

= Ontario Highway 129 =

King 's Highway 129 , commonly referred to as Highway 129 , is a provincially maintained highway in the Canadian province of Ontario . Located in the Algoma and Sudbury districts , the highway extends for 221 kilometres (137 mi) from a junction with Highway 17 in Thessalon to the town of Chapleau , just north of Highway 101 . The route is isolated and lightly travelled throughout its length ; while providing access to several remote settlements , the only sizable communities along the route are the two termini . The highway was established in 1956 along the Chapleau Road . From the early @-@ 1960s to mid @-@ 1970s , Highway 129 was designated as the Chapleau Route of the Trans @-@ Canada Highway .

= = Route description = =

Highway 129 is one of the most isolated in Ontario and among the least @-@ used of the King 's Highways . Although the highway is an important access route for several isolated communities , including Little Rapids , Sultan , Kormak and Nemegos , as well as provincial parks such as Aubrey Falls , Five Mile Lake and Wakami Lake , the only community located directly on the highway 's route between its termini is Wharncliffe . There are few services along Highway 129 between Wharncliffe and Highway 667 . Tunnel Lake Trading Post and Aubrey Falls Trading Post & Resort offer some basic goods , fuel and lodging for travelers and local residents .

The route begins in the town of Thessalon at Highway 17 , north of Lake Huron . It travels northeast through the Municipality of Huron Shores , passing the Thessalon Township Heritage Museum southeast of Little Rapids . Wedging between Basswood Lake and the Byrnes Lake White Birch Provincial Conservation Reserve , it enters the unorganized portions of Algoma District . It passes through Wharncliffe , crosses the Mississagi River and encounters Highway 554 , which travels east to Kynoch .

North of Highway 554 , the route is generally parallel to the river and Mississagi River Provincial Park . After passing west of Wakomata Lake on its journey through completely undeveloped forest and muskeg , it reaches a junction with Highway 556 southwest of Aubrey Falls Provincial Park . Thereafter , the highway roughly follows the Wenebagon River through Wenebagon River Provincial Park to Wenebagon Lake . Highway 129 encounters the entrance to Five Mile Provincial Park and meets Highway 667 , which travels east through Sultan , becoming the Sultan Industrial Road and connecting with Highway 144 .

From this junction , the route travels northwest towards Highway 101 , where drivers must turn right to continue north on the route . Both highways travel concurrently northeast for 7 @.@ 6 kilometres (4 @.@ 7 mi) , at which point Highway 101 branches off to the east . Highway 129 continues north alongside the Sudbury ? White River CPR line . It ends at the southern town limits of Chapleau , continuing north as a local road through the town and into the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve , the largest game preserve in the world .

= = History = =

Highway 129 was first designated between Aubrey Falls and Chapleau in 1956 , following the Thessalon ? Chapleau Highway , a dirt road along the banks of the Mississagi River that opened to traffic on January 28 , 1949 . Though opened , this initial road was almost impassable , and certainly dangerous . Despite this , it quickly gained notoriety for its breathtaking scenery and seemingly limitless hunting and fishing potential . However , the poor condition of the road often left a terrible impression on tourists . John Austin Moore described his voyage up the road during the summer of 1951 :

" Our first trip by car took us over the famed Chapleau Road , the scenery and unique loneliness of which have been often reported in magazines . And surely its condition not long after it had opened to travel , when we first drove it in June 1951 , was unforgettable . One trip over its 145 miles was almost guaranteed to shorten your life "

The route was extended south on February 27 , 1957 , absorbing the entire length of Highway 559 , itself designated in 1956 . The Highway 559 designation has since been reused in Parry Sound District . In 1961 , the partially gravel surfaced highway was designated as the Chapleau Route of the Trans @-@ Canada Highway , despite being only a spur in the network at that time . This designation lasted until as early as 1974 and as late as 1978 .

Highway 129 was the last King 's Highway to be paved ; the section immediately south of Aubrey Falls remained a gravel road as late as 1982 . The one @-@ lane Rapid River Bridge was replaced by an adjacent two @-@ lane bridge in the second quarter of 2010 .

= = Major intersections = =

The following table lists the major junctions along Highway 129 , as noted by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario .