

Overview

This canoe trip runs in Algonquin Provincial Park from the Achray campground to Squirrel Rapids along the Barron Canyon. Total trip length is 20 km, including a total portage length of 2.6 km.

Schedule

Sunday July 8th

Depart Merrickville from the Allan's house 4:30pm. Kids should be dropped off at Allan's house by 4:30pm. Exact departure time is dependant upon the return of the Scout canoes by another troop that has them in Frontenac this weekend. Worst case is a 6:00pm departure.

Travel highway 43 towards Smiths Falls, highway 15 to Carleton Place, county road 29 to Arnprior, highway 17 to Pembroke, county road 28 to the Sand Lake park entrance.

Stop at Algonquin Portage outfitter to arrange shuttle of truck to end of canoe route (\$53 cash + truck key).

Arrive Algonquin Provincial Park, Achray Campground approximately 8:00pm.

Travel distance approximately 240km.

Camp at jump off campsite. Reservation # 3431012.

Monday July 9th

Canoe to Stratton Lake.

Paddle 6.5 km, portage 30m.

Canoe to High Falls and play on rock slide and look at waterfall.

Tuesday July 10th

Canoe to The Cascades.

Paddle 3.7 km, portage 1.1 km.

Consider lining the rapids at the 530m portage rather than carrying.

Possible look at waterfall near end of portage from St. Andrews Lake.

Wednesday July 11th

Canoe to Brigham Lake.

Paddle 2.5 km, portage 640m.

Poison ivy common along these portages.

Consider lining the rapids at the 290m and 350m portages rather than carrying.

Potential evening trip to Barron Canyon with hike to top of canyon. Just east of the highest walls of the canyon it is possible to climb the scree slope and work back a short distance to the west to the trail.

Thursday July 12th

Canoe through Barron Canyon to Squirrel Rapids.

Paddle 7.6 km, portage 860m.

Poison ivy common along these portages.

100m portage might be runnable depending on water level.

Large waterfall on 440m portage.

Truck waiting at Squirrel Rapids after shuttling by Algonquin Portage outfitter.

Depart park approximately 1:00pm.

Travel county road 28, highway 17 to Arnprior, county road 29 to Carleton Place, highway 15 to Smiths Falls, highway 43 to Merrickville.

Arrive Merrickville approximately 4:00pm. Call parents for pickup. Kids can wait if parents still working.

Kit List

Sleeping bag
Sleeping pad (optional)
Torch
Spare batteries (optional)
Change of clothes
Change of footwear
Trousers
Long sleeved shirt
Swim suit
Towel
Sweater or sweat shirt
Rain jacket
Rain pants (optional)
Pyjamas
Pillow (optional)
Tooth brush, toothpaste, etc.
Cup, bowl, knife, fork, spoon
Water bottle
Whistle on lanyard
Sunscreen
Insect repellent
Hat
Camera (optional)
Sunglasses (optional)
Hiking boots (optional)
Water shoes (optional)
Pocket knife (optional)
Compass (optional)
Survival kit (optional)
Canoe paddle (optional)
Personal Flotation Device (optional)
Gloves (optional)

Everybody should pack their own rucksack to ensure they know where everything is located, and so they can repack it.

It is recommended to pack all items in a large garbage bag inside the rucksack. This will keep the items dry in the unlikely event of a tipped canoe.

As we will be portaging, the kit should be packed as light as possible.

Paddles and personal flotation devices will be supplied if personal ones are not brought.

No electronic games, cell phones, or other devices.

Menu

Sunday

Supper

Brown bag from home (or eat before departure)

Frozen

Sausages, 2 package

Bacon, 1 package

Ham, small

Monday

Breakfast

Eggs, sausages, fruit, oatmeal, cereal

Lunch

Lochlan: Muffins, cheese, vegetables, cookies, juice

Supper

Alex: Spaghetti, meat balls, éclairs, iced tea

Tuesday

Breakfast

Eggs, potato pancakes (1 pkg/2 eggs), bacon, fried bread in butter, fruit, oatmeal, cereal

Lunch

Aaron: Mini bagel pizzas (2 per person), cheese, crackers, frozen juice

Supper

Harry: Stew, dessert

Wednesday

Breakfast

Eggs, potato pancakes (1 pkg/2 eggs), fried ham (small half), fruit, oatmeal, cereal

Lunch

Sam: Soup

Supper

Ben: Hamburger Helper (2 boxes), TVP

Left in truck

Beer (2)

Pop (6)

Juice (6)

Thursday

Breakfast

Pop tarts, fruit, oatmeal, cereal

Lunch (left in truck)

Pepperoni, cheese, crackers, fruit, juice, chips, leftovers

Spare

Cup-a-soup, 6

Snacks

Granola bars, sweet & salty, chewy, 32

Granola bars, crunchy, 64

Gummy bears

Marshmallows, 24

Hot chocolate, 12

Beer, 8 cans

Wine, 1 litre

Apples (1 bag red, 1 bag green)

Honey roasted peanuts

Pepperettes

Corn pops

Frosted Flakes

Other

Juice crystals, 2

Koolaid singles, 24

Brown sugar

Oil, ½ litre

Butter, 1 lbs

Pudding, 1

Dessert, freeze-dried, 2

Jam

Milk, UHT, 3 litres

Bread, 2 loaves

Contact Information

Cheryl Yates
205 Wolford Drive
Merrickville, Ontario
(613) 269-3074

Algonquin Provincial Park
Park Information Office
(705) 633-5572

Algonquin Portage Outfitter
1352 Barron Canyon Road.
Pembroke, ON
(613) 735-1795

6-km on right from 26/17 junction, red roof, green door. Key + fee through mail slot.

Participants

Name	Canoe Skill	Canoe Strength	Age	Camping Experience
Ben Catton	Stern	High	14	High
Sam Catton	Stern	Medium	11	High
Harry Hitsman	Stern	Medium	12	High
Aaron Kinch	Stern	Medium	12	High
Alex McKay	Stern	High	12	High
Lochlan Savage	Stern	Medium	11	Medium

Hospital

The nearest hospital is the Pembroke Hospital. From the Achray campground, take Route 28 back to the Park entrance at Sand Lake and continue on to Hwy 17, head south on 17 for several miles until the Hwy 41 intersection. Turn into town, and follow the hospital signs.

Adult in Charge

Allan Yates

Drivers License # Y0804-02656-71218

Vehicle

Manufacturer: GMC

Model: Yukon XL Denali

Colour: Pewter

License plate: AKFA 929

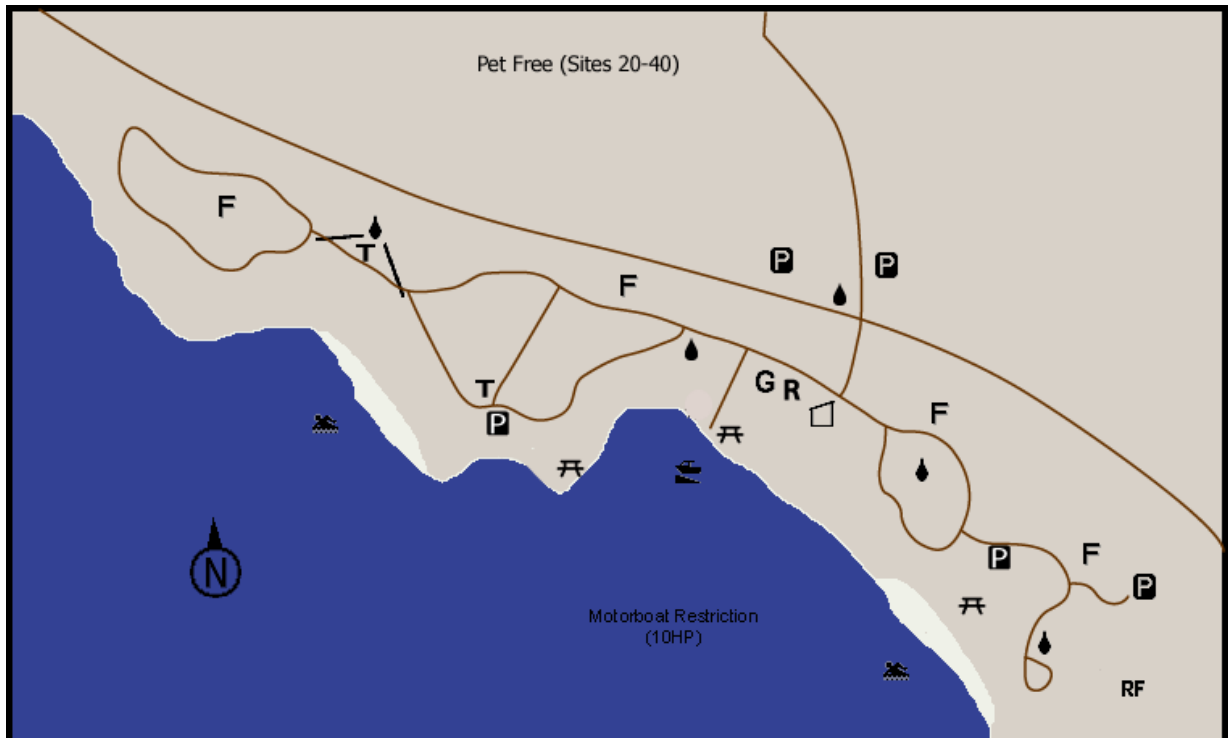
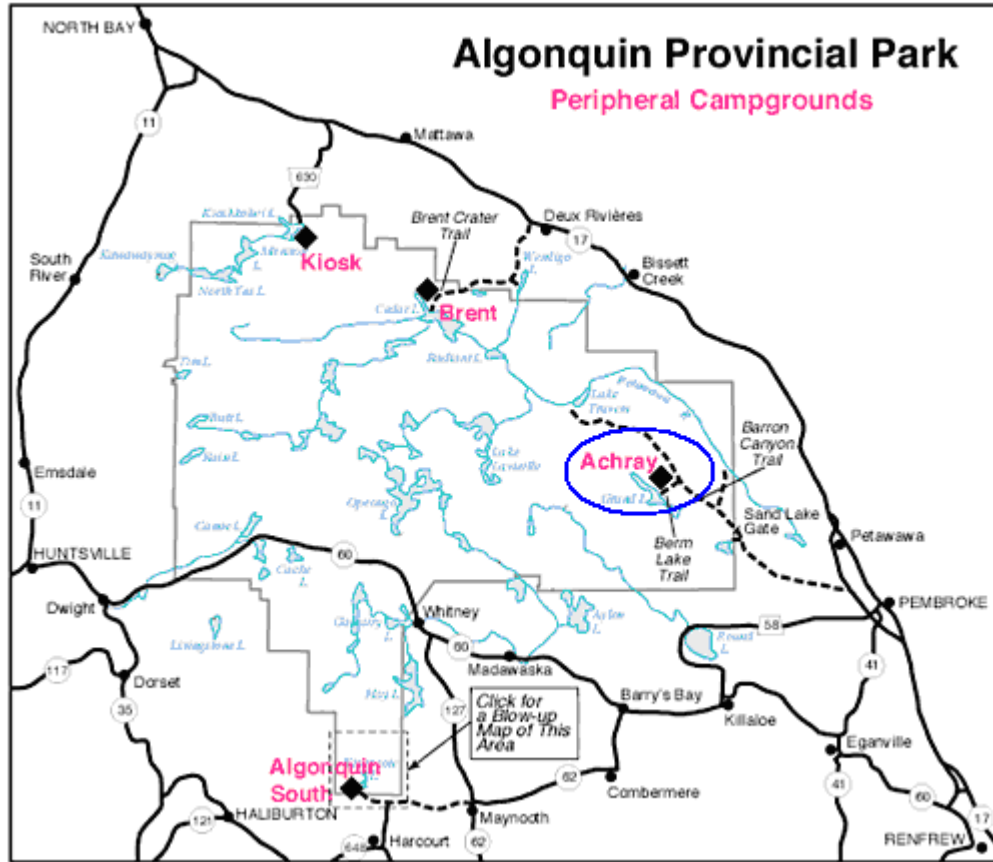
Common Equipment

Tarps, light weight
 Paracord
 First aid kit
 Repair kit
 Duct tape
 Matches
 Newspaper
 Saw, folding
 Dish soap
 Watch
 Camera & film & long lens & spare batteries
 Binoculars
 Book
 Toilet paper
 Tinfoil
 Paper towel
 Garbage bags
 Notebook & pencil (2) & write-in-the-rain pen
 Map, 2
 Pots, set of two + handle
 Pot, large
 Frying pan
 Lantern
 Propane, 1 lb
 Kleenex
 Stove, Svea (single burner)
 White gas, 1 large bottle, 2 small bottle (for stove)
 Bleach
 Hatchet
 Sheath knife
 Multi-tool
 Thermometer
 Tea towel
 Dish cloth
 Wooden spoon
 Spatula
 Tensor bandage
 Tent & poles & 6 pegs & groundsheet, 4 man
 Bivi sack
 Hammock, 2
 Spare truck key + fee for shuttle
 CDs
 Trip plan

Boating

Canoes, 3
 Throw ropes, 3
 Paddles, 8 (including spare)
 Personal Flotation Device, 7
 Bailer, 3
 Painter, 3
 Sponge
 Rope, long

 Kindling (for first night)
 Firewood (for first night)
 Weather Forecast
 Oven mitts
 Cooler, propane, w/5lbs tank, leave in truck



Report

Quite a successful trip I believe, in spite of all the rain. The kids were reasonably challenged, but also managed to have some fun.

The canoes, scheduled to arrive back from Frontenac at 4:30pm on the Sunday, actually arrived at 4:37pm; I can't complain about that. It took about an hour for the kids to unload the three canoes that weren't needed and to pack all the food in the three food barrels. The kids tossed out the two loaves of the bread, and the special bread for fried bread; they had no interest in that what so ever. We needed all three food barrels; two small and one large. The large one can easily get packed too heavy, but it was good for cereal boxes, and later our pots.

We departed Merrickville at 5:30pm and arrived at the Achray campground at 8:30pm; it's exactly a three hour drive. We were booked into a jump off campsite (nine person limit on these, rather than the six person limit in the campground). The jump off sites we found were quite small, so we searched out the park warden. He pointed out another jump off site just off the road that was much larger. We erected a large tarp (this proved to be a daily occurrence) as a thunderstorm was forecast. As the trees had no low branches, the kids took turns standing on my shoulders. Sleeping arrangements were four kids in a tent, one in a bivi-sack, and one in a hammock. The kids traded each night. The idea being to expose them to alternative arrangements. I was in a hammock each night. There was a granddaddy of a thunderstorm overnight with thunder loud enough to send us through the roof of the tents. The rain stopped by morning.

Monday morning we loaded the canoes and were off at 9:30am. We canoed across Grand Lake with a 30m portage into Stratton Lake around a low dam. We didn't bother unloading the canoes, but just carried them fully loaded. We reached our favorite campsite on a point of Stratton Lake at 11:30am. We rigged up a small tarp under which to stash our gear, and then headed to the water slide with our lunch fixings. There were only a few other people present. The next five hours were spent playing in the water slides, and exploring the High Falls water fall. We made the scientific discovery that Harry's watch does not float :(We clambered down the side of the water fall to play in the rapids. We swam across a small lake at the bottom of the falls to explore another small water fall. As we arrived back at the water slide for some more sliding, we realised that someone had stolen our bag of Dad's Oatmeal cookies. It was down in a crevice with some granola bars and nothing had been chewed, so we can only think that a camp group from Quebec that was seated next to us walked off with the bag. We were not amused. We also did some jumping off a small rock race. An older teenaged lad was doing somersault dives off the rock, so I bugged Ben until he tried. He was quite successful (most of the time!). I put my foot down at back somersaults. Then it was back to the campsite for supper. We setup more tarps, and luckily so, as we had a nasty thunderstorm again during the night. Harry monopolised the saw for firewood cutting. When we setup the hammock, we didn't notice one of the trees had been cut half through, so as soon as somebody lay in the hammock, the tree fell down!

Tuesday had us departing for a series of lakes called The Cascades. For a snack, the kids dug out the Gummy Bears. I only managed to get two (red) bears! :(The first portage we carried, but we tried to be smart on the second 540M portage. However due to some big log jams, it would have been quicker and easier to do the carry normally. We found a sleeping bag at the beginning of this portage, but left it hoping that the owner would return. Once we made it to the lake where we intended to camp. However, the campsite was taken. I had been told by the reservation folks that there were two campsites on the lake, though my map only showed a single site. We came to the conclusion that the other site may be on a lake further up the chain, so a bit more canoeing and two more portages brought us to the final lake in the chain. We found the campsite. The location wasn't that great, but it wasn't too bad. This was a full day. I said it wouldn't rain, but the kid's put their feet down and setup the tarps anyway. Luckily for us, as it poured down. There were quite a few chipmunks around, so the kids setup up some box traps to try and catch them; but with no luck.

As we had done Wednesday's portages on Tuesday, we had a very short trip today. We didn't depart until 10:30am and were at our campsite by 11:30am. We had a choice of the three campsites on Brigham lake, and picked the best which happened to be the one closest to the portage into the Barron Canyon. As we had the whole afternoon ahead of us, we packed up lunch and headed for the canyon using just two of the canoes. Our plan was to climb the canyon wall and reach the official trail at the top. I had read about a couple of people who said one could scramble up the canyon side shortly after high walls dropped off. The planned lunch was soup, but as we didn't want to carry a stove, we instead went for pepperettes, crackers, cheese, granola bars, and other snacks. We portaged 400m into the canyon with the two empty canoes. As we neared the place for the scramble start, Sam noticed he had left his

lifejacket at the portage! At this point it was better to continue, so we docked the canoes and scrambled up the canyon side. It was quite steep going, and the knapsack was heavy with drinks, but we made it. The view from the top was great. The path along the top goes right to the edge. We even managed to get Harry and Lochlan onto an overhang (it was safe!) for a photo. We now noticed that one of Lochlan's ears had swollen to about three times normal size. No other symptoms so it must have been a localised reaction to an insect bite. It calmed down as the day progressed. After lunch at the top we climbed back down to the canoes. As we headed back to the campsite, the wind picked up, and we had a stiff paddle upstream in the canyon. A group behind us commented to me that they were extremely impressed at how the kids dug into the hard paddle. Unfortunately, when we reached the portage Sam's lifejacket had disappeared. We had a relaxing evening by the campfire, with only a few light rain showers. The kids decided that the first and last nights of the trip were the ones to stay up late, so they had a good time chatting by the fire. Harry's feet needed a little attention from the first aid kit; they evidently had an affinity for sharp rocks. Aaron was in true camping spirit, when we had some good weather in the late afternoon, he strung up clothes lines around the campsite and hung the tents up to dry.

On Thursday morning we breakfasted on Pop-tarts, and departed the campsite at 9:00am. The kids had been waiting through the whole trip for the Pop-tarts; yuck! We ran the rapids instead of doing the 100m portage. There is a clear channel along river right. One of the bow paddlers, I forget who, lost his paddle with it stuck between two rocks, but Alex (in the stern) grabbed the paddle as he passed it. Pretty cool! Alex was so excited with this small swift, I can hardly imagine him at the age of 14 in 3' white water waves. We reached Squirrel Rapids, the take-out, at 12:00pm. Two 45 minute 400m portages, and 1 1/2 hours of paddling. We had a quick drink, though the cooler in the truck had run out of propane (5lbs tank) so the drinks weren't ice cold as planned; but the kids didn't complain. Alex successfully portaged a canoe across the parking lot, so he should soon be ready for solo portaging on the trail within a year. Sam and Ben broke out in some type of contact dermatitis. White lumps on a hand and an arm. We had passed through a major poison ivy area an hour previously, so that may have been the trigger. Affected areas were washed with soap and detergent in cold water. Their symptoms started to subside after a couple of hours. Later research appeared to indicate that poison ivy reactions usually occur 24 hours after contact and take a couple of weeks to subside; so I am not exactly sure what happened. Then we loaded up the trailer and truck and headed off. A quick stop at the park gate showed that nobody had turned in our missing lifejacket. We skipped lunch and headed to Dairy Queen; next time I listen to the directions from the kids. They may not remember their times tables, but they sure remember the way to Dairy Queen.

We arrived back at my house 4:20pm, not too bad. The kids unloaded all the gear and hung the tents to dry. Everybody was picked up by 5:00pm.

The food worked out pretty well. I like the kid's each being responsible for a meal. The kids liked that we were carrying the food in barrels with harnesses rather than a duffel bag like last year. The stew was rather heavy, but good. We found a couple of packages of noodles later in the trip that we think might have been intended for the stew :) With many people packing granola bars, plus the ones I packed, we had about double the number we needed. Running the snacks as common items would probably work better. We had one bag of marshmallows left over. Juice boxes were also heavy, and we had a few too many containers of juice crystals. Magic Cherry powder started off green, turned blue, and tasted nothing like cherry! Kool-Aid singles are popular and easy, but no doubt a little less economical. Spaghetti always goes down well, especially with éclairs. Fried ham was very well liked, but the potato pancakes didn't turn out as well this time. TVP in hamburger helper work fine (and was nice and light), Though it doesn't have quite the taste of ground beef. We only spilt a little of this mixture on the ground :) Cereal and milk went over well; except that most of the Frosted Flakes were eaten dry as a snack. Probably don't want to carry quite as much milk, it's heavy. Pop tarts were looked forward to for the entire trip. Bacon, sausages, and eggs are always well liked. We discovered that the eggs tasted better if they are not fried in bacon grease. Two packets of freeze-dried cheese cake came along, and neither of them tasted that great. Some freeze-dried mud pies (coconut mounds, frogs, etc) did work well and were well liked. I found that Ben will do anything for chocolate. We used all the vegetable oil on the first box of potato pancakes. Only the small bottle of white gas was used, the large bottle was untouched. Packing items in ziplock bags in the food barrels would have kept things neater and prevented boxes getting soggy when rain dripped in the open tops.

Ben was able to portage the 50lbs canoes solo. He would make it about 2/3 of the way along 440m hilly/rocky portages before taking a break. As I would come back along the portage after dropping off a canoe, I would hoist it back on his shoulders and he would finish off the portage. We had the portaging down pat such that we had no more than two trips per person.

I have a selection of my duplicate photos for each person. I will produce a CD with all the photos once I receive CDs of Ben's and Aaron's photos.

Lost and found (see attached photos)

- Various socks
- Various Tupperware containers (Alex)
- Small soft sided cooler (Alex)
- Knapsack (Harry)
- Plastic fork (Catton?)

My costs for the trip:

Dairy Queen	\$30.24
Park fee	\$66.00
Gas 216km * 2 @ 16 l/100km @ \$1.026/litre	\$70.92
Propane	\$2.51
Food	\$169.74
Shuttle	\$53.00
Photos	\$44.87

Total \$445.41

Divide by 7 for \$63.63 per person. That's \$15/day; not bad!