



sea kayaking

the conversion of a canoeist

The kayak, I believe, is making its way back to the sea where it was born and where it belongs.

John Dowd

When I first saw sea kayaks for sale in stores here in southern Ontario, I was skeptical. Yes, they were sleek and beautiful, and I knew they were popular on the West Coast; but B.C. is on the ocean, and this after all is Shield country. Surely trying to sell sea kayaks here was nothing more than an attempt to cash in on a fad, to find some new toy for the "equipment freaks" (who probably already own more canoeing gear than they know what to do with) to spend their money on. No one here in central Canada could take sea kayaks seriously.

Notwithstanding these thoughts, when Stewart McIlwraith suggested finding out what sea kayaking was all about, I agreed to give it a try. Georgian Bay seemed the obvious place to do this, so we headed north to Parry Sound and rented two sea kayaks from White Squall Wilderness Shop, where Kathy Dyer gave us enough helpful advice and instruction that we felt confident we could at least paddle away from shore and not immediately capsize. We then took our boats and drove the short distance to Kilbear Provincial Park on the shore of Georgian Bay.

Packing the gear for a weekend trip into the boats took a bit of time and ingenuity at first. As canoeists we were used to being sloppy: just fire all the gear into a big

gear has to be packed into compartments item by item through small watertight hatches.

Eventually we fit it all in, and paddled away from the beach at Kilbear Park into the open waters of Georgian Bay. We were immediately impressed by the stability of these long, slender craft, and the ease with which they moved through the water. With little effort at all we literally flew along.

The wind and waves rose and we, still not familiar with our new craft and still thinking like canoeists, tried to avoid both by hopping from the lee of one island to the next. It very quickly became clear, however, that all this

IN THIS ISSUE

Sea Kayaking	1	Encounters	14
Cezanne's Apples	5	Military Flying Activities	16
CCRECUF	5	Thelon Game Sanctuary	19
Editorial	6	Escape	19
Chairperson's Letter	6	Running the Raging Rouge	20
Letter to the Editor	6	Paddle Siberia	21
News Briefs	7	Northwest to Fortune ...	22
WCA Trip Information Guide	7	Books	24
Partners and Info. Wanted	7	Come Fry with Me ...	24
A Word or Two ...	8	Conservation	25
Polar Prospects	10	WCA Trips	26
High Tech Yuppie Paddling	11	Products and Services	28
Kayaking Georgian Bay	12	Where It Is	28
WCA Mailbox	13	WCA Contacts	28