

1980 QUEBEC
OBATAGAMAU - CHIBOUGAMAU - OPAWICA - EAGLE - ST. CYR - MEGISCANE

Maps Required: 1:250,000 Series
Chibougamau 32 G
Gouin Reservoir 32 B
Senneterre 32 C

Temagami to Obatagamau --

Left Boat Line at 10:00 am and with various errands got to Obatagamau about 1:30 am.

Maps obtained at Fecteau in Senneterre, start out of Senneterre and take 13th Street to river -- goes through a wooded area to air base.

Fishing licenses at any outfitter or lodge. Section B got their's at Parent Lake Lodge. \$15.50 adult. \$4.25 under 18 and part of a supervised group.

Section B got off at Waswanipi River about 6:30 on south side in a deserted Indian settlement area now run as a sort of trailer park.

We went about 15+ miles south of intersection with Senneterre Road and St. Felicien Road to Chibougamau Explorer's road that goes by Obatagamau. About 4 miles in we used a launching area and pitched tents in the dark by the car lights. Did not look good on first sight, but worked ok. Finally in bed at 3:10. 74° 20' 49° 33'

Next area was larger, but an Indian camp and we didn't know if occupied.

About 6 miles in is Obatagamau Lodge which from water looks pretty large.

Obatagamau to End of 2nd Section of Obatagamau --

No campsites seen until one on small rock island just after entrance from river to south. 74° 25' 49° 34' Too small for section. Next site on point used in '64, still good, but had a tent on it. 74° 25' 49° 35' We camped on large island north of swing to third section of lake on east side in an Indian site. 74° 28' 49° 37+' OK but no swimming.

End of 2nd Part Obatagamau to Start of Lake Muscocho --

We took river section out, but probably would have been better to take west bay and what looks like a short portage into a long bay into Lake Muscocho. 74° 33' 49° 37'

As creek starts, 74° 31' 49° 37', a couple little tiny sections of faster water and after 2nd narrows a cabin on left with cleared area.

Then a calm area until an island before creek narrows. Lumber road just west of thin stretch, and just after creek narrows and swings west, a bridge for lumber road. 74° 31' 49° 39'

Rapid under bridge and just beyond, lined down in two parts. Top could be run maybe, but second part has too sharp a turn. Line a fairly good one on left.

Just below a rapid we ran poorly, but a perfectly good run in her.

Then an island, we lined right side.

A final one, lined on left around first part and then run the last little bit.

Then turn to south made with no problem. No campsites along the way and none seen really except the cabin area after 2nd narrows.

As we entered bay at start of Muscocho we had a strong west wind and camped on south side of first island in a previously used site. $74^{\circ}33'49^{\circ}37'$ Tentsites were not quite enough for section, but otherwise ok except for no real swimming -- although section went in.

South Section of Muscocho to Rapid out of l'Eau-Jaune --

After turn north, on left, a reasonable looking campsite about a mile past turn to north. $74^{\circ}34'49^{\circ}39'$
Another on an island after turn to west about 2 miles after turn. Island is close to north shore and campsite faces east. $74^{\circ}37'49^{\circ}40'$

Muscocho has more rock and sand beaches -- not large -- than any lake so far, but not that many cleared, used sites that we saw. Some small one-tent affairs.

We camped on a good, cleared site with a rock point on left just before rapid out of l'Eau-Jaune. $74^{\circ}43'49^{\circ}42'$ Not quite enough room for 6 tents, but otherwise not bad, swimming off rocks on south side of point. Walleye and pike in area.

Rapid out of l'Eau-Jaune to Falls before Lac de la Presquile --

SEE NOTE AFTER FALLS; NEXT DAY

1st rapid judged too heavy to shoot with our section. Portage cut on left, starting in small indentation to left. 75-100 yards. Not bad. $74^{\circ}43'49^{\circ}42'$

All rapids can't be noted -- horseraces left out.

Soon below river bends left and then right with rapid-horseraces on bends. We turned over a canoe in 2nd. Then a run on left shore to next bend left, catch eddy on left after bend, and cross to right, or catch eddy on right. Canoes let down of right shore in fast water almost to tip of point and portage cut up and over point 25-30 yards.

Shortly below river turns left and rapid too heavy. There was a little side channel to right of main river we let down and then lifted over a rocky small l' falls at foot to a beaver pond, paddled pond, and lifted around final part of dam on stream bed to right after breaking through part of beaver dam.

Ahead a heavy rapid on a left bend. We had lunch at head and cut 100-yard trail on left to foot.

Next major one we cut a trail on left 250-300 yards which was longer than necessary and wanders too much.

A couple small horseraces before the falls $74^{\circ}46'49^{\circ}42'$ with two pre-cut trails on right. One right at edge of falls, shorter and a little harder. Other a little way into bay starting in a beaver clearing where we camped. OK for the night -- no swimming. Trail by falls might be 75 yards. Our trail maybe 125 yards and a little easier walking.

3 miles covered in entire day.

Falls before Lac de la Presquile to 6 miles past lake --

Small horseraces after falls. All except first run by looking down in canoe -- 1st scouted on shore.

NOTE -- At foot of bay to south just before lake there is a creek entering from south. $74^{\circ}47'49^{\circ}42'$ Paddling up creek 400 yards discovered the portage from l'Eau-Jaune. Trail is reasonably well-walked. Indian had brush at landing

from the spring. Portage is probably about a mile and would save the troubles of coming down the river, although if done again so our portages are now all there, and trip down would be faster.

Just beyond foot of bay on left looked to be a reasonable Indian site.

Side trip to Chapais -- landing made at water pumping station. Nothing else in the way of a settlement on lake -- An Indian encampment with several tents just south of pumping station, however. $74^{\circ} 51' 49''$ $44'$ Road to town is advertised 3 miles but is probably longer with twists and turns. Coming out from Chapais after passing through all of the town take road south that leads to Quebec Hydro storage area. At present time is just past a mobile home complex. After houses, road splits with right fork going to Hydro storage and left fork to lake. Road fairly good for a dirt road. Runs parallel to railroad tracks for awhile and then crosses tracks. At water pumping station there is a poor road to left to a sand beach and also road to right that probably goes back of the Indian encampment.

Section parked for lunch at a sand beach campsite that was quite large, spacious, and well-used. River leaves just to south around a small point in a 3' rapid that has three channels that can't be run. Trail goes out back of campsite and after 50 yards splits. Left branch puts in where run-off from rapid has to be negotiated. Right branch probably puts in below. $74^{\circ} 52' 49''$ $43'$

Afterwards a few small swifts and the river pretty much settles down to flowing at a steady pace with width everyone can paddle together. Several Indian sites on way down, particularly at start. None terribly large. Jackpine at start, but begins to turn into mostly spruce. We camped on a bend to left on a very flat, well-cleared area which had been used by Indians although maybe not for a couple years. $74^{\circ} 55' 59''$ $44'$ Bank a little high -- 5' -- but water in front good for swimming by diving off sand-clay shore. Buggy, but otherwise, excellent, at least for this area.

5 Miles west of Lake de la Presquile to Near Railroad Tracks --

Impossible to tell where you were on river. No portage to Cavan Lake was discovered.

After we figured portage should have gone by, we ran two relatively long rapids, both going around bends in the process which needed scouting all the way to the foot of each.

Then one that went around a V-shaped bend to left where the foot was impossible. There was a portage trail noted at the top as we started scouting and put in in a small bay behind a grassy island. We took portage, about 200 yards, no cutting needed -- everything could be walked over or under -- except for alder at start that had to be cleared away. Landings at both ends were sand-clay. In the process we were caught in a heavy rain shower and had lunch on high esker across the river -- too bushy to make a campsite, although there would be clear tent site on moss about 40 yards in.

Then a fairly long level stretch to a very long

rapid that made a bend to right after the start. Needed extensive scouting.

Soon afterwards a much shorter one where there was a very narrow shoot between rocks just after the start and river turned right. Needed careful scouting, but after threading the needle through that one shoot, the rest was large horseraces.

Several short runs of short duration that could be read by standing in canoe.

Then river settled down more or less to a westward course running fairly straight. After final rapid we heard two trains go by sounding quite close to the river.

After awhile a large sandy, cleared area on right at obvious road where people had cooked. Terrible campsite -- wide open sand.

We went on for another hour plus, finally putting up on right in an old, small Indian site. Not very good. After we camped across the river looked better on a higher bank with reindeer moss showing in jackpine.

Near Railroad to Middle of 2 Mile Rapid --

Nothing in the way of campsites cut all the way to stream in from Dickson Lake. $75^{\circ} 11' 49'' 41'$

As soon as turn north is made, a large canvas roofed camp structure -- larger than the normal Indian building.

Just beyond a lumber road in excellent shape with several trucks going over as we went by. About a mile or two before area, back from river had been cleared, though not river bank. Rapid under bridge a straight run with no problem.

Railroad bridge ahead has nothing under it except old pilings. $75^{\circ} 11' 49'' 42'$

Stretch to north has no campsites on it.

We had lunch after river turned west, but further along on right there is an Indian site. $75^{\circ} 11' 49'' 46'$
Another past there on left.

About 1100 elevation mark a short heavy rapid run on left side inside swells. $75^{\circ} 13' 49'' 46'$

Shortly below a similar one run on right.

River then turns left or south and rapids start with horserace runs. Indian maybe portages this whole series which is about 2 miles long starting in bay at foot of the second sharp drop run above.

Horseraces can be read from top with eddies to catch on way down.

After several there is then a rocky island with a narrow channel on left and main river on right. Rapid too heavy to run anywhere and can't be let down. About 300 yards long. We cut a portage on right starting inland on a beaver trail? which might have been an old trail leading back to the real portage? We struck loads of windfalls in the process. Walking quite poor in scraggly bush with lots of logs to step over. Puts in just below heavy rapid.

From there we ran horseraces until river turned right where water got heavier and we had to stop because of lack of daylight.

We camped on left where river turns right in an awful place because of lack of daylight.

Middle of 2 Mile Rapid to Rapid past Lac Coeur-Pendant --

Rest of rapid run down left shore to bend to left and then right shore to run between two rocks and and over to a small eddy on left just before a small island. Then scouted again and run right of island and following throw of river to end just before 3-4 large islands shown on map. 75° 16' 49° 46'

Indian site on right after rapid roughly where portage might end, but portage trail was not found.

From there to lakes nothing in the way of campsites. We had lunch on a small Indian site just before Lac Mechamego.

After leaving Lac Coeur-Pendant, rapid ahead can be heard. We camped because of heavy thunder shower on right just before rapid in an Indian winter site. Not great, but far better than either of the last two nights. 75° 25' 49° 47'

Rapid past Coeur-Pendant to to Before Double Rapid, Chibougama --

Rapid at campsite shot easily in left channel, approached by going to left behind island.

After a calm stretch and then 3-4 horserace kind of rapids run by standing in canoe.

Another calm and some more horseraces.

Then starts horseraces and finally a ledge across river. We came down slowly one at a time on left shore and lifted over a rocky small falls.

Horserraces follow to last run which is a C-rapid to left with decent swells -- straight ahead is rocky, steep shallows.

Then through islands until finally meeting Chibougama 75° 30' 49° 48' which at entrance is very shallow and fast.

About a mile down a rapid run basically to right of center staying right of heavy water but out from right shore which is shallow. 75° 32' 49° 48'

Shortly below large islands with a large camp with a plane in northwest bay behind the islands. 75° 33' 49° 48'

Nothing to double marked rapid. We scouted and found portage, but had to camp on right before rapid starts in a poplar grove once used by at least one Indian, but quite overgrown now. Most tentsites back from water. 75° 36' 49° 47'

Double Rapid to Falls --

We slipped down right shore, thereby running 1st marked rapid running very close to shore at all times. One reasonably tricky place where you go inside a rock out of water and around a small rock point and then in to avoid another underwater rock. Landing is on a sort of gravel-clay, sand beach. Eddy big enough for all canoes, but unloading one at a time. Portage wet from the rain we have had. About 400 yards. Toward end a rock to climb up.

After portage river flows rapidly for quite a way, sort of easy horseraces roughly down to an island. 75° 38' 49° 46'

Not too far below a couple small islands across the river. Ledge to left of them. We landed on a rock island and then ran to right of it and left of a last island over near the right shore. Might be a run to right of it, but it looked like it ran out.

Maybe more current to an island after which river

bends to west. 75° 43' 49° 44' Cascade right of island too rough. We looked all over for a portage trail -- a faint vestage of an old one on right just at head of cascade. Finally ran left of island as close to left shore as possible. Turned one canoe over.

Then horseraces for a long stretch.

Just before wide stretch a relatively heavy one where we ran right shore around a rock point with some swells -- maybe due to west wind. 75° 44' 49° 44'

At end of wide stretch a falls. 75° 46' 49° Portage trail on right in a reasonable calm before falls. We camped at head of trail in an area really too small for a section.

Falls to Waswanipi Village --

Portage about 3/4 mile, lots of logs to step over. Up a hill shortly after start and then down as though going to water, only it carries another cascade-like rapid. Best view of falls from here. Then up another rise and trail gets better until drop to water. One-tent Indian site at end. Then steep drop to water.

Runoff from rapid has to be taken reasonably far from shore. Marked rapid below does not exist. 75° 48' 49° 44+'

River mostly smooth with a few V-horseraces to next marked rapid which was a very heavy chute that was carried on right on a rocky, dry creek bed -- 30 yards -- fairly easy. 75° 51° 49° 42'

Last marked rapid ? 75° 54' 49° 42' was run hugging the left shore at top and then out toward center. Probably would not work if water were an inch lower.

Nothing from there to junction.

We paddled up Opawica, stopping for lunch just after bend to left on left shore. 75° 58' 49° 41'

From there two swifts had to be paddled to bulb-like peninsula that sticks out. 75° 53' 49° 40' Hydro power lines go across it (as they did across Chibougamau just before junction).

Heavy rapid comes down around bulb with another one above. We looked below bulb where old map says portage was with no success. Indian later said it was on opposite -- upper side of bulb behind island shown on map.

We gave up and went back to lunchsite to camp -- poor except possible to swim off sand beach. Went down to Waswanipi Village and arranged for a truck to Opawica. Going up main road, store is small blue building just in from road. Band office is next building.

Waswanipi Village to Opawica Lake --

Village about 1/4 completed. Store, blue building at southwest corner of village. Band office next building in. We hired truck and 2 station wagon-like taxies for \$45 to truck us to Opawica -- down highway at turnoff at paper company sign. Back roads would be hard to follow without a guide. Put in on west shore of Opawica opposite south end of big Island -- small island right to front. 75° 59' 49° 34' Opawica Lodge just to south in a bay. Shack at landing occupied by a couple men and a boy from Ohio fishing.

Indian camped on sand beach just east of east part of island 75° 57' 49° 35'

We went along north shore to 2nd or so sand beach to camp -- site had to be cut out -- not too well-done except kitchen area. Water shallow in front of site. 75° 55' 49" 34'

Hospital Trip to Val d'Or --

Senneterre has a very well equipped doctor's infirmary kind of building. Nurse always on duty.

Transport to Val d'Or by a well-equipped ambulance -- 40 minutes.

Val d'Or hospital seemed adequate. Apparently you should pay for ambulance trip and it costs \$37 for admission to hospital and a \$500 deposit if admitted in spite of all insurance.

Room at Continental Hotel in town and Deli Restaurant across street open 24 hours.

Voyageur bus station two blocks north and two east of Continental Hotel -- bus to Senneterre at 3:10 -- takes about an hour.

Opawica Lake to Narrows of Lac Lichen --

Leaving Opawica by western exit a little current to paddle to railroad bridge where whort rapid under bridge lined on right being careful at major drop, but otherwise very easy. 75° 53' 49" 33'

A short way ahead just before entering Wachigabau 75° 52' 49" 33' a cascade -- small falls -- like rapid. We went up left side of island in center on a paddle easily and lifted over 15 yards on relatively good rock.

Narrows into Lichen have only slight current. Just as bend to east is made there is a good-looking Indian site on left. 75° 58' 49" 27'

First part of Lichen has numerous sand beaches many of which have been camped on. We stopped at three of them, but could not find tentsites -- plus a lot of broken glass on one and a polyethylene frame on another.

We finally camped on northwest corner of island in narrows in middle of lake in an Indian site using tentsites mainly back in the bush -- ok, a little dirty. 75° 48' 49" 28' Swimming not very good on pebble beach in shallow water.

Lichen to Lac Lessard --

At narrows at end of Lichen a very attractive cascade. 75° 42' 49" 29' Portage is on left above a long, this island and just up some fast water -- probably 75-100 yards with a small rapid above that would have to be lined. Instead we took out behind island, before real portage, on a fisherman's well-walked trail marked with red streamers. Looks for all approaches like a portage, goes through some windfalls most of which have been well-cut out and nothing to be a problem. Comes to a road end. Follow road to left, take right when it intersects a better road -- up a hill and down, and take road to right to water -- 1/2 mile this way!

At north end of Lessard a quick, heavy ledge-kind of rapid with a powerful V in middle. 75° 36' 49" 32' We lined up left to good rock area and took out to carry across rock and avoid lining the rest and made a campsite. Kitchen on rocks is great and swimming at top of rock area. Tentsites in windfalls behind. Could be turned into a campground if

windfalls were taken out, but probably best done with a chain saw.

Lessard to Rapid past Lac La Ronde --

After campsite we lined a small point, paddled the eddy in a bay and lined a short easy way to the top of the small rapids.

A calm stretch and then a reasonable falls on left and a cascade to right. 75° 37' 49° 32' Portage on left, best to pull-up a very small distance before unloading. 75 yards, wet for first 2/3. Shallow loading area in a very calm small bay.

A calm stretch and turn to right to a very steep cascade-falls. 75° 35' 49° 32' Portage on right easily reached. Goes up gentle hill at start and then gently down. 125 yards. Puts in in a bay easily left by following shore.

Old fire tower on east side of La Ronde.

Looked to be a campsite in poplar on right just before turn to the rapid at end of lake. 75° 35' 49° 31'

No real current until bend to south and then nothing difficult.

As soon as turn east is made a rapid, easily run coming down is encountered. Right side should be lined -- sometimes paddled all the way up around outside of small island -- channel inside island would be better if there were enough water. Shallows make it difficult in spots. After island, stay to right and portage is 25 yards on well-used trail and then rocks. Main river is to left of island shown on map and lesser channel around right side of island lies at end of portage. 75° 33' 49° 31' (There is a very old trail that starts just before small island after lining up 150 yards that could be followed, but it goes up over the top of a high hill.)

We camped at portage -- good kitchen on rocks.

Swimming possible, particularly playing in water that comes down over rocks. Tentsites only fair on blueberries. Across river is a cut made by hydro or lumbering and if continued to the rock side could ruin the campsite.

Rapid after La Ronde to Falls at start of Doda --

When river swings northeast after campsite, a relatively short rapid lined up on right. 75° 32' 49° 31'

Then a long paddle to marked rapid just after wide area, on the way you pass under hydro lines with roads coming to water on both sides and a cable ferry to join the two. Indian site in birch on right before islands in wide stretch. 75° 28' 49° 31'

At marked rapid, a long pull-up on right 75° 26' 49° 31' followed by a paddle to another at top of narrow section before pond at falls, also pulled up on right -- very top pull a little tricky.

Falls are spectacular. 75° 25' 49° 30' About 20+ foot drop, almost vertical on both right and left. Looks like an excellent campsite on left rock point occupied by clubbers. Portage is on left at base of falls. 75 yards. Puts in in the narrow channel just at head of falls.

Probably wise to walk up rocks a ways before putting in or else line-up before paddling.

At next narrows above just beyond island, a very shallow rapid that was walked up on left to foot of heavy water and then cut into trail that probably starts below the walk-up, but is probably ill-used. 75° 25' 49° 28' Section B had cut in also from below where we did and we intersected their trail. A fair number of step-over windfalls. 1/3 mile around heavy rapids around bend.

Then pond to foot of final falls. 75° 23' 49° 27' Portage in a bay to right of falls as far in as possible. Goes up a very steep hill to start. 300 yards, poorly cleared with several huge trees to get over. We camped at top of portage --terrible -- in rain. Pull-up left to go after landing.

Doda Falls to Mouth of Hebert River --

Sports at top of falls had flown in in their own plane and were camped on sand beach on left maybe 1/2 mile past falls.

At first narrows a swift without white water to paddle up. 75° 20' 49° 27'

At next narrows an even lesser area of current. 75° 17' 49° 27'

Fire tower above bay on long point that projects north that has to be rounded. 75° 14' 49° 26' Cabin in bay probably belongs to fire tower.

At mouth of Eagle River on left a series of cabins in poor repair filled with junk. 75° 9' 49° 25' Radio tower still standing. Across on south side an old dock, but we saw no buildings.

We camped on south side into mouth of Hebert River. 75° 12' 49° 22' Only sign of Indian was a poor one-tent site slightly farther up river.

Mouth of Herbert to St. Cyr River and back --

Shortly up St. Cyr a portage on left. 75° 19' 49° 18' Blazed and not too bad around a rapid; 200 yards.

Short 25-yard paddle to next on left around a short drop, 75 yards, much less well-cleared.

Then about a 1/2 mile paddle up one small swift to an island and start of succession of rapids and fast water that just keeps coming. We tried to follow an old trail on right, but river kept coming down the same way and we gave up. Narrow and shallow.

On way out, an old cabin on west side of this point. 75° 18' 49° 20' We camped on east side of point in an Indian site -- not great, but better than anything we have had recently. Just beyond there is a sport fishing camp.

Fishing Camp to Between 2nd and 3rd Rapids on Eagle River --

1st portage at foot of bay on left after a little line-up -- too shallow to go quite to actual landing. 75° 8' 49° 23' 400 yards past fairly steep cascade.

Paddle to past bend in river and then rapids start. 75° 8' 49° 22' We lined all to top when river turns east. A few spots inbetween to paddle. Very time-consuming, but not really hard.

We camped on left about 1/3 the way along east-west

stratch. Perfectly terrible in windfalls with terrible tentsites.

Between 2nd and 3rd Rapids to Just above 1st Marked Rapid (5th on old map) --

Several more line-ups to heavy rapid where river turns south. Very ancient portage trail on right at very foot of heavy water -- old circular Indian firepalce -- we recut and reblazed (too many). 150 yards with a pull-up to do after portage -- easy.

Then river runs south past long thin island with current that can be paddled. $75^{\circ} 8' 49'' 21'$ Recent campsite on right shortly after turn and paddle is made.

3 short pull-ups to bay with 3 islands in it. $75^{\circ} 7' 49'' 19'$

About 3 pull-ups to rapid marked on 1:250,000 map. Heavy rapid-cascade around a corner that bends right. Old blazes at start and foot of carry across point inside a little knoll -- creek bed in valley would have poor walking. $75^{\circ} 7' 49'' 18'$ We had to recut -- or redo almost all of it. Old route impossible to follow. At end of our trail walk up shore through short grass and weeds before putting in to avoid lining after carry -- 125 yards.

Just beyond an Indian campsite on a point which we used as a campsite and a portage -- river around point could be lined fairly easily. Tentsites pretty good. Kitchen not as good.

After 1st Marked Rapid to Below Rapid after Large Pond --

Several pull-ups on right to a small pond-like area with cascade coming in. $75^{\circ} 7' 49'' 18'$ Portage on right, very well-walked. 150 yards.

A couple more pull-ups to another pond area with another violent cascade coming down. Portage on left edge of white water -- Indian campsite on point on right before cascade. $75^{\circ} 7' 49'' 17+$ Trail was poorly cut, but possible to follow. Some travelers of years ago had rerouted some of the trail around windfalls -- lots of step-over and sit-down windfalls. A terrible rock hill at start which is very difficult to walk up with any load. 700 yards.

Afterwards area can be paddled -- against current. An Indian site marked with a blaze maybe 1/2 mile above the previous portage.

Old map indicated to west side of thin island was paddled fairly easily -- no water on east side of island.

We took west side of large island and had to line a short rapid before branch goes east. $75^{\circ} 8' 49'' 17'$

We took west side of top of island and water got very narrow. We paddled up rapid at top of island $75^{\circ} 7' 49'' 16'$

We camped on right at a smooth rock area, large enough only for unloading. Tentsites poor. Ahead is a small cascade that would need a short portage. $75^{\circ} 6' 49'' 15'$

Below Rapid after Large Pond to Lac Lacroix --

Cascade portaged on right starting on rocks at foot

of whitewater -- 40 yards -- trail a little faint mostly because it goes over rock to start with.

Just above a swift either paddled or lined.

Wide stretch of nine miles or so has current in spots, not too deep, but easily paddled.

Narrow section -- one line on map -- paddled against obvious current to a very attractive cascade-falls. 75° 14' 49° 9' About 2/3 - 3/4 way up narrow stretch. Portage on right at obvious landing. Trail well-walked, but has a couple very difficult climbs up rock areas. 200 yards

Rest of narrow area easy to paddle

At next narrows a mile to 1 1/2 above, first a small swift paddled or poled -- or lined on right. 75° 15' 49° 7'

Ahead a cascade, portage on right into obvious bay. 400 yards. Very clear and well-walked. Campsite at upper end.

About two miles ahead on right a tent marked # 7 -- probably belongs to lodge farther up.

We could find no cleared campsites and camped on east shore at a small sand beach with tentsites and kitchen behind about 15 yards of scraggly bush. 75° 19' 49° 3' Tentsites ok, but otherwise terrible although possible to swim off sand beach.

Lac Lacroix to Swamp Portage --

Camp on Lacroix on point on left just onto Gouin map. 75° 24' 48° 59' Well-built log, no one there as we passed by.

One old blaze before treeless section starts, but no portage trail to be found.

We tried right hand branch below all the way to oval pond where water ran out. 75° 32' 48° 52' Strange portage on east side of pond up over an esker to a pond that map says has no inlet or outlet.

We paddled back to just north of where Hydro lines cross river and camped at an old one-tent Indian site. 75° 32' 48° 53' Terrible kitchen, but tentsites behind on reindeer moss weren't too bad.

Swamp Portage to 1 Mile South of Lac Bailly --

Portage started just north of split in Eagle River heading toward Hydro tower just south of one with special green insulators. 75° 31' 49° 55' Terrible walking. After crossing Hydro --terrible walking, move north to about half-way between south tower and one with green insulators and then head west to water which can be seen ahead. Whole portage is a mile plus with 2/3 prior to center of Hydro, and walk through woods at end to water only 200-300 yards.

We camped on right about a mile south of Bailly on an old Indian site -- quite good except no swimming. 75° 35' 48° 53' Rock on point -- to identify -- and just before river widens a little.

1 Mile South of Lac Bailly to Reoutfitting at South End of St. Cyr --

Campsite on left just before stream from east comes in. 75° 37' 48° 51'

Well-built cabin --very neat on right just before

river from east comes in.

Some slight current in narrows, but barely noticeable.

Lunch on an Indian site on left just before series of three islands across from a lumber cut. $75^{\circ} 38' 48^{\circ} 47'$

We camped on a thin sand point overly used by clubbers. Little too much sand and left-over mess, but otherwise good for plane. $75^{\circ} 43' 48^{\circ} 43'$

South End of St. Cyr to 2 Miles before end of Lac Megiscane --

Watch map carefully; all the islands do not show.

Indian campsite on right just before wide stretch to west after 1st section of river. $75^{\circ} 44' 48^{\circ} 38'$

Another on west side of wide stretch -- dry wood scarce. $75^{\circ} 46' 48^{\circ} 37+'$

At end of St. Cyr River a shallow rapid with what looks like a man-made channel on left. $75^{\circ} 47' 48^{\circ} 35+'$ Probably for boats from lodge somewhere south of here.

A cleared area on right -- after rapid -- looks like a building was there ages ago.

Another larger area on left as river starts into Lac Megiscane.

Just before turn to west in river a rapid with several small islands in middle. $75^{\circ} 49' 48^{\circ} 35'$ We ran tight to left shore with no trouble after looking over -- inside all rocks.

We tried looking for a campsite right after rapid, finding nothing. In general shore is too steep for good landing. We found one sand beach that had been used as a lunchsite, but nothing else.

In desperation we camped on north point of large island about 2 miles before end of lake. $75^{\circ} 57' 48^{\circ} 33+'$ Tentsites and kitchen terrible -- only good feature was blueberries. There's a trapper's cabin just ahead on a tiny island too small for us and no tent poles or dry wood.

2 Miles before end of Lac Megiscane to Before Berthelot --

Island at start of river has rapid on both sides, that on right much the larger. $75^{\circ} 58' 48^{\circ} 36'$ Portage starts on right side of island just before bald rock and well before rapid. Carries across island and puts in on left side below cascade there. Campsite at start of carry would be usable. 150 yards, trail very wide and very well-used.

After rapid a little run-off and a small V to be run.

After wide area jackpine stands on fairly high banks would make excellent campsites. One spacious Indian site on right at start of area. $75^{\circ} 58' 48^{\circ} 36'$ Area extends at least to bend in river to west.

Old map says strong current here and in next straight stretch, but isn't that noticeable even going downstream.

Large camp -- moose? -- on right shore opposite Whitegoose River entrance. $76^{\circ} 2' 48^{\circ} 37'$

We camped on left at a clubber's site at indent on left. Adequate with decent tentsites. Swimming poor. $76^{\circ} 3' 48^{\circ} 35'$

Before Berthelot to Before Girouard --

Berthelot more attractive than expected. A cleared area, like where there was once a building on point where water goes south. $76^{\circ} 7' 48'' 33'$ (There's probably a lodge south of this point which advertises that it can be reached by road from Senneterre.)

A shallow rapid at narrows between large island and mainland. $76^{\circ} 8' 48'' 33'$ There's an island separating the rapid. Right side is too shallow. Left side we ran; not very deep.

Looked like a boat landing or campsite where map shows road reaches lake. $76^{\circ} 9' 48'' 33'$

Approach rapids at top carefully; current out in wide stretch above. Portage is on left shore, left of island before white water and easily reached, but landing has rocks at head and only one canoe at a time can get in. $76^{\circ} 11' 48'' 34'$ Portage 100 yards, well-used trail. Puts in into a small bay.

A short rapid just below with smooth rock on left. We had to let-down, there was a sharp, pointed rock right in foot of what should have been the run near left shore.

Slightly ahead another rapid can be seen after other branch joins. Heavy swells in center. Portage trail on left goes up over hill on rock trail that is easy to see from water. We carried up over hill and down to road, turned right on road, and then left to water at wide area in road used as a camping spot. 200 yards. Alternative was to continue original trail across road and down to water through a poor Indian campsite, but loading and walking poor.

Other alternative was to run the first rapid staying close to left shore and stop on left just before embankment where bridge across river is supposed to be, unload before bridge, and carry road to loading spot we used. Rapid under where bridge should be is much too heavy. Portage would be 50 yards.

River then flows with a little current. Just past 2nd island was an Indian lookout tower in birch on left.

We camped on right at a small sand beach with campsite in jackpine and spruce up 3-4 foot bank. $76^{\circ} 16' 48'' 34'$ Looked like Kapitachuan had used spot for lunch. Indian site otherwise. Tentsites could be better, but otherwise good. Swimming ok off sand beach with good drop-off.

Before Girouard to Foot of Double Rapid --

Looked like there might be a good camping area off sand beach on left just as Girouard is entered. $76^{\circ} 17' 48'' 33'$

Trapper's cabin on north shore just as turn into river is made. $76^{\circ} 18' 48'' 32'$

2 small V's to run and then a cascade that starts around bend to left. $76^{\circ} 19' 48'' 32'$ Portage trail starts about 30 yards around bend with landing on rocks. Current to landing. Trail almost impossible to see because of alders. 150 yards to a deep bay back off cascade. Good trail.

Just below double rapid starts with portage on left through alder and low bush before any white water. Fairly easy to find. But after 25 yards the trail runs into mess made by lumber crews. We went inland to lumber road

following dry routes for dragging logs, turned right on road until it turned sharp left just after a tiny pond on left of road. Up drag route over a fairly steep rise with some birch still standing and then down right front side of hill to hit old trail about 150 yards from water. Needs to be scouted first to find final trail. About 1/2 mile this way.

We camped at end of portage above river in area previously used by one-tent Indian. OK for a night.

Double Rapid to River before Faillon --

Run-off after eddy taken on left -- just barely deep enough to run.

2 mile straight stretch not very exciting.

Just as river narrows a heavy rapid. 76° 22' 48° 32' Looks to come before marks for the group of four. Portage on left 150 yards on good trail. Takes out on a sloping rock with unloading for only one at a time. Puts in with current in eddy off rapid making a chop. Have to paddle out of eddy to get with current.

A hundred yards below Four Rapids start. Portage on right in a small indent well before rapid. Trail excellent -- a little rise in middle -- 600-700 yards.

Just below a rapid run on right side without much trouble.

Several hundred yards below on left in birch, a cleared area that could be used as a campsite -- used as a lunchsite. 76° 24' 48° 31' Beaver have dropped several trees in it.

A mile or so below a one-tent Indian site on left not good enough for a section.

We camped on right probably at head of 2nd island at a small sand beach. 76° 26' 48° 30' Well-used by clubbers. A little small for us, but it worked.

Before Faillon to Lac Faillon --

Just before 1st wide section lumber road that comes up west side of Faillon crosses river with a rapid underneath. 76° 29' 48° 27' Run in left V of center of river and then slightly to right as river curves in obvious V.

A couple tiny campsites passed with tiny tents on them. In last wide stretch before lake proper an old cabin of some sort on left.

We camped off sand beach on left about 1 - 1 1/2 miles before cabins or houses that can be seen ahead. 76° 40' 48° 20' Quite poor; kitchen cleared out of low brush. Tentsites slightly farther in and poor.

Lac Faillon to Railroad Bridge --

On sand point about 1 - 1 1/2 miles before river on south side, a small town or large cabin-community -- probably a cottage area from Senneterre. Trailers and some larger buildings and cabins. Both sides of point, but more to east. 76° 43' 48° 20'

A couple cabins on right leading to river.

1st rapid starts under road bridge. 76° 44' 48° 19'

We ran under bridge and then to left and through one small

rapid and then lined the rest of the way down on the left. No trail to be found and lining probably took close to two hours.

At head of island just below a heavy rapid on right. No water or next to none going through on left. $76^{\circ} 44' 48'' 18'$ After rapid a little relative calm and then a very steep cascade that continues when river bends to right. We cut back on right at head of rapid to a logging road parallel to the river -- maybe 150 yards. Then followed road, turning left at a junction with another road and bearing left where another road bears off to the right. When road starts to bend to left as though back on itself at a small adjacent area that looks as though someone might pull off with a camper, a well-beaten trail to the river, puts into a small bay just after rapid that marks 1100 foot elevation contour.

Indian site on gravel point on left at foot of rapid. Very exposed, gravel tentsites, no wood, and no poles.

We paddled on to railroad bridge and camped on left in a cut-over area up a fairly steep bank. $76^{\circ} 47' 48'' 16'$ Terrible. Rapid at bridge to be carried and trail will need some reworking.

Railroad Bridge to Sunday Creek --

We started portage under railroad bridge in portage trail entrance to left of rapid, followed old trail to railroad embankment (there is another trail to right that goes to water before bridge -- too heavy for us). Then cut a trail under bridge and to water on far side. 100 yards. OK but for trail under bridge which is side-hill.

Fairly soon a moose hunter's small pre-fabricated cabin, quite new.

A couple swifts run by looking down while in canoe until two islands. $76^{\circ} 56' 48'' 14'$ Rapid on both sides of 1st island. Right side too rough and left side, which is probably run by others was too rocky. We followed a little channel inside some rocks along top of island to left side and then took-out up a steep bank and portaged on our trail, but walking quite good, 75 yards to a sandy loading area after left rapid. Table made of poles at landing -- would make a good campsite. We used for lunch.

Another rapid just below single island. $76^{\circ} 58' 48'' 17'$ Left side could be run all but rough area near foot. We cut a portage starting in a little creek at top right corner, well before rapid and portaged 150 yards to below dangerous chute and ran out rest. Trail not too bad, though drop to water is steep and unloading is rough up a bank.

A cabin at next creek, not good for camping. $76^{\circ} 58' 48'' 17'$

A platform built in trees on left about half way from there to Sunday Creek.

A cabin on west bank of Sunday Creek, we used as a campsite. $77^{\circ} 0' 48'' 19'$ Three tents pitched -- rest used cabin. Not great, but better than bushing our own.

Sunday Creek to Railroad Portage --

Another moose hunters' cabin at creek entrance where river turns west and another at creek on left before marked rapid.

Portage at marked rapid on left. Has up and down river landings. Up is above any swift. Down requires a small-swift run outside of shallows and into an eddy that will hold everyone. Trail well-walked in the past, but now has alder pressing in in spots. Loading in a bay after rapid. 400 yards. $77^{\circ} 4' 48'' 17'$

Shortly ahead a longer, much flatter rapid under the railroad bridge. $77^{\circ} 4' 48'' 18'$ Portage on right just at creek entrance on right. Trail very well-cut and walked. Goes up over tracks where there are a couple buildings, used by section crews? 500 yards. After crossing tracks and walking aways trail splits. We took left which puts in before a final run-off from the rapids.

Rapid could probably be run roughly down the center and then out to the right toward the foot -- water is moving quite rapidly however.

We camped on portage trail with kitchen and tents maybe 40 yards inland from start of portage because of a downpour. Quite satisfactory. No swimming, but we needed shelter.

Railroad Rapid to Marked Rapid --

Run-off run on right to an eddy.

From then on run to west has rapids all the way through. The first couple run standing in canoe. $77^{\circ} 5' 48'' 19'$

Then one with a deep, curving bay to left -- pause to look over. Ran V on left shore and then out toward center at foot. $77^{\circ} 6' 48'' 19'$

Final one run down right and then out toward center following black water. $77^{\circ} 7' 48'' 19'$ Water is really moving. Best looked over from trail on left up on top of a bluff. Not well-used, but serviceable.

Then river runs quietly to marked rapid. $77^{\circ} 8' 48'' 21'$ Two old roads end at river on both sides. A Hydro water survey shack at second one on left. We could find no trail. Portage is probably done on road on left -- 1st entrance being shorter than second. Should go to bay with island in it below -- better than a mile. "Main Road" crosses river as on map and rapid continues north of it. We did not investigate. Road on right of river curves, following river until it hits main road about 50 yards inland of bridge and could be used.

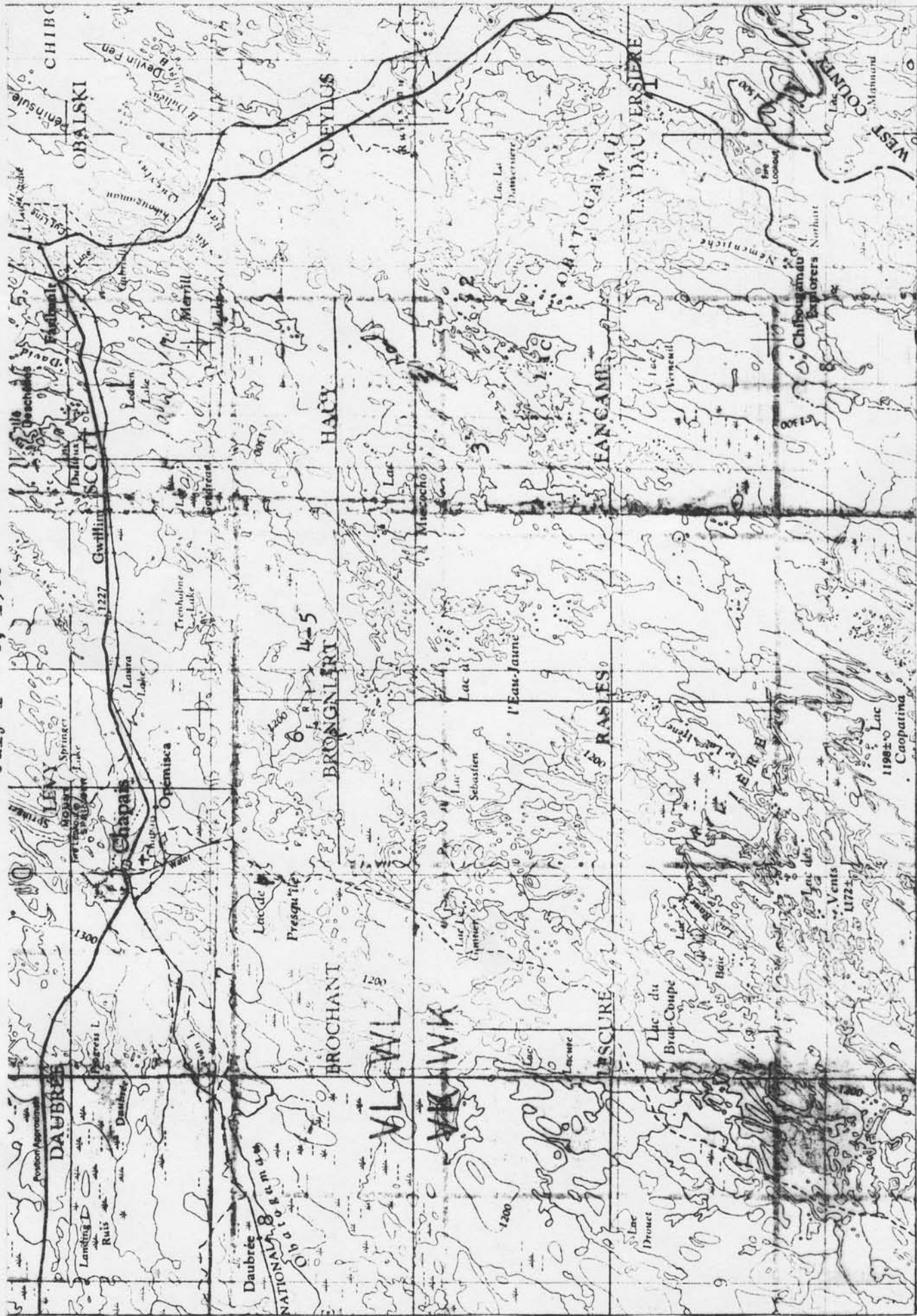
We camped on right at first road landing. Kitchen on flat road area with tents in a cleared treed area east of road. Better than lots we have had. Water ok for swimming off road.

Marked Rapid to Boat Line --

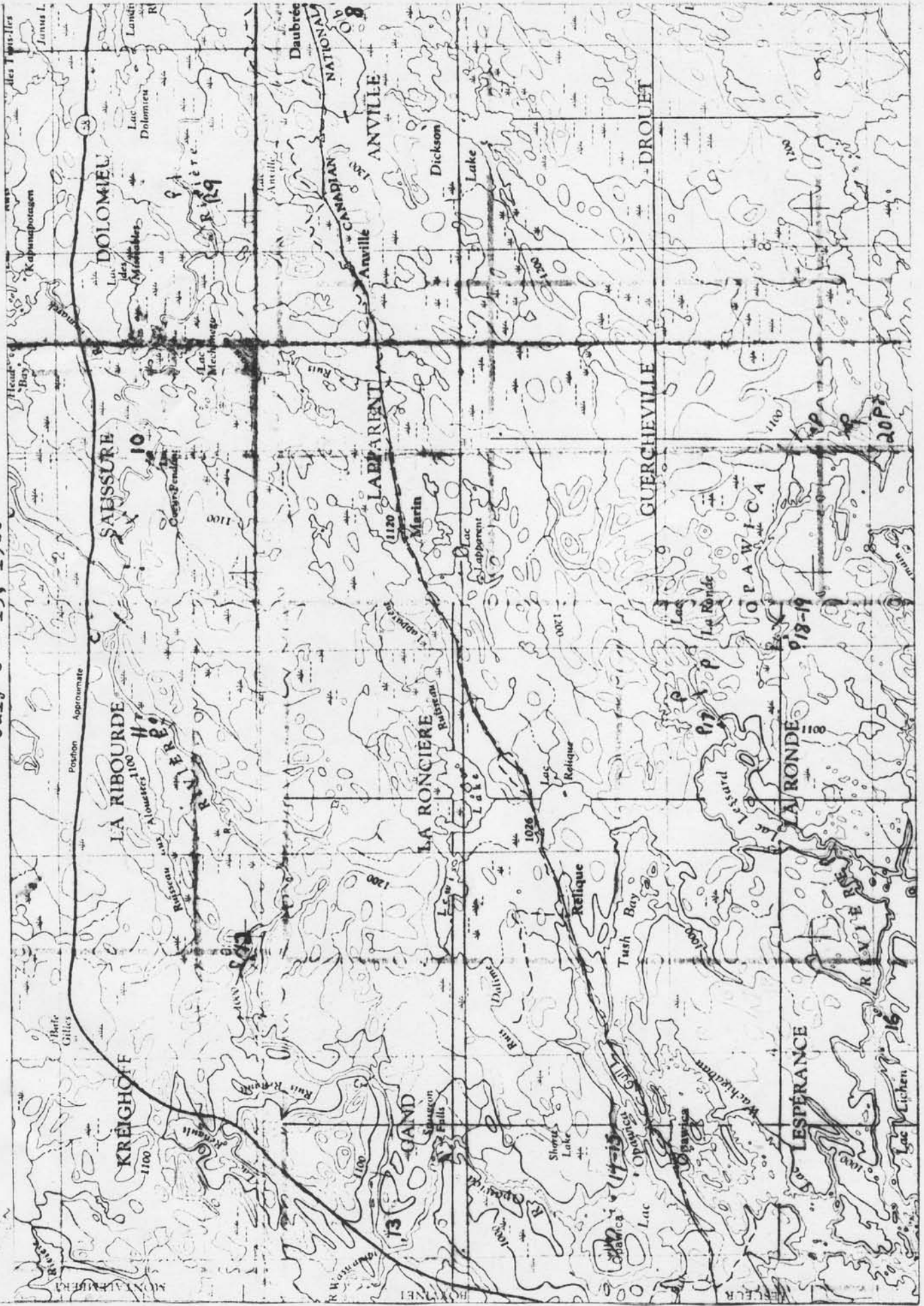
Road on north side leads to main road, turn left and road eventually becomes blacktop and leads directly into Senneterre coming into town past OPP station and intersecting Route 113 at corner where it turns north in town.

From Senneterre to Boat Line 260 miles.

July 1 - 8, 1980



July 8 - 15, 1980



July 16 - 25, 1980



August 4 - 9, 1980

