

36th annual Canoeing & Wilderness Symposium

17th February, 2021
6pm-9:30pm ET
Virtual Zoom-itorium

Wednesday evening, February 17, 2021

5:00 p.m. – Foyer (Waiting Room) opens. : Connect, grab a name tag (rename), enjoy hors d'oeuvre and a glass of wine

5:30 p.m. – Auditorium (Zoom-itorium) door opens and you're welcomed by Tech Co-Hosts; review of basic zoom functions

6:00 - 6:15 p.m. - Introductory Remarks – Aleks Gusev, Erika Bailey: Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, How to Be Together in Zoom-itorium

Session I

6:15 – 6:45 p.m. – **Wally Schaber** – QC “*Bringing Dumoine’s History to Life*”

6:45 – 7:05 p.m. – **James Raffan** – ON “*The Legend of Ronnie Bowes*”

7:05 – 7:35 p.m. – **Martin Spriggs** – NT “*Coast2Coast Because your Life Counts*”

7:35 – 8:00 p.m. – **Concert**

Jerry Vandiver, Nashville, TN & **The One Match Band** – “*Songs About Paddling and All Things Outdoors*”

Breakout Sessions

8:00 – 8:30 p.m.

- **Bob Henderson** – Uxbridge, ON “*Look-at-me-Wilderness-Super-Hero critique*”

- **Bill Ostrom** – Thunder Bay, ON “*Fitting your Canoe Pack to carry heavy loads lightly*”

- **Brian Johnston** – Beconia, MB “*How we connected with nature during COVID-19*”

- **Iva Kinclova** – Toronto, ON “*Paddle or not to paddle in the territories in summer of 2021?*”

Session II

8:30 – 9:00 p.m. – **Diana Kushner & Stephen Smith** – Rhonda Island, RI “*Enduring Ice Project*”

9:00 – 9:30 p.m. – **Paul Burbidge** – Whitehorse, YK– *Mackenzie Mountains of NWT*”

9:30 - 9:45 p.m. - **Closing Remarks: Aleks Gusev, Erika Bailey**

Thank you for coming.

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

Speakers at the 36th Annual Wilderness and Canoeing Symposium

BAILEY, ERIKA – 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.

BURBIDGE, PAUL – is a surveyor, trail builder, and adventurer based in Whitehorse, Yukon. Paul skis, hunts, packrafts, bikes, hikes and does whatever else is necessary to access and travel through the remote and beautiful North.

GUSEV, ALEKSANDAR – *“...is the man with a largest family in Serbian community. His close family is over a thousand strong, and extended family numbers few thousands. Aleks managed what no political or church clique managed - to herd over a thousand Serbians without marketing, motivational speeches or pork on a spit - he's an institution!”* - Nebojsa Djekic (*Mi Magazin*). Past Chair of Wilderness Canoe Association, Editor of *Nastawgan* magazine, and principal organizer of Wilderness and Canoe Symposium, I started paddling late in life and now I'm making up for the lost time with a vengeance. In my “spare” time, I organize popular group ski trips and paddling expeditions to far corners of the globe. I'm passionate about creating magical moments in people's lives.

HENDERSON, BOB – After serving for over 20 years as a coordinator of the editorial board, I am now working as a resource editor for *Pathways: The Ontario Journal of Outdoor Education*. Additionally, I've been resource editor for *Nastawgan: The Quarterly Journal of the Wilderness Canoe Association* since 2008. My primary role as resource editor is to generate submissions for the publications. I will be editing a theme issue for *Pathways* on Wild Pedagogies for Spring 2020. After retiring from McMaster University in 2010, I have been doing field-based course work with universities across the country including, The University of Alberta (Augustana Campus), Laurentian University, Brock University, and McMaster University. I also co-guide a ski tour in Norway in partnership with the University of Edinburgh, Masters of Education program. Locally, I am involved in the Green Durham Association, which is concerned with conservation lands in the Uxbridge/Goodwood region. Professionally, I have active affiliations with The Canadian Adventure Therapy Symposium (CATS), Wild Pedagogy (a gathering of educators pursuing educational reform), among others. I'm currently working on a two book publications with the working title of *Lessons from the Trail: The Educator/Guide, Traveller, and Reader Experience and Waterways of Teaching* edited with Sean Blenkinsop. Planning for a 1971-2021 Anti-Expedition Journey to Tseringma, Nepal in October 2021.

JOHNSTON, BRIAN – If you hail from Manitoba like I do, with its long hot summer days, an ideal place to spend your time outdoors is on the refreshing waterways. Years ago, after getting a canoe pinned in a rapid, a paddler portaging that same troublesome rapid told me about a local canoeing group. There I saw others learning to run rivers. I signed up, learnt, volunteered to help out, and before I knew it, I was instructing the course. Within that community a few seasoned canoe trippers had expanded their range of nature and rivers beyond southern Manitoba so I followed them first north and then further north to the vast barren lands. I'm still volunteering for Paddle Manitoba and Paddle Canada as well as presenting at symposiums, publishing articles, instructing and of course paddling my canoe. I've experienced big skies, esker walkways, blowing grasslands, herds of caribou and musk ox, bears of all kinds—some too close. I've had the opportunity to witness Inuit culture, history and progress. I have felt ice beneath, winds in my face, snow down my neck, waves crash over the bow and oceans roll. Amazingly as the endless flow of water past a riverside camp is my desire to immerse myself in nature. I'll never be without wanting.

KINCLOVA, IVA – is an educator who fell in love with canoeing in the Arctic. She is grateful for being able to spend long summers on the land travelling through a variety of terrain while practicing moving meditation with her small summer tribe. She believes that we, canoeists, need to take responsibility for caring for the land and all beings living on it so that future generations can enjoy it as much as we do.

KUSHNER, DIANA – has been an organic farmer since the 1990's. When not growing vegetables, she loves to escape - in books and into the wilderness, especially into icy realms . When Diana first started farming, the natural environment

seemed fairly stable. Now, as the climate changes, growing food has become more challenging. Through the Enduring Ice Project Diana has learned how changes occurring in the Far North have a direct impact on her farmer's life down South.

OSTROM, BILL – Upon graduation from Outdoor Recreation at Lakehead University, Bill was hired as an Equipment Technologist. He started a sewing lab, taught skills and was in charge of purchasing, maintaining and repairing all the equipment. Bill became a gear freak! He married his best friend, Anne! Even with COVID they are still best friends (and married)! In 1987, he started Ostrom Outdoors with a nylon canoe pack, back in the era of canvas. He designed and manufactured a line of packs in Thunder Bay until 2013. Closing the manufacturing part of the business was the most difficult decision he has ever made. Since 2013 he has been prototyping and designing gear, helping clients bring their ideas to market. He enjoys it immensely!
Bill's motto: "Keep your paddle in the water and your stick on the ice and good things will happen!"

RAFFAN, JAMES – loves canoes and canoeing and is a longtime friend of the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough, service for which he just received Canada's Meritorious Service Medal from Governor General Julie Payette. But it is storytelling that is JR's real passion, and he's one of the best. Over the years he has written and edited 24 books on topics ranging from canoes to biography, with the common thread running through them the connections between people and place. He has also written for film and television as well as for radio, both words and music, to evoke the themes and stories of the people and places he has visited. He is a frequent public presenter, speaking about risk, adventure, environment, reconciliation, education and the simple joys of self-imposed suffering.

SCHABER, WALLY – In 1969, Wally Schaber was part of a team of guides that tried to reestablish, at the headwaters of the Dumoine River, the Ottawa YMCA Boys Camp On-Da-Da Waks.

The geographic and historic elements were perfect. The chosen site was a forestry camp near Lac Dumoine with a long and colourful history as a base for the watershed's fire rangers and guides. The Anishnabe name for Lac Dumoine literally means body of water that turns back 'goes home'. In other words, from Lac Dumoine flowing water will take you in your canoe in any direction.

Mouches Noire, bad roads and economics defeated the YMCA's dream but, ever since, Wally Schaber has lived the dream of making the history of the Dumoine River come alive. First, it was through teaching people whitewater skills and guiding them down the river with his company Black Feather. Then, it was as an outfitter and purveyor of fine equipment through his company Trailhead.

After retiring in 2014, Schaber wrote a book called Last of the Wild Rivers, telling the colourful history of the Dumoine watershed from the first nations to modern recreation.

In 2015 Schaber spearheaded a not-for-profit group called Friends of Riviere du Moine which has as its objective lobbying for and enhancing the self-propelled recreational experiences within the Dumoine Valley. Today, this involves projects like campsite and portage maintenance, Thunder boxes placement on each campsite, creation of information to explain significant historic or natural features and reopening a 180-year-old loggers' tote road from the Ottawa River to Grande Chute as a hiking and skiing historic trail.

Working in conjunction with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Ottawa Valley Chapter, CPAWS-OV, Friends of Rivière du Moine is proud to be a partner in the larger Three Rivers Project to establish the Dumoine, Coulonge and Noire as an interconnected and protected wild river preserve.

Wally's presentation at '21 WCS will focus on the work of Friends of Riviere du Moine and the Three Rivers Project.

SMITH, STEPHEN – has been exploring the Far North since the late 1970s. As a wildlife biologist, he was involved in polar research for three decades. As an expedition leader, Stephen organized and led more than 60 projects in the High Arctic. Today, he's a documentary director whose point of view has been informed and influenced by a lifetime of experiences on the frozen ocean. Stephen have directed three feature films that turn a spotlight onto the changing Arctic.

SPRIGGS, MARTIN – Martin started his professional life as an infantryman and paratrooper in the Canadian Army, deploying on United Nations peacekeeping missions to Cyprus, Croatia and Bosnia and serving in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm. Following his military service, Martin began a career in health care as an emergency medical technician and registered nurse. He provided frontline emergency and critical care in Calgary, Alberta; delivered primary health care to the Inuit across the Canadian arctic; and led humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions in Africa, the Middle East, and the Caribbean. He has cycled solo across Canada, overlanded from Alaska to Baja, and has travelled extensively in South East Asia and Africa. Martin earned a nursing diploma from Lethbridge College, a master's degree in disaster and emergency management from Royal Roads University and a postgraduate diploma in tropical nursing from

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. He is currently a video production student at Toronto Film School and pursues his passion for travel writing and adventure videography.

VENDIVER, JERRY – With over 40 years paddling whitewater and flat water in the US, Mexico and Canada, and more canoes and kayaks than his wife thinks he should have, Jerry is an established singer/songwriter from Nashville, TN and has had his songs recorded on over 15 million records, two of which are hanging on the walls of the Country Music Hall of Fame. He joins a stellar group of musicians who have played with Ringo Starr, Taylor Swift, Terry Clark and The Steel Drivers. Together they'll be playing some new songs like "Over The Rainfly" and "The River Just Flows" along with some favorites including "Too Many Boats" and "My Other Car Is A Canoe". Be ready to laugh, dance and sing in your pyjamas from your own home in this fun virtual WCS presentation.



Wilderness Canoe Association

The **WCA** is pleased to support the **Wilderness and Canoe Symposium**. We applaud the amazing work of Aleks Gusev and his team in organizing this very special event. Many of the volunteers are WCA members.

If you enjoy the Symposium, with it's focus on wild places and the canoe as a means of exploring them, please consider **joining the WCA** to embrace this focus throughout the year. The **WCA** is a non-profit paddling club which supports the paddling community in many ways, including:

Nastawgan Journal: highlights paddling trips and the people who undertake them.

Outings/trips: organized by and for members, from easy one-day flatwater trips to multi-day remote river trips.

Canadian Canoe Routes: a vibrant online resource with easy access to thousands of trip reports.

Membership (\$35 single/\$45 family) is available in the lobby or online at www.wildernesscanoe.ca. Membership includes:

- Participation in our trips and outings
- Members can post trips on our website
- Organizers are covered by liability insurance
- Subscription to Nastawgan journal
- Support of Canadian Canoe Routes
- Fellowship of knowledgeable and enthusiastic paddlers

WCA Board of Directors

Gary Ataman
WCA Chair