

CanoeSki Spring News 2012



Residents of southern Saskatchewan are probably still recovering from the shell shock of a record breaking mild winter. It was pleasantly shocking not to worry about wind chill, but not so pleasant for those desperately searching for snow to get our annual fix of cross-country skiing!

The balmy winter seems to have carried on into spring, only with a bit of rain instead of flurries. So far, we're missing the proverbial warm winds of spring to bring forth buds on the willows. In Saskatoon, even the riverbank crocuses struggled to push forth their colorful herald of spring.

So much for weather chatter! On the CanoeSki news front, the big announcement anticipated for this spring has to be postponed till a later date. The CanoeSki company is pregnant with a new baby, but the gestation period has been more elephantine than rabbit-like! Hopefully, within another month or two, the labor pains will cease and the exciting new website will be delivered!

In the meantime, those who have facebook accounts can look up [CanoeSki Discovery Company](#) and give CanoeSki the thumbs up. It would be nice to get the "fan count" up to where it starts to reflect the hundreds of people that I've taught and taken on canoeing and skiing tours over the last 22 years! If you also have a Twitter account, you can follow [@CanoeSki Co](#) to keep in touch with "up to the minute" updates. I've been remiss in keeping the Twitter page active, but hope to try and keep it current in the months ahead.

Backing up the calendar to last season's tours, there were several that produced notable memories. One was the Women & Waves Churchill River trip which had the remarkable good fortune to land on the only 5 days of true summer that we had all season. The marvellous weather, stunning northern Saskatchewan scenery and total camaraderie are all captured on a short video by Tourism Saskatchewan, and along with a profile of this season's tour both are featured in their May issue of the e-newsletter [Sask Secrets](#). On the CanoeSki side, one of our women's leadership team who is a visual artist, created a special DVD memento of the trip for each of the 14 participants.

Another outstanding trip took place on the South Saskatchewan River over the September long weekend. This was one of the [River Trails of 1885](#) trips with archaeologist and historical interpreter Butch Amundson on board. Again the weather behaved miraculously and everyone learned a lot about the archaeology and historical conflicts connected to our river route. We also had local journalist Allan Casey on board on assignment with Westworld magazine. He produced an awesome story featured on the cover of their summer issue. Read the [article on-line](#) or check your mailbox if you're a CAA member.

After Labor Day weekend, summer really arrived in earnest making for a glorious fall throughout September and October, which made way for a few more river trips. One of these was with the the Great Canadian Adventure Tour on their cross-Canada adventure odyssey. The GCAT crew have produced numerous videos of their experiences; [Canoeing South Saskatchewan River](#) features their river trek with CanoeSki while exploring Saskatoon.

On the upcoming events tab, just around the corner on May 6 is the [Saskatoon Canoe Club Annual Open House & BBQ](#). This is a good opportunity for Saskatoon folks to drop in to the Victoria Park Boathouse, take a canoe or kayak for a paddle on the river, grab some refreshments and sign up for your seasonal membership. CanoeSki will be teaching a number of the beginner and intermediate canoeing courses for the Club this year.

A few weeks later on June 3 is the CanoeSki annual spring [Map & Compass Wilderness Navigation Course](#), a 2-part all day course in Saskatoon. A morning classroom session at the U of S campus followed by an afternoon orienteering session at Whitecap Park will give you the confidence to find your way in the wilderness. Essential skills for both the seafaring and land-lubbers!

The CanoeSki 2012 roster of canoeing courses and trips fill out the balance of the season. All details on dates, cost and locations are available on www.canoeski.com. Keep in mind we also sell the super light, durable and sharp looking Souris River Canoes for the discriminating paddler!

That's it for a catch-up on seasonal items. See you on the water when those warm winds of spring finally arrive!

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