

## In the 1800's

As European settlers moved onto the land surrounding Riding Mountain, timber for building and fuel became essential. Unsuitable for agriculture, the highlands of Riding Mountain provided the needed wood resources for settlement. In order to conserve resources, the area was proclaimed a Forest Reserve in 1895. For the next 50 years the timber taken from these lands was used to build homes, farm buildings, schools, churches, and to establish the many communities now adjacent to Riding Mountain National Park.



## Changing Times

By the 1930's, Riding Mountain was recognized as an area of national significance. It provided the opportunity to promote recreation and tourism, as well as to preserve wildlife. In 1933 it was officially established

as a National Park. The park's boundary largely coincided with those of the former Forest Reserve. All large commercial sawmills that operated within the Reserve were to be phased out by 1935 in order to leave the new National Park "...unimpaired for future generations."

At this time, Alex Kippan, who was operating a large sawmill on the northwest shore of Clear Lake, discovered that a timber berth on the north side of the park had not yet been fully logged. Despite National Park status, the original conditions governing the berth remained in effect. Thus, the area could be excluded from the park until all marketable timber had been removed. Kippan purchased the berth and operated the mill from 1936 to 1946.

## Closing the Mill

Kippan's Mill was the last commercial sawmill within the park. After ten years of logging, the white spruce on which Kippan's Mill depended had been depleted. From 1945 to 1948 the mill operation began to shut down, and in 1949 the sawmill was dismantled.

When Kippan's Mill closed, both the timber berth and mill site became the jurisdiction and responsibility of Riding Mountain National Park.

The forests of Riding Mountain are now slowly reclaiming the mill site. Kippan's Mill portrays an important piece of cultural history that is a part of the heritage of Riding Mountain National Park and the surrounding area.

Visit other historic locations in Riding Mountain such as the Riding Mountain Park East Gate Registration Complex National Historic Site of Canada, Grey Owl's Cabin, and the Pinewood Museum.

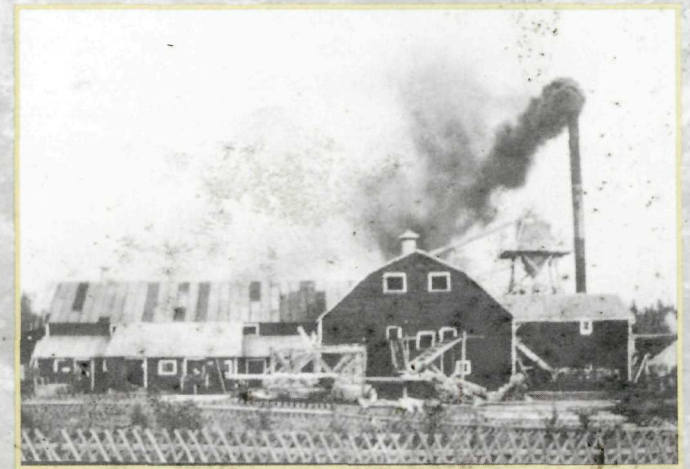
**Aussi disponible en français.**



RIDING MOUNTAIN  
NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA

# KIPPAN'S MILL

## *Trail Guide*



*Please return brochure  
to box at the trailhead.*



Parks  
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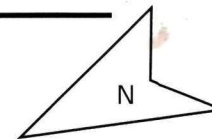
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# KIPPAN'S MILL

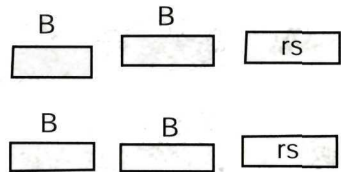
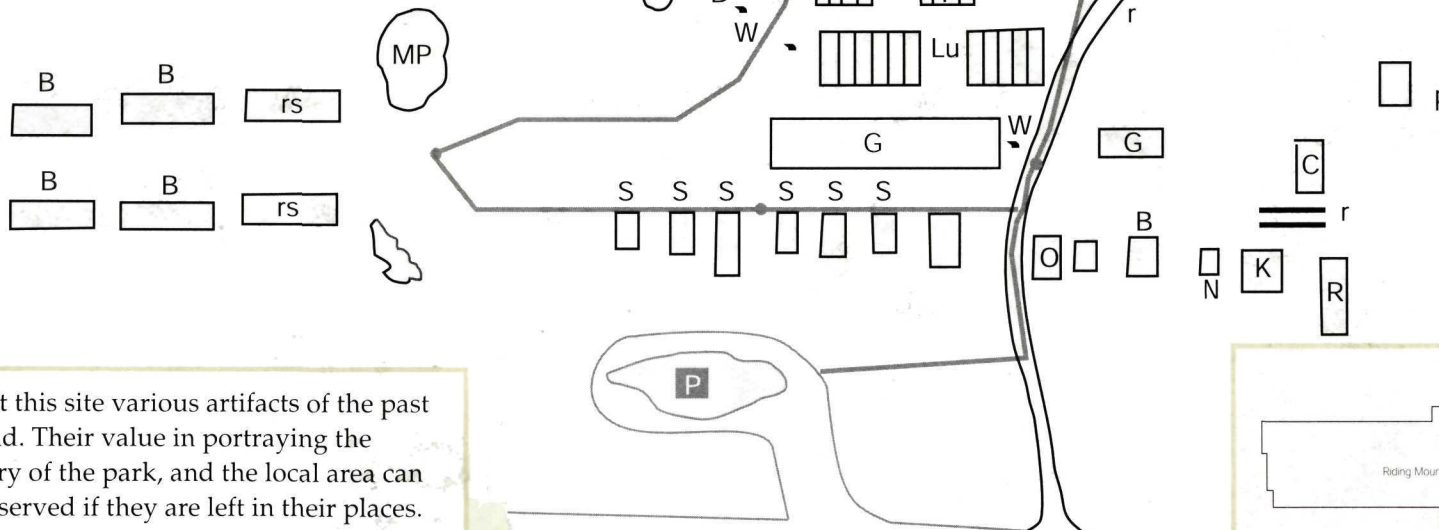
SKETCH MAP CIRCA 1936-1946



## Legend

B	Barns	M	Sawmill
Bo	Boiler	N	Nurse
C	Cook Shack	O	Office
G	Gardens	p	pump house
j	jackladder	r	road
K	Kippan house	rs	rowed shacks
Lo	Log piles	R	Curling rink
Lu	Lumber	RR	Railroad
ls	Lumber shed	S	Shacks (residence)
MS	Machine Shed	W	Wells
MP	Manure Pile	X1	Log Cabin
<b>P</b>	Present day parking		
●—	Present day trail with interpretive signs		

In the late 1930's or early 1940's the whining of the saws and the pungent scent of freshly sawn timber would have filled the air. Though these activities no longer exist today, the basic elements that made up the mill camp - logging, sawing and community life - can be experienced along this trail.



Throughout this site various artifacts of the past can be found. Their value in portraying the social history of the park, and the local area can only be preserved if they are left in their places.

**No natural objects or artifacts may be removed from the Park. Violators will be charged.**

PRESENT DAY HIGHWAY 10

