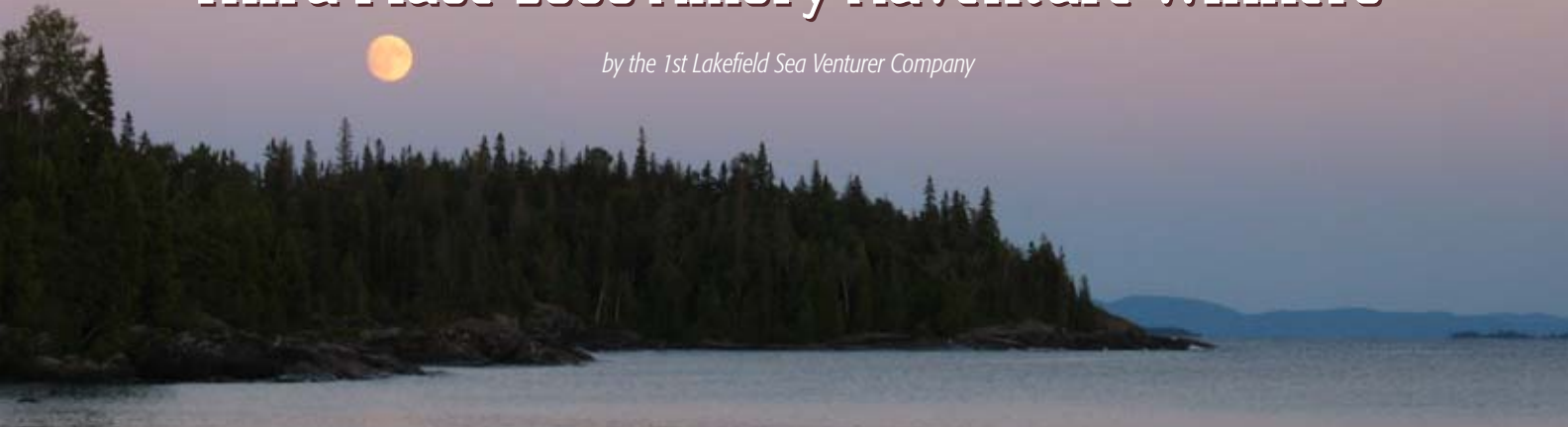


CHALLENGING NEW HORIZONS

Third Place 2006 Amory Adventure Winners

by the 1st Lakefield Sea Venturer Company



We are Sea Venturers; we were Sea Scouts before that. We canoe, kayak and sail. Water is not only a great friend to all of us, but is fundamental in much of our program. The challenge for us would surely be more present were we to go on a lightweight backpacking trip; something that some of us had never before attempted.

Our destination would be the Lake Superior Coastal Trail. Of course we were nervous. Of course there were concerns. But we are all friends. We would take on the challenge by standing by each other.

Planning and Pre-Hikes

A committee of seven Venturers each took on a role to make this trip a success. Food needed to be dehydrated, routes planned, permission granted, and most importantly, hiking muscles exercised. Our first pre-hike ended early. The advisors developed blisters and we decided it would be prudent to stop early as we needed them to drive us home. Not discouraged, we planned for another day hike and two weekend trips.

THE CHALLENGE BEGINS

Day 1 — August 4, 2006

Today we left for our Amory Adventure and it's been quite the Adventure already! At the last minute our route had to be rearranged. A destructive storm had pushed its way through the area destroying communities and closing roads.

Due to the route change, we were unable to experience all the geocaches we planned on hunting down. However, we did stop to find "Looney One". The GPS coordinates seemed to lie in a marshland near Echo Bay. Locating the spot at a lookout point, we found a second set of GPS coordinates on a little label on the underside of a bench. Searching for 30 minutes, we finally found the treasure under the boardwalk. A quick exchange of gifts and we were back on our way. Eventually we pulled into Pancake Bay campground. I'm really looking forward to starting out on the Coastal Trail tomorrow, although I am somewhat nervous. I am not a big hiker, and, from what I have heard about the terrain, this will certainly be a challenge.

Day 2

We entered the trail at Sand River — a beautiful place with miles of white sand beaches along Lake Superior's shore. First challenge: white sand beaches can prove very difficult to walk on with fully laden packs. Second challenge: not ten minutes into our

hike a thunderstorm moved in. We pushed on as the rain subsided but now were faced with very slippery granite rock. Almost everyone found himself or herself sprawled over the rocks at one point or another on the way to the campsite at Robertson Cove. The cove was stunningly beautiful even in the grey windy weather.



Day 3

During this hike, everyone took an opportunity to lead, except the advisors, who were forbidden from doing so. Today we climbed Baldhead Mountain, where we experienced our third challenge. The waves were 5+ feet high and smashing against the rocks. We needed to cross a very steep granite wall with just a little

ledge about 40 feet above the water and the jagged rocks. There was hesitation....a search for an alternative route and then commitment.

On top of Baldhead we set up a geo-cache, our very first. Using the one in Echo Bay as an example, we left behind many number of items a geo-cacher brave enough to come to the top of Baldhead might find useful. Next we chose something meaningful to us; a small sailboat model. The next three things were a tribute to our Scouting background. Last items to go in were a logbook for people to sign and a pen. In the log we wrote a short introduction to the cache and what we were doing on the trail. We named the cache Mount Cueball.

Day 4

We've realized that each day has its own challenges. Today's challenge was staying on the right trail. The coastal trail is marked by blue diamond markers and inukshuks. At one point this morning — following an inukshuk marker, we needed to take our packs off and pass them up a rock. We traveled a few hundred metres to find a sheer rock face rising in front of us. With no visible route markers, the only option was the tree line and there we found a well trodden path heading north. We followed the path but it wasn't long before we were looking for alternative routes. We were definitely in the wrong spot and turned back to the inukshuk.

Each day had its own challenges, but every moment was worth the effort.



Photos: The 1st Lakefield Sea Venturer Company



Herb and Connor backtracked farther, we had missed a switchback up a hill — a log had been across the trail but the path was trodden just as much past the log. In Dylan's words, "Of course a path that everyone walks both ways on would be well trodden — even if it is the wrong path!"

Another time, a tree blocked the trail. Not a small tree that could easily be stepped over, crouched under, or even moved; it literally stopped us from being able to pass. Someone before us however, had left a blue drinking bottle hanging from a tree to mark an alternate trail around the tree.

The second memorable experience does not quite qualify as getting lost, since it was the actual trail. But we were reluctant because it went directly into the lake. Benny took off his hiking boots and socks and climbed in to build a bridge. We left behind a bridge for those who would come later and wish to pass in blustery weather.

Day 5

The rock cliffs and jagged stones of the last few days have given way to forest trails; certainly a relief. In the shadow of some massive hills,

we took a snack break, dreading the possibility of climbing those hills.

We soon realized that the hills we had climbed in the first few days had prepared us for what we were now undertaking. These hills were quite a challenge, very steep and demanding. As the hills gave way, the trail moved back to the coast. Closer to our campsite, we began to see Rhyolite Cove.

Rhyolite Cove was beautiful. Walls of rhyolite rock protruded from the lake as if marking the grave of a culture and tradition now dead. The rusty red rocks rose elegantly from the bottomless blue bay, calm and relaxed; in no way a reflection of the crashing waves of Lake Superior that struck the rocks from the other side.

Day 6

We were off to face our final day of hiking and whatever challenges it concealed. It concealed a great deal of uphills and downhills through forest and rocks.

Lunch was on a rocky beach, near a mysterious, very beautiful stone fireplace, complete with a chimney standing in the middle of the woods. The trail that we picked up after lunch looked like it used to be an old road. A

half hour later we arrived at our site. Arriving early for once, we had time for a swim in the awesome waves of Lake Superior.

Day 7

This was supposed to be a rest day, but some of us decided to explore further. The trail led to the parking lot and a little display about the Gargantua Bay area.

Originally a holy ground for the indigenous Ojibwa people, the European people changed it forever. They gave islands names like Devil's Warehouse and Devil's Chair in recognition of some of the Ojibwa's gods.

First we hiked to an abandoned ranger's cabin. There were some nice views of the harbour along this trail, including one of the remains of the steamship Columbus, poking shyly out of the water. It had caught fire in 1909 and sunk back when Gargantua Harbour had been a booming place for commerce shipping.

Heading back to the lookout, we discovered a gorgeous view of Devil's Warehouse Island, Dixon Island and all the other sites to be seen on the eastern side of Gargantua Bay. We also ran into a couple on a canoeing/hiking adventure. After a brief conver-

1st Lakefield Venturer Games

As is the Venturer way, we made our own fun. Here are three games that helped pass the time while walking or resting.

GORPH

First you pick a large target, generally a large rock, and throw smaller rocks at it, taking turns until someone successfully hits it. After the hit, the other player throws until they succeed, counting missed tosses. We named it GORPH! I'm not sure what it stands for yet, but I'm sure we can figure it out before we go home. Later that day... "Aha! GORPH, good old rock pitching... something, something..." Anyway, it's a good game.

BOMB

BOMB tests your movie trivia knowledge through a series of movies and an actor in that movie, and another movie that actor was in, followed by a different actor from that movie, and so on, until someone gets stumped. At that point the stumped player can challenge the person before them to fill in the appropriate blank. Every time you make a mistake or cannot guess an answer you get a letter (B-O-M-B). When you have spelled bomb, you're out!

I See

Two people, observing their environment, have to take turns naming off something they see. It practices observation skills and increases vocabulary. The winner is the one who ends up naming more things than the other without repeating any words or ideas.

Have Fun!

sation, they offered us their canoe to take a closer look at the wreck of the Columbus. It was massive, a hundred feet long; so close to the surface that we worried about the canoe getting caught.

Eventually we returned to shore, returned the borrowed equipment and set out back to camp. It was a good day.

Day 8

Today we leave the Coastal Trail. Scouters Bev and Ted met us at the parking lot near our last site. The challenges continued with a blown tire on Scouter Nancy's car, forty-five minutes after leaving. Due to how late things were when we finally got on the road again, many people wanted to head directly to camp without stopping to see the Agawa Pictographs. Those still interested loaded into one vehicle and hit the pictographs while the others went into town to get the spare tire stuff worked out.

Day 9

Up early today, we took the Agawa Canyon Tour Train trip. The Agawa

Canyon is 114 miles by train from Sault-Ste-Marie. In the final dozen miles, the train descends more than 500 feet. At the bottom of the canyon there is a two-hour stopover to see some of the canyon sites. We went to three falls and one lookout.



We started as Venturers and ended as friends.

Upon returning to our campsite, we took advantage of the sauna and pool. After so many adventures and so much challenge, it was a relief to

have a nice calm evening sitting in the sauna and just talking. While I was sitting in the sauna with the six people I had just spent a week with, I was reminded that my fellow Venturers are friends too. To have shared such an incomparable experience with them was great and amazing. When I think back to my years in Venturers, it will be this trip that stands out above everything else.

Day 10 - August 13, 2006

As we drove home, we reflected on our experiences and challenges. How lucky we were to share this trip and these memories with each other. It was challenging, but the 1st Lakefield Sea Venturers emerged triumphant. \

The 1st Lakefield Sea Venturers:

Connor Reinhart

Ben Fischer

AJ Reid

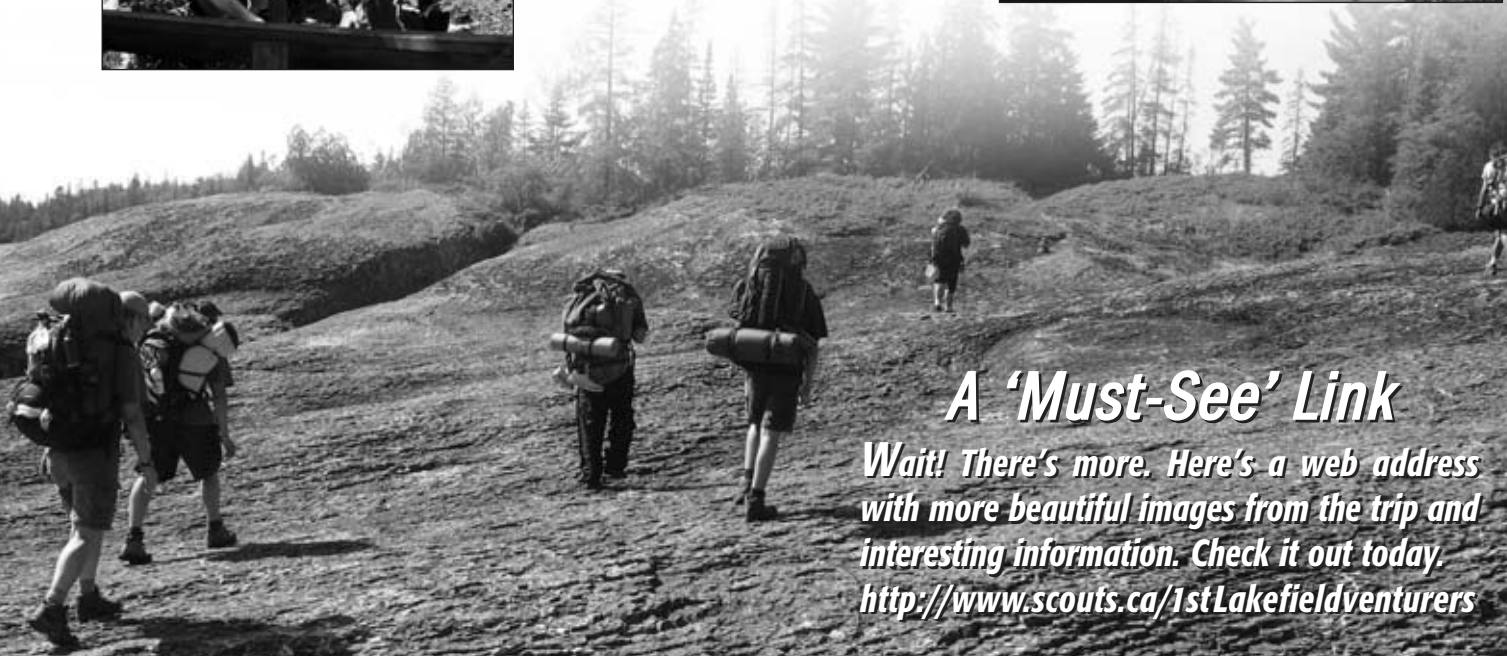
James Fenton

Amanda Daniels

Dylan Reinhart

Brandon Sarginson

Advisors: Herb Reinhart, Nancy Fischer



A 'Must-See' Link

Wait! There's more. Here's a web address with more beautiful images from the trip and interesting information. Check it out today.
<http://www.scouts.ca/1stLakefieldventurers>