

CanoeSki Spring News 2013



A bit of water has passed under the bridges since last spring's e-newsletter. The new [CanoeSki website](#) that was still in gestation at that time made its debut on-line in early December. If you haven't been there yet, it's worth taking a peek.

You'll see a completely new presentation, a lot of new content and lots more photos. Fascinating stories written by people on CanoeSki courses and trips that have been waiting for the new site are now waiting to be read! A blog and a Twitter feed are incorporated in the home page to keep everyone in touch with CanoeSki doings. Many thanks to Kerry Mitchell for a great effort on design and getting the new site functioning smoothly. If you're on Facebook, you can mosey on over to [CanoeSki Discovery Company](#) and join the growing fan base by "liking" us.

We had a long snowy winter, so great for skiing and fodder for a few skiing articles in the new CanoeSki blog. Take a look at [Learn to Ski with Tourism Saskatchewan](#) and an accompanying humorous YouTube video. A Learn to Ski Plus student submitted a skiing story entitled [A Tale of the Trails](#), well worth a read!

Winter and skiing seemed to go on forever, but spring has finally burst forth from hiding and summer canoeing is on the near horizon. An exciting new direction for CanoeSki is an addition to the northern waterways canoe trips entitled [Canoeing & Painting in the Wild](#). I entered one of my photographs in a juried art show last fall and got acquainted with an accomplished local artist who suggested combining canoeing and painting. We've worked out the logistics of a really appealing program, so if painting is your preference and with wilderness flair, jump on board! Tourism Saskatchewan's June [SaskSecrets](#) e-newsletter will feature the Canoeing & Painting package. Watch for it or subscribe to get monthly issues of SaskSecrets to your inbox.

Another new partnership was forged, this time on the courses front with the "world's foremost outfitter" a.k.a. Cabela's. Their [in-store weekly events](#) run the gamut from archery and fly tying for women to Map & Compass in the case of CanoeSki. I'll try to compress the complexities of wilderness navigation into a 2-hour session on May 25th. A tall order, I know, but I'm anticipating it will be more of a teaser to convince participants to enroll in our full day [Wilderness Navigation Course](#) running June 2nd.

Moving on to canoeing courses, there's a slate of new [Learn to Canoe Mini-courses](#) – 4-hour sessions starting May 26, meant to fill a need created by the Canoe Club over the last several years. The Club has withdrawn from administering these short courses for their members, preferring to let local suppliers fill the gap. The mini-courses will provide a limited opportunity for skill development, but will touch on the basics. Our regular 12-hour Learn to Canoe Plus course is the full meal deal with a lake session plus a full day trip on the river.

Canoeing inevitably involves journalism of some sort. Last spring it was [Gabriel's Country](#), a profile of the River Trails of 1885 trip by Westworld magazine (p.22). This spring Explore Magazine profiles the same CanoeSki trip as one of 18 Canadian eco-adventures in threatened

places in its article on the [South Saskatchewan River](#). Also this spring, women's adventure travel gets press again in the re-incarnation of a piece originally appearing in the Canadian Tourism Commission's on-line Media Centre. The current version profiling the CanoeSki [Women & Waves](#) trip on the Churchill River has popped up in WestJet's in-flight Up magazine under the title [Canada's Best Gal Pal Getaways](#). The accompanying classy picture of a gal solo canoeing through gilded lily pads is a CanoeSki shot circa 1990.

There's usually a budding journalist on at least one of the season's canoe trips willing to tell their story, especially if they've had an extra good time. Last August our [Rock Art & Bannock Trip](#) on the Churchill River was a great candidate for a trip tale. Five days of picture perfect weather, no bugs at all (a rare occurrence) and a fun-loving compatible group made for a pretty happy story. You can share the dream of paddling in northern Saskatchewan by checking out [Robbie's Story](#) in my Blog.

Now that the blogging yoke has firmly settled on my shoulders, there'll be more to come – lots more when you get mixed up with media types! This is slated to happen soon in mid-June when the Travel Media Association of Canada members descend on Saskatoon for their annual conference. CanoeSki has been commandeered to show several attendees a good time following the [River Trails of 1885](#) on the South Saskatchewan River. We've secured Butch Amundson, well-known local archaeologist/historian, on board to prime everyone on river heritage topics and the Métis Resistance, as we wend our way downstream to Batoche.

Speaking of river heritage, the South Saskatchewan River is in the process of being inducted into the hallowed hall of Canadian Heritage Rivers. You can get updated on the process by visiting the [SaskRivers website](#). The latest event was a "River Gathering" of stakeholders at Wanuskewin to provide input into the management plan and legacy document. The river is expected to be officially designated as a Heritage River prior to a national Heritage Rivers Conference convening in Saskatoon next spring.

Natural heritage in Saskatoon is being celebrated city-wide with a new and exciting public event, [Nature City Festival](#) May 25-31 – a week long immersion in birds and bees, plants and trees, and much more inaugural excitement! CanoeSki is sponsoring a Learn to Canoe Plus package as a prize draw at the grand finale May 31. Come out and join in the fun!

Have a safe, exhilarating and fun-filled summer season!

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