

13th annual Canoeing & Wilderness Symposium on
Arctic Travels & Arctic Cultures I

January 30 & 31, 1998 at Monarch Park Collegiate, Toronto
All sessions in the auditorium.

Friday evening, January 30, 1998

- 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 - "Arctic Experiences, Witnessess & Peoples" - George Luste, Chair
 - Matty McNair Iqaluit A Long Journey to the Top of the World
 - Edmund Carpenter New York Arctic Witnessess
 - Edna Elias Kugluktuk My People - the Copper Inuit
- 9:30 - 10:30 p.m. - Reception in cafeteria.

Saturday, January 31, 1998 - 25 min per presentation

- 8:30 a.m. - Doors opened for attendees.
- 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. - Session II - "Early Arctic Visitations" - Bob Montgomery, Chair
 - Tony Baron Markham Eskimo Mapping & the Big Nail
 - Stuart Jenness Ottawa Some Arctic Activities of Diamond Jenness
 - Bill Barr Saskatoon Anderson & Stewart on the Back in 1855
- 10:30 - 11:10 a.m. - Refreshment break in cafeteria
- 11:10 - 12:40 p.m. - Session III - "Modern Canoe Travels" - Tony Ford, Chair
 - Peter Croal Ottawa South Knife River Trip - 1949
 - John McInnes Edmonton Short Trips on Small Rivers
 - David Kippen Ottawa Solo Wanderings in the Barrens
- 12:40 - 2:20 p.m. - Lunch break [Due to limited seating, cafeteria use is available to ticket holders only.]
- 1:20 - 2:10 p.m. - Dave Hadfield Barrie Northern Songs [Library Meeting Room]
- 2:20 - 3:50 p.m. - Session IV - "Arctic Waterscapes & Landscapes" - Hugh Westheuser, Chair
 - Victoria Jason Winnipeg Re-Birth of Kayaking in Pelly Bay
 - Page Burt Rankin Inlet Arctic Plants - Adaptation in a Harsh Environment
 - Jean Blodgett Kleinberg Depictions of the Land in Inuit Art
- 3:50 - 4:30 p.m. - Refreshment break in cafeteria
- 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Session V - "Barrenland Experiences & Reflections" - George Grinnell, Chair
 - Deborah Percival Buffalo Baker Lake to Hudson Bay Solo
 - Barbara Burton Hamilton The Lure of Barrenland Canoe Travel
 - Alex Hall Fort Smith Barrenlands: - the next 25 years
- 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. - Supper break [Due to limited seating, cafeteria use is available to ticket holders only.]
- 6:50 - 7:35 p.m. - Dave Hadfield Barrie More Northern Songs [Library Meeting Room]
- 7:45 - 9:15 p.m. - Session VI - "Landscape Realities" - Ann Dixie, Chair
 - Graeme Magor Markdale Ellesmere Travels & Otto Sverdrup
 - Wendy Grater Parry Sound Exploring Greenland By Kayak
 - Bill King Toronto Escape Into Reality

Background Music Selections by Sandy Richardson.

Thank you for coming and see you next year.

1998 - Program Participants

BARON, Tony: - is a nomad at heart who is in love with the Arctic. Since the sixties, the "North" has been his Great Escape from the rigours of teaching in the urban south. He is a passionate promoter of the wonders of Nunavut and the preservation of its rich cultural heritage - until his final resting place with Nanuk comes to pass. [seat D34]

BARR, William: - a geomorphologist by training, has pursued geomorphological field work in the Subarctic (Schefferville area) and the High Arctic (Devon Island). For the past 25 years he has focused his research on the history of exploration of the circumpolar Arctic. He has published over 80 articles, dozens of translations of articles and 10 books, including translations of Starokadomskiy's account of the Taymyr and Vaygach expedition of 1910-15, of Klutschak's account of Schwatka's search for Franklin in 1878-80, and de Bray's account of Kellett's search for Franklin in 1852-54. [The latter two are on sale at the Symposium booktable.] [seat B24]

BLODGETT, Jean: - has been travelling to the Arctic since the early 70s to interview artists and research their work. She has taught courses, curated numerous exhibitions, and written extensively on Inuit art. She is currently Director of Collections and Programs at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleiburg, Ont. and an Adjunct Professor at York University. [seat B33]

BURT, Page: - has been the staff naturalist for Bathurst Inlet Lodge since 1972. Author of **Barrenland-Beauties**, **Showy Plants of the Arctic Coast** [now out-of-print, but hopefully to be reprinted in 1998], Page lives in Rankin Inlet, NWT, where she manages Outcrop Ltd. She did baseline environmental vegetation work for Diavik Diamond Mines in the central NWT. [seat A30]

BURTON, Barbara: - is a high school teacher and counsellor in Burlington, Ontario. She has been teaching white water canoeing and guiding northern and arctic canoe trips with husband George Drought and their Wilderness Bound business for the past 15 years. They share an avid interest in arctic wildlife, flowers, and photography. [seat A20]

CARPENTER, Edmund: - has taught anthropology at the Universities of Toronto, California, and Harvard. He has done fieldwork in Oceania, Asia, and the Arctic and since 1950 has made a number of northern trips in Canada, Siberia, Alaska and Greenland. His books include **Eskimo** (Varley, Flaherty), **Eskimo Realities**, **Comock** (Flaherty), **Explorations in Communications** (McLuhan), **Social Symbolism** (Schuster, 12 volumes), and others. Forthcoming titles are **Fire on the Ice** and **Eskimo Mapping**. [seat A23]

CROAL, Peter: - is a geologist and started his canoe wanderings as a canoe ranger in Algonquin Park in 1974. He works as an environmental specialist for the Canadian International Development Agency, and has guided wilderness canoe trips for the Federation of Ontario Naturalists since 1981. [seat D25]

DIXIE, Ann: - [Chair] - had a spectacular encounter with a polar bear on Nunavut spit in the Beaufort Sea on a recent trip in the Arctic. This experience intensified her interest in issues concerning both spiritual and personal growth (particularly, for women) in the wilderness. She is a committed member and an active participant in the Wilderness Canoe Association. [seat C24]

ELIAS, Edna Ekhivalak: - is the mother of two, both now adults, and the proud grandmother of one whom she adopted. Education is her chosen profession and she is presently the principal of Jimmy Hikok Iihakvik [school] in Kugluktuk [formerly Coppermine]. She is the co-author and editor of a number of publications, including a grade four social studies textbook. She is a former mayor, president of the NWT Status of Women Council, and co-chair of the Task Force on Aboriginal Languages. [seat A25]

FORD, Tony: - [Chair] - has been a kayak paddler for over 40 years. A member of the British Union's Coaching Service for much of that time, he is now Honorary Coach. His kayak travels over the past 13 years have taken him along almost all the outer coast of British Columbia and South East Alaska. His next trip, planned for June and July of 1998, is the circumnavigation of the Queen Charlotte Islands. For the past three years he has been running the Historical Canoe and Kayak Association of England. [seat C12]

GRATER, Wendy: - is an avid wilderness adventurer; for over 20 years she has explored and lead groups in arctic Canada and Greenland. She has pioneered sea kayaking routes in the fjords of Greenland, including the Northwest, Nuuk area, south Greenland, east Greenland and Northeast Greenland National Park. Wendy also is Director of Black Feather - the Wilderness Adventure Company, renowned for its guided adventures by sea kayak, canoe or hiking. [seat C33]

GRINNELL, George: - [Chair] - author of **A Death on the Barrens**, is at work on a second book, **The Medici Conspiracy**. He lives in the woods of Cape Breton. [seat B20]

HADFIELD, Dave: - [Balladeer] - has canoed and snowshoed extensively in NE Manitoba and NW Ontario, and writes the "Practical Bush Gear" articles for "Bushwacker" magazine. In his own songs he takes particular pleasure in combining an intimate sense of the land with historical and contemporary themes, and will play the lunchtime set in company with Jerry Levine, also of Barrie, whose fine fiddle work is featured on Dave's album **Northern Breeze** [on sale at the booktable]. [seat C27]

HALL, Alex: - since 1970 has spent 3 to 4 months every year canoeing the rivers of the Barren Lands and the northern taiga of the NWT. In 1974 he founded his present business, Canoe Arctic Inc, and became the first canoeing guide to operate in the Northwest Territories. He has an MSc. degree in animal ecology from the University of Toronto. [The subtitle of his talk is "The Industrialization of Our Last Great Wilderness."] [seat B27]

JASON, Victoria: - author of **Kabloona in the Yellow Kayak** [on sale at the booktable], returns to the arctic hamlet of Pelly Bay for a different kind of adventure. [seat B21]

JENNESS, Stuart: - after early canoeing experiences as a geologist in Newfoundland, Quebec, and the Northwest Territories, he undertook a career as scientific editor with the Geological Survey and later the National Research Council in Ottawa. After retirement he edited his father's Arctic diary and has published several articles on his father and the Canadian Arctic Expedition of 1913-1918. [Note: the book **Arctic Odessey** - the Diary of Diamond Jenness 1913-1916 by Stuart Jenness, published in 1991, and the three books by Diamond Jenness; **The People of the Twilight, Dawn in Arctic Alaska**, and **The Indians of Canada** are available at the Symposium book table.] [seat A24].

KING, Bill: - is a longtime and enthusiastic member of the Wilderness Canoe Association and has enjoyed many Northern trips. To support his paddling habit he practices surgery ["I'll get it right eventually!"] and every three years works on his wife's re-election campaigns. [seat B27]

KIPPEN, David: - is a canoeing addict from Ottawa who has spent summers in solo wanderings across the Barrens. The previous summer he canoed from Great Slave Lake over the height of land to the Arctic Coast. [seat D30]

LUSTE, George: - [Chair] - has canoed numerous northern rivers, coastlines and watersheds for some 35 years. The amazing landscapes, the fascinating history, and the remarkable people always bring him back for more. [seat A11]

MAGOR, Graeme: - is a physician living in rural Ontario with his wife Lynda and daughter Keziah, born January 30 last year. He has travelled in the high arctic for the past 15 years, on journeys of several weeks to three months, mostly by ski and man-hauled sled. Lynda and Graeme are organizing a Canadian-Norwegian over-wintering expedition for 1999-2000 on Ellesmere and Axel Heiberg Islands in a centennial celebration of the accomplished but unrecognized explorer, Otto Sverdrup. [seat B22]

McINNES, John: - born in Winnipeg, was introduced to canoe tripping as a camper and counsellor with the YMCA's Camp Stephens. Since moving to Edmonton, he has focussed his canoeing interests on the rivers of the western NWT. [seat A32]

McNAIR, Matty: - has been leading adventure programs for 27 years in snow, on water and through mountains. Her passionate love for the arctic brought her to Baffin Island in 1987. Matty is the co-director of North Winds Arctic Adventures, a family owned company that specializes in dog sledding and backpacking adventures for small groups in Baffin Island, Ellesmere Island and Greenland. Last spring she led the first women's expedition to the Geographic North Pole. [She is author of **The Soper River Guide Book**, which is on sale at the booktable.] [seat A26]

MONTGOMERY, Bob: - [Chair] - a former forester with an addiction for northern lore and history. He kayaks through the untrodden northland for a few weeks each year and has to be content with being an armchair adventurer the rest of the time. [seat B30]

PERCIVAL, Deborah: - has fallen under the spell of the north: the beauty of the land and the spirit of the people. She balances her academic life as a vision and robotics professor with summer paddling and winter camping. [seat A27]

WESTHEUSER, Hugh: - [Chair] - is a retired RCMP Officer with some 35 years of service, most of it in BC and 5 years in the NWT. He has two daughters and is celebrating his 36th year of marriage. Canoeing in wilderness areas has been a passion since boyhood, when he was raised on a farm near Oshawa. He has made many canoe trips in remote areas of BC, Yukon, NWT, Alberta & Sask. [seat B29]

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
to the High Arctic Wilderness Symposium, 22 January 1993
George Luste

(A few individuals asked me for a reprint of my spoken words and here is an edited, and slightly expanded, attempt to do so.)

In organizing these mid-January events, which I have called both "slidefest" and "symposium," and in trying to put together the program every January, I am very conscious of the many diverse topics and the variety of perspectives that are possible. My own bias is, of course, reflected in my final choice for the program. To illustrate: canoeing itself has never been an end, but rather a means, a means to experience a landscape rich in natural beauty and a means to a richer appreciation of its history. The ensemble of speakers in the program attempts to replicate this, to recreate some sense of the rich tapestry that is our northern heritage as well as to share the personal experiences and perspectives of those who have experienced it firsthand.

I believe there are three main threads to this tapestry. The landscape — including its fauna and flora — is one. The visceral experiences of the visitor, cum tourist, like myself from the south, are another. And the native peoples of the North, for whom this landscape has been home, and the associated human history, from prehistoric times to the modern, are the third thread.

Each of the nineteen presentations explore and focus on one or more of these threads.

I do not live in the North and I am not an expert on its fauna or flora or geography, or anything else for that matter. My own experiences fall in the second category. I am a visitor to the North, or more colloquially, a "tourist."

I use the word "tourist" deliberately, so as not presume some mantle or air of superiority or special identity that is not my due. But there is a positive sense to this word that I think we should remember. Edward McCourt best expresses it in his book *The Yukon and Northwest Territories*. On page 136 he writes:

¶ It is a common charge that tourists do what they do, suffer what they suffer, because they are bored with things back home or are disturbed by a vague feeling that 'culture' is something one ought to pick up now that one has the time and money. Of some tourists this charge is no doubt true, but I do not for a moment believe that it holds for the majority.

The typical tourist today has in him a little of the spirit of Tennyson's Ulysses who to the end of life followed knowledge like a sinking star; whatever his material gains, whatever his reputation in his own little bailiwick, he is a vaguely dissatisfied seeker after truth, searching in a fumbling disorganized way for a revelation that will illuminate the human condition and justify life's journeying. Yesterday he might have been content to live out his last years waiting more or less tranquilly for death, sustained by the assurance of a life to come in which he would know all the answers. But not today. For contemporary man the justification of life lies in the meaning it holds within its own bounds, in what

the individual makes of it before sinking into that vast indifference of things. Today's tourist, I am convinced, is more often than not a pilgrim searching blindly for an experience that will justify the whole sad history of humanity, or for that moment of revelation which will help him make sense of all that he and his fellows have done or failed to do. 17

My own senses connect with this ennobling description. Although at other times I do wonder if perhaps this isn't simply a form of 'rationalizing' my own self-indulgent nature. Who is to say? I hope you agree that sometimes it is really difficult to 'know' the truth about oneself.

Why do we go north, or why do we want to go north, or why are we interested in the North? I don't pretend to believe that there is one simple answer that would be true for all 750 people in the auditorium.

I can only speak for myself. For me travelling in the North seems to satisfy some longing I have within:

– I long to experience the solitude of the North. In that solitude I find communion with my environment, which I rarely if ever sense living in downtown Toronto.

– I long to see natural vistas free of human scars like highways or transmission lines or smoke stacks, to see and marvel at this wondrous natural beauty.

– I long to live simply with the elements — to feel the winds or rain or snow in my face — to live on this earth simply with the elements, as all our forbearers did.

– I long to experience the physical hard work and challenge of travelling in and over this landscape, in a land where the natural forces are master, where there are no guarantees, and accountability is for real.

– It all gives me pleasure and a sense of place.

This Symposium is a mid-winter extension, a substitute or surrogate, of that search for knowledge and sense of place. And it is meant to educate and to remind us how sacred, yet how fragile and endangered are the remaining natural wilderness areas and wildness experiences in our northern Canadian habitat.

