

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sandy:

My heart leapt, my wings soared, my paddle swished; I was blessedly filled with unspeakable joy when absorbing that wonderful letter to the Editor written by Gord McIntyre and printed on page 7 of NAWTAWGAN, Summer 1983.

At last in these staid circles of our WCA, surely consisting of young, lusty, mile-gobbling, hell-for-leather trippers, a voice is heard from the wilderness, the real wilderness of Man the Predator, where one's normality, or better, one's humanity, is expressed by being a hunter rather than an observer, where fishing is the key to being natural, and where to catch fish along the way is to give the wilderness experience the spice of authenticity.

What a marvellous, gutwrenching joy to read such wonderfully profound statements as: "Like it or not, males are genetically programmed hunters; females appear to be similarly programmed to gather and to fish". And that jewel about self-caught fish being the only real meat is at least as intelligent and thought-provoking.

I can't go on; these gems of wisdom are killing me, it's too much. All I can say to Gord is: keep preaching, keep the good thoughts and ideas coming, it's just what we need in this screwed-up world of young, elite canoe trippers who want to keep all the wilderness for themselves. Millions of people think the way you do, and they shall be heard, whether the unnatural, un-predatory, non-fishing but just observing visitors in the wilderness like it or not.

Well Sandy, that's about all the cynicism I care to muster regarding McIntyre's letter. I'll just continue enjoying the outdoors in my own "unnatural" way by hunting images with my eyes and camera (at least as difficult as "real" hunting). And I'll do my best to keep my 56 year old body in good enough shape to go on hunting for many more years, not for animals, but for knowledge and understanding of the wilderness.

Despite all my criticism, I look forward to reading more of Gord's well written articles in NASTAWGAN, even though I'm not exactly one of "his kind of people". The WCA has room for different philosophies, and maybe the "normals" can teach some interesting viewpoints to the "ab-normals". Or is it perhaps the other way around?

Toni Harting

## BRIEFS...

### BOW PERSON WANTED — TRANS N.W.T. EXPEDITION

I am looking for a bow-person for a 1500 km 8 week canoe trip during July and August 1984. There will two main sections to the trip. The first segment will be to traverse the country between Lake Athabaska and Artillery Lake; and the second part will be to work our way over the Burnside River and down it to Bathurst Inlet on the Arctic Ocean.

We will leave Stoney Rapids on Lake Athabaska in mid to late June, 1984 (perhaps before the ice is off the lakes) and follow J.B. Tyrrell's course on his famous 1893 voyage down the Dubawnt River; however, when we reached the Dubawnt rather than follow it as Tyrrell did we will take a northwesterly course through the complex of lakes and streams, passing over the Thelon and Snowdrift Rivers, and so over the height-of-land to Artillery Lake where a food cache will be waiting for us. This segment of the trip will bring us through the tree-line. This is the country Samuel Hearne walked through on his 1771 trek in search of richness in the form of copper. We should get some good photos of the tree line in the spring and perhaps some caribou.

The second phase of the trip will take us through historic tundra country: John Franklin passed this way on his first voyage of discovery in 1820; George Back was here in 1833 on his exploratory voyage down the Great Fish River that now bears his name. We'll traverse Clinton-Colden and Alymer Lakes, the source waters of the Back River, and Samuel Hearne's Contwoyto (Rum) Lake, and so over to the Burnside River and down it to Bathurst Inlet. We are almost certain to see musk-ox on this section of the trip, and receive a lasting impression of the tundra in the fall.

This trip is being planned for one canoe, however, if there is interest another canoe can come along, either part or all of the way. Interested parties should write me a note telling me about themselves. It should be sent to David Berthelet, 107 Froment Street, Hull, J8Y 6E2.

### ODAWBAN TRAVEL EQUIPMENT

At the fall WCA meeting I will be giving out (free for asking) sets of design plans and material specification for canvas tanks to fit the 8 foot, Odawban. Tanks have proven to be a very superior way to carry equipment. They give maximum cargo protection and are very quick to load. Lashing and knot tying are eliminated. Let me assure you that this advantage is worth the use of tanks alone, as many of us know what it's like to work with bare hands at -40 C. If you missed the meeting send me a stamped, self addressed envelope and I will mail this information as well. ( Please phone to let me know Craig Macdonald 705-766-2855.)

### DEADLINE FOR WINTER ISSUES

Articles, trip reports, photographs etc. are needed for the next issue. Material may be either typed or hand written but should be double spaced.

Please send articles to the editor no later than November 27 for inclusion in the winter issue. There will be no extensions with future issues..

### SNOWSHOE TRIPS

Snowshoeing is just as much fun, and demands just as much energy as cross-countryskiing but without the hazards - like dodging trees at the bottom of slopes. With snowshoes you can penetrate much denser bush with ease, and follow animal tracks without frustration. It costs much less to get into snowshoeing than cross-country skiing. Anyone interested in impromptu, ad hoc snowshoe outings should contact Jim Greenacre anytime at 416-759-9956.

### WCA MEMBERSHIP LIST

Membership lists are available to any members who wish one. Please send \$1 to the WCA postal Box.