

## HOW TO FIND THE ROUTE

The Longlac to Steel River canoe route can be accessed at a number of locations along the route. Directions are listed for the three main starting locations from Longlac. It is possible to leave directly from the Longlac WaterFront and follow Long Lake down to Rocky Shore Creek.

**Seagram Lake Entrance:** Travel 18 kilometers South of Longlac on the Catlonite logging road. Turn East at Seagram road and follow for 2 kilometers to the lake.

**McLeod Lake Entrance:** Travel 32 kilometers South of Longlac on the Catlonite logging road. Turn left at McLeod road and follow for 1.5 kilometers to the lake on your right.

**Eagle Crest Lake Entrance:** This entrance is the most popular entrance from the North. Travel 49 kilometers South of Longlac on the Catlonite logging road to the Sun Road South. Turn East and follow for 3 kilometers to the creek on your right.

## 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

Spider Lake	42E/7
Pagwachman	42E/9
Geraldton	42E10
Killala Lake	42E/12
Longlac	42E/15
Coldwell	42D/15

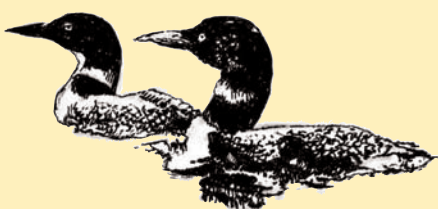
## DISCLAIMER NOTICE

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.

This brochure and the materials contained in it are provided on an as-is basis. We make no representation or warranties, either expressed or implied, of any kind with respect to the contents. We will not be liable for any damages of any kind arising from the use of this brochure, including but not limited to direct, indirect, incidental, punitive and consequential damages.



## ROUTE TESTIMONIAL

"I've paddled the Steel Loop over ten times, and it still manages to surprise me. Lots of fun whitewater, large lakes and ever changing scenery puts this trip on the "must do" list for Ontario canoeists.

I've also discovered a secret about the Steel Loop; start at the north end. A series of beautiful little lakes leading out of the community of Longlac takes you straight to the river, so that by the time you reach the daunting Diablo portage, four or five days of food is gone, and your body is ready for the challenge."



Rob Haslam runs the Outers Wilderness Canoe Club at the High School in Geraldton.

## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

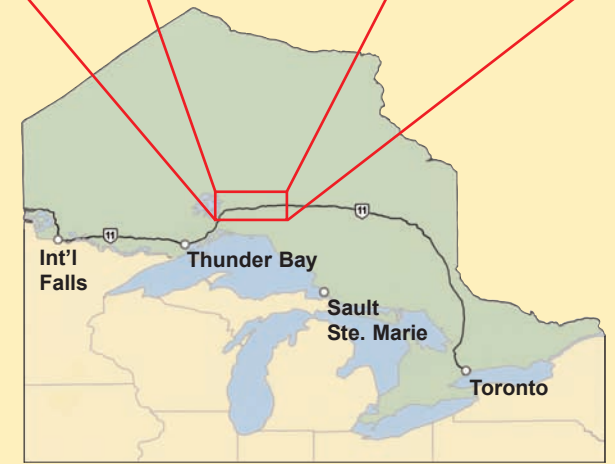
Very remote, small pristine lakes.

Opportunity to say "I did it" regarding the infamous Diablo Portage.

Ability to begin your adventure from the community of Longlac.

Excellent Walleye and Northern Pike fishing.

## 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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cover by K. Rossler-Photographics  
photos courtesy of M. Lafrance  
printed by TS Graphics

funded by:

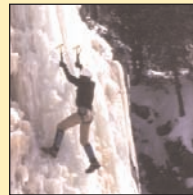


## OTHER GREENSTONE ADVENTURES



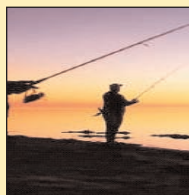
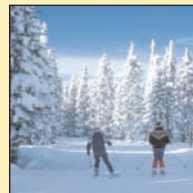
**Golfing...**

**Ice Climbing...**



**Snowmobiling...**

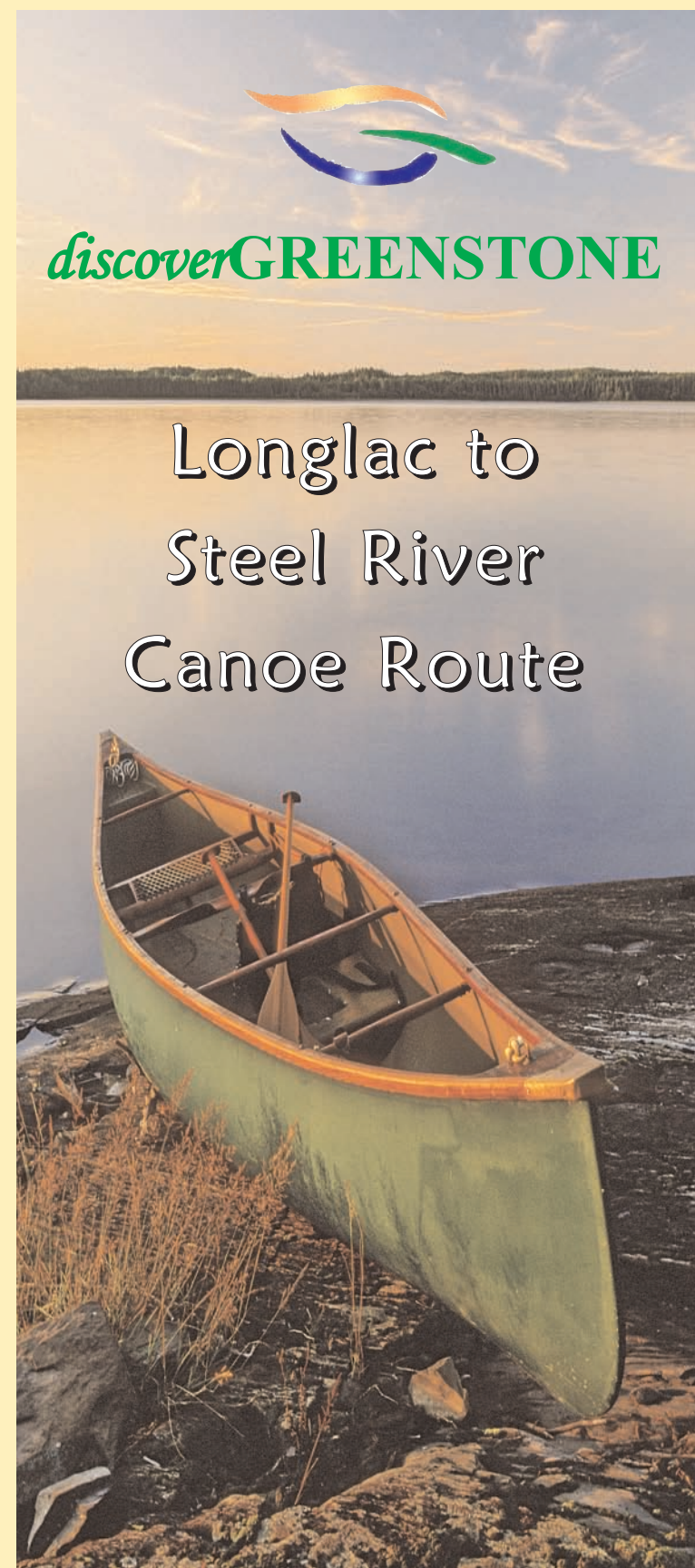
**Skiing...**



**Fishing...**

**For more information:  
discovergreenstone.ca  
1-866-664-6623**

or visit the  
Longlac Tourist Information Centre and  
the *discover*Geraldton Interpretive Centre





# Longlac to Steel River Canoe Loop

## 10 - 14 Day Trip

### Portage #1

Located river left at turn in creek. Port is good, through a jackpine stand with a burnover in the middle. Old trappers cabin at the end. Put the canoe in left at the launch – you are still traveling upstream.

Length: Approx. 500 meters

### Portage #2

Follow the small creek out of the South end of Rockyshore Lake. The port is on river left a few minutes down the stream. This port is nasty. The first 500 meters is through a cedar swamp. It then skirts along the edge of a cutover and then back in to the bush until it reaches the Seagram road. Once across the Seagram road, follow the high ground through the large cut-over for about 400m until the bush starts again. At the edge of the bush, go downhill through the cutover. The bush trail out of the cut-over is signed. This trail leads directly to Seagram Lake.

Length: Approx. 1.6 kilometers

### Portage #3

An old logging road from the South end of Boot Bay leads over a series of hills to the McLeod Lake Rd. Turn left on the McLeod Lake Rd. and walk about 200 meters downhill to McLeod Lake. The launch is very bad – a steep gravel hill down to the lake. This is an easy port, but very long.

Length: Approx. 2.4 kilometers

### Portage #4

Located on the West end of McLeod Lake, East bay, South arm. This port has a very steep slope and the take-out. Follow the trail about 100 meters to an old logging road. Turn right on the logging road until it meets Sun Rd. North. Turn right on Sun Rd. North for 20-30 meters, then turn left down a steep trail to Twomey Lake.

Length: 300 meters

### Portage #5

Located on the South end of Twomey Lake, on the East shore at the swamp and creek. This is a good dry port, somewhat hilly, with a scenic launch at Grehan Lake.

Length: 500 meters

### Portage #6

Begins at South end of Grehan Lake at creek entrance. This is an excellent port, dry and scenic. Ends at a beautiful beach on Kawabatongog Lake.

Length: Approx. 800 meters

### Portage #7

Port goes around first set of rapids on the Little Steel River. Located river right. Excellent port, well maintained.

Length: 100 meters

### Portage #8

Located river left at top of rapids. Rapids appear to be straightforward, but there is a difficult rock garden at bottom.

Length: 140 meters

### Portage #9

Located river right above rapids. Stars with a very steep hill. Rapids can be shot with high to medium water.

Length: 75 meters.

### Portage #10

Located river right in small pool just before Rainbow Falls. Port continues downhill through campsite, then follows rough gravel trail downhill to river.

Length: 350 meters

### Portage #11

Located river right before log jam. Port is through sandy cedar stand. Both take out and launch are on steep, sandy cliff-like banks.

Length: 550 meters

### Portage #12

Located river left before log jam. Steep, sandy take-out and launch.

Length: 100 meters

### Portage #13

Locate river left before log jam. Steep, sandy take out and launch.

Length: 170 meters

### Portage #14

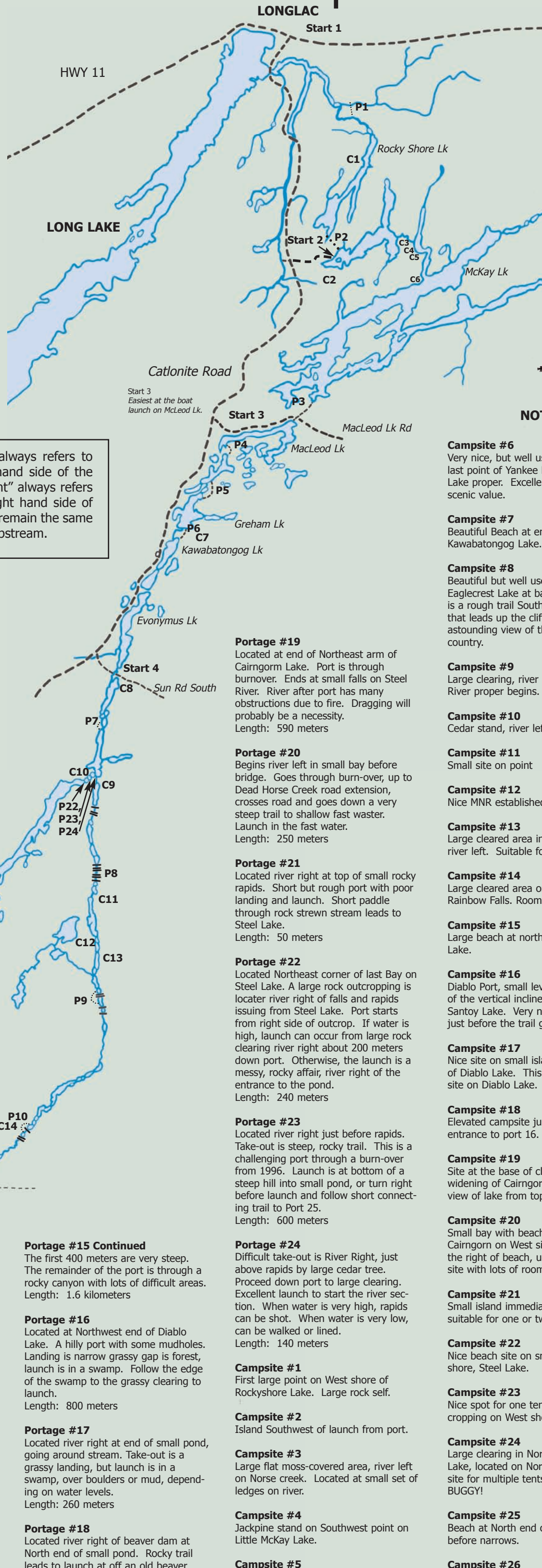
River right, before last log jam. This is an excellent port, wide and scenic around the last large log jam of the trip. landing is on a steep mud bank, as is the launch. Santoy Lake is only a half an hour to an hour away.

Length: 140 m

### Portage #15

Diablo Portage. Located 1/3 way down Santoy Lake on West side, beside large cliff face. This is a challenging port.

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.



### Campsite #6

Very nice, but well used campsite on last point of Yankee Bay before McKay Lake proper. Excellent site with high scenic value.

### Campsite #7

Beautiful Beach at end of port on Kawabatongog Lake.

### Campsite #8

Beautiful but well used site on Eaglecrest Lake at base of cliffs. There is a rough trail South on the campsite that leads up the cliff face for an astounding view of the surrounding country.

### Campsite #9

Large clearing, river right, where Steel River proper begins.

### Campsite #10

Cedar stand, river left, opposite C9

### Campsite #11

Small site on point

### Campsite #12

Nice MNR established site on river right

### Campsite #13

Large cleared area in a cedar stand, river left. Suitable for multiple tents.

### Campsite #14

Large cleared area on port around Rainbow Falls. Room for several tents.

### Campsite #15

Large beach at north end of Santoy Lake.

### Campsite #16

Diablo Port, small level spot at the top of the vertical incline leading out of Santoy Lake. Very nice spring water just before the trail gets rough again.

### Campsite #17

Nice site on small island Southwest side of Diablo Lake. This is the preferred site on Diablo Lake.

### Campsite #18

Elevated campsite just to the left of entrance to port 16.

### Campsite #19

Site at the base of cliffs at the first widening of Cairngorm Lake. Excellent view of lake from top of cliffs.

### Campsite #20

Small bay with beach 2/3 of the way up Cairngorm on West side. Campsite is to the right of beach, up a hill. Well used site with lots of room.

### Campsite #21

Small island immediately after port, suitable for one or two tents.

### Campsite #22

Nice beach site on small bay, Southeast shore, Steel Lake.

### Campsite #23

Nice spot for one tent on a rock outcropping on West shore of Steel Lake.

### Campsite #24

Large clearing in Northeast Bay of Steel Lake, located on North shore. Good site for multiple tents, but always VERY BUGGY!

### Campsite #25

Beach at North end of Steel Lake, just before narrows.

### Campsite #26

Scenic area on rock outcropping at falls issuing from Steel Lake.

### Portage #19

Located at end of Northeast arm of Cairngorm Lake. Port is through burnover. Ends at small falls on Steel River. River after port has many obstructions due to fire. Dragging will probably be a necessity.

Length: 590 meters

### Portage #20

Begins river left in small bay before bridge. Goes through burn-over, up to Dead Horse Creek road extension, crosses road and goes down a very steep trail to shallow fast waster. Launch in the fast water.

Length: 250 meters

### Portage #21

Located river right at top of small rocky rapids. Short but rough port with poor landing and launch. Short paddle through rock strewn stream leads to Steel Lake.

Length: 50 meters

### Portage #22

Located Northeast corner of last Bay on Steel Lake. A large rock outcropping is locator river right of falls and rapids issuing from Steel Lake. Port starts from right side of outcrop. If water is high, launch can occur from large rock clearing river right about 200 meters down port. Otherwise, the launch is a messy, rocky affair, river right of the entrance to the pond.

Length: 240 meters

### Portage #23

Located river right just before rapids. Take-out is steep, rocky trail. This is a challenging port through a burn-over from 1996. Launch is at bottom of a steep hill into small pond, or turn right before launch and follow short connecting trail to Port 25.

Length: 600 meters

### Portage #24

Difficult take-out is River Right, just above rapids by large cedar tree. Proceed down port to large clearing. Excellent launch to start the river section. When water is very high, rapids can be shot. When water is very low, can be walked or lined.

Length: 140 meters

### Campsite #1

First large point on West shore of Rockyshore Lake. Large rock self.

### Campsite #2

Island Southwest of launch from port.

### Campsite #3

Large flat moss-covered area, river left on Norse creek. Located at small set of ledges on river.

### Campsite #4

Jackpine stand on Southwest point on Little McKay Lake.

### Campsite #5

Steep cliff face on South side on Yankee Bay.

### Portage #15 Continued

The first 400 meters are very steep. The remainder of the port is through a rocky canyon with lots of difficult areas.

Length: 1.6 kilometers

### Portage #16

Located at Northwest end of Diablo Lake. A hilly port with some mudholes. Landing is narrow grassy gap is forest, launch is in a swamp. Follow the edge of the swamp to the grassy clearing to launch.

Length: 800 meters

### Portage #17

Located river right at end of small pond, going around stream. Take-out is a grassy landing, but launch is in a swamp, over boulders or mud, depending on water levels.

Length: 260 meters

### Portage #18

Located river right of beaver dam at North end of small pond. Rocky trail leads to launch at off an old beaver dam at beginning of Cairngorm Lake.

Length: 190 meters