

Algonquin Park

Canoe Lake to Baden Powell Lake via Tepee Lake & Littledoe Lake



Participants: Janice and Bill
Total distance: 29 km, 1585m in 4 portages.

Fri. Oct. 7/05: *Janice:* Left Bayfield at 4pm and arrived at Uncle Ken's in Bracebridge at 8:30pm. Traffic was steady all the way. We enjoyed a relaxed evening with Uncle Ken and Louise.

Sat. Oct. 8/05: 11 km, 295m in 1 portage. We had a nice breakfast and visit and hit the road at 7am. It's 1 degree C. We checked in at Canoe Lake and got our permit at 8am. We put into Canoe Lake at 9:10am. There was a big cold north wind against us. We dug in and paddled northward towards Joe Lake hoping the activity would warm us up. Man, its cold! What a wind chill! There are white caps and we've seen our first loon on Canoe Lake. You can't miss Joe Lake, there are signs. We snuck up almost to the dam and reduced the 390m portage to less than half. There was a group camped by the dam and lots of canoe activity. People were hiking along the road and bridge as we approached it. We paddled left of Joe Island into Tepee Lake. Camp Arowhon is quiet now; no one is there. We are still fighting a north wind and every so often it gusts with such force. We canoed through Fawn Lake and tucked in behind the first island heading up to Littledoe Lake. There is a bay on the left shore and I spotted a big moose grazing in there. We sat and watched and took pictures. She is quite large and dark brown. Nice. We were going to camp on the first campsite on the north side, but it was occupied, so we took the next northern point. It's a nice site and we are out of most of the wind; here at 12:00. We had lunch and set up camp. We've had lots of activity with canoes going by, a loon who comes around, seagull's fighting over a huge fish that finally sunk to the bottom of the lake, a woodpecker hammering on a nearby tree, and a very busy spoiled chipmunk who thinks he should be fed. It finally warmed up to about 12 degrees, but the wind is still out on the lake. Most of the trees have changed colour and there are lots of birch trees with no leaves left at all. It seems quite early for this. We had a nice afternoon snooze. Our crazy chipmunk tried desperately to get into everything we had under the vestibule while we were resting. It was as if he was insisting that we give him some food. He gave up and finally left with no treats. After supper and a relaxed evening we retired for the night. It was good and cold, but the wind died down.

Sun. Oct. 9/05: 7 km, 1005m in 2 portages. *Bill:* We slept in till past 10:00 and Janice wondered how I could last so long without going out as she went out in the night. Our mission for the day was to find Baden Powell Lake. We were on the water at 12:30pm and

went to the east end of Littledoe Lake. There were 2 guys at the portage to Burnt Island Lake and a moose in the water. We canoed past the shaggy moose and went up the creek to Bluejay Lake. The wind was against us as we paddled to the north end. We portaged the 450m trail to the creek from Vanishing Pond. The creek has vanished too and was not canoeable. We had lunch and tried to figure out how to hike there. We finally made it to the tree on Baden Powell Lake. It had 2 hydro boxes on it filled with log sign-in books and pictures and badges. We know how to get there now, but we can't say because it is a challenge for the scouts to get there on their own. We made our way back to the canoe and portage and headed back to camp. The wind was with us now and we saw the same moose at the entrance way to Littledoe Lake. We were back at camp at 5pm; had a great supper. The clouds are moving in to take away the beautiful blue sky we had all day. We saw a beaver right close to camp and heard and saw a barred owl, who called 'who cooks for you'. We also saw a great heron. We cleaned up and got stuff ready for tomorrow. We sat and watched the fire till we went to bed.

Mon. Oct. 10/05: 11km, 295m in 1 portage. *Janice:* We had a much warmer night and the sky is still overcast. We packed up and left camp at 9:10am. There are lots of people still packing up and getting ready to leave their sites. As we left Littledoe Lake and headed into the Little Oxtongue River toward Fawn Lake we decided to look in the little bay beside the last island and see if there was a moose there. There was a big bull moose grazing on the far shore. We took some pictures, but he was camera shy and he slipped into the forest. We headed back the same way we came, through Tepee Lake and Joe Lake. The portage was fairly busy. We snapped a few pictures and ate a snack. We put-in at the first path after the dam rather than doing the whole portage. The water is higher now than it was on Saturday. They must have lowered a dam somewhere. We paddled Canoe Lake and were at the Ministry building at 11:45pm. It was a nice paddle. The wind swirled around only to blow in our face as we crossed Canoe Lake. We had a shower and went for lunch; the service wasn't good so we decided to leave and eat our leftovers on route. Good trip; the leaves were pretty, what was left of them.