

**WA Trip Report**  
**Sittingman Lake via Tim River, Algonquin P.P.**  
**May 2011**

**Participants:** Brent, Sherri, Wayne, Mike, Anna, Andre

<b>Route</b>	Algonquin Access #2, Tim Lake, Tim River, Rosebary Lake, Long Bow Lake, Bog Pond, Sittingman Lake
<b>Portages</b>	3 (120m, 300m, 700m)
<b>Time</b>	7.5 hrs in; 6.75 hrs out

It had been raining every day for what seemed like weeks. We were crossing our fingers that the May 2-4 weekend – the unofficial start of summer – would finally be dry and sunny. Surely the skies had no more rain to give.

Our May 2-4 weekend canoe trip started Friday evening at Arrowhead Provincial Park near Huntsville. It was there that we veterans met WA newbie's Anna and Andre for the first time. As the weekend progressed we all grew to know them better and enjoyed their company very much.



**Day 1**

The start of the canoeing portion of the weekend required an early start from Arrowhead, a stop at the park office in Kearney, a hot drink at “The Bistro”, and then a drive up the dusty dirt road to the Tim River put-in, access point #2 on our old and torn Algonquin Canoe Routes map. After weeks of rain and over cast skies it was hard to adjust to the sunlight but, happy days, it sure felt nice.

Plenty of water and beautiful weather made the winding paddle down the Tim River very enjoyable. Andre carefully monitored his GPS and encouraged us with a “900 metres to go” ... on several occasions!

The Tim River is said to be a great place for moose spotting and sure enough, we weren't disappointed. Before reaching Rosebary Lake we saw two moose feasting on fresh water plants. Our plan to stop for lunch at the first campsite on Rosebary Lake was foiled by a pair of Canada Geese and their brood of fluffy goslings guarding the grassy landing area. We moved on to the next available campsite.



The remaining part of the paddle across Rosebary and then Long Bow Lake was uneventful. By now our paddling muscles were just getting warmed up. We were making good time until the portage from Long Bow to Bog Pond where we inadvertently started on the old portage trail, now basically impenetrable. After some wasted time we finally realized our mistake and made our way along the boggy shoreline to the correct trail. By the time we finished the third and final portage of the day, 700 m long, it had been a long paddle – approximately 7 and half hours - and were glad to arrive at our campsite. The better of the two campsites on the lake was taken so we setup on the south campsite – a poor site at best. The sun was still shining so off came the clothes and into the water we dove. The water was surprisingly...well, maybe not warm, but not so cold.

## Day 2



The beautiful sun was gone by day 2. It was back to gray skies and periodic rain. And when the rain stopped the mosquitos and black flies came out. Millions of them! All I can say is “Thank God for the mantis!” Having the mantis shelter made camp life in a rainy, buggy environment bearable – actually enjoyable. On day 2 we paddled and portaged our

way over to Devine Lake for a bit of exploring and then returned to camp for another fine dinner.

### Day 3

Thunder and rain during the night offered a hint to what the day was to be like. We didn't quite make our 8:00 am departure deadline but still left camp at a respectable 8:50. It was at this time that we were literally (almost) driven out of camp by the hordes of black flies. By not making the same portage trail mistakes made during day 1, we actually shortened the return paddle by almost 45 minutes, yet, despite Andre's occasional encouragement, "900 metres to go!", it felt a bit longer. The amount of rain that fell during the return paddle was unbelievable. It poured and poured and poured. While paddling the Tim River we actually had to stop several times to bail out the canoes. Apparently the skies did have more rain to offer – and lots of it!



Finally we made it back to access point #2, a bit wet, a bit weary, and bit sad at having finished the canoe trip. Despite the bugs and rain, it was a great trip that we all enjoyed. It was great to get away from the rat race of city life for a few days and enjoy the company of old and new friends. The endless beauty of Algonquin's lakes, rivers, and wildlife never fail to invigorate and refresh.

Brent