

# CANOE LETTER

Newsletter of the Barrie Canoe and Kayak Club  
Feb - March 2007

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## SEA KAYAK TRIP – QUEBEC’S NORTH SHORE

**August 3:** Flew to Deer Lake, Newfoundland, met 2 others from Ottawa and took a taxi for the 325 km trip to St. Barbe where we stayed overnight in a motel.

**August 4:** Caught the ferry for the 1 ½ hour trip to Blanc Sablon, on the Québec-Labrador border. Met the rest of the group and drove to the end of the road about 80 km west to Riviere St. Paul, a small village at the top of a long bay. 15 of us managed to cram all our gear in the 11 single and 2 double kayaks. After a two hour car shuttle, Scott Cunningham, Coastal Adventures of Nova Scotia, led us out to look for a camp site on the rocky, treeless coastal islands. It took a lot of searching but we managed to find a place where we could get ashore. The ground was covered in 20 cm of thick tundra growth which almost negated the need for a “thermorest mat”.

**August 5:** Up at 6 a.m. and away by 9, we paddled into a strong and rainy S.W. wind and waves. We covered a lot of distance as we had to get to St. Augustin by the 11<sup>th</sup>. to meet up with a coastal freighter to get back to Blanc Sablon.

**August 6:** With gale force winds predicted and 30 km of the Graveyard Coast, a long section with no places to rest or camp, we were up by 3:45 a.m. and off by 6 to try and beat the storm. It was my day to paddle the double with a lady with little experience (the only one). The swells were 2 m and my partner stared to freeze at the sight of the waves coming at us. I had to yell, paddle like hell and don’t stop, as we crested over the tops and into the valley on the other side. Around noon, we spotted a beach (tide was down) at the end of a short bay and landed for a lunch break. The white caps were building out on the ocean, and we decided to wait till things quieted down. At 5 p.m. Scott said let’s try and see if we can handle it. It was too wild, Scott said let’s paddle to another bay about a kilometre back the way we had come. There was not place to get in to camp and we elected to return to our lunch bay. The tide was rising and the site was not the best for camping but the hiking was great and we survived with rain.

**August 7:** Again up at 4 and away by 6. I’m back in my single, the waves are now 2 m plus but the worst of the white caps were gone. We slogged in gigantic seas for 1 hour and then moved a kilometre off shore because of shallow sloping land where the swells/waves increased to over 3 meters, some exploding as you topped them, like going through a car wash. The lady I had the day before and now with someone else, threw up 3 times with sea sickness and one of our guides put a low line on to the boat to help out. After 3 hours we reached the protection of islands but all agreed, that was the most exciting part of the journey so far. After a good supper, we slept like logs, having crossed the most dangerous part of the coast line known for the ships and lives that had been lost along it.

**August 8:** Up at 6 and away in good time, we continued routing through the maze of islands of the archipelago. Jacques Cartier didn’t think much of this area; he said it was like the land that God gave to Cain. Devoid of trees, animals and birds it was naked and hostile but we were on our own and up to the challenge. Some abandoned buildings were passed, the remains of the days when fishing was good. We made good distance today, but by the time we started looking for a campsite, we were fighting an incoming tide, wind and rain, and it was almost dark by the time we found a spot to get to shore. One had to put a huge stone inside each corner of the tent before thinking of sliding in the poles. Everyone was damp, but we anchored down a large fly for protection and supper was enjoyed by all. It was a cold tent flapping night.

**August 9:** Surprise, next morning was dead calm, the sun was out and we managed to dry most of our gear, although clothes soaked with sea water never really get dry. Off in good spirits again, the paddling was good but one had to follow our maps or we would soon be lost. We finally found signs of civilization in the form of an abandoned fish processing plant which provided us some interesting exploring. Later we came to a small house where an outposter and his wife lived. Their dog Bill was real happy to see some human beings; he would jump from one deck to another as we rafted near the dock. His wife gave us a freshly baked loaf of bread before we left. As we passed through a shallow passage between islands, we could see lots of mussels because of low tide. We stopped for lunch about 2 km away at an exposed beach, did some hiking and then went back and collected about 20 kilos of mussels. I learned to select ones still under the surface as they were bigger from feeding 24 hours a day and not stopping when the tide exposed the others. We had two good meals from them. We paddled a long day as we wanted to end up half a day from St. Augustin. We did stop to collect some dry driftwood at an extended headland, and finally found a good spot to get the boats on shore and excellent sites for tents. We plan to stay here two nights, paddling tomorrow around some outer islands or just resting in camp. We had been given some canned crab and a jar of crowberry jam from an outposter.

**August 11:** A good breakfast and an easy start, we start for St. Augustin. We find that our route we had planned is blocked by land as the tide is out. This means reversing some of the way we had come and seek out the route the boats use. St. Augustin is set inland at the end of a long bay. It was interesting that we started to see trees growing on the sides of some of the islands and were also greeted by small groups of loons. The docking facilities for our coastal freighter the

216' Nordic Express were quite modern, concrete ramp and decking area serviced by fork lifts and cranes. We put our fully loaded boats on wooden skids and they were then moved later to the boat and put into empty containers and lifted up on deck. The boat arrived on time and spent 2 hours unloading and loading, and then we boarded for the 5 hour trip back to Blanc Sablon. Scott treated us to a first class dinner on board. It had rained ever day sometime and the boat trip back to Blanc Sablon was no exception. Warm showers at our motel and clean dry clothes felt great.

**August 12:** We caught the ferry at 9 a.m. (10:30 Nfld. time) and arriving in St. Barbe, Newfoundland, we headed back to Deer Lake. We did stop at Port au Choix, a historic site; Maritime Archaic Indians lived some 5,500 years ago, and referred to as the Groswater people. At Deer Lake, we all split up, some to catch flights the next day and others to take the ferry from Port au Basques to Nova Scotia. The trip was the first for everyone and we all did well and had no upsets.

**August 13:** Caught the 7 a.m. flight home to Toronto.

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## Monthly Meetings

Monthly Meeting begin again on the 16 October. All meeting are held at the Southshore Community Centre on the second Monday of the month (except when indicated). Doors open at 6:30PM and meetings begin at 7PM. This is a chance for members, guests, and visitors to meet and mingle and to see presentations from guest speakers.

### SCHEDULE FOR 2006-2007:

11 December: Annual Christmas Party

8 January: TBA. Check the web site for details when they become available.

12 February: Join us for Gillian Mason's (Mis) Adventures on the Back River in Nunavut. This Twenty-one day trip took place during the summer of 2005. The group of 6 travelled from Baker lake to Chantrey Inlet on the Artic Ocean. George Drought - who led this trip- will be joining us for this presentation.

12 March: Brian Cheaney: Astronomy and the Wilderness Night Sky

16 April (NOTE: Third Monday due to Easter Monday the 9 Apr): Jay Morrison: Paddle Across Canada

14 May: TBA. Check the web site for details when they become available.

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## Pool Sessions

Come out and have some fun in a boat!      Get comfortable in a boat in water.  
Get a few tips from the regulars.      Get ready for the paddling season of 2007

Allandale Recreation Centre, 190 Bayview Drive, Barrie, On  
5:30PM – 7:00PM

Jan 14, 21, & 28    Feb 11, 18 & 25    March 11 & 18

\$50 for members for all 8 sessions, \$75 for non-members

\$10 per session for members, \$15 for non-members

Contact Duane Craig at 726-4236 or [dhtcraig@rogers.com](mailto:dhtcraig@rogers.com)



A GOOD CANOE  
IS USEFUL ALL YEAR  
ROUND

## BARRIE CANOE & KAYAK CLUB: FALL/WINTER ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

(As of Dec 2006: Check web page for further updates)

You must be a current member of the BCKC to participate in club activities. Please provide your membership number when signing up for activities. **You** are responsible for contacting the trip leader well in advance of the trip date. For safety reasons, the trip leader has the final say about who goes on his/her trips. Participants must assume all risks associated with the activity and must provide the trip leader with a signed Medical/Emergency Information Form prior to the trip. Non-members are entitled to participate as a guest of a member on one day-trip per year and must sign the Waiver of General Liability.

DATE	DESTINATION	ACTIVITY	REQUIRED SKILLS	LEADER	EXTRA DETAILS
Snowy Tuesday Evenings 6:30-8:30	Near Barrie	Snowshoeing	Be prepared for a good aerobic workout on hilly terrain	Hanne Nielson 721-9819	Wear a headlamp and eye protection
Feb 3-4	Parry Sound area	Winter camping, Ski/snowshoe		John Rankin 728 4154	May need to break trail; Pre-meeting Jan 1
Sat Feb 10	Awenda Prov. Park	snowshoe/ski		Anthony Taliana 424 3908	
Sun Feb 11	Minesing Swamp	Snowshoe		Ed Irwin 726 4615	Snowshoe to heron rookery
WedFeb14	Duntroon	X country ski		Mary Cavanagh 725 6252	Speak to Mary about buying pass
Sat Feb 17	Gravenhurst/ Bracebridge	X country ski		John Rankin 728 4154	Great ski trails beside river
Sun Feb18	Tiffin Conservation	X country ski	novice	Fred Schwarz 728 3540	10-15 km
Sat Feb 24	Sunnidale Park	Snowshoe		Duane Craig 726 4236	
Sat Mar 3	Algonquin Park Mew Lake	Snowshoe/ x country		Anthony Taliana 424 3908	
Sat Mar 10	Gravenhurst/ Bracebridge	X country ski		John Rankin 728 4154	Great ski trails beside river
Sat Mar 24	Head River	Whitewater		John Rankin 728 4154	

### Canoe for Sale

For Sale: 15 foot Chestnut Cedar Strip Canoe (yellow canvas)

Mint condition - \$1600.

Call 722-7520 after 5pm



## The Continuing Adventures of Abby and Javier

*Note: Abby Gomez is a long time club member and former club President. Abby, along with husband Javier, is currently on an around the world backpacking expedition.*



Hello fellow BCKC'ers. This is Abby's report on her trip half way around the world. Firstly, we wish you all a happy 2007. We hope you are in good health and happy.

We left on our fabulous journey on Oct 5, 2006. Our first stop was Mexico to visit with Javier's family. We also threw a huge party for his immediate relatives (aunts, uncles, cousins and kids) meaning over 100 people. We had food, drink, entertainment and Mariachis !

Next we bussed to the Gulf of Mexico side, cut through the Yucatan Peninsula to get to Belize. Belize is a small country with a Caribbean flavour. We boated to an island called Caye Caulker, just off the

coast of Belize City. The island was quaint with sand streets and very laid-back. We enjoyed a half day of snorkelling in the Barrier Reef and swimming with sharks and stingrays. It was quite beautiful.

Next we headed inland to Guatemala. Our first stop was Tikal, a famous Aztec ruin set in the middle of beautiful forests. It wasn't really discovered until 1900's due to it's obscurity. From there we visited two other lovely spots .. Lake Atitlan (a lake surrounded by mountains) and Antigua (colonial town with nearby active volcanoes). We climbed Volcano Pacaya and witnessed molten lava flowing down only 500 metres away. The volcano had just erupted 3 weeks earlier. The heat was still intense.

Our next country was El Salvador. We enjoyed eating our favourite food ... pupusas. Next we were off to Costa Rica with it's amazing rain forests and ecology. We spent two weeks on the Pacific side volunteering with a turtle conservation program. It was a truly rewarding experience, we particularly liked working with the new hatchlings, guiding them into the sea to begin their life. There are tons of parks to visit and we stopped at three ... Rincon de la Vieja with water falls and thermal springs, Arenal with lava flowing, and Monteverde rain forest. All very picturesque. We also saw a variety of local wildlife, butterfly's and birds.

We headed to Panama next and enjoyed seeing the world famous Panama Canal. It is an ingenious creation to move boats and tankers from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean and reverse. It took 2 attempts, thousand of lives and over 15 years to build. An amazing feat. From Panama, we boarded our flight to Colombia, as traversing by land is not recommended .. many people have mysteriously gone missing in this part of the world !

In Colombia we began our visit in Cartagena, a city with a history ! It is a beautiful beach city with an intact walled-in old sector. From there we headed to Bogotá, the capital, which is quite modern and pleasant. Then we relaxed a few days on a coffee finca (farm) where the world's best coffee is grown. Lovely hillsides with coffee plantations.

From there we bussed down to Ecuador and arrived in Quito in the middle of the city's celebration. Lots of music and local cuisine to be enjoyed. We then headed to a small town on the border of the Amazon Rain Forest. We took a full-day tour hiking, walking in river beds, climbing through canyons with bats flying overhead .. it was an exhilarating experience. We also learned about the local flora and it's indigenous uses. Javier even ate lemon ants !!

Our next stop for two weeks was in Trujillo, Peru to do volunteer work with children. Again a very satisfying experience. Peru begins the reign of the Incas who inhabited the area from about 1100 to 1500, when the Spaniards arrived. Throughout South America, they have left temples, palaces, and citadels. We first visited the famous lines of Nazca, which can only be seen from an airplane. The lines are geometric and animal shapes that have been there thousands of years. It is still a mystery as to why they were drawn ?? Next we headed for another world famous spot .. Machu Picchu. It is an Inca citadel sitting on a plateau between two mountains. It is an awesome experience to be there and see it, words really cannot describe it.

Our next country was Bolivia. We visited Lake Titicaca, another important place for the Incas, as they believed the sun and moon were created in this spot. The capital, La Paz is a very vibrant city with lots to buy on every street corner.

With only a few weeks left in Central America, we headed down to visit the northern part of Chile. We spent quite a few days in a small village called San Pedro de Atacama, which sits in the middle of the Atacama Desert. This is the driest desert in the world. The vistas surrounding the city are nothing to be seen anywhere else in the world ... Moon Valley looks like the surface of the moon, the Atacama Salt Flats have large lagoons with pink flamingos and all with brown coloured mountain ranges in the distance.

Our last country in South America is Argentina, where we are now. Yesterday, we visited Iguazu Falls, one of the most impressive falls in the world set around gorgeous sub-tropical forests. This area of the country borders Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina. Three countries in one view.

In 4 days, we fly to Africa to continue our voyage on that continent. We hope you have enjoyed reading a short glimpse of our trip.

Best wishes,  
Abby & Javier Gomez

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## Membership Services Updates

Submitted by Sue Whalen

The 2007 Application form and waivers are attached to this newsletter. Please print them off to save club resources. Remember that each member must sign the waiver.

### Photo Contest

We are holding a photo contest of any BCKC trip taken in 2006!

Please forward your submission to one of the Membership Services Coordinators by the April 16 General Meeting.

We would prefer a copy that does not need to be returned so we can keep them in a permanent display.

On the back of the photo list your name, phone number, date and location of the trip.

Each member attending the April 16 meeting will be provided a ballot to vote on their pic for first place.

Winners will be announced at the break. First prize will win a BCKC hoody, second place a t-shirt and third place a cap.

### Equipment Sale

Please bring your quality, used canoe, kayak and camping items to the May General meeting equipment sale. Doors will open early to allow for set up and sale.

### Paddle Nights

The sign up sheets will be available at the General Meetings so bring your calendars and sign up for this great opportunity to meet other members and support your club.

### New Members Info Desk

New members: You can get the information you need about the club at the new information desk which will be located between the courses and membership tables. The paddle night sign up sheet will also be located here as it is the best way to become involved in your club.

Contacts one of the following coordinators for more information

Membership: Sue Whalen: **327-2486** - [Katsura.whalen@sympatico.ca](mailto:Katsura.whalen@sympatico.ca)

Program: Anthony Taliana: **424-3908** - [outdooranthony@yahoo.ca](mailto:outdooranthony@yahoo.ca)

Resources: Marion Stockdale: **728-4316** - [marian-jeff.stockdale@sympatico.ca](mailto:marian-jeff.stockdale@sympatico.ca)

Publicity: Paige Turner: **436-1391** - [newpaige@rogers.com](mailto:newpaige@rogers.com)

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Out of the bosom of the Air,  
Out of the cloud-folds of her garments shaken,  
Over the woodlands brown and bare,  
Over the harvest-fields forsaken,  
Silent, and soft, and slow  
Descends the snow.

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The sport of skiing consists of wearing three thousand dollars' worth of clothes and equipment and driving two hundred miles in the snow in order to stand around at a bar and get drunk.

- P.J. O'Rourke, *Modern Manners*, 1984

## 2007 Barrie Canoe Club Executive

The new executive was approved at the Annual General Meeting on the 20 November. Many thanks to those who are stepping down after many years of dedicated service: Charlotte Piprell & Ann Berman; to those who are moving into new positions: Ed Irwin, Fred Schwarz and Ross Rutley; and to those who are stepping up to the dock to see the club into the 2007 season: Armando Perez, Susie Larkin, Kim Gate, Marlene Jacob, Marian Stockdale & Paige Turner.

<b>Board of Directors</b>			
<i>President</i>	John Rankin	jsrankin@rogers.com	705-728-4154
<i>Past President</i>	Fred Schwarz	freddiecanoe@sympatico.ca	705-728-3540
<i>Vice President</i>	Bonny Campbell	bonnycampbell@hotmail.com	705-726-9357
<i>Treasurer</i>	Armando Perez	kaitoo@sympatico.ca	705-733-1679
<i>Secretary</i>	Julia Lawr	Wayne.julia1@sympatico.ca	705-728-6403
<i>Director at Large</i>	Sue Whalen	katsura.whalen@sympatico.ca	705-722-3594
<i>Director at Large</i>	Ross Rutley	rrutley@csolve.net	905-729-3664
<i>Director at Large</i>	Ed Irwin	edirwin@canoemail.com	705-726-4615
<b>Coordinators</b>			
<i>Courses</i>	Susie Larkin	page.larkin@yahoo.ca	705-726-7326
<i>Membership</i>	Sue Whalen	katsura.whalen@sympatico.ca	705-722-3594
<i>Trips</i>	Ross Rutley	rrutley@csolve.net	905-729-3664
<i>Equipment</i>	Kim Gate	gater@sympatico.ca	705-792-1570
<i>Lakewater</i>	Marlene Jacob	lakewater@thelastlink.ca	705-795-7717
<i>Moving Water Canoe</i>	Bud Burke	budburke@rogers.com	705-436-6125
<i>Moving Water Kayak</i>	Duane Craig	E-mail Challenged	705-726-4236
<i>Sea Kayak</i>	Dave Beckett	davkayak14@sympatico.ca	705-792-9661
<i>Voyageur</i>	Scott Schneider	scotts@rogers.com	705-739-2340
<i>Program</i>	Anthony Taliana	outdooranthony@yahoo.ca	705-424-3908
<i>Resources</i>	Marian Stockdale	marian-jeff.stockdale@sympatico.ca	705-728-4316
<i>Publicity</i>	Paige Turner	newpaige@rogers.com	705-436-1391
<i>Newsletter/ Website</i>	David Hyndman	dbhynd@sympatico.ca	705-792-1506
<i>KICK Coordinator</i>			

Show your membership card to get discounts on selected items from the following retailers:

- Angie's Outdoor, Barrie
- Ray Kettlewell Paddles
- Lolk Paddles
- Sturgeon River Canoe Co.
- Swift Canoe & Kayak
- Tent City Outfitters
- Paddle Shack
- Sojourn (now uses a "Rewards Program" to provide discounts to loyal customers.)