

Town of Golden now home to world's largest oar

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The 'world's largest hand paddle/oar' is on display at Golden. Submitted photo

Photograph by: Dave Best | Best Impressions Pho, Dave Best | Best Impressions Pho

If you're up a creek without a paddle, the mountain-ringed B.C. community of Golden has a new trick up its sleeve.

Yes, the once-sleepy eastern B.C. town with Revelstoke to the west and Lake Louise to the east is pleased to announce it is now home to the "world's largest hand paddle/oar," as certified by the [Guinness World Records](#).

With a paddle shaft cut from a single log of Western Red Cedar, the thirteen-times-standard paddle is displayed on the banks of the Columbia River at [Columbia Wetlands Adventures](#).

Proportionally correct and more than 60 feet long, it's constructed of cedar as well as LVL (laminated veneer lumber) for the wide bottom end of the paddle, all protected from the elements by five coats of Varathane.

The paddle connection is an obvious one: Columbia Wetlands Adventures offers guided wildlife viewing kayak, canoe and paddleboard rentals on the river.

Two hundred hours spent whittling the paddle down to a mere 5,300 pounds has left an impressive landmark, one of a number of attractions the town of Golden now boasts, including:

- The highest bar stool in Canada at the The Eagle's Eye restaurant at the top of Kicking Horse Mountain Resort.
- Six national parks within a short drive: Yoho, Glacier, Kootenay, Jasper, Revelstoke and Banff.
- Orphan grizzly bear Boo has been a resident of Kicking Horse Mountain Resort since 2003, living in the world's largest enclosed and protected grizzly bear habitat.
- The Kicking Horse Pedestrian Bridge in downtown Golden is the longest free-standing timber frame bridge in Canada.

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