

Magnetawan, Naiscoot to Harris Lake

Via : Big Deep Bay, Three Snye Rapids, Thirty Dollar Rapids, South Magnetawan River.
Tripping Course.



Participants: Janice and Bill, Mark, Sheila, Chris and Melanie.
Total Distance: 56 km. including 5,754m. in 12 portages.

Janice: Fri. Aug. 4/01. Everyone arrives around 8:00 pm. We went through food stuff and compass work. We also finished up our environmental ethics. We all hit the hay between 11 & 12.

Sat. Aug. 5/01. 11k. We had planned on leaving at 5:00 am, but things changed and we didn't get going till 6:00 am. We stopped in Alliston for coffee and headed north. We were delayed 8 km. outside of Parry Sound for over an hour. We got gas and decided to get our subs and eat them here. We had something odd happen here. We thought we were both going to the same subway and we ended up at two different ones. Well we ate and left to meet again to head north on the 400. We stopped at the Naiscoot put in and unpacked, did the shuttle and were on the water at 2:00 pm. We headed east under the bridge and down Six Mile Lake with the wind in our backs and the sun shining down on us. We portaged north 450m to Evans L. The water is low and we noticed the water lines are a lot higher than the water. The 390m. portage into the unnamed lake is along a creek, but the first half is dried up and the second half is too low to paddle. We had put into the creek when we were here before and paddled a bit then, but not today. There a several trees across the path and we helped each other with the canoes at this point. We lifted over about 4 beaver dams at the 7.02m. portage. There was only one here before. The small section at the start of Lone Tree Lake was full of water lilies. It would have been nice if they had their flowers open. There are people camped at 3 of the sites on Lone Tree. We paddled past the small island with 3 trees (there was a lone cormorant in the tall tree) and hoped that no one was on the Seasee Lake site. We are in luck! We are camped here on Seasee Lake at the portage. Some of us took the longer portage straight up to the site and some took the longer one at the end of the lake. We don't have a fire because there is a fire ban. We set up, had supper, and stash the food bags. We had to pump water at the swimming rock on our site because someone has thrown their rice supper in the lake at the landing. Stupid. We had noodle meals and a lovely swim. It was great! We are in bed early and the mosquitoes are out. I think I will pack away my bug jacket. The portages haven't been bad at all. Deep woods off is ok. There are a fair number of those grey biting flies and they are not nice. Melanie and Sheila have kept them in their canoes with them today. It has been a pleasant day and these guys have been muscling those portages as if it was a walk in the park, wow!

Bill: The air is still.

Sun. Aug. 5/01. 24k. Woke up at 6:30 am and were out of the by 7:00. We had apple dumplings for breakfast, packed and we all left at 9:00 am. We had let the others lead the way and by 10 am we had done the 250m portage to Wassagami L. and then the 170m to Timber Wolf L. We had the wind at our backs going up through Big Deep Bay. We had lunch and a swim after doing the 293m portage on the South Branch of the Magnetawan River. We left at 1 pm after lunch. We had to lift over the rocks in the channel by the hydro wires and lined and tipped the canoes sideways through the narrows about 3 km after the hydro wires. We passed two other canoes just before we got to the 'T' of the Magnetawan River. We headed west. We lined the shelf and then ran the rapids through Mountain Chute. Talked to two guys at the camp site there and then had to fix Sheila's sore on her leg that she got while getting ready to line over the shelf. She put on a brave face and we carried on. We got to Carve Island at 4:30 pm and it

was already taken, so we stopped and had a snack so we would have the energy to go on. We waded the start of Stove Pipe Rapids to get past the shallow rocks and then rode the rapids to the next stretch of the river. When we got to Island L. we took a bearing to the campsite on the S.W. corner of the lake. We were here at 6:30 pm and set up camp. Mark had trouble with their stove not burning very hard. Must have dirt in the line. They used ours and made their supper. We had gravy and hamburg and green beans on a bed of mashed potatoes and it was great. Some tea and swiss mocha chased down our mocha mousse. We did dishes and brushed our teeth and hung our food bags. Mark, Sheila, Janice and I went for a swim and Sheila gave a scream as she walked on the rocks in the dark and saw a snake slither across her path. The next scream was from Janice as she stepped into the icky mud in the water. They were quiet after that. We floated around in our life jackets for a while and then went to bed. Janice can hear the train rumble in the distance. It is 11:00 pm and we are going to sleep now.

Mon. Aug. 6/01. 14k. Woke up around 6:00 am but didn't get out of the tent till 7:00 am. We had oatmeal for breakfast and were on the water at 9:00 am. We went over our compass bearings and then we carried on. We portaged the 190m around Three Snye Rapids and did a group photo at the bottom. The next rapids we just portaged a short distance over the rocks on the right and had a break. We had to do a carry over on the left of the small rapid after that. When we got to the train bridge we took out on the left and portaged over to the railroad tracks. We took our lunch down by the river and ate before we did the 2380m portage around Thirty Dollar Rapids. We started the portage at 1 pm and the six of us were done at 2:30 pm. We went further down the river and the others had a tour of Miner L. We then went south into the beaver pond to start the next portage. Mark was very tempted to get the sports pal canoe that was under water and take it home. We did the 1370m portage to the South Branch Magnetawan. We decided to carry on, but every campsite we came to didn't look good to us so we ended up on the island site just across from the lodge just east of the entrance to Harris L. We set up camp and had supper. Melanie and Chris made a trip to the mainland. Sheila used our water bag and washed her hair. We got all our chores done and then went for a swim before bed. We were in the tent at 10:15 pm after feeding the mosquitoes.

Tues. Aug. 7/01. 7k. Up at 7:00 am and had cream of wheat for breakfast. Mark and Chris were working on their stove again, trying to unclog the orifice. They got it going and made their bannock. Janice got her hair washed and felt great again and I even had a shave. Mark, Janice and I made a very quick trip to the mainland and Mark swam back. We packed up and were on the water at 10:20 am. We had a picture break after the narrow channel to Harris L. and Sheila got 'just the perfect picture of a lilly'. We paddled Harris L. and looked at all the people and their boats and cottages. We had lunch and a debriefing at the last campsite before the take out at 12 noon. We paddled to the government dock and loaded up into Marks van and the trailer. We went back to the landing on Naiscoot L. and Janice and I took our gear and put it in our van and loaded the canoe on top. We handed out the tripping course certificates and said our good byes. It was a great trip with great people. They went home and we are on our way up to the French River for another trip.

Janice: Thanks for guiding us on our trip guys!