

# **Deep River Ottawa: The Chief Pinesi Canoe Brigade 2025**

## **General Plan and Schedule:**

**Dates:** June 23 – July 1, 2025

## **Location;**

Deep River, Ontario to Stanley Park, New Edinburgh, Ottawa, via the Ottawa and Rideau rivers. The starting point is the town of Deep River, where there are local motels and an area available for camping nearby (arrangements still being made to determine the most convenient camping site and launch site.

## **Why:**

To provide an opportunity for descendants of Chief Pinesi, other First Nations participants, and non-first nations participants, to commemorate Chief Pinesi and his role in the history of Canada. To draw attention of local communities along the route and Canadians in general to the historic role of Chief Pinesi in the struggle for the rights of First Nations peoples and his role in the War of 1812 in support of the British. To provide a platform to discuss and celebrate reconciliation and restitution for the injustices perpetrated on Chief Pinesi's people and all First Nations peoples. To celebrate the historical and ecological significance of the Ottawa that connect our communities, our ecosystems, and people time and geography. To celebrate the canoe as an icon to the values of this country: cultural cooperation, respect for all nations, respect for the environment. To draw attention to the Ottawa River as a Canadian Heritage River, one of a family of Canada's most outstanding rivers for its cultural and historical values, and to the dream of restoring the Ottawa as the world's cleanest, most ecologically healthy river to flow a national capital city.

Traditionally, voyageur canoes carried cargos of furs and trade goods. But these canoes will carry a different kind of payload – ideas, hopes and dreams. Our mission is to draw attention to the need for everyone, from citizen advocacy to the highest political echelons to the spirit of reconciliation - we want to see a Canada where all cultures can work and live together in peace and harmony and justice.

## **Big Canoes:**

This journey will be organized by canoe crews of 6-18 paddlers. Each crew will arrange for a replica of a "Voyageur" big canoe of 26 – 36 feet, which are normally paddled by 5-14 paddlers at a time. Most crews will have extra members, so that paddlers can be rotated, with those on a non-paddling shift or day looking after setting up camp, shuttling vehicles, preparing or acquiring food. Whether or not

crews choose to have extra members, so that paddling can be in shifts, or whether crews choose to paddle the entire route, is up to the individual crew captains. We are planning for 3 big canoes to participate in this brigade, 2 36' Montreal Canoes (from Canadian Voyageur Adventures, and one from the Ontario Marathon Canoe Racing Association or Canadian Voyageur Adventures, or Rideau Roundtable

The 26' canoe is ideally paddled by a crew of six to eight; the Montreal Canoes are best paddled by a crew of 12-14. As noted above, some crew members can take shifts to provide other services, such as setting up camp, shuttling vehicles, so crews can be slightly bigger than the actual number of paddlers needed). **How this is handled is up to the individual teams.**

Max Finkelstein, Paddle Canada Instructor Trainer in the Big Canoe program, will be on hand to assist and advise individual crews. **Each canoe will have at least one Paddle Canada certified 'gouvernail' on board at all times the canoes are on the water.**

### **Smaller Paddle Craft:**

For the Chief Pinesi Canoe Brigade, we welcome smaller human-powered craft, (canoes, kayaks, SUPS, sit-on-tops, outriggers, rowing boats, etc)., to join in for portions of the brigade. The most appropriate reach to join the brigade is on the run in to Britannia Beach in Ottawa. But smaller craft are also invited to join in on other portions of the route.

Small craft paddlers should bear in mind that big canoes go fast and it is difficult to keep up unless you are in a racing craft. Also, small craft paddlers will not be considered as part of the brigade. No need to register, but tandem and solo paddlers must be made aware that they will not be covered under brigade insurance. They are on their own, just out for a paddle, and happen to be paddling with these Big Canoes. The Chief Pinesi Canoe Brigade organizers will work with local paddling groups for scheduling and information sharing, but administration and liability is the responsibility of local groups or individuals.

### **Brigade Organizer Responsibilities:**

The Brigade organizer is Kichi Sibi Trails, in partnership with the New Edinborough Community Alliance (NECA), The Brigade is being run under the umbrella of the Canadian Voyageur Brigade Society, and all

paddling participants must be insured through the Canadian Voyageur Brigade Society membership. **Kichi Sibi Trails** is responsible for setting the schedule and itinerary, registering Big Canoe crew and paddlers, assuring the Safety Plan is followed (see safety plan), arranging for camp sites, organizing events with local communities, liaising with government organizations such as Parks Canada, National Capital Commission, and Municipalities. Brigade organizers will also assist individual paddlers to find crews to paddle with and assist small crews to find additional paddlers.

Kichi Sibi Trails will arrange for camping sites for the brigade. These will be at community campsites and private campsites along the route: Deep River, Sheenboro, Pembroke, Esprit Rafting (Davidson), Bryson, Norway Bay, McClarens Landing, Britannia Beach.

### **Kichi Sibi Trails is responsible for setting fees and for registering participants.**

**Fees and Registration:** Travel and food during the brigade will be organized by Kichi Sibi Trails and a fee/paddler for food, camping, canoe rental and other associated brigade costs will be set. At this point in time, a fee/paddler of \$500.00 has been set. Of this, \$120.00 **is for food**. There will be opportunities to stay in hotels and eat at restaurants during the brigade. This is the choice of individual crew members.

All participants must become members of the Canadian Voyageur Brigade Society to participate. To register for the brigade through the Canadian Voyageur Brigade society there is an additional fee of \$18.00. (See [voyageurbrigade.org](http://voyageurbrigade.org) and look under 2025 brigades).

This brigade is being funded through private grants, individual supporters and paddler fees. The goal is to 'break even'. Group campsite bookings, are covered by Kichi Sibi Trails. The costs of renting big canoes, group food and group meals will be covered by the Brigade Organizer. But participants are responsible for costs of transportation to and from the brigade, and any extra amenities purchased, such as restaurant meals, motels, etc.

Registration will officially open in April, but paddlers can express their intent to participate before then by contacting Kichi Sibi Trails ([Contact – Kichi Sibi Trails](#)) or contacting Max Finkelstein directly ([dowfink@gmail.com](mailto:dowfink@gmail.com)). Registration is done through Kichi Sibi Trails and the Canadian Voyageur Brigade Society. Individual participants are responsible for registering through both organizations! **If you don't register, you cannot participate!!!!**

## Kichi Sibi Trails

Kichi Sibi Trails is responsible for arranging meetings with local dignitaries, drumming and singing events, community celebrations, etc.

The Brigade Organizer (Kichi Sibi trails) will also be responsible for the 'branding' of the brigade (for example, hats, head bands, t-shirts, stickers, flags, etc, depending on available funds).

Kichi Sibi Trails will also will be responsible for media coverage, web site development and updating, (the brigade is covered in the web site of Kichi Sibi Trails ([kichissibiantientrails.ca](http://kichissibiantientrails.ca), Kichi Sibi Trails on Facebook), in addition to the [Voyageurbrigade.org](http://Voyageurbrigade.org) website). Kichi Sibi Trails will also be responsible for arranging for video coverage of the brigade (see <https://youtu.be/NEI9MC4bRYE>)

**The Canadian Voyageur Brigade Society** supports our liability insurance, provides some tertiary medical benefits, ensures that all participants complete a waiver and that the CVBS managers have access to all participants data for emergency contact.

All participants must become members of the Canadian Voyageur Brigade Society to participate (\$18 yearly membership).

## **Canoe Crew Captain Responsibilities:**

Participants must be organized into crews for each big canoe and each crew must designate a canoe captain. Canoe captains do not need to be Paddle Canada certified big canoe leaders, nor do they need to be the designated 'gouvernail' for the canoe, although this is often the case, Each individual crew captain, working with the Brigade organizer, Kichi Sibi Trails, is responsible for registering and assembling their crews, arranging transportation to and from the event and throughout the brigade, ensuring that their canoe is equipped with safety gear to Coast Guard requirements, adhering to the Safety Plan, ensuring that each canoe has adequate paddles, life jackets, camp gear, group cooking supplies and gear, and food.

Crew captains, working with the brigade organizer, Kichi sibi trails, are responsible for arranging transportation, food, camping gear and other needs. Note that campsites will have been arranged by the Brigade Organizer and will be at no cost to individual participants or canoe crews.

## **Individual Crew Member Responsibilities:**

Individuals who wish to participate in the Chief Pinesi Canoe Brigade have the responsibility to find a crew to join or assist in forming a crew. The Brigade Organizer (Kichi Sibi Trails) will assist individuals to find crews. Each individual is expected to share in camp chores, submit required paperwork to crew captains (waivers and membership in the Voyageur Brigade Society), pay for their share of the costs not covered by Kichi Sibi Trails, as directed by their captain, and help the brigade achieve its goals.

**Fees and Registration:** Travel and food during the brigade will be organized by Kichi Sibi Trails and a fee/paddler for food will set each paddling crew and costs will vary by crew choices. There will be opportunities to stay in hotels and eat at restaurants during the brigade. This is the choice of individual crew members. All participants must become members of the Canadian Voyageur Brigade Society to participate. To register for the brigade through the Canadian Voyageur Brigade society there is an additional fee of \$18.00. (See [voyageurbrigade.org](http://voyageurbrigade.org) and look under 2024 brigades). An initial deposit of \$200.00/participant payable to Kichi Sibi Trails is required to register (Depending on how much we receive in grants. This amount may be changed. Depending on grants received (still pending) there could be an additional charge for each participant.

This brigade is being funded through grants and supporters. Some additional costs may have to be budgeted on an equal cost-sharing basis. Some costs, such as group campsite bookings, are covered by Kichi Sibi Trails. The costs of renting big canoes, any group camping fees, insurance, 'swag', group meals will be covered by the Brigade Organizer, hopefully through grants. But participants are responsible for costs of transportation to and from the brigade, transportation during the brigade, crew food costs, which will be calculated on a per crew basis by the crew captains.

Expect Registration to open in April. Registration is done through Kichi Sibi Trails and the Canadian Voyageur Brigade Society. Individual participants are responsible for registering through both organizations! **If you don't register, you cannot participate!!!!**

## **Other Considerations:**

-This is not a competitive event. Canoes are expected to travel together, following a lead canoe and followed by a sweep canoe.

-brigade leadership will be shared among crews. Each evening or early morning, crew captains will meet with a representative of Kichi Sibi Trails (the Brigade organizer) to discuss the schedule for the day, determine lead and sweep canoes, planned events, etc.

- some crews may have support vehicles and non-paddling or partial-paddling members. These folks would also need to register and are expected to participate in all non-water activities.

-there will be motorized boat support along portions of the route to assist in video coverage and as an extra safety factor.

-Paddle Canada Big Canoe Leader Certification: Each canoe must have at least one member certified as Paddle Canada Big Canoe Leader. Kichi Sibi Trails will provide a Paddle Canada Big Canoe leader for crews that do not have one. If there is sufficient interest, we could provide a Big Canoe Leader Certification course prior to the brigade. There will be time for some Big Canoe training at Deep River prior to the start of the brigade but not a Big Canoe Leader course.

## **Brigade Schedule:**

### **June 23: Deep River ( Ryans Campsite; Tiny Village )**

This is the staging area for camping, canoe delivery.

Drumming, blessings to take place the morning of June 24 prior to embarking.

### **June 24:**

paddlers depart at 9:00 AM;

Highlights:

Pointe au Baptême

*Where the Ottawa River narrows as it meets the encroaching [Canadian] Shield, a long sandy point juts far out into the waterway. For brigades heading upstream, this was an obvious campsite that took on a special significance. Here, the veteran voyageurs “baptized” any novices in the crew, and these greenhorns were required to stand drinks — a regal — all round. For paddlers today, the point, which emerges from the pines on the Ontario shore and extends halfway across the river, is virtually unchanged and easily recognized. For landlubbers, however, it is out of bounds, for it sits on property that belongs to Atomic Energy of Canada.*

Ouiseaux Rock for interpretation of the pictographs there.

Camping: possibly Pontiac Hotel in Sheenboro or Ouiseau Bay Resort (Quebec)

### **June 25:**

Depart; 9:00 am

Highlights:

Beautiful scenery above Pettawawa

Pettawawa Military Museum? Wendy?

Camping: Riverside Park, Pembroke (Ontario)

Presentation by Upper Ottawa Valley heritage Centre?

### **June 26:**

Depart; 9:00 AM

Camping: Esprit Rafting, Davidson, Quebec

Highlights:

Morrisons Island (home of Chief Tessouat)

Running the Allumette Rapids

Westmeath Beach; the most beautiful beach on the river. Good place for lunch! 19 km from Pembroke

The Karst Channel: Possibly the largest Karst system of caves, sinkholes and underwater channels in Canada! Time to stop and explore sinkholes and lost channels

Camping: Esprit Rafting, Davidson, Quebec

### **June 27:** Depart 9:00 AM

Paddle past Fort Coulonge (established in 1683!), don't stop, it's a hard paddle upstream on the Coulonge River), past Campbells Bay to Bryson (there is a nice sandy beach there

Camping: About 35 km. Horizon X, a rafting company located on Isle du Grand Calumet, directly across from Bryson on the mainland, and just upstream of the power dam. From his place we can truck portage all to the lower end of the island where there is a private boat launch.

**June 28 (Day 5)** Alastair will pick up the canoes from Horizon X campsite in the evening or morning and transport them around the Bryson Dam (Grand Calumet – once the longest portage on the Ottawa in pre-dam days). Paddlers will also have to be transported by vehicle.

Paddle to Portage-du-Fort, about 12 km downstream (depends where the canoes are launched). Good place for lunch in the town.

There is a short portage around the Chenaux Dam, about 300 m by road. Possible to carry the big canoes ourselves for this short portage.

The river below Portage-du-Fort is very scenic, sandy beaches and islands.

Camping: Pine Lodge in Norway Bay

### **June 29: (Day 6):**

Depart morning and paddle to Morris Island Conservation Area above the Chats Falls Dam (16 km). Pick up canoes at Morris Island Conservation Area on the Ontario side. Portage canoes (and paddlers) about 10 km to Fitzroy PP. Relaunch and paddle past Quyon about 13 km to McClarens landing.

Camping: McClarens landing. This is a community-owned beach. There are a few facilities. Drinking water and firewood will have to be brought in by vehicle. The local community association will help out with this).

### **June 30 (day 7)**

Long day paddle to Britannia Beach (37 km). Possible lunch stop in Constance Bay? A side trip to Alymer Island will add about 2-3 km. Possibility to meet archaeologist at Alymer Island.

Permission to camp at Britannia Beach is arranged Long day paddle to Britannia Beach (37 km).

Permission to camp at Britannia Beach is arranged. Possibility to meet the local counsellor.

### **July 1 (Day 8)**

Canoes to be trucked from Britannia to the Rideau River and relaunched across from Billings Bridge Shopping Centre. Paddlers will have to be transported there. Paddle down the Rideau to Stanley Park (6 km). Canoe will have to be lined down the rapids at the tennis club (Strathcona Park/Vanier). Arrival at Stanley Park by 1:00 PM, Day 8, July 1.