

On Sunday July 16, James, Olwen, Di, Spirit, Katerina and Brian met at the William Lake Provincial Park campground office before heading out to the Turtle's Back Tower trailhead. The day was perfect for a hike with temperatures in the high teens and a good breeze. With his usual enthusiasm for an outing Spirit lead the way as the group headed out on the short route to the summit. Almost immediately, Katerina was attempting to educate the group on her knowledge of mushrooms she encountered along the way, both edible and not so much! In return we educated her on the appearance of poison ivy which apparently is not common in most parts of Russia, along with local berries.



The summit and newly refurbished viewing tower didn't disappoint with a spectacular view of the surrounding landscape. The story boards on the tower were educational and provided some insight into the creation of the Turtle Mountain area. The group had lunch at the summit and said Hi to a few other groups that also took the day to enjoy a hike. A group

photo was taken at the base of the tower and Brian used his drone to also take a group shot at the top of the tower.

The slightly longer trail was the route back where some furry beasts were encountered along the trail (cows). Spirit was on high alert before the cows came into view courtesy of the crashing noises coming from the dense foliage. He was very interested in making friends with the cows once they came into view but alas the group had to stick to its schedule. The return route had a nice spot for a break along the shore of William Lake where the group had some water and conversation.

Once back at the trailhead the group split up and headed their own ways after an enjoyable hike. Thanks to those that attended.

Since this was Katerina's first hike with the WWC, James suggested that she provide her own review of the outing which she did and is attached below.

## **Ekaterina's Hike Review**

This Sunday I was happy to participate in my first hike in Canada. It was my primary exploration of Turtle Back trail on the way to Turtle Back Summit at William Lake Provincial Park. It was unforgettable experience for me! Near the peak, it was quite challenging and literally breath-taking, but regarding at the end, where we could behold the amazing views of ancient woods (a territory that 10000 years ago was just a piece of ice 2 km depth.) We also had a chance to have a snack and I was introduced to very obnoxious plant – Poison Ivy. I have never seen it before in Russia and was able to explore the forest without any fear. Of course, we made some photos with a camera and also with a drone (there is nothing really new that can amuse us nowadays, it is sad).

Our way back was not without an adventure. As a livestock is allowed to roam and graze in this area, we run exactly into the fancy, peacefully walking red-haired cow. What to say about how we were surprised, especially our dog Spirit. Of course, this lady cow hurried away from the path.

In addition, during our hike I couldn't give up my ingrained habit – searching for mushrooms and berries. I can say that every infant in Russia is literally born with the skill of gathering – this is something we have inherited from our ancestors. Therefore, I had to combine the wish to absorb the magic of the place with my reflexes.

I enjoyed the refreshing weather, atmosphere of shared knowledge and emotions between six of us including a dog called Spirit - which name prompted me to think, that we have visited a really spiritual place.