

This route is NOT recommended for NOVICE and INTERMEDIATE paddlers

Portions of Route 23 are also catalogued in this guide as Route 3, Sandy Bottom Lake; Route 4, Milford Lakes; and Route 6, Kejimikujik National Park.

The Mersey River is a long river stretching nearly the entire width of the Province from north to south. The river begins at Sandy Bottom Lake in the Milford Lakes system, and flows south through Kejimikujik National Park, ending on the South Shore at Liverpool. The Mersey River is a traditional route used for generations by the Mi'kmaq when traveling from the Bay of Fundy to the South Shore.

The Mersey River offers the wilderness traveler the charm and variety of quiet stillwaters, moving water runs, and some large lakes. In close proximity to roads for the most part, the route gives the paddler a sense of remoteness, with shorelines hosting majestic stands of second growth, mature hemlock and pine. Most of the river is deep enough to navigate most of the year, with some portages. It is advisable, however, to avoid the section between Kempton Lake and Kejimikujik Lake during periods of low water, as this portion can present long stretches of "boney" (exposed rock) riverbed. Helmets are recommended if you intend to run rapids. Longer rope is recommended for lining through rougher sections on this river.

If you plan to paddle through and tent overnight in Kejimikujik National Park, please note that the numbered sites within the park must be reserved.

Length: 50km

Time: 4-5 days from Sandy Bottom Lake to Low Landing on Lake Rossignol.

Approach: South from Annapolis Royal, approximately 20 km along Highway 8 to South Milford.

Entry, Exit Points:

Raven Haven: West along Virginia Road from intersection with west side of Highway 8, 2 km to Raven Haven, Civic address 2239 Virginia Road.

Liverpool Head Lake: 0.5 km north of intersection of Highway 8 and the Virginia Road, where lake adjoins highway.

Boot Lake: 1 km south of intersection of Highway 8 and the Virginia Road, at the Milford House. Please ask Milford House staff for permission.

Lake Monroe: 6 km south of the intersection of Highway 8 with the Victory Road, where Lake Munroe adjoins highway.

Eleven Mile Lake: 3 km south of Lake Munroe at a steel gate and gravel road on east side of Highway 8. East along gravel road approximately 1 km to shore of Eleven Mile Lake.

Four Mile Runs: 7 km north of bridge at Maitland Bridge, at gravel road on east side of Highway 8. Proceed east along gravel road to Mersey River at Four Mile Runs.

Three Mile Runs: 5 km north of bridge at Maitland Bridge, at gravel road on east side of Highway 8. Proceed east along gravel road to Mersey River at Three Mile Runs.

Harry Lake: 4 km north of bridge at Maitland Bridge, at gravel road on east side of Highway 8 (Mersey River Chalets). Proceed east along gravel road approximately 3 km to Chalet and the Mersey River. Please ask Chalet staff for permission.

Maitland Bridge: At bridge, where Highway 8 crosses Mersey River. Access on west side of highway, on south bank of river.

Kejimkujik Park: Park entrance located 1 km south of bridge at Maitland Bridge. Proceed to the park's Visitor Information Centre for up-to-date park maps, access, camping and parking information.

Jakes Landing: On east side of Kejimkujik Lake at Mersey River.

Eel Weir Bridge: At south end of George Lake, at bridge over Mersey River.

Low Landing: From West Caledonia, take Devonshire Road for approximately 11 km to intersection and sign. Turn left and travel 2 km to Low Landing, at shore of Lake Rossignol.

Landmarks:

1. Raven Haven Family Beachside Park
2. South Milford Community Hall
3. Milford House
4. Mersey River Chalets
5. Kejimkujik National Park & National Historic Site Information Centre
6. Keji Bridge
7. Low Landing

Parking:

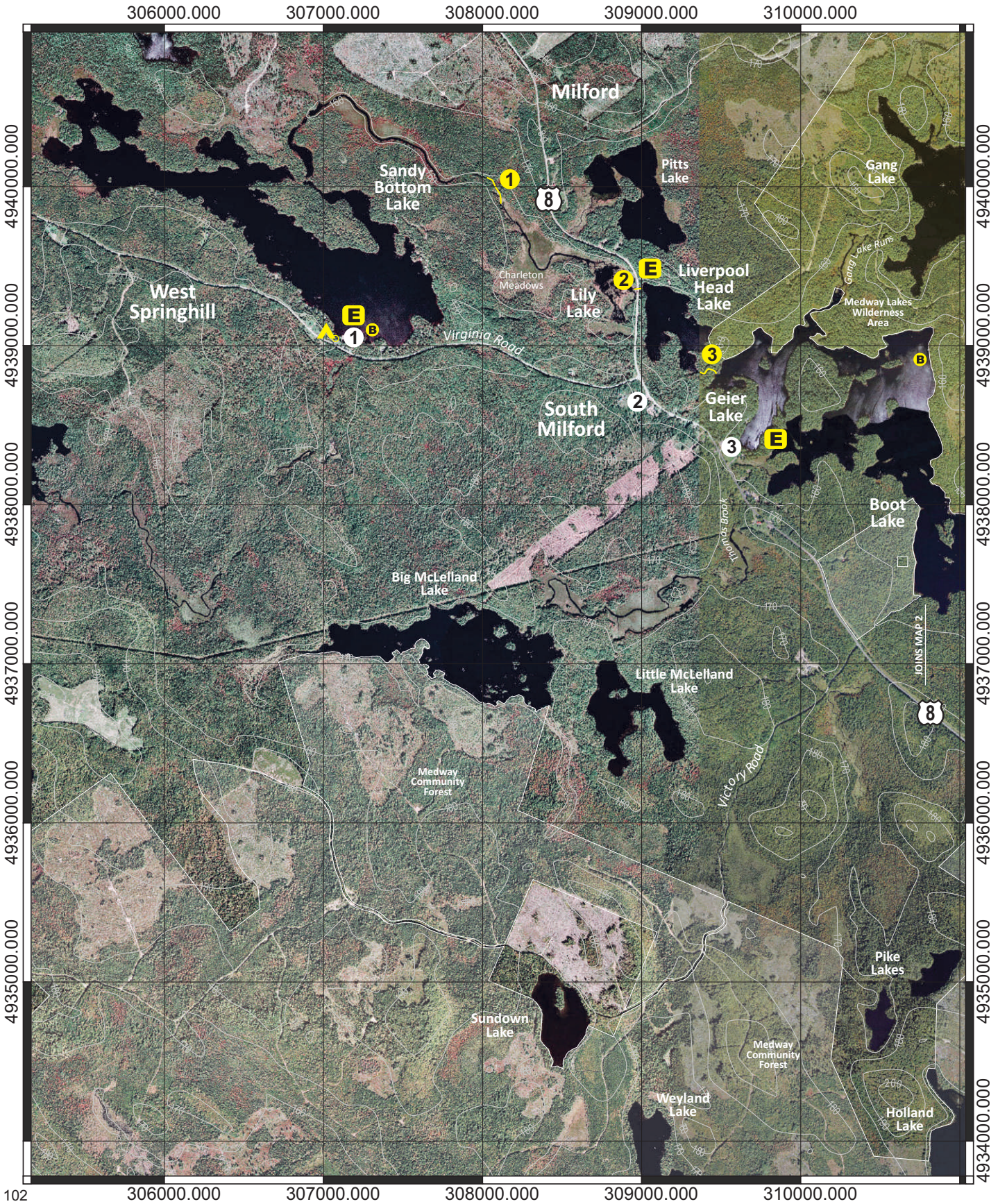
Raven Haven
 South Milford Community Hall
 Four Mile Stillwater
 Three Mile Runs
 Mersey River Chalets (with staff permission)
 Kejimkujik National Park (various)
 Keji Bridge
 Low Landing

Route Classification: Expert

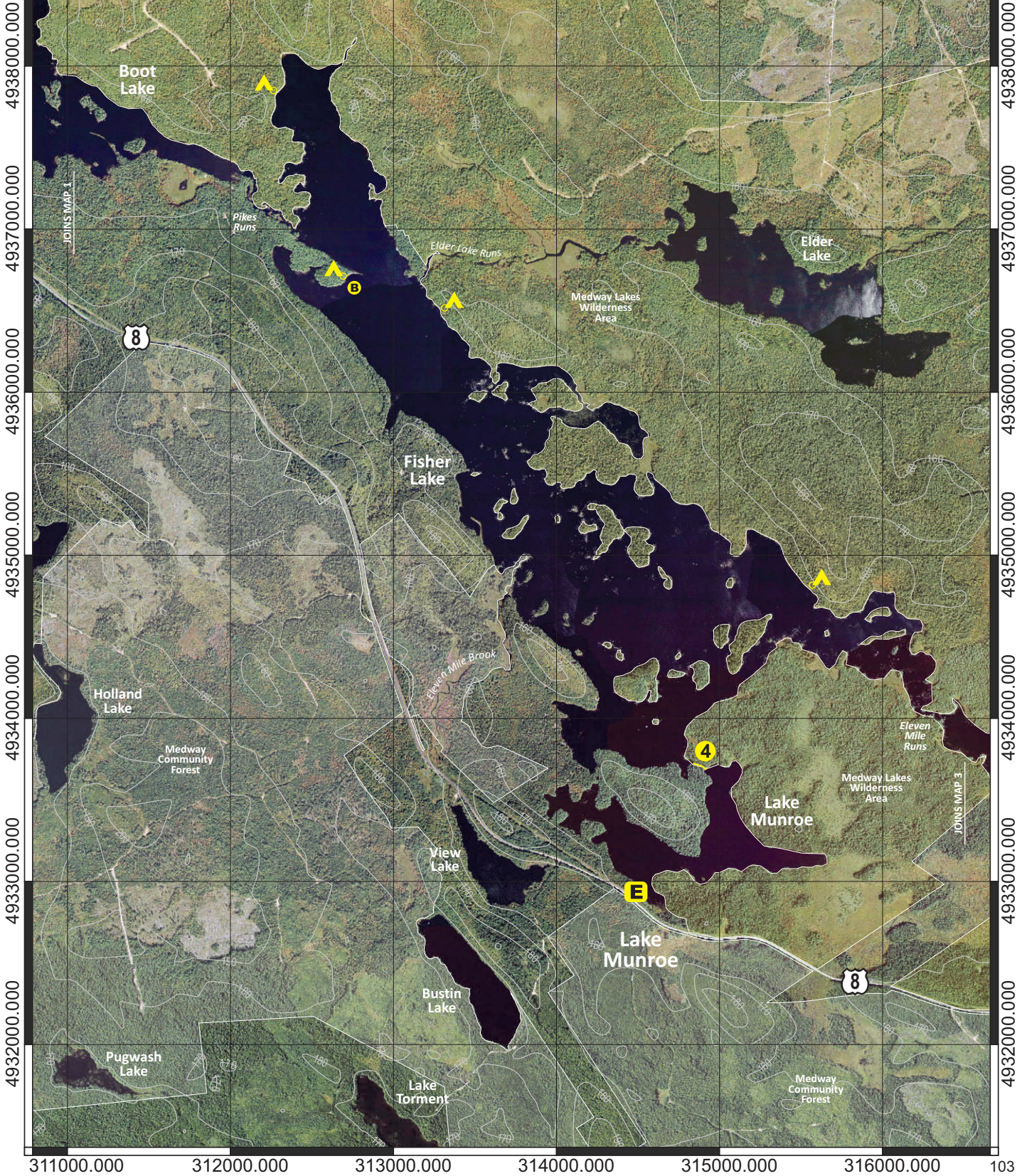
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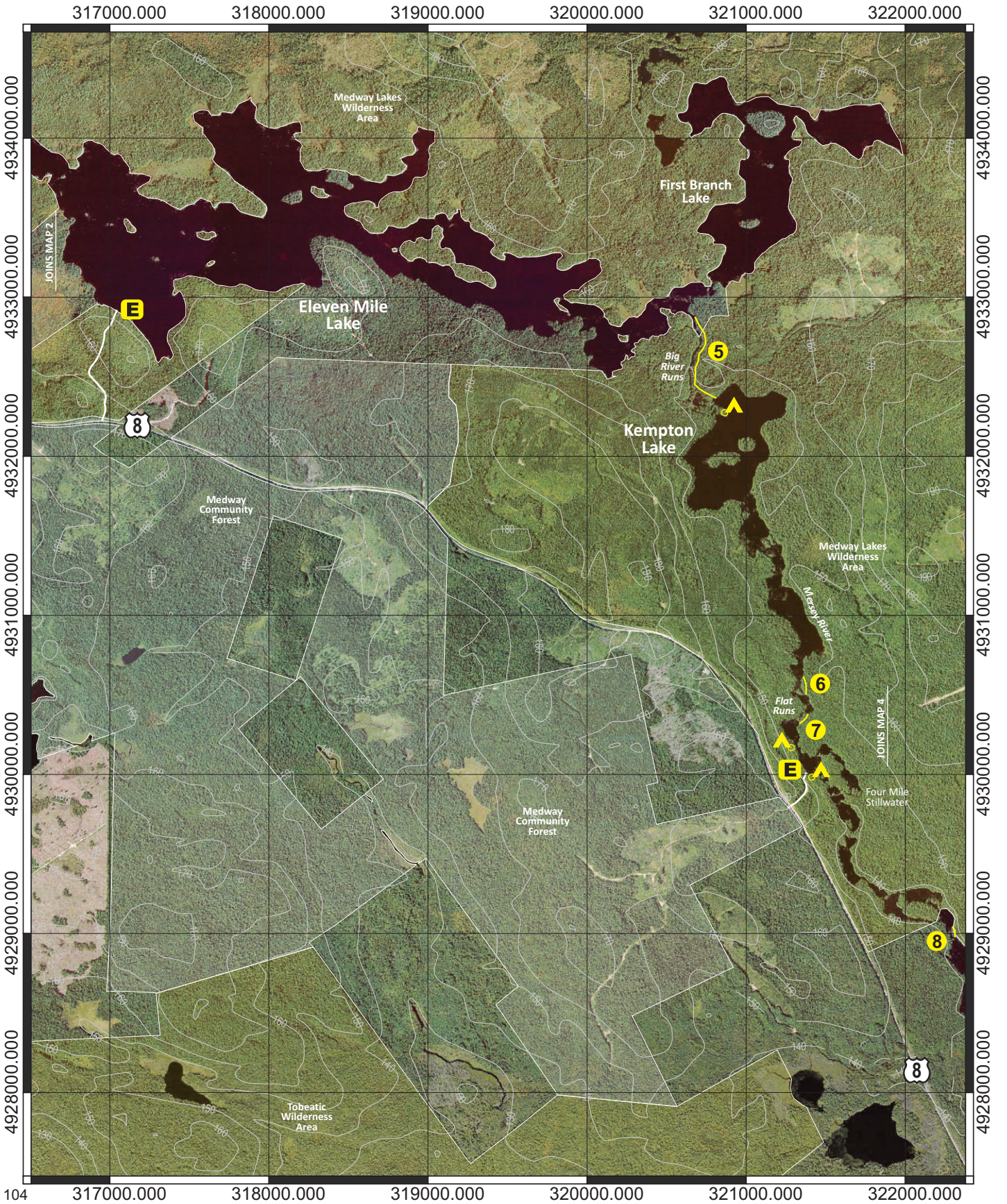
1. 190 m On left (NORTH) side of runs.
2. 50m East side of Lily Lake. Portage across Highway 8, and put in at Liverpool Head Lake.
3. 123m On right (SOUTH) side of outlet of Liverpool Head Lake. Carry along gravel

- road and turn right just before bridge.
4. 80m Carry across gravel road
 5. 600m Big River Runs. Portage on left (EAST) side of river.
 6. 70m Portage on left (EAST) side of river.
 7. 75 m Portage on left (EAST) side of river.
 8. 70 m Portage on left (EAST) side of river.
 9. 60 m Portage on right (WEST) side of river.
 10. 290 m Portage on right (WEST) side of river.
 11. 190 m Portage around the falls on the left (EAST) side of the river. Alternately, portage on right (WEST) side through Mersey River Chalets property, with permission.
 12. 700m *Kempton Falls (known locally as Taylor Falls)*. Portage on right (WEST) side of river.
 13. 240 m *Lamb's Falls*. Portage on right (WEST) side of river.
 14. 250 m *Mill Falls*. Beyond Ordes Stillwater, you will pass the Visitors' Center on the left (SOUTH) side of the river. **Begin watching for Mill Falls immediately after the Visitors' Centre, and prepare to exit the river on the left side. Mill Falls is not navigable at any water level and would present a life-threatening situation should you go over them.** Exit the river on the left (SOUTH) side, well above the falls, as the banks become steeper and the river much swifter as it approaches the falls. Portage along a walking trail past the falls to the pool below, and continue to a point below the ledge before putting in.
 15. 500 m *Oak Ledges*. It is recommended that you exit river left upstream from the ledges and survey them before attempting to run them. The first ledge can be run on river left, and the second requires a ferry to the middle to make the run. From there it is a short run to quiet water. You may portage around the ledges on the left (SOUTH) side of the river.
 16. 680m *Eel Weir Bridge*. Navigable in normal water conditions. To portage, take out well above the bridge on the right (WEST) side of the river at a marked portage and scout the rapids. The rapids lessen below the bridge, and you can re-enter the river at your own discretion.
 17. 120m *Loon Lake Falls*. Portage on right (WEST) side of river. Runnable in suitable water conditions.
 18. 160 m *Keji Bridge*. Portage on left (EAST) side of river. Runnable in suitable water conditions.



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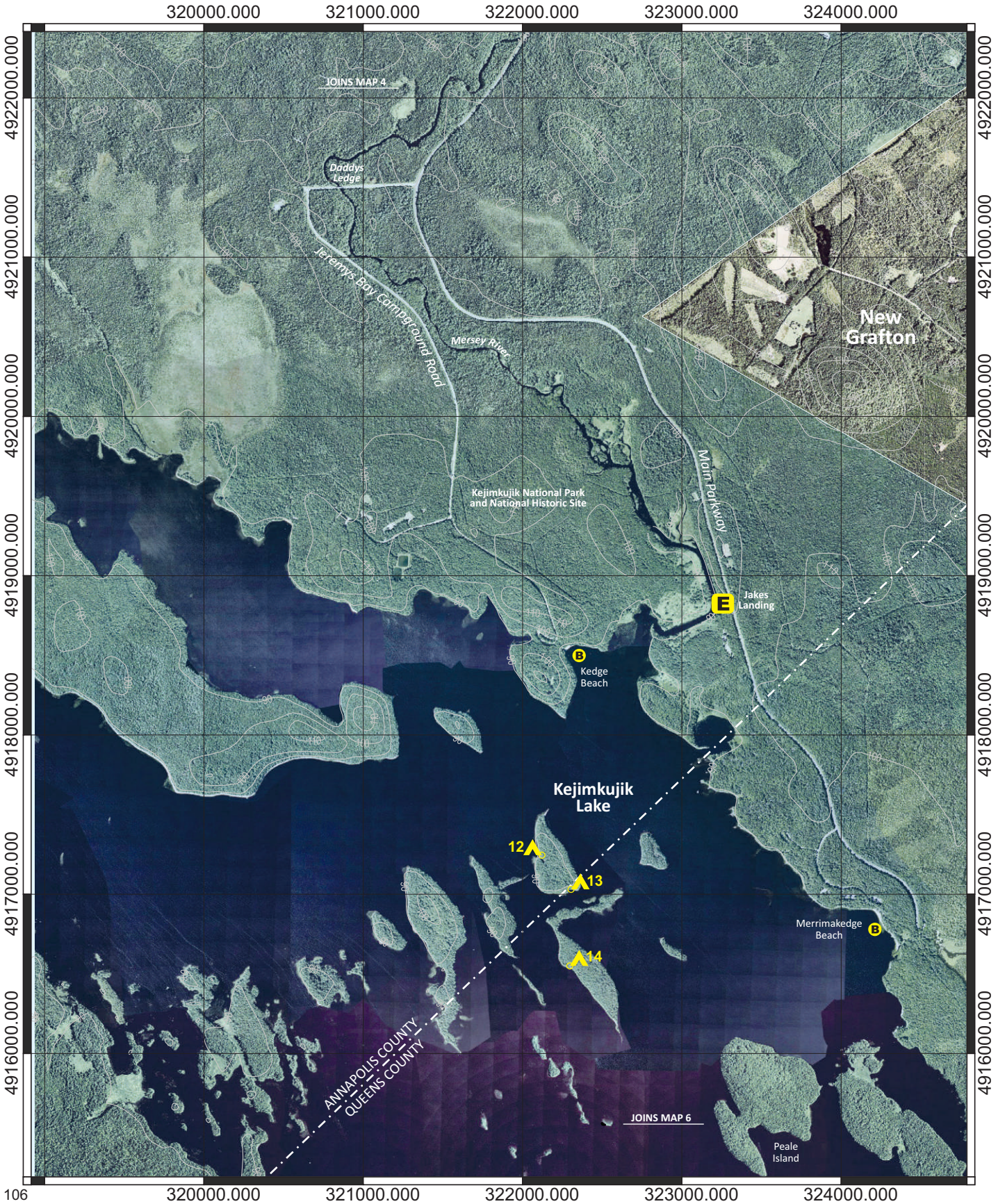


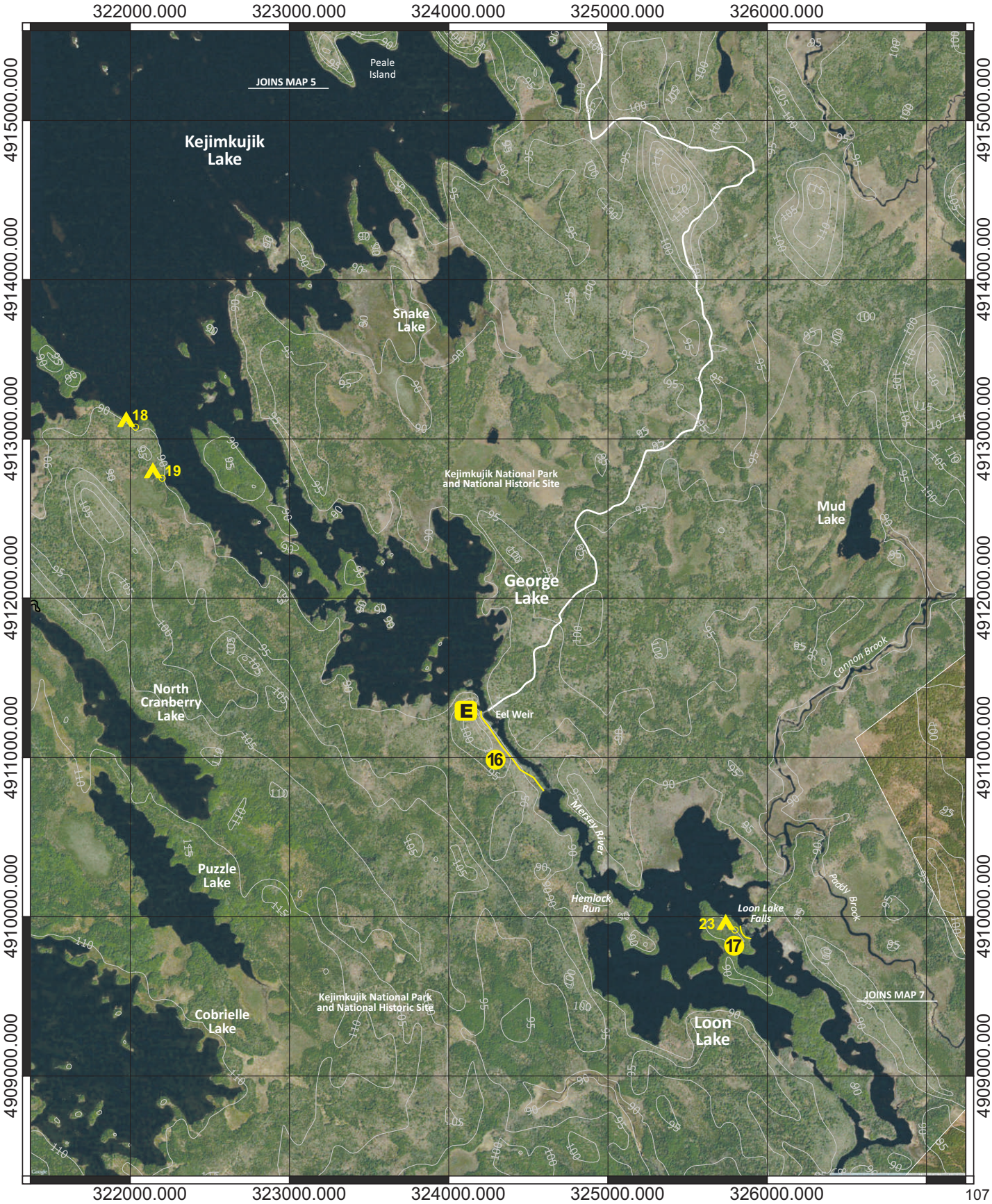


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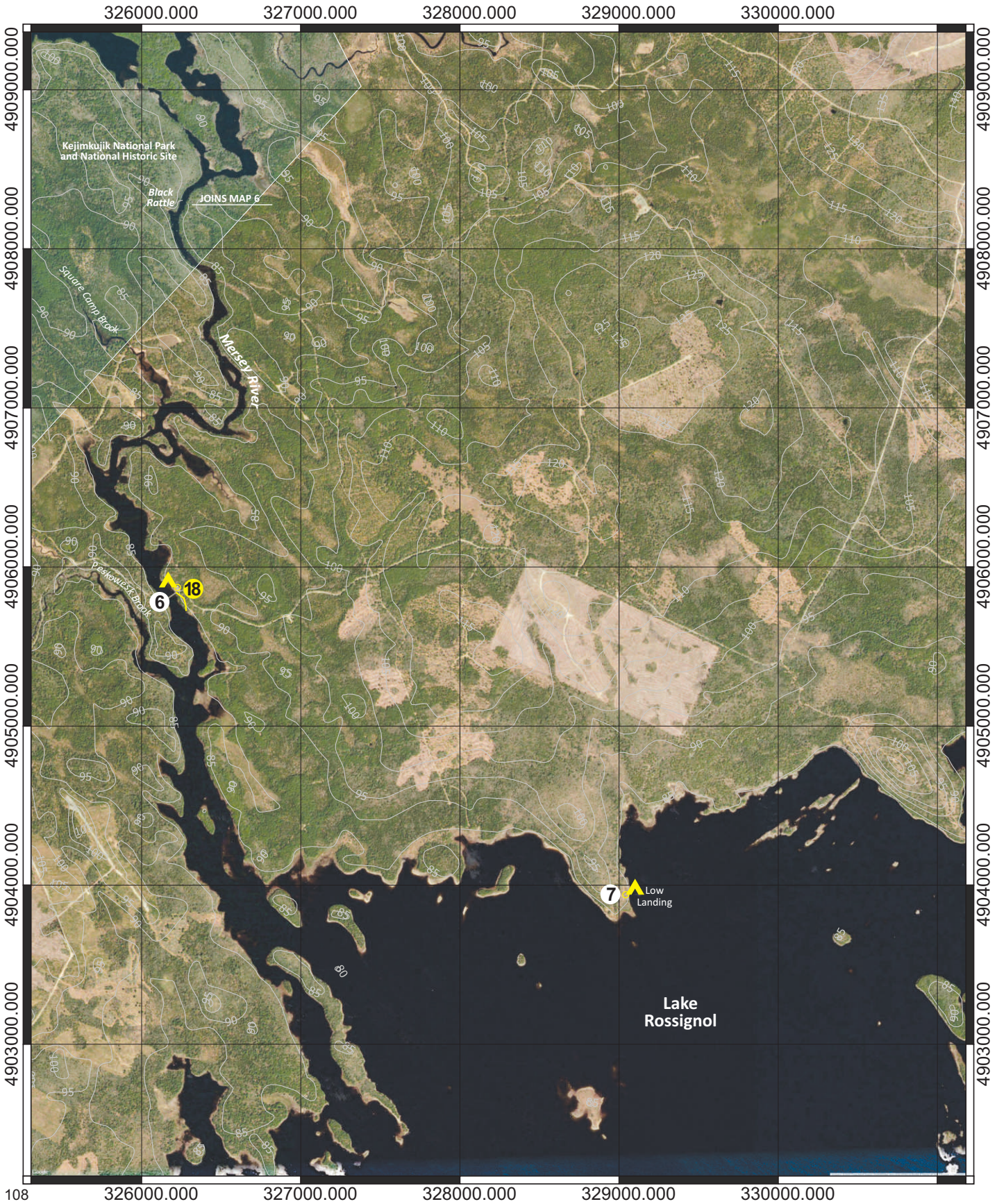


Mersey River



SCALE 0 1000 METRES

Route 23, Map 7



Disclaimer

The Municipality of the County of Annapolis does not have control over the canoe routes, portages or wilderness tent areas listed in this guide, and therefore assumes no responsibility for the safety of the canoeist paddling the route, walking the portage, or using the wilderness tent areas.

We recommend that users approach all canoe routes and wilderness tent areas in a safe and responsible manner, and conduct visual inspections whenever possible and practical.

Conditions can change through fluctuating water levels, addition of natural debris, and commercial logging activity.

As we are not the owners of any of these lands or routes, any special arrangements must be made directly with the owners and you are accountable to them for any damage, loss or other problems that you may cause.

Although the information in this guide is believed to be accurate, we assume no liability for any errors or omissions that may exist, or for changes that may have occurred on the routes after the publication of this guide.

We recommend, as a supplement to the information herein, that you use Natural Resources Canada 1:50,000 topographical series maps of the general canoe routes.

Annapolis County Recreation Services requests that you read the sections on Safety, Equipment, Trip Planning and Wilderness Ethics before you travel on the lakes and waterways of the region.

Always tell someone where you are going and when you are returning. Please be aware that many portages/canoe carries are not marked.

Map Legend

Entry, Exit Point



Landmark



Portage



River Section



Rapids



Existing Tentsite



Beach



Highway 101, Exit



Public Highway



Highlighted for clarity:



Municipal Boundary



Contour/ Elevation



Grid North



Grid Line



Scale Bar

