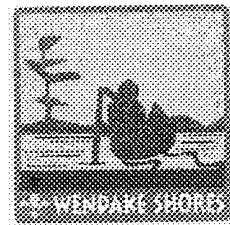




1st Orillia Venturer Company



Dear Barrie Canoe and Kayak Club

November 2009

We would like to thank the Barrie Canoe and Kayak Club for your support over the past year in helping us to plan, train, and paddle the Missinaibi River. It was a memorable trip for all and a few of the youths thoughts about the trip have been included below. Please accept this donation to the club as a token of our appreciation for all of your work. We hope that this donation can be used to help maintain equipment so that other Scouting groups can benefit, as we did, from the clubs expertise in the future.

Thank-you

B. Nychka
Brittany Nychka
President

Jeff Urwin
Jeff Urwin
Advisor

Youth Comments

"I think that this canoe trip was the most challenging trip that I, and everyone else, have ever done. The 4km portage in the pouring rain, and through the horrendous mud, that we all managed to get through it alive, and with only one injury, I think is an amazing accomplishment. Another thing to put towards the calibre of our group is the fact that we covered 210 km in only 4 days. That's more than most people do in a whole week on other trips. Not once did anyone's tempers flare. No one lost their temper, we held it together. Which is pretty awesome in my books. I am extremely proud of myself and of everyone on the trip. It was an amazing experience that I am truly glad that I was a part of." –Trevor Penley

"One of my favourite moments was looking at Thunderhouse Falls. They were really big and cool-looking. My worst moment (well, longer than a moment) was the long, muddy, wet portage."
– Dale Hause

"I think the trip was a great success and a lot of things went well. For example on the Hell's Gate Canyon portage everybody was always working and no one complained about how hard it was. The experience I gained was how to build a shelter out of meagre supplies, and how to run swifts and rapids safely." –Tivon Dwinell

"Aldous Huxley once said, "Experience is not what happens to a man. It is what a man does with what happens to him." Huxley is absolutely right, and our Missinaibi trip is absolutely invaluable in terms of experience gained. We took what we were given: made the best of it and learned from it. Not only that, but we enjoyed the entire process, which is the essence of finding adventure outdoors. We were given a portage trail that was in disastrous condition, and we reacted by developing a systematic method to transport our gear from one end of the trail to the other, while maintaining opportunities for rest. We were given a windstorm, and we reacted by constructing a temporary shelter from the resources we had available; because of this we now know how to build a canoe shelter. This trip provided rich experience to each member of our group, which will not only make us stronger as individuals, but also stronger as a group. I feel that we had an excellent float plan. The distances we planned to travel each day were well thought out, and were achievable while still leaving us tired at the end of each day (which is good). Also, the entire teamwork aspect of the trip, from the planning to the execution, was fantastic." –Brittany Nychka

"After testing our skills, patience, and teamwork against the elements of the Great North, we gained valuable memories, precious experience, and a sense of accomplishment. We planned out this trip on our own, and then we followed through and survived the Missinaibi River's rapids.

We paddled,
We portaged,
We conquered."—1st Orillia Venturer company

