

Lake Joan and Canary Falls Hiking Trails

The trail to Lake Joan and Canary Falls is moderately strenuous with a few steep sections. Its pleasant scenery and features provide 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 – this leads right off the Boundary Road / Heritage Highway (Hwy 52) 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 Murray Forest Service Road. The parking lot is reached on the left, 39 km along this road, soon after entering Monkman Provincial Park (62 km from Tumbler Ridge). To get onto the trail just cross over the road from the parking lot, where it 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 postulated, as there were reports of spontaneous waterspouts and emissions.

Trail Directions

The trails are moderately rough, and steep in places. The main fork is reached soon after the trailhead. 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. If you just want to see the falls, keep left, and cross the sturdy bridge over the creek. You will reach the lip of the falls within a hundred metres.

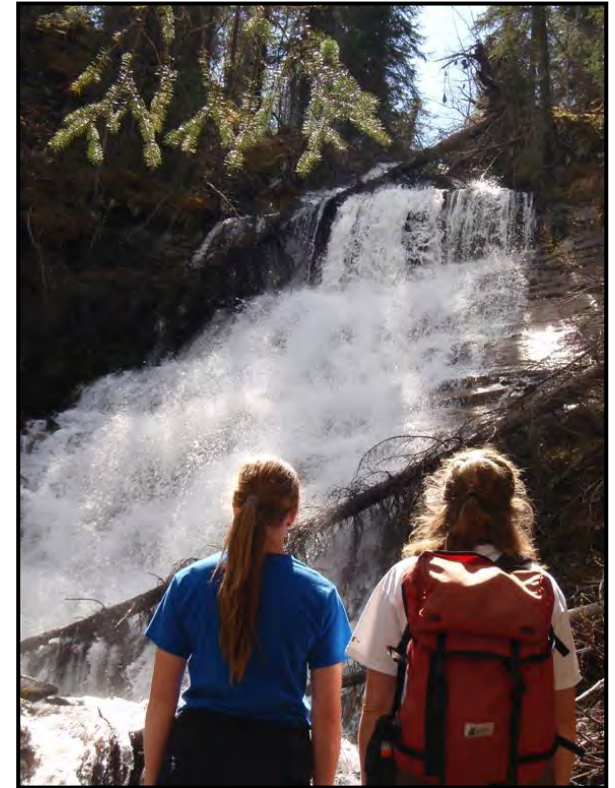
Keeping right takes you over a small creek, then through a series of ridges before the final steep descent to the shore of the lake. The trail is indicated by flagging and diamond markers on the trees. Once at the lake, work your way to the left to a tiny sulphurous spring that emerges at the base of 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.

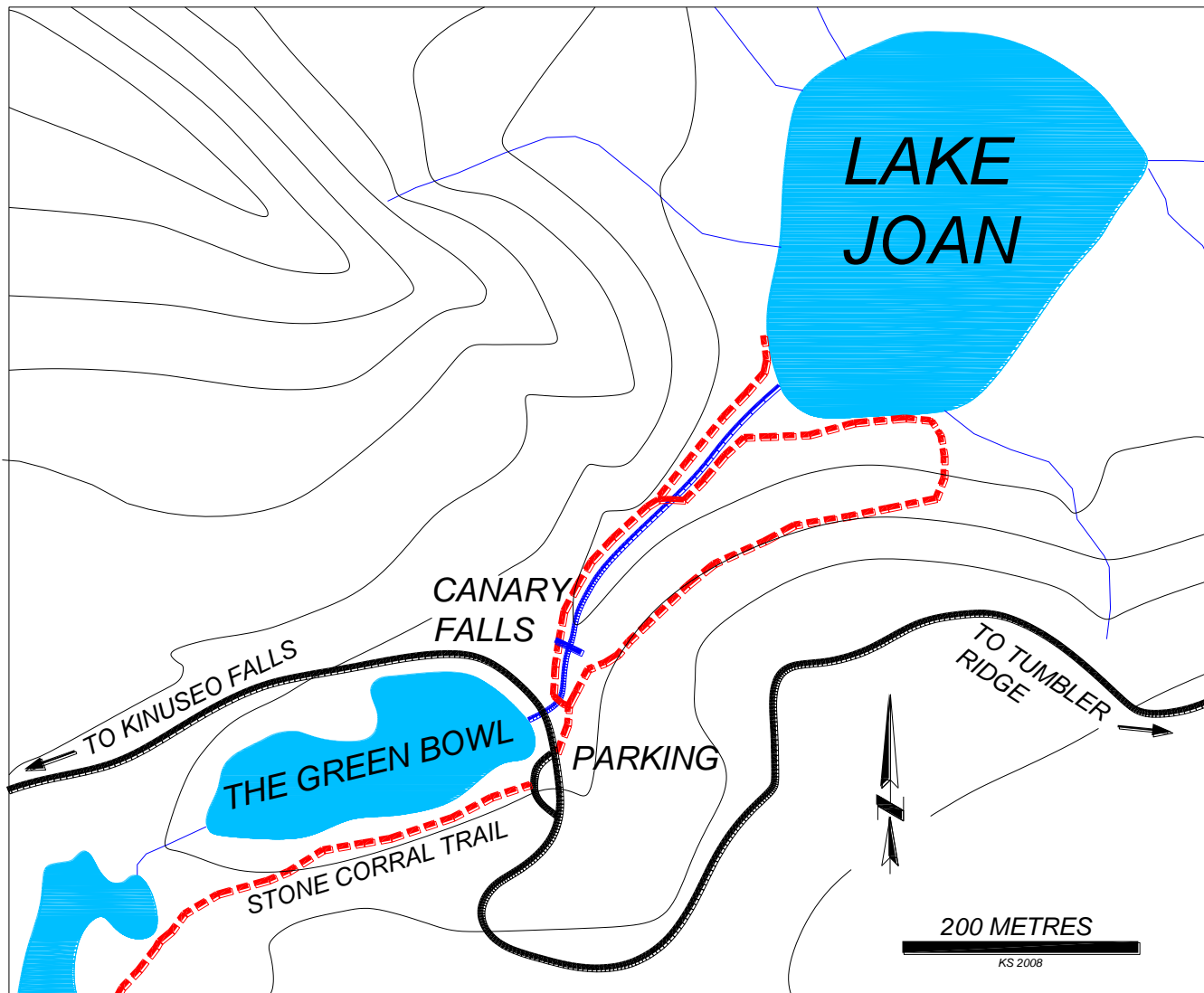
Turning right at the T leads beneath limestone cliffs back to the shores of picturesque Lake Joan. It is possible to make your way along the shore; fishing is sometimes good.

Turning left at the T leads upstream up 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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LAKE JOAN AND CANARY FALLS TRAILS



Lake Joan

- **THESE TRAILS ARE IN BEAR COUNTRY – TRAVEL IN GROUPS AND MAKE NOISE**
- **PLEASE PACK OUT WHAT YOU PACKED IN**

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