

Cataraqui Canoe Club Meeting was held at Millard's residence at 794 Danbury Road on August 2, 1984 at 7:00 p.m. Present were Tim deRose, Dianne Greber, John Mitchell, Allan Nichols, Joe Hosick, Ed Jezak Aniko Takocs, Tony Petric, Mike Fisher, Dennis Burr, Nigel and Joan Fitzpatrick and Dave Schlesinger

Mike and Joe gave a brief history of the club and outlined the advantages and disadvantages of expansion of the club from its present situation of being a recreational club with limited use of the club facilities to a fully operating club using and maintaining the club house and equipment. It was unanimous that we look into taking over the responsibilities of the club. At the present time the club house and properties are being maintained through a stewardship of Fred Johnson and Dr. Atkinson.

With the above decision made the present "executive" will look into setting up a general meeting in late September or early October, if feasible, to elect an executive. A copy of the constitution of the Cataraqui Canoe Club will be circulated if it can be obtained.

Fall agenda was set up. (on following sheet) Other suggestions not included at this time, were canoe repair work shop, theater nights, wind surfing sessions, Christmas Party, water safety courses, film nights (both home and national film board type)

Since many members have asked about using the canoe club pleasure canoes, and in view of the lack of constitution concerning the use of these boats, it was decided that these boats could only go out on flat water trips at the discretion of the trip leader and only after all other efforts had been made to secure other boats. Users of these boats would have to provide own safety equipment and would be expected to make some contribution towards the upkeep of the boats. The canoe club would also accept no responsibility for the safety of users of the boats.

Katimivat is interested in building some canoes. Is anyone in the club interested in learning how to build canoes? Contact Mike if interested.

Dennis has done a great job in getting the kayak section out on the water. Many members have taken advantage of his expertise.

A pyramid system will be set up in the future to aid in getting information to all members when there is not time to get a newsletter sent out. Mike will set it up.

To date there are 28 memberships paid up. Of this total 11 are family memberships. Are you included in the membership list?

Nigel concluded the meeting with a very interesting "home" movie of our efforts at the war canoe practice and various assorted boats. He caught our successes and our not quite successful efforts very well. Thanks Nigel.

We arrived in Ottawa on Friday to spend the week-end with friends and gather together some last minute items: minor necessities such as stove, gas, food....

Sunday morning found us on the banks of the Rideau at the Chateau Laurier, trying in vain to stuff our gear in the kayaks. We finally succeeded, and after fond farewells to our friends, and a professional photography session, we departed being serenaded by the Governor General's Footguard Band. What a send off!

Our first day was a mixture of naniacal power boaters, views of river mansions, and gright sunshine. Having portaged 2 locks in Central Ottawa, we were relieved to reach Black Rapids in time to go through the locks. We decided to advertize our adventure at this time and taped "Kingston or Bust" on the back of one kayak, which earned us many interested on lookers and questions. Fourteen odd miles later we arrived at Long Island Locks where we collapsed for the night.

Bright and early on Day 2 we left with protesting muscles and paddled in much quieter waters. We stopped briefly in Manotick for film and bread and then carried on. A constant headwind made for slow progress and we were relieved to finally reach Rideau River Provincial Park. Here we were greeted by Mark and Dave, two rough looking canoers from Kingston travelling in the same direction.

On Day 3 we were woken by Mark and Dave who left a 6:30 a.m. to paddle a few hours on calm water before the wind came up. We learned we would always have a headwind. After an exhausting day we stopped early in Merrickville, after going through the locks. With the canal so quiet now, we always found the lock gates open waiting our arrival. The lock masters were all very friendly. Merrickville is a quaint artsy-crafty town. It also has a great bakery. Here we met Mark and Dave again, as well as Ed, with his 8 year old son Brendan, canoeing from Kingston to Ottawa. With the wind at their backs, to -day they had done 26 miles. (We had done 12.9). We all enjoyed a cheesecake that night after supper. Its a hard life.

Day 4, and Mark and Dave beat us to the punch again this a.m.. We followed an hour later through the "mud cut"-- a short cut from the main channel -- where we were swarmed by thousands of swallows. Then we fought our way through the swamp (looking for alligators the whole way!) finally to arrive in Smiths Falls at the highest lock of the trip. It rose 26 feet, and is one of 3 locks along the route that is fully automated. The rest are maintained in their original state due to influence from the Historical Society. We celebrated our halfway point with a humongous meal of scallops followed by a long snooze in the park. At the next lock in town we were again greeted by Mark and Dave who had also celebrated with a lunch of the liquid variety. We tried to coax them on, but had no luck. We never saw them again

Day 5 we camped at Poonamalie and decided an early start was in order. Two hours later we stopped for "brekky" at Rideau Ferry Resort. With renewed energy we put a total of 19 miles behind us, our best so far, even with a strong wind and sudden thunderstorm.

Day 6 I left early, leaving Dennis behind to do the dishes, as he'd locked them away for the night in the lock station's bathroom. For once I was in the lead! He caught me up at Newboro and we carried on dreaming of lunch awaiting us at the Opinicon, Chaffeys Locks. Two grubby kayakers amongst all the suits and ties. It turned out to be a 5 course meal, and Dennis' eyes nearly popped when he saw the bil

