

## Magnetawan River Trip



Distance: 60 km. 4908 m. in portages.

Participants: Bill, Janice, Joe, Melissa, Bob & Trudy.

Janice: Friday Aug. 15, 1997. Left Bayfield at 5:30pm. Arrived at Sturgeon Bay Provincial Park on the road to Bayfield Inlet at 11:06 pm. We set up the tents, Quenched our thirst and hit the hay.

Saturday Aug. 16. Up at 6:30 am, breakie (bacon, eggs & muffins) and on the road at 9:10am. Our launch site at Harris Lake is closed to the public so I guess we won't start from here again. The sky was a little on the threatening side but the wind was in our back so we made decent time through to the N. end of Harris Lake where we had to make an emergency landing. We had quite a downpour, thunder and lightning. It was 11:30 so we had our lunch at this point. It worked out well. As we were leaving at 12:30 pm. a canoe went by with a man, woman and dog in it. He laughed and asked why we were hiding in the bush with our rain coats on? He had canoed through the rain. We curved through some neat rocky shores to the South Magnetawan River and once again the wind helped us. We tried to do the sail thing, but the wind died down. We went S. in Big Deep Bay, and the wind was against us. A train went by to the N. Neat. Portaged at S. end 70 m. Bob said this is not 70 m. Longer. Melissa had a tough time. Fell over with her pack. It's too loose and she was trying to take too much. We fixed that. Bill and Joe struck off and went the wrong path and ended up in some lake called Clear Lake, don't go there. Stay to the right. Paddled Wassagami Lake to the S. end tried to find a 250 m. portage. Had trouble finding this. Melissa went to hop out of the canoe and did the splits. Joe steadied the boat and I tried to pull the boat back but the poor girl couldn't get up, so Bill ran in the water to rescue her. It was 5:00 pm. so we decided to camp on this lake. Had good suppers and got some fishing in. Joe was all set to go swimming when a great big snapper came to see him. It had a hurt neck and it sat on the edge of the water waiting for something (food I suppose, since there is no fish here). Joe didn't swim. We had a few troubles with hanging the bag. They are too heavy with food. Bed at 9:00 pm. Bill's flashlight doesn't work.

Sunday, Aug. 17. Up at 6:30 am. The turtle is still here. The portage back was easier this time. The wind was against us for most of the trip. We had lunch at a campsite just N. of the train bridge. there was a three toilet system. 1 padded, 1 wooden, and 1 unsure. The portage was a nice wide trail. The river under the hydro lines was low and full of rocks, so we had to lighten the load. Melissa and I had to get out and walk. Bob and Trudy went on through in their ABS canoe. We camped on the first point campsite. Trudy lit the fire with 1 match. Joe caught 2 baby fish. Bill caught a clam. Bob had fun fishing. 7:25 pm Bob caught a big, big pike on the first cast, but 2 feet from shore he broke the line. It disappointed us all.

Bill: Bob caught a small, small pike after that. It was almost dead but it was too small to eat so we threw it in and in the morning a seagull was picking at what was left of the back bone. It made us feel better that something ate it.

Monday, Aug.18. We left camp at 10:15 after Bob released the snag he caught this morning. It was nice paddling the narrow passageway N. The sides were walls of rocks and trees. We had to line our canoes through the narrows and the water was down so much there was only a narrow channel as wide as a

canoe to go through. We continued up to the Magnetawan River and then headed E. We had the wind with us and then it went against us. It must follow the channels of the river and change whenever a canoe comes. We had lunch on the rock just before Mountain Chute portage at 12:30 pm. We portaged on the N. side which was higher but more open than the other side. We paddled to Carve Island and made camp while Bob and Trudy went to collect wood for the fire. This is the cleanest site yet and lots of room for 4 tents. We went swimming and washed our hair on land. It felt great. Had supper, stowed our gear and then we went for a moon lit paddle. It is a full moon and the sky is clear. Janice drove me around while I fished from the front. How romantic. Bob and Trudy were just coming in while we were going out and Joe and Melissa were just going to bed. No fish were caught.

Tuesday, Aug. 19. Up at 6:30 and wrote in the log. It is now 6:45 and Janice is going to make breakfast while I pack up the tent.

Janice: Bob and Trudy are out on the water, Bob fishing, Trudy driving. It's a beautiful sunny, misty morning and their canoe looks like a picture coming through that mist. Left Carve Island at 10:00 am. Bob and Bill ran Stove Pipe Rapids in the yellow ABS canoe. The rest of the gear and canoes we portaged. Island Lake was beautiful. We ate lunch at Three Snye Rapids. There was four dumps on the trail, probably from the four guys that past our camp last night. What a bunch of pigs. There were 2 more small rapids to portage and then we camped just before the portage for Thirty Dollar Rapids. The camp was a little rustic here, not too well used. We fished and some soaked their feet. We will have fish for breakfast tomorrow. Bill had the biggest fish. It was a pike.

Bill: Janice caught a rock bass.

Wednesday, Aug. 20. Up at 7:00 am. Looks like a nice day. Bob and Trudy are up already. Had pancakes and fish for breakfast and left camp at 10:00 am. Went to the portage and Bob struck out first, then Trudy and Melissa, then Joe, Janice and I. When we met Bob at the train track he asked us if we saw Trudy and Melissa. We called and there was no answer. We couldn't believe they could get lost so fast. We found them after 2 hours at 1:30 coming back on the wrong trail they had taken to the E. We carried on with the portage after we had a bite to eat. It was soooo much nicer to follow the high trail, than to follow the river trail and canoe where you could, like the last time Lavern took Bob, Joe and I. There were 2 campsites after the rapids and one back up on the trail by the river. Nobody wanted to go backwards, so we ended up on the northern site. It was rocky but flat. Had supper and saw another big snapping turtle just as I had wanted to go swimming. It began to rain and we were in bed early by 9:00 pm. after a nice refreshing wash on land. We did have beautiful weather until now.

Thursday, Aug. 21. It rained all night and is still raining now. Woke at 6:15 am. and we are getting ready to have cream of wheat for breakfast. It was good and we had lots. We put the flies up first and they were the last things we took down when we broke camp. We left at 10:00 am. and had to line the canoes through some shallow rapids. We found the creek to the left at the start of Miner Lake and came up to a beaver dam. We lifted the canoes over and had lunch at the start of the portage. I tried to catch some bass there but I think Mark got them all when he took the scouts through. We did the last portage of the trip and camped across the lake on the S. side. Trudy had a fire going in no time and we got the flies up to catch the heat and protect us from the rain. We spent the rest of our time drying clothes and relaxing. Shortly after 8:00 pm. we all went to bed. It has been raining steady now for 24 hours and it can quit any time now.

Janice: Friday, Aug. 22. Up at 6:30 am. again. Oatmeal for breakie. Washed and looked after our hair. Packed and on the water at 11:45 am. Stopped to have lunch at the start of Harris Lake. Sky looked threatening so we ate in a hurry and moved on. The rain held off until we were in the van and on our way home again at 2:30 pm.

Bob: Good trip, lots of fun. Great variety weather wise. Great company. Thanks.

Trudy: An enjoyable experience - even the long walk in the woods was not too awful. Disappointed at not seeing more wildlife, but really great rocks. Good food, good company, good time.

Joe: A great trip! Different than when I did it last time because the water is low now. Easier to do with less distance in a day and more pleasant canoeing. The portage around 30 Dollar Rapids was a lot easier going the high trail because it was a lot better marked and flatter. Very frustrating trying to find someone in the woods. Could have done without the rain, but it was needed in the area. I feel sorry for Trudy because she doesn't get to play with plastic bags and twist ties; she was having so much fun with them. Had a great time.

Melissa: It was really fun and cool! I liked it a lot except for when I fell in, did the splits and got lost. I liked the experience.

Janice: Melissa did great. She was as tough as could be even though we put her through the paces. A real trouper for a city girl. Bob, Trudy and Joe; good solid rocks to lean on, and Billy, he's my partner, the best there is. It was fun.

Bill: Good trip. Fun fishing. The large pike was exciting to catch. Need more food for colder weather. Hope Joe's thumb is better for next time. Melissa did well. I hope I can learn to pack as fast as Bob & Trudy some day. Janice was great.

THE END