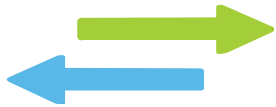


It's All About Journeys...



Member Journeys...

Joy and David Schaal:

Taking a recommendation from Margie and John Stolte, we decided to join the Haliburton w

Haliburton is in northeastern Ontario, about a 3 hour drive north of Toronto. This area was the scene of significant Ice Age sculpting, resulting in tens of thousands of lakes from very large to quite small. The landscape is rugged with many hills, ridges, streams, etc. And lots of snow this time of year.



The club is rather dispersed across the landscape, so getting from one place to another, in spite of the snow, can be challenging. But they were more than up to it.. The list of activities is long and eventful. We flew into Toronto, and spent the night, gathering the next day for our 3-hour trip up north. Rain and ice were spitting, but never mind, we have fun awaiting us.

Our host, Gay Marie Paige, has a charming cottage (it seems that all homes are "cottages") on a large bay of a very large lake. She is the only person one that bay staying the winter. Her cottage is set up with a picture window looking out over the lake. Great for relaxing and just watching the world go by. And a couple of young wolves one evening.



Each day a new set of activities. Like snowshoeing in the woods and through a rather rugged large sculpture garden.





A visit to a volunteer-based fish hatchery, operating both indoors and out of doors to ensure that local sport fish are managed for the future



In the evening, a group of us gathered at one of the member's "cottage" – you can add to the original building, but only via very strict rules – meant to preserve the wilderness environment – for dinner, and for some of us (that would be Joy), a plunge into their hot tub.



Next day, out to a YMCA camp to try our hands at cross-country skiing (not David's cup of tea) and once again snowshoeing over the hills – fun for all!



Other great experiences: Snowmobile riding and driving – too much racing around on that frozen lake to take photos, and a most charming sleigh ride on a sleigh pulled by two large black horses, with a miniature horse that followed us all around the trip, never giving way to those larger horses. David sat at the back which, it turns out, gave him every opportunity to pet that little one.

Dog sledding – Joy and David took turns riding and mushing. A great set of Siberian Huskies to pull us along the track. Lots of barking, and, as it turns out dog littering, if you get my drift.



Of course, curling. It's harder than it looks. Or at least as our hosts made it look. But it was great fun!



We finished the week with a sumptuous meal while it snowed heavily outside. This weather is perfectly normal up north. Little did we expect to see it again at home... cost us a day getting home, but it was so much fun. We might just do this one again!