

Good day to everyone!

Ray and myself are currently sitting in an RCMP officer's house in Oxford House. We are eating his food, drinking his beer, and have all our gear at their station across the road drying out. We both had a nice long shower in the station's showers and are currently using their washing machine for laundry. We were paddling across Oxford Lake yesterday in some heavy wind and one of their officers was boating across. He stopped in to see how we were doing and told us to stop in at the station. We camped the night 10 kms shy of Oxford House and paddled in in the morning. We have since been treated wonderfully and given the run of the police station. Ray and myself have been doing a little 'role playing' (if you know what I mean). After going to the gas station to resupply, everything is so expensive, one of the officer's let us into his house to relax, drink beer, watch movies, use the internet. We were only planning on spending a couple hours here, but will probably end up staying most of the day. We also have free long distance from the station so we will take advantage of that later this evening.

So far the trip has been amazing. We are having a great time and seeing many wonderful things. The time is going by so fast it is hard to believe we only have a couple weeks left. We used this opportunity to look at Dad's website, absolutely wonderful job dad! It is really neat to go through. The Murray's site is also up and running, not as extensive as dad's but still very neat. We are getting into some great white water. We have run quite a few rapids already and are gaining confidence and learning the canoe with each set. Yesterday we spent the morning till 2pm on Oxford Lake, at camp, repairing our canoe. One of the last set of rapids we had to cross we had to pull over due to a low lying bridge making the rapids unrunnable. We pulled over on wood that had been left as runners to haul boats over the portage. We figure we ended up dragging the boat over a piece of wood with nails in it, as we put 8 holes in our canoe, paired in twos, all the way down our canoe bottom. She was leaking very fast and we managed to let it sit overnight at camp, waiting out a crazy lightning storm, and sealed it in the morning with silicone. We can't tell if she is leaking as we were taking on some water from waves and rain. The RCMP gave us some marine silicone to seal it a bit better, hopefully she holds. The 8 holes, along with the golf ball size dent in our canoe from Lake Winnipeg (we still haven't figured that one out), is depreciating the value of our canoe very fast. We are worried it may not make it till the end. We haven't even hit the crazy rapids yet. We wish we could send pictures but we didn't bring our camera cables. We will have to sort them as well, we have near 2,000 of them. We are moving onto Knee Lake soon, after some hairy rapids, and onto great fishing. We miss all of you and will be seeing you soon. As for right now, we are going to enjoy the air conditioning and clean bodies and clothes. One of the RCMP officer's has actually met Suzy. He was stationed at Sprague and worked with Marge Hudson, his name is Dan Martens, he says "Hi". As for everyone else we will see you later. Don't worry mom, we are only doing the safe rapids, and no bears yet.

Lots of Love,
Ray and Elaine
