

## Matinenda Lake Trip



Participants: Janice and Bill.

Total distance 58 KM. 3.6 KM in portages.

Janice: July 12/97. Packed and left at 3:15 pm heading to Cookstown. The canoe is on the van and we have 1 barrel with meat & beer in it for at the cottage plus our 2 packs weighing in at 33 lbs for Bill and a whopping 60 lbs for Janice. Ate supper at Cookstown at 5:45 left at 6:30 pm. Gased up at Parry Sound at 8:00 pm. We left heading north on the 400 and saw a beautiful sun dog in the clouds. 8:45 pm; Just finished checking out the Sturgeon Bay Provincial Park ( our first stop on our Magnetawan trip in Aug.) It looks perfect for what we want. 9:45 pm; We are passing Hwy. #637 (that road will take you to Killarney). 12:30 am.; Arrived in parking lot on Matinenda Lake. Woke next morning at 6:30 am.

Sun. July 13/97. 7:30 am.; Canoe is almost loaded. Soon time to leave.

Bill: Left at 7:50 am. We listened to the loons at Stover's Point and Janice said they were talking to the loons in the other bay. I said it was their echo and proved it by talking to myself in the other bay. It took us 2 hrs to do the 12 Km to Browns Point. We went in singing happy birthday to June but she wasn't there to hear it.

Janice: Put roast in ground at 12:00am & off to bed. It was a hot day.

July 14/97. It rained hard in the night at about 5am. Thanks to Wayne's solar blanket the roast seems fine. Hot and very hazy; humid! Oh yah, Happy Birthday John!

Bill: We had boat rides and water skied. Had a wonderful sauna during which someone took my clothes, but Dale brought them back. The roast turned out great. It was all done and still plenty hot. The turkey breast was dry, but the juice may have leaked out or we have to add some butter or something. Everybody raved about how good it was.

July 15/97. It is 7:30 and we just woke up. Head is a little groggy but it'll come around with some coffee. Arms are a little sore from water skiing. We leave on our canoe trip today. We got some good advice last night from Dan and Trapper Pete about where the trails might be found. Left John and Penny's at 11:15, just as the wind decided to blow. We did the portage up the steep hill to Cream Lake in 2 trips because it was tough. The clouds looked dark so we didn't stop to fish. Cream Lake was 2 times longer than it should have been because we forgot our map at the launch site. The portage into Bay Lake was just a small, not well used path. Bay Lake was rough and the wind was against us again. We portaged our packs through the bush into Coffee Lake and it was terrible. No trail found. Canoeed the canoe to Moon Creek and portaged into Coffee Lake there and it was better. We picked up our packs and the island we wanted to stay on was too thick with brush. Found a nice spot on the SW corner of the lake by the creek. It was 5:30 and we set up camp. The weather was nice and we enjoyed the sun.

Spaggetti for supper, tea and a nice strawberry fruit punch. It is 9:30 pm and the birds and frogs are singing and the loons are calling. It was a tough day but it is so beautiful now.

Janice: Wed. July 16/97. Hit the hay at 10:00pm last night. The woods were just singing with mosquitoes and they attacked us in the zillions. Up at 6 am. Beautiful morning; lots of mist on the lake & the birds sound so nice. I have sooo many clothes on. The mosquitoes are still here, but by 7 am the sun is above the trees and the mosquitoes seem somewhat better. Our camera won't accept the film so we have no pictures, sad eh? Some animal was kersplashing in the water last night. I think I will pick some blueberries for the pancakes tomorrow. There are lots here. We left camp at 9 am. The portages here are not groomed trails and I would not suggest them unless you want to bushwack through. We went over Bay Lake and portaged into Boundry Lake where it rained and we had lunch. Bushwacked and rammed through a beaver dammed creek to a no name lake. Cute lake. We canoed to the grassy meadow and decided to stay here for the night instead of Duck Lake. 3:15 pm Cleaned up, washed our hair, discovered leeches in the water and set up camp. 5:15 pm Bill is fishing and supper is rehydrating. 9:15 pm We are all tidied up and in the tent. The bugs are really coming out now. We checked out the creek of this lake, but the beavers have dammed that up too. We pitched our tent on a hill and Bill tried to view the lake but a tree is blocking the view.

Bill: July 17/97. 6 am. Woke up to another beautiful morning. When do frogs sleep? They jump around all day and croak all night. We heard that kersplash sound about 6 times after dark and we figure it must be a beaver. The mist is rising off the lake. We are having pancakes with blueberries for breakfast. There is a lot of mosquitoes caught between the tent and the fly up there.

Janice: We left camp at 9:30 am and picked up a trail to the right of the creek. It is a 2 Km. hike. The best trail we have taken yet ( a tote road). Moose, Bear?, Wolf? tracks. We finished the trail and changed on an island beside the trail. Flagged John down at 11:30. We were to meet him at the falls for lunch at noon and we told him we would be a little late. We set off to fight a head wind and met them for a delicious wiener roast and a couple of beers. We are camped in front of the twin mountains. Sunny and windy; nice. Stew for supper.

Bill: It was good stew. We had to eat out of the pots because we put the bowls in my pack and I squished them too hard. The ants are crawling all over this site. I got the camera to accept the film so now we can get some pictures. I caught a small bass in front of the site and threw it back in. The mosquitoes are not as bad here but the ants made up for that. The moon is bright and almost full. Reddish sunset so tomorrow will be nice too.

Janice: Friday July 18/97. Woke up at 6 am. Thunder and it started to rain so we rolled over and never woke again til 8 am. It is now sunny and very calm on the lake. A squirrel has already scolded us. Bill is fishing.

Bill: We broke camp and left at 12:30. We let the wind push us to the portage to Spence Lake. Set up camp on a point overlooking the lake. Did some fishing and they were interested so we had an early supper so we could troll and check out the portage at the other end. There is supposed to be a snowmobile trail to Matinenda Lake. I started at 6:30pm and the start was all swamp so I bushwacked through the bush following the swamp trail. Half way through it turned into a nice wide dry trail and I was at the other lake at 7 pm. I went back and met Janice who was all worried about me and we decided we would go around the other way tomorrow. We did some fishing and I caught a huge rock bass that Janice had to net to get it into the boat. It had to be 14" long. Another guy caught on on a pole with a reel that looked like a downrigger. His partner wasn't able to net his fish and it got away. I caught 3 other small mouth bass and Janice had a few strikes. We went back to camp and had chocolate pudding and tea, stowed the food and went to bed at 10:00 pm.

Janice: Sat. July 19/97. Up at 7:15 am. Nice breakfast of bannock and cleaned up . Fished, packed and left. Met Keith and friends at the start of the portage in Matinenda Lake. We decided to do the easier portage and canoe through the narrows past Graveyard Island to a small little island off the mainland point. Cute but very appropriate. We picked blueberries and fished. There are several commerants here and too many ants. Chicken soup for supper. Oh yes, some dumb plane has buzzed this area all afternoon. I think he must be giving rides. It's sort of irritating.

Bill: We fished after supper and caught some bass just from shore here. Janice saw two huge pike swim by and now she says there are monsters in the lake. It is busy here with motor boats but they keep their distance so it is not too bad. It is 10 pm and we hope for an early start home tomorrow. The moon came up large and bright. Nice sunset for a nice day tomorrow.

Janice: Sunday. July 20/97. Woke at 6 am, but didn't get going til 6:30. We cleaned up, ate, packed and left at 9:10. The sky threatened rain and it drizzled but that was it. Arrived at dock at noon. It was a nice trip back other than the seagulls that thought if they divebombed us over and over we would feed them. We had seen them do this to other boats. Stupid birds. Thanks to Charlie for boosting our van when we found the battery dead. Would we do this again? Yes, without the bushwacking trails. Bay Lake would be a nice place to stay. Home at 11:00 pm. Too much traffic.

Bill: It was great weather; something we are not used to. It was hard to find a good level spot for the tent so don't go in a large group. Weather changes quickly up there so be prepared to stop for a while. Stick to the known trails. I still say Janice is the best partner I could have; especially for putting up with all the bushwacking we had to do.

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