

1st ZURICH SR SCOUT TROOP CANOE TRIP 2008

Canoe Lake, Joe Lake, Teepee Lake, Tom Thompson Lake, Bartlett Lake, Sunbeam Lake, Vanishing Pond, Baden-Powell Lake, Littledoe Lake, Teepee Lake, Joe Lake, Canoe Lake Loop



Total Distance: 36 km, with 2625m in 8 portages and 1 lift over.

Fri. May 2/08: *Scouter Janice:* 10km, 295m in 1 portage. We left Zurich about 5:20am and headed off to pick up Scouter Gerry. We made a couple stops enroute and stopped at Huntsville to buy lunch. We all picked out something from the Independent store. This turned out to be a good choice as there was a lot of variety and it

was very reasonably priced. We registered at Canoe Lake and rented a lifejacket (one left behind), and put in at 2:30pm. We crawled up the east shore with no wind, the scouts leading the way. Our scouts are new to canoe tripping and it takes a bit to get used to the loaded canoes. We crossed the bay to Tom Thompson's Cairn and went up for a look and some pictures. Once again we headed north hugging the shoreline; we followed the sign to the right to Joe Lake. We took out at the second landing and our scouts did their first portage. They will work on perfecting their portaging skills over the next few days. We paddled under the bridge, up the Western Gap, past Joe Island in through the narrows to Teepee Lake. Camp Arrowhon is quiet as we carry on through to the narrows. We are looking for a site for the night. We are camped at the narrows before Fawn Lake at 4:30pm. Scouter Mark, Scouter Steve, Scouter Laura and SIT Kara are on the point on the west side with the 5 girls (Bronwyn, Kelly, Jackson, Shannon, and Morgan). Scouter Gerry, Scouter Bill, and I (Scouter Janice) plus 3 boys (Greg, Jamie, and Ethan) are around the corner on the east shore. It certainly is cold! After setting up our tents we busy ourselves making supper. Scouter Gerry made a delicious Mowie Wowie Chicken meal which we enjoyed immensely. The boys had reheated hamburger patties in pita buns. We had nutella and peanut butter fudge which we shared with the scouts. It started to rain and the tarp was set up. It seemed the boys have no dish soap, no scouring pads, or dish clothes. HMMM.

Sat. May 3/08: 7km, 1510m in 4 portages, plus 1 lift-over It rained heavily off and on in the night and we woke to rain. Once again after breakfast the boys are looking for some dish soap. We made a deal that in trade for the favour they had to pack out our tinfoil as well as their own garbage. The girls paddled over to our site around 10:30 and we loaded Ethan and Scouter Laura into their prospective canoes and off we went into Fawn Lake, passing the stump moose. We paddled up the west shore past the bay that Scouter Bill and I had seen moose in on our last trip. No moose. It is raining again and cold. We took a quick look at Littledoe Lake and headed west to Tom Thompson Lake. We encountered a beaver dam right away. The scouts are leading us and when we pulled up they were all lined up wondering just how to get over the thing. Scouter Gerry and

Scouter Laura showed one technique while Scouter Bill and I demonstrated another. They all made it across and it was lots of fun. We paddled up the east shore and its drizzling and turned colder yet. We entered the creek towards Bartlett Lake. There are 'portage ahead' signs. The 470m portage to Bartlett Lake was fairly easy, but the portaging was long due to the fact that much of the scouts gear is not tied to their packs. The leaders pitched in and we get through the first portage to a stagnant pond full of stumps. We stopped for lunch and paddled around the pond and unloaded at the muddy take-out. It takes forever to unload and get the canoes off the water as there is only one good landing. The rain has settled in to stay. The 130m portage to Willow Lake is easy. The 240m into Aster Pond has a steep descent; we are travelling the right way! One more 670m portage into Sunbeam Lake. These portages are muddy in places and Shannon walked out of her boots several times. The youth are done after hauling their stuff across the portages, even with the help of the leaders. We have a much needed snack and drink and head off into Sunbeam. We are hoping to get the first island site and opposite shore site. It is time to get these scouts off the water as they are wet and hungry and cold and exhausted. We get to the island at 6pm and it is unoccupied, but the shore camp is busy. The scouts are done. We had one scout crash and enter the first stages of hypothermia. She was nauseous and shivering and upset. Scouter Bill and Scouter Gerry had put a tarp up over the thunder box, so we took her up there and helped her change. After getting a warm drink and some food into her, she began to feel better. The rest of the scouts changed, made their suppers and headed off to their tents. I slept poorly, as I found myself listening for any signs or sounds from the tents, but as it was, they all slept well except Bronwyn, who was cold in the night (too bad I didn't know this).

Sun. May 3/08: 7km, 525m in 2 portages. Well, it was a warmer night and we are on the water late, 11:15am. Jackson has some extra clothes on today. We paddled across Sunbeam to the 120m portage to Vanishing Pond. Our scouts seem to have energy to burn today and they portage all their gear and stuff across on their own. Excellent portaging! A couple other canoes are portaging at the same time and we also meet a couple of kayakers. We head across Vanishing Pond into the twisty creek. The water level is up and we are going with the flow. The scouts like this type of paddling and everyone is in good spirits. We take a detour and try to paddle into Baden-Powell Lake through the creek. We are so close, but too far away and we cannot afford to get anymore shoes or clothing wet, so we give up and head farther down the creek. Scouter Mark and Scouter Steve found a channel to the tree-line to the south of us. We all climb out of our canoes and bushwhack to Baden-Powell Lake and the Cairn. The sun came out and we enjoyed reading the different log entries and checking out the pictures and badges. We leave our new and old 1st Zurich badges, a new Trishores badge, and an old 1st Bayfield badge. The scouts loved this challenge and they were happy to be the first Zurich scouts to do the challenge and the first ones to put the new trishore badge in the box. Too cool! Jamie led the way back out of the bush to our canoes and we finished the paddle to the 405m portage to Bluejay Lake. We had lunch at the start of the portage and checked out the creek along the portage. The portage is running with water in places. After we finish the carry we load and paddle Bluejay Lake to Littledoe Lake. We pass up the first 2 sites on the south shore and head for the next southern point. We are camped at 6pm. The girls are at the next southern site on the south point and the boys are at the next northern point across the lake from them. We have a great evening and sleep. We have discovered that

Scouter Gerry and Scouter Bill and I have very similar tripping and camping techniques. That's kinda cool! We try to dry out some of our stuff and watch a beaver swim by the site.

Mon. May 4/08: 12km, 295m in 1 portage Scouter Gerry and Scouter Bill tear down the rope that people have left behind tied to the trees. We are packed up and ready to go at 9:20am. Scouter Gerry and Ethan are loaded and into their canoes and off we go. We paddled west through Littledoe and then retrace our steps through Fawn Lake, Teepee Lake, Joe Lake and under the bridge to the 295m portage into Canoe Lake. The wind has picked up and we crawl along the shoreline. We eat our lunch at the dam and then head off to do the portage. There are lots of people about and our scouts do the portage like pros! After checking out the composting toilet we load up on Canoe Lake and prepare to leave. As we are paddling down the arm to Canoe Lake a group of canoes return saying they had water coming over their bows. We now have some nervous scouts and leaders. Our next challenge will be the wind and waves. We gunnel up at the next dock and explain how we will tack across the bottom of the lake to the west shore. We want to canoe down the lee side of the lake, out of the worst of the wind. Scouter Bill and I will lead and if we get wind bound, we will have to wait. As it turned out crossing the north end was the worst of the trip. We kept stopping and explaining why we were travelling where we were and how to find the best place to paddle. It took us 2 hours to paddle the lake and it was twice the distance, but it was the only way to do that lake. We paddled the perimeter and crossed the Oxtongue River to the Canoe Portage Store. We are off the water at 4:10pm. We have conquered the cold and the rain, the wind and the waves, and we took up the challenge to find Baden-Powell Lake! We are good! We saw seagulls, lots of loons, small birds, a beaver, and a several large fish surfacing. What a trip!

Scouter Gerry; our trip leader, a good companion, similar tripping style to us (Scouter Bill and Scouter Janice), that's why he's so good!

Scouter Mark; yak,yak,yak, he's too funny!

Scouter Steve; our troop leader, he thinks he should take our canoe down the Saugeen, uh-huh, it's our canoe (not my canoe)!

Scouter Laura; she's too funny and what a trooper!

SIT Kara; can paddle with the best of them, solid canoeist!

Scouter Bill; he's my partner!

Bronwyn; quite a trooper even with a cold! She also looks good in green.

Kelly; she pick things up and went on to have a great trip! Tough girl, happy birthday!

Jackson; rode well in the center of the canoe, she too was a drown rat!

Shannon; crazy girl! I don't know if her Mother will ever get the mud out of her boots.

Morgan; she paddles pretty and looks good in raspberry!

Greg; spot, what a camper! He is a terrific sterns-man!

Jamie; you were first on shore at Canoe Lake and never quit paddling. Keep on smiling Jamie!

Ethan; organization is the key Ethan! Glad you could come!

We missed you Scouter Hub and Scouter Shazam! It is too bad Allen fractured his arm, we missed him as well!

Thanks for the wonderful canoe trip 1st Zurich, 2008! I had a great time even through our challenges and tests! I will do this again!