

**Daniel Holmes**  
**Winter Trip Report**  
**February 16, 2007**

**To Isaac Lake and Back**

Dear Sandy,

Thanks so much for the information you provided me last week at your place about completing the circuit in the winter. As you know there were two of us.

Here is an outline of our equipment list with my thoughts about it:

Sleds - Canadian Tire, 4 foot, 5 ft of PVC tubing on the front around the ropes. Sleds were too short and PVC was too flexible. I would use dowelling with eyelets screwed and glued into the ends next time to make it stiffer. Also the rope was partially non-synthetic and stretched. This was exceedingly annoying. The sleds were misery to pull in all but ideal circumstances and I would only use them to carry a very small amount of awkward stuff in the future and preferably not at all. The sleds were an awful impedance.

Auger - This was brought for fishing. The fishing was not good but the auger was a great blessing for acquiring water. I would consider bringing a portable 6 inch auger just for getting water.

Axe and saw - The full size axe is not all that useful in the winter but the collapsing buck saw was incredible to have. I would recommend the saw and a hatchet in future.

Lighting - We brought a Coleman white gas lamp. Wonderful to have and awful to carry. I would not bring again. Further, we broke the glass on it. I would get an LED panel lamp and bring candles.

Fuel - I brought 6 litres. We could have made it with 4.

GPS - A great thing to have to let you know how far to go to each spot. I got all the necessary waypoints from google earth.

Snowshoes - MSR Denali with 8 inch extenders... an awesome choice.

Raingear - I brought slickers and Goretex – this was a mistake. Slickers were heavy and unnecessary.

Food that hindered travel

1 lb butter - twice as much as we needed.

750 mL jam - about twice as much as needed

750 mL of PB - about 50% more than we needed

2 large ziplocks of GORP - more than twice what we needed

1.5 lb cheese - 50% more than we needed

Oatmeal 1 large ziplock full - about 30% more than needed

Pancake mix 1 large ziplock full - about 30% more than needed

My recommendation with food is that it be measured out accurately before leaving and rationed daily by measuring so that too much is not brought. It was terribly heavy.

Here is the itinerary that my friend and I followed.

Allotted time: 8 days

Food for: 10 days

Planned route:

Night 1	Indian Point Cabin
Night 2	Lynx Creek Cabin
Night 3	Isaac Shelter
Night 4	Cariboo River-side
Night 5	Turner Creek
Night 6	Babcock Creek
Night 7	Pat's Point

#### Actual Route

Day 1 To Indian Point.

Conditions: 5 degrees C, sunny and wet heavy snow on lake. Portages were brutal and could not be skied – snowshoes all the way! No open water on Kibbee main lake (just the channel). Indian point was ice on the western half and slushy on the eastern half. No bad ice on Indian point. Left at 9:30 am and arrived at 4:00 pm

Day 2 To Lynx

Conditions: 5 degrees C with wet heavy snow on lake turning to slush by noon. It was totally brutal to get to Lynx in these conditions. Arrived exhausted. Left at 9:30 am and arrived at 5:00 pm. Note that there is bad ice on the east arm of Isaac which has open spots. Very dangerous – can be detected by a soft crust that has a lot of give. Stay to the shore where ice is better. Open spots may be covered with snow.

Day 3 To 2 km from Isaac Shelter

Conditions: -3 degrees C with snowstorm developing. Two feet of wet powder at Isaac Shelter area. Speed reduced from 5-6 km/hr (on good crust) to 1.8 km/hr in powder. Sleds were misery. Camped at lakeside because it was dark. Arrived at 6:00 pm.

Day 4 To Lynx

Conditions: -3 degrees. Snowstorm with strong south wind. Slow progress in snow. Left at 8 am and arrived at 4:30 pm. Toughest day I have ever done. 2 ft to 6 inches of powder the whole day. Used the tarp as a sail to pull us with great success.

Day 5 To Moxley

Conditions: -8 degrees. Sunny. Good crust. Fast Travel. Went back to Moxley. Left at 10:30 am and arrived at 12:30 pm.

Day 6 To Wolverine Shelter

Conditions: -10 degrees. Sunny. Good crust. Fast Travel. 1 hour travel.

Day 7 To Indian Point

Conditions: -10 degrees. Sunny. Good crust. Very fast travel. Portage was a piece of cake on the crust we had created coming out. 4 hours travel. Bad ice still on west arm of Isaac.

Day 8 To Bowron

Conditions: -10 degrees. Cloudy. Good crust but sheet ice on western part of Indian point. Easy fast travel. Sleds still annoying on portages... they tip over!!

#### Wildlife:

Wolf tracks every morning fresh. Wolves heard. Fresh wolf kill (deer) seen on Day 6. No other wildlife seen.

#### Fishing:

No success jigging spoons on all lakes – I guess I am a rookie at this.

Many Thanks

Dan