



Beaver Tales

Official News Views and Muse of the Beaver Canoe Club of BC **AUGUST 2022**

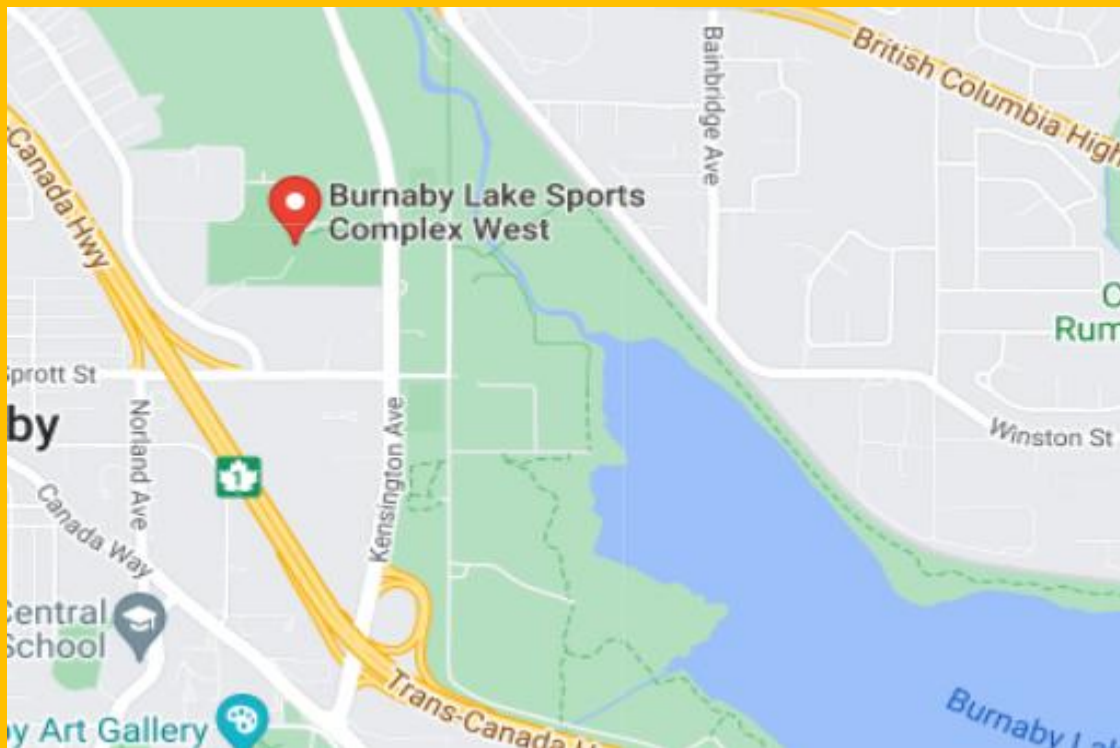
Date: **Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022** Location: **IN- PERSON at Burnaby Sports Complex, and Zoom Online**

Time: 8:00 p.m. (Note: This will be second attempt at combined in-person and on-line from location so please be patient with potential glitches in transmission)

Instructions: 1. Download the free Zoom app on your mobile device or better, computer.).
2. Watch for the email link on [Sept 14](#) before the 8:00 p.m. Unless speaking, please mute your mic.

Burnaby Sports Complex West – 3677 Kensington Ave., Bby.

Entertainment to be determined



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well, even with late Summer, high water and loss of the Nicola, Rivers Week June 22-July 2 was great.

At one point at our campsite outside Princeton at The Outpost, we had 70 people. Although that was combined with RCABC members, especially from the Island and Okanagan. The rivers were high -- about double our comfort zone, but they tended to go up and down and we Beavers found opportunities.

There was enough variety for everyone: Princeton to Camp (The Outpost), Bromley to Stemwinder and sometimes extended to Hedley. The Upper Similkameen to Princeton ranged from 60 CMS to 89 CMS. The Tulameen: Granite City to Princeton and later even the Upper to Granite City, and Otter lake to Granite City and so on. The groups varied but the paddling was fast and furious.

On June 26 Keiran took me, the weak link and a group of good paddlers on the Granite City to House Rocks and the portage to town. I ran house rocks, flipped, and rolled miraculously. I then paddled close to the Tulameenie and a short portage to town - EXCITING!

The following day another group, including Keiran, Allyson, Greg, & Zak did it again. On a different day, on a supposed easy section of the Tulameen, i.e., Otter Lake to Granite city, I flipped my canoe and ended up in a log jam. I managed to get out onto a large log and was rescued by a bunch. Many thanks to Dave Broughton, Greg Scutt and Allyson Phillips. Also, apologies for the snafu and putting myself in danger. All's well that ends well.

The weather was iffy, the paddling challenging, but the camping and camaraderie were excellent!

Following Rivers Week many of the club members headed north to their various trips: The Mountain, Firth, Stikine and Saskatchewan. I hope Leigh, Greg, the Allysons and Daves have good reports and videos for Beaver entertainment for the **September 14 in person meeting at Burnaby Sports Centre.**

On July 17, 2022 we had our Beaver summer potluck picnic at Dease River Park. At least 35 people came, the weather was cloudy with a few showers, but we were happy socializing under shelter. Alas, however, the planned canoeing was impossible, due to a rowing boat regatta and a wedding at the same time. We had a good visit and it was successful. Many thanks to Jill Lee, Social Director, for her hard work and the picnic's success.

Well what is next? **September 2-6 2022 is the Adam's River Labour Day weekend** coming as usual at the Lewis'. So please consider coming to a great run and likely there will probably be a Clearwater and a Thompson River Day. We will be camping at the Lewis place as usual. Camping is in a yard about an acre with outhouses, water, and hook up for 2-3 trailers. Address 2375 Squilax; Phone Jack Lewis 1-250-679-4415.

The RCABC will be running another **Cariboo Rivers Week in early, early October 2022, maybe even September 29 - it's Rick Bryan's call.** The overall plan is to go to Williams Lake -Chief Willyum campsite -- and paddle the Chilko, Cariboo, and Quesnel rivers.

The **Beavers Awards and Christmas Dinner** will take place on **Saturday, December 3, 2022 at the Rugby Club at Burnaby Lake. Tickets to be announced soon!**

Phil Rankin -prez



*Possum Lake Canoe Rentals (apologies to red green)
Note" Duct Tape Fix" next to rental square*

Did you know?

...that trip participants are expected to contact the trip leader at least 24 hours before any day trip.

<https://beavercanoecub.org/wp-content/uploads/BCC-policies-updated-to-include-Jan-12-2022-amendment.pdf>

Trips Director – Dave W westell@shaw.ca

For August Trips see Schedule on last page, Page 10, this Issue;

Any changes, check Club Website

INFORMAL PADDLING TRIPS

Anyone can organize an informal, non-official, non-club trip, just by sharing their email with other members. But three members seem to do it all the time.

- Mike D mike2166@hotmail.com likes evening trips on Lakes or Gr 1 in the Fraser Valley
- For that matter, so does Dave W westell@shaw.ca
- And Phil R frankierb@telus.net likes the Seymour River, esp. when the level comes up after a rain

If you're looking for trips in between the official trips, email one of them and let them know, and get on their contact list(s)!



From Beaver member and quilter Katie Stein Sather's website

Canoeing the Squamish with Alexander MacKenzie

Written by Owen Williams, March 2022 (owen.williams911@gmail.com)

Photos by: Owen Williams (Except where stated otherwise)

Part One, this month a look back to February when our climate was cooler– Ed.

In July 1793 Alexander MacKenzie with a crew of voyageurs and indigenous paddles became the first European to cross North America. From the great plains he paddled up the Peace River, crossed the Rockies and then reached the Fraser River. Once he reached a site near Quesnel BC, he was encouraged by indigenous people to leave the Fraser, and take the world's longest portage via a grease trail over the Chilcotin Plateau, eventually reaching a tributary of the Bella Coola River. He and his crew then built another canoe, and paddled through the Coast Mountains to the sea.



Figure 1 MacKenzie Crossing the Rockies 1793
(Arthur Heming)

229 years later, on a cold sunny day in early February, a brigade of would-be northern explorers canoed the Squamish River through the Coast Mountains to the sea - much like Alexander MacKenzie followed the Bella Coola River through the mountains to the sea. This brigade was led by the able Captain David Westell. Dave has a mop of fair hair giving him the Alexander MacKenzie look. Like MacKenzie he carries a big paddle – but talks softly. David is also a great leader of canoeists.

The Squamish River rises in the vast Pemberton Ice field to the north and meanders south along the path of the formerly great Pleistocene era Squamish Glacier. This glacier forced its way through the jagged Coast Mountains to the mouth of Howe Sound leaving an alluvial plain and sheer mountains on either side of its path. The splendour of the river and the valley on a cold bright winter day is overwhelming.



Figure 2 Captain David
Westell - a mop of
fair hair gives him the
Alexander MacKenzie
look

Slipping joyfully from a sunlit bathed snow-covered beach near the mouth of the glacier-fed Ashlu River, 5 canoes slipped into another era. We were traveling like MacKenzie and like Indigenous peoples have done for 10,000 years – in canoes. Without a trace of wind – there was no sound but that of the silently dipping paddles. The slow-moving current took our bows and swung them downstream to face directly at the glaciated peaks of the Tantalus Range. The canoes drifted across the glass mirror without leaving a scratch.



The brigade comprised 4 double canoes and a solo canoe. Leading the winter brigade down river was Katie and Juri. Between Katie and Juri there was about 100 years of experience paddling big northern rivers. And, by the way they paddle they might accumulate another 50 years of combined experience. We would be on a “safer” route with Katie and Yuri leading. Following was Jim and Juerg. Their job was to use the saw to cut through logs blocking the river. Next was Rebecca Helps in her new solo canoe on its maiden voyage. Rebecca is a therapeutic counsellor. I wondered if Rebecca would be prescribing winter canoeing to her clients.

Next was Mike and Kim. At a distance Mike’s green canoe seemed like a ripple on the mossy green river. Following all was Captain Dave “Alexander MacKenzie” Westell, and me as his willing partner imagining that was with the real Alexander MacKenzie.

The wild untamed Squamish River spills randomly over the alluvial plain. We found new channels formed during the last big storm. As the river forces new channels new habitat is created for the critters of the valley. New spawning channels were apparent; creating perfect beds for Chinook, Pink, Chum, and Coho salmon. New sloughs created by old river channels were providing new habit for mammals like beavers, amphibians, and waterfowl.



Figure 3 Rebecca in her new solo canoe

The Squamish River winter waters are clear with a beautiful mossy hue, and as cold as the glacier streams high in the mountains. From our canoe, we peered deep into another world to see Coho salmon and Steelhead trout.

Along the banks of the Squamish River young sacrificial maples, cedars and Douglas fir hug the shore. From these trees green mosses long and thick, looking like Hagrid's beard on St Paddy's day, weighed down the branches. Winter floods every 10 or 20 years ensures that these trees never age. The gravel bars that flood annually are held in place – for a time – with young cottonwoods. During this winter canoe trip we saw deep into the heart of this temperate rain forest. It is here at times you can see Roosevelt Elk, Black-Tailed Deer and Timber Wolves. In the summer black bears are common – and grizzly bears occasionally visit.

Above high water line the deep emerald temperate rain forest grows 1000 metres above river level. This rain forest is dominated by giant douglas firs and cedars. Dividing these forests are long white avalanche paths, that look like giant icicles, extending from the glaciated mountain peaks.

On the west side of the river were the glowing peaks of spectacular Tantalus Range staring into the distance while ignoring all who traveled below. These patriarchs created by colliding tectonic plates rise more than 2500 metres directly above the river. The Tantalus Range is home to some of the highest mountains in southern BC. These majestic giants are crowned with ancient glaciers. From the glaciers



the

Figure 4 Tantalus Range ignoring all who travel below

robes of snow flowed through the trees to river level. The ice and snow made me believe that I was traveling at the edge of the last ice age. I was ready to see woolly mammoths.

The bright winter sun, too low to rise above the high valley peaks hovered over the southern opening of the valley. In the sun the valley warmed to a few degrees above freezing. In the shadows of the Tantalus mountains ice age temperatures prevailed.

We quickly picked up the rhythm of the Squamish River. There were long quiet and deep reaches followed by fast flowing riffles. The quiet reaches gave us time to be overwhelmed by the beauty of the valley. Each riffle presented its own challenge – and excitement.



Figure 4 Robes of snow flowed to river level (Mike & Kim)

In most cases rocks, logs or high waves spiced up the journey. Splashes from the cold waves made our chilly hands and faces colder. We did what we could to avoid paddling in the freezing shadows.

We were aware that we were paddling at the toes of the giants. We felt as small as the American Dipper. Always dipping and then quickly moving down the along the edge of the river, the small humble black bird paid no attention to the paddle dippers. We were as insignificant to the dipper as we were to the glowing mountains. I then realized that I was a very insignificant part of the continuous story of the Squamish River Valley – but yet I realized that this canoe trip was playing a significant role in the recovery of my soul after a week of punishing office work. ***/To be continued....***



NOTICES

FOR SALE

Woman's Farmer-John Wetsuit

Brooks, Medium, slim fitting, with knee pads, 3mm neoprene, new in 2015, no tears, no holes, all 3 zippers work. Asking \$75.00

Pam Farish - 604 785 5566

Paddling Helmet

Shred Ready, orange, one size fits all (the "medium" pads are in the helmet right now and the small and large pads are included). New in 2017. CE 1385 certified, under chin and back of neck adjustable straps. Asking \$45.00

Pam Farish - 604 785 5566

Don's and Donna's white water paddling and wilderness tripping days are over. We are moving into a condo and have to downsize. If you are looking for paddling gear, please give us a call at 604 939 2339 or send us an email at djwreid@shaw.ca and we will send you a list of what is available. --Don Reid

August 2022 Trips Page

Sun 07-Aug	Steveston	Gr 1	A paddle along the shores and through the isles of the lower Fraser River. Contact: Dave W trips@beavercanoecub.org
Sun 14-Aug	Stave Lake	Lake	A large lake in the Fraser Valley we don't usually get to. Check back on the BCC Webpage Calendar for trip update. Contact: Dave W trips@beavercanoecub.org
Sun 21-Aug	Cheakamus River	Gr 2 & 3	A bouncy, wavey ride north of Squamish. Good River Skills and full outfitting required. Contact: Marc G chez.quimond@gmail.com
Sun 28 Aug	Lighthouse Park	Ocean	A tour along the shores of West Vancouver. Contact: Dave A davebapps@hotmail.com
Fri Sep 2 to Mon Sep 5	Adams River Campout	Gr 2 & 3	Warm Weather, Thrills & Spills through the Adams Canyon, and More! Contact: Phil R frankierb@telus.net
Sun 11-Sep	Harrison River	Gr 1	A beautiful autumn run when trees start turning, fish start running, and beaches are exposed. Contact: Rebecca H rebecca.helps@gmail.com

Trips may change according to trip leader availability, water levels, and ambient conditions. For the most up to date information, check the [BCC Web Page Calendar](#). If you cannot find the information you need, you can email your trip director at: westell@shaw.ca



Editor's Note: Please be advised that the September issue of Beaver Tales may be delayed due to Editor's plans to paddle the Stikine from its sacred headwaters. Also note that **the Editor seeks a replacement** come the AGM in January, for after 3 years it is time for someone like you to don a green plastic visor and pick up the proverbial red pen, so that before deadline you will shape received copy into the venerable rag that has become, for so many years, **Beaver Tales**, the respected Newsletter of the Beaver Canoe Club. –Jim S.