

The True Story of the Missing Bucket

By Alex Dreger and Princeton Zhou

The buzz of excitement making its way off the cheese wagon to the oval of Norval for one of the final adventures in the Upper Canada College Norval career was silently deafening. In accordance to the Amazing Race Canada Finale the previous night, the Year 2's travelled across the Norval property while reminiscing past experiences and completing challenges to win the Amazing Race Norval!

Devouring crickets and tubing across the pond on the new property were new experiences for us at Norval, while we relived some of our classic Norval adventures such as crayfishing, building fires, and navigating the high ropes. The new pond on the Norval property featured the challenge of crossing the body of water while on a tube. The objective was to pull oneself across the pond to obtain the clue to the next challenge. At first, I (Princeton Zhou) had to inflate this tube with my sheer strength, and subsequently, I threw the life jacket over my shoulders and got started. I carried the tube as I walked to the edge of the pond, and shortly thereafter, I dropped the tube in the pond, I then lowered myself and reclined into the tube. Splash! The stench of the pond was utterly repugnant as I pulled on the rope over my head while gliding on the water towards the other edge of the pool. It was there where I seized the envelope containing the clue to the next event while Jackson's Head of House Anthony Hua (supervisor of the event) wished me a safe trip back. The voyage back was done with ease, however, I still managed to get a little wet (which wasn't too unpleasant considering that another Y2 fell into the pond off his tube:). I had completed the challenge! And I was then graciously extolled by my groupmates in Martland's House for completing such a daunting task.

In the end, a group of Bremner Year 2's managed to arrive on the mat first and be named the amazing race Norval champions. This group consisted of myself (Alex Dreger), Jordan Kim, Justin Ovenell, Ajay Monga, Marcus Chong, Darius Jamal and Harry Jiang.

During the following BBQ, stories were passed around regarding the incredible race featured that day and complaints about missing buckets. These were 2 buckets of clues left unmanned as one of the smaller challenges of the race. Some groups had not been able to find them and, reasonably so, they decided to accuse someone else of hiding them in the woods after being finished with them. As chatter continued, students claimed it to be our group as others behind us were the first to report the missing bucket at the Adirondack shelters.

While receiving our rewards of diligence from Mr. Evans. a "Where's the bucket" chant ran through the Stephen House porch as the rumour spread like wildfire. They claimed us to be cheaters, swindlers, hoodwinkers, scammers and any other synonymous word. The problem was that we didn't do it. Later, the guilty group stepped forward and admitted to their frivolous hoax. Nevertheless, the rumour of the missing bucket is still told today.