



# Cataraqui Canoe Club

## News

September 2012

### COMMODORE'S NOTE - BOARD NEWS

BY MIKE FISHER

It's hard to believe that the next AGM is just round the corner, but it is, so make a note of it and do try to attend. Besides official business and, of course, elections to the Board, we have a film well worth seeing.

The year has been, I'm pleased to say, uneventful, in the sense that there have been no accidents or insurmountable problems. The activities, thanks to the valued contributions of the trip organizers and the generosity of those hosting the schedule parties, have continued providing pleasurable and memorable times. Thank you to all involved. The Board, over the year, has seen the boathouse upgraded appreciably and has dealt with a number of requests for temporary use by individuals and organizations as its location is regarded, by some, as the start of the Rideau System.

We are, at present, in the process of acquiring a new sea kayak as there seems to be an increasing use of this type of craft and we are constantly assessing the need to replace older boats. Recent concerns relate to the need to provide help and advice to trip organizers. We are fortunate in having a group of experienced and knowledgeable members who regularly organize trips for us. However, we must be vigilant in keeping "up to date" with any rules and regulations that apply. Our objective is to make our activities as safe as possible without diminishing their free and informal character.

I extend my thanks to the Board members for their efforts throughout the year and my best wishes to the new Board, which you will elect at the forthcoming AGM.



Linda Whitfield and Nancy Young traverse an old log jam on a recent trip to Schooner Lake. They continued on to Centennial Lake and appreciated the help they received to portage their kayaks around a beaver dam and concrete dam.

*Photo by Steve Manders*

PO Box 1882 Kingston ON K7L 5J7

The CCC Boathouse is located on Orchard Street near the Woolen Mill

For an update on current schedule check our website [www.cataraquicanoe.on.ca](http://www.cataraquicanoe.on.ca)

For other information contact a board member by phone or use the club email:

[cataraqui\\_canoe\\_club@hotmail.com](mailto:cataraqui_canoe_club@hotmail.com)

<b>Executive and Board of Directors 2011-2012</b>		
Commodore	Mike Fisher	613 547-5386
Vice Commodore	Jim Lorimer	613 373-2847
Past Commodore (non elected position)	Ed Jezak	613 389-4459
Secretary	Gonny Moncur	613 549-5538
Treasurer	Ed Jezak	613 389-4459
Board of Directors	Mary Buchanan Harry Burgstaller Steve Manders Debbie Twiddy Linda Whitfield	613 536-5486 613 549-4832 613 542-1054 613 374-1704 613 546-1359

<b>Program Appointments</b>		
Newsletter Editor	Jo-Anne Beckett	613 548-7905
Boathouse Manager	Steve Manders	613 542-1054
Instruction	Mary Buchanan	613 536-5486
Membership Secretary	Debbie Twiddy	613 375-1704
Publicity & Special Events	Linda Whitfield	613 546-1359
Volunteer Coordinator	Jim Lorimer	613 373-2847
Webmaster	Ed Jezak	613 389-4459

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***Newsletter Contributions Welcome!***

*Members of the Cataraqui Canoe Club are invited to submit write-ups of their favourite CCC outings, outdoor adventure, or just about anything that would be of general interest to our members. If you have one or two pictures to accompany the article, even better.*

*Email the articles and pics to the Newsletter Editor at [jebeckett@gmail.com](mailto:jebeckett@gmail.com)*

## BREWER'S LAKE TO MORTON PADDLE

BY GONNY MONCUR

We gathered, as usual, at Tim Horton's to begin this early fall trip. Dennis promised us a poignant scenery with a hint of vibrant fall colours.

We drove in convoy to the launch on Sunbury Road just north of the Upper Brewers Locks.



The view from Rock Dunder.

*Photo by Jo-Anne Beckett.*

Dennis arranged the shuttle to everyone's satisfaction and a little after 11 a.m. we started to paddle. There were 9 kayaks and 3 canoes, for a group total of 15 paddlers.

Smoothly we paddled along Cranberry Lake towards Brass Point Bridge. There John decided to stretch his legs which gave us a chance to catch up and have a little snack in the boat. The bridge proved to be very low, or the water was high, anyway, we had to duck deep.

Now we were paddling on Whitefish Lake. There was not much evidence of a vibrant hint of fall colours. All the trees were still pretty green. Just when people started to ask

themselves if we were going to have lunch somewhere we arrived at Seeley's Bay where we pulled the kayaks and canoes ashore. Maureen and Charlie were waiting for us there.

As some of the group were planning to do a return trip we didn't stay too long. Once back in the water I asked Dennis where to go and eh said: "Follow the b(u)oys", a direction us girls were eager to follow.

Arriving at Rock Dunder, Dave and Ib turned their kayaks around to start on the journey back. At that time we noticed that Dennis and some other were not there. They showed up a little later claiming that they went to get an ice cream at Seeley's Bay which was part of the trip arrangement. Never mind, we all ended up at the top of the rock. Along with some other groups of hikers, we enjoyed the view, took some pictures and laughed at the antics of Jane and John. Back down, it was just a little way to Morton where we had left the cars.

It was another successful trip with the Club. Ideal weather conditions: a blue sky with some clouds, a temperature of 19 degrees and hardly any wind. We enjoyed it very much.

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## ***Official Schedule for the 2012-13 Fall/Early Winter Season***

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 minimize impact on the environment?

Your leader can help with these and other questions when you call, and 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 make a trip less risky and more enjoyable for all.

### **Saturday October 6 Sydenham Lake...Little Long Lake...Eel Bay Paddle and Potluck**

Immerse yourself in the serene beauty of this waterway. Return to Point Park boat ramp launch site, load up and drive 2 km to chez Lintons'. A local citizen has been invited to give an informal historical talk on what we will have seen this day. If the weather co-operates this should be a paddle for all skill levels...no portages, beaver dams or car shuttles. Early response will help facilitate the pot luck planning. Spouses/partners welcomed. For further info and registration call Dave or Jen Linton at 613-376-6883.

### **Saturday October 13 Puzzle Lake Paddle**

Just 50 minutes' drive to the putin/takeout on Gull Creek. A short paddle across Gull Lake and a 150-m portage will bring us to scenic flatwater nestled among red granite ridges in an undeveloped provincial park. Come and see if "Puzzle Lake has no fall colours." Call Dugald at 613 542 8628.

### **Wednesday October 17 Annual General Meeting**

Ongwanada Resource Centre, 191 Portsmouth Avenue, 7-9 p.m.

Our business meeting and a social gathering; come to help us meet the quorum, find out what has been happening, and meet old and new friends. After the business meeting we shall see "The River of Life", an NFB film.

### **Sunday October 21 Opinicon Hike**

From the trails near Skycroft we can explore mysterious mineral pits, abandoned homesteads, sinkholes, springs ....Call Dukke van der Werf at 613 384 6054.

### **Saturday October 27 Parts of Rideau Canal or Hike**

We will be paddling from Chaffey's Locks, over Davis Locks to Jones Falls and back. The waters are relatively sheltered. This is one of the most scenic parts of the Rideau water way. Sunday will be the rain date in case of foul weather on Saturday. In the event of dry skies with high winds, we can hike the Cataraquei trail from Chaffey's locks starting at the Loon Lake Road. Wild life is abundant here. Call Steve at 613 542-1054.

### **Saturday November 3 Canoe Lake to Kingsford Dam Paddle & Potluck**

A 16-km paddle west of Frontenac Park followed by a potluck for up to 18 paddlers at Nancy's cottage on Eels Lake. Includes a portage (150m) and an optional scramble to a scenic overlook on Birch Lake. The shuttle is only 5 km. Call Dugald at 613 542-8628.

**Saturday November 10**  
**Gananoque River Paddle**

Paddle the beautiful Gananoque River. Distance 12km. Bring warm clothing and gather afterwards for refreshments. Call Jim at 613 373-2847.

**Saturday November 17**  
**Gould Lake Hike**

Hike the trails in Gould lake starting at the gate and returning via the "Ridgewalk Trail". 10km. Call Jim at 613 373-2847.

**Saturday November 24**  
**Perth Road to Clear Lake Road Hike**

A trek through a scenic part of Frontenac Provincial Park, about 17 km on somewhat rugged trails, but no bushwhacking. Contact Ed Jeżak at 613 389-4459.

**Saturday December 8**  
**Hike in Depot Lakes area**

The hike will begin at the 2nd depot lake camp ground, 10 km in length, with a mix of terrain, with a few high lookouts over the lake. Contact John Schepers at 613 354-1524.

**Sunday December 16**  
**Potluck & Scheduling**

Last gathering for the year. Come for the company and the fun, and to help us plan for another four months. At Ed Jeżak's, phone 613 389-4459.



**2013**

**Saturday January 5**  
**Salmon Back-country Ski or Hike**

Scenic terrain and open vistas. Hoping for deep snow and well-frozen ponds. Call Dugald at 613 542-8628.

**Saturday January 12**  
**Massassauga Back Country Trip**

Depending on weather and snow/ice conditions, Janice and Eric will lead us on a back country trek from their Massassauga property. Rugged terrain and great scenery. Call Janice to check on what to bring -- skis, snowshoes, or boots (with poles and ice grips); at 613 542-9958.

**Saturday Jan 19**  
**Gatineau Park Nordic Ski**

The park has well-groomed trails with all levels of difficulty. You can do the classic stride, or skate. We shall leave Kingston at 8 a.m. and be on the trails about 11. We have lunch in one of the warming huts, and should be finished by 4 p.m. You can linger in Ottawa to shop and dine, or head straight home. Contact Ed Jeżak at 613 389-4459.

**Saturday January 26**  
**Skate the Lake**

The annual Portland Skate the Lake takes place on a meticulously groomed 1km oval set against the magnificent backdrop of Big Rideau Lake. Although an international speed skating event takes place here, races are open to everyone. There are 5K, 10K, and 25K events, and a 5x1 relay. Long blades, hockey skates and figure skates are all here. A huge community event with great food and entertainment, the specialty is "Snert" (Dutch Pea Soup). Janice entered last year and found it an exhilarating and fun experience, and would love to have some more company this year. If interested, call Janice at 613 542-9958 and check out the website [www.portlandoutdoors.com](http://www.portlandoutdoors.com).

**CANOEING IN THE LOW COUNTRIES**  
**BY DUKKE VAN DER WERF**

Flowing gently from Belgium into The Netherlands, the Dommel River provides a 14-km flatwater paddle with no beaver dams.



For many schoolchildren, this is a first taste of canoeing. Some learn fast and others swim, but nobody uses a PFD. The takeout is marked by red rubber balls on a river wide rope and a sign with the words *einde kanoroute* (end of canoe route). It is just upstream from *Venbergsse Molen*, a centuries-old wooden gristmill (river left). On river right is a fine *terrasje* where adult paddlers can drink *een pilsje*.

Several years ago, my brother and I decided to paddle this stretch of the Dommel. One morning we cycled half an hour to the takeout from where we were driven to the put in at Neerpelt, Belgium. No customs building, no questions, no ID required. At the put in we were given a canoe and two paddles, and off we went. Dropping only one metre per kilometre, the Dommel meanders first through farmland and then through protected wetlands. We chatted occasionally with cyclists on the riverside bicycle path. No road was in sight!



From the takeout, where a sign warns motorists to beware of canoes, we portaged across the road.



Gradually we overtook a strung-out fleet of canoes with schoolchildren and their teachers. Hardly any paddling skills, but all were determined to reach the takeout one way or another. Two boys had invented their own way of navigating. They would simply paddle until they hit the shore, where they would push and pull on riverside veggies until the bow was pointing downstream again. Inevitably they would hit the opposite shore, and with more pushing and pulling (not to mention shouting and laughing) their course would be corrected once again. Oh well, practice makes perfect! Luckily most of the Dommel is only about eight metres wide!



Not far across the border we came to Borkel, a tiny Dutch village where the local pub happens to abut the Dommel on river left with a nicely treed lawn and a *terrasje*. We pulled the canoe up on the grass and sat down in comfortable chairs for a bite to eat and a *pilsje*. Then onward we paddled through thundershowers, gorgeous wetlands, and more schoolchildren in or out of their canoes. We left our canoes beside a cleverly designed trailer, which carries up to 30 closely nested paddlecraft with minimal need for strapping down. To celebrate, we enjoyed another *pilsje* on another *terrasje*, this time on river right, and then mounted our bikes for the trip home.



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You are invited to the  
**Cataraqui Canoe Club's**  
**Annual General Meeting 2012**

**This year's meeting will be held on Wednesday October 17, 2012 in the Auditorium of the Ongwanada Resource Centre, 191 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, from 7 pm to 9 pm (doors open at 6:45 pm).**

The business meeting will include reports describing the club activities during the past year, and the election of the new Board of Directors for the coming year.

You will get a chance to meet many other members of the club, and we hope you are able to attend. Refreshments will be served.

If you cannot attend, please give your proxy to a friend who will attend.

This year in lieu of a guest speaker we are going to show a National Film Board film, the film being "The River of Life". This is about a group of breast cancer survivors who enter the Yukon River Quest. The Yukon River Quest is a 760 km canoe/kayak race down the Yukon River, a race that attracts some very serious paddlers from around the world.

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Designation of Proxy

I designate the following member of the Cataraqui Canoe Club of Kingston to vote on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting, on Wednesday October 17 2012.

My designated (proxy name): \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (and print your name): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_