

*Wildnest River*

## SOLO TO KAKINAGIMAK

**Dave Bober**

The brilliance of the setting mid-September sun on the nameless lake before me was almost blinding as I threw down my last pack. After cutting out a crude 500-yard portage trail and making three carries, I was sweating profusely, but adrenalin had done its trick. Finding a decent campsite before darkness was now the next priority.

Perhaps it was the overexertion, but sunshine on a remote northern lake had never been more appealing. *Evening Glow Lake!* That is what I would call my secret little hideaway that now made all the toil of reaching it worthwhile. I was out for a six-day solo trip in some of Saskatchewan's most intriguing small-lake-and-stream country—the region northwest of Flin Flon and south of the Churchill River.

Three days earlier I had shoved off from the government dock at Granite Lake campground, heading north to the Wildnest Lake country. By now I had reached an area seldom visited by anyone anymore except for a few fly-in fishermen. But many old and often faint portages exist as this region was well travelled by natives and a few white trappers before the construction of the Hansen Lake Road in the late 1950s. The last eight years I have enjoyed a number of trips there, poking around small creeks and looking for old trails between the many small island-studded lakes. This trip my objective was Kakinagimak, a very narrow 14-mile-long lake that was once the centre of an extensive network of water routes leading in three directions: west to Pelican Narrows; north to the Churchill River; and south to the Sturgeon Wier River, Amisk Lake,

and the Saskatchewan River. These water routes have seen very little traffic for many years, offering the canoeist superb wilderness that is easily accessible.

The long days of summer with its heat and bugs had gone—the brightly colored birch and poplar trees reminded me that the equinox was sneaking up, jack frost touching my tent fly and camp outfit each morning. Autumn has never been a morbid season for me, and every fibre of my being felt alive as I paddled silently on through magnificent Shield country, my mind continuously occupied with the sights, sounds, and impressions of the moment. Despite the increased workload, soloing provides much time for introspection and there is no one to argue with when selecting a campsite—I could indulge myself with checking out the next granite slab on the next island and then the next.

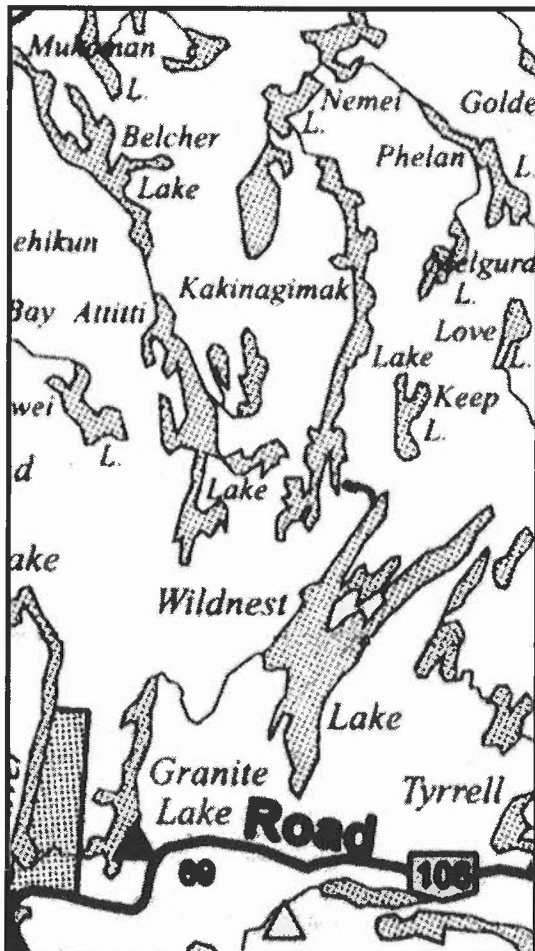
This particular trip had started out with a nasty headwind, and without the double blade paddle I would have been forced to stop. The northerly blast had a straight shot down the seven-mile length of Granite Lake, forcing me to hug the shoreline to grab whatever protection I could. Reaching a crude trappers' shack on an island near the north end of the lake, I stopped and discovered that my legs did not want to co-operate—mild hypothermia was tying a number on me. Stomping around and feasting on a patch of late blueberries I managed to warm up enough

to continue on to the Wildnest River, working upstream for a couple of miles and making two short portages. The Wildnest is hardly a river, just a mild stream 10 to 30 yards wide, connecting a series of small lakes in a picturesque country of heavy mixed forest. A few small rapids that are usually too shallow to run add some character and sound.

My first campsite, in a dense stand of tall spindly spruce, provided ideal protection from the relentless north wind. The tinder-dry forest floor urged caution with the campfire and I made sure my modest blaze was contained by a tight circle of stones. Then, without warning, the campfire exploded! I berated myself for forgetting that stream-picked rocks can sometimes react violently when subjected to intense heat. Later, the music of the shallow rapids, only a few feet from my tent, lulled my tired body into a deep sleep.

The next morning dawned cloudy and chilly but the north wind had slackened and several cups of strong coffee fortified me for a day of exploration. My total progress was only eight or nine miles but I had an interesting time poking around on side streams, unable to convince myself that I should hurry. A 15-foot fall with barely a trickle of water was an excuse to take a breather and contemplate what it would look like during spring run-off. The faint 150-yard portage was steep, the topo map showing two contour lines, the second one intersecting a large and very old beaver dam. In the branches of a small birch growing on top of the dam hung two well-rusted #1 long spring traps. By late afternoon I had crossed four lakes connected by meandering streams. Surmising where a portage might lead into Trent Lake, I hit it right on, following the logic that a portage will usually connect two bodies of water at the narrowest neck of land. I had been to Trent Lake by a different route several times and it seemed like an old friend—the feeling amplified by the fact that I was a solitary traveller. Dusk was coming down fast as I carried over the short 110-yard portage into Wildnest Lake and I picked the first good campsite, a semi-open jack pine hill that was somewhat steep to climb but memorable for the view to the west, where the little river tumbles out with sheer joy, a vertical 50-foot cliff guarding its passage on the south side.

A hard freeze woke me early and I had to break ice in the water kettle. A friendly blue jay welcomed me from the guardian cliff opposite camp, or was he laughing at me? Just another reason for turning a canoe upside down—some foul had dumped on my canoe seat. The sky was socked in with cold, grey clouds but I was eager to explore new country west of Manson Bay. Less than a mile north I stopped to investigate an attractive trappers cabin that was unlocked and fairly tidy, with a 17-foot Eagle Grumman canoe stashed in the bush. Wildnest, the largest lake in the vicinity, is crowded with over 100 rocky islands, and several long, narrow bays run off to the north and northeast. The eight-mile paddle up Manson Bay was a chilly one, and just off the portage trail to Dougherty Lake I stoked up a roaring blaze to warm my bones and



prepare a hot meal that soon boosted my moral. Dougherty is an exceptionally clear lake and I amused myself by watching schools of minnows swimming in the shoreline shallows.

Hauling over a massive beaver dam and pushing the canoe through a tangle of drowned-out timber, I decided to try for Kakinagimak Lake via Evening Glow Lake and the hand-cut portage mentioned at the beginning of this story. Someone else, years before, had the same intention, but try as I might I could only locate six or seven old blazed spruce trees. The faint trail died in mystery and I resorted to my compass, setting a course for 260 degrees and hiking over the ridge. Within three hours I had blazed and hacked out a rough trail with my axe, emerging on the far side with my last load just as "Old Sol" decided to send down some glory. After three days of cloud and cold, these rays were like gifts from Heaven! However, my emotional high was short-lived as Sol

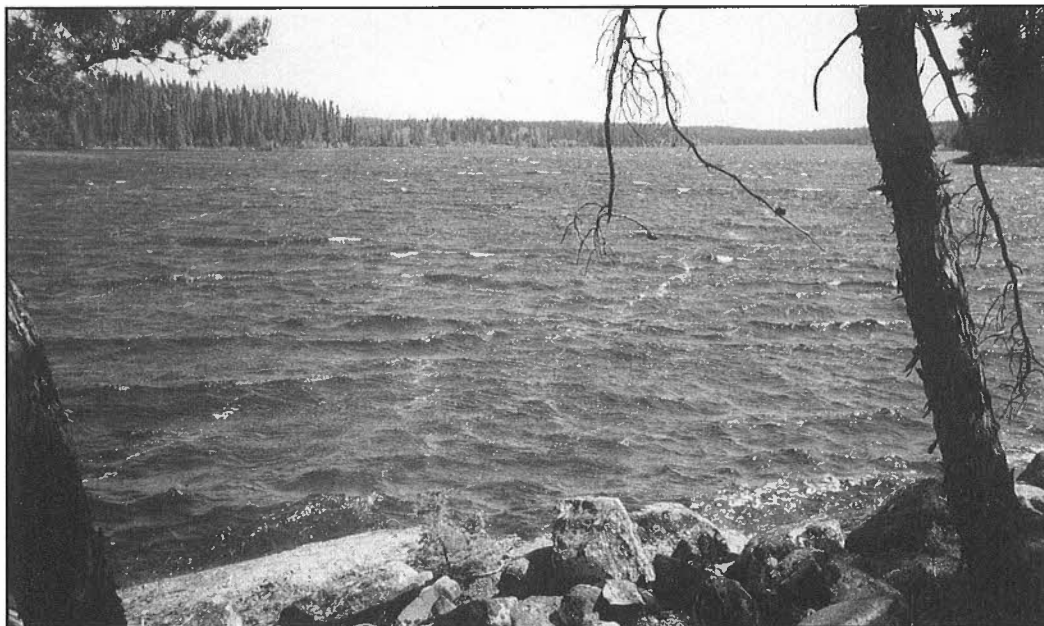


*Wildnest River*

abruptly popped down below the horizon and locating a campsite became my only priority. I needn't have worried because Evening Glow Lake, a pristine little jewel of about a mile's length, offered me a five-star site on its western side, a flat granite slab a few yards above the shore line surrounded by mature jack pine.



*Wildnest Lake*

*Granite Lake*

After supper I lingered long around the campfire. A spectacular display of northern lights danced overhead—shimmering liquid magic rising from the eastern horizon in the exact spot where I had cut out the new portage. Pulsating swirls with a myriad fingers leapt up the night sky in ever-increasing arcs until they were silhouetted by the thickly timbered island just opposite camp. This iridescent dance, known to the ancient Cree as the “Dance of the Deadmen,” suddenly vanished as though it had never been.

The clear sky drove the mercury down and a half inch of ice covered the water in the tea kettle as I stiffly crawled out the next morning. Aching muscles and nippy fingers almost caused me to forget the euphoric high of the night before, as I hurriedly packed up to get my reluctant body mobile. Clearing out an old, but thankfully short portage I found myself on Kakinagimak Lake, only a few hundred yards from its extreme southern end. Working my way west on File Bay I stopped to check out a rustic fish patrol cabin that was unlocked. Two full barrels of aviation gas told me that this location was reached by float-plane or helicopter, but it didn't look like a popular destination.

The 700-yard portage into Bentz Bay of Attitti Lake was an easy haul and free of downfall; obviously, this trail saw some regular use. But after carrying the canoe for only a couple of hundred feet, a sharp pain in the neck, which I first attributed to the onset of middle age, caused me to set the boat down, only to find out I had been carrying my canoe backwards, with the curved yoke digging into my spine!

Some huge mushrooms along the trail had been substantially reduced by frost and resembled black dinner

plates. Attitti is a big, octopus-shaped lake but I only had to navigate it for a couple of miles, making two short portages eastward into McWilliams Lake and then back into Kakinagimak Lake via a reed-choked narrows. Once again the afternoon was getting away from me as I paddled due south to Gifford Bay Narrows at which location stood an old locked-up log cabin with the word “welcome” painted in large white letters on a nearby flat rock. This had once been an outfitters camp but had probably been sold to private interests and was seldom used anymore.

Dusk caught me making the 600-yard portage north into Dougherty Lake and although the trail was in good condition it seemed much longer, proba-

bly due to the lateness of the hour or, perhaps, my lingering to grab handfuls of luscious blueberries. The lower end of the trail was quite boggy and I was relieved to locate a splendid campsite on the point of a tiny rock island only a quarter of a mile south on Dougherty. By the time camp was set up and the soup boiling, it was pitch dark. But soon I was fully relaxed, leaning against a weathered duluth pack and just savoring the solitude. But

*Attitti Lake*

I wondered how many others would be able to enjoy such an evening in the future, as I had observed lines of orange ribbons along the portage trail—precursor of planned seismic lines to be cut for mining exploration that could spell roads and development for this unspoiled region.

A squirrel, loon, and beaver all conspired against me in the pre-dawn darkness, but I managed to doze off again until almost 7:00 a.m. when an eerie, fogged-in world greeted me as I exited the tent. Lake, sky, forest, and rock all melted together in mystery and my imagination convinced me that my tiny island campsite was a galleon ship floating on a ghostly sea. Within an hour, Mr. Sun was poking through and I couldn't resist the temptation to check out a possible portage into Dezort Lake. By late morning the urge to explore any further was squelched and I got busy moving south again, returning to Manson Bay on Wildnest Lake by way of the same two short portages I had done two days earlier. Retracing a route is not my preference but travelling the opposite direction does afford a new perspective, and with not a whisper of a breeze to hinder my progress it was an idyllic paddle in the blessed sunshine. The rocky jack pine-covered islets of Wildnest were particularly appealing in the bright sunshine with a sprinkling of yellow-leaved birches declaring that the glory of autumn was at hand. Except for the weird cries of a pair of otters, the day was bathed in welcome silence and the miles passed almost effortlessly.

By early evening I had reached the meandering Wildnest River and was approaching a small rapid at a sharp bend, when my day-long reverie was abruptly shattered. I nearly bumped into a homemade plywood scow manned by two older Native men. The surprise was mutual and one of the men asked: "You see moose?" I said, "No," and that was all. They were on a hunting trip and with no motor it must have been a

tough job pushing up against the current with two poles.

Dusk and the pungent smell of swamp urged me on—I certainly did not relish camping in the tamaraks. A large blaze on an old tamarak marked the main route back to Granite Lake, but at the last moment I opted for a slight detour to satisfy my curiosity in experiencing another small lake that I had not visited before. Within a half hour I was questioning my impulsive choice—darkness was waiting to grab me and the sound of unknown rapids warned me to camp immediately. But where? A heavy cloud bank with strong northerly winds had moved in during the late afternoon and here I was groping around in the dark in a willow thicket, looking for a portage trail that might, I fervently hoped, lead me to a level and dry tent site. Almost ready to dig out the flashlight, I happened upon a faint trail that I stumbled across with one pack. The 300-yard portage was overgrown and littered with downfall, but I was relieved to find a passable campsite on the far side. Setting up camp in the black darkness was another reminder to exercise common sense next time. Crawling wearily into the tent, I had only two hours sleep when common sense came begging again in the form Murphy's canoe law: "He who sleeps in tent with no fly gets wet!" The cold rain came straight down through the vented dome like a funnel, and fumbling around outside in my underwear to tie on the tent fly by the light of a flashlight did nothing to enhance my mood.

The cold north wind was back in business my last day on the trail, hindering my speed on the creek but pushing me quickly down the length of Granite Lake to the campground and my ugly beater truck. While lunching at the A & W in Flin Flon, a sudden tiredness came over me, but it was: "Hit the Road Jack; it's a solo drive too!"



*Evening Glow Lake*



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

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

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

## NEWS BRIEFS

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

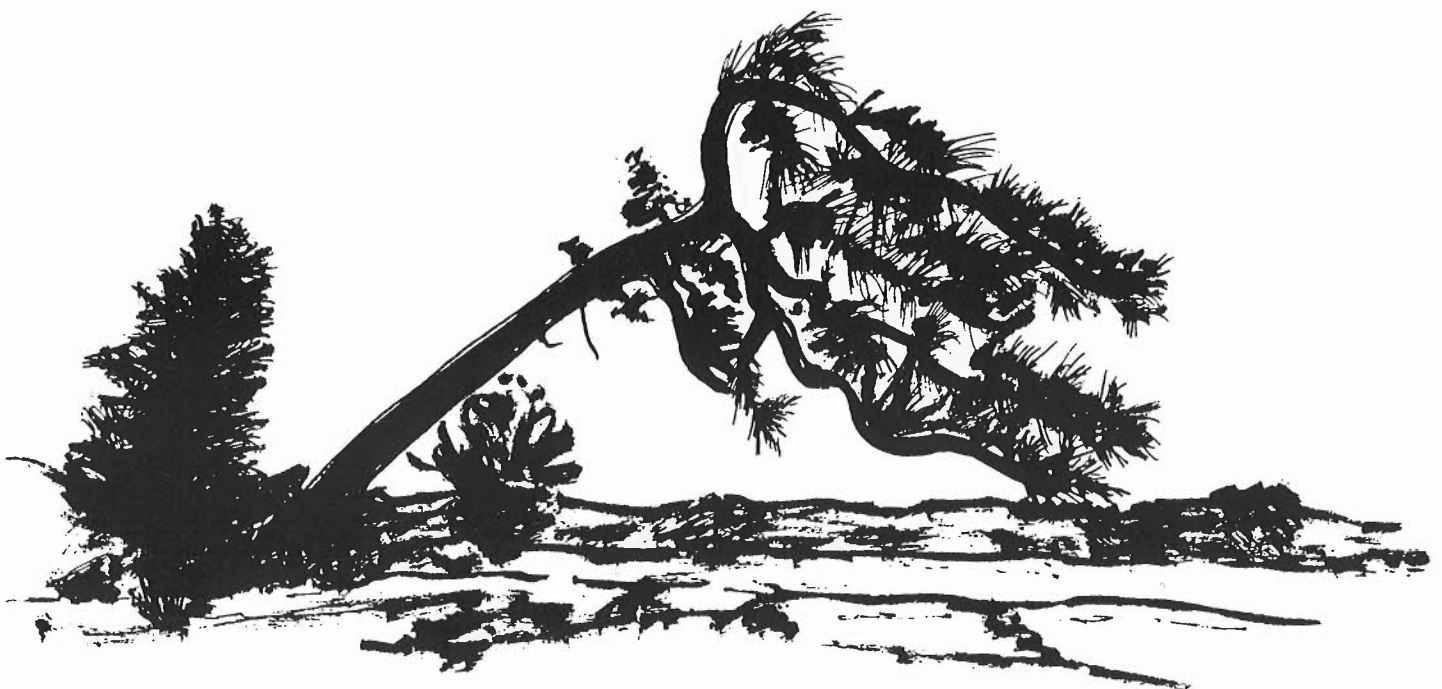
<i>issue</i>	Spring 2001	<i>deadline date:</i>	4 February
	Summer 2001		6 May

**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.

**NATASHQUAN PARTICIPANTS** In Terry Aitken's article on his Natashquan trip, published in the Spring 2000 issue, the full names of five participants were not included. They are: Karl and Mathieu Fortin, Pat Wall, Peter Haskett, and Tom Elliott.

**CANOE ONTARIO** Because of organizational and financial problems, Canoe Ontario has been forced to close its office and stop its services. However, as an organization it still exists and information regarding the four affiliates can be obtained by contacting the Ontario Recreational Canoeing Association at 416-426-7016.



## SYMPOSIUM, MEETING, SHOWS

### WILDERNESS & CANOEING SYMPOSIUM

The upcoming 16th annual Wilderness & Canoeing Symposium, organized by George Luste and sponsored by the WCA, will take place on Friday 2 and Saturday 3 February 2001. The main topic is *The Old Labrador Peninsula*, a celebration of wild places and notable travellers from the past and the present. The format stays the same and the location again is Monarch Park Collegiate auditorium, One Hanson Street in Toronto.

As in the past, all registration must be done via the designated registration form and cheque payment. (Sorry, we cannot cope with telephone or fax calls for special requests.) WCA members, as well as all past attendees on our list from prior years, should have received the separate Symposium mailing by early December. If there are others who wish to receive the Symposium announcement mailing, please send us an e-mail with name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address to: [norbooks@interlog.com](mailto:norbooks@interlog.com) Or via fax at 416-531-8873. Or via snail mail to: WCA Symposium, Box 211, Station P, Toronto, ON, M5S 2S7.

In due course, Symposium and registration information should also be available at the Northern Books website: <http://members.tripod.com/northernbooks/> (or for easier typing: <http://i.am/northernbooks/>)

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### WCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM takes place on Saturday, 17 February 2001. See the information on page 8 and the registration form on the inside front cover.

### TORONTO OUTDOOR ADVENTURE SPORTS SHOW

This show features more than 30 sports-related categories (including paddle sports), over 200 exhibitors, three days of free seminars, and several interactive features such as a 50-foot demonstration pool. It will take place on 23, 24, and 25 February 2001 at the Toronto International Centre, 6900 Airport Road, Mississauga, Ontario (corner of Airport Road and Derry Road). For more information contact: National Event Management, 115 Apple Creek Blvd., Suite 12, Markham, Ontario, L3R 6C9; tel. 905-477-2677 or 1-800-891-4859; fax 905-477-7872; [www.nationalevent.com](http://www.nationalevent.com)

The WCA is again going to be participating/exhibiting in this show. Anyone wishing to help (wo)man the booth, especially on Friday the 23rd, please contact Hal Graham at 905-584-2109 or [hal@interwild.com](mailto:hal@interwild.com) as soon as possible.

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### OTTAWA PADDLESPORT AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURE SHOW

This year's show will take place on 23, 24, and 25 March 2001, again at the Aberdeen Pavilion of the Ottawa Civic Centre, 1015 Bank Street in Ottawa. It will highlight the latest and greatest in canoe- and kayak-related gear as well as adventure sports activities such as whitewater rafting, rock climbing, mountain biking, backpacking, scuba diving, parachuting, and adventure travel. A star-studded line-up of guest speakers will be featured along with the popular pool demonstrations, experts corner, wilderness art exhibit, and plenty of free give-aways. For more information on the show contact the organizers: Wilson, Young & Associates, 13 Wildbriar Way, Nepean, Ontario, K2G 5B4; 613-225-3722; [events.wyaa@sympatico.ca](mailto:events.wyaa@sympatico.ca)

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## CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*The following is the only platform for candidates for the 2001 Board of Directors received before our publication date. Any other members who wish to run for the Board may do so by letting the Board of Directors know, or by placing their name in nomination from the floor at the AGM on 17 February 2001.*

### ERHARD KRAUS

Like most members of the club, I have always enjoyed the variety of the club's outings and the stories of *Nastawgan*. But the WCA's function goes further: A paddler has a responsibility towards the lands where we paddle. This goes beyond the practice of clean camping: our canoe routes are under threat from logging, road construction, the diversion of the water, encroachment by the motorized crowd, and, increasingly, overcrowding from paddlers themselves. At the same time, the rules of society have changed as governments let users themselves "manage" the lands. Thus, to preserve what we value, paddlers must participate in this game.

A WCA member can expect the club to carry the torch on such environmental issues, to take advantage of the weight that a large organization carries and to relieve the individual member of having to deal with many of these issues. Thus, the WCA must be aware of the current issues, communicate these to the membership, and act as a stakeholder for the paddling community. As a director, I will focus on that role of the club.

I have been a member of the WCA in the late '70s and rejoined about four years ago. Two years ago, I was appointed the Environmental Representative of the WCA and have since participated on the club's behalf in such environmental issues as the Ontario Lands for Life consultations, the McCrae Lake bridge construction, and the WCA's Paddling Stakeholders co-ordination. I live in Scarborough, lead canoe trips during the summer, and maintain a website at

<http://www.interlog.com/~erhard>

## WCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year the WCA Annual General Meeting is being held on 17 February 2001 in Monora Park, Orangeville, Ontario. Ample opportunity for cross-country skiing, hiking the Bruce Trail, shopping in Orangeville, or just telling a few good stories to your colleagues will be available during the afternoon session. We also have three excellent presentations for the evening program:

- *Stan VanZuylen* will describe his traverse of the Torngat Mountains of Northern Labrador by starting on the Nakvak Fiord, ascending the Palmer River, crossing the mountain divide, then descending the Korok River to Ungava Bay. Slides and video will be used to illustrate the rugged topography of that area.

- *Dave Lyon* will discuss the art of sailing a canoe. Dave has solo sailed most of Georgian Bay and experienced the exhilaration (with white-knuckle paddling) of a loaded canoe surfing in one-metre swells. He'll have his equipment on hand to illustrate his techniques.
- *A member of the Ontario Legislature* has been invited to discuss the Lands For Life program. At the time of writing, this has not been confirmed yet.

Interested? Then complete the registration form on the inside front cover of this issue of *Nastawgan* and send it in today. Space is limited to the first 4,000 participants. Good luck! More detailed information is available from Hal Graham at 05-584-2109 or hal@interwild.com

## PARTNERS AND INFORMATION WANTED

### LONG TRIP

I am looking for a long canoe trip for next summer. Tom Elliott: 905-648-1560; elliott@mcmaster.ca

### LONG TRIP

I have considerable tripping experience and would like to join a group for a long northern trip coming summer, preferably the Barren Lands. Anders: 403-245-3413.

### BARREN LANDS

Starting at the west end of McKay Lake, this mainly flat-water fishing trip will end at the mouth of the Thonokeid River in Aylmer Lake, over towards the Thelon River, about 180 km. In the middle is the Lockhart River (20 km, 38 m drop), which has falls and a few portages, all under a kilometre, otherwise runnable. Two of the present party are novices; I have no intention of letting them anywhere near even class 3 whitewater, they walk.

Current costs per person are:

Toronto-Yellowknife-Toronto	1215 (seniors, like me, less 10%)
in and out by Twin Otter or Caravan	1000-1100
canoe and gear rentals	200
overnight and food in Yellowknife	250
camping food is up to you	

I am looking for two or four whitewater fishing nuts to join us. Call Don Hamilton; 905-336-0326; mountainart@acncanada.net

### JAMES AND HUDSON BAYS

Anybody with information about paddling Hudson Bay from the Quebec side and James Bay from the Ontario side, please contact K.J.Wikle at chinook@turtleneck.net

## PADDLING LINKS

The amount and quality of information relevant to what WCA members are interested in is steadily growing on the Internet. More and more links to useful websites are becoming available each day, and easy access to information is improving. If you have a site you think is worth introducing to others, please send its address to *Nastawgan*, and include a short description of the content of the site.

Want to go international and paddle in Europe or New Zealand or somewhere exotic? Contact the Belgian website <http://bewoner.dma.be/kajak/links.htm> and you'll get all kinds of tantalizing links to many paddlers, individuals as well as organizations, that will make your mouth water.



## ICE

The first ice to grace our lake came in the night. I woke on the morning of 24 November to find a thin sheet of ice reaching out from the little swampy area to the east. It engulfed the dock, freezing the boat well into place. Ice extended out to the island from my shore.

I dressed and went out to have a good look. From the shore in front of my cabin, a line was drawn out to the island. To my right the lake lay beneath a thin crystalline layer of ice, and to my left the still water clearly reflected the forest from the far shore.

As the morning drew on, needle-like spears of ice grew and grew. They overlapped, making intricate patterns that feathered across the surface of the water. The air remained calm and cold and the ice slowly expanded to cover another 30 feet of the lake between me and the island.

By noon a slight breeze had risen, making tiny waves that began to lap upon the edge of the ice. A clear line was drawn as the edge of the ice stabilized. It grew thicker, but no wider.

After lunch I chipped the boat out of the ice, but left it tied up to the dock. Remember, this was November. I was willing to bet the ice wouldn't stay—indeed it did not.

A few days later, the weather warmed and the wind rose. The ice crashed upon itself and disappeared. However, that same wind rocked the boat and splashed up on the sides of boat and dock alike. Long, fat icicles

all in a row lined the logs of the dock, and hung from the side of the boat.



photo: Toni Harting

When the wind died down, Jack Frost once again patterned the surface of the lake with crystals of ice. The ice thickened, trapping the boat in its grip once again. In the morning I broke the boat out of the ice. In the afternoon the wind rose again, freeing the dock and boat.

So the rhythm of freeze-up begins again. The ice comes, the wind takes it away. The ice comes again, and is pushed back again.

But each time the ice advances, it holds a little tighter to the water it has covered. It begins to keep its hold in the little nooks and crannies around the edges of the lake. The little protected area behind the island out front doesn't get the full strength of the wind as it tears down our long, narrow bay.

Slowly the ice thickens to a strength that cannot be overcome by wind and waves. We were able to walk around the edges of the little bay just a week after the first ice. Yet, it could take one, or two, or maybe even three

weeks before the entire lake freezes over.

Eventually I'll give up of keeping the boat loose from the icy grip of winter. We'll pull it ashore, take off the outboard motor, and tuck it away until spring.

Viki Mather

## MY FIRST ARCTIC CANOE TRIP

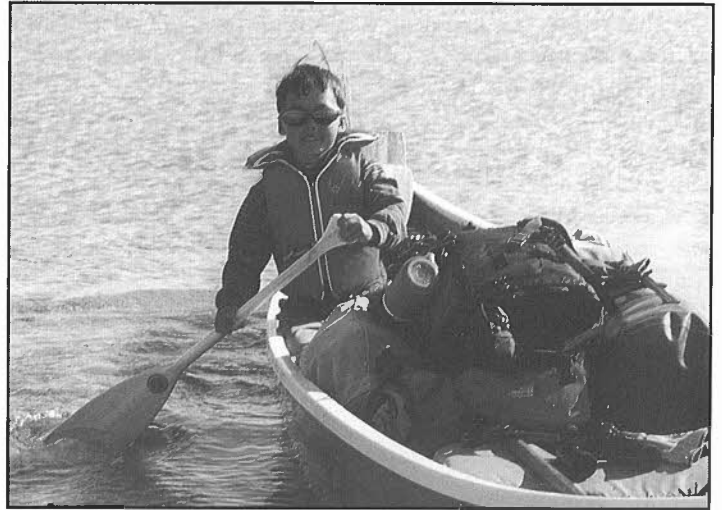
Hi, my name is Ayalik. Or you can call me Eric—that's my *qallunaaq* name. I'm five years old. I'd like to tell you other kids about my canoe trip last summer. We flew in from my home in Cambridge Bay—that's in Nunavut—in a float plane, which is one of my favorite things about living here. I get to fly in float planes every summer. After a long flight, maybe one hour or a hundred, the float plane left us beside a lake mostly covered with ice. Then we went for a walk—me and my Mum and Dad, but I call them Laurie and David.

If you ask me what the best part of the trip was, I say paddle, rapids, and fish. I have my own paddle and sometimes I paddled. I'm really strong—wanna see my muscles?

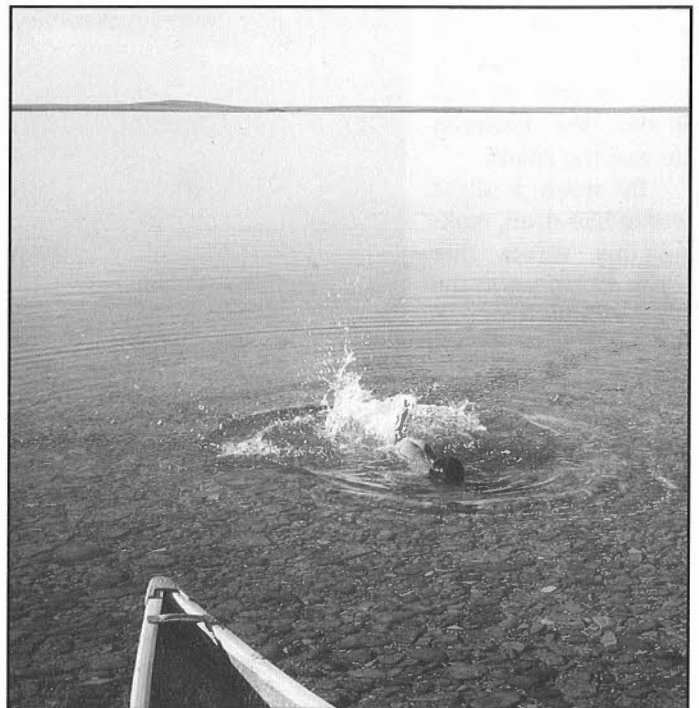


I caught lots of fish with my new orange fishing rod, but I especially remember the first one, my first ever. I could hardly believe I had a fish on my hook and it took a long time to bring it into the canoe. It was a really big trout. Good thing I was using a really strong hook.

Another really fun thing was skipping stones. Make sure, if you come here with your Dad or Mum, that you stop on beaches where there are good skipping stones. There's lots of them. At first I was lucky to get two or three bounces. But by the end of a couple of weeks I could sometimes get it to go for seven or eight. Still though, I get lots of sinkers that just go clunk. So did my Dad.



We saw musk-oxen and caribou and lots of birds. Every night in the tent I looked through the bird book to pick out all the birds we saw. If you come up here, I can tell you which birds we have—I know them pretty well now. My favorite is the peregrine falcon, because it's the fastest, and we saw one attack a duck in mid-air. Really cool. And I saw one of their nests too, with four eggs in it. One time, we found another kind of mother bird with three chicks running around on the tundra. My Mum said it was called a Baird's sandpiper. I got to pick up one of the babies for a minute, but then I had to let it go back to its mummy. That was one time when we were trapped by ice in a big lake. That was cool too, cause the ice makes a clinking sound and we got to pretend we were an ice-breaker.





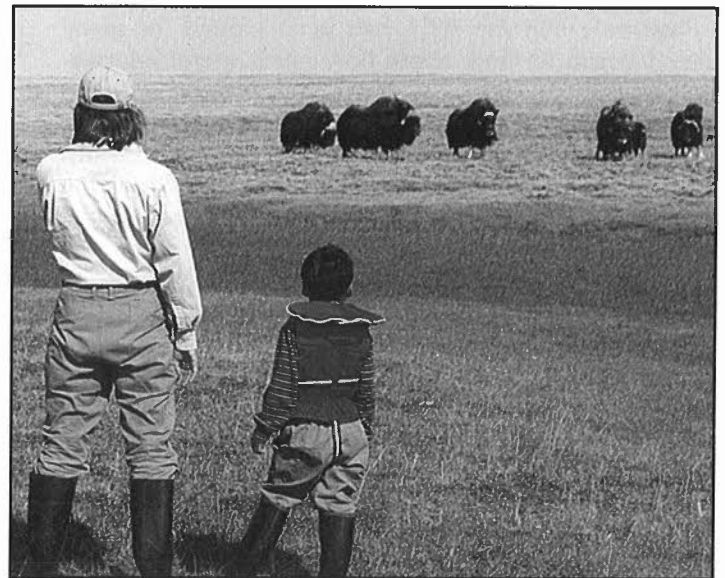
One place where we camped there was a big hill. So I told David and Laurie that there was buried treasure up on the hill and we climbed up to look for it. Sure enough, we found some arrows scratched on great big boulders, pointing to the top, and there under some rocks I found a little box of pirate candy. That was the pirate's treasure. Long time ago, the pirates could sail their ship to that hill because it was an island in the sea. I saw all the sea shells on the hill from that time. It was sometime just after something called the Ice Age, when the whole place was covered with ice right up to the sky. So that candy was really old, I guess, but it tasted good anyway. I wanted to go up other hills too after that.

One time we stopped at a place beside the river where some people just like my great-great-grandparents used to live. There were stone rings where they had their tents and big piles of rocks where they used to keep the meat or fish they caught. There was nobody there today. Most of the land we saw looked like nobody had ever been there.

There was lots to see. I saw big fish that had eaten little tiny fish. I saw some birds trying to catch little fish to eat. I saw where spiders had built their webs over some empty lemming holes. I didn't see a single lemming this year, but lots of old nests though. I saw big and small lakes and rivers, and every day we marked on the map where we camped. I saw the wind blow the ice across the lake one way one day, so it piled up on the shore, then switch and blow it across the other way the next day.

While I was learning all this cool stuff, I tried to teach my Dad about Pikachu, Bulbasaur, Pidgeotto and Squirtle, but it was hopeless. After three weeks, I was glad when the float plane came to get us again, to fly home, but for sure it was a really fun trip. If you can, get your Mum or Dad to take you on a canoe trip up here. Bye now.

*To write this story down, Eric Ayalik Okalitana had a little help from his foster father in Cambridge Bay, WCA-member David Pelly.*



## REBUILDING IN CAMBRIDGE BAY

Many readers will remember learning about the devastating fire in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, which completely destroyed the high school and library in the summer of 1998. Several people in attendance at the WCA Symposium in February 1999 made generous donations to the trust fund established to help rebuild their collection of northern books. The new building is now under construction, and is to include an expanded public library and cultural centre. Although the northern book collection is growing slowly, Cambridge Bay still needs help. If you have any northern books you would consider donating, or would like to send a cash donation to help them purchase

out-of-print books from George Luste's Northern Books business, the contact information is provided below. Tax receipts are provided for all donations (books or cash) of \$20 or more.

Cheques or books should be sent to: "KHS Cultural Trust Fund" c/o The Kitikmeot Heritage Society, PO Box 1062, Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, X0E 0C0

For more information contact either:  
Kim Crockatt, 867-983-2263, kimcr@polarnet.ca  
David Pelly, 867-983-2648, pelly@polarnet.ca

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From Richard Munn's October editorial on the website [www.canadiancanoeroutes.com](http://www.canadiancanoeroutes.com)

## A GIFT FROM THE WILDERNESS CANOE ASSOCIATION

Earlier this year I attended the Outdoor Adventure Show in Toronto. I was making the rounds of the exhibitors' booths and happened upon the display for the Wilderness Canoe Association. Joining the WCA had been on my list of things-to-do for some time, so I took that opportunity to sit down and finally write them a cheque for my membership fee.

One of the benefits of WCA membership is a subscription to *Nastawgan*, the quarterly journal that they publish. There were a number of back issues for sale at the booth, so I picked them up at the same time. As I browsed through them later that day, I began to realize what a valuable resource *Nastawgan* is. The journal contains a mix of useful and interesting information, but most important (in my mind) were the first-person trip reports submitted by members.

Knowing that the WCA had been around for many years, I began to think about how much useful information had been recorded on those pages, shared with the WCA membership and then 'lost' over the course of time as issues found their way to blue box or attic. The trip reports and route descriptions would be a valuable resource if they could be resurrected and made available to the paddling community.

I contacted Toni Harting (the editor of *Nastawgan*) to talk about this issue. We had a nice chat on the phone, and he agreed to raise the matter with the WCA board at their fall meeting. In our discussions, Toni and I had come to the conclusion that both *Nastawgan* and this website had similar mandates. We are both trying to share information about wilderness paddling in Canada to as broad an audience as possible.

The long and short of it is that I have just heard back from Toni, who has informed me that the WCA board gra-

ciously granted their approval to post information from past issues of *Nastawgan* on this web site.

As an added bonus, Toni was kind enough to mail to me a large box containing a nearly-complete set of back issues for my use. The journals range from the recent issues nicely bound and printed on heavy stock to the old "newspaper style" issues printed in typewriter face on newsprint. As far as I can determine, there have been 107 issues of *Nastawgan* published over the past 27 years—thanks to the generosity of the WCA and Toni, I am now the proud owner of 74 of those issues.

As one who lives and breathes the preservation of canoe route documentation, you can imagine how excited I was to receive this treasure-trove of information. As I pulled issue after issue out of the box, my wife, Debbie, rolled her eyes and said "I guess I won't be seeing you for the next month!" She will, but unfortunately my nose will most likely be stuck into one of those journals.

A huge task remains. Obviously, other than the very recent issues, nothing is available in computer-readable format. We are faced with the somewhat daunting job of transcribing many hundreds of articles so that they can be posted on this site. This process will begin immediately, but will take some time to reach completion.

Wilderness paddlers everywhere will benefit from the availability of this knowledge. On their behalf, and on behalf of this site we extend a hearty "thank-you" to the Wilderness Canoe Association for their generosity.



## ARTFUL PADDLING

Our intrepid roving reporter, WCA member Jack Gregg, brings us a fine example of innovative daring from the world of high art. On the stage of Verdi's spectacular opera *Aida*, performed in the Arena of Verona, Italy, a few months ago, the courageous director had installed not

only a pool filled with water, but also several canoes with paddlers and fighting soldiers. The canoes turned out to be a big mistake, but the rest of the opera was great. (Now, if the paddlers only had worn life jackets, that surely would have been a big improvement!)

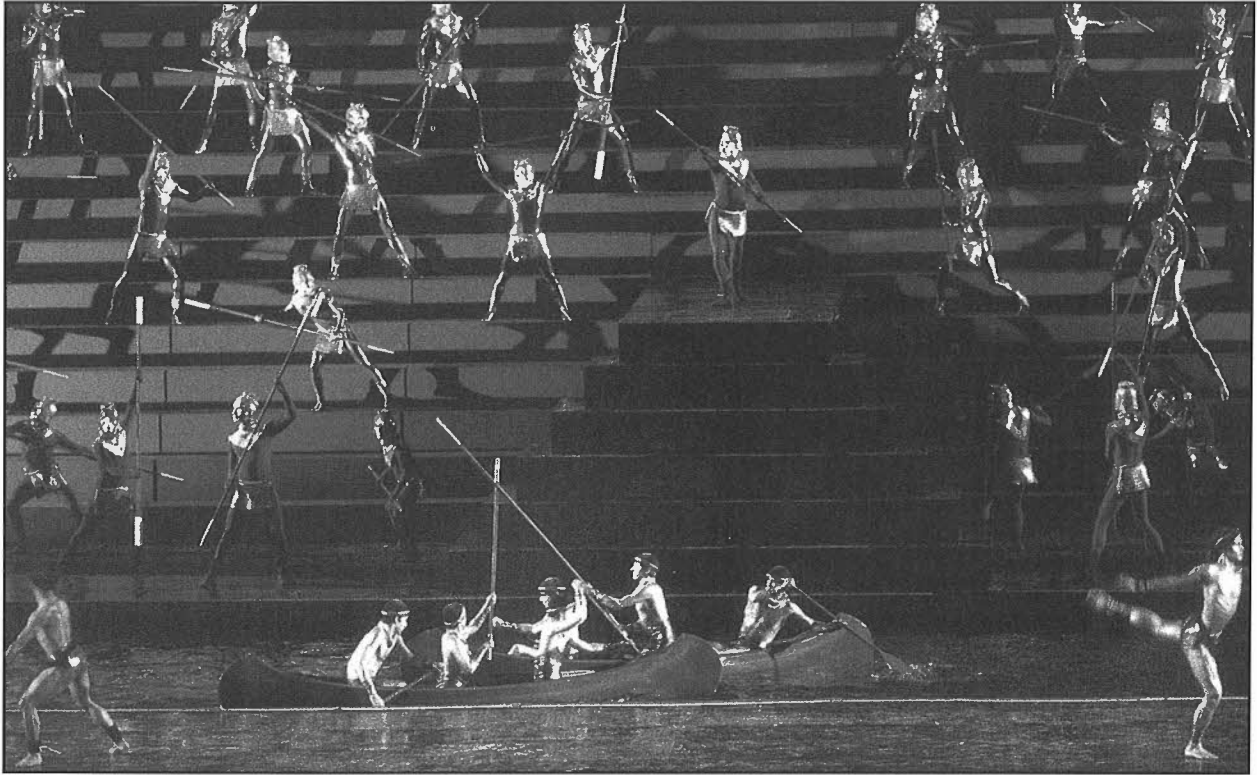


photo: Franco Fainello

## A REMINISCENCE

Nineteen years ago I had the good fortune to join a group of seven other paddlers for a run down the Natla and Keele rivers in the Northwest Territories. The trip was organized by the late Bill Hoyt, a New York State Assemblyman and WCA member. At the outset we faced a very lacklustre performance by "Scare North," flying out of Whitehorse; but that was followed by an exciting ride on two beautiful mountain rivers.

Bill published a story and photos about our trip in the Sunday supplement of the *Northwest Territories* in January 1982. The article was entitled, "Call of the North, 17 days of freeze-dried adventure as told by one who came back . . ."

I thought our canoeing prime minister, Pierre Elliot Trudeau, might enjoy the article, so I mailed a copy to Ottawa, suggesting the PM consider the Natla and Keele for his next canoe trip. Mine was not simply the fraternal gesture of a fellow runner of rivers. At the time, the Liberal government had agreed to the testing of American-

made Cruise missiles in the Mackenzie Valley. I felt that testing the Cruise posed a risk to the northern environment and was not really part of our NATO responsibilities. Testing was scheduled for the winter months, but I couldn't resist advising Mr. Trudeau that canoeists in the Mackenzie Valley would have to keep their heads down in future to avoid being hit by errant Cruise missiles.

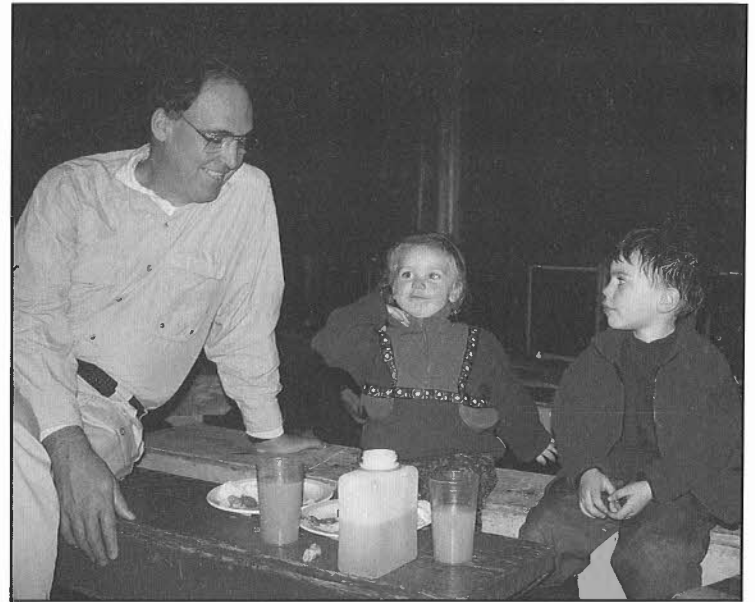
In April 1982 I received a typed note from the Prime Minister, thanking me for the interesting article and for remembering his interest in canoeing. It was signed, "With all good wishes." But there was a further note, hand-written with a broad-nibbed fountain pen, that confirmed the PM had actually read my accompanying note and that he always met criticism head-on. The inked addition stated, "And have no fear: only fatheads will have to duck Cruise missiles. P.E. Trudeau"

Sandy Gage

## WCA FALL MEETING

WCA members spent an enjoyable fall weekend at YMCA camp Wanakita. Early arrivals on Friday evening were treated to an impromptu slide show courtesy of Bill Summers. Saturday morning wake-up was YMCA style, complete with a loud bell at 7:30 and a stretching song before breakfast. More traditional WCA activities prevailed through the rest of the day with various groups paddling lakes and rivers, mostly in the Frost Centre area. Rolf and Debra Kraiker spoke in the evening. Debra discussed some often-neglected aspects of food hygiene, while Rolf talked about the Kraikers' trip last summer to the Athabasca Sand Dunes.

A large group were rumoured to have headed out to the Burnt River on Sunday, while others hiked around the area and generally enjoyed the superb fall weather that graced the weekend. Thanks to Jeff Haymer for organizing the event and especially for conjuring up the gorgeous weather.



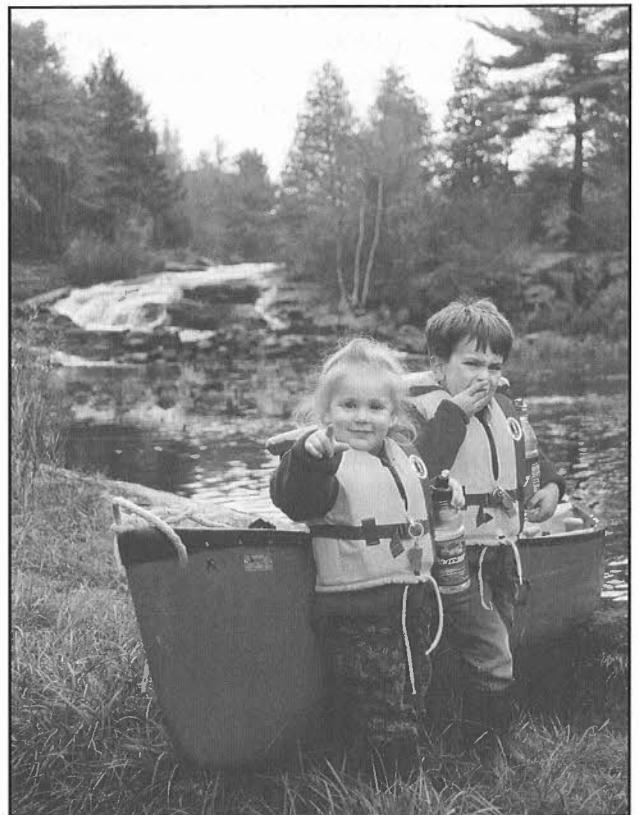
Bryan Buttigieg (text and photos)





## Apprentice Voyageurs:

Robyn (2) and Douglas (3) Buttigieg



## REVIEWS

**EXPEDITION CANOEING, A Guide to Canoeing Wild Rivers in North America**, by Cliff Jacobson, published by The Globe Pequot Press, Guilford, Connecticut, 2000, softcover, 306 pages, US\$21.95.

Reviewed by Toni Harting.

If, for some strange reason, there was only one book you were allowed to consult regarding any kind of canoe tripping, and especially regarding strenuous trips in the Far North, this is the one! Cliff has produced an extraordinary book with hundreds of fine illustrations, covering so much ground that practically everything you'd want to know about wilderness canoeing is included one way or another. The strength of the book is to some extent based on Cliff's decision to ask a large number of canoe tripping experts for their input, making valuable room for debate, philosophy, and individual opinions. If I had this book available when I started out wilderness canoeing 26 years ago, I would then have been a much better informed tripper. Even the most experienced canoeist can learn something useful from what this book has to offer. Of the more than a dozen books Cliff has created over the years, this one is his masterpiece. It really does not need an extensive review; just get hold this marvellous book and see for yourself how good it is.

\* \* \* \* \*

**PADDLE QUEST—Canada's Best Canoe Routes**, edited by Alistair Thomas, published by The Boston Mills Press, Erin, Ontario, 2000, softcover, 300 pages, \$24.95.

Reviewed by Bryan Buttigieg.

In spite of its shortcomings, this book provides the reader with much entertaining and informative reading material. It is divided into three main sections titled "37 Outstanding Canoe Trips", "25 Distinguished Paddler Profiles," and "A River Landscape For Canada." However, the book is somewhat less than it claims to be. Despite the editor's claim that the book "attempts to ply intriguing waters," my reaction on reading it was somewhat uncomplimentary. The editor has done a rather poor job explaining the point of the book. There is no rationale for why some rivers were chosen and not others. Obviously, given the embarrassment of riches that is Canada's river heritage, not all rivers could ever be included. But every time I tried to be charitable, I re-read the book's title and changed my mind. Finally (and this is where I fear I am least qualified to be critical having paddled so few of these gorgeous rivers), the descriptions of the rivers themselves are so short and in some cases so personal as to be almost uninformative.

The biographies are an interesting record of many valuable contributors to the paddling community. But why were the people chosen for the biography section and not

others? In my opinion, an editor has at least the obligation to explain these choices. Perhaps it would have been better to include these biographies in a separate book where at least the reader can enjoy them for their own sake rather than stumble upon them accidentally in a book about "Canada's Best Canoe Routes."

The four essays at the end also make interesting reading, though I doubt that the authors would agree that the 30-odd pages the essays occupy would in fact constitute the "bold blueprint for riverine stewardship" suggested by the editor.

Finally, the book ends with about 20 pages of listings of topographical maps, outfitters, and full-page CRCA advertising that seems rather out of place and of a more transient informative content than one would expect to find in a book.

However, the well-illustrated *Paddle Quest* is still an interesting book that presents a useful introductory overview of the Canadian paddling landscape, covering a nice cross-section of routes, people, and ideas.

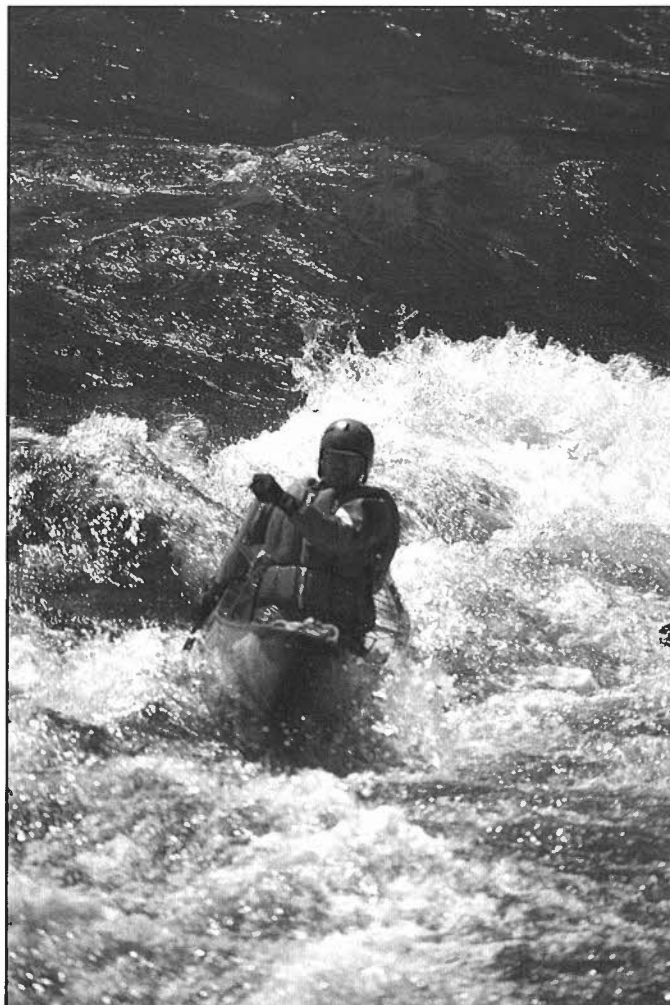


photo: Jay Neilson



# PADDLERS' TALK

## BEAM ME UP, SCOTTY

Satellite telephones hold the promise of providing emergency communications for remote wilderness travellers. However, the recent collapse of the \$5 billion US Iridium satellite communications system due to lack of customers, followed by the bankruptcy of competitor ICO after its loss of one of its satellites, has drastically changed the market for satellite telephones. Iridium simply could not find enough buyers for a system with big clunky phones that cost \$5000 per unit, charges of up to \$9.00 per minute, complicated user instructions, service outages, and poor signals.

However, the demise of Iridium and ICO has left the market open to a new provider, Globalstar, which launched in the fall of 1999. Globalstar uses a different satellite technology, which is more reliable and easier to maintain and which can transmit data as well as telephone messages. They use a phone that looks like a cell phone, weighs only 360 g, and connects both to the satellite and regular cellular systems. In Canada, there is coverage everywhere except in the high Arctic islands. The prices, while still high, are coming down towards the range that could make them viable options for outfitters and the more affluent frequent personal recreational users. Don't be surprised if within the next few years we see outdoor shops renting the phones the same way they now rent tents and canoes (That's my valuable marketing tip for you enterprising shop owners!). The current price for the phones is \$1995, and service charges are \$29.95 plus \$2.49/minute, but new subscriber sales are being offered already. Contact Globalstar Canada in Mississauga at 905-272-7555, 877-728-7466, or [www.globalstar.ca](http://www.globalstar.ca).

If you are a serious wilderness paddler or outfitter debating investing in a satellite phone rather than an electronic position indicating radio beacon, there are some points to keep in mind. On the negative side, phones are at this time more expensive to buy, and have ongoing service charges. They are neither waterproof, nor very impact resistant, necessitating their being kept in a case, rather than on your person. The rechargeable batteries have a much shorter shelf life, and call time of the Globalstar battery is only 3.5 hours. While simply pushing an EPIRB's button sends a locating signal direct to search and rescue personnel for the next 48 hours, getting help with the phone is more complicated, and there is no directional signal broadcast.

On the positive side, however, a phone allows a user to describe the nature of the emergency to obtain the most appropriate aid, and can be employed for a number of communications uses, such as informing a pilot for a scheduled pickup that you will be delayed. Also, while we

all like to pretend we are Raymond Patterson or Pierre Radisson, many of us in the real world have family or business obligations, and the ability to obtain periodic contact outside can make the difference between being able to do a trip or not.

Bill Ness

\* \* \* \* \*

## FIRE STARTER

Getting a fire going under adverse conditions can be a challenge. I always carry a small bag of birch bark and a few small pieces of pitch wood. Pitch wood is a marvelous fuel; the best source is a long dead, fire-killed jack pine stump. Even the rotten looking ones lying on the ground are full of resin and will be dry in the centre even after a three or four day deluge. A few minutes work with the axe and you will have a roaring blaze that will salvage the most miserable day. Pitch wood burns extremely hot so you have to be careful not to scorch the food in the pot. (I swear by a 3/4 axe. On heavily timbered remote rivers you may have to cut out a portage or clear a tent site. An axe can be a very dangerous tool, so it's "hands off" except for the owner.)

Dave Bober

\* \* \* \* \*

## FIRE STARTER

Always wanted to know what to do with your dryer lint? Mix three parts lint to about one part petroleum jelly and put this in a film canister. The mixture is excellent for starting fires when the weather is less than perfect.

Laurie Williams-Stimpson

\* \* \* \* \*

*PADDLERS' TALK is your opportunity to publish ingenious solutions to all kinds of big or little problems encountered in the field. To submit your ideas, please contact Bill Ness or Toni Harting; addresses etc. are in the WCA Contacts on the back page.*



# A HIKER'S GUIDE TO CANOEING IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, MONTANA

Sandy Gage

The ABS-hulled canoe was sitting loose on the car carrier and my body was squared under the stern, ready to lift. "Wait until there's no traffic on the road," said my group leader, Sonja. "We don't want anyone to see us heading for the water with a boat."

McDonald Creek was threading its way down from the Rocky Mountains about 50 m to my left, one of the most desirable whitewater runs in Glacier National Park, Montana. Unfortunately, the creek is closed to all watercraft because it's a nesting area for rare harlequin ducks.

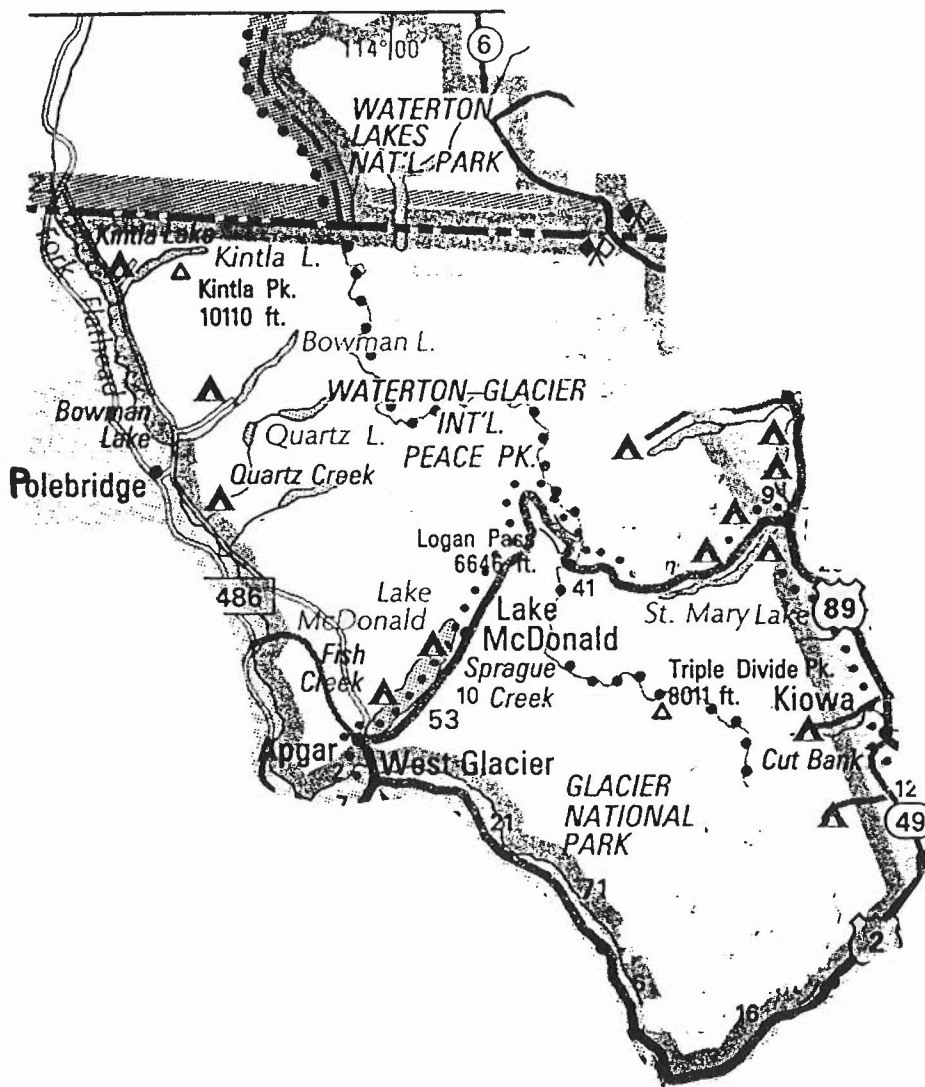
When the coast was clear, we quickly carried the canoe down to the water and set into the current with an upstream ferry. This could have been the start of an illicit addition to my life list of rivers paddled, but in fact, we were on a special mission, with authority from park headquarters to be on McDonald Creek. The US Geological Service (USGS) had sent us after hair. Bear hair!

I was in Montana as a volunteer with the Earthwatch Institute, working with USGS staff, including Sonja, a biological technician. Each day we headed to the back country, bushwhacking our way well beyond designated hiking trails. We were helping establish baseline data on the number of grizzly bears in the park, a process which should eventually indicate if the bear population is stable or in decline. Instead of the expensive and dangerous radio collaring of bears, the park scientists were collecting hair and scat samples that contained minute quantities of bear DNA, enough to permit laboratory analysis and bear identification. Many of the areas where I worked involved water crossings, and as a result I got a good overview of canoeing in Glacier.

Sonja and I completed our ferry of McDonald Creek and set off to collect our hair trophies. Later that day we ferried back, and then repeated the process further upstream, looking for a spot to cross that was free of sweepers and ledges.

Not far from our second crossing area we set up a new hair trap. We rigged a single strand of barbed wire around a ring of trees, and placed a lure of fermented fish guts and abattoir blood in the centre. Another volunteer would be back with Sonja in two weeks to see if any hair had been snagged from inquisitive bruins.

The next day we were back on the water, putting into Lake McDonald from the Fish Creek campground. Unlike the creek of the same name, Lake McDonald is very much open to the public. Motorboats, as well as canoes and sea kayaks, can be rented at the lake's southern end at the commercial complex of Apgar. But, on a weekday morning in early June, we had the lake all to ourselves. It was mill-pond-calm as we glided up the lake, tracing the edge of a forest of magnificent cedars that thrived on the moisture from the western slopes of the Rockies. Our trap site yielded only one crinkly hair, but we were treated to the vista of sun-lit peaks around Logan Pass as we ate lunch on a Lake McDonald beach.



Lake McDonald has one backcountry camping area at about the halfway point on its western shore. A lake-side hiking trail is accessible from the site. Canoeists who want a soft bed can turn to Lake McDonald Lodge, a classic hunting lodge built by a wealthy furrier in 1913.

Later that week we were scouting the park's most popular canoe route, the North Fork of the Flathead River. For most people this is a float trip that follows 93 km of the park's western boundary; for us it was another upstream ferry. The North Fork gathers

glacial waters from well into British Columbia, so by the time we entered it, south of the Big Creek campground, it was a cold, green funnel with plenty of push. The ferry required careful concentration on the angle of the boat, without focusing on the water that was rushing by.



*Quartz Lake*

South of our crossing, the Middle Fork of the Flathead forms another section of the park's boundary that is also canoeable. It is a pretty wild river, with lots of boulders strewn about, that is best run between June and mid-July. With a fly-in start, it's a two-day trip for most parties. Both these routes have America's Wild and Scenic Rivers designation.

Sonja and I set a hair trap near the remains of an old trapper's cabin at the foot of the Apgar Mountains. We knew this was bear country because there was a large, fresh, berry-studded scat close to our working area. Sonja scooped a steaming sample and we headed back to the river.

At the end of our first week, the seven Earthwatch volunteers in my group met at park headquarters to consult with USGS staff and do laundry. We were a mixed group of five men and two women from Britain, Germany, Canada, and the United States. As Earthwatch volunteers we had paid a set fee to the organization, which covered all our essential food, lodging, and transportation costs at the project site. A portion of our donation went to administrative costs. (Canadians with any US dollar-based income may be able to take advantage of the available tax receipt.)

Earthwatch has been a non-profit supporter of scientific research since 1971. From its headquarters in Boston it has put 50,000 volunteers into the field in 118 countries on more than 2,000 projects. The Earthwatch mission is, "To build a sustainable world through active partnership between scientist and citizen." In Canada, the organization has been a longtime supporter of the efforts of Dr. Peter Quinby to study and protect Ontario's ancient forests around the Temagami area.



*Digging into a bear scat*



*Moving barbed wire trapset across Kintla Creek*

For week two, I drove north on the Outside North Fork Road, making the mandatory refuelling stop for coffee and Danish at the Mercantile in the tiny town of Polebridge. I met Matt, another USGS technician, and the next morning we were at Kintla Lake, unlocking the government boathouse. We loaded our gear into a weathered old Grumman canoe and headed up the finger-shaped lake.

The resonant “clunk” on the aluminum gunwale, as I worked my J-stroke, reminded me of trips in northern Canada, renting from the Hudson’s Bay Company “U-Paddle” system. I had seen the high banks of the Winisk River as well as the McKenzie Mountains from the hard seat of a Grumman, and now I was back at it, paddling into a magnificent ring of peaks, most of them pushing 3,000 m in height.

A persistent wind was thrusting down between Thunderbird Mountain and Mount Custer, forcing Matt and me to concentrate on steady strokes. As the lake narrowed, we worked up the north shore, taking advantage of any curve in the shoreline which could offer protection. It was the kind of wind that you feel could turn the boat on one missed stroke. The kind of wind you have to expect in the Rockies.

After more than two hours of hard going we moved into our temporary digs at the Kintla Lake ranger cabin. Glacier is still patrolled in the traditional way by rangers travelling on foot or on horseback. They have access to a string of interior log cabins that are closed to the public. Our USGS duties meant authorization for us to use these snug shelters, and focus our attention on hair collection.

That night we shared the bunk beds with a ranger returning from a patrol. I got further proof of how rough Kintla Lake can be the next morning when the ranger slipped into his government-issue sea kayak for the trip down the lake.

Kintla Lake is accessible by a seasonal dirt road. There is a campground with 13 sites at the west end, and a back-country campsite near the east end. From the campground, hikers can link into a vast long-distance trail network.

I rounded out my two weeks on the bear project with a backpack trip into Quartz Lake, nestled in the mountains just west of the Continental Divide. Paul, a USGS technician with a forestry background, led the way over Cerulean Ridge to another ranger cabin at the west end of the lake. We were saved an eight-kilometre “portage” to this site by another padlocked Grumman. A quiet paddle through mist and rain brought us to a trap site that yielded a few scraggly tufts. The resident loons on Quartz lake seemed unperturbed by the rare interruption of a canoe on their private lake.

And what about grizzlies? I never saw one. We were trained to keep shouting and clapping whenever we were in the bush. The project was designed to minimize both confrontation with bears and interruption of their normal foraging patterns. We had to be noisy on land, but once in a canoe, we could take in the quiet beauty of a mountain park that is a designated World Heritage Site.

*Contact Earthwatch at 1-800-776-0188 and [www.earthwatch.org](http://www.earthwatch.org)*



## PIERRE TRUDEAU NATIONAL RIVERS DAY

The federal government is deliberating ways to commemorate Pierre Trudeau. Such a celebration should honor his life, beliefs, passions, leadership, and vision for Canada.

Trudeau was an avid canoeist with a deep love of Canadian rivers that contributed to his vision for this land. Canada has the finest wilderness rivers in the world. They connect and unite us as a country. Their vast watersheds flow through our geography, history, and culture. Since communities are situated along waterways, most Canadians live near a river or a stream. A Pierre Trudeau National Rivers Day would be a fitting homage with the potential participation of all Canadians and all communities.

Across Canada there has been a groundswell of strong support for the establishment of a National Rivers Day in honor of Pierre Trudeau. Many individuals and groups such as Rivers of Dreams, BC Outdoor Recreation Council, BC Heritage Rivers Program, Rivers and Lakes Foundation, and the Canadian Heritage Rivers System

have voiced their advocacy for the concept. Their vision is well founded. This year over 45,000 people participated in over 100 BC Rivers Day events—quite a growth since its inception in 1980.

Mark Angelo, past chair of Canadian Heritage Rivers and founder of BC Rivers Day says: "I would love to see a National Rivers Day in memory of Pierre Trudeau. Such an event would be the first national celebration of its kind in the world, and in light of Mr. Trudeau's long-held passion for our rivers, this would be a suitable and symbolic tribute to him. The federal government will soon be deciding on ways to commemorate Mr. Trudeau. We hope that the proposal for a Pierre Trudeau National Rivers Day will be given serious consideration."

For more information contact Mark Angelo, 604-432-8270. Past Chairperson, Canadian Heritage Rivers System; Chairperson, BC Outdoor Recreation Council; Founder of BC Rivers Day.



## SPAM

First resolution of each new year is to do a wilderness canoe trip. Same resolution every year. So far have been fairly successful in keeping the resolution. I think out of 25 years we may have only missed one or two years.

Have found that as the years go by, the trips start to blend into each other. What year did we go down that river? Where did we catch that big pike? What river is that long portage on? A good reason to keep a daily journal. However, our trip down the Attawapiskat River stands out even though it's been 20 years. Still have vivid memories of almost everyday of that trip.

It was a long one. We left from highway 808 on the Pickle Lake road and followed the Otoskwin River to Attawapiskat Lake. From there we canoed down the Attawapiskat River to Attawapiskat village at the mouth of the river. Twenty-two days. Wondered why this trip stood out so clearly from other trips and then realized that the connection was the constant reminder provided by a T-shirt with the letters SPAM written across the front

We were sitting around the campfire one night on the Attawapiskat. Didn't bring a paperback to read so were reduced to reading the ingredient label on the Spam can.

Back of the can had a mail-in offer for a T-shirt with the logo SPAM. Free. The only requirement was seven can labels from Spam products. Rummaged in the food bag and sure enough, found that we had enough cans to qualify for the T-shirt right with us on the canoe trip. It became a secret pleasure at the end of every Spam meal to peel and save the label before scorching the can and consigning it to the trash bag.

Mailed in for the T-shirt after the trip was over.

Still have it. Looking at the T-shirt now and deciding what to do with it. It's in bad shape. Unravelling at the collar. Back of the T-shirt has a couple of stains that won't wash out. Some small holes are slowly joining forces to become larger holes. The T-shirt really needs to be turned into a rag, but I can't force myself to do it. It will break the link I have with the buddies from 20 years ago. I can bring them and the trip back when I'm wearing the T-shirt.

You have to treasure these ties to the wilderness. The threads are fragile and can rip easily.

Greg Went

## CONSERVATION

### McCRAE LAKE

TO: Dorothy Shaver  
Parry Sound District MNR  
SUBJECT: OLL Area C36, McCrae Lake

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the boundaries for the Conservation Reserve C36. Decisions taken now will affect the long-range future of the Reserve; thus let me detail where I see problems, and suggest possible measures that should be addressed.

1. The current border definition leaves a strip of general use land to the east with a recreational road (snowmobile "trail") weaving in and out of the reserve. To avoid possible future management conflicts, one could extend the eastern boundary of the reserve right over to the Hwy 400 easement and thus achieve cohesive management of the area.
2. ATV use of the trails and roads in the Reserve is a severe threat to the ecology, as acknowledged in this year's meeting between canoeist, snowmobilers and the MNR. Now is the time to devise strategies that minimize the anticipated damage. An effective measure could be to designate areas that are off-limit to motorized access and setting aside a budget to manage/enforce such restrictions.
3. The last years have witnessed some motor boats being carried into McCrae Lake. Given the extensive use by canoeists and the small size of the lake, no motorized craft should operate on McCrae Lake.
4. Conflicts already have arisen from the different uses and the perceived need to have separate trails/roads. With the anticipated increased use, a trail plan that separates motorized travel from low-impact use (hiking, canoeing, cross country skiing) should be established. Such a plan should also aim at minimizing the number of roads/trails and their impact on the environment.
5. As the area is already heavily used, its formalization as a Conservation Reserve is likely to result in increased usage in the future. A plan must be established that will control degradation of the area from over-use. Re-designation of the Reserve to an operating park may not be a bad idea
6. Because of the already high use of the area, the management of garbage is a problem that should be addressed by the MNR: especially, the parking lot must have proper garbage disposal facilities.

Sincerely yours,

Erhard Kraus,  
Environmental Representative  
Wilderness Canoe Association

\* \* \* \* \*

### KAWARTHA HIGHLANDS

Presentation to Kawartha Highlands Stakeholder Committee meeting in Peterborough on 28 October 2000

The Wilderness Canoe Association (WCA), founded in 1974, is a volunteer organization with over 700 members. We are based in Southern Ontario with members in most provinces, the United States, and a few in Europe. The WCA offers its members each year: four issues of our newsletter *Nastawgan*, four meetings, and over 100 outings. It is these outings that bring our members to the Kawartha Highlands area, such as the Mississagua River, Anstruther Lake, and Long Lake to name a few.

With our outings we can see the pressure on our environment with the increased usage and lack of care that some users show. We have to protect what we have left for future generations. It appears that volunteers are expected to do more and more as the Provincial Government abdicates its responsibilities towards our environment. The Ministry of the Environment loses half of its staff, our drinking water is in jeopardy, and our Provincial Government will not sign on with the Federal Government and the rest of the provinces to improve our environment. This is why these stakeholder committees will have to lobby the province to change segments of Ontario's Living Legacy—Land Use Strategy (OLL-LUS). Why should we just accept everything that is supposed to be proposed legislation?

What sense does it make to have a protected area only if no minerals are found? A future scenario could be as follows: There we are, enjoying our fantastic canoe trip—we launch at Long Lake, portage into Buzzard Lake and then into Vixen Lake. But at the south end of Vixen Lake the trip is over because minerals have been discovered on the shores of Shark Lake. The land is staked, posted, mined, and off-limits to anyone else. Is this what we want? What happens if minerals are discovered at the east end of Long Lake? You just can't take the heart out of an area and tack something else on somewhere. Tell the province: NO!

*Example # 1* Toronto Star, 25 October 2000: "Court Stops Logging Road Construction," by Brian Mc Andrew. A logging road was proposed to cross Bruce Peninsula National Park. Environmentalists asked the provincial environment ministry and Environment Canada to order

an environmental review. They both refused. (As I said, sometimes we have to refuse to accept government decisions.) The environmentalists, the Sierra Legal Defence Fund, Chippewas, and the Wildlands League did not accept this. They were able to get the road construction "postponed after an Ontario Superior Court judge ordered a provincial environmental assessment of the project." Little people can make a difference!

The Kawartha Highlands Signature Site (KHSS) is too small for any commercial fishing. Only sport fishing should be allowed.

In the package of information I received, it did not state what, when or how much hunting or trapping went on in this area. These two activities will need to be assessed. There are very few conservation officers left to do this. Therefore, how will this be done? Will a census be taken of our wildlife? Will there be the people power to do this? We must not allow over-hunting. In certain locations, hunting and trapping should be eliminated altogether. The encroachment of people and the destruction of habitat have destroyed thousands of species and plant life around the world. We have to be careful.

*Example # 2* The Brighton Independent, 25 October 2000: "Brighton Provincial Wildlife Area—A Well-kept Secret" by Nancy Powers. "Hunting Advisory: Visitors to the Wildlife Area should be aware that hunting of various species is allowed during much of the year. Visitors should wear hunter's orange caps or jackets. Visitors should also look out for the unsupervised shooting ranges located in gravel pits within the Wildlife Area." We believe that hunting should be banned in Provincial Parks, Conservation areas, and Wildlife areas for the protection of humans and wildlife.

Motorized trails have to be looked at very carefully. If people can access areas by machine, litter and destruction will exist. When I first canoed into Egg Lake almost 20 years ago, I wondered how some of that garbage got there. It wasn't until later that I discovered that it was possible to drive there on an old road.

As an example of how motorized access can cause problems, last July we canoed the Missinaibi River. When we arrived at Glassy Falls, south of Highway 11, we were 'greeted' by at least 10 ATVs whose owners were rearranging the beach. The noise, smell, and tire tracks were very disconcerting. The Missinaibi Park Superintendent, Barbara Pyke, who was with another canoe party at this location, told us later that Parks Ontario now owns this area and that access will be barred to ATVs. This is something that the KHSS committee should investigate.

No new facilities should be built, especially on the interior lakes. The KHSS is unique for being so far south in Ontario. It gives one the feeling of being much further north when canoeing through here with the solitude one can experience in the interior.

In conclusion, we believe that KHSS should become a provincial park, which should maximize its protection. And with this status, hunting and trapping should be phased out, and no new construction will be allowed. In

addition, no lumbering should exist. These protections are a must.

Glenn Spence  
Immediate Past Chair  
Wilderness Canoe Association



## AN IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Please be aware of the following requirements when you go canoeing:

- There must be a PFD for each person in a canoe and it must fit the wearer.
- There must be at least one paddle in the canoe.
- There must be at least 45 feet of buoyant life line.
- There must be an audible signalling device, such as a horn or a whistle.
- There must be a bailer or pump.

The Ontario Provincial Police and the park rangers are making spot checks at random, even in wilderness situations. They may ask paddlers to put on their PFD's to check fitting, or they may ask you to put your throw rope in the water to make sure it floats. There is a fine for each item missing.

Submitted by Jeff Haymer

### Note by Bill Ness

All the relevant details of the rules are covered in the article on pages 14–16 of last winter's *Nastawgan*. In the regulations, the 45-foot line is referred to as a 15 m buoyant heaving line. As I mentioned in that article, the easiest solution for lake paddling, when there is no rational purpose for toting a heavy and bulky throw bag, is to take a length of lightweight hollow braid poly rope as used for water ski tow rope. Le Barons has a pre-cut length with a float on the end for about \$6.00, which is perfect for keeping the bureaucrats at bay. It weighs next to nothing and can be stuffed in under the deck. Works OK for hanging light food packs and as a painter for tying up your boat, too. Other interesting wrinkles to the legislation are that the minimum measurements for the bailer are also specified, and that all you need is one paddle per boat, regardless of the number of occupants. That's right, a tandem crew only needs one paddle in total—not one spare paddle!

## ESTIMATING WATER SPEED

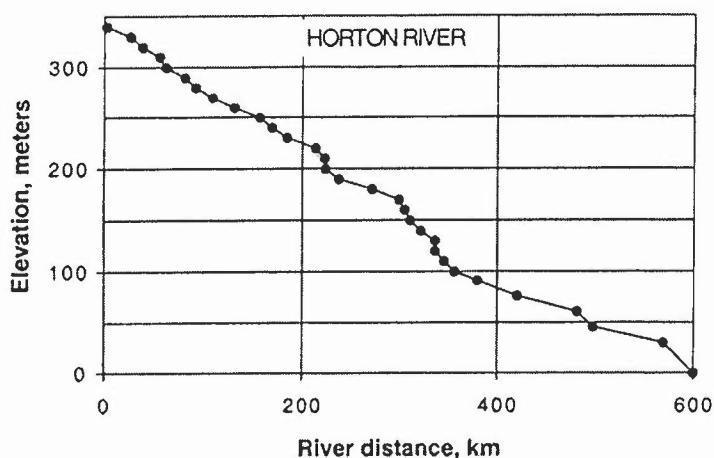
Bill Hosford

While paddling on the Horton River last summer, I noted that it had a very good current almost everywhere which I estimated to be 3 to 4 km/hr. I wondered about just how the velocity depended on the gradient and the depth and tried to derive an appropriate equation. I realized that the speed should increase with the gradient and the depth\*. On returning to civilization, I found that my equation was wrong, but Rane Curl helped me find a text book equation on the web. For example see <http://www.abe.msstate.edu/classes/abe4312/1999/manning/manning.html>

If the river cross section is approximated as a wide channel of almost constant depth,  $d$ , the average velocity,  $V_{av}$  is given by  $V_{av} = d^{2/3} G^{1/2} / n$  where  $G$  is the gradient and  $n$  is the Manning coefficient which depends on the nature of the bottom. ( $n = 0.02$  for sand,  $0.03$  for gravel, and  $0.04$  for rock.)

A profile of the Horton River indicates that the slope is almost constant slope, except for a steeper region in the canyons. The average slope is  $G = 350\text{m}/600\text{km} = .00058$ . Estimating the average depth,  $d$ , as one meter and taking  $n = 0.03$  for a gravel bottom,  $V_{av} = 0.80 \text{ m/s} = 2.9 \text{ km/hr}$ . The surface velocity should be about 1.5 times the average velocity or about  $4.3 \text{ km/hr}$ . A canoe has a very shallow depth, so the surface velocity is more appropriate. This is somewhat greater than the 2 to 3 km/hr. that I estimated. A Manning factor of  $0.04$  for a rock bottom would give better answers ( $V_{av} = 2.2 \text{ km/hr}$ ,  $V_{surf} = 3.3 \text{ km/hr}$ .)

\*A given river flows faster where it is shallower, but that must be because the gradient at that point is greater. We all know that for a given river, the flow rate is much faster during floods than when it is at normal levels.



Gradient on the Horton River



## WCA TRIPS

**WANT TO ORGANIZE A TRIP AND HAVE IT  
PRESENTED IN THE SPRING ISSUE?  
Contact the Outings Committee before 11 Feb.!**

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.*

+++++

anytime

### WINTER CAMPING

Frank and Jay Knaapen, 613-687-6037 ----- Winter camping anytime: weekends, holidays, or longer. We will be setting up a base camp near High Falls on the Barron River on the east side of Algonquin Park. Many exciting day trips and longer loops are possible from this location. We invite you to a welcome arrival potluck stay-over at our home on the Petawawa that will make the drive worthwhile.

7 January

### BACKCOUNTRY SKIING IN COPELAND FOREST

Rob Butler, 416-487-2282, call prior to 4 Jan. ----- Destination will ultimately depend on conditions. However, the snowgods willing, we will be in Copeland Forest (beside Horseshoe Valley). Meet at Hwy. 400 / King Side Road S.E. parking lot at 7:30 a.m.. Suitable for fit intermediates.

20 January

### MONO CLIFFS SKI TRIP

Dave Sharp, 519-846-2586, book before 13 Jan. ----- Mono Cliffs has a wide selection of fine ski trails in a scenic natural setting north of Orangeville. Suitable for intermediates capable of skiing for a full day. Limit eight participants.

3 February

### KOLAPORE UPLANDS SKI TRAILS

Dave Sharp, 519-846-2586, book before 27 Jan. ----- We will ski in a complex network of trails near Collingwood on an outlying part of the Niagara Escarpment, near the eastern edge of Beaver Valley. Trip is exploratory for organizer. Suitable for intermediates. Limit eight participants.

31 March

### UPPER CREDIT RIVER

Paul and Diane Hamilton, 905-877-8778, book before 24 March ----- Inglewood to Glen Williams. The river will be fast and cold with some swifts. This is a very pretty section of the Credit, making for a good spring paddle for intermediate canoeists. Participants should be prepared for possible cool, wet conditions. Limit six boats.

28-29 April

### KAWARTHAS - LONG LAKE LOOP

Gisela Curwen, 416-484-1471, book before 20 April. ----- The Kawarthas are great for the first leisurely flatwater paddle of spring. Nature lovers will be thrilled to spot returning birds and other fauna—last year we saw over 40 turtles on this weekend! We also might just be lucky again to harvest fresh cranberries, which were frozen in the lake over the winter. They taste great in bannock and desserts even if it is not Thanksgiving or Christmas. If we have time, we will hike the exposed ridges and get great views of the pretty lakes. As during the past trips, we will clean up garbage from portages. Very rewarding—there will be prizes for those who collect the best junk! Maximum four canoes.

12-13 May

### MOTHER'S DAY ON THE MADAWASKA/OPEONGO

Frank and Jay Knaapen, 613-687-6037, book before 3 May. ----- The Opeongo and Madawaska rivers are two excellent whitewater rivers for solid intermediate to advanced paddlers. Fully equipped whitewater boats and wetsuits are REQUIRED. Saturday: the Opeongo below Victoria Lake is one long woosh of rapids, with lots of mandatory Class 2's and optional Class 3's. Sunday: from Whitney to the village of Madawaska there are 18 Class 2-3 rapids, with numerous mandatory no-can-scout-em Class 2 roller coasters. There are optional portages for the bigger Class 2-3 rapids. Limit five boats.

19-21 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. Limit four canoes. Novices of all ages (including toddlers) are welcome.

19–21 May

**LOWER MADAWASKA RIVER**

Larry Durst, 905-415-1152 or Larry.G.Durst@snapon.com, book by 12 May. ----- We will paddle from above Aumonds Bay to the take-out at Griffith, a distance of 28 km, with only the Sunday being a full day of paddling and most of that spent on the Snake Rapids section of the river. Rapids will range from Grade 2 to 4 and there are a couple of short portages around falls. All rapids can, however, be easily portaged. Water levels are likely to be quite high and the water cold. Participants will need to dress and pack appropriately. Suitable for good intermediates or better. Limit six boats.

19–21 May

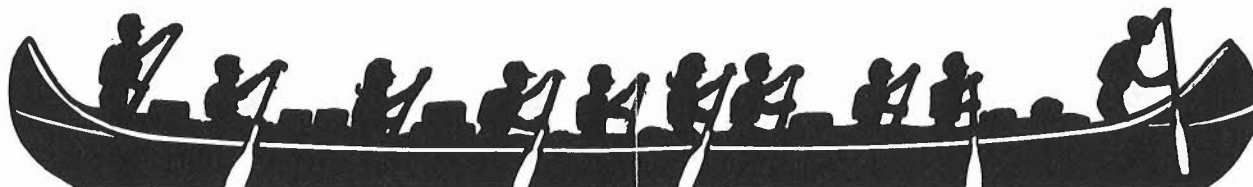
**PETAWAWA RIVER**

Frank and Jay Knaapen, 613-687-6037, book as soon as possible. ----- The Petawawa River is a beautiful spring outing. There are long sections of mandatory Class 1–2 requiring moving-water experience, as well as long stretches of flatwater. The Petawawa features the Big Five Monsters which can be portaged by those preferring the scenic option. Fully equipped whitewater boats and wetsuits are required. We portage Crooked Chute, at any water level, and expect participants on this trip to do the same. If there is something about the preceding sentence you don't understand, don't book with us. Accommodation and potluck available Friday night at our home on the Petawawa River. Limit five boats.

1–3 June

**DUMOINE RIVER**

Frank and Jay Knaapen, 613-687-6037, book as soon as possible. ----- We will be running the Dumoine River as a three-day weekend outing commencing with a fly-in to Lac Laforge. Flight cost is around \$150/person. Interested participants should have boats outfitted with adequate flotation and possess at least intermediate WW skills. The Dumoine has some challenging rapids, which can be portaged, and long stretches of Class 2. Outstanding scenery and great whitewater make this a gorgeous trip. Limit five boats.

**WCA OUTINGS PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY**

The WCA has over the years provided its members with an outstanding selection of outings and outdoors related activities due to the generosity of its outings organizers. These individuals have been willing to share freely with us their skills and experience so that others can enjoy trips to locations they would have otherwise never visited, or learned skills that non-members can only obtain from commercial outfitters. They have made these offerings knowing that in return, they will benefit from opportunities their fellow members will make available to them. Cultivation of a spirit of voluntary donation of time and energy to the activities of our club for our mutual benefit and the furtherance of recreational canoeing has always been a cornerstone of the WCA.

Nonetheless, we recognize that members may also benefit from offerings of activities that require some fees or other expenses. We would not want to deter WCA's from organizing outings or workshops that could provide outstanding opportunities to learn or travel to special paddling destinations just because they require payments for special outside equipment or services. As an example, to provide a high-quality educational workshop may require hiring a skilled professional instructor, or involve rental of special equipment. We think members would understand that such events cannot be held free of charge, and would

prefer to have the opportunity to partake of them than for them to not be offered because there is a fee.

However, as our policy for our club outings program is that these events be organized by our roster of much appreciated trip leaders, we believe that members will also agree that any events that require payments for food, or goods and services above and beyond what is strictly needed to reimburse the organizer for out-of-pocket expenses to acquire these for the group, should be listed in either the News Briefs or Products and Services section. As an example, if a member is also a canoeing instructor or outfitter, and is organizing an event which involves any compensation for these activities, we welcome him or her providing fellow members with a special offering for WCA members, but it will be advertised as distinct from our club outings listing. In all such cases, a full detailing of charges should be clearly given to any members inquiring about the advertised event.

We believe the above policy will both preserve the voluntary spirit of our club while making available to members worthwhile special opportunities for which fees are needed.

WCA Outings Committee

## 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.

**SHOOTING PADDLERS**, Toni Harting's new book on paddling photography is available in many bookstores (also on-line) and outdoors/sport stores. It can also be obtained directly from the publisher (Natural Heritage Books, 1-800-725-9982 and natherbooks@idirect.com) as well as from the author: 416-964-2495 and aharting@net-com.ca

**A SIMPLE SOLUTION TO WET GEAR** CANOE PACK LINER from OSTROM OUTDOORS. Huge! Fits packs 60-120 L (3500-7500 cubic inches) — Lightweight — Bright yellow — Coated 70D Packcloth — Taped seams — "Roll top — Twist — Buckle Closure" — Rave reviews from the field. \$60 CDN (+ shipping and taxes) For more information or a free catalogue, call Bill or Anne Ostrom toll free at 1-877-678-7661, email at ostromab@tbaytel.net, or visit our website at [www.ostrompacks.com](http://www.ostrompacks.com). We also make a variety of canoe packs and accessories.

**BOOKS** Betelgeuse Books, founded in 1981, is a small press dedicated to the publication of high quality work on northern Canadian subjects: the land, its people, its history, and the heritage of wilderness travel and canoeing. Details of current titles are available at a new website: <http://maxpages.com/betelgeuse>

**INTERWILD IMAGES** retails products on the Internet, which reflect the wild and open places remaining on our earth. We recognize and encourage that sense of wonder and discovery travellers experience as they encounter wilderness during their personal passage aboard our Spaceship Earth. We're new and we're eager. Give us a look! Videos, paddles, trip logs, maps, compasses, artwork, music, books, composters. Telephone 1-905-584-2109 or fax 1-905-584-4722 or [hal@interwild.com](mailto:hal@interwild.com)

**VALLEY VENTURES** Dumoine/Noire/Coulonge/Petawawa rivers: complete and partial outfitting and shuttle services. We specialize in custom trips. Valley Ventures, Deep River, Ontario, 613-584-2577. Check our website [www.magma.ca/~vent](http://www.magma.ca/~vent)

**SMOOTHWATER OUTFITTERS AND ECOLOGE** offers 60 km. of quiet backcountry trails (off-limits to snowmobiles) that begin right at our lodge. Ski or snowshoe for hours, exploring varied terrain, wildlife habitat, and cultural sites. Cabin-to-cabin skiing allows the more adventurous to overnight on the trails for a deeper experience. Trails are mapped and signed, and appropriate for all levels. Located an easy 4.5 hours north of Toronto. Weekend packages with meals and lodging from \$208 (bunkhouse) to \$243 (private room). **SPECIAL WINTER EVENTS:** Women's Full Moon Winter Spa Retreat 12-14 January; Moonlight Winter Ski and Photo Getaway 9/10 February; Creature Comforts (Spring Ski, Cooking Class, Storytelling) 9-11 March; March Break Family Ski Extravaganza 12-16 March. Contact: Caryn Colman, Box 40, Temagami, ON., P0H 2H0. Tel:705-569-3539; Fax:705-569-2710; [temagami@onlink.net](mailto:temagami@onlink.net) [www.smoothwater.com](http://www.smoothwater.com)



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<p><b>WCA Postal Address:</b>  <b>P.O. Box 48022</b>  <b>Davisville Postal Outlet</b>  <b>1881 Yonge St.</b>  <b>Toronto, Ontario M4S 3C6</b></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          alessio@istar.ca</p>	<p>Anne Snow          Toronto, Ont.          (416) 482-0810</p> <p>Hal Graham          Caledon East, Ont.          (905) 584-2109          hal@interwild.com</p> <p>Jeff Haymer          Downsview, Ont.          (416) 635-5801          jhaymer@ionsys.com</p> <p>Evan Wood          Toronto, Ont.          (416) 462-8770</p>	<p><b>WCA Contacts</b></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><b>www.wildernesscanoe.org</b></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          rwbutter@pathcom.com</p> <p><i>WCA WEBMASTER</i>          Bruce Bellaire          www.wildernesscanoe.org</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>CONSERVATION</i>          Erhard Kraus          Scarborough, Ont.          (416) 293-3755          erhard@interlog.com</p>
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## Wilderness Canoe Association

## membership application

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

**PRINT CLEARLY!**      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

\* 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.