

# CHE-MUN

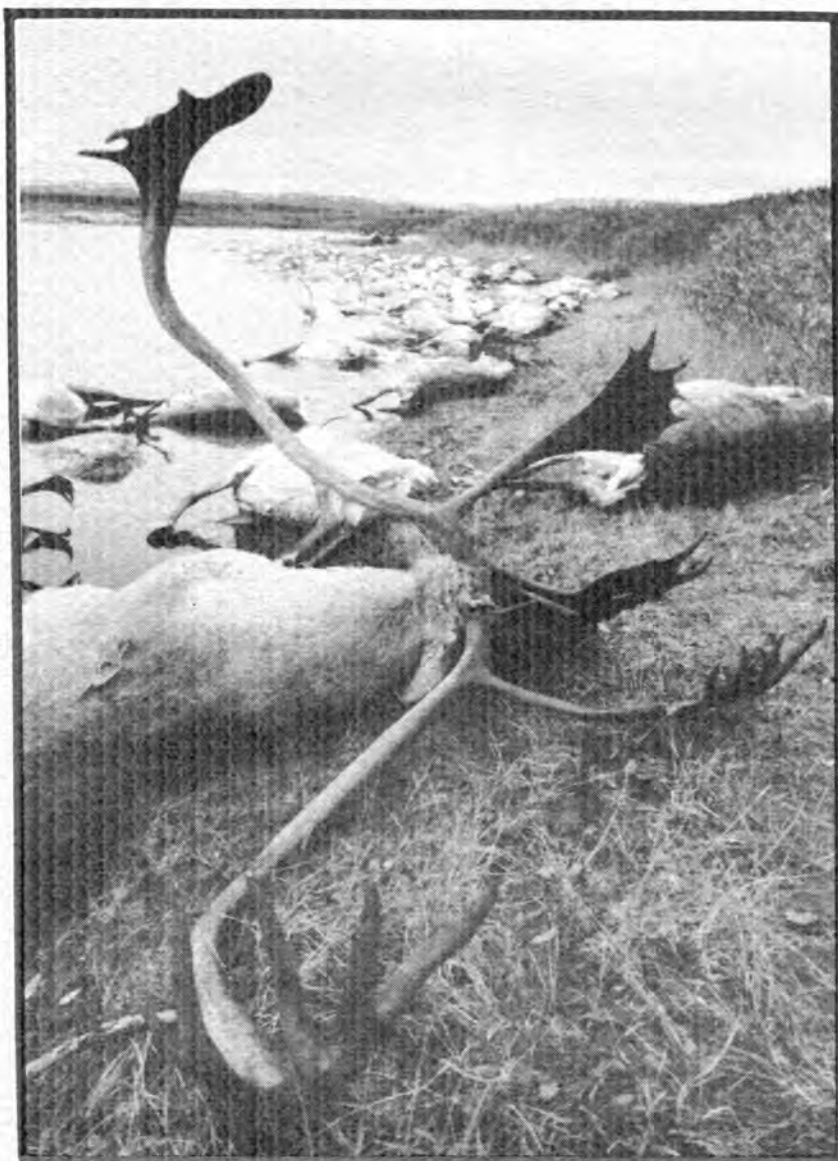
(Ojibway for canoe)

THE NEWSLETTER OF CANADIAN WILDERNESS CANOEING

OUTFIT 39

CHE-MUN

WINTER 1984



photo/ryan remiorz-upc.

## Slaughter on the Caniapiscau

## 10,000 caribou die DEATH ON THE BARRENS

Welcome again to another issue of CHE-MUN. Our circulation is growing and a lot of readers have written with their kind wishes and comments. We are very pleased with the response and hope it continues and trust you will let us know if we are doing the things you want to see.

No one has written inquiring about TRIP LINE so unless we have specific requests we will assume that you all have adequate sources of information and discontinue it until needed.

Outfit 39 reviews the events in Quebec last September when thousands of caribou drowned on the Caniapiscau River. The story is important because it illustrates how Hydro-Quebec's interference isn't restricted to canoeists. Hydro has a glossy magazine out now celebrating their 40 years of operation and the reports inside make interesting reading. It's called FORCES (how appropriate) and H-Q people talk about the damability of rivers including the George, Leaf, Rupert, Nottaway, Moisie and several others well-known to wilderness canoeists.

The only sane note in the whole publication is a realization that the days of mammoth growth are over and perhaps a realization that the demand for all those billions of kilowatts just isn't there. We'll see.

Also in this issue is a report on a great young couple who went across Canada by canoe for their honeymoon. A story on David Pelly a southern Canadian with roots, both past and present, in Canada's north.

Nick Nickels provides us with an a historical look at the caribou in his Notebook. Also letters and news of who's planning what and where and much more as CHE-MUN goes rolling along.



Thanks to all you faithful CHE-MUN readers who took some time to send a letter or add a few comments to your subscription forms. Each letter is read and appreciated even if it's not possible to personally answer each one. CHE-MUN will feature several of them each month just to let to all know what sort of input we are getting.

Gary Heinonen, 2504 Croft Hill Dr., Auburn Hills, Michigan, 48057, wants CHE to include detailed trip reports especially with regard to dates, length, weather, terrain and obstacles both in and out. Gary also wants to correspond with other readers, something we encourage which is why we publish the addresses of everyone we talk about (where possible). He also had some words of praise for Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources for their literature and the upkeep of MNR canoe routes in Ontario.

The name of Mike Bunn will be familiar to longtime readers of CHE-MUN. Mike is a solo canoeist, a not-so-rare breed these days, who has done some major one-man trips in Canada's Northwest Territories. He was the first person to solo the Kazan, that was in 1982 and last year did the same on the Thlewiaza River. (That's just north of Manitoba and, no, we don't know anything about it either!) Mike would like to see stuff about those who work all winter so they can canoe all summer...Hmmm anyone you know Mike? He's at 122 N.5th St. Clinton Iowa. 52732

Tom Zartman and group were up in that same area of the N.W.T. and paddled the Kogna and The-anne Rivers just north of the 60th parallel. We'd really like to see that trip report in an upcoming CHE-MUN. Send it in, Tom! Tom Zartman, NCOBS, 121 N. Sterling, Morganton, N.C., 28655; by the way, what does NCOBS stand for...North Carolina Outward Bound School?

There's good news for people interested in a naturalist's river trip in Ontario. Ron Reid and Janet Grand write and tell of their work (!) this summer canoeing 12 rivers throughout Ontario for their naturalists guide to rivers. Ron is former Staff Environmentalist with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and Janet was with the Sierra Club in Toronto. They are now together writing and researching and canoeing. Ron reports one of the best trips was on the Kesagami River which runs into Hannah Bay, the extreme southern part of James Bay. The MNR provided flights in exchange for detailed trip notes - watch for it. Sounds like a good trip. "in one 30-mile stretch the river drops 500 feet."

There were constant rapids, ledges and falls... and great fun." Highlights included Beluga whales at the mouth of the river in James Bay. The book is scheduled to be published in early 1986 and Ron says dealing with publishers is like running rapids...it has it's ups and downs. Ron and Janet are at General Delivery, Washago, Ontario, L0K 2B0.

CHE-MUN is very happy to have as subscriber and first advertiser Alex Hall of Canoe Arctic, Box 130, Fort Smith, N.W.T. X0E 0P0. Alex is the only registered canoe guide in the N.W.T. and a veteran on many bareground expeditions. His article Seven Rivers North in the Summer 1976 edition of THE BEAVER is a classic. Alex reports the water levels very high this fall up north, and that he says is good news for those planning trips up there next year. (This includes CHE-MUN's editor - more on that next issue.) By the way, and Alex didn't say this, but don't go bugging him for all sorts of detail on canoe routes and expect it for free. This is his living and as someone who works hard to give all canoeists a good name should be commended and remunerated.

Old CHE-MUN regular Blair Richardson, 14319-58 Ave, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 1C9 dropped a line to mention he'd been on two short trips this summer; the Brazeau River near Jasper and the Paul River in NE Saskatchewan. Blair added he wants to do the Fond du Lac River next year, and I agree, it sounds like a superb trip and I will make it there one day myself.

Canoeist extraordinaire, Bill Mason, offered some straightforward criticism of the CHE-MUN flyers along with an offer to contribute to CHE-MUN with his expert artwork. He also volunteered the artistic services of his son, no canoeing slouch either, did you know that Paul? Bill is busy with his film WaterWalker which he hopes will be released theatrically in the spring. The film won't be available to the public for some time but watch for it on a local movie screen if all goes well. He's at Meach Lake Road, Old Chelsea, Quebec, J0X 2N0.

Keith Rodgers, 89 Valecrest Dr., Islington, Ontario, M9A 4P5, wants to see expedition trip reports that detail equipment used including canoes. Keith says he never met a wilderness canoeist who wasn't obsessed with equipment. Me neither, Keith.

Finally, a great letter from DeForest Eveland, 27610 Terrence, Livonia, MI. 48154, who wants more info on the Stikine River in B.C. CHE-MUN talked to the Stikine paddlers and they promised something for Outfit 40. DeForest also was quick to jump on CHE's ambiguous reference to the Pukaskwa River on Page 3 of #38. The Pukaskwa is a run-off river and would serve best as a hiking trail past mid-June unless there is unusually heavy rain. Also when we went to press the info I had said they had canoed the Puk, only later did we find out it was the White River some 40 miles north and still in Pukaskwa National Park. OK DeF??

## NEWS & NOTES

This column will appear in all future CHE-MUN's and is intended to be full of notes and quotes from people and places of interest to wilderness canoeists.

"O"-O WE GOOFED! The correct address for CHE-MUN is now on the back of the magazine. Your obedient servant takes full blame for putting Postal Station A instead of "O" in Outfit 38... FRANKLIN FEVER... Dr. Joe MacInnis told CHE-MUN that he intends to go after the EREBUS and TERROR in 1986. Dr. MacInnis who led the recovery team of the Franklin search supply boat the BREADALBANE which was sunk south of Devon Island in 1853, wants to locate Franklin's boats which were crushed in the ice

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off the west coast of King William Island. The documentary television special which aired on CBC last month was directed by a man well-known to CHE-MUN readers for his activities above the water BILL MASON.... ONTARIO CANEWS...A new publication came across our desk recently. Lamont's 1984 Annual is a review of the Ontario canoeing scene done up in a glossy covered 96-page book which lists canoe makers, outfitters, clubs and information sources for canoeing in Ontario. Attractive layout, and photography by Toni Harting who's well known in Southern Ontario, make this small book a bargain at \$5. For more info get in touch with either Jim Brown or Jim Sutherland at Lamont Press, 5 Caithness Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4J 3X6... PELLY TALKS...David Pelly, featured in this edition of CHE-MUN, will be speaking in Toronto this winter and all CHE subscribers in the area should get out to hear him.

(Cont'd on page six)



# Report says caribou deaths accident of nature

By GRAHAM FRASER  
Globe and Mail Reporter

QUEBEC — The James Bay Energy Corp. was asked to reduce the flow on the Caniapiscou River three days before 10,000 Caribou were swept over the Calcaire falls to their deaths but did not act until the day of the disaster, according to a report released yesterday.

Since the dam controlling the water flow is far upstream from the falls, the measure had no effect.

Despite this admission, the report by the James Bay Energy Corp. says biologists at the corporation and the Quebec Government have concluded the massive drownings were "the consequence of natural phenomena," and adds the request to lower the flow was not related to the caribou.

Inuit leaders blamed Hydro Quebec for the tragedy in late September, saying it had released too much water from the James Bay Hydro project and turned the river into a torrent. Hydro Quebec said the high water levels in the river were due to unusually heavy rainfall.

The report, tabled in the National Assembly yesterday by Energy Minister Yves Duhaime, argues that a number of factors contributed to the disaster. These included:

- The herds, which wander erratically, were gathering in late September.
- Heavy rains in September raised the high water level in the river to 181 millimetres — almost twice the usual level.
- A large group of caribou which had already crossed the Koksoak River a few days earlier had crossed back from east to west above the

Calcaire falls, ending up on the island between the falls and reducing their chance of crossing the river.

However, the report concedes that, on Sept. 25, the question of reducing the flow of water was discussed with the native people.

"On Sept. 25, during a meeting in Montreal for other subjects, the native people asked that the flow of the evacuator be reduced.

"On Sept. 29, the flow was reduced from 1,475 to 730 cubic metres per second at the request of the native people, and independently of the migration of the caribou."

The report says that specialists in the Ministry of Leisure Hunting and Fishing estimate that the caribou were swept over the falls between Sept. 28 in the evening and Sept. 29 at noon.

## Caribou tragedy linked to hydro

QUEBEC (UPC) — Leakage at a James Bay hydro-electric site may have caused the drowning of 10,000 caribou on the Caniapiscou River last September, Liberal transport critic John Ciaccia said yesterday.

There is "obviously a link between the fact that the caribou drowned on Sept. 28 and a serious leakage problem at LG-3," the hydro-electric site, Ciaccia told the Quebec National Assembly.

He said minutes from a Sept. 25 meeting between the James Bay Corp. and Inuit representatives, three days before the animals drowned, revealed water levels above the first set of rapids on the river were dangerously high.

"The water conditions at this time of the year are similar to those of spring flood conditions and . . . this may cause difficul-

ties for caribou attempting to cross the river," the minutes said.

Sink holes in the LG-3 reservoir prevented the James Bay Corp. from draining into the La Grande reservoirs for six months, the corporation explained in the minutes.

The company said it had to lower the level of water in the LG-3 reservoir by 3 metres in order to test the exact nature and extent of the sink hole.

Water was completely lost through the leakage, a hole in the bottom of the reservoir, the minutes said.

"The reason why we brought this question up is that we want the government to give us full disclosure on this particular problem," Ciaccia said.

"The tragedy of the caribou is only one element; today it was the caribou tomorrow the residents could be affected."



Inuit workers struggle to haul away to waiting helicopters some of the 10,000 caribou bodies which littered the Caniapiscou River near Ungava Bay in Northern Quebec.

## CHE-MUN EDITORIAL

The latest reports coming from Quebec suggest that Hydro-Quebec was responsible for the drownings of 10,000 caribou belonging to the huge George River herd on the Caniapiscou River in September.

This comes as no surprise to those familiar with the tactics of the environment-bludgeoning James Bay Energy Corporation — a subsidiary of Hydro-Quebec. When the James Bay Corporation was first proposed the primary motivating force was money. Money for the overpaid contractors. Money for the pampered workers. Money for the Inuit who sold their rights to vast areas of land.

And money for what? For a power demand that was never realized even in the United States where all of it goes. Why the fuss over a bunch of drowned caribou when Hydro Quebec has been killing them softly for so many years. The destruction of habitat by the mammoth reservoirs created for the project has been widespread but quiet. The only thing different here is that they all died at once and it became a national media issue. HUR-RAY!

The "official" Hydro explanation is the drownings were a result of torrential rains that flooded the river. Strange how the George, Leaf and other rivers in the same area were not so affected. Strange too, that the only river that caused such a problem was the one connected to a Hydro-Quebec reservoir run-off that was draining off water from a reservoir that was already too full because of the lack of power demand.

A number of voices are calling for an official inquiry. Not solely on the drownings but on the entire James Bay Development project and its effects on a huge area of northern Quebec. CHE-MUN adds its tiny voice to that call but with the mess that is Quebec politics there seems little chance for success.

If the whole thing weren't so serious the situation might be compared to a well-known movie where murder victims were found drowned in the run-off water from reservoirs during a drought. And when a well-intentioned person were to ask what he could do and demanded the authorities to take action he would be told, "Forget it Jake...it's HYDRO-TOWN."



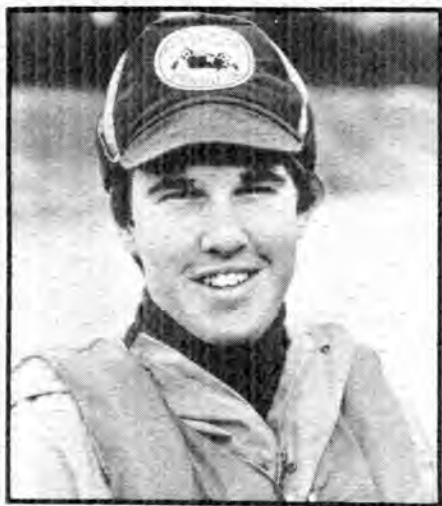
# A CHE—MUN TRANS CANADA C

There's an old Chinese proverb: A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Well, how do you begin a 6000-mile journey by canoe?

If you're Gary and Joanie McGuffin you do it with a blast from your bent-shaft and an eye on the beluga whales. That's how it began for this young couple on their honeymoon titled Trans Canada Canoe Expedition.

Their two year paddle from the St. Lawrence to the Beaufort Sea ended in Tuktoyaktuk at the mouth of the Mackenzie River on August 29. The team essentially retraced the 200-year-old historic route of Alexander Mackenzie of the Northwest Company.

Married days before their departure from Baie Comeau, Quebec, on the St. Lawrence River on May, 5 1983 Gary, 24, and Joan, 22 describe themselves as wilderness adventurers and green horn explorers. They met while studying Outdoor Recreation at Seneca College near Toronto.



**GARY**

Right from the start the trip was exciting as they paddled alongside a pod of Beluga whales near Tadoussac at the mouth of the Saguenay River. That is the only place in the St. Lawrence where the whales are found. Following a serious set-back in Montreal (where most of their equipment was stolen) they carried on with new gear and the sponsorship of Labatt's Breweries. From Montreal the traditional Voyageur route was followed; up the Ottawa River, across the Mattawa and up into Lake Nipissing, down the beautiful French River and then over to Lake Superior for the long paddle to Grand Portage.



Coming out of the mists on Superior the McGuffins met veteran canoe tripper George Luste of Toronto who was paddling the north shore that summer with his daughter. That meeting led later to some alteration in their route as George (who's done just about everything) suggested a more interesting way to get from Reindeer Lake to Wollaston Lake in northern Manitoba.

Incidentally the nine-mile Grand Portage probably didn't bother them too much either. In 1981, after graduation, the two hiked the entire length of the Appalachian Mountains, in canoe terms a 2100 mile portage. They were only the fourth and fifth Canadians to do so.

Part one of the TCCE ended in Manitoba at The Pas in September of 1983. From there it was home to Ontario to plan, write, edit photos and generally get ready for the second phase. Both Gary and Joan are good photographers and took four camera bodies supplied by Pentax and an array of lenses from 17mm to 300mm with an extender. All the cameras were secured in foam coated ammo boxes that worked well. They shot everything (some 6500 exposures) on Kodachrome 64 the professional standard of colour slide films.

Early June found them leaving The Pas on a tough uphill slog to Wollaston Lake. It was here they used Luste's short cut from huge Reindeer Lake (which was eight feet



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# 'TRIP REPORT

## NOE EXPEDITION



### TRANS CANADA CANOE EXPEDITION

THE COMPLETE 6,000 MILE JOURNEY

MAY 5 - SEPT. 6 1983

JUNE 2 - AUG. 29 1984



ING CO. OF LONDON, ONT.

below normal because of damming) to Wollaston eliminating the roundabout Cochrane River route. The beautiful Fond Du Lac River drains Wollaston down to Lake Athabasca and provided a fun ride. Great rapids and weather, superb campsites, a lot of bald eagle sightings and the spectacular Manitou Falls are all a canoeist could ask for, especially on your honeymoon.

From Lake Athabasca it was a two river trip for the final 2000 miles. The Slave River drains into Great Slave Lake and the mighty Mackenzie takes the load the rest of the way to the Beaufort Sea where they arrived at the end of August.

They used one boat for the whole trip, a Kevlar-Epoxy canoe made by Nova Craft of Glanworth, Ontario. The canoe was 18'6" with a beam of 31 inches and depth of 15 inches. It was specially outfitted with a spray cover that rolled in from each end. They used 15 degree bent shaft paddles for flat water and straight ones for white water,

the paddles were supplied by Grey Owl Paddles of Cambridge, Ontario. They used four internal frame Lowe Expedition packs for all their carrying needs.

Food was of the traditional canoe fare including Magic Pantry a foil bag entree (Salisbury Steak is great — Ed. Note) and many other meals were kindly donated by the many fish they met on the way.

This winter is being spent organizing their story and pictures for a book which they are discussing with publishers now. An article on the trip will be included in the January issue of Canadian Geographic magazine. A film deal is also in the works. Since one wasn't made at the time, next summer will be spent re-enacting the trip for the benefit of the cameras. As well they have also been supplying a number of small magazines and newspapers with stories all along the route.

Also occupying the long winter hours will be an exciting trip for Joanie. While Gary will be working on a series of instructional films on kayaking for Global TV in Ontario, Joan will be off to Equador for an unusual



JOAN

and exciting trip. The first two weeks will involve the climbing of a 21,000 foot mountain, the highest in Equador and the highest point on the earth when measured from the earth's center. She will then work distributing 125,000 pairs of eyeglasses with the medical mission who are also organizing the climb.

We'll no doubt certainly be hearing a lot more from this energetic young couple in years to come. Their love for the wilderness and their desire to educate others about it can only help preserve and keep whole what we have as we still have it.





## NICK NICKELS NOTEBOOK

# The Kaminuriak Colossus.

October media news was filled for days about the drowning of some 10,000 head of caribou southward trekking below Limestone Falls on the Caniapiscou River, Northern Quebec. Biologist Stewart Luttich said it was all when he descended the holocaust as having "a devastating effect on the mind."

It affected me that way also because I saw the immense game movement in 1944 while with a bush flying outfit in that region. The sight awed me, for I first saw the Kaminuriak herd three years before that northwest of Churchill, Manitoba on the Barrengrounds. The herd was trekking northward at the end of July, across the barrens, about 125 miles north of Churchill, in the Thala-Anne River country headwaters.

The experience came at the end of a frustrating flying day. We had been pinned down on the beach at the mouth of the Churchill River all day by a cold, strong onshore wind from the bay to the northeast.

By 8am pilot Alf Hollingsworth ordered the Junkers CF-ATF floated off the beach and loaded for Windy Lake post. We took off about 10pm as the rising tide crowded the beluga whales swimming upstream to feed. At 2,500 feet Alf levelled off and headed NNW navigating mostly by spidery caribou trails; in that era that region was a blank on Canadian maps.

Gradually we saw them. So well did they blend with the tundra, hundreds then thousands of caribou spreading out miles wide, it seemed. We started calculating their numbers; the old Pratt and Whitney motor snoring along at 110 mph, overpacing the mob for 25 minutes before we passed the does and calves at the head of the procession. We never did arrive at an estimate of the number of animals.

We finally hovered over Windy Lake post, we hoped, in the light overcast below and did figure-eights for 10 minutes until we spotted a party of Inuit hunters pushing off in four freighter canoes to meet us at Windy Lake.

Post manager Jim Trafford encouraged us to stay overnight - he hadn't seen other white men since Christmas past - and the matter was cinched when it started to snow and we wound up being marooned for 40 hours. We ate half the perishables we had flown in for Jim, and caribou steaks from the "backyard."

We flew on up the Bay coast to Eskimo Point where we based for several days while freighting inland to Padlei Post; the colossal herd had not caught up with us although advance hunters were bringing in meat. We ate meat in every conceivable method of cooking by the Inuit cook, four times a day, and never tired of it.

So, caribou and anything written or filmed about them have fascinated me for 43 years. But 10,000 DEAD animals! An updated and horrifying nightmare.

NICK

## CHE-MUN OUTFIT 40

WE PROFILE *ERIC MORSE*—THE DEAN OF CANADIAN CANOEISTS  
A *CHE-MUN* TRIP REPORT ON THE STIKINE RIVER. A BEAUTIFUL AND WILD BRITISH COLUMBIA RIVER.

PLANNING AN EXPEDITION. WE'LL LOOK AT HOW *CHE-MUN* IS ORGANIZING AND PLANNING FOR A MAJOR CANOE TRIP FOR THE SUMMER OF 1985.

CANOELIT: THE IMPORTANT BOOKS FOR EVERY WILDERNESS CANOEIST AND HOW AND WHERE TO GET THEM.

## News & Notes (continued)

David will show slides and talk about his arctic travels on February 5 at the Greek Orthodox Centre, 3125 Bayview Ave, at 7 pm. The two dollar admission fee goes to help the local Boy Scout group. David will highlight the talk with slides of his Back and Kazan River trips and tips on Arctic canoeing in general. Come and take notes from an expert. CHE-MUN will be there... ALL THAT'S FIT?...The Sunday New York Times of October 28 had a rather mind-boggling canoe piece inside. Titled A True-Life Adventure Tale it related the sad story of five green canoeists (aged 40 to 52, they should know better) who decided the Moisie River on Quebec's North Shore was their cup of tea. With very little experience (or common sense) they found themselves swamped within a hour of being dropped off on the river. Losing a canoe and nearly a life they managed 20 miles in six days of what must have been misery. There was no indication of regret or acknowledgement of their misdeeds. They were lucky to get hauled out on Day 13. Stories like that are very detrimental to all wilderness canoeists and have no place in a forum such as The New York Times...except in the comic section... TRAGEDY SPARKS MEMORIES... The last issue of CHE-MUN reported on the deaths of four young canoeists along the west coast of James Bay last August. Longtime friend and Quetico Provincial Park Naturalist Shan Walshe wrote CHE-MUN to say that when he read the story his mind jumped back 24 years. Shan and his bride, Margie, were married in 1960 and took a honeymoon canoe trip down the Mattagami River from Smooth Rock Falls to Moosonee. When they were on the return train journey they met two other newlyweds who had also just completed a long canoe trip to James Bay. George Grinnell and his wife had paddled the Rupert River on the Quebec side of the Bay and she did it wearing a long skirt! It was their two sons and a nephew who lost their lives on the trip from Fort Albany to Moosonee... THAT OLD CHESTNUT... CHE-MUN had a trip down memory lane or should that be "creek" when we took a look in the repair shop of David Good of Cedarglas Canoe in Aurora just north of Toronto. David takes the lumps and rips out of damaged canvas-covered cedar canoes and he had a good variety of the old Chestnut Canoes of New Brunswick that were in for repair. David knows all about the old ones...new ones too...as he builds a lovely cedar and fibreglass boat himself. There were a few boats sent there that looked more ready for the wood pile than the water, I don't know how he gets those things looking so good. Info?...Cedarglas, 9 Allura Blvd, #10, Aurora, Ont L4G 3N2... IT ALL ADS UP... You will notice that CHE-MUN has its first advertisement in this issue. Don't worry. Only pertinent ads will be accepted and very few of those. And only items which are of genuine interest to canoeists will appear. Besides it keeps those ridiculously low subscription rates just that... SPEAKING OF ADS... That very same first advertiser is Alex Hall who runs "secret" rivers all throughout the Northwest Territories. In fact, Alex swears his clients to secrecy about the rivers they've been on because he wants to keep them private and wild. Alex is well suited to know all about northern rivers, he's been on a few, in fact he has been down the Thelon 15 times and canoed more than 40 rivers in that tough and beautiful part of North America.

# PELLEY

## The tradition continues...

David Pelly spends most of his life in either an igloo or a schoolhouse.

Both abodes are his by choice.

The schoolhouse is a beautifully converted 90-year-old red brick building nestled in the hardwood hills of south-eastern Ontario. The igloo will belong to one of his friends in Baker Lake N.W.T., probably erected to shelter from an unexpected arctic blizzard.

In between, to fill the time, he has canoed two of the mightiest rivers in the N.W.T., travelled across hundreds of miles of winter-strewn barrens and written and spoken extensively on his experiences.

Not bad for a career that "just evolved."

In 1976 David F. Pelly was fresh out of a 10-year stint in the Navy including four years at Royal Military College in Kingston. He seized on an idea that he'd been mulling over for years and organized an expedition down the Back River to honour his ancestor Sir John Henry Pelly, former Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company during its booming period 1822-1852. In his book on the trip, **EXPEDITION**, Pelly blends modern adventure with historical tales including the well-written excerpts of the amazing George Back in an interesting book that lines the bookcase of every serious northern canoeist.

The trip confirmed a notion in David that there was something about the North he had to find more about. Subsequent travel by canoe, foot and dog team have confirmed in him a reverence for the people and the land which fills much of his life today.

David is currently involved in a project with one of the well-known artists of Baker Lake. Annaqtuusi (Ruth Tulutialik) and David are working on a book tentatively titled **Innumarik** which loosely translated means the real or authentic man. It will include 40 - 50 prints by the artist (who draws in coloured pencil!) each depicting a traditional activity in the life of the Inuit - a way of life that is rapidly vanishing. Underneath each will be a written explanation. David is editing and translating the text.

Along with partner Donna Barnett, David will be also be producing a series of slide shows on behalf of the Territorial Government. Destined to be shown in the future Baker Lake visitor centre, the shows are designed to educate the expected influx of tourists to the N.W.T. in the years ahead and make them aware of the Inuit whom David calls "simply the most resourceful people ever to inhabit the earth."

They have both made many friends among the Inuit whose life they slide into easily after the long trip from Southern Ontario. David says it is a pity that more canoeists don't take advantage of their brief contact with The People when in their backyards.



Donna and David at "Beaully" their schoolhouse in the country

"Most of the canoeists who arrive in Baker during the summer are gone the next day," he said adding "however a group of four Americans arrived last summer and while two left immediately the other two kept putting off their departure. They 'took a chance' and talked to one of the locals and ended up making friends and visiting the traditional camps and being taken for a ride in a freighter canoe in Chesterfield Inlet. They stayed for a week and had a wonderful experience.

The Inuit will not approach you and causing many "southerners" to assume they are not friendly. Far from it. Strike up a conversation and you'll find yourself in no time sipping a cup of their tea or more importantly being given a chance to better know these people. Just as the physical nature of the land is different so are the people.

David paddled the Kazan River in 1980 in a 51-day trip chronicled by Jack McKay in the book **ARCTIC ADVENTURE**. The authors' daily narrative along with the input of members journals paints a factual account of an extended wilderness trip. David has authored many articles and speaks regularly to groups on the north and canoeing.

Another of David's many projects is as Canadian organizer of the newly commenced Operation Raleigh. The British-based program will involve young people aged 17-24 in work helping communities and doing scientific research all over the globe. David had been asked to organize one "phase" or three-month session of the project in Canada. You don't have to be a mind reader to know where he will be going.

"Well obviously it will be in the north," he said adding with a smile, "and it will probably involve travel by canoe." He has a lot of time to work on something ambitious as the Canadian segment isn't scheduled until the summer of 1988. Prince Charles is the active Patron of the project whose major sponsors in Canada are EATON'S and George Weston Ltd.

In the meantime he will continue to visit and travel the north for extended periods which includes Christmas this year. One exciting trip awaits him next spring, he has

been asked to participate in the Caribou survey next May and June.

David had a few tips for canoeists in the barren grounds aside from the recognition of your own abilities and a cautious attitude. Force yourself to keep a daily log of your journey, it can be tedious and uncomfortable at times but you'll be thankful for it later.

Divide the food in to three or four sections to be opened at end of each period and put slightly different food in each, different cheese for example, the psychological lift of even that simple change is great. He notices a marked change in food patterns following three weeks on the waters.

"For some reason your appetite just doesn't stop and we'd consume huge amounts of food. Also your tolerance for the cold increases with each day out, I was sitting making notes in a light shirt and vest in sub-freezing weather and didn't even notice 'til someone pointed it out."

Other tips include being patient. Arctic winds can blow hard for up to ten days and with no vegetation to get in the way you feel every ounce of those heavy winds. Also don't plan to be to in the barrens too late, for example in the Back River area don't schedule a trip to last much longer than August 15. After that date David says you'll be lucky to travel one day in two.

David Pelly is part of the new breed of northern man. Coming from the 'south' and living half the year there but recognizing the beauty and uniqueness of the northern land and its people. David took a three-week immersion course in Inuk last summer and can get by in the language. He has been hunting (usually as spectator) and living off the land with the people who know it best, spent time drinking tea, eating caribou intestine, and sharing the lives of the people of Baker Lake.

We are fortunate that he is able to communicate what is happening there with the rest of us. Many canoeists plan to travel in the Inuit's native land, as part of our preparation we should know something of that land and of the amazing people who live there.

David Pelly does. That's why he keeps going back.





photo/norm betts

## A winter work project?

This beauty was built in Toronto several years ago and was reported to have handled best in cool, foaming waves. This canoe was great after a long portage.

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