

AUGUST LONG WEEKEND BACKPACK – Riding Mountain NP

There were 3 hikers, Di, Rick and Sue, and 2 canine companions, Agnes and Spirit – who made their way, about 10km, to Long Lake in Riding Mountain National Park. Bert and Judy arrived at exactly the same time on their bicycles – having left the North Bison Enclosure after us. Another couple were at the campsite with their canine companion, Bear. A recent addition at Long Lake was a lovely little dock which allowed for beautiful views of the lake, and an amazing sunset.



The next day, we took an 8km day hike south on Long Lake trail, before packing up and heading to Whitewater Lake, about 5km. We all saw bears! The hikers had 2 young black bears, while the bikers had mama bear and her 2 cubs. The wood shed and Elk antlers made a great backdrop for Judy and Sue to do their stretches – much to our



amusement!

Later on that evening, 4 Polish ladies arrived – rather hot and bothered – after 19 km from Gun Creek campsite. What bad timing for the well to run dry.... Bert located Whitewater Lake (a very inaccurately named Lake), and we filled every bag and bottle we possessed with turbid water. Thankfully, having left the well for a couple of hours, and Bert priming the pump – we did get it working again.

Luckily for us the bugs were not too bad. The odd tick, some Hornets that were more interested in catching flies, but enough mosquitoes that Sue just had to wear her bug suit for us all to admire!

We made an early departure the following morning, to miss the heat of the day. Both Rick and Di had cool drinks waiting for humans and canines. - which was really, really appreciated after a very hot 10km.

