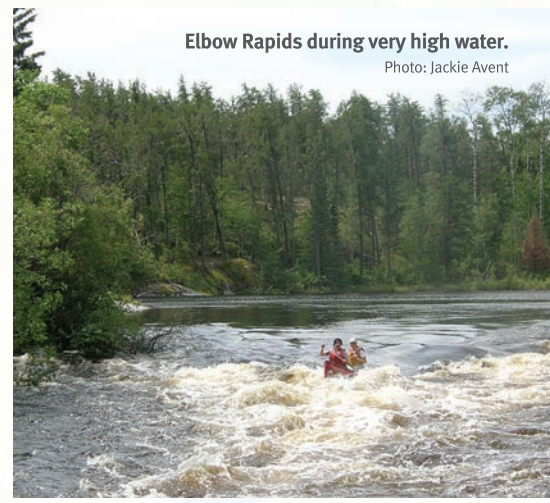
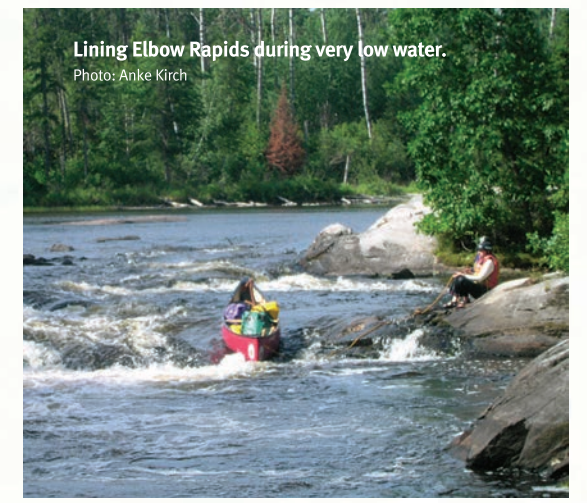
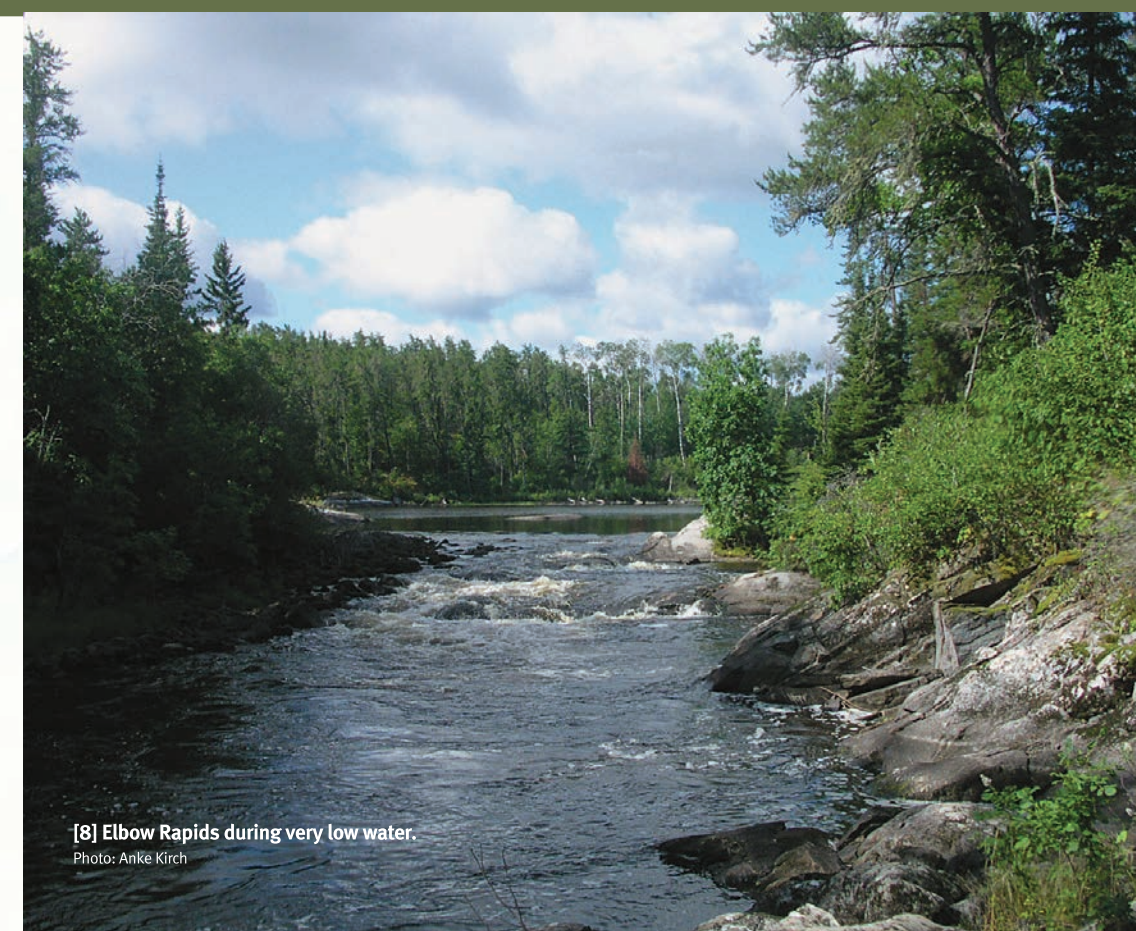




# Manigotagan River Canoe Map

- RIVER HISTORY
- ACCESS POINTS
- OFFICIAL CAMPSITES
- RAPIDS AND PORTAGES
- CANOE-CAMPING TIPS



## Route Overview

On this map we describe the part of the Manigotagan River that is the most frequently paddled, the 102 kilometres between Highway #314 and the community of Manigotagan at the mouth of Lake Winnipeg. This route to intermediate canoe route takes between 5 and 7 days, although there are access points further downstream should you wish to shorten your trip (for more information regarding access points, see below). There are about 35 beautiful waterfalls and rapids, which range from Class I to Class IV depending on the water level. The longest portage is close to 450 metres, while the shortest is less than 20 metres. Note that four rapids do not have portage trails and must be run.

## Canoe Route Access

- Highway Access - Culverts on Highway #314 near Long Lake**  
The culvert on Highway #314 near Long Lake is one of the main starting points for the Manigotagan River Canoe Route.  
Canoe Trip Distance: 102 km  
Canoe Trip Length: 5 - 7 days  
Number of Portages: Up to 3, depending on water levels and paddling ability (plus 4 rapids without a portage option).
- Long Lake Access - Windsock Lodge**  
By starting at Long Lake, you cut out the first three (Class I) rapids.  
Canoe Trip Distance: 96 km  
Canoe Trip Length: 4 - 6 days  
Number of Portages: Up to 28, depending on water levels and paddling ability (plus 4 rapids without a portage option).
- Quenesel Lake Access - Jackson's Lodge at Caribou Landing**  
Most people canoe the Manigotagan River as a long weekend trip starting at Quenesel Lake.  
Canoe Trip Distance: 70 km  
Canoe Trip Length: 3 - 4 days  
Number of Portages: Up to 28, depending on water levels and paddling ability (plus 4 rapids without a portage option).

## Main End Points

- There are two main take-outs: upstream from the waterfall at Highway #304, or the public dock by the Administrative Offices further downstream in the community of Manigotagan.
- Highway #304 Take-Out - [32] Wood Falls**  
River right, there is a path through the cattails and you will need to carry canoes and gear a few metres to the highway. If you would like to continue, cross the highway and stay as far left as possible and follow the path to the put-in on the other side of the waterfall.
  - Manigotagan Public Dock**  
River right; a boat launch is available, so you will be able to drive right down to the water with your vehicle.

## The People

The Manigotagan River has been used for transportation and as a resource for thousands of years. Today, the river's closest ties are with the people living in the community of Manigotagan. The river flows through their community before it drains into Lake Winnipeg and is used as a drinking water source (which is why we ask paddlers to be extremely careful not to contaminate the water). The community also maintains a trap line along the river, which is used to educate youth about traditional lifestyles. The community of Manigotagan is very welcoming to paddlers and offers various services. Other nearby communities are Hollow Water First Nation (just north of Highway #304), as well as the communities of Seymourville and Aghaming, the cottage developments of Pelican Harbour, Ayres Bay, Blueberry Point and Drifwood Beach, and the Mantago Bay Trailer Park.

## History of the River

The Manigotagan River is now a popular river for whitewater canoeing, but has long been used for transportation. The Aboriginal population of the area dates back at least 6,000 years. The Wanipigow Lake Archaeological Site, which is located north of the community of Manigotagan, contains a wealth of information about past Aboriginal ways of life, making it one of the most significant sites in Manitoba (4). After the arrival of the first Europeans in the 17th century, the river became a main transportation route for fur traders and timber loggers. In the beginning of the 20th century the river's importance as a transportation route grew even further, with the "East Manitoba Gold Rush" and the development of several gold mines in the Long Lake and Rice Lake area close to Bissett. You will find various cultural and historic artifacts along the river. Archeological sites are a non-renewable resource - please treat them with respect and do not move any pieces. The most famous artifact is probably the "Alligator," but you will find smaller items, such as steel rings bolted into the bedrock at various rapids. These were used to hold the timber in place during the winter before sending it downstream in the spring. Check the interactive version of the map on our website for other historic sites. [www.mbcanoeing.org/canoemap](http://www.mbcanoeing.org/canoemap)

In 2006, part of the Manigotagan River downstream from Nopiming Provincial Park was protected from logging through the establishment of Manigotagan River Provincial Park.

**Note: You may find petroforms and pictographs along the river. These are sacred sites that must be treated with respect.**



### Manitoba Eco-Network

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*An Environmental Resource for All Manitobans*

**Disclaimer**  
This map is to be used for general information only. It is not a topographical or navigational map. Because of the changing nature of the backcountry, this map should be referred to only in conjunction with topographical and/or navigational maps, up-to-date aerial photographs, field markers, and other available data. Please consult with local Natural Resource Officers for up-to-date information.  
Also note that the naming of whitewater along the Manigotagan River is inconsistent and varies by author (see section "Whitewater Naming Mix-Up"). This is due to the river's long and diverse history. We include a table with the names we have found in various publications and through consultations. Since some names are used for both rapids and waterfalls, the naming mix-up can lead to very dangerous situations.  
Always scout rapids before running them - conditions vary and you may not be where you think you are.

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**THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION**



## Environmental Issues

The Manigotagan River drains an area of approximately 450,000 acres (182,000 hectares or 1,820 km<sup>2</sup>) on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. The river originates in Ontario's Woodland Caribou Park and flows through boreal forest, the characteristic vegetation of the Canadian Shield. Environmental threats to this beautiful area include logging, mining, forest fires and recreational users. Paddlers pose a hazard because they may inadvertently contaminate the water (which is used as a drinking water source) by the community of Manigotagan, cause forest fires, leave garbage behind, disturb the wildlife, and trample or otherwise destroy the vegetation. Throughout our website and maps we give tips on how to enjoy the river without posing a hazard to this beautiful area. Please be respectful and protect the river and its ecosystems!

## Drinking Water Safety

**It may look clean, but you should not use river or lake water without treating it.**  
All surface water may contain Salmonella, Norwalk Virus, Giardia and Cryptosporidium (4). These pathogenic organisms originate from various sources, such as human and wildlife waste and can make you sick (4). ALWAYS treat your water (with a filter, chemical treatment or by boiling) before drinking it. You will need the necessary containers to carry at least two litres of water per person.



## Garbage Disposal

After your trip you may dispose of your garbage in the local landfill. To get to the landfill from the community of Manigotagan, drive to Highway #304 and turn North. Then turn left towards Hollow Water First Nation. The landfill is on your left side, just before the radio tower (which will be on your right). Please do not leave garbage anywhere else in the area including the campground. The disposal of household garbage is free and locals and fellow paddlers will appreciate your effort.

## Canoeing Skills

When planning your trip on the Manigotagan River, be aware that this river requires experience with whitewater canoeing. If you do not have much experience in wilderness camping and whitewater canoeing, please consider going with a guide. Charles Simard with C&M Shuttle Service (204) 367-7355, helped with this project and is a local guide. Northern Soul Wilderness Adventures provided guiding services for our trips on the Manigotagan River, and in-kind support of this project. Also see our website [www.mbcanoeing.org/canoemap](http://www.mbcanoeing.org/canoemap) or contact Paddle Manitoba [www.paddle.mb.ca](http://www.paddle.mb.ca). A good general resource is Paddle Canada [www.paddlingcanada.com](http://www.paddlingcanada.com).

## Topographic Maps

You will need the following topographic map sheets before setting out on your trip: Game Lake 521/14; Manigotagan Lakes 521/13; Bissett 521/14; and English Brook. 62P/1. (This map is for orientation only and should be used along with topographic map sheets.)

## Other Reference Materials

- Bérard, Réal. 1979. The Bird-Manigotagan Waterways Map. Manitoba Department of Natural Resources, Parks Branch.
- Buchanan, John. 1997. Canoeing Manitoba Rivers. Vol. 1 South. Rocky Mountain Books, Calgary, Alberta. ISBN 0-92102-55-0V.1
- Wilson, Nap and Stephanie Aykroyd. 1998. Wilderness Rivers of Manitoba. Journey by Canoe through the Land where the Spirit Lives. Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association, Merrickville, Ontario. ISBN 1-895465-26-5

## Satellite Phones

Be aware that the Manigotagan River is beyond cell phone range. Satellite phones can be rented in Winnipeg. Check out: [www.mbcanoeing.org/canoemap/gear.htm](http://www.mbcanoeing.org/canoemap/gear.htm)

## Local Services

**Grocery Stores**  
Seymourville opened a resort-style grocery store in 2007. It is called Lakeview Consumer Co-op and offers a variety of services.



## Parking

Do not leave your vehicle on Highway #304 as the area is not patrolled by the community of Manigotagan and cars left there have been vandalized in the past. There are two options:  
C&M Shuttle Service - Charles & Marilyn Simard (Ph: 204-367-7355, Fax: 204-367-8182), or Chico Simard (Ph: 204-367-7353) offer supervised parking.  
Parking space in the Community Campground - Off Highway #304, just south of the bridge where the highway crosses the Manigotagan River. The fee is approximately \$5.00 per day. Remember to notify the Manigotagan Administrative Office (Ph: 204-367-7375) before leaving your vehicle.

## Provincial Park Pass

Day or annual passes are required for all vehicles entering Manitoba provincial parks. Park vehicle permits are required year-round. They are available at serviced campgrounds and district offices, as well as most business locations where fishing and hunting licenses are sold.

## Medical

Medical response is based on a community health worker in the area and ambulance service from Pine Falls or Bissett. The nearest hospital is in Pine Falls.  
**Pine Falls Health Complex (27 beds)**  
37 Maple Street  
Pine Falls, MB R0E 1M0  
Phone: 204-367-5400  
Fax: 204-367-8981

## Police

Police are on call from Powerview, about 45 minutes away from the community of Manigotagan.  
Phone: 204-367-2222  
The community also has a community constable.  
Phone: 204-783-9903  
(wait for dial tone, then dial this number: 714-899).

## Feedback

We hope this information is useful for trip preparations and adds to your experience and understanding of the Manigotagan River. Please contact us with suggestions for changes or additions at [gis@mbecnetwork.org](mailto:gis@mbecnetwork.org). Your feedback will help keep the Manigotagan River Interactive Canoe Route Map and website up-to-date. Have a great trip!  
Manitoba Eco-Network  
Manigotagan River Interactive Canoe Map and Website:  
[www.mbcanoeing.org/canoemap](http://www.mbcanoeing.org/canoemap)

### Manigotagan River Access

**Highway and Road Classification**

- Trans Canada Highway
- Provincial Trunk Highway
- Provincial Road
- Gravel

**Access Points to Manigotagan River**

- #314 Highway Access near Long Lake
- Long Lake Access - Windsock Lodge
- Jackson's Lodge at Caribou Landing
- Manigotagan Watershed

Ontario

