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Above Kazan Falls (from L to R: George Luste, Mike Good, John Martin, John Blackborow)

Reindeer Lake to Baker Lake 1974 Following the 1894 route of Joseph Burr Tyrrell Story by John Martin Photos by John Martin and George Luste

In January 1974, George Luste walked into my office and proposed a canoe trip of over 800 miles, from Reindeer Lake on the Saskatchewan/Manitoba border to Baker Lake in the Barren Lands during the upcoming summer. While I had been paddling a canoe all my life, it had all been on lakes and tame rivers in southern Ontario, so this opportunity was immediately intriguing and I soon agreed. I had only been at the University of Toronto for a year and it amazes me now that I got away with an eight-week absence from the lab so early in my career!