

21st Annual General Meeting of  
Paddle Manitoba  
23 January 2010, FortWhyte Alive



# 2009 In Review



## 1. General

It has been a soul-searching year for Paddle Manitoba. After the mixed bag of results from the Special General Meeting in February, the board had to go away and think about how best to serve the diverse wishes of our community and the public at large, with a structure heavily geared towards instruction. In some respects we did well, and in others, 2009 was a year of learning. One of the main ideas surrounding the amendments last year was that if Paddle Manitoba were to be an organization of instructors, there would be a certain level of dedication on the part of instructors to renew the organization. Instructors are a dedicated bunch, and instruction is one of our primary focuses, but it is not the only one.

Despite a lack of clear direction, Paddle Manitoba has had a colourful and active year, the results of which you will find below in this Annual Report. We are pleased with the last twelve months, and are looking forward to the continuing process of building an engaging community surrounding paddle sports in Manitoba.

## 2. Membership

### a) Statistics for 2009

<b><u>Paddle Manitoba Membership by Type and Year</u></b>						
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Member Category</b>						
Affiliate	1	0	0	2	5	3
Corporate Lifetime	14	13	12	9	8	8
Corporate	0	0	0	3	4	6
Family Annual	22	57	30	39	45	55
Individual Lifetime	14	13	10	9	8	7
Individual Annual	32	57	48	94	86	127
Instructor Lifetime	24	15	11	4	2	2
Instructor Annual	22	19	23	n/a	n/a	n/a
Honourary	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>210</b>

**Notes:** No Honourary or Lifetime categories of membership were offered before 2004. Annual Instructor memberships were not offered before 2007.



b) Analysis:

**i) In the past 6 years**

- total number of members has dropped 38%. (from 210 to 131.)
- all of the lifetime categories of membership (corporate, individual, instructor) have increased. They now represent 40% of the PM membership (52/131.)

**ii) Comparing 2007 to 2009**

- in 2007 the ratio of all non-instructor category to all instructor category members was 2.58 (88/34) compared to 1.47 (68/46) in 2009. (Corporates not included in the foregoing ratios.)
- in 2007 the ratio of Individual Life to Instructor Lifetime category members was .90 (10/11) compared to .58 (14/24) in 2009.
- In 2007 the ratio of Family& Individual Annual to Instructor Annual category members was 3.39 (78/23) compared to 2.45 (54/22) in 2009.
- Comparing 2007 with 2009, the category of membership to see the biggest percentage increase is Instructor Lifetime (24/11=218% increase) and the biggest decrease is Individual Annual (32/48 = 33% decrease.)

**iii) Geographical Distribution of Members in 2009:**

Corporate Lifetime and Affiliate: In Winnipeg=10/Outside Winnipeg=5 (67%/33%)

Family Annual: In Winnipeg=18/Outside Winnipeg=4 (82%/18%)

Individual Lifetime: In Winnipeg=11/Outside Winnipeg= 3 (79%/21%)

Individual Annual: In Winnipeg=26/Outside Winnipeg= 6 (81%/19%)

Instructor Lifetime: In Winnipeg=16/Outside Winnipeg= 8 (67%/33%)

Instructor Annual: In Winnipeg=13/Outside Winnipeg= 9 (59%/41%)

c) Renewals for 2010

Membership renewal notices will be send out in early February 2010. **NOTE: Lifetime Category Members, it is of crucial importance that you inform the member convenor when there is a change in your contact details, e.g. address & email.**



### 3. Events

#### a) PaddleFest

Thanks to the amazing skills of Yvonne Kyle, PaddleFest was once again an incredibly successful event. On a beautifully sunny June 14, over 500 people came through FortWhyte Alive and learned about who we are and what it means to be involved in paddle sports in Manitoba. A large number of volunteers put hours of time in to instructing, demonstrating, greeting, directing, selling silent auction tickets, moving tables, and being generally helpful people. Special thanks also go out to our title sponsor Wilderness Supply, and all the other donors who helped to keep this event free and enjoyable for everyone who attended.

#### b) Wednesday Night Paddles

I (Charles) continued to lead open paddles on Wednesday evenings and hope to continue with this successful program in 2010. This year there were 21 outings and 302 participants – more than any other year when I have been involved. Given the cool weather this summer I was quite surprised at the ongoing turn out. On the down side in August the Kryptonite cables and hardened steel locks were cut and a canoe stolen – a police report was filed and a notice sent out to the membership of PM several other groups that participate in outdoor activities.

This fall the gates on the compound at La Barriere Park, which were in need of attention, were re-hung through a valiant effort of Eric, Sharon, and Charles. Next year getting canoes in and out for courses should be much easier. Heavier chains and locks were also installed for locking the canoes. An inventory of equipment was done from La Barriere and paddles/PFDs that needed to be cleaned/repared itemized (PFDs cleaned, Paddles in progress).

#### c) Indoor Programs

##### February 21: Noah's Last Canoe

This presentation by author Doug Evans highlighted the lost art of constructing Cree birch bark canoes, and the initiative by the Manitoba Museum to commission one for their collection.

##### October 27: National Treasure

Paddle Manitoba had the opportunity to host this one-of-a-kind presentation by James Raffan, the executive director of the Canadian Canoe Museum. It featured photos, songs, art, and stories about the holdings of the museum. Raffan and the CCM hope to strengthen their ties with paddling organizations across the country.



d) Clinics

May 2: Backcountry Camping

Though not well attended, this day-long event hosted interactive sessions on trip planning, navigation, stoves, and edible wilderness plants.

May 9: Instructor Meeting

Held in conjunction with the kayaking instructor course, these sessions reviewed the 2008 instruction program across the province, and provided a look at Paddle Canada's new curricula and the chance to get out on the water and exercise foggy brains.

e) MEC Club Nights

Two well-attended evenings, the most recent of which featured a presentation by CPAWS, as well as a variety of thoughts from MEC staff, including dressing for winter weather. In the spirit of the holidays, donations of food were also collected for Winnipeg Harvest.

## 4. Instruction

a) Paddle Manitoba Programs

Paddle Manitoba limits its Paddle Canada instruction to introductory courses through its partnership with FortWhyte Alive and instructor and skills training at PaddleCamp in conjunction with Manitoba Pioneer Camp. Other Paddle Canada training in Manitoba is provided through private instructors, many being Corporate Members of Paddle Manitoba (see:

[http://www.paddle.mb.ca/resources/instructors\\_and\\_guides.php](http://www.paddle.mb.ca/resources/instructors_and_guides.php)). For general information or specific needs contact the Instruction Coordinator ([courses@paddle.mb.ca](mailto:courses@paddle.mb.ca)). This report describes Paddle Manitoba programs only.

b) Paddle Manitoba Instructional Programs 2009

i) FortWhyte Alive (Paddle Manitoba would like to thank FortWhyte Alive and Dana Steingart in particular for their support during the year):

A) Canoe

Twelve canoe courses were scheduled in 2009.

FW-A=2; FW-B=1; FW-A/B=7; FW-C=1; FW-D=1

Of these, 6 were cancelled or re-scheduled, 3 because of weather.

A total of 23 students completed courses. This was down about 20% from 2008 but poor summer weather was a major contributing factor. Many students were not able to reschedule courses.

B) Kayak

Eighteen 'Introduction to Kayaking' courses were scheduled for 2009. Four were cancelled; 1 due to bad weather. A total of 62 students completed the course. This was comparable to 2008.



ii) PaddleCamp

Paddle Manitoba would like to thank Manitoba Pioneer Camp and Cam White from Red River Outfitters for their invaluable help in making this program a success. PaddleCamp was run from May 14 to 18 at Manitoba Pioneer Camp, with a subsequent June weekend on the Whitemouth River. Courses were taught in:

Course	Students	Graduated
Flatwater Canoe Instructor	14	9
Canoe Skills – 4 Day	9	9
Canoe Skills – 2 Day	3	1
Canoe Tripping	9	8
Waterfront Canoe Instructor	4	4
Waterfront Kayak Instructor	5	5
Whitewater Canoe Tandem Introduction	10	10

iii) Other Paddle Manitoba sponsored courses:

A) Swiftwater Rescue

In conjunction with Red River Outfitters, a Swiftwater Basic course (students=19; graduated=18) and a Swiftwater Advanced course (students=8; graduated=8) was given in late June.

B) Advanced Wilderness First Aid

Paddle Manitoba hosted an Advanced Wilderness First aid course on April 24-26/May2-3 taught by our corporate member, Adventure Education Manitoba. Twelve students took the course and 11 passed.

c) Manitoba-based Paddle Canada Instructors

Paddle Manitoba currently has 23 Instructor Life and 22 Instructor Annual members.

d) Paddle Manitoba Instructional Program 2010

i) FortWhyte Alive

Paddle Manitoba will be offering ‘Introduction to Canoeing’ and ‘Introduction to Kayaking’ courses again in 2010. The new ‘Introduction to Canoeing’ is an 8-hour course. It will be offered on Saturdays or on Monday/Wednesday evenings. Fourteen are scheduled 2010. All will be given a FortWhyte Alive. No courses will be offered at La Barriere Park in 2010. Fifteen ‘Introduction to Kayaking’ courses will be offered in 2010. As in past years, they will be either on a Saturday or Tuesday/Thursday evening. All kayak courses will be taught at FortWhyte Alive. See the Paddle Manitoba website for dates

[http://www.paddle.mb.ca/learn\\_with\\_us/index.php](http://www.paddle.mb.ca/learn_with_us/index.php) or

[http://www.paddle.mb.ca/events\\_and\\_clinics/calendar.php](http://www.paddle.mb.ca/events_and_clinics/calendar.php)



- ii) PaddleCamp  
PaddleCamp will run from May 20-24, 2010 again at Manitoba Pioneer Camp. This year instruction will concentrate on Instructor Training in both Lake Canoe and Waterfront Canoeing. Skills and Canoe Tripping courses will be discontinued in order to concentrate on Instructor Training.
  
- e) 2010 Instructors Clinic  
Paddle Manitoba will host its annual Instructors Clinic in early May 2010. The date is to be announced.

## **5. Communication**

- a) Newsletter

In July 2009, we published the last print edition of The Ripple. A lot of people have spent many hours over the year writing, editing, designing, soliciting contributions, and licking envelopes and stamps to put The Ripple into the hands of Paddle Manitoba Members. It has been a top-notch publication that has provided information, generated discussion, offered ideas, and sparked the imagination of the canoe and kayak aficionados of our province. To all who have had a hand in the production of The Ripple, we extend an enormous thank you. Wow! What a job you have done.

In December, we entered a new era with the first edition of The Ripple on-line. The change was made for several reasons, cost and consideration for our use of the planet's resources being the most significant. The goal of the new format, much like the paper edition, is to entertain and inform. The Manitoba paddling community is made up of vibrant and energetic people with stories to tell and knowledge to share. We encourage Paddle Manitoba members and their friends to tell us about your paddling adventures and misadventures, about the events happening near you that paddlers might be interested in, and about the things you know that others on the water might also want to know too. There will no doubt be some growing pains as the e-Ripple evolves and changes, as new things are wont to do. But we do hope the newsletter will remain a valuable communication tool for the recreational and wilderness paddlers of Manitoba.

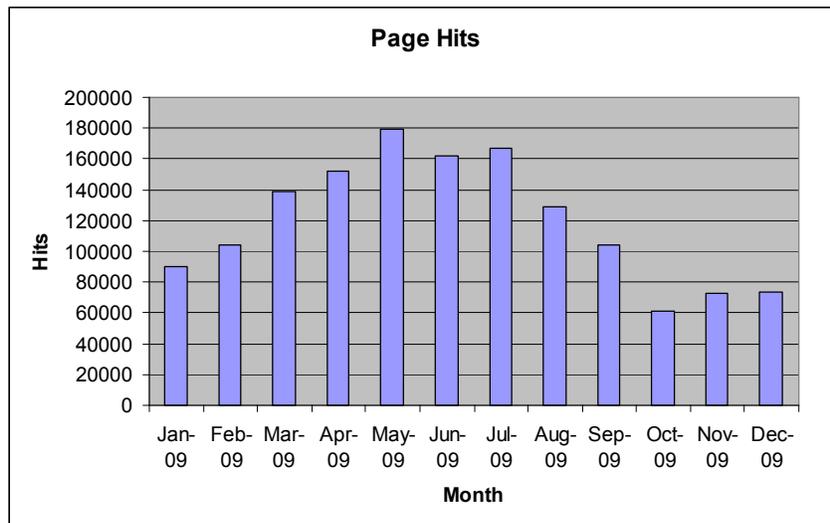
Submissions for The Ripple on-line are welcome any time and can be sent to [newsletter@paddle.mb.ca](mailto:newsletter@paddle.mb.ca)



b) Website

Some attention was paid to missing information on our website, while still incomplete, there was some information posted that should be useful to members planning trips and outings. In particular the MRCA route logs, books, and websites were posted in Oct-Nov. The Canoeing in South-Eastern Manitoba booklet originally published by MRCA in 2000 was updated and should be posted on the website.

The website continued to be actively accessed with an average over 5 thousand page requests/day the use peaking in May, June, July and dropping in non-paddling months. You have to be a little careful since at least 20% of the overall hits were from Internet search engines. That being said the search engine hits remain relatively stable so the changes over the months are likely due primarily to users. The heaviest use on the site was to the PM forum (~50% traffic) – I expect this is caused by search engines or spammers looking for an easy hack. There was a spate of spam on the forum in July, August which forced us to change the account creation requirements and some of the posting limitations.



Excluding the hits to the forum, calendar, and graphics (e.g. pictures and shockwave file on the home page) over 2009 the following pages or groups of pages were most commonly accessed. The following does not include all of the hits so the percent only adds up to 87%.



Page	Hits	Percent
Home	17939	29.26046
Open Paddles and Trips	8340	13.60344
Learn With Us	7977	13.01135
About (Board, Policies)	4930	8.041365
Paddler News + Ripple	3556	5.800222
Routes	2414	3.937496
Membership	2159	3.521563
Gear and Rentals	1974	3.219808
Camps and Parks	991	1.616429
Links	952	1.552815
Instructors & Guides	830	1.35382
Recipes	611	0.996607
Terms *	394	0.642657

\* Terms is a blank page with no content and is used as a reference point to cut off counts.

The access to Open Paddles and Instruction pages shows a strong interest in getting information on get out to paddle. I think it is important to note the use of the routes page when there was no information for 9 months of the year.

We do have friends out there that have links to Paddle Manitoba somewhere on their site that were used to access our site including: Paddle Canada, Canada Travel All, City of Winnipeg, Canoeing.com, FortWhyte Alive, Manitoba Tourism, Kayak Online, Manitoba Econetwork, Manitoba Nature, Manitoba Paddling Association, CCR, Northern Soul, Out-There.com, Paddling.net, Wavetrack, Wilderness Spirit, Wilds of Manitoba, Red River Outfitters. Travel Manitoba, The Canadian Heritage Rivers System.

## 6. **Paddle Canada** (Jamie Hilland, Regional Director)

2009 proved to be both an exciting and challenging year for Paddle Canada, with many significant changes occurring that will hopefully lead us down a path to continued success and a more stable organization.

### a) **Course Fees**

Last winter the board made the decision to adopt a flat fee structure for our insurance, which meant that instead of a per student scaled fee structure, we would instead adopt a flat fee of \$20 per course. This change was made in an effort to make the administration of courses easier, as well as hopefully encourage more Instructors to get out and teach (and thereby insure) at this lower rate. Ultimately, we hope that this results in more people getting into boats that have the proper training and skills thanks to Paddle Canada Instructors.



- b) **Program Development**

Paddle Canada remains committed to keeping its program current and relative, with new skills and methodologies being introduced as they come on stream.
- i) **Canoeing**

The first half of the year saw the development and implementation of an entirely new Canoe Program, which was a huge but ultimately successful undertaking, resulting in new levels and disciplines being developed. Details for the new courses are available on the Paddle Canada website: <http://www.paddlingcanada.com/canoeing-programs.asp?s=Lake+Canoe> . The Paddle Canada instructor training programs have also been altered to match the new structure, and PaddleCamp and instruction at Fort Whyte will be modified in 2010 to match this new structure.
- ii) **River kayaking**

Summer saw us working on developing a new River Kayak program, an effort which in the end has led to Paddle Canada developing a partnership with Canoe Kayak Canada, and a joint program being adopted by both organizations for the River Kayaking discipline. This partnership holds some exciting opportunities for both parties, and could lead to more collaborative efforts in the future.
- iii) **Sea kayaking**

The fall also brought changes to the Sea Kayak program with the development of a revised and updated Sea Kayaking Program manual.
- c) **Annual General Meeting**

The Fall also saw the Paddle Canada AGM and Central Canadian Paddling Symposium taking place at the Madawaska Kanu Centre in Barry's Bay, Ontario. This AGM saw Manitoba well represented, with both the President of Paddle Manitoba, Catherine Holmen, and Mick Lutt, Paddle Manitoba River Kayaking chair, attending. By all accounts, the AGM resulted in some great networking, some good paddling, and new ideas and concepts being floated and discussed.
- d) **Executive Director**

Fall brought personnel changes to the Paddle Canada offices, with the Board deciding to move in the direction of hiring an Executive Director to better represent Paddle Canada across the country, and liaise with other paddling organizations. As a result, Graham Ketchison was hired as of the beginning of this year on a full time basis to both run the Paddling Canada administration, as well as take our organization in a new and positive direction.



e) Future

For the upcoming year, look for Paddle Canada to continue to keep its programs current and relevant, our new Executive Director to engage the membership in new ways, and for us to seek out new and stable sources of funding. We are also looking at developing important partnerships,

I am always available to chat with any members of Paddle Canada, and would love to hear from you at anytime. My email address can be found on the Paddle Canada site, so feel free to send me your thoughts at anytime.

## 7. Advocacy Council

On the initiative of Jamie Hilland, a group was formed in October bringing together representatives from many parts of the paddling community in Manitoba. It includes retailers, outfitters, instructors, clubs, and several other interested parties, all coming together to discuss and address paddling in Manitoba and how we might advocate for more accessibility and visibility of the use of Manitoba's waterways for paddling. Initial work focuses particularly on the use of waterways within Winnipeg.

## 8. Governing Documents

a) Constitution

After the SGM in February, the Constitution was thoroughly examined, with sections relating to the duties of board members being worked over. Further edits are available for you to examine in this package.

b) Policies

In March I (Charles) was asked to look at the Paddle Manitoba board policies and update them with input from the board. This was completed and posted on the website in October 2009. The majority of the changes were formatting and editorial. A number of policies had been passed and during 2007 & 2008 but were not reflected in the policy document these were found in board meeting minutes and added.

i) Added policies

- A) Privacy - to be in compliance with federal privacy legislation
- B) Requirement for safety equipment (e.g. PFDs) to be used during Paddle Manitoba activities – this was a no brainer I was surprised it was not there
- C) A clarification of fees and use of equipment for non-PM clinics/events
- D) The addition of directors and officers insurance coverage
- E) A requirement for a code of conduct policy – this was developed, sent out to the membership in November 2009



- F) Clarification on filing of some paperwork
- G) Some clarification of responsibilities/notification roles for web site support and published materials.

c) Code of Conduct

Following the example of most other sports organizations, Paddle Manitoba drafted a Code of Conduct for members and those participating in our events. Doing so reflected a need to present ourselves as a body interested in doing what we do to a high standard of professionalism. It was largely developed by Eric Gyselman, and sent out to the membership in early December.

## 9. Insurance

a) Club Activities

A review of all Paddle Manitoba insurance coverage and waiver forms was done in 2009. Our \$ 2 million coverage, via a Standard Resort policy, and which covers PM sanctioned on-water activities and PM storage facilities, was renewed. This insurance covers activities not included under Paddle Canada insurance. Under this same policy, Paddle Manitoba extends coverage to the Manitoba Whitewater Club on a shared cost basis.

b) Directors and Officers Liability

In 2009 Paddle Manitoba added Director's and Officer Insurance coverage for up to \$1 million in liability.

## 10. In to 2010

The board has spent much time and energy on a process of discernment relating to where we would like to see the organization heading. We participated in a session led by an external facilitator, Doreen Draffin, to identify and address big questions. Who are we? Who do we serve? How do we encourage engagement on the part of the members to provide the services deemed the most in line with the answers to these big questions?

In December 2009, the Vice-President, working in conjunction with the Newsletter Convenor, conducted an on-line survey of members related to strategic planning for 2010. Following the results of the survey, the board circulated draft proposals for a structure that we thought would help us meet these results best.

Both the survey results and the amendments to the Constitution will be presented in more detail at the AGM.