

Cedar-Pet-Burntroot-Nip-Cedar Loop

July 15 to 19, 2015 by Sammy Glett

Introduction: A trip to the north side of Algonquin often starts with a very early departure and high hopes. Add nearly a year's worth of anticipation and this describes my state at 4:00am one Thursday morning in early September.

Day 1: That was the start of my first trip out of Brent. This was to be a double solo, each of us paddling a solo canoe. My friend paddles a Swift Osprey while I splash along in my Hemlock Kestrel.

This is my favorite way to travel. We get to pack and paddle our own canoes during the day and share good company along with a drink around the fire at night.

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On the beach at Brongess Corners.

Our plan was a three night looping trip up the Petawawa River to Burntroot Lake and back down the Nipissing River. I wish it could have been at least one night longer. This would have allowed a slower pace and given us the time to explore the bottom end of Burntroot Lake and Redpine Bay. Sadly, busy schedules and other obligations forced us to cram the 70 or so kilometers into 4 days.

Day 2: The drive to Brent from as there are Kingston takes roughly 5 hours. If you are coming this way make sure you fill up with gas in Deep River as there are no gas stations between Deep River and the launch at Brent. A 220km round trip! from as there are Kingston takes.

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Looking south across Cedar Lake

10440.jpg

Paddling down the eastern narrows.

There, you've been warned. We were not warned and arrived at the Park office with only a quarter tank of gas left. So, we had to carry on to Matawa to fill up before heading back into the park. This is a waste of an hour. More important it meant we got on to Cedar Lake one.

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Here's our camp at Red Fog Lake.

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Further on from the portage, Lake Oneness opens up.

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Here's our camp at Ross Harbour.

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I did not enjoy Cedar Lake. It is gorgeous, deceiving and scary. We launched at 11:00am on a seemingly beautiful day with mild north westerly winds. 15 minutes into the 2km paddle towards the Petawawa River, you are exposed to wicked winds and waves as they funnel down Cedar's long north arm and hit your canoe broadside.

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Day 4:

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To the north of the campsite, Lake Twoness opened-up.

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Looking back to the campsite from the landing.

Don't make the mistake of assuming that it is calm based on the Brent boat launch. From Brent you cannot see the waves in the middle of the lake. Once out in it, there is nowhere to hide. No islands to seek shelter behind.

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Ramona to Nipissing River Portage.

We made the crossing without any real trouble, but it required concentration and effort to manage the weather cocking and frequent white caps that would splash over the gunwales.

Half an hour later we arrived at the take out for the 715 metre portage up into the Petawawa River. This was the first of 5 portages for the day. We had decided ahead of time to single carry on this trip.

Something I had never really considered before. But if we didn't, the days 3.6 kilometres of

portaging would triple and turn into 11K of hiking. We just didn't have the time for this. So, as my coffee mug says, "Suck it up Princess". The first two portages, 715m and 300m, weren't so bad.

Day 5: Half an hour later we arrived at the take out for the 715 metre portage up into the Petawawa River. This was the first of 5 portages for the day. We had decided ahead of time to single carry on this trip.

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This is just upstream from the pull-out .. the end of another great trip.

Conclusion: We made the crossing without any real trouble, but it required concentration and effort to manage the weather cocking and frequent white caps that would splash over the gunwales.

(1008 words, 10 photos, single contiguous run-on page in pre-HTML layout)