



## **Re: The 2023 Trent Severn Voyageur Canoe Brigade**

In the summer of 2023 the Canadian Voyageur Brigade Society- CVBS- will undertake a voyageur canoe brigade along the Trent Severn Waterway to help celebrate the opening of the new Canadian Canoe Museum. Paddling from Georgian Bay to Little Lake in Peterborough- from Lock 45 at Port Severn to Lock 20 at Ashburnham-the Brigade will traverse some 240km of meandering waterways, through sheer natural beauty and countless historic locales.

The Canadian Voyageur Brigade Society has evolved from the 2008 David Thompson Brigade.

In the summer of 2008, a group of over 160 modern day adventurers retraced the canoe route of explorer David Thompson in commemoration of the bicentenary of his travels in 1808. Launched from Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site in Alberta they paddled through over 30 host communities in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and northwestern Ontario on a 63-day journey. Covering 3,600 kilometers they reached Old Fort William on Lake Superior, in time for their annual Great Rendezvous.

Following the success of the 2008 David Thompson Brigade, in 2011 another Brigade traced Thompson's exploration of the Columbia River, with modern day voyageurs paddling from Invermere BC, across the international border through Montana, Idaho Washington and Oregon to the Pacific Ocean. Additional brigades have followed, on the Rideau Canal, the Athabasca River and in 2017 seven brigades were organized across Canada as part of Canada's Sesquicentennial celebration.

Most recently CVBS sponsored and supported the 2022 Peace River Brigade. Paddling from the British Columbia border to the Town of Peace River, Alberta some 230 km, 8


Voyageur canoe crews traced this historic route of 230 km over 6 days of paddling. Stops included the Historic Fort Dunvegan, a restored former North West Company post from 1805, and the Fort Fork cairn where Alexander Mackenzie overwintered in 1792 before completing his journey to the Pacific Ocean.

CVBS ensures that planning and administrative support materials, skills, and funds are available to support future brigades. The goal of the CVBS and the 2023 Trent Severn Voyageur Canoe Brigade is to **“Pass the Paddle”**; that is to offer the opportunity for the skills and enjoyment of big canoe paddling to be passed onto the next generation of paddlers across Canada. This goal is fully supported by the Canadian Canoe Museum.

The tentative timeline for Trent Severn Brigade 2023 is **July 28<sup>th</sup> to August 7<sup>th</sup> , 2023**. And while the number of canoes and paddlers participating will be unknown until registration, it will be well attended; I can confirm that we have already had interest expressed from Vancouver Island, Edmonton, Fort Providence, NWT, Sault Ste Marie, Charlottetown, PEI and Dartmouth, Nova Scotia!

I look forward to forward to discussing our plans further!

Sincerely,



W. Bruce Clark,

Vice Chair, CVBS

Phone: (705)957-5246

Email: [wbruceclark@gmail.com](mailto:wbruceclark@gmail.com)