

rupert - marten

The Rupert River, a 500 kilometre long east-west river system, rises in Lake Mistassini in Northern Quebec and flows into James Bay. The upper Rupert, a stream of modest current interrupted by usually tame rapids, does not follow a well defined river valley, but meanders through a complex network of lakes. Over the first 80 kilometres of the river's course from Lake Mistassini, several channels separate and merge to form extended islands. The gradient of the river increases towards James Bay; the lakes which formed much of the waterway disappear; the various channels converge; the volume of water increases; the rapids become more impressive; and a powerful river develops.

The Marten River, a tributary of the Rupert, was part of an extensive canoe route system that funnelled down to Rupert House. This largely forgotten waterway follows a course which parallels that of the Rupert and was preferred by the fur brigades because of its more benign character.

The topographical maps do not indicate the historic voyageur route into the Marten from the Rupert. However,

an examination of the maps is very suggestive. At one place the waters of the Marten and the Rupert are separated by a short distance across two lakes and two land traverses. The "effort minimization theory" was used to deduce the location of the old carrying places. It was supposed that the travellers of the past did not make any unnecessary exertion, and that the portages could be found on the shortest, driest, most convenient ground. This notion was helpful but not entirely flawless. The key was to find the first portage trail, if it still existed. It was somewhat disheartening after having broken camp in the rain to be tramping through dripping wet bush, all alone, far from anywhere, under overcast skies, in search of a path, that now, seemed unlikely to be there. My strategy was simply to bushwack into the source waters of the Marten if I couldn't find a trail. It was encouraging when, halfway to Kakomenhane Lake while attempting to ferret out a route through the woods with map and compass in hand, I came across a well defined path. This meant that the Mistassini Cree were still using this route. The second portage trail into Wabistan (Marten) Lake would be there; it only had to be found.



Unfortunately, the names Kakomenhane and Wabistan do not appear on the maps. A. P. Low, the famous geologist-surveyor, who journeyed down the system in 1885, referred to these lakes in his Report on the Mistassini Expedition:

"Leaving the river (Rupert) we passed to the upper end of the lake (a widening of Rupert), and thence by a portage of 1,100 yards to Lake Kanataikow (Canotaicane on the maps). Passing through this lake, which is very crooked, for nine miles, to a small lake called Kakomenhane, and then through it three miles to the portage at the opposite end, where camp was made for the night.

"August 26, 1885. - Left camp at daybreak, and crossing the portage, 250 yards long, entered Wabistan Lake, the head of the Marten branch of the Rupert River. We followed this lake eight miles to its outlet by a small brook (Marten River) 330 yards long..."

Country with the gentle relief of this area, forming a labyrinth of lakes and channels, would have more than one passageway through some sections. Whereas, I entered Canotaicane Lake by working my canoe up the 600 metre length of Canotaicane Creek, Low appears to have left the Rupert about 8 kilometres upstream of the place I did, and to have taken a long 1,000 metre portage into it. This more circuitous route was perhaps necessitated because the ten-man birchbark (North) canoe they were using did not lend itself to being pulled up a shallow rocky creek.

Low's party completed their journey from Mistassini Post to Rupert House in 12 days. Modern paddlers are reported to take as many as 28 to 30 days for their voyage. Initially, one of my objectives was to attempt to match Low's speed. I had some advantage for my smaller more rugged canoe could cope with shallow intricate rapids that they surely had to portage. A ten hour paddling day had been planned for the trip, but I found myself having repeatedly to put in at least 12 hour days to keep up with their pace. It became apparent, after a few days of spending long hours fighting a continual westerly wind and groping to find lost portage trails, that it was beyond my physical limitations to average 50 or so kilometres a day soloing in a 17 foot aluminum canoe. An office worker simply hasn't got the physical stamina to maintain the dawn to dusk routine considered normal by the voyagers. It was essential to reduce the tempo because I was becoming physically rundown. Travelling at a slower pace, I completed the trip in 16 days.

To put in long paddling days, an early start is important. I characteristically got up at dawn, set the camera on a tripod to capture the sunrise, and had the primus warming coffee water while I took the tent down. After a quick breakfast of granola I packed and pushed off by 6 a.m. My principal meal of the day, at mid-day, was lengthy (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.) to give me time to make a fire and to rest up for the afternoon's exertion. The fire helped ward off the chill that quickly descended a few moments after having stopped paddling. A fire takes time and effort to make and I generally did not light one at day's end unless dry wood was readily available.

Supper was often simply a snack of salami, cheese and a little bread soothed down with a hot rum toddy. I experienced absolutely no difficulty in drifting off to sleep on the firm, though usually uneven ground.

Some of the place names along the way were revealing. In fur brigade times, (before the advent of the Montreal-Abitibi railway which made it practical to supply the post at Rupert House from the south) it would seem probable that provisions were stored at Lac de la Cache, on the Marten, for the return journey because it is almost exactly half way along the canoe route between Mistassini Post and Rupert House. Death by starvation, in the winter one hundred years ago, was not altogether uncommon in those places where the distances were so great that relief could not be rendered. A hardship story must be associated with Lac Famine.

The campsites became older and less frequent the farther I went down the Marten, and I got the impression it must have been 40 years since anyone came this way. Then, oddly, the campsites showed signs of recent use; and then, a little farther down, a fresh encampment appeared. It was evident that I had left the domain of the Mistassini Cree and had entered the territory of a different band. I wondered how they got to this seemingly inaccessible spot. Surely, they didn't fly in or work their way upstream from the nearest settlement - Nemiscau. No one does that sort of thing anymore. My queries were answered by the far off sound so often heard in the wilderness - diesel engines. Men, roads, trucks, and a construction site suddenly appeared. The object of the activity was to build a camp on the banks of the Marten for 75 men who would winter there to erect powerlines for Hydro Quebec. Cool work in a country notorious for its harsh climate.

Exchanging information with the camp archaeologist, whose function it was to identify ancient campsites of historic value along proposed powerline routes, we established that good camping spots were not overly abundant in this country. The camping places of antiquity are found along the water's edge. Just about any location that had an accessible shoreline and was reasonably flat and dry, showed evidence of past human activity. Test pits indicate that people were here 6 or 7 thousand years ago. It has been about that length of time since the Labrador ice sheet retreated permitting vegetation, animal life, and human occupation.





Great interest was expressed by my academic friend in a large, two or three family sized, domed lodge which had been discovered in an inconspicuous bay off the canoe route. This permanent structure became the object of much attention because of its unusual design and its unexpected discovery.

My research had revealed that travellers were warmly greeted at Nemiscau on their arrival there. The sight of the white Hudson Bay Company buildings far off across Nemiscau Lake were inviting as I approached one evening. I was more than a little disappointed to find that the community which had existed since pre-European times, had boasted a French fort in 1695 and at one time or another, Revillon Freres and North West Company trading posts, had been abandoned about 10 years ago. The convenience associated with modern communications out near one of the new Hydro Quebec roads must have been overpowering, hence the migration to a new village and a more urban lifestyle.

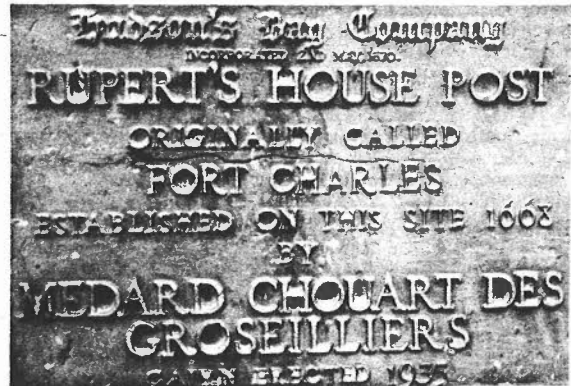
The lower Rupert contains hydroelectric potential. The volume of water is greater, and the gradient is steeper there, consequently powerful cataracts occur every few kilometres. Many of these sites have economic possibilities, and survey crews have hacked up the woods at these places, obliterating any trace of the portage trails. This presented a serious problem, for it was not always possible to determine how to continue without having to fumble around in the bush, sometimes on both sides of the river, scouting outlines before finding some route around a roaring impasse.

Judging from the state of the portage trails, by far the greatest volume of river traffic was between Nemiscau and Rupert House. The carrying places that have not been destroyed by recent work crew activity are distinct; the remnants of past public works - planks over streams and swamp sections - are still in a useful state after 40 years or so.

An older chap I encountered at Rupert House commented that in 1942, when he was 21, he devoted his summer to making seven trips to Nemiscau (about 300 kilometres return) ferrying goods for the Hudson Bay Company at nine cents a pound. There were few outboard motors in use at the time, and all freight was manhandled

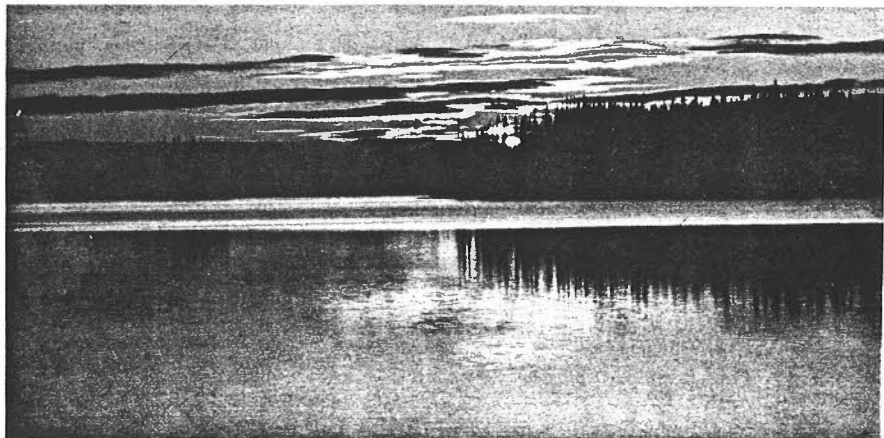
in freighter canoes upstream to its destination. He smiled when he mentioned that, by the end of the summer, 100 pound bags of flour seemed light indeed.

Rupert House, the old trading post established as Fort Charles in 1668 for the English by the French trader Medard Chouart des Groseilliers, partner and brother-in-law of the famed Pierre Esprit Radisson is a settlement in a state of rapid change. Wealth from the hydro electric development on James Bay is financing the construction of a much needed new community of modern frame houses, and in a few years Rupert House will have made a profound transition. A winter road connects the settlement by land to the outside world, and regular air service negates the need for marine communications. The community that was, for about 300 years, supplied by European ships hardly ever sees so much as a barge.



The community on Rupert's Bay maintains a guest house, providing many of the comforts that wet, cold and tired travellers would fully appreciate, at prices urban dwellers are accustomed to paying. Arrangements were made the morning following my arrival for transportation to parts south via Aircreebec (the new found affluence from the hydro electric development has enabled the Cree to acquire their own airline) on a Twin Otter for me, and on a near half century old DC-3 for my canoe, to Val-d'Or.

Dave Berthelet



land of the montagnais in winter

Bill King

For centuries the Laurentide area, northwest of Quebec City, has been the Land of the Montagnais. Many of their hunting and trapping routes are lost in antiquity, but knowledge of some of the major routes still exists. Long before the arrival of Jacques Cartier, the river which now bears his name formed a part of the main route between Metabetchouane on Lac Saint-Jean and Stadacona.

The voyage of Father Jean Dequen to Piekouagami (Lac Saint-Jean) via the Saguenay in 1647 began the era of the Jesuits. They established a mission at Metabetchouane in 1676 with the dual purpose of saving souls and trading in furs with the Indians. The route which follows the Jacques Cartier became their access road for supplies and came to be known as "le chemin des Jesuistes." Alas, the forts on the James Bay coast drained off all the fur trade and, in the early 1700's, the post at Metabetchouane and the Jesuit Highway were abandoned and largely forgotten for over a century.

The mid-1800's brought a sharp increase in colonization of the Lac Saint-Jean area so that by 1845 there was a population of 5000. This stimulated government interest in re-establishing a supply route and the old Jesuit-Montagnais trail was the subject of three surveying expeditions between 1847 and 1865. The government's decision, however, was in favour of a more easterly route, close to that of the present Highway #175. The final death-knell of the Jesuit Highway came near the end of the century with the construction of the rail line which follows the Batiscan River valley to the west. Although Laurentide Park was created in 1895, it was not until the recent creation of a separate Jacques Cartier Park that interest reawakened in the ancient route.



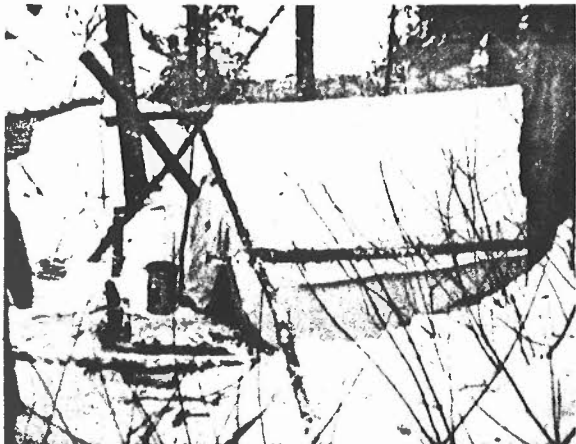
February 17, 1983 saw Craig Macdonald and his five packteers driving through the brown fields of Southern Ontario on the way to Quebec with the intention of tracing a portion of the old Jesuit Highway down the gorge and valley of the Jacques Cartier River. All the months of meticulous planning could not influence the weather, and the lack of snow was a major topic of conversation since, to travel in the traditional odawan style, we would have to depend on an adequate base of snow and ice. What would we do if the river was open? Could we modify our traditional tenting style if there was no snow in the bush? Another uncertainty concerned the feasibility of the descent into the gorge.



Our proposed route lay over the height of land between the valleys of the Montmorency and Jacques Cartier Rivers, followed by a 400 metre descent to the floor of the valley. Study of topographic maps and aerial photos indicated that the descent was very steep but that it was treed rather than sheer rockface. This would at least provide brakes for the sleds and toboggans. In correspondence with the Park officials, Craig was unable to find any evidence that anyone in recent memory had attempted the route which we proposed to try. In retrospect, their recommended route would have proved disastrous! Although the descent would have been less steep, it would have resulted in several days of difficult sidehilling and trail construction to get through the gorge.

The drive north from Quebec City on Friday morning put at least some of our fears to rest. The steadily-increasing altitude produced progressively better snow conditions with each passing kilometre. After eating breakfast at Le Relais du Nord on Highway #175 and arranging with the proprietor to shuttle and store our vehicle, we were off. The first day's travel was relatively easy, following an unplowed summer road through hilly and steadily-rising lake country. By taking only one tent/stove outfit for the six of us, we kept the number of sleds and toboggans necessary to transport our gear down to five, freeing one person to break trail unencumbered. On the road this meant a nice rest, but in the bush it was usually the hardest job of all. Most days we would maintain a strict rotation, moving up one position in our single file every few minutes.

On Friday evening, after a short afternoon of easy hauling through bright sunshine, we were camped on the shore of Lac Chartier, feeling very much at peace with the world. In addition to Craig and myself, the group included WCA'ers Peter Attfield, a naturalist with the Kortwright Centre, and John Fallis, a teacher at Boyne River Outdoor School. The other two were Mark Scriver, from Camp Kandalore, and Jim Raffin, a freelance writer and veteran of last year's James Bay trip. We were to prove a compatible and mutually-supportive group - a good thing considering the closeness of the quarters!



Saturday's bright sunshine kept spirits high and jackets off as we followed the road along the north shore of Lac Lanoreye and then turned off to the southwest following an old logging track. En route we encountered the ruins of several old log buildings, probably long-abandoned logging camps. The snow was old and provided a firm footing but tended to become heavy, both for hauling sleds and lifting on the snowshoe, under the melting influence of the sun.

Sunday morning, after a short trek through a marshy plateau and along a frozen creek bed, we reached a small artificial lake formed by the damming of the unnamed creek just before its drop over the hillside to join the Jacques Cartier below. We decided to leave our gear there and scout out the descent of the gorge. Our initial thought was to follow the creek bed, but soon the rocks became ledges, then the ledges became small falls with still larger drops ahead, so that idea was abandoned and we took to the woods. Although nobody went all the way to the river, we did at least satisfy ourselves that none of the proposed route appeared frankly-impossible. We chose to take an early stop at the lakesite and save the "frontal assault" for the morrow.



The trip down to the river, which took us the whole of the next day, was a technical challenge thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our first move was to foul the runners of the sleds by winding ropes around them. Brake loops performed the same service for the toboggans. Then, with one partner hauling from the front and the other braking and controlling side-slip with a stern-rope progress was safe, if slow. On the steepest sections, the stern-rope was used to belay the sleds from trees, while the frontman slid backwards down the slope, controlling the direction of the sled and digging in the toes of his snowshoes. By the time we reached the river we were glad to camp at the first sufficient clearing. In retrospect, after seeing the other sections of the valley wall, we realized that, by good luck or good management, we had chosen virtually the only route which did not encounter an unclimbable, sheer rockface! Could we have gone back up, or even sidehill? Could we have made camp on the hillside if we ran out of daylight? We were just as glad not to have had to find out.

If we thought that our technical problems were ended by reaching the valley floor, our first hour's travel the next morning dispelled that idea.

That a trail had at one time existed through the gorge was clearly shown by the sections of rusty telegraph wire still attached to some of the trees. Perhaps the trail was never intended for hauling sleds, or perhaps time had brought erosions and overgrowth. In any case, it was little use to us. We found that to progress at all we had to go ahead to make the trail before we could travel it. Sometimes this involved digging a level ledge out of the snow and ice of the hillside. Sometimes we had to bridge a gap by felling small trees across it and then building up the surface with branches and snow. By the time we realized our error in having broken camp, the day was spent and we had to set up again with a total progress of only 300-400 metres! Looking back on the maps later, we were to realize that our "as the crow flies" progress was less than three kilometres in a three-day period!

The following morning we were able to advance the equipment over the previous day's trail, now nicely frozen in. Just above La Croisee (crossroads), where major branches join the Jacques Cartier from either side, we reached the impasse we had most feared. Through the gorge, where the river drops at over 30 m per km, the rapids are mostly open even in the winter. Our path lay along an outside bend where open water ran directly past a 20 metre cliff. The east bank of the river was impassable without a major detour up the hillside - difficult at best, and probably impossible. We had no choice but to cross the river!

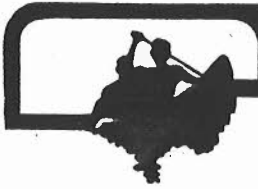
There was an ice bridge available and it looked solid. In all our minds was the memory of the sound, which we had heard several times on the previous two days, of major ice chunks breaking off and crashing away down the rapids. There would be no possibility of rescue from that freezing water! There was no point in dwelling on it - we had to cross. Each man cut a long pole to give him an extra chance of a minor breakthrough, and then, over we went. Lion's Gate Bridge could not have felt more secure! Of course we had to cross back, but by the second bridge we were so blasé that Jim Raffin even stopped to do some trail improvement for the next group through.

The next morning was for me, the emotional low point of the trip. Below La Croisee, our route followed a road, which eliminated not only the difficulties but also the excitement of the woodland trail. Since there was nearly 50 cm of fresh snow, and since the valley was still very narrow and hilly, the hauling became a series of long uphill grunts interspersed with all-too-brief downhill glides. Huddled, cold and nearly exhausted next to the woodstove at Camp 3, our lunchstop, I would have sworn that it was quite impossible for a peanut butter and jam sandwich to be such a feast!



From there on the valley widened out, the road became more level, and we did our best to make up for the slow progress we had made in the gorge. It's surprising how circumstances can change your perspective. On our last day the sun was warm and the snow, particularly sticky. About lunch time we had our only company of the 8-day trip when a group of snowmobilers roared over a hill toward us. I never thought I would be glad to see one of those noisy, smelly machines but we all raised a cheer at the prospect of the well-broken trail. It was also amusing to see the snowmobilers, their suits zipped-up to the chin, do a double take as they passed Peter Atfield who was hauling clad only in shorts and footwear.

As we slowly climbed the long hill which took us away from the river and back to the highway and home, several of us were thinking, "I wonder what it would be like in a canoe?" Perhaps someday that will be chapter 2 of The Land of the Montagnais.



nastawgan published by the wca editor sandy richardson printed by bayweb

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

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Well, it has been nine years since the first modest newsletter on five sheets of 8" x 11" paper was stapled together and circulated in April 1974 by "...a small diverse group of individuals...who having nothing else in common, formed the Wilderness Canoe Association." Actually, the WCA floundered very badly that year and nearly sank out of sight, but Gord Fenwick as a new Chairman, with vision, energy and paddling expertise gathered around him Sandy Richardson (Vice-chairman), Pat Armstrong (Secretary), Peter Emory (Editor), and Alan Stoddart (Memberships) and bailed out the little craft and set it upon a new course under the banners of (1) offering good trips, (2) an active concern for the preservation of the wilderness environment, and (3) increased membership.

As you can see by the latest newsletters we are offering more trips than ever and members are paddling farther afield (B.C. to Labrador) with exciting documented accounts and wonderful slide shows to prove it all. (Oh yes, one group even got down to Georgia recently, and don't forget Norm Coombe's trip through the Everglades.)

All the while, we are more and more acutely aware of the deterioration of the wilderness environment, be it the Acid Rain in Algonquin or the new lumbering franchises opening up roads like giant gashes criss-crossing the great forests of Temagami. (Indirectly, this will mean more forest fires, more access to interior lakes by motor boats, and directly, a reduced habitat for all the wild creatures who live there)...and did you know, that every tree cut down reduces the world's supply of Oxygen? We are involving ourselves with such issues as affect the canoeist directly (we can't take 'em all on) but need active support from members to strengthen our collective voice.

Our membership has hovered at the 300 mark for some time now, and while we don't want to grow large, unwieldy and impersonal, another 50-100 members wouldn't hurt our operation. We now have members well beyond Ontario, including Alberta, Quebec, the Carolinas, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, Washington State, and Sweden, with complimentary or "periodical exchange" copies of the newsletter going to B.C., the N.W.T, and other points of the compass.

What we need more of now, is communication. It has been a chronic frustration for those of us whose names appear on the back page, trying to do our volunteer jobs

for your (our) association, not to hear more from the members at large. We need more letters and phone calls and travel logs, or whatever you find time to enunciate. If you are a new member and have a new idea, or feel a little concerned about where you fit into the scheme of things, any of us would be delighted to hear from you. If you have been able to get away on your own privately planned trips to exotic rivers or special corners of local territory, we'd dearly love to hear from you. It was Gord Fenwick's initial vision to set up a sort of library of cross reference with people's names, trip routes, map data and other pertinent information so that we would have a permanent file to refer to for those coming after, who made enquiries. I would still like to do this, and Bill King has kept up the file of all the trips recorded in the newsletter, but I'm referring to all those trips never written up which so many members have taken. Would you please send us in just the briefest outline of where you have been in your paddling careers, that others may benefit from the sage advice of you who have gone before.

We have a new family, Heinz and Wendy Hoernig of Gederich, who write to offer to drive Maitland River paddlers back to their cars. This kind gesture came too late for publication in our March newsletter, but we'll try to remember it for the spring issue of '84. What a generous and personal touch.

My little interview on the radio March 14th has paid off quite nicely in written enquiries from as far away as Buffalo. There are good canoeists out there who have never heard of the WCA and are delighted to discover us at last, and keen novices eager for chances to join scheduled trips and hone their skills. We are going to go well over our 300 mark this year, as we are already "ahead on the head count" for this time of year.

There is also a very real need for new blood to become involved in the association with new ideas and vigorous, active support. It is unhealthy to have the same names and faces at the helm year after year, and we beg you to step forward and offer your assistance, on committees, with the newsletter or on the Board of Directors. Please phone in to offer your help. It is a big job to do it all.

May everyone have a safe and sweet summer out there where-ever, with good rain gear, good canoes, and the very best of company.

Claire Brigden,

news briefs

DEADLINE FOR FALL ISSUE

Articles, trip reports, photographs etc. are needed for the next issue. Material may be either typed or hand written, but should be double spaced.

Please send articles to the editor no later than August 27 for inclusion in the fall issue.

WCA MEMBERSHIP LISTS:

Membership lists are available to any members who wish one. Please send \$1 to the WCA Postal Box.

DOES ANYONE HAVE A COMPUTER?

The job of the membership secretary, keeping the names and addresses of all the members straight and producing all the labels for mailings, is getting to be just too big for one person - just the sort of job for a computer! If anyone has a computer, or access to one, and would be interested in helping out in this area, please contact Bill King at 416-223-4646.

THE GREAT NEWSLETTER GIVEAWAY

Bill King is having trouble parking his car due to the takeover of his garage by back issues of the WCA Newsletter. So, the first two weeks in July will be the GREAT NEWSLETTER GIVEAWAY. Any members wishing souvenir back issues are welcome to come over during that period and help themselves. Please call first (416-223-4646) to make sure someone is home. At the end of that time the files will be thinned by a generous donation to the Boy Scout paper drive.

Hello Sandy,

Received my winter issue of *Nastawan* yesterday and noted your plea for material. Conscientious newsletter editors such as you are the heart of any organization, and deserve all praise...and help. By avocation I'm a professional outdoor writer, and enclosed are two of my articles which you might wish to use when pinched for material.

While I wonder if most members of the WCA are exactly "my kind of people", its newsletter contains valuable information, and this alone demands I renew my membership. Accept this as a tribute to you and your contributors.

You see, I hunt and fish, or more correctly, I hunt - because fishing is very obviously a form of hunting. Seldom do your contributors mention fishing along their routes, however remote the area or great the fishing opportunities. That makes them and their accounts unnatural.

If you don't hunt (read fish) in season, when the opportunity presents itself, are you any more than a visitor in the wilderness? Are you not simply an observer rather than a participant in nature, because you are not expressing your normality, or better, your humanity as Man the Predator?

Like it or not, males are genetically programmed hunters; females appear to be similarly programmed to gather and to fish. That is what I mean by expressing our normality or humanity. A few thousand years of so-called civilization cannot erase our genetically programmed instincts to be who we are, and to survive as species "homo sapiens".

To catch fish along the way is to give the wilderness experience the spice of authenticity. Such fish are "real" meat; jerky, slab bacon, salt pork or freeze-dried meats are only pale substitutes. They are not proof of our participation in our natural role, just observers' meat others were forced to kill.

Then too, I receive the impression that many in the WCA favour the closing of massive chunks of wilderness areas to all but an elite of generally young, athletic

canoe trippers, backpackers and cross-country skiers. That suits me fine too - just now.

Despite high blood pressure, and a predilection for large numbers of cheap, smelly cigars and large quantities of dark rum, I'm a fairly robust outdoorsman approaching his 51st year. But for sure I'll be changing my tune about hard bushwacking 10 or 20 years down the road. The muscles and the endurance won't be there.

Still it will be a comfort to know that Ontario still has wild rivers and areas that appear to be places, as one of my history students once said, "where the hand of man has never set foot." But how much of such virgin wilderness is enough - for now or the future? I don't know.

"Multiple-use" is a propaganda phrase of the forestry and mining interests. Regulated fishing, hunting, trapping and even fly-in fishing, on the other hand, are natural uses with neutral impact - however much I abhor some plane dropping off "tourists" on a lake I hustled my butt off to reach by canoe.

Nevertheless, should the whole of the Ogoki - Albany or other wilderness areas be preserved as the exclusive playground of a young, elite few canoe trippers? What about those of us who need to mount a 2 h.p. kicker to buck a headwind when lone-firing, or those who are too old to portage and need to be flown-in. Hopefully the young, lusty, mile-gobbling, hell-for-leather trippers will appreciate the wilderness needs of those in their sunset years who still have an equal claim on a vital, outdoor experience.

Those of us in our middle or late years will do all we can to ensure our wilderness future, but the real power will - and must - come from the politically sophisticated and active young, who are ecologically informed and conservation-minded, and who are of the wilderness. They are our wilderness future.

Just treat us older folks fairly - please!

Paddle happy,

Gord McIntyre

NOTICE TO ALL STUDENT AND FAMILY MEMBERS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

The law of the land requires a parental signature for you to participate in any WCA Outing. So, if you are planning to go on one of our Spring trips, and we hope you are, would you please tell the trip organizer that you are under 18. The organizer will send you a waiver form to be signed by your parent or guardian. Hopefully, this "red tape" won't detract from your enjoyment of our trips.

WCA CRESTS AND DECALS

Crests (2" x 4") and decals (3" x 6") showing the WCA logo and name in two shades of blue and white are available for WCA members. The cost is \$3 for a crest and \$1 for a decal.

To order yours, send a cheque or money order payable to the Wilderness Canoe Association to: Bill King, 45 Himount Dr., Willowdale, Ontario, M2K 1X3. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

WCA FALL WEEKEND

The WCA will be holding its annual fall get-together and workshop weekend September 30 to October 2 at the Tawingo Outdoor Centre near Huntsville. It will be an opportunity to renew acquaintances and share tales of summer trips; and this year's programme offers something of interest to both novices and experienced canoe trippers alike. Plan now to attend.

Details of the weekend programme and registration information are enclosed with this issue.

SUMMER CANOE TRIP

Experienced canoeist with white water skills and a special interest in trail food, would like to join an expedition outside of Ontario or Quebec this summer. Please contact Tom Elliott, R.R. 1, Brantford, Ontario, N3T 5L4. Phone 416-648-1560.

YOUTH ENCOURAGEMENT FUND

This fund was created to assist active student members of the WCA to participate in major wilderness trips or to attend courses to improve their wilderness canoeing and camping skills.

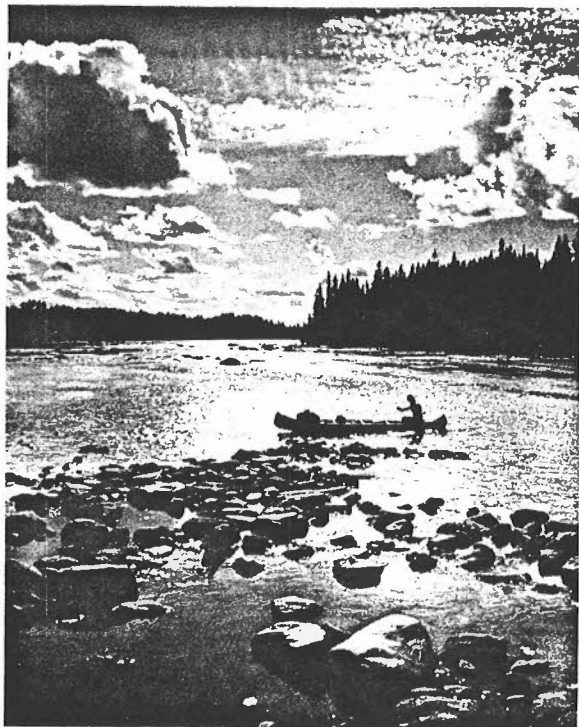
Over the last seven years, this fund has assisted a number of our younger members to take part in major backpacking and canoeing expeditions, to take whitewater courses, and to participate in an exchange trip with a Quebec canoe club. The YEF Committee hopes this work can continue. If you are interest in this aspect of the WCA, you are invited to make a contribution to the fund by sending a cheque (payable to the Wilderness Canoe Association) to the treasurer indicating that it is a donation to the YEF; and if you know of active young members of the WCA who are planning some activity and who you think are deserving of support, please contact the chairman of the YEF Committee (see Contacts) and recommend them to the committee.

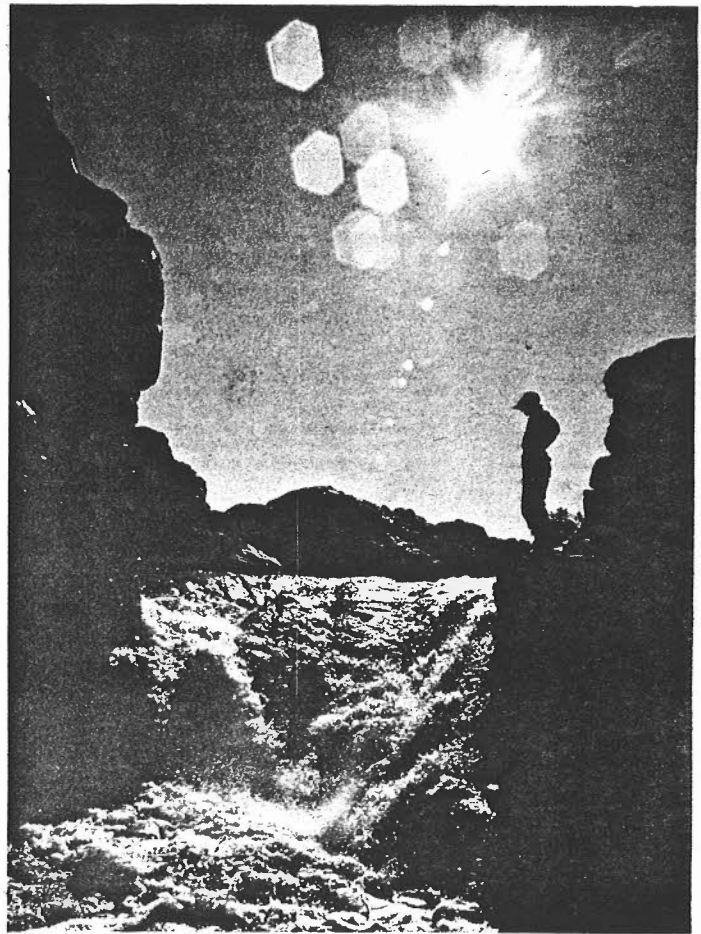
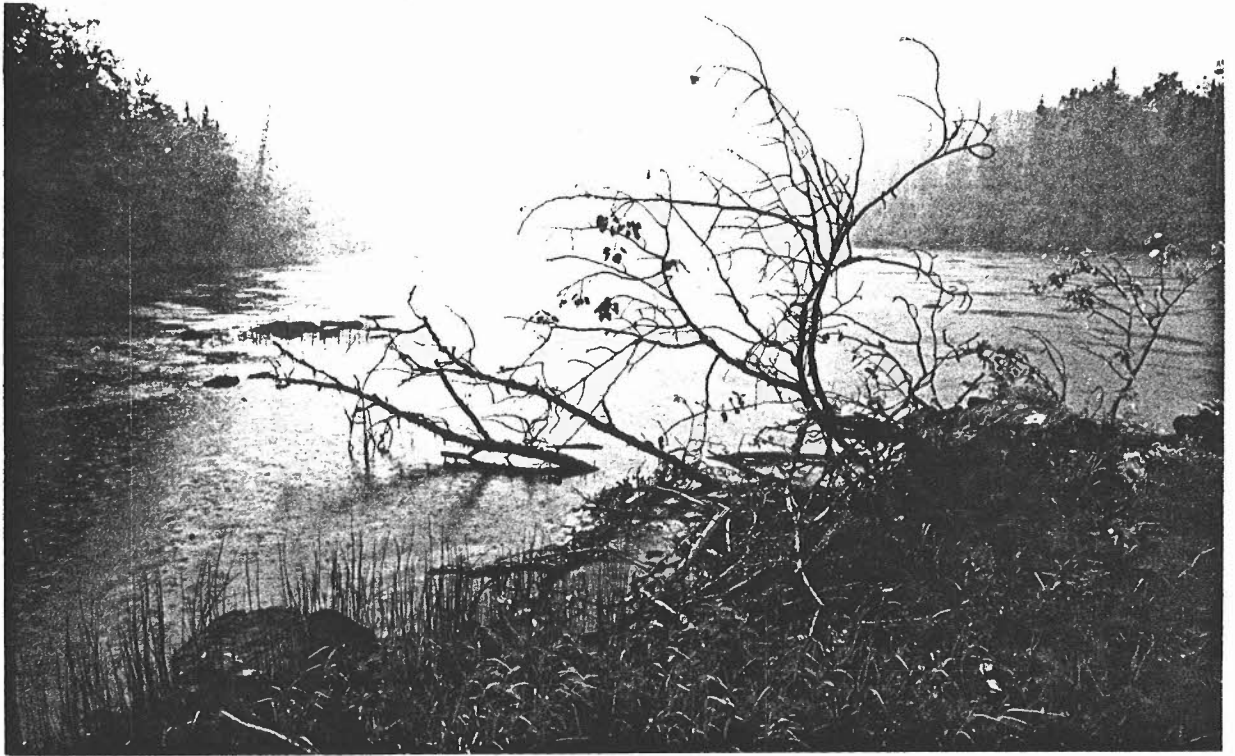
KILLARNEY PARK RANGERS

Killarney Provincial Park has openings for park rangers for a 6 week period beginning July 18. These positions are open to men and women, 18 years of age or older. For more information contact Jay Leather, park superintendent, at 705-287-2368.



Photographs by Toni Harting





SOME DO'S & DON'T'S FOR CANOEING PHOTOGRAPHERS

DO buy a simple, but good book about basic photography. Use that book often.

DO get to know your camera well before you take it out on that once-in-a-lifetime trip in the North or anywhere else. Play with it at home; make fake photos without film in the camera to discover the purpose of all the little buttons, levers and gadgets. Then when you know what the mechanics are all about, and the camera is no longer a stranger but a trusted companion, buy a few rolls of film and photograph the many subjects available in your neighbourhood: people, animals, cars, houses, trees, plants, etc. Have the films developed, then seriously study the pictures you have made, and learn.

DO NOT start your photographic activities overloaded with equipment. Keep it simple: one camera, one exposure meter (possibly incorporated in the camera), one lens, several rolls of one kind of medium speed film, one tripod, one cable release. That's it.

DO put your precious photo gear, films included, in a sturdy, waterproof container when not actually using it. You are working on and near the water, arch-enemy of all delicate mechanisms, and falling into it happens far easier and more often than you would care to think or admit. And, in most cases, a wet camera is a dead camera, and a wet film is spoiled.

DO use your camera often when you are out in canoe country. Make snapshots, record shots, good shots, bad shots, nice and funny shots, all kinds of shots. And don't forget to photograph the easily overlooked, yet so important little things on the trip: your favourite paddle, the trusted worn-out wading shoes, the pocket knife you found in an abandoned campsite, your greasy old hat, the blisters on your hands. Every successful photograph brought home after the trip is worth a thousand smiles of fond memories, and even the simplest of cameras used the right way can give you a real treasure of souvenirs.

DO NOT make the terrible mistake of taking along too little film. Compared with the cost of travel, food, gear, etc., film is among the cheapest items on your list, and the more film you take with you, the better. Enough rolls for about fifteen photographs per trip-day is a reasonable starting point.

DO make some notes about the photographs you shoot. Not only technical information such as lens opening and exposure time (very instructive when beginning to learn photography), but also where and when the shot was made, the time of day, and the names of the people in the photograph.

DO NOT forget to put yourself in the picture once in a while. Hand the camera, all adjusted and ready for shooting, to a friend who can make this great shot of you running the rapids. Use your tripod and self-timer when making group shots, put yourself out there with them.

DO make some close-up photographs of the numerous flowers, insects, rocks, etc., whatever you find on your trips. A special close-focus or macro lens is very convenient, but even a set of simple, inexpensive close-up attachment lenses that can be screwed onto your standard camera lens can give excellent results when used properly.

DO NOT forget to protect your vulnerable gear from falling into the water or banging against the hard rocks. Use a neck strap when you've taken the camera out of its carrying case.

DO keep your camera clean. Carefully blow out the dust when putting in a new roll of film, keep the lens free from smudges and dirt, and protect the camera from rain drops.

DO study the results of your photographic efforts. Enjoy the good, balanced shots, but learn from the mistakes you made, the incorrect exposures, uneven horizons, chopped-in-half heads, and (the most common one) unsharpness because of camera shake and/or inaccurate focusing. Look, study, and learn is the only way to improve your photography.

DO select a few of your favourite photographs and have them enlarged and framed. Hang them on the walls of your home, and enjoy the inspiring results of your photographic adventures.

Toni Harting

UP-NORTH CAMPFIRES

It seems axiomatic that 90 per cent of the campsites you reach will have poorly constructed fireplaces, half of them will be in the wrong spot, and most all will contain billets of partially burned wood, charred cans and foil. Be equally certain that such campsites will be littered with the previous campers' trash — the ignorant slobs!

Allow five minutes to rebuild and reposition the fireplace, and half an hour to police the area of garbage. On those rare occasions when neither is necessary, there's a warm glow of affinity with the unknown campers that preceded you.

In Ontario's canoe country, there's a strong possibility that such were not adults, but kids from summer camps. Compliment them as they depart a spotless campsite with a proper fireplace and they'll beam and proudly say, "We practise no-trace camping." Bravo! kids.

The Fireplace

Where possible, place it close to water to save steps, and build it on rock or sand — never forest duff. Fire can eat down in it to spring up elsewhere, even days after you've left.

The back of the square "U" fireplace should face the prevailing wind, and be higher than the parallel arms of flat rocks on which you'll place your grill. A rock ledge is of course the ultimate backstop.

That's your fireplace unless you opt for the more elaborate keyhole design. Those who prefer cooking only on coals, start a blaze in the round part, and rake coals from there under the grill resting on the narrower neck. Great — if you've wood that burns down to coals.

Never use rocks fresh from the lake or river. Given sufficient heat, some water-soaked rocks will literally explode. Believe it from one who has had a fist-sized chunk of the pre-cambrian shield whiz past his ear. Even dry rocks will crack from the cookfire's heat.

The Grill

This should be no higher than eight inches (20 cm) off the ground. To get it dead level, it's generally necessary to shim it with slivers of rock.

Rectangular grills can be scrounged from old barbeques, stoves and refrigerators. Some of those from refrigerators have a toxic coating which should be well burned-off before using. Excellent grills can be purchased at sporting goods stores. Just pry off their four useless legs.

No need to clean the grill when breaking camp. Just slide it into a plastic bag and pack it.

Tinder

Most anything that will ignite fast under a cone of tiny twigs will do. Birchbark stripped from *dead* trees, or waxed paper are excellent, but most any kind of paper, dead grass, dry pine needles . . . will do. No need to carry firestarting cubes or whittle fuz sticks.

Dry pine cones burn furiously as do old pine knots and slender lengths chopped from sound pine stumps. All are loaded with resin, smell wonderful when burning, produce black smoke and thick layers of soot.

Firewood

Seldom used campsites generally have plenty of dead branches on the ground, and others that can be broken or sawed off trees. Drag them back to camp and snap them into short lengths. Lacking an axe or saw, the thicker branches can be wedged in the crotch of a tree. A strong push or pull breaks them.

Even thicker lengths can be used for the evening campfire. Remove the grill and either lay them across the fire, or feed them in lengthwise — or both.

While it's true that green, freshly cut and split birch and white ash will burn satisfactorily, don't you dare cut down a living tree. That's totally immoral, and illegal. Use only dead wood.

Pine, spruce, hemlock and cedar give quick burning, smoky, hot fires, and they'll all zing sparks — particularly hemlock. Always pitch your tent well back.

In the southern shield, dead maple, beech, oak and white ash burn long and provide excellent cooking coals. Further north your best cooking woods are birch and tamarack. Beaver lodges are good sources of peeled, dry, low heat poplar.

Too often you've little choice of wood unless you want to walk or paddle some distance. I once had nothing but dead cedar for two days. It burned so fast I needed a bushel of it to cook one meal.

Split wood burns best, but don't fool with an axe unless you've plenty of experience in using one. A small folding or Swede saw will cut more wood faster and easier than any axe.

Keep a good quantity of tinder and wood under cover in your tent or in a green bag for those days when your main supply is rain-drenched. Your starter fire will get it burning — particularly if you split the wet wood to expose the dry interior.

Last Words

Never leave a fire unattended. What trash you can't burn, pack-out. Your first action when breaking camp is to drown your fire; then once again. Your last action before leaving is to stir that black crud to be positive the fire is DEAD-OUT.

Gord McIntyre



salmon - moira

Article: Glenn Spence

Photographs: Cameron Spence



Our annual journey down these two rivers went very well this year with crews from Toronto, Ottawa, and Colborne taking part. Once again, we divided into two groups of four canoes each, in order to conform with the WCA principle of travelling in small groups so that we will minimize our impact upon the environment.

The water level on the two rivers was surprisingly high since we had virtually no snow in our area this year. The Salmon was about the same as last year, while the Moira was down about half a metre.

The weather on Saturday was quite warm which made for a very pleasant day of paddling. Also, our techniques were improved upon (we hope) as the relaxing day enabled us to practise eddy turns, back ferrying, etc. After lunch at the scenic Buttermilk Falls, we paddled by some limestone cliffs, over which numerous, small cascades of water fell on their way down to the river.

That evening, several participants came back to our place for a bit of socializing, which included showing my Nahanni slides to a captive audience.

On Sunday, both groups decided to do the longer stretch on the Moira. One group put in at Sugar Island, and the other put in just below Lost Channel.

Due to the lower water level, our trip was easier this year and we all navigated the "scuttle hole" area successfully. Fortunately, everyone paddled well and no one suffered any mishaps which was greatly appreciated by everyone, especially during the month of April. All in all, we had a very successful weekend. We hope to see you again next year.

1983 SPORTSMEN'S SHOW

The Sportsmen's Show Committee would like to thank those members who worked with us to make our booth at the Show such a great success:

John Cross, for his information and photos on repairing aluminum canoes.

Jim Raffan for his permission to use his Canadian Geographic magazine article about the James Bay snowshoe trip.

Gail Vickars for her photos of Algonquin Park.

John Wilson, Bill & Nelson King, Gord, Helen, Lisa and Lucille Finwick for aid in assembling and dismantling the booth; and the Fenwicks again for providing the plants.

Bob MacLellan, Anne Snow, Ted Buracas, George Luste, Mike Graham-Smith, Mike & Geoff Peake, Peter Scott, Milton Lambe, Claire Brigden, Penny Clarke, Diana Denis, George Haeh, Jim Greenacre, Marg. Hux, Betty Cook, Randy Berg, Georgina Graham, Armin & Arne Kluge, Jan & Suus Tissot, Glenn Spence, Rob Butler, Graham Barnett, Tony Bird, Tony Harting, Norm Coombe, Bob Haskett, Ted Steeves, and Herb Pohl for staffing the booth.

Rita Ness for preparing the slide show, administering the booth staffing, typing, and generally prodding me to get things done on schedule.

This year our costs for the booth came to \$545.11, and the sale of newsletters produced a revenue of \$353.65. In addition, our participation at the show generated an estimated 34 new members.

Once again, many thanks to everyone who helped out.

Bill Ness,
Chairman,
Sportsmen's Show Committee



Richard Smerdon



Readers of Nastawgan will have noticed that a new name appears under the banner of 'Conservation'. Before I dive headlong into what I believe should be the involvement of the WCA in this immense topic, I feel that I should give some explanation of why my name is there. In the beginning, there were two reasons for my coming to Canada and by far the most important was a great attraction to the million or so square miles of undisturbed country stretching away to the North. The move was made possible by a 'job opportunity' and this led to my meeting someone who found me the next best companion to a beaver and, therefore, marriable. She is an avid canoeist and in paddling bow for her for many years I have been able to observe a small portion of the imagined wilderness and its reality hasn't disappointed me. I have become aware, however, that the mental image I formed in England was a blemish-free, soft Victorian sepia tint and the 1983 reality contains hard focus, full coloured examples of man's ability to change anything and everything. There are many people who have great knowledge of the animal, vegetable and mineral structure of the wilderness and also of the pressure being put upon it. I am not one of them but I have agreed to try and co-ordinate any efforts that the association wishes to make in preserving all that we now have. I will also condense in the newsletter any literature that is sent to us by government that I feel is of immediate relevance and to list other topics on which we have papers so that they can be available on request. I do not imagine that this work will be immense as I have found that a great many of the reports that we receive are indescribably dull and are designed to convince us that our government is doing a faultless job and should not be disturbed. That may be cynical but logic dictates that the really provocative issues are kept as hidden as possible and are not to be sent out through the mail for the likes of us to raise hell about.

It is possible that these reports in the newsletter are the extent to which the WCA needs to be involved in conservation. There is, at present, no fully formed committee and I have doubts as to whether it is possible to form an effective one. My vision is rather of a Conservation Secretary...that's me at present...and a series of sub-committees. I've come to this conclusion after making one basic assumption about the WCA which I believe to neither wrong nor offensive. I cannot see our organization as a militant body. I can conjure no vision of myself and other members burning our canoes, clothes and equipment of the lawn of Queen's Park while endlessly chanting 'Acid Raid gives my paddle a pain'. I am sure we are all frustrated by the political dithering and

failure of the Government to say unequivocally - 'Acid Rain will cease no matter the cost' but I don't think the WCA has either the numbers or the inclination for bizarre demonstrations. I am also certain that to fight effectively these major conservation issues at least one of the following is required: a large budget for advertizing, mass mailings etc; enough people to cause havoc with downtown traffic on a continuous basis; people with enough time to devise and execute weird stunts that will grab the imagination of the press and thus provide a quantity of free publicity. None of these things seems to be in the constitution of the WCA and therefore I feel we should pass on being actively involved in the high-profile battles.

We do, however, have one major thing going for us. A lot of country is covered in a detailed way each year by members. Many routes are covered by the same people on a regular basis and any deterioration is apparent. I have, for instance, noticed two things in the Temagami region. The first is that many canoeists and campers think erroneously that the garbage men and sanitary engineers pass through every Monday and clean up. The second is that logging roads are allowing good and free access to remote areas and lakes for motor vehicles. I am perhaps biased but I find that a single trailer can carry enough noise and irritation to make a rough one mile portage late in the evening more pleasurable than staying. I do not deny the rights of anyone to go anywhere but I think that if you have to work and plan hard for the privilege of visiting a remote lake it stands a chance of remaining that way. I have heard too often the advice, 'Try and miss that lake, it's overcrowded' or even the worse killing comment on a proposed route, 'You know there's a road into that lake now'. One road into a favourite lake is not a national disaster but it can be a personal disappointment. If easy access is causing damage and making a mockery of the word 'wilderness' a few words or a small campaign might produce a locked gate across the offending track.

It is this area of conservation, the maintenance of the fundamental aspect of the association, 'wilderness', that I feel should be our particular concern. I get a particular image from the word 'wilderness' and this makes me have certain reservations about parks. If an area is designated as a Park it immediately involves a degree of control. The control may prevent the grosser forms of despoliation but it also seems to force the governing bodies to make access relatively easy and safe. This tends to lead to an overcrowding in the sense of my previous paragraph. I may well be wrong about this but I

know that I tend to shy away from parks if I want to be really free and alone. At the same time I appreciate the government's problems. The only reason a park is proposed at all is that the area is in danger from misuse. While government is needed to control business and industrial misues, it is perhaps the wrong organization to control recreational use and abuse. If, for instance, a rapid becomes part of a park and more people get to know of it and come to grief in it, in time the parks department will regulate it. People should be discouraged from damaging good canoes and killing themselves, but do we really want the government to do the regulating?

To return to my doubts on the need or practicality of a 'Conservation Committee': like everyone else, my time is often limited and due to my particular work I often find it difficult to schedule a meeting a few days ahead let alone several months. The only way to deal with conservation issues is for people to meet, discuss and study the possibilities at length and eventually come to a conclusion as to what action is possible. If the whole subject is to be covered by one committee it becomes far too time consuming to be practical; however, if people have things that they're concerned about, a note in the conservation column of the newsletter may produce other people who would like to be concerned in that issue alone and this would create a sub-committee. It should be treated like an outing: "I am concerned that some idiots have decided that Lake Superior would be of more use in Nevada and I am looking for a minimum of 20,000,000 conservationists to help me keep it where it has been put by whoever or whatever created the world." In time, the whole membership might be involved in some aspect of conservation which I think might be an additional enjoyment to the main pastime of keeping the open side up and the closed side down.

My proposal is that conservation should be a free-form area of interest within the WCA and opportunities for involvement should be available to members without any specific expertise. I recall an experience I had concerning acid rain which struck me as significant at the time but I had no idea what to do with it. A few years ago, Claire and I came across a Ministry of Natural Resources camp set up on Florence Lake. They had various pieces of equipment including a motorized rain bucket that only allowed the rain to be collected from Sudbury in the West. They had flown in to see how the trout, introduced to the lake the previous year, were getting on. They had spent a couple of days attempting to fish and were preparing to fly out discouraged. The fish had failed to reproduce and the contents of the bucket showed the cause.



We have a 'secret' site on Florence where we normally take a rest day. We'd never caught fish at this site and the knowledge that it wasn't just our ineptness or bad luck didn't outwardly spoil anything. The colour of the water, the high hills all round were the same as ever. It wasn't until the next morning when we were having coffee that the significance struck. The campsite is at the mouth of a narrow channel and a pair of loons came up the channel and past us. They were close to us and as we watched them diving for food I went up to the packs to get the camera but they moved out into the lake too quickly. They covered an enormous area of that lake very quickly and it wasn't until about half an hour later that loonish excitement indicated that they had found breakfast. It seemed strange that a large and isolated lake should be unable to satisfy the grocery needs of a couple of loons without a major expedition. Florence is a beautiful, lonely lake that has given us enormous pleasure in the past and will doubtless do so again, but there are very few loons. It is sad and somewhat disgusting that such a place should have the word 'dead' attached to it but, that's what the water is; clear, beautiful and dead.

The cause of this little tragedy is so tied up with the livelihoods of thousands of people that it is simplistic to say 'Shut down all the smoke stacks now'. However, Florence is a part of the reverse side of the human and business balance sheet and it should be constantly in our awareness in case the opportunity presents itself to help hasten the solution. Countless other natural balances are being tilted and a few words in the conservation column of Nastawgan may make more people specifically aware and the chances of preservation a little better.

TWO NEW STORES FOR OUTDOORS EQUIPMENT

On the 18th of May, a crowded, flashy party, complete with celebrities, cameras, champagne, and hot dogs, marked the opening in Toronto's Hazelton Lanes of the Beaver Canoe Co's outdoor wilderness store for canoeing and camping gear.

A co-operative venture of Roots Natural Footwear Ltd. and Camp Tamakwa Inc., the firm is based upon the knowledge and expertise of Omer Stringer, the famous canoeist, guide, teacher, and canoe builder. Omer's name should not not only stand for high quality, but also for well thought-out design and usefulness of the products in the store.

Another, quite different kind of organization is also going to open in downtown Toronto an outlet for its extensive line of outdoors equipment. The Goolak Backwoods Co-op, which already operates three stores in Eganville, Kitchener, and Kingston, plans to open its Toronto branch sometime in June or July. Many of the items shown in their delightful catalog should interest the wilderness paddler; their prices are possibly among the lowest anywhere.

We welcome these two additions to the rather short list of Canadian stores where wilderness trippers can search for some of the equipment they need to paddle and enjoy canoe country.

Toni Harting



July 1-3 PETAWAWA RIVER

Organizer: Erik Frebold 613-749-3470
Book immediately

This trip will take us down the Petawawa from Lake Traverse to McManus Lake. The river's numerous rapids should be a challenge to good intermediates with solid whitewater skills. Low water levels may necessitate lining or portaging in spots. Limit 4 canoes.

July 1-3 WESTERN QUEBEC RIVERS & LAKES

Organizer: Dave Berthelet 819-771-4170 (h)
613-995-9554 (b)

Starting down the Riviere Noir then crossing through a chain of lakes into and down the Coulonge, this will be a very scenic trip with some moderately difficult portages. Suitable for intermediates. Limit 4 canoes.

July 9-10 UPPER MAGNETAWAN

Organizer: Duncan Taylor 416-368-9748
Book between June 1 and 27

From Ahmic Lake to Wahwashkesh Lake for whitewater novices or better. Very scenic trip, great for naturalists. Limit 4 canoes.

July 16-17 GIBSON RIVER - McCRAE LAKE

Organizers: Bob McLellan 416-488-9346
Ann Snow 416-486-5200

Book anytime

A southern Georgian Bay area trip that gives a perfect sampler of canoe tripping with river and lake travel and some gorgeous scenery. Excellent for a 2 day weekend because of the short drive and less than 1 kilometre car shuttle. Suitable for novices or better. Limit 3 canoes.

July 30-August 1 LAKE COUCHICHING

Organizer: Betty Cook 416-498-8559 (days only)
Book immediately

A flatwater trip on a gentle stream in the beautiful Couchiching area. Suitable for novices and beginning trippers. Limit 4 canoes.

July 23-24 WHITewater WORKSHOP - PALMER RAPIDS

Organizer: Jim Morris 416-793-2088
Book between July 5 and July 14

We will meet with our canoes on Tuesday evening July 19 to meet each other and review basic paddling strokes. At Palmer Rapids on the Madawaska River we will learn controlled whitewater techniques with the emphasis on back-paddling, upstream and downstream ferries, eddy turns and "reading the water". Open to beginners and intermediates; a good chance to learn from each other. Limit 8 canoes.

July 23-24 JOEPERRY LAKE

Organizer: Roger Nellis 416-421-3497
Book immediately

An overnight trip out of Bon Echo Provincial Park. Suitable for families. One portage of about 1 kilometre. Limit 6 canoes.

July 30-August 1 WHITewater WORKSHOP - FRENCH RIVER

Organizer: Howard Sagermann 416-282-9570
Book immediately

A practice session on the French River rapids for novice whitewater paddlers or better. This weekend hopes to offer those who want to practice a lot of ferrying and eddying a chance to do their stuff. The pace will not be rushed so that much time may be spent on individual rapids. Limit 5 canoes.

July 30-August 1 OTTAWA RIVER AREA

Organizer: Dave Berthelet 613-995-9554 (b)
819-771-4170 (h)

Book between July 5 and 15

A long weekend of heavy whitewater for advanced canoeists. A day or two on the Ottawa with optional trips on the Noir or Coulonge Rivers depending on water levels. Limit 4 canoes.

July 30-August 6 DRAG LAKE - NORTHERN TEA LAKE

Organizer: Bob McLellan 416-488-9346
Book anytime

A "Men and Boys" trip for fathers and sons, uncles and nephews, big brothers etc. Our canoes will rendezvous at a cottage on Drag Lake then proceed on a four day trip into Algonquin Park, finishing the week with a day or two of fun at the cottage. Limit 3 canoes. (Note the change of date from that listed in the last issue.)

August 13-14 MADAWASKA RIVER

Organizer: Dave Martin 416-425-6870
Book between July 15 and 30

The popular Madawaska provides one of the few whitewater trips available in southern Ontario in mid-summer. Suitable for intermediates and novices who are teamed with more experienced partners. We will probably paddle from Aumonds Bay to Griffith. Limit 4 canoes.

August 20-21 LONG LAKE AREA

Organizer: King Baker 705-284-6004
Book between July 24 and August 6

An easy going flatwater lake trip with the emphasis on nature study and birdwatching. Limit 4 canoes.

August 28 HALIBURTON LAKES

Organizer: Rob Butler 416-487-2282
Book between August 1 and 14

A day trip starting on Kennisis Lake and paddling through Kelly, Buckhorn and Red Pine Lakes. Suitable for novices or better accustomed to portages. Limit 4 canoes.

August 28 WHITewater PLAY DAY

Organizer: Bill Ness 416-499-6389
Book between August 7 and 21

Join us for a casual day of fun and frolic at the Minden Wildwater Park on the Gull River. We'll run the course, play in the chutes, and eddies, and enjoy a picnic lunch together. The rapids are challenging but safe, and provide a great way for paddlers of good intermediate ability or better to sharpen their whitewater skills. Limit 5 canoes.

September 3-5 LOWER MAGNETAWAN RIVER

Organizer: Mike Graham-Smith 416-877-7829
Book between August 14 and 28

This trip will take us from Harris Lake northeast to the Magnetawan. From this point it is a short trip up river to Graves and Canal Rapids, which we hopefully will have time to check out. We will then run downstream to just below Thirty Dollar Rapids to a portage that will lead us back to Harris Lake. Our route should allow us to enjoy this beautiful river while avoiding the horrendous car shuttle usually associated with it. Suitable for intermediates. Limit 4 canoes.

September 3-5 KILLARNEY PARK

Organizer: John Galbraith 416-725-9812
Book between August 14 and 28

For the ultimate in Ontario scenery; stark white hills contrast with crystal clear greenish blue lakes. A long drive but very well worth it. A Sunday hike into the hills is a possibility. Limit 4 canoes.

September 17-18 MADAWASKA RIVER - SNAKE RAPIDS

Organizer: Duncan Taylor 416-368-9748
416-965-0518
Book between August 21 and September 3

An exciting whitewater trip, hopefully when the Madawaska Hills are ablaze with colour. Suitable for intermediates or novices with intermediate partners. Limit 4 canoes.

September 17-18 SOUTH GEORGIAN BAY LAKES

Organizer: Armin Kluge 416-792-0172
Book between August 21 and September 3

An easy going flatwater trip into the beautiful lakes south-west of Parry Sound. Trees could be at their peak of colour. Limit 4 canoes.

September 24-25 BURLEY-HARVEY RECREATIONAL ZONE

Organizer: Glenn Spence 416-355-3506
Book between September 1 and 11

This trip offers 35 km of canoeing through lakes and along creeks, with the unforgettable experiences of leftovers of beaver dams, and portages. There is no whitewater. Participants must be prepared for single trip portaging. Suitable for novices. Limit 4 canoes.

September 25 MISSISSAGUA RIVER

Organizer: Bill Ness 416-499-6389
Book before September 18

This trip will follow the Mississagua River from its source in Mississagua Lake south to Buckhorn Lake. The autumn colours in combination with the river's scenic chutes and falls should make this a memorable outing. Bring a camera. Suitable for intermediates. Limit 5 canoes.

PACKS & WATERPROOFING SEMINAR

This very successful event took place on April 20 from 7:30 to 11 p.m., in a large room at the Presteign United Church in Toronto. The WCA is most grateful to Gordon and Carol MacArthur who obtained permission for the WCA to use the facilities free of charge. The audience of 37 enthusiasts consisted of many new members and a number of old-timers. A few curious non-members were also present.



An immaculately suit-plus-tie dressed Jim Greenacre, the main organizer of the evening, discussed the importance of careful and well thought-out trip planning in order to avoid unnecessary weight and bulk. Jim pays a lot of attention to waterproofing, which he considers absolutely vital to happy canoeing. It was a most instructive delight to see what "Ontario's foremost waterproofer" (Norm Coombe's words) could accomplish with various plastic bags and containers, packs, rubber bands, twisters, and other assorted gear. His "Standard Greenacre Test" consists of submerging the pack in a bathtub filled with water for two hours. If the inside of the packs stays dry, it is really waterproof for all practical canoeing purposes. His main carrying pack is the trusted Duluth, made waterproof to a large extent by brushing on a special, commercially available waterproofing compound.

Co-organizer Norm Coombe emphasized the convenience of the modern internal-frame pack with outside pockets. He calls it the ultimate canoe pack because much of the contents is easily accessible during the day, it does not damage the canoe, does not catch on things, and is quite comfortable to carry.

The third scheduled speaker, a representative of Goolak Backwoods Co-op, also stressed the qualities of internal-frame packs, not only for regular backpacking, but also for canoeing and portaging. Waterproof packing of clothing, sleeping bags, etc., can be achieved by using heavy duty waterproof bags of nylon/vinyl laminate with rooftop closure and carrying straps.

Finally, members of the audience showed and discussed some of their favourite packing gear, techniques, tips, and ideas: Duluth packs, internal and external frame packs, waterproof liners, army surplus gasmask bags, plastic pails (they really work), water and shockproof camera cases, plastic envelopes and laminates for waterproofing maps and photographs, etc., etc. The importance of insuring expensive equipment (camera, binoculars) was also mentioned.

All this and more was discussed on this very instructive evening which should become a regular feature on the WCA event schedule. There is obviously an enormous amount of knowledge available among paddlers, and seminars such as this one are an excellent way to spread the good word. As Norm said in his closing remarks: canoeists are full of ingenuity.

Toni Harting



products and services

Bluewater Canoes:

Lightweight Kevlar-S-glass, fibreglass, and nylon canoes made with vinylster and epoxy resins. Bluewater 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.

Coleman Craft Canoes:

Coleman Craft Canoes, of hand-layed-up fiber-glass, 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.

Odawan for Sale:

Light, sturdy odawan, 5 feet long, suitable for small and compact load (group day-trip equipment or go-light weekend outfit). Contact John Cross at 416-961-7465.

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 nonsale items at:

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.

Canoe Wanted:

Grumman aluminum 17' standard. Contact Dave Berthelet in Hull at 819-771-4170.

Cotton Tents for Sale:

Egyptian cotton tents to cannibalize. These are old pyramid tents (not a good design in my opinion) and some of the material has worn. People interested in sewing their own small cotton tents, but appalled at the price of new material, may wish to cut off panels from the lot of tents I have acquired, and assemble their own dream design. Contact John Cross at 416-961-7465

Waterproof Watches:

If a total of 10 or more orders come in, Claire Bridgen can get a 40% discount on digital watches for members and friends, at no profit to herself or the WCA. Features: Casio, black resin case, 5 year lithium battery, 12 or 24 hour format, stop watch. Wholesale prices: \$24 to \$48 each, depending upon complexity. Five designs to choose from. Contact Claire Bridgen in Toronto at 416-481-4042.

wca contacts

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Claire Bridgen (Chairman)
58 Eastbourne Ave.,
Toronto, Ont.
M5P 2G2
416-481-4042

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416-223-4646

Bill Ness (Vice-Chairman),
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John Cross,
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(416) 961-7465

MEMBERSHIP

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N6G 1X6
519-471-8460

YOUTH ENCOURAGEMENT FUND

Cam Salsbury
70-3 Castlebury Cres.,
Willowdale, Ont.
M2H 1W8
416-498-8660

W.C.A. POSTAL ADDRESS

P.O. Box 496
Postal Station K,
Toronto Ont.
M4P 2G9

WILDERNESS CANOE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I enclose a cheque for \$10 student under 18
\$20 adult
\$30 family

for membership in the
WILDERNESS CANOE ASSOCIATION. I understand that this entitles me/us to
receive Nastawgan, to vote at meetings of the Association, and gives
me/us the opportunity to participate in W.C.A. outings and activities.

NAME: _____ ADDRESS _____

_____ phone _____

Please check one of the following: { } new member application
{ } renewal for 1983.

Notes: -This membership will expire January 31, 1984.
-Please send completed form and cheque (payable to the Wilderness
Canoe Association) to the membership committee chairman.