



THE



RIPPLE

Paddle Manitoba Newsletter

The Namakan River

Through the Eyes of

Lady Frances Simpson



By Stephen H. Challis

In the mid afternoon, 31 May, 1830, Lady Frances Simpson – the new bride of HBC Governor Sir George Simpson – began her descent by canoe of the Namakan River, in what is now Northwestern Ontario. Lady Frances was en route from Lower Canada to the company's western headquarters at Fort Garry (now Winnipeg.) She was a passenger in a "canot du nord"; her husband was riding in his own similar canoe ahead. She was twenty days of paddling out of Lachine, PQ and she had endured "boisterous weather", (including thunderstorms, hail and snow), muddy and slippery portages, a puncture of her canoe, getting lost in the woods on an after supper stroll, and at various campsites: "Snakes", "Musquitos," and "Bull-frogs". An average day of paddling lasted twenty hours, starting at 2 a.m., but it was sometimes longer if "Mr. Simpson" thought time had to be made up.

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summer 2008

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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,
Peter Loewen, at 332-0121

Contact Paddle Manitoba
Seeking information on Paddle Manitoba?
Three 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/communication/forum.php>

Other Paddling Connections

Paddle Manitoba is affiliated with the following organizations:

Paddle Canada

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

E-mail: staff@crca.ca

Website: www.paddlingcanada.com

Manitoba Whitewater Club

www.mbwhitewaterclub.ca

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).

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.

The Ripple Newsletter

Phone: (204) 388-4465; E-mail: theripple@nlisnet.com

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.

Deadline for Fall Issue

Sept 15, 2008

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.

Fall BBQ and Paddle

Date: Saturday, 20 September 2008

Location: Labarriere Park

Time: 12:00 - 4:00 pm

Admission: Free to all PM members

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President's Message

By

Cary Chapnick has resigned as the President of Paddle Manitoba. The Executive will ensure the duties of President are fulfilled.

Editor's Message

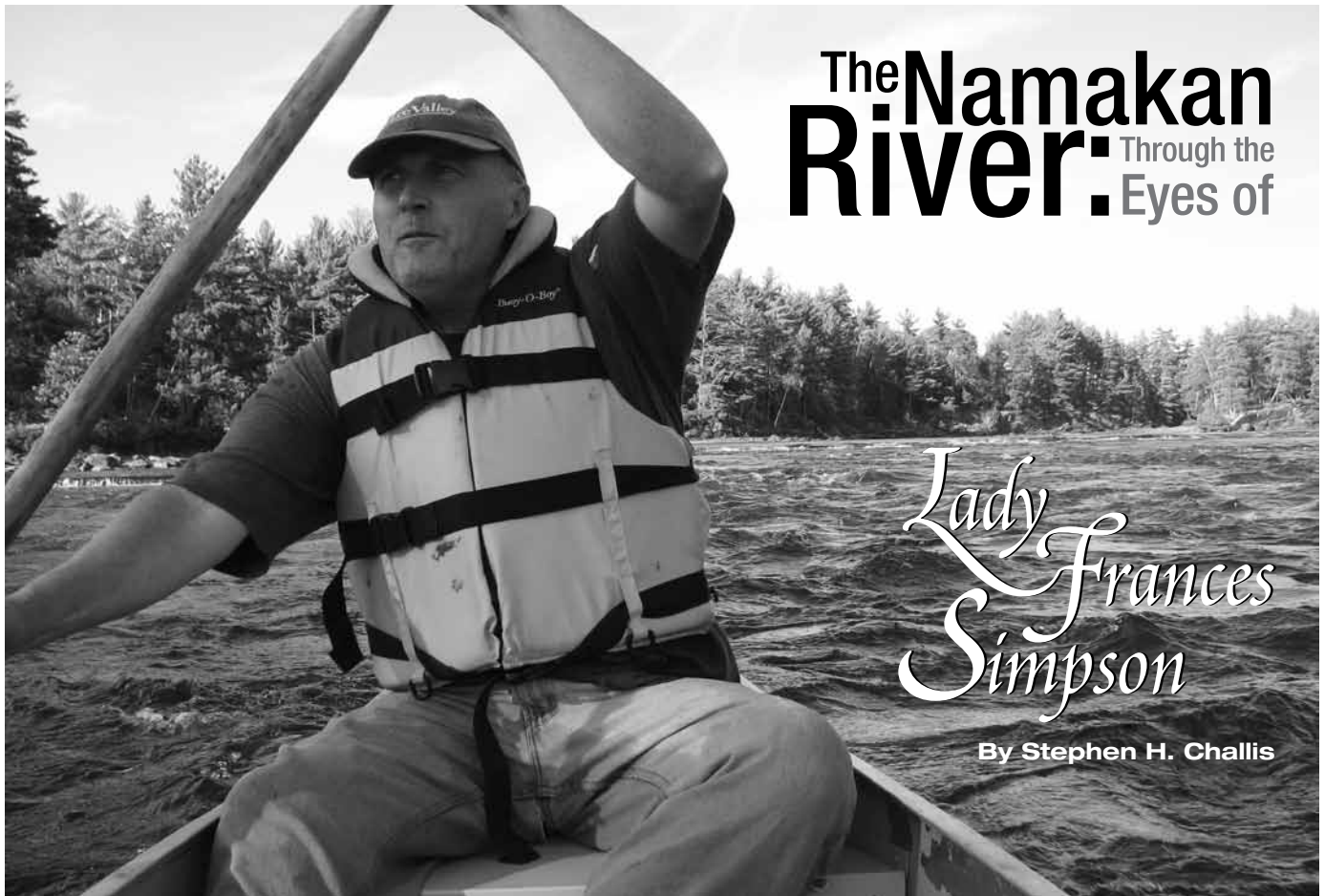
By Eric Gyselman

Half way through the 2008 paddling season, I look back at a very busy spring for Paddle Manitoba: The Waterwalker Film Festival, Paddle Camp, PM trips on the Roseau and Whitemouth Rivers, and PaddleFest. The canoe and kayak courses at Fort Whyte Alive and La Barriere are as busy as usual and Charles is still packing-them-in at Wednesday Night Paddles.

Here at The Ripple, I've been busy as well. The feature article in this issue looks at the future of the Namakan River – an interesting debate over the future of arguably one of the most important historical rivers from the fur trade era. Also, Dusty Molinsky relates his travels in the Whiteshell this spring with his dad and brother, both novices to canoe tripping and apparently trains too. Finally, at Dusty's suggestion, we're starting a new piece called 'It's all in a Name'. We all use names to describe lakes and rivers but often the history behind the name is a mystery. If you have a pet river or lake and know where the name came from, send it to me.

Again, I'm asking for ideas for articles. I know the PM membership has hundreds of them so don't be shy. This is a great opportunity to be famous – at least to your paddling peers!





The Namakan River: Through the Eyes of

Lady Frances Simpson

By Stephen H. Challis

In spite of the adversities she describes, only some of which are listed above, her diary also provides a glimpse of the character and demeanour of the woman: she remained energetic, curious, and good-humoured to the end of the journey. (that demeanour may have changed after her arrival at Fort Garry.) During the first segment of the journey, from Lachine to Fort William, she travelled in a “canot du maitre”, 35 feet in length and manned by 15 hands: “all strong active, fine looking Canadians.” That vessel: “almost flying thro’ the water – the motion is perfectly easy, & in fine weather it is the most delightful mode of travelling that can be imagined.” She seemed especially taken by the “romantic” scenery and by her sturdy, irascible, and merry paddlers: “...everything was calm & quiet, not a sound to be heard excepting the stroke of the paddle, and the clear, mellow voice of our principal vocalist Tomma Felix, singing “La Belle Rosier” and other sweet Voyageurs airs.”

From her descriptions, it seems each river she saw was more “beautiful” or “romantic” than the previous one: the Mattawa: “...the most wild & romantic place I ever beheld...”; the Rainy: “...this truly beautiful stream...”; the Winnipeg: “...nothing can be more beautifully picturesque than the route of today.”; the Red: “...The beauty of this Stream surpasses that of every other I have yet seen in the Interior.”

Her journey down the Namakan River is described thusly:

“We made 3 Portages, and ran several Rapids, which before entering had rather an alarming appearance; but once over the brink, the rapidity with which they were passed, left no time for apprehension; on the contrary, I could but admire the address of the Bowsman in leading our beautiful & airy bark, thro’ the Breakers, Whirlpools, & Eddies occasioned by this great body of water pent up between immense walls of Rock, and hurled over huge masses of the same material.”

The Namakan River, and the journey a paddler faces in the 40 kms from its head at Lac La Croix to Namakan Lake, is much the same as what Lady Frances Simpson travelled and described 188 years ago. It is noteworthy that Lady Simpson (i) descended the river on the last day of May, usually a time of high and fast flowing water, and that (ii) she references having made only “3 Portages.” This means (i) the Lady’s descent would have been swift and subject to spray and turbulence, and (ii) the crew must have shot Hay Rapids (approx. 300 metres long), with her onboard, instead of taking the portage there. There are three portages upstream of Hay Rapids – at Snake, Myrtle, and High Falls – none of which are optional.

I have shot Hay Rapids in a period of low water, but would not undertake it at any time of the year without a thorough prior assessment. Outside springtime, they are

a solid Class III: "Difficult: experience is essential." Most years, from mid- May to late June, they are likely a Class IV "Extremely Difficult." Whether it was Sir George's much vaunted urge for speed, or the voyageurs' desire to impress the English Lady, that took the party down Hay Rapids in late May, the reader cannot but be impressed with the sense of adventure she enunciates and the composure she seems to have maintained while in transit.

Note: at other locations on the Namakan there are Class II to Class III rapids: Quetico Rapids, situated just below the inflow of the Quetico River, and: Lady Rapids, just above the entrance of the river into Namakan Lake. There are numerous other areas of fast-moving water, varying from Class II to Class I, at back channels, island narrows, and rock ledges. Using the time and location entries included in the Lady Simpson diary, one can conclude it took the party less than three hours to travel the entire river. A pair of strong paddlers today might be able to do the same journey, with the three portages, in no less than six hours.

The significance of the Lady Frances Simpson 1830 journey, and her record of it, is multi-fold.

For canoeists and others with similar interests, her diary indicates with a fair degree of detail the route taken, the average speed of travel, and the obstacles and challenges encountered. Also of present importance is her enunciation of the reasons for the decision to travel down the Namakan.

These are: before 1829, the Namakan was "not the usual route, but much shorter; yet seldom or never passed by Whites, being considered dangerous."

And, she noted, the more common – the southern, Loon River route – the route long used as the fur trade's cargo route, ... "is understood to be within the American territory, and this, (i.e. the Namakan) to be the line of demarcation..."; (her understanding coming from some of the findings of the Porter-Barclay Commissions' International Boundary Surveys, 1816-1827.)

And that: "Mr. Simpson therefore in order to ascertain its state (i.e. the Namakan), mounted its current last Fall, in low water, and descended it this Season in high water, and considers it not only practicable, but a safe route in any state, either for Boats or Canoes."

Taken together, the preceding entries mean: Sir George Simpson, having received information in the early 1820's that the Americans intended to claim the Namakan River as the international boundary line – based on a claim they had advanced that the Namakan was the "continuous waterway" linking the Quetico highlands to points west – had begun to examine the Namakan River as a possible "new route" for the HBC.

Lady Frances, in 1830, believed – falsely – that the American position would prevail and that the Namakan would be "...the line of demarcation...." Ultimately, the Americans relented and Britain received everything from the Namakan River to the Loon River in the final settlement, i.e. the Webster-Ashburton Treaty, 1842.



Nevertheless, these events and those assumptions seem to have contributed to the Namakan River being chosen as the primary route through the area from 1829 to possibly as late as 1870, and especially as the route for express canoes headed west.

Other government officials and diarists travelled and recorded their use of the Namakan, including Colonel J. F. Crofton, summer 1847, and Paul Kane, the painter (descended on June 1, 1848.) Sir George last travelled by canoe through the area in 1859. The year 1870 marks the beginning of the use of the nearby Dawson Portage; it bypasses both the Loon and Namakan River routes.

Of additional current – and I think pressing – interest is the fact that, of the mid-sized or larger rivers travelled by Lady Simpson in 1830, all of them have been dammed, except the Namakan River. Thus, all of the rivers listed in the third paragraph at the beginning of this article are now dammed and regulated: similarly, the St. Lawrence, French, and Kaministiquia Rivers. Hence it is to my mind regrettable the last of this size and type of river – the Namakan – is slated to be dammed in three locations – at Hay Rapids, High Falls, and Myrtle Falls. Construction could begin as earlier as December, 2009.

It should be noted the proposed hydro facilities have laudable purposes, which is (i) to support local “Aboriginal Economic Development”, and (ii) to promote “small-scale”, “green”, and “renewable” hydro generation. All of the preceding terms are used in the 2004 Ontario government policy which lies behind the Namakan proposals. This policy aims to produce 300 MW of additional hydro electric generation by 2012 with a variety of “run of the river” facilities, each with a generation capacity under 25 MW. The three hydro facilities proposed for the Namakan River will, combined, have a maximum output of 11.6 MW.

Those who have doubts about whether or not such a proposal is a sound policy of economic development, or about whether or not it is “green”, “sustainable” and “renewable” should pay close attention to the on-going Ontario Environmental Screening Review for the Namakan dams. A significant body of project information and local environmental data will be released in mid to late summer 2008 for the public to scrutinize and comment on. This juncture may present the last chance the paddling community will have to present its views on, and express its interests in, the “romantic” Namakan River.

Notes:

The author, now resident in Winnipeg, grew up in Fort Frances, Ontario and has paddled in the western Quetico/Namakan region since his early youth.

Selected Bibliography:

- *Great Britain, Parliament, House of Commons Select Committee on the Hudson's Bay Company,*

Report from the Select Committee on the Hudson's Bay Company, together with the proceedings of the committee, minutes of evidence, appendix and index, London : HMSO, 1857, pp. 547

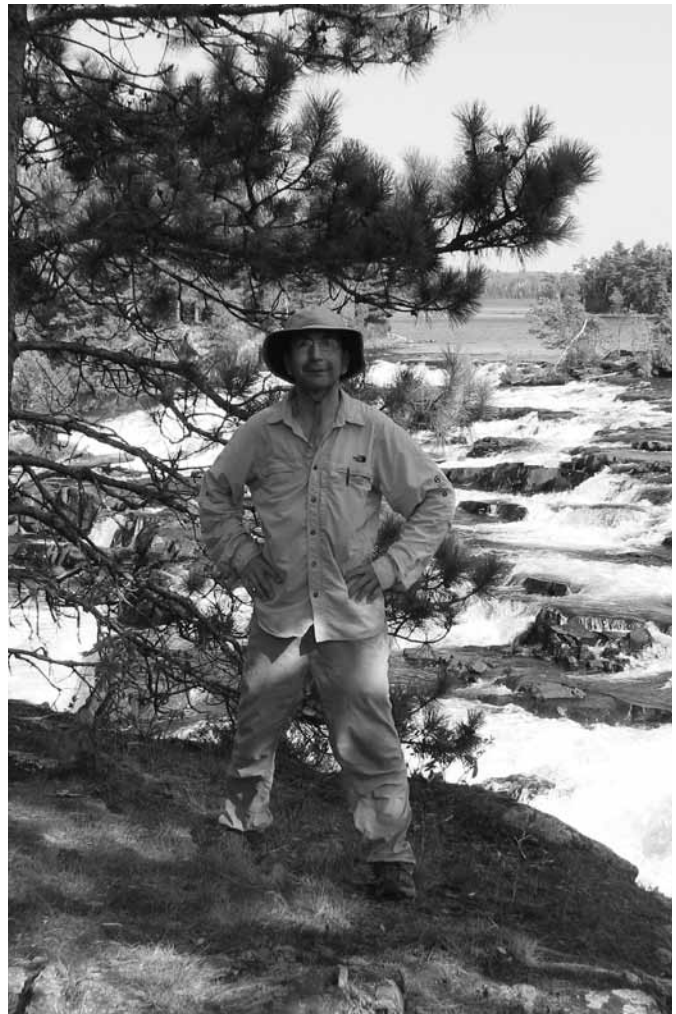
- *Kane Paul, Paul Kane's frontier, including Wanderings of an artist among the Indians of North America. Edited with a biographical introd. by J. Russell Harper, Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1971, p. 341.*
- *Galbraith, John, S., The little emperor : Governor Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Company, Toronto : Macmillan of Canada, 1976, pp. 232.*
- *Lass, William E., Minnesota's boundary with Canada : its evolution since 1783, St. Paul : Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1980, pp. 141.*

An online excerpt from the diary of Lady Frances Simpson is at:

http://www.lib.unb.ca/Texts/Poetry/WmWriters/bin/view_poem.cgi?tag=simpson1

Further details of the proposed Namakan dams are at: www.opeg.ca

For detailed slideshows of the Namakan River see: www.nordforum.org



navigation

By Eric Gyselman

FREE TOPO MAPS!

There, I have your attention. The good folks at Natural

Resources Canada (NRCan) now offer the 'CanMatrix - Digital Topographic Maps of Canada' from their website free.

www.geogratis.gc.ca/geogratis/en/download/scanned.html

These digital maps are scanned images of the paper topo maps we are used to buying for \$20+ each. This generous offer leads into a discussion of the basics of digital maps. In subsequent issues, I will discuss how you can use digital maps on your computer to create personalized field maps. Often these maps can also be used to create the basis for information that can be downloaded to your handheld GPS. But let's not get too far ahead of ourselves.

"Digital maps" are, collectively, map information that is translated into an electronic (typically, computer) based format. Once converted, these maps can be used for endless purposes, navigation and geographic information systems (GIS) probably being the two that would come immediately to mind. Conceptually simple, digital maps come in a vast array of formats. Some are proprietary, such as the maps you might buy to support your Garmin GPS. Others, like those offered by NRCan, are very much generalized. As you will see, compatibility is a significant problem.

The Basics

Digital maps, at least as far as the average non-professional user are concerned, fall into two broad categories: Raster and Vector. Raster maps are bitmap images made up of a matrix (rows and columns) of pixels. Essentially, they are functionally the same as digital images or pictures. Each pixel has a colour value stored as a digital value. The number of pixels per inch (or dots-per-inch = dpi) determines the resolution of the map image: the higher the resolution, the better the image quality. But as resolution increases, so does the file size. This is one of the weaknesses of raster images. The 1:50,000 CanMatrix topo map 'Whitemouth', 52 E/13, is stored at 300 dpi. The 33" X 25" image is 9995 pixels by 7852 pixels (I've intentionally left the units in inches so the term dpi makes sense). Therefore, the total number of pixels is 78,480,740 and the size of the computer file is 74.9 Mb. Even with today's computers, that's still a pretty big file!

Vector maps use a different approach. The map image is made up of geometric components such as points, lines, curves, and shapes (or polygons) based on mathematical

equations. Because the image is made up of formulae rather than pixels, the file sizes are much smaller. The images scale up and down easier and the resolution is always at the maximum of the screen on which it is displayed. Vector images (including maps) can be converted to raster images but it is much more difficult to go the other way. As well, vector formats are highly variable and often proprietary whereas raster images tend to be more standardized.

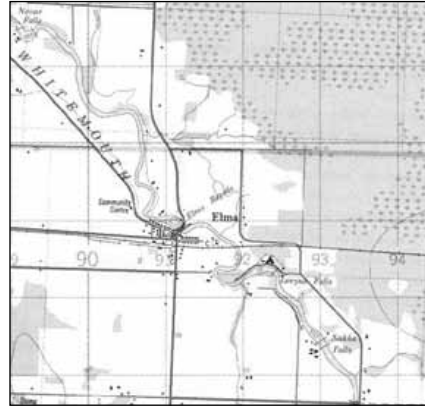


Figure1 shows the area around the town of Elma, where many of us play in the rapids, taken from the NRCan raster image for Topo sheet 52 E/13.



Figure 2 is the same area in a vector image from Garmin's MapSource.

Georeferencing

So far, I have only discussed the image itself. In effect, we only have a pretty map picture. The next major hurdle is to 'georeference' the image so that the computer pointer registers a real coordinated on the earth's surface whether in UTM or lat/long when it is placed on a location on the image. In proprietary software, such as Garmin's MapSource, using a vector image this is done automatically when the image is created. The points and other geometric components in their vector image have mathematical coordinates assigned to them. As users, we don't have to worry much about the details, only to decide what units and datum we want to use. Raster based maps are a bit different. The most common solution and the one used by NRCan to create the digital topo maps, is to use a format called a 'GeoTIFF'. A GeoTIFF file is a standard TIFF image file with a special header that includes georeferencing information such as projections, coordinate systems, ellipsoids, and datums. GeoTIFFS are a public domain format designed so that the TIFF image can be seen by any regular graphics software such as PhotoShop but the

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Its all in the Name

Taking a look behind the names of Manitoba's lakes and rivers

By Dusty Molinski



The Brokenhead River

Arising in Sandilands Provincial Forest and tracing a course north where it eventually empties into Lake Winnipeg, there are several stories behind the interesting name of this river.

One story tells of a band of Cree that were camped near the mouth of the river. Here they looked out over the waters of the lake just before dark. As they watched, a huge shape rose from the water. It was a monstrous head with horns and long black hair, looking like a giant buffalo. One member of the band was fearless and approached the buffalo, taking aim with his arrow. The arrow struck the buffalo in the centre of its skull so hard, it split in two. The head then vanished beneath the waters of the lake forever. "Pas-ka-ta-by See-pee", The River of the Broken Head; it has been known by this name since.

Another tale describes an attack that took place on a small band known as "The People of the Little Poplars". The men of the band had left one spring to head north and trade at Hudson Bay, leaving the women, children and elderly behind at the rivers mouth on the Lake. Upon the return

of the men in the fall they could see no smoke and hear no voices. Searching the camp, they discovered all the women children and elderly dead, their heads broken by the Sioux's clubs, who had attacked while they were away. Known as the Brokenhead, it became a haunted stream where no one dared to travel for many years.

Lastly, it is said that the river is named for its physical appearance where it drains into Lake Winnipeg. Here the river travels through a large marsh, braking from one main channel into several smaller ones. The French called it "Rivière à la tete ouverte" because of this. Through translation it became the Brokenhead River in English.

Whatever its origins may be, the name Brokenhead still today evokes a sense of wonder as to where the name of this river originates.

For more information on the origins of the name Brokenhead, check out the following:

St. Clements Historical Committee. 1984.
East Side of the Red.

Lalor, George. 1998. Tracks and Traces of Prairie Places.
Pemmican Publications, Winnipeg.

Manitoba Conservation. 2001.
Geographical Names of Manitoba.





By Paddle, Pack and Track through the Whiteshell

By Dusty Molinski

Overlooked and underrated sometimes, the Whiteshell has much to offer. The busy front-country aside, Whiteshell backcountry is quite remote, offering the solitude and scenery one would expect on the east side of Lake Winnipeg or further North. It also has the benefit of a major rail line cutting directly across it. A route running north to south across the Manitoba Wilderness Zone takes advantage of all this, allowing a wilderness adventure just hours from the city.

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During conversations with my brother and father some cold and miserable days this winter, I discovered neither of them had ever partaken in canoe tripping or riding a train. Both of these were through different conversations, but my mind began to race when the realization came to combine both of these into one trip. My mind immediately turned to Northern Manitoba or Northwestern Ontario as possible destinations. Reduced from weeks to a weekend in which to fit a wilderness canoe trip and an opportunity to ride the rails, my plans took a new direction.

Searching closer and closer to Winnipeg for a destination that would offer tripping and rails, I looked to the Whiteshell. Paddling many areas of the park at prior times, the Mantario Wilderness on the far east of the park remained elusive and unexplored to me. A rail line bordering the southern portion of this grey coloured area of the map was the final clincher in its selection. Choosing a route through this wilderness zone that would end on the rail line was the perfect solution to the puzzle of combining a canoe trip with a train ride in a weekend.

Leaving Big Whiteshell Lake campground, we would follow islands across this large lake to Crowduck Lake. From Crowduck we would travel south on a route linking Ritchey, One, Two, Three, Mantario, Spider, Olive, Madge, Peggy, Shirley, Marion and Florence Lakes. At Florence we would head up to the rail line and catch the train at the whistle stop of Winnitoba.

My father and brother met this plan with great excitement. Planning of the rest of the details followed suit. I acted as outfitter, requiring of them to supply their own footwear and clothing (some of which was provided by me too!). We would travel three in the canoe along with our packs to allow for a single pass of the long portages that would greet us on the route. Our canoe would be Kevlar to save our shoulders on these same long portages. A shuttle to the park would allow us to catch the train back to the city.

Planning and preparation finally materialized to adventure. Leaving the city midday on a Friday, we arrived at the

dock on Big Whiteshell Lake a few hours later. Here we met a lone kayaker who had just returned from Mantario Lake. Picking his brain for route info, we departed the dock and set off for our first night destination, Ritchey Lake. Big Whiteshell Lake was fairly calm, with a slight wind from the west. We used the islands in the centre of the lake to hop to the south shore where we then followed the lake to its east end and our first portage to Crowduck Lake.

Our first portage of the trip was also the first portage ever for my brother and father. Preparing them well ahead of time to expect wet feet was good planning for the last part of this portage and really for the rest of the trip. Overly large logs placed down through the wet parts required fancy stepping. We came out wet and dirty, but smiling.

Rain greeted us as we headed down the shore of Crowduck Lake and kept with us until we dipped our paddles into the waters of Ritchey Lake. Clearing skies behind us developed a rainbow that seemingly led us to our campsite. Clearing skies and diminished winds stayed for the evening. Our site has a grassy, flat spot for the tent and lots of beautiful bare rock. Sounds of the wild were everywhere, along with some of the wildlife. From our rocky perch we sat silently as a deer swam across the lake, followed by a beaver. A bald eagle glided easily overhead. Hues of red and orange in the sky preceded darkness. Our fire kept these colours alive as the darkness settled in.

Brilliant sun shone through the trees when we awoke the next morning. The lake appeared as thickened molasses, with not a ripple on the surface. From here we continued our trek. Our first part of the day had us crossing the small lakes of One, Two and Three. Portages were wet and mucky from the rain the past few weeks, with small creeks running down the centres. Prior research prepared us for the aptly named "Up and Over" portage to Three Lake. The view over Three Lake was well worth the work.

Clouds rolled in on Mantario Lake as we began the portage to Spider Lake. We entered Ontario briefly here for the length of the portage, before returning to Manitoba. No





research I have ever read has lead me to believe that invertebrates, namely mosquitoes or ticks, can decipher provincial boundaries. However, this portage was utter madness with both of them. Until this point our trip was relatively free of both at camp, on the water and on the portage. It seemed that Ontario had all the ticks and mosquitoes waiting for us. Returning to Manitoba, we were again free of ticks and mosquitoes. This remained true for the rest of the trip.

Portages were longer south of Mantario Lake. Dry, fairly flat surfaces made up for this gain in distance. Along these lakes the sounds of wildlife, and sightings, continued. Large, black spots on the rocky hills around Olive Lake revealed themselves to be a mother bear and her cub. Small chirps and squeaks were a family of woodpeckers in a shoulder-height nest in a Jack Pine.

Our arrival at Marion Lake heralded an end to the rain that began earlier on Peggy Lake. Marion Lake held our next campsite. Majestic, large islands arise in the centre, with an expanse of open water to the south. Our campsite took in this view. Again a flat, grassy spot greeted our tent. Or so we thought. A lone rock pointed up into the back of one sleeping, meaning a slight shift in our sleeping arrangement. As we enjoyed teriyaki beef and tea by the fire, Loons serenaded us from across the bay. White-throated sparrows sang their familiar song from the shrubs behind our tent. Mergansers cruised by bellowing their low quack-type sound.

Only a short paddle and one short portage remained between us and Florence Lake, our access to the rails. Leisurely we packed our camp and ate breakfast trying to linger at this beautiful spot. Some final pictures and we were off. Despite the short length of our final portage, the mid-point was flooded. A night and morning of shoe drying had been in vain. It was good while it lasted. Florence Lake launched us back to front country Whiteshell with its shores ringed with cottages. These cottages though were the reason for our whistle-stop and opportunity to catch the train.

Amongst the cottages is a tunnel that links Florence and Nora Lakes. Large enough only for a canoe to pass through, it passes below the very tracks that would be taking us back to Winnipeg. Beyond the tunnel is a footbridge where one would stop, unload and then portage down to the next lake. The shallow, clear water and high rock wall creates an interesting environment filled with ferns, mosses and shrubs. Once we had satisfied our investigation of the area, we returned through the tunnel to Florence Lake and over to the access to Winnitoba to catch the train.

Recent road access to this area for cottagers has left the dock to Winnitoba in slight disrepair. We carried our gear up the short path to the tracks. Winnitoba consists of one building, a small station, dating back to bygone rail eras. A small cargo storage area is neighboured to a small waiting room, complete with a wood stove, oil lamp holders



and a bench on the outer walls. Waiting here, one feels like Tom Thomson or Archie Belaney, when access to wilderness was solely by rail. Work was taking place to replace rotting boards around the foundation. Arriving slightly behind schedule, the sound of grease frying coming from the rails signalled that our train was just around the corner.

Bright yellow on the front of the lead engine alerted us to be at the ready. A stop in the wilderness does not allow for much time. Three engines passed slowly with their silver coaches in tow. A conductor hopped off and radioed the engine where to stop. The large door of the baggage car was open with an attendant at the ready. We passed the canoe up to her, followed by our bags and other equipment. Beyond the baggage car, another attendant was waiting at the first coach to show us aboard. The train jostled slightly and we were on our way back to Winnipeg.

On board we reminisced about the past few days. Excitement from both my father and brother could not be contained. Everything that draws a canoe tripper, many of us, repeatedly to the wilderness was spewing from their mouths. The difficulty of the journey was not the memory, but where the journey took them. What they saw. What they heard. Where they went. What they accomplished. My thoughts turned to reasoning in my head as to why we had not done this sooner. As paddlers we are the ambassadors to the wilderness. We must share these areas and experiences with others so that they too can share in the secrets that we all know.

The train slowed as it pulled in to the station in downtown Winnipeg. We yearned for the pines and granite where now we saw buildings and vehicles. Gathering our belongings, we met our shuttle and headed home remembering our journey through the Whiteshell by paddle, pack and track. **R**



Paddle Manitoba and Partners -Open Paddle Nights

No experience encouraged! Family friendly.

Paddle Manitoba and its Corporate Partners, FortWhyte Alive, and the City of Winnipeg offer open paddles for the general public. These social evenings provide novices and experienced paddlers with the opportunity to paddle in relaxed, natural settings just minutes from home. We provide all necessary equipment or you can bring your own boat, paddle and PFD. No experience is encouraged!

Families will particularly enjoy the chance to experience the excitement of canoeing or kayaking with the assistance of experienced staff. For those who desire, we will educate you in the basics of entering and paddling your canoe or kayak. Many paddlers had their start at one of our evening paddles. We emphasize family fun and casual learning as great ways to discover more about Paddle Manitoba.

Wednesday Night Paddles

August, 7:00-9:00 pm

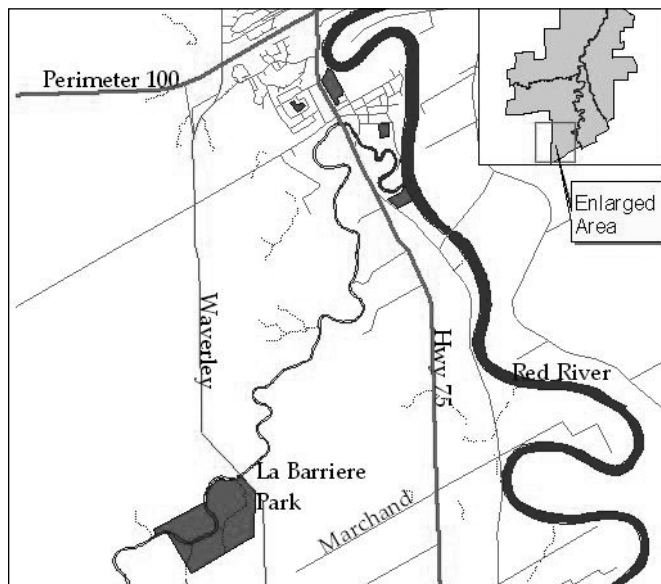
September 6:30-8:30 pm

Labarriere Park

\$5.00 per person. Children 11 years of age and under paddle for free

Slip down the La Salle River and you'll soon forget that you are in Winnipeg. This dam controlled river provides a great setting for a nature paddle in a park setting. There is a chance to see deer and beaver while learning the fine points of canoeing from your host, Charles Burchill.

*Please reserve your canoe by phoning Charles at 453-5374 (a couple of days in advance, please).



Tuesday and Thursday Night Paddles

August, 6:00-8:00 pm

FortWhyte Alive Adventure Site (link to map)

\$5.00 per person. Children 11 years of age and under paddle for free

Enjoy canoeing or kayaking in a lake setting with a beach and dock. This sheltered location has convenient washrooms and is ideal for your first family paddle. Staff will introduce you and your family to the basics of canoeing or kayaking - or both.



General Information

Paddle Manitoba and FortWhyte Alive have partnered to provide you with quality Paddle Canada canoe and kayak courses for ages 12 and up.

2008 Canoe and Kayak—Course Schedule

These courses will cover the basics of paddling while introducing the student to more advance skills. Instruction is progressive, but courses are small enough that instructors can accommodate individual needs. All Paddle Manitoba / FortWhyte Alive instructors are certified by Paddle Canada.

Safety First: Properly fitted, fully secured PFDs must be worn by all participants while on or near the water.

Location: Courses take place at either the Fort Whyte Alive Adventure Centre or at La Barriere Park. The location of each course will be found in your registration package. La Barriere Park offers sheltered paddling in a natural setting while Fort Whyte has the advantages of a dock system and convenient washrooms. All Kayak courses are taught at FortWhyte Alive.

Course Times: Courses may be taught on either evenings, starting at 0500PM, or weekends starting at 0900AM.

Registration: All course registration is through the Fort Whyte Centre. Call 989-8353 or download the registration forms found at www.fortwhyte.org or www.paddle.mb.ca



Introductory Canoe Courses

Flatwater Courses will introduce you and your family or group to the basics of canoeing. In addition to safety training and equipment education, you will be taught the strokes and maneuvers that will help to further enhance your paddling experience, and build confidence on the water. Each course requires a minimum of 4 students and the maximum number of students is 10. Students should bring a change of clothes. All equipments (canoes, paddles, PFDs) are provided.

FW A/B/C/D = Flatwater Canoeing Levels A, B, C, or D

Duration: A, B, and C are 4 hours, D is 6 hours

Double classes (A/B) are 8 hours

Prerequisites:

FW A: No previous experience required – for someone who has not paddled stern. Canoe equipment and safety are covered in detail.

FW B: FW A, or equivalent – for someone who is comfortable in a canoe and wants to learn more. A solid introduction to the stern and how to steer.

FW C: FW B, or equivalent – for someone who has paddled stern in a canoe and wants to hone their skills.

FW D: FW C, or equivalent – for someone who has tried solo paddling and wants to hone their skills.

Dates/Locations are either FortWhyte Alive (FWA) or Labarriere Park (LP):

FW A	FW B	FW C	FW D	FW A/B
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Sep 13 (FWA)

Fees:

FW A or B or C = \$55.00 for PM and FWA members / \$75.00 for non-members

FW D = \$65.00 for PM and FWA members / \$85.00 for non-members

FW A/B = \$95.00 for PM and FWA members / \$115.00 for non-members

Introductory Kayak Course

The Flatwater Kayak course will introduce you, and your family or group to the basics of kayaking. In addition to safety training and equipment education, you will learn the strokes and maneuvers that will help you to build confidence on the water. You will participate in a “wet exit” – essential for safe paddling technique – so bring a change of clothes. Each course requires a minimum of 4 students and the maximum number of students is 6. All equipments (kayaks, paddles, PFDs) are provided.

Duration: The Flatwater Kayak Course is 8 hours in length, but it will be taught in two parts for evening courses.

Dates (all kayak courses are taught at FortWhyte Alive):

Weekend Courses

Aug 23

Sep 6

Weekday Courses

Aug 26/28

Fees: FW Kayak = \$90.00 for PM and FWA members / \$115.00 for non-members

Advanced Courses

Once you are confident with your flatwater skills you may want to challenge yourself with Paddle Canada's advanced courses. Canoe and kayak camping, whitewater, and lakewater paddling are some of the interests covered in these courses. Contact the various discipline chairpersons listed below to find out more details on available courses and instructors.

Moving Water Canoe – Learn to paddle moving and whitewater in a solo or tandem canoe.

Brian Johnston: (204) 754-2651

River Kayak – Moving water and whitewater kayak

Mick Lauth: 1-866-440-2349

Canoe Tripping – Learn to enjoy, or lead, multi-day canoe trips in river and lake environments. Navigation, camping and safety skills are part of the curriculum. Great for families.

Cameron White: 878-3570

Sea Kayaking – Open water touring for kayaks on lakes and coastal environments. Camping and navigations skills covered as part of the program.

Phil Hossack: (204) 736-2902

Instructor Courses

Paddle Manitoba offers both kayak and canoe Paddle Canada Instructor certification. By becoming an instructor you can offer your camp or outdoor organization an important paddlesport resource. Instructors can also earn great part-time income while doing something they love. Contact Cameron White at 878-3570 for more information.


(continued from page 7)

special georeferencing header can be used by specialized navigation and GIS software such as Fugawi (and many others) to assign real coordinates to the image. In effect, the header assigns a coordinate to each corner of the image and then interpolates all other points on the image to the corners. All of the NRCan digital topo maps are GeoTIFFs. If you open them in Paint or PhotoShop, they look just like a plain digital image. If you open them in a program like Fugawi, the pixels are assigned true coordinates based on the GeoTIFF header information. When the cursor is placed at a specific location, the real coordinates are displayed. A word of caution is needed.

Programs like PhotoShop will not save the georeferencing header if the image is modified and re-saved. The specialized navigation/GIS software often will.

Which is best?

So which is better, raster or vector. On the surface, vector based maps would seem to be the way to go. The file size is smaller, they scale better, and they are easier to edit. However, raster maps do have significant advantages. They can usually be opened and edited in any raster based program such as Paint or PhotoShop. Vector maps often can't. You can scan images on a digital scanner to create your own raster based maps. Some programs such as Fugawi and Golden Software's "MapViewer" allow you to georeference these scanned images to create true georeferenced images. Paper maps can be scanned but so can aerial photos and any other properly scaled image. In reality, the two formats each have their respective advantages. Raster images do have one major advantage. NRCan will let us download all the Canadian Topo series for free!

Stay tuned for the next issue of The Ripple when I will start to talk about the various software packages that use these images. 



Ripple Classified Advertisements

Looking for a small and cheap boat to play with. Check out our 16' fibreglass beater canoe for sale. It's not pretty but it's watertight and quick in the water. \$250 firm.

Call Jen or Don at 284-5611 to view.

Paddle Manitoba
Members may place a classified advertisement of up to 40 words in this section free

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 groups 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 is 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@ontario.ca
Check us on line @ www.OntarioParks.com

ONTARIO PARKS

Real Wilderness, Real Adventure, Really Fun!

When it comes to camping... we're the **REAL** thing.

Call 788-1070 for a brochure or visit us on the web.

MANITOBA
PIONEER CAMP
LAKE OF THE WOODS
www.manitobapioneer camp.ca



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) *Do Not Mail Cash*

Individual (Adult)	\$30
Lifetime Individual (L. Ms. add \$10 per year for Kanawa subscription if desired)	\$200
Family (two persons, same household)	\$40
Corporate (Business)	\$100
Lifetime Corporate (add \$10 per year for Kanawa subscription if desired)	\$300
Instructor	\$50
Lifetime Instructor	\$250

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 November 1 expire December 31 of the next membership year.

Member Interests (please check all that apply)

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Canoeing | <input type="radio"/> Kayaking | <input type="radio"/> Beginner | <input type="radio"/> Movingwater |
| <input type="radio"/> Family | <input type="radio"/> Experienced | <input type="radio"/> Whitewater | <input type="radio"/> Tripping |
| <input type="radio"/> Competitive | <input type="radio"/> Intermediate | <input type="radio"/> Flatwater/Lakewater | <input type="radio"/> Instructing |
| <input type="radio"/> Recreational | <input type="radio"/> Novice | | |

Interested in helping out? Which committees interest you? (please check your interests)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Resource | <input type="radio"/> Membership | <input type="radio"/> Instruction |
| <input type="radio"/> Advocacy | <input type="radio"/> Newsletter | <input type="radio"/> Executive |

Cut out and mail with payment to:

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

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.

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



**Our members
receive a 10%
discount on goods
and services from
these businesses.**



Mountain Equipment Co-Op

Everything imaginable for canoeing and kayaking. Special members' only discount nights hosted twice a year. A wide selection of repair, rescue, and outfitting accessories. Home of Seaward composite kayaks and Pyranaha whitewater boats.

Address: 303 Portage across from the True North Arena.

Phone: (204) 943-4202

Website: www.mec.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 of 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: rrecp@mts.net

Website: www.redrivercanoe.ca



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: Box 44, GRP 10, RR2, Lorette, MB R0A 0Y0

Phone: (204) 775-2462

Email: aem@seminfo.mb.ca

Website: www.aeminfo.mb.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. Paddle Canada instruction also available.

Address: Box 23, Lorette, MB R0A 0Y0

Phone: (204) 878-3570

Email: rro@mts.net

Website: www.redriveroutfitters.ca



WAVpaddling

WAVpaddling is central Central Canada's 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: Comp. 132, RR 5, Dauphin, MB. R7N 2T8

Local Cell: (204) 470-4872

Toll Free: 1-866-440-2349

Email: yak@wavpaddling.ca

Website: www.wavpaddling.ca



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



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/



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@mts.net

Website: www.wavetrack.ca



WILDS Of Manitoba

Offers Paddle Canada certified canoeing courses in North Winnipeg and other venues if required. Flexible dates can be booked from June to October.

Address: 30 Riverstone Rd, Winnipeg, MB
R2V 4B1

Phone: (204) 334-3111

Email: courses@wilds.mb.ca

Website: www.wilds.mb.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: 74 Gleneagles Rd.

Winnipeg, MB R2J 2Y2

Phone: (204) 284-4072

Email: adventure@northernsoul.ca

Website: www.northernsoul.ca



Stream 'n Wood

Outfit your next adventure with Brandon's outdoor centre – Stream 'n Wood. We offer four seasons of gear including canoes from Old Town and Esquif, and kayaks from Necky and Ocean Kayak. Southwest Manitoba's largest bike sales and service centre is also located in our new store, along with our paddlesport rental department. Let our knowledgeable staff help you plan your next wilderness trip!

Address: 135 17th St. North, Brandon MB

Phone: (204) 727-2767

Email: info@streamnwood.com

Website: www.streamnwood.com



Wilderness Supply

More than a store... a lifestyle. Winnipeg's family run outdoor store where the staff always have time to chat and the coffee pot is always on. Suppliers of fine canoes and kayaks as well as equipment to fit all your outdoor needs

Address: 623 Ferry Road, Wpg, MB R3H 0T4

Phone: (204) 783-9555

Email: info@wildernesssupply.ca

Website: www.wildernesssupply.ca



Woodland Caribou Provincial Park

Ontario's Woodland Caribou Park shares a boundary with Manitoba's Atikaki Park, but nature knows no boundaries. Here begins the Bloodvein River, a Canadian Heritage River which draws paddlers from around the world. Park permits are required of paddlers, and the revenue generated from permit sales is reinvested in the management of the park. Let us help you plan your next adventure in one of Ontario's great natural treasures.

Address: Box 5003, Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0

Phone: (807) 727-1329

Email: woodland.caribou.mnr@ontario.ca

Website: www.OntarioParks.com



Manitoba Pioneer Camp

Manitoba Pioneer Camp offers a variety of exciting programs that specialize in wilderness canoeing and adventure programs both in our children's camps and through Wildwise, our out-tripping program. Located in pristine wilderness on two Shoal Lake islands, we have been providing traditional wilderness camping experiences for children, youth and adults since 1942.

Address : 640 Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg
MB R3C 0X3

Phone: (204) 788-1070

Email: pioneer camp@mts.net

Website: www.manitobapioneer camp.ca



Camp Stephens

YMCA-YWCA Camp Stephens, established in 1891, is one of Canada's longest-running summer camps, offering modern facilities and fun and challenging programs for families, women and young people ages 8 to 16.

Address: Winter Camps Office

3550 Portage Ave. Wpg, MB R3K 0Z8

Phone: (204) 889-8642 ext. 230

Email: campstephens@ymcaywca.mb.ca

Paddle Manitoba

Calendar of Events

Fall BBQ and Paddle

Date: Saturday, 20 September 2008

Location: Labarriere Park

Time: 12:00 - 4:00 pm

Admission: Free to all PM members

Enjoy a paddle with other members of Paddle Manitoba while the board cooks you a tasty hot dog. This is a great chance to meet up with old friends and new members, while catching a last chance to canoe and kayak before the leaves turn. Bring your own boat or borrow one of the club canoes. A great family event.

An Interactive Map of the Manigotagan

Date: Saturday, 25 October 2008

Location: Fort Whyte Alive Interpretive Center

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm (doors at 6:30pm)

Admission: Free to all FWA and PM members. A \$4.00 dollar donation is kindly accepted from all non-members.

The future of river maps is now! The Manitoba Eco-Network has been busy producing an online and interactive map of the Manigotagan River which draws together topographical, hydrological, cultural and any other "al" feature you can think of into one package for the use of paddlers. They will give us a test run of this great new resource and tell us about future projects.

Free coffee and a cash beer bar

Saving the Namakan

Date: Saturday, 22 November 2008-08-14

Location: Fort Whyte Alive Interpretive Center

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm (doors at 6:30pm)

Admission: Free to all FWA and PM members. A \$4.00 dollar donation is kindly accepted from all non-members.

One of the Boundary Waters most scenic rivers, and an important Sturgeon habitat, the Namakan is under threat from a micro hydro project. Stephen Challis of Winnipeg has fought hard to save the river from development, and he will share the story of this beautiful waterway in pictures.

Free coffee and a cash beer bar