

## Killarney Trip



Participants: Janice and Bill  
Distance traveled: 60 km. 10,125 m in portages.

Janice: Sept. 21/97. We woke at 7:00am after a wonderful wedding, Joanne and Kevin! We are off and on the road at 10:30am.

Bill: Arrived Cookstown McDonalds 1:00pm. Arrived Killarney Prov. Park 5:30pm. Got site #12 and registered. Surprised us how much it costs for interior camping. Went up to \$8.00 per adult per night. Thank you Mr. Harris. We ate Jean's nacho dip and it was delicious, but too much. Had steak on the fire and it was too much too. We sat around the fire and a fox kept coming to our site to eat the grease that the last campers must have dumped about 6 feet from the fire pit. We chased it away about 3 or 4 times. Off to bed at 10:45pm.

Janice: Sept. 22/97. Something ran into the tent guide ropes in the night. It sounded about the size of that fox again. It was hard to get back to sleep. We are up and dressed and bedding packed at 7:20am. It's 9:15am and we just need to brush our teeth and then we park the van and carry our gear down and off we go.

Bill: Left at 10:00am. The wind was in our backs and we surfed down to the end of George Lake. The 80m portage was an easy path. Freeland Lake had a lot of vegetation in it. The wind was not as hard as we went to the 455m portage into Killarney Lake. Beautiful turquoise lake and the white hills ahead with the pink rock behind was a neat site to see. We portaged the 130m portage into O.S.A. Lake and had a very strong wind to greet us. We battled the wind and are on site #29 at 1:00pm. A very nice site. We set up camp and toured the Island. We put up the hammock and lazed around in the sun and the breeze and now it is time for supper. What a great supper. We had a pepper steak recipe which was just excellent and rehydrated real well. The wind died down and now it has clouded over. I think we are in for rain. We're all cleaned up and in bed now at 8:00pm and it just got dark.

Tuesday, Sept. 23/97. Up at 7:00am and had pancakes which took a very long time to cook. Saw some young loons. Left camp at 9:45am and did the 455m portage into Killarney Lake. The wind was kind of with us as we back tracked to Freeland Lake and George Lake. We thought we saw a bald eagle but when we saw it closer it was a raven. Arrived canoe launch at 12:45pm. We loaded up the van and went to the office to buy some film because after 4 pictures the Kodak Ultra rewound. We had lunch and traveled to Bell Lake. On the water at 2:15pm and the wind was against us out of the north. We went to site #89 and it started to rain. We put up the fly and stowed stuff away. Had hamburger stew which was good. As we were having supper a whole bunch of canoes came and surrounded us at the other sites. They are out paddling in the dark and we are going to bed at 8:15pm. It is real cold tonight.

Wednesday, Sept. 24/97. Up at 6:30. Packed and toured the island. Saw some Mergansers. Heard a deer. Saw tracks but we didn't see it. Saw and heard a Pileated Woodpecker. Neat. Had oatmeal and coffee for breakfast and left campsite at 9:45.

Janice: We traveled Three Mile Lake to Balsam Lake by way of the canoe rail cart. Bill likes that

portage. We bucked wind all the way across Balsam Lake and the huge canoe group was hot on our trail. We did the 665 meter portage and discovered that this group was made up of students and they got 2 credits for this course. Wow! What a wind on David Lake. We had to zigzag and tack across the lake. Met two guys on the one smaller island. They took our picture as we came across and told us they were going to wait the wind out for a bit. We carried on. It was tough. Had lunch at campsite # 99 at 12:00. We carried on and took campsite # 104. When the students caught up to us, they camped all around us including the hiking camp, which they later had to vacate because it was booked. They are very busy with visiting. It keeps us amused watching them coming and going. The two photographers finally made it across at 5:30. They looked frazzled. Our campsite is a point connected to the land by one thin strip of pathway. I bet that strip of land is mosquito city in the spring and summer. We are in bed writing and reading the map at 9:05. The wind is wild again. I wonder if it is always like this?

Bill: Thursday Sept. 25/97. Woke up at 7:15 am. and it is just starting to rain. I took down the wind fly last night because of the beautiful red sunset and this morning I put up the rain fly. So much for the red sunset theory. Had Red River Cereal for breakfast and left the site at 10:15. We started the 2,945m. portage to Great Mountain Lake at 11am. and finished at 12 noon. Janice slipped and fell on her packs on the slippery wet green rocks. Her bum got dirty and that's all the damage there was. Had lunch at site #155 and are now leaving at 12:50pm.

Janice: Canoeed to the 470m. portage to Fish Lake. Lots of moose tracks around here and the portage before. No moose. We are camped on site # 154. Arrived at 2:00pm. We toured this small island and the one beside, had an interesting pizza supper and hit the hay early because it is too cold for me and the wind has come up again. Friday Sept. 26/97. Up at 6:30. It is still dark and soooooo calm. Strange, we thought it was always windy, windy here. We prepared burnt flavoured cream of wheat, then we stood in awe just as the sun came up at 7:30. We were serenaded by a wolf pack. Young and old howled beautifully for us at the rising sun. When they were finished a loon said good morning. It was wonderful. We left the camp at 9:15 and portaged back to Great Mountain Lake. At the end of the portage I heard a moose bellowing and since there were fresh moose tracks on the trail, we quietly snuck out into the lake, but we did not see a moose. We took pictures at the cabin and portaged into David Lake. It took us about an hour. So calm. This lake doesn't look like the same lake we were on yesterday. Nice.

Bill: We picked site # 102 for our next two nights. We had lunch and then set up camp. It is a beautiful blue sky and warm in the sun. We explored the area after we hung our bear bag and it is a real neat rock face we are in front of. We managed to get washed before we were invaded by another large group camped across and beside us. So much for serenity. They were F-ing this and F-ing that and making more than excessive noise. I hope they leave tomorrow. We had a delicious chicken soup which was home made and hit the spot. We had a beautiful sunset over the trees and lake again and it is now 8:35pm. and we are going to bed.

Janice: Saturday Sept. 27/97. We are awake at 7:00am. It is another beautiful day. Sunny and warm. The climb up to Silver Peak was nice but tough. The view was magnificent. We took lots of pictures and ate lunch on the peak. Coming down was great till I got pooped and had some blisters, but I did it. Bill didn't seem to have any trouble.

Bill: I was tired toward the end too. After fighting gravity on the way up and again on the way down, who wouldn't be. It was well worth it though. We had a lazy afternoon with an orange surprise and watched the ducks in the bay by the site. The warden came by and checked our permit and chatted for a bit. He said he chased a fox away from the site beside us which is the school crew, and it got into some of their stuff. There was a group of volunteers trying to return things to normal. They blocked pathways and landings where there were not supposed to be any. The warden wrecked a stone cairn beside us.

They are used for trail markers, but people put them anywhere here. We had a delicious spaghetti supper with cheese and are watching the sky cloud over. What will the weather bring? Time to do dishes.

Janice: Sunday Sept. 28/97. I awoke in the night to smell a skunk close by and in the morning there were little holes all around where he had been searching for grubs. We got up at 6:40am. and did breakfast and packed. Interesting sky. We can't decide if it will rain or not. Left camp at 8:40am. The trees are quite beautiful now, much more colour than when we came in. We portaged to David Creek and there we quietly canoed past two moose. One stood watching us as we watched it and the other lay in the grass behind it. They are almost black with a tan face. Gorgeous. Around the next bend we quietly slipped past a crane and he didn't move as we paddled on. The water was high and we didn't have to do the lift over. Portaged to Bell Lake and we are packed and on the road at 11:30. It was a wonderful trip and the country is magnificent. Some day I'd like to go back and canoe the Three Narrows Lake and area, but that won't be for a while. There are many, many other places to go yet; as long as my partner is willing to go.

Bill: I enjoyed the trip too. The fries and fish at Mr. Perch in Killarney at the channel was a nice treat and a great place to eat. We shopped around for a bit and then headed for home. We stopped at Grundy Lake Prov. Park and had a shower. It is a nice park with a few easy to reach canoe sites. We may use it some day as a gateway to the French River route. We went home knowing we would rather keep tripping. With a partner like Janice, I am willing to go anywhere.

THE END.