



nastawgan is an Anishinabi word meaning 'the way or route'

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

It gives me great satisfaction to look back on the calendar year and see the progress the WCA has made in that time.

Our numbers have come up from a previous low of 250 to nearly 320; and I am constantly meeting and getting to know some very dedicated new members who both care about the wilderness environment, and who express a lot of enthusiasm for what the WCA stands for, and what it offers them.

The Fall Workshop Weekend was an unprecedented success in terms of programme, location, accommodation and weather, and had an excellent member turnout. John Wilson outdid himself as organizer and we are indeed indebted to him. We hope to return to Tawingo next year. What wonderful cooperation and help we had from John Jorgenson and his staff up there.

Cash Belden, our computer wizard, has revolutionized the membership record keeping, and data is now miraculously recorded and updated faster than the speed of light. Phyllis Tiffany will be handling all incoming mail as our Membership Secretary, dealing with related correspondence, and sending the data on to Cash, so we have a great team there, highly organized and efficient. What a debt we owe them both.

The Wine, Cheese and Slide evening seemed an unqualified success with a record crowd of 125, the gastronomic consumption of vast quantities of top quality wines and cheeses (thanks to Norm Coombe's expert advice), and four very exciting slide shows. George

Fairfield's freezing LOWS and sun-burning HIGHS on the bug-infested Severn River to take a bird (and nesting) count for the Federation of Ontario Naturalists last June, Mat Ardron's breathtaking trek through Nepal with closeup shots of Katmandu and its people, and Mike and Geoff Peake's strenuous and exhilarating trips down the George River and over part of Baffin Island, all so beautifully captured on film, left us all enriched and keen to strike out ourselves in '84. The Okfenckee slides elicited some favourable comments too, so I hope they contributed a touch of southern (wilderness) comfort, au canot.

Margaret Hux has regretfully had to tender her resignation as Recording Secretary, due to the pressure of her work, but Ria Harting has generously volunteered her professional secretarial expertise, for which we are doubly grateful, since it has been her husband Toni who has been the active member up until now in the WCA.

May I draw the forthcoming A.G.M. to your attention. It will be held in Toronto March 3rd, and I cannot emphasize sufficiently the great honour it will bring to us to have Eric Morse as guest speaker, after an exciting afternoon programme and sumptuous banquet. Do plan to attend.

In closing, may I wish you all the very best for the Christmas Season, and may there be snow for your winter outings with us, or barring that, open water (as was the case last year) for those spirited WCA paddlers who never missed a winter weekend in a canoe.

Claire Briqden

news briefs

ATTAWAPISKAT RIVER - JULY 1984

We are looking for two to four people to accompany us on a 23 to 28 day canoe trip on the Attawapiskat River in July 1984. We will put in at a road access point northeast of Pickle Lake, approximately 350 km north of Thunder Bay, and take out 800 km downstream at the village of Attawapiskat near James Bay.

This wilderness river offers exciting whitewater alternating with relaxing flatwater stretches, as well as a wide variety of scenery, good fishing and an opportunity to visit a couple of isolated Indian villages. Although it is a challenging trip there will be time for nature study, for photography, for fishing, and for contemplation.

If this trip interests you and if you have whitewater canoeing skills, are experienced camping in remote areas, and are committed to minimal trace camping please contact us.

Bob Haskett
130 Lakeshore Drive
Toronto, Ontario
M8V 2A2

416-251-2073

or
Peter Haskett
48 Briscoe St. East
London, Ontario
N6C 1W9

519-434-7251
519-679-0992

FOCH-NAGAGAMI INFORMATION WANTED

Marnie Rice is looking for first hand information about the Foch-Nagagami canoe route in northern Ontario. If anyone has canoed this river and can offer some help, please contact Marnie at P.O. Box 31, Midland, Ontario, L4R 4K6 or phone 705-534-4006.

DEADLINE FOR SPRING ISSUE

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

Please send articles to the editor no later than February 26 for inclusion in the spring issue. Material received after this date will not appear in the spring issue, but will be held for use in a later issue.

WCA AT THE SPORTSMAN'S SHOW: HELP WANTED

The 1984 Sportsmen's Show will be taking place in Toronto from Friday March 16 to Sunday March 22; and the WCA will have our customary booth there. Why not take the opportunity to join us and become part of the show? We need your help in setting up and staffing the booth. If you would like to participate in this worthwhile project call Jan Tissott in Toronto at 416-489-5032.