

## *Algonquin Park—A Place Like No Other: A History of Algonquin Provincial Park* by Roderick MacKay

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[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

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by experts. The TBE turned to British and American schools for education best practices, as urban schools faced similar challenges and needs. This study provides an excellent contribution to education history, the history of special education, disability studies, and public policy. It gives important context to current debates and the impact of testing and curriculum standards on diverse student populations. What is evident in this study is the wide ranging controls state institutions have to direct student lives. The TBE was acting upon institutional experts and supports when designing and maintaining programs for children, many which had broad

-ranging impacts. However, as Ellis also acknowledges, policies were also contested by reformers, parent groups, experts, and students, who challenged governments to alter adverse special education policies in order to better address student needs. It is this activism that continues to play an important role in ensuring the removal of discriminatory policies that children with disabilities commonly face, so that all students have equitable and successful educational outcomes.

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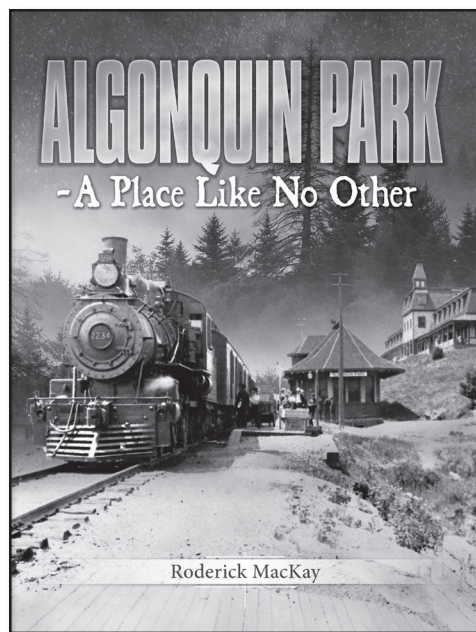
## *Algonquin Park—A Place Like No Other*

### *A History of Algonquin Provincial Park*

By Roderick MacKay

Whitney, Ontario: Friends of Algonquin Park, 2018.  
432 pages. \$34.50 Softcover. ISBN 9781894993708.  
(<http://store.algonquinpark.on.ca/cgi/algonquinpark/01613.html>)

Roderick MacKay's *Algonquin Park—A Place Like No Other: A History of Algonquin Provincial Park* is published by The Friends of Algonquin Provincial Park (FOAP). This detail is exceptionally important for understanding the depth of material that MacKay draws from throughout the volume. FOAP, which was established in 1983, was the first “Friends of” non-profit park groups to be established in Ontario and has played a major part in the recent history of Algonquin Provincial Park. The strength and size of FOAP as a non-profit organization enables it to maintain its own park archive within the park boundaries, which is exception-



ally rare for an individual provincial park. Access to this archive and other materials, combined with MacKay's deep personal connection to the park, lead to a dizzyingly detailed and rich history of Algonquin that was decades in the making.

*A Place Like No Other* stands out

among other popular park histories in that it does not center tourism, outdoor recreation, or the experiences of park visitors. There is only one section of the book dedicated purely to these topics, “Park Six: The Park as Playground,” and it does not occur until after page 200. Instead, MacKay provides a full, multi-dimensional comprehensive history of Algonquin Provincial Park that acknowledges it not just as a place for play, but also as a place of work. This emphasis on labour enables MacKay to explore a variety of topics including resource extraction, park rangers, and small, private businesses that are too-often ignored by park historians.

MacKay does not proliferate an inaccurate idea of Algonquin as an untouched wilderness. MacKay is adamant and effectively demonstrates that Algonquin is a peopled place and was long before the establishment of the park. He begins his history of the park with the Indigenous people who lived in the region before settlers arrived and after whom the park is named. MacKay’s examination of the Indigenous history of the park—though still tellingly the slimmest section of the book—is one of the most detailed published to date. He unapologetically identifies the park as a colonial and settler colonial enterprise and treats it as such throughout. MacKay also does not sugarcoat the history of timber

extraction within the confines of the park and accurately centers timber extraction in his account of the park’s establishment.

The organization of the book makes it both visually appealing and accessible to general readers. The book is broken into section, chapters, and sub-sections, which make it easier to digest in manageable amounts or to find specific information. The text also includes topical insets that stand alone and enrich the main text. This format makes the book reminiscent of a textbook and is one of the reasons that this book could serve as an engaging and educative assignment in an undergraduate or graduate level course. Many of these insets highlight museum and archeological objects, demonstrating that MacKay understands the value of tangible heritage within traditional textual history.

MacKay’s *Algonquin Park—A Place Like No Other* is a testament to the power of slow scholarship. MacKay had the time to gather and sit with these materials for decades, a luxury that other historians, particularly within the academy, rarely get. The result is one of the most thoughtful and detailed park histories written to-date; a must-read for historians and the general public.

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## *From Wall Street to Bay Street*

### *The Origins and Evolution of American and Canadian Finance*

By Christopher Kobrak and Joe Martin

Toronto, Ontario: University of Toronto Press, 2018. 401 pages. \$34.95 paperback. ISBN 978-1-44261-625-7 (<https://utorontopress.com/ca/>)

**H**istories of finance are often narratives emphasizing failure over success, chaos over stability, collapses

instead of rises. With an incline towards the modern, its notable events include the Great Depression, Black Monday, and the