

# HOW TO FIND THE ROUTE

Lower Twin Lake is an excellent location to start your trip down the Drowning River. It is located on the Lower Twin Lake side of the river that connects Upper and Lower Twin Lakes, GPS point (530190, 5555760). A local Outfitter operates a camp ground at this location for those wishing to spend the night and get a fresh start the following morning.

You can also start your adventure at the river exit of Lower Twin Lake. This is outlined as "Start 2" on the map inside. You can travel from Nakina using either the Waba or Twin Lake Road. These logging roads are gravel and cross the river at the top of Lower Twin Lake. Please take when travelling these operating logging roads.

# TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS REQUIRED

It is highly recommended canoeist supplement this brochure with the National Topographic Series Maps as outlined below:

National Topographic Series Maps	
1:50000	
Grant	42L/1
Nakina	42L/2
Esnagami Lake	42L/7
Wababimiga Lake	42L/8

# ROUTE TESTIMONIAL

"The Drowning River has been renowned for its Speckled Trout fishery for over a century. Famous Northern Ontario guide, Emile Cote, loved this river, and for good reason: beautiful campsites and portages, lots of fastwater and rapids make this trip a wilderness canoeist's dream.

The campsite at Jackpine portage is one of the most astonishing stands of old Jackpines I have ever seen.



Most canoeists will end this trip at the first portage on the Wababimiga River. A portage leads out to the Supawn Lake road where pickup can occur.

Travel up the Wababimiga River to Wababimiga Lake is only recommended if you have a strong grasp of poling canoes, as the current is quite stiff.

Waba lake is the stomping ground of the famous Vanderbeck family, written about by Stephen Meader in "Trap-Lines North", and the sense of history in this area is strong.

A fishing rod is a must for this trip. You will be hard pressed to find a river with more Specs than the Drowning."

*Rob Haslam runs the Oters Wilderness Canoe Club at the Geraldton Composite High School.*

# HOW TO FIND US



Located along the TransCanada Highway 11, lies the Greenstone Region: the Eastern gateway to Northwestern Ontario where clean waters, lush forests and clear starry skies abound. A region noted in history from the early days of the European fur traders to the future of forestry and fire management, Greenstone's 5600 residents continue to dwell in a natural oasis where the simple pleasures of life – family, community, and wide open green spaces- remain the heart of this North region.

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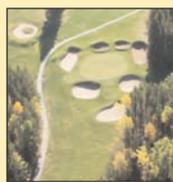
We have endeavoured to ensure that the information in this brochure is accurate, but readers should be aware that the information contained here is derived from a variety of sources such as old route descriptions, trip logs, books, magazines, journals, personal experience, maps and verbal descriptions.

Conditions change from season to season and from year to year. As a wilderness paddler, you must be able to determine whether the actual conditions on the water match those described herein, and have the ability to assess whether your equipment and skill level are appropriate to paddle the route safely.

This information is for reference use only, and as such you use it entirely at your risk. We accept no responsibility for any death, loss, injury or damage incurred while using this information.

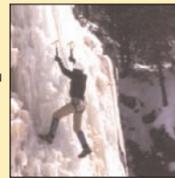
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**Ice Climbing...**



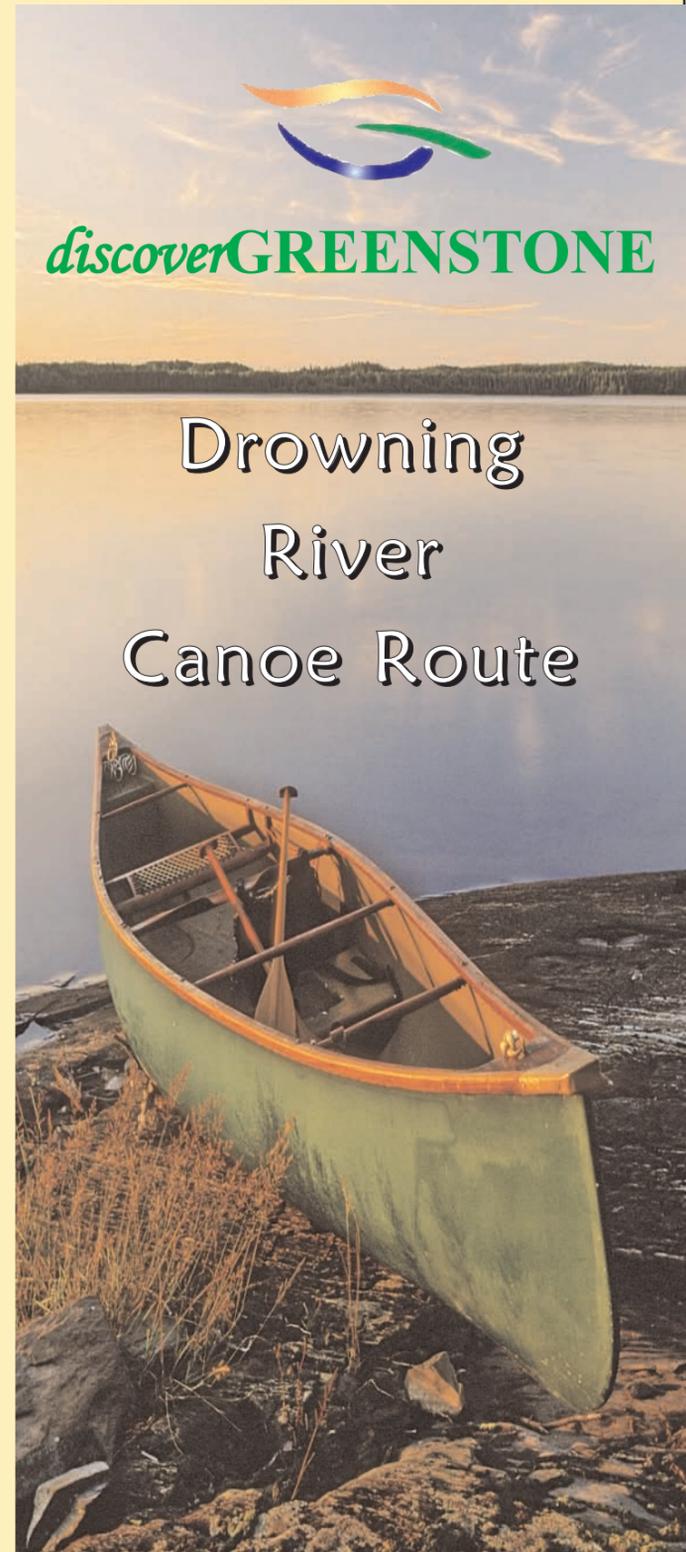
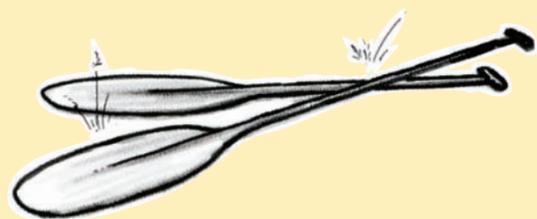
**Snowmobiling...**

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For more information:  
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**1-866-664-6623**  
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 Longlac Tourist Information Centre and  
 the *discover*Geraldton Interpretive Centre



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**Drowning River Canoe Route**

# Drowning River Canoe Route

## 14 Day Trip

### Portage #1

The upstream side of portage #1 is located on the river left side at GPS point 536390, 5560120). The portage is approximately 215 meters long and is used to bypass a shallow rocky section of the river. This section can be run depending on paddler skill level or even lined or walked through during lower water.

### Portage #2

Portage #2 is used to bypass a short run of rapids. The 140 meter trail is located on the river right.

### Portage #3, High Hill Portage

Portage #3 is located on the river right side and is used to bypass a set of narrow, steep long set of rapids. The upstream side of the portage is located at GPS point (542770, 5560170). The total length of the portage is about 360 meters. Called High Hill Portage, the first part of the trail is steep. At the top of this trail is a nice campsite in a Jack Pine stand. From the campsite, it is all downhill to the end of the trail.

### Portage #4

Portage #4 is located on the river left side and is approximately 100 meters long. It is used to bypass a wide section of rapids with 2 islands in the middle. The upstream side of the portage is located at GPS point (544520, 5560990). This section of rapids can be run depending on paddler skill. It can also be lined very easily and waded during low water. The best route is between the 2 small islands.

### Portage #5

Portage #5 is located at the end of the Southern arm of the lake. The trail is used to bypass a narrow section of rapids that often has log jams. The trail is located off the river left side and is about 320 meters long. The upstream entrance of the portage trail is located at GPS point (547480, 5560770). The downstream side of the trail is located on a flat rock, perfect for a lunch stop.

### Portage #6

The second shortest portage trail on the trip, portage #6 is used to bypass a log jam in the river on a sharp bend. This log jam is created by the sharp bend in the

### Portage #6 Continued

river and has been there for many years. The portage trail is approximately 50 meters long and is located on the river right side. The upstream entrance is located at GPS point (548730, 5561430).

### Portage #7

Portage #7 is located at the far Northeast end of Relief Lake and is used to bypass 2 sets of rapids. The portage trail is located on the river left side and is about 335 meters long. The upstream entrance to the portage trail is located at GPS point (553780, 5567660).

### Portage #8, Jack Pine Portage

Portage #8 is named Jack Pine Portage because it is used to bypass the Jack Pine Rapids named after the large stand of Jack Pine at the head of the rapids. The upstream entrance to the portage trail is located on the river left side at GPS point (558920, 5569090). The trail is about 400 meters in length. At the head of the trail is a beautiful camp site in the jack pine flats. Look at the plaque on the tree as it has been erected in honor of an old

### Portage #8 Continued

Nakina resident who made many trips down the Drowning River. Just down trail from the campsite is a second trail that branches to the right. This trail brings you halfway down the rapids to a nice rocky spot.

### Portage #9

Portage #9 is located slightly upriver from

portage #10 and is used to bypass a small section of rapids that sometimes has a small log jam. The trail is about 100 meters long and is located on the river right side in a low black spruce, cedar area. The upstream entrance to the trail is located at GPS point (562430, 571370).

### Portage #10, Tin Can Portage

Slightly down river from portage #9 is Tin Can Rapids and the Tin Can Portage. Tin Can Rapids is a long, narrow cascading set of rapids. The origin of the name "Tin Can" is unknown however people over the years have left tin pots at the camp site. The campsite which is located on top of the hill at the start of the portage is small and probably only has room for 1 or 2

### Portage #10 Continued

tents. The upstream entrance of the trail is located on the river right side at GPS point (562930, 5572500). The trail is about 350 meters long and passes through an over mature forested area with lots of Balsam into a thick Black Spruce area before it goes back downhill to the river.

The term "river left" always refers to the downstream left hand side of the river, just as "river right" always refers to the downstream right hand side of the river. These terms remain the same even when traveling upstream.

### Portage #11, Bald Rock Rapids

Portage #11 bypasses Bald Rock Rapids, named appropriately because the whole river runs off a large flat rock in the river. The portage is very short, less than 20 meters and there is an excellent campsite on the edge of the bald rock. The campsite and portage trail is located on the river right side. The upstream entrance is at GPS point (564600, 5578160). The scenery at this campsite is spectacular and

### Portage #11 Continued

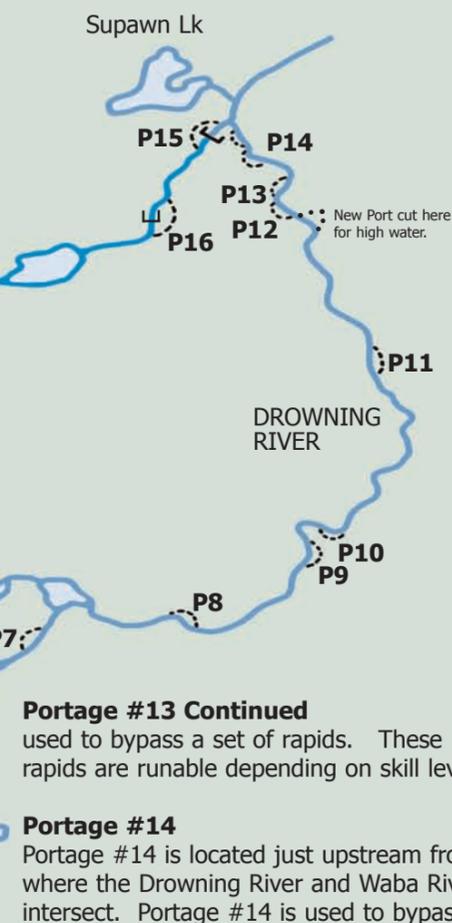
it makes you feel as if you were farther North somewhere along the coast of James Bay.

### Portage #12

The trail is used to bypass 2 sets of big rapids and is approximately 380 meters long. At the end of the trail is an excellent campsite that looks over the second set of rapids and the pool below. The trail is on the river left side located at GPS point (562640, 5585370).

### Portage #13

From the downstream entrance of portage #12 you can see the portage sign for portage #13 directly across the pool below the rapids. The portage trail is found on the river left side at the GPS point (562450, 5585580). The trail is approximately 200 meters long and is



### Portage #13 Continued

used to bypass a set of rapids. These rapids are runnable depending on skill level.

### Portage #14

Portage #14 is located just upstream from where the Drowning River and Waba River intersect. Portage #14 is used to bypass a large set of rapids with an island in the middle. The portage trail is located on the upstream side on the river left side and is about 280 meters long. The upstream side is located at GPS point (560990, 5586960). On the Northwest side of this intersection, is a campsite that once was the site of an old trappers cabin.

### Portage #15

Portage #15 is used to bypass a log jam in the river. The trail on the river left side is about 160 meters long. The downstream entrance of the trail is located at GPS point (560370, 5587000).

### Portage #16, 36 Foot Falls

Portage #16 is used to bypass a cascading set of falls named 36 Foot Falls. The falls cascade their way down a total vertical distance of 36 feet with the last drop being the most impressive. The portage

### Portage #16 Continued

trail is located on the river right and is approximately 200 meters long. The downstream entrance to the trail is located on a flat rock at GPS point (558830, 5584370).

### Portage #17 Waba River to Waba Lk

Portage #17 is used to bypass a section of river that is impassable due to overhanging trees. Trail goes from the Waba River to a beach on Waba Lake and utilizes an old logging road for one of the trails. The trail is about 1.2 km long and located on the river right side. The downstream entrance to the portage trail is located at GPS point (550100, 5580440). This beach has excellent camping and swimming opportunities.

### Portage #18

Portage #18 is used to travel from Waba Lake into Nancy Lake and is approximately 800 meters long. It utilizes an old logging road for part of the trail and then crosses a current logging road before you descend down the bank to Nancy Lake. The Waba Lake entrance is located at GPS point (539200, 5575770) and the Nancy Lake side of the portage is located at GPS point (538780, 5575950). IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO END YOUR TRIP HERE ON THE WABA ROAD.

### Portage #19

Portage #19 is the longest portage on the trip at a distance of 2 km and is used to portage between Nancy Lake and Jamie Lake. There is also a couple of old logging roads in this area that can be used to portage on but are very wet. This portage is very seldom used and the trail is often rough. This portage crosses between the Waba River drainage (Nancy Lake) into the Squaw River drainage (Jamie Lake). The Nancy Lake side of the portage can be found at GPS point (537540, 5575680) and the Jamie Lake side of the portage can be found at GPS point (535710, 5575230). THIS PORT IS DIFFICULT TO LOCATE AND VERY ROUGH. NOT RECOMMENDED

### Portage #20

Portage #20 is the last portage of the trip. It is used to bypass an old bridge over the river, some rapids and a narrow spot blocked by trees. The portage is about 250 meters long and utilizes an old logging road. The downstream side of the portage trail is located at GPS point (527000, 5569720).