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

EDITORIAL

I'm grateful for the constructive comments received after the new-format *Nastawgan* saw the light of day. Your reactions are very much appreciated and the Communications Committee will certainly try to follow your suggestions. Step by step we're getting closer to the goal we've set for *Nastawgan*: a good quality journal that presents a wide variety of information of value to the wilderness canoeist, produced by a small team for the lowest possible cost in time and money. From this Summer issue on our journal is printed on recycled, acid-free paper which helps save a few trees from destruction. Using recycled paper as much as possible for letterhead, envelopes, writing paper, brochures, etc., is one important way in which the WCA and also its individual members can support the crucial fight for a healthier environment.

NEW RULES FOR MEMBERSHIP YEAR

Traditionally, the WCA membership year runs from 1 February to 31 January the following year. This means that most of the Membership Committee's work is concentrated in and around January when renewals are coming in. With about 600 members, that amounts to a lot of work for too few people. Also, somebody joining/rejoining the WCA in, say, August receives all the *Nastawgan* back issues for that membership year, i.e. the ones (Spring and Summer) already published. This creates extra work, costs, and confusion.

Even with the help of our computer this is obviously not the way to use precious volunteers' time and enthusiasm. The Membership Committee has therefore proposed to and received permission from the Board of Directors to divide the membership year into four quarters of three months each, so that anyone joining/rejoining the WCA in a specific quarter will be a member only until the first day of that same quarter the following year. In other words, memberships become effective on the first day of the quarter of registration. The new system will be implemented on 1 June 1990, and the starting dates of the quarters are the first days of March, June, September, and December.

Under these rules the first *Nastawgan* received by a new/renewed member will be the one published in that quarter. For instance, anyone becoming a new member or renewing her/his membership anywhere in the September-October-November quarter will receive four newsletters: Autumn and Winter of the present year, and Spring and Summer of the following one. This membership will then be up for renewal on or before 1 September that following year.

With this quarterly process, membership registration will be, over a period of time, more equally spaced throughout the year, reducing the overload in January, and also removing the need to mail the back issues as is done now according to traditional club practice.

Another change in the membership registration structure is that, as of 30 June 1990, student memberships will no longer be available.

Membership Committee

