



**2017**

# ***Fort Edmonton Canoe Brigade***

**Arrival & Departure Ceremony Plans,  
Schedule & Assignments**

**Draft B – March 2017**

**Originally prepared by M. Lund  
Original Arrival “Call” prepared by T. Bentley**

## **Arrival Ceremonies – General Plan**

Over the past decade or longer, and traditionally long before Europeans broached these North American shores, groups arriving at a community for trade or social reasons announced their arrival. To do otherwise the receiving community would assume the “worst” and prepare to repel the approaching parties.

Before arriving at a Fur Trade Post, or community, the typical fur canoe brigade would stop some distance away, clean-up, dress, reorganize and then head into their destination. Over this past decade of brigades, an arriving brigade, when the beach front/river/lake is accommodating performs a short paddle demonstration... this maybe as simple as paddling a circle, or a more complex maneuver. Once completed then the approaching canoe brigade “stands-off” from the designated arrival beach, and announces their intention to “come ashore” with the firing of weapons (blanks), bag pipes or even just a chant or yells. Once the attention of the receiving community has been attracted, and community officials have congregated on the beach, the arriving party loudly requests *“permission to come ashore”*. This is granted by a community leader, and usually supported by additional firing of available weapons on shore. The canoe brigade then usually provides a *“gunwale salute”*, and then sprints for shore, and lands. Once the canoes have all landed, and canoes are secured, the brigade participants then informally march (to the “pipes” when available) into the community square where the community welcomes the paddlers, and the brigade leaders express their appreciation for the safe landing with gifts for the community.

For the 2017 Fort Edmonton Canoe Brigade this above general plan will be followed assuming that weather and water levels cooperate. An abbreviated version maybe used if conditions are less than acceptable.

Brigade participants are strongly encouraged to participate fully in our arrival ceremonies, including by “dressing the part.” This usually means a period shirt, a sash, colorful toque or hat and lots of enthusiasm! Some canoe crews have been known to adopt a come look/uniform. We suspect that given the known individuality of voyageurs, this was not common in the past. But cleaning up, and “look good” for the community (young ladies in large part) was the key!

As in past years, for 2017 the Fort Edmonton Canoe Brigade we expect to follow-up each arrival ceremony with an opportunity, called *People in Boats*, for local spectators to give the big canoes a short try as “milieux” (middle paddlers). Depending on demand, this should last from 30-50 minutes or so. Arrangements have been made to provide lifejackets and paddles for these participants, and the signing of waivers will be required. Each Canoe Crew will be expected to help out with these *People In Boats* sessions as Bow and stern paddlers, as load/unload support, a lifejacket fitters, or as marshalls and waiver collectors.

## **"Permission to come ashore?"**

### ***Guidelines from Jim Gibson***

Notes from Jim Gibson of Gibsons, BC on how to do a "call shore" and greeting for arrival at a town, community, village or city.

Sincerity is #1. Make it from the heart. Speak your normal English or French or Cree or ... in your normal accent. Make it not too rehearsed.

- Stand and face the shore party. Speak up!
- Have regalia if appropriate.

First thing: Say who you are addressing. This is something you can likely find out in advance, know the communities(s) names, what people will be there:

- "Your honor Lieutenant Governor, Your worship Mr Mayor, Members of Parliament. ....
- Elders of the community of " Edmonton", ....

Identify your self and your party:

- Say who you are and what you name is
- Native person might give their English name and their native name.
- " I am Ted Bentley,
- "I am here as a voyageur with the Fort Edmonton Brigade of the 2017 Canadian Voyageur Brigades."
- "Ours is the canoe from Seschelt from Gibsons's BC We are paddlers from BC, Alberta, ....
- "Our people represent many walks of life. We are: RCMP, paramedics, teachers .... what ever type of persons are present that might be related to. (Jim notes that especially for native communities, it shows young people that "officials" are real people with real lives)

Say some thing nice and or notable about getting to their town:

Take 1 - " Paddling our canoe through your water today we have seen: bears, eagles, ??? developing community? ?? magnificent parks?

So We have been singing the bear song, the ... song ?awed to silence because we can not sing.?

Take 2: We have enjoyed the last 3 days of the beauty of your waters, Today we saw eagles, forests of your river valley

- "A funny or significant thing that happened to us was E.G.: met a fishing boat and traded with them for fish we wish to share with you tonight.

Ask to land:

- " With respect we ask permission to come ashore and share our stories.
- "- We have been paddling for 8 hours and we understand you are going to feed us and are looking forward to enjoying a meal with you.
- "- Later we look forward to hearing your musicians and seeing your dancers later this evening."

Finish off by thanking them for having us into their lands on this occasion.

- "..."

During April and May we will have to gather specific info' for each of our communities.

Collected by T. Bentley 2017 Feb 24

**Fort Edmonton Canoe Brigade**  
***Arrival/Departure Ceremony Schedule and Assignments***

| Arr. or Dep. | Location                           | Date       | Time                             | Upstream Gather:<br>Usually 20 - 45 minutes in advance of arrival | Site Mngr. / Volunteers/ People in Boats | Black Powder Crew                        | Piper       | Community Leader to greet/send off |
|--------------|------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|---|--|--|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Dep          | Const. C. Robinson Pk              | Fri. Ju.30 | 8 – 9 AM                         | n/a   |  | n/a                                      | n/a         | ?                                  |
| Arr          | Voyageur Park, Devon               | Fri. Ju.30 | 4:30 – 6PM                       | Prospectors Pt, or alt.   |  | Edmonton House Brigade<br>Tim Williamson | Piper Jack  | ?                                  |
| Dep          | Lions Campground, Devon            | Sa.Jul.1   | 7:30 - 9 AM                      | n/a   |  | Edmonton House Brigade<br>Tim Williamson | Piper Jack  | ?                                  |
| Arr          | Fort Edmonton Park                 | Sa.Jul.1   | 10:45 AM for an 11:15 AM arrival | Fort Edmonton Foot Bridge, then Fort Edmonton York Boat dock      |  | Edmonton House Brigade<br>Tim Williamson | Piper Brett | ?                                  |
| Dep          | Fort Edmonton Park                 | Sa.Jul.1   | 11:45 AM                         | Fort Edmonton Park  |  | Edmonton House Brigade<br>Tim Williamson | Piper Brett | ?                                  |
| Arr          | Red Coat Landing, Ft. Saskatchewan | Sa.Jul.1   | 4 – 5:30 PM                      | Rnge Rd 540, or closer alt.                                       |  | Edmonton House Brigade<br>Tim Williamson | Piper Tom   | ?                                  |
| Dep          | Fort Saskatchewan                  | Su.Jul.2   | 8:00 AM                          | n/a   |  | n/a                                      | n/a         |                                    |
| Arr          | Metis Crossing                     | Su.Jul.2   | 5:00 PM                          | Twn.rd. 581 approx. 1.5 km west of hwy bridge                     |  | Edmonton House Brigade<br>Tim Williamson | Piper Andy  |                                    |
| Arr          | Victoria Settlement H.Site         | Mo.Jul.3   | 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM               | Metis Crossing  |  | Edmonton House Brigade<br>Tim Williamson | Piper Andy  |                                    |