

33rd annual Canoeing & Wilderness Symposium on  
**Northern Travels & Northern Perspectives XVII**

23-24 February, 2018 at One Hanson St, Toronto.  
All sessions in the auditorium.

**Friday evening, February 23, 2018 – 35 min per presentation**

6:30 - 7:20 p.m. - Foyer: Registration, tickets, program and name tags.

7:20 - 7:35 p.m. - **Introductory Remarks – Mike Ormsby**

7:35 - 9:30 p.m. - **Session I – Chair: Brian Johnston**

- **Michael Peake** - ON “*We Were Not Pioneers Ourselves...*”
- **Frank Wolf** – BC “*Boreal to the Barren Grounds - An 1800 km Wilderness Odyssey*”

9:30 - 10:30 p.m. - Reception in cafeteria.

**Saturday, February 24, 2018 - 25 min per presentation**

8:30 a.m. - Doors opened for attendees & book table opens.

9:00 - 10:30 a.m. - **Session II – Chair: Sylvain Tremblay**

- **Francois Leger-Savard & Ariel Desjardins** - QC “*The Humility to Go with the Flow*”
- **Dana Price & Maggi-Lee Kerr & Charles Hunter** - ON “*53 days in the Canadian subarctic*”
- **Jon Berger** - PA “*Albany River Retrospective 1961 to 2017*”

10:30 - 11:10 a.m. - Refreshment break in cafeteria + book tables

11:10 - 12:40 p.m. - **Session III – Chair: Beth Jones**

- **Justina Ray** - ON “*Wolverines and Wilderness: separating myth from reality*”
- **Luigi Marmanillo** - Peru “*A fight to protect the main source of the Amazon*”
- **Marilyne Marchand** – QC “*Hudson to Ungava solo*”

12:40 - 2:20 p.m. - Lunch break [Due to limited seating, cafeteria use is available to meal-ticket holders only.] + book tables

1:20 - 2:10 p.m. – **Kate Weekes - ON Wilderness Music Concert** [Ferguson Hall]

2:20 - 3:50 p.m. - **Session IV – Chair: Wendy Scott**

- **Jamie Bartle** - QC “*Getting down to Brass Tacks with Headwaters Canoes*”
- **Scott MacGregor** - ON “*Good Dad, Bad Dad*”
- **Iva Kinclova** - ON “*Creating Next Summer's Journey*”

3:50 - 4:30 p.m. - Refreshment break in cafeteria + book tables

4:30 - 6:00 p.m. - **Session V – Chair: Chris Lepard**

- **Kenn Harper** - ON “*Writing the Arctic: Two Stories. Whose stories?*”
- **Bob Henderson** - ON “*A Tale of Two Rivers: The Wind/Peel Rivers from gentle starter whitewater trip to raging flooded out “near” misadventure*”
- **Lee Sessions - OR** “*Beyond Sleeping Island and down No Man's River*”

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. - Supper break [Due to limited seating, cafeteria use is available to meal-ticket holders only.] + book tables

7:15 p.m. - Books Table closes

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. - **Session VI – Chair: Aleks Gusev**

- **Eric McNair-Landry & Katherine Breen** – NT “*Qajaqtuqtuq – The burliest double date in history*”
- **Frank Metcalf** - BC “*How the Thelon trip of '73 helped change my life: a personal odyssey*”
- **Robert Perkins** - MD “*Hawk Rapid*”

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Background Music Selections by Sandy Richardson.

Thank you for coming.

Web information available via <http://www.wcsymposium.com/>

**Participants at the 33rd Annual Wilderness and Canoeing Symposium**



**BAILEY, ERIKA** – Erika Bailey has canoed all her life, a gift taught to her immigrant parents by her Poppa – Omond Solandt. She is Lead Coordinator, Career Exploration at the University of Toronto. In her spare time, she is a writer, dancer, gardener, and urban bicyclist. Her book, *Paddling as Place: Experiential Learning of Place and Ecological Identity* – is a narrative research on how canoe trip stories impact and shape people's ecological identity and practices. (Facilitator)



**BARTLE, JAMIE** – is the co-owner of Headwaters Canoes, in Wakefield QC. He grew up paddling on family canoe trips and spent his summers away at camp as a kid. Jamie has been a guide at Camp Temagami since 2006, where he developed his love for canoe tripping and appreciation for wood canvas canoes. His relationship with these canoes grew in 2013 when he began working at Headwaters Canoes, founded by Hugh Stewart in 1980. In 2016, with the ongoing support and guidance of Hugh, Jamie and Kate Prince transitioned to ownership of Headwaters Canoes where they continue to build and repair wood canvas canoes.



**BERGER, JON** – lives and works in Philadelphia. Summer 2018 will be his 60<sup>th</sup> summer on the water. He has done extensive canoe trips in Labrador; Northern Quebec; Ontario, Manitoba; and Saskatchewan. At the age of 13, he began paddling at Camp Wabun on Lake Temagami in 1958. At the age of 14 he drew free hand a map of the Makobe River canoe route. With Tom Terry of Sioux Lookout he wrote and published the Canoe Atlas of the Little North. 1200 of his drawing appear in the Atlas. Sigurd Olson, Real Berard, Frances Lee Jacques, and the Group of Seven form his artistic touchstone.



**BREEN, KATHERINE** – is a physician specializing in Emergency Medicine. She has been practicing in Canada's remote north for the past nine years and has a special interest in wilderness medicine and remote expedition support. In 2013, she jumped at the opportunity to build her own traditional, Inuit style qajaq and paddle it across Baffin Island. That expedition turned out to be a strong foundation for many more adventures with her husband, polar explorer and adventurer, Eric McNair-Landry. Kate is a member of the Wilderness Medicine Society and the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada. She lives in Yellowknife.



**CONWALL-JONES, BETH** –is a flat and moving water canoe instructor and guide from Wellesley ON. She is a proud member of both Girl Guides, and Scouts Canada, and the former owner of Women in the Bush; an organization that strived to make wilderness tripping more accessible to all women. (Facilitator)



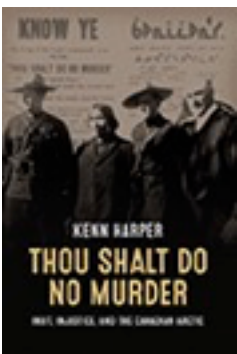
**DESJARDINS-CHARBONNEAU, ARIEL** – has been paddling rivers of Quebec for many years. His passion is about exploration and he likes sharing it, that is why he has started making maps of rivers that were undocumented. Ariel also likes to push the boundaries in all the aspect of his life, he's a co-owner physical therapy clinics where he works as a practitioner, he also teaches at the University of Montréal and he is also involved in clinical research. In the off season, Ariel pores over maps in order to plot out exciting upcoming expeditions.



**GUSEV, ALEKS** – past Chair of WCA and current Editor of *Nastawgan*, Aleks picked up where George left off in organizing Wilderness and Canoe Symposium. In his spare time, Aleks organizes popular group ski trips and paddling expeditions to far corners of the globe. He splits his time between home in Toronto and his cabin in Bell's Rapids.



**HARPER, KENN** – is a historian, writer, linguist, and former businessman, and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, a former member of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, and a recipient of Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee Medal. He was a member of the Nunavut Implementation Commission in the 1990s, and served on the council of the City of Iqaluit. He served as Honourary Danish Consul for Nunavut for twelve years until 2017, and is a Knight of the Order of Dannebrog (Denmark). He lived in the Arctic for fifty years, in the Baffin region communities of Qikiqtarjuaq, Padloping (Paallarvik), Pangnirtung, Arctic Bay, and Iqaluit, and in Qaanaaq, Greenland. He speaks Inuktitut, the Inuit language of the eastern Arctic.



Kenn has written extensively on northern history and Inuit language. He is the author of *Minik*, *The New York Eskimo*, published in September 2017, a re-issue and update of his best-selling *Give Me My Father's Body: The Life of Minik, the New York Eskimo*; and *Thou Shalt Do No Murder: Inuit, Injustice, and the Canadian Arctic*, also published in September 2017. He wrote a history column, *Taissumani*, for ten years for Nunatsiaq News. Some of these columns have been collected and published thematically in a series, *In Those Days: Collected Writings on Arctic History*. Book One in the series is *Inuit Lives*. Book Two is *Arctic Crime and Punishment*. Book 3, *Tales from Arctic Whaling*, will appear in the spring of 2018.



**HENDERSON, BOB** – cut his teeth, like so many, in summer camp canoe tripping programs. He just kept tripping and mostly travels now with his wife Margot and those same 1970's camp friends. For over 30 years he has taught and travelled with students as an Outdoor Educator in University settings mostly with McMaster, but most recently with University of Edinburgh and Laurentian Universities. He can be found happy perched on the Oak Ridges Moraine. He has plans for an Elk/ Thelon River canoe trip in 2018 and to hike in the Torngats in 2019.

**HENDRIKS, ELIZABETH** – is a policy expert with over ten years' experience working nationally and internationally. It was her work in Ecuador that inspired her to work within Canada to advocate for the sustainable management of Canada's communities and resources. Prior to working at WWF-Canada she led the creation of Canada's first database for water policy ([www.waterpolicy.ca](http://www.waterpolicy.ca)) and hosted multi-disciplinary workshops on water issues across the country. She is now the Vice President of Freshwater at WWF-Canada. (Backup Speaker)



**HUNTER, CHARLES** – is a first-year Engineering student currently attending Queen's University. He has been attending Camp Wanapitei Co-Ed Canoe tripping camp for the past seven years. During this time, he has experienced the Canadian wilderness through a multitude of trips, from 8 day trips in Temagami, to 53 day trips in northern Canada. Charles hopes to further enrich his wilderness experience as a Tree Planter in northern Ontario this summer.



**JOHNSTON, BRIAN** – Brian Johnston is a Far North canoe tripper, wilderness whitewater paddler, canoe instructor, Paddle Canada Director, professional educator, and periodic contributor to canoeing media including Nastawgan. He has recently published On Top of a Boulder: Notes from Tyrrell's Cairn. For more information see [www.JohnstonPursuits.ca](http://www.JohnstonPursuits.ca) (Facilitator)



**KINCLOVA, IVA** – is a high school teacher who fell in love with canoeing in the Arctic. She is grateful for being able to spend long summers on the land, practicing moving meditation with her little summer tribe. She would like to share the process of preparing for a future trip; contemplating the motivation for doing long trips, choosing a particular waterway (in this case starting on the Canol Rd in the Mackenzie Mountains and heading east towards Great Slave Lake), considering the trip logistics and sharing the trip experience with others. Contact: [iva.kinclova@gmail.com](mailto:iva.kinclova@gmail.com).





**LEGER-SAVARD, FRANÇOIS** – has made several journeys, either as a travel guide or as a crew member, to the far North of Quebec which is, as well, the first territory that he explored in his capacity as a professional photographer. His photographs bear witness to the powerful draw of the North, and demonstrate the friendships he has established there with members of the First Nations, whose people have lived on these lands for several thousand years. He works as a cameraman on documentary films which explore the social realm in various parts of the planet. “From behind the camera, my eyes observe things that are difficult to explain, impossible to deny, imperative to share. Whether it is to help us bow down before the beauty of the world or to condemn those things that make us ugly, I feel the need to share these images which help me to mature.”



**LEPARD, CHRIS** – became obsessed with the Canadian wilderness after canoeing the Nahanni in 1993. Since then, along with her husband John, they have completed over 40 canoe trips into the northern wilds and paddled over 15,000 km. When not canoeing, Chris operates an on-line perennial plant business, is a photographer, textile artist . . . and of course is planning the next trip. Website: [chris@chrislepard.com](mailto:chris@chrislepard.com) and [chris@canningperennials.com](http://chris@canningperennials.com) (Facilitator)



**MACGREGOR, SCOTT** – is the founder and publisher of Rapid Media, the world’s leading paddlesports media company. Since ’99, MacGregor has launched *Rapid*, *Adventure Kayak*, *Canoeroots*, *Kayak Angler*, *Paddling Magazine* and the annual *Paddling Buyer’s Guide* magazines and the Reel Paddling Film Festival, an international paddling film festival now screening in 120 cities around the world. Rapid Media is based in Palmer Rapids, Ontario just above the high-water mark of the Madawaska River where he lives with his wife and two children.



**MARCHAND, MARILYNE** – came to river expeditions through her love of long distance hiking. Looking for ways to explore territories where no trail exists, she combines hiking with packrafting to explore the rivers of her home province, Quebec.



**MARMANILLO, LUIGI** – outdoor enthusiast since his parents took him camping as a baby in the southern coast of Perú, hiker, mountain biker, climber, and for the last six years, kayaker. Founder of Vive Aventura, an adventure outfitter that promotes tourism for conservation, vice president of Kayakta-Perú, a kayaking club that encourages healthy lifestyles in connection with nature, organizing from basic courses to multiday expeditions, and member of the Marañón Waterkeeper, a non-profit organization that is helping protect the Marañón river, the main source of the Amazon, from big mega dam projects, promoting tourism as sustainable development.



**MCNAIR-LANDRY, ERIC** – grew up on Baffin Island in Iqaluit with the Arctic ocean for a backyard and a team of dogs for recreation. One of the youngest individuals to ski unsupported to the South Pole, Eric has kite-skied over 20,000 km on expeditions and has crossed the Greenland Icecap 7 times. His dog sledding skills led him to embark on a two-month dog sledding expedition in the high arctic with legendary explorer Will Steger. He has crossed the Gobi Desert, guided a kite-ski traverse of Antarctica, kite-skied the Northwest Passage, and recently has traversed southern Baffin Island in a kayak he hand-built. He currently lives in Yellowknife with his wife Kate where he teaches kayak building to school and youth groups.



**METCALF, FRANK** – lives in Vancouver, BC, and has been a traveller and adventurer all his life. His degrees are from Harvard, but his academic career has had little to do with his travels or photography. Serious photography came later in life, but it's now nudging Southern Appalachian fiddle-playing as Frank's leading passion. Long ago he left English literature and New York City for six years in Yellowknife, in Canada's Northwest Territories, a move motivated by canoeing the great Barren Land rivers while doing archaeological surveys. Helping to found a Pan-Arctic folk festival led Frank to become a performer known as "Grizzly Frank, Canada's Master of Bones," which led in turn to gigs all over Canada, and to a European tour with a French-Canadian dance troupe. Music then brought him from Yellowknife to Vancouver, where he became a contra dance harmonica player and banjo player for many years before the fiddle finally claimed his soul. Frank's life of travel has included thousands of kilometres of paddling canoes through the taiga and the Barren Lands of far northern Canada; being a rafting company naturalist on rivers as diverse as the Tatshenshini, the Chilcotin, and the Rio Grande; and working as an Appalachian Volunteer in Bloody Creek, Kentucky, where many had died in recent times but few of natural causes. Frank's an owl caller, with a palette of seven species that I call in by voice in the beautiful Okanagan Valley of British Columbia, where he has a cabin on a bird sanctuary lake. In the last decade Frank blossomed into an amazing wild-life photographer and has been travelling all over the map, especially in South America, Africa, and Australia, shooting photos of wonderful animals.



**ORMSBY, MIKE** – is an Anishinaabe artist, craftsman, writer, storyteller, outdoor educator, and canoe builder. He builds birch bark and wood canvas canoes. He signs his work as W' dae b' wae, the Anishinaabe name given to me by the late Elder Art Solomon. The meaning of w' dae b' wae is "he or she is telling the truth, is right, is correct, is accurate." Mike hopes his artwork speaks to that same truth. Through his art, he tries to share Anishinaabe culture, teachings and traditions. Mike's family is from Curve Lake First Nation. Realizing the power of the canoe, he returned to his artistic roots and the canoe became a central focus of his art practice. Mike found himself further drawn to building birch bark canoes instead of more contemporary wood canoes, such as wood

canvas ones. He examined and studied old birch bark canoes at the Canadian Canoe Museum. Mike sought out master builders, refining his building techniques, and visited Elders to learn traditional Indigenous teachings about the canoe. (Facilitator)



**PEAKE, MICHAEL** – recently retired from a 42-year career as a news photographer. As part of the Hide-Away Canoe Club he paddled historic northern routes for 30 years. The group also named a river after Eric Morse. He published the canoe journal Che-Mun for 31 years until 2015.



**PERKINS, ROB** – Robert Perkins has canoed the Great Fish River, or the Back river, and its tributaries for 16 summers of his life, often for months at a time, and on his own. Rob is known for his storytelling through books, film, and the spoken word. His true education began while spending his 19th year on Bowditch Hall, the men's locked ward at McLean Hospital in Belmont MA. (Humpty Dumpty River). Although it did not initially appear so, the trauma of this experience was the key to his life.



**PRICE, DANA** – is a first-year student of integrated sciences at McMaster University. She has enjoyed the wilderness from a young age and has been attending Camp Wanapitei Co-Ed Canoe Tripping Camp since she was seven. Through this camp she gained a variety of canoe tripping experiences from short flat-water trips in Ontario to white-water trips in Quebec to a 53-day expedition in the Canadian subarctic.



**RAY, JUSTINA** – has been studying wolverines for more than a decade. To better understand these elusive creatures and the perspectives of those who have dealt with their wily ways, she has tapped into the knowledge of First Nations and trappers and traversed thousands of kilometers in small airplanes to record tracks and movements. Dr. Ray will outline the importance of places like Ontario's Far North – with its free-flowing rivers and almost no roads in an area the size of France – as a haven for a creature that truly represents wilderness.



**SCOTT, Wendy** – grew up in New Jersey and moved north as soon as she could. She lives in Northern Vermont with her husband Al Stirt. They have spent the last 30 years exploring the rivers, lakes and land of Northern Quebec and Labrador. A retired teacher, Wendy now enjoys the time to sing in a choir in Sutton Quebec, ski (when there's snow) and visit her grandchildren. Wendy is the current program coordinator for two Vermont events inspired by the WCA: Snow Walkers Rendezvous in November and The Wilderness Paddlers Gathering held in March. (Facilitator)





**SESSIONS, LEE** – Lee began canoeing in the Ozarks (Missouri), guided trips in Quetico Park and paddled the length of the Mississippi River. Lee has ventured to the Far North on 25 canoe expeditions, pursuing a lifelong passion for padding and re-discovery of the routes of early explorers and new adventures. Lee lives in Portland, Oregon and works with technology investors and entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley, California. He is always eager to connect with other paddlers.



**TREMBLAY, SYLVAIN** - is a biologist and outdoor guide. Because outdoor is addicting for him, he's taking his spare time to enjoy more wildlife watching, fly-fishing or hunting.



**WEEKES, KATE** – Northern wilderness adventurer Kate Weekes captures the landscape of her travels in song. Kate is a canoe and hiking guide for Sea to Sky Expeditions in the Yukon and B.C. Dog mushing above the Arctic Circle on a Norwegian fjord in the winter of 2017 has influenced her most recent body of work. Kate's live performance is laden with candid stories of beatnik travel and time in the bush. [www.kateweekes.com](http://www.kateweekes.com) (Wilderness music concert performer)



**WOLF, FRANK** – is a Canadian adventurer, writer, filmmaker and environmentalist. He is known for feature magazine articles and films that document wilderness expeditions around the world, with a focus on the Canadian North. His expeditions include being the first to canoe across Canada in one season and cycling 2,000 km in winter on the Yukon River from Dawson to Nome. In 2015 he was named One of Canada's Top 100 Explorers by Canadian Geographic Magazine and in 2012 he was named one of Canada's Top Ten Adventurers by Explore Magazine. [www.frank-wolf.net](http://www.frank-wolf.net)