



Canyon Voice

**Skeena Valley
Expeditions**

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall 2007



SVE Operates Successful Season

Skeena Valley Expeditions went through a most exciting transition this summer. Six months ago we were a couple of incorporation and permit papers, a heap of gear, three key staff, and an owner sitting around saying, “we’ve got some great ideas and some incredible product, but I wonder if this will work?” It did! We opened our doors in early June and word spread like wild fire. We ran all our cruise ship trips at maximum capacity with a waiting list and had almost three times as many

local trips as we expected from May to September. Every trip ran smoothly, the team gelled superbly, guest feedback was spectacular and the community liked it enough to nominate us for the Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Award. The vast majority of our local trips were whitewater trips on the Copper River with only a few “family floats” on the Kitimat River. Our cruise ship trips ran seamlessly on the Lower Skeena River.



Happy Day Trip Crew—Copper R.

Nass Heli-rafting / Steelhead Fishing

We were approached by Bell 2 Lodge early in the summer with a request to provide a rafting service to support a trip they were running. We are always interested in the prospect of unusual and unique trips so we went to task on designing a word class trip

with them. The premise was a combination heli-rafting and steelhead fishing trip. Bell 2 wanted to take their guests out to a remote and beautiful section of the Upper Nass River to fish. The whitewater is spectacular grade 3 and 4 so a professional and ex-

perienced company was required to run guests down the river.

Jupiter, our lead guide and operations manager took Shane Spencer, a local safety kayaker and explored the river thoroughly by helicopter. They brought

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SVE Highlights

- Local Terrace BC day trips
- Tatshenshini and Babine River Expeditions
- Custom departures
- Professional guides and river safety program
- B.C.R.O.A. Members

Heli-rafting/Steelheading (from pg. 1)



gear and guests to the river and spent the next four days in adventure heaven. Rafting each day until they were tired, then flying back to the remote lodge each evening only to enjoy a gourmet meal, a comfortable night's sleep and a heli ride back to the rafts for another great day was the general schedule. Not so bad!

The Upper Nass is untouched by any resource

extraction, has no roads and no sign of humans. Moose, bear and wolf roam freely as they have for centuries. Eagles and falcon soar overhead while steelhead and salmon dart from boulder to boulder in the clear river water. The Nass has been run by a handful of kayakers over the years but has never been run as a commercial rafting trip. Skeena Valley

Expeditions prides itself in operating a successful rafting trip on this beautiful and remote river. Everything about this trip is spectacular. While it is not yet in our regular line-up of expeditions, it will be soon. We encourage anyone with interest in this to call our office and discuss the possibility of a custom trip here. It is well worth it as we discovered this summer!

Terrace Flood Mixed Blessing

The Nass has been run by a handful of kayakers over the years but has never been run as a commercial rafting trip.



This spring the Terrace area experienced the largest flood since 1948. Last winter's snowpack was over 300% of the normal snowpack for the area and there was as much as 10 meters of settled snow in the alpine by March! While, of course, making for a spectacular ski season, all the stars aligned in early June to create a recipe for disaster here. With a week or so of sunshine and warm temperatures giving way to a small monsoon, all the river levels rose.

Highway 16 West, between Terrace and Prince Rupert was completely washed out in several places as were the CN Rail tracks that parallel the highway. In places, the tracks act as the dyke to protect the highway and once they had eroded the road had no chance. As

if that weren't bad enough, the saturated soil just couldn't remain stable any longer near Legate Creek to the east of Terrace. A massive landslide released, covering Highway 16 East with debris about 12 meters deep and 45 meters long. So for over a week, Terrace was left with its only two primary transportation links severed.

We had to cancel two weeks worth of Cruise Ship trips because the roads were not drivable. The river section we were operating on was safe as it is so benign; we just couldn't get our guests there. The Matateson Canyon on the Copper River, our regular whitewater run, was unsafe to run; however, there was a section on the upper

Copper that normally does not have enough water to run a raft on that was in fine form during the floods. This section in fact, provided some of the best early season rafting we've seen and underlines the spectacular variety of white-water options we have here in Terrace.

While SVE is committed to operating with safety as its top priority, it is also forward thinking enough to use the plethora of options available to it to provide its guests with a consistent and spectacular product.

Kalum River and the Paddle Party



The Kitsumkalum River is immediately north of Terrace and is just a half a grade increase in whitewater from the Copper River. We are working to make this our whitewater trip when the water level is lower on the Copper. We ran it as an exploratory several times this summer and were very pleased.

The Skeena Valley Canoe and Kayak Club hosts the Terrace Paddle Party each

August. SVE decided to sponsor the party by designing a trip specifically for the paddle party participants. We began with a float for families and beginner kayakers. The Paddle Party is located at Harlee's Fishing Lodge near the canyon of the Kalum River. It is a 10 minute drive from here to the upper Kalum put in where we drifted 2 hours back to Harlee's.

Back at the party for lunch, we did an exchange of guests and took the thrill seekers on board for a ride through the Kalum Canyon. This is spectacular grade 4 whitewater in a deep, blocky canyon. From the lower takeout it is just a 10 minute drive back to the Paddle Party. We will definitely be working toward this sort of thing for next year again.

'08 Trips Booking Already

Skeena Valley Expeditions has been nominated for the Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Award for 2007. The vote is final on November 17th.

Next summer's trips are already beginning to book so we strongly suggest getting on the phone and calling us to let us help plan your vacation of a lifetime. The office is open all winter and if no one answers your call, it will be returned within 24 hours, same with emails.

The line up of 2008 trips looks great. We will again be offering a full selection of day and expedition trips. They are outlined below:

Tatshenshini River

- 10 day expedition based from Whitehorse, Yukon.
- July 16th and 28th departures.

Babine River

- 5 day expedition based from Smithers, BC.
- August 18th (likely) departure.

Local day trips

- Every weekend with a grand opening of May Long Weekend.

Custom and private trips

- Are always an option for most trips and we encourage you to call or write us to discuss any ideas.

New Trips

- As Skeena Valley Expeditions is a new and growing company, we are always developing new trips. We have

endless ideas but have to be careful to find that delicate balance with how fast we grow. There are 2 local day trips and one regional expedition trip being worked on for next summer.

- We hope you will check the website often for exciting updates and better yet, contact us often to check in on what is new and exciting.

2007 prices will be offered on all bookings made for 2008 trips prior to January 1st, 2008!





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Pursuing the Spirit of Adventure

A Skeena Valley Expeditions trip is high class whether you join us for half a day or 10 days.

On all trips you are provided with:

- All specialized clothing such as wetsuits, helmets, lifejackets, and neoprene booties.
- Professional and certified guides
- All necessary transportation and logistics
- All the appropriate permits and licenses
- Lunch, snacks and drinks

On expedition trips you are also provided with:

- All food and beverages for the trip
- High quality camping equipment

Spring '08 Guide School

We are growing and need guides. One of SVE's mission statements is to create high quality and meaningful employment for residents of Northwestern BC. In a commitment to this, we are running a guide school in April or May of 2008.

This will be an 11 day course held locally here in Terrace. Students will learn safety and technical skills required for guiding river rafts, and operational and equipment maintenance procedures. They will receive an SRT certificate, and by the end, be ready to pass a BCROA raft guide exam. This exam will be held here

in Terrace immediately upon completion of the course.

The program includes:

- 7 day guide school taught by experienced industry professionals on a variety of local rivers
- IRIA Swiftwater Rescue Technician (SRT) certification
- BCROA raft guides exam and certification in both paddle and oar guiding disciplines
- All transportation to and from the field each day
- Lunches, snacks and drinks throughout the day

- All "company" equipment such as river rafts, safety equipment, paddles and oars, etc.
- Some personal equipment including wetsuits, spray jackets, helmets, wetsuite booties, and life jackets.

A full itinerary with prices, dates, etc will be ready before January 2008. If you are interested or know someone who would be, please contact us and we will put you on the list to receive information about this great course.

