

GENERAL INFORMATION

The rapids on the North Saskatchewan are named after the families who own the adjacent land. These families have lived in and around Rocky Mountain House for generations and are well known locally. Old Stony and the Devil's Elbow are the only exceptions in naming rapids. Old Stony is named for a large rock in the middle of the river. At the river bend around Devil's Elbow, you'll find the longest and largest waves of this stretch of the river.

The Rocky Mountain House National Historic Park is located near Brierley's Rapid and marks the spot where the fur trading rivals, North West Company and Hudson Bay Company stopped to build forts. The North West Company fort was built in 1799 and established Rocky Mountain House.

ETHICS

- Remember to respect the rights of other river users.
- Appreciate nature and natural areas. Leave them unspoiled for future trips and for others to enjoy.
- Leave your campsites clean and take all garbage with you.
- Make sure your campfire is completely out.
- Respect private land.

WATER LEVELS

TransAlta Utilities owns and operates the Bighorn Hydro Plant, located west of Nordegg along the North Saskatchewan River. The plant, completed in 1972, provides electricity to Albertans during periods of peak electrical demand.

The operations at the Bighorn plant can affect water levels on the North Saskatchewan River.

Twice a year, in the spring and fall, the plant is shut-down for safety maintenance reasons. These shut-downs can cause water levels to be lower than usual for approximately 12 to 15 hours at a time.

Before you set out in your canoe or kayak, give TransAlta's information line a call for up-to-date information regarding water levels on the North Saskatchewan River.

721-3700

Rocky Canoe Club

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We welcome your comments and suggestions.

This brochure is intended as a guide only and was developed to the best of the knowledge of the Rocky Canoe Club. The decision to canoe this section of the river rests solely with the user. Remember to play it safe and have fun.

Special Thank You to:

TransAlta

Alberta
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION



Sharing the RIVER

Canoe Guide

**North Saskatchewan
River**

**Rocky Mountain House
to Horburg**



SHARING THE RIVER

The North Saskatchewan River is Alberta's 4th largest river. It flows from the Rocky Mountains through Nordegg and Rocky Mountain House, north to Edmonton and into Saskatchewan. Members of the Rocky Canoe Club have paddled this beautiful river over 20 years and have developed this brochure to share their experience with other canoeists and kayakers.

SAFETY FIRST

Boating conditions on the North Saskatchewan River can vary greatly with changes in water levels and weather conditions. It is important for you to be familiar with the stretch of river you are paddling and also recognize your own skills as a canoeist. An experienced paddler may view a particular rapid as a mere riffle but that same section of river could be dangerous for a beginner. If you are in doubt, go with an experienced canoeist.

Always wear a lifejacket with a whistle - not only is it a good idea, it's the law. Carry a bailing device and an extra paddle in case you run into trouble. And bring extra clothes and dry matches - remember the water in this river is always cold.

The North Saskatchewan is also a popular river for jet boaters. When you hear a jet boat approaching, move to the closest shore to avoid accidents. By minding other boaters and respecting the river and the wildlife that live there, we can all enjoy the magnificent North Saskatchewan River together.