



nastawgan

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NATASHQUAN RIVER

Terry Aitken

The germ of the idea for this trip was planted in the fall of 1997 on a brief five-day outing up and down the Natashquan from near its mouth. If I were to return, it would be with the intent of starting at the source and traversing the whole river, nicknamed the Nahanni of the East. After its beginning in an area shared by the birthplaces of its well-known neighbors, the Romain and Little Mecatina rivers, in the mountain ranges on the border of Quebec and Labrador, the Natashquan runs approximately south to the North Shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Attempts in late 1997 and in 1998 to interest anyone in my idea were unsuccessful, till I saw an advertisement

in *Nastawgan* for partners in a 4-5-week canoe trip to contact Tom. He put me in touch with Peter, who became enthused by the possibility of such a trip when we reviewed the topographic maps at the WCA Symposium in February 1999. Another acquaintance put me in touch with a pastor to the Montagnais in Sept Iles. He strongly recommended Mat, who came on board, to be joined later by his older brother Karl. After a lot of disappointment trying to attract a sixth person, I was finally able to interest Pat, who lived nearby.

Pat had experience with brief whitewater trips. Peter and Tom had been tripping for a month or more at a time

for 20 years. Mat and Karl were kayakers, who had only made short trips in canoes. My experience was almost solely confined to canoeing flatwater. Pat and I attended the Madawaska Kanu Centre for a week of whitewater training in May 1999.

Four of us could only be away for three weeks, yet Tom and Peter wished to make a longer trip. It was decided that they would set out earlier and rendezvous with us



at an unnamed lake, which is near the headwaters of the Natashquan River (lat. 52° 30', long. 63° 25' E). They would paddle east from the Quebec North Shore/Labrador railway, which they had left at Oreway on mile 186, as Bob Davis had done in 1982. Tom and Peter moved up their departure time from the railway to 1 July, so as to be sure of making the planned rendezvous with us on 19 July.

We choose the Natashquan River because it has the merit of being unknown and rarely travelled. Although the first one hundred kilometres of the entire 400-km trip looked difficult, the remaining three hundred kilometres appeared easier. There was road access to the end of the trip, reducing the cost.

The timing of a mid-July start was intended to be a compromise between concentration of blackflies and depth of water. We estimated the trip would take 18 days.

Pat and I set out from near Kitchener, Ontario, late in the afternoon of 16 July, and reached Mat and Karl's place in Sept Îles late the next night. We were dismayed to discover that the canoe they had borrowed was totally unsuitable. It was fibreglass, but only 20 centimetres deep from gunnel to keel. On Sunday, a frantic search commenced for a replacement. We eventually found a large Indian canoe with cedar interior, still stained by blood from the last caribou hunt, and

totally devoid of seats and yoke; but at least it was deep enough.

En route to the town of Natashquan late Sunday afternoon, we were able to make contact with the Sûreté du Québec in Havre St. Pierre, to inform them of our plans, so that they could come looking for us if we were not out by 9 August.

19 July 1999

While on a pre-breakfast walk around Natashquan, we noticed two new ABS canoes on display outside a store. It was decided that we should try to buy/rent one of these canoes to replace the Indian one. This serendipity was nothing short of miraculous in such a small town! The negotiations for the acquisition of the new canoe were so protracted that our outfitter came within a whisker of cancelling the flight to our put-in point. We eventually headed out one hour behind schedule. However, 15 minutes later Pat discovered he had left his personal pack behind in the rush, so back we went. (The longsuffering pilot was duly reimbursed.)

Finally on our flight north, we flew over seemingly endless wilderness, and it occurred to me that it would be no picnic trying to find our way out if we had to make an emergency landing. We reached our rendezvous point around 1:00 p.m., flying past it a couple of times before we were able to show the pilot where Peter and Tom were. It was a great relief to meet them, and they enjoyed some fresh apples we had brought.

We started our canoe trip heading south around 2:15 p.m. There was a strong tail wind, so we even could use our paddles as sails, getting to the end of the lake and the start of the river around 4:00 p.m. Shortly afterwards, we hit the first rapids and had to hastily recall the strokes we had learned.

Later, at the campsite, while Pat was heating water for tea, he suggested I try some fishing, as he had noticed that the fish seemed to be leaping up at the pieces of onion he was peeling. With a meps lure I caught a fish with almost every cast. This first night, we enjoyed mushrooms, onions, filet mignon and a speckled trout each, all cooked on the grill. C'est la vie! The insects were not bad because of the breeze. There was thick moss on the ground.

20 July — 12 km

We got everyone up at 6:45 a.m. to eat another six fish I had caught (five specks and one whitefish), followed by Red River cereal with milk and brown sugar.

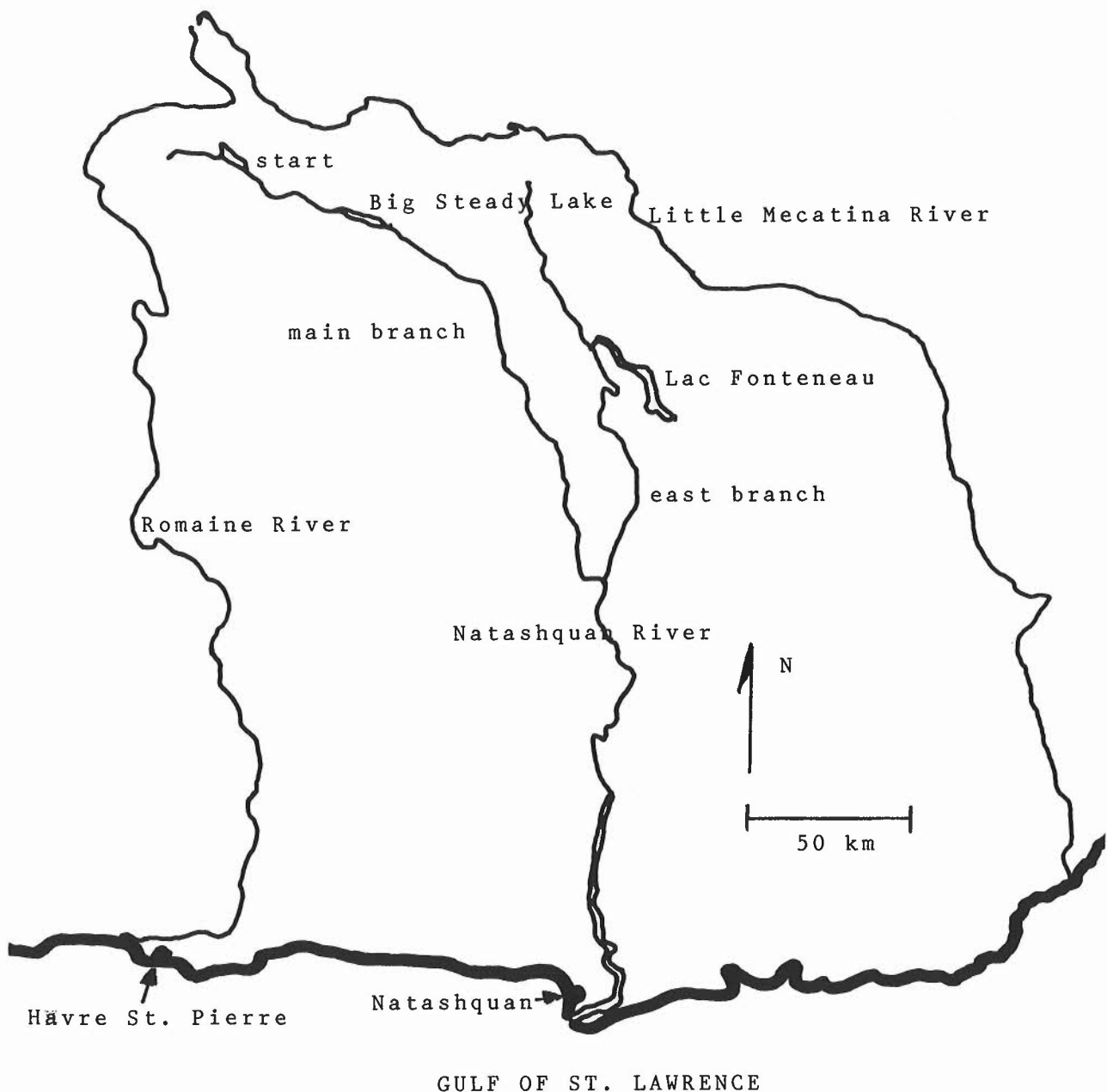
We did a lot of rapids this morning, one of which required lining. The strong wind of yesterday was still present, and we had repeated squalls of showers. How hard it is to keep everything dry in the wilderness!

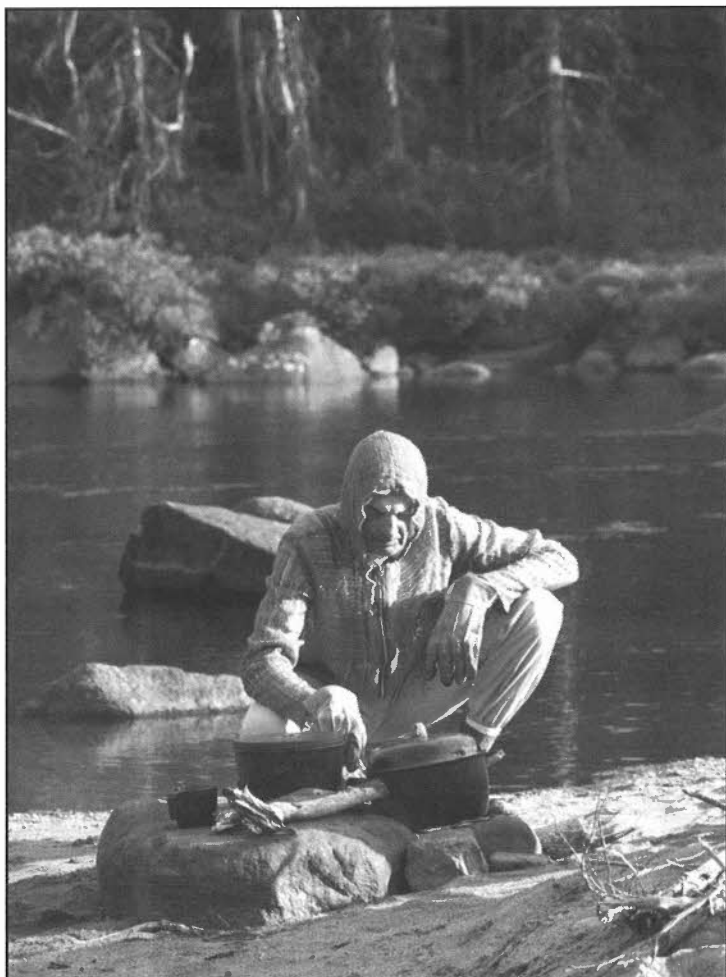
In the afternoon we saw an osprey wheeling over its nest. We got onto a lake but went too far because the map misled us; it must have been made when the water was higher, so that what had been an island was now land or rocks. By the time we had discovered our error and started back up the lake to where the river left the top right-hand corner of the map, the wind was so strong that we gave up and came ashore at 2:00 p.m. to set up camp. We had another great supper: mashed potatoes with chunks of dried bacon. It had been a rainy, windy day, but at least there were few bugs. The water filter became difficult to use tonight, so we did not use it again.

21 July — 21 km

Today was a perfect day. The sun was shining. There was still a westerly, which helped us with our paddling and got rid of the blackflies. We set out just before 9:00 a.m. and reached the river again in 30 minutes. It would have taken two to three hours the night before. Rapids followed rapids, one of which we had to line. Our canoes received dozens of scratches daily, in spite of our best efforts to prevent that from happening.

Eventually we reached the first marked rapids of the trip, and they were no worse than many of the unmarked ones: class 1 to 2. On one lake we used Mat and Karl's tarp as a sail and, travelling in parallel, covered three kilometres without paddling. Where we had lunch we found a Quebec survey marker. It was set in the top of a rock, which had





been painted orange. Initially we thought it was lichen.

Just before stopping to camp, we saw and photographed three otters; also found a lone baby loon, which we gave a ride to before predators such as the otter would find it. Eventually we discovered a nest with one broken egg and one intact one. We left our little loon, likely newly hatched, at the nest.

The campsite was flat but swampy, and big enough for a whole scout troop. An old caribou antler was found in the water at the edge of the lake, hence this campsite was dubbed 'the caribou pasture.' When Pat shampooed his hair that evening, brown rivulets ran down his face, likely old blood from blackfly bites.

22 July — 8 km

Early today, Mat lost a paddle in the rapids. We did not look for it very exhaustively, thinking it would be further downstream, but we never found it. The aluminum paddle with plastic blade was a fairly critical loss. Fortunately, we had two spare wooden paddles, the tips of which we reinforced with duct tape.

Shortly thereafter, we reached some falls that required a tough portage—about four hundred to five hundred metres, real bushwhacking! After Mat and Karl lost their way on this track, Pat and Tom went looking for them.

Peter then declared that he would use markers for future portages. While traversing the trail, Pat saw a strange mouse-like creature, charcoal grey/black in color, scurrying down a branch into a hole.

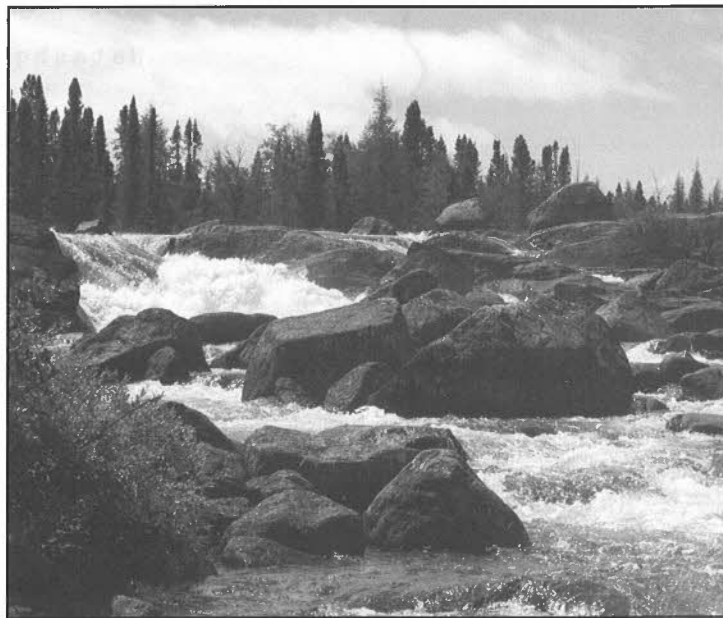
Where the portage ended, there was the outlet of a small stream. In that sheltered location, the blackflies were terrible. They got into our mouths and nostrils when we breathed. They crawled into our ears and bit our wrists, especially at one's wristwatch strap. When observed closely, they were noted to have ivory-white legs that constantly scurried. Twenty-five metres away, where we had lunch, they were not nearly so bad.

Our campsite this evening was one hundred metres below some rapids. The blackflies were bad, but they disappeared when Pat put up the bug tent. I had hurt my left calf when I slipped trying to take a picture of the falls at the portage. Sleep did not come easily tonight, as the constant vigilance required to avoid rocks in the rapids had been stimulating and difficult to shut off.

23 July — 21.5 km

This morning, it was the turn of the mosquitoes to be ferocious. Our first four kilometres to Big Steady Lake (more a widening of the river, really) were fairly uneventful. The view here was spectacular. We had successfully completed the section the Wild River Survey had pronounced uncanoeable! To the best of our knowledge, we were the first Caucasians to ever do so. We sailed the nine kilometres across Big Steady Lake before re-entering the river. After a bannock lunch we hit some big falls and had to portage on the right about four hundred metres. Everybody helped each other and we got through much more expeditiously than yesterday.

It was very slippery on the rocks today, hence very treacherous getting in and out of the canoe on rocks. Someone should design water shoes with velcro straps—the laces kept getting caught in the underbrush—and there should be slip-resistant soles.



After leaving Big Steady Lake, we noticed a lot more water in the river with more power in the current. How would one *ever* manage without an ABS canoe? The bottom of those canoes buckles as one goes over shallow rocks, then rights itself again.

As it was raining when we set up camp in the evening, we erected the tarpaulin using the canoe as a base. We didn't have a fire, just used the stoves.

ished off the day with a paddle. I lost my watch at an early part of one portage because the strap got caught on the alders. The portages through the woods were brutal.

Tonight we had lentils for supper. They were nice but very flatulent. Then, a surprise—a chocolate cake, baked in the Dutch oven, for my birthday.



24 July — 10 km

A cold, bright, windless morning. The bugs gave us a great send-off at 8:30 a.m. They seemed very keen for us to stay, and we didn't get clear of them for quite a while on the water. Just one hundred metres from where we started, the banks of the river almost came together like pincers, and the river was only about 10 metres wide. Through this, the current was very strong, but there were no rapids as the river was deep. It would have been an excellent place to cast a line if I had had the inclination the night before.

We did rapids all day. The second was disastrous for Pat and me because we tipped after hitting a rock and the canoe filled with water. We lost Pat's camera, bug jacket, rain jacket, the tent, the tarp, and a paddle. By degrees, we recovered the camera in an eddy, the tarp, the floating tent and, most importantly, the paddle. We never found the two jackets. Peter and Tom loaned spares they had.

After lunch, we commenced a huge series of 29 rapids. Pat and I lined for more than a kilometre on the left, did a couple of liftovers, then lined again, then fin-

25 July — 14 km

Today was another day of bump and grind; we kept on getting stuck in shallow water, interspersed with one 250-metre portage and a shorter one, preceded and followed by lining. Very wearisome, but we saw some beautiful scenery with falls.

My pack was not waterproof, so no good for trips like this. After lunch, Mat and Karl's canoe filled with water while they were lining, but nothing got wet.

Tonight we were back camping on the moss, so should have a comfortable night, except that it gets very cold, and I kept Pat awake with my snoring. Our campsite overlooked a four hundred metre width of river, but none of it would be more than 30 centimetres deep.

26 July — 7.5 km

Caught one small brookie on a dry fly this morning. Our journey downstream commenced with another bump-and-grind. At one point it was decided to ferry across to the other side. Tom, Peter, and the brothers accomplished this successfully. Pat and I went across a little too close to the

rapids below and almost got across, but swamped within a metre of the opposite bank. We were thus close enough for the others to just haul us up and bail the canoe out before continuing.

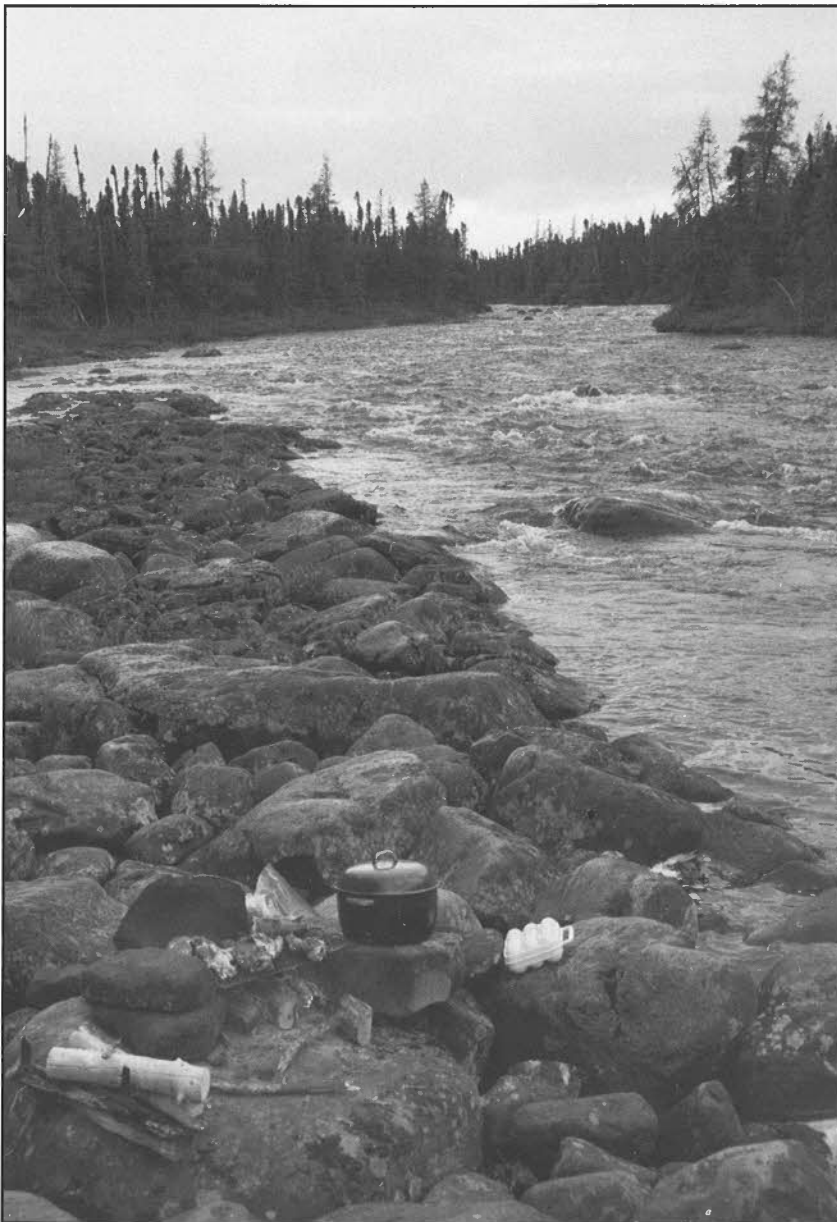
There was another near disaster. Everyone else had come down the left side of the river, and scouting showed that this was the best side to continue. Pat and I were, therefore, instructed to come across to the left side. The water was not very deep, perhaps about one metre, but the current was swift. Peter came out and threw us the lifeline across a gap of five metres. While Pat managed to stay on his feet, I had the rope but lost my footing and had to swim to Peter. At one point during this same crossing, Pat was swept off his feet. I grabbed him to keep him from being swept downstream, but this prevented him from getting his feet on the riverbed, which was what he wanted. Then the knot in the yellow rope securing the bow of the canoe came undone at a critical moment, but fortunately I was able to grab the canoe before it sailed off

downstream into the next rapids.

There were lots of hard linings today, and the rocks were so slippery. A lot of things were wet again tonight. Tom even said this was the worst day of the trip. He found the river very shallow; worse than any river he had been on. He was afraid to inspect the bottom of his kevlar canoe.

Pat and I saw a pair of black ducks. We had also seen mergansers and canvas backs, while Tom and Peter saw a mink. Pat kept seeing these charcoal-grey mice that we have dubbed 'feral gerbils.'

To clear a tent site we had to cut down alders, which stirred up the blackflies to an unbelievable degree. This tent site also had such deep holes on either side that we had to throw boulders into them. While cleaning up tonight, Mat and Karl lost the black pot which floated away downstream. Fortunately it was rescued, providing an amusing diversion.



27 July — 5 km

Another gruelling day. Overcast. Two linings. One portage around the gorge, not as difficult as we had expected, and on the other side was a magnificent falls upstream. Total distance of this portage, our longest so far, would have been about one kilometre.

After supper, I caught some specks easily, just down from the falls where we were camped—probably our most spectacular campsite. But we did not keep the fish because we weren't sure if they would keep overnight, and they might also attract unwanted guests such as bears, minks, or otters.

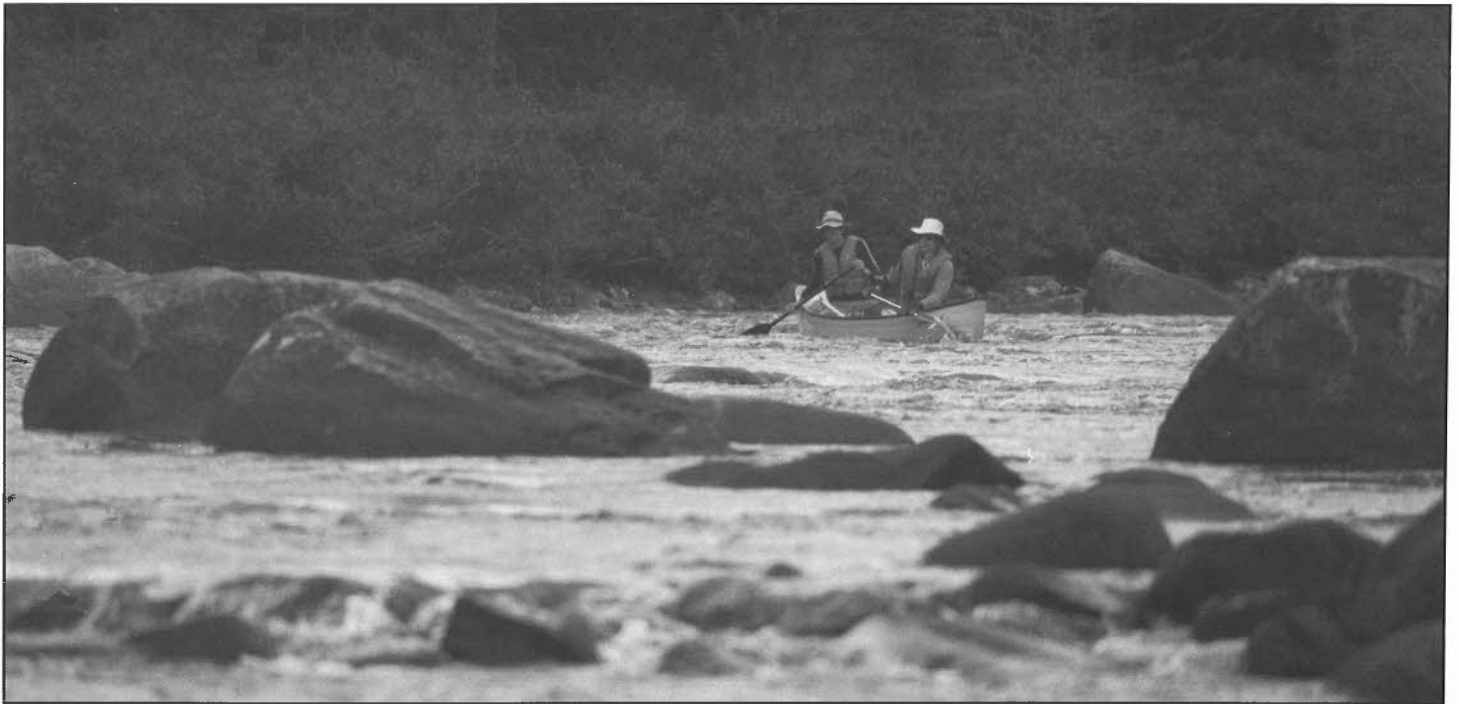
Our tents were pitched on a mossy knoll overlooking the river. Tom had been watching the water levels; there had been a one-centimetre drop each of the last two nights, so we were not getting out of this shallow terrain a moment too soon. Tom had never known bugs to be so bad as on this trip, which had also been the toughest Peter and Tom have done. Pat's feet have taken a punishing from slipping off rocks.

28 July — 12 km

Today was another tough day. It started badly with an extremely difficult portage. We virtually slid the canoe the 500–700-metre trail by brute strength. This river certainly is freaking me out the last day or two.

It was my turn to get lost on a portage today. The whistle was useless above the noise of the rapids. Tom had begun to gather the fluorescent markers. I had returned to pick up the last things after most of these markers had been retrieved. Now, all the terrain looked the same. Fortunately, Tom came looking for me.

After our brutal portage, we lined and then tried to run the last rapids. Due to an error on my



part (I didn't draw the stern over hard and fast enough; in fact, I froze), we filled up, and with dismay watched our packs float away downstream. Everything was recovered, but we were quite rightly admonished gently by Tom for not having everything tied in. To be fair, we had debated this, but were concerned that if we swamped, we might not be able to get everything out of the canoe. Only one hundred metres below this debacle, the rapids ended for a long time. As before, the water was not deep, so we were easily able to get ashore, and bail the canoe out on the spot. Peter and Tom also swamped today while lining.

Finally, around 2:00 p.m., we broke through to the Musquamanaga Junction, thank goodness! There would be some more grind and bump further on but mostly very plain sailing; the river was just a lot wider here. We made nine kilometres down from the junction before camping at the first rapids on this, the main part of the river. It seemed quite miraculous to cover this distance so easily, after the battle we had had the last few days.

Mat and Karl found wolf scats at this campsite. They built a big camp fire. For the first time, we camped about 10 metres *above* the river. Karl collected cloudberry, blue berries, and mountain cranberries. There is an increasing diversity of trees evident here, in addition to the ubiquitous alders.

29 July — 39 km

Steady rain overnight put the river up six centimetres, hence we wanted to get as far south as possible before the water level dropped again. The scenery was magnificent today: large massifs and beautiful forest. Erosion had occurred in places where the river had changed course,

and there was regrowth on the eastern side where the river had dried up. After an initial portage around rapids in the first hundred metres of today's tripping, we encountered rapids that we were able to traverse.

We saw two yearling bears today, the first just inside the Quebec border on the right from a distance of 10 metres. Total viewing time all of two seconds. Then, after lunch, we saw another at a distance of one hundred metres on the opposite bank. We watched it for 15-20 seconds—enough time to photograph the animal if my dampened camera had been operational. The bear was looking at the canoe ahead and stood up to watch it. Only when the bear saw us did it run away.

There was a lot of hilarity at lunchtime; the pressure was off, but we still had 250 kilometres to go. Near our campsite tonight Karl found the stakes of a fishing weir, consisting of poles of varying lengths.

30 July — 16 km

We initially made reasonable progress against an increasingly heavy head wind, but were eventually forced to give up just after 11:00 a.m. and camped on a beautiful beach in front of a log cabin. This gave us a chance to wash, do laundry, dry clothing, and rest. We had a hot meal at midday. If the wind died we would take off, but we might have to wait till first light, as it was hard to see the sand bars in the moonlight.

At the entrance to the log cabin, there was a 'bear mat,' a slab of plywood with up-pointing nails. One of these punctured the special heel of Mat's sandal. Further exploration revealed a large hole in the floor that a porcupine had made to gain access to the cabin.

31 July — 66 km

We left around 5:30 a.m., before breakfast, in order to make up for being wind-bound yesterday. At breakfast there was some lighthearted banter about whether a movie should be made about our saga, and whether it would be a comedy or a tragedy.

There were no blackflies at our campsite near the junction with the East Natashquan River, just a few mosquitoes. Pat actually sat *outside* the tent before retiring.

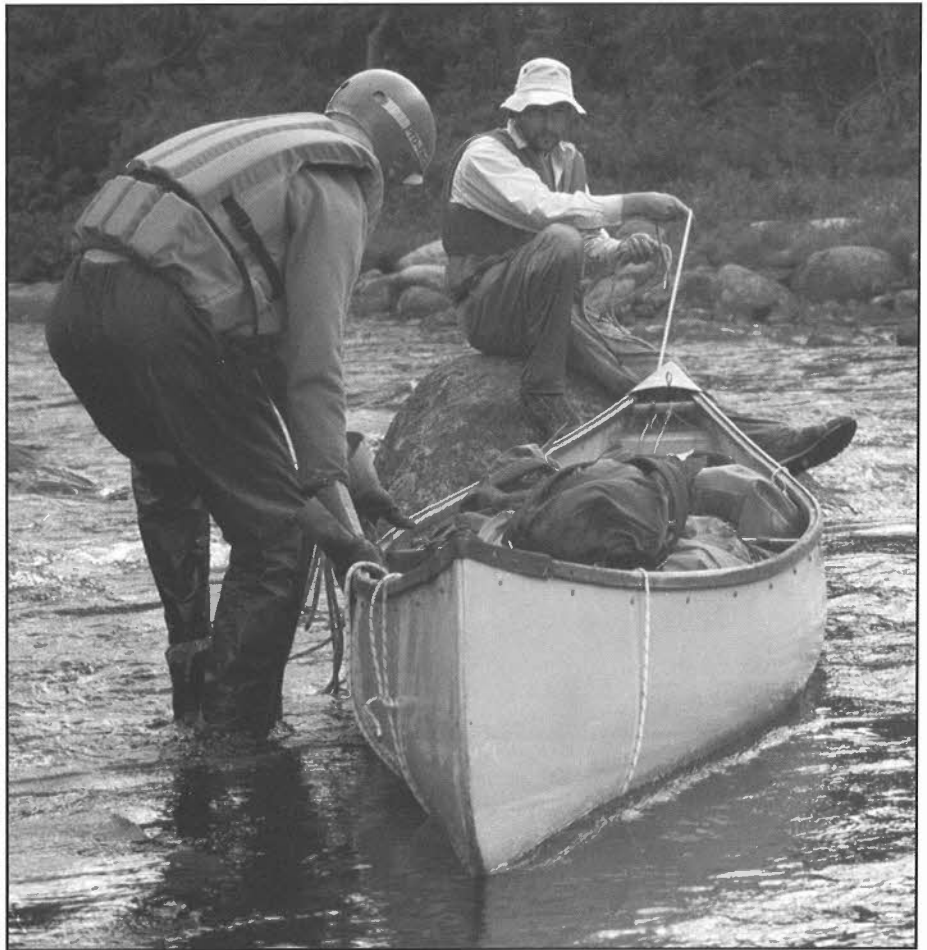
Our satellite phone continued to be non-functional, as it had been since 24 July. Both Pat and I were beginning to crave fat and/or meat. Swiss chalet chicken sounds good!

1 August — 48 km

It remained wet and overcast with squalls of rain all day. The wind increased to the point where we just had to stop at 10:30 a.m.; it was difficult to continue. During the morning, Pat and I had, at one point, gone round the other side of an island from the others, and here we spied a pair of gyrfalcons on their nest with a large white chick, which finally took off after its parents. We nearly lost Pat's toque in the wind. Just rescued it before it sank.

On stopping for lunch we set up the tents and the tarp, then sang happy birthday to Pat. We snoozed till 2:30 p.m., by which time the weather had settled enough to continue paddling till 6:00 p.m.

During supper we had another cloudburst, followed by sunshine and a glorious double rainbow. We enjoyed another Dutch oven birthday cake tonight.



2 August — 51 km

After a couple of hours of paddling today, we reached the anticipated first rapids, and did a short 15-metre portage to the right. The second, 1.5 kilometres further down, was more tricky. Here, Mat, Karl, Peter, and Tom nearly got themselves into an impossible situation where they couldn't go backwards or forwards. Meantime, Tom had been scouting around and soon found a portage track, which we traversed with alacrity. Just after this, we encountered a fairly challenging set of rapids that had one-metre standing waves at the bottom, but we got through without mishap.

The rest of the day's journey was uneventful and beautifully scenic, except that it seemed we had a map missing, as we could not match the topography with the maps we had. (After I got home, I discovered that one of the maps had been left out, so we covered around 10 kilometres without one.)

Tonight Pat and I had to wash the sand out of the zipper of the tent, as it was speedily becoming jammed.

3 August — 55.5 km

We spent most of the morning figuring out where we were. We plodded down along the long, steady river for five hours, thankful there was no head wind. Then there was a 1.5-kilometre portage over rocks—our longest of the trip.



After this, Pat and I almost tipped when we hit a big reverse eddy at the bottom of some rapids. The next rapids looked risky. Pat and I, together with Peter and Tom, decided to portage around them on the left, about 40 metres. We just unloaded a couple of packs from each canoe, then the four of us manhandled the boats across. Mat and Karl took a chance on the rapids and sailed through in grand style.

Next thing, Tom (who had preached constantly on the need to secure canoes) was hailed by Pat who was seated some distance away and saw Tom's canoe starting to float out into the current.

We finally came around the corner to the hut where I had stayed in 1997. There were huge dragonflies on the river. Peter remarked cryptically that this was hardly surprising given the blackfly population they fed on.

4 August — 30 km

The morning dawned overcast and still, and we got away in record time, around 6:20 a.m. The wind stayed away for most of the day, and the sky brightened. The first portage that I remembered from September 1997 now had so much water running over it that we sailed across it with hardly any difficulty. We reached the first of the four remaining portages well into the morning. On the third, we met a group of Montagnais (our first human sighting, except for each other, in 16 days) who, without being asked, helped convey our gear across the portage. They were about to go salmon fishing at the top falls. After the final portage, we stopped, exhausted, for lunch. Again, the Montagnais cook at the third portage, who had roared past us in a powerboat, helped us with his tractor-trailer to carry most of our stuff across the portage.

Ominously, while we were having lunch, a wind sprang up, eventually stopping us nine kilometres short of Pointe Parent. The final paddling, and more particularly the lining before we gave up, was gruelling, because we often struck a patch of soft sand into which we sank while still trying to haul the canoe. I'd sooner paddle than line any day!

We were finally able to get our satellite phone working again. Peter felt this route is like the Nahanni with the hills—very scenic.

5 August — 11.5 km

It was only 10°C when we got up at 5:00 a.m. The next one and a half hours to get to Pointe Parent was hard work. We kept running into sand bars, and had to line about 50 metres on three occasions. Just when we thought we had seen the last sand bar, another one loomed into view.

At Pointe Parent, the Montagnais had gathered in force to greet us, even at 7:30 a.m. They happily clicked away on our cameras, to obtain pictures of the group of us at the end of the trip. Three of us were conveyed, free of charge, to pick up the vehicles.

After recovering the Indian canoe we had left behind at the motel, Pat removed the thwarts and found that he

could easily fit Mat and Karl's new ABS canoe inside.

By common consent, we retired to a new restaurant, 'John de Bardeur,' for a bacon and egg, toast, fruit, juice, and coffee breakfast, before filling up with 71.9 cents/litre gas, and commencing our 2000-km homeward journey.

NATASHQUAN LOGISTICS

The town of Natashquan can be reached by road (Highway #138 after Quebec City). Topographic maps 1:50 000 are essential, and can be obtained from the Canada Map Office. However, they no longer sell you the maps directly; you have to get them from a supplier (see below.)

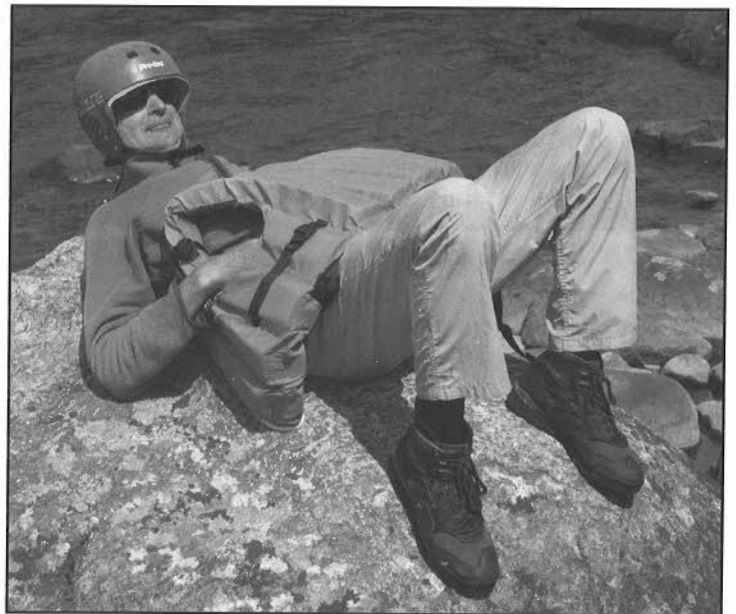
Tickets for the Quebec North Shore/Labrador Railway can be bought at Sept Îles [(418) 968-7805], but it is essential to book cargo on Cabano [(709) 282-5000] the day before, so your canoe cannot go with you on the train. During the summer, the passenger train leaves Sept Îles Mondays and Thursdays at 9 a.m., and Thursdays at 7 p.m. One canoe was sent up on the Wednesday freight train, the day before two of us went up on the train.

The outfitter who can fly you to the headwaters is Leonard de Raps of Natashquan [(418) 726-3657]. Present cost to fly four persons, plus two canoes, in an Otter, is \$6.25 per mile.

There are several ferries that will move you across the Gulf of St. Lawrence to access or leave the south shore of Quebec. Booking in advance is not essential.

Le Port d'Attache [(418) 726-3569] provided very pleasant accommodations in Natashquan.

We rented our ABS canoe from Adventure Guide in Waterloo [(519) 886-3121]. They also fitted the canoe with thigh straps, airbags etc. Novack's of London [(519) 434-2282] obtained our maps for us from the Canada Map Office.



EAST NATASHQUAN RIVER

Herb Pohl

The plan for the summer of 1999 had actually been to finish a trip started in 1996 (see *Nastawgan* Autumn 1998, page 18), but after a sober assessment of the condition of the old carcass it was clear that it could no longer cope with the wear and tear of cross-country travel. The search for an alternative led me back to a watershed which I had seriously considered 25 years ago—the Natashquan River. What makes the river more attractive now is that Hwy #138 along the North Shore is completed all the way to the village of Natashquan and there is a charter service—Deraps Aviation—which is happy to take you to any point in the neighborhood.

MAP: SEE PAGE 3

Several weeks earlier, a party of WCA members had started on a trip down the main branch of the river. Knowing this, I opted for the east branch as a starting point, which also reduced the cost of the charter by several hundred dollars.

Lennard Deraps, the owner of the charter company, briefly tried to convince me that the East Natashquan was not suitable for canoeing because of an impassable canyon and falls on the upper river, which the Indians avoided. (He also told his wife: "I don't think we'll ever see this fellow again," I found out afterwards.)

All the rivers were very low due to the nice weather the region had experienced. Predictably, this changed the moment I arrived on the scene. At the end of a long, drizzly day the ceiling lifted enough for us to take off for the south end of Lac Fonteneau. A late supper, prepared in a steady rain which continued all night, quickly re-acquainted me with the joys of tripping.

Lac Fonteneau is situated in a narrow glacial groove. At the south end of the lake, tree-covered hills rise steeply more than 150 metres above the shore. In its sinuous progress towards the outflow at the northern extremity some 40 kilometres away, the lake is seldom more than two kilometres wide. The high hills of bedrock become attenuated, until near its northern terminus the lake's shoreline is defined by low eskers. At several places, the remnants of sandy eskers, which at one time traversed the lake, provide attractive campsites.

The gloom of morning was not assuaged by the discovery that my heretofore trusty tent had allowed a measurable quantity of water to reach the inner sanctum. (An optimist no doubt would see it as

evidence that the floor of the tent is still waterproof.) More bad news came at breakfast when my non-stick frying pan (after a mere 11 years of service) refused to live up to its promise and made a mess of my pancakes. Despite this inauspicious beginning, I was whistling and singing as I proceeded northward into a stiff headwind. Being alone in the wilderness, paradoxically, calms the soul and excites the senses. Soon the clouds gave way to blue skies, the sun sparkled on the waves, and, as so often in the past, I was overcome by a feeling of undeserved privilege.

Evening was celebrated on a sandy spit about halfway up the lake. A steady procession of ominous dark clouds hurried eastward. Periodically, the rays of the low sun performed their magic and warmed the somber landscape. It turned cool during the night. In the gray of early morning, scattered fog banks began to coalesce until they obscured the landscape. By six o'clock, I had slipped away into this mystical world, which gradually dissolved into a brilliant morning with the urging of the rising sun.

The north end of Lac Fonteneau has all the physical features of Labrador: rolling hills covered with a thick carpet of caribou moss, a smattering of black spruce and tamarack, and plenty of blackflies. In the few hours it had taken me to get here, the weather had changed once again and a dark wall of clouds, softened by streamers of rain, had moved in. I hadn't bothered to get the map covering the north-end of the lake and it cost me an extra hour of paddling to find the well-disguised outlet. Just a short distance downstream, a waterfall, followed by several rapids, bars the way. Finding the start of the old Montagnais portage trail was easy; long disused, it was partly overgrown and finally completely obliterated in a tangle of deadfalls and willows. It made the decision to carry around the falls and run the rapids a lot more palatable, even though the sound effects and wave action made me nervous enough to scout the whole thing.



Windy day on Fonteneau Lake

By the time I reached the East Natashquan, some three kilometres downstream from Lac Fonteneau, the incessant and frequently heavy rain made the notion to stop for the day and put up the tent quite unattractive and so I carried on. I had been told that there was an old log cabin on Lac Le Marquand, some 20 kilometres downstream. After what must surely rank as the most tedious paddle ever, I discovered it in the gray of evening with a great sense of relief. It had a solid roof and floor, but plenty of openings in the walls, and so I put up the tent inside the cabin, had a belated cold lunch, and escaped into the sleeping bag to warm up.

The next morning, the water level of the lake had risen noticeably and it rained as hard as ever. I decided to stay put for the time being. All that was needed to make my shelter more homey was a supply of wood to feed the stove. Within an hour I had located a nice, dry standing spruce, cut it up, fed the stove and produced a batch of impeccable pancakes. Alas, the feeling of satisfaction quickly gave way to boredom. There was nothing to do once all the gear had been dried. Late in the evening the wind changed from northeast to northwest and ever so briefly a bit of blue sky emerged, raising hopes for a better morning.

The Indian travel route to the coast leaves the river at Lac Le Marquand and follows a southerly course overland through several small bodies of water in order to bypass more than 15 kilometres of continuous fast water. Even a cursory look at the map convinced me that following the river was by far the easier option and so, with showers still trailing across the lake, I pushed off the next morning into a much-swollen stream. The beginning of the first canyon was still 10 kilometres away and the map promised flat-water for most of the way, but within an hour I was in the midst of class-2 rapids which continued to the brink of the first of two falls. Here the river cascades more than 50

metres into a deeply recessed valley in little more than one hundred metres. From the base of the falls the river continues a boisterous course for the next four kilometres as it drops another 40 metres. Beyond this section, the gradient becomes less pronounced, the walls of the canyon recede, and the river continues to rush along in an ever-widening streambed.

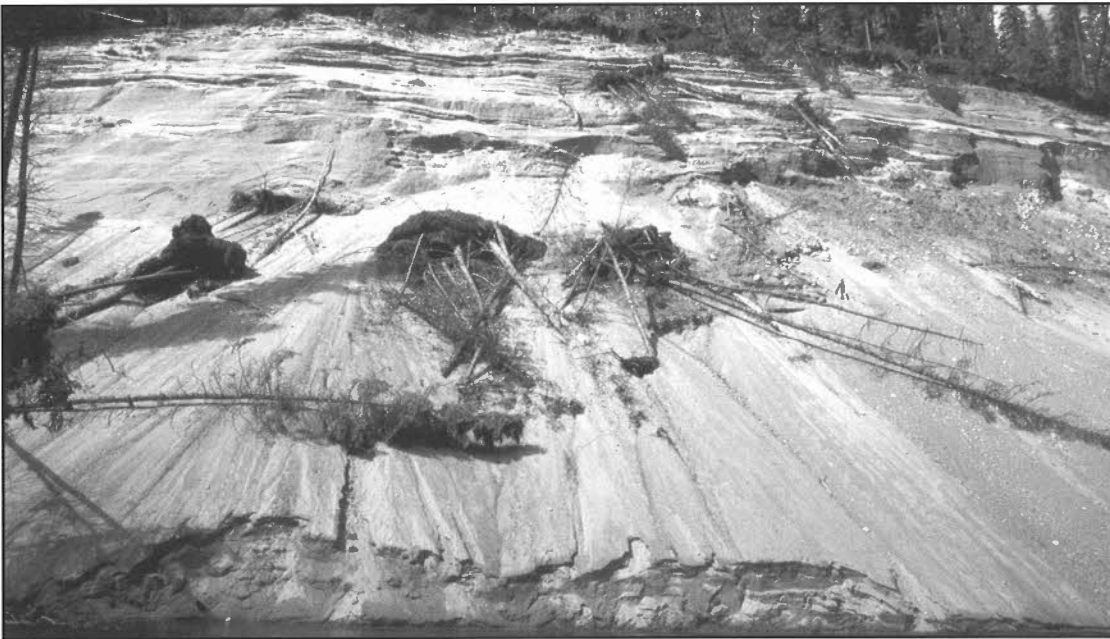
I had planned to portage the five or so kilometres around this section, because a gradient of 10 metres per kilometre in a bouldery streambed demands respect from a solo traveller but, as an old sinner once said, I can resist anything but temptation. The portage to the river below the falls was easier than expected and the ride a wild and hectic experience which telescoped a day's portage into less than 30 minutes.

Two days later I had reached the top of the second canyon. It is similar to the first one in that it has an impressive falls near the beginning and descends at the same rate (as # 1) for six kilometres. However, the river is not nearly as deeply recessed and the shoreline is suitable for landing or launching at a number of places. The realization that good fortune as much as skill was responsible for my traverse of the first canyon banished all thought of trying my luck again. Instead, I was looking for the Montagnais portage trail, which reputedly by-

passed the obstruction. After an hour's drudging through moisture-laden vegetation, I discovered an old trail which paralleled the river near the left shore and started to portage along it. Before long, the trail vanished, as *game* trails often do, and progress through the dense forest became very slow. The main problem was that there simply wasn't enough space to advance the boat between adjacent trees. By the end of the day I had progressed a little over one kilometer, managed to find a level space large enough for the tent and retreated to its safety after a quick supper in pouring rain.



View of the fall at the first canyon



Exposed side of an esker where the river has carved through

There was no doubt by now, that the portage trail had to be on the other side of the river.

The next morning I continued a short distance downstream, loaded the gear into the boat and began to lower it by rope down the steep embankment. I thought this was an excellent idea, but within a 50 metres my conveyance was, for a time, firmly wedged between trees. I came out on the river at a spot exactly the same as the figure eight rapids on the Nahanni River, albeit smaller, and with some difficulty made it across. Most of the land beyond the right shoreline had been recently burned, leaving only the skeletons of trees standing. It made looking for and finding the old portage trail very easy. This time, to make sure it was the right trail, I followed it downstream for some distance. Along the way I also took the odd peek at the roaring river and against all common sense decided, since I was already soaking wet, I might as well run it—just to shorten the carry a little—and in the process almost made Lennard Deraps prediction come true.

Everything went well until I approached a spot where the river narrows and the water is further compressed by several huge boulders. By the time I realized there wasn't a hope in hell to make it through there in on piece, it was nearly too late. I just barely managed to reach the last tiny eddy with the strength panic provides and had no quarrel with being a beast of

burden the rest of the way. The portage trail ends, not at the river, but at a shallow pond, the outflow of which almost immediately joins a swift stream which takes the traveller back to the main river. I was quite happy to call it a day near the edge of the pond, and set up the tent on one of several terraces, which are remnants of old stream beds, one of which nearly a hundred metres above the present valley floor. Late in the afternoon the sun relented and made a longed-for appearance; everything dried out, and by nightfall contentment reigned.

Below the second canyon, the river runs swiftly in a wide, glacier-carved valley with prominent and near-vertical walls of bedrock, which rise more than three hundred metres above the river. The valley floor is occupied by several parallel eskers through which the river has carved a winding course. The dense forest comes right to the edge of the stream and a number of sand bars invite the traveller to linger. The day's journey was a continuous visual delight of deep green forest, a few white clouds in the blue sky, and a shimmering river, ever in a hurry to

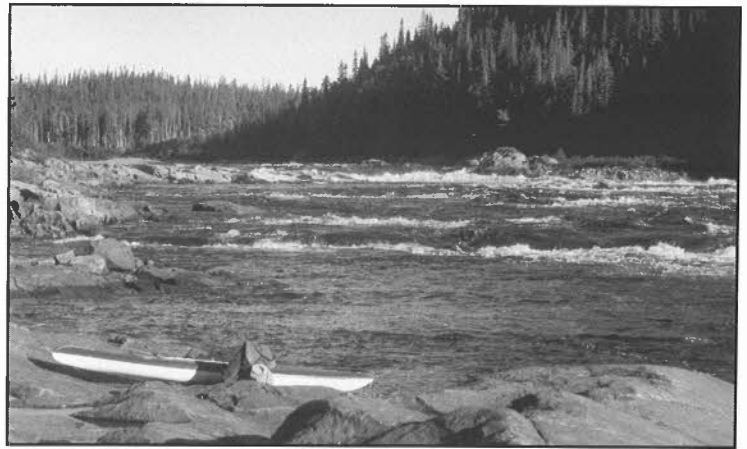


The river skirts the valley edge

carry you along. By late afternoon, I reached the confluence with the main arm of the Natashquan River with the distinct feeling that I was parting from a good friend.

At the junction of the two streams, the main river runs in a wide, shallow streambed composed of sand and shingles. Compared to the valley of the East Natashquan, the hills are lower and set back from the river, giving a feeling of wide-open space. I only carried on for a few more kilometres before settling on a gravel bar to enjoy the evening. From here to the coast, the river alternately runs in a wide, lake-like setting with a gentle current and numerous sandbars, and regions where the flow is narrowly constricted by hills. Here, the huge volume of water repeatedly tumbles over exposed bedrock in spectacular falls.

With the exception of a few long-disused trapper's cabins, there is absolutely no evidence of human activity until one reaches the last three falls on the river. Surprisingly, there were also few signs of wildlife. On two successive nights early on, a marten had inspected my camp during the night and once, while I had lunch along the river, two moose walked past me. Other than a number of otters and a few ducks I saw, there were not even the tracks of wolf, fox, or bear along the sandy shore.



... regions where the flow is narrowly constricted ...

I had glorious weather the rest of the way and the benefit of the falling tide to speed me through the wide, sand-clogged mouth of the river in a very circuitous course. Two hour's paddling on choppy saltwater brought me back to the village of Natashquan, after an absence of 13 days, with the old body in surprisingly good condition. Perhaps good enough to go back to northern Labrador next year?



... huge volume of water repeatedly tumbles over exposed bedrock ...



Section of Georgian Bay coast south of Killarney Park



photo by Les Palenik



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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.

EDITORIAL

For the first issue in the year 2000, *Nastawgan* sports a slightly different look by offering two items never seen before in our journal: the first two articles cover the same river system but travelled by different people, and the centrespread shows the largest picture we've ever published, a 15.8 x 4.8 inch panoramic shot received via e-mail. What's next, color?

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 3.5 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>	Summer 2000	<i>deadline:</i>	23 April
	Autumn 2000		30 July

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).

MULTIPLE-YEAR WCA MEMBERSHIPS are now possible, albeit with no discount. This will help alleviate much of the (volunteer) administrative work, save your time and

postage, and also hedge against future fee increases. Contact Cash Belden for more information.

HERITAGE CANOE FESTIVAL 2000 will be held in Peterborough on 5-7 May 2000. The extensive program includes: trip presentations, workshops, visit to the Lift Lock, presentations by some of the best-known names in canoeing, and many more entertaining subjects. For information contact FTSW (705) 742-2251.

NATIONAL CONCRETE CANOE COMPETITION will be presented on 5-7 May 2000 by the Kingston Rowing Club. This event features men's and women's sprint races and long-distance paddling competitions, in concrete canoes! Contact Nicholas Bayley at 6njb2@qmlink.queensu.ca



WCA website: www.wildernesscanoe.org
To access the Members' section of the WCA website, 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: dumoine Password: river**

DON RIVER PADDLE

Toronto and Region Conservation and the Wilderness Canoe Association invite you to our 7th annual 'Celebrate the Don' on Sunday 7 May 2000. Beginning between 9 a.m. and 12 noon at Serena Gundy Park (located in Sunnybrook Park just north of Eglinton Avenue East and west of Leslie Street), the first leg of the paddle is on the West Don River until you reach the East Branch. The trip then continues south down the Lower Don to Lake Ontario.

Much of the route is flatwater, but there are a few stretches of mild whitewater to test your skills, and falls that must be portaged. The scenery varies from wild and wooded to uninspired urban, but all in all it's a very interesting trip. Be sure to bring extra warm clothes sealed in plastic. During the paddle, refreshments are available. Transportation back to the cars is provided. The paddle is free, but donations to Regenerate the Don are gratefully accepted.

For more information contact Marta Soucek (TRCA) at (416) 661-6600-ext.5283 or msoucek@trca.on.ca



Michael Kerwin kicking spray

photo by Fred Lum

PARTNERS WANTED

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.

ARCTIC Looking for a canoe partner or a group for a long Arctic canoe trip in the summer of 2000. Contact Anders at (403) 245-3413 or woosharon@hotmail.com

NAHANNI Eager whitewater paddlers (intermediate to advanced level) wanted to canoe the Nahanni River from the Moose Ponds down to the Liard River in summer 2000. This is a 21-day guided trip and will cost approximately \$3900 + \$100 park fee, departing from Fort Simpson. Tune-up sessions will be available for people who wish to improve their whitewater skills prior to the trip. We need at least three more people to make this trip viable. If interested, please contact Dave or Dawne Robinson at (519) 846-8226 or at djrobins@ovc.uoguelph.ca or John Girardi at fax (613) 478-1566 or girardi@sympatico.ca

COULONGE RIVER TRIP This summer we are interested in paddling the Coulonge River, with tentative dates of 5–18 August. We plan to go from Lake Barrage to Grande Chute, a distance of approximately 250 km. We are looking for some additional canoeists to join our group. If interested, contact Donald Huffman, 8 Karin Cres., PO Box 1746, Walkerton, Ontario, N0G 2V0. (Sorry, no phone # available. Ed.)

BLOODVEIN RIVER Paddlers wanted for a Canadian Heritage River trip from the Ontario border to Lake Winnipeg, leaving Windsor, Ontario, on Saturday, 29 July, and returning at the latest on Tuesday, 15 August—dates include road travel time both ways. The fly-in and canoe-out will be 10–12 days depending on conditions. Basic canoeing skills are required and some moving-water experience is preferred for the mostly class 1 and 2 rapids, although there are some class 3s, all with portages possible. This wilderness trip is suitable for all skill levels. The cost, \$995, includes organisation, leadership, food, equipment, and fly-in. Shared road travel expenses to and from Manitoba are extra, and use of your acceptable equipment may reduce the cost. Contact Gordon Haggert for more information: (519) 253-4055 or ghaggert@mnsi.net

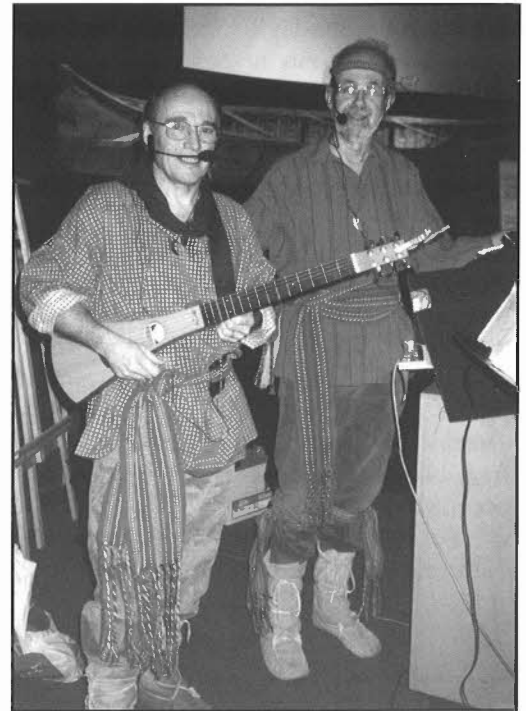


15th annual CANOEING AND WILDERNESS SYMPOSIUM

The theme of this ever-popular get-together (organized by George Luste and sponsored by the WCA) was "Northern Ontario & James Bay Watershed." A sold-out house of about 800 people thoroughly enjoyed the following 18 presentations, given in Toronto on 4 and 5 February.

- Birchbark and Fur
- Howling Wolves and Charging Moose
- A Year Alone in the Wilderness
- Winisk to the Bay
- Family Tripping on the Winisk
- Missinaibi Reflections
- The Keewaydin Way
- Historic Algonquin
- Putting Canoe Routes on the Map
- Greybeards on the Harricana
- To James Bay from Home
- 1960 Nottawa Memories, Mistakes and All
- 1940s and '50s Early Tripping in Ontario
- Landscapes of the Little North
- Lay of the Land; How Northern Ontario Works
- Hermit's Cabin, Crooked Foot & Winter Trek
- Anishnawbe Place-names and the Paddler
- Lands for Life: an Extraordinary Journey

Richard Pope and
Neil Broadfoot
Michael Runtz
Don Michel
Peter Scott
Elizabeth Clement
George Drought
Brian Back
Liz Lundell
Christine Kennedy
George Dobbie
Greg and Suzanne Brown
George Grinnell
James Keating
Jonathan Berger
Peter Carruthers
Zabe MacEachren
Tom Terry
Ric Symmes



THE FIRE

On shore for the night. Got the canoes secured and all of the gear up to the campsite. Next job is to get the campfire going. The buddies give that job to me. Almost by default. You see, they know it's one of my best wilderness skills.

During my first wilderness canoeing trip a long time ago, I learned the great value of fire for cooking, drying clothes, and providing warmth. Realized then that I could not do wilderness canoeing unless I could count on being able to start a fire under any circumstances. Regardless of rain, wind, or cold. Since I wanted to do wilderness canoeing, I had to learn how.

Each of the buddies has their own strong skills that we tap into on our trips. One buddy can get the tarp to stay up regardless of wind direction or wind velocity. Another buddy is a tireless worker. He's always the first one going back for extra loads and is constantly doing all the things necessary in camp. A third buddy is a great map reader. Knows every minute of the trip exactly where we are.

Going on wilderness trips for so many years has brought these skills to the forefront. You can see the buddies beaming with pride when their skill is being used and appreciated by the rest of us.

Stacked enough wood close by to cook the evening meal and provide a couple of hours extra time sitting

around. The buddies may want to read or write in their journals later. Sitting now by the campfire and marvelling in all that it provides. Lights our entire home in the wilderness this night. The unknown is far away beyond the circle of light. The fire is also providing lots of heat. Skin on the side facing the fire is basking in the warmth.

Read somewhere that fire is the collected sunbeams of past summers. When enjoying one fire you also are enjoying all those past summers along with the current one. Maybe that's why we humans like campfires so much. We can look back into the past.

A lot of lessons in fire. I wonder if you ever really learn them all. Came to a conclusion as to my particular destiny concerning fires, though. Going to have to keep building them as long as they'll let me. Epitaph on the tombstone could read, "All he ever wanted to do was sit by the fire in wild country."

The buddies came by and saw me sitting by the fire. "When did you start building it?" they asked. I told them I started working on the fire about fifteen minutes ago. Really though, I should have told them that I had been working on it all my life.

Greg Went

REVIEWS

A NINETEENTH-CENTURY ALGONQUIN ADVENTURE

by James Dickson, edited and with introduction and notes by Gary Long, published by Fox Meadow Creations, Huntsville, Ontario, softcover, 189 pages, \$19.95. (Originally published in 1886 as *Camping in the Muskoka Region*.)

Reviewed by Bryan Buttigieg.

Edited reprints of older books are sometimes marred by overzealous editors trying to 'update' the original work by deleting portions of the work or rewriting others in order to make the original work somehow more palatable to modern readers. While well intentioned, this often has the effect of substantially taking away from the experiencing of seeing the world through the eyes of the original author, which surely must be one of the main attractions to reading older works.

The editor of this work has succeeded admirably in avoiding these problems. Here is a book that, even in paperback, is a joy to hold as well as read. The original 1886 text is generally faithfully reproduced with only a few changes, which are explained by the editor who also provides a well-written and informative introduction. Each chapter is preceded by an explanatory note by the editor, which adds some modern context to enable the reader to better understand the route taken as well as the narrative. Within the text itself, modern lake names are added by the editor to allow the reader to follow the author's canoe trip.

Dickson describes an apparently fictional one-month canoe trip that is based on the author's extensive experience in surveying the area that is now the heart of Algonquin Park. In the course of the trip, the author and his group visit the headwaters of the Oxtongue, Petawawa, and Madawaska rivers. It is a fascinating glimpse into what must be one of the earliest attempts to popularize canoe tripping as a recreational activity in this province. Modern canoeists will enjoy comparing today's methods of engaging in a longer trip to those used by the author. The perils of being windbound for a day or two on the wrong side of Smoke Lake are as real today as they were then. But providing for food on an Algonquin trip would certainly no longer include setting "night lines" for trout or keeping a constant lookout for a chance to shoot a deer.

Anyone who is familiar with the main lakes in Algonquin will enjoy reading what it would have been like to trip through the area at a time when logging at the headwaters of the major rivers in the park was only about to start. The book has no illustrations and only a simple map that is quite adequate for following the general narrative. But as the editor himself notes, anyone wanting to follow in more detail the precise route being described should have no difficulty doing so by referring to the widely available Algonquin Canoe Routes map published by the Friends of Algonquin Park.

THE ADVENTURE MAP by Chrismar Mapping Services Inc., Box 1277, Uxbridge, Ontario, Canada L9P 1N5; tel. (905) 852-6151; fax (905) 852-9474; e-mail email@chrismar.com; website www.chrismar.com Prices from \$4.95 to \$12.95.

Reviewed by Toni Harting.

At the recent WCA/Luste Symposium, I bought Chrismar's 1999 map that covers one of my favorite paddling areas, the Barron River in the eastern part of Algonquin Park. Like all the other on their list, the Barron/Achray map is especially created for the adventurer, such as the canoe tripper wishing to explore the intricacies of our incomparable canoe country. A Chrismar brochure says: "We start from scratch with original aerial photogrammetry followed by extensive field survey, either on foot or in a canoe, to check features and ensure we have accurately rendered the trails, trail junctions, portages, campsites, and other features, including many historic attractions." Indeed, these maps are special. I like them so much that I have bought several of areas I'll probably never visit, just to study them, longing for adventure.

Although some of the maps have minor inaccuracies (for instance, I have detected a few campsite locations that are not exact or are missing), these maps are a huge improvement over the standard topographic maps produced by the Canada Map Office. Mark Smith and Christine Kennedy are to be congratulated for providing us with well-designed maps that are a pleasure to use, present much more useful information than other maps (also on the back side of the sheet), are very well printed, and are really waterproof. The list of maps Chrismar produces is constantly growing, and you can find out what the latest additions are by checking them out at the many sport stores and other outlets where the maps are available, or by ordering the catalog.



CONSERVATION

DUMOINE UPDATE

The following information was submitted by WCA member, Arnold Hartford, from letters received by him in January this year.

Thank you for your letter of December 16, 1999 suggesting that the Dumoine River in Quebec be considered for nomination to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS). Under CHRS operating procedures, rivers can only be nominated by the federal, provincial or territorial government with jurisdiction over them. Whether or not the Dumoine River will be nominated by Quebec can only be answered by the province. I noted that you have sent a copy of your correspondence to Quebec's member of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, Mr. Michel Damphousse. It is Mr. Damphousse who is the appropriate contact to respond to your proposal, and I expect that he will do so once he receives your correspondence. Your interest in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, and

the conservation of the Dumoine River, are much appreciated. (signed: Don Gibson, National Manager, CHRS Program)

I wish to thank you for your interest in the Dumoine River and other waterways in its watershed. A vast public consultation on water management is currently underway in Québec. It is being carried out by Québec's environmental hearing board, the BAPE, which is scheduled to turn in its final report in spring. The entire process, as announced by Québec's Premier, is aimed at preparing a water policy, and the protection of Québec's rivers has often been raised throughout the discussions. In addition, the Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec is busy drafting a heritage river program that will ensure the protection of a number of rivers known for their natural, cultural and recreational values. The Dumoine River has been submitted in the past. (signed: Michel Damphousse, Director)

BECOME A STAKEHOLDER OF YOUR FAVORITE PADDLE TRAIL!

If you have a favorite paddle area, and it's not a park yet, there is a good chance it is about to become one. The Great Lakes shoreline, the Kawarthas, the Spanish River, Algoma, Lake Nipigon, and many other areas are getting protected status. That's the good news. The bad news is that you can no longer sit back and let things be as they are. In these days of diminished government involvement, the rules that traditionally protected parks are eroding. Even in the parks, conservation is weakened as the users of the park are encouraged to set the rules themselves.

To illustrate my point, currently stakeholders are signing up for a particular area near Peterborough. According to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) application form, the committee will consist of members with express interest in any of: Logging, Angler/Hunter, Naturalist/Environmental, Cottage/Camp Owner, Canoeist, Snowmobiler, Logging/Forestry, Tourism, First Nation, Community/Municipal, Trapper, Mineral Exploration, Recreation, and Economic Development. Canoeing folks typically don't like to get involved and are thus about to hand the fate of our canoeing places to the other interests.

But it's not too difficult to make a difference: all you do is to sign up as a stakeholder for your favorite area, and the MNR will include you in the count of canoeing

interests. You will be on the ministry's mailing list for upcoming developments in the area and, if you have the energy and qualify, you could apply to go on one of the many Local Stakeholder Committees that are being established. The WCA has started an initiative to assist paddlers that want to register as stakeholders. I co-ordinate the effort, and you can write me at 39 Shellamwood Tr., Scarborough, ON, M1S 2M9. I will help you select an area and tell you which MNR office to approach. A new website gives details of process, useful links, practical advice, and a forum where issues can be discussed. Its address is: <http://www.interlog.com/~erhard/SHindex.htm> — check it out if you have access to the Internet.

We have started this effort in February and a number of folks have already signed up, some even have applied for committee participation. But we need more stakeholders everywhere, and many of the areas in Ontario's Far North have no one yet on the list.

This is your canoeing future; sign up as stakeholder today. It's no worse an effort than taking the garbage home after your trip, but it may well be more important for the future.

Erhard Kraus



THE SAUGEEN RIVER FOR MOVING-WATER EXPERIENCE

Rob Butler

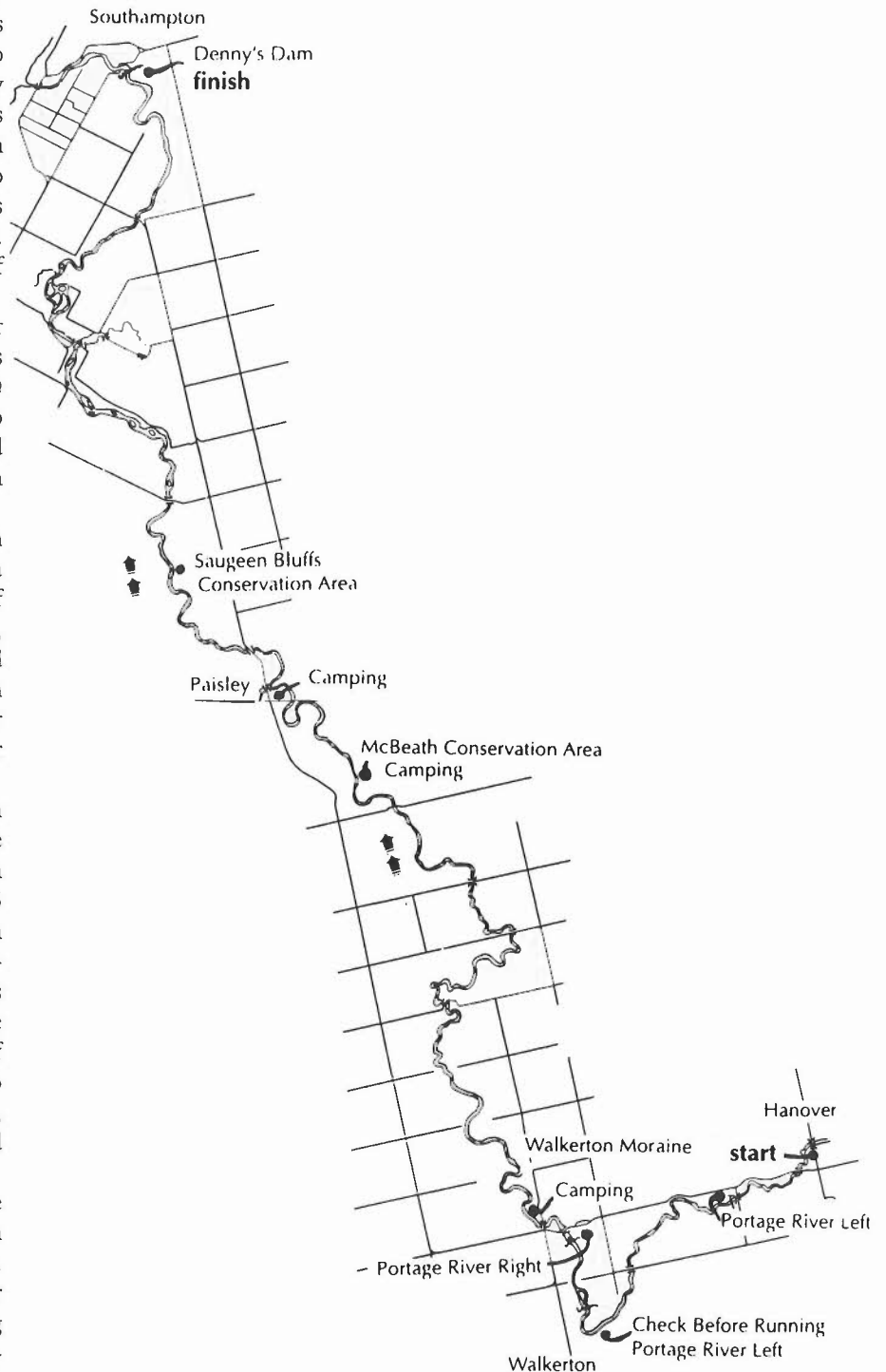
The Saugeen is located in the Bruce and Grey Counties of southwestern Ontario, and flows through Hanover, Walkerton, and Paisley to Southampton on Lake Huron. There are many put-in and take-out landings throughout. This river meets the needs of canoeists, from beginners to intermediates, who want to improve their moving-water skills, on trips that can last from one half day to four days. At the end of the trip, you will have lots of moving-water experience.

The river has up to four obvious leftover dams, which are not real portages. There is an outfitter [(519) 797-1608; thorncrest@bmts.com; www.thorncrestoutfitters.com] to run the car shuttle (\$34). The people and facilities of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, (519) 364-1255, are very friendly.

This low-water year, 1999, we canoed in mid-June, from Hanover to Southampton, a leisurely paddle of about six hours each of three days. Between Hanover and Walkerton, our first day, are three dam leftovers, and three kilometres up-river from Southampton is the lift around Denny's Dam. These four leftovers can be avoided by the more popular Walkerton to Denny's Dam trip.

We left our canoes at the put-in in Hanover Community (camp) Park and drove 45 minutes to Southampton; a downtown outfitter drove us back to Hanover. The 105 km paddle is mainly through a valley, with some high cliffs, in farming country—the reason the water is not drinkable. To keep us alert, at this time of year we must have manoeuvred through 100 swifts, none of which rated as a class 1 rapid. We did bump a few times, but the rocks are kind, smooth, and round—none of that Cambrian Shield jagged-edge stuff.

The outfitter said the river is canoeable throughout the non-freezing season, and in fact he runs most shuttles in July and August. (I wouldn't like the river to be much lower than the level we experienced.) In spring there is a fast, powerful current as well as fallen trees. And below Denny's Dam there would be a couple of rapids and also hoards of wading fishermen to avoid. Camping is available at Conservation areas, etc. Otherwise it's private property and the river banks are not enticing campsites.



(Map courtesy of Andrew Armitage: *The Sweetwater Explorer*)

FOOD FOR PADDLERS

At the 1998 Fall Meeting, Pat and Bryan Buttigieg spoke about food preparation for canoe trips. They focussed on dehydrating foods and brought along lots of yummy samples for the audience to munch on. I asked Pat if she would like to contribute to the column by providing a sample seven-day menu. The following is Pat's introduction and the section on breakfasts. Stay tuned for parts 2 and 3.

Barbara Young, Food Editor

BUTTI-BITES, part 1

INTRODUCTION

The sweet smell of vidalya onions roasting in the food dryer, coupled with growing piles of ziplock bags cluttering the basement floor, signal the beginning preparations of yet another canoeing adventure. Several weeks before our trip, the menu planning and food preparation routine begins. This allows for the drying of many of our evening meals and the measuring out of our snacks and drinks. The components of each breakfast and dinner are put into large ziplock bags to make it easy to grab everything for the meal. We try to have an assortment of quick and more leisurely meals so that we can fit the meal into the day's activities. We use different-colored mesh bags to keep all breakfast, lunch, dinner, snack, and drink items together. In theory, this makes it easier to pull just what we want out of the food barrel. Lunches are generally all the same fare, except for the occasional more structured meal added for variety.

BREAKFAST IDEAS

1. Scrambled (real) eggs, peameal bacon, melted Swiss or Cheddar cheese, served in a pita. Good first breakfast, if the travel to your put-in is not too lengthy and a speedy get-away is not essential.
2. French Toast with whole-wheat bread (using leftover eggs) with real maple syrup.
3. Granola (about a half to three-quarter cup per person, depending on variety). Our favorite is Master's Choice Wildberry with freeze-dried raspberries and blueberries in it. Serve it with boxed vanilla milkshakes if weight is not too much of an issue.
4. Pancakes (we use Buttermilk complete mix where just water needs to be added) with a fruit compote topping. Fruit compote is made with dried fruit (apricots, apples, raisins, bananas, sour cherries, etc.) simmered in whatever juice crystals you have, water and sugar.
5. Hashbrowns (either dried or Rosti Potatoes) served with canned ham. Rosti potatoes can be found in Loblaws and are basically grated potatoes with cheese and or egg and are canned in a foil pouch. Fry them up for a quick but not so light (to carry) breakfast.
6. Oatmeal with added dried fruit, and powdered whole milk. We often use variety pack oatmeal. Use two packs per person on strenuous trips.
7. Banana bread baked the night before. Serve with Babybel cheese balls and dried fruit.

Banana bread can be cooked in an Outback oven or in a reflector oven over a wood fire. You can use the recipe below, any commercial banana bread mix, or the banana bread mix made for the outback oven. You can also adapt any of your favorite banana bread recipes by using powdered egg (2 tbsp. per egg) plus 1 tsp. baking powder plus about 2 tbsp. water, powdered shortening equal amount to fat in recipe or just put regular shortening in a baggie in the dry ingredients, and use dried banana chips rehydrated with equal amount of hot water for 10 min., powdered milk for milk. etc.

Banana Nut Loaf from Wanapitei Canoe Trippers' Cookbook by Carol Hodgins

1 ½ cups whole wheat flour
 1 ½ cups white flour
 1 tsp. salt
 2 tsp. baking powder
 1 tsp. baking soda
 4 tbsp. egg powder
 ½ cup shortening or margarine
 ½ cup walnuts (I prefer pecans) chopped

½ cup banana chips
 ½ cup honey
 2 cups plus ½ cup water

Mix dry ingredients. Work in margarine. Add nuts and then honey. Soak banana chips about 10 minutes in ½ cup of hot water. Add to dry ingredients along with remaining water. Mix and bake in a greased pan.

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

WCA TRIPS

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

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, Ann_Dixie@CAMH.net; 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.

It's spring, and a new paddling season is upon us. The Outings Committee and Trip Organizers of the WCA are pleased to present an exciting outings agenda with activities for paddlers of all interests and skill levels. As always, we remind you that spring brings the joys of high water levels. But fast rivers, high wind on lakes, and cold temperatures can create potentially dangerous situations. Remember that you are ultimately responsible for your own safety while on club trips, and that your actions could have serious consequences for you and your paddling companions.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a special welcome to all our new members, and those not-so-new members who haven't had an opportunity to participate in our outings yet. The WCA's outings provide an excellent opportunity to get to know your fellow paddlers, find new places to canoe, and meet new friends that you would like to share longer trips with. Take a few moments to read our trip list and circle the ones that are of interest to you, then call the organizers. They will be happy to give you additional details of what the outings will be like, where to meet, and any special equipment that might be needed. If you're not sure if a trip is suitable for you, don't be reluctant to talk to the organizers about it. They're really approachable, and want to help you have a good time. Many of them can remember

when they were new to the club and to paddling, and understand what it's like to be the new kid on the block. If you have any questions about club outings, just call a member of the Outings Committee and we can chat.

There are a few things that you can do to make your first outings with the club a success. If asked to describe your paddling skills and experience, make an honest assessment to help the organizer advise you on your suitability for the outing. Arrive at the designated meeting spot on time with all appropriate equipment. If you can't make it due to illness or other emergency, call the organizer, so the group will know not to expect you. If you have a car problem on route and can't arrive, contact the organizer afterwards as a courtesy, to explain your absence. Stay with the group when on the water. Pushing on ahead or dawdling behind creates safety hazards for the group. Make conservative judgements when running rapids. Your companions will not likely be impressed by your turning their river trip into a river rescue clinic. Just use your good common sense, and keep smiling when it rains or the bugs come out; you'll quickly become one of the gang.

Have a safe and rewarding paddling season.

Outings Committee: Gisela Curwen, Peter DeVries, Ann Dixie, Mike Jones, Bill Ness.

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.

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 RIVER

Barry Godden, (416)440-4208, book before 8 April ----- Both rivers require advanced whitewater paddling skills. Wetsuits or drysuits as well as full floatation 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.

16 April

TEESWATER RIVER

Don Haig, (519) 368-7119 or donhaig@primeline.net ----- Book before 8 April. This is a 4-5 hour paddle down the river through the Greenoch Swamp and beyond. Suitable for novices with some moving-water experience. Limit 6 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 flotation are a must. Limit six boats.

21-23 April

PETAWAWA RIVER

Frank and Jay Knaapen, (416) 690-4016 or (613) 687-6037 ----- Only if the river is accessible. Full flotation, 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

NORTH SAUGEEN RIVER

Don Haig, (519) 368-7119 or donhaig@primeline.net. Book before 15 April. ----- This is a 4-5 hour paddle on the North Saugeen River from McCullagh Lake. Suitable for novices with some moving-water experience. Limit 6 boats.

22 April

SAUGEEN RIVER

Jon Kirby and Z'Anne Keele, home (905) 276-1718, cabin (519) 369-3707, please call before 8.30 p.m. ----- Pre-Easter egg hunt! 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 RIVER

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.

April 29-30

SERPENTINE LAKE LOOP, KAWARTHAS

Gisela Curwen, (416) 484-1471. Book before April 20. ----- Paddle and hike through lovely lakes and creeks among mixed hardwood, tamarack and marshland areas. If we are lucky, we'll see the first springflowers and returning birds. As on our last spring trip, we will clean up the portages along the way. Limit 4 canoes.

29-30 April

MOIRA RIVER

Bill Ness, (416) 321-3005, book before 23 April, before 9:00 p.m. ----- By this time of year, water levels on the Moira have gone down from break-up highs, and the temperature is on the rise. This is the perfect opportunity for newer whitewater paddlers who want some intermediate experience to get on this classic spring run from Lost Channel to Latta. There are some good surfing spots and loads of eddies to practise catching. Limit six boats.

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

MISSISSAGUA RIVER & EELS CREEK

Bill Ness, (416) 321-3005, book before 30 April, before 9:00 p.m. ----- On Saturday we will paddle the Mississagua, which is a classic pool-and-drop run. The river is a series of rapids in the class 1-3 range, separated by flat sections and scenic falls (class 4-5). All major rapids can be easily portaged, making the trip suitable for intermediates, or even experienced novices who don't mind doing some extra carrying. The next day we will run Eels Creek, which is similar to the Mississagua but narrower. It's a very pretty little creek with some real fun drops, but you must be a solid intermediate with good boat control in class-2 water to be able to navigate it. The scenery justifies toting a camera. Limit five boats.

Spring 2000
6-7 May

UPPER MAGNETAWAN RIVER

Paul Wilcox, (905) 884-3775, book before 29 April ----- The Magnetawan is an exciting whitewater river containing class 2-3 rapids, as well as some falls that must be portaged. We will paddle from Ahmic Lake to Maple Island both days, running one of the two outlets from Ahmic Lake for variety. This is a great trip for strong intermediate paddlers. Wetsuits or drysuits, helmets, and properly outfitted boats are a must. Limit six boats.

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

EAST RIVER AND LOWER OXTONGUE RIVER

Karl Schimek, (705) 487-0172, book before May 6, phone before 9 p.m. ----- The East is a small river with some rapids, and the Oxtongue is more challenging with larger rapids and some falls requiring portaging. Suitable for experienced novices who are prepared to portage. Limit four canoes.

20-22 May

MATTAWA RIVER

Bryan and Pat Buttigieg, (905) 831-3554 or bryanbt@ican.net Book by 12 May. ----- Douglas (age 3) and Robyn (age 2) are ready for their first trip down this Little Gem of History. This will be a leisurely long weekend outing, travelling at toddler pace from Trout Lake to the town of Mattawa. Novices of all ages (including toddlers) are welcome. Limit four canoes.

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 flotation 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 flotation 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.

3-4 June

BEAVER CREEK

Karl Schimek, (705) 487-0172, book before May 27, phone before 9 pm. ----- We will do the upper and middle section which is a 2 day run with an overnight camp on the river. The trip includes class 2 and 3 rapids in remote areas. Limit 3 canoes with advanced or intermediate crews.

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.

17-18 June

WHITEWATER COURSE AT PALMER RAPIDS

Hugh Valliant and Jim Morris, contact Hugh at (416) 726-5355 or valliant@micomtech.com (preferred).

NOW FOR THE 17th SEASON!

Due to the difficulties with the post office delivering Nastawgan promptly, and in order for all WCA members to have an equal opportunity to sign up for this course, REGISTRATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED BEGINNING 5 APRIL at 9 a.m. BECAUSE OF ITS IMMENSE POPULARITY, THE COURSE HAS FILLED UP WITHIN THE FIRST COUPLE OF DAYS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. Under NO circumstances will registrations be accepted prior to that date and time. There is a possibility, as in previous years, that a second course will be arranged.

We will meet at Palmer Rapids on the Madawaska River for an exciting and instructional weekend. The emphasis of the course is on the strokes, techniques, and judgement necessary to safely negotiate a set of rapids. Palmer Rapids is considered a class 2 set. In this controlled and structured environment where the pace is slow, there will be plenty of time to practise and perfect your strokes. You will learn how to control a canoe in moving water so that you can go where you want to go (most of the time). The river will no longer control your canoe (all of the time).

To feed your hungry appetites after a day of paddling, there will be a group BBQ on Saturday night featuring a real salad, a real steak, and real potatoes using real charcoal. A deposit of \$25 is required to secure your spot in the course and at the table.

Open to experienced flatwater, novice or beginning whitewater paddlers. Preference will be given to those who need it. Friends are more than welcome to the Saturday night's festivities. Just let us know. Limit eight canoes

30 June - 2 July **FRENCH RIVER OR LOWER MADAWASKA RIVER**

Hugh Valliant and Jim Morris, contact Hugh at (416) 726-5355 or valliant@micomtech.com (preferred). BOOK BEGINNING 5 April at 9 a.m.

This is a continuation of the Palmer Rapids weekend. This is an excellent opportunity to practise and further refine and hone your whitewater skills in more challenging rapids. The location of the course will depend upon summer water levels. Suitable for novice or beginning whitewater paddlers. Preference will be given to those who attended the Palmer Rapids weekend. Limit ten canoes.

30 June - 2 July **ROUGE, GATINEAU, AND OTTAWA RIVERS**

Barry Godden,, (416) 440-4208, book by 20 June ----- A potpourri of whitewater for adventurous intermediate and advanced paddlers. Fully outfitted whitewater boats are essential. Limit SIX boats.

8-9 July **PALMER RAPIDS PLAY WEEKEND**

Bill Ness, (416) 321-3005, book before 2 July, call before 9:00 p.m. ----- Palmer Rapids on the Madawaska is one of the best places in Ontario to enjoy a weekend of whitewater practice and play. For experienced novice to intermediate paddlers, it provides a challenging but safe learning environment. For non-paddling spouses and kids, there's a sand beach for playing and swimming, making this a good family weekend getaway. I'm happy to give informal instruction to anyone looking to work on their basic skills, and if you want help rolling your canoe or kayak, we can do a rolling clinic.

8-14 July **KILLARNEY PARK AND ADJACENT WATERS**

Richard Todd, (819) 459-1179, richard@magi.com ----- This trip will have several interesting features, including two nights on Three Narrows Lake in the centre of the park, some open-water paddling, a visit to the village of Killarney, and a final night on Phillip Edward Island. There are only two significant portages, but they are substantial. There is some possibility of fairly big waves as well. Limit: nine people, four tents.

5-7 August **OTTAWA RIVER**

John & Sharon Hackert, (416) 438-7672, book before 30 July. ----- We are fortunate to have access to the most beautiful campsite on the river, right where we take out. On Saturday, we will paddle the Middle Channel; on Sunday, the Main Channel; and on Monday, the Middle again. Suitable for paddlers with intermediate whitewater skills who are prepared to portage if they choose to. We will scout most rapids. Full boat flotation and helmets required due to the nature of the rapids. Limit six boats.

6-15 August **GEORGIAN BAY FROM BAYFIELD INLET TO KILLARNEY PARK**

Richard Todd, (819) 459-1179, richard@magi.com. ----- This summer marks the 30th anniversary of the leader's first trip on the Bay, from Port Severn to Killarney. Time and the overdeveloped southern reaches of the Bay prevent repeating the trip in its entirety, but some of the original features, including fresh baking along the way, will be relived. Paddlers should possess good basic skills and be comfortable with the possibility of some fairly big waves.

14-21 August **KILLARNEY PARK FAMILY TRIP**

Richard Todd, (819) 459-1179, richard@magi.com ----- This trip will begin with an evening in the George Lake campground, then spend six easy days on the lakes in the southeast of the park. Aside from the leader and his family, there will be room for five more people, including children.

1-9 September **LA CLOCHE SILHOUETTE HIKING TRAIL, KILLARNEY**

Gisela Curwen, (416) 484-1471. ----- Scenic and challenging 100 km backpacking trip. Get a different perspective of Killarney than from the canoe. Incredible vistas of quartzite ridges and turquoise lakes. Major crowds will be gone, and it will still be warm enough to swim

2-4 September **OTTAWA RIVER**

John & Sharon Hackert, (416) 438-7672, book before 27 August. Please see trip details above for 5-7 August.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

This PRODUCTS AND SERVICES section is available, free of charge and on a first-come, first-served basis, to members as well as non-members 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 non-sale 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.

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.

CANOE FOR SALE Swift Algonquin 17' fibreglass, 67 lbs. Anodized aluminum gunwales, sliding bow seat, centre seat, contoured yoke (all cherry). A high-volume, stable, flatwater canoe, suitable for large families or large paddlers. Bought in 1998, very good condition. Asking \$1150. Call Joe at (905) 841-2447.

WETSUIT WANTED To beg, borrow, or buy some sort of wetsuit (men's large), retired but still functional. If you have something like this gathering dust, please call Don Hamilton at (905) 336-0326.

CLASSIC SOLO CANOEING instructed by Becky Mason at Meech Lake, Quebec. All levels. Equipment provided. Fee \$70.00. Tel. (819) 827-4158; e-mail: redcanoe@istar.ca website: www.wilds.mb.ca/redcanoe (You can also contact Becky for a list of events she is participating in this summer.)

VALLEY VENTURES Complete and partial outfitting as well as shuttle service available for the Dumoine, Noire, Coulouge, 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

ADVENTURE PADDLING INC. offers ORCA/OWWA certified canoe/kayak courses, rolling clinics, instructors courses; locations throughout southeastern Ontario and Costa Rica. Weekend courses are in the Guelph/Elora

area, just one hour from Toronto. Check us out at www.adventurepaddling.com or phone us at (519) 763-9496.

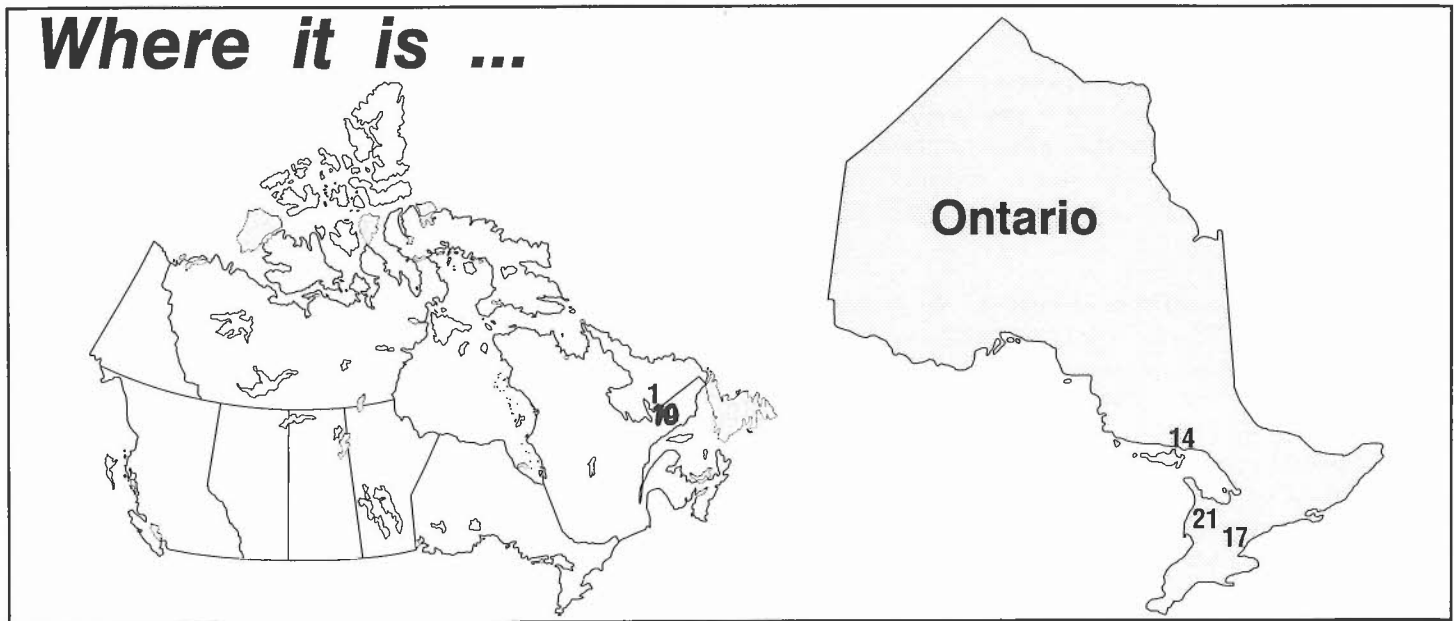
KUKAGAMI LODGE is a small wilderness retreat located in the forest northeast of Sudbury. We have no road access, so we bring our guests in by boat across Kukagami Lake (newly designated as a Forest Reserve in Ontario's Living Legacy). Plan to begin or end your canoe trip here, with a stay of two days or longer, and we will help you plan a 3 to 6 day flatwater trip in our area. Call: (705) 853-4929 or 853-4742. Write: Kukagami Lodge, RR 1, Wahnapiatae, Ontario, POM 3C0. To find our website, search for "Kukagami Lodge" on Excite!

NATURAL OUTINGS Wilderness hiking/canoeing ecotrips — 1 to 2 week bargain adventures. May — day-hike Arizona's desert parks & backpack New Mexico's canyons. June — trek the west coast trails of Ireland and B.C. July — backpack Mt. Assiniboine and Jasper's Skyline Trail. August — Yukon: hike the Chilcoot, canoe to Dawson. September — Arizona/Utah great canyon parks tour. November — Costa Rica ecotours — beaches, jungles, volcanoes. C\$500 — 800/week. Ph/Fax (705) 434-0848, info@naturaloutings.com, www.naturaloutings.com

SMOOTHWATER PROGRAM CANOE CLINICS AND COURSES: ORCA Basic Flatwater 27–28 May \$200; Whitewater 8–9 July \$190; Canoe Tripping Basics 12 July \$80; Kid's Canoe 19 July \$40; ORCA Canoe Tripping Instructor (level 3) 16–25 July \$870. **OUTFITTED AND GUIDED WILDERNESS TRIPS:** Music Making and Story Telling 16–23 July \$673; Women's Quest by Canoe 13–20 August \$673; Spring Bird Migration Peak 27 May \$85. **WORKSHOPS AND RETREATS:** Wilderness Survival 29–30 April and 26–27 August \$200; Spirit of Seven, A Temagami Art and Wilderness Adventure, 9–15 July \$475; Medicinal Wild Plants and Native Spirituality 17–18 June \$200; Women's Holistic Spa Retreats 5–7 May and 2–4 June and 27–29 October and 24–26 November \$225. For full details: Smoothwater Outfitters, Box 40, Temagami, Ont. P0H 2H0; tel: (705) 569-3539; fax: (705) 569-2710; temagami@onlink.net, www.smoothwater.com

FREE CANOE WEEKEND On 10–11 June, Smoothwater Outfitters will provide free canoe rentals in exchange for backcountry cleanup at campsites and access points. Routes will be assigned according to your abilities. Prizes will be awarded for trash "collectibles." It's our effort and yours, to give back to the land. For contacts see item above.





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<p>WCA Postal Address: P.O. Box 48022 Davisville Postal Outlet 1881 Yonge St. Toronto, Ontario M4S 3C6</p> <p><i>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</i></p> <p>Bill Stevenson (Chairman) 61 Roxborough St. W. Toronto, Ont. M5R 1T9 (416) 925-0017 stevebill@aol.com</p> <p>Anne Lessio Scarborough, Ont. (416) 293-4116 alesio@sprint.ca</p>	<p>Anne Snow Toronto, Ont. (416) 482-0810</p> <p>Hal Graham (info in next issue)</p> <p>Jeff Haymer Downsview, Ont. (416) 635-5801</p> <p>Evan Wood Willowdale, Ont. (416) 497-0896 woodbrn@pathcom.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WCA Contacts</p> <p><i>SECRETARY</i> Bill King 45 Hi Mount Drive Toronto, Ont. M2K 1X3 (416) 223-4646 lyonrex@aol.com</p> <p><i>WCA TRIPS</i> Bill Ness 194 Placentia Blvd. Toronto, Ont. M1S 4H4 (416) 321-3005 rabbit1@globalserve.net</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">www.wildernesscanoe.org</p> <p><i>JOURNAL EDITOR</i> Toni Harting 7 Walmer Road, Apt. 902 Toronto, Ont. M5R 2W8 (416) 964-2495 aharting@netcom.ca</p> <p><i>TREASURER</i> Rob Butler Toronto, Ont. (416) 487-2282 rwbutler@pathcom.com</p>
		<p><i>MEMBERSHIP and COMPUTER RECORDS</i> Cash Belden 11 Pineview Road Brockville, Ont. K6V 6K3 (613) 342-1057 cashbelden@recorder.ca</p> <p><i>WCA WEBMASTER</i> Bruce Bellaire www.wildernesscanoe.org</p>	

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. _____

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

New member Member # if renewal: _____

Single Family

Phone Number(s):

() _____ (h)

() _____ Ext. _____ (w)

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