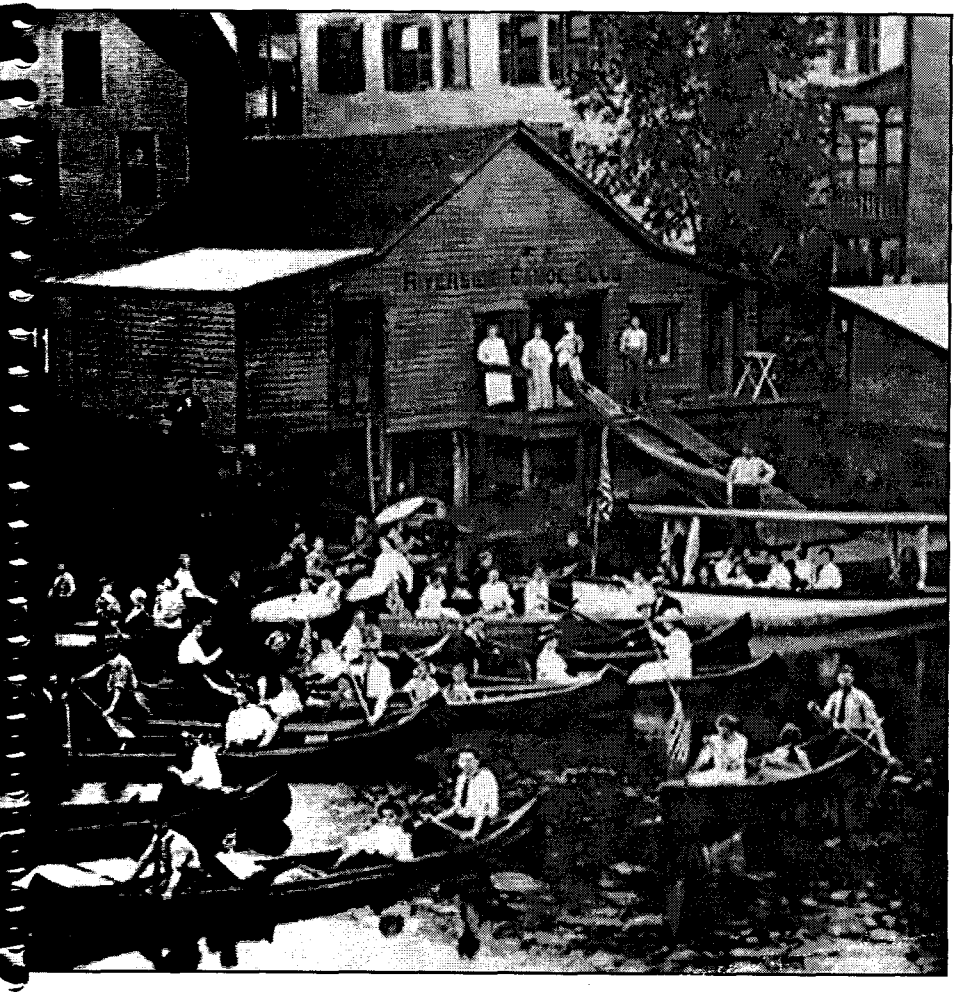
Passumpsic River Canoeing and Recreation Guide



Cover photograph: St. Johnsbury Canoe Club and a group of boaters on the Passumpsic River above Arnold Falls, circa 1908.

This publication was produced by Central Vermont Public Service Corp. through the cooperation of groups and individuals in the Passumpsic Valley and with assistance from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. Contributors include: Lyndon State College, Saltillo Press, Passumpsic River Network, Fairbanks Museum, Passumpsic River Watch, Walter Sophrin, Tony Moulton, Chris R. Dussault, Steve Langner, Ben Berquist, Steve Bobrowski, Jeanette Sessions, Leon Thompson, Anna Tracy, Camille Reno and Ian Courchesne. Permission to quote briefly from Vermont Place-Names was given by the author, Esther Munroe Swift. Editorial assistance from Cary O'Brien. Maps produced by Alan Boye and Jim Horton, with the graceful assistance of Jeff Briggs. Cover design and production by Lauren Otis.

1996 edition edited and designed by Alan Boye.

1999 revisions by Hugh Henry, writer; Jack Crowther, editor; and Linda Filarecki, proofreading.

Copyright 1996, 1999 by CVPS, Rutland, Vermont

Central Vermont Public Service

Printed on recycled paper

Contents

I. The River

Introduction to the River 5
Place-Names of the Passumpsic Watershed 9
The River and the Civil War: Fort Baxter 15

II. Guides

What to See When Off the River 21
A Guide for Walkers, Pedalers and Skiers 23
Common Plants of the Watershed 25
A Guide to the Geology of the Watershed 27

III. Safety, Gear, Canoe Basics, Land Use Ethics

Safety 30
Gear 31
Basic Canoeing Strokes 32
Land Use Ethics 34

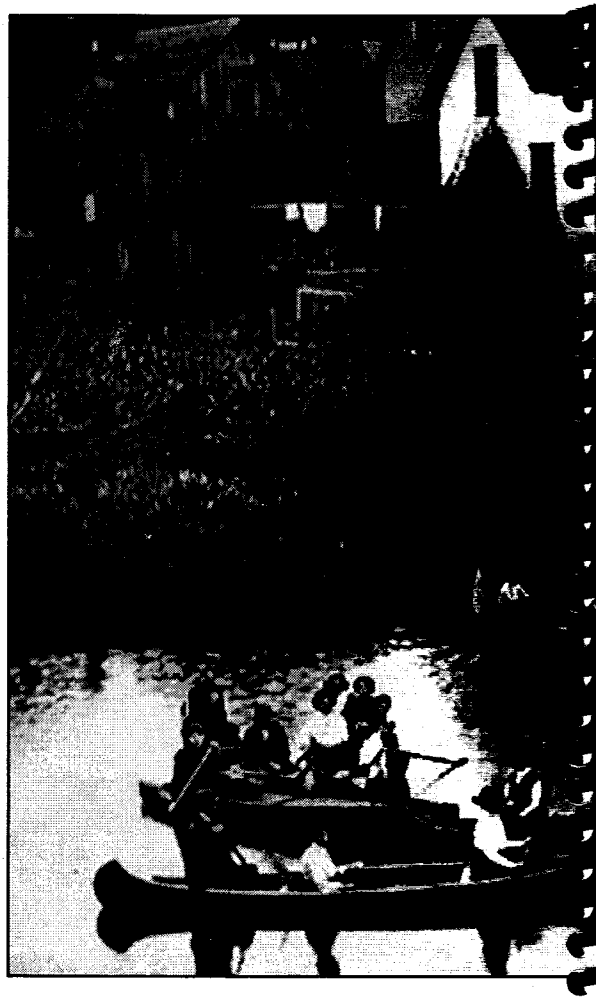
IV. Maps and Canoeing Guide to the River

Maps and Guide 35-75

V. Sources

List of Sources 76

The cold, rushing waters of Vermont's remote Northeast Kingdom tumble down from surrounding mountain peaks into the lovely Passumpsic River. The Passumpsic — an Abenaki Indian word meaning "clear, sandy bottom" — has regained its reputation as an ideal river for recreation. This book provides a complete guide to the jewel of the Kingdom, and includes history, geology, what to see and what do do, as well as detailed maps and a mile-by-mile guide to canoeing the Passumpsic.



Published By

Central Vermont Public Service

ISBN:
0-913473-12-X