

Objective

Challenge the kids physically and mentally with an expedition a little longer and harder than they have done before. Provide an opportunity for the older kids to learn and practice canoe trip planning skills, as well as lead a trip. Introduce the kids to new areas for camping. Continue to nurture a love for camping and the outdoors. Have fun! Total trip length is 23.1 km, including a total portage length of 3.2 km.

Schedule

Tuesday June 27th

Depart Merrickville from the Catton's house 5:00pm.

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.

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

Travel distance approximately 240km.

Camp at site # 9. Reservation # 1022312.

Wednesday June 28th

Canoe to Stretton Lake. Aim to camp on site on the point half along the north/west side of the lake.

Grid reference 902805. Reservation # 2315006.

Paddle 6.5 km, portage 30m.

Canoe to High Falls and play on rock slide.

Thursday June 29th

Canoe to Oplescent Lake. Aim to camp on site on point half way down the south side of the lake. It is reportedly very large with a great rock beach to dive off, and has a complete set of living room/dining room furniture made out of stone. Grid reference 935835. Reservation # 2315006.

Paddle 4.9 km, portage 1.5 km.

Friday June 30th

Canoe through Barron Canyon to Squirrel Rapids.

Paddle 8.5 km, portage 1.7 km.

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

Depart park approximately 5:00pm. Call Mike on cell.

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 8:00pm - 9:00pm.

Alex dropped off at home, Mike Jackman to pick up Gregory at Catton's house.

Participants

Name	Canoe Skill	Strength	Age	Camping Experience
Ben Catton	Stern	High	13	High
Sam Catton	Bow	Medium	10	High
Gregory Jackman	Bow	Med/Low	11	High
Alex McKay	Stern	High	11	High
Heather Yates	Midship	Low	8	High
Laura Yates	Bow	Med/Low	9	High

Kit List

Sleeping bag
Sleeping pad (optional)
Torch
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
Kleenex
Toilet paper
Sunglasses (optional)
Hiking boots (optional, for portaging)
Water shoes (optional)
Pocket knife (optional)
Compass (optional)
Survival kit (optional)
Canoe paddle (optional)
Personal Flotation Device (optional)
Fishing rod, hooks, lures, worms, etc (optional)
Snorkeling equipment (mask, snorkel, fins) (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.

Though the portages are short, the kit should be packed as light as possible.

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

No electronic games, cell phones, or other devices.

Menu

Tuesday

Supper

Brown bag from home (or eat before departure)

Wednesday

Breakfast

Eggs, sausages (frozen), toast, oranges, oatmeal, cereal

Lunch

Alex: Pita bread, ham, turkey, grated cheese, oranges

Supper

Ben: Spaghetti, sauce, banana bread, apple juice, fruit punch

Thursday

Breakfast

Eggs, potato pancakes, bacon, fried bread in butter, oranges, oatmeal, cereal

Lunch

Pepperoni, cheese, crackers, apples, juice

Supper

Gregory: Penne pasta, sauce, mashed potatoes, beef jerky

Friday

Breakfast

Eggs, potato pancakes, ham (fry), oranges, oatmeal, cereal

Lunch

Pepperettes, cheese, crackers, fruit, juice

Supper

Cheese sausages, mashed potatoes, canned corn

Snacks

Granola bars (50)

Gummy bears

Marshmallows (24)

Hot chocolate (28)

Beer (12)

Apples (12)

Oranges (12)

Other

Tang

Brown sugar

Oil

Butter

Pudding

Milk powder

Jam

Likes

Ham

Chili

Spaghetti

Fish (preferably fresh)

Hash browns

Oatmeal

Toast

Cheese

Pepperoni

Chicken

Rice

Pasta

Dislikes

Tuna

Egg salad

Kraft Dinner

Spare

Cup-a-soup

Oriental noodles

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 (cheque) through mail slot. \$53.50.

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 Information

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
 Map, 2
 Pots, set of two + handle
 Frying pan
 Lantern & propane
 Kleenex
 Stove, Svea (single burner)
 White gas (for stove)
 Bleach
 Collapsible water container
 Hatchet
 Sheath knife
 Multi-tool
 Thermometer
 Tea towel
 Dish cloth
 Wooden spoon
 Spatula
 Tensor bandage
 Rope
 Tent, 4 man
 Tent, 2 man
 Bivi sack
 Spare truck key
 CDs
 Trip plan

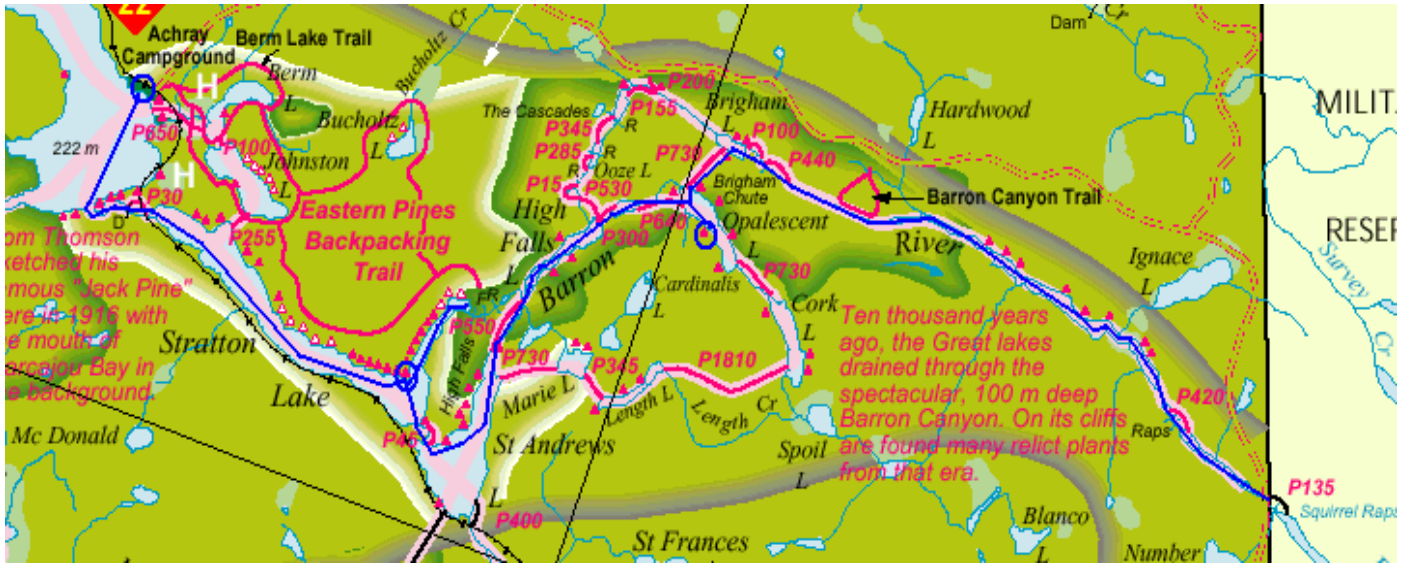
Boating

Canoe, 2
 Kayak, 2
 Throw rope, 3
 Paddle, 8
 Personal Flotation Device, 7
 Bailer, 3
 Painter, 3
 Sponge

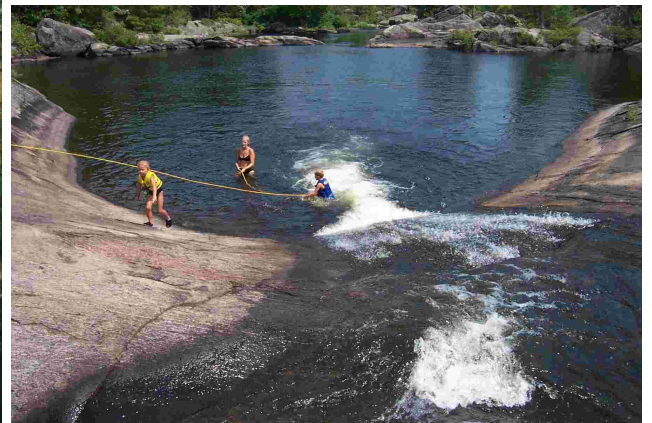
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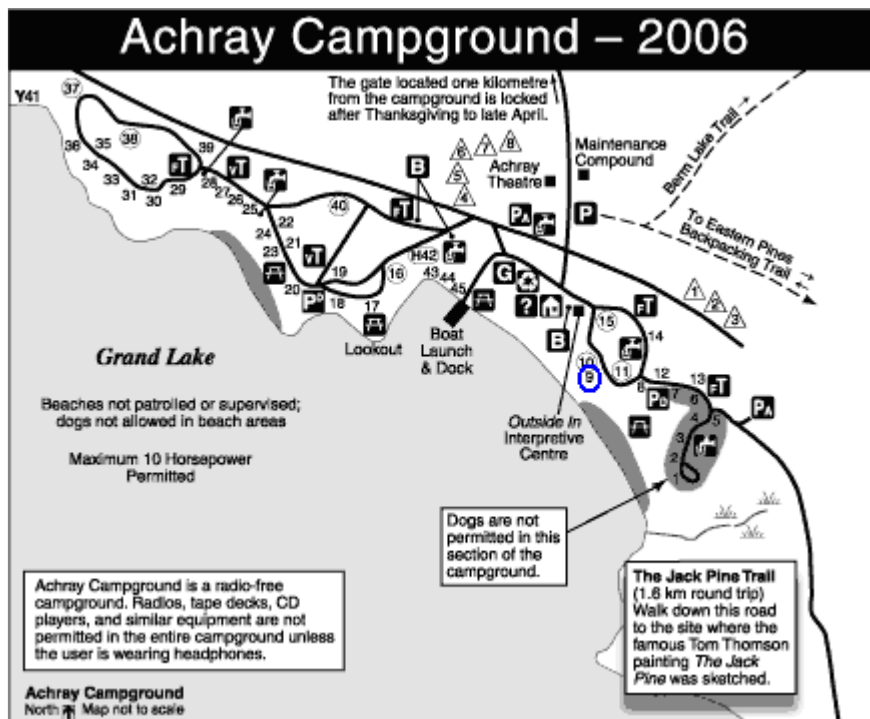
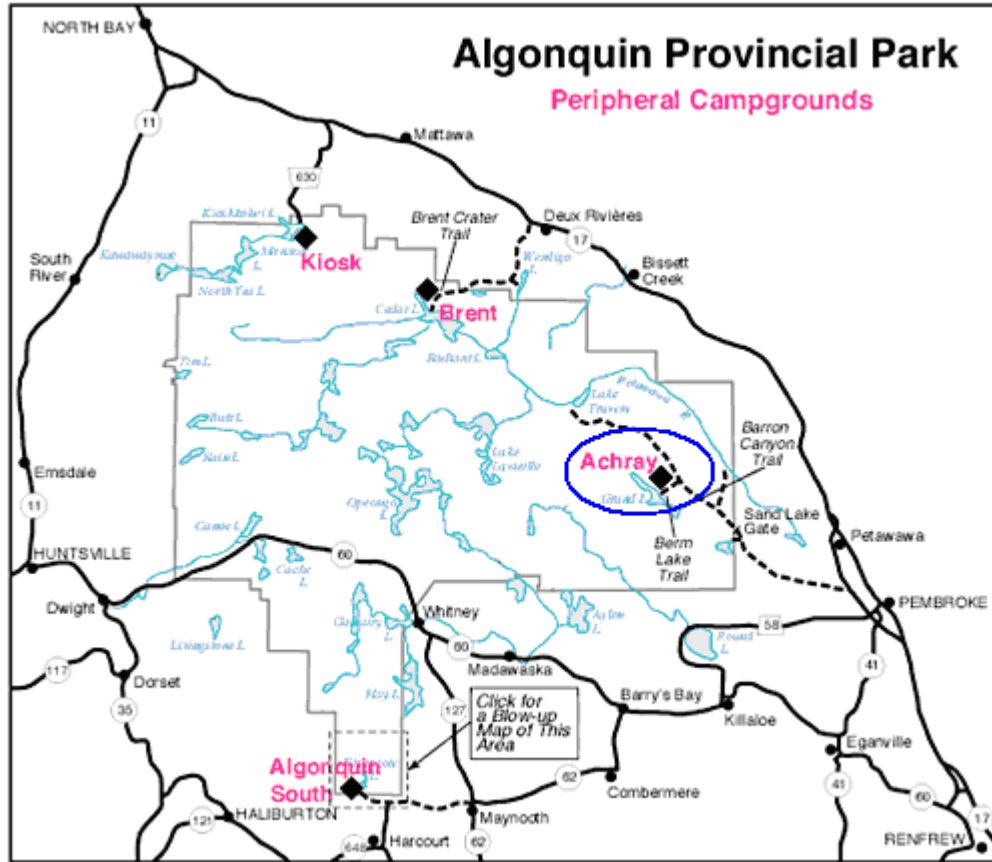
Light + lanyard

Canoe route is blue line, intended campsites are blue circles



High Falls Natural Rock Water Slides & Barron Canyon





Report

All the kids worked hard on the trip and had a good time to boot. I would be happy to take any of them out again. They just asked for a few less portages next time. But the key is that they succeeded, and thus have something to be proud of. All of them have a lot more paddling experience and some proper wilderness camping.

The natural water slide was a hit. It was far better than I had expected. The kids had a wild time. We played on it for a good 4 1/2 hours, and had it to ourselves 99% of the time. There was an undertow at the bottom that would pull you under once or twice before tossing you back to the surface. A strong current, for a short distance, made for an interesting swim to the shore. While there was no danger at this site (other than scrapes), it was a very good learning experience as to how dangerous undertow can be and how hard it can be to swim across a strong current (we covered the techniques to use if caught in this situation). Sam's comment, "If I had known I would have so much fun, I wouldn't have had second thoughts about coming".

The weather wasn't great, but it didn't ruin anything. It was generally fine during the day, and rained from about 5pm to 7am on an off, heavy at times. This cut down on the amount of swimming we might have done. We just sheltered under tarps in the evening by roaring fires (Ben loves cutting wood). The real impact was that the tents and other gear were permanently soaking wet, which doubled the weight for the portages.

Having the older kids each provide a meal worked well. Not only did it save me some work, but the kids really took ownership of the preparation and had pride in their meal. Gregory was especially keen here.

The kids paddled faster than anticipated, but the portages took longer than planned, until Friday that is.

A number of the kids saw a moose swimming across the lake one morning.

By the third day the kids were working more as a team. On the Friday morning, they sorted out, on their own initiative, how to carry the gear across the portages. They went from 3-4 trips per person per portage to 2 trips per person. They were also starting to see jobs as just something that needed doing rather than something that had to be done by a particular person.

All the kids had the opportunity to try the kayak. They worked out a rotation schedule themselves. Those that tried it, found they really liked kayaking. Though due to the portaging effort, there was some discussion as to whether it should have been left behind.

Not everybody had the opportunity to try the hammock, but those that did really liked it. The kids worked out the usage themselves. I believe rock/paper/scissors was used to decide on the lucky ones. There is a Scout model available for \$79.

The Flintstone Bedrock campsite did exist. It was occupied so we couldn't camp there, but the occupying party turned out to be headed by ex-Scout leaders and they let the kids stop and try out the benches and table. They were pretty cool.

There was enough poison ivy on a couple of the portages for the obligatory recognition lesson: Three leaves, all on stems, middle stem longer, woody base going into the ground.

The canyon was pretty nice.

There must be a generation gap occurring, as I was educated during the drive on Limewire and downloading music. That, and which group did Stairway to Heaven.

Thanks to Sam for volunteering to dry one of the tents.

We met a Scout troop on the way out who were just starting a seven day canoe trip (with a 6km portage!). Personally, I think they should find a better route.

Items I have that aren't mine:

- Black sneakers, Gregory
- Silver penknife, Gregory
- Orangish towel, ?
- Water shoe, ?
- Measuring table spoon, Suzanne
- Becel Topping & Cooking spray, Suzanne
- Knife, metal, ?
- Fork, metal, ?
- Fork, metal, ?
- Teaspoon, metal, ?
- Yellow whistle on red lanyard, ?
- Deep Woods Off!, pump bottle, Gregory

If anybody has found other items, please let me know.

Photographs will be forthcoming.

People have been asking to know the cost of these trips. My major expenses were:

Item	Cost
Achray campground, 1 night, incl reservation fee	\$32.50
Interior campsite, 2 nights, incl reservation fee	\$45.25
Truck fuel, 204km x 2 @ 16l/100km @ 95c/l	\$62.02
Truck Shuttle	\$53.50
Food	\$68.78
Total	\$262.05
Per Person (7)	\$37.44