

Keele River - NWT - 2013

by Bill and Gail Lockington



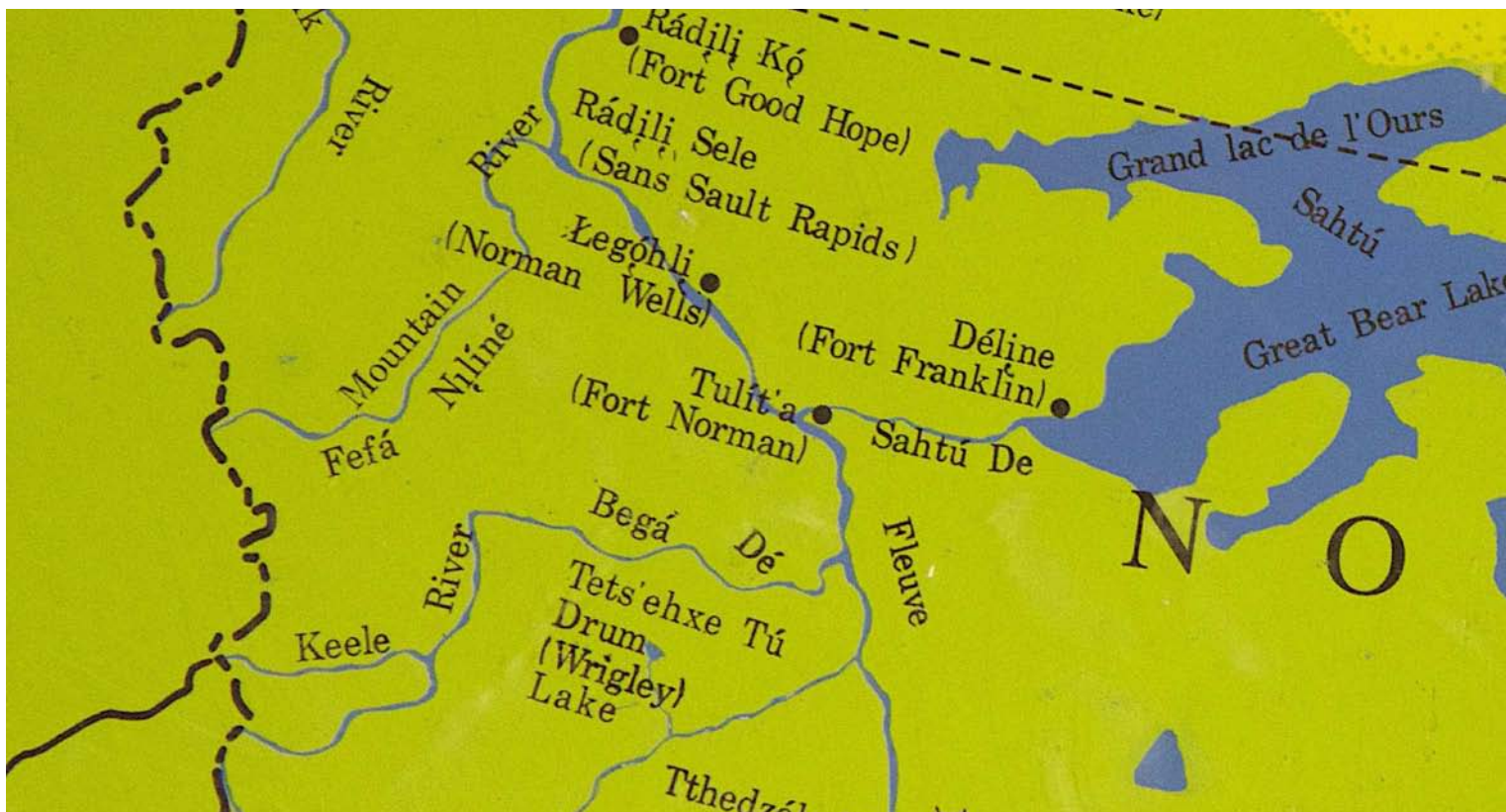
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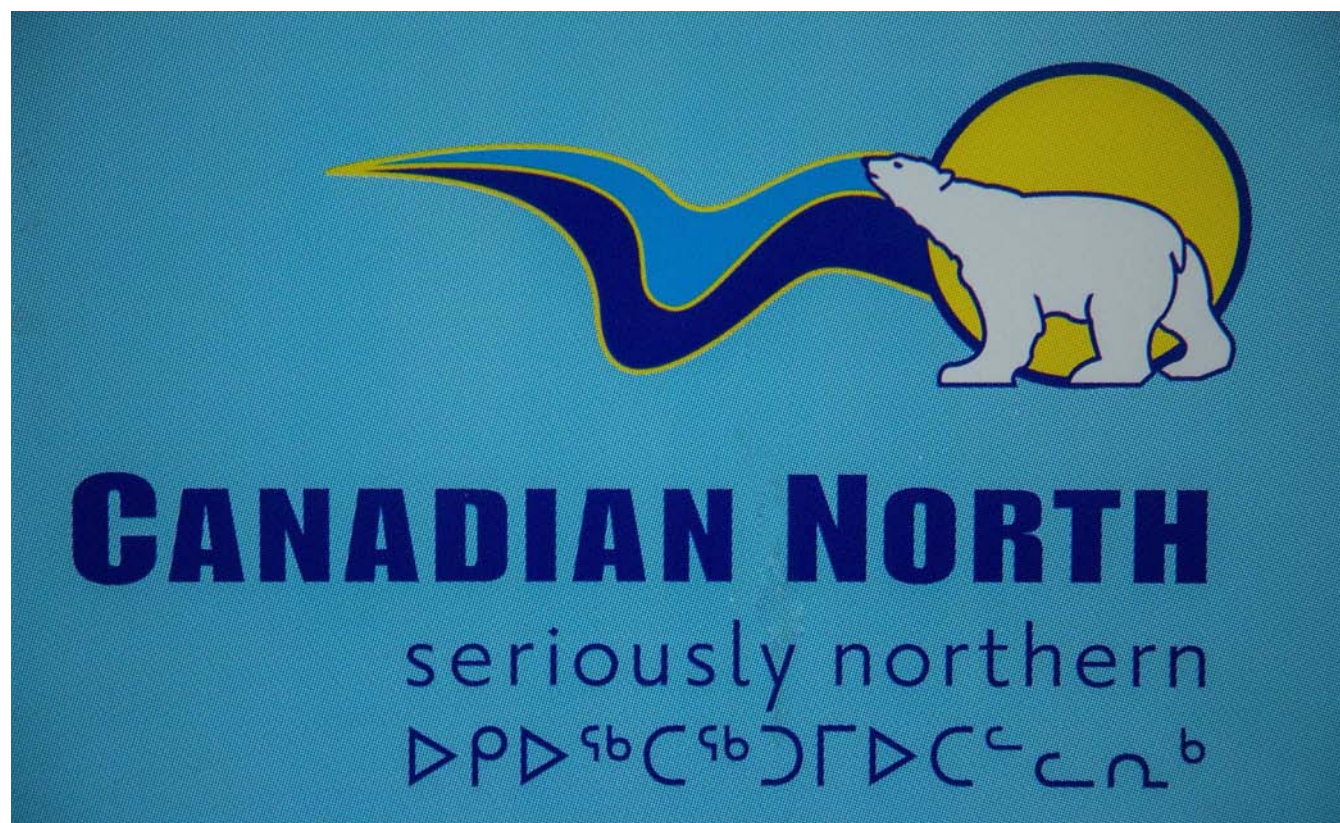


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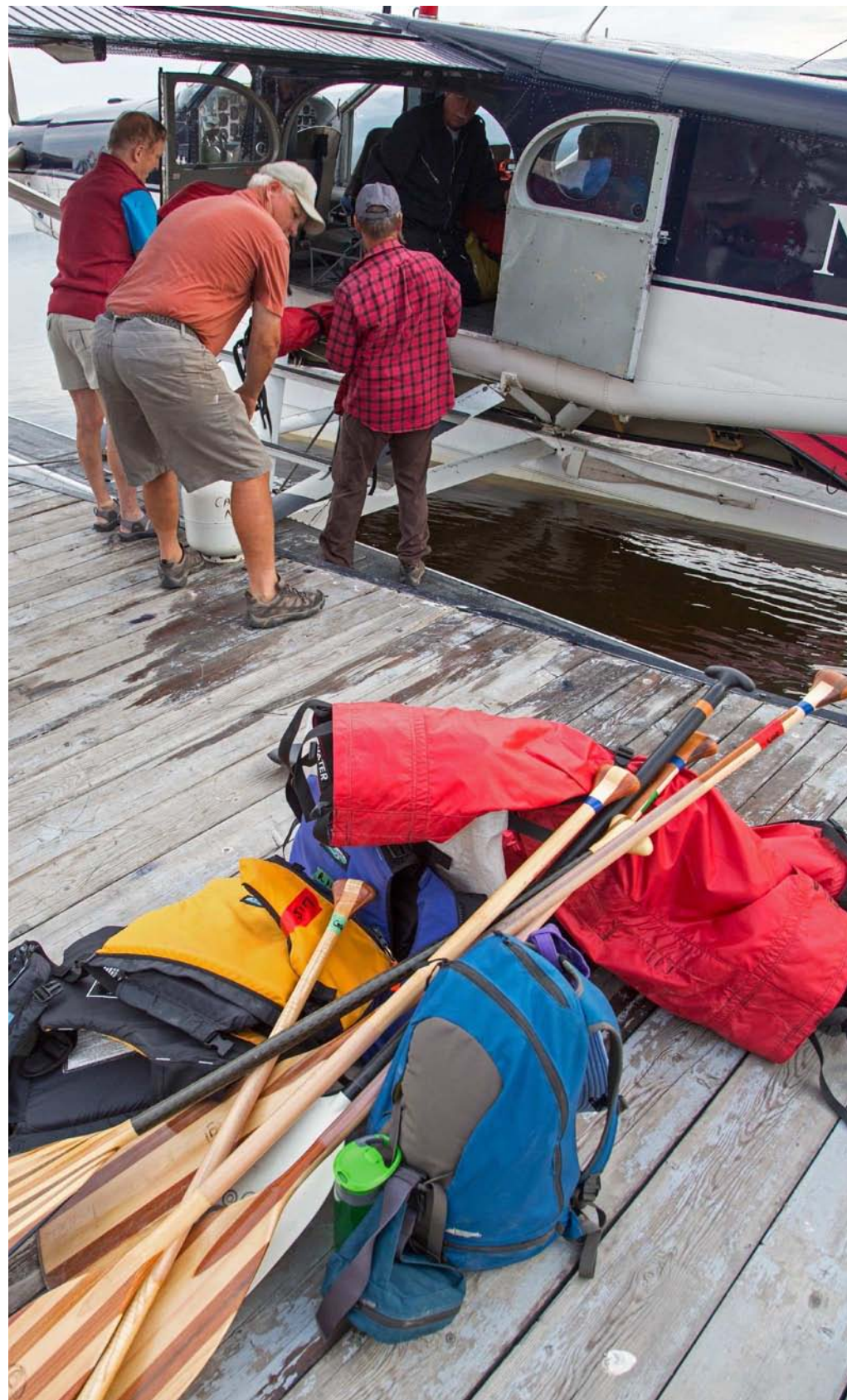
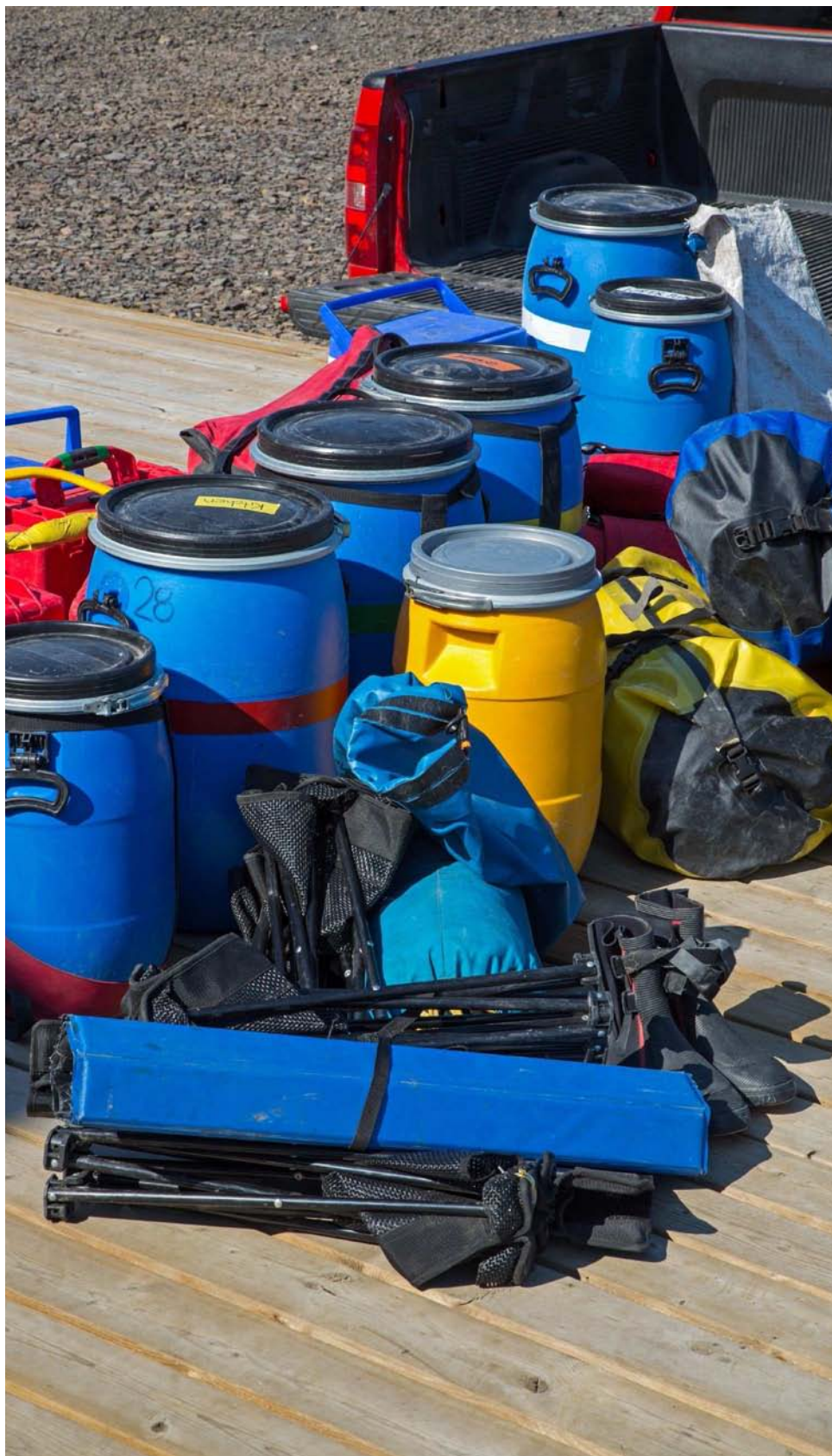


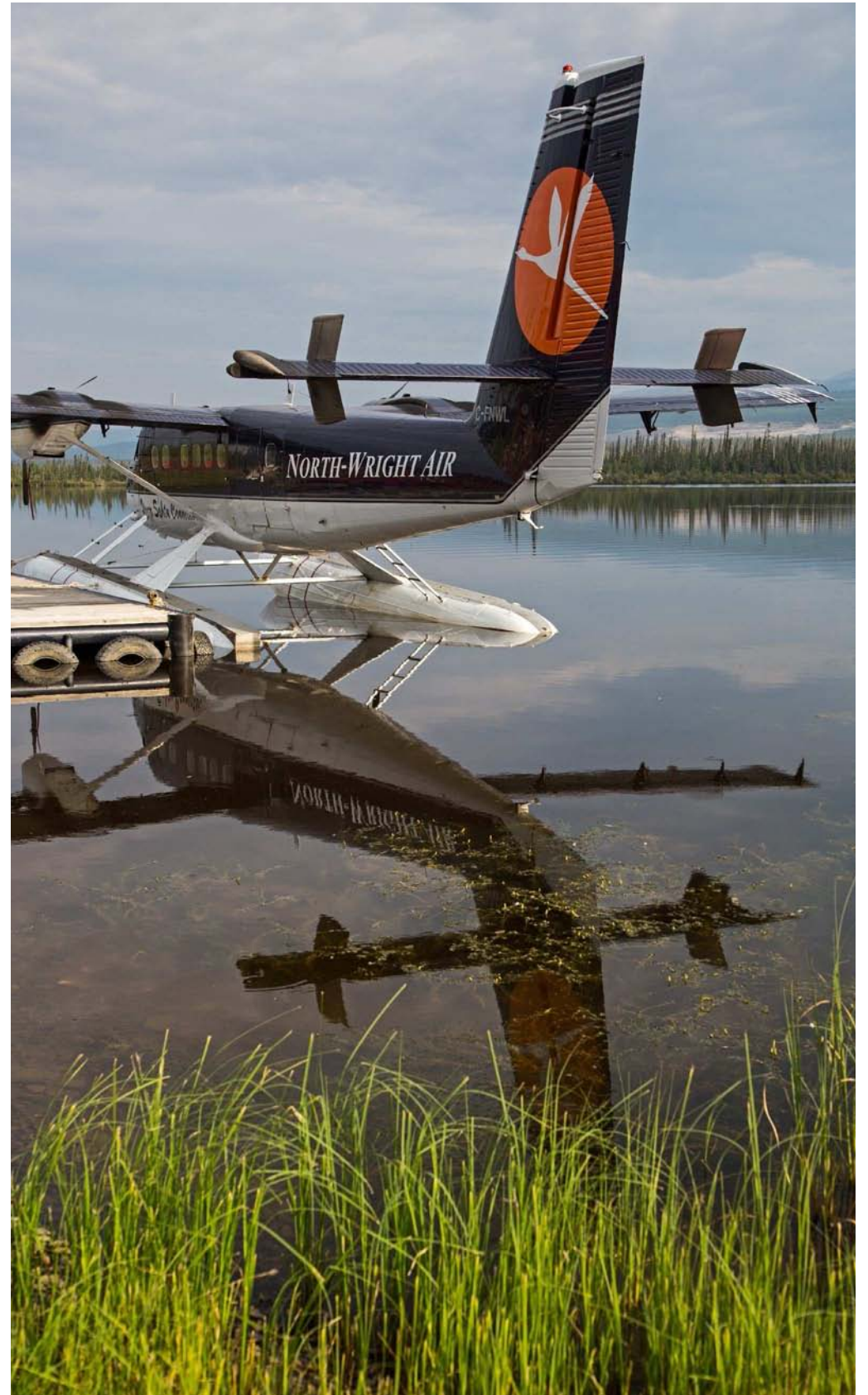
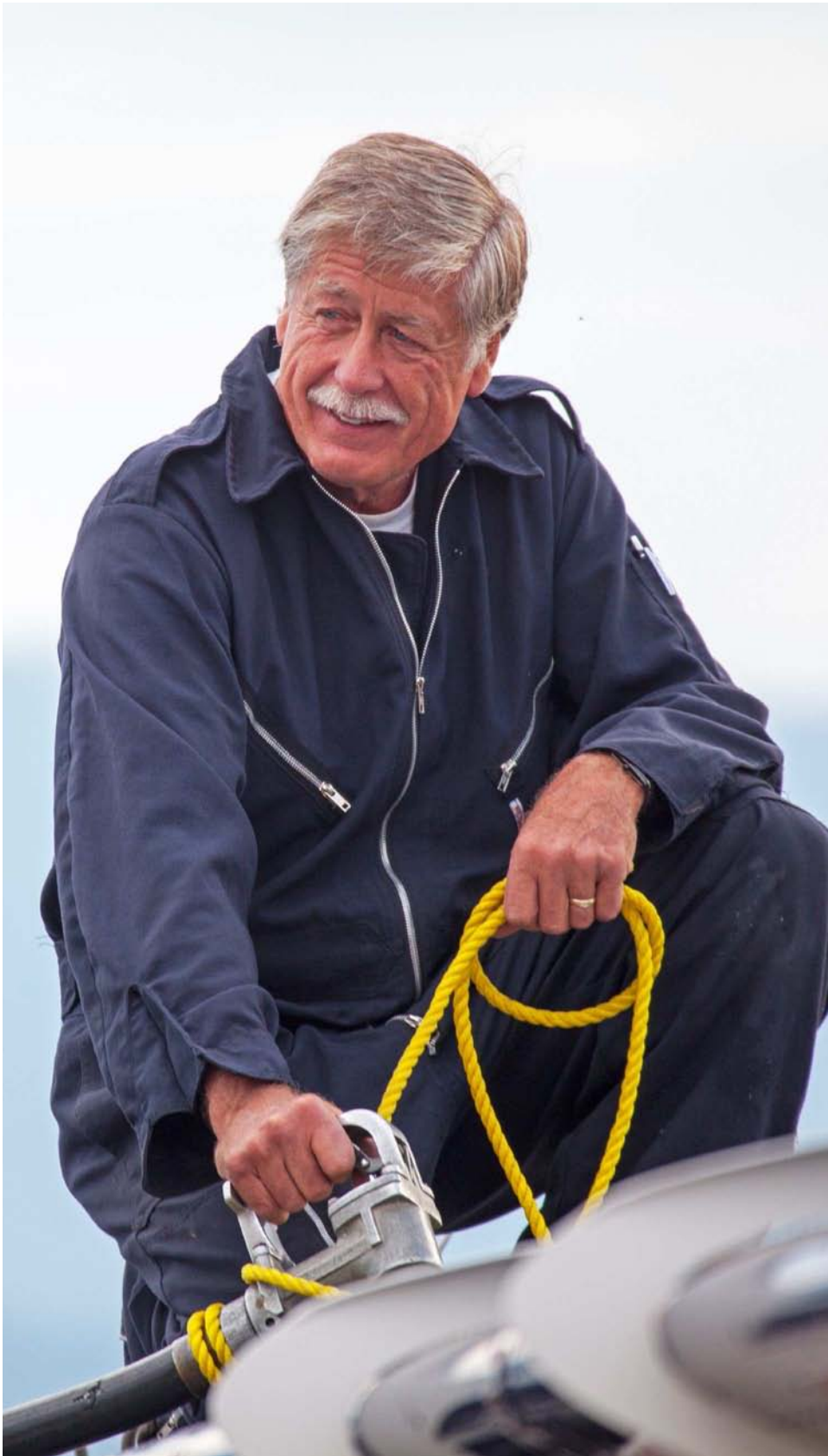












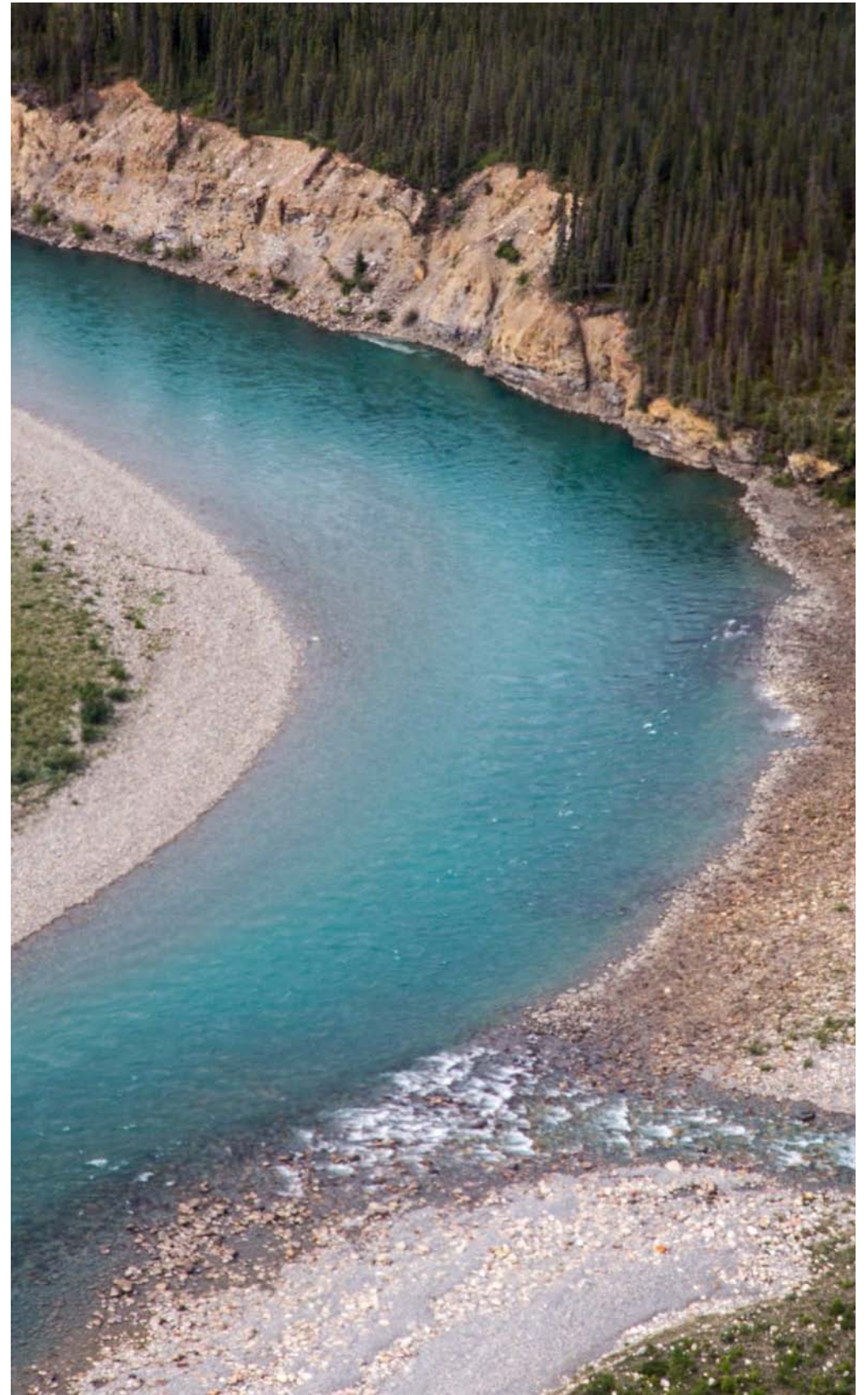


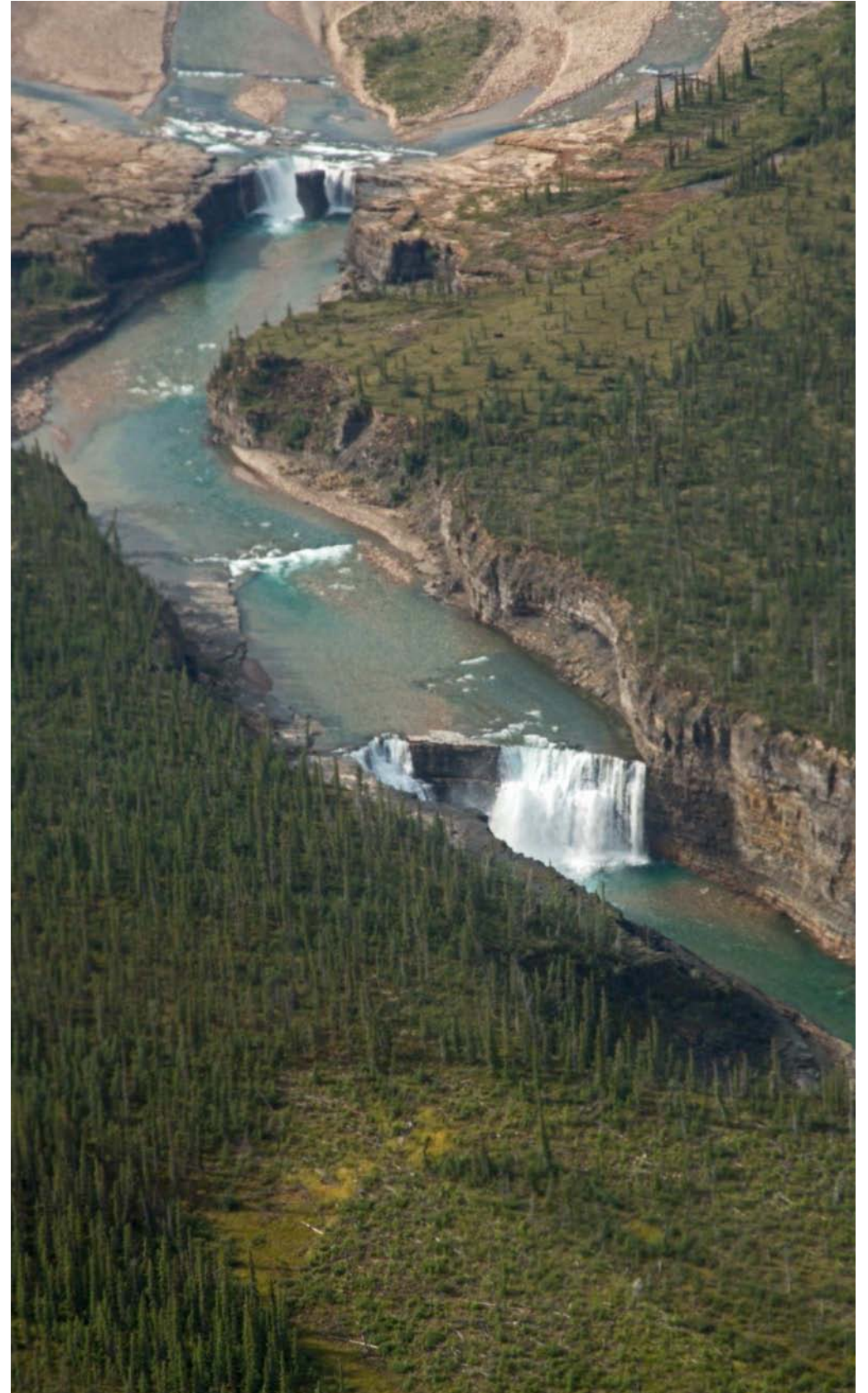


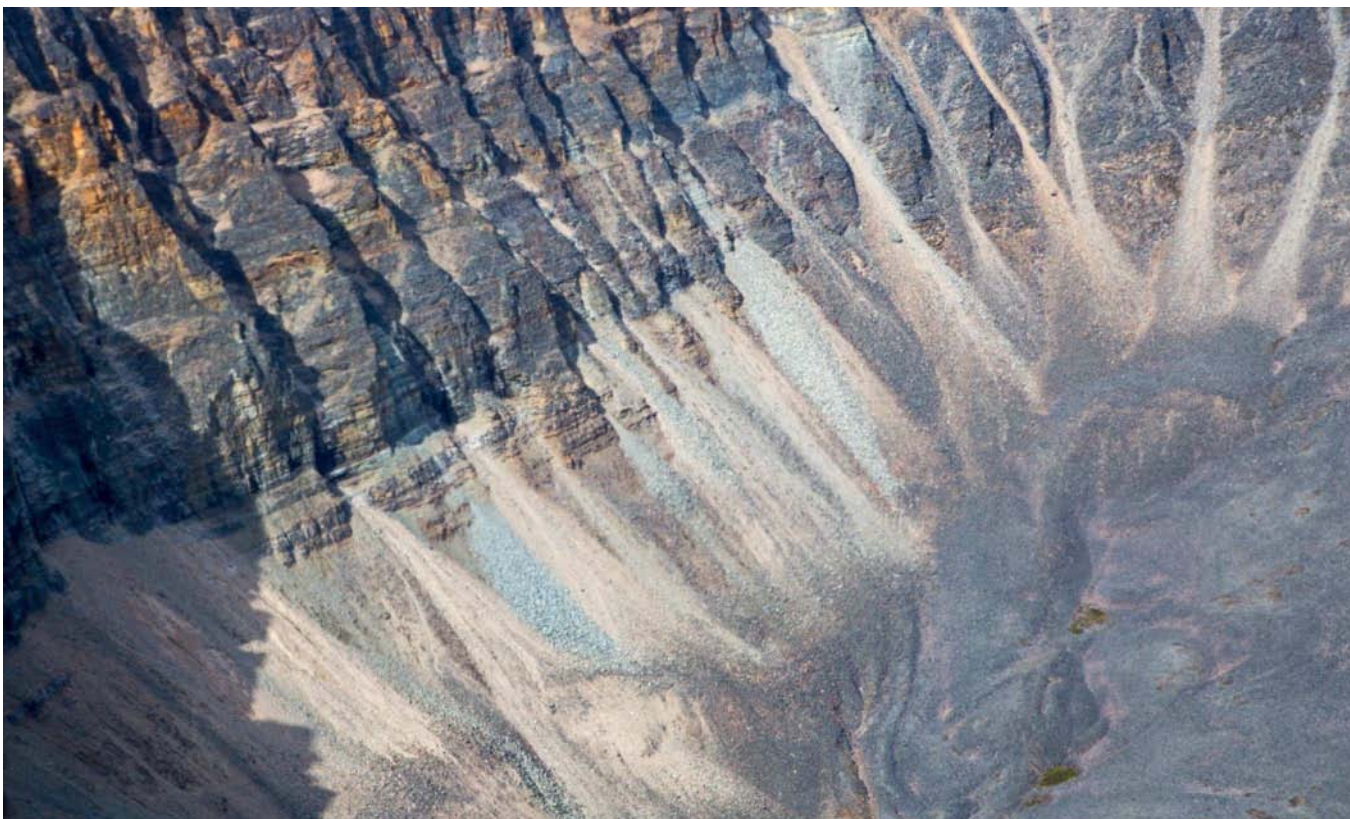


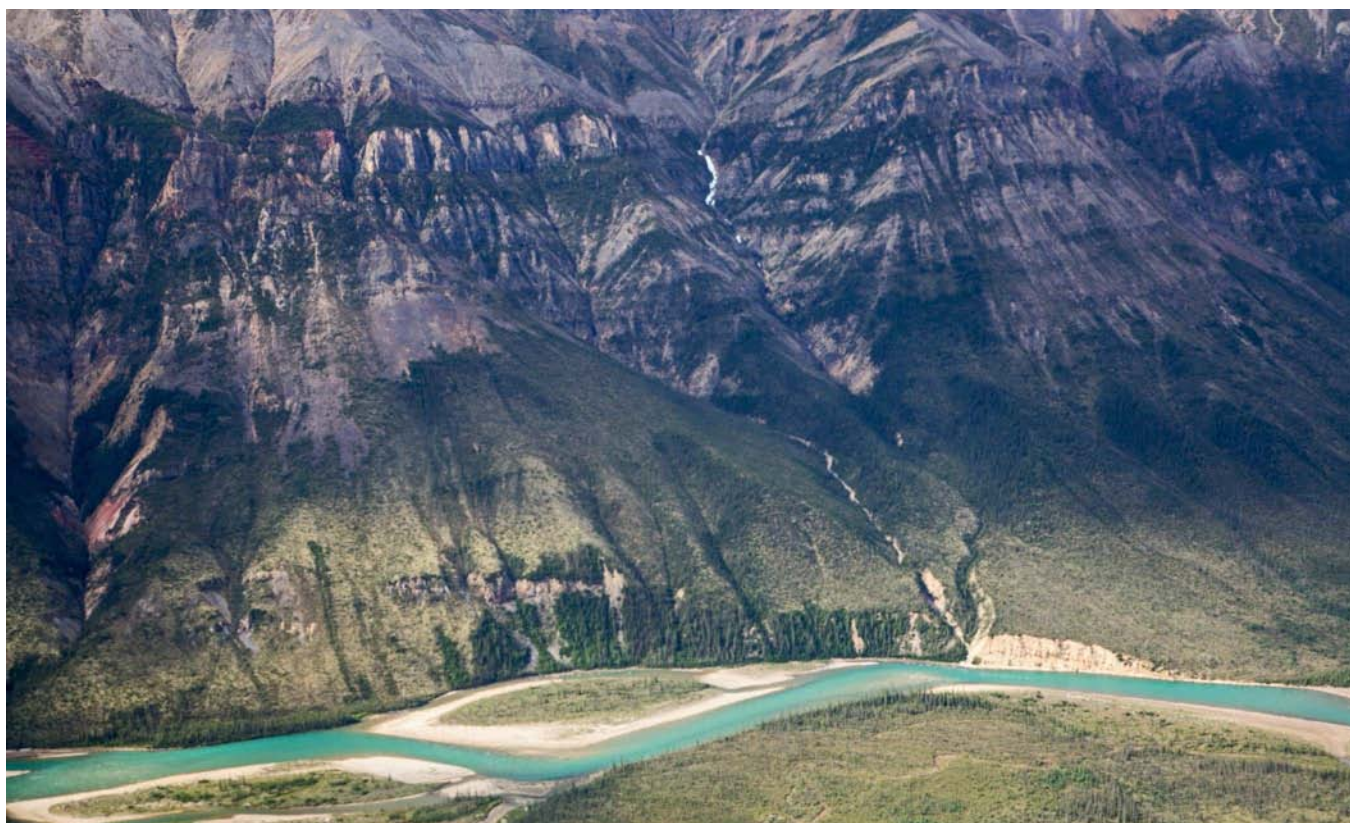


































































It Was the Night Before

**It was the third day of August when 12 friends did depart
A trip of a lifetime about to embark
Bags were all packed with the greatest of care
In hopes that in Yellowknife, they all would be there.
Sleeping bags and thermarests would be their new beds
While visions of train waves and big rapids all danced in their heads
A Twin Otter and Porter would fly us away
Our destination, Keele River without any delay
Linney, Courtney and Al, our guides were to be
For the next ten days on the river you see
To teach us and show us what the river is about
Cross bow draw, PADDLE HARD, eddy in, eddy out
One day on a hike we spotted Dahl sheep
Up on the rock face they scampered in what seemed like one leap
Card games and fishing and of course "happy hour"
Included hor's d'oeuvres, fancy drinks, whiskey sours
These were all part of a typical day
How lucky we are wouldn't you say
And I heard them exclaim as they boarded their flight
Happy memories to all of this wonderful site
and so we are grateful to Al and his team
For making a reality of one fabulous dream**

**With Love From the "Loon"
Keele River Trip
August 3 to 17, 2013**

Keele River

**When I first saw the movie
Crashing Waves so high
I'm not going to lie
I thought I might die**

**Then we flew high to the Keele
Through mountains, valley and dale
I had a good feel
I'd have another meal**

**The river was laced with turquoise
I knew it would give me new purpose
I would paddle with the boys
and forget my old toys**

**The big waves were my dreams
I hooted, hollered and screamed
I was one of the team
At least I can dream**

**So here is a toast to Lin and my stern masters
And all who pushed me to paddle much faster**

Gail Lockington

Relentless

**Relentless runs the river
Its sound my new companion
I hear it more than see it
A voice that comes and goes**

**Relentless runs the river
Its course defined in curves
Through ramps and corners
First river left, now river right**

**Relentless runs the river
Known by other names
Big Wave, Tricky, Boat Sucking Boil
A reputation earned**

**Relentless runs the river
Through braids and bars and shoals
Sweepers, Eddys, Current
All features of its face**

**Relentless runs the river
No ending to its travel
My friend for but an instant
Its passage for all time**

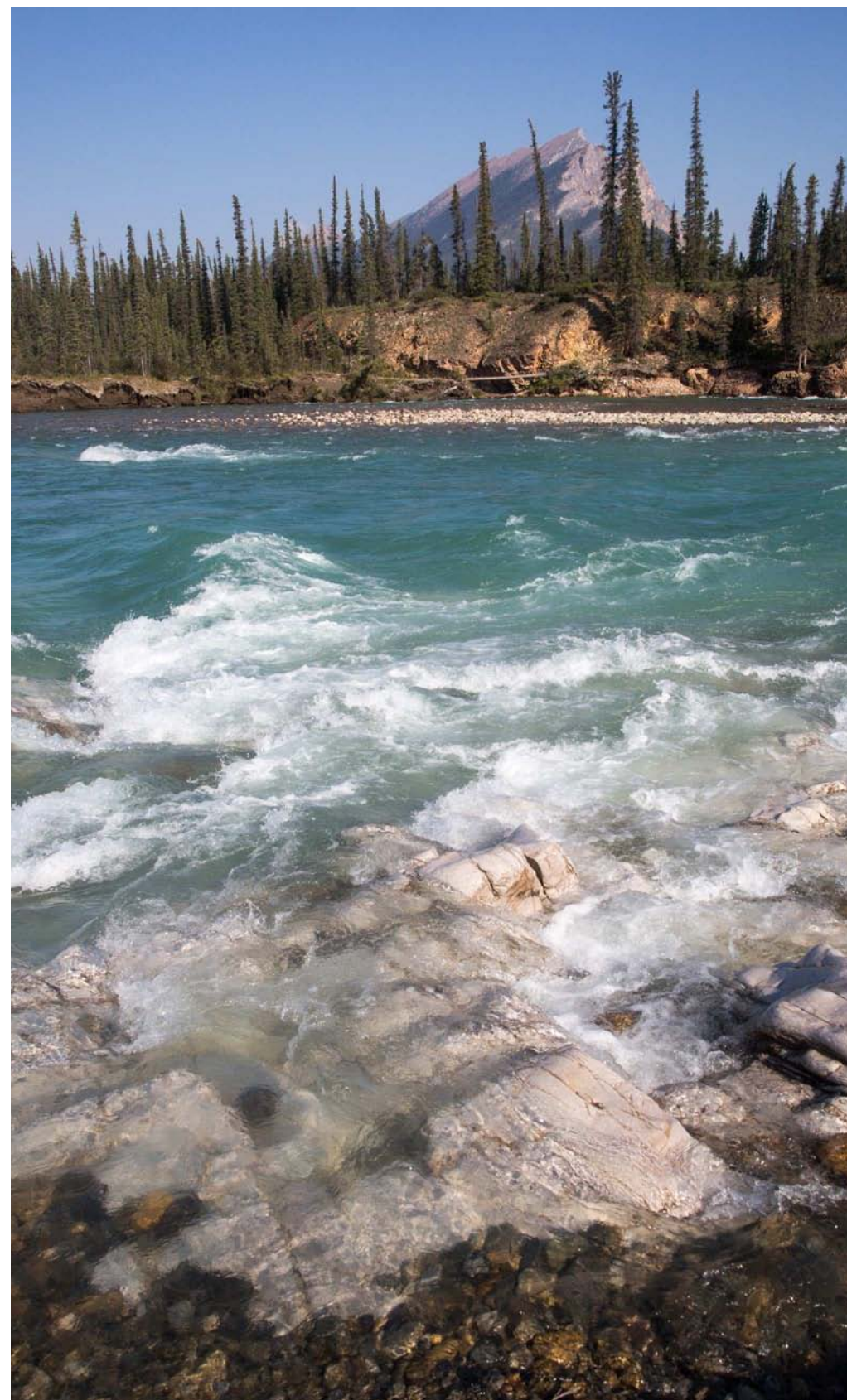
Bill Lockington



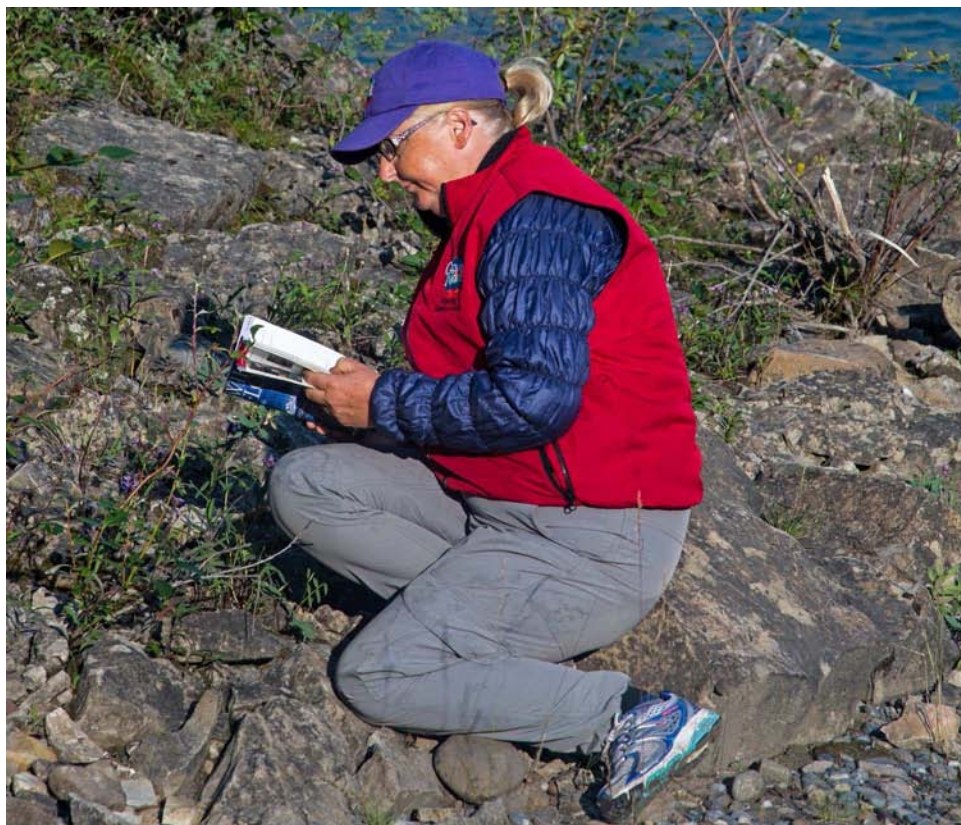






















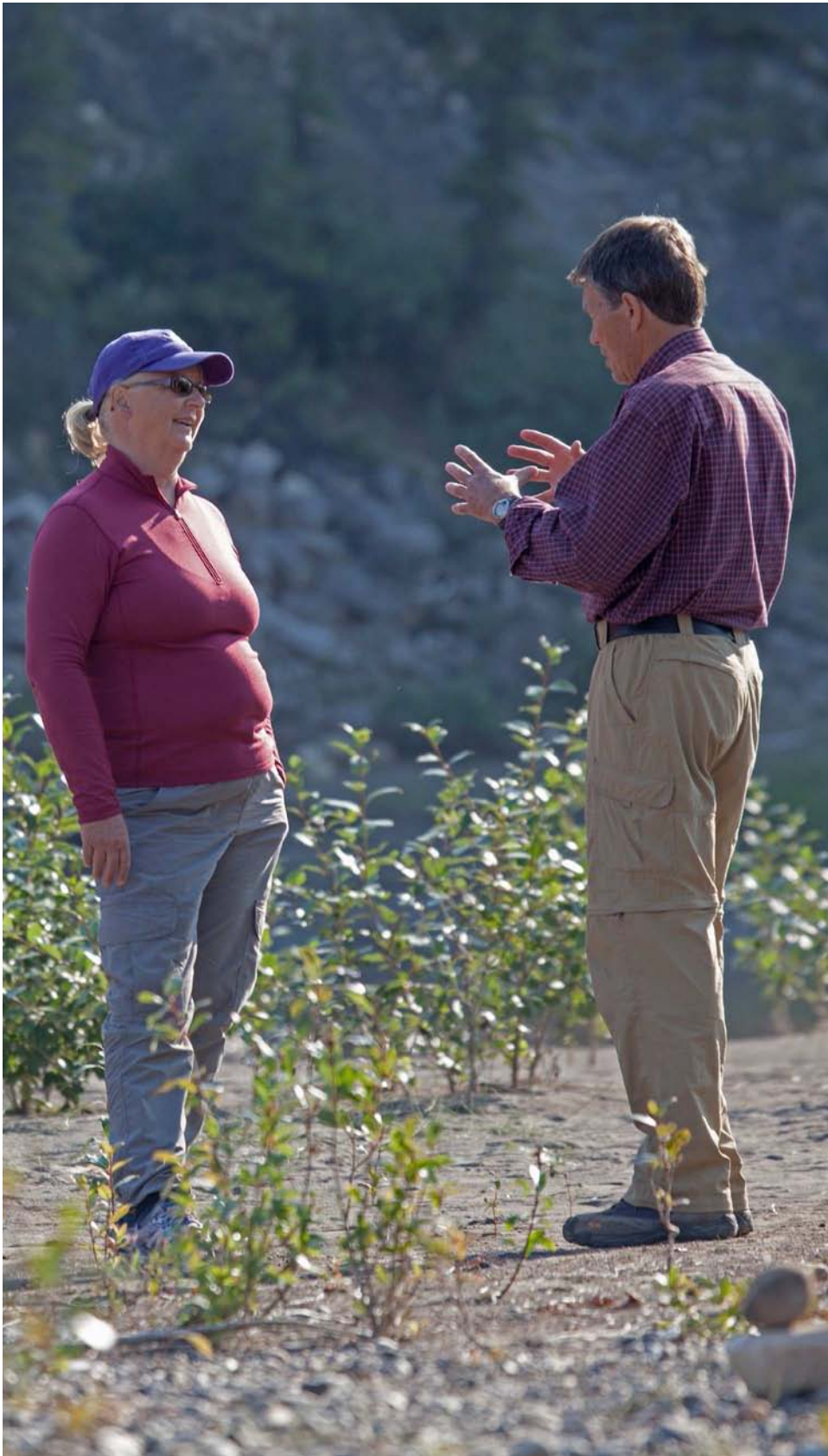




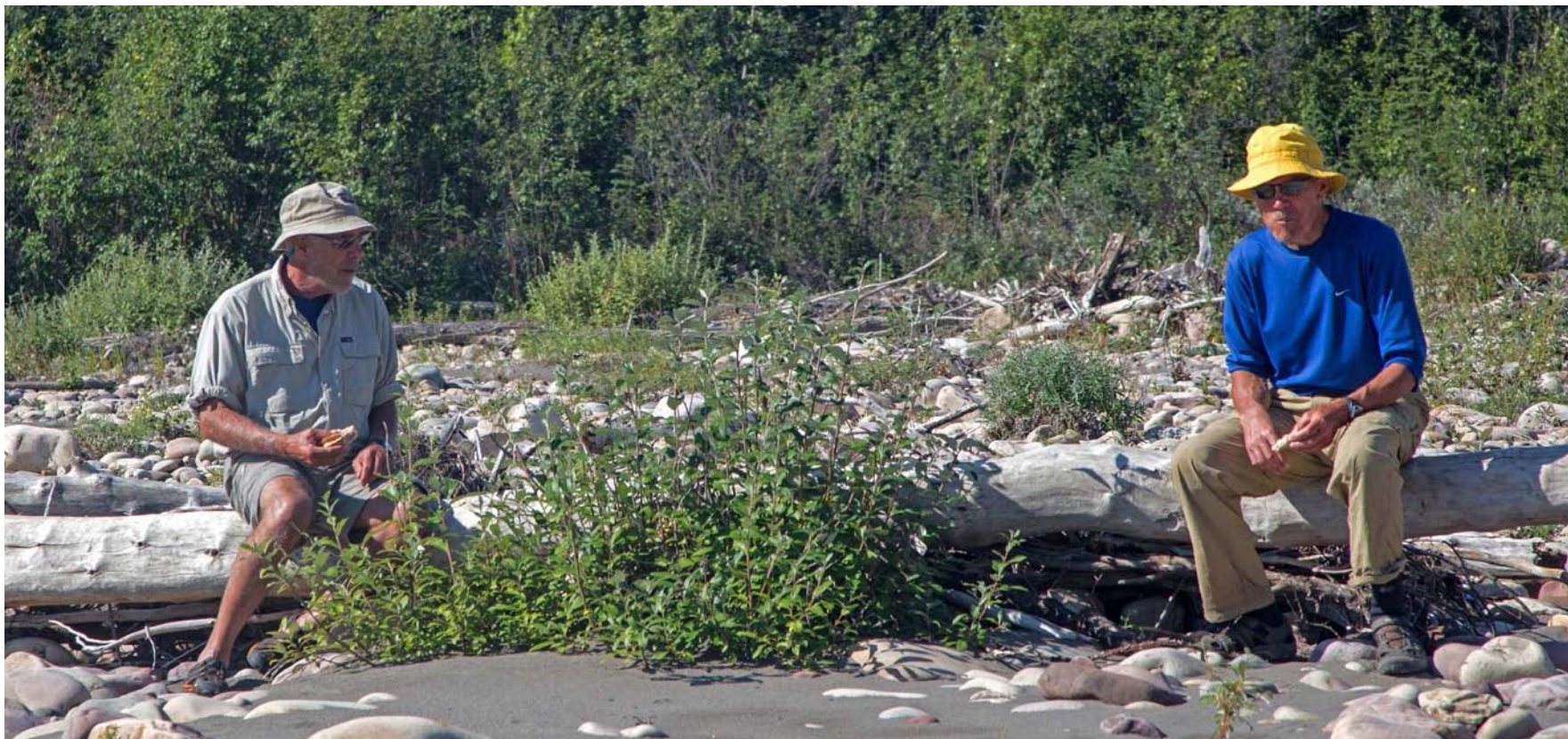
My Name is Jim

**My name is Jim and I've been to camp
I've learned to swim and fish and be damp
I slept in a tent with a guy named Don
and watched those around me with brute and brawn
Drink scotch, catch dinner and teach the lore
And now alas we must leave this river
To return to law and order and home
With memories to keep and cash to deliver
And plan on future pathways to roam**

Jim Matthews











































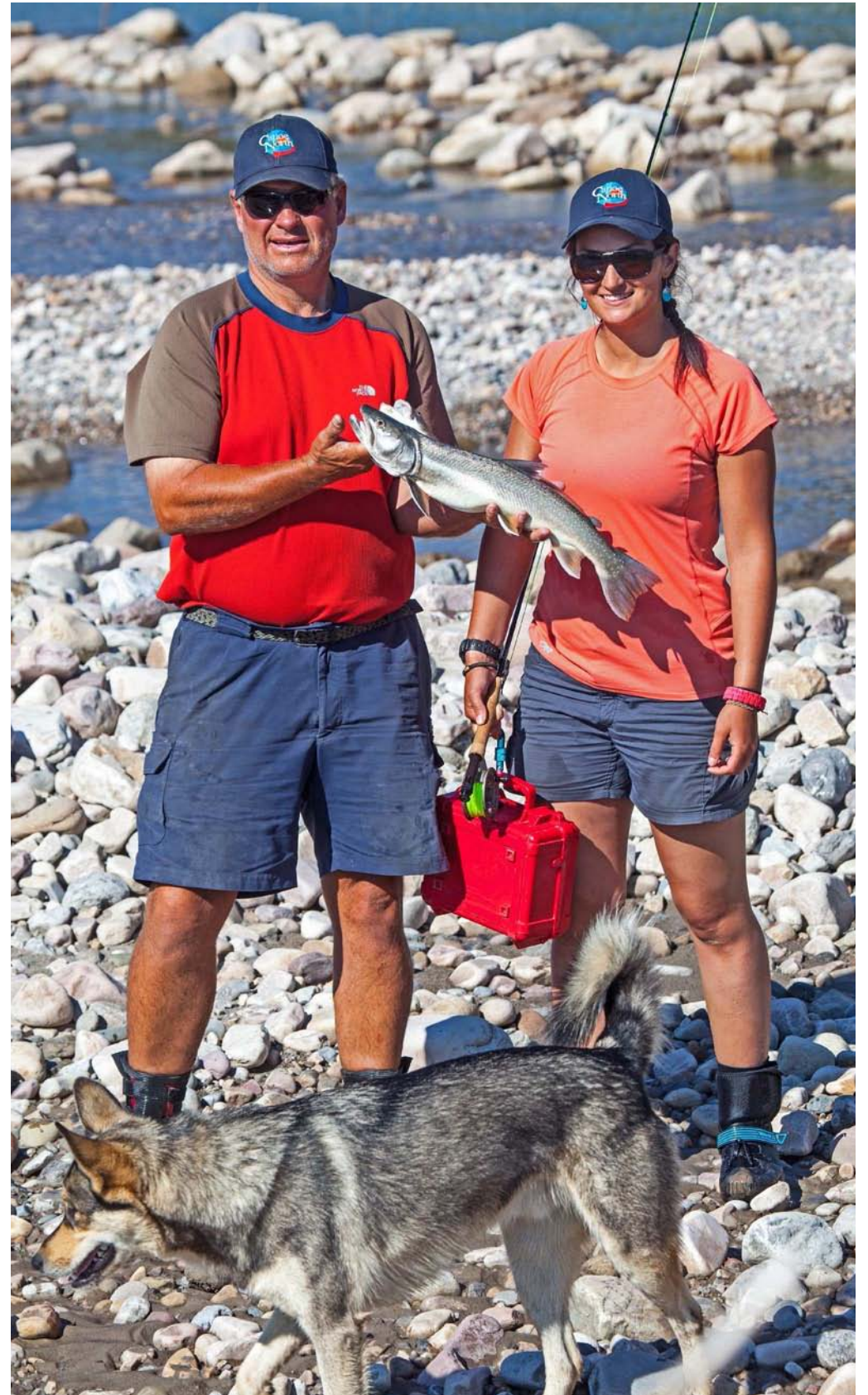




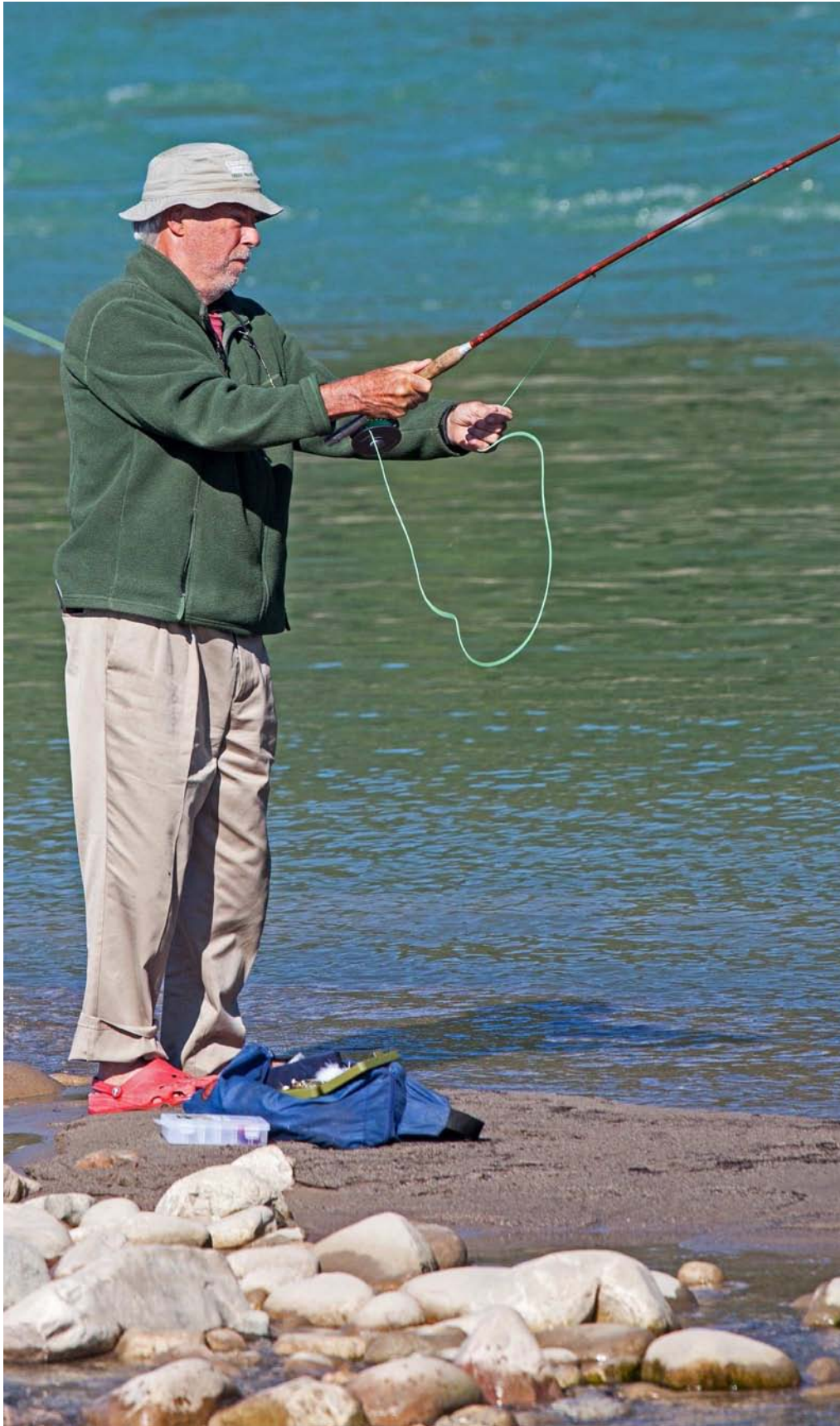


















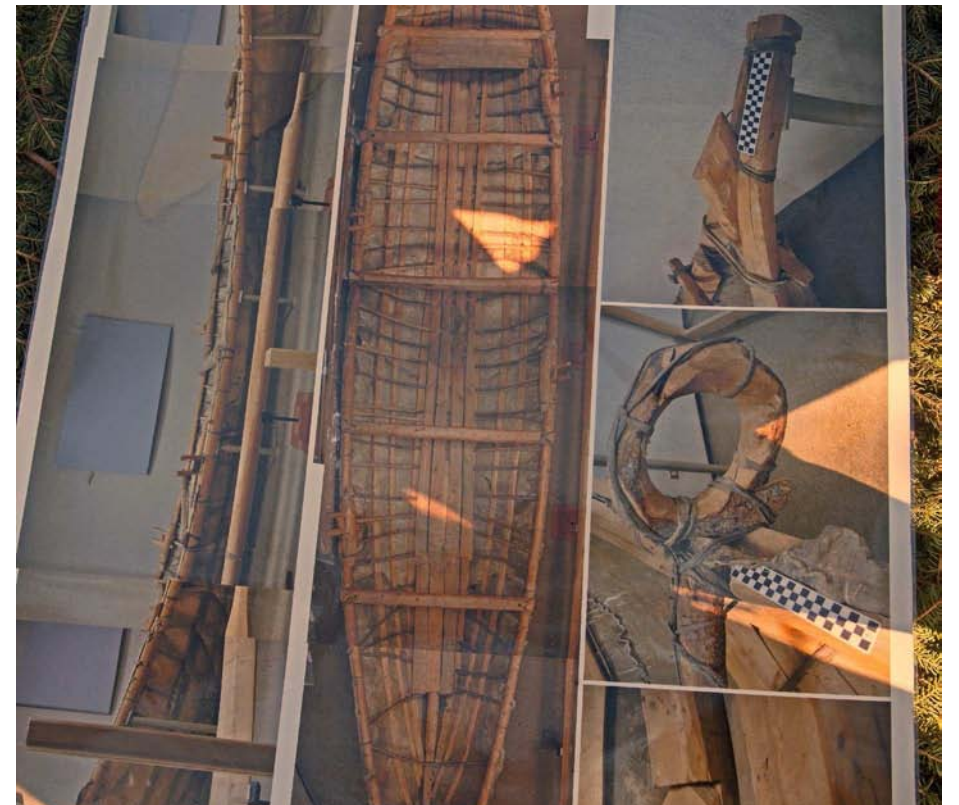


















Keele River

**There's been a lot of water over the bow
We have survived it, we'll never know how
Eddy in and eddy out
What the heck are they talking about
O God there's a shoal
And the rest is history**

**The rapids, the whirlpools, the current, our friend
Bring excitement and action around every bend
Just when we thought we were at the brink
It was on to the shore, good friends and a drink
Happy hour, laughter, great stories, some crude
Followed by rustling up fantastic food**

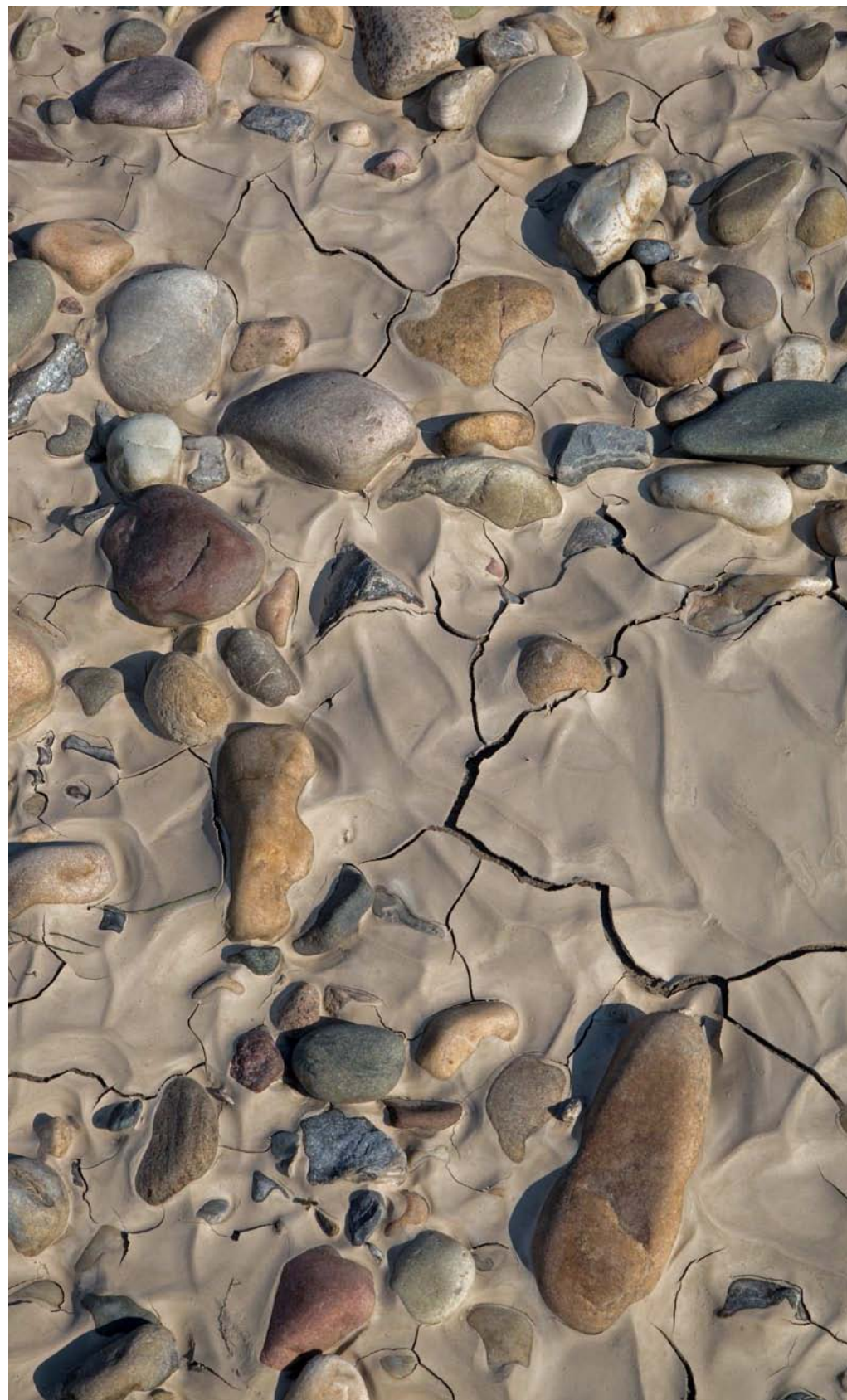
**The pressure, the strains, the demands we all feel
Are left behind when we paddle the Keele
Old friends and new friends
Get right down to the basics as we sit on the loo in full view of their faces**

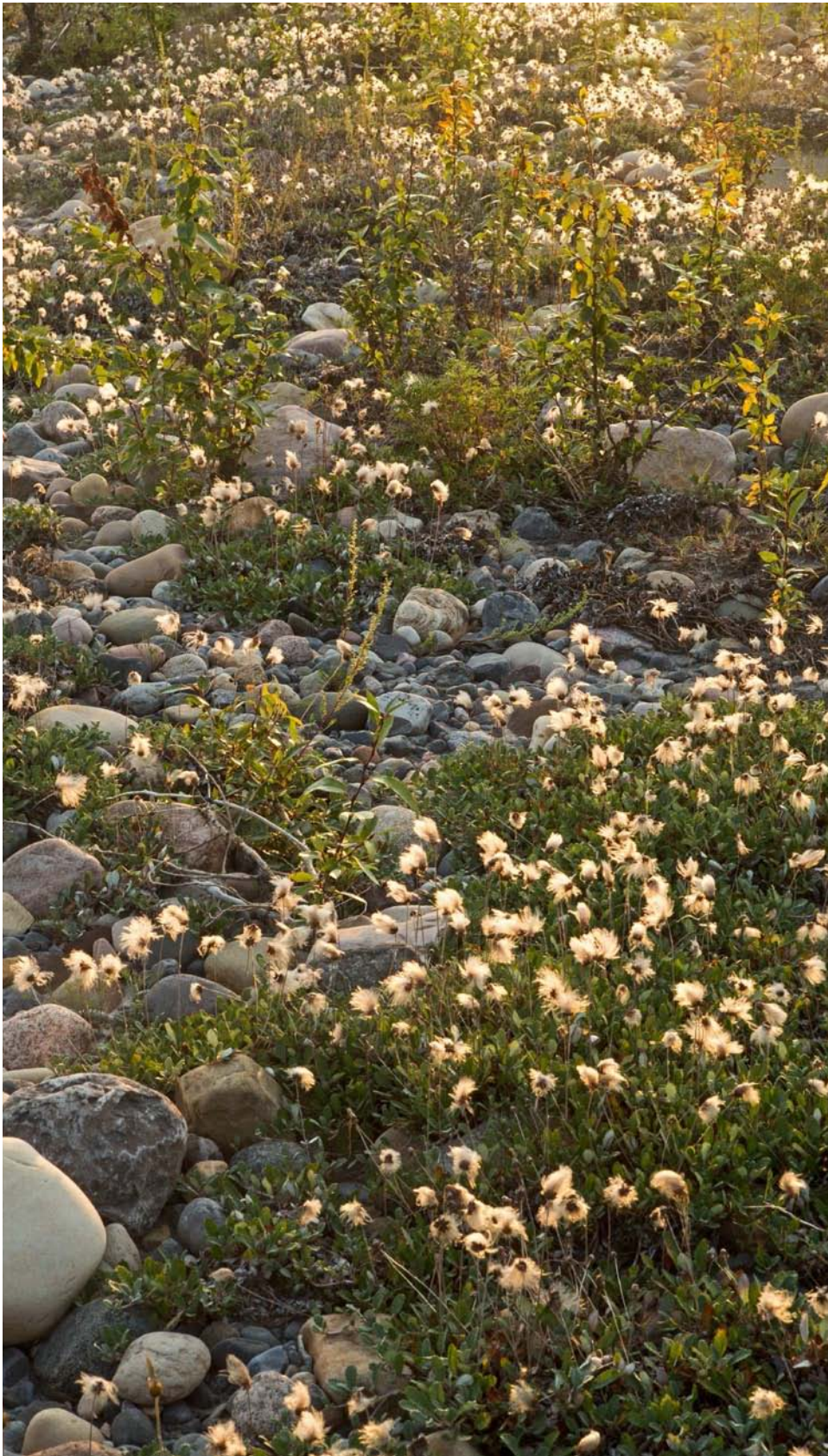
**The mountains, the valley, the beauty, the grandeur
The river , the landscape so hauntingly pure
It's etched in our memory and in our hearts too
To draw on and savor in our future**

There's been a lot of water over the bow

Barb and Roger Holmes





















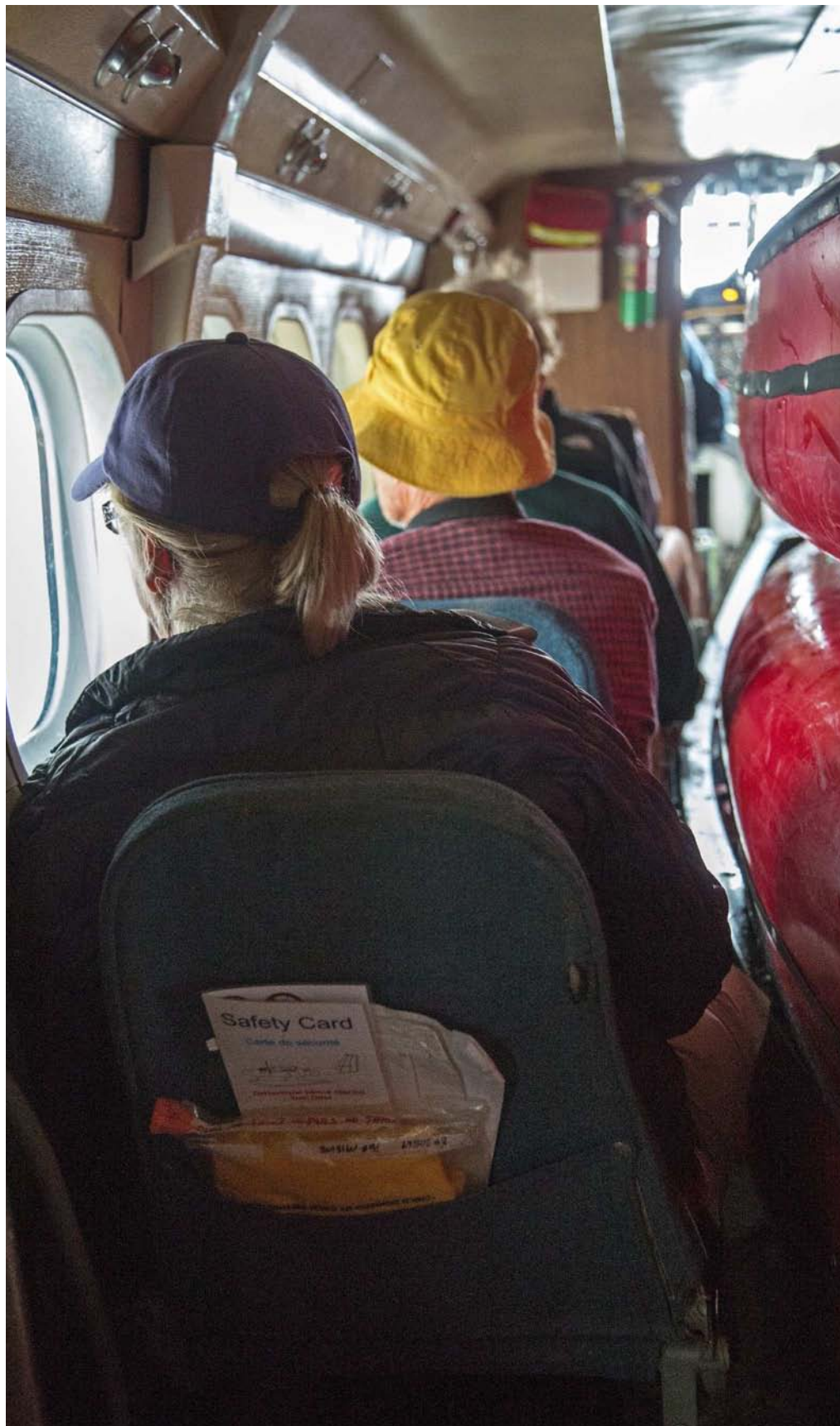






















Dauntless Are Those.....

2

**Porter glides through the mountains
Wingtips kiss the peaks
Two flights bring eight people, four red canoes
Twin Otter brings the final six**

**Eyes wide, smiles galore
Paddle down to Delthore
Rain threatening, rain coming
Tents up, tarp up
Pouring buckets**

**Will it rain the whole trip?
What will we see?
Does adventure wait?
Then we launch
And this is what we have**

**Barb and Roger putting up
First the thermarests
Then a single tent, then Eureka!**

**Jim and Don with poles, tent and fly
How many ways can they put those
Three things together - obviously many**

**The paddle talk -
Heads seem to be
Shaking up and down
Only later do we realize that perhaps that was
all bravado**

**Sunny Day brings photo shoot corner
Bill and Lin set up
Then Ken - all run quickly, expertly down**

**Shezal Canyon - all slide well
Through in fine style,
Missing the cliff face.
Tumbling on to the beach for lunch,
The same every day
Penny wants mayo for Ken**

**Al falls in the river
Getting ice with Gail
Up to his waist - Ranger laughs**

**Marguerita slushies
That night at mining camp
Perhaps too much with wine
Penny and Ken seem to think
We will not have fires
Lin wonders
If they can smell smoke?**

**Big Wave Corner
Now that was interesting
Bill and Lin show how it is done
Perfect line, more perfect photos
Don and Ken run wide, fly high
Claim they ran exactly as planned
We have severe doubts**

3

**Jim and Gail take on the huge diagonal
That spat them out, spinning them around
Courtney and Roger fling water high
Over the boat
Courtney draws left looking for bigger waves**

**Al and Barb
Terry and Sue
Run the slick between waves and eddy
Perfect control
Not quite as funny
Hugh and Penny
Shut the door
Fly up in the air
Smiles galore!**

**Lin wanted to camp at Ekwi
But Ken's knee prevailed
It's only twenty minutes down to Flower Pot
And we can stay there a while
Hugh, Don, Jim, Al, Lin
Claim the high rent neighborhood
Looking over the beach bums below**

**Latrine overlooking Terry and Sue
And their tent
Oh what a view**

**And speaking of views
Hot showers
Shots of Penny and Ken
We want to see**

4

**Big walk
High on cliff
Looking at Lin and Courtney
My bikini not commented on!**

**Sheep leaping high
Ranger misses his chance
To run wild and free**

**Its one long paddle to Nailin Brook
Bit of a slog day but promise of
A short paddle to Toothingkla
Sun, then sun and then more
Sun, sun, sun**

**Roger says gender bias
Lin jumps to action
One of the most memorable hours ever on the
river
Left, right, right, left**

**Barb shows true grit
And we laugh great belly laughs
And delight in our teamwork**

**Toochlingkla doesn't disappoint
Hugh with casting rod in hand
Becomes the Supreme Being
Of fishing
Just chew on your fly rods all you others
Hugh and Courtney provide dinner
Layover day two**

5

**On to red Dog
Yes what can we say about that paddle
Long, fun, long, headwinds
Long, slog, long, nine hours long**

**Big wave photo shoot
Terry has free rein with Gail
Sue's with Al
Hits the waves
But Terry's eyes light up, Gail submerged
Covered in waves
Terry makes sure**

Ken and Bill, awesome photos

**Red Dog camp
We need to go how far?
That's too far!
Where's the kitchen?
OK....it's a really nice camp
Even a spa pool
Jim lost and found a camera**

**Bear, bear banger
Sue face to face
Ranger misses out**

**Ok now Red Dog to
How far we can get
We did the braids the day before
Yes, sucked down, hung up
And even bumper boats**

6

**So ... Al and Lin think
They must have hit
The top of the learning curve?
Next set of braids
Yes ... sucked down, hung up
And even bumper boats**

**Al and Lin paddle together
Lin yells ... Al signals left
Barb thinks they are pointing out wildlife
All six boats
Low and Outside
Hard to Believe!**

**Aboriginal camp - inspirations
Will they get that boat built?**

**Ken and Penny go ahead for pictures
Al says big waves ahead
If you want to miss them ...
Step only in my footsteps
Boats, perfect harmony
Beautiful line
Our best moment
Feeling so proud
We love you guys**

**3 pm stop... most amazing camp
And sweet potato stew
Ranger cries a blue streak
All comfort him
He has found a place in all our hearts**

7

Smoky, smoky, smoky
Protection from the relentless sun
The couples paddle even Lin and Al
Even Jim and Don
Down to the mighty MacKenzie
Down to the end
Crooked Silt Camp
Terry, Sue, Al, Hugh abandon us
So sad, we sat and finished all the scotch
Stories told, funny
Tents close, major snoring
Yes Jim, you snore
Pumping tent as Roger
Pumps Barb's thermarest full
Seemed like a living eternity

Agree to sleep until 8 am
Roger and Bill miss the message
Up at 7 am
Lin has to get up to find the coffee pot
Jim and Don think finally they are efficient
But end up at breakfast late

Penny and Lin pack their rocks
Joined in solidarity
When will North - Wright come?
OK paddle down
Courtney and Lin together

8

Bill takes one for the team
Up to his knees in mud
Gail, Barb, Kenny and Pen
Leave the last survivors
Lin, Courtney, Bill, Roger, Don and Jim
The Glayva was good
Dauntless are those
Who travel North by Northwest

Lin

And Special Thanks to Ken Powell for the inclusion of several of his exceptional images in contribution of the book



