

Welcome New Members!

INVOLVEMENT

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 membership chair Stephen Challis at

membership@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)

PADDLER'S 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

SUBMISSION DEADLNES

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

communication@paddle.mb.ca

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

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- 4. Editor's Message
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President's Message

I thought summer would never come!

After a very busy spring (see my article further on in this issue), it's a relief to have finally hit July, and with it, some time to relax and do things at a simplified pace.

Paddle Manitoba has had its hands full these past couple of months, getting ready for summer with courses, trips, open paddles, and other events.

There are lots of chances for you to get out and get paddling this summer. We are lucky, in Manitoba, to have so many lakes and rivers to choose from.

BC may have the ocean, but that's just one big body of water! Ours are way more intricate.

One of my favourite things about getting out on the water is the calming feeling. One of my students puts it best when he says "it's really chill out here. [The trip] is the only thing on my mind. It's really cool how it's second nature to us." Getting to that moment where you're not really thinking about your paddle or the strokes, but looking up to see the world around you, is a neat experience!

After a lot of consideration, I've accepted a semipermanent job (as in, for the next few years) here in Vancouver, teaching grade 11 and 12 physics. While the board is still working out what that will mean for Paddle Manitoba, I still plan to support it as best as I can from afar. Stay tuned as we move towards the fall for what Paddle Manitoba's future will look like and how you can support it.

Happy summer paddling!

Catherine Holmen

Editor's Message

As I have done every year for the last four, I spent the first week of July with a group of Scouts Canada youth and adults on a canoe adventure we call Quest. Quest is a movable camp. This year, we travelled to The Pas and shuttled paddlers and boats a little further north to the Grass River Provincial Park. In the car on the way up, I listened to an item on the radio about how taking kids into a pine forest makes them more intelligent. I don't know about increasing their intelligence but I do know that the strength of character that builds in young people when they go beyond their comfort level is an incredible thing to see. Canoe tripping gives them a challenge they won't forget, friends they will cherish for a long time, and the opportunity to go places they never thought they'd see and do things they didn't think they were capable of. Come to think of it, maybe they are more intelligent for having participated.

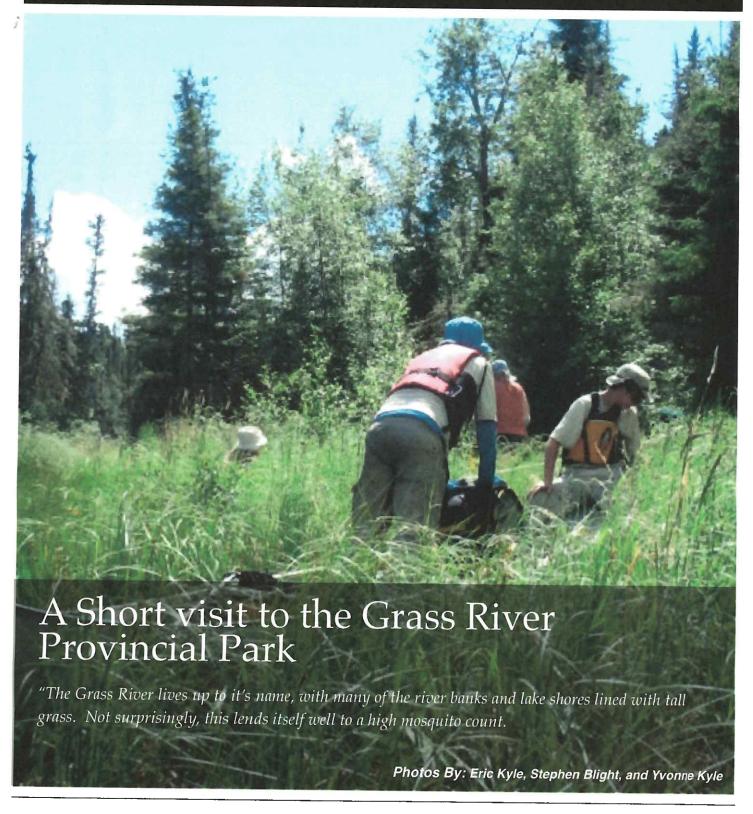
> In this issue of the Ripple, Catherine Holmen shares her experiences with young canoeists as they learn and grow in a school program that culminates in their journey down the Stikine River. In a totally different kind of

learning experience, Chris Randall gives us some ideas for how to get ourselves out of trouble with his design for a pulley system that we could use to find our way out of a tight spot. And Don Kurt shares some memories of Wave Track paddling as the store winds down its operations.

It's too hot to be inside. Go get your PFD and go padding. If you can find some young people to share the water with, that's even better.

Yvonne Kyle

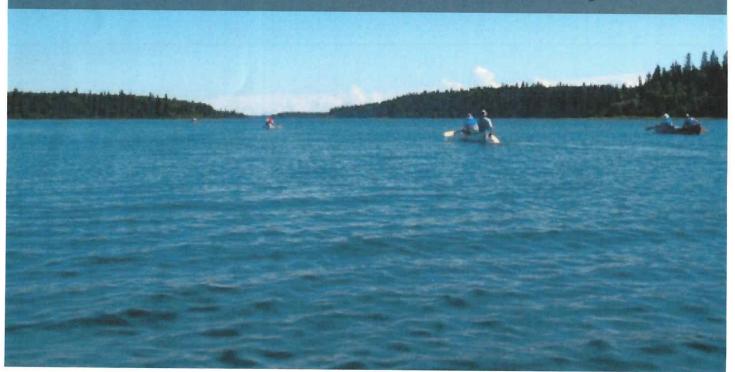
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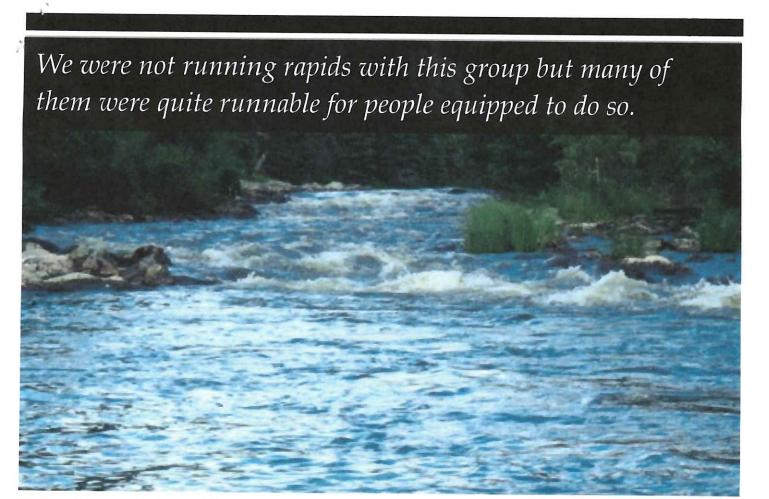
by Yvonne Kyle

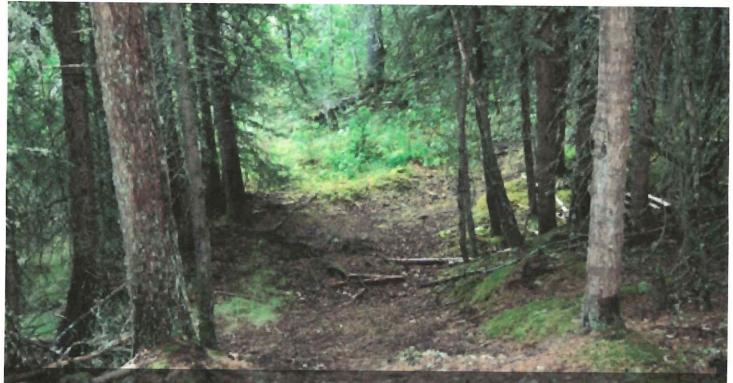
Earlier this summer, I had a chance to paddle the Grass River. We had three groups tripping on different parts of the river at the same time. Two groups set out from Cranberry Portage while the third put in at the Iskwasum Lake campground, which also served as the take out for all three trips. The Grass is a historic fur trading routes and our trippers found numerous reminders of trappers and prospectors. Today it is well known for it's fishing and hunting opportunities. Park staff wishit was also used more by paddlers.

My favourite scene is canoes spread out over a body of water. Here we are just getting started on First Cranberry Lake

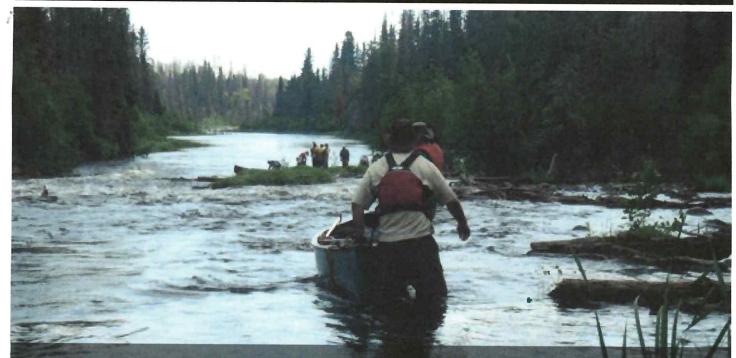




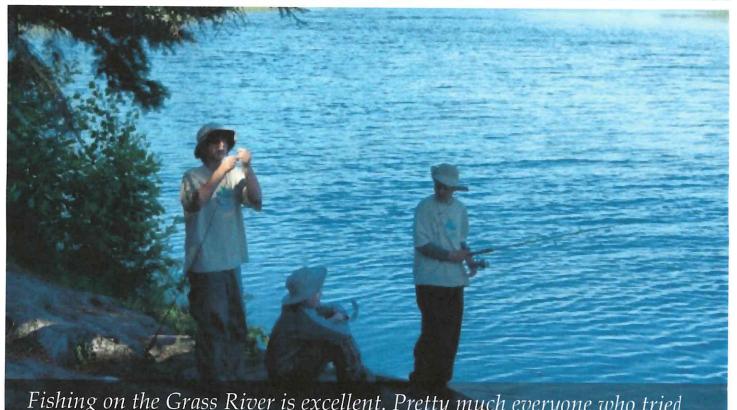




Where portages were necessary, the trails were usually, but not always well-marked and in good shape.



The water was low and this would have been a very tricky rapid for inexperienced trippers. Unfortunately, the portage trail was blocked by numerous downed trees and we chose to walk the boats down the rapid.



Fishing on the Grass River is excellent. Pretty much everyone who tried managed to catch something and fish was had for breakfast or supper.

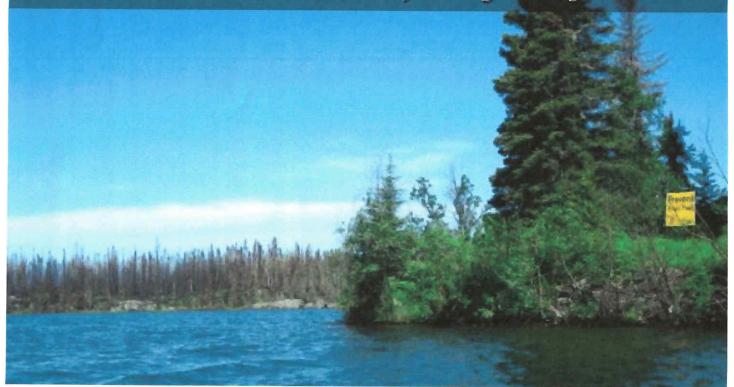
The grassy banks and the thick forest that goes right to the water mean that pretty much the only camping is in spots designated by the Park. For the most part, they are excellent sites, although there are certainly some better than others.





This site was not only a little small for a group of 16 campers, it was also very buggy. But if this is the worst we come across, we have little to complain of.

Forest fires in the area in 2010 destroyed large tracts of Grass River Provincial Park. It will take some time before it regains it's greenness.





The Grass is a pretty little river. While it lacks the whitewater thrill of other northern rivers, it is a fun river to travel and is well worth the time it takes to drive up north to experience it.



PADDLESSE 2011 - REVISITED

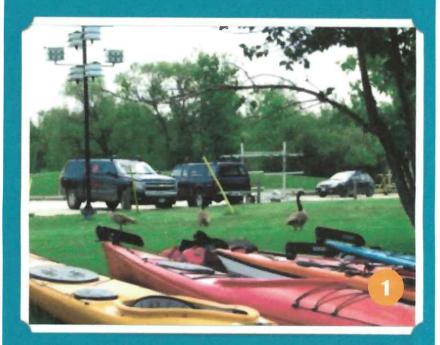
by Janice Pennington

All passions start somewhere. My kayaking passion was sparked off the dock at the Winnipeg Canoe Club. I know the seed for the love of paddle sports was planted in many who enthusiastically attended PaddleFest 2011 on Sunday June 12th, Canadian Rivers Day.

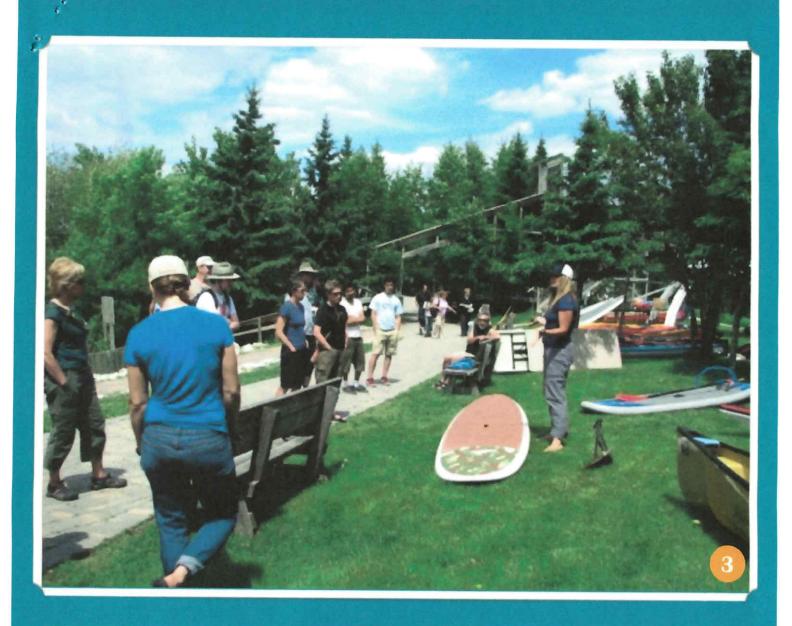
Aside from the winds that sent a few wayward beginners off course, the weather was perfect at Winnipeg's jewel, FortWhyte Alive.
Corporate members were on hand displaying a wide variety of their paddling gear and sharing their knowledge. One father, planning an August canoe trip, brought his kids out to get comfortable before the families first adventure. They left with smiles after partaking in both canoe and kayak clinics. We wish them success in what we hope will be trip filled with lifelong memories.

Transport Canada educated visitors about water safety, CPAWS' display was informative, and the children's activities area was well attended. My dream of owning the dry bag on the auction table was not to be but many other attendees walked away with some fantastic items donated by members and supporters of Paddle Manitoba. There was lots of interest in the Stand Up Paddling lecture by Andrea Zap of Surf Tech, with many heading down to the water afterwards to give it a try. Clearly it is not as hard to balance as one might suspect as not one person took a dive.

PaddleFest's primary goal is to instil an enjoyment of paddling, especially for folks who are brand new to paddle sports. Mission accomplished!

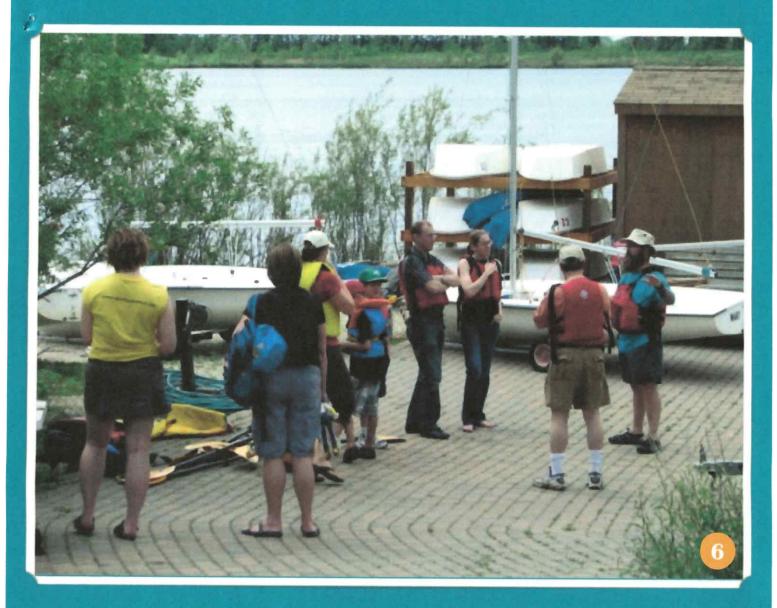












- Even the geese came to check out the latest boats and gear
- Many visitors had their first ever chance to try out a canoe or kayak

- Children made and raced boats and had some fun games to play
- I wonder if this is the right paddle for me??

There was a lot of interest in the latest paddling craze - stand up paddle boards

Paddle Canada instructors provided instruction and encouragement to young and less young paddlers

Farewell to an old Friend

by Don Kurt

It saddens many of us to learn that soon there will be no friendly greeting from Gary Brabant at the Wave Track Canoe and Kayak store.

Gary was recently diagnosed with ALS and, although he would love to continue his passion of promoting paddling and camping products at Wave Track, he has decided it is time to clear his stock and close shop.

Consider supporting Gary by visiting and purchasing some fine products at discount prices.

Canoes and kayaks, paddling and camping gear for sale or rent. This is what Gary wanted me to put into the WaveTrack website I built for him in 1996, when www was new. The site is still plain and simple but has content pertinent to Gary's business and specific about the products he passionately sells.

Gary and business partner Doug Evans established WaveTrack in the early 80s after The Happy Outdoorsman, where Gary had worked, closed its doors. In the mid 90s, Gary took over ownership of Wave Track and moved it from the small shop on Madison Street to the present location at Speers Rd off Lagimodiere Blvd.

It is always impressive walking into the shop and seeing the wall full of canoes and kayaks and even more Grummans and Old Towns stacked in the back prepared to go to camps and outfitters across the north.

Prior to returning to Winnipeg in 1988 from a term position in Ottawa, I was inspired by canoe lessons from Becky Mason to purchase a prospector style canoe. I searched for canoes in

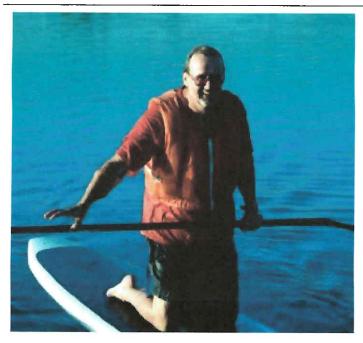
Ottawa and Winnipeg and Gary sold me a Bluewater version Prospector over the phone. I picked it up at the Rockwood Outfitters Canoe factory in Guelph, Ontario during my drive back home to Winnipeg. That canoe safely floated me many thousands of kilometres over hundreds of lakes and rivers. Since then Gary has sold me several canoes; they seem to get lighter each time.

Gary always has a special way of discussing and selling new products to his customers. In the early 90s I remember Gary bringing the revolutionary Outback Oven to a MRCA members meeting, introducing the Winnipeg paddling community to convenient camp stove top pizza, not to mention many sticky buns, bannock, cakes and souffles over the years.

For many years Gary set up Wave Track displays at the Winnipeg Boat Show and taught kayaking courses. He generously supports the paddling community such as camps, Paddle Manitoba, other organizations and hires paddlers and students to staff his shop. Gary and his partner Sandra also volunteer at the Winnipeg Fringe and Jazz Festivals as well as at the Prairie Theatre Exchange and give their time to many other community events and organizations.

On behalf of many friends in the paddling community, best wishes to you, Gary and Sandra. May you enjoy good health in retirement and know that many paddlers float on your passions.

Contact Gary Brabant at Wave Track, (204) 231-8226, C-42 Speers Rd, info@wavetrack.ca, http://www.wavetrack.ca





Photos by: Maura Nelson

Doing more with Less: An Improvised "4:1" pulley system for boat rescue and load hauling

by Chris Randall

Although it always makes sense to be using the right tools for any task there are times when you just don't have access to the things you need. This is typically true of boat rescue situations where your painstakingly assembled pin-kit may be on the wrong side of the river or, in the worst case scenario in the boat that is pinned on the rock. While it is a good idea to try to carry some kit on your person, unless you want to compromise the flotation on your PFD it is not a good idea to fill your pockets with multiple pulleys, carabiners and ascenders. How then to rig some form of effective mechanical advantage system using only a limited amount of equipment?

Improvised systems tend to lose a lot of their advantage through when friction is introduced into the system. Rigs with rope on rope contact should be avoided at all costs as they are not only ineffective, but may seriously damage your rope. This is particularly the case with floating ropes that use polypropylene as the outer sheath and you really shouldn't be using any ropes around water that don't float!

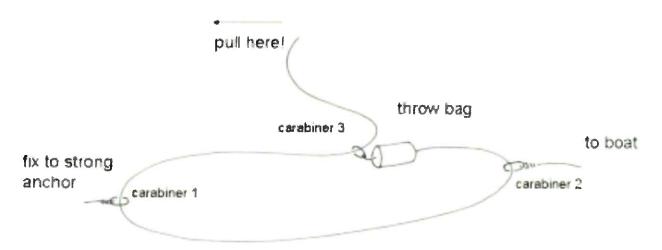


A number of books show an improvised Z-drag using a loop knotted into the main line. However this knot is often almost impossible to remove once used for its intended purpose making the rig difficult to re-adjust. This could also make your throw line useless.

Instead, here is an alternative to the well known z-drag that provides more pull and doesn't need you to put a knot in the middle of the rope.

At its most basic this rig requires one throw bag with good quality line - the longer the better and rated for rescue work — and three carabiners - preferably the large pear shaped locking type but any will work.

At first glance this rig appears to defy basic physical laws: why doesn't the whole rig just rotate around on itself without applying a load to the boat? However the multiplied force on the land-anchored end ensures higher friction through that "pulley", holding the rope stationery while it runs through the other two. Indeed any



pulleys may be added at carabiner 2 & 3 to reduce friction

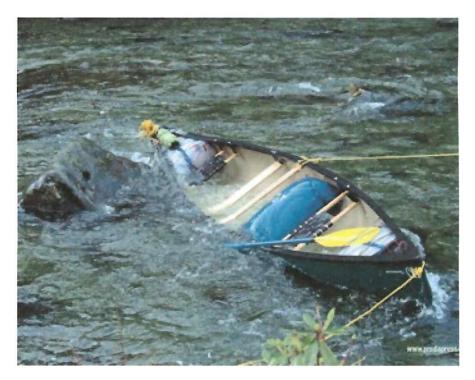
attempt to fit a pulley at this point will make the rig rotate. Pulleys may be used to great benefit at the other two locations, bringing the true mechanical advantage up closer to 4:1 but they must not be used at this location.

As you pull in rope the throw bag will work its way toward the land anchor. To reset the system tie off the loose end back onto itself with a simple hitch and, taking one side of the system in each hand, rotate the rig bag around until the throw bag is back down to the boat end of the loop. Untie your hitch and you are ready to go again!

The great disadvantage this system has is that it reduces the length of the rope by a considerable amount. In the great majority of cases a rope will be needed at one or probably both ends to connect with the boat and a solid anchor. At both of these locations you should make sure your attachment is secure. You may want to consider using multiple anchor points (several trees or a number of very large rocks) though this will of course require additional equipment. The most secure way of connecting your rig to the boat will be via a rope wrapped around the hull. This can be difficult in strong current so multiple attachments may be used as an alternative, something that can be rigged relatively simply with a painter looped through thwarts, yoke and seat to spread the load.

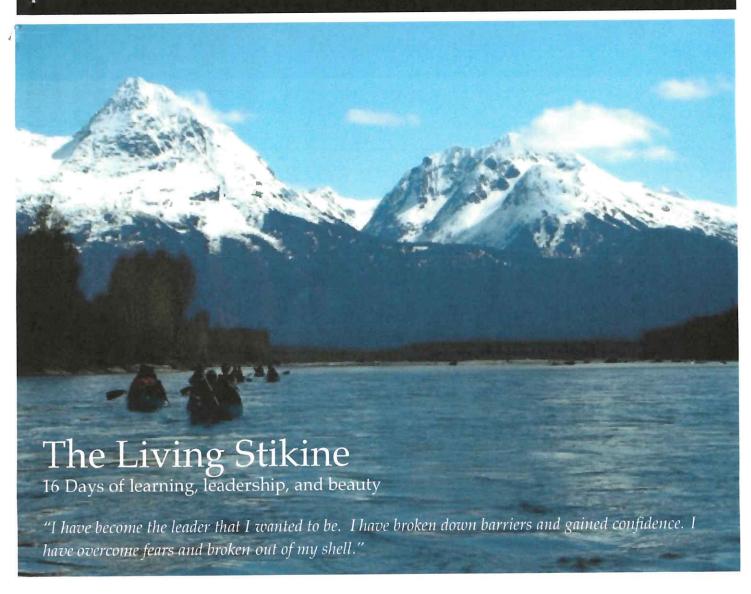
As with any piece of kit, practice in a safe environment before you go on the river will make life easier. Let's hope you never need to use it!

I learned this technique while on a British Canoe Union Whitewater Safety and Rescue Course in the UK. This is a paddler focused course, developed by experienced canoeists and kayakers, which emphasizes safe river running and how to carry out rescues with a minimal amount of equipment. Most of the information on the course can be found in Whitewater Safety and Rescue by Franco Ferrero, published in North America by Falcon Press. Franco has also generously made the images in the book available for use by paddling instructors. Go to www.pesdapress.com and follow the links to resources.





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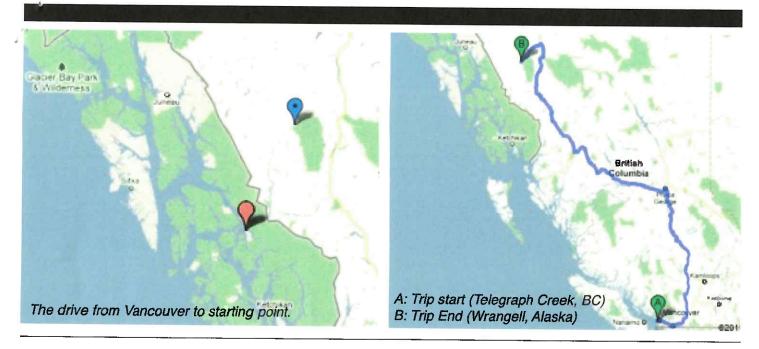
by Catherine Holmen

Regular readers of The Ripple are aware that I've spent this year working with the outdoor education program of a Vancouver boys' independent school called St.

George's. Saints is unique in that it runs outdoor education programs with all students in grades 1 through 10, ranging from an afternoon of looking for bugs and crabs with the little guys, to multi-day, self-propelled trips with the grade 9s and 10s.

The culminating experience for a very select group of grade 10 boys is a yearlong cohort program called Discovery. The kids must apply and be accepted in to the program, and if they are, huge challenges and changes await them. We focus our aims on four specific areas - inter and intrapersonal skills, environmental and social ethics, connections to their academic courses, and outdoor skills. The particular hard skills like camping, paddling, and hiking become the means by which we encourage growth and awareness in the other areas. With a trip every month, the kids are pushed far out of their comfort zones, and the growth we see in them over the course of the year is incredible. For the Discovery year-end trip, the boys signed up for either canoeing on the Stikine River, or sea kayaking in the Queen Charlotte Islands.

The logistics involved in taking 10 boys, 4 staff, 7 boats, barrels and barrels of gear, and one big white school bus up to the Stikine River from Vancouver were complicated and multi-faceted; we spent months getting ready for the trip. US Forest Service permits. Bus driving lessons. Permission to take ten minors, not all of whom are Canadian, across a border. Making sure the kids planned and purchased appropriate meals for a trip of this magnitude. In some ways, it felt like the trip would never arrive, since there was always more to do! The last week leading up to our departure, our classroom was over-taken with food, clothing, and gear, all of which was half-packed as we pulled it out to check and re-check the contents of bags for the two separate year-end trips. It was a hectic few days.



Eventually, Saturday May 7 arrived, and it was go time whether we were ready or not! The first lesson was learned by our esteemed guide, and Master Paddle Canada Instructor, Tony Shaw: when you're trying to start your car, make sure it's in park. "Car trouble" led to Tony missing his ferry over from Nanaimo, and a later start to our morning.

We eventually pulled out of school in our white school bus, with trailer in tow. The drive up to Telegraph Creek is more than 1800 km of highways, tunnels, rivers, small-town food, camping, and staring out the window. For outdoor ed staff Shawn, Christina, and me, it was also more than 600 km of driving apiece. All things considered, the days of our trip we spent on the road had the most potential for danger, given how far we were going.

We took two and a half days to do the drive. We spent the first night in Prince George, staying at the house of one of Tony's friends. This friend was away, but we were hosted by the house-sitter who soon became one of Tony's friends. Sunday brought more time on the road, stopping in Smithers for any fresh groceries the kids needed to add to their food barrels, and in Iskut to see one of Tony's former students.

Tony's connections to anyone and everyone we met soon became one of the lasting jokes on our trip. He's one of those charismatic people who is a real tease. You remember him. Whether it was the café in

Telegraph Creek, the mysterious truck that pulled in to our campsite the first night, or our spur-of-the-moment stop at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans outpost on the river, Tony either ran in to someone he knew, or played the "degrees of separation" game until he'd made a connection to the people we met. Only Tony.

After spending the night at a campground in Dease Lake, and breakfast at a fabulous diner called Mama Z's (Mama Z being another one of Tony's collection), we started the 2-hour drive in to Telegraph Creek. Imagine 115 km of twists, turns, switchbacks, elevation gains and losses, 20% grades, and hoping for dear life that no one is coming in the other direction since you're in a big white school bus with 7 canoes on the back and you really can't move out of the way. It's harrowing.

On the drive in, we had our first glimpses of the river that would be our home for the next

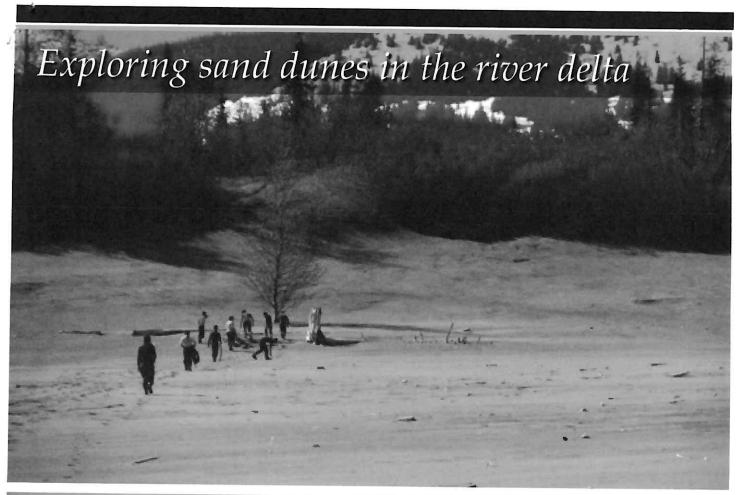
"The air smells of freshness and is easy to breathe in."

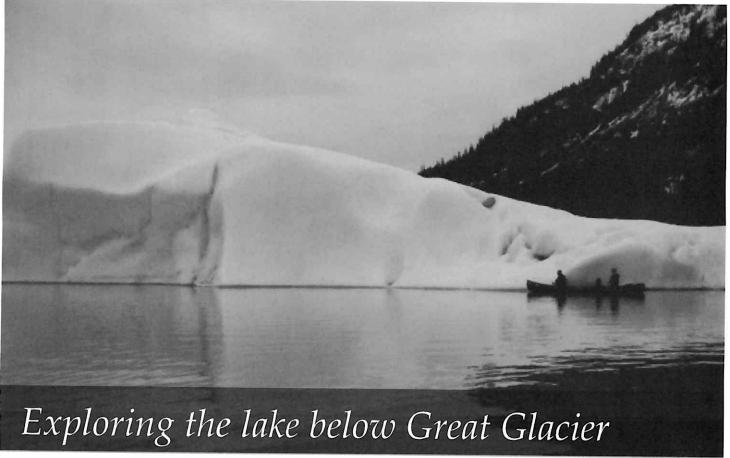
12 days. The Stikine River flows out of an area called Klabona, or Sacred Headwaters. This area feeds the Stikine, Skeena, and Nass Rivers, and is of tremendous significance to the local Tahltan people. Tahltan stories mark this place as where the earth was created, and where their culture began. As is the case with many areas in British Columbia, there is friction between the First Nations group and

industry relating to the development of resources. In the case of the Sacred Headwaters, significant coalbed methane deposits exist in the area. Shell Canada owns the mineral rights to the area, but non-violent blockades, and lawsuits and counter-suits between the two parties mean that little development has occurred so far. Over the course of our trip, we met people like Tony's student Oscar, who was so opposed to the project, and an Alaskan bush plane pilot who flew me over the mining camps and figured it would happen either way eventually, so people might as well get over it.

It was with these tensions in mind that we arrived in Telegraph Creek, already amazed at the landscape of the Stikine, to start our trip. We met up with members of the Pecula family, who own Stikine RiverSong, a lodge and tour company in town, and who have been instrumental in making this trip possible for St. George's for years. Down at the river next to their shop, we spent a couple of hours unloading our bus, packing, and getting ready to head out. We planned to do the 267 km run of the Lower Stikine in 12 days. It would be easy to do it in less time. since we included 3 lay-over days, but the number of interesting sites to see, and the other aims we had in mind, meant that it was much more enjoyable for us to take longer and really experience the place.

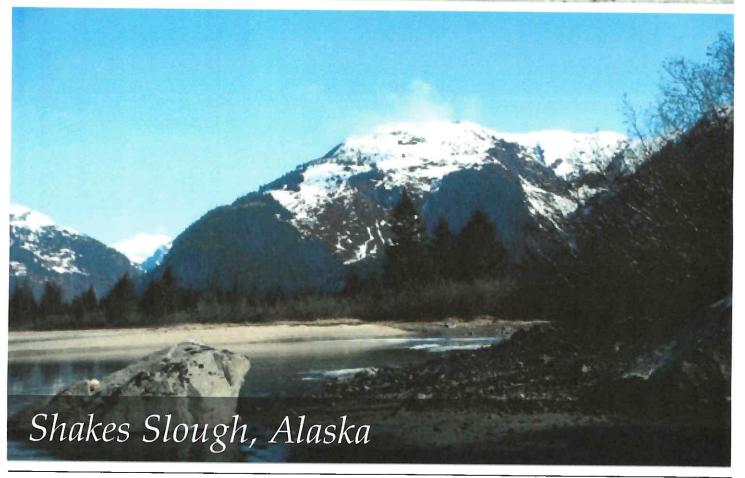
"It's really chill out here. Disco is the only thing on my mind."





Our faithful bus looks small by comparison on the drive in to Telegraph Creek





Finally, after lunch on Day 3, we started down the river. Unlike the Upper Stikine, the Lower is not a whitewater route. The river is wide, and at high water, quite fast. The speed leads to a significant amount of erosion from the banks, and countless trees fall in to the water. Since we were paddling at fairly low water, gravel banks and sandbars were exposed a lot of the time, and played host to what would be, in high water, massive strainers. Despite what was essentially a lack of rapids, knowledge of whitewater paddling techniques is still extremely important to be able to ferry around all those trees and manoeuvre between channels. A long section of the river called "Scatter Ass Flats" consists of a huge number of braids, where the river splits up seemingly at will, and if you take the wrong channel, it could be hours before you're reunited with the rest of your group. It can, and will, be more than a day before the river is all in one channel again. Navigating becomes particularly important! So while the paddling on the Stikine is very different from our Manitoba pool-and-drop rivers, it still poses significant hazards to those who lack experience.

Lucky for us, we had some pretty stellar kids along for the trip. Our 10 boys ran much of the trip, deciding when we'd get up in the morning, what we would stop to see, where we would each lunch, and, within reason, what route we would take on the water. In pairs, they acted as co-"leaders of the day," and after a year of watching them grow and develop as young men, we were happy to take the back seat and see them shine. In addition to the hard skills, they also had to facilitate discussions, debrief the day with the group, and be humble enough receive feedback from their peers. How many 15-year-old boys do you know who will openly ask each other tough questions and feel safe enough to give constructive criticism? I was particularly amazed at the insight they were willing to share with each other as they grew over the course of the trip. Each boy got two chances to be leader of the day, with a different partner each time, and they all listened and

"I have become the leader that I wanted to be. I have broken down barriers and gained confidence. I have overcome fears and broken out of my shell."

incorporated what they'd heard from the other students and how they'd seen others leading. Wow!

Over the course of 12 days on the river, we saw some amazing sights, but none could hold a candle to Great Glacier. Located just on the BC side of the Canada-US border, it is almost indescribable. While camped at a BC provincial campsite on the river, we portaged our empty canoes up in to Great Glacier Lake to get a closer look. I mentioned in the fall issue of The Ripple how camping in the mountains felt to me like I might as well have been on the moon because it looked so foreign. It's that sort of feeling. Great Glacier Lake is a strange milky green colour, the ice of the smaller calved-off pieces is so vividly blue, and the mountains are dark and ragged. We manoeuvred around slabs of ice until we had a clear view straight up to the main body of the glacier itself. I think we were fairly close to it, but with only the mountains to make a comparison to, distances and perspectives were warped. Despite the cold, grey day, many of the students mentioned this stop as the highlight of their trip.

"We hacked through the bushes for about an hour, and suddenly we were at this vast, untouched lake in the middle of nowhere, with icebergs floating in it. The first ripple I saw was from the first boat touching the surface. It was deathly quiet. The only sound was our voices. It was actually pretty eerie."

Immediately following our visit to Great Glacier came one of the other highlights of the boys' experience. After portaging back out from the lake, they set out on 24-hour solos in the woods around the campsite. This time gave them the opportunity to reflect on their year, the challenges they'd faced, and how they'd grown since September. It also made sure they really knew their survival skills! Far from being turned loose, they were each in designated spots no more than 10 minutes from camp, and we stealthily checked in on them several times throughout the solo. Some reported sleeping through most of it, while one in particular came back saying how intense of a revelatory experience he'd had.

At the start of Discovery, he'd seen himself as basically worthless, with nothing he could offer the group. He was so hard on himself. He shared in our debrief that night that Discovery had made him aware of how strong he could be, and how if he can survive on his own in the woods for 24 hours, he could do pretty much anything. You're right, kiddo, you can. The boys also had the opportunity to go around the circle, sharing what they appreciate and value about each person and exchanging beads to make in to a necklace to take away with them and remind them of this year.

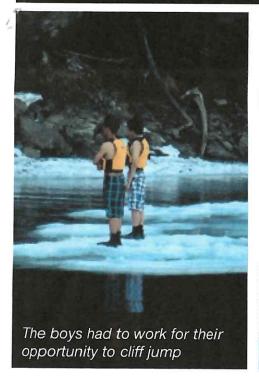
"When I walked back and saw people again after 24 hours, I was really happy and I had a big goofy smile on my face."

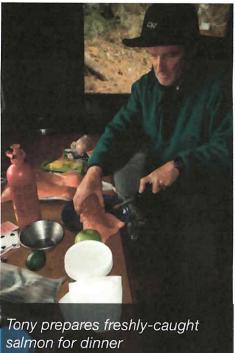
The last significant stop we made before crossing in to Alaska was at Great Glacier Salmon, a fish processing plant just below the glacier. At the time we were paddling the river, thousands and thousands of salmon were fighting their way upstream beneath us. It's a bit strange, if you think about it, that we're floating our way overtop of them while they race underneath. Like with the coalbed methane, tensions exist over how to use the fish while not depleting the stock. A complicated agreement exists between Canada and the US on quotas and the percentage of the catch that each nation is entitled to, but as with any economic venture, controls and safeguards are only as good as the people who need to apply and enforce them. That the fish could be considered "Canadian" or "American" seems ridiculous. since they pay little heed to our arbitrary designations. If Canada decides not to catch its quota in a given year to protect the population from over-fishing, they put longterm stability first, but lose out on the shortterm economic benefits. The oblivious fish produce complicated relationships; the kids' social studies curriculum comes to life.

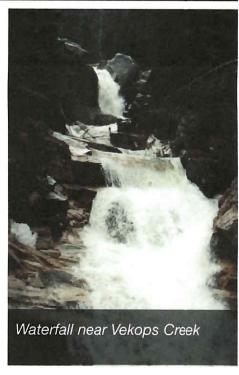
After 11 days of paddling (and 13 days of our trip), we had nearly reached our destination in Wrangell, Alaska. The last section of paddling, consisting of exiting the river delta and crossing to Wrangell Island, takes place in a marine environment, so tides become important. Making the crossing from the delta is best done when the tide is just starting to fall from its high point. We had











two options available to us: get up at 3 AM on Day 14 and make the crossing in the morning, or cross in the late afternoon of Day 13 and camp on an extremely small island. For the sake of the sleep of all involved, we chose the latter. It was work to make Deadman's Island function as a campsite for a group as large as ours. The four leaders were questioning whether or not our tarp spot was above or below the high tide mark! Thankfully, we did not wake up in the water at 4 AM.

On Day 14, we pulled in to the ferry dock at Wrangell in one piece. Sunburned, dirty, smelly, and tired, but the whole group was on such a high. We lined up for a typical "St. George's landing" where all the boats hit land within five seconds of each other. We'd done it.

Of course, the trip wasn't over for another two days, since we were still far from home. In what was one of the neatest parts of the trip for me, I hopped in a 6-seater bush plane for the 40-minute flight back to Telegraph Creek. I was the only passenger, so I sat in the co-pilot's seat, and the pilot flew me back up along the route we'd just traversed by canoe. I call it the most expensive 40 minutes of my life, but it was also the most scenic 40 minutes! The pilot buzzed RiverSong on our way by, and two of the guys drove out to the airstrip (really, a lane of mowed grass) to pick me up. Back at the

café, I showered (!), had lunch (try the fried potatoes if you ever find yourself there), and met up once more with our faithful servant, the school bus.

The boys and the other staff took the Alaska Marine Highway ferry overnight from Wrangell to Prince Rupert while I drove the 800 km around to pick them up the next morning. Having left Shawn behind in Alaska (he works up there), Christina and I shared the 1500 km over the next two days, getting us back to Vancouver late in the afternoon of Day 16. As it was on the way up, the way back down featured just as many of those little stops that only Tony would know were worth it.

Far more than a canoe trip on a wilderness river, this trip was a life-changing experience for our group. The Stikine is a river with tremendous cultural, economic, and historical significance. It teems with the life of generations of inhabitants - First Nations, traders, miners, fishers, and explorers. We consider ourselves lucky to have spent 12 days travelling its waters, meeting up with the people whose lives are intertwined with it, and who care so deeply about its existence and preservation. Unlike the American part of the river, which runs through the Stikine-LeConte Wilderness of the Tongass National Forest, the Canadian section is vastly unprotected and faces many threats, like the

coalbed mining project that Oscar fights to keep at bay. It is my hope moving forward that our Discovery boys realize how unique of an opportunity they had this year, and that they will continue to develop an awareness and appreciation for the places and cultures they visited and will continue to see in the future. While this trip marked the formal end of Discovery for this year, I know the boys will continue to grow as they process their experiences and reflect on their year.

"Discovery has made a pretty big impact in me. Before Disco I was not very confident, I was shy, fearful, and lacked perseverance. Through all Discovery's good times and bad times, great times and terrible times, I've become a different person. I now take pride in what I do and I am confident. I know how to push through the bad times now, and I know that if I have a big problem, to never give up."

a great big... THANK YOU!

JANICE PENNINGTON:

For coordinating Paddlefest 2011. Nearly 100 people tried out a canoe, kayak, or stand up paddle board and many others visited the corporate member displays, checked out the information tables, and stopped by the silent auction table, all participating in another great celebration of Paddle Sports. Janice did an awesome job of pulling it all together!!

TIM McMANUS, DAVE MADDOCKS, REID PENNINGTON, CHARLES BURCHILL, BERNIE DELAQUIS, JIM PALMQUIST, COLIN KYLE, YVONNE KYLE, STEPHANIE LAMBERT, TIM LUTZ, SHARON TOUCHETTE, and OLIVA PRIOR:

Who very ably helped Janice in making Paddlefest successful – welcoming guests, conducting canoe and kayak clinics, moving boats, selling silent auction tickets, assisting at the children's area, taking pictures – all the little jobs that need to be done to make the day fun for all.

ERIC GYSELMAN AND SHARON TOUCHETTE:

Who have been hosting Paddle Manitoba member trips throughout the summer.
There are still more to come and members

are encouraged to join in one of them. Check the website to see which ones best fit your schedule https://www.paddle.mb.ca/open-paddles-and-trips/

CHARLES BURCHILL:

For offering a test course of the new Paddle Canada Canadian Style canoeing course. Some will call this a canoe dance course. Sharon Touchette, Catherine Holmen, Lori Slabodian, and Yvonne Kyle are benefiting greatly from Charles' expertise and teaching.

CHARLES BURCHILL:

For continuing to faithfully host the Wednesday Night Paddles on the LaSalle river.

TIM LUTZ, CHRIS RANDALL, JACK AND HEATHER ROSENTRETER, COLIN AND YVONNE KYLE, AND KEN SCHYKULSKI

For helping out at the Fort Whyte open paddles.

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