**Decades of Discovery**

**1930s**

**Wanderlust**

The 1930s were years of despair. With dust in the air and rising unemployment, no part of Canada was left untouched by the Great Depression. But in the pages of the fledgling Canadian Geographical Journal, as this magazine was then known, there was a ray of hope about hard times.

Instead of stories on strikers and squatters, the magazine — first published in May 1930 — focused on travelogues and portraits of places few Canadians had the means to visit. Through photos, maps and paintings, readers caught a glimpse of exotic cultures and landscapes, at home and abroad.

Whether by accident or by design, the Journal’s pages provided an escape for Depression-wary Canadians. As author Helen Kerr noted in “Motor-Vagabonding on Vancouver Island,” published in the July 1930 issue, “When a man wishes to rest from his labours, his thoughts turn to woods and hills and quiet waters, where he may regain the vitality that city life has destroyed.”

**Faces of the Arctic** The magazine provided many Canadians with their first look at life in the North (above).

**Polar Pursuits** Ornithologist J. Dewey Soper (top) unfolded “the mystery which still surrounds large areas of the Arctic.”

**Ladies of Letters** Surprisingly, perhaps, many travel stories in the early 1930s were penned by women. Generally well educated and well off, they reported on their peregrinations, from Vancouver Island (above) to China.