A Prime Minister's Backyard







2018-11-20

Technical Information

Start: P6 parking lot, Mackenzie King Estate, Barnes Road, accessible from Chelsea

Total Distance: 8.1 km

Level of Difficulty: Intermediate

Technique: Classic

Route: Trail 7, then along the Gatineau Parkway to trail 35 at Pink Lake; return via

trails 35 and 15

Note: This route runs primarily downhill from the beginning to Pink Lake, and is mostly

uphill on the return. There is one big climb near the end of the loop.

- P6 parking lot is at the heart of the Mackenzie King Estate. This was the summer home of William Lyon Mackenzie King, Canada's longest-serving prime minister, who was in office for close to 22 years between 1921 and 1948.
- As you leave on Trail 7, you will pass the Abbey Ruins arguably the most famous set of architectural ruins that Mackenzie King assembled to landscape his garden.
- The beginning of Trail 35 provides a view of beautiful Pink Lake. This exceptional lake is classified
 as meromictic, which means that because of its sheltered position and bowl-like shape, the water
 layers of the lake do not mix. The result is that the deepest 7 metres of the lake contain no
 oxygen.
- Trail 15, which you will follow for most of the way back, is a particularly scenic trail that winds its way through mature forests and rolling hills for about 3 km.



