



Lake Aishihik in the Yukon.

Canoeing

Pierre Berton once defined a Canadian as a person who could make love in a canoe, and it is perfectly true that in the spring many a Canadian's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of shooting the rapids.

In April Canada's southerly streams are swollen and rushing over and around boulders. The sport begins then and lasts across Canada, in a somewhat modified form, through the summer.

The neophyte must learn that white water canoeing is a matter of skill, not strength — no one is strong enough to win an Indian wrestling match with the water. The successful rapid-shooter must master different techniques for handling different kinds of turbulence and must be able to read the tell-tale signs in the water ahead, avoid the impassable and refrain from the impossible.

The Greening of the Ice Sheets

As the nine-foot-thick ice of the Beaufort Sea thins, the spring sun shines through and brings to life the microscopic plants that have been frozen below.

The algae blooms and covers the bottom of the ice sheet. The microscopic animals feed on the algae and fish feed on them. The ecosystem of the North is repeating its age-old cycles.



Dragging a field in Bath, Ontario.

Transportation

The Northwest Territories has two basic forms of ground transportation — in the winter most everything moves on ice, in the spring everything switches to water.

The great ice road from Edzo to Echo Bay on Great Bear Lake which was rebuilt each January is no more. It was replaced by Hercules aircraft and went out of business in the spring of 1979.

The shorter ice roads that remain are still built as straight as possible, using lakes whenever feasible and avoiding steep grades. The lakes are connected by "portages" of compressed snow, and during the winter months tractors tow freight along them. When the road starts puddling in