

## Magnetawan Canoe Trip July 2000

Naiscoot L. to Bolger L. to Wawashkesh L. to Trout L. to Big Deep Bay to Naiscoot L.



Participants: Janice and Bill, Bob and Trudy  
Total distance: 77 km. including 7,826m in 14 portages.

Janice: July 23, 2000. We left Bayfield at 3:30 am., stopped at Cookstown for breakie. We arrived and parked the vehicle at the parking lot on the west side of 400 on the south side of Naiscoot L. We put in at 9:00 am. and made it to the 400 bridge when I realized I forgot my sunglasses so Bill and I went back for them as Bob and Trudy slowly made their way east. It wasn't long and we caught up to them and we set off together at a nice pace. The lake is long and beautiful, there are lots of pines here. There are cottages here but mostly clustered at the start and about 3/4 of the way down the lake. It is such a nice day, a mix of sun and overcast with no wind. The lake is like glass and when the motor boats pass us they don't disturb the water very much. We pass 3 canoes heading the other way. We had lunch just before Little Wilson L. Little Wilson L. is a pretty little lake, smooth as glass with lots of lilly pads. I think it was here we saw some mergansers and surprised a great heron. We got a close view of him taking off. We canoed through the narrows and into Wilson L. We portaged the approximate 1000m portage at the north east side of the lake. The trail had a good climb at the start and the center was a bit mucky. It opened up to a lovely little lake. Bill and I portaged the start of this (the climb) in 2 trips and the rest in 1. We had a rest on the water while Bob and Trudy finished up. I couldn't be on land anymore, too many mosquitoes. The next 400m portage Bill and I did in one trip, in bug clothes. The north end of the trail descends down to the Miskokway L. Even here there are a few cottages. We paddled north east to the far end of the lake. The campsite 1/3 of the way down the lake on the north side is the best campsite. When we checked out the site on the point there was a big snake curled up on a rock. It was dark with faint diamond circles. Good thing Bill saw it or he would have stepped on it. All we could find for a site was fairly rustic and up quite a rock cliff. There is a lovely view here though. There are two cottages where we expected a site. We had a nice evening and supper. We have seen loons, commerants and terns. Bill and I are last into the tent at 9:00pm. just in time to avoid the mosquitoes. A whippoorwill is calling. It is now 10:00 pm and Bill is done. He has had a long day... and so have I. Good night; see you in the morning.

Bill: July 24, 2000. Up at 6 am after a very sound sleep. Janice said she was on a tilt and had to keep moving back up hill. Had oatmeal for breakfast and on the water at 9:00 am. The 1370m portage to Bolger L. was actually a road that vehicles drive on but they need a high suspension. It was hot and when we got to the end we saw the group of 3 canoes that went by our camp earlier. There were 9 girls that were on their way to Wawashkesh L. We met Bob from Bolger Lodge and he told us the way to go. The Bolger Creek was nice to paddle through. When we got to the lodge we were invited in for a beer; he didn't have to twist our arms. The house used to be a hospital for the railway. We had a nice chat for a while and then we pressed on. We had lunch at the portage at the west end of Portage Bay of Keshegaba L. Our map showed it at the left of the cottage but it was on the right. The 937m portage was a nice path through the bush. We paddled Bear L. and were able to lift over the rocks going into Maple L. We were at our campsite at 3:00 pm. It is a nice rock at the front and flat ground behind. We could hear the train whistle at 3:00 pm and remembered hearing it at 2:00 pm. Janice got to wash her hair with a bag I rigged

up with a small plastic hose to siphon the water and a small valve to turn it on and off. I hung it on a tree in the bush and it worked great. Janice and I had a swim and Bob and Trudy chose not to. Had a Swiss mocha drink and stuffed green peppers for a meal. There was a lot of garbage at this site. Bob fished but didn't get a bite. It is 9:10 pm and the mosquitoes are driving us into the tent.

Janice: July 25, 2000. Bill was awake at 5 am. He said the seagulls were so noisy that they woke him and he couldn't get back to sleep. I woke at 6:00 am. Once again it is a lovely day. The lake is very calm and we are packed up and on the water at 8:00 am. We saw 5 loons as we were paddling through Maple L. to our 177m portage to Mud L. Luck was in our favour and we canoed through the water lilly channel into Mud L. We did the 250m portage to Bolger Bay (The Big Lake; Wawashkesh Lake). It was a nice trail along the creek. Make sure you take the small creek trail and not the cart trail (The Hogsback). I wanted to practice my compass work so I took the readings. It's a good idea to use your compass through Wawashkesh L. unless you know the lake, lots of islands and bays and peninsulas. We traveled through Indian Narrows and turned south into Bennetts Bay to go to the Marina. After a short stop to look for sunglasses we headed north to Graves Point. There we went northwest to the Magnetawan River. We had lunch at an island campsite by Toronto Bay. We were happy that the lake was calm; we thought this lake could whip up some pretty good waves. Once we were on the river we found that it seemed longer than it should have. There was a breeze in our faces and some motor boat waves to contend with. We are camped at the intersection of the Magnetawan River and Deep Bay at 1:00 pm. It is a good site with a good point. Wawashkesh Lake Dam is just down river from us and we can hear the rapids. The river is roped off and many danger signs up. We will be portaging the Canal Rapids tomorrow. It is a 2285m portage, but we can put in early and canoe for a bit and either run or line or portage Graves Rapids. We'll see. It has been a great afternoon. We are all a bit lazy and very relaxed. We have been entertained in the late afternoon and evening by a group of young boys from a camp. They are camped on a high cliff across from us. They have jumped off a rock and swing from a rope into the water all day. A group of girls have come to visit them this evening and they have had a great time. Bob and Bill say it is better than TV. A fisher boat has come by to fish. We had two hawks fly by. The mosquitoes are busy and it's only 8:30 pm. We're sitting around the campfire for a bit.

Bill: We went to the west side and watched the red glow of the sunset on the water.

July 26, 2000. Janice had to get up at 2:45 am to let some mosquitoes into the tent. Up at 6 am and had apple cobbler and coffee for breakfast. On the water at 8:30. The boys on the hill were just getting up. We paddled to the end of Deep Bay and found a seagull unable to fly away. As we got closer we found a yellow rope coming off the large rock tied to a steel leader with a three pronged hook and another leader with a three pronged hook. This last one had the remains of a filleted fish on it in the water and also the seagull's leg hooked on it. Janice held it down with the paddle and I tried to pull the hook out. I couldn't get it out so I cut a small slit where it was hooked through and it was free. I don't like seagulls much but that was cruel and we felt good about setting it free. The portage went just left of the Lodge and we followed the low road to the Bailey bridge. It was about 1500m. We paddled the first set of rapids and the river to Grave Rapids. Janice and I ran the entire set of rapids with our gear. Bob and Trudy carried their gear around then lined their canoe half way and did the last set of rapids. We paddled into Trout L. and had lunch on the first island on the south side at 12:00. We got to our campsite on the south side just after Trout L. at 1:30 pm. It is a nice spacious site with lots of room for tents and even has an old picnic table. We had a whole afternoon of relaxing and swimming and washing. At supper time the breeze died down and the mosquitoes livened up. We had beef stroganoff for supper and butterscotch pudding for dessert. The sky is clear now; it looked like it could have thunderstormed this aft. It is very hot and we went to bed at 8:30 pm. so we could dress cooler without the bugs eating us up.

Janice: July 27, 2000. We are both awake at 5:00 am. Once again it looks to be a nice day. We left our campsite at 7:30 am. We turned south on the South Branch. Bob and Trudy pointed out a beaver here. The river is quite pretty here and we made good time. There are a lot of campsites in the wider section above the portage. It is very scenic here. We canoed the lift over. This would be a nice place to camp. The 293m portage is a 4 wheeler trail around some rocky small rapids. The river narrows and we curve our way through a rocky narrows. Last time we were here the water was lower and we had to line the

canoes for some distance. No sweat today. The river widens out before the train bridge and the 3 toilet site is on the on the east side before the bridge. They are working on the train bridge and they have scaffolding on both sides. We continued south through Big Deep Bay and as luck would have it, the wind stayed away. We had a small breeze. It is a hot day though. We had a break at the camp site just before Timber Wolf L. We did the 170m portage trail at the south end into Wassagami L. Take the trail to the right. There is a rocky hill at the start of this one. We ate lunch at the end of the portage. This lake is small and quiet and so is Seasee L. The portage trail into Seasee L. was up and over the hill, 250m. We were there at 1:15 pm. Bob and Trudy pumped water and we crawled along and examined the lake. We got to the portage and took the canoe and light stuff over to Lone Tree L. only to discover that the campsite on Seasee L. was the one that Bill and Bob wanted to be on. We brought our stuff back and we are camped here. It is sooo hot. It gives you the feeling it could thunderstorm. Bill and Bob have fished and then Trudy drove Bob around to fish. What a nice lazy afternoon.

Bill: I caught and released 3 fish. Janice made a really good spaghetti supper and we borrowed 2 forks from Bob and Trudy to eat it with. The deer flies are bad here and the mosquitoes drove us into the tent at 9:00 pm.

July 28, 2000. Up at 6 am and out the door to do some fishing. Janice drove me around and I caught a fish right off the start. We went into the other bay and there I caught a huge bass. I caught and released the next one and kept the fourth. We came back and found that Bob had caught a big fish. We cleaned up the 2 big fish for breakfast and let the other 2 go to grow some more. Janice washed the fish and Trudy cooked the fish in tin foil with spices on the fire she had ready. What a great breakfast. Bob and I set up our tarps to keep the rain away since it has clouded over and Trudy said it is going to rain. She never said when though. We are staying here the day for some R & R.

Janice: Lunch over and dishes done it is 3:00 pm. and we are in our rain shelter. It has been raining and thunder storming since 2:30. Thank you for the shelter Bill and Bob. By the way those were the best fish we've had all year.

Bill: We went to our tent for a little nap and Janice was surprised she slept till 5:45 pm . We got up to start supper. We had scalloped potatoes with ham and carrots and peas. After that Janice canoed solo for a while and then we went to explore the lake. We had a nice fire when we got back and we noticed the fire flies flying around. We hadn't stayed up this late till tonight to notice them before. It is 10:15 pm and we are gone to bed.

July 29, 2000. Up at 6 am and had oatmeal breakfast. We are staying here the day. There were 3 cranes flew over head. We went fishing at 9:00 am and Janice and I have gone to an unnamed lake. We bushwhacked into it and it is a nice small round lake. I fished but I didn't get any strikes. There were some small fish following my lure but other than that there were no fish there. We went back by going over 2 beaver dams and pushing our way through a narrow channel filled with logs. We met Bob and Trudy on the other side and Bob had a huge fish he had caught. I started fishing the lake and ended up with 2 fish to eat and 6 I threw back in. When we came back to camp Bob had his fish high on a grill to cook and smoke. I twisted my foot this morning and it was starting to hurt so I took my boots off and soaked my foot in the cold water. I put an elastic band on it. We had lunch and went to clean our fish. We cooked ours in tin foil with the spices Janice brought. There was a buzzard in the bush behind us checking out our interesting smells coming from the fish cooking. Bob and Trudy went swimming and that's when the thunder clouds started forming and coming our way. We put everything ready for a storm and at 3:30 pm we went under the rain shelter. After the thunderstorm it was still raining gently when we went out at 5:30 pm. We made a curry chicken rice meal that was great. Janice couldn't eat all hers since she had fish today too. The sun came out. We got everything ready for bed and had a swim and sat around the fire till 9 and then went to bed.

Janice: July 30, 2000. We are awake at 6:00 am but we didn't get out of the tent till 7. It is cloudy, but it is not raining, but everything is still quite wet though, and the mosquitoes are hungry. We decided we must have put our tent close to some critter's house and that would explain the smell that we keep getting a whiff of. We left camp at 9:30 am. We did the portage into Lone Tree L. There are 2 trails. One that goes to the north end of Lone Tree L. which is longer but easier and less steep and one that goes

down along the creek. We took the longer one. This portage reads 38.1m on the Ministry's map; we think it's 138m. The one straight up along the creek might be 38.1m. We canoed south on Lone Tree L. and saw a crane perched in the tree on the island. He sat and watched us canoe by. We snuck past the rocks into the bay. There are lilly pads and flowers everywhere; quite pretty. We lifted over the 7.02m portage into the next lake. There are a couple pretty pink roses here at the beaver dam. The 390m portage into Evans L. could have been avoided except for the last 50m. We were sad we didn't stay in the canoe and lift over the beaver dams on the creek. We didn't want to get stuck in the creek away from the trail but it runs right along the creek. Except for the last 50m if you need to get off the creek you can. We put in for a small portion to avoid a fallen tree. The 450m portage from Evans L. to Six Mile L. was well traveled. We met 3 guys at the start of the Evans L. portage. They were going to fish in the quieter lake, hoping to change their luck. We had a gorp break in the bay and left to go home. The breeze was in our back and we headed west. At 12:00 we had lunch at the island campsite (a very small island) and off we went at 12:30 pm. We went under the bridge, loaded the van and then we all had a much needed swim and changed. It is a hot day. We left the parking lot at 2:30 pm. It was a nice trip and we sure didn't see many people. Nice and quiet.