

## Harli Raiwet - Lake Athapapuskow: A Canadian Shield Treasure

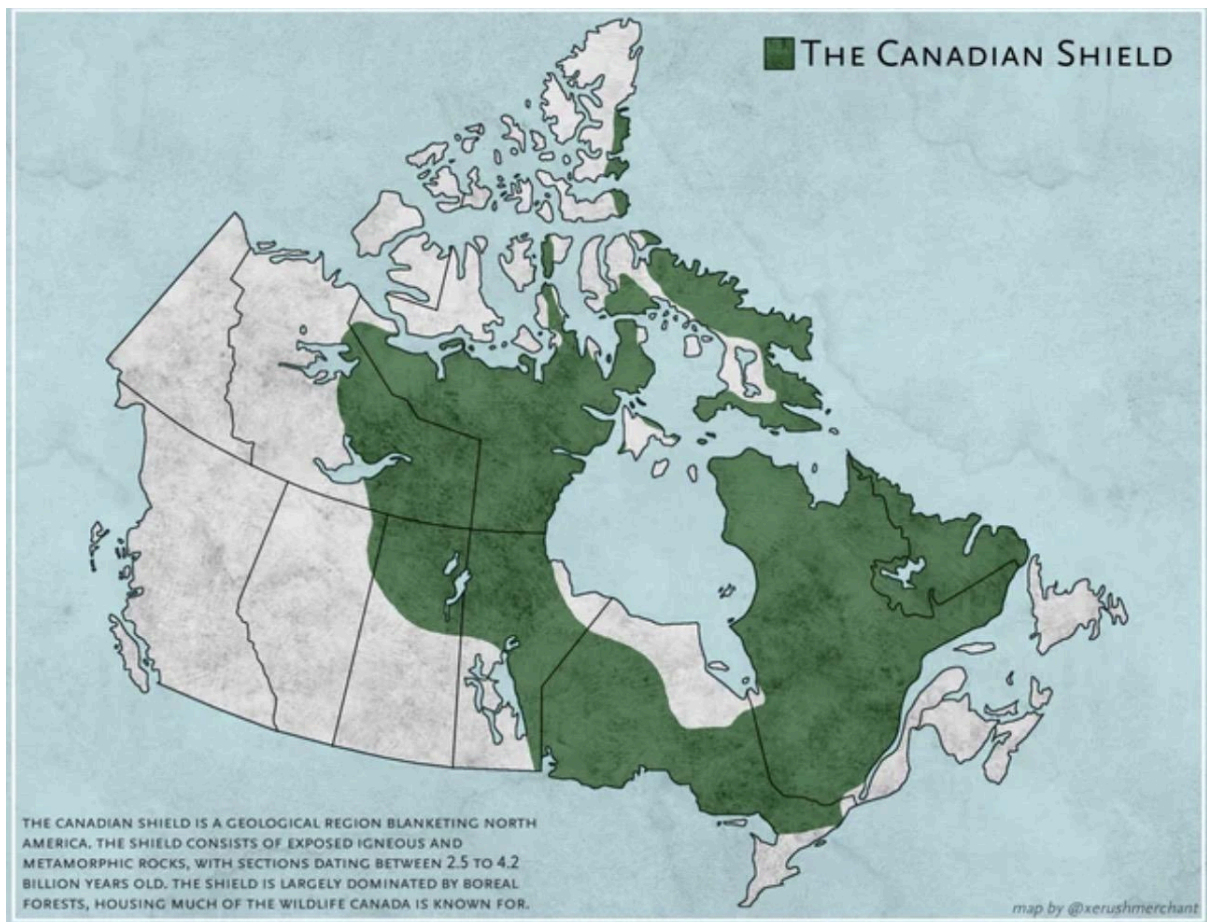
### Left PANEL

#### The Canadian Shield

##### What is the Canadian Shield?

The Canadian Shield is one of the oldest rock formations on earth (over 2 ½ - 3 billion years old). It covers a huge part of Canada and is known for rocky land, thin soil, forests and thousands of lakes. Glaciers scraped this rock during the ice age and when they melted they created lakes like Lake Athapapuskow.

This is a map of Canada showing the U shaped region of the Canadian Shield.



Because the region is made up mostly of solid rock, building in this area can be challenging. Digging into the ground often requires blasting or drilling through bedrock, which makes construction much more expensive. Many homes do not have full basements and are built on concrete slabs, have crawl spaces, or sit directly on top of the rock.



## **CENTER PANEL**

### **Lake Athapapuskow**

#### **Where is Lake Athapapuskow?**

Lake Athapapuskow is in northern Manitoba, but part of the lake extends into Saskatchewan. The nearest city is Flin Flon, Manitoba. The lake is located within the CANADIAN SHIELD. The lake was formed by glacial activity during the last ICE AGE which carved out many lakes in the Canadian Shield. It has over 575 rock islands.

These lakes became important places for indigenous peoples, explorers, and later communities who depended on them for travel, fishing, and resources.

Lake Athapapuskow has very deep (over 230 feet) and cold water which is excellent for fish like lake trout, walleye, and northern pike. Fish in this lake get to be very big. The largest recorded lake trout caught was 63 lbs and over 4 feet long caught by Leone Hayes Grayson in 1930 and was caught near GULL ISLAND on the lake. This catch made the lake famous for giant trout and attracted fishermen from all over Canada.

Fun Fact: Lake trout can live 40-60 years, giving them time to grow into giant fish.

Why Athapap trout get so big:

- Very deep water
- Cold, clear Canadian Shield lake
- Lots of rocky reefs and oxygen-rich habitat

Fun Fact: Athapapuskow comes from a Cree word meaning “rocks on all sides”.







## **RIGHT PANEL**

### **Pine Point Lodge**

I chose this project because my family recently became one of the four new owners of Pine Point Lodge on Lake Athapapuskow in April of 2024, and I thought it would be interesting to learn about the history of the lake and the giant lake trout that make it famous. Pine Point Lodge is a fishing lodge located very close to the border of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Lodges like this help bring in tourism and outdoor recreation to northern Canada. We continue to welcome people to experience the history, nature, and fishing that make Lake Athapap so special.



In 2025, devastating wildfires came within 15 feet of Pine Point Lodge. Thanks to the firefighters, along with my dad and a group of friends, the property was saved.







My favorite sounds at Pine Point are when loons are calling across the lake. The loon is on the \$1 coin in Canada, which is why we call it the “loonie”.

