



Beaver Tales

Beaver Canoe Club Newsletter

June 2018

Next Beaver Canoe Club Social/Meeting is June 13, 2018!

Featured Entertainment: Desolation Canyon, Utah.

Ten beavers, seven days and one boat wrecking rapid.

Come and hear the real story.

Presenter: James Wakeling

Location: Burnaby Lake Sports Complex West, 3677 Kensington Ave,
Burnaby, BC V5B 4Z6

Time: = 7:45 p.m.



Reminder!

There will be **no monthly meetings** in July and August. There will be a June Meeting and there are many paddles all summer. See you on the water!

Welcome New Members!

Max Paterson of Vancouver

Kessa Wills of N. Vancouver

Darren Krell of Port Coquitlam

Thomas Ulanowski of Abbotsford

Keane Gruending of Vancouver

Laura Jane of Vancouver

Eric Dagenais of Vancouver

Alexander Nosrat of N. Vancouver

Land Grether of Vancouver

Ruby Ewens of Vancouver

Tara Despault of Abbotsford

Fionna Chong of Vancouver

Kristian Sigvardsen of Ladner

Marc & Colleen Guimond of Vancouver

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Executive Report

● The final version of the resolution our club put forward to the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC (ORCBC) is:

Whereas the steadily growing population of greater Vancouver is putting pressure on outdoor recreational possibilities,

And whereas many people who recreate and overnight camp on unregulated and un-serviced Crown lands defecate and leave human waste throughout these areas,

And whereas human waste is a human health and environment hazard,

Therefore, be it resolved the Outdoor Recreational Council of British Columbia make the government agencies responsible for these areas aware of our concerns and request wilderness toilets facilities be established and maintained within high use areas such as Coquihalla, Coldwater, Squamish, Mamquam, and Chilliwack River valleys.

● Seven Beavers attended the successful Trip Leader Clinic on May 23rd, 2018.



- Basic Paddlers was a great success with 56 participants and many club volunteers.
- The Pub night on May 5th was a perfect ending to Basic Paddlers. Thirty-seven Beavers enjoyed the burgers, beverages and Beaver camaraderie while watching Basic Paddler Graduates receive their certificates.
- The gate to access to the Lower Seymour River is now locked until fall. The executive has obtained a key for the lock. Information on accessing the Lower Seymour River is in the "Members Only" section of the web site.



A HUGE thank you to Basic Paddler Instructors: Alain, Bob, David, Greg, Jim, Phil & Scott; Admin assistants Pam, Jen & Christine; Madeline for examining & Carey for making it happen!

Announcements!

River Week Extended to include paddling on the Kettle River July 3rd to 8th. Members interested in paddling on grade 1 – 3 day trip excursions contact Carey@CanoeBC.ca

Lost at Basic Paddlers dark charcoal grey sweatshirt with a big collar/hood. Contact Crystalcdc13@hotmail.com

Canoe Tripping Opportunity! Beavers are planning a canoe camping trip to Ross Lake September 3rd – 9th, 2018. For more information contact the trips director trips@beavercanoeclub.org and see the ad in the May newsletter.

Beaver Canoe Club Summer Barbeque Mark **July 22nd** on your calendar! The annual barbeque will be at Hayward Lake. Watch for details in the July newsletter and on the website.

Places to Rent Canoes:

Middleton's Specialty Boats 604-240-0503 or david@middletonsboats.com

Deer Lake Boats 604-521-3183 <https://deerlakeboatrentals.com/> 604-521-3183

Old Town Tripper canoe with spray skirt. Contact Carey@CanoeBC.ca

Western Canoe and Kayak 1-866-644-8111 <https://westerncanoeandkayak.com/>

Pitt Lake Canoe Adventures 604-836-7117

Training: RCABC Lakewater Instructor 2 Course @ Silver Lake Forestry Centre (Peachland); Sunday Aug. 26th/18 to Sunday Sept. 2nd/18; includes Lakewater Paddler 1-4 & 3 days of teaching/practice time. Cost \$585; includes canoes & manual. For more information Contact instructor Peter Hiebert at 604-941-1572 or hiebert1572@shaw.ca or <http://www.silverlakecamp.net/adult-programs.html>, 1.778.769.2442, Camp@silverlakecamp.net



Beaver Canoe Club members are invited to participate in the second David Thompson Paddlesport Classic. It is scheduled for August 17 - 19, 2018 on Lake Revelstoke. The event involves paddling and portaging 125 kilometres from Mica Creek to the 5-mile boat launch near Revelstoke Dam over the 3-days.

There are 7 mandatory portages for a total of almost 6 km. There is a non-competitive open class in addition to competitive classes. The registration deadline is July 31, 2018. All entries include t-shirts, snacks, post-race BBQ. For more information go to: <http://paddlerevelstoke.ca/david-thompson-paddlesport-classic/>

IMPORTANT DATES

June 2018

- 2nd Intro Moving Water
- 13th Beaver CC Meeting
- 20th Executive Meeting
- 23rd River Week Begins
- 30th Ultimate Happy Hr.

July 2018

- 3rd Kettle River "Week"
- 22nd BCC Picnic

September 2018

- 3-9 Ross Lake Trip

December 2018

- 1st Christmas Party

Trip Reports:

Lower Seymour May 13th, 2018 by Madeline Waring

This was a special paddle for me! After not being able to river paddle for almost 2 years, I nervously decided to join this trip on the Lower Seymour. It was a perfect day, sunshine, warm, a comfortable water level and great supportive paddling friends. My boat was excited and magically got to the water before I embarked down the staircase! Phil stayed nearby the whole run enabling me to gain my confidence again. Paddlers eddy hopped as they danced down the river but were always nearby in case of a spill that did not happen! I was rusty, but by the end of the trip I happily knew that I could still paddle! 😊 Thanks to everyone on the trip. It was great being on the water again and paddling with my beaver buddies!

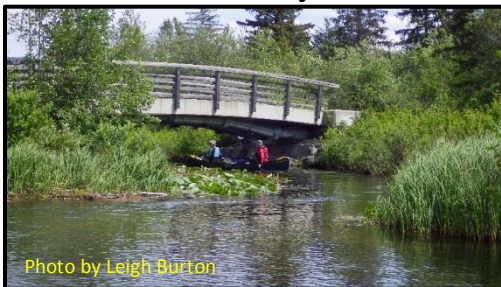


The River of Golden Dreams May 27th, 2018 by Leigh Burton

Ahhh! The name says it all. The May 27th trip on the River of Golden Dreams Was a real treat for the participants, Sue and Brian McKinley, Leigh Burton, and Pam Farish with our trip leader, David Middleton.

We met at 10:00 in Whistler and drove to Lakeside Park. What could be better than an easy put in, short shuttle, sunny skies and Alta Lake. We decided early on not to paddle on Green Lake as there was a wind blowing and it would be a tough slog after a paddle of twists and turns.

Once off the lake, we saw lots of the yellow water lilies just starting to bloom. The river was a bit high but judging from the number of groups paddling, it shouldn't be a challenge. Before you knew it, we'd reached the "weir" and stopped for lunch. Lots of people going through the little picnic area. There are new wooden boat launches for both the take out and the put in. Most of the groups were on a "tour" and dollies were used to move their kayaks around to avoid the put in at the lunch spot. We checked out the put-in and it



looked fine to us, so we put in there.

David and Pam were the first boat, and from around the first corner, although we couldn't see them, we could hear, "River right! River right"! There was a tree down and only a narrow passage between where we were and where we wanted to be. Everyone made it without any problems and the rest of the little straight stretch was uneventful.

Where we join 21 Mile Creek, the gauge was showing white, which means you don't have to haul your boats around the rail road bridge. The water level between Alta Lake and 21 Mile Creek was up a bit, and 21 Mile Creek was the high side of average. We ferried out into in and started the adventure. With the increased water level, the corners seemed to come up very quickly. In order to avoid logs and debris in the outside of the corners (almost every one!) you had to cut your corners to the inside. Even so, there were some that tried to catch our boats. It was fun, and a perfect warm up for the paddling season.

At Meadow Park (just above our take-out at the Rec Centre) Sue decided to try out the solo Outrage. She'd never been in a solo white-water boat before, so had fun figuring out how and where to do her strokes in order to move the boat, but she enjoyed it and wants to try again. Look out moving water paddlers! We may have a new addict!

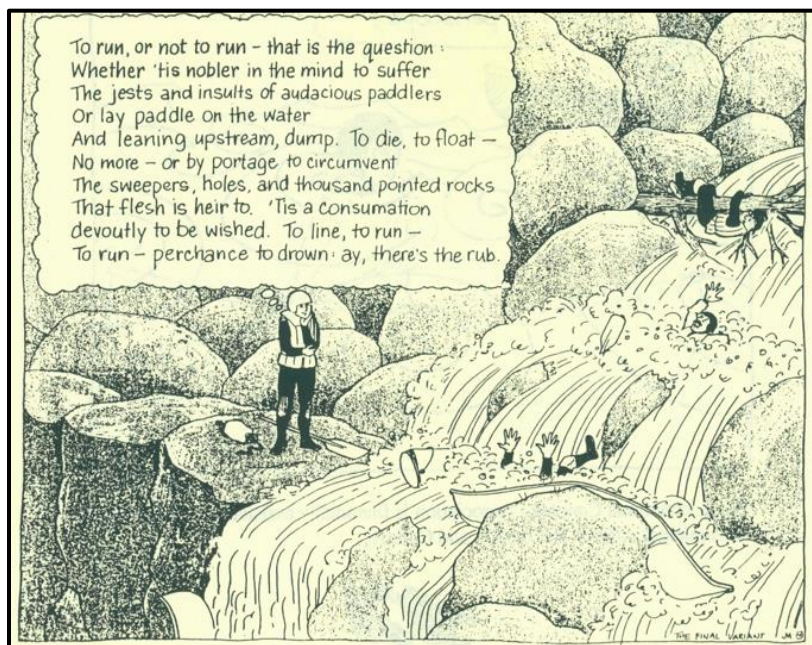
It was a great day – good company, good weather, good water. It just doesn't get any better.

Editors Note: To Run or Not to Run?

With intro to moving water just over, more river trips on the horizon & river week fast approaching I

thought I'd share this diagram depicting the famous question: "To run or not to run?" Nola Johnson a graphic artist (previous member) drew this picture that appeared in Beaver Tales years ago. This is a question every paddler is challenged with, whether it be a river, a rapid or a drop. Having asked myself this numerous time, I want to share some things I consider when arriving at a decision.

I consider the river. What am I getting myself into? How difficult is it? What are the hazards? And how long is it? Length affects whether I paddle tandem instead of solo. Or if it is too long for me based on my energy level that day. Also whether the hazards are at the end of a tiring day. On extended trips my possessions are in the canoe so that also



affects what I will run. The difficulty is often described via river classification system, class 1 – 6.

Another very important fact is the water flow the paddling day. Water flow is typically referred to in cms. Will it be too pushy for me? Will there be more hazards; can a rescue be done in good timing? Tied with everything is my skill and experience level. Am I capable of paddling this level? Have I paddled it before at this water level? Am I capable of rescuing myself or someone else under these conditions? Am I putting others at risk? Do I enjoy this water level? There is a fine line between pushing yourself and ending up "over your head". Pushing yourself can be good. Being "Pig Headed" can get you in trouble.

I always consider who else is paddling that day; what is their skill level and the group rescue capability for the river being paddled and anticipated river conditions. If in trouble, will there be paddlers in the group who are capable of and willing to rescue me. Some good it does if I float by while being watched by others. Or, if I get hurt and can't rescue myself. I consider rescue different from recovery (after the fact). I have bailed or cancelled trips when I am not comfortable with the rescue capabilities. They ended up being good decisions.

Weather is very important too. If the river is on the high side and the rain has just started with a forecast of heavy rain, the water level may become hazardous before finishing the run. If it is a hot sunny day, It is easier to warm up after a swim. If strong winds are expected an early start may be better, or skip it.

This may seem complicated but as experience increases, it's easier to make decisions on familiar rivers. It is also important to consider how you feel that day and your gut intuition. Listen to yourself and don't let peer pressure get you into trouble. There is nothing wrong with bailing or cancelling a trip. I have done this.

Because all the variables can change, your decision may be different every time, even for the same river. Since memories can fade and each paddler has their own idea of what they are comfortable paddling, I like to keep my records to help me with future decisions. After a run I print off the hydrometric data graph that shows the water level and discharge for the river I just paddled. I note on it the day/year I paddled and record my thoughts about the run; too low, too high or just right; challenging or easy; whether I liked it or not, hazards, whether it was a good tandem or solo run, if it's pushy for me, and so on. This way, I don't have to rely on another's view who may like much pushier or higher or lower or more difficult water than I am comfortable with. The records also show how my paddling skills improve. Runs I indicate were challenging one year often become comfortable fun another. I keep my records in a binder for future reference. There are many ways to keep your records, this is just one way. And yes, I have referred to them many times.

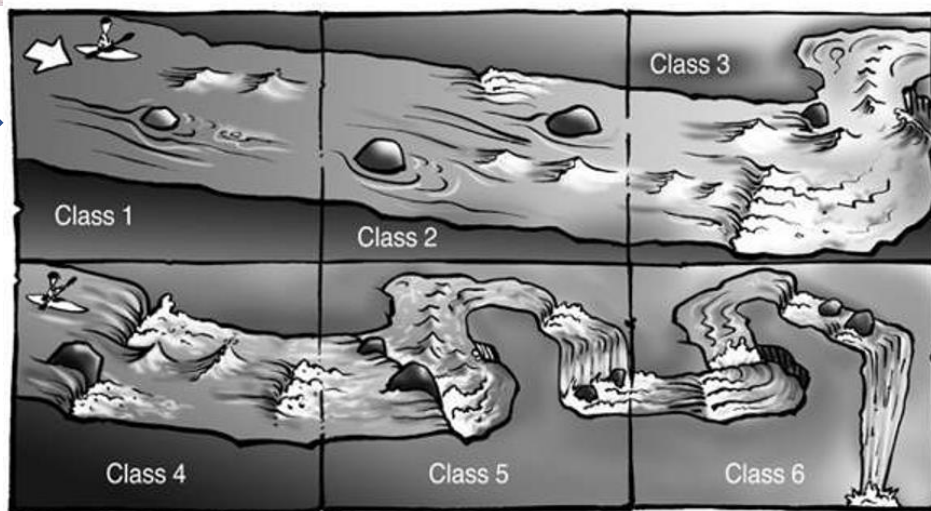
Dr. Eddy Kit's Corner

An article by Ken Whiting included a drawing depicting the six classes of white water. These diagrams are on the right. His complete article with Class descriptions is at:

<https://paddling.com/learn/river-classifications/> Note, it is written from a kayak perspective



Paddlers wonder what do river classifications really mean? I found different descriptions, diagrams and explanations. I am sharing a couple with you. Perhaps they will help you understand river classifications (grades) 1 to 6. Enjoy them!



My favorite explanation is below and considers the river from the swimmers' perspective. The first time I saw this was in 2003; I believe it appeared on the CanoeBC site. Sorry for small type.

CLASS 1. Easy fast moving water with riffles and small waves. Swimming is pleasant, shore easily reached. A nice break from paddling. Almost all gear and equipment are recovered. Boat is just slightly scratched.

CLASS 2. Novice straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels which are evident without scouting. Swimming to eddies requires moderate effort. Climbing out of river may involve slippery rocks and shrub induced lacerations. Paddles travel great distance downstream requiring lengthy walk. Something unimportant is missing. Boat hits submerged rock leaving visible dent on frame or new gash in plastic.

CLASS 3. Intermediate Rapids with moderate, irregular waves which may be difficult to avoid. Water is swallowed. Legs are ground repeatedly against sharp pointy rocks. Several eddies are missed while swimming. Difficult decision to stay with boat results in moment of terror when swimmer realizes they are downstream of boat. Paddle is recirculated in small hole way upstream. All personal possessions are removed from boat and floated in different directions. Paddling partners run along river bank shouting helpful instructions. Boat is munched against large boulder hard enough to leave series of deep gouges. Sunglasses fall off.

CLASS 4. Advanced Water is generally lots colder than Class 3. Intense, powerful but predictable rapids requiring precise swimming in turbulent water. Swimming may require 'must' moves above dangerous hazards. "Must" moves are downgraded to strongly recommended after they are missed. Sensation of disbelief experienced while about to swim large drops. Frantic swimming towards shore is alternated with frantic swimming away from shore to avoid strainers. Rocks are clung to with death grip. Paddle is completely forgotten. One shoe is removed. Hydraulic pressure permanently removes waterproof box with all the important stuff. Paddle partners running along stream look genuinely concerned while lofting throw ropes 20 feet behind swimmer. Paddle partners stare slack-jawed and point in amazement at boat which is finally pinned by major feature. Climbing up river bank involves inverted tree. One of those spring-loaded pins that attaches watch to wristband is missing. Contact lenses are moved to rear of eyeballs.

CLASS 5. Expert. The water in this rapid is usually under 42°F (5.6°C). Most gear is destroyed on rocks within minutes if not seconds. If the boat survives it is in need of about 3 days repair. There is no swimming, only frantic movements to keep from becoming one with the rocks and to get a breath from time to time. Terror and panic sets in as you realize your paddle partners don't have a chance in hell of reaching you. You come to a true understanding of the terms maytagging and pinballing. That hole that looked like nothing when scouted has a hydraulic that holds you under the water until your lungs are close to bursting. You come out only to realize you still have 75% of the rapid left to swim. Swim to the eddy? What %^&*# eddy! This rapid usually lasts a mile or more. Hydraulic pressure within the first few seconds, removes everything that can come off your body. This includes gloves, shoes, neoprene socks, sunglasses, hats and clothing. The rocks take care of your fingers, toes and ears. That \$900 dry suit, well it might hold up to the rocks. Your paddle is trash. If there is a strainer, well, just hope it is old and rotten so it breaks. Paddle partners on shore are frantically trying to run and keep up with you. Their horror is reflected in their faces as they stare at how you are being tossed around! They are hoping to remember how to do CPR. They also really hope the cooler with the beer is still intact. They are going to need a cold one by the time you get out! Climbing out of this happens after the rapid is over. You will probably need the help of a backboard, cervical collar and Z-rig. Even though you have broken bones, lacerations, puncture wounds, missing digits and ears and a concussion, you won't feel much because you will have severe hypothermia. Enjoy your time in the hospital, with the time you take recovering you won't get another vacation for 3 years!

CLASS 6. Not recommended for swimming

Rivers' Week 2018

By Carey Robson

There are always lots of questions about River Week. This information is an overview of the week and important things to know. This supplements the River Week Guide on the web site. The runs below are proposals that can change depending on conditions.

STARTS Saturday June 23rd 9:00 AM at the Manning Park Lodge.

Send an email to Carey@CanoeBC.ca to attend any or all parts. Please indicate when you will be there and what your paddling preferences are. See the Rivers' Week guide in the Members area of the Beaver website — PRINT IT OUT.

We propose to camp beside Pasayten River Road bridge on the Similkameen River, (1.8 k past the Esso station in Eastgate) for Saturday & Sunday nights.

Trips:

Saturday June 23rd;

- Pasayten River, grade 2+ and one grade 3 corner, remote, no access or egress.
Trip Leader: Carey
- Similkameen River, Princeton to Bromley Rock, grade 1 except for the last 200 meters, (grade II). Trip Leader wanted.
- Lightning Lakes. Trip Leader wanted.

Sunday June 24th,

- Similkameen River, Elk Ridge, (approximately), to Princeton; Grade II+ and one grade III ledge/corner/rapid. Trip Leader: Carey
- Similkameen River; Blowdown to above falls. Grade 1+ There are three major log jams. Trip Leader wanted.
- Lightning Lakes. Trip Leader wanted.

Monday June 25th; Move camp to Granite City

- Upper Tulameen; Grade II+ and starts with a grade III rapid followed by a vertical walled canyon. Trip Leader: Carey
- Abbreviated Upper Tulameen; Grade one. Possible sweepers. Trip Leader wanted.

Tuesday June 26th.

- Lower Tulameen; grade II, one portage able grade III rapid and one mandatory portage.
Trip Leader: Carey
- Otter Lake or repeat Abbreviated Upper Tulameen. Trip Leader wanted.

Wednesday June 27th. Move Camp. All further trips at discretion of attendees.

- Lower Coldwater, (grade I+), or Upper Coldwater, (grade II). Showers & Hot Tub in Merritt, Dinner out at Boston Pizza, (6:00 PM, reservations required).

Thursday June 27th to Monday July 2nd N'Quala campsite. 18k west of the stoplight in Merritt.

- Nicola River; Merritt to Camp; grade I, Camp to Jo Antony Bridge; grade II; Joe Antony Bridge to Thompson; grade II+ and grade III. Upper Nicola; to Merritt; grade I, Douglas lake to Nicola Lake; grade II. Coldwater River; (see above).



Ultimate Happy Hour; Saturday June 30th 5:00 PM (This is a no nachos event).

Note: there is a Happy Hour every day after paddling. Bring lawn chairs and a folding table if you can. We camp on unserviced crown land where an outhouse is a luxury. Read the Rivers' Week Guide!

BCC June Trips Page

Wed May 30 & Sat Jun 2	Introduction to Moving Water Want to put you lake water skills to work in a current? Learn some moves and methods to navigate a river safely and effectively. Contact: Carey R Carey@CanoeBC.ca (604) 603-5569
Thu May 31	Weekday Paddle: Lake / Ocean Contact: Gord B at gbc1209467@gmail.com 778 865 0409
Sun Jun 3	Fraser River in the Valley: Grade 1 On this family friendly paddle, there's time to play in the chutes of Stave Dam before floating past Ruskin and Langley to the mouth Kanaka Creek. Contact: Dave W westell@shaw.ca (604) 467-8623
Sun Jun 10	Salmon River: Grade 1 This suburban stream follows the route of the voyageurs to their landing at historic Fort Langley. Contact: Madeline W John.Onderdonk@telus.net (604) 888-5814
Wed Jun 13 Evening	Club Meeting and Social - And entertainment. All welcome See website or front page, this newsletter
Thu Jun 14	Weekday Paddle: Lake / Ocean Contact: Gord B at gbc1209467@gmail.com 778 865 0409
Sat Jun 16 to Sun Jun 17	Mamquam Weekend: Grade 2 A weekend in Squamish for a mentored and gradated chance to practice new white water skills. Contact: Heather M 604-215-1267 heather_may_matt@hotmail.com
Sat Jun 23 to Mon Jul 2	Rivers Week: Grades 1+, 2 & 3 A week of paddling the many premium rivers in the sunny Southern Interior. Contact: Carey R Carey@CanoeBC.ca (604) 603-5569
Tue Jul 3 to Sun Jul 8	Kettle Valley Rivers Week: Grades 1+, 2 & 3 Got the time for another week of rivers? After Canada Day, we'll be decamping east to Boundary Country to explore white water opportunities a little farther afield. This year's experiments become tomorrow's traditions! Contact: Carey R Carey@CanoeBC.ca (604) 603-5569
Sun Jul 8	Nicomeckle & Serpentine Rivers: Slough / Ocean An uncomplicated loop through the estuaries of sunny South Surrey Check back in July for contact information.
Thu Jul 12	Weekday Paddle: Lake / Ocean Contact: Gord B at gbc1209467@gmail.com 778 865 0409
Sun Jul 15	Lower Coquitlam River: Grade 1 A lazy wander through the pastures of Colony Farm Check back in July for contact information.
Sat Jul 21	Cheakamus River: Grades 2 & 3 A bouncy ride on a fast river. Surfing waves, sharp corners, boiling ledges, the Rocky Mile is always optional. Check back in July for contact information.
Sun Jul 22	Club Picnic at Hayward Lake Pot Luck and BBQ at a beach in the Valley. Contact: April W Aprilwatson@telus.net
Thu Jul 26	Weekday Paddle: Lake / Ocean Contact: Gord B at gbc1209467@gmail.com 778 865 0409
Sat Jul 28 / Sun Jul 29	A Midsummer trip in local waters Check back in July for this trip. Is there a place to paddle on your wish list? Call or email trip director. Contact: Dave W 604-467-8623 westell@shaw.ca
Sat Aug 4 to Mon Aug 6	Wenatchee Weekend: Grades 2 & 3 Thrills and spills in warm water on a sunny weekend 3 hours from home. Solid river skills and outfitting required for grade 2 & 3 runs. (Grades 1 & 2 possible if group makeup allows) Travel insurance essential*. Contact: Dave W on or before July 28th. 604-467-8623 westell@shaw.ca

Water levels change and so do trips. Check latest Trips Page to stay up to date.

Please call trip contact 2 days in advance (or 1 week in advance for campouts)

If you cannot find a trip contact, please call or email trips director Dave W westell@shaw.ca (604) 467-8623

* For a trip in the US, even the most innocuous of mishaps can incur costly medical bills. Bring travel insurance!