

Kayaking – Near Norwood

We have provided some links to video of our kayaking on the rivers/lakes to give you an idea of what we experienced. Some may be long as we don't edit all the videos.

A map of the launching locations is at the following web address:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1uKV8t28CMWnJqnW2_0wZ_tHMYS8ks0UI&usp=sharing

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Rivers

Crowe River, Marmora to Crowe Lake, North of 7 – 20 minutes from Norwood (2020-2021)

55 Main Street, Marmora

Parking – plenty

Toilets – seasonal portable a few hundred feet away by the ball diamond; also in the Tourist Centre, if open. Otherwise, Tim Horton's is just a few minutes east down the highway.

Access – large public boat launch

Wildlife – mallards, once saw two swans flying overhead, funny noisy squirrels in the park

Marmora - Crowe River to Crowe Lake

Paddle north (upstream) to Crowe Lake. We went on a sunny, but cold day – very early in the season, there was still ice on the lake. For a fun stopover, drive to the Marmora Mine site.

- <https://youtu.be/uFaK14LjCc>

Crowe River, Legion Park to Twin Bridges (Callaghan's Rapids) – 23 minutes from Norwood (2022)

15 Matthew St, Marmora

Parking - plenty

Toilets – none. However, there is one in the Tourism Office across the highway if it's open; there is also a seasonal portable toilet at the boat launch on the other side of the highway/dam; if needed, Tim Horton's is just a few minutes down the road (east)

Access – public boat launch right beside parking lot

Wildlife: wild rice paddies on the river

Paddle south (downstream, away from the highway). As the river widens, you will see wild rice. Continue until you reach the Twin Bridges, which span across an island in the river. You can paddle under the bridges and get out on the rocks for a stretch or a snack, and check out the bridges and trail (part of the Trans Canada Trail). A beautiful spot – highly recommended. CAUTIONS: the return trip upstream requires some strength. Not recommended to continue much past the bridges because you will soon encounter rapids with quite a strong current. To explore Callaghan's Rapids (a little further downstream) it's best to approach it from the south side (Crowe River/Rylstone Lake - see below). For a fun stopover, drive to the Marmora Mine site.

- <https://youtu.be/HEv13PK6YtY>
- https://youtu.be/Fbe504pg_HY

Crowe River, Rylstone Lake to Callaghan's Rapids - 25 minutes from Norwood (2024)

Approximately 848 Rylstone Road, Marmora (Allen Mills, just over the bridge, on the left)

Parking - space for a few cars above launch site

Toilets - there is no toilet available, but it's a relatively isolated spot, especially on weekdays

Access - public boat launch; the dirt road that leads to the launch is short but a little steep, so park above

Wildlife – saw a snake in the water by the rapids

You will need to head north (upstream), because there is a dam immediately to the south. Paddling about

an hour will lead you to Callaghan's Rapids on the left side, just beyond the north end of Rylstone Lake.

Pull out your boat and have fun walking around on the rocks and observing the rapids. Many spots to sit

and have a snack. If you continue to the right, there is a small outlet under a private bridge. Just a short

distance in you will come to a large beaver dam; the river does not continue in this direction.

- https://youtu.be/4i_admCVpqq

Eels Creek/High Falls, Northey's Road – 30 minutes from Norwood (2023)

Intersection of Eels Creek and Northeys Bay Rd. (by the bridge)

Parking – space for maybe 12 vehicles

Toilets – No, this is a "crown land" area

Access – carry kayaks down the short, rocky path by the bridge

Wildlife - none noted

Proceed north (upstream) toward High Falls. You will likely have to portage around or walk through one or two of the (small) rapids. You will enter into an open area, then below High Falls. Can paddle somewhat close to the falls for fun. Put out on the rocks or beach and make the short hike to the falls. Great spot to sit for lunch or have a photo opp. Roughly a one hour paddle (no more) each way. Alternatively, can hike along the Creek to the falls in about the same amount of time.

- <https://youtu.be/XxedljC4Odc>
- <https://youtu.be/7x3i63lfgzM>

Eels Creek/High Falls, Haultain – 40 minutes from Norwood (2024)

Intersection of County Road 28 and Haultain Road.

Parking – space for maybe 6 vehicles – need 2 vehicles (one to be left at the intersection of Eels Creek and Northeys Bay Rd)

Toilets – No.

Access – carry kayaks down the short, rocky path by the bridge

Wildlife - none noted except maybe the water snake

At the beginning, upstream, there is nice small waterfall. The current carries you along quite well for the first half before High Falls as the creek is narrower but no problem navigating it. There are a couple rapids, with the first one not too bad. Just stay to the far right and watch out for the rock in the middle which can impede your progress (not too bad as you might get stuck for a few seconds). The second rapid is too much for us and we portage it. This is a nice spot for lunch/snack. High Falls is always a little impressive. The river does get wider before High Falls. It is a long portage around the falls, but then a short paddle back to Northey's Bay Road. In total, paddling time is around 2.5 hours.

- <https://youtu.be/sqWiyk2m22I>

Hoads Creek and Trent River (Keating-Hoads Natural Habitat Area) – 36 minutes from Norwood (2020-2021)

Corner of Wingfield Road and Carmel Road (at the Wilson Island Bridge) – see our map of our launching locations above.

<https://www.northumberlandtourism.com/en/see-do/keating-hoads.aspx>

Parking – space for just a few vehicles

Toilet - no

Access - steep but manageable grassy path, could be wet at the bottom

Wildlife - we once saw a river otter on Hoads Creek

From the launch point, you can proceed in either direction. In front of you is Wilson Island (quite large). If you proceed north (upstream) after about 700 metres you have the option of turning right, into Hoads Creek which takes you to the village of Hoads. If it's the weekend, you can visit Chubby's buffet restaurant. The creek is quite peaceful as it's mostly a natural area and very calm. If you venture into the Trent River it could get windy.

- <https://youtu.be/S1ntyriBe3E>
- <https://youtu.be/q8d4-XyFPLU>

Indian River/Rice Lake – Keene – 22 minutes from Norwood (2020-2021)

Parking – space for maybe 10 vehicles, very close to the access

Toilet – no; not sure if there is anywhere in Keene to go. There is a bathroom at the Three Roads Farm (Chicken Shop), which is about a 5 minute drive west on CR-2.

Access – public beach style launching area

Wildlife – we once saw a deer swimming between two islands upstream by Keene; in spring Rice Lake will have many nesting birds in the wetland areas

You have two options:

North (upstream) on the river. Typically is quite shallow, so you may not get far depending on the time of year. Beyond the first set of rapids (June 2024) there is a second, which we had to do an easy portage around, but was fun to run through when returning. We paddled hard, but did not get through the next set of shallow rapids.

South (downstream) into the lake. The distance is longer than you may think. We had a beautiful day which was calm and sunny, but the lake can be quite windy.

- <https://youtu.be/7CFyw6DUN60>

Indian River – Warsaw – 16 minutes from Norwood (2020-2021)

Back Dam Park - 902 Rock Rd, Warsaw

Parking - for about 10-15 cars in the parking lot.

Toilet - yes, portable seasonal

Access – drive to the end of the parking lot, and down the hidden dirt road

Wildlife – herons, including two sightings of a green heron close to the Caves Park, on the east side

Paddle north (upstream) toward the Warsaw Caves Park and back. Nice cliffs.

The following guide gives you all the details of this paddle with the Caves park as your starting point; however, if you do the reverse by starting from Back Dam Park you can park for free

<http://www.otonabeeconservation.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Indian-River-Canoe-Trip-Guide.pdf>

- https://youtu.be/M3GJyV_n4_8

Otonabee River/Campbelltown Public Boat Launch – 30 minutes from Norwood (2022)

160 Campbelltown Rd, Peterborough

Parking - We had to park a short distance down the road as the parking area is fairly small

Toilets - pretty sure there is no toilet – we used the facilities at the Three Roads Farm Chicken Shop (just over 1 km away by car).

Access - public boat launch

Wildlife - osprey

We went in the fall later in the day. It was sunny and calm as we paddled upstream towards Peterborough against a slight current. It was pretty well populated with homes along the shore. We paddled for a couple hours. A pleasant but uneventful paddle.

- <https://youtu.be/cXeeyK1Bd9g>

Trent River, Glen Ross – 45 minutes from Norwood (2022)

Follow Blacksmith Lane on the canal side of the island.

Parking – very limited, but an isolated spot so not a problem

Toilets – No. Luckily we found one at the nearby Sager Conservation Area. Worth a visit for the short hike up the viewing tower! We went in fall so the view was especially colourful.

Access – this is not a proper launch, only suitable for kayaks. It is quite steep and rocky but doable. Must take your time.

Wildlife – swans

We headed west – when you get to Wilson Island you could go around either side; the north side should be more sheltered. We had a calm fall day so we took the south side -- the colours were just awesome.

The current was a little stronger in the canal, but not too bad. The cottages were spread out so it was quite a natural environment. We went for our usual 2 hour kayak and the current made for an easier paddle back.

Note: Went back in May 2023 and wanted to note the current was very strong by the dam. We saw a couple of kayakers paddling but not going anywhere. Eventually they got out of the very strong current, but it took a good 10 minutes. As you go out from the canal, it is best to stay to the far right as the current isn't as strong. Also, when coming back into the canal, stay to the far left as it was a little touch and go trying to get into the canal as the current was so strong towards the dam. It took some high powered desperate strokes to get out of the situation.

- <https://youtu.be/fGblwAucgO4>

Trent River, Hastings – 12 minutes from Norwood (2020-2021)

Approximately 44 Front St W, Hastings

Parking - usually there is plenty anywhere along Front Street

Toilets - yes, in the park by the beach, but you can also walk to the lock and use the facilities there

Access - tiny beach area, easy put in

Wildlife - Canada geese, fisher family by the trail swing bridge

We go here sometimes when we want a paddle without having to go far. We paddle up river from the beach. Lots of cottages and a little weedy at spots. There is a current and it can be a little choppy as you get closer to Rice Lake.

- <https://youtu.be/cmUWJFmFJ5g>

Trent River, Monument Road Boat Ramp - 12 minutes from Norwood (2020-2021)

Intersection of CR 42 & CR 30

Parking - ample parking but can be very busy in the summer

Toilets - seasonal portable

Access - on or beside concrete public boat launch

Wildlife – not so much

Can go south toward Hastings or east toward Campbellford. Often we encircle Nappan Island, which is a good long paddle. Alternatively, we can explore Burnt Bay to the north. It's always nice to head across from the monument to the cottages on the island.

One day we went on the Trent it was beautiful, sunny and calm. The other day was quite rough, so check the weather reports before proceeding.

Trent River, Lock 8 - Percy Reach – 30 minutes from Norwood (2023)

Cross the bridge in Campbellford and continue heading out of town on CR-8 (turn right at the big church)

Just before Empire Cheese, turn right onto Bradley Bay Road; where the road appears to end, continue right on Bradley Bay Road, around the bend, then right onto Kelleher Road, which will take you directly to the lock.

Parking – large parking area along the side of the road.

Toilets – yes, in the lock building

Access - best put-in is at the end of the road, beside the canal. Lovely quiet spot with friendly staff.

Proceed south into the Trent River. There are a number of islands nearby.

- <https://youtu.be/0gUyJODvnnA>

***Trent River, Lock 9 – Meyers (2023)**

Did not put in here. Not sure if it's possible, but not as scenic as some other spots.

Parking – yes

Toilets – not sure, possibly in lock building

***Trent River, Lock 10 - Hagues Reach (2023)**

Another quiet, well maintained lock area, but we could not find a suitable spot to put in.

Parking – yes

Toilets – not sure, possibly in lock building

Trent River, Lock 15 – Healey Falls to Crowe Bridge Conservation Area – 20 minutes from Norwood (2023)

Take CR-50 to 11th line and proceed east. The lock is at the end of the road. Plenty of quiet green space and friendly staff

Parking – plenty

Toilets – yes, in the lock building

Access - carry the kayaks down the long flight of stairs downstream from the lock; on our first visit the staff invited us to put in above the lock and proceed through along with some other boats.

Wildlife – fishers near the lock

Takes you directly into Crowe Bay; turn north to get to the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area with a fun waterfall and swimming area. (There is a fee to park your vehicle if you drive there – and as of 2024 it is only open Friday-Sunday.) It is also quite fun to paddle against the rapids here. On the way back, see how far you can paddle against the current toward to the lock (south) or falls (north)

- <https://youtu.be/wEz-SV439bo>
- <https://youtu.be/iXE6zeBwdrQ>

Trent River, Flight Lock 16 & 17 - Healey Falls – 20 minutes from Norwood (2023)

Take CR-50 to 11th line and proceed east. When you get to the end of the road, turn left and drive a short distance north.

Parking – limited, by the side of the road

Toilets – yes, in a separate building near lock 17

Access – water level stairs above Lock 17

Wildlife – none noted

Paddle north, under the CR-50 bridge, past Woodland Estates and into Seymour Lake

Trent River - AN Township Old Orchard Road Boat Launch – 10 minutes from Norwood (2022)

Old Orchard Road, north of Hastings

Parking – about 1km up the road on Drysdale Road

Toilets – No

Access – dirt road public boat launch

Wildlife – many turtles around the island directly across from the access point; heron by the mill

We went south (upstream) to see Lock 18 and play in the waves. On the way, you can stop at the small inlet by the Hastings Mill to view a waterfall

- <https://youtu.be/2FHSv7CRaLk>
- <https://youtu.be/LQvrMcDa8IM>

Trent River, Lock 27 - Youngs Point – 30 minutes from Norwood (2023)

Just off of CR-28

Parking - \$2 fee to use the small but adequate parking lot

Toilets – Yes, in the lock building (in season); otherwise, may need to buy lunch at the hotel

Access – to go south (to Katchewanooka Lake), carry your kayaks across the lock and drag them across the grass down to the water level stairs); it should also be possible to go north to Clear Lake.

Wildlife – lots of people fishing by the dam

Can stroll across "the old bridge"; usually people are fishing by the dam

Treat yourself to some Kawartha Ice Cream upon our return, at the Lockside Trading Company. Lock 27 Tap & Grill is also nearby with a pleasant view of Clear Lake. There may be a bakery nearby also, at the Young's Point General Store. Note that the Old Bridge Inn is currently open for private functions only.

Lakes

Balsam Lake Provincial Park – 75 minutes from Norwood (2022)

2238 County Road 48, Kawartha Lakes

Parking – ample, but you must pay for entry (borrow a park pass from the Library)

Toilets – yes

Access – on the beach, a short walk from the parking lot

Wildlife – none noted

We happened to go on a cold late fall day with stronger winds. It was quite fun as the waves were choppy enough to be a little challenging while not scary. Lots of cottages, so not a natural setting. We only paddled for a short time, just less than a couple hours.

- <https://youtu.be/7dO7dVWUfLk>

Belmont Lake – 17 minutes from Norwood (2020-2021)

377 Mile of Memories Road, Havelock

Parking – very limited, especially on weekends

Toilets – No

Access – combination public beach and boat launch

A very busy lake with lots of cottages

Bon Echo Provincial Park, Mazinaw Lake – 80 minutes from Norwood (2020-2021)

Bon Echo Provincial Park, 16151 Hwy 41, Cloyne

Parking – all over the park but must pay for entry (borrow pass from Library)

Toilets - yes

Access – several points within the park including creek and beach area

Wildlife – loons, soaring hawks

When we went, it was a beautiful, sunny and calm day. We started on the Bon Echo Creek, paddled out to Lower Mazinaw Lake and turned left. We went past the Beach, the Lagoon (where the canoe and kayak rentals are) and then towards the Narrows. Passing the Narrows, we saw the Walt Whitman memorial and the Indigenous Pictographs in Upper Mazinaw Lake. We paddled a little further and then returned (just a short hour and a half paddle).

Buckhorn Lake, Ode'naang Park – 45 minutes from Norwood (2020-2021)

1939 Lakehurst Rd, Trent Lakes (Buckhorn)

Parking – ample, nearby

Toilets – yes, in the park

Access – directly from the park

Close to the very busy Lock 31. The lake is populated with cottages, beaches and marinas. Can be a little rough. Several restaurants nearby. If you get there early enough, stop by the Country Mart Bakery and see if they have any sticky buns. If not, try something else! Big Jay's and Lil Red's chip truck is also in the area, with good buttermilk chicken burgers.

- https://youtu.be/laITzn_W1l

Buckhorn Lake (Lower), Burleigh Falls - 35 minutes from Norwood (2023)

Just off of CR-28, on the west side – rough lane, not well marked; just north of the bridge and Burleigh Falls Inn (4791 ON-28, Lakefield)

Parking - extremely limited in season; adequate off season

Toilets –none during off season; presumeably at Lock 28 in season but since there is nowhere to park it's a moot issue; in off season, had lunch at the Burleigh Falls Inn in order to use theirs. Food was good.

We were able to put directly into the lake (Lower Buckhorn) where there are numerous islands nearby; a surprisingly natural setting for a busy lake.

Buckhorn Lake (Upper), Lock 31 - 45 minutes from Norwood (2024)

891-861 Sunrise Ct, Trent Lakes (Buckhorn)

Parking – a few cars

Toilets – yes, in the lock

We were able to put directly into the lake (Upper Buckhorn) from the parking lot. From there, a narrow channel opens into the wide lake. Like Lower Buckhorn Lake, the lake is populated with cottages, and marinas but more sparsely due to wetlands. It is a large lake and you can paddle for many hours. We only paddled for about 2.5 hours in total on a pleasant sunny day with some clouds.

- <https://youtu.be/kvfWH5arp9Q>

Catchacoma Lake (and Mississauga Lake) – 60 minutes from Norwood (2020-2021)

802 Beaver Lake Road, Gooderham - Boat Ramp

Parking - yes

Toilets - not sure

Access - not a problem

We paddled into the Narrows from Mississauga Lake.

Chandos Lake Boat Launch – 60 minutes from Norwood (2022)

24 Lakeview Crescent, Apsley

Parking – adequate size lot

Toilets – No, but the Chandos Lake Public beach is a 1 minute drive and has toilets.

Access – sandy public boat launch

It was a sunny day and the water was fairly calm. Tons of high end cottages on a big lake. We just paddled around the shore for a while and then made our way back. You can go for as long as you want to paddle or just a short paddle. Just okay.

- <https://youtu.be/AFIq4w8YUNY>

Cordova Lake – 45 minutes from Norwood (2024)

Near to 1144 Scotts Dam Rd, Minden

Parking – adequate size lot

Toilets – No.

Access – public boat launch

It was a nice day with lots of clouds but some clearing with sun. The water was calm. We paddled about half the lake and then went up the river which had a few fast running water spots. Then, we came to a fun small but quick rapids with no visible rocks that we played in for about 25 minutes. Really cool as there is a side eddy that pulls you up to the top of the rapids and then you can launch into the 10 second run. You can probably paddle through the rapids, but we were a little wary and didn't want to tip trying. In all, about 2.5 hours with a few breaks and relaxed paddling.

- <https://youtu.be/dy2J-bWGQo>

Crowe Lake, Marmora – 20 minutes from Norwood (2020-2021)

355 Blairton Rd, Havelock

Parking – must park on the road

Toilets – no

Access - weedy but doable

Kasshabog Lake – 40 minutes from Norwood (2020-2021)

612 Peninsula Rd #446, Havelock

Parking - large parking lot

Toilets – seasonal portable

Access – public boat launch with dock

Wildlife - loons

Free swimming beach and picnic area right across the road. This is one of our favourite spots to paddle; the lake is generally calm, the water is warm, there are islands to explore and nice cottages.

- https://youtu.be/gT_84s8FVSM

Long Lake (Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park) – 44 minutes from Norwood (2020-2021)

377 Long Lake Rd, Apsley, ON

Parking - \$10 per day for parking (private, seemingly NOT free with Provincial Park pass?) Although it is large, it seems to get filled up with people camping in the park

Toilets – yes, separate from building

Access – sandy boat launch

It was pretty calm the day we went. Well, it's a long lake within the park – a few cottages but a pretty natural setting. We were able to get through to one smaller lake, then returned. Passed a number of canoeists.

- https://youtu.be/p12Gywrq9_o

Mississauga Lake – 1 hour from Norwood (2020-2021)

CR 507 to Mississauga Dam Road to Dam Road/Fire Route #133 – see our map of the launching location

Parking – limited, at the end of the fire route

Toilet - no

Access – public boat launch

When we went it was pretty calm and enjoyable.

- <https://youtu.be/HNQ0InDH43E>

Presqu'ile Park, Brighton (Lake Ontario) – Calf Pasture Day Use Area - 75 minutes from Norwood (2022)

328 Presqu'ile Pkwy, Brighton

Parking – must pay for entry (get park pass from Library) Parking lot in this area can handle several cars.

Toilets – Not nearby, but there are others a short drive around the park.

Access – weedy, but adequate. This part of the park has been naturalized so it's a little marshy but easy enough to put in.

Wildlife – osprey nest with chicks in spring, large fish

It was a cloudy spring day and being on Lake Ontario, the water can be a little choppy. We followed the shoreline past the lighthouse to the Nature Centre where we were able to disembark. Unfortunately it was closed. Another short paddle of about 1.5 hours.

- <https://youtu.be/yJEq48GZp0M>

Rice Lake – Asphodel Heights (AN Township) – 18 minutes from Norwood (2020-2021)

Address: 139 Indian Road, Hastings; access from 3rd Line

Other Asphodel-Norwood boat launches: <https://www.antownship.ca/en/explore-discover/public-boat-launches-and-wharfs.aspx>

Parking - of all the AN launches we prefer this one because unlike some places (i.e., Old Orchard) there is lots of parking very close to the launch.

Toilets – No

Access – public beach type boat launch

Wildlife – many nesting birds in spring

This was our first paddle when we moved here. We were surprised by how rough it can get – it seems to be very windy on Rice Lake. But the marsh area was calm.

- <https://youtu.be/BmM-k9HQr2E>

Rice Lake – Bewdley Optimist Park – 45 minutes from Norwood (2024)

Address: 5074 Rice Lake Dr N, Bewdley, ON K0L 1E0

Parking – numerous but only supposed to be for 2 hours

Toilets – public building but no soap

Access – public beach type boat launch

Wildlife – not really

This was a very long paddle (3 hours and about 15 km) from Bewdley Optimist Park to Long Island on Rice Lake. It was a nice day with enough wind and cloud to keep us cool, otherwise it might have been very hot. The water was warm at the end of June. Of course, being on Rice Lake, it got a little rough, which was fun. We constantly had the skegs on and for the little boat, constant corrections were necessary.

- <https://youtu.be/uPmc8NH4yS0>

Rice Lake – Gores Landing – 40 minutes from Norwood (2024)

Address: 5303 Plank Road, Bewdley, ON K0L 1E0

Parking – only on the street, 2 blocks from the boat launch – park away from toilets due to smell

Toilets – portable

Access – public boat launch

Wildlife – not really

This was a longer paddle (2.5 hours and about 10 km) from Gores Landing to Tic Island on Rice Lake. It was a beautiful day with a wonderful breeze to keep it cool. The water was warm at the beginning of August. Of course, being on Rice Lake, it had really fun swells. Since we were going against the waves, it was controllable on the way to the island. Awesome day of kayaking.

Stony Lake - Quarry Bay Beach (near Petroglyphs Park) – 25 minutes from Norwood (2020-2021)

2006 Northeys Bay Rd, Lakefield It is important to note that boats are not permitted in summer, so we go in the off season.

Parking – large parking lot but a fairly long walk to the beach. We sometimes use our wheels.

Toilets – none in off season.

Access – directly from the public swimming area (beach)

It's a pretty big lake so it can be quite rough – numerous houses/cottages on shore.

- <https://youtu.be/kT-7Xxq8Mts>

Stoney Lake Public Boat Launch (Viamede) – 30 minutes from Norwood (2022)

595 Mt Julian Viamede Rd, Woodview (north side of the lake, near CR-28 and Northey's Bay Road)

Parking - the lot is very small (just a few cars) so we would not count on finding a spot on a weekend or in summer.

Toilets - No, not sure if it may be possible to access washrooms at the Viamede resort, which is nearby.

Access - public boat launch

We went in late November on a very sunny day. The water was choppy at times. There are lots of cottages but also lots of islands and natural areas to explore between here and Burleigh Falls.

- <https://youtu.be/Hxqe-KBE574>