

WINTER CAMPING IN ALGONQUIN PARK

Jay Neilson and Frank Knaapen

Crackling cedar roaring hot in the wood stove, an aroma of baked bannock, the flavor of strawberry tea, the gurgling of water rushing over rocks. Outside it's a fine morning for splitting and sawing firewood. It's mild, the temperature hovering near freezing. Not the crackling cold that snaps the forest trees, no echoing booms from the lake, or the hypothermic petrification some people associate with winter camping.

The shoreline was melting early, exposing patches of open water on Kioskokwi Lake, which we skied across

to reach the year's tent site, located on the Amable du Fond River on the northern side of Algonquin Park. A safe route across the lake was marked by alders posted by local fishermen. On a treacherous lake this size, losing the safe trail in bad weather can be fatal. We had set our tent up after Christmas, leaving it well supplied with wood, wood stove, matches, emergency blanket, and a lantern. It takes a few hours for a team consisting of one man and one woman to set up a standard (10'x12') canvas tent.

We needed four hours to pull the sleds eight kilome-

tres across Kioshkokwi Lake, slogging through snow drifts covering the surface. A snowmobile track was vaguely discernable, but using that trail was not much easier. Finally we reached the tent site; darkness descended before we were organized. Where did I pack lantern mantles or candles? As the flashlight batteries were now useless in the cold, we decided to return home that night to pick up some more stuff. Staring at the vast expanse of Kioshkokwi Lake in the gloomy darkness we could vaguely discern our tracks. The night was cloudy and dark, with an easterly of light drifting snow.

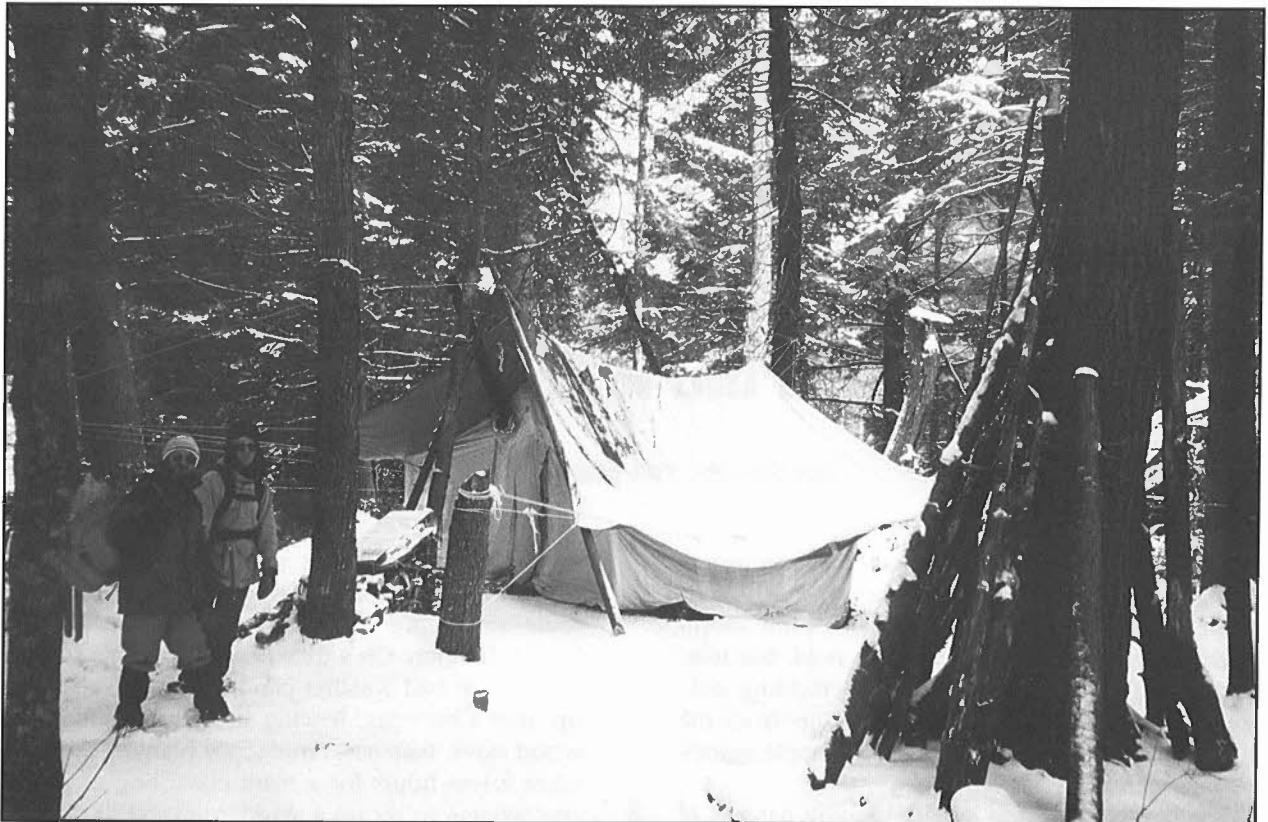
**Several of the photos were made
in the Barron River area
of Algonquin Park.**

Near the portage, the ice was perilous where the Amable du Fond River enters Kioshkokwi Lake. In the darkness we could barely make out the nearest bay in that awesome, silvery, gloomy light. We skied along the verge enthralled by the beauty of it all, then followed our tracks onto the lake, near a small island at least 250 metres from the confluence where the ice had been hard that afternoon, with no signs of water seepage or obvious danger spots. Suddenly I felt stickiness on my tracks and fled for the shore, while Frank meditated on wimp etiquette for a while before joining me. When I returned alone the next day, our tracks were open water!

Kioshkokwi Lake is also treacherous where the Amable du Fond exits the lake. In the darkness we were concerned about our approach to the parking lot which is adjacent to this treacherous ice. It started to snow more heavily and soon visibility was so reduced that neither shore could be observed from the centre of the lake. Seeing more than ten metres ahead became impossible and we were without a compass. Luckily, the snowstorm abated and a red beacon light on a communication tower on the hillside above the ranger station could be glimpsed faintly through the clouds and driving snow. It took three hours without sleds to traverse the lake and return to our vehicle.

There are important considerations when selecting a winter campsite. Winter camping requires a flat site with dry deadfall, located next to open running water or a spring, with two sturdy roping trees six metres apart in the shelter of the woods. Most summer canoeing campsites are depleted of standing deadfall that is not rotten, are usually located on windy lake sites to avoid black flies and mosquitoes, and are useful for bathing. This makes it an unlikely location for a winter campsite. It is not practical to hack through eight centimetres of ice with an axe and a hypothermic wind surely blows through the tent.

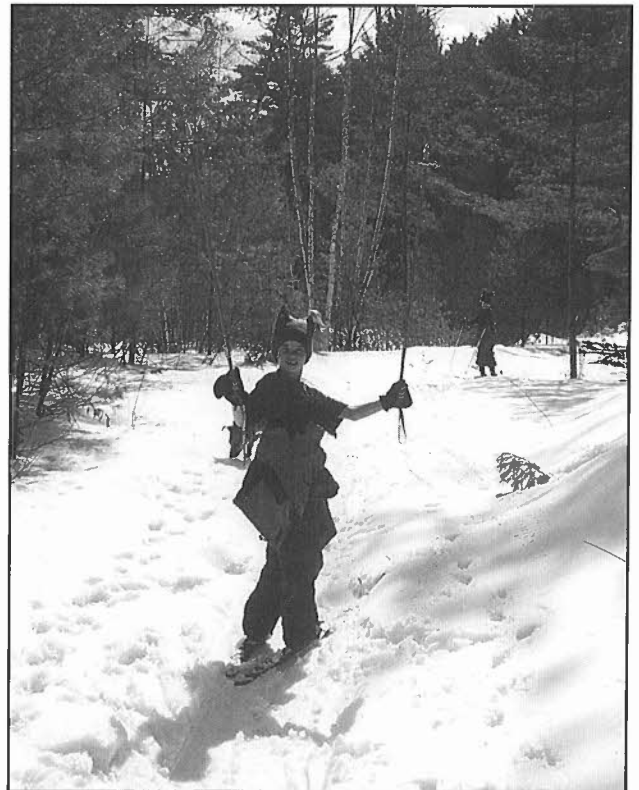
Park administration requires winter campers to locate their thunderbox at least 30 metres from any shoreline. Site access and using existing campsites depends on a common sense evaluation, which should be discussed





with the District Office. Heavy users are required NOT to locate at summer sites to avoid depleting or damaging them. No live boughs—which campers often leave strewn about—should be cut; with modern equipment damaging live trees is not necessary. Location requirements for heavy use, such as a dogsled touring operation, is obviously different from overnight use by groups of two or three campers. When children, elderly, or disabled users are involved, special requirements also exist.

One weekend we enjoyed the novelty of an intrepid WCA visitor from Toronto, keen to experience snow paradise in Algonquin Park. After lunch we set off for beautiful Manitou Lake. The trail was well packed by dogsleds and also by snowmobiles used by natives. When we had traversed the first hill, an enormous bull moose stood gaping at us, while our visitor got his camera. The moose moved off just before the shutter was released. Then dogsled teams passed by, making a picturesque appearance along the trail. Several wolf tracks were made by two wolves meeting. Frank excitedly pointed out a rarity—a communal wolf rubdown imprinted in the snow. This rubdown



looked suspiciously like a snow angel that might have been executed by one of the young ladies from the dogsledding group, except there were no human boot prints.

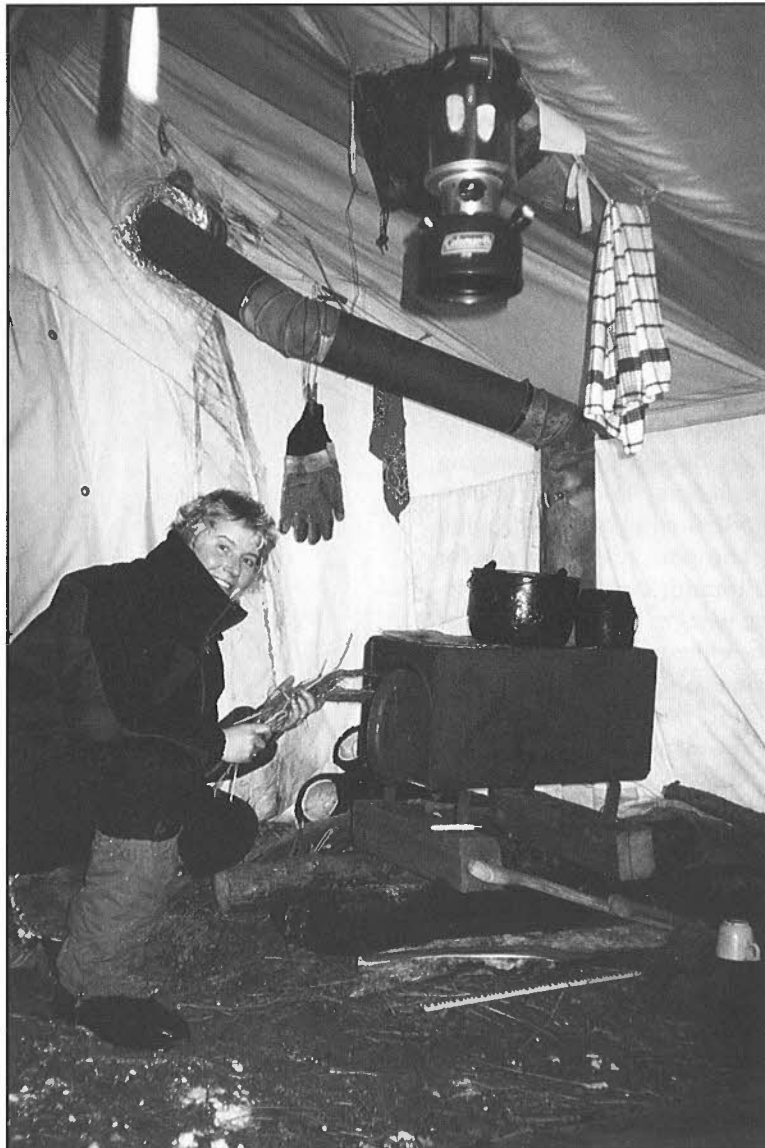
Manitou Lake was radiant, illuminated in sunshine. We basked in the warm spring afternoon, celebrating our excursion with delicious Toblerone chocolate bars. On our return, there were fresh wolf tracks overlaid on the trail. In winter one is more aware of animal activity as their tracks remain visible in the snow—most critters prefer to walk on the groomed trails. For a fleeting moment a red wolf stood on the trail 100 metres ahead of us before bounding off into the woods. This sighting really made the day for our visitor. What next?

Ten minutes later another wolf appeared on the trail—it even posed for the camera. Our visitor was ecstatic. The moose had been a botched opportunity, but photographing this wolf was a lifetime high. The wolf even advanced cautiously, walking catlike as wolves do, its legs splayed in a typical wolf stance. Frank pointed out its radio collar

and explained the Theberge red wolf tracking program. Then, as the wolf approached closer, we became suspicious—the radio collar materialized into a red dog collar! Obviously this was a sled dog which had bolted, following the pack, hungrily chasing its dinner. In the hilarity of it all, Frank pointed out that this dog was at least 50 % wolf, maybe even red wolf. As we approached camp, we spotted a three-toed woodpecker and surprisingly a Phoebe, indicating an early spring.

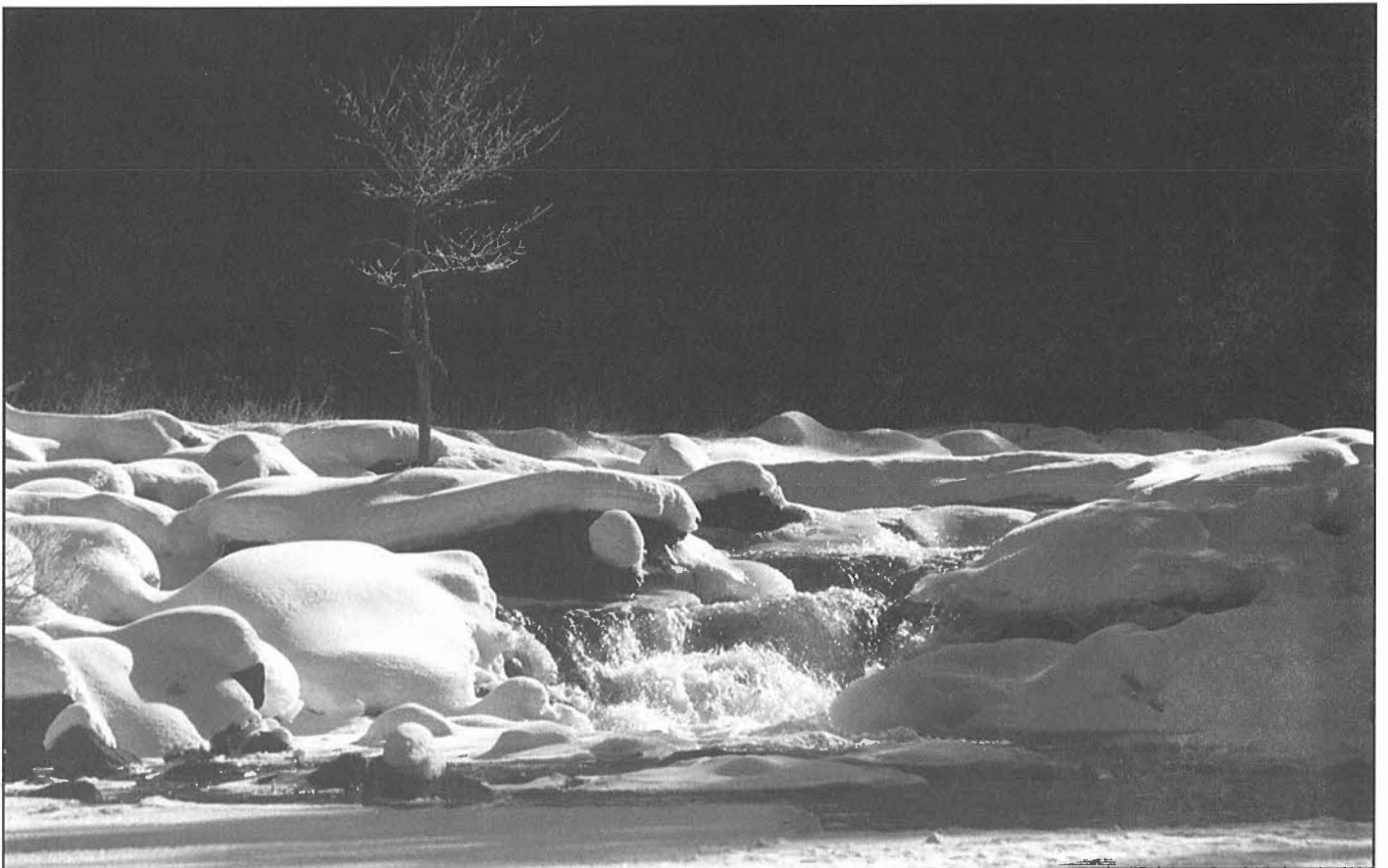
After a delicious dinner, sweltering in the heat of the wood stove, our visitor expressed just how much he had enjoyed it all, insisting that next time he would pack Hawaii shorts.

Enjoying a cozy winter camping evening, relaxing on a straw bed, sipping hot toddy, listening for the baying of wolves, and the excited yipping of young pups, reading *Men for the Mountains* by Sid Marty or his latest book *Switchbacks*, regaling 20 years of service with BC National Parks, which are highly recommended hilarious reads.





There is a power in the universe that plays with men, the way that men play with mice.





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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

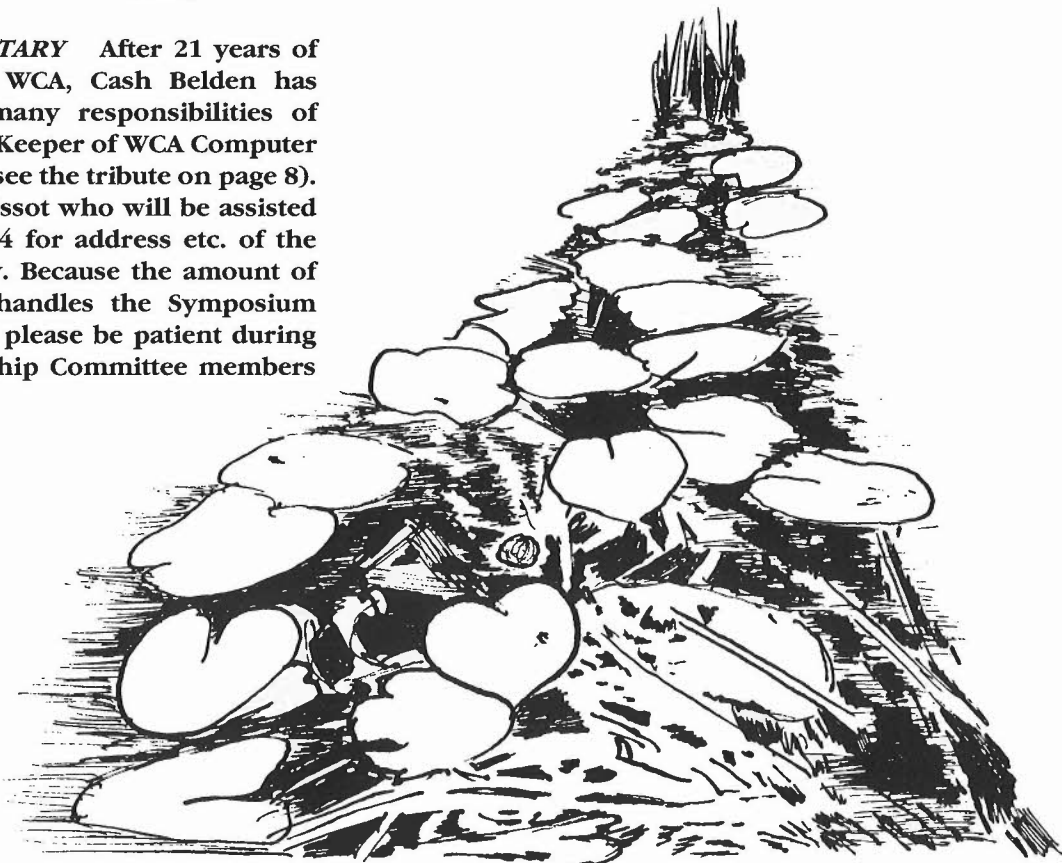
NASTAWGAN MATERIAL AND DEADLINE Articles, trip reports, book reviews, photographs, sketches, technical tips, or anything else that you think might be of interest to other readers, are needed for future issues. Try to submit your contributions by e-mail, on computer disk (WordPerfect or MS Word or text 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:

issue: Spring 2002 deadline date: 3 February
 Summer 2002 5 May

NEW MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY After 21 years of invaluable service to the WCA, Cash Belden has decided to transfer the many responsibilities of Membership Secretary and Keeper of WCA Computer Records to somebody else (see the tribute on page 8). The new MSKWCR is Jan Tissot who will be assisted by Gary James. See page 24 for address etc. of the new membership secretary. Because the amount of work involved (Jan also handles the Symposium computer files) is so huge, please be patient during the time that the Membership Committee members adjust to their new tasks.

THE REBORN WCA WEBSITE is www.wildernesscanoec.ca Please pay it a visit a send your comments and contributions to web master Jeff Haymer.

THANK YOU! My warmest thanks to everybody who has shown so much interest in my well-being following my recent heart bypass surgery, especially those members who have helped me in getting this issue of *Nastawgan* out on the normal, previously scheduled date. My health is slowly but steadily improving and it looks like the WCA will have this newsletter editor for many years to come. Thanks! Toni Harting.



SYMPOSIUM, MEETING, SHOW

WILDERNESS & CANOEING SYMPOSIUM

The upcoming 17th annual Wilderness & Canoeing Symposium, organized by George Luste and sponsored by the WCA, will take place on Friday 1 (evening) and Saturday 2 (all day) February 2002. The theme this year is *Northern Travels and Perspectives*, 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: norbook@interlog.com Or via fax at 416-531-8873. Or via snail mail to:

WCA Symposium, Box 211, Station P, Toronto, ON, M5S 2S7.

WCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM takes place on Saturday, 16 February 2002. See the registration form on the inside front cover.

TORONTO OUTDOOR ADVENTURE SPORTS SHOW

This extensive show will take place at the International Centre by the Pearson Airport (6900 Airport Road, Mississauga, Ontario; corner of Airport Road and Derry Road) on 22–24 February 2002. Highlights this year are the action sports zone, the water sports zone, and the adventure travel show.

The WCA will, as usual, have a booth for which we will need volunteers. If interested, call Geri James at 416-512-6690 (gmjames@attcanada.ca) or Bill Stevenson at 416-925-0017 (stevebill@aol.com). See you there!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I very much enjoyed your Autumn issue of *Nastawgan*. I traveled the Rupert River 30 years ago. The article by Brett Hodnett brought back lots of great memories. As I recall traveling the river, we had notes which indicated most of the rapids were named. For example, on page 8 the two rapids remind me of rapids called The Fours. Also, on page 11 there is a caption on the bottom picture that says

“view downriver from Hwy 109 bridge.” Highway 109 was not there when I traveled the Rupert River. However, this reminds me of a picture of Oatmeal Falls. I can't believe this is looking downriver. Anyway, thanks for a great edition of *Nastawgan*. Please pass on to Brett Hodnett my enjoyment of his trip report.

Brian G. Gnauck

PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED FOR THE WCA WEBSITE PHOTO GALLERY

With the design of our new website, one page was kept in reserve, the WCA Photo Gallery. We are requesting that members assist in the development of the Photo Gallery by submitting quality photographs, as many as they like and of any size and format, depicting canoeing and canoeing locations. The theme of the Photo Gallery will be “Favorite Locations of WCA Members.” Each photograph must include the name of the photographer, a brief description or a descriptive title indicating the location and region, and the approximate date the photo was taken. We

welcome all submissions but your photographs will be edited for technical quality, content, variety, theme, orientation, and space limitations. This is your chance to have your precious pictures admired by the whole world!

Submit your photographic prints or slides to Toni Harting, 7 Walmer Road, Apt. 902, Toronto, M5R 2W8. (The originals will be returned.) Or, if your photographs have already been digitized by scanning, e-mail the files to aharting@netcom.ca

PADDLING LINKS

The Rupert River from Mistassini Lake in Quebec to James Bay has been travelled up- and downstream on all of its branches for more than 300 years. Several publications of the routes—including the location of all the portages—may be found at www.ottertooth.com by clicking on Rupert River.

(Submitted by Jon Berger.)

Follow the adventures of the Hide-Away Canoe Club by going to their extensive, informative, well-illustrated site www.canoe.ca/labrador2001 and learn about their recent trip in northern Labrador. Their site also provides links to other major HACC outings such as down the Winisk and George rivers.

If there's a website you think is worth introducing to others, please send its address to Nastawgan and include a short description of the content of the site.

CASH BELDEN CALLS IT QUILTS

Believe it or not, the WCA used to keep its membership records on file cards! Of course, the membership was smaller, but it was still rather labor-intensive to re-type and photocopy the membership list each time it was needed for a newsletter mailing. I think that it was in the fall of 1980 that we decided to join the 20th century. The Fall Meeting was held, I believe, at Camp Tawingo that year and we made an announcement asking if there was anyone with computer expertise—a less common commodity in those days—who would be willing to advise us on computerizing the WCA membership records. Two people came forward. I cannot now recall who the second was, but the first was Cash Belden. This was the beginning of a very long and fruitful relationship.

Cash (or Ca\$h, to use his preferred spelling) was, at that time, the head of programming for George Brown College. Little did we know that, in accepting Cash's services, we were gaining not only his personal capability but also access to George Brown's computer and supplies! For several years, and probably without their knowledge, the WCA records were kept on the George Brown mainframe and labels, lists, etc., were printed on George Brown paper. Not a bad deal!

At a personal level, Cash is one of the WCA's unique characters. I don't know whether his size, his beard, or his laugh is the most imposing. While I have never had occasion to visit him in his new home in Brockville, I used to visit the apartment on Huntley Street in Toronto regularly to pick up newsletter labels. There was no doubt about the fact that it was a man's apartment one was entering! My wife used to say, "You've been to Cash's again!", detecting the smell of cigar smoke on my clothing. I was always impressed that, while he lived in a state which I can only describe as chaos, everything which he did for the WCA was always neat and accurate.

On his retirement from George Brown, Cash moved to the ancestral home in Brockville to concentrate on his other passions of curling and golf. Unfortunately, distance has made communication, other than electronic, increasingly difficult. After 21 years of service to the WCA, as well as organizing the sizeable database for the Symposium, Cash has decided to "hang it up." The WCA owes him a substantial debt of gratitude.

Enjoy it, Cash. May all your takeouts be accurate and your drives, straight down the middle!

Bill King

LOVE BLOSSOMS AMID THE WHITEWATER

On Saturday, 17 November 2001, Leslie Dutton and Paul Wilcox were married at the Old Mill in Toronto. If you think this story is better suited for the announcements page of the newspaper than the *Nastawgan*, you'd be mistaken. That's because Leslie and Paul, both long-time WCA members, met a few years ago on a WCA whitewater trip organized by John and Sharon Hackert. Leslie's determination to master solo whitewater canoeing, combined with Paul's patience in rescuing novice solo whitewater canoeists—over and over again—lead to friendship and eventually to love. As Leslie tells it, one of her worst spills involved Paul rescuing her by yelling at her to "hang on" to his boat. Leslie said she hung on, "and has never let go." Several fellow paddlers and WCA members attended the wedding but were almost unrecognizable without their swimsuits and wet hair. True to their love of canoeing, Leslie and Paul drove off on their honeymoon to "somewhere near Algonquin," with their canoe securely fastened to the car roof.



FEEDBACK ON WCA ACTIVISM

In the Summer 2001 issue of *Nastawgan*, the WCA was thrown a challenge:

“Become the lead NGO in Canada, to start a sustained and effective lobbying campaign to develop wilderness canoe route protection.” As preamble to that article, we asked our members:

- * what are the details and limitations of such advocacy activity?
- * how much advocacy is realistic for our organization?

A handful of you replied, and we appreciate the input. In summary, there was an acknowledgment of the need for action, and a willingness that the WCA should go some way along such a route. As well, we were cautioned that the WCA does not have the energy to fulfill such a role effectively. Here are excerpts from the mail (names withheld):

Reply A

Activism may not have been part of the original mandate of this organization, but it only makes sense that the expertise within the organization, as witnessed at the Labrador Symposium, should be used to protect the places in Canada we love to paddle. I agree ... that no other current canoeing organization that I know of fits the NGO description. If this organization chooses not to increase its role politically, then we may be gathering in the future to watch old slides of what once was. A more political role may also increase our public profile and appeal to new and younger members.

Reply B

I think that the days of informal networking in this regard are almost gone. It's time to have a group that has:

1. some degree of funding and financial resources;
2. some technical expertise to temper the uninformed enthusiasm;
3. some professional public relations expertise;
4. some permanent leadership and support staff.

Reply C

First of all, I think it would be negligent on our part not to do any activism at all, but at the same time people do not join the WCA to be members of a conservation organization. I think the articles which are occasionally in *Nastawgan* suggesting ways to participate in protecting canoe routes are a good idea (for example the Lands for Life process). I personally would like to see the WCA become more active, but I don't think it should be forced on the members in any way. If there is interest to organize something, I think it should definitely be done.

Reply D

We at the WCA know what wilderness is and why it should be preserved. For many others it simply means “bush” and Canada has “too much of it.” For our 600 [the approximate WCA membership] to change that mind set is, in my opinion, impossible. If however...[some clever-suggestions on how one could change attitudes] The rallying cry would be ‘Protect and Preserve Canadian Identity.

Reply E

I admire the passion and respect the wisdom ... reflected in the recent essays. That said, I don't think the WCA is equipped—or designed—to become a major advocate as an NGO. The organization ... can certainly serve as a conduit of information, in order to empower individual advocacy. But more than that, I would suggest, is not feasible.

These are valid thoughts and we value your advice. Our Conservation Committee is presently actively exploring the feasibility of creating a separate organization, with a national root and provincial chapters, which would take on the required task of lobbying. The WCA would be one of several sponsoring organizations during its formation. If you are interested in becoming involved with this effort, please contact Erhard Kraus at 416-293-3755 or erhard@interlog.com We'll offer updates on its progress in future issues of *Nastawgan*.

TRENT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CANOE FOR CANCER—SUCCESS

In the Spring 2001 issue of *Nastawgan* we reported that two Trent students, Caroline Ruane and Carol Sparks, were embarking on a 50-day canoe trip from Temagami to Peterborough in support of young people with cancer. WCA made a modest contribution to their fundraising efforts. We are glad to report that the intrepid voyageurs arrived safely and on schedule. What's more, they substantially exceeded their fundraising objective, collecting an amazing \$9000 along the way. C & C reported that an effective fundraising technique was to note the name of any yacht that threatened to swamp them in the Trent Canal portion of the trip, then at the next lock, offer the offender an opportunity to atone for his sins by making an appropriate contribution to the cause. Congratulations Caroline and Carol!

ROB'S QUEST FOR FITNESS

Herb Pohl

During a leisurely paddle around the Poker Lake loop in Haliburton (one of the outings at the September Fall Meeting), Rob Butler, the indefatigable treasurer of the WCA, confided that he was very anxious to get out for a few days of paddling or hiking because he had had virtually no chance to do so all summer and was therefore dreadfully out of shape. (Before anyone gets very concerned about poor Rob let me point out that "virtually no chance," in his understanding of the English language, means "no more than two or three days a week.") So a week later we set out for a few days of tripping in Algonquin Park.

Achray, on the northeastern edge of the park, my suggested starting point, is a good seven-hour drive from Toronto (for a law-abiding citizen). Despite this handicap, Rob quickly agreed, even offered to drive and thereby testified to his urgency to have some outdoor exercise. By the time we arrived at the Sand Lake entry point, the sunny morning had changed into a drizzly day, and now my mood of happy anticipation changed even faster to one of intense resentment.

"No, we have not made reservations."

"Well, where do you want to stay?"

"We intend to paddle from Achray towards Greenleaf Lake and beyond and then backtrack towards the McDonald Creek watershed."

"But where do you want to camp?"

"Wherever evening finds us."

"No no, I have to know the campsite!"

"Okay, let's say Wenda Lake."

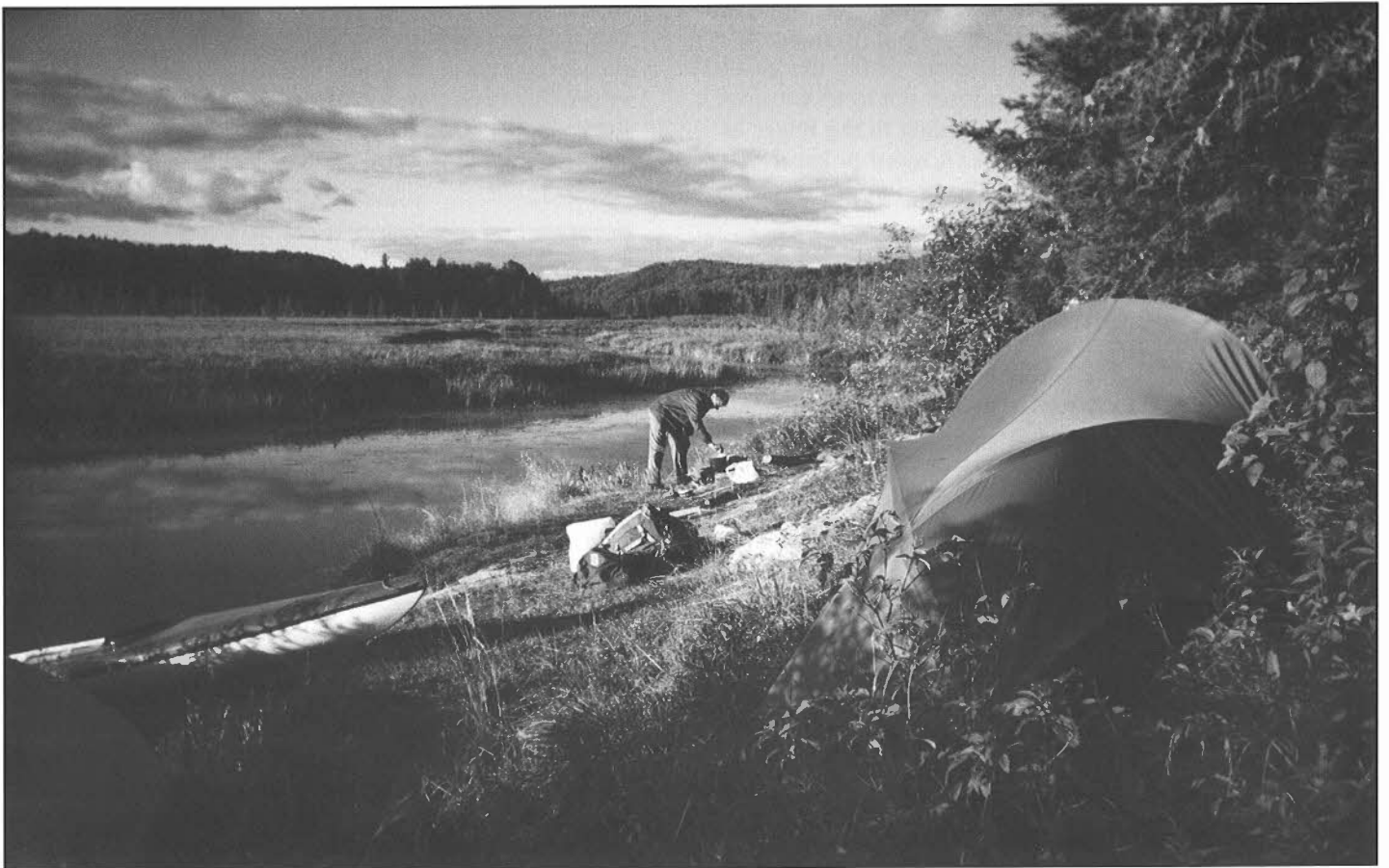
"Wenda Lake is full, you can't go there."

"How about Carcajou?"

"Carcajou is full too, but one party hasn't shown up yet, so let's take a chance. Now, what about the second day?"

All this, when one's primary motivation to be there is to escape the tyranny of rules and regulations of "civilized" life. Needless to say we saw only one campsite occupied in the five days we spent in the park

Mother nature has a wonderful soothing capacity. As we paddled across Grand Lake and into Carcajou Bay the



Carcajou Creek

photos: Rob Butler

sun came out, a light breeze ruffled the water, and annoyance gave way to joy. We were alone. Once past the first two portages, we left behind the rugged shield rocks and traversed a series of shallow lakes and marshes, which characterize this region drained by Carcajou Creek. An unusually dry summer was reflected in low water levels. It made the approach to and departure from portages a bit problematic. Wet feet are quite acceptable, oozing mud less so.

What had persuaded me to return to this region after an absence of 20 years was the recollection of the beautiful stands of red and white pine as well as portage trails which showed very little traffic. The latter is no longer true, but the backdrop of evergreens is as impressive as ever. As the afternoon wore on, portaging became less enjoyable but my "out-of-shape" companion never complained, even as we passed tent-free Wenda Lake to face another six portages.

Supper that evening was postponed to the following morning due to darkness and inclement weather. Because I thought we had earned it, but mostly because I didn't want to carry it for another day, I prepared my favorite meal, comprised in this case of three large Idaho potatoes (read three pounds), one large onion, and about twenty slices of bacon. It disappeared surprisingly quickly.

The rest of the day was spent improving Rob's fitness level by visiting lakes farther west (even finding Lost Lake) before returning for a leisurely dinner. The plan for day 3 was to ascend McDonald Creek to the (officially assigned) campsite on Guthrie Lake, which meant we had to return part of the way we had come. In order to make this a little more interesting I suggested to follow Carcajou Creek out of Little Carcajou on our way downstream. I warned Rob that this might involve a bit of wading here or there, but with a bit of luck and a healthy beaver population it might be faster than the portage route. After all, I had travelled it 21 years ago, when it was an official route, and I only remembered a few obstructions other than beaver dams. And so my companion embarked on a mission which proved that beavers come and go, and memories are unreliable.

The outflow of Carcajou Creek from Little Carcajou Lake immediately enters a section identified on the map as "the chute," a wonderful jumble of rock and piled-up flotsam. Finding the beginning of the old portage was easy, following it somewhat less so because of new growth and a number of deadfalls. Along the way we passed several magnificent red pine trees, larger than any I had ever seen. I was so taken by this wild scene of rocks, trees, and scattered pools, all bathed in glorious sunshine, that I suggested to Rob that this would make a wonderful campsite.

"But what would we do?"

I have reached the age where doing nothing is quite acceptable, but clearly Rob, a much younger man, had not

yet attained this level of maturity and so we carried on. To my surprise, Carcajou Creek continued as a highway of dark rocks through which a minuscule volume of water percolated discreetly. Occasionally a little pool would interrupt the dark monotony and force us to use the paddle. To save face I felt compelled to point to old beaver runs and sedge meadows along the way in order to explain that once upon a time this was paddling country. In retrospect, I don't think Rob ever listened to me. He was happy getting fitter by the hour as he laid down a well-defined trail of gelcoat.



Some hours later we entered the marsh which dominates the lower reaches of Carcajou Creek. At just the right time a campsite with room for two tents appeared. In short order a supper bubbled over a homey fire, long shadows turned to dusk and contentment reigned.

In the early morning sun, the mist-shrouded marsh gradually took form, the deep green boundary of white pine provided a sharp contrast to the pale colors of the marsh itself, the tamaracks shone with the iridescent glow of a million ice crystals—and we had bacon and pancakes for breakfast. Talk about paradise!

The valley of McDonald Creek is accessible from Carcajou Creek by a short and well-maintained portage. It is navigable for only a short distance and even then only because of the engineering genius of *Castor canadensis*. Things looked ominously familiar when we started out, but within 200 metres (and two old but improved dams) we reached navigable water and our only problem was finding the right channel which would bring us to the next portage.

Guthrie Lake is extremely pleasing to the eye. Along its eastern shore, Shield rock rises steeply out of deep water to impressive height. The campsite is situated on a



Carcajou Lake

tiny island in the northwest corner of the lake. Once upon a time it had been home to a family of beavers and now the residue of their labor provided the fuel to cook Rob's favorite supper. Unlike the plebeian fare of his travelling companion, Rob exhibits considerable sophistication in his recipe. He uses a variety of dried vegetables, most prominently dried tomatoes, fresh onion and carrots, rice, pasta, corned beef, a wide array of condiments, and the gourmand's measuring cup. It never comes out quite the same but is always well received.

Since there was still some daylight left we decided to have a look at Clover Lake. This required crossing what the park map shows as a body of water but in fact was a stinky bubbly mass of black semi-solids, so in great haste we bushwhacked instead. It was nearly dark when we returned, remade the fire for another cup of hot chocolate and pronounced it a very satisfying day.

Another cloudless morning saw us early on the trail and within four hours we were back on Grand Lake. I had a quiet sense of satisfaction that with this journey Rob's fitness level had improved, but when I talked to him a week later I found out that he had been on two more outings since our parting and was set to hit the Ganaraska trail for some real fitness training.

I guess the next time I'll have to push him a little harder.

(Editor's note: both these unstoppable adventurers are now 71, Rob being one whole month younger than Herb.)

SOME COMMENTS BY ROB:

33 portages carried:	
2 carries per portage	29 km
1 carry per portage	5
dragged/hailed	3
6 portages walked, unencumbered	5
total walked	42
total paddled	41
total travelled, 4 full days	83 km

ROUTE: less travelled.

SCENERY: great, except when hauling; thank beavers for dams.

CAMPsites: damn the park reservation system which ignores conditions, diversions, attractions, energy levels; however, I can't think of an alternative.

FUEL: bacon, Carol Hodgins' Wanapitei pancakes, dark chocolate.

OBSERVATIONS: canoe getting heavier, portages longer, wake-up earlier.

MY SOLO CANOE: "Master, you weren't kind to me on this trip. Do you have some band-aids?"

MUTUAL REFRAIN: in the future, we must lower our objectives again.

RECOMMENDED TO: movers and big-tree huggers .

STICKY BUSINESS

Choosing the Right Adhesives for Canoe and Equipment Repair

Recently I visited Mountain Equipment Co-op to pick up some gaskets and glue to repair my dry suit, and got into a conversation with MEC staff member and WCAer James Vasilyev, swapping tips on favorite adhesives and best methods of using them. We'd like to share with you some of the tidbits we've learned.

Aquaseal

The best all-round glue for repairing wet suits, dry suits, clothing, tents, nylon air bags, boots—you name it. Works marvelously wherever a flexible, waterproof repair is needed. If you can't locate it, try the manufacturer's glue for athletic shoes, Freesole, which is available in athletic shoe stores. It seems to be virtually identical. Be sure to buy the cure accelerator, Cotel-240, with it. When mixed with the glue, it allows a cure in two hours. This is invaluable when you are trying to get dry suit gaskets to stay in place while the glue cures.

Goop

Similar applications to Aquaseal, but not quite as tenacious or water resistant. However, a lot cheaper, easier to get off your hands, and widely available at hardware outlets.

Neo-rez

When repairing neoprene, the main downside of Aquaseal and Goop is that they dry harder and less flexible than the surrounding material. Wet suit contact adhesive doesn't have this problem, but often doesn't result in long-lasting repairs. Neo-rez is a superior alternative. It cures in two hours, and can make a virtually seamless repair to rips. However, it is significantly more expensive.

Vynabond

The old standby for repairing vinyl airbags and installing D-rings. If you need a reinforcement patch for a large rip in an airbag, try a pool supply, or cut one out of a discarded kiddie wading pool. I've never had a problem with D-rings pulling loose. I sand both the fabric part of the anchor and the boat with coarse sandpaper, and wipe down with alcohol. Then I fully cover both sides with glue and allow to nearly dry. After applying the D-ring, I run a bead of glue around the patch edge to leave nothing to catch and pull up. My son, James, swears by methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) as a cleaner that prepares the surfaces much better than alcohol and helps resist separation. Never use acetone—it dissolves plastics! Actually, Vynabond does also, which is why you should resist the urge to overuse the stuff. I've seen Royale hulls that were softened to mush by the excessive use of this chemical.

VinylTec 2000

The newer and superior alternative to Vynabond. It glues D-rings to Kevlar or glass, as well as to Royale. Surface preparation with MEK is highly recommended. By the way, when buying D-ring patches, make sure you get ones with a vinyl fabric patch. These are normally gray in color, shiny, waxy feeling, and relatively stiff. I have seen patches at some of the shops that are made of rubberized material such as Hypalon, and are designed for inflatables. They will not stick with vinyl adhesives, and I don't know if there is anything that will bond synthetic rubber to Royale or Kevlar well. These can be identified as being gray or olive, matte finish, and having a flexible rubbery feel. Avoid them.

Solarez

This unique product is a polyester resin containing short strands of fibreglass with an ultraviolet activated curing agent. Apply to a damaged hull in the shade, move the boat into the sun, and within a few minutes, you have a sturdy patch. It works even in cloudy conditions, rain, and below freezing temperatures. For a stronger reinforcement over rips, spread into a piece of fibreglass cloth and apply. With the cloth, it could be used to repair tent poles or paddles. You can also find cloths pre-impregnated with similar UV activated resins at marine suppliers.

Five-Minute Epoxy

Lepage's and other brands. Cheap and reasonably effective for making small repairs. Due to the high viscosity, it is difficult to spread or mix into glass cloth. However, by putting it on some foil or a can lid and warming it over a stove, it becomes much thinner and easier to absorb into cloth. Epoxy can be very difficult to remove from bare hands. I've done it with Coleman fuel but don't recommend this. Usually on camping trips you have lots of plastic bags, so use them as improvised gloves. Alternatively, pick up some cheap disposable vinyl gloves at any pharmacy. (You should have these in your medical kit anyway.) For repairing large punctures in hulls, try mixing the glue with any kind of cloth and forming into a ball to plug the hole. There are five minute epoxy putty sticks on the market that do this job well. You can find excellent ones at marine supply shops that can be even applied underwater. While you won't likely find this necessary, it's reassuring to know the putty will stick even in a downpour. You will find that, when stored a long time, epoxy tends to crystallize, similar to honey. Like honey, just put it in the microwave at home or over the camp stove on the trail and it will return to its original state. I have a jar that must be 20 years old and has been reconstituted in the microwave a dozen times.

Glue Sticks and Duct Tape

One of the biggest problems with field repairs using resin glues is that no matter how skilful you are, you will want to re-do the repair more professionally when you get home. In most cases, removing the temporary repair is a messy job with knife and power sander. Especially if you are on a short trip, it is often best to do an easy-to-remove temporary repair. Glue sticks can be easily melted with a

lighter or stove and spread with a hot knife. They give moderate adhesion for repairing smaller holes and cracks, and can later be conveniently removed, especially if re-heated.

Duct tape has a thousand and one uses by itself, and can be used to back up glue stick repairs.

Bill Ness

CONSERVATION

NORTHERN BOREAL INITIATIVE

Ontario prepares for the opening up of its northern lands, i.e. a quarter of Ontario's land mass, lying to the south and west of Hudson's Bay and James Bay. The effort is called the "Northern Boreal Initiative" and will lead to land use guidelines similar to Ontario's Living Legacy. What is new here is that Ontario tries to get the First Nation communities to strongly participate.

Will there be better conservation defined for these lands than has been done in Living Legacy? If it's the same, we should expect some "protected areas," i.e.

- * no logging nor selling off for cottages etc., but
- * motorized access will be OK, as well as
- * bulldozing and blasting to look for minerals,
- * swapping of lands if someone decides to open a mine,
- * hunting and fishing will be permitted

The remainder of the land will be opened up with the building of permanent roads, with by now familiar consequences. We will be witnessing the disappearance of large tracts of true wilderness—and there isn't much wilderness left on this globe. Here's a brief summary, in the words of the Ministry of Natural Resources:

"Several First Nation communities in the far north of Ontario have expressed an interest in developing new, sustainable commercial forestry opportunities north of the area where commercial forest management activities are currently authorized to occur. MNR has entered into three separate discussions to address these interests: with Pikangikum First Nation on an area within its traditional land use area north of Red Lake, with Moose Cree First Nation on an area within its traditional land use area north-east of Kapuskasing, and with Constance Lake First Nation on an area within its traditional land use area north of Hearst. A reference map can be viewed at a link provided below.

"Other First Nation communities in the north may begin similar work with MNR in the future. The full geographic extent of potential sustainable forestry opportunities will be described as part of this work; current knowledge of the area suggests that this may extend from 50 kilometres to 150 km north of the existing forest management units.

"The goal of the NBI is to provide First Nation communities with opportunities to take a leading role in the

development of new, commercial forestry opportunities in the far north, including working collaboratively with the ministry on planning for such forest management activities. Among other approvals, any new commercial forestry opportunities developed by these First Nations will require that they be licensed under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA).

"The NBI will support the shared goal of the First Nations and the MNR of the sustainable development of natural resources in northern Ontario as well as the shared objective of ecological sustainability. Natural resource science, information and indigenous ecological knowledge will support knowledge-based resource management.

"As well, NBI will be consistent with, and will build upon, the direction established in Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy, including a commitment in the 1999 Ontario Forest Accord. The Accord provides support for moving forward on initiatives directed towards the orderly development of areas north, subject to agreement of affected First Nation communities, environmental assessment coverage and identification of parks and protected areas."

For more information, look on the web at <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nbi/> or contact the MNR directly: Manager, Northern Boreal Initiative, MNR Field Services Division, Ontario Government Bldg., 435 James St. Suite 221A, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7E 6S8; tel. 807-475-1251; fax 807-473-3023.

BATHURST INLET ROAD

There's a major activity in the works for the lands near the Coppermine River. Reported by the CBC on 17 August 2001:

"Ottawa has promised \$3 million to study the feasibility of an ambitious plan in central Nunavut. The territorial government and mining companies are expected to match those funds to look into a \$250 million proposal to build a port and a highway in the Kitikmeot region."



FOOD FOR PADDLERS

Rita Ness has kindly submitted the following recipe, which she adapted from the original called "Lamb Stew with Apricots" from the Canadian Living Microwave Cookbook, Toronto, Madison Press 1988. When short of lamb, she found by chance that soya bits actually tasted better than the lamb. The following recipe is her camping revision:

Moroccan Soy Bits with Prunes and Apricots

Add: ½ cup dried apricots and ½ cup dried prunes to 2 cups boiling water and let stand for 30 minutes

Saute: 1 large onion (finely chopped) and 1 clove garlic minced (or add garlic powder to ingredients below) in 2 teaspoons butter or oil

Then add: 1 cup soya bits "So Soya+"; 2 envelopes of beef bouillon (Bovril or Oxo cubes); approximately 2 cups boiling water; 2 tablespoons tomato paste; 1 teaspoon coriander; 1 teaspoon cinnamon; ¾ teaspoon cumin; salt and pepper to taste

Bring to boil and then reduce heat and simmer until soya bits are tender.

Optional: thicken with 3 tablespoons flour mixed with 1/3 cup water

Serve on couscous

Check out the So Soya website: www.sosoyaplus.com for additional recipes.

If you would like to share your favorite tripping recipes, please contact Barb Young, 12 Erindale Crescent, Brampton, Ont. L6W 1B5; youngj david@rogers.com.

BARREN LANDS

Looking at maps of the Barren Lands. These maps are easy to tell apart from the maps for more southerly areas because there is no green on them. Green is the map color for forested lands. These maps for the Barren Lands are all white.

The name Barren Lands was given to the Canadian far north by early European explorers. They looked at the land and the lack of trees appalled them. They planned to live off the land and the scarcity of game frightened them. They tried to endure the cold and the length of the winters depressed them. Barren Lands are very aptly named, according to these Europeans.

The Encyclopaedia Britannica calls the Barren Lands a low, glaciated, treeless plain. A plain having a surface covered with grasses, mosses, and lichens, interspersed with granitic outcrops, and dotted with innumerable lakes and streams.

An encyclopaedic definition doesn't really describe what's out there. Views that go on forever. Water so pure and holy that to drink of it irreverently seems the greatest

of sacrileges. Instead of trees, caribou cover the hillsides. Fish that follow your lures from wherever you throw them in. Inukshuks that stand as sentinels telling you that others have travelled in the same manner as you are now travelling. Traces of previous travellers so rare that you mark their location on maps wherever you come across them. Enough visions of scarcity to fill your need for it.

I come to these Barren Lands after a winter of warmth and plenty in the south. To get my fill of this lonely land. It is strange to come to a land so stark and empty and plan to take from it. But in my plenty in the south, I find that my soul is barren and I need to take.

And the land gives. In its very emptiness it finds the nourishment my soul needs. I return from these Barren Lands back to my warmth and plenty. And my soul is full.

I keep the secret. I am sure that there is not enough to share.

Greg Went

A PADDLER'S NOTES CONCERNING THE YUKON RIVER

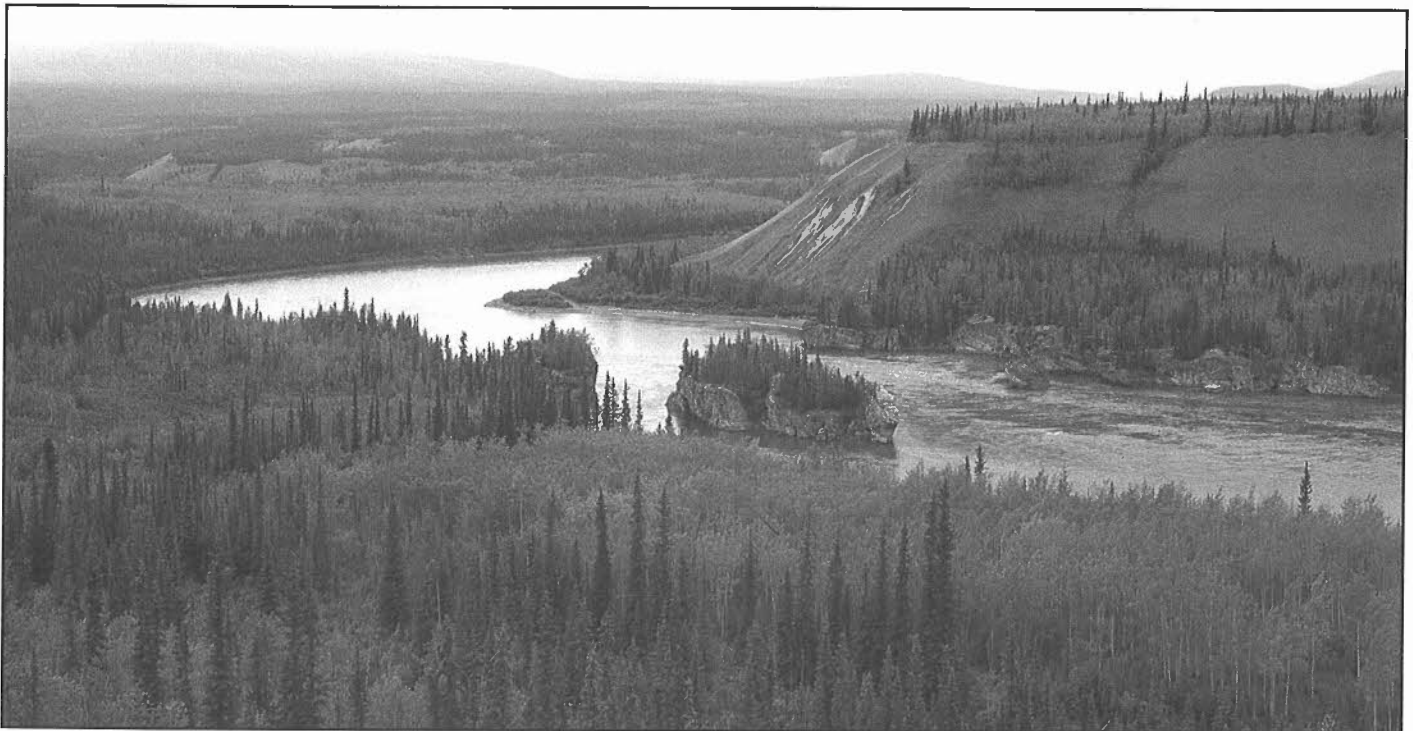
S.R. Gage

I have had the good fortune to make three canoe trips on the Yukon River system in the last 10 years; twice as co-leader of groups from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, travelling from Johnson's Crossing to Dawson City, and once with Yukoner Jeremy Baumbach, from downtown Whitehorse to Carmacks.

Experienced paddlers who live far from the Great Northwest may well look for a more technically challenging and more remote river when they plan a major outing. However, for those who are fascinated by the history of the Gold Rush, and those seeking a gentle introduction to northern rivers, the Yukon holds unique appeal.

Among my most indelible memories:

- Wandering through the abandoned, but partially restored village of Fort Selkirk. The dominance of the landscape and the sense of lives lived in isolation is much stronger here than it is in Dawson City.
- Slipping easily down Five Finger Rapids on river right, and trying to imagine a sternwheeler like the S. S. Klondike, 64 metres long, with up to 300 tons of cargo, being winched upstream in the same channel.
- Supper on a beautiful campsite of big spruce, down-river from Carmacks. The main course was tacos, piled high with pan-fried Boletus mushrooms picked near the site.



Five Finger Rapids, seen from the North Klondike Highway



High cutbanks on the Teslin

The Yukon is a wide-open river where it is possible to see almost any kind of watercraft. When we pulled out at Carmacks last August, the boat launching area contained four ABS canoes, two fibreglass canoes, one square-stern with “kicker,” one wooden dory, and four inflatable rafts.

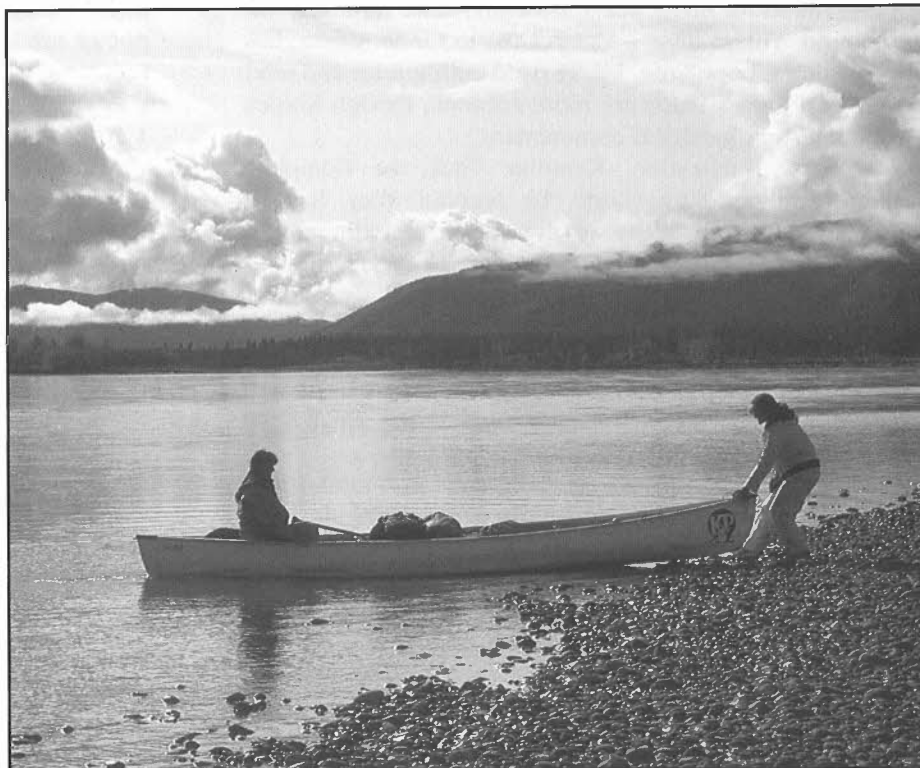
Some days on the river are definitely busier than others. Every year in late June, masochistic Type A paddlers set out to be the first to get from Whitehorse to Dawson, in the Yukon River Quest. At least these people are using muscle power. Around Discovery Day, in mid-August, comes the Yukon River Bathtub Race. Last summer 11 contestants spewed exhaust fumes and unburned hydrocarbons for 700 kilometres to the finish line at Dawson. Each racer has a support boat, doubling the noise and pollution. The winner last summer pounded his kidneys for a mere 13 hours and 51 minutes to claim a prize of \$800.

But there can be plenty of quiet time on the river too. Last summer on the part of our trip from the middle of Lake Laberge, down through the Thirty Mile section to Big Salmon (two and a half days), we saw only two canoes on the water, one on shore, and no other boats.

PEOPLE ON THE RIVER

The Yukon has a long history as a highway for First Nations people, and then for the white man’s paddle-wheelers. As a recreational route, one might start counting in 1926, when Frank Berton, his wife Laura, and their two children floated down from Whitehorse to Dawson City in a flat-bottomed poling boat.

Recreational “floating” continues to this day, spurred-on lately by the 100th anniversary of the Gold Rush. Most travellers on the river today are European, followed by a growing number of Japanese. German is probably the most commonly spoken language among those paddling “down North.” David Dirk of Frankfurt is a unique example of the fascination with the Yukon history and literature which motivate most Europeans to come to northern Canada. Dirk built a flat-bottomed plank boat at Lake Bennett, then sailed and floated to Dawson, taking the last two summers to recreate the journey of Jack London at the turn of the last century. (*Whitehorse Star*, 29 August 2001)



Yukon River, near the confluence with the White River



Campsite on the Teslin River at the confluence with the Mary River

LITERATURE AND MAPS

The river maps prepared by Gus Karpes, in the Yukon Wilderness Guides series, have been the recreational bible of the Yukon for many years. Recently, Mike Rourke's spiral-bound, Yukon River—Marsh Lake to Circle Alaska, has been gaining popularity. I have used both guides and tend to think Rourke's maps are more accurate, though Karpes has interesting historical commentary.

A new publication, Klondike Trail, the Complete Hiking and Paddling Guide, by Jennifer Voss, has an impressive-looking section on the Yukon, including maps. However, the standard paperback format and binding make the book difficult to refer to while keeping two hands on a paddle.

The Yukon Department of Tourism has a new free publication entitled, Yukon River Heritage, an Illustrated Introduction for River Travellers, which has small-scale strip maps that make it a good planning tool.

Mac's Fireweed Books on Main Street in Whitehorse is an excellent source of books, maps, and periodicals on all aspects of the Yukon Territory (1-800-661-0508). Mac's website might be a good place to start trip planning (<http://yukonbooks.com>). But be warned, one could spend several winters absorbing the mass of literature on the river and the Gold Rush.

PUT-IN POINTS

Considering that the Yukon River drains half the landmass in the Yukon Territory, it's not surprising that there are many canoe routes feeding into the river. Three put-in points are particularly popular today because of road access:

1. Yukon River at Whitehorse

Starting here is easy. Park behind the Yukon Government building. Lift your canoes over the White Pass and Yukon tracks. Launch into a 10-kilometre-per-hour current. The problem comes about 35 kilometres down-river when you face Lake Laberge. Cold water and unexpected heavy winds are always sobering factors to consider here. The guidebooks discuss the virtues of working down the east or west shores. It would be folly to set off down the middle of the lake.

Laberge provides unique, majestic scenery and will be an essential part of the trip for Gold Rush aficionados. Just be prepared for wind (often coming up behind you, from the south), and be willing to get off the lake when the whitecaps get near the gunwales.

The guidebooks will also cover points up-river from Whitehorse where the trip can be started.

2. Teslin River at Johnson's Crossing, Alaska Highway

The Teslin provides a more intimate river experience with better chances to see wildlife than on the Yukon itself. Tradition requires a stop for cinnamon buns at Johnson's Crossing Campground Services before putting in

below the Alaska Highway bridge (see *The Cinnamon Mine*, by Ellen Davignon).

3. Big Salmon River at Quiet Lake, South Canol Road

I have not paddled the Big Salmon, but can provide a couple of references. Ken Madsen and Graham Wilson, in *Rivers of the Yukon*, note that other guidebooks list rapids here at up to class IV. They say class II only, and "...fear not, the Big Salmon is not very difficult, and makes an excellent first wilderness journey." (p. 48)

Karel Dohnal got down the river in a heavily laden "tin tub" with no big problems, as he wrote in *Yukon Solo*. However, he writes of a fast current pulling him toward permanent log jams. Portaging is required and can be wet when the river is at peak levels in June.

STATE OF THE RIVER

It's hard to get a handle on just how much canoe traffic there is on the Yukon. The Thirty-Mile section has Heritage River status, and one of their annual reports a few years back estimated that 350 river tourists a year visited that section. The number would include float plane and motorboat arrivals, and would not account for traffic from put-ins 2 and 3 mentioned above. The staff at Kanoe People, the biggest outfitter in Whitehorse, figure that the number of paddlers on the river is gradually increasing every year (www.kanoe.yk.net).

Fortunately, the Yukon has not yet been loved to death. Given the wide variety of use, including hunters and the odd prospector and homesteader, most campsites are clean. Water samples analysed under the Heritage Rivers program have shown insignificant levels of coliform (though treatment would still be advised). Bear incidents occur every summer, but usually involving parties that have not taken proper precautions.

There are no quotas on the river and no rangers. The kind of pre-trip interviews conducted by staff at nearby parks such as Kluane and the Chilkoot Trail are not conducted here. Considering that many canoeists on the river have little or no experience with remote travel, conditions are remarkably good. But it wouldn't hurt to see leaflets like *Camping along the Yukon River*, produced by the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, more widely distributed.

Carmacks on the North Klondike Highway is a popular resupply point on the river. The public campsite below the bridge is a bit rough around the edges, and is the occasional meeting place of local party animals (the two-legged kind). Canoes at the campsite have even been known to set out for Dawson without their crews, having been given an unfriendly push. The newly opened "Coal Mine" private campground across the river may be a better stopping place for those taking a break. Then it's time to slip back into that constant current and "Ho for the Klondike!"

SECRET SIGNALS IN THE DARK

Almost all of us who have camped in Algonquin Park have experienced the feeling of being totally absorbed by our campfire. In fact, it is so easy to let the flames hypnotize us that often even the distant wail of a loon or the fleeting glimpse of a deer mouse fails to make us aware that thousands of living creatures are going about their lives just beyond the flickering circle of light cast by our fire.

Our unawareness of the life surrounding us is even more understandable in view of the fact that we can neither see nor hear the vast majority of our night-time neighbors—making it all the easier for us to yield ourselves totally to the fire's captivating glow and warmth.

There are a few creatures out there, however, which betray their presence and give us a hint of the complex comings and goings we normally never know about. One good example that any of us can see at this time of year, particularly near lakes and creeks, is the flashing of fireflies.

We confess to more than a little interest in fireflies, not only because they give dramatically visible proof of the presence of abundant life in the darkness, but also because they have to be among the most amazing creatures on earth. After all, how can mere insects light up so brilliantly, and what do they accomplish by doing so?

The answers to such questions may not seem important to people who say, quite accurately, that we humans have been enjoying the spectacle of fireflies for thousands of years without knowing how or why the light is produced. We think, however, that the truth about fireflies uncovered by patient research is far more amazing than anyone could ever have expected—and well worth a brief look.

To be sure, the basic life history of fireflies is not very unusual. They are beetles (not flies) which begin life as flat larvae in damp earth and leaves preying on slugs, snails, and insects. As adults, some species do not feed at all, others eat nectar and pollen, while still others continue to eat insects. In some cases, adult females are wingless (in which case they are known as glowworms) but in many species both the males and females can fly.

Now all this is straightforward enough; where the fireflies part company with other insects is in the method they use to find each other. In most insects, males find females through a highly developed sense of smell, which in some cases will permit males to locate a single female many miles away. Male and female fireflies, on the other hand, find each other through light signals, and each sex accordingly has a special light-producing organ on the underside



Three species of firefly, each with its own distinctive signal

of its abdomen. The chemistry of firefly light production is now fairly well understood and is particularly remarkable because it is 100% efficient. That is to say, all the energy used by the firefly is transformed into light, with no production of heat. This is something we humans have been unable to accomplish with even our best light bulbs or electronic flashes.

Of course, fireflies did not develop their light organs to teach wasteful humans about energy conservation, but rather to ensure that males find and mate with females, in spite of darkness and thick vegetation. It is not enough, however, for a firefly merely to send out light—it must also be able to recognize signals from the opposite sex and to distinguish them from those of other species. It has in fact been found that the males of each species of firefly have a distinctive flash and that only females of the same species will respond—by flashing back after a definite interval. For example, the male of one species flies near the ground in strong, regular undulations. As he approaches the bottom of an undulation, every six seconds the male starts a flash that ends after he is well up on his next upward swing. The result is that he makes reg-

ular “J’s” of yellow-green light every six seconds. If he comes within a few feet of a female, she will respond with a flash of her own, but the male will fly towards her only if her flash follows his by almost exactly two seconds.

With such a marvellous system of “coded” light signals, each species of firefly seemingly has a foolproof way of eliminating confusion and making sure that males mate only with females of the same species. By and large this is true, but codes are made to be broken as much in the world of fireflies as in our own. It seems that the females of some of the larger fireflies recognize the male signals of smaller species, respond with exact imitations of the appropriate female signals, and in this manner lure the unsuspecting males to their waiting jaws.

This has to be a particularly ingenious (and nasty) trick to play, but we suspect that it is really not too different from countless similar dramas that take place each night totally unseen in the darkness beyond our campfires.

Reprinted from the 16 July 1987 edition of Algonquin Park’s *The Raven*, courtesy of the Ministry of Natural Resources.



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, bness@look.ca; Barry Godden, 416-440-4208; Ann Dixie, 416-512-0292, Ann_Dixie@CAMH.net; Peter Devries, 905-477-6424; Gisela Curwen, 416-484-1471, g.curwen@utoronto.ca

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

+++++

All Season **HAVE PADDLE WILL TRAVEL**

Barry Godden, 416-440-4208; Steve Bernet, 519-837-6774; Harrison Jolly, 905-689-1733. ---- As long as we have liquid in the rivers, we put on our drysuits and go paddling wherever there is good whitewater in Southern Ontario, regardless of the time of year. If you would like to join us, please call to find out where we're going. Suitable for good intermediate or advanced paddlers.

All Season **LUXURY WINTER CAMPING IN ALGONQUIN**

Frank and Jay Knaapen, 613-687-6037. — Winter's magic is upon us once again. Experience the joy of tramping in deep brush, or skiing for miles in glorious sticky snow, and returning to the aroma of cedar smoke from a hot woodstove set beside a roaring sauna, cozily placed in an old MNR Fire Tent of genuine Egyptian cotton. The site is located near picturesque High Falls on the Barron River, and near the Canyon. Potluck night-over at our home near Hwy 17 & Petawawa River will quickly alleviate the long-drive syndrome. Call anytime to arrange your winter wonderland adventure!

All Season **WINTER OUTINGS IN HALIBURTON**

Ray Laughlin, 705-754-9479. ---- The paddle may have been put away for the season, but the skis and snowshoes are now by the door. There are some fine winter trails out of the Frost Centre near Dorset, and elsewhere in the area. As I live in Haliburton and have a flexible work schedule, I like to get outdoors frequently, especially during the week. If you would like to do some snowshoeing or cross-country skiing with me, give me a call. Outings are suitable for novices.

All Season **SQUARE DANCING FOR PADDLERS**

Harrison Jolly, 905-689-1733. — Every second and fourth Saturday of the month, join celebrated WCA bon vivant Harrison Jolly for an evening of square dancing and socializing. Wetsuits and helmets required.

26 January **PADDLERS PUB NIGHT**

Join other paddlers for an evening of food and drink and good cheer to chase away the January blahs. It will be a great chance to get together and plan next season's adventures and re-live last summer's outings. Last year this evening was well attended by both WCA and OVKC members. Venue is Toronto's Bow & Arrow Pub, 1954 Yonge Street, just north of Davisville on the west side. Please contact Barry Godden at 416-440-4208 or Ann Dixie at 416-512-0292 by 20 January to register so we can book sufficient room.

16 February **SKI & DINE WITH HARRISON**

Harrison Jolly, 905-689-1733, book by 10 February. — Meet for cross-country skiing or tobogganing at Bronte Creek Provincial Park, then a baked beans meal at my place in the country. Dogs and kids welcome. As an option, you can bring a tent and spend the night in my one-acre backyard. Rise to enjoy breakfast in the morning with me.

16 February **KOLAPORE UPLANDS SKI TRAILS**

Dave Sharp, 519-846-2586, book before 9 February. — 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. Suitable for intermediates. Limit of eight.

22-24 February **ALGONQUIN CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING**

Gisela Curwen, 416-484-1471, gisela.curwen@utoronto.ca, book by 1 February. ---- Experience Algonquin in winter, and slide over portages without canoe or heavy packs! On Saturday, we will spend a full day on the beautiful Leaf Lake Trail system, and ski Fen Lake or Minnesing trails on Sunday. We will stay two nights in a heated yurt at Mew Lake. Limit five intermediate skiers.

2-3 March.

ALGONQUIN PARK WINTER CAMPING

Herb Pohl, 905-637-7632, book before 18 February. ----- Get a taste of Algonquin in the bug-free season. The organizer's prospector tent can accommodate four people in a snug fit, so phone early to make sure you are one of them. The organizer will provide breakfast and supper on a cost-shared basis. Participants should be reasonably physically fit. Snowshoes, skis, a good sleeping bag and underlay are required. For more details, phone the organizer.

9 March

EQUIPMENT WORKSHOP FOR NEW AND NOT-SO-NEW PADDLERS

Bill Ness, 416-321-3005, book before 2 March. ---- If you are new to the sport of paddling, you probably are bewildered by the array of equipment on the market. Some of it is very expensive and choosing inappropriate gear can be costly and lead to frustrating experiences on the water. This workshop is primarily designed to help new canoeists make intelligent choices in gear. However, more-seasoned paddlers are welcome to come and debate the merits of various equipment options, and we can learn from each others' experiences. Each attendee is requested to bring a piece of gear to talk about, that has worked especially well or has been a dismal failure. Topics will be determined by participants, but could include such items as boat design and outfitting, tents, clothing, water purification. The workshop will be held in my home, 195 Placentia Blvd., Toronto, M1S 4H4. Limit of 10 participants.

24 March

LOWER CREDIT RIVER

Barry Godden, 416-440-4208, book before 17 March. ----- From Streetsville to the golf course, the Credit can provide some exciting challenges for intermediate paddlers. The fast-moving, icy water requires properly equipped boats, and wetsuits or drysuits. Limit six boats.

31 March

LOWER CREDIT RIVER

Bill Ness, 416-321-3005, book before 24 March. ---- A repeat performance for those who missed Barry's trip, or enjoyed it so much they want to do it again. Only difference is that I normally paddle down to the mouth. Limit six boats.

6 April

FOOD SEMINAR

Doug Ashton, 519-654-0336, doug.ashton@sympatico.ca, book before 20 March. Interested in some new food ideas? This seminar is designed to offer an opportunity to exchange ideas on food preparation, dehydration, organization, cuisine, and baking. The organizer will offer a structured opportunity to discuss and share recipes, ideas, and experiences. Some people eat so they can canoe while others canoe so they can eat. Either way, join us for some fun, laughs, and great information. Participants are encouraged to bring with them recipes and food-related information.

20-21 April

SALMON AND MOIRA RIVERS

Glenn Spence, 613-475-4176, book before 13 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.

27-28 April

SPRING IN THE KAWARTHAS

Gisela Curwen, 416-484-1471, gisela.curwen@utoronto.ca ---- We will paddle a route still to be decided and experience the returning birds and discover other flora and fauna emerging from hibernation. On past trips, we have encountered anything from cranberries to turtles. We will hike some of the exposed ridges surrounding the lakes, and, as on our previous outings, clean up portages along the way. There will be prizes for the best junk collected! Limit four canoes.

PALMER RAPIDS REUNION.

Hugh Valliant and Jim Morris have decided to end their canoe clinics at Palmer Rapids. Jim started it in 1982 and Hugh took over in 1990, so the clinic has run continuously for almost 20 years. This year, on the traditional third weekend in June, instead of a formal clinic, they hope to have a great reunion of all those who attended these courses.

Indeed, it should be a great reunion. At an average of 20 students per year, that's close to 200 paddlers who started their whitewater experiences at Palmer. The math is right. Many people came for two sessions, either a comment on their enjoyment of the weekend, or on the quality of the teaching.

It's sure to be a great weekend. It will be fascinating to find out where people took these initial canoeing lessons to, discover who has gone where and with whom, listen to many tales of paddling adventures, and generally get together to renew old friendships and start new ones.

Contact Jim Morris at 705-756-8852 (morris@csolve.net) or Hugh Valliant 416-699-3464 (valliant@micomtech.com) to let them know if you will be attending. Get in touch with anyone you have met at the clinic and kept contact with. Many may have dropped out from the WCA and we would like to see as many old faces as possible.

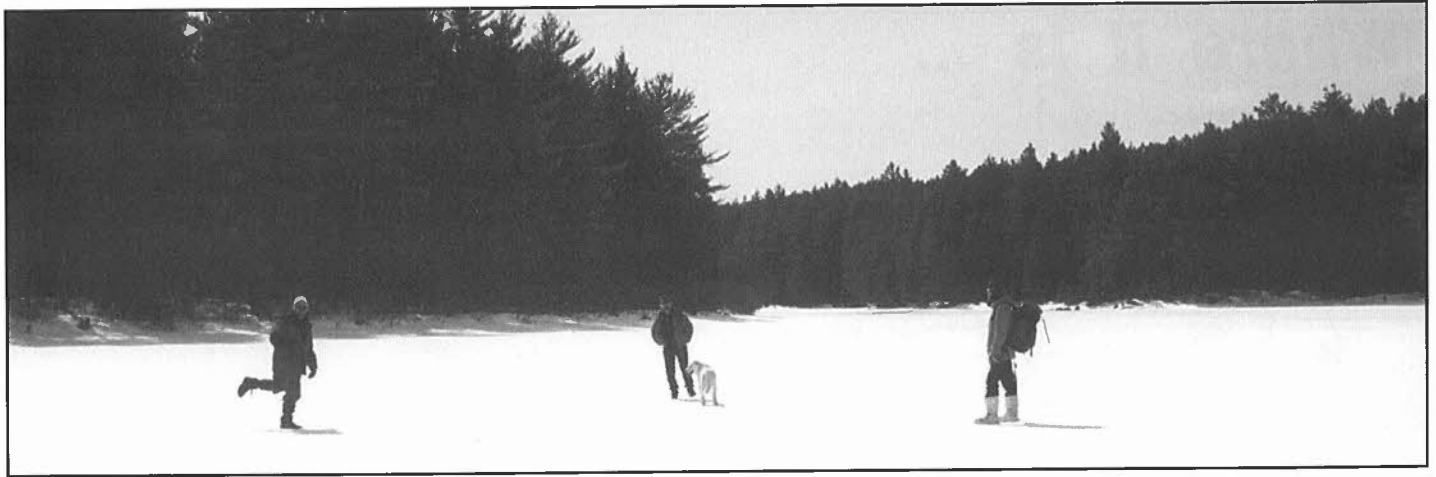


photo: Jay Neilson

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.

CANOEING VIDEO Classic solo canoeing with Becky Mason; approx. 40 minutes; \$39.95 + tax + shipping. Tel. 819-827-4159; fax 819-827-8563; redcanoe@istar.ca; www.wilds.mb.ca/redcanoe

BOAT WANTED I'm looking for a used whitewater solo boat, preferably outfitted, Dagger would be fine. Contact: esinclair@golden.net or phone 519-624-2328 or cell 519-577-6820.

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>

PAKBOATS NEWSLETTER Subscribe to free e-mail Pakboats Newsletter, published once or twice a month with all kinds of information on folding canoes and kayaks. Contact join-pakboats@lyris.dundee.net

HERON DANCE A quarterly wilderness journal. Watercolor art, interviews, excerpts from the best of nature writing, essays. Introductory annual subscription CDN\$30, renewals \$40. Send to: Heron Dance, 52 Seymour St., Middlebury, VT, 05753, USA, or call 1-888-304-3766.

INTERWILD IMAGES Books, music CDs, videos, posters, original paintings, national and provincial maps, compasses, GPS receivers, and more. Good prices, good products, and a 10% discount for WCA members. To order, contact: tel. 905-584-2109 or fax 905-584-4722 or www.interwild.com

AAAAAAAAHHHHHHHH!!!!

**Tinkle tinkle paddling star
Tinkle in a plastic jar
In the middle of the night
To your bladder's great delight
Peaceful sleep will not be far
If you use your tinkle jar**

Toni Harting

(tune: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star)

Where it is ...



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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: _____

New member Member # if renewal: _____

Name(s): _____

Single Family

Address: _____

Phone Number(s):
 () _____ (h)

City: _____ Prov. _____

() _____ Ext. _____ (w)

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

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