

**ALGONQUIN  
OUTFITTERS**  
EST. 1961

# RETURN OF THE RIVER X

10 YEARS OF EXPEDITION PADDLESPORT RACING



The Longest Single Day Expedition Paddling Race in the World

**September 15-17, 2023**

**133km Classic**

**58km Sprint**

SUPPORTED BY  
**ALGONQUIN  
OUTFITTERS**  
EST. 1961



IN SUPPORT OF



*Muskoka*  
WATERSHED COUNCIL

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Since time immemorial, this area, known by Indigenous peoples as Turtle Island, has been the homeland of the Anishinaabek (Ojibwe, Pottowattami, and Odawa) people. This was true until the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and European “contact” when it was named Muskoka and Parry Sound. Since contact, encroachment has forced the Anishinaabek onto small parcels of land controlled by the Federal Government. Today, with their enduring presence, the Anishinaabek still regard Muskoka and Parry Sound as their traditional territory. Families know these lands as the hunting grounds, medicine areas, and gathering places, related to them through oral history passed down for generations. Please acknowledge the Regional Indigenous Nations and Organizations of Muskoka-Parry Sound established in 1850 under the Robinson Huron Treaty and Bond Head Treaty;

- Wasauksing First Nation is situated on an Island with bridge access on Georgian Bay.
- Shawanaga First Nation is situated north of Parry Sound on the Shawanaga River.
- Magnetawan First Nation is located on the shores of Georgian Bay on the mouth of the Magnetawan River.
- Henvey Inlet First Nation is located on the shore of Georgian Bay and inland south of the French River.
- Dokis First Nation is located on the southwest portion of Lake Nipissing.

Other Indigenous Nations and Organizations of this land include;

- Three Fires Confederacy – This is an historical alliance of three Anishinaabek Nations, namely, the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa. For thousands of years prior to colonization, the Councils of these three Nations brought their “Council Fires” together for political purposes and to act as a deterrent to would be aggressors. Their traditional territory stretched from present day Canada and into what became the United States. These Council Fires are still active today.
- Moose Deer Point First Nation, located in Georgian Bay Township, is a Potawatomi Community who originated in what became the United States. In 1830’s they were invited by the British to settle in Ontario and amalgamated with the Tri – Council First Nations.
- The Wahta Mohawks were displaced into Anishinaabek territory to their present location in 1881 by the Canadian Government. As a means to quell the original “Oka” land dispute, the Canadian government split the Mohawk community in Quebec and displaced half the people to Ontario.
- Moon River Métis Council - Established in 2005, the Council serves the interests of Métis People in the Parry Sound-Muskoka region and their head office is located in Gravenhurst.
- Parry Sound Indigenous Friendship Center – Established in the early 70’s this is an urban service organization that services First Nation, Metis, and Inuit people living in the district. They are located in Parry Sound.
- Haudenosaunee, also known as Iroquois, occupied the Simcoe County region for a period following the fur trade. In the mid 1700’s they were weakened by disease and driven out of this area by the Anishinaabek. The Haudenosaunee Confederacy is comprised of Six Nations, the Tuscarora, Mohawk, Cayuga, Onondaga, Seneca and the Onieda. The name, “Iroquois,” was given to them by the French and is considered derogatory.

We are encouraged to reflect on the Indigenous peoples who lived in harmony with these lands and waterways. We are encouraged to reflect on how colonialism and settler culture has impacted Indigenous Peoples and this environment. We acknowledge all Nations who continue to live, work, and play on these lands, and help us steward these lands in today’s society. We are encouraged to consider our individual role in a right relationship with Indigenous Nations and the advancement of Truth and Reconciliation.

## **YOUR 2023 RIVER X WEEKEND**

2023 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of River X Racing and the Algonquin Outfitters Muskoka River X. Rob and Mike wish to thank the entire paddling community for their go-going support. In appreciation, we are returning to our roots and the essence of expedition paddle sport racing with the event that started it all.

### **ALGONQUIN OUTFITTERS MUSKOKA RIVER X CLASSIC**

The world's longest single day expedition paddling race is a 133km journey that covers two rivers systems, four lakes and includes 20 portages in less than 24 hours. Starting pre-dawn on shore of Peninsula Lake paddlers travel south on the North Muskoka River through the towns of Huntsville and Port Sydney before arriving in Bracebridge. Turning north, the long upstream journey under the setting sun follows the South Muskoka River to Baysville. During their final section, paddlers must find their way home under the cover of darkness, navigating mighty Lake of Bays to the finish line on Peninsula Lake. No outside assistance. No support teams. No re-supplies. No electronic navigation. Considered by some to be the toughest single day canoe race in the world, your X-PEDITION is waiting.

### **ALGONQUIN OUTFITTERS MUSKOKA RIVER X SPRINT**

Starting with the Classic, Sprint paddlers will complete the first 58km of the MRX, ending in Bracebridge. For those wanting an MRX-Lite experience the Sprint a great way to start your career in expedition racing.



# WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- ✓ **Registration - Algonquin Outfitter Muskoka River X**
- ✓ **Registration - Ontario Marathon Canoe & Kayak Racing Association** point series
- ✓ **Registration - Ontario Adventure Racing** points series
- ✓ **H2O Canoe Grand Prize:** Draw prize. All participants are eligible
- ✓ **NSP Inflatable SUP Package:** Draw prize. All participants are eligible
- ✓ **Blackfish Paddle Prize:** Draw Prize. All participants are eligible
- ✓ **Ripple FX Prize Paddles (1 of 2):** Draw prize. All participants are eligible
- ✓ **1<sup>st</sup> Place Prizing** by category brought to you by **Algonquin Outfitters**
- ✓ **1<sup>st</sup> place Voyageur Class Prizing** brought to you by **Hap Wilson**
- ✓ **Top 3 finishers Medals and Certificates** of each category.
- ✓ **Post-Race Awards Live Music** by local favorite **Tobin Spring**.
- ✓ **MRX 10<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration Feast** in the relaxed atmosphere of **Hidden Valley Resort:** Cheese Board & Baby Greens & Thai Pasta & Curried Grains & Maple Butternut Squash Soup + Beef Striploin & Georgian Bay Trout & Vegan/Veggie Option + Garlic Whipped Redskin Potatoes & Fresh Seasonal Veggies + Selection of the Chef's desserts. Ice-Cold 'Beverage'. \* Peanut/tree nut-free with Gluten & Dairy free options.
- ✓ **Premium Brand River X Shirts and Embroidered Hats**
- ✓ **Full-Color vinyl adhesive numbering plates** and **waterproof maps printed on NeverTear plastic paper** to withstand the harshest conditions.
- ✓ **Blackfish SUP Live Tracking Map** provides real-time tracking, posting your location on a web-based live race map. Your personally assigned tracker is your connection to the cheerleader squad and is also your lifeline.
- ✓ **Shuttle Bus** from Bracebridge and Baysville to Hidden Valley Resort.
- ✓ **Mobile Event Management:** Your River X Team does not just sit back and wait for teams to arrive at the finish line. River X is a fully equipped and mobile logistical event management team. We are out on the course with you, working to making sure the event runs smoothly.
- ✓ **Search and Rescue** by **Pegasus Rescue** provides fully equipped mobile land/water-based Search and Rescue emergency medical services that includes a Coast Guard qualified advanced first aid/paramedic certified team equipped with all-condition watercraft and designated logistics.
- ✓ **First Aid** by **Canadian Ski Patrol Services Muskoka Zone** will provide on-site physical assessment and first aid at designated locations throughout the course and at the finish line. Ski Patrol has been with River X since Year 1 and they how best to support you.
- ✓ **Hidden Valley Resort** is located on the shores of Peninsula Lake and is a high-quality full-service resort that is **Basecamp to the River X**. Hidden Valley Resort is our start line, finish line and the location for our pre-race Check-In and the Awards. Comfy rooms. Tasty food. Convenient location. Sandy beach. There is no other place to stay if you are paddling the River X.
- ✓ **All fees and expenses associated** with permits, event rentals, logistics needs, supplies, race insurance and more.

# WHERE AM I GOING?

## Hidden Valley Resort, Huntsville, Ontario, Canada

Huntsville is located approximately 2.5-3 hours north of Toronto on Hwy 11.

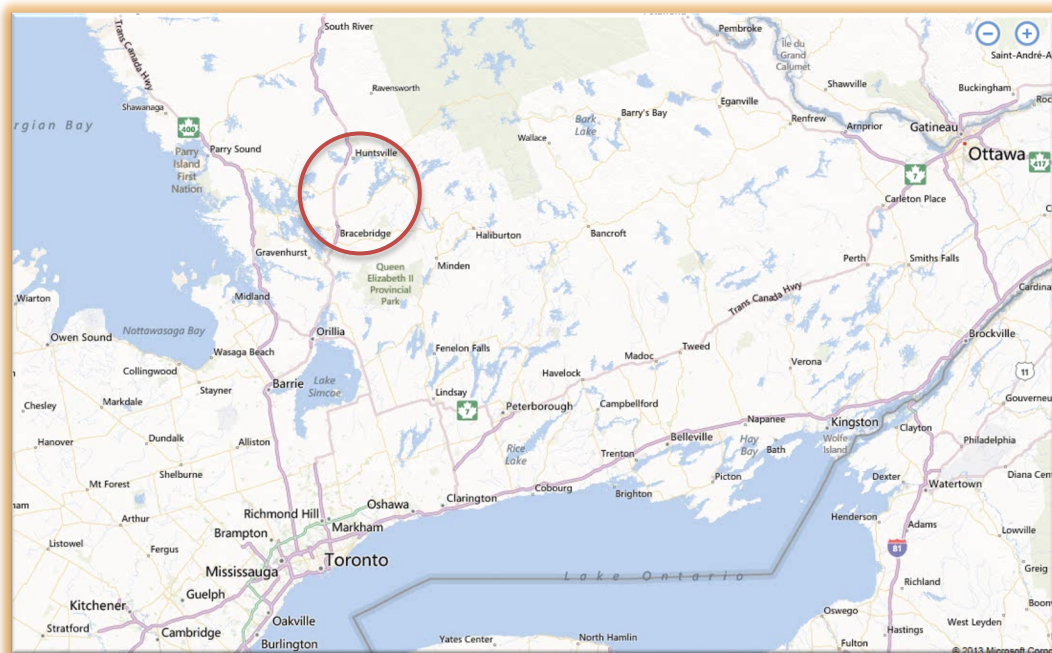
Traffic on Hwy 400/11 can be very busy. Allow for additional travel time.

- **From North Bay:** Hwy 11 South / Take Hwy 60 interchange East to Ottawa-Algonquin Park / Drive through 5 sets of lights, past Grandview and Deerhurst turn offs. Continue on Hwy 60 a short distance past the golf course and turn Right on Hidden Valley Road.
- **From Toronto:** Hwy 11 North / Take Hwy 60 interchange East to Ottawa-Algonquin Park / Drive through 5 sets of lights, past Grandview and Deerhurst turn offs. Continue on Hwy 60 a short distance past the golf course and turn Right on Hidden Valley Road.
- **From Ottawa:** Hwy 60 West to Huntsville / Turn Right on Hidden Valley Road.

**At Hidden Valley Road**, drive a few hundred meters until you hit an intersection. Turn Left and follow Skyline Drive until it turns into Ski Club Road. Hidden Valley Resort is located on Ski Club Road, across from the ski hill. If you get lost in the subdivision, keep following roads downhill in the direction of the bottom of the ski hill. You will eventually get there 😊

**Long-Term Weekend Parking:** From Hwy 60, turn onto Hidden Valley Road. Continue straight through the intersection and down the hill, past a row of townhouses to a large gravel parking lot at the Hidden Valley Ski area. Park in an organized manner keeping vehicles 4m apart from each other. There is a walking path from the parking lot across the ski hill to Hidden Valley Resort. Participant not staying at Hidden Valley Resort can leave their vehicles in Long-Term Parking for the entire event weekend.

**Map Link to Hidden Valley Resort:** <https://www.google.ca/maps/dir/45.3555825,-79.1272304/hidden+valley+resort+huntsville/@45.3484898,-79.1573431,14z/data=!4m9!4m8!1m0!1m5!1m1!1s0x4d2a74ed7e0db79b:0xc5dd54a44da3c3aa!2m2!1d-79.1271218!2d45.3553295!3e0>





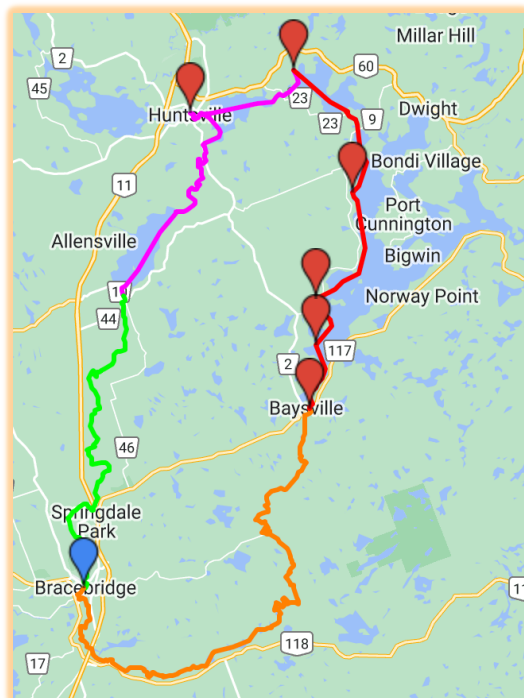
# MUSKOKA RIVER X - SITE MAP

## HIDDEN VALLEY RESORT, SKI CLUB ROAD, HUNTSVILLE ONTARIO

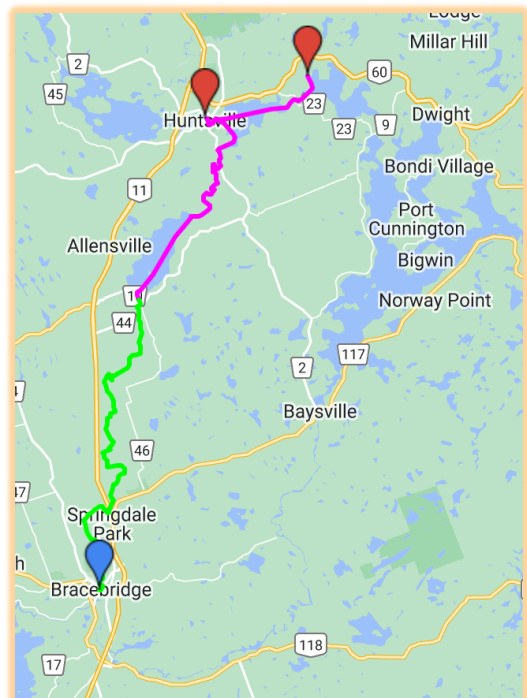


## THE COURSE

**The Classic**



**The Sprint**



## MUSKOKA RIVER X CLASSIC

**Total Distance:** 132.8 km  
**Number of Portages:** 20  
**Estimated Duration:** 13.9 hrs. to 26.5 hrs.

## MUSKOKA RIVER X SPRINT

**Total Distance:** 58.3 km  
**Number of Portages:** 7  
**Estimated Duration:** 11.6 hrs. to 6.1 hrs.

## WEATHER STATISTICS for RACE DAY

**Sunrise:** 6:56 am      **Sunset:** 7:26 pm      **Total daylight:** 12hrs 30min  
**Average High:** 18.8 degrees    **Average Low:** 6.5 degrees    **Overall Average:** 12.7 degrees  
**Average Daily Wind speed:** 12km/hr.      **Average Monthly Rain:** 111mm  
**Average Days with Fog:** 5 (*We don't believe this! It feels like every morning has fog...*)  
**Moon Phase:** Waxing Crescent with 3.53% illumination (*i.e., It'll be dark with or without cloud cover.*)

## MRX STAGE 1: 28.5 KM - HUNTSVILLE TO PORT SYDNEY

Stage 1 is a mix of flat-water lake and river paddling. Teams will depart Hidden Valley Resort on Peninsula Lake before the sunrise at 6am/6:15am, retracing the steam ship routes of the late 1800s that connected communities on Muskoka's northern lakes. After leaving Pen Lake teams will make their way into Huntsville then south to the historic Brunel Locks and down-river along the North Muskoka River. Hoping for calm waters and paddling the north-south journey on Mary Lake teams will portage the Port Sydney Dam. Consistent with seasonal weather, you may experience early morning mist or fog making navigation challenging while Mary Lake is known for strong winds and waves.

## MRX STAGE 2: 29.8KM - PORT SYDNEY TO BRACEBRIDGE

Stage 2 is entirely a down-river paddle. As the morning progresses teams will leave Port Sydney and make their way south along the North Muskoka River towards Bracebridge. With a mixture of deep, slower moving water and faster swifts with shallow water, teams will navigate the rocky portages of Balsam and Duck Chutes and around the spectacular High Falls and its 65-foot drop. Continuing through Bracebridge teams will experience contrasting environments with the rugged Wilson Falls portage and urban-feel of Bracebridge Falls, portage staircases through the center of town. For MRX Sprint teams, the journey will finish here. For MRX Classic teams, their expedition will continue. (*Bracebridge Cut Off: 4pm*)

## MRX STAGE 3: 45.7KM - BRACEBRIDGE TO BAYSVILLE

Stage 3 follows the same route that the Bigwin Family paddled in the late 1800s every spring as they made their way to summer settlements on Lake of Bays. Classic teams leave Bracebridge and paddle east then north along the South Muskoka River, arriving at the historic town of Baysville. Not only is Stage 3 the longest section of the race, it is also the most physically demanding with 11 portages ranging from a few meters to 1283 meters. The first section of the river is wide, deep and slow moving. The last 10km has strong current, swifts and shallow sections. Stage 3 is entirely upriver, against current. For most, Stage 3 will be completed under the setting sun, encroaching darkness or dead of night. (*Purbrook Road Cut Off: 9pm / Baysville Cut Off: 1am*)

## MRX STAGE 4: 28.8KM - BAYSVILLE TO PENINSULA LAKE

Stage 4 is primarily lake paddling and for most will be under the cover of darkness. If the sky is clear and water calm, Lake of Bays will be brilliant. On the other hand, westerly winds are common and with darkness and dropping temperatures the chances of fog increases. Navigation is always a challenge. After completing the historic 1700m portage from Lake of Bays to Peninsula Lake team will enjoy the last few kilometers and arrive at the FINISH LINE before 6:15am Cut-Off.



# THE AGENDA

## STEP 1: VIRTUAL CAPTAIN'S MEETING

- Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 7pm.
- Link will be sent to captains: One person from each team must attend.
- Review of event weekend, race procedures, tracker procedures, safety procedures, Q&A.

## STEP 2: PRE-RACE CHECK IN @ HIDDEN VALLEY RESORT

- Pre-Race Check In: 10am to 8pm, Friday, September 15, 2023
- Bring signed waivers for participants and support teams; medical disclaimers; concussion protocol attestations (participants <26yrs/parents of athletes <18yrs)
- Pick up race kits with trackers, maps, number plates, shirt hat and meal tickets
- Mandatory Gear Check

## STEP 3: THE RACE

- Saturday September 16, 2023
  - 06:00hrs: Solo Start Time
  - 06:10hrs: Tandem Start Time
  - Bracebridge - CP1 Classic Cut Off: 4pm
  - Purbrook Road - Classic Cut Off: 9pm
  - Baysville - CP2 Classic Cut Off: 1am
- Shuttle Bus Departures – Bracebridge: 1:30pm, 3:30pm, 5:30pm
- Shuttle Bus Departures – Port Sydney: 10pm, Midnight, 2:30am
- You will receive your tracker when you arrive at drop off zone.
- Park your vehicle in Long Term Parking if not staying at Hidden Valley Resort
- Prepare for your race
- Water-Start at beachfront
- Complete your race

## STEP 4: POST-RACE – CELEBRATE @ HIDDEN VALLEY RESORT

- Sunday, September 17, 2022: Doors open at 10am, for the Birches dining room, Lounge and Outdoor Patio (weather permitting)
- 11am: Meal is served
- 12 noon (approx.): Acknowledgement and Awards

## ALGONQUIN OUTFITTERS RENTAL PROGRAM

Pricing and Reservations: Gordon Baker, Algonquin Outfitters  
1035 Algonquin Outfitters Road, Dwight, ON, P0A 1H0, Canada  
Phone: 1-705-635-2243, Fax: 1-705-635-1834; Toll-free reservations: 1-800-469-4948  
Email: [info@algonquinoutfitters.com](mailto:info@algonquinoutfitters.com)

## ACCOMMODATION

On-site accommodation at Hidden Valley Resort - no travel required  
Reference "Muskoka River X" for best rates available, before July 14, 2022.

<https://www.hvmuskoka.com/en-us>

Camping at Arrowhead Provincial Park – Located about 20 minutes from Hidden Valley Resort  
<https://www.ontarioparks.com/park/arrowhead>



# THE FINE PRINT

The ALGONGUIN OUTFITTERS' MUSKOKA RIVER X is a long and demanding event. It is expected that you be in good physical condition and reasonable health. It is important that you are competent at paddling and have sufficient resources and experience for self-rescue techniques, first aid, and wilderness survival. You will be self-sufficient. You must carry all the supplies required to complete the event including food, hydration, and mandatory equipment.

The course covers large and exposed flat-water lakes. Water conditions can be unpredictable. The course also travels long sections of rivers both downstream with current and upstream against current. The rivers include a mix of deep and shallow water. The current can be fast with swifts both against current and with current. The rivers include portages around waterfalls, rapids, chutes and hydro dams. Many are remote, wilderness-based access points of various lengths. Navigation is required and you are expected to be familiar with the use of a topographic map, grid coordinates and magnetic compass. Seasonal conditions are unpredictable and can change quickly. You may be exposed to wind, waves, rain, snow, heat or sub-zero temperatures. The course is remote in many areas with limited access.

Emergency response plans have been established. A GPS emergency transmitter/beacon system monitors your location and a Search and Rescue team is on stand-by; however, it is impossible to guarantee that you will receive immediate assistance should you activate your emergency beacon or request support via cell phone. Multiple factors affect the time-to-respond after an emergency notification is received. You must be prepared to support yourself for up to several hours until an emergency response team can access your location. In addition to the supplies you will need to complete the race you are expected to maintain supplies that will ensure your personal self-sufficiency and safety.

## THE RULES

### REGISTRATION

#### THE ORGANIZER

The Muskoka River X is organized and staged by River X Racing Inc. (Race Management). Race management reserves the right to add, modify, replace, or cancel venues or events at any time. Race Management reserves the right to make changes and amendments to these rules and regulations at any time. In the event that changes are made, Race Management will endeavor to inform all registered teams of updates as they occur.

#### TEAM MEMBERS

1. A team must consist of the registered members throughout the race.
  - a. No substitution after on-site check-in is complete.
2. Age Limits:
  - a. 12-15 years of age may compete with their parent/guardian in the SPRINT and paddling a tandem canoe.
  - b. 18 years or younger require a signed waiver of liability by the parent/guardian.
  - c. The minimum age for solo competitors is 19 yrs.
3. Eligibility: No specific skills will be tested in registration however;
  - a. It is expected that all participants must be (1) competent in paddling the vessel indicated within their chosen category, (2) of sufficient physical condition and health to participant

in the event, (3) competent to self-rescue, and (4) competent in first aid, wilderness survival skill, and navigation.

- b. By registering, participants assume full responsibility for adequately preparing themselves, learning necessary skills, and physically conditioning themselves for the unique demands of this event.
- c. Race management reserves the right to remove any team from the registered team list at any time should race management determine that the team is not suitably prepared to safely participate in the event or may act in a way that will be harmful to themselves, other participants (including but not limited to competitors, volunteers, media, staff, community), or the operations of the event.
- d. Race Management reserves the right to restrict registration of any individual(s) without explanation.

## REGISTRATION

1. Registration:
  - a. Registration closes August 4, 2023.
  - b. Each team/competitor must register and complete payment using the on-line registration system. Payment must be received in full to be considered “registered”.
2. Withdrawing Registration:
  - a. Withdraw on or before August 4, 2023: Full refund less a \$100 administrative fee.
  - b. Withdraw after August 4, 2023: No refund / No exceptions.
3. Registration Insurance:
  - a. \$100 per team paid at the time of registration guarantees a full refund if team withdraws on or before September 1, 2023.
  - b. Withdraw after September 1, 2023, No refund / No exceptions. Team swag will be shipped to team captain’s address.
4. Changing to Registration/Team:
  - a. Can be made up to August 4, 2023
  - b. After August 4, 2023 with no guarantee on shirt sizing.
  - c. No changes after September 8, 2023.

## CANCELLATION OF THE EVENT

1. If the race is cancelled as a result of factors beyond the control of Race Management, (e.g., severe weather, war, flood, pandemic, circumstances making the event too dangerous), Race Management will attempt to reschedule the race. This includes factors associated with COVID-19 and/or local, regional, provincial, and federal COVID-19 restrictions impacting Race Management’s ability to successfully host an event and/or restrictions forcing a cancellation of the event.
2. If a new date is offered, teams will automatically be registered for the new rescheduled date. Teams will confirm their registration status (Yes or No) with Race Management within 30 days of when the rescheduled date is announced.
3. If Race Management does not receive “Yes” or “No” confirmation from a team within 30 days of the announcement the team will be confirmed as ‘Yes’ for the rescheduled date.
4. If a team confirms ‘No’ for the rescheduled date within 30 days of when the rescheduled date is announced they will receive a refund minus administrative fee associated with the money transfer.
5. If a rescheduled date is not offered, registration fees will be refunded minus administrative fee associated with the money transfer.
6. In all situations regarding refunds, if participant products (e.g., hats, shirts, number plates, maps, etc.) have been purchased before the cancellation date, the participant’s product will be shipped to the participant. Expenses associated with the product plus shipping will be

deducted from the refunded amount.

7. Race Management is not responsible for individual participant expenses unrelated to registration fees including but not limited to accommodation, travel, food, equipment, etc.

## **CATEGORIES – Watercraft appropriate for expedition paddle sport racing**

C1 Stock:	Female / Male / Non-Binary	(Classic; Sprint)
K1 Fast:	Female / Male / Non-Binary	(Classic; Sprint)
K1 Touring:	Female / Male / Non-Binary	(Classic; Sprint)
SUP:	Female / Male / Non-Binary	(Classic; Sprint)
C2 Rec:	Female / Male / Non-Binary / Mixed	(Classic; Sprint)
C2 Stock:	Female / Male / Non-Binary / Mixed	(Classic; Sprint)
Family:	Child aged 12-15yrs + Parent/Guardian	(Sprint: Rec or Stock Canoe)

### **C2 STOCK**

Maximum length of 18'6". Minimum width of 14.4% of length at 4" waterline (i.e., 32" for 18'6" length / 29.4" for 17' length). Minimum depth @ Bow (17"), Centre (12.5") and Stern (16"). Canoes with concave hulls are not permitted. No skegs/rudders.



### **C2 REC**

Any non-racing canoe that is 17 feet long or less with a minimum 32" width at the 4-inch waterline. Minimum length of 15 feet. Canoes with concave hulls are not permitted. No skegs/rudders.



### **C1 STOCK**

Maximum length of 17'2" and minimum length of 15'. Canoes with concave hulls are not permitted. Skegs or rudders are not permitted.



## K1 FAST

9.25:1 to 10.99:1 length to width ratio - see <http://soundrowers.org/wp/boat-classes/> for a list of kayaks that meet specification as per Sound Rowers. This category includes traditional sea kayaks with fast hull designs, performance surf skis, and performance kayaks.



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## K1 TOURING

This category includes various traditional sea kayaks as well as non-performance surf skis. Minimum length of 15 feet. Less than 9.25:1 length to width ratio - see <http://soundrowers.org/wp/boat-classes/> for a list of kayaks that meet specification as per Sound Rowers.



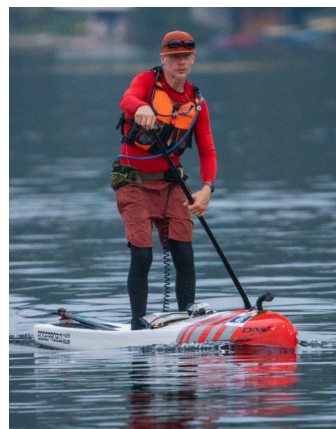
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## STAND-UP (SUP)

Is an open class but must meet the following specifications:

Length: Minimum of 11'6" / 14' maximum

Width: No minimum / No maximum



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## PADDLES

1. All Canoes and SUPs must use a single-blade paddle.
2. All Kayaks must use a double-bladed paddle

## NAVIGATION

1. Navigation will occur using a magnetic compass and topographic maps. Electronic navigation devices and aids are not permitted.
2. Teams will be provided with a description of the course that includes topographic grid coordinates and narrative descriptions. Teams will plot the route on maps provided by race management prior to the event.
3. Teams follow the route described in the course description. If there is a dispute about the route a team has taken, the route that is documented by the event-issued GPS tracker will be considered accurate.

4. Devices can be used if their functional abilities are limited to time, speed, distance, and pace. Devices that include navigational aids are not permitted.
5. Checkpoints and waypoint are mandatory locations along the route. They will be completed in a consecutive order, and only be the means of travel described in this document.

**MANDATORY EQUIPMENT**

<b>MINIMUM TEAM REQUIRED GEAR PER TEAM</b>
Number plate ( <i>provided in race kit</i> ) attached to the port and starboard bow of the watercraft, above the waterline, at all times during the race.
Maps and Course Details
GPS transmitter ( <i>provided in race kit</i> )
A buoyant towline of >50ft
Bailing device ( <i>canoe/kayak only</i> ) In-floor bailer allowed.
Navigation Lights (battery life x 24 hours of use)
Signal Light/Beacon (battery life x 24 hours of use) on stern of watercraft. Must be turned on at all times between dusk and dawn.
One (1) Cell Phone and water-tight bag.
One (1) Compass
One (1) Timing device
Waterproof map bag
Dry Bag
One (1) Utility Knife
'Real-world' Shelter / Tarp capable of keeping entire team protected from the elements (no plastic bags, silver emergency blankets, etc.)
Method of making a fire.
Basic First Aid Kit including (Closure bandages (x8); Adhesive Tape (1 roll); Gauze Roll (1 roll); Blister Pads (x8); Antibiotic Ointment (1 tube); Antibacterial Towelettes (x8); Anti-Inflammatory Tablets (x6); Electrolyte Replacement (x4 servings); Tensor Bandage (1 roll); Scissors (x1)
Method of repairing damaged hull (i.e., tuck tape, duct tape, quick-set epoxy, etc.)
<b>MINIMUM REQUIRED GEAR Per Individual Participant</b>
One (1) paddle
One (1) Life Jacket must be worn at all times while on the water or in the water (Canadian Department of Transportation/U.S. Coast Guard approved). Inflatable PFDs are not permitted.
One (1) Whistle
One (1) Emergency Headlamp/flashlight
One (1) wind/waterproof jacket and pant set.
One (1) fall-winter/medium-heavy weight full-length top and bottom clothing set ( <i>non-cotton</i> ).
One (1) toque / hat that provides warmth + set of gloves that provides warmth
One (1) emergency blanket for warmth (e.g., SOL Emergency Bivvy, Sleeping Bag, etc.)
Minimum 2 L capacity for hydration + means of making drinkable water
Race Nutrition
Emergency nutrition (must be 'real-world edible'. i.e., not a slab of lard) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2000 calories per participant for CLASSIC</li> <li>• 500 calories per participant for SPRINT</li> </ul>
Soled footwear sufficient for portaging

An event-issued GPS tracker is required to participate in the event. Each Team will be issued a GPS tracker and will be responsible for the care and welfare of the device. **A \$200 CASH (CAN\$) FULLY REFUNDABLE SECURITY DEPOSIT** per team will be required prior to being issued the device. Damage to the device and related equipment resulting in race management needing to reimburse the vendors will mean that the security deposit will be used to repair damages or replacement of the unit.



## **FORBIDDEN EQUIPMENT**

The following is a list of equipment that is forbidden during the Muskoka River X:

- a) Two-way radios or any other communication devices other than the required cell phone as indicated in the Mandatory Gear List. The cell phone is to be used for emergency situations only or to contact race management.
- b) Any electronic device used for navigation. This includes use of the cell phone.
- c) Any map not issued by race management.
- d) Weapons of any sort (with the exception of the mandatory knife)
- e) Any mode of transportation not authorized by race management.
- f) Amplified or earphone music devices are not allowed. Teams must be able to hear running water/rapids/waterfalls, distress calls, etc.
- g) Any device or item deemed to offers an unfair advantage or poses a risk to the team, other competitors, or the public. Please check with Race Management prior to start of race if you have any items that may be questionable.
- h) Logos, slogan and images that communicate or imply profanity, vulgarity, or discriminatory messages or references.

## **MRX CLASSIC – VOYAGEUR CLASS**

### INSPIRATION

Are you strong enough to be a Voyageur? According to Wikipedia, [Voyageurs](#) were the canoe transportation workers in organized, licensed long-distance transportation of furs and trade goods in the interior of the continent. The strength and endurance of the voyageurs was legendary. It was expected that each voyageur work at least 14 hours a day, paddle 55 strokes per minute and be able to carry two bundles across each portage between the lakes and rivers of the north woods. A bundle generally consisted of beaver pelts or other furs weighing about 90 lbs. on the way to Montreal, or 90 lbs. of trade goods coming from Montreal. A routine portage meant carrying 180 pounds across rugged terrain full of rocks, mud, mosquitoes and black flies. [\[reference\]](#) River X Racing gives tribute to these legends of the fur trade with the Voyageur Class. By entering the Voyageur Class you opt to choose one of a dozen hand made wooden crates filled with locally crafted goods and to transport that crate from the Huntsville Town Dock, along the 133km Muskoka River X Classic route (Huntsville ~ Port Sydney ~ Bracebridge ~ Baysville ~ Huntsville), to its destination at the Hidden Valley Resort on Peninsula Lake. Your reward for accomplishing this arduous task? Bragging rights of course, and you get to keep the crate and all the goods that it contains.

### THE CRATE

The crate is a locally handcrafted wooden box of two sizes. For tandem canoes it's approximately 2 feet long, by 1 foot wide and 1 foot high (2'x1'x1'). For solo boats, it's approximately 1 foot square (1'x1'x1'). Crates will have handles and a tumpline head strap to assist in transport over portages. It would be familiar for those that know what a [wanagan](#) is. Crates are sealed shut prior to being picked up and must not be opened by voyageurs until they have arrived at their ultimate destination - the Hidden Valley Resort on Peninsula Lake. The exact dimensions, weight, and contents may vary from crate to crate. Voyageurs may select the specific crate they wish to transport during in-person registration/gear check on a first come first served basis. More details, photos, weights will be posted in the future.

### THE PAYLOAD

The payload in each crate comprises a selection of locally produced goods possibly including, but not limited to: maple syrup, beer (for 19+ voyageurs only), dried meat, oats, honey, soap, and chocolate. Each box could also contain a door prize provided by one of Muskoka River X sponsors. The

voyageur(s) will not know the contents of the crates until they arrive successfully at the destination. At the destination, the crates will be opened to reveal their treasure.

## THE MISSION

Your mission as voyageur: Paddle from the Hidden Valley Resort (the MRX start location) to the Huntsville Town Dock (River Mill Park). Load the previously chosen crate into/onto your watercraft. Continue along the entire MRX Classic course, paddling and portaging as required to transport the crate from pickup location to the ultimate destination at the Hidden Valley Resort in 24 hours or less. Imagine you are a capable voyageur under the employ of the [Hudson's Bay Company](#), tasked with transporting goods from Huntsville to Bracebridge and then to the Hidden Valley Resort. Your compensation for this challenge, is that you are given all of the contents of the crate and the handcrafted crate itself....but not until you have successfully completed your mission.

## THE RULES

- The chosen crate must be transported by the paddler(s) throughout the entire [MRX Classic course](#) (Huntsville - Port Sydney - Bracebridge - Baysville - Huntsville) by the registered paddlers without outside assistance.
- Voyageurs may bring wheels or additional straps/padding to assist in transporting the crate across portages.
- The payload of the crates will be packed in a water-resistant fashion and resistant to bumps and knocks, but should not be considered water-proofed or drop-proofed. Care must be taken to keep the crate dry and in good condition. River X Racing is not responsible for damage to the goods contained within.
- The goal of the Voyageur class is to add a fun yet challenging new objective to the MRX event. It is not intended to cause physical harm, or put participants at increased risk of physical harm. Participants should be in good physical condition and capable of carrying heavy loads over extended distances. Paddlers should immediately abort transport of the crate should their physical condition deteriorate such that transport would increase their risk of physical distress.
- Participating voyageurs will be ranked by finish time in their appropriate watercraft category, receiving acknowledgement in the same way that non-voyageur paddlers in the MRX Classic do.

## SUCCESS

- Paddlers successfully transporting their crate through the MRX Classic route and delivering the crate to the dock at the Hidden Valley Resort on Peninsula Lake within 24 hours of their race start, will be given the crate and its contents to keep.
- Tools to open the crate and inspect its contents will be available at the finish.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Voyageur to successfully cross the finish line, including any time penalties, will be celebrated by winning art work and books by Hap Wilson, a modern-day Voyageur.

## FAILURE

- Should the paddler(s) not successfully deliver the crate to the Hidden Valley Resort via paddling/portaging within 24 hours of the start of the race, the crate and most of its contents will be forfeit. (See crates not delivered successfully below)
- Voyageurs choosing to abort their mission early, may leave their unopened crate at one of the 3 checkpoints along the route (CP1, CP2 or CP3) and continue their MRX Classic journey without their crate. They may continue and will be ranked in the equivalent MRX Classic category.
- Crates not being delivered successfully within 24 hours of race start will be returned to the Hidden Valley Resort by MRX staff/volunteers. The paddler(s) may choose to keep a number

of the items from the payload (at the discretion of River X Racing organizers), but will not be given the crate or its entire contents.

- River X Racing reserves the right to amend or alter the rules above to best achieve the objective of fairness and the participant's enjoyment.

## **SUPPORT TEAMS and SPECTATORS**

### **SUPPORT TEAMS ARE NOT PERMITTED**

**SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT:** Spectators are welcomed to watch their teams at various locations of the course. Please help us host a fair and respectful event.

1. Drive respectfully, follow the speed limits and avoid "racing" to the next location.
2. Parking at viewing locations: Choose your locations appropriately. Do not block a neighbouring driveway or interfere with traffic along the roads. Watch for on-coming traffic, cyclists, and pedestrians.
3. Respect privately owned property and landowners.
4. Do not interfere with or obstruct Race Management and Event Staff in the execution of their duties at any point prior to, during and after the event.
5. Substituting a participant paddler is not permitted.
6. Providing direct support to any team at any point along the course except at the designated Waypoint is not permitted unless the team is in distress.
7. Directing, "leading" or running in front your team along the portage route from the take-out to the put-in is not permitted.
8. Taking your team's watercraft out of the water or putting their watercraft back into the water at portages is not permitted.
9. Portaging a team's watercraft at any point during the event except prior to the official start and after the team has officially reached the finish line is not permitted.
10. Disruptive or dangerous behavior that may or does result in risk to the event and its members, the general public and local communities is not permitted.
11. Do not interfere with another team or block their progress in any manner. A participant team takes priority over your viewing location.

## **SAFETY**

1. It is your responsibility to ensure that your team is competent in paddling your watercraft, in self-rescue techniques in open water as well as basic survival skills, safety, and first aid. It is your responsibility to have on hand, the equipment necessary to keep yourself safe.
2. While on the lake sections of the course a safety team will be monitoring the course. Do not expect the boat to be in your vicinity at all times.
3. It is mandatory that all team members wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device at all times during the water sections of the course. Inflatables not permitted.
4. GPS trackers must be attached to the participant or watercraft in a visible location, facing up and in an open area with clear line of site to the sky for the duration of the race. If you require emergency assistance, activate the GPS emergency button.
5. Cell phones are required to communicate with Race Management. If requiring non-emergency support, call race management via cell phone.
6. Teams aid other teams who are in distress and may be awarded a time bonus to account for the time spent aiding.
7. Teams may receive support from another participant team with no penalty.
8. Severe weather conditions (i.e., high wind/wave, small craft warnings, etc.) may restrict safe travel for certain sections of the course. Race Management reserves the right to make

changes to the course or restrict travel on certain sections due to weather conditions.

9. During periods of active lightening, all teams are expected to remove themselves from the water in the safest manner possible. Teams will remain on dry land until lightening has passed before continuing the race.

## **SUBSTANCE-RELATED IMPAIRMENT**

Participants who are under the influence of any substance that impairs their abilities or functioning will be prohibited from participating in the event. If a participant is prescribed a substance by a regulated health practitioner that may result in impairment, the participant must notify Race Management in advance of the start of the event. Upon consideration of the facts including but not limited to foreseeable risks a decision will be made by Race Management as to the participant's status in the event with decisions ruling on the side of risk management and safety.

## **INFRACTIONS & PENALTIES**

Race Management reserves the right to issue time penalties if teams violate any of the event policies, place themselves in unacceptable situations of risk, place other competitors at risk, place the public at risk, or jeopardize the event and/or Race Management. The severity of the penalty will be dependent on the severity of the offence and will be decided by the Race Management.

### **Safety/risk related infractions that result in Disqualification.**

1. Failure to comply with and/or interference with the implementation of procedures associated with Race Management, the Emergency Response Team and/or the implementation of the Emergency Response Plan.
2. Failure to comply with instructions, decisions, and rulings of the Race Management: Unless a protest is officially submitted, all decisions by Race Management shall be final.
3. Failure to wear a personal flotation device (non-inflating) while on the water.
4. Failure to have stern light (signal/beacon light) turned on between sunset and sunrise.
5. Travel within restricted areas around dams, as defined by safety markers/buoys, and safety lines unless otherwise explicitly identified in the Course Instructions.
6. Weapons of any sort (except as required for Mandatory Equipment).

**Sportsmanship related infractions and the corresponding penalty.** Race Management reserves the right of discretion to increase or decrease the penalty depending on the circumstance on penalties less than Disqualification.

1. Any mode of transportation not authorized by Race Management: Disqualification
2. Use of a kayak paddle within a canoe or SUP category: Disqualification
3. Changing the team composition during the race: Disqualification
4. Deviation from the general course as described in the course instructions that results in a reduced finishing time: Minimum of 30min per infraction and increased/adjusted to reflect 2x the estimated time to complete the section of the course that was not completed, as described in the course instructions.
5. Receiving any kind of assistance during the race from any person who is not (1) a participant of the event, (2) race management or volunteer or SAR or medical team: 1 hour per infraction
6. Unfair behavior/intentional interference with another team's progress: 1 hour per infraction
7. Failure to have issued number plates attached to watercraft: 30 minutes
8. Missing mandatory equipment: 30 minutes per item
9. Failure to comply with Environmental Responsibility (Section 13): 30 minutes per infraction

Participants may report infractions in writing to the Race Management at any point during the event

but no later than on (1) hour prior to the start of the Post-Race Meal and Awards.

A recipient of an infraction allegation who wishes to lodge a protest shall submit a protest of an alleged infraction in writing accompanied by \$50.00 administrative fee to Race Management, no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the Post-Race Meal and Awards.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY**

All event participants must act in an environmentally responsible manner at all times during the event.

Teams should obey the following principles:

1. No litter, gear or any other object will be left on the race course. Carry your waste and disposed of your waste at designated disposal location along the course and at check points.
2. All human waste must be buried or properly disposed of a minimum of 50 meters of a water source. Washroom facilities are located throughout the course.
3. No cutting of vegetation of any type or deliberately causing unnecessary damage to vegetation or unnecessary erosion in areas with loose ground
4. Every effort must be made to avoid harassing animals of any type in their natural habitat. In all encounters with wild animals the animal has the right of way
5. No open fires unless if needed during an emergency situation for purposes of warmth or for cooking.

(R January 16, 2023)