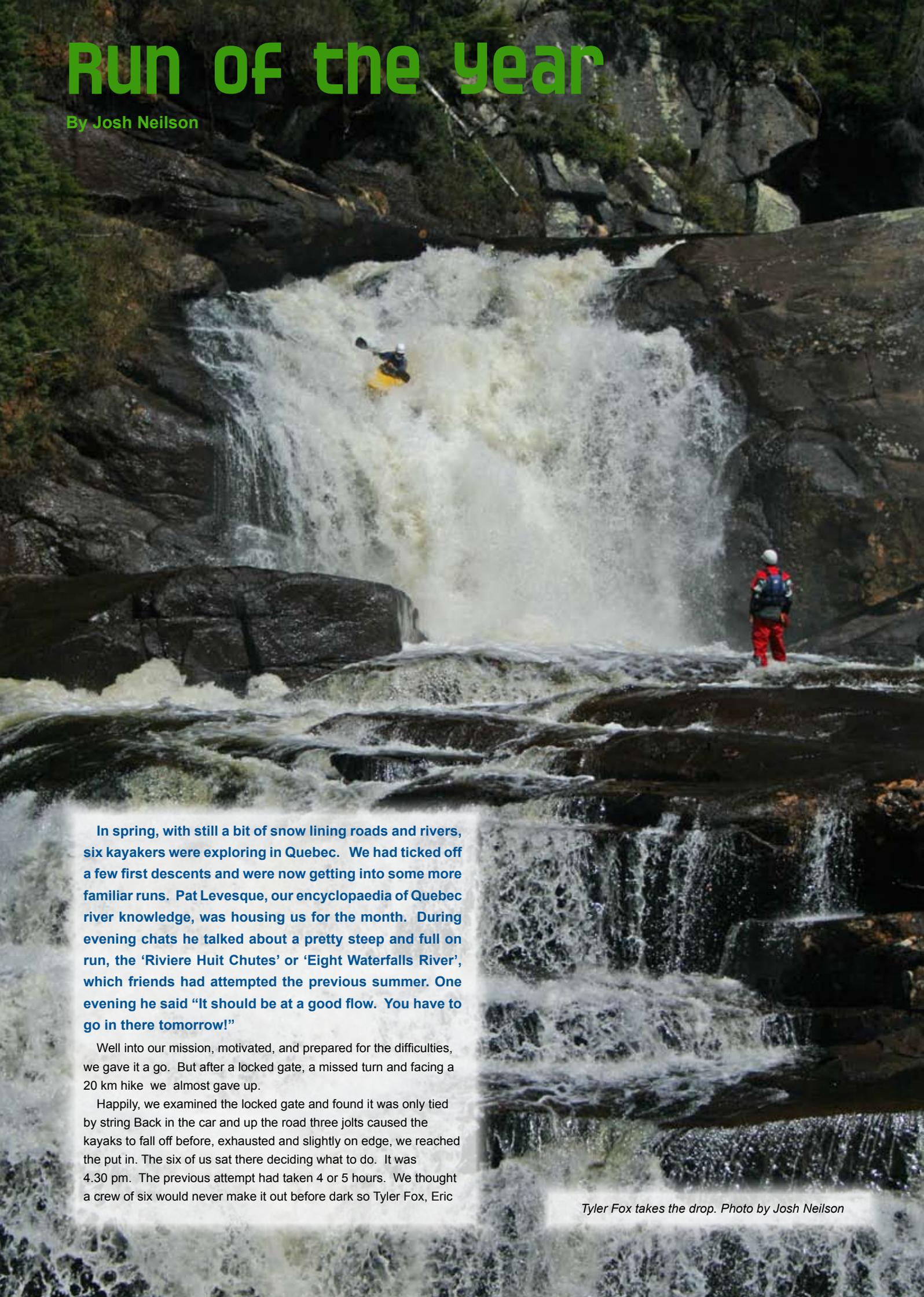


Run of the Year

By Josh Neilson



In spring, with still a bit of snow lining roads and rivers, six kayakers were exploring in Quebec. We had ticked off a few first descents and were now getting into some more familiar runs. Pat Levesque, our encyclopaedia of Quebec river knowledge, was housing us for the month. During evening chats he talked about a pretty steep and full on run, the 'Riviere Huit Chutes' or 'Eight Waterfalls River', which friends had attempted the previous summer. One evening he said "It should be at a good flow. You have to go in there tomorrow!"

Well into our mission, motivated, and prepared for the difficulties, we gave it a go. But after a locked gate, a missed turn and facing a 20 km hike we almost gave up.

Happily, we examined the locked gate and found it was only tied by string. Back in the car and up the road three jolts caused the kayaks to fall off before, exhausted and slightly on edge, we reached the put in. The six of us sat there deciding what to do. It was 4.30 pm. The previous attempt had taken 4 or 5 hours. We thought a crew of six would never make it out before dark so Tyler Fox, Eric

Tyler Fox takes the drop. Photo by Josh Neilson



Boomer and I were chosen to bomb the run, while the others drove shuttle and set camp.

We determined the signs and signals which would speed our descent and we were off. As the gradient and rapids rapidly increased we dropped cleanly off smooth rock shelves. Some drops were too high, so we all got out and portaged these. Everything got run from top to bottom. In 30 minutes we were in the heart of the gorge. 40 minutes later the run was over and we were telling the others what they could expect the following day.

Fast paced days on the river are amazing when the crew is flowing and working well together down the river!

Early the next day we packed up camp and headed back in, taking time to film and photograph this amazing run.

Every now and then you get these days where everything on the river goes perfectly and looking back can even make a year full of injury and downtime from kayaking seem like it wasn't too bad at all!

Cheers to Tyler Fox, Eric Boomer, Pat Levesque, Blake Mahoney and Dave Crerar, the crew that day! Top five for sure!

For more photos from this trip you can check out the May archives on www.whitewater-koa.blogspot.com

No turning back Josh! - Photo by Tyler Fox



ROOF RACK CENTRE

For all your roof rack requirements



THULE[®]
SWEDEN

FREE FITTING WHILE YOU WAIT
(excludes permanent fittings)

Prorack
Loads of adventure

BAY OF PLENTY | TAUPO | WELLINGTON | TARANAKI
MANUKAU | WAIKATO | AUCKLAND | NORTH SHORE

RHINO-RACK
Aerodynamic & Heavy Duty Roof Rack Systems

0508 529 2569 **www.roofrackcentre.co.nz**