

Seeing as how our Algonquin trip the previous year had been such a great outing, Judy and I decided to make it an annual getaway. This time we decided to try a more rugged destination: Temagami.



The view from Maple Mountain. Pronounced "Te-MAWG-a-mee" (the word is Ojibway for "deep water by the shore"), this place is the reality that fuels the popular perception of Canada's great northland: Old growth pine forests. Smooth blue waters. Brilliantly white, powdery snow. Bountiful fish and wildlife. You get the picture.

Judy and I decided to make this a destination trip with Maple Mountain, the second highest point in Ontario, the focal point. Our plan was a four night route beginning at Ferguson Bay on the north end of Temagami Lake through Diamond, Willow Island and Sucker Gut Lakes and back with a hike up Maple Mountain in the middle.

Because of the distance, we didn't get onto the water until 2PM and not knowing the route all that well, we made the mistake of pushing southward toward the middle of Temagami Lake instead of cutting through the portage at Mount Napoleon toward Sharp Rock Inlet. We paid for it too as all the nearby campsites were taken and we spent a miserable first night on Beaver Island.

Day two found us once again spending a lot of times searching for the portage route into Willow Island Lake but we were rewarded with an excellent site at the northern tip of the lake. Using that site as home base, Judy and I packed just a few items for our day trip out to Maple Mountain the next day.

