

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

Yup, 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 diharda, 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 paddle is suitable for someone who is willing to take the time to prepare. If you are not sure...

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 Guard 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



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

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.

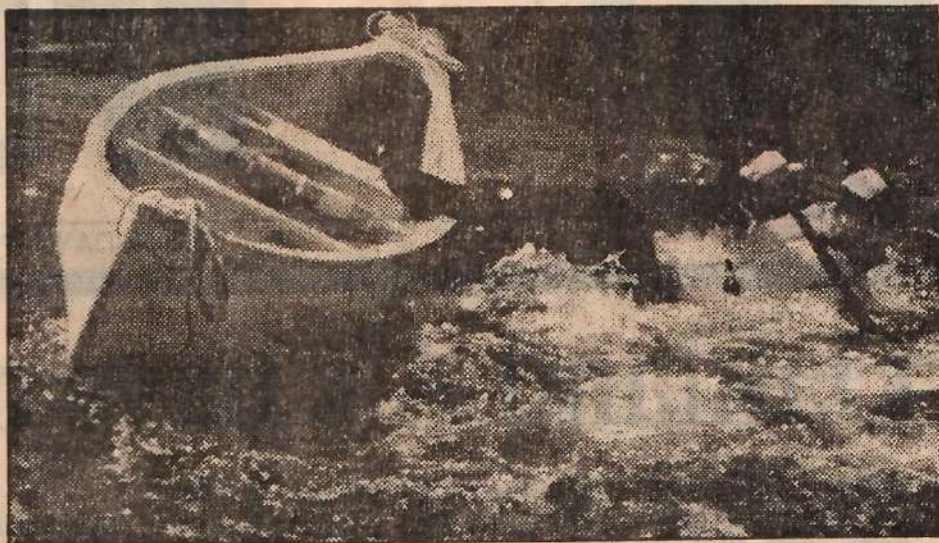
As I also discovered, it takes practice to toss a rescue rope (unfurling from a throw bag) and put it on target.

"Aim for their head," says Robson.

My first shot went three metres directly up the shoreline a landed in two inches of water; could only watch as the current took the 'swimmer' downstream where, thankfully, there were better tossers.

Don't get the impression from the Beavers' emphasis on safety and rescue preparation that whitewater canoeists are reluctant

Please see CANOE, D2



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



Being fitted for
a PFD !

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?

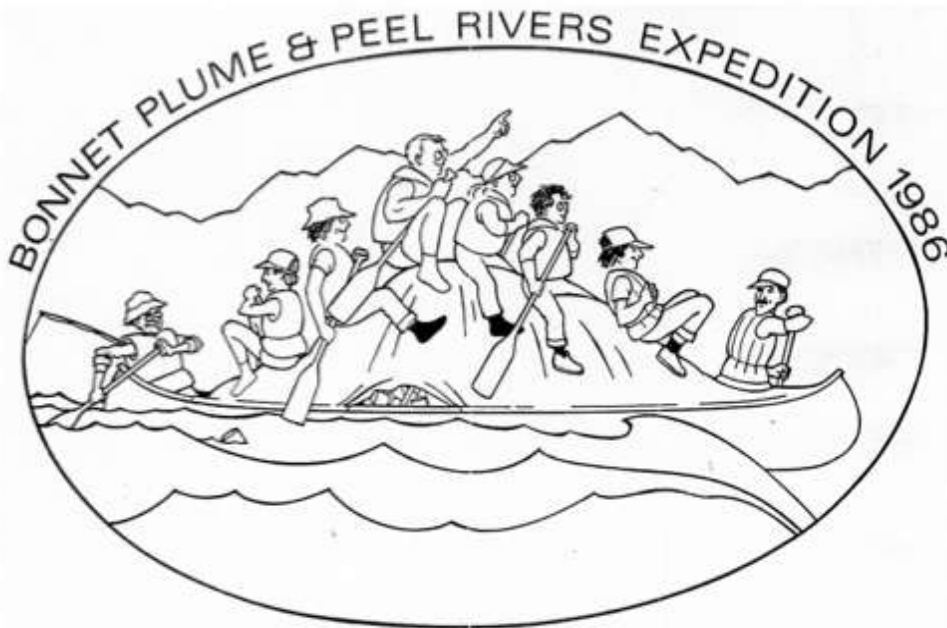
- a) Marie B and Gerry H
- b) Janice P and Carey R
- c) Pauline M and Wally P
- d) Pierre T and Bill M

*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.

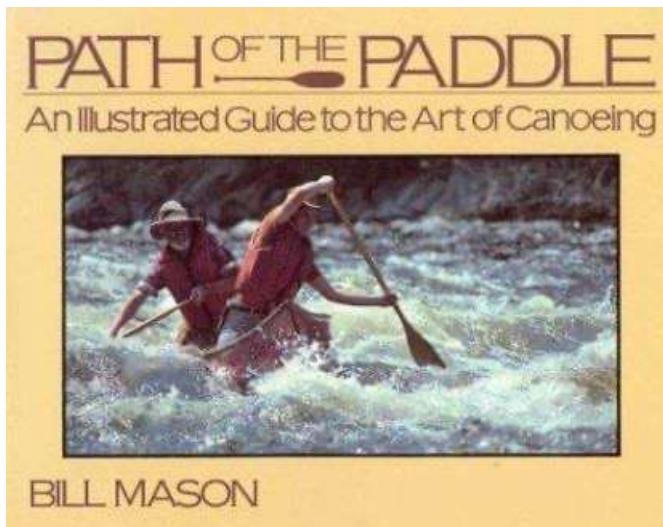


Perhaps you can recognize some of these paddlers? Come to the 50th Anniversary Gala on November 28th, 2026, and meet them in person!

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 Hoyer.

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? Muahahahaha!!!! 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 tie-downs 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.

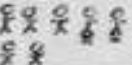
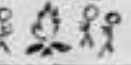
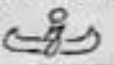
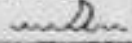
Gerry Lamb

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						
				1 	2	3 BASEBALL PRACTICE 
4 PITT POLDER  BOWRON LAKES MEETING	5	6 BASIC PADDLERS COURSE	7	8	9 TGIF	10 MAMQUAM RIVER 
11 RIVER OF GOLDEN DREAMS 	12	13 BASIC PADDLERS COURSE	14 GENERAL MEETING 	15	16	17 TWENTY 
18 MILE 	19 CREEK 	20 BASIC PADDLERS COURSE	21 EXECUTIVE MEETING 	22	23 	24
25 CANOE SAFETY DAY BURNABY LAKE	26 FLATWATER INSTRUCTOR COURSE	27 BASIC PADDLERS COURSE 	28 FLATWATER INSTRUCTOR COURSE	29	30	31 

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

OCEAN NAVIGATION COURSE

In-town: April 29 & 30 Instructor: Wally Friedell
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. N. 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)

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.

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 size 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 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 Friedolins 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].

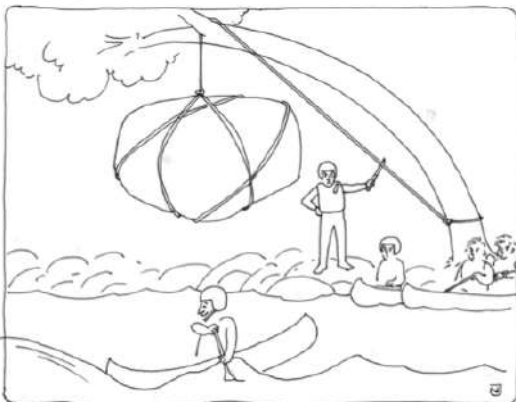
In 1980 Gerry Lamb, Sue Murray, (Dogwood Club), Marie Bremner, Keith Spain and I were certified as Lakewater Instructors. We were taught by John Hatchard and Tynke Braaksma and examined by Brian Creer. In 1981 Keith Spain was elected as Training Director and since the Beavers now had a cohort of RCABC 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.



CANOEING TIPS: ETIQUETTE DIVISION.

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



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 rescuer 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 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



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 joustier Gerry Lamb as Keith Spain sends him flying into Burnaby Lake. The two paddlers are Dirty Moore and Betty Davidson. Spain is not only a successful joustier, 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:

"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!



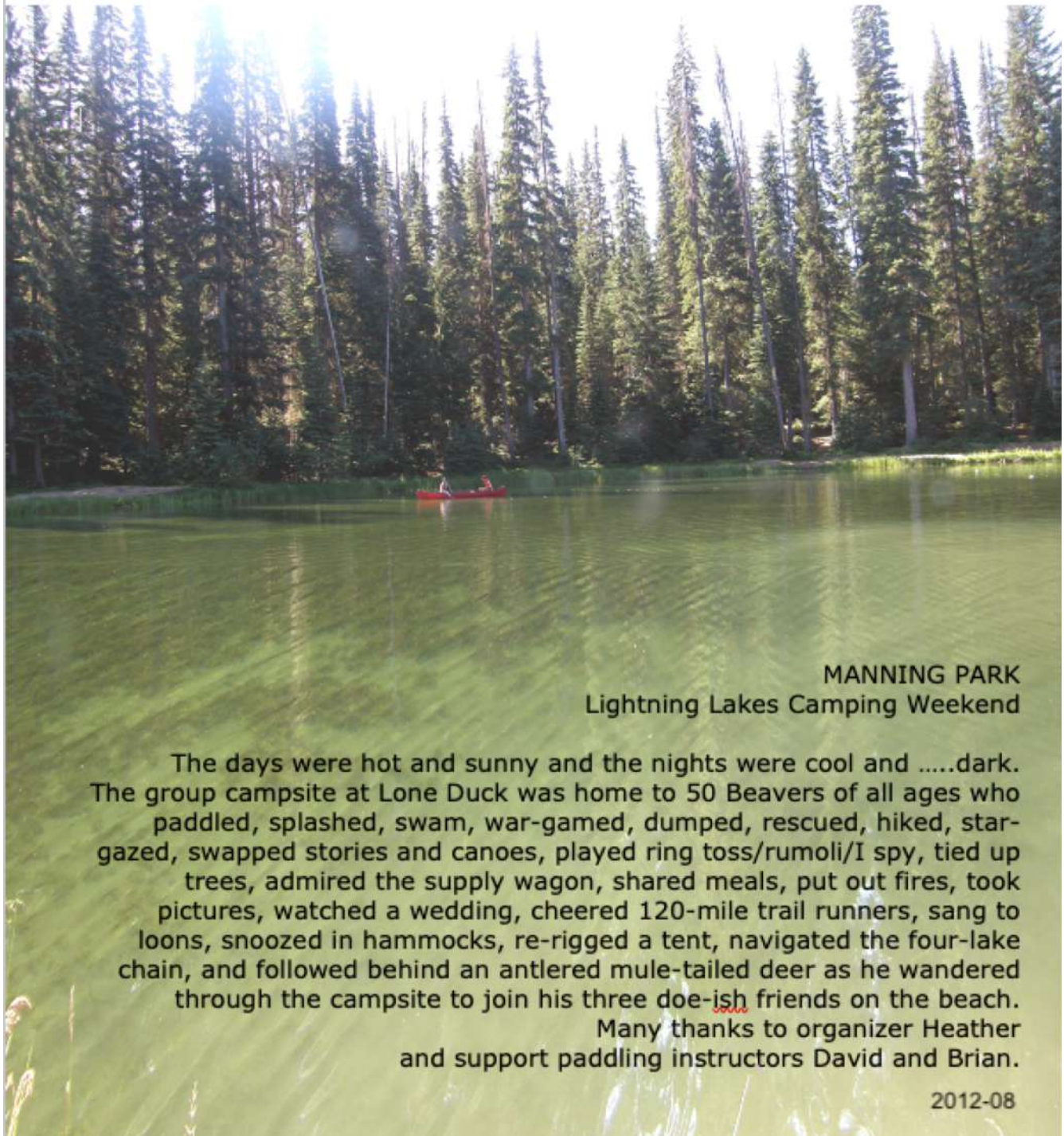
1983 Gourmet Lunch Paddle Alouette River



1982 Gourmet Lunch on the Alouette River

Food has always been celebrated on trips. Rivers Week Ultimate Happy Hour suggested skipping dinner in favour of contributing a potluck extra-ordinary appetizer such as sushi, chicken wings, fancy cheeses. The caveat: no nachos!





MANNING PARK
Lightning Lakes Camping Weekend

The days were hot and sunny and the nights were cool anddark. The group campsite at Lone Duck was home to 50 Beavers of all ages who paddled, splashed, swam, war-gamed, dumped, rescued, hiked, star-gazed, swapped stories and canoes, played ring toss/rumoli/I spy, tied up trees, admired the supply wagon, shared meals, put out fires, took pictures, watched a wedding, cheered 120-mile trail runners, sang to loons, snoozed in hammocks, re-rigged a tent, navigated the four-lake chain, and followed behind an antlered mule-tailed deer as he wandered through the campsite to join his three doe-ish friends on the beach.

Many thanks to organizer Heather
and support paddling instructors David and Brian.

2012-08

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

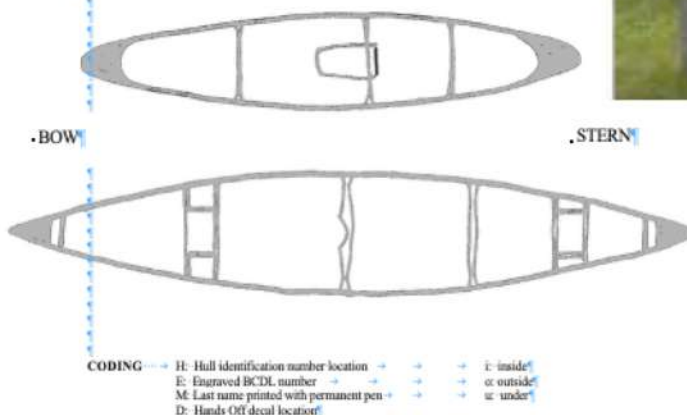


From 2001 through 2014 Brian Otter and Karyn Lippincott ran the protection program. With the help of club members a canoe was marked, photographed, Surrey police paperwork filled out in triplicate with a copy provided for the owner and their insurer.



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



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)



POTLUCK PICNICS AND PADDLES



The roasted pig and Gerry



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.

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

September RETRO CORNER

TWO POINTS OF VIEW:

Harrison River Trip Report, October 6th 1996

Either there were 34 boats and 17 paddlers or it was the other. Whatever, it was one crowded parking lot at the Sasquatch Inn and it didn't help that another canoe club was on the road as too, honking as they drove by, pretending to be Beavers, giving the leader the sinking feeling that this was going to be the shuttle from hell.

Harrison Hotsprings and then onto the lake, and around the bend, and past the sewage outflow, and no one even noticed that the trip leader and partner had forgotten to put on their life jackets. You can hide in a mob this big.

The size of the mob led to a more free form style of paddling: oh, there was the usual sweep boat and a "maternity" express lead boat - Monica and Shireen - but in the middle it was a Beaver social circle as clusters of boats would form and separate and reform in new groups, some times abreast, sometimes linear and occasionally on opposite sides of the river. Such was the social intensity that half the group paddled right past fossil beach and had to "about boat" and paddle back up stream against the mighty Harrison. Some had a better fossil search than others as it was hard to organize everyone onto the same beach and the trip leader was distracted trying to pry Bob Hoyer away from his lunch and get back into his boat. Once Bob has the wax paper off the sandwiches, he gets very focused!

All 34 of us waded ashore at Hatchery Hill, Bob got out his lunch and afterward we hiked our way up the hill for the view ... of Rose Drozdowski and David Westell who only made it 1/32 of the way up before they laid down in the middle of the trail for a nap. Also in view were two Voyageur canoes run aground 100 feet off shore in the shallows, lured in by the sight of 17 canoes pulled up on the beach.

We woke Rose and Dave up and went off down the left channel to play shallow water tag through the sand bars and when the two channels merged there was a brief flurry of anticipation - maybe a dump?

It was not to be. The rest was downhill to the takeout and home.

There were too many participants to mention individually; but honourable mention goes to Ted Turner who brought along two wooden boats. Big deal you think? Well, one was 101 years old, originally built by Herald Bro. of Gores Landing, Ontario in a cold moulded plank construction technique and the second was a solo boat, rib construction, built in the 1940's. Both have been lovingly refinished by Ted and these are not car top queens; he paddles them, and even loaned one out.

On the drive home, a few friends dropped by a local pub to get Bob Hoyer something to eat.

Einar's somewhat sensational report of the October Harrison trip requires perspective. If he hadn't forgotten his own lunch, he wouldn't have been so compulsive about mine and likely would have been more accurate in his account.

Of the 17 boats, 14 were made from unnatural chemicals, and 3, not 2, were older wooden canoes. Einar neglected to mention my Leader - the 18 footer of Chestnut's fast Cruiser series, that, from the 1920's to 1970's, was the downhill river racer. As for not searching for fossils, doesn't everyone know that rocks are for eddy turns or sticking canoes to?

Regards, Bob Hoyer

Einar Harness



UPPER TULAMEEN - Postscript

August 1993

We had been travelling far and the journey was starting to take its toll when we arrived at a small group of homesteads. We investigated this hamlet and decided to take a break at the local eatery. Peace reigned as we sunk into somnolent thoughts of rivers week so far: the sounds of summer poured gently on the window panes. Then, as we each downed a well deserved coffee and Danish, a tall, dark and somewhat forlorn looking gentlemen wandered into the room talking to anyone who would lend an ear. His right hand went to his brow as if to wipe away non-existent beads of perspiration. The words were melodramatic and difficult to catch but went something like this :-

*Grade 2, or not Grade 2: that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous estimation,
Or to take paddles against a river of troubles,
And by paddling end them? To pry: to sweep;
Grade 4 ! and, by a sweep to say we end
The bouncing on the thousand natural rocks
Canoes are prone to, 'tis a stroke combination
Devoutly to be wish'd. To pry, to sweep;
To draw: perchance to surf: ay there's the dump*

At this the tragic hero passed by (exit stage left) still mumbling to himself.

anonymous

ARE YOU A KNOW-IT-ALL?

Test your Beaver Canoe Club knowledge!

Win a chance for a \$50 Lee Valley gift certificate!

(Directions for submitting your answers will appear in November.)

RETRO QUIZ #7:

What toys were enjoyed at Manning Park Family Campouts?

- a) Pump squirt guns
- b) Tossing rings
- c) Star Wars action figures
- d) Rubik's cube

(Clue: check back to July)



LCROSS mission data
examined: water discovered
on the moon

KLEENA DA KANAKA CREEK...AHH-H-H....

by **Jim Slade**

Sep 2001

This past September closed on an upbeat note weatherwise. Susan, Cody, Lia and I left Vancouver September 30th in sun and blue sky and arrived at Kanaka Creek Regional Park, just east of Haney Bypass on the Lougheed, autumn mist still enshrouding the put-in by the rail-bridge. Dew as thick and clinging as the mud-bank was slippery and suctioning. Trips-planner Dave Westell rallied the Beavers, requested a trip-leader, and magnanimously accepted the acclamation himself, for this was no ordinary leisure-paddle, this was the annual waterways reclamation eco-challenge of detritus big or small.

Soon after having sluiced through the muck, and with all paddles poised, we ventured north around the first bend as the mist lifted and sun broke through. Shallows in places necessitated the ferrying of canoes mostly by bows persons but on occasion by stern types as well.

At the third bend, Don and Donna rassed with the first big catch of the day, which proved to be the business end of an ancient wringer washer. This was soon followed by Jennifer and Peter hauling out the first of almost a dozen car tires, one or two still on rims. Jim snagged a boot (steel toe, size 11), while Susan fished out several drink cans--none still full I regret to report. Young Cody, in the bow of Scott's canoe, kept a steady vigil for jetsam as well as a steady stream of questions directed at Scott.

A stone's throw or two past the foot-bridge a very BIG tire, from a dump- or mining-truck, demanded a team effort of paddle-digging, pole levers, and shoulder-heaves but, after a half-hour or more, the crew uprighted the beast and proceeded to roll it downstream to a gravel-bed below the footbridge, fearing during the transit for its 500 lb. weight to wobble, capsize, and crush one of the altruistic eco-warriors in our midst.

By now it was lunch. A few onlookers from the bridge gazed at our spoils and commented, "It's unreal what some people will toss in the river". On the return leg, as it turned out, we hauled out more than during the upstream course: shopping carts, a rural mailbox with the pop-up flag, two amber-lighted and hinged roadwork signs, a bicycle, a heavy metal tailgate, more tires, etc. etc.



David Westell reported later that when he informed the GVRD the following day of our catch they expressed surprise for they had predicted little would be recovered because they had checked out the area not long ago.

Rose and David generously invited us to their home not far away in Maple Ridge and, with BBQ'd food and drink, we watched the sun go down on a successful day of tidying a small section of Kanaka Creek.



T50

In 2007 a group of paddlers interested in class III solo play & practice joined forces. A race was organized independently by Beavers with the support from the Chilliwack Centre of Excellence club. Tamahi Five-0 was described as a "fun slalom race for open canoes. The Five-0 stands for fifty, as in the 50 second penalty for missing a gate. Advanced whitewater paddling skills required; a sense of humour recommended."

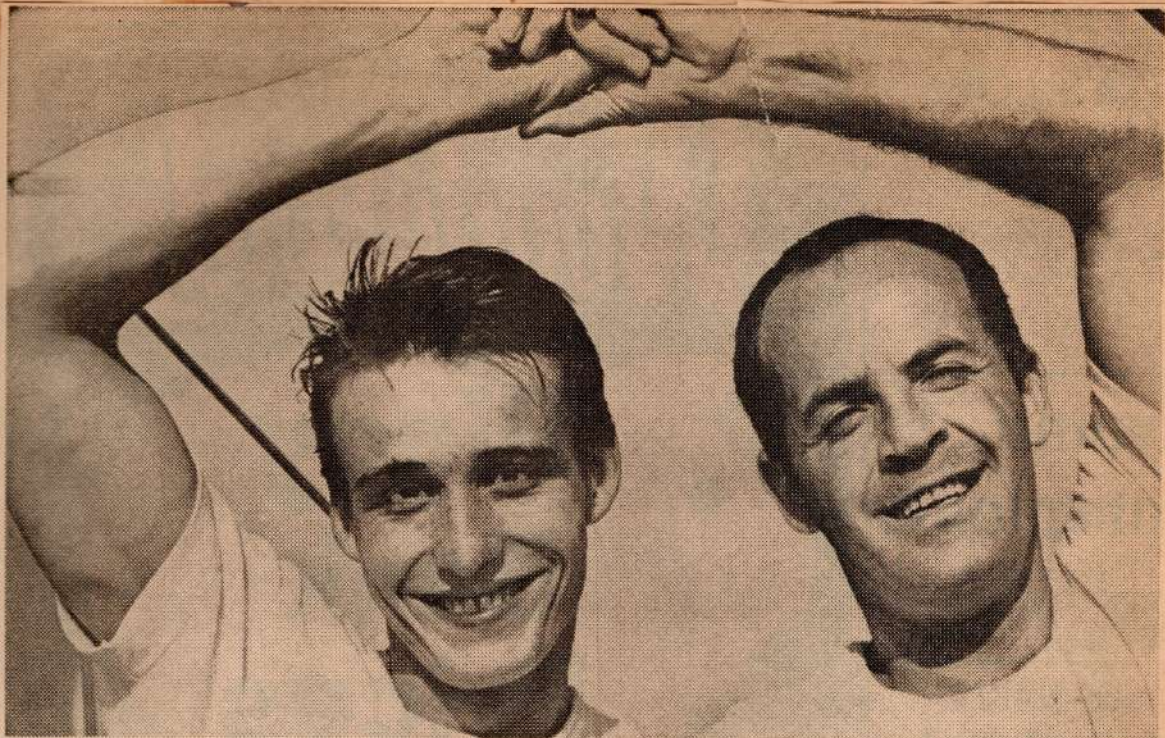
The September event, held on the Tamahi Rapids of the Chilliwack River, ran from 2008 through 2016. Pat Y remembers "paddling the course in a 14' tandem playboat with Dave K. I'm sure the two of us together exceeded the boat's weight capacity before we swamped in the first wave. We didn't stand a chance against Dan B in his converted H2Pro." Annually it attracted about 40 participants and a larger number of cheerers.

Although no longer an event, spin-offs included a web forum for whitewater canoeing and the introduction of BCC's Mamquam weekend to give paddlers practice and exposure to river running.

INPUT BY PAT YARNELL



October RETRO CORNER



LEIF JORGENSEN and BILL COLLINS . . . winning canoeists

—Dan Scott Photo

100 Canoe Racers Paddle 40 Miles Down Fraser

SUN
SEP. 30/68

An old paddlewheeler docked at Annacis Island was the finish line Sunday for a 40-mile canoe race down the Fraser River.

Nearly 100 contestants in 48

canoes and representing eight clubs throughout B.C. participated in the weekend race, sponsored by the Simon Fraser University Outdoor Club.

It was billed as the biggest canoe event in B.C. since explorer Simon Fraser paddled down the Fraser in 1808.

CHEERS, WHISTLES

A crowd of 250 spectators cheered and whistled as the weary canoeists rounded a bend in the river, passed New Westminster, and glided into the finish line at the paddlewheeler Essington.

Over-all winner was the SFU Outdoor Club with a total time for three classifications of canoeists of 18 hours, 44 minutes and 38 seconds.

Second only by 10 minutes was the Victoria Canoe Club, followed by the University of B.C. Varsity Outdoor Club.

The two-day race began in Mission Saturday morning with the canoeists paddling 18 miles to Fort Langley where they rested for the night. They paddled the final 22 miles Sunday, the first canoe crossing the finish line about 4:30 p.m.

"It was a great race, except I think 40 miles is too long," said men's division co-winner Bill Collins, 36, a Port Moody insurance man and Canada's canoe coach at the Pan American Games in Winnipeg in 1967.

FASTEST TIME

His partner, Leif Jorgenson, 22 a Port Moody sausagemaker and Canadian junior kayak singles champion, was equally elated but tired.

"All I want to do is get some sleep," he said.

Collins and Jorgenson had the fastest time for any classification at five hours, 35 seconds.

The race, which began as an inter-university challenge between Simon Fraser and UBC, attracted so many entrants that race chairman Gerry Lamb, 19, an SFU language major, has proclaimed it a permanent event.

"We had a smaller race last year, but this time we even had the boy scouts and sea rangers," he said.

Winners in the women's division were sisters Virginia, 20, and Janet Wyman, 16, of 7169 Maureen Crescent, Burnaby, with a total time of 6:45.31.

"We sang all the way down the river," said Virginia, an SFU student.

Winners in the mixed division were Keith and Heather Spain of 259 West Keith, North Vancouver, with a time of 5:59.6.

Canoeists Challenged

SUN 16 SEP 68

Simon Fraser University's Outdoor Club has challenged all-comers to a 40-mile canoe race down the Fraser River in late September.

The race will consist of four heats in two days. It will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 28 at the docks in Mission and finish at Annacis Island the next day.

There will be an overnight stop at Fort Langley.

An SFU press release said the University of B.C.'s Varsity Club, the Canadian Youth Hostels and the Dogwood Canoe Club have said they will compete. Organizers said they are hoping 20 canoes will enter.

There will be three classes of competition: male, female, and mixed crews.

The first heat will run from Mission to Stave River Bridge. There will be a break for lunch, then entrants will embark on the second heat which will finish at Fort Langley.

Canoes will be portaged up the main street of the town. Canoe sprints and a hootenanny are planned after dinner.

The third heat leaves Fort Langley at 11 a.m. Sunday for the Pitt River marina. The fourth heat will take the canoes to the finish line at Annacis Island.

Was this where the seeds were sown that eventually led to the creation of the Beaver Canoe Club? It took a few more years, but some names emerge. The Dogwood Canoe Club was in existence, but for most of us the university outdoor clubs were paramount. Dinty Moore owned an outdoor sporting goods store in Burnaby. He sold the traditional canoes (Chestnut, wood/canvas) and the revolutionary new canoes (Grumman aluminum).

While the Grummans opened new adventures on rivers, they were eventually replaced by plastic (royalex) and by privately built fibreglass canoes designed for river paddling (extreme rocker for smaller rivers and big volume for larger rivers like the Thompson). The aluminum boats had a nasty habit of sticking to rocks.

For the canoes of the 1960s, a 40-mile race was a considerable distance. In the mid 1970s we saw the advent of the 18 ft/6-inch sleek cruisers from Sawyer, Mad River and Wenonah. They had the speed necessary for racing but also had the volume to serve as expedition boats.

Shortly thereafter, the cruisers were redesigned to be narrower, lighter in weight, and with lower freeboard, designed specifically for marathon racing. One of these circumnavigated the entire Bowron Lakes circuit in approximately 24 hours. Why you would do this is a mystery to me, but not to the paddlers.

Gerry Lamb



BOULES

A couple of years ago at River's Week Anne and Alain introduced us to the game of Boules. Boules is similar to Bocci except that the balls are smaller and made of metal which are compact and easy to transport. As the balls are not bowled, the game does not require a manicured playing area.

A number of curious spectators expressed an interest in joining in when we started playing at Granite City. Wesley volunteered that he also had a game in camp, so we attempted to run a tournament with eight teams of two partners. Due to the late start and other previously scheduled activities, the tournament was not completed and no champions declared for 2002.

With so many expressing their interest in playing this fun game, we hope to be able to organize a tournament at Granite City next River's Week. (Hint: your odds for winning the tournament will be significantly better if you can convince Anne to be your partner and can ignore Alain's protestations!)

If you want to practice in the intervening months, games can be purchased for about \$50.00 from Lee Valley Tools. Happy Bouling, Don and Donna

UPDATE: Pétanque, a boules game, is now only \$27.50



The year was 1976. Rocky won the Oscar for best picture. Billboard's top hits included "Don't Go Breaking My Heart" and "Play That Funky Music". Jimmy Carter was elected president. What passed for fashion included platform shoes, Farah hair styles and polyester - lots of polyester.

But a band of campfire-cooking wool-wearing wilderness rebels met on November 17, 1976 at the Burnaby Lake Nature House to form a canoe club. Dan Taylor was the organizer and became president, but they had no name, no newsletter, no meeting schedule. But with the help of 6 members of the Dogwoods, they met a second time on January 19, 1977 to make three decisions which have lasted to this day. An excerpt from the January 19th newsletter reads:

"The tone of the meeting was quite informal, but several earth shattering and historical decisions were made... Burnaby's newest canoe club will henceforth be known as the Beaver Canoe Club. The Overwhelming choice for the name of the club's newsletter was "Beaver Tales". ...Club monthly meetings will be held on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month."

And so it has been to this day. But the story of the logo is not so simple. From the January 1977 issue, a Beaver mascot appeared mysteriously but regularly, with no artist credit, no official acceptance.

We do know that a year later a new logo contest was announced and the winner was published in the January 1978 issue of Beaver Tales, but containing the same unmistakable of that cartoon Beaver! Suggestions for refining the logo were submitted by Jack Wainwright and Wally Predolins. Ultimately Wally's refinement was chosen and the first Beaver Decals were ordered.

Then the unthinkable happened. Steve Wong got elected president in 1980 and in the June newsletter, the following was printed:

"In Memoriam: With the coming of the new Wong regime, we permanently lay to rest the Beaver-Guide masthead, a symbol of the old order."

So from June, 1980, A new logo was used, based on a Haida Beaver motif, researched by Roy Isherwood and drawn by Bill McMullan.

But the circular beaver crest with canoe and paddles rose again, this time drawn by Vern Hal with better aesthetics and a more realistic looking beaver. The first Beaver T-Shirts (now a rare collectors item) were printed with the new logo and it has appeared consistently from the February 1982 issue of Beaver Tales to this day.

Dan Bennett



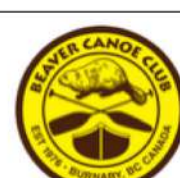
Original mascot, 1977-1980



Winning crest, 1978 - 1980



Haida Logo - 1980 to 1982



2026
50 YEARS

ANDERSON LAKE - THANKSGIVING 1991

With clear sunny skies and the fall colors at their peak, the stage was set for another great Beaver Thanksgiving. Five canoes started off together on the paddle up along the east side of Anderson Lake. There is an assortment of cabins along the lake, but still lots of areas are untouched. We stopped at a nice little beach for lunch, where some interesting driftwood was collected. Marie and Gerry met up to join us after lunch. With the end of the lake in view, we arrived at our destination of the famous abandoned cabin on an old orchard site. Gear was quickly unloaded and camp established. Soon the cabin was buzzing with activity, getting it cleaned up and closing in all the windows with plastic. With a fire going it became very warm and homey for evening relaxation. After breakfast on Sunday, some of us hiked up behind the cabin to see the waterfall before heading down the lake to Seton. While most canoes were beached at Seton, Marie and Gerry and Kathleen and Micheal continued down the river to the apparent delight of B.C. Rail passengers who were watching. Marie and Gerry just couldn't pass up that chance for another portage. We rendezvoused at, where else, the Seton Pub, for an afternoon break before heading back to camp. Madeline and Nola reportedly had a nice paddle in from D'arcy and had enjoyed a swim?!! while we were pubbing. Back at camp, it was time to focus attention on the feast to follow. Natural centerpieces were made and the tables set in fine form. Dinner was superb--complete with turkey stuffing and all the trimmings, followed by pumpkin cheesecake. Monday morning, with the weather holding out we headed down the lake's west side lake to D'arcy. Gerry stayed back to finish up cabin reconstruction; all the nails just had to get used up. We were met by some "fly in" visitors delivering muffins and donuts. After a leisurely lunch and with all the cheesecake finished we were homeward bound. Thanks to Kathleen and Micheal for organizing. *Kathy Fitcher*

NAHATLATCH LAKE - THANKSGIVING 2002

This reviewer and his party of 15 were seated at dusk in the fir grove. A banquet table festooned with chestnuts, autumn leaves and assorted gourds glowed softly with a myriad of candles. The starter course of soup, a delicate carrot-based delight, was served from a hollowed pumpkin tureen. Abundant wine flowed with a variety to suit every palate. The entrée of moist, tender morsels of turkey, was accented with stovetop dressing and splashed with gravy—a preparation subtly seasoned with pan-roasted, pureed vegetables. Mounds of creamy mashed potatoes and brown-sugared yams filled while squash and broccoli heads (delicately steamed over an open flame) added colour to the plate. Cranberry jelly, artfully arranged in Corelle ware, was passed. Dessert was taken by the fire pit. Pumpkin pie smothered in whipped cream, butter tarts, matrimonial squares, and miniature chocolates (recently extracted from Hallowe'en displays provided the meal's sweet closing while a never-to-be-duplicated liqueur concoction graced the après-feast coffee. Conversation and camaraderie sparkled long into this Thanksgiving night.



Brian Otter



Sat Oct 12 to Mon Oct 14

North Thompson River Thanksgiving Weekend: Gr 1 & 2

Spend Thanksgiving weekend on this family friendly canoe camping trip. We leave Little Fort near Clearwater to follow the sinuous currents through forested ranch lands, camp on gravel bars, and arrive at Hefley Creek near Kamloops. Call or email at least a week in advance.

DE ADAMS - DE ODORS - DE BOATS - DE BEAVERS

(Editors note: The following epic was read at the Wine & Cheese party to riotous applause. Due to popular request, we are reproducing it here.

Back in 1989 when we got to Adams Lake,
We'd been doing lots of travelling, we were ready for a break.
We'd been 10 days on the rivers, Spatsizi and Stikine,
And were just about as grubby as we have ever been.

We'd been cooking in the smoke, pouring on the insect juice,
Tramping through the slimy swamps, looking for elusive moose;
We were sweating in the sun, later wore our toques to sleep;
Followed bear tracks in the mud that was almost knee-deep.

Then we drove all day and night to Adams Lake from the Stikine,
And arrived in time to go with Wally, Heather and Charlene.
As we jumped into our boat, Charlene called for us to hear
"Have you seen what the canyon looks like this year?"

Well --

The Adams runs high, The Adams runs fast,
And many seasoned paddlers Find themselves outclassed.
The Adams has no mercy, The Adams loves some fun,
And you know you've done some paddling
When your river run is done.

The canyon was³ freight train, it roared like thunder,
We were flying on a wave, then the bow went under.
It was pushing! It was gushing! It was foaming at the mouth!
It could spin you till you're dizzy And you don't know north from south!

We were upright for a moment, then the Adams gave a grin,
Gave the boat a little toss, a little flip, and we were in.
It got me in the armpits and it cleaned between my toes,
It ran me through the river like a load of dirty clothes.

"Hey, this river's not bad," I thought,
"This river isn't mean!
Since I left my home in Langley,
It's the first time I've been clean."

Oh the Adams runs fast and the Adams runs high,
and there never was a boat that could run through dry.
The Adams has no mercy, the Adams loves some fun
And you know you've done some paddling
When your river run is done.

Roberta Service



WEEK & ENDS AWAY = GREAT PADDING FUN

WASHINGTON RIVERS WEEK

One Rivers Week not enough for you? In late July, the plan is to paddle the warm waters of central Washington. In the past this has included the Sauk, Methow, Twisp, Chewat, Entiat and Wenatchee. Low water? No problem-- we'll find better! Flat & Grades I - III Call Dave Kilpatrick



KETTLE RIVER FAMILY TRIP

LAKES WEEK !

Join us for the first ever lakes week. We will be camping at Kentucky Alleyne Provincial Park from Monday, July 2 to



JULY		NICOLA CAMPOUT	
1-3	9	WIDGEON CREEK	S. NOOKSACK
16	22-23	GULF ISLANDS	/CRESENT BEACH--WHITEROCK
28	28	WRECK BEACH	(EVENING)
Mamquam Beginners Weekend		Mamquam River	June 08 - 09
Sun Sep 1 to Sun Sep 8 North Saskatchewan River Trip: Gr 1 & 2			

World Rivers Day is an annual global celebration held on the fourth Sunday of every September to highlight the value of waterways and to encourage their protection. And it got its start in BC with conservationist Mark Angelo. In September 1980 he organized a major community clean-up of the heavily polluted Thompson River. The success and momentum of this action inspired, with the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC, the formal creation of BC Rivers Day. What started as a local clean-up expanded globally 25 years later. In 2005, Angelo successfully pitched the idea to the United Nations. It is now celebrated in over 100 countries. Juerg Boschung was, at one time, the Recreation Canoeing Association representative to the ORC. Through his membership with the Dogwoods and Beavers he spent years promoting Rivers Day (an important task for the Rivers and Shoreline committee) and getting canoe clubs involved with yearly river clean ups. That perhaps was the earliest of the club's involvement with river wellness. It is our way of giving back health to the waterways that provide so much pleasure.

(SIDE BAR: the Canadian Recreational Canoe Association convinced Parliament to declare the second Sunday in June as Canada's national Rivers Day...)



Rivers Day Cleanup 2002

"I hope we don't find a dead body!" were Kathleen Pitt's comforting words to me as we cleaned bags and bags of garbage out of the camping/fishing/take-out-below-the-Tamihi-bridge area on the Chilliwack River.

It was pretty gross. How people who profess to love the outdoors can treat it so badly beyond belief. We found garbage everywhere. Rusted lawn chairs. Broken beer bottles. Bait containers. A dinghy. We left the place looking good (or at least clean) again. That felt good.



RIVERS DAY - CHILLIWACK RIVER CLEANUP

Lets get out on Rivers Day to enjoy a Fall paddle and collect bottles and garbage from the shores of our favourite river. We'll decide on the section of the river to paddle once the group assembles. Garbage bags will be provided. Lets do our share and join with other groups in B.C. who will be participating on other rivers.

A CHALLENGER QUESTION for you

Lift off for the eighth quiz in the BCC50 series. Get the correct answer and you'll soar towards winning a \$50 gift certificate from Lee Valley. (Misson control will provide the submission steps in the next issue.) In the meantime:

RETRO QUIZ for October (#8)

Verified Beaver Canoe Club space adventures include:

- a) moon walking
- b) the LCROSS Mission
- c) avoiding rocks in the asteroid belt
- d) participating in the Mars landing of Viking 1

(As always a helpful hint: reverse trajectory and re-read the September retro section.)