

# ROVER VENTURER MAGAZINE

JAN ~ MAR, 2021



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It starts with Scouts.

**Letters to the Editor:** send them in by e-mail or by pen, pencil or crayon

Dear Editor:

Who could have predicted the crazy year we've just had? There have been positives and negatives from the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of us have experienced tragedy and loss while others have found peace and tranquility for the first time in awhile. Although Scouts Canada put group activities on hold, I feel very lucky in that I have still been able to go hiking, biking and occasionally canoeing with your editor Kirby McCuaig. We made it up to Killarney in the summer where we camped, hiked and also had an opportunity to kayak on George Lake. I also got to go canoeing on my favorite river The Grand and on the Irondale River near Haliburton. We went down to the Point Pelee area in the spring and although the park was closed due to COVID-19 we discovered Amherstburg which is a short drive south of Windsor. Kirby wrote about the history of Amherstburg in the summer issue of Rover Venturer Magazine. We also went biking on the Elora Cataract and Georgian Railway trails in the summer and we completed the Rendezvous 2020 Hiking Challenge, so I feel very lucky that despite a pandemic being on I have been able to explore some of the many beautiful places in Ontario. That being said, I have taken Kirby's suggestion to come up with my own bucket list. He even gave me the bucket. It could be extremely long but I've narrowed it down to the following items. Thanks, Kirby, for getting me started on my post pandemic bucket list.



Here it is!

Italy    Grand Canyon    Hot Air Balloon Ride  
Nova Scotia    Finger Lakes    Bryce Canyon  
Jasper National Park    Cuba    Grose Morne  
Zion National Park    Moscow    Drumheller  
Columbia Icefields    Yellowstone National Park  
Pollett's Cave Cape Breton Island

*Tessa Shelvey*

Dear: Tessa

I've been very fortunate, not only too have you as my Hiking Partner, but as My Partner in Life. We have been able to fit a lot of things in this year, as the various restrictions evolved, while staying within our Bubble, **but Moscow?**

J Kirby McCuaig  
Editor-Ro Vent Mag

## Wilderness Rendezvous 2020 Hiking Challenge

Scouter Leif Bloomquist (*Rascal*) – 18<sup>th</sup> Willowdale Scouts

When the COVID-19 pandemic became a harsh reality in March 2020, the impact on Scouts across Canada was significant. No in-person meetings, no camping, no group events of any kind. Virtual meetings only. Adapting to the new situation, as Scouts are adept at doing, meetings and events moved online to keep the Scouting spirit alive. We had virtual campfires, virtual camping events, and weekly challenges to keep learning by doing.

The challenge from one week to the next was always the same: Zoom meetings were great, but how to engage the youth to get outside and active in between virtual meetings? Like many Scouters, I turned to the excellent Scouts Canada Discussion Group on Facebook. On this group, several thousand Scouters from across Canada share ideas, ask for support, and so on.

One Facebook post caught my eye: The Wilderness Rendezvous Camp in Saskatchewan Council was proposing a Hiking Challenge. In normal times, this would have been an annual weekend hiking event held at their site near Cyprus Hills in Saskatchewan.



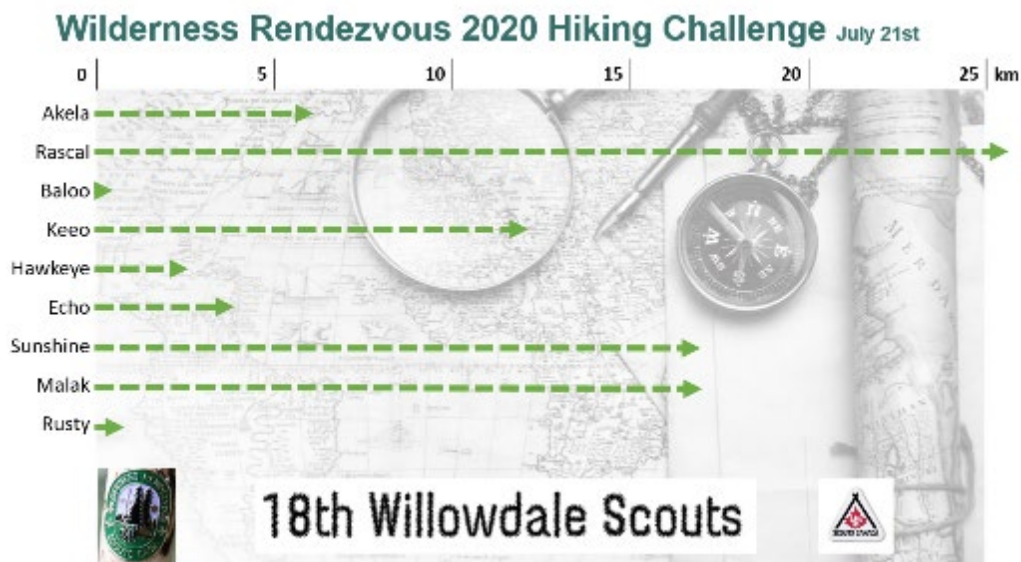
This year however, they decided to open the challenge up nationwide: Register for \$5 per person. Hike 25 kilometers anywhere, with a minimum of 2 kilometers per hike. Keep a log of where, how, long, the weather, and share any photos you take. Photos could be shared with their team by e-mail, or on their Facebook Group. Completing the challenge meant bragging rights, exercise, fresh air, and of course – a badge to proudly display on your camp blanket.

I proposed the Challenge to our Troop and there was a decent amount of interest: 9 Scouts (including 2 Beavers and 3 Scouters), plus their families, decided to take on the challenge. Great!

So during the months of July and August, these Scouts and their families hiked as much as possible in pursuit of the 25 km goal. My family – One Scouter, one Scout, and one Girl Guide – took to the challenge enthusiastically. While we have a gorgeous urban hiking trail near our home in Toronto, we looked online for new hiking opportunities and places to explore. And explore we did, visiting Presqu'ile Provincial Park, Devil's Creek Trail in Cambridge Ontario, new parts of the Bruce Trail, and the Rattray Marsh Conservation Area in Mississauga Ontario.

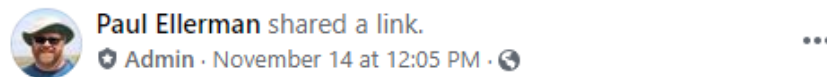


Other Scouts found their own hiking trails: Around their neighborhoods, through the Toronto Zoo, local parks, and so on. Every week when our Troop, Pack, and Colony met together on Zoom, we would share our progress, stories, and photos. We kept a leaderboard to proudly display our progress. (Names changed)



Then in September the Wilderness Rendezvous team announced that they would extend the challenge to the end of October 2020. This would allow groups to incorporate the Hiking Challenge into their Fall programming, which was welcomed by all. This allowed our group to fully complete the challenge, along with hundreds of others across Canada.

In the end, over 500 Scouts, Scouters, and parents took part hiking a total of 12,500 km. Amazing! Scouter Paul Ellerman posted a summary on Facebook and the team sent out everyone's badges.



Its a wrap!

The Hiking Challenge has been over for a few weeks now, and you have certainly risen to the challenge! We had over 500 Scouts, Parents, and Scouters participate in the challenge! Which means we hiked over 12,500 kms altogether!!! Thats all the way across Canada and almost back again!

It was a simple idea but very successful. My family, and many others across Canada, discovered new hiking trails and a new appreciation for hiking, kept active during a pandemic, and made some wonderful (if unconventional) Scouting memories along the way.



**Editor's Note:** send in your Wilderness Rendezvous experience, we would be glad to share it with our readers! At: [jkmccuaig@hotmail.com](mailto:jkmccuaig@hotmail.com)

## **A Home After the Holidays? Why Giftings Pets May Not be the Best Idea**

With the holidays around the corner, pets continue to be a common gift. Especially amidst the current COVID-19 restrictions and regulations, having a pet for company and entertainment has become even more popular – and why not? Pets are a source of comfort, love, and companionship. Especially in a time where many are faced with isolation from friends and families, the benefits of having a companion by your side can make all the difference. However, those looking to gift pets this holiday season should reconsider this gift idea.

Every year, animal rescue organizations including the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), see a rise in the number of animal abandonment cases following the holiday season. It is important to understand that pets are a long-term, lifetime commitment; they require patience, attention, money, and more. As a result, these responsibilities, and whether pet owners can properly care for their future companions, should be considered prior to obtaining a pet. These careful considerations are not always possible if a pet is being gifted. Furthermore, if recipients truly are ready to take on this massive responsibility, considerations such as what species/breed/age/temperament is a good fit, comes into question. Without having the future owner and other members of the household present when choosing their new companion, a good fit may not always be made.

Luckily, there are alternative gift options for recipients who have carefully considered the responsibilities and are ready to welcome a new pet. As suggested by PETA, an “adoption package” can make a wonderful present. This includes a gift certificate covering adoption fees, as well as a starter food and accessory kit. With this package, recipients can then have a chance to pick out a suitable companion.

Pets bring so much into our lives, but also require our love, attention, and proper care. Gifting pets can lead to a situation where their needs are not met, increasing the chances of them being surrendered – many of which may never be rehomed. With careful consideration as to what is deemed an acceptable holiday present, we can ensure that no pet is left homeless after the holiday season.

**Helen Ho**

**Student Veterinarian, OVC Class of 2024**

**Ro Vent Magazine - Associate Editor**

## Post Pandemic Bucket List – 9<sup>th</sup> Whitby Venturers



(9<sup>th</sup> Whitby Venturers, masked and socially distant in Durham Forest south of Uxbridge.)

1. Winter camp for example, in a Quebec provincial park, cross-country skis with sleds. 2-3 day loop
2. Canoe trip on the Madawaska River, including white water
3. Explore the Rocky Mountains, hiking\canoeing. 7-9 days
4. Canoe trips anywhere - Examples: Algonquin Park, Killarney, Temagami
5. Hiking in the Rocky Mountains, Quebec, Adirondack State Park, Cabot Trail in Nova Scotia

*Editor's Note: On behalf of our readers, please take us with you!*

# From the Vault:

## Whitby 9th “Wilderness Tripping Venturers” love mountain hiking and ice climbing in the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York.



For several years, thanks to the organization of Senior Sections Scouting groups in eastern Ontario, we have been hiking up mountains in February, wearing snowshoes or micro spikes, fully equipped to sleep out overnight if unusual circumstances dictate it. So far we haven't needed to. Following this exciting all-day mountain hike with stunning views from the summit, we engage with a superb local climbing company, get instruction and do multiple climbs of an ice with ice axes, helmets and crampons.



Our youth love it. You can see the enjoyment, the focus and the determination of our youth as they accept the challenge and grab their goals!

**Lewis Williams**  
Advisor – 9<sup>th</sup> Whitby Venturer Scouts

*Editor's Note: previously published in RVM Jun – Sep, 2018*

# Backpacking in Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park by Eric Boymans

## Ganaraska Hiking Trail Day 1

Our adventure began on Monday August 17, 2020. My brother, Philip and I accepted the challenge of completing a seven-day and six-night backpacking trip on the Wilderness Section of the Ganaraska Hiking trail in Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park. This Provincial Park is an unregistered park, meaning that the trails and sites are not maintained regularly. Because of the remoteness of the trail, the only people who know you are there are those who you tell beforehand.



We arrived at the Moore's Falls parking lot in the early afternoon and planned to stay at site 46. It was a rainy day, but we knew the rest of the week would have better weather. We knew this trip was going to be a challenging one because we had never attempted a trip of this duration. We also had to pack some gear that we usually do not carry. We carried an air horn, trail tape, a whistle, Toilet paper, trowel and a satellite communicator and GPS

navigator. Due to how poorly the trail was marked, we ended up staying at site 44 instead. The trail is marked with white markers, sometimes painted on trees and sometimes they were rectangular pieces of plastic.

During our hike, we travelled across a bridge and we got to see the Jurassic Parkette that someone had made. It consisted of a variety of plastic dinosaurs that someone had placed all over the Rock face.





This portion of the trail was more clearly marked, however it crossed a couple of ATV trails, so we needed to keep track of the trail.



After hiking 6.5 km on our first day, we decided to have dinner and have a nice fire before going



to bed for the night. For dinner we each packed dry food. Before going to bed, we needed to set up our gravity feed water filtration system, to ensure that we had water for the next morning. We also decided to try hammock camping for the first time because it is a lot lighter than a tent. Philip and I each packed an individual hammock and the tarp. We should have brought a under quilt as well because we found that a lot of heat is lost from under the hammock.

## Ganaraska Hiking Trail Day 2

On the second day of our backpacking trip, we left our first camp site at 9AM and hiked 12.3 km. We came across a broken bridge which was a little tricky to cross, as you can see in the picture below. As previously mentioned, Queen Elizabeth II Provincial Park is an unregistered park which means that it is not maintained, so if a bridge breaks, there is no one sent to repair it.



Some of the trail was completely flooded so my brother and I had to find an alternate route to reach the next marker. We noticed that when the trail is impossible to cross, other backpackers/hikers, had made small inukshuks to guide other hikers in the proper direction. This trip was the first time my brother and I had used trekking poles. We had never thought we would need them before. During this trip, they proved to be an amazing investment, we used them to balance ourselves when we were crossing swamps.



On the second day we also came across a memorial site at the top of a hill. This trip also included amazing views, such as the one from our campsite by Victoria Lake (on right below). During this part of the walk, we encountered a family that was camping on a site across the lake.



After passing the Victoria Lake Campsite, we could not find our next trail marker, we looked around for a few minutes then realized that it was on the other side of a massive swamp. We first decided to see how deep it was so we took our hiking poles and stuck them in the water to see how deep they would go. They did not go in too far down, so I decided to put on my crocs, attached my shoes to my pack and attempted to cross the water to our next marker. I walked in 2 feet before falling waist deep into the swamp. The bottom of my backpack got a little wet. At this point My brother and I decided to hike back to our Victoria Lake campsite. We then asked the family if they could give us a canoe ride across the lake to our campsite on Wolf Lake. When we arrived at our campsite #18, we noticed that it was occupied so he dropped us off at the site next door.



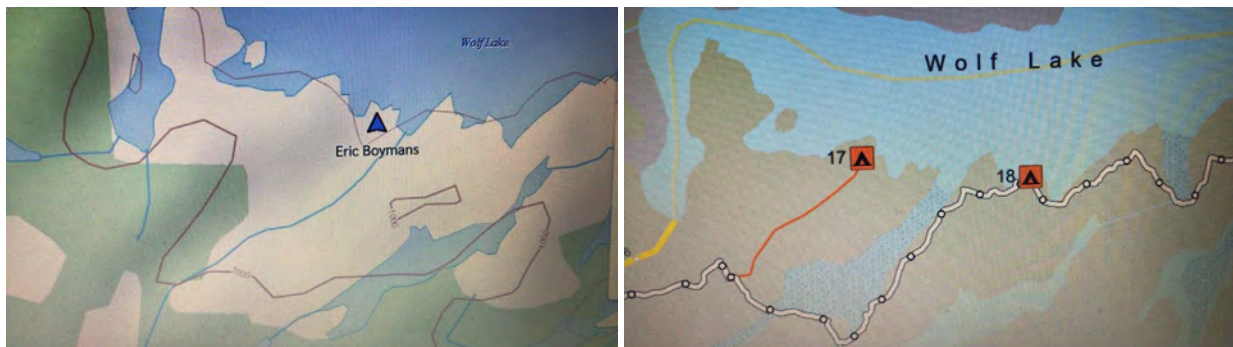
After arriving at our site, we decided to look for the access point to the trail so that we would know where to leave from the next day. We could not find it because the site that we were dropped off at was a canoeing site. The guy who dropped us off told us that if we hiked 300-400 meters in a

Southeastern direction, we should reconnect with the trail. We then decided to take the next day off hiking to figure out where the trail was and to rest. We then set up our hammocks and prepared our dry food dinner.



## Ganaraska Hiking Trail Day 3

This is the day we spent trying to figure out where the trail was and how to get there. We slept in until noon then had breakfast and started to work on the problem. We each took turns going into the woods with a compass, GPS and calling out to each other because we did not want to get lost. Before leaving for this trip, I had spoken to someone who was part of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association – Wilderness Club so I decided to call him because we thought he would be the best person to help us find the trail. We sent him our GPS coordinates and he helped us pinpoint roughly where the trail was. We also sent our GPS coordinates to our parents and explained the whole situation to them. After all of this, we had our dinner, had a nice campfire, had a good night sleep and we knew the next day was going to be a big and interesting day. Here is the GPS image and map for comparison.



**“To be continued in the next issue of Rover Venturer Magazine”**

## Post Pandemic Bucket List – 6<sup>th</sup> Willowdale Rovers



(6<sup>th</sup> Willowdale Rovers and Friends at Snow Moot, February 2020)

1. Winter Backing Trip in Algonquin Provincial Park
2. Canoe Trip in Frontenac, Kawartha Highlands or Algonquin Provincial Parks or the Leslie Frost Centre
3. Return to the Bruce Trail to Backpack the remaining kilometres to complete the Toronto section
4. 3 or 4 day Backpacking Trip in Killarney Provincial Park
5. Explore the caves in Bonnechere Provincial Park
6. Complete the requirements of the Iroquoia Snowshoe Badge, by completing at least 4 trips

# Out & About

Number 64

## Hiking and Badge Crazy



Since finding a hiking partner, this old cyclist has been largely converted to a Day Hiker. Honestly after about 20 years of cycling it was time for a new challenge.

**Badge Crazy** is how Tessa describes me, but I see it in another way, **Hiking with a Purpose**. In the past year and ½ I've raked in 4 Badges: Niagara Section End to End, Jamboree on the Trail,



Wilderness Rendezvous and the latest, the Sideways Trail Badge from the Caledon Hills Club of the Bruce Trail. I will let you in on a little secret, one of the hikes I used for the Wilderness Challenge was a hike for the Sideways Badge. Don't tell them.

There is a lot of cross over in the Scouting Badge World, especially if you include other organizations that partner with Scouts. The Trail Organizations have



badges for completing their trails, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award has its Journey for each level to name just two other partners.

If your crew includes quests (as ours does) as part of your investiture requirements, then how

about completing a section of a trail as a series of Day Hikes or Backpacking a Trail in fulfilling a requirement. Our Crew also has a Journey (a logged overnight backpacking trip) as one of its squireship requirements.

Use completing a trail for your Troop or Company as practice for participating in a Challenge Hike such as the Alders Challenge Hike. Day Hiking can be your new member's introduction to Backpacking.

Requirement 7.15 of the **Trail Skills Badge** is: "I have participated in at least 5 hikes of various lengths." Or 9.6 requires "I have a logbook detailing at least 20 hikes and expeditions that I have undertaken since completing stage 7." Completing these requirements could also include completing a section or entire trail in your area or even better a major item off your **Post Pandemic Bucket List**.

On Tessa's Bucket List in hiking in Gros Morne National Park in Newfoundland and Labrador. Wait a second, you know there may be a badge in this! Sure, let's go!

Check out 9<sup>th</sup> Whitby Venturer Company's Bucket List (in this issue), they want to hike just about everywhere in Canada.

Oh, and I forgot, I started collecting **National Park Badges of parks** that I've hiked in, I've got Waterton Lakes and Yoho, ..., **Oh no, she might be right!**

All kidding aside, Tessa told me that without hiking, how would we have got through the Pandemic so far. When it seems everything was closed, you could still go for a walk, exercise was still allowed even through the harshest lockdowns. In Leif's article it's how they kept their Zoom Meetings interesting. It gave the families of 18<sup>th</sup> Willowdale Scout Group something to share on their weekly online meetings. They were able to keep the "Out" in Scouts both on their own and in the group setting.

I used to tell people I didn't really know the city I live in, Toronto, until I started riding the streets and trails. I got to know the villages within the city, the parks, and the river valleys. Something you can't experience by driving a car or taking the subway. Now I can say the same thing about Ontario. Until I did the trails, I didn't know the geography, ecosystems, public spaces and historical sites. Especially the abandon structures of late 1800's industry, and historical sites tucked away off the beaten track. The bollards of long ago canals, the kilns along the escarpment, the monuments to forgotten heroes.



(A bollard along side one of the prior Welland Canals)



(Powder Storage House, Limehouse, Ontario)

With winter approaching don't forget the Winter Skills Badge's requirement: 5.11 *I have participated in a winter hike lasting at least six hours and covering at least 6 km.* **Get Badge Crazy!**



Winter is around the corner, and the badges keeping coming! Combine your winter activities with a badge offered by the Bruce Trail. Iroquoia Club of the BTC requirements below:

*"Snowshoe Badge Participants must complete a total of four snowshoe hikes, three of the hikes shall be within the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club section which runs between Grimsby and the bottom of Kelso Conservation Area near Milton on the white or blue Bruce Trail. You may also complete one of the four snowshoe hikes outside of the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club section."*

Check out the trail organizations in your area and combine their badges and your work on the Winter Skills Award.

Badges and photos go together to stir memories of past events and activities that anchor us in our own past. They provide a basis in which to share stories with those we travelled with. In a year where you won't be able to attend Venturers and Moots and acquire event crests, try something different and still get the outdoors Scouting provides.

Finally, when this Pandemic is over, we will have the badges whether on a jacket, vest, wall display or blanket to remind us how we got through this both on an individual and group basis as well as an organization.

Hey maybe it just isn't being **Crazy**, just maybe it builds a foundation for memories of time well spent.

Photos by Tessa Shelvey and J Kirby McCuaig

**"Keep the Shiny Side of the Canoe Down"**

**John Kirby McCuaig**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Willowdale Rover Scouts**

# Photo Journal – They Came!!



**TESSA WENT TRICK OR TREATING ON HALLOWEEN AND CAME HOME WITH  
A BAG FULL OF TREATS!**

Thank you JOTT and Wilderness Rendezvous!

Photo by J. Kirby McCuaig, 6<sup>th</sup> Willowdale Rovers





**All past and present members of Scouting are encouraged to wear their Scarf wherever you are on Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup> 2021**



## Ireland welcomes the world to the 16th World Scout Moot for what we hope will be the biggest Moot yet!

The World Scout Moot is an international event for Scouts aged [18-26](#) by the start of the Moot. **The 16th World Scout Moot will take place from 18th–28th July 2022.** The Moot is one of the official World Scout Events of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) and may be attended by members of eligible members of WOSM's National Scout Organizations. Members of WAGGGS can participate in accordance with the [policy](#) agreed upon by WOSM and WAGGGS.

We expect approximately 6,000 people to attend the 16th World Scout Moot. This will be made up of 5,000 participants and an International Service Team complement of 750 – 1000. Based on this figure, the maximum size of any one contingent can be 600 people including participants, International Service Team and Contingent Management Team.

### Participants

Young people aged between 18 and 26 years on the first day of the Moot (18th July 2022) are eligible to attend as participants. In effect this means that participants must have been born between the 19th July 1995 and the 18th July 2004.

### International Patrols

All participants will be divided into International Patrols, consisting of 10 people each.

Members of a Patrol participate as a unit in programme activities during the Moot. The Patrols will be formed during the spring of prior to the Moot. Patrol members will be encouraged to get acquainted prior to the Moot.

### Programme

The programme will begin with an opening gathering in Dublin city Centre (location to be confirmed) on the first morning of the Moot. From there, International patrols will spend six days on trails around the Irish countryside — exploring community, culture, adventure, and nature. Patrols will then return to basecamp in Dublin for four days of activity and programme.

All communications should be directed to [info@moot2021.ie](mailto:info@moot2021.ie).

Editor's Note: All of the above was sourced from the Moot's official website

Canadian Contingent site: <http://ccmoot.ca/rovers/>

2023WSJ

# Draw your Dream!



The World Scout Conference has voted to award the 25th World Scout Jamboree to the Korea Scout Association (KSA) for the year 2023. This will be the second World Scout Jamboree for the KSA. They also hosted the 17th World Scout Jamboree in 1991.

World Scout Jamboree will be held from 1 to 12 August in 2023 in Saemangeum, Jeollabuk-do Province.

Qualifications for participating are for teenagers between the ages of 13 and 18 as of 2023, and only Scouts are allowed. Leaders and Rover Scouts can participate in as a Staff.

<http://www.2023wsjkorea.org/>