

superior

From Grand Portage Bay to Sault Ste Marie

George Luste

Because there was to be no portaging, we carried a heavier, looser camping outfit than one would normally take. For example, we took a 4-man Timberline tent, heavier food (some cans), lots of bread and crackers, a gas stove, etc. This made for a heavy, slow canoe. Our 18 ft. Grumman is a stable, high capacity carrying canoe but it has low gunwales and so we used a snap on spray cover. It was nice to have the cover, as insurance, when paddling on some of the few windy days we encountered.

Ours was an unusual summer for good weather. We had almost ten continuous days of stable and sunny high pressure conditions. On July 2 the water temperature was a chilly 11°C, but three weeks later, on July 22, it was a swimmable 20°C. This is not normal for Lake Superior. We had assumed a 28 day trip and brought food for a generous 30 days. But in our 22 days, we barely ate two

thirds of what we had brought...this is living on the preferred side of the error margin.

The Lake Superior scenery is truly magnificent and I will be going back for more in the future. Another bonus of Lake Superior is the almost complete lack of bugs. The worst night was near Thunder Bay when the no-see-ums attacked us. Most evenings we sat comfortably on the rocks or near the fire without repellent or head net. The large cold lake mass moderates the temperatures and therefore the nights are cool and very comfortable for sleeping.

But Superior is an immense inland sea, the water is cold and so deadly if the canoe swamps far from shore. The weather may change suddenly. Thus, the crossing of bays, some extremely large, can be hazardous.

Day 1: Thursday, June 30.

Start at about 10:30 am from Grand Portage Bay in Minnesota, where the reconstructed North West Company's fort is located, 70 km southwest of Thunder Bay. It is a calm, wet and misty morning. Shortly after starting we need to use the compass to direct our canoe across even the smaller bays, as the fog reduces visibility to less than 100 metres. The US-Canada border is crossed paddling from Pigeon Point to Pine Bay due north by compass through this soup. The fog lifts some in the afternoon but a breeze commences. We then paddle northeast from island to point to island and settle for a poor campsite on Jarvis Island at 7 pm. By now, the breeze from the east has raised troublesome waves in the open stretches. A heavy shower after supper hurries us into the tent. Total distance paddled - about 30 kilometres.

Day 2: Friday, July 1.

We sleep in and experience the usual inefficiencies of initial trip disorganization in getting going the next morning. Departure, after a hearty hot Red River breakfast, is 9:30 am. It is a calm overcast morning. Pie Island, 25 kilometres away, with its height of 230 metres above Superior, stands out clearly as we paddle for it. A thick fog bank rolls in from the east for an hour or so and we again must rely on our compass bearings to guide the canoe. By 4:45 pm we reach the northeast corner of Pie Island. Some of the cliffs along the edge of this unusual island hovered 155 metres vertically above us - rather imposing, compared with any shoreline I am used to. Since the fog has lifted, and the Lake is almost dead calm, we elect to paddle across to Thunder Cape and the Sleeping Giant. It is a 2 hour, 9 to 10 kilometre open water crossing and all goes well until the last kilometre when we encounter an opposing offshore breeze. We camp at Thunder Cape and are invaded by no-see-ums in our tent pitched in the grassy clearing. Our netting stops black flies but not these minute cannibals. Day's progress - about 35 kilometres in a straight line.

Day 3: Saturday, July 2.

We sleep in and after a "no-fire" breakfast of juice, granola and milk, it is 9:15 am when we paddle away, eastward. The sun comes out and we stop at Silver Islet, an old silver mining camp but now a cottage resort town. We walk around, have lunch, walk some more, visit and relax. In the afternoon the fog again rolls in and a chilly breeze from the east picks up. We snap on our spray deck and paddle 2 to 3 kilometres against the waves past the last house to a beautiful campsite atop a 5 metre high rock shelf just beyond Fork Bay. A fine evening ends our first easy casual day. Forward progress about 13 kilometres.

Day 4: Sunday July 3.

During the night, a ferocious rain storm with much thunder, lightning and wind strikes us. By morning we are fogged in and with a heavy surf rolling in, there is not much prospect for immediate canoeing. More rest, relaxation and photography follow. By early afternoon the fog has become intermittent and the waves have diminished. We shove off at 2:30 pm in bright sunshine with hopes of crossing Black Bay, a 10 kilometre opening with some small islands halfway across to Edward Island. A kilometre or so after starting out the fog again rolls in accompanied by a slight headwind. With the wind increasing we stop at rocky Clark Island to reconsider going further. This uninviting island is teeming with loud herring gulls, their chicks and their excrement. We are not excited at the prospect of having to camp some place on it. An hour later the wind again appears to be subsiding and we decide to paddle for Hardscrabble and Edward Islands - 5 kilometres and a good hour away. This decision leads to the most uncomfortable moments of the trip. Again halfway across we encounter more threatening weather charges. Thunder and lightning appear in the north and to the east and coming our way. We dig hard for the security of land. Fortunately the storm strikes as we reach the first island, and we park there. The wind in strong gusts, spins from one direction to another and a deluge of rain comes pouring down on us the heaviest rain I have ever experienced. After half an hour it has spent its fury, the waves have flattened and we paddle on, drenched and looking for a camp site. After a kilometre we find a sheltered spot in the narrow channel between Edward and Porphyry Islands.

We manage a fire and a fine supper and even bake shortbread which we later munch in our warm, dry sleeping bags. Only 13 kilometres of straight line progress for the day.



Day 5: Monday July 4

Windbound, no progress. The wind, from the southeast is sending 2 metre waves crashing on the nearby rocks and shore, visible from our protected campsite. Much rest, relaxation and photography. The minimal progress of 26 kilometres during the last three days is a reminder of how dependant we are on the weather moods of our inland sea. It reinforces further in our minds the uncertainty of daily progress and the rule that to make distance we must paddle when the weather allows.

Day 6: Tuesday, July 5

The best weather day to date. We awaken at 7:30 am, later than planned, and start paddling an hour later. The sun is shining; the water is calm and sparkling. No luck trolling for fish. Our course is northeast and a helpful breeze picks up. On Shaganash Island stands an unmanned lighthouse, we stop and visit and help ourselves to a pile of rhubarb from a large patch. Tija is skeptical about eating it. Shortly thereafter, a sailboat passes us in our 8 kilometre traverse to Gourdeau Island. Our route direction is 30 degrees north of the wind direction and the necessary hard steering reduces my forward effort. When in the shelter of the many islands, we eat lunch while I paddle along. We make an early camp (4 pm) on a small rocky shelf at the northern tip of Brodeur Island. A small idyllic site. We bathe, wash clothes, write and cook supper. I stew the rhubarb with sugar and make a quart or more. Tija eats very little of it. At 9:30 pm I hike up the 45 metre high hill behind us to watch and photograph the sunset. About 30 kilometres today.

Day 7: Wednesday, July 6

Overcast and sun, chilly wind and a long day. We are up 6 am and paddling by 7:15 to cross the 5 kilometre wide Shesheeb Bay to Roche Debut Point. It is a chilly morning. A bothersome head wind gradually increases, and we welcome a shore stop at Agate Point - a beautifully sculptured red sandstone area. Regretfully the wind does not allow us to visit the lighthouse at Lamb Island. We paddle around the north side of Spar Island and slowly cross Nipigon Strait to the rocky shoreline of Stark Point on Flour Island. Shortly thereafter we stop in a small sheltered bay for lunch and I start a warming fire for Tija. But once out of the wind we no longer feel the chill. Then across Blind Channel to St. Ignace Island. We are taking the outside, southern shore of this huge island. The wind diminishes as we slowly paddle to Dupuis Point across from Bowman Island. It is 5:30 pm, we are tired as we stop in a sheltered cove with a shoreline paved flat with rocks from ancient beaches. Someone had camped at our site before - maybe 10 to 20 years ago, judging by the moss in the old fireplace. I try to finish off the leftover rhubarb for supper. Off in the distance to the south, the red, rocky cliffs of offshore Talbot Island stand out as the sun sets. About 30 kilometres today.

Day 8: Thursday, July 7

Some sun slight breeze and eventually fog. Tiija is awakened by my 5 am alarm beep and we get up, paddling away by 6:15 am. Superior is still running waves but there is a minimal breeze and it does not bother us much. After 12 kilometres of open water, but near shore, we come to MacNabb Peninsula and have a candy/rest stop. There are impressive hills around us, 370 metres above the lake level, inland on St. Ignace. The waves are now 8 metres long and about 1 metre high. It is easier to paddle out from shore where they are stable and move in steady, long steps. Near shore they become disorganized, more choppy and thus more difficult to paddle. Our route takes us east across Moffatt Strait, to Simpson Island and we stop after Grebe Point for lunch. What a beautiful day. The white surf is breaking on the black rocks and the warm sun is shining in the clear sky. The waves are a bit intimidating but after some discussion we decide to go on. But caution forces a stop at 2 pm in McKay Cove next to a small stream. Another outstanding campsite. The timberline tent site is on a soft lowbush juniper patch and Tiija builds her first fireplace of the trip. I take a 10 second swim. We go to bed at 8 pm, hoping for a very early start. A 22 kilometre day.

Day 9: Friday, July 8

A marathon day. During the night a heavy rainstorm passed through. The 4:30 am alarm awakens Tiija and she poses the difficult question to a sleepy and tired Dad - "Are we really getting up?" It is dark outside and from our sheltered cove it is difficult to be sure we will paddle very far. But we do paddle away at 5:45 am and the sun peeps through the morning mist to silhouette the trees - beautiful and I didn't capture it on film. Again by compass bearing we paddle through the mist (fog) across Simpson Channel to Battle Island and stop to visit the lighthouse there. It is an impressive, well-maintained operation. Then across Wilson Channel to another large island of the same name. Because of the heavy mist and running swells from the south we paddle north, through Swedes Gap to the protected side of Copper Island. From there we see the hilly mainland of Rainbow Falls Provincial Park and Mount Gwynne to the east. Then comes a lengthy - 6 kilometre - paddle to Schreiber Point on the mainland. Most of the way we are shrouded in fog and again trust to our compass. It is a hot, at times sunny and misty day as we paddle to Les Petits Ecris and camp, rather tired out, at 4:30 pm, twelve hours after getting up. The smoke stacks of Terrace Bay are visible from our island. About 38 kilometres today.

Day 10: Saturday July 9

Ideal weather day. I awoke at 5:45 am and 45 minutes later we are on the water (a record so far) eating our granola as we paddle. It is a calm day and we head southeast for Mortimer, one of the Slate Islands, about 13 kilometres and 2½ hours away. We land in a beautiful grotto cove and stretch our legs by exploring this very picturesque area. The water is unbelievably clear and the rock has been chiselled into fascinating contours by wind and waves. In the interior islands we encounter fishing boats. We lunch near a caribou sighting and a 3 storey high, huge power yacht from Ann Arbor passes our low 13 inch freeboard canoe...a striking contrast. At 2 pm we decide it is best to head back to the mainland and so we strike northeast for Battle Point. To the east, 20 kilometres away, Pic Island with its large hill stands out, visible above the open horizon. Once near the mainland, the wind, from the west, comes up and we try sailing to Barclay Island in Ashturton Bay. It is easier but slower than paddling. We arrive at Barclay Island at 7 pm, expecting a campsite but cannot find anything half acceptable. Instead we explore a most interesting and deep split in the rock. By mutual agreement we decide to paddle to Caldwell Peninsula to camp, reach it at 8:30 pm and with some difficulty find a tent site. A grand evening, sitting on the clean, smooth rocks watching the sun set caps the very long day. Our straight line progress was 40 kilometres but we probably paddled closer to 50 kilometres. The shoreline distance was about 58 kilometres.

Day 11: Sunday, July 10

A calm hot, sunny day. Visit Marathon. Given the heroics of the previous day, we sleep in and paddling begins at 10:30 am. We reach Marathon, 20 kilometres away just after lunch. The water near Marathon is a pollution disaster. The pulp mill discharges a camel



yellow stream of gunk into the lake. We land to the south of Peninsula Hill and hike past the trailer park into town. Fortunately we find a store open and gorge on ice cream. After a walk around and a telephone call home we paddle south. We paddle late to get away from the Marathon water pollution, and camp near Ogilvy Point, a few kilometres north of Pic River. To celebrate having reached the half way point I bring out the Drambui liqueur for the first time and enjoy it with Tiija's tapioca pudding. She does not want any. About 30 kilometres as the crow flies, closer to 50 along the shore. Calm water sure shortens the paddling distances on Lake Superior.

Day 12: Monday, July 11

A windy, short day. A foggy, windy morning greets us and we paddle on the inside of any island we can find. There is considerable surf along the long beach leading up to the mouth of the Pic River where we find a log boom and tug. We visit the old lumbering camp area and chat with some parks people and loggers. It seems we are witnessing the last summer of log running on the Pic River. Apparently two days ago, on Saturday, was the official Pukaskwa Park opening day. We sign in at the park registry booth and pick up some pamphlets. Then back to the canoe and a troublesome wind from the southwest. In crossing Hattie Cove and rounding Campbell Point we encounter the roughest water so far and thus head into shore. A few of the waves were breaking, many were close to breaking and with our course perpendicular to the wind, it was best to stop. We paddle to the far east end of Playter Harbour and stop in a tiny cove on the Pukaskwa Coastal Hiking Trail. With a small day pack, Tiija and I set out south on the trail for Chigamiwinigum Falls and the swinging bridge over the White River. It is a grand spot and we spend an hour there before heading back and camp. Less than 8 kilometres for the day.

Day 13: Tuesday, July 12

Windbound! After a paddle to the mouth of Playter Harbour, we encounter a rough, intimidating sea of whitecaps and camp for the day. More washing, writing, sunbathing, shortbread baking and so on.

Day 14: Wednesday, July 13

Sun and wind. A fretful night, as the loud surf seemed undiminished to my ears whenever I awoke. I get up at 3 am and look around. At 4 am Tiija obediently gets up and at 4:50 am we paddle away in the dark, very cautiously feeling our way along, close to shore. Again a headwind opposes us and we use every island we can for cover. At Fish Harbour we meet the Bruce Trail group of Jean Smith, Kip, Doug and Certa. Then on to Oiseau Bay and its sandy paradise. The beauty and the wind convince us to stop here. Lunch, more socializing with our hiking friends and later with the sail boaters anchoring here for the night. Twenty-four kilometres for the day - less than 32 for the less 3 days.

Day 15: Thursday July 14

A sunny grand day. Heavy rain in the night. Paddling by 6 am, heading south along this wild, primitive wilderness. Many of the hills along the shore are 250 to 300 metres above us. There is a slight head wind, but it diminishes as time goes on. We visit some bays; I am in continual awe of our surroundings.

Unfortunately I probably cannot take the time to capture it on film. A thin haze spoils the photography. There is no contrast or definition. We visit the Swallow River, its bridge, and then stop again at some long boulder beaches - looking for Pukaskwa Pits. At 6 pm we reach the Cascade River and land; my carelessness then soaks me and some of the gear. (The size of the incoming surf on the beach caught me sitting absent-mindedly in the canoe). A beautiful spot. I shower in the falls and take many pictures. Tija goes to bed early, and we are both zonked. About 30 kilometres today.

Day 16: Friday, July 15

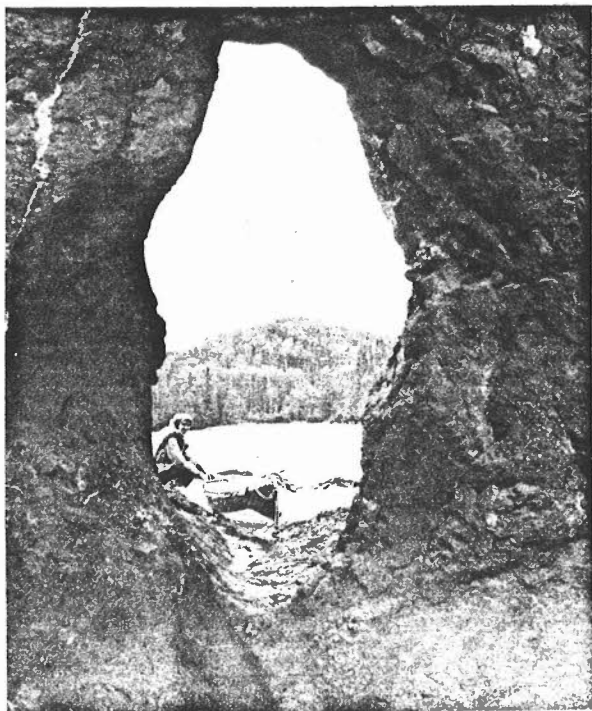
A sunny easy day. We sleep in - to 7 am, and after breakfast hike to the falls and then paddle to Otter Island lighthouse, visiting the Richardsons for a couple of hours. Then south, through the fog to Otter Head. We lunch on the rocks, try fishing (no luck) and head around the Pukaskwa horn. Point La Canadienne is another impressive rock buttress. Its name must be a historic one from the voyageur days. Then into Imogene Cove and the site of the old Pukaskwa Depot but time and grass have reclaimed almost all the old landmarks. A small grave marker still stands out. There are footprints in the sand beach when we land and Tija speculates that a lone canoeist is ahead of us. We never meet him. We should have camped in Imogene Cove, but we paddle on to the Pukaskwa River, hoping for a better site. There we settle for a sandbar campsite. Fortunately no wind or storm came our way during the night. About 20 kilometres today.

Day 17: Saturday, July 16

A sunny, warm day. We are up at 5:30 am and paddling by 6:45 am. It is a very foggy morning but as it clears we can see Michipicoten Island 25 kilometres away. We find an old cabin near Le Petit Mort Rocks, and meet two young fishermen and a sailboat motoring. We paddle on and on. Then we meet Gary and Joanie McGuffin on their trans-Canada canoe tour. They started on the Gulf of St. Lawrence in May and are heading for The Pas this year. Then the Mackenzie and the Arctic next year. Amazing! Their fast canoe, light outfit, bent shaft paddles and hard work enables them to travel 100 kilometres a day on flat water. Again rather amazing! We bid adieu and continue on. We paddle past the sandy shores of "The Flats" and a long evening takes us beyond the 5 to 6 kilometres of inhospitable high and sheer shore to Tamarack Creek. Our campsite is up on the rocks. A hot, slow, tiring day and 50 kilometres to show for it.

Day 18: Sunday July 17

A beneficial breeze, sun and fog. A slow morning, we paddle away at 8:30 am and soon come to the University River. We go up some riffles on the University and contemplate going as far as Denison Falls, 3 kilometres



away. But we are both anxious to get further along. Superior in paddling weather and so we do. We have a private, scenic sand beach in McCoy's Harbour for lunch. The waves propel us along during the afternoon. Again the fog comes in and we paddle by compass past Dore Point and then Peskwakwia Point into Michipicoten Bay and Oakes Cove. Tija and I have an enjoyable visit on a nearby sailboat in the late evening. About 30 kilometres today.

Day 19: Monday July 18

A hot sunny day. We start paddling at 9:30 am and stop briefly at the lighthouse to get the latest weather report. Then a 10 kilometre traverse to Beauvier Point almost due south. We thus bypassed most of Michipicoten Bay and the Michipicoten River mouth. Next is Brule Point, Brule Harbour and Inner Harbour. We paddle around, looking for a campsite but cannot find the "ideal", we had hoped for. We finally stop on the north side of Old Woman Bay, have lunch and camp. It is a very sunny, warm day and I sit in the shade whenever possible. We wash clothes, bathe, bake two snacking cakes and then early to bed. Twenty kilometres paddling takes us along 30 kilometres of shoreline.

Day 20: Tuesday, July 19

Overcast then a clearing day. Another early breakfast and we paddle away at 6:30 am in a straight line for Grindstone Point. It is overcast and threatening rain. Then to Cap Chaillon, then Ryan Point. We munch on our pot full of snacking cake throughout the day. Next comes interesting Cape Gargantua, its tortured volcanic rock shapes, and lunch at a keyhole rock face. While eating we decide to push on to the Soo, if weather permits, by Saturday. It clears and we pass Devil's Warehouse Island (some name!) and Lake Superior Provincial Park on our left. The shore here is tamer with a lower profile compared to Pukaskwa. After Bald Head we see Highway 17 and traffic and we leave our sense of isolation behind us as well. We camp on an island near Agawa Point at about 7 pm. Almost 65 kilometres of shoreline were passed today, less paddling because of the good weather. With the highway so close now and the end so near, the relaxed enjoyment of the wilderness fades as well.

Day 21: Wednesday, July 20

Continued warm, calm weather. Again we get up early. Tija has to be coaxed to do so, and we paddle while eating granola. To shorten our distance we head due south to Montreal Island and from there to Theano Point by 11 am, thereby missing altogether Agawa Bay and Montreal River Harbour. An hour later we stop at Point Aux Mines for lunch. It is brilliant warm sunshine and we swim for a bit. Next is Mamise Point and the fish plant where we buy two freshly smoked whitefish. A leisurely paddle, Tija rests a while, and we come to Pancake Point. We camp in the woods behind a small gravel beach. With the sunset I go for a short paddle and then write by candlelight until 11 pm while Tija sleeps. Another impressive 60 kilometres of shore were passed today.

Day 22: Thursday, July 21

More unbelievably good weather, with some wind. At 6:15 am we get up, still tired, but paddle away at 6:50 am. There are some major, large bays ahead of us. If we cross them, many kilometres of paddling can be saved. And so we cross Pancake Bay, Batchawana Bay and Horseshoe Bay. A threatening but fortunately brief wind comes up an hour before we reach Rudderhead Point. Then lunch and Goulais Point. A wind from the west northwest propels us across Goulais Bay and we camp on the south shore just past the last cabin. During the crossing, a few very large waves washed across our waterproof decking. It is too windy to keep going. Another beautiful evening, our last it turns out, and we wash our clothes, anticipating our finish tomorrow. About 55 kilometres of "shoreline" paddling passed today, less by our "straight across" traverses.

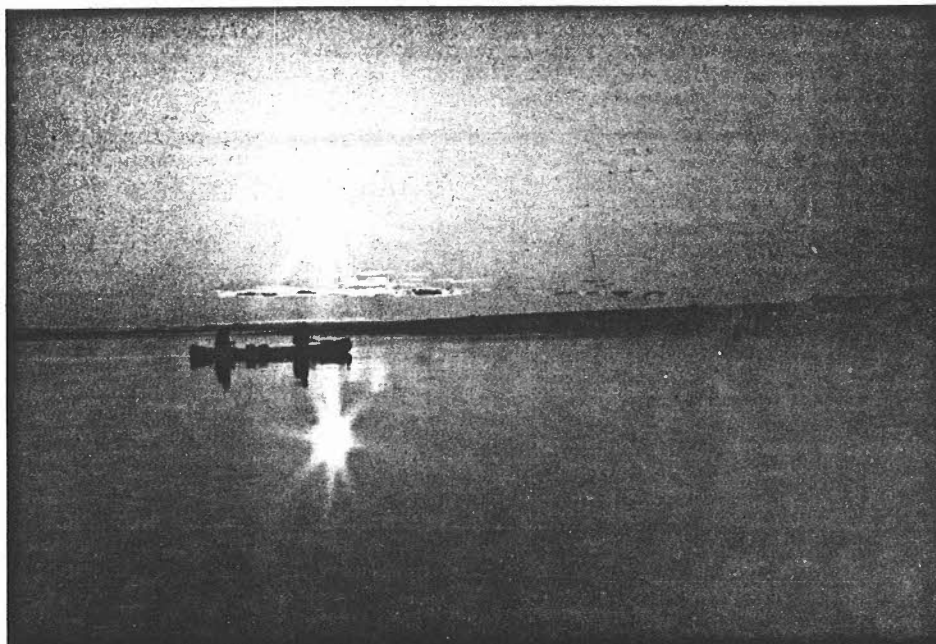
Day 23: Friday July 22

More calm sunny, stable high pressure weather. We impatiently pass around Gross Cap, lunch at Pointe des Chenes Park at a picnic table and then float down the St. Mary River. Three large cargo ships pass us in the narrow channel, and we have the honour of going through the Sault Canal Locks, descending 5 metres to Lake Michigan. Around the corner is a shopping centre, ice cream, a telephone and the end of the canoe trip - a week earlier than we had anticipated.



By: David F. Pelly

Photo: Chas. Altschul



It is mid-July. You're dressed in heavy sweaters, windproof jacket, and wool toque. Your bottom hand is numb from the wet cold. Each breath forms a cloud before your face. It's midnight, but calm and bug-free - so you're still paddling. The sun is just setting. It's been a long day, sixteen hours, and your muscles complain in the cold. Yet you're smiling. You marvel at the beauty all around.

It's the arctic. Your canoe glides across a pristine lake. The air is lung-filling clean. The sky creates one unprecedented spectacle after another as the sun sinks to the northwest.

Nowhere is there an activity which brings you closer to nature. Your routine is controlled by the elements. You live every hour with an awareness of, and a concern for, the weather - as it is now and as it is developing on the horizon.

To live in this manner, for us from the "civilised" south, is relief. Our cares are reduced to the basics: food, warmth, and shelter. Even people beyond your little entourage of barren lands travellers become irrelevant, as they struggle with their distant world. There is no outside communication. It is a chance to focus all attention on immediate and direct concerns.

So you wake up in the morning, each day for 30, 40, or 50 days in a row, and your first thoughts are for the weather, your breakfast, the beauty of the land, your day's travel, your survival, your routine. In the simplicity and essence of it lies pleasure.

"Today began well, for I awoke to feel the warmth of the sun beating down upon my tent. And it continued well, for not only have we had fair weather, but nature has provided a good show all day." With these words I began my description of a typical day on a barrens trip, one which followed a period of rain. Now let me offer more of these quotes from my collected journals of arctic travel, the better to support my impressionistic view of canoeing in this unique wilderness.

"Day 16: It took me about five minutes to figure out which day of the week, and what date, we have reached. Such is the departure one makes from life's normally scheduled routine.

"I am reclined in the tent (to escape the pesky flies on this windless night) looking through the front door across a flat tundra plain covered in a multitude of autumn colours, with a large patch of cotton grass standing erect against the horizon, each corolla like a puff of snow arrested in mid-descent, and then the lake beyond, a smooth glass yellowing in the fading midnight light, yet reflecting in every detail the hills across the way. All is silent but for the hum of mosquitoes outside, and the periodic cry of a loon shattering the still air."

"Day 21: The afternoon has passed, and though the winds are not quite so ferocious as this morning it is still out of the question to proceed. I am yet optimistic that we'll make this crossing tonight, as the winds go down at sunset, around 11 pm."

"Day 24: Wind kept us ashore for most of the afternoon today. Can we hope for fair weather tomorrow? The sky says it's unlikely.

"Shortly after supper this evening, right at sundown, it began raining. That persists now, two hours later, and shows no sign of letting up before dawn. Despite the conditions, three of us decided to hike the ridge behind camp."

"Day 25: Last night's storm has strengthened. We now have winds of at least 80 km/h beating the tent furiously. Rain is pelting down, with no end apparent. We must simply sit here, arrange what comfort we can, and wait it out."

"Day 26: How easily we forget. It's hard to believe the misery we endured yesterday. Today was marked by bright sunshine and favourable winds."

"Day 36: It is nearing the end of arctic summer. Grey skies, cold winds, and southbound flights of geese are now commonplace. Hail is not uncommon. Comfort is no more a matter of course. It requires effort. It is now that one really reduces the necessities of life to the most basic. Warmth, food, and shelter seem the makings for valhalla."

And yet on another occasion, it was the 8th of August, I remember swimming (quite voluntarily!) in the waters of an arctic river, which could not have been more than 10°C, in search of relief from the day's heat. How unpredictable the barrens can be.

To canoe the arctic waters, to live and travel in the greatest outdoors which Canada has to offer, is to put yourself in the hands of the elements. They are unconquerable. You must yield. Approach the barrens in search of a conquest and you will be punished by nature herself. But go there understanding that you cannot conquer, and you will be rewarded.

Arctic Journal, by WCA member David F. Pelly is a series of articles on various aspects of barrens canoeing. David is a freelance writer whose work has appeared in Canadian Geographic, Outdoor Canada, and North/Nord amongst others, and is author of the book EXPEDITION, An Arctic Journey Through History on George Back's River. He is currently living in Baker Lake, funded by a Canada Council grant to work on a book project, Inummarik, with an Inuit artist friend.



nastawgan published by the wca editor sandy richardson printed by bayweb

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

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

The perennial first decision to be made by every newly-elected Board of Directors is who shall assume the Chairmanship. Traditionally the Director slowest to avow his lack of qualifications is instantly surrounded by his colleagues, slapped on the back, and congratulated on his new job. Unfortunately, I was daydreaming when the issue arose.

As this year's Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to thank resigning Directors Bill King and Graham Barnett for their valuable contribution to the Board, and to express to past-Chairman Claire Brigden the appreciation of us all for her willingness to devote herself tirelessly, above and beyond the call of duty, to the running of our club.

We've had a very busy and successful spring season. Herb Pohl certainly deserves a lot of credit for providing us with such a well organized and smoothly run A.G.M. We had an attractive display at the Toronto Sportsmen's Show, managed by Jan Tissot, which generated a lot of interest from visitors. Richard and Claire Smerdon of the Conservation Committee have been working overtime for us to complete the information report on the International Canoe Tour Festival which appears in this issue, and to distribute it to over 100 concerned groups and individuals. Tony Bird and his Outings Committee have, with the generous assistance of our trip organizers, produced a varied and extensive outings programme which has been enthusiastically received by you, and about which I would like to add a few personal comments.

I still well remember my first WCA outing, with Jim Greenacre on the Upper Credit. Jim took his role as organizer very earnestly (as he still does). I can recall him introducing himself to the participants and inspecting their boats and gear, and then drawing the group together, reviewing the club river signals and procedures. That whitewater paddling, especially in cold weather, was not without dangers, and was to be taken seriously, we had no doubt. Such was, and is the philosophy of this organization. It is also common sense.

The WCA takes pride in its fostering of a responsible attitude towards canoeing and hopes that the membership will continue to co-operate with our trip organizers in maintaining this tradition.

Participants on our outings have an obligation to be familiar with, and to abide by our trip guidelines. They should also be aware that the organizer can exclude them from an outing if they bring unsafe or inadequate equipment. It is normally expected that they carry the necessary gear and have sufficient skills to independently complete the trip in case of emergency.

On difficult whitewater trips mutual support is important for safety, and to achieve this the organizer may assign lead and sweep boat positions. Each boat is responsible for the canoe behind, and should keep it in sight. Under no circumstances should a group be allowed to become split up so that there are boats which are out of contact with the rest of the party.

The leader may also suggest that paddlers not run particularly difficult drops. Since the individuals who organize such outings for the club are members of considerable experience and skill, their advice deserves serious thought. When you dump in heavy whitewater you risk not only personal injury, and damage to equipment, but may also jeopardize the safety of your fellow paddlers who are obligated to perform a rescue. Think it over well.

If you are inclined to tangle with the big stuff be sure you've got the equipment and skills to do the job. Extra flotation, safety boats, and throw bags are advisable; and wet suits are a necessity where mistakes would result in long, cold swims. Even with all these, if you have to debate with your partner which way Bill Mason said to lean the boat to enter an eddy, then you ought to be walking the portage.

I hope you all have a pleasant and a safe summer on our lakes and rivers.

Bill Ness

news briefs

THE FRIENDS OF QUETICO

A non-profit charitable organization known as The Friends of Quetico had its first inaugural meeting in April 1984. The Friends now have a Board of Directors and are moving forward, preparing for membership. The Friends will work to uphold the goal of Quetico Provincial Park, to preserve the Wilderness for all time.

For more information, write:

The Friends of Quetico
P.O. Box 1959
Atikokan, Ontario
P0T 1C0

WCA MEMBERSHIP LISTS

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

DEADLINE FOR AUTUMN ISSUE

Articles, trip reports, photographs etc. are needed for our 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 autumn issue. Material received after this date will not appear in the autumn issue, but will be held for use in a later issue.

QUETICO-SUPERIOR PHOTO CONTEST

As part of the Quetico-Superior 75th Anniversary celebration, a photo contest is being held. Photos, either black and white or colour, taken in Quetico Park or Superior National Forest in 1984 are eligible. The deadline for entry is September 30, 1984. For further information contact Sandy Richardson, or the Quetico Centre, Box 1000, Atikokan, Ontario, P0T 1C0; telephone 807-929-3511.

APPOINTMENT OF 1984 AUDITOR

Since the position of 1984 Auditor was not filled at our A.G.M. in March, the Board of Directors has been seeking a candidate to assume the responsibility. Mike Wills has generously offered his services and the Board fully endorse him for the office. Should any members have reason to question his eligibility they should register their objection with the WCA Secretary by July 31. Barring such objection, Mike Wills will assume the position of Auditor for our 1984 fiscal year on August 1.

WCA CRESTS AND DECALS

Attractive crests and decals showing the WCA logo in two shade of blue and white are available to members. The crests measure 24 cm X 48 cm and cost \$3.00 each. The decals are 74 cm X 148 cm and sell for \$1.00 each.

Both crests and decals will be on sale at WCA meetings and 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.

TRAIL HEAD OPENS STORE IN TORONTO

A new playpen full of delightful wilderness goodies has opened its doors in downtown Toronto. The well known Trail Head from Ottawa now has a branch at 40 Wellington Street East under the expert guidance of Fred Loosemore and Wendy Grater, both of longstanding Camp Kandalore fame. Their store has a variety of clothing, equipment, canoes, paddles, literature, etc., and also rents gear and organizes and outfits trips into the outdoors. The beautifully designed and printed catalog is a gem, filled with great photographs and graphics.

T.H.

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

You may have noticed that the WCA has "gone computer"! The last two mailings have had beautiful computer-generated labels (thanks to Cash Belden). You may also have noticed a number in the upper right hand corner of the label. This is your personal number by which the computer will always recognize your membership. If you use this number on membership renewals and other correspondence with the WCA, it will make the computer very happy. After all, you don't want to make the computer angry, do you?

TRIP HOT LINE REMINDER

In Spring 1983 the Outings Committee arranged for Marcia Farquhar (416-884-0208) to offer a "trip hot line" service for members who were interested in putting together a trip on fairly short notice.

This service has been used by some members and has been a moderate success.

As a reminder, the trip hot line is intended as a means to contact other members where there is no WCA trip scheduled on a particular date, when the scheduled trips are full, or when last minute replacements are needed for unscheduled trips.

Marcia can also be called if:

- (a) members have not received their newsletter and want to know the outings programme,
- (b) members would like to indicate interest in a longer trip at a future date but missed newsletter deadline.

BANNOCK BREAD AND OTHER DELIGHTS

Author: Maire J. Walpert
Publisher: Canoe Ontario, 1984
Reviewed by: Toni Harting

In its 37 pages this small but well-produced booklet presents quite an interesting collection of information, recipes, menus, tips, and helpful hints on canoe trip cooking. It gives the outdoors cook a good start into the world of nutritious and tasty campsite food.

There are of course many appetizing recipes and meal suggestions, but also a number of most useful tips on related subjects. For example, there is one page with information on some of the problems that drinking water can present to the unwary paddler in the wild country. Especially useful are the hints on the need to do a good, thorough clean-up job on equipment and campsite after the cooking session. Last but not least, a small but representative bibliography of 20 titles rounds off this pleasantly written, instructive booklet on campsite cookery.

It is an excellent and welcome addition to the outdoors library, and can be ordered for only \$2.00 from Canoe Ontario, 1220 Sheppard Ave. East, Willowdale, Ontario, M2K 2X1.

ONTARIO BREEDING BIRD ATLAS 1983 SUMMARY

After 3 of 5 years, the Atlas project is progressing well. Over 1,500 people have contributed a total of over 200,000 observations so far, and have put in more than 57,000 hours of field work in the process. This degree of dedication is resulting in an enormous increase in our knowledge of the birds of the province - common and rare species alike.

South of Sudbury, where data collection is based upon the 10 km grid square 1,423 of 1,790 squares have now been visited by project volunteers and 614 of these squares have been adequately covered. Although this represents an excellent effort, there is obviously still plenty of work to do in order to ensure that all 1,790 squares are adequately covered before the end of July, 1985. Valuable work can be done almost anywhere. Major gaps in coverage are found near Sarnia, Cornwall, and Algonquin Park. To help cover the vacant squares in and around Algonquin Park, an atlassing outing is being organized for the July 1st long weekend. All naturalists are invited to attend.

Northern Ontario is being atlassed on the basis of 100 km blocks. So far, 75 of the 108 blocks have been visited and 38 have been adequately covered. Vacant blocks are mostly in remote areas far from road or rail

access, but plenty of even the more easily accessed blocks require further coverage. To reach the remote blocks, canoe trips are being arranged to travel most of the north's larger rivers. Vacancies remain on some trips for experienced birders and/or canoeists and campers.

With the generous assistance of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and two private companies, atlas volunteers are being flown to a number of remote areas on the Hudson Bay Lowlands and the northern Canadian Shield this year. A number of opportunities await qualified volunteers.

Your help is needed to make the atlas project a complete success. Whether you send in only records of the birds nesting in your backyard, or are able to devote 3 weeks to a northern canoe trip, you can make a useful contribution to the atlas, and add to our knowledge of the breeding birds of Ontario.

For more information on any aspect of the project, please contact Judith Kennedy at the Atlas Office, Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 355 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, Ontario; telephone 416-444-8419.

QUETICO SUPERIOR

1909-1984

75TH ANNIVERSARY

HISTORY OF QUETICO - SUPERIOR - I

By Shan Walshe
(Research assistance by Shirley Peruniak)

Photos courtesy Quetico Provincial Park Archives.

Background

For almost a hundred years after la Verendrye established his chain of trading posts in 1731 the Quetico-Superior Country was a hive of activity, with two major trans-Canada fur trade routes passing through it. There followed fifty years of relative obscurity after the bulk of the fur trade was re-routed through Hudson's Bay following the amalgamation of the Northwest Company and the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821.

Of note during this relatively quiet period was the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842, which established as the international boundary the waterways leading to and from Grand Portage (i.e. the old east-west fur trade route of the French and the Northwest Company prior to 1804). Citizens of both nations were also declared free to travel the boundary lakes and portages without hindrance or customs.



Quetico Provincial Park has the largest concentration of Indian rock paintings (or pictographs) in eastern North America. This photo depicts a very distinct group of human figures (or Maynawishii), canoes and tally marks.

In 1865 the discovery of gold at Lake Vermilion, Minnesota started a chain reaction which shook the Quetico-Superior Country out of its peaceful slumber. In Ontario more gold strikes followed in quick succession - Jackfish Lake near Atikokan (1870), Shoal Lake (1893) Sapawe (1895), and Elizabeth (1900). Iron was also found in northern Minnesota and by 1900 at least ten iron mines were operating near Ely, founded in 1887. Thousands of Finnish and Yugoslavian immigrants flocked to these new mines.

Mining activity was "part and parcel" of a much larger event, the expansion westward of Canada and the United States following the American Civil War. In 1873, Treaty Three, negotiated with the Ojibwa tribes, ceded most of the Quetico-Superior Country to the Dominion of Canada, throwing it open for development and exploitation.

With westward expansion came railroads, bringing prospectors, lumbermen, and settlers. In 1888, Ely was linked to the Duluth and Iron Range Railway; in 1882 the C.P.R. was completed from Prince Arthur's landing (now Thunder Bay) to Winnipeg; and, in 1901, the Canadian National Railroad reached Port Frances via Atikokan.

With the construction of railroads and mines came a heavy demand for lumber of all kinds - railroad ties, bridges, mine timbers, pilings, new buildings, etc. This attracted lumbermen from the east where the great pine forests were now exhausted. In both Canada and the United States unscrupulous lumber barons used "every

trick in the book" to acquire timber. In the U.S., "homesteaders" would file on 160-acre parcels of land, later turning over the timber to the companies. The magnificent pine forests vanished at an alarming rate and, by 1930, had virtually disappeared from Minnesota only forty years after logging first began at Tower in 1891.

Companies active on the U.S. side of the Quetico-Superior Country prior to 1909 included Cook and Ketcham (Lake Vermilion and Trout Lake, 1891), Knox Lumber Company (Fall Lake, 1892), Swallow and Hopkins Lumber Company (Winton, 1898 - the 4-mile railroad from Fall Lake to Basswood Lake), and Pigeon River Lumber Company (logged east of Quetico from 1901-1920). In these years dams were built along the international boundary and southward into Minnesota, which moved logs to Fall Lake and Winton. In 1907 the Duluth, Virginia, and Rainy Lake Railway to International Falls was constructed and its peak year for moving pine logs was 1917.

With increased human activity came other treats to the natural resources of Quetico-Superior. Slash from logging and mining operations and sparks from railroad locomotives caused great forest fires in 1863, 1874, and 1894. Logging and mining camps also quickly depleted local moose and fish populations to feed growing numbers of workers.

Finally, after hundreds of years of regarding the wilderness as an enemy to be exploited and destroyed, some people in the United States and Canada began to have a change of heart, now that they saw the frontier way of life in its death throes. They began to distrust industrialization, fearing that their natural character and strength would disappear along with the wilderness. Gifford Pinchot, who organized the United States Forest Service in 1898, believed that, with the exhaustion of natural resources, "disaster and decay in every department of natural life would follow as a matter of course". Organizations sprang up to help conserve nature's wealth - the American Forestry Association; the Minnesota State Forestry Association; and campaigns began to promote national parks, forest reserves, forestry regulations and forestry schools. In 1891, Itasca State Park was established in Minnesota to preserve the forest at the headwaters of the Mississippi River.

In Canada, the conservation movement first began with concerns about growing scarcity of fish and game. Regulations on torchlight spearing, netting of salmon, deer and waterfowl hunting were passed in 1821 and 1856. After confederation, timber regulations were enforced more rigidly, rangers being asked to report wanton waste. In the 1860's and 70's Canadians who read *Man and Nature* by George Marsch began thinking of forest conservation. In 1885, fire rangers were first placed in the field in Ontario by Assistant Commissioner of Crown lands, Aubrey White, and the same year, Alexander Kirkwood advanced the thought that forests ought to be used for recreation as well as profit. Beginning the campaign for the establishment of Algonquin Park, he said: "There is a gloomy grandeur in the natural forest. The noble pines and stately oaks bespeak the growth of centuries. The winds sound solemnly among their branches and the rocks caw from their hereditary nests in the tree tops. It is in wandering through such scenes that the mind drinks deep but quiet draughts of inspiration and becomes intensely sensible of the beauty and majesty of nature. It is here that the imagination of the poet kindles into reverie and rapture and revels in almost incommunicable luxury of thought."



Aerial view of Quetico Lake in Quetico Provincial Park

In 1892, the Ontario government set up a Royal Commission on Forest Reservation and a National Park, which recommended the setting aside of Algonquin Park "to preserve the primeval forest, protect the wildlife, undertake experiments in forestry, make provision for health and recreation, and secure, for the surrounding regions, the advantages of climate and water supply that retention of a large block of forest could give."

The Canadian government in Ottawa was also becoming concerned. The Minister of Interior, Clifford Sifton, and banker, Sir Edmund B. Walker realized that Canada was spending its forest capital instead of living on the interest. The Dominion government under Sir Wilfrid Laurier responded by creating the Canadian Commission of Conservation chaired by Clifford Sifton who said: "Our resources are not illimitable. No matter how great the natural resources of any country may be, when a large and active population sets itself to develop them, it very soon becomes evident that they are far from being illimitable." Wilfrid Laurier himself remarked: "If you take the train at Halifax and go to Vancouver, in every province of the Dominion where there is timber, in Nova Scotia, in New Brunswick, in Quebec, in Ontario, in British Columbia, you will see miles of what was once beautiful forest and which is now nothing but parched and blackened timber, a monument of the destructive power of the railway locomotive."

Largely as a result of the influence of Sifton and the Canadian Commission of Conservation, the Ontario government passed the Forest Reserves Act of 1898, giving the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council "the power to set apart such portions of the public domain as may be deemed advisable for the purposes of future timber supplies." By 1905, more than 10,000,000 acres had been set aside. The state was now set for the preservation of the Quetico-Superior Country.



Author Shan Walshe is the Quetico Park Naturalist, a position he has held for the past 14 years, and knows the Quetico-Superior area like the back of his hand. He is the author of the recently published book: Plants of Quetico and the Ontario Shield. Shirley Peruniak is the Park Historian and is also very knowledgeable about the Quetico-Superior area from first hand experience. She has researched and written extensively on the cultural aspects of Quetico Park.

This is the second of a series of articles on Quetico and the Quetico-Superior 75th Anniversary.

FRUIT LEATHERS

Liz Henderson

A fruit leather is a chewy fruit product made by drying pureed fresh, canned or frozen fruit. Fruit leathers are quick energy food for snack breaks on canoeing or backpacking trips. They keep well without refrigeration and are low in bulk and weight. Leathers usually are rolled in waxed paper or a plastic wrap and eaten as a snack. They also may be dissolved in water and used as pie filling or fruit soup. The selection and combination of fruits to make into leather is limitless. The delicious taste of fruit on a long canoe trip is certainly an appreciated treat.

To make a puree, strain cooked or thoroughly ripened raw fruit through an electric blender or strainer. Citrus fruits should only be used in combination with other fruit because they contain so much liquid and so little pulp. Canned fruit can be used by draining the syrup and adding a small amount of lemon juice to bring out the flavour.

If the puree is too tart, add one tablespoon of white corn syrup or honey to taste. Granulated sugar may crystallize during storage and make the leather brittle. Brown sugar does not crystallize but it adds a different flavour. Spice and flavouring can be used as well, but must be used sparingly as they will concrete when dried.

Line a baking sheet with plastic wrap (such as Saran Wrap). Do not use wax paper or aluminum foil as they tend to stick to the leather. Pour the puree onto the prepared tray and spread it evenly until the puree to spread about 1/8 inch deep almost to the edges of the tray. To make a leather 18"x14"x1/8" you will need about 2 1/2 cups of puree.

Dry at 120 F for six to eight hours in the oven. Remove the leather from the tray while it is still warm and roll it into a cylindrical shape. Cooled fruit leather does not roll as easily. Once the leather has cooled, wrap each roll in plastic wrap and place in an air-tight container. Store in a cool, dry, dark place. Leathers containing nuts or coconut should be stored in the freezer.

My favourite fruit leather is a combination of strawberries and bananas. I add 1/2 cup of pureed bananas to one quart of pureed strawberries. Dissolving this leather to make a fruit soup mixture of dried apples, lemon rinds and fresh blueberries is a superb dessert.

For further information on fruit leathers and other dried fruits refer to books on food dehydration at the library. An excellent resource is an H.P. Bock, How to Dry Foods, by Deanne DeLong.

hiking in

Herb Pohl

For some time now I have contemplated writing a short note about a part of Austria which to me is the finest hiking country anywhere. It took Marcia Farquhar's notice in the last issue of Nastawgan to finally spur me into action to tell about it.

The heart of this hiker's heaven lies a little more than half an hour's drive due south of Salzburg. Soon after leaving the latter the traveller enters the confines of a narrow valley where the river Salzach has carved a path through the mountains. At one point a castle comes into view; strategically placed atop a rocky knoll at a narrowing of the valley, it seemingly bars passage to all comers.

Just beyond lies the picturesque village of Werfen. It is the centre of hiking opportunities in virtually all directions.

For the less ambitious there are easy rambles along the gentle lower slopes of the mountains. Trails lead past fancy establishments, which cater to sophisticated palates, and plain country inns, where local foods are served without pretention at very reasonable prices.

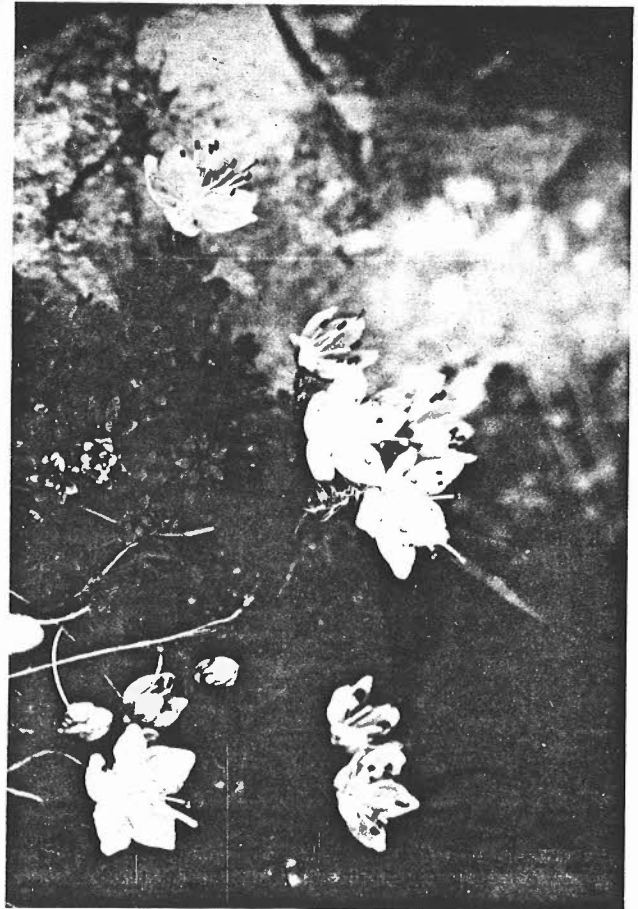
The more energetic hiker has lots of scope as well. There are three mountain ranges to choose from. Immediately to the east rises the Temengebirge with almost vertical walls projecting 1800 metres above the valley floor. It is traversed by several well marked trails. Most of the huts at the higher altitudes in this range are only open during the summer, but there is at least one emergency shelter which can be utilized in the off-season.



At higher altitudes the clouds are rarely absent and rapid changes in the weather occur frequently.



A view of the Temengebirge as seen from the town of Bischofshofen, a nearby ski centre.



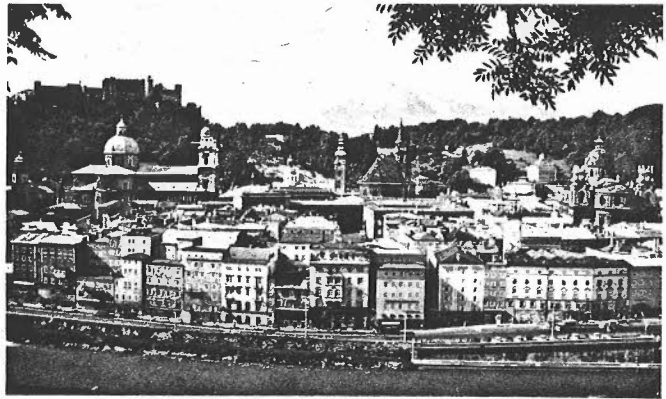
the alps

To the west of Werfen lies a range of mountains dominated by the 'Hochkonig', at just under 3000 metres the highest peak in the region, whose northern slope is covered by a large glacier. On the flanks of the mountain are situated a number of huts. They offer a magnificent view and reasonably priced food and refreshments. They can be used as basecamps for hikes to higher altitudes. At the height of the holiday season the place gets a little too crowded for my liking - like the trails in the White Mountains of New Hampshire - then it's time to move on to more remote terrain.

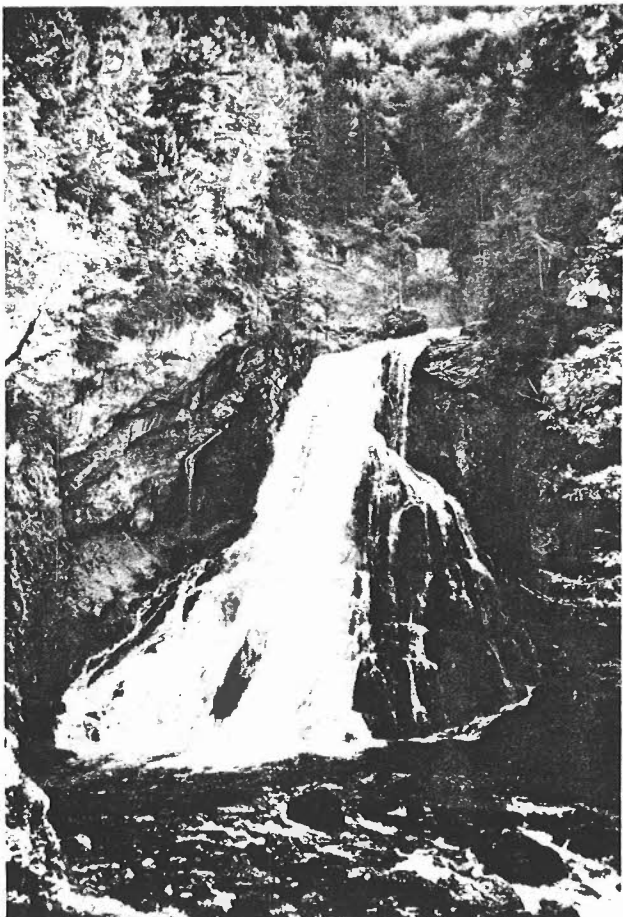
For people who like solitude there is the 'Hagengebirge'. It lies just north of the 'Hochkonig' and is separated from it by a narrow valley. Until very recently it was the private preserve of the Krupp family of West Germany. They have now sold the property, which comprises the whole mountain range, to the Austrian government and retained only a few hundred hectares of land including their little 42 bedroom cottage and servant quarters.

Thanks to this circumstance - the owners discouraged "trespassers" - this region is almost total wilderness. There are no marked trails (and very few unmarked trails) and consequently no tourists. Even the local populace rarely ventures beyond the fringes. It's a safe bet that perhaps with the exception of the inevitable game warden you could spend a week there without meeting anyone.

No matter where you go, the whole region has that 'Sound of Music' quality which is bound to captivate. And there is an additional plus: if the weather turns sour, Salzburg, the most beautiful city in Austria, is just a little over half an hour's drive away. You can kill time visiting the many historical sites, concert halls, boutiques and fine restaurants. Come to think of it - you might want to do this even if the weather remains sunny.



The massive fortress of Hohensalzburg dominates the city centre of Salzburg.



One of the many alpine meadows which are used for grazing. The Hagengebirge is in the background.

WCA ANNUAL MEETING

Article: Herb Pohl

Photo: Toni Harting

The tenth AGM of the Wilderness Canoe Association took place at St. James Bond United Church on Avenue Road in Toronto last March 3rd. The well attended meeting was opened by the chairman, Claire Brigden. In the course of the morning the members heard reports from the various standing committees.

The financial report prepared by Rob Butler and audited by Glenn Spence showed that the WCA ended its fiscal year with a reasonable surplus. This development is traceable to the large number of prepaid membership which yielded additional interest revenue, as well as the absence of extraordinary outlays and acquisitions for services or equipment which had been the feature of the last few years.

The administrator of the Youth Encouragement Fund, Cam Salsbury, recommended in a written submission that in view of the fact that the fund had been dormant for some time, it should be terminated and the remaining money donated towards a cause consistent with the aims of the fund. The Board was subsequently authorized by the members to follow through with this endeavour.



In his report on behalf of the Conservation Committee Richard Smerdon stressed the need for greater participation by members in addressing the many concerns. They suggest that perhaps the best way to make our voice heard was by combining our efforts with those of other likeminded organizations on specific issues.

Three members were elected to the Board of Directors by acclamation to replace Claire Brigden, Graham Barnett and Bill King whose terms expired. The new Board members are Michael Graham-Smith, Jim Greenacre and Glenn Spence. The new Board subsequently elected Bill Ness as Chairman for the coming year. Jim Greenacre will serve as Vice-Chairman.

Following some introductory remarks by Bill Ness a motion was passed to denote \$250 towards the court-costs in the Credit River case. (The case challenges the right of a landowner to prevent canoeists from portaging around the dam at Norval across his property.)

Following a lively debate, another \$250 was donated to the Minden Wild Water Preserve. The point at issue was whether the WCA was morally obligated to contribute in view of the fact that the WCA has run trips at the Preserve.

A large part of the afternoon was taken up by a discussion of the "International Canoe Tour" sponsored by the C.R.C.A. There was general agreement that, judging by the evidence, the event was inadequately planned and likely to have adverse ecological effects. The discussion ended with a motion to censure the promoters of the Tour and a resolution to continue to actively oppose the staging of this event.



Following the business meeting Dr. Ron Sonstegard spoke on the topic "Environmental Health: What does the Future hold for Man?" In his address he used the effect of smoking on a wide spectrum of health problems as an example of the consequences associated with environmental factors. While remaining optimistic about the long term outlook, the speaker stressed the need to develop new technologies particularly in the energy field in order to arrest the gradual deterioration of our environment.

After a lengthy dinner break Michael Peake introduced Eric Morse whose talk centered on the changes he has seen in sixty-five years of wilderness canoeing. (The complete text of his address is reproduced elsewhere in this issue). The speaker, in a closing commentary, showed a number of slides to illustrate conditions associated with Barrenlands travel.

In terms of participation the AGM was an unqualified success, as record numbers showed up. No doubt a good part of the credit for that must go to Eric Morse as evidenced by the prolonged applause he received at the end of his talk. What was particularly pleasing was the presence of large numbers of new members for whom this was the first chance to meet with the club executive.



Changes In Wilderness Canoeing In Canada During The Past 65 Years



Eric W. Morse

Recreational canoeing in Canada began within a century of the decline of the fur trade. In the latter years of the 1800's, the canots de maitre and North canoes of the fur trade brigades were already being stored away in museums and old barns, and smaller canoes were taking their place on lakes and rivers. From as early as 1860 there is record of so-called "canoe trips", really fishing expeditions by canoe. True wilderness canoeing, in which the fishing was merely incidental, came a little later. Still later came that other branch of recreational canoeing, whitewater, which bears the same relationship to wilderness canoeing as does downhill to cross-country skiing. Wilderness canoeists, while revelling in runnable rapids, draw satisfaction from travel under their own steam, through wild country, taking as they come the excitements, challenges and peaceful interludes. Their particular joys are encounters with wildlife, changes of scenery, and a sense of identity with the wilderness.

Wilderness canoeing, for various reasons, had a slow start. In the first years of the twentieth century, two-thirds of Canadians were country-dwellers, many of them farmers still at the pioneer stage, where wilderness was the enemy, to be cut down, fenced off, trapped or shot. For these folk, to spend a holiday canoeing, largely in the bush, was almost inconceivable. Shortly, World War I broke out and took away many men, into uniform and out of the country. Only on the return of peace, with increased leisure and greater affluence, did people think again of canoeing holidays.

This was after 1918 the year that I had my own first wilderness canoe trip. I do not propose to describe all the separate differences from today's canoeing equipment. But my memories of that trip are vivid, for the trip had a great impact. Certainly things were different from today. The maps of those days, for instance, were intended as maps of canoe routes, and placed much less emphasis on rivers and lakes than on the portages themselves, which were most faithfully portrayed, so that the map as a whole rather resembled a picture of an old fishing net hung up to dry. Dehydrated and freeze-dried foods were practically non-existent, making provisioning more difficult. An "air" mattress consisted merely of bracken and hemlock or balsam branches, spread under a waterproof sheet. Light mountain tents were unavailable. Our canvas tents were large and heavy, if they were taken at all; often we simply slept under a mosquito bar, two beneath an overturned canoe. A candle in a can served as a flashlight. A copper trolling line was always out when crossing lakes. Berry-picking too, was really purposeful. Girls, by comparison with today, were as rare in a canoe party as guitars.

But beyond all this was the difference in the overwhelming sense of wilderness. A canoe trip in those days was a total wilderness experience. Even though canoe traffic did increase noticeably after 1918, I cannot really recall encountering other canoe parties until the early thirties. The rape of the Canadian forest had begun, but here and there could still be found a few patches of virgin forest, towering white and red pines which had escaped the lumberman's axe. A more vivid and significant difference was the bird chorus, mostly warblers and thrushes, whose insect diet was soon to be killed off by DDT and other insecticides. From five in the morning, or earlier, every diminutive male was voicing, clamorously and rapturously, his own particular version of the territorial imperative, in chorus so loud that few could really sleep through it. The ugly prophecy implicit in Rachel Carson's Silent Spring has unfortunately since come true.

Rather than giving a formal history of development in wilderness canoeing my account is a personal one. I have chosen this approach, not because my experiences are unique, but to convey first-hand, some of the factors of change and their impact on the wilderness canoeist.

Canoeing traffic though stilled again after the outbreak of World War II in 1939, increased sharply after 1945. I had soon become a chronic victim of the canoe bug, and was making long annual canoe trips. I was, though, slowly becoming aware that, at least in the population-pressure zones of Montreal and Toronto, we were unlikely to see and sense again the wilderness I had once been lucky enough to know.



Provincial Parks such as Algonquin, Killarney and Quetico, designed to fence out developing interests of mining and lumbering, provided for a time good canoe country, but they failed in another respect: paradoxically, the Parks began to attract canoeists in such numbers as to defeat their end. A friend of mine once encountered in Quetico 300 canoes in a single day. Trying to stem what was happening, Park authorities began to stipulate "designated campsites only", but these quickly became dusty wastes. Like motels on a holiday weekend, campsites came to be at such a premium as to need pre-empting by mid-afternoon; and the business of loading and unloading at portages - even of passing on a narrow portage path - was seriously hindered by the size of the canoe groups. On the more popular canoe routes, too often the portage path became marked, like some sordid paper-chase, by gum wrappers and orange peel.

This was change - not individual, trivial changes, but one big, almost revolutionary change. For wilderness canoeists could no longer find, ready at hand, the environment they sought. Not canoeing as such, but its necessary milieu, was becoming eroded.

In the early 1950's, I joined a group of canoeing friends. Though a little long in the tooth, some of us pushing sixty, we formed a strong, if not yet fully experienced party. Skills such as white-water, we learned as we went along, for there were as yet no "schools" for teaching canoeing techniques. All of us had begun to have doubts about the survival of wilderness in popular canoe areas. In fact, we considered that wilderness canoeing faced a serious problem, for which our own solution was to look west, realizing that we could find the same type of Precambrian forest-lakeland in the northern parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan as we had delighted in further east.



In 1955, therefore, having searched the map for some large fast-flowing river that started far enough west and north to be in unspoiled wilderness, we flew to Ile-a-la-Croix near the source area of the Churchill River in northern Saskatchewan. In the next three weeks we descended the Churchill, Sturgeon-Weir and Saskatchewan Rivers for 500 miles, to take out at The Pas, Manitoba. Nearly all this distance we remained on the Precambrian Shield. We had seen no other canoe parties, which confirmed our view that it did not require merely legislation to protect wilderness. Distance, difficulty and occasional danger took care of it. Sigurd Olson, the most experienced of our party, said after our Churchill River trip (which he describes in *The Lonely Land*) that this was as good canoe country as he had ever paddled.

Looking in 1957 for another trip in the same general area, we followed the 1796 route of David Thompson, who was trying to find a way for the fur traders to avoid the 13-mile Methye Portage. We went from Reindeer Lake (north of Frog Portage) up the Blondeau River, portaged over to Wollaston Lake, and from there went down the Fond du Lac River to the east end of Lake Athabasca - good canoeing, lively rapids and beautiful scenery all the way.

The next year we paddled from Ile-a-la-Croix northward, through Churchill, Peter Pond and Methye Lakes, crossed the Methye Portage and ran the Clearwater River to the Athabasca River.

In 1959 we chose an old canoe route used by the Indians in the days before they all had motor boats. This went from Rae on Great Slave Lake, up Marian Lake and River to a summit at Faber Lake, thence down the other side through a maze of beautiful Precambrian lakes linked together by the Camsell River, to Conjuror Bay of Great Bear Lake. Leaving Great Bear we proceeded down the Great Bear River. This stretch down to the Mackenzie River is hard to beat for joyful canoeing. The whole 80 miles takes just ten hours, with Grade I and II rapids; watching through crystal-clear water the rocks flash by four or five feet under the canoe. We then continued on down the Mackenzie, where there is 50 miles a day to Norman Wells.

In 1965, I was able to complete this transcontinental trip, from Montreal, over to Alaska. We started its last stage from the Mackenzie delta, and surmounted the Richardson Mountains at McDougal Pass, 1000 feet up. This was achieved by manhandling, lining and poling up a continuous fast, shallow rapid, the Rat River, climbing at 35 feet to the mile. On top, in the pass, there is only a half-mile portage between the two vast basins of the Mackenzie and the Yukon. Thence the Bell and Porcupine Rivers lead down the west flank of the mountains, to Fort Yukon on the Yukon River. Going up had taken us nine days, making only five miles a day, whereas we descended the swift Bell and Porcupine Rivers in another nine days, doing 60 and 65 miles a day.

By now my mail and personal contacts gave evidence of a large and growing fraternity of northern canoeists, from whom I had confirmation of a widening interest in paddling such rivers. What a change had come about in wilderness canoeing! From Provincial Parks and small loops of lakes near the family cottage, wilderness canoeing now had assumed continental dimensions.

Great lakes link some of these river trips: lakes such as Winnipeg, Great Slave and Superior. These we found to offer their own special qualities of wilderness canoeing, protected from population pressure by the difficulties and hazards arising from their vastness. The technique on a great lake was a bit different from that on a river. If a gale or a strong blow from one direction came up, we simply stopped and camped somewhere along the shore. This made it a good principle to keep within an hour's paddle (four miles) of some landfall, even if only an island. The 425 miles around Lake Superior's north shore from Thunder Bay to the Soo, as an example, we accomplished without pain in 15 paddling days, but were forced to camp, windbound, for eight more.

On other summer trips we went down the rest of the Churchill and the Burntwood River as far as Thompson, Manitoba, and the Hayes River to Hudson Bay.

But now we seemed to be running out of territory. We had travelled most of the major rivers we wanted to - mainly those we could paddle downstream - from the American border north to the sixtieth parallel, and from Hudson Bay to the Rockies. The Barren Lands beckoned. Why stop at 60 N?

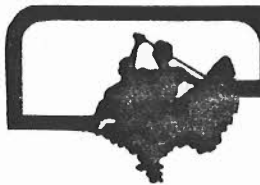
In the half-million square miles of mainland between the Mackenzie and Hudson Bay, there course and tumble a number of exciting rivers, with enough volume to give great canoeing. The scenery is typical Precambrian, but without trees. This lack at first gives an impression of bleakness, but one soon adjusts to it and comes to delight in the wide vistas in the clear air and 20-hour sunlight. The land, cloaked only with willows and coarse heath, is primitive wilderness, though excessively fragile because of the months of frost and the shallow skin of soil above the permafrost. Sightings of game can be spectacular - moose, caribou, bear, wolves and muskoxen.

We spent two decades, the sixties and seventies, exploring these rivers on summer canoe trips. In excitement and sense of wilderness, we found all we were seeking. Other canoeists, in increasing numbers, are doing the same. Once again the pressures on the rivers are mounting, but for the present the usual deterrents - difficulty, danger and particularly distance - are helping to keep numbers in check. Fortunately, too, the present generation of wilderness canoeists seems to be more sensitive towards preserving the environment.

This somewhat personal account reflects what I believe is the greatest change in the sport over the last 65 years. The scene has shifted from eastern Parks to western rivers and lakes, and eventually to our northern-most and most precious wilderness left. Let it be hoped that the increasing band of canoeists will treat this with more solicitude and responsibility than our predecessors did the canoeing paradise we once had in Ontario and Quebec.



This article is the text of the address given by Eric Morse to the Wilderness Canoe Association at its annual meeting in Toronto in March 1984.



W.C.A. REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL CANOE FESTIVAL TOUR

At the time the Spring newsletter was going to press, the issue of the International Canoe Tour came up. As was reported, a committee was formed to look into the matter. We received replies to initial letters to Alan Pope, Minister of Natural Resources and John Eberhardt, Chairman of the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association. These letters merely caused us to look at the whole thing more closely and after further investigation we wrote the following report.

PREFACE

At the Wilderness Canoe Association's Annual General Meeting (Toronto, March 3rd, 1984) members were read a news release announcing the International Canoe Festival Tour. (See the Conservation Report in the last issue.) The number of participants and spectators expected to attend the events caused astonishment and dismay amongst the members present. Claire Brigden, as Chairman, had written to John Eberhardt (President of the Canadian Recreational Canoe Association) and Alan Pope (Minister of Natural Resources, Ontario) pointing out some of the Association's concerns and requesting organisational and environmental plans. Based on their knowledge of the area and the basic facts in the release, the members voted unanimously to condemn the event and also to set up a committee to further investigate and report back.

This committee is aware of the great imbalance in tourist dollars between the U.S.A. and Canada and appreciates efforts to lessen the gap. We have been careful to avoid an attitude of self-interested protectionism.

In writing this report we have assumed that the C.R.C.A.'s revised estimated attendance figures of 4,000 participants and 50,000 spectators in both 1984 and 1985 will prove to be a reality.

THE REPORT

On March 8th, 1984 a second news release was received. This release differed considerably from the original in that:

- a. Numbers of participants were down from 7,000 to 4,000 and spectators from 100,000 to 50,000 per annum.
- b. The area was expanded to include Lakes Nipissing and Temiscaming.
- c. The impressive list of individuals and organizations presented in the first release is considerably diminished in the second bulletin.
- d. The Ontario Recreational Canoeing Association is not mentioned. (As of March 28th, 1984, Canoe Ontario withdrew its support from the Tour).

We do not feel that the addition of the major lakes Nipissing and Temiscaming will significantly lessen overcrowding. These lakes are not canoe trip waters in themselves and participants are both unlikely and unwise to plan to use them for an entire trip.

Algonquin Park is access controlled. The fact that it is some distance from the centre of operations and has a daily user fee leads us to believe that is would be very much of a 'second choice' area. Indeed, the North Bay Nugget reports that the organizers intend that "the Tour will be concentrated in the Temagami and Lady Evelyn Lake areas". It would seem unlikely that people attending weekend events in North Bay and Temagami will travel to Algonquin for a trip during the intervening days. We conclude that even with the lesser numbers there is cause for concern.

Accurate annual user statistics of great significance are difficult to compile. Cold, wet weather and low water levels in August greatly affect use during this period. The committee's observations based on personal experience are:

- a. The Temagami, Smoothwater, Lady Evelyn area could only absorb significantly more groups if they were routed away from the bottlenecks and transported directly into the more remote areas.
- b. The chain of large lakes within a few days paddle of Temagami are already crowded. This is partially due to the presence of cottagers, lodge-based fishing parties and static campers using motorboats from the many available road accesses.
- c. All obviously suitable sites have already been developed on the popular Maple Mountain - Lady Evelyn North and South Channel loop. It is not unknown for all sites on the North Channel to be occupied on a given night under present usage.
- d. Up to half hour delays have been experienced on the portages due to congestion.
- e. Most of the routes involve frequent and often long and arduous portages; this can seriously affect projected travel distances.
- f. Many sections of routes have no road access to facilitate servicing and clean up of sites.
- g. The soil depth is very thin in most areas. Suitable latrine arrangements have proved beyond the capability of even well established camp groups. Campsite environs would likely become

The Lady Evelyn - Smoothwater area has recently been designated a "Wilderness Park". Canoeists of long experience in the North may question the aptness of the word "wilderness" in regards to this well-travelled region. However, there are at present no restrictions on access, no numbered and sign-posted campsites and portages, no route markers to direct pre-designated trips and no fees. The freedom to travel the country with only the lakes, rivers and hills to dictate your course, and daylight and the elements to dictate your campsite must be a sufficient description, in 1984, to permit use of the word "wilderness". The destroyer of "wilderness" is people. The more people, the less "wilderness". When you talk about thousands of people you stop talking "wilderness" or even "semi-wilderness".

This committee has a great fear that an apparent overcrowding of the area might precipitate the relevant authorities to establish regulations and facilities to cope with this artificial overdemand. Once established these regulations would never go away and another area of freedom would be lost forever.

The Committee has no assurance that a sufficient or suitable organisation is set up or is likely to be in place by August, 1984 to administer the details. It is our premise that the only hope of avoiding chaos with so great a number of participants is to have a large and sympathetic staff covering the 1700 km of routes, directing flow and untangling the inevitable bottlenecks caused when trips fail to follow predetermined plans exactly. We have reason to believe that such a staff has been proposed but no reasons to believe that this is forthcoming.

There appears to be great enthusiasm for the proposal by the local business community but many reservations by the canoeing organisations who would, ultimately, be expected to become involved.

CONCLUSION

The International Canoe Festival Tour is antithetical to the concept of wilderness canoe tripping. The promoters appear to disregard the fact that a successful mass selling of their product "wilderness and semi-wilderness" reduces it to just another "vacation land". We do not believe that there is sufficient organization, rental equipment or campable space available to make this tour viable. We fear that "post mortems" after the "experiment of 1984" will demonstrate these shortcomings and precipitate a programme of development that will have seriously negative effects on the enjoyable freedom of these canoe routes which will last forever. We doubt that the organizers will have sufficient time and personnel to:

- a. Complete all detailed arrangements for event management.
- b. Provide participants with guidance and support during the event.
- c. Travel all involved routes and campsites following the Tour to inspect and rectify any breaches of the "Environmental and Ethical Code of the C.R.C.A.", the code designated as covering this event.

After considering all our available information on the International Canoe Tour, this WCA committee recommends to the members that they:

- a. Be wary of organizing a "wilderness" trip in Temagami region during August without further examination of the situation at a later date.
- b. Protest forcefully to their political representatives this marketing of our fragile and disappearing wilderness as a commercial commodity and demand its protection and preservation rather than its exploitation.

We question the designation of the C.R.C.A. as the representative of recreational canoeing in Canada, and publicly challenge this organisation to explain their justification for organising this event in the name of wilderness canoeing.

UPDATES

1. February 17, 1984:

Norm Frost resigned as co-Chairman of the Tour.

2. March 15, 1984:

A letter was sent from Alan Pope, Minister of Natural Resources in reply to Claire Bridgen's letter. He states that his ministry "fully supports the C.R.C.A. and views the event as an excellent means of promoting canoeing in the Lady Evelyn - Smoothwater Wilderness Park and the

surrounding area". However, in answer to the W.C.A.'s request for copies of environmental impact assessments and feasibility studies, he says that they will not be required as "Participants will be dispersed into numerous canoe routes throughout northeastern Ontario and Algonquin Park".

3. March 28, 1984:

Canoe Ontario withdrew its support from the Tour.

4. April 9, 1984:

We received a letter from Hap Wilson, Chairman of the Tour committee responsible for canoe trips. At the Sportsmen's Show (Toronto) we had a lengthy discussion with Hap, who must be recognized as one of the most knowledgeable people in the area with regards to canoe tripping. Many of our concerns are his concerns; he has pointed them out to the C.R.C.A. We agree in principle with his comments. However, we note that he is working on the premise that the participants will behave in an organized and disciplined manner by filling out an application form accepting the instructions of the organizers. It is our feeling that a sufficient number of canoeists will participate without supplying the organizers with the required information and that a relatively small number of these unscheduled groups could cause the sort of traffic jam that we have discussed.

We have noted that in all the correspondence we have received the prominence of the Smoothwater - Lady Evelyn Park as a centre for canoe trips has been downplayed; yet all the promotional material we have seen directs the interest of participants to this area.

This report has been sent to all relevant canoeing and conservation organisations, many of the established canoe camps which use the area, the Prime Minister (who happens to be the Honorary President of the C.R.C.A.), Alan Pope, David Peterson and Bob Rae who have passed it on to their environment critics, a fair cross section of the media and a number of private individuals who might be in a position to help.

A number of encouraging replies have been received at this date and we feel that we have created a good basis on which to fight if this Tour appears to be making significant headway.

We have more copies of the report and can provide them for members to send to their own contacts. In requesting copies from Richard Smerdon, 79 Woodycrest Ave, Toronto. M4J 3A8, telephone: 416-461-4249., please mention the proposed recipient in case they have already been sent one.

Anyone wishing to become involved in this or who would like to see the whole mass of paperwork that has been created, please contact me at the above address.





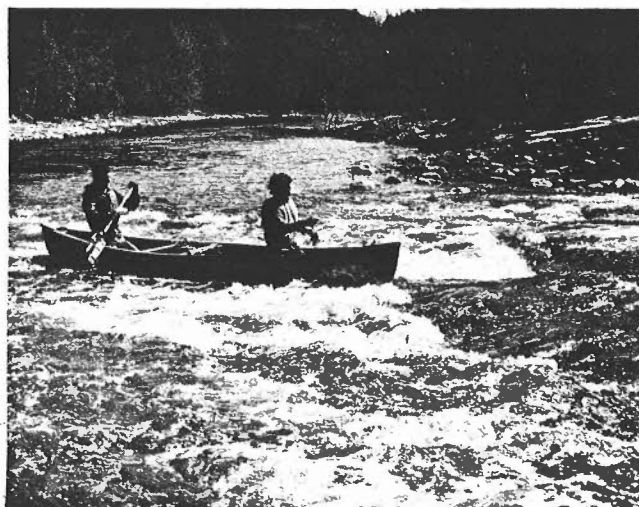
bayfield - maitland



Article: Chris Rogers
Photos: Glenn Spence

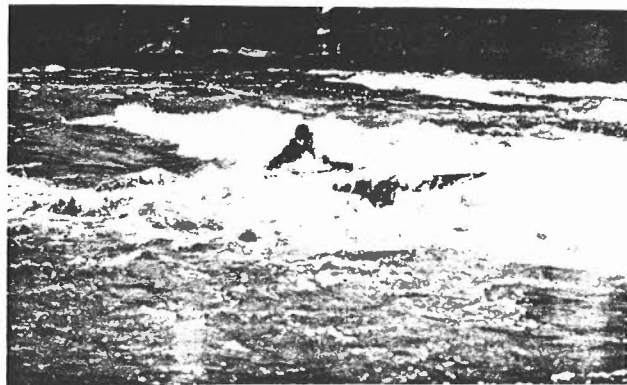
No one seemed anxious to leave the bakery in Clinton. Herb Pohl had guaranteed us good weather, but there we were sitting in our jackets, not wanting to venture into the cold. For many of us it was to be the first trip of the season. Even so, the threatening skies seemed to have already dampened our enthusiasm. Should we change into our wet suits in the tiny restrooms downstairs or at the put-in on the Bayfield River?

Once in our canoes and paddling, we soon warmed up and our attention turned from the sky to the river. With the low water levels prevailing in the area, the Bayfield River turned out to be a nice warm-up for the coming season. All crews looked sharp - even Linda Butler and Bob Haskett with their borrowed paddles. Eric Freebold was working partner Tony Bird pretty hard, it seemed to us (20 eddy turns before lunch!). Glenn Spence made do



We lingered again the next morning, if only to luxuriate in the beautiful spring weather. What better place to spend such a day than on the Maitland River? Everyone was immediately impressed by its breadth and scenic beauty. Coming from Auburn, we encountered the first of many light rapids at Benmiller. Now there was plenty of water to make these ledges rapids several in succession and stretching from shore to shore, a nice challenge for us. These culminate in a magnificent falls that is well-disguised from upstream. Herb shepherded us over to the right where we lined down a shallow chute. We managed to keep our growing appetites suppressed until we had reached Herb's favourite lunch spot, located between the two most interesting rapids of the trip. Several more light rapids followed. The final drop before Goderich left its mark on at least two rather recklessly guided canoes. At the take-out one could easily have distinguished the canoeists from the fishermen by the big smiles.

without his periscope; Cameron was in the bow. Paul Karpenko and Del Dako were out for a lark in their kayaks. Eventually strong winds blew away the clouds, the sun shone and Herb was vindicated. The Bayfield cuts through glacial moraine and the beige sandy gorges stood out strikingly against the blue sky. Down in the bottom of these gorges we scraped and bumped amongst the rocks. The rapids would be very interesting with a little more water.





June 30-July 2 FRENCH RIVER - RESTOULE LOOP

Organizer: Judy Wahl 416-225-2870. (after 9 pm)
Book immediately

This trip will be a strenuous three day paddle through a series of rivers and lakes. Great swimming and fishing. Experience in flatwater tripping required. Limit 4 canoes.

June 30-July 2 WHITewater WORKSHOP - FRENCH RIVER

Organizer: Jim Morris 416-793-2088
Book immediately

This will be a static camp around Commanda Island from where a variety of rapids can be reached and run repeatedly. An excellent opportunity to practise whitewater canoeing in more challenging rapids. Upstream techniques of lining and poling will also be demonstrated. Limit 8 canoes.

July 15 TINY MARSH

Organizers: Toni and Ria Harting 416-964-2495
Book any time

A relaxing day of paddling and photographing in an interesting quiet Provincial Wildlife Area, which is located 8 km SSW of Midland. The water will be low and there will not be as many birds as in the spring, but it should be a rewarding experience for wetland lovers. Bring your camera and binoculars. If required, instructions and tips on nature photography will be given. Limit 6 canoes.

July 14-15 or 21-22 FLATwater TRIP

Organizer: Bob MacLellan 416-488-9346
Book anytime

Bob MacLellan wants to organize a flatwater trip, possibly in the Moon River area, on either of these two weekends. He is open to suggestions. If you would like to go on a trip on either of these weekends give Bob a call. Suitable for flatwater paddlers with some tripping experience. Limit 4 canoes.

July 22 BURNT RIVER

Organizer: Bill Ness 416-499-6389
Book between July 1 and 15

On this leisurely-paced day trip we will follow the Burnt from Kinnmount down to the village of Burnt River as it placidly winds its way through attractive mixed forest, and here and there spills over ledges, adding a little whitewater excitement to our day. Suitable for novices. Limit 6 canoes.

July 28-29 MUSQUASH-GIBSON RIVERS

Organizer: Jim Greenacre 416-759-9956
Book between July 16-20th

This will be a leisurely loop combining river and lake water paddling in the Muskoka region. We will paddle down the Musquash River into Flat Rock Lake where we camp for the night. Sunday we cross Go Home Lake into the Gibson River to paddle upstream to highway 69. Suitable for novices who can paddle 17 km per day with a few short portages. Limit 4 canoes.

July 28-29 MADAWASKA RIVER

Organizer: Marcia Farquhar 416-884-0208
Book before July 21

We will paddle the lower section of the Madawaska from Palmers Rapids to Griffith. This is not a long trip so

participants will have plenty of time to swim, practice in the rapids, take pictures and generally enjoy a summer weekend on the water. Suitable for canoeists with the whitewater experience. Limit 4 canoes.

August 3-5 ADIRONACKS HIKING

Organizers: Diane and Mike Wills 416-293-9067
Book between July 9 and 16

The organizer will supply transportation for three other hikers to Keene Valley N.Y. where we will begin our walk. The plan is to hike to loop which will include Hedgehog, both Upper and Lower Wolfjaw, Gothics, Saddleback, Haystack and Marcy. A quote from the ADK Guide reads: "This is a very rugged route and should be attempted only by those in the best physical conditions, the total climb to Marcy being about 9,000 feet." We will be travelling at full weight, therefore only experienced hikers should consider this outing.

August 11-12 MOON ISLAND

Organizers: Gerda and Rudi Tisner 416-766-8076
Book between July 30 and August 6th

Moon Island is located in Georgian Bay south of Parry Sound. We will paddle for about one and a half hours to our proposed campsite on Moon Island and set up camp. The rest of the day and Sunday we will explore the many islands and bays in this, one of the most scenic areas, in Georgian Bay. Suitable for energetic flatwater paddlers. Limit 5 canoes.

August 18-19 APSLEY AREA LAKES

Organizer: Norm Coombe 416-751-2812 (bus.)
416-293-8036 (res)
Book between July 29 and August 15.

An easy going flatwater trip with time for photography, nature study and fishing. Beginners welcome. Limit 4 canoes.

August 19 MINDEN WILLOW PRESERVE

Organizer: Bill Ness 416-499-6389
Book between July 29 and August 12

Join us for a casual day of fun on a man-made whitewater course on the Gull River. We'll run the course, play in the chutes and eddies, and enjoy a picnic lunch together. The rapids is technically challenging and provides a great way for skilled intermediates to get some experience in difficult whitewater, while the bottom end and run-out can be used to advantages by novices for perfecting their ferries and eddy turns. Limit 6 canoes.

August 25-26 OTTAWA RIVER

Organizer: Duncan Taylor 416-368-9748
Book between August 1 and 18

Test your whitewater skills in the heavy waters of the Ottawa River. This trip is for experienced and better intermediates. Spray skirts would be a help. Limit 4 canoes.

September 1-3 PETAWAWA RIVER

Organizer: Paul Barsevskis 416-239-2830
Book between August 6 and 19

The Petawawa, between Lake Traverse and McManus Lake, features challenging rapids, beautiful scenery, and excellent fishing. This trip is suitable for paddlers with intermediate whitewater skills. Limit 4 canoes.

September 1-3 SOUTH GEORGIAN BAY

Organizer: Jim Greenacre 416-759-9956
Book between August 20th-24

The loop we will travel is steeped in history of logging, abandoned mines and the ballads of settlers. Little evidence remains for all their sweat and endurance, and no trace of the camps of Ojibway who silently paddled these routes to catch and smoke the spawning pickerel that swam the Blackstone River. Many of the portages we will use were once winter logging roads. The route takes us through a variety of Georgian Bay scenery from the rugged 30,000 islands to placid inland lakes. Suitable for lakewater paddlers capable of paddling up to 18 km per day with the possibility of headwinds and two or three portages. Limit 4 canoes.

September 8-9 UPPER MAGNETAWAN

Organizer: Mike Graham-Smith 416-877-7829 (res)
416-677-3250 ext 451 (bus)
Book between August 20 and 31

This trip will be on an upper section of the Magnetawan River from Ahmic Lake to Wahwashkesh Lake. The pace will be relatively leisurely allowing time for photography. There will be a number of rapids some of which, depending on the water level, may be runnable. Suitable for beginners with some river experience. Limit 4 canoes.

September 15 MISSISSAGUA RIVER

Organizer: Bill Ness 416-499-6389
Book between August 26 and September 9

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.

October 13-14 MAPS AND COMPASS FOR THE CANOEIST

Organizers: Rob Cepella 416-925-8243
Howard Sagerman 416-282-9570
Book before October 3

This two part session will be an introduction to map and compass for the canoeist. A preliminary evening seminar will be followed by a weekend workshop in the Georgian Bay Area. Limit 8 people.

September 15-16 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 experience of liftovers of beaver dams, and portages. There is no whitewater. Participants must be prepared for single trip portaging. Suitable for novices. Limit 4 canoes.

September 22-23 SOUTH GEORGIAN BAY LAKES

Organizers: Jim and Dawne Beaton 416-252-4097

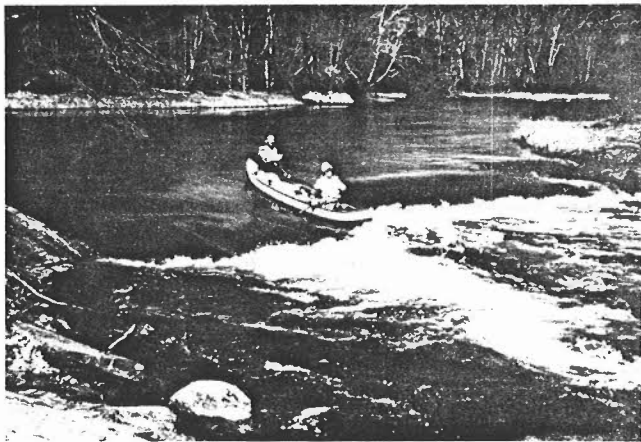
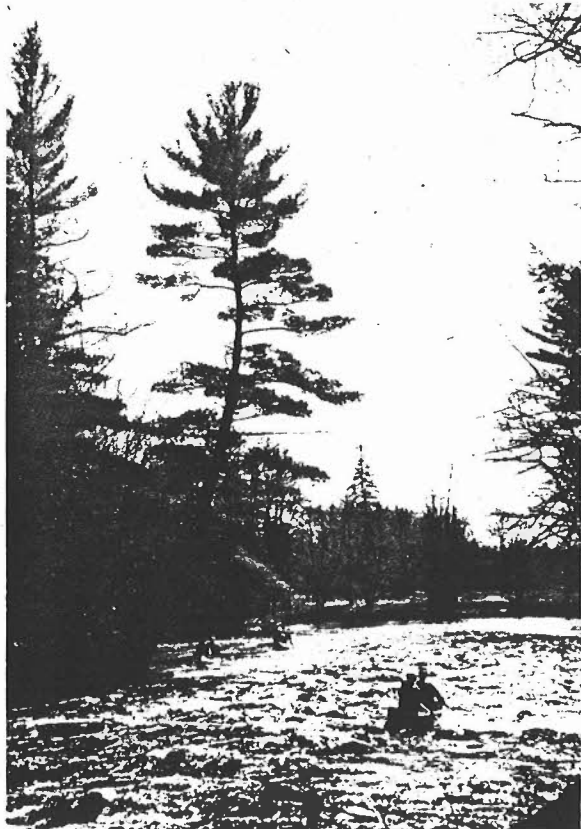
An easy-going flatwater trip into the beautiful lakes south-west of Parry Sound. Enjoy the clear bug free Fall air. Beginners welcome. Limit 4 canoes.

October 20-21 MADAWASKA RIVER

Organizers: Diane and Mike Wills 416-293-9067
Book between September 24 and October 5

This will be a leisurely paddle on the Madawaska River, hopefully at the peak of fall colours. We will begin our trip at Palmer Rapids and conclude our paddle at Griffith. This trip would be ideal for the experienced novice who is willing to portage the more difficult rapids and the more seasoned paddler looking for that perfect fall photo. Limit of 5 canoes (solo paddlers welcome).

black river



Six canoes, guided by Bill and Joan King, drifting down the lazy Black west of Washago. An occasional riffle, a few short, runnable rapids, a 200 m long gorge with white water and considerable waves. A couple of portages around rough stuff. Patches of snow hidden from the sun. A pleasant lunch on a large rock overlooking the river. No bugs. Cottagers out in their gardens, waving at us. Barking dogs. Swish, swish, paddle, nice and easy. Just relax and enjoy these quiet moments.

What a beautiful way to start the canoeing season.

Toni Harting

products and services

Bluewater Canoes:

New this year! We have a few models available in an ultra-lightweight vacuum bagged honeycomb-Kevlar laminate. Jensen has designed for us a new 17' tripping canoe, rather bulky by Jensen standards, but with a higher profile and larger capacity. Barry Leslie has designed a new touring Kayak. Please visit us in our new shop. Rockwood Outfitters, 699 Speedvale Ave., West, Guelph, Ontario, N1K 1E6. Phone 519-824-1415.

Rockwood Outfitters offers a 10% discount to WCA members on merchandise and rentals.

Coleman Craft Canoes:

Coleman Craft Canoes, of hand-layed-up fibre-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: 519-623-1804/1849. Shop located at 333 Dundas St. (Hwy. 8), Cambridge (Galt), Ontario.

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, 699 Speedvale Ave. W., Guelph.
The Sportsman's Shop, 2476 Yonge St., Toronto

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

The Sportsman's Shop:

For Hiking, Camping, Working or Recreation. We are The Sportsman's Shop, and are offering your club a 10% discount on any purchase at our store. (Please have proof of membership.) The Sportsman's Shop, 2467 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario. Phone 416-481-5169.

Laminating:

Plastic laminating for maps, ID cards, etc. Your maps durable and waterproof for years. Excellent work at reasonable prices, using 3 mil plastic. All orders ready within five days. Contact Albion Plastic Laminating, 611 A Mount Pleasant Rd., Toronto, Ontario; telephone 416-488-2672. Open Monday to Friday 9 am to 4:30 pm.

Canoe Trip Shuttle Service:

Siberence Enterprises will solve your canoe trip transportation problems. Their Canoe Trip Shuttle Service will research your transportation needs, deliver and pick up canoes and equipment, and shuttle cars from the starting point to the finishing point. For further information and rates contact Siberence Enterprises, R.R.#2, Bracebridge, Ontario, POB 1C0; telephone 705-645-2896.

Odawban Winter Travel Equipment:

Explore Canada's wilderness using proven methods for comfortable winter travel. Fully equipped tent stove units: \$230; trail tobaggans: \$100; trail sleds: \$130; canoe sleds \$75. (2 used canoe sleds: \$50 each). Instructions included. Contact: Craig Macdonald, Frost Centre, Dorset, Ontario, POA 1E0; phone: 705-776-2885.

Res-Q-Tos Rescue Bags:

Members can purchase a high quality rescue throw bag directly from the manufacturer at substantial savings. Made with brightly coloured 2800 lb. test polypropylene rope in a heavy-duty weighted nylon bag, the 50 foot model costs \$24.95 and the 75 foot model sells for \$29.95, plus tax. Contact Sydney Carlyle of Barrett - Carlyle Enterprises, 28 Livingston Rd., Unit 33, Scarborough; Ontario, M1E 4S5; telephone 416-266-1039

Trail Head:

A branch of Trail Head has just opened in Toronto. Trail Head offers quality merchandise for the tripper - canoes, kayaks, camping gear, etc. - and an extensive rental service. Write or phone for the brochure "Outdoor Clothing, Equipment, and Adventures", or visit Trail Head at 40 Wellington St. E., Toronto, Ontario, M5E 1C7; telephone 416-862-0881.

Leather Repairs:

For leather repairs of all kinds to backpacks, binocular cases, snowshoes bindings, etc., contact Richvale Saddlery, 58 Edgar Ave., Thornhill, Ontario; telephone 416-889-2949.

Nastawgan Index:

A cumulative index to NASTAWGAN (and its forerunners), from 1974 updated to the current issue, is available for \$5.00. Contact Sandy Richardson, 5 Dufresne Cr., Apt. 2705, Don Mills, Ontario, M3C 1B8.

wca contacts

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Moss (Chairman)
1 Chester Le Blvd., Unit 6,
Scarborough, Ont.
M1W 2N
416-499-6389

Jim Greensacre (Vice-Chairman)
34 Bergen Road,
Scarborough, Ont.,
M1P 1R9
416-759-9934

Mike Graham-Smith,
39 Regan Cres.,
Georgetown, Ont.
L7E 1R2
416-877-7829

Herb Pohl
480 Maple Ave.,
Apartment 113,
Burlington, Ont
L7S 1M4
416-637-7632

Glen Spence,
Box 750,
Colborne, Ont,
K0K 1S0
416-335-3506

Jan Tissot,
185 Glenview Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont.
M6R 1P4
416-489-5032

CANOE ROUTES

John Cross,
138 Wellesley St. E.,
Apartment 6,
Toronto, Ont.
M4Y 1T1
416-923-0929

Conservation
Richard Sordén,
79 Woodcrest Ave.,
Toronto, Ont.,
M4J 3A8
416-461-4249

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Sandy Richardson,
5 Dufresne Cr.,
Apartment 2705,
Don Mills, Ont.
M3C 1B8
416-429-3944

TREASURER

Rob Butler,
47 Colin Ave.,
Toronto, Ont.
M5P 2M8
416-487-2282

OUTINGS

Tony Bird,
199 Glenboyle Blvd.,
Toronto, Ont.
M4J 1S8
416-466-0172

SECRETARY

Ria Marting,
7 Valner Road,
Apartment 902,
Toronto, Ont.
M5R 2M8
416-964-2493

TRIP HOT LINE

Marcia Fargnhar,
187 Hill St.,
Richmond Hill, Ont.
L4C 4B1
416-884-0200

W.C.A. POSTAL ADDRESS

W.C.A. MEMBERSHIP
P. O. Box 496,
Postal Station K,
Toronto, Ont.
M4P 2E9

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 membership application
☐ renewal for 1984.

Notes: -This membership will expire January 31, 1985.

-Please send completed form and cheque (payable to the Wilderness Canoe Association) to the membership committee chairman.