

The Cloche that Wasn't

A Tale of Extreme Survival

Sponsored by the MOC



(This is us)



"A breathtaking story
of bravery and friendship"
- *New York Times*

"And I thought Everest was a challenge"
- *Jon Krakauer*

"The bravest four young
adventurers I've ever heard of"
- *Conrad Anker*

"I could never dream of attempting this,
simply outrageous!"
- *Alex Honnold*



James



Anya



David



Pippa

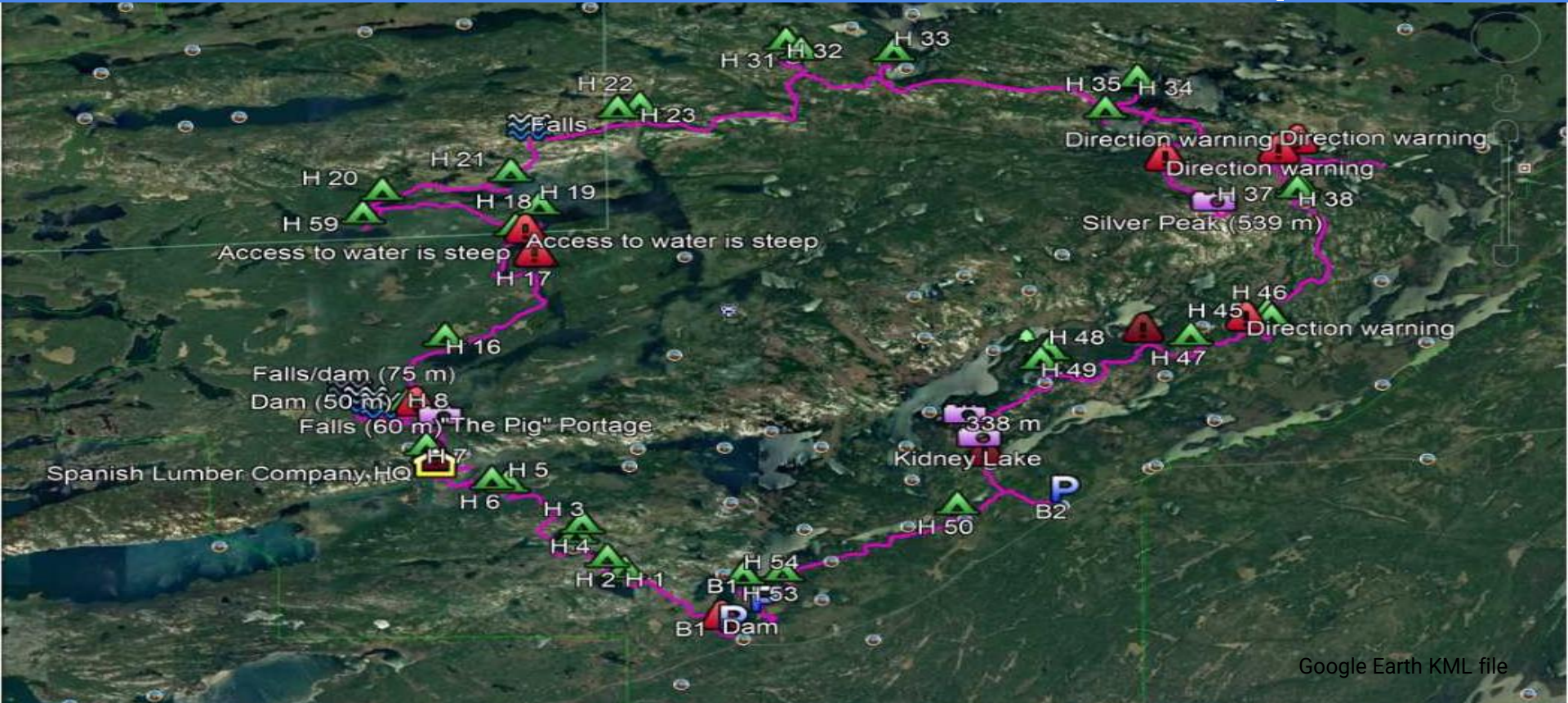


Trip Outline

- Do a snowshoeing and camping adventure over the March break
- La Cloche Silhouette trail was suggested!
- The trail is ~78km and normally done in the summer, but can also be done in the winter (video from early March 2017)



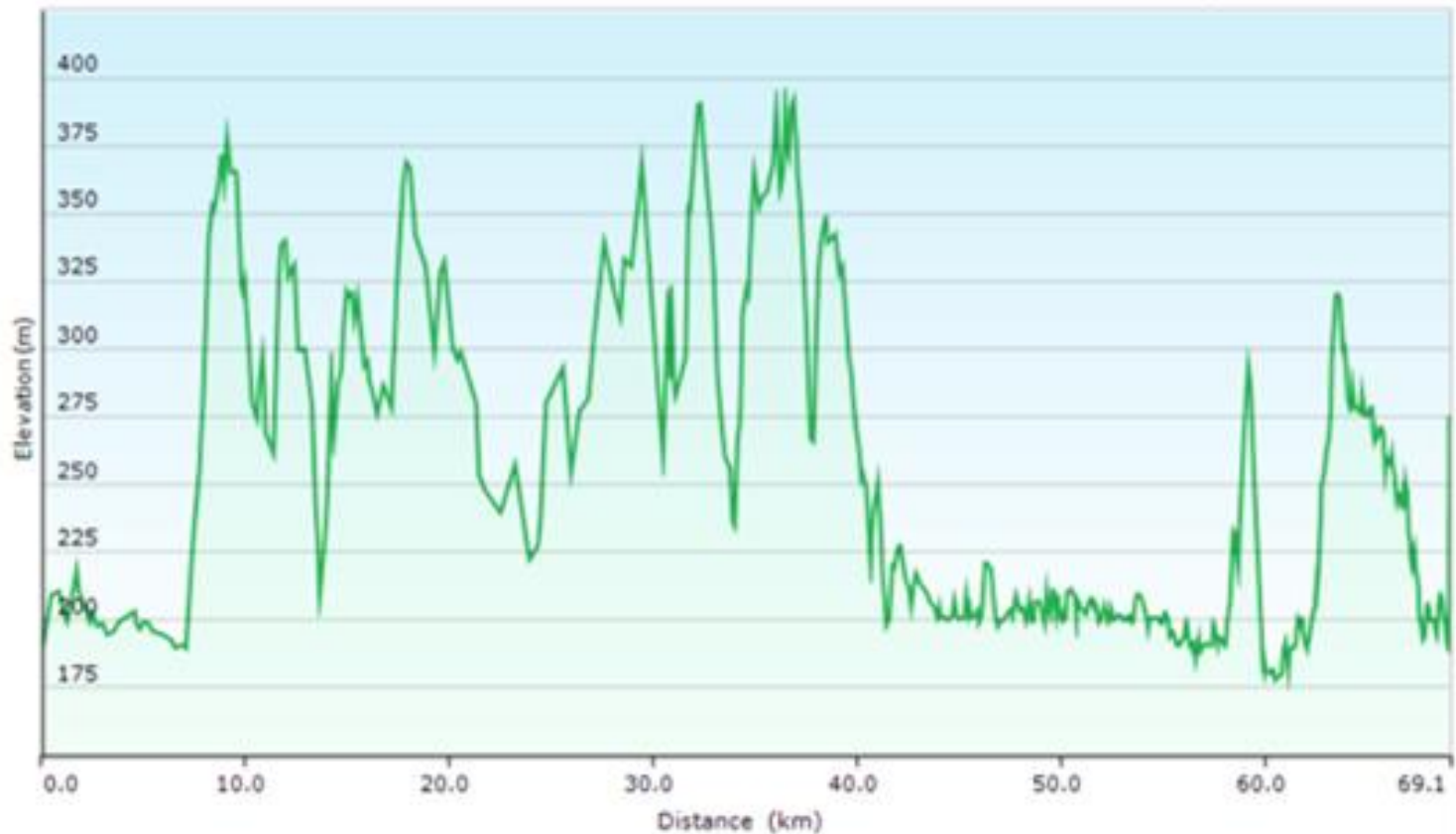
La Cloche Silhouette Trail Map



Google Earth KML file

Killarney Provincial Park

Approximate Elevation Profile



- Oatmeal
- Raisins
- Peanut butter
- Rice
- Couscous
- Dehydrated veggies
- Dehydrated chicken

Food

- Clif bars
- More clif bars
- Trail mix
- Chocolate
- NO avocados
- NO bananas
- Cinnamon



Essential Gear



- Snowshoes AND poles
- Thermos bottles (not plastic)
- Hatchet and saw
- Packable shovel
- Warm winter sleeping bag
- Campfire pot with handle
- GPS

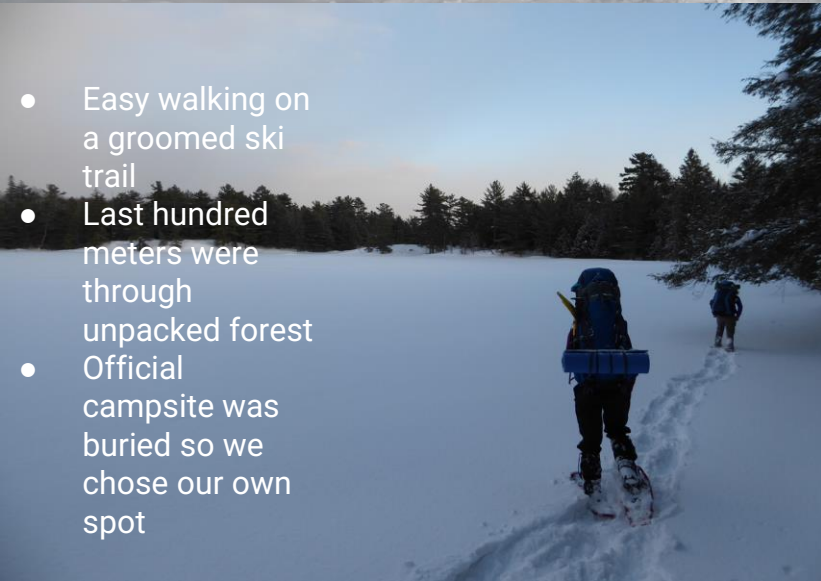


Day 1

- 5:30AM departure from Montreal, ~8.5 hour drive
- Started trail at around 3:30PM
- 6.49km at 3.3km/h



We clearly don't know what we are getting ourselves into, look at those naïve smiles



- Easy walking on a groomed ski trail
- Last hundred meters were through unpacked forest
- Official campsite was buried so we chose our own spot

Day 2

- 9.03km at 1.4km/h
- Packed trail up to “the crack”



- Few signs: tricky navigation
- Very deep snow, many difficult ups and downs





Day 3

- 8.51km at 1.4km/h
- Very similar to day 2, with difficult walking and many ups and downs
- When it took 5.6km and ~4 hours to reach the campsite that was 3.5km away, we became a bit concerned...



- At the end of the day, we made the decision that we were not making it around in time, and we would have to turn around.
- Chose to return via a “lake route”



- The trail, at times, was challenging
- We were climbing steadily upwards
- But the views were rewarding



Much time was spent looking for markers



- Near the end of the day we decided to leave La Cloche and find our own way back...



Day 4

- 14.8km at 2.3km/h
- The walking was entirely on lakes, save for portages and the last bit to our campsite



- No elevation, no trees to wrestle, snow was not so deep
- Beautiful views of the ridges and hills that we had walked earlier on



Pippa is very happy



Less happy Pippa



Frozen ice



Day 5

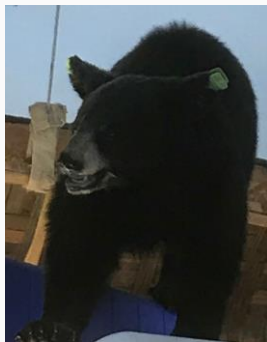
- 4.4km at 2.6km/h
- Beautiful day for a short walk back to the car!





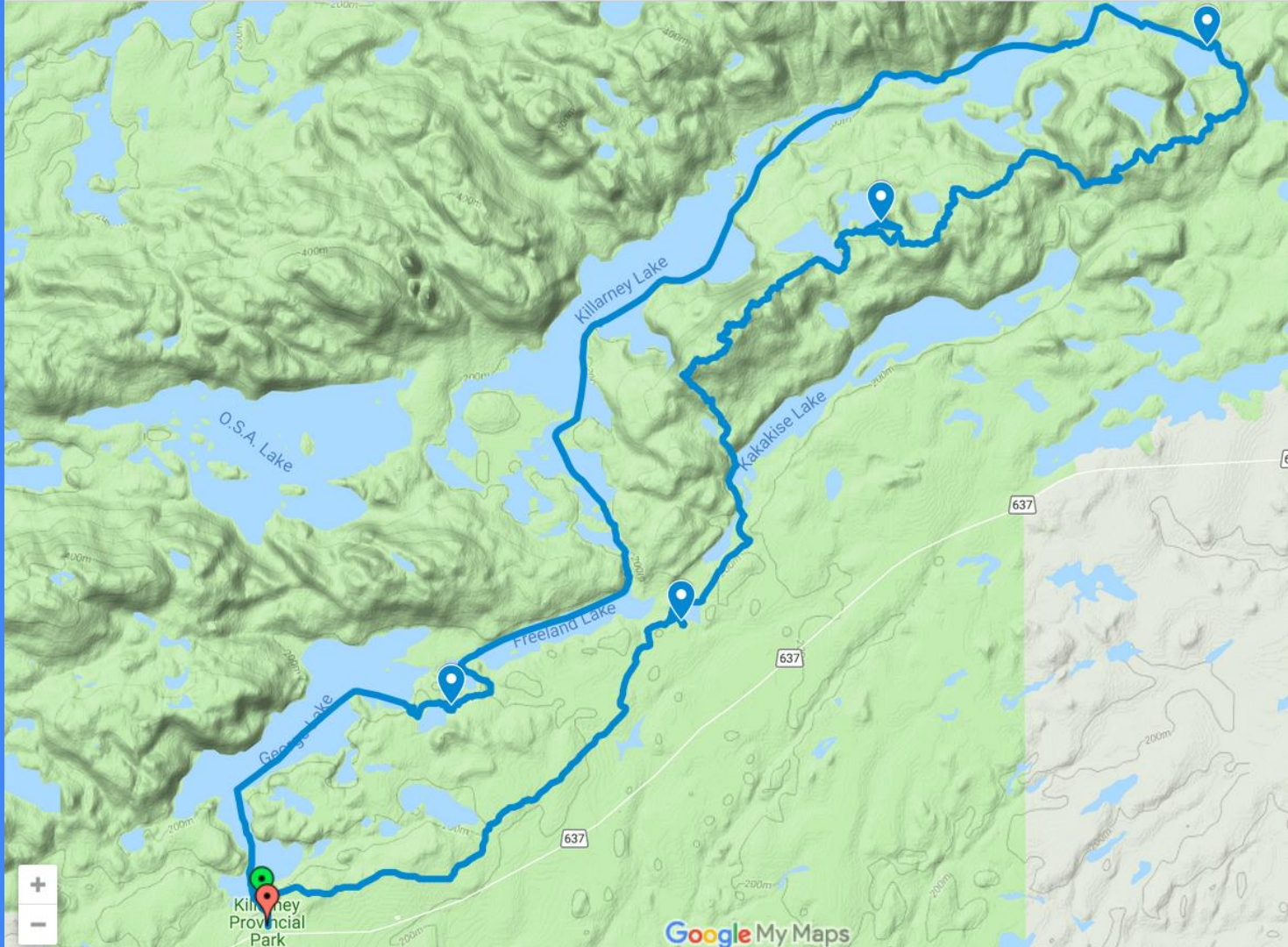
More wildlife we didn't see

Arrival at the car at 11am, survival accomplished. Focus on nearest fast food in Sturgeon Falls (2 long hours away)



Some of the wildlife we didn't see

New Route



Camping

Condensation makes the top of sleeping bag freeze every night

Boots freeze overnight

Hands freeze while packing sleeping bag/mattress

Water bottles freeze unless kept inside sleeping bag/jacket

Dehydrated food does not freeze!





- Once arriving at camp there was no time to lose before the sun set
- Tents were set, wood was collected and stacked, the fire was built, water was collected, food was cooked, water was boiled, water was boiled...



Cooking

- Build a mound of snow, and make a couple layers of frozen logs
- Melting and boiling snow takes a long time and has a low yield
- Camping near access to liquid water is extremely useful
- One pot approach to breakfast/supper





Before

After



Roasting socks

Birch Bark



Some Tips for Winter Camping

- Extra socks for sleeping
- Extra shoes for camp and yoga mat to sit on
- Build the fire on a mound to keep it burning longer
- Make sure the firepot is easy to remove from the fire
- Bring a GPS
- Dry boots out at night... else they will be solid in the morning!



Thank you MOC!

