**A-CRAWLIN’ IN YOUR WHISKERS**

One of Canada’s most iconic folk songs, the song recounts his experience while he was visiting Northern Ontario with an Ontario Hydro survey party to study the feasibility of a dam on the Little Abitibi River, which flows north towards James Bay. You can hear this song performed by the author at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7gvotoVFlI>, or on the HFMS Audio Archive page at <http://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/HFS_Audio_Archive.html>. Capo II to play along with the recording.

**BLACK FLY SONG**

*By Wade Hemsworth*

**C**

'Twas early in the spring when I decided to go

**Am**

For to work up in the woods in North Ontar-i-o

**C**

And the unemployment office said they'd send me through

**Am**

To the Little Abitibi with the survey crew

**CHORUS:**

**Am C**

And the blackflies, the little blackflies, Always the blackfly, no matter where you go

**Dm C Am**

I'll die with the blackfly picking my bones, In North Ontar-io-io! In North Ontario

The man Black Toby was the captain of the crew

And he said, "I'm gonna tell you boys what we're gonna do.”

“They want to build a power dam and we must find a way

“For to make the little Ab flow around the other way" **CHORUS**

'Twas blackfly, blackfly everywhere

A-crawlin' in your whiskers, a-crawlin' in your hair

Swimmin' in the soup, and Swimmin in the tea

The Devil take the blackfly, let me be **CHORUS**

Black Toby fell to swearin', the work went slow

And the state of our morale was a-gettin' pretty low

And the flies swarmed heavy, it was hard to catch a breath

As you staggered up and down the trail talkin' to yourself **CHORUS**

At last the job was over, Black Toby said “We're through

“With the Little Abitibi and the survey crew.”

'Twas a wonderful experience and this I know

I'll never go again to North Ontar-i-o **CHORUS**