



# nastawgan

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## MY OWN PRIVATE RIVER

Bob McCoubrie

Seeking the joys and satisfactions of canoeing untravelled territory in the near North, I began exploring an area in the vicinity of North Caribou Lake, northwest Ontario, with groups of boys in 1979. In some areas we found ancient portages, long unused, and it was hard, satisfying work to reopen them. Other areas yielded routes never used, and we cut the first portages there.

In 1980, in order to reach the road extending north from Pickle Lake, we travelled up the 62-km Nango River. We found no evidence of its ever having been travelled, and the uniqueness of finding and canoeing a whole never-travelled river, and the pleasures, satisfactions, and values derived from it caused me to explore it five times.

### BATHTUB FALLS

Our first journey up the Nango (1980) rewarded us with unending delights of discovery. By early afternoon of the first day, we came to rapids that required our first full portage. One section of the narrowed river resembled a huge jacuzzi with water boiling in violently at one end. The safe swimming and diving possibilities at that spot and the time that it was going to take to cut a 400-m portage were good excuses to make camp immediately. We quickly discovered the various antics we could do for the most fun in the wild currents in our newfound "Bathtub Falls."

Arrival at Bathtub our second year (1981) held no joy. Early in our trip we had noted fires to the south of North