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THE RIPPLE ON LINE

News and Views from the Manitoba Recreational and Wilderness Paddling
Community

Editor's Message

I am not a huge fan of on-line publications. In fact, truth be told, I can't stand them! But here we are, launching the new Ripple on Line. It matters greatly to Paddle Manitoba Members that we be able to share what the recreational and wilderness paddlers in our province are up to. In the year 2010, the best way for information to travel efficiently and effectively is to transmit it electronically. So I have put aside my personal biases in hopes of being able to provide a newsletter that is informative and entertaining, something paddlers in Manitoba will be able to use and appreciate.

The Manitoba Paddling community is going strong. In this Ripple, you can read Charles Burchill's tales from another summer of Wednesday Night Paddles and you can find out about the Canadian Canoe Museum in Stephen Challis's article telling of James Raffan's visit to Winnipeg. Sharon Touchette shares her experiences with a moving water course, something I read with interest as I am intending to take the same course this spring. I've contributed a story about canoe tripping with young people and Catherine Holmen has combined her usual president's message with a description of her time at the Paddle Canada AGM and the Central Canada Paddling Symposium.

There are some new features in this issue that may become staples for future Ripples. These include a round up of what the PM board is focusing on and a "Bits and Pieces" page of brief snippets from the paddling community.

The format of the Ripple may have changed but it is still intended as a newsletter for members. If you have anything to contribute, send it along. Stories of your own paddling experiences, information on up-coming events that other paddlers might be interested in, suggestions for how to make a paddling experience more worthwhile, or anything else that seems appropriate can be sent to me at newsletter@paddle.mb.ca

From the Paddle Manitoba President

My summer did not go exactly as I'd planned. Many people in our Paddle Manitoba community are by now aware that grace is not my middle name, especially after a portaging escapade at PaddleFest left me laid up with both feet in casts. Thankfully enough, one cast was removed after a week, and I went back to work at camp after three. Even with only (!) one cast, I remained unable to do some of my quintessential summer activities – going out on trips posed too great a risk of re-injury, and even canoeing around MPC's front bay was hard because I couldn't sit properly for either tandem or solo. I was forced to face my own inability to work on my goals as a paddler and as an instructor. Slowly, though, I regained strength and flexibility and was able to participate in some canoe stunt antics by the end of August.

After camp ended, and thanks to the support of Paddle Manitoba, an opportunity presented itself for me to get some paddling in to redeem my lazy summer. I traveled to the Madawaska Kanu Centre to take part in Paddle Canada's Central Canadian Paddling Symposium and AGM, held the weekend of September 25-27. The centre, located on the Madawaska River in Barry's Bay, ON, specializes in whitewater canoeing and kayaking courses, and family rafting trips. The purposes of this weekend event were skill development for instructors and paddlers, Program Development Committee meetings for the river kayaking folks, and the AGM itself.

My own paddling activities were somewhat limited that weekend by my healing process, but I felt very lucky to have the chance to take a flatwater solo clinic from Becky Mason. Seeing as she is the daughter of renowned canoeist and filmmaker Bill, about whom there is much MPC folklore, I was initially a bit star struck. The feeling soon passed. Four of us students went back to the basics of some of our most fundamental strokes, to think about how and why they move the boat as they do. In the space of one hour, I learned that I over-rely on my top hand for power when doing most things, the subtle differences between two different styles of j-strokes, and had some teaching ideas planted in my mind to ponder over the winter. Becky's classic solo canoeing style is elegant and smooth, and it was an honour to learn from her. She's the kind of instructor who makes me want to work hard. What impressed me most about my time paddling with Becky was how watching her fluidity and grace with a canoe translated in to an ease in interacting with her. Later in the day, after her clinic, she and I hung out and talked for an hour. I don't even remember what it was about – just simple things of life and paddling – but I was touched that she had the time for that sort of personal connection in the midst of a busy weekend.

The high calibre of the 50+ people participating in the event made it a great learning experience for me, meetings and business aside. Beyond strictly paddling, going to the AGM was a neat opportunity to hear about what other clubs, outfitters, and individuals are doing across the country. With presentations on the 2008 and 2010 David Thompson Brigade events, risk management, Kirk Wipper's stories of his canoe collection (that later became the initial holdings of the Canadian Canoe Museum), and leave-no-trace environmentalism, along with all-camp competitions in Big Canoe races and slalom (not easy!), the weekend had a great mix of fun and instruction, in a beautiful fall setting.

The official business of the meeting was relatively straight forward. Nominations for regional representatives were ratified, and I am personally very glad that Jamie Hilland is on board for another two years for Manitoba. The River Kayaking PDC spent countless hours working on a new program, and I'm told the results are very encouraging (email Mick Lauth if you're interested to know more). The powers that be also spent time interviewing candidates to replace Sue Burns at the Paddle Canada office, and they've since announced that the position will be filled by Graham Ketcheson, who starts full-time in January. Also since the AGM, Blair Doyle has been elected to serve as Paddle Canada's president. All in all, things seem to be moving ahead in the Paddle Canada world with continued development of programs, systems, and ideas. We'll see shortly what the 2010 season may bring.

Catherine Holmen

FROM THE BOARD ROOM

A round-up of the major items that the Paddle Manitoba Board has been working on.

Code of Conduct: The board has implemented a Code of Conduct. It is expected that all Paddle Manitoba Members will abide by this Code of Conduct when engaged in Paddle Manitoba activities. The Code of Conduct was distributed via e-mail to all members in December. If you did not receive it, please review it on the Paddle Manitoba website (http://www.paddle.mb.ca/images/pdfs/code_of_conduct_06_12_2009.PDF)

Web Site update: With the help of former board member, Cam White, a great deal of work has been done on the Paddle Manitoba website. New content has been added and other information has been updated and revised. Of greatest interest to most Manitoba Paddlers are the improvements to the trip log section of the site that gives detailed information on many of the paddling routes in the province. (<http://www.paddle.mb.ca/resources/routes/logs.php>)

Visioning Workshop: On November 27, the board met to discuss the essential questions of who Paddle Manitoba is, who we represent, and how we can best serve the paddling community. A full description of the results of the day are elsewhere in the newsletter.

Member Survey: One of the items to come from the Visioning Workshop was a member survey polling current PM members on their expectations of Paddle Manitoba and their willingness to be involved in various projects. Survey response has been very good and the board would like to thank all those who took the time to complete the survey. Results are being compiled.

Instruction Schedule: The 2010 instruction schedule is being finalized and will be posted in the New Year. Courses will be offered in partnership with Fort Whyte Alive. For information on paddling courses, contact the instructor coordinator at courses@paddle.mb.ca

In addition to work the board is doing, some individual board members are working on projects which, although not directly board related, are supported by the PM board

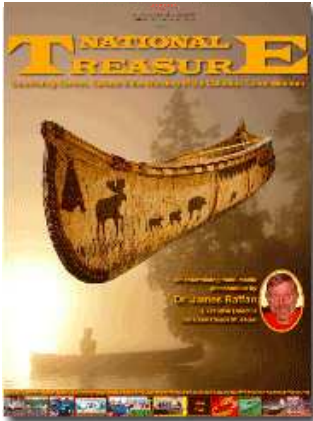
New Kayak Program: Mick Lutt is working with Paddle Canada in developing the new river kayaking program. For information on this, you can contact Mick at riverkayak@paddle.mb.ca

Paddling Advocacy Council: Jamie Hilland, our Paddle Canada representative on the PM board, is coordinating with other paddling organizations in Manitoba to explore ways to increase the visibility of the paddle sports in Manitoba. Look for more information on this project in a future issue of The Ripple.

If you want to contact a Paddle Manitoba Board Member, a full listing of names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses is available on the PM website at http://www.paddle.mb.ca/about_us/paddle_manitoba_board.php

National Treasure Comes to Winnipeg

By: Stephen Challis



Dr. James Raffan claims that all things canoe related are Canada's "National Treasure." A further part of this national treasure, he believes, are the holdings at, and in a larger sense the mandate of, The Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough, ON. According to Raffan, "The Canadian Canoe Museum contains the world's largest collection of canoes, stories of their origin and construction, and constitutes a unique material and cultural portrait of Canada." James Raffan is the Executive Director of the museum, and he stepped ashore here in Winnipeg on October 27 while on a tour taking him to most of the paddling groups in Western Canada.

Before a full house of young and not so young paddling aficionados at the Fort Whyte Alive Interpretative Centre, Raffan spoke on "*Canoes, Canada and the Wonders of The Canadian Canoe Museum.*" With a PhD in Cultural Geography and as author of 15 books including *Fire in the Bones: Bill Mason and Canadian Canoeing Tradition* and *Emperor of the North: Sir George Simpson and the Remarkable Story of the Hudson's Bay Company*, Raffan speaks with a rare combination of depth and breadth of knowledge about canoes, canoeists, and Canada. His multimedia presentation showed how and why ideas and the images of the canoe have found their way into virtually every aspect of past and present Canadian art, culture, and commerce. Raffan shared both humorous and poignant stories of the canoe, voted in a CBC poll as one of the "Wonders of Canada."

The Canadian Canoe Museum was founded in 1997 when watercraft and related artifacts from the personal collection of Kirk Wipper (formerly a Manitoban) were transferred to Peterborough, Ontario. The museum, an independent, not for profit organization, now has a collection that includes over 600 canoes and kayaks representing all major building traditions across the country as well as select international craft.

During his Fort Whyte talk Dr. Raffan graciously asserted that "Winnipeg is the centre of canoeing in Canada." He spent several years researching and writing his book on Mason and a similar length of time trying to understand and describe the work and psyche of Sir George Simpson. For both books, Raffan spent extended time in Winnipeg.

James Raffan's tour is not only to share his many stories about canoes. It is also part of the Canadian Canoe Museum's effort to reach out to like-minded groups, associations, and businesses that might wish to consider some kind of task specific partnership. He has, for example, invited Paddle Manitoba, along with any other interested organizations in Manitoba, to work with the museum to help organize Canada's National Canoe Day in June 2010.



Further details of the Canadian Canoe Museum, including of James Raffan's entertaining tour blog, are at:

<http://www.canoemuseum.ca/>

Paddle Camp's Moving water course -June 6-7

By Sharon Touchette

Over the last few years I have unpacked a passion within me for exploring meandering rivers. I have also had the chance to explore the constant change of rivers, not only from season to season but also from sudden heavy rainfall to drought. What was around the bend last time, well, it isn't the same the next time. My quest to always be furthering my canoeing knowledge and skills naturally brought me to taking the Paddle Camp's June moving water course on the Whitemouth River.

Arriving bright and early Saturday at Elma near the Whitemouth, we were met by our instructor Dave Pancoe. Dave had plenty of gear along for anyone who wanted to rent. After introducing ourselves and pairing up, we walked down to the river as Dave briefly explained counter intuitive, changes of currents, terms, river right, river left and hand signals. Full of a crazy mixture of excitement and anxiety, we geared up, dipped our canoes in and headed toward our beginner set of rapids. We learned to control our canoes in the currents as we ferried across the river both above and below the drop. I started to get a feel for adjusting my lean and timing my stroke to the current of the water. Dave taught us to expect the unexpected and to lean on our paddles to push ourselves up if we felt we were going over. Needless to say, we had a lot of opportunity to practice our rescues and ended our day feeling very full.

Sunday morning found us full of laughter as we headed towards bigger challenges at Farmer Rapids. We spent the morning learning to use eddies and currents to peel out or in, or to hold our position in the middle of a set of rapids. We spent a lot of time either in the water learning how be rescued or on the shore learning to rescue others. There is definite skill and knowledge in both. Till that day, I really hadn't realized the importance of my role in helping someone else rescue me. At one point while Jared and I were, for the third time, being washed down a set of rapids after flipping in a hole, Jared, with great pride, yelled to me that he had caught the tow rope and to swim to him. After I caught on, we realized we were still floating downstream...no one on shore had the other end of the tow rope. We laughed as we swam ourselves to shore. The rest of the day continued through haystacks, air that your paddle won't grab, eddies that suck us into holes, and how to use those currents to our advantage.

The course ended with us all full of exhilaration and a great feeling of accomplishment. That was a great and valuable experience for me. One I would truly recommend taking.



Tornado Watch - 2009

Wednesday Evenings at La Barriere Park

By Charles Burchill

Looking back many people might consider the summer of 2009 to be all rain and cool gloom. Certainly we had a lot of rain and it was overcast more often than usual. But with 21 Wednesday Night Paddles and 302 paddlers, I think of the summer as a great success.

I met more people from around the world this year than previously. Although most now live in Winnipeg, we did have a group visiting from Belgium. They wanted a canoeing opportunity so their children could experience "a bit of wilderness". Fortunately, the evening they joined us - their last day in Winnipeg - was beautiful, with a little breeze and few mosquitoes. Many of the new Canadians who joined us were enjoying their first paddling experience and some took to it like a fish to water.

Even with all of the rain, the bridge over the La Salle was only under water for a few weeks. By August water levels were too low for paddling below the dam. September turned out to be one of the warmest sunniest months of the whole summer (as it turns out it was a record) dispelling any memory of earlier cool weather.

For only the second time in the nine years that I have been leading these paddles, an outing had to be cancelled because of weather. On a hot, humid August 19th, Environment Canada issued a Tornado watch in the afternoon. By 6:00 it was dark, raining, and the clouds looked ominous. I still went out to the park and found one lone soul waiting. We decided to head home instead of chancing the weather. As it turned out it, the skies cleared before 7:00 and it would have been a pleasant paddle - but there was no way to predict the clearing and it is better to be safe than sorry. The only other Wednesday cancellation was due to a May snowstorm in 2004.

Sometime over the weekend of August 12, some bandit made off with one of our canoes, breaking the lock on the gate and cutting the Kryptonite cables that secured the canoes. A neighbour called us on Sunday after he found the compound open and one of the canoes missing. We are grateful for the time he put into letting us know. We reported the canoe stolen and still hope to recover it. Eric Gyselman went out and replaced the locks and cables with heavier chains and sturdier locks (thanks).

This year the board was very active with the Wednesday evening paddles with two or three additional board members coming out most weeks over the summer to paddle, enjoy, and help out. Sharon and First Light, Eric and his red Fox, Stephen with support and advice, Yvonne and the Maple. On the few weeks that I was on other trips Eric and Yvonne stepped in to make sure that the outings continued without a break.

Other Paddle Manitoba members made a difference this year too, sharing their skills and knowledge. Dan Wall led the group one evening while I was on a wilderness trip. I wish Dan all the best with his return to BC. Greg and his wife joined us for many paddles. They not only helped out before and after the paddles, but also shared stories about trips and rivers in Manitoba, advice on equipment, and thoughtful commentary on paddling. And I can't think of a week when they did not return with a bag of garbage left behind by thoughtless park visitors.

I was pleased to see the ongoing support from Paddle Manitoba for running outreach and open programs. With constitutional amendments, the resignation of a long standing board member, and dramatic changes to the board structure, a loss of interest in Wednesday night paddles was very possible. Like the tornado watch earlier this summer there was potential for turbulence. But I think this year's terrific participation shows there is a strong interest in paddling in Manitoba. And by lending its support to open paddles, Paddle Manitoba shows a clear commitment to paddling and the paddling community that goes well beyond just training and standards.

This winter when skiing along the water-ways, take a moment to think about your canoe and paddle and adventures both past and future.

I expect to be back again next spring and I hope to see you on the water the first week of May 2010

Charles



When he is not leading Wednesday Night Paddles on the LaSalle River (see Tornado Watch elsewhere in this Ripple) Charles Burchill is often traveling on Winnipeg's other waterways. In response to frequent requests, he has prepared route information for those wanting to paddle without leaving the big city. Included are good places to launch your boat, water conditions at different times of the year, obstacles that might interfere with your paddle, and what you might see as you traverse the waterways. Check out this information by visiting Charles' website at http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~burchil/pm_canoe/winnipeg_route.html

Job Posting

Enjoy a paid summer in Whiteshell Provincial Park

Nature Manitoba is looking for mature individuals to lead the Mantario Summer Program.

The successful candidate will have the following skills:

- Canoeing and hiking skills
- First Aid Certificate (Wilderness First Aid preferred)
- Strong leadership skills
- Ability to work with diverse groups
- Cooking ability
- Enthusiasm for and knowledge of wilderness environments

Particulars about the position:

- Guide leads participants by canoe to our wilderness cabin on Lake Mantario departing each Monday from Big Whiteshell Lake and returning each Friday
- 11 weeks employment from June 21st to Sept 3
- Training and guidance provided
- Rates of pay commensurate to qualifications and experience

Interested individuals should send resumes before April 15, 2010 to:

Mantario Summer Program Committee
C/O Nature Manitoba
401 – 63 Albert St.
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1G4

Phone/fax 943 9029

www.naturemanitoba.ca/mantario
<mailto:naturemanitoba@mts.net>

IF YOU HAVE STORIES, SUGGESTIONS, IDEAS, OR USEFUL TIPS THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO OTHER RECREATIONAL OR WILDERNESS PADDLERS, SEND THEM ALONG (TO NEWSLETTER@PADDLE.MB.CA)

More Than Just a Canoe Trip!

By Yvonne Kyle

In July of 2009, 34 Scouts and their leaders embarked on X-Quest, a weeklong camp in Northwestern Ontario's Experimental Lakes Area that would strive to not only give youth a fun canoe adventure, but would also underline the Scouting values of teamwork and respect for each other. After some assessment of ability and attitude, the youth were divided into three trip groups. One would do some additional training at the base camp before setting out on a one night out and back trip. Paddlers with a little more skill and the willingness to work hard would do a more challenging 3 day course and the most capable youth were aiming for a 5 day, 4 night trip. I would be a part of that trip.



The youth on our Quest were between 12 and 18. Some had a lot of canoe tripping experience and some were brand new to the sport, although they all had proven to have good basic paddling ability. There were pockets of kids who knew each other but most were making new friends on this trip. It didn't take long for leaders to see that for some of the older youth, there was resentment that others from their Scouting group had been assigned to different Quest trips. They were not quick to accept the rookie trippers in the group.

None of us had traveled in the ELA before and we had prepared for our trip by pouring over maps with paddlers who had spent a lot of time in the area. Our goal was a trip of about 65 kilometers we hoped to be off the water each day early enough to be able to enjoy some fishing, swimming, and general kick back time. And we opted to take the notorious "devil's staircase" portage as the last of our 14 portages instead of the first, deciding that going up the staircase with empty food barrels would be preferable to going down it with full ones.

The first day's paddle was as much as anyone could ask for. It was sunny but not hot, and the winds were light. We crossed 2 easy portages, the second of which had a small rapid that the youth had fun playing in. The water was shallow and the advantage went to the lighter boys whose boats did not scrape on the rocks. By about 4:00, we had found a great campsite. After a swim, one group set about making supper – fried chicken and mashed potatoes - while another assembled the thunder box we left as a gift to other campers, and a third gathered wood for an evening fire.

Day 1's work groups became day 2's paddling groups and there was little mingling between them. The youth all enjoyed listening to each other's resounding echoes in Echo Bay and they marveled together when they discovered huge spiders resting on some very impressive cliffs. They were collectively disappointed when a plan to jump off other cliffs had to be nixed after an unsuccessful search for a rope ladder that was supposed to be there. But when one of the seasoned trippers was asked to help a trip mate on a portage, he muttered that this would not have been necessary if his other friend had been there instead and the trip leaders knew that there were still some issues to work through in the team work and respect departments.

Then, everything changed. At about 5:00 we found an adequate, but not great camp site. Weighing the relative merits of fatigue versus a nicer place for the night, the youth decided to cross one more portage before calling it a day. It was a wet, muddy, and very uneven portage and the mosquitoes liked it a lot. It presented the first real challenge our paddlers had faced. Around the campfire later, the kids re-walked the portage and the formerly resentful youth complimented his fellow paddlers on a job well done, noting especially the

accomplishments of the boys who he had earlier grumbled most about. In an instant, our group became a team!

Over the next 3 days, the strength of our team was tested. The weather turned on day 3. The light breeze we had been enjoying gave way to strong winds and after an unsuccessful foray onto the lake, the adults decided we would stay put for the day. Being stuck in one spot is hard for teenaged boys, and a bit of light rain throughout the day didn't help. We found out who had brought cards and crib boards. We tested our pioneering skills –and used up most of our twine- creating a basic camp kitchen. And we slept.

The winds settled a bit after supper and we sent a reconnaissance mission to scout out the next day's first portage. It was not a tough portage, but it was hard to find and it was long. It took until noon before we were across - and facing white caps and a head wind that seemed to change directions every time we did. It was a tough slog for the 18 year olds. The 12 year olds faltered. So our stronger team members offered to shift partners and we ploughed on. At about 7:30 we reached another cross road, literally, on a portage that crossed a highway. At our 5:00 check-in, our base camp staff had offered to pull the group out at this road if we wanted them to. The kids were on the verge of packing it in when a truck carrying a canoe stopped on the road. A few minutes with the driver and the youth were re-invigorated. He had assured them that they could be at a great campsite in about an hour. The last boats pulled into the site just before sunset, 14 hours and 7 portages, after they had started. Tired and sore, the youth set up their tents, then gathered around the food barrels in search of something easy to make for supper. The day tested them all and together they felt like conquerors.

On day 5, we were heading home – 15 km and across the devil's staircase and we could hit the showers. We did the first kilometers easily, finally enjoying a bit of a tail wind. But it was a tease. As we approached the last open waters that we needed to cross to get home, we could see white caps again – big ones. Once more the boats were pulled out of the water and the cards came out. We raided the barrels for lunch, and then supper – a disappointment for campers who had been looking forward to a steak dinner at base camp – before the winds abated enough to cross the lake. By now, nothing mattered to the kids except getting home. The formerly intimidating devil's staircase had become the devil's cupcake. They crossed it quickly and practically flew across the last couple kilometers to where campers from the other trips welcomed them back, arriving just as the last daylight left the sky.

There are lots of reasons to do canoe trips. The very best one is because it is fun. Tripping with young people has the added advantage of giving adults the chance to watch kids grow. When strangers become friends and silent antagonism becomes genuine respect for mates, it's possible to see value in tripping that goes way beyond the simple joy of paddling. When the youth look back on the Quest, they will remember best how WE faced some tough situations and WE overcame the challenges. And what more could anyone ask for?





A LITTLE LEVITY!

Paddling Vocabulary

stolen from http://delmarvakayak.home.comcast.net/~delmarvakayak/kayak_humor.htm adapted from Tim Garland's original.

Cane Seat – Canoe seat designed to make little criss-crossed lines on your backside.

Canoe – Open-topped kayak for one armed paddlers or paddlers with one short arm.

Canoe, Whitewater – Open-topped kayak for one armed paddlers who like to swim.

Dry Top – Made of the latest miracle fabric, it will stay dry but you won't.

Flipped – The natural orientation of a sea kayak.

Float, Paddle – Used by those who fail to remember the natural orientation of kayaks.

Kayak – Closed-topped canoe for those without canoe paddling skills.

Kayak, Rotomoulded – Expensive, closed-topped canoe.

Kayak, Fibreglass – See Kayak, Rotomoulded but you need a mortgage to buy one.

Kayak, Kevlar – See Kayak, Fibreglass but bought by single or about-to-be single kayakers once the divorce settlement is finalized and the wealthy aunt dies.

Kayak, Racing – Any kayak that turns around in a distance greater than the width of the stream.

Kayak, slalom – Any kayak that can't go straight for a distance longer than its own length.

Keel – To fall over at the price of the typical boat.

Paddle (n) – A stick.

Paddle (v) – Sticking that stick in the water and flailing it.

Paddle, Winged (n) – Expensive and fragile stick.

Rower – backward person who goes in a boat. Sorry, that should read person who goes backward in a boat.

Skiing – Paddling a pair of really skinny boats in fluffy water. Usually done in the season when wet water gets too stiff



A guy called Ross Hensman built this kayak from Coke bottles for charity and plans to paddle it down a stretch of the Thames. He says: "I can't believe the boat actually works as well as it does although only tested on my small 12 ft pool but does seem to be stable now and handles something like a canoe. The boat is just made from Coke bottles, glue, and a ply floor to distribute my weight."



November 21, 2009 – Paddle Manitoba Board Visioning Workshop

On November 21, 2009, the Paddle Manitoba board met for a day-long “Visioning” workshop. The workshop came about as a result of changes adopted at the February 2009 Special General Meeting that saw PM change its mandate to focus primarily on instruction while still maintaining non-instructor membership. At the November 21 gathering, the board set ourselves the task of understanding where the association has been, where we are today, and what should be our vision going forward. Here, in brief, are our conclusions:

- That the focus adopted at the February, 2009 SGM has not led to an increase in volunteer commitment nor to increased involvement from the Instructors, the corporate members, or the general paddling community.
- That, notwithstanding the foregoing, PM should continue its focus on the instructional and educational parts of our mandate and continue to deliver and support the Paddle Canada certification program for instructors and other paddlers across Manitoba
- That the focus set at the SGM is, on its own, too narrow to sustain PM into the future, that with such a continued emphasis PM faces a danger of its membership and resources dwindling to an unsustainable level.
- That although PM does not at present have the resources to “back-track” to its pre-SGM operations, the association needs to find a way to expand focus to foster involvement and contact from and between the Instructors, the corporate members, and the general paddling community.
- That the best model available to us to achieve the preceding objective is one which envisages PM becoming an umbrella organization for the recreational paddling communities in Manitoba.
- That as an umbrella organization, Paddle Manitoba would support and work with a variety of existing or potential paddling clubs, and like-minded associations, such as regional paddling clubs, sub-discipline groups like a whitewater club, and other organizations that are known to participate in paddle sports such as the Guides and Scouts. Support provided by PM to these members of the umbrella organization could include corporate partnerships, insurance policies, website content, and a members’ code of conduct, as needed and requested.
- That Instructor-elected and Corporate-elected member board positions be added to the PM board and these board members represent and speak for their own community’s interests. They would also be expected to actively contribute to the objective of nurturing the relationship between PM and the general paddling community.
- When circumstances warrant it, a seat will be created on the board of PM, or a board sub-committee created, to represent the interests of specific parts of the organizational umbrella e.g. Regional Clubs, Wilderness Canoeing Clubs, Outreach and Advocacy Organizations, etc
- That PM should adopt, and ask all of its members to actively buy-in to a tag-line which says that PM, as an organization, is: ***“Your recreational and wilderness paddling community.”***

**Note that as an umbrella organization, Paddle Manitoba will support other paddling groups as much as possible, but PM will not operate individual paddling clubs nor any other parts of the organizational umbrella which make up the recreational and wilderness paddling community of Manitoba.

Upcoming Events

-The Paddle Manitoba AGM will be on Saturday, January 23 at 7:00 pm at the Fort Whyte Alive Interpretive Centre.

- In conjunction with the AGM on January 23 there will be a slide presentation by Neil McDonald.

Seeking to immerse themselves in traditional living skills, Neil McDonald and two friends spent three months living in the wilderness of central Labrador. They ascended the Churchill River in the fall, then spent the freeze-up season making winter travel gear before snowshoeing back to civilization at Christmas. This slideshow of this trip features dramatic scenery, details of traditional travel, and perspectives on wilderness and development in one of the remotest areas of eastern Canada.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This page is available to all Paddle Manitoba members who have something happening that may be of interest to other paddlers. Events need not be Paddle Manitoba sponsored to be included. We would be particularly interested in telling others about the events taking place in rural and northern communities as well as those small but fun and interesting events being organized by neighborhood paddling clubs, environmental groups, and others who love to visit the waterways, and outdoor recreation areas of Manitoba

Our Corporate Members!

If you are in need of paddling supplies or are looking for an outfitter or camp to enhance your paddling experiences, please visit the Paddle Manitoba corporate members identified below. PM Members are entitled to a 10% discount on the purchase of goods and services from our corporate members (You must show your Paddle Manitoba Membership card. Some restrictions apply.)



Mountain Equipment Co-Op

Everything imaginable for canoeing and kayaking. Special members' only discount nights hosted twice a year. A wide selection of repair, rescue, and outfitting accessories. Home of Seaward composite kayaks and Pyranaha whitewater boats.

Address: 303 Portage across from the True North Arena. Phone: (204) 943-4202

Website: www.mec.ca



Red River Canoe and Paddle

Manitoba's purveyor of handcrafted wood-canvas canoes and personalized paddles. Doug Ingram builds canoes in the spirit of Chestnut and E.M. White and his artistry must be seen to be truly appreciated. Doug will work with you to build the canoe of your dreams. Drop by for a coffee and see the beauty of canoe building in process.

Address: P.O. Box 78, Group 4, RR2 Lorette, MB R0A 0Y0 Phone: (204) 878-2524

Email: rrcp@mts.net

Website: <http://www.redrivercanoe.ca/>



Northern Soul

This Manitoba company will guide you on some of our most stunning rivers – with a twist! Relax on a “Yoga Canoe” or sharpen your skills with a day of Nature Photography. Northern Soul will work with community and business groups to customize trips to suit your needs.

Address: 74 Gleneagles Rd. Winnipeg, MB R2J 2Y2 Phone: (204) 284-4072

Email: adventure@northernsoul.ca

Website: <http://www.northernsoul.ca/>



Adventure Education

Offers adventure-based experiential activities and programs to promote the development and personal growth of all people. They serve a variety of clients from entire communities to individual schools and small businesses to national corporations.

Address: Box 44, GRP 10, RR2, Lorette, MB R0A 0Y0 Phone: (204) 775-2462

Email: aem@seminfo.mb.ca

Website: www.aeminfo.mb.ca



Wave Track Canoe and Kayak

Carrying a wide range of canoes and kayaks, Gary Brabant is the city's east end paddlesport retailer. In addition to names such as Old Town, Wenonah, and Clipper, Wave Track also carries a broad selection of camping equipment and clothing.

Address: Unit C, 42 Speers Road, opposite Symington Yards off Lagimodiere Blvd. Phone: (204) 231-8226

Email: wavetrak@mts.net

Website: <http://www.wavetrack.ca/>



WAVpaddling

WAVpaddling is central Central Canada's kayaking school specializing in kayaking instruction in and around Manitoba. They provide highly personalized, small group and private kayaking instructional adventures. Professional, certified, and experienced, their instructors teach using proven progressions and the most recent techniques.

Address: Comp. 132, RR 5, Dauphin, MB.R7N 2T8 Local Cell: (204) 470-4872Toll Free: 1-866-440-2349

Email: yak@wavpaddling.ca

Website: www.wavpaddling.ca



U of M Recreation Services

In addition to a wide range of canoe and kayak programs, Recreation Services offers activities in climbing, hiking, biking, boat safety, orienteering, and first aid. A great place for your family to learn about living in the outdoors. Open to students and members of the general public.

Address: Recreational Services, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2 Phone: (204) 474-6100 Fax: (204) 474-7503

Email: mailto:rec_services@umanitoba.ca

Website: bisonactiveliving.ca



WILDS Of Manitoba

Offers Paddle Canada certified canoeing courses in North Winnipeg and other venues if required. Flexible dates can be booked from June to October.

Address: 30 Riverstone Rd, Winnipeg, MB R2V 4B1 Phone: (204) 334 -3111

Email: courses@wilds.mb.ca

Website: www.wilds.mb.ca



Red River Outfitters

In addition to wilderness trips on Manitoba's rivers, we offer unique paddling experiences in our cedar and canvas vintage canoes. Explore Winnipeg's waterways in classic luxury and then dine at your favourite riverside restaurants. Great for anniversaries and special occasions. Paddle Canada instruction also available.

Address: Box 23, Lorette, MB R0A 0Y0 Phone: (204) 878-3570

Email: rro@mts.net

Website: <http://www.redriveroutfitters.ca/>



Wilderness Supply

More than a store... a lifestyle. Winnipeg's family run outdoor store where the staff always have time to chat and the coffee pot is always on. Suppliers of fine canoes and kayaks as well as equipment to fit all your outdoor needs

Address: 623 Ferry Road, Wpg, MB R3H 0T4 Phone: (204) 783-9555

Email: info@wildernesssupply.ca

Website: <http://www.wildernesssupply.ca/>



Woodland Caribou Provincial Park

Ontario's Woodland Caribou Park shares a boundary with Manitoba's Atikaki Park, but nature knows no boundaries. Here begins the Bloodvein River, a Canadian Heritage River which draws paddlers from around the world. Park permits are required of paddlers, and the revenue generated from permit sales is reinvested in the management of the park. Let us help you plan your next adventure in one of Ontario's great natural treasures.

Address: Box 5003, Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0 Phone: (807) 727-1329

Email: woodland.caribou.mnr@ontario.ca

Website: <http://www.ontarioparks.com/>



Stream 'n Wood

Outfit your next adventure with Brandon's outdoor centre – Stream 'n Wood. We offer four seasons of gear including canoes from Old Town and Esquif, and kayaks from Necky and Ocean Kayak. Southwest Manitoba's largest bike sales and service centre is also located in our new store, along with our paddlesport rental department. Let our knowledgeable staff help you plan your next wilderness trip!

Address: 135 17th St. North, Brandon MB Phone: (204) 727-2767

Email: info@streamnwood.com

Website: <http://www.streamnwood.com/>



Manitoba Pioneer Camp

Manitoba Pioneer Camp offers a variety of exciting programs that specialize in wilderness canoeing and adventure programs both in our children's camps and through Wildwise, our out-tripping program. Located in pristine wilderness on two Shoal Lake islands, we have been providing traditional wilderness camping experiences for children, youth and adults since 1942.

Address : 640 Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg MB R3C 0X3 Phone: (204) 788-1070

Email: pioneercamp@mts.net

Website: <http://www.manitobapioneercamp.ca/>



Wilderness Spirit

Your guides to the Hayes, Thelon, Bloodvein, Assiniboine, and many other Manitoba and Arctic rivers, are biologists whose knowledge of the wilderness will enhance an already exciting adventure. They will also customize instructional packages for any age and skill level.

Address: 696 McMillan Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3M 0V1 Phone: (204) 452-7049

Email: info@wildernessspirit.com

Website: <http://www.wildernessspirit.com/>



Camp Stephens

YMCA-YWCA Camp Stephens, established in 1891, is one of Canada's longest-running summer camps, offering modern facilities and fun and challenging programs for families, women and young people ages 8 to 16.

Address: Winter Camps Office 3550 Portage Ave. Wpg, MB R3K 0Z8 Phone: (204) 889-8642 ext. 230

Email: campstephens@ymcaywca.mb.ca



Green Adventures

Whether on vacation or just looking for a new way to explore the scenic lakes of Kenora, Ontario, Green Adventures nature based tour company is dedicated to making your outdoor experience unforgettable and fun. Come and see what the Lake of the Woods region has to offer you

Phone: (807) 467-8535

Email: scottgreen1980@msn.com

Website: <http://www.greenadventures.ca/>