

# Trip to Europe ends with two books



Sitting beside a painting based on the art of British Columbia's North West Coast Indians, Wolfgang Ruck displays two books he's had published which have temporarily interrupted the art he wished to pursue.

A trip to Europe to paint and study languages ended in one book being published as a direct result of the trip and opened the doors for another's publication, for a Mississauga outdoorsman.

Wolfgang Ruck, 28, graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in physical education but didn't think he wanted his career to follow the traditional teacher's route.

"I didn't get into the normal thing most of the grads did, training football and basketball teams. After graduating I went to Europe to re-learn my German. I wanted to pursue art and sculpting," he said.

While he was there he noticed an upsurge in the popularity of cross country skiing.

"Reflecting back on North America and the situation on how many people were hooked on down hill skiing, which is sort of a lost cause physically. I thought anything that would improve

people's knowledge and physical health would be beneficial."

So he brought back from Germany a book on cross country skiing, approached a publisher who thought it would be a good idea if it was translated, "and that's how it developed," he said.

One book, it seems, lead to another and Wolf got the idea to write his own book called Canoeing and Kayaking published by McGraw-Hill.

It turns out the book involves a large number of local people.

John Wood, Scott Lee, Gabor Joo and Les Reithauser, all with the Mississauga Canoe Club were the subjects for Wolf's camera as he did all the illustrative photography himself as well.

"I had to be financially independent to do my art and the books just happened along and allowed me the freedom I needed to do both," he said.