



# Cataraqui Canoe Club

## News

January 2013

### COMMODORE'S NOTE - BOARD NEWS BY MIKE FISHER

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all and let's hope for lots of snow with good skiing followed by a sudden warm spell with plentiful "run off" for canoeing; now that's not much to ask for?

However, in the meantime, we must prepare for the boathouse being inaccessible: As a consequence of the prior drilling through the boathouse floor to test for toxic contaminants, the City has decided to excavate and remove the earth under part of the floor and extending some way towards the water. This means that our area will be cordoned off from early February until mid-March. We should bear in mind that, depending on the weather and unforeseen delays to the work, this disruption might well be longer.

Of course, the canoes will have to be relocated temporarily, and we are to be provided with containers to accommodate them. It may be that some members would prefer to remove their boats themselves during this period: If so, they should contact the boathouse manager, Steve Manders, or a member of the Board as soon as possible. We will, of course, do our utmost to avoid any damage to the equipment.

Other proposals have been voiced: The Rowing Club is investigating the possibility of adding an extra floor to the building and providing an area where the members of both Clubs could socialize, relax and "get to know each other". Also, the "Dragon Boat" group may build alongside our section and have their own boathouse.

So, the Board is being kept busy and we now have the added knowledge and enthusiasm of Beth Orr who has, once again, joined us. As events unfold and we are given specific dates for the commencement of any construction, or destruction, we'll keep you informed through the website as promptly as possible. If these developments cause you any concern please contact any member of the Board.



A caribou on Slate Island is interested in the news from Eastern Ontario. See Debbie Twiddy's story on page 3.

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 2012-2013</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	613 536-5486
	Harry Burgstaller	613 549-4832
	Steve Manders	613 542-1054
	Beth Orr	613 389-6362
	Debbie Twiddy	613 374-1704
	Linda Whitfield	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	613 374-1704
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!***

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*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)*

TRIP TO SLATE ISLANDS  
BY DEBBIE TWIDDY

Last summer, my sister Karen and I had a really fine canoe-camping adventure.

We drove to Terrace Bay (20 hours just to get there!) on the north shore of Lake Superior, then hired an outfitter to take us, one canoe, and all our gear out to the Slate Islands, a cluster of islands about 12 km. offshore. He left us there and came back a week later to bring us back to the mainland.

These islands were formed by a meteor strike eons ago, and form a circular, sheltered cluster of about 8 islands. It was a wonderful, wild, and beautiful place to explore and was quite sheltered from almost any wind direction. Fishing is generally good although in early September when we were there we were not so lucky. I did catch a seven-pound Coho salmon on the first morning (with my first cast of the day!) but we did not catch another fish all week. Lake trout are supposed to be plentiful, though I never met one.

Best of all, there is a population of woodland caribou on these islands. They came over to the islands at the beginning of the 20th century when Lake Superior froze all the way out to the islands. There are no natural predators on the islands and hunting is not allowed. Because of the lack of predators the caribou population is quite high. They regularly go through a cycle of high numbers followed by a decline as the food supply is finite. The entire cluster of islands is a provincial park and the caribou population is carefully monitored by several conservation organizations. A few caribou were relocated to other islands in the same part of Lake Superior but only one other island group has managed to support a stable population.

A bonus from our point of view was that because of the lack of predators, the caribou are quite unconcerned about human presence, either quietly strolling away when they encountered us, or ignoring us completely. One in particular was quite tame, and regularly came by looking for handouts. Another odd habit of these caribou is that they like to eat the charcoal from the fire pits, probably for the mineral

content. It was quite a thrill to see such creatures up close. We got some fantastic photos.

There are several very fine campsite locations on the islands with the usual small improvements to the sites that campers everywhere install. A couple of sites have old cabins on them but most of these are not weatherproof with the exception of one which seems to be maintained. Most of the established sites have picnic tables courtesy of the provincial park system. There is not much other maintenance being done by our park staff on these islands and there are no fees collected for camping there.



## SLATE ISLANDS (CONT'D.)

There are lots of places to land a canoe and hiking inland on the islands is generally good. We had such good weather we did little hiking as we kept expecting a "wind day" when we would be obliged to hike instead of paddle—and the expected windy day never came. We even did some cautious paddling of the perimeter of the island cluster—on the downwind side. In kayaks one could be a bit bolder but in an open canoe we were very careful. That water is very cold and there are some stretches of the island that do not afford good landing if the weather turns bad. The outfitter gave us good advice about where we should and shouldn't try to paddle.

We spent an idyllic week exploring, photographing, painting, drawing, and collecting lots of rocks. And at one location we found an iron bathtub some other campers had set up on the shore under which we built a fire after filling it with water. In less than 30 minutes we had a hot-tub. Luxury indeed!

Karen and I hope to return there late next spring for another holiday in the area; the caribou calves will be in abundance at that time and the fishing is supposed to be very good. I'll be looking for some of those lake trout...



### REMINDER

**Membership Dues  
&  
Annual Storage Fees  
Are Due by March 31**

**[http://  
www.cataraquicanoe.on.ca/  
memship.html](http://www.cataraquicanoe.on.ca/memship.html)**

## **Frontenac *Outfitters, Inc.***

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## ***Official Schedule for the 2013 Winter/Spring Season***

Change in activity may be necessary due to weather or water conditions. Check with the trip coordinator. 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 trip coordinator 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 February 2**

#### **Murphy's Point Ski**

Snow may be iffy near Kingston, but is likely deeper in Murphy's Point Provincial Park. 20 km of groomed trails and two heated chalets.

**Call Don at 613 384 4346.**

### **February 9-10**

#### **Winterlude Skate/Gatineau Ski Weekend**

Join Beth for a fun filled weekend in Ottawa skating the Rideau canal and eating beaver tails on Saturday and then enjoying the superb cross-country skiing in Gatineau Park on Sunday. Expect an early departure on Saturday so that one-dayers can return to Kingston in good time. Others may wish to stay over and extend the fun.

<http://www.canadascapital.gc.ca/places-to-visit/gatineau-park/things-to-do/cross-country-skiing-gatineau-park>

**Call Beth Orr 613 389-6362.**

[chickonwater@gmail.com](mailto:chickonwater@gmail.com)

### **February 16-17**

#### **Silent Lake Ski/ Algonquin Park Ski**

Come and enjoy the 40 KM of scenic groomed cross country ski trails of Silent Lake Provincial Park on Saturday and then depending on interest and conditions, ski the trails of Algonquin Park on Sunday. Overnight lodging in Bancroft at the Best Western Sword Inn includes pool, sauna and hot tub.

**Call Mike Fisher 613 547-5386.**

### **Sunday February 24**

#### **Frontenac Swamp Hop**

A club favourite! Beaver ponds may be obstacles in summer, but when frozen solid, they give us easy access to snowy granite ridges and scenic overlooks, starting and ending at the FPP Trail Centre. Selection of equipment (snowshoes, hiking boots or cross country skis) for hopping will depend on conditions.

**Call Janice Ley 613 542 9958.**

### **Saturday March 2**

#### **Ski At Rock Dunder**

Jim will lead an adventure ski at Rock Dunder which has always been a club favourite hike in the past. Rock Dunder is a wilderness area(230 acres). The summit offers a panoramic view of the Rideau Waterway. Join us for a winter exploration of this scenic area.

**Call Jim McLaughlin at 613 382-8682 or**

[20jrmac@gmail.com](mailto:20jrmac@gmail.com)

### **Sunday March 3**

#### **Mystery Outing**

Call Don to find out what adventure lies ahead.

**Don at 613 384-4346.**

### **Saturday March 9**

#### **Skycroft Cross Country Ski**

Dugald and Dukke have promised a good day of skiing the trails at Skycroft. The area offers plenty of variety with trail and off trail skiing. This is a beautiful scenic area close to the city.

**Call Dukke Van der Werf 613 384-6054.**

**Sunday March 17**

**Bon Echo Ski**

Beautiful Bon Echo Provincial Park has 10 km of ungroomed trails for cross-country skiing. There is also the option of off trail exploration.

**Call Beth Orr at 613 389 6362 or**

**[chickonwater@gmail.com](mailto:chickonwater@gmail.com)**



Skiing At Bon Echo

*Photo by Beth Orr*

**Sunday March 24**

**Lower Salmon Whitewater Paddle**

Again, almost a ritual, we take advantage of this excellent local river. An early spring event for whitewater enthusiasts, starting at Roblin and continuing for 12 km to Kingsford through swifts and Class 1-2 rapids with two short portages. Experience and suitable equipment is essential as the water will be cold.

**Call Mark Wideman 613 767-6513.**

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The following link gives some information on  
whitewater personal gear for cold weather  
paddling.  
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[http://www.youtube.com/watch?  
feature=player\\_embedded&v=8OmXS8qxHCc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=8OmXS8qxHCc)  
.....

**Saturday March 30**

**Napanee River Easy Whitewater**

The section of the Napanee River from Yarker to Camden East is an excellent introduction to whitewater for beginners with basic paddling skills and a good chance for experienced paddlers to practice their moves.

**Ed Jezak is our guide. Call 613 389 4459.**

**Saturday April 6**

**Schedule-Making Pot Luck Party and Hike**

Beth will lead a hike thru Parrot's Bay Conservation area to whet your appetite for the Pot Luck party to follow at Dukke's. We will enjoy good food and good fun as we make plans for summer paddling.

**Call Dukke Van der Werf at 613 384-6054 for the dinner details.**

**Beth Orr at 613 389-6362 or**

**[chickonwater@gmail.com](mailto:chickonwater@gmail.com) if you would like to hike or if you would like to lead an event this summer or fall but cannot attend the party.**

**Sunday April 7**

**Moir River Whitewater**

The Moira River provides a bouncy ride with swifts and Class 1-2 rapids. The club's three whitewater tandem canoes can be rented first-come-first-served, but wetsuits or drysuits and whitewater experience will also be required.

**Call Steve Manders at 613 542 1054.**

**Whitewater trips may be changed  
according to water conditions**

**Sunday April 14**

**Depot Lakes Mystery Outing**

Depending on conditions it could be a hike or a paddle. If the lakes are clear of ice it is a great paddle from 1st to 3rd Depot lakes. It includes 2 portages and a few sections of swift water. If the lakes are still clogged with ice we will plan a hike.

**Call Beth 613 389 6362 or**

**[chickonwater@gmail.com](mailto:chickonwater@gmail.com)**

**Saturday April 20**

**Massassauga Flatwater Paddle**

Janice Ley and Eric Usherwood will lead this enjoyable 12 km paddle up and down a gently flowing creek. Optional adventures include one or more special, short hikes. No portages, a few leftovers. Some experience recommended, due to the still cold water temperatures.

**Call Janice Ley at 613-542-9958.**

**Sunday April 28**  
**Napanee River Paddle**

This stretch of the Napanee River from Verona to Colebrook is usually ice free and approaching spring peak flow in March. A gentle current will help us along and a stretch of fastwater will give us a good ride. But let's not forget the water will be freezing cold.

**Call Bob Clooney 613 384 4482**

**Sunday May 5**  
**Dog Lake Paddle**

This is Penny's home territory and she has offered to take us on an exploration of this beautiful lake. Dog lake is part of The Frontenac Arch Biosphere which is an ancient granite ridge linking the Adirondack Mountains to the Canadian Shield.

**Call Penny Paterson at 613 353 6687.**

**Saturday May 11**  
**Mother's Day Family Paddle**

The Napanee River upstream from Petworth provides a sheltered and relaxing paddle, with spring flowers in bloom and perhaps wild leeks and fiddleheads. Moms with kids are specially invited.

**Call Deb Twiddy at 613 374-1704**

**Saturday May 18**  
**Biking with the Velo Club**

Find out if group pedaling is as much fun as group paddling when Kingston Velo Club invites you as a guest on their 'Bring your Buddy' Cycle Tour through Howe Island, with lunch or picnic in Gananoque. There is a choice of a 35km route suitable for road, hybrid or mountain bike, or a 65km route with road bikes recommended. The pace will be moderate (19-23km/hour) for part of the longer tour, with a leisure pace (14-18km/hour) when we join the 35km tour.

**Full details from Margaret or Robert at 613-542-9626 or [margaretwild@sympatico.ca](mailto:margaretwild@sympatico.ca)**

***NOTE: This is not an official Cataraqui Canoe Club sanctioned trip.***

**Sunday May 26**

Sydenham Lake Paddle and Potluck Dinner  
Dave and Jennifer will be our hosts to explore Sydenham Lake followed by a potluck at their home. It promises to be a fun day.

**Call Dave Linton at 613 376 6883.**

**Cataraqui Canoe Club**  
**Outdoor Gear Swap and Sale**  
**May 7, 8, 9 at the Open House**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**Do you have gently used outdoor gear that you don't use any more?**  
**Are you looking for something that will make your outdoor experience even better?**  
**Come to the open house to check out the bargains!**  
**Bring all items**  
**Boats/Paddling/Skiing/Camping/Hiking Equipment**  
**to the boathouse on May 7th**  
**Contact Beth Orr**  
**[chickonwater@gmail.com](mailto:chickonwater@gmail.com)**  
**613 389-6362 for information.**  
  
**Put a price on your treasure and 10% of proceeds will go to the Canoe Club.**



Post Whitewater: Stretch with friends

*Photo by Beth Orr*



A great web site for all wilderness hikers and paddlers, as well as anyone interested in the world around them, is Google Earth.

It is first of all, a high resolution photograph of everywhere on earth. You will need to up load a bit of soft ware to operate the control icons for zoom in, out, rotate angle of view and move in any direction. After that, all pictures are uploaded on demand and a high speed internet connection is essential. On Google Earth, you can lower your apparent elevation to one km. above the ground, change your angle of view to horizontal, then move forward horizontally through mountains in full 3D perspective, or view major buildings in 3D. You can tell what car is parked in your driveway and see which of your neighbours have pools. You can tour the whole world that way. It is not the same as Google Streetscape and Vpike which are pictures taken by roving cars.

The second feature of Google Earth are the 84,000,000 pictures taken by ordinary citizens and posted there. If you zoom in to within about 1 km. of the ground, or closer, you will see lots of little blue icons. The closer you get, the more that gradually appear. If you click on one of the icons, then a picture taken at that point will appear. They are not to be about people, wild life, or signs, but they can be included as part of the whole scene. All pictures are submitted through a sister web site called Panoramio. Google then screens all the submissions, 70,000 a day now, and will accept or reject them. Their quality control is very low. Many pictures accepted break the rules, the exposures are poor, cameras way off level, no subject matter and inadequate titles. Although many pictures are poorly done, many others are excellent. You can window shop for great places to go, or reminisce about places you have gone.

I have posted about 1,750 pictures to date, from locations such as Frontenac, Charleston Lake, Bon Echo, Algonquin, Killarney Provincial Parks, Gould Lake, Lemoine's Point, Parrot's Bay, the Rideau Canal, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River and many of my favourite white water rivers. Check out the Salmon and Moira Rivers. There are also many others from the Amazon, Inca Trail, Galapagos, B.C., Haida Gwaii and the Arctic.

You can find everyone's pictures by going to those locations on Google Earth and zooming in until the icons appear then click on them. Once you open up a picture, on the right you will see a Google photo from space showing the precise location that the picture was taken from. Every picture has a identification number under it too. You may recognize yourself in a picture, but most people are viewed from the rear, and no names are ever used. I also have albums of "houses of interest", and "old churches" of the Kingston area. "Houses of interest" shows the evolving infra-structure of Kingston. I encourage you to explore this powerful site to see the world of pictures there for you to enjoy.

