



Canyon Voice

**Skeena Valley
Expeditions**

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Spring Guide School Results

Seven students participated in our guide training school this spring. Most of them had a goal of working in the raft guiding industry while a couple took the course out of personal interest in an effort to further their own skills on the river and in the backcountry.

Two students passed the exam outright

while an additional two returned to re-test some additional components, one received a provisional pass meaning he will receive certification after additional experience, and 2 did not pass. All 7 walked away with a whole set of new skills and a multitude of learning experiences. And finally, the course was super fun for all.



Kayla Yagelniski—SVE Guide School

SVE Published in Forbes Traveller

This past summer, Jeff Wallach wrote an article for Forbes Traveller's website on the World's 10 Best Rafting Trips. Jeff himself is a professional river guide in a past life and

put the Tatshenshini river up there with the Karnali river in Nepal, the Zambezi in Africa, the Upper Yangtze in Tibet. SVE is proud to be the information

source for the Tatshenshini.

You can view the article at the following web address:

<http://images.forbestraveler.com/adventure/international-whitewater-rafting-story.html>

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**SKEENA
VALLEY**
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Last Minute List



There are often vacant seats available on many of the whitewater trips we run here in Terrace. We're offering all our guests who have already done one trip with us to be put on a "last minute list." Any time we have a trip going that has seats

available on it, we will send an email out to everyone on the last minute list 2 days prior to the trip date. If you can make it you will be welcome to come along at half price. These half price seats will be on a first come, first served basis and

may not be extended to anyone not on our last minute list.

Just send us a quick email with a request to be put on our last minute list and we'll make sure to be in touch for the 2009 summer.

SVE Wins Business Excellence Award

*Tourism Business
Excellence Award
Winner*

*Nominee for
Customer Service
and Company of the
Year*

Skeena Valley Expeditions is proud to have won the Business Excellence Award for Tourism from the Terrace and District Chamber of Commerce. We were also nominated for the Customer Service and the Company of the Year awards.

A quick snapshot of our vision statement shows "Skeena Valley Expeditions is committed to grow and prosper by providing a healthy, fun and adventurous addition to recreation in the Terrace and greater

area. Skeena Valley Expeditions will also create meaningful work for Northern BC residents and promote a healthy, outdoor lifestyle to both staff and guests alike. Skeena Valley Expeditions will provide nothing less than excellence."

We're happy that the business community in the Terrace area thinks the same.

We're also proud to have been nominated alongside Kermodei Tourism's "Kermodei

Cruisers" and the Nisga'a Commercial Group's (NCG) Tourism body. SVE worked on various initiatives with both groups.

NCG started operating a series of 3 tours in the Nass River Valley this summer. The Kermodei Cruisers spent the summer in a minivan attending all the events in the region as well as frequenting campgrounds, etc. to inform visitors of what the Terrace region has to offer.



Tweedsmuir Glacier Surge



The Tweedsmuir Glacier is in Kluane National Park. It flows Southeast from the St. Elias Mountains and terminates at the Alsek River immediately above a section of the river known as Turnback Canyon. Numerous times throughout the summer the glacier has moved at an unusually

fast rate. In the past, the glacier has done this to the extent that it blocked the entire Alsek River creating an ice dam. When the dam broke, the flood rushed downstream causing massive forest destruction in the Lower Tatshenshini and Alsek Valleys. The potential for this to happen again was

present this summer. The National Parks Service has set up a monitoring camera and a series of water gauges to help determine the extent of the surge. Great photos are available at:

http://aprtc.arh.noaa.gov/general/tweedsmuir_images.php

and a great background article is available at:

<http://ak.water.usgs.gov/Projects/Tweedsmuir/index.php>

Nass River Exploratory Trip

“best described as a spectacular whitewater trip.”

“We will be offering it as a 6-day expedition trip starting in the summer of 2009.”



We were approached by the Nisga'a Commercial Group – Tourism from the Nass Valley and asked if we would assist in creating a tourism product in the Nass Valley. The Nass is in Northern British Columbia and is similar in size to the Skeena. In the lower Nass Valley there are 4 First Nations villages that together, successfully completed the first land claim treaty in BC. This river has never been run commercially before and to our knowledge, never even by raft, so we ran an exploratory trip. It

went from the Bell I bridge on the Bell-Irving River into the Nass River ending at a takeout at New Aiyansh, one of the villages in the Lower Nass Valley. The trip took us 4 days and was best described as a spectacular whitewater trip. There was significant class 4 whitewater on all but one of the days. The river is constantly in and out of smooth, dark canyons the entire time and when not surrounded by bedrock, the lush forest and waterfalls were nothing less than breathtaking. We took 2 new guides and a

bunch of friends in kayaks with us and had a spectacular trip. We will be offering it as a 6-day expedition trip starting in the summer of 2009. The date will soon be available on our website but will likely be mid-August. There will be some spectacular opportunities for cultural experiences when we get to the Lower Nass Valley. As it is the locals themselves who have invited us, they are currently very excited to share their history.



Featured Guides—Jeremie and Sam Drouin

Many of you likely got a chance to spend the day with Jeremie (top photo) or Sam this past summer. They are both new guides and spent the summer guiding and safety kayaking with us. Jeremie and Sam Drouin are Terrace locals and come from a whitewater family. Their father Serge, who works as a nurse at the Terrace Hospital, and three of the four brothers all kayak. They got into the sport as a family and now paddle as an

extremely strong group. When compared to other paddlers on the river, their grace in paddling is instantly apparent on the river.

Both Jeremie and Sam took our guide school and passed the BCROA exam. They both worked throughout the summer with us on our local trips. Jeremie worked a little less as he has a real job in the construction industry and had a number of his own contracts this summer but

we conned him out almost once a week nonetheless. Sam on the other hand worked on almost every trip we ran. They both did what we think was a fantastic job and will be welcome back to the SVE family next summer if bigger and better things don't take them away from home.

Sam is now in school near Edmonton for the winter and Jeremie remains a high quality builder in Terrace.



Free Tatshenshini Trip

For those who haven't heard yet, we are giving away a 10-day expedition trip on the Tatshenshini River. It will be on the earlier of our two 2009 departures which is July 15th, 2009. The draw date is April 15th 2009 so go to our website and sign up. Also, encourage your friends to do the same especially if they haven't yet heard of us. All you have to do is get yourself to Whitehorse, Yukon and the rest is on us. Check it out at www.svei.ca

