



### THE KEEWAYDIN WAY

Author: Brian Back  
Publisher: Keewaydin Camp  
205 pages, \$20

Reviewed by: Claire Brigden

For history buffs with a canoeing bent, here is a rewarding book fresh off the press that traces the 90 year story of Camp Keewaydin, the oldest canoe-tripping camp in North America. It relates the camp's explorations into new canoeing territories and the effects of the evolution of the canoe itself on their canoe-tripping programme.

For the general reader, The Keewaydin Way is a fascinating story of one man's dream, its emergence, development and continuing influence today, and of the interrelationships of the people who moulded that dream.

We are carried back to the beginnings of recreational canoeing, and learn of the manufacture and design of canoes before the turn of the century. We learn too of the life styles of early guides -lumbermen and Indians - and of the direct influence these men had upon camp policy. We read of Camp Keewaydin shifting its headquarters from its original Maine location to Lake Temagami. We follow the development of better food supplies, and learn of the traditions of the wannigan and tumpline, of camp ceremonies, and of canoe-tripping standards. And threading its way throughout the story is the camp's spirit of "helping the other fellow".

This is a tale of tradition, of physical challenge, of moulding character, of caring about an institution, and of the preservation of a way of life virtually unchanged in 90 years of canoe-tripping out of this summer camp for boys.

Brian Back has spent 5 years researching the material for this book. He has interviewed senior Keewaydin men with long memories, has sprinkled the book liberally with excellent and nostalgic pictures of the way it used to be (only the clothing styles seem to have changed), and has collaborated very successfully with Hap Wilson on the now familiar maps and sketches which are Hap's hallmarks.

Mr. Back's writing style generates excitement. It is as though one were just catching up on the latest news of what happened yesterday. Diary excerpts - such as those from the first Hudson Bay trips - heighten the feeling still further.

The reader will be fascinated to read about the changes in Temagami, about trail-blazing expeditions on the Mattawa, Albany, Abitibi and Rupert rivers and on James Bay to the Belcher Islands, and about the new Outpost north of Savant Lake.

The Keewaydin Way is a story of boys and men and canoes, not participating in sports or campcrafts or evening "activities", but getting out into the wilderness for up to 6 weeks at a stretch, running rapids, portaging, braving wind-swept lakes and fishing from rocks at the end of a good day's paddling.

Camp Keewaydin has been doing for 90 years what members of the WCA are doing now. I think you'll want to read about it.

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This book is available from Keewaydin Camp Ltd., 4242 Brookdale St., Jackson, Mississippi 39206, U.S.A., or 40 Poplar Plains Cr., Toronto, Ontario M4V 1E8.

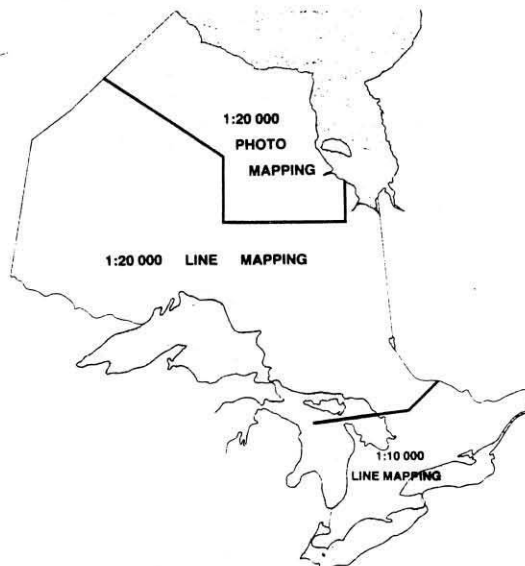
## ONTARIO BASIC MAPPING PROGRAM

Toni Harting

Every wilderness paddler is of course an enthusiastic user of well-known topographic maps published by the Federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. These trusted green 1:50 000 scale maps, and other maps from the same source, have guided numerous parties through the wilds of Canada, providing the inquisitive traveller with the vital information on "where to go and how to get there".

However, for the canoeist interested in tripping the waters of Ontario, another excellent map system is now available that provides a very useful supplement to the existing 1:50 000 topo maps. This is the Ontario Basic Mapping Program, established by the Provincial Ministry of Natural Resources to make available topographic maps at scales 1:10 000 and 1:20 000 eventually covering the whole of Ontario. The 1:10 000 scale maps (with 5 metre contours) will be provided for all of Southern Ontario, and the 1:20 000 scale maps (with 10 metre contours) will cover all of Northern Ontario. Much mapping work remains to be done, especially in the Northern part of the Province, but the many OBM maps already available contain a wealth of detailed information (even beaver dams are included) that lightens the heart of the curious paddler.

The OBM maps are uncoloured and measure 50 cm x 50 cm. They can be bought (for \$2.00 plus tax) directly at the counter in the Map Room (room 1640), Whitney Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, or they can be ordered by mail by writing to:



Ministry of Natural Resources  
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An information leaflet and Index Maps are available free of charge.