

# CHE-MUN

(Ojibway for canoe)

THE NEWSLETTER OF CANADIAN WILDERNESS CANOEING

OUTFIT 67

CHE-MUN

WINTER 1992

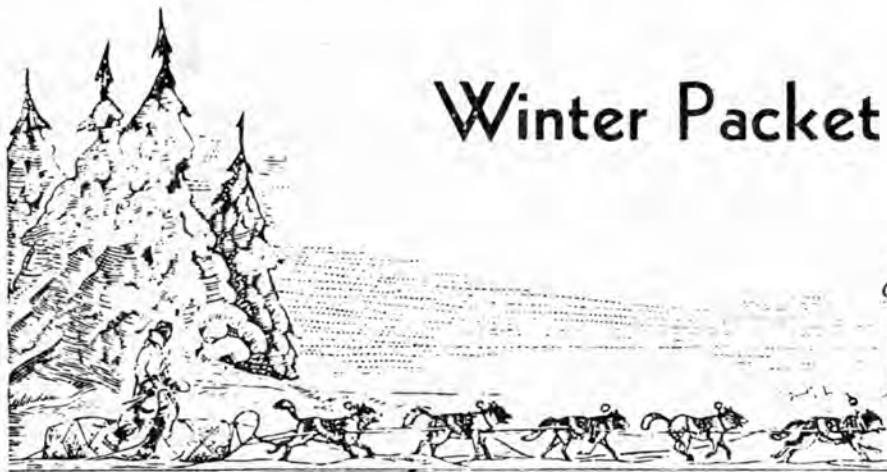


A TUMPING WE WILL GO -- This 1947 photo shows two boys at one of the premier tripping camps in Ontario - Camp Temagami. Founded in 1900, the camp introduced the wilderness to boys from across North America until 1968.

**NUNUVUT:  
the future** *Page 4*

**Good winter  
reading** *Page 8*

**A Home for  
Kanawa** *Page 6*



# Winter Packet



The death of Quetico Park naturalist Shan Walshe last year was a great shock to the canoeing community and a loss to us all. But like many great men the good they have done lives after them - as Shakespeare said.

Every year around Christmas Shan's wife Margie sent around a letter to all their friends and acquaintances catching everyone up on what the Walshe family is up to and what was happening at Quetico.

Margie's latest report arrived recently and we want to highlight a few of the things that we feel would be of interest to Che-Mun readers.

"It was (last) January 28th when we got the results of Shan's CAT Scan - a deep, inoperable brain tumour. One of Shan's first remarks was: "we've had a good life."

"People would often say our life story read like a fairly tale, and indeed it had. We thought of the beautiful places we've lived, people we've known, places we'd gone, trips we'd taken... it had all been good."

"Last June, the Quetico Foundation announced their donation of two \$1000 bursaries as a memorial to Shan. One was to go to an Atikokan H.S. student pursuing an environmental or nature-related career, and one to a Lac La Croix student.

"Another appropriate tribute is the naming of a lake in Quetico Park after Shan. Ontario's Geographic Names Board has given unanimous approval and the Ontario's minister of natural resources has also signed his consent for "Shan Walshe Lake.

"It's a remote lake in the southern half of the park just east of McNeice Lake (look between Agnes and Kashahpiwi. Patrick and Shannon (his son s) have each checked it out on separate canoe trips during the summer. Evidently it is a lake of clear water, cliffs and beautiful red and white pines. It was first recommended to us by Jonathan Benson of Ely. there will be a small dedication ceremony at the lake next summer and the name will appear in the revised "Lake Names of Quetico Park" pamphlet.

"There was a time when I thought nothing could really help ease the pain of such a loss; but I was wrong. Knowing that so many others had a deep appreciation for Shan and share the loss with me is a great consolation."

After 21 years living on the grounds of Quetico Margie will be moving this June. She has bought a 20 acre parcel of land about 45 minutes southwest of Thunder Bay.

After Shan's death hundred of cards and letters poured in from across the continent. One of the many letters Margie received was from noted filmmaker Norman Jewison. He ended his letter with these words:

"He will be there on moonlit nights when we sit around the fire.

"He will be there when paddles dip through dark waters.

"He will be there when we gather wild mushrooms.

"He will be there when we pitch the tent and sit quietly in the darkness.

"He will be there when the sun rises through the mist and when it goes down behind the pines.

"He will be there when the wolves howl and all life begins and ends with the seasons.

"He will always be there."

Attached to Margie's letter was a sprig of cedar, no doubt, taken from one of Quetico's thankfully protected trees. When I squeezed it, that lovely essence of sunlit

shores and lapping waters came drifting back in my mind.

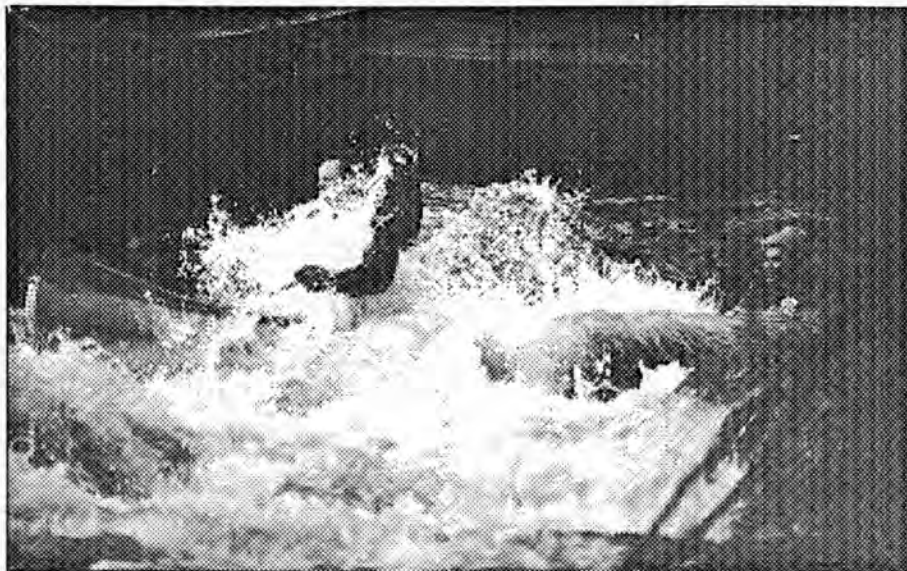
The memory of something precious will remain with us always.

Carl Traeholt, the Dane who canoed in Canada and is now living in Malaysia keeps up with his faithful letter writing.

"Just before I left for Malaysia I was involved in founding the Danish Canoe Expedition Club which seems to be getting along quite well. Our goal is to gather a lot of paddlers who have done major trips or who are interested in building canoes or doing nature photography etc.

"At the present time we have 15 members and growing all the time. We also arrange whitewater paddling and do guided tours to Scandanavia, Canada and Russia. Another target for us is to put up a small canoe museum featuring aboriginal canoes from all over the world - and we want to start the first Danish canoe symposium also.

Continued on Page 11.



Carl Traeholt (rear) and a friend enjoy a wild run down a northern Swedish rapid.

# CANOETOONS

PAUL MASON



## Editor's Notebook

### Days in the sun

**I**n the Canada of my youth there were many ways to while away the long winter days. Canadian boys were raised with our hands on wood. We carried hockey sticks all winter and a paddle in the summer.

For parents, winter days were the time to decide how your kids might spend their summer days. If you were lucky, as I was, that meant participating in one of Canada's oldest and best traditions, the summer tripping camp.

The front and back pages of this outfit of Che-Mun are graced with photos of Camp Temagami. For three summers here as a boy in the early 60s, I learned the art of canoe tripping. And while I didn't trip for more than a decade after I left the camp, the seed it planted grew and I haven't missed a northern expedition in 16 years.

Recently my parents gave me a letter unearthed from the attic. It was the annual note from the camp director telling of my summer at Temagami. His words struck me - almost 30 years later. He commented on my great enthusiasm for canoeing and how involved I was in every aspect of it - though I didn't really realize it at the time.

But the thoughts of Camp Temagami have stayed with me forever. To this day, every time I smell a bar of Ivory soap it conjures up the strong memory of washing with it (!) in Lake Temagami.

The camp ceased operation in the late 1960s a victim of changing tastes. When I returned to the area in 1976 for my first adult canoe trip I was shocked at how my northern "wilderness" had changed. Cottages now dotted favoured campsites and motorboats outnumbered canoes.

The wilderness is still retreating. But kids are still going to camp and I hope they are learning about the wonders of tripping - and the importance of protecting wild areas.

All this ties into one of the feature stories in this issue. The recent land claim announcement in the Northwest Territories could signal the beginning of dramatic change in our north.

The promise of the new NWT government to increase development along with rumours that the Inuit will require permits for canoe travel are troubling to us. Canada's north will certainly change but we hope traditional native respect for the land will not vanish under the lure of development's riches. We'll be watching this issue and have more to say in Outfit 68.

Michael Peake, Editor.

## Coppermine-man

### Pierre just keeps rolling along & along

**P**ierre Trudeau is planning to return to the Coppermine River more than a quarter century after paddling it with Eric Morse.

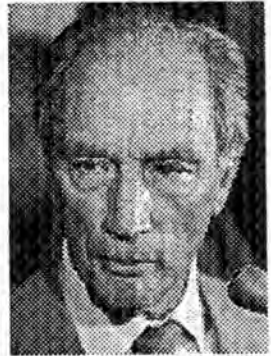
Trudeau, 73, will be part of a series of seven one hour TV films called Amazing Rivers. The \$2 million project will begin shooting this summer across the north.

Field producer Susanne Hilton, of Toronto, says so far only two rivers have been chosen, the Coppermine and the Tatshenshini, and they are currently researching five others.

About a quarter of the money has been raised and a final production deal is not complete.

Part of the challenge, Hilton said, is finding a central paddling subject who is closely associated with each of the rivers.

Trudeau accompanied Eric Morse, Angus Scott, Jack Goering, Arch Jones and others on a 1966 trip down to Coppermine from Point Lake. A photo of that trip graced the cover of the Hudson's Bay Company U-Paddle canoe service brochure for several years. The photo was taken by Morse and the two paddlers shown are Angus Scott in the stern and Trudeau in the bow. It was taken at Obstruction Rapids just below Point Lake.



Prisma Light of Toronto will be the executive producers of the film.

"We want to explore our beautiful wild areas," said Susanne Hilton, executive producer.

"We want to use the people going down the river to bring some of the insight into the delicate balance of the river. We want to show that there are ways to go down a river and minimize your impact on the ecosystem."

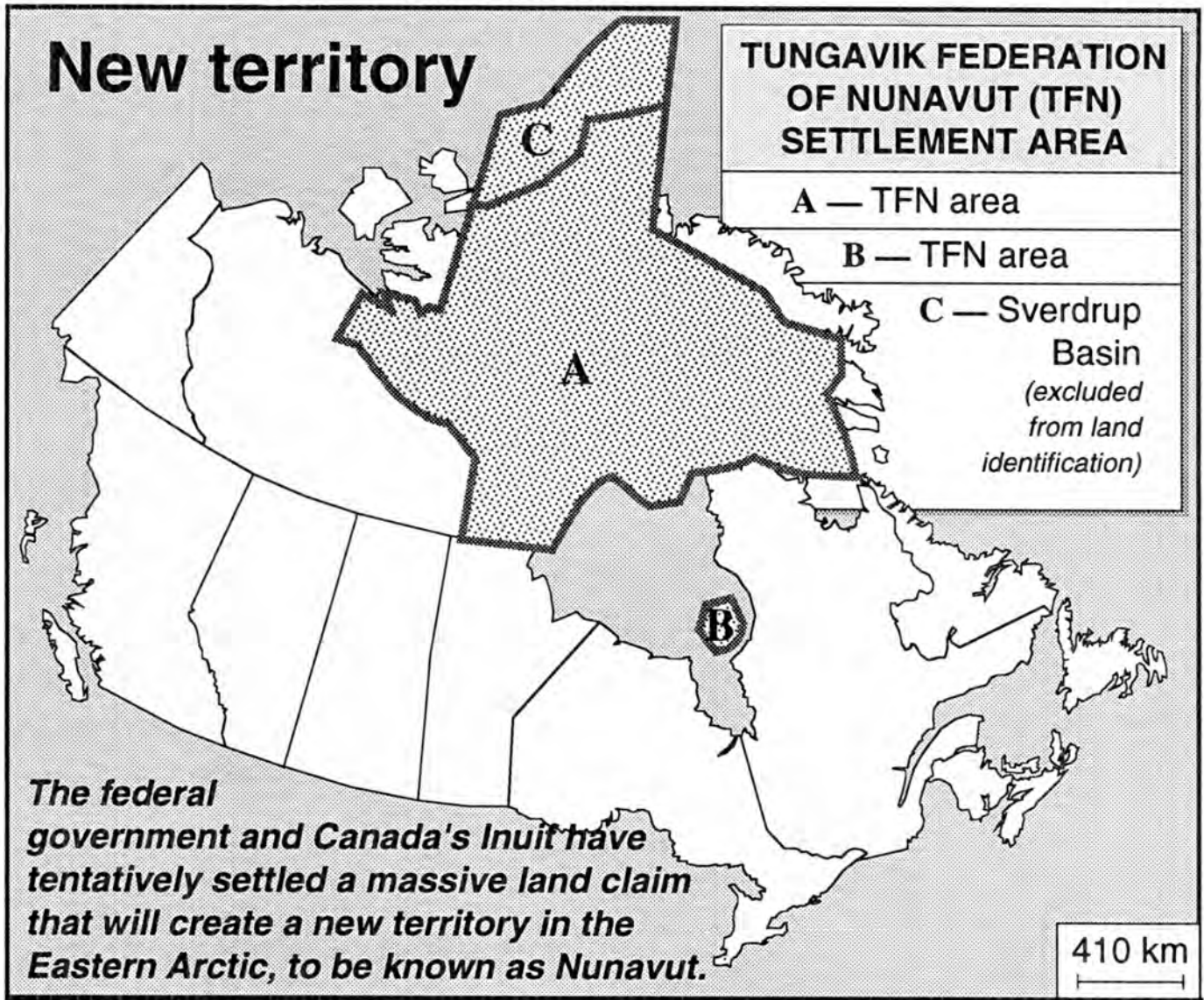
The film will use helicopters to follow the progress of the paddlers. The films are planned for a television showing although details are not worked out yet.

The Tatshenshini's future is still in doubt. Geddes Resources, the company planning to develop a huge copper mine near the river in northern B.C. and the Yukon has modified their development plans to truck out the ore.

The new scheme involves a huge underground conveyor belt to get the ore to a refining site. It is still vehemently opposed by many environment and nature groups who wish to preserve the area.

The entire scheme is bogged down in red tape and it could be some time before the future of this beautiful river is decided.

# Nunavut



*Some facts and figures on Nunavut — a new territory in Northern Canada to be created as a result of a massive land-claim settlement between the Canadian government and the area's natives.*

(CP)

**SIZE:** Two million square kilometres; roughly one-fifth of Canada's land mass; five times the size of California.

**POPULATION:** Approximately 22,000 — 17,500 of them Inuit.

**BOUNDARIES:** The entire Eastern Arctic from the tree line at 60 degrees latitude to the North Pole.

**COST:** Ottawa pays \$580 million over 14 years — \$1.15 billion with interest. Gives Inuit title to 350,000 square kilometres in exchange for surrender of Inuit claim to land.

**GOVERNMENT:** Democratic territorial system similar to current Northwest Territories.

## Our Home and Native Land

# New deal will change the face of Canada

The federal government and Inuit in the eastern Northwest Territories have reached a staggering land-claim settlement that could redraw the map of Canada.

It could also spark a divisive battle among aboriginal groups.

If the Inuit people back the deal in a plebiscite, a new territory called Nunavut will be carved out of the eastern Northwest Territories and comprise one-fifth of Canada's land mass.

"This is a historic day," Louis Pilakapsi, acting president of the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, said in his native Inuktitut during a news conference.

The deal was 15 years in the making and "will result in a better social and economic state for the Inuit people," he said through a translator.

Nunavut would cover the entire Eastern Arctic from the tree line at 60 degrees latitude to the North Pole. The 17,500 Inuit spread across the tundra make up 80 per cent of the population in the area.

Nunavut will likely be proclaimed by Parliament in the fall. The western half of the Northwest Territories will be renamed.

Ottawa will pay the Inuit \$580 million over 14 years — ultimately totalling \$1.15 billion with interest — in exchange for the abandonment of any claim to the land, said

Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Tom Siddon.

Surrendering this claim was the most difficult concession the Inuit made, said Tagak Curley, chief negotiator for the Tungavik Federation.

"If this deal is ratified we'll extinguish our aboriginal title to other lands and waters within the Northwest Territories."

The largest land claim that Ottawa negotiated previously fell apart in 1990 when Dene and Metis groups in the Western Arctic voted against the package, worth about \$500 million.

In that case, natives were unwilling to give up their claim to aboriginal rights in exchange for specific benefits in the deal.

The Inuit will also be given exclusive title to 350,000 square kilometres of land within the new territory. Their right to hunt, fish and trap anywhere in Nunavut will be guaranteed.

The area will be publicly governed rather than run by a system of aboriginal self-government.

"The rights of all citizens, Inuit and non-Inuit, will be equal in this territory," said Siddon.

But the deal will likely be hotly contested by Inuit opposed to the package in the months leading up to the April plebiscite.

"It's not a done deal yet, not by any

means," said John Amagoalik, an adviser to the Tungavik Federation.

"There will be obstacles. I expect some of our political leaders to be some of those obstacles. But I think in the end the Inuit will end up pulling in the same direction."

The strongest opposition may come from Ovide Mercredi, grand chef of the Assembly of First Nations, which represents 500,000 status Indians.

Mercredi said he will recommend rejection of the package if he's invited to the territory to speak to the Inuit. He said the Inuit should have reserved their inherent right to self-government as part of the package.

"I'm not sure Inuit people will agree to extinguish themselves," Mercredi said in an interview.

The deal would limit their ability to safeguard their culture because of its provision for public government, he said.

"No one could say with any certainty how many people are going to reside in Nunavut in the year 3000 or how many of them will be Inuit. They may be a minority."

Mercredi said a court case is already being readied by Dene south of the treeline because the settlement fails to guarantee their traditional fishing, hunting and trapping rights in the area.

# Thar's rocks in them thar rocks

The rugged granite coast of northern Labrador provides few opportunities to eke out an existence.

Unemployment is 80 to 90 per cent among Inuit residents.

The spring seal hunt, once a mainstay of the economy, has been gone for a decade. Falling prices for fish such as arctic char are now threatening another source of income.

But there's hope for new economic activity glinting in the barren rocks.

The Labrador Inuit Development Corporation, working with the Italian firm International Granite, has begun mining a rare form of granite to be used in the walls and floors of museums, banks and tonier homes of Europe.

The rock, anorthosite, is grey with green and blue flecks of the semi-precious stone labradorite scattered through it. The tabletops in one of the restaurants overlooking the playing field at Toronto's SkyDome stadium are made of similar material that has white flecks.

Bad weather and a lack of proper equipment kept the Inuit from shipping stones this year. But they hope to load their first shipment of 20-tonne blocks next summer

on a boat bound for Italy, where the rock will be cut into two-centimetre-thick slabs. Each block is worth \$8,000 US.

If all goes well, 20 Inuit could soon be employed from April to November, cutting and loading the giant blocks from Paul Island, just offshore from the town of Nain, where 1,000 Inuit make their home some 1,100 kilometres northwest of St. John's.

"We are projecting that we could have 100 stone blocks sent out this summer and in the future, once we get going with a bit of experience, we'd like to do 200 a year," Hall says.

The anorthosite operation will be one of the few mines fully owned and controlled by natives.

The Inuit, through the Labrador Inuit Association, used their own money and \$45,000 over the last two years from a federal government program to help natives develop their local economies.

Ottawa has budgeted \$1.4 billion over five years to fund new businesses, provide training and help natives set up economic development corporations.

Projects involving natives range from a fishing resort in northern Manitoba to

organized blueberry picking in Quebec and rose-hip harvesting in Saskatchewan.

The fund also has helped the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the La Ronge Indian band open a First Nations insurance company — part of a plan to establish a national native-owned financial institution.

The Inuit got connected with the Italian firm through an agent who saw samples of the anorthosite rock at a trade show.

The Italians agreed to provide training and equipment, such as diamond wire saws to cut through the hard granite.

The Inuit and Italians each own half of a company that will market the stone. Firms in Germany and the Middle East already have expressed interest.

"The demand for the stone has increased significantly due to concerns for the environment," Hall says.

"People want to get away from vinyl and plastic and throw-away, even away from wood, more into materials that last and stone is something that will last a considerable amount of time."

# The Canadian Canoe Museum



Including the Kanawa International Collection

The trip to establish a permanent home for the Canadian Canoe Museum has been longer and more turbulent than any river its hundreds of boats have been in.

The world class collection of more than 600 full sized boats and related artifacts were made possible by the singleminded drive of one man - Kirk Whipper. The former University of Toronto professor who ran the successful Kandalore children's tripping camp amassed this collection at great personal and financial cost.

The museum began as a spinoff of the camp near Dorset, Ontario where it was known as the Kanawa Canoe Museum. As the treasure grew it became obvious that a much more secure and safe structure had to be found to house these priceless hallmarks of heritage. The boats which range from a 55-foot Nootka whaling canoe from Vancouver Island to a folding suitcase model, constitute the greatest collection of canoes anywhere in the world.

Kirk Whipper no longer owns the collection. Control has passed to a Canadian Canoe Museum Board of Trustees. Altogether they would like to raise \$8 million to properly house and care for this collection. So far, they have succeeded in obtaining four acres of attractive, accessible waterfront land in Peterborough, Ontario - about 90 minutes from Toronto.

They propose to build an activity-centered museum to display the treasures. And treasures they are. The collection includes a rare example of a *canot du nord* - a 25-foot birch bark canoe used by the voyageurs. There are also numerous other bark craft and a wealth of 100-year-old wooden planked canoes.

There is even a birch bark canoe made by German prisoners of war, survivors of the mighty vessel, the *Bismark*. There are also hundreds of beautiful paddles and as many other propelling devices such as poles and oars.

The choice of Peterborough as a site for the museum is appropriate. The area was the focal point during the great heyday of canoeing at the turn of the last century. The land for the site was donated by local governments for one dollar per year.

The Trustees envisage a place whose architecture and atmosphere will reflect the harmony the canoe has with nature. A 700-foot waterfront will ensure that canoes will not only be looked at but paddled - though not perhaps the exhibits. The plan

also calls for canoe builders to show off their skills in this traditional skill. They are hoping the museum will be able to draw 100,000 people per year. The Trustees have listed three main goals for the Canadian Canoe Museum.

1. *In Harmony with a Fragile Environment.* Beginning with the earliest indigenous peoples and still continuing today, the story of the canoe and kayak in Canada is the story of a uniquely successful and respectful adaptation of human beings to a fragile environment. In this age of ecological crisis, we need to be reminded of an ancient technology which brought people into harmony with the environment. A canoe museum can teach a lesson about the future as well as the past.

2. *Heritage Education for Young Canadians.* The Canadian Canoe Museum will occupy a unique niche in the museum world. It will strongly appeal to the general North American public and - since the history of Canada cannot be told without the canoe and kayak - it will have particular significance for Canadians. During the school year, there will be an academic program especially designed for students on school trips from across Ontario. It would be difficult to imagine a more entertaining

way to connect students with so much of their heritage.

3. *A Centre for Research.* The Collection will become the focus of a collaborative research effort with Trent university, which is located in Peterborough. In addition to its Frost Centre for Canadian Heritage and Development Studies, Trent University's Department of Native Studies, Environment Resource Studies, History, Canadian Studies and Anthropology will provide a broad base of expertise. The sharing of these resources may lead to the founding of a major research institute devoted to the place of the canoe in Canada's social and economic development.

This project has been a huge undertaking made even bigger because the collection has been growing constantly over the years. The job is a big one but so is the value. A important chunk of Canada's past lives in the Kanawa collection. It is a priceless heritage and deserves to be well protected and properly displayed.

The Trustees will be seeking money from various levels of government as well as corporate sources. For more info contact Jack Matthews, Box 1338, Lakefield, Ont K0L 2H0.



## The Canadian Canoe Museum

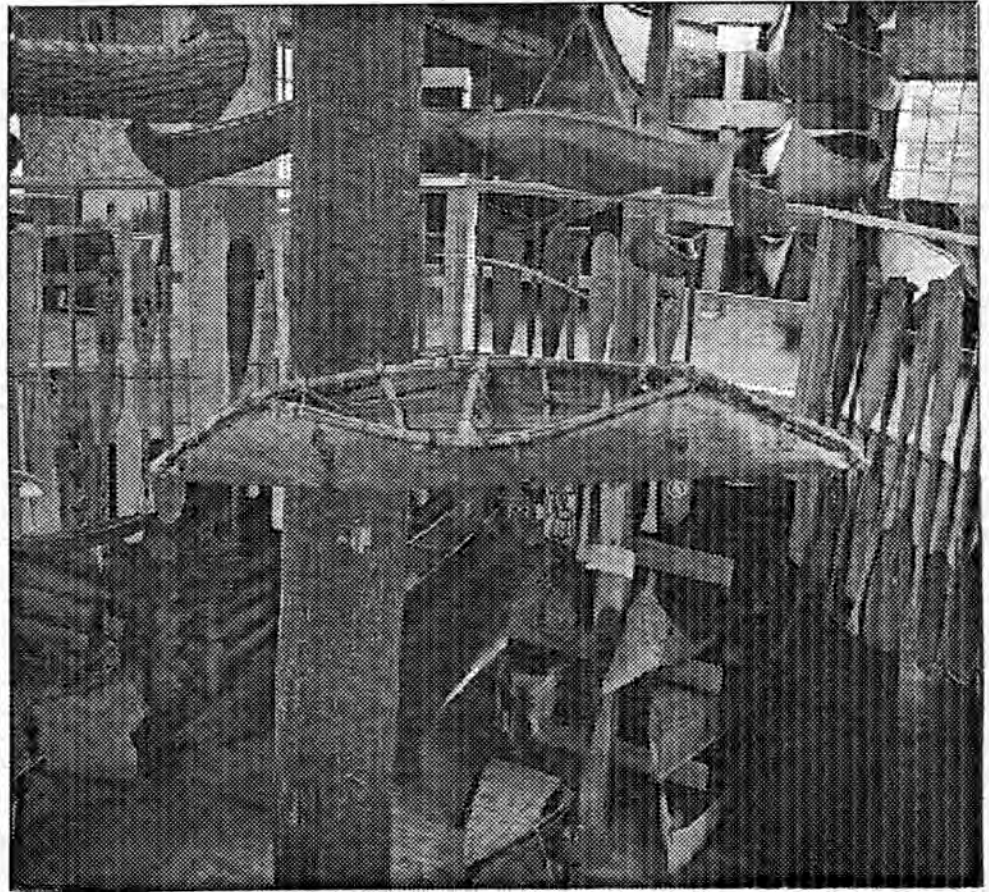
Including the Kanawa International Collection

## The Kanawa Collection:

Dugouts - 59  
Bark/Skin Boats - 106  
Wood Canoes - 205  
Cloth Canoes - 207  
Kayaks - 19  
Int'l Canoes - 40  
Forms and Tools - 57  
Models/artwork - 360  
Historic paddles - 560



**OLD DAYS** - A view of the old Kanawa Canoe Museum near Dorset in central Ontario several years ago. The collection will soon be moving to a new state of the art facility in central Peterborough.



## James Bay Update

**H**ydro-Quebec has been called to defend its proposed James Bay 2 hydroelectric developments before the International Water Tribunal in the Netherlands.

The hearings, to take place in February, create another potential headache for the beleaguered utility, whose environmental policies have been under sustained attack in Canada and the United States.

A spokesman for the tribunal in Amsterdam said its hearings will be conducted by an impartial jury of experts from around the world.

"The tribunal should be seen as a platform offering two parties a public discussion concerning urgent problems of water management," said Arthur van Norden, executive director of the tribunal, in a telephone interview.

The tribunal agreed to hear the James Bay case at the request of the Grand Council of the Cree of Quebec, which is fighting fiercely to block the \$12.6-billion Great Whale hydro project in the James Bay region.

The Cree see the hearings as a major opportunity to publicize their concerns in

Europe, said Brian Craik, a spokesman for the council.

There are plans to have a party of Cree paddle a canoe down the Rhine River just as the hearings open Feb. 16.

A similar canoe expedition to New York City set the stage for a highly successful public relations campaign waged by the Cree in the United States.

Craik said European public opinion is an important factor in the Great Whale controversy because Hydro-Quebec raises much of its money in European markets, and many of its projects involve European firms.

The water tribunal is a foundation funded by several European governments including the Netherlands, Denmark and Belgium. It has no legal power, but its proceedings and verdicts are widely reported in Europe and elsewhere.

Hydro-Quebec has not indicated whether it will appear before the tribunal, although it has sent a lengthy letter stating why it does not believe the hearings are necessary.

The tribunal won't release the letter publicly until next week, out of courtesy to Hydro-Quebec. Van Norden said the proceed-

ings would continue despite the utility's objections.

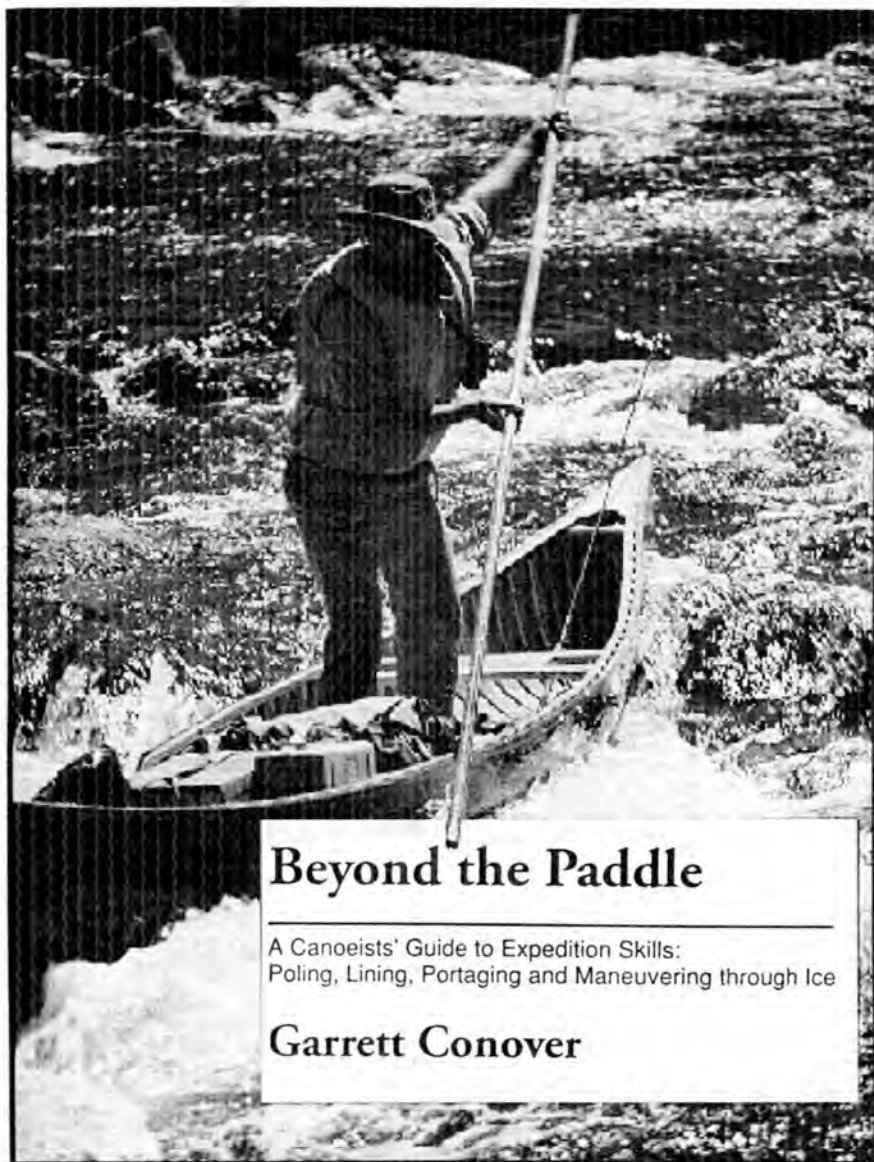
**P**rofits from Hydro-Quebec electricity exports to the United States should be plowed back into the province's economic development, recommends a study commissioned by the utility.

The study projects a 28.5 per cent profit margin from electricity exports generated by hydro mega-projects planned for northern Quebec.

Yves Rabeau, professor of administration at the University of Quebec's Montreal campus and author of the study, said that projected profits based on existing contracts and planned hydro projects would be "very profitable and bring a return clearly higher than that which the utility makes from its internal market."

But Rabeau cautioned that his figures are based on existing contracts with Vermont and New York, and the huge power deal with New York is currently being renegotiated.

The study, financed by Hydro-Quebec, suggests that the province could rake in about \$30 billion from electricity exports over a 20-year period, \$8.5 billion in profit.



### Beyond the Paddle

A Canoeists' Guide to Expedition Skills:  
Poling, Lining, Portaging and Maneuvering through Ice

Garrett Conover

### Beyond the Paddle by Garrett Conover.

Camden House Press, Camden  
East, Ontario 1991. 105pp.  
\$19.95

Reviewed by Geoffrey Peake.

“**T**here comes a time in a wilderness canoeist's career when a strictly downriver trip is no longer enough...”

This is an appropriate beginning to Garrett Conover's book *Beyond the Paddle: A Canoeists Guide to Expedition Skills*, which describes some of the more esoteric wilderness skills (such as poling and lining) - talents that are almost lost arts in the world of canoeing.

Page 8.

*Beyond the Paddle* is a distillation of tips and techniques from Garrett's many years of travel in Maine and Labrador, and brings to the reader a treasure chest of information that was once privy only to the guides and trappers of the North, masters of these vanishing skills.

Garrett is well suited to this task: He (with his wife Alexandra) apprenticed for several years with well known Maine Guide Mick Fahey, learning the skills of an era when the canoe was often the sole means of access and travel, when canoeists prided themselves on their ability to travel all kinds of terrain from break-up to freeze-up, adapting to changing conditions along the way.

For nearly eight years they have run Northwoods Ways, an authentic Maine guiding outfit that specializes in a low-tech approach to camping where tumplines, wanigans, and cedar/canvas canoes are the preferred tools of the trade.

In their travels that take them throughout Maine and Labrador, they have increased their store of knowledge and *Beyond the Paddle* is a synthesis of both the old and new.

This book begins where most end. Most modern day texts place heavy emphasis on paddling skills; poling and lining are usually relegated to the appendix or glossary, (if they are even mentioned at all).

Garrett attempts to redress this imbalance. Imagine! a canoeing book where long descriptions of the J-stroke and the pry are absent!

For those who are not familiar with Maine guiding techniques, this book will offer many pleasant surprises. For example, Garrett makes a convincing case for having a waterline on your canoe: “Despite the enormous benefits that proper trim yields, most canoeists know very little about the topic... Anyone who strikes a waterline on their canoe before it ever gets near the water will be rewarded many times over by the benefits of readily referenced trim... a waterline will soon be regarded as essential equipment. You will in fact remain puzzled that it was ever possible to get along without one.”

The section on poling covers a whole range of possibilities: upstream solo, upstream tandem, downstream tandem, and downstream solo. There is even a section on how to make your own pole, and details on the five different styles of end finishes (called shoes) for a pole.

The text is liberally supported with many photos and drawings to aid in visualising pole placement, stance, and canoe angle. Poling instructions are very thorough and contain a wealth of diverse information to help the paddler learn this graceful art.

Some tips are directed at beginners: “If possible, fall into the canoe. If you feel a full-fledged humiliating wipe-out coming on, do your best to make it dramatic or amusing or both for your companions.”

Lining is one of my favorite activities on a wilderness trip; it greatly increases the amount of rapids that can be run, either up or down. There are few things more satisfying than lining through a difficult stretch that would have required a long and arduous portage.

Garrett's chapter on this, *Handling the Lines*, is the most thorough I have read anywhere. He meticulously explains everything you could want to know about lining including rope selection and splicing, crotched line attachment, and upstream and downstream techniques, once again well supported with photos and drawings.

He emphasizes the importance of keeping the centre of pull as low as possible where the rope meets the canoe to reduce the leverage that otherwise would broach a canoe. Maximum control is gained through the use of the lining bridle, a spliced Y-shape piece of rope that attaches to the seat frames and keeps the centre of pull along the keel line for maximum stability.

Those who have done lining themselves will appreciate his insight into the true nature of lining ropes: “...you will discover that your vocabulary regarding “lining ropes” disintegrates with alarming frequency to a few all-purpose expletives. It



## Canoelit

doesn't take long for lines to become animate objects bent on frustrating whoever is trying to keep them in flat orderly coils

Garrett stresses the importance of keeping lining ropes properly coiled at all times, and having patience with the whole process ("Remember that somewhere, wherever the other ends of those blankety-blank lines are, is a canoe with all your worldly possessions in it") The chapter ends with an assortment of tips and techniques, on the importance of hand cream on long trips, lashing in gear, to knots (...if there is one hard and fast rule in the art of lining, it should be: no knots ever!) and many other topics that reflect wilderness expertise gathered from many days on the trail.

Of course, when the going gets too rough for lining, portaging is the next option. The chapter, *Ways of the Portage Trail*, describes some of the choices a wilderness traveller has with regard to packs and packing. The search for the perfect pack is as fruitless as the search for the perfect canoe, but Garrett highlights the advantages of the many choices available to the modern canoeist, including the traditional choices (his preference) of Duluth Packs (and Woods packs), wanigans, and for those who live in the East, the rare and lovely black ash pack baskets.

And what would a discussion of portaging be without an examination of the tumpline. Garrett spares no words here and embarks on a six-page explanation on the history, theory and practice behind the tumpline that would have housewives (or husbands) carrying their groceries home by tump if they were to read his persuasive prose.

For those who are true "three season" paddlers, the final chapter on encountering ice will explain the hazards of fall ice versus spring ice, and a nifty tool called an ice hook that reduces the chances of falling through thin ice near open-water leads. His succinct advice for ice travellers: "Apply your ever-expanding body of knowledge but refrain from thinking that you know ice. Never completely trust the rules or yourself."

If I had to describe this book in a few words (as I obviously haven't done) I would say it is a thorough and precise guide to advanced tripping skills that a northern traveller should know - or learn.

The only criticism I would have of this book (what would a book review be without criticism?) is that the cover photograph is not as crisp and colourful as a cover photograph - and the only colour shot in the book - should be.

This is a fine book. And Garrett never loses sight of the most important point of all; that all these techniques and skills are not a religion of their own but rather tools by which we may take part in the real religion: being there.

For those canoeists who have been there, and gone beyond the downstream canoe trip, *Beyond the Paddle* will have special meaning. Get it.

*Geoffrey Peake lives on Vancouver Island and is the Chief Guide of the Hide-Away Canoe Club.*

## A Canoeist's Sketchbook by Robert Kimber.

Chelsea Green Publishing,  
Post Mills Vermont. 201 pp.  
1991. \$12.95 US./\$14.95 Can.

*Reviewed by Michael Peake.*

**R**obert Kimber is a Maine canoeist who put together this folksy and warmhearted collection of canoeing thoughts and musings. In fact, as the title indicates, this is a book of sketches - 26 of them commenting on various aspects of Kimber's canoeing experiences arranged in alphabetical order from Backwards to Wilderness.

Kimber has a delightful and comfortable touch. The book is laced with cosy black line illustrations from another noted Maine canoeist (and Che-Mun subscriber) Jerry Stelmock. Jerry is best known for building superb 18-foot E.M. White wood/canvas canoes that I - or any other canoeist - would love to own.

Besides offering wry looks at common situations, Kimber also shares much practical knowledge (the origins of the wanigan) and canoe-related history (the story of Churchill Falls).

Finishing a Labrador trip, Kimber took a quick journey to the former site of this magnificent cataract. It's a former site because thought the falls are still there - only most of the water isn't. Kimber tells the story of the cataract's downfall as well as some of the history of the river. One note - he mentions that the 11 powerhouses of the Churchill Falls project generate 550 megawatts - that should read 550 each.

He summed up his visit to the site thus: "We come back from our little detour to defunct Churchill Falls with no more factual information than we brought to it. We knew the falls were dead, but now that knowledge is visceral. The sight of death is different from the knowledge of it. Nobody can sing the praises of 'clean' hydropower to me anymore, and nobody can tell me that the loss of Churchill Falls is a fair price to pay to warm our beds, run our video games and light up our shopping malls."

Like a well-worn Wood canoe pack or a burnished cherry paddle, Kimber has worked his words thoughtfully and well in this leisurely volume.

Some of the sketch titles give you an idea of what he is talking about; Comfort, Fleece and Wool, Hostile Winds, Midday Snoozes, Mile Bagging, Peanut Butter and Wet Feet. As you can see, Kimber zeroes in on many of the everyday essentials of a canoe trip.

Kimber was raised in the staunch attitude of the Maine Northwoods Style. He tips his hat to fellow travellers Garrett and Alexandra Conover, Maine Guides and the Royal Couple of the Northwoods.

One of the the great things about this book is that you can just leave it around and pick it up anytime. All the sketches are well-flavoured and you can immediately give yourself and friendly dose of a sage canoeing observer.

The last word belongs to Kimber. Here he's praising 'real' peanut butter - and even gave an address where to get his favourite brand.

"Available not only in one and two pound jars but also in four, eight and forty-pound tins, just waiting for you to scoop out in great peanutty gobs, pack it like ice cream into plastic containers and set off for Manitoba."

Better yet, just take the pail.

## A Long and Terrible Shadow: White Values, Native Rights in the Americas - 1492-1992 by Thomas Berger.

Douglas and McIntyre, 1991.  
183pp. \$26.95

## Occupied Canada: A Young White Man Discovers his Unsuspected Past by Robert Hunter and Robert Calihoo.

McClelland & Stewart Inc.,  
1991. 271 pp. \$26.95.

*Reviewed by Sean Peake.*

**T**his year marks the 500th anniversary of the "discovery" of Europe's New World. What's important to remember this year is that the history of this continent didn't start when Columbus walked ashore.

Rich and diverse cultures were flourishing, with their own laws and social systems. But judging from the history courses taught in our school systems, North America was an unoccupied wilderness, ready for the taking - and it was.

The men who "unrolled the map of Canada" could only have done so with the co-operation and assistance of the Indians. In keeping with the event, Che-Mun features two books that deal with Native people. Each book is distinct and has its own version of the story to tell.

Thomas Berger, author of the historic report on the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline, is perhaps one of the most prominent legal minds involved with native land claims.

His book lays out the legal and ethical record of the European invasion of the Americas. The BIG picture.

Citing moral and legal arguments stretching from those that went on in Spain in the 1500's about the decimation of the indigenous people, up to today's legal battles over claims, readers get a well-balanced, objective summary of the last 500 years.

Continued on Page 11.  
Page 9.

# News & Notes

**MOTORS, NOT PADDLES.** . . Final environmental approval is all that stands in the way of improvements to a water highway that links Manitoba, Minnesota and Northwestern Ontario, say promoters of the project.

Hugh McTaggart, co-ordinator of the Atikokan-Minaki Waterway Association, says work could start as early as next summer.

"The only thing holding us up is an environmental assessment," he said.

"It has been submitted to the provincial and federal governments for approval."

The \$2.6-million project will improve the passage through the Winnipeg River along a 450-kilometre route.

The route is navigable now, but not without difficulty. Most of the work involved will involve minor changes to accommodate a higher volume of traffic.

The waterway is being named the Voyageur Heritage Waterway, with signs and points of interest posted along the route.

McTaggart says it was the route used by La Verendrye in his explorations of Manitoba.

One of the feature attractions along the three-day cruise is the Indian burial mounds at the Manitou Island Indian reserve, the largest of their kind in the world, he said.

"The opportunity for re-enacting a historic voyage through the Canadian Shield and the beautiful scenery of the Aggasiz area, while bringing in millions of dollars to the Ontario and Manitoba economies."

**ASSESSING THE UNASSESSABLE** . . . The long-delayed environmental review of the Great Whale hydroelectric project will not get into full swing before March.

One of the committees charged with preparing guidelines for an environmental impact study of the \$12.6-billion project said it needs until March 1 to finish its work.

Quebec sent preliminary information about the 3,168-megawatt hydroelectric project to the Cree-controlled evaluating committee Oct. 25, asking that guidelines be submitted within 30 days.

Hydro-Quebec must receive those guidelines before it can submit its environmental study. But in a letter dated Nov. 26, committee chairman Chief Billy Diamond said the committee plans to hold public meetings in the Cree communities of Chisasibi and Whapmagoostui (Great Whale) in January to ask for input into the guidelines.

When Quebec announced on Oct. 2 that it was abandoning plans for a segmented review of Great Whale, Hydro-Quebec chairman Richard Drouin said the utility needed government approval within a year to meet the scheduled completion of the project in 1999.

Another group evaluating the project, the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission, has been put on hold for the last two months as the federal and provincial governments and native leaders try to coordinate the Great Whale review.

Until Hydro submits its impact study, it is impossible to say how long the entire review will take. The Cree have said a thorough review could take between three and five years.

**DELTA BLUES.** . . The Athabasca River Delta in northern Alberta will likely disappear within 50 years if its current rate of shrinkage continues, says an internal Parks Canada study.

The study says the delta has shrunk 25 per cent in the past 13 years and will disappear completely in the next half century unless the approach to management of the delta changes. The Parks Canada report, made its predictions after a two-year study of the delta. Aerial photos showed massive recession of vegetation and wetland.

The delta covers 4,000 square kilometres of wetland around Fort Chipewyan and is believed to be the largest freshwater delta in the world. The region was once rich in fishing and trapping activity. But area residents say the steady diversion of water for British Columbia's W.A.C. Bennett hydroelectric dam over the years has turned the land marshy and useless.

The dam holds back about 80 per cent of the melted mountain snow that used to flow into the Peace River, ending spring

floods which replenished the delta wetlands.

B.C. Hydro officials have said they have no plans to let out flood waters. While it could help the delta, it would reduce electrical output, which would cost the corporation money.

The document confirms earlier findings that 47 per cent of the delta's productive vegetation and wildlife habitat has disappeared since the Bennett dam was completed in 1968.

An independent study funded by Canada Parks Service and released earlier this year estimated the delta's shrinkage would jump to 85 per cent by the year 2031 if the river waters continue to be restrained.

**TROUBLED WATERS** . . . In the U.S., more than 200 dams on rivers from Maine to Oregon are up for relicensing this year, and environmentalists say they want fish and wildlife to get a better break this time around.

"These dams look very clean and do not pollute the air, but they have had profound impact on the environment," said Matthew Huntington, director of hydro power projects for the organization American Rivers.

He said his group will seek restrictions and protective measures in the new licenses, such as fish ladders, increases in stream flow or limitations on hours of operation.

Thomas Russo, chief of the eastern branch of FERC's division of project review, said the agency "has a mandate to look at the power produced and balance that against environmental benefits" and will do so.

American Rivers distributed a sheet at the news conference listing some of the dams involved, including Edwards Dam on the Kennebec River in Maine, built in 1837, which the organization said blocks upstream fish passage to spawning grounds.

Others included the Bend Project on the Deschutes River in Oregon, where the environmental group said it will seek to reduce the number of wild rainbow and brown trout killed in passage through generating turbines.

"Fifty years ago, recreation and ecological issues were not a factor," said Richard Bowers, a spokesman for the American Whitewater Affiliation. "Today, they are hopefully more in the forefront of people's thinking."

*The following back issues of Che-Mun are available for four dollars each including postage. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) are photocopies of the original outfit.*

- Outfit 38 - Fort William Rendezvous, Magpie River.
- Outfit 39 - Trans Canada Canoe Expedition/David Pelly.\*
- Outfit 40 - Eric Morse Tribute, Story of Les Voyageurs.\*
- Outfit 41 - Grand Canal Project, Thlewiazia River solo.\*
- Outfit 42 - The Morse River Expedition Part I.
- Outfit 43 - The Morse River Expedition Part II.
- Outfit 44 - Bill Mason & the Dog River, Athabasca Letter.
- Outfit 45 - Pipe River by Eric Morse, River flow chart.
- Outfit 46 - Hudson Bay to Ungava Bay, Stew Coffin report.
- Outfit 47 - Heritage Rivers, Trans Canada Expedition.
- Outfit 48 - Freshwater Saga, Morse R. Memoirs, Slide fest.
- Outfit 49 - Kayaking in the Queen Charlottes, HBC sell-off.
- Outfit 50 - Royal couple canoe the Hanbury/Thelon Rivers.\*
- Outfit 51 - Traditional canoeing through Quetico Park.
- Outfit 52 - Lands Forlorn, Atomic Arctic Proposal.
- Outfit 53 - Ungava Crater Expedition, Hubbard & Wallace.
- Outfit 54 - Povungnituk 88 - Ungava, Sleeping Island review.
- Outfit 55 - Memories of Bill Mason, Twin Otter disappears.
- Outfit 56 - Canoeing stamps, Hanbury review, WCA slidefest.
- Outfit 57 - North American Canoe Symposium, book reviews.
- Outfit 58 - Churchill River trip, Review of The Lonely Land.
- Outfit 59 - Tyrrell Brothers, Water & Sky, Alberta Pulp Wars.
- Outfit 60 - Via Rail, Missinaibi, James Bay Hydro, HBC exit.
- Outfit 61 - Inside LG2, Aki on the Barrens, Grey Owl.
- Outfit 62 - Across Ungava via the Kogaluk and Payne Rivers.
- Outfit 63 - Canoeing in the 1930's, Hydro-Quebec Chairman.
- Outfit 64 - Rupert River in 1914 remembered, Keewaydin Guide.
- Outfit 65 - Churchill River hydro, Robert Perkins, James Bay.
- Outfit 66 - Lands Forlorn, HACC in Japan, Needle to the North.

## Winter Packet cont'd.

"That will be a few years away, however. We would also like to have a related club in Canada. We can offer good information on 20 rivers in Canada (firsthand description by our own members) and various rivers in Venezuela, Chile, Brazil, Malaysia, Russia and elsewhere. Members will have access to the club's canoes throughout the world. This already includes; a pair of 22-foot dugouts in Venezuela, a Coleman in Anchorage, two Old Towns in Canada, one Inka Alu in both Norway and Sweden, two Old Towns in Siberia and three boats in Mayasia.

"We hope to get more boats around the world that can be used by affiliated clubs. Also we can offer free accommodation for visiting club members. We have a sister club in Siberia's Ural Mountains which can supply us with a number of facilities. We are inviting someone from there to do a talk in Denmark for us in 1992."

Anyone interested in pursuing this idea can contact Che-Mun and we'll get you in touch with Carl.

As for this summer: "Perhaps this July or August my girlfriend Hanne and I will go back to Indonesia and circumnavigate of one of the islands in a small locally made "prahus" which are canoes with two outriggers and a very small sail. I look forward to that very much since it would be fun to try another kind of canoe and this area is so rich in history that you can never finish reading about it. And even still, hardly any other people travel there.

**K**eeping on the international scene we heard recently from Jurg Zimmermann from Switzerland.

He's at Oberwil 392, 9621 Oberhelfenschwil, Switzerland. We gather than Jurg has spent several canoeing seasons in Canada doing trips.

He's paddled with some of Canada's foremost outfitter/guides. He writes about Alex Hall, Bruce Hyer, Dave Loeks and glowingly of the Canoe Canada operation near Quetico Park where Jurg has done five trips in the past 14 years. The effect of the

pull of the wilderness is obvious in the last few paragraphs of his letter.

"I have kicked it around so many times that it is not funny any more. Last March I made an all-out effort to obtain Canadian immigration.

"Although I love to work in my profession and have enjoyed success, I have lost all enthusiasm. I am running two successful companies but I need a new challenge. Smart ideas and advice are always welcome. No need to mention the few dozen butterflies that I have in my stomach.

"After all, I will leave the comfort of a secure job and a country that I used to love but which has lost all attraction due to overpopulation, narrowmindedness and conservatism of its inhabitants and the absolute lack of wilderness."

Jurg adds that he has recently married, loves Che-Mun and will be heading to Canada probably this year. Good luck Jurg. Is there any truth that you're moving to save the much higher Che-Mun charge for foreign subscriptions?

## Canoelit

Berger's style is relaxing and each chapter has extensive notes for those interested in pursuing further research.

Berger also features a chapter on Chief Justice John Marshall, a man whose opinions on aboriginal rights were well ahead of his contemporaries. Marshall obviously influenced Berger.

Marshall served as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1801 to 1835. One of his most important judgements dealt with Native sovereignty and title. He points out in no uncertain terms that we must face up to the past, and provide fair and proper compensation.

The Native people do not want to go back to the way of life they led before Columbus arrived, rather they want to preserve their identity, rights and dignity.

How they have survived the onslaught this long is a miracle, but it is testament to just how deep-rooted their beliefs and customs are.

*Occupied Canada*, on the other hand, is one man's account of his struggle against the system, and what it's like to be an Indian in Canada.

All the poverty, violence, and despair of Native life is in this book. Robert Calihoo, raised in the comfort of white, middle-class Edmonton, is suddenly faced with his past when his "mother" dies and he has to go live with his father and family.

Overnight, Calihoo goes from being a white man to an Indian. After the demoralizing repetitive cycle of prisons and drugs he learns that the only way to really survive is to know the Indian Act.

It ends with Robert Calihoo using that knowledge to try and regain his people's reserve that eventually disappeared through a process called enfranchisement.

While the book held my interest, I was disappointed. Not because I deny Robert Calihoo his right to shake his fist and rage against the system, but it's written by a television journalist, and it shows.

Loose and choppy sentences prevented me from settling into the story. I was half expecting sound bites and video clips to follow some paragraphs.

Calihoo's story, and that of the Native People of Canada, could have been told more effectively, had the authors taken the time to choose their words more carefully, instead of writing it as the hour's top story.

While the story doesn't need much historical background because of its present day setting, it has a fascinating account of Calihoo's distant relatives, a group of Iroquois who left the confinement of a mission in Quebec and moved to a section of unoccupied land in the foothills and Mountains of central Alberta in the late 1700's.

The first of Calihoo's relatives in the west were Louis and Bernard Karihiio, from the Iroquois village of Caughnawaga. The two were part of Alexander Mackenzie's crew paddling to the Pacific Ocean in 1793. They left Mackenzie's group at Fort Chipewyan and decided to strike out on their own.

They eventually found a section of land not claimed by any tribe. The two brothers decided to return to Caughnawaga to convince the others to follow. (The book says it is unknown when the first wave of Calihoo's ancestors made the move to the west, but David Thompson, who was near the area Calihoo's relatives settled in, began meeting Iroquois, Nippissings, and Algonquins either in 1799 or 1800.)

There is no doubt that many more books about the impact Columbus's discovery had upon North America's Native people will appear this year, but these two, in particular, provide an interesting contrast of the issues facing Native people today.

One gives a legal interpretation of what's gone on over the last 500 years, perhaps the only way to really understand the issue. While the other brings us a personal and tragic accounting of what it's like to be a prisoner in your own land.

Sean Peake is head of the cartographic and historical research section of the Hide-Away Canoe Club.

## Canoe shows galore

Wilderness trippers in the Toronto area will have plenty to keep them busy this winter and spring.

There are several canoe-related shows and talks going on.

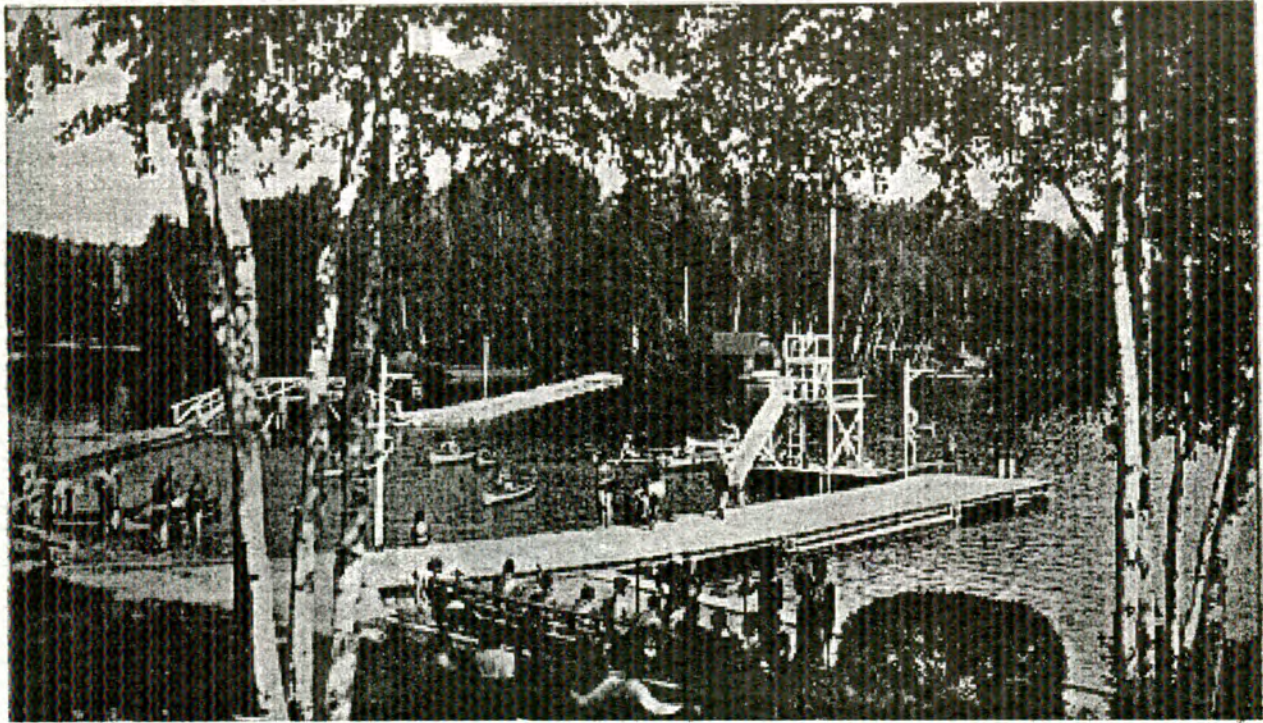
**Canoexpo** is sponsored by Canoe Ontario. It will feature slide shows, hands-on paddling, survival tips and more. It runs April 4 and 5 at the Etobicoke Olympium in Toronto. Contact Canoe Ontario for info.

**The Harbourfront Canoe Fest** will again take place on May 2 right on the water in downtown Toronto. This outdoor show will feature paddlers, trip shows, and a lot of demos aimed at the wilderness canoeist.

Plans are still underway and we'll update you in the next issue.

The Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association will hold a slide talk featuring Kirk Wipper and Michael Peake to raise money for their Home for Canoeing project. The talk will take place in Toronto on March 5 at Bickford Park Learning Centre on Bloor St. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door.

Peake will be showing the Morse River slide show detailing a 55-day, 1000 mile trip across the NWT where they named a river after Eric Morse. For more info contact Che-Mun.



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Hon. Pres. Canadian and Ontario Camping Associations  
 Founder Ontario Branch Royal Life Saving Society  
 Hon. Chairman Canadian Red Cross Water Front Safety

*An ad in a 1949 school yearbook for Camp Timagami (note the spelling) recalls the hey-day of canoe trip camping in Canada. The Timagami spelling seems to be the original version since it appears on all the old maps.*

*Founded by Nick Nickels*

**The International Newsletter for  
 Canadian Wilderness Canoeists**

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**Michael Peake, Publisher.**

## **Che News**

*In the next Che-Mun we'll take a look at the pressures on the NWT and the future of canoe tripping in Canada's far north.*

*We'll also review a new book about the James Bay hydro development and report on what's happening to Hydro-Quebec's Great Whale project.*