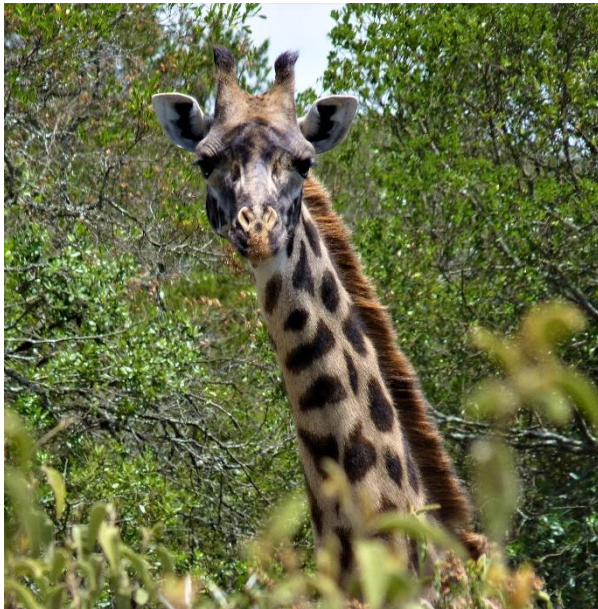


SPRUCEWOODS BACKPACK – May 20 – 21

Bert, Judy, Di and canine friend Spirit drove to the halfway point to hike the 9km into cabin 4 on the Newfoundland trail. It was a warm hike – but could have been a lot worse! We set up camp and enjoyed snacks of cheese and crackers. It wasn't long before we were having appetizers followed by supper – which included a dessert made by Judy.

We were joined by two other backpackers, who had hiked Spirit Sands and the 22km into cabin 4. They made our 9km seem a bit ridiculous! Apparently cabin 3 was quite busy – so we definitely made the right decision to camp at cabin 4.

The following morning our fellow campers had already packed up and gone by the time we got up. We enjoyed the morning, picking off ticks, and hit the trail back



to our vehicles.

A Giraffe – no Giraffes in Sprucewoods, just like there are no bears, right? Well, we beg to differ. Spirit went on high alert just as we were taking a corner. Then Judy and Di were on high alert – as there was a bear walking up the trail ahead of us. We called out to let him know we were on the trail. Next thing, he's trotting down the trail towards us.

This is not what's meant to happen! We back tracked around the corner to give him some time and space to go into the bush. The next thing we saw was a little head and beady eyes peering around the corner at us – as if to see if we were still there. Luckily he realized we were not a threat and went on his merry way into the bush. He was probably one of last year's cubs and was cinnamon in color. Photo? – that wasn't our priority! We were more concerned as to what he had in mind.

By the time we hit Carberry, we were in need of coffee. Our bear encounter was definitely a topic of conversation!

Di Ingram