

# Roger Fulton

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## **The Common Man Tour '07 300 Miles of History**



On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 Roger Fulton, AKA The Common Man, will embark on a 300 mile canoe trip to retrace the water routes used during the French and Indian War. The trek will take him from initial launch at Albany, NY up the Hudson River and through Lake George and Lake Champlain. A later segment will take him up the St. Lawrence River to Lake Ontario. He will do presentations, book signings and photo ops all along the way. He will end his trip at the Rogers Island Visitors Center on September 21<sup>st</sup> with a presentation on what he encountered and found along his 300 miles of history.

## **FAQ's about the Common Man Tour**

### **The Trip**

Why is this trip called the Common Man Tour?

The trip is sponsored, in part by Common Man Books of Glens Falls. Roger Fulton is the co-author of their Common Man's Exploration Series of hiking, biking and canoeing/kayaking trail guidebooks.

Why are you traveling 300 miles by canoe?

It's the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the French and Indian War, much of which occurred along these rivers and lakes. Water was the primary transportation method in the 1750's. This tour retraces their travel routes from Albany to Lake Ontario.

Who will go on the trip?

The trip has been scheduled for just Roger Fulton as one common man of the 1750's era. However he expects to have people join him along the way, from politicians to power boaters and from other canoeists to re-enactor groups.

If only you, why do you use the term "we" in talking about it?

I'll be in the canoe, but a trip like this requires a support team for my safety and security. Anything can happen and my support team will be there to offer help, or just some transportation to a presentation at the end of a long day.

What programs will you be presenting along the way?

There are several formal powerpoint programs scheduled to present the basics of the French and Indian War to audiences at historical societies, chambers of commerce

and state parks. The average person doesn't need great details, so these programs are geared to people who might just want a bit of a refresher course on the war after many years out of school.

Are you a re-enactor?

No. Although I will be dressed in authentic 1750's clothing, I am not a re-enactor. True re-enactors are historians with great knowledge of the details of the French and Indian War. I'm just on a trip to present the basics to the general population and retrace those water routes.

When will you start your trip?

We are scheduled to launch from Albany, NY on the afternoon of June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 with a photo opportunity at the Corning Preserve boat launch. Weather permitting.

How long will it take you to complete the 300 mile tour?

We have 46 actual travel days scheduled. We are adding stops along the way to do photo ops, short programs on who we are and formal presentations. That and the weather will determine the actual distance covered each day. But the tour WILL end on September 21<sup>st</sup> with the final presentation at Rogers Island.

Will you camp out every night?

We will try to reach a safe landing each night as they did in the 1750's. But I will be carrying emergency equipment in case I can't reach a safe landing area.

What do you expect will be your greatest challenges?

Travelers of the 1750's didn't have to contend with big power or tour boats. We do. We'll be relying on the courtesy of those power boat operators, but we know there is the occasional jerk out there. Other than that we will be sharing the waterways with Great Lakes and ocean-going tankers and freighters on the St. Lawrence River. A fully loaded ship can throw 4-5 foot wakes at us. Other than that, it's the weather....the same as it was in the 1750's.

### **The Equipment**



What kind of canoe are you using?

This was a big decision. Due to the dangers, we wanted a wide, stable and, hopefully, an unsinkable canoe. We've used Gheenoes for many years for other activities and trust it will serve our needs. It can be paddled, rowed, sailed and has a square stern for a small motor for the more difficult stretches of water.

Will you paddle the whole way?

No. And they didn't in the 1750's either. If a favorable wind picks up, we'll be glad to see it. And there are fast stretches of the rivers that will require a boost to fight the current when going upstream.

What other equipment will you carry?

The U.S. Coast Guard wasn't around in the 1750's, but they are now. We'll carry all the safety equipment they mandate. In addition we will carry water, food and other emergency equipment. There are some long and lonesome stretches along our route.

### **The Attire**



How will you be dressed for this tour?

I will be dressed as a common man of the 1750's era. My hat will be the traditional three cornered hat of the era. I will wear authentic Elk skin moccasins made by an expert in Illinois.

Where did you get your clothes for that era?

My clothes have been hand-sewn by a re-enactor seamstress in Florida. The hat is from a re-enactment supply company. The moccasin maker makes authentic moccasins for Colonial Williamsburg and others who require authentic 1750's footwear.

### **Sponsorship**

Who is paying for this tour?

Common Man Books and their parent company, Glens Falls Printing are the primary sponsors, supplying travel cards, banners and some presentation materials. We have also asked local historical societies and chambers of commerce to sponsor a day or two as we travel through their areas in return for stops, photo ops or presentations. We have asked them to sponsor the tour at the rate of \$50.00 per day to cover the mileage of the support team, etc. The rest is done by volunteers, including me.

How can an organization or individual sponsor a day?

Very simple. Let us know what day you would like to sponsor. (You can pick one in your area from our Events section of our webpage at [www.RogerFulton.com](http://www.RogerFulton.com)). To "hold" that day, please send a check payable to Roger Fulton, 8 Smith St., Glens Falls, NY 12801. We'll take care of publicizing your event. Any questions, e-mail me at [Roger@RogerFulton.com](mailto:Roger@RogerFulton.com) or call me at 386-956-6089. Your sponsorship will soon appear on our Events page at [www.RogerFulton.com](http://www.RogerFulton.com).

How can we learn about, or order, hiking, biking and kayaking books from the Common Man Exploration Series?

Go to [www.RogerFulton.com](http://www.RogerFulton.com) and review all of our books for NY and Florida. Follow the directions to order.

Who should we contact for more information?

You can contact the publisher and main sponsor at:

Common Man Books and Glens Falls Printing

51 Hudson Avenue

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877-793-0555

[www.CommonManBooks.com](http://www.CommonManBooks.com)

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Or: Contact this co-author at:

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There is also a Blog up and running for this tour. Throughout the tour you can find out where the Common Man is by logging onto <http://commonmantour.blogspot.com>

An EVENTS calendar of the entire trip, day by day, is also available at

<http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=roger%40rogerfulton.com&mode=MONTH>

From that site you can see where the Common Man Tour will be on any given day, as well as what programs and booksignings will be available in that area.