

## Nunikani Lake Loop



Total distance: 22km. 1,165 m. in portages. Did trip in 3 Days.  
Participants : Bill, Janice, Christine, Derek, Kimberly and Mark.

Janice: June 7,1997. Well we stayed up late packing again. We must refine this some day. It is now 3:20 am and we are driving on the Bayfield road towards Clinton. Bill called Chris and Derek at 2:30 am. They didn't have enough room in the packs we lent them and I guess they ended up renting better ones. Bill's pack weighs 35 lbs. and mine is 50 lbs. Bill carries our superlight canoe. Boy is it dark out! It will be very hard to see in the bush.

Chris: 0741 hrs. We are all feeling giddy right now; we guess it's from lack of sleep. We got our packs ready to go last night... that was a chore! This trip will definitely be a learning experience.

Janice: The sun is out and the clouds look like they might be working up to something. We just finished lunch on a rock island in Big Hawk Lake. We are about 2 km from our first portage. Chris and Derek are learning about load leveling in a canoe and Kim and Mark decided they had too much food for lunch.

Kim: Right now at 6:30 pm I am relaxing in the hammock. This is our first evening. Mark is sleeping in our tent and Chris is making everything neat. Derek as usual is eating. Well I could definitely get used to this but it won't be happening soon.

Bill: Well it did rain and thunder yesterday. We had to wait at the portages for it to blow by. We used the fly and that helped. We had a good noodle and hamberg meal and Chrissy made a very good home made stew but she brought too much. We watched a lightning show over the lake at dusk and then headed for bed. After going all night and all day, I slept like a log. We are on Red Pine Lake and there are loons out in the water. We had oatmeal and coffee for breakfast which hit the spot. Juice jugs are ready, and the sun is out. Janice almost caught a Bass, but she didn't land it so that doesn't count. The rest are up and moving. The general complaint is they are stiff. It is 9:30 am and we are just finishing breakfast.

Janice: This hammock is nice. Time to pack up and move on. Mosquitoes and Blackflies are a pain. We are comparing the number of bites we have. Derek and Chris are working on dishes.

Derek: Left camp just before 11:30 am. It is gorgeous today; warm and sunny. Paddled a little way across Red Pine Lake to our portage. Had some GORP and a drink and began our portage. What an adventure this one was. It was rocky and full of roots. Wasn't too bad though. We survived and launched into Nunikani Lake and set up camp at a wonderful site. I am really enjoying this trip and can't wait to do it again. Could do without the bugs for sure.

Markus: We just got finished setting up camp and avoiding the rain here on Nunikani Lake. The birds are chirping, the sun is shining and Derek is eating. Everything so far has been great, but we could definitely do without the bugs.

Bill: Mark and I were fishing off the shore and watched a very dark cloud coming toward us. We thought

it might miss us, but it didn't. We ducked for shelter under the fly and it poured and it hailed 3/8" ice pellets before it finally went by. Mark went out to sit in it. Why? I don't know. Everyone was getting ready for supper and all three couples had a doctored up soup . Mark kept a pretty good fire going. Sharing dessert was a nice touch. After we stashed our food, we sat around and talked and went to bed about 10:30. Janice and I are the first ones up again at 8:00 am and we are going fishing now and will have breakfast later.(Maybe fish!).

Chris: June 9, 1997. 1100 hrs. We just got finished breakfast and we are now breaking camp. Last night was interesting. We experienced a downpour of rain which included the largest hail that I've ever seen! I've managed to loose my sunglasses. Well it just wouldn't be me if I didn't loose something. This trip has gone by so quickly! I can't believe it's the last day already. Derek and I are going to try and plan a trip for next year. That should be interesting!

Derek: Today is Monday June 9th. The final day of the trip. Had a great time. The bugs and mosquitoes were unbelievable. I look like I have a million bites. Learned a lot about canoeing and being safe in the wilderness and would do it again.

Mark: In the car on our way home. It was a great weekend except for the bugs. I learned quite a bit about portaging and can't wait for the next trip. I must have lost about 10 lbs. of fat from all the "health food" I've been eating and all the walking we did. We're off now to KFC, to keep Derek happy, and then heading home to plan the next trip.

Kim: We are on our way home now, but first we are going to KFC. I really enjoyed this trip. The only downfall about it was that I wasn't prepared enough. I forgot to bring pots to cook with and a stove. I learned a lot about portaging and it was a great experience. I could not believe that it hailed on a summer evening, also the bugs were so bad. I definitely want to do this again with less bugs and being prepared a lot more.

Chris: 1742 hrs. We are on our way home and reminising about the trip. The good thing is that we can all laugh about the frustrations we had in the canoe. I think that we just need some more experience. I definitely learned a lot! I hope to learn more next year.

Janice: We pulled out of the water at 4:30 pm. There was no fish for breakfast, by the way, but I had fun paddling in the stern. Bill wants me to mention the wildlife- a snapping turtle, several snakes, chipmunks, ducks and loons. The falls at Nunikani dam are beautiful! It was a nice trip. The big lakes are busy with motor boats and Bill and I prefer the quieter ones. Our campsites were lovely. Derek, Chris, Mark and Kim are real troopers. They did great! Nice supper on the way home at 7:00 pm.

Bill: We arrived home at 10:55 pm. It was a good trip with good people. Hopefully more members of our family can go along, eh Tony & Joe? We thought about you. It is nice to see the younger people leave nothing but footprints and that is important to me. Derek had to doctor his baseball wound all weekend, Chriss looses things (they are probably in your pack), Kim is so quiet and forgets things, and Mark did the spits between the shore and the canoe. Janice and I traded places so she could practice at the stern. She did great! An excellent partner. I would choose her over anybody else. It was an easy loop with good portages. It seems to always rain when we go on our trips. It was nice to see the improvement in canoeing skills from when we first set out and the first question asked was how do you keep your canoe going straight? At the end we tacked across Big Hawk Lake and it was nice to let the wind do most of the work. It was especially nice to spend some time with Chris and Derek and Kim and Mark.

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