

21st annual Canoeing & Wilderness Symposium on

# Northern Travels & Northern Perspectives V

February 3 & February 4, 2006 at Monarch Park Collegiate Auditorium, One Hanson St, Toronto

All sessions in the auditorium.

Friday evening, February 3, 2006

- 6:30 - 7:20 p.m. - In foyer. Self-registration, program and name tags.
- 7:20 - 7:35 p.m. - Introductory Remarks - George Luste
- 7:35 - 9:30 p.m. - Session I - - Chair - George Luste
  - Jon Turk Fernie - BC In the Wake of the Jomon
  - Karsten Heuer Canmore - AB Being Caribou - Five Months with the Arctic Herd
  - Fred Bruemmer Montreal- QC The Walrus Hunters of Diomed Island
- 9:30 - 10:30 p.m. - Reception in cafeteria.

Saturday, February 4, 2006 - 25 min per presentation

- 8:30 a.m. - Doors opened for attendees & book table available.
- 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. - Session II - - Chair - Bob Henderson
  - Phil Cotton Thunder Bay - ON Re-Discovering Wabakimi
  - Kevin Callan Peterborough - ON Ontario Canoeing
  - Dan Strickland Whitby - ON Gray Jays - the impossible bird of the boreal forest
- 10:30 - 11:10 a.m. - Refreshment break in cafeteria + book table
- 11:10 - 12:40 p.m. - Session III - - Chair - Iva Kinclova
  - Andy Breckenridge Erie - PA In Tyrrell's Wake - the Kazan route
  - Martha McPheeters Plymouth - VT Solo on the Kazan
  - Emily Stirr & Portland - WA Five Women to the Arctic Ocean
- 12:40 - 2:20 p.m. - Lunch break [Due to limited seating, cafeteria use is available to meal-ticket holders only.] + book table
- 2:20 - 3:50 p.m. - Session IV - - Chair - Philip Schubert
  - John Edmonds Moose Factory - ON Forty Years Later
  - Theresa Hall Cochran - ON DeBeers - Attawapiskat - Traditions & the People
  - Deb Williams Fairlee - VT Vermont to Ouje Bougoumou
- 3:50 - 4:30 p.m. - Refreshment break in cafeteria + book table
- 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Session V - - Chair - Allan Jacobs
  - Gillian Mason Toronto - ON (Mis)Adventure on the Back - 2005
  - Levi Waldron Toronto - ON Baillie-Back to Chantrey Inlet- 2005
  - Brian Johnston Beaconia - MB Back - Meadowbank - Prince Rivers - 2005
- 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. - Supper break [Due to limited seating, cafeteria use is available to meal-ticket holders only.] + book table
- 7:15 p.m. - Northern Books Table closes at 7:15 p.m.
- 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. - Session VI - - Chair - Toni Harting
  - Hugh Westheuser Kelowa - BC West Coast Vision Quest (Grandfather trip)
  - Michel Lafrance Yellowknife - NT Northern Travels
  - Bill Pollock Ste-Agathe - QC Hiking + Paddling in the Torngats

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Background Music Selections by Sandy Richardson.

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Thank you for coming.

Web information available via <http://members.tripod.com/northernbooks/home.html>

## Presenters and Chairs - 2006 Wilderness Canoe Symposium

**Andy BRECKENRIDGE** - is a geologist who studies lakes, and a professor at Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA. Andy has roots in Indiana, was molded in Minnesota, has feet in Pennsylvania, and a heart in Canada. He paddles with his wife Rachel and together they recently retraced most of J.B. Tyrrell's second trip to the Barrenlands. (abreckenridge@mercyhurst.edu) [seat – B29]

**Fred BRUEMMER** – has a long standing fascination with the Arctic. A Baltic German, he was born in Riga, Latvia. He came to Canada in 1950, became a writer and photographer, and spent nearly 30 years in the North, living with Inuit at remote camps, or studying arctic wildlife. He is the author of more than a thousand magazine articles, published in Canada, the United States and Europe, and of 22 books. [seat – A26]

**Kevin CALLAN** - is a well-known canoeist and author of 10 books. He is the recipient of two national magazine writing awards and his films have won numerous awards, including "best" in the prestigious "Waterwalker Film Festival". [seat – A30]

**Phil COTTON** - is a retired school teacher who has been guiding wilderness canoe trips for over 50 years. Last year, he organized, outfitted and personally led several not-for-profit reconnaissance trips into Wabakimi Provincial Park in search of lost or abandoned canoe routes. Many of you know Phil as "Voyageur", the handle he uses on CCR [–the Canadian Canoe Routes bulletin board] where he is a regular contributor. [seat – B28]

**John EDMONDS** - learned to paddle on Lake Temagami over 50 years ago. Eventually he found his way to James Bay – which he reached four times in the early 1970's via the Albany, Attawapiskat, and Eastmain Rivers. After being 'away' for many years he returned to James Bay, where he now pastors St. Thomas' Anglican Church, Moose Factory. He keeps a website: <http://jedmonds.net> [seat – C27]

**Theresa HALL** - was born and raised in the Community of Attawapiskat. At an early age she went to Residential School and has lived, subsequently, both on Reserve and off Reserve. She has served as a Justice of The Peace and also as Chief of Attawapiskat First Nation, especially during critical negotiations with DeBeers Mining Company. [seat – C28]

**Toni HARTING** (chair) - migrated to Canada from The Netherlands in 1970 and has lived in Toronto with his wife and canoeing partner, Ria, ever since. He holds two Master of Applied Science degrees in Aerospace Engineering, but left his consulting engineering profession in 1974 to build a new career as a freelance writer-photographer specializing in canoe topics, particularly wilderness canoeing. For 20 years he was the editor of Nastawgan, the quarterly journal of the Wilderness Canoe Association. [seat – A20]

**Bob HENDERSON** (chair) - Bob Henderson teaches Outdoor Education at McMaster University. He is the recent author of Every Trail has a Story: Heritage Travel in Canada, published by Natural Heritage. Bob also writes a regular heritage feature for Kanawa Magazine and is excited about his new role as the "research editor" (submissions recruitment) for Nastawgan. [seat – B22]

**Karsten HEUER** - is wildlife biologist, park warden, and author who, for the past decade, has spent much of his time following some of North America's most endangered wildlife on foot and skis. In 1998 and 1999

he walked and skied from Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming to Canada's Yukon Territory to highlight a proposal for a 1,900-miles-long system of wildlife corridors and core reserves (the Y2Y Conservation Initiative). In 2003, he again set off on skis and foot with his wife, Leanne Allison, and, for 5 months, followed the Porcupine Caribou Herd from their Yukon winter range to endangered Alaskan calving grounds and back. He is the author of two books (Walking the Big Wild and Being Caribou), and a contributor to the National Film Board of Canada documentary, Being Caribou. [seat – A24]

**Allan JACOBS** (chair) – is a Physics professor at the University of Toronto, retired but still active in teaching and research. He hasn't paddled enough northern rivers. [seat – E25]

**Brian JOHNSTON** - is an avid canoeist (wilderness tripper, whitewater boater and canoe instructor) who paddles on rivers in Manitoba and beyond. For over ten years, he has been an active member of the recreational canoeing community. When off the water, Brian teaches adult high school courses in an adult education setting. [seat – V22]

**Iva KINCLOVA** (chair) – has been enchanted by the Canadian wilderness ever since she arrived in 1990 from the Czech Republic. She has organized a number of canoeing trips in Ontario, Yukon and Nunavut, and led numerous winter camping and ski trips. As a teacher in a Toronto high school, Iva has made it her goal to introduce youth to the enjoyment of nature and the necessity to protect this treasure. [seat – P12]

**Michel LAFRANCE** - has lived in the North most of his working career, places like Frobisher Bay (Iqaluit), Port Harrison (Inukjuak), Fort Chimo (Kuujuaq) and now in Yellowknife where he manages the Airport. He has been canoeing for almost 20 years – ever since he decided to organize a wilderness trip on the Leaf River in Nunavik. He has "discovered" a new river almost every year since then. He has 2 daughters and is a grandfather. This past summer he married Maryse (2nd marriage) and spent 2 weeks on the Thelon for their honeymoon. [seat C23]

**George LUSTE** (chair) – has a day job as the president of the University of Toronto Faculty Association. While he yearns to spend more time in the north, he is ever so grateful for the many fond memories of past sojourns in the north by canoe and on foot. This past summer he and Linda hiked in the Torngat Mountains of northern Labrador and canoed the Koroc River. [seat – A12]

**Gillian MASON**- paddled down the lower Back River in Nunavut last summer on a filming expedition led by George Drought and Barbara Burton. Although this was her first Arctic trip, Gillian has been paddling since childhood, wilderness tripping for more than a decade, and running whitewater for 5 or 6 years. Gillian and her paddling partner and husband Derek Lancaster are WCA members (Gillian is currently on the WCA Board) and they make their home in Toronto. [seat – C20]

**Martha McPHEETERS** - resigned her job as Program Director at Farm & Wilderness Summer Camps in Vermont in order to paddle the Kazan River in the summer of 2005. To her astonishment and bewilderment, she ended up doing a solo expedition after planning the northern river trip with a group of 12 interested and qualified paddlers. After 50 days paddling alone in the tundra, she is now looking for a job guiding northern rivers with other people. As a past NOLS, Woodswomen and Outward Bound paddling instructor, she has impeccable credentials, at least by self report. [seat – B30]

**Bill POLLOCK** - is a semi-retired forester from Quebec who operates Tuckamor Trips offering wilderness adventure trips by canoe on foot and on skis. Bill also volunteers to help the Cree and Inuit of Nunavik

develop outdoor adventure tourism products. He is also a commissioner with the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board. [seat – B20]

**Philip SCHUBERT** (chair) - is a Professional Engineer and has lived and worked in a number of countries. He has been with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) since 1983, helping developing countries with their problems in energy. He was a keen runner for many years as well, specializing in the 400 meters. He also found time to take his kids on camping trips and in recent years has developed a love for the north, having completed a total of 6 canoe trips in Labrador. [seat – G44]

**Emily STIRR** – was a member of the Borealis Paddling Expedition, with Meg Casey, Nina Emery, Beth Halley and Karen Stanley. Together they undertook a 97-day journey to the Arctic Ocean during the summer of 2005. Beginning in late May on Wollaston Lake in northern Saskatchewan, these five women strung together a series of five rivers including the Dubawnt, Meadowbank and Back to reach Chantrey Inlet by the end of August. All leaders and former campers at Camp Manito-wish YMCA in Boulder Junction, WI, the team encountered cold weather and lots of ice on the way north. [seat – B33]

**Dan STRICKLAND** - is the retired Chief Naturalist of Algonquin Park (1970-2000). Among other things he was responsible for developing the Park's new Visitor Centre, the Algonquin Logging Museum, and the Park's publication program, including the weekly newsletter, the Raven, and the Algonquin canoe route map. Over 35 years ago he began a private study of one of Algonquin's most characteristic permanent inhabitants, the Gray Jay, and considers himself privileged to have learned a little about its fascinating biology. [seat – D19]

**Jon TURK** - has kayaked across the North Pacific and around Cape Horn, mountain biked through the Gobi desert, made first climbing ascents of big walls on Baffin Island, and first ski descents in the Tien Shan Mountains in Kyrgyzia. His two-year voyage around the North Pacific Rim has been named by Paddler Magazine as one of the ten greatest sea kayaking expeditions of all times. Jon's book about that expedition, In The Wake of the Jomon explores the role of adventure and migration in both modern and Stone Age cultures. [seat – A27]

**Levi WALDRON** - is a 32-year-old eccentric but lovable computer nerd, bicycle activist, environmentalist, vegan, radical, canoeist who lives in a 24th story apartment in Toronto, and has owned 7 canoes and kayaks but no cars. Last summer he went with 5 friends on his second arctic canoe trip, 54 days on the Baillie and Back Rivers and Chantrey Inlet. The trip had more adventure and surprises than he ever imagined. [seat – A33]

**Hugh WESTHEUSER** - has canoed most of his life and since retiring from the RCMP in 1991, canoe paddles have stretched his arms with extended canoe trips each summer. Because of his canoeing background, he was invited in 1997 to join a contingent of RCMP and First Nation people on a "Grandfather Trip" using replicate ocean-going canoes from Hazelton in north/central BC to Victoria, traveling down the Skeena River, and inside passage; experiencing the West Coast Canoe Culture first hand. The trip, of 1500 km, replicated what a First Nation canoe trip might have been like more than 100 years ago. [seat – A22]

**Deb WILLIAMS** - hails from Vermont, where she and her husband Andy run the Hulbert Outdoor Education Center. She founded the Center's Northern Issues Trip Program in 1989 and has been traveling to James Bay once or twice a year ever since. "The James Bay Cree have won my heart and I count my blessings each time I am able to spend time with them." Over the years she has taken a variety of folks north with her, including 2 of her own children. [seat - C30]