



## The Fishing Station

Sandy Richardson

### MAIN STATION ISLAND

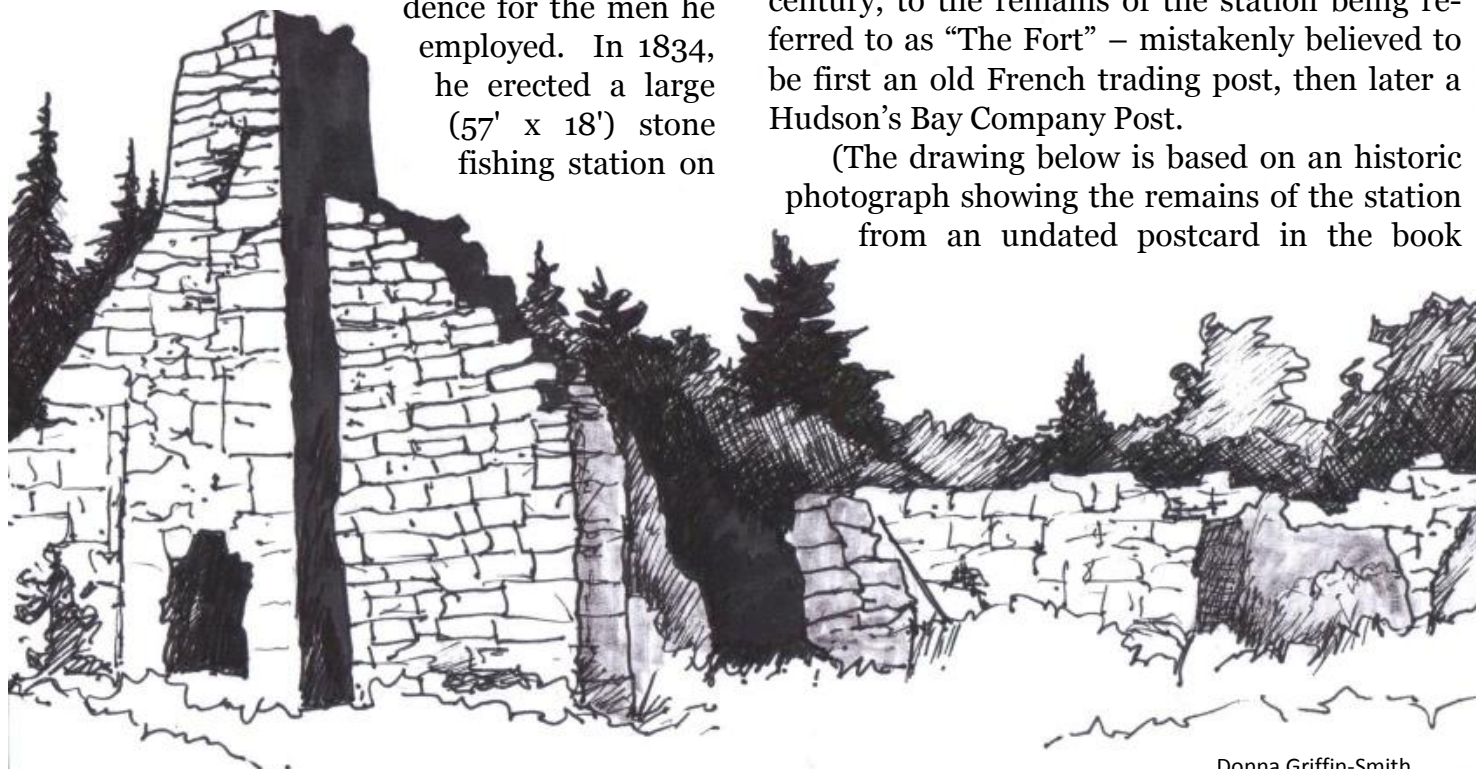
The waters around the Fishing Islands, off the west coast of the Bruce Peninsula, were well known among both the Ojibway and early European settlers for their bountiful harvests of fish, primarily herring, whitefish and lake trout.

As early as the late 1820s Captain Alexander MacGregor of Goderich was running a thriving commercial fishery in the islands. MacGregor's Huron Fishing Company had a contract with a fish company in Detroit to deliver not less than 3,000 barrels of cleaned, salted and packed fish annually at \$1 a barrel; and they would take as many more barrels as he could supply. The business was so successful that MacGregor needed permanent buildings for the storage of supplies and barrels of salted fish, and as a residence for the men he employed. In 1834, he erected a large (57' x 18') stone fishing station on

Main Station Island as the headquarters for his company. It was the first permanent building erected by European settlers on the Saugeen Peninsula (now called the Bruce Peninsula), and Main Station Island became the site of the first European settlement in what would become Bruce County.

MacGregor's fishing station was a substantial structure, with walls 3 feet thick and an open hearth to heat each of the two rooms. In the yard were gardens and a small cemetery. The station gained some measure of fame; an 1848 provincial geological survey report noted that it was the only "dwelling on any part of the coast all the way from the Saugeen [River] to Cape Hurd." It was likely the age and substantial nature of the building that led, in the early 20th century, to the remains of the station being referred to as "The Fort" – mistakenly believed to be first an old French trading post, then later a Hudson's Bay Company Post.

(The drawing below is based on an historic photograph showing the remains of the station from an undated postcard in the book



*A Pictorial History of Bruce County Prior to 1918*, and incorrectly identifies it as an H.B.C. Fort. I have not been able to find any photographs or drawings of the building from its early days as a working fishing station.)

The financial success of Captain MacGregor's Huron Fishing Company created considerable envy among his fellow Goderich businessmen, some of whom complained to the government that the fish harvests from the Fishing Islands should not go to Americans. These "patriots" formed the Niagara Fishing Company and convinced the government to grant a licence giving it the sole right to fish the waters of the Saugeen Peninsula. Having forced MacGregor out, this new company took over but continued selling their catches to companies in Detroit. They weren't nearly as successful as MacGregor, however, and soon sold out to Captain John Spence and Captain William Kennedy (the founders of Southampton) in 1848. These men operated the fishery until 1852 when Kennedy left to take part in an expedition in search of Franklin.

Having been forced off his fishing grounds in the Fishing Islands, Captain MacGregor tried fishing the straits between the Peninsula and Manitoulin Island, then the waters off Cape Croker, and finally the waters of the North Channel. None was as productive as the Fishing Islands. His name lives on in MacGregor Harbour at Cape Croker and McGregor Bay in the North Channel.

We searched for remnants of the Main Station Island fishing station a number of times over the years

on GLSKA Fishing Islands trips, but were never able to find any sign of it.

Then last fall, following up on an article by Nelson Phillips in the *Warton Echo*, I paddled out to Main Station Island and was finally able to locate the old fishing station. The crumbling walls of the 180-year-old structure are still there, but no longer visible from the shore; to find them required a trek into thick bush through rather abundant poison ivy. The remains of the walls, now hidden from view until one is almost on top of them by the forest that is reclaiming the site, lie in the bush at the edge of the clearing that was once the station's yard.

The ruins of the fishing station on Main Station Island still visible today give a hint of what must have been a very impressive edifice in its day – a testament to the industry of the area's early settlers and the skills of the pioneer stone masons.

#### REFERENCES:

- Bruce County Historical Society. *A Pictorial History of Bruce County Prior to 1918*, BCHS, 1990.
- Folkes, Patrick. *Shipwrecks of the Saugeen*, 1970. Monograph in Bruce County Archives.
- Fox, W. Sherwood. *The Bruce Beckons*, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1962.
- Phillips, Nelson. "Local folklore, stories and legends," *Warton Echo*, Vol. 135, No. 38; September 16, 2014.
- Robertson, Norman. *History of the County of Bruce*, Bruce County Historical Society, 1906. (Reprinted 1988.)



Donna Griffin-Smith

## Inspirational Leadership

This past season there was a planned trip to Massasauga Provincial Park. The trip organizer was Gerry Croney. Unfortunately several weeks prior to the trip Gerry injured himself white-water kayaking and was therefore unable to run the trip. The trip was to be cancelled if there was no one to assume the trip leadership role. Among the members that had signed up for the trip was a new member who was looking forward to her first trip with GLSKA.

That person was Elise Hug. Now Elise had only recently joined the club and her only experience so far had been her attendance at the 2014 Rendezvous. I have to say that at this point I did not know Elise or anything about her paddling experience. When Elise heard that the trip was about to be cancelled she contacted me expressing an interest in being the trip organizer to ensure that the trip was not cancelled. She was humble enough to know that she would need assistance to carry this off but was willing to make the effort. As it turns out Elise at the time did not even own her own boat, nor had she ever been on a kayak wilderness camping trip before. I assured her that there would be many experienced members on the trip that would be more than willing to provide help and assistance. I volunteered to deal with the park and make new reservations (unfortunately the original bookings had already been cancelled).

volunteering or by lending assistance when asked. Elise made good use of the skills available and often delegated tasks that she was not comfortable assuming herself. A good example of this was with navigation. Since the Massasauga Park is well known to many members it was not difficult to get assistance and/or simply delegate the responsibilities of navigation.

Leadership does not require that you have all of the skills and answers for every possible situation. It is best demonstrated by a person who has initiative and is self-aware enough to know the limits of their skills and abilities. A further hallmark of good leadership is someone who involves the group and utilizes the skills and expertise among the other participating members through communication and delegation. To her credit Elise managed this process well.

One of the biggest challenges for GLSKA is in finding members that are willing to take on the responsibility of trip leadership. Of recent there have been a number of examples of trips being co-run by several members. In this way you can share the trip leadership role with a person of your choosing who has already agreed to assist. The benefits of trip leadership can be many. By choosing to be a trip leader you are guaranteed a spot on the trip, get to plan the trip to fit with your schedule, and go to a destination of your choice. In addition there is the appreciation and admiration that you get from the other members. In the process you also are likely to learn new skills, refine your delegation abilities, and get the satisfaction of contributing to the enjoyment of others by providing a trip.

So when you think of trip leadership you can choose to think of it in two ways. The first is that of an onerous task to be avoided. Or conversely you can think of it as an opportunity to learn through personal growth and go on a trip of your choosing.

It is hard for me to think of another member in the club that that would be more challenged to running a trip than Elise. Her assuming the role of trip leader was inspirational to me and it is my hope that others will also be inspired by her initiative and give serious consideration to running trips themselves.



Donna Griffin-Smith

During the trip Elise was open with the group that this was her first kayaking trip experience and that any assistance or guidance that others could offer would be greatly appreciated. As with most GLSKA trips there was no lack of first-hand knowledge, experience, and expertise available from which Elise could draw on. In credit to the other members participating they were more than willing to assist by either

## Credit Card Convenience Coming to GLSKA Website

If all goes well, our website will soon be accepting payment for membership subscriptions etc. by credit card.

We hope to have this up and running soon. And of course the approach of spring should see the postings of our usual array of member-led trips of all kinds. Remember to check out the site on a regular basis.

# Editorial

Viki Mather

## Looking Forward to Rendezvous

Turning 60 is a milestone for many of us. Duncan Waterworth's thoughts on page 14 attest to this. My celebration of turning 60 included a move from the single bladed paddle of my canoe to the double blade for my new kayak. For me, this change was a step toward independence, a broadening of where and when I could travel solo. I wouldn't have to wait for the wind to die down to go out for an afternoon excursion; I wouldn't have to find a paddling partner to tackle the bigger waters of the bay.

But moving from canoe to kayak also meant I had to learn a whole new set of skills. The most basic of which was getting in and out of that skinny keyhole.

So, being old and wise enough to know I needed lessons, I signed up for a clinic at White Squall. And since I had to drive 2 hours to get there, I figured I would make a weekend of it and head out from Snug Harbour for a few days.

Shortly after launching, the first thing I discovered was a need to learn how much wind is too much. By then I was already in it...more wind than I cared for. Still, I beat my way across the open water to the Snakes. Had a lovely afternoon walking around the big island and camped.

The wind was calm in the morning, so I headed north to Red Rock and the Minks. You probably already know how beautiful they are. I lunched at Green Island, then turned east to make my way across 6 km of open water to Franklin.

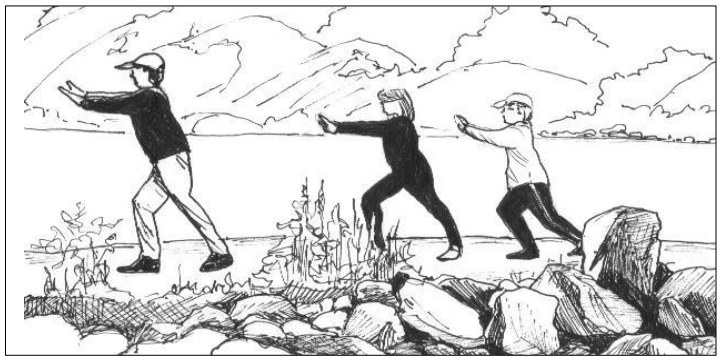
I had a bit of a tail wind, which was nice. A little sailboat was near the island, zipping north and south, back and forth, to and fro. I paddled as it flew. I paddled some more. It seemed to take forever to cross that open water. Pretty boring after spending hours that morning in the maze of the Minks.

I found a quiet place to camp on Franklin. I woke to a rising south wind. I could hear waves crashing on the other side of the narrow peninsula, and wind high in the trees above. Had I been solo in a canoe, I would have waited out the day, or maybe travelled north instead, or portaged through the inner lakes to the protected eastern shore. Instead, I ventured out. Face on, into the biggest wind I had ever paddled.

Backing up a bit, the White Squall clinic was not my first lesson in a sea kayak. Earlier that summer I joined GLSKA, specifically so I could go to Rendezvous. Three days of lessons and mini-trips in the security of the group gave me the bridge I needed to move from open canoe to enclosed kayak. I learned so much that I went to Rendezvous the next year, and the year after that. I'll be there again this June.

White Squall staff added their talents to the already excellent courses offered on Saturday last year. I worked hard at refining my stroke. And after 2 hours with Greg, I was relieved to hear that it would be a lifetime endeavour, to do the stroke well. I could relax. I didn't have to get it perfectly right then.

Greg's comment brought to mind the practice of tai chi, which has a lot in common with kayaking. One can learn the basics in a relatively short time, but gaining mastery takes a lifetime.



Around Rendezvous - Tents, tai chi, map lessons at the campground.

All drawings on this page by Donna Griffin-Smith.



The Rendezvous sign-up sheet is included on pages 9-10. You can cut this out if you have the hard copy, or print it from the email version. This format allows the information to be archived as part of Qayaq.



**The deadline for submissions to the Summer issue of Qayaq is June 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Given the number of members who use Greenland paddles, I'm hoping to have some stories about *your* paddle. Did you make it yourself? Why do you love your paddle? Where has it taken you?

Send stories and photos to: [kukagami@gmail.com](mailto:kukagami@gmail.com).

## Freya Hoffmeister's circumnavigation of South America

In the [Winter 2011 GLSKA](#) newsletter I posted a short note to bring attention to Freya Hoffmeister's quest to circumnavigate South America. That was shortly after she started from Buenos Aires. Now, 3 1/2 years later, she is almost done! She has paddled a total of 25,000 km, averaging 44.5km/paddling day. Her only support is Karel Vissel in Israel who provides her with daily customized weather forecast over satellite phone, and friendly strangers and kayakers she meets along the way. Now she has less than 1000 km to go and by the time you get this newsletter she may just be finishing back in Buenos Aires. This [map](#) tells it all, showing all the campsites to date along the way.

Read Freya's daily entries in her blog and you will learn a lot about South America. You will see Tierra del Fuego, Beagle channel, Punta Arenas in Patagonia, you will also get to meet Paula who lives in the lighthouse at Cape Horn with her Navy officer husband and their children. She home schools her children and bakes her own bread and must have a great sense of humor from her replies on Freya's blog. You'll read about the dangerous Colombian waters, homemade submarines of drug traffickers, and the ever-present Colombian navy. You will see pictures of the village on stilts in the Amazon rainforest and see the same village on the Google satellite map. You will learn about people who live there; the nurse

with her gingerbread-decorated house, the men and boys playing soccer on mudflats at low tide just before the huge pororoca tidal wave is to sweep through. And about the last deserted island where she crash-landed on a tiny beach below high cliffs to save herself from being blown all the way to Antarctica. There is a daily challenge to launch through the surf in the morning and find a landing spot at the end of the day. Some days it is not possible and is necessary to paddle through the night. To do this day in and day out without a major mishap or disaster for the 800+ paddling days to date is astonishing. And then there are the hard and tedious days: 11 meter tides necessitating to carry boat and gear for hundreds of meters, the skin damage in the daily 24 hour exposure to the tropical climate, high winds of the Caribbean that are well known to sailors. And each time you think, that's it, she's done, now she will give up...she comes back.

So if you missed it so far, be sure to have a look now. There will most likely be a book, as the one about her circumnavigation of Australia. But when you read the daily entries and look up the beach she is on that night on Google satellite, you wonder how she will tackle the difficult shore next day...will she survive the next surf landing? You cannot get that thrill from a book. Be sure to see her finish!

<http://freyahoffmeister.com/freyas-blog/>



# Life on the Edge

Tim Dyer

There is a world of difference between paddling from A to B with a neutral hull vs one that is taken up onto its edge. The former is safe, more predictable and commonplace while the latter is for outliers and that's where the fun is.

When you consciously put your boat on edge, you are introducing new possibilities to the water. Instead of a long wetted surface, now those bored water molecules can interact with a shortened, curved and multi-dimensional surface. All of a sudden the monotony of a hot afternoon gets all jazzed and crazy and you're along for the ride.

Paddling on edge takes concentration and effort. You want to focus on applying weight onto one cheek of your bummy-wummy down into the seat, while consciously letting the weight lift up and off the other one. There is a corresponding pressure upwards in your alternate knee and thigh but that's just a happy consequence. Don't focus on pushing up with the opposite knee because you'll cause your lower unit to seize up and folks, do you really want a seized up lower unit – really? You're better off controlled and relaxed and that comes from the cheap trick – oops, I meant “cheek” trick.

The follow through is in the legs and feet. Experiment with relaxing your ankle and relaxing your leg on the edged side. Let it lie in the belly the hull along

the seam. If you are feeling rambunctious, you can even take your foot right off, fully extending your leg and again letting it lie low on the seam. That gives you more weight to the side of the hull, offering a more solid paddling stance with quite a noticeable change in turning ability.

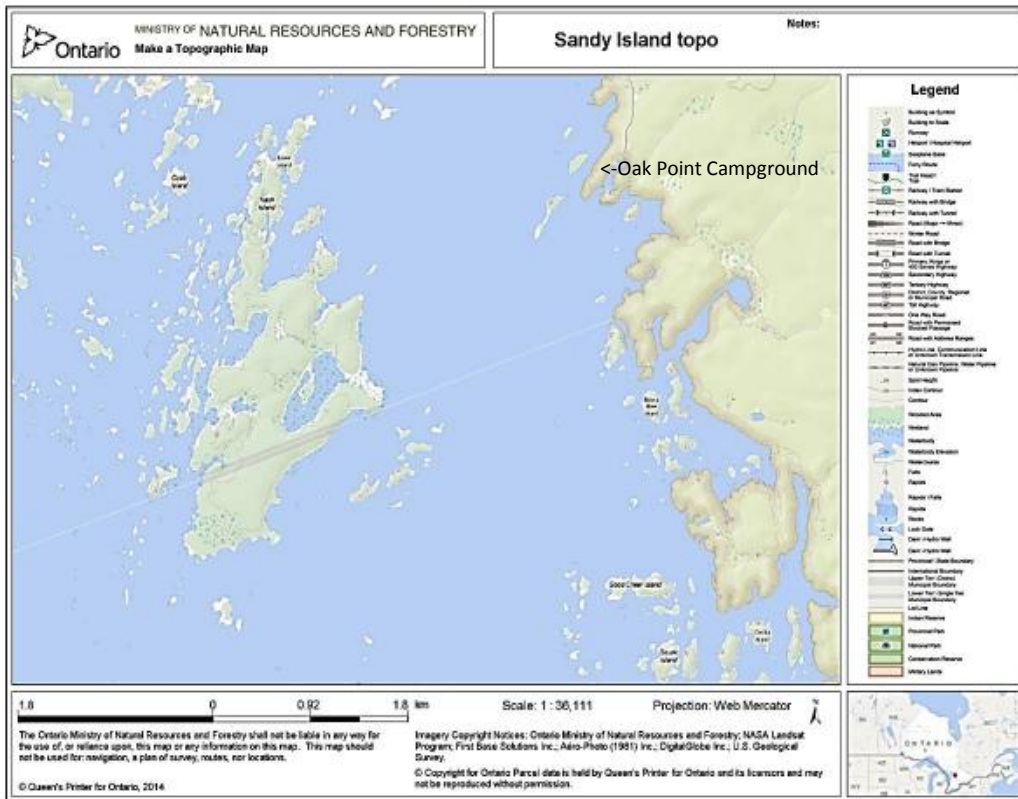
Once you got that figured out, you have to address your upper body and best for that is remaining overtop the midline of the kayak looking end to end. If you start leaning out – then it's *Good Night Irene*, unless you have a decent brace. We want the centre of your weight to remain inboard. As you get cockier and edgier, you can start to lean out onto your paddle, but that's another trick.

So why am I doing this Tim? Well, it's all about exploring the edges, and you'll discover some interesting things about how your boat behaves under various degrees of tilt. It takes your garden-variety afternoon paddle and turns it into a challenge with a darn good workout for your lower core. By switching back and forth – throwing in some short power sweeps, maybe a diagonal draw or a cross bow rudder and you are now messing around. And messing around in boats is so much more fun than just plodding ahead as if you're on a treadmill. You won't go as fast, but you'll have a ton of fun. Give it a go, take chances and let your kayak take you for a ride on the wild side.



# Maps

Two views of maps that can be made from the Land Information Ontario website:  
<http://www.giscoeapp.lrc.gov.on.ca/web/mnr/gib/basedata/viewer/viewer.html>



This link brings you to a disclaimer. "Agree" to gain access to the maps.

Click 'Select Map Layers'.

Check 'Topographic Data' and 'Ontario Imagery'.

Type in the location you want to see.

Use the sliders in the box on the left to show the topo or the photo imagery.

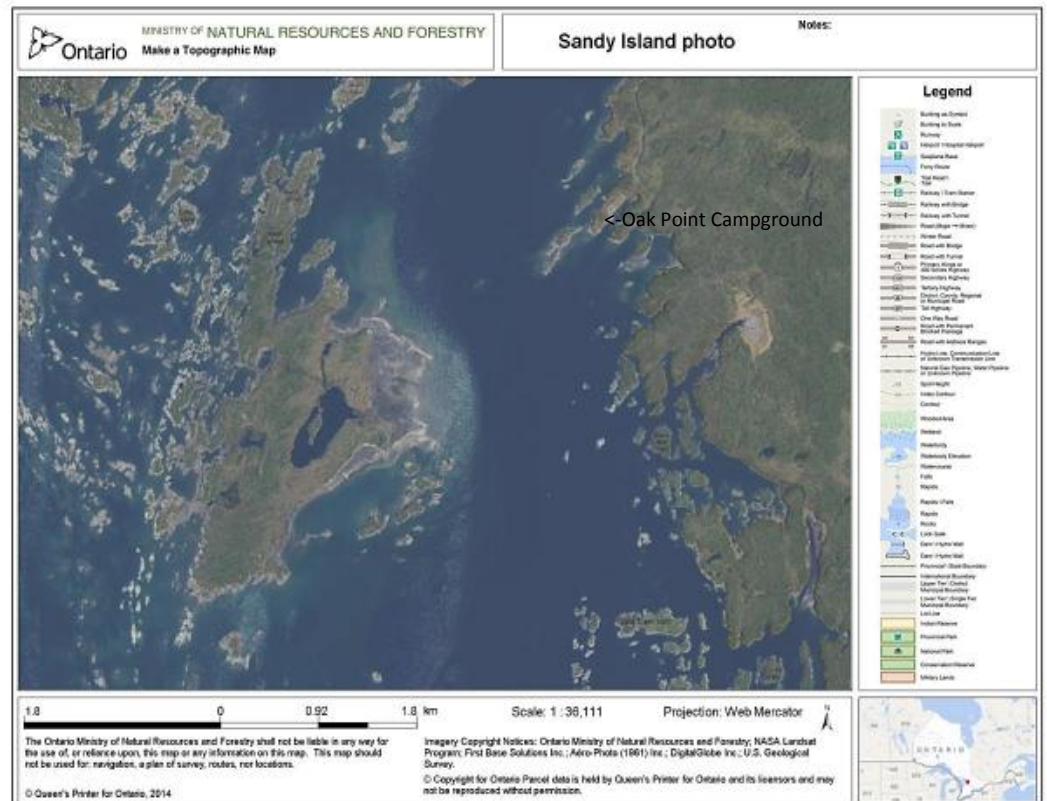
Zoom in and out...as close as 10 metres per cm! You can see individual trees.

Create a printable map from the 'I Want To...' button.

The website uses aerial photography, which can give some very fine detail.

These two maps were printed at a scale of 1:36,111. You can choose to have more or less detail when creating the map.

Permission to print this information is granted by the Queen's Printer of Ontario.



# RENDEZVOUS 2015

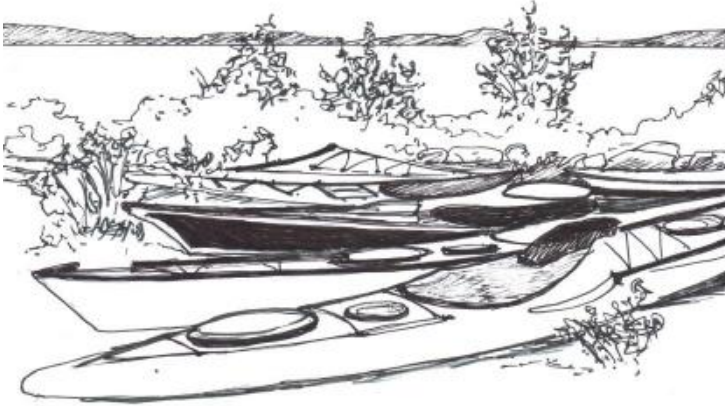
Presented by

## **The Great Lakes Sea Kayaking Association**

June 19-21, Oak Point, Parry Island

### Planned Activities Include:

- ✈ Friday Night Welcome Reception
- ✈ Half-day and full-day paddling trips throughout the weekend
- ✈ Saturday morning on-land and on-water workshops
- ✈ Trips and workshops geared to all skill level paddlers throughout the weekend
- ✈ Saturday evening Potluck Supper
- ✈ Saturday evening entertainment



For inquiries, call 416-546-5473

or email Chantal at: [chantal.locatelli@gmail.com](mailto:chantal.locatelli@gmail.com)

The deadline for the early-bird rate is May 15, 2015. Payment is required in Canadian funds. This registration fee covers the Rendezvous Committee's costs, including the camp fees, welcome reception and entertainment.

### How to get there: DIRECTIONS to Wasauksing Marina & Oak Point Campground.....

Exit Hwy. #400 (northbound or southbound) at Bowes Street, Parry Sound.

Follow Bowes Street into Parry Sound and turn left at the fourth stoplight, onto

Great North Road, it curves to the left and becomes Parry Sound Rd. Within 25 meters of curve, turn right onto Emily Street, cross swing bridge to Wasauksing Parry Island First Nation. At T intersection turn left, and continue on to Wasauksing Marina / Oak Point Campsite. Watch for GLSKA signs from there to guide you. Better yet, check the GLSKA website for a map closer to the event.

**Welcome Reception:** Starting at 6:30 pm on Friday. BYOB and we'll provide light snacks..

### What to Bring:

- ✈ Camping and kayaking gear including a camp chair, plates, cups, utensils and cooking gear
- ✈ Insect repellent and/or bug shirt, sun block
- ✈ Drinking water and food (including wine or other beverage for the Friday Welcome Reception and an entrée, salad, side dish or dessert for the Saturday Potluck Supper);
- ✈ No-longer-needed articles to be sold at the Gear Swap

Those needing to rent kayaks can make arrangements with outfitter White Squall (705-342-5324) to have them deliver a kayak directly to the Rendezvous site.

**Additional Information:** Details regarding the above activities including a workshop and paddling trip schedule will be e-mailed to registered Rendezvous participants in mid-June and will be posted on the GLSKA website. For general enquiries contact [info@glska.com](mailto:info@glska.com). For registration enquiries contact [chantal.locatelli@gmail.com](mailto:chantal.locatelli@gmail.com). For inquiries related to activities contact Rob Wright at a [rvwright@sympatico.ca](mailto:rvwright@sympatico.ca) and for trips, contact Nancy Morgan [nancyannmorgan@gmail.com](mailto:nancyannmorgan@gmail.com).





## Rendezvous 2015 Registration Information

- To attend you must be a GLSKA member or a guest of a member. To become a GLSKA member, please check the GLSKA web-site <http://www.glska.com>
- Accompanied guests of GLSKA members are permitted to attend as long as a Waiver form is signed. Waiver forms can be downloaded from the GLSKA website [http://www.glska.com/PDFs/GLSKA\\_Waiver.pdf](http://www.glska.com/PDFs/GLSKA_Waiver.pdf) .
- Final program information will be *emailed* to all registrants in mid-June and will be posted on the GLSKA website.

Please complete and return the registration form along with your cheque made payable to **GLSKA**, and mail to:

**Chantal Locatelli**  
**90 Cadorna Ave**  
**Toronto, M4J 3X2**  
**416-546-5473**  
**(chantal.locatelli@gmail.com)**

<b>GLSKA Rendezvous 2015 Registration Form</b> <b>Friday June 19th - Sunday June 21st</b>				
<b>First Rendezvous with GLSKA?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>Name(s):</b> Indicate whether person is a GLSKA member or guest. Please include a signed waiver from each guest.  *Paddling skill levels are described below	<b>Name</b>	<b>Member or Guest?</b>	<b>Paddling Level?*</b>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> GLSKA Member <input type="checkbox"/> Guest	<input type="checkbox"/> Novice <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Experienced	
		<input type="checkbox"/> GLSKA Member <input type="checkbox"/> Guest	<input type="checkbox"/> Novice <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Experienced	
		<input type="checkbox"/> GLSKA Member <input type="checkbox"/> Guest	<input type="checkbox"/> Novice <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Experienced	
<b>Phone number:</b>				
<b>Email (required):</b>				
<b>* Paddling Skill Level Descriptions:</b> <b>Novice:</b> Basic paddling skills. Expect protected waters, easy landings, and shelter for resting. <b>Intermediate:</b> Basic paddling skills plus the ability to brace, self-rescue and participate in assisted rescues. Comfortable in one metre waves. Mostly protected waters, some difficult landings. <b>Experienced:</b> Advanced paddling, seamanship and rescue skills. Able to handle waves greater than 1 metre. Expect open crossings, moderate to strong winds, and potentially difficult landings.				
The fees listed below are charged by the Rendezvous Committee to cover campsites event costs, parking, welcome reception and entertainment.				
<b>Fees</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Before May 15, 2015</b>	<b>After May 15, 2015</b>	<b>On-Site</b>
<b>Members</b>		<b>X \$60 =</b>	<b>X \$70 =</b>	<b>X \$75 =</b>
<b>Family members under 18 years of age</b>		<b>X \$20 =</b>	<b>X \$25 =</b>	<b>X \$30 =</b>
<b>Guests of member</b>		<b>X \$70=</b>	<b>X \$80=</b>	<b>X \$85 =</b>
<b>Total to be remitted:</b> (Canadian Funds only please)		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>

# Rendezvous 2015 Planning Survey

Rendezvous is a success year after year due to the generous contributions of its volunteers. The Rendezvous Committee is particularly grateful to those who volunteer to lead paddling trips and/or workshops. Please consider leading a trip or a workshop at Rendezvous 2015!

The following survey will help the Rendezvous Committee. Please mark the activities that you would be most interested in participating in or leading. If more than one person is completing this form, please indicate each person's preferred activities using the registrant's numbers below.

**Registrant #1 Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Registrant #2 Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Friday June 19, 2015</b>			
		<b>Participant</b>	<b>Willing to Lead</b>
<b>Paddling trip:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:00 – 4:00 <input type="checkbox"/> 4:00 – 6:00	<input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2 <input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2	<input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2 <input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2
<b>Welcome Reception</b>	Start at 7:30 pm. Cheese and snacks will be provided. BYOB	<input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2	
<b>Saturday June 20, 2015</b>			
<b>On-Water Workshops [morning]</b> (maximum 2 choices)	<input type="checkbox"/> Intro to Kayaking <input type="checkbox"/> Forward Strokes <input type="checkbox"/> Strokes and Turns <input type="checkbox"/> Assisted Rescues <input type="checkbox"/> Intro to Rolling <input type="checkbox"/> Wind and Waves	<input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2 <input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2 <input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2 <input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2 <input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2 <input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2	<input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2 <input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2 <input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2 <input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2 <input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2 <input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2
<b>On-land Workshops: [morning]</b> ..... (maximum 2 choices)	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Such as: Injury Prevention, Use of Technology , Weather, Map and Compass, Paddling Destinations, Meals...others?	<input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2 <input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2  <input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2	<input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2 <input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2   
<b>[after dark]</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Star Gazing		<input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2
<b>Paddling Trip:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Morning trip	<input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2	<input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2
<b>Paddling trip:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Afternoon trip	<input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2	<input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2
		<b>Participant</b>	<b>Willing to Help</b>
<b>Potluck Supper and entertainment</b>	Start at 6:30. Please bring an entrée, salad, side dish or dessert	<input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2	<input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2
<b>Sunday June 21, 2015</b>			
		<b>Participant</b>	<b>Willing to Lead</b>
<b>Paddling trip:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> All day <input type="checkbox"/> Morning only	<input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2 <input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2	<input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2 <input type="checkbox"/> #1 <input type="checkbox"/> #2

# Rare Reptiles

Glenda Clayton

## The Amazing Archipelago

With 30,000 islands, eastern Georgian Bay is the world's largest freshwater archipelago. Not surprisingly, it is an amazing place to paddle. You can wind your way through the French River delta or enjoy a simple day trip out of Snug Harbour—there's over 5000 kilometres of shoreline to explore! Not only is the scenery incredible, but the unique geography and geology creates more than 1,000 distinct habitat types. This area is recognized as one of the most biologically diverse regions in the province and is globally recognised as a UNESCO world biosphere reserve.

Eastern Georgian Bay is also home to the greatest diversity of viable reptile populations in Canada, including many at-risk snake and turtle species and Ontario's only lizard, the five-lined skink. Lucky paddlers may encounter some of these rare species among the wetlands and rock barrens of the coast.

Turtles commonly encountered include snapping and northern map turtles, both of which are considered species of special concern. Map turtles tend to bask in groups close to the waters' edge. They are very shy and drop into the water as soon as they spot your kayak and typically before you get a camera out! If you get a good view, you will notice a "keel" running down the centre of their shell and light coloured lines covering their upper shell (carapace). These lines are thought to resemble contour lines on a map. Female map turtles are twice the size of males—and may exceed 25 cm in length.

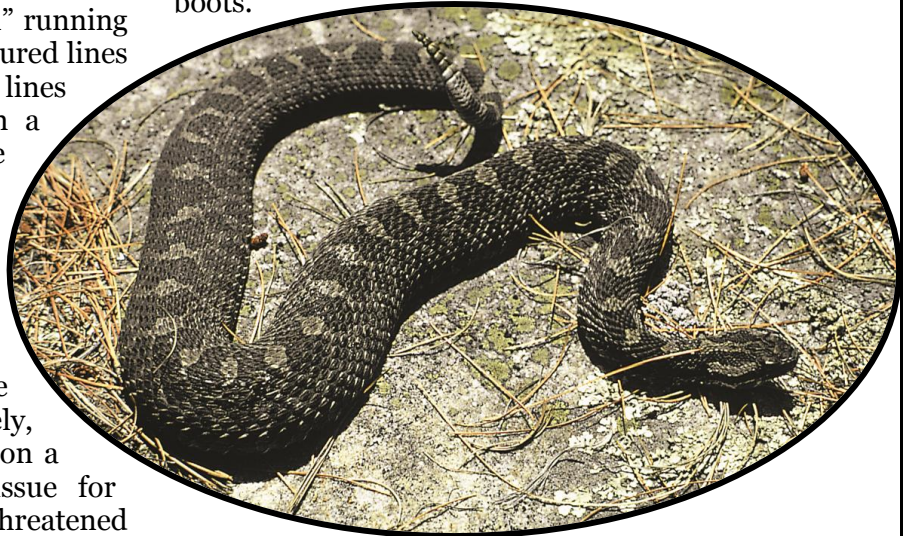
Particularly in quiet back bays, paddlers may spot the unmistakable high dome shell and bright yellow throat of a Blanding's turtle. This turtle can also be found over one kilometre from the nearest water, especially while they are searching for a mate or travelling to a nesting site. Unfortunately, this increases their chance of being killed on a roadway. Road mortality is a serious issue for Blanding's and is one reason they are a threatened species.

Eastern foxsnakes have a strong connection to the eastern Georgian Bay shore. Foxsnakes are found from Honey Harbour to Key River and are rarely found more than one kilometre inland from the Bay. They are an attractive, large snake; yellowish in colour with dark blotches down the back and sides. Their head is copper-coloured with little or no markings. To frighten potential predators, they will shake their tail quickly, making a convincing rattle-like sound. The foxsnake is not venomous and will more likely musk than bite if handled.

They are great swimmers and male foxsnakes can travel long distances to seek mates in mid-June. One

male foxsnake tracked around Killbear Provincial Park travelled over 35 kilometres in one season! This endangered species is increasingly at risk along this narrow shoreline due to habitat loss and being killed by both road and boat traffic. It is considered a globally rare species and its survival will depend on areas such as eastern Georgian Bay.

There is a snake on Georgian Bay that doesn't fake a rattle—it actually does have a rattle. The Massasauga rattlesnake is Ontario's only venomous snake. Most people will never encounter a Massasauga since it is shy and prefers to hide or retreat from potential predators rather than strike. If threatened, it will rattle a warning and strike only as a last resort to protect itself. Twenty five per cent of bites are "dry" bites in which no venom is injected. In many other cases, only a small quantity of venom may be injected. Even so, all bites should be considered a medical emergency and need to be assessed by a medical professional. It's important to remember that there have only been two deaths resulting from a Massasauga bite and they occurred over 50 years ago. Accidental bites can be prevented by being aware of your surroundings and following a few precautions such as wearing hiking boots.



Due to disappearing habitat and human persecution, the Massasauga is considered to be a threatened species. Their presence along the coast is a reflection of the amount of natural habitat available in our area. If you paddle along this coast, it is helpful to learn how to identify these species and share your sightings to improve our knowledge of species range. Please visit [gbr.ca/our-environment/species-at-risk/](http://gbr.ca/our-environment/species-at-risk/) for more information or consider downloading Ontario Nature's Reptile & Amphibian Atlas App. It helps identify Ontario's reptiles and amphibians and lets you submit sightings to the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas: [ontarionature.org/protect/species/](http://ontarionature.org/protect/species/)

# Zhupanova River

Jan de Grijs

## *Kamchatka Peninsula, fourth day.*

With nervous anticipation, Ursula and I waited for our turn to proceed down the rapids in a tandem kayak. We watched the ones going before us attempt to avoid the two holes on either side of the chute in the middle of the river. The rafts had gone through without much difficulty. The starts were staggered for the kayakers so that the rafts could deal with any upsets.

Jane was the first to go and went straight through the right hand hole. I am not sure if she did it deliberately or not. The rapids below the holes turned sharply to the right the current pushing the water towards the left bank. The next few kayakers also went through the right hand hole. I realized that a more aggressive approach was required to reach the chute to avoid going through the hole.

We were given the word to go. I chose a line at 90 degrees to the bank crossing a number of waves and turned at the last moment into the chute. We shot through between the two holes. Exiting from the chute we nailed the wave train that followed and turned to the right hand shore where the others were waiting. We did have to wait for some time as David the trip leader flipped as he entered his kayak and had to pump it out. He arrived and went from kayak to kayak giving advice. He told us we had nailed it and had no recommendations. Richard in a single kayak said he had watched us and as a result had taken the same line as us and it worked. Going through the wave train Alex flipped. He was in shorts with no protective gear. He claimed he did not get cold. Jane also flipped when landing.

We regrouped and continued down the successive wave trains. Some were more intense than others. There was one section with significant hay stacking. The waves slammed onto us. We were wearing paddling gear so stayed dry. Some of the others with ordinary Gore-Tex jackets were soaked as the water poured in. Whilst going through the haystacks I had difficulty steering the kayak. At one point, I had to yell at Ursula to keep paddling. Upon reaching calmer water I realized the rudder was in the up position. One needs all the help one can get in going through these wave trains.

As we descended down the gorge the wave trains became easier to manage but now there were boulders in the stream bed creating massive standing waves. If we smacked into one of these it could result in catastrophe kayak failure. So we all had to keep our wits about us. With all the concerns about the wave trains, no photos were taken.

After ten kilometres, we stopped for lunch. We were now finally clear of the rapids though the river was still flowing swiftly. The rapids were mostly grade

two. A huge fire was lit enabling people to dry out. The ones with paddling gear were fine. We had the Korean soup for lunch. At least it was warm though loaded with salt. The break was long for it took time to dry all the wet gear.

Lunch over, we continued down the river. It became braided and we had to hold back for it was slow going for the rafts. A low cloud/mist obscured the scenery. The water was often very shallow flowing mere centimetres over pebbly rocks. Despite the shallows the water still flowed fast. Every now and then we got stuck in the shallows. The only way to get off was to get out of the kayak and push or pull ourselves free.

Finally we stopped as a group and Artyom went to see if we could camp adjacent to a fishing camp. It was approved. To get to the fishing camp we had to paddle across a fast moving river. It was tough, for the water kept pushing everyone downstream. We made it to the base of a high steep bank with almost no hand holds. We got ashore and manhandled the kayak, with help, up the bank. It was steep and very muddy with Prolena leaping all over the place. Prolena was a dog belonging to the camp with beautiful pale blue eyes.

After unloading the kayakers we went in search of a good campsite. It was not found so we pitched the tent on what appeared to be a good spot. This was not really so; the area was covered in hogweed. Coming from Canada and all the negative reports on this plant, we were concerned. No one reported any ill effects. Hogweed is native in this area. We hung up a washing line so we could dry stuff out. Compared with many of the others we were in relatively good shape.

*Note: this was part of a trip to Kamchatka Peninsula in 2012. We used Feathercraft sea kayakers to paddle down the Zhupanova River flowing through an area of active volcanoes. The river is glacial fed. We were flown in by helicopter and at the trip's end flown out. The helicopter used was a MI8 civilian version. It was packed and we never found the seat belts.*

*The views were excellent, the noise was not. No earphones were provided.*



# “Big Water”

Rob Wright

If you like warm weather and water that stretches into late September, then the **Kiptopeke Sea Kayak Symposium**, in Kiptopeke State Park, Cape Charles, on Virginia’s eastern shore, should be on your “should-do” list. Add in great lodge accommodation, colorful local dining, a wide variety of skill sessions taught by top-notch instructors, and the chance to surf in Big Water and the Symposium should make your “must-do” list!

“Kiptopeke” is the Native American word for “Big Water”. It was the name of a chief of the Accohannock tribe who was friendly to Captain Smith (who explored the area in 1608) and Virginia’s first colonists. True to Kiptopeke’s name, the people at the Symposium are a friendly group, and they like to have fun!

The Park is on a peninsula flanked by Chesapeake Bay to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. It is not a wilderness area, but there are 5 miles of hiking and biking trails in the Park. It is described on the Park’s website (check it out - the address is below) as “a great place to explore unique migratory bird habitat along the Atlantic flyway”. Once you are on the water you will enjoy the special beauty of the Virginia Barrier Islands with their beaches, sandbars, coastal wetlands, tidal currents and surf. It is a kayaking playground with a choice of protected and more challenging water, and the water is warm!

Google estimates that it is a 12-hour drive from Toronto to the Park. My friend Ian and I proved Google wrong, well sort of, as our 16-hour trip admittedly included a few wrong turns. We had to call upon the Lost Gods who apparently live on satellites and communicate to mortals by GPS. My outdoors model works best if it is held out of the car window. Somehow we avoided capture by the state police, despite zigzagging our way through a succession of highway patrolled states, with two large objects on the roof of our battered van, salt eaten license plates, and an arm sticking out the car window holding an object that looked suspiciously like a beer bottle in silhouette (only the GPS though).

Despite our wandering, we arrived safely and were grateful that the welcome desk was still open so late in the evening. As it was late, we tiptoed into our lodge (very clean and well maintained, with comfortable beds, a large common room, cooking facilities) without having to call upon our “put-up-the-tent-late-at-night-in-wind-or-rain” skills, honed on Georgian Bay. With the lodge accommodation (there are about seven of them) you get to know a small group pretty

well. Our lodge mates were terrific, which really added to the experience. As luck would have it, our lodge number aligned with our Canadian heritage: we called ourselves the Group of Seven.

The Symposium course sessions cover the field with offerings for beginners and intermediate/advanced paddlers. The Park location is perfect because there is the option to either paddle out into the sheltered Chesapeake Bay side or into the open Atlantic side. This way, you can choose between paddling on calm or rough water, weighing factors such as the weather, tide, session topic, and paddling ability. (This time we didn’t get our directions mixed up!) If you ever get tired of paddling (who ever gets tired of paddling?), or the weather gets really bad (never happens as that is what rough water sessions are for) then you can go for a hike in the Park or a tour of the area, or just hang out in the lodge.

Rick Wiebush, the principal of Cross Currents Sea Kayaking (his website is also below), is the organizer and host of the Symposium. Rick is tall in person and large in spirit. He makes every effort to ensure that participants can sign up for courses that match their abilities. You can select related courses that are staggered so that you can progress from your comfort zone to a more advanced level.

Courses that are out of the ordinary for fresh-water Great Lakes kayakers include beginner and advanced kayak surfing, and rough water management courses in tidal conditions. Sessions that I particularly enjoyed were an edging course that advanced to a surfing session (led by Tom Noffsinger), and a Greenland rolling class with Alison Sigethy. There is also the option to take a BCU training course with Jen Kleck who runs her own symposium in the Spring for wannabe to advanced kayak surfers and rock gardeners on the Pacific side of the Baja Peninsula (stay tuned!).

From the feedback of other participants at the Symposium, all of the instructors are well-prepared, enthusiastic, thoughtful in their demonstration and teaching techniques, and always willing to slot in individual instruction moments when possible.

Chief Kiptopeke would be particularly pleased to know that a symposium with his name also honors his spirit of



friendship. Our northern version of Big Water is Lake Superior, also known as the *Anishnaabe Gichigami*, or the “Great Sea”. You don’t have to choose one over the other; you can’t go wrong paddling on both Big Water and a Great Sea!

**What: The Kiptopeke Sea Kayak Symposium.**

Att.: Rick Wiebush, at [www.crosscurrentsseakayaking.com](http://www.crosscurrentsseakayaking.com).

Where: Virginia-Cape Charles, Kiptopeke State Park and Virginia Barrier Islands.

The park’s website is: <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/kiptopeke>

Why: You have to be kidding!

When: September 25-27, 2015.

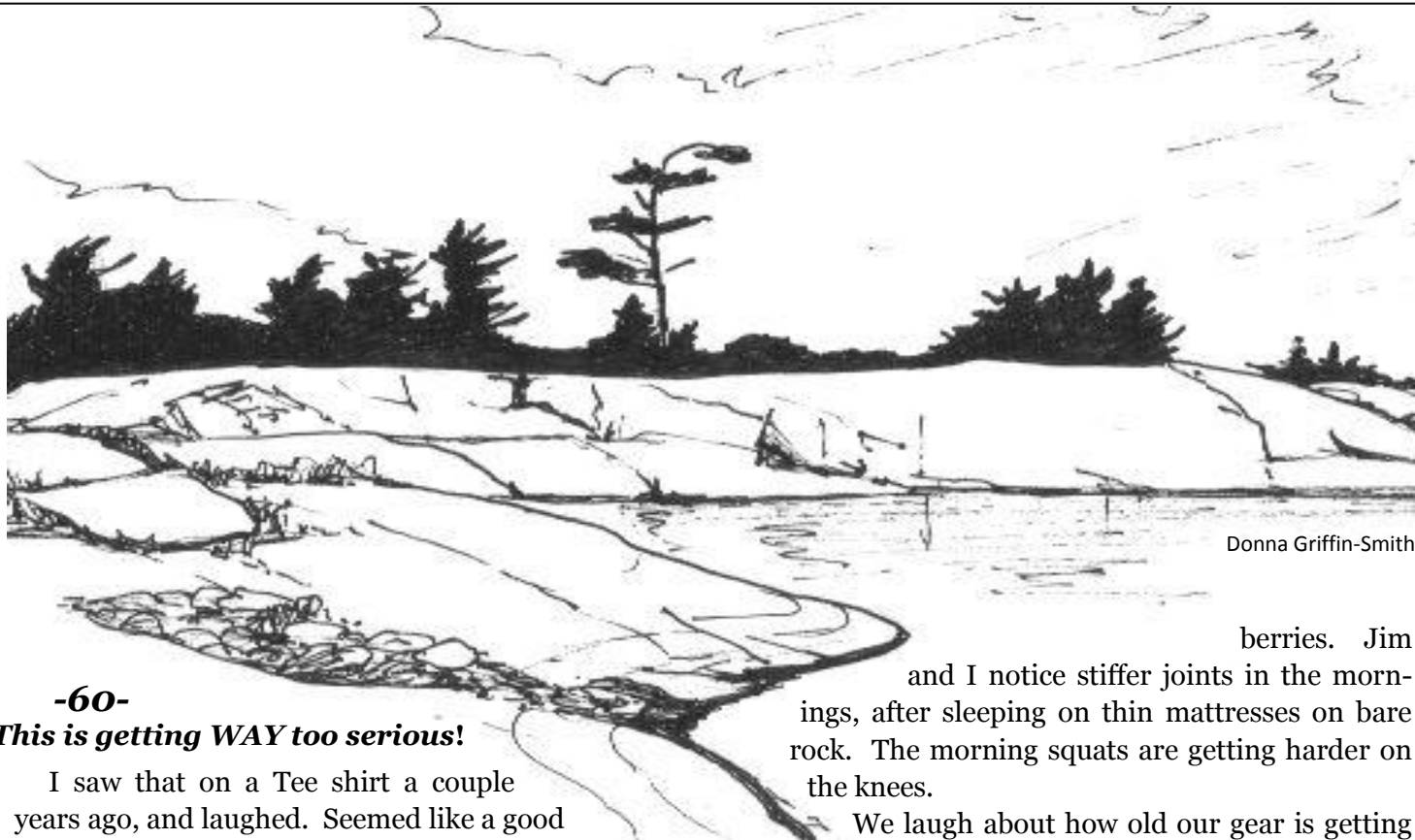
Who: Beginner to Intermediate/Advanced.

How: Drive-approx. 12 to 16 hours from Toronto. Fly and rent your kayak if you like.

How much: \$410 U.S.-includes 3 night’s accommodation and one group meal.

# Ageing on the Shield

Duncan Watterworth



Donna Griffin-Smith

**-60-**

## ***This is getting WAY too serious!***

I saw that on a Tee shirt a couple years ago, and laughed. Seemed like a good idea not to take a birthday too seriously. Since many peers were approaching 60, I had Van Pelts make me a bunch of buttons. As their big day approached, I handed out the buttons, but no one seemed to think they were that funny.

Now my personal odometer has just rolled 60. I always knew I would reach that age, just not so soon. I didn't wear the stupid button either. It's not that funny.

The approach of this milestone is bound to trigger some introspection, and by lucky timing, I spent the last days of my 59<sup>th</sup> year kayaking in northern Georgian Bay, and camping on the glacier-sculpted granite islands. If you have to be introspective, find an area of great natural beauty. And where I was, the ancient Precambrian rocks themselves prompt introspection. Rocks can teach you a lot.

For many years, our group of four has done a kayak trip every summer, but some things have changed. For one thing, this year it was just Jim, from Port Elgin, and me. In the last couple years, the annual trip has seemed a little less mandatory for the gang.

We have adopted a more relaxed pace for our paddling, sometimes staying a second night at the same campsite, taking more time to pick the blue-

berries. Jim and I notice stiffer joints in the mornings, after sleeping on thin mattresses on bare rock. The morning squats are getting harder on the knees.

We laugh about how old our gear is getting – cantankerous stoves, my beat-up kayak and paddle. New gear for new paddlers, old gear for old. We calculate whether our stuff will see us through.

I can no longer toss my kayak on top of my van by myself. As my wife kindly points out, it is the tallest vehicle I have ever driven. Still, I feel like a weenie using a stepping stool. It's a man thing. So Jim and I help each other lift and carry our kayaks. I think we are even starting to treat each other with old guy kindness, rather than young guy ribbing and kidding.

I ponder those concessions to aging, but on a Georgian Bay kayaking trip the big lessons come from the landscape. Each island, each rock, is a snapshot in time, a moment in the great and eternal geological processes - mountains rising up, eroding away, and being replaced with others. Rocks are not a symbol of permanence, but of transience. They remind us that, on the earth's time scale, civilizations, religions, our species, and even mountains and my birthday, are as fleeting as clouds.

From that perspective, much is awesome, but not much seems serious. So I shall continue to enjoy the rocks and water, and the camaraderie of paddling buddies, and I will pass lightly in my beat-up old kayak.

# Courses

## Naturally Superior Adventures

A quick note to GLSKA members about offerings on Lake Superior in 2015.

Thinking about bettering your trip leadership skills? Sign up for **Wilderness Advanced First Aid** or the **Lake Superior Guide Course**.

For intermediate paddlers, our annual **BCU\* three-star/PC\* 2** course will be run as a trip. This combination course covers strong technical skills with the BCU rescues focus and the PC paddle trip component. BCU coach Bonnie Perry and David Wells will be leading the course. **BCU and PC certification** is available.

For advanced paddlers, we have Conor Mihell leading our **advanced paddling leadership trip** in early September when the water is warm and Superior gets interesting. **Paddle Canada Skills 3 certification** is available for those who achieve the criteria.

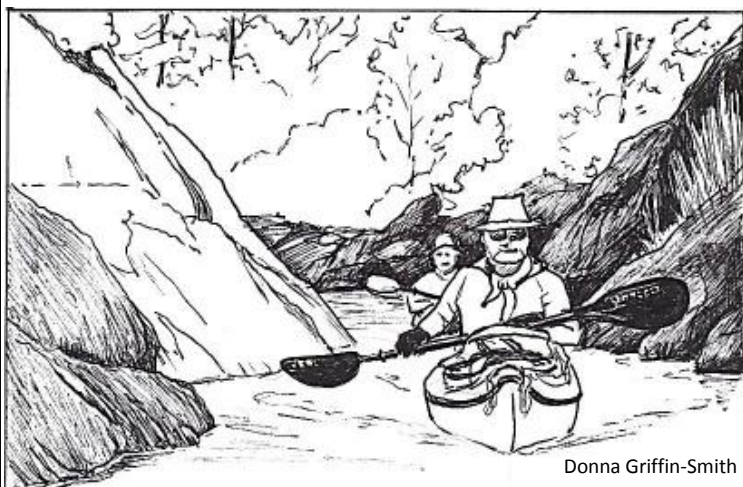
Want to improve your coaching skills? The **PC basic and Level 1 instructor courses** are the ticket. Great courses are available throughout southern Ontario and with Naturally Superior Adventures on Lake Superior. If you'd like to teach in the United States, join our **ACA Level 1 – 4 coach program** in the last week of August. Instructor trainer Sam Crowley will be your leader.

Intermediate/advanced paddlers might be interested in a **9-day guide-supported, self-reliant trip to Michipicoten Island**. We boat-shuttle out, circumnavigate the island, then paddle the 19 km crossing back to the mainland and Michipicoten Bay. Cost is variable according to the number of paddlers (max 6). David Johnson of [paddlerhq.com](http://paddlerhq.com) is the trip leader.

[Naturallysuperior.com](http://Naturallysuperior.com)

\*British Canoe Union (BCU), the English paddling association and Paddle Canada (PC), Canada's paddling association.

This page is offered to Ontario based businesses to promote courses of interest to kayakers. If you would like to put something in the June issue, please submit a text document not later than June 1<sup>st</sup>.



Donna Griffin-Smith

## White Squall Guide School

- Free camping available on-site
- Call or email White Squall to register
- [705-342-5324](tel:705-342-5324) [info@whitesquall.com](mailto:info@whitesquall.com)

### Leadership & Guide Skills May 16-18, 2015

This course will introduce the many different aspects of guiding daytrips and multi-day excursions. We'll talk about leadership, judgement, & safe travel tips. A lot of this will be experiential-based learning through scenarios and discussions among participants. If you want to learn how White Squall staff get trained to guide, this is where they start out.

### Open Water Sea Kayak Primer

May 23, 2015, June 27, 2015 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

### Wilderness First Aid Courses

For more info about course content please visit:

[Wilderness Medical Associates website](http://WildernessMedicalAssociates.com).

### Wilderness First Aid (WFA)

May 9-10, 2015

This course has two primary goals: to equip participants with lifesaving skills – ABC's, and to develop basic skills to handle common wilderness injuries.

### Wilderness Advanced First Aid (WAFA)

April 25-28, 2015

Designed for the unique demands of remote settings, this course focuses on three areas. First, how to treat injuries when you are hours or days from a hospital. Second, you will learn how to give care in extreme environments of cold, heat, or altitude. Finally, this course focuses on working with limited equipment and improvising.

### Bridge Course to Wilderness First Responder

April 30 - May 3, 2015

This course is designed for graduates of our Wilderness Advanced First Aid courses (above) that want to continue their training to Wilderness First Responder level. This comprehensive course will review concepts learned in earlier courses and offer a greater focus on evacuation, environmental topics, critical thinking and leadership.

### Wilderness First Responder (WFR)

April 25 - May 3, 2015 (April 29 off)

Combines WAFA & Bridge (8-days)

### Something New & Fun:

For the longest time, Tim has dreamed about a big Squall canoe out in the islands – gliding over sun-dappled waters on a fine summer morning. Or taking people along the shores of the inner harbour, seeing our Parry Sound townsites through a fresh and fun lens. So - to celebrate our **30th year** on the paddling planet, a 29-footer is going to join the Squall fleet this spring. She hails from British Columbia and can seat 14 and a dog. Her name will be "Blackfly 2" and we can't wait to share the magic of paddling her with you. The heritage of this coast and this country is swept up in the graceful curves of the essential Canadian Canoe.

# PRODUCTS & SERVICES



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(705) 342-5324  
[www.whitesquall.com](http://www.whitesquall.com)



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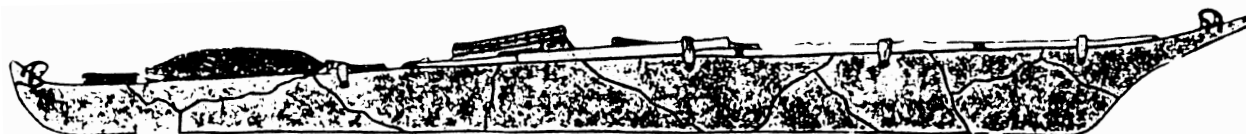
Many thanks to Donna Griffin-Smith who provided many of the line drawings from photos for this issue of Qayaq.

Donna is a watercolour artist who would be delighted to create a beautiful painting from your favourite photo.

[www.swallowdalestudio.com](http://www.swallowdalestudio.com)



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