



Baking bannock in the rain

sandy banks and a fast current swept us down to the Manito River. Distracted by a barking dog I took a wrong turn on the portage at the north end of Wawiashkashi Lake. We sorted that out and soon were on Manito Lake, which has become a kind of cottage slum. Across from our island campsite 2000 hungry dogs were howling while 2000 hungry children howled back. There are no zoning laws here so the accommodations are an eclectic mix of tents, old trailers, abandoned cars, and shacks.

The dogs howled all evening, stopping only when a drunken roar suggested that they would all be beaten if they didn't shut up. It worked on the dogs. I hollered over suggesting that they feed the children to the dogs but that was ignored. This seemed to be a good place to use Dan's water purifier. One doesn't know what those kids were putting in the water. We didn't miss the place after we left the next morning.

By noon we were at the last portage from Skunk Lake into Lake Temagami. We ate lunch before starting across. Did I mention it was raining?

Navigating on Lake Temagami is not an easy job. Fortunately Bob had a map. (The BOOK, having proven somewhat untrustworthy, was ignored). It rained in spurts carefully timed to wet any areas on your body that had dried. The Central Temagami access point was much as we had left it. A new group of very pretty girls, lots of powerboats, and it looked like it was clearing up.

REVIEWS

BROOK TROUT AND BLACKFLIES, A Paddler's Guide to Algonquin Park by Kevin Callan, published by Stoddart / The Boston Mills Press, Toronto, 1997, 144 pages, \$16.95 softcover.
Reviewed by Toni Harting.

This is Callan's fourth book on canoe trips in Ontario and they are getting better all the time. The 20 Algonquin Park trips he so vividly describes, many of them loops, take anywhere from two to 10 days and provide a good selection of the numerous trips possible in this marvellous (but increasingly crowded) park. His writing style is quite personal, recounting many adventures experienced by himself, his wife, and his friends, which makes reading the book a real pleasure. The text is filled with anecdotes and interesting background information, obviously the happy result of extensive research. A special word of admiration for the beautiful, clear, and uncluttered maps, providing the paddler with much essential information. Callan's photographs, printed in black and white to keep the price of the

book down (wisely so), range from great (few) to good (many) to disappointing (some), but they help to make the well-designed book a visual delight. We're looking forward to several more similar books on canoeing in Algonquin Park because of the many other trips that are possible there.

IDLENESS, WATER, AND A CANOE, Reflections on Paddling for Pleasure, by Jamie Benidickson, published by University of Toronto Press, 1997, softcover, 299 pages, \$55 (cloth), \$17.95 (paper).
Reviewed by Toni Harting.

The "culture" of canoeing is something many paddlers unfortunately don't worry about; what they basically want is to get from put-in to take-out in a convenient way and within a reasonable length of time. But that means ignoring the rich variety of other delights canoeing has to offer. In this book the author presents a rather scholarly collection of essays on many of those delights, and he does it in an impressively detailed way.

From the book: "*Idleness, Water, and a Canoe* is a study of the place of the canoe in Canadian life, with comparative references to the United States and Britain. A blend of history, economic analysis, technical information, and social commentary, it examines the rise of the canoe's popularity and its influence on leisure activity, economics and tourism, and literature and advertising in this country."

The book is not always easy to read because of the sometimes rather academic writing style, but by going slowly the reader will discover numerous gems to enjoy and thoughts to ponder. An impressive 35 pages of