



Paddle Manitoba

Your Recreational and Wilderness Paddling Community



Spring is early this year. The rivers are running and it won't be long until the ice is off the lakes. Clean your PFD. Find your whistle and your boat safety kit. Get your paddle out and GO PADDLING!

Spring, 2010

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YOUR RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS PADDLING COMMUNITY

Welcome New Members!

If you are interested in being part of Paddle Manitoba activities both on and off the water, sign up as a member today. For information on the benefits of membership, contact vice president Stephen Challis at vice_pres@paddle.mb.ca

To reach Paddle Manitoba

If you are looking for other information on what is happening in the Manitoba Paddling community, you can check out the Paddle Manitoba website at www.paddle.mb.ca or you can phone us at (204) 338-6722.

Also on the website, you will find a full list of current Paddle Manitoba Board members, complete with phone numbers and e-mail addresses. You are welcome to contact board members at any time with your paddling questions. If we can't help you, we might know someone who can. Click here for ([Board Members](#))

Paddlers Forum

Paddlers are a great source of information for each other! Ask or answer questions of your friends on the water by visiting the forum [Paddler's Forum](#)

Other Paddling Connections

Paddle Canada – 1-888-252-6292
www.paddlingcanada.com

Manitoba Whitewater Club
www.manitobawhitewaterclub.ca

Manitoba Paddling Association
www.mpa.mb.ca

Publication Dates

The Ripple will be available on line quarterly. Paddle Manitoba members will receive a link to the newsletter and it will be available exclusively to members for approximately one month after it is published, after which time it will be posted on the Paddle Manitoba website for viewing by the general public

Newsletter Submissions

Submissions for the Ripple are always welcome, including stories, trip reports, photographs, paddling tips, recipes – anything that might be of interest to other paddlers. Send your contributions to communications@paddle.mb.ca

Newsletter submissions are best sent electronically, with text sent as the body of an e-mail or in a Word attachment. Pictures do not have to be related to an article but they should have a caption. Pictures submitted for the newsletter may be used for other PM applications as well (eg. web site, promotional material).

**DEADLINE FOR
SUBMISSIONS TO THE
NEXT RIPPLE
IS JUNE 15, 2010**

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day.
Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a canoe and drink beer all day.

President's Message

By Catherine Holmen

Spring has sprung!

I'm writing this just after the incredibly beautiful weekend of March 13/14. On Saturday, Charles and I ventured out in search of open water, and got to paddle for a couple of kilometers on the La Salle near the park.

I love the sounds that come with spring. Two years ago, with other staff, I made it out to Mackinnon Island at Manitoba Pioneer Camp before the ice had broken up, and I was amazed at how quiet it was. No water on the rocks, nothing for the wind to rustle. It was a hollow and barren emptiness, eerily quiet. Slowly, we progressed from the cracking of ice and the run-off from melting snow to boats, birds, and our first outdoor education campers.

I like spring because it means that summer is coming. Here at Paddle Manitoba, we've been busy putting together ideas and events for the coming months. Our annual Canoe School instructor training weekend is coming up in May, in partnership with Pioneer Camp. Paddlefest will prove to be exciting as ever. We are working out details about trips, clinics, open paddles, and, dare I say it, the re-birth of Waterwalker.

Take a look through the following pages for information and dates about coming events. Further details can be found on our website, or by contacting the board. 2010 is looking like a busy year in the making!

Happy paddling!

Editor's Message

By Yvonne Kyle

On November 14, I celebrated my wedding anniversary with a paddle on the Assiniboine River from the Perimeter to the Forks. On April Fools Day, I paddled through the trees on the banks of the LaSalle River to avoid the last few hunks of ice floating downstream. The 4½ months in between are about the shortest off season I've had. And I'm looking forward to some wild paddling over the summer!

Hopefully this issue of the Ripple will inspire you to go out and have your own adventures. Dusty Molinski reminds us, in his "what's in a name?" feature to pause when we are paddling to think about the men and women whose paddling days ended far too soon. Mick Lautt brings us up to date on the development of a new national river kayaking programming. And we are inviting everyone to share their culinary expertise by submitting their favourite recipes for a chance to win some great swag in a recipe contest.

There are lots of opportunities to go paddling in the next few months and opportunities to hang out with other paddlers off the water too. So take advantage of the early spring and Go Paddling!

(PS. The next issue of the Ripple will be delayed by a couple of weeks. The newsletter editor will be away on a big adventure).

Inter-Regional Scale of Whitewater Difficulty

Class I: If you get out of your boat, you just get back in your boat and your friends all laugh at you.

Class II: If you get out of your boat, you grab your boat and paddle, swim to shore, and your friends all laugh at you.

Class III: If you get out of your boat, you get bruised a little, your friends gather up your boat and paddle and they all laugh at you.

Class IV: If you get out of your boat, you get the crap beat out of you, it takes your friends awhile to find your boat and paddle, and they all laugh at you.

Class V: If you get out of your boat, your paddle is never seen again, one of your friends gets to keep your boat, another keeps your significant other, they split your life insurance, and all laugh at you.

Class VI: If you get out of your boat, it's unpredictable what happens to you and your gear, but one thing is sure: your friends will all laugh at you.

It's all in the Name

The stories behind the names of Manitoba's lakes and rivers

Remembrance on the Water

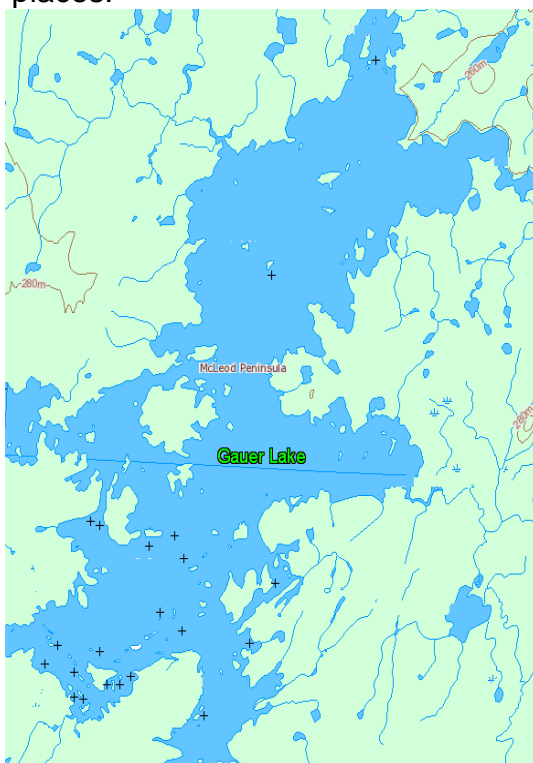
By Dusty Molinski

Across Manitoba, the names of our war dead are commemorated in thousands of lakes, rivers, creeks, islands, and other geographical features

Following WWII, the now-named Geographical Names Board of Canada began using the names of decorated casualties for the naming of geographical features across the country. The use of non-decorated casualties started in 1955. Lakes, rivers and other features now carry their names across our province- 4200 in total.

With so many geographical features carrying the name of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice, Manitobans stand a fairly good chance of encountering one of these places. Paddlers, however, stand the greatest chance as most features are lakes and rivers, the places where paddlers spend their time.

You have probably visited places where a water body, or a feature of that water body, is named after one of these fallen military personnel, perhaps without much thought other than acknowledging the name in your journal or passing your finger over their name on a map. Contemplating the names of these places further, however, reveals the start of countless stories. McLeod Peninsula, on Gauer Lake, East of South Indian Lake, is one of these places.



Gauer Lake is North East of South Indian Lake, about 600 km north of Winnipeg

McLeod Peninsula is named for Allister C. McLeod, originally of Balmoral, MB. R.S. Goreham, Pilot Officer, recounts some of Allister McLeod's last day in a letter dated January 17, 1949 to Jack Verbrugge, a friend of McLeod's. In the letter he describes their bombing mission that ended when they were shot down on return from their targets in Germany. Multiple hits to the plane resulted in the crew bailing out the escape hatch. Goreham remembers some of the crew, Allister McLeod included, passing him on their way to the nose of the plane, where the hatch was located. Prior to jumping, they took a hit just below the hatch. Following this Goreham remembers:

"I was falling through space, so I

pulled my rip-cord and floated down. All was still when I came to and I began to think how peaceful and quiet things were when just a few seconds before, we were going through hell.”

This was all witnessed by a young woman in the Resistance. She saw the airmen leave the plane, and saw too that their altitude was low and that many parachutes failed to open properly. One of the airmen fell near her hiding place. This was on the opposite side of a rail track embankment. She went into the field and found the airman in the dark by following the moans from his pain. She carried him into the trees before the Germans arrived and kept him quiet until they had left. Recognizing his shoulder tabs, she knew he was Canadian. He died in her arms.

Jack Verbrugge eventually visited the site where his friend's plane went down and met the woman who had pulled the young airman to safety. She described the airman well and Jack recognized him as his friend, Allister McLeod. The woman's brother had ploughed up a watch near where the plane had gone down and he showed it to Jack. On the back was inscribed “Allister McLeod R205150”. Jack was later invited to tea with the Dutch Royal Family, who sent a letter to McLeod's parents in sympathy for their son's sacrifice. He was just 22 on November 1, 1944, the night he died. Allister McLeod rests in the Venray War Cemetery in Holland.

The next time you read a surname on a map, stop and reflect on the story of how it came to be. It is very likely one of our war dead and the piece of Earth that bears their name is but a small way we can remember them.

For more information, check out Manitoba Geographical Names Program. 2005. A Place of Honour – Manitoba's War Dead Commemorated in its Geography. Second Edition.

Editor's note: I recently heard a story from a young man who had traveled to great lengths to visit a lake named after his grandfather. He and the float plane pilot he had hired to bring him to the lake searched diligently to find the marker that identified the lake and the man for whom it was named. His story was a remarkable tribute to the value of honouring the war dead by naming places for them.

What's up with our River Kayaking program?

By Mick Lutt

A decade ago, Paddle Canada (PC) brought kayakers from across the country together to create a national program for River Kayaking. Although many groups immediately recognized the value of the resulting program and quickly adopted the instructor certifications at the provincial level, the challenge was to have the associated skill levels adopted as well. It was the implementation of these skill levels across very "passionate and political" regions and groups that proved most difficult.

For those provinces and territories ready to embrace the new program, it was a great success and Manitoba was a shining example. PC provided a national standard for instructor certification and recognized skill levels for participants. It gave our instructional community the support of the national paddling body, access to expert knowledge, administration services, cards, manuals, and more. For independent instructors, it was gold. By keeping current and active as an instructor with Paddle Canada and the provincially affiliated organization (Paddle Manitoba), instructors had access to a nationally recognized program and were covered with full liability and sport insurance. But not all regions got on board.

The challenge on a national level was that many commercial outfitters with independent insurance and established in-house skill programs simply stuck to their own systems of teaching. Arriving for work with a Paddle Canada instructor certification was recognized and respected, but you still needed to be trained to teach their in-house or provincial program, so in many places the PC program did not become "the standard". The skill levels were even less widely adopted and many groups chose not to offer them at all, preferring to stick to their own home-grown system. Because of this segmentation in the industry, the program was not truly accepted on a

national scale. Nationally recognized yes; nationally adopted no. And if the industry does not adopt it, the program becomes less relevant and harder to sustain.



Taking an eddy break during training

Enter Canoe Kayak Canada (CKC). CKC is the national sports body for kayaking. They represent Sprint, Slalom, Canoe Polo, Freestyle, Wildwater, and Surf Kayak, all at the competitive level. They have traditionally focused on athlete development and coaching. The recent success of kayaking in the summer Olympics and other international competitions has led to an increase in funding for paddler development. CKC now recognizes that getting "bums in boats" earlier, and in a recreational environment, will add to their potential athlete base and will enhance the sport at a competitive national level. So funding is flowing in that direction. Good news for everyone!

For the past 3 years, CKC has been developing an extensive "instructional" and "community" stream for their program that targets and supports more recreational style learning and instructor development. Athletes are being called students and coaches are referred to as instructors and leaders.



Andy Hill peer teaching during instructor training

The goal is to create a nationally adopted, competency based instructor certification (not student skill levels). The difference in this approach is that instead of being certified to teach a specific organization's curriculum, an instructor's certification will allow him or her to teach river kayaking skills within the structure of an established program (Paddle Canada, Joe's Kayak Shop, Billy's Paddling Emporium, you get the idea) up to the level in which they can demonstrate appropriate competency. Because these competency levels will be developed nationally, they will also be consistent nationally. As mentioned, the challenge for a national instructor program concept has been that the established organizations and businesses did not want to adopt the associated skills programs. By focusing on the instructor's competency and not on specific skill sets, CKC instructor certification can be easily adapted to competitive sport and recreation bodies, commercial outfitters and not-for-profit organizations. And for those regions who do not have a recognized instructional

structure or who are currently using the Paddle Canada program, the PC levels will remain available as a fully developed skills standard. A win-win initiative.

So where does this leave us for 2010? PC has expressed support for the concept and, as experts in recreational kayak instruction, we are contributing to the design of the program. We have been attending meetings and focus groups and have been putting some parts of the program through its paces on the river. This is still a time of intense development and testing for the CKC program. They are developing manuals, resources, administration systems, and the relationships needed to roll this out. This paddling season we will wait and watch and help where we can. The program is moving forward and will benefit us all, so we are doing our best to be contributors and partners where appropriate.

This summer in Manitoba, we will continue to recognize Paddle Canada instructors and the associated skill programs that have served our community, instructors and students so well for so many years. The newly re-vamped PC River Kayaking skills program is being adopted by all current PC instructors and sanctioned PC programs and is sure to be a big hit with our students. Our "flatwater" programs are now called "Intro to Kayaking" and will run within the well developed PC Sea Kayaking program, which has never been stronger. So keep an eye out for changes on the horizon line and until then, keep on paddling.

Mick Lutt is the Paddle Canada - River Kayaking Program Development Committee Chair; Paddle Manitoba River Kayaking Chair; a founding member of the Manitoba Whitewater Club, and the founder and head instructor of WAVpaddling kayaking school. Mick took the pictures in this article.

THE RECIPE PAGE

One Pot Meal

-Contributed by Alain Louer and Cindy Chudley

2 breasts of chicken (more, depending on group)
 15 - 20 mushrooms, thickly sliced
 half white onion, coarsely chopped
 2-3 cloves garlic, minced
 1 pepper, your choice of colour, coarsely chopped
 1-2 small broccoli branch, cut into smaller branches
 1 - 1 1/2 cup of minute white rice
 1 - 14oz can of tomato or mushroom soup
 3.5 oz water
 Canola oil

Instruction:

Use a camp medium to large pot and add 1 tbsp oil and garlic, onions, mushrooms and peppers. Cook over camp stove until mushrooms are brown and onions are transparent. Add meat and cook until white on outside. Add soup and water and mix, let heat until boiling. Add rice and turn down heat to medium - low and let simmer for 15 minutes or until rice is cooked. Serve.
 Serves 4 adults

This recipe is great for camping as you don't need many pans, you get 3 of 4 food groups and it feeds many people. It's no fail so even the most beginner cook can make it.

Enjoy.



announcing!!!!

THE GREAT 2010 PADDLE MANITOBA RECIPE CONTEST

The food on a paddling trip is a lot more than just nourishment for the body. A tasty treat after a long tough portage, a hearty meal on the river bank or a shore lunch enjoyed on a day trip have provided many a paddler with treasured memories. But what do we put in the pot to create those happy food moments? Nearly everyone has one or two dishes that are must haves on a paddling adventure, whether it's a hearty stew, fresh baked biscuits, the world's greatest pancakes or the perfect snack that's always handy in your dry bag.

Whatever your specialty, we want to hear about it. And to encourage you, we are offering prizes for the recipes we like the best. Individual category winners will receive a great outdoor cookbook and the grand prize winner will receive some swanky new cooking gear to use on the next out trip. Winners will also be invited to prepare their dishes at Paddlefest and allow Paddlefest visitors to sample their culinary delights.

How to Enter

1. There are 4 categories to choose from:

Breakfast
 Main course meals
 Dessert
 Snacks you can carry in your backpack.

2. Include your contact information (name, address, phone, e-mail)

3. Send your recipe to Communications@paddle.mb.ca Deadline for submission is May 20, 2010

NOTES:

- Recipes need not be your own original ones. However, if they come from a cookbook, make sure you give credit to the author.
- Use a format like the one used on this page, all ingredients first, then the directions with any notes or comments at the end.
- All submissions will be posted on the Paddle Manitoba Website (with credit to the submitter and, if different, the creator)

PADDLEFEST

A celebration of the canoe and kayak

June 14, 2009 was a bright sunny day – a rare occasion in the Winnipeg summer of 2009. Paddle Manitoba invited members and friends to Fort Whyte Alive to celebrate all that is good about paddle sports. The weather was perfect and over 500 people took advantage of the free admission to Fort Whyte to come out and explore the exciting world of paddle sports in Manitoba

A key feature of Paddlefest is the displays by Paddle Manitoba's corporate members. Retailers are on hand to show off the latest in boats and paddling gear. Visitors are welcome to don a PFD and take a new boat for a test drive. (At least one person seen checking out a kayak with a retailer at Paddlefest was spotted later in the summer buying a kayak from the same retailer.) Meanwhile camps and outfitters are available to help paddling enthusiasts find ways to get out on the water in the company of guides and instructors who will help them discover a new skill or refine ones that they already have.

Paddlefest offers plenty of opportunities for learning. In 2009, indoor workshops were not as popular as they might have been if Paddlefest had not been on the first pleasant day of the summer when indoors was not where people wanted to be.

But those who did venture in were treated to information sessions on choosing gear for trips, repairing boats, and how to survive in cold water.

And of course, a celebration of paddling would not be complete without getting out on the water. A full slate of on-the-water canoe and kayak clinics gave paddlers the chance to get out and play, with Paddle Canada instructors on hand to assist where needed. Parents with their children, new Canadians, seniors, and young couples, many of whom had never been in a canoe or kayak, signed up for lessons. Much to the chagrin of the canoeists, in 2009, kayaks were the boat of choice. Also very popular were the voyageur canoes that ran non-stop all day with boat loads of enthusiastic paddlers on the Fort Whyte lakes. To provide inspiration, Mick Lauth in his kayak and Charles Burchill in his canoe gave demonstrations of some of the neat tricks that boats can do when in the control of a skilled paddler.

Paddlefest is a great way to start off the paddling season, although with the way 2010 is going, we could be well into this year's season on the water well before Paddlefest rolls around on June 27th.

Come out. Get involved. Have Fun.

Paddlefest 2010 will be on Sunday, June 27, 2010 at Fort Whyte Alive. The Paddle Manitoba board has several people who have volunteered to help coordinate this year's event and is hoping that all Paddle Manitoba members will provide a few hours of their time to make the event a true celebration of everything we all love about paddle sports.

Some of the jobs will happen well before the event (like communicating with sponsors, arranging on and off the water activities, and promotions), some will be in the day or two before the gates open (like moving boats for the on-water clinics, ensuring PFDs and paddles are in good condition and setting up tables) and some will be during Paddlefest itself (like manning the welcome table, helping with the clinics, and helping with communication between other volunteers and with the public).

So there is something that everyone can do. Decide what sort of job you would like to have and send an e-mail to communications@paddle.mb.ca. to indicate your preferences. The sooner you speak up, the more likely it is that you will get your first choice of jobs.

It's TIME TO GO PADDLING

HERE ARE SOME OF THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR PADDLING THIS SUMMER. WHETHER YOU TAKE A COURSE, EXPLORE A NEW PART OF THE PROVINCE, OR ENJOY AN LEISURELY EVENING EXCURSION, MAKE SURE YOU PUT ON YOUR PFD, GRAB YOUR PADDLE AND GO JUMP IN A BOAT.

Wednesday Night Paddles - La Barriere Park

Times

May, 6:30-8:30 pm

June/July, 7:00-9:00 pm

August/September, 6:30-8:30 pm

Location:

Five km south of Perimeter hwy on Waverley Avenue - park near entry gate

Cost

\$5.00 per person. There is no fee for those who provide their own boat and equipment but donations are welcome. Children 11 years of age and under paddle for free

Description:

Join Charles for an evening paddle down the picturesque La Salle river starting from La Barriere Park. Socialize with fellow paddlers, watch for wildlife, practice skills, or just relax and enjoy. The leaders for these evening paddles are also Paddle Canada instructors so if you are taking a course, or just thinking about it, come with questions. Are you interested in a trip but not sure where to go? A few of the people that regularly come to these outings are also seasoned wilderness canoeists and are usually willing to talk about places and routes.

All participants will be required to sign a liability waiver. If you bring your own equipment make sure you bring all the required safety equipment as well ([Approved PFD](#), [Paddle](#), [Whistle \(sound signal\)](#), [Bailer](#), [Throw Bag \(buoyant heaving line\)](#)).

If you require equipment please book ahead by phoning Charles at 453-5374 as there are only a limited number of canoes available.

These outings are two hours long rather than a drop in program.

Tuesday/Thursday open Paddles – Fort Whyte Alive

On Tuesdays and Thursdays from June 1 – August 26, you can join some of Paddle Manitoba's corporate sponsors for an evening of Paddling at the Fort Whyte Alive Adventure Centre (2505 McGillvary Blvd – NOT the Fort Whyte main center). Canoes, kayaks are available or you can bring your own. PFD's and paddles are provided. Cost is \$5.00 per person with no charge for children under 11. There is no cost if you bring your own boat and equipment.

Fort Whyte Alive EcoAdventure

You'll have to run and bike as well as paddle but the Fort Whyte EcoAdventure is a great way to get started on the paddling season.

The event runs on Sunday, April 24. Registration deadline is April 16. For full details, check out the brochure. [EcoAdventurebrochure](#)

Muddy Waters Armada

Scouts Canada invites you to celebrate Canada Rivers Day with a paddle on the Red River. Meet at the Forks and paddle to the St Andrews locks on the historic Red River. For details go to www.mb.scouts.ca and check out calendar page

Take a trip with Nature Manitoba

Mantario Cabin Summer Program

July 5th to 9th – Swimming with Lesly Andrews & Jerry Zaste

July 12th to 16th – Mantario Explorations with Charles Burchill (GPS, map and compass work)

July 19th to 23rd – Paddle to the Forest with Charles Burchill (Plants, canoeing)

July 26th to 30th – Discover Mantario with Lorne Klassen & Leigh Cullen (botany, hiking)

August 2nd to 6th - Photography with Marcel Van Eerd

August 9th to 13th – Astronomy with Jennifer West

August 16th to 20th – Family Week with Gillian Brennan (child friendly activities)

August 23rd to 27th – Canoe Instruction with D. Kurt

August 30th to September 3rd – Fun and Fishing with Marc Leclair

Cost:

Non-member - \$395.00/week Cdn.

Members and students age 18+ (with valid student ID) \$360.00/week Cdn.

Children attending Family week - \$125.00/week Cdn.

Early bird Discount: save \$35 if you register prior to June 1st.

Cost includes all food, accommodation, canoes and guide services

Registration:

Print out the registration form on the website: www.Naturemanitoba.ca, look under Mantario. Return it with payment to Mantario Summer Program, Nature Manitoba, 401-63 Albert Street, Winnipeg, MB, R3B 1G4.

A \$100 deposit will reserve your spot (full amount due two weeks prior to departure). Place your deposit before June 1st and receive a \$35.00 early bird discount for adults and students. PLEASE NOTE: deposits are non-refundable.

More questions? Contact the friendly staff at our office at (204)943-9029 or by email at <mailto:naturemanitoba@mts.net>

Take a Course!

There's a full slate of introductory canoe and kayak courses being offered from May 'til September. Taught by Paddle Canada certified instructors courses are 4-8 hours long, depending on the level, and are offered weekday evenings or on Saturdays and are held at the Fort Whyte Alive Adventure site. All paddling equipment is provided for these courses, offered in partnership with Fort Whyte. For a full schedule of this summer's canoe courses go to [canoe courses](#). For kayak courses click here [kayak courses](#). And for registration information go here [paddling course registration](#).

Canoe School

For canoeists interested in enhancing their own skills and helping others to learn to paddle as well, why not try out Canoe School? A 21 year old continuing partnership with Manitoba Pioneer Camp, Canoe School trains new Paddle Canada certified canoeing instructors as well as waterfront instructors. For more information on Canoe School, contact Chris Milne at Manitoba Pioneer camp, 788-1070 or <mailto:cmilne@pioneer camp.com>

Moving Water Canoe Courses

Learn the art and skill of paddling moving water with Paddle Canada Certified Instructors

Introduction to Moving Water Tandem and/or Solo

Length: 2 days

Prerequisite: Flat water certification or equivalent

Dates: June 19-20

Class II Whitewater – Intermediate Moving Water Tandem

Length 2 days

Prerequisite: Moving water certification or equivalent

Date: May 15/16

For info or to Register, contact

Gerry Hirose
488-8225 (Residence)
gerry_hirose@yahoo.ca

Brian Johnston
1-204-754-2651(Res)
1-204-482-2121 (wk)
bjohnston@lssd.ca

Paddle Manitoba Survey 2009

By Stephen Challis

On November 21, 2009 the board of Paddle Manitoba met to discuss the future of the organization. This session produced a feeling of consensus from the board the plan that evolved would serve us well into the foreseeable future. However, the board was aware that no matter how good the plan looked on paper, it has little chance of “getting onto the water” without widespread buy-in from the membership.

Thus was born the idea of Paddle Manitoba Survey 2009. The objectives of the survey were two-fold: (i) to give members an idea of what the board was thinking of doing, and (ii) to get feedback from the members about what they might want from, and be willing to do for, the organization. Our reasoning was that if the members’ thoughts and opinions were similar to those of the board, the plans that had been developed stood a far greater chance of succeeding. On the other hand, if there was a significant gap noted, the board would needed stop and re-assess the validity of its assumptions and conclusions.

Using an on-line survey tool, all of the 2009 members for whom an email address was available were invited to complete the ten question survey. There were 74 responses from 127 surveys sent out, a 58% percent response rate. The full survey results are available on line.

http://www.paddle.mb.ca/images/pdfs/Member_Survey_2009.pdf

In brief, a clear majority of members think it is somewhat or very important for Paddle Manitoba to continue to offer (i) paddlesport related advocacy (ii) informational resources for paddlers (iii) an indoor program, and (iv) organized trips. The views about whether or not PM should provide support to new paddling clubs around the province are less decisive with slightly less than half of respondents considering this to be somewhat or very important while almost a quarter believe it to be somewhat unimportant or not at all important.

The survey also asked members how they saw themselves participating in and contributing to Paddle Manitoba activities. A clear majority are somewhat or very willing to contribute to (i) instruction, or the receipt of instruction (ii) participation in trips (iii) assisting with the indoor program. To a lesser degree, members are also willing to support the maintenance of our website and work on one of our organizational sub-committees.

Not shown at the on-line compilation are the short comments provided by 30 of the respondents. These comments were analyzed closely by the entire board also. The comments covered a wide range of topics, themes and suggestions and it would be difficult to summarise them in this short article. Most, but not all, the comments supported the work of Paddle Manitoba and generally correlated with the data produced by the survey. The few negative remarks tended to underscore the need for change that the board was hoping to address.

Overall, Paddle Manitoba Survey 2009 was a valuable and illuminating exercise for the organization. We did not find significant differences between the view of the members based on which category of membership they hold - individual, family, instructor, corporate, life-time and non-lifetime. Our analysis of the results comes down to following basic conclusion: what the membership wants from and wants to do for Paddle Manitoba is roughly in line with what the board is planning for 2010.

It should be an interesting, challenging, and, we hope, successful year ahead.

*The canoe paddle, a simple device used to propel a boat, should never be confused with a
gnu paddle, a similar device used by Tibetan veterinarians.*

A GREAT BIG THANKYOU !

To Charles Burchill

Charles has resigned as secretary of the Paddle Manitoba Board. The board very much appreciates the time Charles shared with us. He often had meeting minutes in our in-boxes before some of us were home from the meetings. Since resigning in January, Charles had helped immeasurably to maintain and continue to update the PM website and to assist the new web master and the new secretary learn their roles. Thank you Charles for all you have done and continue to do for Paddle Manitoba.



Charles will continue to host the Wednesday night paddles at Laberrier Park. Everyone is encouraged to join him.

Picture stolen from Charles' website. (Hope you don't mind Charles!)

To Crystal Hurd

With very little arm twisting, Crystal has taken over as our new Paddle Manitoba Webmaster. With Crystal's knowledge and experience we are confident that the website will increasingly become THE place for paddling information.

To the still anonymous volunteer who has agreed to assist with the coordination of Paddlefest. We appreciate your contributions and are looking forward to another great summer paddling event.

To Maura Nelson

Maura has agreed to follow in Charles' footsteps as the new Paddle Manitoba secretary. We are thrilled to have her join the team!

To Steve Allen, Dantz Berard, Rod Delisle, Alana Friesen, Catherine Holmen, Crystal Hurd, Kevin Lawes, and Diana Munoz who volunteered at the Paddle Manitoba bingo at the McPhillips Street Station in February. PM received a healthy cheque because of their efforts, money that will be used to enhance the services we are able to provide.



FROM THE BOARD ROOM

A round-up of the major items that the Paddle Manitoba Board has been working on.

2009 AGM On January 23, 2010, the board hosted the Paddle Manitoba AGM. Members were treated to an excellent presentation by Neil MacDonald on his adventures paddling on the Churchill River in Labrador. Neil spoke of traveling by canoe on the River in the fall and then bringing his canoe and gear by sled over the ice once winter hit. Before the presentation, reports from various committees were presented to members and following it, the AGM continued with the election of new board members and a vote on proposed constitutional changes. The full minutes of the AGM can be found on the website ([2009 AGM minutes](#))

Website: Crystal Hurd has taken on the role of Paddle Manitoba web master and is doing a wonderful job of making the website more user friendly and enhancing the information being provided. Anyone with suggestions for changes to content or layout on the website is welcome to send a note to communications@paddle.mb.ca.

REEL film festival: Catherine Holmen attended the REEL film festival sponsored by the Wilderness Supply store. Paddle Manitoba hosted an information table at the film festival.

Brochure: A new PM brochure had been produced to promote our organization with the public. It was distributed to guests at the REEL film festival and, with the assistance of Fort Whyte Alive, at the spring boat show at the convention center. It will be distributed as widely as possible over the next while.

BINGO!: The president and 7 non-board volunteers assisted at a Bingo in February at the McPhillips Street Station. They raised \$1500 for their efforts which will be put towards enhancing instructor training as per our agreement with Manitoba Lotteries.

Instruction Schedules: Our new instructor chair, Tim Wintoniw, has finalized the summer instruction program with Fort Whyte. Some last minute changes were necessary to the schedule to accommodate changes to the canoe instruction program. And plans are well under way for Canoe School on the May long weekend. In partnership with Manitoba Pioneer Camp, this year's Canoe School will offer Instructor and Waterfront Instructor courses.

Paddlefest: Plans are under way for our annual celebration of the canoe and kayak on June 27, this year coinciding with National Canoe Day. Volunteers for major jobs are in place and all Paddle Manitoba members are encouraged to get involved for a few hours either to help with planning or to assist on the big day. (see the article elsewhere in this Ripple)

Outreach: Although the community collaboration chair has been out of the country looking for places to paddle for most of the winter, we have still managed to make some initial contacts with paddlers in northern Manitoba in hopes of finding ways to connect more with groups outside Winnipeg. We hope to build and strengthen relationships with paddlers all over the province so our organization can truly be Paddle MANITOBA, not Paddle Winnipeg

WaterWalker Film Festival Paddle Manitoba will be hosting Water Walker in the fall. Just as we are all lamenting having to hang up our paddles for the winter, we will have one more chance to imagine ourselves out on the water. Look for WaterWalker at the end of October. Keep your eyes on the website for details.

REASONS TO CELEBRATE!

Victoria Jason Volunteer of the Year Award

Paddle Manitoba (MRCA) established a volunteer award in 2001 to recognize members whose volunteer efforts have been a major contribution to Paddle Manitoba programs. It is to be awarded annually at the AGM to a member deemed to have consistently contributed to the objectives of Paddle Manitoba. In 2003 name of the award was changed to the "Victoria Jason Volunteer of the Year Award" in honour of Jason's great accomplishments and determination.

The 2010 Victoria Jason Award was presented to Cam White by Paddle Manitoba president, Catherine Holmen with the following citation:

"Every year, the Victoria Jason Award is given out in recognition of significant contribution to the Paddle Manitoba community over a number of years. When the board was thinking of people who deserve this honour, a number of names were suggested, but one in particular stood out. This individual has donated hundreds upon thousands of hours to Paddle Manitoba. We would not be where we are today, an organization with lots of vitality and potential, without his efforts and dedication. Paddle Manitoba is pleased to recognize the hard work and high standards of Mr. Cam White, and congratulates Cam and Lynne on the safe arrival of their daughter."

Thanks Cam. for all you have done!

Pictograph Preserved

In a past issue of the Ripple, an article related that the future of this iconic canoe pictograph was uncertain. Situated on Pictured Lake, south of Thunder Bay, a developer held possession of the land surrounding the lake, with plans to subdivide and install road access. Since then, much has occurred. The Thunder Bay Field Naturalists entered into discussions to purchase the property from the developer in the hopes of creating a nature reserve. They eventually negotiated a price of \$170,000. Applying for a number of grants from both government and private foundations, they were successful in their fundraising efforts. This pictograph is now protected within the Painted Rock Nature Reserve. For more information visit <http://www.tbfn.net/reserve9.htm>.



Our Corporate Members!

If you are in need of paddling supplies or are looking for an outfitter or camp to enhance your paddling experiences, please visit the Paddle Manitoba corporate members identified below. PM Members are entitled to a 10% discount on the purchase of goods and services from our corporate members (You must show your Paddle Manitoba Membership card. Some restrictions apply.)



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



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: <http://www.wavetrack.ca/>



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) 474-6100 Fax: (204) 474-7503

Email: mailto:rec_services@umanitoba.ca

Website: bisonactiveliving.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



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: <http://www.redriveroutfitters.ca/>



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: <http://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: <http://www.ontarioparks.com/>



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: <http://www.streamnwood.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: 4-1115 Henderson Hwy., Winnipeg, MB, R2G 1L4 Phone: (204) 788-1070

Email: pioneercamp@mts.net

Website: <http://www.manitobapioneercamp.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: <http://www.wildernessspirit.com/>



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



Green Adventures

Whether on vacation or just looking for a new way to explore the scenic lakes of Kenora, Ontario, Green Adventures nature based tour company is dedicated to making your outdoor experience unforgettable and fun. Come and see what the Lake of the Woods region has to offer you

Phone: (807) 467-8535

Email: scottgreen1980@msn.com

Website: <http://www.greenadventures.ca/>



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: rrcp@mts.net

Website: <http://www.redrivercanoe.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: <http://www.northernsoul.ca/>