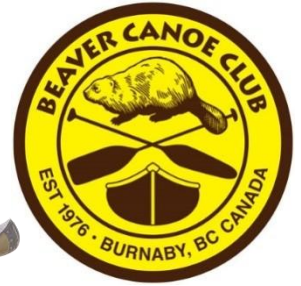


# BEAVER TALES

BEAVER TALES

The Totally Worthy Newsletter of the Beaver Canoe Club



**Celebrating 50 years 1976 to 2026!**

April 2026

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PHOTO BY JOHN VEJVODA

This fellow showed up at Britannia Shipyards, Steveston at the end of February. Perhaps he was swapping his felled timber for planed boards to complete his "Dam the Fraser" project.

(Courtesy of Richmond News website)

## **Beaver Canoe Club Notice of General Meeting IN PERSON**

**Wednesday April 8, 2026, at 7:30 pm**

Join the members of the Fort Langley Canoe Club as they present their amazing 7-day journey in their voyageur canoe through BC's beautiful southern Gulf Islands with the Big Canoe Gulf Island Brigade 2025 event. There will also be a Gear Swap & Sale event at this in-person club meeting. Location is Burnaby Lake Sports Complex West, 3677 Kensington Ave, Burnaby, on Wednesday, April 8 at 7:30pm. Doors open at 7pm for people to set up their gear for the swap & sale.



## GEAR SWAP AND SALE ON APRIL 8!

🛶 🔥 Paddle. Camp. Swap. Repeat. 🔥 🛶

Participate in one of the first Retro Events of our 50th Year! The Gear Swap/Sale routinely happened at a spring meeting for many years. It's back!

Got a paddle collecting dust? A tent that's been on more naps than adventures? A dry bag that's ready for a new river story? Need a helmet, camping stove, spare paddle, neoprene shoes, maps, or other cool stuff?

It's time for a **Gear Swap/Sale!**

Bring your used canoeing gear and camping equipment and trade it in for something "new-to-you". Whether you're clearing **space** in the garage or hunting for your next trail companion, this is your chance to refresh your kit without spending a fortune.

- ★ Wednesday, April 8 (at an in-**person** club meeting after the trip presentation)
- ★ Burnaby Lake Sports Complex West
- ★ Arrive at 7:00 pm to set your gear up. Meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

Remember to put your spare cash in your pocket for that special item you find.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our 50th Anniversary Gala will be held on **Saturday, November 28, 2026**, at the Burnaby Lake Rowing Pavilion (6871 Roberts Street, Burnaby — not the Rugby Club).

We have room for well over 100 and I am hoping we sell out, so please diarize it, sign up early, and plan to attend. The banquet committee, chaired by Madeline Waring, along with Marie Bremmer, Janice Powers, and Karen Lipincott, is already hard at work and looking for photos, memorabilia, stories, speakers, and content. If you have anything to contribute, please contact Madeline at [Madeline.Waring@telus.net](mailto:Madeline.Waring@telus.net).

Closer to hand, our next **in-person Club Meeting and Gear Swap** takes place on **April 8 at 7:00 pm** at the Burnaby Sports Complex, Room 1. We will have the Gulf Island Brigade presenting, and members are encouraged to bring along any gear they wish to sell, swap, or give away. This is a good opportunity for a proper spring cleaning; — helmets, booties, paddles, PFDs, dry tops, suits, gloves, and even boats.

It is also **membership renewal time**. Annual fees have increased from \$25 to \$35 as the Club re-establishes RCABC insurance coverage. At present only 75 members have renewed, which means well over 100 still need to do so. Please take a moment to get this done.

The Club had a strong presence at the February Outdoor Adventure Show, which proved a very effective way to promote what we do. Many thanks to Dave Broughton and the volunteers who gave their time.

Looking ahead to the **May 22–25, long weekend**, Gordon Stark is once again organizing the Similkameen paddle and camping trip at Elk Ridge. Canoeists and kayakers are welcome, but this is not a beginner trip.

Planning for **June 20–28 (Rivers Week)** is well underway. The working plan is to begin on the Similkameen, camping near Pickard Creek (overflow at Stemwinder), then midweek move to Ernie's at Granite Creek for Tulameen runs.

The second half of the week is still being finalized, with options including the Coldwater (Larsen Hill to the interchange), the Nicola, and potentially camping at N'Kwala, which we understand will be reopening. There is also the possibility of finishing on the Thompson River (Steelhead Park to Ashcroft), with the Barriere River as another alternative. As a fallback only, Cherryville Recreation Site on the Shuswap has been booked as contingency. The next Rivers Week planning meeting is April 9 via Zoom.

Further into the season, the **Beaver Potluck Picnic** will be held on **July 19** at Derby Reach Regional Park in Langley.

**Labour day Adams River** trip begins on **September 4**, with camping at Jack Lewis's place (2375 Squilax–Anglemont Road, Shuswap). I will be the contact for that trip at [prankin@telus.net](mailto:prankin@telus.net).

Finally, a Beaver Club **Pub Night** will be held on **September 9** at the Admiral Hotel in Burnaby.

There will be plenty of midweek and weekend paddles, along with Basic Paddlers sessions and other opportunities to get out on the water. I encourage everyone to take part where they can. See you on the water!

Phil Rankin, President, Beaver Canoe Club

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## BECAUSE IT IS OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY...



## Announcing OUR GOLDEN GALA

*Saturday, November 28 at the Burnaby Lake Pavillion  
celebrating 50 years of paddling 1976 -- 2026*

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## A LOOK AHEAD TO GENERAL MEETING ENTERTAINMENT

Here is the line up so far for 2026

- April 8 In person + GEAR SWAP & SALE - The Gulf Island Brigade - Gulf Islands
  - May 13 Zoom meeting – Hudson Bay Girls – Lake Superior to Hudson Bay
  - June 10 In person meeting – Rob Brusse – Thomsen River in NWT
  - October 14 Zoom meeting – Paul Shipley – Grand Canyon
  - November 18 Juliane Bell – Canoe Trips on Vancouver Island
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## PROPOSED 2026 BCC TRIP PLAN – USE FOR LONG TERM PLANNING.

### SEE UPDATED SCHEDULE CLOSER TO THE EVENT OR CHECK THE WEBSITE.

The trip plan below indicates intended trips and may change subject to trip leader availability, water levels, and other ambient conditions.

The trips ultimately scheduled will appear in Beaver Tales and Calendar on BCC Webpage.

Sun Apr 5,	BCC Trip TBD	
Sun Apr 12,	Upper Seymour	Gr 3
Sun Apr 12,	Hatzic Lake	Lake Water
Sun Apr 19,	Fraser River North Arm	Gr 1-
Sun Apr 26,	Still Creek & Burnaby Lake	Lake Water
Sun May 3,	Salmon River	Lake Water to Gr 1-
Sun May 10,	Twin Islands	Ocean
Sun May 17,	Nicomen Slough	Lake Water
Sat May 16 to Mon May 18	Similkameen Weekend	Gr 2 & 3
Sat May 23,	Steveston and / or Ladner	Lake Water & Gr 1-
Mon May 25 to Mon Jun 1	Broken Islands	Ocean
Sat Jun 6 to Sun Jun 7	Mamquam Weekend	Gr 2
Sun Jun 14,	Moody Inlet	Ocean
Sat Jun 20 to Sun Jun 28	Rivers Week	Gr 2 & 3
Sun Jul 5,	Stave Lake & Cardinalis Creek	Lake Water
Wed Jul 8,	Cates Park Evening Paddle	Ocean
Sun Jul 12,	False Creek	Ocean
Sun Jul 19,	Picnic at Derby Reach	Gr 1-
Sat Jul 25 to Mon Jul 27	Granite Falls Canoe Camping Trip	Ocean
Sat Aug 1 to Sun Aug 9	Kootenay Rivers Week	Gr 2 & 3
Wed Aug 12,	Evening Paddle TBD	Lake Water TBD
Sun Aug 16,	Cheakamus River	Gr 2 & 3
Sun Aug 16,	False Creek	Ocean
Sun Aug 23,	Lower Chilliwack River	Gr 1 & 2
Sun Aug 30,	Serpentine Estuary	Lake Water & Ocean
Tue Sep 1 to Fri Sep 4	Fraser R Yale to Riefel Island	Lake Water to Gr 1+
Sat Sep 5 to Mon Sep 7	Adams River	Gr 2 & 3
Sun Sep 6 to Sun Sep 13	Bowron Lakes Canoe Circuit (cohort 1)	Lake Water & Gr 1
Sun Sep 13,	Chilliwack River	Gr 2 & 3
Sun Sep 13 to Sun Sep 20	Bowron Lakes Canoe Circuit (cohort 2)	Lake Water & Gr 1
Sun Oct 4,	Harrison River	Gr 1-
Sat Oct 10 to Mon Oct 12	North Thompson Canoe Camping Trip	Gr 1 & 2-
Sun Oct 18,	Widgeon Creek	Lake Water

## UPCOMING TRIPS AND EVENTS

See Web Site for Latest

TRIPS AND EVENTS FOR APRIL			
Sun	Apr 5	Moody Inlet: Ocean	We'll paddle from a pocket beach on loco Rd to Belcarra Park and points north. A fun family paddle for an Easter Sunday. <b>Contact:</b> westell@shaw.ca
Wed	Apr 8	Club Meeting, IN PERSON	Gear Swap & More! See front of this Newsletter!
Sun	Apr 12	Upper Seymour River: Gr 3	This is a challenging run in North Vancouver that requires solid whitewater skills and full outfitting. The levels must be just right too. If they aren't, Phil will reschedule for a better time soon. <b>Contact: Phil B "Phil Bates"</b> ptbates@telus.net
Sun	Apr 12	Fraser River North Arm: Gr 1-	A family friendly paddle along a lazy river reveals the seldom seen sides of Burnaby, Vancouver and Richmond. Wildlife, working boats, vestiges of old industries, and vistas of strolling weekenders. <b>Contact: Jim S</b> jslade604@gmail.com
Sun	Apr 19	Hatzic Lake: Lake Water	A family friendly paddle in the Fraser Valley on shallow lake several channels and islands to explore. The heron rookery is active this time of year. <b>Contact: Bob P</b> ubiquitousb7@gmail.com
Wed	Apr 22	Basic Paddlers: Training: Evening Dry-Land Session	This is the evening dryland session for the RCABC Certified Tandem Lake Water canoeing course in which you will learn to prepare and equip your boat, steer, rescue and more. A prerequisite for all subsequent training. Free to all members. <b>Register in advance: Dave B</b> itsusinus@gmail.com
Sat	Apr 25	Basic Paddlers: Training: On-Water Session Day 1	This is the first of two On-Water days for the RCABC Certified Tandem Lake Water canoeing course in which you will learn to prepare and equip your boat, steer, rescue and more. A prerequisite for all subsequent training. Free to all members. <b>Register in advance: Dave B</b> itsusinus@gmail.com
Sun	Apr 26	Still Creek & Burnaby Lake	A paddle through the wetlands of Central Burnaby. Practice your Basic Paddler strokes. Watch the birds. Bring your family. <b>Contact: Peter G</b> pgutzmann@hotmail.ca
Sat	May 2	Basic Paddlers: Training: On-Water Session Day 2	This is the second of two On-Water days for the RCABC Certified Tandem Lake Water canoeing course in which you will learn to prepare and equip your boat, steer, rescue and more. A prerequisite for all subsequent training.
Sun	May 3	Steveston Tall Ship Paddle: Lake Water & 1-	A tall ship is visiting Steveston Harbour, and we'll be paddling there to see it, and maybe a chance to see other things in town, like Britannia Shipyards, the Cannery National Historic Site, and Pajos Fish & Chips. <b>Contact: Madeline W</b> John.Onderdonk@telus.net
Wed	May 6	Intro to Moving Water: Training (Evening Dry-Land Session)	This is the evening Dry-land session of the Introduction to Moving Water clinic which includes outfitting, hazards, and maneuvers that will help you get started to safely and successfully navigate your canoe in rivers. Free to all members who have successfully completed Basic Paddlers. <b>Register in Advance: Dave B</b> itsusinus@gmail.com

Sat	May 9	<b>Intro to Moving Water: Training (On-Water Day Session)</b>	This is the On the Water day for the Introduction to Moving Water clinic which includes outfitting, hazards, and maneuvers that will help you get started to safely and successfully navigate your canoe in rivers. Free to all members who have successfully completed Basic Paddlers. <b>Register in Advance: Dave B</b> <a href="mailto:itsusinus@gmail.com">itsusinus@gmail.com</a>
Sun	May 10	<b>Twin Islands: Ocean</b>	A family-friendly paddle in the sheltered ocean waters between North Vancouver, Burnaby and Port Moody. <b>Contact Bryan G</b> <a href="mailto:bryan_gormann@sfu.ca">bryan_gormann@sfu.ca</a>
Trips can change with weather, water levels, or trip leader availability. Please Check BCC Website Calendar for most up to date trip information. If you want to know about a trip and cannot find the trip leader or contact, you can email the Trip Director at <a href="mailto:trips@beavercanooclub.org">trips@beavercanooclub.org</a>			



## ACHTUNG!

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Please renew your membership for 2026. Your 2025 membership expired March 31, 2026.

To renew, login to [beavercanooclub.org](http://beavercanooclub.org) (see login link top right) and then go to Membership-->Register/Renew membership.

Scroll down and click the Renew Membership button, where it will take you to the payment and waiver page.

If you happen to get a message saying, "not permitted", just go back to the Register/Renew page and refresh it, then click the Renew Membership button again.

Any difficulties, let Dan know at [vp@beavercanooclub.org](mailto:vp@beavercanooclub.org).

## BASIC PADDLERS AND MOVING WATER 2026

### BASIC PADDLERS



**2026 Training opportunities- free to members!**

***Basic Paddlers: Wed April 22 (7-9pm, Burnaby Sports Complex), Sat April 25 and Sat May 2 (Deer Lake)***

This certified course in tandem flatwater paddling is taught by the club's instructors, and is ideal for beginning paddlers, or those who want a refresher, perhaps before paddling the Bowron Lakes. Theory, paddling strokes, safety, rescues and lots of practice are all part of the fun. Canoes can be rented at nominal cost, and we will help you find a paddling partner, if needed.

Contact Dave Broughton: [training@beavercanoeclub.org](mailto:training@beavercanoeclub.org)

Online Registration: <https://forms.gle/3guB4VcgewYjxvBu8>

### INTRO TO MOVING H2O

***Intro to Moving Water: Wed May 6 (7-9pm, Burnaby Sports Complex), Sat May 9 (Seymour River)***

This clinic introduces tandem paddlers to entry-level (class 1 - 1+) moving water in a safe and fun learning environment. It's ideal for the transition to paddling whitewater, on club day trips and longer canoe trips on Canada's many beautiful rivers. It's also a great way to improve your paddling skills! We will help you find or rent canoe gear, and a paddling partner if needed.

Contact Dave Broughton: [training@beavercanoeclub.org](mailto:training@beavercanoeclub.org)

Online Registration: <https://forms.gle/6ADdfoET9hhYA7By8>

**River Rescue clinic: May 31 see separate heading**

**Mamquam River - Beginners weekend: June 6-7** - this clinic and campout in Squamish provides follow-on training and practice from Intro to Moving Water. You will practice river paddling skills in a lower section of the Mamquam, and on day 2 you will run the river! Suitable for those with demonstrated competence in class 1 - 1+ moving water. We can help with partners and gear if needed. A great way to improve skills in advance of Rivers Week!

Contact Marc Guimond @ [chez.guimond@gmail.com](mailto:chez.guimond@gmail.com)

## **Instructors and helpers needed for Basic Paddlers, Intro to Moving Water, Mamquam Weekend**

Please contact Dave Broughton or **Marc Guimond** as appropriate, if you are available to help with one of these club events.

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## **RIVER RESCUE SKILLS PRACTICE DAY**

**River Rescue Skills Practice Day** -Cheakamus River- **Sunday May 31st**

Calling all Whitewater Paddlers! This River Rescue Skills day will be led by RCABC certified moving water instructors.

Many of us learn these skills but don't get a chance to practice. Now is your chance!

- throw bagging
- canoe over canoe on the river
- towing and pushing boats
- swimming with and without boat
- sandwich rescue (best for loaded boats)

Registration link here: <https://forms.gle/mec36LMjC5wNirJg8>





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## WANNA WIN?

Eight correct answers at the Golden Gala enter you in a Lee Valley certificate draw!  
Each multiple choice refers to a retro corner piece in the previous month's Beaver Tales (which makes it really, really, easy to check your best guess...)

RETRO QUIZ for April (#2)

*In 2000 which illustrator received the Brian Creer\* Award?*

- a) Nola Johnston*
- b) Marie Bremner*
- c) Leigh Burton*
- d) Gary Larson*

If you need help, check the Retro Corner of BT's March 2026 issue:  
Log in to the Beaver website >For Members >BeaverTaleArchives.

\*Brian is considered the "Grandfather of Recreational Canoeing".

(He taught Bill Mason how to pry!) To learn more:

<https://paddlecanada.com/50-years-50-people-brian-creer>

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## MAMQUAM RIVER WEEKEND

June 6 & 7

Boost your whitewater skills with experienced paddlers providing mentorship

For Beaver Canoe Club Members Only

Whitewater equipment is required: Canoes with Floatation bags, helmets, and full immersion clothing (wetsuit / drysuit)

Contact Marc: [chez.guimond@gmail.com](mailto:chez.guimond@gmail.com)

There is an option for camping at the Mamquam River Campground.



## MAMQUAM RIVER ACCESS UPDATE:

Just a reminder that the access to the Mamquam River race site has changed (see photos). Paddlers can still access the gate and road down to the river, but you must drive through a new tourist attraction <https://www.squamishcanyon.com>. There are many signs that suggest you can't drive through, but you can! At peak times there will be many pedestrians walking on the road so please drive carefully.

Many Beaver Canoe club executive members have a key to the gated road down to the river access that they are willing to lend out. The Beaver Canoe Club also has a club key. Please contact Dave Westell for more information. To obtain your own personal key, please join the [Mamquam River Access Society](#).

Pictures showing access:





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## OTHER STUFF

### Kananaskis campout June 22nd- 28th 2026

You are invited to join Beaver canoe club friends for whitewater day trips on the Kananaskis River (Alberta). This campout is suitable for intermediate and advanced solo and tandem whitewater paddlers with appropriate equipment.

The **Kananaskis River** is Alberta's premier paddling destination with guaranteed water (dam release), man made features specifically designed to be optimally challenging for different skill levels, high safety/ low risk, a slalom course and many different surf waves! The location is approximately 20 minutes from Canmore. This is not a wilderness river - there are typically lots of other paddlers in many different types of boat on the river each day.

**Mikey Yee** ([Mikey outfitting](#)) from Ontario will be there June 22-26th and has offered a **free boat outfitting clinic**, as well as whitewater **skills workshop** to club members. There are other

rivers such as the Bow River and local lakes to paddle, plus there is also a LOT of amazing hiking in the area if you get bored of paddling.

For a flavour of the paddling check out [THIS](#) Youtube video. I'd like to promise we won't have snow at the end of June, and it's highly unlikely, but you can get any weather at any time of year in the Rockies!! Hopefully the weather will be more like this photo of me in shorts on "the Widowmaker" at the put in for the run.



**Camping** is at a private campground run by Alberta Whitewater - [Canoe Meadows](#) is right at the take-out. Four campsites are already booked for our group and there are only 10 sites so BOOK SOON if you want to join the fun!

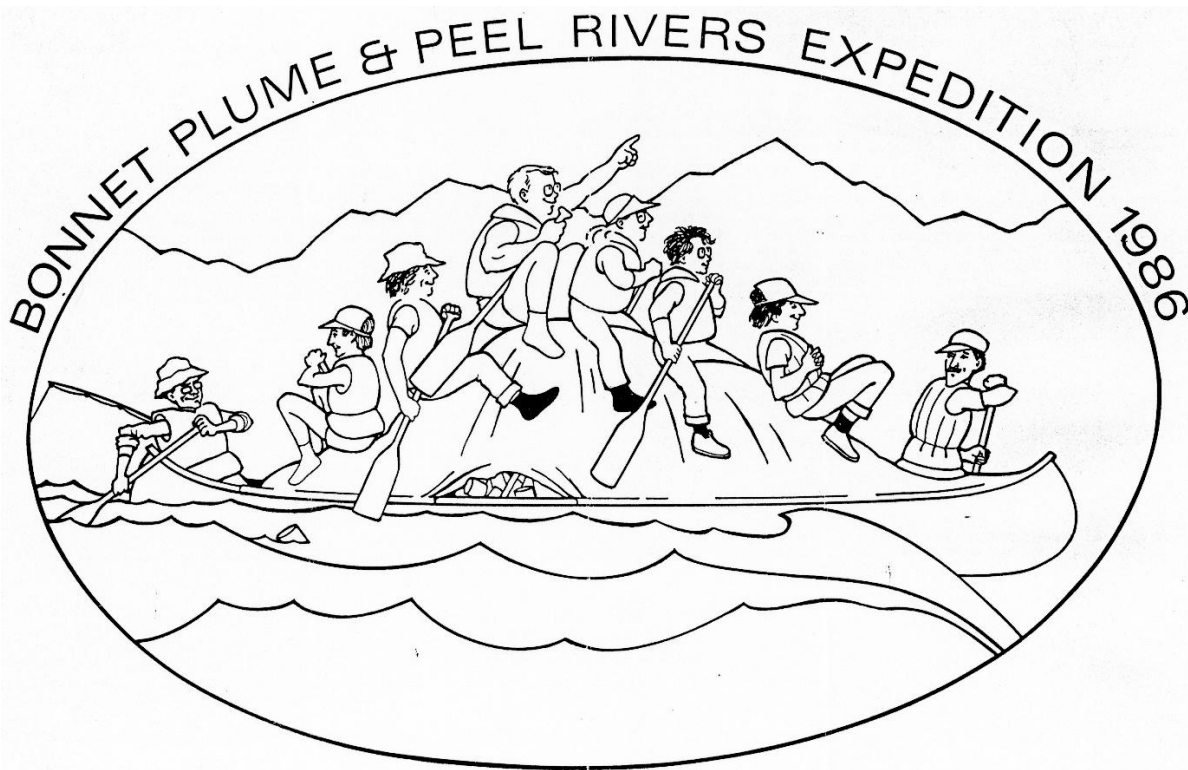
**For more information and to register** interest contact Jenny Wakeling [j.wakeling@shaw.ca](mailto:j.wakeling@shaw.ca)

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# RETRO CORNER

*celebrating 50 years of fun and friendship*

The Bonnet Plume River, not frequently paddled by Beavers, was featured as February 2026's fabulous entertainment! Turning the calendar back 40 years to 1986, long before digital photography existed, a group of 8 intrepid Beavers chose it as their first northern trip! Nola Johnston, an artistic graphic designer (one of the 8), depicted the essence of their trip in her illustration below. In 2000 the BC Recreational Canoeing Association awarded Nola the Brian Creer Award in recognition of her many years of service.

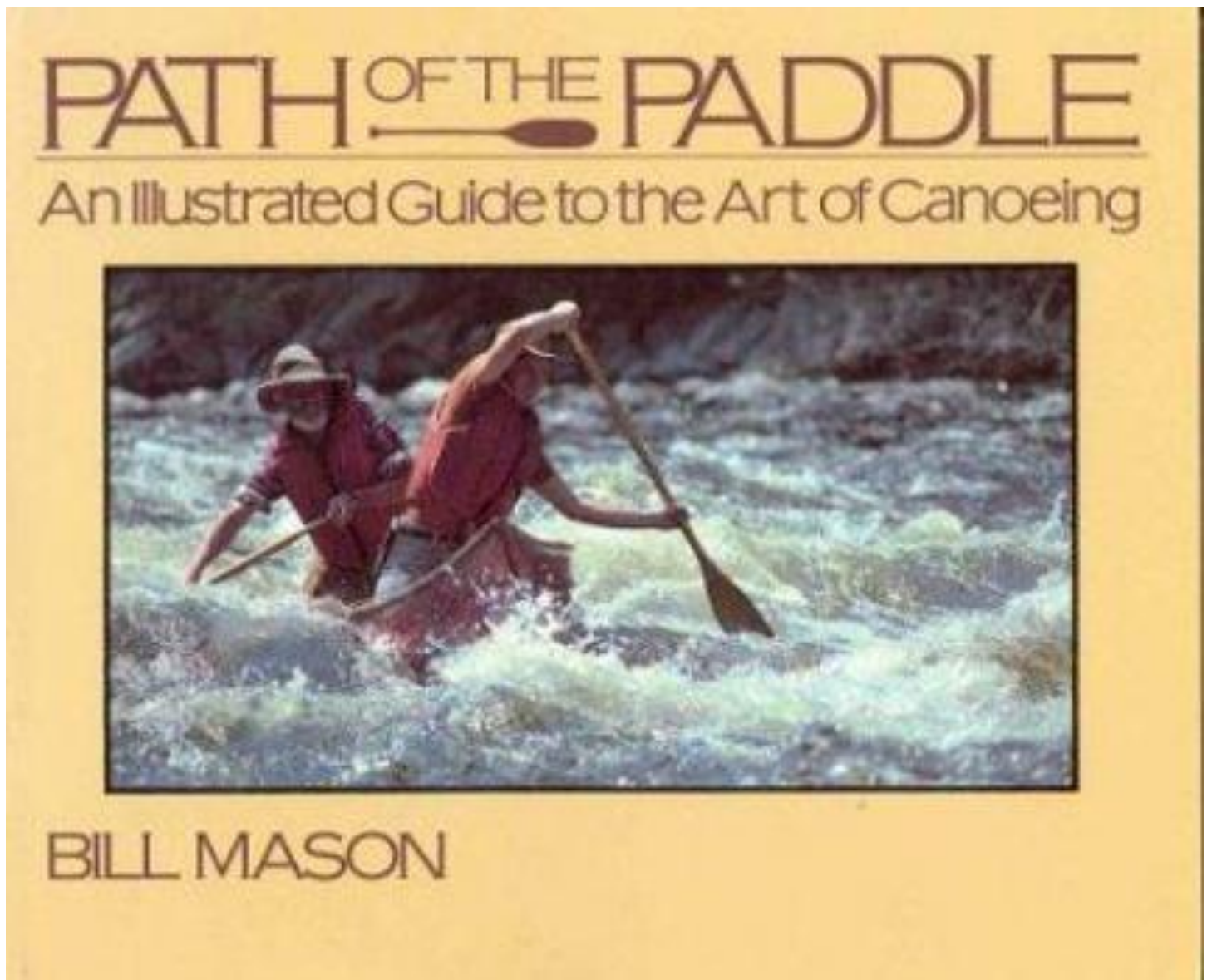


Perhaps you can recognize some of these paddlers? Come to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and meet them in person!

## BILL MASON

was a Canadian naturalist, author, artist and filmmaker noted for his popular canoeing books, films, art and documentaries. Mason canoed all his adult life, ranging widely over the wilderness areas of Canada including a South Nahanni trip with Pierre Trudeau. He developed and refined canoeing strokes and river running techniques especially for complex white-water situations. To many of us learning to paddle in the 1970s, 80s and 90s, his series of instructional films were the introduction to technique and the canoeing experience. ["Path of the Paddle"](#) was a 4-part film produced in 1978 for the National Film Board of Canada; the book followed in 1980.

Speaking of books, a homage to BCC's lending libraries will appear at the 8 April meeting.



## GERRY LAMB COMMENT

So, you think you are an expert on the origins of the Beaver Canoe Club? You think this shiny new club was created with guidelines and safety protocols? And all those choices of equipment...my, oh my!

You have heard about some new plastic boats? You are seriously thinking of buying one? Muahahahahaha!!!! Bad enough that we have to tolerate the noise from an “indestructible” Grumman beer can scraping over the rocks. More on beer cans in a moment.

From their inception, Beavers have always been ready for new challenges. Challenges such as moving water training. Risky behaviors on the lower Vedder. Pretty rocks decorated with multiple colours of gelcoat and of course, aluminum slivers. Wooden paddles prying against boulders and stirring up the gravel. And baseball hats in case of an upset...heads need protection from concussions.

In the beginning, Beavers were not about athleticism and finely tuned technical skills. And certainly not about investing thousands of dollars in special equipment. “Special equipment” had not yet been brought to market. Yes, young’uns, we had to paddle uphill both ways, using carved planks for propulsion.

Beavers were social folks. Beavers liked the outdoors. For some reason, Beavers liked canoes. Put all of that together and imagine paddling with the Beavers in the early years.

On a random Sunday, off to the Lower Nooksack for a terrifying descent of the river. We need sustenance first. Meet at the place that bakes the marvelous sticky buns first. Once on the river nutrition breaks are also very important. This thing called “elevenses” was sacrosanct. It entailed an “intermission” with refreshments at approximately 11 AM. It often involves a slight imbibing of alcoholic beverages. And herein lies the problem about beer.

Beavers knew little about the dangers of combining alcohol and strenuous activity, but beer offered a lesson in how to canoe safely. When two stalwart Beavers upended their canoe, disaster struck. The beer cans lying in the canoe went into the river to be lost forever. Lesson learned? Tie loose things securely into your canoe. This was the advent of D-rings and other tiedowns that we see in Beaver canoes these days. And all because of the lost beer.

So now you know.

Gerry Lamb

## CANOE POLING

Perhaps last month's poling article piqued your interest... Perhaps you're drawn to the niche fringes of canoeing... Or perhaps you just want to see why poling is so fun... Not to mention the boat load of advantages over traditional paddling:)

Join us for a canoe poling course on April 10-12, hosted by the RCABC in the Lower Mainland. The primary course conductor is Leonard Thor. Poling Instructor candidates Keiran Rankin, Lance Castonguay and Alastair Dundas will also be teaching.

We have poles to lend. Bring a tripping canoe (Royalex or T-Formex) with end floatation and all the normal kit for moving water: PFD, Helmet, Drysuit or wetsuit, bailer, throw bag, painters, spare paddle, etc. It is recommended that you have solo or tandem basic Moving Water training as a prerequisite or suitable similar experience.

Friday April 10th: Lakewater Poling, 5pm, location TBD, \$50

Saturday April 11th: Basic Moving Water Poling, mainly class I, location TBD (potentially Seymour or Cheakamus Rivers), \$100

Sunday April 12th: Advanced Moving Water Poling, up to class II, location TBD (potentially Seymour or Cheakamus Rivers), \$100

Register for all 3 courses for \$200

Contact keiran.rankin@gmail.com to register. <https://tinyurl.com/m63kruyw>



## IMPORTANT CHANGES TO BCC TRIP LEADER REQUIREMENTS

As you may have heard, there will be a few more rules governing RCABC sanctioned trips this year. And as our club is purchasing liability insurance through the Recreational Canoe Association of BC, these rules will apply to Beaver trips as well.

For sanctioned trips, trip leader training requirements have been spelled out in more detail, and leaders can qualify either to lead moving and lake water trips, or to lead lake water trips only. All trip leaders will need to register their credentials with the RCABC.

The RCABC trip leader sanctioning policy can be found here:

<https://www.bccanoe.com/about/insurance-docs/insurance-documents/rcabc-club-trip-leader-certification/viewdocument/134>

In practical terms, all, or nearly all, of our current trip leaders have already met the training requirements. Many are already registered with the RCABC as instructors and will just need to have their trip leader status recorded.

Those who are not on the RCABC database are still members by virtue of being in the Beaver Canoe Club and will need to take the extra step of registering as an RCABC paddler member for no cost, to record your credentials.

For all current trip leaders, I will contact each of you individually to assist with the process. For new trip leaders, we will integrate the changes into our trip leader training.

Thank you to all current and aspiring trip leaders, and I hope to see you all making our trips happen again during the coming year and making canoeing with the Beavers the most fun thing around!

David Westell

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## RCABC NEWS

Dear RCABC Members,

There is an upcoming Poling Course on April 10-13th in the Vancouver area.

Please fill out the following form to register for the 2026 Poling [forms.gle](#).

The Poling Program Development Course includes: - an introductory evening Session on Friday April 10 at Cates Park in North Vancouver. 5:30pm - 8:30 pm.

- a basic poling clinic on a local river on Saturday April 11th. Location TBD but likely the Cheakamus. 9am - 4:30 pm.

- an advanced poling course on a local river on Sunday. April 12th. Location TBD but likely the Cheakamus. 9am - 4:30 pm.

The cost for registering is \$25 for the evening session. \$75 per day. \$150 if you attend all three. You will be required to sign an RCABC Waiver.

Please bring a stable tripping canoe (preferably royalet or something that can scrape on rocks without too much care). Be dressed for immersion. We have poles available to lend if you need.

Payments can be made in cash to Leonard Thor.

Please contact Keiran Rankin, for assistance or more details. [Keiran.rankin@gmail.com](mailto:Keiran.rankin@gmail.com).

Looking forward to poling with you soon!

Happy paddling (and poling!)

Keiran Rankin

Master Canoe Instructor

## RCABC LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS



The Recreational Canoeing Association of BC is proud to present our 2026 courses and events. We hope to see you at some of these!

1. April 10-12 Poling Course on the Seymour River. Email [keiran.rankin@gmail.com](mailto:keiran.rankin@gmail.com) to register
2. April 18 Canoe Safety Clinic at Deer Lake, Burnaby. Register here [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSegUsjatzTVqPIrYIP24Dp\\_PuoJ5Zo0m5MqBOvS2CarbHIHg/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=108337958848198681503](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSegUsjatzTVqPIrYIP24Dp_PuoJ5Zo0m5MqBOvS2CarbHIHg/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=108337958848198681503)
3. April 24-26 Canoe Fest and AGM in at Kawkawa Lake in Hope. More info here. Note that the early bird registration closes at midnight on Friday, March 6. <https://bccanoe.com/homehome/early-bird-festival-registration>
4. May 27-31 Kootenay Zone Swiftwater Canoe Rescue Course. More info <https://www.facebook.com/events/1738863660474380>
5. September 12-13 Thompson River Rendezvous for big canoes at Savona. More info <https://www.facebook.com/events/1918945995495364>
6. September 25-28 Cariboo Rivers Weekend 2026. More info <https://www.facebook.com/events/1422993612741248>

## CANOE SAFETY CLINIC APRIL 18



# FREE CANOE CLINIC

Learn canoe safety and basic skills from RCABC certified instructors

**COME JOIN US!**

**Deer Lake Beach, Burnaby  
Saturday, April 18  
9am – 3pm**

- All equipment provided
- Sign up for a 1-hour session by scanning QR code



[www.bccanoe.com](http://www.bccanoe.com)

**Contact Info:** [trishkinsey@gmail.com](mailto:trishkinsey@gmail.com)



## RCABC - Promoting safe and skillful paddling since 1978.

Good afternoon, Everyone

It's that time of year again when everyone is cleaning up stored gear, waxing and polishing the boats, checking safety equipment and getting ready to head back out on the water.

For those gearing up for another year of teaching, please make sure your membership and certifications are up to date - to that end there are several instructor courses and recert clinics taking place around the province (including a LWI recert at the upcoming Canoe Fest in Hope) to help you remain current. If there isn't an advertised recert in your area, check the instructors list on the website to locate an Instructor Trainer in your area and give them a call.

If you are looking to expand your paddling repertoire, there are several courses being offered in Poling, Swiftwater, Lake water, Ocean and Moving Water listed on the RCABC course page - so give it a look.

The 10th Edition of the Instructors Manual (Mar 2026) is now up on the website. Instructors can access it through their login page and download a copy at their convenience. The Canoe Tripping Instructors has been updated to now certify Instructors as Basic and Advanced in following the direction of the other disciplines to get more paddlers involved at the instructor level. There are also refinements to the assessment and registration forms and, after feedback from member clubs and instructors, the Club Trip Leaders section has been revised.

RCABC is once again offering several Instructor Development Grants to Instructor Members. Each Grant is valued at \$250 and can be used for any Instructor/Instructor trainer level course. The application form may be found by clicking on the Community button on the website. Grants will be awarded on an ongoing basis.

Stay Safe and Have Fun on the water.

Cheers

Peter Hiebert

Instructor Coordinator

## 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY STUFF

# The Beaver Canoe Club Turns 50 in 2026!

Watch the Newsletter and Website for Special Celebratory Activities, Events and Mementos this Year.

Send your ideas and suggestions to Madeline at

[social@beavercanoeclub.org](mailto:social@beavercanoeclub.org)

### WHAT TURNS A PARTY INTO A GALA?

#### #1 A GREAT VENUE:

#### THE BURNABY LAKE PAVILION!

Floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the water.

Plenty of parking.

Multiple screens highlighting The Years That Were.

A place to chat, reminisce, dine, and dance (optional).



**Join us! Saturday, 28 November.**

## "SHIP TO SHORE" TRIP SWAP

The Japanese tall ship *Kaiwo Maru* is scheduled to dock in Steveston in early May.

The club is suggesting a paddle-by on Sunday, May 3 (instead of the scheduled Salmon River).

The Richmond trip may include circumnavigating Shady Island with a lunch stop for fish and chips. (The Fraser River will **not** be crossed.) It will be a half-day jaunt so that all can see (and perhaps) tour the ship landside before leaving the area.

If you are interested, contact Madeline. She will forward details closer to the date.

[madeline.waring@telus.net](mailto:madeline.waring@telus.net)





# BROKEN ISLANDS 2026

**MAY 25 TO JUN 1**

**There is still room for more on this 8-day paddle through the islands along the edge of the wild Pacific Ocean!**

Contact: [trips@beavercanoecub.org](mailto:trips@beavercanoecub.org)



A preview trailer of this 54-minute feature film is now available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZicuBE5NJQM>

<https://vimeo.com/1171918735>

Sincerely,

Carey Robson

Master Instructor — Recreational Canoeing Association of British Columbia

[www.Learn2Canoe.ca](http://www.Learn2Canoe.ca)

(604)437-1140

You may find the videos at [www.canoeBC.ca](http://www.canoeBC.ca) > Videos of interest.

## FREE!!

Hi Paddlers

### Free Canoe

I have a cedar strip canoe that is looking for a new home. I was gifted it from a friend's estate. Unfortunately, I possess none of the skills needed to bring the boat back to life.

It needs some work and TLC. It is homebuilt and 18.5' long with a beam of 36" and a depth of 12". The closest to a model would be a "cruiser". It looks to be a fast boat.

If anyone is looking to get into a fixer upper and learn/practice some repair skills, this could be the boat for you.

Should you be interested, drop me a text and I can send some pictures. It is currently stored outside under a tarp.

Cheers

Peter Hiebert

604-765-1572



## BEENCY GIVES RISE TO BUDDY!

Michael and Kathleen Pitt joined the Beaver Canoe Club in 1986! They loved paddling, especially northern extended wilderness canoe tripping. **Beency**, a cute little bear travelled with them, popped up at many beaver activities and was photographed on paddles over the years.



A song was created to the tune of Smokey the Bear: 'Beency the bear; Beency the bear; teency and tiny head barely in the air; you might not even see him until he starts to laugh; that's why we call him Beency, he's a pipsque and a half!'

Michael and Kathleen were very active in the Beaver Canoe club and Recreational Canoeing Association of BC. They are also known for writing paddling books.

In keeping with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary retro theme a new beaver has joined the club, Buddy. A take-off from Beency.

## Introducing Buddy, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Beaver



Buddy loves to paddle, camp and participate in Beaver Canoe Club activities! He will be joining canoe club trips, events and activities throughout the year!

Buddy is about 10" tall and mischievous. You will have to watch him carefully in case he tries to jump out of a canoe. He has not yet learned to swim, and his PFD has not been tested.

Buddy loves to have his picture taken! So much so that a special category has been created in the **Beaver Canoe Club Photo Contest** which is at the 50<sup>th</sup> Gala on November 28, 2026. Take pictures of Buddy on trips, at events, gazing at scenery, enjoying lunch or pestering paddlers. The people's choice winner of this photo category will get a special prize!

You don't have to wait for the photo contest to show off Buddy's adventures. Include photos of him with your trip reports or articles on his adventures and send them to the newsletter editor. Buddy will travel to and from trips and events with trip contacts or a participant but should be shared with any members on the trip and can paddle in different boats.

Remember to also take pictures for all photo contest categories in the **Beaver Canoe Club Photo Contest**. They are: Buddy, People, Humor, Action and Scenic. Now is the time to start snapping

pictures at all club activities! The Photo **Contest** happens at the 50 Anniversary Gala on November 28, 2026.

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## BEAVER CANOE CLUB WAS AT THE OUTDOOR ADVENTURE & TRAVEL SHOW, FEBRUARY 28 - 29



### BUDDY BEAVER

A descendant of the early 2000s "Beency," you'll see images of Buddy throughout this 50th year. Seven animals are circulating in the club, playing at our activities. If you see one, snap a picture--doing whatever--and attach it to your trip report or submit it to Marie at [bremhayn@telus.net](mailto:bremhayn@telus.net) for display in the newsletter or at our Golden Gala.

