

## Temagami, Diamond, Obabika Lake Loop



Participants: Janice and Bill, Bob and Cathy.  
Total Distance: 85Km. including 1,910m in 5 portages.

Janice: Sept. 16/00. We left Bob and Cathy's at 12:45 pm. We arrived at Martin River Provincial Park at 8:30. We stayed at campsite #191. It is a nice park, but we didn't spend much time exploring. We celebrated Cathy's birthday early and cake was on the menu. We visited by the fire and then off to bed.  
Sept. 17/00. 13 Km. After packing, a shower, breakfast and more packing we left, took the Temagami Access Rd. (18 km.) to the put in (saw 2 grouse on the way out of the park and a pileated woodpecker on the Access Rd.). We are on the water at 10:45. The weather report calls for a NW. wind. It is windy, however it is not too bad yet as we are fairly well protected by Temagami Island. We head north to the end of the island and then northwest to the channel to the north of Bear Island. The motor boats are fairly busy here. We have only seen one group of canoes so far today. They were heading toward Webun Point on the south side of Garden Island. The wind has come from the sw. We left our options open and didn't decide until the last moment to head north on Temagami Lake, instead of the alternative route on the smaller lakes. As we headed nw. above Garden Island we fought a strong head wind. We had lunch on the second small island north of Garden Island. There is a cabin here, nice place. I was running to jump into the canoe (so as not to keep Bob and Cathy waiting) when my foot disappeared into a hole in the rocks and I went down and banged up my legs. Ouch! We left and headed up the w. shore. We stuck close to shore to avoid the wind. We stopped at Sealrock Point at 3:30. and decided to camp here. We are all ready for a break from the wind and since there are many white capes in Granny Bay this made very good sense. This is a good site with many tent spots. Bill and I are camped on the point and Bob and Cathy are in the valley. Bob has seen a big garter snake on the trail into the bush. A group of several canoes went by going south and a boat that I called a ship headed south as well. We have 2 tarps set up as a wind block for the fire pit. This has made quite a difference. We watched the northern lights and hit the hay early. It is now 9:45 and the lake sounds calm, the wind has died down. There is a solar light on the end of our point. I don't think it will keep us awake though! The cry of the loons and the sound of the waves softly lapping on the shore soothe me. It's great to be here!

Bill: Sept. 18/00. 19 Km. including 75m in 1 portage. We woke up in the middle of the night because a squirrel was screaming. Got up at 7 am. and were on the water at 9:30. The wind is from the west today. The lake is much calmer. When we were in the North West Arm of Lake Temagami we saw 3 otters on the shore and they scurried into the water when they saw us. We went into the small channel at the south end of Deer and Beaver Islands. We had to line our canoes through the rocks at one point. We are having lunch on the site before we get to Sharp Rock Inlet. Janice is upset that there are black flies in September and they are biting her. We went north in Sharp Rock Inlet and the wind was in our backs. The 75m. portage to Diamond Lake was very rocky so you had to be careful you didn't twist an ankle. We made camp on the 2nd little island in the lake at 3:20 pm. The site is up on a hill with a couple of good spots for tents. Janice got to wash her hair and we made turkey stew for supper. Bob and Cathy had sloppy joes. We had a small camp fire after dark and Bob and Cathy went to bed early. Janice and I went down by the water and watched the stars. We saw a shooting star. It was nice. We came back and

the fire was out and we went to bed at 9:45.

Janice: Sept. 19/00. 13 Km. including 865m in 2 portages. We are up at 7:15 and when I went to pop out of the tent there was Bob already up and going. I popped back into the tent for a moment and then greeted the morning. Cathy was already packing up the tent. We enjoyed our breakfast and got ready to go. We are on the water at 9:40 and as we were leaving we could hear a pileated woodpecker calling from the mainland. We never did figure out the skunky animal smell that was on the island, although we have ideas on that. We paddled westerly on Diamond Lake and we hung close to the southern shore. It was a nice paddle and we enjoyed it very much. There were 2 small motor boats trolling in the lake. They weren't having much luck with their fishing. This made us feel better, the fact that we decided not to bring the poles. We headed south for the last 2 km. toward our 430m. portage to the unnamed lake. The last part of the lake was twisty and full of very large boulders. The portage is marked with a large yellow P. We had lunch here and then did a 2 carry portage. This trail is quite tricky at the start and end with huge boulders to step through. The middle is marked with rock cairns. Watch your footing! It is just a hop through the lake over to the 435 m. portage. It is hard to unload and get the packs over to the trail on those huge, rounded rocks, but we did it. The portage follows a cart road and is well marked with a couple of cairns and lots of arrows. It cuts down through the bush on the left side to Wakimika Lake. A moose has traveled this route before we were here. We canoed southerly on the narrow mouth of Wakimika Lake. We've spent most of the day in our shorts and short sleeves. We are camped on the west beach, 3:45 just after the narrows. There are 2 campsites here, the other being farther east. We do have the better site and we have enjoyed it. The southern wind has been strong almost all afternoon. We cooked and ate our supper in the clearing in the bush out of the wind. The wind died down in time for us to enjoy a great campfire and some star gazing. We saw more shooting stars. It was 9:45 when we parted to go to bed, and once again the wind is roaring.

Bill: Sept. 20/00. 15 Km. including 30m in 1 portage and a whole bunch of lift overs. Janice and I listened to the wind howl all night. We got up at 6:40 and started to pack. We moved our kitchen into the bush again because of the wind and rain. I put up the tarp so we could stay dry. Had red river cereal for breakfast and finished packing. We were on the water at 10 am. The wind died down on Wakimika L. but then it started to rain harder and harder as we canoed along. We had a break at the island and then pushed on. At the south end in Grassy Bay we found the opening to the creek. It was shallow and we could see where someone else had to walk their canoe. It was a small creek and the water was down about a foot. We had all kinds of logs to zig and zag around and over and beaver dams to contend with. At one point we had to portage along the muddy creek bank (for about 30m.) when we ran out of water. We saw bear, deer, beaver, and raccoon tracks. We could smell the musky odour of an animal and we were almost sure that a bear was watching us from the bush (the tracks were so fresh along the water's edge). We made it to the small lake in the middle of the creek and ate lunch on the water in the rain at 12:45. The lake shore was grassy all around. Everyone was getting soaked through so we made plans to grab the first campsite on the right when we got to Obabika L. We did the rest of Wakimika River with only a few obstacles along the way. Janice had an animal splash right beside her, but we couldn't see what it was. We also saw 2 great herons and a lot of different ducks. We found the first campsite occupied so we kept going. We saw a bald eagle high in a tree watching us go by. What a sight! The second campsite wasn't very nice so we ended up about 7 km. down the lake on the west side. It stopped raining just long enough to set up our tents and the tarps, and then it started to rain again. We both had chili for supper and since we were all tired we were off to bed at 8 pm. Hopefully, the sun will come out tomorrow.

Janice: Sept. 21/00. 16 Km. including 940m in 1 portage. We woke so many times in the night and every time it was raining. Bill said to make sure to mention the "fact that it poured in the night, because it did pour!" We watched the weather, contemplated, had breakfast, hesitated, and then finally decided to leave. It was not going to stop raining. It rained off and on all morning and all day. We left camp at 11:10. Late for leaving, eh?! Two canoes traveled past our site when we were ho-humming on what to do. We paddled se. on Obabika L. to the 940m. portage. It is a nice wide trail that goes past some tall pine trees. This area is part of the old forest and those trees are beautiful. We took the trail to the left

when it split and we came out at the end of Obabika Inlet. It was here that we saw the red canoe from this morning. They were just canoeing around the goose neck. We walked back for a second load and saw another grouse on the way. We had lunch on the water. We gunnelled up and ate and were blown down the lake. There was a burn in this area and a few tall trees still stand, but many small ones have filled in the burned areas. Bill is having problems with his wrist and I am paddling the stern today. The wind has been in our backs most of the day. That we really appreciated. We headed down the Northwest Arm of Temagami L. in hopes to camp on Sand Point. We discovered that it was occupied by the fellow in the white canoe that went by us this morning. It was a terrific wind we fought and driving rain as we paddled around the point. We are on a small site before the day use beach. We are here at 4:10. We checked out the public beach saw another grouse, noted all the garbage and then left to set up camp. We have been very lucky; it has rained all around us and we are out of the wind. Some of us are in bed at 8:00 and some at 8:20. The wind has died down and it is so quiet. We saw such lovely rainbows today! So nice! I'm in the tent, Bill is sleeping, a loon is calling and the waves are gently lapping against the shore. Worthwhile, isn't it?

Sept. 22/00. 9 Km. We woke to no wind, although there was some wind in the night. It is quiet except for the call of a loon and the raspy croak of a raven. Oh, and the squirrels that were verbally fighting outside our tent. They were pitching cones down on Bob and Cathy's tent and it sounded as if they were pitching rocks. It is time to move 7:10 am. We left camp at 10:00 and once again I'm paddling stern. It is a good day for paddling.

Bill: Well we started off going south, but soon realized we had to go east, so we changed course and headed for Bear Island. There is lots of activity with the motor boats but they didn't bother us. We stopped for a gorp break just before Mule Bay and then carried on. We arrived at the take out (Temagami Access Rd.) at 12 noon and that ended our trip. We are a day early but that's ok. because we figured we might be a day late, so this is better. We went to Findlayson Point Prov. Park and set up camp. We hung up lines to dry everything out and had a much needed shower. Went to Temagami for shopping and supper. Back to camp for a very enjoyable night around the campfire. Hit the hay at 10:45 pm. Tomorrow we will visit Temagami again and then head home.