

Lake Joan and Canary Falls Hiking Trail (#29)

The trail to Lake Joan and Canary Falls is moderate with a few steep sections. It has pleasant scenery and features which provide an interesting variety for visitors to Monkman Provincial Park.

Time/Distance: 1-2 hours/ 2 km return

Elevation Gain: 60 m (200 ft)

Rating: Moderate 

Directions to the Trailhead

The trailhead parking lot is shared with the Stone Corral Trail. To reach it, take the road from Tumbler Ridge to Kinuseo Falls, which turns right off Hwy 52 E (Boundary Rd) 14 km south of Tumbler Ridge. The end of pavement is reached after 17 km, and after 23 km, after the road crosses the Murray River, there is a junction. Continue left, on the Kinuseo Falls Rd. The parking lot is reached on the left, 39 km along this road, soon after entering Monkman Provincial Park (62 km from Tumbler Ridge). The trailhead is across the road from the parking lot, where the trail immediately enters the forest and leads down towards the creek.

History

In the 1930s, this lake was named Lake Joan by Ted Chambers, one of the Trailblazer Crew for the Monkman Pass Highway. He named it for his tiny infant daughter Joan, who at the time could fit neatly into a shoe-box. Photographs taken by Chambers in 1937 conclusively show that this lake is Lake Joan, and the falls on the creek that enters it are labeled Canary Falls. Over time the lake became known as Jade Lake, presumably a descriptive term for its colour, and this is how it is shown on topographical maps. It was officially renamed Lake Joan in 2008. An intriguing clipping from a newspaper article from the 1930s calls this lake "Shooting Lake". Underwater gaseous eruptive activity was assumed, as there

were reports of spontaneous waterspouts and emissions.

Trail Directions

The trail is moderately rough, and steep in places. The main fork is reached soon after the trailhead. Walking left leads to the falls, and right leads to the lake. The circular route is best done in a counter-clockwise direction by keeping right at this fork. To hike directly to the falls, keep left, and cross the sturdy bridge over the creek. You will reach the lip of the falls within 100 m.

Keeping right takes you over a small creek, then through a series of ridges before the final steep descent to the shore of the lake. The trail is marked by flagging and diamond markers on the trees. Once at the lake, work your way to the left to a tiny sulphurous spring that emerges at the base of a small cliff, and trickles to the lake. From here the trail ascends briefly, then descends to cross the main creek feeding Lake Joan. You then reach a T junction.

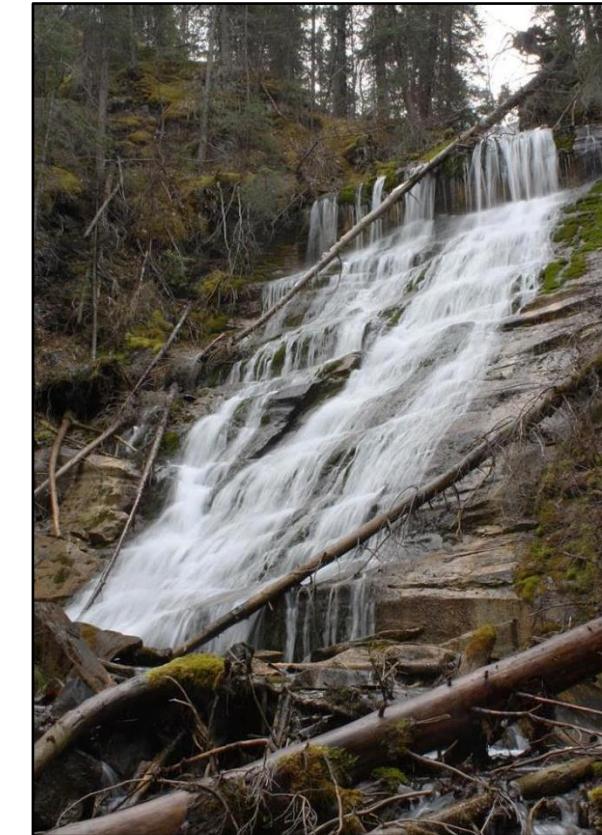
Turning right at the T leads beneath limestone cliffs back to the shores of picturesque Lake Joan. It is possible to make your way along the shore, where fishing can be good.

Turning left at the T leads upstream through an attractive, densely forested gorge. As you approach Canary Falls from below it becomes visible through the trees. There is a pleasant spot to relax at the base of the falls. The ascent to the right of the falls is steep and often slippery. Please be careful, especially with children.

Once at the top of the falls, it is just a short distance back to the trailhead.

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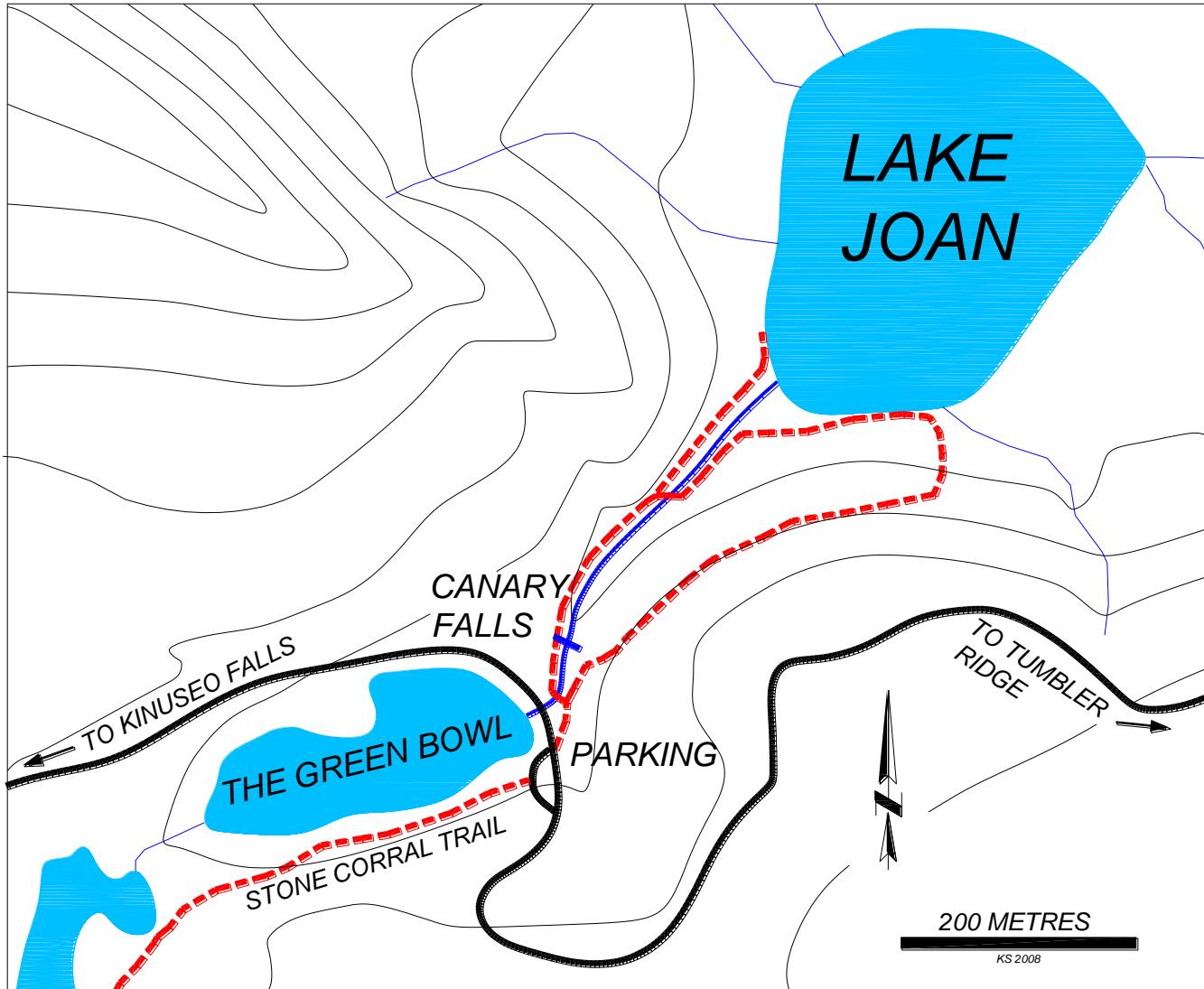
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Rating: Moderate 

Time: 1-2 hours





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- This route is in bear country; travel in groups and make noise
- Please pack out what you packed in



Lake Joan

For more information, contact:

Wolverine Nordic and Mountain Society

Kevin Sharman (250) 242-4860

Charles Helm (250) 242-3984

Photo Gallery website: www.wnms.ca

Tumbler Ridge Visitor Centre

(250) 242-3123

Tourism website:
www.TumblerRidge.ca

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