

Dorset Scenic Lookout Tower & Trail



Visit the summit of Tower Hill (Dorset) to learn about the historical Fire Tower that was in operation here from 1922 until 1961. Find out how fires were detected and then put out (usually within one week) using man-power, canoes back-packs and hand tools.



The fire tower was made obsolete when aircraft began watching for fires (now done by satellite). In 1967 a surplus radar tower from the Department of National Defense, intended for the DEW (Distant Early Warning) Line in the Arctic, was erected in its place for visitors to enjoy the view. More than 8,000 people climbed the tower on its official opening weekend.

Upon climbing the 119 steps to the top (if you can make it), you can see more than 800 sq. km (310 sq. miles) on a clear day. The observation deck is 30m (100 ft) above the ground & a stunning 142m (465 ft) above Lake of Bays. The tree top lookout is half way up offering a 360° panoramic view. The park also offers ground level lookouts over the village of Dorset and surrounding area. The Tower Kiosk offers refreshments, snacks, gifts, apparel and area information. Picnic tables and toilet facilities are available at the summit.



The site was turned over by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (formerly Department of Lands and Forests) to the Township of Algonquin Highlands and has been maintained and operated as a tourism site since 1999.



The Tower is a “Use at Own Risk” facility. It is not recommended to climb the tower during inclement weather or high winds. High risk activities such as rock climbing and repelling are not permitted on the Tower or Tower Hill.

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**Victoria Day to Late Fall,
Weather Permitting**

FEE: Per Vehicle or Walk-up

1191 Dorset Scenic Tower Road

(1km north of Dorset, off Highway 35)

705-766-1032

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www.algonquinhighlands.ca/visitors/dorset-lookout-tower.php

GPS/MAP: 45.25.29.87, -78.89.38.5 UTM Zone 17 0665289E 5013211N



DORSET SCENIC TOWER TRAIL

Length: 2.3 km Rating: Moderate Duration: 1 hr

The Upper Trailhead is located in the park. The Lower Trailhead is located behind the Dorset Heritage Museum (1038 Main St.), a great place to visit while you are in the area. Entrance to the museum is by donation.

