

CANOE LETTER

Newsletter of the Barrie Canoe and Kayak Club
Feb- Mar 2008

The Queen Charlottes Revisited: 7-14 July 2007

by Roger Parsons



In 1997, nine members of the BCC under the leadership of Barry Brigley, did a sea kayak tour of the Queen Charlotte Islands. We got as far as the Skincuttle Inlet, about halfway down the chain. For ten years, I have had tried to paddle the bottom half and this year I joined with seven others from Ecosummer Tour to complete my dream.

We travelled by zodiac with four double kayaks strapped to overheads racks from Moresby Camp to Kat Island at the top of the Burnaby Strait. During the two-hour boat ride, we saw a black bear, many Bald eagles, and stopped to watch two humpback whales cavort just a head of us. They finally - with tails high in the air - dove deep.

Somehow, we managed to get all our gear and food into and on top of our kayaks and were off to look for a campsite. At the end of Island bay, we found the perfect place, complete with a fresh water creek and 4 meter falls and many flat spots amongst the huge Sitka spruce. The next day under cloudy conditions, we headed down the famous Burnaby Strait and its magnificent display of Marine life. Jellyfish were everywhere, and we spotted some Sandhill Cranes and many eagles. We passed through Skincuttle Inlet; past abandoned copper mines and stopped for lunch at a very cold and windy Deluge Point. Everyone was cold and one had to keep walking around just to say warm. We finally made camp in Collison Bay where a fresh

water creek flowed in and the sun broke through and warmed things up. The next day we passed the very windy, 5KM, Carpenter Bay, stopping to catch Rock Fish near the Kelp Beads. After passing some Harbour Seal colonies we reached a campsite on the north side of Benjamin Point. We could hear the Sea Lions 5km out on the Garcin Rocks and paddled out after supper to watch them. They would pop up in amongst our kayaks; we could see a couple of the 600-pound males (three times larger than the females) on shore guarding their harems.

The next day we fought our way west through the tidal currents of the Stewart and Houston Channels that separated the 30km long Kughit Island from the north, to a campsite east of Ross Island and a view of the Pacific Ocean to the west. We could see four deer feeding on a nearby tidal flat. Steve Booth, who once owned

Ecosummer, has spent 22 years in the islands and it was good to listen to him describe the bird, fish, shellfish flowers and trees we were observing. We paddled over to the Gordon Islands for lunch and an interesting hike over the hilly mounds of pillow lava to a lava tube, called the Chief's bath. We made radio contact with S'gan Gwaii (Anthony Allen) and we headed to the famous Haida village of Ninstints. Sixty-year-old Shirley and her two sons made us welcome in their new Longhouse and son James took us for a tour of the old village with its remaining Mortuary Poles and Longhouses. . Since our leader Steve was a very close friend of this Haida family, we all sat down to supper together, followed by a campfire where they told us some of the good and bad history of the Haida people. Steve Cutts, our cook, read us the story of the Raven who brought light to the nation. My tent partner from Finland and the father & son from Switzerland along with a young couple from Vancouver Island, found this fascinating. Ages in our group other than me (77) ranged from 14 – 52 years but all had sea-kayaking experience.



Next day we travelled through surging swells and exploding waves through Adam Rocks to a beach north of Flat Rock Island that had a fresh water pond for us to swim and wash in. We camped on Ross Island, one of the best sites in the islands. In the woods, I met a deer 20m away that watched me as I gathered some firewood. Later, a doe & fawn walk past us as we ate supper.

An unusual low tide (it fluxed 8m) allowed us to wade and examine the numerous coloured starfish, crabs, shellfish and other marine forms. We collected some sea cucumbers and sea urchins for lunch. The cucumbers are like 40cm, 5cm thick bloodsuckers but when opened up they have strips of muscles that when removed and fried, are quite tasty. We ate raw eggs from the sea urchins and Steve Booth cooked up a seven-pound Ling Cod that he had caught. We launched our boats after the tide had come halfway up our pebble beach and set our final camp at Raspberry Cove. We took our kayaks across the Ross Harbour, a former whaling station, put them up on logs for storage and got a zodiac lift back to our camp. Promptly at 08h15 the next morning, the Twin Otter landed to fly us back to Sandspit where we started. I would recommend this journey to our members.

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings are held every second Monday of the month through out the winter months at the Southshore Community Centre. Doors open at 6:30PM and the program starts at 7PM. Please monitor the web site for future speakers.

Feb 11: Members of the BCKC white water community present their Spring 2007 trip down the west branch of the Pukaskwa River

Mar 10: TBA

April 14: TBA

May 12: TBA

Risk Management Meeting

When: 24 Feb 2008 from 13h00 – 16h00 (1-4PM)

Where: Essa Presbyterian Church 59 Essa Rd Barrie ON.



Summer Trip Planning Meeting

The summer trip panning meeting will be held on Tuesday 26 February 2008 at the domicile of Mike Harrison. All trip leaders and prospective trip leaders are encouraged to attend. Contact Mike at harrison6@rogers.com or 705-727-9716 for directions. The availability of sticky buns is yet to be determined at his time.



Remaining Winter Trip Schedule for 2008

| DATES | DESTINATION | ACTIVITY | REQUIRED SKILLS | LEADER | TRIP DETAILS |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|--|
| FEB-09-08 | HORSESHOE VALLEY | X-C SKI | X-C SKIING | HANNE NIELSEN | APPROX 3HRS-12:30>3:00PM |
| FEB-10-08 | BEETON WOODS | SKI-SNOWSHOE | SKI- OR SNOWSHOE | ROSS RUTLEY | SKI OR SNOWSHOE AROUND BEETON WOODS -APPROX 5-7KM(POSSIBLY SKATE ON THE BEAVER POND) |
| FEB-16-08 | BLUEBERRY TRAILS | XC-SKI | XC-SKI | ANTHONY TALIANA | APPROX 4 HRS |
| FEB-17-08 | MINESING WETLANDS | SNOWSHOE | SNOWSHOE | ED IRWIN | DETAILS TO FOLLOW |
| FEB-23-08 | FRED'S PLACE | SNOWSHOE | SNOWSHOE | FRED SCHWARZ | HIKE THE VALLY AND RIDGE IN THE MOONLIGHT |
| FEB-27-07 (WED) | MOUNTIAN VIEW – MIDLAND | X-C SKI | SKI | ROSS RUTLEY | 11:00AM >3:00PM |
| MAR-08-08 | HORSESHOE VALLEY | X-C SKI | X-C SKIING | HANNE NIELSEN | APPROX 3HRS-12:30>3:00PM |
| MAR-29-08 | HEAD RIVER | WHITE WATER PADDLE | MW-1 | JOHN RANKIN | SPRING BREAKUP DEPENDENT |
| APR-05-08 | HEAD RIVER | WHITE WATER PADDLE | MW-1 | JOHN RANKIN | SPRING BREAKUP DEPENDENT |

The Trip to Temagami by Fred and the Gang

Life was very good on Lady Evelyn. Although perhaps too windy – in the wrong direction, but the sun shone, the company was excellent and the food was great.

The Whites rented a canoe from Wilderness Dreams. Great staff who were very helpful and accommodating at very competitive prices. We would recommend renting a canoe from their location in New Liskeard – within 10 minutes of the Mowat Landing exit rather than points south.

Most of our tour was within the Lady Evelyn Park for which interior park permits are required.

Putting in at Mowat Landing, we paddled west on Lady Evelyn into a head wind and after the eskers set up camp. Next day was spend heading to Sucker Lake followed by a 2 hour climb/scramble to see the view from the top of Maple Mountain. Blueberries galore on the top, but also black flies – we couldn't understand why they were there – no water?

Due to the head winds, the group decided not to proceed with the original plan to paddle through to Diamond Lake. Instead we decided to take advantage of the 'short' cut – two portages – to cut the traveling distance in half. This provided us with the opportunity to spend more time enjoying our surroundings than paddling into the wind. We were on vacation!

We spent a day going to Frank's Falls and then onto Centre Falls, which was the highlight of the trip.

The next day we headed for the portages which although not too long 500 m. were very rocky. Then we headed along the east side of Lady Evelyn on our way back to Mowat Landing.

We had access to 3 different versions of maps of the Lake – topographic, the tour book and the tour/topo map plus a GPS. All of the map versions were needed especially within the small islands.

Attention should be paid to the number of participants on a trip – max. of 9 according to the park, however many sites could not accommodate the number of tents for such a group.

Thanks to Fred (Comrade Black) and to Hanna (I don't cook on canoe trips) for the tripping skills and to Catherine (Maple Mountain fan), Bill (I only use one pair of shoes) and Sophie the Wonder Dog, from Glenn (I like a chair), Jonathan (the fire guy), Trevor (Comrade Vice) and Gail (where is the moose).

Gail White

Club Directors for 2008

| Board of Directors | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| <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 |
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| <i>Courses</i> | Charlotte Piprell | | |
| <i>Membership</i> | Sue Whalen | katsura.whelen@sympatico.ca | 705-327-2486 |
| <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> | Susan Eves | sseves@hotmail.com | 705-252-2345 |
| <i>Moving Water Canoe</i> | Bud Burke | budburke@rogers.com | 705-436-6125 |
| <i>Moving Water Kayak</i> | Mike Harrison | klmh6@rogers.com | 705-7279716 |
| <i>Sea Kayak</i> | John Brennan | brennanjohn@gmail.com | 705-726-7768 |
| <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> | Open | | |
| <i>Newsletter/ Website</i> | David Hyndman | dbhynd@sympatico.ca | 705-792-1506 |

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

Governance Questionnaire Jan 2008

Please take a few minutes to read the attached questionnaire, then fill it out and bring the Feb 11 meeting or e-mail it to Marilyn Clark at mclark@csolve.net. Your participation would be most appreciated. Thank-you.