



The Purposes of the Recreational Canoeing Association of British Columbia are:

- To coordinate, promote, and encourage all types of paddling;
- To develop safe canoeing practices and activities for canoes;
- To involve the society in appropriate conservation and environments issues around the province.

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Kirk Wipper

The Canadian Canoe world has recently lost a legend. Kirk Wipper was the founder of the Kanawa International Museum of Canoes and Kayaks. You can read more of his story, written by Tony Shaw, on page 10.



...and the RCABC -Paddle Conference

The recent Paddle Conference for RCABC was held April 8th-10th at the beautiful Lake Kawkawa site in Hope, BC. On page 2, read the President's report on the event.

On page 7, read Keiran Rankin's excellent article about his own experience at the Paddle Conference.

Editor - Alanna Ray



Putting together my first issue of CANEWS has been a rewarding and challenging experience. I couldn't have done it without the support and guidance of former editor, Tony Shaw, whose format I've "borrowed" for the time being (if it ain't broke- don't fix it!) This edition is a hearty one, filled with articles about the Paddle Conference, a canoe legend, some environmental pieces, and much more. A few articles I had planned to include will have to wait... I figured 12 pages was more than enough. I hope you enjoy it! -Editor

PADDLING

PRESIDENTS REPORT (Käri-Ann Thor) - May, 2011



Spring Greetings – this report will be a follow up of our paddle conference and also speak to other current efforts of RCABC.

A huge welcome to our new executive members which are Linda Eng (Treasurer),

Arie Vanderreyden (Environmental Director), Alanna Ray (Newsletter Editor), April Link (NW Zone Rep), and Jay Crowley (Van. Island Zone Rep). Thank you to all the previous executive who have agreed to stay in their position or fill another one. We also have the formation of a new small committee on “risk management” (Jamie Boulding, Jim Boyde, Leonard Thor, Roger Warnatsch).

We are very pleased with the Paddle Conference. We had a great turnout of over 80 people of which 53 attended the AGM and about 40 the IAGM. We have an idea for next year of how to encourage more input from our membership (by pre-invitation to add agenda items and also by trying to save more time for questions). We had a total of 47 activities led/presented by a total of 44 people. We also had an additional 13 people who volunteered to help with the registration, welcoming, and waterfront sub-committees and 13 Master Instructors / Instructor Trainers were present.

continued on page 3

BC Snowpack and River Forecasts



It will be an interesting spring on BC's Rivers. According to the BC River Forecast Centre, snowpack is above average in all areas of the province, with many areas having over 150% of normal. And of course the late spring is increasing the risk of flooding. With flooding comes new sweepers and log jams, new channels and sometimes even new rapids. Be careful out there!

Upper Fraser	109%	Nechako	109%
Middle Fraser	122%	Lower Fraser	150%
Nor. Thompson	103%	Sou. Thompson	110%
Nicola	151%	Columbia	111%
Kootenay	142%	Okanagan-Kettle	145%
Similkameen	141%	South Coast	157%
Vancouver Island	167%	Peace	103%
Skeena-Nass	110%		

DO YOU CARE ABOUT THE SIMILKAMEEN RIVER?

RCABC members have been invited to submit input on the future of the Similkameen River by the Similkameen River Planning Society, which has three main aims.

- To review and summarize what information exists on the watershed and identify the gaps.
- To review hydrological information in B.C. and other similar areas of the world and to look at the unique aspects of the Similkameen being an international river.
- To put forward a recommendation of the scope of future hydrological and other investigations needed for a science based water management plan for the entire Similkameen valley. *continued - page 4*



The Similkameen River provides a dynamic environment for river paddling enthusiasts

PADDLING

from page 2: Presidents Report

Thank you to everyone who came and participated and also for your feedback forms which we will do our best to consider when planning the 2012 Paddle Conference which will be held on April 13-15 in Hope, BC.

Other areas of recent RCABC endeavor are:

- a) A small committee recently met to follow through on discussion that arose from the PC of which some is put forward to the course standards committee and some inspired small upcoming changes to the manual.
- b) We have agreed to a one-time grant for Big Boat Training to develop Instructors and/or Leaders and have sent out an offer to our 11 Big Canoe Instructors to put forward proposals for obtaining this funding to run a course.
- c) After a few rounds of discussion, we have decided how to offer some support to the David Thompson Brigade. We will give financial support to the Ktunaxa Band for RCABC level training on skills and safety.
- d) There continues to be ongoing work on the manual and the website (by Alan Thomson, Jean Chandler, and Roger Warnatsch).

We have many small and large projects that come up throughout the year. If you would like to be on a small committee, help with a one-time task, or even assist an executive member who is in a duty laden role, please contact Don our secretary dflowers@cintek.com or myself kalthors@mac.com. We already have a list from the PC of people offering to volunteer for RCABC, including Shiraaz Jahoor who will offer assistance to our Environmental Director and Darryl Spencer who is interested in providing a stronger link to the Thompson region of the Okanagan Zone.

Hope you all are going to get out paddling and remember that the BC Marine Trails Network is officially opening this month. See www.bcmarinetrails.org.

Käri-Ann Thor

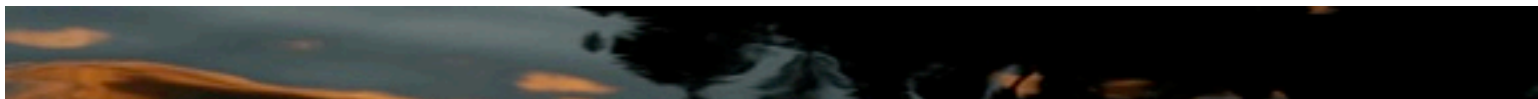


Arie and Alanna having a blast on their moving water course

A Few Introductions!

Newsletter Editor

A huge welcome to Alanna Ray, our new Newsletter Editor. From Tsawwassen, Alanna is one of the 2010/2011 Capilano University Wilderness Leadership Program students. This means she's done a diverse range of courses from sailing and sea kayaking to white-water kayaking, rafting and swift-water rescue ... and of course canoeing, which put some big smiles on her face. Alanna has shown a strong dedication to helping people with disabilities get out on the water. She conducted an adaptive canoeing workshop at the paddle conference in Hope that was very inspiring and informative, and filling an important gap in RCABC's programming. Allyson and I thoroughly enjoyed having Alanna's leadership and fantastic energy in our Lakewater Instructor course and the Moving Water course. Now RCABC has the opportunity to tap into her energy! *continued on page 5*



From page 2 Although canoeists aren't the best sources to provide technical information about a river, we are sometimes aware of issues that professionals don't recognize, and don't even realize is a problem. Now is your chance to be heard! Some examples of concerns are:

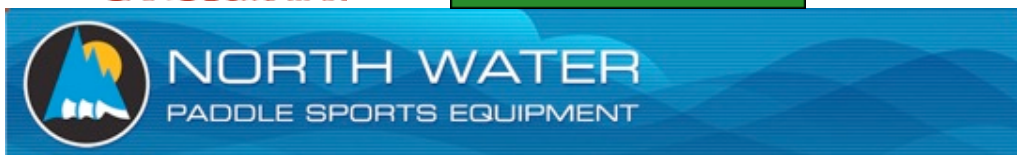
- Is it really OK for Princeton to clear its street snow, mixed with dirt, gravel, etc., and dump it into the Similkameen?
- We've seen large power boats on the rapids near Bromley Rock at higher water levels. Is this a concern in any way?
- How important to the SRPS is the continuation of recreational use by groups such as canoeists, kayakers and fishers?
- What responsibilities do recreational users have in maintaining the health of the river and ecosystem?
- Is there a plan for the increasing numbers of campers wanting to camp beside the river, and the effects on the wildlife and riverside habitat?

Please send me any thoughts you have and I can include them in a letter from RCABC, or send me an email and I can forward the Planning Society's contact information.

Roger Warnatsch

kootenay@bccanoe.com

RCABC gives a huge thank you to our donors who contributed prizes to be distributed at the Paddle Conference weekend. Thanks to our supporters: Europe Bound, Aquapac, Ecomarine, Hellman Canoe and Kayak, Middleton Boats, Western Canoeing and Kayaking, Mountain Equipment Co-op, Taiga Works Wilderness Equipment, Stohlquist and North Water Rescue and Paddling Equipment. Another big thank you goes to our boat and gear donors: Jim Hartwick, Ridge Wilderness Adventures, and Western Canoeing and Kayaking



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PADDLING

From page 3: Environment Director

Another huge welcome goes to Arie Vanderreyden, RCABC's new Environment Director. Arie is the undisputed canoe junkie of the 2010/2011 Capilano University Wilderness Leadership Program, and it didn't take long for him to prove it. He's originally from Ontario and has a solid background in canoe tripping, and many other diverse skills. But equally important, Arie is passionate about environmental issues, and during our courses had a unique ability to make us feel positive about taking issues head-on and creating change. Couple this with a thirst for everything about canoeing, and we've got someone that can really make a difference. Check out his great website "Canoe Beyond" at <http://www.canoebeyond.com/jim.html>

Roger Warnatsch

Spotlight on Outdoor Leadership Programs – ATBO



MAST lakewater instructor course - April, 2011 near Fernie

This is the first in a series of articles spotlighting various outdoor leadership programs around BC. The ATBO (Adventure Tourism Business Operations) Program is offered through the College of the Rockies' Golden campus. Representing the ATBO program is Laura Shaw. As well as teaching a variety of the academic courses for the ATBO, Laura guides the sea-kayaking, canoeing and survival skills courses for the program. This is my interview with Laura on May 16, 2011.

In a sentence or two, how would you describe the ATBO (Adventure Tourism Business Operations) Program?

It's a very rich and full and bursting at the seams kind of experience. The electives are intense – people are facing challenges and fears, and the academics are intense – there's a huge amount of information in a short time.

How is the program organized?

The program begins in the fall right after Labour Day and starts with 3 electives right away such as backpacking, mountaineering and whitewater rafting. Then there are 3 weeks of academics, then 1 or 2 weeks of electives and back and forth between the two. November is all academic for 5 weeks straight, but that's the longest period of straight academics.

How is the ATBO program different from the MAST (Mountain Adventure Skills Training) in Fernie, also offered through College of the Rockies? *Continued on page 6*

PADDLING

From page 5

The ATBO has a 2-year diploma option. People can jump right from the ATBO diploma into a tourism management program in a university. They gain a lot of skills and knowledge in the tourism industry. There's a 250-hour practicum between first year and second year.

What kinds of jobs do ATBO graduates tend to get?

Some people go into guiding and others go into business, either starting their own businesses or joining an established company at a mid to upper level management level right away. There are also international opportunities that are getting more popular. Opportunities come up through the COTR international department in Cranbrook. I went to Kenya twice through COTR. This summer a student is going to Tanzania. We had one student go to Ecuador and another to Costa Rica. He worked for a marketing company there then ended up getting a job with Gap Adventures in upper level management. When people graduate they realize they have some pretty big opportunities and we support them with that.

How is the outdoor industry changing over time?

Risk management has changed. Companies are more vigilant, and the media has an eye on risk



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management, especially in winter. That's something clients are looking for. One thing I've realized is that adventure tourists are quite loyal. It's a different branch of the tourism industry and adventure tourists are determined to keep doing it regardless of economic times. Also, there has been a demographic shift. The baby boomers are a great opportunity it would be remiss to ignore. There are so many people in this demographic who are healthy, active and looking for an experience.

Continued on page 11

PADDLING

A Wonderful Experience at the Paddle Conference

This was the second year that the R.C.A.B.C. held its annual paddle conference and A.G.M. at Camp Kawkawa in Hope B.C. It is a central location that allows instructors from all over the province to attend. The camp itself is located on tranquil Lake Kawkawa nestled between the majestic peaks of the Cascade Range. It's a perfect location for paddlers to soak up information presented by instructors and master instructors in a variety of canoe related seminars. It was a great success this year with almost one hundred paddlers and instructors in attendance.

I had a chance to lead two workshops, which was a great honour. The first was an introduction to canoeing for Hope locals organized through Hope's tourism office. It was co-led with Alanna Ray. We had eight enthusiastic students of varying ages and athletic abilities. They were lucky to have some of the weekend's best weather and were eager to learn. It's always a very encouraging experience to be able to teach people their first strokes because of the speed with which they improve. Within an hour Alanna and I were able to take a group of people who didn't even know how to hold a paddle and have them touring the lake with new found confidence.

Continued on page 8

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From page 7 I also led a workshop on knot tying. I always enjoy practising my rope work and it was great to have a captive audience to share my knowledge of knots with. Everyone should know how to tie a few basic knots. This is especially true for canoeists who use ropes for a variety of purposes when they hit the water or set up camp on a trip. I covered the bowline, variations of the figure eight, the fisherman's knot and several other highly useful bends and hitches. I hope to lead another similar workshop next year on more advanced knots.

There were so many other great workshops that you had to pick and choose which ones you could make it to. I attended an advanced strokes refresher clinic led by Master Instructors Joe Barnwell, Leonard Thor and Laurel Archer. This was a fantastic opportunity for me as an instructor to learn from such experienced paddlers. I also went on a guided night paddle led by David Westell which was very relaxing. We cruised the waters by the moon and stars and did our best to follow our leader's example and refrain from talking so as to savour the moment. After a



Dancers at the Irish Ceili, one of many favorite activities at the Paddle Conference

relaxing hour of practising our Indian stroke though, we realized we were running late for the Irish ceili and our night paddle turned to a mad dash for the dining hall.

That's right, an Irish ceili! We jigged across the hall weaving back and forth between each other with instructions from our President Kari-Ann Thor. Once again to my delight I found a captive audience to one of my hobbies and sang a couple Irish ditties. It was great fun. We also had square dancing on Sunday led by a professional caller. Music as it turns out played a large part of the weekend with a work shop on Métis songs to paddle to led by Alan Thomson, Stephani Custer and Agnes d'Entremont who regaled us with one of the songs at our final breakfast.

One of the great things about Camp Kawkawa is that there's a lot to do once you've had your fill of canoeing. Several of the seminars were excellent diversions from the conference's primary focus. There were guided walks to the Othello Tunnels and some nearby bluffs as well as some early morning yoga and birding.

The weekend was non stop fun for paddlers of all levels and I didn't want to leave. One of the best reasons to attend is the opportunity to meet new paddlers and to network with other instructors. I met lots of people and had a chance to meet new friends like Arie Vanderreyden, the association's new environmental co-ordinator with whom I have since paddled on the Cheakamus River. I can hardly wait for next year's conference and all the exciting new workshops that will be waiting for me.

Keiran Rankin

PADDLING

Deer Lake: An Ecologically Sensitive Aquatic Zone

The western end of Deer Lake in Burnaby B.C. has been deemed to be an ecologically sensitive Aquatic Zone by the city of Burnaby. Deer Lake is a small lake feeding into Burnaby Lake which is a kilometre to the northwest.

The lake and its wildlife are greatly enjoyed by a number of Lower Mainland paddlers for evening or weekend paddles as well as the annual Paddling Lessons.



Deer Lake - Ecologically Sensitive Aquatic Zone

Prepared By: HD
July, 2010
Scale: 1:3000

Attachment #3

There are a large number of bird species that use the area for nesting and the rearing of young. The Great Blue Heron rookery (50 active nests) located in the trees at the northwest corner is slowly regaining strength after a number of years of decline. There are 5-10 pairs of Wood ducks nesting along the western end after having been absent for a number of years. These are only 2 of a number of species that are moving back into the lake ecosystem. The shoreline at the west end is also home to 5 active Beaver lodges.

So far this year beavers, mink, muskrats and an otter have been spotted around the lake. Eagles, herons, ospreys, hawks, ducks and ducklings (mallards, wood, teals), cormorants, Canada geese and goslings have been spotted around the lake.

It would be great to leave the western end to the wildlife so their numbers can recover even more.

Peter Hiebert

PADDLING

Kirk!

To many canoeing aficionados that's all we need to say - Kirk. In March of this year we lost Kirk Wipper and we reflect on his passing in many ways. He was indeed a canoeist of the highest order and decorated by the state for his contributions to the world of canoeing. A Canada that didn't have Kirk would have been a Canada without a Canadian Canoe Museum!

In fact the 54' long Bluebird, a first nations war canoe, would probably still be with the Cowichan people of Vancouver Island. It was there until Kirk heard about it in the early eighties!

Now most people would have been daunted by the task of negotiating the transfer of this canoe to the Museum in Peterborough - not Kirk. Kirk came to B.C. to collect this item for the museum and took a full three weeks to get it from Vancouver Island to Peterborough. Can you imagine the logistics of transporting this fifty-four foot long canoe over the Rockies, across the prairies and eventually to place it in the Museum! It was too large for a train or plane to transport, so Kirk, being such a passionate collector, decided that he would retrofit his half-ton diesel truck and drive the canoe back home! With the Blue bird mounted on his truck hanging over twenty feet on either end, he began his journey. Through his tenacity Kirk was able to charm ferry personal and highway patrolmen into

allowing him passage and highway escorts. The arduous journey took three weeks to complete while encountering many challenges along the way!

Kirk was like that. Nothing was impossible if it meant representing our history of paddle craft. I want to remember Kirk like that and also, like I last saw him, driving his TDI and at the same time, waxing eloquent about the joys of paddling and the pride he had as a Canadian who loved canoes and canoeing.

Kirk passed away on March 18, 2011. He will be missed.

Tony Shaw



Some facts about the Bluebird:

Length:	53' 8"
Beam:	2' 10.5"
Carved by:	Simon Charlie
Purchased for the Museum:	1970's
Paddlers	10 persons and steersman

PADDLING

From page 6

Do you have any advice from someone wanting to make a career in the canoeing industry?

I was lucky enough to paddle from Saskatchewan to Ottawa. The contacts I made on that trip were amazing! We were looking at the boreal forest and we met Cree and Ojibway elders, loggers – people with all different perspectives. As we went along, we did some journaling and put it up on a website. You need a passion for getting out there. There are a lot of opportunities. You just need a willingness to patch something together. Be entrepreneurial. Use the experience you have. Having the RCABC lakewater instructor level makes you a better guide; you learn teaching skills, which are transferrable, and you learn about environmental ethics and history. It's a holistic course.

For more information on this program, see <http://www.cotr.bc.ca/atbo/>

Allyson Phillips

A Recipe for Canoe Tripping: Inspired by Agnes d'Entremont's workshop at the Paddle Conference

COCONUT MANGO RICE PUDDING

Pack together:

- 1/2 tsp potato starch
- 2 tbsp powdered milk
- 1 1/2 tsp powdered coconut cream
- 1/2 tsp sugar
- 1 tbsp chopped dried mango
- 1/2 c instant rice

On trail:

Add 1/2 c boiling water. Stir well, cover, let stand 5 minutes. Makes one serving.

From "Backcountry Cooking" by Dorcas Miller.



Having Fun on the Water at the Paddle Conference in Hope.

PADDLING

Your Volunteers, Clubs and Supporting Businesses

We are happy to recognize all those who make the Recreational Canoeing Association of British Columbia the great organization that it is. Feel free to contact any of them for more information and membership details. They are the lifeblood of the organization and will do their best to provide guidance to all paddlers seeking help and information. A special thanks to our business members whose support has been undying over many years and continues to this day. Please look for a club in your area and give them your support too! One of the best ways to get involved in paddling is to 'JOIN A CLUB.'

Executive:

President	Kari-Ann Thor
Vice President	Leonard Thor
Secretary	Don Flowers
Treasurer	Linda Eng
Newsletter Editor	Alanna Ray
Member at Large	Lynne Smith
Member at Large	Jamie Boulding
Instructor Coordinator	Roger McColm
Environmental Director	Arie Vanderreyden

Zone Representatives:

Burnaby Delta	Corriette Hofstee
Alternate	Leigh Burton
Fraser Valley	Peter Hiebert
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Check the RCABC Website for contact information
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