

22nd Annual General Meeting of  
Paddle Manitoba  
12 February 2011, FortWhyte Alive



# 2010 In Review



## 1. General

2010 has been a year of growth for Paddle Manitoba. At the AGM in January, changes to the constitution brought our focus back to events and services for more than just instructors. The philosophy of the board was to start small. We began with a few simple events - a summer BBQ, the Waterwalker Film Festival, and a few member trips. These ran alongside the well-established course schedule and open paddles. The response we received from members was quite positive.

The Board has been well supported by many dedicated volunteers. Members have stepped up to lead trips, submit articles to the redesigned Ripple, help with events, and generally develop Paddle Manitoba's renewed persona.

The last twelve months have been encouraging ones for the board. The paddling community in Manitoba is vibrant, active, and inspiring. Read on for the highlights of 2010 and plans for 2011.

## 2. Membership

### a) Statistics for 2010

<b><u>Paddle Manitoba Membership by Type and Year</u></b>							
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Member Category</b>							
Affiliate	2	1	0	0	2	5	3
Corporate Lifetime	13	14	13	12	9	8	8
Corporate Annual	0	0	0	0	3	4	6
Family Annual	24	22	57	30	39	45	55
Individual Lifetime	14	14	13	10	9	8	7
Individual Annual	31	32	57	48	94	86	127
Instructor Lifetime	25	24	15	11	4	2	2
Instructor Annual	9	22	19	23	n/a	n/a	n/a
Honorary	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Total</b>	120	131	176	134	162	160	210

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

### b) Trends in 2010

- The total number of members has remained stable in most categories except Instructor Annual which dropped 50%. (from 22 to 9.)



- 8 families from 2009 did not renew, but 14 new families joined in 2010.
- 15 individuals from 2009 did not renew, but 14 new individuals joined in 2010.
- 2 corporate members merged, thus the Corporate Lifetime number dropped by 1.
- 1 new affiliate joined in 2010.

c) Renewals for 2011

Membership renewal notices will be sent out in early February 2011. **NOTE: Lifetime Category Members, it is of crucial importance that you inform the membership convenor when there is a change in your contact details, e.g. address & email.**

### 3. Events

a) PaddleFest

PaddleFest was held on Sunday, June 27. A date later than that of previous years was chosen to avoid conflicts with Shindig and the Manitoba Marathon. Roughly 300 people passed through FortWhyte. The decline in attendance can be attributed to the unstable weather that developed in to a thunderstorm by mid-afternoon, cancelling some of the events planned for later in the day. This year's event coincided with National Canoe Day. Visitors had the chance to get out in canoes, kayaks, and voyageur boats, children built and raced paper boats, and Paddle Manitoba Corporate Members were on hand to promote their goods and services. The Board is extremely grateful to the team of volunteers who made this event possible. Paddlefest 2011 will be held on Sunday, June 12.

b) Open Paddles

i) Wednesday Night Paddles

Wednesday night paddles ran again this year with 22 evening outings and 242 people attending. The bridge was submerged the last weekend of May and remained under water for almost two weeks. The bridge remained out of service for the rest of the summer as the approaches had been damaged. September 22 Paddle Manitoba participated in the Great Canadian Shoreline clean-up, removing bags of litter from a 1 km stretch east of the bridge.



One Wednesday night paddle moved to FortWhyte for a summer BBQ. The 40 people who attended enjoyed lots of good food, stand-up paddle boards, blindfolded paddling races, and a slalom course.

ii) Tuesdays and Thursdays at FortWhyte Alive

Volunteers from FortWhyte Alive and Paddle Manitoba continued to support Wilderness Supply, MEC, and Wave Track at these events. While some evenings needed to be cancelled because of weather, others had up to 50 people in attendance. The lakes at FortWhyte provide a great drop-in opportunity for the public to practice their skills and try different boats.

c) Indoor Program

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Neil McDonald presented a slideshow and story of paddling the Churchill River in Labrador. He and his group paddled through the fall, switching to moving gear by sled once winter hit. This presentation occurred in conjunction with the AGM.

d) Waterwalker – November 6

The 2010 Waterwalker Film Festival was held on Saturday, November 6. About 50 members and guests enjoyed heart-pumping river runs, quiet canoe ballet, and adventurous family expeditions. Many thanks to the PM members who volunteered and made this season-closing event a success. Also thanks to Corporate Members Gary at Wave Track and Steve at Camp Stephens for participating in the evening.

e) MEC Club Nights

We had two MEC discount events this year. In July, members could shop throughout the day on the 17<sup>th</sup> and show their card for a discount at the till. November 10<sup>th</sup> was a more typical evening event. Any comments on which format is preferred by our members are more than welcome.

f) Member Trips

2010 saw the return of Paddle Manitoba member trips. Several members volunteered to host trips, including Cam White, Cary Chapnick, Sharon Touchette, and Eric Gyselman. Destinations included the Seine River and the Experimental Lakes Area. The strong interest in these events means we hope to offer more trip options in 2011.

g) Other Events

Over the course of the year, Paddle Manitoba participated in or had a presence at several other events. These included basic instruction and safety boat volunteers



at FortWhyte Alive's Eco-Adventure Race, safety boats at the RM of MacDonald's Muscular Dystrophy paddling fundraiser, and a paddling outing for the participants of a Katimavik group spending time in St. Pierre-Jolys. We also had a table at the REEL Paddling Film Festival put on by Wilderness Supply.

#### 4. Instruction

##### a) Courses in Manitoba

A total of 83 Paddle Canada courses ran in Manitoba this year. Of 445 registered participants, 417 either successfully or conditionally completed certifications. Paddle Canada set up an automated system whereby Paddle Manitoba was emailed reports from all completed courses that included the names and numbers of participants and whether or not they completed the course successfully. As there were some kinks early in the season, it is possible that this data may be missing a handful of courses.

##### i) Skills Courses

Course Type	# Courses	# Students	# Passed
Waterfront Canoeing	1	5	0
Canoeing Basic Skills	20	136	135
Canoe Tripping Skills Introduction Tandem and Solo	4	19	19
Lake Canoe Skills Advanced Solo	2	2	1
Lake Canoe Skills Advanced Tandem	2	2	1
Lake Canoe Skills Intermediate Solo	1	2	2
Lake Canoe Skills Intermediate Tandem	3	11	11
Lake Canoe Skills Introduction Solo	1	5	0
Lake Canoe Skills Introduction Tandem	12	111	103
Moving Water Canoe Skills Intermediate Tandem	4	11	11
Moving Water Canoe Skills Introduction Solo	1	1	0
Moving Water Canoe Skills Introduction Tandem	3	6	6
Introduction to Kayaking	14	84	80
River Kayak Skills Beginner	6	26	24
River Kayak Skills Intermediate	2	3	3
Sea Kayak Skills Level 1	1	1	1
<b>Skills Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>397</b>



ii) Instructor and Instructor Trainer Courses

Course Type	# Courses	# Students	# Passed
Lake Canoe Instructor Tandem	2	10	10
Lake Canoe Instructor Trainer Solo	1	1	1
Lake Canoe Instructor Trainer Tandem	1	1	1
River Kayak Instructor Intermediate	1	4	4
Sea Kayak Instructor Level 1	1	4	4
<b>Instructor Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>

In addition to the one new Instructor Trainer listed here, one more canoeist and one kayaker also completed steps towards becoming certified.

b) Paddle Manitoba Programs

Paddle Manitoba limits its Paddle Canada instruction to introductory courses through its partnership with FortWhyte Alive, and instructor training in conjunction with Manitoba Pioneer Camp at Canoe School. Other Paddle Canada training in Manitoba is provided through private instructors, many of whom are Corporate Members of Paddle Manitoba.

i) FortWhyte Alive

Kayaking: 16 Introduction to Kayaking courses were scheduled. Of these, 8 ran. 45 of 47 students successfully completed the course. Five courses were cancelled because of insufficient registration, one for weather, one for instructor illness, and one because no instructor was available.

Basic Canoeing: 7 of the 15 scheduled courses ran as planned. 35 of 37 students passed. All cancelled courses came about as a result of insufficient registration.

Lake Canoe Introduction: All three courses ran, and all 16 students successfully completed the course.

The agreement between Paddle Manitoba and FortWhyte Alive came up for renewal at the end of 2010. It was updated and re-signed for another three years. The next renewal date is December 31, 2013.



- ii) Canoe School

Canoe School was held on the May Long weekend at Manitoba Pioneer Camp. This year's event was smaller than camps of previous years, reflecting a return to a focus on instructor training. Two groups of six students took to the water, and unlike the ice and snow of previous years, paddled in beautiful, sunny, warm weather. 10 of 12 students successfully certified as Lake Canoe Instructors. Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive.

A Waterfront Instructor canoe course was also planned, but was cancelled due to lack of interest.
- iii) Instructor Trainers

With money raised through a Sport Manitoba bingo event, Paddle Manitoba was able to offer funds to support the training of three new instructor trainers for the province – Phil Hossack in Sea Kayaking, and Eric Gyselman and Catherine Holmen in Lake Canoeing.
- c) Manitoba-based Paddle Canada Instructors

As of the end of 2010, Paddle Manitoba had 25 Instructor Life and 9 Instructor Annual members.
- d) Paddle Manitoba Instructional Program 2011
  - i) FortWhyte Alive

Paddle Manitoba will be offering Canoeing Basic Skills, Lake Canoe Skills Introduction Tandem, and Introduction to Kayaking courses in 2011. Eighteen 8-hour kayaking courses, twelve 4-hour basic canoeing courses, and five 8-hour lake canoe courses will be held on a mix of weekday evenings and Saturdays. All courses will take place at the FortWhyte Alive Adventure Site on McGillvary. Online registration through the FortWhyte Alive website will be available shortly.
  - ii) Canoe School

Canoe School will run from May 19-23 at Manitoba Pioneer Camp. Last year's smaller size and focus on instructor training will be repeated this year.
- e) Professional Development for Instructors

Paddle Manitoba is hoping to host an Instructors Clinic in early May, with talk of a potential launch of the Canadian Style Canoeing curriculum in the summer or fall.



## 5. Communication

### a) Newsletter

The primary job of the PM communications chair is to produce a quarterly newsletter, The Ripple. 2010 marked the emergence and development of the Ripple in its new electronic format. Owing to the mediocre technological skills of the current communications chair, the first issues were filled with good content but were somewhat lacking in pizzazz. Partway through the year, Paddle Manitoba webmaster Crystal Hurd, offered to assist with the formatting of the newsletter giving it the look and feel of a professional publication. A big thank you to Crystal for the Herculean effort she has put into helping to make the newsletter what it has become.

Although many people, including it must be said the current communications chair, have a hard time getting excited about on-line publications, the e-Ripple has allowed for some great features that are not possible in a printed format. Primary amongst these is the ease with which pictures, in living colour, can be presented. Paddle Manitoba Members have responded very positively to the new-look Ripple, not only in their feedback when they receive and read it but, more importantly, in their enthusiasm for contributing content for inclusion. Increasingly, the stories and pictures that appear in the Ripple come from folks who just want to share their love of all things paddling and don't need to wait for a specific invitation to do so. For this, the communications chair is very grateful.

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

### b) Website

The website is developing into a much more useful place for members and non-members alike to connect with other paddle sport enthusiasts to share paddling experiences, exchange ideas, and ask and answer each other questions. Expect changes to the website as this year progresses with more dynamic content, new information, and member only pages.

### c) Telephone

We receive a limited number of calls but the phone remains a valuable tool for people wanting to reach us; most calls are from people who are not yet PM members, and who have very specific paddling questions with which they want help. To reduce the monthly cost of the phone, we will be removing our Yellow Pages listing in 2011, while keeping the White Pages entry. In the age of Google, the Board felt that the significant cost was not worth the potential benefit to the organization.



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

This was another incredibly busy year for Paddle Canada with significant program changes in every discipline.

- 1) The Sea Kayak program saw a review and significant revision of its manual, with an update of terminology and teaching methodologies. The skill levels remain unchanged, but the level requirements were modified as well.
- 2) The Canoe program saw wholesale changes continue across the board. New disciplines were added, and the PDC continues to work on making this program as relevant as possible.
- 3) The River Kayak program saw a new partnership with Canoe Kayak Canada (CKC), and a resultant altering of its skill levels to three from two. The new manual is also extremely comprehensive, and a great resource for River Kayak Instructors.
- 4) This year also saw the formation of a stand up paddling (SUP) committee, and move that has been extremely well received by our members due to the void of sanctioned instruction in this discipline at present. This is currently the fastest growing paddlesport in North America, and it is important that Paddle Canada be part of this growth.
- 5) A new Environment Committee was struck this year with the task of formulating a strategy for Paddle Canada to get involved in environmental advocacy, and identifying the areas that we would like to focus our efforts on protecting. This promises to be a big job, but this is an important role for Paddle Canada to be involved in.
- 6) The Paddle Canada website was also updated and revamped, with an emphasis on being user friendly for registrants, as well as for the PC admin who can now make changes without having to go through our IT company. This new site should help promote our products and courses to the general public, and hopefully result in more students in our courses.
- 7) Last year PC formalized a partnership with PaddlingInstructor.com. This website has great media exposure, hosts Paddle Canada's online forums, and has been extremely helpful in developing our new website and its functionality.
- 8) Paddle Canada also signed a partnership agreement with Leave No Trace Canada. The end goal is to get more PC Instructors certified as LNT educators, and incorporate this into future curriculum developments.

On a direct level, this year I have had the opportunity to chair the Communications (marketing and promotions) Committee.



## **7. Governing Documents**

### **a) Constitution**

The Board spent much time talking about the two proposed constitutional amendments previously emailed to the members. To summarize, the board is suggesting that we remove the lifetime membership categories and allow absentee voting on amendments to the Constitution and By-laws.

## **8. Insurance**

A review of the Paddle Manitoba liability insurance (Standard Resort policy), and the Director's and Officer's Insurance coverage, was started in November 2010 with the assistance of a Winnipeg-based broker. This review is on-going and the results will be presented to the new board in February, 2011. The purpose of the review is to compare coverage and prices from a Winnipeg-based broker versus what is currently provided to PM. The review will include possible coverage equal to or better than our current policies, although some pricing may change. The quotes received will include the current arrangement whereby PM extends coverage to one or more affiliates.

## **9. In to 2011**

Paddle Manitoba would like to see 2011 building on the foundation of 2010. Already scheduled are three Indoor Program events, Paddlefest, and FortWhyte courses. It is our hope that the successes of 2010 encourage more members to be actively involved in the execution of a great paddling season.

While we are doing well at the level of volunteers who do things for the organization, where we need to see growth is at the level of direction. At the time of compiling this report, it seems as though several board positions will remain unfilled, and one board member will continue to live in British Columbia for at least the next six months. The core group that comes together to make decisions about the direction of the organization is an invaluable one, made up of volunteers with a variety of strengths and talents. Ultimately, renewal at this level is crucial for long-term success.