

CONSERVATION

WHAT DOES THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE DO?

There seem to be so many environmental issues that it is overwhelming — acid rain, greenhouse effect, ozone layer depletion, Great Lakes pollution, garbage, . . . the list goes on. How can a relatively small organization such as the WCA have any effect on this huge problem?

We definitely can have an effect. We can have an effect by focusing on *specific issues that have a direct impact on wilderness canoeing*. Other issues, such as nuclear waste for example, are more effectively dealt with by other organizations, like Greenpeace.

How is a specific issue picked?

Who takes it on? How is it fought? How can I get involved without it consuming all my spare time?

These and many other questions come to mind when thinking about the Conservation Committee and getting involved. The answer, though, is quite simple: *you decide*. When you see an issue that you feel you want to get involved with, give me a call and take it on. If you would like to get involved but do not know what issue you could help with, again, call me and I will help you find something to get

involved with. Remember, you decide the issue, you decide how much time you can spend on it.

I will be keeping you informed of current issues through *Nastawgan*. When you call I can put you in touch with other members that are interested in the same issue, I can give you specific suggestions on what you should do to fight the issue, and I will keep you posted by phone of any developments I hear relevant to that issue.

What does the Conservation Committee do? You all are the Conservation Committee, you each decide what it does, and it are your efforts and commitment that determine how much it achieves.

Make no mistake, wilderness is disappearing. Give me a call and help save what we all have a love of — wilderness canoeing.

Stephen Crouch, Conservation Committee Chairman, (416) 782-7741.

“If Crown land in Canada is not designated as a park/wilderness area or not somehow protected from resource development, it should be assumed that it will be opened up for exploitation, sooner more probably than later.”

Alternatives

CONSERVATION NEWS AND UPDATES

Stephen Crouch

CANOE ROUTE CLEAN-UP

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Northern Region Parks Branch, has initiated a canoe route clean-up program. Participants would be compensated for any expenses, i.e. they would get a canoe trip with expenses paid. Work would involve, but not be limited to, cleaning of trails, portages, and campsites. Three routes have been identified for summer 1990, the Missinaibi, Chapleau-Nemegosenda, and Groundhog rivers.

John Winters made the suggestion that the WCA adopt a route or area further south to clean up. The specific area suggested is between Highways 11 and 69 and the Pickerel and Magnetawan rivers. There are a number of very nice trips in this area. If you have suggestions for other areas we could adopt, let me have them. It would be extremely rewarding for us to adopt an area, document the routes, and maintain them. Perhaps we could set up registration and information booths to monitor who uses our routes. Other ideas are welcome.

Adopting an area would significantly strengthen our voice in advocating the area become a reserve or park, if that seemed appropriate at some point. It would also increase our credibility as an organization that cares about the canoeing environment, again making us stronger in fighting issues.

If you are interested in helping out on improving or documenting routes in *our* area this summer, let me know.

The Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association has also kicked off a canoe route clean-up program. I will co-ordinate our efforts with both them and the MNR.

ORCA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

The Ontario Recreational Canoeing Association has kicked off a new initiative to help save canoeing areas and routes in Ontario. ORCA will be setting up a monitoring system to keep an eye on threats to canoe routes. Other initiatives are yet to be decided. We will be following what they are doing and co-ordinating our conservation efforts where appropriate.

TEMAGAMI

On 23 April the Ontario provincial government announced the setting up of the joint stewardship of four districts in Temagami, with equal input from the government and the Teme-Augama Anishnabi on what tree cutting will be allowed in the districts. The districts include the Wakimiki triangle where there is significant old growth forest. However, the districts only represent 3.2% of the Indian land claim and 8% of the proposed wildland preserve.

Also on 23 April, nine cutting licenses were issued! The Temagami Wilderness Society (TWS) is continuing their