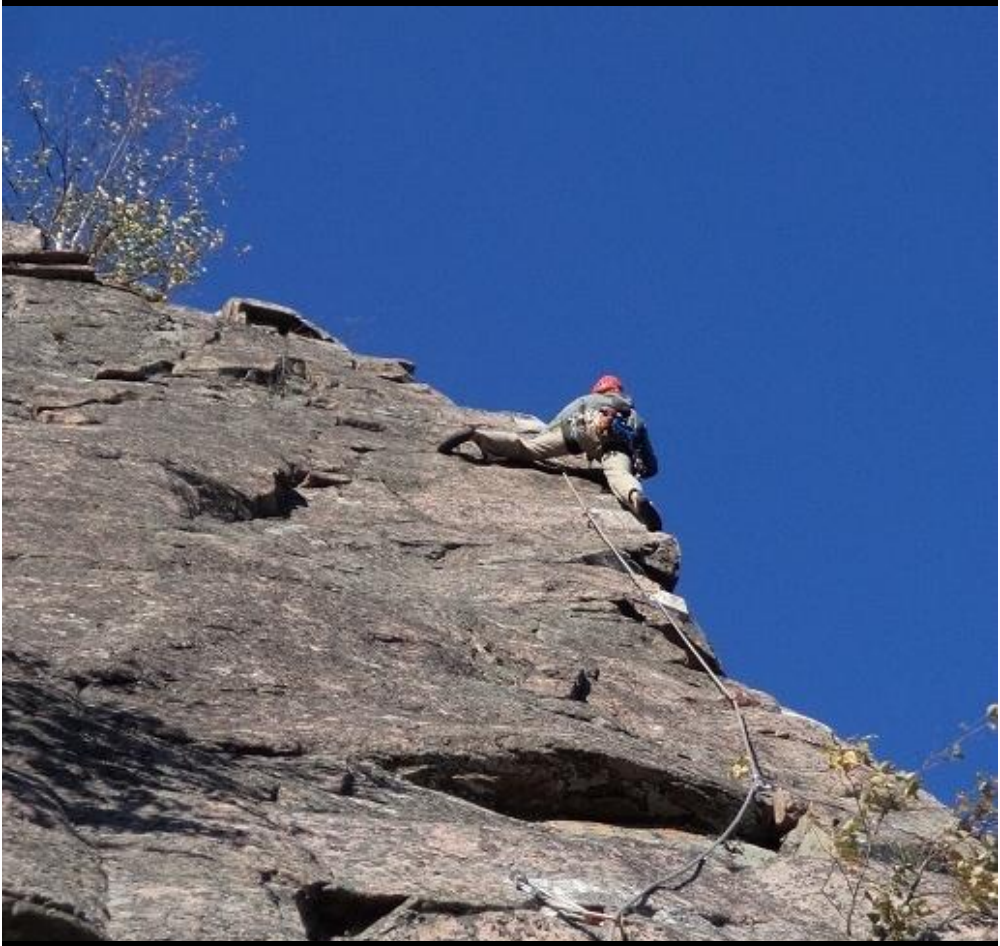
Outcrops

An Eternally Incomplete Compendium of Ontario Shield Climbing Esoterica



Kynoch Rock

Fortress, Ramparts, Shotgun, Eyeball, Algoma

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

"Alive in the superunknown
First it steals your mind
And then it steals your soul"

Soundgarden, *Superunknown*, 1994

Disclaimer

WARNING! Rock climbing is, by its very nature, a potentially hazardous activity. Climbing can result in severe injury or death. You do so at your own risk.

Prior and competent knowledge in the use of various rock climbing safety devices is assumed. It is absolutely essential that individuals participating in such activities make themselves aware of the risks and accept these and their responsibility for their own actions and involvement.

The information contained within is NOT climbing instruction. The author of this guide and any contributors to this guide accept no liability whatsoever for actions taken by individuals based upon information presented in this guidebook. Users of this guide must be responsible for learning all the appropriate techniques required to climb the particular route they have chosen to attempt.

There are no warranties, whether expressed or implied, that this guide is accurate or that the information contained in it is reliable. Your use of this guide indicates your assumption of risk, that it may contain errors, and is an acknowledgement of your own sole responsibility for your climbing safety. By use of this guide, you release the author and any contributors to this guide from liability for any injury, including death, that might result. The user assumes all risks arising from the use of this guide.

Front Cover: Stefan Kloppenborg on *Rhinoplasty*, 5.9, Eyeball cliff, Oct. 11, 2015.
Back Cover: Randy Kielbasiewicz starting the traverse on pitch 2 of *Northern Etiquette* with Graeme Taylor belaying, Eyeball cliff, May 3, 2015.

Table of Contents

Introduction 2
Climbing in the Backwoods - A Word of Caution 2
Travel, Hunting, Camping Supplies 4
Bugs 5
A Personal Note about Climbing Grades 8
Location/Directions 10
- Access Restrictions 12
- Alternate Routes 14

Fortress 16
Ramparts 21
Shotgun - Riverside Rock 26
- Bullets Wall 30
- Toes 39
- North Channel Ledge 42
- Lookout Wall 47
- Snake Island 62
- Barnyard 64
- Breech Wall 67
- Muzzle 72

Eyeball 74
- Approach Directions 77
- South End Approach Trails and General Descriptions 78
- South Tower 81
- Punk Wall 82
- Filion Wall 84
- Good Things Wall 87
- Bastille 90
- Fifth Wall 94
- Holes 97
- Community Wall 98
- Wall of Horrors 103
- Big Wall 106
  - Nose 109
  - Buddies Wall 118
  - Right End Pyramid 132
- 2.75 Wall 135
- Second Wall 137
- First Wall 140

Hideaway 150
Deerfly 152
Backwoods Cliffs: Therapy Wall 154
- Spine 157

Cove 160
Other Cliffs in the Area 163
Geology 165

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

Oct 13, 2026
Mississauga, Ontario
Version 6.1

Introduction

This guidebook provides a description of the rock climbing and rock climbing possibilities at cliffs located north of the hamlet of Kynoch, which is itself north of the towns of Iron Bridge and Thessalon, in the district of Algoma, Ontario. There are some very impressive cliffs hidden in the woods north of Kynoch. They are well worth a visit, if you're looking for a climbing adventure off the beaten track. The main cliffs described in this guidebook are:

1) The Fortress
2) The Ramparts
3) The Shotgun/Riverside Rock
4) The Eyeball.

Climbing in the Backwoods - A Word of Caution

Climbing at the Eyeball, Shotgun Crag/Riverside Rock and other cliffs described in this guidebook is Ontario backcountry adventure climbing at its finest. It offers what few cliffs in Southern Ontario can - long, multi-pitch routes. The height gain and exposure are exhilarating, but can also be intimidating and disconcerting, if you're not used to them. A steady head and a cautious approach are required.

A lot of the routes described here are not well travelled. The more easily accessible bolted lines at the Shotgun/Riverside cliff have seen multiple ascents, but most of the trad lines and routes at the Eyeball have seen only 2-3 ascents (if that). Some routes have been thoroughly trundled of loose rocks, cleaned and scrubbed. Other routes were climbed from the ground up with no prior inspection and with just enough scrubbing of lichen and excavation of cracks to get to the top. An effort has been made to remove obvious, loose death blocks, but do not assume that the routes are now completely safe. Expect to find loose rock, dirty cracks and lichen. Test all holds, bang on flakes, pull down (not out) on blocks, and tread lightly when necessary. A hold that may have been solid one year, can come loose in the next. Bring your own scrub brushes and be prepared to use them (wire brushes are fine).

The protection is generally good or at least sufficient, but since the cracks are rarely completely clean, learn to place your cams as you would nuts—behind slight constrictions or rugosities; or else be prepared not to trust them and avoid falling. There are very few continuous or long cracks. Instead there are many shorter cracks of varying widths formed by the cleaving of various sized blocks. Cracks formed by large, heavy blocks on flat ledges with much surface friction are generally OK to place cams behind*; cracks formed by smaller blocks or flakes are suspect. Use your good judgement. Most routes demand a full range of cams - from the very small micro-sizes to #4 Camalots. Offset cams are useful to have.

Even the long, fully-bolted routes should not be treated as sport climbs at your local crag, but rather as adventure climbs. Climbing at the edge of your abilities and taking multiple whippers halfway up the cliffs, as if you were working a project, is not recommended.

Climb conservatively and within your limits. Be prepared to retreat — carry extra cordelette, slings, a knife and quicklinks or rap rings. Wear a helmet.

Help is a long way away, if it's there at all, or if you can reach it. If you're climbing at the Eyeball, you are 20 km down a logging road in the middle of nowhere. It's 43 km to the nearest town of Iron Bridge (which has no medical facilities) and **56 km to the nearest hospital in Thessalon.** There are no emergency personnel trained in vertical rescue in the area, as far as I know.

* Apparently, 1 cubic metre of solid granite weighs 2 691 kg; of sandstone - 2 323 kg; of quartzite - 2 650 kg. You could, of course, tip that over with your pinky finger if it's perched precariously.

Cell Phone Reception

There is no cell phone reception down by the Little White River or at the base of any of the cliffs. There is cell phone reception near Farmer Brock's house in Kynoch and at some spots along the highway. There is extremely weak and spotty cell phone reception at the top of the Fortress. There is generally good reception at the top of the Shotgun. At the Eyeball there is cell phone reception at the top of the Big Wall and, if you`re lucky, at the top of the Pinnacle and at the top of the Community Wall. Otherwise you have to drive back to Kynoch to get a signal.

Works in Progress - Route Development Activity - Falling Rock Hazard!

The cliffs described in this guidebook are relatively new on the Ontario climbing scene. They are still works in progress with new route development happening on them fairly frequently. If you go climbing at the Shotgun/Riverside Rock, or at the Eyeball, there is a probability that there will be some climbers there attempting to establish new routes. The process of developing new routes poses a potentially serious hazard to climbers at the base of the cliff, as route developers trundle rocks large and small off the cliff face onto the talus below. Being at the base of the cliff anywhere in the vicinity of trundled rock is terrifying and dangerous - some rocks explode and shatter in all directions upon hitting the talus, other blocks carom and ricochet great distances and in unexpected directions through the talus. I've seen them shoot 30 m straight across the talus and into the forest.

On most of the shorter walls of the Eyeball there are clear lines of sight from the talus to the top of the cliff. However, on the Big Wall of the Eyeball the top of the cliff angles quite sharply away, so the base of the cliff cannot be seen from the top and the top of the cliff cannot be seen from the base. There is a similar situation at the Shotgun where large, treed ledges block direct sightlines between the base and the top. Thus, the potential hazard from rockfall is much more severe. The developers cannot see or hear who is 100 m below them and the climbers at the base cannot see or hear who is above them.

At the moment there are no clearly established communication procedures between developers, climbers and other potential visitors (such as hunters in the fall). Climbers and developers are encouraged to announce their intentions to climb or develop at the Eyeball or the Shotgun on the forum of ontarioclimbing.com which is visited fairly regularly by most (though not all) developers active at the Eyeball. Talk to any climbers you might see camped out at the base or at the Riverside campground. If you have an FSR walkie-talkie, set it on channel 3 to monitor conversations. If you are a new route developer, setting out a warning sign at the top of the Eyeball logging road and/or stringing caution tape at the edge of the talus opposite the base of the route and/or the use of a spotter would be beneficial.

At the very least, always remember to keep the potential rockfall hazard in mind and exercise caution when reaching the edge of the talus at the base of the cliff.

Travelling the Back Roads

A worried Gus Alexandropoulos and a smiling Jon Gullet. Can you tell whose truck is stuck in the muck? More vehicle mishap photos can be found on the last page of this guide. May 10, 2014.

The roads leading to the cliffs north of Kynoch are logging roads of varying vintage, quality, upkeep and condition. They may be in very good condition, if there is active logging going on and the roads have been graded. On the other hand, they may be heavily rutted or eroded in sections with many loose or protruding stones or full of muddy holes after rains. I have driven many of them on a regular basis in an ordinary car - a front-wheel drive Toyota Matrix. However, an AWD or 4-wheel drive vehicle with some clearance is preferred; and absolutely necessary if you want to drive to the base of the Eyeball.

Driving misadventures are frequent on these back roads. We've had trucks mired axle-deep in bogs or stuck in the spring-thaw ooze of the roads, failed brake lines, vehicles backed into trees, panels dented by stumps, holed oil pans, flat tires, scratched paint jobs etc.

Carry a shovel, saw, axe and straps in your vehicle, in case you have to dig yourself out or cut down a tree blocking the road. You can drive down a clear road on the way in, only to find a tree blocking your way on the drive out. Make sure you have a spare tire and that it's inflated.

Please also be aware that other people, especially hunters and fishermen, travel these logging roads in trucks and on ATVs. Don't treat the roads like your own personal rally-car tracks. If there is logging going on, you may also meet an oncoming logging truck.

Hunting

The area north of Kynoch is prime hunting terrain. If you head up there in the fall, expect to encounter hunters. Make sure you are wearing a bright orange vest or jacket and a bright orange hat.

Camping

There are many pull-outs, old logging bases, gravel pits and clearings where you can camp for free along the logging roads north of Kynoch. Everyone has their favourite spot. Most don't have water, so bring enough of your own.

Supplies, Gas, Beer and Liquor

The closest spot to get basic foodstuffs, drinks, camping and fishing gear, maps, ice cream, gas and alcohol is the Tunnel Lake Trading Post, 2 km north of the junction of Highway 554 and Highway 129. They open early and stay open late.

Bugs

The bush of Northern Ontario is bug heaven and the region north of Lake Huron is no exception. The bugs come in all shapes, sizes and varieties: black flies, mosquitoes, deer flies, horse flies, friendly flies, sand flies, no see 'ums. They come at you in waves in a non-stop buzzing assault. If you venture out climbing unprepared the bugs will eat you alive and drive you insane. Here are a few notes for dealing with the bugs.

Rafael Kolodziejczyk's black fly ravaged neck. Raf had spent several hours hanging from a rope and cleaning *Full Moon*, not realizing that he had left some skin exposed on his neck between his bug hat and shirt. The bugs exacted a bloody price for his oversight.

Bug Season

The bugs are at their worst when the back flies are out and biting. This is usually at the end of May through June and into July. The exact start and end to the black fly season varies from year to year. If you're lucky, they won't be biting yet on the Victoria Day long weekend (but they usually are). They are at their heaviest in June and tend to die off in July. However, they have been known to persist in certain hotspots much later (Colin reported that they were still biting at Wako in October in 2018).

The mosquitoes make an appearance after the black flies, usually starting in June. Mosquitoes are at their heaviest in June and July. Their numbers used to drop off in August in Ontario, but in recent years they have been hanging around much longer, even into September.

For this reason, the worst time to climb in the region north of Lake Huron is usually June. The best time to climb is usually late summer – August and September. After the Thanksgiving Day long weekend at the start of October, it usually starts to get too wet and rainy to climb comfortably.

Buggy and Non-buggy Areas

Black flies breed in moving, cold water. Mosquitoes breed in standing pools of water. There are, of course, lots of both in the area north of Lake Huron and as a result the bugs are everywhere. Certain areas of Algoma tend to be especially nasty for bugs, while the rare area tends to be relatively bug-free. For example, we were being assaulted by mosquitoes in the trees at the base of the Roadyard Cliff on Highway 129 and raped by black flies at the Big Bend campsite on the Mississagi River, yet found a brief respite on the sunny, exposed rocks of the Pig Pen Chutes

several kilometres upstream. Similarly, the base of the Eyeball in early July is a bug paradise where you are assaulted by a seemingly co-ordinated tag team of kamikaze squadrons of black flies, mosquitoes, friendly flies, deer flies, sand midges and the occasional hornet. Yet, several kilometres downstream at the campsite by the Little White River, the bugs were far less numerous and aggravating. A few days later we found Old Baldy at Lake Lauzon to be almost completely devoid of bugs.

Dustin Hooey forgot his long pants and so ended up pulling up his socks and taping down his shorts and knees to protect himself from the black flies. July, 2019.

Bug Survival Tips

Wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and thin liner socks. Tuck your pants into your socks. Make sure your socks and pants are long enough that they don't separate when making climbing moves. Tuck your shirt into your pants. Black flies love flying up pant legs, up your sleeves, up your shirt at the waist-band and settling in for an unmolested biting feast. They seem to have an unwavering knack for knowing when a climber is attempting the crux moves of a climb and is unable to swat at them.

Hose yourself down liberally with insect repellent. All the standard Deet-based insect repellents work well. I can't vouch for any of the eco-friendly substitutes – I've never used them. Make sure you spray every square millimetre of exposed flesh - especially wrists, neck, ears and behind the ears. If you have neatly combed and parted hair, spray the parted area. Also, spray the skin under some of the areas supposedly protected by clothing – especially the ankles, up your fore-arms, along the waist-band. Also spray your clothing around the shoulders. Black flies usually don't bite through clothing, but mosquitoes will. Wearing a bug hat (or full bug shirt) when belaying is a good idea – it keeps the annoying, buzzing swarm further away from your face. I've never climbed in a bug hat, but some people do. Carry a can of bug spray up the route with you and re-spray yourself when needed. The bugs will follow you up the cliff and bug-spray wears off more quickly when you're sweating and scrubbing lichen off routes. Insect repellents do not harm ropes and slings.

Under no circumstances should you ever climb in shorts and short-sleeved shirt, except perhaps for the odd day in spring and in late summer/early fall.

A Note on "Friendly Flies"

In July of 2018 we were surprised to find the Eyeball cliff inundated with tens of thousands of big flies. They would land in their tens on the backs of your hands, the back of your neck and in hundreds on your back. They would also cover any surface that you touched – your pack, your rope, your slings and carabiners, the

rock. They seemed to be attracted to human sweat. Bug juice didn't seem to repel them. The only saving grace with these flies was that they didn't bite. However, the incessant drone and creepy sensation of tens of flies crawling over your exposed skin was enough to drive you mad. In fact, as Mike Grainger and I were hiking up the talus at the base of the Big Wall at the Eyeball, we met Nathan Kutcher coming down. He'd had enough. He'd spent two days alone at the Eyeball, camped in his van at the base and bolting and cleaning up on the wall. He could no longer handle the swarm of flies and was bailing.

These flies are called "friendly flies" or "silly flies" locally. Their scientific name is *sarcophagae aldrichi*. They are a parasitic fly that lives off forest tent caterpillars. Their numbers explode when tent caterpillar numbers do. They're not a yearly phenomenon. They were back in July of 2019, although in much lesser numbers. They seem to be at their worst in the first two weeks of July, after which their numbers drop off.

The only way to deal with these flies is to wear a bug hat and bug shirt to keep them off your skin or to stoically endure them crawling all over you.

A Note on Route Description Terminology

Bolted means a sport route with anchors at all belays. Most of the multi-pitch bolted routes are not set up for rappel. You're expected to walk off.

Trad means a route where you have to use removable protection (cams, nuts, hexes) and build your own anchors, although there may be some bolts. Rappel is sometimes possible from convenient trees where there may or may not be webbing or cord with a maillon/quicklink which you should be prepared to back up..

Mixed means a route with a mix of bolts and trad gear placements. Treat mixed routes as you would a trad climb. Occasionally there is a fully bolted first pitch or top pitch that can be climbed as separate sport pitch unto itself.

R means runout. There is a long way to go between gear placements or bolts. A fall can lead to injury. Be solid at the grade.

X means extremely runout or extremely loose rock or extremely dangerous. A fall could mean serious injury or death. Usually this indicates a route that someone has climbed, but hasn't gotten around to cleaning or equipping thoroughly (and maybe never will).

Red Tags

If you see a red tag (red, pink or orange flagging) on the first bolt of a route, ***don't climb it*!** It's either someone's project or it hasn't been fully bolted or trundled of loose rock yet. You could wind up injuring yourself.

Bolting Standards

If you do any route-development and bolting anywhere in Algoma, please make sure that you use stainless-steel bolts and hangers.

A Personal Note about Climbing Grades

I'm not a strong climber. The hardest grade that I can lead (after 27 years of climbing) is 5.7. In fact, there are some 5.7s on the Niagara Escarpment in Milton, my home stomping grounds, that I can't lead – *Harlequin* and *Reunion* at Nemo, the *Sting* at Buffalo Crag. I've only ever led five 5.8s on the Escarpment – *Shimmy* at Kelso, the *Sound of Breaking Glass* at Bottleglass, *Thin Series* and *Dune* at Buffalo Crag. I can usually follow 5.8s cleanly, but I start falling/hanging when climbing 5.9s. There are a whole slew of 5.9s that I can't get up at all. I've only ever managed to thrash my way up a couple of 5.10a climbs with multiple hangs.

My climbing friends often tell me that this is because grades on the Niagara Escarpment are notoriously difficult and sandbagged. I don't agree. I don't find grades on the Niagara Escarpment more difficult compared to other climbing areas. In my climbing travels – Adirondaks, Shawangunks, North Conway, West Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, T-Wall, Moab, Red Rocks, Joshua Tree, Tahquitz, Yosemite, Squamish, Skaha, Banff, Canmore, Jasper, Chamonix, Italy, Spain, Colombia – I have found climbing grades to be remarkably consistent, considering the vast differences in distance. Sure, there are some climbs that seem hard/soft for the grade in each area, but that is true for all areas. In general, I can still lead my way up 5.6/5.7s in all these places, but get stuck on 5.8s.

Nor do I find much difference between "sport" climbing grades and "traditional" climbing grades, surprising as that may sound. I can lead 5.7 sport, but still end up hanging on 5.8 sport. In fact when climbing at my limit, I generally prefer well protected trad climbing to sport climbing, because on a trad climb I can generally wedge some body part into a crack and plug gear every 6 inches when I get scared (which is often), whereas on sport climbs I have to commit to climbing on face holds to wherever the next bolt happens to be, which is often too far away for my liking. Needless to say, I'm not a bold climber. If I can't protect it, I generally won't climb it (unless it's many grades below my limit).

I have much more experience in climbing trad routes rather than sport routes. This is, in part, for historical reasons. When I first started climbing (c. 1999), the easiest sport route on the Escarpment in Milton was a solitary 5.9 called *Wide Load* at Mt. Nemo. The polish and bolting of that route made it a sketchy proposition. I tried leading it once, scared myself silly, backed off and never tried it again. The rest of the sport routes were all above my climbing ability. The lack of easy sport routes probably planted a seed of bias against sport routes that has stuck with me to this day. This is somewhat ironic, now that I myself have bought a drill and started to put up sport routes.

What does all of this have to do with the climbing grades given in this guidebook?

1) My personal point of reference for grading new routes in Algoma are the easy (up to 5.7) trad climbs on the Escarpment in Milton

2) There are wide discrepancies in difficulty in this guidebook between routes assigned with the same grade, depending on who put them up and what standards they have used as their reference points.

3) I'm getting the suspicion that the routes in Algoma are overrated/overgraded (but these could be my personal biases showing through).

Most of the earlier routes (2011-2018) that I and my climbing partners put up in Algoma (at the Eyeball and in Elliot Lake) were trad routes. As a result, I graded them against the trad Escarpment routes I was familiar with. There were a lot of 5.6/5.7 grades assigned to the routes put up at that time, which are grades at the top level of my leading ability. I thought these grades were fairly accurate, but it was hard to tell, because of the FA component/nature of the climbs. As I have stated, I'm not a bold climber. I have a love/hate relationship with heading up into the unknown – it's a thrill, but it can also be quite scary. When I'm climbing into unknown terrain, stopping to scrub lichen, excavating holds and trundling rocks, covered in grime and sweat – everything starts to feel close to my limit of 5.7. Whether the grades were really 5.7 was hard to say at the time. But for the most part, I feet that these earlier grades are consistent with Escarpment trad grades.

More recently (2019 and on), I have started developing and climbing mixed routes (at the Fortress and Lake Lauzon) and then sport routes (primarily at the Shotgun/Riverside Rock) with various partners. Here grading doubts and inconsistencies have started to rear their ugly heads. On these routes, I have usually led the easier pitches and left my partners to lead the harder ones. Upon completion of the routes, my partners (and others who have repeated them) have stated that the pitches I led were 5.8 (and on a couple of occasions – 5.9). I had my doubts about these proposed grades, since I usually can't lead 5.8 on the Escarpment, and told my friends this. However, since I have less experience on sport routes, I generally deferred to my partners' judgement. Plus, it's always good for the ego to think that I'm climbing harder routes.

Similarly, I have seconded sport routes put up by other friends and acquaintances in Algoma and found myself being able to cleanly climb even proposed 5.10b pitches. I find it difficult to believe that these pitches are really 5.10a or 5.10b, since I have never climbed 5.10a cleanly on top-rope anywhere (with the exception of some routes at Grassi Lakes in Canmore, where I climbed when I was 20 lbs lighter after having returned from climbing Aconcagua and on Mt. Logan).

I have been told that the bolted sport routes in Algoma should be graded not in comparison to the "old-school" trad grades on the Escarpment, but to the "modern" sport routes at Nemo, Metcalfe or the Swamp. I find this line of reasoning confusing. I've always worked on the principle that the route grade should be based on the difficulty of the moves, not on the nature of the protection or when it was put up. If we're going to have two sets of grading standards, then the whole grading exercise starts to be pointless.

I suspect a lot of the recent sport routes are overgraded (even my own).

The grades given in this guidebook are the grades that were assigned to the routes/pitches by the people who developed the routes. Route developers have sometimes used very different standards for judging the difficulty of the grade. As a result, there is a wide discrepancy in actual difficulty between routes with the same grade. The first pitch of *Stars at Night*, graded 5.10b, is much harder than the fifth pitch on *The Devil's Work*, also graded 5.10b. I could second the latter cleanly, I hung all over the *Stars at Night* pitch while attempting to second it.

For the moment, I have let the discrepancies stand. Hopefully, these discrepancies will be ironed out, as climbs see more ascents and a consensus on their grades develops.

In the end, grades are, as always, only a rough and imprecise indicator of difficulty. Your mileage will vary. If, however, you find a grade to be completely out of whack, please let me know.

Location-Directions

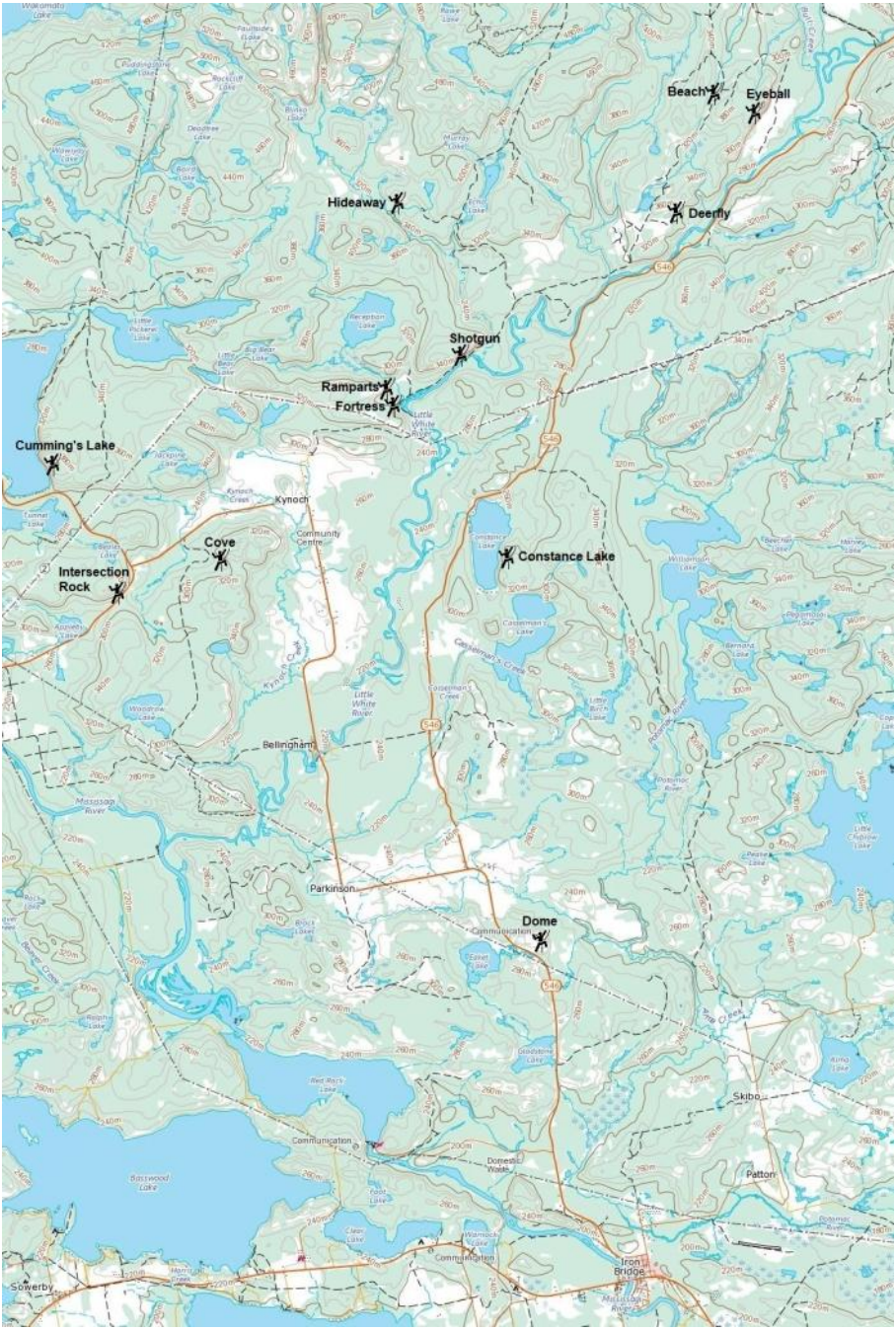
The area covered in this guidebook is located roughly midway between Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie, approximately 40 km north of the towns of Iron Bridge and Thessalon. Iron Bridge and Thessalon are located on the north shore of Lake Huron. Iron Bridge is 115 km east of Sault Ste. Marie, 190 km west of Sudbury and 570 km from Toronto. Thessalon is 88 km east of Sault Ste. Marie, 220 km west of Sudbury and 600 km from Toronto.

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). In Kynoch Highway 554 makes a sharp left-hand (westward) turn. At the far end of the turn look for Brock's Road on your right (north). Turn right onto Brock's Rd.

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. In Kynoch Highway 554 makes a sharp right-hand (southward) turn. At the start of the turn look for Brock's Road on your left (north) and turn left onto Brock's Rd.

At first, Brock Rd looks like a driveway for several farms and it will seem that you are simply driving onto someone's farm (which, in fact, you are 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 get to a farm gate, which has been padlocked since 2020. You have to walk up to the farmhouse and pay a $20 fee to use a key to unlock the gate. Farmer Brock will not open the gate from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset (read the access restrictions on the next page). After the gate, the road heads slightly uphill into a forest and becomes a logging road, officially named the Midway Road. Here are some of the landmarks along this logging road:

- at 4.1/4.2 km you will cross a hydro line, as you head downhill
- at 4.5 km there will be a small road coming in from the right that leads to a

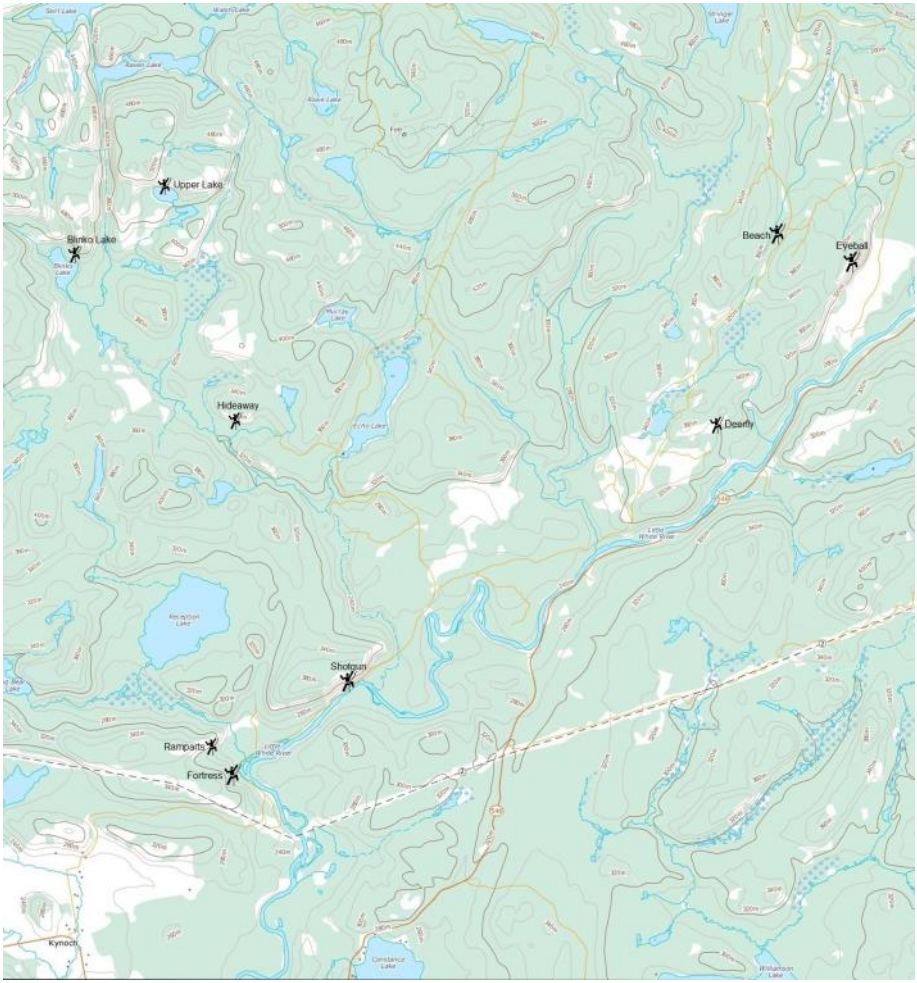


Map showing the location of the Fortress, Shotgun and Eyeball cliffs in relation to Kynoch and Iron Bridge, plus some other ice and rock climbing cliffs in the area.

hunt camp (this is also the end of the ATV by-pass road, see page 14)
- at 4.6 km the road will start to run along the Little White River. You will see a "smaller" vertical cliff ahead of you. This is the Fortress.
- at 4.7 km there is a small pull-out to the right. This is where we often camp, on a rock outcrop next to the river. Room for 5-6 tents.
- at 4.9 km on your left you will be passing the Shower Stall Wall, a small ice climbing cliff 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, a smaller, steep cliff of red rock.
- at 5.1 km the road will turn sharply to the right.
- 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 (aka Riverside Rock)
- at 7.0/7.1 km a prow of the Shotgun Cliff (aka Riverside Rock) rears almost directly above the road. A driveway on the right leads to a hunt camp.
- at 7.6 km there is a bridge over a small creek (this is past the Shotgun Cliff)
- at 8.6 km there will be a big fork in the road. The left fork is the continuation of Midway Road. The right fork is called the Stinger Lake Road. To get to the Eyeball head down the right fork
- at 10.9 km the road crosses a creek. **This bridge over this creek was removed in the summer of 2025.** A by-pass has been established, but you need a 4 wheel drive truck or an ATV to use it.
- at about 12.6 km a side logging road on the right leads to the Deerfly Cliff
- at about 12.7 km 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, hidden some 350 m away in the forest. This track is only passable by ATV, as we learned the hard way. An overgrown trail continues past this hunt camp down to the Little White River (another 1.3 km). About halfway along it passes fairly close to the south end of the Eyeball Cliff – you would need to bushwack some 200 m.
- at 15.1 km there will be a small sand pit (getting overgrown) on the right, followed immediately by a small, grassy field
- at about 15.8 km, on the left side of the road, some 100 m downhill from the road, (almost) invisible behind the trees, lies a short 10-15 m cliff band with multiple ice lines in winter. This ice-climbing crag is called the Beach because we climbed ice there in the sunshine in T-shirts and shorts in May 2015.
- 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 heading 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, the Brocks, are devout Seventh Day Adventists. For Seventh Day Adventists Saturday is the holy day of the week. As a result the farmers close



and lock the gate opposite their house from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset (they actually use the official sunset times to lock/unlock the gate). This poses some access problems for your regular run-of-the-mill weekend warrior from Toronto, because it's next to impossible to make the 6 hour drive from Toronto after work on a Friday and get through the gate before sunset. You have to leave shortly after noon and then make sure that you don't have any emergency on Saturday that would call for an unexpected departure. Or wait until Saturday after nightfall to drive in.

NOTE: As of 2020 there is a $20 fee (per car) to pass through the gate or a $250 yearly fee for a key to the gate. You still can't get through from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset - the gate is locked with a second padlock at that time.

When you arrive at the gate, walk up the driveway to the sauna - a big wooden, barrel-like structure right of the house. Right of the sauna is a plastic storage bin with firewood inside it. Inside the big plastic firewood bin there is also a white plastic jar that holds the key to the gate. Put $20 in the jar and use the key to open the gate. Don't forget to return the key after using it.

Alternate access routes

1) By-pass 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 road 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 is a rough road, perhaps better described as an ATV trail, with at least one severely eroded section. The condition of the road varies from year to year and from season to season. It is especially difficult in the spring and after rains. We have driven down this by-pass road in a 4-wheel drive truck several times in the past, but it is usually only passable on an ATV.

The heavily eroded section of the Community Centre By-Pass Track in the spring of 2021. Even Reg Smart's ATV got stuck in the muck.

2) Hydro Line.

According to Marv and the crew from Grand Rapids, Michigan, it is possible to reach the main logging road by coming in from the west along the Hydro (electric power transmission) line. To reach this Hydro line, drive to the intersection of Highway 554 and Highway 129 and then head north along Highway 129 for 1.5 km. The Hydro corridor crosses Highway 129 here. You can access it directly from this point or head another 400 m north, past the Tunnel Lake Trading Post, to another dirt road that heads east to the Hydro line (but it first crosses a smaller Hydro corridor heading north—don't follow that one). The distance along this Hydro line to its junction with the Kynoch/Brock logging road is about 9 km. The Hydro line drops steeply downhill in the last 200 m, so it is likely best, to take one of the cut-off tracks heading south from the Hydro line before reaching the last downhill. A 4– wheel drive truck is needed for this approach.

3) River crossing route to the Eyeball.

An alternate method of getting to the Eyeball is by crossing the Little White River from the east by canoes stashed by the river for this purpose.

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 the 24.4 km mark 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 H3 203 (N46° 29.630' W83° 07.527'). The Hydro line/wire crosses the road from the west side to the east here. Park at the side of the road.

A flagged trail starts just 10 m right of the pole and leads a short way (100 m) to

the Little White River. Two canoes are locked to a tree at the end of the trail near the river. The fibreglass one has a badly stove in gunwhale and broken thwart/seat, because a dead tree fell on it. It still floats, but it is preferable to use the aluminum canoe. The combination to the padlock is 2183 (the numbers to the padlock do not align across the middle, but slightly higher between the dashes). ***Bring your own paddles*** - there are currently no paddles stored with the canoe. The paddle across the river is usually very easy - the river is about 50 m wide at this point, with almost no current and fairly shallow.

There are long ropes attached to both ends of the canoe, so it can be used by multiple parties to cross the river. Tie the stern end rope off to a tree on the east shore before paddling across, then pull the canoe only partially onto the far bank and tie off the end of the bow rope to a tree on the west bank. That way the canoe can be pulled back across, if a second group of climbers arrives after the first.

The infamous Rubber Gator. You can cross the Little White River in a dinky inflatable raft (max load 210 lbs) in the summer or fall. Don't try it in the spring.

The river is calm enough in the summer and in the fall that it can be crossed in an inflatable dinghy. You can even wade across from mid-summer to early fall (the water is chest high; the bottom sandy). Definitely don't try wading across or using a dinghy in the spring – I've tried and failed. The river was a raging torrent and the water temperature barely above freezing.

Once you cross the river, follow the flagged trail, dubbed the Talladega Speedway, on the other side for 500-600 m. It will cross the end of the Eyeball logging road (which still has quite a lot of deadfall at this end) about 250 m from the river, then head through a pleasant forest and reach the Eyeball cliff at the wall south (left) of the Good Things Corner. Here the trail heads north along a faint ridge that parallels the Eyeball cliff until it meets the Autobahn Trail opposite the Fifth Wall.

It takes about 40 minutes, including the river crossing, to reach the Nose from the highway. It's about 1.7 km in distance.

Cross River Eyeball Campsites. If you decide to get into the Eyeball by crossing the Little White River, then there are 2 decent campsites on the east side of the river about 2.3 km south of the river crossing or 17.7 km north of the intersection of Highways 554 and 546. The more obvious site is an open field in a gravel/sand pit located at the base of a high bluff that starts to run along the east side of Highway 546 here. There is another, smaller open site 100 m south of this gravel pit. A narrow track runs back from the roadside clearing to a still smaller clearing behind the trees, if you want to keep your tents out of site. A "thunderbox" latrine is located 40 m into the forest south of the roadside clearing. Walk diagonally into the forest from the southern roadside corner of the clearing.

Fortress

The Fortress Cliff: A) *Sir Real and the Moonlit Knight* B) *Puff the Magic Dragon* C) *Princess Don't Need Rescuing,* D) *Backwoods Brawlin',* E) *Crenellation* F) *Made in the Shade* G) *First Fistfight on Mars* H) *Time's Arrow* I) *Andromeda*. Oct. 9, 2022.

The Fortress is the first cliff that you will see as you are driving along the logging road. This is a smaller cliff that is between 15-20 m high. It looks much higher from the road, but the impressive-looking upper section of steep, solid rock that you see from the road is not nearly as high from up close. The cliff looks larger than it is, because it sits on top of a large talus slope and a couple of small bands of shattered, black rock. There are two of these short 7 m cliff bands below the left side of the cliff, and a big talus slope below the central face and the right side. The cliff continues off to the right away from the road for quite a while, but gets very short here. It also continues around to the left where the ice routes of the Shower Stall Wall are found in winter, but this area also doesn't really lend itself to rock climbing.

There is an easy scramble to the top of the Fortress on the left side. The views from the top over the Little White River are beautiful (that's me spoiling the view in the photo on the right).

A flagged, 80 m long approach trail starts 7 m right of a fair-sized roadside boulder, The trail stays left of the main talus field most of the way, until near the cliff base. The trail reaches the base of the cliff at approximately the middle of the face.

At the base of the cliff the trail heads left along a high, narrow, treed ledge above a short, shattered cliff band. To gain the top of the cliff, continue to the end of the ledge and scramble up the steep, treed slope on the left for 20 m to the top (the path is flagged).

Routes

The routes are described from left to right.

The first 5 routes are found close together, about 25 m left along the narrow approach ledge, at a small, treed, triangular corner area with a big fallen tree leaning down from another ledge 5 m higher.

Sir Real and the Moonlit Knight, 5.10b, 20 m, 10 bolts?
(Mark Hurst, Cynthia Chung, October 8, 2022)

Start in an overhanging corner about 8 m left of *Princess Don't Need Rescuing*. Climb around a roof, up the corner past a birch and then up the face on the left to a bolted anchor (with quicklinks).

Puff the Magic Dragon, 5.10b, 20 m, 8 bolts
(Cynthia Chung, Mark Hurst, October 8, 2022)

Starts at the first bolt of *Princess Don't Need Rescuing*. Climb the technical face on the left on small holds to a big ledge, then move easily right and up to the anchor of *Princess*…

Left: Mark Hurst on *Sir Real and the Moonlit Knight*, Photo by Cynthia Chung.
Right: Cynthia Chung on *Puff the Magic Dragon*. Photo by Mark Hurst.

Princess Don't Need Rescuing, 5.9, 20 m, sport, 8 bolts + anchors
(FA Mark Hurst, Cory Erwin, September 4, 2020).

This route is located about 6 m past the slight corner. The start of this line can be identified by a cedar tree growing out of a small left-facing corner 1 m up. Climb straight up the line of bolts. Ring anchors.

Backwoods Brawlin', 5.10c, 18 m
(Top-roped by Mike Grainger, Anna Grant, Danylo Darewych, July 2, 2018; FA Simon Raimbault, Stewart Dow, Aug. 25, 2021).

A strenuous off-width crack system. Start at the corner by climbing up a 4 m initial rock step past a couple of small birches. Step left into a right-facing flake/crack and squirm your way up for 5-6 m to a small stance. Continue up the crack system above by any means possible (squirming, lay-backing, stemming). Simon and Stewart stayed in the off-width for the whole length of the climb on the FA, even resisting the temptation to make the easy stemming moves at the top.

Gear: Three #6 and two #5 Camalots were used in the FA; two #6, two #5, two #4 and two #3 in the second.

Crenellation, 5.8/5.9, 18 m
(FA Chris Talbot, Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, July 3, 2020).

Climb up a 4 m initial rock step past a couple of small birches and step up to the right to the higher ledge where the big fallen tree used to grow. There is a corner/crack system above. Step onto the top of the big boulder on your right. From it step left into the base of the corner system and smear and side-pull your way up awkwardly past 4 bolts to gain a crack. Climb it and step right, then continue up the final corner above.

Cams up to #4 Camalot.

Above: A wildly off-kilter photo of Mark Hurst and Cynthia Chung at the top of *Princess Don't Need Rescuing*.
Below: Simon Raimbault fighting the off-width on *Backwoods Brawlin'*.

Made in the Shade, 5.9/5.10a, 22 m
(FA Mike Grainger, Sonya Fink, Danylo Darewych, Chris Talbot, Aug. 7, 2020;* FFA Mark Hurst, Cynthia Chung, June 30, 2021).

Located at the top of the talus slope, just right of the start of the leftward-traversing ledge. Look for a band of black rock with 2 bolts with what appears to be an easier-angled corner of tan/red rock above. The route is easily identifiable from the top – it's located in a slight v-notch 4 m climber's right of a lone, big pine near the cliff edge.

Climb a 5-6 m high band of black, shattered-looking rock (with many edges) that actually proves quite solid (2 bolts) and pull onto a ledge. Climb a thin, leftward-leaning finger-crack above for 6 m and pull up left onto a small ledge (3rd bolt) with a somewhat loose block in the back corner. Use a rattly hand-jam to climb upwards on the left wall (4th bolt) with a series of awkward, off-balance, stemming moves to a stance, then stem and pull your way up a final 4 m corner (5th bolt) to the top.

Above: Jarema Moroch belaying Marko Kit on *Crenellation. Backwoods Brawlin'* shares the same start, but heads left up an off-width. Below: Looking down on Chris Talbot climbing the upper half of *Made in the Shade*.

Gear: Double rack of small cams to #0.75, single #1, #2, #3 Camalot. Save a green #0.75 Camalot for the crux between the 3rd and 4th bolts.

First Fistfight on Mars, 5.11+, 20 m, bolted
(FA Nick Hardman, Stefan Mikuska, Oct, 2021).

Located 5 m left of where the trail reaches the cliff. Climbs up and right into a small dihedral, through the crux and onto the clean red rock face of the Fortress's more prominent lookout. *NH*

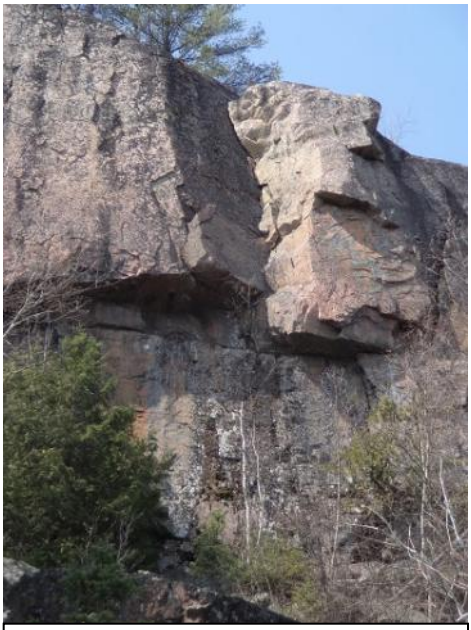
* I tried to lead the route first, but got stuck at the crux and lowered down. Mike then led the route to the top, sailing easily through the crux, but taking one hang higher up. *DD*

Time's Arrow, 5.11b, 20 m, bolted
(FA Dave Smart, Sept. 24, 2022)

Climbs the prominent shallow slit up the wall of the fortress that faces the road. Start 3 m right of where the trail turns left to skirt the cliff face. Climb up the vertical wall right of a large moss clump on good holds, out left under the roof to a rest, then up superb technical moves to the rings, *DS*

Andromeda, 5.8, 20 m, trad
(FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Daunte Rezaie, June 13, 2021).

Located about 15 m right of where the approach trail reaches the cliff. Fantastic climbing with a sting in the tail. Climb 5-6 m up a face passing a low bolt to a roof with a left-facing corner, climb over the roof and continue up the left-facing corner/crack system above. The roof has a huge suspended block approximately 3 - 4 meters across. It's massive and stable looking, but be aware. Bring a 4" cam or two for the top. Ring anchors plus 1 bolt anchor at top out ledge which can easily be reached from the top of the cliff. *RK*



Above: The corner of *Andromeda*.

She Said Yes, 5.8, bolted
(FA David Lister & Nick Hardman, Oct 2022)

Start 3 m right of *Andromeda*, climb the loose blocks to the obvious crack. Traverse right under the small roof and up to a ledge. Climb out of the ledge following the second crack, finish by veering left from the flake.

Ramparts

The central part of the left Rampart

The Ramparts is a cliff system of grey-coloured rock behind the Fortress. It is easily visible from the top of the Fortress and also from the campsite on the river.

The Ramparts are actually two cliffs separated by a small stream. The right hand cliff (north of the stream) is smaller (50-60 m long), chossier and more vegetated and not easily visible. The left-hand cliff is much longer and taller - about 450 m long and about 45 m at its highest point The main face of the left Rampart ends at a large talus slope on the left, but the cliff does continue on the other side of the talus slope. First there is a large, low-hanging overhanging roof, then the cliff bends away from you and starts to become higher again (about 15-20 m), changing into red-coloured rock.

There is a lot of poison ivy along the base of the Left Rampart. Paths have been cut through the belts of this noxious plant to the base of the routes, but poison ivy is as persistent as it is pernicious, so it is probably best to bring hedge trimmers along with you when climbing at the Ramparts, in case you need to cut back some of the nasty weed.

Approach

An approach trail that leads to the Ramparts starts about 30 m past the Fortress approach trail. It's an old logging trail that leads up a hill across from the Fortress and then drops very gently back down the other side where there is a fork in the trail. The right fork leads to the to the top of the cliff. The left fork heads up a small incline to the talus at the base of the left Rampart. The trail is about 450 m long. It's a 12 minute walk to the base of the talus.

You can also reach the Ramparts by walking along the logging road past the Fortress for another 300 m to a side ATV trail on your left and then walking along this for 550 m until it starts to head uphill. From this point you have to bushwack to

your left (west) for 200 m until you hit the right Rampart. This is a much longer approach. Not recommended.

A trail leads to the top of the left Rampart. It winds its way up the right side of the Left Rampart.

Routes

Routes are described from left to right. At the far left end of the main cliff face there is a huge fallen tree blocking the talus field. The next 2 routes start approximately 20 meters right of this.

In Control, 5.9, 41 m, 2 pitches
(Rafael Kolodziejczyk, Randy Kielbasiewicz, Gosia Kolodziejczyk, July 29, 2023)

A fantastic journey not typical of your average sport route. Some adventure rock (hollow) with moves that are very easy to make harder. It will test your route finding skills. "But it's bolted! How can the route finding be hard?!?"

• Pitch 1, 5.7, 18 m, 8 bolts. Start on a ledge 10 m up and left of *Algoma Breakfast*. Climb up and follow bolts along a right trending ramp system.

• Pitch 2, 5.9, 23 m, 12 bolts. Challenging moves off the belay lead to more rightward traversing. Turn the lip and head through a groove with some hollow rock. Carefully move right and up to a comfortable anchors. A 32 m rappel gets you down. *RK*

Algoma Breakfast 5.10a, 18 m, 8 bolts
(Rafael Kolodziejczyk, Randy Kielbasiewicz, Gosia Kolodziejczyk, July 29, 2023)

Start at a right facing corner. Follow bolts up to anchors below a steep corner. The anchor is equipped with quicklinks. *RK*

Above: Gosia Kolodziejczyk on the second pitch of *In Control*. Below: Rafael Kolodziejczyk on *Algoma Breakfast*. Photos by R. Kielbasiewicz.

Six Feet Under, **5.10b, 55 m, 3 pitches, 10 draws**
(Randy Kielbasiewicz and Rafael Kolodziejczyk, May 2022)

Hard and technical for the grade.

• Pitch 1, 5.9, 14 m. Climb a steep dihedral to its end. Move left to an anchor on a small ledge.

• Pitch 2, 5.10b, 26 m. Move up and right passing a shallow right facing corner with a bolt not visible from the belay. Climb right carefully on good holds across hollow blocks. Shoot straight up passing slabs, corners, small roofs. Amazing climbing that demands solid route reading skills. A couple longer slings recommended to reduce rope drag.

• Pitch 3, 5.3, 15 m. Really just an exit pitch. Climbs a tiny wall with a few bolts than scramble up the slope and belay from the big tree. Mind the loose rocks while trudging up the slope to the belay tree.

"When cleaning it I unexpectedly pulled off a block that set off a chain reaction of cascading madness. There is now 20 m of static rope buried under a pile of rubble at the base. Had to cut the rope to save the rest of it…. Brand new 80 m line." *RK*

Above: *Six Feet Under*. Below: *Approach Shoe Express*. Photos by R. Kielbasiewicz.

Approach Shoe Express, 5.7, 50 m, 3 pitches, bolted, 12 draws
(FA Daunte, Rezaie, Randy Kielbasiewicz, Rafael Kolodziejczyk, May 2022)

• Pitch 1, 5.6, 15 m. Climbs a mellow looking slab to anchors on the right. Easy to make harder if you don't pay attention. Make sure to wear your tightest downturned bouldering shoes for best results. Ondra screams provide added style points. Belay next to a pine tree.

• Pitch 2, 5.7, 20 m. Move right and climb a layback corner to a ledge. Follow a steep arête/corner until you can move left onto the face. Great moves on interesting holds leads to a bolted anchor by the large cedar.

• Pitch 3, 3rd class, 15 m. An exit pitch to bolted anchors on a small boulder. Careful not to kick loose rocks on your belayer while paddling your way up the slope. Yay rock climbing :) *RK*

Marshmallow Man, 5.7, 30 m, 2 pitches, bolted, 13 draws.
(Dave Smart, Reg Smart, Brandon Pullan, Sept. 2021)

Located 30 m left of *Doctor Stoppage*, directly above where the approach trail reaches the talus.

• Pitch 1, 5.6, 14 m. Climb up slight broken groove on good, positive holds to a belay next to a pine tree.

• Pitch 2, 5.7, 25 m. Climb up, step right to small arête feature and climb that, continue to anchors at top of the cliff (no rings).

Descent: The anchors are right at the descent trail. Head right and down (10 minutes will bring you back to the talus).

Doctor Stoppage, 5.10b, 25 m, bolted, 10 draws.
(Reg Smart, Brandon Pullan, Dave Smart, Sept. 2021)

Climb the prominent wide crack on the right side of the cliff. Ring anchors.

Algoma Gold, 5.11a, 25 m, bolted
(Brandon Pullan, October 2022)

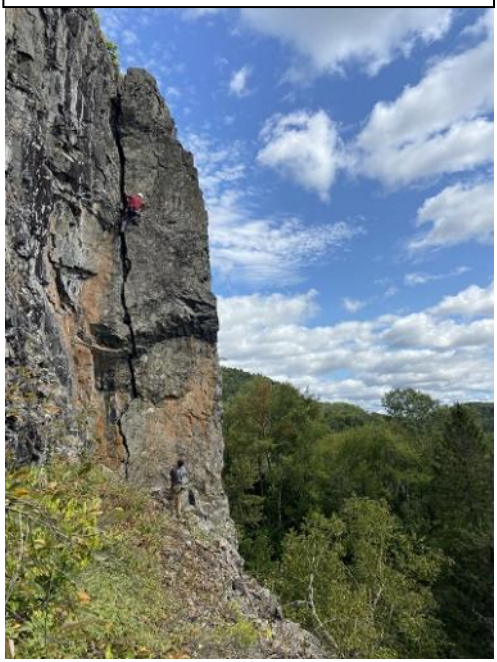
Climbs the arête right of *Doctor Stoppage*. Work up good holds and big reaches to a hard transition right and into the crux. Sidepulls and underclings to the sharp arête with hidden holds. Fun!

Note: It's 12 bolts from the ledge right of *Doctor Stoppage*, 13 bolts from the ground to the right which adds a scrappy chimney. Best to start from the ledge. *BP*

Draining the Swamp, 5.7, 25 m, trad
(Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, July 8, 2022)

Located on the other side of the buttress from *Dr. Stoppage.* Climb up a line of weakness that is easy at the

Top: Dave Smart leading *Marshmallow Man*.
Bottom: Reg Smart leading *Doctor Stoppage.*
Photos by Brandon Pullan.



start, then chimney around a roof and finish on a small pinnacle at the top of the buttress at the *Dr. Stoppage* anchors. There is loose rock in the middle - careful what you pull on and step on.

Gear: Single rack of cams from 0.5 to #6 Camalot. I had to leapfrog the #4, 5 and 6 Camalot up the wide part of the crack/chimney system around the roof. *DD*

Baffled Beaver, 5.8, 25 m, bolted, 10 draws
(Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, July 8, 2022)

Located at the far right end of the crag, 10 m right of *Draining the Swamp.* The opening moves are difficult (protected by a bolt on the left side of a rib), but the climbing continues to be somewhat tenuous for the next couple of moves past the bolt, so it is best to bring a long stick clip and clip the second bolt. Continue up the line of weakness above, move left below a cedar and finish up a short, steep wall. Ring anchors.

Photos of the routes *Draining the Swamp* (top) and *Baffled Beaver* (below) before cleaning and bolting.

Shotgun/Riverside Rock

The Shotgun/Riverside Rock, as seen in an aerial photo taken by Marco Foladore in March, 2018. The big white blob in the middle of the cliff is the ice climb *The Crown Jewel.*

The Shotgun (aka Riverside Rock) is a stunning, tall cliff towering right above the logging road and the Little White River. It's about 110 m tall at its highest point and about 1 km long. It's the best cliff in the area for bolted, multi-pitch routes.

The cliff runs roughly from south-west to north-east along the north side of the Little White River. The cliff is closest to the road, a mere 50 m away, in its middle section, just before the Little White River turns south-east away from the cliff and a driveway to a hunt camp starts on the right. From this middle point to the left (west), the cliff recedes steadily away from the road and uphill behind trees, becoming more broken and shorter as it does so. A huge, 40 m wide treed ledge, dubbed the Northern Channel, is found about 75 m up the centre-left section of the cliff. Another 20-50 m high section of cliff rises up from back end of this ledge.

A large amphitheatre-like recess lies in the middle section of the cliff. It is identifiable by overhangs on its left wall (the end of the North Channel ledge) and black, wet streaks in the middle, where the ice climb Crown Jewel forms in the winter. To the right of this Crown Jewel Amphitheatre is found the tallest, (mostly) unbroken section of cliff at the Shotgun called the Lookout Wall.

From the middle section to the right, the cliff once again starts to pull back (north-east) away from the road. There are small talus slopes here that rise only slightly above the mostly flat forested ground below. The cliff runs for approximately 700 m to the north-east before making a pronounced right turn back towards the east. This corner is still only about 150 m from the road. After this turn the cliff starts to become shorter again and after about 100 m is broken completely by a large treed slope, before a final rocky promontory, the Muzzle, juts out at the far eastern end of the cliff.

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. Some of the rock appears to be slate or very close to it (maybe siltstone or mudstone) - it's incredibly smooth and slippery. Parts of the cliff are plagued by poison ivy at the base – it is a good idea to bring some hedge trimmers along, just in case poison ivy is blocking access.

Drone photo of The Shotgun/Riveside Rock, taken by Mike Park, August 2021. It shows most of the cliff - the far left side (200 m) and a small part of the far right side (25 m) are missing. The Little White River flows in the foreground. Various trails are marked with dotted lines.

The Smart Trail - Trail to the Top/Descent Route

The top of the Shotgun can be reached by a trail at the east (right) end of the cliff line. It is called the Smart trail, because it was found and flagged by Dave and Reg Smart, long-time Ontario climbers and route developers, who are still out exploring and developing routes. The trail starts from the road about 50 m before a bridge that crosses a smaller tributary of the Little White River. Look for flagging tape on a pair of semi-fallen birches. The trail goes up a along a small esker/moraine-type ridge hidden under the trees for 70 m, then, at the top of the esker/moraine feature, cuts to the right and through the forest for another 50 m to the easternmost end of the cliff. A treed slope starts here about 50 m left of the right-most end of the cliff. Scramble up some talus to the right side of the treed slope. Stick close to the wall on your right almost the whole way up the slope. It gets quite steep towards the top, but there are now fixed ropes in place to grab for security. You gain about 60 m of elevation and end up on top of the far right shoulder of the main cliff. It should only take about 15 minutes to go from the road to the top of this shoulder.

A well-trodden, flagged trail continues up from here to the left (west) along the top of the cliff. It's about 500 m (10 minutes) to the top of *Stars at Night* area and another 400 m (10 minutes) to the top of *Bullets before Breakfast*. To get to the top of the Muzzle, head right from where the flagged trail tops out on the shoulder.

The Crown Jewel Amphitheatre, located in the middle of The Shotgun Cliff. In winter the ice route *Crown Jewel* forms at the black streak in the middle of the photo.

History

There has been climbing at the Shotgun/Riverside Rock in the past. According to two separate sources there was a climbing accident there when someone fell because his "hook" pulled out. Apparently the accident necessitated a helicopter rescue and may have involved a fatality.

Old, rotting slings can be seen on the first pitch of *Ancient Epic* and around the big tree at the top of the first pitch of *Ancient Epic.*

Routes

There are currently circa 15 long, multi-pitch, bolted routes and 1 multipitch trad route that go to the top of the cliff. There are also 20 + shorter (1-3 pitch) trad and sport routes on shorter walls of the cliff. New routes are going up all the time.

Routes are described from left to right.

Margarine Cosmonaut, 5.10, 23 m, bolted.
(Dave Smart, Reg Smart, 2022).

A top pitch without lower pitches located at the far left end of the upper tier at Riverside Rock, about 30 m left of the top of the ice climb *Rainmaker*. Climbs a nice open piece of rock. *DS*

Above: A frontal view of the Lookout Wall, right of the Crown Jewel Amphitheatre.

Bullets Wall

The Bullets Wall is the leftmost major wall at the Shotgun/Riverside cliff. It is a about 75 m at its highest point. It ends at a large, forested ledge known as the North Channel Ledge. Above the North Channel, another 20-50 metres of climbing remains. Two short access trails lead from the road to different points along the wall.

A partial view of the left side of the Bullets Wall: *Mid-Life Wasted Bolting* on the left, *Ankles, Knees and Toes* in white in the middle, *Project* in black, *Bullets before Breakfast* on the right. Photo and route drawing by Nick Hardman.

The first routes are located at the far left end of the Bullets Wall at an area dubbed the Cherry Pie Ledge.

Approach to Cherry Pie Ledge: Approach via the trail to base of *Bullets before Breakfast* (see instructions on next page). Head left through the clearing and across the talus along the base for approximately 50 m. Cherry Pie Ledge can be accessed here, via the bolted route *Ankles, Knees & Toes*; or by continuing another 30 meters to the large corner and soloing the short and dirty 5.4 (dubbed "elite tubo danger") under the ominous death block. The former is recommended. (Despite a heavy crowbar, the death block didn't move)

Mid-Life Wasted Bolting, 10d, 3 pitches, 13 draws, 65 m rope
(Nick Hardman, Stefan Mikuska, May 2023)

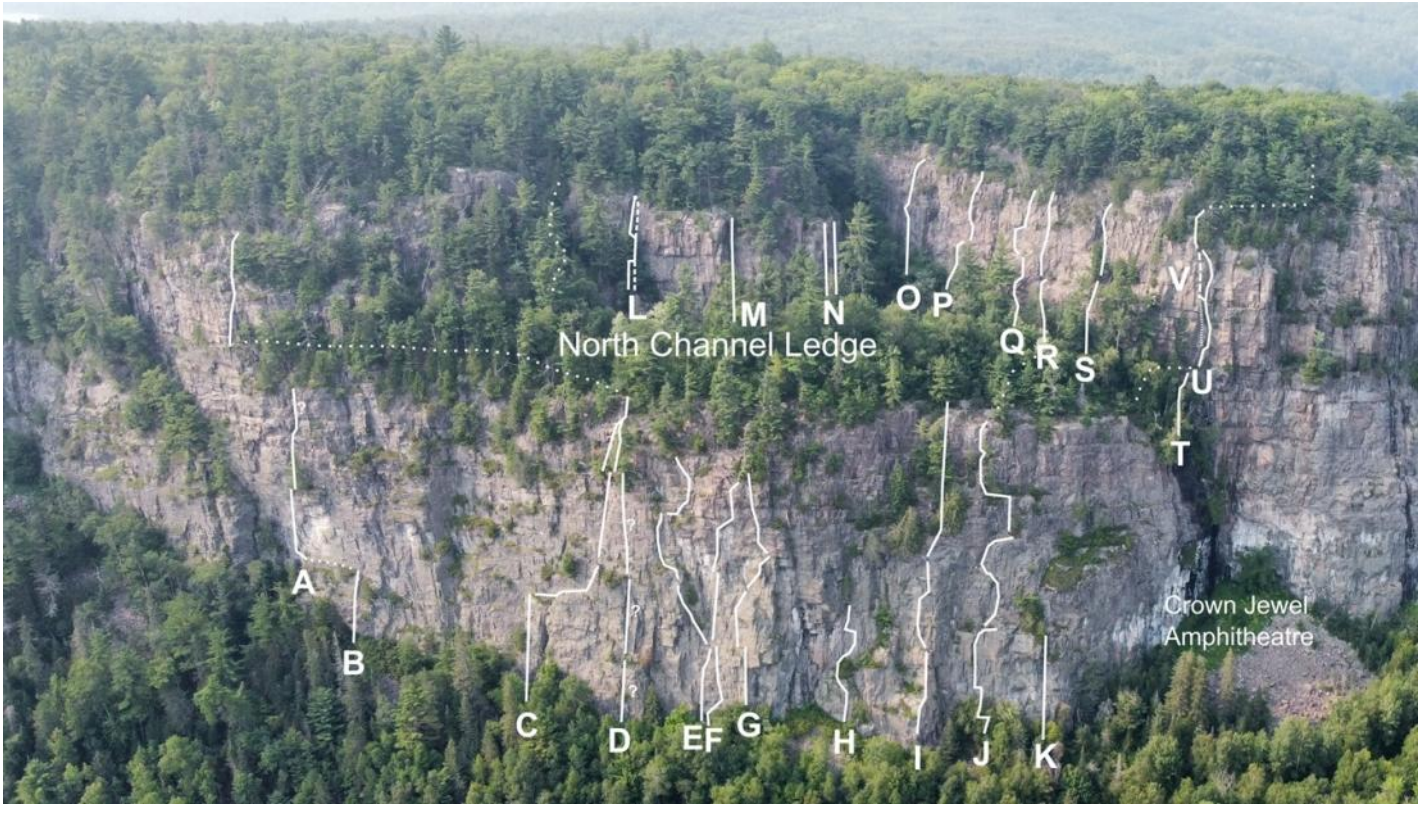
A direct line into the Lightning Pitch on *Bullets before Breakfast* that starts off the far-left side of the Cherry Pie Ledge.

• Pitch 2, 5.10d, 25 m. Steep climbing with good holds leads to a large ledge.

• Pitch 3, 5.10c, 32 m. Step right and continue up moderate climbing to a fun exposed finish.

• Pitch 4. Continue left up the ramp to climb the Lightning Pitch of *BBB*.

Descent: A 65 m rope is required to reach the ledge from the anchors at the top



A) Mid-Life Wasted Bolting B) Ankles, Knees, Toes C) Bullets before Breakfast D) War and Peace E) Red Tag Warriors F) K-9 High-Step G) Roadblock H) What Rot I) Danylo's Delicious, Salty Sausage Dinner J) Ancient Epic K) Wasted Worry L) Binary System and Binary Direct (dashed) M) Chimney Jones N) Siege and Ride a Rubber Gator O) Breadcrumbs P) Bald and Juvenile Q) Yes, I Can Hear You Clem Fandango R) Epicurean S) Pyjama Party T) Moon Water U) Astronomer V) Polaris

Stefan Mikula climbing *A Mid-Life Wasted Bolting*. Photo by Nick Hardman.

of pitch 2. From the top of pitch 1, you will reach the ground below Cherry Pie Ledge.

Project. *Please don't climb.*

Start midway along Cherry Pie Ledge at the lone bolt. Head up the crack stepping left to the mid-way ledge.

Ankles, Knees & Toes, 5.7, 20 m
(David Lister)

Easy, ledge-laden climbing accesses the right side of Cherry Pie Ledge.

Dodging Bullets, 5.7/5.8, 25 m, trad
(FA Tristan Collings, Danylo Darewych, October 11, 2025)

A corner crack located immediately left of the first pitch of *Bullets before Breakfast.* Start about 5 m left of *Bullets.* Climb up a short 4 m step on small incuts (or the much dirtier, easier angled crack to the left), sling a tree, traverse right 2 m, climb up to a big pine on a ledge (possible belay). Stem and layback up the finger/hand crack in the left-facing corner above.

We think the route can be continued by traversing left from the ledge and up. We plan on investigating this option next time.

The corner crack of *Dodging Bullets.*

Bullets before Breakfast, 5.9, 130 m, 7 pitches, bolted
(FA Reg Smart, David Smart, John Kaandorp, June 20, 2020)

Bullets before Breakfast is the first rock route to climb to the top of Riverside Rock. Bring twelve draws and a 70 metre rope, if you want to descend by rappel.

To access the route look for a cairn of rocks at the side of the road 140 m left of the driveway on the right that leads to a hunt cam p (or 170 m left of the big, over-

hanging wall of black rock with white streaks where the ice route *Crown Jewel/The Thing* is found in winter). A flagged trail leads steeply for 50 metres to the base of the route. The route starts at a bolted rib of rock. It might be best not to park directly below the route, as loose rocks have been known to bounce all the way down to the road.

• Pitch 1, 5.7, 25 m. Climb the rib to a ledge with juniper.

• Pitch 2, 5.8, 15 m. Cross a gully on the right and traverse a ledge until a couple of steep moves lead to the belay.

Dave Smart leading *Bullets before Breakfast*. Photo by Reg Smart, June 2020.

• Pitch 3, 5.9, 30 m. Climb the wall above to the comfortable Lucky Ledge.

• Pitch 4, 5.8, 25 m. Step left from the anchors (the bolts on the right belong to *War and Peace*) and climb up a steep groove blocked by a chockstone and an easy slab to bolts just below the top of the North Channel Ledge.

• Pitch 5. Scramble a couple of metres to the top, unrope on the huge North Channel Ledge and follow flagging tape 70 m to the left to a bolt belay where the ledge ends. (70-75 m walking)

• Pitch 6, 5.8, 20 m. The Lightning Pitch. Exposed climbing leads up a wall to a ledge with two prominent trees that have been hit by lightning.

• Pitch 7, 5.3, 15 m. Easy climbing to the very top of the cliff.

Descend either by walking right along the clifftop trail to the descent trail or by rappelling the route to the top of the second pitch, from which a 35m rappel reaches the ground. *DS*

War and Peace, 5.10b, 4 pitches, 16 bolts, mixed climb
(FA Mish Vins, Umer Javed, September 3, 2022)

Climb starts about 60 m to the right of *Bullets* in a shallow open book. Look for a sloping dirt corner with a white patch on dark rock at the start.

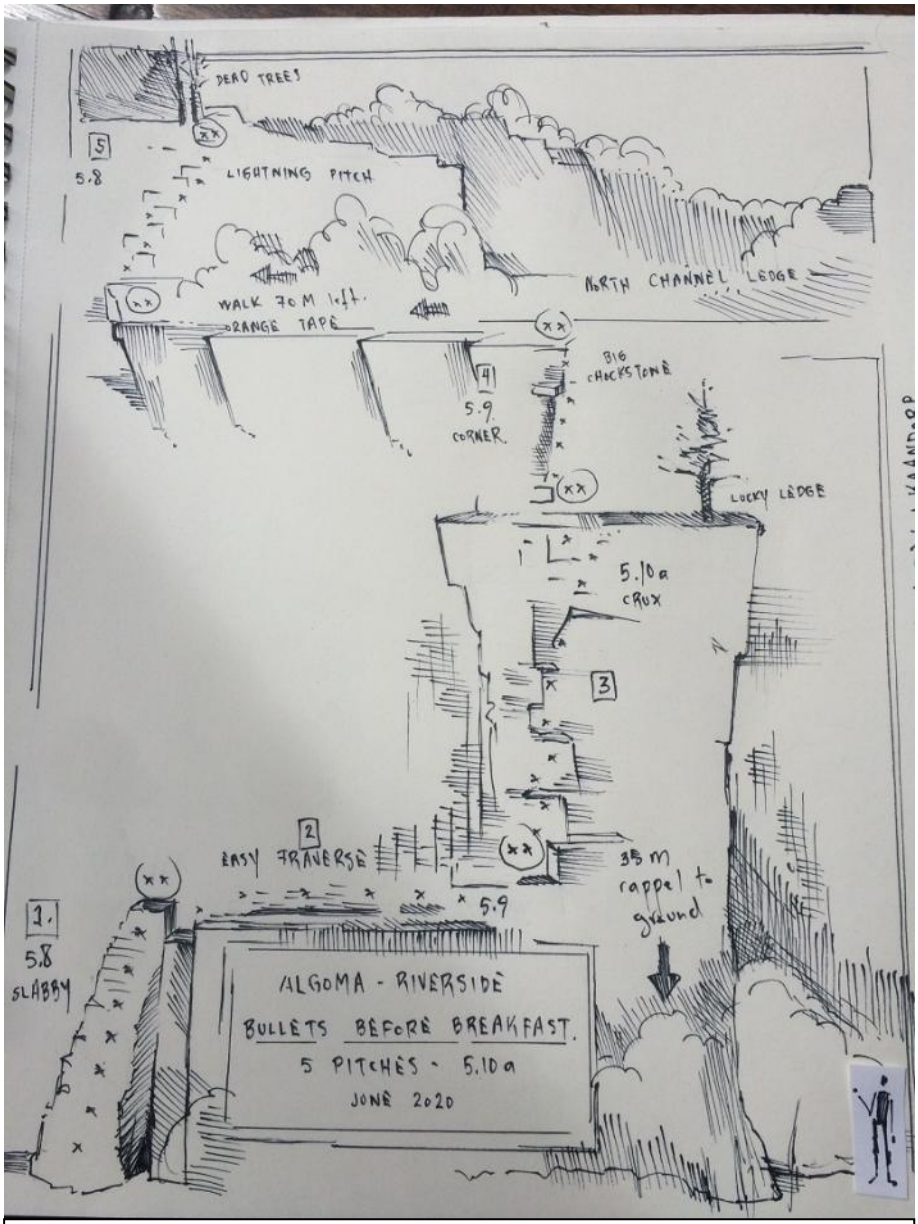
• Pitch 1, 5.8: Climb up moderate, featured rock onto a belay ledge with anchors at the start of a right-facing corner.

• Pitch 2, 5.10b: Climb the corner until it ends with anchors.

• Pitch 3, 5.10c: Climb the face towards the rightmost large tree on the massive shared ledge with *Bullets Before Breakfast* anchors.

• Pitch 4, 5.10a: Climb straight above the anchors, towards a small treed corner just left of the small roof. Traverse left just from below the tree onto the face and follow bolts to the top. Shares anchors with *Bullets Before Breakfast* at the end of pitch 4. Original line was to climb through the tree but ran into a hidden hornets' nest.

You need a standard trad climbing rack up to a #3 cam. Bolts were put in on the lead using piton, cam hook or skyhook. *MV,UJ*



Topo drawing of the route *Bullets before Breakfast*. Drawn by John Kaandorp, June 2020.

Trail. The next three climbs can be accessed by another trail that starts about 50 m right of the previous one that leads to *Bullets before Breakfast* (or 90 m from the hunt camp driveway). Look for cairns of rock on top of a small roadside boulder. When the trail hits the cliff, *K-9 High Step* will be directly to climber's left and *Roadblock* will be several metres to climber's right.

Red Tag Warriors (You Drop It and You Learn), 5.7, 4 pitches, 80 m, 13 draws
(FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Rafael Kolodziejczyk, Gosia Kolodzieczyk, August 24, 2024)

Located 5 m left of *K9 High Step*. Some loose, hollow blocks.

• Pitch 1, 5.7, 27 m, 13 bolts. Starts up blocky ledges, then a slight right-facing corner. Shares first pitch belay of K-9.

• Pitch 2, 5.5, 12 m. Climb left from belay. Carefully mount ledge (hollow blocks). Step across to a face and then climb up and left to an airy belay at a small stance.

• Pitch 3, 5.7, 23 m. Follow bolts left and up to a ledge with an optional belay. Follow a right-facing corner, exiting up a tight slot to a belay ledge.

• Pitch 4, 5.6, 18 m. Walk right across the ledge and follow bolts up, exiting carefully (watch for loose rock at the very top).

Descent. 5 m climber's left of final anchors are rings. A short rappel brings you down to the belay ledge of pitch 3 of *Bullets before Breakfast.* Rappel *Bullets* to the ground (need a 70 m rope). *RK*

War and Peace, first pitch. Photo by Umer Javed.

K-9 High-Step, 5.10c, 80 m, 3 pitches, 16 draws
(FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Rafael Kolodziejczyk, Aug. 2, 2022)

The start of this route is located just left of where the trail hits the cliff..

• Pitch 1, 5.10a, 27 m. Stick clip. An interesting journey past pinches, underclings. Traverses right to a leftward trending weakness. Follow the weakness to anchors on left.

• Pitch 2, 5.7, 17 m. Fun. It's best to move left at bolt 4 and climb up to the ledge. An alpine draw here will reduce drag.

• Pitch 3, 5.10c, 30 m. Climb past the large block. Follow a right facing corner to the roof system. Follow the bolts out right and up a shallow corner to anchors just below the summit. It's best to belay here for communication and rope man-

Rocks trundled from *Roadblock* lying on the road below. Raf and Randy did the trundling early in the spring when there was no traffic on the road.

agement.

Exit: Not a pitch. Scramble right passing a bolt to the top of *Roadblock..*

Descent: Refer to *Roadblock* rap line. *RK*

Rafael Kolodziejczyk on the first pitch of *Roadblock*.

Roadblock, 5.10a, 82 m, 4 pitches, bolted, 14 draws
(FA Rafael Kolodziejczyk, Randy Kielbasiewicz, July 17, 2022)

• Pitch 1, 5.10a 25 m. Stick clip first bolt as the starting moves are the crux. Follow thought provoking moves up an aesthetic corner

• Pitch 2, 5.8, 15 m. Move left off the belay and follow a groove, passing a small roof on the left. Follow easier, but suspect, rock to anchors.

• Pitch 3, 5.10a, 17 m. Fantastic face climbing. Start LEFT of the bolt line crossing over to a flake. Follow this up to anchors on the right. NOTE: There is a rap station on left (level with the belay station).

• Pitch 4, 5.10a, 25 m. Travers left into a right facing corner. Follow this to a good rest. Boulder out the crux moves and climb increasingly steep rock to top. An alpine draw at the last bolt is helpful.

Descent: 3 raps with single 60 m rope. From top anchors rap 20 m to rappelling anchors (about 5 meters climber's left of P3 anchors). Rap 25 m to P1 anchors. *RK*

What Rot, 5.7 R, 30 m , trad *PROJECT*
(FA Mike Grainger and Danylo Darewych, August 15, 2013).

This line is located some 100 m left of the *Crown Jewel*, or 25 m left of the prow/toe of rock that come down closest to the road. The route is visible through the trees from the road at a spot where the talus comes right to the road – look for a crack leading to a bushy ledge, then continuing up a widening crack/chimney to a corner groove right of some roofs, with a substantial cedar perched in the corner.

The route is best reached by taking the Toe Trail to the cliff base (see next page for description) and then heading left for some 25 m Watch out for poison ivy (not that thick in this section, but a pair of shears would be useful).

Head up an initial crack to a bushy ledge. The wider crack directly above is composed of loose, rotten, black, shale-type rock, so traverse right 8 m on the ledge and head up more solid, slate-type rock with

Above: The line of *What Rot* visible through the trees.

laser cut square holds, but sparse pro, then traverse back left to the cedar tree. Belay here. Rappel rings.

We bailed at this point, because I didn't trust the rock protection above. When I tried placing a cam in a perfectly parallel crack in the slate/mudstone, it simply slid out as I tugged on it – the cam couldn't seem to get a bite on it at all. Too bad, because it was a fine lead by Mike and the climbing didn't look too difficult above.*

The route is now being turned into a 4-pitch bolted line. And the slippery crack is much harder than it looked.

Mike Grainger leading the bottom section of *What Rot.*

* For a more complete description see Mike Grainger's trip report on ontarioclimbing.com http://ontarioclimbing.com/forum/index.php?topic=2630.msg51260#msg51260)

The Toes

The next three routes are located about 75 m left of the Crown Jewel amphitheatre at a point where three toes of rock come down closest to the road. A short approach trail (The Toe Trail) comes up from the road. The trail starts 40 m left of the hunt camp driveway. Look for orange flagging on a randomly found mechanical part set atop a sapling stump.

Danylo's Delicious, Salty Sausage Dinner, 5.8, 3 pitches, bolted
(FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Daunte Rezaie, June 2021; retrobolted Aug. 2026).

This route starts right where the trail reaches the cliff. Two bolts close together 3 m up mark the start of the route. The route heads up along the left toe/prow of rock.

Mark Hurst leading the second pitch of *Sausage Dinner*.

• Pitch 1, 5.8, 28 m. Start at the buttress underneath the two bolts. Climb a harder boulder problem straight up off the ground or start on slightly easier terrain to the left. Weave up the buttress, following the bolts, to a ledge, and finish up a steep, short wall through an off-width crack to anchors.

• Pitch 2, 5.8, 28 m. Climb up and left on small edges left of a slight right-facing corner, continue up and right to groove and then up to anchors.

• Pitch 3, 5.5, 20 m, mostly bolted (?). Scramble up easy terrain (bring alpine draws to sling trees to protect slippery pine needle carpet) and up a final 6 m vertical step to North Channel Ledge.*

You can rap from top of pitch 2 or, if you do the exit pitch to the North Channel Ledge, walk left and rappel down *Bullets Before Breakfast*. *RK, DR*

* I believe this is the same exit as the loose block exit of the third pitch of *Ancient Epic*. A couple of cams might be useful. *DD*

Above: The Shotgun as viewed from the river with the lines of *What Rot, Ancient Epic* and *Stars at Night* marked. *Bullets before Breakfast* is out of the frame to the left. Photo by Anna Grant. Below: Mike Grainger on the starting moves of *Ancient Epic*.

Ancient Epic, 5.9, 105 m, 3 pitches, mixed
(FA Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, August 5, 2020*; FFA Mark Hurst, Cynthia Chung, May 23, 2021).

The route starts at the base of the middle toe, 7-8 metres right of where the trail reaches the cliff. We are speculating, based on the ancient slings that we found, that the first pitch might be the site of the climbing accident that happened at the cliff some 20 years ago.

• Pitch 1, 5.9, 35 m. Head up some lower-angled slab to a small tree, step 2-3 m left around a corner (bolt), head up past 2 bolts over slight bulges to an area of very-sedimentary, shattered looking rock. Step left from one small right-facing corner to another (bolt). There used to be a very loose block with an ancient, moldy sling on it here, but it got trundled in the summer of 2025. Climb this short corner (bolt) to a vegetated ledge. Climb the crack in the corner above. The crack has two blocks in it partway up – the bottom one wiggles, but the top one is solid – pull up on it, then step on it as you layback the upper crack and exit the corner (bolt) to big ledge and a two-bolt belay partway across and a big pine tree (with two pieces of ancient, moldy webbing on it) at the far right end of the ledge.

* We did not climb the route completely free, because we climbed the route from the ground up, drilling on lead and the first pitch proved to be a difficult and scary one with lots of treacherous loose rock, so Mike was forced to take in a couple of places.

• Pitch 2, 5.7, 35 m. From the belay step left to the low end of a low-angled, rightward trending ramp, traverse up it for 6 m past a bolt above the belay to a corner, climb up it for 4 m (bolt) to ledge (bolt and crack). Climb up to the left around a bulge onto a stance on top of a big block at the base of another corner with two prominent cracks on the left and a third running up the face on the right. Climb the crack/face on the right (small cams) and exit onto another vegetated ledge. Traverse right to a belay tree at its far end.

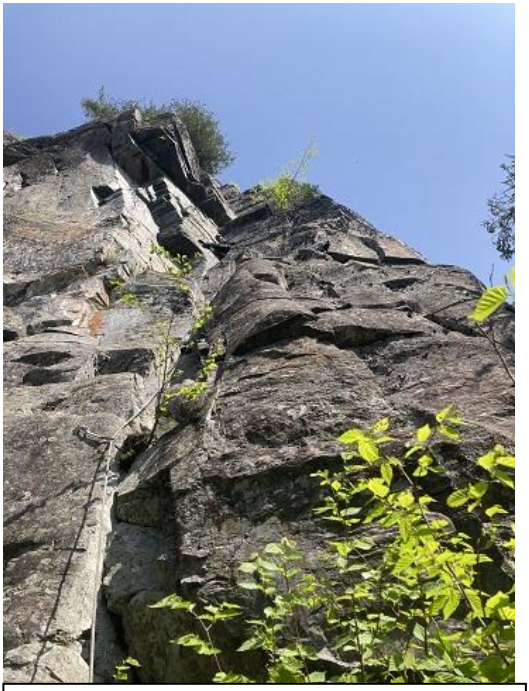
• Pitch 3, 5.6, 35 - 40 m. From the belay tree head straight up for 6 m past two bolts to a ledge, traverse left on the ledge for 7 m to a huge cedar tree, squeeze between it and the cliff around a corner, continue up past another bolt, pull up into a corner on the right occupied by a juniper, step around the corner (bolt) to the left and climb carefully up some loose/hollow flakes to a ledge. At the top, step over/around a big boulder to a belay at a big pine. This pitch wanders a lot and rope drag is hard to avoid. A more direct exit pitch might be to continue straight up after the first 2 bolts of the third pitch, but that would have meant climbing loose rock directly above the belay stance).

Descent/Rappel. The top of the 3rd pitch puts you on the right end of big, treed North Channel Ledge. We descended by walking 50-60 m left along the North Channel Ledge to the top of the 4th pitch of *Bullets before Breakfast* and rappelled down that route. It might be possible to rappel directly down *Ancient Epic* from tree to tree in 2 or 3 rappels. We trundled most of the loose rock while investigating a more direct exit to the second pitch (the rock sounded to hollow for safe bolting).

Wasted Worry, 5.10d, 30 m, bolted (10 bolts?)
(FA Colin Shepitka, Mike Shepitka, 2023?)

Located about 10 m right of the start of *Ancient Epic*. Climb a crack system into an open book corner, then over a small lip/roof and top out on a treed ledge.

Rappel off a sling in a tree or traverse left and climb *Ancient Epic*. *CS*



Colin Shepitka leading *Wasted Worry.*

The North Channel Ledge

The North Channel Ledge is a massive treed ledge that lies in the middle left section of the Shotgun/Riverside cliff, about 75 m up. It peters out at its far left end at the Lightning Pitch of the route *Bullets before Breakfast* where it is less than a metre wide. It is only about 5-10 m wide for about 30 m right of this point, but then gradually widens out until its is some 75-100 m wide towards its right side before it finally ends above the wall that forms the left side of the Crown Jewel Amphitheatre. There are some very large trees on the North Channel Ledge. A wall of good rock from 20 to 55 m tall rises above the North Channel Ledge. The wall doglegs/turns twice - once to the left and once back to the right. There are two large breaks in the wall at these doglegs/turns in the wall where treed slopes come down to the North Channel Ledge. The left treed slope can be used to scramble into and out of the North Channel Ledge, if you know where to find it from the clifftop trail (it's not currently flagged). The right one is too steep. Otherwise, you have to climb one of the routes below the North Channel Ledge to reach it.

Most of the routes on the North Channel Ledge are trad routes, but there's excellent potential for sport routes as well.

The first set of climbs on the North Channel Ledge is located on a 35 m wide wall just right of the left treed slope/descent gully. The area can also be reached by walking 50 m straight across the North Channel Ledge from the top of the 5th pitch of *BBB* until you hit a small talus slope. The wall lies above the small talus slope.

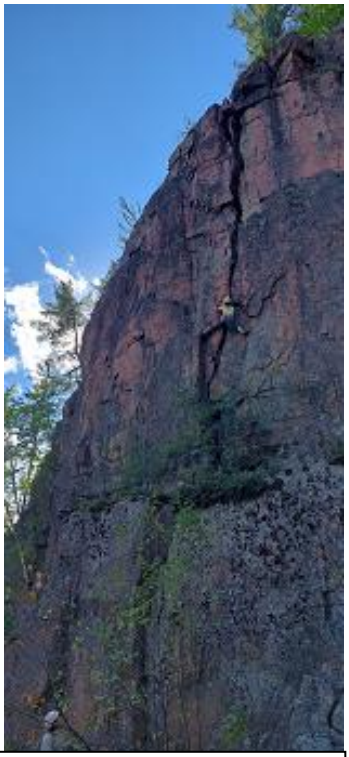
Binary System, 5.7, 20 m, trad
(FA Mark Hurst, Ray Rutitis, Sept. 22, 2022)

This route climbs the crack system located in a large dihedral at the left end of the wall (15 m right of the descent gully). Climb the hand cracks, switching from left to right, into the chimney and exiting through the roof to the left. There's a bolted anchor at the top. GPS: 46.46805, -83.22164 *MH*

Binary Direct, 5.8 trad, 20 m
(Cynthia Chung, Mark Hurst, Danylo Darewych, October 10, 2022)

Climb directly up the right-side of Binary System, which involves sections of off-width and hand crack before jam-

Cynthia Chung leading *Binary Direct* which exits through the roof above on its right side. *Binary System* exits to the left. Photo by Mark Hurst.



Left: Mark Hurst leading *Chimney Jones*. Right: Cynthia Chung leading *The Siege*. Photo by Mark Hurst.

ming through the roof crack to finish. *MH*

Chimney Jones, 5.7, 35 m, trad
(Mark Hurst, Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, Sunday, August 25, 2024).
Located about 25 m right of *Binary Direct* at the right end of steep face. Climb the chimney. At the top of the chimney head right and take the bouldery exit (on the left), or step further right to a pine tree. *MH*

The next two climbs, both cracks, are located on a steep, clean 30 m vertical wall between the two bends/turns in the North Channel cliff system, just left of the steeper, rightmost, vegetated slope.

The Siege, 5.9, 23 m, trad
(FA Mark Hurst, Cynthia Chung, Alec Cooper, Laura Woodall, 2024-08-31)*
The left-hand, off-width crack. Suitably awkward with good protection, grade quite subjective!
Gear: Small cams, plus two #5s and two #6s recommended. *MH*

* Alec climbed first, took a fall on a #5 and then lowered down; Cynthia got higher, then lowered down; Mark finished the lead. *DD*

Left: The line of *Ride a Rubber Gator*. The top of the *Siege* is visible on the left. Photo by Dave Smart. Right: Marco Foladore leading *Ride a Rubber Gator*.

Ride a Rubber Gator, 5.11, 20 m, trad
(FA Dave and Reg Smart Aug. 2, 2020; FFA Marco Foladore, Artur Makos, Aug, 17, 2020).

RARG is the right-hand crack. Two tenacious stumps in the crux first 10 m made for two resting points. Still some lichen and the inevitable surprise loose hold or two. Lower off rings or third class climbing on ledges to the top. *DS*

Breadcrumbs, 5.5, 42 m, trad
(Danylo Darewych, Cynthia Chung, October 10, 2022)

Breadcrumbs is located about 10 m right of the steeper, right-most, treed break/ gully. The cliff line makes a 90' degree rightward turn at this treed break. The route starts near two yellow birches. Climb up an initial steep section, head up left of a big flake before stepping onto it (look for solid protection placements even further left; avoid the right side - the flake and pro are suspect), then up a left-facing corner, step around an annoying birch and exit up a final corner left of a juniper clump onto a ledge with blocks. There is a solid tree for an anchor on the small rock step above the ledge.

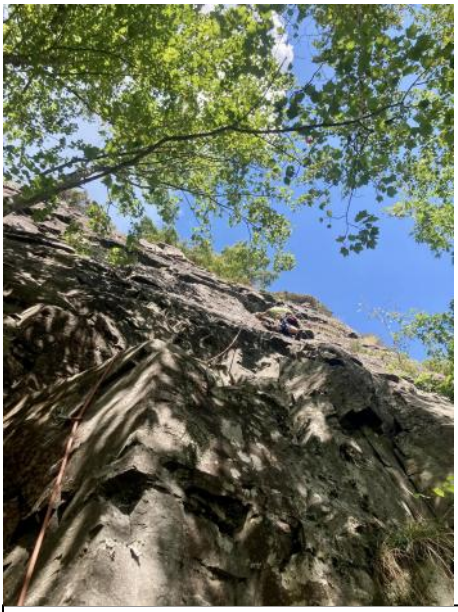
Gear: Cams from 0.3 to #4 (doubles in the small sizes), offset cams, nuts.

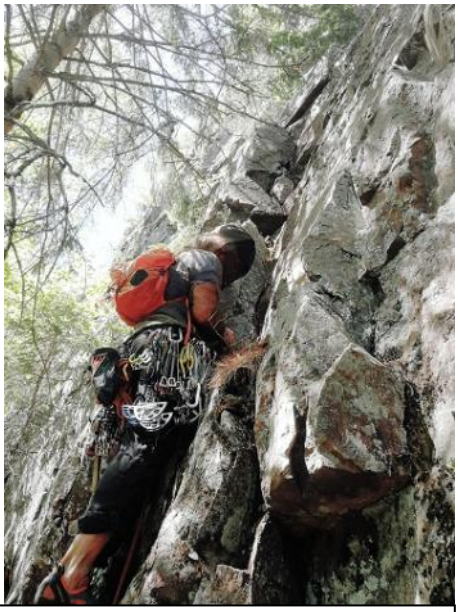
Bald and Juvenile, 5.10a, 35 m, bolted, 2 pitches
(FA Mark Hurst, Dan Hannah, August 31, 2024)

Located about 10 m right of *Breadcrumbs* and 20 m left of *Clem Fandango*.

• Pitch 1. Start up a left-facing corner and move right and up through thought-provoking terrain to an anchor at half-way.

• Pitch 2. Negotiate your way through a tricky corner and then another tech-





Left: Mark Hurst leading *Bald and Juvenile. Right:* Mark Hurst on the start of *The Epicurean*. Note the bug shirt - mandatory clothing in late May (but he should put on some socks). Photo by Cynthia Chung.

nical section near the top.

Descent: One rappel with a 70 m rope or two rappels with a 60 m rope.

Yes, I Can Hear You Clem Fandango, 5.10b, 40 m, bolted, 2 pitches
(FA Mark Hurst, Cynthia Chung, July 31st 2026)

Located about 20 m right of Bald and Juvenile and 5 m left of Epicurean.

• Pitch 1, 5.10a, 20 m. Climb corners trending right, across a traverse and then up a block to a belay ledge (rings).

• Pitch 2, 5.10b, 20 m. Go up the face under a small roof on small holds and exit right to the anchor (rings).

Descent: One rappel on a 70 m with rope stretch and a short downclimb, or two rappels with a 60 m.

The Epicurean, 5.8, 56 m, 2 pitches, trad
(Mark Hurst, Cynthia Chung, May 23, 2021).

This routes starts above the North Channel Ledge and serves as a pleasing extension of *Ancient Epic - The Ancient Epicurean.*

• Pitch 1, 5.7, 23 m. Start behind a medium size fir/spruce about 20 m left of the right hand end of North Channel. The tree is right at base of cliff. Follow a broken corner/crack behind the tree up to a smaller birch, where the crack becomes wider. Then up to a ledge on the right with two bolts (and a third mangled one that needs chopping).

• Pitch 2, 5.8, 33 m. Step left from the ledge and climb up on airier moves for 5 m to the top of a pinnacle. Move back out right and reach further right for thin gear. Head straight up on slab with minimal protection until the climbing gets easier. Top

out carefully over blocks to tree on the right. *MH*

Pyjama Party, 5.8, 60 m, 2 pitches, trad and sport
(FA Cynthia Chung, Mark Hurst, Danylo Darewych,* October 10, 2022; P2 Cynthia Chung, Alec Cooper, Fang Lu, 2024-08-31)

• Pitch 1, 5.8, 27 m, trad. Climb the finger/hand crack in a right-facing corner about 15 m right of *The Epicurean*. Technical crack climbing on good protection leads to a short off-width, then step right up past a bolt onto a ledge with bolt anchors.

• Pitch 2, 5.7, 35m, sport. Follow the bolts up from the belay, trending left and into a dihedral, then exit right to a tree belay. *MH*

Moon Water, 5.9, 15 m, bolted
(Dave Smart, rope solo, spring 2023)

Walk to the far right end of the North Channel Ledge and scramble/ walk down to the start of *Moon Water* at a waist-high cedar tree stump. Usually damp.

The next routes are accessed by scrambling from the right end of the North Channel Ledge to a smaller, higher ledge (4th class) and traversing rightwards along it. A set of anchor bolts mark the start of the *Astronomer*.

Astronomer, 5.8, 35 m, 2 pitches, bolted
(Dave Smart, rope solo, spring 2023)

• Pitch 1, 5.8, 22 m.

• Pitch 2, 5.3, 13 m.

Scramble out 40 m to the right to exit. You could take the rope off for that, or leave it on.

Astronomer, trad variation, 5.8, 22 m
(FA Dave Smart, rope solo, spring 2023)

Start up the *Astronomer,* but veer off to the left up a crack, before rejoining the *Astronomer* for the top of the first pitch. Might still shed some loose holds.

Polaris, 5.9, 22 m, bolted
(FA Dave Smart, rope solo, spring 2023)

Start up the *Astronomer,* but halfway up the first pitch follow a line of bolts leftward to an arête. Climb up the arête. *Polaris* ends at the same anchor bolts as the first pitch of the *Astronomer.* Follow the second pitch of the *Astronomer* to the top.

Top: Cynthia Chung leading *Pyjama Party*. Photo by Mark Hurst. Middle: *Moon Water*. Bottom: *Astronomer*.

* I didn't climb the start of *Pyjama Party* cleanly - had to hang. *DD*

Lookout Wall

The Lookout Wall is the tallest section of cliff at the Shotgun. It is the wall right of the Crown Jewel Amphitheatre. To reach it park at the wide pullout up the hill about 50 m past the hunt camp driveway and then head about 75 m across the talus.

Dustin Hooey leading *Kilonova*. Photo from Climb Sault-Ste.-Marie Facebook Page.

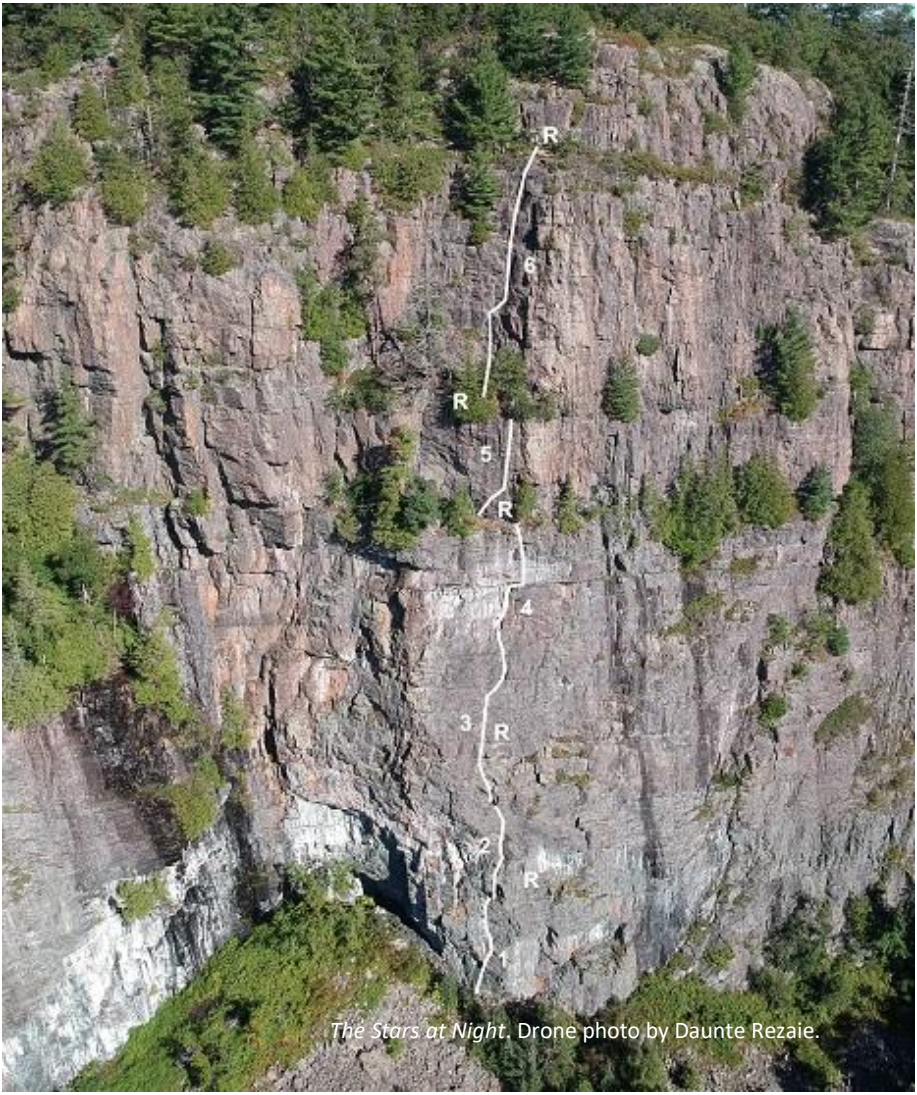
Kilonova, 5.11c, 115ish m, 6 pitches, 51 bolts + anchors
(FA Pitches 1-4: Dustin Hooey, Christian Wilson, September 2022; pitches 5-6: Dustin Hooey, Mike Park, October 2022)

Located about 10 m left of *Stars at Night*. Watch out for poison ivy.

• Pitch 1, 5.11c, 25? m, 8? bolts. The crux of the first pitch is right off the deck - a crash pad or stick clip recommended for first bolt. Semi-hanging belay.
• Pitch 2, 5.11b, 13 m, 10? bolts. Traverse right then up past a series of ledges to a comfortable belay stance.
• Pitch 3, 5.10, 12 m, 7? bolts. Continue left, then up, mount the small detached pillar, then continue up to the anchors.
• Pitch 4, 5.11b, 27 m, 11? bolts. Follow the bolts up to a fun, cruxy roof move. Belay from the rap anchors on the Porch.
• Pitch 5, 5.11c, 13 m, 6 bolts. Walk left about 8 m to the arête. Follow the bolts, flirting with the corner all the way to the anchors on top.
• Pitch 6, 5.9, 28 m, 9 bolts. Walk left again up the slope & past the living pine tree (7 m), A small finger crack, off width and chimney will get you past a couple of cedar trees to the belay/rap station.

Getting down: Rap climber's right to the rap line of *Stars at Night* or to the anchors at the top of pitch 5. Rap again to the Porch. Follow the main rap line along *Stars at Night* to the ground. You may rap from any anchor, but beware of poison ivy at the bottom. Alternatively, the cliff top trail is just a few metres past the last anchors:

A kilonova is a binary neutron star merger, either with another neutron star or with a black hole. *DH*



The Stars at Night. Drone photo by Daunte Rezaie.

The Stars at Night, 5.10b, 129 m, 6 pitches, bolted (59 bolts + anchors). (FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Rafael Kolodziejczyk, Daunte Rezaie, September 5, 2020)

Quality climbing almost the whole way. Impeccable rock except for the first 15 feet. The route starts on the far right side of the Crown Jewel Amphitheatre and heads up the left margin of the Lookout Wall.

• Pitch 1, 5.10b, 24 m, 9 bolts. Stick clip first bolt. Poor rock/shale to start (try not to pull or clean any of the holds off). Follow bolts past a couple of roofs and grooves and exit right to a stance at base of chimney-like feature on right.

• Pitch 2, 5.8, 17 m, 9 bolts. From anchor follow bolts left and climb up a

groove on the left side of the arête, then cross over the arête back right into the top of a chimney (beware of belayer below). Head up corner to a large ledge (easy mantle on the left). Just hangers at belay.

• Pitch 3, 5.9, 25 m, 13 bolts. Climb up the groove on the right to slab, move diagonally left across the slab, past a flake system up to a bolt, past a grassy ledge with rings (part of rappel line). Tricky face climbing leads to a rightward traverse. Follow the layback system to anchors on the left.

• Pitch 4, 5.10a, 18 m, 9 bolts. This pitch is the exact opposite of the one below. Follow the flake system until blocked by a roof, move right around the roof. Climb up steep overhanging face exiting through a right-facing dihedral. Huge exposure – 75 m of air below your feet. This puts you on top of a long, narrow ledge system called the Balcony. Anchors in front of you when you top out onto the Balcony. Pitches 3 and 4 can be linked together in one mega-pitch, if you use slings judiciously and have enough draws.

Daunte climbing pitch 1 of *The Stars at Night* with Randy at the top of the pitch. By Rafael K.

Bring your second up, then traverse left across the Balcony to a much wider platform called the Terrace. Clip the protection bolts along the way, because in one spot you are traversing across stacked blocks (it's not clear what is holding them in place). One bolt anchor at the far end.

• Pitch 5, 5.8 , 15 m, 6 bolts. Climb up and right to the next small ledge which is called The Porch. Belay bolts will be right in front of you when you reach the Porch. From these bolts a static rope leads up and left to the base of pitch 6 (easy scrambling, but can be slippery and muddy when wet).

• Pitch 6, 5.7, 30 m, 9 bolts. Follow bolts up corners and slabs to a top-out on a ledge system with rappel rings.

Descent: Walking down the descent trail is safer, faster and preferable to rappelling the line. From the top anchor walk climber's left and slightly down around the rock/boulder and from there follow the path to the top to join the main trail. Turn right and follow the trail all the way to the base of the cliff at the north end and then out to the road.

Rappel line. The route can be rappelled with one 60 m rope, although we highly encourage everyone to descend down the trail - it's easier, safer and faster.

a) From the top of pitch 6, rap straight down to the Porch.

b) The next rappel station is on the left side of the Porch (left of the beginning of pitch 6) – rappel from here down to the Terrace.

c) The next rings on the far right of the Terrace. Rap down to grassy ledge.

d) From the grassy ledge rap down and look for rings on your right (right of pitch 2; up and right of belay of pitch 1 belay on a narrow ledge). *RK*

The view down from the top of the 4th pitch of *The Stars at Night* with Daunte Rezaie climbing and Rafael Kolodziejczyk at the belay. Photo by Randy Kielbasiewicz.

Supernova, 5.11c, 108 m, 5 pitches, 15 draws
(FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Rafael Kolodziejczyk, August 2022)

Solid climbing with a defined crux on all 4 pitches.

• Pitch 1, 5.11b, 25 m. Start 15 m right or *The Stars at Night* at a steep corner. Good rests with hard moves between them.

• Pitch 2, 5.11a, 30 m. Climb a short steep wall past powerful moves over the lip. A belay station was installed around the 12 m mark to limit rope stretch if the 2nd requires a tight belay. Climb left across a slab an up corner to anchors

• Pitch 3, 5.10d, 35 m. Climb easy slab to a small roof. The business starts here. Climb the right facing corner and follow a journey to the Balcony Ledge. Long, technical and pumpy.

• Pitch 4, 5.11c, 18 m. Cryptic moves follow a short overhanging corner system to a good rest. Easier climbing leads to the belay of *Crescent Moon*. Stay left at the

Lookout Wall routes: A) *Kilonova* B) *Stars at Night* C) *Supernova* D) *Full Moon* E) *Crescent Moon* F) *Long May You Run* G) *L.E.A.F.* H) *Uncle* Fester.
Drone photo from Daunte Rezaie, Sept. 2020.

final bolt.

- Exit: Follow *Crescent Moon* to the top (5.10a) *RK*

Full Moon, 5.10c, 154 m, 6 pitches, bolted, 12 quickdraws plus 4 alpine draws (and the knowledge of when to use them)
(FA Rafael Kolodziejczyk, Randy Kielbasiewicz, August 2021)

The start is located approximately 25 m right of *TSaN* on a short face below a large ledge. The right side of this feature is a major right facing corner made of black rock (often wet) with a wide crack.

• Pitch 1, 5.10b, 30 m, 11 bolts (recommended stick clip). Start on hard moves up a short wall with 3 bolts leading to an optional anchor just below the big ledge (use if you need to minimize rope stretch for second). At the roof near the end of the pitch, step left and down to belay.

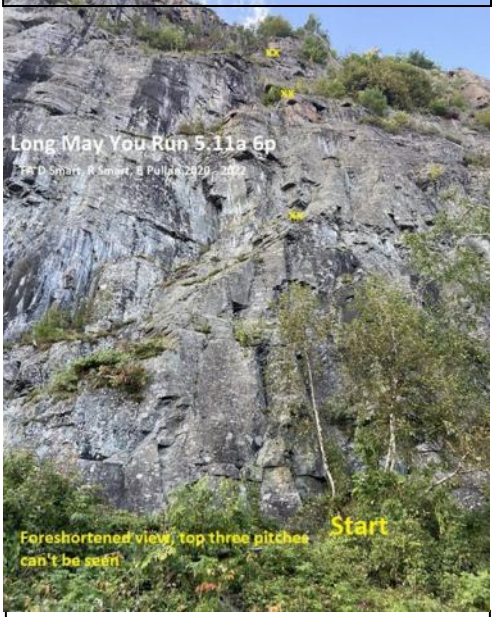
• Pitch 2, 5.10a, 28 m, 14 bolts. Follow bolts up and left over roofs through a scoop to a mantle. Traverse left several meters to anchor.

• Pitch 3, 5.10c, 32 m, 15 bolts. Our favourite pitch. Fantastic position with impeccable rock. Follow bolts to an rightward traverse leading to exciting moves over the roof. This pitch puts you on the Balcony.

• Pitch 4, 5.10a, 18 m, 8 bolts. Starts several meters to the left in a groove with a large pine tree at your back. P4 of *TSaN* will be directly below you. Follow bolts up and left. Please avoid using the old tree. This pitch puts you on the Porch. Take care not to stop at the belay for *TSaN*. Continue 2-3m up and right to anchor bolts left of a large flake.

• Pitch 5, 5.9, 32 m, 11 bolts. From anchor traverse right and climb onto the flake. Follow bolts out right to a left facing layback flake. Head up back left of the arête finishing to the right around the final small roof. This pitch wanders a bit. If you stay on the bolt line, you will avoid any large loose blocks. This pitch puts you on a

Dustin Hooey and company from Sault St. Marie on the second pitch of *Full Moon*.



The first three pitches of *Long May You Run.* By Dave Smart.

ledge 4 m right of the *TSaN* top anchors. This ledge system is called "The Attic".

• Pitch 6, 5.3, 14 m, 3 bolts. An exit pitch leading to the top of the cliff. Anchor bolts are located climbers left on a small rock face 20 cm above the ground.

Enjoy the view. Watch yourself when taking selfies… it's a loooong way down. *RK*

Crescent Moon, 5.10a, 44 m, 2 pitches
(FA Rafael Kolodziejczyk, Randy Kielbasiewicz, September 11, 2021)

An alternate finish to *Full Moon*. The corner pitch offers amazing climbing in a fantastic position high above the deck. Starts from *Full Moon's* pitch 4 anchors on the Porch.

• Pitch 1, 5.5, 12 m, 5 bolts. From the anchor step down and sneak around the large flake and traverse right following bolts to a large ledge with a big cedar tree.

• Pitch 2, 5.10, 32 m, 13 bolts. From the anchors step left and head up the steep corner system. Excellent three dimensional climbing. This pitch joins *Full Moon* at P5 anchors (The Attic). *RK, RK*

Long May You Run, 5.10c, 150 m, 6 pitches, bolted (18 draws).
(FA Dave Smart, Reg Smart, Brandon Pullan, 2019 to April 2022).

This route is located about 30 m right of *Full Moon* on the wall above the talus with the memorial Inukshuk.

• Pitch 1, 5.10a. Short gully to a small crux

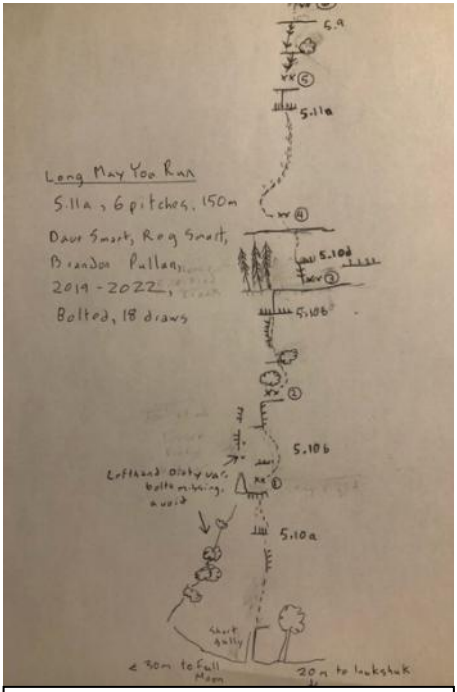
• Pitch 2, 5.10b. Good incuts to a steep face.

• Pitch 3, 5.10b. Wandering features to a small roof.

• Pitch 4, 5.10c. Good crimps left into awkward wall.

• Pitch 5, 5.10c. Fun and featured, left around roof with tricky jam.

• Pitch 6, 5.9 Short but tricky corner to the top. *DS*



Top: Topo of *Long May You Run*. By Dave Smart. Right: Dave Smart on the crux pitch of *Long May You Run.* Photo by Brandon Pullan from www.gripped.com.

L.E.A.F. (Low Elevation Alpine Fun), 5.8, 133 m, 5 pitches, bolted (Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, Aug. 21, 2021).

This route is located about 60 m right of *Stars at Night* on the wall above the talus with the memorial Inukshuks. It heads into and up a prominent treed notch in the upper section of the cliff. This climb will likely always be dirty. The leader of the third pitch should be over 5' 8'' tall, otherwise the top of the pitch becomes much more difficult.

Park at the wide pullout about 50 m past the hunt camp driveway. Head straight up the talus above the pullout to reach the start of the route. Look for a rightward trending ramp feature with a lone, small pine (birch?) tree 3/4 of the way up the ramp. You should see a line of bolts above you here. We hacked out some poison ivy that was growing near the base of the route but it will likely grow back. Bring shears.

• Pitch 1, 5.7, 28 m, (8 bolts). The first pitch climbs the right-trending ramp feature on the black mudstone/ siltstone type rock. There are good positive edges and ledges most of the way, but the rock shatters easily, so test your holds. After the first bolt head right up a line of weakness, then traverse back left to the second bolt, step further left around a bulge (third bolt) to a corner system and follow it up. Two bolt anchor at the left end of a vegetated ledge (the bolts are in a cracked layer of rock but it's wedged solidly).

• Pitch 2, 5.7, 15 m, 7 bolts (?). Step right from the belay and climb up a short rock step to a ledge. Continue up the second corner on the right above you (the leftmost one is a completely detached hollow pillar - careful) and then up a rightward trending line of weakness to a belay

Above: The first three pitches of *L.E.A.F.* Below: Mike bolting the first pitch of *L.E.A.F.* on lead.

stance on a small ledge.

• Pitch 3, 5.8, 25 m. Continue up the right trending line of weakness. At the top of the weakness, below a vegetated ledge, traverse left across big detached blocks for 3 m (these blocks ring hollow, but appear to be wedged in, so that they are not going anywhere, but tread lightly) to gain the ledge (long slings necessary). Step right and pull-up a final steep 3-4 m step to the Siesta Ledge. Tree belay (bring a longer cordelette).

• Pitch 4, 5.7, 40 m, 17 bolts. Climb the corner system that starts on the left side of the Siesta Ledge to the top. There is good clean rock with lots of edges on your left. The right side tends to be more vegetated and dirty. You have to squeeze by three small trees (and pull on at least one of them - the beech). There are a couple of distinct cruxes that will test your creativity. Tree belay at a stout oak on a big ledge at the top of the notch. You can finish here, if you wish, by following the cliff line out to the right to the main trail.

• Pitch 5, 5.7, 25 m, 7 bolts. From the top of the notch walk left 5 m along a ledge to a right facing corner where you will find a low bolt to secure the belayer. Follow a line of bolts up a blunt arête.

* We first tried pushing the line up and to the left above the first belay, but got stopped by hard climbing on smooth rounded Buddha-belly bulges. There is a set of abandoned anchor bolts behind the pine on the right end of the ledge above the juniper ledge.

Uncle Fester, 5.9+, 108 m, 4 pitches - 3 of sport, 1 of trad
(Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, May 15, 2022- first 3 pitches; 4th pitch - Aug. 28, 2023*)

Located about 30 m right of *L.E.A.F.* Approach as for *L.E.A.F.*, then head right for 30 m along the cliff line. Watch out for poison ivy. Look for a left-facing corner in black rock 15 m up - the route starts on the ground below and left of this feature.

• Pitch 1, 5.7, 23 m, 6 bolts. Head up and right to the base of the left facing corner, then traverse left and pull up left around a corner to a belay on big vegetated ledge.

• Pitch 2, 5.4, 20 m, 6 bolts. Head up and right on dirty, vegetated ledges for 10 m, then up cleaner slab to the base of a steeper wall.

• Pitch 3, 5.8, 23 m, 7 bolts. Climb up a short, small 4 m right facing corner to a ledge with a big cedar tree, continue up on very hollow-sounding flakes (clip the hanging cable), step left around a corner, then climb this left-facing corner to a belay (two bolts) next to a tree on a ledge below an

Mike Grainger leading the first pitch of *Uncle Fester.*

* Mike and I climbed the 4th pitch by hiking to the top of the route, lowering down the 4th pitch and climbing the bottom half of the pitch on top-rope first, before pulling the rope and leading the route on trad gear.

alcove of overhanging rock.

• Pitch 4, 5.9+, 35 m, trad gear to #5 Camalot. Climbs up a long, right-facing corner/crack system to the top of the cliff. A combination of strenuous and cryptic climbing makes for a challenging experience. Make a hard, overhanging bouldery start (V2) out of the alcove. The crack is thin at first, but gets progressively wider. It protects well. I had to veer away from the crack, 2 steps to the right, to get around an awkward bulge about 10 m up. You can belay at a big tree on a ledge 5 m from the top or continue on and exit up a short rock rib to the right of a narrow slot. Tree belay.

There is an optional two-bolt belay about 18 m up the 4th pitch on a small ledge to the left with a stunted pine, if you start running out of gear. Pitches are 5.9+, 22 m and 5.7/5.8, 18 m if you break them up.

Gear: Double set of cams to #4 Camalot and 1 #5.

Descent: The first 3 pitches have rappel rings, so you can climb and rappel just the first 3 pitches with a 60 m rope, if you don't have the gear to climb the final trad pitch. At the top of the 3rd pitch you can also traverse left along a narrow ledge around a corner and squeeze behind a pinnacle to the Siesta Ledge from where you can climb the final, bolted pitch of *L.E.A.F.* If you climb the 4th trad pitch of *Uncle Fester*, take the descent trail down - it's about 25 m back from the cliff edge.

5PB, 5.10b, 112 m, 5 pitches, bolted

(FA Daunte Rezaie, Rafael Kolodziejczyk, Randy Kielbasiewicz, summer 2023)

Located about 30 m right of *Uncle Fester,* and just right of another left-facing corner with a low roof of black rock.

• Pitch 1: 5.8, 30 m, 12 bolts. Follow the line of bolts up the black rock face to the right of the left-facing corner to a belay on a large, vegetated ledge.

• Pitch 2: 5.8, 28 m, 11 bolts. Continue up over bulges, then make an exposed traverse directly left to a belay on a ledge.

• Pitch 3: 5.8, 23 m, 7 bolts. Climb up to a right-facing flake, pull up around the right side of the flake to a ledge, then over a bulge (easier on the right) to a belay on a big ledge.

• Pitch 4: 5.10b, 23 m, 8 bolts. Climb up the chimney to the left of the belay for 4 m, clipping bolts on the face to the left, then traverse up and left over slab bulges and one short vertical crack, finishing with a leftward traverse to a belay on a small ledge.

• Pitch 5: 5.10a, 28 m, 10 bolts. Climb up the slabby rock to the top of the cliff.

Mike Grainger at the start of the first pitch of *5PB* with Chris Talbot belaying from the grassy ledge.

The Witch, 5.11, 111 m, 5 pitches, bolted
(Reg Smart, Dave Smart, July 11, 2021)

Located 10 m left of *Devil's Work*.

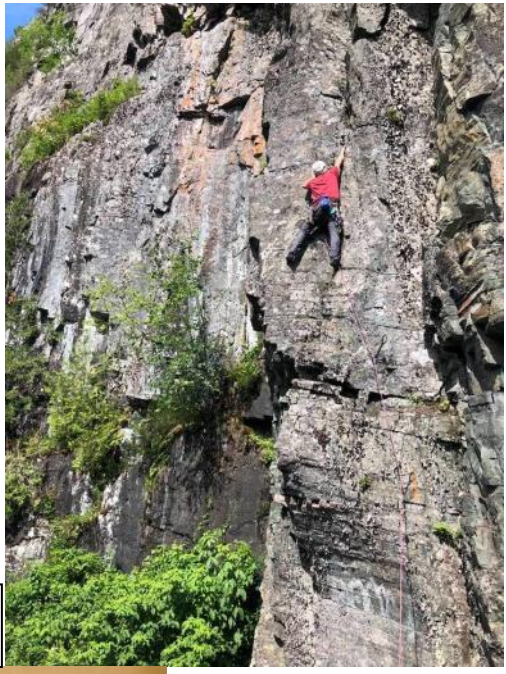
• Pitch 1, 5.9, 25 m. Climb a dihedral on big holds.

• Pitch 2, 5.10a, 18 m. Follow bolts up and left to anchors.

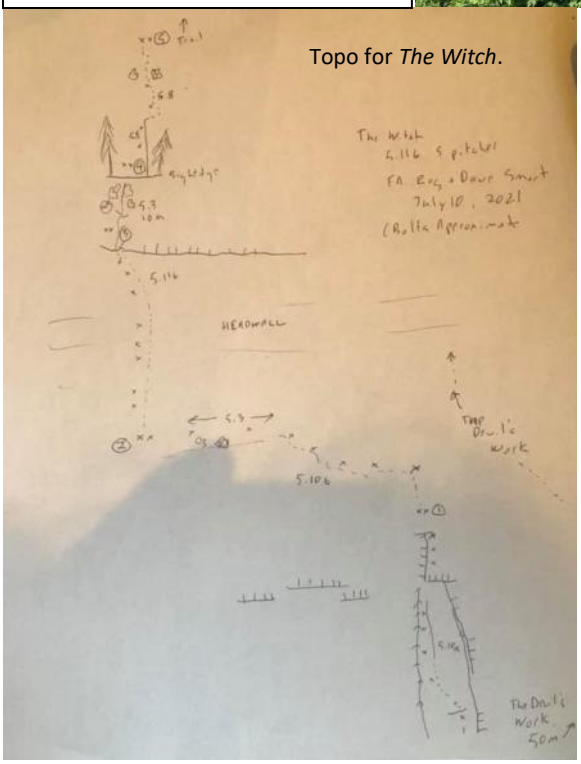
• Pitch 3, 5.11a, 25 m. Head up and left making balancy moves on slab with small holds through notch to anchors.

• Pitch 4, 5.3, 8 m. Up trough filled with pine needles to anchors.

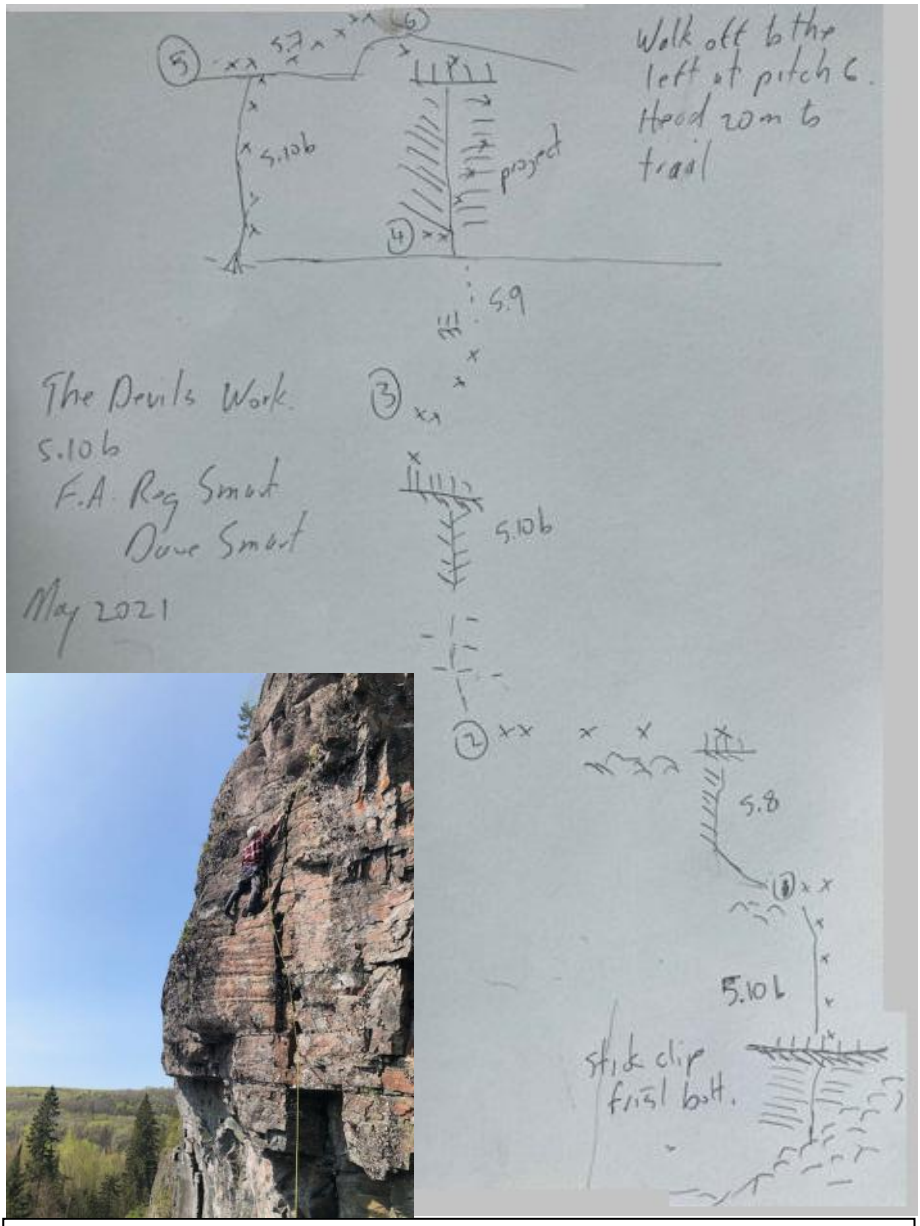
• Pitch 5, 5.10a, 35 m. Climb corner crack, then easier ground above on good rock to top of cliff. *RK*.



Reg Smart on the first pitch of *The Witch*. Dave Smart photo.



Topo for *The Witch*.



The Devil's Work topo by Reg Smart. Inset: Reg Smart leading the first pitch of *Devil's Work.*

The Devil's Work, 5.10b, 85 m, 6 pitches, bolted
(Reg Smart, Dave Smart, May 16, 2021).

Located about 100 m right of *The Stars at Night,* near the top of a noticeable uphill rise in the talus slope and 10 m left of a wide crack/chimney/gully feature. A 250 m trail marked with flagging tape leads from the road (cairn) to the base of the route.

Devil's Work.

• Pitch 1, 5.10b, 14 m, 5 bolts. Climb a crack system over a small roof and step left at its end.

• Pitch 2, 5.8, 10 m, 5 bolts. Climb a short corner to a small roof, step left and traverse along a ledge.

• Pitch 3, 5.10a, 15 m, 6 bolts. Follow the bolts up, pull up awkwardly under a roof, move left and pull the roof to anchors above.

• Pitch 4, 5.9, 15 m, 6 bolts. Climb up, pull over a small lip to a ledge, continue up to a large ledge and traverse left to the second anchor bolts.

• Pitch 5, 5.10b, 16 m, 8 bolts. Climb the face left of a wide crack to an exposed prow, step left around it and continue up to a ledge.

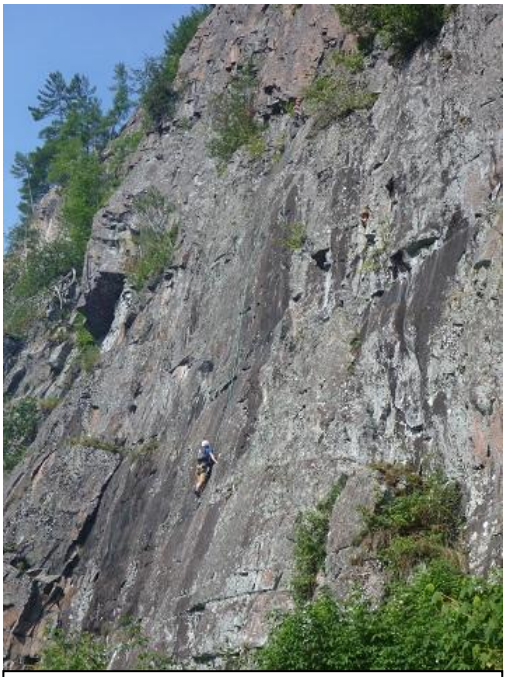
• Pitch 6, 5.7, 15 m, 3 bolts. Grab the tree to help you up a dirty corner, make one awkward move and follow easier vegetated terrain to top out.

Descent: Hike up another 15-20 m to reach the clifftop trail and follow it to the right to descend.

A) 5PB, 5.10b B) Witch, 5.11 C) Devil's Work, 5.10b D) Cut Off at the Pass, 5.8 E) Mango Haze, 5.12a F) Serpent, 5.12a G) Rising Ape/Falling Angel, 5.11d H) Equine Aviation, 5.9 I) Bovine Belching, 5.10- J) Ruminant Regurgitation , 5.9+ K) Chewing the Cud, 5.10+ L) Out of the Darkness, 5.9 M) Dust in the Wind, 5.9 N) Pinnacle Pitch, 5.10a O) Wasp Line, 5.9 P) Into the Light, 5.7

Snake Island

Snake Island is the steep, 95 metre-high wall capped by overhangs, 35 metres right of the *Devil's Work*. Two routes reach the top, both through the distinctive, exposed, right-facing Serpent roof and corner near the top. A project on the left side of the wall is under construction.



Reg Smart seconding the first pitch of *Mango Haze* while Dave Smart watches from above.

Cut Off at the Pass, 5.8, 45 m, 2 pitches, trad
(FA Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, August 31, 2024)

This route climbs the big, heavily vegetated, right-trending ramp at the left end of the Snake Island Face and joins an incomplete bolted route. To start hike up to the top of the talus cone separating *The Devil's Work* and the Snake Island Face. There is some poison ivy on this talus cone.

• Pitch 1, 5.3, 20 m. Climb the lower section of the vegetated ramp by it's left side up against the steeper cliff face. The only difficulty is getting around trees and dead stumps. Belay at a big, mostly dead cedar.

• Pitch 2, 5.8, 20 m. Continue over some more vegetated terrain, then climb a steep, loose 7 m crack on the right to a small ledge. A belay on gear is possible here or continue by climbing 2 m up a right facing corner and make an awkward step to the right to a ledge with a bolt, joining the incomplete bolted line.

Descent: We rappelled off a leaver biner on a single bolt back to the mostly dead cedar, then from there to the ground.

Note: Mike and I climbed this ramp while looking around for a new line to bolt, not realizing that there was already a line of bolts up above. I should read my own guidebook. *DD*

Mango Haze, 5.12a, 5 pitches, sport, 18 draws
(FA Dave Smart, Reg Smart, August, 2022)

Sustained, fun, varied and difficult. Start near the centre of the prominent black wall.

• Pitch 1, 5.11a/b, 28 m. Up the wall on thin but positive holds to a good belay ledge. Good feet required. Superb climbing.

• Pitch 2, 5.10c/d, 18 m. Moderate climbing up the crack, onto a huge block, to tricky moves on the overhanging wall to another comfortable belay. Avoid a marked loose block on the right.

• Pitch 3, 5.11c/d, 20 m. Technical climbing on smears and sidepulls up to and

over a black bulge into the mango zone of orange rock and a sloping belay. Joins *The Serpent* for the last few bolts.

• Pitch 4, 5.12a, 20 m. Follows the last two pitches of *The Serpent* from here. Up the hollow-sounding but enormous flake, over the roof and up the exposed and sustained right-facing corner to a small ledge. Exposed, strenuous and fun climbing.

• Pitch 5, 5.8, 10 m. Up right to top. *DS*

The Serpent, 5.12a, 5 pitches, sport, 15 draws
(FA Dave Smart, Reg Smart, July, 2022)

Located about 40 m right of the *Devil's Work.* A slightly easier way to gain the prominent *Serpent* corner through the huge overhangs. Start to the left of a groove on the right side of the wall. Bring a couple of longer slings.

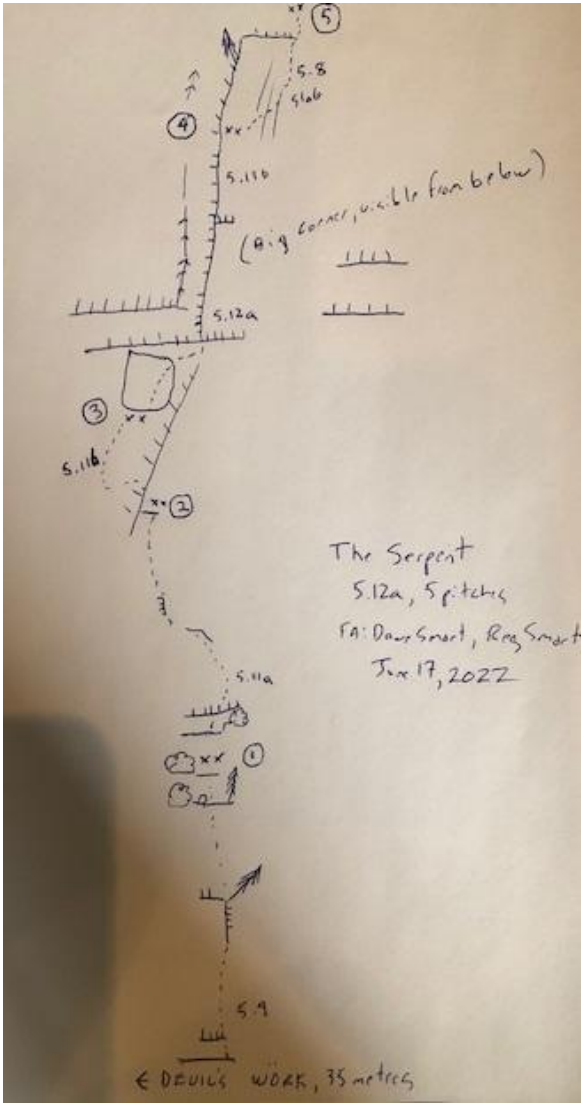
• Pitch 1, 5.9, 30 m. Climb over a small overhang and follow a rib and short corner to ledges. Dirty but easy for the last few moves with the last bolts on the right to find solid rock.

• Pitch 2, 5.10d, 20 m. Climb past a couple of ledges to an overhang on the right. Hard moves up onto the slab lead to easier climbing up and left to a belay on a slab.

• Pitch 3, 5.11b/c, 15 m. Head left across a wall on thin holds, over a bulge and up through the mango zone of orange rock (shared with *Mango Haze*) to a sloping belay.

• Pitch 4, 5.12a, 20 m. Up the hollow-sounding but enormous flake, over the roof and up the exposed and sustained right-facing corner to a small ledge. Exposed, strenuous and fun climbing.

• Pitch 5, 5.8, 10 m. Up right to top.



The lines of *Mango Haze* (marked in blue) and *The Serpent* (in red). By Dave Smart.

The Barnyard

The Barnyard is the tentative name given to the section of cliff right of the Snake Island face. It is bisected horizontally by a large, treed ledge dubbed the

Livestock Ledge. A couple of corner/crack systems run up to Livestock Ledge. An overhanging, 40 m high wall lies above the Livestock Ledge..

Rising Ape, Falling Angel, 5.11d, 88 m, 4 pitches.
(First pitch - Mark Hurst, Danylo Darewych, July 1, 2021. Full route - Mark Hurst, Cynthia Chung, October 5, 2022; FFA - Alec Cooper, Mark Hurst, October 2nd, 2023).

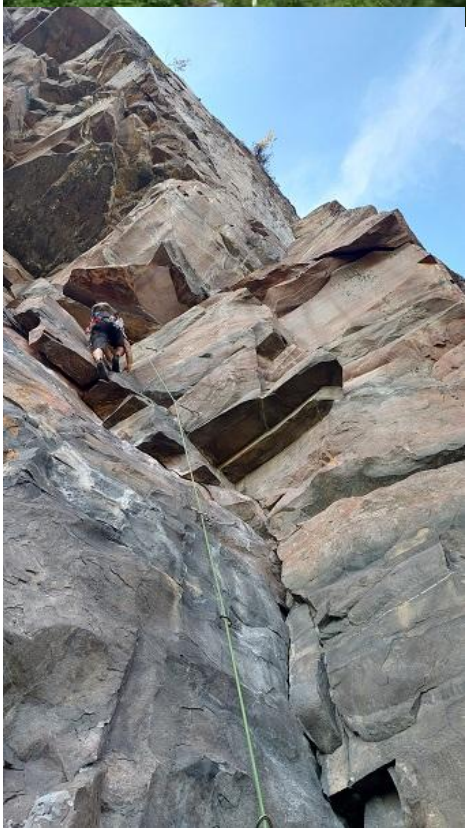
This route is located about 50 m right of the *Devil's Work*. Look for a right-angling ramp on the left and a corner system 7 m to its right.

• Pitch 1, 5.10a, 28 m, 12 bolts. Start 3 m right of the right-angling ramp, but join it about 10 m up at the top of a small pinnacle and follow it with some compression moves to an anchor stance below a roof.

• Pitch 2, 5.10c, 20 m, 10 bolts? Traverse left and then up the ramp to a platform with rings (33 m rappel). Continue straight up through a strenuous layback corner to more rings (15 m rappel) on Livestock Ledge.

• Pitch 3, 5.11a, 23 m, 10 bolts? Clear a few meters of talus to the back of the ledge and climb the corner crack at the left-hand end of the steep headwall to a roof. Reach up and swing right, then up an airy face/dihedral to finish past a large block at anchor rings (23 m rappel) on Fantasy Edge. Continue on *Falling Angel* or rappel back to Livestock Ledge.

• Pitch 4, 5.11d, 17 m, 10 bolts? From Fantasy Edge ascend a block and reach right for a small hold. From here make powerful moves upwards, traverse left, then up and over the roof to top out



Top: Mark Hurst on the first pitch of *Rising Ape*. *Bovine Belching* is the vegetated corner to its right (now cleaned). Bottom: Mark Hurst leading the third pitch of *Rising Ape*. Photo by Cynthia Chung.

at rings (17 m rappel). This pitch may also be accessed by rappelling from the top. *MH*

Ducks in a Row, 5.11 A0, 25 m, 10 bolts. *PROJECT*
(Ray Rutitis Sept. 2022 - not clean)

The route starts halfway up the overhanging headwall right of the top of the third pitch of *Rising Ape. Falling Angel* from a hanging belay on a sloping ledge (to be rejigged). The start can be reached by rapping the route from the top of the cliff or by traversing in from *Rising Ape, Falling Angel*. The traverse needs a bolt.

There is a blank section in the middle. A 3 bolt ladder (needs a 4th and a fixed line) overcomes this difficulty. *RR*

Equine Aviation, 5.9, 50 m, 2 pitches, bolted
(Mark Hurst, Danylo Darewych, July 1, 2021).

• Pitch 1. Shares the first pitch of *Rising Ape.* Stop at the anchors under the roof.

• Pitch 2, 5.8, 20 m. Traverse right and make exposed moves around a prow, then climb the short face right of the prow to a ledge. Climb the crack above and then follow a right-facing, rampy, bulgy corner crack to anchors at the edge of the Livestock Ledge.

Bovine Belching, 5.10-, 81 m, 3 pitches, trad (First pitch - Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, July 3, 2022; Full route - Mark Hurst, Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, August 20, 2022).

This route starts about 5 m right of *Equine Aviation.*

• Pitch 1, 5.7, 26 m. Follow a gently right-trending crack system that finishes on a ledge. There is a stack of loose-ish blocks at the start between 4-7 m up - you don't get reliable protection until you are above this stack. The right side of the exit slot is also formed of by a big, hollow-sounding block, but it's not going anywhere. Rappel anchors.

• Pitch 2, 5.10-, 15 m. Sustained awkwardness up a right-angling, off-width crack, followed by slightly easier climbing to a tree anchor on *Livestock Ledge*.

• Pitch 3, 5.6 R, 40 m. Climb the big, corner feature right of the overhanging headwall above *Livestock Ledge.* Many variations are possible at the start, the easiest coming into the corner from the right side of the corner past two trees. Exit the corner near the top to the left to bolted anchors. Some suspect rock and sparse gear placements.

Mark Hurst high on the first pitch of *Bovine Belching*.

Gear: Double rack of cams to #3 Camalot, plus one #4 and one #5.

Descent: Rappel down the line of *Out of the Darkness* at the far right end of *Livestock Ledge.*

The Breech

About 10 m right of *Bovine Belching* the cliff makes a noticeable turn to the left and becomes somewhat (20 - 25 m) shorter. There is a big corner here with a steep gash leading right of a big treed ledge halfway up. The left wall of the corner consists of poorer, shattered rock. The wall on the right is composed of mostly solid, clean rock that becomes progressively more vegetated the further right you go. This wall yields some fine slab climbing in its upper reaches.

This area, dubbed the Breech, can be reached from the bottom either by walking across the talus 20-40 m further right from *Equine Eructation* or by an unflagged trail that heads left from the north end Smart approach/descent trail. It can also be reached from the top by cutting left from the Smart descent/approach trail where it zig-zags left then back right at the first uphill rise in the trail after the main gully. Yellow flagging tape will bring you to a pine tree at the top of *The Pinnacle Pitch*.

The route *Out of the Darkness* will take you 2 pitches up this wall to the far right end of the *Livestock Ledge*, after which you can choose between four different pitches (three bolted, one trad) to take you to the top.

Ruminant Regurgitation, 5.9+, 50 m, 3 pitches, trad
(P1 - Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych*, July 3, 2022 with cleaning help from Stanis on May 21, 2022. Full route Mark Hurst, Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, August 21, 2022).

This route is located about 15 m right of *Bovine Belching* at the left end of the Breech Wall.

• Pitch 1, 5.9+, 14 m. Climb a right-trending crack to a ledge about 14 m up. The crux moves are straight up the crack below the ledge. The climbing is easier 2 m to the right, but there is no protection. Gear anchor supplemented by one bolt.

• Pitch 2, 5.9+, 18 m. Make strenuous moves from the ledge for 5-6 m, then follow the line of weakness up easier ground to the right edge of a clump of cedars, climb up through the cedars to a ledge (cedar tree and poor rock gear belay - bolt anchors need to be added).

Mark H. leading the diagonal crack line of the first pitch of *Ruminant Regurgitation*.

• Pitch 3, 5.9+, 18 m. *Project*. Traverse left 5 m along the ledge around a bulge of rock. Make strenuous initial moves up the left side of the bulge, followed by easier climbing up to a cedar, traverse left under the cedar to exit onto *Livestock Ledge* at the same spot where the second pitch of *Bovine Belching* ends. The third pitch has been cleaned and climbed on top -rope, but needs some anchors and bolts to make it safe for leading.

Gear: Standard rack of cams up to #4 (that means doubles of 0.5, 0.75 and # 1 Camalots and nuts).

* Mike and I did not climb the first pitch cleanly on our first attempt. Mark lead it cleanly by climbing 2 m right of the crack at the crux (but there is no pro to the right).

Chewing the Cud, 5.10+, 14 m
(Mark Hurst, Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, August 21, 2022).*

A third pitch variation to *Ruminant Regurgitation*. Starts about 3 m left of the cedars, on the right side of the bulge mentioned in the previous route description. Climb a thin, overhanging corner crack. Tree belay on *Livestock Ledge.*

Below: The first pitches of the *Into the Darkness.* The first part of the route lies left of where the rope is hanging.

Out of the Darkness, 5.9, 48 m, 2 pitches, bolted
(Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, August 2, 2021; FFA Danylo Darewych, Natalia Danalachi, Sept. 5, 2021).

• Pitch 1, 5.6/5.7, 28 m, 9 bolts. Start 5 m right of the prominent corner system that ends at the right side of a big treed ledge. Climb up to and along a narrow slot 6 m up, step right around the tree at its top to a ledge, follow a right-angling crack up a block, step back left to the main corner, head up (5.6 on right edge, 5.7 straight up corner on left) to a ledge and make a final step up and left to a smaller ledge with 2 bolt rappel anchors.

• Pitch 2, 5.9, 20 m, 9 bolts (?). Head up corner, skip the now redundant first bolt above the anchors and instead clip the hanging cable on the right (hollow-sounding rock prevented the placement of a bolt there), make tricky technical moves right and up over a bulge, then continue up on more positive edges, trending slightly rightward to avoid big loose block on left, then traverse left above them to a ledge with two bolt rappel anchors.

Dust in the Wind, 5.9, 30 m, 15 bolts
(Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, Mark Hurst, August 22, 2022)

This route starts at the right end of *Livestock Ledge* at the point where the ledge starts to narrow. It is the left-most of 3 bolted lines. It has no rap anchors at the base.

Climb up an initial series of small bulges and ledges, continue up a short left-facing corner crack, then surmount two awkward bulges (cruxes) and finish on easier ground to a stance below a big pine. Rappel anchors.
Caution: The rappel is a full 30 m rope-stretcher.

Pinnacle Pitch, 5.10a, 31 m, bolted, 10 bolts (?)
(Chris Talbot, Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, July 21, 2021).

The route starts 3 m left of the anchors at the top of the second pitch of *Out of the Darkness*. For belaying purposes it might be best to traverse left all the way to

* None of us climbed this pitch cleanly

the big treed ledge.

Start up a very short, slight left-facing notch and climb the bolted slab up and left to a ledge with a pinnacle on the right. Stem off the pinnacle and grab the big wedged block at its top to climb the final rock step. Belay off a big pine.

Insecure and thought-provoking climbing.

Descend down the walk off trail, which can be reached by scrambling up past the big pine for 5 m and then heading right for 15 m, following yellow flagging tape.

Wasp Line, 5.9, 27 m, bolted, 11 bolts
(Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, July 7, 2022)

Climb directly above the anchors at the top of the second pitch of *Out of the Darkness,* passing a couple of metres right of the pinnacle of the previous climb. Sustained, thought-provoking climbing.

There are rap rings at the top of the pitch or you can scramble carefully several metres up and exit by the big pine on the left to access the Smart descent trail.

The line is so named because when we first attempted to clean it we came across three wasp nests. Thankfully they weren't there a year later.

Into the Light, 5.7, 23 m, trad
(Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, August 2, 2021).

From the belay ledge traverse back right 3 m to a crack system heading up and follow it to its end at a small ledge with cedar trees. No pro on the traverse and for the first 5 m. Afterwards protection is progressively better. The hardest move comes near the end. Single rack of cams up to #3.5 Camalot including offsets, doubles in #2 Camalot.

Above: Chris Talbot leading the start of the *Pinnacle Pitch. Below:* The *Wasp Line* with a barely visible Mike Grainger leading high on the route. The second rope is there to haul up the drill Mike had used to bolt the route.

As was stated previously, The Breech becomes progressively more broken, vegetated and easier-angled as it continues right. There is almost no open talus field at this section of cliff, as the trees grow right up to the base of the cliff. As a result there is no poison ivy at the base of the cliff here. A couple of scruffy routes have been done here. Finding them is a little difficult.

Left: Looking up the line of *Sawed-Off* from the base of the route. Right: Mike Grainger (obscured by tree) attempting the corner of the 2nd pitch of *Sawed-Off*.

Sawed-Off, 5.4 R, 22 m
(FA Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, May 19, 2016).

Located about 30 m right of the right-angle bend in the cliff. Look for a dark corner/crack up high when approaching through the forest. At the base there is a small 3 m tall patch of nice red rock, bordered on the left by shattered looking rock and a more vegetated groove 4 m to the right.

Climb up the verge of the red rock and shattered-looking rock (actually quite solid) to a ledge 3 m up and then continue up on multiple little edges and ledges keeping to the left of a vague arête to your right. Belay from a big pine tree to your left on a ledge. Protection is poor - I placed a fair amount of pieces, but only 3 that I would have trusted.

We attempted to climb a second 10 m pitch up the corner-crack to our right (with tree at base), but the climbing quickly became harder with a lot of loose blocks trapped in a v-notch above, so we backed off, rappelling off the pine tree.

Blunderbuss, 5.6, 22 m
(FA Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, May 19, 2016).

Located about 10 m right of *Sawed-Off*. Look for a wide crack behind a pine tree about 4 m up.

Clamber up to the tree and then climb up the crack. It's about 5.6 if you lean back against the tree at the crux, as I did; harder, if you don't. Continue up notch above, past big blocks (they look scary, but they're not going anywhere, unless you do something stupid) to a belay at a big pine tree on a ledge. Good protection when needed.

There is an easy, shorter 8 m pitch up a groove above on the left, but we ran out of time to climb it. Not sure, if there is more climbing above that. I believe that above it lie the upper reaches of the big, treed access trail to the top of the cliff.

The start of *Blunderbuss*. May 19, 2016.

About 25 m right of *Blunderbuss* a big, wide, treed slope/gully breaks up the cliff-line. A trail to access the top of the cliff heads up this gully - the Smart Trail. This area is reached most easily directly from the road. The trail and approach from the road are described in the introductory pages of the Shotgun section of this guidebook.

Two short routes are found halfway up the treed slope. Head up the Smart Trail and look for two markers on a tree to the left that mark the beginning of a 50 metre easy traverse left to a ledge beneath two overhanging, splitter cracks. Both lines can be easily tope-roped.

Pistol Shrimp, 5.11-ish, 14 m (FA Dave Smart and Reg Smart, October 2020).

The left-hand crack. Also identifiable by one bolt at the bottom.

Pyjama Squid, 5.11-ish, 14 m (FA Dave Smart and Reg Smart, October 2020).

The right-hand crack.

Looking down on Mike Grainger climbing *Sawed-Off*. May 19, 2016.

The Muzzle

The Muzzle - the very far northern end face of the *Shotgun/ Riverside Rock*.

Located above the small talus slope at the start of the Smart trail to the top of the Shotgun is a shorter section of cliff dubbed the Muzzle. The bottom section consists of low-angled, ledgy, broken and treed rock; the top section consists of steeper, cleaner, better rock. The Muzzle is split by a horizontal ledge, the left end of which joins the trail to the top about 30 m past the top of the talus slope. The ledge can be traversed quite easily, although you have to be careful in two spots where it narrows. Six routes have been climbed at the Muzzle - 2 leading to the midway ledge and 4 starting from the ledge.

Grampy's Walker, 5.5b, 19 m, bolted
(FA Marvin Egner and Abby Danko, May 15, 2023; equipped by Marvin Egner and Laurie Snedeker)

Climbs the lower half of the Muzzle face just left of *Step Right Up.*

Step Right Up, 5.5, 20 m, bolted (8 bolts)
(FA Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, August 25, 2021)

This route climbs the lower half of the Muzzle face. The start is located at the bottom right end of the small talus slope below the face - you only have to go 5-7 m up the talus slope. Follow the bolts up the right side of the face, left of a vague arête. Stay right of the bolts between the first and second bolt. Anchors with quick-links.

Charmin, 5.9, 24 m, bolted (11 bolts)
(FA Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, Aug. 25, 2021; FFA Stewart Dow and Simon Raimbault, Aug. 25, 2021)

This route starts in the middle of the traversing ledge, just left of a break/gully in the wall below. Look for a grouping of small vertical rock fingers with a lone belayer bolt left of them. Step up onto the rock fingers, then continue up the left facing corner above to a small roof, step right around it (long sling advised) and continue up to the top. Belay from a pine tree 5 m up to the right.

Locked in the Outhouse, 5.6, 25 m, trad (Danylo Darewych, Cory Erwin, July 6, 2021).

This route starts toward the right end of the ledge at small split pillar with big blocks on top. Climb up the left side and front of the split pillar, clipping 3 bolts on the way and taking care to pull down on the top blocks, not out (they're quite big and heavy, but detached). Continue up and to the left on positive ledges and edges and top out over a final big block. Tree belay. Single rack of nuts and cams to BD #3, except for two #0.3s.

Step Right Upper, 5.6, 25 m, bolted (10 bolts?)*
(FA Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, July 7, 2022)

A continuation of *Step Right Up* above the midway ledge. Climb up a system of flakes to a higher ledge, then step up the right side of a huge, detached flake and climb to the top of the Muzzle face. A fair amount of long reaches and high steps. Two bolt anchor (no rings).

Iron Sight, 5.6, 28 m, 2 pitches, trad (Cory Erwin, Danylo Darewych, July 7, 2021).

This route starts at the very far right end of the traversing ledge. You have to step across a small gap in the ledge to get to it (careful – the tree you're grabbing on the left is dead).

• Pitch 1, 5.6, 20 m. Start up the right-side crack for 2 m (#4 BD and then step left to the left-side crack and continue up on easier, blocky rock to a big pine on a big ledge.

• Pitch 2, 5.6, 8 m. Step right from the tree and climb up the shorter face above (3 bolts and a nut placement). Tree belay.

Above: Looking down and across at Stewart Raimbault on *Step Right Up.* Below: Mike Grainger on a ground-up trad attempt on *Charmin*. That didn't work - so we ended up bolting the line (the shame).

* The fourth bolt is badly placed (the biner hangs over an edge). Haven't fixed it yet. *DD*

Eyeball

Eyeball Cliff. Photo from Marco Foladore.

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, angles and rock quality. There is a lifetime's worth of climbing here.

Approach Directions - Roads, Trails and Gullies

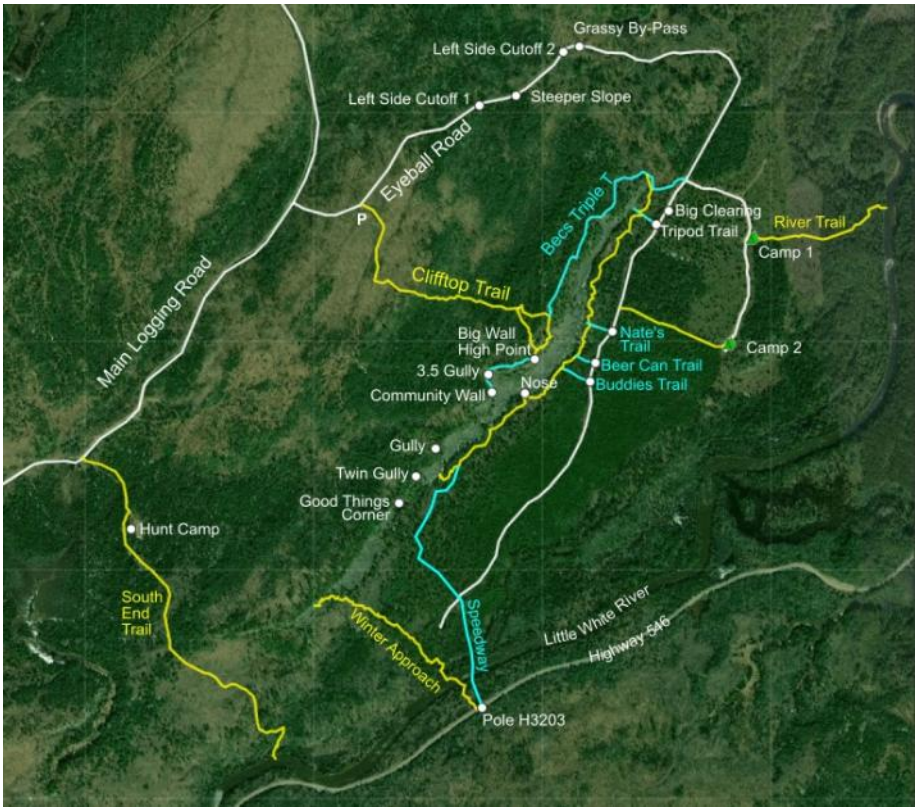
There are two ways of reaching the Eyeball: a) by logging road from Kynoch or b) by crossing the Little White River in a canoe. In the summer of 2025, the second of the bridges on the logging road from Kynoch was removed, rendering the logging road approach very difficult, except for those driving a proper off-road 4 wheel drive vehicle. An ATV is now likely the only way to get to the Eyeball by the logging road. For this reason, for most people it is likely best to get to the Eyeball by crossing the Little White River in a canoe.

River crossing route. You can reach the Eyeball by crossing the Little White River by canoe from the east from Highway 546 and then continuing along the *Talladega Speedway* trail to the base of the cliff line (about 600 m). The crossing and trail are described in greater detail on pages 14-15. From the *Talladega Speedway Trail* you can cut north to the First Wall along the base logging road or head north closer to the cliff on the *Autobahn Trail* to the Big Wall or south along the *Punk Trail*. It takes about 40 minutes to cross the river and travel the trails to the Nose area of the Big Wall (1.7 km).

Logging Road to Base. If you own an ATV, you can get to the Eyeball by driving down logging roads (and by a 4-wheel drive truck). As stated in the directions given in the introduction, a smaller side logging road branches off the main logging road at the 16 km mark. 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.

The Eyeball side logging road heads slightly uphill for the first 280 m to a largish clearing. From this point the Eyeball side logging road starts dropping steadily and gradually downhill. At about the 900 m mark there is a turn-off to the left.

At about the 1.1 km mark the road starts to drop more steeply and becomes more eroded. You will pass a second turn-off on the left at the 1.3 km mark, followed 70 m later by another cut-off to the left (which used to be "grassy", but is now much less so), as the road veers to the right. The "main" road to the right is severely eroded (and now getting overgrown), so head instead down the cut-off on



the left - it by-passes the eroded section and rejoins the main logging road just below the eroded section. The road is in 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 (to campsites). 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 last section of the road is only passable by ATV or walking). 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 4.4 km long in total.

If you park at the first clearing at the very top (280 m along the side logging road) and then continue on foot from there, the walk down along the logging road to a point opposite the Big Wall is about 3 km in length, plus another 75 m through the trees to the edge of the talus and another 50 m up the talus slope to the base of the cliff. It takes about 35 minutes to walk to the point opposite the Big Wall and another 5-10 minutes to reach its base.

The terrain below the cliff is pleasantly flat and sandy with a large planted forest. Lots of opportunities for free camping here (but no water). We used to camp 350 m along a side branch of the Eyeball logging road. There is even a blue plastic barrel “thunderbox” here (off the road to the right).

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 (4 min) (lots of shrubs in places). Some 30 m past a larger widening of the track, start looking for the start of the access trail on the left side of the track (GPS coordinates for the start of the trail are N46° 30.488' W83° 07.832'). It is marked with flagging tape. The trail should be readily apparent when you step into the forest - it is quite wide. It is flagged regularly with orange, pink and yellow flagging tape throughout. Follow the trail to the top of the cliff - it's 850 m long (20 minute walk). The trail is flat for the first half of its length, but starts to head steadily uphill in its second half. At about 600 m, the trail splits at a junction marked by the orange letters TOH (Top of Hill - which somewhat confusingly means the parking area) spray-painted on a tree and an arrow pointing back where you came from. A first branch of the trail splits to the right here at a slight rib of rock and proceeds to head more directly to the top of the cliff, coming out on top of the Big Wall section of cliff near the top of the climb *Northern Etiquette*, about 75 m short of the high point of the cliff. Follow a rib of rock to your right (skier's right) for 75 m to reach the high point of the cliff (c. 420 m high). The second branch continues on 15 m past the first branch junction and turns right at a second slight rib of rock, and continues on to the cliff top, coming out some 125 m north (skier's left) of the first branch. It doesn't really matter which trail you take to the top - they come out fairly close to each other and a trail running across the top of the Big Wall connects them. To get to the Second Wall, First Wall and Bec's Triple T Trail you turn skier's left; to get to the 3.5 Gully and Community Wall, you turn skier's right.

Bec's Triple T Trail - Trail To Top. This trail runs from the top of the Big Wall across the tops of the Second Wall and First Wall before wrapping around the north end of the First Wall and descending to the logging road at the base of the Eyeball. If you are at the base of the Eyeball this is the safest way to get to the top.

The 3.5 Gully. This is a rather steep 45 m descent gully that leads down to a large talus slope between the left side of the Big Wall and the Community Wall. The top of the 3.5 Gully is found some 200 m skier's right of the high point of the Big Wall. The 3.5 Gully is covered in pine needles and there is lots of loose rock underfoot - be careful. The steepest section is towards the bottom. I don't really recommend the 3.5 Gully. In fact, each time that I've gone down it, I've rappelled it rather than scrambling down (2 single-rope rappels). There is now a fixed rope leading down this gully. Also, the talus below the gully is incredibly loose with big blocks moving underfoot all the time. GPS coordinates for the top of the gully are N46° 30.291' W83° 07.510'.

Talus Scramble. You can scramble to the top of the Eyeball by hiking up the talus slope left of the Community Wall. The talus slope diagonals up and to the left. A rope has been fixed in place to assist in ascending the final, steep treed slope.

Autobahn. The *Autobahn* is a trail that runs along the base of the Eyeball in the forest near the edge of the talus field. It stretches from Bec's Triple-T along the First Wall to the Fifth Wall. It's still rough (not completely cleared) in a few places.

River Trail. This trail leads from the campsite road to the Little White River. It starts from the far end of the first large campsite along the "Camp" side-logging road. It is marked with orange spay paint. It is about 550 m long.

Eyeball Cliff Overview

Eyeball Cliff. Photo by Hannes Kutza.

The Eyeball cliff system runs from north-east to south-west and faces generally south-east. It consists of many walls and faces separated by big talus slopes and/or gullies. At its northern end, in the area of the First and Second Walls, the cliff is from 40-60 m tall. The cliff reaches its highest point of over 110 m at the third major face, the Big Wall, which is about 300 m long. A sharp, prominent prow, dubbed the Nose, lies at the left end of the Big Wall. Afterwards the cliff line drops down to between 50-75 m for a long while (800 m?). Towards the southern end, at the Punk Wall, the cliff becomes much shorter, some 15-20 m tall for close to 300 m, before rearing up again to 60 m of height at the Southern Tower. A large talus slope runs along most the cliff base. In places where there is less talus, there is a bit of a gully running along the base of the cliff followed by a low ridge further out.

The rock at the Eyeball is sandstone, as far as I can tell. This is not soft, crumbly sandstone, but very hard sandstone.* The rock is generally sound and dense, not porous and filled with cracks and pockets like the limestone rock of the Niagara Escarpment. The rock dulls drill bits quickly. The rock provides good friction.

Large sections of the cliff are quite compact or slabby with few continuous crack lines. However, the cliff has a definite exfoliating quality to it. The rock is slowly peeling away in big, slabby layers. This is most apparent at the top of most walls, where the angle of the rock kicks back and you can see big blocks lying stacked on top of ledges and each other. It is also readily apparent when you venture onto some of the routes that follow the major lines of weakness up corners, grooves and next to buttresses. Be prepared to climb on big, disconcertingly hollow-sounding flakes and blocks on some routes. A lot of these blocks are keyed solidly in on backwards-angled edges; others are so massive that they would require a serious effort to dislodge. But big blocks have come off with the slightest of nudges when cleaning routes. Distinguishing between the trustworthy and the unreliable is an acquired skill. On a positive note, the rock tends to cleave very cleanly, often leaving behind good, clean edges that are wonderful to climb on.

Walls and routes are described from climber's left to right (from the southwest to the north-east), although the first and most developed walls are actually at the far right (north end) of the Eyeball.

* More geological information can be found at the back of this guidebook.

Eyeball—South End Approach Trails and General Descriptions

The South End of the Eyeball is the least developed part of the Eyeball. The South End of the Eyeball can be approached either from the south (if you have taken a 4-wheel drive truck down the logging road) or from the north (after crossing the Little White River by canoe).

Northern Approach. If you have crossed the Little White River by canoe, walk north along the Speedway Trail. Some 250 m from the river you will cross the Eyeball base logging road. Continue on the Speedway trail for another 150 m (some 400 m from the river) through pleasant forest until you see a very large pine tree (twice as wide as all the other pine trees). The Punk Trail which leads to the south end of the Eyeball starts on the far side of this pine. Head left (south-west) along the Punk Trail. The trail is flagged, but not as frequently used as the other trails at the Eyeball, so it might be overgrown in places. The Punk Trail generally wanders through the forest well back from the talus and cliff base. Shorter approach trails (likely less clearly flagged) lead to the different walls along the south end. Usually you have to head uphill and then cross talus to reach the cliff-line.

Alternatively, instead of turning left at the Punk Trail, continue straight north for another 270 m until you hit the Eyeball talus below the Good Things Wall (about 550-600 m total distance from the river). Then strike left (southwest) through the forest along the talus parallel to the cliff-line. The trail along the base is only cleared for about 150 m (to the end of the Good Things Wall). After that

you're bushwhacking, but at least you won't get lost. Be prepared for some ups and downs as well.

It will be difficult to figure out where you should turn off the Punk Trail to hit a particular section of cliff-line when you first walk the Punk Trail. The named features/walls along the south end are (from right to left, north to south) the Good Things Wall, the Filion Wall, the Punk Wall and the South Tower.

Here are some identifying features that might help you identify where you are along the southern Eyeball cliff-line.

A) The first (rightmost, northernmost) section of the southern Eyeball cliff-line is the Good Things Wall. It is about 150 m long, 50 m high and has a relatively small talus slope. You will not see the Good Things Wall from the Punk Trail.

B) The first section of the southern walls that you will likely see, if you're coming along the Punk Trail is the Filion Wall. The Filion wall is close to 250 m long. It is characterised by a talus field that is really big and wide (about 50 m wide). Some of the talus blocks are impressively large. Head uphill to the talus and cross the talus field to the base of the cliff.

C) The next (further climber's left) section you will come to is the Punk Wall where the cliff is shorter (15-30 m). Its is about 150 m long. The talus field is smaller than below the Filion Wall.

The Punk Trail peters out where it reaches the cliff-line along a treed slope at the left end of the Punk Wall. But at this point the talus will mostly disappear and the trees come up close to the cliff-line, so it is fairly easy to walk along the cliff-line at the last major wall, the 50-60 m high South Tower.

Southern Approach Description. If you're coming to the Eyeball along the logging road (the Stinger Lake Road) from Kynoch, then the south end walls can be reached more easily from the South End Trail.

The start of the South End Trail is located about 14.8 km down the logging road from Kynoch (as outlined in the directions on page ____). Or from the campsite on Little White River drive 10.8 k down road (keeping right at usual fork at 3.9 km from campsite). Or from the end of Brown's Lake drive 1.9 km. Stop at grassy clearing on the right (UTM 335451 E 5152065 N; Lat Long 46 º 30' 07.65" N 83 º 08' 40.84"W). From this clearing a trail leads to large hunt camp, then continues south to the Little White River. This is the South End Trail. It is 1.6 km long in total from the logging road to the river.

From the clearing walk south down the trail. You will pass two side trails leading to the large hunt camp visible on the left (east). The hunt camp lies about 370 m along the trail. At about 850-900 m from the clearing the trail will start to head steadily and gradually downhill. Look for any convenient spot where there seem to be less trees and deadfall to strike left (east) through the forest. The forest is not very thick/overgrown except close to the trail. There is no flagged or cleared trail here. After about 150 m of bushwhacking you should start to see a cliff band rising above the forest floor on your left. Continue east parallel to this cliff band. After another 100-150 m the cliff will steepen and rise dramatically to about 60 m tall with almost no talus at its base —this is the South Tower. Past the South Tower the cliff will become shorter, broken and treed for a short distance (50 m?), after which you will hit the talus field below the clean, shorter Punk Wall. Either continue north east along the talus at the cliff-line (slow going) or skirt the talus and head downhill through the trees to pick up the flagged Punk Trail (faster going but you

see less of the cliff).

Clifftop Trail (courtesy of Rosalind Chaundy). As the name implies, there is also a very rough trail that runs along part of the clifftop at the south end of the Eyeball. It runs for about 700 m to the top of the route *Monocle* on the Filion Wall. Look for the start of the Clifftop Trail about 800 m down the South End Trail after the trail has come to the top of a small rise and just before it turns leftish—there is orange and yellow flagging tape on a white birch tree on the left hand side of the South End Trail (UTM 335736 E 5151373 N; Lat/Long 46° 29' 44.86" N 83 ° 08' 25.55 W). There is also a rusty piece of metal resting against the base of the tree to mark the start of the Clifftop Trail.

Follow the orange flagging of trail uphill into the forest to the left and northeast for about 700 m. The flagging is intermittent and not easy to follow, nor is the trail well cleared. After about 100 m it is possible to turn right (southeast) to go down an easy forested slope to get to the closest access to the bottom of the cliff at the south end. A piece of flagging tape on a trunk says Way Down (UTM 335877 5151407; Lat/Long. 46 ° 29' 46.61" 83 ° 08' 19.77"). There is no flagging tape on the slope down.

Otherwise continue northeast along the top of the cliff following the orange flagging tape. Good for leaf-off season, but may be harder to follow in places in leaf-on season. About ¾ of the way along (in a U-shaped forested terrain) tape becomes more infrequent and of varying colours, then returns to more frequent orange.

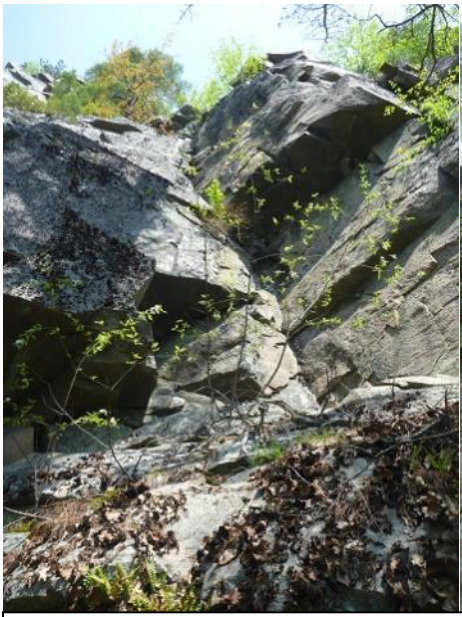
The flagging stops at the top of the route *Monocle* (UTM 336412 E 51516540; N Lat Long 46 ° 29' 54.39" N 83 °07' 55.12" W). At the route, there is also a series of short frequent orange and yellow flagging tape (together on each tree) <u>perpendicular</u> to the cliff at the route *Monocle*. This is so that you do not miss the route if you are off the flagging trail and walking along parallel to the cliff.

SOUTH TOWER

At the vey far south (climber's left) end of the Eyeball cliff system the cliff rears up high for one last time. This is the South Tower. It is about 60 m high. It is about 900 m to 1000 m south of the Nose. It is about 200 m right from the very south end of the Eyeball cliff system and about 350 m south of the Filion Wall. It is best to get there by walking through the forest rather than across the talus at the foot of the cliff. There is almost no talus at the foot of the South Tower and trees come right up to the cliff. This end of the Eyeball has seen minimal development.

South Tower Line, 5.7, 28 m, trad
(FA Danylo Darewych, Stanis Yu, May 21, 2023)

A corner crack/chimney system runs up the right side of the South Tower. Climb up 5-6 m of slabby, vegetated rock to gain the right facing corner system and then head up it to a ledge with a small tree. There is some loose rock along the way. Belay at the small tree or continue up a short, wide slot for 4 m to a big pine tree. The line becomes a very wide chimney higher up (*Hi, Maw*). Rappel from one of the trees.



Left: First pitch of *South Tower Line*. Right: *Hi, Maw*, the upper pitch of *South Tower Line.*

Hi, Maw, 5.8, 22 m, 8 bolts plus anchors.
(FA Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger).

A bolted continuation of the South Tower trad line. From the big pine tree belay clamber up awkwardly onto a mossy ledge, then head up the verge of the maw above, veering out onto ledges on the right in two places, then tiptoeing back to the edge of the maw on both occasions, and finally wriggle through the top of the maw to exit. Two bolt anchor on top (right bolt is mangled, but serviceable). Step carefully down to rappel anchors on the prow below. It's a 50 m rappel to the ground.

PUNK WALL

The Punk Wall is a shorter section of cliff located between the South Tower (on the left) and the the Fillion Wall on the right. It is separated from each of them by small stands of trees that comes up all the way to the cliff base at either side of the wall. The Punk Wall is from 20 to 30 m high and about 150 m long.

Punkameister, 5.8, 22 m, trad
(FA Cynthia Chung, Mark Hurst, July 1, 2023) 46.49711, -83.13385

Climbed on a particularly hot and buggy Canada Day. Located on the next wall round the corner about 200 m climber's left of *Monocle*. Scramble onto the ledge (or optional harder direct start). Climb the corner, then follow the hand crack on the left to a tree belay. Rappel off tree or at *Monocle*. *MH*

Lumbago, 5.7 R , 22 m, trad
(FA Cynthia Chung, Luka Korol, Danylo Darewych, March 30, 2024)

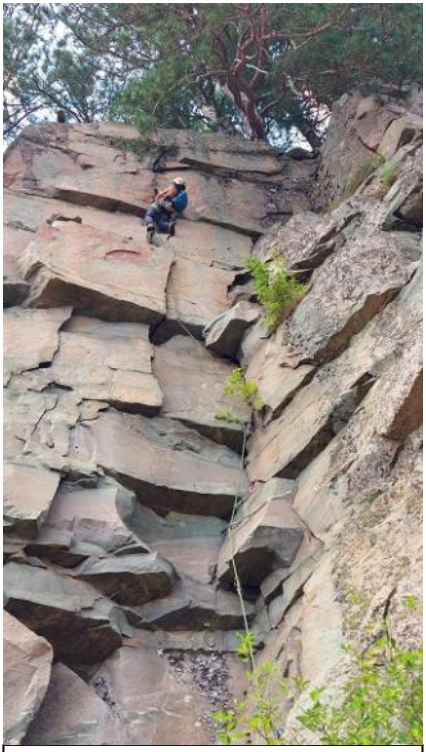
A variation of *Punkameister*. Start as for *Punkameister,* but instead of stepping left to the hand crack, continue up the corner, then traverse right to and up the big, detached block on the corner to a tree belay at the top. *DD*

Cloudbusting, 5.9, 22m, trad
(FA Mark Hurst, Cynthia Chung, Oct. 7, 2026)

Climb the corner system 3 m right of *Punkameister*. Pull through a small roof and continue to the dihedral. Traverse left past a bolt and then up to the rings, or attempt the direct finish (5.9++). *MH*

Monkey's Birthday, 5.11a, 22m, sport
(FA Mark Hurst, Cynthia Chung, Oct.8, 2026)

Start up a block 3 m right of *Cloudbusting* and head up corners indo a dihedral crux where stemming is your friend, traverse left and then negotiate cracks to the rings. *MH*



Above: Cynthia Chung leading *Punkameister*. Below: Mark Hurst on *Cloudbursting*. Photo by Cynthia Chung.

Born Again, 5.7, 28m, trad
(FA Cynthia Chung, Mark Hurst, Fang Lu, Oct. 8, 2026)

Double-chimney route located about 50 m right of *Punkameister*, where the ice climb *Love* forms. Dive headfirst through a chimney and squirm and push your way through (or reject the rebirth and find your own path). Head into another chimney and contemplate a second rebirth if you're small enough. Continue up past a large chockstone and to a rap station beneath the roof.

Climbed on a day when Mark was given a sermon from a construction worker on his recent rebirth. *CC*

Above: Mark Hurst leading *Monkey's Birthday*. Photo by Cynthia Chung. Below: Cynthia Chung leading *Born Again.*

Filion Wall

Part of the Filion Wall. *Walking on Broken Glasses* (on the left) *and Monocle* (on the right).

The Filion Wall is the third wall from the south end of the Eyeball. It lies between the Punk Wall on the left and the Good Things Wall on the right. The Filion Wall is about 40 m high and about 150 m wide. It lies above a large, high talus field that is about 50 m wide. The Filion Wall is separated at both ends from neighbouring walls by treed slopes that come all the way up to the base of the cliff.

The Filion Wall is named in memory of Jean-Marc Fillion, a long-time Northern Ontario climber and route developer (see next page for a brief biography).

Little Rib of Rock, 5.4, 44 m, 2 pitches, trad
(First pitch, Danylo Darewych, Luka Korol, March 31, 2024; full route – Danylo Darewych, Chris Talbot, June 30, 2024)

Located about 40 m right of the treed verge that reaches the cliff at the far-left end of the Fillion Wall, or about 75 m left of *Walking on Broken Glasses*. Look for a steep, vegetated gully. The route climbs the rib or rock to the left of the gully.

- Pitch 1, 5.4, 14 m. Start at a block at the base of the left side of the vegetated gully. Step up onto the block, then move to the left side of the rib and up for 5-6 m, then traverse back right (small, loose-ish block) and then up past a bolt to a two-bolt anchor on a good ledge (rappel rings).
- Pitch 2, 5.3 m, 30 m. Continue up the left side of the rib, on increasingly more shattered rock. Near the top, step right into the vegetated gully (2-3 trees), then exit up to the left and step back right to a solid tree.

Danylo Darewych leading the first pitch of *Little Rib of Rock.* Photo by Luka Korol.

Descent: We rappelled from the upper tree 6-7 m down to a lower tree (webbing with maillon), whence we rappelled to the top of the first pitch ring anchors. I think you could probably reach these anchors from the upper tree (but not entirely sure).

Walking on Broken Glasses, 5.9+, 40 m, 2 pitches, trad
(FA Mark Hurst & Cynthia Chung, May 21, 2023) 46.49830, -83.13195

Glasses are surprisingly well camouflaged on talus, but luckily a climbing tape repair is a great look.

• Pitch 1, 5.6, 23 m. Start at a small birch to the right of a deep hole at the cliff base. Climb a pleasant system of cracks over blocks trending diagonally left. Belay from a large ledge under the roof.

Jean-Marc Filion (1951-2017)

Jean-Marc Filion developed many crags around North Bay, making hundreds of first ascents on rock and ice. The list includes classic routes at Mount Ruban, Peninsula Rock, Le Muir and Sentinel in the Powassan area, and George Lake in Killarney Park to mention just a few locations.

He authored or coauthored several guidebooks, and he wrote *Belaying Theory – An Update* lending his engineering insights to the analysis of belaying physics, going beyond Wexler's 'The Theory of Belaying' from the *American Alpine Journal*.

He was a volunteer in the Ontario Rock Climbing Association, served for several years as president, and was a major contributor to the *O.R.C.A. Rock Climbing Safety Manual.*

Jean-Marc was head of the science department at École Secondaire Catholique Algonquin, was a published research scientist, and was involved in national and international science competitions for many years.

By Rob Chisnall, April 17, 2017, Gripped.com

• Pitch 2, 5.9, 17 m. Continue left and up into the off-width. After some strenuous moves separated by ledges, head straight up the face to a pine tree anchor.

Descent: Rap twice using the tree and another below, or use rings at the top of *Monocle* 50 m climber's right (35 m rope with stretch). *MH*

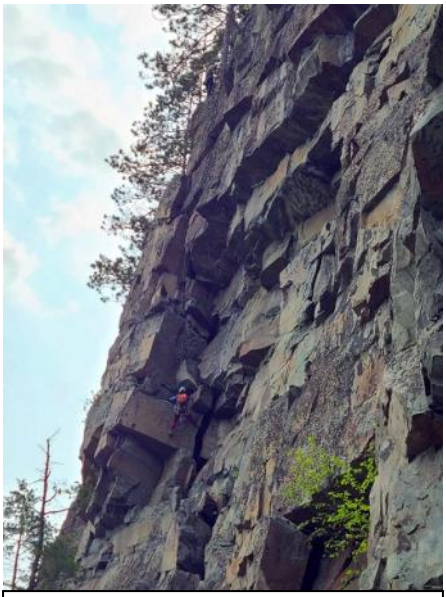
Monocle, 5.9, 36 m, 2 pitches, mixed. (Started by Dave Smart, April 2017; FA Mark Hurst, Cynthia Chung, Alec Cooper, July 2, 2023).

This route climbs a left-facing corner system (46.49843, -83.13190).

• Pitch 1, 5.9, 27 m. Climb up to and past a small tree to a bolt, then up a finger crack protected by another bolt. Climb the off-width, step out right past a third bolt, then bear-hug the block to top out on the ledge. #5 and/or #6 required. Rings.

• Pitch 2, 5.7, 8 m. Climb the continuous hand crack through the roof and exit. Rings (35m rappel).

Rappel: You can rappel from the top with a 70 m rope. *MH*



Above: Cynthia Chung starting up the second pitch of *Walking on Broken Glasses.* Below: Mark Hurst leading the first pitch of the *Monocle.* Photo by Alec Cooper.

Troglodyte's Tango, 5.10b, 40 m, 3 pitches, bolted
(Alec Cooper, Mark Hurst, July 2, 2023)

Located 20 m climber's right of the *Monocle*. Watch out for poison ivy at the base.

• Pitch 1, 10a, 10 m, 3 bolts. Start in the patch of trees and climb the corner to the ledge. High first bolt, consider a stick clip. Scrambling in via the left over rocks avoids poison ivy.

• Pitch 2, 5.8, 20 m, 8 bolts. Climb up and right, taking care to not dislodge a few loose blocks. (They couldn't be moved by hand, but best to avoid). Climb up the face then step right to the pedestal and then up the right facing corner to another good ledge.

• Pitch 3,5.10b, 10 m, 4 bolts. Climb the crack to top out in junipers.

Descent: While the route is equipped with rap rings it is best to walk 20 m climber's left and rap the *Monocle*. *AC*

Good Things Wall

Above: The central part of the Good Things Wall. An orange rope shows the line of *Bags of* Fun. Tristan is standing at the base of *Bagman* on the left. Below: Tristan leading *Bagman.*

The Good Things Wall lies directly in front of the point where the Talladega Speedway trail reaches the Eyeball cliff-line. The Good Things Wall is bounded on the right by the deep, dark *Good Things* corner (an ice climb in winter), below which lies a vegetated talus cone (with poison ivy). The centre-left side of the Good Things Wall is marked by some pronounced roofs. The talus slope below the Good Things Wall is comparatively small.

The Good Things Wall is the closest wall at the Eyeball to the river crossing. It only takes about 20 minutes, including the canoe crossing, to get to the base of the Good Things Wall.

FWIW – It is possible to scramble up to the top of the cliff on the lower-angled, treed face to the right of the Good Things Corner, but the way up is rather circuitous and inobvious, as it wends it way up a series of vegetat-

ed and somewhat rubbly ledges.

Bagman, 5.7, 58 m, 2 pitches, mixed.
(FA Tristan Collings, Danylo Darewych, October 8, 2025 and June 6, 2026)

Bagman is located almost directly opposite the spot where the Talladega Speedway trail reaches the talus. Head slightly left up across the talus to a left-facing corner system with a tree in front of it.

• Pitch 1, 5.6, 29 m, trad. Climb up a short 4-5 m corner, traverse right above a juniper bush, then climb up and right over another three short corners to a two bolt anchor (rap rings) on a ledge. There is one bolt at the third corner.

• Pitch 2, 5.7, 19 m, bolted (8 bolts plus anchors). Traverse right and upwards from the anchors following the bolts. Two bolt anchor with rappel rings.

The second pitch was originally lead on trad gear by Tristan by angling up to the left (run out) after the current 3rd bolt to a bulge (pro), then traversing back right along a rail to pull over a lip to easier ground above, but it was dangerously run-out on marginal pro, so it was bolted and straightened out to make it safer.

Descent: Rappel from the anchors at the top of the route, angling back left to the first pitch anchors, and from there make a second rappel to the ground.

Tristan Collings leading *Bags of Fun.*

Bags of Fun, 5.8, 48 m, 2 pitches, bolted
(FA Tristan Collings, Danylo Darewych, October 13, 2025 and June 8, 2026)

A sport climb that starts on the face directly below the first pitch anchors of Bagman.

• Pitch 1, 5.8, 29 m (9 bolts). Climb up a slight left-facing corner for 8 m, step right, then climb over a bulge either directly (5.10a) or slightly further right below a bolt (5.9) or even further right on edges (5.8). Friction up a short slab section and mantle up over a ledge. Continue up to the anchors, making a couple more mantle moves. Harder if you're short.

• Pitch 2, 5.8, 19 m (9 bolts). Step left from the anchors and head up, angling slightly left to a slight right-facing dihedral feature. Pull up left of the dihedral and continue upwards on and around bulges to a ledge at the top. Two bolt anchors with rings are located higher up on a bulge.

Or, if you wish, finish on the second, bolted pitch of *Bagman* to the right.

Descent: Two single rope rappels to the ground.

Bag of Tricks, 5.9, 47 m, 2 pitches, bolted
(FA Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, September 11, 2026[1]; FFA Eric Csekey, Fang Lu, October 6, 2026)

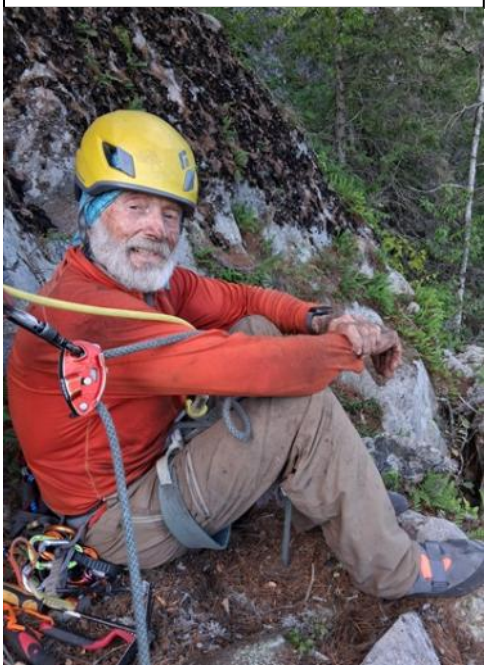
Located on the right side of the Good Things Wall next to some evergreen trees, just left of the start of the vegetated talus slope below the Good Things Corner proper.

• Pitch 1, 5.7, 27 m, 11 bolts. Clamber up 2 m onto a ledge, make a strenuous move past the first bolt, clip long slings on the second and third bolts[2], then continue up a line of weakness on positive edges and ledges until stacked blocks loom above.[3] Avoid the blocks by climbing to the left on solid rock and make an airy step around a rib back to the right and up to a small belay stance. Rappel rings.

• Pitch 2, 5.9, 20 m, 10 bolts. Continue up the line of weakness past a birch and partway up a corner before traversing left to another, smaller birch and past it. Finish up a steep final headwall with a small lip. The bolts are placed very closely together on the headwall to enable pulling through the headwall on draws. Rappel Rings. There is a lone bolt above the rappel station to protect a move onto the treed ledge to the right, should anyone be inclined to rest on a bigger ledge.

Descent: Rappel twice down the line.

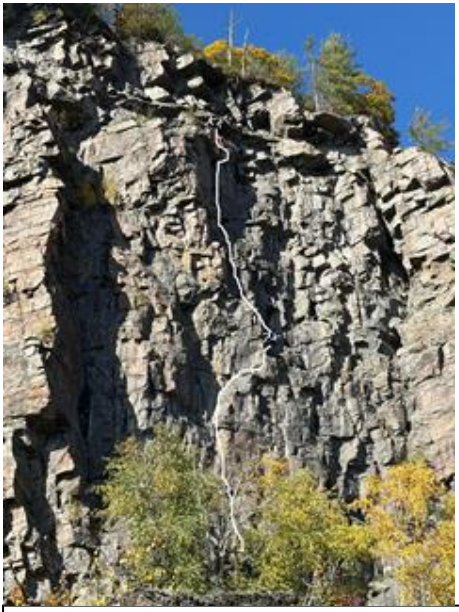
Above: Mike Grainger drilling bolts on the first pitch of *Bag of Tricks.* Below: A very dirty and tired Mike Grainger.



[1] Mike and I both pulled on draws through the crux headwall.
[2] Rock quality necessitated some less than ideal bolt locations.
[3] We tried to trundle them with a prybar, but couldn't get the top one loose.

The Bastille

The Bastille is a tower/buttress of steep, clean rock that lies just left of the Fifth Wall. The base of the Bastille starts almost at forest level - there is only a small talus field there. There is no route up the steep front face of the Bastille, but four routes have been climbed at its edges. Routes are described from left to right.



Left: *Ride of the Valkyries*. Right: The Bastille with *The Architect* on the left, *Slay the Hydra* in the middle and *Release the Kraken* on the right. Route photo By Mark Hurst.

Ride of the Valkyries, 5.10b, 55 m, 2 pitches, bolted
(FA Cynthia Chung, Mark Hurst, Oct. 5, 2026)

Located 10 m left of the *Architect*. Does not top out.

- Pitch 1, 5.10b, 32 m, 13 bolts. Climb straight up on techy face climbing, through a finger crack, trend right to an exposed traverse. Bolts with rings on a ledge. Can rappel from here with a 60 m rope.
- Pitch 2. 5.10b, 23 m, 10 bolts. Gain the arête, climb up crack systems to the base of an off-width. Squirm up the off-width to a bouldery exit left to a belay on a ledge with rap anchors.

Descent: Two rappels with a 60 m rope.

The Architect, 5.9, 60 m, 2 pitches, trad.
(FA Mark Hurst, Danylo Darewych, May 21, 2022)

The Architect climbs a chimney system where the left side of the Bastille meets the right side of the Sixth Wall.

• Pitch 1, 5.8, 30 m. Scramble up to a vegetated ledge, then climb a short 5 m step by a corner crack on the left or ledges on the right to a smaller ledge. From here continue up the corner crack on the left for 3 m and step right across a block and around a tree to the base of the chimney system. Climb the chimney to a station (rap rings) in an alcove with a big chockstone-formed roof.

• Pitch 2, 5.9, 30 m. Make strenuous moves around the right side of the chockstone to a ledge, climb up a corner (high bolt, run-out), then continue up the highly-architected chimney above, sometimes squirming into the narrower depths of the chimney, sometimes stemming widely up its mouth. The route ends at the top of the chimney on a large ledge. Rap rings.

Gear: Cams up to #5.

Descent: Rappel the route (two 30 m raps).

Above: The start of *The Architect*. Below: The second pitch of *The Architect*.

Slay the Hydra, 5.10d, 72 m, 3 pitches, bolted
(FA Mark Hurst, Dan Hannah, September 2, 2025)

Located on the left side of The Bastille (GPS: 46.50207, -83.12748). It's the first bolted line right of *The Architect*.

• Pitch 1, 5.10d 30 m, 11 bolts. Climb the burly and cryptic layback dihedral, then negotiate a tricky traverse.

• Pitch 2, 5.10a, 21 m, 8 bolts. Weave left then traverse back right, then up a thin finger crack and left to a large ledge.

• Pitch 3, 5.10b, 21 m, 8 bolts. Head right onto the arête and pull on steep holds to reach the top of the buttress.

Descent: 2 x 35 m rappel from the rings or step up and left to *The Architect* 2 x 30 m rappel.

When Mark moved a tree from the trail, Mike and Dan spontaneously sang of Hercules, whose use of both strength and wisdom to defeat the many-headed Hydra was a popular symbol of the French Revolution. *MH*

Above: Mark Hurst leading the first pitch of *Slay the Hydra.* Photo by Dan Hannah. Below: Mark Hurst leading the first pitch of *Release the Kraken.* Photo by Cynthia Chung.

Release the Kraken, 5.10d, 75 m, 2 pitches, bolted
(FA Mark Hurst, Cynthia Chung, May 17, 2026)

Located 5 m right of *Slay the Hydra*.

• Pitch 1: 5.10d, 35 m, 15 bolts (?). A bouldery start, then up and across the arête to some burly face climbing and a large belay ledge (rings).

• Pitch 2: 5.10b 37 m, 17 bolts (?). From the anchor, step left and continue with physical moves through varied features and squeeze past a tree to the top (rings).

Descent: 2 x 35 m rappels from the rings or step up and left to the top anchors of *The Architect* and make 2 x 30 m rappels.

Unleash your inner beast of Norse mythology and wrap your tentacles around the buttress. Mark may split the 2nd pitch in future. *MH*

Survivalist, 5.7 A0, 50 m, 3 pitches, trad
(FA Mark Hurst, Danylo Darewych, May 20, 2023)

This route climbs up the vegetated right side of the Bastille. From the base of the Bastille head right up a steep, overgrown, shrubby talus slope, staying close to the cliff. Expect some loose rock and poison ivy along the way. There's not too much poison ivy close to the cliff, but shears are a good idea. Go around the right side of the Bastille until you are near the base of the big pyramid at the left end of the Fifth Wall. Here a line of weakness heads up the right side of the Bastille.

• Pitch 1, 5.7, 25 m. Climb up to a birch 4-5 m up, then a short corner above it. Continue until upward progress is impeded by huge matts of vegetation, whereupon you traverse right and climb up a corner of cleaner rock to a ledge. Cedar tree and rock gear belay.

• Pitch 2, 5.6, 20 m. Climb up and leftwards past a couple of trees and some loose blocks, then up a short, steeper step to a bigger cedar tree occupying most of a small corner ledge. Continue up and right to a 95% dead cedar tree. Belay here. (It is probably better to belay at the lower, more solid cedar).

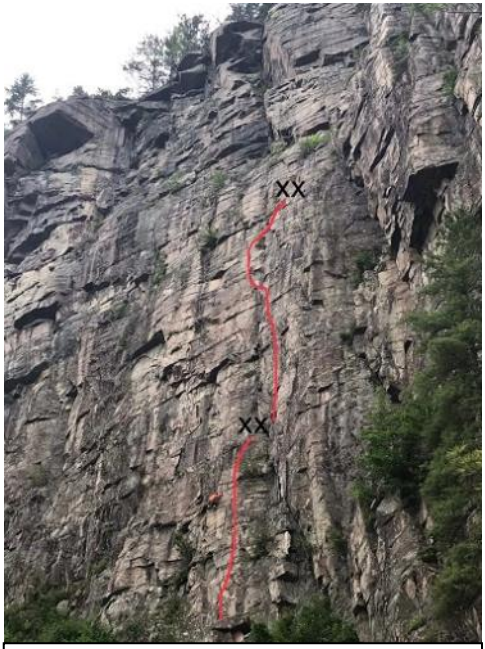
• Pitch 3, A0, 8 m. Climb up the awkward, smooth, off-width corner above, using three bolts for assistance. This brings you to the right end of the big, wide treed ledge at the top of the Bastille. Tree belay.

Descent: Traverse the ledge to its left end and rappel down *The Architect*

The line of the *Survivalist* marked on the right side of the Bastille.

Fifth Wall

The Fifth Wall is about 100 m left of the Community Wall, past the Holes. It is a fairly tall wall (60-80 m) and about 180 m long. It is characterized by some easier-angled corners at the right end; a large, short, treed detached block in the centre at the base; and a big triangular pyramid with steep vegetated grooves on either side on the left. In the middle of the 5th Wall there is a big, low rock promontory/peninsula/pedestal jutting out from the base of the cliff with a huge left-facing chimney above the left end.



Above: The route of *Chemical Imbalance*. Mike Grainger can be seen on the first pitch. Photo by Colin Shepitka. Below: Mike Grainger heading up *Upon Further Reflection*.

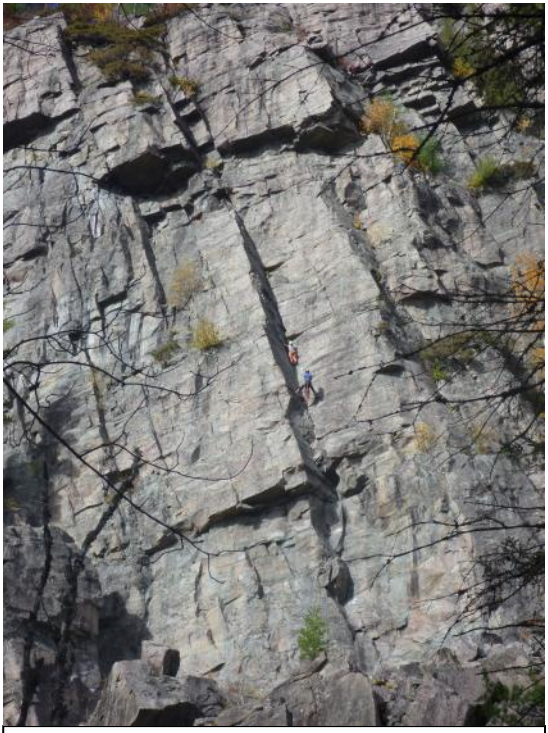
Chemical Imbalance, 5.11a, 90 m, 4 pitches, trad.
(FA Pitch 1-2 Colin Shepitka, Rachel Greco, July 1, 2019; FA whole route - Colin Shepitka, Mike Shepitka).

Located about 15 m left of the left end of the rock pedestal/promontory.

- Pitch 1, 5.10a, 25 m: Climb a fractured crack system traversing from left to right over the small roof to a splitter hand crack, then reach left to the edge and back up right to a ledge. 2 bolt anchor with rap rings.
- Pitch 2, 5.11a, 30 m: Right from the belay climb the left facing offwidth overhanging crack to some easier moves up a small corner finger crack, 2 bolts on your left through the crux. Jump for deceptive hands with invisible feet and climb straight up, then trend right to the belay ledge. 2 bolts with rap rings.
- Pitch 3, 5.9 R (almost X), 25 m: Climb right from the belay and up over detached blocks heading right towards a very large dead tree to 2 anchors (with leaver biners, no rings). This pitch will change and be completely bolted at some point in time, but as of now you climb the detached blocks.
- Pitch 4, 5.9+. Climb up and left

from the belay into a roof and transition to a knife edge, follow the left trending continuous crack to the top.

Rappel: Double rope rappel from quick link on tree to the top of the 2nd pitch, then a double rope to the ground or single rope rappel to the top of the 1st pitch and then ground. *CS*



Cynthia Chung leading the second pitch of *Rayn of Sunshine* with Mark Hurst belaying. Oct. 10, 2020.

Upon Further Reflection, 5.6/5.7, 22 m (FA Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, July 1, 2019).

The route starts near the left end of the rock promontory, in a left-leading weakness, 5 m left of a big cedar tree on a block 7 m up.

Climb the weakness to the top of the pedestal, making a strenuous mantle from a tree near the top. At the top, traverse left past some trees to a crack below a big, overhanging crack system.

We climbed 6-7 m up the crack to the base of the overhanging crack system before backing off because of difficulties.

Another Randy Route (2017).

This is a project located in a crack/corner system about 20 m left of *Rayn of Sunshine.* It diagonals left up a line of weakness above the big rock promontory/ peninsula.

Rayn of Sunshine, 5.10c, 76 m, 4 pitches
(Pitch 1-2: Ray Rutitis, Bob Cheeseman, Will Gugg, Oct. 2020; Pitch 3: Ray Rutitis, Mark Hurst, Sept. 2022)

Located about 15 m left of *Grandma's Law*. Look for a continuous crack line with a big roof 2/3 of the way up.

- Pitch 1, 5.10, 18 m. Climb up the corner past 3 bolts, then over a slight bulge and up the corner above. Anchors.
- Pitch 2, 5.10+, 16 m. Continue up the corner system. Anchors.
- Pitch 3, 5.10, 20 m. Surmount two interesting roofs, then head up a dihedral that requires full attention. Anchors.
- Pitch 4, 5.10c, 22 m. Easier climbing leads to a difficult finger traverse (protected by 3 bolts), followed by easier climbing to the top. Anchors.

Grandma's Law, 5.8, 50 m, 2 pitches (FA Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, July 1, 2018).

The start is located about 12 m left of *Dummies in the Dark* in a big corner behind a big oak tree.

• Pitch 1, 5.6/5.7, 20 m. Climb the easier-angled left side of the corner, pulling up over a small lip (with a birch tree) near the top of the pitch and continue on to a ledge (birch tree and gear belay).

• Pitch 2, 5.8, 25 m. Climb up the chimney above for 10-12 m with some stemming and some jamming, exiting the chimney to the right, then continue above up a groove and finally step right to a short right-facing corner and climb it to a belay at a small ledge (2 bolts with rappel rings; 50 m rappel to the ground). This is the same spot where pitch 3 of *Dummies in the Dark* ends.

Above: The lines of *Grandma's Law* (on left) and *Dummies in the Dark (*on right).

Dummies in the Dark, **5.8, 75 m, 5 pitches**
(FA Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, July 17, 2014).

Dummies in the Dark is located at the right end of the 5th Wall, where there is a series of less-than-vertical small corners. Look for a clean corner system that ends at a lone pine tree about 35 m up. The logical start would be straight up this corner system, but there is no pro at the bottom, so start at the corner system 3 m to its left.

• Pitch 1, 5.7, 20 m: Start at the right side of the corner, step around to its left side almost immediately, climb up a leftward diagonaling crack over flake to a ledge at top (14 m), traverse right for 5 m to belay at stand of 4-5 small cedar trees.

• Pitch 2, 5.5, 15 m. Head straight up the corner above to a belay at a lone pine tree (blue sling with rap ring).

• Pitch 3, 5.6, 20 m. Traverse left 4 m, climb up broken corner past big cedar tree (also has purple webbing with rap ring) to ledge above, traverse left another 7 m to another corner system and climb up 10 m to a small ledge (there is a big roof above to the left). Two bolt anchors with rappel rings (50 m rappel to ground).

• Pitch 4, 5.8, 15 m. Climb up the crack above the belay ledge for 2-3 m, step carefully right (grabbing a very small tree), step up into a V-shaped notch under a small roof. Pull over the roof, which is actually a big completely detached block seemingly held in place in the corner by friction alone (Very scary! But we both reefed on it with all our weight and it never budged). Head past one tree to a belay at a second tree higher up the corner.

• Pitch 5, 5.6-5.7, 15 m. Tiptoe gingerly around a vertical carpet of pine needles

(climbing shoes on pine needles are like skis on snow), past another big pine tree and then climb the corner crack above over two small lips/roofs, stepping left to a belay at a another big pine tree (blue webbing with maillon).

Descent: Rappel from the big pine on top to the big cedar tree you passed at the start of pitch 3 (purple webbing and rap ring). From here rappel to the ground. Double ropes necessary for rappelling in this fashion. It would be possible to rap with one rope using intermediary trees.

Gear: Nuts and a wide assortment of cams - everything from a #1 TCU to a #4 Camalot. The gear is generally good, but the rock is suspect in a few places.

The Holes

The Holes are two small treed depressions/holes separated by a small ridge of talus found between the right end of the Fifth Wall (on the left) and the start of the massive talus slope that leads up to the Community Wall and the 3.5 Gully (on the right). The forest comes right to the base of the cliff here and the Autobahn trail also comes close to the cliff. One very scruffy, circuitous route has been partially climbed out of the left hole, in order to reach the better rock above.

Sometimes You Lose, 5.7 A1, 40 m
(FA Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, August 21, 2017).

• Pitch 1, 5.7, 25 m. There are two interesting crack systems leading out of the left hole: a wide, left-leaning one on the right and another big one on the left. Both were sopping wet, so we started by pulling on gear up a shorter, thin crack (also partially wet) immediately left of the big left crack. Continue up along a broken right-facing corner system, pull up over one grassy lip, then traverse right 5 metres when confronted by a bigger one. Climb up 3-4 m, pulling on a big block, then make a sketchy traverse back left 5 m with no pro (enjoy the rope drag) to a big vegetated ledge and belay off two small trees and gear.

• Pitch 2, 5.4, 15 m. Ignore the interesting-looking corner and roof above the belay, traverse further along the ledge and climb up the verge of rock and juniper bush for 7 m, topping out amidst loose blocks on the next big wide ledge. Head right to the big pine for a belay.

Rappel: Rappel from the big pine (webbing and maillon). It's 31 m to the ground over a rib of solid rock (you'll get down on rope stretch).

Note: There are two interesting crack systems running up from the second big ledge. We are in the process of cleaning and trundling these cracks. They're a project. Please don't climb them.

We lost a small off-set cam somewhere - let us know if you find it, please.

Talus Scramble. Right of the Holes starts a talus field that leads up to the Community Wall. You can reach the top of the Eyeball here, by scrambling up the initial talus and then breaking left before hitting the Community Wall along a left-trending talus slope that lies below a shorter steep face. A rope has been fixed in place to assist in ascending the final, steep treed slope.

Community Wall

Community Wall, with the route of *Post-Breeding Migration Path of Sandhill Cranes*.

The Community Wall is a good-looking face of cleaner, steep rock that lies on the left side of a large talus slope that separates it from the Wall of Horrors and the Nose of the Big Wall to the right. The talus slope and the Community Wall end at a steep, treed notch—the 3.5 Gully.

Rappel Options from the Top: If you approach the Community Wall from the top access trail, you can get to the base of the wall in several ways:

a) Rappel down the fixed rope in the 3.5 Gully.

b) Rappel from the ring anchors (staggered one above the other) of *Out of the Frying Pan* which are located in the middle of the ledge running along the right side of the top of the wall. You need **two 70 m ropes** to get to the base in one rappel or you can make two 35 m rappels, using the pine tree at the top of pitch 1 for the second rappel.

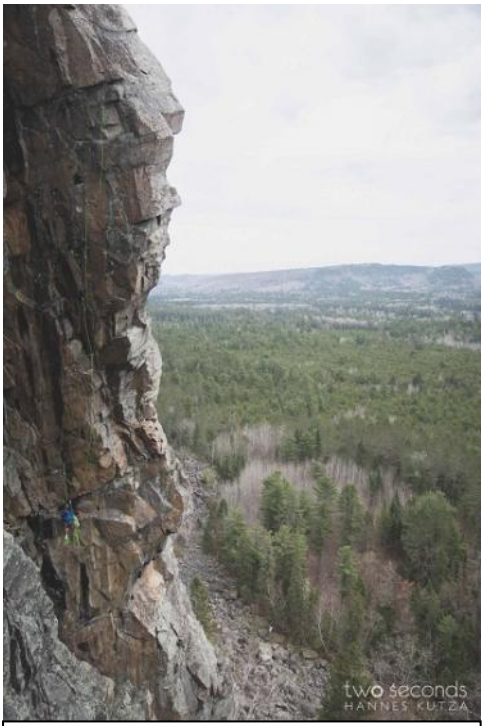
c) Rappel from the big pine at the (climber's) right end of the ledge running along the right side of the top of the wall. Again, you'll need two 70 m ropes to get to the base in one rappel, although two 60 m ropes will likely get you down to a ledge 6-7 m above the talus from which you can scramble down, since the talus slope reaches higher the further right you go. The 60 m rappel theory is untested.

d) Rappel 3 times with a 60 m rope down the route *Cranes* (described below).

The first route described below is not found on the Community Wall proper, but on the wall left of it.

Line of Least Resistance, 5.13, 40 m. ***Project - please don't climb.*** (Gus Alexandropoulos).

Scramble up the steep talus slope that goes up past the left end of the Community Wall. This slope can be followed left all the way to the top of the Eyeball cliff system. About half-way along the scramble a shorter wall rises above the talus. There is a bit of a groove heading up the wall. The route climbs the steep overhanging rock right of the groove. A very steep line - overhangs by about 12 m.



Gus Alexandropoulos working on the *Line of Least Resistance*. Photo by Hannes Kutza.

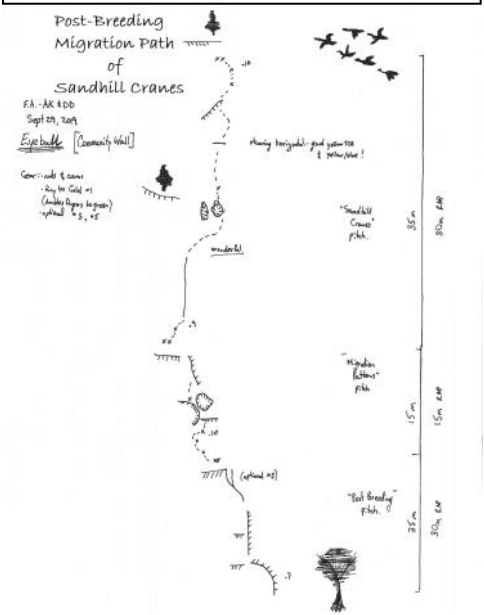
Post-Breeding Migration Path of Sandhill Cranes, 5.10b, 73 m, 3 pitches
(FA Andriy Kolos, Danylo Darewych,* September 29, 2019).

The route heads up the middle of the Community Wall. The path starts amidst the thick shrubbery of the north, passes through classic Eyeball/ Algoma rock and finishes alongside waves just like those that lap the shores of the Florida Gulf coast (just like the birds' migration path). The climbing in the upper pitches is mostly in the 5.8/5.9 range with short harder cruxes.

The start is found in a short left-facing corner about 15 m left of a big birch tree.

• Pitch 1, 5.6/5.7, 29 m. Climb up a discontinuous left-facing corner system, stepping right of the corner proper, if necessary, and up to a ledge from its ride side. Two-bolt anchor with rappel rings.

• Pitch 2, 5.10b, 13 m. Climb up from the left end of the belay ledge past three bolts and right around an overhanging bulge to a small ledge. Follow steps up left (bolt) to a bigger



*I did not climb this route cleanly, hanging on both the second and third pitch. I stepped on a bolt to get past the 2nd pitch crux and pulled on gear on the 3rd pitch crux. *DD*

Community Wall, with the route of *Post-Breeding Migration Path of Sandhill Cranes* marked on left, two projects marked in the middle, *Out of the Frying Pan* marked with a dashed line and *Into the Fire* marked with a solid white line. Topo photo by Andriy Kolos and Danylo Darewych.

ledge. Two-bolt anchor with rappel rings.

• Pitch 3, 5.10b, 31 m. Climb up to the right (bolt) on small edges to a larger crack, climb the crack and then head up right over a small roof on good holds to a large ledge (marked by a substantial tree on its far-left end). From the large ledge head up past a bolt and right across a thin seam (or scootch left over wetter terrain) to a stance below a finish over wavy rock (final bolt) on tiny edges and slopers. Two-bolt anchor with rappel rings below juniper-covered top.

Rappel: Three single-rope rappels with a 60 m rope (watch the top rappel – you get down on rope stretch).

Gear: Cams up to #3 Camalot, doubles in small sizes, off-set cams, nuts. *DD, AK.*

Two more lines are currently being put up to the right of the *Post-Breeding Migration Path of the Sandhill Cranes*. These are works in progress - *please don't climb them* - you're liable to get yourself killed.

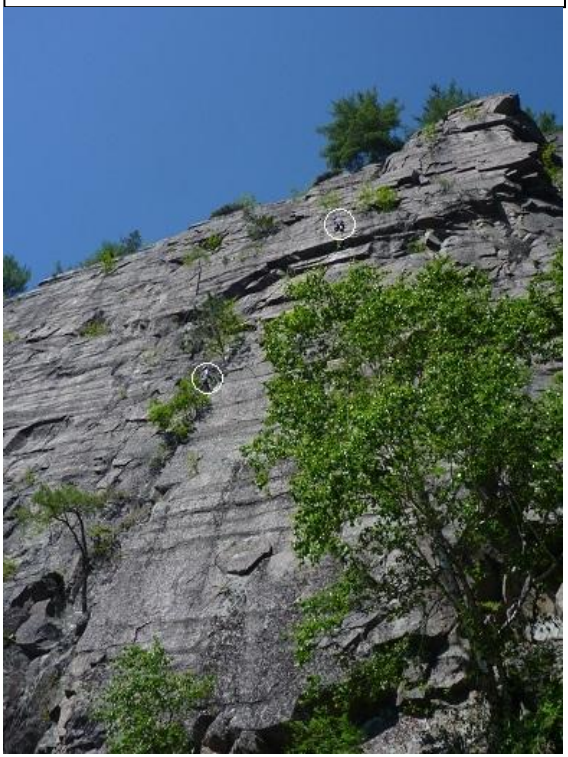
Out of the Frying Pan, **5.10a, 70 m, 2 pitches**
(FA First pitch: Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych; 2nd - Chris Talbot, Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, July 13, 2020)

On the right side of the Community Wall look for a groove with several trees, heading up to about half-height of the wall. The groove is the common first-pitch start of the routes *Out of the Frying Pan* and *Into the Fire*.

• Pitch 1, 35 m, 5.8. Climb up the groove (dirty, vegetated at first) past a birch 6 m up, then over an overhang (bolt) 13 m up, past a second tree and a blade of rock (solid at the moment; we couldn't trundle it; bolts below it and above it on the left), then squirm into a squeeze groove with small birches obstructing the entrance and pull out onto a ledge with a pine tree (webbing with maillon).

• Pitch 2, 35 m, 5.10a, 11 bolts, plus several (optional) cams. From the belay climb 3-4 metres up the crack above and just past a small birch (#4 Camalot, if you don't trust the spindly birch) angle left up to a bolt, tiptoe left of it up to a second bolt, then head up and left again past another bolt to a crack through a roof (bolts directly below the roof and above the roof on the left; the roof crack also takes cams), pull the roof and climb up to a lone, small pine 4 m higher. From there follow the line of bolts to the top, weaving left and right of the bolts, following the line of least resistance on mostly very positive edges and ledges (except at

Above: Chris Talbot pulling the roof on the second pitch of *Out of the Frying Pan* (it's steeper than the photo makes it look).
Below: Colin Shepitka above the roof on *Into the Fire* while Andrew Junkin belays in the trees.



one difficult spot), but using the cracked rock on the left ¾ of the way up. Top out onto a ledge with two-bolt rappel anchors in the slab above.
Gear: nuts and a double rack of cams up to a #4 Camalot, including offset cams.

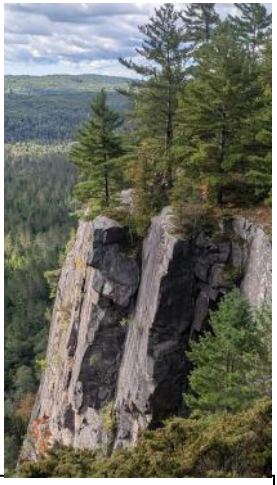
Into the Fire, 5.10d, 70 m, 2 pitches
(FA Colin Shepitka, Andrew Junkin, July 2, 2020; FFA Colin Shepitka, Mike Shepitka, August 2020).*

- Pitch 1, 35 m, 5.9. The first pitch is the same as for *Out of the Frying Pan.*
- Pitch 2, 35 m, 5.10d. From the belay tree climb straight up the crack above for about 9 m to just under the roof, traverse right to a bolt, then up and right to second bolt under the roof, pull the roof at a crack (there is a third bolt above the roof, left of the crack) and follow the crack up to a ledge and then climb just left of a major crack formed by a system of huge stacked blocks (fourth bolt) to a big pine at the top of the route.

Forced Labour, 10d, 20 m, trad
(FA Alec Cooper and Colin Shepitka, September 2nd, 2024)

Climbs the second dihedral from the right on the top of the Community Wall, just to climber's right of *Into the Fire*. Climbs the splitter corner hand and finger crack to an outrageous and strenuous off width sequence through the roof.

There is currently no first pitch. A 2 bolt rappel anchor can be used to rappel into a bolted station at the bottom of the route. It is best to finish up the gully on the left and belay from a tree. Best to leave a second rope fixed in case you can't climb out; the rappel to the ground has not been tested and goes through some extremely loose rock.



Left: The top of the Community Wall as viewed from the top approach trail. The route *Forced Labour* climbs the prominent dihedral on the right of the photo. Right: *Forced Labour* is the dihedral on the left.

*Colin and Andrew did not mange to climb this route cleanly, in part because they were being roasted alive on a very hot day.

Wall of Horrors

The Wall of Horrors is an easier-angled wall of broken, looser-looking rock above the right side of the massive scree/talus slope that rises to a treed notch/ corner in the cliff – the 3.5 Gully. The wall was dubbed the Wall of Horrors by Wade Meade. One route has been climbed here.

The Wall of Horrors with the route of *Northern Harvest* marked on it.

Northern Harvest, 5.9 R, 27 m, 2 pitches , mixed
(FA pitch 1, Wade Meade, Daunte Rezaie; FA whole route, Wade Meade, Randy Kielbasiewicz, 2016).

Go to the far left end of the Wall of Horrors where you will find a lone conifer tree 15 m up, on a narrow band of not horrible looking rock.

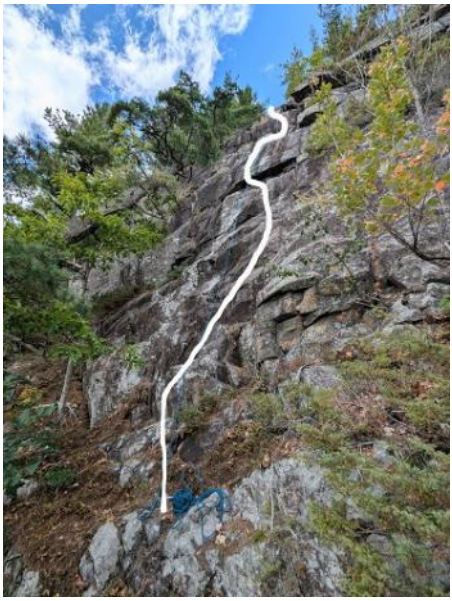
• Pitch 1, 5.9 R, 15 m, 1 bolt plus anchors. Start with an awkward mantle onto a dirty ledge, climb up the left angling crack, beware the flake (it won't hold gear, but if you're delicate, it will hold you). After you reach a large ledge continue up the crack until you reach the lone bolt. From the bolt head up and right, into the crux, on small holds and smaller feet to reach the next crack system. Follow the crack to the bolted anchors. Enjoy the thin gear and runouts.

• Pitch 2, 5.8, 12 m, 2 bolts plus anchors. Continue up the crack with a few more gear placements than the previous pitch. Move up and right to the first bolt, followed by more thin gear until you reach the second bolt. Move up on easier climbing till you reach the bolted anchors. *WM*

Gear: Mastercams, C3s, C4s, and nuts.

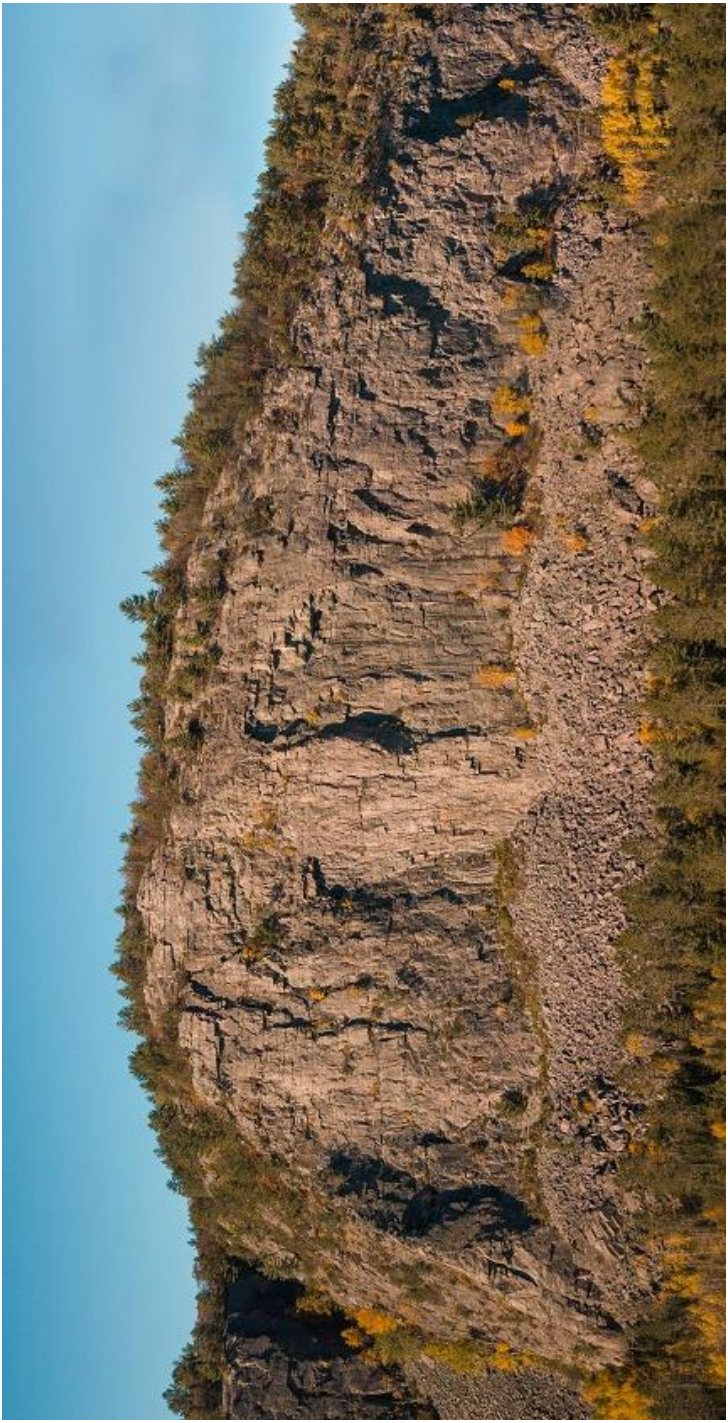
Ledge of Horrors

The Ledge of Horrors is found at the top of the Wall of Horrors. It is a large, flat, safe ledge that cuts across the upper right part of the Wall of Horrors, 25 m down from the clifftop. The ledge is accessible by rappel or by walking down a 2nd class path that wraps around he climber's right end of the top of the Wall of Horrors.



Bear Hugs, 5.7, 25 m, 9 bolts
(FA Addie Typa, Alec Cooper, Sept. 1 2024)

Located on the left side of the Ledge of Horrors just right of the large leaning pine tree. Start up flowy slab climbing to the mini roof. Pull through a series of two mantles into a blocky finish. From the top, the rappel ring anchor can be found hidden among a small rocky clearing climber's left of the largest pine tree near the cliff edge, approximately midway along the Wall of Horrors.cliff top. *AT*



Big Wall

The Big Wall as seen from the small clearing on the base logging road. You can see the centre to right side of the Big Wall with the routes *Northern Etiquette, Welcome to the Gunshow, Nate's Wall* and *Too Cheap for Principles/Shattered Illusions*.

The Big Wall is the tallest, most impressive face at the Eyeball. There is 115 m of straight up vertical height gain from the top of the talus to the top of the highest point of the cliff, but because the cliff slopes back at the top, some routes are 130-140 m long. The Big Wall is about 300 m long. There are several large, prominent arches on the face with lines of weakness/cracks/corners running beneath them and more climbing above. There is an eye-catching prow and pillar at the left end of the cliff (The Nose) and a less dramatic pillar on the right end (The Pyramid). A large talus field lies beneath the whole length of the Big Wall.

Approach and Trails

If you are walking along the Autobahn Trail, the Big Wall will be readily apparent/clearly visible from it, as the trail runs along the base of the talus field beneath the Big Wall. The easiest access is at the Nose at the south end of the Big Wall, because there is almost no talus there and the trail come very close to the cliff.

If you are coming in along the base logging road, the Big Wall is only visible clearly from a couple of wider clearings in the road, since a forest of pines planted in neat rows lies between the road and cliff and obscures the view of Big Wall most of the time. If you are walking along the base logging road from the south, it is

about 1 km from the spot where the river crossing trail (Talladega Speedway) and the logging road intersect to the first larger clearing where you can see the Big Wall. If you're walking along the logging road from the north, then the distance is about 450 m from the Tripod Trail that leads to the First Wall to a smaller clearing from where you can also see the Eyeball.

Three trails lead from the logging road through the planted pine forest for 100-150 m to the talus field at the base of the Big Wall:

a) *Buddies Trail*. This trail (hacked out primarily by a crowbar) starts at the southernmost larger clearing along the logging road (N46° 30.269' W83° 07.216'). It is marked with blue spray paint on trees and with orange flagging tape. It comes out below the Buddies Wall. It is well travelled.

b) *Beer Can Trail.* The start of the trail is about 60 m north of the Buddies Trail or 130 south of Nate's Trail (N46° 30.314' W83° 07.202'). The start used to be marked with a beer can on a tree branch and orange flagging tape. It comes out more or less in the middle of the Big Wall, opposite the route *Weak, Fat and Gimpy.* It is less travelled.

c) *Nate's Trail.* This trail starts from the northern small clearing/viewpoint (N46° 30.380' W83° 07.153). The start is marked by blue spray-paint on trees. The trail heads for the right side of the Big Wall and comes out below the routes *Disruptor, Conspiracy Theory, Lord of the Flies.* It is well travelled.

Routes are described from left to right.

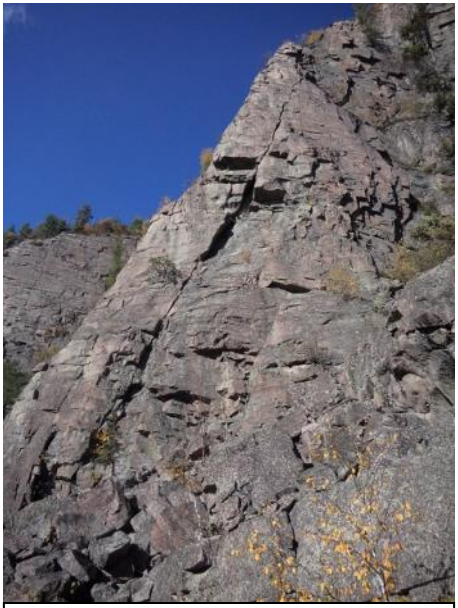
The Nose

The far left end of the Big Wall ends in a pronounced prow/pinnacle - the Nose. The prow drops down to the tree line and can be quickly reached from the base Autobahn trail

Climbing routes are located on both sides of the Nose and up the prow of the Nose itself. The routes intersect with each other and all share a common belay station halfway up, so pick your nose!

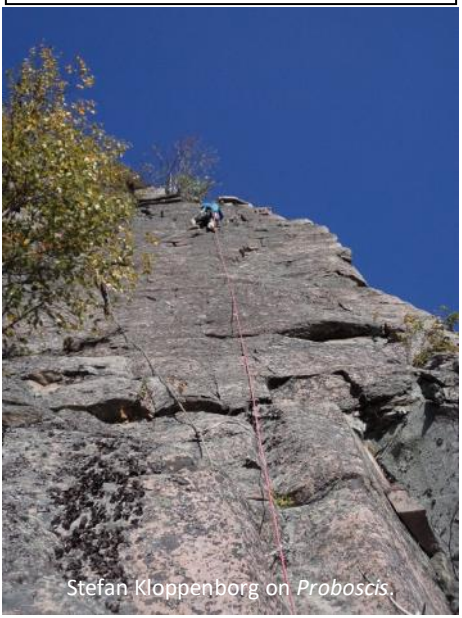
Booger, 5.6, 35 m
(FA Danylo Darewych, Stefan Kloppenborg, Danielle Johnson, October 9, 2015).

Start left of the nose/prow of the pinnacle at two short parallel cracks. Head up the initial rock step, then up a dirty, vegetated groove (6 metres), step right on cleaner rock closer to the arête, head up the right side of a big flake and join the line of *Predatory Moose* to the top (i.e. follow 3 more bolts left of the arête, and step right across the arête again just below big blocks, climb over these to the anchor/rappel station on the ledge above,



Above: The Pinnacle. *Nose Job/Rhinoplasty* climbs the prow. *Pinnacle Crac*k is the prominent crack that diagonals up to the right. The thin crack of *Predatory Moose* is visible to the left, but the steep bottom section is not in the photo.

Booger



Stefan Kloppenborg on *Proboscis*.

left of the prow).

Proboscis, 5.8, 30 m
(FA Stefan Kloppenborg, Danielle Johnson, Danylo Darewych, October 11, 2015).

This route climbs the upper face left of the prow of the Nose. From the anchor/rappel station of *Predatory Moose/Nose Job* head up past a tree to a handcrack on the left, follow it to its end, then step right to another crack/line of weakness and head up past birches on the left to the anchors of *Pinnacle Crack* at the top of the pinnacle.

Nose Job, 5.10+, 35 m, 13 bolts + gear
(FA Stefan Kloppenborg, Danielle Johnson, Danylo Darewych,* October 10, 2015).

Nose Job climbs the lower half of the prow of the Nose. Start just right of the base of the nose/prow. Follow the line of bolts just right of the arête (8 bolts), until it intersects the line of *Predatory Moose* (at a small ledge on the prow with a large flake and a small birch; 9-10th bolt), step left around the arête and follow the line of *Predatory Moose* to the top (i.e. follow 3 more bolts left of the arête, and step right across the arête again just below big blocks, climb over these – *small cams needed* - to the anchor/rappel station on the ledge above, left of the prow).

Rhinoplasty, 5.9, 28 m, 10 bolts
(FA Stefan Kloppenborg, Danielle Johnson, Danylo Darewych, October 11, 2015).

Rhinoplasty is the logical continuation/second pitch of *Nose Job*. Climbs the upper half

Above: Stefan Kloppenborg leading *Nose Job*.
Below: Danylo Darewych seconding up *Rhinoplasty*. Photo by Stefan Kloppenborg, Oct. 11, 2015.

* Both Danielle and I pulled on draws on this climb. Moreover, Danielle by-passed the crux (3rd to 4th bolt) to the right (still hard) and I by-passed it around the arête on the left.

of the prow/nose of the pinnacle at the left end of the Big Wall. From the anchor/rappel station of *Predatory Moose* head up and right, following the line of bolts along the very edge of the arête/prow of the pinnacle to the top. Great exposure!

Predatory Moose, 5.10, 30 m
(FA Stefan Kloppenborg and Danielle Johnson, September 6, 2015).*

Start in the pit in front of the base of the pinnacle at a thin, steep crack 5 m right of the nose/prow and 5 m left of the main crack system of *Pinnacle Crack*. Climb up the crack until it peters out, continue on clipping 2 bolts above, then step left around the arête, follow 3 more bolts left of the arête, and step back across the arête again to the right face on good edges, just below some final, big blocks. Climb over these to the anchor/rappel station on the ledge above, left of the prow (or just head left directly to the anchors on scruffier rock).

Pinnacle Crack, 5.9+, 65 m, 3 pitches, trad
(Cleaned and bolted by Randy Kielbasiewicz and Graeme Taylor, Victoria Day weekend, May, 2015; FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Jon Gullett, Danielle Johnson, Stefan Kloppenborg, Danylo Darewych, May 22, 2016).

This route climbs a crack system that runs almost the full length of the pinnacle.

• Pitch 1, 5.7, 22 m. Start in the pit at the base of the pinnacle at the main crack system. Climb the easy rock to the right of the crack (painted bolt) by-passing the loose blocks in the lower part of the crack. Gain the crack above the blocks and continue up the crack over a slight overhang to easier-angled rock above. Belay at a two bolt anchor left of the crack.

• Pitch 2, 5.9+, 18 m. Continue up the crack system through a tricky chimney/roof section to a 2 bolt belay/rappel anchor on the right face of the pinnacle.

• Pitch 3, 5.8, 25 m. Continue up the crack system as it angles up and to the right, but before it ends traverse left and up past a bolt to the arête. Step around the arête onto the front face of the pinnacle. Climb to the top of the pinnacle (past 2 more bolts) to a two bolt belay/rappel anchor.

Descent: 55 metre rap to the ground on the right side of the pinnacle.

Gear: Up to a #4 Camalot.

Randy Kielbasiewicz squirming up the 2nd pitch of the *Pinnacle Crack*, May 22, 2016.

Above: The left side of the Big Wall with *Dirtfest* marked on the left and the first pitch of *The Hummingbird and the Worms* heading right and the *Caterpillars and Sarcophagae* splitting off up and to the left. The Pinnacle is visible on the left (*Dirtfest* ends at its summit), as is the second pitch of *Pinnacle Crack*. *Nose Job* and *Rhinoplasty* climb the Nose (the left skyline) to the top of the Pinnacle.

Dirtfest, **5.6, 70 m, 2 pitches, trad**
(FA Danylo Darewych, Randy Kielbasiewicz, September 6, 2015)

Located towards the left end of the Big Wall. Start left of the big pine at the base of *The Hummingbird and the Worms.*

• Pitch 1, 5.6, 50 m. Climb up and left onto a dirty ledge with a clump of saplings on it, step up a crack with birches, then trend left and up a grassy ramp to the base of a right-facing corner. Climb up the easy-angled corner, stepping onto a 2-3 grassy ledges and by-passing a large bush on the right. Pull on a big block at the top of a final short corner crack and step onto the top of a large pyramidal formation. Gear belay (look for a crack just below the far side of the pedestal). Long slings essential. Double ropes useful.

• Pitch 2, 5.6, 20 m. Step down to your left from the belay onto a wide, grassy/bushy ledge and traverse left to the pinnacle at the left edge of the cliff. Climb up the notch behind the pinnacle to an airy stance at its top. Two bolt belay/rappel anchor. 55 m rappel to the ground.

Randy's Bolted Line: Being put in on the steep face between *Caterpillars* and *Dirtfest.*

Caterpillars and Sarcophagae, 5.9, 135 m, 6 pitches, trad
(FA Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, July 3, 2018; FFA Mark Hurst, Cynthia Chung, Fang Lu, July 4, 2026)

This route climbs a system of chimneys and corners on the left side of the Big Wall, left of *Hummingbird and the Worms*.

• Pitch 1, 5.5, 50 m. Climb the first pitch of *Hummingbird and the Worms* to the

The route of the *Caterpillars and the Sarcophagae*. Photo by Mike Grainger, July 3, 2018.

big pine tree. Two bolt belay.

• Pitch 2, 5.9, 10 m. Climb straight up from the big pine (stem off it, if needed), then up the slightly overhanging, awkward, thin flake/crack (this section was aid climbed on the FA). Exit awkwardly through a small birch to gain a tiny alcove and belay on gear.

• Pitch 3, 5.8, 20 m. Traverse left for 5 m along a narrow ledge, squeezing past a birch (there is a crack for pro within reach on the far side of the tree) to the chimney system proper. Climb up two chimney sections, one after the other (back on one side, feet on the other), pulling over an overhang on positive holds in each one to a gear belay on a ledge above.

• Pitch 4, 5.6/5.7, 22 m. Step right from the belay and climb a short, slabby step to a ledge. Climb onto two stacked boulders at the base of the corner on the left and pull around the corner. Continue along the corner for 4-5 m, then traverse right carefully for 5 m across a slabby face (no pro) and then head up on small edges to a small belay stance just down and right of a clump of small birches in front of a corner crack (sling the birches and place a cam in the crack behind the foot of the birches for a belay).

• Pitch 5, 5.6, 15 m. Squeeze past the clump of birches and climb up the corner crack behind them, then up over easier ground and some grassy ledges to belay ledge with a small tree on the left underneath a small lip (gear belay).

• Pitch 6, 5.9, 18 m. Climb up the corner/crack above the belay stance (swinging

onto the arête in one spot), then continue up the vegetated groove above that widens to a squeeze chimney at the top. Exit the chimney with difficulty through juniper and scramble up to a small but sturdy pine to belay. Three bolts were added in 2021 to protect the upper groove/chimney (it was very run-out when first climbed by Mike).

The Hummingbird and the Worms, 5.8, 135 m, 5 pitches, trad
(FA: Pitch 1 – Danylo Darewych, Stefan Kloppenborg, Oct. 11, 2014; FA: Whole Route – Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, August 26, 2015).

Located towards the left end of the Big Wall. Look for the lone big pine tree growing on a ledge, 4 m above the base of the cliff.

Route photo of the first three pitches of *The Hummingbird and the Worms*. The dotted line is *Iron Butterfly.*

• Pitch 1, 5.5, 50 m. Start just to the right of the big pine and head up and right along a line of weakness towards another lone large pine growing out of the cliff. Belay off two bolts behind the tree. (You can make one 30 m rappel to the ground from two bolts with maillons 3 m to the right along the ledge).

• Pitch 2, 5.6, 20 m. Start up a crack to the right of the pine and head up and right towards a clump of small birches. Belay at the sturdier, highest birch (back up the belay with gear; I'm not sure I would trust this tree to rappel from).

• Pitch 3, 5.7?, 15 m. Step up onto the ledge above the birch, make an awkward move up to a corner that is overgrown by a large juniper bush, sling a hanging branch of the juniper, step under it to its right side, then grovel up on/through/in the juniper (a rather unique experience*) to regular rock climbing above and a belay at a large pine on a large ledge. Empty the juniper needles from your shirt and underwear. (You can make an angling rappel down to the initial belay pine from this ledge; there is webbing with a maillon on the pine).

• Pitch 4, 5.8, 37 m. Walk up left along the ledge 5 m to a corner below a large chimney with a couple of large blocks stuck in it. Climb the initial, wider part of the chimney (8 m; awkward, but decent pro; little pyramids of icky bird guano at the base, mostly avoidable) pulling up over the blocks until you can step out of the chimney onto a large platform on the left. Climb the sloping rock ramp on the left side of the chimney, then up a final dirty, vegetated, poorly protected 10 m groove to a belay tree at its top.

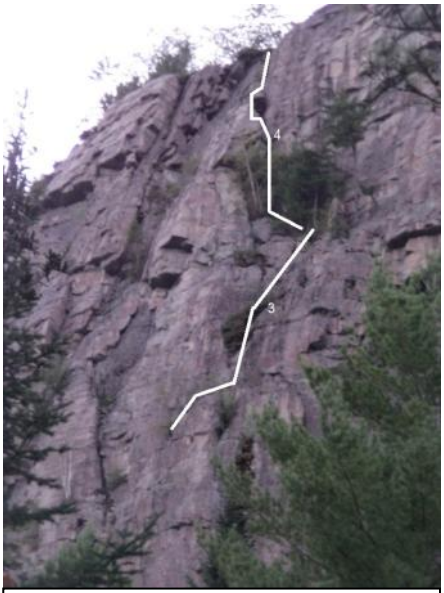
The chimney is the technical crux of the climb, the vegetated groove is the psychological crux (Mike excavated a placement under the dirt near the base of the

* Mike led this without any trepidation. He assured me that the juniper would be plenty strong - he once almost burned out the clutch on his car trying to uproot a juniper. *Unfortunately, the juniper appears to have died.* Not sure how this affects the climb.

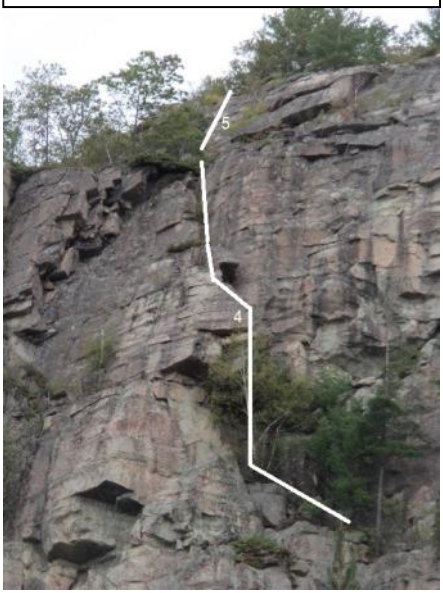
groove for an old-size #5 Camalot – the new #5 was too small – then slung a spindly, unsturdy birch halfway up, and finally found a decent nut near the top).

• Pitch 5, 5.1, 15 m. Scramble easily up to the top and belay off a big oak tree. NB. It looks like you can make an airy, scary, exposed traverse left under a large roof from the end of the belay ledge at the top of pitch 3. There is a thin crack for fingers and gear under the roof. Not sure what's around the corner though. You can also make a big long 30-40 m traverse right along the ledge. This would place you above the big arch/roof feature on your right, but it looks like there is still a smaller roof above. It might be possible to continue traversing even further right around the next corner to reach slightly easier-angled, more broken ground above.

Rappel/descent: The best descent option is probably to walk up to the top of the Big Wall and then climber's left to the top of the Community Wall to rappel down it (a 70 m rope or 2 60 m ropes needed). Other descent/rappel options are to descend down the 3.5 Gully, rappel down the Buddies Wall, rappel down *Northern Exposure*, or walk down Bec's TTT.



Above and below: Route photos of *The Hummingbird and the Worms*.



Iron Butterfly, 5.9, 29 m, 14 bolts plus bolted anchors
(FA Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, Sept. 1, 2025)

Located on the face below the large pine at the top of pitch one of *The Hummingbird and the Worms.* Approach this wandering bolted route with a trad attitude. Bring several alpine draws (including a double length sling) and use them liberally. Back cleaning the draws on the first, fourth and furthest left bolt on the upper section will keep rope drag tolerable.

The route starts with a rising traverse to the left, then heads back right, up a bit, moves to the left again, then finishes with a traverse rightward under juniper branches to top out at the right end of the ledge at the end of pitch one of *Humminbird and the Worms*. The route is engaging from the start with interesting moves throughout. A few reachy moves may challenge shorter climbers. *MG*

Descent: Rappel from the rappel station (bolts with quicklinks) located 3 m to the left, next to the big pine. You can easily walk over to this station. There are plans to continue this bolted line to the top of the cliff.

Left of centre on the Big Wall lies a large recess with a prominent arch/roof (that sits half-way up the face) and a wide chimney to its right. One big line heads all the way up this face and one short, aborted line lies at its base.

Tidbit, 5.8, 15 m, trad
(FA Mike Grainger, August, 2018).

Start about 15 m left of the main left-facing corner of the recess below a vaguer series of blocks/corners. Watch for poison ivy at the base. We tried to climb the weakness up the right margin of the blocks, but they proved to be big, loose and scary, so we climbed a thin seam to their right until it petered out and then mantled awkwardly onto a small ledge with a two-bolt anchor, from which we bailed. Ball-nuts recommended. *DD*

Northern Exposure, 5.11c, 129 m, 5 pitches, mixed (trad and bolts)
(FA Mike Shepitka, Colin Shepitka, July 17, 2021)

This 5 pitch route takes you up a striking line and to the highest point on the cliff. Start 2 m right of Tidbit or 10 m left of the wide chimney that marks the right side of the recess.

• Pitch 1, 5.8, 15 m, trad. Start at a left-facing corner/crack system. Climb up the crack and traverse left to anchor at top. Two bolt anchor with carabiners.

• Pitch 2, 5.11c, 32 m, all bolted (14 bolts). Follow the bolts. Trend up and right along bulges on small holds, then straight up over easy ground to a crux. It is possible to aid through the crux on the bolts). Continue right up a detached flake, then back left to a harder crux at a small roof right before the anchors below a big roof. Rappel anchors (although not part of rappel route).

• Pitch 3, 5.10c, 22 m, mostly trad with two bolts. Step left from the anchor into a right-facing corner crack with good gear and pull the roof (poor gear; sling the suspect horn-like block), then traverse left and up to a bolt and climb easy ground to a big ledge with rappel anchors on left of a big pine.

• Pitch 4, 5.10c, 40 m, all bolted (16 bolts). Climb up the right side of a pinnacle to its top, step onto the face and climb straight up a slab with small holds, then traverse up and left to a big chimney (pitch 4 of Hummingbird and the Worms). Step across the chimney, then back on the main face and then head up and to the right on small edges to a small ledge. Rappel anchors. NOTE: be mindful of rope drag as this pitch wanders, use of extendable slings necessary.

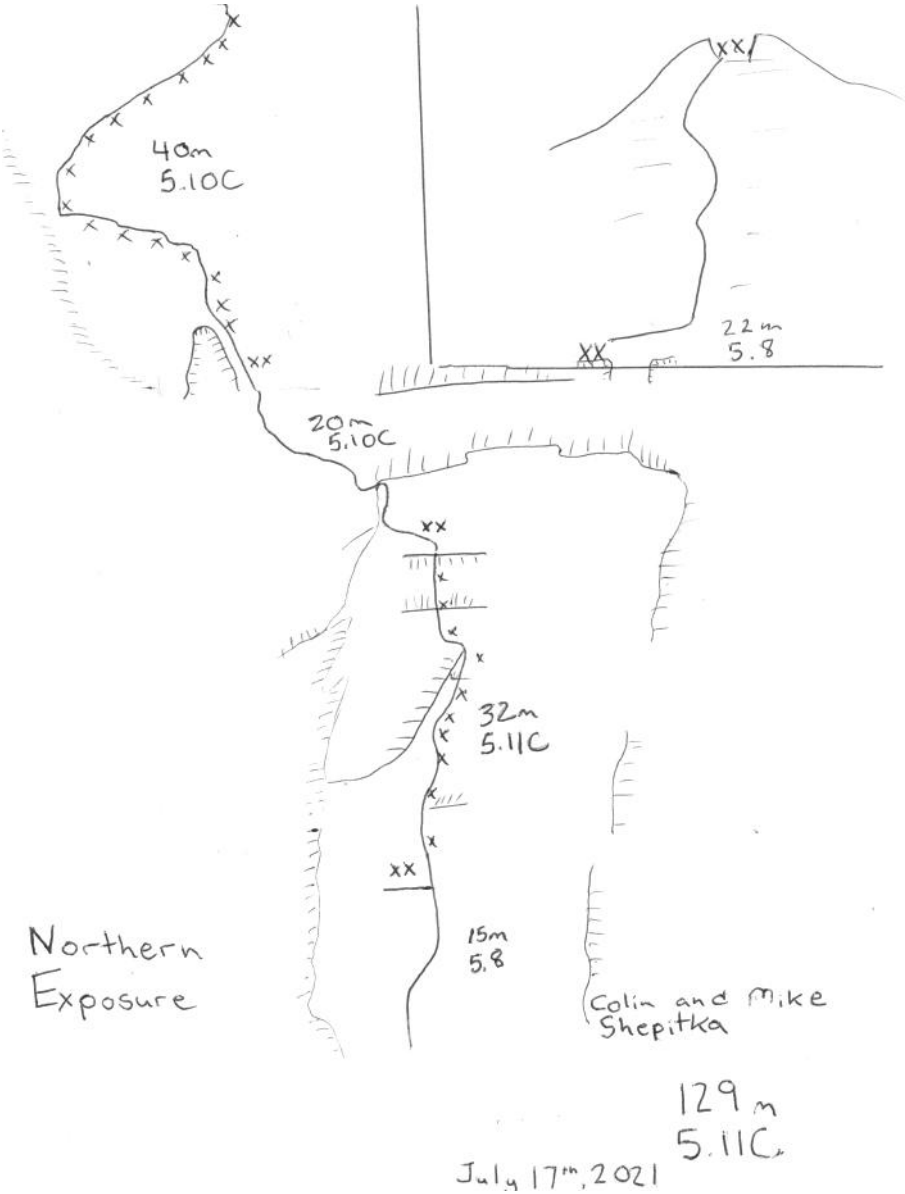
• Pitch 5, 5.8, 20 m, mostly trad with 1 bolt. Traverse right to a bolt, then up, trending right to a notch at the high point of the Big Wall. Sparse gear on easy terrain.

Rack: Single rack of nuts and cams from 0.2 to #4.

Rappel: The route can be rappelled with two 70 m ropes. Rappel from the top of the route to the top of the third pitch on the big treed ledge. From the big treed ledge rappel to the ground.

If you do not feel like trailing two ropes all the way to the top, you can leave one on the big treed ledge at the top of pitch three and do two single 70 m rope rappels from the top of the route to the top of pitch 4 and then to the top of pitch 3. There you can pick up your second rope and do one rappel to the ground on two 70 m ropes. Ropes are known to get stuck while rappelling.

Other descent/rappel options are to rappel down the Buddies Wall, descend down the 3.5 Gully, do two 70 m rope rappels down the Community Wall or walk down Bec's TTT. *CS, MS*


40m
5.10C
22m
5.8
20m
5.10C
32m
5.11C
15m
5.8
Northern
Exposure
Colin and Mike
Shepitka
129m
5.11C
July 17th, 2021

Buddies Wall

The next routes are located on a steep face/buttress, dubbed the Buddies Wall by Nate and Gus, located just right of a wide chimney. There are now 10 red-tagged projects/routes on this wall.

Gus's Project. *CLOSED PROJECT. PLEASE DON"T CLIMB.*
Located just left of *Co-ed Slumber Party*.

Co-ed Slumber Party, 5.11ish, ?? m
(FA Nathan Kutcher, Rebecca Lewis, Sept. 29, 2019).
Located just left of *Say You're Sorry*.

Going All the Way, 5.13-, ?? m
CLOSED PROJECT. DON'T CLIMB.
The second pitch of *Co-ed Slumber Party*.

Say You're Sorry/Jenga, 5.12ish, 70 m??, 2 pitches, bolted
(FA Nathan Kutcher, Rebecca Lewis, Sept. 29, 2019).
• Pitch 1, Say You're Sorry, 5.12ish, 35 m. Up to big ledge.
• Pitch 2, Jenga, 5.11+/5.12-, 35 m?.

Above: Nathan Kutcher leading *Say You're Sorry*. Below Nathan Kutcher leading *Co-Ed Slumber Party,* Sept. 29, 2019. Photos by Rebecca Lewis, from ontarioclimbing.com.

Impure Thoughts, 5.8 A1, 105 m, trad (FA Stefan Kloppenborg, Danylo Darewych, June 12, 2016).

Follows a line of weakness/right-facing corner system right of the Buddies Wall or 25 m left of *WFG*.

• Pitch 1, 5.7, 20 m. Climb the left-angling crack that starts behind some trees into the corner and up to a small ledge. Gear anchor and 1 bolt.

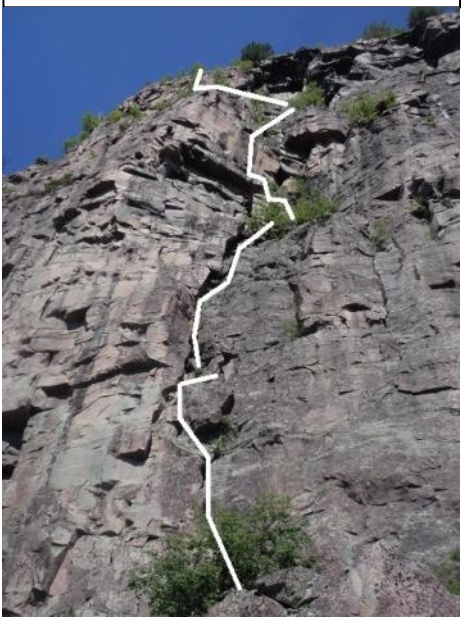
• Pitch 2, 5.8/5.9, 25 m. Climb the awkward squeeze chimney in the corner, step right under a lip and continue up the face (3 bolts), just to the right of a wide crack formed by big suspended flakes, to a ledge with a birch tree. Two bolt anchor (with rap rings).

• Pitch 3, 5.8 A1, 20 m. Gain a short ledge 3 m above the belay stance on its right side, traverse left 4 m across the ledge and step/pull up left to a small stance below a smooth 6 m vertical face split by a very thin crack with one bolt up high. Climb the crack to a ledge (Stefan aid-climbed the crack; I pulled on the gear. 5.10+ free?). Continue up over another block/lip to a higher ledge with trees on its far right side. Two bolt rappel anchors.

Note: There is a more direct line above the second belay that goes up a narrow squeeze chimney with a roof and pod above. We took a look at it, but the squeeze chimney was slightly wet (it had rained the night before) and protection looked hard to find. There is a small seam on the inner right face of the chimney that might take gear (bring knife-blade pitons for the lower part, if you attempt it). There is a stuck #4 Camalot in the upper chimney above the roof, as a result of a mistake made on rappel.

• Pitch 4, 5.6, 34-40 m. Step right from the anchors and then traverse up and left along several blocks/ ledges for 15 m (be careful of loose rock along ledges). At the last big ledge step around a corner onto the front face. Traverse left, staying low at first (watch out for loose

Stefan Kloppenborg on the aid section of the 3rd pitch of *Impure Thoughts,* June 11, 2016. Below: Route photo of *Impure Thoughts*.



blocks above), then head up and slightly left for another 20 m past a couple of small birches to a gear belay at a big ledge at the top. You need to step up onto some suspect looking flakes along the way (but they never moved when I did so) and solid gear is a bit sparse. Rope drag was quite fierce. It might be preferable to split this pitch in two at the large ledge before stepping around onto the front face or to forego it altogether.

Rappel: We walked right along the top ledge to a big pine 14 m to the right and rappelled from it (red webbing and maillon) down to the anchors at the top of pitch 3 (around 35 m). It might be possible to rappel straight to the ground from the pitch 3 anchors (but we didn't test that theory) and rappelled down to the anchors at the top of pitch 2 instead, and then made one final 45 m rappel to the ground.

Gear: A set of nuts and a double set of cams, including at least 1 #4 and preferably 1 #5. Two ropes (you'll need a second rope for the rappels).

Sea of Years, 5.11d, 66 m, bolted
(with pitch 4/5 of WFG 120 m)
FA Colin & Mike Shepitka, September 2025

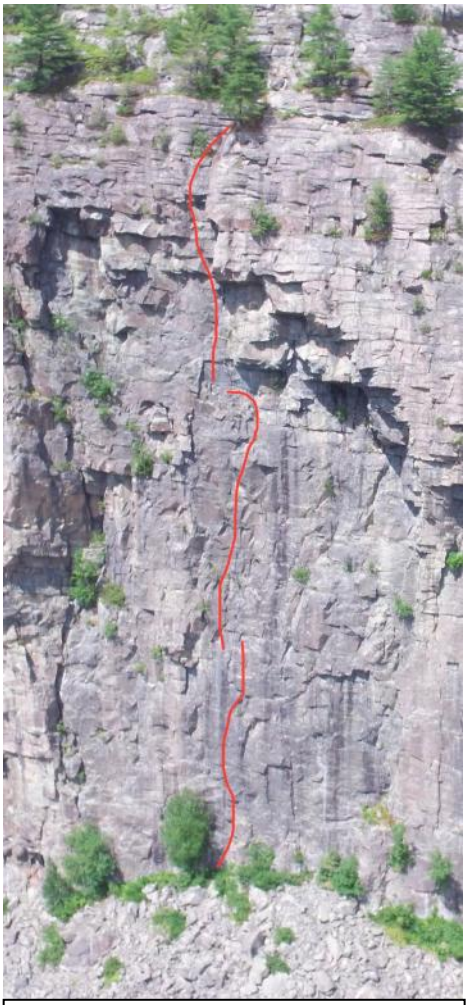
Climbs uA must climb route for the grade, some of the best rock on the cliff. Very well protected and safe. Use a stick clip.

- Pitch 1, 5.11b, 34 m, 12 bolts. Start 2 m right of the birch tree, easy climbing leads to a well protected tricky crux. Ring anchors.
- Pitch 2, 5.11d, 32 m, 12 bolts. Some hollow rock to the left of the first bolt, impeccable rock on the rest of the pitch, follow the open book to the anchors of *Weak Fat and Gimpy*. *CS*

Weak, Fat and Gimpy,* 5.10+, 120 m
(Pitches 1-3: Randy Kielbasiewicz, Danylo Darewych, June 28, 2015; Whole Route: Randy Kielbasiewicz, Graeme Taylor, September? 2016).

Climbs a prominent left-turning arch in the centre of the cliff. It is located 8-10 m left of *NCfOM* or about 25 m left of *Northern Etiquette*. Look for a large block with a wide-ish crack behind it at the base of the cliff and a leftward arching corner/roof system above.

- Pitch 1, 5.10+, 30 m. Climb up the crack on the left side of the block onto a ledge, then follow thin crack features up and slightly right (beware a long hollow



Sea of Years and the 4th pitch of *WFG*.

* Randy had a gimpy shoulder and I'm simply weak. We'll let you decide who is fat.

-sounding flake on your right 13 m up; we pulled on it, but don't put pro behind it) to a stance below some small birches. Mostly 5.7/5.8 climbing except for one cruxy 2 move sequence (where you can pull on gear). Two bolt belay.

• Pitch 2, 5.9, 22 m. Step left from the belay and up (left of block above), then layback along a leftward-arching flake system to a belay at its end. Big cams needed (up to three #4s and a #5). Two bolt anchor.

• Pitch 3, 5.5, 14 m. Traverse left across small ledges (awkward, balancy move) and bulges, angling up slightly towards the end. Three bolts and gear for protection along the way. Two bolt belay and rappel anchor. From here it is a 58 m rappel to the ground.

Pitch 1 of *Weak, Fat and Gimpy* with Randy at the belay and Jon Gullett halfway up, May 25, 2016.

• Pitch 4, 5.10+, 24 m. Two possible starts from belay: go right from the belay (one bolt, 5.10+) or left (5.8, bolts). Both starts converge on grassy ledge, below a series of small lips/roofs. There is one bolt above the ledge and fixed nut in the first lip. Continue up crack line above, until blocked by last roof. Climb up and right to anchors, stopping under a series of roofs.

• Pitch 5, 5.5, 30 m. From the belay climb up the short slab (poor gear) to a grassy ledge and follow groove to the top of the cliff. *DD RK*

No Country for Old Men, 120 m, 4 pitches
(Gus Alexandropoulos PROJECT, ***Please don't climb yet.***).

Starts about 4 m left of *Unnamed*. There is a small clump of birches 3 m up with a bolt to the right of them.

• Pitch 1, 45+ m, 21 bolts plus anchors.

• Pitch 2, 45+ m, 21 bolts plus anchors and I may add another bolt in one section.

• Pitch 3, 20 m, 8 bolts plus anchors. The third pitch is significantly easier, but the distance between bolts is much greater (easy sections).

• Pitch 4, 10 m, 3 bolts plus anchors. The fourth pitch has very easy, low-angle climbing.

Unnamed Project - *DON'T CLIMB.*
(Randy Kielbasiewicz, Graeme Taylor, Daunte Rezaie, May 13, 2017).

Unnamed starts about 12 m left of the start of *Northern Etiquette* (left of the big pine tree) and crosses over *NE* at the Lunch Ledge.

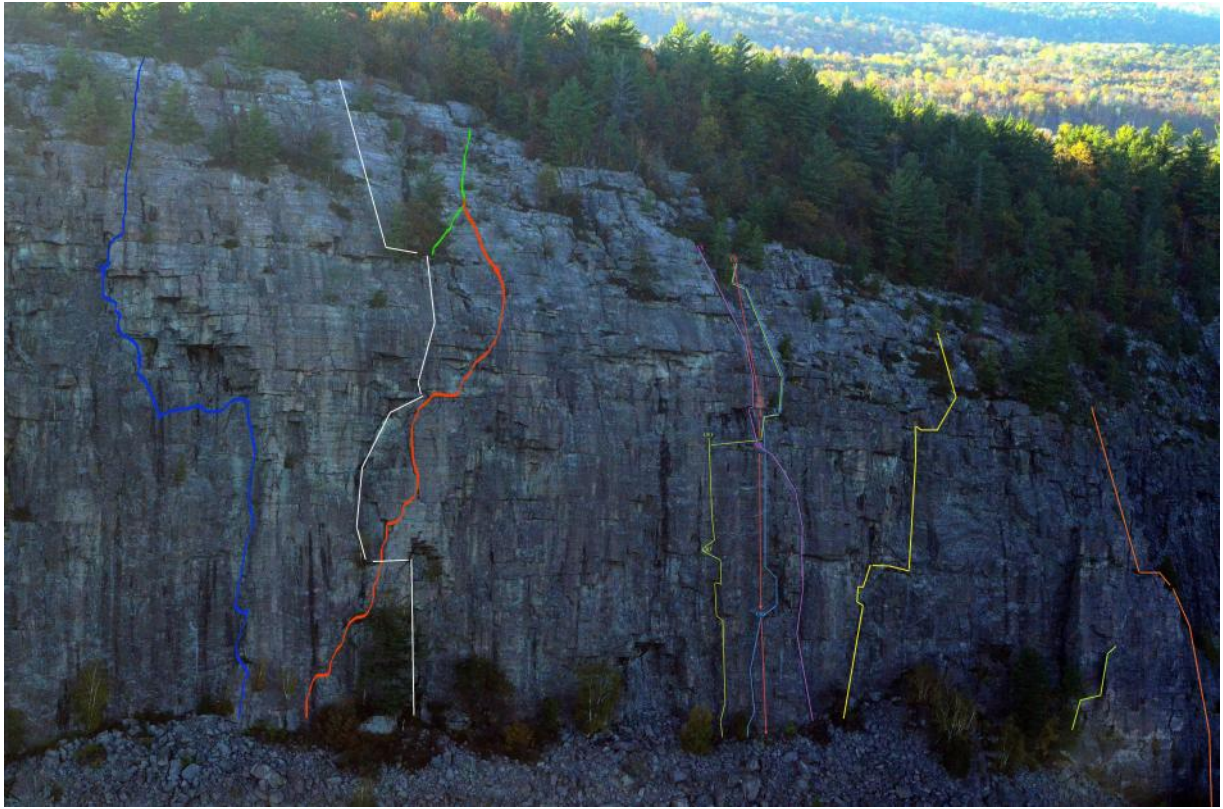
- Pitch 1, 5.11 (or 5.8 A1), 34 m. Start at a shallow left facing corner with a clean crack. Climb the crack for 3 m, move up and right across on a ledge system to a bolt, then make hard moves up past two more bolts. A few more moves lead to a ledge system. Move to its far right side and follow a finger crack right of the gully to the anchors on Lunch Ledge.
- Pitch 2, 5.10-, 33 m. Climb the acute corner just right of the anchors, swing right around the arête and follow a crack system past a 3 m rightwards traverse. Thrash, squirm and bleed up the offwidth. From its end, climb a short left-facing corner to a small roof, step right onto the face, climb up to the anchors on the Party Ledge. It would be best to traverse to the anchors on the far right side of the Party Ledge (on the other side of the big block).

Note: Don't get sucked into the horrible final groove of death blocks (before you swing right onto the face). They suck.

- Pitch 3, 5.9, 32 m. From the ledge, climb past three bolts, traverse right under the roof until you can pull around it. Climb through the groove and swim your way up the slab to anchors.
- There are another 35 m of easy slab to the top, if you wish. *RK*

The start of *Unnamed*.

A) *Pinnacle Crack* B) *Dirtfest* C) *Hummingbird and the Worms* D) *Caterpillars and Sarcophagae* E) *Tidbit* F) *Northern Exposure* G) *Say You're Sorry/Jenga* H) *Co-Ed Slumber Party* I) *Gus's Project??* J) *Impure Thoughts* K) *Weak, Fat and Gimpy*. L) *No Country for Old Men* M) *Unnamed (dotted) N) Northern Etiquette* O) *Welcome to the Gunshow*. I have placed question marks where I'm not sure of the route location.



Blue - *Weak, Fat and Gimpy,*. Red - *Randy's Unnamed project*. White - *Northern Etiquette*. Green - original last pitch to *Northern Etiquette*. Not Marked - *Welcome to the Gunshow.* Green - *Lord of the Flies.* Red - rappel route. Blue - *Conspiracy Theory.* Purple - *The Disruptor.* Yellow - *Too Cheap for Principles/Shattered Illusions*. Green short route - *Stop and Go.* Orange - *Stop While You're Ahead*. OO=Rings XX=Bare bolt hangers.

Northern Etiquette, 5.9+, 150 m
(FA of complete route Randy Kielbasiewicz, Graeme Taylor, May 17, 2015; First 3 pitches – Randy Kielbasiewicz, Chrys Lovett-Doust, Oct. 19, 2014).

Located in the middle of the Big Wall, right of a big pine.

• Pitch 1, 5.8, 22 m. Start under an arch (20 m up) right of the big pine. Follow the crack system straight up to a bolt belay in a niche under the left side of the arch. Be careful of loose rock in the last 5 m.

• Pitch 2, 5.5, 8 m. Step left around prow, then down 1 m and traverse left across a line of holds. Then back up to a ledge (Lunch Ledge). Two bolt belay.

• Pitch 3, 5.8, 35 m. Step to the left end of the ledge and climb up right facing corner, then right trending flake system to a large roof. Climb straight right 5 m to anchors on a ledge (the Party Ledge). Watch for loose rock on this pitch. From the Party Ledge it is 55 m to the ground.

• Pitch 4, 5.9+, 20 m. From the belay step left 3 m and follow bolts up and right, turn the visor at the flake, and climb up and left to large pine. Belay off tree.

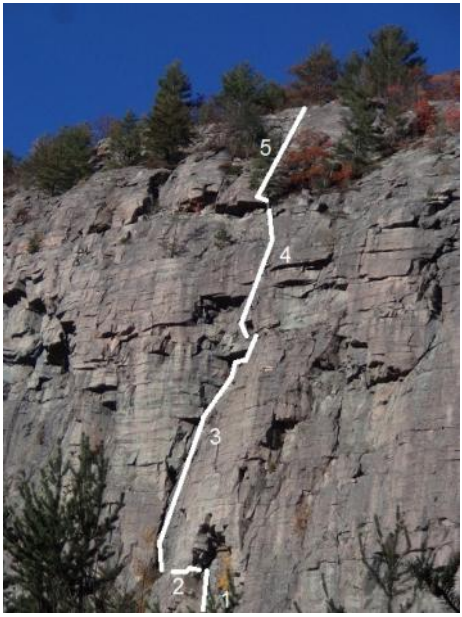
• Pitch 5, 3rd class, 15 m. Walk up grassy ridge and belay at its end at a tree.

• Pitch 6, 5.0-5.3, 50 m. Wander up easy angled slab to the top. *RK*

• Alternate Ending: Pitch 5, 5.7, 27m (Randy Kielbasiewicz, Graeme Taylor, Dan Bandrowski, Danylo Darewych, October 16, 2015). Preferable to the original finish. Step up from the belay tree at the top of pitch 4, make a tricky, balancy move protected by a bolt to a crack on the left, climb the short crack, and then head up over slabby ground to the top. Bolt/rappel anchors.

Rappel: In theory, it is possible to rappel all the way down from the top with a 60 m rope. We haven't tested this theory to see how the rope pulls.

Above: Randy Kielbasiewicz leading the first pitch of *Northern Etiquette*, on the second attempt on May 3, 2015.
Below: The line of *Northern Etiquete* showing pitches 2-5 (alternate ending).



Welcome to the Gunshow, 5.9++, 97.5 m, 5 pitches, trad
(FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Rafael Kolodziejczyk, Graeme Taylor, June 11, 2016).

Start about 10 m right of *Northern Etiquette* at an oak tree.

• Pitch 1, 5.10, 20 m. Grovel up to a roof. Continue up the steep left facing corer. Houdini type moves past another clean corner lead left around a roof to a belay ledge and anchors (rings).

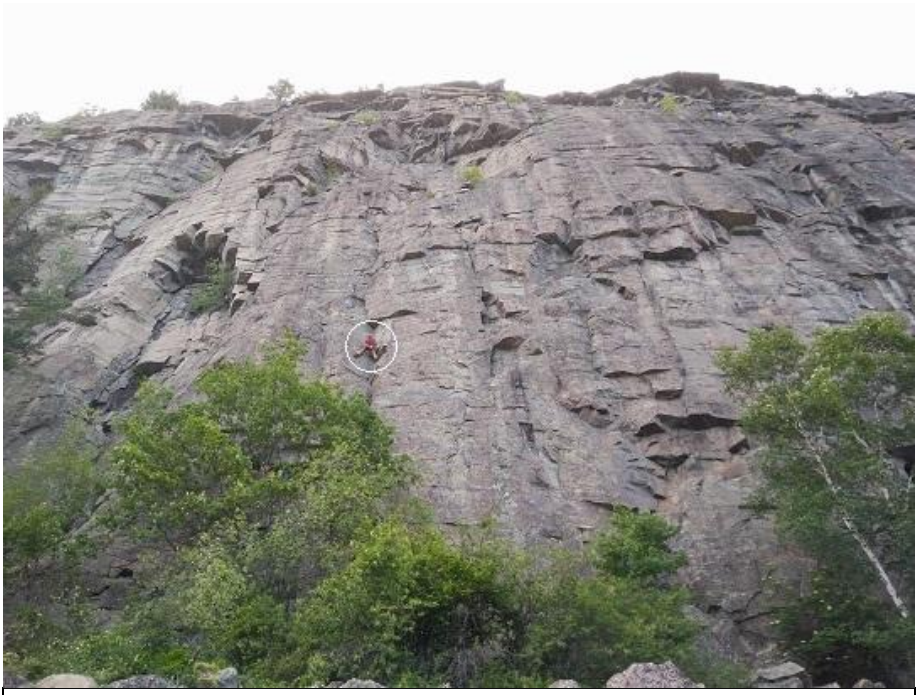
• Pitch 2, 5.8+, 22.5 m. Climb up and squirm through a chimney (bolt). Kiss both biceps and state "Welcome to the gun show" in your most Polish accent. Fire the layback and move right to another ledge. Climb right a few metres and follow a short left-facing corner to anchors at a big ledge.

• Pitch 3, 5.10, 15 m. Battle raccoons for ledge space by throwing raccoon pooh back at them. Move right and climb across a slab (bolts) pulling on draws when your partner isn't looking. Belay at a wide narrow ledge covered in marijuana plants. Bring a BD C4 #2 or equivalent. 50 m rappel to the ground.

• Pitch 4, 5.9, 28 m. Start with a couple of hard moves up the face, then wander past the occasional bolt to a roof, scary moves over the roof past a flake. Leads to easier climbing to anchors on a ledge.

• Pitch 5, 5.2, 12 m. Wander up easy slabs avoiding islands of shrubbery to a ledge with tree and slings on it. *RK*

Warning: Apparently the pine tree at the top of the last pitch is now dead.



Above: Rafael Kolodziejczyk on *Welcome to the Gunshow*. Photo by Graeme Taylor.

The next set of 4 routes is located on the middle-right side of the Big Wall, right of *Welcome to the Gunshow.*

Left to right: *No Country for Old Men* (red), *Northern Etiquette* (orange), *Welcome to the Gunshow* (black), *Lord of the Flies* (yellow), *Conspiracy Theory* (blue), *Disruptor* (purple). Photo and route lines by Nathan Kutcher and Randy Kielbasiewicz.

Colin and Mike's Project (*Please don't climb)*
(Colin Shepitka, Mike Shepitka)

Located just left of *Lord of the Flies.*

- Pitch 1, 5.11d, 20 m, 11 bolts
- Pitch 2, 5.11a/b, 30 m, 14 bolts
- Pitch 3, 5.10d or 5.11a, 25 m, 10 bolts
- Pitch 4, 5.7, 25 m, 4 bolts

Rappelling from Lord of the Flies, Conspiracy Theory, Disruptor.

It is possible to rappel from the top tree anchor with one 70 m rope. **Do not rap with a single 60 m rope. Do not try rappelling from anchors that do not have rings.** Your rope will get stuck, there is lots of loose rock, you will not be rapping to another anchor and you will probably be left hanging out in space away from the cliff.

From the tree at the top (rope with quicklink) rap down and left to the high set

of ring anchors in the center of the main ledge. Be aware of loose rock on the smaller ledges. From the main ledge rap straight down to the 1st belay of *Conspiracy Theory*. Arriving at the anchor you will probably be hanging in space and need to reach in to clip the anchor. From there rap to the ground. With two 60 m ropes it is possible to rap straight to the ground from the main ledge system.

Nathan Kutcher on the 2nd pitch of *Lord of the Flies*, Sept. 29, 2018. Photo by Rebecca Lewis.

Lord of the Flies, 5.11ish, ~57 m
(FA Nathan Kutcher, Rebecca Lewis, Sept. 29, 2018).

Located 4 m left of *Conspiracy Theory.*

• Pitch 1, 32 m, 15? bolts. Starts off platform. Bouldery 1st moves then climbs easier arête and transitions into dihedral under the roof. The crux is the dihedral and pulling the roof. Don't stray from the arête as there is a lot of loose rock. Belay at a ledge with rings.

• Pitch 2, 25 m, 12? bolts. The second pitch is a little easier. There are rings at the second belay. If going to the top its better to traverse across the main ledge to the far two bolt (no rings) anchor on the far right of the main ledge system. Stick clipping the first bolt is not a bad idea if you don't know where the holds are to the first bolt. Once you know where the holds are, the first moves aren't very difficult. *NK*

Conspiracy Theory, 5.11+ish, ~100 m (Nathan Kutcher, Rebecca Lewis, Sept. 29, 2018).

Located about 10 m left of *The Disruptor.*

• Pitch 1, 30 m, 15? bolts. Power climbing and hard to see holds leads to a shallow techy dihedral. Some longer draws are useful to reduce rope drag. Belay at a stance with two rings.

• Pitch 2, 30 m, 14? bolts. The second pitch is easier and climbs slightly over hanging rock on mostly good holds onto an arête and slab above crossing *The Disruptor* just before the anchors. The 2nd pitch crux is on the slab above the roof and arête. Belay at the two bolt anchor on the far right of the ledge system.

• Pitch 3, 35 m, 14? bolts. Pitch three (10+ish) climbs up and right off the be lay. After pulling the bulge the angle eases off. Belay at the tree anchor (rope with quick link). *NK*

The Disruptor 5.10+/11-ish, ~100 m, 15 bolts + gear to 4"
(Nathan Kutcher, Rebecca Lewis, Sept. 29, 2018).

Located 8 m left of *Too Cheap for Principles.* The first bolt has a brown hanger. The route has a lot of bolts but requires a rack and the knowledge to use it.

• Pitch 1, 60 m. Climb onto a ledge and clip the first bolt. This move is a choke point and if stick clipping the first bolt is required you are probably about to get in over your head. Clip several bolts before the intermittent gear plugging starts. The route follows a vague crack/dihedral system that goes vertical to the big roof then trends left to the ledge system. The crux is changing dihedrals below the big roof. There is also a difficult section pulling the roof. Belay at the low set of bolts (no rings) in the center of the ledge system. Do not belay from the rappel rings above and right. Pitch one is very long at 60 m. I want to go back in put in a belay station to split it, but that hasn't happened yet.

Below: Justin Dwyer being a yoyo on the *Disruptor*. Photo by Rebecca Lewis

• Pitch 2, 40 m. Pitch two starts off the two bolt belay and climbs past several bolts to a roof where the gear plugging starts again. Do not belay off the rings as there is a flake that sticks out from the corner that will likely cut your rope and also the belayer can't see the leader from the rings. The end of pitch two is a bit of a runout dirtfest and ends at a two bolt (no rings) anchor to the left of the dihedral at the top. Traverse right to the tree anchor to rappel. I want to reroute the last bit of this pitch to skip the dirtfest but haven't done so yet. An obvious alternative is to finish on the third pitch of *Conspiracy Theory*. *NK*

Too Cheap for Principles/Shattered Illusions, 5.9, 67 m, 2 pitches
(FA Pitch 1 - Danylo Darewych, Anna Grant, Laura Duncan, October 9, 2016; FA Pitch 2 - Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, July 31, 2017; FA Full route - MG and DD, July 4, 2018. FFA - DD, MG, July 2019).

Start about 15 m left of a small buttress of rock towards the right end of the Big Wall, just right of a couple of trees.

• Pitch 1, 5.9, 24 m. Climb a vague left-facing corner, mantle onto a small grassy ledge, continue up an awkward corner to a stance below a big leftward arcing flake. Climb the flake (solid), step right along its top and then head up a final short corner to a big ledge with a two-bolt anchor (rings).

• Pitch 2, 5.8, 25 m. First move the belay over 10 m right to prevent rope drag: traverse right along the ledge, stepping down to get around a big block, to another set

of anchors. Climb up the crack on the other side of the block for 8-10 m, then continue up more slabby rock past two bolts to the base of a left -facing corner. Pull up out of the corner on a questionable-looking, but apparently well bonded rock and head up left to an adjacent groove. Step right around the corner (bolt) on good holds back to the original corner (bolt) and then up past a small sapling. Continue up to the left, before finally stepping right to a small stance next to a big block (two bolt anchor with rings).

Route photo of *Too Cheap for Principles/Shattered Illusions*. Below: Laura Duncan leading the first pitch of *Too Cheap for Principles.*

• Pitch 3, 5.7, 18 m. From the belay step down 2 m and climb around to the right of the big block (bolt). Make an exposed traverse right (bolt - look up) for 7 m to a left-facing corner (bolt), climb to the top of the corner and step across it to the right to a ledge. Traverse right along the ledge to a pine tree to belay. Or continue to the top through junipers (+15 m).

It's a 62 m rappel to the ground from the pine tree on the ledge (you'll get down on rope stretch, just make sure you grab the end of the rope when removing it from your rappel device).

Big Wall - Right End Pyramid

At the far right end of the Big Wall there is a big pyramidal pinnacle with a very wide, deep chimney up its left side and a treed ramp heading up the right side. You can scramble up the ramp to a big cedar at its top. A number of routes are clustered on this pyramid.

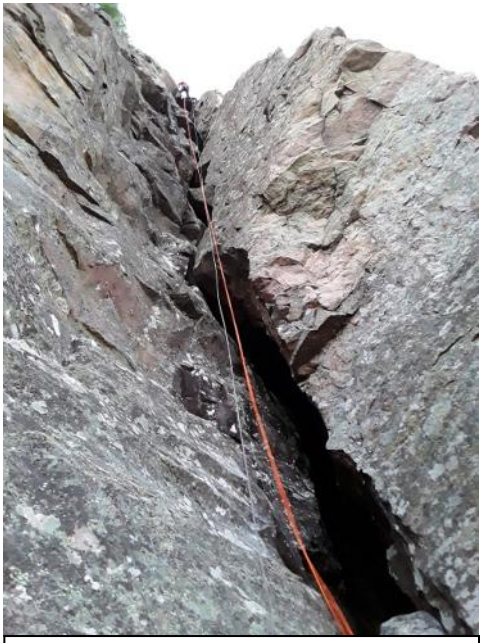
Fear of Balrogs, 5.10+, 57 m, 2 pitches, bolted
(FA Mark Hurst, Ray Rutitis, October 8, 2020)

Scramble up to the base of the chimney on the left side of the pinnacle.*

• Pitch 1, 5.10a, 32 m, 17 bolts plus rappel anchors. Climb the chimney to its top. It's very clean for a chimney, and requires plenty of thought and technique.

• Pitch 2, 10b, 25 m, 9 bolts plus rappel anchors. Climb a slab/corner system, then either go straight up the steep head wall (crux) or escape right. Anchor is high on the back wall behind the big pines.

Note: There are two ledges at the base. You can rap or lower to the upper one with a 60 m rope, the lower one requires a 70 m rope. *MH*



Above: Ray Rutitis rappelling down *Fear of Balrogs*. Photo by Mark H.
Below: *Kyphosis,* drawn by Colin Shepitka.

Kyphosis, 5.11c, 32 m, bolted, 12 draws
(FA Colin Shepitka and Mike Shepitka, August 2021)

Climbs the arête just to the right of the big *Fear of Balrogs* chimney up to a ledge. Ring anchors.

Stop and Go, 5.6, 20 m, trad
(FA Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, August 1, 2017).

Starts on the left side of the big pyramidal pinnacle, right of a big pine tree. Head up easy, broken rock, ledges and blocks to a chimney, then climb the chimney to a stance at the top of a small pinnacle. Two bolt belay (rap rings).

* If you're an inquisitive sort, you can drop a rock down the deep slot at the base of the chimney and listen to it bounce down into the chasm for an impressively long time. But beware - if you wake the Balrog, prepare to "Fly, you fools!"

Left to right: The lines of *Stop and Go, Local Respect*, *Safe Space* (first 2 pitches) and *Stop While You're Ahead* (first pitch).

Local Respect, 5.11a, 50 m, mixed.
FA Colin Shepitka, Dave Zuly, August 2021

Climbs a line left of *Safe Space*. Ring anchors at ledge, double rope rappel to descend. Can be lead in 2 pitches with a gear anchor half way, in which case first pitch is 5.11a, second pitch 5.10c

Safe Space, 5.10-, 55 m, 3 pitches
(FA Randy Kielbasiewicz and Daunte Rezaie, August 2019).

Located just left of *Stop While You're Ahead* on the right side of the big pyramidical feature.

• Pitch 1, 5.8 26 m. Climb a right facing flake to ledge. Follow a leftward diagonal crack until 1.5 m below a large hanging block. Traverse right, mantle and climb up passing 2 bolts. At the 2nd bolt move left and mount the block. Traverse left to a hand crack. Climb it to a belay ledge with rings placed several meters to the right.

• Pitch 2, 5.10- 29 m. Move left from the belay to a vertical seam/crack line. Climb up passing a bolt to a small roof system. Move right into a rounded depression and follow another crack line to a larger roof. Move left around this to a discontinuous crack system depositing you on a large ledge. Rings.

• Pitch 3, 5.6d (dirt), 25 m. From the belay move left to an off-width and climb up the off-width. Above this make an interesting move stepping off a pillar back to the cliff, then wander up filth, slab, death blocks to a two bolt anchor.

Gear to 4”. Rappel the route with one 60 m rope. *RK*

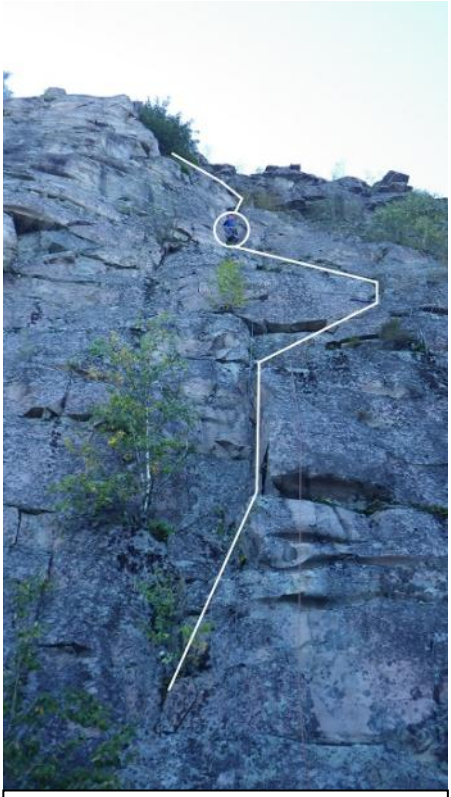
Stop While You’re Ahead, 5.7, 75 m (FA Danylo Darewych, Christian Theoret, Anna Grant, Sept. 30, 2015).

The route climbs the right side of the front face of the pinnacle.

• Pitch 1, 5.7, 30 m (?). Start towards the right side of the front face at the base of a left-facing corner system below a scrawny birch sapling which is on a ledge 5 m up. Climb to the ledge and up the corner (first good pro is rather high), step right and head up some small, stacked blocks to a short right-angling crack, then traverse back left to a steep, wide crack, climb this (#4 Camalot useful) to the ramp and scramble up the final metres of the ramp to a big cedar. Belay/rappel here.

• Pitch 2, 5.4, 45 m (?). Scramble left up scarily loose, boulder strewn ledges to the top of the pyramid (20 m), make an airy step across to the front face, head for the top of the cliff along bigger, slightly more solid blocks. Belay at a big pine. I’d avoid this pitch.*

Rappel: We rappelled off another tree 10 m to the right which put us back at the cedar at the top of pitch 1 (30 m rappel ?) and then made a second rappel down the ramp (32 m).



Above: Danylo Darewych on the upper crack of pitch 1 of *Stop While You’re Ahead*. Photo from Christian Theoret.

* Anna’s comment upon reaching the belay at the top of pitch 2 was: “Why, Danylo, why?”

2.75 Wall

Between the Right Side Pyramid of the Big Wall and the Second Wall lies a talus slope with scruffier, scrappier looking sections of cliff on either side of it. A treed gully (the 2.5 Gully?) heads up to the top of the cliff from the middle of this talus slope. We've never ascended/descended this gully. The 2.75 Wall lies to the left of the treed gully. It is, in effect, a shorter rightward extension of the Big Wall. We never expected to do any climbing on this wall, but we have.

Elephant Seal, 5.8, 56 m, 2 pitches
(FA Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, August 9, 2020*)

At the left end of the talus field, the forest comes close to the base of the cliff. Look for a small stand of birches that grow up to the cliff. The route lies above, along a line of right-facing flakes/chimneys. The route starts 5-7 m uphill, right of the lowest toe of rock, where the lowest flake and the highest birch meet.

• Pitch 1, 5.8, 16 m. Clamber into the slot behind the lowest flake and stem out onto it (back towards the cliff to start) and climb to the top of it. From there step left and make a long reach to a good crack, then make a couple of tricky steps up. Follow easier ground up, to the right of a big block and then step left again onto its front face up to a stance on a small ledge next to clump of small birches. Gear belay (#1, #2 Camalot) in the corner to the left, plus a bolt to the right if needed).

• Pitch 2, 5.7, 40 m. Head up above the bolt for 4 m to a prominent protrusion with what appears to be a chockstone under it (it isn't; it's part of the protrusion), and pull up somewhat awkwardly past a bolt onto the protrusion (#6 C4 helpful). Continue up along the line of weakness into a short chimney-like feature, step left out of it and continue up until faced with a slight bulge. Step left around a corner (bolt) and pull over the bulge (also possible to pull the bulge further right, but harder). Traverse back right 2-3 m and gain the base of an inviting left-trending groove. Follow the groove to its end, then move back right below a small step, pulling out onto it from the right side to a belay at big pine tree (webbing with maillon). The second pitch wanders quite a bit – bring lots of long slings.

Gear: double set of cams to #3, 1 #4, 1 #6 (lots of small cams, including offsets; #6 is comforting, but not absolutely necessary), a set of nuts, ballnuts.

Rappel: Make a 57 m rappel to the ground (two ropes needed) from the big pine at the top of the second pitch, following a good line of solid rock climber's left of the actual climb. Rappelling and pulling ropes down the

First pitch of *Elephant Seal* and start of the second, as viewed from the base.

* I had to aid my way up the initial sections of the first pitch on the day of the FA, because it was sopping wet after rains. However, I had led it cleanly 3 days previously when we first attempted the route. *DD*

actual line will lead to a stuck rope. Alternatively scramble another 40 m up ledges covered with juniper and loose rock to the top of the cliff and pick up Bec's Triple T trail to the base.

Second pitch of *Elephant Seal.* Photo by Graeme Taylor, route marked by Danylo D. and Mike G.

Second Wall

The Second Wall is a generally easier angled, more treed wall. It is some 60 m tall and 100 m long. It was named the Second Wall because it was the second distinct wall along the Eyeball cliff-line when travelling south along the original approach down the base logging road from the north. It is separated from neighbouring walls on both by large talus slopes. The Second Wall is not actually visible from the logging road, even though it's only about 100 m from the road, because there is almost no talus below this section of cliff and the trees grow almost to the base of the cliff. There is no trail leading into the Second Wall from the logging road, but the forest between the logging road and the cliff is quite sparse and easy to walk through. The base of the wall can be quite boggy in the spring.

Routes are described from left to right.

Rafael Kolodziejczyk on *Lazy Day,* Sept. 26, 2015. Photo by Graeme Taylor.

Lazy Day, 5.4, 68 m, 2 pitches
(FA Mike Grainger, Rafael Kolodziejczyk, Graeme Taylor, Sept. 26, 2015).

This route starts near the left end of the Second Wall. Look for a vegetated ramp system leading from left to right to the top of the cliff. Several metres right of the start of the ramp, you will see a wide crack starting at the ground.

• Pitch 1, 50 m. Climb the crack, then follow grooves and cracks on the face below the ramp, generally trending right and avoiding the most fractured rock. Aim for a small open book with roof, making a couple of moves through a small juniper occupying a flake. Dodge left of the un-protectable open book, climbing a large corner to gain a spacious belay ledge. Sling an unimpressive birch clump perched on a mini-ledge at head height for the belay anchor.

• Pitch 2, 18 m. Move further right on the ledge and take a gently rising flake/rock ramp to its top. Make a tricky and poorly protected step up left onto a small sloping ledge. Follow this, then continue up easily several more meters to belay at a large pine. Or avoid the tricky step by continuing up to the right, then up to the top.

Descent: A double 60 m rap might reach the ground, but the lower angle, highly featured top makes pulling the rope risky. Instead, make an angling single rope rap to the top of p. 1, then do a clean rappel on double ropes to the base. Better yet, rappel from the big pine at the top of *Serendipity* 15 m to the right

This route is a good choice for anyone wanting a low commitment introduction to the crag or parties who are pressed for time. The climbing is relaxed, yet enjoyable. *MG*

Mike Grainger on the first pitch of *Serendipity*, May 20, 2016. Bottom: *Double D* (the big jog left is a trick of perspective).

Serendipity, 5.6/5.7, 75 m
(FA Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, May 20, 2016).

Located 25 m right of *Lazy Day* or 20 m left of *Double D*, about 3 m left of a tall pine tree stump near the base of the cliff. Look for a crack in black rock that goes up right of a small pine 4 m up.

• Pitch 1, 28 m. Climb the crack for 4 m, then step right into a corner and up over a block/lip. Continue up and slightly right to a belay at a clump of very small trees.

• Pitch 2, 45 m. Head straight up for 5-6 m, then angle rightwards* over a triangular slab and some loose looking blocks above it (they're mostly solid), mantle/pull onto the left end of a ledge (parallel with a big pine 20 m right) and then head more or less straight up to a big pine at the top of the cliff edge above.

Descent: Rappel a full 60 m from the big pine (maillon on red webbing on branches).

Double D, 5.6, 57 m, trad
(FA Danylo Darewych, Dan Bandrowski, Oct. 17, 2015).

Located at the right end of the Second Wall, just left of the talus slope edge. Start right of a cedar-tree-filled groove at short, cracked slab. Climb up the crack and over a small lip above. Head left and up a small right-facing corner, then back

* I tried going straight up first, but there were some nasty loose blocks up there. I then tried heading left, but there were no possibilities for pro there. *DD*

right and follow a groove/corner to the top over another small overhang at the end. Gear belay on poor gear.

To get to more solid rock for the top belay, it might be preferable to split this route into 2 pitches at a big pine tree off to the left midway up the cliff.

Rappel off the tree anchor of *Serendipity* to the left.

Top: A view of the right end of the Second Wall with the line of *Raging Stokage* drawn in (photo by Raf Kolodziejczyk).

Raging Stokage, 5.9, 35 m, trad (FA Randy Kielbasiewicz, Graeme Taylor, October 17, 2015).

Located at the right end of the Second Wall. Start up on the talus blocks below large right-facing corner with a corner crack. Climb the crack to a ledge 8 m up, then follow bolts (4) interspersed with gear placements over undulating, slabby rock to a top-out on a rounded ledge with anchors.

First Wall

First Wall as viewed from the logging road.

This is the far northern cliff at the Eyeball and the first cliff you see, if you come down the side logging road that runs near the base of Eyeball from the north and the last one you see, if you are coming from the south. It is highest in the middle (50+ m) and peters down at both ends. There is a prominent break/line of weakness in the middle of the First Wall. The left side of the wall has a prominent arch/roof system in the lower half of the face. The right side has a steep wall of good-looking, unbroken, solid, reddish rock with many sport routes on it. The best way to access the top of the First Wall is to use Bec's TTT on the right side of the First Wall, although you can also scramble up the large talus slope at its left end.

The First Wall is the most developed wall at the Eyeball, thanks primarily to the hard work of Colin Shepitka and friends.

There is a clearing/camping site (Colin's Campsite) with benches, campfire and outhouse along the base logging road directly opposite the First Wall. A short 70 m trail, the Tripod Trail, leads from the logging road clearing into the middle of the first wall at the routes *Rampage* and *Naughty and Nice*. A trail also runs at the edge of the forest next to the talus down the whole length of the First Wall. It connects with Bec's Triple T at the north (right) end of the First Wall.

A note on anchors. Most of the sport routes developed by Colin have galvanized (not stainless) permadraws at the anchors, as well as rings. Inspect all permadraws before trusting your life to them. Use the rings, if there is any doubt.

Routes are described from left to right.

Alpha, 5.6, 50 m, trad
(FA Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, July 11, 2014).

This was the first route climbed at the Eyeball, in order to get a feel for the rock. *Alpha* is located at the far left end of the First Wall, 5 m right of the left buttress of the First Wall. Look for a right-trending ramp/line of weakness. Climb the line of weakness up to the right (stepping around some loose-ish blocks) and when the climbing gets steeper above step left to the buttress edge (25 m) and then up easier-angled and more broken rock on the other side of the buttress to a tree belay at the top. Double ropes useful. Rappel from another tree 7 m higher up to the right (cordelette with maillon). One double rope rappel to the base. Or walk down the big talus slope to climber's left.

Left: The line of *Alpha* trends up to the right, then ducks back left below the second set of roofs. Right: *Swedish Candle,* photo by Colin Shepitka.

Stefan Kloppenborg started up a line in a prominent groove about 20 m right of *Alpha*, but it quickly became too steep, dirty and loose, so he retreated. He then walked up the scree slope to the top, rapped down and trundled a bunch of rock. He's since gone back to take a second look and has decided to abandon the project. In addition, in the spring of 2019 several huge blocks of rock fell from the top left side of the groove onto the trail at the base. It's probably best to avoid this groove and the area immediately to its right altogether.

Swedish Candle, 5.10d, 2 pitches, bolted
(Colin Shepitka, Mike Shepitka, May 21, 2022)

The start is located 2 m climber's left of the arch/roof system on the First Wall. Climbs the face left of the arch.

• Pitch 1, 5.10d. Good climbing on good rock

Left: Routes of *Cinquenta* (on left) and *Family Values* (on right).
Right: Route of *Family Values*. Drawn by Colin Shepitka.

• Pitch 2, partially bolted, R/X. The second pitch is composed of very hollow, suspect rock that couldn't be bolted, so the first ascentionist ran it out in two places. You can place gear behind some blocks (.4—2), but some of the blocks are so loose that they move, so it's better not to climb the second pitch. *CS*

Cinquenta, 5.11b, 25 m, bolted (9 bolts)
(FA Mike Shepitka, Colin Shepitka)

Starts right of the cave and left of *Family Values*. Stick clip first bolt, climb up to the crack and left to some exciting face climbing. Permadraws at the anchors. Rappel the route. Do not climb past, dangerous rock and no bolts.

Family Values, 5.10b, 55 m, 2 pitches, bolted, 10 draws
(FA Mike Shepitka, Colin Shepitka, June 2019).

• Pitch 1, 5.10b, 25 m, 8 bolts. Start about 10 m left of *Rampage*. Climb up the crack to the first bolt (crux) traverse right, curse my name and stretch your arms till they come out of their sockets past the crux to technical climbing, before the wall transitions to slab, traverse right and up a slab on small edges and smaller feet then straight up to a bolted belay (rap rings).

• Pitch 2, 5.9+, 30 m, 9 bolts. Start left of the belay up some interesting moves and trend right on an insecure ramp under a roof, clip your last bolt under the roof and move left over an exposed bulge and up the gully to a fun slab section. Finish right on a 2 bolt anchor (rap rings).

Descent: Rappelling from the second pitch anchors will line up perfectly with the anchors of pitch 1 for the descent. *CS*

Hematoma, 5.11 c/d. 20 m, bolted (10 bolts?)
(FA Colin Shepitka, Emerson Foster, October 2025)
Located 5 m right of *Family Values.*

Right of Hematoma, 5.11 c/d. 20 m, bolted (9 bolts)
(FA Colin Shepitka, Emerson Foster, October 2025)
Located 5 m right of *Family Values.*

Rampage, 5.8 A0, 60 m, 3 pitches
(Equipped by Marvin Egner, Laurie Snedeker, with some help from Wade Meade, 2015 to July 16, 2019).

• Pitch 1, 5.7, 22 m, bolted (8 bolts?). Climb up the left leaning ramp that starts 1 m to the left of *Nicer*. Three bolt anchor with quicklinks.

• Pitch 2, 5.6, 15 m, bolted. Follow the line of bolts up to the left over a bulge, then back right up a ramp to a 2-bolt belay (with rap rings) on a ledge next to a tree.

Laurie Snedeker at the start of pitch 1 of *Rampage*, belayed by Abby at the top of the pitch, July 14, 2019.

• Pitch 3, 5.8 A0 (probably 5.9 free), 28 m. Climb up the short, right-facing arête and step left under a roof (tread carefully - there are loose-ish flakes that you step and pull on under the roof). Pull the roof and continue up easier-angled slabs to a two-bolt anchor with chains/rappel rings.

Descent: Make three single-rope rappels back down the route (the first one will be an angling one; or there is a sling with a maillon on a tree 10 m to the right for the first rappel) or down the line *Family Values.*

The Tripod Trail from the logging road comes into the First Wall in front of the routes *Rampage, Nicer* and *Naughty and Nice.*

Nicer, 5.8/5.9, 17 m, trad
(FA Rebecca Lewis, Danylo Darewych, Stefan Kloppenborg, June 12, 2016).
A hard, nicer and more direct variation start to the first pitch of *Naughty and Nice*. Located 7-10 m left of the main groove of *Naughty and Nice.* Climb the crack/tight corner on the left side of a big block, pull up right onto the top of the block and step up to the anchors on the ledge on the right. It's also possible to head left out of the corner near the top, then back right to the top of the block, but there is less pro that way.

Naughty and Nice, 5.7, 50 m, 2 pitches, trad
(FA Rebecca Lewis, Danylo Darewych, Sept. 26, 2015).
Located in the middle of the First Wall, directly opposite from where the Tripod

Left: Rebecca Lewis leading *Nicer*. Right: Rebecca Lewis and Danylo Darewych below *Naughty and Nice*. Photo by Rafael Kolodziejczyk.

Trail comes in. Look for a big break/groove/left-facing corner capped by overhangs. The route follows the left-trending groove and ducks left around the overhangs.

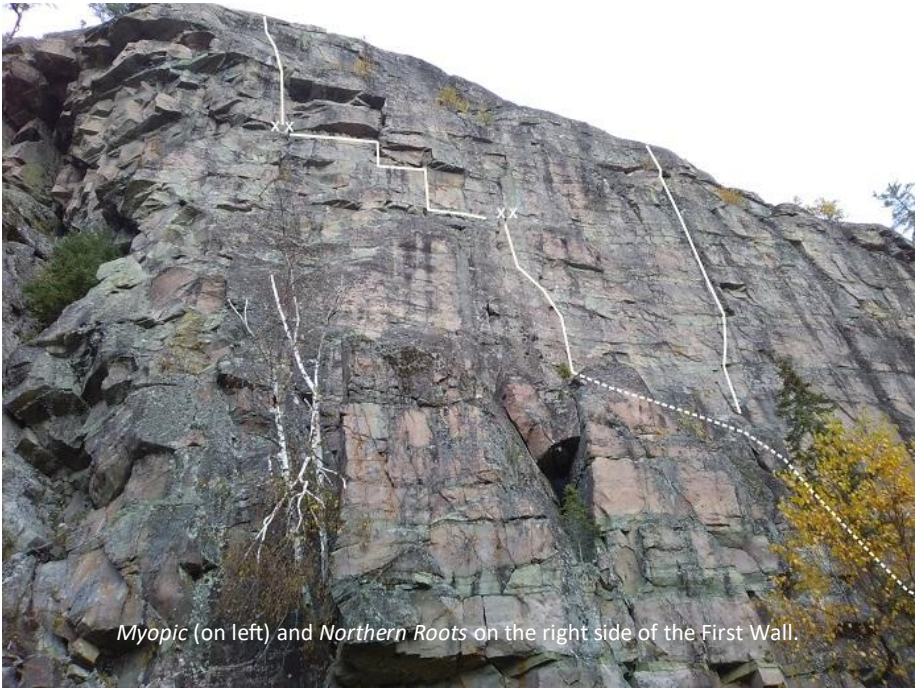
• Pitch 1, 5.6, 20 m. Start on the right side of a big, blocky feature. Climb an initial 5-6 m crack/corner system to a vegetated ledge, then continue up the rock at the left edge of the deeper, larger, vegetated corner to your right to a big ledge at the top of the block. Two-bolt anchor.

• Pitch 2, 5.7, 30 m. Climb straight up from the belay to a slight corner right of a large flake, step left onto the top of the flake, and then up left around the corner (bolt) below the big roofs (sparse, suspect pro in this first section). Follow a crack/left-facing corner system above and then squeeze through a crack on the right onto a large ledge with a big pine for a belay (or continue straight up from the top of the corner on dirtier, chossier rock to the top, if you wish).

Descent. Rappel to the ground from the big pine over the overhang below (webbing with maillon; 45 m, 2 ropes required).

Shortsighted, 5.10b, 25 m, bolted (10 bolts)
(Colin Shepitka, Mike Shepitka, September 28, 2024)

Alternative, direct, first pitch for *Myopic*. Starts right of *Naughty and Nice*, stick clip the first bolt, climb easy terrain to an interesting and satisfying crux. Tread lightly on the hollow blocks that are solid and not removable. Ends at the start of the 3rd pitch of *Myopic*. Rappel on the newly installed rings or climb the 3rd pitch of *Myopic*. *CS*



Myopic (on left) and *Northern Roots* on the right side of the First Wall.

Myopic, 5.10b, 61 m, 3 pitches
(FA Colin Shepitka, Andrew Junkin, August 2019).

Located on the right end of the First Wall, about 25 m right from where the trail hits the talus, just past a detached pillar of rock. Look for a belay pad made of rock.

• Pitch 1, 5.10b, 28 m, 7 bolts. Start to the right of the large detached pillar, scramble up blocks with no protection and follow a ramp into a vertical crux to ledge (2 bolt belay, no rings. Not a rappel).

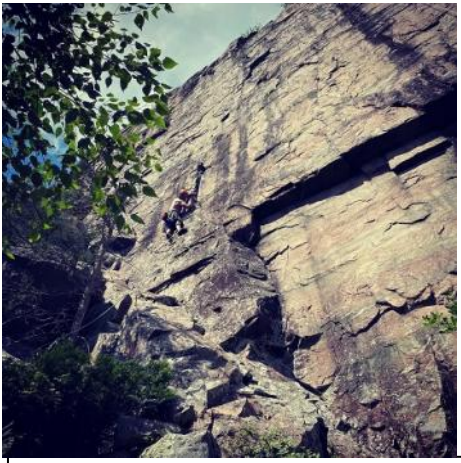
• Pitch 2, 5.9, 15 m, 5 bolts. Traverse directly left on the ledge from the belay to a bolt (slight run out, trad gear can protect, but not necessary) then straight up a left facing corner into a roof, traverse left under the roof to the belay (2 bolt belay with rings).

• Pitch 3, 5.8 18 m, 5 bolts. Climb the left facing corner crack above the belay to a ledge and bolt (right of corner). Make proper use of extensions to minimize rope drag. Climb up and left to a slab and 2 bolt belay at the top of the cliff (not a rappel).

Descent. Climber's left of the belay you will find a tree with webbing and link to rappel 45 m. You will require 2 ropes to rap. Alternatively to the climber's right and up there is a trail (Bec's Triple-T) that connects down to the base of the First Wall, as well as the road. Some bushwhacking is required to get to this trail. *CS*

Northern Roots, 5.12a, 33 m, trad
(FA David Zieleniewski (Zuly), Erin Zieleniewski, August 10, 2020).

Start as for *Myopic*. Clip the first bolt and head straight up on gear into the slot, then straight up until four bolts at the top. Ample good gear on solid clean rock. Bring 1 #3 and a set of double cams from #1 to 0. Anchors at top. *DZ*



Left: David Zieleniewski (Zuly) leading *Northern Roots*. Right: Erin Zielenewski leading *Northern Roots.*

7th day, 5.12a, 20+ m, bolted (10 bolts?)
(FA Mike Penney, Adam Reeve, Sept. 28, 2024)

Located right of *Northern Roots*. Shares a start with *Northern Roots* and *Myopic.* There is also a right start variation that starts very close to *Gatekeeper* on the right which bumps the grade up to 5.12b. *CS*

Gatekeeper, 5.11c, 29 m, bolted (12 bolts)
(FA Mike Shepitka, Colin Shepitka, October 2020).

Located right of *Northern Roots.* Start up an awkward scramble to a high first bolt, right under a small roof and up a technical groove that eventually trends left to ring anchors. *CS*

Left: *7th Day*. Right: *Meat on a Chain*. Photos by Colin Shepitka.

Above: Dave Zuly top roping on the left. Erin Zuly top roping *Kynoch Chainsaw Massacre* on right. Colin Shepitka photo. Below: Colin Shepitka on *Meat on a Chain.* Mike Penny photo.

Lost Illusion, 5.12a, 25 m, bolted (12 bolts?)
(FA Colin Shepitka, Sept. 2025)

Starts 1 m right of *Gatekeeper* where a giant rock was removed. After a short crux down low climb through dynamic moves to a technical crux on slightly overhung holds to a surprising 3rd crux before the anchors. Interesting movement and positioning throughout. *CS*

Meat on the Chain, 5.12b, 20+ m, bolted (10 bolts?)
(FA Mike Penney, Adam Reeve, Sept. 28, 2024)

Located right of *Lost Illusion* and left of *Kynoch Chainsaw Massacre*. *CS*

Kynoch Chainsaw Massacre, 5.11c, 22 m, bolted, 10 bolts
(FFA Colin Shepitka, August 2024)

Stick clip the first bolt. Traverse right into the small corner feature, climb up and left to a mantle and top out at permadraws. *CS*

PALS (Pretty Awesome Lines), 5.10c, 22 m, bolted, 11 bolts
(FFA Colin Shepitka, August 2024 with help from Dave and Erin Zuly and Adam and Pam Reeve)

Scramble up onto some blocks, follow the bolts up rightwards along a slight scoop system, then head straight up. *CS*

Meat Machine, 5.11a, 20 m, bolted (10 bolts)
(FA Colin Shepitka, Joel Brazzoni, Sept. 2025)

Second last climb at the right end of the First Wall. Approachable for someone trying their first 11a. Awkward, but fun seam climbing leads to a technical traverse to easy moves with a surprise before the anchors. *CS*

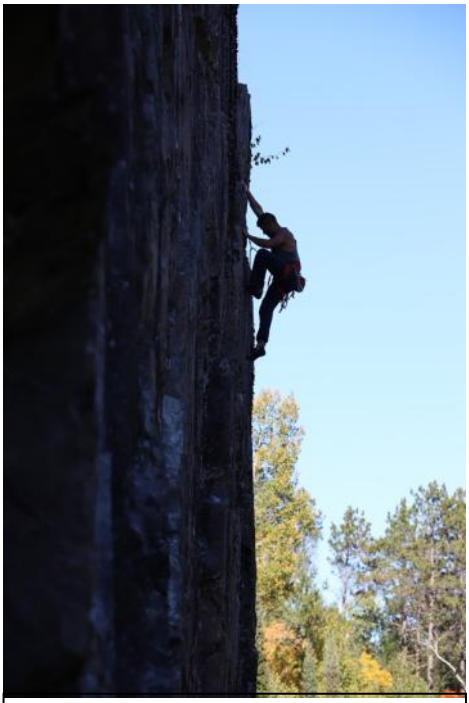
Tuesday's Ruby, 5.8, 50 m, 2 pitches, bolted
(FA Joah Faria, Danylo Darewych, May 4, 2026)

The farthest right bolted line at the First Wall. Look for a slight left-facing corner.

• Pitch 1, 5.7, 23 m. Climb the 8 m, left-facing, open-book, following the bolt line rightwards at its top to a ledge, mantle, then traverse back left to another 6 m, left-facing, open-book. Finish on a section of slab with blind feet that tops out onto a convenient ledge. (2-bolt anchor with rappel rings).

• Pitch 2, 5.8, 27 m. Find whatever feet you can to make the difficult crux move* that reveals the rest of the pitch. Follow the weaknesses up over a series of kedges before topping out on a massive belay ledge (two bolt anchor with rappel rings). An extended masterpoint is recommended to improve communication while belaying the follower.

Note: There is one slightly loose block 3 m from the top of the 2nd pitch, It's not likely to come off unexpectedly (we couldn't pry it loose by hand), but



Above: Colin Shepitka on *PALS*. Photo by Mike Penny. Below: Joah Faria standing below *Tuesday's Ruby*.

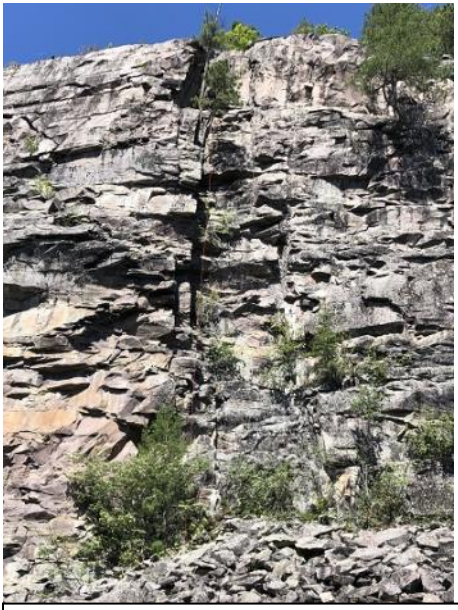
* The crux move can be avoided on easier ground to the right, but this pulls you away from the bolt protecting the crux.

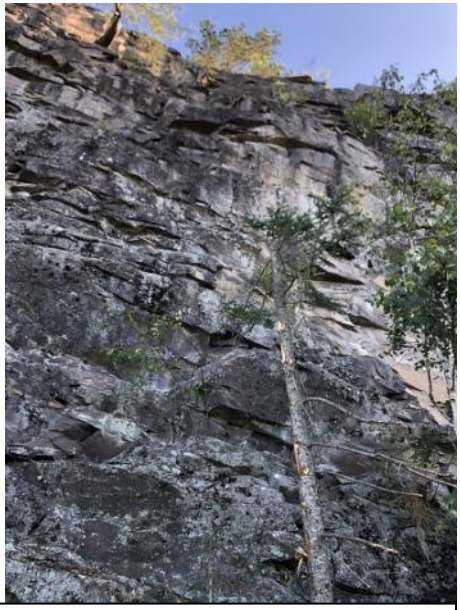
The Hideaway

The Hideaway is a 45 m high, 250 m long crag located about 4 km north of the Shotgun close to the side logging road that leads to Blinko Lake. The positive features of the crag are a relatively short drive and approach, a small talus field, an absence of poison ivy and quite featured rock. However, there is quite a lot of hollow-sounding rock and big flakes on the cliff face and much trundling would be needed to make routes clean and safe to climb. Two routes have been top-roped here. We're not yet sure whether this crag is with developing, because of the hollow nature of the rock and its proximity to the much larger Shotgun.

Directions

From the Shotgun, continue along the main logging road across the first bridge to the main fork of the logging road (about 1 km) and turn onto the left road. Drive down the left fork 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 a pullout and campsite on the shore of Echo lake on the right. Head down the narrow side track on the left. It's actually quite driveable, even in a regular car, for about 600 m where there is a small turn-around area. Walk on foot for another 300 m until you reach a small ATV bridge over a creek, then continue for another 250 m past the bridge. At this point you might be able to spot the cliff through the trees on the right side of the road, but it's a little difficult to spot. Look for pink flagging tape which marks a





Left: *Corner Route.* Right: Looking up the *Face Route* from the base. Photos by M. Grainger

short approach trail through the forest to the edge of the talus field at the cliff base.

There is a trail that leads around the right end of the cliff to the top. Head right along the flagged trail that runs along the forest/talus edge for about 75 m, cross a short section of talus slope to the base of the now much shorter cliff, continue along the base of the cliff to the right until you can scramble up the slope (at a big pine) and then head left along quite open cliff-top forest. It is really pleasant at the top of the cliff.

46.501° N 83.232° W

Routes

Two routes have been top-roped at the Hideaway, both on the central part of the cliff.

Corner Route, 5.7, 40 m

This route lies on the left side of the central part of the cliff. It climbs a right-facing corner system. Watch out for loose blocks at a ledge on the left above two big trees, although you will be mostly climbing the solid rock of the face on the right. Exit by stemming up an overhanging corner that proves to be easier than it looks. We thought this route could be climbed entirely on trad gear, but it will need some bolts, especially in the lower section.

Face Route, 5.9, 40 m.

Located about 15 m right of the *Corner Route* next to a couple of trees at the base. There is an easier start that traverses in from the right and a harder, more direct start on the left. Climb mostly straight up, up ledges and small corners, passing by a bent-trunk tree three-quarters of the way up on the right. Exit up a slight corner, stepping out to its right to top out.

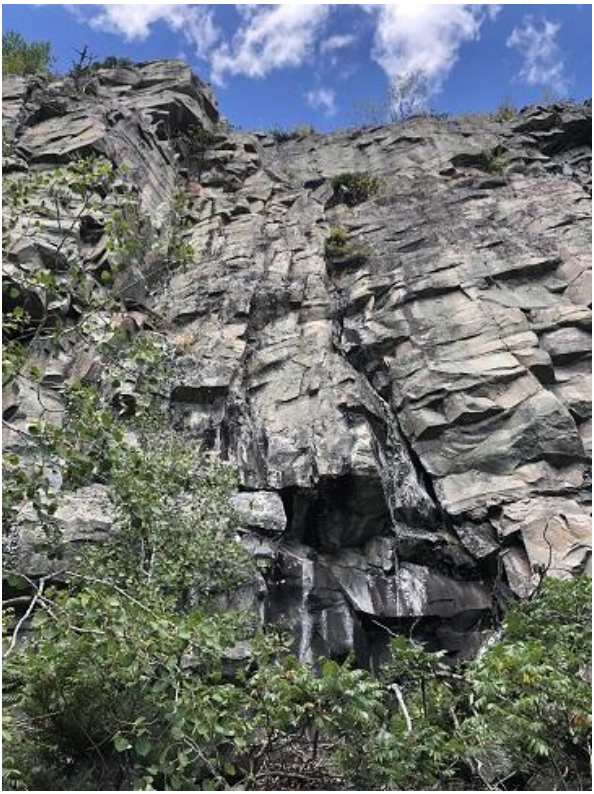
Deerfly

The Deerfly is a smaller cliff located in the forest on the way to the Eyeball. The main face is about 35 m high and 150 m wide. A more broken section of cliff continues north-east into the forest. A side logging road, now getting overgrown, leads almost to the base of the cliff. The talus field is small, the approach to the top is easy and there is no poison ivy. Despite the name, the bugs are no worse here than at any other crag north of Kynoch.

Directions

Drive down the Kynoch logging road as you would for the Eyeball, i.e. down the right fork. At about 12.6 km down the logging road (as measured from the intersection of Highway 554 and Brock's Road) or about 100 m before Brown's Camp there is a side logging road. The side logging road is fairly wide and the roadbed is in good shape, but the road is starting to get overgrown by shrubs. Nonetheless, a truck could drive down it without any problem. Walk down this side logging road for 1 km. At about 675 m down the road you will come to a large clearing (gravel base). After the clearing the road will start to descend downhill. Another 250-300 m will bring you to another smaller, more overgrown clearing. The cliff will be 75 m away on your left, easily visible. The cliff is at 46.489° N 83.153° W. To get to the top of the cliff, skirt the talus slope on its left and head up the treed slopes to the left of the cliff. A fairly easy hike will bring you to the top of the cliff in 10 minutes.

The Deerfly is located almost directly across the Little White River from the Gravelpit Camp on Highway 546 where we often camp when getting to the Eyeball by canoe. It is also possible to get directly to the Deerfly by crossing the river from the Gravelpit Camp during low water (hiking poles needed—the underwater rocks are slippery) and then bushwacking uphill through thick forest (no trail).



One route has been cleaned and top-roped at the Deerfly. It is pictured to the right. It is about 5.8 in difficulty and 33 m in length. We have plans to go back and bolt the line.

Backwoods Cliffs

There are 2 cliffs located in the woods south of the Gravel Pit campsite on the east side of the Little White River – the smaller Therapy Wall and the larger, kilometre long Spine (Eyeball Extension).

Therapy Wall

Therapy Wall is a smaller cliff located in the woods south of the Gravel Pit campsite on the east side of the Little White River. The cliff is from 10-25 m tall and 280 m long.

Directions

From Iron Bridge head north on Highway 546, but at the 10.9 km mark - instead of heading straight ahead on Highway 554 – continue on Highway 546 as it turns right and heads north for another 17.7 km until you reach the Gravel Pit campsite at the base of a high gravelly/sandy bluff on the right (east) side of the Little White River and Highway 546. There is a yellow Watch for Fallen Rocks sign just before the gravel pit. Backtrack 100 m south to another, smaller roadside clearing (just before the warning sign).

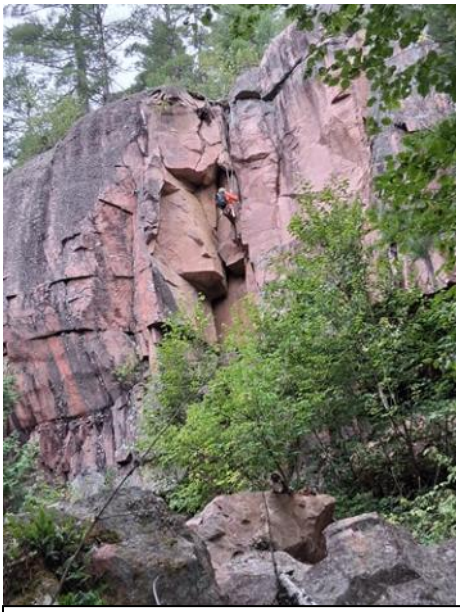
A narrow road/track runs out the back of this roadside clearing to a still smaller clearing 75 m further along in the trees. The track (an old, overgrown logging road) continues out the back of this smaller clearing. Head south along this track. You will pass a hunt stand on the right after about 200 m. After another 200 m you will start to see a small marshy clearing with a small creek on the right through the trees. Turn right onto a small flagged path and cross the creek on an old, overgrown beaver dam. On the other side of the stream follow a rough flagged path steadily uphill through the forest, crossing three rock outcrops along the way. The first rock outcrop requires 2-3 m of hands-on scrambling. The second rock outcrop can be skirted on the left. The third rock outcrop consists of talus blocks that you walk on. Strangely, there is cell phone reception in a small section of trail in the middle of the forest above the third rock outcrop. Eventually the trail stops heading uphill at a small “col” (the Col of Perseverance) and you will see a small cliff rising out of the trees on your right. This is the northern end of the Therapy Wall. You can get to the top of the cliff from here by continuing uphill to the right. Or drop downhill slightly and walk south along the cliff.

You can walk on the forested talus at the base of the cliff, but this is slow going. The walking is much easier 50-75 m away from the cliff through the forest, although this can be quite wet and boggy in spring and early summer. The trail through the forest is flagged. It veers into the cliff in two places, at two rockpiles, the second of which is called Therapy Rock (because there is a lovely flat rock you can lie on to rest an aching back).

The total distance is about 1.2 km to the middle of the cliff at Therapy Rock or 35 m walk.

Backwoods Cliffs Trail Distances:

0 m – start at Highway
220 m – hunt stand
400 m – beaver dam turnoff
590 m – first rocky outcrop
630 m – second rocky outcrop
780 m – third rocky outcrop
1100 m – col
1200 m – Therapy Rock
1400 m – start of the Spine Trail
1800 m – top of the Spine
2700 m – south end of Spine



Left: Mike Grainger cleaning *Little Teapot.* Right: Mike Grainger top-roping *Little Teapot*. Both photos taken on Sept. 9, 2026. Below: *Music Means Nothing to Skunks,* Oct. 3, 2026

Little Teapot, 5.8, 15 m, trad
(FA Eric Csekey, Fang Lu, Oct. 4, 2026. Cleaned by Mike Grainger.)

Located at the second talus rock-pile (Therapy Rock). Climbs a right-facing corner with a crack. Stem, jam, and undercling a wide crack up to roof, move right around it, and continue to the top. Ring anchors.

Gear: Single rack of cams to #4, two #5s.

Music Means Nothing to Skunks, 5.7, 20 m, bolted (8 bolts)
(Danylo Darewych, Mike Grainger, October 3, 2026)

Located at the first talus rockpile. Climbs a slabby face of rock. Start on the far right, climb up 3-4 m, traverse left around the base of a short left-facing corner, climb up it and finish up on a short slab to the left. Two-bolt anchor with quicklinks.

Spine

The Spine is a large cliff located in the woods south of the Gravel Pit campsite on the east side of the Little White River. The cliff is 40 to 60 m high and about 1.1 km long.

Directions

Follow the directions for the Therapy Wall. At the south end of the Therapy Wall head perpendicularly left (east) away from the Therapy cliff through the forest along a rough flagged path. The path will head downhill slightly at first through trees, then turn rightwards slightly and head back uphill to a small clearing (moss covered rock slab). Cross the clearing directly to its far side and then head through another patch of forest (skirting left of a wet section) to a second small rocky clearing/knob (marked with a single cairn). The path drops down the backside of the second rocky clearing through the trees, then heads immediately back uphill slightly and veers to the left before coming out on top of the Spine. The total distance from the road to the top of the Spine is about 1 800 m (45 minutes) or 400 m (10 minutes walk) from the end of the Therapy Wall to the top of the Spine.

To get to the base of the Spine walk to the left and drop down into a steep, forested gully that will come out at the base of the cliff at a stand of cedar trees (boggy in the spring). There is a smaller, shorter, 150 m long section of the cliff in the forest to skier's left (the north end). The main, taller, longer cliff line lies to skier's

right (towards the south). Walk 35 m through the cedars onto the open, flat, talus field that runs the length of the cliff.

The talus field is mostly flat and stable, but the walking is faster through the trees in the forest opposite the cliff. There is no cleared or flagged trail through the trees. The trees only come up to the cliff line in a couple of places. The fastest walking is along the top of the cliff which is quite open. You can usually walk fairly close to the cliff edge, but you have to deviate sometimes around gullies or rock outcrops. It takes about 20 m to walk from the north end of the cliff to the south end along the top (900 m). It takes an hour to walk from Highway 546 all the way to the south end (2 700 m).

You can descend to the base of the cliff at the south end easily in multiple places. Look for a short 2-m step down at a notch below a small pine (with the lower branches trimmed off).

Charybdis, 5.9, 8 m, trad
(FA Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, October 6, 2026*)

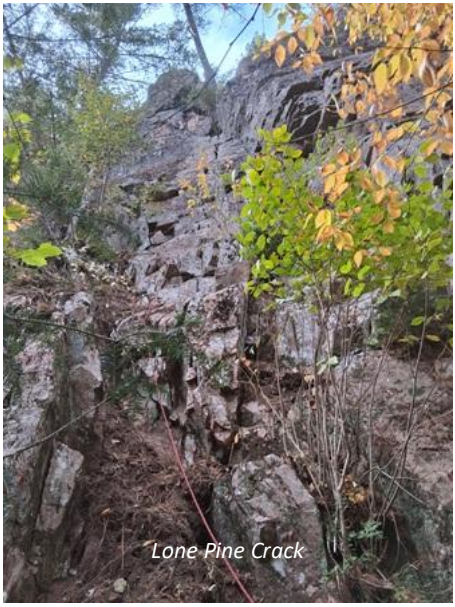
Located 15 m right of the south end descent notch. Climb the short, vertical crack.

Lone Pine Crack, 5.7, 23 m, trad
(FA Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, October 6, 2026*)

Located at the south (left) end of the Spine about 100 m right of the descent notch. Walk right along the forested cliff base almost to the open talus. Look for a large cone of dirt at the base of a small 3 m cleft and a large, lone pine leaning over the top of the route. Climb the cleft to a ledge, then up a crack in a slightly overhanging face, step through a notch from a left-facing corner to a right-facing one, up some big blocks to a belay at the big pine.

Gear: Single rack of nuts and cams from 0.5 to 4. Two #1 Camalots.

Charybdis


Lone Pine Crack

 * Neither of us climbed the route cleanly.

Some photos fof different walls at the Spine, from north to south.

The Cove

The break in the middle of the main face at the Cove:
70 Is the New 50 climbs the left side crack,
71 or 17 climbs the right side crack.

The Cove is a 40 m high cliff system located in the woods south-west of Kynoch. The main face is about 200 m long, but more broken, vegetated cliff/rock bands extend much further to the left and right. The main face is clean and open. The rock on this face is quite featured, and mostly solid, although there is a band of very shattered rock running through the face about 15 m up. The talus field is small and the base of the cliff is shaded by large oaks and maples. There is no poison ivy. Three very good trad routes have been climbed here. Bolted lines would be worth developing.

Directions

From Brock's Road in Kynoch head west on Highway 554 for 2.8 km and turn left (south) onto a logging road. Or from the intersection of Highways 129 and 546 head east for 1.4 km and turn right (south) onto the logging road (see also map on page 11). The logging road is clear and wide for the first 100 m, but quickly becomes more narrow and overgrown. Drive along it for 900-1000 m to a very small, grassy pullout on the left side of the road where the road turns gradually to the

right. Watch out for two big boulders in the middle of the road about 20 m apart a short distance (110 m?) before the pullout. There is room to drive around these boulders. I drove down this road in my Toyota Matrix, but a higher-clearance vehicle would be preferable. Or simply park at the start of the logging road and walk the whole way.

Top Rope Route starts on the flakes on the right side of the photo.

An approach trail, marked by pink flagging tape, starts 10 m past the pullout on the left (N46° 26.210' W83° 18.372'). The trail mostly follows old logging roads. In 2024 a hunter placed a bear-baiting barrel and a hunting stand 75 m down the start of the trail. We surprised a young bear here (he ran away). Turn left after 250 m where there is a prominent fork in the logging road, continue on the left branch for 150 m, then strike out to the left through open forest (likely muddy in the spring and after rains) when the cliff becomes visible through the trees. A short 100 m walk through the forest will bring you to the edge of the talus in the middle of the cliff. It's 520 m (15 m walk) from the trailhead to the base of the cliff (46.436° N 83.302° W).

To get to the top off the cliff you have to walk along way around the right side of the cliff.

Top Rope Route, 5.9, 25 m
(Top roped by Mike Grainger, Dan Hannah and Danylo Darewych, Sept. 3, 2024)

Located about 30 m left of *Seventy Is the New Fifty*. Climb up the front side of stack of big, hollow flakes, then up to a roof and over it. Wander up more solid rock to the top. Tree belay.

We'll likely go back and bolt this route.

Looking up from the base of the crack of *70 Is the New 50* at the start of pitch 2.

Seventy is the New Fifty, 5.10b, 40 m, 2 pitches, trad
(FA Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, Friday, September 1, 2023*)

Located in the middle of the crag where a prominent 30 m wide break creates two facing corner systems. This route climbs the left side (right-facing) corner. From a stand of large oak trees scramble leftward along a narrow ledge for 25 m to a belay stance in a small right-facing cor-

* Mike didn't lead the route cleanly, since it was a ground-up, clean-as-you-go, effort

ner formed by some flakes.

• Pitch 1, 5.7, 15 m. Climb up the short right-facing corner to a ledge, step left around a right-facing corner of a small pinnacle, traverse carefully left for 7 m over shatter-prone rock to the base of the big right-facing corner and climb up 5 m to a comfortable stance at the top of a small pinnacle. Gear belay.

• Pitch 2, 5.10b, 25 m. Climb up the right facing corner system to the top, lay-backing strenuously over a vertical bulge 10 m up, after which the angle eases up slightly, but the difficulties don't. Make sure you put draws on your cams to keep the rope away from the sharp edge of the crack. Tree belay.

Rappel off a tree 5 m to the right (red webbing with maillon) above the top of the right corner. A 30 m rappel will get you back to the starting ledge (a 35 m rappel doesn't reach the ground).

Gear: A rack of cams, doubles in the larger sizes from #2 Camalot, including two 3.5s, two 4s and two 5s.

71 or 17, 5.8, 30 m, trad
(FA Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, August 29, 2024)

This route climbs the right side (left facing) corner system in the middle of the Cove. From the stand of large oak trees scramble up to a ledge straight above below a big block.

Climb up on big blocks for 3 m to a ledge, then traverse 4 m to the left. There are gear placements on the right to protect the opening moves, but it's probably best to remove the gear once on the ledge to prevent rope drag. A more direct start on the left is possible, but there is no gear there. At the left end of the ledge, step around the corner and climb up a short crack, then step left again and climb up a wide, rightward angling crack (there is slightly loose block at the top of the crack that's not going anywhere) to a good stance on top of a big flake. Continue up the steeper, leftward angling crack above to the top. Tree belay.

Descent: Same as above.

Gear: Nuts and a double rack of cams up to #4.

Face The Raven, **5.8, 40 m, 2 pitches, trad**
(FA Mark Hurst, Mike Grainger, Danylo Darewych, 2024-08-27)

The large, right-facing flake 15 m right of *71 or 17*.

• Pitch 1, 20 m. Climb up blocks then traverse left and up to where a roof meets the bottom of the flake. Pull back right to a bolted anchor.

• Pitch 2, 20 m. Ascend the flake to another bolted anchor at the top. Bring at least one #5. *MH*

Face the Raven climbs the flake in the middle of the photo

Other Cliffs in the Area

Cumming's Lake

There is an impressive cliff located on the south-east shore of Cumming's Lake 7 km north-west of Kynoch along Highway 129. This cliff is sometimes referred to as Rock Candy Mountain. It is about 85 m tall at its tallest and 300 m long. There are 6-7 established routes at this cliff with room for many more. Beware the poison ivy and loose rock.

The rock climbing at Cumming's Lake is described in the Mississagi River Valley Rock guidebook.

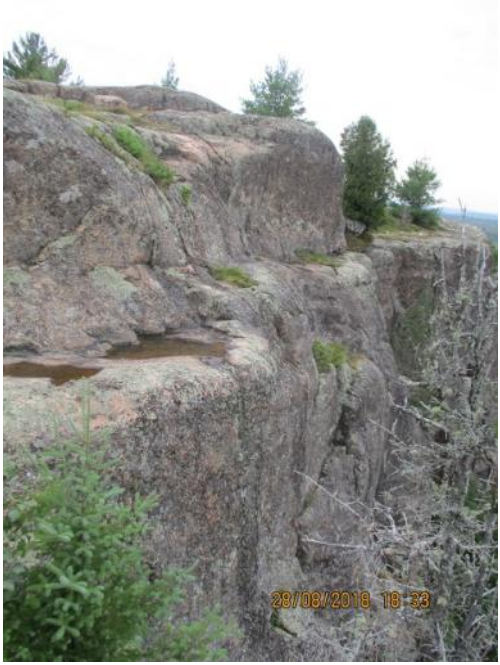
Intersection Rock

Intersection Rock is located 1 km southwest of the intersection of Highways 129 and 554, just 4 km west of Kynoch, and a mere 150 m walk from Hwy 129. Most of this cliff would likely not be of much interest to rock climbers, with the possible of exception of one steep wall. It is, however, a great ice climbing venue. Part, or all, of the cliff is located on private property.

The Dome

The Dome, as the name suggests, is a large open expanse of flat rock that rises above the farmland north of Iron Bridge. It is bounded at the top of the east side by a short, steep cliff system, some 12-20 m tall. There are some older-style Petzl glue in bolts (triangular eye/head; not stainless; from the early 90s according to Randy) and some very rusty bolts with Metolius hangers scattered across the top of the cliff edge, presumably for top-rope anchors. I have only top-roped one route here, in very wet conditions. The Dome is a wonderful place to camp under the stars.

The Dome is located 8.8 km north of Iron Bridge. Drive north along Highway 546. You will eventually pass under the Hydro wire corridor at a rise with short rock outcrops both on the right and left and a pond/ marsh on the left. Look for an unmarked dirt road almost immediately after these on the right. This road leads gradually uphill to the east over smooth rock slabs to the top of the Dome. It is easily driveable by a truck or a vehicle with higher clearance. Unfortunately, it looks a little too rough/steep in a couple of places for a regular car. It's about 1 km to the top of the Dome.



Kynoch Creek Cliffs

There is a series of short, low cliff bands visible west of Highway 554 between Bellingham and Kynoch, near Kynoch Creek. We haven't explored these cliffs yet.

Highway 129

If you continue to drive north along Highway 129 past Cumming's Lake along the Mississagi River you will pass an innumerable number of large cliffs, some of them roadside. Some of these are described, in general terms, in the Mississagi River Valley Rock guidebook and in the North of Huron Ice guidebook. Yours to explore!

*The description of the rock composition of the various cliffs in the area of Kynoch is based on written sources. I'm no geologist, so I cannot actually identify the rock based on personal observation. Hopefully, at some point I hope I will be able to get rock samples identified by a proper geologist.

Geology*

As a climber, I've become used to referring to all cliffs beyond the limestone of the Niagara Escarpment as being granite. In fact, this guidebook was originally subtitled "An Eternally Incomplete Compendium of Ontario Granite Esoterica." I had always assumed that the Canadian Shield, the ancient bedrock of central and northern Ontario (and of much of Canada), was entirely made up of granite. It turns out that both my assumption and the subtitle were incorrect. They are especially untrue of the cliffs described in this guidebook on the area north of Huron. The cliffs aren't granite.

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

The geology of the region is, in fact, much more complex and more interesting.

First, some general background information on the Canadian Shield.

Geologists divide the Canadian Shield in Ontario into 3 areas or provinces: the Superior Province, the Southern Province and the Grenville Province.

The Superior Province is the oldest and largest part (70%) of the Canadian Shield. It was formed between 4.5 billion and 2.49 billion years ago. It stretches north and west of Sudbury. It is composed primarily of intrusive igneous rocks and is indeed predominantly granite.

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

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

The cliffs in this guidebook fall within the Southern Province of the Canadian Shield. Therefore, some further information about the Southern Province is in order.

The Southern Province was formed initially from the sediments eroding off the rock of the Superior Province. The rocks formed from these sediments are mostly conglomerate, sandstone, siltstone, mudstone and greywacke. Later, 1.9 billion years ago, a collision of tectonic-plates created the Penokean Mountains along the southern edge of the Southern Province, north of today's Lake Huron. The ridges

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

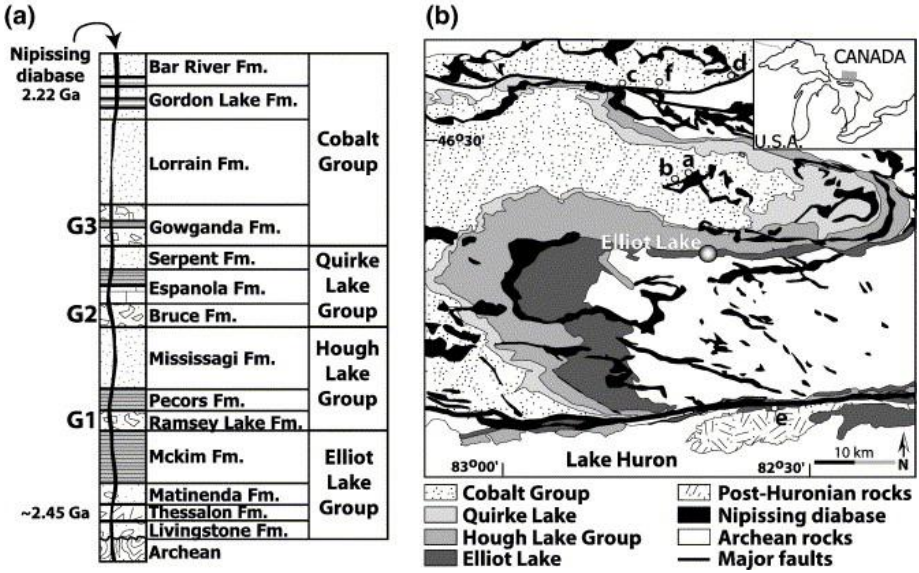


Diagram (a) shows the stratigraphy (layers) of rock in the Huronian Supergroup of the Southern Province of the Canadian Shield. The oldest rocks, Archean, are at the bottom; the youngest at the top. Ga stands for Giga Annum - 1 billion years ago.

north of Manitoulin Island and the white quartzite La Cloche Mountains (of Killarney Provincial Park) are remnants of these mountains. During this tectonic collision, some of the rocks of the Southern Province underwent low-grade metamorphosis (ex. sandstone becoming quartzite). About 1.1 billion years ago North America started to split apart (it didn't, in the end), forming the Midcontinental Rift. This deep valley of this rift was filled with lava (which formed igneous rocks) and sediments. Also, magma from below cut through the previously formed sedimentary layers, creating intrusions of igneous rock (the sills and dikes of the Nipissing Diabase). As a result, the Southern Province has quite a complex mix of various types of rock.

The Southern Province is divided into three areas or Supergroups. The rock around Elliot Lake and along the north shore of Lake Huron belongs to the Huronian Supergroup. The Huronian sediments were deposited between 2.45 Ga and 2.219 Ga (Ga stands for Giga annum - 1 billion years ago).[2] The Huronian Supergroup is in turn divided into 4 Groups, which are subdivided even further into Formations. The diagram above shows the various layers/categories of the Huronian Supergroup.

The rock of the Huronian Supegroup consists mostly of conglomerate, mudstone, siltstone or limestone and sandstone (layered one on top of another).[2] In some places, these rocks have been lightly metamorphosized.[3]

[2] Bennett, Gerald. **The Huronian Supergroup between Sault St. Marie and Elliot Lake**—Field Trip Guidebook, Volume 52, Part 4. Institute on Lake Superior Geology, Sault Ste Marie, 2006.

[3] Long, D.G.F. 2009. The Huronian Supergroup; in **A Field Guide to the Geology of Sudbury**, Ontario; Ontario Geological Survey, Open File Report 6243, p.14--30.

Rock Composition of the Cliffs along the Little White River

The Little White River is located almost entirely within the western part of the Paleoproterozoic Huronian Supergroup of the Southern Province.

"The Huronian Supergroup consists of four stratigraphic groups of metasedimentary and minor metavolcanic and intrusive rocks that overlie the Superior Province. More than 90% of the bedrock in the park consists of Huronian Supergroup metasedimentary rocks. Varieties of conglomerate, sandstone, and siltstone of the Lorrain and Gowganda formations of the Cobalt Group are the most abundant rocks in the park. The representation of Huronian Supergroup stratigraphy in the large area of Cobalt Group Lorrain Formation sandstones in the Raven Lake area is regionally significant (Frey and Duba)."*

Eyeball Geology

According to the geological surveys that I have been able to find, the rock of the Eyeball is pink feldspathic sandstone. The geology of the area where the Eyeball is found is described in the following survey: Siemiatkowska, K.M.. **Geology of the Endikai Lake Area, District of Algoma;** Ontario Geological Survey Report 178, 79 p. Accompanied by Geological Map 2399 and 1 Chart, 1978.

The accompanying map identifies the rock of the Eyeball as being:
a) Feldspathic sandstone of the Transition Zone of the Upper Gowganda Formation
b) Basal purple and green sandstone and feldspathic sandstone of the Lorrain Formation.

The Geological Survey Report contains a description of a cuesta which I think is the Eyeball (p. 31-32) [A cuesta is a hill or ridge with a gentle slope on one side, and a steep slope or escarpment on the other. The Niagara Escarpment is a cuesta]:

"In the Wakomata Lake Syncline area in the south-central part of the map area west of Little White River, a prominent cuesta can be seen from afar along Highway 546. This cuesta is about 90 m (300 feet) high, and consists of pink feldspathic sandstone. This sandstone forms the transition zone between the Gowganda and Lorrain Formations. In the Wakomata Lake area, this sandstone unit is a minor feature, and less than 30 m (100 feet) thick. The sandstone is pink, greenish pink, dark red, and purple near the top, and fine to medium grained. Beds are between 1.2 and 1.8 m (3.9 to 5.9 feet) thick and contain 7.6 to 30 cm (3 to 12 inches) thick green, gritty siltstone interbeds rich in muscovite. The sandstone contains 10 to 15 percent pale to pink feldspar and is poorly sorted. Ripple marks, sand waves, festoon and planar crossbedding, grading and hematite-rich laminations, are some of the structures observed. Near the top, the sandstone becomes coarser grained, darker in colour, and the abundance of hematite laminations increase.

Thin section examination reveals that the sandstone of the transition zone contains approximately 15 percent feldspar with equal proportions of plagioclase and potassic feldspar in a matrix (10 to 25 percent) of sericite, muscovite, and kaolinite. Sorting is poor to fair, and grains are subrounded to subangular with hematite staining along grain boundaries."

The GeologyOntario Spatial Search website map labels the whole area as being composed of "quartz sandstone, minor conglomerate, siltstone" of the Lorrain Formation of the Cobalt Group of the Huronian Supergroup.

* p. 5, Little White River: Interim Management Statement, 2006. Ontario. http://files.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/parks-and-protected-areas/mnr_bpp0134.pdf
- Frey, E. and D. Duba, 2002. *Earth Science Checksheet – P261 Little White River Provincial Park.* Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

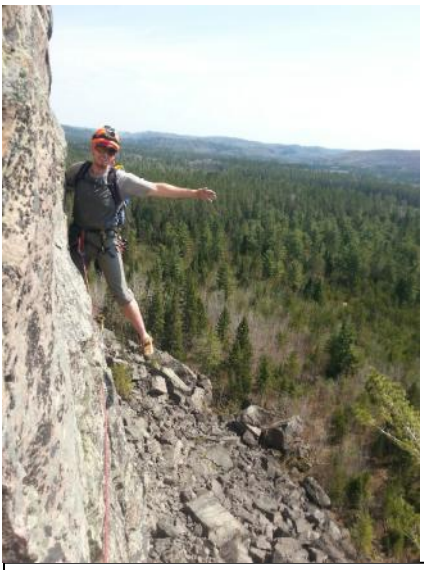
Adventures and Misadventures

Left: Daniel McKay wearing an eyepatch after getting poked in the eyeball by a tree branch in the fading dusk on a first attempt to get into the Eyeball. Jan. 5, 2013. Right: Randy Kielbasiewicz hauling Dylan Cumming's stuck truck from the muck after we made a poor choice in trying to find a road down into the Eyeball. June 15, 2014.

Left: Christian Theoret examining the rock that holed his oil pan on the Eyeball side logging road. A mechanic in Iron Bridge towed him to a garage in Wharncliffe with his pick-up. Aug. 29, 2014. Right: Gus Alexandropolous and Randy Kielbasiewicz made a late fall trip to the Eyeball, only to wake up to snow in the morning. October 31, 2014.

Left: Randy Kielbasiewicz, Danylo Darewych and Dylan Cumming hanging out on the Party Ledge of *Northern Etiquette*, May 3, 2015. Photo by Graeme Taylor.

Left: Dylan Cumming preparing to pull Randy's truck up the grassy by-pass after Randy's brakes, then 4-wheel drive failed and he backed-up into some trees on the wet vegetation. June 28, 2015. Right: Mike Grainger emerging from the top of the juniper we climbed through on *The Hummingbird and the Worms.* Aug. 26, 2015. Below: Not again!?



Left: Graeme Taylor channeling his inner Lynn Hill on *Northern Etiquette,* May 3, 2015. Photo by Randy Kiebasiewicz. Right: Graeme trundling rocks and watching Randy's trundlage from the Pinnacle, May 7, 2015. Photos by Graeme Taylor.