

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

it was very reasonable.

A little stuggishly we pulled away, on to Jones Falls where we were again caught in a sudden downpour. Nothing for it but to keep going, till it passed. Looking for a camp spot we stopped at a cottage for fresh water and were offered use of their back yard. Bill and Linda, a couple from PA, were very friendly. Bill had to fly back tomorrow and said he'd check our progress on the way. It was an early night. We'd again managed 19+ miles and wanted to get to Kingston tomorrow -- 24 more miles.

On day 7 we got a late start. 8:30 or so and plugged on till Upper Brewers Locks. Sure enough, on our way down, a small plane flew overhead and waved its wings at us. We stopped for lunch and after Lower Brewers we had 10 miles to go to Kingston Mills. The Cataraqi River was deadly in parts -- a never ending stretch of water, with not so exciting scenery.

It was a long hard haul but we finally reached Kingston Mills Locks, a beautiful spot. We passed a number of practicing rock-climbers. It was about 4 more miles along the Cataraqi River and it was lovely. Very calm, and the sun starting to sink in the sky. We finally saw the boathouse in the distance and there was no one there to greet our arrival except the swallows.

We made it !

Membership of the Cataraqi Canoe Club effective September 1st, 1984:

Joe Hosick	549	-	5705	
Joan & Nigel Fitzpatrick	389	-	4179	
Aniko Takacs	542	-	3819	
Ellie Segel.....	549	-	3525	
Tony Petric	1 - 514 - 341	-	4837	
Debbie & Gary Williams	389	-	4353	
Carla Deutekom	384	-	3714	
Marie Edwards	546	-	4366	
Charles & Anne Millard	389	-	3982	(Robert & Andrew)
Mike & Debbie Fisher	386	-	3159	
Dennis Burr	549	-	7316	
Tim DeRose & Diane Greber	386	-	3400	(Devin, Spencer)
John & Alison Mitchell	389	-	5326	(David)
Brian Finlayson	382	-	5237	
Alan & Gerri Nichols	389	-	4026	(Scott, Steven)
Franz Walker	389	-	0611	
George Linn	549	-	6982	
Kris Hills	544	-	1356	
Ed Jezak	389	-	4459	
Dave Schlesinger	549	-	5037	
Rebecca Spaulding	542	-	0115	
Richard Pawley				
Dianne McIntyre	374	-	3210	
Darlene Leverre.....	389	-	1484	
Mike & Sarah Barry	546	-	0465	(Sam, m)
Jean Brown	544	-	5882	
Bert & Patricia Carswell	384	-	4160	(Lind, Ian)
Ken & Kathy Furnell	546	-	9686	
Brian Ferguson	542	-	6825	

The first Cataraqi Canoe Club camping trip in several years was a great success. Although there was little apparent interest until Thursday, everything came together on Friday and we set off with a party of 8 from Mom's Restaurant in Verona on Sunday morning.

After setting up the cars in Ardock and Coxvale, we launched onto the Mississippi and headed for Mud Lake. Dennis paddled his kayak; Devin shared a canoe with Dianne and Carla (and part-time with Dennis); and the other two canoes were mastered by Ed and Jean and by Aniko and Tony.

Mud Lake is like a big rice paddy (wild rice to be exact), very shallow but clean. There were two small rapids to overcome on the river before reaching Crotch Lake. This lake is entirely ringed with granite which stood out like white marble. We camped on an excellent site on Big Island with a rock ledge shore.

Supper consisted of a main course of chilli, courtesy of Aniko and Carla, and an assortment of other delicacies supplied by the rest of the party.

During his evening paddle Dennis spotted a roost of turkey vultures high in the branches of a poplar tree, and the next morning as we were leaving, we could see them circling above the island. The weather was hot and humid as we portaged up Gull Creek toward Coxvale. We stopped briefly for lunch and by early afternoon headed for home.

The Cataraqi War Canoe vs. the Tall Ships

As our contribution to Ontario's Bicentennial Celebrations, the Cataraqi Canoe Club organized a rendez-vous with the tall ships in Kingston harbour. In preparation, we assembled for a war canoe rehearsal on July 10, 1984. It was the largest crowd for a canoeing event ever -- no less than 25 "members" attended. They were Rebecca Spaulding, Julin Sun, Joan, Nigel, Nick and Alex, Charles, Anne and Robert, John, Alison and David, Orla and Dale Mynfield, Jean Brown, Michael Blenkhorn, Ed Jezak, Robbie Burns, Andy Ross, Joe, Kris, Tony, Dennis, Carla, and Aniko.

We all had a whale of a time practicing with the war canoe, the K-4 and some racing C-1s, and although the war canoe managed to stay upright, the others didn't.

The tall ships arrived in Kingston on July 17th. The sky was overcast. Our war canoe set out from the clubhouse dock with Charlie at the helm and with Jean, Tim, Dianne, Spencer, Robbie, Tony, Debbie, John Mitchel, Brian Ferguson and Joe manning the paddles. We were accompanied by Ed and Darlene in a rescue canoe.

We ducked under the causeway, paused for the Wolfe Islander Ferry and then charged forward toward the tall ships docked in the harbour. Quite possibly, we were the more impressive sight. We were joined there by Dennis, Carla, Rebecca and Allan in wetsuits and kayaks. Kris Hills and Michael Blenkhorn and company were there on the dock to cheer us on.

Everyone agreed it was great fun and we should make war canoeing a regular event. At least once a year?

