



Beaver Tales

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

JULY 2021

SEPTEMBER Beaver Canoe Club Meeting **(Online, OR ??)**

Date: **Wednesday, SEPT 8, 2021**

Location: *Stay tuned* 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 [Sept 8](#) before the 8:00 p.m. meeting. It will have a link to Click and Join.

Do YOU have a story to tell? An adventure to share? A little known paddle destination?

A favourite stretch of water to dip your paddle(s)? You likely do, so contact Dave B., Entertainment Director at itsusinus@gmail.com and he can arrange a date for your presentation during our general meetings this Fall and Winter (yes, it'll come around!). Remember to include a promo photo for the newsletter.



Your photo of your trip could be here!

President's Report

This month I am sharing a message from my son Keiran, the President of the Recreational Canoe Association of B.C. (RCABC), on the challenges COVID presented to RCABC and the importance of ongoing support of member clubs:

From: president@bccanoe.com

Date: April 23, 2021 at 10:25:13 AM PDT

To: president@beavercanoecub.org

Subject: A message from the RCABC President (2021)



RCABC - Promoting safe and skillful paddling since 1978.

Dear RCABC Members,

I hope that you are all doing well and that you are staying healthy. [Today](#), many of us would have been checking into camp Kawkawa in Hope, BC for our annual Canoe Festival and AGM, but for a second year we are unable to gather. It is really saddening to see another great festival go by, but we all need to do our part to get this pandemic under control. Hopefully by mid-summer we are going to be in a much better place than we are now. New travel restrictions come into effect [today](#). Please continue to take the necessary precautions for all of your programs and remember to stay local to your home communities and health districts.

This is the time of year when our members renew: our Instructors, Clubs, Guides, and Paddlers. All of us serve a common goal of promoting safe and skillful canoeing in BC. Our ability to support the public has been really challenged by the pandemic and many of our programs have been disrupted. Our membership numbers have been hard hit, and we are at about half of what we were in 2019. We know that it is really hard for many of you. Instructors have had trouble running courses, and clubs have had trouble organizing trips and keeping their members safe. And many of us are facing financial stress due to the Pandemic. We have also heard from some members that they have concerns about the cost of our membership fees, and that especially for volunteer instructors the membership fees seem high since it rose from \$45 to \$65 in 2018.

I want to let you know that we take these concerns seriously. I will be bringing these concerns forward to our executive and suggesting that we review all of our fees at our next AGM. This will likely be in the fall by ZOOM again this year. Please know though that the RCABC is 100% volunteer driven and we strive to support our members and keep our fees as low as possible. Currently we anticipate we will be running our association at a financial loss again for a second year in row due to the pandemic and our low membership numbers. We are able to weather this storm though due to the prudence of our past executives and the fact that we have some funds in reserve. However, it will start to have effects on our association and our ability to respond to future challenges if we burn through all of our reserve funds. So, if you are able to support us financially, and renew

your membership this year, we would greatly appreciate it.

Most importantly to us, we want to see that we do not lose too many instructors, clubs and other members forever. Our communities rely on your leadership to pass on the skills and knowledge to the next generation of BC Canoeists. Please consider renewing your membership if you are able to afford to, and keeping your certifications valid and up to date. We anticipate very strong demand for our programs starting soon. With vaccination campaigns ramping up there is good hope that we can be canoeing and gathering in larger groups by mid summer and certainly into the fall.

We are sensitive to the needs of our individual members, though. If the pressure of the pandemic has put undue financial stress on you and your family, please contact us and we will reduce or cover the cost of your membership for this year. We are also offering 1 year extensions for our instructor certifications if you are unable to attend a re-certification clinic due to COVID. Contact me directly at keiran.rankin@gmail.com or at my president@bccanoe.com email address and I will be happy to hear your concerns or to assist you with membership issues.

Sincerely,

Keiran R.
RCABC President

**Submitted by Phil R.
President, Beaver Canoe Club**

Training Report – Carey@CanoeBC.ca

Basic Paddlers

Altogether we had 45 members as students at Basic Paddlers and 8 Instructors but at no time did we exceed the Provincial Health Officer orders of a 50 maximum on any day. Special thanks go to Bob who both oversaw the rescues as well as taught the Hypothermia section on Zoom and Alain who both taught a class and examined half the cohort. Thanks also to Instructors: Graeme, David A, David W, Phil and Owen.

Certificates will be given to those successful graduates at our September and October Club meetings.

By the time you read this Intro to Moving Water will also have happened July 1 on the Nicola River, hopefully with sunshine and more stories to tell.

I hope to meet many of you new Members on some of the lake, stream and river trips that will be happening this summer.

Sincerely,
Carey Robson

A Trip to the Floating Forest June 10th Dave W

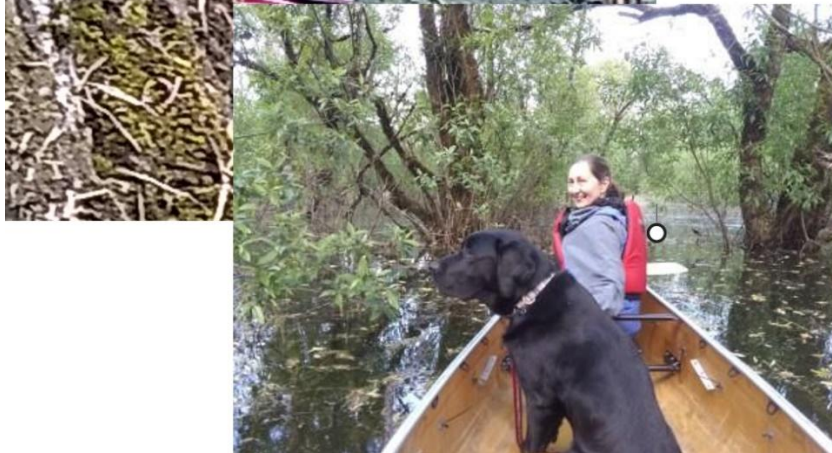
I did not know there was a floating forest west of Abbotsford. But there is. Anya told me about it. At first, I wondered what she was talking about. But then I was reassured. It's on the internet, so it must be true.

This was an impromptu trip, not organized by the Club, but by a few club members. We tried to get as many people as we could who we thought might like to go, but only a few were up for a floating forest.

Mike, Leigh and I went, along with Anya, her dog Daegan and her friend Claire. We met at the Barrowtown pumping station, separating the Sumas



The directions were clear. Paddle east toward the Vedder and Fraser rivers, look for an elephant, and turn left. We watched some fishers leave the boat launch. Some fishing for carp, one decrepit motor boat going for sturgeon. None were hunting elephants.



River from the Sumas Canal.

We launched and headed east toward the Vedder and Fraser Rivers. Wary of getting too close and being swept down, I found that rather, I was getting bogged down. We saw dozens, maybe hundreds of wild geese. I thought chasing wild geese an apt characterization of our trip. I voiced this thought, and I think our leader knew what I

meant.

The elephant was very impressive. More so than the six-foot leather hippos they used to sell in the high end furniture store.

We went a little further, then turned left, into a side channel, the entrance to the floating forest. Sure enough, we were soon paddling among and around trees: a cedar, a cottonwood, a pear tree. Trees everywhere. It really was a floating forest.

Abbotsforders and Chilliwageans can tell you that the Fraser River in freshet backs up the Sumas and Vedder, rivers flooding some low lying wild lands and providing us with a unique seasonal paddling opportunity.

There are floating fields too. You can get lost in the tall grass. It reminds me of some rice harvesting canoe videos on Youtube. Some people call this place the Everglades. I didn't want to mention that, just in case they show up in Florida to see it.

We did indeed find the elephant. A statue of one, a little taller than a car, poised to run away, up the foreshore.

/Cont'd.

We intended to pull up on shore somewhere to have dinner. But there was no shore. Forests and fields can float, perhaps, but people don't.

We turned back. Claire had promised to spend time with her teenage son tonight. Anya got wet. She had borrowed a kayak, and funny thing about kayaks, every time you paddle on one side, the paddle on the other side scoops water up into your cockpit. Strange system. You may as well be sitting in the same bowl you are eating out of.

We landed, and tried to coax Claire to the Dairy Queen. After all, ice cream was more important than her family. But she was determined to teach her son that adults sometimes keep their promises. Anya had to go home to warm up.

This place reminds me a bit of Wolf Creek, a side channel in the Similkameen that you can paddle just a few weeks out of the year. A treasure tucked into a little niche of time and space. Thanks Anya for the trip.

IN OTHER NEWS

The "Right to Roam", a borrowed tagline in the February 2020 issue of Beaver Tales, alerted readers as our Prez conveyed the litigation of the Nicola Valley Fish & Game club brought against the Douglas Lake Cattle Co. for blocking access to public lakes within its private land boundaries. Beavers are involved as members of the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC, which was granted intervenor status in the case. Though NVFG was ruled against, rather expensive appeals are being considered. Leigh B. raised the following parallel case from the Ottawa River, where a whitewater rafting outfit has bought 2000 hectares of riverfront access, and charges regular canoeists and kayakers to reach the river. The owner had countered that he is saving the river access from development, yet his land is now up for sale. As Leigh introduced the connection, she noted that:

"Although this article relates to the Ottawa River, it might help us fuel a fight for water access in BC. I know that has been an issue for some time. It might warrant following or advising the Ontario group of our actions:"



<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/whitewater-residents-fight-for-river-access-1.6069505>

FIRST OFFICIAL TRIP REPORTS OF 2021 !!!

Widgeon Creek - June 6, 2021

For me this was my first, official BCC paddle, of 2021. I was so happy to be joining my fellow BCC paddling friends. We did have an early start so we could find parking spots, which meant that when we reached the picnic place we automatically started to eat lunch and it was only 10:39 am! The Widgeon Creek was so flat, like glass, it gave mirror images everywhere – of the shore, trees and sky. So perfect. There was no hike to Widgeon Falls. This time with the water being so high, and no gravel bars, it gave us the opportunity to paddle up the other arm of Widgeon Creek that is so often not paddled because of low water. It was a narrow channel, with lush trees and foliage almost meeting over the river. The greyishness of what little sky we could see, only focused your attention more on what was surrounding you – clear, running water and quiet forest... Paddling Widgeon Creek with friends is always a great day!

<https://beavercanooclub.org/pams-widgeon-creek/>

Pam F.

In Addition to the Pam's enthusiastic review, not one, but *TWO* more accounts of this First Trip, you will discover on our website beavercanooclub.org one by Leigh B., trip leader, and another by Dave W., Trips Director., each crowing about the uplifting aspects of being officially back on the paddling thwart, bow, or stern seat, paddle in both hands, plying up or downstream in favourite waters....



BCC Trips Page

July 2021

We're back to organized BCC club canoe trips, posted here on the monthly Beaver Tales trips page, and on the BCC Web page Events calendar. If you are looking for a certain trip, or certain kinds of trips, call your Trip Director Dave W westell@shaw.ca with a suggestion or proposal. – And remember that trips can change with weather, water levels, and leader availability, so keep an eye on the **Events Calendar** for updates <https://beavercanoecub.org/events/>

26-Jun to 04-Jul	Rivers Week	Gr 1 to 3	At time of writing, the plan has been to spend the beginning of July at the N'kwala Recreation site. But plans change with the river levels, so try to contact Carey for update(s) before you go. carey@canoebc.ca
11-Jul	Serpentine & Nicomekl Rivers	Gr 1 & Ocean	A river, an ocean and a river. Sea birds, seals, and sandpipers. A family paddle and adventure. Contact Simon W simonpwatkins@gmail.com
18-Jul	Pt Atkinson	Ocean	Join Trish as she leads a paddle along the North Shore to Lighthouse Park. Mcleod@uniserve.com
25-Jul	Cheakamus River	Gr 2 & 3	A serious whitewater river near Squamish. Chute the rapids, surf and spill. Ask about the last mile! Full on glory! Full outfitting required! Contact Alain P at alain.p.prince@gmail.com
31-Jul to 2-Aug	Whitewater Weekend TBD	Gr 1 to 3	Have a hankering for midsummer paddling on a long weekend? Email proposal(s) to Trips Director Dave W westell@shaw.ca - And keep checking Events Calendar for updates https://beavercanoecub.org/events/
08- Aug	Hatzic Lake	Lakewater	Join Bob on this family paddle through the "Venice of the Fraser Valley". Maybe even bring pole, for there will be some shallow spots. Contact Bob P ubiquitousb7@gmail.com
Sept. 12 -18	Clearwater-Azure	Lakes	6 or 7- day canoe camping trip on two conjoined lakes in Wells-Gray Provincial Park; if interested, contact Trips Director Dave W, westell@shaw.ca

CLASSIFIED

*** WANTED ***

CANOE STORIES, STORIES ABOUT CANOEING, CANOEING
TALES, TALES ABOUT CANOEING AND CANOEISTS, BIG
CANOES, LITTLE CANOES, BLUE CANOES, RED CANOES,
SOLO AND TWO PERSON CANOES, LAKEWATER AND
WHITEWATER CANOES:

Please Send to editorbeavercanoecub@shaw.ca