

Newport Forest

December 10 2000

12:30 - 1:20 pm

Weather: mild, +5C, no breeze, cloudy, humid

Purpose: to install trailer

Participants: Kee, Bill Milligan

Having discovered a reasonably-priced used trailer in the classifieds a few days ago, I moved fairly swiftly and ended by paying a cheque for \$1850 to a Mr. Bill Milligan, a cabinet-maker who lives at golden Arrow Trailer Park near Putnam. Milligan has purchased a motor home and needed to get rid of the trailer. The base price was for \$1750. the extra hundred was for towing, which we completed this morning, trailing our new home-away-from-home down to Newport Forest along the 401, 402, then the longwoods Road.

We parked the trailer just above the Flemming's Creek Bluffs near the old log by Harvey's bean field. It looked quite picturesque (if a trailer can do that) under the mighty oaks and maples. After Milligan left, I took what i thought was going to be a short walk around the property, but I couldn't help walking the whole circuit around the Hogsback. I saw many deer tracks, including those of three animals walking side by side along Edgar's road just this morning. I also saw deer tracks following the circuit at many points, as well as those of Cottontails and squirrels. I heard Crows, Robins and Blue Jays

The Thames is up over the gravel bars again and shore ice frames the river all along our stretch of it. Flemming's Creek is running about a foot deep near the bridge, a good flow.

“Cougar Hunt”:

I met Darren Jacobs and his friend, Robert Huff in Port Stanley at 2:10 this afternoon. We proceeded to the home of Ron Johnson to discuss his recent “big cat” sightings, then fanned out into the bean field along George Street and into the forests beyond, both on large, steep knolls, possibly part of the north shore dune system that extends from Port Stanley to Port Burwell. We found a lot of deer signs, including some “antler scrapes,” some feces of unknown origin (not deer, not coon, not rabbit, etc.), and some possible scratch marks on a young tree. Darren video-taped and took digital photos of all signs. Nothing really definite and no sightings.