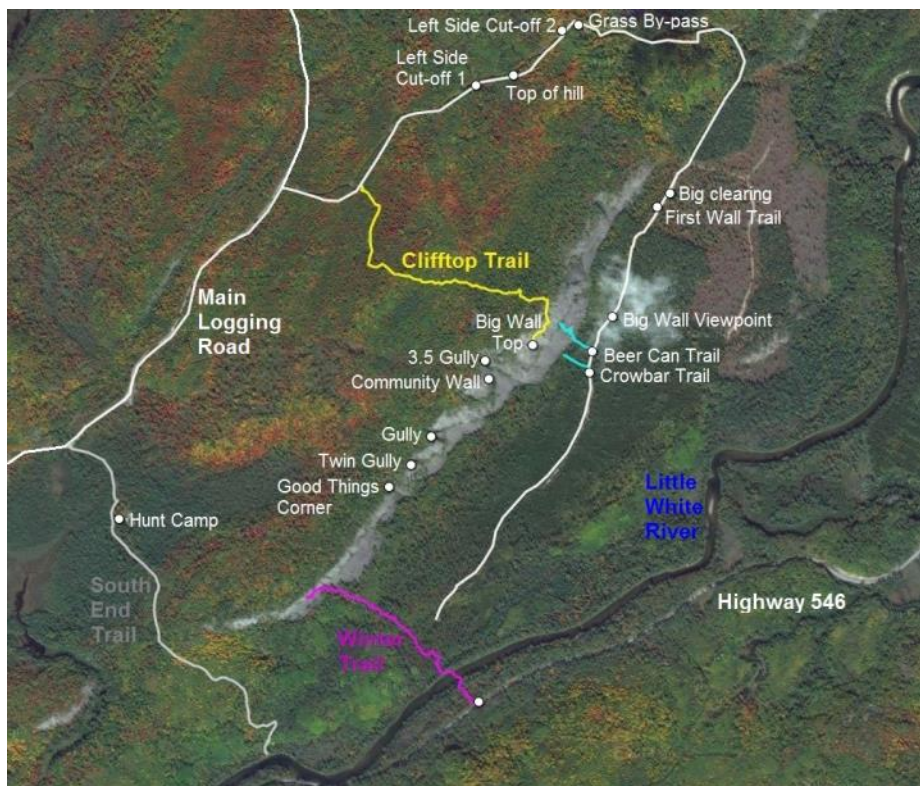
Approach Directions

Logging Road to Base. Drive down the Kynoch logging road for 16 km as stated in the directions given on page _____. At this point a smaller side logging road branches off the main logging road. This is the road that takes you down to the base of the Eyeball. It's much narrower and rougher than the main logging road. In summer a truck with 4-wheel drive can make it down the whole way without much difficulty, but this would be impossible in winter. A snowmobile or ATV is likely your only option in winter.

There will be a turnoff on the right after 200 m, then a turnoff to the left at 900 m, then the road will start to drop more steeply down a hill at about 1.1 km. You will pass a second turn-off on the left at the 1.3 km mark, followed 70 m later by another vegetated cut-off to the left as the road veers to the right. The road to the right is severely eroded, so head instead down the vegetated cut-off on the left - it by-passes the eroded section and rejoins the side logging road just below the eroded section. The road is in very good shape beyond this point. At about the 2.1 km mark the road makes a big turn back to the south-west. Another 400-500 m further on you will hit a large clearing/widening of the road, where a branch of the logging road heads to the left. From this large clearing you will start seeing the First Wall of the Eyeball cliff on your right, some 100 metres away from the road. The road runs roughly parallel to the cliff base for another 750 m, before veering away from the cliff base slightly and eventually dead-ending in the middle of the forest another kilometre further on. The end of the road is some 200 m away from the Little White River and 400 m away from the cliff base. The side logging road is about 5.4 km long in total.

Your best bet for finding the ice climbs is likely going almost to the end of the logging road, then cutting across to the edge of the talus field at the base of the cliff and then walking along the edge of the talus field until you reach the climbs.

Clifftop Approach Trail: A trail has also been cleared to the top of the cliff. Park at the first clearing you reach on the Eyeball logging road, some 280 m along on the right. A side track heads off to the right here. Walk down this track for 320 m (lots of shrubs in places) and look for a flagged trail on the left side of the track (GPS coordinates for the start of the trail are N46° 30.488' W83° 07.832'). I am not sure how easy it is to follow this trail in winter. Follow the trail to the top of the cliff - it's 830 m long (18 minute walk). The trail comes out on top of the Big Wall section of cliff, left of the high-point, near the top of the rock climb *Northern Etiquette*. Follow a rib of rock to your right (skier's right) for 100 m to reach the high



point of the cliff (c. 420 m high) and then continue on another 200 m to the right to find the top of a descent gully.

Descent Gully - The 3.5 Gully. This is a rather steep 45 m descent gully that leads down to the large talus slope between the left side of the Big Wall and the Community Wall. In summer it is covered in pine needles and there is lots of loose rock underfoot and it is much safer to rappel this gully rather than scramble down it. I'm not sure how it looks in winter. The steepest section is towards the bottom. (GPS coordinates for the top of the gully are N46° 30.291' W83° 07.510')

The gully in which the *Good Things* ice climb is found some 600 m skier's right of the 3.5 gully.

Please be very careful when climbing at the Eyeball. It's very remote and a long way from help. There is cell reception only at the top of the Big Wall.

The Cove

From the intersection of Highways 129 and 554 head 1.4 km east to a small logging road on the south side of Highway 554. This road may or may not be plowed depending on logging activity (it probably won't be). Drive/walk 950 m along the logging road. Look for a flagged trail on the left (east) side of the road. The trail mostly follows old logging roads through the woods. Take the left branch where the logging road forks. You will see the cliff through the trees on your left after a short distance. Be cautious of swampy terrain underfoot in the last 100 m. It is approximately 500 m from the logging road to the cliff.

Routes are described from left to right.

Ahab, WI3, 30 m (Randy Kielbasiewicz, Graeme Taylor, December 10, 2014)

Follow the easy groove left of the main flow in corner. The crux involves utilizing the dead tree or Ahab's peg leg. Follow the obvious curtain at the top. *RK*

Project—The Fluke 30 m—*please don't climb*

Steep curtain 10 m right of Ahab. *RK*

Belly of the Whale, WI 3- 20 m

(FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Graeme Taylor, Dylan Cumming, January 10, 2015).

Climb the obvious groove 25 m right of *Ahab*. Squirm your way past the beast's ribs topping out on the right. *RK*

Project—Poons and Harpoons. —*please don't climb*

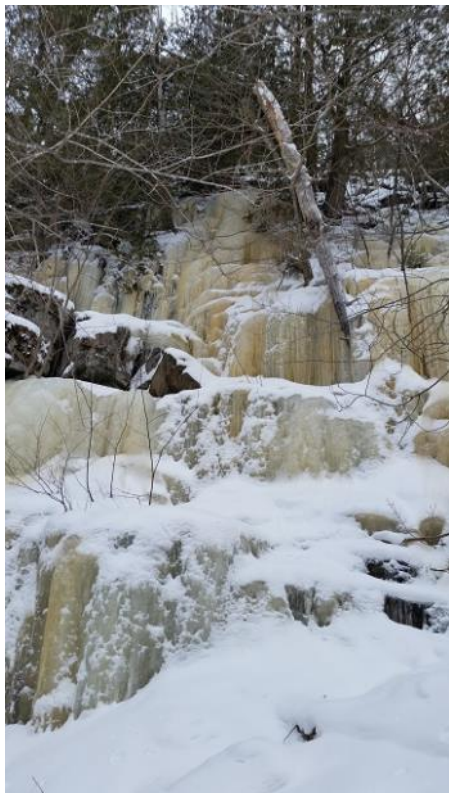
Short column with mixed finish 5 m right. *RK*

Cetus, D7, 12 m (Bolted by Randy Kielbasiewicz, January 2016).

Located just right of Poons and Harpoons. Follow bolts to anchors.

Left: *Ahab* on the left and *The Fluke* on the right. Photo by Randy Kielbasiewicz.
Right: Graeme Taylor on *Call Me Ishmael*. Photo from Graeme Taylor.





Left: *Mutual Adze-miration*. Right: Randy Kielbasiewicz on *Walk the Plank*. Photos from Randy Kielbasiewicz.

Call Me Ishmael, WI2, 10 m

(Graeme Taylor, Randy Kielbasiewicz, December 10, 2014)

Fun, easy Carmel Coating-like flow right of *Belly of the Whale*. *RK*

Mutual Adze-miration, WI2, 10 m

(FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Graeme Taylor, Dylan Cumming, January 10, 2015).

Easy flow in centre of crag right of *Call Me Ishmael*. *RK*

Walk the Plank, WI3, 10 m

(FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Graeme Taylor, Dylan Cumming, January 10, 2015).

A short route at the far right end. Climb a log to a ledge. Follow a thin smear to a ledge and right facing corner. A few mixed moves to top out. *RK*

HIGHWAY 129 CORRIDOR

Highway 129 runs north from Thessalon for 221 km to Chapleau. The highway is lined with spectacular cliffs on both sides of the road in the stretch from the 30 km mark to about 115 km. The section along the Mississagi River is especially picturesque. Not all of the cliffs have ice, but enough of them do to make the drive well worthwhile.

Some of the ice routes along Highway 129 have been climbed in the past by local climbers, by Shaun Parent and friends, and by visiting American climbers. However, we have names and route descriptions for only a few of them. We have found old rap slings/cords at the tops of other unnamed routes. We have taken the liberty of giving names, grades and descriptions to all the routes that we have climbed for identification and information purposes. If anybody has additional information on any of these routes, please pass it along.

Highway 129 Km Markings	Distance from Intersection of Highway 17 and 129 in Thessalon, Heading North	Distance from Intersection of Highways 129 and 554 near Kynoch, Heading North
Location		
Wharncliffe	26.5 km	
Intersection Rock	30.1 km	- 0.6 km
Highway 129 and 554 Intersection	30.7 km	0.0 km
Tunnel Lake Trading Post	32.5 km	1.8 km
Dirt road to Cumming's Lake Trailhead	32.7 km	2.0 km
Tunnel Lake Narrows	34.5 km	3.8 km
Pullout Rock	54.3 km	23.6 km
Stoney Creek	58.2 km	27.5 km
Roadside Cliff 1	60.2 km	29.5 km
(Sand) Pit Pullout	61.8 km	31.1 km
Mississagi Riverside Campsites	61.9 km	31.2 km
Pig Pen Chute (Rapids)	63.2 km	32.5 km
Other Side (Kayak) Cliff	66.2 km	35.5 km
Gift Cliff	69.1 km	38.4 km
High Cleft/Gully Ice	73.6 km	42.9 km
Roadside Cliff 2	74.1 km	43.4 km
Rapid River	78.9 km	48.2 km
Bigger Bridge over Mississagi River	79.0 km	48.3 km
Smaller Bridge over Mississagi (MBO)	81.2 km	50.5 km
Seymour Lake Rd	82.0 km	51.3 km
Gravel River	82.3 km	51.6 km
Sharpsand River #1	83.7 km	53 km
Bog Wall Clearcut (east of highway)	86.4 km	55.7 km
Bog Wall Creek Bridge (Sharpsand River #2)	87.2 km	56.5 km
Blackcreek Outfitters	92.3 km	61.6 km
Aubrey Falls Trading Post and Resort	93.7 km	63.0 km
Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Road)	96.5 km	65.8 km
Road to Aubrey Falls Hydro Station	101.2 km	70.5 km
Bridge Over Mississagi	101.6 km	70.9 km
Dirt road to Little Trout Creek	102.3 km	72.2 km
Aubrey Falls Provincial Park Road	106 km	75.9 km
Peshu Lake Road	108.9 km	79.8 km

Tunnel Lake

The Tunnel Lake Cliff has two good ice climbs, but also a long approach. A big thank-you to Marco Foladore for spotting this cliff and sending us the aerial photo and coordinates.

Directions

The cliff is located on Tunnel Lake, north-west of the town of Wharncliffe, Ontario. In Wharncliffe take Wharncliffe Road north of Highway 129 for 3.9 km until the plowed section of the road ends. Park here. Walk north along the unplowed section of Wharncliffe Rd for 1.7 km. It's a snowmobile trail in winter. Where Wharncliffe Rd turns left and starts to head west, turn right onto a side road/snowmobile trail and head north along it for another 1.6 km, passing under hydro wires along the way, and ending at a cluster of cottages by the lake. Cross Tunnel Lake to the cliff visible on the north side. It's almost a kilometre across the lake to the cliff. Total distance from the parking is about 4.3 km. It took us an hour and 20 minutes.

The other option would be to walk from Highway 129 for 5.5 km west along Tunnel Lake.



Tunnel Lake cliff. *Snowcake Walk* on the left, *White Powder* on the right. Photo by Marco Foladore, March 2018.



White Powder, WI3+, 25 m

(FA Mish Vins, Liliya Ianovskaia, Danylo Darewych, Feb. 16, 2019).

Located on the south-west face of the cliff that looks out onto the lake. It starts about 60 m up a steep snow slope. Climb the fairly narrow ice-flow to the top.

Snowcake Walk, WI3-4, 50 m (FA Mark Hurst, Cynthia Chung, Feb. 16, 2019).

Located about 150 m left of *White Powder* on the face that looks out across a narrow bay (faces northwest?). Also starts 60 m up a slope. This a long, wide ice

flow, easier on the left (WI3) and steeper on the right (WI4).



Top left: Mish Vins leading *White Powder*. Top right: *Snowcake Walk*. Below: Cynthia Chung rappelling down *Snowcake Walk*. Photo by Mark Hurst.



Intersection Rock/American Wall

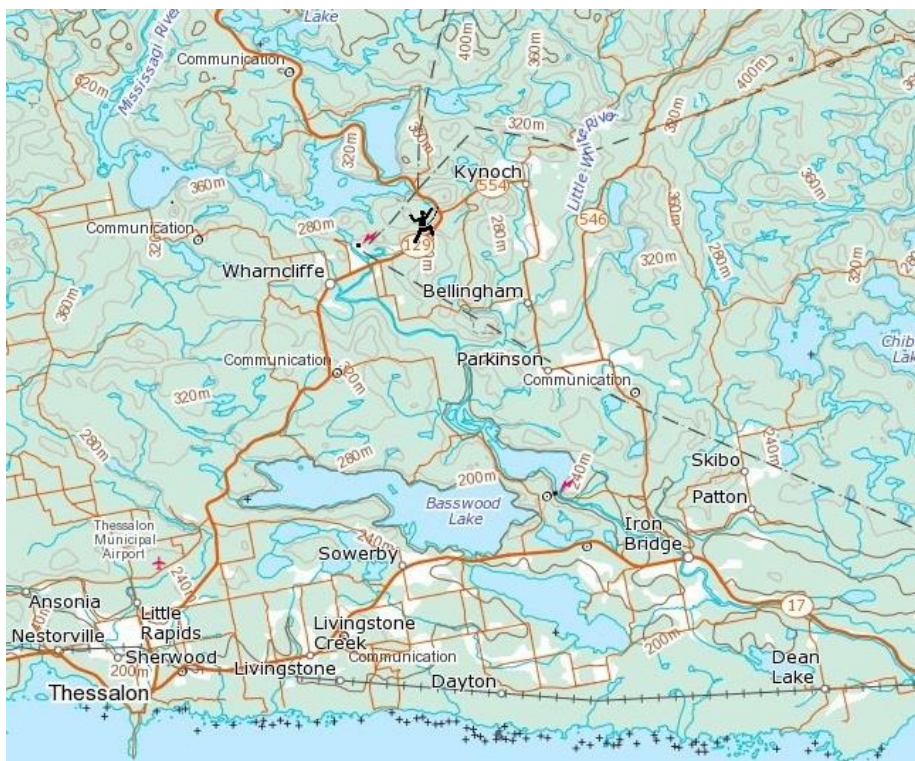
Intersection Rock/American Wall is a 400 m long cliff* a mere 100 m from the road that sports a great number of climbs (c. 20) of all difficulties from WI2 to WI4+ from 10 m to 30 m tall. The crag is called the American Wall by Mike Backus and Intersection Rock by Shaun Parent. I'm not sure who got there first.

Location

This area is located near the intersection of Highways 129 and 554 north of the Iron Bridge/Thessalon area, midway between Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. You can get there in two ways:

1) From Iron Bridge: From Highway 17 (Trans-Canada) in Iron Bridge, head north along Highway 546 for 11 km. At this point Highway 546 veers right (north). Continue instead on Highway 554 for another 5.4 km as the highway heads west and north until it ends at the intersection with Highway 129. Turn left (south) along Highway 129 for 650-700 m. The cliff will be on the north side of the road.

2) From Thessalon: From the intersection of Highway 17 (Trans-Canada) and Highway 129 in Thessalon head north for 30 km along Highway 129. The cliff will be on the north side of the road, just before a bend and the intersection with Highway 554. Park at the side of the road.



* According to Robertson, J.A., and Card, K.D, *Geology and Scenery, North Shore of Lake Huron Region; Ontario Geological Survey, Geological Guide Book 4*, 1972, p. 123 186 the cliff is composed of "Gowganda Formation graded greywacke."



Al Fylak at the American Wall/Intersection Rock in 2009. Photo by Mike Backus. He is standing below a very fat *Sometimes She Cries*.

Access Issue

In the summer of 2016 “No Trespassing” signs went up along the roadside and at the cliff itself. It appears that these signs apply to the left end of the cliff, i.e. starting from the mixed route *Afraid of Americans* left to *Short but Good*. Thankfully, they do not appear to apply to the right side of the cliff where the longer climbs are located. However, please be on your best behaviour when climbing here and do not stray past the No Trespassing signs to the left side of the cliff.

Route Descriptions

The ice climbs at Intersection Rock/American Wall were first described in general on the climbingcentral.com forum (now defunct) by Michael Backus, who climbed there in February 2009 with Al Fylak. He reported that they had found:

“A cliff about 500 meters long and 30 meters high, with at least 22 ice climbs and 7 mixed routes and 1 dry tool route. There are many variations and possibilities. 13 of the ice lines are 25 to 30 meters tall. The rest vary from 20 to 15 meters. We do not know if this area has ever been climbed before there seems to be no information I could find in any of my guide books or on the internet. There were no signs of past climbing activity at the top or bottom of the cliff. We climbed 13 or so lines and ran out of time. The climbs are in the WI 2 to WI 4+ range. “

However, in his report Mike did not provide any route names or indicate exactly which climbs they had climbed. I have since been in touch by email with Mike

Backus and Al Fylak, who confirmed that they had indeed climbed many of the same routes, but they didn't have any names or route descriptions.

I first climbed here in March 2013 with David Broadhead and Josh Burden; and later in February 2014 with a large group from the Toronto section of the ACC. At that time we gave the routes we climbed names for identification purposes, although we realized that most of the lines had been climbed before. The route descriptions were created by folks in various stages of inebriation.

The routes are described from right to left (east to west) as you walk along the cliff.

The first flow you come to at the east end of the cliff is a big, wide one with 4-5 different lines on it. Three lines have been given names.

Cunning Stunt, WI 3+, 30 m (as climbed by Dave Broadhead, Josh Burden, Danylo Darewych, March 12, 2013).

On the middle right side of the first flow. Start on dry terrain and move up to a wetter medium. The further you go, the harder it gets. Good for long screws. There is a slightly easier (WI3) line to the right (that does not have a name).

70s Bush, WI1++, 30+ m (ACB Randall the Handle Kielbasiewicz, Rob "The Crank" Ramirez, February 16, 2014).

The center route on the first flow, up a groove. Plunge face first through bottomless hoar. Watch out for the crack



The first flow with the lines of *The Sunday After-Church Crochet and Knitting Club* (on left), *70s Bush* (centre) and *Cunning Stunt* (right) marked out. Feb. 16, 2013.



Left: Dave Broadhead on *Cunning Stunt*, March 12, 2013.

Right: Mark Hurst on *One Good Screw*, Feb. 16, 2014. Photo by Chelsea Mccune.

Below: Joe Palma on *Sometimes She Cries*, February 16, 2014. Photo by Astrid Palantzas.

The Sunday After-Church Crocheting and Knitting Club, WI3, 30 m

(ACB Danylo Darewych, David Lamb, Jessica Cao, February 16, 2014)

The left side of the first flow. Thread your way up and over several bulges to a final, slightly steeper, curtain on top.

Another big wide prominent ice flow is found about 50 m left (west) of the first one. Several lines are possible here.

One Good Screw, WI3, 36.3 m

(ACB Dave Broadhead, Dave Iwanenko, February 16, 2014)

Wallow through face deep snow up to the second flow from the right. Climb a short pillar. Wallow up chin deep snow to the real climbing. Bring a snorkel. The right side is steeper (WI4-WI4+).

The next two climbs are located side-by-side about 25 m left of *One Good Screw* just before a slight right-facing corner/bend. They start from the top of a short snow slope.





Left: Chris Shores on *Mixed Emotions*, March 12, 2019. Photo by Paul Rolewicz.

Right: Kim Incheol below the upper column of *Micro Swings*, Feb. 14, 2020. Below: Stefan Kloppenborg on his mixed route *I'm Afraid of Americans*, February 13, 2016.

Mixed Emotion, WI4+, 20 m (FA Paul Rolewicz, Feb. 20, 2016).

Climb up a steep, narrow pillar of not-quite-consolidated icicles and up a wider curtain above.

Sometimes She Cries, WI4-, 20 m

(ACB Joe Palma, Astrid Palantzas, February 16, 2014)

Located 3 m left (west) of *Mixed Emotions*, just left of a bare patch or rock between the two climbs. Climb thin ice up the corner.

Micro Swings, WI4+, 23 m

(ACB Kim Incheol, Jaime Beecroft, Danylo Darewych, February 15, 2020)*

Start just left of the start of *Sometimes*... and head left up an icy ramp to a ledge. Climb the steep, candled pillar/curtain above.

I'm Afraid of Americans, M7, 20 m, 11 bolts

(Stefan Kloppenborg, Feb. 13, 2016)



* This is the same climb that you can see Al Fylak pulling the rope from in the photo on page 94.

Located another 15 m left of *Sometimes She Cries*. Look for a corner system with ice at the bottom, a crack in the middle, and thinner ice up top. Climb the lower ice pillar (screws necessary), then follow the bolts to the top.

Gimme Three Steps, WI3, 18 m

(ACB Danylo Darewych, Dylan Cumming, December 28, 2014).

Located about 20 m left of *Sometimes She Cries* in a bit of a corner. Climb an initial, steep 4-5 m step to a big ledge. Walk up to the next, taller step; climb this to a smaller ledge, and then head up a final, smaller step to the top. Tree belay.



Above: Danylo Darewych starting up *Gimme Three Steps* with Dylan Cumming belaying behind the tree, December 28, 2014. Photo by Shaun Parent.

Left of *Gimme Three Steps* are several shorter climbs (photo below). We've given two of them names.

Big Boy Panties, WI3-, 12 m

(ACB Rob Ramirez, Chelsea Mccune, Mark Hurst, David Iwanenko, David Britnell, February 16, 2014).

Found in the middle of the shorter climbs. Ascends a bit of a rampy groove.





Left: Jon Gullet on *Short but Good*, December 25, 2015. Right: Rob Ramirez on *Big Boy Panties*. February 16, 2014. Photo by Chelsea Mccune.

Short but Good, WI 3, 13 m

(ACB Jon Gullet, Danylo Darewych, Dec. 25, 2015).

The leftmost of the shorter flows left of *Gimme Three Steps*.

Over the Bulge and into the Crack, WI3, M4+, 12 m

(Equipping & FA by Daunte Rezaie, Randy Kielbasiewicz, Dec. 30, 2019).

A mixed climb located just left of *Short but Good*. Climb a 3-4 m high bullet of ice and continue up the crack above. A couple of screws and 5 bolts.

Many more short, fat flows are found further down the cliff line.

Pullout Rock

Pullout Rock is a smaller cliff situated close to the road. It has one inconsistent, scrappy iceflow that always has some ice on it, but almost never forms solidly or all the way to the ground.

Location

Drive 54.3 km north from Thessalon along Highway 129. There will be a wide pullout/snowplow turnaround on the right (east) side of the highway. Park here. The cliff is located about 150 m east of the highway. It is clearly visible from the highway. There is one iceflow located more or less in the middle of the cliff.

Give Me a Break, WI4+, 35 m
(Andriy Kolos, Laura Duncan, Brent Elliot, March 5, 2023).

Although not vertical from start to finish, there is no salad on this pitch. The greens are never far away, but not in the way. A great worthy pitch (when in condition) featuring a steep hanging flow to finish. A 70 m rope makes for a comfortable top-rope. Starts getting the sun at around noon. *AK*



Andriy Kolos leading *Give Me a Break* at Pullout Rock. Photos by Brent Elliot.



Stoney Creek Cliff



Stoney Creek ice: *Hungry Man* is the big flow on the far right. *Ozzy's Chute/Classy Gully* (I think) is in the middle and a snow gully on the far left. March 16, 2011.

The ice flows at Stoney Creek are clearly visible as you drive along Highway 129. There are 5-6 worthwhile routes here spread out over a distance of some 600 m. The ice here forms consistently every year.

Directions/ Location

Drive 58.2 km north on Hwy. 129 from Hwy. 17 at Thessalon. Just before the Stoney Creek area Hwy. 129 will make a sharp turn to the right, then to the left and then immediately pass over Stoney Creek at 58.2 km. (where it feeds into the Mississagi River). There is a sign for Stoney Creek. Park at the end of the guardrail on the right side of the road. The ice climbs will be visible on the cliff above the highway as you make the turns.

Approach

Hike north/uphill along the road for 50 m, then head east and uphill through the forest for some 450 m, staying on the high ground above the Stoney Creek drainage. You will eventually reach a large, wide ice flow - *Hungry Man*.

Hungry Man ,WI4, 30-50 m (FA Jacob Sams, Nicole Dolney, March 2, 2005).

Climb the steep, central vertical bulge jutting from the base of the curtain, just right of the hanging daggers, to a small stance, then up vertical ice to a larger ledge with a large cedar tree off to the right. Or continue for another 20 m on easier angled bulges. Rappel off the tree using the fixed sling and quicklink. *JS**

Lean Cuisine, WI3+, 30 m (FA Nicole Dolney, Jacob Sams, March 2, 2005)

Located just right of *Hungry Man*. Climb slightly lower angled ice to the large ledge with the rappel tree. *JS**

* <http://beta.climbingcentral.com/detail.lasso?ID=130&Section=Routes> The website is now defunct.



Jacob Sams' photo of the *Hungry Man* area from climbingcentral.com. March 2, 2005.

Rafael Kolodziejczyk leading *Hungry Man*. *Lean Cuisine* is on the right. Feb, 2, 2016.

Below: Two views of *Ozzy's Chute/Classy Gully*. January 11, 2015. Photo from Kielbasiewicz.

Climb 100 m to the left, WI3 (don't know the name).

Mostly easy angled snow-covered ice, except for one short vertical step halfway up (steeper than it looks from below).

Ozzy's Chute (aka Classy Gully*), WI3-, 45 m

(FA Jacob Sams, Nicole Dolney, March 2, 2005)

Located about 300 m left of *Hungry Man*. Look for a lovely, stepped flow descending down a narrow gully.

Located another 200 m left of *Classy Gully* are 3 climbs one next to another.. The steepest and most prominent one is the leftmost one — *From Africa with Love* (aka *4-Arm*).



132 * It was called *Classy Gully* by Randy when he first climbed it on Jan. 11, 2015, because we weren't sure of the exact location of *Ozzy's Chute*. Randy found fixed slings at the top of the route, so it's almost assuredly the same route as *Ozzy's Chute*.

Bicep, WI3/3+, 28 m (Randy Kielbasiewicz, Graeme Taylor, January 11, 2015).

Located about 15 m right of *4-Arm*. The furthest right flow. Start on thin ice on left or steeper ice on right. Climb up to ledge, follow winding ice flow to top.

Tricep (unclimbed). The middle ice flow.

From Africa with Love (aka 4-Arm*), WI4, 30 m (?) (FA Travis Tinsey, Chris Shores, Kevin Keel, Todd Belski, Don Rudolph; February 6, 2010).

The leftmost, and steepest, ice-flow. Climb the initial steep section, then easier-angled ice to the top.

Pink Flip Flop Area

A small U-shaped wall of ice north Hungry Man on the east side of the highway (N 46.62300, W083.42657). It's not far off the road, but hard to spot through the trees. It was named the Pink Flip Flop by Chris Shores who put his daughter's flip flop on the road sign to mark the area.

Even Keel, WI3, 8m

(Kevin Keele Jeremy, Chris Shores, Todd Belski; March 6, 2011).

The left side of the wall.



Left: Randy Kielbasiewicz getting a pumpy *4-Arm*. Right: *Bicep*. January 11, 2015.

* Randy Kielbasiewicz and Graeme Taylor climbed this route on January 11, 2015, thinking it was a new route and named it *4-Arm*.

Kenzie's Flip Flop, WI4, 8 m (Chris Shores, Todd Belski, Kevin Keel, Jeremy; March 6, 2011).

The middle (back) flow of ice.

Harder than Your Husband, WI4+, 8m (Chris Shores, Todd Belski, Kevin Keel, Jeremy, March 6, 2011).

The dead-vertical pillar on the right side of the wall.

Sundown Wall*

The Sundown Wall is located another 300-400 m left (north) of *From Africa (4-Arm)*. I suspect that the Sundown Wall is probably the same area as the Pink Flip Flop Area, but I don't know for sure, since the descriptions don't quite match.



Graeme Taylor on *Moonrise*.

Moonrise, WI3-, 8 m (Graeme Taylor, Randy Kielbasiewicz, February 1, 2015).
Leftmost climb.

Sundown, WI3, 28 m (Randy Kielbasiewicz, Graeme Taylor, Dylan Cumming,, Jon Lediett, January 2015).
Middle line of ice.

Twilight, WI4-/4, 8 m (Randy Kielbasiewicz, January 2015).
Rightmost climb.

Mother's Milk

Mother's Milk, WI3, 50 m (Marvin Egner, Mark Crews and Ed Mealoy, March 4, 2013).

This climb is located on the other (west) side of the Mississagi River. Head 1.5 km north along Highway 129 from *Hungry Man* at Stoney Creek and look to the west side of the Mississagi River. Be very careful when crossing the Mississagi River. It doesn't freeze every winter and even when it does there is a strong current flowing under the ice. Also, be aware that the river is dam controlled and crossing it may be very hazardous even under the best conditions. The FA party belayed each other across the river.



Marv Egner leading *Mother's Milk* while Ed Mealoy belays.

Gift Cliff

The Gift Cliff is home to one impressive mixed line and several easier ice flows.

The Gift Cliff is located 38.4 km north of the intersection of Highways 129 and 554. Look for dip in the road just before an S-bend. Park before the dip where the cliff is close to the road and approach the *Gift* by contouring in from the right, up and over lumps, rather than tackling the forested slopes head on.

The Gift, WI4+, M5, 54 m, mixed
(Brent Elliot, Laura Duncan, Andriy Kolos, March 4, 2023)

This climb has a bit of everything—slab, steep ice, and mixed climbing to a hanging dagger. The ice rarely forms solidly.

- Pitch 1, WI4, M3, 35- 40 m: Either climb the ramp that heads up from right to left or the more direct thin ice runnel or dry tool up the featured slab left of the ice runnel (3 bolts). All variations end at the



Left: Laura Duncan climbing the steps of the first pitch.. Feb. 20, 2023. Photo by Brent.
Right: Brent Elliot topping out on the dagger, March 4, 2023. Photo by Andriy Kolos.

top of the ramp below a small, steep headwall. Climb up this headwall either up a line below a spruce tree or up an ice vein further right (there are three bolts on the right). Continue up steps and bulges to a ledge below the final dagger and step slightly down and left to 2-bolt anchor with rings. It's a 35 m rappel to the ground from here.

- Pitch 2, WI4+, M5, 14 m: Climb up to an iced-up rock pedestal below the dagger. Dry-tool up left of the dagger (hidden crack with better and better hooks) until you can transition right onto the more solid upper ice of the hanging dagger and finish up on the steep ice of the dagger. Tree anchor.

Bring a small handful of finger sized pieces (pink tricam is helpful before first bolt of P2), *BE, AK*

The next two climbs are located downhill and left of the *Gift* by about 200 m, on the right margin of a treed gully that splits the cliff system. The gully can be used to reach the top of the cliff. The climbs are not visible from the *Gift* or from the road.

Potlatch, WI2+, 15 m

(Danylo Darewych, Eric Csekey, February 23, 2026)

Located at the toe of the wide rock buttress that forms the right-hand side of the gully. Climb up an ice-filled groove and then up the wider formation above. Tree belay.

Golden Line, WI3+, 8 m

(Eric Csekey, Danylo Darewych, February 23, 2026)

Located another 30 m left of *Potlatch* and partway up the gully. Lots of variations are possible here, as there are multiple discontinuous ice blobs/flows spillin down the gully.

Climb up an initial 3-4 m ice step (or go around it) and then slog another 20 m uphill to a fat, golden, 8 m high flow. Climb the steepest line straight up.



Left: *Potlatch*. Middle: Looking up over ice bulges to *Golden Line*. Right: Eric Csekey leading *Golden Line*.

The Bench



A smiling Mark Hurst enjoying the views over the Mississauga River from the top of the Bench after having climbed the *Southern Ontario Alpine Runnel*.

The Bench is a surprisingly tall cliff system in the Mississauga River Valley, just 150 m from Highway 129, but almost entirely hidden from view from the road. It is about 100 m high and about 200 m long. One easy ice line has been climbed here. We're not sure how reliably it forms and whether there are any others (I suspect not). The views along the Mississauga River from the top are beautiful.

Directions/Approach

Drive north from the intersection of Highways 129 and 554 for about 41.1 km. There are no particularly significant landmarks to indicate where to stop, other than a slight widening of the west bank of the Mississauga River. There is a Red Bull can stuck on the stub of a branch of a big pine tree to indicate where we hiked up in winter. Park at the side of the road. Hike up the treed slope east of the road. Bear slightly left as you head up the slope. You will get to a flat bench running parallel to the road from which rises the cliff of the same name. It is about 150 m distance and 60 m of elevation gain to the base of the cliff.

The cliff is divided into two distinct, offset sections, split by a steep, treed gully. The right section of the cliff rises directly from the forested bench and consists of much more solid looking and steeper rock. The left section of the cliff is set further

back and higher up the slope above a talus field.

SOAR (Southern Ontario Alpine Runnel), WI2, 40 m

(Danylo Darewych, Mark Hurst, April 9, 2023).

This route climbs the treed gully that separates the two parts of the Bench cliff.

We climbed the route in part because it was there and in part because we were looking for any easy way to the top of the cliff for some (very) early season rock development. From below it looked like there was only one short ice bulge at the start of the gully, but there was in fact easy-angle ice most of the length of the gully. Bring long slings to sling the trees for protection.



Uphill Cliff

The Uphill Cliff is located 72.8 km north of Thessalon along Highway 129 (or 42.1 km north of the intersection of highways 129 and 554). At this point the cliff line starts to get closer to the road, but as the name implies the cliff is located at the top of a steep slope above the highway. There are 1-2 ice lines along this section of cliff. They haven't been climbed.

High Cleft Ice, WI3+, 14 m ?

At approximately 73.6 km north of Thessalon along Highway 129 (or 42.9 km north of the intersection of highways 129 and 554) there is a small notch/cleft/gully in the cliff-line above the road. An ice flow spills down the notch/gully. Park at the side of the highway and head uphill to the notch.





Dave Broadhead, Randy Kielbasiewicz and Jon Gullett standing at the side of Highway 129 and gazing wistfully at the remnants of the ice at MBO, March 15, 2015.

The MBO is a large cliff located on the west side of the Gravel/Sharpsand River,* a tributary of the Mississagi River, some 81.3 km north of Thessalon (or 50.6 km north of the intersection of Highways 129 and 554). There is a smaller snow-mobile/ATV bridge across the Gravel/Sharpsand River* here (not to be confused with a larger bridge 2 km south). Park at the pullout next to the bridge on Highway 129, walk across the bridge and up the road for 100 m, then turn right towards the cliff.

The cliff is a favourite winter ice climbing haunt of Marvin Egner (Cupcake), Laurie Snedeker (Cougar) and friends from Michigan who often camp here at the far side of the bridge. They named the cliff MBO — Mark's Big One.

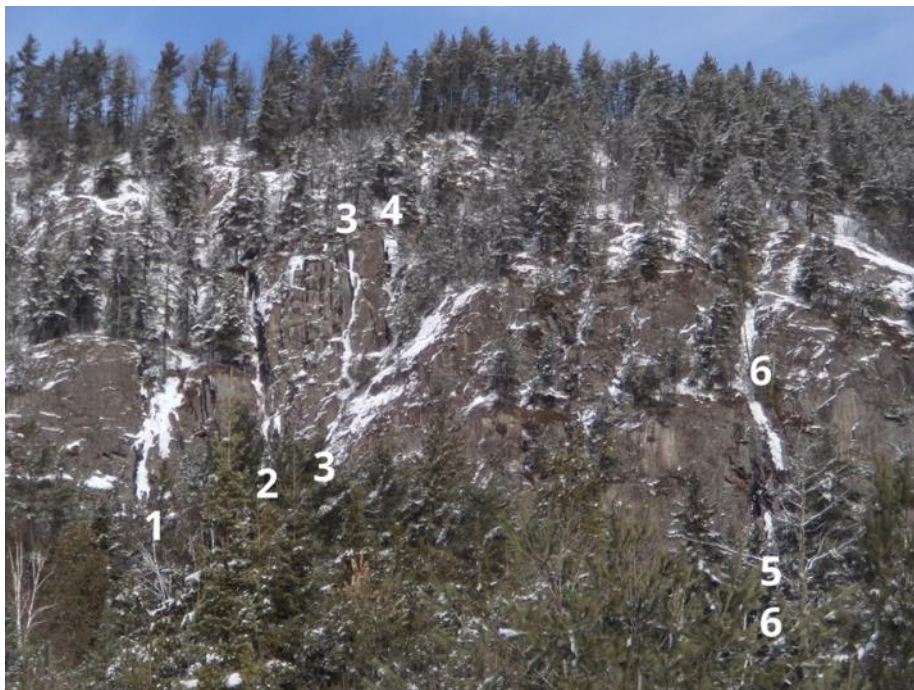
Redemption, WI3+, 50 m (Mark Crews and Ben Master- son, January, 2014).

This is the first major ice line when walking along the cliff (75 m, 5 minute walk). There is a flagged trail leading to the base, if you can find it in the trees. A section of fixed rope helps with the last 10 m.

Rope up at the edge of the trees or scramble up a small thin ice/turf/rock step 10 m higher to a chain belay station



140 * The river is named the Gravel River on the southernmost sign at the side of Highway 129. It's called the Sharpsand River on topographic maps and on signs further north.



Above: MBO Main Face ice routes: 1) *Redemption* 2) *Thievery* 3) *Polish Bison* 4) An unclimbed line 5) *In the Line of Fire* 6) *Algomatosis*. Below: *Redemption* at the MBO. There is a climber at the base of the tree at the top of the photo.

on a big ledge. At this point the ice is up to 15 m wide. Head up for 40 m. to a big belay tree with rope and slings. The ice is often thin on the slabs after the first 10 m. There is another set of belay bolts in a narrow chute on the left about parallel with the top of a rock rib that angles in from the right. These are useful, if the ice is thin.

There is another 15 m of easy ice (WI2) about 20 m above the belay tree. There is another tree with rope and slings on it here (Beware: a 30 m rappel will not reach from this tree to the one at the top of the first pitch). You can continue even further over intermittent ice through a narrow slot on the right for 55 m, if that sort of thing appeals to you.



Thievery, WI3+, 50 m (Randy Kielbasiewicz, Dane Graham, February 22, 2015)

Head about 20 m right of *Redemption* and then up to the top of a gully. Rarely forms.

- Pitch 1, WI3+, 30 m. Start in left facing corner. Climb up to ledge, then up a short steep ice step and wander until you feel like stopping at any tree.
- Pitch 2, WI2, 20+ m. Follow easy ice in corner to top. *RK*

Polish Bison, M6, WI3+, 70 m (Randy Kielbasiewicz, Jon Gullett, Jan 7, 2017)

The base of this route cannot be seen from the road, as there is an intervening rock buttress in front of it. You have to go around the buttress to start in the cleft behind it.

- Pitch 1, M6, 40 m. This is a dry-tooling pitch. Follow a crack system almost up a buttress over small steps and then up a blank overhanging corner (no feet, good tools and hand placements) through a small overhang (bomber gear) to small juniper. Continue up easier angled rock to the base of the ice. Belay on rock gear (little ledge).
- Pitch 2, WI3+. Continue up a ribbon of ice in a groove. 5 m of dry-tooling to top out. Cams up to yellow and a set of nuts, stubbies. *RK*

In the Line of Fire, WI3, M3, 38 m

(FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Daunte Rezaie, November 16, 2019)

Two routes share a common start in a chimney about 300 m right of *Thievery*. *In the Line of Fire* starts in the chimney and heads moderately up and right, following a left-facing corner system past a narrow notch with a small drop-off on the left (at



Left: Randy Kielbasiewicz skulking up the steeper section of *Thievery*. Right: *In the Line of Fire* and *Algomatositis*. Both photos from the Randy Kielbasiewicz collection.

30 m), then follows discontinuous ice past 3 bolts. Step left to a 2 bolt anchor (with 1 stainless steel quick-link). An early season route that burns out quickly. Keep the belayer out of the line of fire, well right of the chimney. *RK*

Algomatosis , WI3, 65 m (Randy Kielbasiewicz, Graeme Taylor, February 15, 2015)

Starts in the same chimney as *In the Line of Fire*, but heads more sharply right above. One long pitch with a 70 m rope, with little to spare. Belay off (or near) a big, dead, leaning tree. There is actually more very-easy-angled ice above. This route does not form every year.

Definition: A pathological increased need to visit the Algoma region

Symptoms: Sweaty palms, heart palpitations, shortness of breath and a sense of euphoria.

Treatment: There is currently no known or desired cure. *RK*

Little Dink, WI3, 15 m (FA Mark Crews, Marvin Egner, December 2012). Located another 300 m (maybe) further down the cliff, tucked back around a bend in the cliff face. A fun little climb. Always comes in really thick. *ME*



Another 40 m or so further down, you'll come to a big "canyon" filled with rock. This is the RRP Canyon—Rock Relocation Program Canyon. Slog uphill to the top of the rockpile. There are a couple of nice but short lines/pillars at the top of the rockpile. *ME*

Above: *In the Line of Fire*. Photo from Randy Kielbasiewicz. Below: The ice climbs at the top end of the Rock Relocation Program Canyon at MBO. Photo by Rafael Kolodziejczyk, December 27, 2016.

Cleft Ice, WI3, 17 m (Steffen Lipsky, Ed Mealoy, Jan. 2014)

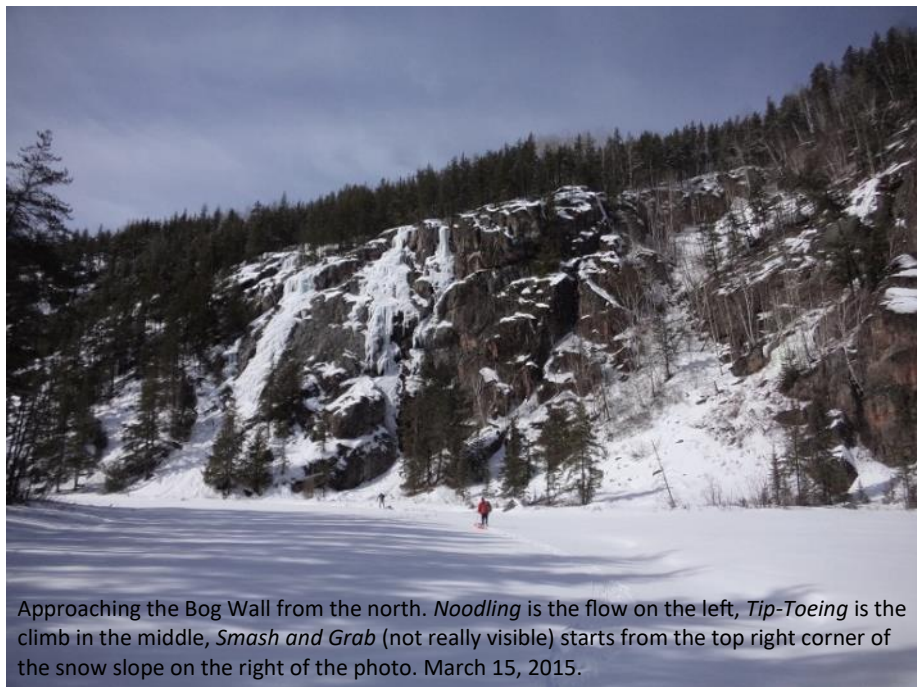
Located in a cleft on the left. Climb the steep ice that fills the cleft, then continue over easier ground on snow, moss and rock to more solid belay trees at the very top of the cleft (it's about 27 m to the top of the cleft).

Rockpile Ice, WI3, 22 m (Steffen Lipsky, Ed Mealoy, Jan. 2014).

The wider ice flow on the right.



Bog Wall



Approaching the Bog Wall from the north. *Noodling* is the flow on the left, *Tip-Toeing* is the climb in the middle, *Smash and Grab* (not really visible) starts from the top right corner of the snow slope on the right of the photo. March 15, 2015.

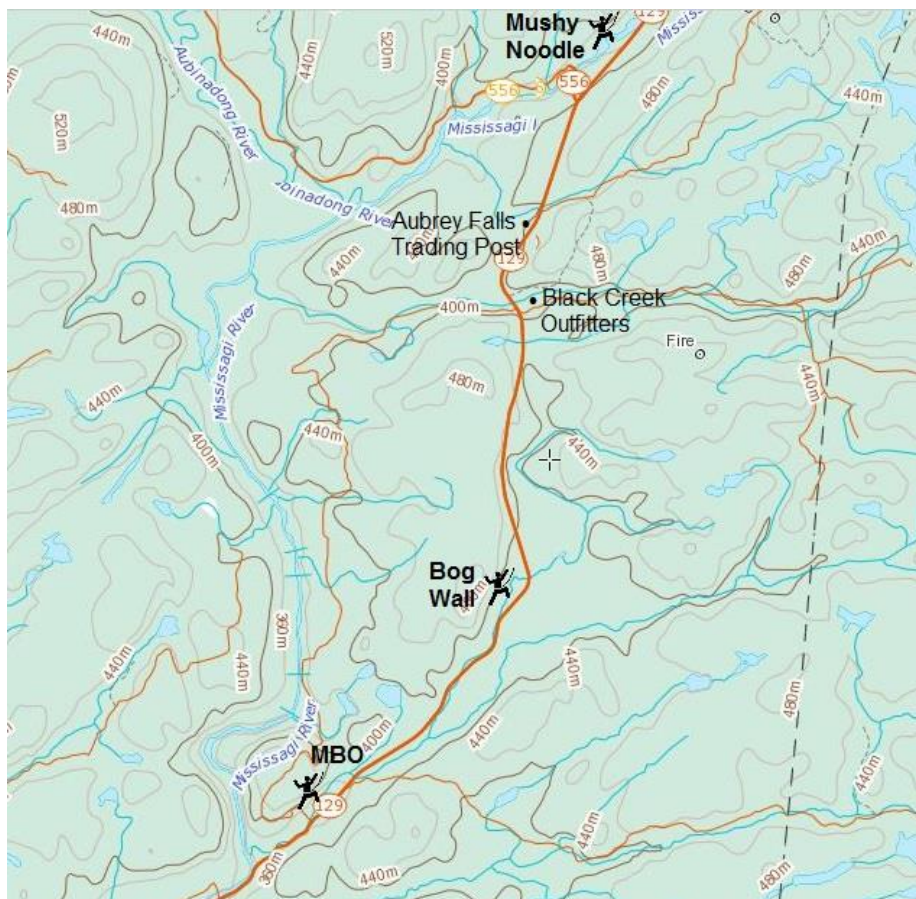
The Bog Wall is a tall cliff situated above the west bank of the meandering Sharpsand River, some 400 m from Highway 129. It has 3 longer routes and 3-4 smaller ones.

Location

The Bog Wall is located on Highway 129, 10 km south of the intersection of Highway 129 and Highway 556; or 7.7 km north of the bigger logging bridge over the Mississagi River (not to be confused with the smaller bridge over the Gravel/Sharpsand River another 2.3 km further on); or 56 km north of the intersection of Highway 129 and 554; or 87 km north of Thessalon.

We parked at a pullout near a logging cut south of the cliff, walked through some forest on the west side of the highway, and then crossed a stream/swamp/beaver pond to reach the cliffs the first time we were there (about 400 m walking distance?). It's also possible to approach the cliff from the north. If the river is not well frozen, park north of the causeway where the highway crosses the Sharpsand River (there is a good, clear view of the cliff here) and walk along the north/west shore of a creek along a swamp to the cliff. I believe it's further from this end.

The ice climbs are located in two separate areas of the cliff several hundred metres apart. The larger climbs are located at the southern end of the cliff; the shorter



climbs are found at the north end of the cliff higher upslope in a small bowl.

Noodling, WI3-, 45 m (FRA Dane Graham, Randy Kielbasiewicz, Feb 21, 2015)

The large climb at the south (left) end of the cliff. Head up easy-angled ice and top out over a steeper final step. Probably best climbed early in the season, as the climb gets a lot of sun.

Tip-Toeing, WI3, R, 52 m (FA Danylo Darewych, Chris Talbot, January 25, 2020)

The other large climb on the south end of the cliff, some 30 m right of *Noodling*. It's hard to catch this climb in good condition. Head leftward up a tight, snow-filled groove, go around an awkward block on thin ice (if you're lucky, you'll be



Dane Graham leading *Noodling*, Feb. 21, 2015. Photo by Randy K.

able to place a stubby here), and then continue up the groove to a ledge. Traverse gingerly right-wards above a steep slab for 4-5 m to protectable ice in a right-facing corner. Climb short steps of steep ice up and to the left, then snowplow your way up easy slabs for 15 m and exit up a final short vertical step. Solid trees are 6-7 m back. A rappel sling is located on a tree 8 m to climber's right. Rock protection is likely feasible to remove the run-out.



Danylo on *Tip-Toeing*.
Photo by Chris Talbot.



The top section of
Smash and Grab.

Smash and Grab, WI3-, 50 m

(FRA* David Broadhead, Danylo Darewych, March 11, 2013).

Located another 50 m right of *Tip-Toeing*. Start at the top of a snow slope. Climb some easy ice steps up to a narrow notch (15 m), turn the corner left around a big rock block and then climb up a steeper, wider flow of ice to the top (20 m).



Anna Grant climbs *Sink or Swim* while
Christian Theoret belays.

146 * This climb has definitely been climbed before, probably by Shaun Parent. We found anchors of old rope and carabiners around trees the second time we climbed this route.

The next climbs are located at the north end of the cliff band. From *Smash and Grab* walk north along the creek for 160 m past a large steep cliff face. The climbs are located in a bowl above a treed slope.

Sleeping with the Fishes, WI3-, 20 m (FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Dane Graham, Christian Theoret and Anna Grant, Sunday, March 15, 2015). Climb up the gully on the left end, step right 1 m and continue to the top.

Splash and Grab, WI3+, 17 m (FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Dane Graham, Christian Theoret Anna Grant, Danylo Darewych, March 15, 2015). First climb a short 4-5 ice step or the squeeze notch on its left to gain a large platform/shelf beneath an ice wall. Then climb steeper ice on the left side of the wall above.

Sink or Swim, WI3, 25 m (FA Danylo Darewych, David Broadhead, Randy Kielbasiewicz, Dane Graham, Christian Theoret and Anna Grant, Sunday, March 15, 2015). From the large platform climb the ice in the notch at the back of the wall and follow easier ice (under a downed tree) to the top.



What's with all the swimming references? The answer lies in the photo above. We were all wading merrily across the frozen pond, when Dave Broadhead - third in line - unexpectedly broke through the ice, getting soaked up to the chest before rolling away to the side. That's him, standing at the back, right up against the trees, eyeing the ice with suspicion, while the rest of the crew keel over in laughter. On the way out, by himself, to get a dry set of clothes, Dave fell through two more times. After that he just climbed in wet clothes. At his insistence we all walked out the long way around the bog at the end of the day.

Ranger Lake Road

Mushy Noodle, WI4+, 30 m

(FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Graeme Taylor, Jon Gullett, Danylo Darewych, Rafael Kolodziejczyk, February 3, 2016).

Located near the intersections of Highway 129 and Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Rd) on the west side of the Mississagi River. Head 99 km north of Thessalon on Highway 129. Turn left onto Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Rd). Park at the snow-plough turnaround before the bridge across the Mississagi River 1 km down Highway 556. Walk down to and across the bridge, turn right down the first road on the right (an unplowed driveway), follow it to its end past the cottage and then slog through the bush another 2.5 km upstream along the west bank of the Mississagi River. There is a rough, flagged trail at first, but it veers away from the river. Stay fairly close to the river, going around one largish bay (annoying side-sloping), until you reach the cliff on your left with one prominent ice flow. It is much faster and easier to walk right along the riverbank, if the water levels are low.

Start up the right side of the flow and angle up leftward to a notch between a vertical column on the left and overhanging ice on the right. Climb up as high as you can under the overhang and then make exposed moves onto the upper part of the vertical column on the left. Climb the remaining bumps to the top.

Taking the vertical prow of the climb directly from the bottom and up the upper vertical column is harder - WI5.

Randy Kielbasiewicz leading *Mushy Noodle*, Feb. 3, 2016. Photo by Rafael Kolodziejczyk.



Dunns Valley

Directions

Dunns Valley is located 28 km north of the town of Bruce Mines, Ontario. Bruce Mines is located 60 km east of Sault. Ste. Marie. From Highway 17 in Bruce Mines head north on Highway 638 for about 21 km, passing through the small settlements of Bruce Station and Rydal Bank. At about 21 km, in the settlement of Ophir turn right onto Highway 670 and head east along it to the hamlet of Dunns Valley (“Population just a few. On weekends a few more.”). Before the highway makes a sharp left-hand turn to the north in Dunns Valley (and before it crosses the bridge) there will be a cliff on the right (south) side of the road (there is another more prominent one after crossing the bridge, on the left). The cliff becomes visible behind your right shoulder as you drive along. The climb is on this cliff. Park on the side of the road.

Approach

There is a farmer’s field and then some forest with talus blocks in front of the cliff. Skirt along the western edge of the farmer’s field until opposite the climb, then bushwack in towards the climb and then up a large snow-covered talus slope to its base. If you head in to the cliff too soon you will find yourself weaving around large talus blocks. It’s about 450 m (15 minutes) to the climb.

Whodunnit, WI4-, 35 m

(FA Danylo Darewych, Laurie Snedeker, Marvin Egner, March 15, 2020).

Climb 7-8 m of easier ice to a ledge, then a steep vertical step of 4-5 m, then more easier-angled ice to a final, steep, tricky exit corner. The climb is somewhat ephemeral and hard to catch in shape – sections of it might not be very thick or in.



When we climbed it, the bottom section consisted of unprotectable, delaminating blobules, so we bypassed the first 7-8 m on a steep snow slope to the right. A much narrower, steeper variant (WI4+) forms sometimes to the left. The climb faces east and doesn't get much sun.

Dixon's Corner

A nice, secluded cliff with some fat, reliable ice, not far from the road.

Unfortunately this cliff is now *closed to climbing* as the property has been bought by a new owner who does not allow climbing.

Thanks to Marco Foladore from Sudbury for spotting this area from the air and providing us with the information for finding it.



Directions

This area is located 35 km north of the town of Bruce Mines, Ontario. Follow the directions for Dunns Valley on the previous page. Dunns Valley. Continue along Highway 670 north past Dunns Valley. Highway 670 becomes Skookum Lake Rd as you head north, the difference being that Skookum Lake Rd. is not as well maintained. At about the 35 km mark north of Bruce Mines (or 15.5 km from the intersection of Highways 638 and 670) the road will make a sharp right-hand turn. There is a house on the left side of the road with the make-shift sign Dixon's Corner. Park somewhere at the side of the road.

Approach

The ice is visible on the cliff behind the house. There is a field immediately left (south) of the house. Cross the field. A small track leads out the back end of the field in the direction of the climbs. Follow the track for some 200 m, then bush-wack through the trees to the base of the climb for another 75 m.

Route Descriptions

Main Flow, WI2+ to WI4-, 50 m

(Danylo Darewych, Dustin Hooey, Mike Park, January 5, 2019).

The main flow at Dixon's Corner is a long, wide, fat, stepped affair with many possible lines. There is a short WI2 ice step at the start, followed by 12 m of very easy-angled walking that leads to a second, higher, long curving ice step. This step varies from WI3 on the right to WI4- on the far left. It can be by-passed through a small WI2 notch on the very far right. More rolling ice leads to a final, short, steep exit bulge.

Pillar, WI4/4+, 20 m (Dustin Hooey, Mike Park, January 8, 2020).

Left of the main flow a pillar flows down over an overhanging wall. Climb



Above: Danylo Darewych on the *Main Flow*, Jan. 5, 2019. Photo by Dustin Hooey.
 Below Left: Dustin Hooey on the *Pillar*, Jan. 5, 2019.
 Below Right: Dustin Hooey leading the *Dagger*, March 21, 2020.



some easier-angled ice to the base of the pillar. Climb the pillar to a decent stance and then a second steep step to the top.

Dustin's Dagger, WI4, M4?, 20 m (Dustin Hooey, Mike Park?, March 21, 2020)

Immediately left of the *Main Flow* an ice dagger spills over an overhang. In a fat year it is possible to climb the very left side of the *Main Flow* and step left onto the dagger with a couple of mixed moves.

Bar Creek Cliff

The Bar Creek Cliff has 2 larger 30 m ice flows and several smaller ones. A big thanks goes out to Marco Foladore for spotting this area from the air and sending us the information. The approach and climbs are on private property.*



Location

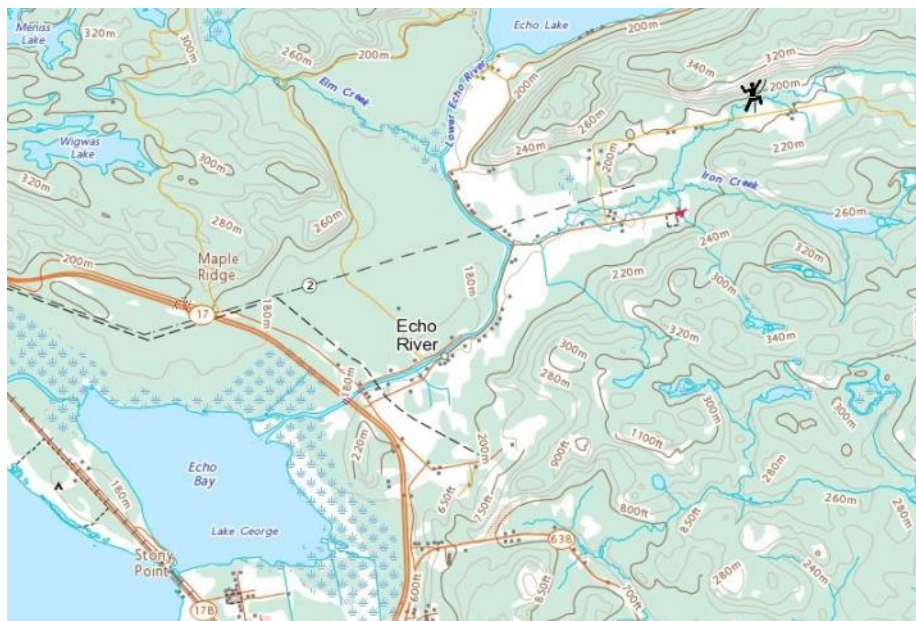
This cliff is located approximately 40 km east of Sault Ste. Marie. Take Highway 17 east from Sault Ste. Marie for approximately 25 km and exit left (east) onto 638 East (signs for Leeburn). After 100 m turn left (staying on 638 E), and after another 750 m where the 638 E starts to turn right (east), turn left onto Echo Lake Rd. The road will make a sharp left-hand turn at the 1.3 km mark and a sharp right-hand turn at 2.2 km (don't go straight here over the bridge). At 5 km turn right onto Birch Lake Rd. East. Head down this road for 1 km and turn left onto Iron River Road. Go down the Iron River Rd for 2.6 km until you hit a small bridge over a small creek (Bar Creek) with a prominent **No Trespassing (No Hunting) sign**. You can get a good view of the climbs another 300 m down the road. Look to the ridgeline on your left (north). You will have to drive down the road for 1 km to the house on the right, *in order to ask for permission to climb*. I do not know how amenable the property owners are to climbing.*

Park the car at any convenient widening of the road before the small bridge. Some 20 m before the bridge a small track heads into the forest on your left (north). This track will bend right (east) and parallel the ridgeline. Walk along the track for 300-400 m until the climb of your choice comes into view. Bushwack through some trees and up a talus slope to the climbs (there is poison ivy on the talus). 15 minute approach. N46 31.51 W83 58.69

Redneck Rodeo, WI3, 31 m (Cory McFarlane, Dustin Hooey, Danylo Darewych, Dec. 30. 2018).

The biggest, longest flow on the cliff. Several lines are possible.

152 * On my second visit to this crag, as I was walking down the side trail, I met the owners's son out for a ride on a snowmobile. He informed me that the climbs were on private property and that I would have to get permission from his dad. I never did.



There is another long wide flow 25 m right of Redneck Rodeo. It has much steeper exit pillars that were not in when we were there.

The next set of climbs is located about 200 m right (east) across the talus slopes



Left: *Redneck Rodeo*. Right: *Redneck Rodeo* from further out and the unclimbed ice to its right. December 30, 2018.



Left: The upper part of *Left-Hand Screwdriver*. Right: Dustin Hooey leading *Keep Your Pick on the Ice*. December 30, 2018.

around a buttress.

Left-Hand Screwdriver, WI3-, 13 m

(Danylo Darewych, Dustin Hooey, Cory McFarlane, Dec. 30, 2018).

The leftmost of three lines, just right of the buttress. Climb an initial ice bulge and step right up a very easy-angled ramp. Finish to the left up a short, narrow chimney.

Up, WI2, 15 m (Cory McFarlane, Dec. 30, 2018).

The left-hand of two easy-angled flows 20 m right (east) of *Left-Hand Screwdriver*. Cory climbed up this one.

Down, WI2, 15 m (Cory McFarlane, Dec. 30, 2018).

The right-hand of two easy-angled flows 20 m right (east) of *Left-Hand Screwdriver*. Cory down-climbed this one.

Keep Your Pick on the Ice WI3, 17 m

(Dustin Hooey, Cory McFarlane, Danylo Darewych, Dec. 30, 2018).

Located about 100 m further east (right) across the talus. Start on easy-angled ice, then climb a short, steep central prow (or an easier groove on the left) to a ledge and exit up a final short curtain.

Echo Lake

The Echo Lake cliff is a big, tall cliff on the north end of Echo Lake, east of Sault Ste. Marie. Several ice flows can be found in the gullies of the cliff.



Echo Lake cliff, as viewed from the bridge over the Upper Echo River. Gully#1 is on the right, Gully#2 is on the left and Gully #3 is up high in the middle. Photo and route lines by Dustin Hooey, February, 2020.

Directions

Follow the directions for the Bar Creek Cliff, but instead of turning onto Birch Lake Rd. stay on the Echo Lake Rd. The road is not maintained by the county another kilometre further on and can be quite narrow and slippery past this point. Follow the road along the south shore of Echo Lake for 9 km, past the houses to a fork just past the bridge over the Upper Echo River. Turn left onto the road that wraps its way along the north end of the lake. I do not know how far down the roads are plowed every winter. Nor do I know the exact locations of the ice climbs, although it appears that they are on the closer end of the cliff system, because you can see them from the bridge over the Upper Echo River. The cliff stretch along the north shore of Echo Lake for close to 2 km. Expect a long slog uphill over talus slopes to reach the ice in the gullies.

Routes

Gully #1 (Dustin Hooey, February 20, 2020). A couple of 20m-ish flows that were



Left: Ice flows in *Gully #1*. Right: Pitch 1 of *Gully #3*. Photos by Dustin Hooley. Bottom left: View of part of the *Echo Cliff Ice Flow*. Bottom Right: View out onto Echo Lake from the top of the *Echo Cliff Ice Flow*. Photos from Dustin Hooley's Instagram.

beautiful ice, but just stopped where the ice was coming out of the wall, necessitating a v-thread to rap. *DH*

Gully #2 (unclimbed).

Ice looked too thin to climb. *DH*

Gully #3, 80 m (Dustin Hooley, February 20, 2020)

- Pitch 1, 60 m. More snow gully than ice climb
- Pitch 2, 20 m. Frozen moss/mixed tree climb of a second pitch. *DH*

Echo Cliff Ice Flow (Dustin Hooley, Mike Park?, February 14?, 2020).

I'm not exactly sure where this ice climb is located, but apparently it's a long way up a scree slope to get to it. I believe it consists of 2 pitches.



Dribs and Drabs on the Periphery

This sections describes ice climbs which are located east of the core area of Blind River, Iron Bridge, Thessalon—near the towns of Espanola, Webbwood and Massey in the district of Sudbury (not Algoma). The information about some of them was originally provided by the old *Southern Ontario Ice: A Climber's Guide*. One is now hard to get to, one is short, a couple are interesting. More have been found.

Espanola Icefall



This area is located 1.5 km west of the junction of Highways 17 and 6 (which leads south to Espanola) or about 70 km west of Sudbury. Look for a small cliff band 150 m south of the highway, directly under a communications tower. The tops of the ice routes are visible above the trees on this cliff band. The cliff faces north. Park on the shoulder of Highway 17, but only if it has been plowed and you can get well over the white line, as Highway 17 is very busy with lots of trucks. Or knock on the door of the house opposite the crag and ask for permission to park there. Skirt/cross the frozen swamp/marsh and head for the ice through a cedar grove. It's a conveniently short, 10 minute approach.

The old Southern Ontario Ice guidebook quoted a “recent description: ‘Poor ice in overgrown bush. Not recommended. Ugh!’” That’s an unfair description – the routes are engaging and worthwhile. The routes seem to be better later in the season—it seems to take a while for the ice to form, since the crag faces north. It is hard to catch the routes in climbable condition. Bring your stubbies. There are 5-6 lines on the cliff. I do not know their names, so have given them names based on their character. Routes are described from climber’s left to right.

Twisty Gully, WI3 to WI3+, 16 m

A tricky, thin, narrow, twisting flow up a notch on the far left side of the crag (about 30 m left of the more obvious *Pillars*).

The Pillars, WI4, 21 m

A set of 2-3 steep, narrow columns on the slightly overhanging 14-15 m high face at the left end of the cliff. Climb whatever pillar has formed up the fattest, then continue over easy-angled ice/snow slopes to a tree belay above.

Longer Gully, WI4-, 20 m

Located another 50 m further right down the cliff line is a thin flow up a longer notch/gully. Start up a notch on the right with better ice (there is a #2 Camalot placement in a crack in the notch, if the ice is very thin) and then step left into the main gully 4-5 m up. Continue up the gully on ice steps that are steeper than they seem from below. There is also a short, tricky exit pillar at the top. Tree belay with some old tat.

Hanging Dagger, WI4+, 20 m

A final thin, steep flow located at the right end of the cliff. The route starts with dagger/broken pillar hanging from a short overhanging section. Step up onto blobs and rock edges (there are small cams placements in cracks behind the bottom of the broken dagger), hook into the dagger/broken pillar and delicately tap your way up it. The steepness relents slightly after the first 6-7 m, but only slightly. Tree belay/anchor.



Top: *Twisty Gully*.
Middle: Danylo Darewych slowly inching his way up the right *Pillar*.
Photo by Eric Csekey.
Bottom left: Mark Hurst on *Longer Gully*.
Bottom right: Eric Csekey leading *Hanging Dagger*.



Buzzling Blue, WI2-, 20 m (FA Janet Wong, Danylo Darewych, March 18, 2018)

Located along Lee Valley Rd between Massey and Espanola. You can get there by driving west from Massey for 14.5 km along Barber St, then Lee Valley Rd or by driving east from Massey along Lee Valley Rd for 12.5 km (start the count at the Spanish River bridge) or maybe by driving south from Webbwood to Lee Valley Rd, then west. It's located on a small hill just south of the road across a small creek. A very easy-angled flow. It faces north.

Webbwood Icefall, WI 2-3, 15 m
(FA unknown)

This climb is located just west of the town of Webbwood, 80 km west of Sudbury on Highway 17. The climb is most easily visible from far across a farmer's field north of Birch Lake Rd at a point some 3 km north from Highway 17 along the Birch Lake Rd East (the Birch Lake Rd is some 2.5 km west of Webbwood along Highway 17). I'm not sure what the best way of reaching this climb is. I tried getting to it by driving to the end of McLary Road, the road leading north-west out of Webbwood, and then walking northwest along a snowmobile trail, but that ended in private property and a maze of small ravines from which I couldn't see the cliff. The snow was deep and the going slow, so I turned around without reaching the climb. I suspect the best bet would be to go north from Birch Lake Rd along Dam Rd for just over 1 km (but it isn't plowed) to get nearer to the climb.

Immigration Nation, WI3, 20 m
(Marco Foladore, Max Jaques, Feb. 9, 2017)

Located 39 km north of Webbwood.

From Webbwood head north on the Agnew Lake Rd. for 6 km, then turn left onto the West Branch Rd. This is a wide logging road that heads a long way north. Follow it north for another 33 km, to a point about 1.5 km past the Gordon Chutes rapids (which are right of the road) where the road bends to the right, just past a small almost roadside cliff on the left. Park at a clearing on the left (north) side of the road (you'll likely have to shovel out a spot).



Above: Janet Wong leading *Buzzling Blue*, March 18, 2018. Photo from Janet Wong.
Below: Max Jaques standing in front of *Immigration Nation*, Feb. 9, 2017. Photo by Marco Foladore.



Ignore the roadside cliffs and follow an old logging road/trail north out of the back left end of the clearing, through a meadow and into the trees. When the trail forks, stick to the left. You will be able to see the bigger cliff you are headed to along the way. This is the Agent Ornge Crag, where *Immigration Nation* is located. After about 1.2 km, look for a well-flagged trail on the right that leads you through the trees and up through a talus slope with massive blocks to the steep main face (200 m). The ice climb is 100 m to the right over a small shoulder. If you know where you're headed, it's better to avoid the talus slope by going up treed slopes further to the right. *MF* N46 30.70 W81 58.84

Goltz Road Pillar, WI4, 10 m

(Mike Stein, Dave Franklin)

This climb is located 5 km east of Massey, or 90 km west of Sudbury. Between Webbwood and Massey, turn right (north) from Highway 17 onto Goltz Rd. Drive about 1 km north along Goltz Rd and look for a 10 m pillar on a small crag on the north side of the road.

Easy Livin', WI3, 18 m

(Danylo Darewych, Dave Britnell, Feb. 15, 2015)

Located just south of the town of Massey. From Highway 17 turn south onto Imperial St. South for 500 m, then left onto Government Rd. and across the bridge over the Spanish River. After the bridge turn right onto Reserve Road and drive down this road for 2-2.5 km. There will be a long, low escarpment on the east side of the road. The climb is found on this escarpment, 100 m from the road.



Danylo on *Easy Livin'*. Photo by D. Britnell.

Caddel Rd Icefall, WI3-4, 25 m

(FA unknown).

The climb is on private property and the new owners of the property (as of 2022) **no longer allow ice climbing**. Please stay off this climb. It is listed for historical purposes only.

Caddel Road is located about 2.5 km west of Massey. From Highway 17 turn right (north) onto Caddel Rd. Caddel Rd. makes a sharp turn right (east) after 600 m. No need to follow the road right—the climb should be visible straight ahead behind a house on a low escarpment. Drive straight ahead onto Ritchie Rd and park at its end in 200 m, making sure not to block any driveways or fuel bowzers.

Bushwack into the climb from the extension of Ritchie Rd. or walk down the driveway on the right and ask the homeowner for permission to walk down his road towards the climb.



Some Notes on Accommodations and Food

Blind River Area

If you have a larger group (5-6 people or more) there are two places with cottage rental north of Blind River really close to the ice climbing at Granary Lake and Lake Lauzon.

1) The former **Mountainview Camp** on Lake Duborne, a 20 minute drive north of the town of Blind River. Lake Duborne is the next lake over from Granary Lake where some of the big climbs are (3 minute drive to Granary Lake).

Mountainview Camp is no longer operating as a camp. However, the former owners, Mark and Nancy Kluding (705 356-7087; kludings@gmail.com), have kept possession of one winterised cottage, which they still rent out to people whom they know. The cottage has: 2 bedrooms with a double bed in each room. Loft area with 2 double beds. Futon in the living area that is a double bed. Small loft that a cot or sleeping pad for 1 person. 1 bathroom. You can actually get 7-8 people in there. The cost per cottage, as of 2025, is \$230 for one night (plus \$10 per every person over 6 per night).

Directions: Head down Granary Lake Rd for 10 km and until the road makes a sharp right-hand turn near some garbage bins. Do not make the righthand turn at the garbage bins - head straight down the driveway/access road. There's an immediate fork in the driveway/access road – head left (Mountainview Rd). At the next fork, also turn left. The cottage is the second one on the right. The Kluding's house is the first one next door.

2) **Granary Lake Retreat** on Granary Lake, 1.2 km away from Mountainview (<https://www.Granarylakeretreat.com>). (705) 356 5550 There are several cottages for rent on the property. We've stayed at the Birchwood cottage which has 3-bedrooms (each bedroom has a double or queen bed on the bottom and one small bunk on top), suits 9 people, 4-piece bath, heated glass & screen porch, oil heat, electric fireplace. You get access to a sauna at this cottage as well. Cost is \$660+taxes for the 3-day weekend.

Directions: If you're headed to the Granary Lake Retreat, continue on the main road to the right for 800 m past the sharp right-hand turn next to the garbage bins. The Granary Lake Retreat will be on the left-hand side (2429 Granary Lake Road). The main house/office is straight ahead, the cottages are down the driveway on the left.

There are also many motels in Blind River:

- 1) **Auberge Eldo Inn.** Nice big rooms. They have a small restaurant on the premises which serves breakfast. <http://eldoinn-on.ca/> (705) 356-2255
- 2) **The Old Mill.** Supported climbers by placing an advertisement in the SO Ice Climbing guidebook. www.oldmillmotel.ca 1-800-871-0842 or (705) 356-2274
- 3) **Lakeview Inn.** (705) 356-1912 OR (705) 356-0800 (not sure which is correct). There is a restaurant attached to the motel.
- 4) **North Shore Wayside Inn.** (705) 356-2249. Restaurant attached.
- 5) **Pier Seventeen.** www.pierseventeen.ca (705) 356-1717. Also has a restaurant.

For food try the **17 Restaurant**, directly opposite the Old Mill Motel. Good food, good prices. Also placed an advertisement in the ice-climbing guidebook.

Iron Bridge Area

The Village Inn Motel. <http://www.thevillageinnmotelandrestaurant.com/> (705) 843-0967. Restaurant attached.

Highway 129

Tunnel Lake Trading Post and Motel. (705) 841-2508. Open early and late. LCBO on premises. Located on Highway 129 32.5 km north of Thessalon or 1.7 km north of the Highway 554 turn-off. The motel rooms are now closed in winter..

Snowshoe Camp Resort. (705) 206-0447. www.snowshoecamp.com/
Located on the southwest shore of Wakomata Lake.; 49 km north of Thessalon or 18.4 km north of Highway 554 along Highway 129 and 5 km east along Wakomata Lake Rd. Cabins of various sizes from \$135-\$175 per day.

Black Creek Outfitters. (705) 841-2555. www.blackcreekoutfitterstore.ca/
Located on Highway 129, 92 km north of Thessalon. Cabins are \$100 per night based on double occupancy and \$50 for every additional person.

Aubrey Falls Trading Post. (705-841-2575) www.aubreyfallstradingpost.ca/
Located on Highway 129, 94 km north of Thessalon and 3 km south of the Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Rd) turn-off. Motel rooms - \$85, based on double occupancy. Cabin prices vary - check the website. Has been closed in winter the last couple of years.

HOSPITALS

There are hospitals with 24 hour emergency departments in the following towns and cities: Blind River, Thessalon, Elliot Lake, Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie.

