



Thank-you for supporting the Thunder Bay Children's Centre Foundation, providing mental health services and support services to children, adolescents and their families who suffer from mental health problems.

Please read the following to find out more about THE TOUR...

Tour Start Location and Procedure

Start Location: Fort William Historical Park. Register/Sign-in and drop off boats before parking your vehicle in the designated Ⓣ area. Parking is not allowed along roadsides, vehicles must be parked in the parking lot.

Start Time: August 30th, 2008 **10:00 AM** (5km and 20km)

Registration & Boat drop off: between 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM. **All paddlers must be on site at the Fort and signed in no later than 9:30 AM**

Race Day Sign In: All Paddlers are to sign in at the start area and pass their boat and equipment through a chute where boat safety gear will be checked. **All paddlers are to be in the water no later than 9:45 AM**

Weather: The event will be delayed if there is a thunder storm. An announcement will be made at the start. We will try to continue it later in the day. If the event must be cancelled for that day, the race may be rescheduled for the following day or following weekend. If the event must be completely cancelled, no refunds will be issued.

Tour Course (see Course Map)

There are 2 course distances, a 5km and a 20km. The start/finish line for all distances is between 2 buoys on the river, at the boat launch area at Fort William Historical Park, east of the Visitors Centre. Both distance paddlers will start at 10:00 AM with the 20km paddlers lining up first at the start line.

5km Course

The 5km course (green line) heads upstream past the Fort William Historical Park wharf. Paddlers can pass either side of the small island in front of the wharf, however, the river section closest to the wharf may be shallow towards the far end of the island and you may have to push along or get out and drag your boat for a short distance.


The course then follows the right shore into and around the oxbow and then return downstream back towards the wharf. The finish line is between the same buoys at the start.

In the event that the water is too shallow along the western portion of the oxbow, paddlers will still head into the oxbow but will turn around a buoy at the most northern point and return downstream to the finish line.

20km Course

The 20km paddlers will start and follow the same 5km (green line) course. Upon returning to the start/finish line paddlers will pass on the far right of the finishing buoys and continue down river (red line). The 20km course turns around a buoy at the Highway 61 bridge on the South (right side) of the river and heads back upstream towards the finish line. The 20km course continues past the start/finish area and loops around the island in front of the wharf (blue line) and returns to the finish line.

CUT OFF TIMES: Boats must pass Check Point #2 by **11:30 AM** and Check Point #3 by **12:00PM**.

The race course is dotted with excellent viewing points  for spectators, allowing them to follow their favourite paddlers along the race course. If you wish to see the race from the wharf you may have to pay the entrance fee to the Fort. Spectators who wish to watch from the Highway 61 bridge are advised to park by the cemetery on Broadway Ave. and walk down.

Registration Numbers

In your tour kit you will find bibs for yourself and, if you are on a team, for each team member. The bib must be pinned to the **front and back** of each of your PFD or Lifejackets.

Tour Safety

All paddlers will enter the starting area through a chute where safety gear and bibs will be checked. No one will be allowed to enter the water without the following gear: **approved PFD or Lifejacket and sound device (e.g. whistle)**. **Lifejackets/PFD's must be worn at all times while in the boat.**

It is highly recommended that you bring plenty of water, some food, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses and spare dry clothes in a water proof bag.

There are 4 Check Points :

- 1 Intersection of river and entrance to oxbow (in a motor boat)
- 2 End of Riverdale Rd. (7km; 16km)
- 3 Property off of Victor St. (10km, 13km)
- 4 Highway 61 Bridge – south (right) side of river at buoy (11.5km)

There are 3 safety boats on the course. One at the intersection of the river and entrance to the oxbow, one at the 20km turn around buoy at the Highway 61 bridge, and one sweeper that will follow the last paddler for each distance. An Amateur Radio Operator will be at each of the checkpoints and in each of these boats and will be identified by a lime green vest.

In the event that during the race you require assistance or you see someone requiring assistance, please help if safe to do so and, if required, contact an Amateur radio operator as soon as possible so the patrol boat can be dispatched.

If you are not able to finish the race and pull out along the race course, you **must** contact an Amateur radio operator or the finish line volunteers as soon as possible to ensure you are accounted for.

Finish Area

When you finish the course, please proceed immediately to the shore, where volunteers will assist in pulling your boat well up onto the grass to make room for the next finishing paddlers.

Awards for each distance will be handed out immediately following each distance event (i.e. after the last boat for each distance finishes).

A BBQ will be provided for paddlers and volunteers after the event. The ticket in your tour package entitles you to a bunned sensation and a beverage.

HAVE A FANTASTIC PADDLE AND ENJOY THE SCENERY!!!