

# the wilderness canoeist

Volume 3

Number 2

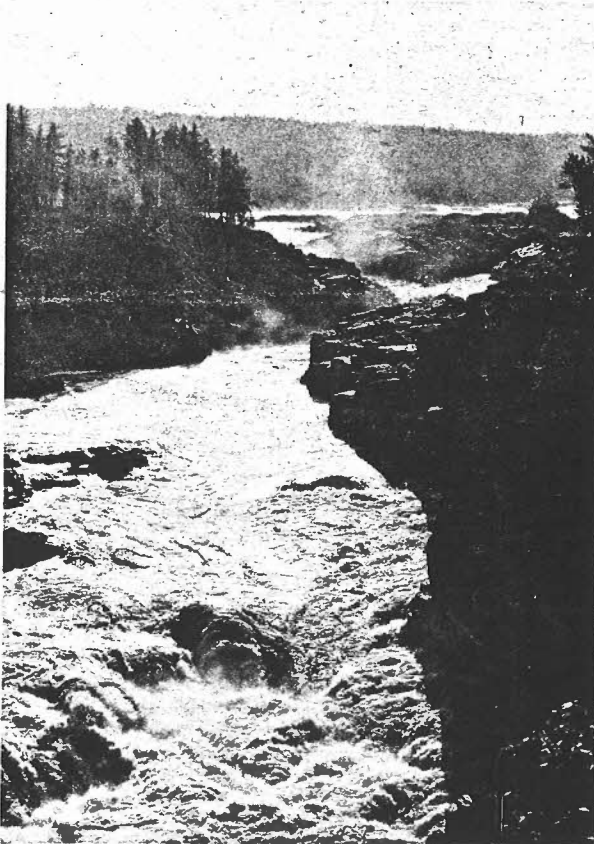
June, 1976

## MISSINAIBI

### Our Common Wilderness

by George Luste

The Wilderness Canoeist is pleased to present the following excerpts from an article by George Luste, of Toronto, on the Missinaibi River. The article first appeared in Boreal, a publication of Hearst College, Hearst, Ontario. The article is entitled, "Our Common Wilderness or, please Save the Missinaibi."



I am a white man but I did not decide how I was born. My parents came to Canada when I was nine and thus I am not a native born Canadian but I have no other 'home'. I live in downtown Toronto and work at the University of Toronto but I sometimes wonder why. These may be some of the differences between you and me.

But what I do have in common with you the reader of Boreal is that my thoughts are often in the "North". For years I have travelled during the summers by canoe in our Northern wilderness until now it is a refuge and a home for me. I go there to live as our predecessors lived, the native people, in harmony with the elements and the environment. I go there to escape from our concrete and steel and noise. I can follow a river and flow with it northward to the Arctic, sharing its moods, from placid sunset to raging storm, feeling directly its cold or sun, drinking its untainted waters,

## Inside this Issue

Outing Reports, p. 2, 3

Summer Trips in Canada - feature section

Atikaki, p. 14, 15

news and information

camping on rock by its shoreline, watching the birds, ducks and geese, living each day, accepting what it brings and enjoying the simple awareness of being alive.

The white man has been and is changing the shape of our wilderness with dams and roads and mines and mills. As our populations grow and our industries expand, more land is consumed for its needs. Somehow we must express our gratitude, our humble thanks to this vast Canadian environment of ours, for its minerals, trees and fish and wildlife. How else can we show our appreciation except in respecting, preserving and passing on to our children and their children some of this common yet irreplaceable wilderness.

Let us set aside a bit of this vast wilderness in the form of a Park straddling a wild river. The Missinaibi River is ideal from so many points of view.

The story of Canada, from its earliest native inhabitants to the present day is threaded with its waterways. Countless streams, lakes and rivers have been witness to ancient campsites and travel trails. Countless more saw the fur trade in our more recent past. Today many more support saw mills and hydro dams and mining ventures. Yet we have not set aside even one free flowing river, complete and fully protected as a wild river park in Canada. Why?

Many years ago, in 1949, I lived in Wawa for a while. To me in those days there did not seem anything special about our wilderness of clear rivers and lakes. It was all around, everywhere and I took it for granted. But now, today in 1975 and in Toronto, I must go far to find it. Today I perceive it as a treasure which cannot last forever in its free and unspoiled state. I can only hope that those of you living much closer to the Missinaibi than I will perceive and appreciate the truth in this.

One could describe many of the technical aspects of the river, the numerous interesting falls and rapids, the sleepy marshy areas, the steady growth of the river, its change of character as it drops away from the Precambrian Shield below Thunder House Falls, the interesting names such as Conjuring House rock, the animals, the moose, beaver, otter, the fish and so on. But this was not my aim in this article. I have tried to speak briefly at a personal, individual level.

Perhaps my appeal for preserving this strip of wilderness may not register in your conscience, sound too emotional. Perhaps your concern is with a more immediate real need, to feed and cloth your family or how to cope with an uncertain tomorrow, or to simply make a dollar. But there are some whose need is for tranquility and meaning in our frenzied world. I personally perceive this unity of things most intensely in the natural creations of our northern wilderness, in the silent places of our north and not in written words or man-made structures.

I ask you, the people of the Boreal North, to join us in support of this park proposal, for the sake of your children and mine who may also have this dream or hunger to see and travel for a while on an unspoiled wilderness waterway. Let us preserve at least one such river for them.

# W.C.A. Spring Outings

by Sandy Richardson

To date, we have run day trips on Oakville Creek, Credit R., Nottawasaga R., Eels Creek, and Salmon R. All were well received, and ran over the stated limit of applicants. In fact, two trips (Credit and Nottawasaga) were doubled in size and run in two groups, in order to accommodate all the interested paddlers.

The week-end camping trips on the Skootamatta R., Maitland R., and Hollow R. (changed from York and Gull) were equally popular, and provided interesting and challenging outings for members. To provide room for paddlers on the waiting lists, two extra trips were added, on the Crowe and Madawaska Rivers.

The reports from trip leaders (below) should give a good idea of what paddlers have experienced so far on our spring outings.

First, however, we should take a look at the state of our outings programme. With our rapid increase in membership, the demand for trips has exceeded the supply, and by mid-April most trips were filled, and many had waiting lists. Extra sessions were added for the white-water training course.

We were able to avoid disappointing too many paddlers by increasing the size of some trips, and by adding the extra week-end trips mentioned.

However, the problem of trying to accommodate all interested members, yet still maintain the integrity of our trips (i.e., to keep the trips small, informal, and ecologically sound) will be a recurring one as our club grows, unless we find more trip leaders.

Until now, we have counted on the same group of a dozen people to lead almost all of our outings. But, the W.C.A. is now too large for these few people to lead all of the trips we need. We have reached the point where we could run two separate trips on many week-ends -- I would like to see one to the west, and one to the east -- to meet the demand.

With nearly 300 members, there must be more than a dozen experienced canoeists who have some favourite canoe routes that they would enjoy sharing with small groups of fellow members. If you are one of these people, please get in touch with me (or any other member of the W.C.A. executive), and let me know when you could lead a trip, where, what type, and how many canoes or people you could handle. If more of us pitch in and help lead trips, we should be able to expand and improve our outings programme, so that members will not be disappointed by finding all the trips filled up months in advance.

## Salmon River



Once again the Salmon River provided us with another excellent trip. It proved once more that if you believed all the weather reports (sorry Roger) you would miss a lot of good canoeing. It was dull, chilly and damp until about eleven then it cleared and became a bright and pleasant spring day.

We had 14 canoes which we divided into three groups lead by Gord Fenwick, Finn Hansen and Mary Jo Cullen and myself. There was ample time for the first two groups to practise their skills in the first and last rapids. The third group had its problems when one canoe capsized trying to negotiate the first rapid, which was a tricky dog-leg to the left. But after that we fared much better for the rest of the trip.

The water level was a little low for this time of year but this was actually good, in that we could practise manoeuvring, finding the downstream V's, and following the depth of the river from one side to the other.

These trips are an important part of the WCA, but with our sudden membership growth, this has caused every trip to be over-booked. So, if you have a favourite spot where you could lead a trip, please let Sandy Richardson know.

- Glenn Spence

## Photo Credits

- P.1 THUNDER HOUSE FALLS, by G. Luste.
- P.2 SALMON RIVER, by K. Brailsford.
- P.3 HOLLOW RIVER, by G. Fenwick.

## Crowe River

This trip was added to give members who could not get on the Skootamatta trip a chance to get out on a similar trip in the same area.

The trip started just east of Chandos Lake (Hwy.504) and finished at Cordova Lake north of Marmora. The first seven miles required much lifting over and portaging around log jams. From there, the trip led through several lakes, with tumbling rapids and impressive falls in between.

The trip was long and hard, and many of the more difficult rapids could be run only by the more experienced of the group.

We finally reached the end-point at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, tired from long hours of paddling or portaging. Although rugged and demanding physically, the trip was most enjoyable.

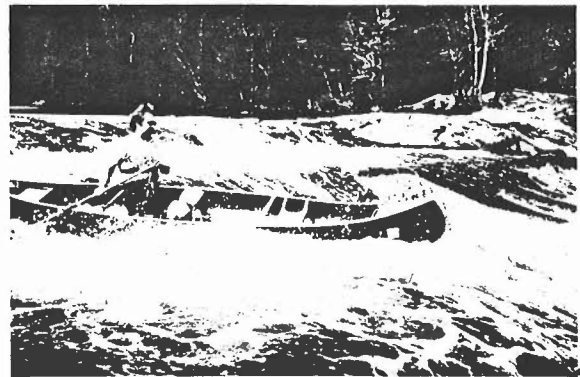
- Gord Fenwick.

## Maitland River

Four canoes ran the Maitland River for 30 miles, from Auburn to the mouth at Goderich on Lake Huron. While not exactly a wilderness river, the Maitland provided many exciting and challenging rapids to run. In fact, we were able to run nearly all of the river, resorting to walking or lining in a few very shallow places.

For the last 8 miles, the river runs through a deep valley, between limestone walls. In this section, many shelves and boulders set up a continuous string of rapids that required some scouting and quite a bit of manoeuvring from side to side across the wide river. We were sufficiently impressed to plan a Maitland trip next spring.

- Sandy Richardson.



These photos, by Ken Brailsford, capture the excitement of shooting the rapids "solo" (George Luste) on Eels Creek, during the recent W.C.A. trip.

## Madawaska River

The rolling hills of the Madawaska valley were the majestic backdrop to this extreme trip run at the end of May. After some confusion and delay in our car shuffle, three canoes set off from Hwy. 515 to run 20 miles of the Madawaska to the village of Griffith.

After an easy run through Little Rapids, we started into the five miles of Snake Rapids, where we encountered a seemingly endless series of rapids, some over half a mile in length. The Madawaska is a big river, and in places its entire volume is forced through narrow gaps, setting up powerful currents and eddies, with large standing waves. We required positive control and strong back-paddling to avoid swamping. In other places, the river would spread out, and tumble over shelves and boulders, creating big holes and strange wave patterns which required considerable course selection and manoeuvring. (A spray cover came in handy for one canoe that "chose" to run through the wildest part of one rapid -- boulders, southerly holes, 3-ft. waves and all!).

We were able to run most sections in the Snake Rapids, lining around short parts of two and carrying once (and then only after fifteen minutes of scouting the drop). An island set in the midst of the crashing fury of Snake Falls provided the ideal campsite

to end a perfect day of canoeing.

Below the falls, we scouted and ran half a dozen more rapids to Highland Falls. After a short carry, and a mile of calm water, we arrived at our cars in Griffith. For this paddler, it was the best run of the spring so far.

- Sandy Richardson.

## Skootamatta River

Whether the Skootamatta plunges through high rock or meanders gently to the call of the red-wing blackbird, one always has the impression of being far away from human habitation.

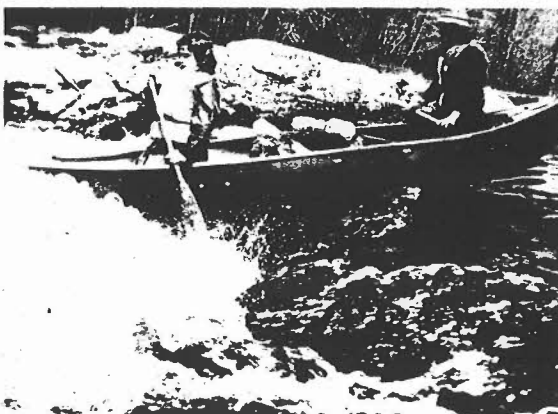
A number of the rapids are interesting and challenging for experienced canoeist but intermediates will find the portages well marked and can carry around sections they find too difficult. We portaged several rapids this year that had been run last year in higher water. However newcomers to the river should scout all rapids to avoid being led with an area where the river drops quite rapidly and where high rocky sides prevent you from reaching the portage trail.

- Mary Jo Cullen

## Hollow River

This three-day trip was quite ambitious, covering 45 miles (with 23 portages covering 12 miles). The route led up a chain of lakes in the Haliburton Wildlife Preserve, into south-western Algonquin Park, and returned to Kennesis Lake by the Hollow River.

The trip required individuals in good physical condition, willing to endure some hardships, and capable of portaging all gear in one trip, if the outing was to have any chance of success.



Our two canoes paddled off early on Saturday morning on Kennesis Lake, and the morning was cold enough to numb our hands and send down light flurries of snow. We marvelled at the peaceful beauty of lonely lakes and streams, visited nests guarded by gulls, listened with enjoyment to the myriad bird calls reaching us from the forest, and the lonely loon calls echoing across the water.

We struggled upstream, over beaver dams, through marshy portages with mud at times up to our waists, in order to reach Divide Lake, where we set up evening camp, tired but elated from our experiences.

Sunday, we looped through a chain of lakes back to the Hollow River, and really felt that we were in the wilderness when we surprised two moose standing in mid-stream.

Monday, we travelled downriver from the series of falls on the Hollow River, just south of Cross Corner Lake, and came out of the scenic valley into Kawagama Lake. The experience of orienteering our course through the bush by compass to Havelock Lake was hard work, especially under the attack of black flies. But after several sweaty hours, we came out as planned, and were soon back at our cars.

The trip was very hard physically, but led through a beautiful region, leaving us all tired but with feelings of relaxation and joy.

- Gord Fenwick.



# THE WILDERNESS CANOEIST

Editor: Roger Smith, Box 2073, Orillia, Ont.

Published quarterly by the  
WILDERNESS CANOE ASSOCIATION

Printed by Bayweb, Elmvale, Ontario

## Project Whitewater Restraint or Retreat?

We live in a society which is presently playing a game called "financial restraint". Here are some of the rules of the game:

1. Build an Olympic Stadium for well under one billion dollars.
2. Pay thousands of civil servants salaries like \$30,000 to shuffle paper.
3. Set up a totally unnecessary organization, Canoe Ontario, which will generate mountains of paper, and will meet in fancy hotels, all for less than \$45,000 a year.
4. Make one of the cornerstones of the provincial economy a lottery which gives out money in an unpredictable, arbitrary fashion.
5. Create a lot of sound and fury around the province by closing a few hospitals, and making a lot of speeches.
6. Quietly stop funding a number of worthwhile social projects, which don't have a high public profile (i.e., voter appeal).

An example of rule 6, and a very short-sighted policy of the Ontario government, is the drastic reduction in assistance to Project Whitewater. This is a wilderness camping experience for disturbed adolescents, which has been running quite successfully for several years in Ontario. We have both the record of Project Whitewater, and the success of similar projects around the world, to attest to the great benefits that an outdoor programme can deliver in the therapy of disturbed children.

If it was only a financial argument, it still wouldn't make sense. For \$150,000 per annum, the potential savings in the future treatment or confinement of the individuals in the programme would likely be much greater. However, the political game is played only in the present. It appears to this writer that the provincial government is more interested in keeping the disturbed child out of society, than in rehabilitation through an imaginative outdoor programme. Unfortunately, society will eventually have to pay for this mistake in policy. It seems like one small part of an overall policy of bigness and uniformity which makes government easier, but living more difficult.

For Project Whitewater, life is now a very precarious proposition. Funds are still available on a per diem basis, but this is no way to produce a coherent and workable programme. Our own assistance would be very much appreciated by the staff of Project Whitewater. Letters to members of the legislature will serve to remind them that the voters are aware of the issue. However, what is most needed, obviously, is money. If you believe in the philosophy of wilderness experience for troubled teenagers, and if you wish to support the experienced and hard-working staff of P.W., then please consider sending a donation (which can be made tax-deductible) to:

Project Whitewater,  
25 St. Clair Ave. E.,  
Suite 312,  
Toronto, Ont.

In the Wilderness Canoe Association, we have a large amount of experience in the life-style of the outdoors; we know the many benefits of wilderness travel for our psychological well-being. Let's all try to share these attitudes and discoveries with our less fortunate and more troubled neighbours.

## Updates

Here is a brief update on two stories which appeared earlier in the news briefs of the Wilderness Canoeist.

Hugh Pepper of Demarais, Alta., wrote to tell us that his summer plans have been scaled down somewhat. He had hoped to paddle with a group of students from Alberta to Montreal, for the Olympics. Now, he plans a journey down the Athabasca River, re-tracing an old fur-trade route.

...

Dominique Guene was able to find her trip to the Nahanni River, with Camp Wanapitei, this coming August. Thanks to other W.C.A. members, and readers, who also offered assistance.

Other members are invited to write to the editor of the Wilderness Canoeist, if they feel that their cause can be served by the newsletter -- that's what we're here for!

## Help Wanted

Some members of the W.C.A. are looking for trip members or information about rivers.

Wayne Krangle and a friend are planning to paddle the Missinaibi this July, from the town of Missinaibi to Moosonee. They are looking for another canoe (with two paddlers), and would also appreciate any river information other than the MNR trip report. Wayne can be contacted at:

518-2 Assiniboine Road  
Downsview, Ontario  
M3J 1L1  
(416) 661-7043

...

George Luste will be making a trip in North-eastern Quebec, on the George River, this summer. If you have any information, he would appreciate hearing from you. The readers of the Wilderness Canoeist will be interested in learning more about this river after George and his party return. Contact can be made through the following address: 139 Albany Ave., Toronto.

...

Gord Fenwick is looking ahead to 1977, when he hopes to visit either the South Nahanni River, or a Barren Lands river. This would be a major undertaking, with most of the summer required for participants. Anybody who is interested, or who has information about these rivers, may contact Gord; see the list of executive of the W.C.A. for address or telephone.

...

Roger Smith of Longford Mills, Ont., is hoping to canoe the Pelly or Yukon River in August 1976, approximately the 10th to 25th. These rivers are suitable for paddlers of intermediate ability. Any prospective partner should be prepared to fly to Watson Lake, Y.T., but could return by road to Ontario. Contact can be made through the above address.

...

Don and Ken Buchan are planning a long trip this summer in the N.W.T (perhaps on the Kazan or Dubawnt River). Anyone interested in joining them should contact

Ken Buchan, 3349 Mississauga Rd, Apt 19, Mississauga, Ont. L5L 1J7 828-1400

Don Buchan, 31 Kenaston Gardens, Willowdale, Ont. M2K 1G7 226-0321

...

Ron Jendry is looking for information about the Abitibi River in Ontario. If you can help, contact him at 229 Renforth Dr., Etobicoke, M9C 2K8.

# An Open Letter to the CRCA: Do We Need National Canoeing Standards?

We hope that our readers will enjoy this letter from two active canoeists to one of the country's foremost sport magazines, Jacques Grenier. As the president of the W.C.A. has stated, this letter eloquently represents the general opinion of many people in our organization, although some would give M. Grenier more support. Your comments (brief if possible) are invited for the September newsletter.

M. Jacques Grenier,  
Department of Physical Education,  
University of Ottawa,  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 6N5.

Dear M. Grenier,

The following letter is a reply to your proposal for the development of a set of national canoeing levels of achievement. Our comments on the proposal are generally critical. They are not intended to be totally negative, however, but rather attempt to outline another - and we hope equally valid - perspective on canoeing in Canada.

Although your proposal for a uniform or standardized system of "assessing canoeing performance across Canada" is disappointing in many ways, it is not entirely unexpected. Pressure for recreational planning, specialized development and professionalization has been evident for some time in a variety of sports and pastimes. Sailing and skiing, for example, have become highly competitive, structured and increasingly commercial in recent years. Some people have, in fact, found full time employment associated with these activities. Various provincial and national agencies and professional associations have emerged, relatively standardized instructional programmes have been proposed and regulation has increased. Small bureaucracies of promoters, officials and administrators are playing a more prominent role than ever before.

Some canoeists in Canada have now involved themselves in this process and we have a growing number of agencies, institutions, and experts with which you are doubtless familiar. The Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association whose formation your January 9 letter does not explain, may or may not be the most recent of these organizations. Regrettably it will probably not be the last.

The proposal you have advanced on behalf of the CRCA, which you cite as the association was "mandated" to develop, was one of two such regulatory schemes which came to our attention in the last month. We are frankly unconvinced that they are either called for or helpful.

The CRCA proposal appears to be founded on several assumptions, none of which have been fully developed or satisfactorily explained. It has been assumed, for example, that there is a demand for some uniform system of assessment for canoeing performance across Canada. But you have provided little evidence to support this claim and we doubt that such a widespread demand exists even within the restricted sphere of, say, organized children's canoeing, let alone the many other aspects of the diverse community of canoeists. We are aware already of individuals other than ourselves and organizations who have no interest whatsoever in the plan you have outlined and reject its principles. Your proposal, as we have interpreted it, amounts largely to an attempt to create a demand and to seek endorsement later, thereby legitimizing a process which you feel "mandated" to set underway.

Sometimes the individuals involved are genuinely committed to the enjoyment or achievement of their own favourite sport or pastime and wish to share that enthusiasm. Sometimes, however, they seem more interested in promoting their own particular outlook, style or methods and objectives, thereby imposing standards on others - and not surprisingly emerging with the greatest claim to the status of "expert". They are then first in line for a related career. On occasion this process has been encouraged by government backing which has been made available as public authority has responded to increasing interest in recreation and leisure activities on the assumption that some sort of "policy" is required for all aspects of social life in Canada.

It appears to us that Canada has a reasonable record of producing satisfactorily proficient canoeists.

Finally, you have suggested that there is some need for canoeing to become more efficient, enjoyable and safer. Again, we are at a loss to know what is meant by "more efficient" canoeing and the relationship between national levels of achievement and more enjoyable canoeing is similarly difficult to see. The impression is given that the appeal for safer canoeing will be among the most attractive features of the "national levels of achievement" as you have presented them. Safer, or accident-free canoeing is, of course, something we all hope to encourage, but as the November 1975 document acknowledges, the program will not be a "guarantee for safety".

One likely application for nationally endorsed standards would appear to be in regulating wilderness travel, park access etc. on the assumption that this will, in fact, promote safer canoeing. If this is an objective of the CRCA and if you have taken the questions of liability and administration into account then perhaps this should be more clearly indicated. If some form of enforcement is not envisioned, it is difficult to distinguish the CRCA guidelines for levels of achievement from any number of existing manuals, all of which seem committed to the general principle that people who have enough interest to study and to practice canoeing, accept its risks and respect their own limitations will be less likely to experience accidents.

Our conclusion comment is simply that any new canoeing manual developed by yourself or Professors Cousineau or Whimper would be welcome as a personal contribution to canoeing alongside the many published works now available. But we are not very enthusiastic about the institutionally supported program which you seem to be proposing and for which you are seeking endorsement and our collaboration.

We would be willing to elaborate on these preliminary thoughts if this would be useful to you in any way.

Sincerely,  
Jamie Bendickson  
Don Harban

## W.C.A. Names Three Honorary Members

The Wilderness Canoe Association has named three honorary members in the past few months, for their achievements in canoeing, or their contributions to the association.

Ms. Katie Hayhurst of North York, Ontario, was named for her excellent slide and film presentation on the

Dubawnt River and Chesterfield Inlet, N.W.T.. This presentation, which members saw at our February annual meeting, captured the spirit of the vast tundra landscape, and the Eskimo hunters who inhabit it.

Mr. and Mrs. John Eldred, of Owen Sound, were named for their dedication to recreational canoeing in the Bruce - Grey county area. Every year, the Eldreds arrange a meeting for those interested in recreational canoeing. This March, Roger Smith of the W.C.A. attended the meeting, and spoke to over two hundred people about the association, and about the Nahanni River in the N.W.T.. As a result, many people were informed about our activities and were able to join the W.C.A.. The meeting was very well attended, and reflected the aims of our association, especially in responsible enjoyment of the wilderness.

Tony McAuley of Orillia, the editor of the Orillia Wednesday Nighter, was named for his contributions to our newsletter. Through his guidance and assistance, the association has a newsletter of professional quality, without any increase in expenditure. Tony is hoping to join one of our outings, if he can ever get a day off.

## Policy on Advertising

Once upon a time, the W.C.A. had a financial crisis, and the question of advertising in the newsletter became urgent. However, the very successful sale of newsletters and membership drive at the Sportmen's Show has averted the problem. Some advertising can be accepted in the Wilderness Canoeist, as long as it conforms to the aims and objectives of the W.C.A., and if it does not detract from the present readability of the newsletter. The details on advertising policy can be found on page 16. We are also planning a "Swap Column" for W.C.A. members, as you will see in the article.

## Summer Schedule of Canoe Races

W.C.A. member Ken Fisher of Glanworth, near London, sends along some information about canoe racing this summer. The Ontario Canoe Racing Association, P.O. Box 74, Strathroy, Ontario, organizes river races of various lengths all over southern and central Ontario.

Some of our readers may wish to participate in or watch one of these races during the summer holidays, and here's what the O.C.R.A. has planned for July and August:

- July 4 Freedom Festival - Julius Langpeter, 1635 Sprucewood, Windsor, Ont. (519) 966-3772
- July 25 Parkhill Regatta - Ausable-Bayfield Conservation Authority, 175 Thames Rd. W., Exeter, Ont. (519) 235-2610
- July 31 Chatham Presents - W.D. MacIntosh, 10 Devonshire Road, Chatham, Ont. (519) 352-3513
- Aug 8 North Bay-Mattawa - William McBrien, P.O. Box 600, Mattawa, Ont. (705) 744-2304
- Aug 8 Strathroy Regatta - Doug Newman, 345 Saulsbury St., Strathroy, Ont. (519) 245-3266
- Aug 15 Ausable Marathon - Rene Boogemans, Box 112, Hensall, Ont. (519) 262-2439
- Aug 22 St. Mary's Regatta - Leonard Pearson, 551 Elgin Street, St. Mary's, Ont. (519) 284-1498

Thanks for the information, Ken, and keep us informed about the O.C.R.A. schedule. By the way, readers, your editor realizes that canoe racing is not everybody's favourite sport. However, different strokes for different folks in canoeing as well as everything else.

## Canoe Trip Guides Required by AOSC

Interested in guiding canoe trips this summer? The Association of Student Councils will be organising 8-day trips in Algonquin and 16-day trips in Quetico from mid June to the end of August. Requirements for trip leaders include: 21 years old, experienced in eripping, a University student, possess Bronze Medallion, and being outgoing and able to deal with people of limited experience on a trip.

Direct inquiries to: Mike Filip  
AOSC Canoe Trip Director  
416 Oxford St. E.  
London, Ontario  
(519) 439-8660

## Letter from King Baker

### W.C.A. Rep for Canoe Ontario

The Wilderness Canoe Association now has a member who is a director of Canoe Ontario. Hopefully, I will be able to express your feelings to the board. I need all the help I can get, so do react to the following so I might have your thinking and support.

It is my opinion that recreational canoeists don't want standards, certificates, or experience levels. Recreational canoeists, by the very nature of their sport, like a minimum of government from any source. The joy of canoeing to many is the freedom from the increasingly complex web of constraints.

Canoe Ontario must protect the rights of the private canoeist and provide a clearing house for information.

Even though we tend to dislike organizations, it is through them that we must shape the future. There is a need for good canoe courses, not of one type, but hopefully from all viewpoints. People should be encouraged to seek help, rather than canoe down the first river they see. People who imply that they are instructors should be able to back their statement with a rich log-book of experience and paper qualifications of their choosing.

School groups, outfitters, and camps (because they deal in the public sector) should create reasonable guidelines for their own protection.

We must lobby for sound environmental management and preservation of our water resources.

There is also a need to define "Canadian style canoe" to protect races of this type, as compared to flatwater, whitewater and wildwater racing.

Canoe Ontario can be of service through information, co-ordination of the various branches of canoeing, giving canoeing credibility, and creating public awareness.

## Sportsmen's Show:

### W.C.A. Attracted Attention

Most of our members probably saw the W.C.A. booth at the Sportsmen's Show, March 19-28, at Toronto. About twenty members took turns staffing the exhibit, and they sold a phenomenal 600 copies of the newsletter. At 50¢ a copy, the proceeds were shared with Project Whitewater, a wilderness camping programme for troubled adolescents. Also, the display attracted dozens of new members, and informed hundreds of visitors about the activities of the W.C.A.. The event also allowed many old friends to meet unexpectedly and share their recent experiences in wilderness canoeing and camping.

### Whitewater Training Sessions:

#### Message for Participants

Eric Arthurs, of Scarborough, has arranged for three white-water training sessions in July and August. The response to these has been substantial, and there is a short waiting list for each session. Please contact Eric if you had planned to attend, but will not be able to go, as others are anxious to take advantage of the opportunity. W.C.A. members should be grateful to Eric and John McRuer, who have combined to present these training sessions at a very reasonable cost.

### Our New Logo Designed by Barry Brown

The W.C.A. now has a logo, as you may have noticed on page one. The contest attracted about 75 votes, almost all of which were divided between entries #2 and #6. The executive decided to adopt #2 as the logo, and will use design #6 as a crest. Barry Brown, of Mississauga, will produce a set of stationery and brochures for the W.C.A., using the new logo. Thanks again to all those who contributed logos, and to those who voted in the competition.

## Chairman's Letter

Fellow canoeists:

The spring seems to have rushed by so quickly, but with it have swept our outings on the Oakville Creek, Credit, Nottawasaga, Eels Creek, Sauguen, Salmon, Matland, Crowe, Skootamatta, Hollow, and more -- bringing increased experience and great satisfaction to all of us.

Looking forward to the summer, we find that many of our members are planning trips to the wilderness areas of the country, and we will be looking forward to hearing about some of their experiences in the fall newsletter.

On March 6, King Baker became one of the three recreational directors for Canoe Ontario. His experience and knowledge of canoeing should be a benefit to all of us, and his contributions will be most appreciated.

At the Canoe Ontario meeting, much time was spent in discussing the need for an association for recreational canoeing in Ontario (O.R.C.A.). An organization quickly emerged, with a constitution and representatives, but I would suggest that we first find out whether or not this body would have the support of the groups and individuals it claims to represent.

The annual Sportsmen's Show in Toronto was an exciting and enjoyable time, as 37 members of the W.C.A. helped out in staffing the booth, as well as in building the display, providing the photographs and furniture, and talking to many interested visitors about canoeing. Our newsletter was available at 50¢ a copy, with half the proceeds going to support Project Whitewater. Mostly as a result of the Show, our membership has grown from 150 to 275 in the past few months. Thanks to everyone who helped out!

New problems and questions have arisen as a result of our rapid growth. Articles in this issue of the newsletter will bring some of these problems to your attention, and we hope that our members will take some time to think about the solutions before our September meeting. This semi-annual meeting will be held at Five Oaks, near Paris, on the Grand River, Sept. 18-19. The business meeting will be on Saturday morning, with a canoe outing on Sunday; there are facilities for staying overnight. More details will appear in the next newsletter; if you are interested in helping to organize this meeting, please contact one of the executive.

Next February, at our annual election, there will be a number of positions to be filled, and Sandy Richardson and myself will form a nominating committee; please let us know if you are interested in running for an executive position next year.

Our outings programme has continued to expand, but not as quickly as the membership, and we could benefit from your experience in leading trips. If you have the experience and the willingness, why not give Sandy Richardson a call and discuss this with him.

The executive would appreciate hearing from you, both by mail or over the phone. Let us know of your opinions, criticisms, suggestions, questions, and especially of your desire to help out with the increased work load.

I would like to welcome all new members to the W.C.A., and say, have a great summer canoeing.

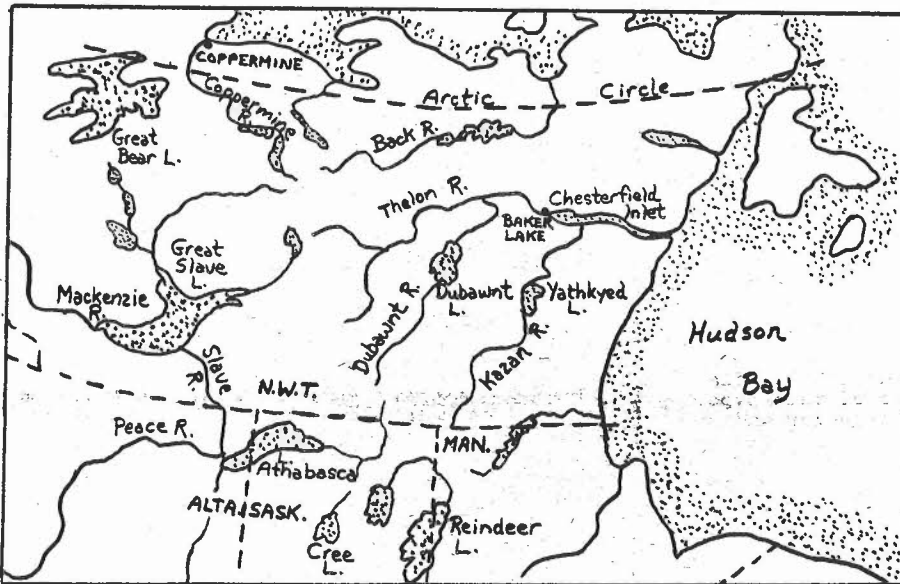
*Gord Fenwick*

# SUMMER CANOE TRIPS IN CANADA

On these four pages, the Wilderness Canoeist introduces you to the four summer canoeing regions of Canada. We hope you will plan a trip in the very near future

## Northern Canada

Land of Endless Sky



### TRIPS

The Kazan, Dubawnt, Thelon, Back, and Coppermine Rivers are the best-known routes. These all include some difficult rapids, large windy lakes, and a final stretch on tidal waters.

These trips require six to eight weeks, and would cost most participants about \$1,200 or more. Most trips begin in northern Saskatchewan, or else at Yellowknife, and work upriver into the arctic drainage area.

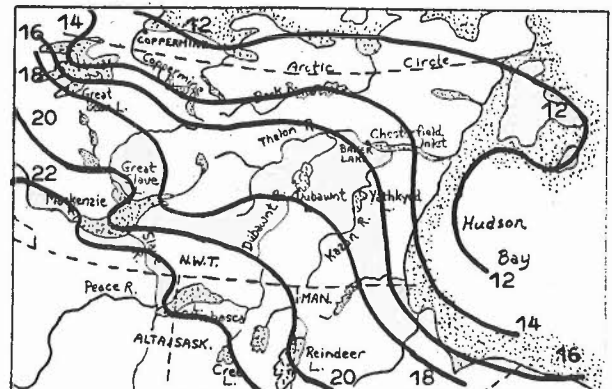
The North. The true north. In Canada, this means the arctic tundra, a land where nine months of winter are separated by miraculously sudden summers. This is a land which only the most experienced canoeist should contemplate visiting; the dangers are not to be underestimated.

The timing must be right, and exact, for any trip to the North. The warm season is usually about 10 weeks long, from June 10 to August 20, and the onset of very cool autumn weather tends to be rapid. However, even mid-summer is fickle, particularly near the Arctic Ocean and Hudson Bay. Cold spells may feature strong north-west winds, temperatures near freezing, and snow-flurries, even in July. On the other hand, some summers are very warm, with weeks of sunny days near 20 or 25 deg. (C).

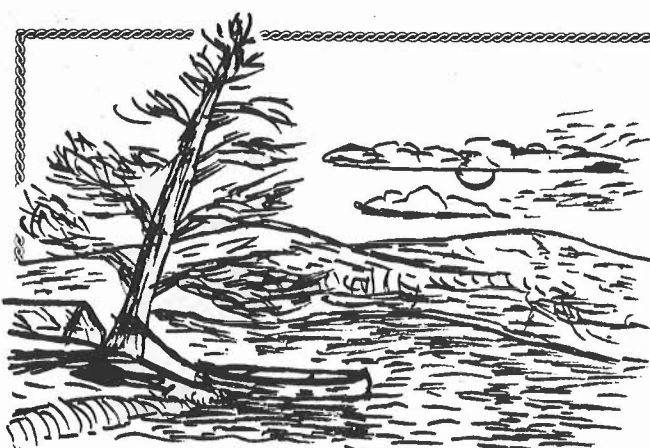
Ice persists on the larger lakes, such as Dubawnt, Contwoyto, and many others, until mid-July, but the rivers are usually ice-free by early June. Permafrost underlies this region, which was scoured by the glaciers of the most recent Ice Age. The landscape is generally rather flat, with some rolling hills and glacial features (eskers, moraines, and kames). However, the rivers have cut into the land, to produce some impressive gorges and valleys.

The water temperatures remain very low in most areas, and strong winds may render the canoeist immobile for days at a time. The combination of water and wind conditions can lead to hypothermia, and every rapids must be carefully scouted and considered.

Despite the arduous journey, the visitor will be greatly rewarded by the true solitude of the wilderness, where caribou still roam, where Inuit people dwell, and where the vast expanse of sky is matched only by the endless tundra -- not a "Barren" land -- but an ecosystem vastly different from the familiar ones.



Average Day-time Temperature in July (c)

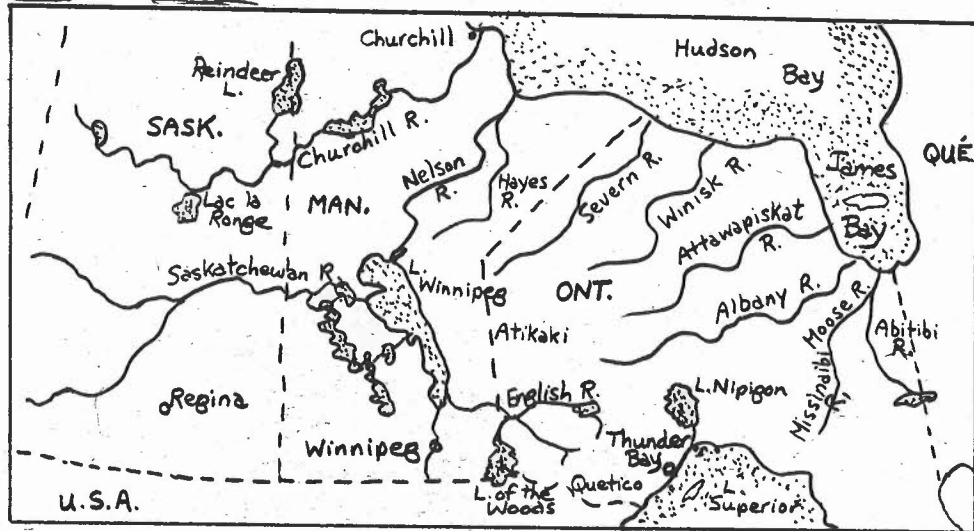


# Central Canada

## Wilderness on Our Doorstep

Most readers will be familiar with the canoe routes of central Canada. There are the great rivers of northern Ontario and Manitoba, the lakes of Quetico, and the north shore of Superior. The climate is also familiar - just slightly cooler in summer than we are used to in southern Ontario.

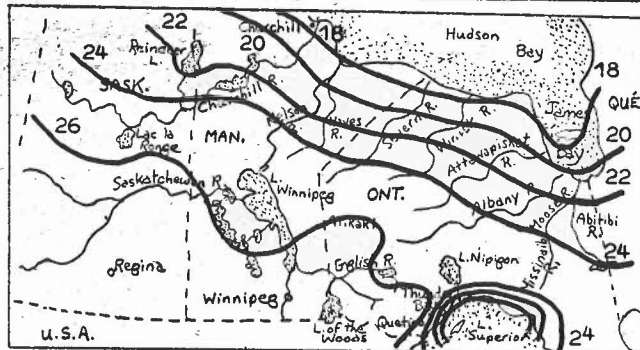
The following article by W.C.A. member Robbert Hartog about Quetico captures very well the mood of this forest region.



After talking about it for many years, we finally visited Quetico. On Saturday, Sept. 6, on a cool, rainy evening, we arrived by air at Thunder Bay where we found our two canoes and packs (which had been shipped out earlier) waiting for us. On Sunday morning -- early -- we left for the three hour truck ride to the Park. The north-west wind was blowing hard, and the rain came down in buckets; the four of us were wondering if we were crazy to start on such a day. However, we started off, and aided by the wind and trying to keep warm by paddling hard, we made tremendous headway that first afternoon. We made camp just before dark, and just after the rain stopped. From that moment, we had cool, but at times very bright, weather, with very little precipitation, and had a full week of gorgeous canoeing in what is a real canoeing paradise. As it was late in the season, there was very little traffic, and the beauty of Quetico was enhanced by the stillness and the solitude that should be part of that terrain.

Except for a freak snowstorm on one of the longer portages (where I discovered the use of a canoe as an umbrella!) and a 10 degree (C) frost one night, we had good fall weather and a most enjoyable trip going around this magnificent park. The fishing was spotty, but at times spectacular (what else can you call it when on 8 casts we got 4 beautiful bass just at the right luncheon time!).

The intriguing part of Quetico (and the adjoining Superior Forest area of Minnesota) is the variety of landscapes; rivers, streams, long lakes, large lakes with hundreds of islands, and small lakes, all inter-mingled. The portages were numerous, but rather short, the longest being 1½ miles, and the shortest 50 yards. The campsites that we found were generally very good, and some were outstanding with morning sun and bathing sites (although it took a bit of courage, some of the chillier mornings, to take the pre-breakfast swim that half the party "indulged" in.).



Average Day-time temperature in July (c)

### TRIPS

Most of the rivers leading into James Bay or Hudson Bay require about \$500 a person. One can often drive in and fly out on these routes. Rapids are not numerous, and there are few portages, but lakes are prone to winds from the west or north.

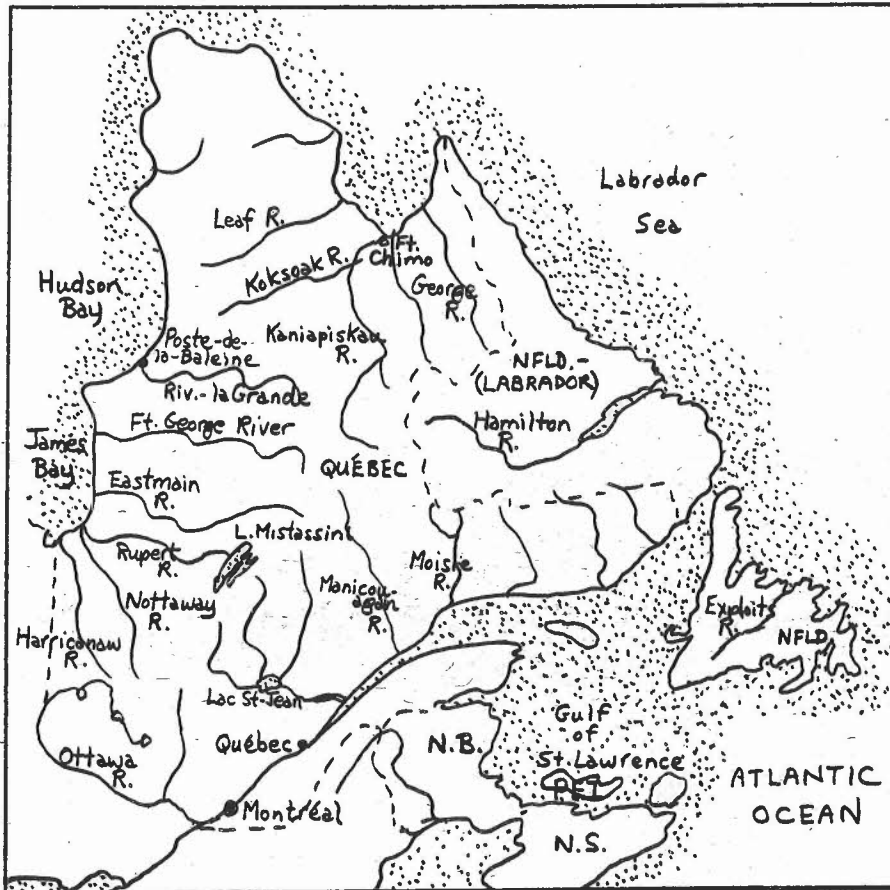
Quetico trips are similar in logistics to Algonquin trips, with the added expense of ten to twenty days are possible in this wilderness area.

Talking with the Park naturalist and some of the wardens, it became obvious to us that Quetico Park will face a real dilemma in the near future; how to limit use to a reasonable number of campers. The attraction of this Park is growing yearly, but to keep it as a wilderness area, one can only allow a limited number of canoeists at one time. For a public Provincial Park, this will not be an easy decision, but to avoid making the decision will mean the deterioration of what must be one of the world's finest canoeing wilderness areas.



# Eastern Canada

## Rivers in all All Directions



### TRIPS

Rivers in the south and west are more accessible, require about 15 to 20 days, and would cost upwards of \$400 per person. Rapids are found on most rivers, but many are runnable.

The Moisie and Eastmain are perhaps the most popular routes. Many rivers, like the Manicouagan or Lagrande, have been reduced by dam construction.

In the north and east, access is more difficult, the weather colder, and the rapids more challenging. These trips are suitable only for expert parties. They require three to six weeks, and could cost over \$900 per person.

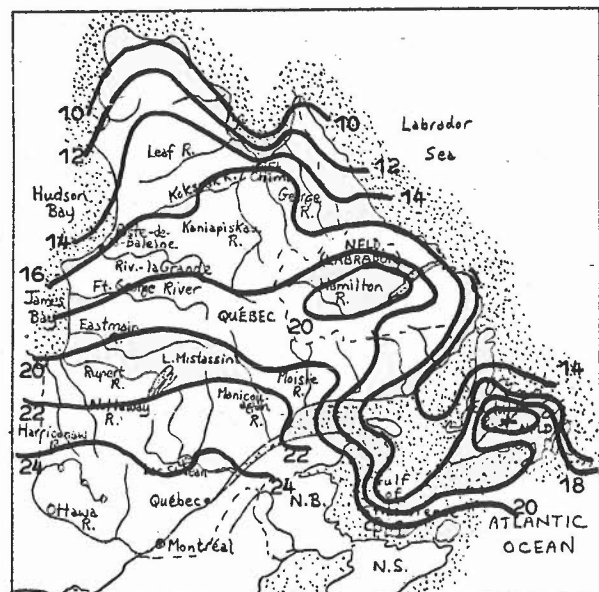
The Ungava peninsula of Quebec and Labrador is a huge expanse of forest, lakes, rocky hills and wild rivers. Towards the north and east, and at higher elevations, the tundra landscape appears.

Most of the peninsula is about 600 metres above sea level, but the rivers cut deeply into the precambrian rocks. Rivers flowing south into the Gulf of St-Lawrence, like the Moisie or Seguenay, have cut deep valleys. Rivers in the west descend gradually to the marshy Hudson Bay lowland.

The northern rivers drain a rocky, sparsely-treed area, where summer temperatures are seldom above 18° C. Rapids are more numerous, and very dangerous because of the isolation and cold water temperatures.

The Hamilton River in Labrador has been much-reduced as a canoeing river because of the Churchill Falls power project. However, the Exploits River and Terra Nova National Park on the island of Newfoundland provide interesting canoeing, similar to that of northern Ontario.

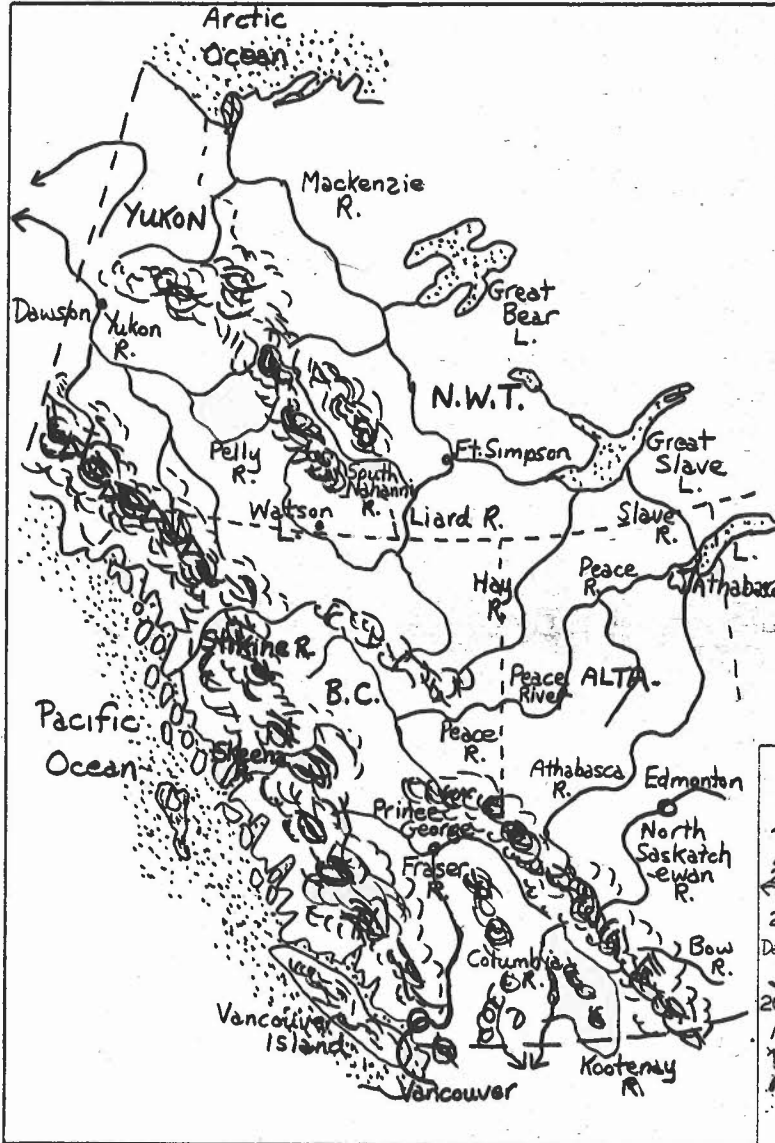
The summer climate is rather cloudy, rainy and cool, but the landscape and wildlife of eastern Canada attract many canoeists to the region.



Average Day-time Temperature in July (c)

# Western Canada

## Mountain Streams and Broad Rivers



### TRIPS

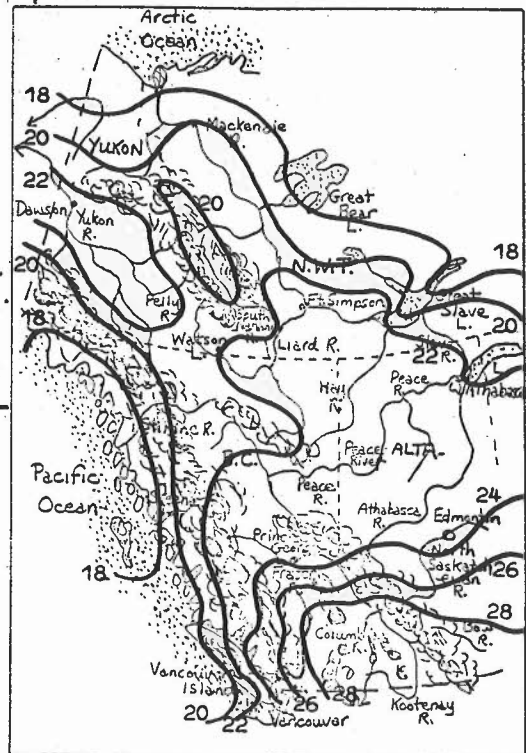
Many short, but exciting, white water trips are possible in B.C. and Alberta. Some of these rivers can become dangerous, especially when heavy rains strike in the mountains. Waves can be much higher than eastern paddlers are used to seeing, but instruction is sometimes available.

Further north, the trips are longer and more wilderness-oriented. However, some rivers - the Yukon, Pelly, Liard or Mackenzie - are easily accessible and suitable for intermediate paddlers. The South Nahanni, with its mighty Virginia Falls, and its scenic canyons, is one of Canada's finest canoeing rivers.

The northern rivers require three to five weeks, and about \$800 per person.

Western Canada - soaring mountains, mighty rivers, glaciers, forests, abundant wildlife - all together under the sunny skies of summer. Two chains of mountains, the Coast Ranges and the Rocky Mountains, are separated by the valleys of the Yukon and British Columbia. Many large rivers, fed by glaciers and mountain lakes, tumble out of the highlands, and flow serenely through the valleys. The Yukon, Fraser, Columbia, Peace, and Mackenzie are among the great rivers of the continent.

The climate is very favourable for canoe trips. Warm, sunny days are the norm, even in the Yukon and Mackenzie. Showery afternoons are common over the mountains, but prolonged rain is unusual. Finally, the winds are generally quite light, and the evenings allow the traveller to see great distances toward the mountains.



Average Day-time Temperature in July (c)

# Black River Will Not Behave (Yet)

by Roger Smith

The Black River rises near Dorset, and flows southwest through wild Shield country about fifty miles, until it reaches the Severn at Washago. Many of you will know that the Black River provides an exciting canoe trip in the spring or autumn. This spring, a flood on the lower Black brought a serious problem into focus-- a combination of circumstances has developed over the years which makes the Black a likely target for watershed management. The interesting aspect of the problem is that several jealous self-interest groups are involved, and that no solution can satisfy them all.

The upper reaches of the Black are in Longford Township, which is owned by a consortium of rich Americans as a private recreational preserve. The mid-portions of the valley are almost uninhabited, and the depth of the valley prevents any problems there. However, where the Black River leaves the Shield at Coopers Falls, it enters a flat, marshy plain, where flooding is often widespread in the spring. Of course the first settlers in the area soon discovered this, and built sensibly above the flood elevation. However, the Black River becomes involved in a very unusual topographic formation near its mouth. About a mile from the river is Lake St. John, which is connected to the Black by St. John. In the spring, the lake is still frozen when the Black is in flood, and the Creek starts to reverse its flow. Water backs up into the lake, and floods about 200 cottages which have been built in recent decades. Unfortunately for the cottagers, the 50's and 60's saw very few serious floods, and the cottages were built at very low elevations. But, after 1973, the residents have discovered that when the Black River floods, it can pour about five feet of water into the Lake. Since many of the cottages have year-round residents, this flooding has outraged them. They feel that the river should be managed so as to prevent the flood. This year, with the highest water levels since 1928, they talked Parks Canada into sandbagging the weir on St. John Creek, an action which other residents claimed was responsible for the very high water levels on the lower Black. Then, after a public meeting, the officials returned and removed the sandbags, after it was too late to prevent Lake St. John from overflowing. Of course, everybody was incensed. The Rama Township council was besieged by concerned citizens who wanted to know if the Black could be controlled in the future.

What they heard was not to their liking. The only suitable locations for flood-control dams, according to an engineering study, are near the source, and

even if they were all built, they could only hold back 450 of the 5,000 cfs flow in spring flood (in 1976, it was 6,500). The verdict is that flood control is not feasible on the Black; the only benefit from the dams would be higher summer water levels. Meanwhile, the owners of Longford Township are prepared to fight any such scheme--they don't want their lakes altered at all.

Somebody at the meeting said that the flood control scheme would be "great for recreation, including canoeing". You're right--this person doesn't canoe rivers. I found the entire affair quite disturbing for the following reasons. First, people were allowed to build in a flood-plain, which had a history of frequent inundations. They came in a dry time in the records, and thought they were safe from flooding. However, when nature took its course, their first inclination was to protect themselves at the expense of other residents who had built sensibly. And everybody's long-range plan was to bring river management to the Black; it would have been political (if not actual) suicide to suggest the more appropriate solution--remove the cottages, or else zone the area for summer residence only. Even after hearing the conclusions of the engineering study, people were still determined to seek "a solution". There is no real solution, but I'm quite certain that, politics being what it is, you'll be helping to pay for a partial solution in the next five years. The price tag--at least 15 million dollars.



This is about as wild as the Nottawasaga River got last April 17th. Photo by M. Leseigneur

## White Water in the Smoky Mountains by King Baker

W.C.A. member King Baker of Orono, Ontario, spent the recent March break in the Smoky Mountains of the southern U.S., where he discovered new frontiers of open canoe whitewater techniques. Strap on your P.F.D. and read on:

The Americans are canoeing heavier, more complicated rapids in open canoes than we are. Using A.B.S. (Royalex) canoes with the centre blocked with styrofoam, they are canoeing class 4 and 5 with open canoes. Wet suits, safety helmets and life jackets are standard for this type of canoeing. The very worst water is done solo to increase chances of getting through without shipping too much water and a throwing rope is always ready.

It started for me at Atlanta State University when I was shown southern hospitality by being politely asked to leave my Grumman behind and use their A.B.S. Blue Hole canoe. The next four days proved them right, the Grumman wouldn't have lasted.

I joined them for an instructor's clinic at John Payson Kennedy's Nanthalia Outdoor Centre, North Carolina. For openers we paddled down the Nanthalia River and over Nanthalia Falls which is a four-foot

drop. Then we had an instruction day and did the river again with two in a canoe. The eight miles or so is constant white water, about 1000 c.f.s. up to class 3 and 4. The next day we ran Big Laurel and the French Broad, which was absolutely beautiful; the Big Laurel was relatively small but highly technical and the French Broad very wide with one six-foot falls which we canoed. Finally the last day we ran the Nolichucky at the north end of the Smokies. A twenty-five mile ride into the mountains got us to the top of this run which was truly incredible. Without the lead-up experience, I would have pronounced it unrunnable. Running somewhere from two to three thousand c.f.s. between 1200 foot cliffs, it produced every technical problem possible, with continuous rapids, souse holes, whirlpools, washing machine actions, standing waves, and falls.

The A.B.S. material was truly better than anything I have paddled. We drove them into and over rocks, yet they survived. Unlike the aluminum, they don't stick to rocks. I wonder how they would behave loaded and on a long trip, but for sloshing down a difficult run they are the best.

# W.C.A. Summer Outings

In addition to our usual week-end outings, we are offering some longer trips this summer. They should give members an opportunity to enjoy a more complete wilderness experience. The Coulonge River trip is our first attempt to run a major wilderness trip as part of the W.C.A. outing programme. Such trips will continue as a regular summer feature if there is sufficient response.

Another new addition is the inclusion of a back-packing trip in September. It has become clear that many of us are not only canoeists but wilderness travellers who enjoy experiencing the wilds in many ways. For this reason, we thought that we would try to offer different types of outings. Look for more back-packing trips in future outings schedules.

Members are responsible for providing their own equipment, food, and transportation for all outings. An explanation of the experience levels used in the trip descriptions can be found in the last (March 1976) issue of the Wilderness Canoeist. Anyone interested in participating in any outing should contact the trip leader at least two weeks prior to the trip. In order to overcome some difficulties encountered by trip leaders in the spring, members are asked not to phone in with more than one canoe for any trip. If you have friends who want to come along, please ask them to discuss the trip directly with the trip leader. Thanks.

## Schedule for July and August

### (1) JULY 1-4 : LADY EVELYN RIVER

A four-day canoe trip set in the rugged and beautiful wilderness of Temagami, north-west of North Bay. Canoe some 30 miles down the Lady Evelyn River and about 25 miles across Lady Evelyn Lake. Suitable for intermediate canoeists or better. Limit of 4 canoes.

Leader:  
Gord Fenwick,  
Scarborough.  
(416) 431-3343.

### (2) JULY 1-4 : VERMILLION RIVER

A four-day trip on the rugged Vermillion River north of Capreol, for experienced canoeists. The 43-mile trip includes an assortment of water conditions, including a narrow chain of lakes, numerous rapids, falls, gorges etc. Transportation by train from Capreol, on the morning of Thursday, July 1st. Limit of 4 canoes.

Leader:  
Yujin Pak,  
Toronto.  
(416) 531-0713.

### (3) JULY 17-19 : MAGNETAWAN RIVER

This mid-summer trip will require three days, and will include the Monday (July 19th) following the week-end. The route runs from Wahwashkesh Lake to Highway 69, and includes some challenging white-water. Since portages can be made around some rapids, the trip will be suitable for intermediates or better. Landscape is vintage Georgian Bay rock, water and forest. Limit of 6 canoes.

Leader:  
Roger Smith,  
Longford Mills  
(705) 326-2985.

### (4) JULY 24-25 : MADAWASKA RIVER

The Madawaska River 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 would ruin what is left of the river. There are many rapids, including the Snake Rapids, making the trip suitable for intermediates or better. Limit of 5 canoes.

Leader:  
Glenn Spence,  
Colborne.  
(416) 355-3506.

### (5) AUGUST : LA VERENDRYE PARK - COULONGE RIVER

A two-week wilderness canoe trip, starting about August 6th. The trip will begin with a flight into Lac Dumoine. From here, the canoes will work upstream into La Verendrye Park, and then return to the Ottawa River by the Coulonge River. The trip passes through rugged country, and will involve numerous challenging rapids and some strenuous portages. Suitable for intermediate canoeists or better. Limit of 4 canoes. A preliminary day- or weekend- trip may be required, so please contact the trip leader as soon as possible.

Leader:  
Gord Fenwick,  
Scarborough.  
(416) 431-3343.

### (6) AUGUST : ALGONQUIN PARK

Get away from it all, and experience the beauty of nature on a relaxing lake trip in Algonquin. The trip will involve short days with lots of time to appreciate the surroundings; no strenuous portages. Suitable for novices and families. Limit of 6 canoes. More details will be available from the leaders in July.

Leaders:  
Ralph and Marg  
Kitchen,  
Cavan.  
(705) 745-8063.

# Growing Pains for the W.C.A.

What a difference a year makes, especially for the Wilderness Canoe Association. At this time last year, our membership was about 80, our newsletter was a brief xeroxed club letter known as "Beaverdam", and some of the club outings were cancelled through lack of applicants.

This year, the membership has increased to about 250, the newsletter is a magazine which is read by almost a thousand canoeists, and the W.C.A. trips are inevitably full soon after they are announced. Meanwhile, the scope of the association has expanded to the fields of conservation, standards, and safety.

The W.C.A., like many three-year old organisms, is having growing pains, and the executive is most aware of them. The most immediate result has been an increased work load for the six executive members, but these problems can be solved with a few changes in organization. The more important problem is, where should the association go from here?

The executive met on April 17th at Longford Mills (a suburb of Washago), to discuss the future growth of the W.C.A., and to determine policies for the club's activities.

The most important result of the meeting was a consensus that the association should now consolidate its position, by adopting a 'natural growth' policy. There are many new opportunities for the club with its larger, more widespread membership, and this is the time to develop these opportunities.

The outings programme is obviously a very successful one, but it can be expanded to suit a wider variety of interests. In the future, there can be trips for members interested in relaxing camping, white water, nature, or historical areas. For example, one autumn trip may be set aside for the artistic members who wish to sketch or paint. Other trips can be devoted to instruction in white water canoeing. Family camping trips could also be arranged. It is hoped that our members will make good use of the future opportunities in our outings programme, and that trip leaders will come forward to lead outings in all parts of the province.

A discussion of outings soon leads to the more fundamental question of the association's overall purpose. Clearly, the outings are most important to a majority of members. But what other activities should the club be involved with? One suggestion was that the emphasis be broadened to all wilderness recreation activities, to include hiking and back-packing, along with our present popular winter schedule. In this way, the association might become a 'Wilderness Association', without a specialized interest in canoeing.

This is the sort of issue which requires a broad sampling of opinion among the full membership of the W.C.A.. It is not clear to the executive, for example, whether most members are strongly attached to canoeing as opposed to other activities, or whether the majority would favour a broader emphasis. Letters, submissions and proposals would be welcomed, either before or during the semi-annual meeting in September.

For most members, the W.C.A. is two things -- a newsletter four times a year, and an outings programme. However, for some members, there are other involvements. We now have a conservation committee, headed by Sandy Richardson, which will attempt to deal with issues of interest to canoeists in Ontario on behalf of the Wilderness Canoe Association. The internal structure of the club is being examined by the by-laws committee, and a new constitution and by-laws will be presented in September for discussion.

Our political involvement is based on the principle that we support responsible use of the wilderness, but we reject excessive outside controls. The W.C.A. believes that individual canoeists should set standards for their own activities, within the framework of established laws. Our association with Canoe Ontario is largely intended to monitor their activities, and to prevent un-necessary legislation of bureaucracy from coming into existence. To this end, we have appointed King Baker, of Newcastle, Ont., as our representative to Canoe Ontario. Our chairman, Gord Fenwick, has always maintained a sizable correspondence with various officials and groups, in an effort to uphold this general policy. For individual members of the W.C.A., it is hoped that the newsletter will serve to keep each person informed about the present and future activities of the club, so that your response can be obtained as quickly and democratically as possible.

To summarize, the Wilderness Canoe Association, through its executive, hopes to provide effective communication among the recreational canoeists of Ontario. All of the associations' activities -- its outings, its publications, its committees, and its representatives -- should reflect a common theme of responsible enjoyment of wilderness canoeing. We hope that all of our members will help to create such a theme, by their participation in our activities, and through their personal examples to other canoeists and wilderness users in Ontario. Furthermore, we hope that as many members as possible will communicate with the executive in the near future, and attend the September meeting, so that we may proceed with a greater understanding, and a stronger resolve, to provide the association which the recreational canoeists of Ontario truly desire.

## September Outings

### (7) SEPTEMBER 10-12 : KILLARNEY

Friday night camp at George Lake, then paddle four scenic lakes on Saturday. There should be time to climb the Blue Ridge of the La Cloche Range, for a total of 15 miles paddling and 2 miles walking. For novices or better; a limit of 6 canoes.

Leader:  
King Baker,  
Newcastle.  
(416) 987-4608.

### (8) SEPTEMBER 19 : GRAND RIVER

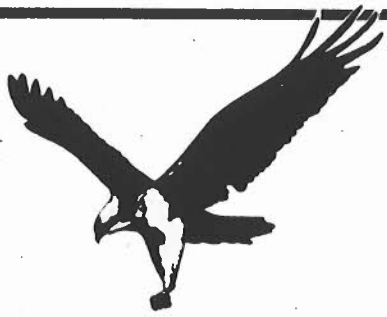
A pleasant day outing on the Grand River, suitable for novices and family groups, to be held in conjunction with the W.C.A. fall meeting on Sept. 18th.

Further details will be available with the information about the meeting. We hope that you will plan to stay for the canoe trip.

### (9) SEPTEMBER 25-26 : BRUCE TRAIL

A week-end back-packing trip on the Bruce Trail overlooking scenic Georgian Bay. The trip will involve 10-12 miles of easy to moderate hiking, and should be a good introduction for people wanting to get into back-packing. Limit of 8 hikers.

Leader:  
Bob Bassett,  
Owen Sound.  
(519) 376-6961.



W.C.A.

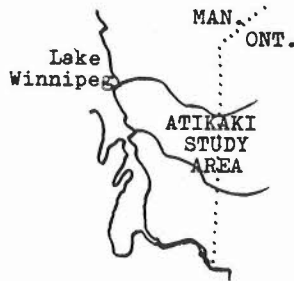
Conservation Committee

# ATIKAKI

## Proposal for a Wilderness Preserve

The newly formed W.C.A. Conservation Committee has set up a meeting with the National and Provincial Parks Association to consider possible stands that might be taken on conservation in general, and specific actions in which the association may want to become involved.

One issue of current concern to the Committee is ATIKAKI. The article on the following pages gives some background information about the work being done to preserve the area. Members are encouraged to contact Maureen Ryan or Sandy Richardson with their reactions to this proposal, or with other ideas they may have relevant to the field of conservation.



by Alan Brailsford

In an age of a technology that is eating away at the last vestiges of accessible wilderness, there is yet another area of wilderness that conservationists are trying to preserve -- ATIKAKI. A proposal written by Marc Wermager of Winnipeg has been set forth by the Atikaki Coalition to establish a viable wilderness area in the Manitoba-Ontario border region east of Lake Winnipeg. The Atikaki Coalition are conservation groups representing 17,000 Manitobans, and the Manitoba Metis Federation, speaking for 110 communities. "The purpose of this proposal is to support the establishment of a viable area where the continued survival of wilderness will be ensured."

The Coalition expresses concern whether or not the wilderness will endure, even though there is assurance that a park will be established. The Coalition has made clear its concept of wilderness, through adoption of the Ontario Coalition for Wilderness definition, namely, "Wilderness is that part of our natural landscape which is sufficiently large and varied to constitute a more or less self-regulatory ecological unit, where man's interference with the land and associated natural communities of plants and animals is minimal, and where beauty and character of the landscape (has) aesthetic, cultural and scientific significance." The Coalition prefers to call Atikaki a wilderness area rather than a park, as the word park may connote intensive management.

The aims of the Atikaki Coalition can be summarized as follows:

- I Safeguard a true wilderness.
- II Allow man to experience wilderness without seriously altering the land or its moods.
- III Benefit the local residents.

The Atikaki region is an excellent example of the precambrian Canadian shield, rich in the history of the native people, the voyageurs and trappers, and the gold rush. Some areas in the region have distinct flora and fauna, and small, diminishing groups of woodland caribou inhabit the area. (Atikaki is an Ojibway word meaning "Country of the Caribou".) The region offers excellent opportunities for wilderness recreation -- cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and canoeing or kayaking.

The Atikaki wilderness area should be designed so that there is minimal conflict with other land uses. After examining the natural features and potential resource conflicts of a wide area, a portion of the study region has been proposed for the Atikaki wilderness. What follows is a discussion of the resource potential of the area.

Prospectors from nearby mines, and extensive provincial and federal geological surveys, have not discovered any economically important minerals in the Manitoba portion of Atikaki, although studies have not been completed in Ontario.

An evaluation of the forest resources of the area reveals only "spotty" forestry potential. This is due to the rock and swamp terrain, thin soil, frequent forest fires, and the long regeneration period of 80-150 years for the forest.

Some conflict does exist between wilderness use and fly-in resorts which are in the proposed area. However, there are many lakes in Manitoba and north-western Ontario which are equally suitable for lodges. After talking with the lodge owners, Mr. Wermager believed that the lodges could be bought out for less than one million dollars, and added in a Globe-and-Mail article, "they (the lodge owners) are outdoorsmen, and would rather sell to see the area preserved than to watch it developed piecemeal."

The Coalition recognizes hunting, trapping, and wild rice harvesting as traditional activities in the area that can be compatible with wilderness if practised under certain conditions. The Coalition also realizes that Parks Canada policy prohibits hunting and trapping in national parks. In consideration of all the facts, the Coalition recommends that, if hunting by traditional means is not allowed in the wilderness area, then the surrounding area should remain crown forest land with access for hunting. Trapping should be allowed to continue with proper regulation, but failing this, a suitable compromise might be that registered trap-lines of only Metis, treaty and non-treaty Indians be transferable, and any trap-line unused for three years be voided. Wild rice harvests by traditional means should be allowed to continue, and alternate areas for mechanical harvesting operations should be sought, especially near well-travelled routes.

The Coalition has given fair consideration to the traditional activities, practised by the local and native peoples. This consideration is well deserved, especially by the native peoples, as they or their lands are often exploited by others, usually against their best interest.

After carefully considering the economic situation of the communities surrounding Atikaki, the Coalition has concluded that a more stable economy would result from the creation of a wilderness area. This stability would come from the diversification of the economy. Local service industries would benefit from the increased visitor flow. Substantial income would be generated in both Manitoba and north-western Ontario, through the spending of visitors, and because of road construction, and increased services.

The establishment of a Manitoba road system east of Lake Winnipeg would become more justified by the combination of tourism, resource extraction, and access to Atikaki. The road would benefit the local residents, by lowering food costs, providing emergency transportation, by aiding in the marketing of fur, wild rice, and fish, and by making pulp operations feasible. The social problems which may increase with modernization should be prepared for; however, the road is desired by both the native and local white inhabitants.

The local people should be included in every aspect of the Atikaki planning process. "Training programmes under the Manitoba Metis Federation and Manitoba Indian Brotherhood should be supported. Their purpose would be to acquaint residents with the economic opportunities and train them for jobs and management positions. First priority should be given to the local people in road construction, outfitting, tourism opportunities, upgrading of present facilities, and filling park positions. Commercial development should be restricted within the region to the communities themselves. The approval of the community councils would then be required, and the residents would be consulted and involved.

A park in the Atikaki wilderness area may yet be created in the national parks system. Manitoba has opened negotiations, but Ontario remains reluctant to commit itself, apparently because of dissatisfaction over the slow development of Pukaskwa National Park on Lake Superior, in addition to general concern over province-wide resource development. Ontario is waiting for the results of a complex study of potential provincial wilderness reserves, and perhaps feels that Atikaki will benefit Manitoba at the expense of Ontario because of access routes.

Obviously, public support is needed from this side of the border for the Atikaki project. Just how much support should be offered by the W.C.A. may depend upon the need for outside assistance, in a project that ought to be promoted and planned by local residents. At this stage, the most useful support would be for the Association or its members to write to their local members of parliament, to the appropriate cabinet ministers, or to the ministry officials concerned.

# ATIKAKI



## In the Beginning, There was Glenn Spence

On the canoe trips I have been on this spring I have met many beginners who eagerly want to take part in many adventures. In order to try to quench their insatiable thirst for canoeing knowledge, I have gone through hundreds of canoeing terms and have processed these down to just a few of the most important ones since your space is very limited.

White water - canoeing through rapids.

Brown bouldering - you missed the spring flood on the Credit River.

Thud or Clunk or Crack - the sounds you make while brown bouldering. This, of course, depends upon the type of canoe you have: cedar strip, aluminium, or fibreglass.

Helicoptering (courtesy of D. Johnson) - while thudding, clunking or cracking, your bow comes to rest upon a brown boulder. The canoeists remain in their canoe, allowing the current to swing the canoe around, thereby allowing them to back off the boulder. This really works, but a pilot's licence is needed!

Scootering - Your canoe has run aground. The stern canoeist places one foot outside the canoe and one foot inside. She/he then pushes off on the outside foot thereby causing the canoe to move, unless your bowperson is very heavy.

Splooosh - the sound your canoe makes as one gun-whale goes under the water when your partner throws the gear into the canoe from a cliff.

Half Eskimo Roll - Somewhat similar to splooosh but now the canoeists are under water. They failed to navigate the white water correctly.

Bow - the front of the canoe.

Stern - your wife is to tired.

Rookie - one who has experienced all of the above in one day's canoeing.

I would strongly suggest that the beginner clip this out and take it with him on his next trip because the trip leaders will be quizzing the participants on these terms before leaving on the trip. Needless to say, a poor mark would prevent you from going.

Copyrighted 1976 by Glenn Spence.

# Advertising Policy

The Wilderness Canoeist will accept advertising in limited form, beginning with the next issue (Sept 76). All of the advertising accepted for the publication will appear in columns similar to the body of the newsletter. There will be a Product Information column, a Trips and Services column, and a Swap column for W.C.A. members.

For each of these columns, the deadline for submitted material will be the 15th of the month preceding publication (Aug 15th will be the first deadline.). Contributors are requested to submit their material in sentence form, with no more than 25 words per sentence. For members of the W.C.A., there will be no charge for the first sentence in each column, and a charge of \$1.00 for each additional sentence, to a maximum of three. For non-members, the same rates apply, but the first sentence will also cost \$1.00.

A few sample announcements follow:

- Rip-Off Camping Supplies announces their new line of aluminium light-weight tents, available at all Sky Shops and Australian Tire, only \$698.50.
- Glenn Spence School of Brown Bouldering offers novice canoeists an Introduction to Midstream Portaging, Credit River, August 10-18th; Box 121, Colbourne, Ont.
- Balsa-wood paddle, very light, and custom canoe, purple and yellow, will sell or exchange for reasonable offer, contact R. de Vaark, (705) 325-9021, evgs.

Please send any advertising information, together with payment, to the following address:

Wilderness Canoeist  
Box 2073  
Orillia, Ont.

Please make all cheques or money orders payable to the Wilderness Canoe Association. Receipts will be sent if requested. The Wilderness Canoeist reserves the right to refuse advertising which, in the opinion of the editor, does not conform with the aims and objectives of the W.C.A..

Advertisers who wish to have their announcements appear in more than one issue should indicate when they intend to show the material, and should remit the appropriate total payment.

Advertising for  
the September  
Wilderness Canoeist.

Please accept  
the following notice :

(maximum of three  
25-word sentences.)

Send to :

Wilderness Canoeist,  
Box 2073,  
Orillia, Ontario.  
before August 15, 1976.

## Discounts and Canoe Trips

- 10 % discounts are available to W.C.A. members on non-sale-priced items, at
- Margesson's, Toronto.
  - ABC Sporting goods, Toronto.
  - Don Bell Sports, Trenton.

W.C.A. members associated with two outfitters, Camp Wanapitei and Walden 3, report a few vacancies on trips this summer.

Wanapitei is running trips from eight to twenty days, in northern Ontario and central Quebec. Fees vary from \$128 to \$395 per person. Contact Tom Roach, Box 1093, Peterborough, Ontario, for further details.

W3 trips range from one to three week long canoe trips in northern Ontario and vary in level from beginner's to whitewater trips. A sample trip would be a 9 day trip on the Spanish River for novice and intermediate canoeist at approximately \$160 per person (including food, equipment, guide, etc...). Write Yudin Pak, 77 Albany Ave., Toronto M5R 3G2, for brochure and trip list.

### WILDERNESS CANOE ASSOCIATION Membership Application

I enclose a cheque for: \$4.00 \_\_\_\_\_ (student, under 18 )  
\$6.00 \_\_\_\_\_ (single member)  
\$8.00 \_\_\_\_\_ (family membership)

for membership in the WCA, which entitles me to receive quarterly issues of the WILDERNESS CANOEIST, and to participate in all WCA outings and meetings.

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

RIVERS CANOED: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PLEASE SEND COMPLETED FORM AND CHEQUE TO:  
RALPH AND MARG KITCHEN, R.R.3, CAVAN, ONT.

## W.C.A. Executive

Chairman

Gord Fenwick,  
140 Porchester Drive,  
Scarborough, Ontario,  
M1J 2R7.  
(431-3343)

Vice-Chairman

Sandy Richardson,  
5 Dufresne Court, Apt. 2705,  
Don Mills, Ontario,  
M3C 1B7.  
(429-3944)

Newsletter Editor

Roger Smith,  
Longford Mills, Ontario  
LOE 1L0.  
(705) (326-2985)

Membership Chairpersons

Ralph and Marg Kitchen,  
R.R. #3  
Cavan, Ontario.  
LOA 1C0.  
(705) (745- 8063)

Secretary

Maureen Ryan,  
735 William St.,  
London, Ontario.  
N5Y 2R5  
(519) (433-6558)

Treasurer

Glenn Spence,  
P.O. Box 121,  
Colborne, Ontario.  
(416) (355-3506)