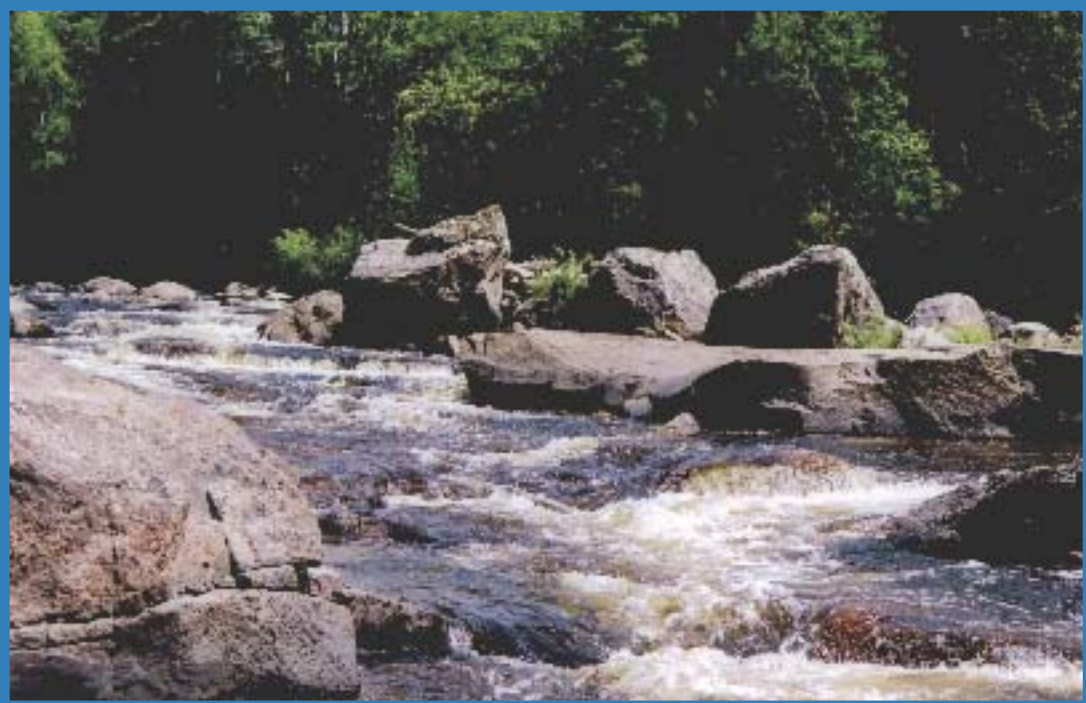


Rapids



Section 3

Agonzon Rapids

Camp 50



AGONZON RAPIDS CAMP 50 SITE

LOCATED ON THE BLACK RIVER SYSTEM

Agonzon Rapids Camp 50

This impressive set of rapids was once a throughway on the Black River for logs travelling from Agonzon Lake to Lake Superior before being shipped to the mill in Thorold. The Ontario Paper Company Ltd. used this watershed to transport their wood that was cut and dumped on Agonzon Lake during the winter months. To control the flow of the logs from Agonzon Lake, a dam was built with a platform that stretched around the outer edges of the dam. This platform provided access to any wood that may have needed coaxing through the dam and into the Black River. With the arrival of spring the ice on Agonzon Lake would melt and the logs atop the ice would then be surrounded by water, ready to start their journey. The dam would then be opened and the logs would be sent along their way from Agonzon Lake, through the rapids and continue on down the Black River.

Camp 50 was erected at the top of a hill close to the river's edge to house the men, during the winter months, who worked in the area. The woodsmen were housed in a "model camp" complete with a clean bunkhouse and hot and cold running water in the washrooms, proving it to be one of the more luxurious camps. These men slept under the same roof, ate together and lived together during the long winter months while the logging operation was in full swing.

Most of the Agonzon Lake area was cut using man power and horse power, manual labour was not uncommon during the days that this camp was in operation. The horses were housed at the camp site and cared for by a man who worked solely with them by feeding, brushing and shoeing them as a daily ritual.

Remnants of the bridge built to cross the river, at the top of the hill, remain today. Cables and wood can still be seen embedded into the rock along the edges of the river, a tell tale sign of a former means to cross the river.

The days were long and the work was hard so when spring drew near excitement in the camp rose. Since men were separated from their families for the entire cutting season, "going home" was a big event. Another crew of men would take care of the river drive and one or two men would remain behind to tend to the camp during the off season.

A short walk down a trail to the left, down the edge of the river, leads you to the bottom of the rapids and a small pond. The rocky ledges along the shore provides the perfect spot to sit and listen to the roar of the water, you can visualize how life was in a bush camp and tune your ears to the banging of the logs against the rocks, as it was in days gone by.

AGONZON RAPIDS

CAMP 50

LOCATED ON THE BLACK RIVER SYSTEM

NAME: Agonzon Rapids

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: 2

TOTAL DISTANCE

FROM MANITOUWADGE: 23.5 KM (14.6 mi)

TOTAL DRIVING DISTANCE: 22.5 KM (14 mi)

TRAIL USE: Hiking, ATV, Snowmachine, Mountain Bike, 4X4

TERRAIN: rocky, may be muddy after wet weather, unevenly sloped

ROAD CONDITIONS: maintained logging road, old Logging Road that is rough in some areas

LENGTH OF RAPIDS: 125 M (410 ft)

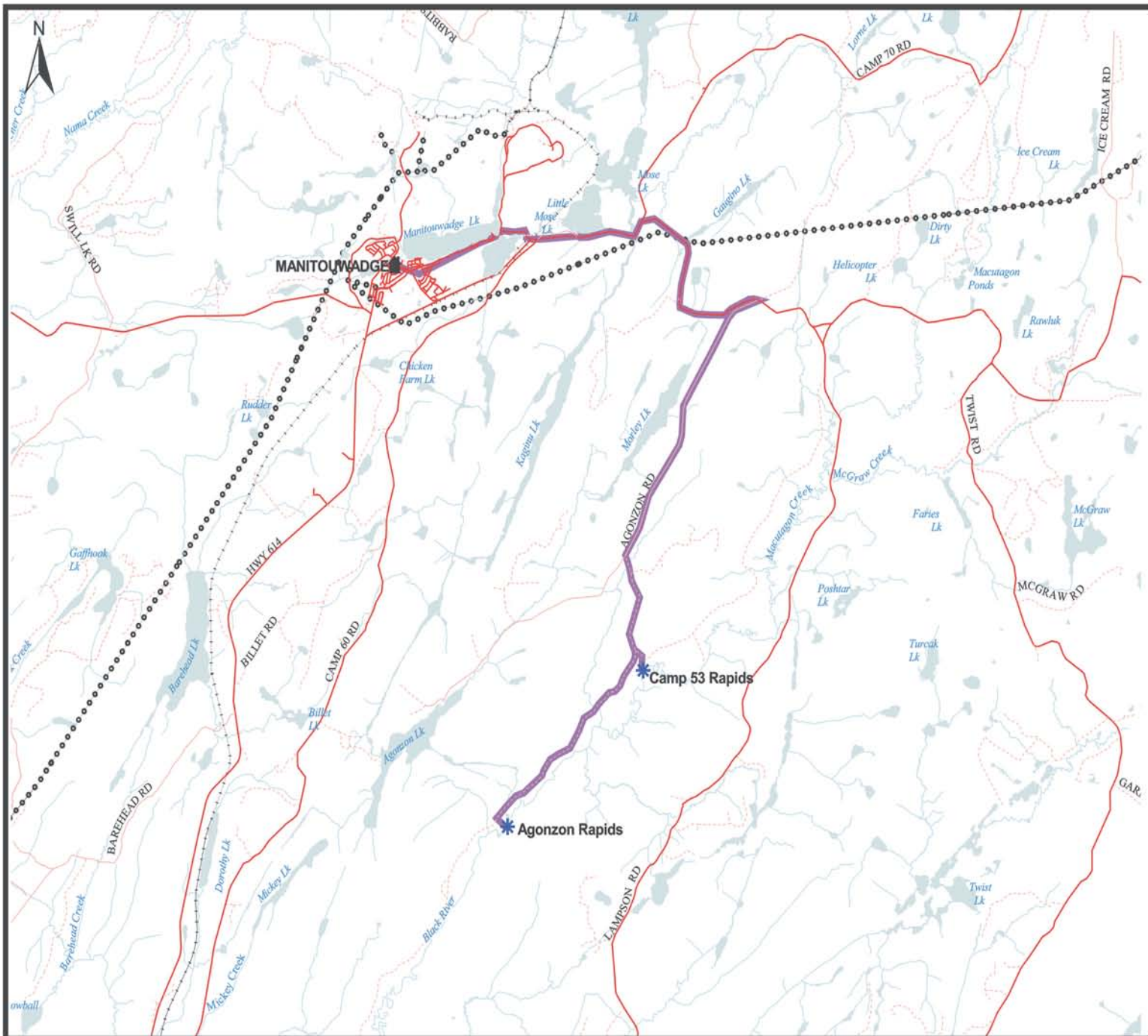
CAMPSITES: yes

CAUTIONS: Watch for large trucks that may be hauling on the roads.

DIRECTIONS: From Manitouwadge drive 2.5 KM (1.5 mi) East on Manitou Road, turn right just past Geco Bridge onto Camp 70 Road. Drive 3.8 KM (2.4 mi) and turn right onto Twist Lake Road following for 3.2 KM (2 mi). Turn right onto Agonzon Lake Road and follow for 13 KM (8 mi) then park and continue for 1 KM (.6 mi) to top of Rapids. A trail to the left leads to the bottom of Rapids.

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS ONTARIO SERIES:

Manitouwadge 42-F-4



CAMP 53 RAPIDS & AGONZON RAPIDS

SCALE 1:100000

5000 0 5000 Meters

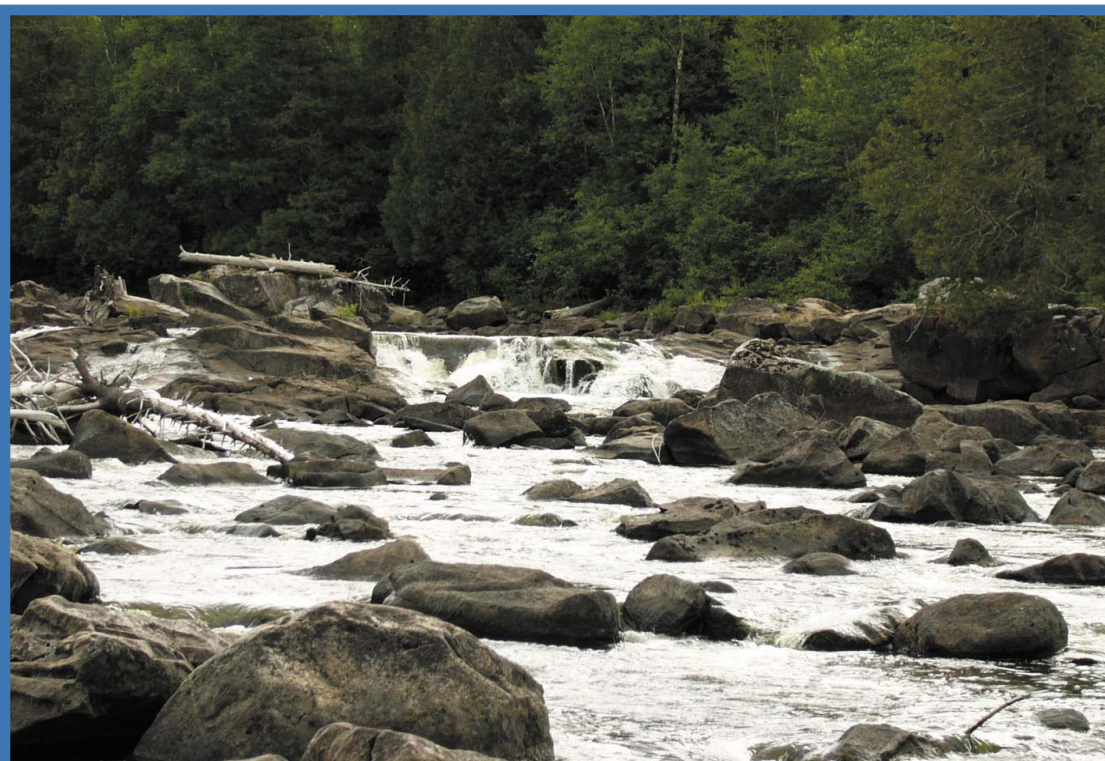
- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| | Fall/Rapid Location | | Primary Roads |
| | Fall/Rapid Route | | Secondary Roads |
| | Power Line | | Tertiary Roads/Trails/Portages |
| | Railway | | Water Bodies |
| | River/Stream | | |

SPIRIT OF



THE FALLS

Amwri Rapids



AMWRI RAPIDS

LOCATED ON THE BLACK RIVER SYSTEM

Amwri Rapids

Rugged yet eye appealing, Amwri Rapids is an excellent spot for the history buff.

It is believed that this was an overnight stop for government geologist J.E. Thompson in 1931. While making his way home from an expedition to Manitouwadge Lake, after mapping the area and taking ore samples, a well deserved rest was to be had. Upon reaching Amwri Rapids, a sandy clearing at the river's edge, used by First Nations for hundred's of years was the ultimate spot to stop and spend the night. Once camp was set up J.E. Thompson tested his luck with a fishing expedition. Rumor has it, he was very successful at catching enough fish to feed himself and his crew.

During WWII German prisoners were commonly housed in logging camps and were put to work in the forest cutting wood for the logging companies. Just upstream, on the left bank, along Pine Grove Road, in a clearing, there used to stand a camp that housed these men during the war. The men would cut logs in the surrounding area called "the valley". Many of these men enjoyed the work so much that they returned to Canada after the war ended and became employees for logging companies.

In the days of the river drives, men stood guard along the edge of the river with pike poles in hand ready to move the pulp wood down the river. With the many rugged rocks at Amwri Rapids the logs had a tendency to get caught up and jammed against them. When log jams occurred, men would wade into the icy cold water and push them along their way to continue their journey to Lake Superior to await shipping by Laker Boats, owned by Ontario Paper Company Ltd, to the mill in Thorold. This was a dangerous, yet thrilling job that many men enjoyed being employed at.

Along the river here, are many remnants of massive log jams still present after all these years.

For the berry pickers, there is an abundance of sweet, juicy raspberries along the trail. Buckets can be filled in a short time, to later bake into pies, tarts, jam or your special treat. If you might just care for a snack, it's a pick as you walk picnic. If you prefer hazelnuts, they too can be found dangling in their furry green shells from the trees along the way.

Fringed Gentian lines the path that leads to the entrance trail to the rapids. There are many other flowers scattered throughout the area as well. Depending on the season of your visit, columbine, wild roses, asters and goldenrod, are just a few of the flowers that can be picked to arrange a wonderful bouquet of wild flowers.

While gazing into the water, movement is visible as groupings of water spiders skim across the surface and crayfish crawl along the bottom, looking for a rock to hide under to avoid becoming a tasty snack for a hungry otter. Marine life is in abundance here and can be found with a little digging and turning over some of the large rocks that stretch across the river.

Amwri Rapids

A visit to Amwri Rapids will arouse your interest in history as you sit on a rock at the river's edge and imagine some of the adventures that happened.

AMWRI RAPIDS

LOCATED ON THE BLACK RIVER SYSTEM

NAME: Amwri Rapids

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: 3

TOTAL DISTANCE

FROM MANITOUWADGE: 42.8 KM (26.6 mi)

TOTAL DRIVING DISTANCE: 42.5 KM (26.4 mi)

TRAIL USE: Hiking

TERRAIN: roots, rocky, slippery

ROAD CONDITIONS: paved highway, pot holes on gravel road, grss covered gravel road

LENGTH OF RAPIDS: 400 - 500 M (.25 mi - .30 mi)

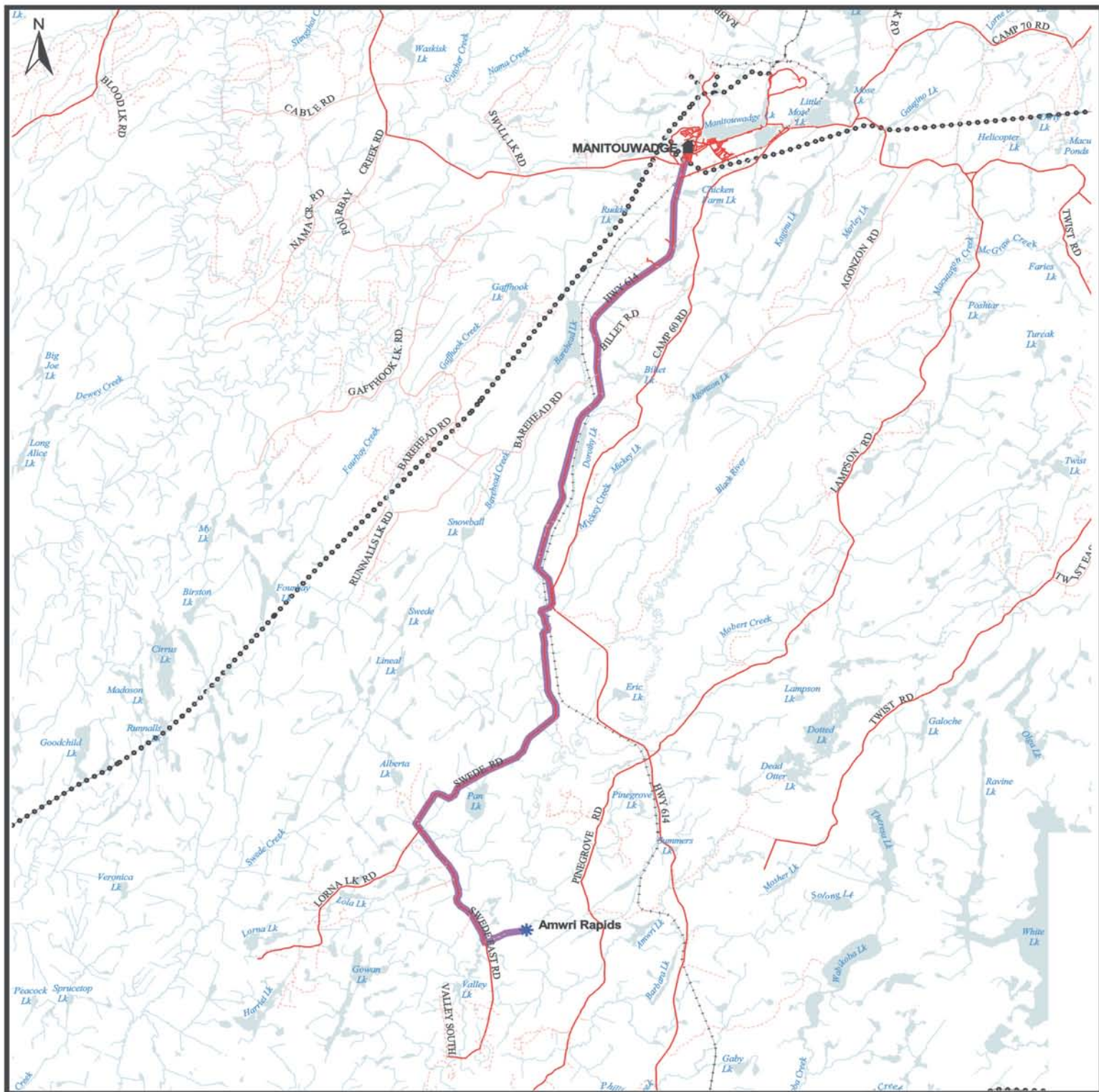
CAMPSITES: yes

CAUTIONS: Watch for large trucks that may be hauling on the roads

DIRECTIONS: From Manitouwadge drive 23 KM (14.3 mi) on Hwy 614 turn right onto Swede Lake Road. Follow road for 18 KM (11.25 mi) being sure to keep left at fork turn down first road to the left on top of the hill. Drive 1.5 KM (1mi) to washout. It is a 300 M (984.25 ft) walk on the flagged trail to right.

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS ONTARIO SERIES:

Manitouwadge 42- F-4, White Lake 42-C-13



AMWRI RAPIDS

SCALE 1:150000

5000 0 5000 Meters



Fall/Rapid Location



Fall/Rapid Route



Power Line



Railway



River/Stream

Primary Roads

Secondary Roads

Tertiary Roads/Trails/Portages

Water Bodies

SPIRIT OF



THE FALLS

Macutagon Creek Rapids



MACUTAGON CREEK

LOCATED ON THE MACUTAGON CREEK SYSTEM

Russell's Landing and Twist Road Rapids are two sets of rapids on Macutagon Creek. Each site is easily accessed by vehicle, ATV, snowmobile, and canoe; both can be part of an outstanding day's adventure. During the days of the river drive Macutagon Creek was used to drive the logs to the Black River. As individual sites, the two share some special features. Both sites have excellent fishing opportunities, and both have a large array of plant life and are part of the same canoe route.

If fishing is a past time of yours or is something you want to try your luck at for the first time; Macutagon Creek is a great place to cast a line. Northern pike and brook trout are plentiful here, especially in the deep pools. Along with fishing these sites have the same plant life.

The plants that grow along the Macutagon Creek enhance the natural beauty that makes it a special place. It is a display of colour and exquisiteness that offers incredible photographic opportunities. Wild roses, wood lilies, columbine and wild strawberries each can be found seasonally while in bloom. If you are travelling the Macutagon Creek by canoe, these plants will be visible all along the route.

Macutagon Creek is part of the Black River canoe route. It can be enjoyed as a three day canoeing excursion or as a more simple single day trip. The Black River canoe route from Macutagon Creek to Black River to Highway 614 is approximately 33 km long but to go from Twist Road to Russell's Landing the two are only 17 km apart. Besides those features shared by the sites, each has features that are unique to itself.

At the Twist Road rapids on the trail that leads beside the water, there is historical memorabilia, there is also an atmosphere that is distinctive of the area. As you start on the trail the frame of a canoe lies abandoned. The frame is quite weathered and has greatly deteriorated. It leaves you to wonder what kind of trouble the canoeists may have encountered forcing them to leave their only means of transportation behind.

Following along the trail you will be moved by the inclusive atmosphere that surrounds you. The trail is enclosed within the trees that outlines the edge of the narrow rapids. Sporatically throughout the water small islands are present. Each island would make an ideal picnic location.

Russell's Landing has different attributes for you to enjoy. It has something to offer those looking for a vacation, recreation, or viewing chances. If it's a camping vacation that interests you, this is a great place to visit. There is a large open area that can accommodate either a tent or a trailer, depending on your preference. Russell's Landing is perfect for group camping too.

To enhance your camping experience there is a large sandy beach. The pools in the area are excellent for swimming and splashing around. Perhaps you are more adventurous and would like to try the rope swing and drop into the cool, clear water from it. Or you

Macutagon Creek

may be wanting something more relaxing like lying on the beach and soaking up the sun.

While you follow the trail by the rapids at Russell's Landing there are some interesting objects to view. Coming from the inside of a stump of one tree you will find a second tree growing. There are also trees that display evidence of wildlife in the area. You will find trees that have been half chewed by beaver prior to abandoning the job. Perhaps a larger animal frightened him away or the tree was not to his liking; whatever the reason only the busy beaver who left his job incomplete will know for sure.

Macutagon Creek has many opportunities to provide some fun and excitement for the whole family.

MACUTAGON CREEK

LOCATED ON THE MACUTAGON CREEK SYSTEM

NAME: Russel's Landing and Twist Rapids

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: 1

TOTAL DISTANCE

FROM MANITOUWADGE: RUSSELLS - 13.6 KM (8.5 mi)

TWIST - 14.2 KM (8.8 mi)

TOTAL DRIVING DISTANCE: RUSSELLS - 13.3 KM (8.3 mi)

TWIST - 14.1 KM (8.8 mi)

TRAIL USE: hike

TERRAIN: Low ground vegetation and some roots, may be slippery after wet weather

ROAD CONDITIONS: Maintained logging road

LENGTH OF RAPIDS: 125 M (410 ft)

CAMPSITES: yes

CAUTIONS: Watch for large trucks that may be hauling on the roads.

DIRECTIONS: RUSSELLS- From Manitouwadge drive 2.5 KM (1.24 mi) east on Manitou Road, turn right just past Geco Bridge onto Camp 70 Road. Drive 3.8 KM (2.4 mi) and turn right onto Twist Lake Road and follow road for 5 KM (3.1 mi). Turn right onto Lampson Lake Road and follow road for 2 KM (1.24 mi), then take the first left turn into Russells Landing. After parking follow the river bed for 0.3 KM (984.25 ft) to the Rapids.

TWIST- From Manitouwadge drive 2.5 KM (1.24 mi) east on Manitou Road, turn right just past Geco Bridge onto Camp 70 Road. Drive 3.8 KM (2.4 mi) and turn right onto Twist Lake Road and follow road for 7.8 KM (4.9 mi) to Macutagon Creek Bridge. Follow trail on left just past the bridge for 0.1 KM (328 ft) to rapids.

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS ONTARIO SERIES:

Manitouwadge 42-F-4

RC-17 Rapids



RC-17 RAPIDS

LOCATED ON THE BLACK RIVER SYSTEM

RC-17 Rapids

RC-17 is the ideal place for the whole family to visit. Easily accessible by truck, ATV, snowmobile, or mountain bike. When off of the main highway, you drive down an old logging road that at one time hosted a number of logging camps. You can access the rapids at different points along the road way. The drive is bumpy but fairly easy. Parking at the corner of Highway 614 and Camp 53 Road you could also use an ATV or mountain bike to get there. It is a great trail for this. During the winter this is the snow machine trail.

The camp housed those that worked for the Ontario Paper Company Ltd. It was on the left hand side of the road. The camp and buildings no longer stand but remnants from it can be found if you look around. On the right hand side of Camp 53 Road part way to the rapids, about 200 feet past the camp emplacement, you can find the box from an old dump truck. It is camouflaged by the trees and foliage. It dates back to the 1950's. It is definitely different than the boxes on dump trucks today.

RC-17 is most memorable for the research and development done there in the field of silva culture in 1954. In September a team of more than 40 experts specialists; scientists, politicians, foresters, woodsmen and economists, accompanied by representatives of the press attended a field meeting of Ontario Research Councils Advisory Committee. They were studying the progress being made on a forest research project known by the title RC-17. To this day this area is still referred to as RC-17. The project was a study of improving the methods for growing a second crop of high quality spruce trees on cut over upland areas. RC-17 was a 10 section area, where the sections were either uncut, clear cut, or had only hardwood or softwood removed. A variety of regeneration techniques were being evaluated within these areas along with numerous other tests of equipment and methods.

There is much nature to be seen along this road. Any one of the many wildlife species of the Manitouwadge area may be viewed while driving to the rapids. In the fall American bear hunters set up camps and bait cans in various places along Camp 53 Road, keep a look out, some animals can get out of sight pretty quickly.

A large variety of wild flowers are present along the roadway. Asters and goldenrods can be found everywhere. The season will determine which flowers will be seen, as well as which stage of life they will be in. Most flowering plants will be in bloom mid-July but if you return mid-September there will only be a flower pod; for example the Prickly Wild Rose. Upon reaching the rapids, the upper bank is covered in blueberry bushes. In mid to late August picking is best. Be sure to bring your bucket with you. This is only one of RC-17's many opportunities.

From the bank you can climb down a small ladder and reach the water's edge. The water is framed in by smooth rock. The quietness of this area provides an ideal setting for picnicking, reading, and relaxation. RC-17 has a couple of pools that may bring you luck in by casting a line. walleye, pike and brook trout are found in the Black River.

In the days of the river drive, the company dammed up the river to stop the flow of water.

They would then bulldozed all the large boulders out of the water. This would help to keep the logs from getting hung up on them. Now this section of the Black River has a clear bottom with relatively no rocks. It provides for excellent swimming and splashing around in the summer. If you're looking for something different, you could even float along on a tube or air mattress; of course then you'd have to walk back up the road.

While sitting on the shore or up on the ledge overlooking the river, the peacefulness tends to lead a person to daydream of the future and reflect upon the past. Envision logs flowing on their journey to Lake Superior, the workers standing along the shore guiding the pulp and freeing the ones that may become jammed.

RC-17 RAPIDS

LOCATED ON THE BLACK RIVER SYSTEM

NAME: RC-17

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: 1

TOTAL DISTANCE

FROM MANITOUWADGE: 36 KM (22.4 mi)

TOTAL DRIVING DISTANCE: 36 KM (22.4 mi)

TRAIL USE: Hiking, ATV, Mountain Bike, Snowshoe, Snowmachine

TERRAIN: old logging road

ROAD CONDITIONS: paved highway, hard packed dirt road

LENGTH OF RAPIDS: stretch approximately 1.6 KM (1 mi)

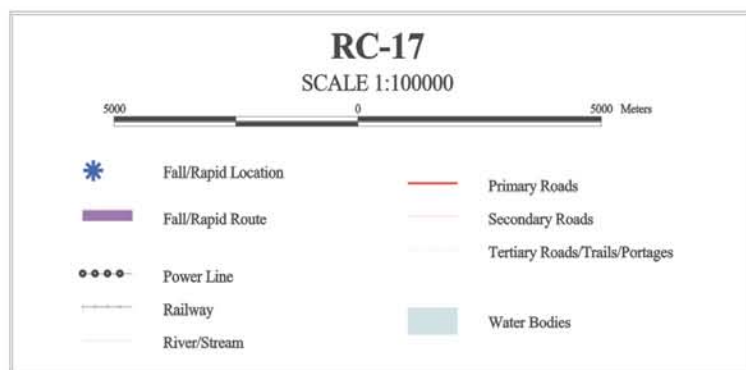
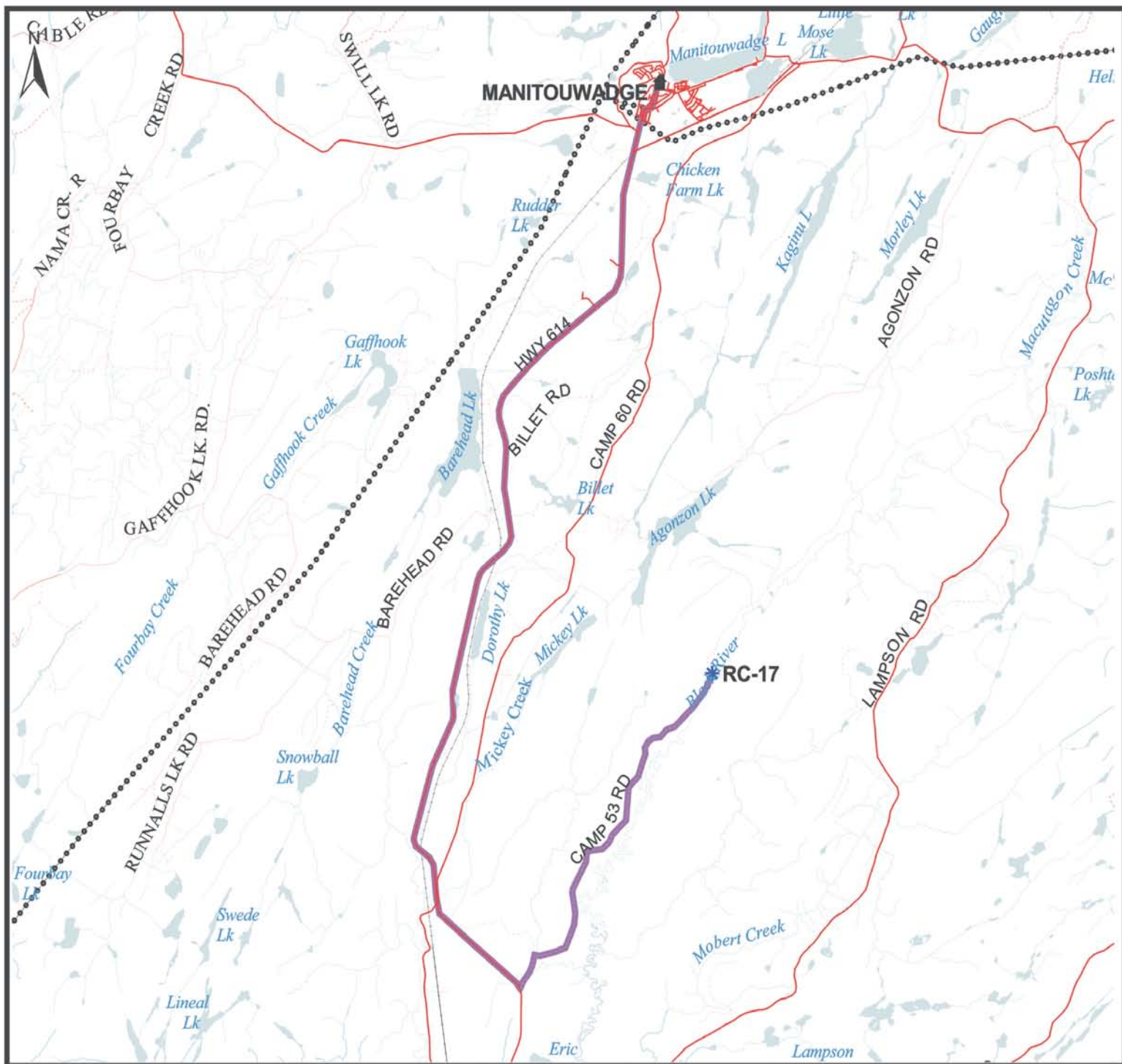
CAMPSITES: yes

CAUTIONS: Old ladder down to rapids, rocks maybe slippery. Watch for large trucks that may be hauling on the roads.

DIRECTIONS: From Manitouwadge drive 26.5 KM (16.5 mi) on Highway 614. Turn left at the rock cut onto Camp 53 Road. Follow road for 9.5 KM (5.9 mi). RC-17 is on right side of road.

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS ONTARIO SERIES:

Manitouwadge 42-F-4, White Lake 42-C-13

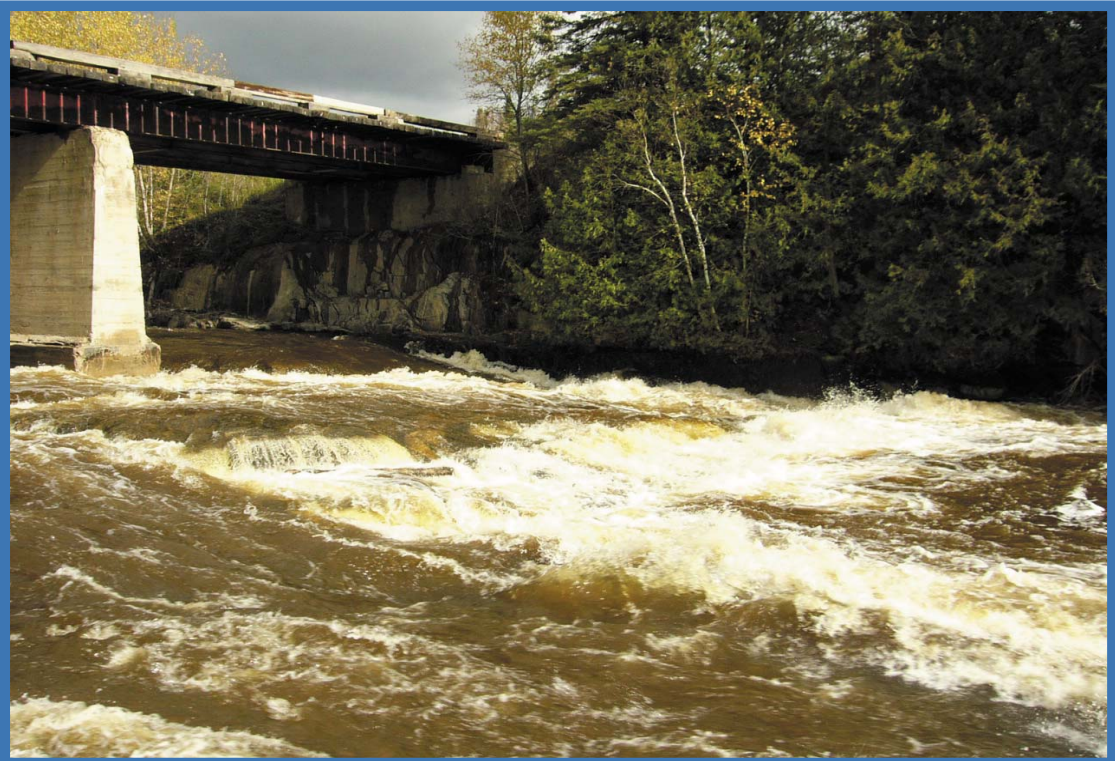


SPIRIT OF



THE FALLS

Skunk Rapids



SKUNK RAPIDS

LOCATED ON THE WHITE OTTER RIVER SYSTEM

Skunk Rapids

Skunk Rapids is located on the White Otter River is best known for the logging camp that was built nearby in the days of the river drive. The White Otter River was first log driven by Marathon Paper Mills. During the spring log drive of 1950 the logs from Camp 5 were blocking the Pic River just above Manitou Falls. After the break up of ice on the lakes and rivers the jam was cleared and the wood moved at a pace of 5 miles/hr heading for Marathon via the Pic River and Lake Superior.

The camp at Skunk Rapids began as Camp 105, later changing to just Camp 5. In 1949 some homes were built at the Camp 5 town site where families lived. Over the next few years more accommodations and buildings of Camp 5 were erected. It wasn't until 1952 that the town site was completed. The construction of the community center began in 1950. It was named "The Otter Valley Community Club". By early 1951 the community club was in use. Socials and dances had kept the building a hopping place; as well, sports teams held tournaments where they would compete against other camps. The community club was an important part of camp life, it was frequently undergoing changes. Among other new buildings there was a workshop, office, garage, and cookery built.

Roads were continuously being built to make the area more accessible. In 1948 the road was steadily pushing through the forest from Camp 5 to High Falls. This was a distance of approximately 8.5 miles. A year later the LeMay Highway was built going from Lunam Lake (which is 7.5 miles below Caramat) to Camp 5; covering a distance 20.5 miles. As the development of roads progressed, the need for stable bridges became necessary, and a new bridge that spanned across the White Otter River at Camp 5 was constructed in 1949.

Occasionally nature had a way of causing some excitement around the camps. In May 1951 Hillsport and Stevens towers picked up smoke, locating fire out breaks at Camp 5, Camp 24 as well as two other camps. All equipment to fight fires including pumps, hoses, packs, cans, shovels and axes were transported to the various fire locations. The onset of four fires at one time seemed coincidental but the men responded anyway. The men found out upon arrival that it was not nature doing its thing, but that they had been tested; the fire turned out to be smoke generators. This was not the case a few months later when a bush fire started near Camp 5. Luckily it was small and easily extinguished.

Prior to the days of the log drive, natives used the White Otter River as the canoe route to reach Manitouwadge Lake via a series of small lakes and connecting portages. Native artifacts such as cutting tools have since been found along the river bed. Today in the rapids both pickerel and brook trout can be caught. Other wildlife of the area includes but is not limited to moose, beaver, wolves, ruffed grouse, loons and other water fowl.

Skunk Rapids may not be overly spectacular just to view; however, the history of the area makes this an interesting place to visit and learn about.

SKUNK RAPIDS

LOCATED ON THE WHITE OTTER RIVER SYSTEM

NAME: Skunk Rapids

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: 1

TOTAL DISTANCE

FROM MANITOUWADGE: 45 KM (28 mi)

TOTAL DRIVING DISTANCE: 45 KM (28 mi)

TRAIL USE: Drive

TERRAIN: N/A

ROAD CONDITIONS: maintained gravel logging road, gravel road

SIZE OF FALLS/RAPIDS: 402.25 M - 804.5 M (.25 mi - .5 mi)

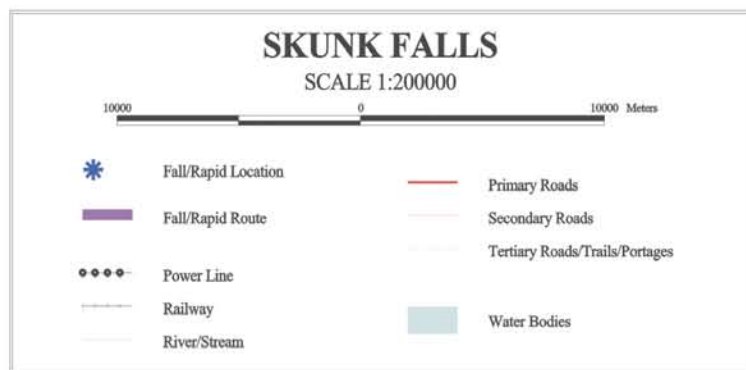
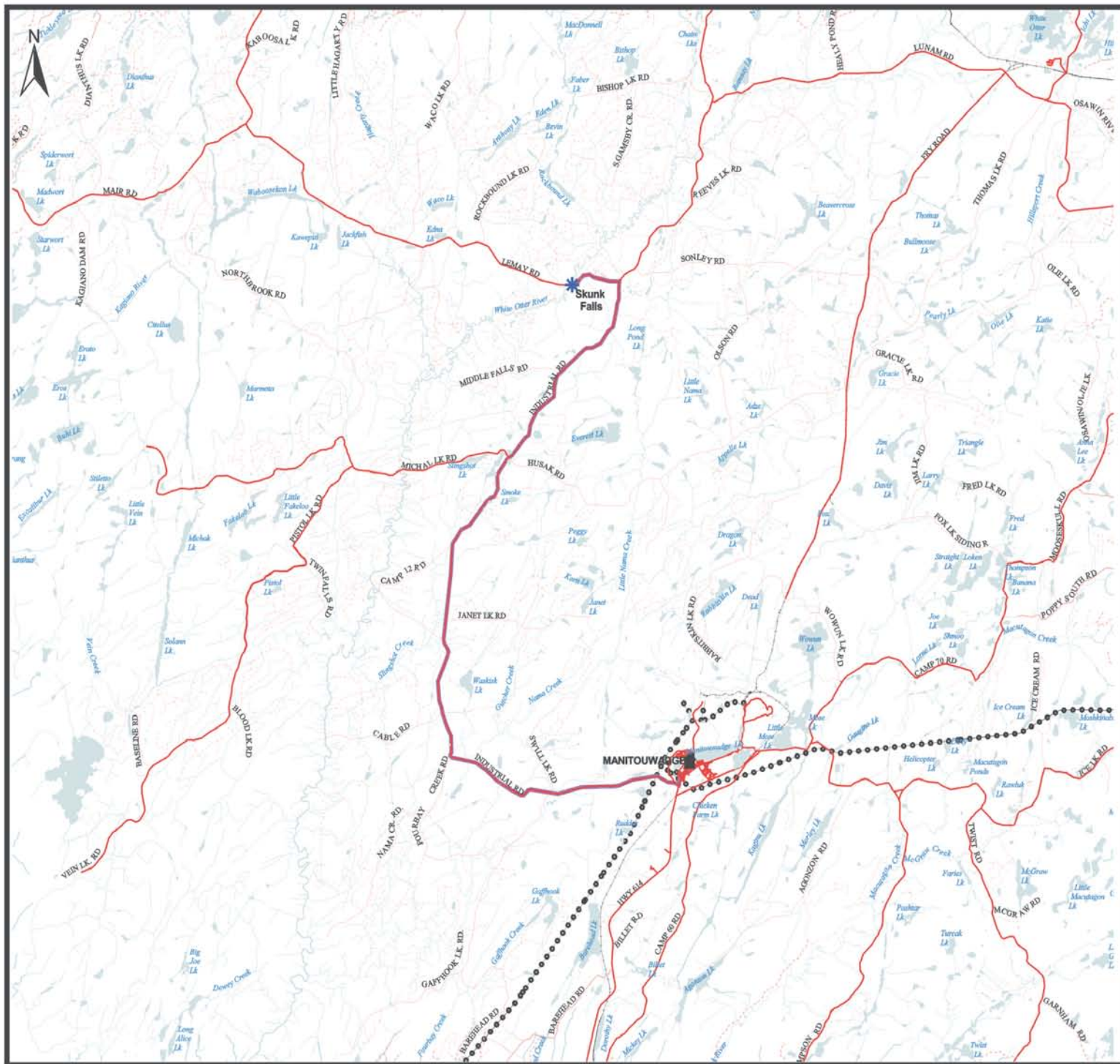
CAMPSITES: yes

CAUTIONS: Watch for large trucks that may be hauling on the roads.

DIRECTIONS: From Manitouwadge drive 42 KM (26 mi) on Caramat Industrial Road, turn left onto LeMay Road. Drive 3 KM (1.9 mi) to bridge. Skunk Rapids are below (Camp 5).

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS ONTARIO SERIES:

Manitouwadge 42-F-4, Otter Lake 42-F-5



SPIRIT OF



THE FALLS