



Paddle 2 Lummi



On Monday, July 30, thousands of people lined the shores at the Lummi Indian Nation to welcome a procession of almost 80 canoes which marked the end of the 2007 InterTribal Canoe Journey. For the Grand Ronde and Chinook Canoe Family it was also the end of a 200-mile, 10-day paddle. From Tuesday, July 31, until Sunday, Aug. 5, each participating Tribe performed its final protocol. The Grand Ronde/Chinook Canoe Family took the stage on Thursday, Aug. 1.

Pulling Together

■ Grand Ronde join Chinook Tribal members for 200-mile 'Paddle 2 Lummi' Canoe Journey.

Story and Photos by Toby McClary

Tribal youth, Tribal journeys and the first potlatch in 70 years were part of this year's InterTribal Canoe Journey, "Paddle 2 Lummi."

The Lummi Indian Nation, near Bellingham, Wash., hosted the 2007 Canoe Journey, which also was themed the "Return of the Potlatch" and was expected by locals to be the largest gathering ever for the Lummi.

Grand Ronde joined the Chinook Tribe and began the Canoe Journey on Saturday, July 21, from the Squaxin Island Tribe in Shelton, Wash. More than 20 Tribal youth participated in the journey, which consisted of about 200 miles of paddling through Puget Sound.

The Grand Ronde/Chinook Canoe Family left Squaxin Island headed for the Nisqually Indian

Tribe on its first day in the canoe. From the Nisqually Tribe, Tribal participants paddled to the Puyallup Indian Reservation, and then to Muckleshoot, Suquamish and Mukilteo, each destination point consisting of a full day of pulling and an evening's rest at camp.

The Grand Ronde/Chinook ground crew followed the canoes to the daily resting points and set up and broke down camp. In all, more than 50 people participated in the canoes and as part of the ground crew. Youth members played active roles in both pulling and ground crew duties during the first five days.

From Mukilteo to the Tulalip Tribe, Canoe Family women pulled the canoes, a distance of about 14 miles. The average distance covered by paddlers each day was



Tribal member Cristina Lara sits alone in the canoe during a break from the longest pull of the journey, a distance of about 36 miles.

See CANOE JOURNEY on page 2