

Marathon Information Centre



P.O. Bag "TM", Marathon, ON P0T 2E0
Phone: (807) 229-0480 Fax: (807) 229-3201
Toll Free: 1(800) 621-1029

Boom Logs

The boom logs that you see outside on our deck were used in the early days of logging. These particular logs were used to bring logs from the mouth of the Pic River in Heron Bay to the pulp mill in Marathon. These logs are Douglas Fir and were purchased from British Columbia between 1928 and 1935 at a cost of \$100 each.

The logs have not been in use for a number of years, and they are still stored on the shore of the Pic River. These logs can be seen at approximately 10 minutes from our Information Centre. For a history of our logging operations, *Pic, Pulp and People* is available to be viewed at our Information Centre to provide a more in depth history. A picture of the logs spilling into the boom at Heron Bay can be seen on pages 45 and 46 of *Pic, Pulp and People*.

These boom logs have an average diameter of 26 inches (90cm), which makes them an average of nine feet (3 meters) around. One boom log 24 feet long would produce approximately 700 2x4 planks, eight feet long. It is possible to build a house out of only one full tree. The average length of one of these boom logs is approximately 20 feet. This does not mean however, that the tree from which it was cut was that size.

The logs that are seen inside our building were also taken from the mouth of the Pic River. The logs are of the same type taken by booms to surrounding paper mills to be used in the production of pulp and paper. These logs once supported our wildlife, but now they support our building. Before being used, there were properly tested by engineers.

The Town of Marathon feels that our past is as important as our future and that these logs are an important part of the beginnings of our town. If there are any questions that you may have, please ask one of the counselors. They would be pleased to assist you.