

## Kawartha Highlands Park



Participants: Janice and Bill, Jay, Jane and Joe.  
Total Distance: 11 Km, 120m in 2 portages.  
Day Tripping: 13 Km, 360m in 2 portages.

Janice: Sat. Oct. 9, 1999. We have left Bayfield at 6:15am. It is a very dark damp morning, but it is not raining. It rained all evening and night and the temperature has gone up.

Bill: We arrived at Jay's in Toronto at 9am. We helped him get his stuff together. He has a nice view from the 15th floor. Had a light breakfast in Uxbridge and arrived at the Beaver L. Rd. bridge at Catchacoma L. at 12:30pm. The parking lot is just before the bridge on the right hand side. After lunch we loaded up the canoes and departed. Joe was solo, but he caught on real quick. The trees are in their peak and the colours are beautiful. We paddled under the bridge and into Catchacoma L. to Bottle Dam. It was windy and choppy in Catchacoma L. We portaged the 60m into Bottle Creek. The creek was pretty, but the sky was overcast and threatening. We checked out a few campsites but the wind was whistling through them. We ended up on the site which is on the point before the portage to Sucker L. At 4pm we set up camp. Joe has the flattest spot around. The wood is wet from the rain. We made noodles and steak for supper and raspberry moose for dessert. It was good. There was a mouse chewing on our dirty dishes. Jay, Jane and Joe went to bed and we stayed up to clean up. It was a nice evening but we were tired too, so we went to bed at 9:30pm. It was warmer than they predicted so it was pretty cozy.

Sun. Oct. 10, 1999. Janice woke up at 7:30 when I started bugging her to get up. We started a fire for bannoch. We watched a few canoes go by and people fishing. Jay, Jane and Joe finally got up when we started cooking. It is drizzling and foggy so we put up the tarps. We took off for Sucker L. at 12:15pm. There is green algae floating on the water by the portage. It is an easy climb up to the lake. There is lots of boats parked here for fishermen to use when they come up. We looked for a site to have lunch on, but the first couple were taken. We went to the back of the big island and used a beautiful big site. We paddled the rest of the way around the lake and went back to camp. We got here at 4:00pm. Janice and I went back out to see the north side of Bottle L. We went around and parked on the sandy beach in front of the high lookout. We went up and there is a cross at the top where we had a great view of the lake. We got back to camp at 5:15 and it looked like it could pour but the black clouds passed us by. We made spaghetti for supper and chocolate and vanilla pudding for dessert. We got the dishes done in the fading light. Two mice amused us jumping around in Jay's canoe which was tipped on it's side. We are in bed at 9:30pm and now it is starting to rain.

Janice: Mon. Oct. 11, 1999. Happy Thanksgiving! I woke in the night at 1:30. The sky was clear and full of stars. It was lovely. We woke at 8:00am and packed the inside of our tent before we greeted the morning. It is cold today, but the sun is out. We discovered why the two mice kept trying to jump into Jay's upturned canoe. Way in the bow, stuck to some dirt, was a single half peanut. A mouse also destroyed one of our nalgene bottles. He chewed the lid strap and made a hole in the bottle. A skunk visited us in the night. He left his snout marks everywhere. We packed up and had breakie. Jane and I washed our hair. After packing some more, we are finally on the water at 11:30am. The wind is strong

and from the northwest. It channeled down Bottle Creek toward us. We had lunch at Bottle Dam at 12:30. We had quite a struggle canoeing out of the mouth of Bottle Cr. where we were faced with tremendous wind. We tied a line on Joe's canoe to help keep him straight and give him a break for a bit. We took an interesting detour over to the Marina and then we sailed westerly to the Catchacoma Narrows. Once we were in the narrows it was a nice calm canoe to the bridge. We changed and packed and left the parking lot at 3:00pm. It was a nice trip and the leaves are pretty. The winds can be quite strong on Catchacoma L. Lots of motor boats. They weren't a problem though.

Bill: We dropped Jay off in Toronto and Jane at her house. It was a nice family trip and I was glad that Jane could come along and didn't get her feet wet.

THE END