

TRAVEL

Sport of sea kayaking paddles along

BY EVERETT POTTER
SPECIAL WRITER

From the coast of Maine to the shores of British Columbia, people are discovering the joys of sea kayaking.

The sport provides fitness and adventure — with no harmful effect on the environment.

"It's popular because it's a relatively inexpensive way to get on the water," said Christopher Cunningham, editor of Sea Kayaker, a quarterly magazine.

"Like cycling it allows you to go places under your own steam."

"It's a sport anybody can do,"

said Lee Moyer, a co-owner of Pacific Water Sports, a kayak manu-

facturer in Seattle. "If white-water kayaking is like rock climbing, then sea kayaking is like backpacking."

Mike Perry agrees. Perry is the coordinator of L.L. Bean's Outdoor Discovery Program.

He also conducts Bean's annual Atlantic Coast Sea Kayak Symposium, which will be in Casco, Maine, July 10 through 12. For more information call (800) 341-4341.

"There are many misconceptions about sea kayaking. In fact, the name is a bit of a misnomer. You don't have to be out in the open sea to do it."

"Sea kayaking can be 'junkholing,' where you spend an afternoon paddling in tidal marshes and es-

tuaries looking at blue herons."

The number of sea kayakers grows steadily each year. Tom Derrer, a spokesman for the Trade Association of Sea Kayaking (TASK), estimates there are between 200,000 and 300,000 active participants in the sport around the United States and Canada. About 50,000 new sea kayakers are sold yearly.

"The number of users is very hard to determine accurately," said Derrer, a 25-year veteran of the business and the owner of Eddyline Kayaks, a kayak manufacturer. "And the numbers don't reflect those who spend a weekend or a week sea kayaking with an outfitter somewhere."

Indeed, the growth of the sport

has given rise to dozens of regional outfitters in kayaking hot spots such as Seattle, Vancouver, Alaska, the Great Lakes and Florida.

Kayaking among the 3,000 or so islands off the Maine coast became so popular that the non-profit Island Institute in Rockland, Maine, set up The Maine Island Trail Association in 1988.

The organization now has 2,600 members. A \$35 yearly fee allows members access to 80 islands.

For more information contact the group at 60 Ocean Street, Rockland, Maine 04841 or call (207) 594-9209.

Those who are curious about the sport but baffled by the array of kayak models offered by manufacturers may attend one of the week-

end sea-kayak symposiums, which are held throughout the United States and Canada.

L.L. Bean's symposium, now in its 11th year, is always a sellout, according to Perry.

"We allow only 400 attendees and, basically, it's like a salad bar for sea kayakers. Most of the major manufacturers come here, so our participants get to try out many models and attend workshops with world-famous kayakers."

"People don't leave here as sea kayakers, but they leave with what they need to know to become one."

Sportsmen can count on spending between \$1,000 and \$2,000 for a good sea kayak, Moyer said. He adds that a sea kayak is an entirely

different kind of craft than a white-water kayak.

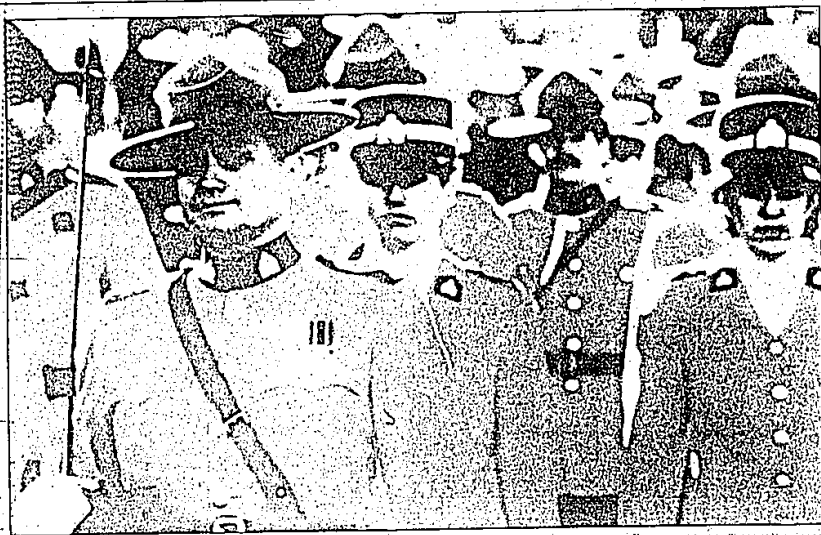
The big question novices always ask is about the infamous eskimo roll, a self-rescue maneuver to right a kayak in the event it turns over. The spin leaves the paddler hanging upside down in the water.

"You can ask 10 experts that question and get 10 different and very adamant answers," Perry said.

For more information on sea kayaking, including symposiums and outfitters, contact TASK, P.O. Box 84144, Seattle, Wash. 98124 or call (206) 621-1018.

Sea Kayaker is a good source of information and is \$13 for four issues: 6327 Seaview Avenue, N.W., Seattle, Wash. 98107 or call (206) 789-9536.

Folding Kayaker is published six times yearly and is \$28: P.O. Box 0754, New York, N.Y. 10024 or call (212) 724-5669.



Royal red: The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, seen here in parade formation, have been a traditional in Vancouver since 1873.

Visitors value Vancouver's view

BY MOIRA FARROW
NEW YORK TIMES SYNDICATE

It would not be accurate to say Vancouver, British Columbia, has completely escaped the economic recession that has brought gloom to many North American cities.

But it would be fair to say this West Coast Canadian city, the province's largest, has been spared the worst of it.

Vancouver's natural beauty and mild climate continue to attract visitors and immigrants by the thousands. Last year more than 33,500 people moved to British Columbia from across Canada and 25,000 came from overseas, mostly from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The downtown skyline is spiked by building cranes, new luxury apartment suites are selling fast and restaurants are opening weekly.

Another big part of the city's resilience comes from the increasingly active Vancouver-to-Alaska cruise business. Last year more than 400,000 passengers made the trip in 22 ships from 12 lines.

A new cruise ship terminal has sparked construction of two nearby hotels and several restaurants. As a result the port has been transformed into a lively place where it is possible to dine on smoked salmon while watching float planes land in the harbor or helicopters take off for Vancouver Island.

What to do

A colorful pageant of Chinese origin, the Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival takes place this year June 19 through 21.

The big, vividly painted canoes, propelled by paddlers, will race in False Creek, an ocean inlet nearly two miles long that juts right into the middle of the city. Organizers expect even more than the 2,000 paddlers from 11 nations who took part last year.

Single-day admission is \$5 for adults; \$2.50 for children. For

more information call 681-4133. (The dialing code for Vancouver is 604 and all prices are given in United States dollars.)

More than 500 international musicians will live on the city June 19 to 28 for the Du Maurier International Jazz Festival. There will be concerts at 20 sites, a street festival in Gastown and a free outdoor concert at the Plaza of Nations (the former Expo site).

on the closing weekend.

Performers will include: the Staple Singers, the tenor saxophonist John Griffin and the blues guitarist and singer John Hammond. Some concerts are free; the top ticket price is \$21.50. For more information call 682-0706.

The Vancouver Sea Festival, July 16 to 19, has local clubs involved in events such as sailing

and water-skiing displays in English Bay. There will be a "floating" parade at sea on July 18 at 10 a.m., which can best be seen from Beach Avenue.

All events will be free and salmon barbecue dinners will be sold at several sites. For more information call 684-3378.

The waterfront meadows of Jericho Beach Park will be the site of the Vancouver Folk Music Festival July 17, 18 and 19. The eclectic program will include Saffire the Uppity Blues Women, Peggy Seeger, Roots Punka Rock from Belize and the English group Barely Works.

Organizers hope to hold ticket prices at last year's rates, which ranged from \$22 for one concert to \$63 for a weekend pass. For more information call 879-2931.

Things to see

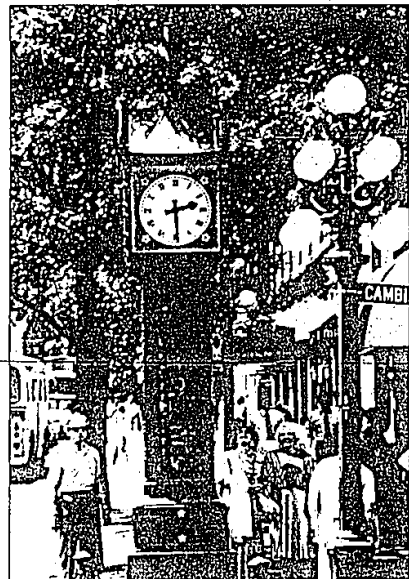
The city's backdrop of 4,000-foot peaks of the Coast Range, snowcapped into June or July, plus 10 sandy beaches with easy reach of downtown, mean that the spring and summer visitor is never short of activities.

Hiking, swimming, sailing, wind surfing and golfing are all within easy reach. Eighty miles north is the two-mountain ski resort of Whistler-Blackcomb, where glacier skiing continues into summer.

But if a visitor has only one day to spend in Vancouver it should be spent in Stanley Park.

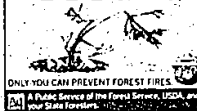
This 1,000-acre peninsula close to downtown has forest, formal gardens that change every season and nature trails bordered by a 7.7-mile seawall walk for cyclists and pedestrians. There are also tennis courts, pitch and putt golf, restaurants and a miniature train.

Another of the city's favorite spots is Granville Island, no longer an island because it is linked by causeway to False Creek. The island has a food market, art galleries, craft shops, light industry, marinas and restaurants.



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