



Both Michael and Erika are ashore and well up from the water. Kit and I unload, pull the canoe up and tie it to a tree or rock. Michael wants someone to play with him, and so does Erika. But I ask the age-old canoeist's question "What is the first thing you do when you get to a campsite?" The answer "Pitch your tent!"

The tent goes up, the sleeping gear goes in. Then start the rounds of swimming, baseball, books, wood cutting, cooking, cleaning, and packing up. Kit usually goes into the tent first with the children while I close up everything for the morrow's start.

I take a soothing bath. I do a sketch and go into the tent to help with the bedtime routine. Michael has his Phillies yearbook and his behavior chart, and Erika has her books. Kit sleeps near Michael to tend to his needs during the night. I sleep next to Erika to watch over her.

Just before I go to sleep, I check my map and make a note on where we are and where we are going. Not a bad day . . . we made 14 miles in a head wind.



*Paresseux Falls, Mattawa River*

Photo by Toni Harting