

news briefs

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL This yearly ritual is of course central to the survival of our organization. A renewal form is enclosed with this issue of the newsletter. Our Membership Secretary is Paula Schimek; her address and phone number are given on the back page of *Nastawgan*.

WCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING The 1988 AGM will be held on 27 February at the Mono Cliffs Outdoor Education Centre in Orangeville, Ontario. See the enclosed information sheet.

WCA MEMBERSHIP LISTS Membership lists are available to any members who wish one for personal, non-commercial use. Send a one-dollar bill (no cheques, please!) to: Ca\$h Bel-den, 77 Huntley Street, Apt. 1116, Toronto, M4Y 2P3.

WCA FALL PARTY On 27 November, about 125 members and friends were present at the traditional wine-and-cheese party to share stories of their recent travels and to enjoy each other's company. They had good memories and chuckled as a collage of candid slides from several outings were shown. Highlighting the evening were slide presentations of three special trips: snowshoeing in northern Québec, canoeing in Labrador, and hiking in Nepal. Once again, a most pleasant evening, enjoyed by all.



INFORMATION OFFICER The WCA Board of Directors has created a new staff position, that of Information Officer. Herb Pohl has agreed to take on this job. His principal responsibility will be to respond to non-members' requests for information about the WCA. However, he will also be available, either by letter or by phone, to members wanting trip information or contacts with other members. See WCA CONTACTS on the last page for Herb's address and phone number. The Trip Hot-line is being discontinued.

ALGONQUIN PARK JOB Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources is seeking applicants (age approx. 18 - 25) interested in summer employment at Algonquin Park. There are two job categories for which younger members could apply: Park Naturalist and Museum Technician. For further details contact Bill King at 416-223-4646, or the Algonquin Park Naturalist, R. G. Tozer, at 705-633-5592.

FRIENDS OF THE GULL The ongoing process to improve the facilities at the Minden Wild Water Preserve is costing a lot of money. The extensive river and shore alterations on the west side of the Gull River in the lower rapids have been considerably more expensive than anticipated. All those who enjoy canoeing and kayaking and who recognize the need for the superb training facilities at "the Gull," become a Friend of the Gull by sending your contributions to the Preserve Manager, Roger Parsons, 15 Langside Ave., Weston, Ontario, M9N 3E2. You can contact Roger at 416-244-1022 for more information.

WCA AT THE SPORTSMEN'S SHOW The 1988 Sportsmen's Show will be taking place from Friday, 11 March, to Sunday, 20 March. As usual, the WCA will be there with an interesting and educational presentation. Help will be needed to staff the booth as well as set it up and take it down. This is an excellent opportunity for members to take part in an important WCA function. If you're willing to assist, call Ann Moum in Toronto at 416-239-1380.

NASTAWGAN MATERIAL AND DEADLINE Articles, trip reports, book reviews, photographs, sketches, technical tips, or anything else that you think would be of interest to other readers, are needed for future issues. Contributor's Guidelines are available upon request. The deadline dates for the next two issues are:

issue	Spring 1988	deadline date	31 January 1988
	Summer 1988		1 May 1988

WCA Fall Meeting - 1987

"I go to Nature to be soothed and healed,
And to have my senses put in tune once more."

John Burroughs

The boys and girls gathered at the Koshlong Outdoor Centre in Ontario's Haliburton Region on the last weekend of September for the 1987 Fall Meeting. The weather was cold and crisp, the sky was a deep autumnal blue, and the trees were ablaze with bright red, yellow, and orange colors.

When I arrived, late, on Saturday, 26 September, the meeting was in full swing. Despite the brilliant day, the eager campers had gathered indoors for seminars on camping equipment and on outfitting a canoe. Bob Knapp provided an introduction to kayaking to an enthusiastic group of canoeists. The opportunity to "test-drive a canoe" was offered to all WCA members from the wide variety of canoes beached along the shore.

After a long, meditative walk in the woods, I returned to lunch in the dining room. The food was simple, nutritious camp fare -- not the usual gourmet, exotic, spicy delights I have grown accustomed to on canoe trips.

In the afternoon, interesting seminars were scheduled on outdoor photography, and flood and weather forecasting.



While I watched a gorgeous sunset on the beach, people gathered to see George Luste's slides on his summer canoe trip in Labrador. The presentation, I heard, was amazing.

After dinner, when the sun had definitively set and a cold night-chill had moved in, I entered the Rec Hall at last to see Peter Turner's slide presentation on South America. What a treat it was to hear Peter's amusing anecdotes, fascinating facts, and interesting insights into life in South America. His brilliant slides were enough to make me put my humble attempts at photography away forever.

The day concluded with a screening of Bill Mason's *Waterwalker*. Afterwards, the boys and girls slept well, while visions of eddies, "Maytags," and ferries danced in their heads.

Sunday -- free at last to paddle a canoe with a congenial group on the meandering Burnt River. Joy.

The boys and girls of the WCA had come together in September, not just to learn more skills about canoeing, camping, and the outdoors. We had also come together as kindred spirits anxious to share our adventures in the wilderness, to compare notes about river trips, to reminisce about the warm, wonderful days of summer, and to meet with old friends.

It was a wonderful, soul-restoring weekend.

Rosemary Henderson