

## algonquin ski touring

Window light from a snug, wilderness camp gleaming on fresh snow - a cheery sight to a weary trail skier emerging from the early winter darkness. The door opened as a silhouetted figure emerged and laughter was heard from within: this must be the place - the Algonquin Nordic Ski Touring base camp at Moffat Pond bordering Algonquin Park.

Long regarded as Ontario's premier camping, canoeing and hiking park, Algonquin has now been discovered by cross-country skiers. A group aptly entitled "Algonquin Nordic Ski Touring" is the most recent reason for Algonquin's burgeoning popularity among winter trail skiers. They introduced the hut-to-hut concept and, blessed with the great snow conditions of '81-82, a smashing good time was had by all.

While the idea of hut-to-hut trail skiing is not new, Algonquin's facilities, well planned tours, knowledgeable guides and affable hosts are what turns this unique outdoor experience into a memorable holiday.

The Moffat Pond base camp, located just outside the southern end of Algonquin Park, is accessible by highways due north from Peterborough or on a well maintained lumber road leading west from Maynooth on Highway 62 north of Bancroft, Ontario. It's two kilometres on a well groomed ski trail from the parking lot to the base camp. A guide will transport your gear in on a snowmobile upon request.

Guests dined as they arrived. There were 20 guests in camp. They would be split up into four groups, each with their own guide, for the hut-to-hut trek in the morning. Safety dictates that no one is allowed to ski alone.

Algonquin Nordic stock the latest design in ski-trail-tested back packs and most guests rent one for the tour. In addition to a complete change of clothes including footwear, each skier has his own sleeping bag.

Food, other than trail lunches and water, is transported to the tent huts in advance of the party. Trail packs are relatively light as a result.

Each guest's equipment was checked out by the guides and in some instances poles were reinforced with tape, bindings were adjusted and tightened and the all important boots had to be approved for wilderness touring. Trail breaking and the deep snow conditions normally encountered in wilderness skiing make gaiters a basic equipment requirement.

A hearty breakfast and our five-guest group, led by Neil Downey and assisted by Lucy Alderson, set out for the trek to the hut camp on West Perrault Lake.

Algonquin Nordic boasts five camps located approximately 15 km apart along an 85 km trail circuit entirely within the southern boundaries of the Park.

The terrain varies from valleys and lakeshores blanketed with evergreens to high hardwood ridges

involving normally gradual but steady climbs and gentle downhill runs.

Once across the small lake (Moffat Pond) our party climbed 200 m in the first two hours. Our immediate reward was a lofty and beautiful view overlooking the rugged shield country of eastern Ontario.

Shorter climbs followed by downhill runs eventually brought us to the shores of West Perrault Lake. It was "two K" from here to camp according to Neil Downey. Two kilometres seemed to be Neil's favourite distance and he subsequently became known as "Two K Neil."

An intermediate skier in reasonably good condition would find the terrain and trails here ideal. Novices, depending on their degree of enthusiasm, are assured a good workout.

Within minutes of our arrival in camp, the accommodation tent was being warmed by a spark-popping wood stove and guides Lucy Alderson and Neil (now Chef Two K) switched roles and repaired to the cook and dining tent. We topped off the day with a feast of beef and beans. Satiated, the once ravenous skiers returned to the accommodation tent for after dinner coffee.

Each hut camp consists of two tents. The sleep tent has a wooden floor and boasts four double tiered metal cots equipped with thick foam pads - a simple arrangement but functional and quite comfortable.

A gentle snowfall added to the metre-thick blanket already covering the forest the following morning and Neil, after consulting the camp thermometer, hit the wax right on. The exact wax properly applied eliminates the slip and the trudge and puts glide in the stride.

That long two-hour climb at the start of the tour now became a superb 20-minute downhill run on the home stretch back to base camp.

Robin Hughes had anticipated our arrival times by having the hot tub and sauna piping hot. Tired muscles were soon soothed followed by a roll in the snow accompanied by the customary shouts and shrieks.

Higher on the hill, in a grove of monarch white pines, an expansive new lodge is nearing completion. Carefully designed to take full advantage of the scenic beauty, the new building will accommodate 50 guests in convivial comfort and wilderness resort atmosphere.

Nordic trail skiing has come to Canada and in style.

Tony Sloan



Algonquin Nordic can arrange tours from two to seven days with special arrangements for either a group or an individual level of ability.

Information and reservations can be obtained by contacting Algonquin Nordic Ski Touring, 40 Dixington Crescent, Suite 304, Weston, Ontario, M9P 2K8 or call 416-248-6325.

## WCA & THE ONTARIO BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

The Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas is a 5-year project, sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and the Long Point Bird Observatory, to map the distribution of the province's breeding birds. The project began in 1981. To create an accurate picture of bird distribution in Ontario we have divided the province into two sectors: the area north of Temagami will be covered on a 100 x 100 km block basis, while southern Ontario will be covered on a 10 x 10 km square basis. Naturalists from throughout the province, 100 in all in 1982, send us their observations of birds during the breeding season according to which block or square the bird was seen in. In 1986 all of the data will be published in the form of a book, with a different map for each species, showing which squares and blocks that species bred in. This will be useful to ornithologists who have never before had an up-to-date, comprehensive picture of breeding bird distribution in Ontario, and to conservationists and environmentalists who require information on the distribution and abundance of rare or endangered species for the purposes of preservation. It will also be useful to wilderness travellers who wish to know which birds they are likely to encounter on trips through various parts of the province.

All members of the WCA are invited to take part in the project. We especially need bird data from remote parts of the province, many of which you will be entering on your canoe trips in the next 3 summers. You don't have to be an expert to help out. For example, we can use information on large obvious species such as hawks, eagles, owls, loons, whip-poor-wills, herons and ducks which most non-expert birders can readily identify. It isn't difficult, you merely have to record on a data card which species you saw, when you saw them, what they were doing, and which of our squares or blocks the birds were in. For example, if you found an Osprey nest or saw loons with small young and you sent us that information, we would no longer need information on those species in those square or blocks because you have confirmed their breeding for us. Of course, the more expert you are, the more information you can collect, and the more you can

help us learn about Ontario's birds. If you would like to help, contact the Atlas office at the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 355 Lesmill Rd., Don Mills, Ontario M3B 2W8, phone 416-449-2554.

### CANOEING & ATLASING ON THE SEVERN RIVER - 1983

In an effort to collect breeding bird data from remote parts of the province, a trip is being scheduled to the Severn River in northwestern Ontario in the summer of 1983. Details are sketchy at present because they will be arranged to fit the schedules of the individuals with the necessary qualifications, who are interested in participating. The plan is to drive up to Pickle Lake and from there to fly to the Severn River for a trip of undetermined length to collect information for the atlas. The river is not to be canoed before mid-June, so the last two weeks of June and the first two weeks of July appear to be the best time for the trip.

The ideal people for the trip are expert canoeists and birders - a minimum of 6 people are required. If we can't find 6 people who are experts in both fields (and we don't expect to) we will need a minimum of 3 expert canoeists.

The emphasis for the trip will be on birding, so the pace will be slow: the ideal situation will probably involve moving camp every few days from one block to the next. Non-birding canoeists will be free to spend the days as they please while the birders atlas.

The cost of the trip will, in all likelihood, be subsidized, considerably reducing the cost to the individual. I have no estimates of the total cost at present - it will depend upon the number of participants.

If you are an experienced canoeist and/or birder who would like an inexpensive trip to one of the province's most remote rivers, and the chance to make an important contribution to the success of the Atlas, please contact Mike Cadman or Anne Nash at the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, address given above, as soon as possible.



## soloing in algonquin

Gail Vickers

Monday, October 4, 1982, when I went into the interior of Algonquin Park, it was a beautiful, warm sunny, fall day. After I called home to let someone know where I was heading (Tom Thompson Lake) and when I should be out (Thursday), I was ready to set out on a new experience.

~~Canoe Lake was populated with motor boats, cottages and other canoes.~~ It took a long time to paddle across the lake and the wind and choppy water didn't help. Finally, the portage. I waited in the calm, sheltered water nearby for the group which was coming through to get underway.

My first major challenge - carrying the canoe alone. It wasn't easy. Thank goodness there wasn't an audience. Just before I left, a canoe with two paddlers arrived. The one who carried their canoe admitted that he wasn't very adept at carrying a canoe either. He also mentioned that one of the channels was farther to the left than the map indicated and that it had a beaver dam. Unfortunately I soon forgot which lake and channel he referred to.

On to Joe Lake. This was the last lake where I definitely knew where I was. It was late in the afternoon so I found a nice, sunny campsite, stopped, set up camp, and went off to explore. Past the empty beer bottles, kerosene cans and other "evidence of man", was an interesting looking trail. I followed it to the top of a hill where I heard a loud rustling sound coming from the next hill. A pair of antlers rose from behind a tree, then snorting and crashing through the bush about 10 metres from me pranced a moose. I was thrilled. Later I was surprised by a chicken-sized bird with

pretty, brown markings. The day ended with golden fall colours on the opposite shore reflecting strikingly in the water. Peace.

However this was not quite "getting away from it all". Going by the number of canoes and motorboats which passed by, this was a major thoroughfare.

The first person to pass my doorstep next morning (after an uneventful night) was the only other solo canoeist that I was aware of. I was impressed by his light load, assurance, and obvious experience. He was probably a senior citizen, yet was definitely moving faster than I had been.

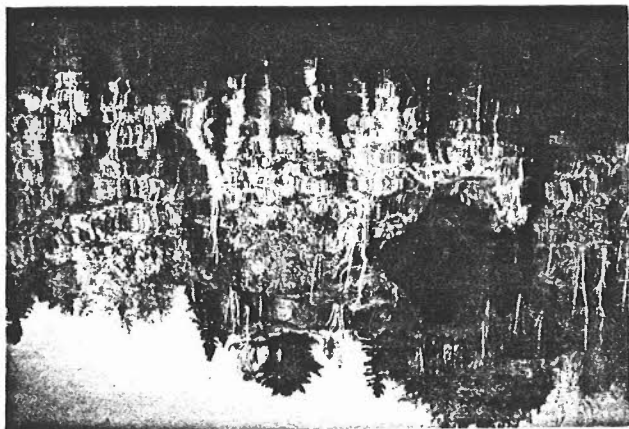
Back on the water. It was again warm, sunny and windy with motor boats, cottages and canoes, although less than the previous day. I paddled past an island - which wasn't on the map. Either the map was very inaccurate or else I wasn't where I thought I was, or both. Was this the lake where the channel was farther to the left? So I kept to the left and paddled into an area with a lot of dead wood which could have been a channel, expecting to find a beaver dam. Instead it ended. I wasn't sorry. It was so eerie in there that it was preferable to backtrack and get out. I realized that one could go crazy in a situation like that. However I also know that one can find quiet peace, refreshment and beauty which is hard to find among crowds and noise.

The next arm of the lake continued and was the channel. It was so quiet there: no other boats even very few campsites, and some lovely coniferous trees sweeping out over the water.

Another lake. Loons. One came up right in front of my canoe, but my camera was safely packed away. I was getting fed up with fighting against the wind and with not knowing exactly where

I was, so when a nice campsite appeared, I stopped, and set up camp; the campsite was so homey. The previous camper had left a woodpile protected with plastic, a clean site, and a clothesline complete with pegs. This was more like it. It was warm enough for a swim. But the water was just too cold. A good excuse to get a fire going for supper.

One thing I don't enjoy about camping by myself is sitting around a campfire alone. Too many times shared pleasantly with others? Well I soon had plenty of company although it wasn't what I had in mind. The first to arrive were the whiskey jacks (camp robbers, -Canada Jays or whatever else they are called - I was surprised that they lived in Ontario as well as the Yukon and Rockies). Next a pair of red squirrels kept me amused by chasing each other around and up and down a nearby pine tree. A rabbit was exploring around the back of my tent and even let me get within about two metres of him. During the night a moose went by my tent so close that I





could hear him breathe as well as snort and crash, but by the time I got out of my tent all I could see were the stars.

In the morning I discovered other company had been around. All that was left of the molasses loaf which I was looking forward to for breakfast was part of the plastic bags. Other food was missing, too. Everything had been wrapped the same as it had been the previous night. Did the same idea not work twice or were there different residents? Hopefully they were raccoons but there weren't any tracks or other evidence. I kept thinking of an article in the latest "Season's" magazine entitled "Bears live in the Park" by Patricia Weese.

It was a beautiful morning. The lake was like glass; it was so calm. The sunrise was spectacular. I stayed put to get caught up on some letter writing, read, rest and explore. There were dandelions in bloom even though it was fall. Two moose were arguing back and forth (or so it sounded), but too far away to go after with a camera.

At about noon the sky became overcast. I hoped it was temporary but passing canoeists informed me it was to last until noon the next day. It stopped raining long enough for me to cook supper.

The previous two nights had the advantage of a full moon. This night the moon was visible but not shedding much light through the overcast. I was more apprehensive than I'd been yet. At about mid-night, I was awakened by something just outside my tent. It sounded like smallish animals. When I poked my head out of the door, two pairs of eyes shone in the light from the flashlight. The animals were definitely smaller than a person.

It was quiet for a while but I couldn't go back to sleep and it was too early and too dark to go on. In the distance a cry and an answer. Wolves? No - loons. There was a loud splash very close to my tent. I could also hear a large animal in the bush - even closer than the splash. There was something right outside my tent. I could positively identify three raccoons by the campfire. What a relief. People say that black bears are harmless but I didn't particularly want to find out for myself right then. There was still no explanation for the loud splash or large animal in the bush, but I



stopped worrying and went back to sleep.

I awoke to the gentle splash of waves on the rock. What happened to the early morning calm? The mosquitoes and blackflies were out in the warm weather. I was packed and on the water almost before daylight. Rather waves than bugs.

The plan was to forget the map and try to remember the route in. As most of you know, everything looks different going the other way even if you have turned around to look back on the way in. Glancing around, a brown spot in the water near the opposite shore caught my eye. A moose. This one wasn't snorting and crashing like the others. Nor were there antlers. A lady moose. She saw me as soon as I turned the canoe around but only went onto the shore and stood there munching on branches watching me as I paddled up to her. Landing looked impossible due to the mud so I sat there telling her how beautiful she was. She didn't mind. Neither of us felt any fear of the other. It was one of those special moments which made the trip very much worth while and worth doing again.

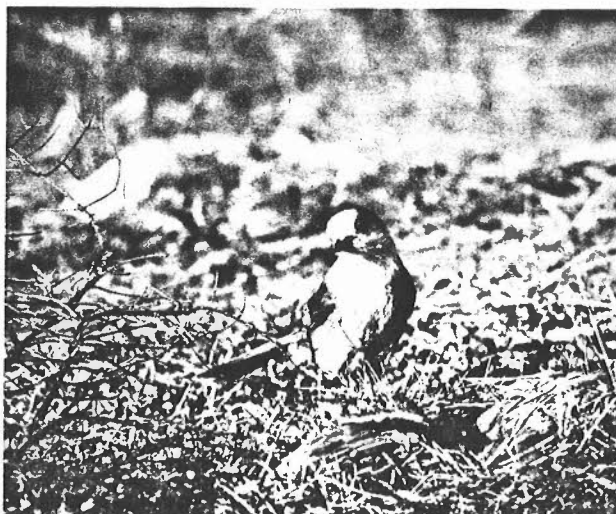
More wind and waves. Occasionally something would look familiar indicating that possibly this was the right way; other times it was doubtful. There were waves in the channel. What would the lake be like? It turned out to be canoeable.

On the way into the next lake I was passed by a motorboat, then other canoes. The first people since yesterday. A bridge came into view and finally I knew exactly where I was and could even find it on the map.

The portage wasn't any easier than the first time. Tying the paddles in to carry the canoe helped some - until they slipped.

Canoe Lake. Just when the waves became impossible, (I was glad of my heavy load now) it would change and there'd be a downpour. At one point the rain was so heavy it seemed like hail.

The take out point came into view; it was a relief to get there but more of a sadness to be leaving. I determined to come back - even to face the bears. It's nice to have company but solo I experienced more wildlife than I ever had with someone else along.



## CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the Annual General Meeting, March 5 & 6, 1983, we will be electing 3 directors to two-year terms on the Board of Directors of the WCA. Below are thoughts about the WCA and platform statements from the candidates nominated to date. Additional candidates may be nominated by contacting the Nominating Committee (see

News Briefs) and from the floor at the meeting. All candidates will have the chance to amplify their remarks at the meeting, and to be asked questions from the floor. Members unable to attend the meeting may cast their (3) votes by proxy.

### BILL NESS

I joined the WCA some seven years ago because it offered me an opportunity to enter into a community of likeminded individuals who shared my love for canoeing and the outdoors, and with whom I could enjoy my wilderness adventures. Since then I have been privileged to meet and travel with many fine people. I've swapped a lot of lies around campfires, and occasionally witnessed some innovative techniques for destroying canoes. For the past several years I have been active as a trip organizer and since 1981 have been chairman of the Sportsmen's Show Committee.

The WCA provides us with substantial benefits; professional quality newsletters, entertaining and informative semi-annual meetings, and a far ranging outings programme. The latter has, unfortunately, become a matter of concern to me.

I believe that the *raison d'être* of our club is to make it possible for us as paddlers, hikers, skiers, and snowshoers to come together for our mutual benefit and enjoyment; and that the camaraderie and shared experiences forged on wilderness trails form its vital essence.

It is thus disconcerting to see that our roster of regular trip leaders has shrunk to a tiny handful. As older leaders have left the club or curtailed their activities for one reason or another, we find ourselves without replacements, and the burden of providing an outings programme falls upon a smaller number of shoulders.

Furthermore, participation in outings is largely confined to a small nucleus of veterans, with the great bulk of our membership attending infrequently at best. Where are our up-and-coming active members? Where are our future leaders? I don't see them.

Unless we take strong action now to rejuvenate our outings programme and get people involved on this basic level our club will stagnate. We must contact our current members to identify their interests and skill levels so that we may intelligently formulate a programme to meet their needs. Our outings committee should actively work with trip organizers to receive feedback on interests, attendance, and problems. Potential new leaders must be sought out, and their enthusiasm kindled.

We must work to make active participation the rule rather than the exception in the WCA.

### HERB POHL

As many of you are aware, I am a past member of the Board of Directors and have served on the Outings Committee. What is probably more important, I have been a participant in many of the club activities. Over the last six years I have enjoyed the contacts made at meetings and on outings and am keenly interested in continuing this indulgence.

In declaring my candidacy for the Board of Directors I am mindful of the work that a relatively small group of individuals has performed over the years. Perhaps it is time to allow some of them the luxury of letting someone else carry part of the workload; so after a brief holiday, I am willing to get back into harness.

It is probably reasonable at this point for me to state my basic perception of the WCA: it is an association of individuals united by a common appreciation of the outdoors and a desire to maintain and be part of our natural environment. I perceive members of the WCA to be independent spirits who like to do things in their own way, confident in their ability to cope with the demands of their forays. I view membership in the WCA as a vehicle for people to share experiences and exchange information, formally through the newsletter and club activities and informally through personal contacts which flow from the former.

Apart from the bias reflected in the above comments, I also want to stress that I am a firm believer in the principle of active involvement by the members in all affairs of the association. Put another way, this means that I do not believe in the division of members into two groups: the providers of services and those who use them - rather I believe that like in any viable family there is a constant sharing of responsibilities and benefits. Naturally, not all contribute equally, but all should be equally willing to contribute.

It is with this prejudice that I would participate in the decision-making process which is within the domain of the Board of Directors, should you choose to elect me.

## equipment

### SCOTT CANOES - A FINAL WORD

After my article on Kevlar Canoes in the summer issue, Claire Brigden and John Cross really tried to take me to task for my endorsement of Scott canoes. I'm resistant to leaping to the defensive, and I generally feel that each side in a published controversy should be allowed its say but once - from which point readers may pursue their own decisions. But the present case requires a brief comment.

My detractors criticise the manufacturer of Scott canoes for air-filled flotation chambers and aluminum ribs, neither of which are to be found in the Kevlar canoe I was describing. Improvements made in recent years have been significant. There will be more in years to come. No manufacturer worth his salt would lay claim to the perfect product. Is it somehow wrong, or a sign of weakness, to correct deficiencies?

To point out that Tyrell did the Kazan, in 1894, in a Peterborough cedar-strip is true. But so what. Tyrell himself describes the care and maintenance required. Technology has improved the serviceability and safety offered in our chosen form of transport - whether it be a canoe, an automobile, or an airplane.

Not only the Portage Store has a fleet of Scott canoes for rent, but likewise Killarney Lodge, Algonquin Outfitters, and other outlets in Bala, Cravenhurst, Temagami, Baysville,... the list goes on. I spoke with most of them during my research. You've already read the results of that effort.

I must say, in closing, only that the four Scott Kevlars we used this summer on the Kazan served us well. They were able to handle the heavy loads, the large lake waves, the rocky shallows, the whitewater - all in great comfort for the occupants. On this all eight paddlers agreed. There are, of course, other good canoes around; to suggest otherwise would be folly. I leave the choice to you. Everyone should do the sort of investigation I did before buying, and draw their own conclusions - if only to have the confidence of your decision. *Chaque'un a son gout.*

David Pelly



nastawgan published by the wca editor: sandy richardson printed by bayweb

nastawgan is an Anishinabi word meaning 'the way or route'

## EDITORIAL

### WHERE HAVE ALL THE STORIES GONE?

Each issue, we on the Communications Committee try to put together a high quality paper, one that is both interesting and informative, for our members. In order to do this we count on the contribution of articles from as many members as possible.

However, as you can see from the thickness (or should I say "thinness") of the last two issues, we are no longer receiving the number of articles that we have in the past.

If this paper is to continue being a vital means of communication within the WCA, we need more material from more members. We can't depend forever on the same small group of contributors.

Why not think about contributing something for our next issue? You need not be a literary genius, but simply have something that you'd like to share with your fellow members: perhaps your experiences on a wilderness trip; or a report of a WCA trip you went on; or a review of one of your favourite wilderness books; or some comments on canoeing/backpacking/camping techniques or equipment; or a wilderness photo essay; or some thoughts on any of the numerous conservation or canoeing related issues around the province; or anything else that interests you. If it interests you then chances are good that it will interest other members too.

Let's keep our association strong. Please take a little time to put together something about your experiences in the wilds for a future issue of Nastawgan. Your contribution will be appreciated, not just by the Communications Committee, but by all WCA members.

Sandy Richardson

## news briefs

### WE GOOFED

The article "A Day on the Missinaibi" in the last issue appeared without credit. (Actually it had a credit when we started, but this disappeared in transit to the printer.)

The article was written by Rita Ness, and the photograph was by Bill Ness. We apologise to the Nesses for this slip-up on our part; and will try to ensure that it does not happen again. (S.R.)

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1983

Mark the weekend of March 4-6, 1983 on your calendar. That's the weekend we have booked the Frost Centre at Dorset for our Annual General Meeting. In addition to WCA business, there will be an interesting programme and a variety of winter outings. Details of the programme will be mailed out with the winter issue of the newsletter in December. We will be asking you to register early (by January 15), so plan now to join us at Dorset.

### CANOE ONTARIO 1983 CALENDAR

Once again, a photo calendar has been put together by Canoe Ontario to promote the activities of its four affiliates (flat water, marathon, recreational, wild water). The 14 black and white photographs, made by WCA member Toni Harting, show many aspects of the fascinating art of paddling, from training to competition, in the wilderness and on the regatta course, humorous and serious moments in and out of the water.

The price for this very special publication, which every canoeist and kayaker will want, is only \$2.50 plus 50¢ postage and handling. To order, please contact: Canoe Ontario, 1220 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, M2K 2X1; or phone 416-495-4180.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Your 1982 membership expires on January 31. Renew now for 1983. Send the completed membership application (on the back page) to the membership committee chairman today.

### NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS

At the Annual General Meeting, March 5-6, 1983, three directors will be elected to serve on the Board of the WCA for the two year period until March 1985. Anyone wishing to stand as a candidate should contact the Nominating Committee without delay by calling Bill King at 416-223-4646.

### WCA AT THE SPORTSMEN'S SHOW: HELP WANTED

The 1983 Sportsmen's Show will be taking place in Toronto from Friday March 18 to Sunday March 27; and the WCA will have our customary booth there. Why not take the opportunity to join us and become part of the show? We need your help in setting up and staffing the booth. If you would like to participate in this worthwhile project call Bill Ness in Toronto at 416-499-6389.

### DEADLINE FOR SPRING ISSUE

Material is urgently needed for the spring issue. Articles may be hand or type written; double spacing is appreciated. (If you have ideas for articles, but are unsure of what to do for the paper, please give the editor a call.)

Please send articles and photographs to the editor no later than February 25 for inclusion in the spring issue.

## WCA PHOTO CONTEST

The WCA is holding its annual slide contest again this year, and members are invited to enter their slides in any of the categories outlined below. Remember that this is not a contest only for 'experts' or for those who have made trips in 'exotic' places. It is for all of us who try to express photographically something of our wilderness experiences. It is not necessary to enter a lot of slides, or to enter every category. Select a few (1 or 2 would be fine) of your favourite slides that capture some of your feelings about the wilderness, and enter them in one or more of the following categories:

**CANADIAN WILDERNESS:** Photographs of wilderness scenery and landscapes, taken in Canada, that interpret the 'feeling' of the wilderness. (There should be no evidence of man in the photographs.)

**FLORA:** Photographs of Canadian wild plants in their natural settings.

**FAUNA:** Photographs of Canadian wild animals in their natural settings.

**MAN IN THE WILDERNESS:** Photographs depicting man in harmony with the natural environment, capturing the essence of the wilderness experience.

### INTERPRETIVE STUDIES OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT:

Photographs of an expressive or interpretive nature, portraying the drama or impact of some element from the natural environment. Photographs may be abstract, and may highlight line, form, texture, colour, or mood in the chosen subject.

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

Entries should be sent to the Photo Contest

Chairman: Barry Brown,  
1415 Everall Rd.,  
Mississauga, Ont.,  
L5J 3L7.

to be received no later than JANUARY 31, 1983.

Each slide submitted should be clearly marked with the photographer's name, and numbered. Include with your entry a sheet of paper stating name, address, phone number, and clearly indicating by number for each slide: a) the category entered, and b) the title of the slide.

An entry fee of \$3 (regardless of the number of slides entered) must also accompany your entry.

- RULES:**
1. Entries will be accepted from WCA members only.
  2. A maximum of 3 slides per category may be submitted.
  3. Slides that received prizes or honourable mentions in previous WCA contests are not eligible for entry this year.
  4. The WCA reserves the right to use prints of the winning and other selected slides for display at the WCA booth at the Sportsmen's Show, and for reproduction in this paper.

**JUDGING:** The photographs will be judged on their subject matter, interest, technical qualities, and artistic merit by a panel of judges.

**PRIZES:** The winner of each category will receive an 8" X 10" framed and mounted colour print of their winning slide.

Winners will be announced at the WCA Annual General Meeting in March, where all entries will be shown. (Entrants may pick up their slides at this meeting. For those not present, slides will be returned by mail.)

### PADDLERS WITHOUT PARTNERS

No, not another social club, but many of us for many reasons do not have regular paddling partners. If you qualify as a P.W.P., let me assure you that you have lots of company. The Outings Committee, for instance, has 4 members without regular paddling partners. Do not let the lack of a partner inhibit your participation in trips and outings! Phone for a place on a trip - most organizers consider it part of their job to match up P.W.P.s if they possibly can.

If you register early, you can meet your partner for that trip over a cup of coffee to further arrange details. It is also quite commonplace to paddle with one person and share a tent with another. You and the organizer can sort this out in advance. So let's have P.W.P.P. - Paddlers Without Partners Participating!

Norm Coombe

### ARMCHAIR CANOE OUTING

For those who can't wait for spring to experience the joys of canoeing, we invite you to join us for an evening of vicarious paddling pleasure as we screen a selection of films about canoeing. Members are invited to bring along some slides from their summer adventures to share with the group.

This event is being organized by Bill Ness on Friday January 21. If you are interested please call Bill after January 1 at 416-499-6389. There is a limit of 20 people, so call early.

### WCA CRESTS AND DECALS

The WCA crests and decals are finally ready. Crests are 2" X 4" and show the WCA logo and name in two shades of blue and white. They will cost \$3 each. The decals are 3" X 6" and match the crests in design and colour. Their cost is \$1.

Both crests and decals will be on sale at the AGM, and other WCA events. Members wishing to order by mail should send a cheque or money order payable to the Wilderness Canoe Association to: Bill King, 45 Himount Dr., Willowdale, Ontario, M2K 1X3. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, or add 35¢ for postage.

### BULK FOOD

High quality, low priced bulk foods are available from John Vince Foods Limited, 555 Steeprock Drive in Downsview. For a recent 50-day trip we bought over 350 kg of food (literally everything from soup to nuts) at a significant saving compared with standard retail prices. John Vince is both a wholesale supplier and a retail outlet. The latter is an economical place to buy for a short trip. But WCA members planning a major trip can apply to the office for an added discount on bulk orders from the warehouse.

David Pelly

### SNOWSHOE TRIPS

Snowshoeing is just as much fun, and demands just as much energy as cross-country skiing but without the hazards - like dodging trees at the bottom of slopes. With snowshoes you can penetrate much denser bush with ease, and follow animal tracks without frustration. It costs much less to get into snowshoeing than cross-country skiing. Anyone interested in impromptu, ad hoc snowshoe outings should contact Jim Greenacre anytime at 416-759-9956.

### FIVE WINDS SKI TOURING CLUB

Do you enjoy the outdoors in winter, the camaraderie of a group, skiing on ungroomed wilderness trails, feeling tired but good after a day's outing, relaxing on a bus afterwards instead of driving yourself home? If you do, the Five Winds Touring Club is for you.

The Five Winds Touring Club is devoted to wilderness ski touring, with roughly 150 km of trails in a wilderness area north of Honey Harbor. Transportation between Toronto and the trails is provided each Sunday by chartered buses at close to cost. Ski parties averaging 6 people including a leader are dropped off at various trail accesses and are picked up at pre-arranged points about 6 hours later. Each group follows a suggested route, but can be flexible according to its needs and interests.

Anyone interested in the club is invited to their fall meeting on Thursday November 11 at 8 p.m. at the Toronto Board of Education Auditorium, 155 College St., Toronto; or contact: Elaine Nepstad, 487 Markham St., Toronto, M6G 2L1; phone 416-537-4397.





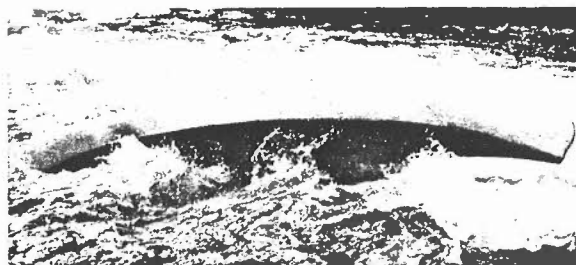
# minden wild preserve



This is a superb 800  
water in the Gull River,  
km northeast of Minden.  
Affiliation, the facility  
They provide an excellent  
ranging from ripples to  
canoeist as well as the  
For more information  
Roger Parsons, 15 Langsail  
(416) 244-1022.

Photographs made at the  
September 1982, by Toni





# water



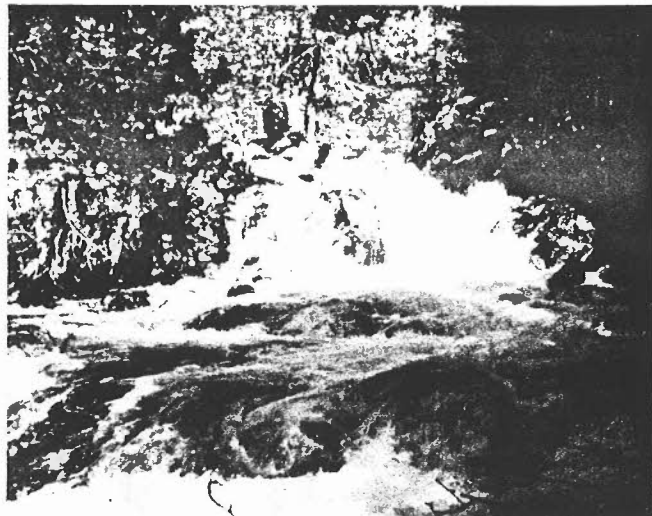
0 m long stretch of controlled-flow white  
located 250 km northeast of Toronto and 5  
Operated by the Ontario Wild Water  
les are also open to the general public.  
: opportunity to learn to run rapids  
class 4, and are suitable for the expert  
novice in open or closed boats.  
1, contact the OWWA property manager:  
ie Ave., Weston, Ontario, M9H 3E2, phone

Gull River Open Canoe Slalom,  
Harting.

# chiniguchi river

Bill King

There, How's that for an attention grabber? "Where the hell", you are probably asking yourself, "is the Chiniguchi River?". To tell the truth, the river isn't - well, almost isn't. It's really more a chain of lakes which form a very pretty canoe route, easily overlooked between the better-known Wanapitei and Sturgeon Rivers on either side. (Many thanks to Craig Macdonald for suggesting the route.) It rises in the same highlands which give birth to the Spanish and the Wanapitei, and ends up emptying into the lower Sturgeon. In between, it follows a pool-and-drop pattern, forming several small, and a few larger lakes, usually connected by waterfalls. The terrain is rugged and rocky, reminiscent, except in colour, of Killarney Park. It is easily accessible through Matamagasi Lake via a cottage road running north from Highway 17 at Callum.



Joan and I went during what is becoming our favourite part of the year for tripping - early May, just after breakup. At that time, the weather is usually good, with long, warm days and cool nights. The water level is high, making river shallows easier and rapids and waterfalls more spectacular. It is usually too early for blackflies or mosquitoes to be out in force. A last advantage is that most canoe routes, even the popular ones, are deserted - we didn't see another soul for a week.

Our trip was intended for rest and relaxation. It became particularly relaxing when the creek by which I had planned a returning-loop proved to be impassable. We didn't feel particularly cheated. This area has some of the most beautiful natural campsites I have ever seen. One site, on a rock point across a small pond from the waterfall where the river empties into Wolf Lake, could have come straight out of a movie set and it was only marginally the loveliest. We were quite content to stop early in the day and enjoy our surroundings.

For those with greater ambition, a nice loop could be taken by following the chain of lakes north of Chiniguchi Lake to reach the Sturgeon below Kettle Falls. The return trip would include some of the more scenic parts of the Sturgeon. Access back to the Chiniguchi system is possible at several points in the section above Glen Afton. These are detailed in Hap Wilson's book, Temagami Area Canoe Routes. While I have only paddled sections of this trip, I would estimate that it would take about a week to ten days. There are some fairly good specimens of Indian rock painting in the narrows of McCarthy Bay on Matamagasi Lake.

## A MOST USEFUL TRIP LIBRARY

Toni Harting

It is one of those things that many canoe trippers worry about: where to find good, up-to-date information on the numerous canoe routes so liberally strewn across the Ontario waters.

Whether one is planning an easy day's paddle on a quiet lake, or a tough month-long struggle in the north, it is important to know at least something (but preferably as much as possible) about the rivers, lakes, portages, campsites, distances, etc., that are the building blocks of tripping. And a considerable amount of useful information appears to be around, hidden in pamphlets, brochures, trip reports, diaries, articles, etc. But the problem always seems to be: how to get at it.

However, steps are now being taken to solve that problem. At the office of Canoe Ontario a comprehensive trip library is being assembled by program-coordinator Maire Walpert. She collects all relevant information available on numerous canoe routes in the province, and sorts, indexes, and files it alphabetically in folders, so that interested people can easily retrieve the needed data from this central source.

A large wall map with numbered flags indicates for which routes information is available in the files. Currently a little over one hundred flags are pinned onto the map, and more are added when information on new routes comes in. Maire is always looking for material, and very much welcomes donations of informative personal trip reports to be included in the library, especially of the less frequently travelled routes.

Although the trip library is primarily set up for the benefit of members of Canoe Ontario and its affiliations, nonmembers are also welcome to visit the office and study the route information. If wanted, photocopies of specific documents, which can also be ordered by mail, are available at 5¢ per page. For more information contact Maire Walpert by phone or mail at: Canoe Ontario, 1220 Sheppard Ave. East, Willowdale, Ontario, M2K 2X1, phone (416) 495-4180.

The Canoe Ontario trip library can be a most welcome and useful tool in the planning stages of a trip, and it will surely help to make canoeing in Ontario an even more enjoyable experience.



# water skiing

John Cross

That's what snow is, of course - frozen water. One of the snow skier's most deadly enemies is liquid water, which he is often thrust into by water which can't make up its mind. During our Noire New Year's trip, the temperature and the water often shifted back and forth; we would have preferred them less capricious.

Lakes, after all, stay above freezing throughout the winter; air stays well below. The ice is the boundary, being supplied with heat from below, giving it off to the air above. If the heat is supplied faster than it is dispersed, the ice will get thinner, even if the air is below freezing.

I forgot this, to my cost, one winter on the Crowe River. We passed some rapids via a portage trail and then travelled the shore of the lake; the more cautious people through the brush on shore, me along the ice, where the current from the rapids, one should remember, supplied heat to the underside of the ice. All went well; the temperature was -20°. The next day, we passed the same way again. The temperature was -3° - not a thaw, you understand - and I thought to play "safe" by following my own tracks of the day before. But the heat being sucked off the ice by the air was not what it had been the day before, and the water had made progress against the underside of the ice. -Fortunate I was that the shore, on which I should have been, was within grabbing distance.

Some people are tempted to say that one should stay off the ice altogether, but in the Canadian Shield, this is not really practical. Indian winter trails always followed water routes if they could, taking to the woods only at rapids or other dangerous places; even animal trails do the same. While ascending meandering Dickey Creek, we noticed that a deer, who had passed that way before, had wisely switched sides of the creek repeatedly, so that he kept to the inside of bends, where the current was less. We decided to follow his example.

On a swampy creek, one tends to keep to the verges, where cattails and other bushy plants show through the snow. We reason that the plants will keep the water still and permit the ice to form thickly; in fact the plants grew in water which is stagnant to begin with. No doubt very experienced woodsmen know which plants are a sign of safe walking, but we are still at the guessing stage, and sometimes we are wrong. It seems that in some swampy water, the decay process generates heat, which helps to keep the ice thin. Falling through at these points is particularly unpleasant, since the water below contains decayed plants which approximate the contents of the large intestine; if the stench on your trousers were all, you would not be in deadly danger, but the stuff mires your skis and snowshoes, and may thereby insure that you are added to the decaying contents of the swamp.

A traditional test of the ice is this: let the lead man jab downwards ahead of him with a thick pole; if the force of his jab will not break the ice, neither will his weight. Naturally, we add the obvious safety rules: travel in single file, keep a fair distance between skiers, give number 2 man the rope, and carry the spare clothes, sleeping bag, saw, fire starter, tarp, etc. farther back in the line.

On some lakes in the Noire area, there are warm underwater springs. There is really no way to anticipate these, except to bring a guide who knows the route. If possible follow a fresh trail of someone else. (The skiing will be easier this way anyway.) We have passed, on thick ice, close to an open water hole no bigger than a man-hole cover. If the weather had been colder, the cover would have been closed, and perhaps indistinguishable from the ice on which we skied.

Now we come to the catch: on some lakes, sometimes, it is better to follow an old trail, though this is a less reliable guide to ice thickness. But lake water isn't the only water on the lakes; heavy snow, like too many people on a raft, pushes the ice down, so that water wells up through cracks and spreads out over the surface, forming a layer of slush. Since the slush is insulated by snow, it can remain liquid at surprisingly low temperatures. As you ski along, you feel the snow give a funny little heave - and suddenly your skis seem to weigh a tonne, you see they are about 15 cm. thick.

The slush will not freeze unless the insulation is broken down. We skied along old trails and noticed where the skier or snowmobile ahead of us had hit a slush patch the day before; with the snow cover crushed, the slush had frozen. Sometimes, the slush itself "committed suicide"; it grew so thick that it soaked up through the snow, forming a dark wet patch on the surface. Soaking snow is no better an insulator than soaking goosedown; the slush refroze, leaving a pebbly surface. On approaching such dark patches we learned to brace ourselves to ski as fast as possible through the ring of unfrozen slush that surrounded them; the pebbly surface could sometimes be counted on to scrape off the slush from the ski bottoms. When we crossed the far side ring, we again sped up.

On very wet days, snow does not stick to the bottom of your skis because the slush itself washes it off, but these are not usually considered ideal skiing days. Perhaps more typical is an experience on Indian Lake near the Noire; the temperature was so low and the wind so strong that there was considerable risk of the snow freezing to the bottom of our skis before we could get it off. When I felt the snow heave, I end to end, and then went back to clean out the ski groove...to find that in a few seconds, the slush in the groove had frozen iron-hard. With the second ski, I followed a better procedure; I scraped about a foot of bottom, then cleaned out the groove for that foot, then went on to the next foot of bottom surface.

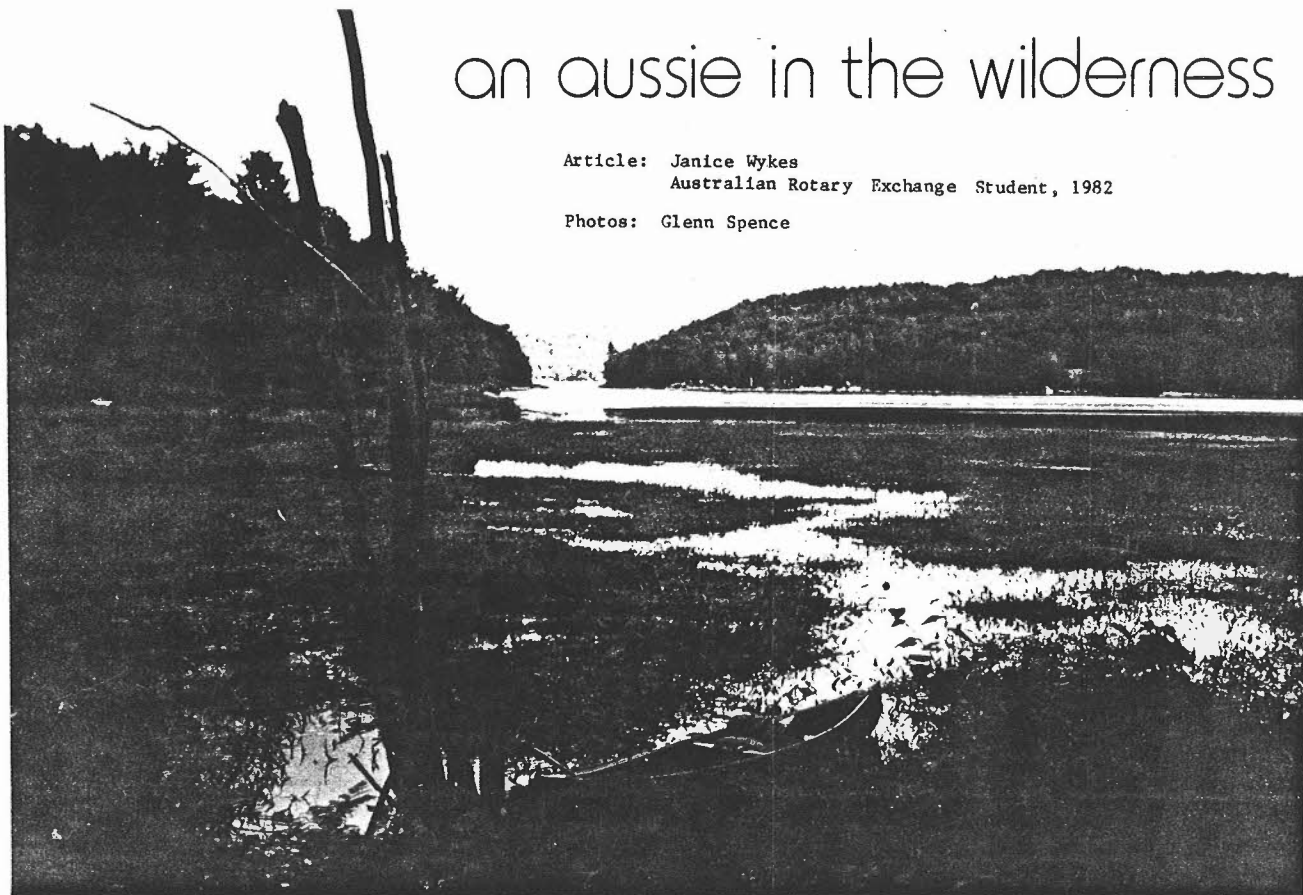
Craig told us that toboggan parties would often send a man ahead of the main group, to break down the snow cover with his snowshoes and so allow the slush to freeze. An odawban which none which none the less had snow frozen to the bottom was run over tree branches to clean them off.

Water-slush-wet snow-dry snow-ice...a surprisingly technical subject, and we await an anthropologist who will someday translate an Inuit discussion of the subject with a suitable lettering scheme to cover their 22 words for "snow".

# an aussie in the wilderness

Article: Janice Wykes  
Australian Rotary Exchange Student, 1982

Photos: Glenn Spence



I didn't know what to expect when I dragged myself out of bed at 5:30 a.m. (after a late night) on a miserable morning, to go canoeing for the first time in my life.

I must admit I was very skeptical when I peered out to the lake through a covering fog and drizzling rain. The lake in question was Long Lake, and the canoe trip was a WCA trip organized by Glenn Spence of Colborne. There were three canoes and seven people all told.

Anyway, I decided to brave the waters (it was that, or sit in the car for two days) and we started up Long Lake - paddling against a brisk breeze.

Fortunately, the perspectives improved considerably once out on the middle of the lake. The scenery made up for the lousy weather. It was both beautiful and refreshing. In fact, the farther we went, the better it got.



When we hit Louck's Lake, the "brisk breeze" turned into a "gale". I thought we were paddling backwards. But being the brave souls that we are, we battled on and finally made it to our first portage. I was a little dubious about this - having only just discovered what the word meant and viewing the heavy packs. Luckily, it wasn't too bad and we had the added advantage of ending the portage with lunch. Camp food sure tasted good after the exercise of the morning.

By this time, the weather had decided to improve, and we removed our rainsuits.

After lunch we paddled through a much calmer lake - Compass Lake. After Compass Lake, came the very beautiful Stoplog Lake.

We camped on this lake, and when we had our camp established, we went for a little jaunt down a creek. Here, I had my first experience with Beaver dams. I found them very interesting...and very challenging. Ever-willing to try anything, I overcame my initial thoughts of panic, and helped manoeuvre one of the canoes over a couple of these. I was very glad I did, because the scenery after them was very lovely.

The next morning I again chalked up a first - I had bannock for breakfast (delicious). The morning was absolutely gorgeous. There was a thick fog over the lake, and the sun was shining gallantly through. It was so peaceful and tranquil, you knew that you were not near "civilization". When the fog lifted, it revealed a warm, clear day. The water was so clear you could see the bottom, and the reflection of the trees, with just a hint of Autumn colour, was breathtaking.

Unfortunately, we had to leave this "Wonderland paradise" and head home. We paddled (in still waters) toward Turtle Lake, onto Cherry Lake and onto Triangle Lake. The scene we woke up to was a hard act to follow, but these three lakes gave it their best shot.

At the end of Triangle Lake, we had quite a long portage to Cox Lake. Toward the end of it, I was



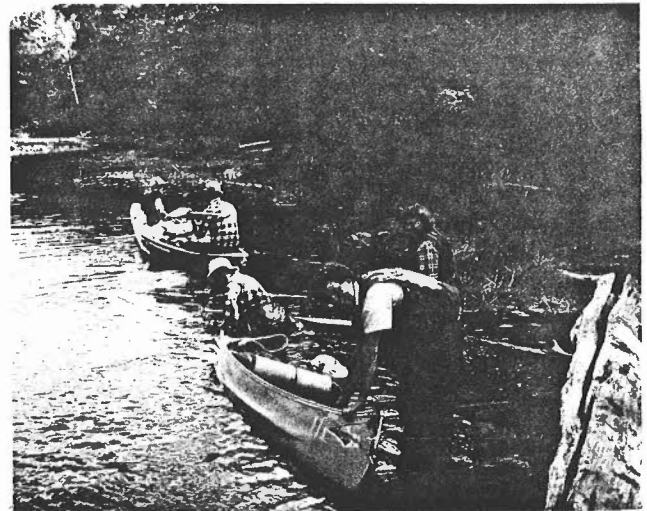
beginning to think, was all the back-breaking work worth it. But, when I got to Cox Lake and looked out onto the clear, cool beauty of it, I realized that it was more than worth it (not to mention that we got to eat).



After lunch, we set out on Cox Lake, and then down a little "unnamed" creek. Now here an unfortunate thing happened. We had to cross a Beaver dam, but thanks to the practice the day before, we accomplished that with ease. The problem arose when we had to get back into the canoe. There were three in our canoe, and we decided it was a nice place to go for a swim (despite the mud and bugs). Well, naturally, when our canoe saw us having such a good time, it decided to get in on the act as well. Subsequently, two of us got slightly wet, and the canoe sort of got filled with muddy water. Luckily we could see the funny side of it (we had little choice) and everything was well water-proofed (and it was a nice day).

After that bit of comic relief, we headed onto Louck's Lake (the rest of them did - Gerry Spence and I stayed behind to change into drier clothes). When we got to Louck's Lake, it was hard to believe it was the same lake which tried everything in its power to tip us the day before. The water was so calm, and as clear as crystal. The same pleasant surprise greeted us when we hit Long Lake. It made a great ending to a perfect trip.

It amazes me that someone can do this kind of trip (eight lakes so close together). Australia doesn't have this sort of thing (at least not where I live) and it was great to see so much water - let alone the beauty of the countryside to go with it.



I hope this sort of "untouched" wilderness remains for future generations to gain pleasure from. It would indeed be a sad day to see this sort of beauty spoiled by man's stupidity.

## gibson - mcdonald

Bill King

This route, in the heart of cottage country, on two of its most popular short rivers, tends to be ignored by WCA-ers due to its lack of runnable whitewater and its heavy usage. As with Algonquin Park, the latter should be only a summertime problem and a spring or fall trip should have more of a wilderness quality. The Gibson-McDonald Loop has a number of positive features. There is a nice variety of terrain, combining both large (Georgian Bay) and small lake paddling, some marshy areas, rocky river banks and small, but very attractive, waterfalls. At least one rapid on the lower Gibson should be runnable at the right water level.

To ensure a safe parking place, the trip can be started and finished at Six Mile Lake Provincial Park. Highway access (#69) to the loop is also available at either of the river crossings. Those with cottages on Georgian Bay might find this an equally convenient starting point. At 67 km this is a brisk two-day, or a leisurely three-day trip. There are some outstanding campsites, particularly along the Gibson River, at the entrance of the Musquash and at Three Rock Chutes.

Joan and I were there in the height of the summer traffic on the July long weekend. Needless to say, so were a great many other people. We found that this had both grotesque and amusing aspects. We checked out the Bone Island campsite of Georgian Bay National Park and found a depressing chaos of cabin cruisers, rock music, garbage and people everywhere. It had about as much wilderness atmosphere as Nathan Phillips Square.

On the other hand, at our campsite on MacRae Lake we had an opposite reaction to a similar situation. MacRae Lake would be described by a real estate agent as "cozy" or "compact". We were very conscious of the fact that there must have been at least 15 other parties camped on that lake, all within loud-hailing distance of each other. Perhaps because we had been improving the shining hour with a little rum and lemonade, we sat back to enjoy the floorshow. Across the lake, some sportsman had brought along his chainsaw (the better to "kill him a

tree", I suppose) and was sawing away enthusiastically and very noisily until a leather-lunged gentleman at another campsite invited him to "shut off the (deleted) chainsaw" in a voice which must have been audible for several counties. Silence(?) then returned to MacRae Lake.



Directly in front of our point there was a tiny island which boasted exactly one tree and a very large rock, obviously the habitat of seagulls. Just before dusk two young boys paddled up and proceeded to scale the rock. The summit achieved, they held a flag raising ceremony in which they took possession of "Mount Birdshit" and then proceeded to set up their tent for the night. All in all, it was a memorable evening.

Detailed information about this and other area trips can be had by writing to the MNR at: 4 Miller St., Parry Sound, Ontario, P2A 1S8. On balance, I think this a trip worth considering.



### LET'S BE SELFISH

Are you getting what you want? Do the WCA outings suit you? Are you acquiring the skills you would like to? If not - what can be done about it? Understanding how the Outings Committee plans an activity schedule may help you get more out of the WCA.

The Outings Committee is composed of ordinary club members who have volunteered (or have been asked to volunteer) to set up the club's outings programmes. They normally proceed in the following manner. Well in advance of each newsletter, letters asking for participation are sent to members who have led trips in the past and to members who seem to be likely prospects as trip organizers. A few of these nice people promptly respond with a written description of the trips they are willing to organize.

Then to pad out the schedule the committee does a phone blitz. A meeting is held to assemble a schedule of outings that have been volunteered. This list is then forwarded to the newsletter editor for inclusion in the paper. You can see that this procedure provides us with a list of outings that reflects the interests of the volunteers. This may result in too much emphasis on one type of outing simply because that is what the more experienced trip leaders may wish to do. The committee may suggest different approaches, but what usually happens is that the committee members themselves volunteer to fill the gaps in the programme.

Members can influence the Outings Committee and its schedule of events in the following ways:

1. Let us know (well in advance) what you would like the club to be doing with regard to outings. Contact any of the committee members anytime, anywhere.

2. Contact the Outings Committee if you would like to lead a trip or trips; ask to be put on their contact list of organizers. We cannot canvas the whole 250 members, 4 times a year. A restricted list of prospects is necessary.

3. Outings of a special nature or to a special place can best be organized by yourself. Contact the outings group and list it. This is the best way to get what you want. If you need help, take it from the people who phone to participate. The outings group will also

advise and assist. Don't be shy. Organizing a trip does not mean that you have to lead the trip on the water. You can arrange for another participant to lead the "in the field" part of the trip. You can also ask a more experienced member to help out before you list the trip. Many experienced trippers would be happy to provide "on the water" guidance, but may not want to organize the trip itself.

The present outings committee may also try a new approach; in response to your requests, we may list the types of activities desired and then call for volunteers to organize them.

The next outings schedule will be put together in February for the vital Spring Newsletter. Let us know this winter and spring what you want to do next spring and summer. If you wait too long, it will be too late to make changes.

So get selfish. Move your paddle and ask for what you want, or even do-it-yourself.

Norm Coombe

### ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS OF THE OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Jim Greenacre  
34 Bergen Road  
Scarborough, Ontario  
M1P 1R9  
416-759-9956

Tony Bird  
260 Gamble Ave., Apt. 207  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4J 2P3  
416-421-3451

Norm Coombe  
24 Kentish Cres.  
Agincourt, Ontario  
M1S 2Z4  
416-751-2812  
416-293-8036

Gary Walters  
2058 Martin Grove Road  
Rexdale, Ontario  
M9V 4B6  
416-743-4628

Stewart McIlwraith  
38 Rhydwyn Ave.  
Scarborough, Ontario  
M1N 2E1  
416-698-1519

### January 8-9 ODAWBAN CAMPING IN LONG LAKE AREA

Organizer: John Cross 416-961-7465  
Book immediately

This is an interesting region of low rocky ridges, separated by small ponds. We will haul gear on odawbans, camping in heated tents, on a loop route. Limit 4 people.

### January 15 CROSS COUNTRY SKI IN VICTORIA COUNTY FOREST NEAR NORLAND

Organizer: Anneke and Dave Auger 705-324-9359  
Book before January 10

This is a great place to go for your first cross-country ski of the new year. The hills are gentle in this quiet forest setting. Our plan is to follow the long trail of 8-10 km with a stop on route for lunch. Suitable for novices and better. Limit 8 skiers.

### January 15 GIBSON RIVER CROSS-CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Organizer: Rob Butler 416-487-2282  
Book between January 4 and 13

Ski in rugged, sparsely treed wilderness on ungroomed trails, following some of the Five Winds trails in the Gibson River - McCrae Lake region. Suitable for intermediate skiers. Limit 6 skiers.

### January 16 CHILLY AND CHILI

Organizer: Glenn Spence 416-355-3506  
Book before January 11

Come on out to Colborne country for some cross-country skiing and eating. We will go to the Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area which offers three loops totalling 15 km in distance. The skill level will range from novice to intermediate. Limit 8 skiers.

### January 22-23 ODAWBAN CAMPING IN ALGONQUIN PARK

Organizer: John Cross 416-961-7465  
Book between January 1 and 15

Snowshoeing and traditional style camping in a snowmobile-free area. Limit 4 people.

### January 22-23 DRAG LAKE POT POURRI

Organizer: Bob MacLellan 416-488-9346  
Book between January 1 and 15

Winter variety at our cottage on beautiful Drag Lake. We will ski in 5 km packing in our supplies in backpacks and on tobaggans. Free time can be spent exploring this scenic area on skis or snowshoes. The cottage will provide shelter but that's all. Water through the ice, wood heat, outdoor facilities and cold sleeping quarters will offer seasonal challenges to the six participants.

Organizers: Sandy Richardson 416-429-3944  
Cam Salsbury 416-498-8660  
Book before January 15

Come on an exploratory ski-backpacking trip with us into a scenic wilderness area of numerous small lakes, rocky ridges and open bush. Travelling with light-weight equipment we will bushwack in and set up a campsite, leaving ample time to explore the surrounding area, photograph, and simply enjoy the clean, quiet beauty of the bush in winter.

Suitable for anyone in reasonable physical condition, and with some experience cross-country skiing while wearing a backpack. Limit 6 people.

February 12-13 ALGONQUIN PARK

Organizers: John Cross 416-961-7465  
Herb Pohl 416-637-7632  
Book between January 15 and February 1

This exploratory trip will follow the North Madawaska River from the Mew Lake Campground to its origin. From there we expect to strike out in a westerly direction to Iris Lake and thence northerly to Cannisbay Lake on our way to Highway 60. The 22-24 km journey will be a snowshoe/toboggan/warm camp affair. The organizers will provide everything on a cost sharing basis, participants are only expected to bring their personal gear (including snowshoes) and a modicum of fitness (12 km a day in deep snow ain't easy). Limit 8 people.

February 19 SKI KAWARTHA TRAILS

Organizer: Rob Butler 416-487-2282  
Book between February 6 and 16

The Kawartha area adjacent to Highway 28 north of, Burley Falls offers some challenging trails for intermediate skiers in good condition. Limit 6 skiers.

February 20 APSLEY AREA X-C SKI TRIP

Organizer: Bill Ness 416-499-6389  
Book between January 30 and February 13

This one day ski trip will take us through the beautiful and rugged area west of Apsley. Our route will follow a summer canoe route through a chain of lakes. The pace will be relaxed and the skiing easy. This trip is suitable for novices eager to get a taste of wilderness skiing. Limit 10 people.

February 26-27 WESTERN ALGONQUIN PARK-WINTER CAMPING

Organizer: Graham Barnett 416-651-5496  
Book between February 1 and 19

Participants will travel about 15 kilometres in total and camp Saturday night in a stove heated wall tent. Members must supply their own toboggan and snowshoes. Organizer will supply stove and tent for 4 people can be accepted if they can supply another tent and stove,

SPRING CANOE TRIPS

The dates of all early spring canoe trips may have to be changed to suit the weather and water conditions.

Early March CANOE BUYERS SEMINAR

Organizers: Norm Coombe 416-751-2812  
416-293-8036  
Gary Walters 416-743-4628  
Book in January -February

Visit the boat show then come to our session to talk canoes before you commit yourselves at the Sportsman's Show. We will try to cover sizes, shapes, materials and purpose. Time, place and format of this event will depend upon your response. If we have enough interest it may be possible to assemble canoes at a swimming pool for the meeting.

March 12 ROUGE RIVER

Organizer: George Haeh 416-925-1327  
Book between February 20 and March 5

Timed to catch the spring breakup this will be a fast moving whitewater trip just at the east edge of Metro. Because of the icy cold water this trip is listed for intermediates and advanced whitewater canoeists. Limit 6 canoes.

March 19 HUMBER RIVER

Organizer: George Haeh 416-925-1327  
Book between March 1 and 12

Despite its location within Metro the Humber in spring flood can be hairy as it tears through parks and golf courses from the 401 to Dundas St. For advanced paddlers because the trip is timed to catch very high, cold flood-waters. Limit 4 canoes.

April 3 LOWER CREDIT RIVER

Organizer: Duncan Taylor 416-368-9748  
Book between March 5 and 26

A grade II whitewater trip suitable for intermediates and trained novices teamed with a more experienced partner. Limit 5 canoes.

April 13 PACKS AND WATERPROOFING

Organizers: Jim Greenacre 416-759-9956  
Norm Coombe 416-751-2812  
Book before March 30

An evening get together to discuss the packs on the market and demonstrations of waterproofing techniques. An important evening if you are buying a pack and essential if you are a beginner at whitewater canoeing.

April 17 UPPER HEAD RIVER

Organizer: Bill Ness 416-499-6389  
Book between March 27 and April 10

On this exploratory one day trip we will paddle the Head River from Head Lake to the village of Sebright. The river here is narrow and winding and is rumoured to have many interesting, "ledgy" rapids. Suitable for intermediates with good white water skills. Limit 4 canoes.

April 30 - May 1 MOON RIVER LOOP

Organizers: Shirley & Jim Williams 416-628-8324  
Book between April 15 and 22

A 34 km flatwater trip including lakes and rivers with spectacular scenery and little driving. Suitable for novices in good condition willing to do a few portages. Limit 4 canoes.

# products and services

## Bluewater Canoes:

Lightweight Kevlar-S-glass, fibreglass, and nylon canoes made with vinylester and epoxy resins. Blue-water spraycovers made from coated, waterproof nylon to fit any canoe. Also, this year we will be manufacturing, under licence, a few of Eugene Jensen's designs. Long distance canoeists will be particularly interested in the extremely sleek 18'6" Whitewater II model. For further information contact Rockwood Outfitters, 45 Speedvale Ave. E., Guelph, Ont., N1H 1J2. Phone (519) 824-1415.

## Canoe For Sale

17' Woodstream "Canadian", white, in sound condition. Reasonable. Contact Ken Reeves in Woodbridge 416-851-1692.

## Coleman Craft Canoes:

Coleman Craft Canoes, of hand-layed-up fibreglass, are available in 12'8", 14'8", 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 in 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.

## Scott Canoes:

Complete line of Canadian-made fibreglass and Kevlar canoes is available at special discount prices to WCA members. For information contact David Pelly at 416-749-2176 during business hours.

## Discounts on Camping Supplies:

WCA members who present a membership card will receive ten percent discounts on many non-sale items at:

Margesson's, 17 Adelaide St. E., Toronto.  
A.B.C. Sports, 552 Yonge St., Toronto.  
Rockwood Outfitters, 45 Speedvale Ave. E., Guelph.

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

## Expedition:

David Pelly's new book Expedition, recounting both Captain George Back's explorations of Canada's Barrens in 1834 and David's own retracing of this route in 1977, can be ordered directly from the publisher. Send \$19.95 plus \$1.55 for mailing to: Betelgeuse Books, P.O. Box 1334, Station B, Weston, Ontario, M9L 2W9. (If you use this order form, the WCA will receive a commission on each sale.)

Please send \_\_\_ copies of Expedition to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Odawban Winter Travel Equipment

Explore the routes of the voyageurs and native trappers using their proven methods for comfortable winter travel. Fully equipped tent stove units sell for \$229 and Indian style trail toboggans with high performance synthetic bases for \$98. Both items come with detailed instructions for beginners and experts alike. Contact Craig MacDonald: 705-766-2885.

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