



Category: 3f Commemorative

Name: Cowan Lake

Location: Big River

Species: N/A

History/Description:

Cowan Lake was named after William Cowan, who built the first sawmill at Big River in 1908. Already having mills at Hudson Bay and Prince Albert, he first took a permit at Big River in 1903, but did not start logging until 1906, and the mill started sawing in 1908.

It was originally a river, known by the local Indians as 'wa-wa-gig-gon-ow' which means 'water that flows crooked'. Later the northern end was dammed by the Big River Lumber Company to form a wider lake which would be useful for floating (booming) logs. It was first called "Crooked Lake", and later changed to Cowan Lake.

There is a story narrated by a citizen of Big River who was camping out one night on his way home. A roaring two-eyed monster came rushing through the darkness and frightened them all; but they thought them selves fortunate that it passed by their camp.

Comments or additional information can be sent to: info@whitebirch.ca