



Cataraqi Canoe Club

News

February 2001

Commodore's Note

By Barry Irish

Hello fellow CCC members. As of this writing, there has been lots of snow, for us to enjoy skiing, snow shoeing and so on, let us hope the rest of the winter is just as good.

Another year has passed and we embark on a new year, as some say the true millennium. As I enter a second term as commodore, I look back and reflect over the past year. A year that was filled with many pleasant memories, many new friends, many hours of hard work, a new partner and a few not so pleasant memories.

This last year was a monumental year for the CCC. We saw the formation of a sprint racing club in Sydenham. I wish them the best of luck with all my heart. This change also means that The Cataraqi Canoe Club will now become strictly a recreational club.

Looking to the coming year, I am very excited and filled with much anticipation as to what the future will hold. This last year saw our membership increase to over two hundred membership's, with over three hundred members. Let us make every effort to continue this trend. I hope to see you at the open house in May, or on the water this coming season.

Happy New Year fellow CCC members!

By Joan Simpson

2001 is going to be a great year. This has been my first year as a member of the Cataraqi Canoe Club. What a great experience it has been. I have met a lot of fun, enthusiastic people who are easy to get along with and always eager to help out.



The Lone Kayaker . . .

Just imagine, I had never paddled a canoe before in my life and I participated in the dragon boat races. The Cataraqi Canoe Club did very well in the dragon boat event placing tenth over all. We estimated that the average age of all our participants was 70. (The oldest team and there were 14 professional dragon boat teams.)

Along with canoeing came another first as well, CAMPING. It was just so relaxing, except for the mosquitoes.

On December 9, 2000, Barry and I hosted the Christmas scheduling party. We started the afternoon off with a short beautiful hike. Had cocktails at 6:00 pm followed by a fantastic supper and dessert. Barry had been cooking all day. After everyone had eaten their fill, the scheduling of events for the first part of 2001 began. We couldn't have all work with NO REWARDS. Now was the time for door prizes. What a wonderful evening Barry and I had entertaining 36 members.

Cataraqui Canoe Club

**P.O. Box 1882
Kingston, Ontario, K7L 5J7**

**Boathouse located on Orchard street near the Woolen Mill
Call 544-8375 for current listing of up-coming trips and events**

Executive and Board of Directors 2000 – 2001

Commodore	Barry Irish	384-1492
Vice Commodore	Margaret Wild (Milne)	542-9626
Secretary	Alan Nicholls	547-3781
Treasurer	Ed Jezak	389-4459
Past Commodore	Gary Birrell	389-5154
Board of Directors	Peter Kopp	546-9216
	Ken Pearce	384-5842
	David Forkes	634-5840
	Linda Tucker	634-0497
	Dukke van der Werf	384-6054

Committee Appointments

Trip Scheduling	Margaret Wild (Milne)
Boathouse Manager / Assistant	Bob Tolley (542-9626) / Mark Hughes (389-9936)
Equipment Manager/Boathouse Scheduling	Don Harris (546-0842)
Recreational Program & Courses	Margaret Wild (Milne)
Whitewater Program	Ed Jezak / Mark Hughes (389-9936)
Publicity	Peter Kopp
Statistics	Ken Pearce
Openhouse / Special Meetings Co-ordinator	Joan Simpson (384-1492)
Telephone Listings	Judy Skeggs (374-3420)
Newsletter Editor	Rick Kirk (549-7152)
Webmaster	Alan Nicholls

Newsletter Contributions Welcome!

Members of CCC are invited to submit write-ups of their favorite CCC outings: outdoor adventure. Mail them to the club or pass them on to any member of the board or executive, or better yet, bring them to the schedule making pot-luck. Also, if you have one or two pictures to accompany the article even better. The newsletter editor can also be reached by email at Rick@ColDesigns.com.

Has Your Address Changed?

Has your address changed or do you have an e-mail address? We want to stay in touch and make sure that you receive the newsletter. Please forward any change in address/email/phone number to the club secretary at 547-3781; or at the club address listed above; or at <nicholls@canada.ca>.

Moose River Mayhem

By Robert Fydell

(Reprinted from Winter 1996 Newsletter)

Fortunately the Moose River lies south of us - I thought to myself as we headed for the Moose River Whitewater Festival, because the weather forecast for Kingston was for a chilly weekend. But what could one expect in late October? I certainly did not expect what was to come.



After a night of camping in a howling wind storm, we arrived at the put-in to the Lower Moose in drenching rain, which was to continue throughout the 11 mile paddle that lay ahead. By the time we began to descend the second set of rapids, my sports glasses were fogging badly due to the incessant rain. Halfway down the rapids I chanced upon an excellent surfing wave, but I could not see much downstream of it. Quickly spinning my kayak to face upriver, I paddled hard and caught it! With ease I surfed for ten to fifteen seconds. But as often happens, one edge of the kayak dug-in and in a flash I was upside down. But I sensed that something was wrong, because the sensation of falling continued. Instinctively I extended my paddle downriver to act as a sensor. Within a second I felt my blade hit rock. Just as quickly I felt the shaft of the paddle snap in two. "What the blazes?" I thought. Ka-pow! I received a tremendous blow on my jaw and the side of my face. My head whiplashed to one side as I rolled with the punches, so to speak. I was feeling slightly stunned. But then reality struck. As I bounced through two small holes upside down, I pondered performing an Eskimo roll with only half a paddle. What the heck I thought, I will set-up with my left hand where the shaft ends, and pretend the rest of the paddle is there. By this time a wet-exit from my kayak was the

least of my worries, as my face definitely needed attention! Well, I shocked not only myself, but also the group of kayakers who were watching, by executing a perfect Eskimo roll. I then waved my paddle in the air like some sort of trophy! I definitely was in need of good doctor, probably a psychiatrist. Fortunately the end of the rapid was a few strokes away. My fellow kayakers informed me that I had in fact dropped over a five foot high ledge while upside down. At the base a log was trapped by the moving water, with one end wedged underwater among the rocks. I had hit it with sufficient force to dislodge it. Undoubtedly breaking my paddle had slowed my descent enough to avoid a broken jaw.

As there was no road nearby I decided to carry on. For the next three miles I must have presented quite a sight. The left side of my face was swollen, with two bad scrapes. Being a pool/drop river, most of the Lower Moose is flat water. So many of the other paddlers attending the Festival would see a lone figure come looming out of the rain, alternating from the left side to right side of his kayak with only one blade, furiously trying to get somewhere. The best remark was a straight-faced "It looks like your having a bad day". For the two sets of rapids I ran with half a paddle, I drew on five years of whitewater experience to skirt the worst the river had to offer. I executed a series of aggressive eddy-hops, and combined an alternating stroke with many low and high braces. I also did one more roll for good measure. The third rapid was short, with a trail from top to bottom. I hiked to the bottom, and waited for one of my group to descend. I felt it necessary to borrow his paddle for my run, as this rapid involved shooting over an eight-foot waterfall. I successfully punched through the hole at the bottom of the falls. Another soul was not so fortunate, and ended up stuck in the hole. After a wet-exit he provided practice for two or three others with throw ropes, one of whom hauled him out.

Shortly after I met up with a fellow traveler who had a breakdown paddle in his kayak. Graciously he lent it to me, for we still had five miles and four sets of rapids to traverse; including the notorious Mixmaster, featuring a small but ugly whirlpool. Before parting he asked me where I was staying overnight, in case we did not see each other at the take-out. There were as many as sixty cars, vans, and trucks parked there. It turned out

we were both staying at the same campground. He told me to look for a white van with the words "Millenium Falcon II" painted on the side. I thought the words were familiar, but could not place them until I did return the paddle to him at the campground. Without his helmet on, I realized he bore a striking resemblance to Harrison Ford.

In conclusion, I would like to say: thank God that Hans Solo has retired from saving his galaxy from the Dark Side, and has taken up whitewater kayaking in ours!



Debbie Twiddy,

April in Paris and Beyond

By Bob Tolley

It was with some trepidation that we booked our flight to Europe at Eastertime as April showers tend to be long downpours, but the early season discount was irresistible! Anyway Europe's Spring flowers sure beat Canada dirty Winter's end.

Landing in London we took a ferry to St. Malo from Portsmouth and began cycling to Mont St Michel, a beautiful island monastery & village that seems to rise out of the sea, connected by a causeway to the mainland. Our weather fears were realised when we got caught in several rainstorms, a hailstorm & high winds interspersed with sunshine. However, in all we had more sunshine than rain. We cycled south a couple of hundred kilometres, stopping over at possibly Britany's most beautiful medieval town of Vitre. We reached the Loire Valley just inland at the fortress town of Angers & followed it East through Tours, Blois and Orleans to Sully-sur-Loire. Cycling was easy

with a predominantly West wind and following bike paths on the embankments or country roads with beautiful vistas of the Loire, historic towns and innumerable chateaux. In fact we visited so many chateaux, beautiful ones like Chenonceaux & Cheigny to immense ones like Chambord as well as wineries and a troglodyte village that we didn't leave time to cycle to Paris for our flight home. No problem, we thought, we'll just take the train from Orleans, (of Joan of Arc fame - reminders of the 100 years war with England were common). However we were told no bikes were allowed on trains! Desperate for help we found all stores & the tourist office were closed for Easter Monday, but managed to raid a building site & grab a couple of cement bags. We pulled our bikes apart, bagged them, just in time to catch the train, then saw a Frenchman just walk on with his bike anyway! Still, after struggling across the Paris underground with our bikes, we enjoyed a scrumptious last night feast - a four course buffet, with unlimited red & white wine on tap for less than \$20 each. In fact, all the dinners we had were delicately prepared to France's high standards. And where else could you enjoy a bottle of wine for less than the price of a cup of coffee!



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Cataraqi Canoe Club History

an historical account by Fred Johnston, edited by R. Kirk

The development of the sport of canoeing is closely linked with the trend to industrialization and urbanization where people had the luxury of time and money in which to pursue leisure activities. By the 1860's interest in canoeing first manifested itself with the formation of clubs in and around the Montreal area. During the 1870's and 1880's, canoe clubs sprang up in settled communities with suitable water. The formation of the American Canoe Association (ACA) in 1880 at Lake George, New York State, added real momentum to canoe expansion and many Canadians joined the ACA organization which from 1880 onward, held annual camps which included canoe racing.

Some time during the late 1880's or early 1890's, an association of gentlemen canoeists emerged in the City of Kingston, and called themselves the Cataraqi Canoe Club. By 1893 the club was sufficiently strong to act as the host club for the annual camp of the ACA which was held at Long Island Park, on Brophy's Point, Wolf Island. The camp included activities such as: leisure paddling, canoe sailing, and competitions, with evenings devoted to entertainment.

Little is know of the Cataraqi Canoe Club until 1896 when a group of Kingston sailors formed a local yacht club and invited the members of the Cataraqi Canoe Club to join forces with them in pursuit of a new building. A merger took place, a handsome building was constructed which provided storage for a number of skiffs and canoes and thereafter the canoeing fraternity was part of the Kingston Yacht Club. Canoe sailing appeared to be the main thrust of the Kingston group and as that type of canoeing seemed to decline around the turn of the century as sailing crafts increased in size, the canoeing group was slowly submerged within the yacht club.

In May of 1900, a number of Canadian clubs including Kingston and three Brockville clubs met at the Revere House Hotel in Brockville and laid the foundation for a distinctly Canadian national canoe organization to be know as the Canadian Canoe Association. During the first year Kingston's representative on the C.C.A. was a young lawyer, John Mowat, who went on to become Mayor of Kingston, 1906 - 1907.

Canoeing was again revived in Kingston in 1936 when



Debbie Twiddy,

the Cataraqi Canoe Club reappeared. Henry Cartwright, a young lawyer moved from Toronto to Kingston in 1929. In Toronto, Cartwright was an "Islander" who developed an interest in canoeing as a young boy at the famous Island Aquatic Club. After getting a practice established in Kingston, he returned to canoeing as a recreational past-time, and purchased his own racing canoe. The lure of competition led him to join the closest club - the Gananoque Canoe Club. Cartwright trained in Kingston, and while training met another avid canoeist, Gordon McMann. The two struck upon the idea of forming a local club and the Cataraqi Canoe Club was reborn. A site for the new club was leased from the federal government. The site was on the property occupied by the H.M.S. Cataraqi on the east side of the inner harbor. A World War I hut was moved from Barriefield to the river. Several canoes were scrounged from local supporters and an old war canoe was purchased from Carleton Place for \$50. By 1938 the club was sufficiently strong to host the Canadian Championship Regatta which was held in the inner harbor.

Again the war intervened and canoeing declined. No C. C.A. championships were held from 1942 to 1945 and

the Cataraqui club was little heard from during these years. By the late 1940's the club ceased to operate and the Gananoque Canoe Club purchased the canoes. The proceeds from the sale were loaned to a new Kingston organization, which planned to build a Brigantine sailing ship.

A new group appeared in 1964 led by Moira Dickson Stanton, a former Sudbury Canoe Club paddler, and Peter Eggleton, a former Montreal paddler with plans to revive the Cataraqui Canoe Club. In 1965 the club took up quarters on the Cataraqui River, a bit north of the old site, and applied for membership in the C.C.A.. Kingston Parks and Recreation generously donated two hockey "shacks" each spring and these were assembled on a vacant piece of property on Orchard Street between the water treatment plant and the Woolen Mill. The restrictive, temporary and unreliable facilities hampered the growth of the club and by the early 1970's it was decided to discontinue racing and focus on the building problem.

Building a community base for the club became the prime objective. A canoeing and water safety program was established in 1971 under the direction of Fred Johnston, a former Sudbury canoeist. In the same year, Dwayne Ramsay initiated a series of week-end canoe outings for the membership and this attracted new enthusiasts to the club. With the help of the Kiwanis Club of Kingston and the federal winter works program, the funding for a new building was available. On June 9, 1974 the new club facility was officially opened at Lake Ontario Park on property leased from the City of Kingston. In 1975 a Wintario Grant was received which allowed the club to purchase six new racing boats. In addition, funds were received from the

FOR SALE!

1. Camera; Pentax ESPIO 105WR; Waterproof (no pressure); Compact, Auto-everything, built-in flash; - 38-105mm zoom, panoramic option, 2yrs old, used rarely; paid \$400; Price \$325

2. Winter Boots; Heavy Duty Sorel Leather-Tops (Major Insulation); Never Used - Prime condition; Size 9; Paid \$140 retail; Price \$90

For information **Mike McManus at 342-1185**

CCC has recently been advised that the canoe of the late Gary Melko was bequeathed to the club. We would like to thank Gary for his kindness in this request. We would also like to thank Gary's family and Sheridan VanBlaricom, the executor [and friend] of Gary's estate. This canoe will be greatly appreciated and used with great fondness in Gary's memory.

Barry Irish

Kingston Olympic Program Committee for improvements to the docks and for hosting the 1976 Olympic Regatta, Kingston.

The setting of the clubhouse on Lake Ontario was an idyllic setting however the typical rough waters of the lake hampered the training in tippy, Olympic style canoes and kayaks. In 1979 the Club was approached by John Armitage with a proposal for building a combined Rowing / Canoe Club at the former site of the Canoe Club on Orchard Street on property recently purchased by the city. A grant was received from the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation and construction began in the fall of 1979. By the spring of 1980 the new club facilities was up and running. Unfortunately, the shift to the new facilities resulted in a loss of many of the young members. The Club initiated a major membership campaign to refill the ranks which was not successful and the fortunes of the Club declined and the building was mothballed.

The one club program that continued to prosper was the touring and technical whitewater program which became more and more self sufficient. The touring and whitewater group would plan outings and arrange meeting locations. In 1984, under the leadership of Mike Fisher, the touring and whitewater group began reintegrating back into the Cataraqui Canoe Club. The club facilities on Orchard Street were again used for boat storage and training activities. Canoeing and water safety courses were reintroduced and efforts were made to reintroduce sprint canoe racing.

[Today (2001) the club is a going-concern. The membership is larger than anytime in the past and represent a variety of interests. The club has thriving touring and technical whitewater schedule of events. Since 1997 the competitive sprint racing group have developed into a very competitive group and in 2001 a separate sprint racing club at Sydenham Lake is being formed.]

Official Winter 2001 Schedule of the Cataraqui Canoe Club

There is a \$5 non-member fee on paddling and overnight trips. This fee can be applied towards future membership. Guests remain welcome with no fee on non-paddling day trips.

FEB. 3, Sat. CROSS COUNTRY SKI. Ken Pearce is keeping his options open to 'wherever there is snow'. Call him at 384-5842 whether you see the white stuff or not.

FEB. 10, Sat. MASSASSAUGA CREEK AREA SNOWSHOE. Janice and Eric have extensive property and intimate knowledge of the area – they are bound to have new trails and construction to show you! Reach Janice at 542-9958.

No Snow Days!

Check with the Trip Leader for Alternate Plan

FEB. 11, Sun. WINTERLUDE IN OTTAWA. Mark may have transportation available to initiate us to big city thrills, ice sculptures, skating on the canal, beavertails and all. Suitable as a family outing, there are many alternative activities to choose for younger children. Contact Mark: 389-9936 to join in.

FEB. 18, Sun. FRONTENAC PARK SWAMP HOP. Discover the very best Xcountry skiing in a route across beaver ponds, guided by Janice and Eric – details 542-9958.

FEB. 24, Sat. BLUE ROOF FARM near Bellrock sports excellent trails for a hike or snowshoe. Debbie has arranged for us to visit these interesting gardens and property, with not quite 101 Dalmations to meet. The \$5 cover charge includes hot cider & cookies. Debbie believes Trailhead still rents snowshoes. Call her at 374-1704 to take part.

MAR 3-4, Sat/Sun. SNOW RIDGE-LESSER WILDERNESS STATE PARK. Lynda assured us this region, South of Watertown, N.Y. was in a reliable snow belt, excellent for downhill and Xcountry skiing. Sure enough, we slogged through waist deep snow, to be rewarded with an airborne return run! Bob

can't wait to sample the \$2.99 breakfast buffet she recommends. Suggested as a day or overnight trip. Details: Lynda Morrison 546-4577.

MAR. 10, Sat. SKYCROFT offers a good ski or hike, plus skating. Dukke knows how best to take advantage of these options – check with her at 384-6054.

MAR. 10, Sat. 8-10 P.M. KAYAK ROLL CLINIC in Artillery Park Pool. We have experienced kayakers to assist with instruction, last year on a one-to-one basis, taking full advantage of pool time. Young members in particular might roll in one session! \$10 fee for members, \$20 non-members. A few club boats are available. Coordinator is Kevin Orr: 389-6362.

MAR. 17-18, Sat/Sun. SILENT LAKE & KAWARTHAS. We stay opposite Silent Lake in Schnitzel House where food is excellent, though accommodation somewhat basic. This allows us to ski straight into the park. Next day, a short journey to the extensive Kawarthas network with beautifully groomed trails. The trip is dependent on snow, a local activity will be planned for Sunday if needed. Phone Margaret or Bob: 542-9626.

MAR. 25, Sun. BON ECHO XCOUNTRY ski or hike. Mark has always been lucky with good snow left in this stunning Provincial Park, located within 90 minutes driving time. Check with him at 389-9936.

For Trip Schedule Updates . . .

www.cataraquicanoe.on.ca or 544-8375

MAR. 31, Sat. POT LUCK & SCHEDULE MAKING PARTY. Clocks spring forward to Summer time, and to prove it Wendy Rayner hosts a Beach Party! Come in your best sarong with sizzling suggestions for Summer paddling – BYOB. (Call Margaret 542-9626 with ideas if unable to attend.) Wendy lives in Glenburnie, so the tan should last till you get home. New members are especially welcome. Call 544-4278.

APRIL 1, Sun. FLAT WATER CANOE TRIP with Ed. Jezak on Gananoque River or in Frontenac Park. Ed would never play April Fool, but he did say it could be a hike? Phone 389-4459 for the answers.

APRIL 7, Sat. 8-10 p.m. KAYAK ROLL CLINIC in Artillery Park Pool. We have experienced kayakers to assist with instruction, last year on a one-to-one basis, taking full advantage of pool time. Young members in particular might roll in one session! \$10 fee for members, \$20 non-members. A few club boats are available. Coordinator is Kevin Orr: 389 6362.

APRIL 8, Sun. MOIRA RIVER WHITEWATER. Since every Spring brings unique conditions, this is a tentative date. Intermediate skills, and wet suits will be required for early season. Alan Nicholls can give you more information at 547-3781.

APRIL 14, Sat. MASSASSAUGA CREEK is one of the first to open in Spring, and there is often snow on the banks as we meander through the reeds. Young paddlers would enjoy this. There is an interesting dam where we often lunch, and it's intoxicating to be afloat again! Trip leaders are Janice and Eric: 542-9958.

APRIL 21, Sat. BIG SALMON LAKE LOOP hike led by Margaret Spicer. A lovely season to see returning birds and Spring flowers. Margaret is 530-2308.

APRIL 22, Sun. LOWER SALMON WHITEWATER. Ed hopes it will be sufficiently warm to run a trip suitable for beginners without wetsuits. Experienced paddlers will be needed to assist – a fun run on a scenic river! Check conditions with Ed Jezak at 389-4459.

APRIL 28, Sat. SLIDE LAKE LOOP – Frontenac Park's most challenging and scenic hike, at the best time to avoid insects and heat. Trip leader is Jane Dorland 547-5792.

APRIL 29, Sun. NAPANEE RIVER WHITEWATER. This section from Yarker to Camden East is an excellent introductory experience for beginners. Alan Nicholls will need experienced paddlers to assist – please call him at 547-3781.

MAY 1,2&3. CATARAQUI CANOE CLUB'S OPEN HOUSE will be held in early May at our boat-house, foot of Cataraqui Street, near Woolen Mill building. This is your opportunity to meet old members and new, exchange yarns, and register for courses in **Learn to Canoe, Skills Improvement and Kayak**

Touring. Details in our next newsletter and on the web: www.cataraquicanoe.on.ca.

MAY 5, Sat. SNUG HARBOR TO BIRCH LAKE PADDLE. This is a pleasant paddle down Mitchel Creek to Birch Lake on the border of Frontenac Park. Depending on conditions, this trip may include a short hike in the Park from Birch Lake and then a return paddle Call Bary Birrell at 389-5154.

MAY 6, Sun. DESERT LAKE MOUNTAIN BIKE trip. Complete the whole figure eight of 40K, or the first loop at 30K, with a stop at Desert Lake store for ice cream. Don Seisling leads the way on this scenic route - phone (613) 962-9988.

For Trip Schedule Updates . . .
www.cataraquicanoe.on.ca or 544-8375

MAY 12, Sat. OUTDOOR GEAR SWAP. Beth says it's time for another gear sway so don't buy another thing till you have checked this out, and put aside your unwanted gear for sale. Bring or buy **anything** connected with outdoors. Beth is 389-6362

MAY 12, Sat. CYCLE TRIP with Larry Jenkins, which he insists, should be described as 'moderate'. From a triathlete this must be relative, but we know what he means, lets have everyone out for a fun and enjoyable ride! Larry will leave from the boathouse so you won't miss the Gear Swap. Call 530-2308 to take part.

MAY 13, Sun. MOTHER'S DAY FAMILY PADDLE on the lower, lower Salmon in her Spring glory, where Debbie and Derek know the best banks to gather fiddleheads. Last year my daughter and I paddled together for the first time. She truly enjoyed, even if the boat had no key, *and* we're still friends! Details 374-1704.

MAY 19-21, Sat.-Mon. VICTORIA W/E CANOE TRIP. Starting at Algonquin Park's Opeongo Lake, we will paddle to Annie Bay and camp the night. From here we go down the Opeongo River to Booth Lake for the night's camp, then pull out at Shall Lake access on Monday. Don doesn't mention any portages, sounds like a fabulous paddle? Reach Don Seisling at (613) 962-9988.