

In Search of the Group of Seven Part II;

The Algoma Wilds



The McGuffins are on a quest, a treasure hunt of sorts, across northern Ontario with art historian and sculptor, Michael Burtch. Ninety years ago, a new vision of the Canadian wilderness was boldly laid down on small canvases by a group of artists who ventured into the northern Ontario wilds to paint the landscape as it had never been captured before. Packing paints and canvases and travelling by railway, on foot and canoe in autumn and spring, these *pleine aire* painters forged a new way of thinking about Canada. Today their paintings are worth a fortune. Some of the Canada's largest galleries are home to their prolific lifetime of work spanning the entire nation yet the locations of many of their best loved paintings from their formative years in northern Ontario are still unknown.

Discovering these sites has been the focus of the McGuffins latest photographic adventures which they hope will give fellow paddlers further reason to venture forth on Ontario's rivers and lakes this summer.