



Canews

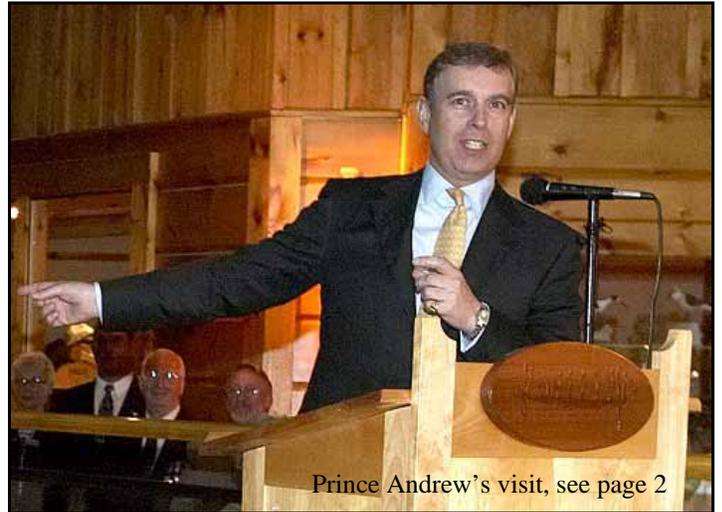
The newsletter of

The CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM
Le MUSÉE CANADIEN *du* CANOT

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Prince Andrew's visit, see page 2

Spring edition

May 15, 2006

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The Widgeon, see page 7

Manager's Message

by Janice Griffith



The big news has been the visit by **HRH Prince Andrew**, the Duke of York on May 11, his agreement to be our Royal Patron, and the acquisition of three Royal Family Canoes into our collection on long term loan.

A lot goes into a project like this and thanks are due to many people who helped make it happen. **Terry Guest** and **Don Ross** were instrumental in the idea taking hold. **Don Curtis** was of great help in the overall planning and organization of the day, as was **Verne McKay's** steady leadership. Thanks are due to the Canadian Military for bringing the Royal Canoes from Great Britain to Trenton. **McWilliams Moving and Storage** volunteered to transport them – 600 pound crates and all to the Museum.

Kim Watson and **Jeremy Ward** and volunteers in the artisan area worked long hours in unloading, uncrating and preparing the canoes for exhibit on a very tight time frame.

Mike Paterson, our new volunteer goodwill ambassador worked with the *Examiner* to prepare copy for the four-page insert May 3.

Tina Meiklejohn was in charge of getting the invitations printed and out and volunteers at the front desk did the stuffing and stamping. When it became apparent that many of our invitations had not arrived in a timely manner, Tina organized a telephone blitz.

Ralph Green did a special cleaning and waxing to make the floors shine. **Kenner students** helped direct traffic in the parking lot. **Peter Southall** of the Public Works Department provided traffic barriers and had the boulevard in front of the museum reseeded.

Security was provided by the RCMP

and the Lakefield Peterborough Police.

BJ Curtis and her hospitality committee took care of the cake and tea. **Neil Broadfoot** donated one of his original watercolours as a gift from the Museum to HRH.

Mike Cullen was our official photographer. **John Mariasine** took on the role of briefing and managing the media during the visit.

Barry Diceman and **Kim Watson** manned the security check-in and **Mark Lamb** helped place people in their respective positions to meet HRH. **Verne** and **Pat McKay** along with myself, acted as hosts to HRH during his visit.

Carolyn Hyslop and her team of animators along with students from the Millbrook Home School Collective demonstrated Education programs.

Freshwater Trade played the National Anthem and the drummers and singers from **Curve Lake** entertained.

And the largest vote of thanks goes, of course, to the Duke of York, for making it

possible for the canoes to come to us and for visiting our Museum and giving all of us a tremendous boost.

While it would be hard to top the Prince's visit, there are many more exciting things coming up this spring and summer. June 2 we host **David Brereton** an anthropologist who will be giving a lecture. Once again our friends from **Kenner Collegiate** will be running the **Kawartha Family Fun Day** on June 3 – paddle from Lakefield to Peterborough, plus much more. A new feature in this event will be the first annual **cardboard canoe race** – sure to be memorable!

On June 11 we will open what is shaping up to be a very thoughtful, and poignant exhibit on canoe safety featuring the *Père Lallemand* – one of four canoes involved in the 1978 tragedy on Lake Temiskaming that resulted in the loss of 13 young lives (see article on page opposite).

Please be sure to check the upcoming events section on page 8.



Photo: Mike Cullen



Volunteer Profile – Carole Ziegler

by Gwyneth Hoyle

If you are sitting behind the reception desk at the Canadian Canoe Museum and see someone dart out of the gift shop with speed and purpose, eyeglasses on a cord around her neck, the chances are very good that it is **Carole Ziegler**. With the help of a great roster of volunteers, Carole has been running the gift shop for the past five years. Although she is too modest to admit to being in charge, whenever there is a question to be answered or a knotty problem to be solved, the usual response is "Ask Carole".

Carole began helping out in the very basic gift shop that was tucked around the corner from the first reception desk on the Monaghan Road side of the building, when the Museum opened its doors to the public in 1997. She and her husband, **Don**, moved to

Peterborough twenty-four years ago from Unionville where Carole had been running a gift shop in a senior's home. Don, whose work at Quaker Oats was in sales and marketing, has played a quietly effective role as adviser in the gift shop, as well as using his wood-working skills to build display cabinets in the current store.

A visit to the gift shop makes a wonderful conclusion to a tour of the museum, as well as attracting shoppers who are looking for something special for Christmas or birthdays. The merchandise is carefully chosen to complement the theme of the museum and is attractively displayed.



Carole has a great eye for what will please customers, enjoys choosing stock, and with Don as chauffeur, she and as many of the store volunteers as possible attend the two major gift shows held in Toronto each year. Her preference is to buy from Canadian artists and suppliers, and from local artists whenever possible.

The gift shop provides a valuable source of revenue, and Carole and Don both get great satisfaction from the contribution of their volunteer work to the life of the museum.

Prodigal Canoe

A canoe that was lost has been found. And a very special new exhibit to this prodigal craft is being dedicated on Sunday, June 11th, 2006. The canoe, a 22-foot Selkirk model made by the Chestnut Canoe Company, was one of four involved in the 1978 St. Johns School tragedy on Lake Temiskaming. Immediately following the coroner's inquest into the tragedy, all four canoes effectively disappeared. Word was that they had been destroyed by the school because they were unseaworthy or for fear of litigation. But unbeknownst to almost anyone, **Andy** and **Barb Greaney**, who lost their 13-year-old son, **Davie**, in the tragedy, asked for, and were given the canoe their son had been paddling in on the last day of his life. For twenty-seven years, the big blue canoe, named *Père Lallemant*, was tucked away in a shed in Port Carling, waiting for the day that its story might be told.

That day came not so long ago when the Greaneys decided to donate *Père Lallemant* to the Canadian Canoe Museum, to be the centerpiece of a new exhibit that opens on the 28th anniversary of the tragedy.

The **Remembering Temiskaming** exhibit has three main themes: the first is to quietly remember those who died; the second is to display a remarkable example of one of the last canvas-covered canoes for group paddling to be made at the Chestnut Canoe Company plant in Oromocto,



Photo: Mike Cullen

New Brunswick; third, and perhaps most important, is that this canoe marks a major turning point in thinking about canoe safety, particularly the risks of cold water, for paddlers and educators across Canada and around the world. The St. Johns tragedy was a turning point in how people thought about risk and canoes.

"From that moment on, everybody taking voyages would look twice at standards of safety", said Canoe Museum founder, **Kirk Wipper**.

Following broad consultation with people from all walks of life who responded to a broadly circulated open invitation for input to the development process from museum manager, **Janice Griffith**, the exhibit was designed by educator **James Raffan**, author of *Deep Waters: Courage, Character, and the Lake Temiskaming Canoeing Tragedy*.

The dedication and opening of this powerful new exhibit will include the premier of a song written especially for the *Lallemant* canoe, along with comments from the Greaney family, and a special performance by the Lakefield College School Choir under the direction of music master **John Kraus**. The public is invited to attend the event on the Grand Portage at the Canadian Canoe Museum on Sunday, June 11th, 2006 at 2:30 in the afternoon.

Admission is the regular price, with refreshments to follow.



Songs of the Paddle

by Dwayne James

If you've ever been on a canoe trip where there was a campfire and a guitar, then you already know full well that folk music and canoeing is a match made in, well, Algonquin.

The producers of the two CD volumes of *Canoesongs* are fully aware of this connection as well, and have taken this relationship to its logical end by compiling an impressive collection of music drawing from, and inspired by, the canoe experience. The launch party for Volume 2 of *Canoesongs* on April 8th at the Canoe Museum caps a labour of love that actually spans several years.

As author **James Raffan** tells the story, the idea for a compilation of canoe-themed music came to him many years ago (at the time, he was thinking about a vinyl record), but he didn't have the ability or the know-how to execute it. So, the idea stuck with him over the years, and became more and more prominent in his mind every time he would hear a song about a canoe.

As luck would have it, one day he was introduced to preeminent Canadian music producer **Paul Mills** at a party, and he told Paul



James Raffan and Paul Mills

all about his canoe music idea. Although nothing came of it immediately, Paul remembered James when the two happened to meet again several years later (James posits that their first meeting likely stood out in Paul's memory because of the fact that James

happened to be carrying a life-sized cardboard cut-out of Dolly Parton at the time—I guess it really is important in the music business to be seen with the right people). Paul asked if anything had ever come of the idea, and when it was clear that nothing had, the two decided to go into business together. They formed *Portage Productions*, and started discussing what songs to include on the CD. James already had a list in mind (he had after all been formulating it for years), but there was one big problem—there were too many songs to choose from. Right from the start, it was clear that more than one release was needed to do the theme justice, so they decided to take a chance, and call this CD *Canoesongs Volume 1*, and began to solicit suggestions for the next compilation even as the first one was going out the door in spring of 2004.

This search for future material was aided no doubt by the fact that Volume 1 quickly became a hit! Not only did it sell well, but there were so many requests for the sheet music to the songs, that a companion song book for both Volumes is slated to be published this fall by *OFC Publications* in Ottawa.

For Volume 2, James and Paul gathered more songs from many of the same artists who made the first CD such a success, and included a few more. They gathered material from many different regions in Canada, and sought to embrace several different musical variations as well (Although it was decided that the songs had to have "folk" roots, this fact was a matter of some consternation especially when it came to the discussion over whether to include Gordon Lightfoot's *Canary Yellow Canoe*. Considering Lightfoot's status as a Canadian folk music legend, the inclusion should have been a given if it weren't for the fact that the song was decidedly, and uncharacteristically for Lightfoot, too "rock and roll"). Although the two producers had a lot of pre-existing material to choose from, 8 of the 14 tracks on Volume 2 were actually recorded specifically for its release (five of them in Paul's *Millstream* studio in Toronto).

So, on April 8th, James and Paul brought a handful of performers to the museum for Vol-



The *Canoesongs* performers from left to right: James Raffan, Paul Mills, René Archibald, David Archibald, Lorraine McDonald, Dave Hadfield, Shelley Posen, Nancy White, Jerry Vandiver, Bob Johnston.

ume 2's release party. The event was very well attended, and the museum was quite literally filled to the rafters with over two hundred audience members spilling over from the seats and onto the steps that lead up to the Grand Portage and beyond.

The performers for the evening included **Dave Hadfield** (who works for Air Canada in between musical gigs), **Lorraine McDonald** (who is actually credited for introducing James and Paul), **David Archibald** (who sang a very touching duet with his daughter), **Jerry Vandiver** (a well known song-writer from Nashville who had heard about the compilation and wanted to contribute), **Shelley Posen** (a curator from the Museum of Civilization whose amusing song about first experiences in a canoe was the breakaway hit of the first release), and **Nancy White** (well known for her more comical fare, White turned poignant with her touching portrait to Pierre Trudeau in Volume 1, but returned to slightly more identifiable territory with her highly amusing contribution to Volume 2).

The concert was hosted by James who in-

troduced each performer, gave a little back-story on them, and kept things light. Paul showed his versatility as a musician and modestly played a variety of stringed instruments to support the singers. The performance was interrupted for the awarding of door prizes (generously donated by both the Hudson's Bay Company and Andy Convery at Echo Paddles) and the presentation of a financial contribution from *Portage Productions* in the form of a combination guitar/paddle with a cheque affixed to its back. Afterwards, all of the performers gathered on stage for a rousing sing-along with the audience of some classic Canadian camp fire songs.

Now, how about some numbers to give you an idea of what this project as a whole has meant for the museum? Revenue from concert admissions along with the donation from *Portage Productions* approached \$4,000, meaning that the total money raised so far by the project

is over **\$7,000!!** Thank you James and Paul, and everyone else at Portage Productions for the incredible effort!

You're no doubt wondering: will there be a third volume? Well, according to www.canoesongs.com, James and Paul are still looking for ideas, so take that as a good sign!



Education Report

by Carolyn Hyslop

Well, as the school year comes to a close there is much to report. Let's start with **March Break Camp**. It was a booming success again this year. We ran two workshops each day of the week and almost all of the sessions were at their capacity. In total, about 150 students visited the Canoe Museum in 5 days for something fun to do on their March Break.

Our education programs received Royal recognition when they were highlighted to **HRH Prince Andrew** and the crowds of private guests on May 11th, by a small group of students from Millbrook's Homeschooling Collective. The students were very excited about being part of the visit and almost all of them spoke with Prince Andrew about the activity that they were doing. One student gathered up enough courage to give the Prince her watercolour painting! Special thanks goes to our amazing group of Animators that really made this event successful for both the students and HRH Prince Andrew.

Speaking of Animators, I would like to welcome **Jan Pattinson** to our Animating staff. She comes to us having just completed her

Bachelor of Education at Lakehead University with her teachables being Outdoor Education and History. What a great combination for our Museum!

We've had a number of teacher candidates and students join the Education Department for placement experience over the last few months. In March, **Erin Crowe** from the Outdoor and Experiential Education program within the Faculty of Education at Queen's University joined us. And then in April, **Wendy Mitchell** and six students from the Environmental Leadership Program at Centre Hastings Secondary School came by for a 4-day placement. And in May, we had **Hilary Watts**, a Bachelor of Education candidate from Trent University. It has been valuable and enriching to have these people in the Museum, thanks to them for their hard work.

Looking ahead to June, it will be a very busy month for Animators and the many support staff that help make the Education programs run. We have every day in June booked and some double if not triple booked!

And to top off the successful year in Educa-

tion, I am very pleased to announce the expansion of the Education Department into Summer Day Camp! Canoe Museum Kids Day Camp is summer day camp unlike any other. Campers will take part in hands-on, interactive activities, a day of canoeing and quite likely an overnight in the Museum! Visit the website for dates and registration information. Registration is open.

This summer, not only can your children and grandchildren get on the water in a canoe but so can you! Back by popular demand, the **Summer Institute for Teachers**. This is a 5 day canoeing course hosted by the Canadian Canoe Museum and the Ontario Recreational Canoeing Association that will grant participants their ORCA Flatwater Instructors certification. This important certification allows teachers and educators to certify their own students in ORCA's Flatwater program. The course is running from August 14-18 and costs \$575. We can only take 10 participants, so register now! You can find information on the website or call the Museum 705.748.9153.

Report from the Board

by Barry Diceman – Vice-Chair and Secretary

The CCM Board and staff participated in a Strategic Planning Session on Apr.1, 2006. The report from the moderator has been received for review by the Board.

The Annual General Meeting was held April 19, 2006 with the release of the first CCM Annual Report. Thanks to **Dwight Boyd** for the production of a very impressive 2005 Annual Report (members will have received their copy of it along with this newsletter). The AGM was well attended with 33 members present and 9 members submitting proxies. The Chair and Manager reviewed the events of the 2005 and announced upcoming dates of significance. Overall 2005 was a very positive year for the museum.

The five directors who were up for reelection all elected to remain on the Board,

so following is your CCM Board of Directors:

- Aldrich, Philip
- Boyd, Dwight
- Burrows, Ed – Treasurer
- Cartmell, Mollie
- Curtis, Don – Past Chair
- Diceman, Barry – Vice Chair/ Secretary
- Duckworth, George
- Hall, Bob – City of Peterborough appointee
- Jennings, John
- Matthews, Jack - Honorary Chair
- McKay, Verne – Chair
- Ross, Donald
- Stewart, Jim

Raffle winner!

Congratulations to **Rodney Michael Heines** of Rome, New York, the winner of our latest canoe raffle.

On April 28, Michael became the proud new owner of a proud old canvas covered canoe made locally by the Canadian Canoe Company in the 1930's, and valued at \$3,500.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the raffle!



Perssonal Reflections on the Collection

by Dick Persson

A treasure – hidden in plain sight!

In the museum's exhibit "It wasn't all work" the hull of the decked sailing canoe *Widgeon* has been exhibited for many years. I have to admit I have not given this canoe much thought or study before. However, I recently had reason to take a closer look at the craft and its provenance. I realized that there is a story hidden here that ought to be told. A thorough search of the museum's storage turned up the parts which were believed lost; the sliding seat, masts, the modified Norwegian tiller system, the cockpit splashguard, the rudder and the centre board. Unfortunately, *Widgeon* came to the museum collection without the sail rigs.

It is believed that this canoe was built by the Wm. English Canoe Co. in part because it is known that the Wm English built many of the **MacKendrick** family's canoes. Additionally, there are no builder's marks on it that I have found to date. However, this canoe has a number of construction details which point to the N. Gilbert Boat Building Co. in Gananoque, Ontario.

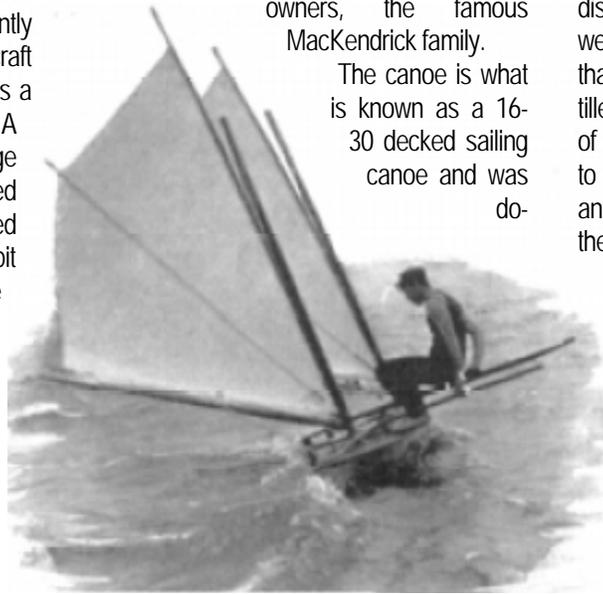


Nelson Gilbert's first decked sailing canoe of note was C.E. Archibald's *Mab* (shown). Her construction was well documented in several articles in the 1890's. Many more of the same design were built over the next 20 years.

It is most likely, that *Widgeon* is a sister of this successful racing canoe. Future research, smart-scan and a comparison of *Widgeon's* lines to those of other Gilbert built decked sailing canoes will tell us more about

exactly what we have. It is my hope that this exciting canoe exhibit could be expanded to include the additional artifacts which were donated along with the canoe. The exhibit might also include the story of its owners, the famous MacKendrick family.

The canoe is what is known as a 16-30 decked sailing canoe and was do-



those early days the canoes had no self draining cockpit; it was often unmanageable after an upset and carried only about sixty square feet of sail, with the sailor sitting on the cockpit edge. Butler, to overcome the disadvantage of his scant 110-pound weight, devised first the sliding seat to give that weight greater leverage, the crosshead tiller so he could steer while out on the end of his sliding seat, next the automatic cleat to tend his sheets until he came inboards and a self-bailing shallow cockpit to keep the seas out of her.

The effects of these inventions began to be felt from about 1890. At that time there was practically no limit to any element of the decked sailing canoe with the exception of length and beam. The standard sizes were 16 feet overall length and 30 inches extreme beam; hence the class name 16-30. Normally, two sails were carried with a total area of about 130 square feet but in some cases up to around 180 square feet were tried.

Since that time, rigs have changed and rules have been rewritten, but to this day, Paul Butler's four innovations; the hiking seat, the crosshead tiller, the automatic cleat and the self bailing cockpit are the distinguishing features of the decked sailing canoe.

I am told that no other type of boat offers such thrilling and enjoyable sailing! Imagine - flying at 12 knots, suspended a foot above the waves, four or five

feet out from your boat on the hiking seat and watching her leap through the seas - keen pleasure indeed!

Thank you to D. Miller, J. Summers, and R. MacGregor for contributing information. Other sources quoted: "Canoeing Under Sail" by M.D. Wilt and "Champion Canoes of Today" by R.B. Burchard.

nated by Ms. N. MacKendrick in 1980. Research indicates that the donor's father was J. N. MacKendrick, one of the three MacKendrick brothers, John, Will and Harry, competitive canoeists with a long list of championships to their names. They competed for The Toronto Canoe Club and were early on involved with the American Canoe Association as well as holding various board positions and executive offices.



What is a 16-30 decked sailing canoe

To understand just what a decked sailing canoe is, one must go back to late 1880's and early 1890's and a man named **Paul Butler**. Prior to Butler's time, sailing canoes actually looked much like everyday cruising canoes, about 15 to 16 feet long, half-decked, and with modest sailing rigs. In



Notices and Events

Please note: The membership computer has crashed and has been replaced. There are still some "bugs" to be worked out, so please be patient and let us know of any errors in our back-up data.

Friday, June 2 **Landscape and Experience: The Work of Lewis Henry Morgan**
Lecture POSTPONED. Derek Brereton's lecture will be rescheduled for sometime in the fall.

Saturday, June 3 **Kawartha Fun Day & Canoeathon**
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Johnson Property
Paddle from Lakefield to Peterborough, Volleyball Tournament, boat rides on Little Lake and much more. CCM friends from Kenner Collegiate once again are organizing this fun day. Dwayne James is organizing the First Annual Cardboard Canoe Race – all taking place from the Johnson Property on Little Lake (that's just North of Beavermeade park).

Sunday, June 11 **Opening and Dedication, *Remembering Temiskaming* Exhibit**
2:30 p.m. Grand Portage. See article on page 3 for more details.

Thursday, June 15 **Cocktail Party and Fundraiser**
Toronto
Anyone in the area interested in attending, call Jim Stewart at (416) 944-9562 or email him at jfcs.cvcc@sympatico.ca

Friday, July 7 **Chairman's Barbecue**
6:00 PM, Fraserville, ON
Following last year's terrific event, Verne & Pat McKay will again host a barbecue at their barn. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres start at 6:00 and the dinner begins at 7:00. A dance will follow. Tickets \$100 per person (\$60 of which can be used as a tax receipt). Get your tickets at the Canoe Museum.

August 14-18 **Summer Institute for Teachers**
Get your ORCA Flatwater Instructors certification. See Education Report on page 6 for more details.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I never was a huge fan of Frank Sinatra but ever since reading Dick Persson's article in the Winter 2006 issue of your newsletter (*"Personal Reflections on the Collection"*) I can't get one of the famous ditties by "Old Blue Eyes" out of my head... "Regrets I've had a few, but then again, too few to mention..."

I'd like to mention one regret that hit me like a whack on the side of the head after reading Persson's full page article about the history of the Stephenson canoes of Peterborough:

I met Gerry and Mary Stephenson in the mid 1970s through my wife, Kris. We continued to enjoy a three decade-long friendship with the Peterborough couple who were avid cottagers and canoeists, especially on Lake Chandos and Anstruther Lake. Gerry taught me the J-stroke in 1974 when I didn't know the front end from the back end of a canoe. As a young buck, I probably thought a J-stroke was a method of cleaning a canoe with a J-cloth!

Gerry passed away on September 17, 2003 and Kris and I still keep in regular touch with Mary, but I regret that I never questioned Gerry for more details about his

family's canoe-building history. It is now a missed opportunity. I once asked an elderly gentleman if he had any regrets in his life and he said, "Yes. Just one. I wish I had been more curious." And that's just how I feel now,

nearly three years after Gerry's death.

But, thankfully, Dick Persson's column was published in your newsletter and I learned new details of the family history, especially about two rare canoes that Gerry donated to the Canoe Museum. One was made by Gerry's grandfather, John S.

Stephenson, who was once described by the Peterborough Examiner as "the Father of the Peterborough canoe." The other artifact is a 17-foot canvas-covered canoe made by Gerry's uncle, George R. Stephenson.

Among the many fascinating things I learned in Persson's article was the fact that John Stephenson invented a paddle-making machine that reduced much of the hand-work in the process of paddle making. Also, George Stephenson produced more than 500 boats and canoes until his death in 1945. I did not know that! I

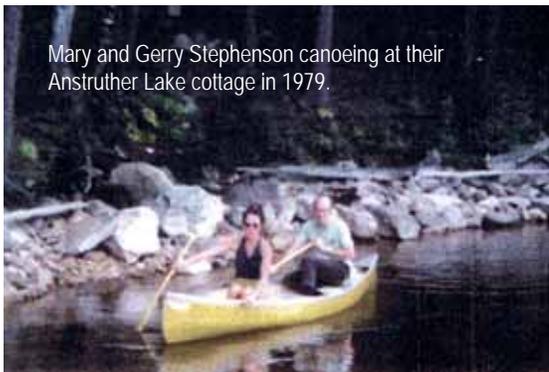
might have, had I been more curious and asked more questions during our visits to Mary and Gerry's cottage at Anstruther Lake, and more recently at their vacation home in Lagoon City.

In November 1987, Gerry wrote a 24-page pamphlet that was published by the Peterborough Historical Society titled, *"John Stephenson and the famous Peterborough Canoes."* I recall scanning the booklet nearly 20 years ago, and more recently I was honoured to receive a complimentary copy from Mary, at Gerry's funeral on September 20, 2003. But it took Dick Persson's fascinating article to pique my interest in learning more about Gerry's family history of canoe making. Regrettably, Gerry is no longer with us, so I cannot get any more first-hand information from my old friend and canoe teacher, but I have now become something that Lewis Carroll wrote in *Alice Through the Looking Glass*: curiouser and curiouser.

In his 1987 pamphlet, Gerry noted that his grandfather was born 103 years before him. He wrote, "I had no opportunity to ask him questions of the fascinating happenings during his times." Gerry was born a mere 13 years before me and I had the opportunity to ask him a lot more than I did about his family's history. You can bet I'll be re-reading his booklet and watching for more canoe stories by Dick Persson in your newsletter.

Thanks for publishing his article.

Sincerely,
Dennis McCloskey
Richmond Hill, Ontario



Mary and Gerry Stephenson canoeing at their Anstruther Lake cottage in 1979.

