



# The Tahquamenon Scenic Byway

## Anishinaabe History

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The Anishinaabe (which can mean 'Original People' or 'Spontaneous Beings') have lived in the Great Lakes area for millennia. Some of the oldest legends recall the ice packs breaking on Lake Nipissing and archeologists have found Anishinaabe sites from 3,000 B.C. The ancestors of the current tribe were Anishinaabe fishing tribes whose settlements dotted the upper Great Lakes around Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, throughout the St. Mary's River system and the Straits of Mackinac.

An Anishinaabe longhouse was constructed in August 2013 on the grounds of the Tahquamenon Logging Museum and River Walk. Ron Paquin, a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, completed construction of the first of two learning lodges along the Tahquamenon Scenic Byway. The Lodge was constructed using traditional methods and materials on the grounds of the Tahquamenon Logging Museum.

Approximately 16 feet long, 12 feet wide and 6 feet tall, the Lodge is constructed of maple saplings, cedar bark and cedar posts. Materials are lashed together with rawhide. Images of the work in progress are below. Longer than they were wide, traditional longhouses had openings at both ends that served as doors and were covered with animal skins during the winter to keep out the cold. Poles were set in the ground and braced by horizontal poles along the walls. The roof is made by bending a series of poles, resulting in an arc-shaped roof. The frame is covered by bark that is sewn in place and layered as shingles and reinforced by light poles.

During the spring of 2015 a pathway, small garden and interpretive sign panel will be added to the site. While the longhouse provides Byway visitors with a glimpse of how our first people lived centuries ago, it is important to note the Bay Mills Indian Community and Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians continue to make this land their home.

