

the SEVEN WONDERS of THUNDER BAY

Here are the official SEVEN WONDERS OF THUNDER BAY as chosen by you, the proud residents and visitors of Thunder Bay and surrounding area!

Thanks to all who participated in this exciting contest!



SLEEPING GIANT

the legend...

PROVINCIAL PARK

Standing on the shores of Thunder Bay at the head of the great Lake Superior, one can perceive, on looking out across the waters of Thunder Bay, a great land formation situated directly in the mouth of the Bay.

It requires no imagination whatever to see that this form resembles the sleeping body of a giant, arms folded across his massive chest as in the majesty of death.

Mystery and legend surround the origin of this strange phenomenon of nature and down through the ages the following story seems to have survived.

On an island just outside Thunder Bay, now known as "Isle Royale", once lived a great tribe of Ojibway Natives.

Because of their loyalty to their Gods, and their peaceful and industrious mode of living, Nanabijou, the Spirit of the Deep Sea Water, decided to reward them.

One day he called their Chief to his great Thunder Temple on the mountain and warned him that if he told the secret to the white man, that he, Nanabijou would be turned to stone and the Ojibway tribe perish.

The Chief gave his promise, and Nanabijou told him of the rich silver mine, now known as "Silver Islet". The Great Spirit

told him to go to the highest point on Thunder Cape, and here he would find the entrance to a tunnel that would lead him to the centre of the mine.

Apparently the Chief and his people found the mine, for the Ojibway became famous for their beautiful silver ornaments. So beautiful indeed were they, that the Sioux warriors on seeing them upon their wounded enemies, strove to wrest their secret from them.

However, torture and even death failed to make the gallant Ojibway divulge their secret and the Sioux chieftains had to devise another scheme to find the source of the Ojibway silver.

One day they summoned their most cunning scout to a powwow and a plan was formed. The scout was to enter the Ojibway camp disguised as one of them. This he did and in a few days succeeded in learning the secret of the Island of silver.

Going to the mine at night he took several large pieces of the precious metal in order to prove to his chieftain that he had fulfilled his mission.

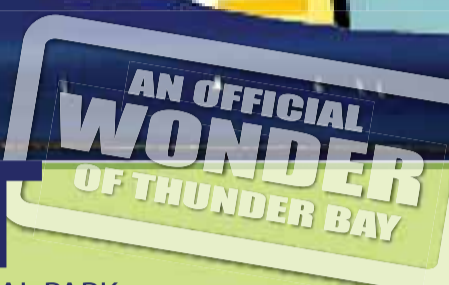
The scout however never returned to his camp, for on his way back he stopped at a white traders post to purchase some food. Having no furs or money with which to pay for the goods, he

used a piece of the silver.

Upon seeing such a large piece of the gleaming metal, two white men sought to obtain the whereabouts of its source, in order to make themselves fabulously rich. After filling the Sioux scout with liquor they persuaded him to show them the way to the mine.

When almost in sight of "Silver Islet" a terrific storm broke over the Cape. The white men were drowned and the Native was found in a crazed condition floating aimlessly in his canoe, but the most extraordinary thing that had happened during the storm, was that where once was a wide opening to the bay, now lay what appeared to be a great sleeping figure of a man. The Great Spirit's warning had been fulfilled and he had been turned to stone.

On a little island at the foot of the Sleeping Giant, can still be seen the partly submerged shafts of what was once the richest silver mine in the northwest. White men have tried again and again to pump out the water that keeps flooding it from Lake Superior but without success. Is it still under the curse of Nanabijou, Spirit of the Deep Sea Water... perhaps...who can tell?

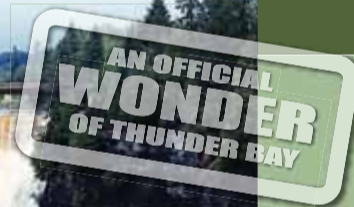


FORT WILLIAM HISTORICAL PARK

Stepping back 200 years in time, visitors to Fort William Historical Park forego the modern world for life at the world's largest fur-trading post where colourful characters from all corners of colonial North America come to life to recreate the world that was. From French voyageurs to the Scottish company partners to Native and Metis trappers, Fort William Historical Park is as authentic and exciting as it comes. The tens of thousands of visitors who come to Fort William Historical Park each year get a hands-on experience that truly transports them to simpler - yet harsher - times. LOCATION: Follow Broadway Avenue off Hwy. 61 South. Call 473-2344 or visit www.fwhp.ca

KAKABEKA FALLS PROVINCIAL PARK

The majesty of Kakabeka Falls comes as a surprise to many when they stumble across the Niagara of the North. A spectacular 40 metres high, the falls attract thousands of nature lovers each year to Northwestern Ontario for their beauty alone. The falls, which pour over a steep rock-walled river canyon, offer excellent viewing vantage points from the boardwalk and the observation decks, inviting photographers of all level to try to capture that perfect moment in time. LOCATION: 32 km. (20 miles) West of Thunder Bay on Hwy. 11/17. Call 473-9231 or visit www.ontarioparks.com

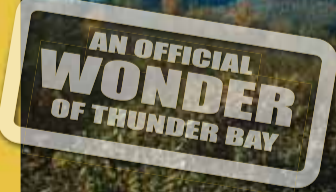


MARINA PARK

Marina Park will only continue to strengthen its claim to Thunder Bay's seven wonders list in the coming years. Set against the backdrop of the Sleeping Giant, the park is about to get a \$100 million facelift when the waterfront development is completed, bringing hotels, condos, restaurants and a host of year-round activities to the park. Not that people aren't drawn there now for the marina, Canada Day festivities, BluesFest, weekly concerts in the park or just a chance to enjoy a bit of nature without leaving home. LOCATION: Thunder Bay North, at the foot of Red River Road. Call 345-2741.

MOUNT MCKAY

Towering 1,000 feet over the city, Mount McKay is a must on your list of attractions and a no-brainer for the seven wonders list. Nowhere else in the city can visitors and residents alike get such a magnificent birds-eye view of Thunder Bay. For the more ambitious, who don't stop for a snack or a picnic lunch halfway up Mount McKay, there's also an easy hiking trail to the top of the mountain, which is part of the Norwester Range. LOCATION: Fort William First Nation Mission Road off City Road. Call 622-3093 or visit www.fwfn.com



OUIMET CANYON PROVINCIAL PARK

Situated in the rough, hilly terrain above the Lakehead, Ouimet Canyon - like its sister, Cavern Lake Provincial Park - supports an unusual group of rare, arctic-alpine plants in the valley floor. The cold-climate flora include sub-arctic thickets, fir-club moss and lichen, alpine woods, arctic pyrola, encrusted saxifrage, and fragrant shield fern. The vegetation is a remnant of colder meteorological conditions that prevailed during the last ice age - and that still prevails along the canyon floor, where snow lingers until late spring. LOCATION: 65 km. (40 miles) northeast of Thunder Bay, off Hwy. 11/17. Call 977-2565 or visit www.ontarioparks.com. Image is Copyright Ontario Parks

TERRY FOX MONUMENT

Terry Fox captured the hearts of Canadians when he started his Marathon of Hope in 1980, a run that ended on a dull November day just east of Thunder Bay. Fox vowed to continue his march to the Pacific, but succumbed to cancer one month shy of his 23rd birthday, on June 28, 1981. To honour Fox's memory, a nine-foot tall bronze statue of Fox, set on a 45-tonne granite base and a foundation of local amethyst, was erected not far from where Fox took the final step on his 5,342 kilometre journey. Terry Fox is one of Canada's greatest ambassadors and his memorial earned a well-deserved spot on the Seven Wonders of Thunder Bay list. LOCATION: Hwy. 11/17, 1 km. (.6 miles) East of Hodder Ave. Call 983-2041.

