# The Blackfly Song

Wade Hemsworth 1949

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**INTRO: / 1 2 / 1 2 /**

**[C]↓** 'Twas early in the spring, when I decide to go

For to **[Am]↓** work up in the woods in north On-**[Em]↓**tar-i-o

And the **[C]↓** unemployment office said they'd send me through

To the **[Am]** Little Abitibi with the **[Em]** survey crew

And the **[Am]** black flies, the little black flies

**[C]** Always the black fly, no matter where you go

I'll **[Dm]** die with the black fly a-pickin’ my bones

In **[Dm]** north On-tar-i-**[C]**o-i-o

In **[C]↓** north On-**[Em]↓**tar-i-**[Am]**o **[Am] / [C] / [C]**

Now the **[C]** man Black Toby was the captain of the crew

And he **[Am]** said, "I'm gonna tell you boys **[Em]** what we’re gonna do

They **[C]** want to build a power dam, we must find a way

For to **[Am]↓** make the Little Ab flow a-**[Em]↓**round the other way"

With the **[Am]** black flies, the little black flies

**[C]** Always the black fly, no matter where you go

I'll **[Dm]** die with the black fly a-pickin’ my bones

In **[Dm]** north On-tar-i-**[C]**o-i-o

In **[C]↓** north On-**[Em]↓**tar-i-**[Am]**o **[Am] / [C] / [C]**

So we **[C]** survey to the east, survey to the west

And we **[Am]** couldn't make our minds up **[Em]** how to do it best

Little **[C]** Ab, Little Ab, what shall I do

For I 'm **[Am]↓** all but goin' crazy with the **[Em]↓** survey crew

And the **[Am]** black flies, the little black flies

**[C]** Always the black fly, no matter where you go

I'll **[Dm]** die with the black fly a-pickin’ my bones

In **[Dm]** north On-tar-i-**[C]**o-i-o

In **[C]↓** north On-**[Em]↓**tar-i-**[Am]**o **[Am] / [C] / [C]**

It was **[C]** black fly, black fly everywhere

A-**[Am]**crawlin' in your whiskers, a-**[Em]**crawlin' in your hair

**[C]** Swimmin' in the soup, swimmin’ in the tea

The **[Am]↓** devil take the black fly and **[Em]↓** let me be

**[Am]** Black fly, the little black fly

**[C]** Always the black fly, no matter where you go

I'll **[Dm]** die with the black fly pickin’ my bones

In **[Dm]** north On-tar-i-**[C]**o-i-o

In **[C]↓** north On-**[Em]↓**tar-i-**[Am]**o **[Am] / [C] / [C]**

Black **[C]** Toby fell to swearin', the work went slow

And the **[Am]** state of our morale was a-**[Em]**gettin' pretty low

And the **[C]** flies swarmed heavy, it was hard to catch a breath

As you **[Am]↓** staggered up and down the trail **[Em]↓** talkin' to yourself

With the **[Am]** black flies, the little black flies

**[C]** Always the black fly, no matter where you go

I'll **[Dm]** die with the black fly a-pickin’ my bones

In **[Dm]** north On-tar-i-**[C]**o-i-o

In **[C]↓** north On-**[Em]↓**tar-i-**[Am]**o **[Am] / [C] / [C]**

Well now the **[C]** bull cook's name was Blind River Joe

If it **[Am]** hadn't been for him we'd have **[Em]** never pulled through

‘Cuz he **[C]** bound up our bruises, and he kidded us for fun

And he **[Am]↓** lathered us with bacon grease and **[Em]↓** balsam gum

For the **[Am]** black flies, the little black flies

**[C]** Always the black fly, no matter where you go

I'll **[Dm]** die with the black fly a-pickin’ my bones

In **[Dm]** north On-tar-i-**[C]**o-i-o

In **[C]↓** north On-**[Em]↓**tar-i-**[Am]**o **[Am] / [C] / [C]↓**

And at **[C]↓** last the job was over, Black **[C]↓** Toby said we're through

With the **[Am]↓** Little Abitibi and the **[Em]↓** survey crew

'Twas a **[C]↓** wonderful experience and **[C]↓** this I know

I'll **[Am]↓** never go again to north On-**[Em]↓**tar-i-o

With the **[Am]** black flies, the little black flies

**[C]** Always the black fly, no matter where you go

I'll **[Dm]** die with the black fly a-pickin’ my bones

In **[Dm]** north On-tar-i-**[C]**o-i-o

In **[C]↓** north On-**[Em]↓**tar-i-**[Am]**o

With the **[Am]** black flies, the little black flies

**[C]** Always the black fly, no matter where you go

I'll **[Dm]** die with the black fly a-**[Dm]↓**pickin’ my bones **< SLOW >**

In **[Dm]↓** north On-tar-i-**[C]↓**o-i-o

In **[C]↓** north On-**[Em]↓**tar-i-**[Am]↓**o

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