

## Temagami; Anima Nipissing Lake, Red Squirrel, Diamond, Lady Evelyn, Montreal River, Bay Lake Loop



**Participants:** Bill and Janice

**Total Distance:** 118km, with 5,990m in 7 portages.

**Note:** We used 'The Adventure Map from Chrismar, Temagami 1, Northeast, 2001'. We did our portages in a 1 ½ carry.

**Sat. Sept. 6/08:** *Janice:* 16km, no portages. We left home at 2:20am. We had breakfast at Sundridge and gassed up (6:30-7:30am). We registered at Finlayson Provincial Park and are at the dock on Anima Nipissing Lake Access 2 at 10:30. After listening to a boater's story about Indians carving animals on the rock cliffs, we departed at 11:10. We checked out the 2 sites on the west side across the bay and kept an eye out for pictographs as we headed down the lake. We saw 2 canoe pictographs with 4 people in each and another smudge that was hard to make out. It is overcast and threatens rain, but we are lucky and occasionally the sun pops out. We had lunch (12:30) at the east campsite at the narrows. There are two sites here, not one. We are on the point, sitting on chairs overlooking the lower ½ of Anima Nipissing. Lunch was great, hard boiled eggs, pickles, cinnamon apple pita and oranges. We had a bit of drizzle throughout our lunch and after a good break the waves gently pushed us down to the next site. I checked it out; it is a huge site with a full size heavy table. It has been abused and a lot of trees have been cut down. There is even a tire, why, I'm not sure. We stopped to take pictures of a second pictograph on the west shore around 2:30. We decided to skip the next site and go for the one before the swift at the narrows, however we changed our minds, as the shady site was very small and the tent pads were unlevel. We paddled back and took the second last site at 3:15 pm. It is nice with a great view and a nice rock face. We have our food in 2 dry bags this time and the trees are not ideal for this. It hasn't rained and it has been a pleasant afternoon. We've seen only a few motor boats and loons and ducks, no canoeists.

**Sunday Sept. 7/08:** *Bill:* 14 km with 1,590m in 2 portages. 5am I woke up to the rain just starting to hit the tent. I rolled over and woke up again at 8am and it was still raining. We had chocolate oatmeal for breakfast under our rain fly. We were on the water at 10:45 and it had just stopped raining. We saw a family of otters in McLean Lake. They were very skittish and left as soon as we saw them. We went down the little creek to the pond and checked out the large beaver dam on the south side and if there was a trail up the hill on the far end, but there wasn't, so we took the trail closer to the start of the pond. We did

the 670m portage into Carry Lake and had a late lunch at the other end of the lake just before the 920m portage into Red Squirrel. The sun was trying to come out. We did the portage and when I carried the canoe across, Janice came up to me and said you have to see this. There was a great big parking lot we had to cross before we got to the lake. A couple had just come to the dock in a motor boat. They told us all the sites were open on the lake and we could have our pick. We checked out the large one across the bay, but it was too big for us. We saw mergansers and seagulls as we passed the island into the bay. We picked the site just before the bay to our next portage to Ferguson Bay on Temagami Lake, We looked at the site to the north of us that is marked on our map, but I don't think anyone uses it. It was starting to thunder and we were now in a hurry to find the site we did at 4:15. We set up the rain fly and the tent as it started to rain. We had a small break from the rain while we made our spaghetti supper, but before we had everything put away it rained again and has not stopped yet as I write this log. It is 8:30 and I am going to hang our food bags and then go into the tent for the night.



**Mon. Sept. 8/08:** *Janice:* 15 km with 1,360m in 2 portages. Bill woke at 5:30 and me at 6am. We both thought 'hey, it's raining, guess I'll lay here a little longer.' It finally quit at 7am and after a slow start we crawled out of the tent. Everything is soaked. Last night, before all the rain the sky was such a strange weird grey-pink colour. Bill dragged a table out of the trees and we made breakfast. We dried stuff out as best as we could and packed up after that delicious breakfast of bacon and

pancakes. We were on the water at 10:15. We paddled the bay that took us to the 600m portage. The portage was a nice smooth trail with a small grade up and down. We paddled the twisty creek that was strewn with submerged logs. It was a nice little paddle with a pond in the middle. The lake is breezy and whipped up. We stopped for lunch 12:10, on the second beach campsite after Camp Wanapitei. This is a lovely sandy beach. It'd be a great place to swim on a warmer day. We ate our lunch just in the tree line out of the wind and were surprised to see a couple and a dog when we came out to leave. They headed towards the cliffs on the point to the south and we carried on westward towards the 760m portage into the North Arm. Mount Napoleon looks impressive and after clambering up the rocky start of the portage you can take the trail to the right to the lookout. We didn't. The portage has some rocky sections around the inclines and descents. We started at 1:30 and finished at 2:20. The portage brings you out to a very pretty bay. We headed across to the Upper Narrows. The wind is strong and still in our face. The weather has played games with us and we have our rain jackets on and our sunglasses on. One minute we have drizzle and the next it is sunny. There were people setting up camp on the site on Beaver Island. We crossed Sharp Rock Inlet and paddled up the arm toward Diamond Lake. It would have been a good day to sail had we been going the other way. We arrived here at the last site before the portage to Diamond at 4, after we checked out the other sites. We are on the north end of the island. It is a small

site, rock front. At 5:20 the canoe with the couple and the dog came along checking out the sites. They are on the other end of this island and have gathered a ton of fire wood. Two canoes have since passed by and a small motor boat came up the back of the island fishing. More action today than we have seen since we started.



**Tues. Sept. 9/08:** *Bill:* 15 km with 70m in 1 portage. We were up at 6:40am and it had rained in the night and it is colder out. We left camp at 9:00am. It rained off and on the whole day and we canoed against the wind which blew hard sometimes. We

met a group of young men in 4 canoes who were headed for Ferguson Bay today. We talked about what day it was and when I said it was Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> they said they celebrated one of the guy's birthday yesterday, thinking it was the 9<sup>th</sup>. Diamond Lake is very nice and there were people camped on one of the islands we passed. All I can say about the rest is wind. We stuck close to shore after Diamond Lake and were able to paddle through the narrow swift into Lady Evelyn Lake without touching bottom. It was a nice area and would have been nice to camp here if it was not so early. We stopped for lunch on the site just past the 550m portage to Walsh Lake at 12:00 noon. The sun had come out and we had our coats on and life jackets off and were just spreading peanut butter on our buns when it started to rain again. We moved into the bush and finished lunch. We were back on the water at 1:10 pm. We paddled to the south side of our island site before the widest part of Lady Evelyn Lake. We were here at 2:30pm and had lots of time to set up camp and have a snack and a drink. We made campfire bread on the fire, which we ate for dessert after our hamburg gravy, mashed potatoes, and green beans and broccoli supper. We had everything packed away before dark and sat in front of a small fire while I write. Guess what?! It is staring to rain, so we are going into the tent. It is 9:15pm.



**Wed. Sept. 10/08:** *Janice:* 22 km with 0 portages. We woke at 6am and lay around till 6:30. I dreamt last night of Mom S and I awoke thinking of her and when I told Bill he said he was thinking of her too; it's her birthday. Happy birthday Mom! We're thinking of you and we hope you like the flowers! It is a beautiful sunny start with mist on the water. A happy red squirrel is running here and there gathering pinecones and whatever else he can find for his nest, He is fun to watch, but we

best get going. We are on the water at 9am and there is a very light breeze in our favour. We paddled northeast and checked out the next 2 sites. As we went past the islands a hawk called out and we watched and listened for a bit. We had a granola snack at 10 and

it felt as if we were crawling up the lake, it is so vast. At 11am we stopped at the Obisaga Narrows. There were three boats fishing and we spotted an otter fishing as well. I took a couple pictures and I'm sure the fishing boat thought he was my subject; I don't think they even saw the otter. We checked out the sites as we went along and for a while the wind sung around to face us. We planned on maybe having lunch on one of the sites at Obashingwakoba Narrows, but they were running generators at the cottage and it was too



much noise. Lady Evelyn is calm and just like glass; there are just a few ripples here and there. We met 4 canoes heading the opposite way, all men. Island 10 Fishing Resort was huge, lots of buildings with red roofs. 12:20 we had lunch in the canoe at the Obowanga Dunes (sand ridges covered with trees). We would have canoed amongst them, but we were headed the other way. We crept between the island and the arm with all the cottages on it. There was a narrow channel, but the cottagers had blocked it at one time by

orange construction fence and an orange log. It was pushed to the side. Ellen Island Camp is big, lots of buildings with green roofs. We paddled past the last few campsites and decided to camp in the mouth of the channel. We are on the west shore at 2pm. A canoe with a couple came down the channel at 5:20. There is lots of motors and boat noise here. It has been a delightful day, with sun and clean air. The moon is very bright and I hope tomorrow is the same.

**Thurs. Sept11/08:** *Bill:* 20 km with 260m in 1 portage. Janice checked at 1am and I checked at 3am for northern lights, but we didn't see any. The stars were beautiful though. We thought it would be a cold night because of the clear sky, so we put on an extra layer of long johns and we were nice and warm. We were up at 6:30 and on the water at 8:30 after a cream of wheat breakfast. We passed two people camping half way



up the channel to Mattawanika Dam on the west site just after the two bays. We met 2 guys at the dam in an aluminum canoe who are on a trip for the same time span that we are. They headed off to Mowat Landing and we headed south down the Montreal River. There are cottages on either side of the campsite marked at this junction and it looks like you have to climb up and find a site on the top of the hill. We had a snack in the next bay at 10:10am. As we paddled down the Montreal River we both think it is very

strange that we are not seeing any birds and there are no signs of animals. Halfway down to the end we started seeing ducks and loons and beaver lodges and trails to the water's

edge. We coasted on the water and had a lunch at 12 noon. As we passed the nonexistent Pork Rapids we saw 2 fishing boats and we asked them how they were doing and the guy



said they were only catching small ones. We decided to camp at the site before you get into Bay Lake at 1:50pm. The picnic table sold us on it. There is a snowmobile trail behind us that goes down to the lake just west of us and also carries on in both directions. The trail was the only place I could find to hang our bear bag, on a birch tree that was leaning over the trail. We had a lazy afternoon and got our chores done early. We are enjoying a small fire and it is getting dark. There is no sign of a red sky tonight and the sky is clouding over.

**Fri. Sept12/08:** *Janice:* 11 km with 2,710m in 1 portage. It has rained off and on all night. It is now 7:30 and it is still raining. It stopped just long enough for us to pop out of the tent for a bit. There are slugs crawling on our tent netting as well as the fly. The site is small and we choose to put the tent closer to the brush, rather than in the cedars where the mosquitoes are. Gerry, Tess and Cathy will have arrived on Obabika Lake and will be sitting in their tents listening to the rain as well. The Changing of the Seasons Ceremony is on this weekend. We left the site at 10:50am. It's 15 degrees Celsius. Bay Lake is as smooth as glass. There is no wind at all and the rain has slowly turned to a misty drizzle. We paddled down the west shore and enjoyed the quiet water and watched as beetles scooted away from our canoe. The trees were dripping with water and large bubbles formed as they dripped into the lake. We noted the site to the south of the portage and landed at 12:15, took out and had lunch at the site to the north. It is just off the portage not on the point before. We started the 2710m portage at 1:20 and did a 1 ½ carry. The wide trail starts uphill and levels off on rock, turns into a smooth trail to just about the end, where it has a slow grade towards the lake. There is an old truck and campfire ring part way up the trail. Pretty cool! The trail appears to be used as a snowmobile trail in the winter. It's a good trail; just long. It becomes wet and muddy at the end. We finished at 3:05. We paddled south on Anima Nipissing Lake and checked out the site on the first island. It is on the most southern point, not where it is marked. We camped on the north point site at Black Bay. Big site and we are across from the smaller one that was marked wrong. We arrived here at 4pm. We have a tarp up and are staying dry. Well, it stopped raining and we managed to have our supper and clean up. We are settled and in the tent at 10:10pm.



**Sat. Sept. 13/08:** *Janice:* 5 km with 0 portages. The sky cleared off in the night to a big bright moon and lots of stars, but no northern lights. Our day started at 7:30 and we made a fruit dumpling breakfast, cleaned ourselves up and enjoyed our coffee in the sun. We can't help but pout because we are leaving and the weather is so lovely. We left the site at 11:30 and headed southward along the west shore. We canoed to just past the next 2 sites and took pictures of the pictographs and the fire tower and soaked in the view. We arrived at the dock at 12:30. There were 2 boats at the dock, one coming and one going. The parking lot is fuller than when we came. After loading we headed off to Latchford for home cut fries. Too bad we didn't have weather like this when we were tripping!