

July 13, 1977

Dear Moeder and Daddy,

We just got back from our week-long holiday camping in Ontario. It was great fun, and didn't cost too much. We stayed mostly at provincial campgrounds for only \$3.50 a night. In one campground there were dozens of bunny rabbits and tame chipmunks. I fed chipmunks some cashew nuts. I was surprised how much he could ~~he~~ eat till I noticed that he was just sticking them in his jowls. When he went away you could hear the nuts rattling in his jowls.

I enclose a recent article I wrote. Unfortunately the final typescript left out an important "not," altering the sense in an important way. I'll have to be more careful next time. In any case I got paid \$35, and people don't usual read newspaper articles very carefully. I also had a letter in the Globe and Mail about independent bookstores and how they helped our publishing operation.

Christine and Sander were thrilled most of all by our visit to Simon Miles. He bought an island in the Lake of Bays, near Muskoka, and we were completely isolated for one day and night. The kids were locked in a cabin at bedtime and they could shout as loud as they liked while we ate in another cabin. There was a raft - thrilling for Christine, and I made her and Sander bows and arrows. They had a marvellous time. Nor does Gregory miss out on anything. Whatever is going, he comes ~~but~~ one of us and says "Mommy, SOME" or "Daddy, SOME."

Christine has started into the art business early. Today she set up shop in front of the house with a crate. Instead of selling lemonade, she had her drawings ~~for~~ for sale, at 10¢ each. They are very good. She and Alex both seem to me quite talented.

On the trip we saw deer, bear (once) and the animals already mentioned. At one spot there were very many mosquitoes. Gregory got bitten worst. He looked the next morning like George Chuvalo after a fight with Mohammed Ali.

Christine and Alex played Indians. We had to call Christine Little Fawn, Alex "Jackhawa*i*" and Gregory - "Hiawatha*k*". We settled on "Moose" for myself and "Moonface" for Elaine. The campgrounds are all well-appointed. You get firewood, toilets, swim p*l*aces, walking trails and some even have laundromats and hot showers. As it costs only \$150 for the car (gas included) it's really a cheap holiday. Maybe Sheila and Shane can be talked into camping over. There's a Marks and Spencers opening in Ottawa next month.

Gregory was the first one to spot a rabbit ~~in~~ in one of our campsites. He said "BUNNY" and I didn't think he was using the word correctly at first until I saw it peeping out from the bushes. Gregory has very good eyes. He loves bunnies. We came back from the library ~~were~~ today after Alex and Christine played Winnie-the Pooh, a board game with counters. One of the counters was a small ~~in~~ plastic bunny, and it was in Gregory's hand after we left.

There were ~~bloodsuckers~~ bloodsuckers in one of the lakes, something that reminded me of one of the lakes in the Laurentians. (I don't think it was the one at Ste. Marguerite Station).

Moeder, your two paintings arrived safely today. There were no scratches or damage of any kind.

Much love to all of you from all of us. We await word about Liz and #3. Please give my special love to Miffy if you see him.

Xx Randal