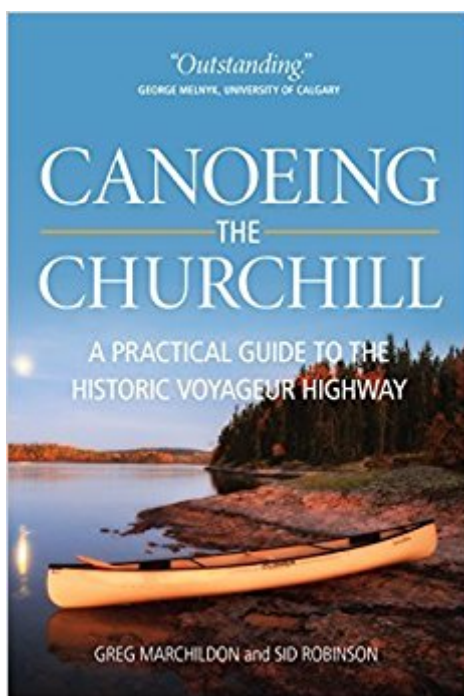


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Canoeing The Churchill: A Practical Guide To The Historic Voyageur Highway



Synopsis

"Outstanding. Its combination of historical material, maps, photos, and travelogue brings the fur trade era alive. Seldom has the past and the present been brought together so successfully."

-George Melnyk, University of Calgary "The reader is exposed to hundreds of points of interest, historical rock paintings, landmarks, campsites, local histories, and folklore...[the book] will tell any canoeist or adventurer almost all they need to know." -James Winkel, Saskatchewan History An invaluable resource for paddlers preparing to face the challenges of Canada's old fur trade highway, Canoeing the Churchill is also an exhilarating trek into the past for the "armchair voyageur." With routes for both beginners and experts, Canoeing the Churchill provides practical "on the water advice" for the entire 1,100 km route--from Methy Portage to Cumberland House. Canoeing the Churchill "will introduce the beauty of the north and its rich cultural heritage to readers from all parts of the world." -Keith Goulet, Cumberland House Cree Nation

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gregory P. Marchildon has always enjoyed exploring new places, whether in a canoe in northern Saskatchewan or an ocean kayak along the coast of Panama. He is the co-author (along with Carl Anderson) of Paddling Routes of North-Central Saskatchewan, and holds a Canada Research Chair in Public Policy and Economic History at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Regina. Sid Robinson likes studying the history of northern Saskatchewan, especially the fur trade. He enjoys dog-mushing and has participated in the Canadian Challenge Sled Dog race for the past 15 years. He lives just out of La Ronge, Saskatchewan, from where he serves northern Saskatchewan as a judge with the Provincial Court.

This is a great book. I used to do lots of canoeing, some on the Churchill, and this book is a reminder of places I have been (and walleyes I have caught).

This past summer, I put together a three week canoe trip on the Churchill river. I found this book in Ric Dreideger's canoe outfitter's store in Missinipe, and immediately bought it. (luckily) Our trip started from Pinehouse lake, and two of us paddled past Stanley mission, then backtracked to Missinipe, eventually covering some 140 miles. This book covers the whole of the Churchill river in detail, while giving brief historical backgrounds about the voyageurs who used to make a living on the waterway. I followed our route in the book, and it was of particular importance when it came to rapids and portages, which were numerous on our route. It was always right on as to the degree of difficulty of the rapids, so we made few mistakes. Once I got confused in a series of rapids as to which was which and ended up running a dangerous one where we were swamped and I injured my knee. However, this can be avoided using *prudent* scouting of all rapids (we were over-zealous), and by paying attention to warnings in the book. The book also contained information on rock paintings, side trips, and outfitters along the way where we could get supplies. Its content is cut up into smaller trips with ways to get in and out of the river, which is extremely advantageous. As a guide book, I think you can't go wrong by purchasing this book for your trip. As I knew basically nothing of this river, (being from Kentucky), and since I was only 20 years old, I was lucky in acquiring this book. I owe much to its exactness for keeping myself and the three other people safe.

It is hard to imagine that anyone could ever write a better reference manual to canoeing the historically significant section of the Canadian fur trade route which runs through Saskatchewan. In the summer of 2003 I paddled the entire Churchill and Sturgeon Weir river systems, from the Clearwater River to Cumberland House. This book was an invaluable resource, describing clearly every rapid, portage, and most of the campsites along the river. Besides its use as a canoeing reference, it is a most comprehensive study of the history of the region, from the fur trade era, to more modern times. Anyone planning to canoe any Saskatchewan portion of the voyageur's highway should read this book.

Over the last two summers I have paddled the Fur Trade Route from Pinehouse Lake to Pelican Narrows. This book was the perfect guide with accurate information on rapids, rock paintings, campsites and navigation. This was very important this year with the high water on the Churchill. Beyond the guide book aspects, this book explains the history, culture, geology and

botany of the region. This book is a must own if you're canoeing the route and a great read even if you never dip a paddle.

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