RETRO CORNER

celebrating 50 years of BCC fun and friendship

1976.
The Montreal Olympics. The CN tower opened. Microsoft hired its first employee; Apple was launched. And in BC Ryan Reynolds was born and so was the Beaver Canoe Club.

50 years.

In those decades we've explored most of the province's waterways from the Broken Islands to the Bowron Lakes to the Adams River. We've traveled east to Ontario, north to the Territories, and south to run Costa Rican and Patagonian rivers.

But aside from trips and tripping we've offered training to thousands of paddlers, introduced the more intrepid to moving water, and facilitated safety courses. We've fought for causes involving river wellness and opened our wallets after natural disasters. Volunteers have cleaned rivers and provided outings on Deer Lake for the less fortunate. These exploits have been recorded in five decades of newsletters and videos providing priceless secondary source material for research on the province and the sport of canoeing.

That's our club and this is our 'golden' year to celebrate so many achievements by remembering our past.

In this RETRO CORNER, open to all past members, you'll find bits culled from the current Beaver Tales, "Then...and Now" glimpses of BCC's evolving world, stories (and secrets!) from our yesteryears.

Throughout the year, Buddy, (our safely life-jacketed mascot) will be seen playing at events and enjoying 1970s snacks (remember Twinkies? plain Fritos?). The Club has added retro tweaks to trips recalling the gourmet lunches, poker runs, mix-it-up paddles, and

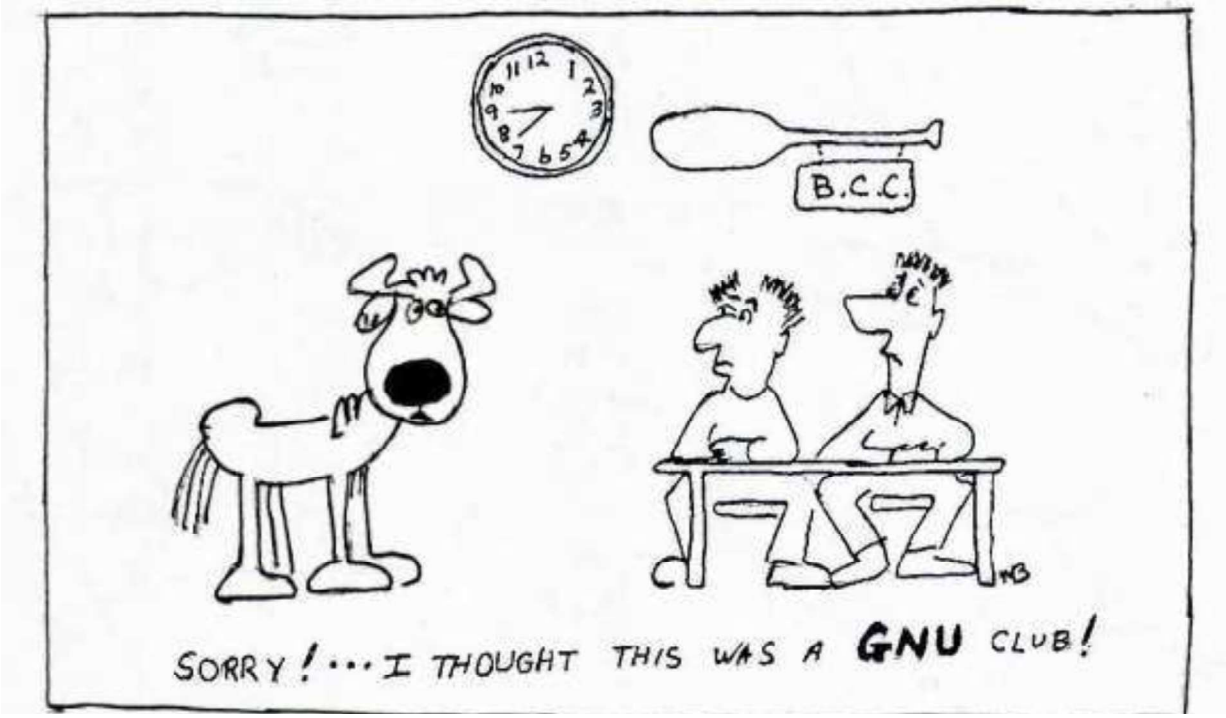
no-nachos ultimate happy hours. There's a running quiz in each issue of Beaver Tales to explore and expose our 50 paddling years.

And to cap it all--the GOLDEN GALA. We've kicked the year-end party (November 28th) up a couple of notches: a great, on-the-water venue, dining-out caliber of food and drink, entertainment throughout including an appearance by the elusive Great Beaver--an icon noted for predicting the future. Displays will highlight over 500 newsletters, Beaver toques, t-shirts, crests, and scrapbooks filled with memories from the past. There will be multiple draws--better than 1 in a 100 chances for rewards. And it is a "Golden" gala. Gold in decor and gold in dress: flash your bling or grandfather's pocket watch. Add a golden tie or shawl. Even gold-coloured underwear counts (as long as the flash is discrete). It will be a fun evening -- a chance to recall your years of exploits with on-the-water friends.

Stay tuned to monthly stories in this Retro Corner or on BCC Facebook posts. Celebrate with us the commitment which has kept our club around for half a century.



February RETRO CORNER



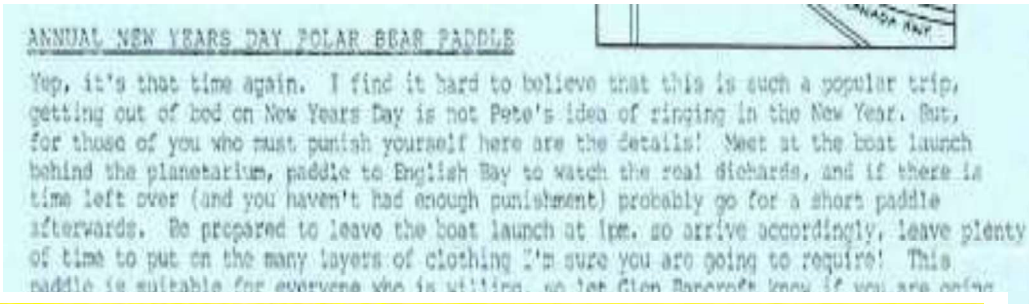
WHY ARE WE CALLED THE BEAVERS?



Back in the fall of '76, a group met to consider the formation of a new paddling club in Burnaby. Pauline and Les Mushens recall that it was a rambling discussion. Names were suggested. It had to be associated with water. Loons? Coots? Salmons? Nothing seemed to excite. When the list finally reached 'beavers', Jack Wainwright quipped "And then your newsletter could be the Beaver Tales!" That sparked a response. The beaver. It is a national symbol, at home in the water, industrious, lives in a close-knit group and stays active even in the winter. "Seeing beavers in the river symbolized getting away, reminded us of the beauty of night paddles, quiet peaceful times," Pauline reminisced. The vote was unanimous. The Beaver Canoe Club was named.

Polar Fear Paddle Jan 1994

Come join the fun,
Share New Year's Day,
On January 1st we embark.
We'll chase the swimmers
Who brave the cold
A short way from Vanier Park



ANNUAL NEW YEARS DAY POLAR BEAR PADDLE

Yep, it's that time again. I find it hard to believe that this is such a popular trip, getting out of bed on New Years Day is not Pete's idea of ringing in the New Year. But, for those of you who must punish yourself here are the details! Meet at the boat launch behind the planetarium, paddle to English Bay to watch the real dichards, and if there is time left over (and you haven't had enough punishment) probably go for a short paddle afterwards. Be prepared to leave the boat launch at 1pm, so arrive accordingly, leave plenty of time to put on the many layers of clothing I'm sure you are going to require! This

ANNUAL NEW YEARS DAY POLAR BEAR PADDLE

Lets have a good turnout for this trip.Come and watch all those crazies go for a winter dip.We will meet at the boat launch down from the Planetarium and by the Coast Gaurd pier at 1:00. Remember to dress warmly and bring something warm to drink.Call Colin or Heather at 986-7328 if you are going.

Celebrating 50 Years of the Beaver Canoe Club

by Marie Bremner

Here it is January 2026, the year when the Beaver Canoe Club celebrates 50 years of paddling fun, adventure and good times together with an amazing collection of people. Beavers are great storytellers, and through 2026 I'm hoping the Beaver Tales will have some good reminiscing about events in years gone by. Your story might be "My Most Memorable Trip with the Beavers" or "Ten Life Lessons I've Learned Paddling with the Beavers" ...or whatever tall tale you're just dying to share. So, Beavers, fingers to the keyboard, get writing!

To start things off, here's "My First Beaver Canoe Club Trip"

In the summer of 1978 I moved from London, Ontario to New Westminster BC to start a new job. I loaded up my car with all my worldly possessions and a brown 16 ft Nova Craft canoe and drove across Canada. My first stop was with a friend from university who lived in West Vancouver. She handed me a newspaper clipping about a new canoeing club, the Beaver Canoe Club, an offspring of the long-established Dogwood Canoe Club. I called the number listed and found out that a trip was planned on the Chilliwack River next weekend.

The trip leader was Wally Priedolins, a veteran paddler who had moved over to the Beavers from the Dogwoods to help get the new club and its membership of novices into shape to take on some moving water. He had chosen a section of the Chilliwack River that is very tame by today's Beaver standards, a put-in near Yarrow, with just enough current to do some drills on eddy turns, forward ferries and reading the river.

For me, this idea of playing on the river was an amazing revelation. Back in Ontario, my paddling had been in down-river racing, where the basic strategy was to look for the fastest line in the water and paddle like stink. Now Wally was demonstrating the elegant dance of a canoe with moving water, that partnership with the current that could give a paddler control and the ability to choose a course.

That day opened up doors for years of good times in a canoe, almost fifty years for me. I treasure the many friends I've met through the Beaver Canoe Club and look forward to celebrating the club's 50th anniversary with them. I don't have any pictures from that first trip, but here's a 1979 photo of Wally Priedolins and Pauline Mushens having a good day on the water.



HEDDA'S TRIP TIPS

WELL OK, DARLINGS, THIS ISN'T A TRIP REPORT, BUT INSTEAD, YOUR PAL HEDDA THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO SHARE SOME OF HER DEEPEST DARKEST TRIP SECRETS. AFTER ALL, HEDDA DOES DEMAND COMFORT....

YOU KNOW THAT MOMENT WHEN YOU ARE STANDING BESIDE YOUR CAR IN WET CLOTHES, TRYING TO CHANGE AND TRYING IN VAIN NOT TO STEP IN THE DIRT OR GET YOUR CLEAN THINGS WET AND / OR DIRTY. WELL, THAT FLOORMAT IN THE BACKSEAT OF YOUR CAR WAS MADE FOR A REASON! PULL IT OUT AND STAND ON IT! VOILA! DRY, CLEAN FEET AND STUFF!

DON'T YOU JUST HATE ZIPPERS THAT STICK? RUB SOME CANDLE WAX ON THEM.

DOESN'T THAT STUBBORN RESIDUAL GOO FROM DUCT TAPE MAKE YOU WANT TO LOCK YOURSELF IN THE BATHROOM AND CRY YOUR EYES OUT? THE ANSWER: ACETONE.

NOTHING'S NICER THAN RINSING OFF THAT SWEAT AND GRIME AFTER A PADDLE, ESPECIALLY IF YOU WERE WEARING A WETSUIT, BUT NOTHING'S WORSE THAN FREEZING COLD WATER TO DO IT WITH. THE ANSWER: LEAVE A PLASTIC BOTTLE OF WATER IN YOUR CAR, IN THE SUN, SO IT'S WARM AND WAITING FOR YOU AT THE END OF THE DAY.

Emphasis on safety pays off

By SCOTT SIMPSON

Canoeists call it 'going for a swim.' It is what happens next when a collision with a rock separates you from your boat.

THE water behind the throne-sized rock was a metre deep and calm, a temporary refuge from the heavy current at my right elbow.

My hands, tight around the paddle, took on the complexion of library paste and I could taste my lunch where it eddied at the back of my throat.

For an unendurably long instant I studied the delicate shell of water breaking over the big rock downstream, and all the big rocks and current and white foam below it.

Then the river had me, the hydraulics of it favoring a direct route to the rock. The paddle enabled me to skirt it on the right but not without a splash across my glasses that blinded me for an instant.

The three-degree water penetrated the wet suit and the shock of it was like a fist in the diaphragm. I could only gasp as I bounced over rock after rock and I did not regain my breath until I reached the head of the long chute where the river gradually flattened in muster for another run.

Then someone tossed a rope and I grabbed it and swung against the current to shore.

In relative terms, my 'swim' was a milk run. I'd waded halfway across the Seymour River and, along with other students of a Beaver Canoe Club river rescue clinic, deliberately allowed myself to be swept into the current.

We all had life jackets, helmets, wet suits and instruction in the correct way to position our bodies in the current.

"Can you imagine all of a sudden being thrown upside down into that stuff?" queries instructor Carey Robson. "The scariest thing is somebody who has never dumped. They don't know how to react, *you* don't know how they're going to react.

"The big thing is getting used to the idea of floating down feet forward to fend off rocks, so your feet won't get trapped in the rocks.

"The rule of thumb is don't stand up in anything over your knees or until your bum is touching the bottom."

The big difference between paddling a lake (canoeists call it flat water) and a river is the obvious one — moving water gives you only limited opportunity to react before new perils present themselves.

The fundamental aspect of canoe safety — canoe-over-canoe rescue, wherein paddlers in a support boat restore a flipped one to upright position — becomes a battle against time and only practice will help you win.

As I also discovered, it takes practice to toss a rescue rope (unfurling from a throw bag) and put it on target.

"Aim for their head," says Robson.

My first shot went three met directly up the shoreline a landed in two inches of wate could only watch as the curr took the 'swimmer' downstre where, thankfully, there were h ter tossers.

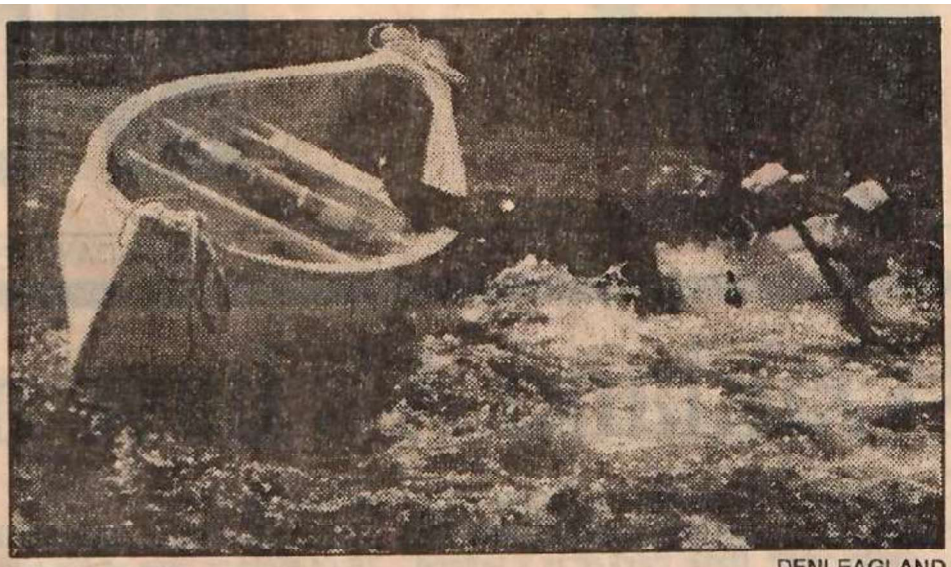
Don't get the impression fr the Beavers' emphasis on saf and rescue preparation that w tewater canoeists are reluctant

Please see CANOE, D2



RIDING the whitewater of Upper Seymour River, Don Smith paddles clear of rocks during a training session.

GLENN BA



DENI EAGLAND

DELIBERATELY dumping himself, Gord Bullen hits icy waters during a rescue clinic on Seymour River.

CANOE

Continued from page D1

take risks. The drills could be accurately described as a safety net.

Current paddling techniques, huge flotation bags strapped inside the boats, and tough, supple hull materials that almost snake over rocks have revolutionized a sport that is uniquely Canadian in origin.

Technique has become so refined that river canoeists actually surf on standing waves, the whitewater enthusiast's equivalent of deep powder snow.

Whitewater paddling is also one of the few ways you can rekindle the spirit of B.C.'s early explorers. Modern plastic and fibreglass composites are more forgiving than anything before them, enabling paddlers to go places that earlier generations of paddlers would never even imagine.

Last weekend Robson and other Beavers ran the upper Seymour, inside the GVRD watershed, only the second time the upper river has ever seen a canoe.

"I'm positive that when a group of five of us ran it last November it was the first time ever that open canoes had run it. And I'm pretty sure that last weekend was only the second time ever.

"I know the kayakers have run a bit of it. But we're running stuff that was never even dreamed about before.

"You go into the wilderness in a canoe, and it's still very, very wild. You take all your modern clothing and everything else but the fact is your group is all that you have to rely on."

Some people, of course, will always prefer to rely on blind luck: No sooner had we finished the swimming portion of the clinic than a flimsy yellow raft with four teenaged boys aboard appeared around a corner at the top of the rough water.

None wore life jackets, warm clothing or protective headgear. The raft spun like a top in the current. Two of the boys had oars, the others were drinking from cans of beer with as much bravado as they could muster.

Somehow they made it through although I doubt their efforts made much of an impression on two teenaged girls sunning themselves on a patch of sand nearby — some of the Beavers who'd gone through the same stretch, sans canoe, were past retirement age.

Paddle Fest offering free canoe lessons

Find out about free canoe lessons and talk to some of the continent's best-known paddlers this weekend at Paddle Fest, the canoe and kayak show in the Plaza of Nations at B.C. Enterprise Centre.

The Lower Mainland's two recreational canoe clubs, Beaver and Dogwood, will have booths where prospective paddlers can learn more about the sport.

For the price of a club membership, $25, your entire family can enrol in free lessons from certified B.C. Recreational Canoeing Association instructors.

Exhibitors will have canoes and kayaks available for a trial paddle around False Creek. Admission is free.

There's also a fashion show featuring outdoor clothing, plus guest speakers on long-distance sea kayaking, wilderness first aid, kayak cookery, marathon canoe racing, canoe design and technology, and advice on planning whitewater trips from Vancouver's Betty Pratt-Johnson, a leading authority on B.C. and Washington rivers.

The keynote speakers include Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Bill Mason, the man they call the godfather of canoeing in Canada.

Mason will be doing two different shows a day (10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.).

The other feature speakers are ocean kayakers Eric Soares and Jim Kakuk of California, leaders of the Tsunami Rangers adventure club and experts at paddling the West Coast.

There's a $3.50 admission charge to listen to Mason or Soares-Kakuk.

Paddle Fest runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

SIMPSON

March RETRO CORNER

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 50th Anniversary retro theme a new beaver has joined the club, Buddy. A take-off from Beency.

Introducing Buddy, the 50th 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 50th 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.

The Squamish River March 22, 1981 Margie Digney

The wind did blow; the rain did fall.
It did not bode well for canoeists all.

But the day dawned bright, sunny and warmish;
so nine of the Beavers went to the Squamish.

Mushens (two) and Spain and Wong,
Janice, Ray, Margie and Susan and Don.

This river is known to be usually a treat;
but today was so dry our 'bottoms' were squeaked.

The winter's high water redirected its aim
so that many a curve revealed strange terrain.

The wind did blow (and blow and blow!)
'til it seemed we were pushed against the flow!

Some rapids nearly dumped my 3-member team.
(The same ones caused Mrs. Mushens to scream.)

In spite of the fact it's a long, long way
we suffered no ills and had a great day.

Wanna Win a Prize???? - Read Below....

TESTING, TESTING, TESTING

What? A measurement of knowledge--in this case of the Beaver Canoe Club.
When? Each month an article or picture in the **RETRO CORNER of Beaver Tales** will take you back in time. The next issue, a simple question will be asked.
The point? To explore and expose the wonderful history of our 50 paddling years.
How to win? Correctly answer all ten questions at the Golden Gala in November.
The reward? Winner of the **"I know it all" draw** will receive a gift certificate from a company founded about the same time as BCC--Lee Valley!

Quizzical Question #1
From 1979: who is pictured in the paddling tandem?

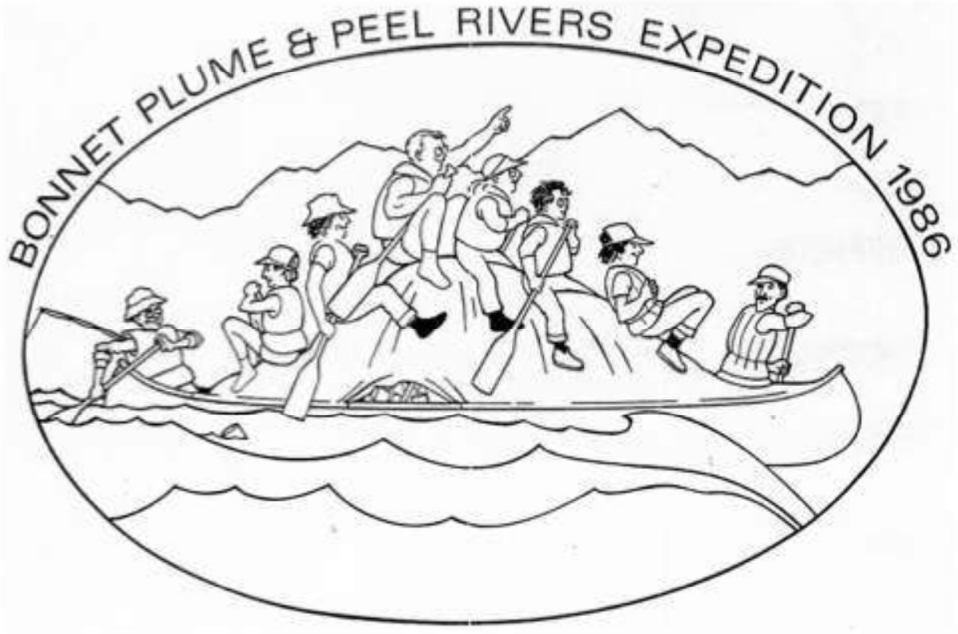
a) Marie B and Gerry H
b) Janice P and Carey R
c) Pauline M and Wally P
d) Pierre T and Bill M

Clue: check the February Retro Corner

Speaking of 1976, Tim Hortons launched their iconic bite-sized donut holes that same year. What a winner! Chocolate Glazed ranks #1 in sales BUT there is a $50 gift certificate awaiting your lucky draw ticket at the Golden Gala so that you can select your own mix. Happy half century to us both!

Join us on Saturday, 28 November for a fun evening.

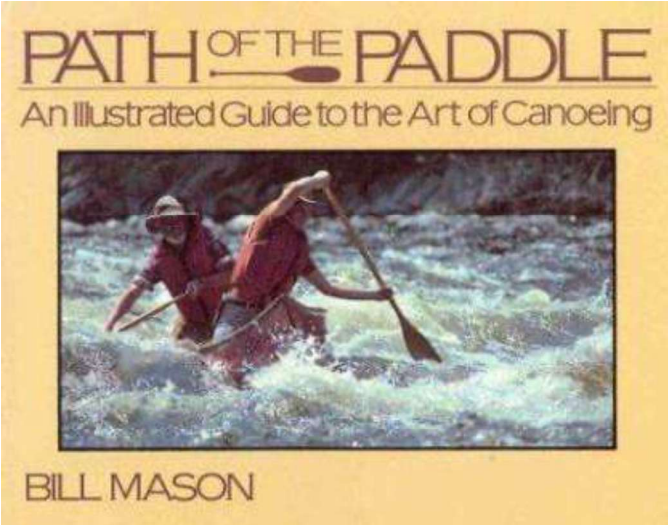
The Bonnet Plume River, not frequently paddled by Beavers, was featured as February 2026's fabulous entertainment! Turning the calendar back 40 years to 1986, long before digital photography existed, a group of 8 intrepid Beavers chose it as their first northern trip! Nola Johnston, an artistic graphic 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 50th Anniversary Gala on November 28th, 2026, and meet them in person!

April RETRO CORNER

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.



More than just a paddling club--other activities included ski trips, bowling nights, baseball games, and even outings to the opera.



A RETRO MOMENT: OUR LENDING LIBRARY

In 2015, over 75 books had been collected and made available to members. Most material was canoe related: paddling instructions, trip routes, historic expeditions, wooden craft building and maintenance. As club "inventory" they were housed in sealed plastic boxes at the home of the vice-president.

A photograph of the cover, name of the book, and author appeared on a tab on the website and acknowledged the two largest donors: Joe Selby and Bob Hoye.

The concept was simple:

> *"Twice a year the entire library will be brought to a meeting: **June** (for reading over the summer) and **January** (for trip planning and skills refresher). In between, specific books may be ordered via an email to the VP for pick-up at his home."*

The execution was not.

Managing lending lists and web updates were daunting. And hauling those very heavy totes in and out of meetings need a lot of muscle. The program disappeared after a year (much like the 1989 video library concept).

And now, most of these treasured titles reside on the net with easy access to all.

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

A CHALLENGE:

Eight correct answers enter you in a Lee Valley certificate draw at the Golden Gala!
Each multiple choice refers to a Retro Corner piece from the previous month-- 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

*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

May RETRO CORNER

'TIS A TALE TO BE TOLD...

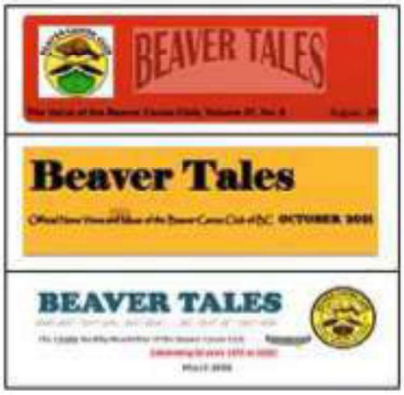
"If we call ourselves Beavers then our newsletter could be *The Beaver Tales*!" And so, in January 1977, a monthly newsletter was launched "inviting all to contribute articles about club activities (when we get going), information about canoeing (maintenance, training, etc.) or cartoons."

50 years. 550 issues. Thousands of articles on trip adventures, paddling advice, environmental concerns, safety, and fun. Recorded exploits providing priceless information as well as becoming secondary source material for research on the province and the sport of canoeing.

From its gestetnered beginnings the 'Voice of the Beaver Canoe Club' (lead by a Guide Beaver) has gone through masthead tweaks and descriptions. In 2001, monthly newsletters were emailed to computer owners while snail-mail was gradually discontinued, ending completely two years later. Currently BT links are sent to members with issues appearing on the website in current and archived files.







And whose hard work keeps all these stories from the past?
The 30 editors who've made sure that they last!
Beaver tales big and small, make our story, one and all.

Courtesy Marie Bremner

50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY STUFF

My first (whitewater) Beaver Canoe Club Trip: Jenny Wakeling

In 2009 I joined the club and completed all the introductory training provided by the club: Basic Paddlers, Intro to Moving Water and the Mamquam weekend – where I discovered that I suffer from severe cold-water gasping when unceremoniously dunked into frigid snowmelt water by an inept eddy turn.

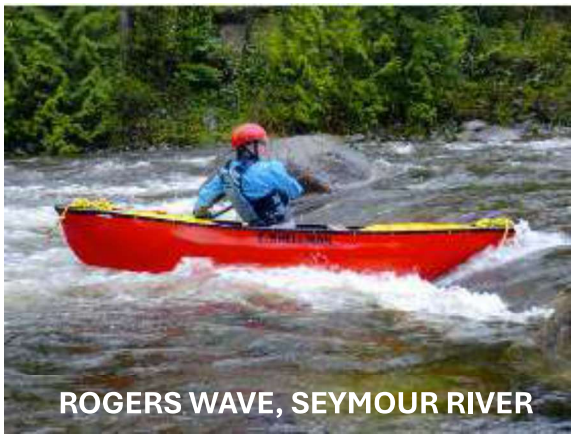
There were three of us: my husband (at the time), myself and our 5-year-old. Neither myself nor my husband had any prior whitewater paddling experience, but we were encouraged to attend that year's River's Week activities. With no local family to babysit, the three of us arrived with our canoe, camping gear and expectations of excitement.

Common sense prevailed and we elected not to paddle our first rivers with the two of us as beginners in the tandem with a child, therefore kind club members scrambled to find us suitable partners so that one parent could child-mind whilst the other paddled. The first day I arrived at the Princeton Tourist centre and looked at the Similkameen River, which was high, I was terrified of the rushing water! However, I was lucky enough to be partnered with a young Czech man who turned out to be an awesome paddler. With an experienced paddler in

the stern, I had a blast – we surfed and eddy turned and arrived at Bromley Rock triumphant (and dry). That day sealed the deal for me: I was hooked on whitewater!!

This story exemplifies all the things I love about the Beavers: the training, the mentorship and support of experienced club members to get new paddlers out on the water. You never know where the journey will take you. Since then, I have paddled the Bowron Lakes, Sayward Forest & Powell River canoe routes as well as rivers in the Northwest Territories, Alberta, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Scotland and all over BC. I paddled with friends, families, Beavers and on guided trips. I have taken courses, became an instructor and now helped

with the annual Basic Paddlers training when I can. I never expected to become a whitewater paddler when I joined the club, but canoeing brings me so much joy. I am so grateful to the Beaver Canoe Club for enabling me to start my journey of exploration and discover a passion for this sport!



ROGERS WAVE, SEYMOUR RIVER



THANKSGIVING, ALOUETTE LAKE

No Easter Campouts for Beavers?

Beavers were, at the beginning, a rather "sketchy" group of miscreants steered to the "new club" by the properly pristine Dogwood Canoe Club on the pretense that they had too many members.

Many of the early hijinks and questionable activities have been banned, and their historical records expunged from the Beaver archives. Until it was time to celebrate 50 years, when we must reminisce about both the good and the bad.

Things like the Easter campout and turkey barbeque at Widgeon Creek. It was a great idea which had all the necessary components: holiday weekend, isolated campsite, canoes, lots of food and spirits and, of course, an irrepressible group of Beavers.

Cooking the bird over a bed of coals was a slow process and required constant attention. Someone had to keep turning the spit slowly. But the camp area was rather chilly and damp, so volunteers were not overly motivated, until some rather shady Beavers came up with a spectacular solution.

Why not place a gallon jug (yes, measurement was still imperial back in those historic times) beside the fire? And then insert a length of surgical tubing in the top with a valve at the farther end. A perfect siphon in the forest! But only the spit turner (spitter?) could access the siphon, so there was no shortage of volunteers for the day. And a fabulous Easter dinner was enjoyed by the intrepid Beavers. However,

It was discovered that a Beaver kit (underage Beaver) had taken his or her turn with the spit and siphon. Not pointing fingers here. And not identifying his or her parents who may or may not have been in attendance. However, the jig was up. There were rumours of many potential felonious activities this weekend.

With the subsequent arrival of new members who identified as "Lawyers" and "Law Enforcement Officials", a decision had to be made regarding this delightful annual activity. So the event was cancelled, and the executive poured over all documents which may (or may not) have referenced the event to "redact" all relevant details.

The Easter campout was no more, and it disappeared from Beaver memories for decades. Until now. And now you know about some of the "darker" days of the Beaver Canoe Club.

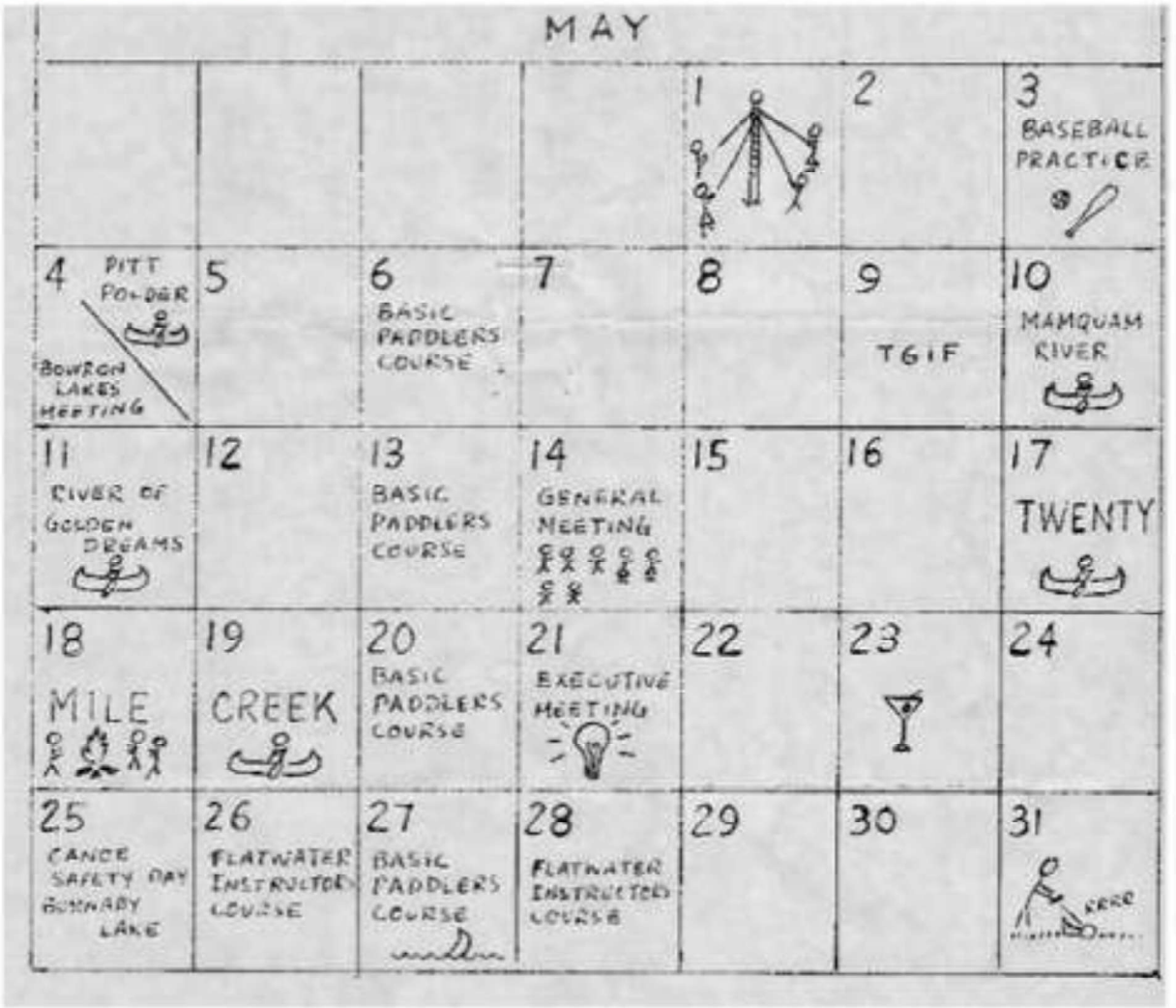
Gerry Lamb

HOW TRIPS LISTINGS HAVE CHANGED!

NOW

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. **Contact: Madeline W** 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. **Register in Advance: Dave B** itsusinus@gmail.com

AND THEN



May 1980 calendar of events

RECALL REQUIRED!

The challenge: Each month an article or picture in the RETRO CORNER of Beaver Tales will take you back in time. Next issue, a simple question is asked.
The point? To explore and expose the wonderful history of our 50 paddling years.
The win? Correctly answer all eight questions at the Golden Gala in November.
The reward? Winner of the "I know it all" draw will receive a gift certificate to a company founded about the same time as BCC--Lee Valley Tools!

Retro Quiz # 3

Who produced this documentary for the National Film Board of Canada?

a) Carey Robson, *Seymour Interlude*

b) Bill Mason, *Path of the Paddle*

c) Dan Burnett, *Eddy Turns*

d) Leo Dickinson, *Canoeing Down Everest*

Hint: check month of April



**TRAINING AND SAFETY--
ALWAYS IMPORTANT**

BEAVER CANOE CLUB

TRIP SAFETY RULES

All Beaver Canoe Club trips must be advertised in Beaver Tales.

1. Club trips will be of at least 3 canoes.
2. The Club will appoint a suitably experienced paddler as Trip Leader for all Club Trips.

The Trip Leader will:

1. Ascertain what club safety equipment is present and who shall carry it (eg. first aid kits, throw ropes, flare kits, etc.)
2. Ascertain the canoeing experience of those present, and where necessary, assign paddling positions.
3. Check individual canoes' safety equipment before embarking.
4. When necessary (eg. rivers), the trip leader will hold a pre-trip meeting for the purpose of discussing:
   a) objectives of the trip
   b) type and any known hazards of the trip (eg. weather, sweepers, waterfalls, etc.)
   c) accident prevention, signals, emergency and rescue procedures.
   d) etiquette and ethics.

Trip Participants will:

1. Equip their canoe with (a) a bailer
   (b) a spare paddle
   (c) secured bow and stern lines which will float (9 mm by 5 to 8 m is recommended)
   (d) extra floatation if required (it may not prevent a capsize but it could save your boat!)
2. Carry a spare set of emergency clothing in a waterproof container (a wool toque is recommended even if wearing a wetsuit).
3. Wear a Personal Floatation Device (attaching a whistle and a spare set of keys are a good idea).

All gear and equipment shall either be tied in so that with the canoe upside down none hangs below the gunwales, or so that it falls completely free (some you lose and some you don't).

Club members will inform their guests of these rules.

OCEAN NAVIGATION COURSE

In-town: April 29 & 30 — Instructor: Wally Priedoli
Gulf Islands: May 6 & 7 — Cost: $50.00*
Pre-requisites: Flatwater 2 and some experience on moving water.
Contact: Ed Bach, 936-6755

* In addition to course fee, you will need 1989 tide tables, Gulf charts 3310, a compass, and ferry to and from Vancouver Island.

March 6, 1992
Time: 10 - 11:00 pm
Place: Ron Andrews Pool
931 Lytton St., Nth Van.
Contact: Mal Finch
731-8825

CANOE ROLLING
This is a great opportunity to meet fellow paddlers who are great rollers or who are learning how. Boats will be provided so that if you don't have one, don't worry! Cost is $5 and instruction will be provided.

Paul Mason Whitewater Canoe Clinic
September 19-22, 2002
Location: TBA (probably the Lower Cheakamus and the Chilliwack)

Flat Water (advanced solo) One day clinic

Sunday, May 14; 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
pre-requisite; Flat Water II or equivalent
cost: $ 25 contact Carey Robson @ 437-1140

Solo Moving Water

Tuesday May 16 7:45 p.m., Friday May 19 7:45 p.m., May 20, 21, and 22.
Pre- requisite; advanced solo flatwater skills and moving water experience.
cost: $ 75. Class si e limited to six
note: This course filled six weeks before commencement last year. Your place assured by your cheque. contact Carey Robson @ 437-1140

June RETRO CORNER

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 safely 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...

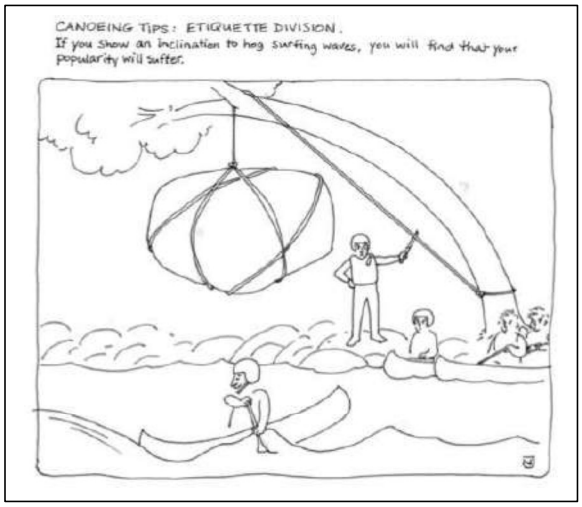
TRAINING

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 Resolution
#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 beer, it actually derives from the time Dave Miller was learning to paddle?









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 you 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 a 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 of 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



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

The answer: see the May section

A RETRO MOMENT: TWINKIES WERE A STAPLE OF SCHOOL LUNCHES THROUGH THE 70s AND 80s

Official Day: National Twinkie Day is celebrated April 6th, the anniversary of their invention.
The "Twinkie Defense": A term coined during the 1979 trial of Dan White, where a defense attorney argued that the defendant's mental state was affected by eating too much junk food, including Twinkies.
Name Origin: The brand name was inspired by a billboard for "Twinkle Toe Shoes."
Shelf Life: The longest-lasting known Twinkie survived 30 years without molding.

July RETRO CORNER

Beavers in Antiquity

At the beginning of time, fun-loving paddlers joined a new canoe club. With burgeoning interest in this recreational sport, a need was felt to bring knowledge, fun and safety to the forefront. And we did not wait for someone else to do it.

In our ignorance (bravado?) we planned a really big event at Burnaby Lake one summer day...and 1400 people showed up. Of course, it helps if your membership also includes spots on the Executive of the BC Recreational Canoeing Association. And it helps if, in our exuberance, we ignore the sentiment that major newspapers would not be interested in this small but growing form of recreation.

We were such an irrepressible crew back then. "Joust" celebrating our origins and the antics of days gone by.

Gerry Lamb



Canoe punchers

A hockey uniform offers no protection for jouster Gerry Lamb as Keith Spain sends him flying into Burnaby Lake. The two paddlers are Dinty Moore and Betty Donaldson. Spain is not only a successful jouster, he is also chairman of the B.C. Recreational Canoeing Association, one of the sponsors of Canoe Fest '81 — being held today, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Burnaby Lake Pavilion. The festival includes canoeing equipment displays, paddlers' skills course, free instruction and comedy acts.

RIVER OF GOLDEN DREAMS JULY 8, 1979

'Twas cloudy and overcast with little blue,
When fifteen Beavers set out to canoe,
The River of Gold Dreams,
Which was quite a bit higher this year it seems.

Despite rain and cloud busting overhead,
We put in at Alta Lake following Dale and Fred.
Paul trolled behind hoping for a trout,
But our laughter told him none were about.

The stream at first was slow as a snail
But higher water meant no portage by rail.
A tricky little ferry was handled by all
Despite buzzing by mosquitoes burly and tall.

Last year's dams were nowhere to be found,
They were safely cleared with nary a sound.
At one, however, Dale built a bridge of planks,
But the wet portagers all said, "No thanks!"

Lunch was held on a tall stone face
Those damned mosquitoes all 'round the place.
One last dam with a drop of four feet
Was shot by all as a real special treat.

Drenched and chilled with no help from the sun
All agreed the trip was still great fun.

(Thanks to Peter who drove up to Whistler and helped out transporting drivers) DAN TAYLOR

Gourmet Lunch Paddles of Years Gone By:



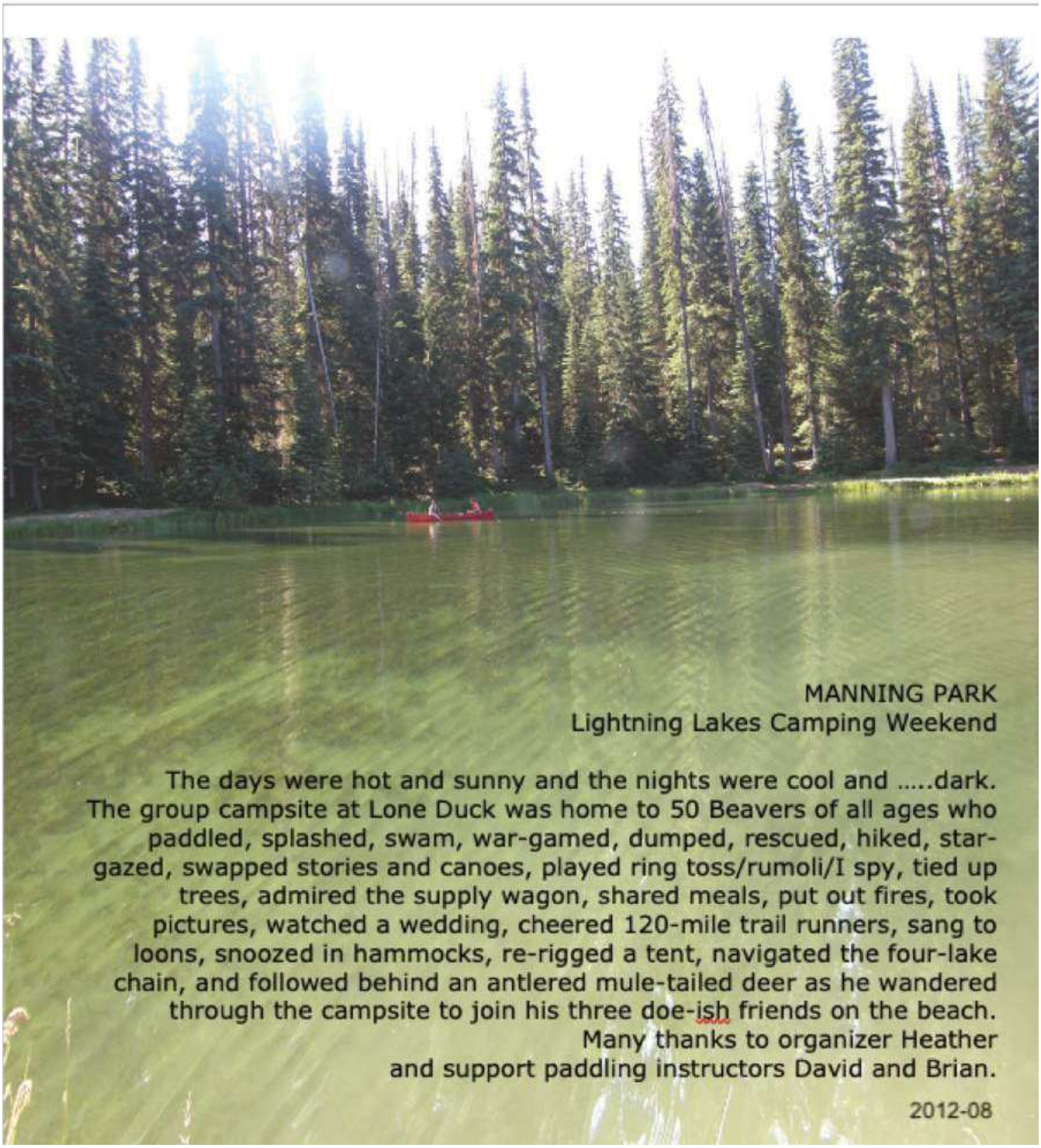
1982 Gourmet Lunch on the Allouette River

"Mandarin oranges marinated in Drambuie and dipped in chocolate; well-brandied pêches flambées with French vanilla ice-cream" ... do I have your attention yet? This description of gustatory delights comes from the trip report of May 1985 Alouette River Gourmet Luncheon (report by Doug Rogers). This was an annual (or, almost annual) event on the Beaver paddling schedule from 1980 to 1995, with locations varying between North Alouette, South Alouette, Stave Lake and Hayward Lake. For the first year, any step up from the usual sandwiches and gorp was considered "gourmet", but in subsequent years the competition was on. Tablecloths, crystal stemware and elegant attire were the order of the day, along with exotic lunch fare including sushi, freshly cooked crab, tropical fruit salad with whipped cream.....oh my!



1983 Gourmet Lunch Paddle Allouette River





HOW IS YOUR RECALL?

Remember those juicy tidbits of gossip we read and shared in the past? Columnists fought over who got the best story first. (Some things haven't changed...)

This month's challenge is designed to jog your memory about New Year's Resolutions.
Get this--and the previous and future quizzes--correct and your name will be entered in a GALA draw on November 28th!

The entire list of quizzes will be reprinted in early November. Submit your answers by the 15th to earn your right to win a $50 Lee Valley gift Certificate. You can do this!

Quiz #5: **Which gossip-columnist was under exclusive contract to BCC?**

a) Louella Parsons
b) Walter Winchell
c) Hedda (Rock) Hopper
d) Rona Barrett

(Hint: answer to be found in the Retro Corner for June.)

STOLEN. 16 ft. orange Frontiersman. ZLJ06230 M751J
If you see this canoe, phone 525-3161 MAY 1978

July 1994

Stolen Canoe

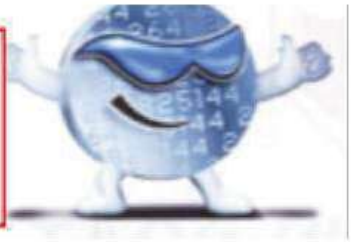
Yes there has been another canoe stolen from a club member - this time from the car port of Nola Johnston. It is a red Team Edge Viper 12ft.

STOLEN BOAT NOTICE. 1998

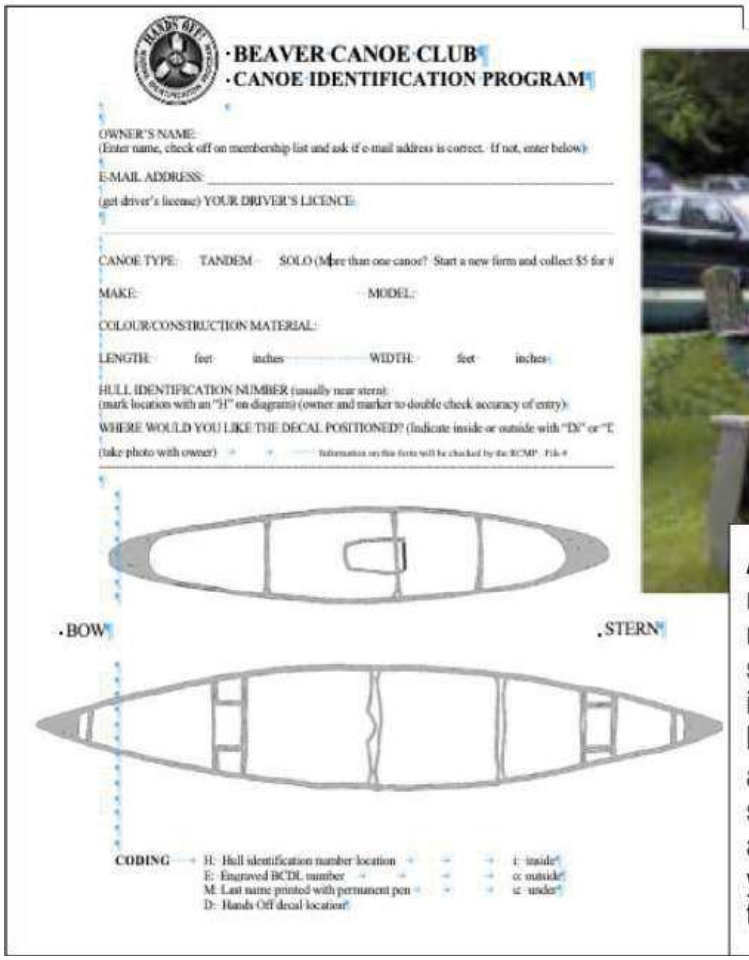
On Tuesday, December 16, between 6:20 AM and 6:30 PM my whitewater canoe was stolen from the roof of my van. The van was parked in front of my apartment, at 5th and Maple, in Vancouver, Canada. .....

TO THE RESCUE:

HANDS OFF! & DataDots
proven protection for your valuable canoe



From 2001 through 2014 Brian Otter and Karyn Lippincott ran the protection program. With the help of club members a canoe was marked, photographed, Surrey police paperwork filled out in triplicate with a copy provided for the owner and their insurer.



·BEAVER CANOE CLUB
·CANOE IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

OWNER'S NAME:
(Enter name, check off on membership list and ask if e-mail address is correct. If not, enter below):

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

(get driver's license) YOUR DRIVER'S LICENCE:

CANOE TYPE: TANDEM SOLO (More than one canoe? Start a new form and collect $5 for it

MAKE: MODEL:

COLOUR/CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL:

LENGTH: feet inches WIDTH: feet inches

HULL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (usually near stern):
(mark location with an "H" on diagram) (owner and marker to double check accuracy of entry):

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE THE DECAL POSITIONED? (Indicate inside or outside with "D" or "

(take photo with owner) → → Information on this form will be checked by the RCMP. File #

·BOW ·STERN

CODING → H: Hull identification number location → → → i: inside
E: Engraved BCDL number → → → o: outside
M: Last name printed with permanent pen → → → u: under
D: Hands Off decal location



Although everyone is familiar with conventional methods of marking property, the DataDot is new. The size of a grain of sand, it has a unique security code embedded into it and that number is registered. The dot will show up under black light, and can't be easily chipped off, sanded away or painted over without affecting the surface of the material that they're on. Once applied on a dry canoe base (with a Q-Tip), your canoe is provided with another layer of theft-proofing.

August RETRO CORNER

A STEP BACK IN TIME:

August 2002

Something old, something new, and a ship that's sailed the briny blue.

The August meeting will be held at the Britannia Heritage Shipyard near Steveston. For those that arrive early there's a paddle along the shores of the Fraser, then a picnic dinner on the Britannia grounds (or grab some fish and chips at one of the Pajoes locations on the waterfront in Steveston). Everyone will meet at 7:00pm for a 1½ hour private tour of the Heritage buildings—rare surviving examples of a once thriving mixture of canneries, boatyard and residences—the last of their kind on the BC coast.

(As an added attraction the tall ship Concordia is in port. She will be offering day long sail training excursions until mid-August. For more info call Britannia 604-718-8050)





COMMUNITY SERVICE 2004

For many years in the early 2000s Beaver members worked with Vancouver Parks & Rec to provide an on-the-water experience for the disabled. Some participants paddled, some sat, some played; all enjoyed.



POTLUCK PICNICS AND PADDLES





QUIZ #6

You know the drill.
Memory Testing Question:

Which food product was banned from Rivers Week Ultimate Happy Hour?

a) nachos
b) ice cream
c) store-bought cookies
d) timbits

Stymied? Look back to July



The roasted pig and Gerry