

A Stroll through Algonquin Park

Amory Adventure Award Third Place Winner

BY 4th TRAFALGAR VENTURERS



In the tradition started by our company four years ago, we sought an adventurous journey that would develop our skills in both wilderness camping and long distance canoeing. What better place for this challenge than in the rugged terrain of Algonquin Park.

Early February, we began planning our trip and laying the groundwork. A competition camp tested our skills and the state of our camping gear. Knots, navigation, compass work, first aid and emergency planning were all discussed in detail. We organized a swimming practice at a local pool, and included pack and portage preparation and refresher activities.

We finally set off on Thursday, June 28, 2007, in what would be a true test of all the canoeing and portaging skills at our disposal. A rapid combination of short and longer portages tested our stamina; the different types of water required a wide variety of paddling techniques. Throughout this trip the bugs were a steady and constant irritant, crawling on our faces as we struggled through the numerous portages necessary to complete our trip.

A variety of weather conditions always makes a trip like this more interesting; fortunately we received quite a combination from gray, rainy days to cloudy conditions and finally some

sunshine. But the rock formations, the small and larger expanses of water and lake, and the occasional glimpses of wildlife enhanced our feelings of oneness with the elements around us.

We were travelling just ahead of some Scouts and were glad to share our experience with them. It was good to know we would be part of their introduction to a real wilderness adventure.

In total we canoed 60 km and portaged 8 km; a fine accomplishment. What we were most proud of however, was the way we shared this adventure and helped each other along the way. From the weeks spent preparing and sharing ideas, to the challenges of the trip itself...each step was an adventure; and each new day held something new to explore. X

– 4th Trafalgar Venturer Company: Gerrit Coulter, Scott Barber, Will MacNaughton, Mark Bearsto, Justin Bearsto, Ani Desai

Photos: 4th Trafalgar Venturer Company

Amory Adventure Award Information

Complete rules for the Amory Adventure Award can be found on page 36 of the *Venturer Handbook* and on Scouts Canada's web site under Venturers. This national award is awarded annually to the company which displays the most initiative in conceiving, planning and executing an outdoor adventure activity. Here's just a few of the criteria.

- Activities must take place between November 1 and October 31 the next year.
- The adventurous activity must last a minimum of four (4) days, of which at least eighty-four (84) hours must be consecutive.
- Judges look for:
 - a) initiative in the choice of activity;
 - b) effort during preparation and execution of the activity;
 - c) achievement of purpose; and
 - d) quality of the log.
- All participants who submit a log receive an Amory Adventure participation badge to wear on their uniform.

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