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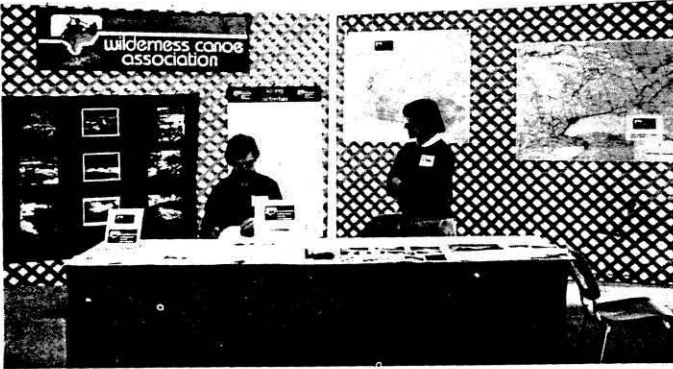
nastawgan is an Anishinabi word meaning 'the way or route'

### CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER

For those of you who were unable to attend the Annual General Meeting and the elections on 27 February, take a look at the new Board of Directors listed on the last page of Nastawgan. Aside from wanting to mention that for the first time the WCA has an equal number of women and men on the Board, I would like to encourage WCA members to contact any of us with suggestions for the coming year.

The Board would like to enhance the WCA's traditional activities and its focus on the wilderness experience, while at the same time being open to new ideas for endeavors that would be of interest to the membership. For example, one "first" was for the WCA to have a booth at CanoeFest 7 and 8 May, at Harbourfront in Toronto. Using materials from the Sportsmen's Show display, the booth provided opportunity for the WCA to familiarize more people with who we are and what we do. Other projects being given consideration are a survey of the membership and development of a trip information guide. Starting with this issue of Nastawgan, a column will be provided called the "WCA Mailbox." So much mail is directed to the WCA, it seemed a shame to file most of it in the garbage. Highlights of informative and relevant mail received will therefore be reported, and I will welcome calls if anyone would like to have the original documents. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Marcia Farquhar



Harbourfront Canoe Fest, May 1988

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The following is a copy of a letter from me to Chief Martin Restoule, Dokis.

J.H.

Chief Martin Restoule  
Dokis Indian Band  
Dokis Reserve  
via North Bay, Ontario

Mr. Joss Haiblen  
21 Burn St.  
Downer, A.C.T.  
Australia 2602

February 5, 1988

Dear Chief Restoule,

I now live in Australia, but I grew up on Lake Temagami and learned to love the country of my birth, Canada, by canoeing over as much of it as I could. On several trips down the French, I called in at Dokis and met some of your people.

In the last edition (winter 1987, ed.) of the journal of the Wilderness Canoe Association, Nastawgan, I learn that Leonard Dokis and yourself, among others, have actively opposed the proposal for a 'Voyageur Waterway.'

The French River is of historical importance to all Canadians and is of special and continuing significance to your people. It is not to be tampered with for the supposed economic benefit of North Bay.

When I think of what it means to be a Canadian, I think of the North Country, and of places like the French River.

I urge you to do all in your power to stop this outrageous proposal -- for the sake of the River and everyone to whom it has meant, and will in the future mean, so much.

Best wishes to everyone at Dokis.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Joss Haiblen

