

38th annual Canoeing & Wilderness Symposium  
**Northern Travels & Northern Perspectives**  
Wednesday, February 15, 2023 - 3rd Online Symposium

All sessions online.

Wednesday evening, February 15, 2023 from **6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

6:00 PM - **Erica Bailey & Aleks Gusev**, Opening Remarks

**Session I.** - 6:10 PM - **Chris Forde & Dana Starkell**, [Paddle to the Amazon](#)

**Session II.** - 6:55 PM - **Michael Peake**, Canoeing with History

**Session III.** - 7:55 PM - **Jeremy Ward and Carolyn Hyslop**, [A new home for the Canadian Canoe Museum](#)

**Session IV.** - 8:10 PM - Six (6) Breakout sessions:

Room 1: Hang-out with Chris Forde and Dana Starkell

Room 2: Hang-out with Michael Peake

Room 3: Hang-out with Carolyn Hyslop & Jeremy Ward (Canadian Canoe Museum)

Room 4: Hang-out with Kera, Harri and Ava (Keewaydin Crew)

Room 5: Introduction to Whitewater Paddling with the WCA with Tom Beakbane

Room 6: Wilderness Canoe Association Q&A with Gary Ataman

**Session V.** - 8:30 PM - **Kera, Harri & Ave**, Clearwater River to Hudson Bay

**Session VI.** - 9:00 PM - **Closing**

9:15 PM - The End

## Presenters and Chairs - 2022 Wilderness Canoe Symposium

**[BAILEY, ERIKA](#)** – has canoed all her life, a gift taught to her immigrant parents by her Poppa – Omond Solandt. She is the Graduate Career Advisor at the Faculty of Law, 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.

**GUSEV, ALEKS** 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* journal, Director of Paddler Co-Op, 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.

**DON AND DANA STARKELL** - What makes a man paddle 20,000kms to another world? Shaped by his life as an abandoned child, Don Starkell discovered his love for paddling during the great Winnipeg flood.

When his wife left him, Don hatched a long term plan for he and his sons to undertake a two year paddling journey from their home in Canada to Brazil's Amazon River.

This is a love story, this is an adventure story, this is a father and son story. In this epic tale, you'll come to understand this "spellbinding madman" Don Starkell.

Chris Forde was Educated at the Ontario College of Art, Chris graduated in film studies and immersed himself in the visual medium. He has worked in broadcast as both a director of photography and senior story editor. His television work includes travel cooking shows, crime, auto and personality profile series.

When he moved to Vancouver for a change of scene he quickly fell in love with the natural beauty of the BC and spent as much of his time kayaking, mountain hiking and camping in the wilderness. It was in Vancouver he got an education in television

production and documentary film storytelling.

While his passions in life are broad, he is especially inspired by social justice, adventure travel and portrayals of the human condition. Chris has traveled the world extensively for Non Government Organizations capturing stories from some of the most dangerous and harshest environments. His reel of work includes climbing Africa's highest mountain Kilimanjaro and producing a doc to raise awareness for kids forced into dangerous child labour conditions, heart-wrenching stories of the people suffering Droughts in Somalia, Refugee camps in Lebanon and Glass's distribution for the Cambodian people who might have slaughtered during the Pol Pot regime for wearing eyeglasses.

Chris's introduction to documentary film making came after reading the book *Paddle to the Amazon* - the story of a father and his sons canoe-paddling adventure from Winnipeg to the Amazon River.

**PEAKE, MICHAEL** 70, is a retired photojournalist from Toronto who has also ceased doing northern wilderness expeditions. For over 30 years he and members, including his three brothers, were part of the Hide-Away Canoe Club retracing past canoeing expeditions across the far north.

In 1985, the HACC named a river after Canadian canoeing legend Eric Morse as part of a 1,600 km, 55-day trip from the NWT-Saskatchewan border to the mouth of the Back River. The Morse flows into Garry Lake on the Back River. That trip was the subject of Book I of the HACC Trilogy: *A Northern Journey*.

Book II, *Ungava*, detailed seven traverses of northern Quebec and the historical ties to those trips.

Michael also published the canoeing quarterly journal *Che-Mun* from 1984-2015. The small journal detailed trip reports, book reviews and news of interest to northern canoeists and its readers included Bill Mason and Pierre Trudeau. All of the *Che-Mun* back issues are downloadable at [hacc.ca](http://hacc.ca)

Michael was a photojournalist and editor with the Toronto Sun for 42 years and winner of the National Newspaper Award in 1986.

His contributions at WCS:

2023, Canoeing with History

2018, We Were Not Pioneers Ourselves...

1991, Morse River Summer

**Carolyn Hyslop and Jeremy Ward** are both leaders of the [Canadian Canoe Museum](#), a national heritage center that celebrates the history and culture of canoeing in Canada and around the world. They are also avid paddlers and adventurers who have participated in the Wilderness and Canoe Symposium, an annual event that showcases the stories and insights of wilderness explorers.

**HYSLOP, CAROLYN** is the executive director of the Canadian Canoe Museum. She joined the staff in 2018, after working as a senior manager at the Peterborough Community Foundation and the Trent-Severn Waterway National Historic Site. She is responsible for leading the museum's strategic vision and operations, as well as overseeing the museum's relocation to a new waterfront site that will enhance the visitor experience and the environmental sustainability of the museum. She has also been a speaker at the Wilderness and Canoe Symposium, where she updated the audience on the museum's progress and plans.

**WARD, JEREMY** is the curator of the Canadian Canoe Museum. He joined the staff in 1997, after working as a cabinetmaker, a birch bark canoe builder, and an archaeologist in Greece. He is responsible for managing the museum's collection of over 600 canoes, kayaks, and paddled watercraft, as well as developing exhibits and programs that highlight the significance and diversity of canoeing. He has also been a speaker at the Wilderness and Canoe Symposium, where he shared his knowledge and passion for canoeing.

**KEEWAYDIN** - a group of twelve women (two staff and ten campers) traveled for fifty days through Quebec as a part of Keewaydin Canoe Camp. [Keewaydin](#) is a traditional canoe tripping camp that has been running every summer since 1893.

[Kera Zegar](#) a 19-year old freshman from the University of San Francisco. Joining Kera as co-presenters this year are **Harri Seeley** (19) from Wellesley College in Massachusetts and **Ave Carrere** (19) from McGill University in Quebec.