



the wilderness canoeist

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Photograph: MacArthur Pass, Yoho Nat'l Park.
In background, Mount Owen, 3087 m.
photo by S.Richardson.

Only the sounds of the wind and the crunch of vibram soles penetrated the intimate stillness as the cool evening approached and four weary backpackers trudged up the last snowfield to the crest of Wolverine Pass. We had once again returned to the high country and our presence seemed dwarfed into insignificance as we stepped into the vastness of this lonely alpine meadow. Surrounded by massive towering peaks, we had found an ideal wilderness refuge and a place to rest at the end of an exhausting third day.

Hiking the Great Divide Trail by Barry Brown

The trip had started on the morning of July 20, and was to take the four of us (Sandy, Cam, Tony and I) over the course of the next nine days from a point where Hawk Creek joins the Vermilion River in Kootenay National Park, through Yoho to Moraine Lake in Banff. The route covered sixty-five miles and traversed six alpine passes, all above treeline, with over thirty thousand feet of ascent and descent.

On the first morning I was jolted awake by a worm's-eye view of a bear about to eat my supply of mountain bars, but with two thumps of the boots he took off and was never seen again. Its too bad he hadn't taken the cinnamon porridge with him. There was a slight delay in obtaining our backcountry permit and after receiving a warning from the park wardens about severe snow conditions en route and the fact that no one had done it this year (apparently a few had considered 'attempting' it) we set out in high spirits for glacier-fed Floe Lake, high in an alpine cirque at the foot of the rugged Vermilion Mountain Range.

Floe Lake was still ice bound, and large patches of snow remained in the surrounding area presenting a problem in locating a suitable campsite. After much searching, and tired from the two and a half thousand foot climb, we finally wedged our tents into small mossy areas between piles of melting snow. Although it is suspect of being stuck, Sandy's thermometer read forty degrees as we settled down for our first night.

The barren wind-swept plateaus of Numa Pass provided spectacular alpine hiking the following morning as the weather closed in and the cloud formations blowing off the high peaks kept the surrounding vistas continually changing. At one point, we temporarily lost the route in the heavy snow and Tony decided the best way down was via a steep scree slope on the left which, as we later found out, had provided him an exciting hundred foot slide down the mountain on a piece of rock.

Autumn is a special time of year to be active outdoors in Ontario, and the Wilderness Canoe Association gives its members many excellent opportunities this year. Most of the canoe trips and hikes, listed on page 10, have been planned to coincide with the autumn colour display.

Inside This Issue

It has been a busy, exciting summer for many of our members, as you will see from the variety of trip reports on pages 1,2,3,8 and 9. There's news and opinions on pages 4,5,6 and 7. Members will soon be able to obtain a trip guide to rivers of southern Ontario, and the W.C.A. constitution and by-laws have been carefully revised by a committee. Most important, though, we hope that you enjoy yourselves outdoors this autumn. See you there!

We experienced many changing environmental conditions and exhilarating moments on the following days as we ascended snow ridges, traversed high passes, descended into deep forested valleys, boulder-hopped icy cold streams, crossed sunny avalanche slopes and meandered through delicate alpine meadows. In spots where the snow had melted sufficiently to allow the mossy tundra to poke through, the small buds of many alpine plants could be seen. The route at one point negotiated a massive mile-long ridge of glacial moraine which

provided spectacular close-up views of the awesome Tumbling Glacier hanging precariously from the rock faces.

A restful day was spent repairing blistered feet and hiking in the local surrounding peaks of Lake O'Hara before we hoisted our packs to the roof of the lodge van which would take us to Lake Louise. The day before, we had considered two other possible routes out of Lake O'Hara, one being a climb over ten thousand foot Abbots Pass (known as the 'death chute'), and the other a traverse of the deteriorating Opabin Glacier, but had been warned by the warden, after he discovered we did not have climbing ropes and crampons, not to attempt either unless we were prepared to accept a twenty percent chance of risking our lives.

- continued on page 2 -



Photograph: Wolverine Pass, Kootenay Nat'l Park.
photo by S.Richardson.

Major Summer Trips

George River

by Yu Jin Pak

George Luste led this month-long canoe trip through Labrador and northern Quebec, almost 700 kms. north from Astray Lake (near Schefferville) to Port Nouveau-Quebec on Ungava Bay. It was a tremendous experience, featuring rugged hilly terrain, bracing windy weather, and white water in abundance.

We reached Astray Lake by rail from Sept-Isles, on August 3, and paddled 100 kms. to the height of land which forms the Labrador-Quebec border. Once in Quebec, we headed NNE on the Riviere-de-Pas, a wild river with many challenging rapids of grade III or IV. Wave turbulence, rather than mid-stream boulders, formed the main problem. We found that spray-covers, which we had made from nylon for our three aluminium canoes, were essential on this trip.

Almost 300 kms. later, we reached Indian House Lake, a long north-south lake which is prone to strong north head-winds. When the prevailing NW wind blew, we skirted the high western shore-line to obtain shelter, but the canoeist must expect to be wind-bound for some time on this trip. NW or N winds are dominant, and the temperature hovers between 5 and 10 C much of the time; rain or even snow are often experienced. It is a major problem to stay warm and dry, and we found that woollen clothing and gloves were essential.

The only major portage was around Helen Falls, a series of drops which total about 30 metres. The carry, although 2 kms. long, was straight-forward. The George River, which flows almost due north, is much wider than the Riv-de-Pas, and offers channels of different challenges in the rapids. Atlantic salmon, which run all the way up the system despite the falls and rapids, make this one of the world's great fishing rivers, and fly-in lodges are to be found en route. This adds to the safety factor on this remote, rugged wilderness trip.

Herds of caribou roam the region, despite the encroachment of white hunters, and we often encountered groups of 10 or more while rounding bends. As the river approached tidal Ungava Bay, we passed between high cliffs and nearly-alpine mountains more than 700 metres high. The banks shone in the steel-blue light of the Ungava sky, and the feeling imparted was indeed unique. Meanwhile, as we went north, the trees became

progressively smaller, and were confined to the valley bottoms. Eventually, we reached arctic tundra, as icy winds howled across Ungava Bay. While snow squallied about beneath leaden skies, we waited for six days at the settlement of Port Nouveau-Quebec, before flying out to Fort Chimo, where a regular flight connects to the south.

Camping in this chilly, wet environment presented unique challenges. First, the winter ice had pushed the river-bank boulders high up the steep slopes, and we had to climb up to find mossy campsites. Then, we had to split driftwood with axes to obtain the dry inner matter. All the time, we were concerned with wet clothes and damp tents, but we managed nicely, despite a rash of the 72-hour flu. Only one other group made the trip in its completion: four wildlife biologists from Montreal (in 1976). The cold, windy weather prevented the insects from overpowering us, which they threatened to do on the first few relatively mild days.

This trip would be a great experience for any well-equipped parties with considerable white-water and camping background. It would be wise to plan on selling the canoes in Port Nouveau-Quebec, where they command about \$250; otherwise one faces a large shipping cost and a potential long delay due to the early onset of winter.

Yukon River by Roger Smith

Broad emerald highway, forty days travel
From the Bering Sea.
Cutting cleanly through the snow-flecked
Surging ever onward to its goal. mountains,
Tributaries entering from green-sloped
Mystery valleys, telling no secrets.
Clouds of every type at every level,
Stretch away towards the circled hills.
Rainbows playing hourly upon the craggy
uplands,
From showers that live for moments
and then are gone.

Midnight finds a search-light moon
Between the southern peaks, and darkness
Turns to pale and ghostly sunlight,
Spiked by silent choirs of spruce,
While mist descends to meet the frost of
summer,
A kiss that tells of winter soon to come.

GREAT-DIVIDE

continued from page 1

Upon reaching Lake Louise and all its visual pollution, we quickly collected our gear and hurried off once again for the solitude of the mountains. We had planned to reach the Giant Steps, a waterfall that cascaded down over a series of huge flat rocks to the bottom of Paradise Valley. As we set up camp that night beside the rushing water, we took time out to study the lofty ridge of Sentinel Pass which would be our last challenge.

The following morning, after a lazy start, we crossed the valley and began to climb the lower slopes leading to the pass. The tall slender pinnacles of rock guarding the entrance started to loom larger as we gained altitude and the trail steepened. Before long the whole side of the mountain became a massive jungle of loose rock and scree which slid from under our boots, forever keeping us off balance, and we had to keep moving just to stay upright. It was a relief when at one point we found a small flat area where we could stand still for a moment and catch our breath while pulling on down vests to ward off the wind which was trying to blast us off our perch. As we set out for the last dash to the summit, a boulder was accidentally kicked loose and went bounding down the slope straight for one

member climbing fifty feet below, but at the last minute it took a hop and went flying over his shoulder. It was a close call. Evidence of the power of erosion was every where in this wonderland of carved rock.

About noon we arrived at the top of Sentinel for a well earned rest and a chance to eat the last of our food. We took a few minutes to capture the incredible views on film, and as we looked back through the mist we noticed that a rainbow had formed down below in Paradise Valley where we had spent our last camp.

After descending into the Valley of the Ten Peaks and a four mile trek through the larches in dull drizzling weather, we arrived at Moraine Lake, and the termination of our backbacking trip in the high country.

We shot over seven hundred slides of the impressive alpine landscape, but its the depth of comradeship that developed, the laughter and fun we had together and the memories of the little things such as the trout we shared for dinner that live on and are truly meaningful.

For those who seek and meet the challenge of adventure, the mountains hold many rewards. We will return.

Coulonge River

by Dave Auger

The Coulonge River in southwestern Quebec flows into the Ottawa River. Our ten day trip in mid-August began with a flight from Rapides des Joachims to Lac Du Moine. We headed upstream to La Verendrye Park, across the watershed, and then down the Coulonge to Grande Chute (6km shy of the Ottawa R.). There were numerous good sets of rapids which were runnable at this time of year with the water level above average.

But the Coulonge cannot be considered a real wilderness river. The lumbering industry has seen to that. Lumber camps on the river's edge, trucks barrelling at high speeds along dusty roads, river banks stripped of large trees now overgrown with dense underbrush, and an 8km log jam in the middle of our trip brought a sense of disappointment.

Yet there were memorable moments when we forgot these unwanted intrusions; when we all watched, hypnotized, as a moose emerged from the bush, drank from the river, swam partway across, looked several times upstream at our canoes drifting toward him, then calmly walked the rest of the way across the river and disappeared into the bush; or when we scouted and shot three sets of medium-difficulty rapids in a row just below Chute A L'ours, then capped this off by carefully manoeuvring our way through a 1/2 km stretch of continuous rapids.



Photograph: Coulonge River lift-over.

photo by S. Richardson.

Our trip ended at Grande Chute. The name understates the magnificent power and beauty of a truly spectacular waterfall. The vertical drop is over 50 metres - much of this in one tumultuous cascade just below a dam at the top of the chute. For the voyageurs of the past, and the log drivers of today, this is where they will stop and spend the night before making a 2km portage along the outside edge of the bend in the river. For us, the Chute was a grande finale to our trip down the Coulonge.

Upper Missinaibi River

by Don Bent

A good river, pleasant company, co-operative weather -- all ingredients of a memorable trip.

In May, June, and early July, certain sections would not be navigable in an open canoe. By August, though, water levels drop significantly.

The Greenhill, a mile-long convoluted rock garden just above the entrance of the Greenhill River, required intense concentration and much tricky manoeuvring. Because his fifteen-foot Grumman was heavily loaded, King Baker put his partner Dennis Barry on shore to walk, and singled down. This arrangement had certain

disadvantages, as Dennis was the trip photographer. He was busily snapping a variety of pictures of both King and my son Jim and I, as we wiggled down in our seventeen-foot Grumman white-water canoe. Certain spots required unorthodox techniques, like attempting to fly, all of them faithfully recorded by Dennis.

The trip, from Lake Missinaibi to Mattice, requires a 750-mile turnaround for vehicles.

This 6-day, 130-mile jaunt on (at August water levels) an intermediate river in scenic country, is highly recommended to anyone with white-water experience who wishes an introduction to a northern river.

Whitewater Training Sessions

by Norm Coombe

The whitewater training sessions were held in ideal conditions at Palmer Rapids on the Madawaska River, August 4, 5 and 6. John McRuer of Algonquin Waterways teaches what he calls the Indian system of running a rapid; the result is a smooth, dry run in water that would worry the average canoeist. The course began with an evaluation session for the benefit of the instructors; then, the participants refined their techniques by paddling around a course marked by buoys.

Promoted to moving water, we learned to ferry, to make eddy turns, and to use the shelter of rocks in the current. Then, we moved to Omonds Rapids, where we were taught how to "read" water and to choose a course, which we subsequently ran. On the third day, we were running the full length of Palmer Rapids -- almost a full kilometre -- with smooth, dry, controlled runs time after time.

Some people arrived at the course without the basic canoeing strokes under their belts, and this tended to slow the group down. We recommend this course to anybody who wishes to make the transition from flat water to white water, or to improve their techniques in medium-grade rapids. Thanks to the W.C.A. for sponsoring this course, and to Eric Arthurs for organizing it, and to John McRuer and his staff for running a fine session.

by Ingeborg Dodds

A very interesting course in white water canoeing was given by John McRuer of Algonquin Waterways ably assisted by young Steven Dodds at the Palmer Rapids of the Madawaska River, July 13-15th.

Though it was rainy and cool the first few days, the participants (two couples, one single and one family of four) showed much enthusiasm.

Flat water manoeuvres were taught and practiced first, both solo and in tandem. Later that day we were taught ferrying across minor rapids further down river and the end of the day saw us practicing canoe rescue and we experienced swimming in the outflow of Grade 3 rapids, which latter was a great deal of fun. The worst that happened that day was the loss of a shoe by one of the youngsters during canoe rescue.

On the second day flat water manoeuvres were again practiced, then ferrying across fast- as well as slower moving water, and after that various sections of grade 2 Omar Rapids were studied and run.

On the last day, everything we had learned was put together and the Palmer Rapids were studied in great detail. Two routes were chosen to come down. Everybody did it several times and we all felt we had learned a lot.

Special thanks go to Eric Arthurs of our Association for having arranged this and similar courses in white water canoeing.



THE WILDERNESS CANOEIST

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Wild River Parks for Southern Ontario

In the past few months, I have spent most of my spare time working on the trip guide project for rivers in southern and central Ontario. This has reminded me that our region has numerous unique and beautiful rivers, which will certainly come under increasing pressure from our expanding population.

The province of Ontario has an act which creates wild river parks in order to prevent further development along these scenic or historic routes. At the present time, five such parks exist, the southernmost being the Mattawa river.

It would be a far-sighted and intelligent decision for the government to preserve more river valleys in southern and central areas. In particular, the following river sections have special historical or scenic attributes which make them especially worthy of designation the of wild river parks:

1. The French River rapids
2. The Madawaska River from Palmer Rapids to Griffith
3. The Skootamatta River for 15 miles south of Flinton
4. The Magnetawan River from Wawashkesh Lake west to Harris Lake
5. The Credit River from Credit Forks south to Glen Williams.

These areas are all relatively free from cottage or industrial development at present, and could be preserved if legislation were soon enacted. We add the corollary that no new transportation development should occur if the parks are created. The best way to see these outstanding rivers, as it has always been, is from a canoe.

Other readers may disagree with these choices, or have other suggestions. We welcome your opinions before taking further action to make the government aware of the need to preserve some relatively wild rivers in southern Ontario. Please remember that some outstanding rivers, such as the Petawawa, are already protected as parts of Algonquin Park.

The park concept in Ontario has been too much land-oriented, and too closely related to highway routes. The importance of wild rivers, which may no longer serve as transportation links, is more than just their scenic value. It relates to their significance in the historical and social development of Ontario. The rivers of the future should reflect, as much as possible, their original character and mood.

News Briefs

UNMARKED WATERFALL

Eric Morse, well known canoeist, is now working with the Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources, 615 Booth St., Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0E9. He is correcting 1:50,000 topographical maps re falls, rapids, and other errors. If you have come across various errors or omissions, he would be glad to receive the exact details.

OUTWARD BOUND

Ontario now has its own Outward Bound school located near Lake Nipigon, just north of Lake Superior. W.C.A. member, Mr. Rob Dawson of Project D.A.R.E., visited the school in July. He travelled downriver with a group from the school. Travelling in canoes and kayaks, they went through swift waters with rapids, at times reaching Grade 3. He is much impressed with their experienced staff and especially their professional mountaineer. For information contact: Prof. Robert Pieh, Queen's University, McArthur College, Kingston, Ontario.

NEWS BRIEFS

MISSINAIBI RIVER

The Sierra Club of Ontario made a further presentation to the Ontario Provincial Parks Association Advisory Council (Mr. George Priddle, chairman), on the Missinaibi as a wild river park.

In early June, the Sierra Club sent Mr. George Luste to a public meeting held in Kapuskaping to give the local people a chance to discuss the merits of the Missinaibi as a wild river park and clear up any misunderstandings. The meeting was well attended with representation from the Dept. of Forestry and Spruce Falls Pulp and Paper Co. as well as the general public.

Staff from the Ministry of Natural Resources travelled the Missinaibi River this summer taking inventory of its various natural resources, etc.. The Ministry estimated that some 1,500 canoeists travelled the river in 1975.

Nick Nickels will be doing a television program this fall on canoeing in Ontario covering the rivers draining into James Bay. This is to promote his new book, Canoe Canada.

PROJECT WHITEWATER

The year-round wilderness activity program run to help young people with various difficulties cope with society, teaching them confidence in themselves and what they can do. (See W.C.A. newsletter June 1976.) With government aid cut off and limited financial help from the public, their program has been drastically reduced although a limited canoeing program is taking place. It is hoped things will improve next year. For further information, contact Phil Fisher, Project Whitewater, 25 St. Clair Ave., E., Toronto. tel: 961-9353.

ITS ABOUT TIME!

Mr. Bill Simons, Head of Physical Education at a secondary school just west of Toronto, is involved in a new non-competitive phys-ed program.

No football, basketball, hockey, etc.... Instead, rockclimbing at Rattlesnake Point, hiking on the Bruce Trail, canoeing on the Credit. A fantastic area for a great idea! In a program like this, everyone wins by what they take from these experiences.

CRCA

The Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association (C.R.C.A.) with financial support of Recreation Canada, has completed the instruction book, "Guidelines for the Development of Levels of Achievement in Canoeing". They are about to be implemented at the National Canoe Schools. In June, W.C.A. chairman Gord Fenwick wrote to Cor Westland, of Recreation Canada, to express concern over the rapidity with which the guidelines have been developed. Canoeists interested in reviewing the manual, which became available in June, had less than a month to obtain a copy, review it, and send their comments to the publishers. Moreover, there was no indication that any criticism would be incorporated into the results. There was also no opportunity to question the need or desirability of one national instructor's course. Gord Fenwick has received several copies of the manual and anyone wishing to read it may borrow a copy from him. The guidelines establish five levels of proficiency in canoeing. To the editor, who had a chance to review them, they seemed rather weak in the areas of wilderness camping and white-water running, but they had such camp-oriented components as stunt canoeing and sailing. Also, the first four levels appeared to follow one another too quickly, so that almost any intermediate-level canoeist could tackle the fifth level with a small amount of actual experience. It would certainly make one way of the paper qualifications being issued by the canoe schools at this time. Although most of the course material appears sound, the conceptual framework is open to many questions - questions that the C.R.C.A. seems unwilling to deal with at the present.

Chairman's Letter

Fellow Canoeists:

I send you greetings and hope that the summer has given you the opportunity to experience the joy of travelling through the wilderness. Many of you were busy this summer canoeing or back-packing in various parts of Canada. Participation in our W.C.A. outings was light this summer, but I can understand this, as many of you were out doing your own thing. Good show!

On page four of the newsletter, you will find news about the C.R.C.A. and Canoe Ontario. Briefly, I am concerned about the C.R.C.A. plan to institute their instruction book at the national level without the chance for canoeists to examine and comment on the material within a reasonable length of time. With regard to Canoe Ontario, a new organization, the Ontario Recreational Canoeing Association, has been formed, and the W.C.A. attended their first meeting on July 17. It is hoped that Canoe Ontario will accept the O.R.C.A. as the recreational branch.

King Baker, fellow member of the W.C.A., has done an excellent job of representing the interests of recreational canoeists on the board of Canoe Ontario. We hope to have a number of W.C.A. members present at the C.O. annual meeting on October 16 (details, p.4), to support his re-election.

Of course, I am hoping to meet many of you at our own general meeting on Sept. 18 at Five Oaks near Brantford. As a W.C.A. member, you should have received details of this meeting by mail, but if not, please contact our secretary, Maureen Ryan.

At this time, all members interested in becoming involved in the organization or committee work of the W.C.A. should contact the vice-chairman, Candy Richardson. Please remember the new officers will be elected next February, so that now is the time to gain experience. During the summer, our membership total has risen slowly to about 250, and we are hoping to increase gradually towards 300 to maintain a balanced budget. Members who feel that they can help in promoting memberships should contact me or Roger Smith, the newsletter editor. An excellent membership list is now available from Marg Kitchen for \$2.00.

Many of us in this association have maintained steadfastly that the individual canoeist must retain the right to make his own decision in the field of canoeing and take responsibility for the consequences.

He should have the right to canoe whichever wild rivers he chooses; if he destroys his canoe and must be rescued by plane, then he should expect to pay the costs involved.

If he chooses to destroy and damage our wilderness environment through indifference, carelessness, or ignorance, he should be fined most severely.

If he is not willing to develop his skills and experience slowly over time before thrusting himself forth into the expected excitement of cold, turbulent water, he must accept the high risk of an early death.

We can also choose to do the following:

- to care for the safety of ourselves and others
- to care for our environment and others' enjoyment of it
- to attend meetings and read books and magazines on wilderness and canoeing to increase our knowledge of the wilderness environment and history, and our level of canoe and camping skills thus increasing our overall enjoyment and perception of our experiences

- to tell others what we consider of value in wilderness and canoeing

- to keep physically fit
- to get out and canoe often, learning carefully from other experienced individuals and canoe instructors on occasion.

All too often the canoe clubs think of the individual canoeists as "Joe Idiot", or refer to others as "free spirits", as if they were idealists out of touch with reality.

To legislate regulations for safety as protection against our own stupidity is unacceptable. We must have the right to be responsible for our own actions.

Best Wishes,

Gord Fenwick

Reaction to the Kandalore National Canoe School by King Baker

Mr. Kirk Wipper,
Camp Kandalore,
R.R. No. 2,
MINDEN, Ontario.

Dear Kirk:

In the next few days I will no doubt regain the weight I lost, the bruises will fade, I have already shaved, and I will resign myself to a normal routine. A pressure coast is a rather special thing for it directs all your energies for a period of time - afterwards it takes time to take personal control of your energy direction.

You are such a busy man yourself that I hesitate to even suggest that some day we must have a talk about the subject of levels of achievement. While I support your meticulous canoe museum, and regarding the canoe course as of the highest order, it still disturbs me that you would be party to a system of standards, and no matter what euphemism is used, people will interpret them as such. In camps and pernick school systems, levels of achievement would be useful; at this moment there are several sets of levels available and the interested body could adapt and use these. For the general public they are not pertinent.

After all, how can you really judge a canoeist? Some who may not get an instructor's award may be better than those who have the highest order of paper qualifications.

Levels have no place in the general public sector except at the instructor's level. If a person suggests he is a canoe instructor, then he should be prepared to prove it by a log of experience and courses taken. Yet, for each person, this proof would be different. I want people tripping for my Board of Education to have experience and take canoe courses. Some courses I recommend above others but certainly many are useful in preparing a person for helping students enjoy a canoe.

To say or imply there is one way of canoeing is harmful to the growth of the sport for unlike swimming, canoeing is a rich fabric of marathon racing, white water slalom, wildwater down river, flatwater racing, style, and tripping. Different boats and methods are used.

Standards?

by Roger Smith

Intermediate - Just about anybody. Often, a long-suffering bow-person who can execute a draw stroke in their sleep. No funds for a canoe. May be suppressed at this level by male chauvinist companions, or stern females.

Advanced - Liberated intermediate stern-person who is long on enthusiasm but short on technique. In rapids, yells a lot, miraculously avoids swamping, and perfects a modified back-paddle after bow-person complains about water pouring over front end. Trip leaders worry about these types, but keep fears secret until after they drown.

Expert - Scouts grade 3 or 4 rapids for at least two hours, hoping that advanced hot-dog types will attempt them first. Points to complex wave patterns and pebbles at a distance of 500 metres. Tells party about how high water level was in '62 when so-and-so drowned (after running, of course). Swamps at unexpected moment, obviously due to some freak of nature, not human error.

Team of Experts - A group of old friends who have taken a mutual oath of secrecy about their misadventures, but who have the slides to prove they were there. Still can't organize a car shuffle properly after all those years.

The Ontario Recreational Canoeing Association (O.R.C.A.) held its initial meeting at Dorset on July 17, attended by Gord Fenwick on behalf of the W.C.A. This new organization will seek to become the recreational branch of Canoe Ontario at its annual meeting on October 16. This meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. at Camp Kandalore near Minden. If successful, the O.R.C.A. would control three of the ten directorships on Canoe Ontario, with similar representation from Flatwater and Whitewater racing groups.

At the annual meeting of Canoe Ontario, Gord Fenwick expects to see considerable opposition to a proposal to give each individual member one vote. Also, the question of distribution of funds may be brought up, as the majority of funds has been distributed among flatwater and whitewater divisions. W.C.A. members who attend this free meeting will have the opportunity to learn about activities and political events in the field of canoeing. They can also lend support to the re-election of King Baker as a director of Canoe Ontario.

It is presumptuous to call your course the National Canoe Course. I value the experience of the course highly and will ask people to attend it. However, I would value it as much if it was simply the Kandalore Instructor Course. After all, your personal reputation is far more important and valid than some nebulous C.R.C.A. I realize that funding might be more difficult but in the long run the high standards and prestige could be insured.

There is yet another problem of standardizing canoeing. In a recent legal case (Thornton, Towner, et al vs Board of School Trustees, District No. 57 Prince George, B.C., 1975) a physical education teacher was sued \$1,534,058.93. The teacher was found negligent because he did not exercise the duty of care required of his profession: (1) allowing use of a dangerous configuration, (2) inadequate instruction, (3) permitting the boys to attempt exercises beyond their ability or training. The details of the case are of less importance than the judge's verdict: If a set of standards becomes accepted as the requirements of the profession then it puts people in legal jeopardy if they work in a different manner. Ever kneeling vs sitting could be interpreted this way. For legal reasons a statement should be made in every set of levels that they are not to be interpreted as the only set of levels and they do not represent the only view of the profession.

My stance in this matter in no way detracts from the high regard I have for you and the excellence of the course. The course was demanding, there were techniques I do not prefer and additional material I would add, but then canoeing will ever be such.

Thank you for allowing me to attend the course and I do hope your influence on me will continue.

Yours truly,

King Baker

Educational Consultant.

Trip Guide Available to Members

by Roger Smith

If you examine a detailed map of southern and central Ontario, you will find almost 200 rivers or large creeks, in addition to the thousands of lakes and ponds. It all adds up to an enormous potential for canoe trips, but it also represents a great problem in assembling and evaluating information.

Roger Smith, editor of the *Wilderness Canoeist*, has assembled a large amount of information on the canoe routes in southern and central Ontario. To do this, he has made numerous trips, talked to experienced and enthusiastic paddlers in all parts of the region, and organized the material in a comprehensive manner.

The result will be a trip guide which will allow canoeists of all levels of ability and interest to select the routes which would be most enjoyable for them. The guide will assess each route for several different times of year. Also, there will be frequent cross-references of similar rivers, so that if the reader has already done one route, other similar opportunities can be discovered. Finally, the guide will be complete for all the named rivers and large creeks south of the French-Mattawa line. This means that the unsuitable portions will also be described. The guide should be equally useful for the white-water expert, the intermediate who is improving skills, the novice seeking safe waters, and the individual or group searching for a relaxing vacation on the water. Geological and botanical points of interest will be identified, and campsites of superior quality located. Maps with detailed notes will accompany each trip report.

In producing such a guide, there is of course a responsibility for preventing canoeing accidents and for minimizing the impact on the environment. To honour this responsibility, the guide will only be available to members of the W.C.A., with a limit of three per member. There will be only one printing run, and the guide will not be offered to any other publishing agency. It will be protected by copyright and by the author's sole responsibility for publication (future executives of the W.C.A. could not therefore, reverse this situation).

It is felt that the general high standards of the W.C.A. membership, with respect to safety and environmental concern, will allow the trip guide to be a positive addition to the literature on canoeing.

To obtain a copy of the guide, please send a cheque for \$2.50, payable to the Wilderness Canoe Association, before Nov. 1, 1976, to Box 2073, Orillia, Ontario. For two copies, send \$4.50, and for three, send \$6.25. Your copy or copies will arrive with the next newsletter in December, just in time for Christmas.

Proceeds from the sale of the guide will cover expenses and increased mailing costs. Any surplus would remain in the association's treasury.

The trip guide will be assembled in September and October. Anybody who wishes to make a contribution to the material should call Roger Smith at his new number, (416) 534-0600, before November 1st.

Non-members who may read this announcement and wish to obtain the guide, should consider joining the W.C.A. in the near future. There is a membership application on the back cover of the newsletter.

Please remember to order by November 1st, so that we can conserve paper by giving the printer an accurate total for the publication.

Madawaska River

by Jim Greenacre

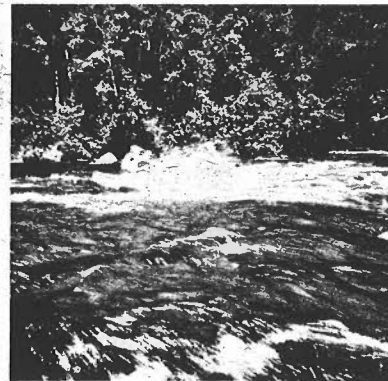
The Madawaska trip began at noon on Saturday, which spared Torontonians the agony of a middle-of-the-night start. We met at Griffith on Hwy. 41, and proceeded to a campsite that leader Glenn Spence had secured. This was at the end of a narrow gravel road (which became a dirt track before the river), beside a mild double-tier rapids.

There were four canoes, including two from Glenn's family. After lunch, we practised in the rapid, to become familiar with our partners and to allow the trip leader to evaluate each team. Then, we headed down-stream to find more challenging sites. After several hours and four easily-run rapids, we worked back upstream to the base camp.

Sunday morning, after a leisurely breakfast, we transported our canoes to a point just above the Snake Rapids. Some of the people stayed behind at the first camp while the rest canoed. Snake Rapids consists of many short rapids or chutes, separated by intervals of flat water, stretching over five miles. The tranquility of the quiet portions contrasted with the rush of water and roar of the rapids.

Most of the rapids were run by each team, with only three short portages. Our most experienced canoeists tried one fast and wild section, where it appeared that they had made it until they ran into the heavy waves at the bottom. Slowly shipping water, they were reduced to paddling a submerged canoe -- a tricky exercise -- try it for fun some time.

We arrived at base camp around 5:30 p.m. and so ended, except for the return road trip to retrieve our cars: a perfect week-end. Good clean air, good food (next time, Maureen, I promise to have more of it and not to forget the salami), good canoeing, and most of all, good company.



and Glenn Spence

We had an extremely pleasant weekend weather-wise and canoe-wise. Our group was able to combine family camping and white water canoeing using the base camp principle.

Our group of four canoes re-affirmed the W.C.A. ideal of having a minimum impact upon the environment.

On Saturday we practiced our white water techniques by our camp. The first crew out took approximately 6.75 minutes of paddling before they capsized. Cross currents are very tricky, and if you are not ready for them, you will be awfully wet in the blink of an eye. For the rest of the weekend, though, this crew did very well.

On Sunday we did the Snake Rapids. The water this year was the highest I have ever seen, which, of course, increases the volume of water making the Snake even more exciting.

The trip leader and his wife Gerry very ably demonstrated how to swamp a canoe in a souce hole. Yes folks, it really is possible to swamp a 17 foot Grumman white water canoe! Perhaps a spray cover might not be such a bad idea after all.

The trip leader also found out that when shooting solo through large waves, a 17 foot canoe appears to be a disadvantage because the violently churning waves are able to toss the longer canoe more easily because of the lightness of the extremities.

This illustrates the fact that you can never get enough canoeing because there is always something new to learn.

Hopefully we will have a large turnout at our annual meeting. Until then, happy paddling.

Conservation Report

by Sandy Richardson

Although the conservation committee has yet to meet with the National and Provincial Parks Association as reported in June, it has not been entirely inactive over the summer.

Ontario Trails Council

The O.T.C. has been formed to solicit public input toward the formulation of a comprehensive trails programme for Ontario. The Council will submit a policy framework to the government by September 1977.

One project is to write a manual defining design, construction, operating and maintenance standards to be applied to all trails managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources. In connection with this project, the Council has been contacting many groups actively involved in various trail activities, such as canoeing, hiking, X-C skiing, snowmobiling, cycling, riding, trail bike riding, etc.

The conservation committee has responded on behalf of the W.C.A. Our report included the following suggestions. The construction and design of all trails shall have a minimum impact on the natural environment. Trail markings and signs should be kept to an absolute minimum. Structure, such as bridges, guard-rails, etc., should be avoided except where they are necessary to preserve the environment. Multiple use of trails should be avoided. In particular, both mechanized and non-mechanized use of the same trails is unacceptable to people going out in search of wilderness; and further trails for "day trippers" should be separate from longer trails used by people on wilderness trips.

Finally, we supported the establishment of designated campsites with toilet facilities on heavily used trails. While this may be upsetting to some users, concentrating heavy impact in certain areas seems preferable to risking the destruction of the trail. Members wishing to have some impact of their own into the trails programme, can contact Dave Bean, Trail Operations Planner at (416) 965-3981.

Elora Gorge

Close to home, a recent court decision involving the attempt to stop the building of a bridge across Elora Gorge could have far reaching effects on the environment movement in general. The following report is reprinted courtesy of the Canadian Wildlife Federation.

In the 1800's, tourist trains brought people from across Canada and the northern United States to see the Elora Gorge, a unique and beautiful natural wonder located near the southern Ontario town of Elora. Now, in the name of progress, the gorge is being threatened. Concerned citizens defeated two judicial hearings to date, are seriously considering taking their case to the Supreme Court of Canada. Such a case could hold significance for more than just the future of the gorge. According to some, Ontario's entire environmental movement is at stake.

Gauged out of the soft limestone by glacial waters more than 20,000 years ago, the 100-foot-deep gorge was once a religious sanctuary for Indian tribes who worshipped the spirits they believed inhabited it. Since 1971, however, the County of Wellington has been attempting to gain approval for the construction of a bridge across the deepest and most picturesque part of the gorge where the Grand River meets Irvine Creek. Three years ago, citizens who opposed the bridge joined other environmental groups, including the Canadian Environmental Law Association, to form a coalition called GORGE - Groups Organized to Retain the Gorge for Everyone. GORGE's aim is to protect Elora Gorge from the winter road salt, the noise, the fumes and the visual disruption that a bridge would bring.

In June, 1974, the Grand River Conservation Authority voted to give up some of its parkland to the county for access to the proposed bridge. Two members of the Conservation Authority had voted against the proposal, and they took both the Authority and the county to court, seeking and injunction to stop the bridge. They claimed that the Conservation Authority had no right to transfer the land except for the purposes of "conservation, restoration, (parkland) development and management" as set out in the Conservation Authorities Act. The citizens and the two opposing Authority members believe that the building of a bridge would be inconsistent with those objectives.

David Estrin of the Canadian Environmental Law Association prepared the case on behalf of the GORGE members, and asked E.A. Goodman, Q.C., one of Ontario's most experienced and respected counselors, to represent the interests of the coalition in general, and the two Authority members in particular. At a hearing last July, Mr. Justice F.S. Weatherston ruled that only the Attorney General can launch legal action against a public body when matters of infringement of public rights are concerned. The case was appealed to the Ontario Court of Appeal, and Justice Weatherston's ruling was upheld.

This decision was viewed as a serious setback for the province's environmental movement. If only the Attorney General can go to court to protect public lands, citizens would effectively be prevented from fighting environmental abusers - even when laws are being broken.

If the GORGE coalition is to continue its fight to preserve Elora Gorge, more funds are needed. The cost of the case has been substantial, and the environment groups directly involved cannot absorb all the expenses. The Canadian Wildlife Federation urges the concerned Canadians to assist by sending donations to:

Elora Gorge Defence Fund
c/o The Canadian Environmental Law Association,
1 Spadina Crescent, Suite 303,
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2J5.

The Legal Rights of Nature

The following article, again courtesy of the Canadian Wildlife Federation, discusses the revolutionary idea that nature - animals, rivers, streams, trees, etc. - should have certain rights enshrined in law, just as people do. There is some movement toward this idea in the U.S.A., and it may well be the only way to ensure the survival of our natural environment.

The Legal Rights of Nature: A Revolutionary Concept

The spokesmen of the movement are neither harebrained radicals nor bleeding-heart activists. Prominent lawyers and judges number among those who believe the time has come for the institution of specific laws to protect the rights of all the 'things' that comprise the natural world.

As recently as last December, a Toronto construction company was convicted of injuring the roots of a Norway maple during a job at a city school. A student of landscape architecture laid the charge, and the case was handled through the Canadian Environmental Law Association by John Swaigan. The case resulted in a suspended sentence, but, in the assessment of Mr. Swaigan, "established that members of the public can lay a charge to protect trees they don't legally own".

Founded in 1970, the Canadian Environmental Law Association is involved in many such test cases, and continues its efforts to protect the environment in the courts. Mr. Swaigan told Wildlife Report in a January interview that "a general understanding that the environment is very important has grown in the courts".

"But more specific legislation is needed," he said, "especially regarding the private rights of people on their own land. At present, the courts will not interfere in whatever a property owner wishes to do on his own land, even if he needlessly destroys the environment, as long as he does not affect the property of anyone else."

The Canadian Government has few laws aimed at prohibiting pollution and wanton destruction of the environment, and one lawyer, at least, advocates the establishment of specific natural rights that do not originate with any government body per se.

Christopher D. Stone is a Harvard law graduate who now teaches law at the University of Southern California and serves as chairman of the United States Committee on Law and the Humanities. His paper, "Should Trees Have Standing? - Toward Legal Rights for Natural Objects", first published in the Southern California Law Review, 1972, presents a convincing argument.

Using as a basis the concept that most people perceive nature only as something to be used by man, Mr. Stone argues that this concept must change if man, and the environment so vital to his existence, are to survive.

Mr. Stone proposes that rights be given to forests, rivers, oceans and the rest of the natural world. Only if these natural objects have legal rights, he insists, can we really begin to value and protect them meaningfully and consistently.

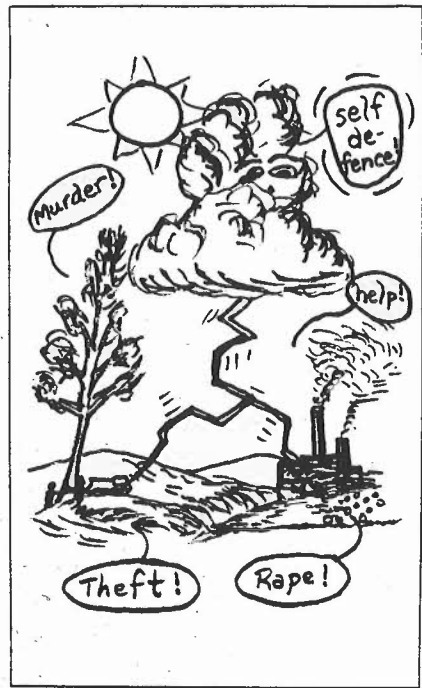
"For a thing to be a holder of legal rights," he says, "something more is needed than that some authoritative body review the actions and processes of those who threaten it."

A legal right involves three basic components: One, that the holder can initiate action at his own request; two, that when a favourable court decision prompts some type of repayment for damage, the court must take the right holder's injury into account; and finally, that the form of repayment must be directly beneficial to the right holder. Natural objects have no such legal rights at the moment, says Mr. Stone, despite the fact that pollution is illegal, and such projects as pollution clean-ups and timber cutting limits are undertaken to mend man-made damage.

He uses the example of a polluted stream to explain the current "rightlessness" of nature. As far as the law is concerned, no court actions against polluters can be undertaken unless charges are laid by a person or specific group of persons suffering as a result. It is often difficult, however, to determine whether suffering has, in fact, occurred. For example, if a factory located beside the stream pollutes its water, the factory owners may argue in court not only that everything possible is being done to limit the pollution, but also - and more significantly - that the factory is benefitting the community (through employment, for example) more than it is damaging it. The latter argument might well be successful for two reasons: Firstly, even people do not have a legal right guaranteeing that a stream flowing past their property must be unpolluted. Secondly, the courts traditionally consider only economic factors in such cases, says Mr. Stone. In the case of the polluted stream, for example, the court would weigh the economic impact of the pollution against the economic hardship imposed on the factory by an enforced clean-up.

"What does not weigh in the balance is the damage to the stream...its fish, turtles and other lower life," says Mr. Stone. "The stream itself is lost sight of in a quantitative compromise between two conflicting interests." Even if the victim of the pollution were to win the court case, the settlement or repayment would be made to the people involved, and not to the actual sufferer of the damage - namely, the stream. If the stream had specific legal rights, suggests Mr. Stone, the repayment would have to involve an effort to make the stream 'whole' again.

If a forest, for example, were awarded money by the court to compensate for an over-cutting violation, the compensation could be calculated by estimating the cost of reforesting the area. The money could then be placed in a trust fund in the name of the land. That fund would pay for reforestation as well as legal fees. In addition, a beneficial spin-off could result if such funds were established. Mr. Stone proposes that if a naturally-caused forest fire caused damage, money could also be taken from the fund to reimburse the people who suffered.



Central to Mr. Stone's proposals is the concept of a legal guardianship, as in the case of Corporations of estates, through which objects or groups of objects in the natural world could be given an effective voice in court. He describes a potential guardian as "any friend of a natural object (who) perceives it to be endangered". This person, or group, would apply to the courts for legal guardianship.

Such an arrangement would involve a variety of protective responsibilities undertaken by the guardian on behalf of the natural object, Mr. Stone explains. He uses the example of a person or group who felt that strip mining in a certain area was irreparably damaging the ecological balance of the area. In the land's name, the guardian could be given the legal right of inspection (or visitation) to determine the measures necessary to correct the situation; he could argue in court the rights of the land in the land's own name; he could represent the land at legislative or administrative hearings.

Many contend that extant government environmental departments and agencies already serve as adequate guardians. Mr. Stone disagrees. Governments, he says, represent so many divergent interests that the welfare of the environment is often forced into a very low priority position.

He emphasizes the direct value to man of the guardianship concept, proposing that the guardian of a natural object be viewed as "the guardian of unborn generations as well as of the otherwise unrepresented but distantly (or indirectly) injured contemporary humans".

"The time is already upon us when we may have to consider subordinating some human claims to those of the environment," Mr. Stone says.

"We have to give up some psychic investment in our sense of separateness and specialness in the universe".

Spanish River

W.C.A. member Ross Hendershot contacted the conservation committee following a spring trip down the Spanish River in northern Ontario. He had found a drilling rig taking core samples between Graveyard Rapids and Lake Agnew, and was concerned that the International Nickel Company was planning a power dam at the site.

The committee looked into this and it appears that there are no imminent plans to dam the Spanish. I.N.C.O. reports that they are conducting feasibility studies of the Spanish and other rivers in the Sudbury area, looking for power sources. However, that is all that is happening at present.

Prior to any work going ahead on damming any of these rivers, environmental impact studies will be carried out; at which time canoeists would have an opportunity to voice any concerns that they might have. We will be watching for any future developments in this area.

WCA Summer Trip Reports

by Sandy Richardson

Since the last issue, we have run day trips on the Kennisis and Mississauga Rivers; weekend trips on the French, Magnetawan, and Madawaska Rivers; longer trips on the Vermilion, Lady Evelyn and Coulonge Rivers; and three white-water training sessions at Palmer Rapids.

Mississauga River

by Don Bent

Glenn and Gerry Spence, Gord Fenwick and Dave Auger, Jim Bent and I shared a pleasant day's outing on this intermediate river near Peterborough on June 12th. Water levels were such, that portaging was kept to a minimum, and the many class I and II rapids made for a stimulating day.

Fifty years ago, loggers were active on this river (which flows south into the Kawartha Lake system). At the entrance to a gorge locally known as the "Log Chute", a slide was built to funnel logs over a fast drop. The slide is still there, and funnels canoes just as efficiently as it used to funnel logs.

The noon lunch stop was combined with a philosophical discussion of the relative merits of A.B.S. and Grumman canoes, and ended with a friendly competition in forming figure eights. Glenn suggested some remedial instruction for certain members in writing skills.

The Mississauga made an interesting run, right out to the last rapids, which we shared with a surprised and embarrassed picknicker (Ed.note; not me, I had already left!)

The following reports and photographs from participants testify to a successful summer of canoeing.

We are still looking for trip leaders; this time for our winter outings. If you would like to lead a snowshoeing, X-C skiing, or winter camping trip, please let me know the details by the middle of November. We're counting on you.

Kennisis River

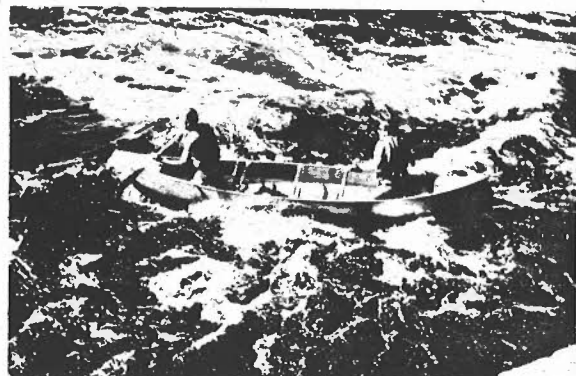
by Dave Auger

Saturday A.M. June 5th: sunny, clear, hot...high water but few bugs. A beautiful day for canoeing in Haliburton. By 9:30 A.M., six canoes were crossing Kennisis Lake heading toward the Kennisis River. The trip would be mostly on lakes but with two sections of fast water on the Kennisis River - one just below the Red Pine Dam, and the other between Nunikani Lake and Big Hawk Lake. Or so we thought. But after lunching at Red Pine Dam, we discovered that the high water had taken all the fun out of the section of the river below the dam. What a let-down! We eagerly paddled on...anxious to run the fast water section which leads into Big Hawk Lake. Last August a scenic campsite was situated just beside this part of the river. But to our dismay we again found that the high spring water had covered the campsite and taken all the fast water out of the river. We were all understandably disappointed, but could see no other place on the map where we could turn to bring us to white water. An unexpected advantage of the high water was that it made a creek of deadheads (which had necessitated a half mile portage last August) navigable.

By Sunday, with my credibility being at a low ebb, we did find a beautiful ten metre waterfall (which had been promised). We didn't run this in the canoes, but seven of us were able to cool off behind the falls and standing under water cascading over a cliff onto the rocks below.

In short, a beautiful weekend for canoeing...but for twelve canoeists in search of white water on the Kennisis River...a disappointment.

French River



Photographs: French River rapids. Left: Big Pine Right: Upper Parisien.

photos by Cam Salsbury.

Magnetawan River

by Roger Smith

Six paddlers had a very enjoyable trip on the Magnetawan River in July. The water levels were quite high for mid-summer after the heavy rainfalls, but the three days of the trip were pleasantly dry. The trip led from picturesque Wahwashkesh Lake, west for almost forty miles to the bridge on Hwy 69.

Canal Rapids and Thirty Dollar Rapids provided the most challenging whitewater. In these gorges, the river narrows to a few yards in places, and the rapids are almost continuous for more than half a mile. Gord Fenwick

and I practiced the art of paddling solo, which was a new experience. For one who is used to having a partner, there are several adjustments to make. The wind can blow you off course if you're not careful. It's harder to manoeuvre side to side, however you can slow down to a crawl, and you can ride higher waves. There's certainly less danger of swamping when you're alone.

The Magnetawan trip is very good for variety. There are some lakes to cross, some calm river stretches, a few falls with portages, and plenty of rapids. The country is quite wild with scenic red granite and white pine. We'll no doubt be back.

Lady Evelyn River

by Gerry Hodge

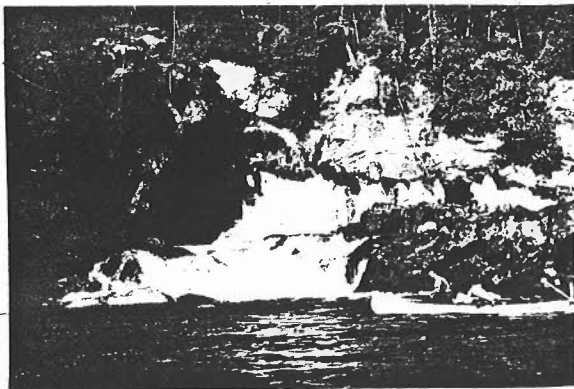
Participants: Dave Chong, Gord Fenwick, Gerry Hodge, Jim Greenacre, Ken and Dennis Brailsford.

The four day trip began with an eight hour drive to the take-off point on Isabel Lake. The three canoes arrived at around 12 pm, and after an uneventful night we headed into the Temagami Forest Preserve by crossing Isabel and portaging into the Lady Evelyn watershed.

The first day was typical travelling weather. Mist and rain alternated all day. The river was young and thin with many logs, trees, and a few logging bridges crossing the river sections. We spent some time lifting and skidding the canoes over these obstacles. Rapids were small and short with a little "scootering" required in parts. Lake sections alternated most of the morning but gradually gave way to a smooth, broad river with a slow steady current. On one of the lakes we saw a cow moose with a calf at the water's edge. We travelled late, making the most of poor weather. The rain stopped at about 6:30 and we found a campsite half a mile before the end of the smooth section, covering 20 miles on the first day.

We left the next morning with a grey sky but no rain. Heavy cloud and mist continued throughout the day. Within five minutes we were at the first of a series of rapids, and over the rest of the day we encountered many rapids of grade I and II and a few tricky grade III's which we lined down and shot in part or portaged. The river grew larger every mile and the rapids more challenging. They were relatively short rapids with pools at the bottom, and the trickiest parts were quite near the bottom - safe canoeing. The portages were only occasionally marked with signs. Blazed trees marked most portage trails. We shot a lovely boulder run just above the first falls which required a lot of careful manoeuvring and pointed out the flaws of the Kamokazi approach to rapid running. It was exhilarating. After some trouble finding the portage (quite near the first drop on the right), we camped beside Helen Falls with water roaring down three drops to a pool 70 feet below. Spectacular! The sky cleared that evening and we awoke to bright sunshine.

The next day was perfect and after portaging and shooting sections of the two remaining falls, we entered Suckergut Lake. We set up camp by noon and prepared for the highlight of our trip -- an assault on Maple Mountain. Without Sherpa guides, pitons, climbing ropes or oxygen, we canoed back into a marsh and began struggling through thick Temagami bush and marsh, pushing ever upward toward the Ranger Tower far above. By five o'clock we had covered three-quarters of the way but saw our quest was to be in vain. To continue would have meant a night in the bush on meagre rations which could scarcely keep us ahead of the weight loss due to browsing insects. Reluctantly and with a defiant toss of our heads we decided to descend. Upon our return, we found our canoes had been moved by the notorious Demon of the North Woods and were a quarter-mile from where we had thought we left them. After their speedy recovery at dusk, we returned to camp for a late meal. The trip covered seven miles altogether and needless to say, we were bushed (sic) when we returned.



Photograph: Lady Evelyn River; foot of a waterfall.

Vermilion River

by Yu Jin Pak

Despite the proximity of the CN railroad tracks, the four day (43 miles) Vermilion River trip proved to be an excellent wilderness trip with some spectacular scenery - 200 ft cliffs, miniature canyons and gorges, etc..

The trip began with a wet camp followed by a 40 mile train ride (CN #675: \$6.75 incl. canoe per person) from Capreol to our starting point on Thor Lake. Our party of four canoes paddled through an initial chain of headwater lakes under a steady drizzle and overcast, to reach the river proper on the second day. The Vermilion in these lakes has a number of lodges and is supposed to be excellent for fishing.

The whitewater which we had hoped for from the second day on, proved to be somewhat anticlimatic. The Vermilion, which is normally low in July, was even lower than expected this time and prohibited all but wading, lining and dragging in many of the rapids. Rock-dodging and suntanning were on call for the rest of the trip. However, the Vermilion, which drops 250 ft in the twenty miles before Capreol, would likely be an excellent spring white-water river. We left much paint and aluminum on the numerous gravel bars and rapids, but the exquisite scenery at many places, the lack of car switching hassles, as well as the prospect of high water in spring, made the Vermilion noteworthy for a return visit next year.



Photograph: Vermilion River; Lining and walking through one of many shallow rapids.

photo by S.Richardson.

Photograph: Vermilion River; paddling one of the lake sections.

photo by S.Richardson.



WCA Fall Outings Schedule

by Sandy Richardson

If you want to get out into the wilds to enjoy some Indian summer weather, see the beauty of the forest in the fall, meet other members, and share tales of summer trips, or take a last fling at white water -- all without those bothersome bugs -- here is our fall schedule of canoeing and back-packing trips. Some September outings were announced in the last newsletter; check for details.

As always, both members and non-members are most welcome on all trips. Please contact the trip leader at least two weeks before the outing to sign up, and to get full details.

Several summer trips were less than fully-booked this year. On the Magnetawan trip, leader Roger Smith wishes to apologize to those who called repeatedly and got no answer. He was away for most of the period before the trip.

SCHEDULE OF CANOE TRIPS

- (1) SEPTEMBER 25-26, WHITEWATER TRAINING SESSION Leader: Eric Arthurs. (416) 759-8232.

If you missed the highly successful whitewater sessions run in the summer, Eric Arthurs has arranged for another one this fall. Instruction in reading and running white water will again be provided by John McRuer and his Algonquin Waterways staff,

to W.C.A. members only, at the reduced price of \$45. There is a limit of 5 canoes (10 people), so it is imperative that anyone interested get their \$10 deposit in to Eric immediately. Application on page 12. Further details from Eric.

- (2) OCTOBER 2-3, YORK - MADAWASKA RIVERS Leader: Roger Smith. (416) 534-0600.

This trip will be partly for scouting purposes, and partly for a chance to run the Snake Rapids on the Madawaska. The preliminary report on the York is that

there are several sets of rapids, and one long flat stretch. The autumn colours should be out in all their glory on the Madawaska hills. Open to anybody with a moderate amount of experience in fast water (intermediate).

- (3) OCTOBER 2-3, PALMER RAPIDS Leader: Don Bent. (705) 799-5673.

A low-key week-end of sharing skills, techniques, and ideas at a camp beside an excellent Class II rapid. An opportunity to

share what you know, and to learn from others. Suitable for novices or better.

- (4) OCTOBER 9-11, BACK-PACKING IN ALGONQUIN PARK Leader: Barry Brown (416) 823-1079.

A Thanksgiving week-end trip through crisp autumn air. The 30-km. loop route on the Western Uplands Trail should provide plenty of opportunity for adventurers

and photographers to capture the late season beauty. Come prepared for cool nights near the freezing point, and warm days. Limit of eight hikers.

- (5) OCTOBER 17, BLACK RIVER Leader: Roger Smith (416) 534-0600.

This Sunday trip will allow you to see the last of the fall colours from a secluded river within 150 kms. drive

of the urban south. Some white water, but mostly tranquil river between Vankoughnet and Coopers' Falls. Everybody welcome. Limit of 6 canoes.

- (6) OCTOBER 23-24, FRENCH RIVER Leader: Sandy Richardson (416) 429-3944.
Suitable for intermediates or better. Limit of 4 canoes.

A return trip to the historic French River. Rugged scenery, and many challenging rapids, even at autumn water levels.

- (7) NOVEMBER 6, HIKING ON THE BRUCE TRAIL Leader: Pat Shipton (416) 690-2219.

A pleasant 12-km. day hike in the Rattlesnake Point area. Come along and

learn the art of tin-foil cookery. Limit of 8 hikers.

- (8) NOVEMBER 21, CREDIT RIVER Leaders: Randy Wallace (416) 694-5585
Ken Brailsford (416) 691-2358
medium rapids for beginners or better. Limit of 6 canoes.

Beat the freeze-up on the last W.C.A. canoe trip of the season. The scenic upper Credit offers easy to

Roger Smith finds that he has a week off November 1 to 5, and he is planning to go down to the Smoky Mtns. of North Carolina, reputedly a canoeist's paradise,

especially in this autumn colour season (down there). If interested in coming along, for about four days plus driving, contact him at 534-0600. Relax, Gord, I'll finish the newsletter before I take off.

Gord Fenwick has initiated a book review column for the Wilderness Canoeist, and here are some of the first entries:

CANOEING LORE

Pole, Paddle and Portage, by Bill Riviere, published by Van Nostrand Reinhold Ltd., 1410 Birchmount Rd., Scarborough, Ont. M1P 2E7.

There is much for the beginner and expert alike to ponder and learn from. This is a comprehensive book on canoe tripping, from the design of canoes through techniques and camping to orienteering and weather prediction. This is indeed a book worthy of the canoeist's library.

Wilderness Emergency by Gene Fear, pub. by Survival Education Association, 9035 Golden River Road, Tacoma, Wash. U.S.A. 98445.

This book, well-written with many illustrations and charts, gives the wilderness wanderer an excellent insight into the dangers faced and the techniques or plans required to avoid or overcome them, so that one can travel in comfort in any season. Some topics discussed are Anticipating and Reacting to Problems, Psychological Stress, General Survival, Body Energy, Survival in Cold and Heat, Navigation and Leadership.

CANOE ROUTE INFORMATION

Canoe Canada by Nick Nickels, pub. by Van Nostrand Reinhold (see above).

The newly-released edition gives information on canoe routes throughout Canada, and includes chapters on map reading, canoes, canoeing techniques, and camping.

This is a good starting point for the person planning a trip, as it lists topographical maps, outfitters, air charters, and other agencies to contact. (Ed. note: Readers should note that the book is not designed to give complete trip guide data, but instead identifies routes.)

Wild River Surveys are coming into print after the 1974 completion of the cross-Canada survey by Parks Canada. Already available are Wild Rivers: Alberta and Wild Rivers: Saskatchewan. The write-ups appear to be quite complete, giving data on vegetation, wildlife, river gradients, portage trails, access points, maps required etc. For further information, write to Information Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0S9, or ask at the nearest Information Canada bookshop.

Guide des Rivieres du Quebec was compiled by the Federation Quebecoise de Canot-Kayak, and is published by Messageries du Jour Inc., 8255 Rue Durocher, Montreal, P.Q., H3N 2A8. This book describes most of the canoe routes in Quebec, in considerable detail. En francais.

HISTORY

Fur Trade Canoe Routes of Canada: Then and Now by Eric Morse, published by the National and Historic Parks Branch of Parks Canada.

A well-illustrated book which describes the fur trade routes of the Hudson Bay and North West Companies.

The Fur Trade in the Moose-Missinaibi River Valley 1770-1917, Research Report 8, by Douglas Baldwin, pub. by the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, Historical Planning and Research Branch. (available at the Ontario Gov't. Book Store, Bay St. south of Wellesley in Toronto, \$2.50.)

A must for anybody contemplating a trip on the Missinaibi -- certainly this book will show that, in addition to scenic and white water attributes, there are strong historic reasons for designating the Missinaibi as a wild river.

Angel of Hudson Bay (the true story of Maud Watt) by William Ashley Anderson, pub. by Clarke Irwin Ltd.

This is the account of James and Maud Watt managing the Hudson Bay Post at Rupert House on James Bay, of their travels across Ungava by snowshoe and canoe, and of their great effort to save the beaver from extinction on behalf of the Cree people. A heart-warming story.

Strangers Devour the Land, by Boyce Richardson, pub. by Macmillan of Canada Ltd.

The life-style of the Cree and Inuit peoples of north-western Quebec come into conflict with the plans of the James Bay Development Corp., resulting in one of the great tragedies of our time. This is the story of the Cree people uniting and fighting through the Canadian legal system to assert ownership of their land and to fight the Corporation. Moreover, it is an insight into the life and values of the Cree people. As one who has travelled the area in 1972, I was impressed with the author's expression of love and concern for the people and their land.

This is a book which every Canadian should read, to ponder what is most important in life!

Members! If you read a good book or article related to canoeing or wilderness camping, share your impressions with the rest of us in the Wilderness Canoeist. Send a short description to our book report editor, Pat Shipton: 3 Cedar Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4E 1K1.

Products and Services

Ken and Elsie Fisher of Nova Craft Canoes wish to announce their new shoe keel 16' Tripper (capacity 900 lbs) and their 17' Tripper due this fall. These canoes are constructed of fiberglass or Kevlar 49, with hardwood trim and rawhide laced seats. Special fall discounts of 15% on orders placed by fellow W.C.A. members.

Located in Glanworth, 3 miles south of London, Ontario. Phone Ken or Elsie at (519) 652-2347 for further information.

Coleman Craft Canoes are now available in fiberglass, fiberglass & polypropylene, and fiberglass & kevlar, in 12'8", 14'8", and 16' L.O.A. (available with laker-type keel and shallow keel for river use.). Custom-made and sold only at our shop. Maximum production is limited to 100 per year. Please phone if you are interested in viewing films of our canoes and discussing their features. Bill Coleman, Galt. (519) 623-1804/1894. Workshop at 333 Dundas St. (No.8 Hwy., Galt).

10% Discounts to W.C.A. members who produce a membership card, for non-discount items, are available at:

Don Bell Sports Shop, 164 Front St., Trenton.	Margesson's, 17 Adelaide St. E, Toronto.
A.B.C. Sports Yonge St. south of Wellesley, Toronto	and all Australian Tire

If considering a major purchase, check ahead, and contact membership chairperson Marg Kitchen for a card if required.

Margesson's (17 Adelaide St. E., Toronto) have extra 1976 camp catalogues available. Discounts apply on most items; write for one.

WCA Canoeing Standards Questionnaire

In past issues of our W.C.A. newsletter, articles have appeared expressing concern over the establishment of a standardized course to teach canoeing.

A course has now been developed by the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association, a national canoeing body funded mainly by the Canadian government by way of Sport Canada. The levels of achievement of the course would eventually lead to the level at which one would become a recognized, certified canoe instructor.

In the past some of us in the W.C.A. have voiced our concern over these standards, but if we are to express further opinions on this matter as an association, we must know your opinions.

Thus we are asking you to:

- 1) Fill in the enclosed survey of your opinions
- 2) Send us a letter explaining your opinion on the matter in detail if you feel more explanation is required.

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) For all questions except Part A #2,3 and Part C #3, circle one of A, B, C, D, E, to indicate your answer of A strongly agree; B agree; C undecided, no opinion; D disagree; E strongly disagree.
- 2) In Part A #2,3 and Part C #3, circle the letter indicating your choice.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: _____

PART A National Recreational Canoeing Association

1. A national body (such as the C.R.C.A.) is needed to oversee the various aspects of the sport and determine its future. A B C D E
2. If such a body were created, membership should be open to: A B C D E
 - a) recognized "experts" in canoeing A
 - b) recreational canoeing clubs only B
 - c) any interested individual C
 - d) provincial representation (example: Canoe Ontario) D
 - e) other: _____ (specify) E
3. Within this body, decisions relating to the future direction of recreational canoeing should be made by: A B C D
 - a) recognized "experts" A
 - b) a committee of club representatives B
 - c) all the individual members C
 - d) other: _____ (specify) D

PART B National Instruction/Certification Programme

4. An important function of such a national recreational canoeing body should be to set up a national programme based on levels of skill/achievement and certification integrated with the currently existing Red Cross swimming programme. A B C D E

5. Such a programme would make canoeing safer. A B C D E
6. The certification levels would be good criteria to use in restricting access to canoeing areas: A B C D E
 - a) for safety reasons A B C D E
 - b) for ecological reasons A B C D E
7. Such a programme would significantly decrease the destruction of the environment now caused by many thoughtless or indifferent canoeists. A B C D E
8. If such a programme were established, canoeists without high levels of certification would be considered "not very good" canoeists. (see next question before answering) A B C D E
9. If such a programme were established, canoeists without certification should be considered to be "not very good" canoeists. A B C D E
10. Such a programme should be funded out of tax revenues. A B C D E
11. The national body should not get up a single programme, but should encourage many varied instructional programmes with no attempt at certification. A B C D E

PART C Certification and Standards in General

1. The W.C.A. should endorse the establishment of the C.R.C.A. A B C D E
2. The W.C.A. should endorse the establishment of a national instruction/certification programme. A B C D E
3. Would you endorse the letter "Open Letter to the C.R.C.A.", that appeared on page 5 of the June '76 issue of *The Wilderness Canoeist*? A B C D E

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

MAIL completed forms to Gord Fenwick.

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.

WCA WHITEWATER TRAINING SESSIONS (open to WCA members only)

NAME _____ PHONE _____
 ADDRESS _____

NUMBER ATTENDING _____ OWN CANOE? _____

PLEASE ENCLOSE A \$10 DEPOSIT, PAYABLE TO ERIC ARTHURS.
 MAIL TO: ERIC ARTHURS, 100 APPLEFIELD DR., SCARBOROUGH

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