

Table of Contents

General Manager's Report.....	1
The End of the Famous Rupert River.....	2
Report from the Board.....	2
The Royal Visit 2007.....	3
Personal Reflections on the Lakefield canoe companies.....	4
CCM Core Values.....	6
The <i>Great Canadian Canoes</i> Exhibit.....	7
Notices and Events.....	8

General Manager's Report

by Janice Griffith



The first quarter has been a whirlwind of activity. Our attendance is well over last year's for the same time period. We had a sold out fundraising dinner in January (thanks, **Kenner Collegiate**), a sold out Brunch in February (thanks, **Electric City Gardens** and thanks, **Kirk Wipper**), sold out March Break Programs and a sold out Musical Evening with **Swing It!** Jazz vocalists in April. Following that, we partnered with the **Wildlands League** for a presentation on the Vanishing Caribou.

Rounding it all off was a visit May 2 from our Royal Patron, His Royal Highness, **Prince Andrew**, the Duke of York. Our exhibit design team of **Kim Watson**, **Jeremy Ward** and **James Raffan** put together a permanent Exhibit of the three Royal Canoes that came into our collection a year ago and HRH opened this exhibit. We were pleased to offer a lunch with HRH to our significant donors, courtesy of **Melody Homes**.

In February we welcomed **Susan Wood** to our staff team as Marketing Coordinator. Marketing was a key priority identified in our strategic planning process and funding has been obtained for this position for one year. Sue started with us as a front desk volunteer over a year ago, and quickly became our IT specialist. She has already proven invaluable in managing our database of volunteers, members and donors and in getting the word out about our Museum in many venues we were unable to tap previously.

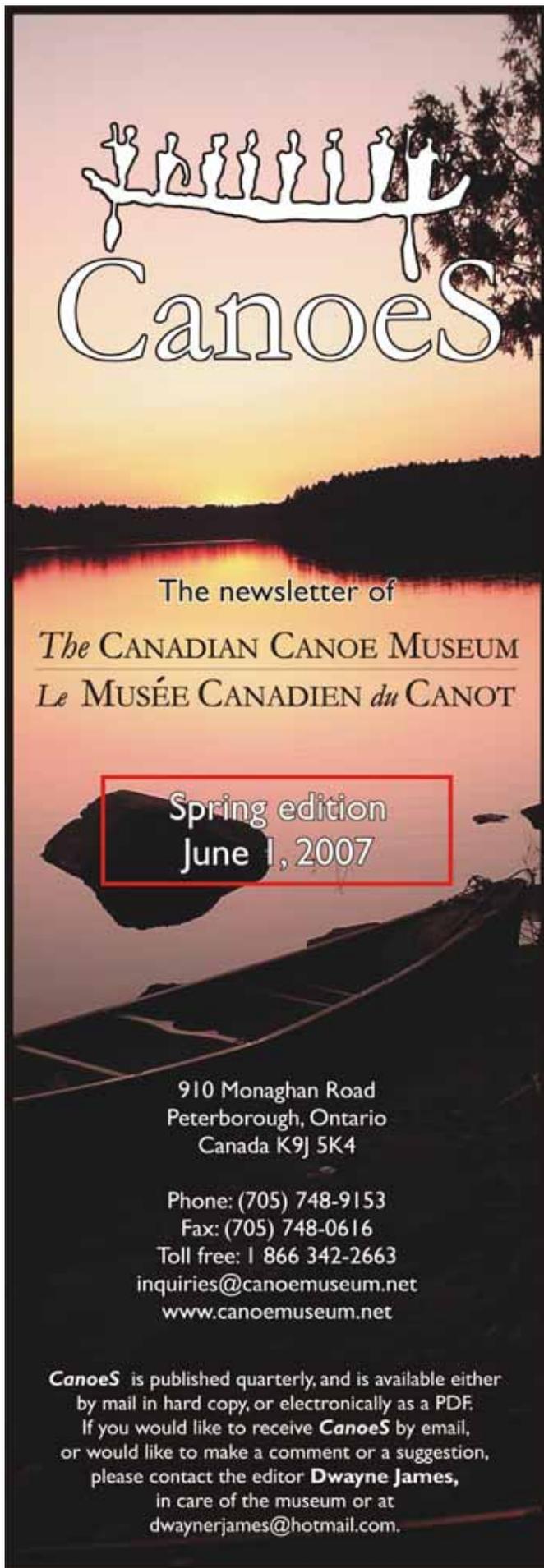
At present we are gearing up for a full slate of events and activities. Please read about them in this newsletter and, if you are able come out and support them.

We are also getting ready for our Summer Day Camp program, the Summer Teacher's Institute and are anxiously awaiting word on funding for summer students so that we can get them in place.

The project to digitally document the collection is making progress with the purchase of museum specific software, courtesy of the Herb Pohl Memorial Fund, and the hiring of **Dick Persson** for a day a week as a consultant to share his knowledge and expertise in identifying canoes.

And finally, we are looking at ways to make our Museum more "green", starting with our lighting system. We are piloting replacement of some of our energy-guzzling specialized lighting for exhibits with more energy efficient alternatives.

Happy Paddling! I hope to see many of you over the summer as you bring your friends and relatives to visit our Museum that is, in the words of our Royal Patron "very, very important in the panoply of heritage of this country."



Canoes

The newsletter of
The CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM
Le MUSÉE CANADIEN du CANOT

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The End of the Famous Rupert River

by Jeremy Ward

Hopefully, you joined us at the Canadian Canoe Museum Friday, June 1st 2007 as CBC Radio personality and seasoned wilderness guide **Nick Purdon** took us on a virtual canoe trip down the Rupert River before it gets dammed up.

Now, here's your chance to paddle the Rupert River yourself with the Canadian Canoe Museum and expedition outfitters Wanapitei CANOE.

Soon, Quebec's mighty Rupert River will all but cease to flow. This past January (2007), final approval was given to dam and divert this legend from flowing its natural course into James Bay. This powerful waterway has been home to Cree peoples for thousands of years. It has hosted countless canoe brigades of the fur trade, and was also the site of the first Hudson's Bay Company post in Canada (1688) at Rupert House. More recently, it has also seen many recreational canoeists enjoying its natural grandeur and cultural history as they follow its path to the Bay.

The Canadian Canoe Museum is pleased to partner with expedition outfitters



Photo of Oatmeal falls in 2006 by Robin Rivison

Wanapitei CANOE in offering our friends the chance for one last look at this river at its best. The trip put-in for this seven-day trip is at the spectacular Rupert ("Oatmeal") falls (pictured above), with paddlers eventually arriving at the Cree community of **Waskaganish** and the historic Rupert

House.

Dates: August 20 to 26, 2007

Cost: \$1595.00

For more full information on this and other courses, please contact Jeremy Ward at the Canadian Canoe Museum.

Email: jerry.ward@canoemuseum.net

Report from the Board

by Barry Diceman

The Annual General Meeting of the CCM was held April 25, 2007 with 35 members attending plus 23 proxies. Prior to the meeting, the East Peterborough Lion's Club presented the CCM with a cheque for \$15,000 for renovations to the Education Centre.

Thank you to **Dwight Boyd** for the excellent production of the Annual Report. Our thanks also to **Lazer Graphics** for their generous contribution to our printing costs and final layout. A terrific result.

Verne McKay announced his resignation from the Chair position of the board. The vice chair, **Barry Diceman** was nominated to the position of CCM Board Chair. At time of writing, some executive positions remain to be filled.

During his May 2nd visit, His Royal Highness, the Duke of York, challenged each member to recruit a new CCM member, a challenge which I convey to each member. The Canadian Canoe Museum needs you.

The CCM greatly appreciates the support of kayak enthusiast **Jeannine Taylor** and award winning **Quid Novis Internet Productions** for hosting and maintaining our website and email services.

Their continued support is invaluable, saving the museum thousands of dollars over several years. Please visit quidnovis.ca for more information or call 705-742-6404.

Exhibit Sponsorship

The Canadian Canoe Museum is grateful to annual sponsors of our Exhibits

- Lockington Lawless Fitzpatrick
- Goodfellow & Dougherty
- Mrs. Elizabeth Spratt
- The Weston Foundation (in Memory of Edwin Goodman)

Proceeds from Exhibit Sponsorship provide for the ongoing protection of our collection through stability in our operating funding. Additional sponsorship opportunities are available. For information contact Janice Griffith, General Manager



The Royal Visit 2007

by Mollie Cartmell with photos by Michael Cullen

His Royal Highness, Prince Andrew, Duke of York, positively bounded from his car and across the Hunter Street sidewalk to greet Canadian Canoe Museum chair **Barry Diceman**, and his wife **Barb**. (Museum board-member **Terry Guest** was left scurrying around the vehicle in order to catch-up and make the necessary introductions.)



So started the most recent Canadian Canoe Museum "royal visit"!

At a lunch for invited guests, His Royal Highness initiated lively banter and conversation with many participants.

Chief Knott of Curve Lake provided a greeting and blessing in both English and an Anishnabee dialect; immediately Prince Andrew engaged him in a discussion of his comments, at one point asking light-

heartedly, "How do we know that's what you really said?"

Not to be outdone—and to laughter all round—**Chief Knott's** reply was "When my people signed their "X" on the white-man's treaties, how did we know what they really said?"

Later during a walk-about at the Canoe Museum, His Royal Highness spent about fifteen minutes with a group of city and county politicians, during which he challenged them to "... find ways..." for the

museum to access federal funds, and to be eligible for major foundation and endowment monies.

Museum artisans **Hal Bowen** and **Neil Broadfoot** had hand-carved and decorated a personal paddle for His Royal Highness; when the item was presented, the Duke of



York received some good-natured ribbing from 99 year-old canoe builder *extraordinaire* **Walter Walker**, who demanded to know "What are you going to do with that, now that you've given away your canoe?"

Later at a small reception in the Education Centre, Hal and Neil respectively "sized" His Royal Highness for his paddle and explained both the hand-carving and the art-work.

Genial and personable through the afternoon, Prince Andrew regaled members and invited guests with details of his hours of personal canoe instruction below the dam in Lakefield.

In his comments both after lunch and later at the Canadian Canoe Museum, Prince Andrew indicated a solid understanding of the financial and membership challenges facing the museum; he had clearly been very well-briefed.

The Duke of York closed his comments for the afternoon with a heartfelt double challenge to everyone present to increase museum membership and to develop a museum foundation which over time, would allow the museum a greater degree of financial stability.



Perssonal Reflections on the Lakefield canoe companies

by Dick Persson

I often receive questions regarding the different canoe companies of Lakefield. There seems to be a great interest but surprisingly not much printed information about this, through family and business, interconnected group of builders. This is an attempt to present the various companies and their part in Lakefield's canoe building history.

Thomas Gordon Canoes

Thomas Gordon (1833-1916), one of the pioneer builders of canoes, began manufacturing wide board canoes in Lakefield ca. 1858.

The Strickland family early lent him support in many ways, including economically. The business quickly grew, and before long, orders were coming



in from overseas as well as from North America. In 1886, he exported forty-one canoes to Europe and participated in the British Empire Exhibition, London, England with five canoes. He was awarded the Prince of Wales Medal. Highest awards were also awarded to him at the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia and the 1893 Chicago World's fair.

The company produced wide-board, rib & raised batten, - & metallic joint, - & flush batten and cedar-strip canoes and skiffs. For a time his company also produced the "Douglas Folding Canoe".

In 1904 his company merged with the Strickland & Co, also known as Lakefield Canoe Works.

Many if not all of the earlier canoe builders of Lakefield worked for or learned their trade from Thomas Gordon. To mention a few; **James G. Brown**, **John E. Richardson**, **Charles Grylls** and **George A. Strickland**. Gordon's sons also became well known

canoe and boat builders and due to their similar business names today are often confused with their father's firm. **Gilbert**, the youngest son, formed the *Gordon Canoe Company*, Bobcaygeon in 1909. The company changed name to *Gordon Boat Works* when **Charles Gordon**, Gilbert's older brother took over in 1926.

Richardson & Grylls

Very little is known of this company, but it was reported that in addition to building for the local market, they exported canoes to England. **Charles Grylls** also worked with Thomas Gordon and later with the Stricklands as did **John Richardson**.

If anyone can supply more information about this company or these individuals, I would be grateful.

The Brown Boat Company



James G. Brown (1851-1920) was a former house builder/developer who constructed many homes in Lakefield. J.G. Brown also worked on and off for his mentor, Thomas Gordon. He is said to have had an argument

with one of the Strickland's and quit his job with the Gordon Canoe Co. In the mid 1870's he purchased a property on Water Street and made a

first attempt to produce canoes. In 1887 he made a

second attempt, and this began nearly half a century of building canoes, skiffs and small outboard boats. His canoes and skiffs became as famous as Gordon's and Strick-

lands.

The company produced; wide-board, rib & raised batten canoes, - & flush batten canoes, - & metallic batten canoes, cedar-strip canoes and canvas covered canoes as well as skiffs and outboard motor boats.

"Absolute honesty and fair dealing have characterized The Brown Boat Company during its long career of steady progress. You can order a "Red Feather" Canoe a thousand miles away and be sure of getting the best that money can buy." (From their promotional material.)

Early on, the company also rented out canoes and row-boats, from its waterside property on Water Street. In November 1920 James Brown died at an age of 69 years. The company was taken over by his youngest son, **Fred Brown** (1890 - 1938), and upon his death in December 1938, the company was closed.

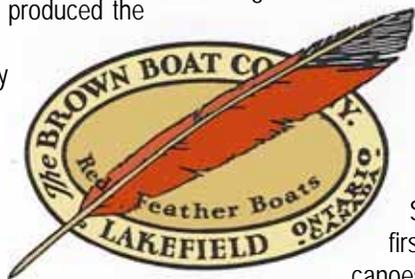
Sail-Craft Co.



The Brown Boat Company assets were later purchased by **George Cook** who started Sail-Craft Co, a company building primarily cedar-strip sailboats. This company was closed during part of the Second World War. They built sailboats until about 1956 and later also tried their hand at building fiberglass boats.

Strickland & Co, aka Lakefield Canoe Works

In 1892, **Robert Strickland** and his son **George Arthur** established the company Strickland & Co - Lakefield Canoe Works. George had previously worked for Thomas Gordon as well as independently on a small scale. In the spring of 1893 the company



was destroyed by fire so they purchased "the People's Christian Association" hall for \$620 and converted it into a canoe factory.

With his father living in England, handling the sales for Europe, the company became very successful.

In June 1893, a cablegram was received with an order for a canoe for Her Royal Highness Princess Mary of Teck (later H.M. Queen Mary) on the occasion of her marriage. The canoe was 16 feet long with a beam of 30 inches and weighing 50 lbs. It was constructed with alternate strips of Spanish and Canadian white cedar and trimmed with mahogany, birdseye and curly maple. This was the first of three canoes sent to Princess Mary.

The *Peterborough Examiner* reported in 1898 that the company that year had shipped 200 canoes to England, 100 canoes to the Yukon and 25 freighters to be used as patrol boats in Africa.

In July of 1904, the Strickland & Co and the Thomas Gordon Canoe companies merged forming the Lakefield Canoe Building and Mfr. Co.

Lakefield Canoe Building and Manufacturing Co



The directors of the new company were; E.R. Tate, J.E. Richardson, Wm. Babbie, Geo Babbie, and H.G. Fitzgerald.

Around midnight on December 23rd 1910, the factory building, machinery, moulds, patterns and material were destroyed by fire. A large brick building was built on the same site. After the strain of rebuilding and the 1913 recession, the now cash strapped company secured financial backing from Sir H. Pellat of Casa Loma fame, Toronto. In

1919, the company again found itself in financial troubles and was now taken over by Sir H. Pellat, who reorganized the company and sold it back to some of its former directors.

Lakefield Canoe & Boat Co.

The company name was changed to Lakefield Canoe & Boat Co. It flourished for a couple of years and survived the depression through a rather strong export of canoes to Europe, especially to England but also to France.

However, new troubles forced Royal Bank to step in on November 1st 1938 and a bankruptcy trustee was appointed. The assets of the company were sold.

The company produced: wide-board, rib & raised batten, - & metallic joint, - & flush batten, longitudinal cedar-strip and canvas covered canoes. They also made punts, skiffs, motor boats and launches.



Lakefield Boats Limited

A new company named Lakefield Boats Limited was established in the early 1940's. During the war the company survived building crates, tent poles, folding army tables, mallets and a few boats for the domestic market. After the war the company specialized in building cedar-strip runabouts and dinghies, but no canoes. On April 14th, 1953 the plant burned to the ground, but was rebuilt again. In the late 1950's fiberglass boats took over the market. The company manufactured the Wizard fiberglass boats unsuccessfully on contract for a short period.

RILCO Industries Limited

In January 1962, Rilco Industries Limited was established in Lakefield. The new company purchased the plant of Lakefield Boats Ltd. Included in the purchase was also the rights to continue building the well-known line of Lakefield cedar strip outboard boats. Under the trade marks of Lakefield Boats and Richardson Aqua-Craft the company produced a diversified line of pleasure craft from canoes to motorboats and also sailboats.

(General Manager was Jack Richardson, the former GM of the defunct Peterborough Canoe Co., President was A.H. Lewis, V. President was R.H. Carley, Secretary/Treasurer was Len Ireland, Sales Manager was John Carveth, Plant Superintendent was Karl Bluett, and Production Manager/Foreman was Walter Walker) All the key men in the plant had many years of boat building experience behind them. Rilco Industries concentrated on cedar-strip construction, molded plywood and lapstrake plywood planked boats.

The company produced two model lines of cedar strip canoes and canvas covered canoes: The Lakefield Boats model line, and the Richardson Aquacraft model line.

The Richardson Aquacraft model line has a black and gold script text decal and the Lakefield Boats model line has an Indian-head decal. The serial number is stamped on the inside stems and on a metal deck plate.

The company lasted until the fall of 1967. Its assets were auctioned off in early 1968.

When Rilco Industries closed its doors the era of large scale manufacturing of wooden canoes and boats in Lakefield came to an end.

Peel Marine

Peel Marine, a small repair and custom wooden canoe and boat building firm was established in the late 1950's by Stewart Peel, a former canoe builder with Peterborough Canoe Co. In 1968, Walter Walker joined the company. Peel Marine today owned by Rick Collier, still builds the odd cedar-strip canoe to order.

Walter Walker



After he retired from Peel Marine, Walter Walker continued building canoes in the basement of his home in Lakefield, where he still can occasionally be seen plying his trade in his 100th year, his last canoe not having seen the light of day yet.



CCM Core Values

by James Raffan

In a report on marketing the museum submitted to the CCM board in May 2006, volunteer **Mike Paterson** made the observation that the first step in developing a cohesive marketing plan would be to identify the "core values" which define the *raison d'être* of the museum.

Recognizing that this exercise would ultimately reflect on every aspect of museum operations, CCM General Manager, **Janice Griffith**, asked the new Curator, **James Raffan**, in January 2007 to consult broadly with board, staff and volunteers, past and present, to draft for discussion an articulation of what these might be.

A first draft was submitted to CCM Staff & Marketing Committee on March 13, 2007. A second draft was submitted to the board for discussion on March 21. And that same draft was considered at a morning meeting of the Operations Group on March 22, which resulted in endorsement of the five-part C.A.N.O.E. headings with full approval pending on changes to wording contained in a third version of the document.

Following a period of feedback and comment on the 3rd version, a third and final draft was put before the board and given unanimous approval on April 18, 2007.

The plan is to make this a "living" document, in so far as it will be subject to periodic review and possible reworking, but we intend to use it to guide in all future decision making at the Canadian Canoe Museum. An accompanying document (not shown here) is a set of questions, based on each of these core values, that will provide a set of tests to determine how any future initiative or proposed plan aligns

with the core values of the institution. We are always interested in feedback from the membership on activities at the museum and especially your views on this important new document. The Core Values were presented at the Annual General Meeting, and

a poster-sized version of the document was signed by all present as a symbolic show of solidarity and support for this important process that marks something of a refocusing of priorities for future initiatives here at the museum.

The CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM Le MUSÉE CANADIEN du CANOE

CORE VALUES

C

The CCM values first, stewardship of its **COLLECTION**—the craft, artifacts, and research materials related to canoes, kayaks, and self-propelled water travel—striving to be known as *the* destination all things "canoe" by celebrating, documenting, preserving, handling & conserving the collection in ways befitting its uniqueness and value.

A

The CCM values the **ABORIGINAL ROOTS** and the natural origins of the collection—celebrating where possible and appropriate the people and places, cultures and traditions, the faces and the stories, of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples from which the Canadian canoeing tradition has grown.

N

The CCM values a **NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE**, meaning commitment to situating the collection and related activities (exhibits, research, education, outreach) in a context that honours the full historic continuum of craft, builders, building traditions, and stories of self-propelled water craft from coast to coast to coast in Canada.

O

The CCM values **ORGANIZATION** (as a *noun*) as in nurturing of board, staff, volunteers, membership and the museum itself as a functioning, cohesive community, as well, (as a *verb*) meaning commitment to acting respectfully & responsibly, striving for excellence and environmental sustainability in all things.

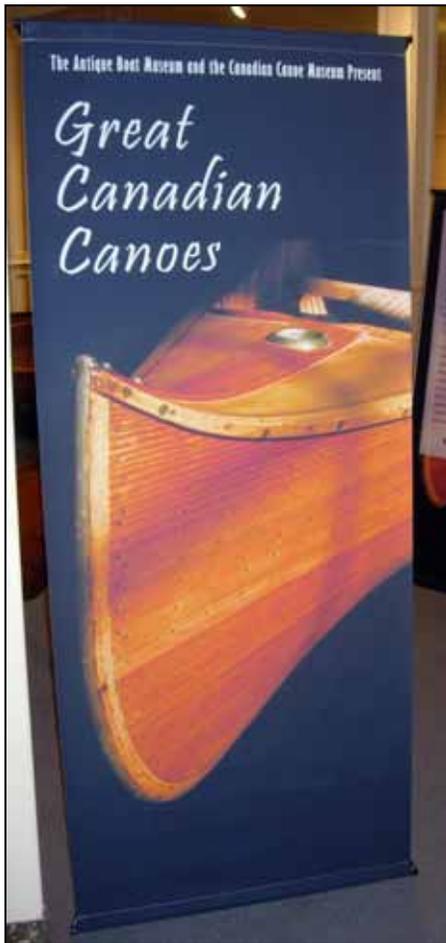
E

The CCM values collaborative **EXPERIENCE**, meaning it seeks where possible and appropriate to avoid flat transmission of canoe-related knowledge, opting instead to create in its exhibits and programs a progression of *fresh* hands-on *experiences* in which visitors can actively explore canoes and canoeing traditions.



The Great Canadian Canoes Exhibit

The Canadian Canoe Museum has entered into a collaborative partnership with



the **Antique Boat Museum** of Clayton, New York with the opening of a new temporary exhibit called **Great Canadian Canoes**. The exhibit consists of seven canoes housed in the *Arthur Child Heritage Museum* on the waterfront in the town of Gananoque, Ontario; six of from the ABM collection, and one from the CCM.

The partnership began in April when the CCM communicated with the staff at the ABM, the Gananoque Town Council and the Executive Director and Board Chair of the Arthur Child Heritage Museum about collaborating on this summer's temporary exhibit.

There was positive response from all quarters, so **Jeremy Ward, Kim Watson and James Raffan** drafted a short list of possible boats to contribute. Then, through discussion with **John Summers** Chief Curator of the ABM, it was decided that the CCM would provide a 1916 +/- Lakefield wide board canoe (see article on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter for more on Lakefield canoes).



The entire exhibit was put together very quickly. Banner text with images and history about the six canoe companies represented in the exhibit were compiled with the help of **Dick Persson, Roger MacGregor and Doug Bickerton**.

The Official 2007 Season Opening for this exhibit, as well as a second one called **Gananoque in the Gilded Age 1863-1890**, took place on Friday, May 18th with **Barry and Barb Diceman, James' wife, Gail Simmons** and CCM General Manager **Janice Griffith** in attendance.

In another collaborative development that has "international incident" written all over it, plans are currently underway to organize a paddle of the museum's Montreal canoe as a part of the ABM's Small Craft Festival in mid July. The idea is to have CCM paddlers dressed in full Voyageur costumes and, by paddling the 10 kilometers across the St. Lawrence river into New York state, draw some attention to the ABM/CCM relationship past and future.

The ABM is actively considering the construction of a permanent satellite museum in Gananoque, so it is hoped that this initial collaboration will lead to a stronger and broader working arrangement in the future.



Notices and Events

Find out more at www.canoemuseum.net

Seeking Volunteers.

Please see the special insert included in this newsletter

May 22 to June 22nd

Life of Water Photographic Exhibit

In the main lobby of the museum. Striking black and white images, 100 Canadian photographers capture our relationship with water.

Friday, June 8th

Raffle Draw

Draw for the Capote (Hudson's Bay Blanket Coat) and the 16' Nova Craft Canoe at noon at the museum.

June 7 to 10th

Festival Fair

Festival of Lights Fundraiser hosted by the CCM in our parking Lot. Includes a Midway with children's rides.

Friday, July 6th

Fundraiser - Barbecue at the Barn

Great food, great company, live music and a whole lot of fun have characterized the two previous events. Get your tickets early as we've sold out the past two years. Tickets now available.

July 2 to Aug 10

Kid's Summer Day Camp.

Challenge your child's imagination with a week at the Canadian Canoe Museum Summer Day Camp. An experience like no other! They will carve their own paddle, make kayaks, learn to paddle while day trip canoeing, carve soapstone, work with the arts, learn to play canoe music, dance, make fire, cook trail food, and through story, song and cooperative games, become steeped in the lore of the canoe – the icon that is Canada.

July 9 to 13th

Summer Institute I: ORCKA Canoe Tripping Level 2

With Bryan Poirier and Brooke Poirier

This is a week long canoe course that includes a three and a half day canoe trip, a day of moving water instruction, and a visit to the Canoe Museum. Participants successful in achieving their CT2 are then able to organize and lead short and multi-day canoe trips. This certification is integral in one's repertoire of skills for working with guiding organizations, educational bodies and other institutions that provide canoe tripping experiences.

Aug 13 to 17th

Summer Institute II: ORCKA Flatwater Instructor

With Phil Matsushita

This is an Instructor level course that allows participants to devote 5 full days to perfecting their tandem and solo canoeing skills with the main focus on instruction techniques and practice teaching. Participants who earn their Instructors certification are able to instruct and certify Flatwater A,B,C,D courses. This is a valuable credential for educators who want to teach canoeing skills to students or the public and also grant certification in the process.

June 30th to July 7th

Canoe Building Workshops

With Roger Foster and Ron Frenette

This summer, we are running two canoe-building courses at the museum. Over the course of eight days, participants will build either a wood and canvas canoe, or a wood-strip canoe.

What is the difference in these types of canoes?

The wood and canvas canoe is made in the traditional manner, fastening steam-bent ribs and planking over a form with clinched brass canoe tacks. The formed hull is enveloped with a layer of watertight canvas. This is a true classic with over a century of tradition.

The modern method of wood-strip canoe building is made by joining narrow, flexible strips of red cedar together over a form, and sealing both sides of the canoe with a layer of clear fibreglass. This method produces a light-weight hull, and allows the beauty of the wood to be appreciated inside and out.

At the end of both classes, a lottery-style draw will be held, and the winning student will take home the canoe for the additional cost of materials

Contact Susan at news@canoemuseum.net to join the latest email news.

This newsletter printed by **Whatley Technical Services**, Peterborough.

