

Killarney Provincial Park

Carlyle to Killarney to Threenarrows to Muriel to Norway to Carlyle



Participants: Janice and Bill

Total distance: 55 Km, 14,490 meters in 16 portages

Sun. Sept. 7/03: *Janice:* We spent the weekend at Blue Springs Gilwell Reunion. We left Acton around 1ish and arrived at Killarney Park just before 7 pm. We had a bear and 3 cubs run across the road in front of us just after the Johnnie Lake access road. The park office was just closing so they asked us to register in the morning. We had a great supper cooked over the fire. We are on site 26, nice spot.

Mon. Sept 8/03: 10 Km, 2,380m in 2 portages. We woke and discovered a ¾ flat tire on our van. We had breakie and a shower, pumped up the tire, registered and headed off to Killarney. We got the tire fixed and decided to have Killarney's famous fish and chips for lunch. They are tar and chipping the road between Killarney and the park, it's messy. We decided to get a picture of the park sign before we headed in. The camera wouldn't work, off to Killarney to buy a battery. We ended up with a disposable camera and after an unexpected hike we are finally at our access point. Carlyle access road is the road to the east of the park sign and we are on Carlyle Lake at 3 pm.

Bill: By 4:00 we were at the portage to Kakakise Lake and did the 940m. portage in 20 minutes; there are lots of boardwalks for those wet days. We paddled the length of the lake and had a gorp break and drink. We did the 1440m. portage to Killarney Lake between 5 and 5:40 pm. The start of the portage, after it splits to the right off the hiking trail, made us wonder what the trail was like because it was all rocks like a dried up stream and steep too. Luckily it levelled out. We started searching for a campsite and found the first 3 were taken. We ended up on site #22 which has lots of room and a nice view of the South La Cloche Range. We had a sleek mink run along our shore. We saw loons and cormorants and ospreys. We put the tent up and made supper. We made a small fire and cooked campfire oatmeal bread. There is a real outhouse here. It is a beautiful night with a full bright moon.

Tues. Sept. 9/03: 9 Km, 3,555m in 2 portages. Woke up to a great morning and were on the water at 9:45. We found the 3160m. portage into Threenarrows Lake and began the climb at 10:10. There was a couple already portaging, who came back for their second load. A couple guys came just as we were leaving. You have to watch your step and half of the trail was uphill. We ended the portage at 11:45 and sat down and had lunch. We paddled the small lake at 12:15 and found the next portage. It was 395m, wide and smooth, and then we were on Threenarrows Lake. We headed northeast and ended up at site #39 for the night at 1pm. We were able to hang everything out in the sun and make bannock for tomorrow and Thursdays lunch. Janice sewed my pants where I had a tear in my back pocket.

Janice: We saw a beaver in the front of our site. The trail to the point has lots of moose poo on it. We spent some time reading out on the point and then we headed in to bed.

Wed. Sept. 10/03: 10 Km, 1,475m in 2 portages. We were certain that we heard that bellow of an elk as we were lying in bed last night. We woke early and when Bill was getting the food bags from the tree he heard some splashing in the bay. He ran to look and saw 2 moose heading up the hill. Sadly, I missed them. We left the sight at 8:45 and slowly paddled to the end of the bay. A white tailed deer was munching away and he really didn't want to leave. He entertained us for some time and then disappeared

into the bush. We climbed the start of the 690m. portage to York Lake. It is a level lightly used trail. York Lake was beautiful, clear, green and smooth as glass. It was just like a mirror. There is only one site on this lake and it would be a lovely place to camp. We did the 785m. portage into Threenarrows Lake. We had a gorp break on the water and headed westward towards Doris Island. The lake is calm and the weather great. We can't believe our luck. We headed south down the western arm. We watched 2 more white tail deer bounce off into the bush as we approached. We are camped at site #46 at 12:30pm. It's a nice site with good viewing areas. We spent the afternoon relaxing, showering, and doing nothing. We have a mouse and squirrel on site and a coon can be heard behind us. Supper is ready! We went for an evening paddle. The lake is still calm and the sun was going down. We went eastward to see if we could find the old portage that is no longer marked on the new maps. We entered into the tiny bay and surprised 2 deer and a heron. We saw the old portage sign, but it would have taken quite a bit of slogging through the swamp goo to get to it. The mosquitoes are trying to make an appearance and we are in the tent early.

Thurs. Sept. 11/03: 8Km, 2,545m in 5 portages. *Bill:* Woke to another beautiful day. We were packed and on the water at 8:30am. We checked out the bay along the way but didn't see any wild life. We are doing the "pig" today (a portage that is 110m. up and 110m. down) and we started the 1320m. portage at 9:30am. We did the uphill part in a two carry. When we got the second load to the top we went up the rest of the footpath to see if we could look out, but all we saw was bush. We did the decent in a one carry. We put the gear down and walked the 230m. portage to the Pool in the Bay of Fines. We saw a sailboat leaving and an old truck with no wheels. We returned and did the 700m. portage to Artist Lake, where we had lunch from 11:45 to 12:15 pm. The pig was mostly rocky, but the rocks were fairly well embedded and we were expecting loose stone so that part was good. There were about 4 steep sections on the way up and going down seemed a longer distance, but I think either way it is a tough portage. I guess we didn't have to add the scenic side trips, but we are on vacation. Artist Lake is pretty with white lilies on the water. We came to a small falls and a portage. I could smell smoke and upon investigation discovered that someone had a small fire on an undesignated site on the dirt. It looked to be out, but it was smouldering underground. I dug around and put 5 yellow park garbage bags full of water on it (I knew this bag would come in handy for something). I stirred it around until I was sure it was out. Janice did our portage for us and we put in just after the beaver dam. My map is a new one and it showed a 900m. portage here, but on Janice's older map it is a 110m. portage which is the way it was. We followed the windy channel through the marsh to the next 185m. portage to Muriel Lake. The portage was no problem and Muriel Lake is a turquoise picturesque lake with an old mountain range in the background. We are on site #34, which is high on a hill overlooking the lake at 1:45pm. We have 2 crazy chipmunks here. We had a nice swim off the rock out front. We are watching the sun set over the lake at 7:30pm.

Fri. Sept. 12/03: 9Km, 725m in 2 portages. *Janice:* We woke early and Bill could hear the wind in the trees so he was ready to get going. We decided to pack up and move. We are well protected on this site. There is an east wind we can see out on the water. We are packing and cooking breakfast by the moonlight, quite nice actually. It is a warm morning and only the mice are moving. We are on the water at 7:30am. We did the full length of the portage into OSA Lake. The little bay is all marshed over and the portage trail is alongside the marsh and then into the bush to OSA Lake. OSA Lake is pretty, surrounded by white mountains and dotted with islands. We passed 2 large groups of young people getting ready to put in and we hurried past them. We decided to do the 130m. portage into Killarney Lake and the LO on the beaver dam. There are lots of stumps in this end of the lake. We had a gorp break by the 3160m. portage and then paddled up the lake to sites 15 and 14. Sites #22, 17, 24, 15, & 14 were still occupied. I guess we are here too soon. It is 10:00am. We cruised around the #14 island and checked out the deadfall and logs on the backside of the island, had some more gorp, and then finally asked if they were staying tonight, they were not so we quietly waited out of sight to the north of the island. We are on site #14 at 11:00am. The fellow that left was proud to announce he left no garbage, but his garbage was still smouldering away in the fire pit and there was a couple of large bags of newspapers left behind. We burnt these. It is a nice spacious site with a good front facing SW. We have

a lazy afternoon planned and hair washing is a must!

Sat. Sept. 13/03: 7Km, 3,810m in 3 portages. *Bill:* The air is humid this morning, but it is still warm for this time of year. We left site #14 and were on the water at 9:40am. The 1390m. portage to Norway Lake was a little longer than on the maps because the portage started on the left side before the end of the bay like the map shows. It is a relatively flat trail. Norway Lake was a beautiful lake with a silver peak in the background to the NE. of where we were. We did the 1470m. portage to Kakakise Lake and at the start it was steep and we hooked up with the hiking trail, where we met 2 hikers. The longest portion of the trail was downhill and we crossed a neat little footbridge. It was a smooth path as well. We had lunch at the end of the portage at 11:50am. We met a solo canoeist at the 940m. portage to Carlyle Lake and another canoe with 2 guys arrived from Kakakise Lake. We did this portage on the way in but this time we had a climb at the start and then it levelled out with lots of boardwalks. We are on camp site #55 at 1pm. After setting up camp we went for a canoe in Terry Lake, just behind us. We checked out the next lake behind it, but it is starting to close in and we didn't think we would get very far. We went back to Carlyle Lake and canoed around the island to site #60 and back. It was a nice paddle. This is our last night out and it is a beautiful blue sky with no wind.

Janice: We sat for a while on the rocks by Terry Lake, waiting for the beaver to work on his dam, but he didn't come. The only thing out and about was a bat and a few mosquitoes. We went to bed in the dark and noticed all the lights at the campsite across the lake.

Sun. Sept. 14/03: 2Km, 0 portages. It was lightly drizzling when we woke and as we lay and waited for it to stop, it rained harder. We decided to pick up and skip breakie and leave. We left at 8:30 and landed at Carlyle Lake takeout at 8:55. There was not a soul around. We saw one loon on our way out. It is raining and drizzling, one of those all day rains. We stopped at the park to let them know about the fire that Bill put out. We are off on quest of a shower and a coffee. Thanks Billy for all the extras you did for me and my bad knee. Beautiful weather, great trip, lots of free time