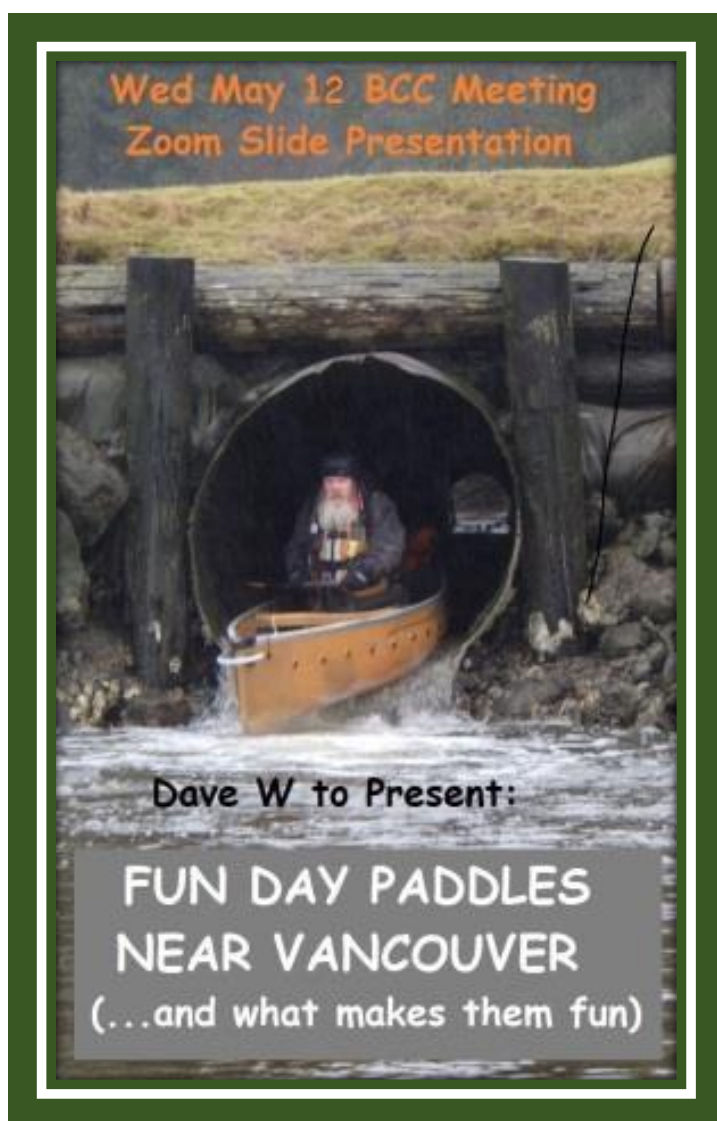




# Beaver Tales

Official News Views and Muse of the Beaver Canoe Club of BC

**MAY 2021**



## **MAY Beaver Canoe Club Meeting (Online)**

Date: **Wednesday, May 12, 2021**

Location: *Online* Time: 8:00 p.m.

Instructions: 1. Beforehand, download the free Zoom app on your mobile device or computer (computer is better). 2 Watch for the email on **May 12** before the 8:00 p.m. meeting. It will have a link to Click and Join. (If you can't see the icons for audio and video, click or tap your screen and they will appear at lower screen).

***Join Dave W. and your fellow Beavers as he presents FUN DAY-PADDLES NEAR VANCOUVER-----***Dave B., Director of Rock Solid Entertainment

*[as he's often prospecting canoeist veins for nuggets canoeing info & edutainment, lend him a hand if you've got a gem or two to share with members after the business end of the meetings-Ed.]*

**MEMBERSHIPS OVERDUE !!!**

***GO DIRECTLY TO WEBSITE AND PAY YOUR DUES***

**FOR A FULL YEAR'S MEMBERSHIP**

## President's Report

Well another paddling year has rolled by. Despite COVID we expect Basic Paddlers to occur this year, but later than usual.

### BASIC PADDLERS

The Executive has selected Basic Paddlers to take place on **June 5** and **12** 2021 at Deer Lake. The **theory session** will be by zoom earlier and details are found in Carey's Training Report, below. Those interested in taking Basic Paddlers or teaching should contact Carey Robson.

It is currently a requirement that Basic Paddlers be taught by Flat Water instructors and that is up for discussion in the next while. Those of you who are flat water instructors will be contacted by Carey to instruct. All instructors are required to be in good standing with RCABC which means paying your annual flat water instructor certification fee of **\$65.00 to RCABC** and to keep recertifying every 3 years. **Those who teach at Basic Paddlers will have their 2022 - \$25.00 Beaver Membership fee waived for your contribution.**

### RCABC RECERTIFICATION AND 65.00 PER YEAR INSTRUCTOR FEE

This year 2021 due to COVID those whose recertification has lapsed, [and cannot recertify due to Public Health Restrictions], can still teach and RCABC will extend your recertification for another year to 2022.

**Also, if you are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID, the RCABC will waive your \$65.00 fee this year if you contact them.**

### SCHEDULED CLUB TRIPS

As soon as vaccination catches up, [and restrictions eased ] which we anticipate will be by the end of May, our regularly scheduled trips should take place. [*Keep an eye and an electronic ear open to Trips Director notices in Beaver Tales and/or on the Club Website—Ed.*]

### MAY 1, 2021 LOCK AND KEYS FOR RIVERSIDE DRIVE

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end. As of Friday, April 23, 2021 a log will be put across the Seymour Lake at the river entrance to hold back water for summer. However with rain and sun the river will be okay to paddle this spring. However as of May 1, 2021 the Seymour Riverside Gate will be locked and we (Beaver Canoeist) will have to use the key to unlock the gate at Pool 88.

Our club has only one key in my possession and you can arrange with me to get it. Also Einar Hansen, who lives nearby Seymour and many of you know him, has another key to lend out.

On the Key issue, I have been unable to get more keys even though our Club is the main paddlers on Seymour. This history goes back to May 2016 at a meeting that was held with District of North Vancouver supervisor Len Jensen. Richard Howard for the Dogwoods, Chris Campbell for the VKC (now called VWV), and myself for the Beavers, met with Mr. Jensen to discuss access to

/Cont'd...

the Seymour River from Riverside Drive gate. At that meeting it was agreed all 3 clubs get 2 keys each. Unfortunately one of our keys was (misplaced).

This year 2021 I spoke to the Head Ranger about getting 6 more keys for the Beavers, as we use the Seymour so often in the Spring. At first he was agreeable to getting us 6 keys, but when he checked with his supervisor at DNV he was told he couldn't because the other two clubs would not agree.

I contacted the other clubs, but they would not agree to Beavers having more keys.

Paul Pakulak the head guy at DNV said he would not overrule the original understanding in 2016 and if it were to change it would be up to the District of North Vancouver. So as of May 1, 2021 we have one key. We can muddle along but it is annoying!

## PARKING PASSES

Then there is the issue of Parking Passes. There is no parking beyond Riverside drive and Swinburne now. In most years we can get parking passes. Carey Robson contacted the District of North Vancouver who as of last year due to COVID refused to give out parking passes. Carey Robson is now in process of seeking help from our 17 North Vancouver Beaver Canoe Club residents to write to the district about restricted parking. Carey is organizing a campaign to get rid of Riverside Parking restrictions that are unnecessarily restrictive. But don't hold your breath!

Meanwhile, when rain brings the river up to 3, it's drop-off only at the put-in and leave. Many bicycle or hitch a ride back to the put-in. Getting rid of restrictive parking in North Vancouver is as serious a challenge as getting 6 more keys has proven. The head ranger, Andy Robinson, promised to keep an eye on the locked gate to ensure that it is operable. Last year it was sometimes not accessible because other locks blocked access. So members especially North Vancouver members get on board with Carey's DNV campaign and write request and complain! [*Note: At this juncture of the PHO, Phil refers to privately arranged, not Club-sanctioned paddles--Editor*].

I may talk to you next month about re-insuring with RCABC, but it can wait.

Prez Phil

## Training Report – Carey@CanoeBC.ca

### Basic Paddlers

For Members of the Beaver Canoe Club registration is still open. There are currently 42 registrants. **Note the New Dates.**

Friday May 28<sup>th</sup>. or Wednesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>. @ 7:30 PM  
(Zoom)(registrants are currently voting).

*And subject to Provincial Health Orders:*

Saturday June 5 & 12, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM (Deer Lake).

All registrants must be members before May 28. There will be no onsite registration.

/Cont'd.

## Intro to Moving Water – **Note Change**

Registration starts June 7.

June 23, 7:30 PM (Zoom).

Thursday July 1<sup>st</sup>. Nicola River, Merritt. (See The Rivers' Week Guide in the Members section of [BeaverCanoeClub.org](http://BeaverCanoeClub.org))

## Info

Beaver Podcasts may be heard at: [Beaver.CanoeBC.ca](http://Beaver.CanoeBC.ca)

Beavers on the eXpress, (edited), has been posted: [CanoeBC.ca](http://CanoeBC.ca) -> Videos

## District of North Vancouver further restricts paddlers' access

6 blocks on Riverside Drive was closed to non-residents. I called the DNV and was advised to send email on April 15<sup>th</sup>. To date I have not heard back. The Executive passed a motion on April 21 that the Beaver Canoe Club start the initial steps to have these restrictions removed. This will start by asking our Members that are residents of the DNV to email the District.

## Current & Past RCABC Certified Instructors

Present and past RCABC certified Instructor Members of the Beaver Canoe Club will be consulted about continuing the Club's Policy that states they must be "Currently certified RCABC Lakewater Instructors" in order to teach Basic Paddlers' in the Beaver Canoe Club.

## One Day Advanced Paddling Technique Clinics

See: [Learn2Canoe.ca](http://Learn2Canoe.ca)



## Trip Director's Report –Dave W

End of April and still no Club trips. Won't be for a few weeks yet. It seems we're all on our way to being vaccinated. More jabs from the health clinic than from mosquitoes in July. But cases are up too. The pandemic rages in spots and swaths like wildfires in August. When can we paddle? Soon, I hope. Late May, at the end of the current health order, I hope. We really want to paddle to Widgeon Creek, and all the other family trips we usually do, or used to do. We want to have the Basic Paddlers lessons, the Introduction to Moving Water, and Rivers Week. We want a good summer, a fun summer, and a safe summer. I'm sure we're all doing everything we can. Hoping to paddle as a Club again soon.

*[Below is copy of the Club Policy on Trip Rules that Trip Leaders and all Paddlers must follow during sanctioned Beaver Canoe Club trips –whenever Club trips resume]*

### Beaver Canoe Club Trip Safety Rules

- 1. All Beaver Canoe Club Trips must be advertised in Beaver Tales.**
- 2. A suitably experienced paddler must be appointed for all Club Trips.**
- 3. Club Trips must be at least three canoes.**

#### The Trip Leader will:

1. Determine the canoeing experience of those present, and where necessary, assign paddling positions.
2. Check individual canoe's safety equipment before embarking.
3. Hold a pre-trip meeting for the purpose of discussing:
  - a. Objectives of the trip,
  - b. Type and any known hazards of the trip, (weather, sweepers, waterfalls, etc.),
  - c. Accident prevention, signals, emergency and rescue procedures,
  - d. Etiquette and ethics.

#### **4. Assign a participant to write a Trip Report for Beaver Tales.**

*(Emphasis added –Ed., although reports now posted to Website)*

#### Trip participants will:

- 1) Contact the Trip Leader at least 24 hours before any day trip.
- 2) Equip their canoe with:
  - a) a bailer,
  - b) a paddle per person and a spare paddle,
  - c) secured bow and stern lines that will float, (9-14mm X 5-8m is recommended),
  - d) a 15m, (minimum), floating throw rope with a float at one end,





- e) extra floatation if required, (it may not prevent a capsize but it could save your boat),
- f) a white navigation light if you will be on the water after sunset.
- 3) Carry a spare set of emergency clothing in a waterproof container, (a wool toque and rain clothes are recommended even if you are wearing a wetsuit).
- 4) Wear a Personal Floatation Device, (attaching your whistle and a spare set of car keys are a good idea).
- 5) Wear a helmet in grade III or higher.
- 6) All gear and equipment shall either be tied in so that with the canoe upside down none hangs below the gunnels, or it falls completely free.
- 7) **Club members are responsible for informing their guests of these Rules**



### Trips

- 1. All Club Trips are advertised in Beaver Tales. (1977) Traditionally these have been annually proposed by the Executive, printed in Beaver Tales and ratified by the Club Members in March.
- 2. In accordance with RCA guidelines, the Beaver Canoe Club will not run or advertise trips that exceed Grade III water. (October 1992)
- 3. Short Notice Member Initiated Trips  
Members may advertise trips on the Beaver Canoe Club website as "Club Trips" provided:
  - 3.1. The Trip Leader has participated in A Beaver Canoe Club Trip Leaders' Clinic,
  - 3.2. The Beaver Canoe Club Trips Director is notified, (trips@beavercanoecub.org),
  - 3.3. The trip only takes place on Lake, Ocean or up to Grade I river,
  - 3.4. The Trip is led by a member that is familiar with the waterway,
  - 3.5. All Beaver Canoe Club Trip rules are abided by,
  - 3.6. The trip does not take place on the same day as a similar designated Club trip.
 (May 8, 2019)

**Construction  
Riverlands  
South-East**



**Hoardings,  
District,  
Vancouver, B.C.**

## IN OTHER NEWS

### Washington Urges B.C. to Tackle River Pollution

According to Derrick Penner's account in *The Vancouver Sun*, April 10, 2021, Washington State legislators called upon our Premier to improve protection of cross-border river headwaters from the threat of pollution from mining in B.C. They are concerned about tailings potentially spilling upstream of critical salmon rivers, e.g., Skagit, Similkameen, & Columbia. The letter to Horgan backed environmental groups, such as Seattle's Conservation Northwest which is campaigning against increased mining activity in Canada around rivers that flow into the US. Penner cites especial concern for the project near Hope close to the Skagit, and owned by the same company that operates the Mount Polley mine whose tailings-dam failed in 2014. He goes on to suggest that the BC Minister of Mines aims to sell BC as an environmentally responsible place for mining investment as part of post-pandemic economic recovery.

### U.S. River Fatalities Up in 2020

**T**hanks in part to the COVID-19 pandemic, there have never been so many paddlers on the water. However, communicating safety messaging is a challenge the industry will be reckoning with for years to come.

In his semi annual report, American Whitewater Accident Database manager Charlie Walbridge writes:

"In the second half of 2020 American Whitewater received reports of six kayak, two canoe and six rafting fatalities for a total of 14. There were two commercial rafting deaths and two incidents in "miscellaneous craft": a small fishing cataraft and a standup paddleboard.

"The trends noted in the first six months continue. Recreational kayaks were used in four of the six kayak accidents; 11 of the 19 accidents reported occurred on Class I or II whitewater; eight saw no life vests in use, and seven were solo or one boat trips. "(from **Paddling Magazine**, @2021 Rapid Media, read more at: [https://paddlingmag.com/stories/news-events/fatalities-2020-american-whitewater-accident-database/?utm\\_source=Paddling+Magazine&utm\\_campaign=27b56d9fd4-ptw-2021-04-06&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_66b554bdc5-27b56d9fd4-89466965&ct=t%28ptw-2021-04-06%29](https://paddlingmag.com/stories/news-events/fatalities-2020-american-whitewater-accident-database/?utm_source=Paddling+Magazine&utm_campaign=27b56d9fd4-ptw-2021-04-06&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_66b554bdc5-27b56d9fd4-89466965&ct=t%28ptw-2021-04-06%29) – submitted by BCC Members Madeline and John)

## British Columbia's Turner Lake Chain

By Madeline Waring

While contemplating possibilities for a canoe trip this year I reflected on BC trips I have paddled. Some of these we seldom talk about now, but each is noteworthy and brings beautiful memories of places you may like to paddle. One of these trips I went on in the 1980's was the Turner Lake Chain, seven small lakes perched at 1067 m (3,500 feet) cradled in the Coastal Mountains in the southern end of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park. A lake chain that ultimately tumbles down the 250 m (850 ft) Hunlen Falls, the fourth highest single drop falls in Canada!



Hunlen Falls  
(Wikipedia)

There is hiking in the area that combined with paddling makes a great holiday. I am not sure of the feasibility of doing this with the current travel restrictions but is worth investigating for this or future years. The lake chain is described on the BC Parks website

[https://bcparks.ca/explore/parkpgs/tweeds\\_s/canoe.html](https://bcparks.ca/explore/parkpgs/tweeds_s/canoe.html).

Combine this information with what you find via the internet, in books and talking to fellow paddlers and voila,

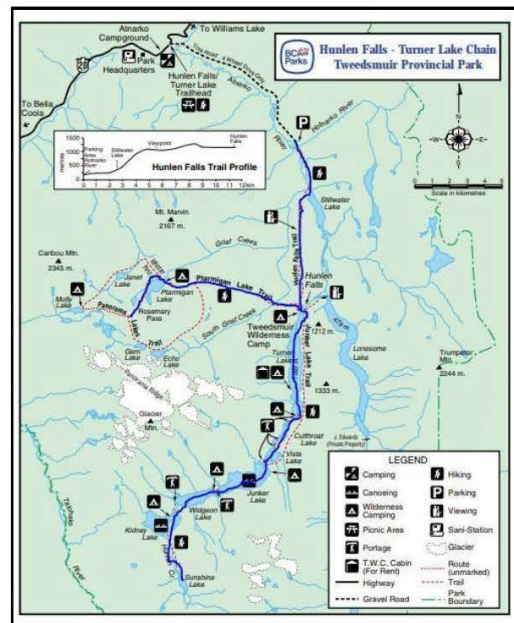
you will realize that not only is this a paddling/hiking trip, but it is in a historically significant area.

I joined a group of friends from the Cariboo that arranged to fly into the lake chain, rent canoes, paddle, and hike before hiking out down the 16 km Hunlen Falls trail to where our vehicles were parked. We spent several days exploring the lake chain interspersed with a few day hikes. I believe there are also options for overnight hiking worth exploring. If you are not into organizing your own trip, I noticed that Glacier Creek Outfitting can do this for you (<https://glaciercreekoutfitting.com>).

I mentioned historical significance. It is not so much the Turner lake Chain, but about 2 km to the east is Lonesome lake. You can see this lake in the top picture. The south end of this lake was the site of the pioneer homestead of Ralph Edwards (1892 – 1977) who received the Order of Canada in 1972 for his conservation efforts for saving the Trumpeter Swan from extinction. He was a pioneering homesteader.



Photo Source: BC Parks Foundation



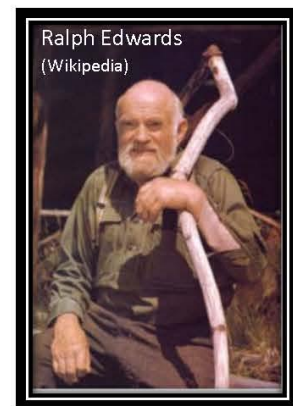
[https://bcparks.ca/explore/parkpgs/tweeds\\_s/hunlenfalls.pdf?v=1618987751703](https://bcparks.ca/explore/parkpgs/tweeds_s/hunlenfalls.pdf?v=1618987751703)



One of the joys of our trip was that Ralph Edwards son John Edwards was the park “warden” for lack of a better term. He managed the canoe rentals/camping and was making efforts to restore the homestead on Lonesome Lake. He was staying in a cabin on Turner lake at the time and regaled us with stories of their pioneering life. He would also sell his home baked cinnamon buns to paddlers. These delicious buns were fresh from the oven first come first serve early some mornings. Since it was a long hike for him to bring things to the lake, everything was meticulously taken care of. Even the tear in the screen door had been carefully stitched together. The Edwards family was the epitome of the do it yourself (DIY) philosophy.

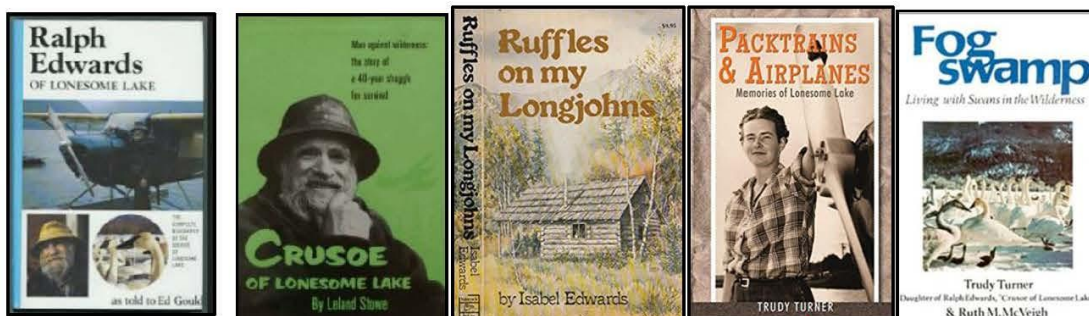
One of our day hikes was down to Lonesome Lake with John Edwards. We paid for his time and got to see in and around all the historic family buildings. This was quite an experience at “The Birches” (Ralph Edward’s old homestead) as there was a water-powered sawmill, an electric-generator powered by the river that could keep a single light bulb going at night, barns, their house and small sleeping cabins each of his three children made. Imagine all this and more created by Ralph Edwards beginning in 1913! Their house had shelves of advanced technical books that amazed me. I guess this was to be expected for a man who designed and built everything we saw. He had even started planning to build an airplane! We were truly fortunate to explore the old homestead as in 2004 it tragically burned to the ground by a forest fire. I would have liked to include some of my pictures in this article, but they are in such a safe place I could not locate them in time for the newsletter.

For anyone interested in BC history, conservation, and DIY, I highly recommend reading about Ralph Edwards! Wikipedia has a condensed article {[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralph\\_Edwards\\_\(homesteader\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralph_Edwards_(homesteader))}. Several books have also been written about this historic family. The first “Crusoe of Lonesome Lake” was written by Leland Stowe in 1956. Pictures of the books are at the end of this article. Those not wanting to read, can view a film from the 1980’s see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOuRJCeialw>. I purchased a copy of this video from John Edwards, but it is with my pictures.....



Ralph Edwards  
(Wikipedia)

The Lonesome Lake property that Ralph Edwards settled on is “private property” and unfortunately is now being sold. This little piece of BC should become part of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park. I hope the B.C. Parks Foundation is successful in their attempt to trying to purchase it. Here is a link on the sale of the property: <https://www.landquest.com/listings/ralph-edwards-homestead-lonesome-lake-tweedsmuir-park> and a link to the BC Parks Foundation initiative: <https://bcparksfoundation.ca/projects/enhance/lonesome-lake/>



## CLASSIFIED

**For Sale:** Mad River Independence canoe. This canoe is 15'8" long, 44lbs, made of fiberglass with ash gunnels and cane seat. It is mainly a solo canoe but is also outfitted with 2 kneeling thwarts. Maroon colour. Great condition. Asking \$900. Please call/text Nick @ 604-349-7680.



### **EDITOR'S & MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S REQUEST:**

*Please Check your Email on the Website to ensure it is correct.*

*If it is not, you will not receive Beaver Tales or other Notices*

*(You must log-in to the Members area with your password)*

*Until next month: Keep calm, paddles vertical, and poised to stroke!*