



nastawgan

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**Spring
2008
Special**

Watching these experts (Voyageur Canoe Club) running Rollway, Voyageur style (no helmets), from the top in an open canoe, was thrilling...sure makes spring WW on the Petawawa, a whole lot of fun. Supporting other paddlers on the river, even if you will never master Rollway, is a great way to enjoy and learn how to read rivers and improve your skills.

Petawawa Wild Water (May 17-19)

Text and photos by jNeilson

Spring whitewater in Ontario was the highest water levels in recent paddling history. On the Petawawa River in Algonquin Park, May long weekend, water levels exceeded everyone's highest expectations, providing thrills and chills for paddlers and spectators.

There were lots of high water firsts on the Petawawa River, between Lake Travers and McManus, such as: running Big Thompson on river left with the dam washed out (what dam??), running Little Thompson tight right and swamping, as well, an

awesome eddy-turn ON the centre rock, was unusual. Running below Crooked Chute required a toughest-ever forward ferry to GET OUT OF THE EDDY, onto the middle, and AWAY from the ugly elbow rocks, requiring stern paddler skills to also power forward and pry simultaneously on every stroke to support mega bow power. And, needless to say, Rollway Rapid was spectacular.

Algonquin Portage store provides boats (and usually has used boats for sale), complete with thigh straps. Bring your own spray deck, center air bags, throw ropes, bailers and foot



Running Little Thompson on the Left, Mark Ciceran (WCA) draws hard river right, just after the buried rock, to keep off the corner rock wall, with stern paddler Brent Oliver.



Rosa Silveira deploys a powerful brace muscling over Little Thompson, tight right, a big splash rock & roll ride.



Mike Jones hits the tongue at Rollway ledge in perfect form.

pump. When setting off at 10 a.m. from Lake Travers, it takes a couple of hours of pleasant paddling to reach Big Thompson. Crooked Chute is usually the end of the first day, though in fine weather, with a tight group, pushing on to Rollway or even the Natch is possible, to complete the river in only two days [that's pushing it]. I'm usually ready to stop at one of the many gorgeous sites at Crooked Chute. Rollway, just downstream, requires a fresh head.

After running Big Thompson and Little Thompson, over-confidence builds. Checking out Crooked Chute from the first take-out is advisable [the first portage marker alerts one to look for the second or third portage before the big drop]. This year, an enormous tree was toppled into second take-out, obliterating that portage sign. As well, an island forms just above 2nd take-out which can be confusing. After scouting, it is usually safe to paddle on to the last 3rd take-out above the chute, depending on the violence of winter storms that may blow enormous pine trees far out onto the river.

Crooked Chute is the biggest run in

Algonquin Park, unnavigable in high water except by extreme kayakers and solo probes [forget it]. However, there is a put-in below [below the top drop] which is fun at any water level higher than bare bones, and features a calm receiving pond. As a caution, this section is littered with boulders, just beneath the surface, that can break bones, particularly the coccyx if flat-out floating is not deployed after dumping.

Rollway Rapid is the most renowned rapid in south central Ontario, with a reputation for giving paddlers a wild ride, pumping extreme adrenaline logistics at swamping canoes.

The top section of Rollway submerged even the best paddlers under heavy waves, forcing them towards river left. Staying to the right is crucial. to avoid the big hole. Putting in below the top is an option for boats without spray decks, to avoid the ugly can opener rock lurking just below the surface; [or hit the narrow right tongue and eddy out right to bail out the water].

Rollway is notorious for pinning canoes at intermediate and lower water lev-

els, because there are masses of boulders in this rapid. Running Rollway ledge river left or tight right is only possible at lower water levels, so the challenge was fighting monster waves in the center of the river to keep towards eddies on river right to be able to bale; if you chose to run from the top, then keep far enough right to catch the channel between the hole and that fishing hut sized rock. Below Rollway, even in high water, there is a stretch of slower water for assisted or self rescue, before the Petawawa boils over the Natch ledge.

Running Natch Ledge on river right was so washed out it was even easy. Lower Natch featured an impossible roller coaster tongue, providing plenty of practice steering a fully submarined craft. Surprisingly Schooner was completely washed out. Last but not least, Five Mile Rapid actually had no visible rocks and offered ultimate rock and roll in fun and splash waves.

The five Petawawa monster rapids between Lake Travers and McManus Lake – Big Thompson, Little Thompson, Crooked Chute, Rollway & the Natch – are reason-



Plunging over Rollaway Ledge these 2 paddlers, ran Rollaway from the top, with great skill, manoeuvring into eddies to bale, and survived the ledge in perfect position, taking on surprisingly little water, in a Canyon Esquif, and no spray deck. Rollaway was not runnable on river left, leaving the channel alongside the hole as the only feasible route.

ably safe with time to recover turtled crafts. These Petawawa Rapids have easy access portages and sections that can be run by intermediate WW paddlers, even by intrepid WW novices prepared for dump-

ing, as well as spectator and support assistance fun. Second night camping on Whitson Lake is a dash to the best locations, and leaving early with a westerly breeze ends the trip at 11 a.m. The final

car shuttle takes 1-1/2 hours so pre-arranging a shuttle by Algonquin Portage may be well worth the cost. See ya'all on the rivers for more whitewater fun.



Run Lower Natch in high water at the sneak route right, around the rock to the pool below. Jean Claude of the WCA (stern) teamed up with John Macdonald thru Ottawa YCCC. Dr. John was visiting from the UK on a short engineering assignment in Ottawa, and hugely enjoyed two weekends of spring whitewater on the Opeongo, Madawaska, and Petawawa rivers, very different from whitewater rivers in Wales!



Phantom paddler eludes voracious hordes of predator blackflies and mosquitoes at 50:50 Rapid - C3



Running 'Tight Right' Rapid - C2, Murray Wagner (YCCC-bow) and Jean Claude Lessnick (WCA-stern) sneak past a curl wave created by the 'bugger rock'.

Noire River Rock and Roll (May 9-11)

Text and photos by jNeilson

The Noire can be run as a long-weekend vacation with good road access to Lac Forant from Fort Coulonge, on the Ottawa River, Quebec, or as an action-packed day trip starting at 50:50 Rapid for 20 kilometers of whitewater.

Rock and roll on the Noire on June 7/8 was a joint WCA/YCCC trip starting below Rapid de l'Ours. There are 2 C3 and 4 C2 rapids, all with portages, and lots of C1 sections in between 50:50 Rapid and Black Water Inn Bridge, all very safe to run with easy recovery pools, and play spots – an excellent venue for intrepid beginner whitewater enthusiasts.

The Noire features two awesome body surfing chutes which were a welcome relief under a blistering sun. In early June there is plenty of water for a fun run, as well as HOT summer sunshine. As the water level deteriorates, Boulder Alley and other rapids become shallow, technical and unforgiving for stranded canoes. Earlier in the season, high water volumes make the Noire a challenging big wave rock and roll day trip. At Black River Inn, paddlers can dry out overnight and enjoy the licensed bar, then on Day 2, a short section of the lower Coulonge can be run.



Elaine and Al Toronto (YCCC) eddying out from behind a rock at 50:50 Rapid - C3



Jean Claude Lessnick (WCA-stern) and Murray Wagner (YCCC-bow) draw away from rocks at Manitou Rapid - C2



Funny how wet bow paddlers always complain that it is the stern's fault.

The Annual Wine and Cheese Paddling Party on the Lower Madawaska, May 24 weekend

Text and photos by Larry Durst

So why do mostly sane, reasonably intelligent and somewhat mature individuals subject themselves to the vicissitudes of spring camping? Yes we have had rain, hail, snow and sun all on the same day. And yes there is way too much flat water paddling for the play boaters; although we have had solo boaters and kayakers. However, why is it that they never return the next year.

I think the answer lies within the very nature of canoe trippers: a love of paddling and the outdoors, being not just prepared for, but embracing what ever mother nature throws at us, and lastly relishing the company of fellow travellers, a little wine helping with the last part at least!



Sorry but I could have sworn that the hole did not look nearly this deep from the shore.



Continental divide, Headwaters of the Notakwonan River.

Revisiting the Travels and Final Struggle of Headwaters Koehler

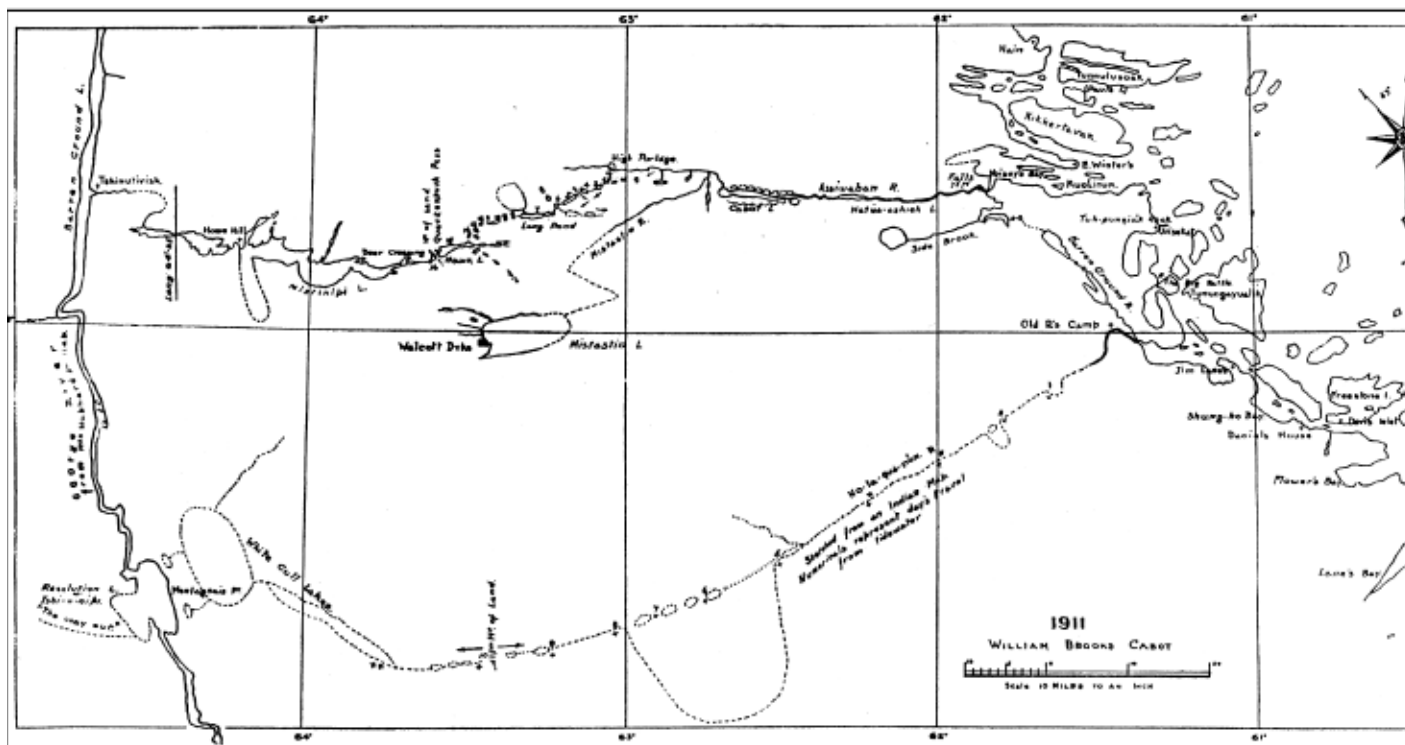
Text and photos by Bob Henderson

In 1991, while waiting three days for lost tripping luggage to arrive from Montreal to Goose Bay, I decided to hunt through the Labrador archives for a Labrador travel story little known outside of Labrador. I'd thought, surely the Hubbard stories 1903-05 was not a "one-off" sort of epic of travel misadventure. Labrador simply is too big, and in the early 1900's, too compelling a destination for the overly confident adventurer in *Them Days: Stories of Early Labrador*. I found four features or mentions of a curious story of Herman Koehler who traveled widely in Quebec-Labrador and died there along with partner Fred Connell and (perhaps) guide Jimmy Martin. Here was my "another Hubbardeque" story in Labrador.

Over the next two years of correspondence with Elliot Merrick of *True North* (1933) fame and northern writer

Lawrence Millman (then planning a historical fiction treatment on the Koehler story which never happened) and reference help thanks to Gwyneth Hoyle and the staff of *Them Days*, I pieced together the best telling I could muster from the information available. (See *Nastawgan*, Autumn 1993, Vol. 20, No. 3.) I was pleased to contribute to the Labrador historical travel literature. It turns out that I too was an overconfident fellow of sorts.

I am still pleased with my (humble-really) contribution to this sharing of a fine Labrador story. But hats off to researcher Peter Armitage of St. John's, Newfoundland, who, also knowing about the Koehler story and knowing that it remains well known within the oral tradition of the region's Innu peoples, filled in the details. Armitage moves beyond the supplemental and now provides a much more accurate account of a story that



Historical map created by William Brooks Cabot 1911(4)

deserves far more depth of inquiry than I initially offered.

History moves forward. I am happy to have been a part of the process of this story and happier still to call Peter, a friend who informed me of my omissions and errors and provides a fuller account. I'll correct my original story as told in *Nastawgan* Autumn 1993, Vol. 20, No. 3, with first an overview and then a sample of new aspects largely generated from Peter's attention to detail and the Koehler family's enthusiasm to share the story. (The family connection was a critical component to revising the story, one I unwisely have not pursued.) Herman J. Koehler (nicknamed "Headwaters Koehler" by his family for his propensity to seek the headwaters of any brook) died seeking the headwaters for the Notakwanon River. The party was reportedly last seen October 31, 1931. Likely he did not die of starvation but hypothermia. Partner Fred Connell was found in June 1932 on a portage near George River. His body showed no signs of starvation. Koehler was found in November 1939, again near the George River west of Kogaluk River, about six kilometres from Connell. Jimmy Martin,

the guide, was never found. Their proposed route involved ascending the Koksoak and Swampy Bay River and eventually to Lake Manouan. From here, near the headwaters of the Whale River, they would cross a ridge and follow the George River and cross-country travel again to the Notakwanon River to the Atlantic coast. Ambitious to say the least, but a suitable progression from earlier travels in the region.

Here begins some speculation. (Peter Armitage wisely avoids this tendency, but the storyteller in me cannot be stopped). Perhaps the party had, in desperation, finally heeded the advice of the Innu at George River and abandoned the Notakwanon route and was heading northwest for the standard recommended Kogaluk River route. This route Koehler had paddled before. His desire to explore the mysterious Notakwanon is understandable though misguided from the local perspective. Perhaps the party was still moving south and west towards the Notakwanon River at the time when they could no longer advance. This is significant in that all reports have Koehler's determination to follow the mysterious dotted line on the map of William B. Cabot,

1911, as his main nemesis.

Armitage reminds us that our knowledge of Koehler at this time is based largely on reminiscence of two men: Tshishennish Pasteen who met Koehler in September 1931 on the George River and John Michelin who served as his guide on his 1928 trip. Both men describe Koehler as stubborn to a fault and ... well ... difficult (in Michelin's case.)

Pasteen (1914-2004) had been 17 years old when he met Koehler. He reported that the Innu were willing to guide Koehler's group back to the coast via the Kogaluk route and make a larger canoe for the trip than the inadequate one they had. They pointed out that the rapids were difficult on the Notakwanon route, the small ponds now frozen, and a direct route to the river less known. John Michelin refused to join Koehler in 1931 after their 1928 Labrador trip. Michelin, a twenty-five year old trapper at the time respected Koehler's skills, we are told, but discouraged others from joining him given that he was "...a good man [but] a hard-headed man." His story of a crazed man taking a knife to his son's throat at the time of a full moon and stubbornly travelling the wrong way despite the

guides advise, go a long way towards defining his personality in the literature. Michelin had also claimed Koehler was close to running out of flour when Koehler's diary reports a healthy supply. It seems a story deserves many angles or, put another way, to quote A.N. Whitehead: "Seek simplicity, but mistrust it." The key point here is, Koehler was "dead" set on following the mysterious dotted line on the map to the coast despite the local informants' plea that this is an unnavigable route, particularly given the advance of the season.

I paddled the Notakwanon in 1992 and easily understand the enthusiastic warning Koehler would have received. The rapids are long, steady and difficult for long stretches. Late season low-water levels would make matters even worse. The shoreline is well wooded (there is good and bad in this) and I had the benefit of knowing that a long, very long (over 20 km or so) portage cross-country route avoids the longest steady rapid section. In short, it was good advice given by the Innu on that ridge overlooking the George in October 1931.

Now Jimmy Martin! Theories can abound. Perhaps he fell through the ice

as Innu elders believed. Perhaps he likewise died nearby and was never found. Perhaps he survived his two "clients" and moved in with the Innu never to return to the coastal home of Cartwright. The guiding creed at the time would have prevented his return. Guides simply do not survive their charges. (Elliott Merrick chastised me for this suggestion.) There are rumours of a half demented man shyly walking the streets of Cartwright, decades later running away when approached. This theory is further supported by the knowledge that Koehler's gun, axe and journal were never found, the first two items being critical for survival.

That is as much as I dare speculate. Suffice it to say, Koehler's travels do deserve a significant place along with Hubbard, Pritchard, Cabot and others (but only a few others we were aware of). And, this is not just because of his mysterious demise, but because of his extensive travels and knowledge. I had done this man (unwittingly) a disservice. Now what has the meticulous Peter Armitage unearthed to add so much to our understanding of this largely under recognized and mistreated traveller?

First off, any parallels to Leonidas Hubbard are not justified. Koehler had more than the two previous trips that are vaguely and erroneously reported in *Them Days*. In fact, Koehler's travels in Canada begin around 1903 and include owning a fishing club in the Lac St. Jean area, and travels on the Gaspé Bay Peninsula, and the Rivières Mistassini and Peribonka. In 1921 at age 51 his interior North Shore of the St. Lawrence and Labrador "height of land to the coast trips" commenced. Here is a sample of the travels Armitage has put together from Koehler's diaries, correspondence, and family records: 1926 St. Augustin to Sandwich Bay via Rivière St. Paul and Paradise River; 1927 La Romaine to North West River via Rivière Petite Mecantina and Kenamic; 1928 Voisey's Bay to Indian House Lake and return via Michikaman Lake and Churchill River to North West River (with John Michelin as guide as earlier noted); and 1929/1930 trips involving the Musquaro, Nastashquan, and Magpie country. Herman regularly travelled with family. His daughter Emily, noted Wilhelmina, her mother, travelled often with her father and in 1967 reported that she



Left to right: Son Hans, Koehler and John Michelin.

(Emily) had had 22 summer trips to Quebec/Labrador; a serious inventory indeed for the whole family.

Emily also recorded that her father: “believed that it was good for people to revert sometimes to a wilderness way of life.” Koehler himself had written to a fellow outdoorsman Raymond E. Herman in 1931 that:

[One hundred] years from now I wouldn’t give a hoot about living on this earth because I don’t believe there will [be] a single wilderness spot left...the average individual is going to secure just as much privacy as a gold fish has, when it comes to finding the wilderness. (1)

Sixty-eight years later, the outdoor educator in me, thinks, “I’d probably really like this guy”.

Koehler was not known as an author. He was perhaps not skilled in this department or we might revisit our own field notes written by dim light at days end after a day of paddling and portaging (thanks to Peter Armitage for that reminder). I can likely say sadly there is no Koehler refined writing projects in print. Armitage would have retrieved them. Koehler’s knowledge was shared amongst friends via correspondence. He was a ferocious amateur natural and heritage historian. He sought out indigenous knowledge and “official” government maps wherever possible but used macro-geographic features and the axiom “keep to high ground”, often as a navigational strategy. I remember in 1992, hiking

south from camp on the upper Notakwanon and seeing, I imagined, an open walking route to the Adlatuk River valley. It looked inviting as a high-ground trek. Koehler’s efforts to reach the Notakwanon no longer seem foolhardy given his background of travel knowledge and considering the country anew. Still September/October remains a time for as canoeist to get to the coast or winter-over.

Perhaps a stubborn Koehler was pressing on to the Notakwanon, or like for so many, the advancing winter season had caught them retreating towards familiar terrain of the Kogaluk to the coast. We do know that the Innu gave Herman Koehler the name Nutaknunan for the river he was devoted to explore. We also know that the oral tradition of the Innu peoples have kept the story alive for over 60 years.

Tshishennish Pasteen, who passed away in August 2004, was known to tell the story of the Koehler party meeting his people in 1931, as, in the words of Peter Armitage: “a type of parable about the arrogance of industrial society.”(2) Indeed, that is how I first told my version of the story in *Nastawgan*: the hard-headed white guy ill-prepared and ignoring local indigenous wisdom. This is a story played out again and again. But while hardheaded yes, the true Herman Koehler was not also poorly prepared or lacking competence for the trail. I suppose I had part of the story right.

In 2005 Ben Koehler, a grandson of Herman travelled to Labrador to visit relatives of the same people who offered to

help Herman “Headwaters” Koehler in 1931. (Tshishennish Pasteen had recently passed away before the grandson’s visit, but he had been recorded on tape in 2002.) The Innu elders hosted Ben Koehler and retold the 1931 reminiscence as their parents had done by campfire and woodstove through time.

In Peter Armitage’s words:

Their meeting with Ben Koehler is a kind of catharsis as they are able to expunge a lifetime collective worry that their people were being blamed for the tragic end of the Koehler party”. (3)

Ben certainly shared his own familiarity with his well-travelled grandparents. Together, they (and Peter and I) help keep alive an important story of an early Labrador traveller. Be it a parable of traveller/industrial society arrogance or a story packed with lessons for how to travel and dwell well as a Labrador visitor; the travels of Herman Koehler are well worth a revisit and the Koehler names deserve to be acknowledged besides the Hubbard’s and Pritchard’s and Cabot’s of the Labrador trail.

1. tba

2. See “Romancing the Labrador: The Journey of Nutakunan”. Directed by Christine Poker, Produced by Muinjij Productions, St. Johns, NFLD. Aired on APTN Nov. 2006.

3. tba

4. Map source: William Brooks Cabot 1911: In Northern Labrador

Camp Stove Reminder

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Every year, hundreds of people die of carbon monoxide poisoning and thousands more are hospitalized.

Carbon monoxide is a gas produced when fossil fuels such as coal, natural gas and oil are burned. Furnaces, cars, boats, kerosene heaters, charcoal grills, camp stoves, power washers, generators...anything that burns fuel produces

carbon monoxide. In only minutes, deadly fumes can develop in enclosed spaces.

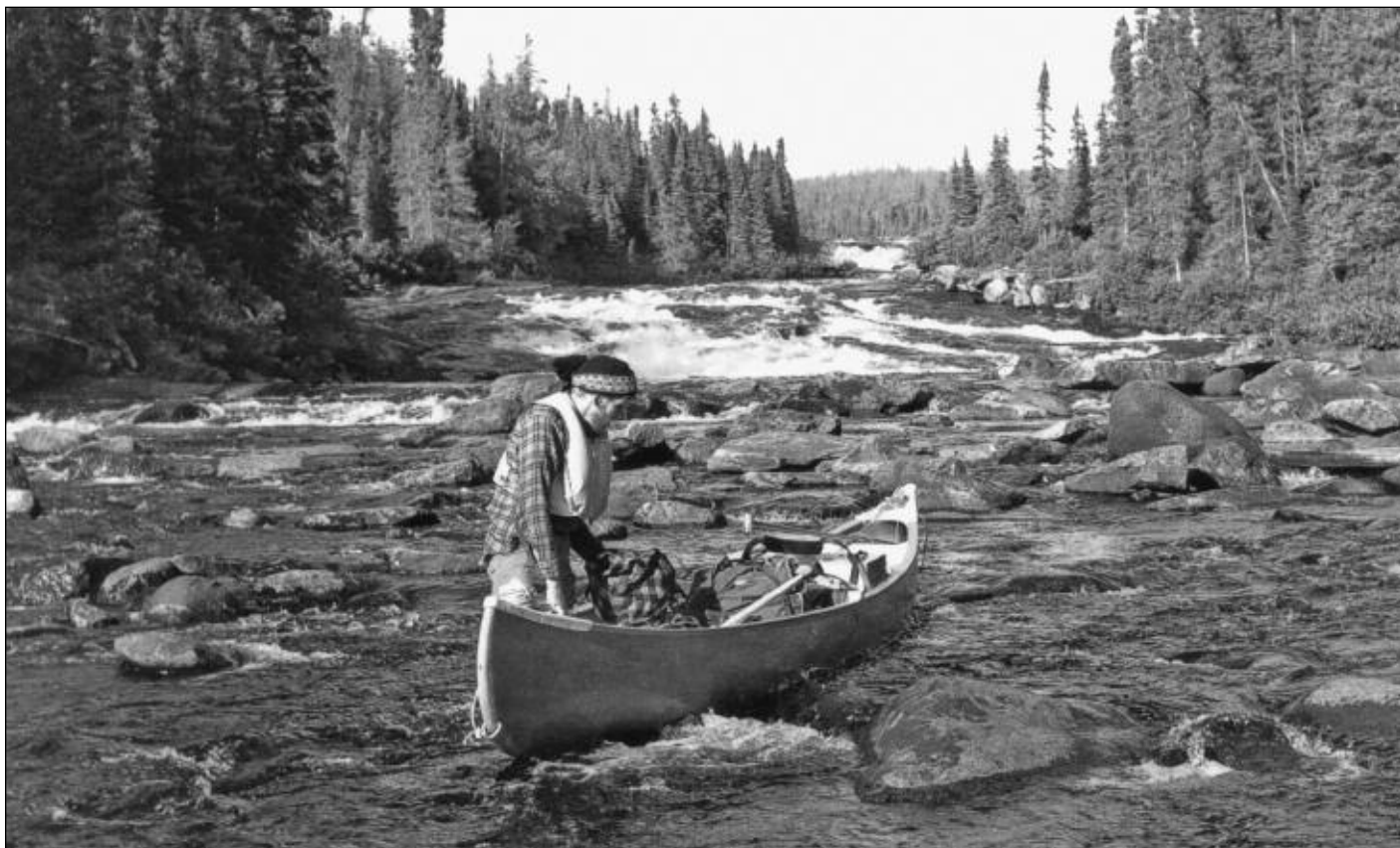
You cannot see, smell, or taste it, but it can make you sick or even kill you. When you breathe carbon monoxide, it enters the bloodstream and cuts off delivery of oxygen to the body’s organs and tissues. The first symptoms of carbon

monoxide poisoning may be headache, dizziness, confusion, fatigue, and nausea. As more of this gas is inhaled, it can cause unconsciousness, brain damage and death.

When setting up your stove, make sure it is very well ventilated. Don’t ever enclose yourself anywhere with a camp stove turned on. This includes snow

Trip notes: Ste Marguerite and Romaine Rivers

Reprinted with permission from Stewart Coffin's Blue Spruce Journals⁽¹⁾ and MyCCR



Dick wading our Tripper down shallow rapids on the upper Ste. Marguerite River, deep in the heart of our beloved Black Spruce Country.

Ste Marguerite River

Text and photos by Stewart Coffin

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Editor's note: For a summary and a list of topographical maps required, consult the version of this report posted at CCR.

Party consisted of: Dick Irwin and Bob Davis, Kerck Kelsey and Stew Coffin.

Aug. 7 - Took 8 a.m. train from Sept-Iles to Labrador City. Arrived late afternoon and stayed with Bob's friends overnight. Bob once worked in the mines there.

Aug. 8 - Transported by truck to Mt. Wright, then farther over private good gravel road (permits easily obtained at gate), closely paralleling Gagnon rail

line, to bridge over Pekans River. Started down Pekans, ran some easy rapids, made one short portage, and lined a few spots. Next portage was 100 yds left around heavy drop, at which we camped. (mile 14, from start at bridge)

Aug. 9 - Ran several long easy rapids, then left Pekans and started up Grasse River. First portage was 100 yds left thru woods on good trail. Second portage, 250 yds left around pair of rapids, also good trail. Finally hauled up short rapid into Lac Gras, a pretty lake nestled in hills, with cliffs to the west. Found good campsite halfway down right shore. (mile 35)

Aug. 10 - Paddled up lake. Portaged 100

yds to upper lake, and continued southward up Lac a la Plaine. Dragged up several shallow rapids and over beaver dam, made one short carry, continued up winding stream thru burnt country, and finally portaged 300 yds to Lac Isabel. Portaged out of Isabel 100 yds over height of land to small lake. Camped wedged tightly among boulders in very rough burnt country. (mile 55)

Aug. 11 - Portaged out of small lake following blazed trail starting to the right of outlet, skirting left of bog, and leading 1/2 mile to head of navigation of outlet brook. Paddled a bit, lifting over two shallow places. At third shallows, departed this brook and followed a com-

pass bearing westward over burnt hillside 1/2 mile to Ste. Marguerite River, here very small. Ran many shallow rapids, and lined down one, to reach Cedar Lake. Ran stronger rapids, waded and lined some, into Little Cedar Lake. Camped at sandy beach on right part way down lake. (mile 69)

Aug. 12 - Spent most of day negotiating 6 miles of steep rapids below little Cedar Lake, portaging, wading, lining, or running pitches too numerous to mention. Upper part required four portages averaging 100 yds. The lower section involved two portages left of 1/3 mile each. Climbed prominent bald hill for view. Camped on gravel bar just below junction with tributary. (mile 76)

Aug. 13 - Winding river with good current to junction with large tributary, then fast current and easy rapids thru burnt country. Finally left burn behind. Camped on right in birch grove. (mile 104)

Aug. 14 - Entered scenic section with many cliffs and waterfalls. The few easy rapids gradually diminish. Camped at sandy beach on left in quiet stretch. Signs of moose everywhere along the way. Finally saw two at this camp. (mile 120)

Aug. 15 - No rapids in morning, but

many sandbars. In afternoon, many moderate rapids. At one impassable drop, carried left 50 yds. Camped at poor spot atop high sandy bank on left. (mile 150)

Aug. 16 - Easy paddle; not many rapids. Mid-afternoon, arrived at head of big gorge, reported to be impassable. Found good portage trail on left, starting 1/2 mile above gorge, leading eastward up steep hill. Carried canoes up it (800 vertical feet), and camped in poor spot at start of trail. (mile 171)

Aug. 17 - Resumed portage. At top of hill, trail goes thru saddle and turns southeast following down small brook. Paddled across small pond, then continued portaging along brook to head of small lake. Total portaging to here about 2 miles. Paddled 1-1/4 miles to outlet, then descended brook by series of short portages (just one 3/4-mile portage might have been easier) to head of larger lake. Camped halfway down this lake at old campsite in very scenic high country. (mile 176)

Aug. 18 - At outlet of lake, portaged left 200 yds over good trail to deadwater, crossed small pond, and found good trail running southwest 1/4 mile directly to Lac au Poelon. From south bay of Poelon, followed blazed trail up steep hillside, through saddle past small pond,

then down steep open hillside to larger pond which drains southward. Continued down blazed trail, which follows ravine for one mile, then continues southwest 1/2 mile more to rejoin the river at foot of big gorge. Upper part of this trail was slow going over rough terrain, requiring some cutting, and evidently not the main route, which probably lies farther to the west and appeared to rejoin our route near the lower end. Paddled short ways down easy rapids, and camped on one of several large gravel bars. (mile 181)

Aug. 19 - Continued down easy rapids and fast current, thru scenic mountainous country, with sheer cliffs nearly always in view. In 10 miles, reached slack water caused by dam. Saw some fishing parties in power boats. Campsites very hard to find because of steep densely wooded hillsides and eroded clay banks. Finally forced to camp in such a place. Scrambled up 350-foot pink granite cliffs near camp for exercise. (mile 213)

Aug. 20 - Paddled remaining 8 miles to Rt. 138 bridge and power dam, stopping along the way at beautiful waterfall on right. Portaged left across highway, down road to power station, and by path to pool below tailrace and sharp drop. Passed some "keep out" signs, but power personnel did not appear to object. Paddled 1-1/4 miles to second power dam, and portaged left on good path past ruins of abandoned hydro station and over ledges to pool below rapids. Paddled 1/3 mile to Chute d'Aval (6 foot drop), which we portaged over smooth ledges in middle of river. Paddled 4 miles to mouth of river, and portaged 150 yds across sandy neck to avoid long paddle around. Paddled 8 miles along the coast, around Pte a la Chasse, and camped at splendid spot along rocky shores in a cove just short of Pte a la Marmite, where fresh water was found. For once, no bugs! (mile 236)

Aug. 21 - Blessed with sunny skies and gentle breezes, paddled the remaining 4-1/2 miles to Sept-Iles, practically to where our vehicle was parked at the train station, and headed home.



Dick and Bob lifting up and over an old beaver dam going up the Grasse River on our way into the headwaters of the Ste. Marguerite River, August 10, 1981.

Notes: Compared with the illustrious Moisie River, which runs parallel just to



Usually we have traveled where there were no established campsites, and we have created one out of nothing, as decidedly was the case here. Up to a point, the challenge can be all part of the fun. But at this site I have the distinct recollection of trying to sleep while curled on my side, wedged tightly between two boulders in this burned-over wasteland and barely able to move.

the east, this less traveled route down the Ste. Marguerite is about the same length, and with comparable total length of portages. The rugged mountain scenery is also comparable to that of the Moisie, generally regarded as one of the more attractive canoe runs in eastern Canada. But as for whitewater, the miles of heavy rapids for which the Moisie is noted were entirely absent on our trip, as the Ste. Marguerite flows over a broad bed of sand and gravel nearly its entire length, except at the few places noted, whereas the Moisie cuts thru deep rocky gorges. The total drop of the two is about the same, but much of the drop on the Ste. Marguerite is taken up by the impassable gorge and two dams, and by the steep shallow rapids below Little Cedar Lake. However, our water

level was said to be way below normal for this season, and high water might change the picture. The long paddle near the end, in the muddy backwater of the power dam, was anticlimactic. However, if one has the opportunity of finishing the trip as we did by paddling and camping along this beautiful archipelago coast under the ideal conditions we had, the muddy part is soon forgotten.

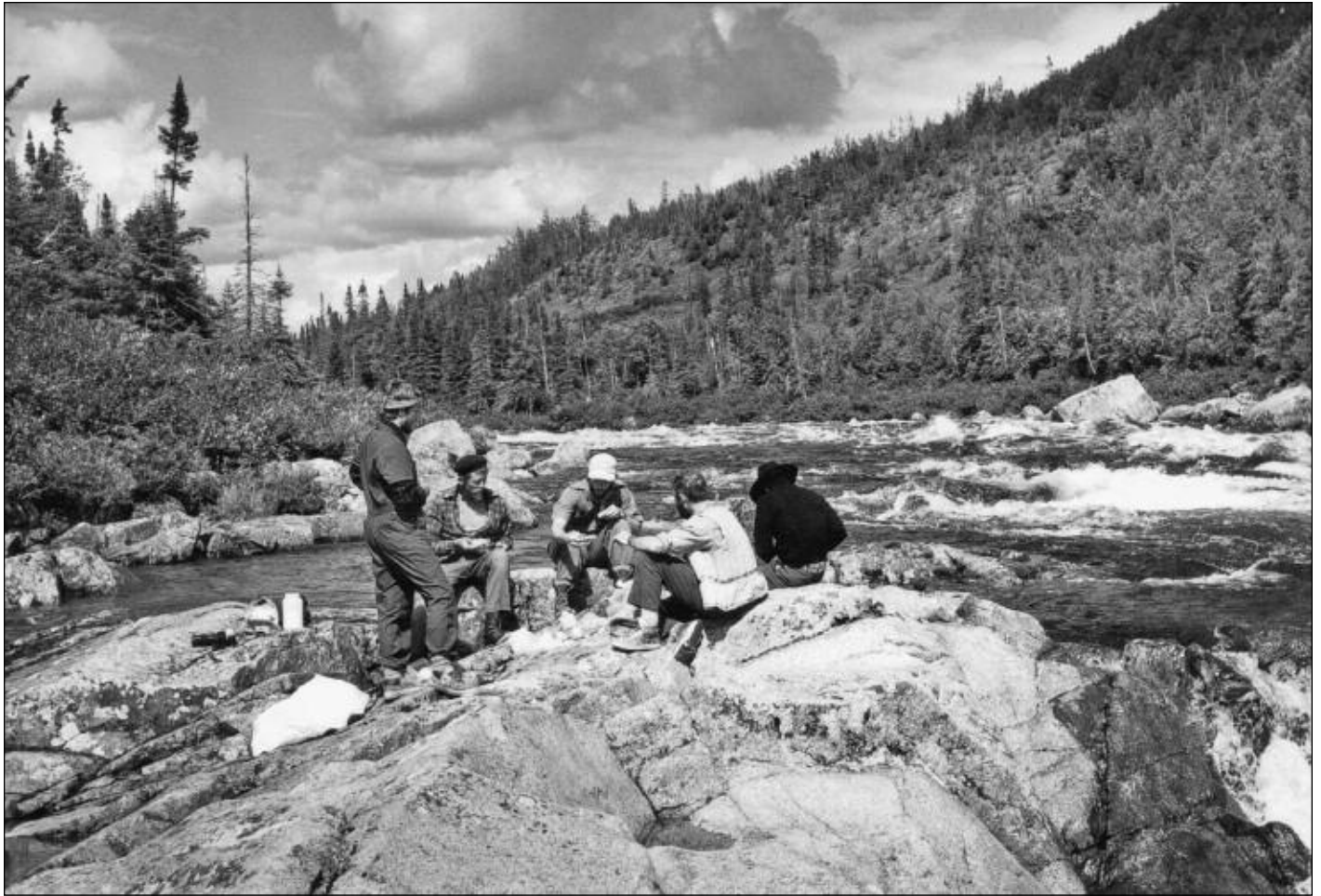
This is a slightly revised version of my original 1981 report, made by scanning it with OCR and then making numerous corrections. I may have missed some. Some of the information may be incorrect or obsolete, such as train schedules, permits, and power dams.

Stewart Coffin, April 2008

Other transcribed reports now available:

Timber Lake, 1962
Dumoine River, 1962
Riv. du Chef, 1963
Chibougamau, 1964
Kazan River, 1966
George River, 1967
Kipawa-Dumoine, 1979
Romaine River, 1980
Adlatok River, 1982

1. Stewart's Black Spruce Journals is published by Herondance Press, (2007), www.herondance.org.
US orders: msdstc@aol.com
Canadian and US orders: che-mun@rogers.com



Here we are enjoying our lunch on a rock island in the river where, thanks to a fresh north wind, head nets are unnecessary.

Romaine River

Text and photos by Stewart Coffin

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Romaine River, Labrador and Quebec,
August 1980. Printed here upon request.
Permission granted by author.

Party consisted of Russ Binning and Ralph Clim, Jim Sindelar and Brian Farrell, Dick Irwin and Stewart Coffin.

Aug. 7 - Party assembled at Sept-Iles, discussed plans with Sept-Iles Police, bought train tickets and left canoes and most packs at train station, shuttled one car to Havre-St. Pierre, and camped at Moisie River campground.

Aug. 8 - Took 8 a.m. train to Oreway, arrived Oreway 3 p.m. Portaged 1000 yards along tote road to Lac a l'Eau-Claire, paddled 4 miles to fair campsite

on island, (4 miles).

Note: All mileages in parentheses are distances from Oreway by route we took.

Aug. 9 - Paddled to outlet of Lac a l'Eau-Claire, and started down Riv. a l'Eau-Claire. Found this stream to be small, with good current and minor rapids, all easily run because of high water levels. Did not see many good campsites in this section. Paddled through Lac Pas d'Eau, which only proved true to its name. We had only slight difficulty, but a few weeks later Henry Franklin's party reported having to wade and drag through parts of this shallow, rock-strewn lake. Ran some more easy rapids, and camped just below one of them. (35 miles).

Aug. 10 - Ran some heavier rapids, the river now much enlarged by tributaries. At the last rapid before entering Lac Joseph, portaged 20 yards around an impassable drop. To avoid a long paddle around Lac Joseph with possible headwinds, we followed a sheltered route through its southern islands and bays, involving one 180-yard portage across a neck of land, at which we found an old portage trail. This route was made easier to follow by our use of 1:50,000 maps, which we used to good advantage for the entire trip. Camped at southeastern tip of an esker island near outlet of lake. (65 miles).

Aug. 11 - Near outlet of Lac Joseph, met fishing party consisting of Indian (?) and three companions, with canoe and out-

board. We understood him to indicate that he had been on the Romaine River as far down as the St. Jean portage, that he entered it by a route farther north than the one we intended to take, and that the water was now higher than normal. Ran a strong rapid into Kepimits Lake. At outlet of this lake, ran and lined heavy rapid on left. Ran several more short rapids, ran and lined strong rapid and had lunch at foot of it. At point where river is joined by large tributary and turns northeast, found an occupied fishing camp, and an old cabin on opposite point. Entered Atikonak Lake. Saw many excellent looking campsites on these lakes. Camped at sandy beach on peninsula in southern part of lake. (96 miles).

Aug. 12 - Continuing across Atikonak Lake, we saw what looked like fishing

camp on island in southern part of lake. We here joined the route followed by A. P. Low in 1894, and described in detail in his geological survey report. At southeastern end of long narrow bay, came to 3-foot falls which we portaged up 50 yards, and started up a small stream, paddling first southerly, then easterly, and finally northerly. Stream was broad, deep, and quiet in most places, but very shallow in a few spots. Portaged 150 yards up very shallow place, then came to deep water again as the stream bends closer to the Romaine River. At the second of two clearings we came to, which may have been landing sites for survey crews, we left this stream. Followed a survey line a short way, but found it went in the wrong direction, followed another a way, then struck off across this height of land on 106 degree magnetic bearing for about 3/4 mile to the edge of

a string bog, where we camped in mosquito heaven. (119 miles).

Aug. 13 - Crossed bog by tortuous route, and came to small stream which we descended a short way through beaver dams and alder thickets, until it entered impassable swamp. A portage of about 3/4 mile at 88 degrees magnetic over fairly good terrain brought us back onto this little stream just above the point where it joins a larger branch coming in from the south. Paddled 1/2 mile downstream northeastward to junction with Romaine River, which is here deep and slow, with brushy banks. In 2 miles, came to a pair of rapids and ran both. Entered Lac Brule, a very shallow lake. Did not see any good campsites until 12 miles down lake, where we found fair site at sandy beach in a cove on the west side. (140 miles).



Here we are doing a four-man lift with loaded canoe, used at this chute because the distance was short and the footing excellent.

Aug. 14 - Soon after leaving campsite, entered a western bay of lake which led to a shortcut portage route. At first portage, carried 200 yards along right side of rocky stream bed to a small lake, which we then crossed. Second portage was 1/2 mile over a burned hillside, following faint old trail, into Petit Lac Lozeau. Ran small chute out of this lake into Lac Lozeau, and rejoined the Romaine. (May have saved a little by this route.) Leaving

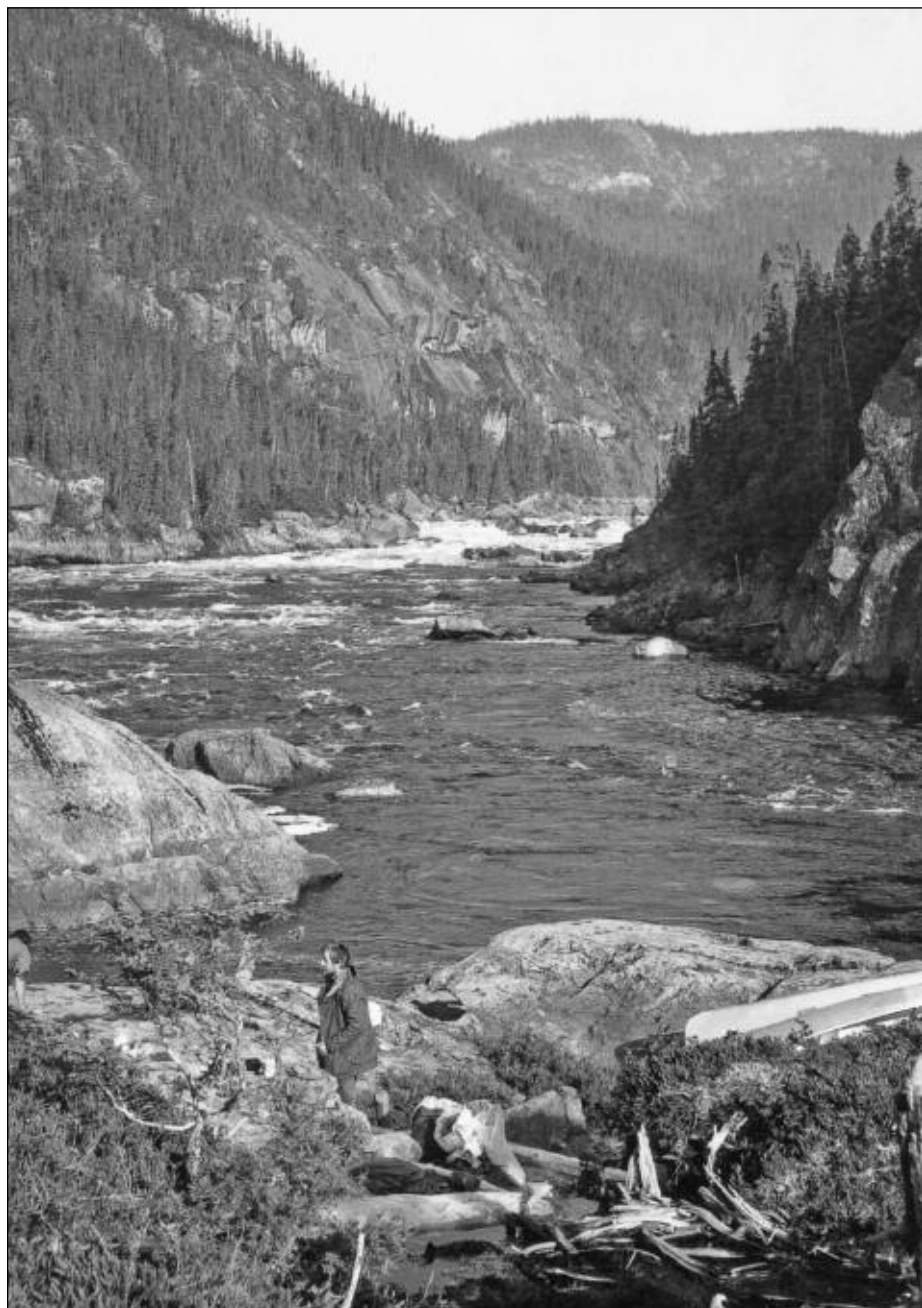
Lac Lozeau, lined down heavy rapid on right, crossed small bay, and came to another heavy rapid. The start of the portage trail here is on the right, well above the rapid, and marked by blazes. It goes up and over steep hill to bay on other side, 250 yards, with beautiful campsite at top. Camped 2 miles below on right, a beautiful site on lichen-covered sandy terrace. (158 miles).

Aug. 15 - River has good current here. Ran several miles easy rapids above junction with Riv. aux Sauterelles. Twelve miles below, came to set of rapids and falls marked on map. At first rapid, portaged right 300 yards over obscure trail around 20-foot drop. Portaged second drop right 300 yards—trail obscure, rough and brushy. Ran sharp drop below, then several miles of moderate rapids that gradually diminish. Came to cabin on an island, and camped there. (195 miles).

Aug. 16 - Fast current for 19 miles brought us to mouth of Petite-Romaine, where the old portage route that A. P. Low followed leaves the Romaine, goes up and over a considerable height of land, and down the St. Jean River to the Gulf. Explored up this route a mile to the first portage, and found the old trail still clearly visible as it ascends a high bank on west side of this stream. (What tales it must hold.) Returned to Romaine, and paddled 2 miles to the head of rapids which mark the start of 50 miles of canyons and gorges with a drop in the river from 1,400 feet elevation to 600 feet. (We have no knowledge of previous canoe travel in this section, reported to be “totally impassable,” whatever that is supposed to mean. Based on our close study of the maps, we have obtained air photos of the more challenging looking places, some in stereo, and we carry a small stereo viewer with us.) First set of rapids are 4 miles long and continuous. Lined down about three short drops and ran the rest. Ran a few easier rapids, and camped on smooth ledge on left at head of heavy rapids. (227 miles).

Aug. 17 - Lined down several heavy drops on the left, lifting over two or three. Came to falls with easy portage left over smooth ledge. Came to second falls with hard portage left among boulders and cliffs. Ferried across to right, and camped among huge boulders. (232 miles).

Saw much evidence of surveying and water measurements all along here. We are now in a very steep and narrow



View from Pothole Camp, so named because of huge potholes in the river, one of which was large enough to easily float all three canoes. We portaged over the steep hill on the right, bypassing an impassable gorge.

canyon, a likely site for hydro dam. The crews come in by helicopter.

Aug. 18 - Very heavy rapids easily lined down on the right. At next rapid, ferried across to left and lined down easily to a pool or expansion in the river. Below this pool is a set of staircase falls, which we passed by lining on the left and by short but difficult carries over very rough terrain, two men per canoe. Paddled left to next rapids. Ran upper part and lined down sharp drop at bottom. Passed left of island, lining down shallow rapids. Rapids continue past small rocky islands—ran all on left. Paddled around cliff on left to brink of heavy drop, lifted over a ledge, and lined the rest (river here turns left and flows eastward). Next drop is spectacular 20-foot falls, portaged easily along left bank over boulders and ledge to deep pool below. Mountain views downstream. Continued lining and lifting on left down a series of drops—fairly easy walking on ledge. Final ledge has large deposits of bright blue Labradorite imbedded in it. Ran continuous easy rapids past large island, and camped at ledge on left below rapids—cold brook here. (237 miles).

Aug. 19 - A 1/2-mile paddle brought us to an expansion, with Riv. Garneau coming in from north. Explored up this river a bit—too steep to canoe. In 3 miles, came to 16-foot falls. Large island at head has good campsites. Easy portage left of island through flume and down ledge to large pool. Good campsites here also. In 1/4 mile, came to second falls with 8-foot drop. Avoided difficult carry by paddling left along wall to small cove just before falls, then lifting over ledge to pool below. Paddled placid stretch of 10 miles with magnificent mountain views in all directions, and spectacular waterfalls cascading into canyon. Next, a 20-foot falls was portaged right 200 yards over poor and faint trail to sandy beach below. In another mile, came to start of heavy rapids where river turns sharp left in a gorge. Found blazed trail on left about 1/2 mile long around this gorge—very difficult with canoes because of rough terrain and close spacing



The drops here are typically falls and chutes with great sloping ledges, which, if not too steep, make for excellent footing, as is the case here.

of spruce trees. Scouted river route and found it to be even worse. While peacefully admiring the view from a rocky knoll high above the river, a curious helicopter pilot, after failing in his apparent attempt to lop our heads off with his rotor blades, came roaring down in a cloud of dust right next to us. He estimated the flow here to be 24,000 to 30,000 cfs. He said dam construction might begin in 2 to 3 years, which we had already heard, and which was one reason for our choosing to do this route when we did. Ferried across to right, and camped precariously on steep ledges with huge potholes, one large enough to float all three canoes. (254 miles).

Aug. 20 - Spent all morning descending left bank for 1-1/2 miles among rock islands, making several short portages over rough terrain. Slow progress. Afternoon, more of same. Came to set of heavy drops where river turns left around sort of an island. Found best portage route to be along rocks of left bank of main river. Camped just below at smooth ledge on left, a fair tent sites in woods. (259 miles).

Aug. 21 - One-half mile below camp, came to start of heavy rapids. Stayed on right all morning, lining and running.

Tough rapids here, slow going. Filled one canoe and almost another while lining. Arrived at point where tributaries enter from both sides. Ferried across mouth of right tributary, just barely possible because it was low. Alternative would have been to carry up it 100 yards over rough terrain, where it could have been forded easily. If this tributary were as high as it was when our air photo was taken, it would present quite an obstacle. Party could either ascend it over rough terrain until a pool was found which could perhaps be ferried, or cross over to left side of Romaine, ford the much smaller tributary on that side (again perhaps), and negotiate 1 mile of steep rough terrain below it past unrunnable rapids. Lined down steep rapids just below junction. One mile below, ran long heavy rapids on right, then miles of fast current and minor rapids to junction with Riv. l'Abbe-Huard. Poled up l'Abbe-Huard several miles, and found it to be mostly shallow and gravelly, with scenic cliffs on west side of valley. Camped at junction. (272 miles).

Aug. 22 - We now followed the guide to lower Romaine published by Parks Canada. Paddled many miles fast current, fine mountain scenery, cliffs and

waterfalls. Came to deep rapid and ran on right, ran the next on the left, portaged the third on the left over great smooth ledges, so characteristic of the lower river. Ran, lined, and made short portages around rapids all afternoon, following guide. Camped on island with thunderous falls on both sides—not recommended (see photo in Black Spruce Journals). (302 miles).

Aug. 23 - Lined and lifted several short rapids, following guide. Came to start of heavy rapids above Bassin des Murailles. Made short portage on left, paddled a short ways, then portaged along sloping ledge of left bank, made difficult and dangerous by shower and requiring two men per canoe, lined down slipperiest part to huge boulders, then portaged among boulders, through brush, and up steep cliffs, again requiring two men per canoe, finally to easy ledges leading into the basin. Spent most of the day making this portage. Much easier route would have been up and over a hill to the left, passing just right of small pond, then steeply down to the basin, all open country and easy walking, with good trail down to basin. Camped in poor site in northeast corner of basin, the only one we could find. (306 miles).

Aug. 24 - Negotiated several rapids and falls, following the guide. At Grande Chute, the shortest portage was found to be along the right bluff, then down directly to the head of the pool below. Camped on open hillside 1/2 mile below Grande Chute. The trees have all been cut down here, probably for another dam site. Blueberries very abundant here, fat and juicy. (326 miles).

Aug. 25 - Rapids at campsite easily portaged on right over rocks and ledges, which are here eroded into fantastic shapes and color patterns. Portage at next falls, 10 miles below, was easily made over an island with a smooth ledge. Took out at Route 138 highway bridge, (mile 357).

While Jim and Ralph went to Havre-St.

Pierre to get van, others paddled another mile to mouth of river for view of tide-water, then upstream again to bridge.

Notes: Because of the nearly ideal water levels, favorable winds, and truly phenomenal good weather experienced throughout the trip, we finished several days sooner than expected, as we had planned a 22-day trip. For canoes, we used two Old Town Trippers and one Mad River Kevlar, Both had 15 inches of depth, and we were glad of every inch. Much time was spent on this trip wading or lining down rapids, portaging on slippery rocks along the shore, climbing over rough boulders and ledges, and forcing our way through alder thickets, in and out of the water constantly; and so we all became very conscious of the need for adequate footwear. Most members took two pairs—one like canvas sneakers for wading, the other like L. L. Bean boots for rough use and protection of ankles against constant abrasion of brush and rocks, and black flies. If I were to do this again, I would skip the aerial photos and stereo viewer because, besides being unessential, in some strange way I found they detracted from the sense of adventure and lure of the unknown that so often draws us to these wild places.

The upper Romaine must surely be one of the most scenic wilderness rivers in eastern North America, surpassing

even the Moisie in my opinion. It appears likely that it will remain so only a few more years before hydroelectric development takes place.

This is a slightly revised version of my original 1980 report, made by scanning it with OCR and then making numerous corrections. I may have missed some. Some of the information may be incorrect or obsolete, such as train schedules and hydro development.

Stewart Coffin, April 2008

Editor's notes:

A slightly expanded version of this report is available at Canadian Canoe Routes <http://www.myccr.com> as are Stewart's other reports: Timber Lake (1962), Dumoine River (1962), Riviere du Chef (1963), Chibougamau (1964), Kazan River (1966), George River (1967), Kipawa-Dumoine (1979), Ste. Marguerite River (1981), and Adlatok River (1982).

These reports are the basis for Stewart's book *Black Spruce Journals* (Heron Press, 2007) which contains more photos of the Romaine; it can be ordered through <http://www.herondance.org> or Che-Mun (che-mun@rogers.com).

Dams are planned for the Romaine; the river would be flooded almost from the mouth to the Labrador border. Construction is scheduled to start in mid-2009; the dams are opposed by Alliance Romaine <http://www.allianceromaine.org>.



Rod MacIver – Friendship

Book Reviews



EMPEROR OF THE NORTH, Sir George Simpson and the Remarkable Story of the Hudson's Bay Company by James Raffan, A Phyllis Bruce Book published by HarperCollins Publishers Ltd., Toronto, 2007, hardcover, 484 pages, \$34.95.
Review by Toni Harting.

This hefty volume is much more than a biography of an important but largely forgotten man who was a true giant of the 19th century North American fur trade. Based on thorough research and using his eminent writing talent with a skillful hand, James Raffan has created an impressive book that paints an often highly detailed picture of life in the country that one day would become Canada, and of the roles played by many people in laying its foundation. What should endear the complicated and controversial man that Simpson was to anyone who loves canoes and canoeing, is the fact that he often stated he never felt better than when he was in a canoe. The many trips by express canoe that he as Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company undertook from Montreal to the fur country thousands of miles inland are legendary for their speed and style. He may have been "a pompous little stump of a man" but he surely was tough as nails and ruled his enormous fur trade empire with an iron fist. By describing in wonderful detail how George Simpson lived during the first 60 years of the 19th century, Raffan has made an important contribution to the vast library of studies on the history of Canada.

THE EXPLORER'S GUIDE TO ALGONQUIN PARK, by Michael Runtz, published by The Boston Mills Press, Erin ON, 2008, softcover, 222 pages, \$29.95
Review by Toni Harting.

Ah, Algonquin Park! Who among us, seekers of enchantingly wild canoe country, has not spent some magic time in this garden of paddling delights and returned home with the burning desire for more of the same? In this third, revised and expanded edition of his original 1993 book, naturalist/photographer/writer Michael Runtz presents a vast, newly updated collection of useful information on how best to enjoy the many paddling and hiking delights offered by Algonquin. Accompanying the well-organized text are numerous maps, photographs, and sketches that help explain the various ways visitors can explore the park and its flora and fauna. This is possibly the best general guide book to Algonquin Park and should also present seasoned return visitors with new and challenging information.



Food for Paddlers

Oatmeal and Various Other Things

Long time member of the WCA Rob Butler agreed to a brief chat about his involvement with the club and his views on oatmeal. Rob has been a member of the WCA since 1976 and was treasurer for 23 years. At 78 years of age he is still incredibly active, albeit, in the interest of longevity, he is now taking a more gentle approach. Besides the WCA, he is a member of 5 other Outdoor Clubs. When we chatted, he was in the middle of packing for a trip into Algonquin Park. He visits Algonquin frequently avoiding the summer months. He did some winter camping there this past winter using Herb Pohl's cotton tent and stove. His ambition of completing all the canoe routes in Algonquin was thwarted as more and more routes continued to be added. He did, however, finish all the routes south of Highway 60 and many of the northern ones. Rob was also one of the first people to cross the Wilderness section of the Ganaraska Trail, now part of the Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park. This 65 km route from Sadowa or Victoria Bridge on the Black River to Moore's Falls on Highway 35 is very rugged with

few landmarks; it requires three tough days of backpacking to crossover. Rob routinely does this 22 beaver dam trip twice a year along with about a dozen other dedicated backpackers. On his first trip in the early 1980s, accompanied by his son, he became disoriented and was relieved to see a floatplane arrive with some fishermen. The fishermen gave them crude directions, and as darkness set in, with faint moonlight, plunging through swamps, then 'seconding' a canoe for the final paddle down Devil's Lake at midnight, found his wife curled up in their car, waiting for them. His son Bill declared this 'his best meeting ever'.

For fuel and simplicity, Rob does eat three-minute whole grain oatmeal for breakfast garnished with nuts and dried fruit. However, he warns that oatmeal only lasts until 11 am. He supplements his oatmeal breakfast with pancakes. He highly recommends the pancake recipe from Carol Hodgins Wanapitei cookbook. He makes a batch of pancakes which he carries with him in a ziplock bag. These will last about 5 days. When 11 am hits and the oatmeal fuel has run out, he breaks out the pancakes for his dependable energy boost, and gives a quiet 'thank you' to Carol Hodgins.

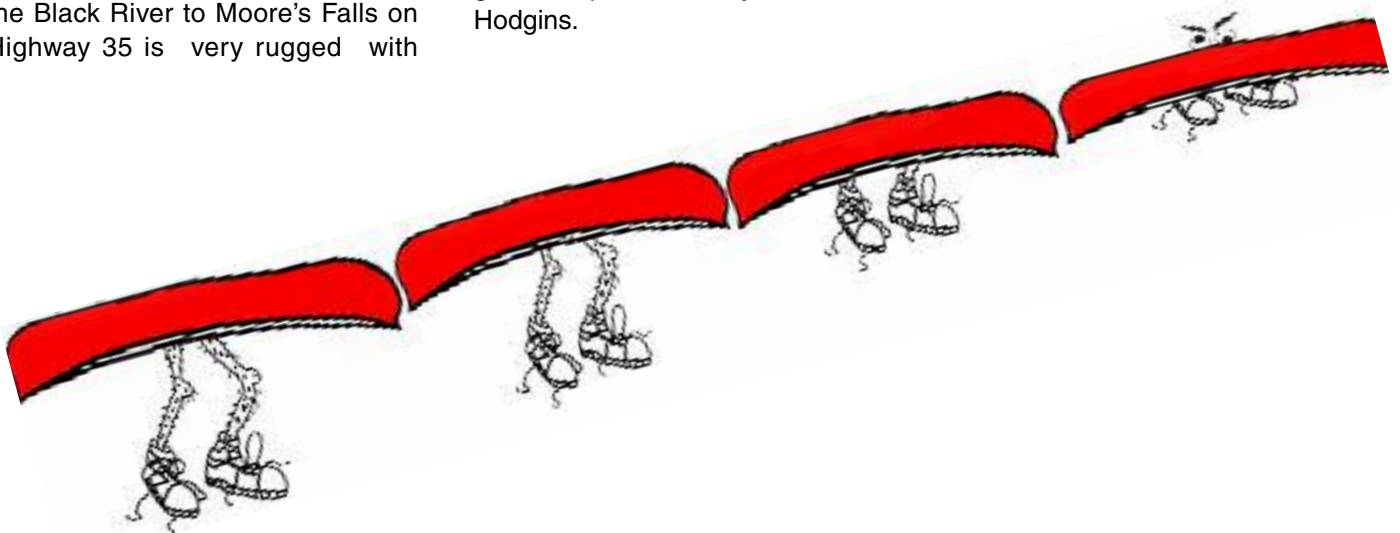
Super Pancakes

1-1/2 cups white flour
1 tsp salt
1-1/2 cups whole wheat flour
3 tbsp cinnamon
3 tbsp powdered eggs
1 cup dried cranberries
3 tbsp powdered milk
3 tbsp olive oil
1-1/2 tsp baking powder
3 cups water (approx.)

Mix dry ingredients and add water slowly to make batter. Add oil. Fry in oiled pan at moderate heat. Serve with syrup.

Used with permission from Wanapitei Canoe Trippers Cookbook II, Carol Hodgins.

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



WCA OUTINGS SUMMER 2008

WANT TO ORGANIZE A TRIP AND HAVE IT PRESENTED IN THE AUTUMN ISSUE?

Contact the Outings Committee before August 15.

Times change and it's important that we move with the times.

In the early years of the club, we would mail our newsletter "Beaver Dams", and later "The Wilderness Canoeist" out to our members for a quarter's postage. Its arrival would be anxiously anticipated by all of us looking to see what activities were coming up for the next season. Then we'd hit the telephone to book our favourite trips. The technologically advanced among us had answering machines so one didn't have to leave a message with the organizer's kid, and hope he passed it on.

Those days are just memories now. Nastawgan costs over a buck to mail, and while it remains a cornerstone of the Wilderness Canoe Association, an increasing volume of club communications is done by email and website. For many of us today, picking up a ringing telephone will more likely get us a gas marketer than an old friend. Increasingly, members check for new club activities on our website rather than wait for the newsletter. Almost all trip registrations are done via email, and an increasing number of organizers don't even list their personal phone numbers with their trip announcements.

As well, in the face of ever escalating printing and mailing costs it is important that we utilize Nastawgan as effectively as possible to provide members with the high quality articles and pad-

dling information they have come to expect of it. Devoting several pages to the minutiae of trip routes, pace and difficulty is not an effective use of this medium any more.

In keeping with our new realities, we have determined that the most effective way for us optimize the value of the printed newsletter and to provide constantly up-to-date outings information is by using the club website as our primary source of outings information. We will continue to post full details of outings and related activities on the website, while Nastawgan will feature an outings and activities synopsis section. The outings section in the newsletter will provide dates, locations, organizers and contact information for those preferring this format.

Happy paddling.

Scott, Gisela, Bill and Mary
Your WCA Outings Committee

For questions, suggestions, proposals to organize trips, or anything else related to the WCA Outings, contact the Outings Committee: Bill Ness, 416-321-3005, bness@look.ca; Gisela Curwen, 416-484-1471, gisela.curwen@gmail.com; Scott Card, 905-665-7302, scottcard@sympatico.ca, Mary Perkins, 905-725-2874 mary.perkins@sympatico.ca.

**WCA outings and other activities may have an
element of danger of serious personal injury.
You are ultimately responsible for your own safety
and well-being when participating.**

**All Season HAVE PADDLE
WILL TRAVEL**

Scott Card, 905-665-7302,
scottcard@sympatico.ca ----- I
paddle whitewater nearly every
weekend. Intermediate to ad-
vanced. If you want to join me,
contact me for where I'll be.

**All Season FROST CENTRE
CANOE ROUTES**

Ray Laughlen, 705-754-9479 -----
Summer to fall lake paddling in
the routes out of the Frost Centre
near Dorset. Available for pad-
dling during the week. If you
would like to paddle with me, give
me a call.

**June to August SHUMAGIN IS-
LANDS, ALASKA**

Allen Hill, Allen Hill, allen-
rhill@yahoo.com ----- Weekend
trips to Nagai Island, Korovin
Island, and the petrified forest on
Unga Island, in June, July and
August. See website for full de-
tails.

**July - October MINDEN WILD
WATER PRESERVE**

Bill Ness, 416-321-3005,
bness@look.ca ----- I'm at the
Gull River on weekends through
the summer, so if you would like
some paddling companionship at
Minden, give me a call.

**June 28 - July 6 RIVIERE
LIEVRE**

Blair Richardson, 905 825
2497, Blair.Richardson@sympatic
o.ca ----- Book as soon as possi-
ble. A whitewater tributary of the
Ottawa River. Experienced pad-
dlers only

June 28 - July 1 OTTAWA RIVER

John & Sharon Hackert, 416-438-
7672, jhackert@sympatico.ca -----
Book before June 21. Strong in-
termediate.

**July 5-6 INTRODUCTION TO
TANDEM MOVING WATER**

Jon McPhee, 905-640-8819, and
Bill Ness, 416-321-3005,
bness@look.ca, book as soon as
possible. Palmer Rapids.

**July 23-28 PUKASKWA
SHORELINE PADDLE**

Mark and Susan McCabe, 231-
941-8729, mrugbym@charter.net
----- Book as soon as possible.
Powerboat shuttle from Hattie
Cove to Otter Island and paddle
back to Hattie Cove

Aug 2 -4 OTTAWA RIVER

John & Sharon Hackert, 416-438-
7672, jhackert@sympatico.ca -----
Book before July 26. Strong inter-
mediate.

**August 14-23 GEORGIAN BAY
- KEY RIVER TO SNUG HAR-
BOUR**

Don Andersen, dhandersen@
aol.com, 716-873-4476 ----- book
before July 10

**Aug 30 - Sept 1 OTTAWA
RIVER**

John & Sharon Hackert, 416-438-
7672, jhackert@sympatico.ca -----
Book before August 23. Strong in-
termediate.

**September 25 - 28 FALL IN
KILLARNEY CANOE/HIKE
COMBO**

Gisela Curwen, 416-484-1471,
gisela.curwen@gmail.com -----
Book before September 11.

**October 3-5 WCA FALL MEET-
ING**

The fall meeting will once again
be at Madawaska Kanu Camp.
Don't miss it! Details will follow.

October 20 BURNT RIVER

Bill Ness, 416-321-3005 or
bness@look.ca, book by October
13. Novice

**November WINE & CHEESE
PARTY**

The WCA's famous paddling sea-
son finale. Date and details will
follow.

ADDITIONAL TRIPS

Check our website at
[www.wildernesscanoe.ca/trips.
htm](http://www.wildernesscanoe.ca/trips.htm) for additional trips.
Members may submit addi-
tional trips to the Outings
Committee anytime at
bness@look.ca. If you miss the
Nastawgan deadline, your trip
will still be listed on the web-
site. Also, check the bulletin
board at
[www.wildernesscanoe.ca/bulle
tin.htm](http://www.wildernesscanoe.ca/bulletin.htm) for private, non-WCA
trips or partner requests.

NEED A PARTNER?

If you're a tandem canoeist in
need of a paddling partner,
whether for a single trip or on
a more regular basis, our web-
site provides a valuable re-
source to help you connect
with other members who want
to get on the water. If you need
a partner, please submit a
message for posting to our
website giving details.

Fall Meeting 2008

Mark your calendars and join us for our annual WCA Fall Meeting! Come paddle, meet old friends and make new ones and get the latest on the best canoe routes while enjoying the beautiful Madawaska Kanu Centre. Members, non-members, and children are all welcome. We've got a great speaker and the event is shaping up to be a fantastic time. Here are the details available at the time of printing:

When: Friday evening, October 03 to Sunday, October 05

Where: MKC Resort in the heart of the Madawaska Highlands

Directions: From Bancroft, follow Hwy 62 North. Just past the small community of Purdy, turn left on to Centreview Road and follow the MKC signs. After 3.8 km turn right, follow for 7 km, cross the Madawaska River and turn right on River road. From Barry's Bay, turn south on Dunn St. off Hwy 60 and follow the MKC signs. Travel past the hospital for 14 km. Just before the Madawaska river turn left on to River Rd.

Program: Friday 8:00 pm Hang around the fire at the screened Pavillion or rest in the 2-story

Swiss-style Chalet, home to games, music and library of books and video about paddling. If you just finished shooting that elusive film in the far North, bring it on!

Saturday: After a hearty 8:00 a.m. breakfast, enjoy abundant daytime Paddling opportunities, both moving and flat water. Middle Mad is a an excellent stretch class II-III white water (depending on the water level), just across the road from MKC. Palmer Rapids and Lower Mad are a short distance away.

6:00 p.m. Gather at the Chalet for dinner

8:00 p.m. Evening presentations (indoors) by (tba)

Sunday: enjoy more paddling or hiking after breakfast — sign up on site

Facilities: Camping at MKC's wooded campground. Two night camping included in price. Lodge rooms and dormitory lodging is available, at request (extra charge). Check in at the Office upon arrival. Dinner will be provided on Saturday night that will include a vegetarian option. There is a meeting hall for the presentation (on Saturday night. There is a

comfort station nearby with out-houses on the campsite. Hiking and mountain bike trails are located on the property.

Meals: Paddlers need great food! Many believe that MKC is Madawaska's best kept culinary secret! A hearty buffet breakfast awaits you every morning. You can eat out on the deck as the sun's rays warm you or come in and take a fire side chair. The Dinner Bell rings at 6 for a wonderful evening feast. All meals are homemade with fresh ingredients, highlighted with herbs from MKC's own garden

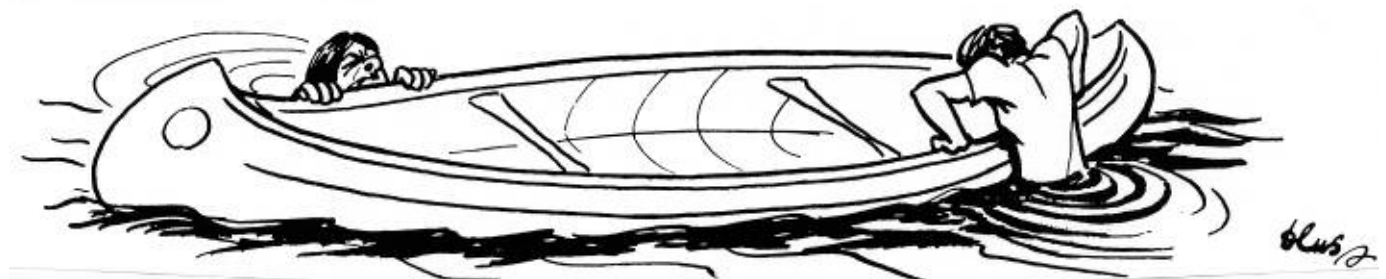
Saturday — breakfast/dinner
Sunday — breakfast included in the price.

Registration: Please complete the form below and mail it, with a cheque by September 4. Please register early.

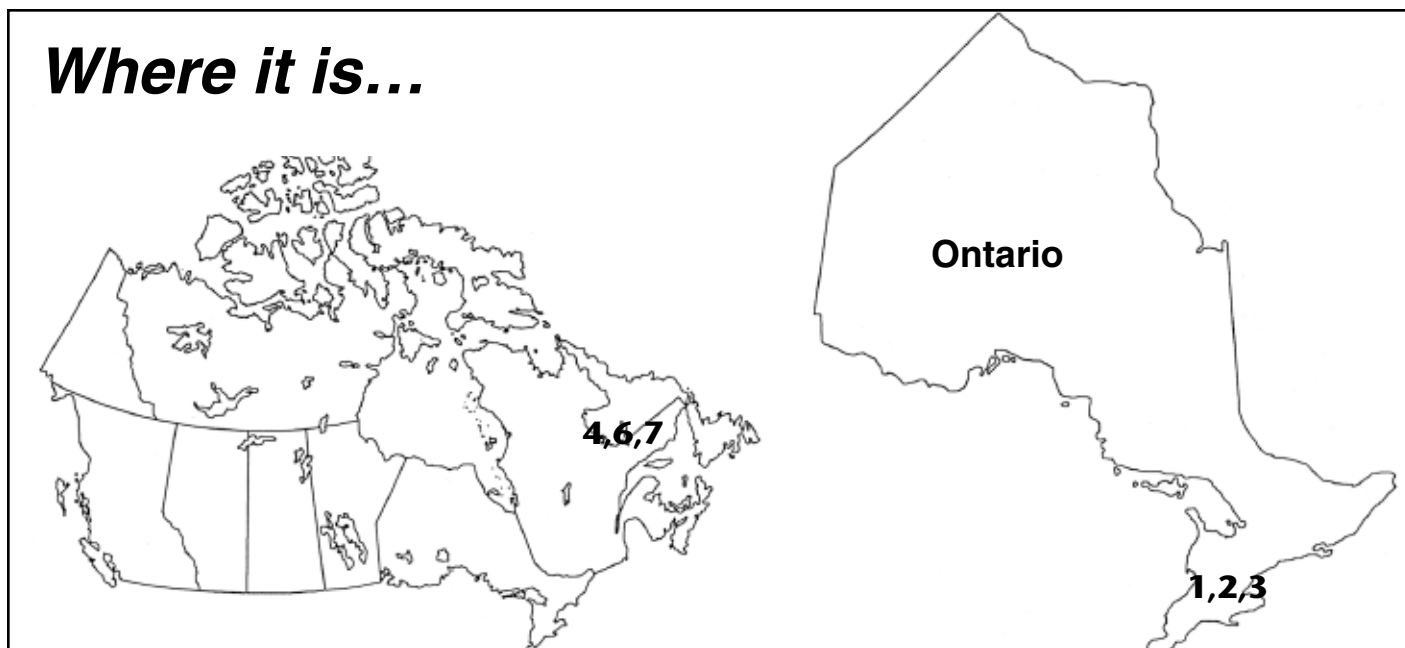
Cost: \$64 per person (members) \$70 (non-members), includes: 2 nights camping, parking, two breakfasts, dinner and presentation on Saturday (will include vegetarian option). C

hildren 5 and under are free (if not eating dinner).

(Please see the wrap for registration form)



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