

REPORT  
OF THE  
Minister of Lands, Forests  
and Mines

OF THE  
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

For the Year Ending 31st October

1918

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**Appendix No. 25.****pages 89-92****REPORT OF SURVEY OF LADY EVELYN LAKE.  
\*TORONTO, 26th September, 1916.****SPEIGHT & VAN NOSTRAND,  
Ontario Land Surveyors.**

report based on a February 2016 visit  
mention made of an existing dam on the  
Mattawapika River

water level above the dam recorded at 938.63 ft (286 m)

falls at Diamond Lake outlet recorded as 10' 2"

falls at outlet of Willow Island Lake reduced to small  
rapids thanks to pre-1916 Mattawapika Dam

With the construction of a higher dam by 1925 or 1926  
the water level of Lady Evelyn was raised another 3  
meters. The Willow Island Rapids disappeared and the  
falls at the Diamond Lake outlet were reduced to .3 meters.

Current Lady Evelyn Lake water level is 289 meters,  
3 meters higher than that measured by 1916 survey  
crew.

*Appendix No. 25.***REPORT OF SURVEY OF LADY EVELYN LAKE.****\*TORONTO, 26th September, 1916.**

SIR,—We have the honour to submit the following report on the survey of the Mattawapika River and Lady Evelyn Lake and Islands therein, in accordance with instructions from your Department, dated 6th January, 1916.

Preparations for the work were made upon receipt of the instructions, such as getting equipment made and supplies ordered and shipped to Latchford, but owing to the unfavorable weather conditions in January, starting the work was somewhat delayed. On 24th January we went to North Bay, Temagami, and Latchford, to make arrangements for men suitable for this kind of work, and arranged for the transportation of supplies.

The party was in charge of Mr. A. T. Ward, O.L.S. Two surveyor's assistants were taken from Toronto, and the other necessary helpers were engaged as near the locality as circumstances would permit. Having organized our party to start inland from Latchford, where we were joined by the Crown Timber Estimator and his assistant, from Sudbury, we started from there on 1st February, proceeding up Bay Lake and the Montreal River, as far as the dam on the Mattawapika River. We were able to take a freight team with our supplies and outfit to this point, where our survey proper commenced.

We commenced our survey from a post planted by O.L.S. Blair, in front of Lot 9, Concession 5, Township of Barr, distant thirty-two chains west from the south-east angle of that lot, fixing the position of the Mattawapika Dam. The traverse lines were measured on the ice and were as close to the shore as practicable. Numbered pickets were put out at every five chains for the use of the Timber Estimator. Offsets to the shore were measured from these pickets, and a contour line, ten feet above the water level, was noted. Some difficulty was met with, owing to certain parts of the Mattawapika River being open. This was overcome by stadia readings. Station pickets were put at angles in the traverse lines and numbered consecutively. All previously established township outlines and points which could be found were connected with our traverse lines, and in addition, such mining claims, both on the main land and islands, as could be seen, were noted and connected with our survey.

We continued our survey up the Mattawapika River and Lady Evelyn Lake, in the aforesaid manner, and completed the work at the Falls, being the outlet of the Diamond Lake, on the 1st of April. During the last week in March we had almost continuous rain, which greatly impeded the field work, and was the cause of an early opening up of the rivers and creeks, thus bringing about a sudden termination of our survey.

#### ISLANDS.

All islands were located and those of sufficient size to require it were traversed, and all were numbered consecutively from No. 1, with the prefix of the letter "E," in accordance with instructions. The designations of islands were marked on trees at prominent points. These trees were selected where possible above the contour line, also for their durability and prominence, and the description and position of each is shown in the field notes. In all, ninety-nine islands were surveyed, varying in size from one quarter of an acre to one hundred and eighty-five acres.

#### CONTOURS.

Prior to leaving Latchford, we ascertained the elevation of the Montreal River, as indicated by the Government bench mark on the dam at Latchford.

We painted a bench mark on the rock immediately above the dam on the Mattawapika River, at an elevation of 950 feet above mean sea level, based upon the Government datum as previously ascertained at Latchford. The water level of the river above the dam was found to have an elevation of 938.46 feet.

Ten foot contour lines were fixed accurately where the shores were rocky or gradually rising, but on certain parts of the Mattawapika River where large areas of low swampy land interspersed with ridges and knolls were found, compass traverse lines were run in the swamps and the contour lines located approximately.

To obtain absolute results would require a much longer time and a larger party than we had at our disposal.

#### TIMBER.

We did not go into details as to the timber affected, as this was attended to by an official from your Department.

#### WATER.

The area of the water in the Mattawapika River and Lady Evelyn Lake was found to be eighteen square miles and ninety-hundredths of a square mile. An additional area of seven square miles would be obtained should the waters be raised to the ten foot contour line, thus making a total twenty-five square miles and ninety-hundredths of a square mile.

In Willow Island and Suker Gut Lakes we have enlarged a geological map, scale four miles to the inch, to twenty chains to the inch, and find the area to be two square miles and ninety-three-hundredths of a square mile, but this is very approximate.

As before stated, we have no means of knowing to what extent this area would be increased by raising the water to the present contour line. By enquiry from the natives, we were informed that a considerable area of low land lies adjacent to these lakes.

The falls at the outlet of Diamond Lake was found to have an elevation of ten feet and two inches.

#### GENERAL REMARKS.

The sudden and early breaking up of winter interfered with a detail survey of Willow Island and Suker Gut Lakes, which we contemplated, and had made preparations for, on receiving verbal instructions from the Inspector of Surveys from your Department.

Since the construction of the Mattawapika Dam, what was formerly known as Willow Island Falls, is now reduced to small rapids. These rapids are at the outlet of Willow Island and Suker Gut Lakes, and at the extreme west end of Lady Evelyn Lake. We were unable to make a survey of these waters owing to the breaking up of winter, and cannot tell to what extent raising the water would affect these lakes.

In the vicinity of the north-east angle of the township of Dane there were several mining claims staked out, and we understood that there has been some development work done. On account of the depth of snow, it was impossible for us to find out if there were any veins or development work done, which would be affected by the raising of the waters another ten feet. We thought it well to call attention to this fact, in case a claim might be made for damages sustained.

By travelling early in the morning and overland through the woods, we reached Latchford on April 5th, where the party was paid off and disbanded.

Accompanying this report is a plan on tracing linen, on a scale of twenty chains to the inch, in four sections, showing the existing shore line at the present water level, with contour lines about ten feet above that level, and traverse lines and station numbers thereon; also field notes on departmental paper, showing the

astronomical courses and lengths of all traverse lines with offset distances to the shores and contour lines; and field notes showing traverse lines of all the islands, numbered consecutively.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed) SPEIGHT & VAN NOSTRAND,

Ontario Land Surveyors.

The Honourable the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines,  
Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

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