

PARK MELTDOWN

TREKKING THROUGH NUNAVUT'S DANGER ZONE

NEW COLUMN BY
WILL GADD

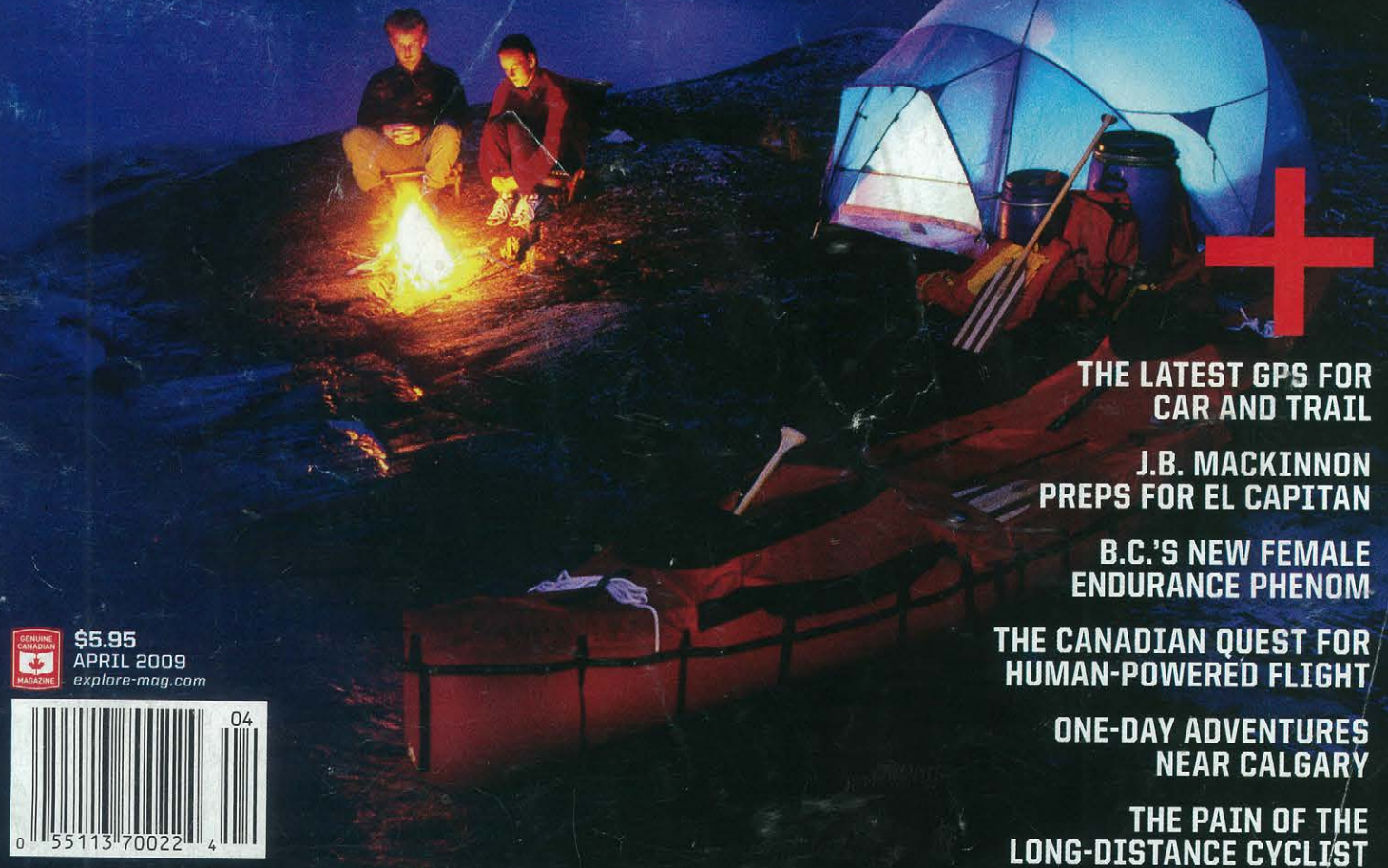
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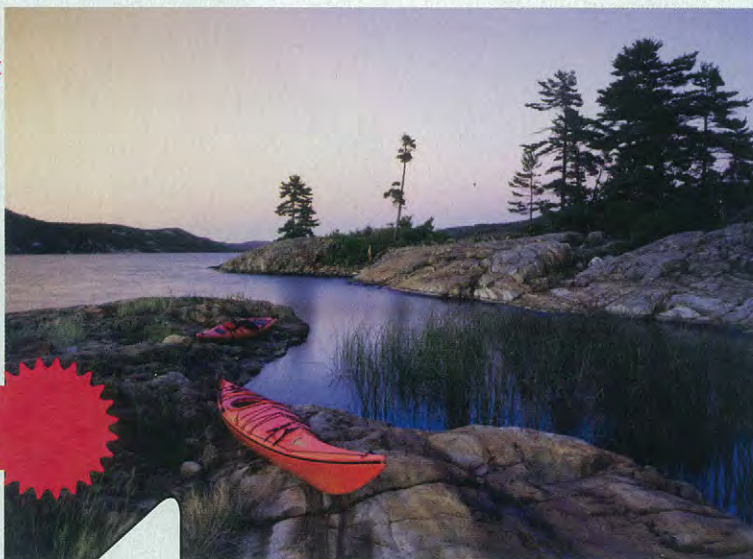
Paddle the Superior coast

ONTARIO

The coastline of Canada's inland sea doesn't get any better than in the Gargantua area—a remote portion of Lake Superior Provincial Park that once had mythical importance for the Ojibwa people. The water here is stunningly clear and also protected from the lake's full blow, which makes it ideal for sea kayaking. On Caribou Expeditions' five-day trip, you'll have plenty of time to explore landmarks such as Devil's Warehouse Island—the source for the ochre used in Ojibwa rock paintings in the area—or to poke around the channels near Indian Harbour—where lava once erupted to the surface—or to just lie on a beach. The area is also home to woodland caribou.

LENGTH:

Five days **WHEN:** June 29–July 3, July 12–16, August 3–7. **CONTACT:** Caribou Expeditions; 1-800-970-6662, caribou-expeditions.



Kayak the Killarney coast

ONTARIO

A simple rule to follow: If a landscape inspired the Group of Seven, it's probably worth visiting. So it's a no-brainer for women with a few sea-kayaking trips under their spray skirts to sign on to this female-only trip to northern Georgian Bay. You'll explore the coastline just off Killarney Provincial Park, where the windswept water of the big bay meets the glacier-scoured Canadian Shield. Along the way you'll visit Baie Fine, a freshwater fjord that was the muse of A.J. Casson, and you'll also get views of the white La Cloche Range, immortalized by almost every Group of Seven member.

LENGTH: Seven days **WHEN:**

July 24–30 **CONTACT:** Wild Women Expeditions; 1-888-993-1222, wild-womenexp.com

Canoe the wild Athabasca

ALBERTA

As it emerges from the foothills near Hinton, Alberta, the Athabasca River disappears into the boreal forest for 160 kilometres before reappearing on the edge of the prairie near Whitecourt. In between lie four days of wilderness canoeing with more signs of bear, moose, beaver and otter than humans. Camps are made on islands and gravel bars, and the camping style is no-trace. Each day involves floating and paddling 30 to 40 kilometres, negotiating easy rapids and avoiding the harder ones. And at night, the unpolluted sky puts on a star-studded show.

LENGTH: Five days

WHEN: June to September **CONTACT:** Timberwolf Tours; 1-888-467-9697, timberwolftours.com

Not for profit

Many non-profit societies and clubs offer guided and casually guided trips to their members at rates that no for-profit company can match. Don't expect to be pampered though. Participants are often responsible for their own food and gear, and leaders tend to be other club members.

RECOMMENDED:

The **Alpine Club of Canada's General Mountaineering Camp**. Held annually since 1906, this week-long climbing camp is usually based in an extremely remote setting (this year's location in the northern Selkirks has only been visited a handful of times, ever). The camp features excellent leaders and guides. A similar privately guided trip would cost double. (\$1,595; alpine-clubofcanada.ca)

Cycle Cape Breton

NOVA SCOTIA

Voted one of the best places to ride in North America by *Bicycling* magazine, Cape Breton Island's got everything a cyclist could want: quiet roads, one traffic light, epic climbs and descents, and inspiring views from oceanside mountains. And with more than 20 tours of Cape Breton under their belt, Atlantic Canada Cycling has the trip down to a science. Armed with a map, 30 to 50 cyclists guide themselves on day rides, averaging 70 kilometres, while support vans move camp and help out the riders. Everyone travels at their own speed—stopping for a picture every five minutes on the Cabot Trail or hammering along beautiful Bras d'Or Lake—and then the group gets together at night.

LENGTH: Eight days **WHEN: July 26 to August 2 **CONTACT:** Atlantic Canada Cycling; 1-888-879-2453, atlanticcanadacycling.com**

