

BEAVER TALES

The Totally Worthy Newsletter of the Beaver Canoe Club

Celebrating 50 years 1976 to 2026!

June 2026



Beaver Canoe Club Notice of General Meeting in Person!

Wednesday June 10, 2026, at 7:30 pm

Come and be part of this stunning presentation by Rob Asbeek Brusse about his journey on the Thomsen River on Banks Island, NWT.

"The Thomsen River is an intermittent, class 1+ river and the most northerly navigable river in the country. Located in Aulavik National Park, the Thomsen River Valley is sometimes referred to as the 'Serengeti of Canada.' It is home to nearly two-thirds of the world's muskox, and the desert-like broad river valley is abundant with bird life (we documented 27 species).

From June 26 through July 11, 2025, I was part of a group of twelve clients guided through this magnificent landscape by a team from Black Feather. This presentation offers a glimpse into that experience, and I am pleased to be able to share it with the club." - Rob Asbeek Brusse

This talk will be in person at our general club meeting on **Wednesday, June 10 at 7:30 pm** at the Burnaby Lake Sports Complex West (3677 Kensington Ave, Burnaby).





BEAVER CANOE CLUB PHOTO CONTEST

Time to start snapping photos for the annual beaver canoe club photo contest! Each year our club has a photo contest with great prizes! The 5 photo categories in 2026 are: buddy, people, humor, action and scenic. Now is the time to start snapping pictures on all club trips, long trips and at all club activities! The 2026 photo contest happens at the 50 Anniversary gala on November 28, 2026.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Use It or Lose It

I've just returned from the Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC) Conference celebrating 50 years since the ORC was created to promote public access to outdoor recreation. Coincidentally, 1976 was also the year the Beaver Canoe Club was formed.

The ORC conference was well attended, with about 300 people representing recreational clubs including backcountry horsemen, skiers, snowmobilers, 4-wheel drivers, hikers, fishers, mountaineers, and yes—canoeists. Many attendees were also from government, and the Minister of Recreation used the conference to announce the province's new recreation strategy.

The government is attempting to address several overlapping policy commitments. The first is the UN "30-30-30" goal to protect 30% of wilderness lands. The new provincial recreation strategy builds on this, but more significantly, the BC government has incorporated Indigenous Recreation into the strategy by enhancing Indigenous participation in recreation management. This also helps explain why BC Parks has dropped the word "Provincial" from much of its signage.

At the same time, several ministries, including Tourism, have entered into memorandums of understanding with indigenous nations to jointly manage parks or extensively consult on access and changes. The result is that some parks are periodically closed for Indigenous cultural practices, as we have seen at Joffre Lakes.

Added to this is the growing concept of Indigenous Protected Conservation Areas (IPCAs). These are not part of regular treaty settlements but are designated areas containing environmentally sensitive or culturally significant Indigenous lands and sites. In some cases, lands are removed from general Crown land access and public recreation use.

Currently there are about 20 IPCAs in BC, some relatively small and others very large. At the same time, the province also recognizes the enormous economic importance of outdoor recreation in BC, which generates billions of dollars and creates thousands of jobs.

Several years ago, the ORC was given \$10 million to establish a recreation fund. The annual interest—about \$400,000—is distributed to local recreation clubs for projects that enhance community outdoor recreation opportunities.

What remains unclear, however, is the province's long-term view on recreation sites and trails, particularly backcountry access and wild camping on Forestry lands. The current government has moved the Recreation Sites and Trails program from the Ministry of Forests to Tourism and Parks. What happens to Crown land access and backroad recreation has major implications for all of us.

Forestry companies want to decommission roads, while the province does not want to assume maintenance costs. A good example is the decision not to rebuild the Great Trail section from Brookmeyer to Princeton that was damaged in the floods. Instead, millions will reportedly be spent decommissioning the route, while rebuilding it would cost more, it should be done and this is not a good change.

The ORC generally supports the government's recreation and reconciliation strategy but remains cautious and critical regarding decommissioning and reduced public access. There is also a growing concern that IPCAs and reconciliation policies may result in significant losses of recreational access for BC residents.

I have repeatedly raised concerns about IPCAs and related trends on behalf of both the RCABC and the Beavers because I believe they have negative implications for public recreation access. Apparently, my concerns are not widely shared within all the recreation community. At the ORC AGM, I was not re-elected as one of the eight directors. However, I remain the RCABC representative to the ORC, and I am certainly not finished raising concerns about a government recreation agenda that, in my view, is becoming increasingly disconnected from the average British Columbian who simply wants to recreate freely on Crown land.

The RCABC paddling conference and AGM were held in Hope earlier this month. Unfortunately, I could not attend this year, but I'm told it was very successful, with about 70 participants. Congratulations to Rick Bryan, who received the well-deserved Brian Creer Award.

Rivers Week is fast approaching. The Rivers Week Committee has been meeting regularly, but with such a low-water year it has been difficult to finalize plans because water levels remain unpredictable—and low.

We have confirmed that Rivers Week will begin Saturday, June 20, 2026, on the Similkameen River, with camping at Pickard Creek and Stemwinder available for overflow. Note that many people arrive on Friday, June 19 to meet, organize and plan the next day's paddle.

The current plan is to move from the Similkameen to Granite City around Tuesday and camp at Ernie's while paddling the Tulameen River, although several concerns remain. Water levels may simply be too low. More seriously, there is currently a large log jam blocking the upper Tulameen shortly below the put-in, which may force us either to abandon that section or start farther downstream and miss the best stretch.

Another option is the lower Tulameen run through the tunnel section, portaging around the short falls and lowering boats below the tunnel before paddling into Princeton. It would definitely be an adventure—but not an easy one.

What remains uncertain is the final portion of Rivers Week from June 25–28.

The good news is that the N'Kwala campsite on the Nicola River has been rebuilt with new outhouses and designated campsites. The challenge is that there are only eight campsites, while the Beavers often need room for up to 30 people. Water levels may also become an issue.

Keiran, me and several members recently paddled both the Nicola Canyon and the lower run to Spences Bridge at 35 cms. It was excellent—very different from previous years, but still quite runnable for experienced canoeists. The question is whether it remains viable below 25 cms.

If the Nicola proves impractical, we could repeat the past few years by camping on the Thompson and paddling around Ashcroft.

Another possibility is the Shuswap River, with camping at Cherryville Recreation Site, which we have already booked. However, it is a long drive, and some members may not want to travel that far.

Dave Westell has called a Rivers Week Committee meeting for June 10, where we hope to finalize the last part of Rivers Week.

The summer schedule is shaping up well:

Rescue course — May 31

Broken Islands trip

Bowron trip currently on

Many scheduled runs, see the web site

Rivers Week beginning June 20

Beaver Potluck Picnic — July 19 at Derby Reach Regional Park in Langley

There is also talk of a “gourmet paddle lunch,” courtesy of our social director, Madeline Waring—so read on.

I won't say much yet about the Beaver Canoe Club's 50th Anniversary Banquet on Saturday, November 28, 2026, at Burnaby Lake Pavilion, except that I expect all Beavers, past and present, to come celebrate.

The annual Adams River Labour Day campout is confirmed for September 4–7. Camping is arranged at Jack's place, about 3 km downstream from the Adams River raft take-out. It's accessible, relaxed, and a great way to wrap up the season.

Following that, our next pub night will be September 9, 2026, at the Admiral Pub.

The next Beaver meeting will be held in person on June 10 at the Burnaby Sports Complex, Room 1, at 7:30 p.m. This meeting will be important for Rivers Week updates, the summer picnic, and anniversary banquet planning—so plan to attend.

Phil Rankin

President

UPCOMING TRIPS AND EVENTS

See Web Site for the Latest

TRIPS AND EVENTS FOR JUNE		
Thu Jun 4 to Fri Jun 5	Nahatlatch Lake: Gr 1	A two-day camping trip and paddle in a nearby wilderness area. Contact: Rob B rbrusse1@telus.net .
Sat Jun 6 to Sun Jun 7	Mamquam Weekend: Gr 1 & 2	This two-day mentored weekend on the Mamquam River in Squamish is intended primarily for recent graduates of the Intro to Moving Water to get more practice and exposure to river paddling before Rivers Week and other summer white water venues. Register in advance: Marc G: chez.guimond@gmail.com .
Wed Jun 10,	Club Meeting: 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm IN PERSON!	This evening's entertainment features Rob Asbeek Brusse, who will take us on a journey exploring the Thomsen River on Banks Island
Fri Jun 12,	River of Golden Dreams: Gr 1	We haven't done this twisty, turny river in Whistler for a long time. Contact: Rob B rbrusse1@telus.net .
Sat Jun 16 to Wed Jun 20	Powell Lakes Canoe Camping Trip: Lake Water	Rob is inviting us to explore ther Powell Lakes with him. Contact: Rob B rbrusse1@telus.net .
Sat Jun 20 to Sun Jun 28	Rivers Week: Gr 1+, 2 & 3	Our biggest event of the year! A week of car camping by the riverside to paddle day trips on the best whitewater nearby! Rivers Week this year will start on the Similkameen River near Princeton, for which we are currently looking at several camping options. Then, midweek we'll move on to another fantastic venue, chasing the best water levels! Conditions can change, and so do plans. Stay informed. When we know you'll know. Keep checking our Rivers Week page at: https://beavercanoecub.org/rivers-week-update/ .
Tues Jul 7,	An Easy Summer Paddle: Lake Water & Gr 1	Come on an easy summer paddle nearby. Have a place you've been thinking you want to explore? Contact trips@beavercanoecub.org .
Sat Jul 11 to Mon Jul 13	Granite Falls Canoe Camping Trip: Ocean	A nearby wilderness area is a few hours from Deep Cove. Share a beautiful stretch of ocean with the seals, starfish, jellyfish, and once in a while, killer whales. Trip Leader needed! but for now, state your interest to the Trip Director: trips@beavercanoecub.org .
Sun Jul 19,	BCC Annual Picnic	Annual picnic for all BCC members, family, friends all and sundry. Bring your canoe or maybe just yourself. Contact Madeline W madeline.waring@telus.net . Come to Derby Reach Regional Park 21801 Allard Crescent Langley Twp. BC V1M 3W1
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 trips@beavercanoecub.org		

RIVERS WEEK JUNE 20 TO 28

As detailed above in the calendar, Rivers Week is the Club's main event

Beaver Canoe Club Rivers Week

Join dozens of other paddlers for the BCC's biggest annual event June 19th – June 28th.

Dates: June 19th – June 28th. The event has a very flexible format – you can come for 2 days or come for the whole week!

Who should come: This event is for club members that have completed Basic Paddlers (RCABC tandem Lake water level 1 certificate or Paddle Canada equivalent) and Intro to Moving Water training day. Attendance at the club's Mamquam beginner whitewater weekend, and/or a tandem whitewater level 1 RCABC or Paddle Canada certificate are also highly recommended. You must have a canoe that is properly outfitted for whitewater. However, there are also lakes in the area and those planning to paddle flatwater are welcome to join in too.

The plan:

Loosely - members gather at the campsites, socialize and paddle!! Typically, at each location, you'll have a choice of where to paddle, from fun Grade I and II rivers to challenging Grade III. The event starts in the Similkameen Valley with camping at the Pickard Creek Rec site close to Hedley. The plan is flexible, because water levels in the rivers are hard to predict in advance. In particular, the date we move away from the Similkameen area after the first weekend, and our destination, will depend on water levels. The snowpack is very low again this year, as it has been for the last 3 years, but the weather in May and June can still influence the snowpack and river flow significantly. **The rivers week plan will be posted on the website, and will be updated regularly, even during the week itself.**

1. June 19-22 (approx.): we will camp at [Pickard Creek](#) Rec site. We will be paddling sections of the Similkameen River, possibly other local rivers too if water levels permit.
2. Remainder of the week options include
 - [Granite City rec site](#) north of Princeton (for the Tulameen river)
 - [Nkwala Rec site](#) – outside Merritt (for the Nicola River)
 - [Cherryville Rec site](#) outside of Lumby (for the upper Shuswap River). This is our best option if the Similkameen, Tulameen and Nicola rivers are too low. It's a lovely campsite and river, but in a typical year the Shuswap is too high in late June. Note that we are aware this site has been redesignated as day use but have special permission to camp here for our event, if needed.

Camping

Camping in Rec sites is *first come first served*, and these sites have minimal facilities (outhouse, firepits and picnic tables) and no electricity. There is usually a small fee, but water is not available onsite.

Please look for more updates on the website and by email. If you are planning to drop into the week's activities it's very important to contact organizers ahead of time to indicate interest and to stay in the loop, since water levels are predicted to be low and the plan will

need to stay flexible. Paddling plans are usually finalized the night before. In the meantime, you can email Dave Westell (westell@shaw.ca) or Phil Rankin (prankin@telus.net) if you have questions.

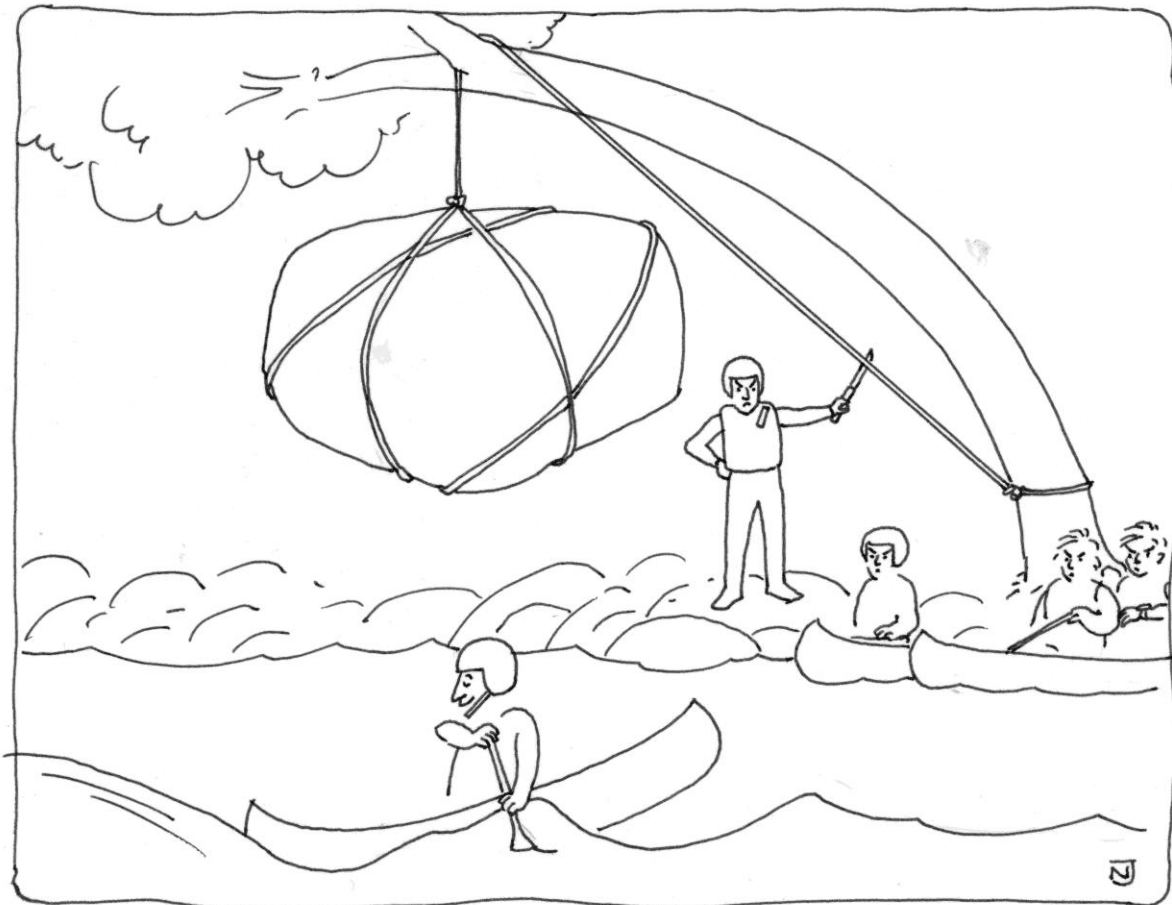




Outpost Campsite

CANOEING TIPS: ETIQUETTE DIVISION.

If you show an inclination to hog surfing waves, you will find that your popularity will suffer.



River Week's Ultimate Happy Hour!

When: June 20th after paddling

Time to be announced

Where: Picard Creek Campsite

Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share

A small, light, & usually savory first course in a meal; Something unusual or extraordinary. You shouldn't need dinner afterwards!



Anne Preparing her treat!



Examples of treats: fancy cheeses, fruit, smoked salmon, sushi, spinach dip, asiago dip, oysters, chicken wings, veges & dip, 8-layer dip. Use your imagination! Surprise everyone with your special treat! This used to be called the No Nachos Happy Hour!

TRIP REPORTS

Lower Nicomen Slough 26-05-17

Well, this day was just right! Our trip last month was a bit of a challenge with very low water levels but the levels on this trip were great and skies were terrific too! Initially we had 2 tandems and 3 individuals looking for bow seats to join the trip. Unfortunately, no one else with a canoe joined the trip so we were left with only the 2 tandems which technically means it was not an official club trip, but we did it anyway and had a beautiful day.

Carole and I along with Regula and Zoli met at info centre on Hwy 7 east of Mission at 0945. We set up the shuttle and were in the water at the Deroche Bridge shortly after 10am. I would be remiss if I did not mention our other passengers, “Buddy” the BCC Beaver and “Monty” our recently appointed 1st mate (1 yr old cocker spaniel).

It was calm smooth water with mostly blue skies and few clouds to add shade throughout the day. The paddle travels west parallel to the Hwy 7 for about 15 mins then heads northwest over to the base of the mountain and away from the highway sounds. Here, there are serene, reflective sections that allow you to purely enjoy the subtle sounds of birds and the occasional boil of a large carp darting away from the approaching canoes.

Lunch was a short paddle up stream in the crystal-clear water of Norrish Creek. There we stopped on a nice sandy beach to stretch and eat lunch. With good water levels the following trip to the takeout was about 1.5 hours in waters ranging from 2 to 4 feet in depth. This area at lower water levels can be challenging with considerable braiding and shallow channels.

We arrived at the takeout at about 1400 hrs with plenty of time to get the canoes up the path to the road and go get the vehicles at the launch. We were back and loaded shortly after 1430 hrs. With a terrific day behind us we said our goodbyes and set off for home looking forward to our next trip.

Submitted by Bob P, via the website, which has more pictures. Thanks Bob!



Hatzic Lake (Slough) 2026-04-19

Well, for a trip pitched as an easy country slough paddle this trip did not deliver on that! We were ambushed by the spring water miser with unexpectedly low water levels. In fact, as a long-time paddler of this water way, I'd never paddled it this low, so, we were in for a new experience along with four other tandem canoes. This was also the first "dog friendly" trip run since the new policy was adopted and we had 2 canines with us.

Our party of 5 canoes – Carole and I (and Monty), Ron and Corrine (and Ginny), Madeline and Katie, Regula and Zoly along with Dave and Serrat, met at the info centre, east of Mission. From there we drove the roughly 8km to the launch spot on Sylvester Road. It was then I realized we were in for a challenging paddle; the area we were launching at is normally a single canoe launch but this day there was enough room to launch four canoes because of the low water. After getting everyone in the water, we head down the channel toward the lake where the low water had a muddy look. The occasional large carp would bolt below us when our canoes crept up on them drifting just below the surface.

As we entered the "lake" we were paddling in six inches and less, water. The task was to find small channels with deeper water in these very shallow spots. Anyone who has paddled Wigeon Creek at low tide know this experience, but I suggest this was even lower than that. It's a four kilometer paddle up to the 4th bridge where we normally stop for lunch. On this day the sun was out, and it was quite warm. On the last leg to the 4th bridge, we notice a really nice shady beach not normally exposed and considered it for lunch. It was decided to continue to the bridge, assess, and return there if it was a better location to eat. That was the case, so we scooted back down and stopped for lunch. By this time in the paddle, we were finding better sections of water to paddle and after lunch the rest of the trip was downstream. One advantage of the shallow water at this point in the paddle is the active current created and battled all the way up becomes a bit of a coaster ride all the way back down.

We had a good lunch break giving everyone a chance to rest, then headed back down. It was a much nicer trip down as the light breeze at our backs, we could not feel paddling up, was now a cool breeze in our faces. That along with the beautiful sunny day kept spirits up and salvaged what could have been a trying day. The dogs appeared to have good day along with everyone else. A candid appearance by "Buddy" the beaver completed the trip.

Submitted by Bob P, via the website, which has more pictures. Thanks Bob!



MAMQUAM RIVER TRAINING 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

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:





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 safely/ 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

ivers 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

A LOOK AHEAD TO GENERAL MEETING ENTERTAINMENT

Here is the line up for the coming months in 2026

- June 10 In person meeting - Rob Asbeek-Brusse - Thomsen River in NWT
- July 8 Evening Paddle
- September 9 Pub Night
- October 14 Zoom meeting - Paul Shipley – Grand Canyon
- November 18 Zoom meeting - Juliane Bell – Canoe Trips on Vancouver Island

RETRO CORNER

celebrating 50 years of fun and friendship



Ten things I learned about RIVERS WEEK

1. Beavers have a strange concept of time. **Rivers WEEK** starts on a Saturday and continues for a period of two weeks and two days. I suspect that 'day' trips are 52 hours long and 'weekend' trips last from Thursday to the following Wednesday!
2. **The path through a rock garden** that looks the most promising from 10 meters away will look less and less so as you get closer and when you are too close to have any choices left it will become obvious that you've selected the worst path possible.
3. The early bird gets the worm, but **the early camper gets the best site** - near the water, away from the outhouse (but not too far for those late night trips), relatively flat and bug free!
4. **If your name isn't Dave** ... you're probably not a strong candidate to be a member of the Beaver Canoe Club. It might help if your first name starts with a 'D'. I learned that if I was really in trouble, all I had to do was yell, "Dave, help!" and I was quickly surrounded.
5. **Figuring out a shuttle process is a skill** that some have and some don't. I decided that my best course of action was simply to ask, "Where am I supposed to go?"
6. **You don't need BIG water to have fun on a river.** There are plenty of eddies to play with, more than enough water at the lunch spot on the Nicola to dump you if you lean the wrong way trying to do a 360, lots of opportunity to practice 'S' turns through the Canyon and maneuvering through rocks on a 'no-touch' basis in some of the low water sections was an interesting challenge.
7. Paddling is fun but it's only done as an **excuse to eat!!!!** The appetizer evening was amazing. Old timers seem to have figured out that following a trip to the table, their dinner that night could be a granola bar! Dessert night was impressive. There were selections that you will only find at the best restaurants in Vancouver! Not the sort of things that I'd expect while camping. The pig roast really capped it off. The pork was great ... a real testament to the many hours Chris, Andy and others put into preparing and cooking. The way it brought the group together to eat, share stories, sing and enjoy the evening was the real highlight.
8. **Black rocks cunningly plant themselves** a few centimetres below the surface of the river, so the path looks great but you're sure to scrape off a few millimetres of Royalex when you least expect it.
9. Club members who appear sane in other situations take great delight in seeing **how many canoes stack** on top of an otherwise normal automobile and then drive on roads (actually paths) that are strictly forbidden in the owner's manual of every truck and SUV sold in North America!
10. Although Rivers Week happens to coincide with some paddling activities, **really it's about friendship.** People catching up on what's happened over the past year or month or week. Seeing how children or grandchildren have grown. Checking out new equipment and developing skills. Lending canoes to each other to see how the outfitting feels or how it handles in different conditions. Cheering on others who manage to surf or do a 360 or do a text-book eddy turn. It's all about people having fun with friends.

Thanks for letting me join in this year. It was a blast! Vince Ryan July 2004



A LOOK BACK AT OUR SAFETY AND TRAINING STANDARDS

(input from Carey Robson and BCC newsletter archives)

SAFETY

Into 1978, the Beaver Club's trip rules only mentioned that each canoe must have: a bailing device, one extra paddle, a dry clothes change, 25' rope in stern and bow, and a personal flotation device for each person in canoe--much was about to change. (Current safety rules for the club can be found on the website under the trips tab.)

A "BEACHMASTER" appointed by the Trip Contact was responsible for inspecting each canoe at the departure point, refuse any participant without adequate training, call off the trip at any point if the water travel was deemed dangerous. Some things haven't changed...

TRAINING

Wally Priedolins became the first Beaver Canoe Club RCABC Lakewater Instructor in 1978. Then he and some Dogwood Club members conducted four evening basic canoeing "lessons." Wally was very active both in training and leading Club trips. Janice and I were in the 1979 group that took lessons but had to miss the last one to paddle the 120 mile long Green River in Utah. Since we missed the dumping session we did not qualify for a certificate and [that rule has remained].

In 1980 Gerry Lamb, Sue Murray, (Dogwood Club), Marie Bremner, Keith Spain and I were certified as Lakewater Instructors. We were taught by John Hatchard and Tynke Braaksma and examined by Brian Creer. In 1981 Keith Spain was elected as Training Director and since the Beavers now had a cohort of RCABC certified Instructor the Club we were the first in BC to use only certified instructors. This later became Club policy.



Pre-drone, a scaffolding provided by Don Reid provided an eagle's view of Basic Paddlers participants on Deer Lake. Shot with a Sony--in a waterproof case!--footage can be seen in the recently produced Canoe Safe* & Real Rescues. Canoe.bc.ca also shows members undertaking lakewater and moving water instructor certification requirements, important for our continuing commitment to safety on the water. Over our 50 years, the Beaver Canoe Club has trained thousands to enjoy paddling--safely.

As a way to encourage canoe-over-canoe rescues on a river

THE MILLER RULE

was established. It states that in a **successful** canoe-over-canoe rescue,
(that is, dumpee safely back in their **dry** boat)
the rescuee must reward the rescuer with a beer (or beverage of choice).

Adjustments: paddlers who abandon ship to avoid indebtedness owe it anyway,
and compulsive rescuers who go out of their way to ram innocents in order to gloriously
respond, should not be rewarded in any way...

Hedda Hopper (regular contributor to Beaver Tales) included in their Millenium Resolutions:

#8 "I will rescue Carey and get his beer"

#9 "I will convince Carey to start buying good beer"

Is there any truth to the rumour that instead of the Rule being named after a popular brand of
beer, it actually derives from the time Dave Miller was learning to paddle?

THIS IS A TEST!

Follow the flow: read about BCC's past in the Retro Corner, next month answer a skill
testing question **And win:** a chance at a \$50 Lee Valley gift certificate (to be awarded at the
Golden Gala).

Historical Question #4

The 1977 issues of Beaver Tales were reproduced by

- a) pen and ink copies
- b) a gestetner machine
- c) hot metal letterpress
- d) a laser printer

(Hint: answer to be found on website: [ForMembers>BTarchives>May2026](#))



Beavers at the Tulameen Canyon: Can you spot Madeline? Marie? Gerry? Carey?



Join me at the
Beaver Canoe Club
**Potluck Picnic and
Paddle**

July 19th 2026
At Derby Reach
Regional Park
Check the Website & July
Newsletter for more
information

SUMMER'S HERE!



"Be Sun Safe out there, all
you paddling folks! -hat✔
sunglasses✔sunscreen✔.
Make them part of your
trip checklist every time."

RCABC NEWS



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. September 12-13 Thompson River Rendezvous for big canoes at Savona. More info <https://www.facebook.com/events/1918945995495364>
2. September 25-28 Cariboo Rivers Weekend 2026. More info <https://www.facebook.com/events/1422993612741248>

RCABC PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Greetings Paddlers!

I am writing to inform you that RCABC is launching our brand-new website this coming Monday, May 21! This is very exciting as it will allow us to maintain our site more easily- creating an ease of access for people looking to learn about canoeing, and for those of us who teach and guide it!

And while the transition intends to be seamless, there may be a few things we need to work out so I have two asks:

- 1) Please don't try to renew your membership this Monday, or input course info
- 2) Please be patient with your initial experience for the first couple weeks while we sort out some fixes.

A huge shoutout to Past-Prezi and Instructor Co-Ordinator Keiran Rankin for his many hours of work with Lesia Design (www.lesiadesign.com) to make this come to fruition. Likewise, to paddler member Trevor Doerksen for his masterful wizardry in creating a new database for us (wait till you see the map feature!).

While I feel nostalgic for our current site (we love you, Tony!!), I am looking forward to being able maintain our website so our members can access the most current resources and opportunities.

Thank you for your support during this exciting change.

Yours truly,

Vanessa Elton

RCABC President

WHAT TURNS A PARTY INTO A GOLDEN GALA celebrating 50 years of paddling?

#1 A GREAT VENUE: THE BURNABY LAKE PAVILION!

Floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the water.
Plenty of parking. Central location.
Guide Beaver doorman.
Multiple screens highlighting The Years That Were.
A place to chat, reminisce, dine, and dance (optional).



#2 BEAUTIFUL DECOR with FLASHES OF GOLD

including custom-made centrepieces:
A tandem canoe (Gemini-seating style...) stirring up phosphorescence as it bounces (upright) through frothy, curling waves. One of these \$50-valued displays can be yours if won in the evening's draw.

Bonus: Post-gala the assembly can re-purposed as 13" ceramic planter; two outdoor (waterproof) flameless, flickering candles; string of 30 LED fairy lights; golden charge plate; and about 40m of curl ribbon to decorate all your gifts throughout 2027!



#3 FOOD TO SAVOUR

Prepared by Burnaby's fine Riverway Clubhouse. Of course, lots of salads~sides~pasta~protein~desserts~drinks PLUS bubbles for toasting, a one-of-a-kind cake to mark the occasion (perhaps without the 50 candles...fire hazard) AND some pre-dinner retro snacks in memory of our 1976 beginnings (remember Fritos?)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Saturday, 28 November



**Expressions of Interest wanted for:
Kootenay Rivers Week
Aug 1 to 8 2026**

This is a week of gr 2 and 3 rivers for paddlers with solid whitewater skills.

It takes months to plan and will only go ahead if we can put together a core group of committed paddlers.

If you think you want to go, say so now!

Contact: trips@beavercanoeclub.org



FOR SALE

KEEN PADDLER NEEDED!

I am a lovely Mad River Otter, with a lot of experience in moving water. Full outfitting has been done – flotation, bang plates, footrests and thigh straps. Basically, I'm a stable boat with lots of rocker for easy turning (translate – good control in rapids) and a bow shape that loves climbing up waves rather than through them. AND I LOVE white water!

Regrettably my present paddler (Leigh) is no longer a keener. I miss playing so much so I am looking for a new, loving home. Price is \$999 OBO.

Please come and see me. I'm really lovely. After all, I was the model on the business card for the Beavers, and I look as good now as I did then.....

Please call 778 792-4535 or email cat8canoe@gmail

Dimensions:

Length:	12 feet (3.66 meters)
Width:	25.5 inches (64.77 cm) at the gunnel
Depth:	13 inches (33 cm)
Weight:	52 pounds (23 kg)



RAFFAN RIFFS & RAPS ON INCIDENTS & ACCIDENTS

James Raffan shares not only my first name but also a fondness for canoeing. And that fondness is what drew a sold-out crowd to Fort Langley on a Saturday night. Four sponsors helped bring him to Victoria and Fort Langley at the end of March: Fort Langley Canoe Club, Western Canoe & Kayak, Ocean River Sports, and Adventure Canada. I was pleasantly surprised that the evening in Fort Langley was a full house. It was good to see that eager Beavers attended as well, some foregoing a weekend at the Cowichan and Owen W's Island getaway.

Billed as **"The *Accidental Canadian*"**, Raffan began his story; though born a Brit, soon his parents flipped a coin to decide to emigrate either to South Africa or to Canada. Alas, as an avid Ontario boy scout he was bit by the outdoors bug, working his way up the scout hierarchy to become a summer camp leader even after high school. But, knowing he had to "grow up" and find a career, higher education called. His goal of becoming a wildlife biologist was brought up short, however, when as a grad student he was tasked with re-sedating a polar bear with a tranquilizer gun, but didn't have the stomach for it. So, he quit grad school. Instead, he returned to leading canoe camps in Ontario. While this turn of events might not be considered an accident, it was certainly serendipitous for his life trajectory. His canoeing adventures took him on many wilderness rivers, as well as Arctic Ocean trips with specialized tour companies.

So, you'd think a lot of power-point slides and discussion would entail some specifics of some specific trips? Instead, most were glossed over, given a general description, a brief anecdote, and for the northern sojourns, a warranted nod to First Nations' ingenuity and prowess in negotiating with the hinterland. For Canada's 150th Raffan paid tribute to his recruitment to a ship's crew who would navigate from the beginning of the St Lawrence through the Arctic's "Northwest Passage" and along B.C.'s wild west coast. Whereas that route was depicted on a map, little further detail or photos were shared. Anyways, this wasn't a canoeing trip.

Intermittently, along with an accompanying soundtrack, Raffan would appear to play guitar and sing songs of ecological or personal concerns. A nice, unexpected

touch, but by the sixth or seventh tune I wondered how many had come to hear a concert.

It was no accident that towards the end -- after earlier referencing his book *Deep Waters*, about the Lake Timiskaming tragedy in the late 70's when several youth died while canoeing -- he presented a photo-slide of *all* his books -- (Indeed, at last year's Christmas party I picked as a door prize *Bark, Skin and Cedar: Exploring the Canoe in Canadian Experience*).

Now, it's obvious that James Raffan has a lifetime of knowledge and experience around canoes and canoeing, and he's written a lot about them, including a book about the legendary Bill Mason - *Fire in the Bones: Canadian Canoeing Tradition*. I just wish he had spent more time sharing his *canoeing* experiences and delving into more of that Canadian tradition. Entertaining, yes - though not in the way for which I attended.

Submitted by Jim S

