



DUNLOP LAKE — MACE LAKE CANOE ROUTE

Don Haig

This canoe route is a 42-km loop starting and ending at the Dunlop Lake boat launch, 10 km north of Elliot Lake. It can be travelled in as few as three days but to fully enjoy the great scenery and early season lake trout fishing, plan to take four to five days. If proper care is taken on the two large lakes, it is easily travelled by novice-intermediate paddlers.

Monday, 11 May 1998 For the last four days, an unusual weather formation over eastern Canada had caused the wind to blow steadily and gently from the east. This was great news for me as the wind would give me a free ride the approximately 10 km down Dunlop Lake to the first portage. Dunlop Lake is a very large, long lake that is ori-

ented in an east/west direction, and care must be taken to paddle it during the early morning or late evening when the prevailing westerly winds are minimal.

I left the dock at 10:30 a.m. and after a leisurely three-hour paddle, which included a lunch stop, I was approaching the portage into Ten Mile Lake. This carry follows a creek that tumbles down the hillside in a series of scenic rapids and small drops. At its entrance into Dunlop Lake I passed over a large number of lake trout, no doubt feeding on the bounty carried by the moving water. The 410-metre trail was in good shape and with the exception of a steep rise about half-way point, it was an easy climb to Ten Mile Lake. By the time I reached Ten Mile Lake, the weather was beginning to deteriorate with the wind picking up and the sky darkening.

I noticed two things about this lake right away. It has a wonderful, scenic splendor, being ringed with steep hills and cliffs. But even more striking was the water, of a very dark, almost ebony green color and at least ten degrees colder than Dunlop. These facts combined to give it a very menacing feeling, especially under the quickly darkening skies, and I immediately regretted leaving my wet suit at home.

This is a big lake and as I had to cross it in a northerly direction, the strengthening east wind was going to cause some problems. To cross, I had to traverse two long east/west arms that were now being whipped into whitecaps by the wind. The only way to do this was to head into the wind at about a 45-degree angle, quartering into the waves until I was halfway across, and then turning and running with them at my rear quarter until I was safely at the shelter of the first point of land. There is a campsite on this point that could be used if conditions were to prevent the next, and widest crossing.

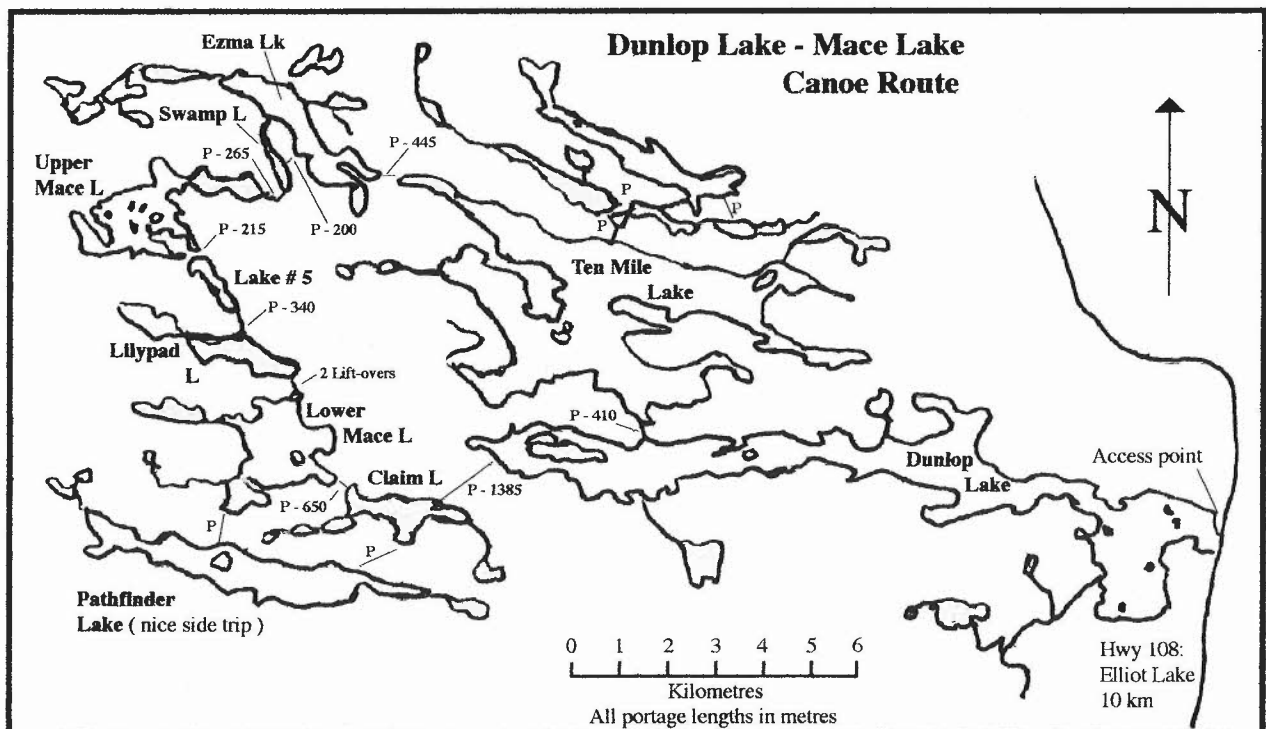
Paddling around past this point, my destination for today soon came into view — the stream from Hyphen Lake that tumbles down the hillside in a fall that can be seen from all the way across the lake. This second crossing is about twice as wide as the first and had to be made in the same manner. It is amazing how a situation like this is able to focus the mind so completely — there is no time for sightseeing as the bow must be kept at the proper angle to the wind and cannot be allowed to be blown down-wind allowing the waves to hit the boat broadside and possibly swamp it. Alone out on this big, whitecap-covered lake, I felt very small and the slowly nearing waterfall was a comforting sight. I landed at the talus at

the bottom of the fall and got out for a look around. I also now had an understanding as to why the Pope kisses the ground upon deplaning.

The Ministry info sheet talks of a good camping site here, but I was hard-pressed to find it. The site is small and boulder-strewn and there is room for only one tent. There was also the stink of something dead that wafted by from time to time. I looked for the source with no luck and decide that it was likely a dead spawned-out fish hidden in the jumble of rocks at the bottom of the falls. At the edge of the campsite there is a portage trail heading up the hill to Hyphen Lake and after setting up camp, I took a walk up for a look-see. This trail accesses a series of lakes that join up with Flack Lake or that can be travelled in a loop, returning here after two or three days. The trail is short but very steep and I was glad I was not going to have to haul my boat and gear up the hill this trip.

The weather was quickly deteriorating and by 5 p.m. a cold mist descended that was half fog, half rain and I hurriedly made supper under the shelter of a tree. A fire would have been nice but there was a ministry imposed fire restriction in place, so I retreated to the shelter of my tent to read and do some writing. After a few hours the wind had not let up and I drifted off to sleep, hearing the patter of rain on the tent fly. I wasn't expecting much from the weather tomorrow.

Tuesday I was not disappointed. Morning dawned with the wind howling down the lake from the east even stronger than yesterday and, for the time being at least, I wasn't going anywhere. The wind, while blowing in the right direction, was kicking up half-metre waves and that,



combined with the bitterly cold water had me more than slightly intimidated.

After breakfast I fished for a while and then took a walk up alongside the stream to take some pictures of the falls and emerging spring flowers. By 11:30 I was bored stiff with that, so I took another walk up the portage to Hyphen lake, and as I neared the top of the hill heard voices. They belonged to a man and his young son who were celebrating the boy's birthday with a canoe trip. I helped them carry a pack down the hill to my campsite where we talked as we lunched together. They were under a deadline and must not only cross Ten Mile today but fight this wind all the way back up Dunlop.

After lunch they headed out but had to travel a long way up the lake before they could find water calm enough to make the crossing. After about an hour they were across and gone from view, leaving me alone to ponder the question: if they can do it, why can't I? The answer I gave myself was two fold — every paddle stroke they took brought them into calmer water whereas I had to travel further down the lake where the wind would have a greater distance to work on the water and brew up mis-

By 2:30 I was in the narrows near the western end of the lake and now getting some shelter from the wind. At the entrance to the narrows, there is a cottage followed shortly by Ten Mile Lake Lodge. There are cabins to rent here as well as assistance if needed.

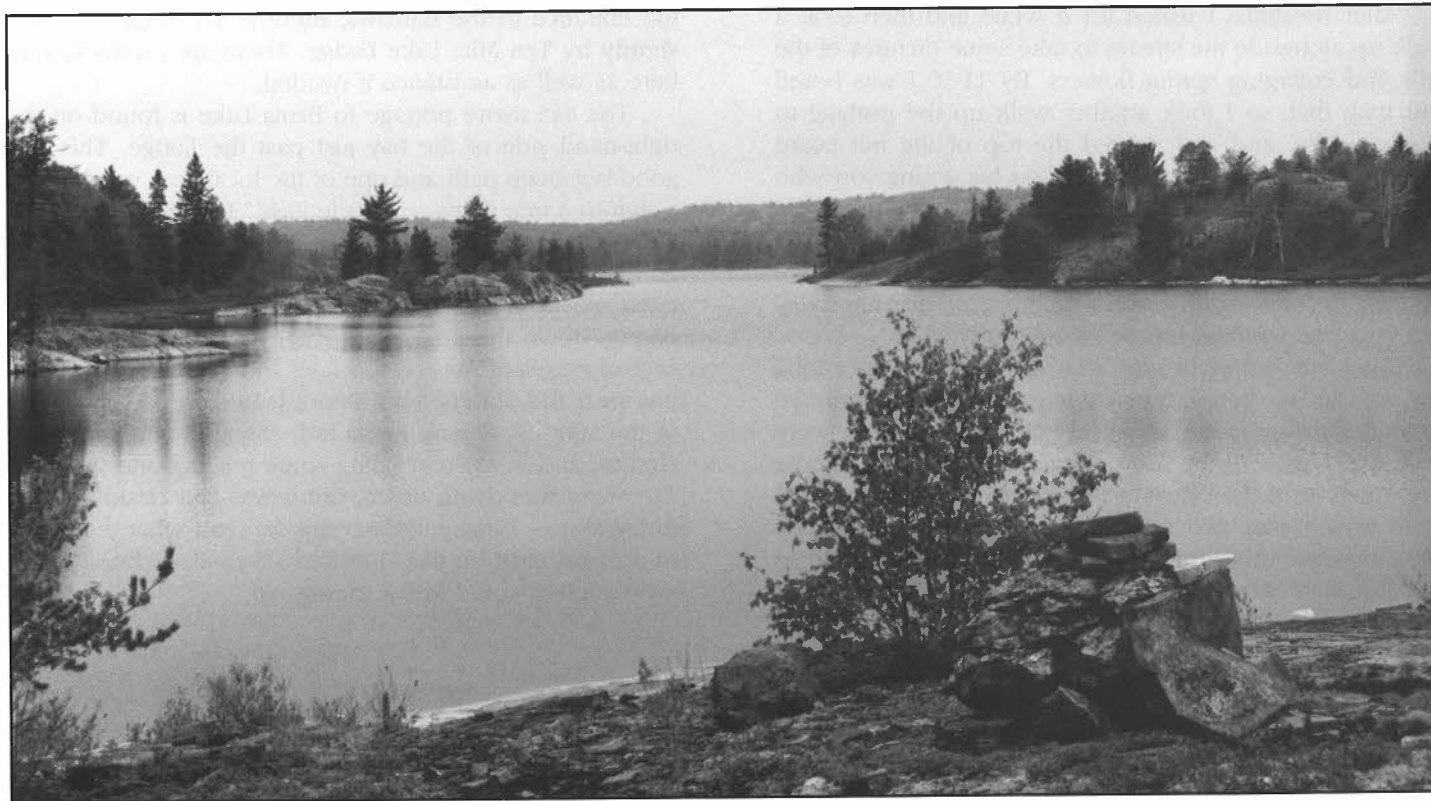
The 445-metre portage to Ezma Lake is found on the right-hand side of the bay just past the Lodge. This is a good but steep path and one of the locals has even nailed a sign to a tree that says "Eagle Pass." I soon had the boat and all the gear over and because of my late start, I decided to camp on this lake. The hills surrounding Ezma sheltered me from the worst of the wind, so it was an easy paddle down the lake to look for a campsite. There are several excellent sites on this lake and I picked a sheltered one near the portage into Astonish Lake at the north end of the lake. By 8 p.m. I was fed, changed into warm dry clothes, and in my tent doing some reading and writing. The wind was dying down, but it was still cloudy with a foggy rain — I imagined that this was just what the inside of a cloud must be like. I drifted off to sleep hoping that this weather would break tomorrow.



chief; and besides — I was paddling solo and as such had only half the "horsepower" to propel and control the boat. By 1:30 I sensed that the wind was quieting down a bit so decided to quickly pack up and make the run down the lake, staying real close to shore. That way if I dumped I would be able to get out of the water quickly. The trip went pretty much as expected with the only problems coming when I had to round a few points that forced the boat to run parallel to the waves. There was a zone in which the waves rebounding from the shore largely cancelled out the worst of the incoming ones and by staying within this zone, I got by without incident. About a kilometre west of last night's camp, there are two great campsites. These would be ideal for groups as they have room for many tents.

Wednesday I must thrive on disappointment. Morning brought stronger winds and intermittent driving rain that even whipped this small, sheltered lake into whitecaps. This weather presented no physical problems for me as I was well equipped with quality gear and proper clothing, but it did play hell with my schedule though. The best way, of course, to deal with a schedule in the back country is not to have one, but sometimes the real world intrudes (more on this later). By noon the lake had settled down enough for me to make the crossing to the portage to Swamp Lake.

There are two carries from Ezma to Swamp Lake — a 200-metre one at the south end of the lake and the one just across from me near the lake's northern end. This one is slightly longer at 230 metres and it took me only a few



minutes to paddle across to it. There is a lovely campsite at its start and the path is easy to follow as it winds its way beside the outlet stream flowing into Swamp Lake. At its end there is a sea of rocks and boulders, making the loading of the boat very difficult.

Swamp lake is aptly named and is really just a ponding of the creek flowing towards Upper Mace Lake. The water is only about half a metre deep but my paddle sank almost to the handle into the loon shit on the bottom. Half-way down the lake, I came to the other portage from Ezma and saw, from this end anyway, that it was clearly the preferred choice, as the putin features a nice grassy bank which would be much easier to load the boat from. In all it took half an hour of hard slogging into the wind to get to the carry into Upper Mace Lake.

This portage, on the west side of the outlet into Upper Mace, is an easy 265-metre path that brought me to a long narrow bay at the northeast end of the lake. I was sheltered from the wind here, but as I started paddling a fog started to close in, and by the time I neared the main body of the lake it was so thick that I could see little more than 10 m in any direction. As I made the turn around a point and headed south into the main body of the lake, the wind hit me full-bore in the face, forcing me to pour all my strength into the paddle — yet even in this wind, the fog was still all encompassing.

My plan was to camp tonight on one of the many island campsites that dot this lake, but as I looked out over the water, I could see only a sea of grey with darker

patches that might or might not be islands. It made no difference — in these conditions it would be foolhardy to leave the safety of the shore, so I paddled south searching for a campsite along the rocky shoreline. As I neared the southern end of the lake and the portage to Lake #5, the shoreline sheltered me more and more from the wind until I was paddling easily through the fog. Paddling solo through a fog like this is an almost surreal experience — my senses and concentration became more acute as sound replaced sight as the dominating influence in this small, grey world.

I still hadn't found anything resembling a suitable campsite by the time I got to the portage, so I tied the boat up and walked over the trail thinking that there might be a site at the other end. But when I got there, I saw just a jumble of rocks and driftwood — certainly nothing resembling a dry, level place to pitch a tent. As I walked back towards the boat, I sensed the world around me brightening a little and soon, directly above, a little piece of blue sky was trying to pierce the grey shroud around me. Back in the boat and paddling out into the lake, detail was returning and islands emerged slowly from their hiding places as if floating into view. I landed on one that has a beautiful campsite and by the time the boat was unloaded and the gear carried up to the tent site, the fog was completely gone. It was still overcast, but the weather had definitely turned. And as I set up camp, I realized that I was not the only one who had noticed — the world around me had come alive with the songs and petty arguments of countless birds.

That night in bed, I was awakened by a sound so haunting that at first, in my groggy state, I mistook it for the sound of wolves howling, but soon realized it was pair of loons. I had never before heard loons trill and yodel like this — some of the songs lasting as long as thirty seconds. I suspected that it might have had something to do with one of their springtime pursuits. They kept it up most of the night and by morning the novelty of it (for me anyway) had pretty much worn off.

Thursday With the promise of better weather, I was up early and for the first time this week, was not disappointed. There was just a thin overcast that would soon burn off and the wind was gently wafting past my little island from the northwest. While making breakfast, I dug out my binoculars and took a scan around the lake. Upper Mace is very scenic, edged by high, rocky outcrops, and dotted with islands. The western shore has a nice sand beach and the fishing is reputed to be great. I had planned to spend a day here exploring and fishing, but the bad weather had put me a day behind schedule and used up my layover day.

Usually I could care less about schedules or on being a day late, but this time I had made the mistake of telling my father, who lives in nearby Elliot Lake, my trip plans.

He has absolutely no comprehension of why I am out here and never will. He is retired, has too much time on his hands, and has decided that he should spend it worrying about me. If I were to be a day late, I just might be awakened by the thump thump of an Armed Forces helicopter, sent out to “rescue” me.

I was packed up and on the water by 8:45 a.m., made the short paddle over to the outlet, and carried into Lake #5. The easy 215-metre trail hadn't changed much since yesterday, but my mood and spirits certainly had. The portage follows a fault in the Precambrian Shield where a huge slab of rock was torn free during some ancient earthquake. It had dropped down on a 45-degree angle relative to the cliff face that it was torn from. Because of this steep angle, no trees have been able to take root on it, so it's covered in places only by a variety of soft mosses. I climbed to the top of the rock and was rewarded by some beautiful views back over Upper Mace Lake.

Lake # 5 is just another small ponding, and after a 1.5-km paddle I arrived at its southern shore and the 340-metre portage that leads to Lillypad Lake. This carry is located on the left side of the outlet stream and follows an exposed, flat ridge of rock for most of its length, giving a nice view of the small falls and rapids below and entering the trees only as it starts its descent to the putin on Lillypad Lake.





By the time I started paddling through Lillypad, the overcast had completely burnt off and the wind had died, leaving the water as smooth as glass. I remember thinking at the time that this must have been the kind of day God had in mind when he invented the canoe. It was obvious where this lake got its name — just under water, millions of lily pads were about to break the surface. It would be a beautiful sight later that summer when they'd all be in bloom. There is one nice campsite on the right as you enter the main body of the lake. I soon arrived at the east end of the lake and the stream that leads to Lower Mace Lake. There's an old portage here on the west side, but it is not used much anymore as it's easy to navigate the creek and lift over the two beaver dams that you will encounter.

The first dam is easy, but the second is a little dicey as it is steeper and has some big rocks at the bottom. For those of you not wanting to scratch your canoe, there appears to be a path on the left side that will bypass this obstacle.

Lower Mace Lake is large with many bays, giving it the appearance of one of those weird pieces of a jig-saw puzzle that won't fit anywhere. Shortly after entering the main body of the lake, I hooked into a large lake trout, and since I have no landing net, had to try to pop him into the boat using just the line. About half way through this

manoeuvre, the line snapped off at the lure, but luckily the fish completed the arc and flopped into the bottom of the boat. He weighed about two kilograms and since there was no way I could eat that much fish, I decided to release him — that is if I could get a hold of the slippery little bugger. That done, I got the hooks out of his mouth and held him over the side to revive him. Because of his struggles both in and out of the boat, it took at least fifteen minutes before he gave a flip of the tail and was gone. While I was reviving him, a school of minnows swam up for a looksee, perhaps thinking that in his weakened state, they could nibble him to death.

Lower Mace has no island campsites but has several scattered around its rocky shores. I passed on these as I wanted to get across the portage to Claim Lake and camp there so that I would be fresh for the long portage the next morning back into Dunlop Lake.

The carry into Claim Lake is 650 metres with two medium-sized hills to get the circulation going. It's a good, easy-to-follow path, but about 75 metres into it, care must be taken to keep left and not to take a path to the right which leads to another small beaver pond (you will just have to guess how I found that out!). At the far end of the trail you must go past the first part of the lake that you come to as it is an unnavigable, log-filled bay. Claim Lake is ringed with high, rocky hills and is very pretty. There

are lots of nice campsites at its eastern end and I picked a beauty that sits high atop a flat rock overlooking the lake, 10 metres below. From here I could see the start of the portage that I wanted to take in the morning.

The downside of the improved weather was the emergence of millions of blackflies and mosquitoes. I put on my mesh bug shirt and tucked my pants into my socks, which kept all but the most voracious of them at bay. I don't like the mesh on my face but it is a lot better than having to hide out in my tent. I missed not having a fire and spent my time instead on tidying the place up, wandering around, fishing, and taking some pictures.

As the darkness closed in there was a glorious sunset, turning the sky into crimson streaks.

Friday Morning came early and was accompanied by a cacophony of bird caws, tweets, and whistles — don't they EVER sleep in? Everything was packed tight in anticipation of the long portage ahead and a five-minute paddle across the bay brought me to the start of the 1385-

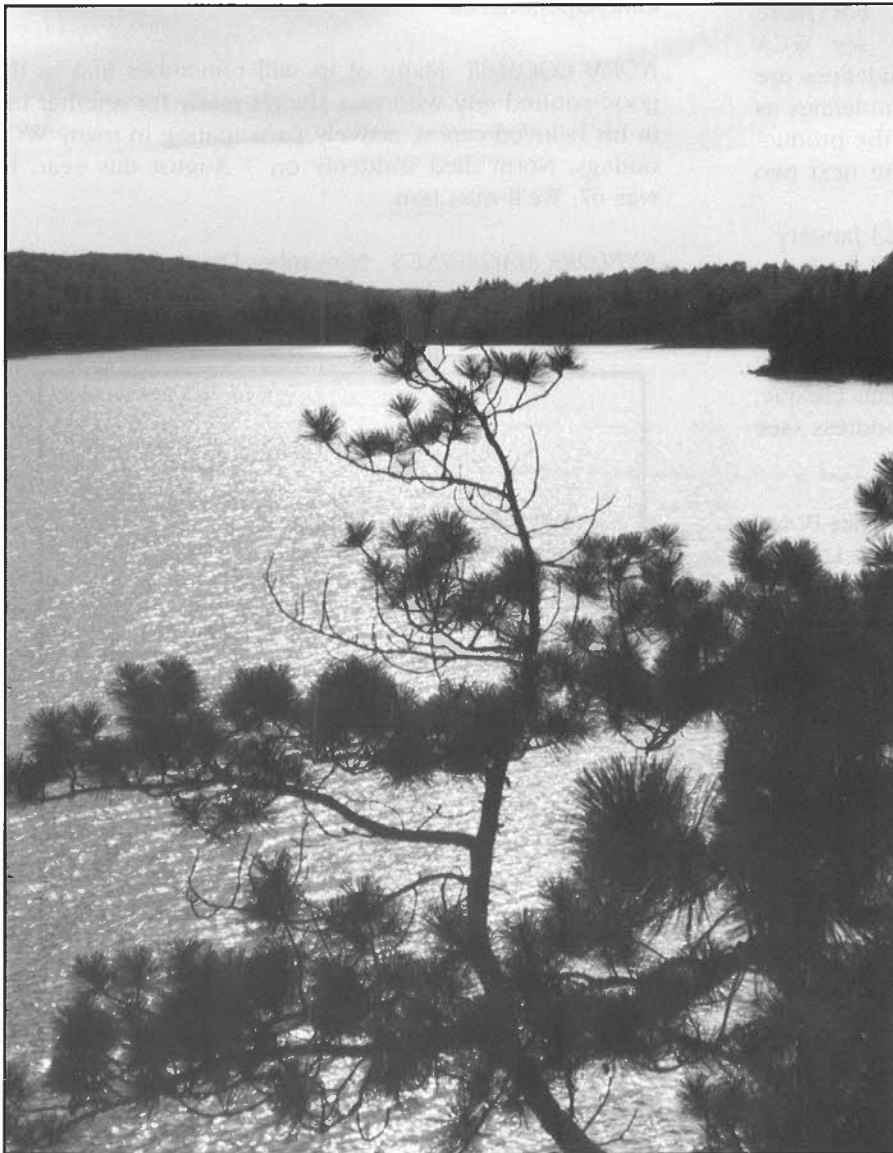
metre-long path. I like to have at least one long carry on every trip and I especially like to have it on the last day when the food pack is as light as it's going to get. I estimated that it would take half an hour to make each trip and, as usual, decided to start with the boat as it was the heaviest and least convenient to carry. After fifteen minutes I wedge it between two trees, took a five-minute breather, before getting under it again and walking the remaining fifteen minutes to the putin at Dunlop Lake. It was hot work, especially in a bug shirt, but the walk back for the next trip gave me ample time to cool off.

For the two packs on a long carry like this, I use a different strategy. I carry the first pack for 10 minutes, set it down, and go back for the other one. I carry this one for 15 minutes before setting it down and then walk the five minutes back to where the first one was dropped. I then carry this one for 10 minutes and repeat the process. This way I am carrying for 10 minutes, resting (as I walk back) for five and so on. This seems to make the carry go faster and easier. But even with this system, by the time I'd had some lunch and loaded the boat, it had taken three hours to complete the portage.

There was a gentle breeze from the south and Dunlop seemed to be in a good mood. If the lake is too rough to paddle there is a nice campsite on the north shore of the big island a short paddle down the lake. Once past this island, the strengthening wind started to cause some problems. It was blowing across the lake, and its direction became variable depending on how the shoreline bends it as it enters the lake valley. Sometimes it aided my progress but then quickly changed into a headwind. As the afternoon progressed, the wind picked up speed and shifted more and more to the east, causing my progress to slow as I worked my way up the lake.

In all, it took me five hours to reach the end of the narrow channel that opens up into the widest part of the lake. The wind had churned this part of the lake into whitecaps and I decided that making the crossing would be too dangerous. There are three islands here that each have fourstar campsites on them and I landed on the biggest to wait out the wind. It took until seven o'clock for the wind to subside enough for me to make the crossing safely, and after an hour's paddle, I was at the boat launch, slowly loading the gear into my truck for the trip home.

This had been a very enjoyable trip and I was reluctant to leave. I took a long look back over my shoulder as I pulled out of the parking lot and headed south.





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Published by the Wilderness Canoe Association — Editor: Toni Harting
Nastawgan is an Anishinabi word meaning 'the way or route'

The WILDERNESS CANOE ASSOCIATION is a non-profit organization made up of individuals interested in wilderness travel, mainly by canoe and kayak, but also including backpacking and winter trips on both skis and snowshoes. The club publishes a quarterly journal,

Nastawgan, to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas of interest to wilderness travellers, organizes an extensive program of trips for members, runs a few basic workshops, and is involved in environmental issues relevant to wilderness canoeing.

NEWS BRIEFS

NASTAWGAN MATERIAL AND DEADLINE Articles, trip reports, book reviews, photographs, sketches, technical tips, or anything else that you think might be of interest to other readers, are needed for future issues. Try to submit your contributions by e-mail, on 3 1/2 in. computer disk (WordPerfect or MS-Word or text files preferred, but any format is welcome), or in typewritten form, but legibly handwritten material will also be accepted. For more information contact the editor (address etc. see WCA Contacts on the back page). Contributor's Guidelines are available upon request; please follow these guidelines as much as possible to increase the efficiency of the production of our journal. The deadline dates for the next two issues are:

<i>issue:</i> Spring 2000	<i>deadline date:</i> 23 January
Summer 2000	23 April

WCA MEMBERSHIP LISTS are available to any members who wish one for personal, non-commercial use. The list can be ordered by sending a five-dollar bill (no cheque, please!) to Cash Belden at the WCA postal address (see WCA Contacts on the back page).

RALPH BICE LAKE The Ontario Geographic Names Board has approved the proposed renaming of Butt Lake in western Algonquin Park (near the Magnetawan Lake access point) as Ralph Bice Lake. It was Ralph's favorite lake in the Park. The new name will serve as a permanent memorial to one of Ontario's best known guides, trappers, and outdoor writers, who passed away in August 1997, in his 97th year.

KITIKMEOT HERITAGE SOCIETY is running a fundraising campaign to replace some of what was lost in the terrible fire that, in August 1998, destroyed their building in

Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, along with their archival collection, oral-history tapes, photographs, and a modest collection of northern books. Your financial donation to help the Society achieve their goal would be very much appreciated. Cheques should be made out to "KHS Cultural Trust Fund" and mailed to: Kitikmeot Heritage Society, P.O. Box 1062, Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, X0E 0C0. Tax receipts will be issued. For more information, please contact Kim Crockatt at (867) 983-2263, fax (867) 983-2417, kimcr@polarnet.ca

NORM COOMBE Many of us will remember him as the good-natured guy who was always ready for another trip in his beloved canoe, actively participating in many WCA outings. Norm died suddenly on 7 August this year; he was 67. We'll miss him.

EXPLORE MAGAZINE'S November-December 1999 issue has, on page 74, a short item commemorating the creation of the WCA in 1973.

WCA WEB SITE To access the Members section of the WCA Web site (www.wildernesscanoe.org), find the authentication window and type exactly the following words shown in bold. For the period covered by this issue of *Nastawgan* these are: User Name: **prospector**
Password: **thwart**.



CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following are the only platforms for candidates for the 2000 Board of Directors received before our publication date. Any other members who wish to run for the Board may do so by letting the Board of Directors know, or by placing their name in nomination from the floor at the AGM on 19 February 2000.

HAL GRAHAM

I have been a WCA supporter and/or member for many years. My canoeing experience includes Ontario rivers such as the Attawapiskat, Pipestone, Winisk, Albany, Kenogami as well as Quebec and Labrador rivers such as the Korok, Palmer, George, and Moise. It also includes many southern Ontario rivers and lakes, plus all of the major park systems in the province.

During this time I have been increasingly impressed with the quality of the activities and services our Association provides to our membership and the wider community. I would like to serve on our Board of Directors to continue in the work of maintaining the high standard of WCA-sponsored trip leaders, as well as keeping a sharp focus on initiatives and programming for the purposes of attracting new members. I am particularly interested in helping in the clarification, the lobbying, and the public projection of WCA positions in regard to environmental issues that affect the preservation and health of our river systems. I have a strong history in environmental education and educational administration and at present write and produce video films which portray environmental values. It is my hope to bring my perspectives and counsel to the Board Table.

ANN DIXIE

I would like to stand for re-election to the Board in February. Over the past two years, I have enjoyed being a member of a vibrant and dedicated Board. As an active member of the Board, I have attempted to find the balance between "sitting in the eddies" (maintaining the traditions of the Association) and "moving with the flow" (e.g. advocating for new ways of doing things, such as posting trips on the WCA website to enable organizers and trippers to be more spontaneous). Some of my personal accomplishments have been to contribute to the increase in the number of trip organizers, the number of trips offered, co-leading trips, co-facilitating whitewater paddling clinics, and recruiting the active participation of women in the

Association (e.g. Anne Lessio joined the Board, and several outings this year were offered by women). By listening carefully, I have become aware of the need to identify ways to make it easier for new members "to cross the eddy lines" (become actively involved in the association). I would like the opportunity to continue to contribute to the Association by making this the main focus of the next term of office.

EVAN WOOD

I am putting my name forward as a candidate for the Board of Directors of the WCA at the next Annual General Meeting.

My professional background is in urban planning and project management; therefore I have a set of management skills very useful to a volunteer organization. I have been a canoe tripper since Boy Scout days, many decades ago. Recently I have been experiencing the new joy of whitewater, both canoe and kayak.

I am not an extreme or "exotic" canoeist, never having done extended high-intensity trips, or even paddled outside Ontario for that matter. My primary interest in canoeing is not the extent of the physical challenge (although I enjoy reading about it in *Nastawgan*), but the experience of a world "built by another hand." It is in direct contrast to my professional activities of city-building, but more importantly it is a strong part of my emotional and spiritual growth. As we enter the new age of the millennium, I am drawn to enhance the energies of my intuitive and emotional side after so much left-brain analytical thinking. My goal is balance. As a member of the Board of Directors I would seek to enhance this type of experience in WCA activities.

Currently most of the WCA trips are led by a few dedicated members. Many other members, although competent canoeists with reasonable wilderness experience, are somewhat intimidated with the full responsibility of being designated in the *Nastawgan* as "the leader," who is expected to know the route well. As a Board member I would explore a less formal approach of also having trips jointly planned by members on routes they have not experienced. Perhaps the Bulletin Board section of the new WCA Web site would be the best form, but is not yet generally known to the members.

I look forward to speaking with you at the next Annual General Meeting.

PARTNERS AND INFORMATION WANTED

ARCTIC Anybody interested in a not-yet-determined trip in the Arctic, next summer, please contact Don Hamilton at (905) 336-0326.

ANYWHERE INTERESTING Thanks to a notice printed in *Nastawgan* last year, I had a long, hard, unique, spectacular trip, the Labrador Plateau and the Natashquan River. I would like to join a group for a trip next summer. Tom Elliott, (905) 648-1560; elliottp@mcmaster.ca

BACK RIVER Anyone interested in canoeing the Back River in Nunavut next summer, contact George Drought (voice: 905-528-0059) (fax: 905-524-4888) (e-mail: gdrought@wildernessbound.com). The 'raison d'être' for the trip is to make another film along the lines of "An Arctic Journey — Canoeing the Hood River." The trip will last six weeks and people can come for the first three, last three, or all six weeks. Costs have not been finalized, but

we will inform anyone signing on as soon as possible. Those interested must be prepared to be filmed and/or interviewed for the production during the trip.

PEACE/SLAVE RIVERS TRIP IN WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK Anyone interested in exploring this territory in July 2000? Call Frank & Jay Knaapen at (416) 690-4016 or (613) 687-6037.

SYMPOSIA, MEETING, SHOWS

WILDERNESS & CANOEING SYMPOSIUM

The upcoming 15th annual Wilderness & Canoeing Symposium, organized by George Luste and sponsored by the WCA, will take place on Friday 4 and Saturday 5 February 2000. The main topic is Northern Ontario, but it will include adjoining Manitoba and Quebec. The format stays the same and the location again is Monarch Park Collegiate auditorium, One Hanson Street in Toronto.

As in the past, all registration must be done via the designated registration form and cheque payment. (Sorry, we cannot cope with telephone or fax calls for special requests.) WCA members, as well as all past attendees on our list from prior years, should have received the separate Symposium mailing in November. If there are others who wish to receive the Symposium announcement mailing, please send us an e-mail with name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address to: norbooks@interlog.com Or via fax at (416) 5318873. Or via snail mail to: WCA Symposium, Box 211, Station P, Toronto, ON, M5S 2S7.

Symposium and registration information is now also available at the Northern Books Website: <http://members.tripod.com/northernbooks/> The Symposium registration form is added to the Webpage information at about the same time as the regular mailing takes place. This ensures that a Web connection does not result in earlier access to the registration form and so seat selection. (Since we sell out, this is an issue.)

Your e-mail address is important to us. Last year's registration form requested your e-mail address, as does this year's. We are in the process of organizing this information. The hope is to send out future Symposium announcements via e-mail, with a pointer to the appropriate Webpage, wherever possible. We think this will simplify the mailing and communications process, as well as reduce costs. If you wish to pass on your e-mail address to us, please send a blank e-mail to norbooks@interlog.com with the Subject as "Symposium Emailing."

WCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM takes place on Saturday, 19 February 2000. See the information on page 11.

TORONTO OUTDOOR ADVENTURE SPORTS SHOW

This show features more than 30 sports-related categories (including paddle sports), over 200 exhibitors, three days of free seminars, and several interactive features such as a 50-foot demonstration pool. It will take place on 25, 26, and 27 February 2000 at the Toronto International Centre, 6900 Airport Road, Mississauga, Ontario (corner of Airport Road and Derry Road). For more information contact: National Event Management, 115 Apple Creek Blvd., Suite 12, Markham, Ontario, L3R 6C9; tel. (905) 477-2677 or 1-800-891-4859; fax (905) 477-7872; www.nationalevent.com The WCA is again going to be participating/exhibiting in this show. Anyone wishing to help (wo)man the booth, especially on Friday the 25th, please contact Bill Stevenson at (416) 925-0017 as soon as possible.

OTTAWA PADDLESPORT AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURE SHOW

This year's show will take place on 10, 11, and 12 March 2000 at the Aberdeen Pavilion of the Ottawa Civic Centre, 1015 Bank Street in Ottawa. It will highlight the latest and greatest in canoe- and kayak-related gear as well as adventure sports activities such as whitewater rafting, rock climbing, mountain biking, backpacking, scuba diving, parachuting, and adventure travel. A star-studded line-up of guest speakers will be featured along with the popular pool demonstrations, experts corner, wilderness art exhibit, and plenty of free give-aways.

Tickets are available in advance from the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association or at the door on 10-12 March 2000. For more information on the show contact the CRCA at (613) 269-2910 or 1-888-252-6292, or visit our Website at: www.crc.ca As always, there is free parking at the show.

CANOE EXPO 2000

Join us on 7-8-9 April 2000 for CANOE EXPO, Canada's first and most established canoe/kayak and educational trade show. Location: Metro East Trade Centre, 1899 Brock Rd. North (Highway 401 and Brock Rd). Features include portage trail and camping exhibits, canoe builders, manufacturers, outfitters, retailers, raffle, silent auction, wilderness artists, and author's tables. Also featured are seminar and workshop series by North America's paddling experts.

For more information contact: Janice Brookstone, Communications and Event Director, Canoe Ontario, 1185 Eglinton Ave. E, North York, ON, M3C 3C6; tel.: (416) 4267171; e-mail: canoeont2@osrc.com Website: www.canoeontario.on.ca

The WCA is again going to be participating/exhibiting in this show. Anyone wishing to help (wo)man the booth, especially on Friday the 7th, please contact Bill Stevenson at (416) 925-0017 as soon as possible.

MAINE CANOE SYMPOSIUM

This famous get-together will take place on 9-11 June in

Bridgton, Maine. Contact: Winona Camps, RR.1, Box 868, Bridgton, ME 04009, USA; (207) 647-3721; www.mcs.gen.me.us

THIRD CANADIAN CANOE SYMPOSIUM

This increasingly popular symposium is one the entire family can participate in. It focuses on hands-on seminars and workshops, paddling skills, expert presentations, and the heritage of the canoe in Canada. It takes place in and around Merrickville, Ontario, on 18-19-20 August 2000. For more information, see www.crca.ca or phone 1-888-252-6292.

WCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 19 February 2000
Goodrich Loomis Outdoor Centre

All members and friends of the Wilderness Canoe Association are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the founding of the Association. It was considered most appropriate to celebrate the event in an outdoor setting which allows ample time for socializing and physical activities besides attending the business part of the meeting. The latter includes the election of three directors to the Board for a two-year term to attend to the business of the Association. Any member in good standing is eligible to stand for election. Interested individuals are urged to contact the secretary of the WCA or any member of the Board if they have questions regarding the responsibilities of Board members.

The meeting takes place in a building located on the Goodrich Loomis Conservation Area just north of Brighton (95-km east of Toronto down Highway 401). A detailed description on how to get there is shown on the inside of the front cover of this *Nastawgan*, together with the agenda for the day and the registration form. Please note the registration deadline — a stricture needed by the caterer.

The Conservation Area is located in a region of rolling hills -old glacial deposits, including a prominent esker - and contains several trails which total 15 km in length. Hopefully better skiing conditions will welcome you to the Goodrich Loomis Outdoor Centre this year.

Have you ever thought about going winter trekking/camping? But then you decided, no, because you were unsure of what was involved? The WCA will help you out through our workshop, *Winter Trekking in Comfort*, presented by Herb Pohl, WCA Chair, Emeritus. Herb will discuss what is needed, for example: skies, snowshoes, canvas tent, small wood-burning stove, and toboggan. Bring your questions.

There will be a post-dinner presenter who will also be of high quality. We will see you on the 19th of February for our AGM where we will participate in many activities, both indoor and outdoor, in addition to great food.

Anyone needing additional information about the event can contact Glenn Spence at (613) 475-4176 or glenspen@ontario.enoreo.on.ca

See the AGM registration form on the inside front cover.

WCA Web Site

There was clearly some interest in the WCA Web site www.wildernesscanoe.org as the members side of the site had about 100 "hits" in the first month after the site address, user name, and password were published in the summer *Nastawgan*. I expect that much of this was due to curiosity. We hope that by keeping the site current and adding new features it will be worth your while to visit the site regularly. A number of members have used the "Add A Trip" feature to have trip information published on the electronic bulletin board. We have also had some productive feedback through e-mail. Nikolai Ozerov, a new member, suggested that we could publish color versions of photos from *Nastawgan* on the site. Five photos from the autumn issue were selected by editor Harting and placed on their own page. We plan to make this a regular feature.

Those of us involved with the Web site want to make it a vital entity containing current information of interest to

members. We do *not* want to duplicate the purpose of *Nastawgan*: publishing full accounts of trips and important information about the Association. *Nastawgan* will remain the primary vehicle of communication to members.

Since *Nastawgan* is only published four times a year, it clearly cannot contain up-to-the-minute (day? week?) information about water levels or other river conditions, which would affect paddlers. This is one function at which the Web site could excel. It would require the co-operation of members to e-mail brief accounts to the Web master, or perhaps phone them in if access to e-mail was a problem.

What do you think? You can provide suggestions through e-mail to bellaire@eagle.ca, by writing to *Nastawgan*, or seeking me out at a WCA function..

Good paddlin' everybody!

Bruce Bellaire, WCA Web master

THREE DAYS ON GEORGIAN BAY'S NORTH SHORE

Simon and Gisela Curwen

The Spring 1999 *Nastawgan* offered this wonderful trip — "endless vistas...of smooth pink rock islands. A suitable trip for all skill levels." Yeah, right! I've trusted small ads before when looking for accommodation, and been sorely disappointed. What exactly does "some open water crossings" mean? On Georgian Bay? In mid-June? What were our chances of staying alive, let alone getting back in time for work on the Monday? And who were the other people who'd go on an adventure like this anyway?

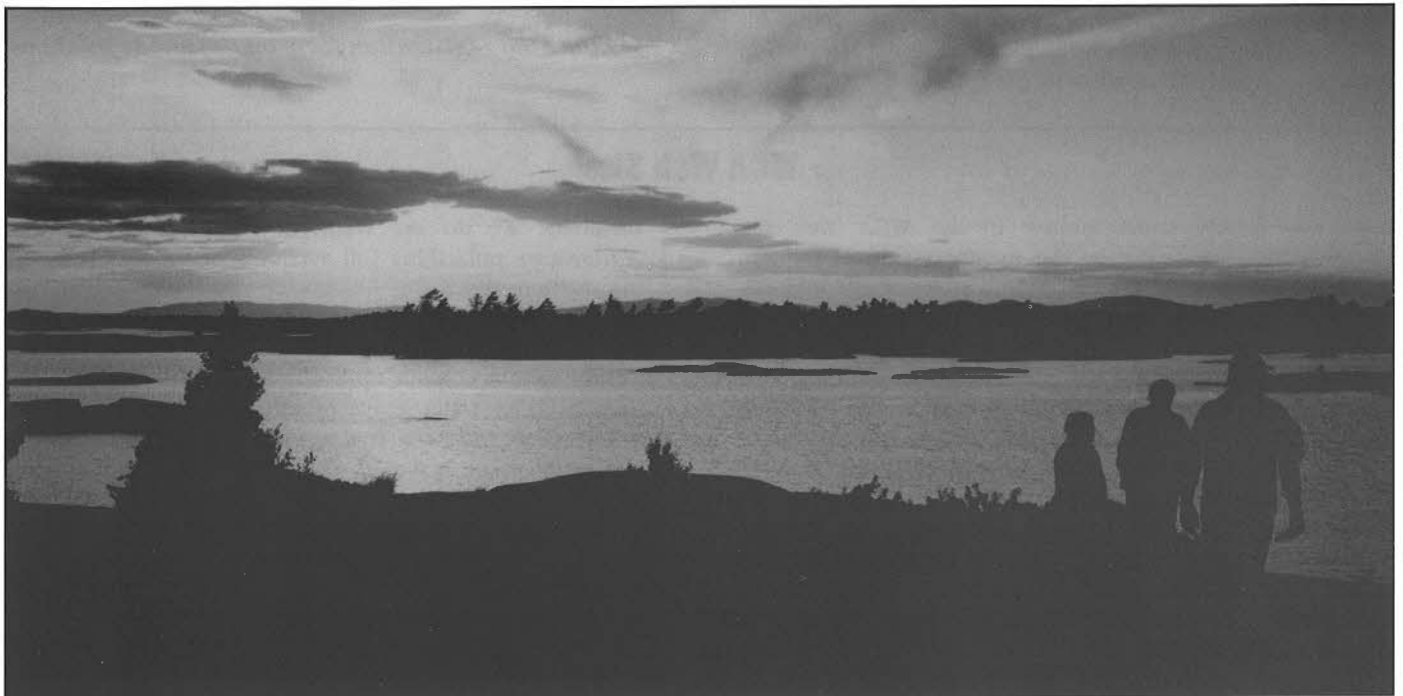
As it turned out, there is truth in advertising. And we did come back on time and in high spirits. And the others were wonderful. (How could we ever have doubted that of WCA members?). At the risk of embarrassing him, most of the thanks for this must go to our fearless leader, Bob Fisher. He can read a map, he navigated us through the freckled warren of rocks — not all fully submerged, because of the exceptionally low water levels — and he found the best camp-sites. He also organized both nights' dinners, which were very important to most of us. (One complaint: Bob's a lousy accountant and didn't charge nearly enough for his catering. But don't tell him that!).

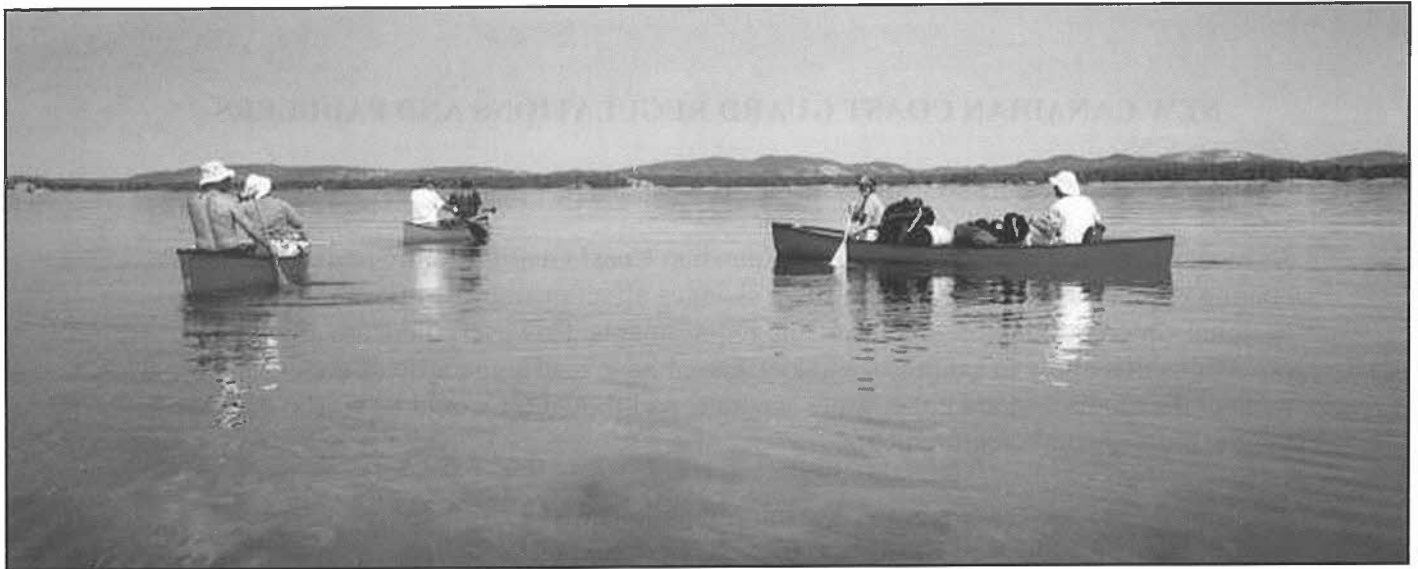
We put in from the Chikanising River parking lot, just outside the George Lake campground in Killarney Provincial Park. Zero portaging meant we could take many comforts. A folding chair. A spaghetti strainer! In addition to exotic foods like smoked oysters, stuffed vine leaves, imported wine in bottles, even cocktail sausages. And let me not forget the butter tarts; 30 of the damned things, which we were bullied into eating. And lots of fresh fruit — strawberries, kiwis, melon, grapes, tomatoes (it is a fruit!) — even on Day 3.

A pretty soft trip, do I hear you mutter? Well, yes, it was gentle. One member, more attuned to level IV rapids, referred to it as a "La La" trip, which seems about right. But no-one complained, especially as the scenery lived up to its billing. For those wishing to follow the itinerary, we



went east — dodging through the islands and rocks, past The Foxes — to camp on a wonderful island with tons of room for the utmost privacy for six tents. The next day, we continued west, for lunch on one of the islands in The Chickens. On the way home — on a benign Georgian Bay, that was unbelievably glassy and almost motorboat free — Bob set us the task of finding "one of the top 50 campsites in North America" (according to *Outdoors* magazine). We found it, and loyally declared it less spectacular than our island. Although the blueberries were amazing!





As always, the trip represented an opportunity to pick up a few tips from other campers. Like: use boiling, not just boiled, water to make tea; never, ever, burn the designated fire-stick, even if you are the group leader; a can of 10% beer, diluted with water, makes two bottles of regular 5% beer. It also raised the question: why would a guy's family give him a solo tent and pack his grub bag

with delicacies?

Thanks, Bob! Thanks also to Don, Paul, Peter, Sue, Joe, and Gwynneth, for a fun weekend. But most of all to Bob, who introduced us to a new canoe area with great bird life, "tidal" pools, and amazing sunsets, and who never once had to use his bear-bells to get us moving.

CONSERVATION

DUMOINE UPDATE

Hap Wilson

For years Quebec Hydro has made threats to develop the Dumoine River, either for its own hydro resource, or in conjunction with the Kipawa River. Other sister rivers to the Dumoine — the Noire and the Coulonge — have also been on the hit list. It has been common knowledge that the Kipawa is threatened, but what people don't realize is that its headwater lake happens to be Lac Dumoine, which also feeds the river that everyone loves to paddle on: the Dumoine! To facilitate dams on the Kipawa; i.e. adequate water reservoirs, dams may have to be built on the Dumoine River as far down as the lower end of Lac Laforge. Just speculation? Possibly. However, these notions often find their way to working blueprints before anyone has a chance to do anything about it.

In October, we ran a piece on CITY TV News to keep people on their toes, send a message to the government of Quebec, and to keep people abreast of development undertones. Nip the issue in the bud, so to speak. Governments and industry often send out these covert advertisements just to see what kind of reaction they get. It's important for us to follow through. Speak out, let them now how we feel about

river ecology, or ecotourism as an alternative economic factor.

Although establishing a Canadian river under Heritage status does nothing to protect it, it does significantly upgrade its importance, culturally and economically. It may be an opportune time to tell the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board that the Dumoine should be enlisted as such.

To add your support, write to: Don Gibson, National Manager/Canadian Heritage River Board, c/o Parks Canada, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0M5; (819) 994-2913; fax (819) 997-0835; dongibson@pch.gc.ca

and send copy to: Michel Damphousse, Directeur, Direction des Parcs Québécois, Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune, 150 est, boul. René Lévesque, 16^e étage, Québec, Québec G1R 4Y1; (418) 521-3935; fax (418) 644,8932; michel.damphousse@mef.gouv.qc.ca

The environmental group for further information is: Friends of the Pontiac's Rivers, CP Box 893, Fort Coulonge, Québec, J0X 1V0.

NEW CANADIAN COAST GUARD REGULATIONS AND PADDLERS

Bill Ness

As most of you are probably aware, the Canadian Coast Guard recently revised its boating regulations. The most significant changes affect operators of powerboats and personal watercraft and involve licensing requirements. However, there are a few provisions that apply to canoeists and kayakers. I have read some articles about the new rules in the media that are not entirely accurate, so I thought it would be worthwhile to review the applicable requirements.

The Canada Shipping Act's Small Vessel Regulations Part 2 (Minimum Equipment Requirements for Pleasure Craft) lists the safety requirements for various types of vessels. Other than a section allowing for reduced requirements for racing canoes and kayaks in official competitions, there is no specific section covering canoes and kayaks. Leg powered paddleboats, water cycles, sailboards, and personal watercraft receive individualized attention, but, alas, we get left out of the picture. Our craft are lumped into the general categories that are organized by vessel length.

The section that affects most of us is "Pleasure Craft not over 6 m in length." It lists 4 categories of required equipment:

1. Personal Protection Equipment

- (a) There must be a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device *of appropriate size* for each person in the vessel. The stipulation that the PFD actually be of a size to fit the wearer is new and makes a lot of sense. By the way, those kapok filled seat cushions that you see in so many motor boats, as well as the so-called water ski belts are no longer approved designs for PFD's. Good riddance to bad garbage.
- (b) One buoyant heaving line of not less than 15 m in length. This is the new regulation that seems to have gotten everyone's attention. There is no standard for what constitutes a "heaving line;" no minimum line diameter or tensile strength, no comment on how accessible it must be, nor any indication of how far it should be capable of being thrown. The intention seems to be that each craft have a floating rope that can be thrown to an occupant who has fallen overboard to recover the individual. This heaving line may be of value in a motorboat or sailboat, but is essentially useless for the intended purpose if you are in a canoe or kayak.

2. Boat Safety Equipment

- (a) Each vessel in this length class must have one "manual propelling device," meaning one paddle or a pair of oars; or as an alternative it can have an anchor on 15 m of rope, cable or chain. Note that if you opt for a paddle, you are not required to have a spare. Does any of this make sense to you as a paddle boater? If it does, please enlighten me as I have trouble understanding the line of reasoning.
- (b) One water pump or bailer. The bailer must be made of metal or plastic and have an opening of at least 65 square cm and a volume of at least 750 ml.

3. Distress Equipment

- (a) Either a watertight flashlight or 3 pyrotechnic distress signals of Type A, B or C.
There are no standards for the size, battery power or light output of the flashlight.

4. Navigation Equipment

- (b) A sound signalling device. This can be a pealess whistle.
(c) If the craft is operated after sunset and before sunrise, or in periods of restricted visibility, it must carry navigation lights that meet the applicable standards set out in the Collision Regulations. I'll spare you the details of the latter.

For canoes and kayaks over 6 m in length, and this would include such craft as freighters, war canoes, fur trade replicas, and dragon boats, some additional rules apply. For boats over 6 m but not less than 8 m, you need a "reboarding device," i.e. a ladder, if the boat has a freeboard of over 0.5 m. If you have a boat over 8 m, such as a replica canot de maitre, then you are also required to have a lifebuoy on a 15 m line, an anchor on a 30 m line, 6 flares, and navigation lights.

The only section of the Regulations which specifically refers to canoes and kayaks, and allows them special safety equipment in recognition that these really are very different watercraft from sailboats and yachts is one which allows participants in organized races to have only a PFD and a sound signalling device.

Obviously the Regulations were written by well-meaning individuals intent on making recreational boating safer who unfortunately have no personal knowledge of canoes and kayaks. The Canadian Recreational Canoe Association has been talking to the Coast Guard, specifically about the heaving line and reboarding device provisions, trying to educate them as to how our craft and activities differ from those of the vessels with which the rule makers are familiar. The provincial paddling organizations, canoe and kayak clubs, and the manufacturers ought to make their voices heard also. We require special provisions in the regulations that reflect the unique needs of paddlers.

Having said all of this, just how much do these regulations affect the average paddler? I would say not much. I don't know anyone who paddles without a PFD. A whistle is about the handiest outdoor accessory you can put on that PFD. You likely already have a bleach jug bailer, even if for no other reason than to rinse the sand out of the boat and douse the campfire. I learned to carry a compact flashlight a long time ago after doing portages in the dark on day trips that lasted longer than they were supposed to. On river trips most paddlers carry high tech throw bags that more than meet the heaving line provision. Anyone who wants to meet the minimum heave line requirement needs only to buy 15 m of cheap polypropylene line for stuffing under the deck or in a pack. I picked up a hollow braid water-ski rope with a foam bullet float on the end for six bucks, and find I have grown fond of it. The line is very compact and weighs no more than a few ounces. It's a really handy multi-purpose item that works great as a clothes and tarp line, as well as a light painter. It actually throws well and would be a great lead line for ferrying a heavier rescue rope.

The reality is that few paddlers will ever be on a body of water where they are going to have their equipment checked by the Coast Guard or police. On the cottage lakes that we occasionally use as access points, we may find the provincial police at the marina or on the water. However, they've got their hands full dealing with the Molson quaffing motorboaters and jet skiers who think swimmers make good slalom buoys. They're not there to measure your bailer, but could rightly chew you out if you don't have a PFD in your boat. The only situations in which your gear might be scrutinized would be if you were paddling around an urban waterfront where the harbour police are on patrol or on one of the waterways where the Coast Guard is active, such as on Georgian Bay. If you are paddling in those areas, all you need to be compliant, in addition to your PFD, is a whistle, bleach jug, flashlight, and some cheap poly rope. I don't think that should pose too much of an inconvenience for any of us.

Any readers who are suffering from insomnia can read the Regulations in their glorious entirety at the Coast Guard web site at <http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca>.

Melody: Majesty: Masterpiece

Bloodvein melody:
Echoes of shaman songs from
Ancient spirit springs.

Bloodvein majesty:
Reflections of above,
Pure beauty below.

Bloodvein masterpiece:
Surround symphony of life
Sooth our thought, our soul

beth bellaire



STORM

The wind howled at the windows. I couldn't see the far shore — I couldn't even see the island out front most of the day. The long-awaited winter storm of 1998 finally arrived!

Allan came in from the woodshed with an armload of maple and commented that it was a good day to be snug and warm inside the cabin. "It's nasty out there," he said — all the while grinning because snow was falling at last. I took a look outside as I finished the morning's chores and said I had to go! The storm was calling me. The forest beckoned. After the drought of February, I didn't want to miss a moment of the storm.

It took a while to find the winter clothes again. Layers of warmth, a windbreaker, mitts, scarf, and toque, things I hadn't worn for ages. Dressed at last, I ventured out and strapped on the snowshoes.

I didn't know where I would go — I just knew I needed to get out to feel the storm, to find the joy of winter, to breathe the cold, fresh air. With snowshoes afoot and a single ski pole in hand, I turned my back on the wind and crunched through the deepening snow.

Over on the other side of the hill the wind was held back. I looked upon the snow-blanketed garden, the newly buried greenhouse, the dry wood in the shed, and next year's wood piled up outside. I brushed the snow from the solar panels — snow that had fallen wet, then frozen in place. I knew the new snow was far too cold to stick, so when the sun finally came out after the storm, the panels would be ready to collect energy.

Then where to go? Across the swamp and up Porcupine Hill. Bright new yellow patches of bare wood on the jack pines gave evidence of the porcupine in our neighborhood. There were no tracks, though — not in the fresh, new snow that deepened by the minute.

At the top of the hill I thought of taking a shortcut through the bush, but decided I first had to go have a look from the peak. I could barely see the lake in the distance. The blowing whiteness gave layers to the forest. Shades of green — deep, deep greens set apart by the purity of snow in the air.

Turning my back on the wind once again, I did take a shortcut off the porcupine trail over to the trail that leads to the sugarbush. I snowshoed down one hill, and up the other side. I crossed the old logging road and climbed another hill. At the top, I decided to wander into the bush again. There's no need to stay on trails with snowshoes — I could go anywhere!

Wind shshushing in the branches above, snow swirling in the air all around. Oh! what a glorious day to be out and about!

The snowshoes sank half a foot into the snow with each step, but I felt as though I was walking on top of the world. I saw a white spruce tree with branches reaching to the ground. The heavy snow tucked the branches in, leaving a hollow inside. It looked like a great hideaway as

I peered in through the thick needles.

Near the top of the hill the forest changed from evergreen to oak. Big old trees and new little ones still held crispy brown leaves from last summer. The wind managed to pull a few away and they danced across the snow.

Several of the trees were dead or dying. Old age, the stress of dry summers on a ridge top. Some branches had fallen. Some holes had been gouged by the pileated woodpecker. I stood for a while watching an old hole, wondering if a northern flying squirrel might take a peek outside.

No compass in my pocket, no sun to guide my direction. Who knows where I was? Who knows where I would come out? I followed the crest of a hill for a time. I was pretty sure the old logging road wound around the bottom of the hill. Eventually I dropped down, crossed the road, and drifted toward the hill on the other side.

Ah, the freedom of random wandering. I let the forest guide me. I followed where it opened to the left, to the right, and straight ahead. A gust of wind would pierce the forest, dusting the snow this way and that.

Finally I recognized an area we had snowshoed a year ago. I brushed the snow off an old familiar stump, then dropped down the steep hill to the trail, and home again.

Viki Mather



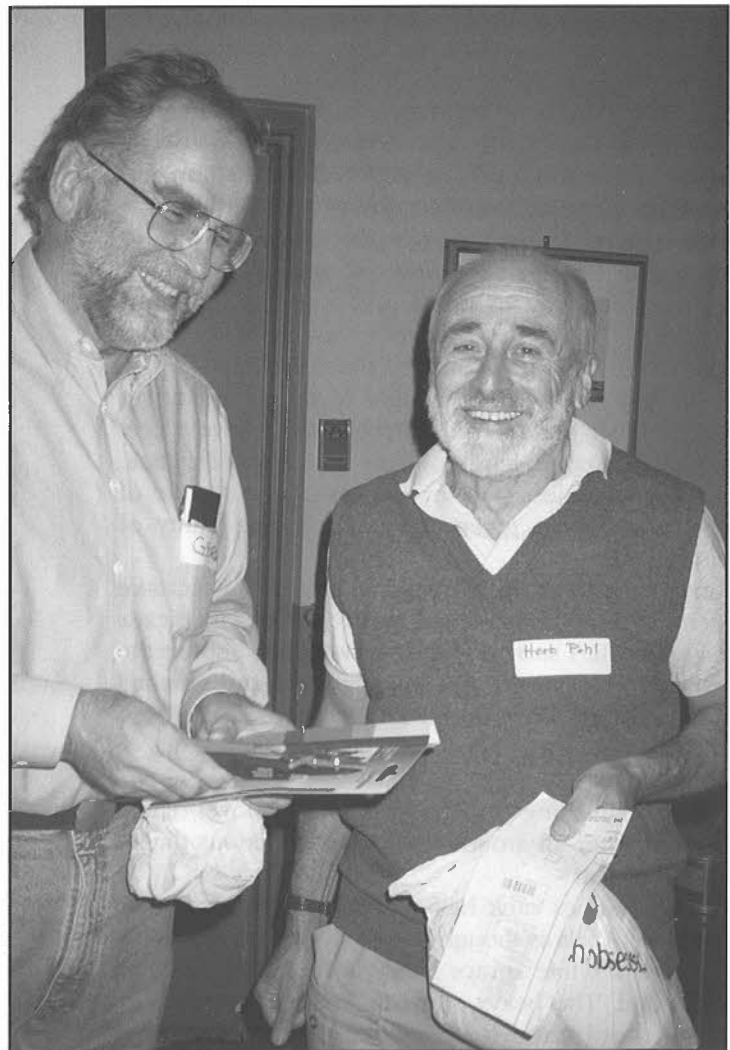
FALL PARTY 1999

On 19 November, the Wine and Cheese was held for the first time in the most suitable (but for many of us hard-to-find) clubhouse of the Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club. About 100 animated paddling enthusiasts were treated to a very successful evening of two slide shows, many delicious snacks and drinks, one large fire place with a real log-burning fire, and a hilarious tribute to one of our most beloved members.

We first enjoyed fascinating excursions to the west coast of Greenland (by sea kayak, presented by Hans Rosteck) and to northern Saskatchewan (by open canoe, presented by Michael Kerwin). Then we saw Herb Pohl being "roasted" by four of his tripping buddies, who treated him to several inventive presents for being such a dedicated and long-term promoter of warm-tent winter camping. The initially somewhat embarrassed Herb graciously accepted the loving tributes and had the last word by informing us he would hold a workshop on winter camping at the coming AGM.

Ann Dixie led the evening's events with a firm but tender hand, and organizer Anne Snow had taken excellent care of all the little and big things that make such an event possible. We're also most grateful to Martin Heppner for making this fine clubhouse available to the WCA "Was a good time had by all?" You bet!

Toni Harting



MY TOP FIVE LESSONS FOR NEW WHITEWATER PADDLERS

5. Take some lessons ... improving your technique and skill will help you have a lot more fun!
4. Replace your foam blocks; buy roof racks. Without them someone else always has to carry you or your boat one way on the shuttle. With roof racks, you too can learn how to tie three or more boats on your car and help out!
3. Respect the advice of experienced paddlers in your group ... running a rapid is always your choice, but if your group suggests you don't tackle a run, it's probably good advice!
2. Don't bother even trying to explain your interest in this sport at the office ... they'll think it's rafting and they'll think you're nuts!
1. Pick up the phone and pick it up often to sign up for WCA outings ... you'll have great fun, learn a lot, and meet a great group of new friends!

Leslie Dutton.



GREAT ISLAND

It's in Manitoba. On the Seal River. About half way between Shethanei Lake and Hudson Bay.

After leaving the esker that has the Bill Mason memorial, you wind your way through an island section, go around a corner, and there it is. Right in front of you. Big and ominous.

We got there fairly early in the morning on a grey, overcast day. The head of the island was shrouded in mist and darkness. Joseph Conrad stuff. The island looked forbidding as we paddled up to the beach.

Even in the gloom, noticed right away the great camping here at the head end of the island. Nice sand beaches and plenty of driftwood. The climb up to the first plateau revealed even more superb camping spots. And just behind them, the plateau opened up into a park-like area with widely dispersed trees. Osprey nest in one of the trees.

The literature says that Great Island was a meeting place between the Indians of the forest and the Inuit of the tundra. Can see why. Great Island rises about a hundred metres above the surrounding country. Really a significant landmark. Would be a meeting location that no one could miss.

Several fire rings on the first plateau used by more recent travellers. They attest that Great Island is still a preferred camping spot.

Had lunch and explored the head end of the island. Looked for signs of past visits by man. Maybe tent rings, maybe remnants of an old cabin, maybe just a piece of canvas once used for tent material. Anything that would say man was here and he stayed a while.

Found only old bones. Caribou and moose. And some caribou antlers. Those who visited Great Island before us must have recognized the special place that it is. They took their garbage with them.

After lunch we pushed off into the south channel going around Great Island. Thought about making it a short day and staying, but knew that the answer had to be no. We needed to push on. We had already used up all the planned rest days during a bad storm on Shethanei Lake. We were windbound there for three days. This meant that esker hiking and fishing times for the rest of the trip would have to be managed carefully.

More to see once you leave the head end of Great Island. The south channel goes through a very scenic canyon area. Lots of rapids. For the most part runnable. Fast water where rapids are absent.

In the south channel there's also Bastion rock. A huge monolith rising from the water in the middle of a canyon stretch. Impressive from canoe level. Wanted to stop to take in the scenery, but the water was moving. Shot us right by before we could get the three canoes together and make a decision to pull over.

Nine Bar Rapids at the end of Great Island. Called Nine Bar because on the map there were nine slashes indicating the rapids. Three kilometres in length. However, at the high water levels we had this year, you could pick your way down the sides of the rapids and avoid the big rollers in the middle. At the end of Nine Bar Rapids we saw the north channel around Great Island come back to join us.

As we floated past the last bit of the island took a moment to say goodbye. Deep in my heart I knew that I would never be back, and I wanted to thank the island for the privilege of being allowed to visit. The island said nothing, but then the great ones never do.

Greg Went

COMMENTS ON WAVES

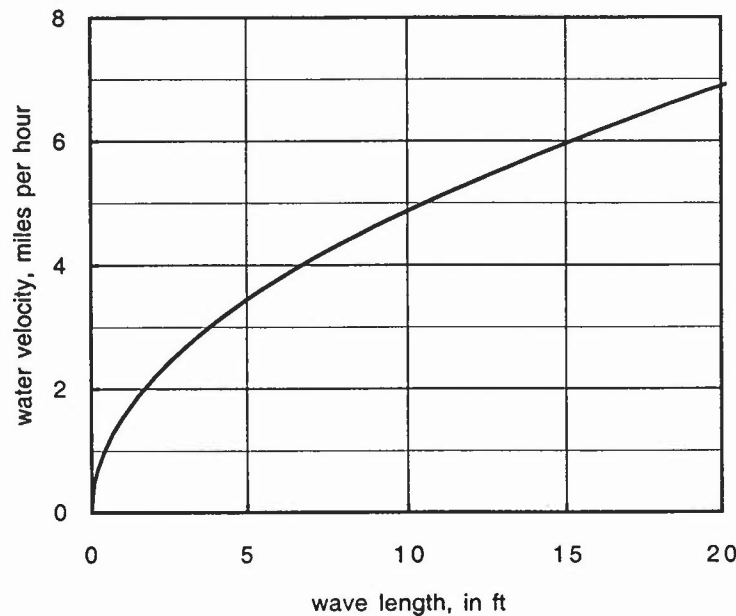
Bill Hosford

Water velocity

The velocity, v , of a wave in a body of water is given by $v = C\sqrt{L}$ where L is the wave length and C is a constant. The value of the constant depends on the units of v and L . For

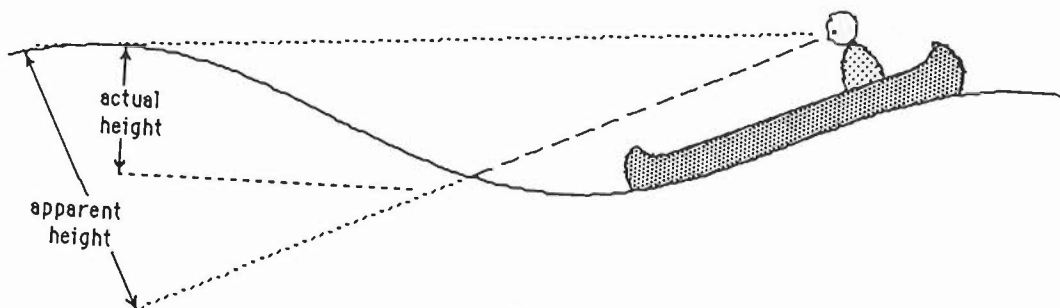
v in mph	and L in ft	$C = 1.54$
v in ft/sec	and L in ft	$C = 1.05$
v in km/hr	and L in m	$C = 4.46$

I strongly suspect that this relation also holds for standing waves in a river. Standing waves don't move relative to the shore, but they do move relative to the water itself. In this case, the velocity of the water in a river can be estimated by estimating the wave length of standing waves. The figure below shows this. This is a much easier method of estimating water speed than throwing a stick into the water and measuring the time for it to travel a fixed distance.



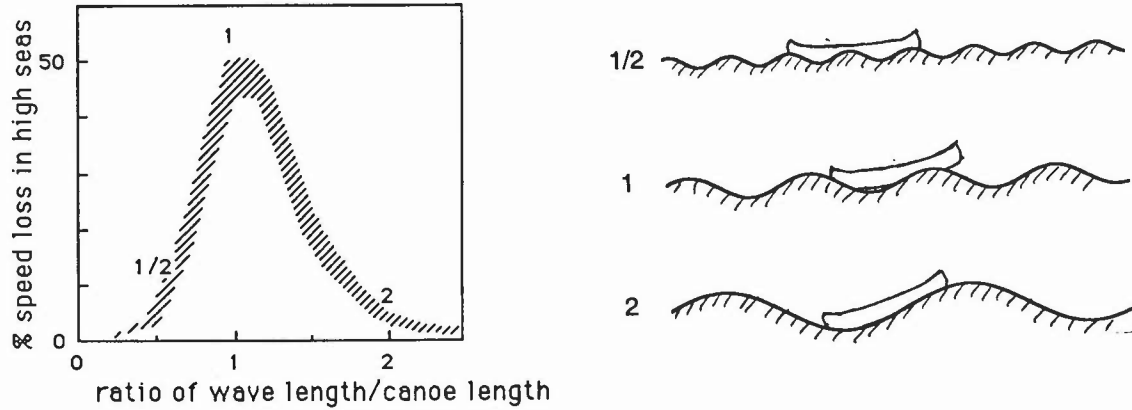
Wave height

For a typical wave, the ratio of the wave length to height, L/h , is about 20. If h/L reaches about $1/7$, the waves become unstable and break. This is called Stoke's law. This critical ratio is well established for ocean waves created by the wind. I suspect it also holds, at least approximately, for fresh water and for standing waves in a river. I have checked it by measuring the distances between small whitecaps and the wave heights in a small creek by our house. A wave length of large wave for a canoeist would be 20 feet. In this case the wave height couldn't be greater than about 3 feet. Most canoeists overestimate the height of waves. This is partly because it is difficult to make an accurate assessment of the wave height and partly because in large waves one sees an oncoming wave with a distorted perspective.



Drag caused by waves

The effect of waves on a boat or canoe depends on the ratio of the wave length to boat length. The greatest drag when the wave length is about half of the canoe length. Then the canoe tends to plunge into each wave and climb the next. With shorter waves there is much less effect. and with longer waves the whole canoe will rise and fall with the waves.

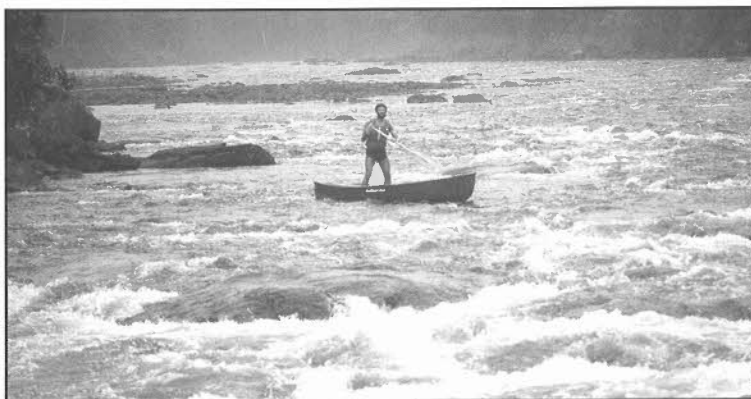
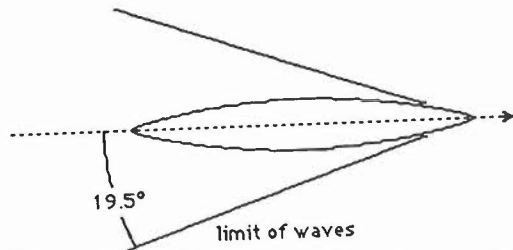


Adapted from Blair Kinsman, Wind Waves, their generation and propagation on the ocean surface, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs NJ 1965

Wakes

The relation between the velocity of a wave and its wave length holds for waves created by boats as well as for natural waves. This means that it is very difficult to power a boat faster than $v(\text{mph})/\sqrt{L(\text{ft})} = 1.54$ because at that speed the boat must climb its own bow wave.

It can be shown that wake created by boat (or canoe) always makes a characteristic angle of 19.5° to the direction of travel. This angle doesn't change with velocity.



*Petawawa River
Top of Crooked Chute*

photo: Toni Harting

REVIEWS

UVAJUQ, The Origin of Death illustrated by Elsie Anaginak Klengenber, edited by David F. Pelly and Kim Crockatt, published by the Kitikmeo Heritage Society, distributed by Betelgeuse Books, Suite 193, F24-122 Saint Patrick St., Toronto, ON, M5T 2X8; betelg@idirect.com <http://maxpages.com/betelgeuse> 1999, softcover, 84 pages, \$24.95.

This extraordinary book may not have a direct connection with wilderness canoeing, but it nevertheless deserves a place in our hearts. The fortunate ones among us who have had the opportunity to visit the Arctic and paddle some of its wild rivers will appreciate the Inuit legend presented in this book, together with 20 beautiful reproductions of original prints, as well as a number of color and black-and-white photographs and maps. On the surface, the legend tells the story of how a prominent hill near the Nunavut community of Cambridge bay, 300 km north of the Arctic Circle, was formed. But underlying that is a mysterious tale of much deeper significance. This proud book is a gem.

* * * * *

FURTHER UP THE CREEK by Kevin Callan, published by The Boston Mills Press, Erin, Ontario, 1999, softcover, 168 pages, \$17.50.

This is the same kind of paddler's guide as Callan's previous book *Up the Creek*, but it also presents some information on various well-known rivers in Quebec. The maps are excellent (although I found some minor errors in them) and the many black-and-white photographs are of the usual fine Callan standard. (I miss the color insert, though, of his first Creek book.) Eighteen Ontario waterways are included in the book, ranging from the Rideau Canal south of Ottawa to the Turtle River northwest of Thunder Bay, as well as five rivers in southwest Quebec. It is obvious from the text that Callan and his faithful paddling mate, Alana, are experienced trippers; the information he presents is first class, typically rich in well-researched details, making the areas come alive. As with his other books, this one also makes the reader "wanna pack up and go there."

* * * * *

CRADLE TO CANOE, Camping and Canoeing With Children by Rolf and Debra Kraiker, published by The Boston Mills Press, Erin, Ontario, 1999, softcover, 167 pages, \$19.95.

Not only are the Kraikers excellent photographers and writers, which is a well-known fact in the outdoors community, but with this charming book they also prove to be first-class parents who understand the needs and special requirements of the little ones when camping and canoe-

ing. The book covers a lot of ground, looking at growing up, clothing, equipment, food, camp skills, wildlife, campsite, safety, and entertainment, all from the kids' perspective. It clearly shows how fulfilling and important it can be to take the kids, of whatever age, along on your trips.

* * * * *

KAYAKING GEORGIAN BAY by Jonathan Reynolds and Heather Smith, published by The Boston Mills Press, Erin, Ontario, 1999, softcover, 168 pages, \$19.95.

Not being much of an active sea kayaker myself (those pesky lower back pain problems), I gladly refer you to the lengthy review by Sandy Richardson, published in the Autumn 1999 edition of *Qayaq*, the newsletter of the Great Lakes Sea Kayaking Association. His final conclusions are: "If you have paddled very much on Georgian Bay, you won't find a lot in this book that you don't already know. However, for paddlers new to the Bay area and looking for places to paddle, *Kayaking Georgian Bay* will be a useful and interesting resource. It's just too bad the authors didn't do a bit more careful and thorough job."

* * * * *

STORIES FROM THE BOW SEAT, The Wisdom & Waggery of Canoe Tripping by Don Standfield and Liz Lundell, published by The Boston Mills Press, Erin, Ontario, 1999, hardcover, 156 pages, \$49.95.

This is another one of those superb books on canoeing published by Boston Mills (who, by now, have assembled in their catalog an impressive and steadily growing list of canoe-related publications). The splendidly produced book is filled with gorgeous color photos by Standfield (one of a small group of top-notch canoeing photographers) and many delightful stories written by Lundell (and a few by Standfield), as well as several contributions assembled by her from various sources, among them our own *Nastawgan*. The written accounts and visual impressions of canoe trips of the past 400 years are simply enchanting; they will surely warm the heart of any canoe tripper. (This must be the first time the word "waggery" is used in a canoe story.)

The book's design is first class, except maybe for the dust jacket that shows four prints of a photograph of the *stern* seat of a canoe, which is somewhat disconcerting for a book presenting Stories from the *Bow* Seat. But that's just a bit of nit-picking by a perfectionist. This is one book that will remain in my collection for a long time, not to be given away as a present any time soon. I want to be able to keep enjoying these unforgettable "visions of sparkling waters and wondrous sunsets."

Above reviews by Toni Harting.

ARCTIC DISCOVERY (HISTORIC BOOKS ON CD-ROM)

- Volume 1:** *Journey to the Shores of the Polar Sea in the years 1819, 20, 21 and 22*, John Franklin (\$69.95)
Volume 2: *Narrative of a Second Expedition to the Shores of the Polar Sea in the years 1825, 26 and 27*, John Franklin (\$59.95)
Volume 3: *Narrative of the Arctic land expedition to the mouth of the Great Fish River and along the shores of the Arctic Ocean in the years 1833, 1834, and 1835*, George Back (\$39.95)
Volume 4: *Narrative of an expedition in H.M.S. Terror, undertaken with a view to geographical discoveries on the Arctic shores, in the years 1836-7*, George Back (\$39.95)

CD-Academia Book Co., Suite 302 – 780 Windmill Rd., Dartmouth, NS, B3B 1T3; phone (902) 468-3392.

Reviewed by: Sandy Richardson

CD-Academia, a new publishing company from Dartmouth, has begun issuing CD-ROM versions of hard-to-find nineteenth century books by Arctic explorers in their *Arctic Discoveries* series. Volumes 1 to 4, Franklin's two successful expeditions and Back's expeditions are now available. Two more, Volume 5: John Ross' *Narrative of a second voyage in search of a North-west passage, and of a residence in the Arctic regions during the years 1829 – 1883*, and Volume 6: *The private journal of Captain G.F. Lyon, H.M.S. Hecla, during the recent voyage of discovery under Captain Parry* (published in 1824), are in production and should be out in the fall. The publishers aim to publish three to four volumes a year.

These CD-ROM books are produced using high-resolution scans that reproduce the text, illustrations and maps exactly as they appeared in the original editions. The PDF files that make up the book are then viewed using Acrobat Reader software (included on the CD), with which you can browse the book from the table of contents, read through the book page by page, or of interest especially to researchers, search the text for key words or phrases. Each page is displayed in full screen format using modern computer fonts for ease of reading and is linked to an image of the original book's page if you want to experience the authentic charm of the old fonts. Pages where illustrations appear in the original are also linked to the appropriate illustration, so one can view figures while reading the text.

Generally the pages are quite readable as they appear, but it is possible to zoom in if one wants a larger image. However, reading from a screen and "turning pages" with a keyboard and mouse is somehow not as satisfying, to me at least, as sitting in an easy chair with your feet up flipping through a "real" book.

The illustrations are very high quality, and come in both low resolution and high resolution versions. The low resolution pictures are for screen display. The high resolution ones load more slowly, but enable you to zoom in and inspect the fine engraving details and to print high quality copies. Both sets are accessible from the book's home page.

The maps that accompanied the original books often had large physical dimensions that don't fit well on a computer screen. (One map in Franklin's second journal is about 4 ft. by 2 ft.) These maps are dealt with in most volumes by setting up an Index of Maps from which you can select a Base Map to view. Each Base Map is divided into a number of (overlapping) segments for viewing detail. The selected segment appears as a high-resolution map (with an index in the corner showing the relation of the selected section to the whole map) that can be printed or enlarged to look at the detail (at which point you need to scroll around). This works well, since one usually studies maps by looking only at the relevant section, not the overall map. (Unfortunately, the map in Volume 1 has not been dealt with this way.)

Finally, a 58 page User's Manual is included with each book, explaining how to use the software.

Overall, the *Arctic Discovery* CD-ROM books are very well done, and happily make these rare books of arctic exploration readily available again. Original editions of these journals now are prohibitively expensive, and the wonderful Hurtig facsimile editions that came out in the seventies can cost well into the hundreds when you can find them. These new CD-ROM versions, while not cheap, make them affordable for most people. And they certainly beat the other option of viewing these journals on microfilm in a library. Academic researchers, who are probably the intended audience rather than bibliophiles, will certainly appreciate the search feature, as will paddlers looking for specific details while planning a trip.

Anyone interested in these *Arctic Discovery* CD-ROMs can view samples, obtain more information or purchase copies at CD-Academia's web-site: <http://www.cd-books.com>.

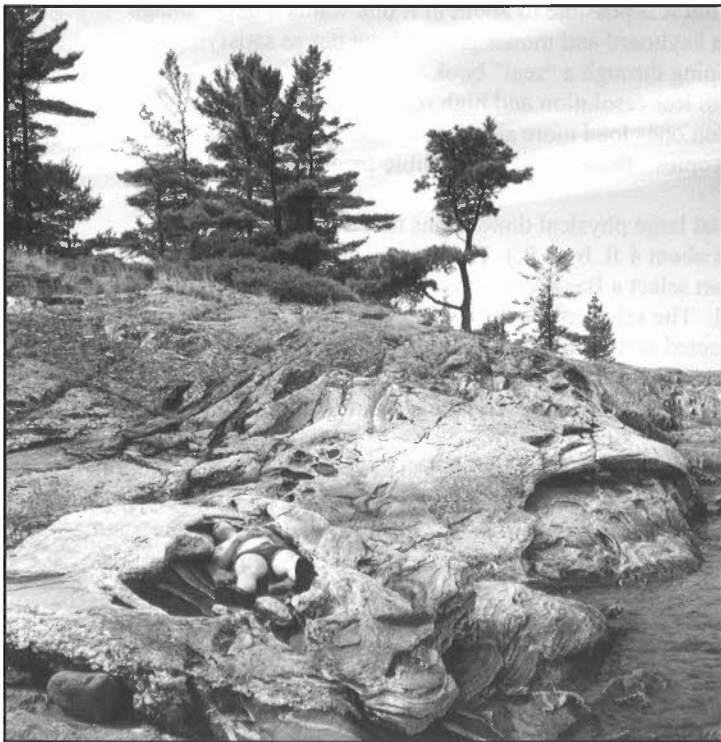
MEETING A MASSASAUGA IN MASSASAUGA

Rob Stevens

Massasauga Provincial Park is a patchwork of lakes, islands, and former Crown land southwest of Parry Sound. The park is heralding its 10th anniversary in 1999. The original Moon Island Park, established in 1969, was expanded and became regulated under the Provincial Parks Act in 1989. The park management plan was approved in 1993, after which additional land area was added. The park has been operational since 1996. In any case, the land base for protection of the flora and fauna area now exists. The resource management plan emphasizes water access, a philosophy of low impact use, and appreciation of natural and cultural heritage.

Administration of the park is located at Oastler Lake Provincial Park (Hwy 69 south of Parry Sound), though overnight camping permits can also be issued at Pete's Place access point. As might be expected, these must be booked in advance. The most convenient way (though there have been glitches and subsequent service improvements) is by using the new phone reservation system instituted this year by the Parks Ontario. There is no charge for day use of the park. Topographical maps/charts are available at permit issuing sites for \$10.

Make no mistake about it, though; this is not a wilderness area. Privately owned cottages are common in some parts of this southern area of the Canadian Shield. The park itself encompasses 13,050 hectares, contains 135 campsites, three interpretive trails, and eight overnighting bays for recreational power- or sailboaters.



photos: John Tucker

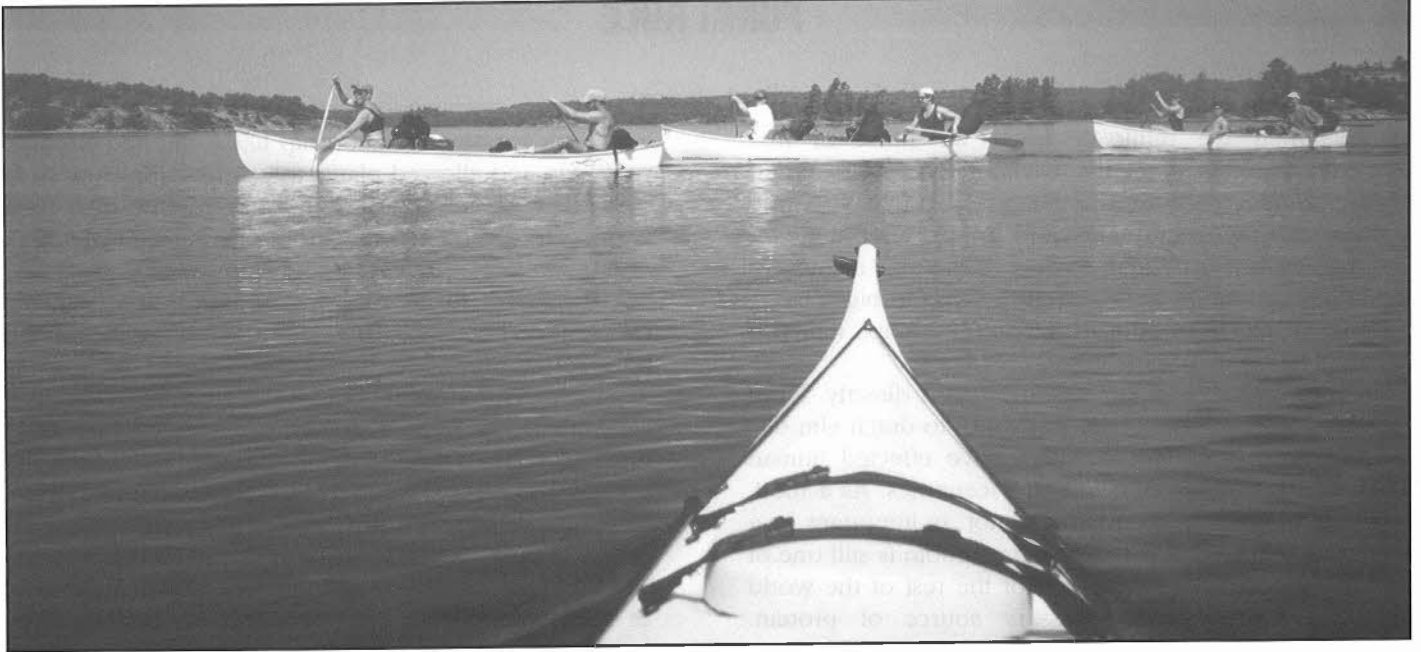
Water access is from any of the several boating channels through the Thirty Thousand Islands area on the east side of Georgian Bay, or two inland access points: Pete's Place and Three Legged Lake. Motorized boats are not allowed in the Wilderness Zone (Spider and Clear Lakes). Spider Lake is a multilobed lake accessible only by portage. There is no road access to any of the campsites, though some sites are within mere shouting distance from an access point. Parking at access points is very limited and restricted to one car per reserved campsite. This may require some shuttling to parking elsewhere, and has been known to lead to the dubious practice of overbooking of campsites principally to ensure parking multiple vehicles for a group tripping together. Campsites are provided with firepits and basic sanitation facilities, i.e. "kybos" (folding-top, bench-seat outhouses).

The park is divided into Nature Reserve, Wilderness, Natural Environment, Historical, and Access Zones. Geologically, the park is comprised of two different bedrock types: Parry Sound Greenstone and Ontario Gneiss Belt, with glacial scouring and the hydrologic effects of ancient Lake Algonquin evident. The vegetation profile of the park includes: Coniferous Forest, Beech Maple Forest, Mixed Forest, Prairie Warbler Habitat, Georgian Bay Shoreline, Sphagnum Bogs, Alder Swamps, Marshes, Beaver Meadows, and Aquatic Habitat.

As the name suggests, this park encompasses some of the remaining range of the threatened Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, Ontario's only venomous snake. Numerous other significant species of mammals, birds, plants, fish, reptiles, and amphibians inhabit the park, perhaps most notably the Black Bear, Timber Wolf, Lynx, Prairie Warbler, Virginia Meadow Beauty, Yellow Billed Cuckoo, Eastern Fox Snake, Eastern Hog-nosed Snake, Eastern Ribbon Snake, as well as Map Turtle, Stinkpot Turtle, and Five Lined Skink. Culturally, the park preserves sites of early lumbering, mining, homesteading, recreation (Calhoun Lodge circa 1939), and shipwrecks.

Labour Day weekend found seven others and myself in three canoes rented at Pete's Place (book in advance) and a sea kayak rented closer to home. The outbound leg to our campsite on an unnamed bay included jostling with powerboats through the very narrow, blasted channel from Blackstone Harbour to Woods Bay, a lunch stop in the passage to the south of Moon Island, and onward out into expansive Moon Bay.

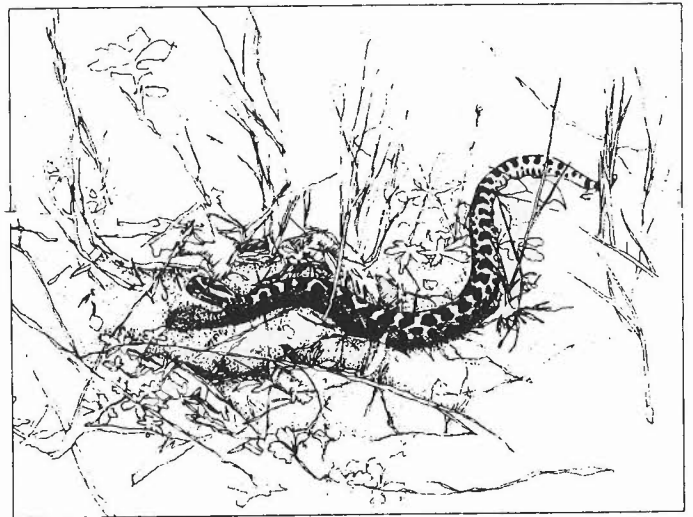
A memorable daytrip took us from our protected inland campsite to the more exposed, island-dotted margin of Georgian Bay. Close alongside Bradden Island, just north of Wreck Island, we snorkelled on a sizeable portion of the sidewheel steamship *Waubuno*, wrecked in stormy weather in November 1879 with the loss of all passengers and crew (23 or 24 souls). The bow keel sits just above the water, with the rest of the port quarter trailing



down into water from only one to 15 feet deep. As we visited on a long weekend, there were several other boats at the site, some scuba divers, and a few bothersome “water lice” (PWC).

Certainly the most exciting incident for me on the trip was coming across a Massasauga rattlesnake while collecting firewood along the shoreline early Sunday morning. When I passed a bush on the trail on the inland side, I had heard the distinctive dry rustling sound of a snake sliding over dried leaves and grass. I stopped and looked into the bush but wasn't able to spot what had made the sound. On the return towards the campsite, I skirted the same bush on the water-side path which was more open, mostly rock sloping into the water. Fortunately, before getting too close, I spotted the rattlesnake that I had evidently roused earlier, sitting coiled in the middle of the rock pathway. I observed it for a while before reversing and returning to camp by the inland side path to haul a few others out of their sleeping bags to come have a look. It was quite exciting to spot a such (in)famous fauna only 100 feet from our campsite. Needless to say, I was unnerved enough to be much more careful about where I walked and what I wore on my feet the rest of the time we were at that site. As the newsprint park guide suggests, I reported the location of the sighting to contribute to the database being compiled. Indeed, several park staff have been trained in safe capture, DNA sampling, and relocation for the purposes of studying the Massasauga.

The guide asks that park users who spot a rattlesnake call it in to the park or to Calhoun Lodge. Depending on time and staff availability, they will endeavour to come on site and take a sample. Alas, being somewhat purists, we did not have a cell phone with us. Oh, and the park staff are happy to report that there have been no bites in the park and that taking care and following basic precautions will keep it that way.



Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

The Massasauga Provincial Park includes one of the remaining ranges of the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, the only venomous snake in Ontario. This snake is distinct from all others by its triangle-shaped head and of course, the small rattle at the tip of its tail. Rattlesnakes are generally shy and tend not to strike unless provoked. When you hear the distinctive buzzing sound of a rattlesnake, stop moving, determine the snake's whereabouts, and then move away slowly. This species is considered to be threatened under the Endangered Species Act criteria in Ontario.

(Copied from MPP map)

FUNGI RULE

Brett Hodnett

Usually when we think of fungi we think of that Tupperware container at the back of the fridge. When pressed we may concede that fungi probably have a role in decomposing dead plants and animals out there in nature as well. It is difficult to believe that this inconspicuous Kingdom could be as significant in the big scheme of things as plants or animals. However, I hope that you will soon agree that fungi rule.

Fungi have a huge impact on humans directly. From the mycotoxins in our school portables, to dutch elm disease, to the potato famine, fungi have effected human health and forced social change for centuries. As a food, fungi are indispensable. Although not as important in a rich country like ours, the button mushroom is still one of Canada's biggest crops. In much of the rest of the world mushrooms provide a necessary source of protein. Consider that an area of land used to produce beef can produce approximately 80 kg/ha of protein. The same area used for mushrooms will have a yield of 80,000 kg/ha of protein, and, as an added bonus, the mushrooms "eat" straw, sawdust and animal manure which are essentially worthless products of other industries.

More interesting is the role of fungi in the natural world. As decomposers they are unparalleled. They can break down the cellulose and lignin of dead trees which are carbon sources that are unavailable to almost all other organisms. As a result, fungi have a greater biomass than the animal kingdom and they drive the global carbon cycle. Without the fungi, as trees died they would not be recycled to produce new nutrients for the next generation. The forests would not survive.

Although a walk in the woods might give the impression that there are far less mushrooms than plants, the fact is that with fungi all of the action is underground. The mushroom you see is just the tip of the iceberg. Mushrooms are just the reproductive structures of the fungus, much like the flowers of plants. Underground are networks of microscopic hyphae which make up the main body of the fungus. What starts as a spore, a microscopic point on the forest floor, can grow through the soil until a single individual can have hyphae which are spread out over an area hectares in extent. In fact the largest fungal individual that's been found is more than 1500 years old and has a mass which is close to that of a blue whale. These individuals can shuttle nutrients from one section of their huge underground "body" to another allowing them to expand through inhospitable sections of the forest.

A large number of fungi aren't decomposers at all and can't obtain carbon and grow on their own. They instead have above ground carbon collectors. We call these plants. There are thousands of species of fungi like this which form a mycorrhizal association with the roots of plants. The fungus supplies the plant with nutrients, particularly phosphorous, and the plant supplies the fungus with car-

bon. This symbiotic relationship likely started 400 million years ago and allowed plants to colonize the land. In fact 85% of all plant species alive today require their fungal partners to survive. This includes many trees including all of our beautiful conifers in northern Ontario.

This mycorrhizal relationship isn't just a matter of cooperation between plants and fungi. It appears that the fungi run the show. Plants breathe carbon dioxide, so one might expect that as the burning of fossil fuels causes the atmosphere to have a higher concentration of carbon dioxide, some of this would be taken up and stored, making trees bigger and bushier. This doesn't happen. Instead their root masses and their mycorrhizal partners increase in size. The fungi get the carbon.

But it gets more complicated. Often the hyphae of one of these fungi have this mycorrhizal relationship with many plants at once; sometimes with plants of different species. These fungi can shuttle nutrients, including carbon, between these plants however suits them best. So, for example, if an oak forest is replaced by a pine forest it may be the mycorrhizae, not the plants that cause this to occur. The fungus could maximize its own growth by starving some trees and feeding others. So what are plants but big carbon collectors for fungi?

The next time your portaging and spot a mushroom, or are paddling in the depths of the Canadian wilderness, remember: Fungi Rule.



FOOD FOR PADDLERS

Last summer we paddled the Bloodvein River with our friends Bruce and Beth. We had many long days of paddling and appreciated a quick snack as we were setting up camp. I found this Beef Jerky recipe on the Ontario Canoe Routes website www.webpan.com/canoeroutes but it originally came from Explore Magazine Feb/Mar 97. We all enjoyed this great pick-me-up.

Beef Jerky

Use 1 lb of meat. Round steak, chicken and turkey all work well (we used round steak). All fat should be carefully sliced off since it goes rancid, even after drying. Wash the meat well. It is then sliced (across the grain) into slices about 1/4 inch thick. This job is a bit easier if the meat is partially frozen. Cut the meat slices to a consistent thickness so that they will dry at the same rate.

Soak in marinade (see recipe below) a minimum of 12 to 18 hours. The meat is then dried in an oven set to between 150-175 degrees F. Higher temperatures will cook, rather than dry the meat. It can be hung directly on the oven racks with foil below to catch any drippings, or on drying racks placed on cookie sheets (we used a dehydrator). Prop open the oven door during the drying process, and blot with a paper towel occasionally to remove beads of oil.

Depending on the thickness the meat was cut, the jerky should be ready in 4 to 8 hours. You can tell it is ready when it feels completely dried through (no soft areas). It should crack when bent, but not be rock-hard or brittle. Jerky can be stored at room temperature for a month or two, or much longer periods in the freezer. Pack in Ziploc bags for use on the trip.

Regular Jerky Marinade

3/4 teaspoon salt
 1/4 teaspoon cracked pepper
 1 tablespoon brown sugar
 1 garlic clove, crushed
 2 tablespoons soy sauce
 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

If you would like to share your favorite tripping recipes, please contact Barb Young, 12 Erindale Crescent, Brampton, Ont. L6W 1B5; e-mail youngdav@interlog.com

In the last issue for Dave's Favorite Pancakes, page 26, there was an error: 1 tablespoon of salt should read 1 teaspoon. (My mistake, editor.)

SWIFTWATER RESCUE TECHNICIAN COURSE

Bill and James Ness

This past August we took the three-day SRT I course run by Rescue 3 and hosted at Esprit Rafting on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River. The first day, at Esprit's base camp, covered rescue equipment, moving water rescue principles, and basic rope handling. The following day it was off to the Ottawa. The morning was spent at No-Name Rapids practising whitewater swimming techniques, throwbag rescues, and swimming with victims. That afternoon we were bused in to Garvin's Chutes for the highlight of the course: a tethered swim in a hole, a swimming rescue of a victim in a hole using a rescue line on a quick-release belt, and an opportunity to surf a hole on a river-board.

The final day we went to the Petawawa River to practise wrapped canoe recoveries, swims over and under a simulated strainer, and setting up zip lines to cross the river. The day was concluded with a short written test. We met our WCA friend Steve Bernet there, who was staying on to do the two-day SRT II course afterwards. This involves more complex rescue scenarios including a night rescue and a high-line crossing.

We were very impressed by the high quality of both the instruction and the course content. Whether you are a whitewater playboater or a river tripper, you will learn skills that will greatly enhance your confidence as well as the safety of you and your paddling partners on the river. We can't recommend it enough.

WCA TRIPS

**WANT TO ORGANIZE A TRIP AND HAVE IT
PRESENTED IN THE SPRING ISSUE?
Contact the Outings Committee before 16 Jan!**

For questions, suggestions, proposals to organize trips, or anything else related to the WCA Trips, contact any of the members of the Outings Committee: Bill Ness, (416) 321-3005, rabbit1@globalserve.net; Mike Jones, (905) 275-4371, dd890@freenet.toronto.on.ca; Ann Dixie, (416) 512-0292, dixiea@cs.clarke-inst.on.ca; Peter Devries, (905) 477-6424; Gisela Curwen, (416) 484-1471, g.curwen@danieltborger.com

Remember that WCA trips may have an element of danger and that the ultimate responsibility for your safety is your own.

Any weekend

WARM WINTER CAMPING

Jay and Frank Knaapen, (416) 690-4016 or (613) 687-6037 ----- A warm winter camp will be set up near Kiosk Lake in northern Algonquin Park. If you don't believe winter camping can be bearable, you will be roasting in a T-shirt beside our wood stove!

Any weekend

X-COUNTRY SKIING ON THE BARRON RIVER NEAR PETAWAWA

Jay and Frank Knaapen, (416) 690-4016 or (613) 687-6037 ----- Deluxe accommodation, fireside, Jacuzzi, etc. at Jay and Frank's new home on Black Bay, where the Barron and the Petawawa Rivers join. It's a long drive for a glass or two of our excellent home-made wine.

6 January

CROSS-COUNTRY BUSH SKIING

Rob Butler (416) 487-2282, book before 3 January ----- The place will be dependent on snow conditions.

15 January

FIRST ANNUAL BAKED SOY BEAN WINTER RENDEZVOUS

Harrison Jolly, (905) 689-1733, book immediately ----- Join us for a social gathering and cross-country ski weekend at my place. I'll provide the dinner of baked soy beans, baked potatoes, and yams. Just bring your sleeping bag. We'll watch paddling videos Saturday night. Sunday breakfast will be leftover beans and eggs. Dogs are welcome.

15 January

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING AT THE FIVE WINDS TRAILS

Karl Schimek, (705) 487-0172, book before 8 January, phone before 9 p.m. ----- We will be heading to back country ski trails just north of Honey Harbour. The exact location will depend on snow conditions. Limit is five skiers in good physical condition. (Karl is flexible on this date. If there is conflict with other trips, this trip can be moved one Saturday ahead or behind)

22 January

MONO CLIFFS SKI TRIP

Dave Sharp, (519) 846-2586, book before 15 January ----- Mono Cliffs has a wide selection of fine ski trails in a scenic natural setting north of Orangeville. Suitable for intermediates capable of skiing for a full day. Limit of eight participants.

29 January

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING IN GREY-BRUCE

Jon Kirby and Z'Anne Keele, home: (905) 276-1718, cabin (519) 369-3707, please call before 8.30 p.m. ----- We'll "go with the snow," tailoring the pace and length to the ability and interests of the group. Possibilities include a full day's excursion followed by a pot-luck at the organizers' cabin or two half-day outings broken by an indoor lunch break. Limit eight skiers.

5 February

KOLAPORE UPLANDS SKI TRAILS

Dave Sharp, (519) 846-2586, book before 29 January ----- We will ski in a complex network of trails near Collingwood on outlying part of the Niagara Escarpment, near the eastern edge of Beaver Valley. Trip is exploratory for organizer. Suitable for intermediates. Limit of eight.

19 February

BACK COUNTRY SKIING ON THE GANARASKA TRAIL

Karl Schimek, (705) 487-0172, book before 12 February, phone before 9 p.m. ----- This trip takes us from Devil's Lake to Cooper's Falls. The distance is approximately 45 km. Limit five skiers.

19-20 February

CAMPING IN ALGONGUIN

Barry Godden, (416) 440-4208, book before 12 February ----- We will explore the Algonquin winter wonderland on cross-country skis from our base camp near Hwy 60. Participants will need to bring their own winter camping equipment including skis or snowshoes for day trips.

11 March (Alternate 18 March)

SAUGEEN RIVER -- PART I

Jon Kirby and Z'Anne Keele, home (905) 276-1718, cabin (519) 369-3707, please call before 8.30 p.m. ----- The river should be running

well by now. Expect cold water and potentially treacherous river conditions. Sweepers are a definite possibility. Some years the main melt has already occurred leaving river conditions quite moderate; other years the ice hadn't gone out yet! We'll see. Properly outfitted boats required. Wet or drysuits a good idea. Pot-luck afterwards. Limit 6 boats.

12-16 March

WINTER HIKING IN THE ADIRONDACKS

Al Grubb, (613) 475-4412, alquin.grubb@sympatico.ca Book as soon as possible ----- My intent is to drive down on the Sunday to the Adirondack Loj, and hike in to a base camp at Marcy Dam. The next three days will be spent on day hikes to mountains Marcy, Colden, and Algonquin. Participants should either have experience of winter camping, or be well prepared for it. Essential equipment includes mountain-style snowshoes and possibly crampons (trails and rocks can be icy up high). The trails involve fairly strenuous hiking and the peaks are above tree line and very exposed, often experiencing Arctic-like conditions, so good wind protection gear is essential. A party of four to eight would be ideal. I hiked this area solo last March break and would prefer the added safety of some company this time around.

25 March

MOIRA RIVER

John and Sharon Hackert, (416) 438-7672, book before 18 March. ----- This is a good trip for someone who is new to spring whitewater paddling with the WCA. We will put in at Chisholms Mill in the morning and do the easier lower section first. For the afternoon, we will run the shorter but more difficult Lost Channel section. This arrangement will allow us to never be more than one hour from our cars, should anyone get wet and cold. At this time of the year the water will be extremely high and ice-cold, but the technical difficulty is about a class 2. As long as you have protective clothing for swimming in cold water, the river isn't a problem. This is a good river to paddle to get experience for more difficult rivers. Tandem canoes must have a centre airbag. Wetsuits required.

26 March

OAKVILLE CREEK OR CREDIT RIVER

Steve Lukasko, (905) 276-8285, book by 19 March ----- If conditions warrant, we will paddle the Oakville Creek, a fine whitewater river in an attractive valley. If the water levels are low, we will paddle the lower Credit River. Limit six fully outfitted river craft. Suitable for intermediate paddlers.

26 March

LOWER CREDIT RIVER

Barry Godden, (416) 440-4208, book before 19 March. ----- From Streetsville to the golf course. Cold, fast-moving water. The Credit can provide some exciting challenges. Intermediate paddlers and properly equipped boats. Wetsuits or drysuits required. Limit six boats.

1 April

MOIRA, the same

John and Sharon Hackert, (416) 438-7672, book before March 25 ----- See description above for 25 March.

7-8 April

LOWER BLACK AND MOIRA RIVERS

Frank and Jay Knaapen, (416) 690-4016 or (613) 687-6037 ----- Fully outfitted, with flotation, good intermediate skills required.

8 April

BEAVER CREEK

John and Sharon Hackert, (416) 438-7672, book before 1 April ----- This will be a challenging whitewater run suitable for advanced-level whitewater paddlers with fully outfitted canoes and proper cold-weather attire. Limit five boats.

15 April

BEAVER CREEK, again

John and Sharon Hackert, (416) 438-7672, book before 8 April ----- See description above for 8 April.

15-16 April

SALMON AND MOIRA RIVERS

Glenn Spence, (613) 475-4176, book before 8 April ----- Just north of Belleville, these two rivers offer exciting whitewater and fine scenery. The Salmon is the more gentle one but has some ledges to practise your skills. The Moira has larger rapids possibly up to class 3. These are some of Southern Ontario's finest spring rivers. Intermediate paddlers welcome. Limit six canoes.

(This is the 23rd year that Glenn has organized this popular outing. Thanks! OC)

15-16 April

BEAVER CREEK AND LOWER SKOOTAMATTA RIVERS

Barry Godden, (416)440-4208, book before 8 April ----- Both rivers require advanced whitewater paddling skills. Wetsuits or drysuits as well as full flotation for canoes are needed. Limit five boats.

15-16 April

RANKIN AND BIGHEAD RIVERS

Anne Bradley, (519) 855-4835, book before 8 April ----- Flatwater paddling in Bruce and Grey Counties. Saturday we will paddle the historic Rankin, part of a native route from Georgian Bay to Lake Huron. Sunday's outing will take us through a more pastoral landscape where we can observe the results of the Bighead River Watershed Demonstration Project. Suitable for novice paddlers. Limit four canoes.

15 April

UPPER AND LOWER BLACK RIVERS

Del Dako and Steve Lukasko, call Del (416) 421-2108, book before 1 April ----- From Cooper to Hwy. 7 the Black River offers strenuous paddling through a series of demanding rapids. As much scouting as possible will be done from the boats. A challenging trip for boaters

comfortable in Class 3 whitewater. Open canoes must be fully outfitted with floatation. Limit five boats.

21 April **UPPER MADAWASKA RIVER**

John and Sharon Hackert, (416) 438-7672, book before 14 April ----- A very Good Friday of whitewater excitement for advanced paddlers. We will paddle the upper Madawaska, which is a fast-flowing pool-and-drop river with quiet stretches interspersed with some very serious rapids. All rapids can, and some must, be portaged. Wetsuits or drysuits, helmets, and fully outfitted whitewater boats with full floatation are a must. Limit six boats.

21-23 April **PETAWAWA RIVER (if it is accessible)**

Frank and Jay Knaapen, (416) 690-4016 or (613) 687-6037 ----- Full floatation, dry suits, and cold weather gear are required. All of the major rapids have portages. There are some long and safe mandatory class 1-2 sections, which make this river an excellent choice for strong and enthusiastic whitewater beginners. Any dangerous sections can be easily avoided.

22 April **SAUGEEN RIVER -- PART II: PRE-EASTER EGG HUNT!**

Jon Kirby and Z'Anne Keele, home (905) 276-1718, cabin (519) 369-3707, please call before 8.30 p.m. ----- Durham to Hanover. River conditions should be moderating by now; however, be prepared for cold water and variable weather conditions. Gently-moving to class 1 rapids will be experienced. One section may be a bit bumpy, but can be portaged in a pinch. Paddlers who have moving water experience and who can avoid sweepers will enjoy a leisurely pace punctuated by some fun stuff. Solo paddlers may face slow sections with headwinds. Properly outfitted boats required. Wet or drysuits a good idea if the weather is nasty. Water hazards this time of year include brightly decorated ova and anxious chocolate rodents. Easter bonnets required for pot-luck dinner.

29 April **UPPER MADAWASKA, encore**

John and Sharon Hackert, (416) 438-7672, book before 22 April ----- See 21 April.

29 April **ELORA GORGE**

Dave Sharp, (519) 846-2586, book before 22 April ----- Limit of six intermediate whitewater paddlers.

6 May **RANKIN RIVER**

Dave Sharp, (519) 846-2586, book before 29 April ----- Exploratory trip for organizer. Scenic trip on the Bruce Peninsula through wetland area. Should see lots of nesting birds. There are twisting sections with liftovers, necessitating some moving water competence. Fine for novices. Limit of six.

6-7 May **NUNAKANI LOOP**

Anne Bradley, (519) 855-4835, book before 23 April ----- Pine-clad campsites, possibility of wildlife (no blackflies yet, we hope). Flatwater paddling in Leslie M. Frost Centre. Suitable for novice paddlers. Limit four canoes.

13-14 May **OPEONGO AND MADAWASKA RIVERS.**

Frank and Jay Knaapen, (416) 690-4016 or (613) 687-6037 ----- Fully outfitted strong intermediate whitewater skills are required. Some class 2+ roller coasters are mandatory.

13-14 May **UPPER MAGNETAWAN RIVER**

Paul Wilcox, (905) 884-3775, book before 6 May ----- The Magnetawan is an exciting whitewater river containing class 2-3 rapids and some falls that must be portaged. We will paddle from Ahmic Lake to Maple Island both days, running the two outlets from Ahmic Lake for variety. This is a great trip for strong intermediate paddlers. Wetsuits or drysuits, helmets, properly outfitted boats are a must. Limit six boats.

20-22 May **BARRON RIVER CANYON**

Anne Bradley, (519) 855-4835, book before 6 May ----- Spectacular cliffs on the eastern side of Algonquin. Flatwater paddling. Suitable for novice paddlers. Limit four canoes.

20-22 May **PETAWAWA RIVER**

Frank and Jay Knaapen, (416) 690-4016 or (613) 687-6037 ----- Water levels will be lower now, making the more difficult rapids runnable for strong intermediate paddlers. Full floatation and drysuits required. All class 3+ rapids can be portaged.

20-22 May **OTTAWA RIVER MIDDLE CHANNEL**

John and Sharon Hackert, (416) 438-7672, book before 13 May ----- We are fortunate to have access to the most beautiful campsite on the river, right where we take out. We will paddle the Middle Channel from this base camp. Suitable for paddlers with strong intermediate whitewater skills who are prepared to portage if they choose to. We will scout most rapids. Full boat floatation and helmets required. Limit six boats.

27-28 May **PALMER RAPIDS INTERMEDIATE WHITEWATER CLINIC.**

John and Sharon Hackert, (416) 438-7672, book immediately ----- This tandem and solo clinic is designed for those who have previous

whitewater experience and want to further develop their skills. The emphasis will be on having fun and playing in the rapids. We will practise ferries, jet ferries, and eddy turns across strong current differentials. Participants must have an ABS canoe outfitted with thigh straps and full flotation. Helmets and wetsuits are required. Limit six canoes. WCA members only.

3-4 June

PALMER RAPIDS AND LOWER MADAWASKA RIVER

Paul Wilcox, (905) 884-3775, book before 29 May ----- A weekend of whitewater fun on the Madawaska. We will spend Saturday at Palmer Rapids, playing and warming up for the downriver run on Sunday. The Lower Madawaska is a pool-and-drop section with several rapids separated by flat stretches. All significant drops can be easily carried, making this an outing that intermediates would enjoy. Limit six boats.

9-11 June

DUMOINE RIVER

Frank and Jay Knaapen, (416) 690-4016 or (613) 687-6037 ----- Fly-in costs approx. \$150 pp. At this time the Dumoine water levels are enjoyable. There are portages for all class 3+ rapids, and long sections of enjoyable mandatory class 1-2. Now is your chance to enjoy the Dumoine as it is rumored a dam will soon rear its ugly head.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

This PRODUCTS AND SERVICES section is available, free of charge and on a firstcome, firstserved basis, to members as well as nonmembers for their announcements regarding items for sale, special products, discounts, services, courses, etc. Contact the editor if more information is required.

DISCOUNTS ON TRIPPING SUPPLIES WCA members who present a membership card will receive a 10-percent discount on many nonsale times at:

— Algonquin Outfitters, RR#1, Oxtongue Lake, Dwight, Ont.

— Rockwood Outfitters, 669 Speedvale Ave. West, Guelph, Ont.

— Suntrail Outfitters, 100 Spence Str., Hepworth, Ont.

— Smoothwater Outfitters, Temagami (Hwy. 11), Ont.

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

CANOE FOR SALE Brand-new 16' Langford "Trader" red and white, cedar, with mahogany seats and yoke. One-piece cherry Ottertail paddles included. Asking \$2500. Contact Reg Nash, (705) 286-4126.

CANOES AND KAYAKS FOR SALE ABS Swift Madawaska tandem canoe, \$1100 or best offer. dagger Ocoee solo canoe, \$500 or best offer. Perception Super Sport kayak, \$600 or best offer. Contact Barry Godden, (416) 440-4208.

PELLY BAY Inuit-guided sea kayaking tours. Have the adventure of a lifetime at the remote hamlet of Pelly Bay in Nunavut, on the shores of the Arctic Ocean and the Kugajuk River. For information, contact Victoria Jason, tel. (204) 222-1718, fax (204) 224-5291.

HERITAGE RIVERS CALENDAR Plan your next adventure with the full-color, large-format 2000 Canadian Heritage Rivers Calendar — produced by the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association in co-operation with

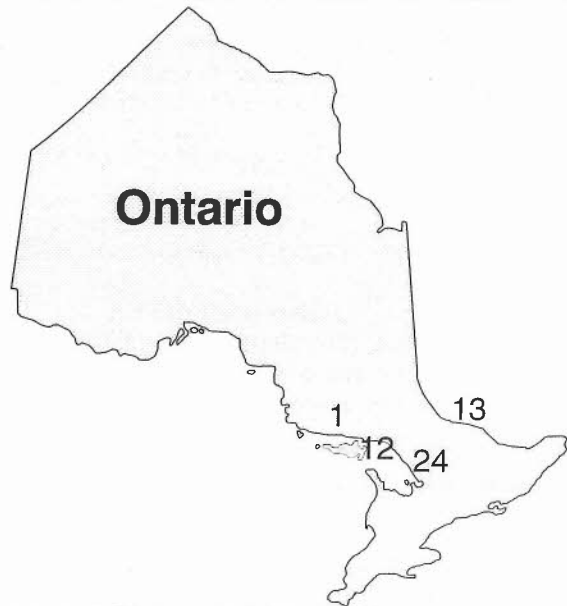
the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. Thirteen of Canada's most spectacular Heritage Rivers are featured with a short description of each river. Cost \$14.95 plus \$2.00 p&h and 7% GST. The Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association can be reached at: CRCA, P.O. Box 398, 446 Main Street W., Merrickville, ON, K0G 1N0; tel. (613) 269-2910; fax (613) 269-2908; e-mail staff@crca.ca website www.crca.ca

WINTER CAMPING COURSE to teach you how to travel and camp during winter. We will teach you the skills you need to navigate through the wilderness, build a snow cave for sleeping and warmth, choose the proper equipment, travel safely, and dress comfortably for a winter adventure. This course combines one night of inclass theory and trip planning, plus a two-day (one-night) excursion on snowshoes to learn the basics of winter camping. In-class theory will be held in the Toronto area. This trip is supported by a heated prospector tent. Cost \$175.00. Dates 9, 12, 13, or 23, 26, 27 Feb. 2000. Contact Joe Bourgeois of Akuni Adventures (416) 4107240, 12103266 Yonge St., Toronto, Ont, M4N 3P6, info@akuni.com. Web: www.akuni.com

BLACK FEATHER WILDERNESS ADVENTURES Have you had a bad trip; been unable to obtain redress; had your legitimate complaints rejected with or by Black Feather of Ottawa? I have. Let's compare notes. Maybe we can take collective action. Call Dave Tyson (416) 966-1379 or fax (416) 966-8715.

VALLEY VENTURES Complete and partial outfitting as well as shuttle service available for the Dumoine, Noire, Coulonge, Petawawa Rivers and other parts of the northern end of Algonquin Park. We can now drive to Lac Benoit on the Dumoine. Valley Ventures, Box 1115, Deep River, ON, K0J 1P0; ph. (613) 584-2577; fax. (613) 584-9016; www.intranet.ca/~vent

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Wilderness Canoe Association

membership application

I enclose a cheque for CDN \$25 (single) or CDN \$35 (family) for membership in the *Wilderness Canoe Association* (for non-residents US \$25 or US \$35). I understand that this gives me/us the opportunity to participate in WCA trips and activities, and entitles me/us to receive *Nastawgan* and to vote at meetings of the Association. I also understand that WCA trips may have an element of danger and that the ultimate responsibility for the member's safety is his/her own.

PRINT CLEARLY!

Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov. _____

New member Member # if renewal: _____

Single Family

Phone Number(s):

() _____ (h)

() _____ Ext. _____ (w)

* This membership is valid for one year. Postal Code: _____

e-mail: _____

* Send completed form and cheque, payable to the WILDERNESS CANOE ASSOCIATION, to the WCA postal address, c/o Membership.