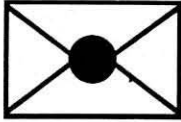


## LETTER TO THE EDITOR



It has been difficult sleeping since seeing my private letter to Sandy Richardson in print in the Spring issue of *Nastawgan*. Permission to print it was given one night when I was ill and had been asleep. Still half

asleep, I didn't remember exactly what I had written nor did I ask what this "bulletin" was that it was to be printed in. I'm entitled to my narrow-minded opinions forced upon me by circumstances, but not to *print* something with loose and unqualified statements. I did a great injustice to some hardworking and unselfish members of the Minnesota Canoe Association. Indeed, it is several of these who *do* provide something-for the local traveller of the far north, and many have profited greatly from their efforts. While the MCA *publication* offers little for the wilderness traveller, some superior provision is made elsewhere. I still would like to see a wca all W, but whatever, the labors of some of these public-spirited Minnesotans are most exemplary.

I have a comment on Mr. Wigle's well-expressed article, "How Does Someone Become a Wilderness Paddler?" in the same issue of *Nastawgan*. While agreeing that classes, trips, symposia, and meetings are just great where they can be provided, I respectfully disagree on the matter of skills — assuming that I have interpreted the article correctly. I think that much of what we really go to wilderness for is a regeneration of our spirits. Wilderness does this whether we have learned some skills by book, by teachers, or by mistakes. We can feed our souls on a calm pond not too far away as well as in a skill-demanding class IV beyond the Arctic Circle. I think we become a wilderness paddler by just going. Great skills are laudable achievements of the human mind and body, but wilderness is of the spirit. I once knew a crippled lady who used to thrill and regenerate by sitting by the side of a wild pond and watching the ducks do the paddling. I would vote her an honorary member of any wca.

Bob McCoubrie



## NEWS BRIEFS

**NASTAWGAN MATERIAL AND DEADLINE** Articles, trip reports, book reviews, photographs, sketches, technical tips, or anything else that you think might be of interest to other readers, are needed for future issues. Submit your contributions preferably on floppy computer disks and/or in typewritten form; contact the editor for more information. Contributor's Guidelines are available upon request. The deadline dates for the next two issues are:

*issue:* Autumn 1990      *deadline date:* 12 August 1990  
 Winter 1990                      28 October 1990

**WCA MEMBERSHIP LISTS** are available to any members who wish one for personal, non-commercial use. Send two dollars in bills (no cheques, please!) to Cash Belden at the WCA postal address (see WCA Contacts on the back page).

**WCA FALL MEETING** will again be held at the end of September at an as yet undetermined location. Details will be sent by separate mail to the members as soon as possible.

**WCA PHOTO CONTEST** In February 1991 there will again be a competition for the many photographers in the WCA. The official announcement will be published in the Autumn issue of *Nastawgan*.

**WCA FALL PARTY** This popular annual get-together, marked by happy banter, wine, cheese, other delicacies, and slide/film shows, will again take place at the end of November in Toronto. More details later.

**CRCA PHOTO COMPETITION** The Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association presents *The Nikon Canadian Canoe Photograph Contest*. The five categories are: canoeing skills, natural environment, heritage, wildlife, people and canoes/kayaks. Entries should be submitted to the CRCA before 21 September 1990, 5:00 p.m. The contest is open to anyone who wishes to enter, and many prizes are made available to the winners. For more information contact CRCA in Hyde Park, Ontario; tel. (519) 473-2109.

**DUMOINE RIVER** The Quebec Provincial Department of Cultural Affairs has approved a three-year study of the history of the Dumoine River Valley and the Island of Des Joachimes, Quebec. Wally Schaber, a long-time guide for whitewater canoeists on the Dumoine and an amateur historian for the area, is appealing to local sources for help in preparing the modern history of the area. If you have something useful to offer, contact: Wally Schaber, Trail Head, 1341 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ont., K1Y 3B8; tel. (613) 722-4229.

WCA booth

*Sportsmen's Show, March 1990*