

physically on the 'creator' and Nango Lake, and also in our minds on the journey just completed. Our minds scanned hundreds of kilometres and 70 portages; the rapids and wades; the headwinds and whitecaps; great heat and our spirited swims; the times of cold and our hot food; the unknowns ahead; our fighting it foot by foot; the lone portages, muskeg, and blowdown; our exhaustion and our comforts; our feelings when we reached our goal, and our pride in having done it. We were conscious of the friendships and camaraderie that had carried us through. We knew we had drunk deeply of the North, and we were full . . . complete.

That last time on the 'creator's' hilltop I additionally looked back on an ending lifetime of boys' trips. I knew that hilltop was the most appropriate place for the final goodbye. I had always preferred untravelled territory, and my Nango had been exactly that.

In travelling my river, the Nango, I experienced many common canoeing joys, satisfactions, and values. But having an intimate wild waterway all my own and developing the first route through, magnified all those rewards. Common experiences were made extremely special by the fact of "private possession." Even now, though my Nango days are over, there are still special memories of a special place—all those memories enhanced by the fact that the Nango was mine.

There are many small rivers in Canada. Some are used, some destroyed, some rather inaccessible, and some undesirable. But there are a number of potential Nangos to be claimed. You can find yours studying the maps. Many Nangos aren't all that far away, the cost to get to them isn't prohibitive, and they don't all have long portages. You won't enjoy the thrill of heavy whitewater or of making an epic journey, but the unique pleasures and satisfactions from canoeing your own river will, in other ways, be just as great. Take your time travelling your Nango. Know it intimately. Experience its personality and varied moods. Soak in all its special features and beauties, and return again and again for new pleasures and to relive fond old memories. Your Nango will thereby enrich your life and help it become "the adventure it was meant to be."

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