

MRCA NEWSLETTER

Volume 10 Number 1 Winter 1996/1997

Manitoba Recreational Canoeing Association

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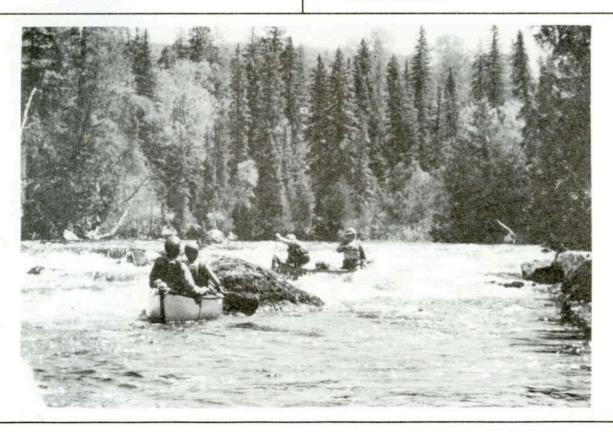




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MRCA 1996/97 Executive & Committees

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Resource (Route Info)	Gerry Hirose	985-5949		
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Indoor Program	Victoria Jackson	222-1718		
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Newsletter '	Jenny Gates	774-5832		
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Trip (Outings)	Donna Kurt	338-6722		
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Bingo	Rosemary and Peter			
	Jackson	837-5777		

Positions valid through to October 1, 1997

AFFILIATIONS

The MRCA is affiliated with the Manitoba Paddling Association and the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association:

MPA Executive Director - Denis Van Laeken - (204) 925-5681 CRCA Executive Director - Joseph Agnew - (613) 269-2910

MRCA home page Internet URL address: http://130.179.24.217/mrca/mrca.html

Check for web links to MRCA members' web pages / E-mail

Cover photo: Gerry Recksiedler and Colleen Robertson watch Ian Robertson and Donna Kurt "negotiate" a rock. (see article starting page 10)

Newsletter Information

This Newsletter is published quarterly (February, May, August and November). One copy is sent to each MRCA Membership. Classified Ads cost 25 cents per word per issue, with a minimum of 12 words (Individual and Family Members may place up to 40 words free).

The cost for Corporate Ads are as follows:

\$25 per eighth page (business card or 3.25 x 2 inches)

\$35 per quarter page (3.25 x 4.25 or 7 x 2 inches)

\$45 per half page (3.25 x 9 or 7 x 4.25 inches)

\$75 per full page (7 x 9 inches).

Run an ad in four consecutive issues for:

\$90 (eighth page)

\$125 (1/4 page)

\$160 (1/2 page)

\$270 (full page).

Art work is available on request for a nominal charge. Rates are subject to change.

Ad copy and payment (cheque to "MRCA") and other submissions must be received by the Newsletter Editor VIA MAIL ONLY, one month prior to issue date.

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE MRCA NEWSLETTER ARTICLES, ADVERTISEMENTS OR INSERTS DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE OPINIONS OF THE MRCA BOARD OR MRCA MEMBERSHIP.

DEADLINE FOR THE SPRING (MAY) 1996 NEWSLETTER IS APRIL 20.

Send Submissions to:

MRCA Newsletter, P.O. Box 2663, Winnipeg MB R3C 4B3

or

Jenny Gates, 71 Maryland St., Winnipeg MB R3G 1K6 (jennyg@magic.mb.ca)

TO MY FRIENDS IN THE MRCA

Again I'd like to thank the canoeists in Manitoba and elsewhere for their support during my life-changing challenge. I'm pleased to say that I am finally out of the hospital and living on my own. I can be contacted via the Internet at sfletche@mb.sympatico.ca or by phone at 284-7846 or by fax at 284-7863.

Thanks, my friends, and happy paddling.

Steven Fletcher, MRCA President

MRCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The MRCA is exploring new ideas to enhance communication among members and the general public. One of the major new initiatives is a new MRCA telephone number (338-6722 or 338-MRCA) listed in the phone book under Manitoba Recreational Canoeing Association. The telephone line will increase public and member access to MRCA events and resources. Thanks, Donna, for the effort. Refer to the MRCA Communications article in this Newsletter.

The MRCA is excited about continuing our successful canoe courses in the coming paddling season. In addition, the MRCA will continue the very popular Tuesday night paddles at La Barriere Park. During the Tuesday night paddles, the instructor,

Steven Fletcher



canoes, paddles and life jackets are provided to our members free of charge. This is another new service provided to our members. These two programs were enjoyed by over 400 participants last summer.

Kathy Taylor-Hallick, Vice-President for MRCA and CRCA, is heavily involved in bringing differently-abled paddlers as part of an inclusion program for canoeing. The CRCA is funding instructors from Manitoba to learn how to teach canoeing in alternate ways. As part of this program, MRCA canoe instructors, including Peter Dowd and Preston Parsons, have attended instruction clinics in Vancouver and Toronto.

The MRCA is trying to get feedback from various canoeing organizations and businesses. As part of this endeavour, the MRCA has recently held a round table workshop to exchange ideas that will better enhance canoeing in Manitoba. Many ideas were exchanged and members can look forward to a more dynamic paddling community.

The traditional programs organized by the MRCA continue to generate great interest. The December 4, 1996 Christmas Social Event with Victoria Jason as speaker was heavily attended and well received. Eileen Smerchanski and Kathy Taylor-Hallick are working hard at planning this year's WaterWalker Film & Video Festival. WaterWalker highlights the various types of canoeing and kayaking throughout the world and is a definite must-see for the outdoor enthusiast. Paddlers are encouraged to come out to WaterWalker to see the displays, products and services of the many paddling organizations and businesses in Manitoba on March 23 from 11 AM to 5 PM at the Museum of Manitoba (Museum of Man & Nature).

All the best, and I look forward to seeing our membership out at these exciting events.

Steven Fletcher, MRCA President

Editorially Speaking...

Howdy, folks. First up, apologies for the lateness of this newsletter. It took me a bit longer than I expected to get back into the swing of things after my five weeks downunder. Yes, I had a great time, yes the weather was hot, and yes I'm glad to be back. Lots of things happening for me this year, so I had to knuckle down and get into it. Maybe a bit hard to think about canoeing or kayaking while the winter is still so entrenched. All the more reason to look toward the spring and summer.

The WATERWALKER film and video festival should whet your appetites, and inspire you to dust off the cobwebs and get packing. The event will be held on Sunday March 23 and more details are on page 5.

In case you don't know yet, the MRCA has a **new phone number**. Instructions on how to make use of this new service can be found on page 6. Wanna job from April to September? We are looking for a **new program coordinator** for this year, so check out page 7 to see if you fit the bill.

New **Bingo** dates for March are also included this issue, although Rosemary tells me that volunteers have already been recruited for the March dates. If you want to get involved for a later date, refer to page 9 for details on who to contact.

Donna has provided a very thorough article on the White River. The article has great photos and tons of helpful information, and starts on page 10. And last, but never least, are all the details (page 16) on upcoming clinics, trips, courses and workshops, as well as the Lakewater Canoe Course Schedule.

Forget the shovelling - get those canoes and kayaks back in shape.

Jenny

By the way, what is a yazoo? A yazoo is a tributary of a river that runs parallel to the river, being prevented from joining the river because the river has built up high banks. The name is derived from the Yazoo River, a tributary of the Mississippi River, which demonstrates this effect. [Thanks to Brian Johnston, and courtesy of The Handy Science Answer Calendar, Accord Publishing Ltd.]



Customized Canoe Expeditions On Canada's Northern Rivers The Kazan, Dubawnt, Cochrane, Hughes, Keewatin & Churchill.

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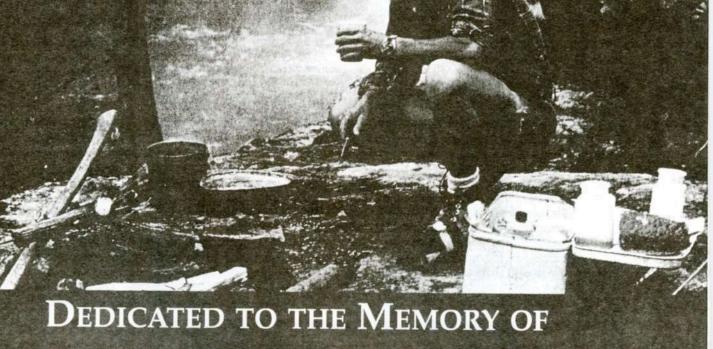
Canoe & full equipment rentals
 Float plane fly-outs

 For further details & free brochure Ph./fax 1-204-356-2243 or write: RAVEN EYE OUTFITTERS BOX 698, LYNN LAKE MANITOBA, CANADA ROB 0W0

Raveneye Web Site - http://www.mbnet.mb.ca/~dkurt/raveneye Toll Free Number - 1 (888) 463-6736

film and video festival

Organized by



To raise public awareness and support for wilderness preservation by celebrating films from around the world on canoeing, kayaking and preservation of waterways.

BILL MASON

and the many wild rivers that are

lost forever

WHEN: SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 1997 11:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

WHERE: MANITOBA MUSEUM OF MAN AND NATURE AUDITORIUM

COST: \$10 PER TICKET

CALL EILEEN (586-5936) OR KATHY (338-9592) FOR TICKETS

MRCA COMMUNICATIONS

Last summer, MRCA members gave the go ahead to the MRCA to use the new Call Messenger Service (CMS from Manitoba Telecom Services) to keep our members informed of MRCA meetings and events. This system automatically dials out to all members in the area of Winnipeg and Northwest Ontario to let them know about MRCA events.

The MRCA will consider adding MRCA members to the MRCA CMS who are living in satellite communities and other areas in Manitoba and Northwest Ontario who want to come to Winnipeg for meetings and courses. Anyone outside of Winnipeg who wants to receive the automatic messages should follow these steps:

- i call the new MRCA phone number at 338-MRCA or 338-6722
- ii. select extension 3 on the key pad of your touch tone phone
- iii. listen to the message about MRCA courses and trips
- leave your name and phone number and request to be added to the MRCA CMS

The MRCA will likely not include members living outside of Manitoba or Northwest Ontario unless the member provides a \$15 donation to cover the long distance charges.

Also, if you want to be removed from the phone list or have changed your phone number, please call 338-6722, ext. 3 and let us know.

"WE'RE IN THE BOOK" (coming June/97)

The Board recently approved a trial phone number for the MRCA - 338-6722 - which conveniently equates to 338-MRCA (look for the letters on the key pads on your touch tone phone). This phone number will be listed in the 1997 White and Yellow Pages under "Manitoba Recreational Canoeing Association" with an extra listing under "Canoeing and Kayaking Recreational."

Please let us know if "338-MRCA" provides you with the information you are looking for; leave your comments at the new phone number if you find it useful or have any suggestions. Depending on your response, the MRCA will investigate further enhancements to our member communications.

When you phone 338-MRCA, the names and phone numbers of several committee chairpersons are provided along with short messages about meetings, the newsletter, paddling routes, membership, courses and trips. Callers may leave a message for any of the six committees in three different extensions. The extensions are accessed by pressing the numbers 1, 2 or 3 on the keypad of any touch-tone phone:

Extension 1 is for the (meetings) Social and Newsletter Committees

Extension 2 is for the Resource (canoe routes) and Membership Committees

Extension 3 is for the Instruction (courses) and (organized) Trips Committees.

All other general messages and queries can be directed to the Main mailbox which will be checked by the MRCA President, Past-President or other designated Board member. The main mailbox is accessed by NOT selecting an extension number and leaving your message after you hear the main message.

The main and extension mailboxes will be checked for messages regularly and responded to as soon as possible by the appropriate MRCA Board members. Your patience in this regard is appreciated as we are "only" volunteers.

COMPUTER DONATION REQUEST

With your help, the MRCA can take a big step forward in providing a top notch Manitoba paddling information telephone/faxback service for the many new and seasoned paddlers looking for information on canoe and kayak routes, courses, rental companies, outfitters and what paddling equipment to buy.

Please advise the MRCA Board (call 338-6722 and select Extension 3 on your touch tone phone) if you are aware of a Macintosh PowerPC or Apple 68050 processor-based computer that can be donated to the MRCA to be dedicated to our phone answering system. A charitable tax receipt can be provided for this donation.

We will also settle for a 386 or 486 IBM compatible PC

PROGRAM COORDINATOR FOR 1997

The Manitoba Recreational Canoeing Association is receiving applications for the position of Program Coordinator for the 1997 season. This position will be part time from April/May to September. Hours per week will vary through the season as the demand for instruction fluctuates.

Duties include:

- · contracting instructors for courses
- · contacting registrants re courses
- · coordinating equipment
- · keeping record of course activities, accounting of fees, expenses, etc.
- · updating the instructor file
- preparing and monitoring course materials and other paperwork
- · promoting courses
- · receiving inquiries from the public
- · setting up new courses as needed
- · taking or monitoring registration as needed
- providing regular reports to designated MRCA Board member(s), and attend Board meetings as required.

Qualifications:

- · good administrative and clerical skills
- · good rapport with public
- canoeing experience and familiarity with CRCA courses
- ideally, applicant should hold CRCA level III, and preference will be given to those with CRCA level IV
- · demonstrated record of responsible, independent performance
- membership in the MRCA
- familiarity with computer wordprocessor is an asset.

Remuneration:

Pay and hours are yet to be determined. This will be finalized before hiring.

If you are interested in this position, please do not hesitate to contact the MRCA. Phone Douglas Ingram at (204) 231-1872 for more information.

Deadline for Applications is March 31, 1997.

Applications and resumes should be sent to:

MRCA Hiring Committee, P.O. Box 2663, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4B3

MRCA MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

LINK to our Internet HOMEPAGE at http://130.179.24.217/mrca/mrca.html

CALL our new PHONE NUMBER at 338-6722 or 338-MRCA

LISTEN to meeting and event announcements from the MRCA Call Messenger Service

READ the MRCA Quarterly Newsletter (Hey! Are you reading this?)

Is AnYbOdY OUT THeRe? (from Pink Floyd, The Wall)

WRITE OR TALK BACK!

Let us know where you've paddled and what you think.

MAKE the Newsletter, Homepage and Phone line YOUR kind of MRCA!

December 4, 1996 Social Evening

CRCA

MRCA

The December 4, 1996 Social Evening at Fort Whyte Nature Centre was a huge success, and tickets were sold out weeks before the event. We could have sold more of them if there had been additional room. Victoria Jason addressed us with another spectacular slide show featuring her return to the Arctic last summer. We enjoyed meeting her friends from the North, and, of course, experiencing her adventures paddling through water, icebergs and rocks. We all wish her good luck in her future endeavours, and eagerly await another slide show update.

The volunteers for the event deserve a huge round of applause - Angus MacIver did a terrific job providing us with food trays, Ralph Ooto was responsible for the great tasting punch, Kathy Taylor-Hallick for the delicious dainties, Muriel and Ashley Thomson and Hayly Smerchanski for setting up food trays, tables and overall help, Donna Kurt for printing the tickets, and Lorne Klassen and Alice Kolisnyk for ticket collection at the door.

We would like to thank the following companies who so generously donated door prizes:

Wilderness Supply Co. Ltd. donated a voyageur gift pack filled with miscellaneous camping items (won by Jack Stoneman)

United Army Surplus Sales donated a Swiss army knife and T-shirt (won by Gabi Kraft)

S.I.R. Sports donated a Terry McLean art print (won by Gerri Weigeldt)

Wave Track Ltd. donated a hip pack (won by Bill Brigden)

Fort Whyte Nature Centre donated an annual family membership (won by Frank Mico)

Tena Wogbert donated a stain glass dove that she hand crafted (won by Beth Mckechnie)

donated a subscription to Explore magazine (won by Elfrida Penner)

donated an Autobon Society Nature Photography book (won by Julie Gold)



Bill Brigden and Victoria Jason at the Fort Whyte Nature Centre. December 4, 1996 Social Evening

January 16, 1997 Slide Presentation

There was a change of dates from Wednesday to Thursday for the January Indoor program. This also meant a change of presenters as Gordon Giesbrecht had a previous engagement. Gordon was going to tell us about his trip on frozen Lake Winnipeg and hypothermia data, and will be scheduled for a future program.

We are grateful to Gary Hewitt who filled in on such short notice with an intriguing slide presentation on kayaking on the West Coast. It was a wonderful break to leave our winter behind for an evening of paddling, ocean waters, and green grass. Gary is a valuable source of information for anyone thinking about taking a kayaking trip. He has also paddled in the Baja, Mexico, and since moving back to Manitoba, has been discovering areas closer to home. The program was well attended by 60 participants.

Change of Dates - April

Please note the change in dates for the April program. We apologize for any inconvenience but it was unavoidable as the meeting room was not available. We look forward to seeing you at the indoor programs. They offer an opportunity to get to know other MRCA members, exchange paddling stories, and perhaps plan next season's trip.

And don't forget about the free underground parking when you attend the programs.

Bingo

Here are our dates for the remainder of the first quarter:

March 12 Wednesday 6.00 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. March 27 Thursday 4.00 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.

Normally we would only have one per month, but we have been given extra dates to make up for the ones we missed in 1996 due to the strike.

The MPA has advised us that we are reverting back to two MRCA representatives from the three we have been sending over the last year. Despite the cutback, there will be no change in the funds earned per Bingo date.

As usual, volunteers should meet in the McDonalds concession 15 mins before start time, and register with Ruth Meltzer of the MPA. It is extremely important that Ruth registers the volunteer:

NOREGISTER = NO CREDIT

There are three areas of work: (i) selling Bingo cards, (ii) selling Nevada tickets (break open), and (iii) collecting garbage.

Volunteers can contact me or Rosemary at any time on 837-5777. If we are not in, leave a message on the machine.

Regards

Peter Jackson

PADDLING PURSUITS



Winter Kayak Pool Courses

Location: St. James Civic Centre Pool, 2055 Ness Ave.

Instructor: Perry McGregor

Phone: 774-7222 for registration or more information

MRCA Fundamental I Courses

Time: 6.00 - 9.00 pm

Dates: 97-K4 Saturday, March 8 and 15

97-K5 Sunday March 9 and 16

Cost: \$80.00 (includes equipment and booklet)

MRCA Fundamental II Course

Time: 6.00 - 9.00 p.m.

Dates: 97-K6 Saturday, March 22 and 29

Cost: \$80.00 (includes equipment and booklet)

Fundamental I introduces the paddler to: kayak equipment, purchase, care, entry and wet exit, forward, reverse and turning strokes, and the Eskimo roll. Fundamental II introduces the paddler to: a review of Fundamental I, power strokes and more time is spent learning the 'roll'

Kayak 'Roll' Clinics

Time: 6.00 - 9.00 p.m.

Dates: 97-R3 Sunday March 23 and 30

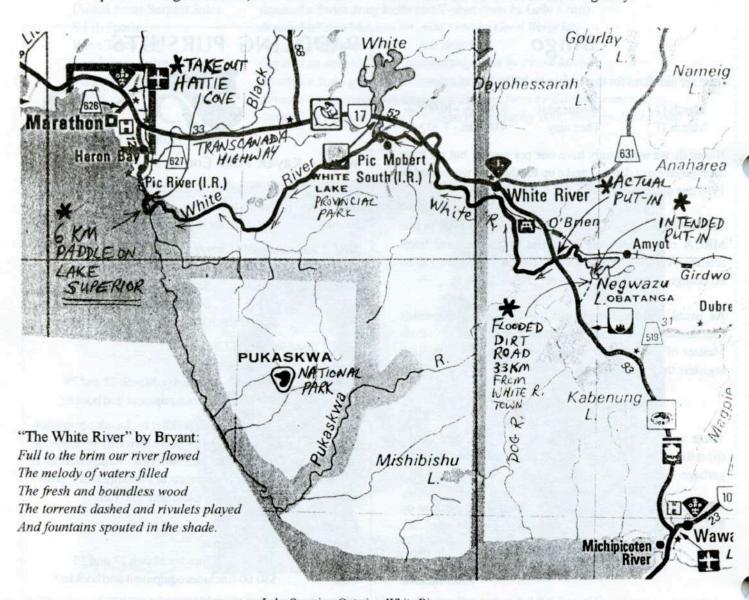
Cost: \$80.00 (includes equipment and booklet)

Paddling A WHITE River

Donna Kurt

The winter of 1995-1996 was a long one. In January 1996, I joined five whitewater paddling friends to plan a summer whitewater canoe trip on a river we were sure would offer some whitewater. MRCA members Brian Johnston, Penny Blatz, Ian Robertson, Colleen Robertson, Gerry Recksiedler and I had made a trip down the Pigeon River in June 1995 (see MRCA Autumn/95 Newsletter Volume 8, Number 4), and now agreed that, by deciding on the White River, we were sure to find runnable rapids.

The general location of the White River is north of Lake Superior, between Marathon and Wawa, east of Thunder Bay in Ontario. The river starts at Negwazu Lake and drains a large tract of the Canadian shield with a drop of 765 feet over 192 km before draining into Lake Superior. We would paddle about 6 km north east on the notorious Lake Superior from the mouth of the White River to our take-out at the Pukaskwa (pronounced puck-ah-saw) National Park parking lot at Hattie Cove. And so our plan was to drive to the Park to register at Hattie Cove and leave one vehicle for the car shuttle at the end of our trip. We would then drive the others to our put-in at Negwazu Lake, east of the town of White River on the TransCanada Highway.



Lake Superior, Ontario - White River area map

We set out on June 17, 1996 for Marathon via Thunder Bay, taking the less expensive and faster route through the US. We had supper at the A&W in Marathon, a few miles from Pukaskwa, and met a burger-chomping Ontario Provincial Police officer, clad in a Kevlar bullet-proof vest. (There was more Kevlar in that vest than in our three ABS (plastic) canoes combined, which included two Trailhead Expedition 17' Prospectors and a Mad River 16' Explorer.) More important was his news that the White River was in serious flood, requiring evacuation of the Indian Reserve town of Mobert. It was not until a few days later that we connected 'flood' with Mobert and White in rather profound ways.

The White River starts as a small stream from Negwazu Lake draining west and south towards Lake Superior while passing through reserve land, along railways, roads, and parks half its distance before tumbling over magnificent waterfalls and surging through large gorges characteristic of the Pukaskwa wilderness shield country.

The second day of our journey was thwarted by high water on a rough backcountry road going north from the TransCanada Highway to the Negwazu Lake put-in; this road is 33 km southeast of the town of White River. The lower sections of the road were covered in water too deep for our city slicker vehicles, so we drove back towards the town of White River to put-in at a bridge. We were only mildly disappointed about this setback because the first 16 km of the trip is lake and bog paddling with few runnable rapids.

On the way we found a good put-in at a small unnamed lake 19 km southeast of the town of White River and 1 km upstream of Sagina Lake. This reduced our canoe trip by 16 km and 8 sets of rapids, leaving 176 km and about 60 rapids and falls to Lake Superior. A small campground offered a more secure place to leave our vehicles for a small parking fee, and the restaurant offered a freshly baked, delicious smelling, gargantuan apple pie that had "take me on the White River" irresistibly written all over it. The warm weather and heat of the sun enticed us to bare some skin and coaxed a marvellous display of swallow tail butterflies enjoying a mud party. The resident German shepherd puppy chased the butterflies playfully while we tied gear to our boats and posed for inaugural "before" photos taken by a fisherman and his wife on a beautiful dog-and-butterfly afternoon. Apparently there was one group ahead of us on the river.

The river is more of a narrow, meandering creek in its upper reaches, lined by willows and white cedar trees. It was evident that the water was still high as the banks could not be seen and the willows were half submerged. We were careful to stay clear of the banks as we cut back and forth in front of each other, taking advantage of position, current and the rocker in our canoes. The heat was excessive but kept the bugs to a minimum, except at the rapids, where the back end of our canoes turned black from hitch-hiking blackflies. I was beginning to wonder if the White was sarcastically named because of the blackflies for which the area is known!

After paddling 24 km and 5 rapids, we explored a permanent camp at Bottle Lake and munched down on the delicious apple pie as we contemplated how much further to camp. Soon after, we found a campsite on the lake, and while unloading the canoes, my paddling partner, Ian, suffered a bad knee sprain. Ian and Colleen decided to drop out of the trip the next day at the town of White River.

En route to White River from Bottle Lake, we ran and portaged 10 sets of rapids which required scouting and some interesting manoeuvres through the rocks in the water and on shore. Ian and I grazed a few rocks, and magnificently collided head-on with a large boulder from which we gracefully recovered without going for a swim. The rocky conditions of some of the rapids in high water made it evident that normal water levels would require more portaging.

We arrived at the town of White River to the great relief of Ian who spent a harrowing day kneeling through numerous rapids and hobbling through rocky portages on a bum knee in the 30 degree heat,

mosquitoes and black flies. Brian and Penny hitchhiked east on the Trans Canada to our vehicles while the rest of us ate lunch and repacked food and gear. White River was established as a divisional point for the CPR railway when rail construction reached it in 1884; it was then known as "Snowbank". Brian, Penny, Gerry and I paddled away as Ian and Colleen headed back to Winnipeg. Later we realized that we should have sent more food back with them, but we did our best to eat for six as much as we could on the trip. And we learned that bug shirts really do work as long as you don't try to eat or swim at the same time.

From the town of White River to White Lake, the river is indeed south 'white' with about 34 rapids and falls, and well-defined portages around each set of rapids. The whitewater paddling courses and practice over the past few years showed their worth as we negotiated numerous Class 2 and Class 3 rapids. They had become wider, deeper and faster due to increased flow from many feeder streams still trying to feed a flood. The rapids varied in length but we scouted the longer ones, often by climbing up to get a better view from the railway tracks. The last rapids that dropped us to White Lake was a long, fun run down River Right, through a chute on the far right around a corner.

After having tea in the town of Mobert with a friendly native fellow (whom we met at White River) and his family, we paddled a few kilometres south out of White Lake, passing the last railway bridge and road, to find a very large campsite, complete with mosquitoes, blackflies and rain.

Our timing was perfect for seeing dozens of Moccasin Flowers or Pink Lady's Slipper flowers (*Cypripedium acaule*, Orchis family) on the portage paths, often in groups of three to eight plants gracefully nodding their heads in the sun and by their exemplary grace managing to evade being crumpled by overloaded boots. There was also a profusion of many other plants, most of which were used as folk medicinal cures by the Ojibway who travelled the White River long ago and whose descendants we had met several times on this trip.



Brian and Penny are dwarfed by a high log jam caused by the White River flood. Photo by Gerry Recksiedler.

The portages and conditions were beautiful with minimal wear and tear and no garbage or debris because we were only the second group to descend the river this season.

The White River Dam is the only dam on the river and the pile of logs on it showed the force of the flood. The portage around the dam on River Right is quite easy, and after the dam, the river widens and is set lower on the land. The banks are draped with overhanging white cedar trees, arching up and out from the shore over the water and towards the sky.

The overhanging cedars poised a threat because the flood waters often made the centre of the river a more dangerous place, requiring precise manoeuvring to stay between the rocks and the trees. Gradually, the river banks that were sand and cedar give way to granite outcrops skirted by white pine, jack pine and black spruce. The rapids turned into water falls and gorges, and we were forced to carry the canoes and gear more and more.

Chicagonce Portage is about 630 m on River Left, through stands of cedar and over a couple of rock falls to a challenging put-in at a large undulating pool at the bottom of the very impressive falls. On our return trip for the packs we took time to explore the falls and wonder at what a ride it would be through the 6 foot high tongues and cascading water. In flood, this would truly be a beautiful and dangerous spectacle.

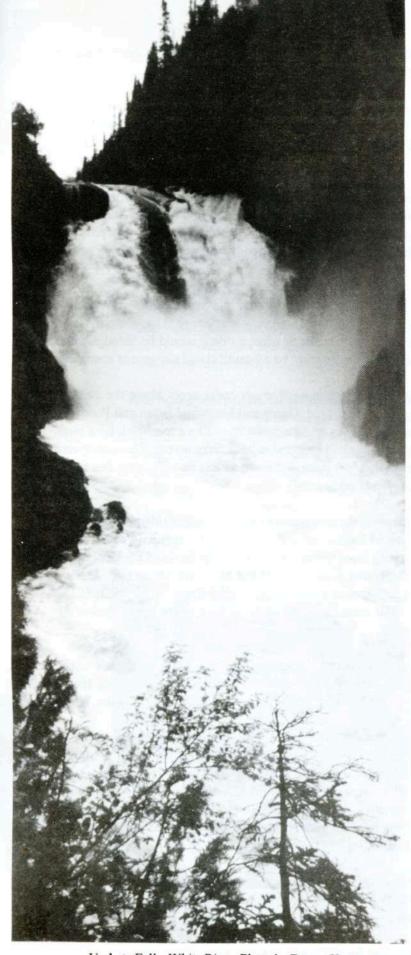
One particular set of rapids necessitated a portage, then lining through cedar roots along the swollen banks followed by running three large rapids. In the first rapid, Gerry and I watched Brian and Penny do a very fast and tight eddy turn, before our own canoe was unexpectedly spun like a toothpick by a huge whirlpool quickly moving up the left eddy line which we had intended to back ferry across. The manoeuvre looked very good as we reflexed with good braces and an upstream lean to keep from flipping due to the centrifugal force of our unintentional, minimal effort "eddy-spin".

We had our first bug-free night at Angler Falls because the temperature had dropped considerably following two rainy, cool days, and the unusual cumulus cloud formations and cooler climate told us we were getting closer to Lake Superior. The levels of the receding flood water could be seen on the sand banks between the stands of cedar. Flood water debris was suspended in the trees 10 feet above us. On an outside bank of a turn in the river, a large log jam on top of a rock looked as if it were a beaver lodge built by a Godzilla-sized beaver. It dwarfed Brian and Penny in their canoe, and we were glad we weren't here during the flood.

We unloaded our canoes up the muddy bank on River Right above the gorge leading to Umbata Falls, a spectacular 100 m drop. The portage around the falls is 2,400 m long on a 4WD road that ends 100 m downstream of a bridge. The bridge is used for maintaining the hydro power lines that cross the White River over a set of rapids below of Umbata.

We met up with a group of six Outward Bound staff and leaders and then set up camp near the bridge. Before preparing dinner, we hiked back to look at Umbata Falls which got louder and louder as we approached. Further testimony to the name 'White' River was the white mist floating above metre-thick foam undulating in the gorge below. The last log drive on the river was in 1964; imagine the logs heading over Umbata Falls! Standing at the brink of the falls offers a spectacular view, but if you fell into the white milieu below, you would not survive - PFD or no PFD!

We scrambled back to camp through the monkey trails and bush, which at one time must have been the portage with dangerous access at the top of the falls, we prepared supper with some brandy, then shared desserts with the Outward Bound group around their campfire (the first campfire of our trip). They were also carrying food prepacked food for extra paddlers; the White River seemed to be offering "extra" for everyone; flood waters, fantastic scenery, food and fun!!



Umbata Falls, White River. Photo by Donna Kurt.

The next morning we enjoyed breakfast watching Umbata's mist wafting from the gorge, then shoved off for the final day of portaging. The remaining six rapids were too dangerous to be paddled. These portages were each much shorter than the Umbata portage but added up to about the same difficulty by the end of the day; Gerry offered to carry my 85 pound canoe this last day since I had carried it over the Umbata portage - I didn't complain. Some of the portages had to be cleared and we assumed we were the first group to descend the river below Umbata Falls in 1996.

The third last portage had a nice campsite and a very steep put-in. The second last portage was on River Left around a nice unnamed falls, but was not marked on the topographical map. The last portage is 690 m long on River Left and called Chigamiwinigum, after the Falls. The Pukaskwa Coastal Hiking Trail crosses over this gorge on a shaky suspension foot bridge that offers spectacular photographic opportunities looking up and down the Chigamiwinigum gorge.

There was a huge difference in the high water features of the Falls compared to the much lower water level I saw on a Manitoba Naturalists Society 1993 Lake Superior paddling trip. I recalled stepping up a stairway made from large railway ties at the south end of the portage. These were washed out by the flood and replaced by a jumble of huge logs and debris over which we had to scramble with our gear and canoes.

The campsites at the end of the portage were unusable because of a rotting, bear-gouged moose carcass so we paddled the remaining 4 km to Lake Superior through rising mist caused by the cold lake air moving upstream over the warm river water.

There are no campsites or places to take refuge from the typically rough water of Lake Superior between the mouth of the White River and Hattie Cove. So we checked the conditions of the Lake from the vantage point of the campsite 3.2 km downstream of Chigamiwinigum Falls on River Right and found it surprisingly calm.

Taking advantage of the clear and calm conditions, we paddled past Hattie Cove to see the muddy water of the Pic River mixing with the clear emerald-blue lake water, then went back to Hattie Cove, taking-out at 6 p.m. It took us less than seven days to paddle 176 km of the White River, including one day of non-paddling caused by trip delays.

While unloading our canoes on the steps of Hattie Cove park headquarters we met Dick, an American, who was watching paddlers come and go, dismayed that his strained back cancelled a canoe trip on the White River with his friend Woody. After a refreshing hot shower and supper in the campground, we joined Dick and Woody's family for beer and munchies around their campfire to relate our White River adventures to an enticed audience of fellow paddlers. The next morning, June 25,

Gerry and I packed up and drove back to Winnipeg. Brian and Penny relaxed one day then ran a one-day canoe trip on the White River with Woody before heading further east to paddle the Dog River with other MRCA paddlers.

The White River's rapids, falls, foam and blackflies were an exhilarating education into how the river got its name. This trip won't easily be forgotten!

WHITE RIVER WEBSITE

Visit the White River on the Internet for more photos at: http://www.wilds.mb.ca/wilds/whiteriver

WHITE RIVER MAPS AND TRIP LOGISTICS

- The 1:50,000 scale topographical maps required for this trip include: Pokei Lake 42C/6, White River 42C/11, Cedar Lake 42C/12, and Marathon 42D/9.
- For more information on Pukaskwa National Park phone the Pukaskwa National Park Service at (807) 229-0801.
- For the White River Canoe Route guide and map (ISBN 0-7729-6814-4) and current river and portage conditions
 write the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources at P.O. Box 1160, Wawa, Ontario POS 1K0 or phone (705) 8562396. Appropriate caution must be taken by paddlers, using suitable skills and equipment, because not all
 portages and rapids or their classes are marked on this map or the topographical maps. Natural Resources no
 longer clears the portage trails.
- From the White Lake Provincial Park, it is a 4-to-5 day 112 km trip to Lake Superior. From Negwazu Lake, it is a 7-to-8 day 192 km trip. The White River can be run anytime during the ice-free season.
- Overall, the majority of the White River's rapids are Class 2 and higher; the lower third of the river is primarily waterfalls requiring portaging.
- Filter or boil the river water to prevent Beaver fever (Giardia Lamblia, protozoa that infects the intestinal tract
 of humans and other mammals).
- We stored our food in large plastic canoe-tripping barrels and had no problems with bears at any of the campsites. MNR recommends hanging your food from the trees.
- Campsites can be found almost every 8 km along the river and on the lakes, although the number of established campsites is low because the White River is not an overcrowded canoe route. There are few good campsites from 6 km upstream of the confluence of the White River and the Oskabakuta River down to the bridge below Umbata Falls. Parties may travel further in one day than originally planned, providing extra time is allocated along the lower part of the river where crowding may occur. During busier periods in the summer, campsites may not be available along the White River near Chigamiwinigum Falls due to the intersection of the Coastal Hiking Trail with the White River Canoe Route. Park officials recommend canoeists use any of the two campsites on River Left above the Third Falls (P95 River Right) or the two campsites on River Left between the Third and Second Falls (P215 River Left). There are also three campsites accessible only by water downstream from Chigamiwinigum Falls (300 m River Right opposite the end of the Chigamiwinigum Portage, 3.2 km River Right and 3.5 km River Left before the mouth of the White River) which are generally less used than those below the falls.

Clinics, Courses, Trips and Workshops

MCRA Lakewater Instructor Re-Certification Clinic

MRCA is again planning a RE-CERTIFICATION clinic for CRCA Lakewater Canoe Instructors and Senior Instructors. All Lakewater Instructors are required to re-certify on a three-year cycle. The clinic is a full day, and includes a skills review to your certification level. This clinic will occur in spring 1997 in Winnipeg. Participants supply own equipment. (If sufficient interest is expressed a fall clinic could also be held.)

Proposed Date:

Saturday in Late May

Location:

La Barriere Park

Fee:

\$35

Reservations:

Wes Friesen at (204) 487-0573 (home), (204) 784-6548 (wk)

Manitoba Pioneer Camp, Lakewater Canoeing Instructor and Senior Instructor Course

This course is for people interested in developing their paddling skills and/or in instructing others in canoeing. The course is open to people with CRCA Lakewater II, Red Cross Level II or experienced paddlers, and is spread over three weekends, allowing lots of practice time and provides over 40 hours of instruction.

Instructors:

TBA

Dates:

2 weekends in late May and one in early June, 1997

Location:

Manitoba Pioneer Camp, Shoal Lake, Ontario (2 hours from Wpg)

Fee: Registrations: \$315.00, include \$100.00 deposit with application from by May 1

For more information or to register please contact - Wes Friesen, 707-690 Kenaston Blvd., Winnipeg MB, R3N 1Z3, phone (204) 487-0573 (home) or (204) 784-6548 (wk)

MRCA Lakewater Level 4 & 5 Instructors Course

MRCA is interested in holding a fall Lakewater Instructors Course. No details are available at this time. If you are interested in a fall course similiar to those held at Camp Stephens over the last few years, please give us call. This would be a five- or six-day course at the end of August. Cost is likely around \$300.

Contacts:

Wes Friesen, Safety & Instruction Committee, (204) 487-0573 (home) or

Doug Ingram, Safety & Instruction Committee, (204) 231-1872 (home)

MRCA Spring Canoe Trip. Rouseau River, Moving Water Trip, Class 2. Leader: Donna Kurt

Participants must have Moving Water skills and appropriate moving water equipment and cold water/weather clothing.

Dates:

April 20 to 27 depending on water flow and conditions

Registration:

Phone 338-6722, ext 3.

Get Ready to Canoe Workshop (Manitoba Naturalists Society)

John Buchanan will talk about the best places to canoe in Manitoba and Northwest Ontario. Ray Ingalls will talk about food preparation and equipment. Jerry Zaste will talk about tripping gear.

Date:

Thursday April 10, 7.30 p.m.

Location:

TBA

Registration:

Phone 943-9029

Trip Leader Workshop (MRCA, MNS)

Generic trip leader issues will be presented and discussed drawing on the knowledge of those who successfully lead hiking, backpacking, canoeing, kayaking and other outdoor activities. The focus will be on safety, preventing incidents and dealing with accidents so they don't become catastrophes. Group dynamics, leadership style, safety gear, trip presentation result in successful trips.

Date:

Sunday April 13, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location:

TBA

Registration:

Phone 338-6722, ext. 3.

MRCA Moving Water Level 3 Course

Dates: May 31 & June 1 OR May 24 & 25, 1997

Location: Manitou Rapids, Pine Falls

Instructor: Brian Johnston

Prerequisites: Good flatwater and moving water paddling skills/experience

Registration deadline: May 17, 1997

Cost: \$100 for MRCA members, \$110 for non-MRCA members

Call (204) 338-6722, ext. 3 and leave your name and number indicating you want to participate in this course. Participants might be required to supply some of their own equipment and clothing.

MRCA Lakewater Canoe Course Schedule for 1997

Courses have been scheduled to allow people as much opportunity as possible to participate. Some courses are set to run over one weekend, some over two consecutive weekends (i.e., two Saturdays in a row), and some to be completed all in one day.

We are again offering the **Tuesday Evening Paddling sessions**. These were extremely popular last year, often with 10 to 14 canoes out! These evenings are a great way to meet others interested in canoeing, to participate in canoeing without needing to own any equipment, and to learn some new skills. The sessions are primarily recreational, however, there is always a certified instructor available for some informal instruction. Sessions start promptly, though often run past the scheduled finish time, especially on one of those truly magical evenings when everything is just picture perfect!

New this year! We are now able to offer short introductory courses in basic tandem and basic solo skills. Only four hours in duration, these courses cover just the basic skills so that you can get into your canoe and start enjoying paddling without being overwhelmed by all of the extras that you may not need right away. You can take these courses during on weekend afternoon, or over two evenings during the week. Hopefully, you will find the experience of canoeing so satisfactory that you will be ready for the higher level courses.

We will be setting up a **Basic Instructor Course** to be run sometime this season. The exact dates will be determined by the needs of the people involved. It will most likely be scheduled for sometime in July or August. If you are interested, please do not hesitate to express your interest by calling 338-MRCA. This course is much shorter and less expensive than the regular CRCA level 4 or level 5 Instructor courses, and prepares you to teach Introduction level courses.

If you have a special group, or if the schedule outlined below does not offer what you need, please feel free to call 338-MRCA to get in contact with someone who may be able set up a special course just for you!

Fees and Minimum Registration - A minimum registration is required for each course so that the cost involved in its implementation are covered. Please register as early as possible on 338-MRCA so that we are able to determine whether there is adequate registration to run a course.

Introduction to Canoeing	(4.5 hours)	\$30.00	min. 3 students	max 5 students
Introduction to Solo	(4.5 hours)	\$35.00	2 students	4 students
CRCA level I	(12 hours)	\$60.00	4 students	8 students
CRCA level II	(12 hours)	\$60.00	4 students	6 students
CRCA level III	(12 hours)	\$60.00	3 students	4 students

There is a \$10.00 discount on levels I, II and III for MRCA members. Annual membership is \$15.00/individual, or \$20.00/family. Higher level courses have a lower maximum registration in order to maintain an adequate instructor/student ratio.

(cont'd on next page)

Course Description and Prerequisites

Introduction to canoeing is a short (4.5 hour) course which introduces you to the very basics of canoeing. Ideal if you're just testing the waters, so to speak. No previous experience required.

Introduction to solo is a short (4.5 hour) course which gets you started paddling solo. This course is ideal for those who are already comfortable in a canoe and just want to focus on their solo skill. No prerequisite required, but students should feel at ease handling a canoe.

CRCA Level I - is a comprehensive entry level course. It covers everything from equipment selection to self-rescue techniques. Upon completion of this course, you will feel quite comfortable in a canoe. Ideal if you are just starting out, but need more than the basics. No prerequisites required.

CRCA Level II - is a comprehensive mid level course. Performance criteria are more strict, and higher level skills are taught. Solo paddling techniques are introduced. Prerequisite: CRCA level I or equivalent.

CRCA Level III - is a comprehensive higher level course which brings the paddler to a mastery level of control over the canoe. Advanced turn and precision control techniques are taught for both tandem and solo positions. This is the highest level before instructor level. Prerequisites: CRCA level II or equivalent.

Schedule

Course start promptly, please arrive a little before the start time. Finish times may vary with the particular needs of each class. A "+" indicates a likelihood that a course will run beyond its scheduledfinish time. CRCA level courses which are completed within one day are a lot of work and require a great deal of effort on the part of the candidate as there is little rest time compared to other courses. Unless otherwise indicated, all courses are held at **La Barriere Park**. Meet at the small parking lot at the park entrance.

Weekend courses

MAY	CRCA level II	Saturday May 31 and Sunday June 1	10:00 am - 4:30 pm
	CRCA level III	Saturday 24 and Sunday 25	10:00 am - 4:30 pm
JUNE	Introduction to canoeing	Saturday 7	10:00 am - 2:30 pm
	Introduction to Solo	Sunday 8	10:00 am - 2:30 pm
	CRCA level I	Sunday 15 and Sunday 22	10:00 am - 4:30 pm
	CRCA level II	Saturday 28	9:00 am - 6:00 pm +
	CRCA level III	Saturday 14 and Saturday 21	10:00 am - 4:30 pm
JULY	Introduction to Canoeing	Saturday 5	10:00 am - 2:30 pm
	Introduction to Solo Canoeing	Sunday 6	10:00 am - 2:30 pm
	CRCA level I	Saturday 26	9:00 am - 6:00 pm +
	CRCA level II	Sunday 13 and Sunday 20	10:00 am - 4:30 pm
	CRCA level II	Sunday 27	9:00 am - 6:00 pm +
	CRCA level III	Saturday 12 and Saturday 19	10:00 am - 4:30 pm
AUGUST	Introduction to Canoeing	Saturday 2	10:00 am - 2:30 pm
	Introduction to Canoeing	Saturday 30	10:00 am - 2:30 pm
	Introduction to Solo Canoeing	Sunday 3	10:00 am - 2:30 pm
	Introduction to Solo Canoeing	Sunday 31	10:00 am - 2:30 pm
	CRCA level I	Saturday 23	9:00 am - 6:00 pm +
	CRCA level II	Sunday 10 and Sunday 17	10:00 am - 4:30 pm
	CRCA level II	Sunday 24	9:00 am - 6:00 pm +
	CRCA level III	Saturday 9 and Saturday 16	10:00 am - 4:30 pm
SEPTEMBER	CRCA level III	Saturday 6 and Sunday 7	10:00 am - 4:30 pm

Weekday Courses

Each course runs for two consecutive evenings per week. Wednesday and Thursday evening 7:00 pm till 9:00 pm +

Tuesday Night Paddling Sessions

Held every Tuesday from May 20 - September 9 from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm +. Free for MRCA members, \$3.00 for MNS members, \$5.00 for non-members

MRCA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Updated MRCA Membership Directories will be distributed to MRCA Members in the Spring. In the meantime, let us know any changes or corrections, and please add your E-mail address.

MRCA INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY MEMBERS

Family \$20/year (group of individuals living at one address)
Individual \$15/year

MRCA Individual and Family Membership Benefits

- names, addresses, phone numbers and paddling interests listed in MRCA Membership directory issued once a year
- each individual or family member is eligible for specified discounts at participating retail outlets and for MRCA resource information. courses, product offerings and events
- one copy of each issue of the MRCA quarterly Newsletter is sent to each Membership address
- MRCA members are entitled to vote at the MRCA AGM
- MRCA members who are CRCA certified instructors and First Aid/CPR certified are eligible to teach MRCA canoeing or kayaking courses
- all members are eligible to serve as MRCA Board Members.

MRCA CORPORATE MEMBERS (\$25/year)

Clearwater Canoe Outfitters, Box 3939, The Pas, MB R9A 1S5 (204) 624-5467 fax (204) 624-5467

Northern Canoe Company (see under Retailer Discount Programs)

North River Outfitters, 80 Deerwood Drive, Thompson, MB

R8N 1E1 phone/fax (204) 778-6979

URL: http://mysterynet.mb.ca/northriver

E-mail: northriv@mts.net

Paddling Pursuits, 501 Greenwood Place, Winnipeg, MB R3G 2P2 (204) 774-7222

Raven Eye Outfitters, Box 698, Lynn Lake, MB ROB OWO (204) 356-2243 1-888-463-6736 (toll free) URL: http://www.wilds.mb.ca/paddle/raveneye/

Red River Canoe & Paddle, 63 Ellesmere Ave., Winnipeg, MB R2M 0G4 (204) 231-1872 E-mail redcanoe@pangea.ca URL: http://www.wilds.mb.ca/paddle/redriver

Souris River Canoes, 104 Reid St., Box 1116, Atikokan, ON P0T 1C0 (807) 597-1292

Totem Outdoor Outfitters (see under Retailer Discount Programs)
Wave Track Canoes, 42C Speers Rd., Winnipeg, MB R2J 1M3
(204) 231-8226 fax (204) 231-8227
URL: http://www.wilds.mb.ca/paddle/wavetrack
E-mail: gbrabant@infobahn.mb.ca

Wild Water Equipment, Box 234, St. Norbert PS., Winnipeg
MB R3V 1L6 (204) 261-1814 fax (204) 261-1460
URL: http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~umwrig33/
E-mail: umwrig33@cc.umanitoba.ca
74721.3712@compuserve.com

MRCA Corporate Member Benefits

- name, address, services/products, phone number listed on MRCA Internet Home Page
- · name, address, phone number listed in MRCA Newsletter
- MRCA Membership Directory
- · extra copies of the MRCA Newsletter if required
- · link from MRCA home page to member's home page / E-mail.

MRCA AFFILIATE MEMBERS (\$24/year)

Manitoba Pioneer Camp. 202-159 Henderson Hwy, Winnipeg MB R2L 1L4 (204) 663-1481 fax (204) 663-1659

Selkirk Community Paddling Club, 215 Toronto Ave., Selkirk MB R1A 0N3 (204) 482-8478

YM-YWCA Camp Stephens, 400-428 Portage Ave., Winnipeg MB R3C 0E2 (204) 989-4180 fax (204) 947-0787

Age & Opportunity, St. Vital Senior Centre, 613 St. Mary's Rd., Winnipeg MB R3M 3L8 (204) 253-1842

82nd Westminster Scouts, 48 Purcell Ave., Winnipeg MB R3G 1A1 (204) 983-2531

Affiliate (club/organization) Member Benefits

- name, address, services/products, phone number listed on MRCA Internet Home Page
- name, address, phone number listed in MRCA Newsletter
- · MRCA Membership Directory
- · extra copies of the MRCA Newsletter if required
- · discounts on retailers
- · access to resource info and MRCA paddling instructor courses
- · MSF meeting rooms booked through MRCA
- · insurance on trips meeting MRCA trip requirements
- · publication of affiliate events in the MRCA Newsletter
- · link from MRCA home page to member's home page / E-mail.

RETAILER DISCOUNT PROGRAMS

Some retailers have offered merchandise discounts to MRCA Members. In order for retailers to verify a customer requesting a MRCA discount is a MRCA Member, they have been given only the names of all our Members (no addresses or phone numbers). This keeps to our policy of not releasing our Membership Directory to non-Members yet allows the retailers to verify MRCA Members' names over the phone. If you are a new Member please give us time to update our Membership list and send your name to the retailers. Other retailers wishing to participate in this program may contact the MRCA at P.O. Box 2663, Winnipeg MB R3C 4B3.

Northern Canoe Company

Site 270 Comp. 36 RR 2, 495 Rabbit Lake Rd., Kenora ON P9N 3W8, phone/fax (807) 548-8403 E-mail bonysko@voyageur.ca
URL: http://www.voyageur.ca/~bonysko/canoe.htm
Northern Canoe Co. will give MRCA Members 7% off the regular price of canoes, kayaks, paddles, PFDs and packs.

The Global Village Map & Travel Store

167 Lilac St., Winnipeg, MB R3M 2S1 (204) 475-3254 Global Village Map & Travel offers MRCA Members a 10% discount off all merchandise related to paddling.

Totem Outfitters

341 - 10 Ave. S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2R 0A5 (800) 420-4665 7430 - 99 St., Edmonton, Alberta T6E 3R9 (403) 432-1223

Totem Outfitters offers their new Rapid Rewards program on all regular priced merchandise where MRCA members can earn points that can be used to save money on future purchases.

Trailhead

1960 Scott St., Ottawa, ON K1Z 8L8 (613) 722-4229

URL: http://www.blackfeather.com/

E-mail: scottst@trailheadend.com

Trailhead offers MRCA Members 10% off all Trailhead Expedition Canoes.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

General Meetings (GM) are held on the third Wednesday evenings of each month, except July, August, November and December

Sunday March 23 Waterwalker Film and Video Festival 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Museum of Man and Nature

(no GM this month)

TO:

Thursday April 17 GM and Video Presentation

The Thelon and Kazan Rivers in the Northwest Territories 7.30 p.m., Sports Manitoba, 2nd Floor, 200 Main Street Presenter: Bob Williams

Wednesday May 14 GM and Slide Presentation

Thlewiaza River in the Northwest Territories 7.30 p.m., Sports Manitoba, 2nd Floor, 200 Main Street Presenters: John Buchanan, Gerry and Maureen Recksiedler, Ray Ingalls and Marcel Richot

FROM:

(If undeliverable, return to:)

MRCA Membership Committee

P.O. Box 2663

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 4B3

Please send any address changes as well as E-mail and Internet addresses for inclusion in the next MRCA directory

BINGO

Work at a Bingo and get one-year MRCA membership for free!!!

If you are interested in working at a future bingo, please call:

Rosemary or Peter Jackson at 837-5777

- two MRCA volunteers per Bingo
- Bingo work period is about two hours
- report to the Manitoba Paddling Association
- Bingo Coordinator at the Bingo Hall, near the Volunteer Cash Wickets
- you must arrive on time!

Upcoming Dates

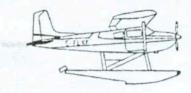
McPhillips St. Stn Wed Mar 12

6.00 p.m. - 10.00 p.m.

McPhillips St. Stn Thurs Mar 27

4.00 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.

WAMAIR



SERVICE AND OUTFITTING INC.

Air service to Bloodvein, Pigeon, Berens and Poplar Rivers Cessna 180 or Beaver on floats

> William & Kathy Mowat (204) 276-2410 or (204)276-2330