

Tribal Canoe Family paddles to Swinomish

By Michelle Alaimo

On Monday, July 18, the Grand Ronde Canoe Family left from Squaxin Island, Wash., on the annual Tribal Canoe Journey. Landing Day for "Paddle to Swinomish" occurred on Monday, July 25, at Swadabs Park located on the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community across the Swinomish Channel from La Conner, Wash. More than 100 canoes, mostly from the Pacific Northwest area, took part in the journey. Each canoe entered the channel one at a time and requested permission from the Swinomish Tribe to come ashore. Events continued throughout the week with each Tribe getting protocol time to sing, dance and share their history and culture. More photos will appear in the Aug. 15 issue of *Smoke Signals*.



Map created by George Valdez

Grand Ronde Canoe Family Skipper Bobby Mercier requests permission from the Swinomish Tribe to come ashore after arriving at the beach of Swadabs Park on Landing Day of the "Paddle to Swinomish" Canoe Journey on Monday, July 25.



Tribal Elders Linda Brandon, left, and Kathryn Harrison watch Landing Day activities of the "Paddle to Swinomish" on Monday, July 25.



The Grand Ronde Canoe Family canoe is carried from the Swadabs Park beach to make room for other canoes on Landing Day of the "Paddle to Swinomish" Canoe Journey on Monday, July 25.

Photos by Michelle Alaimo

The Grand Ronde Canoe Family, center, waits in the pouring rain on Swadabs Park beach on the Swinomish Channel with other canoes they arrived with as the canoe crews ask for permission from the Swinomish Tribe to come ashore during Landing Day for "Paddle to Swinomish" on Monday, July 25.

