

CanoeSki Spring News 2016



U of S Social Sciences Research Lab staff on the South Saskatchewan River, July 2015

We have a fabulous river on our doorstep and the popular portion of the river from Gardiner Dam to Saskatoon was christened the [Chief Whitecap Waterway](#) last June and inducted into the prestigious Trans Canada Trail network. This is a unique designation, but the only hitch is that trail users need a boat to make their way down this trail! This is where CanoeSki comes into the picture providing a [canoe rental & shuttle service](#) for DIY canoeists and of course, full outfitting and guiding for groups as usual. CanoeSki has provided some advice and assistance to the CWW during the planning/implementation phases of the project. Over the last year or so, a website with trip routes and maps plus basic camp facilities at designated sites have been added to the waterway trail. Check it out for ideas for your next river adventure.

On the topic of river trails, I need to also add a plug for paddling the portion of the river north of Saskatoon to Batoche or St. Louis. This is an intensely historic section, particularly the Fish Creek, Petite Ville, Gabriel's Crossing and Batoche areas. Getting an acquaintance with the 1885 conflict zones via the river provides a unique perspective on events and places that have greatly influenced Saskatchewan and Canadian history. It's an experience that few people have, but you can take in on our [River Trails of 1885](#) overnight and day tours.

Speaking of Batoche, you'll be able to participate in a revived version of the once-popular [Louis Riel Relay Race](#), officially announced last month to take place Aug 20-21 at Batoche National Historic Site. They've spiced up the relay with archery and biking in addition to the former favourites of horse-back riding, pack running and canoeing. I've been trying to convince the organizers to include voyageur canoes, but to date haven't heard back on my suggestion. I just want to know what could be more apropos than historic canoes racing around on the river at a national historic site!

Tourism Saskatchewan does a great job of promoting events and historic sites and such province-wide. Their latest website presentation opens with a stunning video of canoeing on the Churchill River. It's a must-see, but first you should see the most important stuff – their presentation on vacation packages. I've listed nine of the more popular [CanoeSki packages](#) there – packages, because we supply everything on our tours except your personal effects and sleeping bag. We worked together getting those listings all ship-shape with photos and maps, etc. I'm happy with the way things look and grateful to Tourism Sask for this advertising opportunity. Now, if you click on their home tab, you can watch that stunning video clip!



Saskatoon's River History & fall corn roast trip on the South Saskatchewan River, Sept 2015

Both Tourism Saskatchewan and Tourism Saskatoon host media people to familiarize them with provincial and local attractions. Since Saskatoon is essentially a river city, the media itineraries sometimes include a canoe jaunt with CanoeSki. Then we usually get mentioned in a blog or news article sometime after the event. One of these jaunts involved a Manitoba journalist reporting [her visit to Saskatoon](#) in the Winnipeg Free Press. In her words, Saskatoon had lots of interesting and “quirky” things to do, one of which was a canoe trip under the downtown bridges!

The media impressions of Saskatoon are mostly overwhelmingly positive, which figures since their itineraries are designed to hit the city's best features. Another writer from Quebec submitted a story to the Destination Canada site on [Ten Cultural Experiences You Need to Catch in Saskatoon](#). CanoeSki made the list at number 6! We've finally made it to lofty cultural heights! But overall, for most media folks, food and drink seem to rate highest on Saskatoon's list of local attractions!

Some of our best writers are not from the media, but could be some day. That would be the case of Sarah, a young Regina student who came on a CanoeSki tour to Prince Albert National Park over a year ago. She was working on her Silver Award in outdoor adventure with the Duke of Edinburgh achievement program. Sixteen-year-old Sarah and her dad made the trek by canoe to Grey Owl's cabin and Sarah sent me a very well-written account of her first canoe trip and first encounter with Grey Owl. [Sarah's Story](#) is now on the CanoeSki site along with photos I took on our trip. It's well worth a read.

Back on the home front, an immediately up-coming annual event for anyone within reasonable distance of Saskatoon is the [Saskatoon Canoe Club's Open House & BBQ](#) on May 1st, 12-4 pm at the Victoria Park Boathouse. Everyone is welcome. Join the club, try out the boats, and enjoy a free burger. CanoeSki will be there promoting canoe lessons and tours plus [Souris River Canoes](#). The Club just purchased a brand new Souris River Wilderness 18 model, the most popular tripping canoe in their boathouse fleet. We took the club's old W-18 in trade (CanoeSki sold it to them 8 years ago) to give it a thorough restoration. You should give this stunning looking new canoe a spin – just 45 lbs. of pure paddling pleasure!

Coming up within a month on the CanoeSki agenda is our [Wilderness Navigation Course](#) on May 29. Registrations are rolling in for this popular course including 3 members of the Saskatoon Police Service. Last year, two RCMP members took the course, so it appears map & compass skills are valued well beyond the typical recreational crowd! Next on the agenda are [Learn to Canoe classes](#) and Paddling Workshops throughout June followed by the summer tour schedule.

Want to go on a wilderness canoe tour? Leave the time-consuming hassles of preparing to us and come along on a nice relaxing vacation instead!

Hoping we soon get some serious spring rain to restore our depleting reservoirs (but not while I'm canoeing!). See you on the water!



Learn to Canoe session at Lakeview Lake, Saskatoon June 2015

Cliff Speer

CanoeSki Discovery Company
Wilderness Canoeing & Skiing EcoExplorations
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
Tel: 306-653-5693
<http://www.canoeski.com>
cliff@canoeski.com