

# MRCA NEWSLETTER

Volume 12 Number 2  
Spring 1999

## Manitoba Recreational Canoeing Association

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MANITOBA PADDLING ASSOCIATION



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Manitoba



# MRCA 1998/99

## Executive & Committees

POSITION	EXECUTIVE	PHONE
President	Julie Gold jgold@escape.ca	475-3224
Vice-President	VACANT	
Secretary	VACANT	
Treasurer	Frank Penner fpenner@ilos.net	667-1513
Past-President	Marcel Ritchot	256-3690
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Instruction	Donna Kurt icanoe@wilds.mb.ca	334-3111
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Indoor Program	VACANT	
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Trip Coordinator	Gerald Hirose ghirose@aircanada.ca	985-5949
Advocacy	VACANT	
Bingo	Gord Johnson	254-6167

*Positions valid through to October 1, 1999*

### 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  
(E-mail: [staff@crca.ca](mailto:staff@crca.ca) website: [www.crca.ca](http://www.crca.ca))

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  
new shortcut: [www.wilds.mb.ca/mrca](http://www.wilds.mb.ca/mrca)

### 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 (¼ page)
- \$160 (½ 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 SUMMER (AUGUST) 1999  
NEWSLETTER IS JULY 20.**

Send submissions by phone, fax, E-mail or snail mail to:

**MRCA Newsletter, P.O. Box 2663,  
Winnipeg MB R3C 4B3  
Phone/Fax: (204) 774-5832  
E-mail: [jennyg@total.net](mailto:jennyg@total.net)**

**MRCA phone (204) 338-6722**

Ext. 1 = events, meetings, newsletter  
Ext. 2 = membership, trips, routes  
Ext. 3 = courses

**Cover photo:** Jerry Ameis at the end of a portage between "crossroads" lake and Royd Lake. (See article on page 14).

# MRCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Julie Gold

Greetings and welcome to paddling season!

The early and generally warm spring allowed paddlers to begin their enjoyment of our wonderful Manitoba rivers earlier than usual this year. It is such a pleasure to launch a canoe or kayak after the cold of winter retreats, to renew paddling partnerships, anticipate summer's trips, feel wild and free as the river itself. As Dave Hatfield says in his song about the Shield (reviewed on page 12), "Dip your paddle in the water, and know for certain that you're back." Those of you who attended the Waterwalker

Film Festival got a sobering reminder of the importance of water safety. Tragically, the past year has claimed the lives of several excellent paddlers. Please, practise safe boating: wear a PFD, outfit your boat properly with ropes, throw bags, etc., learn whistle, hand and paddle signals, and if you are paddling on moving water, wear a helmet. To ignore precaution is not brave, nor is it a sign of expertise – it is reckless and foolish!



*Julie Gold and Maurice Marceau canoeing the spring rapids on the Whitemouth River (note the use of helmets and PFDs). "Farmer's Rapids" is just 2 hours from Winnipeg.*

My thoughts have turned often this winter to the task of saving our rivers and lakes from development and resource extraction; on behalf of the MRCA I wrote letters to Pine Falls Paper Company and the Ministry of Natural Resources (see page 10) to plead the case for wilderness preservation. I firmly believe Manitoba has the best wilderness paddling in North America – let's use it, not lose it! To ensure we can continue to enjoy these wild places, lobby for our parks and heritage rivers, and when you are tripping this summer, practise "no trace camping." Check out Al Bayne's new book "Bugs, Sweat, and Fears" (reviewed on page 12), or his website ([www.wilderness.mb.ca](http://www.wilderness.mb.ca)) for tips on travelling lightly on the land.

This has been a great year for paddling-related books with Manitoba connections. We have two more book launches in May. James Raffan, author of Bill Mason's biography, will be at our May 19 meeting at Sports Manitoba, presenting "Bark, Skin and Cedar: Exploring the canoe in Canadian experience." And Paul Mason will continue the thread of work started by his dad Bill, with his book "Thrill of the Paddle." You can meet Paul Friday, May 21 at Sports Manitoba, and some of us will get a chance to paddle with this moving water master at his river workshop May 22 and 23. I am pleased to announce a reworking of the MRCA resource pamphlets and the long awaited assembly of our new booklet, "Canoeing in South-Eastern Manitoba." These will be available at our May meetings, or from Gerry Hirose, MRCA Resource Chair. Thanks to Gerry, Jerry Ameis, Robert Stanners, Michael Glaveen, Margaret Childs, and others who have worked on these resource projects. And thanks to Dr. Paul Gahlinger, who allowed us to use information from his book "Northern Manitoba From Forest to Tundra"; the MRCA should have copies of this reference available this spring.

Demand for flatwater and moving-water canoeing and kayaking courses has never been greater. A big thanks to Donna Kurt, our besieged Instruction Chair, for all her countless hours of work. We are excited about the involvement this year of a number of kayaking instructors. We are sending a number of our moving-water and kayaking instructors to CRCA courses and workshops implementing the new national instruction standards. The Freestyle Symposium, organized for the second year by Doug Ingram, offers yet another perspective on paddling. This course, in cooperation with the American Canoeing Association, is a taste of our hopes for future collaboration with our southern neighbours. The MRCA is working hard to bring you opportunities for paddling instruction, information, and especially fun, but please remember that most of us are volunteers, and at times need your patience. In fact, we'd love your help! There are many ways to pitch in, little things (and big) that need to be done. Why not take the opportunity to get to meet some of your fellow paddlers, or to get to know us better? To get involved, just contact anyone listed inside the front cover.

As this newsletter reaches you, the Tuesday and Sunday canoeing program at La Barriere Park will be starting up for the season (May 18) on the LaSalle River. This year, Tony Kinal will host kayakers Friday evenings on the Red River. We hope you'll have a chance to join us for a pleasant paddle!

## MRCA INDOOR PROGRAM

Events are generally held on the third Wednesday of each month, at the 2nd floor of the Sports Manitoba building, 200 Main Street, and start at 7.30 pm. There is free underground parking available at Sports Manitoba (unless otherwise noted). If you have any suggestions for future meetings, or would like to contribute in some way, please contact the MRCA phone line (338-6722 or 338-MRCA).

If you would like to be a part of the program, we are looking for speakers, presenters, slideshows, video presentations, talks, trips accounts – in fact, anything related to canoeing, paddling, kayaking, and the great outdoors.

### **"Bark, Skin and Cedar" – Wednesday May 19, 1999, 7:30 pm**

Presentation/book launch by James Raffan, sponsored by Harper Collins. Come along for the prizes and the fun. Copies of "Bark, Skin and Cedar" will be available to MRCA Members at a special Member's price for signing by James at the event. The book is published by Harper Collins.

James Raffan presents his new book: "Bark, Skin and Cedar, Exploring the Canoe in the Canadian Experience". "Bark, Skin and Cedar" is an intelligent and grand exploration of the great Canadian icon – the canoe. From the graceful birch-bark vessels of the Micmac Indians to the wide and sturdy Haida dugouts, from the canvas-covered Chestnut Prospector to the sleek dragon racing boat, the fragile but powerful craft defines our history and our culture in a myriad of ways. James Raffan, author of the national bestseller "Fire in the Bones: Bill Mason and the Canadian Canoeing Tradition", is a professor of outdoor and experiential education at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. His other books include "Wild Waters" (editor), "Canexus: The Canoe in Canadian Culture" (co-editor), and "Summer North of 60". As an accomplished paddler and canoe scholar, he is a well-known teacher and speaker on wilderness and conservation themes. James Raffan lives in Seeley's Bay, Ontario.

### **"Thrill of the Paddle" – Friday May 21, 1999, 7:30 pm**

Presentation/book launch by Paul Mason, son of Bill Mason. There will be prizes and an opportunity to meet other members and reflect on the past winter. Visit Paul's website at [www.wilds.mb.ca/redcanoe](http://www.wilds.mb.ca/redcanoe)

"Thrill of the Paddle" is the sequel to the classics "Path of the Paddle" and "Song of the Paddle" series of books and videos by Bill Mason and his family. "Thrill of the Paddle" features articles by Paul Mason and Mark Sriver, two of Canada's most skilled whitewater canoeists, which advance paddlers beyond the skills illustrated and explained in the new version of "Path of the Paddle" revised by Paul, Becky and Joyce Mason.

## **Report on Recent MRCA Event**

On Wednesday April 21, 1999, the MRCA hosted Allan Bayne of Wilderness Wanderings as Turnstone Press launched his new book "Bugs, Sweat and Fears" (see review on page 7). About 100 people enjoyed Allan's spirited talk and beautiful slide show, and his mini bannock buns – four luscious varieties with wildflower honey and wild blueberry jam, washed down with coffee, juice, or wilderness treasure tea. DE-licious! A number of wooden items, including bird feeders, a folding stool, walking sticks, and a wood chaise lounge, were donated by craftsman Angus MacIver, and raffled to raise more than \$60 for the MRCA Canoe Route Cleanup Fund. This fund, started with money provided several years ago by Harry Enns, then Minister of Natural Resources, will be used to fuel and tool crews of paddlers for portage clearing and campsite cleanup on wilderness rivers such as the Manigotogan and the Bloodvein. Check out Al's book at a bookstore, and visit his website at [www.wilderness.mb.ca](http://www.wilderness.mb.ca).

## DONATIONS TO MRCA

Each year MRCA receives a number of donations from individual and corporate members. These are a significant support to MRCA programs. Currently MRCA relies on its association with CRCA to issue charitable receipts for these donations. The procedure is as follows:

- the donor writes a cheque to the CRCA with a note "to support MRCA".
- the cheque must be sent to MRCA but must be made out to CRCA to satisfy Revenue Canada.
- CRCA sends a receipt to the donor and issues a cheque for the amount of the donation to MRCA.

While the procedure is straight forward, there is often an inordinate delay in issuing receipts. MRCA is investigating registering as a charity in its own right to improve service.

Meanwhile MRCA wishes to thank the following persons who have made contributions since September 1, 1998:

Jerry Zaste	Wes Friesen	Brian Finley	Gerald Goosen
Michael Edney	John McLeod	Ken Ezinicki (Vision Color)	

A hearty 'Thank you' for your support!

Frank Penner, Treasurer

## FAREWELL, FRIEND!

It is with mixed feelings we say goodbye to our friend and Secretary of three years. Irene Furgale has accepted a job down south, and we wish her luck as we wave her goodbye. All the best, Irene – we hope to see you on Manitoban waterways in the near future!

All your friends at the MRCA

In view of Irene's imminent departure, is there anyone willing to help us out and volunteer as Secretary for a few months? Contact Julie (475-3224) or Donna (334-3111) ASAP

## RESOURCE INFO – JUST WHAT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR . . .

The long awaited booklet – "Canoeing South-Eastern Manitoba" by Robert Stanners – is now available in hardcopy for \$3.00. The revised MRCA Resource booklets are also available.

Gahlinger's routes and new trip reports have been added and significant editing of the original data has been completed by Jerry Ameis. Routes completely outside Manitoba have been separated into a new booklet. The booklets are presently only available in hard copy and will be on display at the next general meeting. The electronic version of the booklets on the MRCA website will be updated when the MRCA website can be revised. As this is a major undertaking, the Manitoba government has been approached for funding to assist in the website changes.

### Just to let you know . . .

. . . that The Global Village Map & Travel Store has permanently closed up shop. Previously located at 653 Corydon Ave., Global Village has offered MRCA Members 10% discount off paddling merchandise for many years. We would like to thank them for their past support of the MRCA.

# KAYAK TOURING NEWS – TRIPS AND PADDLES

Tony Kinal

Going back a year or two, we used to have Wednesday night paddles. It must have been a success because I've had people asking about starting up evening paddles again during the week. With this in mind, I would like to immediately start Friday Night Paddles on the Red. We will meet at Maple Grove Park at the boat launch at 7:00 pm, but since we may change our starting location, interested persons should phone me first: 257-1148. This program is free, and all you need is a kayak or canoe, PFD, water, paddle and the desire to get some exercise.

I am also looking for people interested in doing a 4- or 5-day kayak trip on Lake Winnipeg, leaving Gull Harbour, heading north to Wells Harbour then east to the K Islands, and finally west to Black Island before returning to Hecla. This trip would take place between July 12 and 24.

## MRCA OBJECTIVES

Whenever you are out on the water, remember that the objectives of the MRCA are:

- to promote safe canoeing and kayaking,
- to provide standards for instruction,
- to protect the interests of paddlers, and
- to maintain a resource centre.

Whenever you are out on the water, remember to promote, provide, protect and maintain!



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E-mail – [raveneyerrivers@hotmail.com](mailto:raveneyerrivers@hotmail.com)

# PADDLING INTO CANOEING HISTORY

Tony Dadson

## Henry Dadson

Henry Dadson was a Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, and an Honorary Past Commodore of the Winnipeg Canoe Club. He was very active in the club in the 1930s to 1950s.

Henry, Doug Groff and Henry's brothers, Tom and Dick, won the Canadian Intermediate Fours at the 1935 Canadian Championships. Henry Doug, Wilf Batty and Jack McDowell took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Senior Fours in 1936, 1937 and 1938.

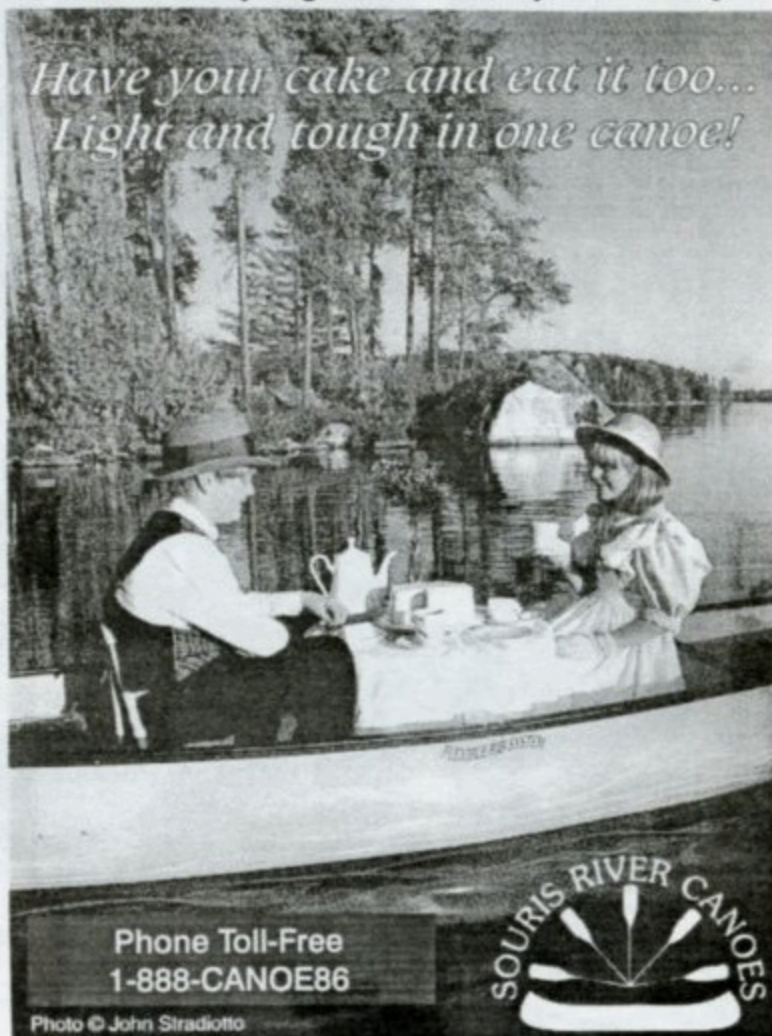
Henry and his brother Dick, came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 1934 Les Voyageur Race in the Model 20 canoe. Doug Groff and Bill Douglas were first in that race.

## Peterborough Cedar Strip Canoe – Model 20 (16 ft in length)

Several canoes of this model were purchased by members of the Winnipeg Canoe Club for long-distance racing in the Club Les Voyageur Race held on the Red River at Winnipeg. This two-day race – from the Winnipeg Canoe Club to Lower Fort Garry and return with two portages around the lockport Dam – required each crew to carry 50 lbs of equipment for an overnight bivouac without outside assistance. The weight of the canoe had to be at least 65 lbs.

This Model 20 canoe, which served as a mould for the production of a class of racing canoes by Bill Brigden, was originally purchased in 1932. Its construction comprised ribbing on 3" centres without keel. Later Model 20 canoes comprised ribbing on 2" centres with a full oak keel 1" deep.

By good fortune, the Model 20 canoe used in the 1934 Les Voyageur Race and served as the mould, is still in use and in excellent condition. It was in Bill's possession when fire destroyed the Winnipeg Canoe Club and all the other canoes in winter storage. One of these canoes was Bill's Olympic Racing Tandem K2 which, at the time of the fire, was stored on the same canoe rack usually occupied by the Model 20 canoe. How's that for irony!

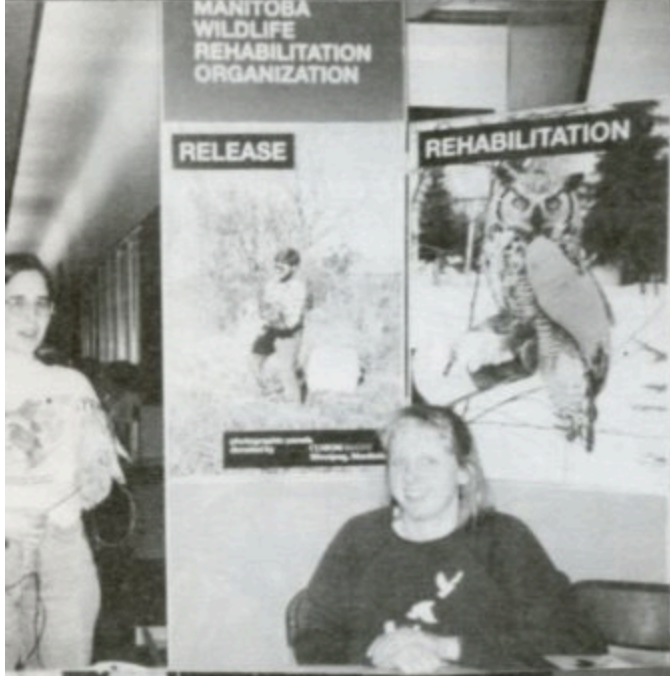


*Have your cake and eat it too...  
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Photo © John Stradiotto

SOURIS RIVER CANOES



# WATERWALKER

film festival



MRCA Hosted the 1999 Waterwalker Film Festival on April 11, 1999 at the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, entertaining about 130 people with slide shows, films, door prizes, raffle draw and displays.

This year's Festival was dedicated to Lynn Clark who recently died in a tragic kayaking accident on the Ottawa River. Many people knew Lynn through her many award-winning productions films previously shown here. Lynn's family has established a scholarship fund in her memory, and donations can be made in trust to account 801760180424 at any Scotia Bank across Canada.

Thanks to these **MRCA volunteers** who helped make Waterwalker '99 a success: Alice & Rich Kolisnyk, Donna Kurt, Joanne Deneweth, Nicole Riese, Gerry Hirose, Allan Smith, and Julie Gold, President of the MRCA.

**National sponsors** of Waterwalker include Explore Magazine, Seaward Kayaks, Wanapitei, Mustang, Madawaska Kanu Centre, Nahanni River Adventures, Boston Mills Press, Nikon, Mountain Equipment Co-op, Trailhead and Sierra Designs.

**Local financial support** was graciously provided by the Primary Funding Sponsor, Wave Track Canoes, as well as Souris River Canoes.

Ticket sales went smoothly **thanks to** the help of Wave Track Canoes, Tamarack Casual and Outdoor Clothing, Wilderness Supply Company, Manitoba Naturalists Society, Victoria Jason, Julie Gold and Donna Kurt.

**Local prize sponsors included:**

Wilderness Spirit Canoeing Adventures  
Tamarack Casual and Outdoor Clothing  
Mantario Wilderness Experience/MNS  
Wilderness Supply Company  
Minaki Yurt Adventures - Rockids  
Fort Whyte Centre  
Manitoba Pioneer Camp & Wild Wise  
National Film Board of Canada  
Heartland Associates  
Wave Track Canoes  
Souris River Canoes  
Manitoba Parks & Natural Areas  
Canadian Parks And Wilderness Society  
Woodland Caribou Provincial Park  
Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association  
Wilderness Wanderings  
Farmer's Supply Ltd.

**Other organizations on display included:**

Boreal Wilderness Guides  
Red River Canoe & Paddle  
Manitoba Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization

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The next time you visit a Waterwalker sponsor, please mention you appreciate their participation and support.

## EDITORIALLY SPEAKING . . .

Jenny Gates

Can you believe that summer is virtually upon us once again? We seem to have been fighting off the winter snow and melt for so many weeks, the sudden surge of summer temperatures is almost unsettling. What to wear, what to expect. Hey, not that it really matters, because the time has come for us to dust off the summer activities and start gearing up.

Where did you go during the winter? What did you get up to? Are you a sporting adapter, able to hang up the canoe and get out the cross-country skis, or put away the kayak and head off for some ice diving? And if you ventured beyond our provincial boundaries, what places did you explore? Personally, I headed down under to reacquaint myself with my family and friends, the beach and eucalyptus trees, and the koalas and red-back spiders. Fortunately, I didn't see too many of the latter, but did get a chance to feel 'true blue Aussie' for several weeks.

Last issue, we were very fortunate to have four articles to intrigue and inspire us, and this issue we have the first part of a wonderful story " . . . of a trip that was full of 'unsmoothness' ". Many thanks to Jerry Ameis for a truly entertaining tale (pages 14 to 19). And Tony Dadson has re-introduced us to his Dad, Henry, and talked a little more about the Model 20 canoe (page 12).

With the warmer seasons on the horizon, there are a multitude of trips and courses that should more than whet your appetite. And with the Tuesday night, Wednesday night, and Sunday paddles starting up again, there will be plenty of opportunity to refresh your skills and learn some new ones, make friends and renew acquaintances, and generally enjoy the great outdoors as much as is humanly possible.

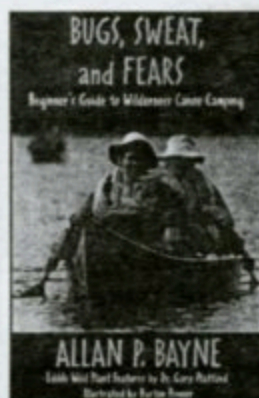
This season promises to be a wonderful one for the MRCA. Great speakers are the icing on the proverbial cake, and we are very happy to welcome James Raffan and Paul Mason to the May program. And finally, many, many thanks to all those who helped make WATERWALKER such a great success.

Finally, once again I reiterate my request for articles, jokes, cartoons, stories, tidbits of information, photos, trip reports, and trip information. I hope that Jerry's article will inspire those of you who have been cautious about submitting anything to the newsletter, to stick a bravery patch on your arm, get your pens out and put your thinking caps on, and send me your contribution.

In the meantime, start planning for your next adventure, whether in Manitoba or beyond.

Come on summer - we dare you!!!!

Row! Row! Row Your Boat!  
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for



Bugs, Sweat, and  
Fears  
by Allan P. Bayne

Beginner's Guide to  
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Praise:

"A lighthearted, educational insight into environmentally friendly wilderness travel."

—Victoria Jason, author of national bestseller *Kabloona in the Yellow Kayak*

"Al Bayne has been there and back, and will help you do the same."

—James Raffan, author of *Fire in the Bones*

New from Turnstone Press

## MY VIEW – BOOKS AND MUSIC

### **Book: “Pelican to Polar Bears, Watching Wildlife in Manitoba” by Catherine Senecal**

Manitoba is one of North America's best places to watch wildlife. The forests of the Precambrian Shield abound with black bears and warblers, world-renowned wetlands draw waterfowl by the hundreds of thousands and the lush prairie mountains serve as a continental crossroads for hundreds of species of birds. And this is the best place in the world to see polar bears and beluga whales. Pelicans to Polar Bears gives you all this and much more:

- a complete full-color guide to Manitoba's top 100 sites,
- region by region season-specific information on these sites,
- maps for each site, and
- hundreds of photographs from top Canadian nature photographers.

At your favorite bookstore now, for just \$9.95.

*(taken from a promotional poster)*

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### **Book: “Bugs, Sweat and Fears” by Allan P. Bayne**

The title is catchy and gets the ‘negatives’ right up front, but once you get into “Bugs, Sweat and Fears”, it is a persuasive testimonial to the joys of paddling. Told from the perspective of a once-novice paddler, the book has the storyline of a family adventure interspersed with capsules on edible wild plants by Dr. Gary Platford, capsules on camping tips, and sections covering every aspect of canoeing complete with personal anecdotes. The paddler story teller is Allan P. Bayne, former director of Wild-Wise, the wilderness canoe program of Manitoba Pioneer Camp. The book is in compact paperback style published by Turnstone Press in Winnipeg with illustrations by Burton Penner. With an inviting emphasis on why (therapy, expectation, adventure, fascination, interaction, solitude, challenge) combined with much practical advice on how, this book makes canoeing for everyone a possibility. All this – at the low price of \$14.95!

*Irene Furgale*

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### **Music: “Northern Breeze” by Dave Hadfield**

This disk is an agreeably folksy serving of music with a paddler's perspective. Some of the offerings are ballads, like “Big Jim Bushey”, his friendly depiction of a guide on the Bloodvein River, “Riley's Bait”, the whimsical tale of loss arising from an encounter with a snapping turtle, or “Bay Trader”, a sadly nostalgic look at a bygone lifestyle. “DC-3” and “Tourist” are less adept but interesting looks at the aspects of the North. Dave, who now lives in Ontario where he builds canoes, worked for years as a pilot in Manitoba where his explorations by canoe and snowshoe came to influence his music. His lyrics describe eloquently his love of the north, and especially the Canadian shield. I share this passion, and my favorite cut on this disk is “Shield”, which I played over and over, singing along to the sweet melody with all my heart. “Jack Pine” has an asymmetric lilt which captures something of the spirit of that fine tree whose gnarled silhouette graces the banks and granite cliffs of our shield rivers. Although production is somewhat mediocre (the first three songs are repeated for some reason, and sound quality is not first rate), the disk is quite enjoyable, and has found its way into my car pack of travelling favourites. “Northern Breeze” (see page 24) is an independent release, and can be obtained for \$15 from Dave Hadfield, 7414 R.R.1, Utopia, ON L0M 1T0, (705) 424-6788, rhadfield@sympatico.ca

*Julie Gold*

# LETTER RE: ATIKAKI PROVINCIAL PARK

Bill Anderson/Ken Schykowski

Management Planning and Heritage Rivers, Parks and Natural Areas

Box 53, 200 Saulteaux Cres., Winnipeg, MB R3J 3W3

(Also sent to Glen Cummings, Minister of Natural Resources)

Dear Bill and Ken,

I am writing on behalf of the Manitoba Recreational Canoeing Association (MRCA) in response to your invitation to comment on the proposed management plan for Atikaki Provincial Park. The MRCA was founded in 1988 to promote safe, environmentally benign, and enjoyable canoeing in Manitoba. It also seeks to be the voice of recreational canoeists in the province. Membership in the organization now stands at more than 300. I would like to comment individually on each of the five major issues you have identified.

## *The Wilderness Experience*

Atikaki is far and away the most cherished of all our provincial parks for members of the MRCA. No other park even comes close to providing the variety of canoeing waters and wilderness experience, in reasonable proximity to population centres, than Atikaki. Unfortunately, over the last few years, this wilderness experience has been degraded by activities not in keeping with the supposed character of the park. Canoeists go to Atikaki to "get away from it all" and to encounter nature on its own terms. This experience is seriously diminished by the whine of motors, whether from aircraft, power boats, chainsaws, or generators.

Motors have their place of course, even, to a limited extent, within Atikaki. However, can a case not be made to have one small corner of Manitoba free of them? This, in fact, was the original intent when Atikaki was established. Legislation at that time specifically indicated that the park was to be kept "in a primitive state, free of development, and accessible only by non-mechanical means". The fact that the Department of Natural Resources never enforced the Act does not detract from its legitimacy. That goal is still valid today: to provide ONE place of refuge from the trappings of "civilization".

It is profoundly disturbing to many of us, after having laboured hard for many days to access a remote area of the park, to see an aeroplane land in front of our campsite and dislodge fishermen for the day. Those who wish to partake in this kind of motorized recreation have thousands of lakes across the province in which they can do so, including those in nearby Nopiming and Whiteshell provincial parks. The MRCA recognizes that several lodge operators depend on aircraft access and the use of motor boats for their livelihood, and we are not suggesting that they be closed down. However, the current lack of any restraints on motorized access and travel is clearly unacceptable.

The MRCA recommends that aircraft landings and take-offs be restricted to accessing existing lodges and outcamps, plus a few strategically-placed points of departure and egress for canoe trips. Aircraft should not be allowed to land at any other place in the park. Likewise, the use of motorboats should be allowed ONLY on lakes with existing lodges and authorized outcamps.

## *Development of Facilities in the Park*

At what point does the establishment of buildings in the wilderness detract from the character of the wilderness itself? We would submit that that point has already been reached in Atikaki. Virtually every major lake in the park now sports a lodge or an outcamp. We are horrified to learn that "several lodges and outcamps wish to expand by building outcamps at various locations in the park". Naturally, every one of those buildings will need to be accessed by float plane, and each one will have its flotilla of motor boats. This is clearly unacceptable.

The MRCA recommends a complete and permanent ban on the establishment of any new building, structure, or thing, in any area of the park where such facilities do not already exist. We would also encourage the Department of Natural Resources to phase out as many of the existing outcamps and private cottages as possible in the coming years, as various leases expire. The existence of boat caches throughout the park, especially at portages along canoeable

routes, should also be regulated. On a number of occasions, canoeists have found access to portages blocked by a phalanx of heavy overturned fishing boats. The MRCA recommends that boat caches be allowed only at lodges and outcamps. Under no circumstances should boat caches be allowed to obstruct portages.

#### *Protection and Management of Natural or Heritage Resources*

The MRCA entirely supports the intention of the Department of Natural Resources to protect the many natural and heritage features of the park. While we have no specific proposals to make in this regard, we would like to offer the cooperation of our members in monitoring any aspect of conservation measures which might be proposed.

#### *The South Atikaki Park Reserve*

The MRCA was dismayed to learn that the area now called the South Atikaki Park Reserve had been withdrawn from the park when the new System Plan was proclaimed. This is an extremely important area to maintain the wilderness character of the park. The Broadleaf River and the Obukowin portage are the only two overland access routes into the park. While they are quite demanding, they contribute greatly to maintaining the relatively wild character of the south end. This will be destroyed if logging roads or other overland motorized access are allowed into the area of the reserve.

Some will argue that this approach is elitist, that it seeks to preserve Atikaki as the exclusive playground of physically-fit canoeists. We would argue that it is a question of fairness and balance. Those who wish quick and easy access to lakes for a day trip or weekend have hundreds of lakes to choose from in south and central Manitoba. It is those who want the entire province to be accessible to their motorized conveyances, and who would not leave even a small corner to the canoeist seeking solitude, who are selfish and elitist.

The MRCA therefore recommends that the South Atikaki Park Reserve be re-integrated into the park as soon as possible. If the phasing out of mining claims cannot be accomplished within a reasonable delay, then the government should administer the area in such a way as to continue the prohibition on logging and road building. This could be accomplished through the establishment of a Special Management Area, or a small Natural Park with appropriate zoning.

We would further recommend that the boundary of the reserve or park be adjusted slightly to take in the area east of Wallace Lake, and to include all of Siderock Lake. Siderock is an important access point for both Atikaki and Woodland Caribou Park in Ontario, and should be preserved in a natural state.

#### *The Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River*

The Bloodvein River holds special significance for members of the MRCA. We are perhaps the most frequent users of this river, and we feel strongly that those values which led to its designation as a Canadian Heritage River be upheld. Unfortunately, the comments we made above regarding noise, buildings, and boat caches, all apply to the Bloodvein River. The river also stands to be degraded by something else: an inadequate buffer. Almost half its course in Manitoba is outside the main body of Atikaki Park, and has only a 250 m buffer along its banks. This is clearly inadequate, as the Canadian Heritage Rivers Committee had initially proposed a 2 km buffer.

The MRCA therefore recommends a full 2 km buffer on each side of the river over its entire length. Furthermore, we would recommend that the final section of the Bloodvein, between the Bloodvein First Nation and the current park boundary, be added to the park so that the entire length of the river receive the kind of protection that it deserves.

We are grateful to have been given the opportunity to take part in this consultation, and we hope that the establishment of a management plan for Atikaki Wilderness Park will finally allow this park to live up to the promise of its establishment in 1985.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Gold  
President, MRCA

# THERE ARE PLANS, AND THERE IS REALITY

Jerry Ameis

**1977.** Four eager and vigorous (more or less) fellows took a canoe trip to the mystical Bloodvein. The 8-day trip began and ended at Wallace Lake.

In brief, we followed the Wanipigow River upstream, portaged to Haggart Lake, went downstream on the Haggart River to Carroll Lake, went upstream on the Gammon River to Gammon Lake, portaged to Royd Lake, went upstream on Royd Creek for a while, portaged to the "sausage lakes", and followed the creek that drained these lakes to Murdock Lake on the Bloodvein. From there, we went downstream on the Bloodvein to Stonehouse Lake. The portage out of Stonehouse was the only seriously rough part of the trip.

Most of the 1500 metre portage to the east channel of the Gammon River had been wiped out by a forest fire. It was high hurdle time over deadfall along a non-existent trail. The compass came in quite handy. Five hours later and 10 pounds in bodyweight lighter, we reached the east channel, followed it upstream to Aikens Lake and paddled upstream on the Gammon to Carroll Lake. We then used the infamous Obukowin portage to return to Wallace Lake.

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**1997.** Of the four fellows, only one remained to revisit the upper part of the Bloodvein. With a new partner and 9 days of available canoeing time, a trip was planned. We used topographical maps and my memories of past paths to do the planning. It seems we did not know about the helpful Ministry of Ontario canoeing map for Woodlands Caribou Park which revealed somebody else's ideas on where to find portages.

Our plan was ambitious but quite doable. We wanted to fly in to Artery Lake, follow the Bloodvein upstream to Murdock Lake, reach Royd Lake in the same way as 20 years ago, portage to Gammon Lake and go downstream to Hammerhead Lake, upstream on the Rostoul River to Mehzigana Lake, from there find a portage or mush up a creek to reach Wrist Lake, portage to the Oiseau (Bird) River system from Aegean Lake, and then go down the Oiseau River all the way to Oiseau Lake.

The trip started out well. We landed at Artery Lake about 4 pm on Friday, August 8th. We found a splendid campsite at a narrows in the lake. From there we could look eastwards to where the Bloodvein flowed into Artery. The sun was shining warmly and dryly. The good times lasted for about two hours.

By supertime, an energetic squall was pelting us with rain. Fortunately I carry a combination sail and rain shelter in my faithful and indestructible 17' lightweight Grumman canoe. This sail/shelter consists of an 8' square fly tied to two long wooden poles. The shelter saved us from most of the fury of the squall. We managed to keep a smoky fire going long enough to cook a hot meal. The squall stopped and we hit the pillow in a brand new Eureka dome tent.

That night the tent received a severe testing. The big stomp came about 1 am. Something pushed down on the tent and tried to squash it and us flat. At first we thought a polar bear was punching down on us in the way that polar bears do when breaking ice. Luckily, it wasn't a bear of any kind. It was the leading edge of a thunderstorm that was attempting to flatten us. We stretched out across the tent trying to hold down the bottom with our legs while at the same time trying to hold up the roof with our arms. It didn't help much. We could hear the horrible sounds of tent pegs popping and the fly snapping in the wind. Lightning lit the sky and forest all around us. It didn't merely rain; it poured buckets of heavy water.

The storm lasted for about half an hour. During that time, we both had wild thoughts of finding ourselves floating in the lake trapped in a dome tent with the zipper jammed.

When the storm was over, we surveyed the damage. Both of our sleeping bags were wet underneath but the tent hadn't leaked from above. We managed to find the popped pegs and restored the tent to a reasonable condition. The next morning we were greeted with what was to be the typical weather for the rest of the trip – strong winds and rain squalls. We paddled through the swells to where the Bloodvein entered Artery Lake. There we met four Americans who were on a 30-day trip from the headwaters of the Bloodvein (north of Red Lake) to its mouth at Lake Winnipeg. The storm had smashed into them as well during the night. They were still drying out.

About 15 minutes later upstream, we reached the Bloodvein's world-class pictographs and paused for a while to appreciate them and the artists who drew them. The pictographs may be legacies of vision quests, travel markers, or perhaps just doodles (a kind of 'Kilroy was here'). It doesn't matter why they were made. It is enough to know that someone long ago passed by here just like us and did something to remind us of his or her journey.

Squalls stayed with us all day. At least the wind was from the west and we were mostly headed east. The sail was hoisted whenever possible. It ballooned ahead of the canoe like some junk-sale misshapen spinnaker but it worked. We surged along with the wind and pretended we were basking in the sun.

We reached a point just upstream of where the Sabourin River flows into the Bloodvein and camped on the lee side of an island. This area seemed to be a meeting place for bald eagles. We watched them drift with the wind as we prepared and ate supper. That night, we had a different kind of adventure. It was cold, cold, cold (we later found out that the temperature had dropped to 3 degrees in the area). Early August was feeling more like late September. For the rest of the trip, we put on all of our dry clothes before crawling into our sleeping bags for the night.



*Plane taking off at Artery Lake just after dropping us off.*

Next morning we decided to take our time getting to Murdock. We fished and sailed and fished and sailed. By noon, we reached the falls where the Bloodvein poured into Larus Lake. My partner caught a nice walleye and we had fish for lunch. Our timing was marvelous. Another squall hit just as we were cooking the fish. By mid afternoon, it was time to leave for the western bay in Murdock Lake where the portage to the "sausage" lakes was supposed to be.

The 700 metre portage out of Larus was not in good shape. The frequent rains had made it slippery and there was much windfall across it. In retrospect, it was a sign of worse to come. We paused briefly at another pictograph site upstream from the portage but soon pushed on to find a campsite. By evening we finally found a meager campsite on an island close to the bay where we anticipated finding the portage to the sausage lakes.

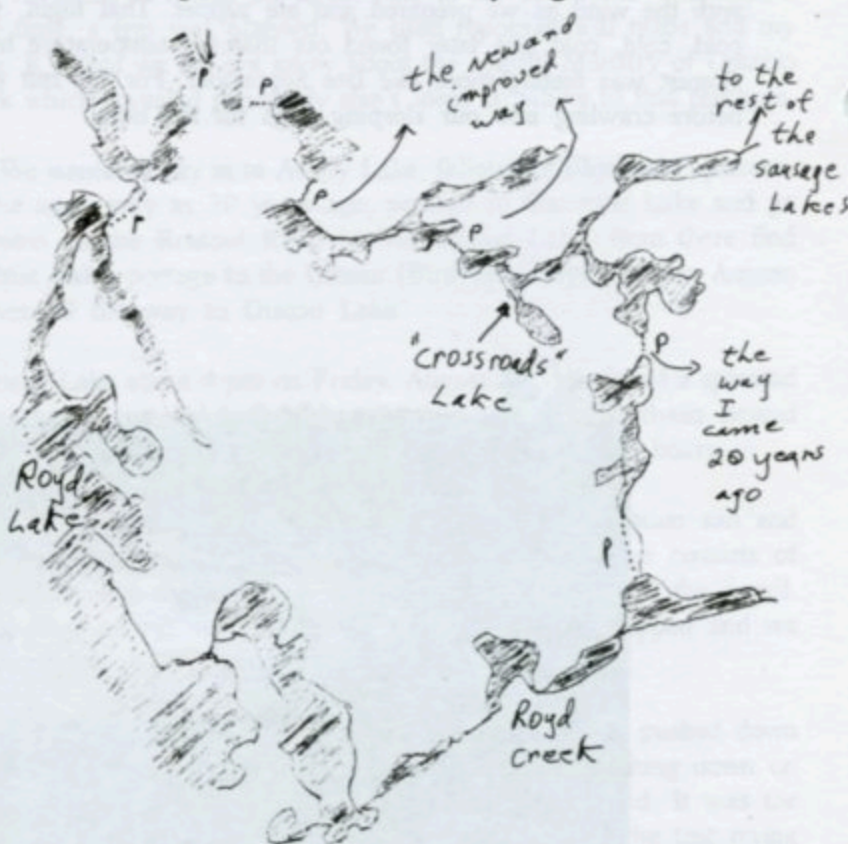
Monday, August 11th. It was time to leave the Bloodvein and head south. The plan was to camp in Royd Lake that night. Well, there are plans and there is reality.

Early Monday morning we were on our way looking for the 800 metre portage that I had used 20 years ago. It was gone, swallowed up by the forest. The entire lengthy hillside was abundantly covered with deadfall and thick undergrowth. Dragging our stuff uphill or cutting a trail through this was not a reasonable option. We were "up the creek" without a portage. Apparently the way I came 20 years ago was passé. Out came the topographical map.

It looked like the way to the sausage lakes was by portaging west out of the south end of Murdock through three puddle lakes. We paddled there and crossed our fingers. If we didn't find a portage we would have to retrace our steps to Artery Lake and then head south through Ford Lake (a very unpleasant thought). It was mid morning when we found the portage out of Murdock. Our plan of reaching Royd Lake in one day was fading.

We finally emerged in the sausage lakes about 2 km south of where we would have emerged had the portage I used 20 years ago been viable. The new and improved way took four times as long and was much more work. I guess this is logical.

We headed southerly on the sausage lakes. They are largely canyons that act as wind tunnels, and a strong wind was blowing right into our faces. It seemed as if squalls hit us intentionally at every portage so that we would appreciate drying out in the wind when we paddled. By evening we arrived at what could be called crossroads lake. It was the lake that I reached 20 years ago by portaging from Royd Creek (upstream from Royd Lake). There were no campsites of the kind you see in wilderness promotions. We did manage to scratch out



MAP 52 M/2

a tent spot in a hollow on a rocky island. After a hasty supper, we crawled into the tent, anxious about what we hoped to find in the morning – the portage of 20 years ago.

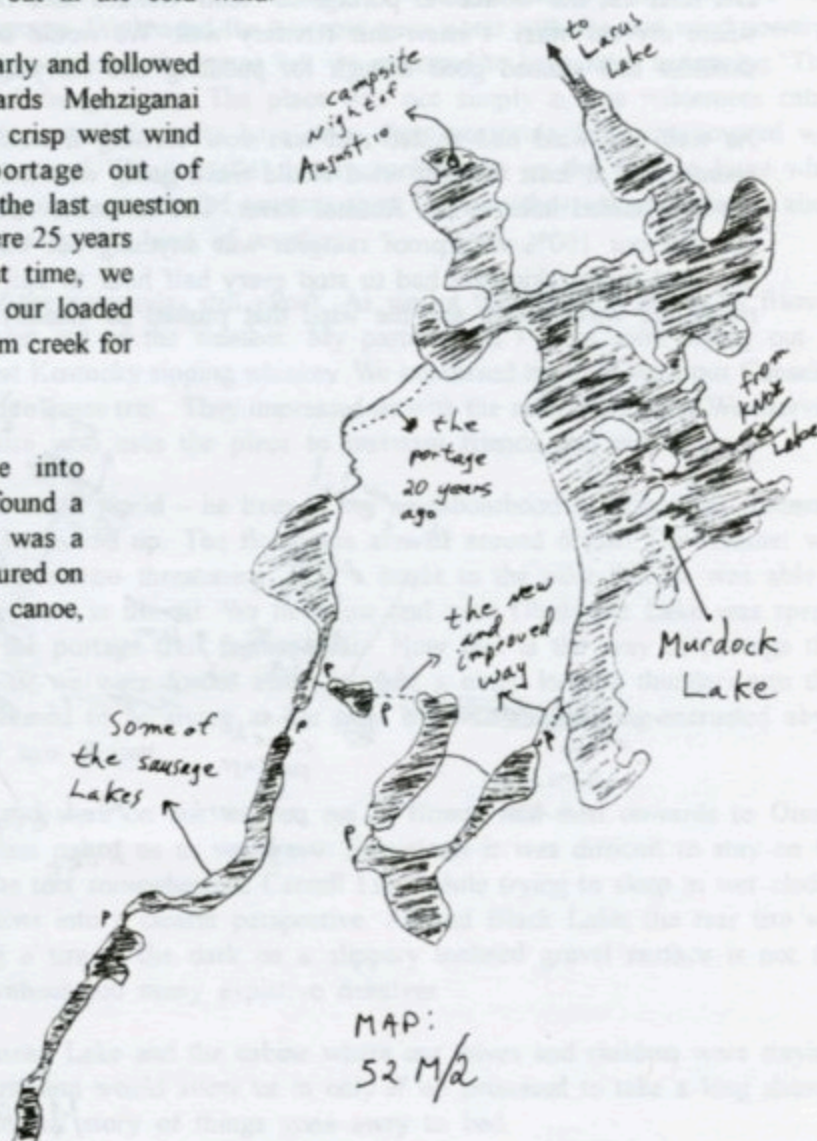
I imagine the reader has already guessed. The portage toward Royd Creek was nowhere to be found. Deadfall and dense growth greeted us. We did not feel like cutting trail here. It would have meant cutting a portage of 400 m and then another one of 800 m. Cutting trail is far less appealing when you are in your fifties than when you are in your thirties. Out came the topographical map.

This time there seemed to be several ways to reach Royd Lake from "crossroads lake". Which one was the new and improved way? When in doubt think logically, so we elected to look for the way that was the most indirect. As we paddled through the shallow channels of crossroads lake, we watched for canoe scrapings on the rocks. Yup, we were going the right way. Our path was frequently lit by bright aluminum metal and red paint. Many portages later we reached Royd Lake and pushed on to Hammerhead Lake. The most memorable part of this section was the last portage on the Gammon River just before Hammerhead. The 400-m portage is an enticing adventure in mountain climbing and rock jumping. We made camp on a windy point in Hammerhead and took our first bath of the trip. The people in the fishing outpost cabin across the bay must have thought we were out of our minds as they watched us jump into the chilly lake and dry out in the cold wind.

Wednesday, August 13th. We left early and followed the Roustol River upstream towards Mehzigana Lake. We made good time with a crisp west wind pushing us eastwards. The portage out of Mehzigana (in Nutria Lake) was the last question mark that lay ahead of us. I was there 25 years ago and never found one. At that time, we portaged by pushing and dragging our loaded canoes along a narrow, winding 1 km creek for most of the way.

When we reached the portage into Mehzigana, our spirits rose. We found a newly cleared and marked trail. It was a good omen. Unfortunately, I was injured on the portage. As I was carrying the canoe, a wind gust caught the end of it, twisted it around, and in doing so, forced my left shoulder into an unnatural position. My shoulder hurt but I could still paddle.

We paddled through Mehzigana (which is a marvelous lake with high ridges to the south, clear water and sandy beaches) and headed to the western narrows that separates Mehzigana from Nutria Lake. Another good omen appeared. We found evidence of someone having recently pulled a



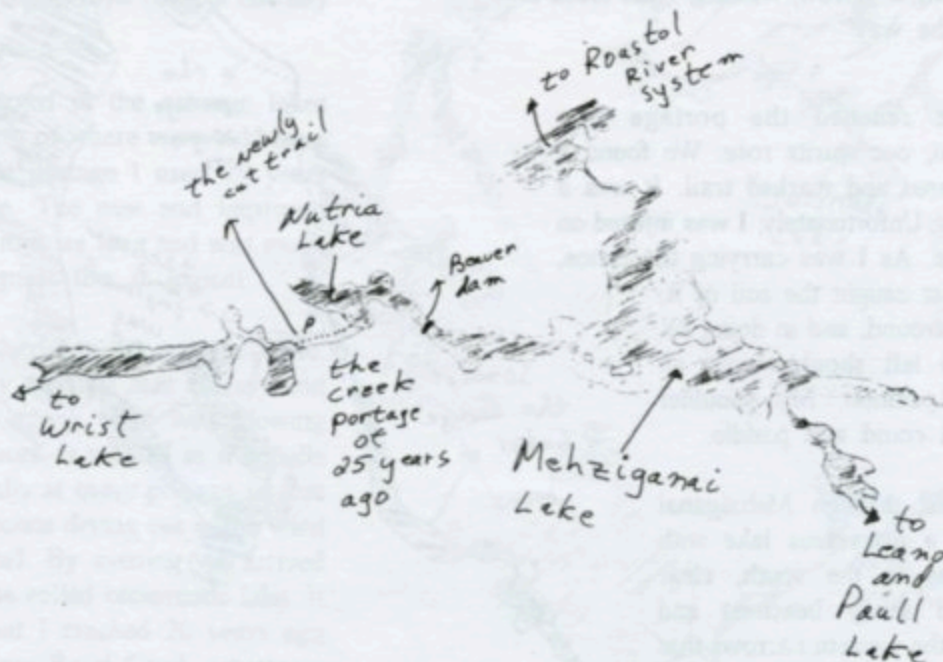
recently pulled a canoe over the beaver dam that blocks the channel into Nutria. Once in Nutria, the search for the portage began. Alas, it was nowhere to be found (we later learned that the Woodlands Ontario Ministry folks had started to clear the 900-m trail from the other end and the job was only halfway completed at the time we were there). The way south out of Nutria is over heavily forested and steep terrain, not the kind of country to go wandering about. With no portage, our only hope was to repeat what I did 25 years ago – slog up the creek.

I barely slept that night; my shoulder got worse and worse. By dawn it was apparent that I was in no shape to pull and push a canoe through 1 km of swamp and hazel bush.

There was another possible way south from Mehziganaï – through a creek system that could be used to reach Paull Lake on the Oiseau system. We decided against it because it was unknown territory to both of us. We were leery of getting bogged down and having to cut trail. Time was becoming an issue. We had to get to Oiseau Lake and to our wives and children in three days. If we didn't show up as planned, they would worry and worry some more.

We made the decision to backtrack to Hammerhead Lake, continue down the Gammon to Carroll Lake and then use the Obukowin portage to reach Wallace lake (from there we could hitch a ride to Bissett where my car was). I knew this territory well. We would be able to get to Wallace in two days. My shoulder still seemed good enough for paddling and carrying a pack.

As well, the wind had shifted and was now blowing from the east. This usually means trouble in this country but at least the east wind would make going west much easier. We broke camp in Nutria at 7:30 am and headed back to the Roustol River. The torrential rains appeared around 10 am. We soon found out that our 100% waterproof raingear was anything but waterproof. Within 15 minutes, we were both drenched to the skin. We had to stop every half hour to bail out the canoe but we still made good time riding the wave crests and the wind that pushed us steadily westward.



MAP: 52L/15

We reached Hammerhead Lake by 12:30 and stopped to warm up at the fishing outpost cabin. I think the American fishing guests there must have seen a different version of 'Deliverance', one in which the canoeists are the bad guys. They were reluctant to welcome us into their warm abode, but I guess they finally realized that we were too wet and cold to be a threat to them. We heard the weather report for the area on their radio and it was not good (but no surprise). The torrential rains, cool temperatures, and strong winds were to continue for the next few days.

It was then that we made up my minds to abandon our manly reputations and search for a radio phone and call Bissett Air to fly us out. I knew that Donald Lake, the next lake downstream, was a haven for Americans with floatplanes and money. One of the many wilderness retreats there should have a radio phone. Besides, from Donald Lake it is only four hours to the creek into Obukowin Lake. If we didn't find a radio phone in Donald our plan of getting to Wallace was still well-in-hand.

Leaving the fishing outpost behind, we once again braved the cold soaking skies. It did not take long before we reached Donald Lake and its cabins. We paddled and paddled, keeping to the east side of the lake to stay out of the strong wind, all the while searching for the tell-tale sign of a radio phone – a long antenna thrusting into the sky. No luck on the east shore.

There was a strange looking patch of green on the north shore. From a distance, it appeared to be a golf course in the middle of the wilderness. We headed for it across open water with the east wind powering us along. The swells occasionally dipped inside the canoe but we managed to keep from swamping. Then we saw the antenna in the midst of the greenery. The place was not simply a cute wilderness cabin. It was a collection of rustic buildings nestled at the base of a short peninsula that was covered with grass. One of the buildings had the word 'Wamserville' boldly spelled out on the roof in large white letters. We could see people watching us as we surfed towards them. I guess they were wondering about the crazies who were out in a canoe in this kind of weather.

We swung into the sheltered side of the peninsula, still afloat. As we hit the beach, a throng of friendly guys greeted us and invited us to get out of the weather. My partner and I were soon drying out by a crackling fire and enjoying the finest Kentucky sipping whiskey. We impressed the guys with our Canadian toughness when we told them about our canoe trip. They impressed us with the information that Wamserville is owned by a Milwaukee millionaire who uses the place to entertain friends and employees.

The custodian of Wamserville [it's a small world – he lives in my neighbourhood in Winnipeg] contacted Bissett Air and arranged for us to be picked up. The floatplane arrived around 6 pm. The weather was miserable – a low ceiling with thunderstorms threatening. It is a credit to the pilot that he was able to find us at all. A half-hour later, we were in the air. We flew low and soon Obukowin Lake was spread out below us. We could even see the portage trail from the air. Now this is the way to portage that mother of all portages. At that point, we were forced south to skirt a nasty looking thunderstorm that was coming our way. The plane seemed to be flying at the edge of a dark lightening-encrusted abyss for a long while before we finally saw Bissett.

By 8 pm, we had loaded the car and were on our way to eat in Bissett and then onwards to Oiseau Lake. The fun was not yet over. Rain pelted us as we drove. Sometimes it was difficult to stay on the road but thoughts of being out in the tent somewhere in Carroll Lake while trying to sleep in wet clothes brought the slippery driving conditions into a clearer perspective. Around Black Lake, the rear tire was destroyed by a blow-out. Changing a tire in the dark on a slippery inclined gravel surface is not fun at any time but we did the job without too many expletive deletives.

Around midnight, we rolled into Oiseau Lake and the cabins where our wives and children were staying. Our wives didn't recognize us at first and would allow us in only if we promised to take a long shower. And now, I think it is time to put this story of things gone awry to bed.

## **PADDLERS LOOKING FOR TRIPS (also available on the MRCA website)**

Destinations interested in:

Dates available (months, weekends, days, evenings):

Difficulty (number of rapids/portages):

Experience (names of places/rivers you have paddled):

Equipment owned (canoe/kayak, paddles, tents, stove, etc.):

Skills (paddling/camping experience/courses):

Special abilities and talents:

First Aid/CPR/Rescue/Lifesaving skills:

Name:

Phone number:

Email:

Web:

## **TRIPS LOOKING FOR PADDLERS (also available on the MRCA website)**

Title:

Destination (region, area, name):

Dates:

Type of Trip (flatwater, moving water):

Description:

Overall Cost (gas, food, vehicles):

Road travelling time/distance from "home":

Difficulty (number/difficulty of rapids/portages):

Equipment required (canoe/kayak, paddles, tents, packs, stove, etc.):

Equipment provided:

Skills required (paddling/camping experience/courses/driving):

Trip's First Aid/CPR/Rescue/Lifesaving abilities:

Maximum number of participants:

Registration deadline:

Coordinator/Leader Name:

Phone number:

Email:

Web (for more info on trip):

## TRIPS AND COURSES

### **Tuesday Night and Sunday Afternoon Paddling**

- Dates:** Starts Tuesday May 18, 1999, 7:30 pm  
**Location:** La Barriere Park on Waverley, south of the Perimeter  
**Level:** all ages and ability  
**Cost:** \$1 per MRCA member, non-members \$5; MNS Members \$3.  
**Phone:** Participants must register at least one day ahead with the designated instructor/leader whose name and number can be found at 338-6722, ext.3  
**Info:** This is an opportunity to socialize, paddle and improve your paddling skills. This is not a course – only some of the skills taught in a CRCA canoeing course are covered.  
**Note:** Use of a motor on the La Salle River is illegal.

### **Paul Mason Whitewater Canoeing Clinic**

- Dates:** May 22 (Saturday) and May 23 (Sunday), 1999  
**Location:** on a river in southern Manitoba  
**Level:** Advanced Whitewater canoeing skills clinic  
**Cost:** \$150.00 prior to the clinic, including \$50.00 down (non-refundable) before May 12. Clinic open to MRCA Members only. For those who do not participate in the Sunday portion of the clinic, a reduced fee of \$80.00 will apply.  
**Phone:** Call 334-3111 or E-mail [icanoe@wilds.mb.ca](mailto:icanoe@wilds.mb.ca), and provide your canoeing history, name, address, phone, etc.  
**Info:** Persons who have taken MRCA Moving Water Canoeing courses or equivalent or who have a few years of experience paddling in Grade 2 and higher rapids may participate. Participants must supply their own canoes, helmets, PFDs and gear.  
**Note:** The clinic will be adjusted to suit the needs of tandem and solo paddlers and playboaters. The session on Sunday will be focussed on more advanced moving water skills, but the Saturday session will be an excellent opportunity for all intermediate moving water paddlers, to improve their strokes and manoeuvres.

### **CRCA Moving Water Intermediate Course – Level 1**

- Dates:** May 29 and June 5, 1999 (two-day course)  
**Location:** on a couple of rivers in Manitoba  
**Level:** Intended for Intermediate Moving Water paddlers with CRCA Flatwater certification.  
**Cost:** Course fee is \$100 for MRCA Members, or \$115 for non-members including \$30 down (non-refundable) by May 12, 1999.  
**Phone:** Call 334-3111 or E-mail [icanoe@wilds.mb.ca](mailto:icanoe@wilds.mb.ca), and provide your canoeing history, name, address, phone, etc.  
**Info:** Taught by Brian Johnston, CRCA Moving Water Instructor.

### **MRCA Moving Water Introductory Course**

- Date:** June 19 and 20, 1999 (two-day course)  
**Location:** on a couple of rivers in Manitoba  
**Level:** Introductory Moving Water paddlers who have CRCA Flatwater certification.  
**Cost:** Course fee is \$100 for MRCA Members, or \$115 for non-members including \$30 down (non-refundable) by May 15, 1999.  
**Phone:** Call 334-3111 or E-mail [icanoe@wilds.mb.ca](mailto:icanoe@wilds.mb.ca), and provide your canoeing history, name, address, phone, etc.  
**Info:** Taught by Mark Loewen, CRCA Moving Water Instructor. (continued on next page)

### **MRCA Moving Water Introductory Clinic**

- Dates:** June 26 and 27, 1999 (two-day course)  
**Location:** on a couple of rivers in Manitoba  
**Level:** Introductory Moving Water paddlers who have CRCA Flatwater certification.  
**Cost:** Course fee is \$100 for MRCA Members, or \$115 for non-members including \$30 down (non-refundable) by June 12, 1999.  
**Phone:** Call 334-3111 or E-mail [icanoe@wilds.mb.ca](mailto:icanoe@wilds.mb.ca), and provide your canoeing history, name, address, phone, etc.  
**Info:** Taught by Patsy Barker, CRCA Moving Water Instructor.

### **Manitoba Freestyle Symposium**

- Dates:** July 2 to 4 (Wednesday to Friday), 1999  
**Location:** Manitoba Pioneer Camp  
**Duration:** 3 days  
**Cost:** \$270, with \$135 advance payment required to register  
**Phone:** Call 878-2524 or E-mail [redcanoe@pangea.ca](mailto:redcanoe@pangea.ca)  
**Info:** Taught by Mark and Becky Molina, American Canoe Association Instructor Trainers. Visit Mark and Becky's web site at [www.wilds.mb.ca/freestyle](http://www.wilds.mb.ca/freestyle)

### **CRCA Kayak Instructor Clinics**

Current kayak instructors in Manitoba who are teaching the MRCA Kayaking Fundamentals 1 and 2 courses should contact the MRCA Instruction Committee to pre-register for a CRCA Kayak Instructor Clinic which will introduce you to the new CRCA Kayak Program, including the Sea Kayak and River Kayak disciplines. The dates for the CRCA Kayak Courses are not yet determined. However, if you are interested in attaining certification in this new program, call 338-6722 Extension 3, and watch the MRCA web page for instruction updates.

### **MRCA Moving Water Canoe Clinics**

If you would like to participate in a clinic to introduce you to Moving Water Canoeing, please call the MRCA at 338-6722, Extension 3. The MRCA will coordinate an introductory clinic on a suitable date depending on availability of an instructor and at least 6 participants, beginning in July, at a cost of \$100 for MRCA Members. The clinic will be instructed by a certified CRCA Moving Water Canoe Instructor certified to the new CRCA Canoeing Program. Prerequisite is CRCA Flatwater certification.

### **CRCA Flatwater Canoeing Courses**

- Dates:** May 30 (Sun), June 13 (Sun), July 24 (Sat), August 7 (Sat) or August 28 (Sat), 1999.  
Other dates will be arranged based on demand.  
**Location:** La Barriere Park  
**Duration:** 1 day, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
**Level:** Flatwater A and B or Flatwater C and D  
**Cost:** \$70.00 MRCA Members, \$80.00 non-members  
**Phone:** 338-6722 Extension 3

### **WATER REPORT**

"Unless there is a lot of precipitation in the Nopiming and Whiteshell areas, the river levels are going to be the lowest they have been in almost 10 years. Some paddlers have already abandoned trips on the Manigotagan River and Black River due to low water levels this spring."

## What Benefits do I receive as an MRCA Member?

An annual MRCA Membership Directory

A regular quarterly MRCA Newsletter full of articles of interest to Manitoba paddlers such as various paddling destinations and local activities. The MRCA Newsletter is mailed right to your home

Discounts on MRCA paddling courses and on paddling and camping products at paddling stores and businesses

Access to regular MRCA General Meetings, held every month in Winnipeg. These meetings usually include a short business report by the MRCA Executive and are typically focused on a specific topic related to canoeing or kayaking and of interest to the general Membership. They offer paddlers the opportunity to socialize with others who have similar interests in recreational canoeing and kayaking. Great paddlers continue to show their strokes!

MRCA's Affiliation with the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association allows MRCA Members to purchase CRCA products (canoeing related books, momentos, etc.) at a discount! The CRCA provides MRCA Members with the opportunity to harmonize with other Canadian canoeing associations. Standards for instruction and safety and instructor liability insurance are other CRCA benefits

MRCA's Manitoba Paddling Association Affiliation provides MRCA Members with an opportunity to explore the sport/competitive side of paddling. The MPA provides the MRCA with support through access to Manitoba Sports Federation funding. Government grants and numerous other services (printing services, meeting rooms, etc.)

Opportunities to participate in canoeing and kayaking trips to locations in Manitoba and beyond

Various workshops related to paddling

Access to accredited canoeing and kayaking technical and safety courses and knowledge

Access to canoeing and kayaking information including route descriptions, maps, trip survey logs, contacts with people who have 'been there, done that'

MRCA Corporate and Affiliate Members are listed in the MRCA Newsletter and MRCA Internet Web site (<http://130.179.24.217/mrca/mrca.html>). MRCA provides a "link" from the MRCA Home Page to MRCA members' home pages and to other non-profit groups

A unified voice for canoeists and kayakers.

## MRCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and RENEWAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name or Organization Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name and Initials

\_\_\_\_\_  
Residence/Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Residence Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fax Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Internet/E-mail Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Family Membership (names of persons at same place):

Is this application

\_\_\_\_\_  
New or Renewal

### Annual Membership Fees

Circle

Minor or Full-Time Student

\$10

Cash ~~MAIL~~

Individual

\$15

Cheque

Family

\$20

Money Order

Corporate (Business)

\$25

Payable to

Affiliate (Club)

\$25

"MRCA"

Provide your Student ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Application Date \_\_\_\_\_

Call Al Smith (269-0960) about expiry information

MRCA Financial Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you require a tax receipt, make your cheque payable to "CRCA" (\$10 minimum)

**COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS FORM,**

**cut out and mail with payment to:**

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

To contact an MRCA representative, phone: (204) 338-6722

## MRCA Volunteer Positions

The Manitoba Recreational Canoeing Association relies upon Volunteer Power. You don't have to "walk on water" to help, just indicate your interests below.

The MRCA also accepts tax deductible donations (tax receipt provided through CRCA - refer to the application form on the previous page)

Please indicate how you could help the MRCA achieve its objectives.

Resource Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Safety and Instruction Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Advocacy Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Social Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Publicity Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Bingo Committee \_\_\_\_\_

President, Vice-President \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary or Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_

## Member Interests

Please circle your paddling interests  
(to be listed in the MRCA Directory)

Canoeing	Kayaking
Flatwater/Lakewater	Flatwater/Lakewater
White Water	White Water
Moving Water	Moving Water
Tripping	Touring
Instructing	Instructing
Family	Family
Competitive	Competitive
Recreational	Recreational
Experienced	Experienced
Intermediate	Intermediate
Novice	Novice
Beginner	Beginner

## Selection from 'NORTHERN BREEZE'

Shield © 1996 by Dave Hadfield

You know you haven't seen this country,  
Until you leave the roads behind,  
And try turning back the pages, to another place and  
time.

Park beside a wild river,  
Pull the canoe down off the rack,  
Dip the paddle in the water,  
And know for certain that you're back.

(Chorus)

And the paddle, in the water, is a long, lost friend.  
There are times I'd like to wander down a river  
without end

In a hull of flowing cedar, carved by knowing hands,  
That sings of rushing water - the spirit of the land.

From Quebec to Athabaska,  
It's a land that doesn't change.  
Three thousand miles of forest  
That at first seems hard and strange.  
And the rivers are the highways,  
As they flow from lake to lake,  
And as you paddle through the water,  
You live for living's sake. [chorus]

The rock itself is ancient; it's been there since life  
began,  
And if a man there says he owns it, well there stands  
a foolish man.  
And you may strip away the forest, and damn the  
waters still,  
Dig the metal from its body; it has a spirit you can't  
kill. [ch.]

Tell the weather by the east wind; tell direction by the  
sun.  
And the stars that shine at midnight can be touched by  
anyone.  
And you know its not a playground - it can take a  
heavy toll,  
But there are days of quiet glory, that show a window  
on your soul. [ch.]

It's just spruce and pine and granite - too strong to  
ever yield;  
Our burden and our blessing, our trial and our shield.

## CANOE AND KAYAK TRIP SURVEY LOG

Help us keep our trip and route information up to date. Please complete, cut or photocopy from newsletter, and return to:  
MANITOBA RECREATIONAL CANOEING ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 2663, WINNIPEG MB R3C 4B3

### ROUTE

Route name

Province(s)

Outside Canada?

Major lakes / rivers

Total distance paddled (km or miles):

Days devoted to paddling

Was trip registration required: yes no

Was permit required: yes no Fees \$

Launch location

Launch date (yr / mth / day)

Reached by: car plane other

Transport company used: yes no

Name Price \$

Address:

Would use again: yes no explain

Take-out location

Take-out date (yr / mth / day)

Returned by: car plane other

Transport company used: no yes Name

Price \$

Would use again: yes no explain

Identify maps used (topographic or descriptive):

Names of books, brochures used:

### PORTAGES

Number of portages: Name portage(s) exceptionally difficult to locate or to follow:

The most difficult portage encountered:

### CAMPSITES

For your requirements were campsite: adequate not adequate explain

Crowded due to other users: no yes Overall cleanliness: very clean clean dirty

Explain:

Designated campsites only: yes no Were open fires permitted: yes no

Was firewood: adequate scarce

Additional camp comments:

### POINTS OF INTEREST

Interesting geological features (rock outcrop, canyons, beaches, marshes, etc.):

Flora, fauna, historical evidence, e.g., abandoned mines, pictographs that captured attention:

Other (berry picking, canoe side trips, hiking):

### REMOTENESS

Number of canoe / kayak groups encountered:

Number(s) of the following seen: motor boats rafts hunters fisherman

Name of adjacent highways / backroads / railways:

Summer cottages: none few many fly-in lodges trappers cabins

Other developments:

## WATER QUALITY / WHITEWATER RATING

Quality of water: drinkable    clear    cold    muddy    swampy    polluted    other  
Whitewater rating<sup>1</sup> of river(s):    River name    rating  
   River name    rating  
Overall description of water level: low    normal    high    Flow rate (cms or cfs):  
Did the water level or flow rate affect your trip: no    yes    explain

## CONSIDERATIONS

Any litter or misuse of the Natural Resources that was of particular concern, e.g., excessive logging, all-terrain vehicles, defacing of landscape:

Evidence of forest fires: no    yes    recent    partially overgrown    acceptable reforestation

Did this affect your trip in any way:

Fished: no    yes (good average poor)    Species caught:

## SAFETY

Trip completed on schedule: yes    no    days behind    explain  
Any changes to original planned route required: no    yes    explain  
Did the inaccuracy of any information lead to problems: no    yes    explain

Wind bound on any lakes:

Were bears a problem: no    yes    other species

Precautions required for hypothermia: no    yes    giardiasis (beaver fever): no    yes

Other concerns:

## PARTICIPANTS

Trip leader:    2.  
3.    4.  
5.    6.  
7.    8.  
Total number in group:    Range of ages:  
Number of canoes:    Number of kayaks  
Overall experience of trip members: beginner    intermediate    advanced    expert  
Prepared by:    Phone number:  
Address:    Date prepared  
Is map or sketch of route attached: yes    no

For any additional comments, please attach a separate page

THE MANITOBA RECREATIONAL CANOEING ASSOCIATION THANKS YOU FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT. PLEASE ENCOURAGE THE PRACTICE OF *NO-TRACE CAMPING*.

### Class of Rapids: CRCA ratings (summarized)

- Class 1 Moving water with few riffles and small waves
- Class 2 Easy rapids with waves up to 2 ft and wide clear channels, some manoeuvring is required
- Class 3 Rapids with high irregularities often capable of swamping open canoe. Narrow passages that often require complex manoeuvring
- Class 4 Long, difficult rapids with constricted passages that often require precise manoeuvring in very turbulent water. Generally not possible for open canoes
- Class 5 Extremely difficult, long and violent rapids with highly congested routes. Significant hazard to life in event of mishap. Requires absolute expertise
- Class 6 Difficulties of Class 5 but nearly impossible and very dangerous. For teams of experts only with all precaution taken. Even experts avoid if possible

## MRCA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Notify the MRCA of any additions, changes or corrections, and please add your E-mail address.

### MRCA INDIVIDUAL / FAMILY MEMBERS

Family - \$20/year 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
- 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)

- Adventure Education Manitoba, Inc., 119 Lenore St.,  
Winnipeg, MB R3G 2C2 (204) 775-2462  
E-mail: aem@mb.sympatico.ca
- Clearwater Canoe Outfitters, Box 3939, The Pas, MB R9A 1S5  
(204) 624-5467 fax (204) 624-5467  
www.mts.net/~rgallagher/clearwater
- Fort Whyte Centre, 1961 McCreary Rd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 2K9  
(204) 989-8355 fax (204) 895-4700  
www.fortwhyte.org  
E-mail: fwc@fortwhyte.mb.ca
- North River Outfitters, 80 Deerwood Drive, Thompson, MB  
R8N 1E1 phone/fax (204) 778-6979  
www.mysterynet.mb.ca/northriver  
E-mail: northriv@mts.net
- Norway House Riverside Cottages, Box 156, Norway House, MB  
R0B 1B0 (204) 359-4444
- Red River Canoe & Paddle, Box 78 Grp 4 RR2, Lorette, MB  
R0A 0Y0 (204) 878-2524  
www.wilds.mb.ca/redriver  
E-mail: redcanoe@pangea.ca
- Souris River Canoes, 104 Reid St., Box 1116, Atikokan, ON  
P0T 1C0 (807) 597-1292  
www.sourisriver.com
- Totem Paddlesports (see Retailer Discount Programs)
- Wave Track Canoes, 42C Speers Rd., Winnipeg, MB R2J 1M3  
(204) 231-8226 fax (204) 231-8227  
www.wilds.mb.ca/wavetrack  
E-mail: wavetrackcanoes@hotmail.com
- Wilderness Spirit, 206 Chestnut St., Winnipeg, MB R3G 1R7  
(204) 774-2140 fax (204) 984-2403  
www.escape.ca/~wspirit  
E-mail: wspirit@escape.ca
- Wilderness Wanderings, Box 212, St. Pierre-Jolys, MB R0A 1V0  
(204) 433-7244 fax (204) 433-3095  
www.wilderness.mb.ca  
E-mail: info@wilderness.mb.ca

## 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 (\$25/year)

- 82nd Westminster Scouts, 48 Purcell Ave., Winnipeg MB R3G 1A1  
(204) 983-2531 E-mail: jim.palmquist@pwgsc.gc.ca
- Manitoba Pioneer Camp, 202-159 Henderson Hwy, Winnipeg MB  
R2L 1L4 (204) 663-1481 fax (204) 663-1659  
www.wilds.mb.ca/mpc  
E-mail: mpc@pangea.ca
- University Field Station Delta Marsh, Box 38 RR2, Portage La  
Prairie, MB R1N 3A2 (204) 857-8637
- YM-YWCA Camp Stephens, 400-428 Portage Ave., Winnipeg MB  
R3C 0E2 (204) 989-4180 fax (204) 947-0787

#### 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 and retailer discounts
- extra copies of the MRCA Newsletter if required
- 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 offer merchandise discounts to MRCA Members, and have been given the names of our Members to verify MRCA membership over the phone. Our Membership Directory is NOT available to non-Members. New Members should allow time for Membership list to be updated for retailers. Retailers interested in this program may contact the MRCA.

#### Totem Paddlesports

341 - 10th Ave. S.W., Calgary, AB T2R 0A5  
(1-800) 420-4665 (403) 269-5174  
www.totemoutfitters.com  
E-mail: rmpe@infopages.com

*Offers their 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  
www.blackfeather.com/  
E-mail: scottst@trailheadend.com

*Offers MRCA Members 10% off all Trailhead Expedition Canoes.*

**MRCA phone (204) 338-6722**

**Tell MRCA advertisers and Corporate members you saw their name  
in the MRCA Newsletter or website!**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Unless otherwise noted, General Meetings are held on the third Wednesday evening of each month, except July, August, November and December, and start at 7:30 pm. The primary location for meetings and events is Sport Manitoba building, 2nd Floor, 200 Main Street. Free parking underground, accessible from the north end of the building. Phone 338-6722 Ext. 1 for meeting information, or visit the MRCA website:  
130.179.24.217/mrca/mrca.html

### James Raffan – Wednesday May 19, 1999

"Bark, Skin and Cedar". Presentation/book launch (see page 4).

### Paul Mason – Friday May 21, 1999

"Thrill of the Paddle". Presentation/book launch (see page 4).

### MRCA AGM – Wednesday September 15, 1999

TO:

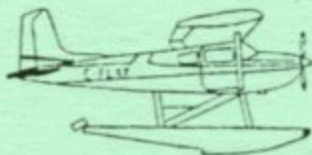
FROM :

(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

## 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

Wamair Web Site - <http://www.wilds.mb.ca/wamair>

## BINGO

Volunteer to help out  
at a Bingo and receive a  
single or family MRCA  
membership credit !!!

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

**Gord Johnson at 254-6167**

- 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 – Club Regent**

**Saturday May 22      4.30 pm to 7.15 pm**