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Dear David,

We are now officially open for the summer! This past Wednesday, we had a little celebration as we officially opened our doors for the summer of 2010. Granted that until the water temperature warms up some more, we will be focusing on courses, our first upcoming social paddle (June 2nd), and just making sure that all the boats are well cleaned out, with working rudders and paddles that will feather.



Let the Summer Begin!

Speaking of paddles, we are changing all our paddles from Aqua-bound (which has served us so well over the years) to [Werner Paddles](#)! They just arrived yesterday and will be included into our rental and instructional fleet for the first classes of 2010. We've also started to upgrade our skirts as its time to part with some of the old tired ones. These new skirts are more of a rubberized canvas material and will start to replace our older ones.

In other cool gear news, we will be incorporating some very stable boats in the form the [Venture Easky](#) which has a skeg, as well as collaborating to pilot the introduction of the [paddle-boarding](#) into our area (more news on that in the next newsletter)

As you can see, there is always a lot of excitement down here.

All the best!

James, Dave and the gang!



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Early Season Rental Policy

WE HAVE OPENED RENTALS FOR THE SUMMER OF 2010.

This is a record early start for our rental program. Traditionally our water



Paddlers in Drysuits!

Traditionally our water temperatures do not reach our required levels until the 3rd week of June. There is always the possibility that a big storm could mix up the cold water from the deep with the surface water causing us to go back into our wetsuit policy, but as of this letter, we are open for rentals with no wetsuit required.

Stay tuned to our home page for weather and condition updates ([Click here for Home Page](#)).

James Kowalewski
General Manager



Boat Orientation

Working With Your Instructor

Kayaking and Canoeing are sports which can offer up a world of adventure. They can be part of a healthy lifestyle, a means of income and a way to challenge yourself. These sports appeal to all walks of life and can be achieved to varying degrees of proficiency, mainly beginning with a desire to "try something new".

Presently you may have gotten your start, but the most common question we receive is "what do I do next?"

Being a school first and foremost we strongly encourage safety and taking a rescue course to ensure that your first experience is a safe, positive experience. But sometimes that first experience appears as an opportunity with friends at a cottage, or while away on vacation. Whichever way it happens, usually at some point during that "first flight" you get bitten by the paddling bug. It could be a feeling of getting closer to nature, exploration, health, or the new challenge, but whatever it ends up being, you may be looking for that next step.

Down here, we have outlined all our courses into a chart which is stacked in an order of difficulty and previous paddling experience ([Kayaking Chart](#), [Canoeing Chart](#)). This is cross referenced with paddling conditions. While this can be a useful tool to see and to plan with, it takes into account where your perceived paddling ability is, but does not provide any evaluation of where your tangible and current paddling skills may be.

Use our perceived paddling skills chart to start a dialog with the office in planning which course you may want to get into. Based on that conversation, and in reference to your paddling experience, we can make recommendations on where you may want to enter into our system. After that, and once on a course, its your instructor who can provide the more tangible and standardized assessment of your updated paddling skills. They are highly skilled in assessing what degree of proficiency, your paddling ability is at. "I just want to be able to paddle up at the cottage", "I'm planing a weekend canoe trip", "I'd like to get into certifications", "I would like to be an instructor someday". These are all statements for which your instructor will be most qualified to answer after working with you.

It is based on our instructors recommendations that we award the GREEN, BLUE and BLACK paddling designation with our guests.

So, to summarize the answer to the question "how do I plan out my paddling progression"? Get out there, try it out, and if working with an instructor, let them know why you're taking up kayaking, and where you hope to go with it. Get in the conversation of "what do you think I could do next", or "how can I get to this point", or the most important one: "do you think I'm ready to ...?".

There is a trust, and a professional relationship with your instructor. Their goal is to keep you safe, make sure you're having fun, but also to assist you in achieving your goals. They may even be able to introduce you to a new avenue of paddling that you had not considered for yourself.

After teaching canoeing and kayaking for over 15 years, I have had the opportunity to instruct hundreds of courses of various skill levels. Quite often I get reunited with a former student from over those years and I always find it amazing to hear where paddling has taken them since our initial lesson. In some cases they have stories of amazing adventures, in others its something they would love to get back into. For others, I now call them fellow instructors, guides and my paddling advisers as they have far surpassed my paddling certifications.

All the best and see you on the water soon!

James

IN OUR COMMUNITY



G 20 Summit - Toronto Ontario

We have been receiving a steady flow of e-mails and phone calls with questions regarding the upcoming G 20 summit being held June 26 - 27 this summer in Toronto and how that will be affecting us. At this point, all we know is that we will be allowed to remain open and that we are expecting to be able to continue with business as usual. With that said, we do not know how transportation and access to our area will be affected. As per usual, if there is information that we can pass along to you to help out with your weekend planning, we will do so. In the mean time, please check out the [official government website here](#).

SOCIAL PADDLE START DATE JUNE 2nd, 3rd, 4th

At long last, [Social Paddles](#) are gearing up to return June 2nd. This is a great way to get in some early season paddling as wetsuits are not required for these paddles. To accommodate this, we staff them with rescue qualified and practiced guides to ensure quick action, in the unfortunate event that you capsize. In addition we will be maintaining tighter guide-to-participant paddling ratios.

If you are considering paddling with us several times over the summer, save yourself some money by checking out our [Frequent Paddlers Card](#). Use your FPC points to rent kayaks, as well as to reserve your specific boat online for social paddles.

James Kowalewski
General Manager

REGISTRATION FOR MEC PADDLEFEST OPENS MAY 26th!

New to MEC Paddlefest this year is one of our [Open Recreational Kayak Races](#). This will be the launch event for our regular race series with the Sunday lunch time race being a stand alone demonstration event. There will be no entry fee for this event however if you are not using your own boat, space is limited. Registration for this race will be hosted at the Harbourfront Canoe and Kayak Centre Booth on Saturday and up until 11:30am on Sunday during the Paddlefest event. Any and all types of paddle boats are welcome. Race distance is set for approx. 5 kms (around 45 minute average finish time).

Additionally for \$5 you can sample just about any dimension of paddle sports you can think of. For more information check out their website: [Toronto MEC Paddlefest](#)

THE INSIDE SCOOP - Paddlefest Toronto has continued to grow very year. Last year registration for key topics were sold out in the first couple of days. This year, MEC is expecting around 300 registrations on the first day of registration alone. If you want to make sure you get into the course of your choosing, register early!!

Registration opens May 26th.

Its an amazing two days and we look forward to seeing you there!

The Harbourfront Canoe and Kayak Centre is entering into it's 31st year! Thank you for making us part of your summer and remember ...group paddles & BBQ's start the beginning of June.

Sincerely,

The Harbourfront Gang!
www.paddletoronto.com

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