

On December 1, 2018 Fred, Di, Bert and I along with our canine family (Dover, Keefer and Spirit) hiked into Cairns Cabin for an overnight trip. We decided to hike as there was not enough snow to Snow Shoe or Ski. The trail had been cleared of deadfall and it was in good shape for grooming for the winter season. The hoar frost on the trees created beautiful wintery scenery as we plugged along the trail. We left the parking lot at 10:30 and it took us 4 hours to hike into the cabin. We found 3 dead mice when we entered the cabin. The cabin appeared to be in good shape, except with the snow we did not get a good view of the condition of the roof. The wood pile was stocked and 1/4 of it used. It seemed to take more time than expected to warm up the cabin. We hovered around the stove for a few hours in order to stay warm. Bert brought some delicious cinnamon buns which he shared as we got accustomed to the cabin temperatures. Someone left a guitar at the cabin which seemed like a nice and appropriate addition to the contents there. The cupboard had some canned goods from other visitors. We even had more light in the cabin as visitors had left a few strings of battery operated lights around the table area.

Our evening was spent sharing stories. Di said the hoar frost along with some humidity with cloudy sky made the cabin feel isolated and cozy in the evening as she took a few breaks outside. We settled down to sleep around 10 pm. Bert graciously did the task of tending to the stove and keeping the fire going through the night. Due to the rather warm air in the loft, I woke up early at 6 am which did disturb the dogs and wake Di and Bert up. Once the dogs settled down I journaled in my notebook as everyone caught a few more winks before daylight.

We enjoyed a leisurely breakfast and left the cabin at 10:30. The hike out was arduous for me. Fred had to take my pack after the first 4k as I crept along the hills. Thank goodness for Fred as I still may be laying on the trail somewhere. Di encouraged me to not to stop going to Cairns cabin and keep at it. Bert said he never got his stride on the way out, but he bounced along at an even pace. Di and Spirit seemed to keep an even pace. Fred was impressive with keeping ahead of us at times with two packs. He said he wanted to finish. The creek crossings were okay as they were frozen, yet Di and I did hear some babbling water underneath

the ice. It took us another 4 hours of hiking on the way out.

Afterwards we enjoyed a coffee and some lunch at the Lakehouse. This gave us a chance to warm up before the drive back to Brandon.

I truly wish to thank Di, and Bert for their encouragement and stories on this trip. I lovingly thank Fred for carrying my pack for 8K. This trip has inspired me to start running again in order to prepare for more trips.

*..Carry on my friends and enjoy the next adventures of WWC and what winter has in store for us.*

Jacqueline Goods

P.S. See Bert's pictures attached.



