

McKinley's Rifle

This runway is located on the road to Dwyer's Camp at the top of the little knoll just before the Y in the road that heads off to Graham's Lake. First, let me tell you about the McKinley's.

When Don and Stella bought their first house in Toronto their next-door neighbours were Roy & Donna McKinley and their family. This down-east couple hit it off well with the family from the Ottawa Valley and in no time Roy was coming up north hunting with the lads. As soon as his son Brian was old enough to come to the camp, he became a regular too. Both Roy and Brian proved to be the most compatible camp buddies one could have; willing to pitch in and help at every turn, always in a cheerful mood, and generous with their time and belongings. There is no shortage of fun-filled stories of days spent with the McKinley's. Sadly, Roy died of cancer in 1994 but Brian continues to hunt with the gang. In 2012 he shot a nice buck at the runway that was then named after him and his dad's old rifle. Here's how Brian tells the story.

"November 5, 2012 was my day to cook on opening day so a runway close to the camp was my pick on Sunday. Dwyer's Road is a pretty good bet on opening day and since Dwyer's Road 3 was open I decided to take that runway. I was able to drive right to the runway and give me enough time to get set up before the dogs were let lose. It was a reasonably quiet morning in regards to the wind in the trees and the squirrels but the buck was still moving through the bush pretty quietly. I heard the dog and he wasn't moving very fast so the buck did not come out right away. He was walking down the runway when I first saw him. I got the gun up but he stopped right behind a tree. I was excited as it was my first buck so I took quick aim and fired...and missed. Holy Crikes how could I miss, but I did! Luckily I shot high and he did not take off so after a couple of deep breaths I took finer aim and fired again and down he went. Whew! He started to move around and I got thinking he was going to get up and take off but he stayed down."



"Back at the camp at the end of the day, after telling my tale, Robert asked me what gun I was using and told him it was my dad's rifle. He was talking about runways and since we had numerous Dwyer's Road runways he felt it was kind of fitting that the runway be named after shooting my first buck there and with Dad's rifle so he called it McKinley's Rifle and it has been called that ever since."