



Beaverdam

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILDERNESS CANOE ASSOCIATION VOL 2 NO 2 JUNE 1975

REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Many positive things have happened regarding the improvement and growth of our club since the last newsletter -- the most important being the way in which members have been willing to pitch in and help with the varied activities of the Association.

Listed below are a few of our activities.

In March, 19 of our members gave information and a slide show over the duration of the Sportsman's Show. I am sure we all enjoyed meeting the interested public and I wish to sincerely thank everyone for their help in this highly successful endeavour.

On April 5 we were in attendance at the annual meeting of Canoe Ontario (a branch of Sport Ontario) and became increasingly aware of their concern with action toward standardizing and nationalising recreational canoeing. At our executive meeting on April 24 we discussed the general meeting to be held in September; a winter cross-country ski and camp programme; support for Sierra Club in the bid for a Missinaibi Wild River Park, et cetera.

On May 1, seven of our members attended the Sierra Club meeting on 1) whaling; 2) Missinaibi as a wild river park. May 8 we attended the Algonquin Wildlands League annual meeting.

To keep informed on matters of interest to our Association we have taken out memberships in the Sierra Club, Federation of Ontario Naturalists; Canoe Ontario; Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario; National and Provincial Parks Association; Ontario Voyageurs Kayak Club, and the Algonquin Wildlands League.

I feel our Association must continue to grow to be strong. The participation in the Sportsman's Show and the preparation of a flyer by Sandy Richardson has been a great help in this regard. Since our last publication our membership has more than doubled so that we now have more than 75 paid memberships and more than 100 members. Most important, you can help increase memberships by telling others how our aims and activities make this a very worthwhile association to which to belong.

To aid further communication among members, membership address lists are from our Secretary-Treasurer on request.

I have enjoyed meeting and knowing many of my fellow members and look forward to meeting many more wilderness canoeists while participating in future WCA activities.

Testing the 14 foot Kinsac

-Courtesy Ont. Fisherman & Hunter-

by Murray J. Martin

THIS IS THE second in a series of test reports made on canoes sold on the Ontario retail market. This time we tested the Kinsac canoe, manufactured by the Atlantic Scientific Engineering Application Co. of Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Kinsac test canoe met the following specifications: length 14 ft.; width 36 inches mid-section; depth 13 inches with a weight of 60 pounds. The Kinsac's design is classic compared to most other canoes. The taper from the bow back to mid-section is much sharper than the taper from the stern to mid-section. The bottom of the hull is rounded. These two combined hull features make the Kinsac one of the fastest canoes we have yet paddled.

The Kinsac is constructed of hand laid woven fibreglass with a heavy reinforced bottom. In addition to the reinforced glass bottom the canoe has a solid glass stand keel. Added strength has been put into the hull through the solid glass stand gunwhales. The gunwhales have been trimmed by a plastic sleeve being fitted over the entire length of the gunwhales. Plastic six inch caps have been placed fore and aft where the gunwhales meet at the bow and stern. These bow and stern caps serve as hand grips when the canoe is being carried by two people.

A single wood thwart is located in mid-section.

BOYANCE TANKS

The Kinsac we first tested had hollow buoyancy tanks, not filled with a flotation fibre. A small nail hole was located in the top of each tank to allow air to get into the tank preventing a moisture trap. We found that once the canoe was swamped and left that way for a period of one hour, enough water would enter the tanks to sink it.

I immediately called the manufacturer in Nova Scotia and informed them of this fault. The buoyancy tank molds were changed with all Kinsac canoes now being man-

ufactured with floatation bulk foam tanks.

SWAMPED CANOE

As part of the test we swamped the Kinsac to find what support it would give to two canoeists. Once swamped the canoe uprighted itself. When the canoe was full of water we found that the tanks gave sufficient buoyancy to support two adults holding onto each end. By using the push and pull method we could empty the water from the canoe and get back into it.

SEATS

The one point we found not in favour of the canoe was the low position of the seats. There was definitely not enough clearance between the bottom of the canoe and the seats to safely put your feet back under the seats. I understand that this is also being changed.

WHITE WATER TEST

The lower rapids offered two foot white caps so I pointed the Kinsac down through this, I knelt down in the canoe with my feet just ahead of the seat and found that I had perfect control of the canoe. With only one person in the canoe the Kinsac handled like a charm.

My 13 year old son Dave climbed into the bow and we headed the 14 foot Kinsac down through the narrows and into the white water backlash of Devils' Curl. The bow lifted a good three feet out of the water. The Kinsac took a fair amount of water over the stern. Even with four inches of unstable water bouncing around in the canoe we had little trouble shooting the lower rapids. Crozier Falls was the last test for the Kinsac. Crozier Falls is well known for its many rocks so Dave knelt aft of the front seat. We launched the Kinsac into the 20 mile an hour current. Our attempt to go over the three foot falls was foiled by the upper falls side current. The only control we could manage was to keep the bow heading down river. A submerged flat rock lies in wait for any canoe that runs this section and there is no way that it can be missed. The

rounded bottom of the Kinsac made us realize that we were lying deeper in the water which meant a much harder impact than we had with a lighter canoe. The canoe hit with a sickening thud as we came in contact with the submerged rock. That stone incidently has wrecked more canoes and punts than any other combination of stones in the South Muskoka River. We beached the Kinsac to see what damage the rock had done to the bottom of the canoe. When we had hit the submerged rock we had taken a small ¼ inch chip out of the keel, but otherwise, and much to our surprise, we had not done any other visable damage to the canoe.

CONCLUSION

When paddling the Kinsac in calm water we found that it held a perfect forward course when allowed to drift after each stroke of the paddle. The weight factor certainly helped when paddling the Kinsac solo in strong winds. The sharp bow profile and the rounded bottom makes the Kinsac a very fast canoe, but also labels the canoe for the more experienced canoeists. The experienced canoeist will find it an excellent canoe for overnight trips. The solid wooden seats are not the most comfortable and this is the only real drawback we could find with the Kinsac. The seats need to be raised to allow the canoeist to put his feet back under and the changing to the webbed seats would certainly enhance the Kinsac, a feature I feel assured will be changed.

The contact with the submerged rock at the foot of Crozier Falls proved beyond doubt that the Kinsac has one of the toughest hulls on today's market. The 14 foot Kinsac sells retail at 244 dollars.

Although I cannot put the label of "Wilderness Canoe" on the Kinsac due to its size I also would not class it with the so called department store lines. The Kinsac is constructed of high quality material combined with top workmanship and a flawless hull design. We put the 14 foot Kinsac into white water more suitable for 16 foot canoes and it proved its ability to handle such waters.

WCA Outings
by Sandy Richardson

Our spring outings seem to have struck a responsive chord among members. Most of those that have taken place to date have been well attended by both keen and competent canoeists. Those that are still to come are already heavily booked.

Reactions to these trips are indicating the type of outings members desire, and this will be reflected in future trips. A strong preference is emerging for relatively demanding river trips in wilderness areas, with a small number of canoes participating. Our summer schedule attempts to respond to this preference.

Trip leaders are still need for fall. Interested members, with experience, are asked to contact Sandy Richardson by mid-August, giving dates, a brief description, the number of canoes desired and the level of experience needed. Pete Emmorey has tentatively scheduled a trip for Thanksgiving weekend, and an undated fall trip in a 26-foot 'north' canoe is described elsewhere in the newsletter.

Following are reports on some of our spring outings:

SALMON RIVER / Despite heavy rains the week before which caused flooding on many rivers, 24 hardy paddlers from Guelph to Brighton ran the Salmon River from Roblin to Lonsdale on April 19. High water drowned a few rapids, but enough remained to provide an exciting season opener.

The Salmon's heavily cedared banks provided a backdrop to the first opportunity for many members to get together and share the river-running skills of our more experienced members. The group ran the river in three separate groups of four canoes -- learning some new skills and improving some old.

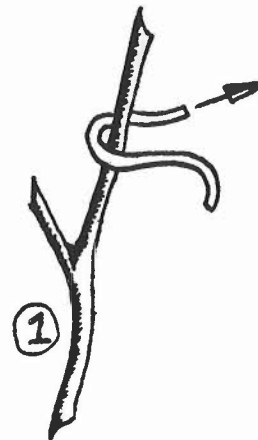
SKOOTAMATTA RIVER / Four canoes of

experienced paddlers led by Roger Smith of Longford Mills made this trip on May 3 and 4. Warm spring temperatures provided ideal weather for tackling the many tricky rapids encountered, making for an exciting weekend. Roger has prepared an excellent article on the trip. Unfortunately, space does not allow for its inclusion in the newsletter. Copies can be obtained from Pete Emmorey. Highly recommended reading! Those making the

NOTES ON KNOTS

Ropes and lines and halyards and sheets and warps have a habit of tying themselves into knots whilst one's back is averted. When using a line intended to take considerable strain, make sure they are free from such knots. They prevent a line from running free, but more importantly, an unwanted overhand knot reduces the strength of a line by 50 per cent.

Round turn and two half hitches/
This is a common, simple and useful knot, also known by a host of other names. It's primary purpose is to secure a line to a spar, limb or the like. A slight variation of it also makes an excellent anchor bend. Illustrations, works of art in themselves, are on following pages.



trip with Roger were Jim & Don Bent of Omeme; Aidan McAuley of Georgetown; Cam & France Salsbury of Don Mills; Finn Hanson and Mary Jo Cullen of Toronto.

SUMMER OUTINGS / Members interested in the following outings must contact trip leaders at least two weeks before the trips for full details of times, put-in points, plans, et cetera. Members without partners are also encouraged to leave their names with trip leaders for pairing with others. Trips will go regardless of weather.

JUNE 28 - JULY 1: DUMOINE RIVER/
The Dumoine tumbles out of the highlands of northwest Quebec into the Ottawa River some 45 miles west of Pembroke, dropping more than 500 feet in the 50 miles the trip will cover. This four-day wilderness trip offers a chance to appreciate the rugged beauty of hills and lakes in an isolated pre-Cambrian shield area, and a chance to experience numerous exciting rapids.

The trip is demanding and is suitable for intermediate-experienced paddlers. The limit is four canoes. The plan involves flying into Lac Laforge and paddling down the Dumoine to the Ottawa. In order to arrange flights it is imperative that interested members contact the trip leaders as soon as possible, and no later than Thursday June 12.

Leader: Gord Fenwick, 140 Porchester Dr., Scarborough; (416) 431-3343.

SATURDAY JULY 19 - MOON RIVER /
The Moon in Muskoka offers a pleasant day of paddling through wooded country and a chance to practice rapids work in the Seven Sisters Rapids. Suitable for novice-intermediate paddlers; limit, five canoes.

Trip Leader: Gord Fenwick.

JULY 25 - 27, MADAWASKA RIVER /
The Madawaska is one of the few rivers in southern Ontario where one can paddle white-water in July. The trip will give paddlers a chance to see Highland Falls, where it is rumoured that Ontario Hydro is considering placing a dam which could ruin what is left of the river. There are many rapids involved, making the trip suitable only for intermediate to experienced paddlers. The plan is to meet at the river about 8 p.m. Friday 25 July and camp there.

Trip leader: Glenn Spence, Box 121, Colborne Ont. (416) 355-3506.

AUGUST 9 - 10, OXTONGUE River /
The Oxtongue offers a weekend river trip suitable for the family in beautiful Algonquin country. The trip is suitable to beginners and novice paddlers. Limit, six canoes. Begins 7 a.m.

Trip leaders: Cam & France Salsbury, 65 Wynford Heights Cres., Apt. 915, Don Mills. (416) 445-9017.

AUGUST 22 - 25 MAGNETAWAN /
The Magnetawan River in the Parry Sound area offers a demanding trip through rough wilderness country. There are numerous rapids and many portages. Suitable for intermediate-experienced paddlers. Limit, four canoes. A long car shuttle is involved which necessitates the 4-day weekend to allow sufficient time to fully appreciate the river. (The dates could be changed to August 29-Sept. 1, Labour Day weekend, if participants prefer)

Trip leader: Sandy Richardson, 5 Dufresne Cres., Apt. 2705, Don Mills. (416) 429-3944

AND:

Glenn Spence and Gord Fenwick are planning a trip in August and extend the following invitation:

"We will start from Mistassini Lake in northern Quebec. After working upriver for several days, we will cross a watershed and travel down a small stream some 220 miles into Lac St. Jean. With an average drop of eight feet per mile, there should be lots of white water and portages.

"We would welcome one or more canoes to share in the adventure. Skill level is intermediate."

Interested members should contact Gord or Glenn soonest.

DATES AND DEADLINES:

We welcome, indeed, encourage contributions to the WCA newsletter. For the convenience of the editor -- who is known to be myopic, aged and to fly into unreasonable rages for almost no reason -- such material should be typed or printed, double-spaced, on standard-size paper, leaving wide margins.

To compensate for the editor's known senility, simple sketches or maps are appreciated, but they must be within a column width: 3 3/8 inches.

The editor, who is only technically literate and thus reads slowly, requires copy 15 days prior to publication date: next deadline is Aug. 15.

THE MISSINAIBI RIVER

The WCA has undertaken to assist

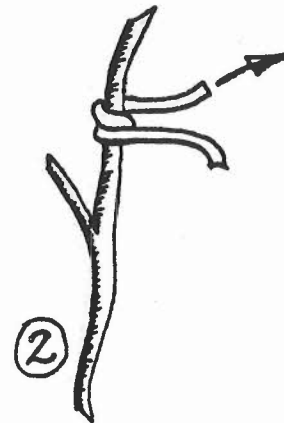
the Sierra Club of Ontario in its year-long project to have the Missinaibi River set aside as a wild river park. There has been encouraging response from the Ontario Government but as yet no commitment.

WCA members are urged to show their concern by writing their local MPP, with copies to the Hon. W.G. Davis, Premier; the Hon. Leo Bernier, Minister of Natural Resources; and the Hon. Allan Grosman, Provincial Secretary for Resources Development.

You might also wish to send a copy of your letter to Pete Emmorey for possible inclusion in a future issue of the newsletter so that our views can get further distribution among government and other bodies to whom the newsletter is sent.

Oldies, but Goodies:

The King Jerky Maker, by impartial vote of The Editor, has to be WCA member Doug Weir of Georgetown. Doug runs a mighty machine in a paper mill (single handed, he says), is a piper of considerable note and an outdoorsman.



In making jerky Doug uses only round steak. The fat is stripped away and the steak cut into strips about half-inch square. Salt and pepper are pounded into the meat and it is pinned on the family clothesline to air dry. Doug prefers air drying, but in winter jerky can be made by drying in a 100-degree oven for about eight hours or so.

Birds won't touch the drying meat, he says, because of the condiments.

The result is strips of rich, red-looking meat which can be munched, winter or summer, or used in stews and the like. The outdoorsman can live indefinitely on jerky excepting for its lack of vitamin C.

In the old days, of course, jerky was often made into pemmican which supplies ALL nutrients.

Drying meat for pemmican is identical to jerky excepting that no salt or pepper is added. After drying the meat can be grated on a cheese grater. Condiments are then added along with fat in equal proportion to the weight of the meat. This is the basis for a very fine stew. Some prefer to add raisins, and other fruits to flavour the pemmican.

With careful preparation both meats are excellent primary dietary constituents, at far less cost than commercial freeze-dries and the like.

And another / ever hear of fruit leather ? Obtain your favourite fruit by whatever means you normally use. Crush, adding a little water to produce a porridge-like consistency; add sugar to taste. Spread on a cookie platter and dry in a low oven. Cut the resulting leather-like puddle into strips and munch in a manner similar to that of jerky.

Nahanni porridge / The author of "Dangerous River" (whose name has slipped through my sieve-like little mind for the moment), fathered a porridge that screams from the pot and begs to be eaten. A real meal to sustain you, particularly in the winter.

To your usual oatmeal porridge add some millet, nuts if you like them or have them, raisins. A couple of minutes before serving add lumps and chunks of good Canadian cheddar cheese. Bury under thick cream and mounds of brown sugar. Eat.

We all have to deal with what has been politely described as "the camp creep", from time to time. My unfavourite camp creep was given to loading his canoe backwards whilst busily advising others; resolutely paddling due north on a compass course of 180 degrees, and other endearing things.

But he/she zoomed upward in my estimation with a chowder of fresh-water clams. The clams were evicted from their shells and soaked overnight; simmered most of a day and melded with fresh butter, instant potatoes, small onions and similar fare.

Then the clams were thrown away (so help me! fresh water clams are rubbery and mildly repulsive). The resulting chowder was delicious, served with a fresh fiddlehead salad.

And, last but not least, I pass on to you a recipe garnered from a book prepared by Ojibway children and published by the Highway Book Store at Cobalt, Ont. It is a cure for snowblindness and simply says: "For snowblindness we use mothers' breast milk. Some mothers' breast milk is better than others."

BOOKS

"Basic River Canoeing", the American Camping Association, Bradford Woods, Martinsville, Ind., 46151.

This book is probably the best discussion available on all phases of white-water canoeing. What is more, it is oriented toward open canoes. The art of reading wild water and the paddling tactics needed to run it are clearly presented through text and diagrams. The emphasis throughout is on safety, where it should be; but the sense of adventure and excitement found in running rapids is not lost.

At \$2.00 it is a worthwhile addition to any wilderness canoeists library.

--Robert E. McNair, WCA

I THINK THAT I SHALL NEVER
SEE
A BOOK WHICH EASILY IDENT-
IFIES A TREE

. . . or a bird, or a shrub, or
a star or a fish or a rock.

The problem with such guides lies in classification. Often, it seems you have to know that an oak is an oak before you can consult a guide book to confirm it is an oak.

This problem is not entirely solved by the book under review -- Trees of the Eastern and Central United States and Canada; William M. Harlow (Dover Publications Inc., New York) paperback, \$3.95.

While suffering the usual classification problems, the book has other things to recommend it, specifically to a wilderness traveller with a broad interest in his surroundings and lore of the woods.

The book identifies habits, distribution, woodlore and uses of conifers and hardwoods, native and escapes and is illustrated with more than 600 photographs.

It does what any competent guide will do, and more.

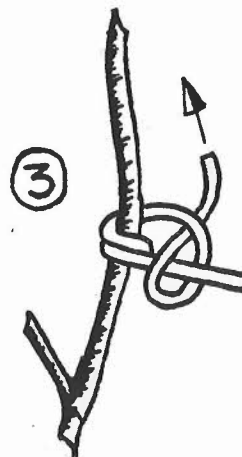
For example it discusses the best use of wood, for a fire, as a medicine, as a carpenter's supply and gives many interesting insights into historical uses, et al.

For example: Beech, "The wood is used for many purposes including fuel for which it is rated highly. The nuts are important food for many small animals including mice and squirrels and are also eaten by bear, raccoon, turkey, and ruffed grouse."

White birch: "For emergency food its inner bark is pounded to yield a flour." . . it also "fetches Fire out of burns and scalds."

Poison ivy: "Leaflets three quickly flee; Berries white, poisonous sight."

White ash: "Michaux says that a leaf of white ash rubbed on a mosquito bite or bee sting relieves the itching at once!"



Almost every species has this kind of interesting, informative, often humorous information. It is the single guide book I've seen which can be read for general as well as technical information. For this reason alone I'd buy it before most other guides. The author is professor of wood technology, University of New York, college of forestry at Syracuse.

Nahanni

by Robert Hartog, Midland, Ont.

Nahanni of the North, The Dangerous River, the Mighty Nahanni -- words cannot describe the majestic beauty of its towering mountains, the swiftness of its rock-strewn waters and the solitude of its north-western isolation. One cannot achieve full satisfaction simply by reading of this well known river. One must be there to breathe the cool, crisp morning air; to smell the scent of vast stands of spruce and poplar and the odors of yet another well-cooked meal.

One must be right there on the Nahanni to feel the strain of portaging, lining and hard paddling to beat its numerous eddies and swift current. And most important, one must be there to feel the tenseness, the excitement and challenge of the Nahanni's often unexpected, fast approaching white water. . . .

So starts our log of a memory-filled eleven day trip in August 1974 from Mount Wilson to Nahanni Butte.

All who have paddled know that each river, each lake, has its own mood and one of the thrills is to

fully understand this character. It is not easy to get really familiar with the changing moods of the Nahanni and we were well down (towards Hell's Gate) before feeling in tune with the river.

The thrill of the Nahanni is not only the challenge of white water, there is much more. The beauty of snow-capped mountains, glacier lakes, long deep canyons, can be overwhelming at times. One realizes the smallness of man, the greatness of the Creator. Here is a paradise for the photographer (we took 600 pictures). For nature lovers there is the fascinating change of trees when one descends the river, and who would not travel to see in one day some bears, flocks of Dahl sheep, caribou and a pair of trumpeter swans!

The river temperature is 'cold', it was 8 ° C (46-47 F) in August, but to compensate for this there are several hot springs along the way. And last, but not least, there is Virginia Falls (twice the height of Niagara), in a wild setting that is beyond description. One can take many side trips on foot or by canoe, climb a mountain and see new valleys, or explore some very deep caves. From Glacier Lake to near Nahanni Butte the river runs through the Nahanni National Park. It is indeed fortunate that this fascinating part of country has now been preserved for future generations. One may regret that the river may become more populated, but one can also be happy that more and more people will get enjoyment from this natural beauty.

A trip down the Nahanni must be planned carefully, and well in advance. To fly in (normally from Watson Lake, which is a scheduled CPA stop, or Rolling River, which can be reached by road), arrangements must be made early. There are two air charter firms in Watson Lake,

"B.C. Yukon" and "Watson Lake Air Service". Their Beaver aircraft can land on the so-called 'beaver pond' from which the Nahanni flows. If one lands on the larger unnamed but locally called John Lake on the other side of the divide, a rough, 8 - 10 mile portage precedes any canoeing.

The upper part, where the river doubles in size every day, is mountainous and provides a variety of lining, shooting, et cetera, depending on the height of the river (which can vary by several feet in one day). This upper part, which ends rather suddenly when a large, unnamed river joins from the left, can take from 2 1/2 to 7 days. Then follows the part where the river flows steadily to Virginia Falls.

If one wants to make time, a daily travel of 75 miles is quite possible on this stretch. It also is the stretch that contains much wildlife and Rabbit Kettle Hot Springs, and many other attractions.

After the falls and a salute of Albert Falle (whose skiff is still there), there are the three canyons (prosaically called Third, Second and First canyon). Each person must decide which canyon he prefers, but coasting down a swift-running river with walls of thousands of feet on both sides, makes one feel humble. The canyons end at Krause's Cabin and Hot Springs (Krause's wife was a long-time trapper).

Then follows the 'splits' where the mighty river, now growing old, wanders and meanders and then finally at 'The Butte', the Nahanni joins the Liard which in turn, near Fort Simpson, flows into the mighty MacKenzie. One can end the trip at Nahanni Butte (which we dubbed the mosquito capital of the world -- contrary to the upper parts of the river where the little pests are rare) and fly the 90 miles to Fort Simpson, or one can

follow the Liard down by canoe.

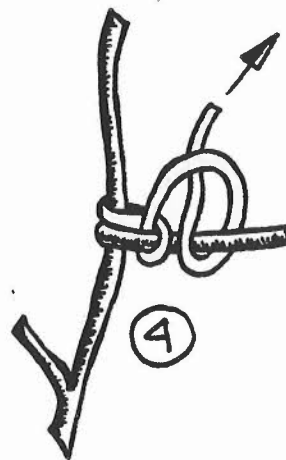
Fort Simpson has scheduled air service to Edmonton by PWA.

Perhaps the last few sentences from our log sums up what we felt:

"We touched down in Toronto at 2:30 p.m. We are right now eight of the happiest men on earth, knowing that we tackled one of the most beautiful untamed rivers in Canada. And being the white water enthusiasts that we are, this won't be our last adventure, but surely it must be one of the greatest that will ever exist. We shook hands and parted, never to forget."

THE SHREW IS ON THE OTHER FOOT.

Algonquin Park is close to 3,000 square miles or 2,000,000 acres. In a good year, the population of shrews can reach 100 per acre -- an astounding total of 200,000,000. Makes one feel important.



Regulation, standardization, and institutionalization of recreational canoeing on a national scale:

by Gord Fenwick.

There seems to be a great urgency expressed by a number of associations to move quickly and thoroughly ahead and implement canoe standards to be accepted by our own federal government as the national standard for recreational canoeists.

Associations involved in this movement are: Canoe Ontario, Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association, Sport Canada section of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Red Cross, Ontario Camping Association, Canadian camping Association.

Some reasons being suggested for such standardizing canoeing nationally are: to increase safety; to prevent inexperienced and irresponsible canoeists from endangering their lives, damaging equipment and the wilderness; to organize canoe clubs and interested groups able to speak with a unified voice and obtain a fair share of government sports funding. The arguments are that standardization and unification has been proved in other areas; it will make it easier to choose instructors and applicants for summer camp jobs; that canoeing should be regulated by canoeists before regulation is imposed from without; that by supporting mutual programmes all groups are more likely to attain their goals.

A recent history of these groups' activities follows:

March 1974: Canoe Ontario annual meeting strongly endorses the ideas of standardization and nationalization. Summer 1974: The Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association conducts programmes on

canoeing largely funded by Canoe Ontario. November 1974: the Canadian 'Recreational Canoe' conference is held at Ottawa by Sports Canada, the CRCA and Red Cross; proposals for national standards emerge. November 1974: the Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario work on a basic canoe instructor's course for certification incorporating the new Red Cross national small craft programmes "Canoe 1" and "Canoe 2". February 1975: the CRCA hold a national conference at Winnipeg, with delegates from across Canada, funded by Sport Canada. April 1975: annual Canoe Ontario meeting; CRCA suggests adopting Ontario Camping standards for a two-year period before attempting to have their own national standards accepted. May/June: COEEO implements basic instructor course. June: Six national canoeing schools offer canoe instructor courses by the Canadian Camping Association., the CRCA, with support of Sport Canada.

The CRCA which purports to represent the general non-competitive canoeist has made the following proposal:

Activities of a National Recreational Body:

- 1) to establish and monitor a set of national standards for canoeing skills and canoe skills; instruction as a recreational past-time; instructor certification standards; records and evaluation systems.
- 2) to establish canoe safety standards;
- 3) to establish canoe design equipment and facility-design standards;
- 4) map and code standardization;

...Continued on page 12

PRODUCTS

Few things are so complete a waste of money as a bargain-basement, light-weight, nylon tent. They leak, blow and flap like mad, are often impossible to tie down squarely and are prone to condensation in almost any weather - but particularly in winter when the result is likely to be more than casual discomfort.

However, better nylon tents have been developed in recent years and are beginning to come into widespread use.

I don't think these tents will ever give the feeling of security you'll find in a well-made cotton tent such as a Black's. But they are lighter, will not mildew, and they breathe properly.

The combination to look for is a tent of light rip-stop nylon with cowled vents combined with a heavier, completely waterproof nylon fly. The two parts always go together with the exception that some models may be used in winter without the fly.

This lightweight tent is often equipped for both summer and winter operation with the addition of a cooking hole zipped into the floor of the tent; outer 'sod cloths' allowing the tent to be banked with snow for additional protection against wind; an inner liner for additional protection against condensation; and mosquito netting for summer use.

The type with tri-pod or bi-pod poles which slide into sleeves, makes erection easy. A standard entrance on one end and a tunnel entrance on the other is an additional plus.

As the man said, you don't get a crown's worth for a ha'penny, so

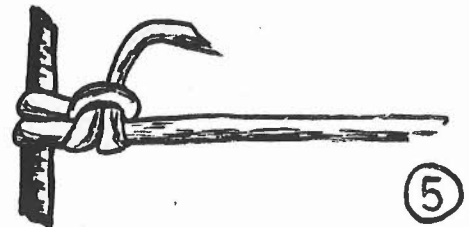
these tents are not cheap -- from about \$150.00 up depending on your requirements.

Perhaps their greatest value to the canoeman comes when you settle the pack on your aching shoulders for a two-mile trot over the height of land. Weight is about 2 pounds per person (occupancy) as opposed to seven pounds for some types of cotton tents.

Next issue of Beaverdam will include a specific product test report.

CANOE MUSEUM

There is only one facility where virtually the entire history of canoes can be traced -- not in books, but in actual example. It is the Kandalore International Museum of Canoes and Kayaks and its in our own back yard: at camp Kandalore on Highway 35 north of Minden. The museum is the labour of love of Kirk Wipper of the University of Toronto and houses more than 300 examples from Canada and elsewhere. It is well worth our support and a visit to the museum with its pleasant natural setting and supporting displays of Indian and pioneer artifacts makes an excellent family outing.



No lifejackets in youth's craft

Non-swimmer drowns at canoeing class

Special to The Globe and Mail

MISSISSAUGA — A Port Credit high school student, unable to swim and not wearing a lifejacket, drowned yesterday morning during a school canoeing class on the Credit River.

Paul Chun, an 18-year-old South Korean immigrant, drowned after the canoe he and Clare Bosma, 16, were sharing tipped over less than 25 feet from the banks of the river, just off a usually busy stretch of Lakeshore Road West.

There were no lifejackets in the canoe, Peel police said.

The class is part of the Port Credit Secondary School's physical education program. A teacher was present when the accident occurred but was not in a canoe.

The Bosma boy told police he and Chun were in a kneeling position when the canoe tipped. He swam to safety after trying to save Chun, who struggled and fought with him.

Chun's father, Weelin, who operates a convenience store across from the family home at 345 Lakeshore West, was in tears when he said: "I don't know why they let him go without a lifejacket. He didn't know how to swim."

The Chun boy's mother died of cancer before the family migrated to Canada three years ago.

School principal Jack Zarn and physical education instructor Peter Martin refused to comment. Peel Board of Education, through its public relations officer Barbara

Spencer, said it had no statement at this time.

Superintendent of Schools Bert Chalmer said the canoe did not belong to the board.

The accident occurred around 8 o'clock and it took scuba divers of the police search and rescue unit nearly five hours to locate the body in the muddy waters.

A spokesman for the Mississauga Canoe Club, who refused to identify himself, said the canoe belonged to the club. He said it is one of several that have been donated for community programs and are used for teaching water safety.

About 25 students arrived yesterday morning to use the canoes, but most of them were in a war canoe.

He said under the club's

rules, Chun would not have been allowed to join or participate in club canoeing because he could not swim. Wearing a lifejacket is not enough to meet club rules, he said, but added that yesterday morning's program was not under the club's auspices.

He said the students did not bring signed consent forms to participate in the program.

from the Toronto
Globe and mail, May

1975

... Continued from page 10

- 5) standardize canoe route documentation;
- 6) correlation, collection and dissemination of existing sources of information;
- 7) Canadian history and archives as they relate to canoeing;
- 8) publication of a national newsletter or magazine;
- 9) to act as a liaison with other national groups who have common interests.

A few questions come to my mind:

Does the average recreational canoeist wish to be club or-

iented? Does he wish to be represented as an individual? How can the CRCA claim to represent the general non-competitive canoeist when only one delegate per province is chosen from some canoe club to represent the entire spectrum of the canoe world? Why is the individual canoeist not permitted to join the CRCA? Should federal and provincial dollars be pumped into such an association when there is no opportunity for individual membership and thus an opportunity for the expression of individual views across the entire spectrum of canoeing interests?

I feel that as an individual canoeist you should be informed of these actions, taken on your behalf whether you wish so or not. I welcome your comments and opinions on these actions and the questions I've posed.

WCA TRIP GUIDELINES

In view of increased tripping organized for WCA members, guidelines and ratings are required to insure the difficulties and leadership responsibilities are understood by each participant.

Sandy Richardson has proposed adoption of the criteria below, and he further suggest they be discussed at our September meeting in the light of the spring and summer trips.

Guidelines

All trips must have a minimum impact on the environment. To ensure this, trip leaders will limit 1) the number of paddlers permitted on the trip; 2) the type of equipment and supplies used in camping.

Trip information will be circulated in the newsletter prior to all trips.

Participants must register with the trip leader two weeks prior to the trip.

Food, canoe rentals, transportation, camping equipment and partners are the responsibility of each participant. In some cases, however, the trip leader may be able to assist.

Trip leaders have the right to: 1) exclude paddlers based on experience levels; 2) determine paddlers positions in canoes based on experience; 3) exclude canoes deemed 'unsafe' for any particular trips.

Lone paddlers and/or kayaks are permitted at the discretion of trip leaders.

Non-members are permitted to participate in only two trips.

Paddlers must sign a waiver form.

Paddlers will not be allowed on any trip without 1) a floatation jacket to be worn while paddling; 2) a safe canoe: minimum length 15 feet for two paddlers; 3) lining ropes of at least 25 feet at both bow and stern.

Paddlers should always bring: 1) spare clothing, well waterproofed; 2) extra food; 3) matches in a waterproof container.

A set of signals to be used on the trip should be known ahead of time.

On rivers, canoes should maintain a definite order. Each boat is responsible for the one behind, giving signals after finishing any rapid, and positioning itself below the rapid ready to assist in case of trouble.

Canoes should keep well spaced in rapids. Do not enter a rapid until the preceding canoe has successfully completed its run, and has signalled.

The trip leader's decisions are final.

WCA TRIP RATINGS

<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Minimum experience Required</u>
	Very easy - moving water with no rapids. Some small riffles, and wide passages.	Beginner (with some instruction)
1.	Easy - some small rapids with small waves and few obstacles. Correct course easy to recognize. River speed less than hard backpaddling speed.	Novice (beginner with some practice)
2.	Medium - Frequent but unobstructed rapids. Passages easy to recognize. River speed sometimes exceeding hard backpaddling speed.	Intermediate
3.	Difficult - Numerous rapids, large waves, many obstacles requiring manoeuvring. Course not easy to recognize. Current speed usually less than fast forward paddling speed. General limit for open boats.	Experienced
4.	Very difficult - long rapids with irregular waves, boulders directly in current, strong eddies and cross-currents. Scouting and fast precise manoeuvring necessary. Course difficult to recognize. swift current.	Expert
5.	Exceedingly difficult - limit of navigability. Very strong current, extreme turbulence, big drops, steep gradient, many obstacles.	Team of experts, in covered boats.

This rating system is flexible and is just a rough guide. It is not based exclusively on the above descriptions. Factors such as remoteness, water temperature, river width, can make a river more or less difficult, and vary the level of skill required. Any stretch of river may be classed as easy but may contain a few rapids of any grade which may influence the overall difficulty very little.

Lake trips cannot be so readily rated for difficulty. Generally lake trips are suitable even for beginners; however, strong winds on a large lake or a small lake with unusual bottom characteristics can be dangerous for any canoeist, no matter what his experience level.

RETURN OF THE BEAST

You may recall that the Chestnut Company produced a number of large fur trade canoes for pageantry associated with centennial.

These canoes were of two types: a 36-foot "Montreal" canoe-- named because it was used between Montreal and Fort William in the annual ebb and flow of furs and trade goods; the second, of about 26 feet, called "North" canoes. Being smaller, they were able to negotiate the rivers beyond the lakehead. These craft are often miss-called "war" canoes by the uninitiated. There is no historical evidence to suggest there ever was such a canoe.

An intermediate-sized canoe was sometimes used, particularly for fast-moving mail expresses, called a 'bastard'. Modern paddlers often refer to all three types with that name.

At any rate, one of the Chestnut "North" canoes was privately purchased after 1967 and used by the rejuvenated North West Company for many of its epic recreations of the fur trade brigades, in films, tripping and teaching.

After some years of very hard work, The Beast showed many honourable

wounds: more than 22 broken ribs, broken planking, split gunwales and torn fabric. It is currently being completely rebuilt with tremendous attention to historical detail and will emerge shortly, more lovely and lighter (at about 300 pounds) than when new.

Editor Pete Emmorey would like to invite seven members to join him in a three or four day outing.

This should provide a good opportunity for those of you who have never tripped in such a canoe and are interested in its management, care and feeding. Techniques are considerably different than with the short, modern boat.

Because of the North West Company's major investment in rebuilding the canoe, there will be a rental fee involved; a very modest one.

FOR ALL SEASONS

Consider the Otter: three feet long, colored grayish brown all over; a round, tapering tail, and holding its head all out of the water when swimming.

It is the only meat-eating mam-

mal in Algonquin Park which eats only fresh meat the year round. All the others are at least part-time scavengers. It seems as much at ease on a lake covered by ice as in summer waters, and to see one pop up through a hole in the ice and enjoy a meal of fish or frog that it has brought up from below makes you think that next to a winter in Florida it would be nice to be an Otter.

It is a great traveller at all seasons, usually along water-courses, but often taking short-cuts across country from one water

shed to another. Because of its short legs and long, narrow body, its trail in snow looks like the mark of a small log being dragged. On a slope it stretches its legs out parallel with its body and coasts, and may slide fifty yards or more in snow. Year after year the Otter maintains a good population in the Park, minding its own business and setting an example of complete independence. Truly an admirable animal.

-- reprinted courtesy of "The Raven", Algonquin Provincial Park.

OPEN WATER NOTES

Excepting very unexpected circumstances, whitewater always presents you with the alternatives of running, lining or portaging. Then its a matter of judgment and skill.

But if you are caught on open water in a blow or squall -- or venture onto such water under those conditions -- you have very few options. There is much theory written about how to handle large swells on open lakes and much of it is dangerous hogwash -- attempts to apply to the tiny open canoe those techniques used on the open sea by sailing vessels. All the technique and paddling expertise is soon overwhelmed by a sea of any size and consequently I consider open water the most potentially dangerous of any canoeing situation.

What technique that is tried and true will help you on open water, but remember that the limit is easily reached. Here are a few:

Keep the bow or stern into wind and waves, or quarter them. Avoid taking waves on the beam. The dangerous rocking motion is obvious, but it is on this point that the canoe is least able to utilize its reserve buoyancy to mount high water. The reason is that your heaviest load is (or should be) in the middle of the canoe. What reserve buoyancy provided (by tumble-home or those horrid sponsons) is converted to a rolling moment.

Reduce paddling speed to keep the boat moving but allow wind and wave to move you onto a hospitable shore.

Maintain maximum buoyancy in the end of the boat facing the waves. This allows the end to rise to high water easily and will help keep water out. Like all the rest this is a limited technique, but move your end man forward or backward as you are able. Again, heavy packs in the middle.

You may feel more comfortable with the wind and wave behind you, but sailing men consider

this by far the most dangerous point. In strong winds and high waves the canoe may surf and control at higher speeds is more difficult to maintain. The danger of broaching (the canoe turning sharply off her course on the top of a wave) is great. There is also the danger of pooping -- that is, being overtaken by a following wave and swamped. And too, sudden squalls usually come from windward, in this case from behind. Keep your eyes open!

Remember that the best 'sea' boat is a boyant one not having to depend on sponsons. With sponsons you are already in trouble before they begin to work. The flattish bottom should be carried well into the bow and stern and there should be tumblehome in the middle. You won't find these features in a \$99.00 special.

Common sense tells you to keep down on your knees (an appropriate attitude in this case anyway) and your seat arrangement must allow you to tuck your feet under with enough space to quickly slip free; keep the load low and strokes balanced. Avoid sudden movements. Let the canoe rock under you, swinging gently

from the hips to balance it. Above all else, wear your life jacket.

I've seen numerous techniques advocated for use in canoes on open, wild water. I'd trust very few. This includes binding two canoes together with poles and rope lashings. Boats so joined handle seas well but disaster is instantaneous if the bindings come loose -- and there is every chance they may. As well, chafing is very hard on gunnels and thwarts. Riding to some kind of a sea anchor, unless your boat is extremely boyant, is sheer folly. The anchor will pin the bow or stern down, not allowing it to rise to a wave. Sea anchors on sailing vessels are primarily speed control devices and have nothing to recommend them on canoes.

When contemplating the crossing of big water in high winds or with the threat of high winds -- be conservative. If in doubt, don't. Stay ashore, gossip, read a book. Better to come out a day late than not to come out at all. More than 'nuff said.

LETTERSLETTERSLETTERS

"I am . . . pleased to see a voicepiece like WCA evolve. I am also very pleased at the philosophy that seems to be emphasized in your newsletter: that of an ecological conscience. Excellent, Keep it up."

Wallace Schaber, Waterloo, Ont.

"Thanks for the fascinating acc-

ount of the 1912 journey down the Missinaibi River . . . best of wishes to the Wilderness Canoe Association."

J.W.Keenan, Executive Director, Division of Parks, Ministry of Natural Resources.

"PACK AND PADDLE"

" I am enclosing our suggestion for a new logo and title for the newsletter and for the WCA.

We feel the visual effect is in keeping with the activities of the Association and might be an easy design to incorporate into patches or stickers as well as stationery.

Both Ralph and I enjoy reading Beaverdam as soon as we receive it. Sandy Richardson's "Opinion" as to certification of canoeists and the relevance of such a certificate to real life situations was an intriguing article, and should make most of us look inwards and ask how many are really dependable safe canoeists, and if not had we better make a personal effort to consciously improve ourselves, without promise of reward or recognition from our peers. I believe Sandy sums all of this up very well in para. 6.

Also a pleasant surprise and of real interest was Bulletin One. We look forward to more of the same. This type of real-life history is what Canada's past is all about."

Ralph & Marge Kitchen,
RR 3, Cavan, Ont.

"The Wilderness Canoeist" is my suggestion for a distinctive name for our newsletter. My idea of a distinctive logo is attached.

"Since the annual meeting last February roughly ten members of the WCA directly or indirectly have indicated to me that they do not approve of our LOGO and newsletter name. I now feel we should change it."

Gord Fenwick, Scarborough.

"As the content of "Beaverdam" suggests, canoeing skill qual-

ifications are an extremely important issue to us as an Association; one which we must come to grips with; one with far-reaching implications for us.

"This much seems certain, like it or not:

"We will see qualifications established and adopted, ultimately on a national level.

"These qualifications and the certificate they result in, will one day (and perhaps sooner than later) become a primary criteria in deciding who can use our reducing wilderness resources.

"As an aside to "user rights" consider that prominent camping journals in the U.S. are actively discussing -- and often supporting-- licensing for wilderness users. Repugnant as that idea may be for many of us, the likelihood is distressingly real.

"Add to this the increasing pressures on wilderness areas and declining skill levels among groups which traditionally supplied leadership and training.

"The conclusion that wilderness travellers will be regulated and reduced seems unavoidable. And in making decisions about who goes into the woods, demonstrable skill levels are surely to be a critical criteria.

"This being the case, I believe it behooves us as an Association to be realistic and examine qualifications, et al, not from the point of view of restricting, opposing or challenging their introduction, but from the point of view of their meeting several critical criteria.

"The criteria, seems to me, are these:

1) that qualifications and the skills they reflect, have as a primary aim the preservation of the wilderness environment;

2) That the qualification programme includes the development and demonstration of the more ephemeral factors of judgement and common sense, not only the technical factors.

3) That a qualification programme by or for this Association be a complete one. This perhaps implies that any programme we advocate would be much broader and more stringent than that advocated by others. We are interested in the complete and competent wilderness traveller, not merely a technically able canoe paddler.

"We can debate the nature and content of such a programme, whether or not it should be voluntary for any or all of us, whether or not it should be a mandatory requirement for our trip leaders, and so on.

"But the requirement now is to adopt qualification as an Association policy.

"Having done that we can assure that our programme is the best of any being discussed and through liaison with other interested bodies we can attempt to influence decisions which will determine the ultimate programmes.

"The alternative is to have qualifications imposed on us by others; qualifications which may or may not meet our own requirements.

"In case anyone is interested, I personally find the idea of compulsory qualification to be wholly disgusting. As one who

has been guiding for 17 years I find it bloody awful even to contemplate any kind of a brownie badge system.

"But, it is something I will do if I'm convinced it will help preserve our wilderness and keep a few fools out of the woods, in the same way that I am willing to haul bags and bags of other peoples garbage out of the woods in an effort to keep the wilderness clean.

"Two small examples which may help prove a point.

"As recently as two years ago a canoe traveller could paddle the Tim River into Algonquin Park and at the busiest of times share that waterway with only two or three parties.

"Recently Pat Armstrong paddled the route; there were some 60 parties on it. As well, she had to cut short her trip because of the boisterous, noisy all-night parties and loud groups arriving by motorboat as late as 3 a.m. **

"One year earlier I was conducting a small party in the north end of the park and for the first time in my life was harassed in a wilderness area -- by seven very drunk young men in aluminum motor boats who objected to my camping on their private island.

"In the face of these kinds of incidents, who can argue against qualification?"

--Pete Emmorey, Caledon.

** Under new user guidelines for the park, which come into effect next year, the Tim route will be limited to five parties, on a first-come, first served basis.

"Night...when something, we feel, should happen. We don't know what, yet we proceed in quest of it."

R.L. Stevenson

Back on the Tim River where the black spruce bends before the wind for unbroken miles, there is an old logging dam, sagging and rotten but still standing against the current.

About the time the brook trout are rising through the fast water below the dam to take the mayfly, our party of four quarters the vicious chop on Tim Lake, miles to the west. We lift over the portage by the abandoned cabin where the black bear has torn off the siding in a fit of spring fury and pride of dominance, and paddle again down the winding, twisting Tim.

For myself, I travel with a heightening sense of expectation.

Our destination is the campground above the dam, a place new to my three companions, but one where I've often stopped with parties and a place which has always affected me strangely.

For I'm never alone.

I live constantly with the eerie certainty that there is someone unseen, just beyond the fire or the ring of forest. Such a primeval feeling bordering, as it does, on the dark edge of superstition and fear, is not one lightly shared so that my friends, far as I know, are not aware of it.

I am never frightened at this camp, but rather curious to see what the days and nights will bring. And why be frightened? We are in a cheerful clearing under the spruce and a few white pines and yellow birch that sway in the warm breeze. Here are patches of white juneberry and among the dry leaves and needles of the forest floor are bright trailing arbutus, spring beauty, foam flower and trout lily.

While my friends fish, I stoke the fire and set up the reflector oven and put bread to baking, alone with the faint singing and humming of insects and the sweet monotonous call of the Canada Jay. But in the quiet coolness I fancy I hear the crack of a twig or a soft footfall, perhaps, and glance up frequently...to see nothing.

Tonight a gibbous moon rises over the jagged horizon of tree-tips and we mill around the fire, doling out heaping pannikins of steaming stew and huge chunks of hot bread and laughing and talking and later we enjoy the succulent pink trout we've broiled. I turn now and then expecting to see firelight flickering on the pale face of a fifth person but quickly remember, as always, that there are just four of us.

Our single tent is small and we are sleeping shoulder to shoulder. Through the mosquito net I watch the red coals of the fire as they shrink and die out and still I feel the strangeness of the place. But there is nothing there, of course, only the wind and the night sounds and I doze off fitfully.

I awaken after a time, and half still sleeping, see one of our party bending over the remains of the fire. A mist has settled over the camp and the glow of the moon is just a faint cold light. The man — it must be Doug or Gord — pokes the fire but no flames rise and he turns to walk beyond my line of sight to the cook table, probably looking for something to drink.

A loon warbles and I turn to go back to sleep and a feeling of cold terror steals over me as, frozen, I see that my three companions are all asleep in the tent beside me.

Then who is that man, wreathed in mist, out there in the night beyond the dead fire?

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eering Companies.

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