

# BEAVER TALES

The Worthy Newsletter of the Beaver Canoe Club



January 2024

## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS ON JANUARY 10, 2024, AT 8 PM VIA ZOOM.

You will be emailed the Zoom link in January before the meeting. This is an important meeting. Please attend.

## AGM EVENING ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTATION

### THE TURNAGAIN RIVER TRIP

The Turnagain River is rarely paddled - probably because of the “boat wrecking” grade 3 rapids and the 6km portage around Turnagain Falls. This year two groups canoed this river in Northern BC, and both groups included multiple BCC members.

In this presentation David Broughton, Trish McLeod and Jenny Wakeling will tell Tall Tales from their Turnagain River adventure: organized by Elements Adventure Company, guided by Keiran Rankin and Emily Cole.”



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT JANUARY 2024

Happy New Year! And a Happy Hogmanay to all Scots. I won't be sorry to see 2023 gone.

There has been so little rain and no snow, so I have only paddled the Seymour a few times this fall and the Chilliwack once. I am scanning the horizons endlessly hoping for snow and I have no idea of what Rivers Week 2024 will be like or where it will be.

The Beavers AGM will be at 8 pm on January 10, 2024, via Zoom. Things are looking okay for a new 2024 Beaver's executive, assuming you all agree to our election and re-election. We plan to create up to three directors at large and must therefore pass some by-law changes. So, if you're keen there is plenty of room to come aboard.

Most of the old executives are willing to stand, except sadly, Jill and Bob are stepping back and they have big boots to fill. Happily, Dave Apps, says he would do the Social Directors job, Jenny Wakeling has agreed to be our Membership Director and Owen Williams our Entertainment Director. Don't be shy if you want to participate on the Board; run for any position and we hope to have up to three Directors At Large positions if the new by-law passes.

Currently, the following people have agreed to stand. I am standing again for President. Dan Burnett is in for Vice-President, Trish MacLeod for Secretary, Mark Guimond for Treasurer, Dave Broughton for Training Director, Dave Westell for Trips Director, Dave Apps for Social Director, Owen Williams for Entertainment Director, Peter Gutzmann as the Beaver Tales editor, and Jenny Wakeling for Membership Director. Now I hope I am not being presumptuous, but anyone who wants can run for any position. Don't be shy if you want to participate on the Executive Board, you can run for any position.

**Remember we need a quorum so please do turn on your computer for the AGM on January 10, at 8 pm.**

This is going to be a challenging year due to the El Nino effect, and Rivers Week will be - who knows? Last year the Rivers Week Committee, consisting of Dan Burnett, Dave Westell, Jenny Wakeling and Keiran Rankin, pulled it off and I expect they will again in 2024. Rivers Week hasn't been finalized but if the past holds true it will begin a week before July 1, 2024, probably at Princeton and probably starting at the "Last Post" campsite on the Similkameen River.

As a reminder, every year the RCABC has an important combined event and AGM and this year it will be held as usual at Lake Kawkawa near Hope BC, on the April 19-21 weekend. We have organized Basic Paddlers to avoid conflicts with RCABC, so for basic paddlers the theory class is on April 24, 2024, and the paddling days are Saturday April 27 and Saturday May 4, 2024.

Following the Basic Paddlers course will be the Introduction to Moving Water course on May 25, 2024, probably on the Seymour R, and then the Mamquam R camp out on June 1, 2024, to get you up to speed for Rivers Week.

Phil Rankin.

## BASIC PADDLERS 2024



Once again, the Beavers are offering an introductory (or refresher) paddling course for those wanting to learn all about safely paddling a tandem canoe. The course is ideal for those thinking about paddling the Bowron Lakes, enjoying local paddling trips around the lower Mainland, or wanting to refresh their skills, perhaps as a springboard to learning to paddle rivers. The course is free for Beaver members and involves a dryland theory session (Wed evening, April 24) and two on-the-water sessions at Deer Lake, Saturday April 27 and May 4. We will help you find a canoe and a partner, if needed!

For information, please contact Dave Broughton at [Training@beavercanoecub.org](mailto:Training@beavercanoecub.org), or at [itsusinus@gmail.com](mailto:itsusinus@gmail.com).

## PLANNED WINTER TRIPS

Dave Westell arranged for some impromptu winter paddling trips in December.

- The December 17 Sumas River trip did not go.
- The December 21 lighted paddle at False Creek to catch the Winter Solstice did happen.
- On January 6, the US Skagit River Eagle Paddle, grade 1 will be going.
- The Squamish River paddle on January 14 will be going.

## BCC LONG TRIPS MEETING

Wednesday, January 24th at 7 pm, by Zoom

The BCC Long Trips Meeting is an opportunity to speak to and hear from like-minded people about extended canoe trips and plans thereof later in the year.

Trips resulting from the meeting are not BCC Club trips but are private initiatives from members or friends. Many of the members' stupendous adventures have begun here.

At the Long Trips Meeting, you are welcome to propose a trip, express interest, query logistics or research, listen along, or just dream. After the meeting, a contact list will be circulated. The rest is up to you.

To join, please email [westell@shaw.ca](mailto:westell@shaw.ca) and Dave will send a link the day before.

## BROKEN ISLANDS CANOE TRIP 2024

Expressions of interest wanted for Broken Islands Canoe Trip on or around early to mid June. The Reservation Season is fast approaching, so contact Dave Westell via email at [westell@shaw.ca](mailto:westell@shaw.ca)

## MISCELLANEOUS REGARDING THE MAMQUAM RIVER

Phil Rankin passed on a letter from the Executive Director of the Mamquam River Access Society. An abbreviated and edited for shortness version of the letter follows:

To all MRAS “Kayak Race Site” Key Holders,

The Mamquam River Access Society (MRAS) is a whitewater paddling community that shares a passion for the Mamquam River and was incorporated in 2008 after repairing the access road with the private landowner’s permission. We have enhanced the site and maintained the gate (& lock) ever since. Under the auspices of MRAS, the development of the Mamquam River Campground began in 2014. This operation now provides the revenue to keep someone looking after the kayak site where it all began.

Our current challenge is dealing with Fortis’s “600 Man Work Camp” and the development of the Squamish Canyon Project (I know, it’s on the Mamquam), both of which will significantly increase traffic flow on the MFSR (Mamquam Forest Service Road). We’re already seeing many tourists coming to see the Falls. Fortis's pipeline will cross the MFSR and Powerhouse Springs Rd causing a couple total road closures, but we've asked that they're not scheduled between Apr - July. We will post any Fortis ‘road closure’ announcements as we get them.

The Squamish Canyon project infrastructure will be located all over the current Upper Parking area and will require another gate that we’ll have to negotiate. This should allow us to take out the current slipping gate affair! Thanks to Paul Carus and the crew for fixing our gate!

There will be a day that we’ll need an event schedule, so folks aren’t tripping over each other. Remember, any advertised “event” needs insurance to satisfy the landowner’s needs. Contact MRAS to inquire.

Remember, always lock the gate behind you and Leave-No-Trace!

The procedure for buying a key is to directly contact the Executive Director through [paddle@mras.info](mailto:paddle@mras.info) and follow through with a text or calling 604 815-9322. It is also through this email that donations can be made via E-transfer or PayPal. MRAS is a charitable organization that can offer tax receipts.

Thanks,

John Harvey

Executive Director, MRAS



## YOUR CHANCE TO BE A MOVIE STAR

### Casting Call

Spring 2024 — River Rescue for Canoers

Participant pre-requisites:      Previous river paddling skills & training,  
Able and willing to swim cold water,  
Sign both a performance and liability waiver.

Remuneration:      Free coaching by Master Instructors  
Screen Credit

Pick up where [Rescue Techniques 4 Canoers](#) left off. (Password: RiverRescue2023).

Apply to be included or for more info: [Carey@CanoeBC.ca](mailto:Carey@CanoeBC.ca).

## PARTICIPANTS WANTED FOR NAHANNI TRIP

Nahanni July 2024

Our team of two committed tandems are looking for at least one more tandem for a self-guided trip on the Nahanni in early July 2024. Paddlers must be experienced with moving water, fit, easy going and flexible enough to enjoy one of the classic Canadian canoe trips. All genders are welcome. Fly into Rabbitkettle Lake from Fort Simpson. Drive away from Nahanni Butte.

There is a lot of information on the internet regarding conditions and what to expect.

Please contact John Lawless [jlawlessgc@gmail.com](mailto:jlawlessgc@gmail.com) or 604 787 4150 text or voice.

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## WANTED

The club is still looking for an experienced bookkeeper willing to review the bookkeeping and prepare our year-end financial statements. Contact the treasurer, Marc Guimond at [chez.guimond@gmail.com](mailto:chez.guimond@gmail.com) for more information.

## TRIP PRESENTATIONS WANTED

The BCC entertainment director is looking for enthusiastic canoeists to do a presentation on one of their recent canoe trips. This could be a multi-day trip or perhaps a collection of day trips. The presentation will be at a regular Wednesday evening BCC meeting (e.g. on March 13). Please consider sharing your experiences with the club. Contact Dave Apps at [Davidbapps@gmail.com](mailto:Davidbapps@gmail.com),

or the new director after the elections! You will need to see President's Report to find out who this will likely be!

### **BASIC PADDLERS COURSE SEEKS HELP**

Our Training Director Dave Broughton needs volunteer instructors and help for the Basic Paddlers course to be held on Saturday, April 27 and Saturday, May 4, 2024. Contact him if you can assist.

### **A RESCUE COURSE DESIGNED FOR RIVER CANOEISTS!**

The **RCABC Level 1 River Rescue** course is canoeing specific. It will have you learn and practicing all the different ways to self-rescue, to swim rapids with a paddle, rescue boats and to rescue other swimmers. This course will get you comfortable with swimming and paddling in rapids and provide you with key safety concepts in moving water.

**What:** Level 1 River Rescue Course with Elements Adventures

**Location:** Metro Vancouver area - specific location TBD

**Dates:** April 12 - 14, 2024

**Includes:** 1 dryland theory evening on the eve before the course and 2 days of on (and in) the water instruction and practice.

**Fee:** ~\$336 to \$400 + GST depending on how many participants we can get. If we get 8 or more participants, to a max of 14, we pay the lower fee. We already have 4 signed up.

**Other notes:**

- Elements has limited gear you can rent if you don't have something (drysuits, PFDs, helmets, paddles).
- Bring your own whitewater boat with knee pads, floatation and thigh straps or rent locally.
- We will need a non-refundable deposit of \$150 to save a spot for you. The balance is due 4 weeks before the course starts.
- For more info on the company, check out <https://www.elementsadventures.com/>.

Totally excited for this?! Email [trishkinsey@gmail.com](mailto:trishkinsey@gmail.com) to sign up!

### **TSUTSWECW PARK AND ADAMS LAKE PARK – BUSH CREEK SITE UPDATE**

Both parks are closed until further notice.

[Tsútswecw Park | BC Parks.](#)

[Adams Lake Park – Bush Creek Site | BC Parks.](#)

## SOMETHING SPECIAL

### What Do You Do With Half A Canoe?

Many in the club know my hobby is cedar canvas canoe repairs so this project will be not a real surprise. In your travels up north or in any maritime areas you may have seen shelf units in stores made from sitting a small boat upright on its transom with shelves built in for the merchandise. Or you may have seen similar examples in people's homes where there is a shelf unit built in the style of a boat with personal items displayed.

From the above title I suspect you can see where this is headed. I have seen quite a number of these units and admired them but... when I see them made from cedar canvas canoes, invariably they are finished in a "rustic" look, meaning there is no canvas on the hull and most, if not all, the attractive features like brass stem bands, deck mount anchors or even brass screw heads are not present or at least made presentable. This has always seemed like incomplete work to me since, one, they are very expensive and, two, the external surface of the wood planking is not really the nicest part of these canoes. The canvas cover, when nicely finished, can really beautify the look. I just can't get excited about a coat of varnish on the unfinished planking.



**Commercial fiberglass Unit**



**Partially complete cedar canvas**



**Commercial production shelf**

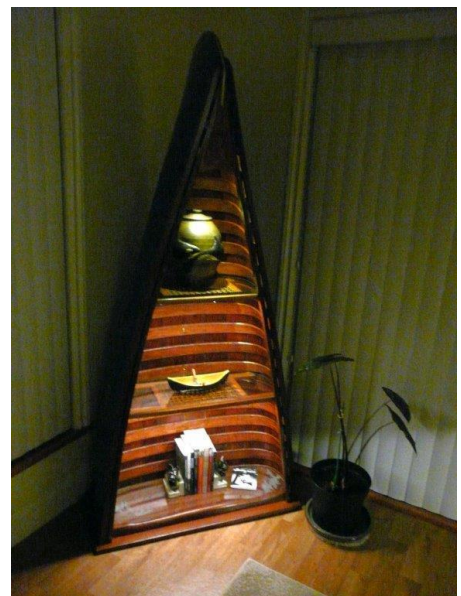
To that end, I sought out an unwanted cedar canvas canoe. I was happy when a member of the club contacted me about taking an old canoe from his property that was given to him, but he never used it much, and he did not want it repaired. I looked at the boat, it was between 50 and 60 years old, there was extensive rot and considerable damage from tree branches that had fallen on the exposed hull over the course of many years stored beneath the large conifers. As with 99% of these boats it was repairable if that was the wish. However, it seems that unless



there is considerable sentimental attachment to the old canoe, most people I've met are not interested in the cost of such a repair. So, this was a perfect candidate to try out my ideas.



After splitting the canoe in half, repairing the end joinery, planking, making a new maple burl deck and creating a base system, I had a good framework to build on. The application of a canvas cover on the half-canoe, painted maritime blue, with an authentic keel, left only the new mahogany outwales and brass stem band to attach and finish the external part of the boat. At this point, save for a few very minor differences, the half canoe is finished the same way as any other cedar canvas canoe I put back into service, and in fact, you could put this in the water for a short paddle if that were the intention. I was very excited about how it was coming together as I had already achieved the primary difference I was looking for by finishing it with a canvas cover, and it looked beautiful.



No sense in going easy on the interior, after all my goal was to produce a "best of the best" canoe shelf that would stand apart from any other similar unit. So... two age appropriate, cane



matted seats, set at shelf heights, with inset dimmable lighting for each shelf will create an elegant presentation to anything displayed. The final touch is the glass shelves that need to sit atop the installed seat shelf to enable full use of the space on the shelf. The final result was everything I hoped it would be.



**Authentic finishing**



**Etched glass base**

This old canoe now has a new life that could easily exceed its previous life as a functioning canoe. I have said to some who do not know what they will do with their old canoe since no one in the family wants it and it needs repair, that this could be a way to keep the family canoeing memories alive and in the family. I am not an advocate of sawing all the old canoes in half, only the ones that will wind up in the landfill, burn pile or just rot away in the back yard somewhere. Now, for the second half of the old canoe...

Bob Podesta,  
January 2024

## SEYMOUR PADDLING – WHEN THE WATER LEVELS ARE UP

We now have a great new tool for organizing impromptu paddles and last-minute communications on planned or impromptu trips. Want to get in on an impromptu trip with a group? Join the Seymour River chat group and use the WhatsApp app to help Seymour River paddlers!

The purpose of the group is to organize impromptu paddles and last-minute communication (e.g., change of meeting location/time) on planned or impromptu trips.

This chat group is not directly affiliated with any canoe or paddling clubs, so it acceptable to invite any friend to become a chat group member provided you know them fairly-well, they are competent, safety conscious and appropriately equipped for whitewater paddling.

You join by having the WhatsApp app. You may need to download it.

The group Administrators are Paddy Lee ([phldesigns@shaw.ca](mailto:phldesigns@shaw.ca)) and Dave Apps ([notallengineersarenerds@gmail.com](mailto:notallengineersarenerds@gmail.com)).

WhatsApp makes it easier for organizers to initiate impromptu trips. It also circumvents problems that occur with email when people keep adding more names to email threads (a few people ultimately get left out of some messaging). With WhatsApp every member sees every message. What could be better?

The chat group Administrators' only roles are to accept or remove people from the chat group and to help people to become members. They do not monitor message content nor accept responsibility for misuse of the chat group.

You can install WhatsApp on multiple devices. Members' have it on their cell phones, and some also have it installed on their Windows PCs (Windows requires WhatsApp to be installed on the phones first).

Kayaks and canoes are welcome.

You can get more information from [What's up with WhatsApps? – A Seymour Trips Message Group! – the Beaver Canoe Club](#).

## CLUB POLICY PIECES

Did you know?

The Club has a Respectful Environment Policy regarding disrespectful behavior towards each other. You can read about it at:

<https://beavercanoecub.org/wp-content/uploads/BCC-respectful-environment-policy-as-passed-Jan-12-2022.pdf>.