

# Voyage Across Algonquin

**First Place Amory Adventure Winners**

*by the 9th Trafalgar Venturer Company*



The 9th Trafalgar Venturers' (Brandon, Andrew, Colin, Billy, Katie and Mary) voyage across Algonquin Park actually started many months before, when they first decided upon their Mission Statement, "The purpose of this trip is to utilize our skills previously obtained throughout our many years of experience in the Scouting Movement and to further explore northern Ontario while crossing Algonquin Park." To ensure the success of their voyage, they undertook extensive First Aid training, completing a St. John's Wilderness First Aid course with 16 hours of gruelling first aid training. By spending the winter months carving their paddles (except for Colin), each was



prepared with a paddle exclusively theirs. Arrangements were made for transportation, enlisting the help of Scouters Mark and Gary to drop them off and pick them up. A reasonable budget was established, menu agreed upon,



and tasks to ensure the success of the trip were allocated. Each task reflected the strength of the person accepting it, although they were all prepared to jump in and help when required. This is their story (edited for space), their adventure, their Algonquin experience.



*Photographs: The 9th Trafalgar Venturer Company*

# Day One

August 23, 2005



Hola! Today we started our trek across Algonquin Park. So far we've seen a black bear, a moose, a heron, a woodpecker and lots of fish. In fact, Mary cleaned the rice pot using the excessive amounts of minnows to peck it clean. While drifting in our canoe we munched on tuna sandwiches for lunch. The water seems low for this time of year; hope the portages aren't too difficult. Advisor Theresa went up to her hip in mud at one portage, requiring a helping hand to pull her out. Completed five portages today.



# Day Two

August 24, 2005



Day Two started by paddling into the mist on a clear, cool morning. After arriving at the first portage, Mary discovered that she'd left her water bottle back at camp. While Andrew and Mary paddled back to retrieve it, the others portaged ahead to Misty Lake. A large group of 22 canoes, with 44 lily dippers (paddlers) were seen on this lake. Misty Lake was a long lake, but the weather was great with little wind so we made good time. At one of the portages we decided to pull the canoes over a huge beaver dam. Katie and Andrew ended up knee high in mud. Katie thought she would die in it (which was funny). Since there were people already on the site we had planned to camp on, we needed to paddle further to another. There were lots of raccoons – entertaining to watch but requiring extra care storing the food that evening.



# Day Three

August 25, 2005

Day Three went quickly with only two portages and calm, still lakes to paddle. We were still meeting other groups of paddlers; seeing six groups that day.



# Day Four

August 26, 2005

Today went amazingly well, arriving at our site by 1:00. Scouter Dino is meeting us with a re-supply of food, including steak, amazing potatoes and butter tarts for supper. Hooray!





# Day Five

August 27, 2005

Day Five was a long day, including a 5305 metre portage (four hours to complete!). It was tiring long, exhausting long, sweaty and hilly long. We're getting deeper into the Park. Tonight's camp is in an old growth forest, where the trees are supposedly 340 years old.



# Day Six

August 28, 2005

By the end of Day Six we had travelled another long portage (2.7 km). It was one of up and down hills, over fallen trees and large rocks. Difficult to accomplish just walking, let alone with a canoe on your head. Everyone was looking forward to Day Seven.



# Day Seven

August 29, 2005

Day Seven, a day of rest; nothing to do but sleep, swim, play cards and rest.



# Days Eight to Twelve

August 30, 2005  
to  
September 4, 2005

Days Eight to Twelve continued to be challenging but fun. We discovered cliffs to jump from, more long portages, fought with leeches and coped with rainy weather. After setting up camp at Achray Campground, some canoed further to visit the site of the Jack Pine, painted by artist Tom Thompson (Group of Seven). The last day was spent travelling down Barron Canyon. As we got closer to the end, reality started to set in. Our adventure was almost over: school would start the day after we returned.



As each participant recorded their thoughts and experiences in their summaries, the same theme wove itself through their words. The trip was harder than expected, but together with the support of their fellow adventurers, they pulled together and accomplished their Mission.

*"This journey of hardships (can't remember), pain (5 km portage anyone?), enjoyment (every day!) and memories will last our lifetimes. This trip was one of my greatest experiences. Imagine planning, executing and having an absolutely great time. This truly was a great experience. My goal of leading our team to excellence was*

*achieved. All of us shall carry everything that happened on this trip, along with a piece of the park, in our hearts and minds for the rest of our lives. And so I leave you with some insight – always follow your friends wherever they may take you."* – Andrew McKenzie, trip leader (17 years old).

The 9<sup>th</sup> Trafalgar Venturer company who completed this adventure were:

Andrew McKenzie, Colin Ryder, Brandon Titaro, Katie Everingham, Mary Tam and Billy Burgess along with their Advisors, Theresa Everingham and Dino Titaro. X