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Canoeist praised for changing the map of Canada' after dramatic encounter with unknown waterfalls

JAKE EDMISTON | 13/07/30 | Last Updated: 13/07/31 11:17 AM ET
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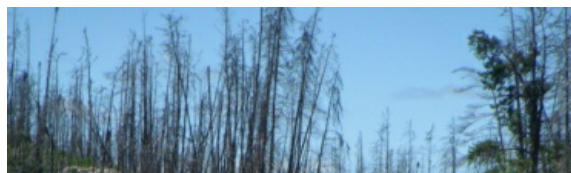


Adam Shoalts is being credited with changing the map of Canada after discovering a series of waterfalls — one of which he plunged over in his canoe — on a river south of Hudson Bay, one of the last blind spots in Canadian geography.

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Aerial photographs from the 1950s didn't prepare Adam Shoalts for what he was about to encounter. The self-dubbed "modern explorer" was canoeing a stretch of little-known whitewater rapids just south of Hudson Bay when the river started to disappear in front of him.

"I've discovered a waterfall and now I'm about to go straight over it," Mr. Shoalts thought. "This is not good."



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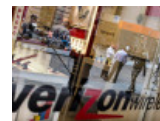
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He tried to back paddle, but the current was too swift. And then, “It’s past the point of no return.”

The current pivoted his canoe sideways, sending him down the 12-metre waterfall. As he fought against the undertow and swam to shore, Mr. Shoalts couldn’t help congratulating himself for making a discovery that “just doesn’t happen in the 21st century.”

The August 2012 trip marked the first time on record that anyone had traversed the Again River, a 100-kilometre tributary straddling the Northern Ontario-Quebec border that was too likely too marginal to sustain ancient aboriginal populations and too rocky for fur traders.

After rescuing most of his gear downstream and using duct tape to repair his dented canoe, Mr. Shoalts proceeded along the river to find six more uncharted waterfalls. And now, with the backing of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS), Mr. Shoalts is poised to return to the area this week to properly document one of the last blind spots acknowledged by Canadian geographers.

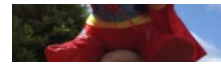
Already, the RCGS has lauded Mr. Shoalts for “changing the map of Canada, a true rarity in 21st-century exploration.”



Depicted is one of seven waterfalls discovered by Adam Shoalts on the Again River in the Hudson Bay lowlands. Courtesy: Adam Shoalts



Adam Shoalts on the nameless river on his expedition, holding the flag of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. Adam Shoalts



the toggle on the back statements, but a real chat

Pope Francis Dear Diary: Those men in frilly costumes are Vatican guards, not a gay lobby



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Colin Powell denies affair with Romanian politician after hacker stumbles on 'very personal' emails



The former U.S. secretary of state admitted Corina Cretu, 30 years his junior, had sent him 'bathing suit photos' and pictures of her family and work

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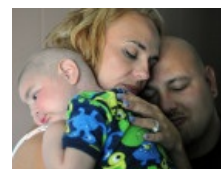
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Princess of the United Kingdom (but you can call me mummy)



With four titles to choose from, the question of how to describe her occupation on her son's birth certificate was more taxing for the Duchess than for the rest...

Couple moves up wedding so dying two-year-old can be best man: 'We want him to see his mom and dad married'



'We want Logan in our family pictures, and we want him to see his mother and dad get married,' Christine Swidorsky said. Her daughter will be flower girl

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A luxury spa in Manhattan is asking customers to do just that, promising that a traditional Japanese facial involving nightingale excrement will leave skin

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“No known explorer, surveyor or canoeist,” had ever travelled on the Again River, the RCGS said, after scouring historic fur trade records and written accounts, and interviewing aboriginal elders of the Moose Cree First Nation to confirm that Mr. Shoalts was indeed the river’s first visitor.

Since 2008, the 27-year-old Ontario woodsman has tried to access the Again River, part of a network of rivers, tributaries and lakes in the Hudson Bay lowlands known as the third-largest wetland on the planet. He failed to reach it on two previous attempt, in 2008 and 2009.

“It has the highest concentration of blood-sucking insects in the entire world,” said Mr. Shoalts. “It’s just a mass intensity of black flies attacking your face relentlessly, all day long.”

“It feels as if you’re at the ends of the Earth’

When he finally reached the headwaters last summer, the “pristine” shoreline was vacant of any sign of human contact, said Mr. Shoalts, who paid close attention to the rocks for paint marks from previous canoeists, but found none.

“It feels as if you’re at the ends of the Earth,” he said.



Dent: Adam Shoalts' canoe after he went over a 20-ft waterfall.

Adam Shoalts

The swampy, unforgiving terrain meant much of the Hudson Bay lowlands escaped exploration — save for photos taken from airplanes during a nationwide project in the post-war era. From those photographs, geographers produced topographic maps in the 1960s, many of which remain the predominant source of geographical knowledge on untouched slices of Canadian wilderness.

SACREMENT WILL LEAVE SKIN
smooth

Why Hollywood censored films and an MGM executive even divorced his Jewish wife just to keep Hitler happy



Hollywood producers censored films, cut Jewish staff from the credits and cancelled movies critical of the Nazis in an attempt to appease Hitler, a new book claims

Comedian Ellen DeGeneres will host the 2014 Academy Awards



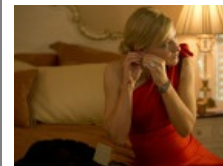
Quirky comedian DeGeneres is no stranger to the Oscars: She received positive notices for her hosting job in 2007

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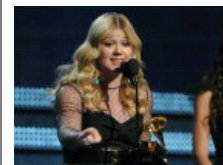
Model Karen Elson says her estranged ex-husband, musician Jack White, has a violent temper, sends her emails laced with profanity and calls her derogatory names

Cate Blanchett blows her Blue Jasmine co-stars off the screen in this instant Woody Allen classic



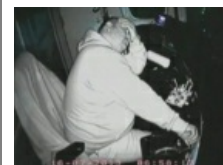
Three and a half out of four stars: Blanchett rips a swath right through your psyche as Jasmine, a trophy bride who finds herself on her ass

Seeking British buyer: U.K. government halts sale of Jane Austen's ring to Kelly Clarkson



British culture minister Ed Vaizey has stopped the sale of the ring to American singer Clarkson until Sept. 20, in the hopes that that 'this simple but elegant...

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The drivers' union paralyzed train traffic Thursday after the release, which showed commuter train drivers reading, talking on cellphones and even sleeping

Thatcher warned of Pierre Trudeau's 'unsound personal views,' newly released secret files reveal



Government files from 30 years ago, released this week by the British National Archives, were to prepare Thatcher for her visit to Ottawa

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But those maps were limited in their abilities to note minor landmarks, such as Mr. Shoalts' yet-to-be-named waterfalls. A rare breed of Canadian wilderness buffs continues to be tasked with filling in the blanks, said Denis St-Onge, a decorated Arctic explorer and former RCGS president.

"I have no doubt there's more to be found," said Mr. St-Onge, who is working to add further detail to a map of the Keewatin Basin, northeast of Yellowknife.

"How much more is there? Of course, I don't know," he said, adding that the primary geographical blind spots are in Labrador, the Northwest Territories and the Hudson Bay lowlands.

Mr. Shoalts, who lives in Fenwick, Ont., had earmarked a series of undocumented rivers in the lowlands several years ago after sifting through archival records, newspaper clippings, explorers' journals and geographical survey reports as well as talking to bush pilots, wilderness canoeists and aboriginal elders.

"I want to know what's out there in the deepest, darkest pockets," said Mr. Shoalts, who has already submitted a request to name a tributary he found in 2011.

He sets off Thursday for his next adventure. He will attempt to add seven small details to the 50-year-old topographic maps of the Again River as he retraces his route, alone, from Cochrane, Ont., to the mouth of the Kesagami River, dragging his canoe and 70 kilograms of food and equipment up creeks, and hacking his way through "impenetrable boreal forest," muskeg and tundra en route to the river's headwaters.

On the Again rapids, he plans to measure the longitude and latitude of each waterfall and take photographs, before canoeing into James Bay, risking hypothermia as he traces the coastline to the Polar Bear Express railway in Moosonee, Ont.

At most points along the way, the closest source of aid will be hundreds of kilometres away, by air.

"The plan is not to need rescuing," he said.


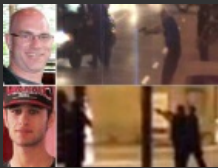

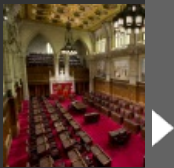
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NEW WATERFALLS DISCOVERED



SOURCE: ADAM SHOALTS
JONATHON RIVAULT / NATIONAL POST
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• a day

LouiseShah ago

I love it. Duct tape to the rescue.

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• 2 days

Proventus ago

I bet Stompin' Tom was there once. He's been everywhere man.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v...>

2 Share
| 1 v >

• 2 days

Thomas Price → Proventus ago

That was Hank Snow, not Stompin Tom.

4 Share
| v >

• 2 days

Mahou Shoujo ago

There are still a few places on earth that will surprise the itinerant traveller as they wer

2 Share
| v >

• 2 days

Proventus → Mahou Shoujo ago

I found an old Pop-Tart in the cupboard at the cottage once. Gave it to my br

Did you know they don't go bad?

1 Share
| 1 v >

• 2 days

Mahou Shoujo → Proventus ago

That is what siblings are for, if they survive, they will be appreciative an

1 Share
| 1 v >

• 2 days

FMR69 ago

He should contact Google b/f his next trip to see if they can outfit him with something getting bitten by black flies

4 Share
| v >

• 2 days

Thomas Price → FMR69 ago

You've got to be kidding. Google shows a resort in my field. The resort is actual 20 visitors each summer looking for the resort. We have contacted Google as I no success. We now just advise the visitors that it is Google's back-roads expl

1 Share
| 1 v >

• 2 days

Q_Impact ago

Well done, but next time learn the boof stroke.

b.t.w., did you look at topographical maps or just air photos? If only air photos, are th

you find these features.

1 Share >

• 2 days

Proventus → Q_Impact ago

All maps are based on the aerial photos from the 50s with some smaller details with full summer foliage.

1 Share >

• 3 days

Mikaysoo ago

Well the Cree of the area call these falls "Waskagwankisik" they are not unknown and I course, when a Non indigenous person see it's for the first time it's "discovered"... like

13 Share >

• 2 days

Mahou Shoujo → Mikaysoo ago

"interviewing aboriginal elders of the Moose Cree First Nation to confirm that M miss this part?

4 Share >

• 2 days

Mikaysoo → Mahou Shoujo ago

well...MCFN is Ontario he should have went to Waskaganish...that is the

1 Share >

• 2 days

Mahou Shoujo → Mikaysoo ago

How close to the Again river do you live? Where is the closest in

2 Share >

• 2 days

Mikaysoo → Mahou Shoujo ago

I'm from Moose Cree First Nation... Waskaganish is the closest

1 Share >

• 2 days

Mahou Shoujo → Mikaysoo ago

So you are quite familiar with the river and all it's waterfalls?

1 Share >

• 2 days

Mikaysoo → Mahou Shoujo ago

yes i grew up here, this is my home... yes i've been on that river but I've heard the elders speak of them thru their stories... and

1 Share >

• 2 days

Mahou Shoujo → Mikaysoo ago

You should consider writing some of this down, lots of indian culture preserved or passed down to a generation that values it.

2 Share >

• 2 days

Mikaysoo → Mahou Shoujo ago

old stories are being retold, languages is being resurrected, value it down, in the traditional manners... it's not being lost, it's actually want it, seek it and ask for it... that is why they're standing up while learning the new education... we are the 7th generation, a

1 Share >

• 2 days

Mahou Shoujo → Mikaysoo ago

Walk the walk, do not talk the walk.

1 Share
| ^ >
| v >

• 2 days

Mikaysoo → Mahou Shoujo ago

well i would safely assume that you hardly know what i've done. what I say that I will do, what matters is what i do with what i s:

1 Share
| ^ >
| v >

• 2 days

Mahou Shoujo → Mikaysoo ago

No, never heard of you before this article. Doing something for lot of value. There is no way either of us could know anything al encourage others to do what is right, not what is convenient.

^ Share
| v >

• 2 days

Mikaysoo → Mahou Shoujo ago

of course you wouldn't hear of me... i'm the quiet one in the co education and skills for the benefit of my people and culture... fr the universities... and bought that back to me people, to share, don't want my name to be known, nor do i have a personal age culture.

1 Share
| ^ >
| v >

• 2 days

Mahou Shoujo → Mikaysoo ago

Very noble, will wait and watch to see how it all works out.

^ Share
| v >

• a day

Mikaysoo → Mahou Shoujo ago

well there's much you have already seen and heard in the past

^ Share
| v >

• a day

Mahou Shoujo → Mikaysoo ago

Yes, and a lot that I know about that has unfortunately been lo: world. A long departed friend of mine had a collection of cassetts disappeared, would have been another page of history if they w

^ Share
| v >

• 10 hours

Mikaysoo → Mahou Shoujo ago

that is too bad, that's a great loss... but that is the reason why tell my daughter the stories that were passed on to me as a yo 1000's of years... when they are written in the spirit and lifestyle

1 Share
| ^ >
| v >

• 6 hours

Mahou Shoujo → Mikaysoo ago

That's what we thought, now, there are none of the old people

^ Share
| v >

• 2 days

Mikaysoo → Mikaysoo ago

did i just rain on someone's parade... ! sorry...!

1 Share



>

• 2 days

Stratusfaction → Mikaysoo ago

You're right, but they don't make the maps. Sounds like an opportunity to me.

7

Share

>



• 2 days

Mikaysoo → Stratusfaction ago

the maps are in the stories, and the stories are written on their tongues. Native people who live on that land... he wouldn't have went over the f "discovered" it... they knew about it long time ago...and If Mr Shoalts is that the CNG's prerogative... but I'm sure the original people who are in they've given to it.

1

Share

>



• 2 days

Proventus → Mikaysoo ago

Oh ok then.

When the moon rises over the turtle, the first water falls on the

Good descriptions huh?

2

Share

>



• 2 days

imarsman → Mikaysoo ago

I guess in your indignation you missed the part where Mr. Shoalts feel your knee jerk you should double check with your central ne

5

Share

>



• 2 days

Mikaysoo → imarsman ago

yes i did read that..., but just saying... that maybe he should h area...

1

Share

>



• 2 days

imarsman → Mikaysoo ago

You are quite dismissive of him and I don't see any evidence to

2

Share

>



• 2 days

Mikaysoo → imarsman ago

wasn't dismissing him... thats great that he found that... I was in the article... it's very known, highly known... simple because t dismissive to know that fact ???

2

Share

>



• 2 days

Unitedel → Mikaysoo ago

If Kapashesit is trapping that area again and you have proof Er That's been my ancestral line since french sails darkened the hc

1

Share

>



• 2 days

Mikaysoo → Unitedel ago

not sure... I'm just going by the traditional trapline map that is according to the MNR... they say that the Kapashesit family ha so contact the MNR

1

Share



• 2 days
Dangler → Mikaysoo ago
Oh quit complaining Mikaysoo. We've let your people live "rent free" in this cou
15
Share

• 2 days
Proventus → Dangler ago
HAHAHA.... How's this you wanker.

I now own your house. It's ok though because I'll let you live in it rent f
there anyway. Unless... of course... I need it at some point in the futu
2
Share

• 2 days
Mikaysoo → Dangler ago
I honestly would be ashamed to call myself Canadian if i didn't know the
be and what was done to getting it to where it is now... just saying
5
Share

• 2 days
Mikaysoo → Dangler ago
OMG... do you even know your own history... RENT FREE!... the very f
form the government is the treaties state that the GOVERNMENT rent
here... but that rent hasn't been paid... like OMG... get yourself an edu
12
Share

• 2 days
Proventus → Mikaysoo ago
They're just being dinks. Trying to get a reaction out of you. Sta
4
Share

• 2 days
Mikaysoo → Proventus ago
chi miigwetch :) i will
3
Share

• 2 days
builder54 → Mikaysoo ago
Your people should start to evolve . You can keep you culture a
how to play in the world as it is today . Then you can do somet
2
Share

• 2 days
Proventus → builder54 ago
Evolve... you mean into land thieves?
1
Share

• 2 days
Mikaysoo → builder54 ago
We are... why do you think the ruckus has started...!!!
3
Share

• 2 days
Sylvester McMonkey McBean → Mikaysoo ago
Dangler's just trolling. Don't bite - that's what he's looking for.
4
Share

• 2 days
Proventus → Sylvester McMonkey McBean ago

Bingo



Share



• 3 days

The Third Man ago

Lucky for him Niagara has already been discovered.....

14

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