



# Cataraqui Canoe Club

# News

January 2007

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

By Ed Jezak

As you can see from the listings in this newsletter, the board is roughly unchanged. We lost Jane Knibbs, we thank her for her service, and we gained Phil Jacobi. Phil was elected at the Annual General Meeting in October 2006. The election of the new board was by acclamation, since we were the only nominees from the nominating committee, and there were none from the floor. The rest of the meeting consisted of the reports, and the passing of the enabling motion to formally approve the past year's board actions. The evening's highlight was the presentation by Carolyn Bonta and Dugald Carmichael. We all enjoyed that.

Dave Ferguson is relinquishing his job as boathouse manager. He served several years, and we are grateful for his service. We thank you, Dave. Phil Jacobi is taking on his task. By the time this reaches you, the transfer should have been effected. Phil's telephone number is listed on page 2.

This summer, a former member donated his tandem, whitewater canoe to the Cataraqui Canoe Club. He refers to it as the "Queen Mary", because, with airbags in, it is rather heavy; close to 100 pounds. We thank Orla and Dale Myrfield for this gift. Several of us, current members of this club, borrowed the boat from Dale; had fun in it, damaged it, and assisted in its repair. It is a job to move it on land, but once in its ele-

ment it handles nicely. As a token of our appreciation, the board voted to give the Myrfields a family membership for the coming year.

We enter the winter season, and excursions switch from paddling to skiing and snowshoeing, yet as I write this in December, before Christmas, there is not a hint of snow anyplace close to Kingston. People are still considering paddling. Last Sunday I was invited

to paddle Beaver Creek whitewater, the temperature got to about eleven. Having just returned from a week at Whistler, I was not in a mood to paddle, so declined, but my friends had fun. This was the latest local whitewater paddle that I know of. If this weather persists, all of our scheduled ski and snowshoe events will be changed to hiking. That might be sad for all those who get skis or snowshoes for Christmas. Still, no reason to stay home and fret; a winter hike, provided the terrain is not

muddy, can be fun and good exercise. Then again, we might get lucky, with a foot of snow on the ground before you read this. I know that not all of you are praying for snow, but I shall be. My skinny skis, touring skis, snowshoes, and downhill skis are all ready. The alpine skis have been cleaned and the edges sharpened, the Nordic ones just need a bit of wax, appropriate for the snow conditions and temperature, waiting for the white stuff to arrive.

Hope to see some of you on the trails – enjoying our winter wonderland.



**Swamp Hop 2006 - Tour of the Frozen Beaver Ponds in Frontenac Park**  
From left: David Forkes, Gunther Heyland, Maureen Beamish, Don Workman, Guy Orem, Nancy Young, Janice Ley, Eric Usherwood

— Photo by Kristina Chryssanthos of the Frontenac Gazette

## **Cataraqui Canoe Club**

**PO Box 1882  
Kingston, Ontario K7L 5J7**

**Boathouse located on Orchard street near the Woolen Mill**

**Call 613 544 8375, or view [www.cataraquicanoe.on.ca](http://www.cataraquicanoe.on.ca), for a current listing of up-coming trips and events**

### **Executive and Board of Directors 2005 – 2006**

|                           |                       |              |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Commodore</b>          | Ed Jezak              | 613-389-4459 |
| <b>Vice Commodore</b>     | Carolyn Bonta Johnson | 613-531-4578 |
| <b>Secretary</b>          | Charles Hannan        | 613-536-1610 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>          | Michael Johnson       | 613-531-4578 |
| <b>Past Commodore</b>     | Dukke van der Werf    | 613-384-6054 |
| <b>Board of Directors</b> | Dugald Carmichael     | 613-542-8628 |
|                           | Mike Fisher           | 613-547-5386 |
|                           | Phil Jacobi           | 613-389-1340 |
|                           | Josephine Matyas      | 613-546-6266 |
|                           | Margaret Wild         | 613-542-9626 |

### **Program Appointments**

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Newsletter Editor</b>             | Sharon Ferguson – 613-384-3044 – <a href="mailto:editorccc@yahoo.ca">editorccc@yahoo.ca</a>   |
| <b>Scheduling</b>                    | Dugald Carmichael – 613-542-8628  |
| <b>Activities at the Boathouse</b>   | Don Harris – 613-546-0842   |
| <b>Boathouse Manager/Assistant</b>   | Phil Jacobi – 613-389-1340/ Mark Hughes – 613-372-5989  |
| <b>Courses and Clinics</b>           | Carolyn Bonta – 613-531-4578  |
| <b>Hiking</b>                        | Gary Birrell – 613-389-5254/ Beth Orr – 613-389-6362  |
| <b>Skiing</b>                        | Ed Jezak – 613-389-4459   |
| <b>Whitewater Program</b>            | Dugald Carmichael – 613-542-8628/ Mark Hughes – 613-372-5989  |
| <b>Membership Secretary</b>          | Dukke van der Werf – 613-384-6054   |
| <b>Publicity</b>                     | Josephine Matyas – 613-546-6266   |
| <b>Volunteer Coordinator</b>         | Margaret Wild – 613-531-4578  |
| <b>Telephone Listings</b>            | Judy Skeggs – 613-374-3420  |
| <b>Webmaster/Assistant Webmaster</b> | Alan Nicholls – 613-547-3781/ Ray Wilson – 613-382-7189<br><a href="mailto:cccwebmaster@ca.inter.net">cccwebmaster@ca.inter.net</a> |

### **Newsletter Contributions Welcome!**

Members of the Cataraqui Canoe Club (CCC) are invited to submit write-ups of their favorite CCC outings, outdoor adventure, or just about anything that would be of general interest to our members. Email the News Editor at [editorccc@yahoo.ca](mailto:editorccc@yahoo.ca), mail them to the club or pass them on to any member of the board or executive, or bring them to the schedule making pot-luck. If you have one or two pictures to accompany the article even better.

### **Has Your Address Changed?**

Has your mailing or e-mail address changed? We want to stay in touch and make sure that you receive the newsletter. Please forward changes in mailing/email/phone number to the membership secretary at 613-384-6054; or to the club address above.

## THE PERFECT SUMMER PADDLE THE DEPOT LAKES

By Josephine Matyas

Every paddler knows those days: the perfect ones. The one where you open the curtains, the sun is streaming in, the air is warm and – if you're lucky and have planned ahead – the boat is already loaded onto the roof of the car. Such was that Saturday in July when the club members took on the Third Depot Lake to First Depot Lake paddle.

It's not a long paddle by club standards: just eight kilometres. But it certainly is one of those routes that more than makes up for paddling challenge with portages, fast water and lots of opportunity for lining or pulling your craft over beaver jams and shallow rocky spots.

side was huge: swimming, splashing and playing in the waterfalls. Then a longer stretch of paddling across the lake to the luncheon spot at the park. More swimming was involved ... naturally.

Another short portage (why do they *make* us do this on a full stomach?), a most enjoyable paddle along a river that connects the lakes, some shallow water, some fast water and a few small challenges. The water levels were lower than usual in 2006, so canoes needed to be pulled through a few spots (or carried around), kayaks fared a little easier.

A great paddle and a great day! Thanks to Beth for leading us through! Can hardly wait to do it all again in 2007.



*Rigby and Sally – Photo by Jo Matyas*



*Carolyn Bonta and Michael Johnson Portage – Photo by Jo Matyas*

It can be a bit of a hike out to the Depot Lakes put in, but cheerful people that kayakers and canoeists are, no one was complaining. The route starts with a scramble down a sharp, gravelly incline to the point of launch. On this trip, my canoe was also floating home to two dogs, Rigby and Sally. Rigby being a puppy was all wagging and panting and excitement. Sally – a senior Labrador Retriever – was typically just happy to be in, on and near water.

The first leg of the trip was short – a portage was literally just around the corner. But the payoff on the other



*Pulling Through Shallows – Photo by Jo Matyas*



*Lunch and a Swim – Photo by Jo Matyas*

**HOT AUGUST SUMMER PADDLE—BLUE MOUNTAIN TREK—SWIM BREAK**

*Paddling Charleston Lake from the Outlet Putin to Huckleberry Hollow, with Ray Wilson in the Lead Canoe – Photo by Dugald Carmichael*



*2km Hike to Top of Blue Mountain  
– Photo by Dugald Carmichael*



*Shady Launch and Exit, Huckleberry Hollow – Photo by Dugald Carmichael*

**EMAIL RESEARCH OF PADDLING SALMON RIVER WHITEWATER—SPRING 2006**

*By Dugald Carmichael*

Dave! Tonight I enjoyed a long conversation with your brother Ed. He reckons it must have been 1966 when you and he first paddled the Lower Salmon, because it was just after he got his driver's license. He said you had a big heavy fibreglass canoe (which later took a beating on the Moira, Mississippi, Upper Salmon, etc). And he said nobody showed you the Lower Salmon. He remembers putting in below Forest Mills with no idea what perils might be waiting farther downstream! So it looks as if a couple of adventurous teenage Fergusons started all the fun that snowballed to Jack Brown in 1968, Jim Walmsley, Jim Moodie, me in 1971, and dozens of Queen's geology students after that.

Hey Jim, I would like to write a short piece about paddling on the Salmon River for a Friends-of-Salmon-River booklet to be published in the fall. As it was you and Ken Walmsley who introduced me to the beautiful 11km stretch from Roblin to Kingsford (was it 1971?), I am hoping maybe you know when and by whom it was first paddled for fun?

*Hoy! Dugald. Boy, quite a bit of water has flowed under the bridge since we paddled the Salmon River. (I can see you scratching your head. What? We paddled under a bridge?) Maybe there was a bridge, for all I know. I guess it was around the time you mention. Jim*

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**DUNDER...**(Continued from page 4)

*(not Ken) Walmsley would have a much better idea. He still lives in Kingston. Better phone soon, I think he is going to Chile to visit his son later on this week. Jim probably knows more about the white water history of the Salmon River. (Or he might put you onto some names of people who do.) He was the one who taught me my first lessons about whitewater canoeing on the Petawawa River long ago. Good luck with your article.*

Hoy Jim! Thanks to your message, I just had a nice chat with Jim Walmsley! He remembers that paddle very well. Later, he was one of my daughter Wendy's teachers at KCVI (I had forgotten that). In fact we paddled under four bridges! Attached are three pix from a canoe-club trip last April. Jim gave me a number for Jack Brown in Mallorytown, who had introduced him to the Lower Salmon in 1968 or so, but Jack did not answer his phone; I'll try again later.

Time for another update. On Friday Bob Edwards called me back from Ottawa. Bob said Jake was not too keen on whitewater, only ever did it with him, and never on the Lower Salmon. However, he said his own introduction to whitewater was in 1963, on the Lower Salmon near Lonsdale, led by Jack Brown. I challenged him about the date and told him all our conflicting stories, but he remained quite certain he had been in Grade 12 at the time. Today I called Jack

Brown again, and Jack is quite certain Bob was already teaching at the time they first paddled the Lower Salmon, probably around 1973. As all of Jack's recollections completely agree with Ed's and yours, I think we should conclude that Bob misremembers the date of his trip with Jack.

On Saturday I phoned Ned Franks. Ned said his first whitewater was the Napanee in 1967. He liked it so much that he scouted the Lower Salmon by maps and by road, and paddled it with friends in the spring of 1968, not knowing if anybody else had ever done it. Considering that Bob thinks Jake never paddled the Lower Salmon River, I wonder if it might have been Ned's group you remember seeing there in 1968?

Also on Saturday, Dale Myrfield showed me a mimeographed binder dated 1970, published by the Voyagers, a whitewater group based in Oshawa-Toronto. It has maps and descriptions for many Eastern Ontario rivers (including the Lower Madawaska, Upper Madawaska, Opeongo, Skootamatta, and Upper Black Rivers), but no mention of the Salmon River.

All things considered, it seems the Ferguson brothers in 1966 were the first to paddle the Lower Salmon River for fun, and that probably nobody tried the Upper Salmon River before 1970.

*This concludes a three part history series in the 2006 May, September and 2007 January, Cataraqui Canoe Club News.*

# TRAILHEAD

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***Official Winter Schedule for 2007, of the Cataraqui Canoe Club***

Change in activity may be necessary due to weather or water conditions. Check with the trip leader. Changes with enough lead time will be posted on the website version of the schedule: <http://www.cataraquicanoe.on.ca/events.html>

**IS THIS ACTIVITY RIGHT FOR ME?** Is it within my limits of fitness and skill? Do I have the right clothing, footwear and equipment? What water, food and protectants should be included in my pack? What are the potential risks, and do I accept them? Is there a health problem that could affect my participation? Am I aware of strategies to minimise impact on the environment?

Your leader can help with these and other questions when you call, and at the same time describe the plan for the activity. Also, at the designated meeting place you will be required to read an outline of the activity and the anticipated risks, before signing a waiver. Good preparation and safety awareness on the part of each participant will make the trip less risky and more enjoyable for all.

There is a \$5 fee for non-members on paddling trips and overnight trips. Guests are welcome at no charge on non-paddling day trips.

past 8 winters Eric Usherwood and Janice Ley have led this popular event, which starts and ends at FPP Trail Centre. Call Janice 542 9958.

**When participating in the Cataraqui Canoe Club outings, wear appropriate apparel and footwear for the conditions of the day.**

**FEB 17-18, Sat.&Sun. SILENT LAKE & KAWARTHA SKI WEEKEND.** Usually there is plenty of snow near Bancroft. Special offer with six or more rooms booked at Best Western Sword Motel includes pool, sauna and hot tub, just 25km from Silent Lake Provincial Park, which has 40km of groomed cross-country ski trails: <http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/sile-winter.html>. On Sunday a short drive will take us to Kawartha Nordic Ski Club: <http://www.kawarthanordic.ca/> with 50km of groomed trails in scenic terrain, well worth the \$10 day pass. Call Margaret Wild 542 9626.

**FEB 17, Sat. 8-9:30pm. WINTER KAYAK-ING.** The first of two indoor paddling sessions at Artillery Park Aquatic Center: <http://www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/recreation/programs/aquatics/index.asp> organized by Mark

Hughes and Beth Orr. The fee is \$15 each session for members - \$25 for nonmembers. Club boats are available, and a certified lifeguard will be on deck. Call Mark 372 5989 for info and to register.

**FEB 3, Sat. OPINICON SKI.** Depending on conditions, this intermediate XCskiing might be mostly on ungroomed trails or mostly on frozen beaver ponds. Call Dug Carmichael 542 8628.

**FEB 10, Sat. FRONTENAC SWAMP HOP (snowshoe, ski or hike).** Beaver ponds may be obstacles in summer, but when frozen solid they give us easy access to rocky ridges and scenic overlooks. For at least the



close to home. Dukke van der Werf will show us

*(Continued on page 7)*

**FEB 24, Sat. OPINICON AREA INTERMEDIATE SKI.** Come and ski through scenic terrain on ungroomed trails at a leisurely pace

*(Continued from page 6)*

the way. Distance will depend on conditions. Call Dukke 384 6054.

### **FEB 24, Sat. POTLUCK PLUS**

**SLIDE&VIDEO SHOW.** Not much chance of paddling this month! Lest we forget those thrills, chills, and spills in the rills, Peter Kopp invites us to a potluck dinner and a paddling show-and-tell. Call Peter 546 9216.

### **MAR 3-4, Sat.&Sun. ALGONQUIN SKI**

**WEEKEND.** Inexpensive accommodation is available at East Gate Motel in Whitney, close to a great set of cross-country ski trails in a scenic sector of the Park. Breakfasts are included; Saturday night is potluck. Option to arrive Friday night will greatly increase our time on the trails. Call Tom Stewart early to be sure of a place – 532 5550.

### **MAR 10, Sat. 8-9:30pm. INDOOR KAYAK-**

**ING.** This is the second of two paddling sessions (see FEB 17 for general details). No ice on Artillery Park pool! Come and practice rolling and rescuing in warm water and congenial company, just in time for spring paddling. Call Mark Hughes 372 5989.

### **MAR 11, Sun. HIKE OR PADDLE NEAR**

**GANANOQUE.** Depending on conditions, this might be a hike to Blue Mountain or a flatwater paddle on Gananoque River. Call Ray Wilson 382 7189.

### **MAR 18, Sun. PUZZLE LAKE HIKE.**

This beautiful undeveloped provincial park is gradually becoming familiar to adventurous CCCers. Carolyn Bonta, Assistant Park Planner with Ontario Parks, will design this hike to suit the conditions. Call Carolyn 531 4578.

**MAR 24, Sat. PARROT BAY HIKE.** Beth Orr invites us on a short afternoon hike through fragrant cedar forest at Parrot Bay, to sharpen our appetites for the schedule-making party this evening. Call Beth 389 6362

### **MAR 24, Sat. SCHEDULE-MAKING**

**CHILI+POTLUCK PARTY.** Fun and food chez Orr! Beth and Dave will be our congenial hosts as we make plans for summer paddling etc. Call Beth 389 6362 to take part. If you might like to lead an event this summer or fall but cannot attend the party, please call Dug Carmichael 542 8628.

### **MAR 31, Sat. RIDEAU TRAIL GEOLOGI-**

**CAL HIKE.** Come and marvel at the fossil shell of a huge squid, which lived and died ~455 million years ago near what is now Bullen Road. Discovered by Derek Paul during last year's CCC trip, it is inferred to have been a ferocious predator ~3 meters long. Then hike across what used to be a barren quartzite island in a shallow sea too salty for trilobites and other primitive critters. Farther north, Collins Creek disappears down a sink-hole in limestone bedrock, only to be reborn from giant springs 400 meters northwest. Call

Dug Carmichael 542 8628.

### **APR 1, Sun. LOWER SALMON WHITE-WATER PADDLE**

**PLUS.** This outing is intended for paddlers already familiar with the Lower Salmon. After completing our usual 12km trip from Roblin to Kingsford, we shall decide whether to paddle another 7.5km down-river. The extra stretch

includes 3km of swifts and Class-1 rapids, a 30m portage around a weir in Lonsdale, and three short Class-2 rapids. We shall start earlier than



**"Better late than never..."  
File a paddling plan with  
a reliable person**

*(Continued on page 8)*

*(Continued from page 7)*

usual, stop for lunch farther downriver than usual, and drive the shuttle in two stages so that any or all can end the trip at Kingsford if we wish (or if conditions dictate). Call Cathy Polk 546 1017.

**APR 7, Sat. MASSASSAUGA CREEK PADDLE AND HIKE.** A CCC rite of spring! Again Janice Ley and Eric Usherwood will lead this joyous 12km paddle up and down a gently flowing creek, with two beaver dams as minor obstacles. After lunch an optional 2.5km bushwhacking hike to Buck Lake outlet. Call Janice 542 9958.

**APR 14, Sat. NAPANEE RIVER EASY WHITEWATER.** This scenic 8km stretch of Class-1 rapids, swifts and flatwater between Yarker and Camden East provides a matchless introduction to whitewater for rookies, and it is good fun for experienced paddlers. No portages. Call Peter Kopp 546 9216.

**APR 15, Sun. LOWER SALMON WHITEWATER.** A superb 12km paddle from Roblin to Kingsford, mostly swifts and Class 1-2 rapids in a cedar-fringed limestone glen, with two short portages around weirs. Scenic highlights will be Buttermilk Falls and Weeping Wall. There will be ample opportunity to learn and/or practice whitewater skills such as back-paddling, ferrying, eddy-ing and surfing. Call Mark Wideman 544 4744.

**APR 21, Sat. SALMON RIVER - KINGSFORD TO MILLTOWN PADDLE.** This scenic 14km paddle includes 3km of swifts and Class-1 rapids, and there is a short portage around a weir. Each of three short Class-2 rapids has a large standing wave to be avoided, punched through, or surfed. Farther southwest, the river flows gently down a broad forested valley flanked by limestone escarpments. Call Bob Clooney 384 4482.

**APR 28, Sat. TAY RIVER WHITEWATER.** Once again Bob Clooney invites us to paddle Tay River between Bathurst Road and Glen Tay, a beautiful 10km stretch with flatwater, swifts and Class-1-2 rapids. There is one short portage, and a

**CATARAQUI CANOE CLUB DONATES TO THE SALVATION ARMY**

*Kingston's Salvation Army Christmas Hamper Campaign was \$70.00 richer thanks to monies from the CCC Christmas Party on December 1 (donation published in The Whig, December 20). The Christmas Hamper campaign was so successful that excess funds are available for the Sally Ann summer camps.*

low bridge must be negotiated with care. Call Bob 384 4482.

**MAY 1, 2&3, Tues, Wed & Thurs Evening, 6-8pm. CCC OPEN HOUSE.** We welcome the public to visit our clubhouse (east end of Cataraqui Street), view our fleet of watercraft, and sign up for learn-to-canoe-and-kayak courses or paddling-skills clinics. Also an opportunity for members to meet and greet each other, enjoy refreshments and demos by local outfitters, and make plans to participate in upcoming events. For details call Margaret Wild 542 9626.

**MAY 5, Sat. KENNEBEC PADDLE.** A CCC first! Come and explore a new part of the Salmon Watershed by canoe or kayak. ~12km flatwater with swifts in Crooked Creek. Our leader Noreen Dertinger will meet us at the putin on Cox's Lake. Bernie and Gunda Dertinger have invited us for Kennebec coffee and will help us with the shuttle. For info re paddling call Noreen 613 821 0682 or re driving (~75km up CR#38) call Dug Carmichael 542 8628.

**MAY 12, Sat. LITTLE CAT ORIENTEERING.** By popular demand, Peter Kopp will organize and lead another fun day of map-reading and bush-navigating in Little Cat Conservation Area. Novices are welcome. For details call Peter 546 9216.

**MAY 13, Sun. MOTHER'S DAY FAMILY PADDLE.** Once again Debbie Twiddy will lead this popular paddle on a calm stretch of Napanee River upstream from Petworth. Mothers with children are especially welcome. Spring delicacies will be sprung - wild leeks and fiddleheads! Call Debbie 374 1704.