

# THE SAUGEEN RIVER

LAKE HURON

### LEGEND

Look for this symbol along the route.

Access Point	For experienced paddlers only (not shown on map)	Parking	Picnicking	Camping	Showers	Washrooms
1	For experienced paddlers only (not shown on map)					
2	For experienced paddlers only (not shown on map)					
3	Hanover Town Park, 7th Ave. N., (west off Grey Rd. 10)	x	x	x	x	x
4	Maple Hill Rd. at bridge, 3 km south off Bruce Rd. 4	x				
5	Lobie's Park, Yonge St. North, Walkerton	x	x	x	x	x
6	8th Concession, Brant Twp., 2 km east off Bruce Rd. 3	x				
7	10th Concession, Brant Twp., 5 km east off Bruce Rd. 3					
8	Brant-Elderslie Townline, 3 km east off Bruce Rd. 3					
9	Paisley Hose Tower dock, east of Bruce Rd. 3 and Bruce Rd. 11 intersection	x	x			x
10	Bridge north of Paisley, west side of Bruce Rd. 3	x	x			
11	Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area, North of Paisley, 1 km west off Bruce Rd. 3	x	x	x	x	x
12	4th Concession, Saugeen Twp., 2 km west off Bruce Rd. 3 at Turner's Bridge	x				
13	Bruce Rd. 17, Saugeen Twp., 6 km west off Bruce Rd. 3, at Campbell-Thede Bridge	x	x			
14	County Rd. 3, Saugeen Twp., at Schenk's Bridge	x				
15	Denny's Dam, 5 km north off Bruce Rd. 3, on Carlisle St. (MNR property)	x	x			x
16	Hwy. 21 Southampton, north of Harbour Bridge, east on South Rankin St. to Chesley St.	x				

PORTAGES	
A	Maple Hill Dam Portage on left (south) side, immediately upstream of bridge. CAUTION: Dam is located approximately 50 metres (165 feet), downstream of bridge.
B	Hydro Dam Portage is approximately 30 metres (99 feet) on the left (west) bank.
C	Walkerton Dam & Fishway Portage as posted on river, far left (west) bank.
D	Denny's Dam Dock and steps located on left, (south) bank of Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) property. End of official Saugeen River Canoe & Kayak route.



## GETTING ON & OFF THE RIVER

**Hanover to Walkerton**  
**Time:** Approximately 5 hours  
**Distance:** 20 kilometres (12.4 miles)  
**Details:** Three dams, once used for milling and hydro electric generation are located along this section. From Hanover to the Maple Hill Dam, the water tends to be deep and slow moving. Downstream, several gentle rapids are encountered before arriving at the Hydro Dam. This section of the route tends to be the most heavily wooded. The only vertical slot fishway east of the Rocky Mountains was constructed at the Walkerton Dam in 1986. Refer to the Portage chart in the Legend for details on this section of the river.

**Walkerton to Paisley**  
**Time:** 7 to 10 hours  
**Distance:** 39 kilometres (24.2 miles)  
**Details:** Downstream of Walkerton, a number of high sand and clay bluffs border the river, providing homes for bank swallows and kingfishers. Caution should be exercised in portions of this section, as many rapids, large rocks and flood debris can be encountered. This is the most challenging section of the route. In the downstream portions of this section, the forest cover gives way to gently rolling pastures.

**Paisley to Southampton**  
**Time:** 9 to 12 hours  
**Distance:** 43 kilometres (26.7 miles)  
**Details:** Several gentle rapids occur within this area. In the vicinity of Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area, the river is bordered by clay bluffs, forming the edge of a well-defined floodplain. Further downstream, the river is braided by sandy, treed islands, which are the remnants of a former delta. During periods of low flows in July and August, paddlers may have to occasionally disembark to seek deeper water.

## RIVER & PADDLING INFORMATION

The Saugeen River rises in one of the highest points in Southwestern Ontario and flows west through rolling scenic landscapes to Lake Huron. Although the route crosses agricultural land, it is seen from the river only periodically, through heavy, mixed forest. The official route begins at the Hanover Town Park (Access Point #3) and ends 102 km (63 mi.) downstream at Denny's Dam (Access Point #15), near Southampton. Access Points #1 and #2 (not shown on map) are recommended for experienced paddlers only. Please note that Victoria Day weekend may not be suitable for families due to the high volume of river paddlers.

River conditions vary, from broad placid sections to stretches with rapids and eddies, making the Saugeen ideal for family canoeing and learning the basics of rapid water navigation. The rapids present little difficulty, except in early spring when water is high and fast flowing.

Portages are short, by-passing four dams along the entire route. The first three portages are located upstream between Hanover and Walkerton. The last portage, Denny's Dam, is optional. Although some paddlers may extend their trip to Lake Huron (Access Point #16), most will end their trip prior to Denny's Dam (Access Point #15). There is plenty of parking available on property owned by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) at the dam location. By car, this property can be reached by following Carlisle Street, immediately east of Bruce Rd. 3 and Hwy. 21 junction.

For those extending their trip to Lake Huron (Access Point #16), Denny's Dam Conservation Area is located on the north side of the river and is highly favoured as an excellent fishing location.

## HISTORICAL REFLECTIONS

Surveyed in 1848-49, the Durham Road West provided an east-west colonization route through the valley of the Saugeen River. Settlements, such as Hanover and Walkerton, were established where the colonization route met the river.

Beginning circa 1850, settlers found they could save time by travelling the Durham Road West to Buck's Crossing (Hanover), where they would build rafts or scows to continue their journey by water. Thus, the Saugeen -- derived from an Ojibway First Nation word *Saugink* meaning the entrance or mouth of the river -- became an important access route into Bruce County.

## FISHING the SAUGEEN

Bait, lure or fly? Upstream from Lake Huron you will find one of Ontario's best rainbow trout and chinook salmon runs. Comprised of naturally sheltered feeder streams and spring fed lakes, the Saugeen River system is also an angler's mecca for brown and brook trout, large and small mouth bass, northern pike and muskie. Check the Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary, published annually by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, for catch information and seasons.



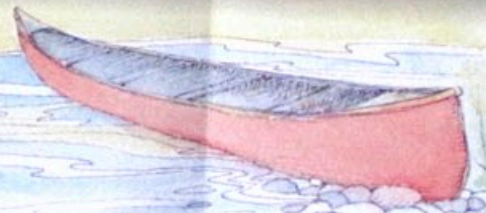
Al Hassall (map artist) with a large mouth bass.

### CAMPGROUNDS

For additional campground listings in Bruce and Grey counties, contact Bruce County or Grey County Tourism.

All telephone nos. are in (519) area code.

	No. Transient Sites	Showers	Washrooms	Water	Picnic Area	Playground	Store	Laundromat	Telephone	On-line Reservations	Access Point #
A SAUGEEN CEDARS, Grey Rd. 4, east of Hanover 364-2069 www.saugeencedars.ca	70	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
B HANOVER TOWN PARK, 724 7th Ave. (Grey Rd. 10) Hanover Parks & Recreation, 364-2310 www.hanovercanada.com	40	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	3
C SAUGEEN GREAT ESCAPE, Bruce Rd. 4, west of Hanover 364-4141 toll free 1-877-369-4141	65	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
D LOBIE'S PARK, Yonge St. N., Walkerton 881-0099 toll free 1-888-769-7778 www.chatahoochi.com or Brockton Recreation Dept. 881-0625 http://town.walkerton.on.ca/recreation.htm	100	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	5
E McBEATH CONSERVATION AREA, S. of Paisley (river access only) Saugeen Conservation 364-1255 www.svca.on.ca	50	x	x	x							
A SAUGEEN BLUFFS CONSERVATION AREA, N. of Paisley, west off Bruce Rd. 3 Saugeen Conservation 364-1255 www.svca.on.ca	107	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	11



National Topographic System Maps Required: Walkerton 41 A/3, Chesley 41 A/6 and Warton 41 A/11 Detailed topographical maps at a scale of 1:50,000 are available at outfitters.