

HOPE SLOUGH QWÓMQWEMOWS PADDLE ROUTE

ROSEDALE TO CORBOULD PARK



ROUTE DESCRIPTION

The Hope Slough Qwómqwemows paddling route begins in Rosedale, using parking and a new City of Chilliwack Blueways Access, beside the Rosedale Fire Hall. It follows the meandering Hope Slough all the way to Corbould Park on Fairfield Island.

Difficulty: Easy. Suited to all paddlers, recommended for beginners.

Hazards: There are some culverts and bridges to paddle under, but, unless the water is really high or you are very tall, we expect that you will be able to safely pass. The route has no portages and only two ripples, one at Dayton Pool and the other just past the easy take-out by the footbridge at Kinsman Park. Other easy riffles to cross are found mostly just downstream of major culverts. There's strong side flow where Elk Creek joins the slough.

We recommend scouting the section between the Rosedale Firehall and Chapman Road from Hope River Road before paddling it because the low-water muddy sections are too far downstream to be seen from the firehall put in.

Parking: There is parking at both ends of the route (east of the Rosedale Fire Hall and Corbould Park), and at places along the route, such as Reeves Road, Dayton Pool, and Kinsmen Park. **We recommend that you have someone drop you off and pick you up because it would be difficult to do a vehicle shuttle.**

Route Highlights

- 12.4 km long, can be done in segments
- About 3 hours on the water
- Parking is available at the Rosedale put in and at several places along the route
- Birds, turtles, beaver, muskrat, and other creatures are often seen on this route

RECENT TRIP REPORT

On May 1, 2021, the route from Rosedale to Chapman Road (Dunville Creek) had no real obstructions. It was shallow and muddy but passable in the packraft. A deeper draught boat might get stuck in soft mud.

Once Dunville Creek and then Elk Creek join, there's a lot more water and deeper/faster flow, and the channel is more navigable.

Downstream from Chapman Road, the slough is narrower and deeper, and is easy and enjoyable. One wood jam between Gillanders and Reeves Road has an easy 5 m portage on the left bank, or you can force a boat over it with some vigorous paddling. High water later in May might get rid of it. There were no other obstacles.

PADDLING ETIQUETTE

- You must wear a personal flotation device (PFD).
- Don't paddle alone – you never know when you need a hand.
- Respect wildlife – the sloughs are important habitat for a wide variety of waterfowl, songbirds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. Keep your distance.
- Do not disturb nesting waterfowl.
- Respect private property – the shoreline might look wild (which is good!) but the adjacent property is probably residential or a farm. Don't trespass.
- Your voice carries and others can hear – be mindful of what you say.
- Don't block other users – move your craft out of the way.
- Use leave no trace practices – please pack out all your garbage and take only photographs.

HAPPY PADDLING!

We acknowledge that we are on S'olh Temexw, the unceded traditional territory of the Stó:lō people.

Halq'eméylem is their language.

Qwómqwemows is the Halq'eméylem word for the upper end of Hope Slough. It means coming out into the open

It sounds like kwaum kwa m'a'ws.

Disclaimer

The route depicted here may be different than described. Watercourses may have fluctuating water levels, downed trees, or other obstacles. Paddlers should be familiar with the risks they are assuming when using these watercourses.

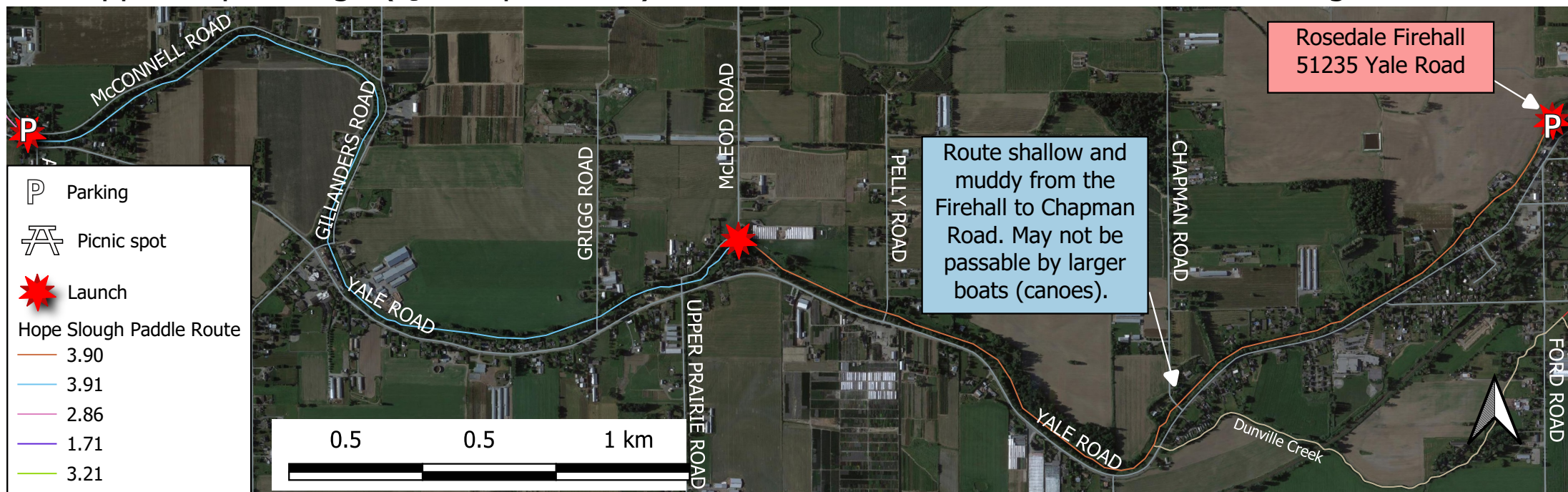
THE ROSEDALE CANOE RACE by Merlin Bunt

The forerunner to today's "Paddle the Slough Challenge" was the Rosedale Canoe Race. This popular community event was started in 1973 to both observe the 100th birthday of the Township of Chilliwack and, more importantly, to call attention to the deteriorating condition of the Hope River (a.k.a. Hope Slough). Since 1958, proponents had been lobbying the provincial and municipal governments to clean up mud and brush in the Hope River, but with little success and it was hoped this event would spur some action. The first Rosedale Canoe Race took place on May 6, 1973, with 42 entrants vying for prizes put up by various corporate sponsors. The 13 km route meandered its way from Rosedale Community Ballpark near Old Yale Road in Rosedale to Fairfield Island Hall. The winning time for that first race was two hours and eight minutes.

For the next two decades, the Rosedale Canoe Race was an increasingly popular event each spring in Chilliwack. The 17th edition of the race in 1989 had 65 race sponsors, with approximately 80 entrants competing in six race categories based on age and gender. However, by 1997, after 25 annual races, the event was cancelled as the grass in the clogged waterway had grown so thick, canoeists could not navigate it. Ongoing cleanup efforts were effectively stopped by federal authorities who wanted to lay a charge of "disturbance of habit" for what was believed to be damage to spawning grounds.

Twenty years later, in 2017, the first annual Paddle the Hope Slough event was staged, again to draw attention to the condition of the slough, as well as to rekindle interest in the somewhat forgotten Rosedale Canoe Race.

Upper Hope Slough (Qwomqwemows)- Rosedale Firehall to Reeves Road- Total length 7.81 km



Lower Hope Slough- Reeves Road to Corbould Park- Total length 7.78 km

