



TEMAGAMI--A FUNDRAISING EVENT

The Temagami Wilderness Society was formed as a non-profit citizen's coalition dedicated to research, conservation, and public understanding of the wild lands and waters of the Temagami area. One goal of the Society is to challenge the Environmental Assessment on the Primary Access Roads in the Latchford Crown Forest Management Unit (Red Squirrel Road/Pine Torch Corridor). This assessment recommends the building of these roads. A hearing has been requested by many groups on this Environmental Assessment. It is felt that the long-term indirect effects of these roads, such as the impact of logging, and the impact of secondary roads upon the wildlife in the proposed Temagami Wildlands Reserve, have not been addressed. To undertake this necessary challenge a fund of \$150,000 is required for expenses and legal and environmental advice.

The first fundraising event was held on 21 April 1988 in the Convocation Hall of the University of Toronto. Guests making appearances included actress Dinah Christie, singer Aaron Davis, writer and artist Hap Wilson, writer Timothy Findley, and Brian Back, Executive Director of the TWS. Slide presentations were prepared by artist Robert Bateman and photographer Henry Kock. The audience, over 1000 in attendance, were primarily canoeists, of whom about half have canoed in the Temagami area. Many canoeing organizations were represented. Several booths were set up promoting wilderness causes, selling T-shirts, buttons, art, and literature, with proceeds going to the fund.

The evening concluded with a draw of various door prizes and prize draws for donors. The donations collected amounted to \$25,000, a fine start to raising the required \$150,000. Continued support is necessary to prevent logging in the proposed Temagami Wildlands Reserve. Write to your local MPP, David Peterson, Vince Kerrio, and Jim Bradley, expressing your concerns. Support a successful outcome of the assessment hearing through donations to the Temagami Wilderness Society's Assessment Fund.

Reginald S. Ross

TEMAGAMI UPDATE

Since the above item was written, a most unfortunate development has taken place. On 17 May, Ontario's Minister of the Environment, James Bradley, announced the government's preliminary decision not to hold a public hearing on the Red Squirrel Road Environmental Assessment. Approval, which will be made immediately after 8 June, means:

- immediate construction of Red Squirrel Road extension,
- immediate issue of logging licence for old-growth forest off the extension,
- approval of Pinetorch Road,
- approval of logging off Pinetorch Road and around Florence Lake.

What we must do now is to show the government that the issue is not going to die. If private citizens and citizens' groups stop applying pressure in the weeks following a political announcement, Cabinet knows its decision will survive. However, if the phone calls and letters to MPPs and the premier continue and they are from a broadening segment of society, then Cabinet will be compelled to reconsider its decision.

(From information supplied by the Temagami Wilderness Society.)

JAMES AULD PROVINCIAL WATERWAY PARK PROPOSAL

The proposal to link up Frontenac Provincial Park with Charleston Lake Provincial Park has fallen through. The root of the trouble seems to be that the proposal comes years too late. The lakes and rivers connecting the two are simply too built up with both cottages and commercial interests. What the public advisory committee is trying to do now, is to set up a "James Auld Waterway" to ensure that campers/canoists are recognized and respected on this waterway system, so that it will be possible to travel between Frontenac and Charleston without being run down, run out, or otherwise abused. It will take time, and never be ideal, which is very sad because canoeists, hikers, and campers in the Kingston area have little enough wild space as it is.

QUETICO S.O.S.

I have recently received an emergency letter from Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness (1313 Fifth St. SE, Suite 329, Minneapolis, MN 55414) informing us that the Province of Ontario is currently conducting a policy review of Quetico Provincial Park, because apparently there is a co-ordinated effort afoot to develop and commercialize Quetico. Outfitters and pro-development officials want, among other things, the following:

- 1) permission to fly more airplanes over the Park to land at several locations to drop off canoeists;
- 2) to reverse the closing of the Beaverhouse Lake plane landing site (recommended in the 1982 Park Policy) in order to give the Lac La Croix Indians easy air access to day-use motorboat fishing;
- 3) reintroduction of motor boats on the upper lakes and the construction of two mechanized portages to accommodate said boats;
- 4) continuation of two very long traplines within Quetico, which were to be phased out; new trappers cabins have just been built there;
- 5) reduction of the size of Quetico; this would weaken buffer zones.

What can we do about this? It is the old story: for starters we all need to write to Premier Peterson, Queen's Park, Toronto, M7A 1A1, and to Hon. James Bradley, Minister of the Environment, 135 St. Clair Ave., W., Toronto, M4V 1P5. It does no good just to read this; we need your 300 plus letters to be effective. PLEASE WRITE. The Chairman of the Provincial Parks Council was inviting input originally, but the deadline was 30 April and I didn't receive the FBBW letter until 2 May.

Claire Muller

The following items have been excerpted from the March 1988 issue of Canews, the newsmagazine of the Ontario Recreational Canoeing Association, 1220 Sheppard Ave. E, Willowdale, Ontario, M2K 2X1, phone 416-495-4180.

CREDIT RIVER (west of Toronto)

There was some possibility of settling the thorny problem of paddling rights on this small river out of court, but this now does not seem possible. We must begin to prepare in earnest for the trial of this action which will be coming up soon. We are asking that you do two things:

1. send in your donations to cover the expenses and build up our defence fund,
2. tell us if you have actually canoed the Credit River at any time. We would like trip logs, trip notes, and photographs along with specific dates travelled, names of canoeists, etc. We need your support now! We are trying for a precedent which will safeguard canoeists' access to navigable waterways. This whole court case is one of the ways ORCA is seeking to ensure that the rights of canoeists and their concerns on specific issues are addressed.

SPANISH RIVER (northwest of Sudbury, Ontario)

The most recent proposal by the Ministry of Natural Resources regarding the future of the Spanish River is far worse than any of the ideas being discussed back in 1985-1986. There will be two bridge sites to facilitate lumber cutting by E. B. Eddy, dam sites will be preserved for any future hydro-electric projects by Inco, and there are mineral extraction sites. There will be no sight line preserves on timber cutting. Originally the proposal was that the forest would not be cut in such a way that it was visible from the river but this idea has now been dropped and it is possible that the cutting will go right to the bank of the river. The area has been rejected as a park and it is now being proposed that there will be a special management area. If you want to protest these developments, write immediately to: Premier David Peterson, Ontario Government, Queen's Park Toronto, M7A 1A1.