



View from the Stern It's All About the Connecting

By B. Curtis Bird

As most of you know, the Aussies have a wonderful tradition called the walk-about. A walk-about is a journey by foot that can last any number of weeks or months, and can be undertaken by fully respectable people. During a walk-about one goes with the flow. Life washes over you. Inevitably in the course of the journey one meets interesting people and encounters unexpected rewards and challenges.

Recently I completed a 90-day Manitoba version of the walk-about that took me from my home on Turtle Mountain to Churchill on Hudson Bay, beginning January 25th and ending April 24th. It was in aid of heart and stroke research, as people donated thousands of dollars to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba. The question is what, if anything, can we apply from a walk-about to canoeing or backpacking?

Quite a bit, I think. One point is, don't do it if you don't like it. The whole purpose of these ventures is to enjoy oneself. I'd always considered backpacking too much like work, but circumstances forced upon me the need to abandon my sled and carry a pack, up near Gillam. I found it enjoyable. It's important to pack as lightly as possible, but that's a no-brainer for all of you. Even a few extra pounds make a difference, and I used to eat any fresh fruit I came by quickly, to keep the weight down. Liquids? I'd rather pee them than carry them.

One day, at Thicket Portage, I decided to leave at night because the mid-day temperatures had softened the

snow on the railway track and made walking difficult. As I got to the fringe of the small community I came across one last dwelling, and decided to ask for a drink of water. It turned out there were five people tossing back a few and having a grand old time. I was offered more than a drink of water and took it, a cool one or two, or three, I forget. Joining them, I laughed more than I had in weeks, and really enjoyed their company, and almost didn't want to leave.

This is not the stuff of your usual canoe or backpacking trip, but maybe it should be. Maybe the real secret of a successful trip is in the connecting – with people, with nature, with ourselves. And anything that promotes that connecting is good, even a few brews in a kitchen while your pack sits outside. Let it sit. I really enjoyed James Vasilyev's piece last issue about his British paddling trip, partly because his stories about the people he met were fun to read.

Another time I was in the community of Poplar River First Nation, up the east side of Lake Winnipeg. This was the end of the winter road. It was

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(Paddle Manitoba)

Welcome New Members!

If you would like to be part of Paddle Manitoba and join in our activities both on the water and off, sign up as a member today!

Contact our Membership Convenor,
Brian Johnston, at 754-2651

Contact Paddle Manitoba

Seeking information on Paddle Manitoba?
Four routes will take you there:

Website: www.paddle.mb.ca

Phone: (204) 338-6722

Directly contact Convenors

For information on specific programs
(e.g. instruction, indoor program, etc.)
contact the appropriate Convenor.
See page 3 for their phone numbers and
e-mails.

Paddlers' Forum

Pose a question on our on-line paddlers'
forum by following the links on our
website, at:

[http://www.paddle.mb.ca/mrcawebsite/
forum](http://www.paddle.mb.ca/mrcawebsite/forum)

Other Paddling Connections

Paddle Manitoba is affiliated with the
following organizations:

Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association

(613) 269-2910 or 1-888-252-6292

E-mail: staff@crca.ca;

Website: www.crc.ca

Manitoba Whitewater Club

CRCA and Paddle Manitoba are focused on
recreational and wilderness canoeing and
kayaking.

Manitoba Paddling Association

(204) 925-5681; mpa@sport.mb.ca;

www.mpa.mb.ca

MPA is focused on competitive paddling

Newsletter Submission Guidelines

This newsletter is published quarterly (December, March, June, and September) on the first day of the month.

Advertisement

Advertisements must be prepaid. 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 per issue and per four consecutive issues are as follows:

eighth page	\$25	\$90
quarter page	\$35	\$125
half page	\$45	\$160
full page	\$75	\$270

Ad copy and/or camera ready copy and payment must be received by the editor the month prior to the issue date. Receipts will be mailed with a copy of the issue each quarter.

Other Submissions

The editor welcomes submissions of articles, trip reports, paddling tips, recipes, photos, jokes, and other materials of interest to local paddlers. Photo captions should be provided, although photos need not relate directly to an article.

Send submissions by E-MAIL, SNAIL MAIL, or FAX.

Paddle Manitoba Newsletter

Phone: (204) 792-3988; E-mail: edgeadvertising@shaw.ca

Format Note: Photos submitted electronically should be scanned at a setting of 250 dpi, at minimum. For electronic submissions of text, writers are asked to either provide text files in Microsoft Word format, or send text within the body of an e-mail or fax to (204) 897-9070.

DEADLINE

for the winter issue January 15, 2006

Disclaimer: The information contained in articles, advertisements or inserts in the Paddle Manitoba newsletter, The Ripple, do not necessarily reflect or represent the opinions, policies or priorities of Paddle Manitoba Board or membership. Authors are solely responsible for the content, and specifically for the accuracy and validity of information contained in their articles.

Paddle Manitoba

Annual General Meeting

Saturday, January 21, 2006

0600 pm

Fort Whyte Centre

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President
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Instruction
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Indoor Program
vacant position

Newsletter
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Advocacy
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vacant position

Editor, The Ripple
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President's Message

Fall snow aside, I refuse to believe that the paddling season is over, and despite the incremental increase of morning ice on my windshield there will be many more days to paddle before old man winter shuts the door on our watery jaunts.* Whatever the weather, the activities of the paddling community never cease, they just change strokes. With the passing of festivals, trips, shindigs, and courses, the Board and Members can look forward to a truly interesting season of events and innovations.

Our new Advocacy Convenor, Dr Michael Campbell, is drafting a position paper on Eastside development for our review at the AGM. Such a document is important if PM is to contribute in any significant way to the future of our wild places. The success of efforts to secure park status for the Manigotagan River demonstrates the importance of community support at the lowest level in effecting policy development. We can draft all the papers we care to, but unless the membership makes their opinion known, and acts on those beliefs, then position statements are little more than ink. Please attend the AGM and let your thoughts be heard.

Another reason to attend the AGM, as well as Brian Johnston's presentation on the Bird River, is a briefing on our proposed partnership with the Fort Whyte Centre. Though we have long worked with Fort Whyte on many projects and events, our new association will give a "home" to Paddle Manitoba, and provide us with a great new venue in which to deliver our programs and instruction. We believe the two organizations are a natural fit, and the board would like your input on this exciting new relationship.

Many of the Board members will see their last meeting in January, or move on to new positions within our association. A new president and treasurer are needed, as well as convenors for many other positions. Some of our Board officers have served for five years, and they have earned a well-deserved rest. What better reason to attend the AGM than to offer your support to PM and its activities by becoming a member of the Board. Please let us know if you are interested in serving or if you would just like to volunteer for individual events.

Enjoy the first blasts of winter, wax the skis and glide over to the AGM on January 21st.

**Although the Manitoba Whitewater Club will undoubtedly paddle through January with icicles hanging from their neoprene mitts - good on ya.*



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View from the Stern – It's All About the Connecting

if I recall – cold. As I headed out one Saturday, I came to the edge of the community and upon a group of people in a kitchen having a good time (sound familiar?). Mid-day. Like the folks in Thicket Portage, they had heard about the walk. Twenty-dollar bills for the cause were thrust into my hands. "Anything you need?" a fellow asked. There was. I needed a Robertson screwdriver to tighten the screws in the runners on my sled. The store had none. He gave me his. Problem solved.

Then something else happened. One of the fellows apparently had a bad heart. He came up to me, tears in his eyes, and clutched my hand to his chest. "Help me heal," he said. His friends chimed in that he wasn't well. "You're going to help him," one said. I held my hand to his chest for a few moments and mumbled some words of support, the best I could come up with quickly.

Annual General Meeting

Saturday – 21 January 2006,
0600 pm at the Fort Whyte
Centre

Why Should You Come?

Paddle Manitoba needs your input and participation if we are to build it a truly representative organization. In addition to the regular reports we will seek your approval of our proposed partnership with the Fort Whyte Centre.

Call for Nominations

We are looking for your participation and support in all of our volunteer Board positions. Many hands make for a light portage load! Let us know if you are interested in serving as: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Resources, Indoor Program, Instruction, Membership, Newsletter, and Advocacy.

Call for Resolutions

If you have business to bring before the AGM please contact the Secretary, Lynn Simcox at 772-4759. Suggestions, advice and constructive criticism are always welcome. Proposed changes to the Bylaws or Constitution will be published on the PM Website at www.paddle.mb.ca

So-Low Canoe

*Just for fun I dunked my boat, and
what a big surprise.*

*My royalex prospector didn't float,
only the ends would rise.*

*Rolling our Red Cross canoe in the
pool, left all gunwales poking out.*

*You could sit in this tub with your
bailing tool, and eventually be back
on your route.*

*The D course explains how to "swish"
your hull dry, ready to crawl in
and go.*

*I was willing and eager to give this a
try, with few successes to show.*

*The solo self-rescue looked simple
enough, watching Charles climb his
canoe.*

*Attempting this stunt proved it's
actually tough, already aware what
to do.*

*It's important to practice the skills
you've been shown, making sure
that they work for you.*

*Enjoy a fun paddle while out on your
own, with safety and confidence too.*

Poem by Brent Mazur

Cow & Pig

by John Tanasiciuk



On Food Barrels

By Brian Johnston

There are several well-known food barrels options available to canoe trippers as well as a lesser-known option – the Vittles Vault.

Over the years I have seen and used a number of different barrels for food storage on canoe trips. All barrels provide an easy means of achieving a watertight seal, which keeps your food dry as well as rodent proofing it. There are three common types of barrels that I have seen people using other than the Vittles Vault.

Many people are familiar with the olive barrels. They are cheap and relatively easy to come by. Olive barrels come in useful sizes (and colours) for short trips but have a small diameter opening. They can be portaged individually in small packs or by putting two or three into a larger canoe or Duluth style pack.

Pails, the five-gallon type, are another cheap food barrel possibility, which are easy to find either new or used. They are similar in size to olive barrels but feature a full-size opening. A screw on "Gamma Seal" lid (<http://www.gammaplastics.com/>) can be purchased to replace the snap-on lid and convert pails into useful food storage. They can be portaged using the same methods as olive barrels: inside packs.

Blue barrels are now a common sight on longer canoe trips and commercial outfitters in northern Canada use them. They cost more than the other barrels and now that MEC sells them they are easy to purchase. The big advantages with blue barrels are that they have a large opening in addition to being large enough to pack three weeks of food. Full of food a 60 Litre blue barrel usually weighs in the range of 60 to 70 pounds – a full load for a modern day canoeist to portage. When portaging, some trippers find that blue barrels shift or roll on their back due to the barrel's curved sides. To overcome shifting loads use a good harness such as the "Headstrong" (www.headstrongpacks.com). Compared to the option of putting barrels inside traditional packs barrel harnesses weigh less than packs and hold less water when wet.

The newest option in food barrels comes from Gamma Plastics the makers of the screw on lids for the five-gallon pails (see Gamma Seal lid above). They also make the Vittles Vault airtight pet food containers in several styles and sizes of which at least a couple are well suited to being used as food barrels. They are perfect if you are a fan of the traditional Duluth pack because the Vittles Vault 50 at 14" x 14" x 20" will fit into a kitchen pack. Being smaller (approx. 50 litres) than the large blue barrel they are lighter to portage and they feature a flat surface against your back so the container portages well in a traditional canoe pack. Other sizes are available.

Canoeist over the years have borrowed containers from other walks of life and used them successfully as food barrels on canoe trips. There are several options available so choose the one most suitable to your liking. Some canoeist may prefer to use what they already have while others are willing to try out new containers. Some paddlers need large food storage while others require less storage. Some trippers do not mind having blue barrels show up in photographs whereas others prefer to keep the modern plastic out of sight in a traditional Duluth pack. And of course, many canoeists do not use food barrels.



A Blue Barrel with a Headstrong Harness on the icy Meadowbank River, Nunavut



Two small Blue Barrels on the Black River, Manitoba



Gamma's Vittles Vault inside a Duluth Kitchen Pack, Lake Superior, Ontario



Gamma's Vittles Vault without the pack on the Dog River, Ontario



Gamma's Vittles Vault lid as a serving table, Dog River, Ontario

Where Now Old Friend?

By Cameron White



Big Eddy, Engineer, Old Woman, Skunk, Onion Patch. The names of rapids on the Manigotagan River may be as familiar to backcountry canoeists as Donald and Smith are to the confirmed urbanite. The river itself, the province's newest provincial park as of December 2004, has long been a preferred destination for novice and experienced paddlers alike who seek a wilderness experience with easy access by road. Many return to the Manigotagan year after year, the river never failing to provide sought after refuge and respite; but with increased usage comes new challenges for the management of this trusted companion.

A three-hour drive from Winnipeg, the Manigotagan River finds its source near the Ontario border. Winding through the Boreal Shield of Nopiming Park it crosses Highway 314 before filling the cottage-lined Long and Quesnel lakes on its way west. For most visitors their journey begins at Caribou Landing just west of Bissett. From there, a leisurely four-day trip over seventy kilometres brings them to the town of Manigotagan on the shores of Lake Winnipeg. The trip offers a miniature version of a wilderness expedition replete with Class I - III rapids, gorgeous fifteen-meter falls, and the chance to see moose and bear in the lower reaches where recently burned over areas have created ideal habitat and viewing locations. Each day, the character of the river changes, and with every visit some discovery of a different vista is made. Those who have camped by Sand River Falls as

the moon drops over the tops of the pines know why so many return.

Its role as a recreational corridor is a recent development for a river that has seen thousands of years of human commerce. For the Ojibwa, the lakes provided a source of abundant wild rice, a food source destroyed by the building of a dam on Quesnel Lake in the fifties to support the establishment of a fishing lodge. Initial supplies for the establishment of the gold mining industry in Bissett came up the river in winter. The remains of an abandoned "Alligator" steam engine guarding the lower reaches of the river stand as mute testament to the mining boom of the early twentieth century. Later logging operations encroached within meters of the river, only a thin band of forest separating the river traveller from the ravages of clear cut operations.

In one of the common ironies of environmental battles, it was the

roads built for harvesting the river's riches that first allowed recreational fishermen and canoeists to discover the beauty of the area. Proximity to Winnipeg encouraged ever increasing numbers of children's camps, outdoor education programs, and individual paddlers to mark the corridor as a staple of their summer activities. Those visitors, and groups such as the Manitoba Wilderness committee, eager to protect this wild retreat, brought pressure to bear on the province to protect the river. With its designation as a park, 750 meters on each side of the river have received "backcountry" status, which precludes it from logging, mining, or other development, says Rick Wilson, a senior parks planner with Manitoba Conservation. Only a small mining claim, less than one percent of total area, is accommodated under the new structure.

To many canoe trippers, the Manigotagan presents an opportunity to test new skills, to cut one's teeth before moving on to bigger rivers such as the Bloodvein - but don't take this park for granted. Charlie Simard, a member of the newly established River Stewards Program, warns that the accessible nature of the park can lull people into a false sense of security, and he stresses that this is a wilderness area in the true sense of the word. Simard headed up the recent rescue of a solo traveller whose canoe was destroyed on Onion Patch rapids and who had to be extracted by helicopter. "Without carrying the required maps he had no idea that he could have walked out to the highway" Simard says with disbelief. He worries for the many people who head down the river without proper preparation.

The River Stewards are local residents with an intimate knowledge of the Manigotagan. Hired seasonally to conduct portage maintenance, sign rapids, and report on the condition and use of the river, they also hand out use surveys to every paddler they encounter. Simard, a man of quick humour who also runs a shuttle service for canoeists, draws on years of knowledge gained from hunting and trapping along the river, and he

still maintains a trapping cabin on the riverbank. Bruce Bremner, director of the Manitoba Conservation's Lac du Bonnet office, says that "the River Stewards are a way to involve local communities in the management and protection of the river while providing overwatch on a heavily used recreational resource." Use of the river has increased substantially over the last decade, and to prevent abuse of camping areas the stewards have installed fireboxes, and green plastic "throne" biffies in strategic spots. Visitor numbers are hard to assess, but Simard estimates that as many as 1000 people may travel the park each year. "More people are coming to the area now that it is park" says Simard "and our improvements to the campsites means that more people will return."

With park status and improved management practices, the Manigotagan will become better known for its unique nature: a wilderness, whitewater river just hours from Winnipeg. Its accessibility and accommodating character encourage the unknowing

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and practiced alike to venture down its pine halls. Will this popularity, which arguably saved the river from further development in the nineties,

ultimately contribute to its downfall through overuse? Like all old friends, this river needs caring attention lest it slips away.

Where nature still rules!

WOODLAND CARIBOU

PROVINCIAL PARK

Ontario's Woodland Caribou Park shares part of its western boundary with Manitoba's Atikaki Park, but nature knows no boundaries. Together these parks represent over 800,000 ha of outstanding wilderness. We invite you to venture forth into Woodland Caribou and choose from nearly 2,000 km of maintained canoe routes. Here begins the Bloodvein River, a Canadian Heritage River that we share with Manitoba. Protected within the sanctum of the park are many archaeological sites dating back thousands of years, significant herds of woodland caribou, wolverine, natural boreal forests, countless lakes, and many more treasures for you to explore. Park permits are required. The revenue generated from permit sales are reinvested towards the management and maintenance of the park. In this way, we are all responsible contributors to its protection.

CONTACT

Ontario Parks, Min. of Natural Resources,
Box 5003, Red Lake, Ontario, P0V 2M0
Tel: (807) 727-1329 e-mail:
woodland.caribou@mnr.gov.on.ca
Check us on line @
www.OntarioParks.com



Paddle Manitoba's 5th Annual Photo Contest

Some of last years winners!



Pick Your Pics!

Now is the chance to expose your inner Karsh or Leibowitz! Dust off those photos from your summer's sojourn and enter it to win great prizes and provincial wide acclaim. (Not to mention the gratitude of the Photo Contest organizer!)

Winners!

Winning photos will be exhibited and prizes awarded at the Annual General Meeting, 21 January 2005. Winners of the individual categories will receive a free membership and the overall winner will garner a tasty paddlesport article of great value. Your pics will also be published in the Ripple and posted on the website.

How to Enter:

1. Select one or more photos and assign it to one of six categories.
 - > Flatwater
 - > Whitewater
 - > Family Paddling
 - > Campsite Life
 - > Scenery
 - > Canoe/Kayak Equipment

Please ensure that some sign of paddling activity is evident in the photo. You can enter as many categories as you like.

Photos need not have been taken within the last year, however previous submissions will not be considered.

2. Provide your contact information and a caption with full details of location and description of subject.
3. Send all entries to:
Jamie Hilland
119 Chestnut St.
Winnipeg, MB R3G 1R4
Phone: 779-5579 Email: jahla@mts.net

Deadline for Submissions: Friday 30 December 2005

Important Photo Guidelines

Amateur: All photos must be amateur

Limit: We encourage you to enter photos in all categories. You may submit 2 photos per category, per person for a total of 12.

Basic Specs: All photos must be 5" x 7" colour. Digital submissions must be taken on a camera of at least 4 mega pixels to all for sufficient print quality.

File Format: Prints or Jpegs, high quality setting

File size: Maximum file size of 1-MG

END OF TUESDAY NIGHT PADDLES '05



As we headed toward the shore I recalled, as a young boy, singing taps with the setting sun. This seemed suitable with the sun setting behind me and the last official Tuesday paddle coming to an end. On this beautiful fall evening I thought back over the summer. I had a splendid summer leading these outings each week and I think everyone who came out also appreciated the chance to paddle. I enjoyed the opportunity these weekly trips gave me to meet so many new people, teach a few skills, learn a few skills, and just having had the chance to paddle.

It was a remarkable paddling year. Lower than expected spring water levels followed by a huge amount of rain. The Red River valley, along with most other parts of southern Manitoba, was flooded through most of June and July as we experienced the largest summer time flooding on record. Finally it was dry through the end of August and September with water levels on the rivers and some lakes dropping to more seasonally normal levels.

very little current. Generally the La Salle river backs up from the Red river so the current is usually limited even when the water levels are high. By July 12 the water level was high enough that we could launch canoes beside the canoe compound and paddle over top of the fence – there was no sign of the fence or the bridge.

Tuesday paddles have become a time to meet new people, continue old friendships, or just paddle during

I think the board members, and the Paddle Manitoba membership as a whole, should feel proud of the contribution that they have made to canoeing in Manitoba by supporting activities like the Tuesday paddles.

I want to say thank you to those who came out to paddle this year – you made it worth the effort. I look forward to being involved with evening paddles and teaching courses again next year.

“June 14: warm temperature with light rain during the first hour of the paddle. The bridge was under water, started from opposite sides of the river.”

Typically 6 to 11 people came out to each paddle. Over 146 people came out to throughout the summer. The outings started on May 3 on a beautiful 12 degree day with clear skies and no bugs. A total of 20 weeks of Tuesday paddles ran with no cancellations due to rain or snow. I missed two paddles over the summer while I was away on canoe trips with family and friends.

I did note one week in my log that there was actually rain during a paddle when two of us went out anyway: “June 14: warm temperature with light rain during the first hour of the paddle. The bridge was under water, started from opposite sides of the river.” Surprisingly even though the bridge was under water there was

the quiet evenings. Along with all of the participants I have had the opportunity to learn, and try, new paddling skills. Several participants came to paddles to prepare for courses or practice after taking a course. I was glad to see people coming out to hone their skills. Many new people had their first introduction to canoeing on Tuesday paddles, a number of those went on to take courses.

Brent and Lynn really deserve very special thanks for providing me, and my canoe, with a ride to La Barriere Park almost every week. I am very grateful for the ride but also the help they provided moving canoes, helping others get down to the river, and offering helpful suggestions and tips.

*Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lake, from the hills, from the
sky; All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.*
charlesburchill@umanitoba.ca





The Gang at Orion Patch



Back off, get your own cookie dough spoon.

Manigotagan Musings,

20 - 23 May 2005

A quick perusal of past issues of the Ripple reveals that club trips were a common activity for members of Paddle Manitoba in the 80s and 90s. Though not limited to the Manigotagan, that familiar haunt of weekend explorers, many of the trips used that route year after year; and with good reason. Easily navigated in three or four days, this subtle, yet sublime river provides the perfect opportunity for beginner trippers to test their mettle while providing familiar comforts to the more experienced, with the requisite thrills for both groups.

Over the last few years, Paddle Manitoba had received numerous queries from members who had completed flat and moving water courses, and now wished to enjoy the pleasure of a real wilderness trips. The question was always the same from those who wished to make their first foray with a little companionship - "who can I trip with now?" This oft-heard question, coupled with the fact that I was determined to go paddling with Lynn Simcox before his term as Secretary ended, motivated us to reconvene the annual Paddle Manitoba trip.

Finding willing companeros for this trip did not prove to be the last minute juggling act that I had envisaged. In short order we had eleven hardy souls prepared to brave the unpredictable weather of late May in the Shield. Few of us had ever met before, and even fewer had paddled together. In many ways, the desire to trip with our friends often prevents us from meeting with new partners that bring different skills and experiences, not to mention senses of humour, to the fire. The differences between the members of this trip only contributed to a stronger whole, and



Gary Jackson and Cam White eddy out at Skunk Rapids



Marag Jackson and Lynn Simcox enjoy the spoils of boxing



Posing at the Alligator

made for an interesting four days.

Chris Hall and Dave Truijen proved that accountants were indeed fun, and also good cooks. *Marc Payette* represented *La Brigade* well with his gourmet creations - how did you keep lettuce fresh for three days? - and put on a stoic face when his camera suffered indignities at the hands of a rapid. From start to finish everyone pitched in to make the trip a success. *Colin Marlow* barely flinched when we lashed planks to his car rack to make a precarious perch for two canoes. He and partner *Jan Glenwright* brought fine liquor and technology with them on the trip. Good company, but not everything came up roses as we began the trip: Winter seemed determine to have one last hurrah at our expense.

The first two days were rain filled and frosty as we made our way to Turtle Rapids, and then to Sand River Falls where the sun made a brief appearance. Cookies the second night, courtesy of M.E.C. and the efforts of *Morag Jackson*, hit all the right spots. Did I mention the great giveaways from M.E.C. - thanks guys! As we carried on down the river the weather warmed a bit which allowed us to

enjoy rapids such as Skunk. Despite receiving a good chillin' on a ledge before Onion Patch, *Penny Rawson* refused to be illin' and gained her whitewater spurs. *Wanda Truijen* also overcame her fear of an imminent and painful demise to enjoy the frothy stuff. Her and *Morag* proved to be Sherpas on the portage trail, along with the always happy *Sharlene Brandt*.

The rain on Pillow and Charles Falls made for some challenging portages as we made our way to record high put-ins. Of course, no trip would be complete without a little bit of boat bashing. Old Woman Falls exacted her toll on one shiny new boat, but we quickly patched her fore and aft and carried on to a glorious, sun-filled finish, and the long shuttle back to Caribou Landing. My thanks to Gary Jackson for his help in leading the trip and an excellent run down Skunk Rapids. We will return next year, maybe with a different crew, but this time we hope that the tradition will stick and there will be many more Paddle Manitoba spring trips.



Colin and Jan with their "pro" helmets.



Mark Payette and Penny Rawson, the paddling gourmets.

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Esprit 13' x 28"

Lorette, Manitoba

204-878-2524



Manitobans Celebrate Our Sport in Paddlefest

by Patrick Lang

Manitoba paddlers donned their PFDs and dipped their blades recently during Paddlefest, a family festival held each year in Winnipeg to celebrate the beauty of Canada's lakes and rivers. The two-day event organized by Paddle Manitoba also honoured the memory of Bill Brigden, a Manitoba canoe and kayak builder and former Olympic paddler.



Lessons in York Boat handling - Pull

Despite cool drizzly weather, families converged on the Paddlefest site at Fort Whyte to take part in activities for paddlers of all ages and interests. They tried out an impressive variety of canoes and kayaks, muscled an oar in a York boat, checked out the displays of paddling and environmental groups, talked with paddlesport retailers, and enjoyed the offerings of this year's Waterwalker Film Festival. The events



Guyton Sawchyn and Charles Burdell exchange solo paddling notes (note the paddler in training)

took place amid the natural beauty of Winnipeg's Fort Whyte Centre, a facility dedicated to environmental education and outdoor recreation.

This year's Paddlefest was launched on the banks of the Assiniboine River, where upwards of 80 paddlers gathered in tribute to Bill Brigden, a man some consider the greatest paddler Manitoba ever produced. Following a ceremony on the riverbank, a flotilla of canoes and kayaks sped down the rain-swollen

river to The Forks, an historic gathering place at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers.



A levy of Brigden boats at the Memorial Paddle

Brigden, a former Olympian and member of the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame, died on January 16, 2005. He was 88.

"In my opinion he's the best all-around paddler who's ever come out of Manitoba," said Don Starkell, who paddled one of Brigden's canoes to the Amazon River. "I remember him having a fantastic physique. He was an amazing athlete."

A long-time member of the Winnipeg Canoe Club, Brigden dominated national competitions in the early 1950s, taking home several Dominion Championships. He then represented Canada at the 1952 summer Olympics in Helsinki, where he finished eleventh of 18 teams in the 10,000-metre tandem kayak event. Along with Jim Nickel, he was the last member of Canada's Olympic canoe/kayak team to hail from Manitoba.

Perhaps even more than his impressive competitive record, Brigden will be remembered for his lifelong work as a canoe builder. Not content with producing racing designs alone, he also created a famous tripping boat — the M3 — many of which can be found even

today on lakes and rivers from BC to Atlantic Canada. Bill completed 1,280 canoes and kayaks during his career, and is often credited with the invention of the bent shaft paddle.

Brigden is survived by his wife Marion and their children, Anne, Rob and Paul. He was made an Honorary Life Member of Paddle Manitoba in 1995.

Not all the paddle fun was on the water. Tony Kinal and Mike Becwar provided an indoor clinic on sea kayaking and the Greenland paddle.

One of Mike's handcrafted kayaks graced the entrance to Fort Whyte, where the silent auction took place amidst intense competition, and last minute bids.

A great round of thanks to the volunteers and corporate sponsors whose generosity allows Paddlefest to happen.

Paddlefest will return in 2006, with the permanent addition of a Saturday paddle to highlight our commitment

to canoe and kayak culture. We are also looking for suggestions as to clinics and programs that can be held in conjunction with the event. With every

year, we can build Paddlefest in to a focal point for paddlers from across the prairie provinces and northwest Ontario.



Warrior kayakers at the Fort Whyte Centre



You're never too young to start

Paddle Manitoba

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Please attend the AGM from 0600 to 0700 pm.

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Winnipeg Wild!

WinnipegWild.net links healthy urban community with healthy natural world

What is your favourite park or wilderness area within reach of Winnipeg?

Go to www.Winnipegwild.net to fill in a short survey about your favourite spot and why these wildlands are important to you.

The relationship between healthy cities and healthy wildlands is a two-way relationship. People in Winnipeg breathe clean air filtered by Manitoba's boreal forest, recreate in the region's various parks and wilderness areas, and take solace in the knowledge that there will always be places where they can enjoy wilderness and wildlife. Without the support of the people of Winnipeg these wildlands may not persist.

Winnipeg Wild is a new project developed by the Manitoba chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS Manitoba) and Wildcanada.net to illustrate the important links between residents of the City of Winnipeg and the surrounding wildlands and wildlife. The first step is this online survey.

In the fall, comments from the survey will be displayed on www.WinnipegWild.net and new action tools will be built into the website that allow you to get involved in the decision making process about your favourite wilderness areas.

Winnipeg Wild is made possible by The Winnipeg Foundation. Wildcanada.net launched Calgary Wild in May 2004 and projects are anticipated for Victoria, Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa and Moncton.

CPAWS is a charitable conservation organization whose mission is to protect wilderness and ensure nature comes first in the management of protected areas.

For more information, see www.cpawsmb.org or call 949-0782.

Paddle Manitoba Membership Application and Renewal

Last Name or Organization Name (Corp./Affil.) (attach business card, if appropriate)

First Name and Initials

Street Address (P.O. Box)

City, Province (State)

Postal Code (Zip)

Telephone (Home; Business)

Fax Number

E-mail/Website (please write very clearly)

Family Membership (names of persons at address):

Membership Fees (please circle appropriate category)

Individual (Adult)	\$20
Lifetime Individual	\$200
Family (two persons, same household)	\$25
Corporate (Business)	\$30
Lifetime Corporate	\$300
Affiliate (Club, Organization, Association)	\$25

Foreign (non-Canadian) members please add \$5 to cover additional mailing costs.

Cheque or money order payable to Paddle Manitoba.

Application Type (circle one) a) New or b) Renewal

Application Date

Applications received after Oct. 1 expire December 31 of the next calendar year

Paddle Manitoba Donation \$

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

Cut out and mail with payment to:

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

Paddle Manitoba Corporate Members (\$30/year)

Fort Whyte Centre

1961 McCreary Road
Winnipeg, MB R3P 2K9
Tel: (204) 989-8355, Fax: (204) 895-4700
Email: ibarnett@fortwhyte
Website: www.fortwhyte.org

Mountain Equipment Co-op

303 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2B4
Tel: (204) 943-4202
Fax: (204) 943-4288
Website: www.mec.ca

Pioneer Camp

230 Sherbrook Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 2B6
Tel: (204) 788-1070
Email: pioneercomp@mts.net
Website: www.pioneercomp.com/manitoba

Wilds of Manitoba

30 Riverstone Road
Winnipeg, MB R2V 4B1
Tel: 334-1111
Email: icanoe@wilds.mb.ca
Website: www.wilds.mb.ca

Paddle Manitoba Volunteer Positions

Paddle Manitoba relies upon Volunteer Power. You don't have to "walk on water" to help. Just indicate your interests below and pitch in where you can.

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

Please tell us how **you** could help Paddle Manitoba achieve its objectives. Contact the appropriate convenor (listed on page 3) for more information on how to contribute in these areas.

- ☐ Resource Committee
- ☐ Membership Committee
- ☐ Instruction Committee
- ☐ Advocacy Committee
- ☐ Indoor Program Committee
- ☐ Newsletter (The Ripple) Committee
- ☐ Fund Raising/Social Committee
- ☐ President, Vice-President,
- ☐ Secretary or Treasurer

Paddle Manitoba Lifetime Corporate Members



Adventure Education

Offers adventure-based experiential activities and programs to promote the development and personal growth of all people. They serve a variety of clients from entire communities to individual schools and small businesses to national corporations.

Address: 22-222 Osborne St. Winnipeg, MB R3L 1Z3
Phone: (204) 775-2462
Email: aem@mb.sympatico.ca
Website: www.aeminfo.mb.ca



Red River Canoe and Paddle

Manitoba's purveyor of handcrafted wood-canvas canoes and personalized paddles. Doug Ingram builds canoes in the spirit of Chestnut and E.M. White and his artistry must be seen to be truly appreciated. Doug will work with you to build the canoe or your dreams. Drop by for a coffee and see the beauty of canoe building in process.

Address: P.O. Box 78, Group 4, RR2 Lorette, MB R0A 0Y0
Phone: (204) 878-2524
Email: rrcp@mts.net
Website: www.wilds.mb.ca/redriver



U of M Recreation Services

In addition to a wide range of canoe and kayak programs, Recreation Services offers activities in climbing, hiking, biking, boat safety, orienteering, and first aid. A great place for your family to learn about living in the outdoors. Open to students and members of the general public.

Address: Recreational Services, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2
Phone: (204) 474-8234
Email: rec_services@umanitoba.ca
Website: www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/physed/recreation/

**Paddle Manitoba
Members receive a
10% discount
on Goods and Services
from these Corporate
Life Members.**



WAVpaddling

WAVpaddling is central Canada's whitewater kayaking school specializing in kayaking instruction in and around Manitoba. They provide highly personalized, small group and private kayaking instructional adventures. Professional, certified, and experienced, their instructors teach using proven progressions and the most recent techniques.

Address: 119 Lenore Street, Winnipeg, MB R3G 2C2
Phone: (204) 775-1124
Email: yaki@wavpaddling.ca
Website: www.wavpaddling.ca



Northern Soul

This Manitoba company will guide you on some of our most stunning rivers – with a twist! Relax on a "Yoga Canoe" or sharpen your skills with a day of Nature Photography. Northern Soul will work with community and business groups to customize trips to suit your needs.

Address: 67 Cunnington Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R2M 0W4
Phone: (204) 284-4072
Email: adventure@northernsoul.ca
Website: www.northernsoul.ca



Red River Outfitters

In addition to wilderness trips on Manitoba's rivers, we offer unique paddling experiences in our cedar and canvas vintage canoes. Explore Winnipeg's waterways in classic luxury and then dine at your favourite riverside restaurants. Great for anniversaries and special occasions. CRCA instruction also available.

Address: Box 23 Lorette, MB R0A 0Y0
Phone: (204) 878-3570
Email: rro@mts.net
Website: www.redriveroutfitters.ca



Wave Track Canoe and Kayak

Carrying a wide range of canoes and kayaks, Gary Brabant is the city's east end paddlesport retailer. In addition to names such as Old Town, Wenonah, and Clipper, Wave Track also carries a broad selection of camping equipment and clothing.

Address: Unit C, 42 Speers Road, opposite Symington Yards off Lagimodiere Blvd.
Phone: (204) 231-8226
Email: wavetrak@escape.ca
Website: www.wilds.mb.ca/wavetrak/



Wilderness Spirit

Your guides to the Hayes, Thelon, Bloodvein, Assiniboine, and many other Manitoba and Arctic rivers, are biologists whose knowledge of the wilderness will enhance an already exciting adventure. They will also customize instructional packages for any age and skill level.

Address: 696 McMillan Avenue, Winnipeg MB R3M 0V1
Phone: (204) 452-7049
Email: info@wildernessspirit.com
Website: www.wildernessspirit.com



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celebrate
the wild
Nahanni



Friday, November 18th
The Winnipeg Art Gallery www.cpaws.org

Enjoy an evening filled with personal stories, dramatic images, and cultural and scientific insights.

Support the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society's efforts to expand and protect this magnificent national park and World Heritage Site.

Special guests to be announced!

Call 949-0782 for more information.



Paddle Manitoba Annual General Meeting

Saturday,
January 21, 2006
0600 pm
Fort Whyte Centre

Return address:

Paddle Manitoba P.O. Box 2663
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4B3