

Black Family NEWS

<http://sky.prohosting.com/mansterg>

December 2007 Edition

Conservation Work Outdoor Adventures

This year, Emily and I participated in a wide variety and number of conservation initiatives.



For the fifth year in a row, we monitored the swans at *Langman Wildlife Sanctuary*, as *Wye Marsh* volunteers. This year, "Nessie" and "Heather" reared three cygnets. We adopted all three, through *Wye Marsh*, and named them after constellations. This year, we also adopted

an injured swan that was hit by a snowmobile last winter. Roscoe can no longer fly and is a permanent resident at *Wye Marsh*.

In 2007, we raised enough to send twelve more children to *Wye Marsh* summer camp, bringing the total number of underprivileged children attending camp on full sponsorship, courtesy of *The Gordon Black Memorial Camp Sponsorship Fund*, to 65 over the past four summers. Thank you, once again, to all who contributed to this worthy cause!

In the spring, Emily designed three note cards to help raise money for conservation organizations. *Operation Migration* is selling their card via their website and *Wye Marsh* is selling their two via their gift shop. Emily's cards have raised several hundred dollars for charity.

For the second year in a row, Emily asked friends and relatives to help her sponsor animals at the *Muskoka Wildlife Centre*, instead of giving her birthday gifts. Her campaign raised \$360.00, which enabled her to pay for the care and feeding of six animals, for the next year. Thank you to all who assisted Emily with this conservation project!

This year, I also did a lot of volunteer work for the educational website *Journey North*, based in Minneapolis and Vermont, providing teacher feedback, researching, editing and proofreading materials, plus desktop publishing over 50 online slide shows into printable booklet form.

Emily and I continue to enjoy hiking, cycling, swimming, cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing and sledding in the *Orillia* area. This year, we also involved ourself in full moon night hikes, canoe paddles and snow-shoeing treks at *Wye Marsh*.

In July, Emily the dogs and I embarked on our biggest and longest solo camping adventure ever! We took a 30-day road trip from *Orillia* to the *Thunder Bay* area and back, staying at nine different parks along



the way. Our favourite new parks were *Sleeping Giant* and *Pukaskwa*, on the north shore of *Lake Superior*. Our favourite attractions were *Kakabeka Falls*, the *Terry Fox Monument* and *Canada's* longest suspended bridge. Another highlight of our trip was meeting our friend *Jane*, who who drove up from *Minneapolis* with her dog and camped with us at *Kakabeka Falls* for a few nights. En route to home, we enjoyed a five-night stay at *Pancake Bay* (with its gorgeous beach).



In August, we had fun camping and hiking in the *Bancroft* area with our long-time camping friends, *Louise* and *Christopher*. One of the highlights of this trip was a visit to *Petroglyphs Provincial Park* (which is day-use only). There, we saw one of the largest collections of native *Petroglyphs* in this part of



The Education Front

In 2007, Em learned how to ride her bike without training wheels and enjoyed swimming, skating and jazz/tap dance lessons.

This year, I completed the course "Special Education Part 1," spent six weeks writing curriculum on a consulting team (my first paid job of this kind!), and became a full time, permanent employee of the *Simcoe Board* (after a four year wait!!) I am currently a Special Education Teacher at *Rama Central P.S.* This past fall, I ran lunch hour clubs and enrichment groups, tracking and comparing the migrations of *Monarch Butterflies*, *Whooping Cranes* and *Polar Bears*. I am also staff advisor to the school's "Green Team" and advisor to teachers interested in creating class web pages.



Canada! Annnd, for the third year in a row, Em attended *Wye Marsh* day camp for a few days, in August, while I worked at *Wye* as a volunteer. Em also tried the Thursday-sleepover at camp. We LOVE *Wye!*

In 2008, Em and I are hoping to drive eight hours north to *Cochrane*, via *Temagami's* old growth forest complex, to visit the *Polar Bear Habitat* and

The Year in Pictures...

<http://sky.prohosting.com/mansterg>

2007 Edition



Thunder Bay / Lake Superior Camping Trip 2007

