

Revelstoke Paddlesport Challenge

Report on the event 2019



The longest paddlesport race in BC, the first-ever, 3-day, 125 km, Revelstoke Paddlesport Challenge was run over the same course as the 2017 David Thompson Paddlesport Classic from Mica Creek to Revelstoke on July 19 to 21, 2019.

The annual event involves paddling canoes, kayaks, SUP's and other vessels on one, two or all three days of the 125 kilometres from Mica Creek to the 5-mile boat launch near Revelstoke Dam. There is a non-competitive OPEN CLASS for those paddlers who just want to complete the full 3-day course within the time frame allotted and earn their distance pin. Other paddlers enter to race the course in various boat, age and gender classes competing for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place wooden medals in their class in addition to distance pins. There is also a special Business class where businesses provide a tandem canoe and sponsor two paddlers to compete with other businesses. For those who are not familiar with the course please refer to the description below.

There were 26 boats registered for the event of which 20 started. Only 5 completed the whole course, 7 completed the 2 day course and 6 the 1 day course on Sunday. 5 distance pins were awarded. 15 first place and 2 second place awards were presented. 28 people, including 16 from Revelstoke, took part in the paddling. Other paddlers came from Ontario, Alberta, New York and Washington States.

Contrary to other years, the wind didn't behave. The second day started with a tail wind from the North, but soon changed to a head wind from the South. The wind increased, developing large white-caps which forced the event to be stopped at Downie



Creek. The radio-equipped safety boats piloted by did an exceptional job of getting paddlers and boats to safe shore locations and the shore volunteers did a great job getting the paddlers back to their cars. As all the boats had passed a check point, where their times were recorded before the race was stopped, the race was still on . . . and nobody swamped.

The fastest boat to complete the full 3-days was a tandem racing canoe paddled by Mike and Larry Harrison from New York and Washington States in

10:40:54. The fastest, and only, Stand-up-Paddleboard in the 3-day event was Natalie Pehowich 18:07:35. The oldest male paddler was 70 year old Doug Grant in a solo kayak from Goodwood, Ontario and the oldest female was 67 year old Bev Clark also in a solo kayak from Revelstoke. The youngest paddler was Toby Renton at 25 from Revelstoke. The average age of everyone finishing all distances was 47.4 and the average age of only those completing the full 3-days was 49.9. Of the paddlers there were 16 women and 12 men. The fastest and slowest average speeds were 11.25 km/hr and 6.62 km/hr respectively. 18 boats came from British Columbia of which 10 came from Revelstoke.

REVELSTOKE PADDLESPORT CHALLENGE

COURSE DESCRIPTION: DAY ONE

Distance: 40 km. Checkpoints: 3

The start of Day 1 is at the boat launch in Mica Creek. Paddlers begin their trek by heading south for about 6 km to checkpoint 1. Paddling then continues for another 13 km to the second checkpoint at Bigmouth Creek. Paddlers must arrive at this checkpoint before 2:30 p.m. in order to continue. It is 10 km to the last checkpoint of the day near the non-existent Gordon Rapids which you must reach by 4:00 p.m. It is 9 km of paddling from here to the finish line just north of Goldstream Creek.

COURSE DESCRIPTION - DAY TWO

Distance: 46 km. Checkpoints: 2

Day 2 begins at yesterday's finish. The first 25 km brings paddlers to checkpoint 4 at a boat launch just north of Downie Point. Then paddle 2 km to Downie Point and cross the estuary to to checkpoint 5 just below the western-most sand banks on the east side. The cutoff time here is 3:30 p.m. Then paddlers continue for another 17 km past Keystone Creek to the Day 2 finish line, 1.5 km north of Mars Creek.

COURSE DESCRIPTION- DAY THREE

SPONSORED BY BC HYDRO

Distance: 39 km. Checkpoints: 2

Day 3 starts at the finish of Day 2. It is an 18 km paddle to checkpoint 6 at the Wadey (Laforme) Creek Recreation Site. Paddlers then continue 7 km on the water to checkpoint 7 at Martha Creek Provincial Park. The last stretch is about 10 km passing the Coursier Creek Falls to the finish line at the 5-mile Boat Launch near the Revelstoke Dam. Paddlers are greeted by cheering campers at the checkpoints through the Recreation Site and the Park.

Name 1	Name 2	Name 3	Boat #	Wave	Class	Age class	Gender class	Distance	Hometown	Dist Km	Time day 1	Time day 2	Time day 3	Total time	Place in class
Luke Moran			1	2	C-1 Stock <17	Interm	male	125	Vancouver, BC	125	08:10:00	04:10:08	05:03:29	17:23:37	1
Natalie Pehowich			2	1	SUP up to 14	Masters	female	125	Revelstoke, BC	125	08:13:49	04:45:05	05:08:41	18:07:35	1
Mike Harrison	Larry Harrison		26	2	C-2 R Canoe	Senior	male	125	NY & WA	125	04:33:12	02:35:03	03:32:39	10:40:54	1
Peter Allen	Erica Clark		20	2	C-2 Stock<18.6	Interm	mixed	125	Vancouver, BC	125	08:07:46	04:01:54	04:49:45	16:59:25	1
Frank Holatko	Patti Holatko		15	1	C-2 Recreation	Senior	mixed	125	Comox, BC	125	06:49:02	03:26:21	04:28:25	14:43:48	1
Jude Westoby			17	1	SUP up to 14	Interm	female	85	Revelstoke, BC	85		04:35:00	05:55:05	10:30:05	1
Sarah-Jeanne Bernard			18	1	SUP up to 14	Interm	female	85	Revelstoke, BC	85		05:09:21	06:12:55	11:22:16	2
Lianne Marquis			3	1	SUP up to 14	Masters	female	125	Coldstream, BC	85		04:33:16	05:44:07	10:17:23	1
Dave Pehowich			5	1	SUP over 14	Masters	male	85	Revelstoke, BC	85		04:44:46	05:24:00	10:08:46	1
Robin Grant			7	2	Solo To Kayak	Interm	female	85	Penticton, BC	85		04:32:40	00:00:00	04:32:40	DNF
Stephane Rompre			8	2	Solo To Kayak	Interm	female	125	Revelstoke, BC	85		04:15:01	05:44:47	09:59:48	1
Doug Grant			11	2	Solo Unl Kayak	Senior	male	125	Goodwood, ON	85		06:35:17	00:00:00	06:35:17	DNF
Gillan MacLachlan	Bruce MacLachlan		14	2	C-2 Stock<18.6	Senior	mixed	125	Revelstoke, BC	85		03:51:57	05:17:28	09:09:25	1
James Bush	Tilda Bron		28	1	C-2 Recreation	Interm	mixed	125	Revelstoke, BC	85		04:06:10	05:07:58	09:14:08	1
Zaida De Teves			6	1	SUP over 14	Interm	female	39	Revelstoke, BC	39			06:40:56	06:40:56	1
Ulli Mueller			22	2	Solo To Kayak	Senior	female	39	Nakusp, BC	39			06:49:17	06:49:17	2
Bianca Neidhardt			24	2	Solo To Kayak	Senior	female	39	Nakusp, BC	39			06:49:05	06:49:05	1
Michele Baechler			19	1	SUP up to 14	Masters	female	39	Revelstoke, BC	39			06:26:05	06:26:05	1
Revelstoke Business Challenge															
Eva Akopian	Toby Renton		16	1	Tandem Canoe	Junior	mixed	39	Revelstoke, BC	39			06:28:13	06:28:13	2
Lorraine Beruschi	Ted Allain	Linn Allain	13	1	Family Trio	Masters	mixed	39	Revelstoke, BC	39			05:43:42	05:43:42	1

The organisers would like to thank the 30 plus volunteers on the water in safety boats, and on the shore at the start, finish and check points. The event would not happen without them. A special thanks to Wild Blue Yonder and Flexpeditions for providing the bus shuttles for paddlers.

The event was cancelled in 2018 because only 6 entries were received, and none of our sponsors requested a return of their donations, the Revelstoke Paddlesport Challenge was able to retain a surplus of \$7,298.14 for the 2019 event. Entry fees for the 2019 event brought in an additional \$3,263.39. After expenses of \$6,083.37 the Association has a surplus of about \$4,478.16 to put toward the 2020 event. The Association and the paddlers sincerely appreciate our sponsors contributions and look forward to similar support in the years ahead as we build on our success.

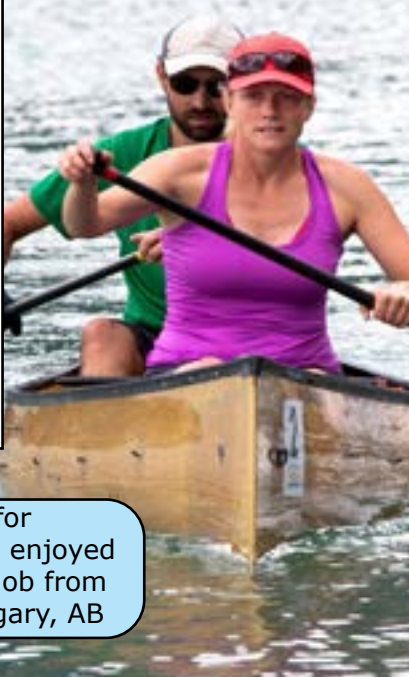
The future looks good, as many participants may bring their paddling friends next year. A number of suggestions for minor improvements will be implemented also. The paddlers were satisfied, the organizers were satisfied and everyone is looking forward to next year. For more information about the event please visit our website at www.paddlerevelstoke.ca

Bill Pollock, President, Revelstoke Paddlesport Association (billploolock40@gmail.com)



Unsolicited e-mails received in the past three years

- Sponsors**
- Revelstoke Mini Storage
 - Revelstoke Accommodation Association
 - Columbia Basin Trust
 - Revelstoke Credit Union
 - City of Revelstoke
 - The Cube Hotel
 - MacKenzie Law Group
 - Tourism Revelstoke
 - Lakeside Printing
 - Stella Jones



"Thanks again for organising the race, I enjoyed it very much. Great job from everyone." W A, Calgary, AB

"Just wanted to drop you a quick line to say thank you so much for putting on such a great event! We really enjoyed the race, the atmosphere, the beauty of the river and the amazing people putting on the event. We will be back next year-any idea of dates? I will forward you pics when we get back home. I will also be sending letters to BC Tourism and all the sponsors. Have a great day" C and L M, High Ridge, AB

"We had a wonderful time. Congratulations on a great start to an event that will grow quickly in popularity. I'll try to spread the word out here in Calgary. Keep in touch over the winter/spring when you have details about next year's race." T H, Calgary, AB