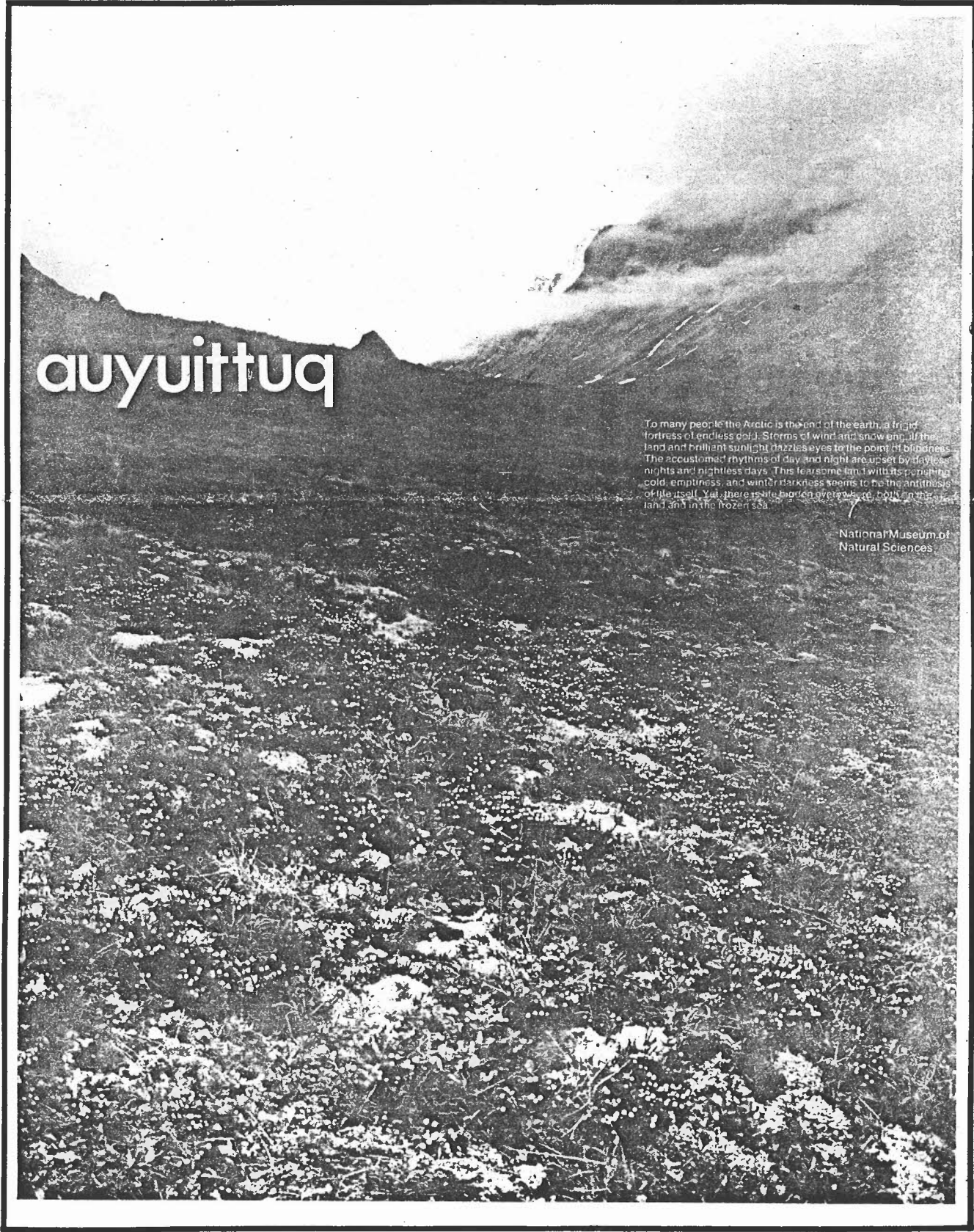




# the wilderness canoeist

volume 5    number 3

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## auyuittuq

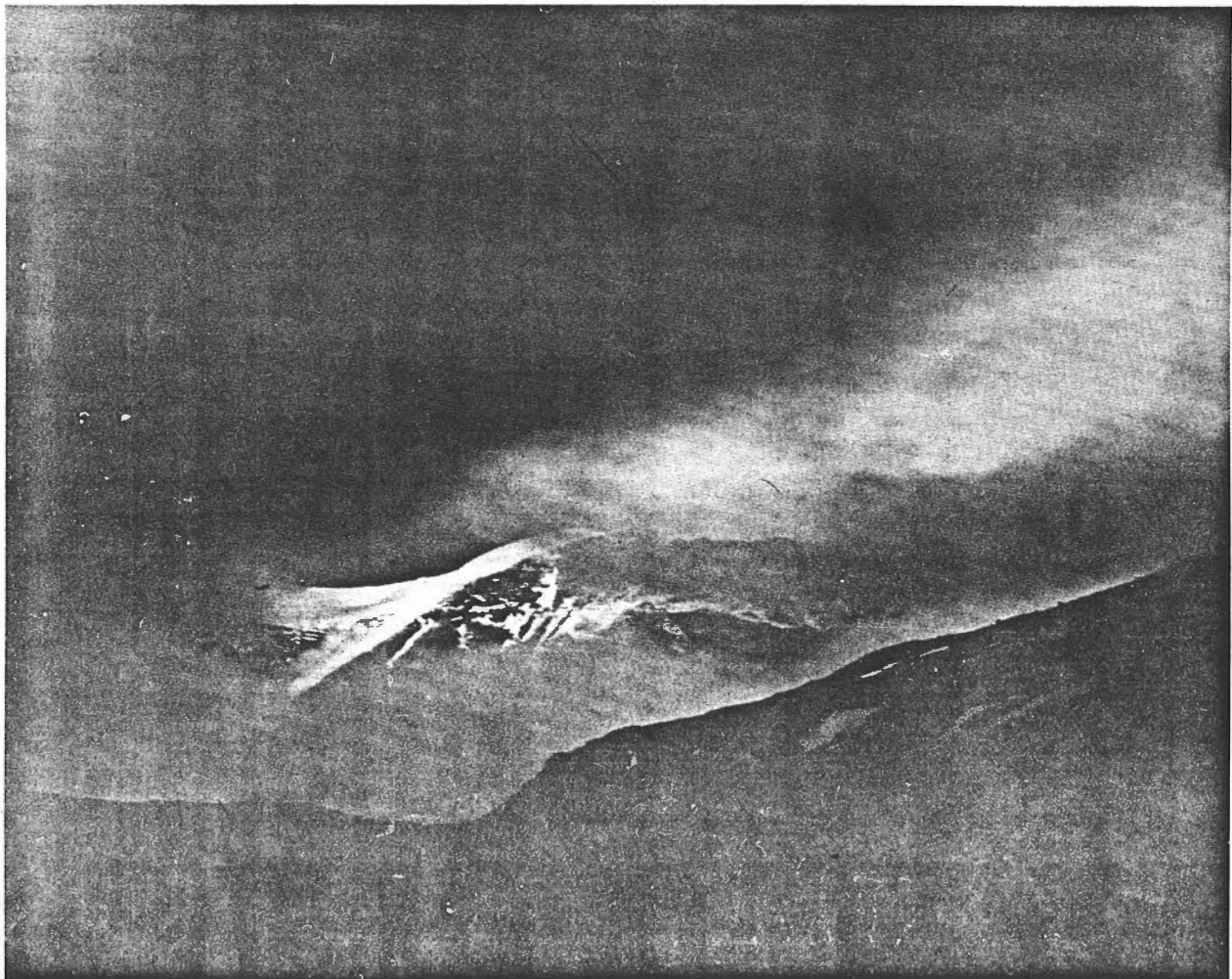
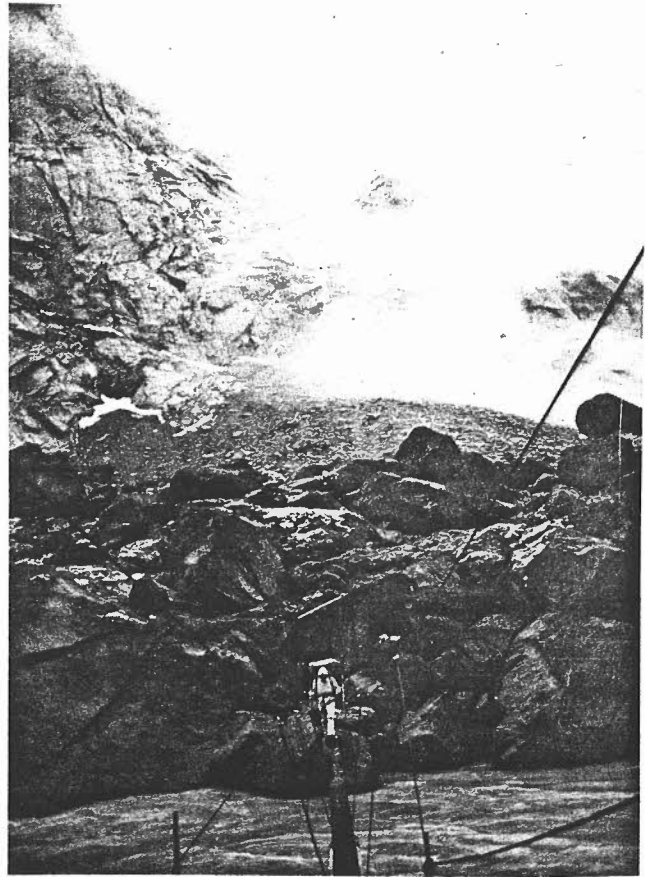
To many people the Arctic is the end of the earth, a frigid fortress of endless cold. Storms of wind and snow engulf the land and brilliant sunlight dazzles eyes to the point of blindness. The accustomed rhythms of day and night are upset by dayless nights and nightless days. This fearsome land with its scorching cold, emptiness, and winter darkness seems to be the antithesis of life itself. Yet, there is life hidden everywhere, both on the land and in the frozen sea.

National Museum of  
Natural Sciences

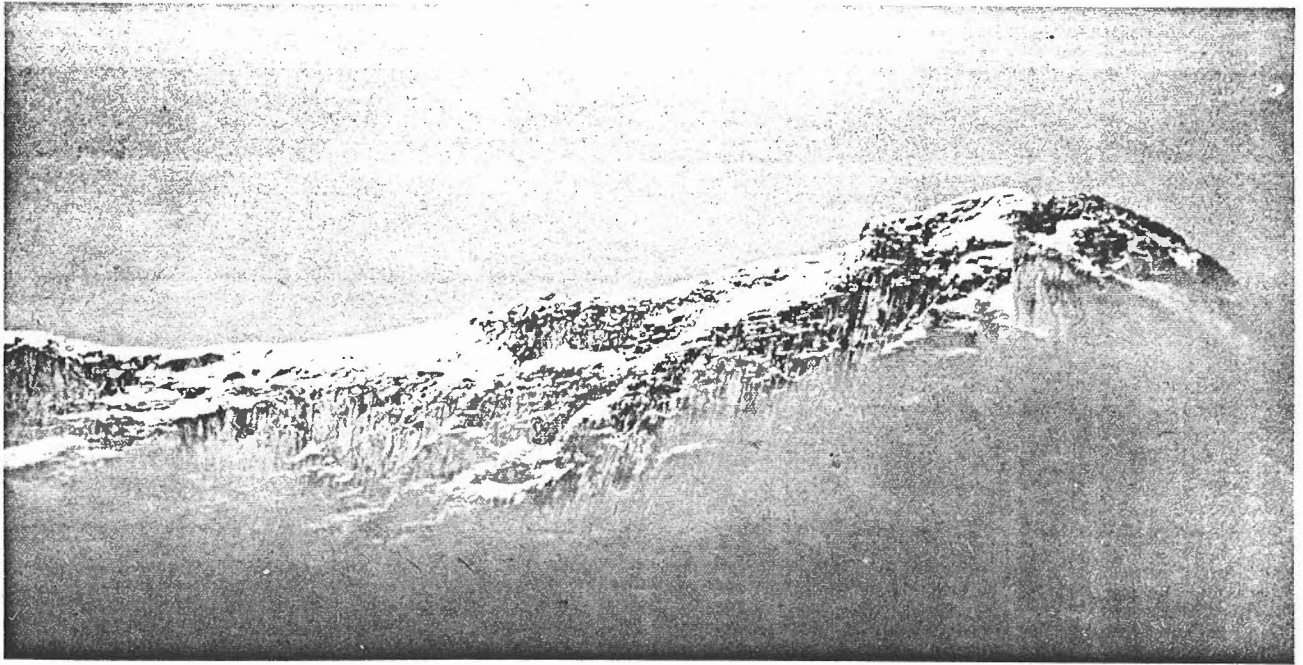
For thousands of years a single massive ice sheet, the Laurentide, smothered almost all of Arctic Canada in a vast, silent immensity of inland ice. Outlet glaciers from the main sheet streamed through the land with a thrust so mighty that the landscape, most notably the Cumberland Peninsula of Baffin Island, was transformed under tremendous pressure into one where sky, earth, mountains and rock converge into one of the world's most spectacular alpine areas.

Remote in the wild solitude, Auyuittuq quickly dispells the myth that all of the vast Arctic tundra is a flat, formless, snowswept void. Today, scattered relics of the ice age linger in high mountain passes surrounded by immense rock moraines, craggy cloud encrusted peaks and domes of precambrian granite soaring to heights of two thousand metres or more, amongst the greatest collection of glaciers outside Greenland and Antarctica. Slashing through the heights of these inland mountains are innumerable canyons and fiords, some of which have vertical walls rising directly from the sea to the glacier-capped uplands above. Waterfalls fed by melting glaciers, plunge in silver ribbons over sheer granite precipices to the valleys below, feeding a rich and varied abundance of tundra life.

In these valleys, nature's most powerful forces live a peaceful co-existence within the complex rhythms of a delicate and fragile ecosystem. Rugged as this land appears, it is extremely vulnerable to man's impact.





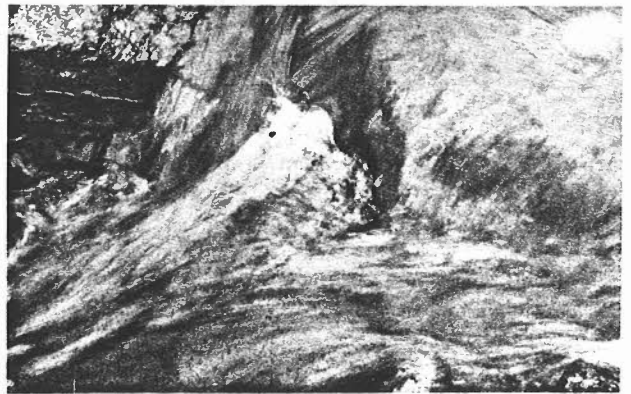


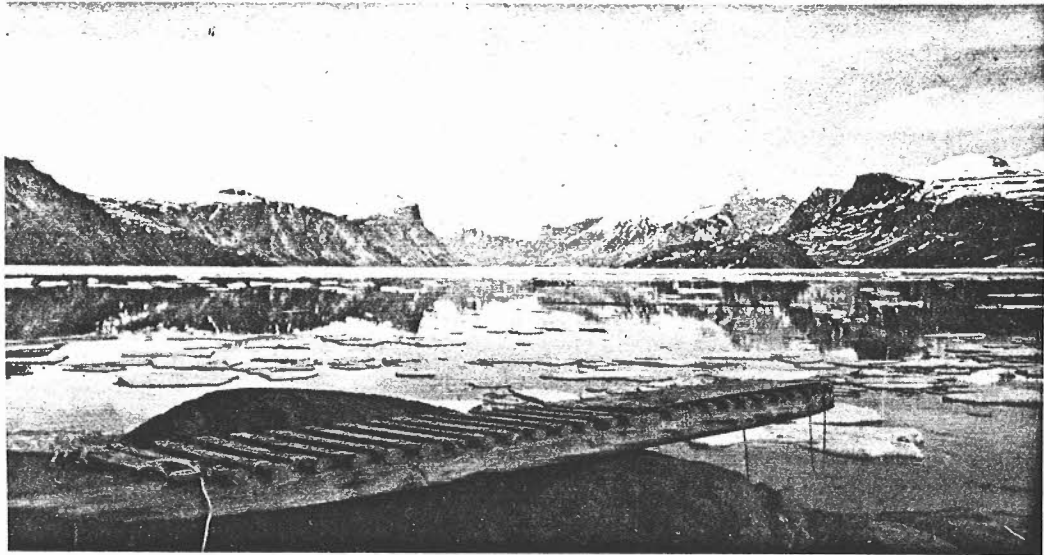
Nature sets harsh terms for life on the Arctic tundra, and one can almost hear the valleys breathing. It is a living world, and summer is a time for life. The surface, in many places is covered with mosses and lichens forming a vast resilient carpet. Tiny blooms burst with astonishing colour on this monochromatic landscape. In this startlingly finite season, reproduction must counter winter's violence to keep nature in precarious balance. The warmth of never-setting summer sun brings forth plants by the hundreds, which bloom and go to seed with dramatic speed as they cling to a slim margin of life in the few centimetres of thawed soil near the surface. Along the banks of the many mountain streams are tiny gardens of purple saxifrage, mountain avens, arctic heather and a variety of other species all holding to their own cherished niches between the raging melt-flow and rock moraine. Vibrant yellow arctic poppies bob gently in the cool wind, and nestled down among the lichen covered boulders, lapland rhododendron reach for the life-giving sun.

The arctic environment is never static and the weather patterns can change almost instantly. There are times when the sun disappears for days as the land becomes enveloped in a dense blanket of fog and mist, suspending everything in a wet grey world. This tended to be the norm during our stay in the Eastern Arctic as we backpacked from the Inuit village of Pangnirtung north through the weasel valley and Pangnirtung Pass, across the Arctic Circle at the foot of Mount Tirokwa to Summit Lake.

In 1925, D. Soper, during the first reconnaissance survey of the area wrote: "Everywhere one looked were nameless mysterious peaks, canyons, ice caps and glaciers. It was an unforgettable polar panorama with the Penny Ice Cap a relatively short distance away to the northwest." This description is as appropriate today as it was then.

Camped in the silent isolation of almost zero visibility on the tundra of a mountain slope beside ice covered Summit Lake, we anticipated climbing and photographing the Turner and Caribou Glaciers. As we waited patiently three nights for a break in the weather, we found comfort for the soul in recalling the Inuit approach to the vicissitudes of fate: "It can't be helped". Unfortunately the weather never did clear, and time pressure, that southern shackle, soon forced us to move on.



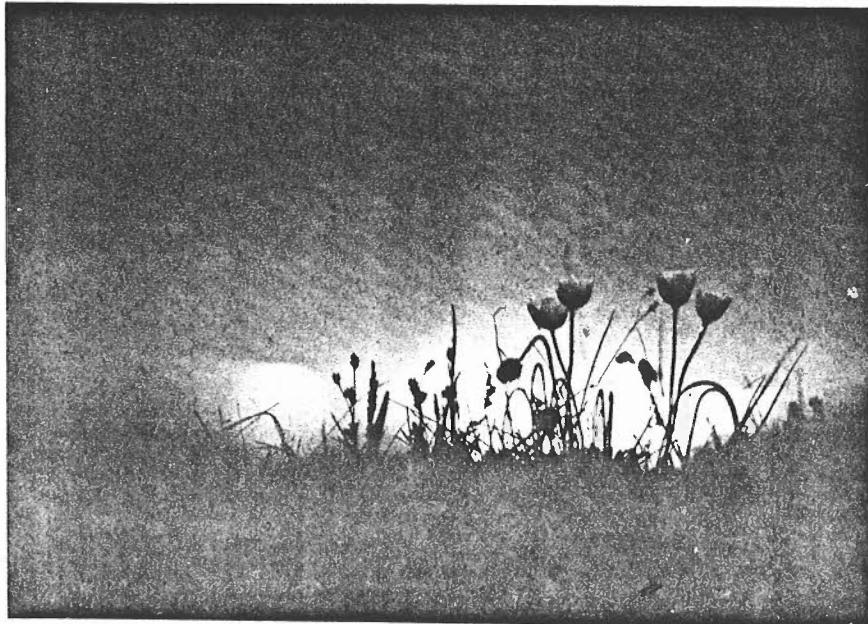


On those rare evenings when the cloud lifted, the awesome spectacle of the midnight sun would fill the entire valley, and wrap our world in a soft orange glow. Mountain peaks and ice fields far in the distance would come alive and radiate in shimmering brightness as the polar sky slowly turned an inky blue.

At times we would photograph until late at night, crawling over the wet tundra on hands and knees, looking much like a couple of bearded lemmings in gawdy rainsuits searching for something on the rock studded slopes. At other times we would just sit and listen to the wind, allowing our thoughts to expand, experiencing and savouring the beauty and power of our surroundings.

Here, in Auyuittuq, we lived close to the land and in tune with the cycles of nature, experiencing the full glory of the most elemental forces of nature. We found freedom in a wild and beautiful land.

Barry Brown & Sandy Richardson



# Winiskisis River

John Cross

The cow moose eased into the water, but kept her head up watchfully as her calf splash-ed about, enjoying its bath. All seemed peace-ful as usual on the swampy, silent shores of Justice Lake, and she did not take any partic-ular notice of the five metre silver log lying in the water nearby. Suddenly, she heard a click unlike any forest creature's sound. Her ears twitched, alert for the second click, and then the next, and the next. She grunted a warning to her calf and leaped up the bank. Her baby tried to follow her, fell backwards into the water, and then, with a supreme effort from its awkward legs, made it up and into the spruce.

As I lowered my camera, I heard her muttering, "Humans! I can't even take a bath without six or seven of them jumping in with me. There goes the neighbourhood." Justice Lake had seen its first recreational canoe tripper.

Justice Lake is the headwaters of the Winiskisis River, one of several which have eroded their way through the flat, swampy glacial deposits at the edge of the Canadian Shield on their way to the Hudson Bay Lowlands. It is about a kilometre north of the North Channel of the Attawapiskat River (the South Channel is the usual canoe route), but the portage is extremely difficult to find. I eventually splashed up (for the second time) the small creek which leads to it while an Indian fisherman sat at the mouth, reassuring me: "You find the portage yet? It's right there."

Unfortunately the top few kilometres of the Winiskisis were so discouraging (rocks, shallow lakes, hydrogen sulphide smell, burnt forest, mosquitoes), that I decided to concede the point of the Indians who had said, "It's better at the beginning of June. One guy last year tried it in August and he had to turn back." "That was me", I had replied, handing them tea, "and I couldn't find the portage." "Well I'll show you the portage to the Winiski-sis this morning, but I don't think you'll find the one to the Ekwan. Too much bush, too many rocks in July."

Very true! The Ekwan River, original goal of the trip, trickled off through the bogs to the northeast without me, while I turned around to look for easier routes for July. The upper Winiskisis River I had thought of as a means of reaching the Ekwan, but as a river route in its own right, it might have something to offer. I could travel north over the difficult but well-known Wapitotem route to the village of Webequie on Winisk Lake and there ask for in-formation: after receiving the waters of many other little streams, the creek from Justice Lake grew to a respectable size; just as it passed the latitude of Winisk Lake, it veered very close to the lake's southeast bay. Could the Indians have run a portage trail to it, sometime in the past thousand years?

Of course they had. In fact, many of them went over to Stockman and Plant Lakes on the Winiskisis every year to fish. But below the lakes it was a different story: the river spilled down through the glacial deposits at an average gradient of four metres per kilometre, never compressing its altitude loss into a single high falls, but tumbling down mile after mile of continuous boulder-strewn rapids. On one quiet stretch where a plane could land, a trapper had built a cabin and two food caches; down on the gentler trail end near the mouth was a winter campsite with a moss-insulated wigwam; but in the rapids-guarded centre sec-tions, no signs of human passage could be found, not even of the one old man who was said to have canoed it.

"He says it is many rapids... he says you need two men... he says you need to know which channel to try... "

"Did he do it in June? What does he think of the water levels now?"

"The water has been dropping here for two weeks now... he says maybe now you could do it... he says if you are alone, now is the best time for you. You will have to pull it over many shallow places, but the current is not so strong now... he says there is a cabin here [points to the map] where he flies to his trap-line sometimes... people don't go down the river... there are no portage trails... "

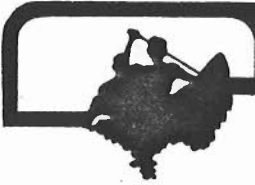
Sometimes the river would flow quietly for long stretches, the occasional swirl on the surface of the water the only reminder of the power relentlessly undercutting the bank, dropping long sections of land intact into the stream. Then around a bend would appear a scattering of boulders across the channel, a smooth expanse of water beyond them, and a barely visible, sinister horizon line crossing it from bank to bank. Then... stand up... try to catch a flash of white among the boulders to help guess the main channel... how high is this ledge, anyway?... keep one eye on the wind and current... let's call that rock there the point of no return... where is the V, anyway?... no, none... all right, draw a bit away from the centre... ah, there's the sound at last, not the brash shouting of a feeble rapid spending its power all over the river's width, but the nasty, hissing snicker of a powerful backwash hiding below a ledge. So it's dig, dig, get over out of the main channel to a shallow gap on the side... then hop out and haul, haul, and the rapids are annotated with their first alum-inum scrapings.

The first pitch in the long rapids series was followed by smooth water for a few hundred yards — then another pitch showed up beyond. Best to run the canoe aground, open the wannigan, and gobble down the fruit, cheese, chocolate, and jerky for energy and stamina on the miles ahead. Then off again... stand up... this one's a short drop, with a clear centre channel... so down we slide again, the short mile-eating lake paddle tucked below the thwarts, the broad white-water paddle, long enough to reach the water from a standing position, drawing the canoe back and forth sideways around each rock, as we drop from level to level through the long warm afternoon.

Sometimes a natural rock dam, a bedrock outcrop, would block the river, leaving only a frothing, turbulent maelstrom in the main channel, too fierce to shoot or line — but never a blaze or gap in the bushes to hint at another human being having faced and solved this same challenge. Portage over the rocks? Drag down a side channel? A starving wolf, its ribs showing as black bands, paused in its scavenging along the shore to slip behind a bush and watch. ("I wish I had that human's problems.") Cut off from all signs of man, cut off even from the sounds of the forest by the constant snarl of the eddies rushing up to meet me, I forgot the date and the time.

Towards evening, perhaps, a particularly ornery pitch would require wading the whole way, the canoe held back from sliding out into the roaring standing waves, each foothold carefully tested... and then — camp on a breeze-swept rocky point, the wet clothes drying on a bush, the diary and map spread out for the nightly concentration session to remember where and when I was. And still, never a charred stick, tin can or axe cut stump was to be seen.

One evening I paddled out onto the big, flat, fast Winisk River and saw a yellow sign on the shore: "Make sure your campfire is out." It felt like a return to civilization.



## EDITORIAL

The news that reaches the Conservation Committee is seldom what you would call "cheery". But to return home after spending the better part of three weeks packing across the tundra, drinking clear cold waters, breathing clean air and marvelling at the rugged granite peaks and massive glaciers of Auyuittuq and hear, almost before the gear is out of the pack, that people are planning to dam more rivers, to pave over our dwindling

farmland, to spew tons of poison into our air, destroying the little wild land that we have left in the south, is downright depressing.

It makes you wonder what sort of future, if any, our society is shaping for itself. Perhaps Kenneth Ross' poem (from the Environmental Newsletter, April, 1970) will in fact be our collective epitaph.

### THE LAST CHAPTER OF GENESIS

In the beginning,

There was Earth, and it was with form and beauty.  
And man dwelt upon the lands of the Earth, the meadows and the trees,  
And he said, "Let us build our dwellings in this place of beauty."  
And he built cities and covered the Earth with concrete and steel,  
And the meadows were gone.  
And man said, "It is good."

On the second day, man looked upon the waters of the Earth.  
And man said, "Let us put our wastes in the waters that the dirt will be washed away."  
And man did.  
And the waters became polluted and foul in their smell.  
And man said, "It is good."

On the third day, man looked upon the forests of the Earth.  
And he saw they were beautiful.  
And man said, "Let us cut the timber for our homes and grind the wood for our use."  
And man did.  
And the lands became barren and the trees were gone.  
And man said, "It is good."

On the fourth day, man saw that animals were in abundance,  
And they ran in the fields and played in the sun.  
And man said, "Let us cage these animals for our amusement and kill them for our sport."  
And man did.  
And there were no more animals on the face of the Earth.  
And man said, "It is good."

On the fifth day, man breathed the air of the Earth.  
And man said, "Let us dispose of our wastes into the air, for the winds shall blow them away."  
And man did.  
And the air became heavy with dust and choked and burned.  
And man said, "It is good."

On the sixth day, man saw himself, and seeing the many languages and tongues, he feared and hated.  
And man said, "Let us build great machines and destroy these, lest they destroy us."  
And man built great machines, and the Earth was fired with the rage of great wars.  
And man said, "It is good."

On the seventh day, man rested from his labours and the Earth was still,  
For man no longer dwelt upon the Earth.

And it was good.



To: Wilderness Canoe Association

Last March at your annual meeting, my brother and I were pleased to share with you, through sound and slides, our experiences in the Barren Lands of Canada's North. There is little more rewarding than making a presentation to a receptive assembly, who, by virtue of their inherent interests, are favourably biased from the start. The W.C.A. was a wonderful audience.

As many of you know I am writing a book which focuses on our expedition and its historical perspectives. That the W.C.A. saw fit to offer some support to my writing is most gratifying. Thank you.

I am currently in the midst of a six-month period of subsidisation from the Canada Council, at the end of which I shall have the final manuscript completed, ready for the publisher. I am striving in this book to provide Canadian

readers with an unexaggerated account of travel in a truly exciting part of our country, combined with a glimpse into several elements of our history hitherto unpublished and even, in some cases, previously unresearched. I thank you, the membership, for support in this undertaking. The W.C.A. will be recognised in the book amongst the many Patrons to the Expedition who have supported this entire project.

I anticipate that some of you may now look forward to reading the result of this support when my book is published, hopefully by the spring of 1979.

Thank you for your interest.

Yours sincerely,



David F. Pelly

## news briefs

### WILDERNESS SLIDE SHOW

Everyone who enjoys the wilderness is invited to attend an entertaining evening of slides depicting some of the wild areas of our country. The show will include presentations by some of our widely travelled members and feature a number of interesting areas. We hope that as many members and their friends as possible will plan to attend.

The event will take place at Edwards Gardens Civic Centre, 777 Lawrence Ave. E. in Don Mills on Friday December 1; beginning with a coffee hour at 7:30 p.m., and with the slide show starting at 8:30 followed by refreshments. The cost for the evening will be \$4 per person. If you plan to attend, please drop a line to the secretary with your name, address, phone number and the number in your party. Further information will then be sent out to you a few weeks before the show. (Anyone who is willing to assist the planning committee in setting up the show is asked to call Cam Salisbury.)

### F.O.N. DISPLAYS

The increasing pace of development is placing many natural areas and the life they support in jeopardy. Public support for efforts to eliminate or reduce the effects of development can only come with the public's awareness. To this end the Federation of Ontario Naturalists have proposed a display programme to promote the F.O.N. and its member clubs and to educate the public to the need for conservation.

People are needed to design, build, and run displays in many areas. The W.C.A. is a federated club in the F.O.N., and members interested in volunteering a little time to this project are urged to contact Ron Lyons, 222 Lawrence Ave., Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4C 1Z6, or call 416-884-9360.

### PERSPECTIVES ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Sir Sanford Fleming College in Lindsay is holding Symposium II: LAND to bring together informed and involved people from various backgrounds to discuss the broad spectrum of land issues and uses. The intention is to try to bridge some of the barriers among interest groups, producing a broadened understanding of the stewardship of this natural resource.

The symposium will be held Nov. 7-9 in Lindsay, and interested W.C.A. members have been invited to attend. For further information contact Sir Sanford Fleming College, P.O. Box 8000, Lindsay, Ontario K9V 5E6. Phone 705-324-9144, or contact the newsletter editor.

### YOUTH ENCOURAGEMENT FUND

Again this year the W.C.A. membership has generously supported this fund, and the committee was able to assist two of our members to make a major wilderness backpacking trip in Pacific Rim National Park. Both the committee and the members who received support wish to extend their sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the fund.

### ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the W.C.A. Will be held at the Leslie Frost Centre in scenic Haliburton, March 9-11, 1979. It will be a weekend event with activities, cross-country skiing, and slide presentations in addition to the business meeting. Accomodation and meals will be available at the centre.

Plan now to attend this weekend; complete details will be mailed to all members with a notice of meeting in February.

### CONSTITUTION

The Constitution Committee has been working towards preparing a new constitution in preparation for the incorporation of the W.C.A. At a general meeting on September 8, the committee presented its work to date to the members present. The new constitution was approved in principle, with a few technicalities to be ironed out by the committee in consultation with a lawyer. The final draft should be ready for ratification within the near future.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In the past the W.C.A. has been a very active and worthwhile organization due to the enthusiastic participation of many of our members on the executive, on committees, as trip organizers, etc. For our continued vitality it is necessary that more members come forward and help with the actual operation of the association. In particular, new people are needed to stand for the board of directors.

Anyone who would be willing to help out or to stand for election is asked to write or phone Gord Fenwick.

### DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be coming out in early December. Articles, trip reports, book reviews, photographs, etc. are urgently needed. Please send all contributions to the editor by November 15.

## NORTHERN WILD RIVERS SEMINAR

The Ministry of Indian and Northern Affairs will be holding a seminar on the theme "Northern Wild Rivers: Their Preservation and Use" in Jasper National Park on September 22-24. The 50 invited participants will include officials and elected members of the federal, U.S., provincial, and territorial governments, non-governmental interest groups and individuals who have made significant contributions to river conservation and enjoyment. It is hoped that the seminar will provide a forum for pooling knowledge, and create a spirit of co-operation and a momentum which will lead toward future establishment of both International Wild Rivers and a Canadian Wild River System, where these rivers would have some form of protected status.

Gord Fenwick will be attending this seminar on behalf of the WCA and will report on the proceedings in our next issue.



### FLORA GORGE I

On July 24th the Ontario Municipal Board approved the bridge over the Flora Gorge. It is a decision that puts short term considerations before the interests of the people of Ontario and of future generations. The Grand River took 20 000 years to carve Flora Gorge out of the surrounding limestone. Once its beauty is destroyed it cannot be replaced.

The Flora Gorge Defence Fund will be appealing this decision to the Ontario Cabinet, which has the authority to overrule the OMB in the interests of the people of Ontario. Your letters can have an impact on the Cabinet's decision. To help save the gorge, write: The Honourable William Davis Q.C., Premier of Ontario, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario.

### FLORA GORGE II

The Grand River Conservation Authority has proposed a dam and reservoir on the Grand River above West Montrose. (See the Conservation Report, June 1977). The Valley Research Foundation believes that this project will have more serious impact on the Gorge than the bridge. The proposed dam will raise the water level in the Gorge by some 4-5 m with resulting impact on both the flora and the walls of the Gorge itself. In addition much good farmland will be flooded.

The VRF is concerned with both the philosophy and management approach of the Grand River Conservation Authority, illustrated by the proposed dam. While the WCA will attempt to pursue this matter for the VRF through the Conservation Council of Ontario, individual members concerned with the fate of the Grand River and Flora Gorge are encouraged to contact the Valley Research Foundation, Joint Management Committee, Box 335, Flora, Ontario, N0B 1S0.

## MADAWASKA THREATENED AGAIN

When Ontario stated that it had little interest in constructing a generating station at Highland Falls on the Madawaska River, and the Ministry of Natural Resources declared a park reserve status on the Snake Rapids section, it appeared that the river was safe. The interim management proposals instituted this year to prevent further deterioration of the natural environment added further hope that this stretch would be preserved as a wild river park.

However, the word now is that Ontario Hydro is again studying the feasibility of a generating station at Highland Falls. Frank Near, a hydraulics engineer with Ontario Hydro confirmed this in an interview on the CBC programme Radio Noon. On the same programme, Glenn Spence expressed the shock of the WCA at the news.

This brings into question just what protection park reserve status gives an area, if feasibility studies of this type are allowed within the area. Surely such activities are what park reserve status should prohibit. The Conservation Committee has written the Minister of Natural Resources questioning why the studies are being permitted, and expressing our concern over the apparent change in the Ministry's priority for the area. A second letter has been written to Ontario Hydro requesting a clarification of their position.

One thing is clear, though, the Madawaska River is far from being preserved as a canoeists' park.

## TORONTO'S LESLIE STREET SPIT

Five kilometres long, the spit is man made, but natural processes are quickly taking it over. On the lake side, waves have sorted the rubble to form shingle beaches; while on the harbour side, the sand has been shaped into dunes, lagoons and small spits. Forests of cottonwood are beginning, marshes are being created, and the spit is becoming a haven for numerous species of birds. It is a wild area within the city, open for hiking and canoeing on weekends 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. until November 12.

Future plans call for an "aquatic park" with marinas, parking lots, etc. However, a group of people are trying to preserve the Leslie Street Spit as a wild area. For further information or to help contact: Friends of the Spit, c/o 174 Balsam Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M4E 3C1.

## MUSQUASH AND GIBSON RIVERS

### THREATENED

Two popular and accessible rivers for novice canoeists and families are threatened by proposed hydro-electric generating stations on the Musquash and Go Home Rivers. The stations are being proposed by the Orillia Water, Light and Power Commission.

While a number of alternative sites are under consideration, the favoured plan at this point in time is a dam and generating station at Grey Rapids on the Musquash River and a second at Go Home Chute on the Go Home River. It would require the diversion of the waters of the Musquash into the Go Home River by closing off the current exit at the south end of Go Home Lake. The plan would obviously destroy the Musquash River, and by reducing the flow in the Gibson-Musquash by at least three-quarters, reduce the now scenic Three Rock Falls to a mere trickle. The other alternatives are no more attractive to canoeists.

Environmental assessment of the project is currently being carried out. Should plans for the project go ahead, it will come under the Environmental Assessment Act, and the Go Home Lake Cottage Owners' Association will be fighting to preserve the area. The WCA will lend whatever assistance it can. For further information contact the Go Home Lake Cottagers' Assoc., P.O. Box 463, Islington P.O., Islington, Ontario, M9L 4X4.

## INCO SULPHUR EMISSION

The Ministry of Environment has reneged on a pollution control order on the International Nickel Company in Sudbury. The original control order, issued in 1970 outlined a staged reduction of sulphur dioxide emissions to 750 tons per day by the end of 1978. The Ministry of Environment has now issued a new order, permitting INCO to continue their present 3 600 tons per day emissions until June 1982, with no further reductions specified.

MOE argues that air quality in the Sudbury area has improved significantly, largely as a result of INCO's "superstack". But a far more serious environmental problem has emerged — the acidification of Ontario's recreational lakes, and the subsequent damage to their ecosystems and their fisheries. According to a recent MOE report, "one-fifth of the 209 lakes studied within a 125 mile radius of Sudbury are acidified and an additional 50% show vulnerability to containing acid inputs". The trend is clearly linked to "acid rain" caused by increasing sulphur dioxide concentrations in the air. A large part of the problem is imported by the winds from U.S. industries, but INCO is the largest single source of sulphur dioxide in North America.

After months of secret negotiations with the company, the new control order is now in place, and it is unlikely that the decision can be changed. However, the minister has set a poor precedent for future dealings with corporate polluters in this province. This kind of shameful performance by the MOE is just not good enough!

The Conservation Committee has registered its disapproval of the retreat. Members who wish to express their personal concerns are urged to do so. The government no doubt will consider public reaction to gauge their future approach to environmental matters. Write: The Honourable Harry Parrott, Minister of the Environment, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario.



## NIAGARA FARMLAND

The Niagara Peninsula has some of the finest food-growing land in Canada. Its unique soil and climate allow it to grow not only tender fruit and grapes, but also over 100 other crops. Unfortunately, there are enormous urban pressures to develop these Niagara foodlands. In fact, the rate of farmland conversion to urban use in Niagara is well ahead of the rate in most parts of Canada.

Despite this rapid loss of farmland to date in Niagara, the urban boundaries established in February 1977 by the Government of Ontario permit even further urban sprawl that will destroy thousands of acres of agricultural land. The Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society have appealed these boundaries to the Ontario Municipal Board. At the hearings slated for this fall, the Society will be asking for a contraction of the boundaries of Regional Niagara to preserve some of our best farmland.

It will be an expensive fight (over \$35 000) and the assistance of concerned citizens will be needed and appreciated. For further information contact: Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society, c/o John Bacher, 134 Church Street, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2R 3E4.



# equipment

## SHIPPING CANOES BY RAIL

John Cross

On long northern trips (or even short ones, where a car shuffle is undesirable), rail may be the only feasible method for moving your canoe. Unfortunately, this is a confusing subject. You would like to save as much money as possible and you may have to move quickly. Remember these principles:

1) Many of the railway staff don't know the rules. You may be quoted a much higher rate than your friend, so always probe for alternatives. Call back later after the shift changes and get a second opinion.

2) Always ask for the rules and rates on which the quote is based. Some of the railway staff cannot do arithmetic. (On a package 13' x 3' x 1', I was told, I would be charged for 40 cubic feet: "13 times 3 and then you add 1")

3) The farther north you go, and the more diplomatic you are, the more flexible the rules become. At Toronto, I had been told, they won't take canoes as baggage "because they won't fit in the baggage elevators" or "because it needs two guys to handle them". I got around this one time by portaging the canoe right through all those passengers at Union Station, up the passenger stairs and down to the baggage car; another time I assisted the baggage men to move it and found that it would fit in the elevator (it's a seventeen foot and there was room to spare); also the Super-Continental entering Toronto will stop on request at St. Clair West station where there are no elevators, just as at any northern station.

Herb Pohl tells me that, when he rode the mixed freight up north, they simply neglected to charge him baggage rates for his canoe, but this cannot be counted on. Therefore, any rule in this article could be in error!

### Baggage

On short trips (e.g. Pembroke to Brent, or even Moosonee to Toronto), it is cheaper to take your canoe with you as baggage. (Besides you have it right there with you.) You are allowed 150 pounds of free checked baggage (so if you have three packs of seventy pounds each, carry one aboard as hand luggage). However, all canoes are considered excess, even if you have nothing else. I believe the rate for canoes to be identical to the rate for 300 pounds. Some typical rates for CN are: Toronto to Ottawa, \$21.60, to Nakina, \$48, to (or from) Moosonee, \$48.90, to Edmonton, \$106.80.

"What if I build a twenty-five pound crate around my seventy-five pound canoe, so that it loses its identity as a "canoe" — will I be able to get away with one hundred pounds?", you are probably asking. Naturally the employees wouldn't tell me that, but if you try it you had better mark it convincingly "Theatrical scenery" to explain its large size. Please let me know the result. Also be on hand to help the baggage men so that they don't invoke some prohibition.

Space for canoes is never guaranteed; if it's a holiday weekend, you may have to wait for the next train. Also, be sure the train has a baggage car!

Incidentally, one baggage man told me that forty pounds excess would be charged at the full rate for one hundred pounds; another said no, it would be the rate for one hundred pounds times 40/100. Be prepared to argue for the second man.

### Express

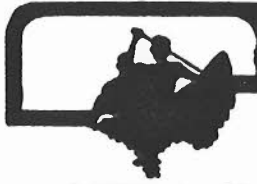
On long trips (to Edmonton, say, enroute to the Nahanni), this method will be cheaper.

"If the dimensions are given", the CN Express office said, "we multiply the volume in cubic feet by 10 lb./cu. ft. If not, we multiply the weight by seven." Then later, she said it would be "whichever is greater", which contradicts her first statement. (Argue! But nicely.) Three years ago I was told it was weight times three for canoes wrapped in straw and burlap, weight times five for unwrapped "because of the greater risk of damage", then later that "canoes travelled at owners risk" (another contradiction). At one time they told me that if the rate nevertheless worked out to less than \$50, I would be charged \$50, now they say there's no such rule. Notice that in this case, if you build a 25 pound, 17' x 3' x 1' crate around your seventy-five pound canoe, you can ship inside it 410 pounds of food and equipment at no additional charge if they will handle such a package (I bet they won't, even though they told me "no minimum").

Express charges fixed rates for packages in certain ranges (a 51 pound pack goes for the same as a 75 pound pack, but more than a 50 pound one). However, above 500 pounds (remember, even if this is only a 75 pound theoretical 525 pound canoe) there is a rate per pound. Samples, again for CN: Toronto to Edmonton, \$10.92/100 lb., to Nakina \$12.83, to Moosonee \$12.47, to Red Lake (including truck transport from the railway) \$11.29. So Karl Schimek's canoe, 60 pounds plus he thinks about 10 pounds of gear should have cost him less than \$62, Moosonee to Toronto, right? Wrong, somehow they made it almost \$70.

Perhaps all their rules can be summed up as one: expect the unexpected.





### WILDLIFE COUNTRY AND HOW TO ENJOY IT

(Published by the National Wildlife Federation, Washington, D.C.)

Reviewed by: Paul Skinner

This comprehensive book has sections dealing with many ways of getting into wildlife country. Included are sections on hiking, rafting, canoeing, horse-back camping, winter trips, and family camping. Each of these describes the details of planning the trip, preparing a menu, the equipment needed, and the trip itself.

Each section is written in the context of an actual trip, which makes interesting reading for novices and experienced campers alike. In the section on family camping, for example, the reader is introduced to the members of the family, sees how they choose their route, plan their menu and equipment, then follows them through their trip.

A section on The Unexpected tells how to deal with those unexpected events and emergencies that can spell disaster for a trip if people are not prepared to meet them. Coping

with thunder storms, blizzards and first aid emergencies are discussed, with tips on such things as how to signal for help and how to gather water where it is scarce.

Enjoying wildlife country is much more than making a trip from point A to point B safely, and the editors have not forgotten this. Making and Repairing Equipment gives suggestions that will allow readers to get more out of their trips by tailoring their equipment to meet their specific needs. A section on foods explains how to prepare your own dried foods, and how to make sauces, drinks and meals in the bush. A Photography section describes the use of lenses, exposures, and shutter speeds to come back from your trip with interesting and unique photographs.

Finally, for people looking for wild places to visit, Wildlife Spots pin-points ten of the best places to see wildlife in North America.

All these sections have been put together into a beautiful book, highlighted by many colour photographs of wilderness scenery, wild flowers, and wildlife.

## junior ranger programme

This summer the Ministry of Natural Resources employed almost 2 000 Ontario students in its Junior Ranger Programme. Taken together with the "Experience '78" student summer programme, MNR employed over 5 000 Ontario youths this summer.

The Junior Ranger Programme has a two-fold purpose. Firstly, it provides Ontario's 17 year olds interested in resource careers with opportunity to learn how to manage our natural resources through a combined working and learning experience. Secondly, it productively employs a large number of students on necessary projects which might not otherwise be able to be done under the Ministry's regular programmes.

Now in its 35th year, the Junior Ranger Programme was conceived in 1944 by the late Frank McDougall. That year only 21 Junior Rangers were employed — about one per cent of the current number.

Junior Rangers are paid a travel subsidy amounting to all costs incurred in excess of \$25. They are paid \$60 weekly for the eight

weeks from July 5th to August 26th. Generally an attempt is made to position students from the north in southern camps, while southern students go northward; thus increasing their first-hand knowledge of their province.

In Algonquin Region, the MNR employed 260 Junior Rangers in nine camps. Their work programme is wide and varied. Some of the more common tasks include cutting portages, posting fire prevention signs, general parks maintenance, access road maintenance, bridge building, treatment of crown forests, and spawning bed improvements.

While no records have been kept in the past to determine what percentage of ex-Junior Rangers have entered into full-time resource careers, it is certainly thought to be a significant number. One thing is certain, however. Another 2 000 young men and women have made a significant contribution to the management of Ontario's natural resources. Moreover, they will have cemented lasting friendships with people, places, and the things of nature.



September 30 - October 1 SNAKE RAPIDS:  
MADAWASKA

organizers: Bill McKenney 416-637-7568  
Eric Arthurs 416-759-8232  
book immediately

Scenic trip on the Madawaska River. Suitable for experienced canoeists. Limit 4 canoes.

September 30 - October 1 LONG LAKE NEAR  
BURLEIGH FALLS

organizer: Glenn Spence 416-355-3506  
book immediately

This trip will be lake paddling only with a total length of approximately 25 km including six short portages. Suitable for novices and families. Limit 5 canoes.

October 7-9 WANAPETEI RIVER

organizer: Herb Pohl 416-637-7632  
book between September 15 and 28

An exploratory trip down the Wanapeteci to the French River then up the French to highway 69. Fairly easy pace for intermediates or better. Limit 4 canoes.



October 7-9 LA CLOCHE MOUNTAINS

organizer: Sandy Richardson 416-429-3944  
assistant: Rick Paleske 416-691-9074  
book between September 15 and 28

Three days of backpacking in the rugged La Cloche Range of Killarney Park, at the height of fall colours. We will hike into a region containing three of the highest peaks in the Range. Here from a base camp beside one of the small remote lakes atop the Killarney Ridge, we will spend a day of off-trail exploring and photographing. Limit of 6 people.

October 14-15 BEAUSOLEIL ISLAND

organizer: Herb Pohl 416-637-7632  
book between September 17 and October 1

A short 4 km paddle across Georgian Bay to Beausoleil Island where we will set up camp on the sheltered side. This weekend outing will provide lots of time for hiking and photography along the many trails or leisurely paddling out in the Bay exploring the coastline of the island. Suitable for novices and families. Limit 5 canoes.



October 15 UPPER CREDIT RIVER

organizer: Jim Greenacre 416-759-9956  
book between September 17 and October 1

A one day trip in the area immediately to the north-west of Metropolitan Toronto. Suitable for novices with basic canoeing experience who would like some fast water. Limit 6 canoes.

October 21 SAUGEEN RIVER

organizer: Howard Wickett 416-827-0383  
assistant: Ken Riepert 416-845-3608  
book between September 23 and October 7

The Saugeen from Durham to Hanover is an exciting trip for intermediates; a little white water, and many material hazards which require precise maneuvering in the fast current. Adequate calm stretches to get rested up for the next challenge. Approximately 20 km without portaging. Limit 6 canoes.

October 21-22 BRUCE TRAIL: TOBERMORY  
TO CYPRESS LAKE

organizer: Glenn Davy 416-621-9037  
book between September 23 and October 7

A two day backpacking trip along the escarpment near Georgian Bay for intermediates with suitable hiking boots and equipment. Limit 6 hikers.

November 11 DRAG & BURNT RIVERS NEAR KINMOUNT

organizer: Dave Auger 705-324-9359  
book between October 15 and October 30

Just before putting away the canoe for another season, let's make a run on a scenic stretch of river. There are a few portages and a few sets of short rapids, but the trip is suitable for novices. Limit 6 canoes.





# products and services

Coleman Craft Canoes, of hand-layed-up fiberglass, are available in 12'3", 14'3", and 16' L.O.A., with either a lake keel or 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 viewing films of our canoes and discussing their features. Bill Coleman: (519) 623-1804/1894. Shop located at 333 Dundas St. (Hwy. 8), Cambridge (Galt) Ontario.

Canoe for sale. A kevlar 18'6" Sawyer Charger, one year old and in good condition is available from Dave Shragge, R.R. #1, Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 4V8. Phone (416) 895-1088.

Wilderness Camping: Subscribe to this stimulating and entertaining magazine through the WCA. You'll receive a year-round cache of ideas for self-propelled wilderness enthusiasts, with feature articles and columns about canoeing, backpacking, ski-touring and snowshoeing; and you'll help out your club at the same time. (We receive \$2 for each new subscription and \$1 for each renewal.)

Send \$6.95, payable to Wilderness Camping, your name and address to: Subscription, c/o the WCA Postal Box.

Mad River Canoes will be available again from Rockwood Outfitters this year, in particular the kevlar and royalex Explorers. We have some royalex Explorers for rent. As well we handle an assortment of other excellent lines of canoes such as Bluewater and Novacraft. Come up and see us in Guelph. ROCKWOOD OUTFITTERS, 15 Speedvale Ave., E., Guelph, Ont., N1H 1J2. Telephone: (519) 824-1415.

Water-proof Camera Bags: John Cross apologizes to those who got left out in the last batch of these bags. He has a new lot in. Army surplus gas-mask bags, rolled seams and snap closure, tough rubber. Write 106 Strathnairn Ave. Toronto, or call (416) 654-9805.

Discounts on Camping Supplies: WCA members who present a membership card will receive 10% discounts on many non-sale items at:

MARGESSON'S, 17 Adelaide St. E., Toronto.

DON BELL SPORTS, 164 Front St., Trenton.

A. B. C. SPORTS, 552 Yonge St., Toronto.

(Members should check at each store to find out what items are discounted.)

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## WILDERNESS CANOE ASSOCIATION

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I enclose a cheque for: \$5.00  student under 18  
\$8.00  full time student  
\$10.00  single membership  
\$12.00  family membership

for membership in the WILDERNESS CANOE ASSOCIATION, which entitles me to receive The Wilderness Canoeist, and gives me the opportunity to participate in W.C.A. outings and meetings.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW: \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL: \_\_\_\_\_ (1978)

#### Other Information:

Canoe Trips Taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in serving on committees? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the W.C.A.? \_\_\_\_\_

Please send completed form and cheque (payable to the Wilderness Canoe Association) to:

Mary Jo Cullen, 122 Robert St., Toronto, Ont. M5S 2K3

Membership expires January 31, 1979