

CHE-MUN

(Ojibway for canoe)

THE NEWSLETTER OF CANADIAN WILDERNESS CANOEING

OUTFIT 50

CHE-MUN

AUTUMN 1987



photo by Gary Hershorn/Reuter

Dukes, Duchesses & Barrens

Che-Mun World Exclusive

**Andrew & Sarah
canoe the N.W.T.**

Their trip report Page 3



OPERATION RALEIGH CANADA
ARCTIC EXPEDITION
1988

Kazan-bound in '88
Page 9



The real thing is back
Page 10



Fall Packet



We are most pleased to have as our Che-Mun's newest subscribers James West Davidson, 7 Platt Ave., Rhinebeck, N.Y. 12572. Jim is one half of the infamous Dirty Rug and Davidson of Complete Wilderness Paddler Fame.

CWP was the first of a new generation of well-written and knowledgeable books on canoeing and the outdoors. The chapter entitled 'Mouthwatering' was, alone, worth the price of the book.

Jim sent a nice letter along with his subscription cheque. He tells how he and John Ruge are completing work on what promises to be an interesting and long overdue book. Titled *Great Heart: the History of a Labrador Adventure*, it's due to be published by Viking/Penguin in March 1988.

It will tell the story of one of the real heroes and great men of the north - George Elson. Elson was the guide for both ill-fated Leonidas Hubbard and his wife Mina who became the first woman to paddle to George River in 1905.

As Jim says, "Various writers have told the tale from different angles, emphasizing Hubbard, or Wallace, or Mina Hubbard; and while all of those people are, of course, major characters, our favourite is George. We've tried to put him centre stage in our version, which at long last is about to see the light of day."

Jim has promised Che-Mun a review copy of *Great Heart*, so we'll get the word out as soon as we can. Jim also received several back issues of Che-Mun and commented on our travel problems on Hudson Bay (Outfit 46).

"I was quite interested to hear about your transportation woes on the Clearwater, because we did a trip there in 1979 with similar twists. We only had a narrow window of time, so the plan was to fly into Clearwater Lake, canoe to Richmond Gulf, and get picked up by freighter canoe. We had the same sorts of problems with the plane on fly-in - this was the first time we'd chartered something other than on the Labrador side, where mileage includes gas and oil, and when we found gas/oil was additional on the flight in, we had to scrape just about the bottom of our travellers cheques to make it.

"For the route on the way out, we'd hired two freighter canoes by negotiating for 15 minutes in the back of a taxi one rainy afternoon with Charlie Tookalook, the local cab magnate, translating. Had a guy named Sam Korok, who proved to be

really first rate. But we didn't know it at the time and spent an anxious day and a half waiting for him to show up at one of the three rendezvous we'd marked (one primary target and two back-ups - one of which we ended up using, actually.)

"Sad as I was to hear of your story of breaking down, it made me feel a trifle better. As we sat in the back of the cab trying to arrange a price, I recall it was on the order of \$150 per day but we didn't know how long the run would take. One day, with good weather; they said; bad weather could take longer. Knowing how chancy the weather can be along the Bay and imagining the possibility of a go/no-go decision to be made, we could just imagine them opting to wait a day for better weather, especially if they were being paid by the day. (Some friends paddled the distance - not in freighter canoes, just Old Town Trippers - the year before and ended up being windbound for at least seven or eight days.) So we made deal that we'd pay a flat fee for three days, regardless of how long it took them to get us there, to which they readily assented. And of course as it turned out, we started at 2 in the afternoon from Richmond Gulf and were home at Great Whale by midnight! But seeing your story of four-day waits and a seized-up motor makes me think that, had circumstances turned out differently, we might not have made such a bad bargain."

"Blair Richardson, 14319-58 Ave, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 1C9 is a long-time Che subscriber and contributor. His latest note makes a correction to an Outfit 47 News and Notes item about encountering 40 groups on the Coppermine during a trip.

Blair notes it was his group that Pamela Morse was referring to and the number 40 refers to the number of groups who travelled the river in that season. Still, as Blair notes, "the Coppermine is no longer a remote trip." Blair also noted, "I'm always looking for good books to read about Arctic adventures. Found a really good one the other day by Peter Freuchen entitled *Arctic Adventure; My Life in the Frozen North* published by Farrar and Rhinehart, New York, 1925.

"He accompanied the famous Knud Rasmussen in 1910 when they settled at Thule near Cape York on the NE coast of Greenland and later explored in all directions. These explorations were

known as the Thule Expeditions and many books have been published about them."

"For example, the Fifth Thule expedition explored Melville Peninsula, Repulse Bay south to Chesterfield Inlet, and north across Baffin Island to Bylot Island. Freuchen returned to Denmark in 1925 with his two children by his Eskimo wife who perished in the 1927 flu epidemic."

Blair also added that he enjoys Eric Morse's *Freshwater Saga* very much, but "it was just too short for my liking . . . and really just whetted my appetite."

Blair and friends did the Fond du Lac River in early September, retracing one of Eric Morse's early trips, and one which will have had a special and personal touch as Blair explained. "Just before he died Eric very kindly sent me a copy of his trip journal." The traditions continue.

Sid Magee, Simple Building, Town Farm Rd. E. Hampton, Ct. 06424 is a Patagonia fan as much as Che Editor Michael Peake is. (Incidentally Patagonia are Che subscribers!) We met in Toronto in January at George Luste's canoe symposium. A meeting Sid remembers well.

"Being spotted by you in Toronto in January as wearing a Patagonia travellers jacket, or whatever its called, was one thing. But having my nose rubbed in your "pro-discount" status while I was getting rudely dumped out of mine, was too much. You may have taken a few passable pictures, but I gave them creative genius, in the form of many equipment and design ideas.

"However I do owe you one for putting me on to Alladin mugs. Ironically, they are available from many convenience store outlets down here, complete with their logos for less than buying direct from Alladin! And, full of coffee. I use them - winter camping and the different logos keep everyone's mugs straight."

"So, planning for a (short) trip in Labrador (with Stew Coffin), I found a shortage of my favourite bush drink, Spiced Cider, and had to contact Continental Mills. After a lot of jazz about not selling direct, I got an officer, and I told him I knew Michael Peake . . . which drew a blank. But when I told him he was talking to a — explorer he said - hey - he'd send me a case, free, and pass it around to my friends.

"Not having any left, I thought of you."

Continued on Page four

Hanbury-Thelon adventure

Royals in the Barrens

As reported in *Outfit 49 Prince Andrew and wife Sarah* took part in a Barrenlands canoe trip this past summer. Besides the Duke and Duchess the trip included Andrew's former headmaster and wife, an old school chum, two R.C.M.P. officers and guide David Thompson. Here, in a *Che-Mun* world exclusive story, is Guide Thompson's story on the much talked about, but not-as-yet reported, trip.

By David Thompson
©Che-Mun 1987.

Trying to find a landing spot for six Twin Otters is not the usual logistical problem for the Barrenlands tripper. But then, standing on an isolated beach in Sifton Lake, bombarded by with 60-plus photojournalists and cameras from around the world, isn't normal either.

I wondered what the wildlife (what was left of it, and with the exception of the mosquitos) thought of the scene. An affair of; taking down a tent, portaging our Wood's packs to our two 16-foot Mad Rivers and two 17-foot Old Town Trippers to then paddle down the Hanbury River, was orchestrated for the press at the start of the trip to protect the privacy of Prince Andrew and his wife Sarah, the Duke and Duchess of York, and six other members of our canoe party from potentially roving reporters.

One lesson that was immediately evident: the elements were not going to discriminate. The first five days of the trip, that would take us down the Hanbury and Thelon Rivers, were hot, inordinately humid and dead calm; the blackflies and mosquitos had a feast. Some members of the party opted for headnets; others for a generous soaking of Muskol. Nothing seemed to help so some members wore handkerchiefs over their mouths to stop from inhaling the varmints. Trying to eat without swallowing generous quantities of winged protein called for innovative techniques, as did cleaning our dome tents of bugs.



photo/Reuter

Sarah, Duchess of York, was posing for this photo in front of the world's press at the start of their Barrens canoe trip. She picked up what she was told was a light pack but she had some trouble. She discovered later that eight rocks had been added to it by fellow trip members.

I'm sure that our unanimous, constant wishes revolved around the wind blowing. Around the sixth day our wishes were answered. Headwinds from the east for the rest of the trip! The winds on the shallow lakes and stretches of the Hanbury and wide passages on the Thelon River produced some difficult paddling.

However, the scales of nature have to even out somewhere and for us it was the wildlife and scenery. Although we started the trip (July 27) about a week after the major Beverly

caribou herd had passed the Thelon Game Sanctuary, we saw quite a few stragglers; old cows and bucks and young calves that could not keep up with the herd.

Caribou Rapids on the Hanbury River seemed (naturally) to be a major crossing point; we had the odd calf park himself in our campsite, and other caribou stare in amazement at our four blue domes on the tundra. In addition, we saw several nests of peregrine falcons and hundreds of Canada geese. The highlight was the

number of herds of caribou we encountered. Not particularly perturbed by our presence, the large woolies usually continued to graze as we drifted past and took photographs. Above Ursus Islands we shared a campsite with one muskox that didn't see the need to vacate his territory (for that matter, either did we and besides who is going to argue.)

Although the fishing was not as good as when the ice first leaves the lakes, everyone caught fish. The bright red meat of the lake trout, freshly cooked, is a treat that can't be beaten. After breaking several lures we caught a 20 lb. pike about ten miles up from Hornby's cabin.

We carried enough fresh food for five days and enough bacon for the full 12 days. The bacon was kept 'preserved' by sliding it down the outside of the pack and placing that side on the bottom of the canoe to allow the coolness of the water to keep it semi-refrigerated. Wrapping the bacon in vinegar-soaked cheese cloth also helped.

The rest of our meals were fresh fish and 'boil in bag' dinners, which are easy to prepare, have good portions but are quite heavy. Our lunches were freshly baked bread, peanut butter, jam, honey, cheese, gorp and salami (affectionately known as donkey walloper). Our lunches were usually floating to avoid the bugs. Our desserts were cakes, such as strawberry short cake-easy with white cake mix, easy whip and freeze dried strawberries, sponge cake, pies and chelsea buns. All this is possible with a Coleman Oven, a lightweight, folding, box-shaped device with a built-in thermometer, that is placed right on the grill for heat.

Historically the river has attracted an unusual assortment of characters: Radford and Street who were evidently killed by the Inuit in the early 1930's, Hanbury, Hoare and, of course, John Hornby, Harold Adlard and Edgar Christian. Trying to explain what the trio must have experienced in the

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Page three

Che-Mun Editorial



Summer of death

Right this way to 'White-water Death'.

The way things operate in the rafting game such a come-on would probably not hinder the business of many of these operators.

This summer has seen the death of 12 rafters in British Columbia, six on the Chilko River alone. There have been several near misses on Ontario's Ottawa River. The main reason: vicious competition between operators who promise the greater thrill - the bigger rapid.

A recent report on CBC radio talked to several of one rafter's customers.

"We want to drink a lot of beer, run some rapids, have some more beers and then run some more rapids", one daredevil said.

"We're hear to conquer this river . . . and drink a lot," chimed in another.

Such Neanderthal comments explain why this industry is having a bad summer. Hermann Kerckhoff, who runs Owl Rafting and Madawaska Kanu Camp appears to be one of the sensible operators.

His group was forced to run White Faced Monster, the Ottawa's biggest rapid, because his competitors did so, and after his customers complained when he wouldn't. However Kerckhoff was the first to wear

helmets, now mandatory, and has tried to bring a greater air of responsibility to the rafting scene. He has been met with great resistance from fellow operators.

The basic problem with this industry as any wilderness canoeist is aware, stems from the attitude of the 'customers'.

They have no respect for the river. They view rapids as a liquid roller-coaster, there for a fun ride between beers.

A canoeist will scout the rapid, and pick the best route down, usually skirting the big stuff. A rafter barges down the river like an out-of-control drunk. But he doesn't understand the dangers of the river or how it works.

They careen from rock to eddy, waving their tiny plastic paddles with an air of misguided authority. The only real surprise in this summer of death is that it hasn't happened sooner.

"Whoever takes the most risks for thrill-seeking customers will sell the most tickets," says Mr. Kerckhoff.

That is the economic reality of the thrill business. Perhaps it's time the governments stepped in to regulate this fatal form of thrill-seeking that gives all river users a bad name.

Fall Packet



Many thanks, Sid, for the Spiced Cider, we can't get that up here. We'll use it on our trip to Quetico at the end of September. Oh yes, one other item. Sid will no doubt be pleased to learn that the beautiful and vaunted Patagonia Catalog has used one of the Hide-Away Canoe Club photos by Michael Peake of last summer's trip across Ungava (Che Outfit 46) in their Fall 1987 catalog.

It's a photo that was reproduced in Che-Mun showing Geoff Peake and Kate Schnaidt standing on an ice floe in Hudson Bay when we were stranded. The reproduction is sure a lot better in Patagonia's publication.

Incidentally, the photo was taken during our forced layover of four days after our Inuit guide's boat broke down. Which proves every cloud has a Synchronia lining.

Hermann Harbisch, Wilhelmstr. 3, D-6382 Friedrichsdorf, West Germany is a long-time Che-Mun subscriber. And, as you can see by our special Che-Mun 50 sections, a frequent contributor to Nick Nickels' issues.

He writes to comment on some Outfit 49 articles.

"Robert Hess's letter gives the idea that nearly all foreign groups of canoeists don't obey the rules and regulations of your country. I have now made eight trips into the Canadian wilderness (including Nahanni, Coppermine, Kazan). On all these trips we had a fishing license for each person with a fishing rod.

"I know lots of German kayakers who have paddled in Canada. They have used a fishing license when travelling by canoe or kayak on Canadian rivers.

"Of course, I met German groups without a license, especially on the Yukon River. The river is well-known in Germany. Several travel offices sell canoe trips on this river, guided and non-guided. I think the Canadian companies who supply the boats and equipment should ensure their clients have licenses.

"Another question is about the debate over North American camping equipment. I know that in Canada very good camping equipment is available though it is much more expensive than in Germany. So I can understand why some people in Canada can't make use of it. Often it is a question of having enough money - and lots of wilderness travellers are young people with not much money.

"If a European group arrives in Canada they often have a real problem to locate good camping gear, especially in the small northern towns. That makes people believe there is not much good camping gear available in Canada. Of course, that is not true.

"When we met Canadian groups on the water we often spoke with them about good equipment. We get good ideas from looking at their gear and I think they can get some good ideas from us too. We can learn from each other like Carl Traeholt wrote in his letter.

Continued on Page eleven

Che-Past

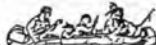
The look has changed
But the message hasn't

CHE-MUN

A quarterly international canoeing newsletter compiled from correspondence, trip logs, media clips.



CHE-MUN - Ojibwa word for canoe
Year 8 no. 28 March 1981



The Only International Canoeing Newsletter

CHEMUN

7th Year No. 25

Lakefield, Ontario June, 1980

6-page Quarterly



The Only International Canoeing Newsletter

CHEMUN

5th Year No. 21

Lakefield, Ontario June 1979

6-page Quarterly

Ojibwa Indian for the word CANOE Quarterly Newsletter



CHEMUN

Nick Nickels, Lakefield, Ontario, Canada K0L 2H0

Vol. 4 No. 2 June 1977



CHE-MUN

A new method for Canoe Canada Quarterly

Vol 2 No 8 1975

CANOE

CANADA QUARTERLY



Vol 2 No 3

March 1975

The Only International News-gathering Letter Lakefield, Ontario, Canada K0L 2H0

CANOE CANADA



QUARTERLY

Vol 1 No 4

Lakefield, Ontario, Canada, K0L 2H0

June, 1974

With the death of Nick Nickels last May an era in Canadian canoe publishing ended. (See Outfit 49)

Nick started this newsletter 13 years ago as a supplement to his tripping service, Canoe Canada. He helped supply canoeists with maps and logistics for trips and a newsletter on the subject was a natural outgrowth.

It began as Canoe Canada Quarterly in June 1974 and shortly after was transformed into Che-Mun, for reasons described on the next page. Nick continued to supply trippers with info but it was more for the love than the money.

The look of Che-Mun changed constantly. It was printed on different sized paper, in different colours and the logo changed

from time to time. It was a photocopied publication, hand-typed with "borrowed" graphics, occasional typos (a tradition we've continued) and a certain charm all its own.

Nick covered all the issues related to wilderness canoeing. Outfit 50 is not the first issue to feature Prince Andrew and a canoe. Che-Mun Outfit 14 (below right) was there when Andrew received a beautiful cedar strip canoe from the incomparable Walter Walker (center). Incidentally, this photo was taken while Andrew was a student at Lakefield College School, very close to where Nick lived. In the photo on the right, is Headmaster Terry Guest who was also with Andrew and Sarah on their Barrens trip this summer.

CHEMUN
7th Year No. 27 Lakefield, Ontario June, 1980 6-page Quarterly

canoe country holocaust

Several fires on the east coast of the 1980 Forest Fire Zone have burned the greatest timber, wildlife and recreation areas of the eastern part of the province. The fire zone of 1980 is the largest ever recorded in the province. It is a holocaust of fire. The fire zone is the largest ever recorded in the province. It is a holocaust of fire. The fire zone is the largest ever recorded in the province. It is a holocaust of fire.

CHEMUN
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FOUR BRASSIERE BARS

MOOSE

MOOSE - Ojibwa word for canoe
Year 9 no. 28 March 1981

Ojibwa Indian for the word CANOE Quarterly Newsletter

CHEMUN
Nick Nickels, Lakefield, Ontario, Canada K0L 2H0 Vol. 4 No. 2 June 1977

CANOE PLEASURES QUEEN'S SON

LAKEFIELD, Ont., Prince Andrew, 16, 2nd son of Queen Elizabeth II, an exchange student at Lakefield College School for a semester, was presented with a handsome cedar strip canoe June 15 by the village council, a token of respect for his visit. The prince was delighted. And will His Royal Highness might be pleased.

See P123, pg 12

WELCOME BACK - Outfit 38 Fall 1984

As you may remember, my original newsletter ceased publication in June 1983 after almost a decade of publishing. Increases in postal rates and no supporting advertising revenue made its demise inevitable.

Throughout the silent period there were queries from would-be Che publishers which I considered carefully. After many months of being "turned over on the rack to dry", Michael and Geoffrey Peake appealed to me as worthy successors for many reasons.

Michael, a former contributor to Che-Mun pieces, has a background of college journalism and is currently staff photographer with the Toronto Sun. He and his brothers are crack Canadian wilderness canoe trippers and hikers, and Michael, the author of several published reports. And, of course, thoroughly familiar with all aspects of current print journalism.

Without question the Peakes are my chosen successors and new publishers of Che-Mun. I turn it over to them cheerfully and with good conscience that the Peakes will do born-again Che-Mun proud, and then some.

Bonne Chance!



POSTAL WOES - Outfit 30 Autumn 1981

Our Ojibway friend Austin McCue reminded us this week that the wild rice in Clark's marsh would be ready for harvesting in the first week of September.

In another way he is hinting that fall is here and summer canoeing activity is drawing to a close.

What a summer!

The Canada postal strike since July 1 is reflected in the absence of correspondence we are wont to print on this page. Fortunately our considerable files provided sufficient information for our game plan. Its delivery, however, is in the same-day category.

Wilderness canoe tripping in Canada was very light (which we did predict correctly); expensive travel costs to put-in; uncertain employment at home. Its popularity, according to our records, flourished for the decade 1971 to 1980.

We do not suppose interest in it will flag but will continue in armchair participation in print.

DISMAL? — Outfit 35 December 1982

"December 25, 1911 was one of the most pleasant Christmas days that I ever spent. Lion was responsible for the dinner, an Arctic hare; he surpassed himself making a plum pudding served with blueberry jam he had made in the summer.

A most splendid dinner!

John Hornby and Father Rouvier were guests. We had a toddy and played a game of "twenty-one", using squares of chocolate for stakes.

In conclusion we had a grand supper of smoked caribou tongues."

(an excerpt from George M. Douglas' book Lands Forlorn; locale of cabin on Dease River near the Dismal Lakes not far from the Coppermine River.

A NEW NAME — Outfit 6 September 1975

What's in a name?

There is one advantage about being a private publisher; you can call yourself names of all kinds without any thoughts of libel. And it was just one such whim that prompted us to change the name of this newsletter.

And there are valid reasons for doing so.

Che-Mun is the Ojibway Indian name for canoe. We publish this newsletter on the ancient Ojibway-Iroquois borderland and a mere 12 miles away, the old, popular building site in the Kawartha Lakes region of Ontario was Chemung Lake. This name has been Anglicized to Chemong/Chemung but it's close enough.

Another dozen miles away in the opposite direction is the famous Peterborough Petroglyph Park where more than 900 rock carvings by Indian youths some 500 years ago depict among them a great many Che-Mun's; the site was discovered in 1954 about which we did the first reporting of the find and much more writing since.

Coming to the pseudo-syllabic lettering style of Che-Mun we honour the spot, still in the

Kawartha at Rice Lake where Rev. James Evans, a Methodist missionary at Hiawatha Indian Reserve in the 1830's travelled to Norway House, Manitoba, and while there, invented the Cree letter characters out of tea chest lead; they are now universally typed and read by northern Indians and Eskimos.

This spring while talking to the head of a large publishing house, he deplored the combination of words like "Canoe Canada"; it sounded to him too much like some federal government affiliate (Air Canada, etc., etc.) We agree.

The fifth straw in the wind was the study of the excellent Wilderness canoe Association newsletter Beaverdam in which some members wrote in to complain about the clever title and suggested something mousey like Pack & Paddle or Wilderness Canoeist. We can only hope that the editor ignores their suggestion.

So, Che-Mun it is for these five valid reasons and our determination to stand on our own two feet and call ourselves names that we think appropriate.



WHAT'S chemun

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It's OJIBWA for canoe.
It's the only international newsletter on canoeing.

It's non-profit.
This issue is Number 26 in its 7th year.
Published quarterly, CHEMUN costs \$5 a year
Nick Nickels, Lakefield, Ont
editor/publisher

JOIN, RE-NEW, CONTRIBUTE, ENJOY



Nick Nickels

Che-Mun's The Man

Nick Nickels' Che—Mun was a very personal affair. In each issue Nick dispensed his views on many subjects; his disfavour with the post office, a love of canoe tripping and corresponding with paddlers, and especially his love for the land and its great natural resources. He saw a lot of Canada in his lifetime and wanted us all to be aware of what this country is all about. We present a sampling of Nick's writings including his farewell editorial.



MERCI - Outfit 32 Spring 1982

About the third week of April we listen at dark for the arrival of northbound Canadas as they plane onto the last of the ice fingers that linger on our lake at break-up.

The big geese may be delayed a few hours or, if snow squalls are in the air, for a day or two. However long they stay we lie abed nights listening to their constant gabble-talking. And smile.

Our reliable harbingers are telling us once again another lakeland spring has arrived.

A not reliable spring forerunner is correspondence from canoeists who would prefer to travel in Quebec and New Brunswick. We have to answer them in the negative apologising.

It has long since been apparent to us that the New Brunswick government cannot be bothered with such sport; it conflicts with the lucrative salmon fishing on their main rivers where "canoeing" translates to hired guides poling fishermen over the salmon grounds. A report says Parks Canada has surveyed the St. Croix and the Restigouche for wild park sites.

Quebec Province is so militantly determined to separate from Canada that government departments have for some time engaged in slowdown tactics as answering inquiries about canoeing haphazardly and when they do answer, in French.

Both of these discourtesies infuriate would-be U.S. trippers. Fellow (so far) Canadians have long since stopped trying to gather information since that is what Quebecers hope to imply.

FAREWELL - Outfit 37 June 1983

The first six months of the 1983 season has been the most strange and disappointing since the publication of Che-Mun started almost a decade ago.

While circulation has been modest but constant, it plummets after June and should normally rise again.

The first four months, generally busy assisting trippers in planning their summer routes, I have received a mere trickle of queries, fewer still confirmations. You see, it is the planning section of my enterprise that generates the funds that keep Che-Mun financially afloat. Canadian postal rates have more than doubled since mid-February.

These two factors, and the continuing recession, have forced me to stop publication of Che-Mun with this, the June 1983 issue.

Readers may wonder at the content of this issue. News has been replaced by personally associated historic pieces.

Che-Mun has brought me one of the happiest experiences of my life. It has generated hundreds of letters and subscriptions from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Great Britain, West Germany and Belgium, but chiefly from 43 of the United States and Canada.

Many readers have become faithful correspondents. I will miss them all. While hoping to continue hearing from serious canoeists, helping them with planning problems, Che-Mun can now be considered "dragged ashore and turned over."

Thanks everyone. It's been great fun.

Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2nd MAY 1670

Outfit 10 June 1976

At the start of our newspapering days a managing editor gave us a copy of the useful Canadian Press Style Book; how to phrase and spell out all manner of reporting situations. We still refer to it.

Under the section PLACE NAMES, Spelling to watch (National Geographic Society style) is listed Hudson Bay. We have a thing going for the correct name that appears incorrectly in a great deal of written material and have written nit-picking notes to various offenders when a black mood is upon us.

Here is the correct usage of Hudson Bay;

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY founded 1670, one of the free world's great commercial enterprises.

HUDSON BAY, the 600-mile indented coastline bay that almost divides Canada's land mass.

HUDSON BAY, SASK., a junction point on the Canadian National Railway.

HUDSON BAY MINING & SMELTING a vast mining complex in northern Manitoba.

HERE BEFORE CHRIST, an abbreviation of the HBCo. used by westerners and northerners since the tracks were laid.

Che-Mun - on to 100!

As we leave our half-hundredth outfit behind and head to other milestones, we are hopeful Che-Mun will continue its growth and evolution.

Che-Mun is, still, very much a one-man operation. I understand the joy Nick Nickels received in putting this publication out. The comments from readers are most welcome, they are often kind and always encouraging.

Below you see the issue of Che-Mun's modern era from Autumn 1984 (Outfit 38) to the present. Che-Mun is put together with the great assistance of the Toronto Sun newspaper. They supply the facilities for me to do the layout and

typesetting. Without their help Che-Mun would not be financially possible.

Che-Mun has a small but very knowledgeable group of subscribers and our continual growth is both pleasing and essential. If you know someone who would enjoy Che-Mun send us their name and we'll pass along a complimentary copy.

I'd like to think we've got something special going here . . . let's not lose it.

Michael Peake, Editor.

Operation Raleigh's *Operation Pelly*

Those of you planning a leisurely paddle down the Kazan River in the summer of 1988, beware.

David Pelly and 32 friends will also be there.

The Barren Lands will be invaded next summer by a band of international Venturers, lead by Canadian canoeman Pelly. Operation Raleigh will move to Canada for the final phase of its five year worldwide program.

The Arctic Phase involves a six-week, 350 mile canoe trip down the Kazan from Angikuni Lake to Baker Lake starting on July 3, 1988. If that sounds like a slow pace, you're right. The trip is deliberately that, because the group will be doing a great deal of archaeological work along the historically rich Kazan or Inuit Kute River of Men.

Operation Raleigh, under the Patronship of H.R.H. Prince Charles, has been doing a variety of adventure/scientific/community help projects all over the world for the past four years. Named after English explorer, Sir Walter Raleigh, the project is designed to challenge young people aged 17 to 24 with exciting projects that require teamwork, stamina and a sense of adventure.

Previous Raleigh projects have involved studying blind dolphins in the Indus River, diving for shipwrecks off the coast of Africa or building a school in Kenya.

The canoe trip will draw on the full resources of the land around them. Besides the study of archaeological sites they will be observing wildlife, the nature of the land, permafrost and tundra, and learning about the history of the Kazan River Inuit.

The Arctic Expedition will also have an Inuk youth as part of the Venturer team.

David Pelly, author of the book Expedition, about an historically-oriented canoe trip down the Back River, and an experienced Arctic traveller has been in the process of organizing this trip for several years and has assembled a strong team around him. Eight group leaders will accompany the expedition. Each has a particular area of expertise from archaeology to medicine.

The leaders include; Pelly, Jim Raffan (Editor of Wild Waters), Marc Cote and Dr. Michael Whittier plus five others. That makes for a group of 32 -unwieldy to say the least. But Pelly has planned to break the group down into four smaller units, each doing different areas and sides of the river, to minimize impact on the land. The groups will leapfrog down the river, occasionally getting together as one.



**OPERATION RALEIGH CANADA
ARCTIC EXPEDITION
1988**

The final selection has not been made but the entire group of 24 will have members from; the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Jersey (in the Channel Islands) and Italy. This international selection will augment a group of four Venturers each from Britain and Canada.

The group will finish the trip in their base camp at Baker Lake where they'll stay for a short while to get acquainted with the descendants of the Inuit whose civilization they were studying along the shores of the Kazan.

"The expedition is -logistically -almost ready to go," said David Pelly. "We're still doing things such as the final selection process but the travel arrangements (provided by VIA Rail) are in place and we are doing work on final equipment arrangements."

For most of the Venturers such an experience will be completely new to them. The selection process consists of a very rigorous weekend of training where "candidates are pushed to their physical and mental limits".

One other stipulation is that those chosen as Venturers are asked to raise \$2,500 each for Operation Raleigh. This should prove good experience if any of them develop a taste for canoeing in the Barrens.

Che-Mun is happy to announce that we are planning to accompany the group for a short distance and will report on their progress. Che-Mun Editor Michael Peake is scheduled to fly-in with Hide-Away Canoe Club Chief Guide Geoffrey Peake to join the group for a week on Angikuni Lake near the start of the expedition.

The logo for The Arctic Expedition, as shown on this page, was designed by Ken Burgin is based on the Inukshuk, which also signifies the archaeology of the Canadian Arctic Phase. The light (blue) arc over the Inukshuk represents the water route of the expedition. The dark (blue) arc represents the land and the barren shores of Baker Lake Base Camp.

The official map of Operation Raleigh and Venturer's certificate of completion were designed by Sean Peake, also of the Hide-Away Canoe Club. (The map is reproduced on Page 12)



Operation Raleigh Arctic Phase Director David Pelly (left) shows renowned

Canadian diver Dr. Joe MacInnis the route of their Kazan River trip.

News & Notes

FRENCH FINDS . . . The historic French River, canoe route of the voyageurs on their trek westward to Grand Portage, is still turning up relics. One recent find would even be a relic to the voyageurs. Two amateur scuba divers hauled a 400-year-old Huron cooking pot up from the bottom of the river near a set of rapids on the main channel of the river which drains into Georgian Bay. The 9-inch round pot, with a 4-inch collar on the top probably fell from an Indian canoe 100 years before the first European set foot in what is now Ontario. The divers refused to reveal the exact location of their find because they intend to go back for another search. The pot which they lent to the Royal Ontario Museum for renovation, will eventually be preserved and returned to the French River where it will be displayed in a small museum a local businessman is planning to build to house a great variety of French River findings.

FRENCH FINDS II . . . A tragic canoeing accident at least had a happy ending this past July in the Northwest Territories. Lydia Marie Barragan was rescued after walking 60 miles, in six days through the rugged taiga north of Great Bear Lake. Barragan and her companion Jean Jacques LeFranc, both 28 and both from France, were camped north of Colville Lake in the NW corner of the Territories. A forest fire forced the couple to flee their campsite and when crossing a lake the wind swamped their canoe and LeFranc drowned while trying to swim to shore. Barragan, showing remarkable presence of mind, gathered up some clothing, compass, knife, matches and a bit of food. She followed seismic lines cut through the trees made by Petro-Canada, waded naked through freezing rivers with her clothes above her head and walked at night because of the bugs and heat. She eventually made it to a cabin on Colville Lake where he happened to be found by a chance visit by the owner. The French couple had planned to spend the winter studying caribou. Shades of Hornby!

WAGER A GOOD BET . . . A new lodge in the fabulous Barren Lands of the Keewatin District of the N.W.T. is now open for business. Called Sila (Inuktituk for outside) the luxury, by northern standards, lodge is located at the end of Wager Bay—a long inlet on the west coast of Hudson Bay. Veteran Arctic traveller and Che-Mun subscriber David Pelly reports that it has the finest facilities he has seen in the Keewatin. Sila is run by three Inuit from the Keewatin which alone makes it a unique endeavour. The lodge offers some of the finest hiking in the Barrens in addition to char fishing, polar bear and caribou watching. They can accommodate up to 30 guests and have both a main lodge and five cabins with double bedrooms. The cost is \$3000 per week inclusive from Winnipeg and more info is available from Travel Keewatin, 272 Park Ave., Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 1C5. Certainly a comfortable introduction to the Barrens for those unable arrange a trip themselves.

MASON RAVES . . . Anyone who has read *Path of the Paddle* is aware of the great respect Bill Mason has for Chestnut Prospector canoes. While the original company went under a dozen years ago "Chestnut" canoes have popped up everywhere and in every material. Well, there is only one official Chestnut—and the company that owns that trademark is Muskoka Fine Watercraft of Toronto. They make a Prospector in wood and canvas—not from the original mould but from a newly built and refined one. So what does Mr. Mason have to say about these MFW boats?

Bill suspects "that the workmanship has never been equalled even in the heyday of the Chestnut and Peterborough Canoe Companies. The quality of the ribs, planks, gunwales, stem-bands, thwarts, seats and finish couldn't be better. Who are these guys you've got working for you?" Che-Mun has seen and paddled the MFW Chestnut Prospector and all we can say is "Ditto." For more info write: Muskoka Fine Watercraft, 1 Polson St., On the Water, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5A 1A4.

NASTAWGAN NO. 1 . . . The Canadian Historical Association has awarded Nastawgan—The Canadian North by Canoe and Snowshoe their Certificate of Merit as 'the best book published in 1986 on the regional history of Canada's north'. This book was the big literary surprise of '86 and a well-deserved winner of this award. Published by Betelgeuse, Nastawgan is a series of essays on travel through Canada's north. Edited by Bruce Hodgins and Margaret Hobbs with a forward by Eric Morse, each of the 15 articles examine a unique and compelling aspect of the north ranging from history of travel in the Barrens to women's journeys by canoe. The second edition (in soft cover) has just been released. If you can't find it contact Betelgeuse Books, 53 Fraser Ave., Bldg. 7, Suite 093, Toronto, Ontario M6K 1Y7. As Betelgeuse says the second edition contains everything the first edition did - except the typos!

CANEXUS CONNECTS US . . . For the intellectual canoeist and those with a scholarly interest in the canoe as "archetypal icon of the present-day Canadian psyche"—CANEXUS offer a stimulating weekend of discussion. CANEXUS is a conference exploring the canoe in Canadian culture and will be held at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario on November 20-22. Canoeing luminaries such as Bill Mason, Kirk Wipper and George Dyson will present discussions on a wide variety of canoe-related topics. A full set of the more than a dozen conference papers will be given to all those attending. Topics include; "The Canoe and Myths of the Canadian North", "Stone Age Babies and 20th Century Mothers", "Grey Owl and the Uniquely Canadian Myth" and "Paddles, Paintbrushes and Hockey Sticks (and other essentials)"—that one is Mason's. There will be canoe displays, paintings and models and a chance to chat with the canoeing cognoscente. Registration is limited to 130 participants. Cost is \$120. For additional info contact; CANEXUS, Faculty of Education, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. K7L 3N6. Che-Mun will, naturally, be there.

FRESH-INFO FOR FRESHWATER . . . While most Che-Mun subscribers received an order form for Eric Morse's book *Freshwater Saga* with *Outfit 48* we did not publish the address in the issue itself and U.S. orders are now being handled in the States. So, officially, here is the ordering information for a great book—*Freshwater Saga*. There are two versions available. The hardcover is \$20.00 and the paper copy is \$9.95 in both countries in their respective currencies. Canadians can order through University of Toronto Press, 63A St. George St. Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A6. Americans should order through NorthWord Inc. Box 128, Ashland, WI, 54806. Incidentally, the U of T Press is still selling copies of Eric's first book *Fur Trade Canoe Routes of Canada*—an indispensable volume at C\$7.95

MAD ABOUT RIVERS . . . Bill and Keefer Irwin are Mad River Canoe's travelling demo team—and great ambassadors they are. Returning to their cabin in northern Saskatchewan following a busy summer of canoe talks, including L.L. Bean's Maine Canoe Symposium, they ran into noted canoeist Cliff Jacobson in La Ronge, Sask. Cliff's group had just lost an Old Town Tripper in a canoe trailer mishap. So, Bill and Keefer's van-loaded with Mad Rivers—was an enticing sight. Good people that they are, the Irwins loaned Cliff and Co. a 17-foot Explorer for their trip on the Cree River. We'll no doubt read all about it in an upcoming CANOE magazine report.

Fall Packet



"I don't think that is 'putting down Canada while taking advantage of our hospitality'. Even in the North I've met met so many wonderful people I can't think we are any better or smarter than Canadians. We can learn from another and that is possible by speaking together, by tongue and by writing. (Ed. Note - like in Che-Mun!)"

"Also, you tried a sea kayak and found it a well-working craft on the sea (see Che-Mun outfit 49). You finished the article with 'but keep them away from the Barrens- that's where the canoe is king!'"

"I have travelled the Coppermine (from Duchess Lake to tidewater - (see Che-Mun Outfit 33) and the Kazan River (from Kasba Lake to Baker Lake) in a folding kayak and found that, when crossing the large lakes that appear on these rivers, I could paddle through force six (

on the Beaufort scale) conditions or greater over water like Baker or Point Lakes. Remember, the inland Inuit had little trouble traversing the Barrens in their kayaks.

"On some of the tricky rivers of the MacKenzie Range, the Redstone, the Silverberry and the Ravens-Throat rivers for example, a well-shaped kayak is more useful than a canoe. Our group could start off in our kayaks just five miles downstream from glacier where the river starts. Our friends with canoes had to line this stretch for several days.

"And, of course, there is the question of being used to handling a canoe or a kayak. On my trips I prefer a kayak, because that's what I'm used to. But I also know the advantages of a canoe - it's much easier to load and unload, it's roomy, it's easier to handle with two paddlers, and so on.

"In closing, I heard with sorrow the passing of Nick Nickels. We exchanged letters for many years, and was quite worried as he hadn't written since the early spring. I now know why. So I'm very glad to read that Outfit 50 will look back to the early issues and the origin of Che-Mun. I believe this will be the best way to remember the man who started Che-Mun."

What we will ensure is the final comment on our international debate on canoeing practices comes in another letter from the person who threw out the first bitch. Carl Traeholt, Moldaugade 13, 4th, 2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark, sent a letter outlining his recent trip in northern Scandinavia. He arrived back to his awaiting Che-Mun and more comments from Robert Hess.

"I can't, nor will, defend any European canoeists who have done things like Mr. Hess mentions . . . I should add that my party, who did the entire Thlewiaza River in 1985, ALL carried fishing licences AND hunting licences for small game. Also we received papers with rules and regulations from the Department of Renewable Resources in Yellowknife. About fishing, we caught enough for ONE meal at a time and we used barbless hooks.

"I assure Mr. Hess that I like Canada, its wilderness and, most of all, its people. Canada is one of the most beautiful countries I've visited, and I've been treated very well. I look forward to coming back. As for the assertion that we foreigners want to claim the land for their king, I can only say that the Danish monarch is a queen - who might find that remark discriminatory!"

Enough said.

Royal

Continued

winter of 1925-26 does nothing to actually being on the site and seeing the scattered remains of their tiny cabin and the three broken crosses tucked in the stunted trees that are now the sole testimony of their ordeal. It was a sombre moment for all of us, a grim reminder of the fragility of the individual against the powerful forces of nature.

Any trip has its light moments. On the first night a few of us told the Duke and Duchess that we were going 'over the hill' to collect ptarmigan eggs - a ritual that would have to be performed every night if we wanted to have fresh eggs each morning. We disappeared over the hill, yelled and screamed, ran around on the tundra flailing our paddles. We then painted and rolled in the dirt a half dozen Grade A Large eggs we'd brought with us. Returning to the campsite with our find we informed the Duchess that it was her turn the next night. She was puzzled, though we never did determine whether it was by our technique or how did the ptarmigan lay such large eggs.

Several days into the trip, when the bugs were at their chomping best and as we were entering our first set of serious rapids, we saw a single engine

plane circle overhead several times getting lower each time and then flying off toward the downstream lake. After spending several hours scouting, portaging and running the rapids we entered the lake to see a float plane tied up behind a lone island. A couple of us paddled over to the bug-infested spot. Looking as if they were on a deer-stalking trip were two British tabloid newsmen with huge lenses. (*Editor's Note: From the notorious News of the World.*) When we asked if they would depart, they seemed relieved. One asked that we convey to the Duke that "these have been the worst three hours of my entire life."

On the first couple of days of our trip as the bugs threatened to provide a sequel to Hitchcock's 'The Birds', the Duchess asked me, "What is it about this canoeing that you like?."

Trying to explain the sense of accomplishment, closeness, and serenity among others on a canoe trip is difficult at the best of times, but perhaps more oenerous in the N.W.T.

However, a week into the trip, the Duchess turned to me and said, "I love it!"

Another person lured to the Barrens.

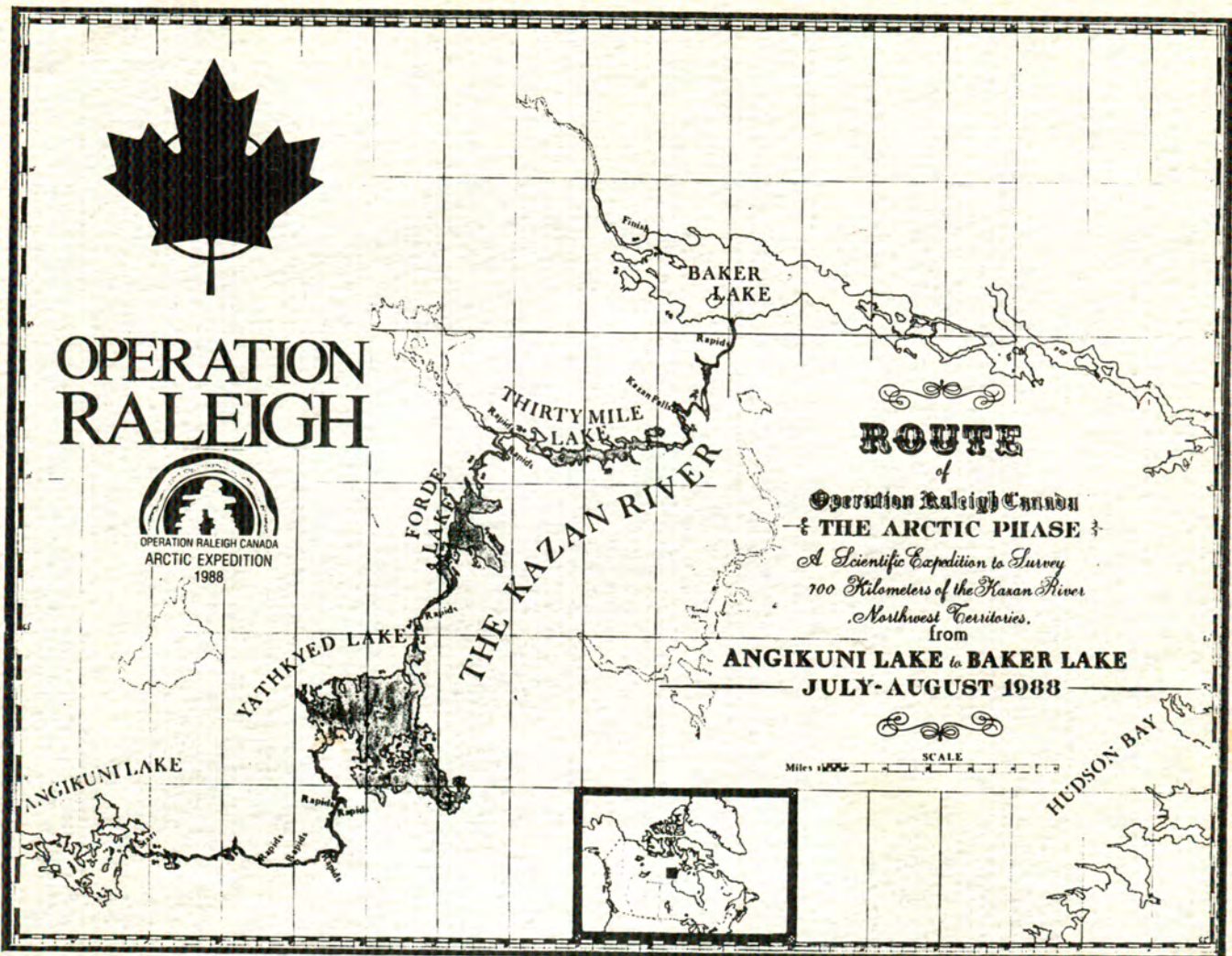
David Thompson is a wilderness guide and a Toronto lawyer with Young, Owens and Wright.



Our back pages

There are a number of back issues of Che-Mun available from Outfit 38 to the present. The prices are according to their scarcity and include postage.

- Outfit 38 -- Ft. William Rendezvous, Magpie R. \$3.00
- Outfit 39 -- Trans Canada Canoe Exped. D. Pelly \$3.50
- Outfit 40 -- Tribute to Eric Morse/Les Voyageurs \$6.00
- Outfit 41 -- Grand Canal Scheme/Thlewiaza River \$3.00
- Outfit 42 -- The Morse River Expedition Part One \$5.00
- Outfit 43 -- The Morse River Expedition Part Two \$5.00
- Outfit 44 -- Bill Mason & Dog R./Athabasca Letter \$3.00
- Outfit 45 -- Rivers of Canada/Pipe R by E. Morse \$3.00
- Outfit 46 -- Hudson to Ungava/Stew Coffin report \$3.00
- Outfit 47 -- Heritage Rivers/TransCanadian canoe \$3.00
- Outfit 48 -- Morse memoirs/Canoeists slide fest \$3.00
- Outfit 49 -- Sea kayaking/ Hudson Bay debacle \$3.00



This map is a copy of the large mural map that Sean Peake made for Operation Raleigh's Arctic Phase (story on Page nine). The original measures four feet wide. Sean is the official cartographer of the Hide-Away Canoe Club and is

currently working with CANOE Magazine trying to develop a set of hand-drawn river maps for them. He may also be able to do beautiful custom maps for regular trippers too. If you wish more info please write to Che-Mun.

Subscribers note:

A profuse apology to many paid-up Che-Mun subscribers who received expiration notices in Outfit 49. To those of you who sent in money anyway, your subscriptions have been extended. And to those who, quite rightly, challenged our authority and sent in their cancelled cheque numbers as proof of payment, we apologize.

We were going to fire the accountant but since he's also the Editor it would have made things difficult. Remember, the correct subscription expiry date is on your mailing label after your postal/zip code. Now if we can only put the right notices in the right envelopes . . .

CHE-MUN

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