

## Anstruther Lake Serpentine Lake Loop



Participants: Janice and Bill

Total Distance: 20 km. including 3,088m. in 7 portages and 1 liftover.

Sat. Oct. 6/01: 4km. *Bill:* We left Bayfield at 8:10 am. and after a short stop at Joe's in Waterloo we were at the put in on Anstruther Lake and on the water at 3pm. The wind was strong and the lake was choppy. (A fellow who was lunching and taking pictures on shore asked us if we were going out in that, and then he wished us Good Luck!) We had some pretty strong gusts of wind from the NW. when it started to pour rain. (We were starting up the northern end of Anstruther at this point in time.) Janice thinks the trees are very pretty with their fall splendor, even in the rain. We did the 162m. portage up the hill to Rathbun Lake. There were lots of canoes and boats parked at the put in. We paddled across the lake to the north to the point and ended up further in the bay at the middle campsite at 4pm. We put up our tarp first with the canoe as a wind break and sat out the rain. We put the tent up on the hill in the hemlocks and moved back into the trees so it would be warmer. As we worked away at setting up the tent it began to hail and then we saw the most beautiful rainbow. We started making supper when the rain stopped. Janice took the tarp down and tied up the canoe for the night. We had hamburg gravy, vegetables, and potatoes for supper and we were too full for dessert, so we did the dishes and got ready for bed. It was getting dark at 7pm. and we are ready in the tent at 8pm. What a short day!

Sun. Oct. 7/01: 8km. *Janice:* We slept a good night. It was cold and it rained and there wasn't a star in sight. We rolled out of bed at 8am. We watched the only other canoe couple leave Rathbun Lake at 10am. They canoed out towards the portage in a snow storm. Maybe they are going home. We left our site at 10:50am. and headed off in the snow north to the 135m. portage to North Rathbun Lake. We looked around for a saw blade that was supposed to be just off the portage, but we couldn't find it. North Rathbun Lake is very pretty. The colours are magnificent even in this type of weather. We paddled up North Rathbun and then the cold north wind helped us tack across to our portage. We decided to have lunch before we did the portage, so we headed to the site just past the portage. It was a nice site and we had lunch (12 noon) back in the bush to get out of the wind. We discovered a trail that linked up to the portage and we used it. When the sun comes out it is nice and then we have this cold, cold wind and snow or snow pellets. We did the 1584m. portage in 37 min. It was easy to follow and was well marked with P signs. There is a real good slope to the trail (a nice hill) at the Serpentine Lake side. There is only 1 old tired canoe at this put in, most lakes have a ton of boats at the access points. The wind blew us down Serpentine Lake as we enjoyed the splendor of colour, green, red, orange, and yellow. We headed past the island we figured Gerry camped on, to the 160m. portage to the creek to Copper Lake. We were almost at the portage when we noticed a boat on the leeward side of the island. We decided to check it, and the island out. The site is nice and we decided someone must have done a practical joke because there was no one with that tied up aluminium boat and there was another one we could see down the lake on the site on the point. We left and headed back over to the portage. The little creek was dry on the other side of the narrows, hence the portage. We put in and wound down the creek past a beaver lodge to the beaver dam and our 30m. portage. We had a gorp break here and enjoyed the sun till it left again. Bill checked out the second trail and decided it must lead to Serpentine Lake. We put our layers back on and left in a snow storm. The snow settled down and it looked so neat as it hit the water. It was as if there was snow coming up out of the water to meet the snow from the sky. We twisted down a creek to the LO., where we saw a black mink scamper away. Hello Copper Lake! We

are camped on the north point just before the large northern bay at 3:30. It is a good site with lots of room and an excellent flat tent site. We have done our chores, enjoyed supper, and really enjoyed our fire. It is now 8:45 and it has been dark since 7:15. It's going to be a cold night. Bill commented on how quiet it is here. Nice.

Mon. Oct. 8/01: 8km. It was a cold night with a starry sky and a half moon. We were up at 7am. and there was frost on the ground and our tent when we crawled out in the morning. The lake was beautiful with the bright sun shining through a rising mist. After a good breakie and packing up we left our site at 10:10am. We paddled westward and curved back south-eastward down the narrows to our 832m. portage. It was so pretty with the sun shining down on us and little wind. We enjoyed this a lot. The 837m. portage was a nice easy portage with a drop at the end. We wound our way down Anstruther Creek, picking our path through the vegetation. A heron flew off as we were paddling along. We were hoping to get close to him with the camera when we were side-tracked by 3 otters who snorted and peeked and nervously played with us. What fun! We did the 180m. portage at the end of Anstruther Creek to Rathbun Lake. I took a picture of the falls from the portage trail and after we finished the portage we went back for a better look. We paddled Rathbun Lake to the 162m. portage to Anstruther Lake. As we paddled along we remembered the rain, and snow, and wind we had coming in. It was sooo nice now with the sun out. It had rained so much that the water lilies are under water. We noted where we camped and left. There was still frost on the rocks in places. We stopped on the portage to take a picture of the falls in the little creek alongside the trail. Anstruther Lake was different too, with calmer water and sunny skies. We landed at our take-out at 1:25. We called Joe, packed up, washed our hair, changed, and left to take Joe out for supper. Happy Thanksgiving! and by the way the sun is lovely, but is definitely cold! Fall is here!