

2018 Atikokan Crown Land Route Book

You are receiving this document because your crew has chosen to paddle in the Crown Lands or you are a crew of 9 to 11 people which can only travel into the Crown Lands. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, requires a route selection well in advance of your trip. You must select your preferred route **by the day your final payment is due** so that we may submit it to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) well in advance of your trip.

The routes in this document allow us to better accommodate your crew and gives our Interpreters a general idea of where you want to go so that they may plan accordingly. Please review this document with your crew and make your route selection. When you arrive at the Atikokan base, your crew and Interpreter will have time to decide the specifics of your trip from daily distance to where you'll camp each night. Your assigned entry points and exit points will not change and major route edits must be pre-approved.

Canada is comprised of 89% Crown Land. It is all un-owned land, coast to coast in Canada. Locals refer to the area we paddle simply as "the Bush."

Weather and water levels in our area are constantly changing. Winter storms, aggressive beavers, and nearby dam levels all prevent us from guaranteeing the "easy", "medium", or "hard" rating of each route. Unforeseen early or late season environmental hazards may exist which could add to the level of difficulty.

The day length in each section is to be used as a guideline. They do not need to be strictly adhered to. For example, if your crew wants to paddle more distance, they can select a route that suggests more days. If your crew would prefer to spend more time fishing or take a layover day, they can pick a route that would require fewer days to complete. **The average Northern Tier crew covers around 10 miles per day.**

After selecting a route, the staff at Northern Tier will confirm that the itinerary you chose will work with your length of stay and will communicate with you if they feel you have chosen a route that isn't suitable for your trip length.

In an effort to rehabilitate the Canadian Crown Lands, the Ministry of Natural Resources has limited camping in an area called the "Green Zones". Your crew is more than welcome to continue fishing and travelling in these sections, but camping is not permitted. This area has been grayed out in the following thumbnails.

Please select your first and second choices by following the instructions in the email. **Sister crews cannot select the same two routes.** There are recommended routes for fishing and kayak expeditions, but your crew is more than welcome to choose a different trip if you want to cover more miles instead of ample fishing time.

Data for each trip was gathered during the 2016 & 2017 summers. "Difficulty" and "Distance" are approximations and may be different for your crew. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide exact number of portages. Routes on the maps are approximations and are not to be used for navigation. Northern Tier may need to amend the following routes based on known trail conditions of the current season.

If your crew has chartered a float plane for you trip, please contact Northern Tier after you have selected a route as float planes can only fly into certain lakes. This may change each year and so some routes may be available or not based on the season. Float planes are not included in your Northern Tier fee and your crew must make arrangements separately.

Legend

(- Entry point

) - Pickup/End point

 Donald Rogert Canoe Base (Atikokan Base)

 Entry Point

 Pickup/End Point

Short Trip Length Routes
(6-7 Night Trip)
(5-6 Days on Water)

There and Back Again

Distance: 50 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Route: (Clearwater
Hawknest
White Otter
Nora
Turtle River
White Otter
Hawknest
Clearwater)

Maps: White Otter G/4



Keep it sweet and simple with this route. Big lakes mean your crew will be able to cover good distance each day, once they master paddling. Expect a couple mucky portages to make you work hard, but you'll have a lovely place to lay your weary head each night. Campsites along this route are known amongst interpreters for being classy and comfortable. Plus, you'll even get a taste of river travel and have a chance to spot a pictograph. If your crew likes the route but wants more of a challenge, talk to your interpreter upon arrival about heading east through Elsie, Mabel, and Sandford, then across the Ann Bay Portage, a 3 km portage that'll end on a gorgeous beach on Ann Bay.

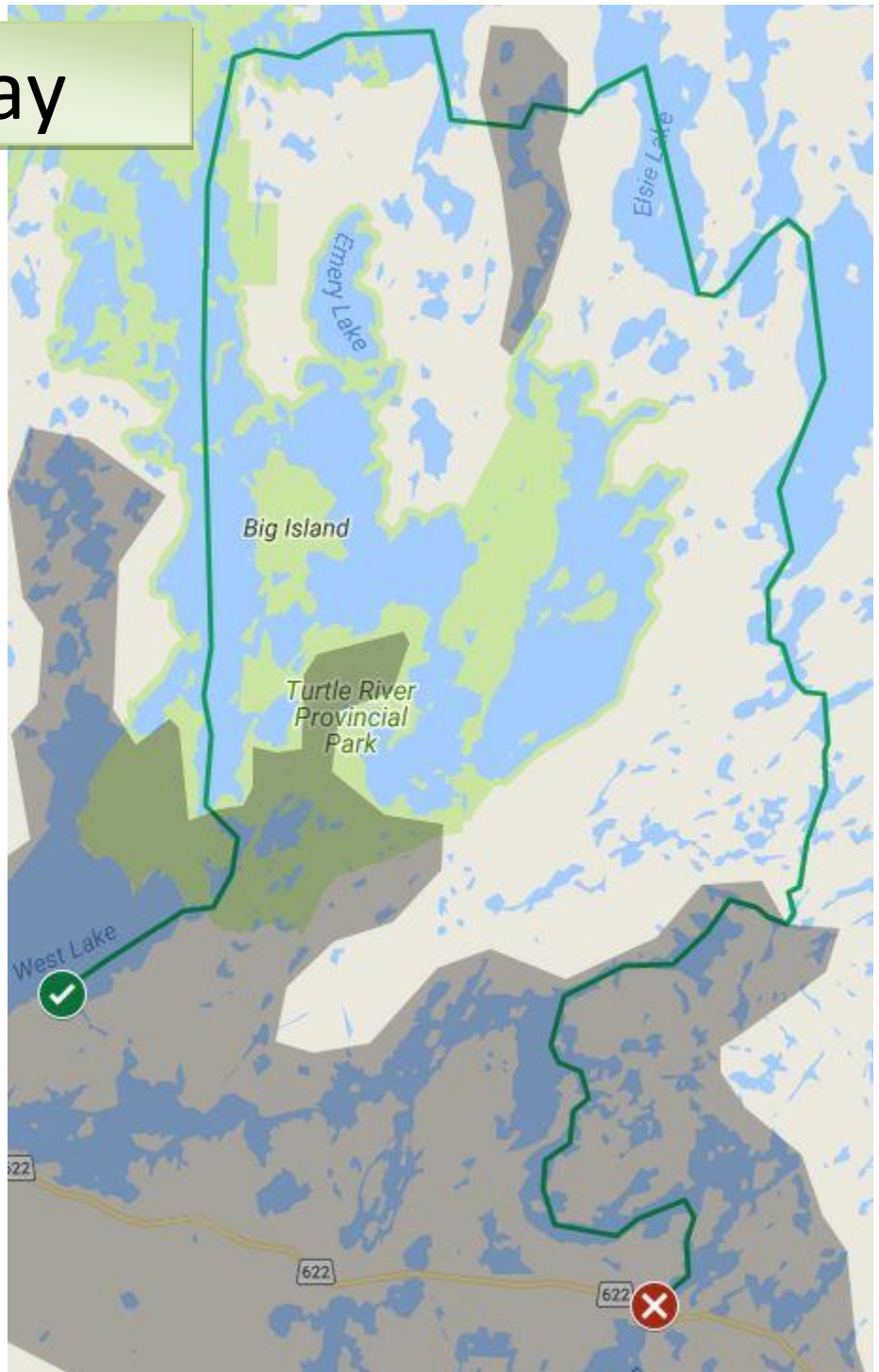
Child's Play

Distance: 60 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Route: (Clearwater
White Otter
Nora
Elsie
Mabel
Sandford
Wasp
Crowrock
Dashwa)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/13



This has been one of the more popular routes. It is a number of large lakes that connect in a big loop. Your first and last days require a haul to get to an area suitable for camping. This route allows your group to see White Otter Castle, the remains of a World War II POW camp, and some fantastic campsites. The lakes on this route are all large to very large so wind can play a factor in travel. Your Interpreter will have guidance in safely canoeing in this area. This is one of the more travelled routes so you may encounter a few crews and make new friends. Motor boats can access White Otter Lake, but they are rarely a nuisance.

Call of the Loon

Distance: 60 miles

Difficulty: Easy/Medium

Route: (Dashwa
Crowrock
Wasp
Sandford
Mabel
Elsie
Nora
White Otter
Clearwater)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/13



This is the reverse option for Child's Play. This route is a little bit harder, because you'll have a very long paddle day one, when you are still mastering paddling and portaging. Other than that, these two routes are very similar and take you across large lakes with beautiful campsites. See White Otter Castle and the remains of a WWII POW camp. Motor boats can access these lakes, but they are rarely a nuisance.

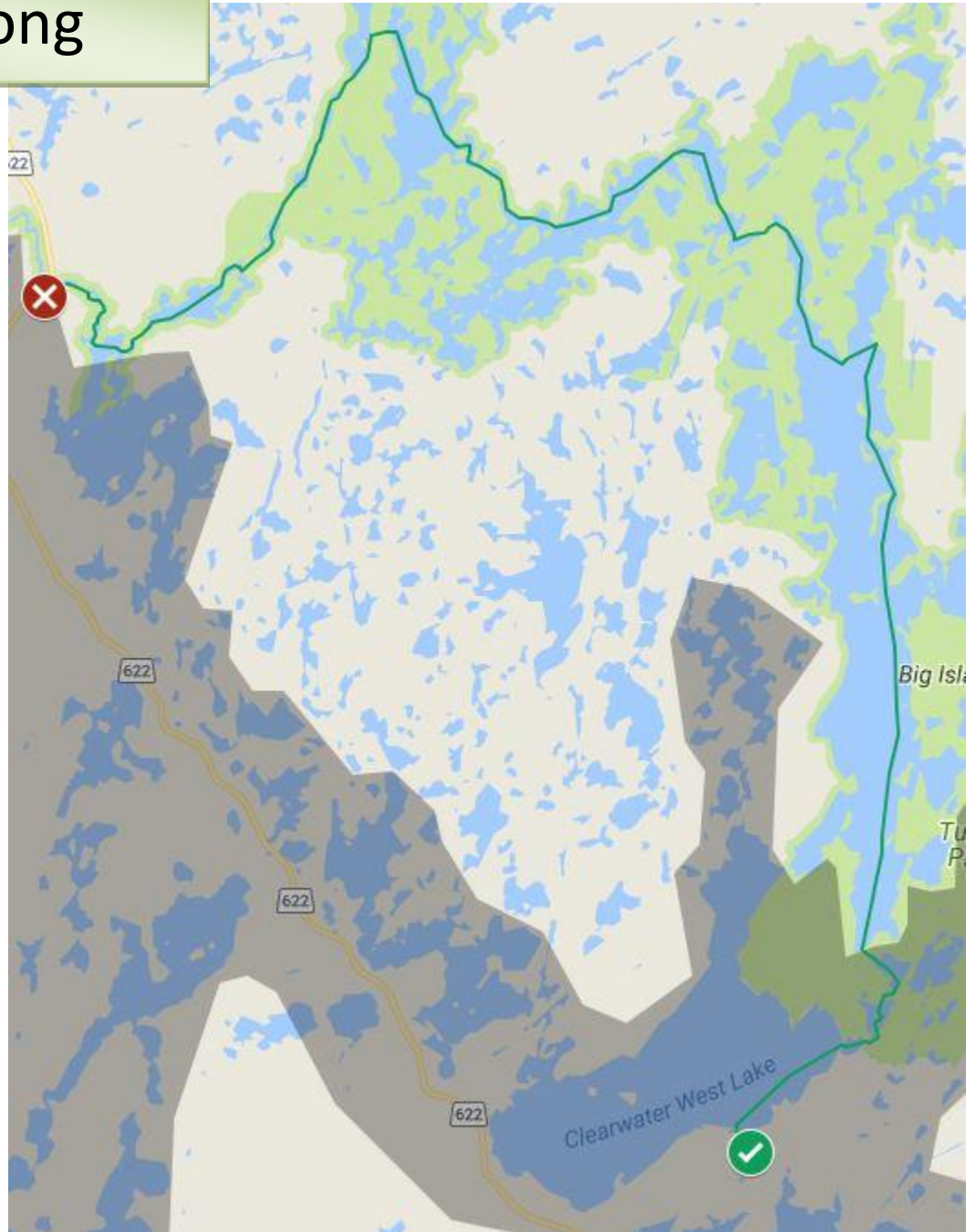
Glide Along

Distance: 40 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Route: (Clearwater
White Otter
Dibble
Smirch
Turtle River)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/13
Pekagoning F/1



With little of everything, this route is small, but mighty. Your crew will start your trip on two of our largest lakes, Clearwater and White Otter. There you'll see the White Otter Castle and the remains of a WWII POW camp. From there, you'll start heading west onto smaller lakes before ending your trip on the Turtle River. Keep your eyes peeled for pictographs and expect to see some waterfalls and rapids. Is 40 miles not enough for your crew? Just talk to your interpreter upon arrival to add a loop through the mucky trails of Patricia and down an amazing, small river between Dimple and Dibble, or head further north to Bending Lake to see some extra rapids.

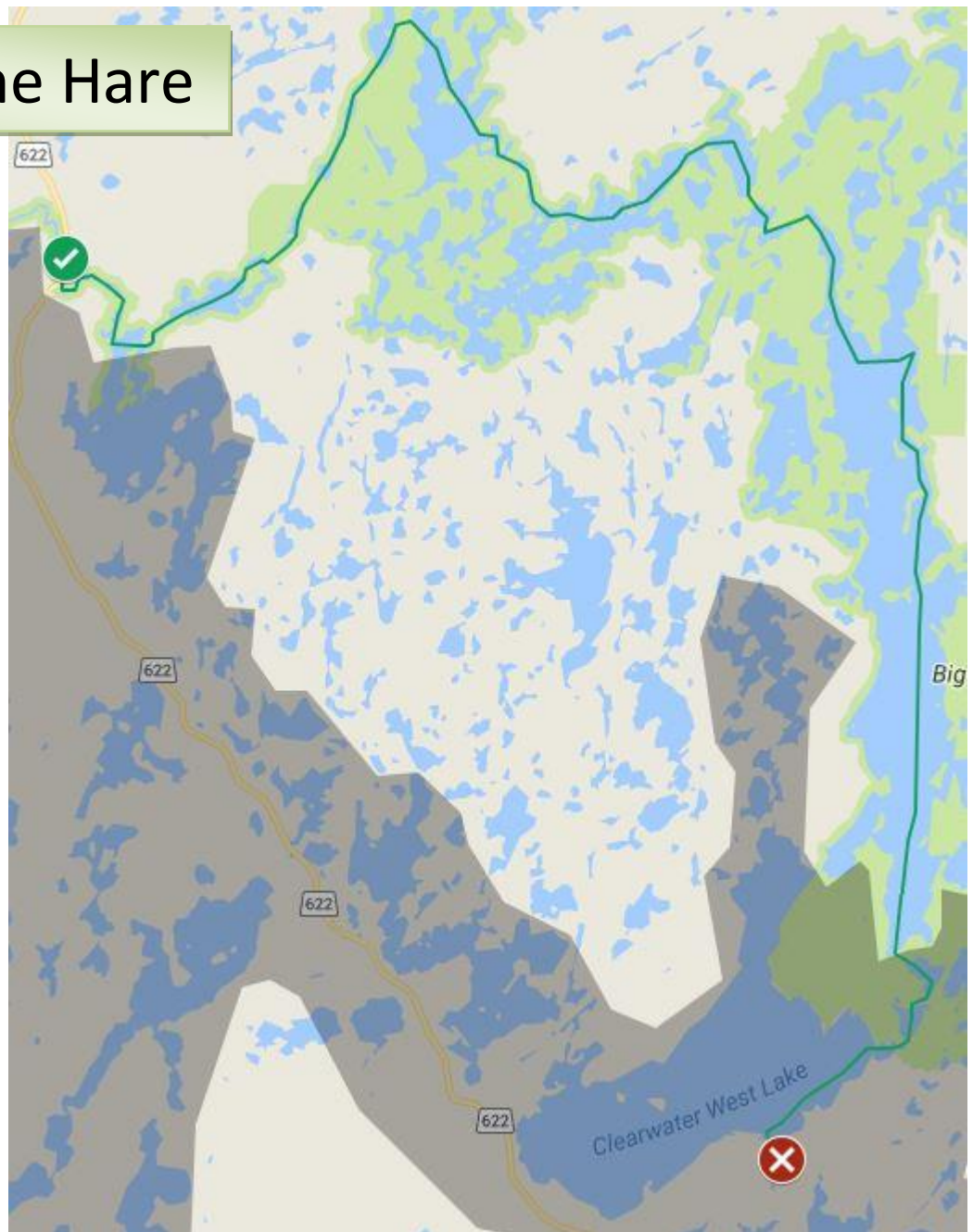
Tortoise and the Hare

Distance: 40 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Route: (Turtle River
Smirch
Dibble
White Otter
Clearwater)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/13
Pekagoning F/1



Start your trip in a more remote area, seeking waterfalls and pictographs along the Turtle River. Then head east to the bigger lakes. Visit an old trapper's cabin before stopping at the White Otter Castle and the remains of a WWII POW camp. This route has it all: great campsites, beautiful scenes, moving water and steady lakes. It offers you glimpses of First Nation history and settlers past. Looking for more miles? Add on a loop through Nora, to the north of White Otter, ride the Turtle River south into Ann Bay and paddle back to Clearwater for your pick up.

A Little in Seine



Distance: 53 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Route: (Perch
Seine River
Banning
Seine River
Calm
Seine River
Wild Potato Lake
Seine River
Shoal
Seine River
Dumbbell Lake
Bad Vermillion)

Maps: Manion C/16
Pipe C/9
Seine Bay C/10

This route is something a little special – it's the only route that starts at our base. It's definitely no remote, but this route does offer a fascinating window into how people use the water ways they live on. Follow the Seine River chain past a few hydro-electric dams and see the beauty they offer. Paddle through some First Nations territories to see the people who have lived here since before Canada existed. Wave a greeting at the people motor boating by on their way to fish these waters. Swing past the remains of Old Mine Centre then paddle upstream to Bad Vermillion, keeping an eye out for an abandoned logging station. You'll be able to earn the conservation part of your 50 miler patch no problem if you clean up the shores and islands as you go.

Cross-Eyed

Distance: 20 miles

Difficulty: Medium

Route: (Eye
Eye River
Right Eye Lake
McIntosh
Ear
Eye River
Seine River
Perch
Atikokan Base)

Maps: Atikokan B/12



Low on distance, this route offers an enticing mix of easy days and difficulty. Most of this route could be considered easy, due to distance and well maintenance of the portages, but it also has a taste of very difficult bushwhacking. Start with a long paddle out of the Green Zone. Relax on the beautiful Eye River. Then cut east into Right Eye Lake to get off the beaten track. Now the challenge starts, expect to cut trail through thick woods to hop into McIntosh Lake, then follow a stream into Ear Lake. This stream could be paddle-able, but it could also be full of downed trees and beaver dams – we just don't know, as no Northern Tier crew has ever gone through this area. Once you've made it back into Ear Lake, your crew can rest up and relax again. Then paddle the rest of the Eye River to where it meets the Seine, then paddle into base on your last day. Just remember, crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.

Chrysemys Picta

Difficulty: Medium

Distance: 51 miles

Route: (Turtle River
Johnson Lake
Turtle River
Eltrut Lake
Turtle River
Robinson Lake
Turtle River
Little Turtle Lake)

Maps: Pekagoning F/1
Manion C/16
Mine Centre C/15



This is a route for river lovers that want a mental challenge as well as a physical. With the current behind you, paddling is a little bit speedier, but your crew should be ready to listen to the advice of your interpreter as river navigation means planning ahead, being on the correct side of the river when approaching portages, and being willing to get out of the canoe when the going gets rough. Expect a few long portages and quite a few short ones. The rewards of this route are worth any challenge. With waterfalls and rapids moving the Turtle River through remote and beautiful woods, this route is a treat. Be prepared to carry your gear to the pick-up point, as our vans cannot drive directly to the water.

No Sole but Duct Tape

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Distance: 65 miles

Route: (Clearwater
White Otter
Nora
Elsie
Mabel
Sandford
Wasp
Below Bow
Highland
Hardtack
Finlayson)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/13



Did Child's Play appeal to your crew, but it wasn't enough of a challenge? Try this one on for size. Begin on big lakes traveling past the White Otter Castle and the remains of a WWII POW camp. Travel across the Nora portages and visit a great island campsite or two. Then head off the beaten path for the finale of your trip. Cross unnamed lakes that prior to this summer, have never been paddled by Northern Tier crews. Cross portages with a variety of difficult terrain. Then come out on Hardtack and Finlayson lakes for a beautiful end to your trip.

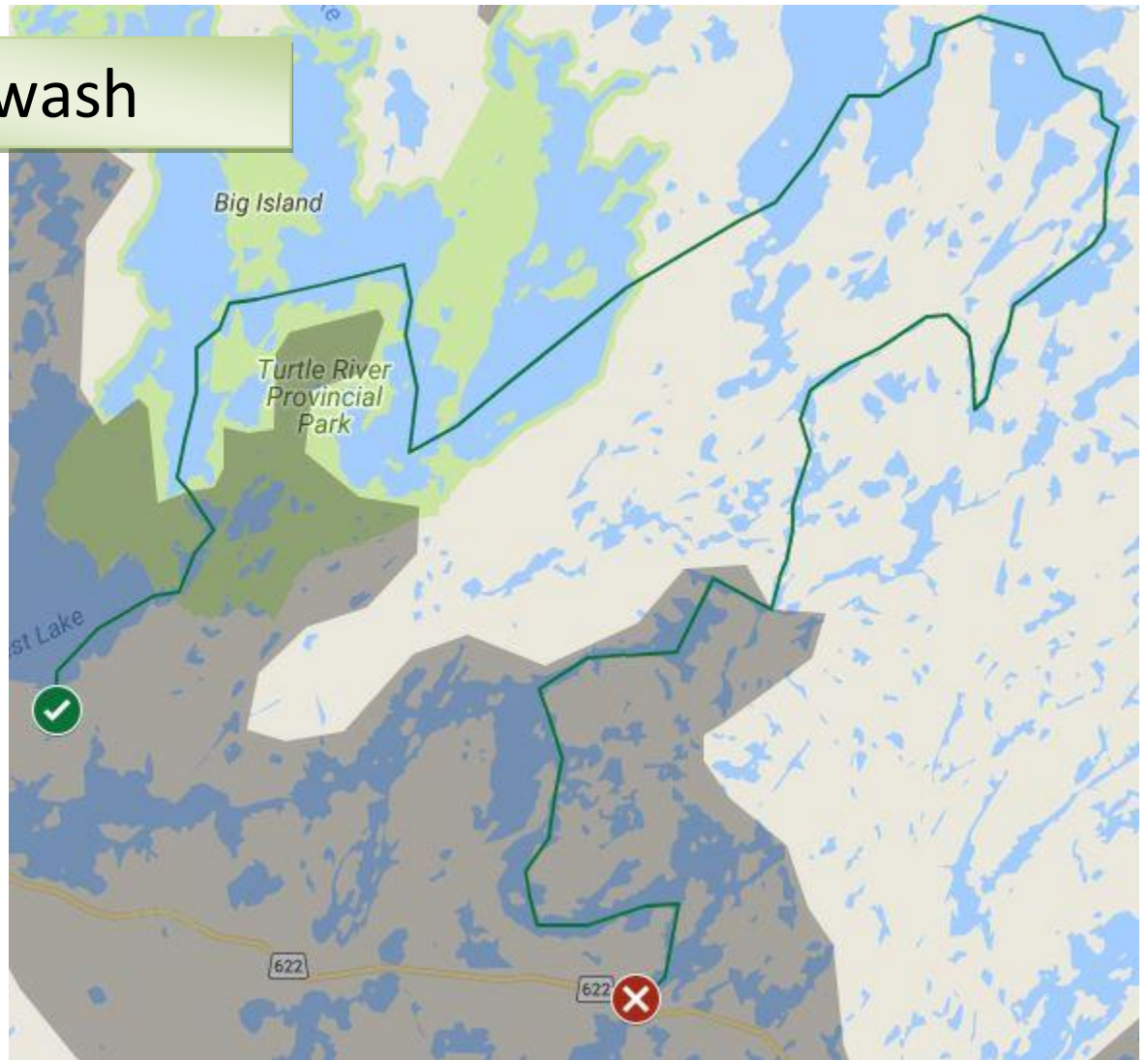
Entwash

Difficulty: Medium

Distance: 55 miles

Route: (Clearwater
White Otter
Sandford
Irene
Gamble River
Little Gull
Gamble River
Wasp
Dashwa)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/13



From big water to rivers running, this trip gives you a sample of all that we offer. Start on Clearwater and White Otter and head east. Spot the pictographs on Ann Bay before crossing the 3 km Ann Bay Portage. Though intimidating in its distance, this portage is simple to follow (though you'll certainly be following it for a while). Then skip across Sandford and into Irene where the Gamble River will float you gently into Little Gull. Hop back on the river where it's a little wider and pass through an area that is a favorite of interpreters. Spend your last night on Wasp, spotting another set of pictographs, before a long paddle south through the Green Zone and to the pick up.

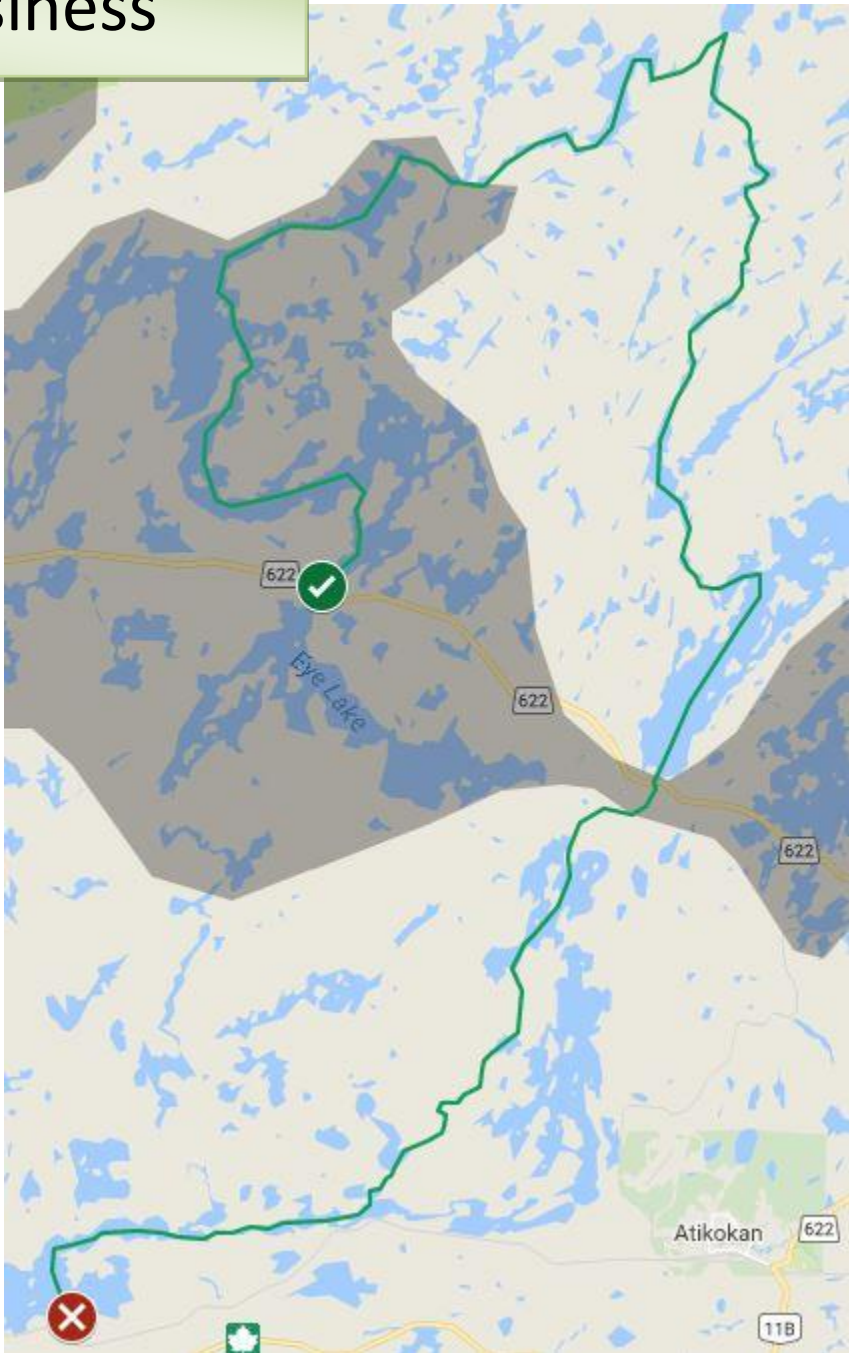
Monkey Business

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Distance: 50 miles

Route: (Dashwa
Below Bow
Highland
Hardtack
Finlayson
Seine River Diversion
Little Falls
Seine River
Perch
Atikokan Base)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/13



Begin your trip with a long paddle or a series of portages and beaver dams to take your crew out of the Green Zone. Then rest for the night in Below Bow. Now, begin your journey to base! Head south through an area that few crews have gone through. Expect some tough terrain and muck, and enjoy the challenge of conquering a less used area. Once your crew has made it to Finlayson, enjoy the river ride back to base. Paddle down the Seine River Diversion and the Seine River proper back to base. Just remember, crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.

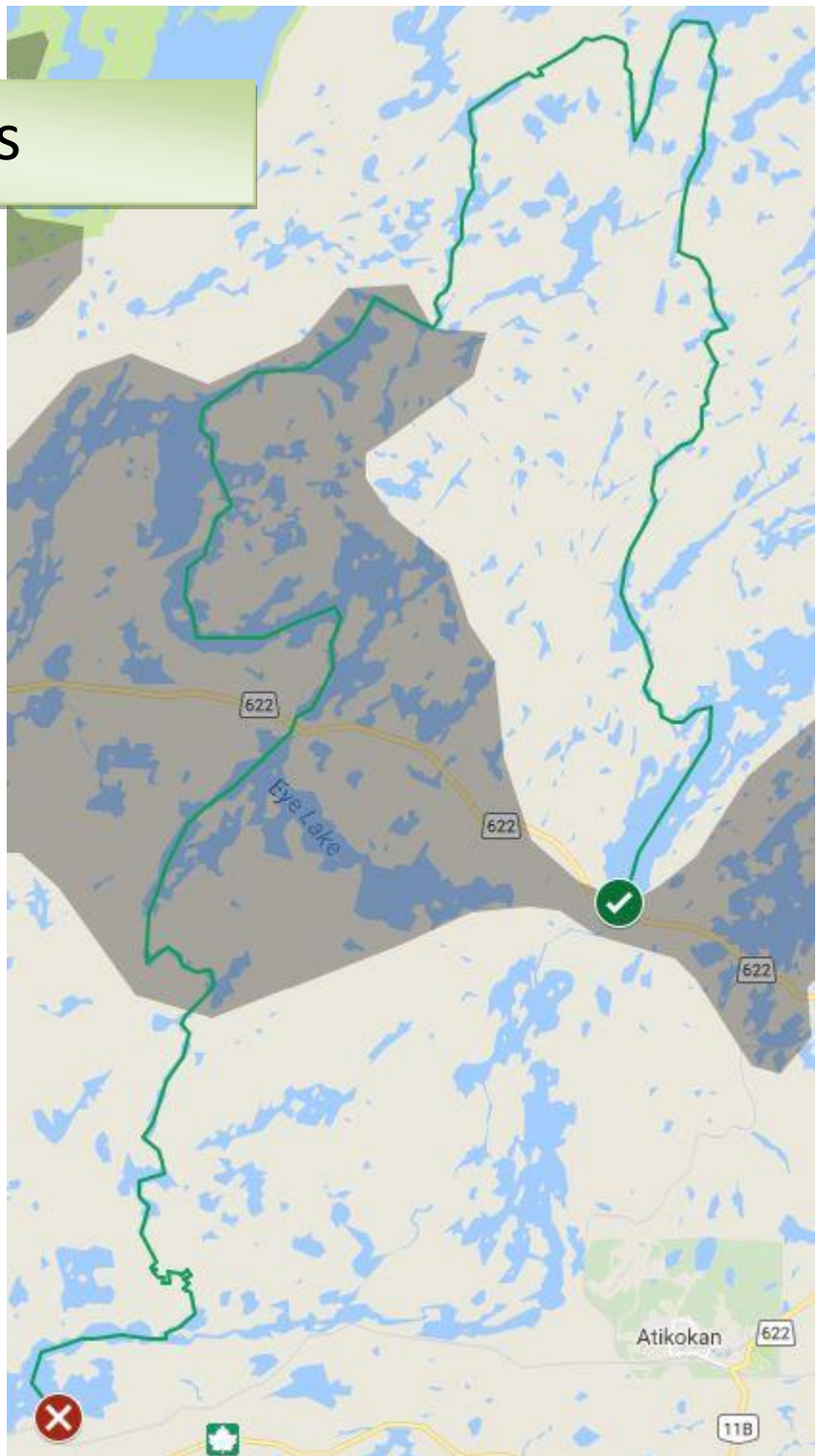
Leech Licks

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Distance: 60 miles

Route: (Finlayson
Hardtack
Highland
Little Gull
Gamble River
Wasp
Dashwa
Eye
Little Eye
Eye River
Ear
Seine River
Perch
Atikokan Base)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/13



Begin your trip on Finlayson, a lake well loved by locals and visitors alike for its beautiful waters. Then, head north through an area that has just recently been connected. Expect some tough terrain and muck on portages, but know that you'll be paddling through some gorgeous small lakes that see very few humans. Pass through a series of unnamed lakes and come out on Little Gull. From there, ride the Gamble River to Wasp lake. Then, be prepared for a long paddle south. Cross the Green Zone of Dashwa and Eye in one day – plan to be on water for the whole day, as this is a large distance to cover. Then, enjoy the beautiful, remote river system of the Eye River. At last, paddle into base on your final day. Just remember, crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.

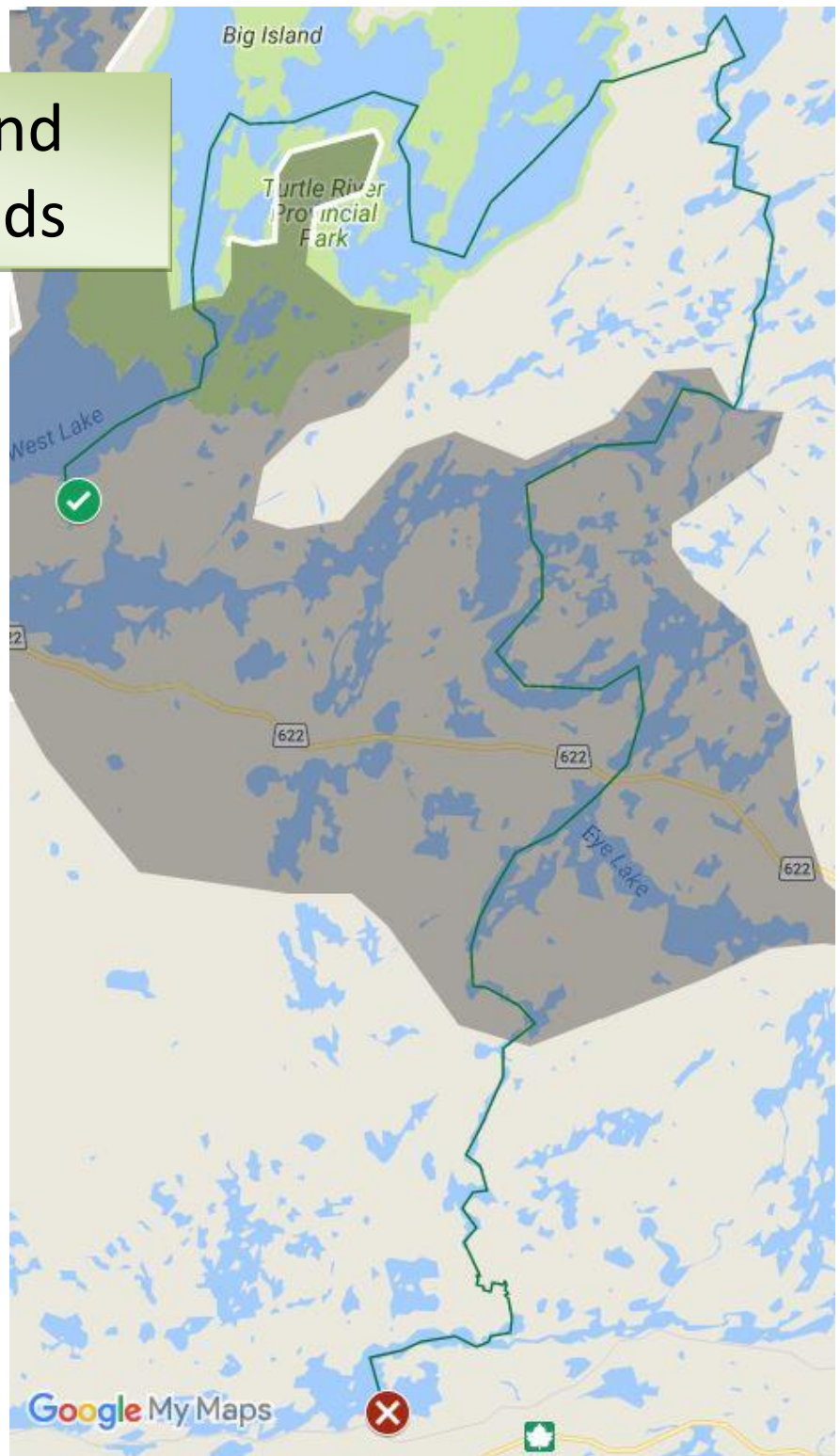
Down the River and Through the Woods

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Distance: 60 miles

Route: (Clearwater
White Otter
Sandford
Wasp
Dashwa
Eye
Eye River
Ear
Seine River
Perch
Atikokan Base)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/13



Start on our big lakes Clearwater and White Otter to master your paddling skills. Then head east to take on the challenge of the Ann Bay Portage. At 3 km long, it's our longest portage we offer. But rest assured, it may have extreme length, but it's a trail that's simple to follow, and that is usually clear of debris. Once across the Ann Bay Portage, head south through Sandford into Wasp. The next challenge you face is paddling through the Green Zoned lakes Dashwa and Eye in one day. Paddle around Dashwa or cut through the portages and beaver dams, then paddle through Eye and portage down a kilometer trail before taking a well-earned rest in some of the most beautiful waterways we have. Float down the Eye River in stunning beauty before arriving at base the final day. Just remember, crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.

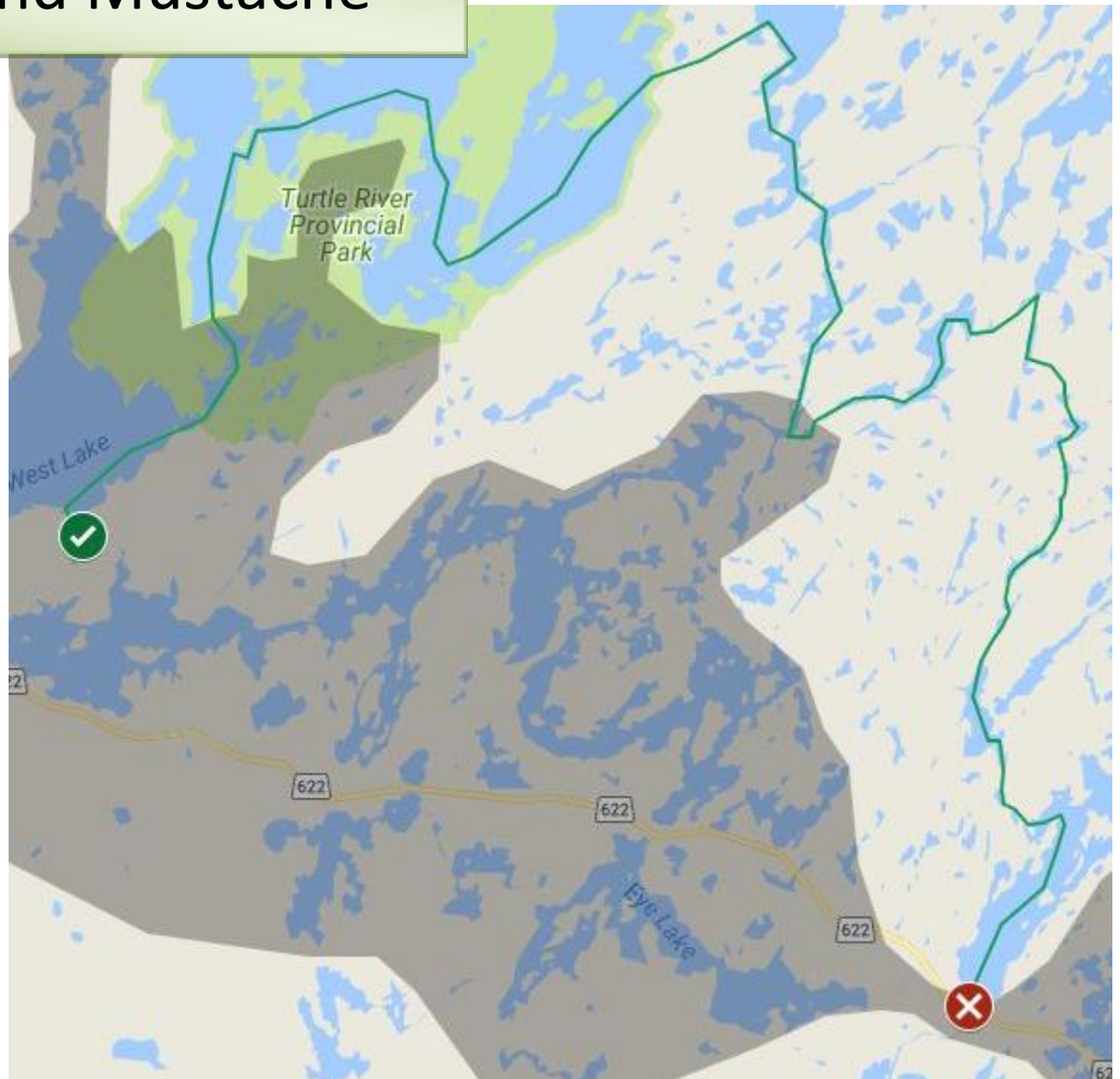
Beard and Mustache

Distance: 50 miles

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Route: (Clearwater
White Otter
Sandford
Wasp
Crowrock
Below Bow
Highland
Hardtack
Finlayson)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/13



This route will give you time to master paddling and portaging before you head into the unknown. Start on the big lakes of Clearwater and White Otter. Then head east across the Ann Bay Portage. At 3km, this portage is our longest portage and will really make you understand what you're worth. Next make your way south to Below Bow. Be sure to rest and recuperate because what's next is the real hard part. Enter into an area almost no Northern Tier crew has gone. From the unnamed lake northeast of Below Bow is a creek that goes south. Follow it down to another unnamed lake, then follow the creek east to yet another unnamed lake. From there you'll be covering some difficult portages. Some have difficult terrain, others a slow and mucky. Once you're in the unnamed lake south of Highland, know you're back on certain ground (or water). Though still very remote, this chain of lakes and portages have been covered by crews before and while portages may not be easy, they'll definitely be there. Finish your trip on the beautiful Finlayson. If your crew is looking for more miles, consider paddling into base on the Seine River Diversion.

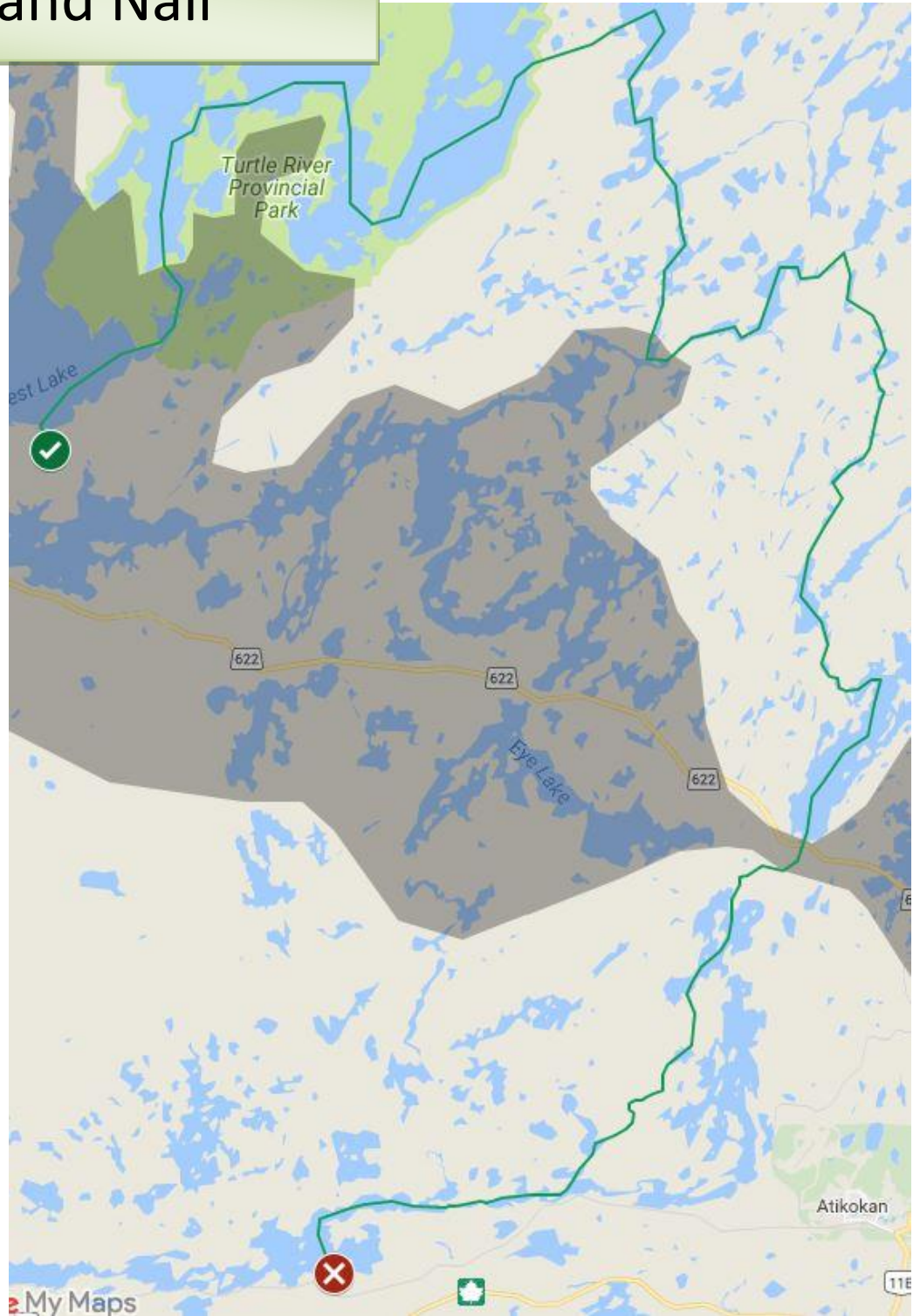
Tooth and Nail

Distance: 65 miles

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Route: (Clearwater
White Otter
Sandford
Wasp
Crowrock
Below Bow
Highland
Hardtack
Finlayson
Little Falls
Seine River Diversion
Seine River
Perch
Atikokan Base)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/13



Start with a lovely paddle across Clearwater and southern White Otter. You'll have mastered paddling just in time to take on the longest portage we offer. At 3 km, Ann Bay Portage has an intimidating length, but it's a trail that's simple to follow, and that is usually clear of debris. Relax on Sandford once you've survived Ann Bay before beginning your journey south. Peak at the pictographs on Wasp Lake then swing around to Below Bow. Next, head south through an area that has rarely been traveled, and shows its disuse. Paddle a few unnamed lakes and creeks and portage over some very difficult terrain and muck. Once you hit Finlayson, you're nearly home free. Just follow the Seine River Diversion to the Seine River and paddle into base.

Blueberries in the Sunshine

Distance: 50 miles

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

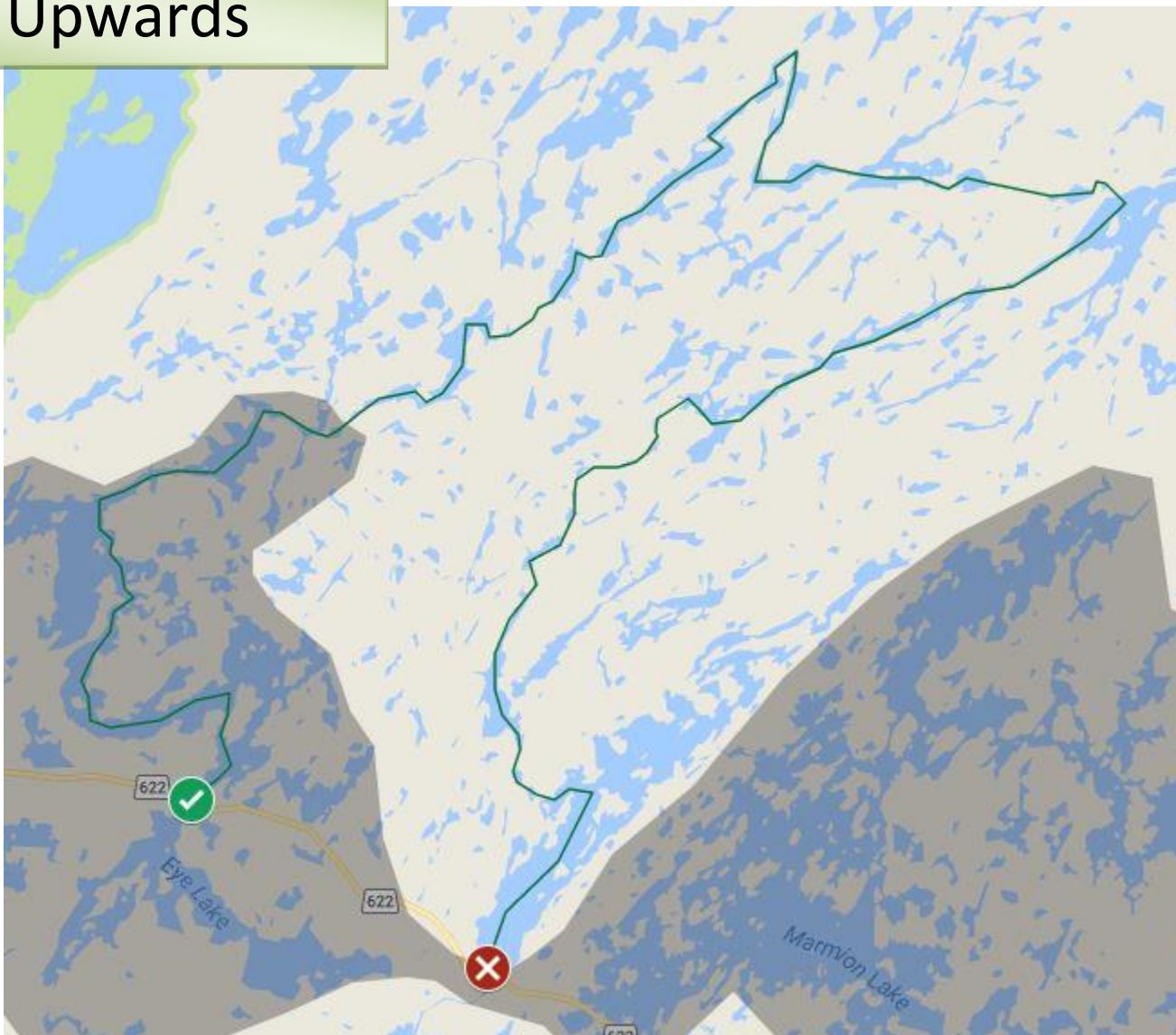
Route: (Dashwa
Crowrock
Wasp
Sandford
Irene
Gamble River
Little Gull
Highland
Hardtack
Finlayson)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/13



Start your trip with a long paddle out of the Green Zone or take on the challenge of taking a series of portages and beaver dammed stream. Then keep heading north into the beautiful waters of Sandford. Next head east into Irene before following a portion of the Gamble River on its lazy float into Little Gull. Be sure you've gotten good at paddling at portaging during the first part of this trip, because now comes the hard part. Take the mud-slog portages south out of Little Gull to the Bow Chain. Then, keep heading south. Your crew will be crossing lakes that almost no one from Northern Tier has gone through. This likely means there will be some hard portaging on trails that could be strongly affected by seasonal weather. Once you make it into the unnamed lake south of Highland, you'll be following trail that was only cleared last year. Expect some steep hills, some mucky trail, and some strange landings. Then finish your trip on Finlayson for your pick up.

Upwards



Difficulty: Hard

Distance: 60 miles

Route: (Dashwa,
Below Bow
Lower Bow
Upper Bow
Red Paint
Serpent
Hardtack
Finlayson)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/13

This route is nothing to scoff at. You'll have some long days, you'll have some hard days, and you may even have a few long and hard days. Start with around a 15 mile paddle out of the Green Zone and into Below Bow for your first night. Then follow the Bow Chain until you face Red Paint Portage. This portage is the hardest marked portage we offer: two kilometers long and thick with muck, it can take anywhere from an hour and a half, to four hours depending on the day. Then, head south through Serpent. Your next challenge is getting from Serpent to Hardtack. This could take some challenging bushwhacking through marshlands and thick woods. It's even harder than Red Paint Portage. Once you make it to the chain of lakes north of Hardtack Lake, there are portages to follow, but they're mucky and have some difficult terrain. At long last, you'll make it into Finlayson for your pick up.

Of Pine and Bracken



Difficulty: Hard

Distance: 65 miles (recommended 6 days on water)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/13

Route: (Finlayson
Hardtack
Serpent
Red Paint
Upper Bow
Lower Bow
Little Gull
Gamble River
Wasp
Crowrock
Dashwa)

Similar to Sticky Moose, this is a trip that is guaranteed to be very difficult. You'll start on the beautiful lake of Finlayson, but almost immediately you'll start on a hard challenge. First you'll go up through Hardtack and further north on portage trails that cover very difficult terrain. Then, you'll cut your way into Serpent. This could involve careful compass work across marsh, cutting through dense undergrowth to make a trail, or a combination of the two. It's extremely difficult ground to cover. After that comes Red Paint Portage. This portage is our hardest marked portage – 2 km long, it can take anywhere from an hour and a half to four hours, depending on how wet the spring has been. However, once you've made it through, it'll be smooth sailing. Follow the Bow Chain east. Portage north into Little Gull and Ride the Gamble River into Wasp. End your trip with a Green Zone paddle through Dashwa.

Over or Under

Difficulty: Very Hard

Distance: 55 miles

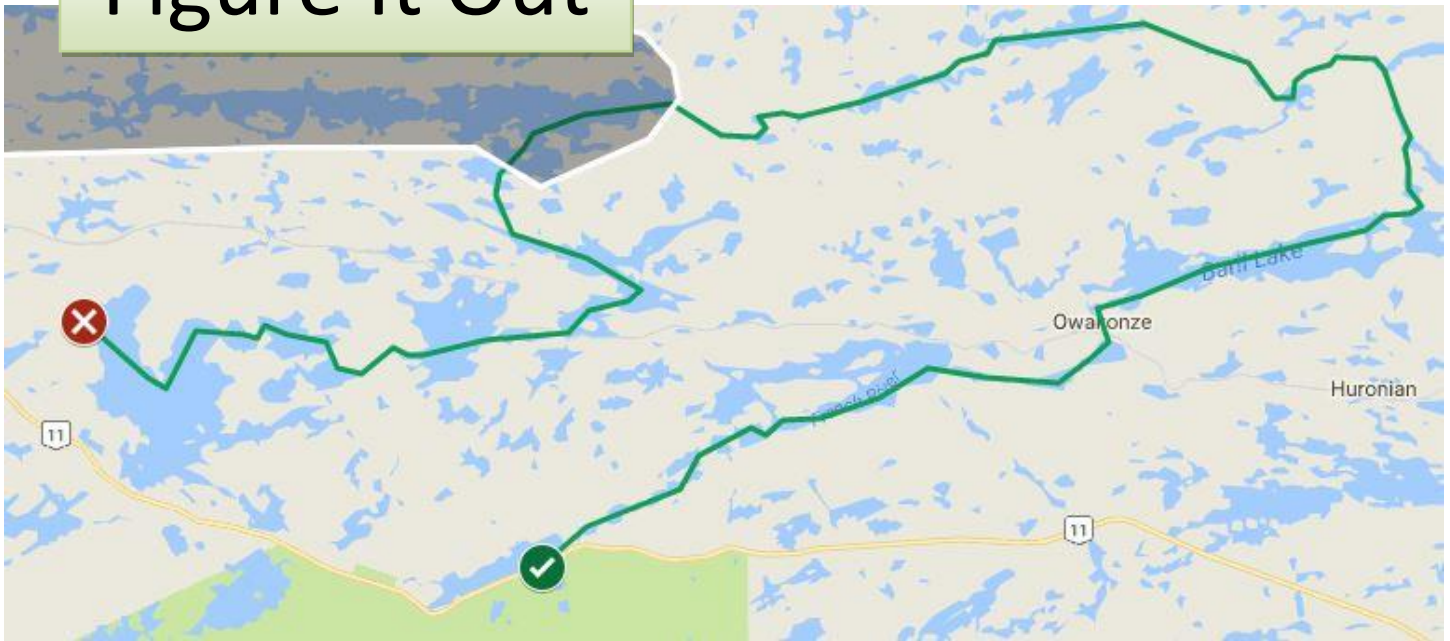
Route: (Clearwater
White Otter
Nora
Patricia
Unnamed Lakes
Balmoral River
Dibble
Smirch
Turtle River)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Pekagoning F/1
Ignace G/5



Start off with an easy journey north through Clearwater and White Otter. Visit the White Otter Castle and the remains of a WWII POW camp. Keep heading north and begin a more difficult leg of the journey. Portage through trails that show their disuse. If you make it through that section, it's time for the hard part to actually start. The Balmoral river is full of beaver dams, sand bars, and rapids, each which must be navigated through carefully. Watch out for your ankles and mind your interpreter – they'll have important safety advice. Expect to build a campsite or two after long hard days on untouched shores. But if you survive the waters of the Balmoral, it will treat you with a waterfall, pictographs, and the remote quietness of the wilderness. Then, finish the Balmoral River and make your way through Dibble, Smirch, and a section of the Turtle River to the pick-up. Enjoy the pictographs and waterfalls of this area as well. This route is tough on the Kevlar canoes. For this reason, aluminum canoes are required to avoid large damage fees.

Figure It Out



Distance: 55 miles

Difficulty: Very Hard (recommended for at least 8 days at Ntier/6 days on water)

Route: (Windigoostigwan

Brule

French River

Baril

Miserable

Atikokan River

Edar

Chief Peter

Atikokan River

Crooked Pine

Elbow

Nydia

Eva)

Maps: Pickerel B/10
Burchell B/10
Bedivere B/15
Sapawe B/14

This is newly explored route is a difficult trip even for the hardy spirit and resilient of body. From hours spent hopping sandbars, beaver dams, and down trees to cutting trail in thick woods, this trip will challenge you every inch of the way. Your crew will travel through unmaintained areas and rivers. Sometimes, there are no established campsites meaning after an extremely hard day, you may still have to make a place to sleep. This route allows your group to completely earn your 50-miler award. We'll provide your group with saws to allow you to do the required conservation work to earn the award. The variety on this itinerary is huge, allowing your group to see big and small lakes as well as plenty of rivers. The final stretch requires about a 1-mile portage to be picked up and brought to base. It is quite the untraveled area which means everyone will sleep well each night. This route is tough on the Kevlar canoes. For this reason, aluminum canoes are required to avoid large damage fees.

The Lumberjack

Difficulty: Very Hard

Distance: 40 miles

Route: (Mud Lake
Little Turtle River
Dovetail
Big Joe
Bootleg
Calm
Banning
Chub
Perch
Atikokan Base)

Maps: Manion C/12
Pipe C/9
Quetico B/12



Think you're tough stuff? This route is one of the meaner, nastier ones available. The first 20 miles involve about 10 miles of portaging including a 3 mile long one at the end. Along the way you will see the impact and remains of logging operations from centuries past up to a few examples of today's impacts. You will get to some very remote and seldom travelled places. You will then reach the Seine River and reconnect with civilization on the second leg of the route. Your journey ends when you reach Perch Lake and paddle to the base's canoe landing. Only one crew has successfully completed this route – they were the ones to cut most of the portages. Expect time and winters passed to make them a little harder to find, but they're there. Just remember, crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.

Add-on Option 1
From Calm detour to Mine Center

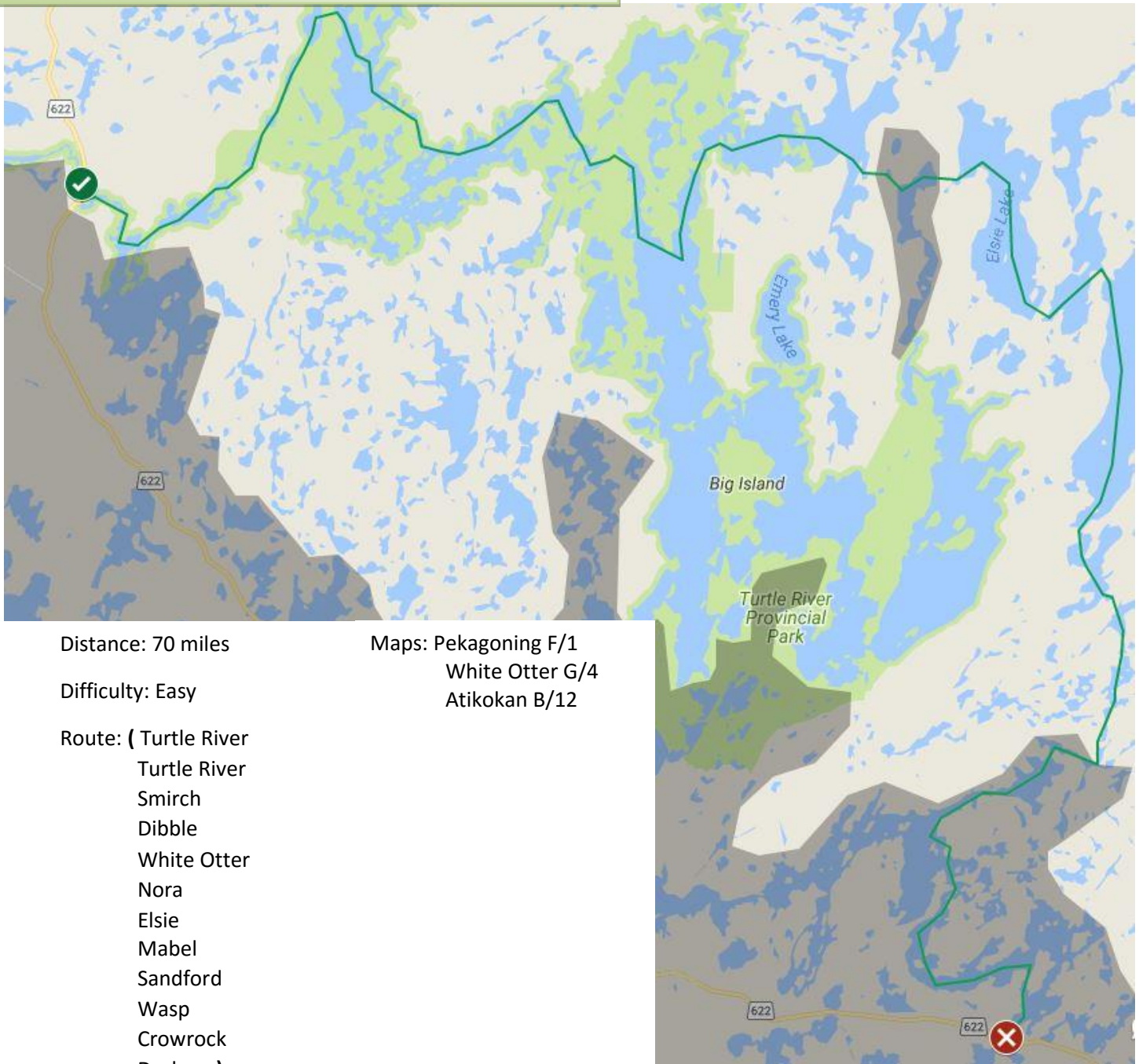
Calm
Seine River
Wild Potato
Shoal
Dumbbell
Bad Vermilion
Pick up (south of Mine Center)

Add-on Option 2
Adds to the Beginning

Drop off Turtle River Bridge
Smirch
Dibble
White Otter
Hawknest
Clearwater West
Turtle Lake
Mud (resume normal route)

Medium Trip Length Routes
(8-9 Night Trip)
(7-8 Days on Water)

Long Way from Home



Distance: 70 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Route: (Turtle River
Turtle River
Smirch
Dibble
White Otter
Nora
Elsie
Mabel
Sandford
Wasp
Crowrock
Dashwa)

Maps: Pekagoning F/1
White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/12

This route begins on Turtle River allowing your crew to see some great rapids, waterfalls, and pictographs. This route also includes the opportunity to see the famous White Otter Castle and the remains of the historic World War II POW camp. Eventually, your crew will make it to Sandford which has some of the clearest water in the area. The trip ends with roughly a 13-mile paddle to your pickup point. There are portions of the route that can be changed based on your crew's ability. You could swing south and cross the 3 km Ann Bay Portage, or add a loop east into Irene for some river paddling and extra miles. Your Interpreter will be able to help you with any adjustments when you arrive. This route includes some very large lakes so wind can play a factor in travel. Your Interpreter will have guidance in safely canoeing in this area.

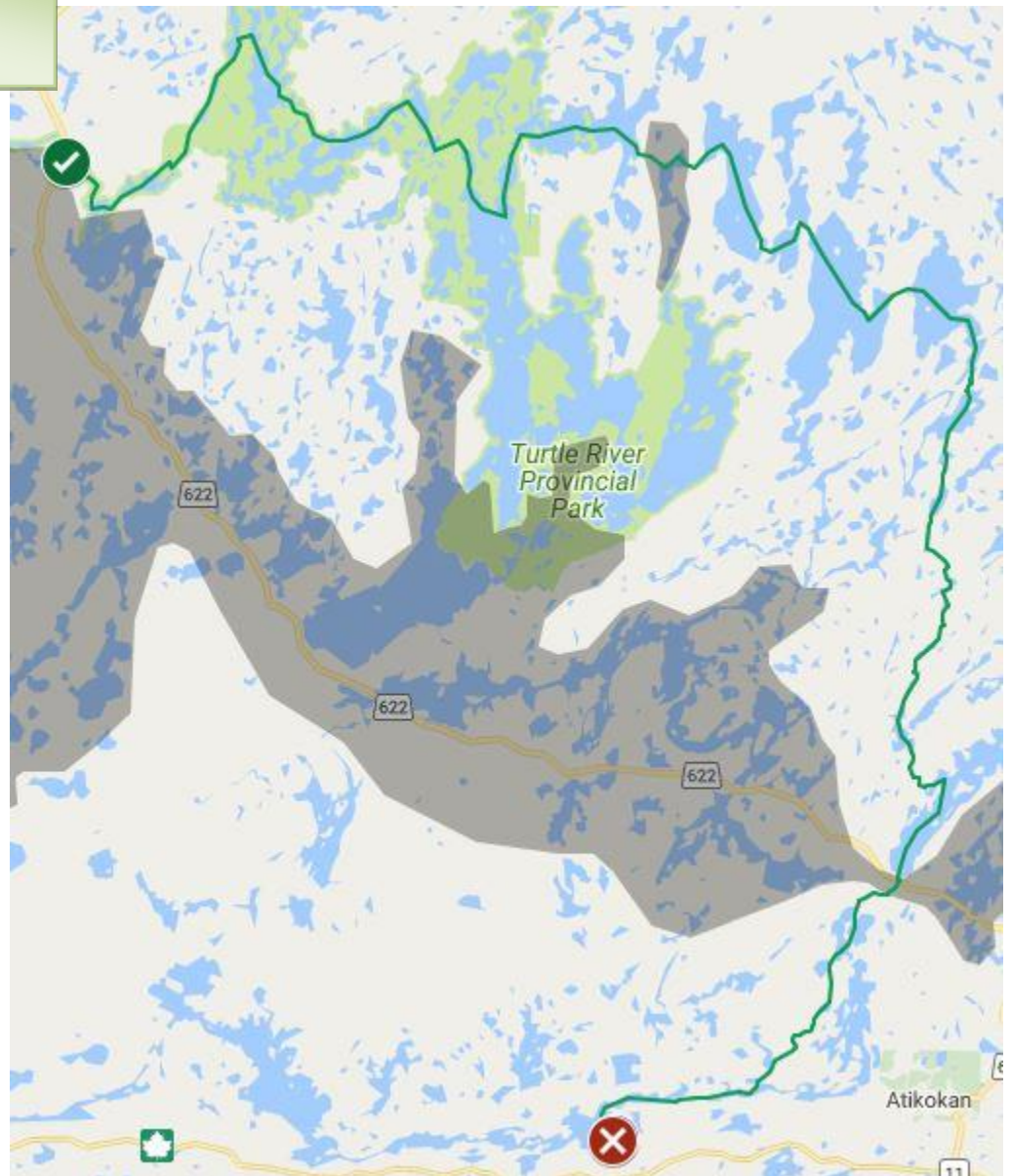
Aces

Distance: 80 miles

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Route: (Turtle River

Smirch
Dibble
White Otter
Nora
Elsie
Mabel
Sandford
Irene
Gamble River
Little Gull
Highland
Hardtack
Finlayson
Seine River Diversion
Little Falls
Seine River
Perch
Atikokan Base)



This route is neat because it begins at our farthest drop off point and works its way back to base. On the Turtle River chain, paddle past pictographs, rapids and waterfalls. Cross the northern tip of White Otter to see an old Trapper's cabin, White Otter Castle, and the remains of a WWII POW camp. Then travel further east through the lady lakes of Nora, Elsie, and Mabel. Visit Sandford and Irene before beginning your journey south. Float down the Gamble River to Little Gull. Then take on some notoriously mucky portages south of Little Gull into an unnamed lake on the Bow Chain. Next, paddle and portage through an area that is rarely used. Expect trails to be rough and muddy and waterways that are affected by seasonal water levels. Once you've made it to Finlayson, it's an easy trip back to base down the Seine River Diversion and the Seine River. Crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.

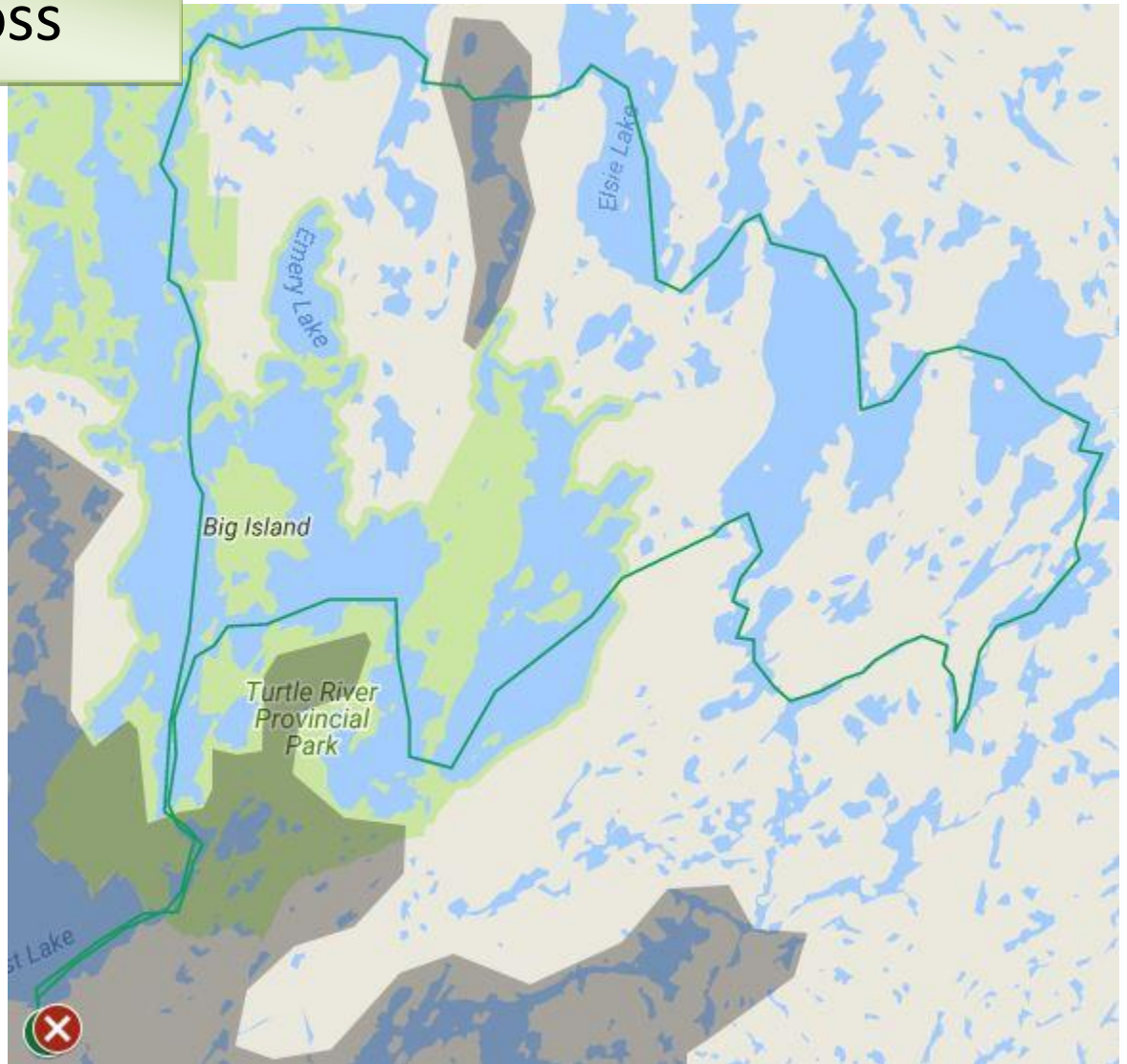
Albatross

Distance: 75 miles

Difficulty: Medium

Route: (Clearwater
White Otter
Nora
Elsie
Mabel
Sandford
Irene
Gamble River
Little Gull
Wasp
Sandford
Ann Bay
White Otter
Clearwater)

Maps: White Otter B/4



This is a fantastic route that takes you through the sights and the sites to see in our area of the Crownlands. Visit White Otter Castle and the remains of a WWII POW camp. Head East through the lady lakes of Nora, Elsie, Mabel and Irene. These lakes are beautiful paddling experiences, giving you plenty of time on water. Head south then west by riding the Gamble River through a section of lazy stream then into a well-paced river. Visit Sandford Lake, a favorite of Interpreters for its clean water and fantastic island campsites. Take on the challenge of the 3 km Ann Bay Portage, our longest portage. It certainly takes a long time to walk, but with the right attitude, definitely accomplishable. Then finish your trip via Clearwater.

North then South

Distance: 75 miles

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Itinerary: (Clearwater
White Otter
Nora
Elsie
Mabel
Sandford
Wasp
Dashwa/Eye
Eye River
Seine River
Perch
Atikokan Base)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/12



This is another popular route. It is difficult because there is a section that requires a 23-mile paddle in a single day. This usually entails 10+ hours of paddling and portaging. Many groups will plan to have a layover day immediately after the most strenuous day. Your Interpreter will be able to aid in this part of the planning when you arrive on base. The route begins on big lakes, which allows you to see White Otter Castle and the remains of a World War II POW camp on White Otter Lake. With a brief route change, you can add in the possibility to see pictographs. This area has some of the best campsites before heading south to complete the hardest day of the trip. A true accomplishment! After your group has rested, you can paddle into base on your final day. Crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.

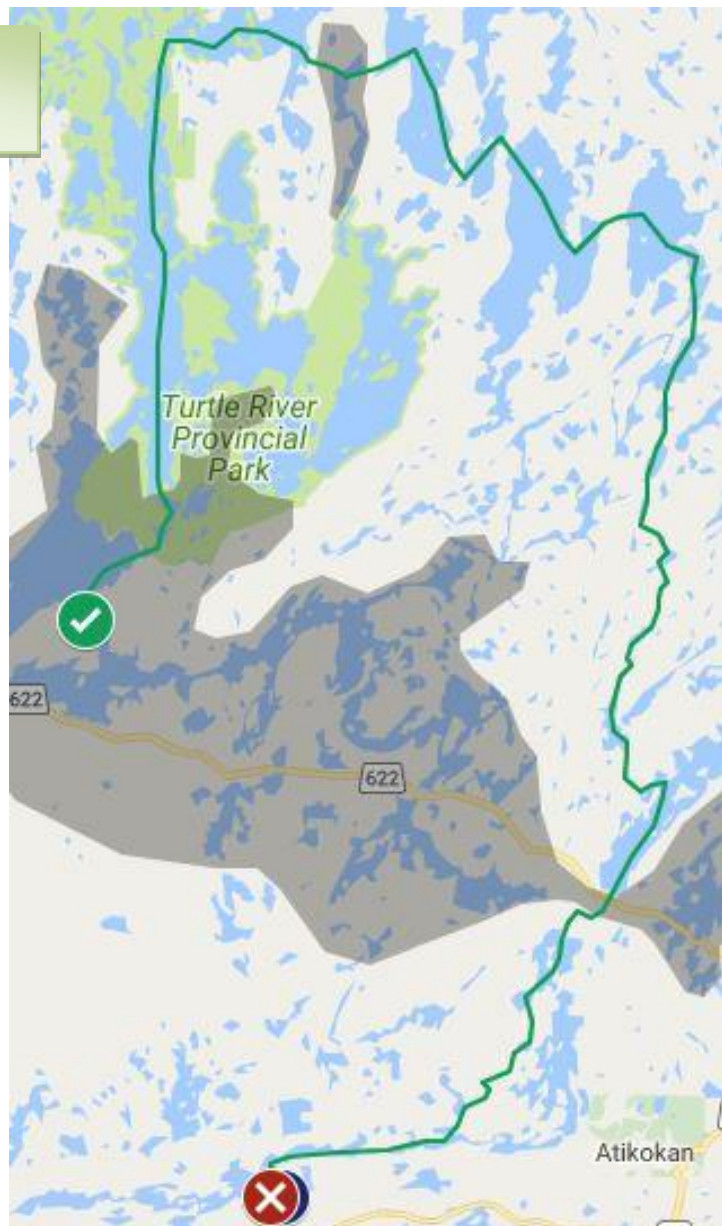
Holey Socks

Distance: 75 miles

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Route: (Clearwater
White Otter
Nora
Elsie
Mabel
Sandford
Irene
Gamble River
Little Gull
Highland
Hardtack
Finlayson
Seine River Diversion
Little Falls
Seine River
Perch
Atikokan Base)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/12



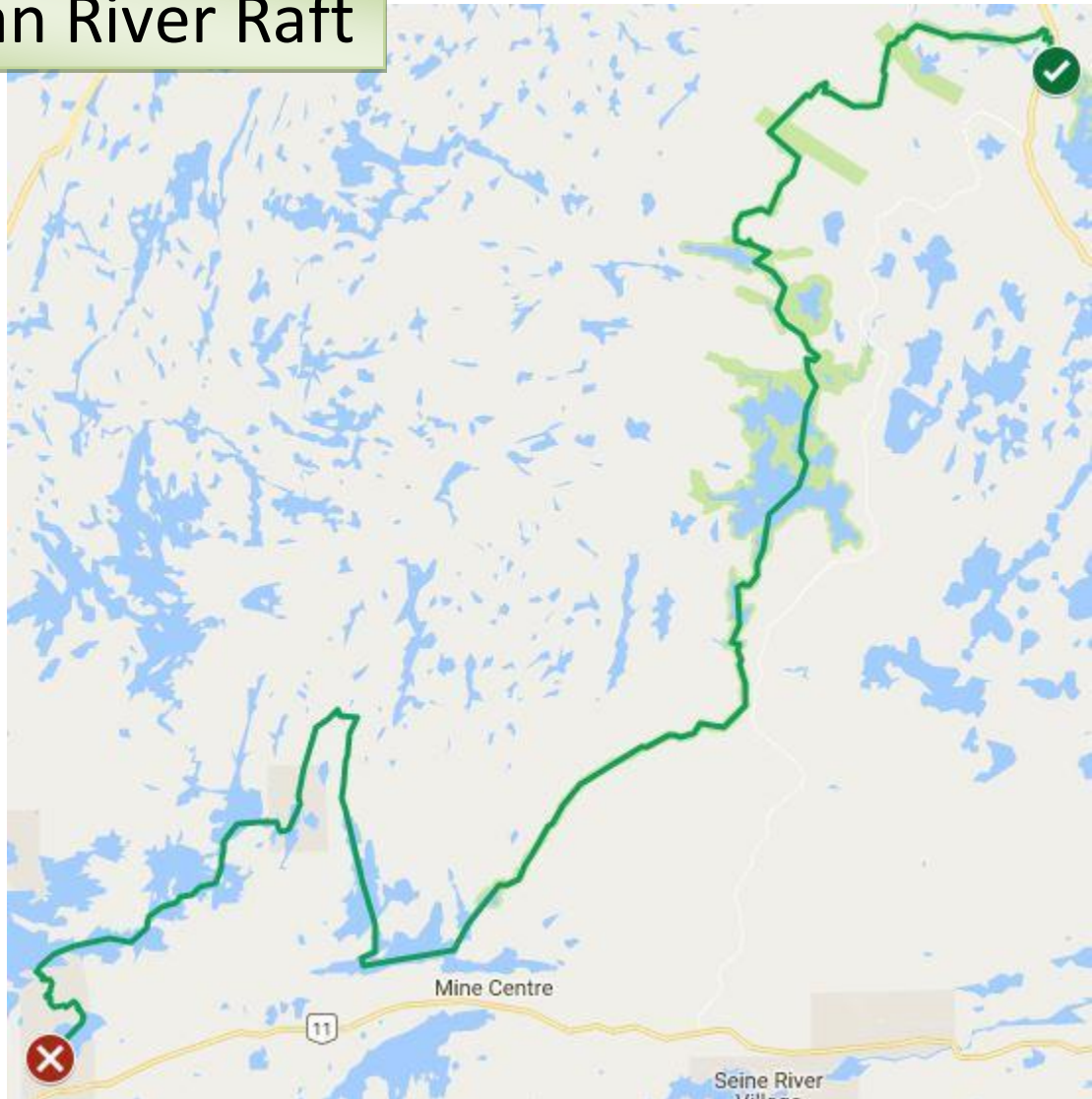
Begin this route on big water to master your skills at paddling. Get to the north end of White Otter and visit the White Otter Castle and the remains of a WWII POW camp. Then take visit the central lady lakes from Nora to Elsie to Mabel. These big lakes are perfect places to cover a lot of distance with each paddle stroke. By the time you've entered Irene, be certain you feel confident about your paddling and portaging because you're headed into an area that is shrouded in mystery. You'll take some mucky portages south out of Little Gull, only to find yourself on a series of unnamed lakes. This area has yet to be fully explored by a Northern Tier crew, so be ready for some creative paddling, possible portage making through muck or dense woods. You may even have to make a campsite after a hard day. Once you're south of Highland, you'll be able to follow a chain of lakes and portages through very remote area. It won't be easy, but once you make it to Finlayson, you'll be able to relax all the way back to base as you paddle the Seine River Diversion and the Seine River. Crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.

Reptilian River Raft

Distance: 85 miles

Difficulty: Medium

Route: (Turtle River
Johnson
Turtle River
Eltrut
Turtle River
Little Turtle
Turtle River
Rainy Lake (Red Gut Bay)
Ottertail)



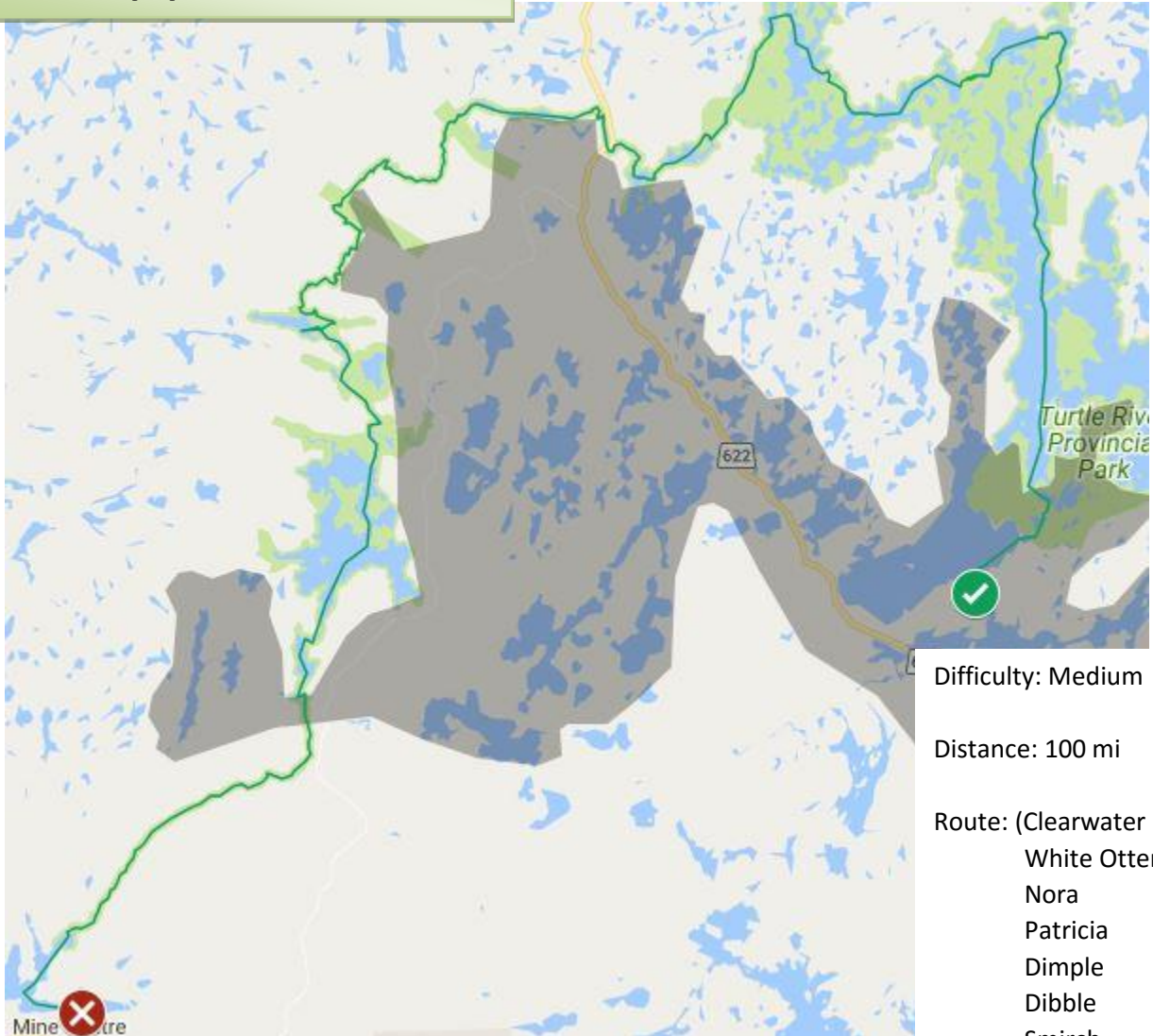
Maps: Pekagoning F/1

Manion C/16

Mine Centre C/15

While this route includes a lot of river travel, there are still a good number of portages. There are a few instances of rapids around the Turtle River that will require portages. Your Interpreter will teach you how to portage around it safely to avoid damage to your gear, canoes, and yourselves. Be aware that if you choose this route, you will have to paddle into Rainy Lake. Your crew will be in a relatively small and contained bay, it is still very large and wind may play a factor in paddling. Your Interpreter will have guidance in safely canoeing in this area. This route will take you through a First Nations area. Please be respectful of the community and do not expect to camp within their bounds or use facilities. Your crew will see a large waterfall and through one of the largest lakes in western Ontario. This route has a lot of mileage, but is a fairly easy paddle. Your last day will take you into Ottertail to be transported back to base. This route is tough on the Kevlar canoes. For this reason, aluminum canoes are required to avoid large damage fees.

Tippecanoe



Difficulty: Medium

Distance: 100 mi

Route: (Clearwater
White Otter
Nora
Patricia
Dimple
Dibble
Smirch
Turtle River
Jones
Eltrut
Robinson
Turtle River
Little Turtle)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Pekagoning F/1
Manion C/16
Mine Centre C/15

Begin on the big lakes of Clearwater and White Otter. Visit the White Otter Castle and the remains of an old WWII POW camp. Then head north. Take the challenging portages into Patricia and float the Jac Saga River through tall grass. Paddle across Dibble and Smirch. Keep your eyes out for pictographs near a waterfall and a rapid. Then begin your journey south into a more remote area. Follow the Turtle River south and portage around waterfalls and rapids in this beautiful, remote area. Finish the trip on Little Turtle Lake near Mine Centre. Be prepared to carry your gear to the pick-up point, as our vans cannot drive directly to the water. There are motor boats on White Otter and Little Turtle Lake, but they are usually friendly and polite, just looking to enjoy the water and the fish. This trip is great for seeing major sights of the area as well as some waterfalls and rapids.

Fish Sticks



Distance: 85 miles

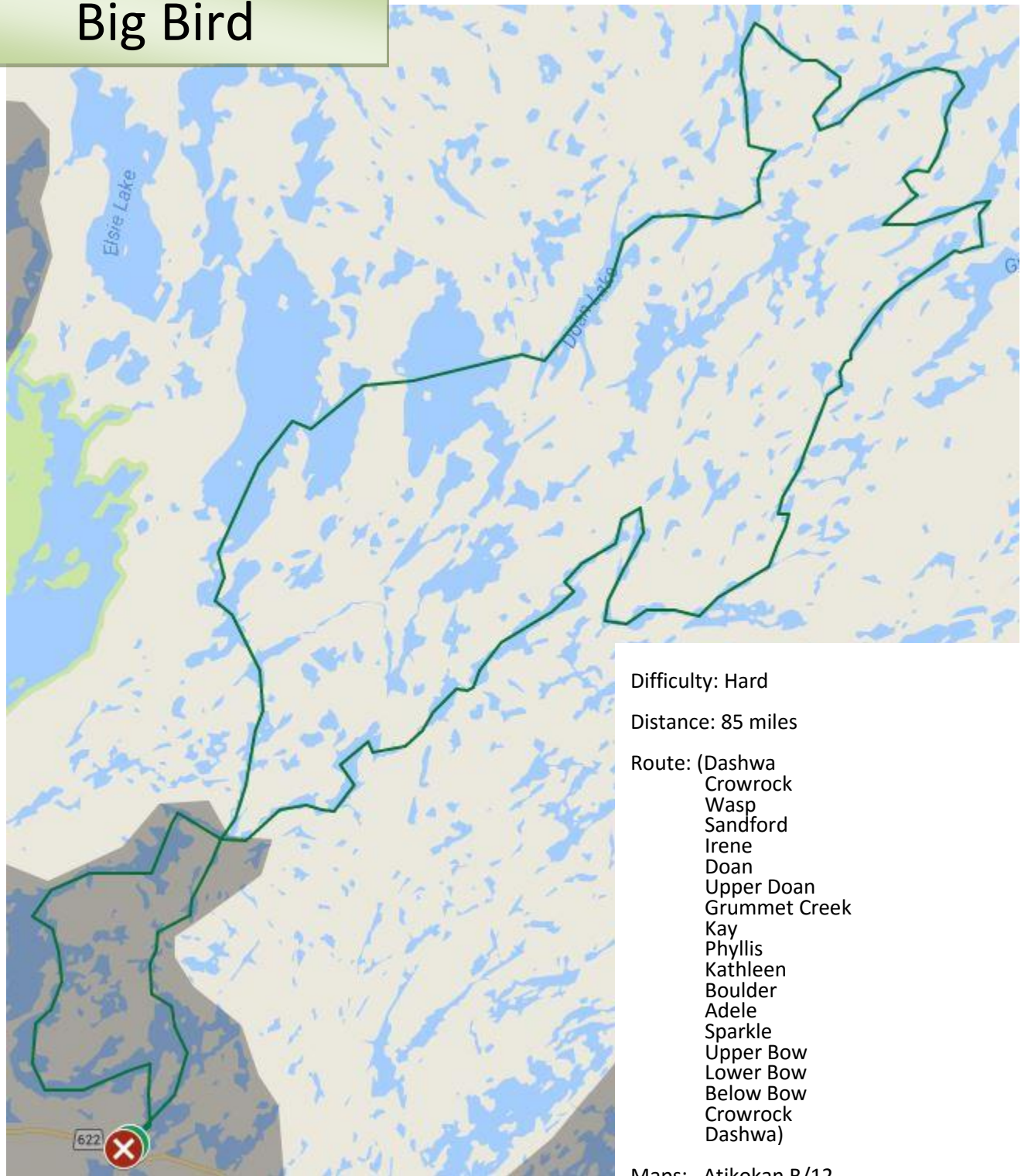
Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Route: (Dashwa
Below Bow
Lower Bow
Upper Bow
Sparkle
Adele
Boulder
Gamble
Doan
Irene
Sandford
Wasp
Dashwa)

Maps: Atikokan B/13
White Otter G/4
Gulliver G/3

Begin your adventure with a long paddle out of Dashwa, then head up the Bow Chain. Though it'll take some effort, this beginning will get you into more remote areas right away. The Bow Chain is known for good fishing and for good moose sightings – so stay quiet and keep your eyes out. Then head north through a series of unnamed lakes before visiting Sparkle and Adele. Next up, pass through two kilometer long portages, one of which has earned the name “Fun and Games,” but both will make sure you remember them. Then begin heading back toward your pick up. Either route through the Gamble River or through Sandford Lake. At Dashwa, you can choose a long paddle or a series of portages and beaver dams.

Big Bird



Difficulty: Hard

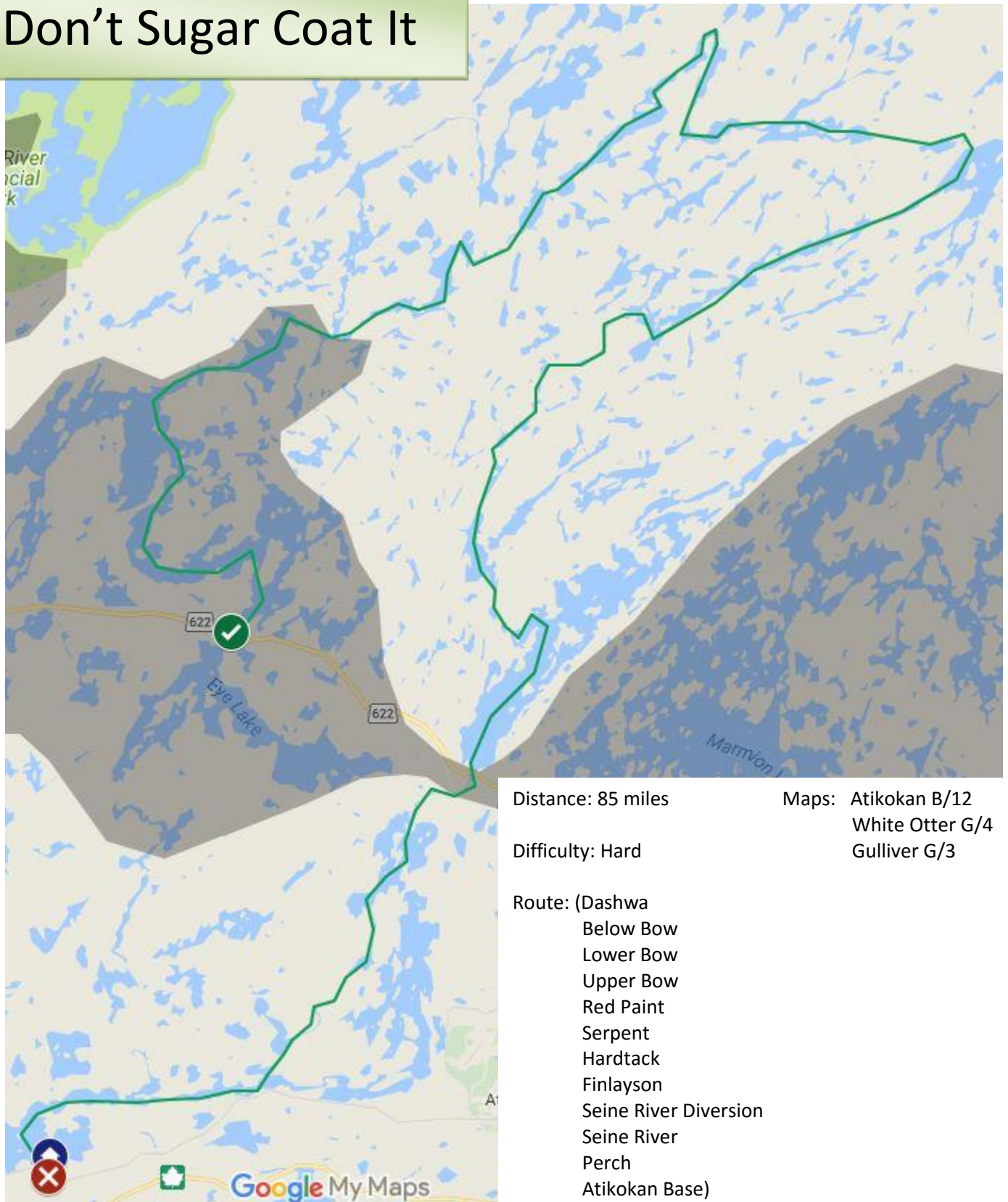
Distance: 85 miles

Route: (Dashwa
Crowrock
Wasp
Sandford
Irene
Doan
Upper Doan
Grummet Creek
Kay
Phyllis
Kathleen
Boulder
Adele
Sparkle
Upper Bow
Lower Bow
Below Bow
Crowrock
Dashwa)

Maps: Atikokan B/12
White Otter G/4
Gulliver G/3

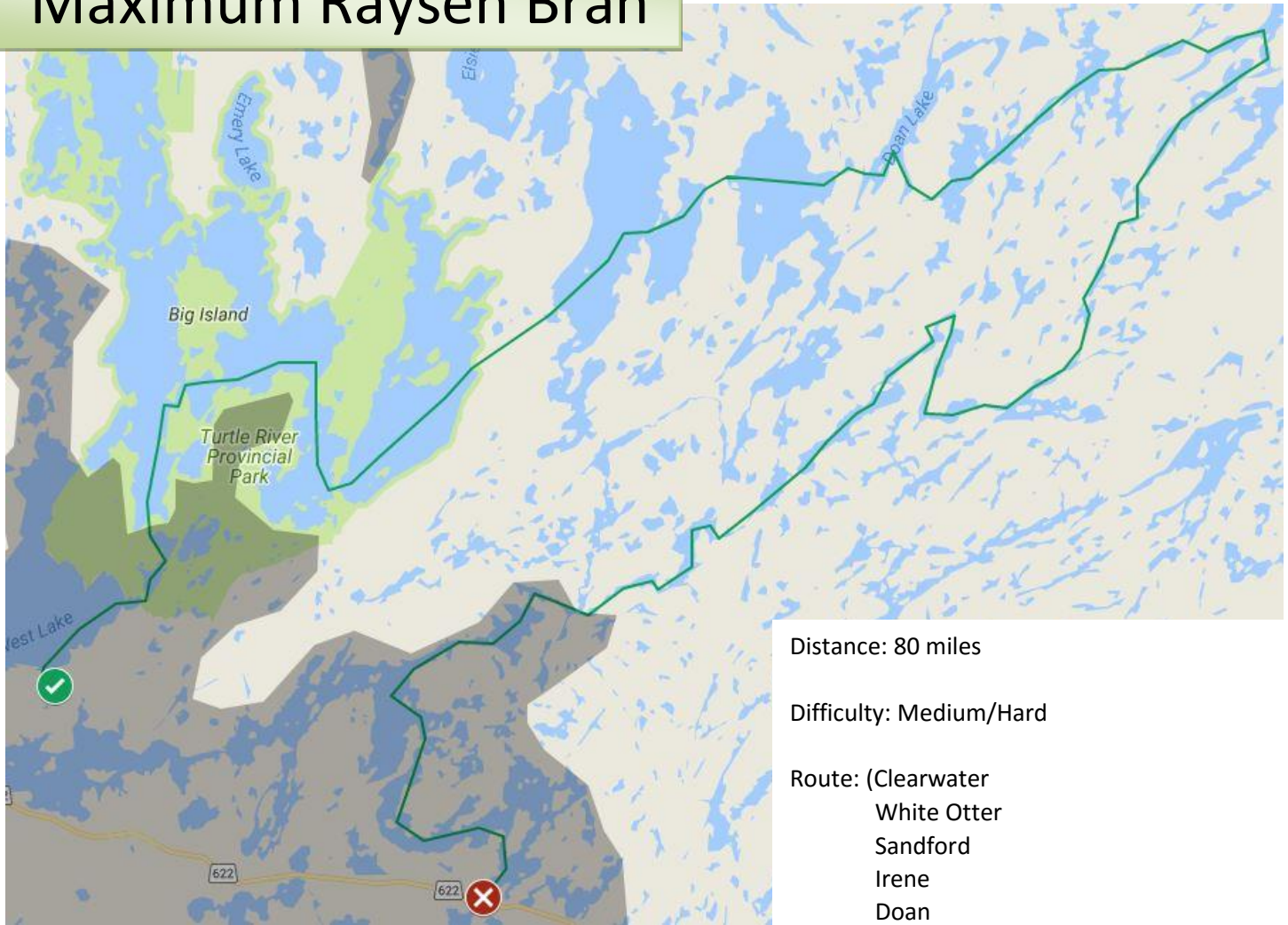
Starting out with a long paddle through the Green Zone or going north through a series of portages and beaver dams, then grab your first campsite in Wasp. Then pass through the picturesque Sandford, cut east through Irene, into Doan. Now the real adventure begins. You'll be headed into areas that were used by Northern Tier years ago. We don't know if the portages still exist and no campsites are marked. You may have to cut your own trail through difficult terrain and thick forest. Follow Grummett Creek through some unnamed lakes into Kay to meet your first lady lake. Cut your way east into Phyllis then into Kathleen. Once you've connected Kathleen to Boulder, you've made it through the toughest part of your trip. Head through Adele and Sparkle into the Bow Chain and return to Dashwa with lighter packs and stronger paddles.

Don't Sugar Coat It



This is a strenuous trip from day one. Paddle 15 miles to get out of the Green Zone. Find yourself tucked into remote lakes as you paddle up the Bow Chain. Then tackle Red Paint Portage. This 2 km trail is mucky and hard – some crews do it in an hour and a half, others in four hours. Once you've survived that, prepare yourself for an even harder challenge of making it from Serpent to Hardtack. Be ready to fight through dense woods or navigate across marshland. Then take portages with difficult terrain into Finlayson. From there, relax on your paddle back to base. Just remember, crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.

Maximum Raysen Bran



Distance: 80 miles

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Route: (Clearwater
White Otter
Sandford
Irene
Doan
Gamble
Boulder
Adele
Sparkle
Upper Bow
Lower Bow
Below Bow
Dashwa)

Maps: Atikokan B/12
White Otter G/4
Gulliver G/3

Start on the big lakes of Clearwater, White Otter, and Sandford and take the time to master paddling. Then, challenge yourself by crossing Ann Bay Portage. This portage is the longest we offer at 3 km. It may take a rather long time to hike it, but take heart knowing that it is well maintained and simple to follow. Once you've passed through this area of quality campsites and easy paddles, trek into a more remote area. Cross two very challenging 1 km trails – one of which has earned the name Fun and Games. Paddle lakes no one has named. Then, your crew's grand finale will be a paddle through the Green Zone to your pick up point.

All the Fun and Games



Distance: 95 miles

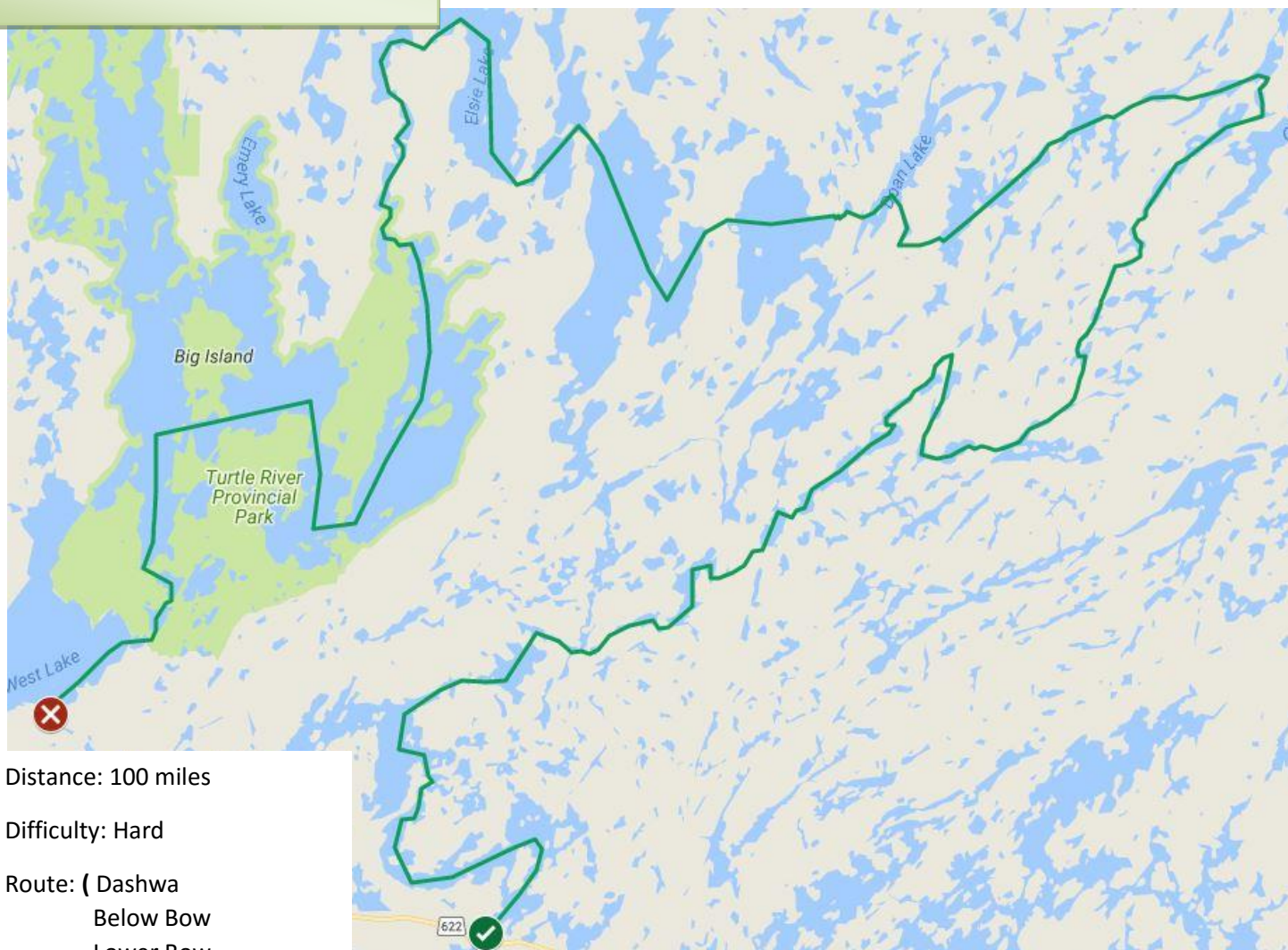
Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Route: (Dashwa
Below Bow
Lower Bow
Little Gull
Sparkle
Adele
Gamble
Doan
Irene
Sandford
Ann Bay Portage
White Otter
Nora
White Otter
Clearwater)

Maps: Atikokan B/12
White Otter G/4
Gulliver G/3

Your crew will start the route by traveling through Dashwa to Below Bow. This area is great for spotting wildlife. Once through the Bow lakes, you enter the wild country and create a big loop through the “Lady Lakes”. This is a great remote area. Eventually, you will get to the Ann Bay Portage which is roughly a 2.5-mile portage trail to test your crew’s might. Then you get to set your canoes in White Otter Lake. Finally, your crew enters Clearwater to be picked up and transported back to base. Motor boats can access White Otter Lake, but they generally are just out for some good fishing too, and are rarely a nuisance. This route includes some very large lakes so wind can play a factor in travel. Your Interpreter will have guidance in safely canoeing in this area.

Work Order



Distance: 100 miles

Difficulty: Hard

Route: (Dashwa
Below Bow
Lower Bow
Little Gull
Sparkle
Adele
Gamble
Doan
Irene
Sandford
Mabel
Elsie
White Otter
Clearwater)

Maps: Atikokan B/12
White Otter G/4
Gulliver G/3

This route will certainly make you work it. It's a rough and tumble route that goes through some very untraveled areas and takes the scenic route through White Otter Lake. Beginning at Dashwa, you travel through an area that contains some remote woods. Eventually, your crew will make its way through a series of unnamed lakes with ever changing terrain and beaver dams. You'll get to take the challenge of Fun and Games portage. Then, White Otter allows your crew to see pictographs, and you can detour through White Otter Castle, and what's left of a World War II POW camp. Motor boats can access White Otter Lake, but they generally are just out for some good fishing too, and are rarely a nuisance. This route includes some very large lakes so wind can play a factor in travel. Your Interpreter will have guidance in safely canoeing in this area.

Caribou Bones

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Distance: 90 miles

Route: (Dashwa
Wasp
Sandford
Irene
Doan
Gamble
Boulder
Adele
Sparkle
Upper Bow
Lower Bow
Highland
Hardtack
Finlayson
Little Falls
Seine River Diversion
Seine River
Perch
Atikokan Base)

Maps: Atikokan B/12
White Otter G/4
Gulliver G/3



Master your paddling by beginning on Dashwa, or cut north via a series of portages and beaver dams instead. Then, keep heading north through Sandford – a lake known for its beautiful water. Pass through Irene and over the portage called Fun & Games – a one kilometer portage full of downed trees. Enjoy your time in remote lakes of Boulder, Adele, and Sparkle. Then, follow Upper Bow and Lower Bow to a series of unnamed lakes that have been rarely traveled. Between this area, through Highland and Hardtack, and into Finlayson, expect to see some beautiful areas – and expect to work hard for the treat. The portages in this area can be mucky and hilly, so show up ready to work hard. From Finlayson, paddle your way down the Seine River back to base. Just remember, crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.

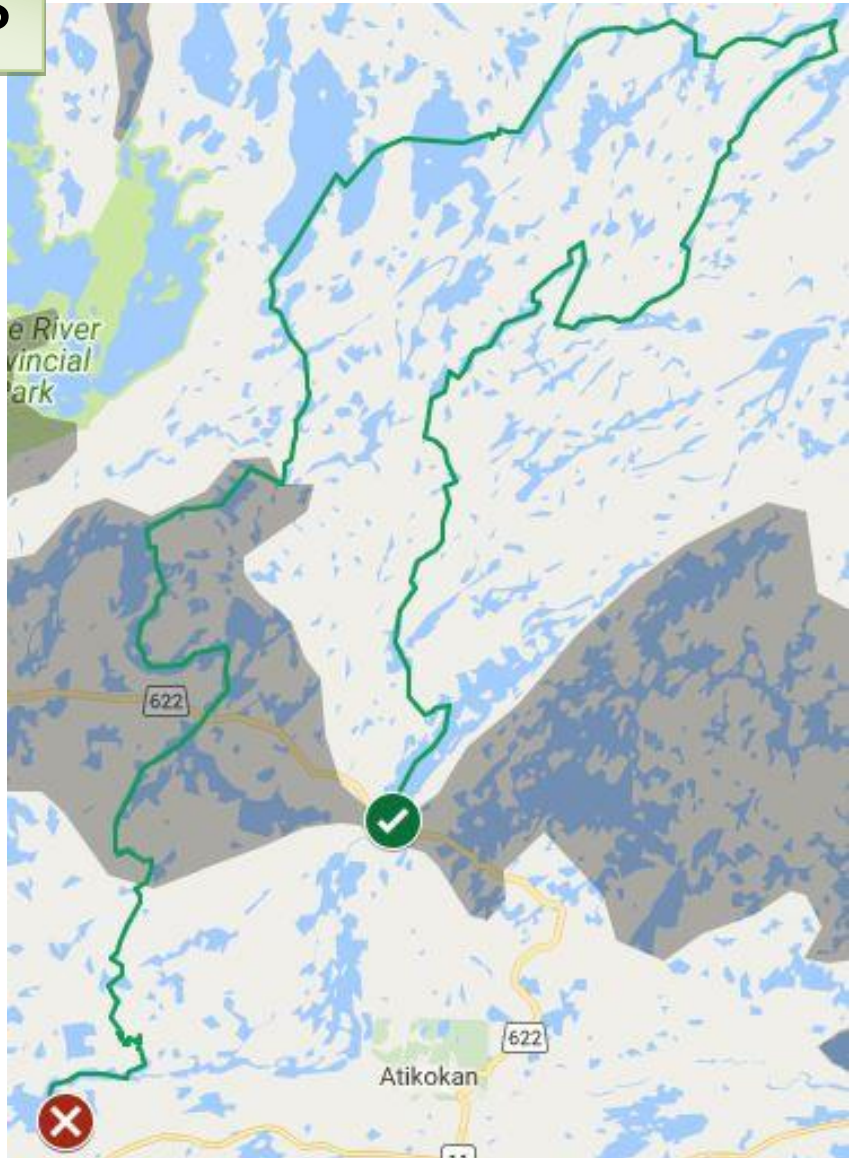
Turtle Toes

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Distance: 95 miles

Route: (Finlayson
Hardtack
Highland
Lower Bow
Upper Bow
Sparkle
Adele
Boulder
Gamble
Grummet Creek
Upper Doan
Doan
Irene
Sandford
Wasp
Dashwa
Eye
Little Eye
Eye River
Ear
Seine River
Perch
Atikokan Base)

Maps: Atikokan B/12
White Otter G/4
Gulliver G/3



Start your journey with a bit of a challenge. From Finlayson, go through a less traveled area from Hardtack to Highland to Lower Bow. This area has some tough portages with steep ups and mucky downs, but also offers some beautiful sights. Take Lower Bow and Upper Bow north to a remote section of lakes. Begin journeying west and check out an area that no Northern Tier crew has visited in recent years, but where there once was trails connecting Gamble, Grummet Creek, and Upper Doan (or cut south to take Fun & Games). Coast through the big lakes of Irene and Sandford before heading south through the Green Zone. Plan for a long day's paddling as you'll need to cross Dashwa and Eye before you can camp. Then, follow the Eye River chain, a stunning area, to the Seine River. At long last, paddle yourself into base! Just remember, crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.

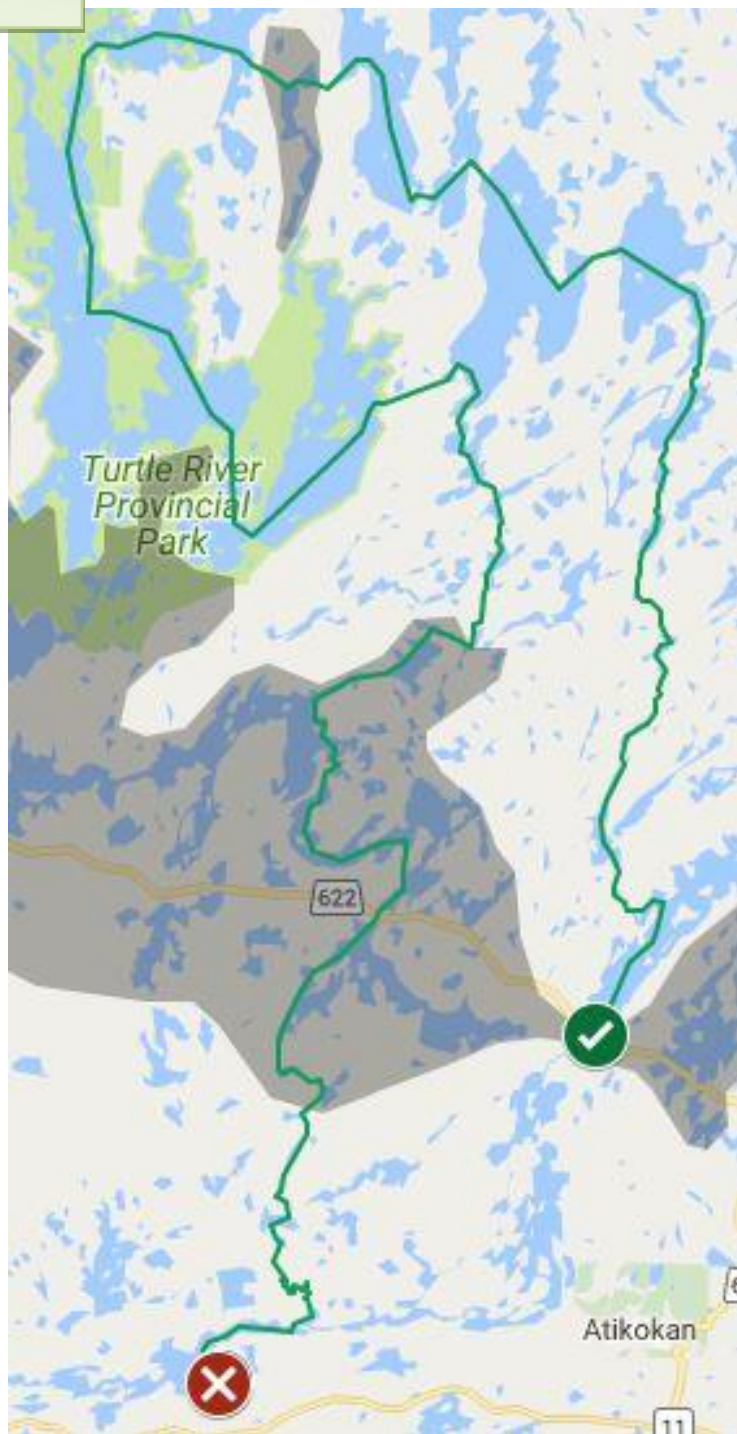
Hold onto your Hats

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Distance: 90 miles

Route: (Finlayson
Hardtack
Highland
Little Gull
Gamble River
Irene
Sandford
Mabel
Elsie
Nora
White Otter
Sandford
Wasp
Dashwa
Eye
Little Eye
Eye River
Ear
Seine River
Perch
Atikokan Base)

Maps: Atikokan B/12
White Otter G/4



Though strange to see marked on the map, this route takes your crew through a little bit of everything. Challenge yourselves by traveling from Finlayson to Little Gull: you'll be taking on some difficult portage trails known for mucky pathways and tough terrain, but you'll also get to see some truly beautiful waterways. Then, enjoy the big lake life with days paddling Irene, Sandford, Mabel, Elsie, Nora, and White Otter. Visit the White Otter Castle and the remains of a WWII POW camp. You'll be amazed that the distance strong paddle strokes can take you. Now that your muscles are stronger and your food pack lighter, cross Ann Bay Portage. At 3 km, it's certainly long, but it's also a very well maintained trail. With the right attitude, it's a challenge you won't want to miss. After Ann Bay Portage, it's time to start heading south. Use your paddling skill to cross the Green Zone in one day. Then enjoy the beautiful Eye River chain. On your last day, you can paddle into base! Just remember, crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.

Jack Pine

Distance: 65 miles

Difficulty: Very Hard

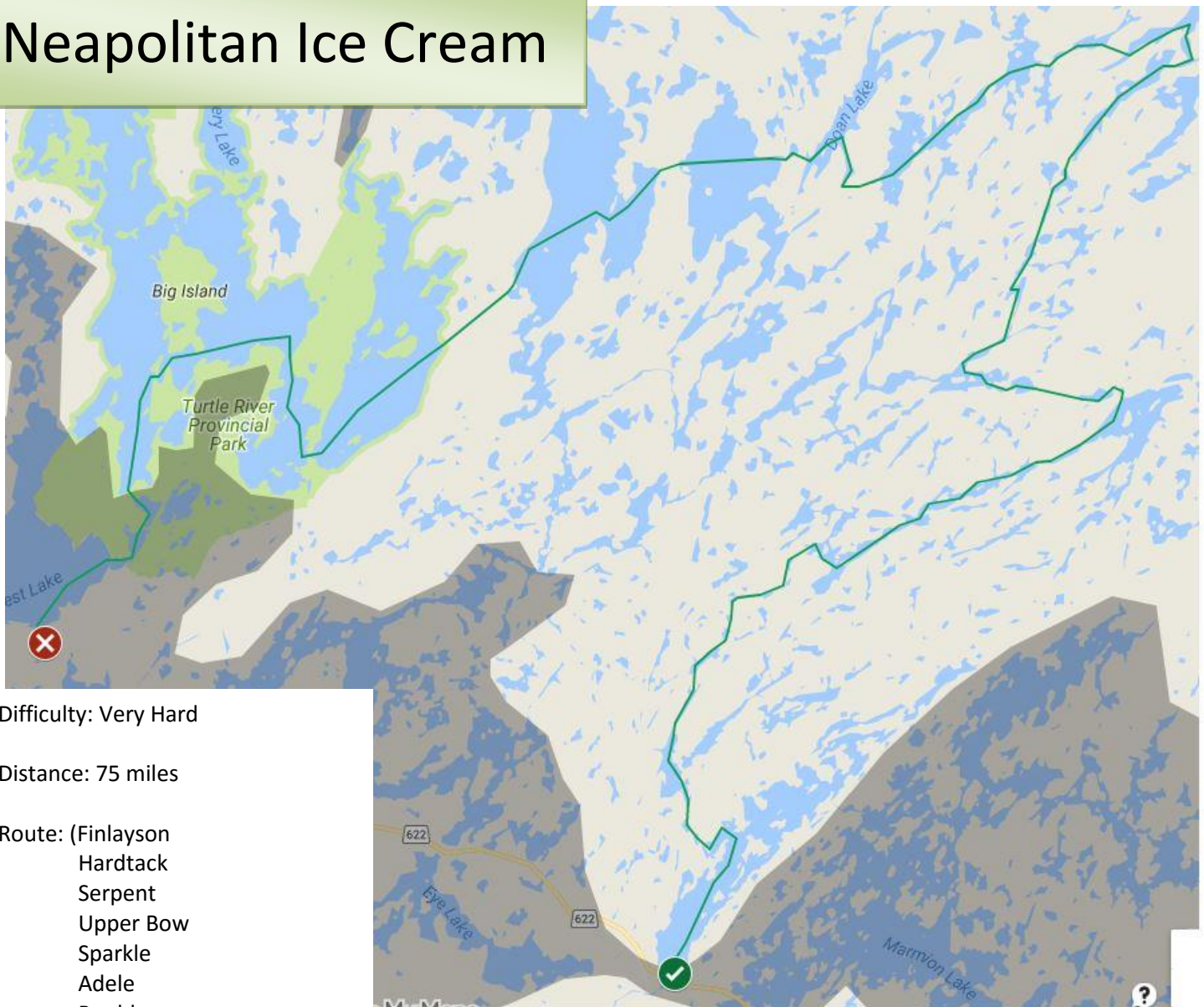
Route: (Dashwa
Wasp
Sandford
Mabel
Elsie
Nora
Patricia
Balmoral
Balmoral River
Dibble
Smirch
Turtle River)

Maps: Atikokan B/12
White Otter G/4
Ignace G/5
Pekagoning F/1



If the route Over or Under sounds good to you, but you want to spend more time on big lakes, then consider this route. Beginning in Dashwa, this route will carry you through the beautiful Sandford with excellent island campsites, through the lady lakes of Mabel, Elsie, Nora, and Patricia. Once through there, you match routes with Over or Under. Camp a night on Balmoral Lake before heading south down the Balmoral River. Lace up your boots tightly, as you'll be getting creative with your canoes and gear through some very difficult terrain. Prepare for bruised shins and tired bodies. If you make it through, you're in for a waterfall and some pictographs in addition to the solitude that these waters offer. Before you know it, you'll be back on trusted lakes and rivers and paddle your way past another waterfall, more pictographs, and a couple rapids. This route is tough on the Kevlar canoes. For this reason, aluminum canoes are required to avoid large damage fees.

Neapolitan Ice Cream



Difficulty: Very Hard

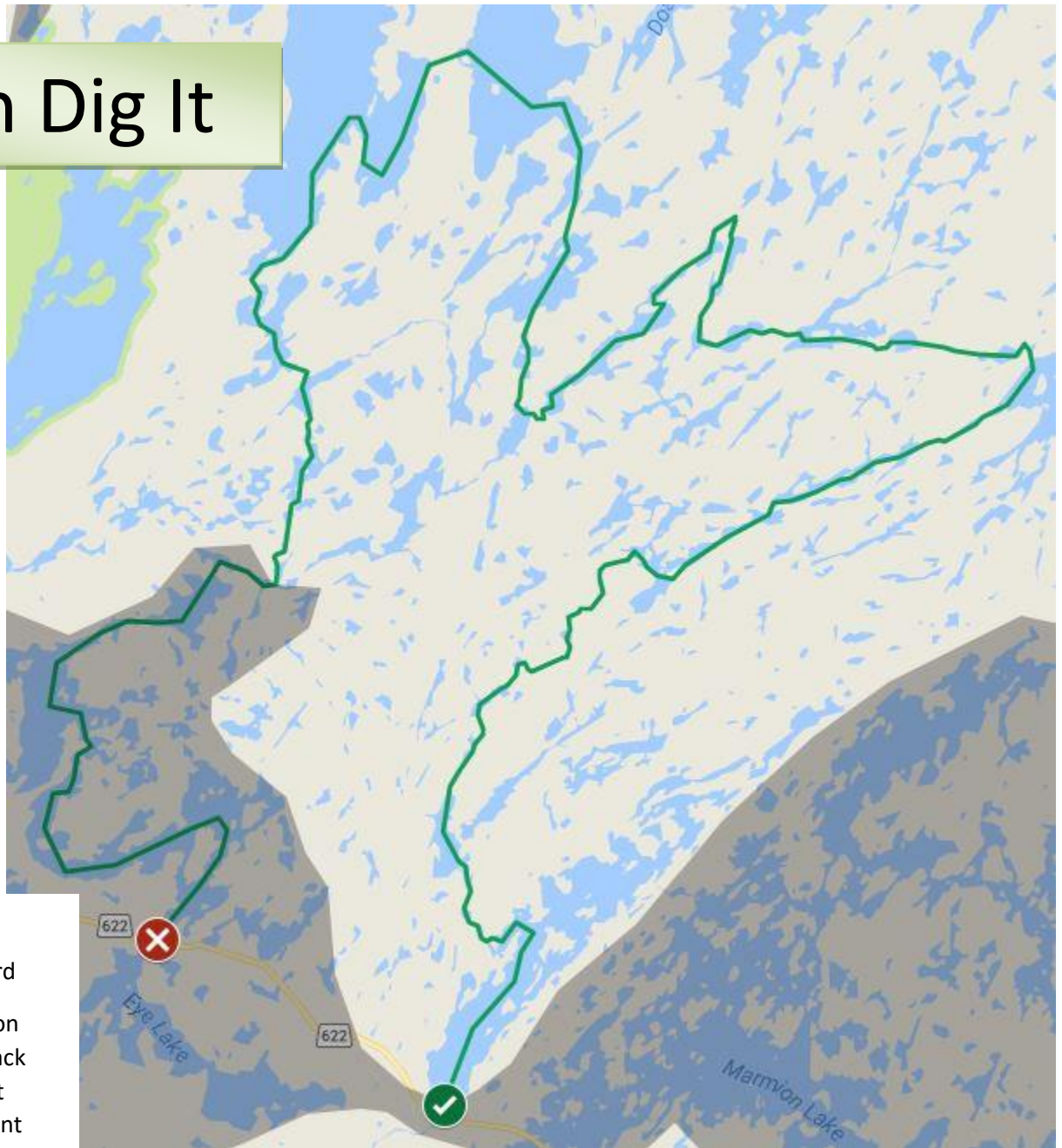
Distance: 75 miles

Route: (Finlayson
Hardtack
Serpent
Upper Bow
Sparkle
Adele
Boulder
Gamble
Doan
Irene
Sandford
White Otter
Clearwater)

Maps: Atikokan B/12
White Otter G/4
Gulliver G/3

Hungry for more? This route takes you across our three most famous portages: Red Paint, Fun & Games, and Ann Bay. Red Paint is a 2 km muck slog that can take anywhere from an hour and a half to four hours. Fun & Games involves some creative over-and-unders with your canoes and packs. Ann Bay hits a full 3 km, making it our longest portage. If these portages were the worst this route had to offer, then it wouldn't earn its difficulty rating. Before even making it to Red Paint, cross muddy, difficult terrain on fresh cut portages. Hack your way into Serpent through dense woods and across marshland. Only then will you hit Red Paint. After Red Paint, head north through remote unnamed lakes. Cross a kilometer long portage that offers its own trials and tribulations before hitting Fun & Games for more work. Only then will you take hike on Ann Bay Portage. At long last, you'll paddle your way in to Clearwater for your pick up.

I Can Dig It



Distance: 85 miles

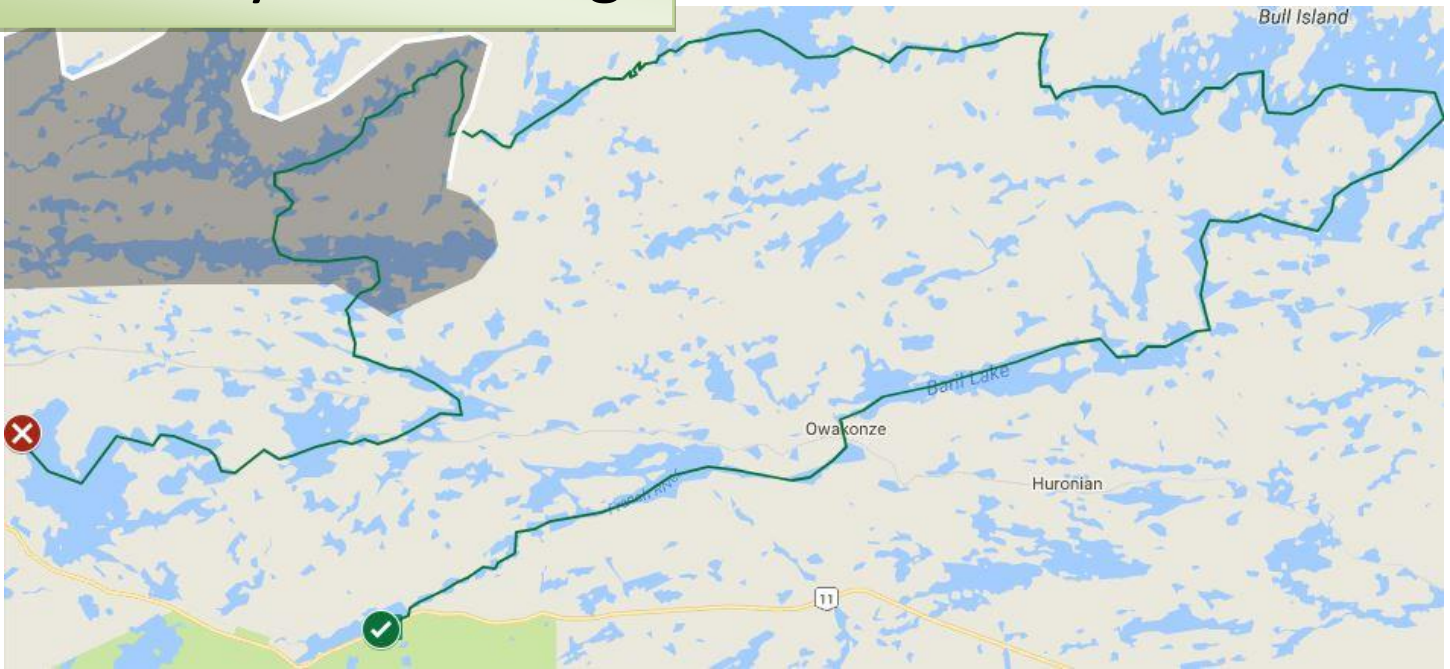
Difficulty: Very Hard

Itinerary: (Finlayson
Hard Tack
Serpent
Red Paint
Upper Bow
Lower Bow
Little Gull
Irene
Sandford
Wasp
Dashwa)

Maps: Atikokan B/12
White Otter G/4
Gulliver G/3

This is a dream trip for those looking to get into a more remote area. Begin going through an area with newly connected trails. Then head into Serpent, which is where things get tough. Expect to have to cut new trail through thick woods to bushwhack your way into the minimally used lake. Your next challenge is the Red Paint Portage which is just over 1-mile of muddy trail and takes a few hours for even the strongest. There are a few other tough portages that include some overgrowth and blow down. If you're crew is willing to work for solitude, then we cannot recommend this route enough. This route includes the opportunity to see pictographs on Wasp Lake, a small route change can let you travel the Gamble River, and then have a relatively easy final day to your pick up point.

Monkeys in the Fog



Difficulty: Very Hard

Distance: 80 miles

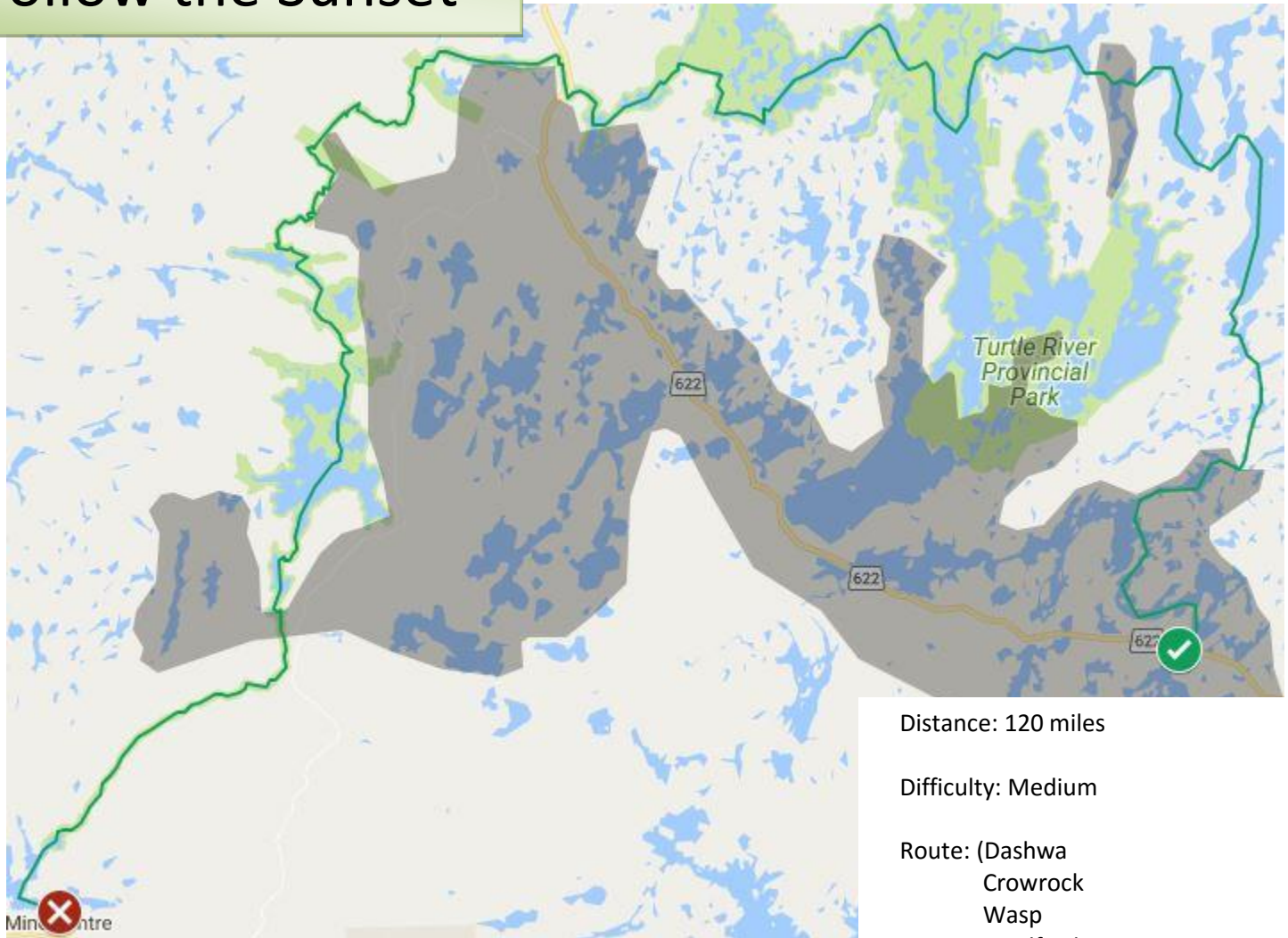
Route: (Windigoostigwan
French River
Baril
Lac des Mil Lacs
Grassy Lake
Bedivere
Union
Crooked Pine
Elbow
Nydia
Eva)

Maps: Pickerel B/10
Burchell B/10
Bedivere B/15
Sapawe B/14

If you want to sample the same sort of mystery the woods and waters offered the voyagers, this may be the route for you. No Northern Tier crew has ever gone through this area. Starting on the beautiful stretch of water from Windigoostigwan to Baril, relax and prepare yourself for what is to come. Next, cross the Baril Portage and pass into Lac des Mil Lacs, a navigation challenge. Between the wide waters and many islands, paddle your way to where an old portage or winter trail once existed. If the trail is no longer there, you'll have to choose between turning back and spending your trip exploring the massive lake that is Lac des Mil Lacs, or fighting thick forest to cut your own trail. If you make it through, you'll then have to hop beaver dams and possible downed trees to relax in Relief Lake. Tackle another stretch of difficult to pass river to earn your way into Bedivere. Follow the flow of the water into Mercutio and then Union to face the next challenge. Either paddle close to 15 miles through the Green Zone (lakes we can't camp on), with the possibility of bushwhacking trail, or cut your way south through a series of small lakes and ponds, guaranteeing bushwhacking, but at least knowing the way is shorter. Once you've made it through that, enjoy Elbow and Nydia, because your last challenge is a kilometer long mud slog into Eva. To top it all off, there may be no campsites along the way. You'll see sights no Northern Tier crew has ever seen, but you'll have to earn it. This route is tough on the Kevlar canoes. For this reason, aluminum canoes are required to avoid large damage fees.

**Long Trip Length Routes
(10-11 Night Trip)
(9-10 Days on Water)**

Follow the Sunset



Maps: White Otter G/4
Pekagoning F/1
Manion C/16
Mine Centre C/15

Distance: 120 miles

Difficulty: Medium

Route: (Dashwa
Crowrock
Wasp
Sandford
Mabel
Elsie
Nora
White Otter
Dibble
Kenoshay
Turtle River
Jones
Eltrut
Robinson
Turtle River
Little Turtle)

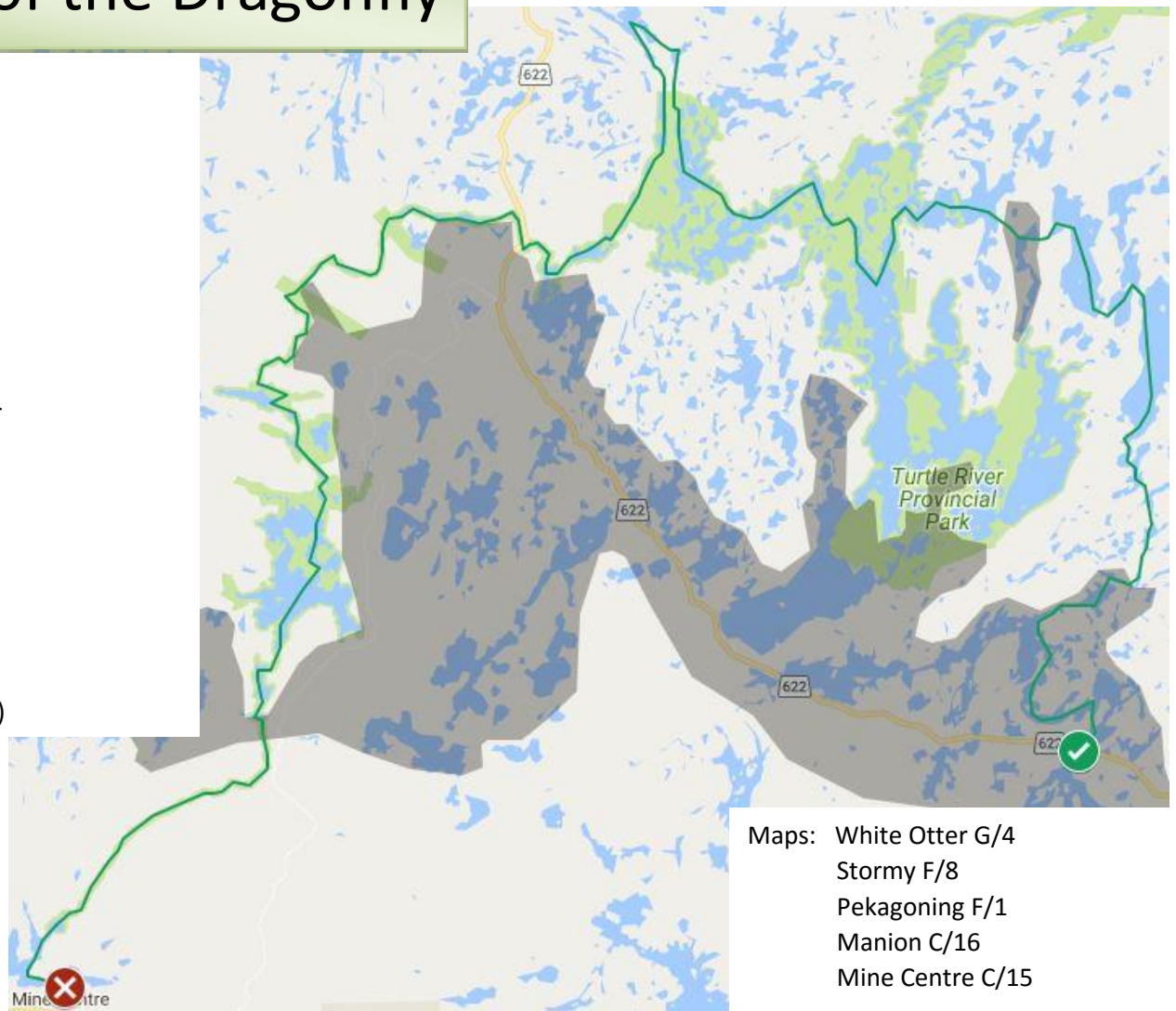
This route can really give you a taste of all we offer here. Start your trip paddling across big lakes, stay at an island campsite, enjoy the wide waters. Then visit the White Otter Castle, the remains of a WWII POW camp, and even swing past an old trapper's cabin. Head west on Dibble and visit a pictograph. Then cut through Kenoshay to do some bushwhacking and really test your meddle in what might be an easy addition, or could be a hard fight through thick brush. Then ride the Turtle River south all the way to Mine Centre. Enjoy the waterfalls, rapids, and the portages around them as well as the easy current that will give you a little bit of a boost. Portage to your pick up at Mine Centre.

Wings of the Dragonfly

Distance: 125 miles

Difficulty: Medium

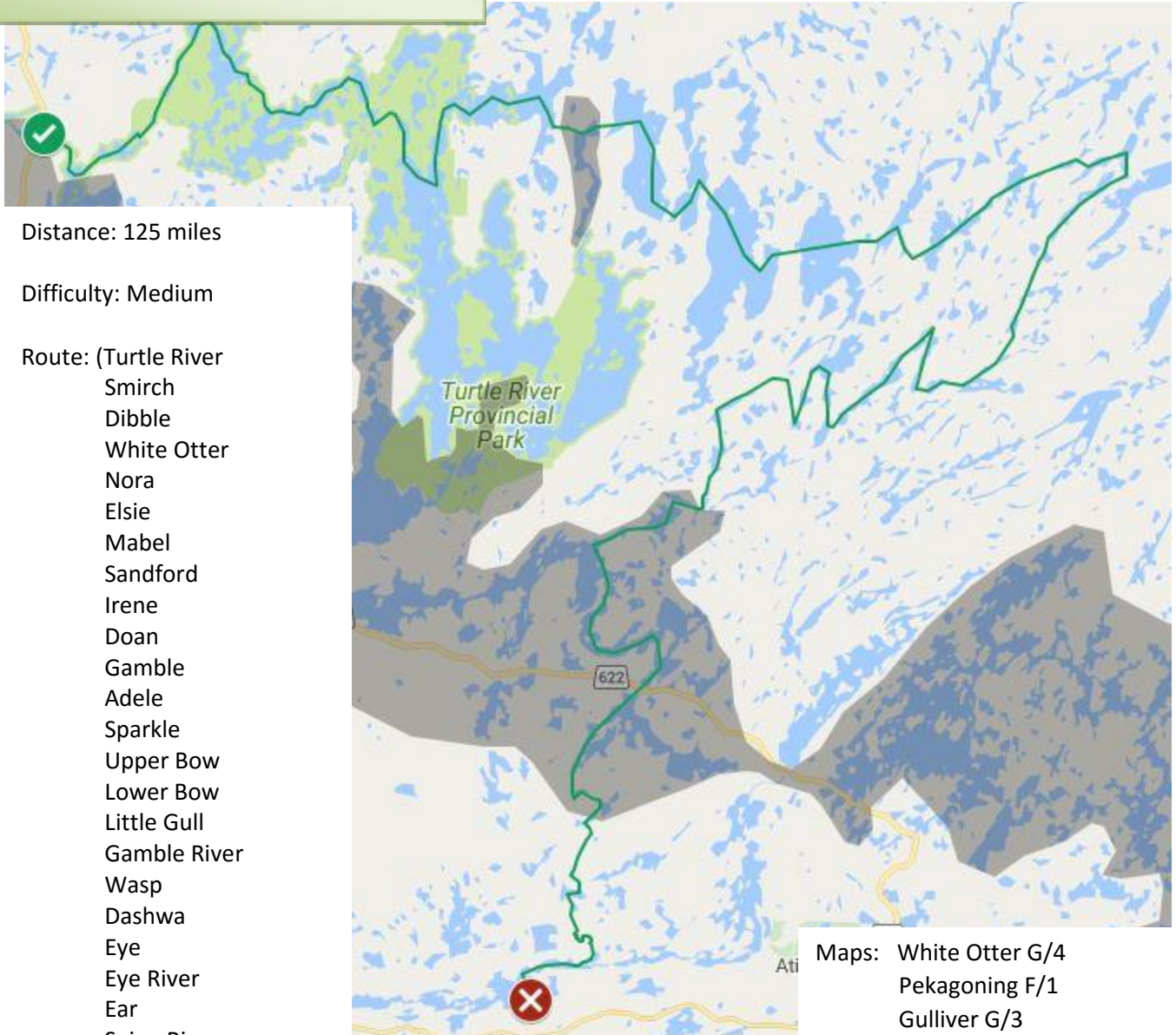
Routes: (Dashwa
Wasp
Sandford
Mabel
Elsie
Nora
White Otter
Dibble
Smirch
Bending
Turtle River
Johnson
Eltrut
Robinson
Turtle River
Little Turtle)



Maps: White Otter G/4
Stormy F/8
Pekagoning F/1
Manion C/16
Mine Centre C/15

Dip your canoes in Dashwa and begin your journey across our area of the Crownlands. Once you get out of the Green Zone, paddle north up through Sandford into Elsie and Mabel. Swing past the White Otter Castle, the remains of a WWII POW camp, and maybe even portage past an old trapper's cabin. Once on Dibble, your crew is now following the Turtle River system. Go as far north as Bending then begin your journey south. Ride the easy current south, but be careful! There are some rapids and waterfalls that lurk in these easy waters. They're beautiful to see, but remember to travel safely and avoid any white water. This route will take you over big lakes and peaceful river ways. You'll see the famous sights and still find some remote quietness along the way.

Yellow Brick Road



Distance: 125 miles

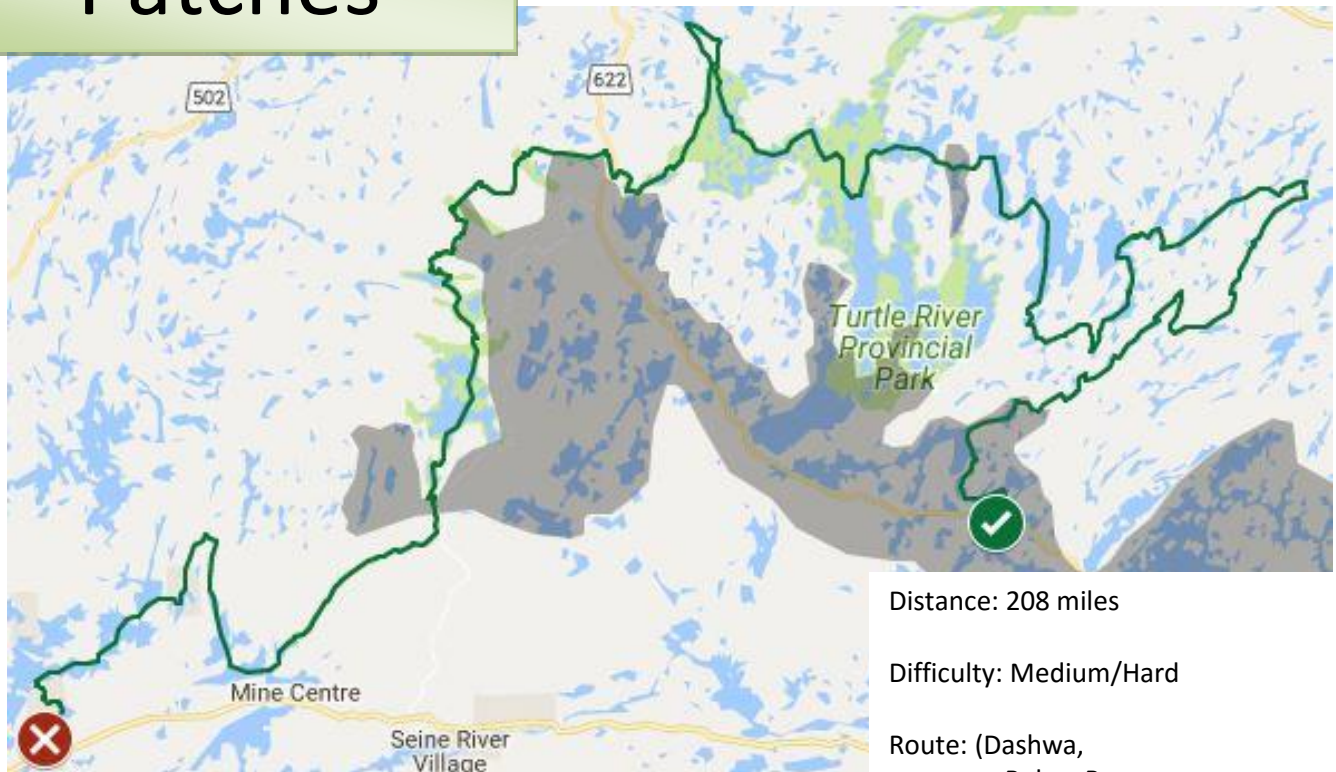
Difficulty: Medium

Route: (Turtle River
Smirch
Dibble
White Otter
Nora
Elsie
Mabel
Sandford
Irene
Doan
Gamble
Adele
Sparkle
Upper Bow
Lower Bow
Little Gull
Gamble River
Wasp
Dashwa
Eye
Eye River
Ear
Seine River
Perch
Atikokan Base)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Pekagoning F/1
Gulliver G/3
Atikokan B/12

This route starts with the shuttle sweeping you away to our farthest drop off point. Then you'll have to follow this route all the way home. Beginning on the Turtle River, you'll see a few waterfalls and rapids. Keep your eyes peeled for pictographs. Then head east. You can visit an old trapper's cabin, the White Otter Castle, and the remains of a WWII POW camp. Follow big lakes further east and be amazed with how your canoe can speed across the water on smooth days (or, if you're less lucky, how much wind can slow down even the strongest paddle strokes). Even further east you will go, into a more remote area. Expect to cross two 1 km portages, one of which earned the name "Fun and Games." At long last you can begin your journey south. Take the follow Upper Bow and Lower Bow to a couple mucky portages, then float down the Gamble River. Spend a long day's work passing through the Green Zone to the Eye River. Follow this river chain through a beautiful area to the Seine River. Float your way back to base. Crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.

Patches



Distance: 208 miles

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Route: (Dashwa,
Below Bow
Lower Bow
Upper Bow
Sparkle
Adele
Gamble
Doan
Irene
Gamble River
Little Gull
Wasp
Sanford
Mabel
Elsie
Nora
White Otter
Dibble
Smirch
Bending
Turtle River
Jones
Eltrut
Robinson
Turtle River
Little Turtle Lake
Otter Lake
Turtle River
Redgut Bay of Rainy Lake
Ottetail)

Maps: Atikokan B/12
Gulliver G/3
White Otter G/4
Stormy F/8
Pekagoning F/1
Manion C/16
Mine Centre C/15

Hungry for the 200 mile award? Then this route will make you earn it, tooth and nail. Paddle the remote waters east of the big lakes and conquer a series of unnamed lakes and a few very hard portages. Take the central lake system through some stunning big water and visit the White Otter Castle, the WWII POW camp, and a trapper's cabin. Spot pictographs, waterfalls, and rapids as your crew makes its way west and south. This route will give you days where you see no other person but your own crew mates, and days you can wave to people in motor boats as they go by. You'll be able to check off nearly every part of the Atikokan experience.

Meese



Distance: 105 miles

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Route: (Dashwa

Below Bow

Lower Bow

Upper Bow

Sparkle

Adele

Kathleen

Phyllis

Grummet Creek

Upper Doan

Doan

Irene

Sandford

Mabel

Elsie

Nora

Patricia

Dimple

Jac Saga

Dibble

Smirch

Turtle River)

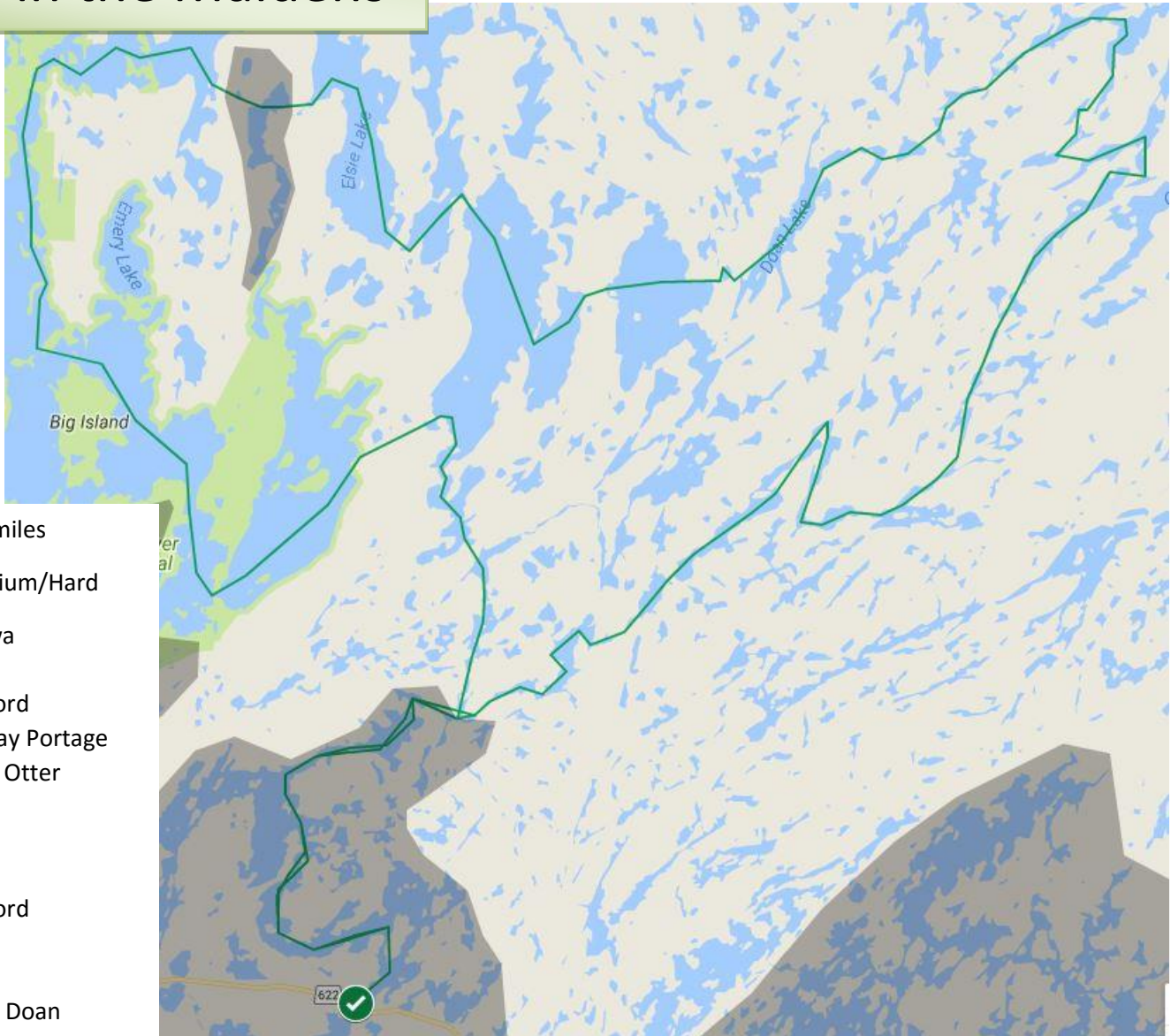
Maps: White Otter G/4

Gulliver G/3

Pekagoning F/1

Once your crew has paddled out of the Green Zone, you'll immediately find yourself in the quiet wilderness. The Bow Chain is known for wildlife spotting. From these lakes head north to meet the lady lakes. Adel, Kathleen, and Phyllis are known for being remote. In fact, there have been so few crews to see Kathleen and Phyllis that we can't guarantee there are portages or campsites, so be prepared for some tough trail making (or talk to your interpreter about alternative options to avoid this uncertainty). If you're really determined, you can even consider trying to visit Kay Lake. From there, begin your journey east. Swing through Irene, Mabel, Elsie, and Nora. Take the time to wade through some muck and visit Patricia. From there head through Dimple into Jac Saga and down the very small Jac Saga River. Paddle the Turtle River chain of lakes. See a pictograph or two as well as a couple waterfalls to portage around. Then finish your trip on the Turtle River itself.

Death in the Maidens



Distance: 120 miles

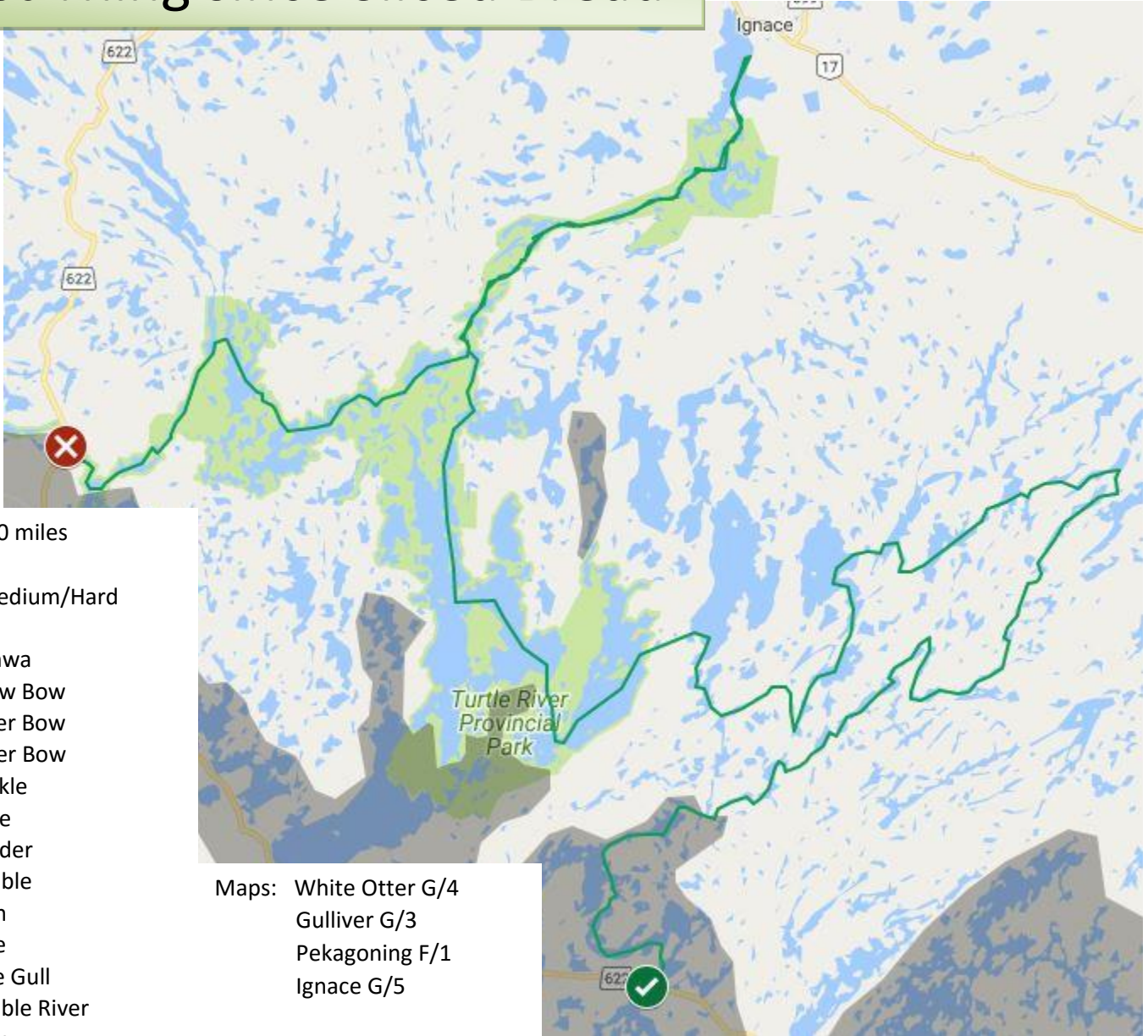
Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Route: (Dashwa
Wasp
Sandford
Ann Bay Portage
White Otter
Nora
Elsie
Mabel
Sandford
Irene
Doan
Upper Doan
Gamble
Grummet Creek
Phyllis
Kathleen
Adele
Sparkle
Upper Bow
Lower Bow
Below Bow
Dashwa)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Gulliver G/3

There is a reason this trip is named so close to being named “Iron Maidens”. It’s a tough route that goes through some remote area, but worth it if your crew is up for the challenge. This route will take you through almost all of the Lady Lakes which has some of the clearest waters in the Crown Lands. If you’re looking for a little extra mileage, you can route an addition through Patricia just north of Nora and into Dimple and Dibble. It also utilizes a tough trail called the Ann Bay Portage, which is 3 km long. Though there were once trails in the eastern lady lakes, expect to have to cut through thick forest to make some of your portages. Eventually you will be picked up at Dashwa where your trip began. This route includes some very large lakes so wind can play a factor in travel. Your Interpreter will have guidance in safely canoeing in this area.

Best Thing since Sliced Bread



Distance: 150 miles

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Route: (Dashwa

Below Bow

Lower Bow

Upper Bow

Sparkle

Adele

Boulder

Gamble

Doan

Irene

Little Gull

Gamble River

Wasp

Sandford

White Otter

Nora

Patricia

Balmoral

McNamara

Agimak

McNamara

Balmoral

Patricia

Dimple

Dibble

Smirch

Turtle River)

Maps: White Otter G/4

Gulliver G/3

Pekagoning F/1

Ignace G/5

This route is a fun one that will take you on all sorts of water ways and levels of remoteness. The first leg of the trip begins with a paddle out of the Green Zone and an immediate entry into a more remote area. Take the Bow Chain east and then head north through a series of unnamed lakes. Cross two 1 km portages, one of which has earned the name Fun & Games. Then begins the second leg of the journey. Once you hit Irene, ride the Gamble River south then west. Then cross the Ann Bay Portage. At 3km, this portage is one you'll spend a lot of time on, but it's extremely well maintained. Follow White Otter Lake north to visit the White Otter Castle and the remains of a WWII POW camp. Now you've reached the third leg of this trip – an Ignace adventure. Travel through some very unused trails and remote areas. Head north until you've reached the town of Ignace. Here you can pop in for some burgers and ice cream if you want to rest and re-fuel. Afterwards, you'll head south, right back into remote waterways. At long last, you'll hit the final leg of your journey. Follow Dibble, Smirch, and the Turtle River west. Enjoy the waterfalls, pictographs, and easy paddling of this area.

Bringing Home the Bacon

Distance: 110 miles

Difficulty: Medium/Hard

Route: (Finlayson
Hardtack
Highland
Little Gull
Gamble River
Wasp
Sandford
Elsie
Mabel
Nora
Patricia
Balmoral
McNamara
Agimak
McNamara
Balmoral
Patricia
Dimple
Dibble
White Otter
Clearwater)

Maps: Atikokan B/12
White Otter G/4
Ignace G/5



Go big or go home with this route. Start on uncertain territory. From the known waters of Finlayson, head north into Hardtack, going through an area that is full of portages with difficult and mucky terrain. Almost no Northern Tier crews have ever come through this area. Once you've made it past Highland, paddle a few streams into the Bow Chain. Then take a few more hard portages north into Little Gull. Now it's time to take a breather. Paddle large lakes further north, staying in beautiful campsites. Once your crew hits Patricia, expect things to get harder again. In exchange for tackling wet and mucky portages, you'll get to paddle remote areas all the way to Ignace. At Ignace, enjoy a brief taste of civilization and grab some burgers and ice cream in town. Then head south again through that same remote lake and portage system. Make your way into White Otter to see an old trapper's cabin, the White Otter Castle, and the remains of a WWII POW camp. Finish your trip on the wide waterways of White Otter and Clearwater.

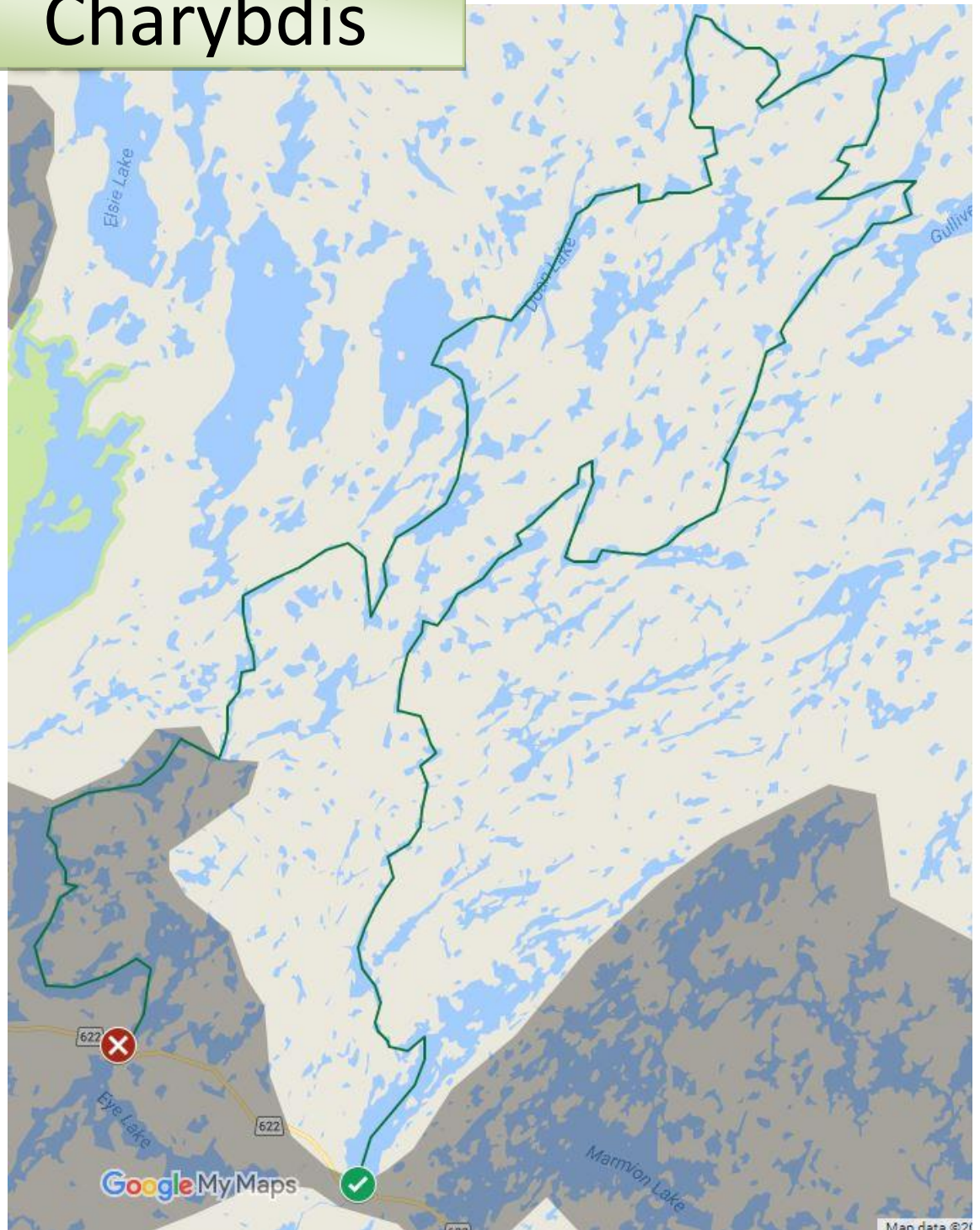
Charybdis

Difficulty: Hard

Distance: 90 miles

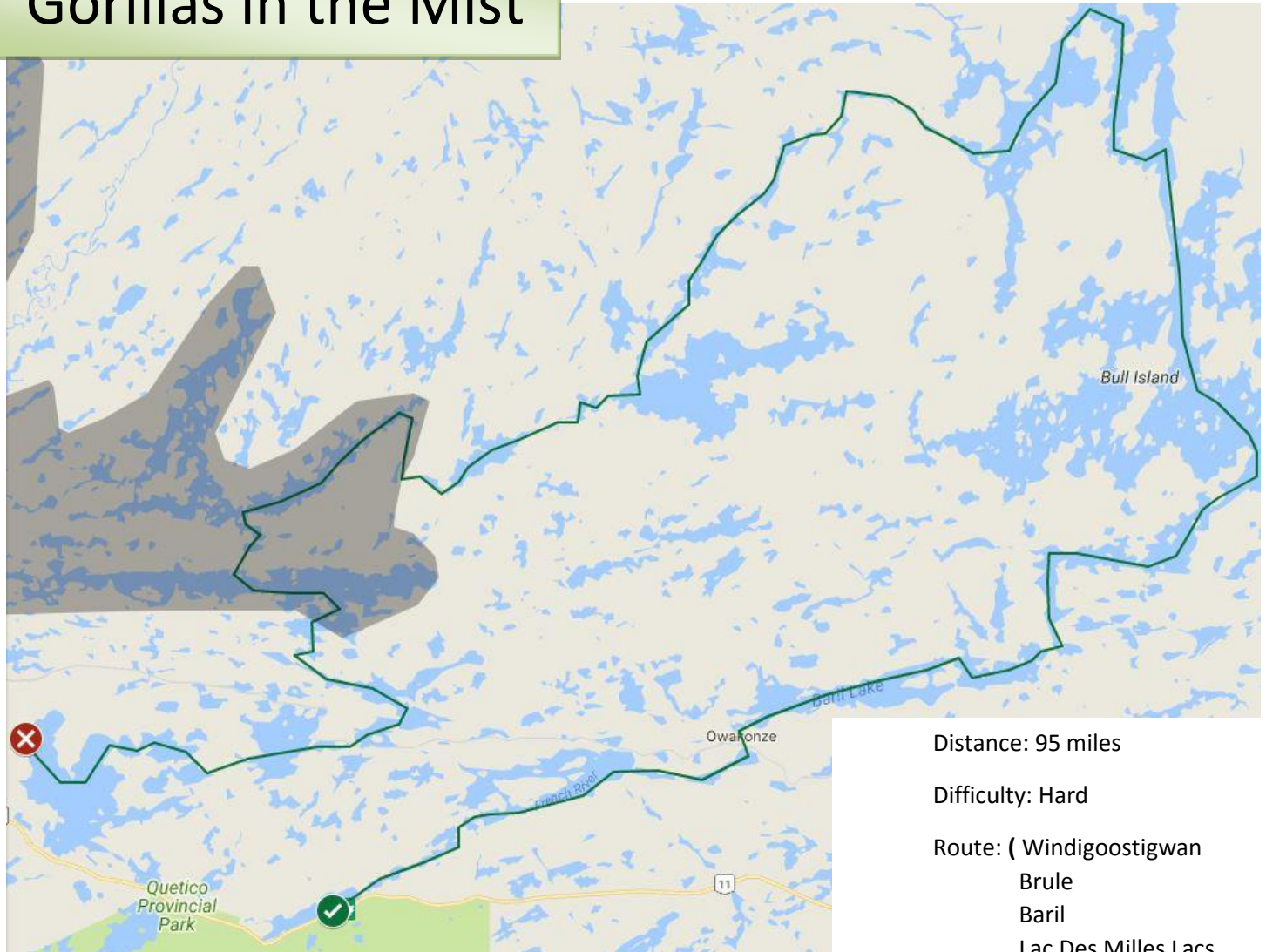
Routes: (Finlayson
Hardtack
Highland
Lower Bow
Upper Bow
Sparkle
Adele
Kathleen
Phyllis
Kay
Grummet Creek
Upper Doan
Doan
Irene
Gamble River
Wasp
Crowrock
Dashwa)

Maps: Atikokan B/12
Gulliver G/3
White Otter G/4



Begin in the well-loved waters of Finlayson before beginning your journey north. Cross portage trails that were newly used last year and cover some mucky and difficult terrain. Then make your own way into Highland and the Bow Chain – no Northern Tier crew has gone through this area yet, so prepare to do some creative canoe work and possible bushwhack some new trail through difficult topography. Once you make it through that, you're in an area known for moose sightings. Expect lakes to be lovely and portages to be unmaintained. Visit the first of a series of lakes known as the lady lakes, Adele. Then, turn your canoes further north. While there were once portage trails in this area, too many seasons have passed for us to know if they're still there. Check for these, but if you don't find any trails, it's time to cut your own portage trail through thick woods. Create your own campsites on the shores of remote lakes after hard travel. Then begin your travels south. Once you've made it to Irene, you can relax. Float the Gamble River to Wasp, then paddle Dashwa to your pick up.

Gorillas in the Mist



Maps: Pickerel B/10
Burchell B/10
Bedivere B/15
Sapawe B/14

Distance: 95 miles

Difficulty: Hard

Route: (Windigoostigwan
Brule
Baril
Lac Des Milles Lacs
Corner
North Arm Bedivere
Bedivere
Mercutio River
Union
Mercutio
Crooked Pine
Elbow
Nydia
Eva)

If your crew wants to go where no Northern Tier crew has ever gone, this could be the route for you. Start on the beautiful waters of Windigoostigwan and Baril. Then, take the Baril Portage onto Lac des Mil Lacs, the Lake of a Million Lakes. Navigate around island after island north. Now comes the hard part of your journey. Take small rivers that could be filled with downed trees and beaver dams or cut new trail through thick woods. Go from Corner to Bedivere. Take the Mercutio River to Union. Then, face the tough challenge of deciding to paddle around 15 miles through the Green Zone or bushwhack south directly into Crooked Pine. Once in Elbow and Nydia, enjoy the easy going, as your last challenge is a portage into Eva that turns from trail to mud slug the farther you go. To top it all off, from Baril to Elbow, expect to make all your own campsites. This route is not for the faint of heart, but it will be extremely rewarding. This route is tough on the Kevlar canoes. For this reason, aluminum canoes are required to avoid large damage fees.

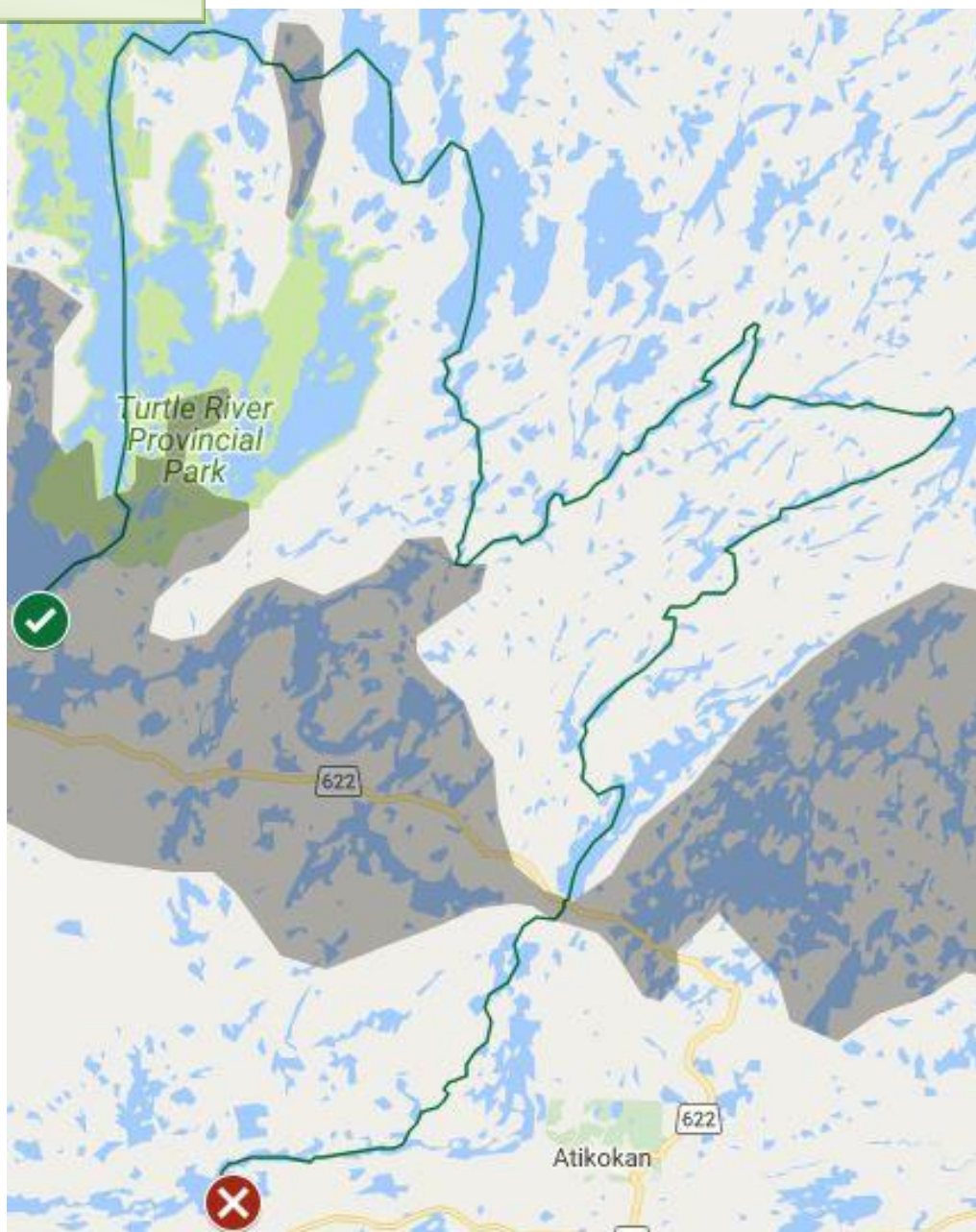
Gimme Some Salmon

Distance: 105 miles

Difficulty: Hard

Route: (Clearwater
White Otter
Nora
Elsie
Mabel
Sandford
Wasp
Lower Bow
Upper Bow
Red Paint
Serpent
Hard Tack
Finlayson
Seine River Diversion
Little Falls
Seine River Diversion
Seine River
Perch
Atikokan Base)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Atikokan B/12
Gulliver G/3



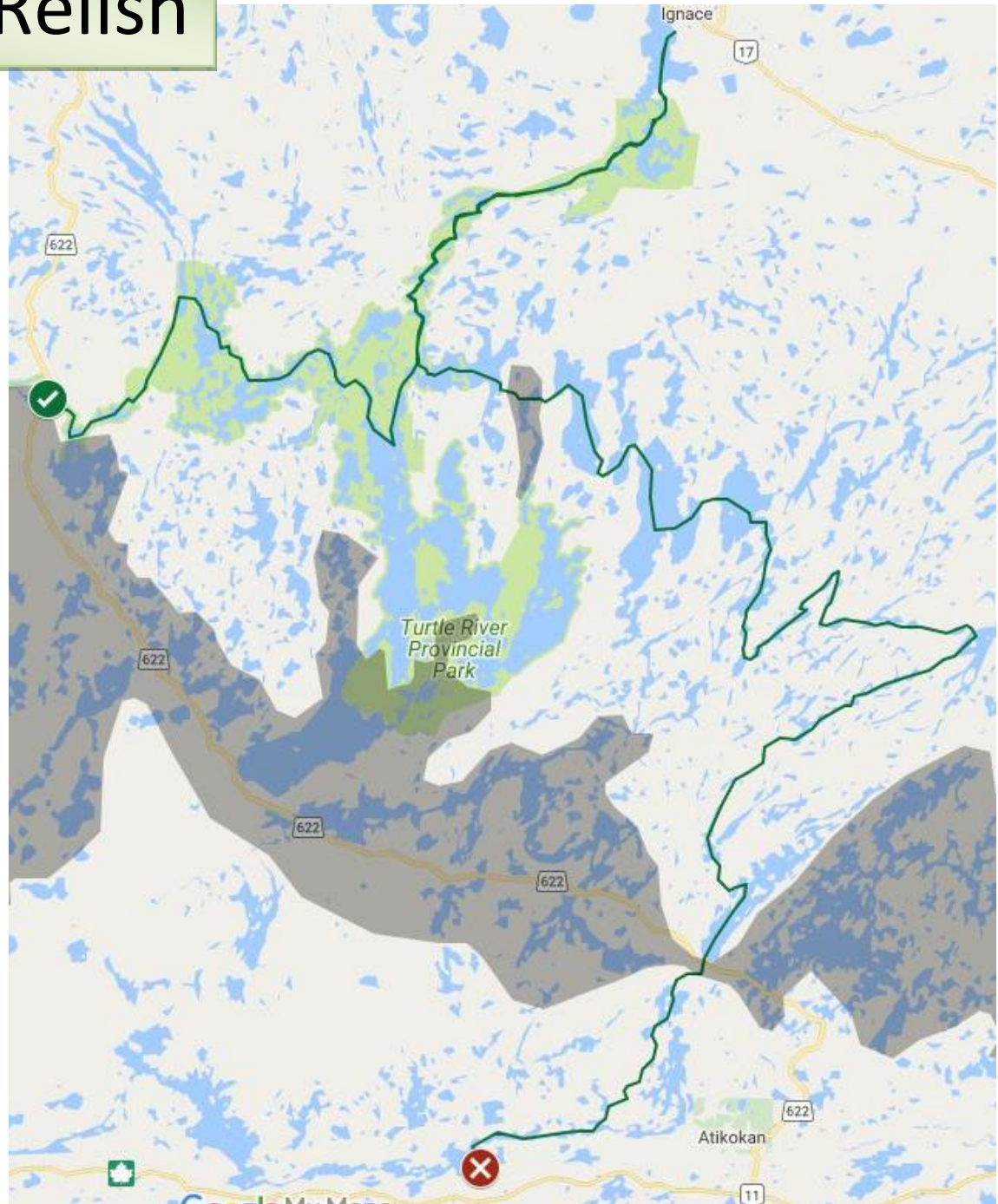
If you want to see everything on the map, you'll want to select this route. This route includes some very large lakes so wind can play a factor in travel. Your Interpreter will have guidance in safely canoeing in this area. Beginning on Clearwater, you'll travel through White Otter and then the Lady Lakes. Eventually, you'll end up at the Red Paint Portage which is just over 1-mile of muddy trail and takes a few hours for even the strongest. It's difficult, but finishing is truly a treat! After, you'll go down Serpent, and, depending on the year, break trail into Hard Tack, and then Finlayson until you get to the Seine River Diversion. While it is a river, be prepared to portage around the rapids as you make your way down the slow current. Eventually, this all leads to Perch Lake where you can have the unique opportunity to paddle into base. Crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.

Hellish Relish

Distance: 170 miles

Difficulty: Hard

Route: (Turtle River
Smirch
Dibble
Balmoral River
Balmoral
MacNamara
Agimak
Balmoral
Balmoral River
Dibble
White Otter
Nora
Elsie
Mabel
Sandford
Irene
Little Gull
Lower Bow
Upper Bow
Red Paint
Serpent
Finlayson
Seine River Diversion
Little Falls
Seine River Diversion
Seine River
Apungsisagen
Seine River
Perch
Atikokan Base)



Maps: Pekagoning
Ignace G/5
White Otter G/4
Gulliver G/3
Atikokan B/12

Bless your heart! If you select this one you may need it. It's certainly, not an easy route. This route begins with a two-hour drive to your drop-off point. Paddle yourself to Ignace. You can check out some of the quieter lakes in the area before attempting some very difficult and long portages. Then you will yo-yo back to check out some more regularly travelled lakes. The Lady Lakes will lead you into the Red Paint Portage. Then, you'll get to the Seine River which will include a portages around rapids and end with a paddle into base. Crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.

Hommes du Nord



Distance: 120 miles

Difficulty: Very Hard

Route: (Clearwater
White Otter
Nora
Patricia
Balmoral
Balmoral River
Dibble
Smirch
Bending
Turtle River
Johnson
Eltrut
Robinson
Turtle River
Little Turtle)

Maps: White Otter G/4
Ignace G/5
Stormy F/8
Pekagoning F/1
Manion C/16
Mine Centre C/15

When your crew puts in at Clearwater, North is the way to go. Up Clearwater, up White Otter, past White Otter Castle and the remains of a WWII POW camp, up Nora, up Patricia, up and over a series of hard, soggy portages where few people roam, up to Balmoral. Then turn east and take on the challenge that makes this route Very Hard: the Balmoral River. Go over, go under, get out of the canoe, get back in, and most importantly, careful of your ankles. The Balmoral River takes only the best on its waters, but if you make it, you'll have the pleasure of remote wilderness, a waterfall very few ever see, and the chance to make your own campsite. Cross Dibble then head north again. Keep out an eye for pictographs and paddle carefully – there's whitewater to portage around. Take your crew north to Bending before beginning the southern branch of the Turtle River. Follow the gentle current down a stunning river. Take a variety of short and long portages around rapids and waterfalls. Finish your trip on Little Turtle Lake near Mine Centre.

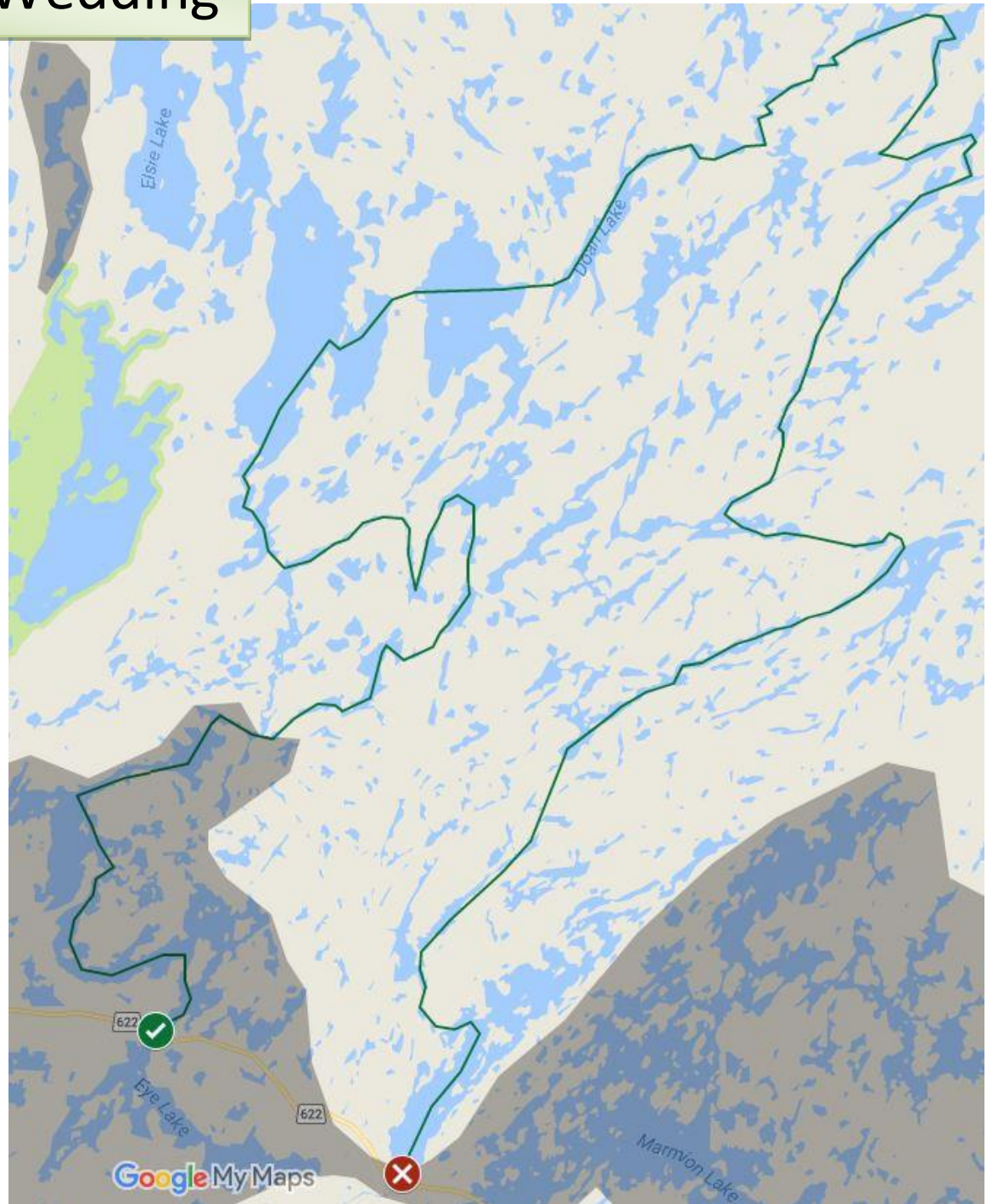
The Red Wedding

Distance: 105 miles

Difficulty: Very Hard

Route: (Dashwa
Crowrock
Below Bow
Little Gull
Gamble River
Wasp
Sandford
Irene
Doan
Upper Doan
Grummet
Creek
Phyllis
Kathleen
Adele
Sparkle
Upper Bow
Knute
Red Paint
Serpent
Hard Tack
Finlayson)

Maps: Atikokan B/12
Gulliver G/3
White Otter G/4



You begin by paddling up two lakes, Dashwa and Wasp, eventually getting to a low current river and into your first loop. When you finish this loop, you will be back where you started where you will begin the next leg of your journey. You'll go up some larger lakes including Sandford and the "Lady Lakes". This route includes some very large lakes so wind can play a factor in travel. Your Interpreter will have guidance in safely canoeing in this area. Included in this route is the Red Paint Portage which is just over 1-mile of muddy trail and takes a few hours for even the strongest. It's difficult, but finishing is truly a treat. You'll wind down your trip and be picked up at Finlayson.

Recommended Fishing Routes

Big Lake Fishin'



Distance: 30 – 45 miles

Maps: White Otter G/4

Difficulty: Easy

Route: (Clearwater
White Otter
Clearwater)

This is a recommended route for Fishing Expeditions. Miles can be added by paddling all over White Otter. The route includes 4 portages round-trip. Both trails are very easy and well-marked. This is the least strenuous route we have which gives ample amount of time for fishing. You can see pictographs, the remains of a World War II POW camp, and White Otter Castle. There are lots of areas to go fishing, plenty of campsites, and lots of fun. Motor boats can access White Otter Lake, but they generally are just out for some good fishing too, and are rarely a nuisance.

Kibbles and Bits

Distance: 20 – 30 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Route: (Eye
Eye River
Ear
Eye River
Seine River
Perch
Atikokan Base)

Maps: Atikokan B/12



This is a recommended route for Fishing Expeditions. More miles can be added by doing day trips up and down the Seine River or exploring Perch Lake. This trip provides a route down the Eye river, a place some say is the best area in the entire Atikokan area Crownlands. It is a beautiful river system with a couple of lakes on the way. The first portage you will cross goes around a set of swifts and rapids look less intimidating than are under the surface. The moving water allows for some great fishing. Along the way, there will be a waterfall or two. The best part is that it allows your crew to fish all the way back to base on the final day. Just remember, crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.

Proud Mary Keep on Rolling

Distance: 15 – 20 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Route: (Finlayson
Seine River Diversion
Little Falls
Seine River Diversion
Seine River
Perch
Atikokan Base)

Maps: Atikokan B/12



This is a recommended route for Fishing Expeditions. If you want to go rollin, rollin, rollin on the river, this is a good route. You will start on Finlayson, which is a lake which has a fair amount of fishing traffic from the locals. Spend your first few days there, the once you get tired of the open water, you will head down the river diversion. There are a few instances of white water and even a dam along the route. Your Interpreter will teach you how to portage around it safely to avoid damage to your gear, canoes, and yourselves. This route provides your crew with lake and river fishing. Your group can add on miles during the trip by going east up the river and fishing/camping on Apungsisagen (near town and popular with locals), or heading west through or on Perch for some extra water time. This route allows you to end your trip by paddling into base on your final day. Just remember, crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.

Chrysemys Picta

Difficulty: Medium

Distance: 51 miles

Route: (Turtle River
Johnson Lake
Turtle River
Eltrut Lake
Turtle River
Robinson Lake
Turtle River
Little Turtle Lake)

Maps: Pekagoning F/1
Manion C/16
Mine Centre C/15



This is a route for river lovers that want a mental challenge as well as a physical. With the current behind you, paddling is a little bit speedier, but your crew should be ready to listen to the advice of your interpreter as river navigation means planning ahead, being on the correct side of the river when approaching portages, and being willing to get out of the canoe when the going gets rough. Expect a few long portages and quite a few short ones. The rewards of this route are worth any challenge. With waterfalls and rapids moving the Turtle River through remote and beautiful woods, this route is a treat. Be prepared to carry your gear to the pick-up point, as our vans cannot drive directly to the water.

Recommended Kayak Routes

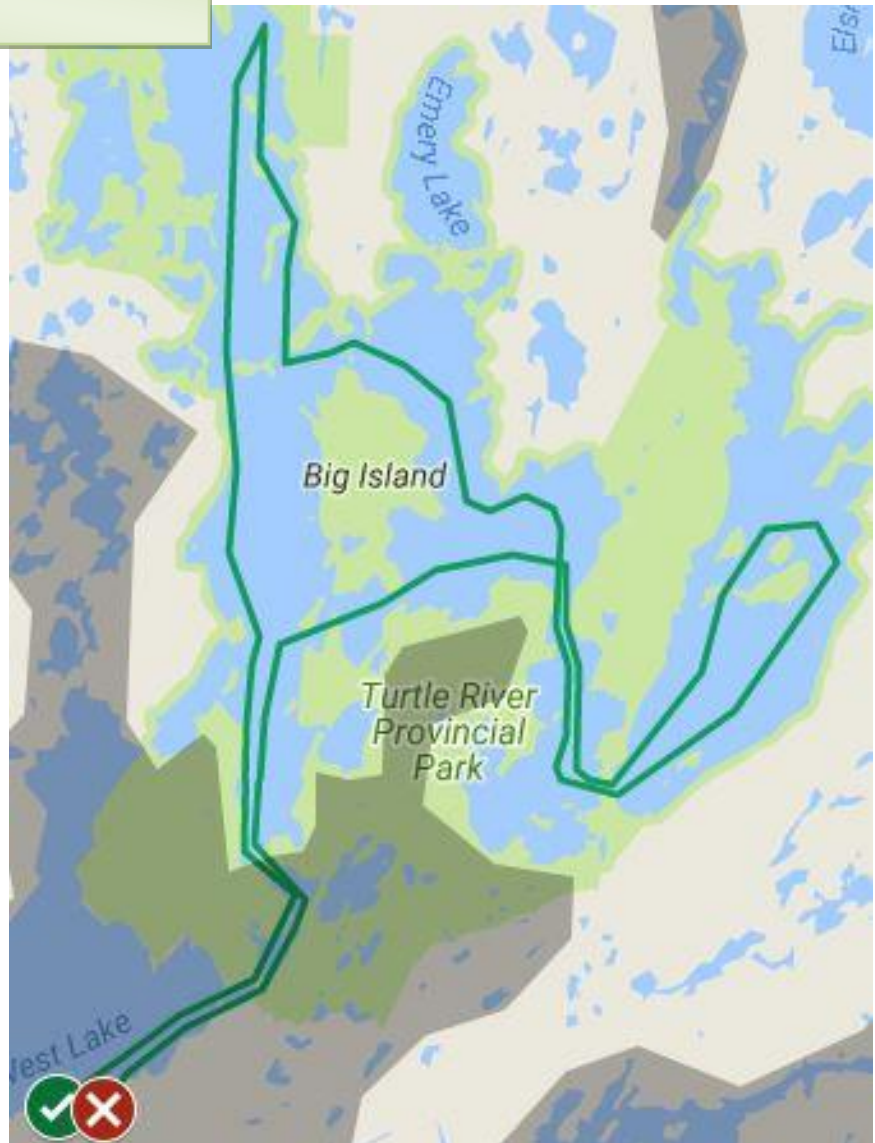
White Otter Wonder

Distance: 45 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Route: (Clearwater
White Otter
Clearwater)

Maps: White Otter G/4



This is a recommended route for Fishing Expeditions. Miles can be added by paddling all over White Otter. The route includes 4 portages round-trip. Both trails are very easy and well-marked. This is the least strenuous route we have which gives ample amount of time for fishing. You can see pictographs, the remains of a World War II POW camp, and White Otter Castle. There are lots of areas to go fishing, plenty of campsites, and lots of fun. Motor boats can access White Otter Lake, but they generally are just out for some good fishing too, and are rarely a nuisance.

Rolling on the River

Distance: 15 – 20 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Route: (Seine River Diversion
Little Falls
Seine River Diversion
Seine River
Perch
Atikokan Base)

Maps: Atikokan B/12



With a drop directly on the Seine River Diversion, you'll be on your way in no time. There is only one portage on this route. Otherwise, enjoy floating down the Seiner River Diversion into the Seine River. Relax and enjoy these waterways. This route allows you to end your trip by paddling into base on your final day. Just remember, crews are not allowed to arrive in base before 1pm as the Atikokan base staff are attending to the crews going on water in the morning. Plan to picnic somewhere on your last day.

A Little in Seine



Distance: 53 miles

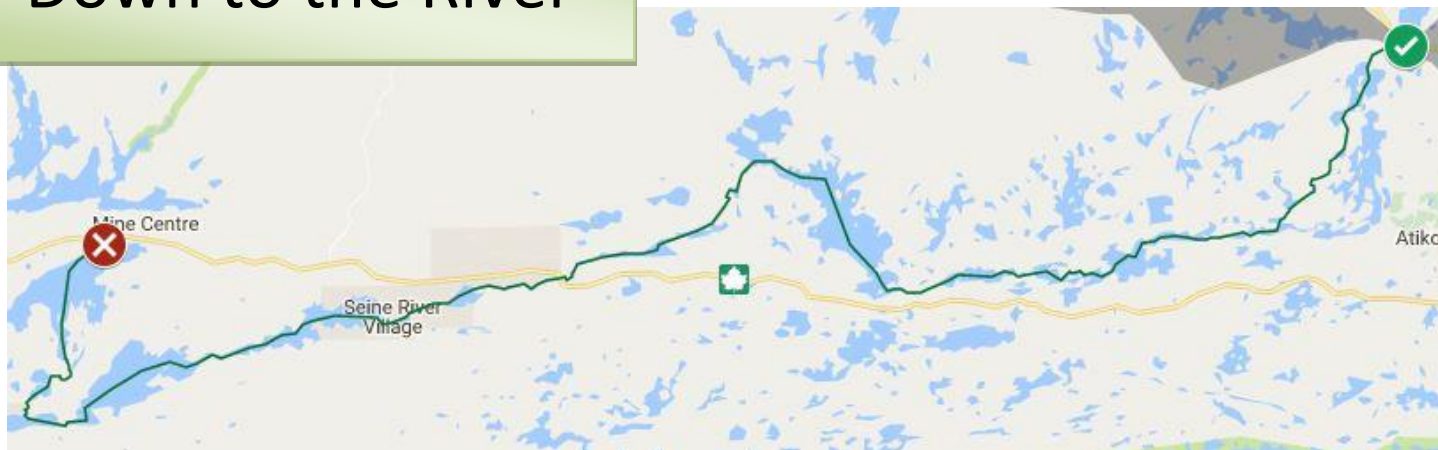
Difficulty: Medium

Route: (Perch
Seine River
Banning
Seine River
Calm
Seine River
Wild Potato Lake
Seine River
Shoal
Seine River
Dumbbell Lake
Bad Vermillion)

Maps: Manion C/16
Pipe C/9
Seine Bay C/10

This route is something a little special – it's the only route that starts at our base. It's definitely no remote, but this route does offer a fascinating window into how people use the water ways they live on. Follow the Seine River chain past a few hydro-electric dams and see the beauty they offer. Paddle through some First Nations territories to see the people who have lived here since before Canada existed. Wave a greeting at the people motor boating by on their way to fish these waters. Swing past the remains of Old Mine Centre then paddle upstream to Bad Vermillion, keeping an eye out for an abandoned logging station. You'll be able to earn the conservation part of your 50 miler patch no problem if you clean up the shores and islands as you go. This route does cross 4 maps, so plan ahead as needed.

Down to the River



Distance: 70 miles

Difficulty: Medium

Route: (Seine River Diversion

Little Falls
Seine River
Banning
Seine River
Calm
Seine River
Wild Potato Lake
Seine River
Shoal
Seine River
Dumbbell Lake
Bad Vermillion)

Maps: Atikokan B/12
Manion C/16
Pipe C/9
Seine Bay C/10

Ride the Seine River from its diversion just south of Finlayson until just east of Rainy Lake. This route is not considered remote, but it does offer a fascinating window into how people use the water ways they live on. Portage past a few hydro-electric dams and see the beauty they offer. Paddle through some First Nations territories to see the people who have lived here since before Canada existed. Wave a greeting at the people motor boating by on their way to fish these waters. Swing past the remains of Old Mine Centre then paddle upstream to Bad Vermillion, keeping an eye out for an abandoned logging station. You'll be able to earn the conservation part of your 50 miler patch no problem if you clean up the shores and islands as you go.