

# Paddle Manitoba

winter 2014

The  
*Ripple*  
Online



Wading upstream on the Wanipigow River on the way to Woodland Caribou Park

## From the Editor

In this issue of the Ripple, we get to look back at some of last year's fun and challenges. Claire Quewezence of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in Northwestern-Ontario tells us about the Herculean efforts of park staff to clean up after wind storms in the park. Dusty Molinski shares a tale of the Paddle Manitoba member trip on the Brokenhead River, a little known River that Dusty is very fond of. And Charles Burchill once again takes us with him on the LaSalle River as part of another season of Wednesday Evening Paddles.

Enjoy the stories as you enjoy your winter and start dreaming about next summer's adventures.

### Special General Meeting

March 22nd 2.30pm until 4pm  
St Boniface Library  
100-131 boulevard Provencher  
R2H 0G2

### Agenda

Revision of Paddle Manitoba Bylaws to modify the overall objectives of the association and to reduce the minimum number of board numbers from 10 to 5 members

To elect members of the board

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## President's Message

**I**s 2013 really over? It's been such a busy year. Some plans have worked out; others have fallen by the way side. As often happens, life gets in the way of paddling dreams! Paddle Manitoba has had a busy year too.

We were there at National Paddling Day in Whitemouth, had a booth and ran workshops at MEC's Paddlefest and throughout the year ran courses and trips across southern Manitoba. Some events were well supported: we were turning paddlers away from the Assiniboine trip again this year. Our excursion into Ontario's Woodland Caribou Provincial Park was also full despite a few paddlers having to drop out at the last minute. Other trips and community events have not been so popular. Although it was great to see lots of newcomers taking advantage of the coaching at Paddlefest it would have been good to see more established members showing their support. Watching the paddling races at Whitemouth it was easy to see that the folk from Whitemouth were working hard in spite of the lousy weather. The one thing missing from these community events was more Paddle Manitoba members.

Where once the workload at Paddle Manitoba was shared by many willing hands, it now requires a considerable commitment from what sometimes appears to be an ever decreasing band of volunteers. If you were there at the AGM you'll know that we are missing a Secretary and other important board members that would take some of the pressure off the

folk who have stepped forward. As the new guy on the board I rely heavily on the experienced hands of Sharon as Treasurer and Tim with Community Liaison. Steve has worked magic with the PM website while behind the scenes Yvonne keeps a steady hand on the tiller at The Ripple. As a newcomer to PM Cynthia bravely took on the role of VP this year and has been busy since day one. Unfortunately she has decided not to continue with PM this coming year.

I also need to mention Charles and Eric for their continued commitment to paddlesports in Manitoba. Both play a vital role providing our instructional program and Charles' steadfast refusal to let anything short of a hurricane prevent his running of the Wednesday evening paddles has become close to a legend. Eric has handed the role of managing the membership records over to Ralf this year. Our new facility of online payments will hopefully make at least that side of things much simpler. However great the team at the top what really defines Paddle Manitoba is membership participation. Whether it's volunteering to lead a trip, write an article, giving a talk at an evening meeting or simply showing up and taking part, it's YOU who can make Paddle Manitoba truly a paddling community.

Chris Randall

## Another Season Gone

A reflection on the end of another paddling year by Yvonne Kyle

**I** have tucked away my boats for the season. That makes me very sad. I always hope that I will be able to get out one more time and it seems so terribly final when I decide that, realistically, that won't happen and if I delay much longer, I'll be needing my warm mittens outside and won't be able to tie the knots that keep the tarp over the boats from blowing in the wind all winter. Some folks will get another afternoon or evening on the water, but for me, this paddling season is over.

November, despite being the month when the boats go away, has a lot going for it. It is a relatively low key month nestled nicely between the busy back to school time and the start-up of fall activities that characterize September and October, and the hectic insanity so often associated with December and Christmas. It's a good time to finish off the leftover summer projects, do some cleaning and purging of clutter in the house, and find some good books to curl up with. The garden is tidied up, the leaves raked, and there's a hearty pot of soup on the stove. I'm ready to face the on-coming winter.

## Dates for the Diary 2014

*April 16th*

Reel Paddling Festival. Gas Station Theatre, Winnipeg. Sponsored by Wilderness Supply

*May 16th-19th*

Canoe School. Four days of intensive instruction based out of Manitoba Pioneer Camp on Shoal Lake

*June 6th-15th*

National Paddling Week. Events across the country to celebrate the joy of paddling.

*June 8th 2014*

MEC Paddlefest. Come along to Fort Whyte to try a new boat or take advantage of coaching from some of the best instructors in Manitoba

## Close to Perfect - 2013

*-Wednesday Evenings at La Barriere Park*

The evening paddles started May 1 this year with the bridge and dam well under water and moderate current in the little (then wide) La Salle river. The bridge came out of the water late in May and the dam appeared in a little worse shape the week after. The wood portions of the dam had been shored up with riprap last fall and new stone and fence had been put along the river banks - including the launching point. The fence was pretty much ripped out by the ice this spring and remained a gnarled mess throughout the summer. The province came out and repaired the badly leaking dam late in June - at that point the river upstream of the dam was the lowest I remember in 35 years of paddling at La Barriere. With the repairs and a little rain, the dam did its job and water levels came back up to the usual summer level.

Sometime in July, the top of a dock and some pallets were found floating up stream. They were towed to the launch and a small dock was put together for paddlers to use throughout the summer. This addition was much appreciated - the WEP paddlers thank the anonymous builder for the addition to the launch area. The parts were pulled out and put away for next season over the October Thanksgiving weekend, mostly so they don't float away or cause winter obstructions.

Between July and September the canoes were booked pretty much every week. Throughout the summer 199 people came out.

Some were regulars and brought their own boats, stories, and company. Others [most] only came once or twice. More children came with young families than I remember in the past. It is fun to see kids getting into the adventure early. We have added several small paddles and a clip in seat for the younger members in the crowd. Unfortunately people often book a place but don't show up, leaving one or two canoes unused.



Once again the Paddle Manitoba board showed support for these popular paddles with at least one board member attending most evening paddles. Paddle Manitoba also supported the La Salle River at La Barriere Park as a site for the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup in September.

On an unfortunate note, after the last paddle this fall, the fence was broken and chains cut. Two canoes were taken.

See you on the river next summer...

Charles

# The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic

By Melissa Hanley

It's about 2:00 am. The cyalume stick on the bow of my kayak has dwindled to a feeble glow and it's dark. There are no other paddlers in sight. The soggy, drizzling rain clouds have successfully kept the full moon hidden all night and it is so dark I can't even see the banks of the river. With a quick check of GPS and maps, I make a mental note of the next few bends then resume paddling. The tide had turned a few hours ago and I take a few minutes to simply enjoy the feeling of my kayak gliding through the

water. I'm dripping wet, more than a few muscles are aching after what felt like an eternity paddling against an incoming tide. Sleep deprived, completely alone on the river, and I'm loving it!



*The night descends.*

This was my first 'Hawkesbury Canoe Classic', a charity ultra-marathon of 111 km held overnight on the Hawkesbury River in New South Wales, Australia. Every year up to 500 paddlers in a vast assortment of paddle craft take on the challenges of endurance, sleep deprivation, changing tides, changing weather, muscle aches, strains and blisters. Sounds like fun doesn't it?

After many years paddling on rivers, lakes and ocean with my husband, I had picked up a few of the traits common to most die-hard paddlers; a disregard for colour coordination, a tolerance for the smell of wet neoprene, and most importantly of all – a Goal. I had heard about the Hawkesbury Classic a few years before and had even picked up one of the guide booklets produced for participants each year. I had a desire to do the race 'some day', but I admit, the excuses were easier to make than the commitment. I needed a faster boat, needed to get fitter, needed to lose weight.... until one day I realised that if I didn't do it soon, I probably never would. So for my husband's birthday he got a new boat. Happy to share in his celebration, I got a new boat too - a shiny new beast in carbon Kevlar. Now, I had made the commitment. If I didn't do the race, I could never justify spending so much.



After months of training, I found myself nervously lining up with a rather mixed collection of paddlers awaiting the starter's pistol. In my first Hawkesbury experience the storm started at about the same time the paddlers did. With heavy cloud cover, drizzling rain all night, intermittent head winds, changing tides and a final 10km stretch of 35+knott winds -reportedly the worst weather in the 34 years of the event - I made it across the finish line in 16 hours 11 minutes. A third of the field pulled out during the night. There were many capsizees and, as the weather worsened, those still on the water had the last stage of their race cancelled. I had so much fun I wanted to sign up again as soon as I crossed the finish line!



The Hawkesbury race is for everyone. There are competitive classes for various types of water craft and each class has gender and age based divisions, with veteran's divisions going all the way up to 60+. Then there is the non-competitive class called 'Brooklyn or Bust' for those who, unlike the uber fit athletes polishing their hulls and trying to scrub seconds off their times, are

happy to just give it a go and make it to the end. The racers will speed through the night, barely stopping to top up their water (and sometimes not even stopping for the call of nature -ewww). They will stagger dizzily up the boat ramp well before dawn, while slower paddlers will have the somewhat mixed blessing of both a sunset and a sunrise on the water.



*Eager paddlers leading the pack with a sprint start for a 111km race*



*Wet and tired land crews waiting at the finish*

Then there is the halfway checkpoint at Wisemans Ferry where the race takes on a very different feel. Coming out of the darkness into harsh lights and the noise of land-crews all looking for their paddlers can be a bit jarring. There are warm food, drinks, and dry clothing. And there are toilet blocks (something you are happy to see after paddling 55 km with a diminishing hydration pack and few opportunities to stop). The atmosphere here can be disheartening though. It will be a long time before the next checkpoint accessible by the land crews and many exhausted paddlers choose this point to rethink their ability to go on. After this stop, the field thins and it is more common to find yourself alone with the river. You may hear the splash of a paddle, voices, even singing as those in teams work to keep each other awake, but the sounds stay distant. Some talk of this as the hardest part of the race simply because they are alone. For me, it is one of my favourite parts. Until I started training for the Hawkesbury I had never paddled alone but I've learned to love being by myself on the water. I alone make every decision based purely on my own abilities and judgement. The connection I feel with the water and with nature is so much stronger in isolation and there is a meditative feel to the rhythm of paddle stroke and leg drive.

In my second effort at Hawkesbury it seemed I had chosen another particularly tough year, an opinion shared by experienced Hawkesbury paddlers. I experienced paddling against an incoming tide, a sluggish outgoing tide that failed to give the expected help, and stretches of weed choked river. On my first attempt, I had finished strongly, feeling like I could paddle on for hours more. This time I dragged myself across the



finish line exhausted, but still happy that I had pushed on to the end. I am certainly glad that I gave up on procrastinating and faced the challenge. It is far better to look back on past glories and say to myself 'I did that' than to say 'I wish I had done it'. A back injury has kept me off the water this year but the memories of many, many magical moments on the water, and of the determination I needed to face the Hawkesbury are spurs to aid in my recovery. I will be back on the water. And I WILL be lining up for the starter's pistol again in October.



## Keeping up with Mother Nature

### *Woodland Caribou Provincial Park: Post-Storm Clearing Efforts*

*By Claire Quewezence, Asst. Park Superintendent*

If not flood or fire, it's snow and wind. Last fall, the canoeing season had barely ended and we were already thinking of our work schedule for the following season. But, Mother Nature – the ultimate ruler - had other plans.

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 a large area stretching from south-eastern Manitoba diagonally to north east of Red Lake saw roughly ten inches of wet snow and brutal north winds. The area experienced a power outage lasting as long as two days. The local coffee shops soon filled with tales of impenetrable roads and of stranded hunters struggling to deal with depths of wet snow and downed trees. It was several days

before Woodland Caribou Provincial Park crews were able to begin clearing Mile 51 Road. Two days later they finally reached the Leano entry.



A flight over the park allowed staff to assess the storm's impact on interior regions. To our dismay, we observed that the "snow-down" had affected a wider area than we had initially thought. The entire park had suffered storm damage to varying degrees. As it was, Woodland Caribou would not be able to offer its visitors the kinds of experiences they were used to in the coming season.

Park staff spent the winter months formulating a plan. Emergency assistance from Ontario Parks was approved, and by spring, we rolled up our sleeves and got to work. Red Lake Outfitters crews launched the first cleanup efforts, venturing out into the park even before the ice had completely cleared the lakes.

They began by tackling the more popular canoe routes ensuring their clients and other park users open passage to some of their favourite haunts. Even park summer paddlers exploring the park, many of whom were completely unaware that such a destructive storm had passed through, no doubt appreciated the valiant efforts of all who cut, sawed, and carved their way through the backcountry.

The storm impacted the park lands in several ways. Younger forest stands formed almost impassable walls, while in older stands, tree tops were snapped off and littered the ground.

The cleanup job was demanding and the progress steady. The park crews then took over and focused their attention on other areas of the park, including access from the Manitoba border. visitors pitched in, opening up additional trails and . reporting their observations to our office, which was of tremendous assistance.



There remains unfinished work, mostly in the northeast quadrant of the park, and these areas will be our priority next year. Routes opened this summer will begin to be revisited as we deal with recurring hazards as the compromised trees continue to settle. Mother Nature altered the state of the forest and our forest health specialists will now begin the job of forecasting the future forest condition. The fire hazard will increase, the land and its residents will adjust and with each passing year evidence of the snow-down will be less visible.

We continue to post our observations and provide regular updates on trail clearing efforts on our dedicated message board at [www.canoeing.com](http://www.canoeing.com). We also welcome inquiries by e-mail at [woodland.caribou.mnr@ontario.ca](mailto:woodland.caribou.mnr@ontario.ca) or by phone at (807) 727-1329.

You can buy a copy of the latest map of WCPP by Chrismar Mapping at-

<http://www.shopcanoeing.com/collections/books-media/products/woodland-caribou-park-map>

## Where is that Darn Portage?

by Chris Randall

I used to think that stories of Maymaygwayshi were just First Nation myths, now I'm not so sure...

I was halfway across the lake, more of a small pond really, when I became aware that I wasn't quite sure where the portage was. No problem. I had come across this way yesterday on my way out on a four day solo trip. Now I was heading home and keen to make good time, not wanting to leave too much for the last day of my trip.

I remembered that the take out was on a sloping ledge but on this lake there were at least half a dozen rock ledges, each one perfect for the start of a portage trail. Paddling to the south shore, I peered into the woods, looking for an opening that would signal the start of the trail. There was no sign of a rock cairn and no blaze cut into a nearby tree. Slowly I paddled across to the next ledge. Nothing there either! Having made a round of all possible choices I went round again. Surely there must be a scrape of green, red or blue on the rocks - a sign of where a previous paddler had pulled their canoe up on to the portage? Climbing out on one of the possible choices I found a faint trail but it quickly faded into the forest.

I could feel a sense of unease rising inside me. Surely it shouldn't be this hard? I knew that the worst thing would be to panic. Old time canoe manuals usually recommend smoking a pipe at this point, a way to take time to evaluate the situation and prevent a hurried decision that you would later regret. Lacking a pipe, I drank some water and ate some trail mix. Oh well it would have to do!

According to legend, "Memegwesi are small riverbank-dwelling water spirits. They are generally benign creatures, but sometimes blow canoes astray or steal things when they are not shown proper respect. In some Ojibwe traditions, Memegwesi can only be seen by children and medicine people; in others, they can appear to anyone, and may help humans who give them tobacco and other gifts. Most often Memegwesi are described as being child-sized and hairy with a large head and a strange voice that sounds like the whine of a dragonfly. The Cree and Innu describe them as having narrow faces, and some Menominee storytellers have said that they have no noses. It is sometimes said that Memegwesi were originally created from the bark of trees. Memegwesi are said to carve symbols on rocks and sometimes carve small canoes for themselves out of stone. Some people believe that their name comes from the Ojibwe word for "hairy," *memii*, since Memegwesi are usually described as having hairy faces and bodies. Other people believe that their name is related to the word for butterfly, *memengwaa*."

(From [www.native-languages.org](http://www.native-languages.org))



Pulling out my map and compass I could see that a stream led from the south west corner of the lake. I was pretty sure the trail hadn't crossed that stream, so I knew that it must start to the west if it was to reach the bay on the lake where I was headed.

I paddled back along the western shore, down into the farthest corner. Although there were absolutely no signs of human activity I climbed out onto the bare rock and yes! There was my trail! Off to one side behind a clump of sweet gale a muddy patch signalled a route around a large dead pine that had fallen across the shore, blocking any view of the trail behind.

Heart pounding with relief I pulled up my canoe. Before I carried my gear across I cleared the large dead jack pine, opening the trail and hopefully making it easier for the next traveller to spot the way. And, just as I shouldered my pack, something caught my eye. Above me, a length of yellow flagging tape on the remaining pine. Surely that hadn't been there a minute ago?



Maymaygwayshi, alternatively known by thirty or more different spellings and pronunciation variables in different aboriginal languages, is a figure often seen in rock paintings. This little fellow looks out from pictographs on the shore of Artery Lake, a part of the Bloodvein River connecting Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in Ontario with Atikaki Provincial Park in Manitoba

## A Great Day in Late May

*The Brokenhead River was the destination of Paddle Manitoba's first day trip of the year!*

By Dusty Molinski

Situated on the edge of the transition zone between the prairie to the west and the boreal forest to the east, the Brokenhead River has many enticing features for paddlers. Paddling a section east of Beausejour, around the area of highway 44, several members of Paddle Manitoba discovered just what the Brokenhead has to offer on the first member's day trip of the season on May 25<sup>th</sup>.



Playing at Hoban's rapids

While the rains of the Victoria Day long-weekend were not good for anyone out then, they proved to be great for the following weekend out on the river. The Water Office of Canada graph for the Brokenhead River was showing levels to be just above perfect (10 – 12 m<sup>3</sup>/s) throughout the week and we were not disappointed.



Dusty coming through Larsen's Rapids



There are several cottages and farms in this area, but also plenty of wild scenery as well. The group stopped for lunch at Great Woods Park, the only public area on this section of river, where a day-pass costs \$3.00. There are two concrete weirs with less than ideal launching sites, but no other portaging is required. The features of the river, combined with the decent weather and members of Paddle Manitoba getting together, made for a great day out on the water in late May.



Yves lining around the Ken Bro Dam

Chris with a fully loaded car at the egress



Dusty's book "Through Field and Stream: A Companion for the Brokenhead River" is available from the author at [www.throughfieldandforest.com](http://www.throughfieldandforest.com)



## The Bloodvein in Pictures

by Yvonne Kyle, Pictures by Yvonne and Colin Kyle

From August 28<sup>th</sup> til September 11 this year, 7 intrepid paddlers, under the erstwhile guidance of Cam White from Red River Outfitters, sojourned down the Bloodvein River. One tripper, our humanities professor, Darlene had done an abbreviated version of the voyage previously. For the rest of us - Jeff and Val, newly retired Netherlanders on their 11<sup>th</sup> Canadian paddling expedition, "Quetico Lee" who makes summer escapes from his California home to the Quetico and Boundary Waters areas, Deeanne, a member of the Voyageur Brigade, and Colin and Yvonne who couldn't think of a reason to say no when Cam suggested they come along - it was our first experience with this Canadian Heritage River. The river didn't disappoint.

Our trip started with a 3 hour drive to Bissett and the half hour flight into Artery



Lake. Those are brand new, never been paddled Trailhead prospectors strapped to the floats. Our pilot did a great job of making the landing as smooth or smoother than any land plane.

When the plane had left and the boats were outfitted, we did a shakedown paddle upstream on the Bloodvein for a look at the pictographs on Artery Lake. I haven't seen a lot of rock paintings but the ones I have seen didn't

impress me. They've always just looked like smudges on the rocks that needed a lot of imagination to see a real image. Not so these ones! I did wonder though what the heck they were doing there. It's not a logical place for such art work and whoever put them there would have had to work pretty hard to get them on that particular rock face.

We awoke on our first full day of paddling to clear skies and a flat calm lake. This was a harbinger of good things to come. The trip was blessed with great paddling conditions for pretty much the whole way.





The morning sun at  
Red Rock Café....

beautiful sunsets....



and mist through the  
reflections. It is a  
beautiful river!





Our crew of mostly aging baby boomers were not the most efficient of portagers, much to Cam's chagrin. Much as we may have wanted to, we were not, at least for the first few days of full heavy food barrels, much inclined to carry double barrels which meant triple-tripping portages and some long days as we tried to make the day's goals for the next camp site.



The low waters gave us some less than ideal portage take outs. One boat at a time and steep inclines seemed the norm.



Given our less than enthusiastic attitude towards portages, it was always a treat to find a new way to avoid them. The handy rail tramway was nice....





as was floating the gear instead of carrying it...



Finding a way to squeeze through a barely navigable passage was certainly the most fun way to avoid a portage, although it did render those new boats a little less pristine. Cam, who has travelled the Bloodvein numerous times, said he had never seen water levels so low.



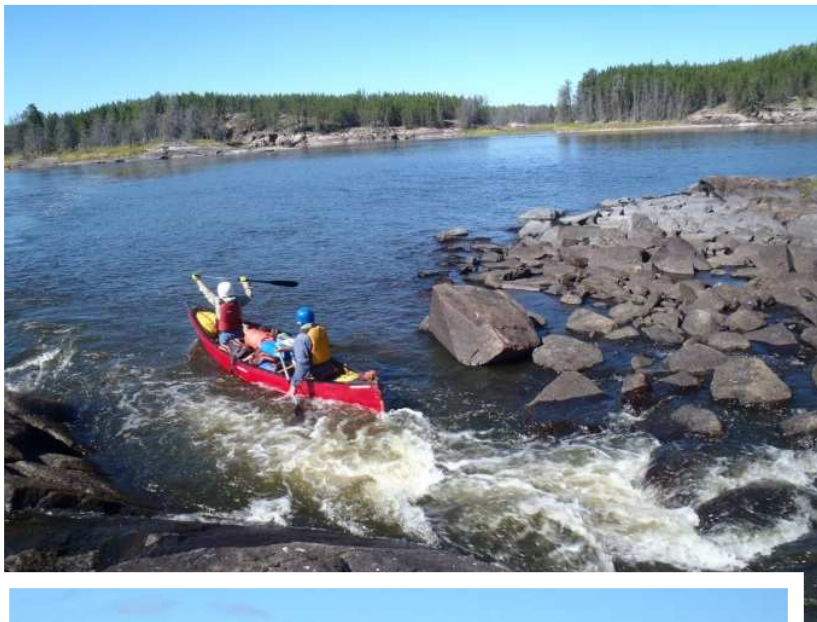
Several times along the way, someone would have to get out of their boat in the middle of the river to push it off a sandbar and there simply was not a line to find in some of the rock gardens.

Of course it would not be a river trip without some rapids. While low waters had turned some class 1's into rock piles or riffles, they had turned this normally class 3 into a fun run for Cam and Jeff.





Val and Jeff hadn't come all the way from the Netherlands to walk all the rapids and they were happy to find a few good play places.



Darlene knew how to celebrate a good run.

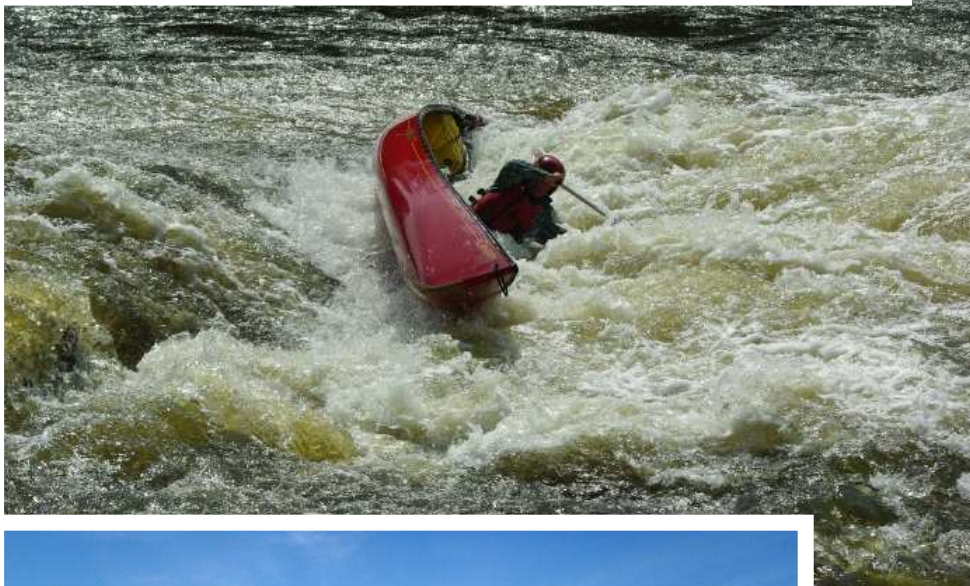


Extra time spent on portages left little time at the end of the day for relaxation, or even a bath. So Val and Jeff found a way to tend to a little personal hygiene on the go.





Val's first solo rapid looked good at the start.....



but didn't end quite the way she had planned



The long days at the beginning of the trip allowed for a much more relaxed pace in the last few days. Lounging on rock was a pleasant respite. Portaging was much easier too as pretty well all of us could now toss up the second barrel. Funny how much easier it is to carry a food barrel on day 13 than on day 2!





Wildlife sightings were not much a part of our trip although there were lots of eagles, including this fellow who watched us as we watched him and drifted slowly through what should have been the last rapid.

The trip ended in the community of Bloodvein first nation. We participated in a traditional aboriginal sweat lodge and enjoyed a feast prepared by our host for the evening, Martina.

We had planned to take the ferry across Lake Winnipeg but the ferry broke down and instead, Cam hired a couple of local fishermen to taxi us across. Rain that had held off for most of the trip came down hard in Bloodvein. The clouds drifting over lake Winnipeg while we waited for our ride marked the end of a fine trip.



## Let the world know you are a Manitoba Paddler!

T- Shirts and Hoodies for Sale  
Woven from organic Fairtrade cotton

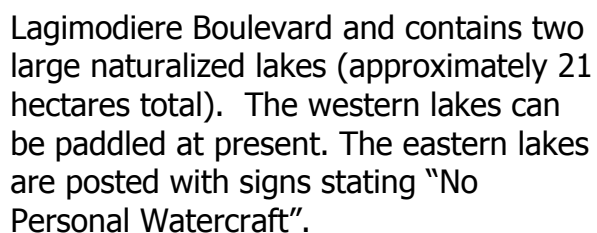
T-Shirts in light blue or dark grey with a green logo  
-\$22  
Hoodies in dark grey with a green logo  
-\$45



Contact Chris at [president@paddle.mb.ca](mailto:president@paddle.mb.ca) for more details

By Dusty Molinski

park user groups and organizations was held in February 2013. Within this workshop the views of the participants in regards to the lakes were sought. All users sought to “highlight the lakes” and “expand or extend the lake system”.



Promising other comments thus far have included:

- Enhancing the water for boating access
- Creating a circuit route around the site
- Offering and promoting canoeing, dragon boating, paddle boating, kayaking and sailing
- Using the water for training purposes (sports and safety)
- Dealing with water quality
- Definitely not reducing the water area
- Naturalization vs. aeration (plants instead of fountains)



They are still seeking comments. To be sure that needs of the recreational paddlers of Paddle Manitoba are included, have your say. Visit the strategic renewal and action plan website at:

[www.winnipeg.ca/ppd/planning/KilconaParkHarbourviewRecreationComplex](http://www.winnipeg.ca/ppd/planning/KilconaParkHarbourviewRecreationComplex)

Comments can be sent via the comment board halfway down the page or a questionnaire can be saved, completed and emailed to the City of Winnipeg Planning, Property and Development Department. The site analysis and complete visioning workshop results can be viewed as well.

The present commentary does not necessarily include all these ideas within the revitalization. However, the more voices speaking on the part of improvements for recreational paddlers makes it all the more promising and possible!

*Editor's Note: Delays in getting the Ripple out may have resulted in it being too late for Paddle Manitoba members to make their voices known through the official channels. It is never too late though to speak to the area councillors or community organizations to let developers know your views for how the park revitalization should proceed. The comment board noted above is also still available.*

## **The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup**

In September 2013 Paddle Manitoba was part of the National Shoreline Cleanup, tackling sites on South Cross Lake in Whiteshell Provincial Park and along the La Salle at La Barrière Park.

Paddlers collected nearly 50kg of garbage, mostly food and beverage related but also including an assortment of clothing amongst the items found.

We hope to be taking part in the cleanup again this year. Look out for more details of how you can participate.



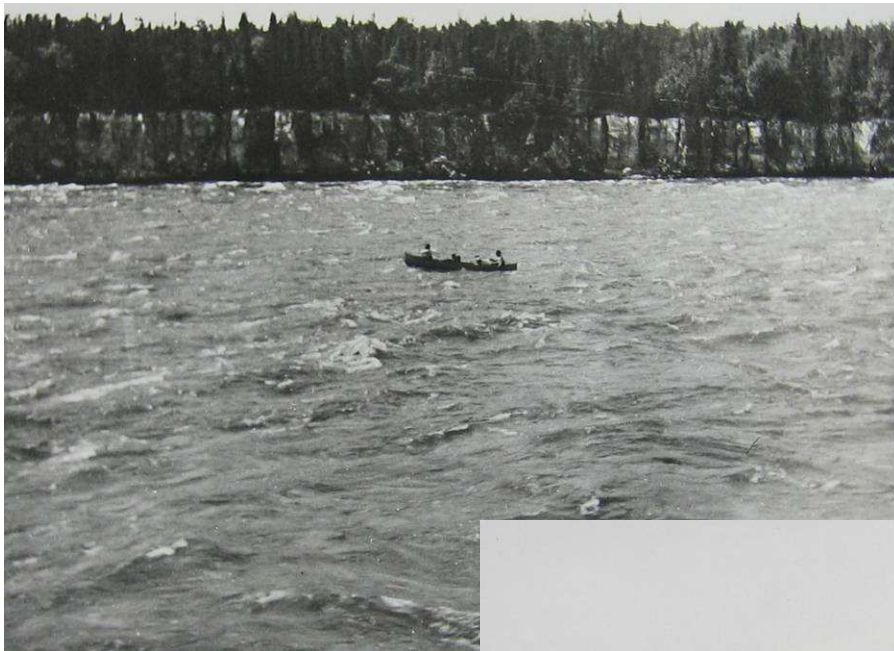


## Back Paddle

*Looking back on our paddling past*

By Dusty Molinski

There are those places that you pass on a highway or a map; places with names of grandeur, with words like big, falls, silver, rushing or others. Often these words are combined. The unfortunate side of many of these places is that they are also prime locations for dams, leaving us today to wonder what they must have looked like before being buried beneath the water. Perhaps no other name of grandeur in the province fits both these as the name *Grand Rapids*. From historical photos, it seems that the name *was* certainly fitting. Oh...to paddle them today!



*This photo gives some sense of how wide the original rapids were.*

*Manitoba Archives. Grand Rapids Collection. Grand Rapids 3. c1920s.*

*Standing waves were a hazard to canoes and York boats.*

*Manitoba Archives. Grand Rapids Collection. Grand Rapids 7-1. 1921.*



## Paddle Manitoba Corporate Members

If you need paddling supplies or are looking for an outfitter or camp to enhance your paddling experiences, please visit the Paddle Manitoba corporate members listed here and on our website. Paddle Manitoba members are entitled to a 10% discount on the purchase of goods and services from our corporate members. Don't forget to show your membership card. Please note that some restrictions do apply.



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

623 Ferry Road, Winnipeg, MB R3H 0T4  
(204) 783-9555  
info@wildernesssupply.ca  
www.wildernesssupply.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.

Box 78, Grp 4, RR2 Lorette, MB R0A 0Y0  
(204) 878-2524  
rrcp@mts.net  
www.redrivercanoe.ca



WILDS of Manitoba

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.

30 Riverstone Rd, Winnipeg, MB R2V 4B1  
(204) 334-3111  
courses@wilds.mb.ca  
www.wilds.mb.ca



MEC has 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.

303 Portage Ave., Winnipeg  
(204) 943-4202  
www.mec.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.

74 Gleneagles Rd. Winnipeg, MB R2J 2Y2  
(204) 284-4072  
adventure@northernsoul.ca  
www.northernsoul.ca



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

(807) 467-8535  
scottgreen1980@msn.com  
www.greenadventures.ca





In addition to a wide range of canoe and kayak

programs, University of Manitoba 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.

Recreational Services, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg R3T 2N2  
(204) 474-6100  
rec\_services@umanitoba.ca  
bisonactiveliving.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.

696 McMillan Avenue, Winnipeg MB R3M 0V1  
(204) 452-7049  
info@wildernessspirit.com  
wildernessspirit.com



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.

Winter Camps Office, 3550 Portage Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R3K 0Z8  
(204) 889-8642 ext. 230  
campstephens@ymcaywca.mb.ca



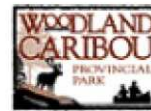
Manitoba Pioneer Camp offers a variety of exciting programs that specialize in wilderness canoeing and adventure programs both in our children's camps and through Wildwise, our out-tripping program. Located in pristine wilderness on two Shoal Lake islands, we have been providing traditional wilderness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

4-1115 Henderson Highway, Winnipeg MB, R2G 1L4  
(204) 788-1070  
pioneer camp@mts.net  
www.manitobapioneer camp.ca



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!

135 17th St. North, Brandon MB  
(204) 727-2767  
info@streamnwood.com  
www.streamnwood.com



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.

Box 5003, Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0  
(807) 727-1329  
woodland.caribou.mnr@ontario.ca  
www.ontarioparks.com