

20th annual Canoeing & Wilderness Symposium on
Northern Travels & Northern Perspectives IV

February 4 & February 5, 2005 at Monarch Park Collegiate, Toronto

All sessions in the auditorium.

Friday evening, February 4, 2005

- 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
 - James Raffan Seeley's Bay - ON Rendezvous With the Wild
 - Will Lange Etna - NH Victoria Islans - Fox Traps to Diamond Mines
 - Jose Kusugak Rankin Inlet - NU Arctic Inuit Perspectives
- 9:30 - 10:30 p.m. - Reception in cafeteria.

Saturday, February 5, 2005 - 25 min per presentation

- 8:30 a.m. - Doors opened for attendees & book table available.
- 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. - Session II - - Chair - Peter Kazaks
 - Dave Robinson Greensville - ON Group Solidarity & Poetic Journeys
 - Bev & Joel Hollis Northborough - MA Together, Alone in the Arctic
 - Charlie Mahler Duluth - MN Yellowknife to Baker Lake - by Two Rookies
- 10:30 - 11:10 a.m. - Refreshment break in cafeteria
- 11:10 - 12:40 p.m. - Session III - - Chair - Gwyneth Hoyle
 - Marilyn Sprissler Picton - ON Stikine River
 - Laurel Archer Comox - BC Canoeing Northern BC Wilderness Rivers
 - David Finch Calgary - AB R. M. Patterson's Travels in BC
- 12:40 - 2:20 p.m. - Lunch break [Due to limited seating, cafeteria use is available to meal-ticket holders only.]
- 1:20 - 2:10 p.m. - Dave Hadfield & Della Grigsby Northern Songs [Library Meeting Room]
- 2:20 - 3:50 p.m. - Session IV - - Chair - Herb Pohl
 - Kieran Moore Peterborough - ON Dog-mushing in the NT
 - Rollin Thurlow Atkinson - ME Winter Walk 2003, 60-days Snowshoeing to Ungava Bay (DVD presentation)
- 3:50 - 4:30 p.m. - Refreshment break in cafeteria
- 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Session V - - Chair - Bob Henderson
 - John Fallis Orangeville - ON Northern Quebec Canoe Trip
 - Brian Back Mequon - WI Heb Evans & the Crees of N Quebec
 - Jim Niedbalski North Adams - MA Hubbard Redux - Retracing 1903 Labrador
- 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. - Supper break [Due to limited seating, cafeteria use is available to meal-ticket holders only.]
- 7:15 p.m. - Northern Books Table closes at 7:15 p.m.
- 7:30 - 9:15 p.m. - Session VI - - Chair - George Drought
 - Ted & Freda Mellenthin Mission - BC Arctic Canoe Travels
 - Richard Alexander St. John's - NF Paddling With the Past - Kayaking in Greenland
 - John Howie Binbrook - ON Torngat Tragedy in Northern Labrador
 - Rob Perkins Cambridge - MA What the Wind Says (brief finale)

Background Music Selections by Sandy Richardson.

Thank you for coming and see you next year.

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

Feb 4 and 5, 2005 Wilderness Symposium – in alphabetic order

Presenters

Richard ALEXANDER: - in the summer of 2002 Richard successfully completed a sea kayaking expedition up the West Coast of Greenland, the film documenting this expedition entitled *Paddling with the Past* subsequently won its division at the *Waterwalker Film Festival*. He holds a Sea Kayaking Level 4 designation -- the highest skill certification available from the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association and instructor trainer status with the same organization. As founding President of Newfoundland and Labrador's Provincial Kayaking Association and as owner and director of the Newfoundland Kayak Company, he has devoted his spare time to growing the pastime of sea kayaking and is responsible for introducing hundreds of people to the joy and beauty of recreational sea kayaking. - [seat C32]

Laurel ARCHER : - is a whitewater and flatwater canoe and kayak instructor, wilderness canoe and sea kayaking guide, and outdoor leadership instructor. She is the author of *Northern Saskatchewan Canoe Trips: A Guide to 15 Wilderness Rivers* and has published many stories in popular magazines and anthologies. She lives with her husband, Brad Koop, in the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island where they paddle all year round. - [seat A25]

Brian BACK: - is a dirt-eating, leech-loving, canoeist who has paddled blackfly wilderness in Ontario and Quebec, and pretend wilderness in Wisconsin and the Ozarks. He is a neanderthal from North Bay, Ontario, now living the life of a geek in Wisconsin, where he operates Ottertooth.com and writes about the North — some of which he has actually been to. As an environmentalist fighting the Great Whale Project, he visited the Crees for the first time. - [seat A30]

John FALLIS: - is a founding member of the obscure (and rightly so) Caniapiscau Liberation Front, 1976 chapter. Off and on during the past 30 years, he has canoed in Canada's north with friends and family. In the non-canoing season, John chases wildlife of a different sort - he is a high school principal. - [seat B31]

David FINCH: - has been writing the history of the Canadian west since the early 1980s. As a mid-life challenge, he is assuming the duties of Associate Publisher of Rocky Mountain Books, a publisher of outdoor books. His most recent failed expedition was a solo ascent of the South Nahanni River in August, 2004. (He is the author of *R. M. Patterson, A Life of Great Adventure*.) - [seat B29]

Bev & Joel HOLLIS: - Bev is a middle school reading specialist, and Joel is a public health officer. Thirty years ago, they bought their first canoe with their wedding money and have paddled 25 month-long trips in the Canadian and Alaskan wilderness, all but two trips "together alone". When not working or canoeing, they spend their time skiing and winter camping. - [seats A32, A33]

John HOWIE: - enjoys canoeing, fishing, hiking and being outside to enjoy whatever weather is available. Basically, he is just a guy who was lucky enough to get invited on the trip of a lifetime (the 2004 Torngats trip)! He has always thought that seeking solitude is an underrated hobby. - [seat C28]

Jose KUSUGAK: - was born on May 2nd 1950 in an iglu in Naujaat (Repulse Bay), located on the Arctic Circle. He is the second eldest of seven brothers and four sisters and attended school in Chesterfield Inlet and Churchill and attended high school in Saskatoon. Jose Kusugak first got involved with the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (then Inuit Tapirisat of Canada or ITC, now ITK) in the early 1970s to work on the standardization of the Inuit writing system. Because project funding was delayed, Jose worked as an assistant to then President Tagak Curley, introducing the concept of land claims to Inuit in the Arctic. In 1974 Jose went to Alaska to study the Alaska land claims and traveled the Inuvialuit region as part of the land use and occupancy study tour. From late 1974 to 1977, Jose chaired the standardization program of the Inuktitut language; from 1980 to 1990, he was the Area Manager of CBC in the Kivalliq (Keewatin) region, and; from 1994 to 2000 he was the President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, an affiliate of ITC. He was elected President of ITK in June 2000. His wife Nellie works as a Northern Studies Teacher at Arctic College in Rankin Inlet. - [Friday only, seat C40]

Will LANGE: - is a contractor, writer, and storyteller who lives in Etna, New Hampshire. He is also a commentator and host for public radio and television, and the founder (in 1973) of the Geriatric Adventure Society. - [seat E20]

Charlie MAHLER: - a freelance writer and magazine editor, has enjoyed canoeing since his youthful Frisbees, Mountain Dew, and Grummans voyages down the Black River in Wisconsin. He graduated to wilderness paddling in Minnesota's Boundary Waters and the Quetico before deciding, with life-long friend John Skemp, to paddle from Yellowknife to Baker Lake in 2004. - [seat A22]

Ted & Freda MELLENTHIN: - after taking canoeing lessons at Bow Water Canoe Club in Calgary at the age of 37, Ted dedicated himself to canoe travel and spent the next thirty years canoeing wild and remote rivers. With his son, he made the first tundra trip in 1979 and was forever hooked on this wondrous landscape - clean, raw, treeless, destitute of people but rich in wild rivers, lakes, and animals. In 1999 a fresh chapter in northern canoeing began with his new wife, Freda, both in their sixties as they paddled the Back, the Kazan, the Coppermine and other northern rivers. - [seat D31, D32]

Kieran MOORE: - lived and worked in Slavey and Dogrib communities for thirty five years. Fluent in Dogrib, he participated in numerous subsistence hunts in the barrenlands. As a log building supervisor he made several solo dog team trips. Kieran now resides in Peterborough, Ontario and is a wood carver enthusiast. [The subtitle for his talk is "Following the Trail of Bear Lake Alexie"] - [seat A28]

Jim NIEDBALSKI: - originally from Massachusetts, has been fascinated for years with the story of Leonidas Hubbard's tragic 1903 expedition and the subsequent trips by his widow, Mina, and Dillon Wallace. On the centennial of Hubbard's attempt to cross Labrador's barren lands, Niedbalski and friends Troy Gipps and Brad Bassi headed up the Susan River, to be joined later by Caroline Scully. Niedbalski and Gipps have paddled several rivers in Quebec's James Bay region. Niedbalski teaches journalism at Ohio Wesleyan University. - [seat B25]

Robert PERKINS: - is an author and film-maker, and a solo canoeist. He has made seven films for Channel 4 in England and PBS. He has published six books. Recently PBS ran a trilogy of his films called *One Man's Journey*. For more than twenty years he has paddled Canadian Rivers, especially the Back River, and its tributaries, in Nunavut. As he said recently, "Everybody has a passion, and mine is heading out to spend a couple of months in the tundra." His website is GOTROB.com - [seat C30]

James RAFFAN: - after successful 2004 speaking tours in Australia, UK, & Canada, Jim Raffan is home this winter on Cranberry Lake in Eastern Ontario writing a biography of Sir George Simpson, gathering music for Canoesongs Volume II, creating a Deep Waters exhibit for the Canadian Canoe Museum, chasing dogs and horses, and fixing his favourite Misstassini Cree snowshoes with rawhide pet chews from Zellers. (He is the editor/author of the recent publication: *Rendezvous with the Wild: the Boreal Forest.*) - [seat B33]

Dave ROBINSON: - is a retired high school teacher with a passion for the outdoors and classic jazz, enjoys canoeing, hiking and xc-skiing with his family and playing tenor banjo with the Toronto Banjo Band. Experienced first wilderness trip on a 5 week canoeing/hiking adventure down the South Nahanni River in 1973. Since 1977 as a member of Graham McCallum's canoe group has paddled some 25 Canadian rivers many of them in Quebec. - [seat P34]

Marilyn SPRISLER: - a great lover of Canada's north & the mountains, started canoeing as a child and has paddled major rivers in BC, Labrador, Nunavut & the NWT (this summer, the Back R.). First obtaining her MSc in Engineering (Operations Research), she then completed her ARCT in Piano Performance & taught for many years. Her other passions include cross country, downhill & telemark skiing, competitive swimming, hiking & more recently windsurfing. - [seat D27]

Rollin THURLOW: - has been building wooden boats and canoes in Atkinson Maine for over 28 years. He has had a wide variety of experiences in canoe travel in Northern New England and Labrador. For over twenty years he has taught wooden canoe building at the Wooden Boat Building School in Brooklin, Maine and is co-author of the book *The Wood and Canvas Canoe.* - [seat E21]

Chairs and Back-ups

George DROUGHT: - has written a number of articles about his whitewater adventures, including river guides for the Petawawa, Madawaska, Pukaskwa and Wakwayowkastic Rivers. He has also won three awards with films on the Hood, Back and Petawawa Rivers at the *Waterwalker Film Festival*. He is now in the process of making another film on the Back River with a different theme and is heading to Baker Lake this summer to do more canoeing and filming. Assuming he can drag himself and his wife Barbara away from the new home they have built themselves near Huntsville. [seat C20]