

22nd annual Canoeing & Wilderness Symposium on

# Northern Travels & Northern Perspectives VI

February 2 & February 3, 2007 at Monarch Park Collegiate Auditorium, One Hanson St, Toronto

All sessions in the auditorium.

Friday evening, February 2, 2007

- 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
  - Brad Bassi Seattle - WA Northern Ungava Canoe Expedition
  - Pat Lewtas Toronto - ON Heaven in the Land of Wind
  - Larry Ricker Rochester - MN Herb and Lake Superior
- 9:30 - 10:30 p.m. - Reception in cafeteria.

Saturday, February 3, 2007 - 25 min per presentation

- 8:30 a.m. - Doors opened for attendees & book table available.
- 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. - Session II - -
  - Mary-Jo Cullen Toronto - ON Michipicoten Bay
  - Jay Morrison Ottawa - ON From the Atlantic to the Arctic
  - Evan Ferrari Toronto - ON Caribou the Untold Story -  
from Inland Sea to the Arctic Ocean
- 10:30 - 11:10 a.m. - Refreshment break in cafeteria + book table
- 11:10 - 12:40 p.m. - Session III - -
  - Kenn Harper Iqaluit - NU In Search of Nancy Columbia -  
an Inuit Girl from Labrador
  - Heather Robertson King City - ON Bonnycastle in the North
  - Gwynneth Hoyle Peterborough - ON Guy Blanchet in the North
- 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 - -
  - Iva Kinclova Toronto - ON Crossing the Continental Divide
  - Tom McCloud Frederick - MD Notakwanon, Labrador
  - Eric Leroux St Agathe - QC East Natashquan, North Shore
- 3:50 - 4:30 p.m. - Refreshment break in cafeteria + book table
- 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Session V - -
  - Ian Merringer Palmer Rapids - ON Romaine River - Paddling and the Politics of Power
  - Marilyn Lindsay Ottawa - ON The Rupert - Heritage Lost
  - Seth Gibson Middlebury - VT Memories of the Rupert Area
- 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 - Last two presentations are 12 minutes each
  - John McInnes Edmonton - AB Herb's Northwest: Trails and Reflections
  - James Raffan Seeley's Bay - ON The Lure of Far Away Places
  - Rob Butler Toronto - ON Herb Pohl the Adventurer -  
- from Exhilaration to Consternation
  - Bill King Toronto - ON Herb Pohl, amiable misanthrope -  
- is that a contradiction?

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Background Music Selections by Sandy Richardson.

Thank you for coming.

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

## Presenters at the Wilderness Canoe Symposium - 2007

**Brad BASSI** - grew up in a small New England town and began paddling a tandem canoe at the age of 12. I soon began whitewater kayaking and participating in more elaborate expeditions. While my focus has been on wilderness rivers in Ontario and Quebec, I have recently moved to Oregon and will soon be exploring many new rivers in western Canada. [Seat A26]

**Rob BUTLER** – In a family of book-worms, was the odd man out. Therefore, forever grateful to the Boy Scouts and since a cub, obsessed with the outdoors. Driven to get to the end, whether by foot, canoe, x-country skis or bike. Never a deliberate leader. Never seen forest, but seen every tree. Earned his bread as an extremely conservative accountant. Father of 5, all with MBA's, grandfather to 14, so far, all of whom are familiar with tenting. Looking forward to his 4th quarter-century of weekly self-propelled activities. [Seat A23]

**Mary-Jo CULLEN** - and her partner Torfinn Hansen discovered the joy of white water canoeing in the 70s and early 80s thanks to such WCA legends as Gord Fenwick, Sandy Richardson, Herb Pohl and Jim Greenacre. Turning to kayaking they later paddled in Ellesmere, and along the coasts of Labrador and Lake Superior. As a retirement project in the 90s Mary Jo joined a workshop at Michipicoten Bay on Lake Superior building native style kayaks, then paddled her Aleutian 'baidarka' around the greatest of the Great Lakes, solo. She discovered not only the incredible beauty but the vulnerability of Lake Superior and became committed to its protection. For close to five years she has been working to stop a huge quarry planned for the shores of Michipicoten Bay. [Seat C20]

**John DONALDSON** - had a dream. - As a young man living in the suburbs of Glasgow, I commuted daily by train to work downtown. At Central Station I frequently passed a huge poster for Canadian Pacific. "Canadian Pacific Password for Excellence," the message ran. Gazing enthralled at the magnificent lakes with canoes crossing emerald-green waters amid a backdrop of snow-topped peaks, I dreamed about paddling on lakes like these in the pristine wilderness. A daunting prospect since my nautical expertise lay exclusively in sailing a toy boat in the local park pond! I never forgot my dream. Some 35 years later in Montreal, I would launch my Cree-built five metre (16 foot) wood-canvas canoe, *Spirit of Mackenzie*, on a transcontinental adventure in a bid to emulate the Voyages to the Pacific and Arctic, of Canada's 'Prince of Explorers,' Sir Alexander Mackenzie. I sought to raise Mackenzie's profile in a country which seems bent on discarding its great heritage of the past, but the compelling reason for undertaking this hazardous task was not only romantic folly, but lay in the hope that this endeavour would bring about healing of my wounded spirit. Following five summers listening to the Great Silence - and considerable adversity - I came to understand a canoe was not mere transport, but complemented nature's balm by teaching humility. [Seat A28] [*John is not listed in the program but is a back-up speaker at this time.*]

**Evan FERRARI** – As the Director of the Parks program for CPAWS-Wildlands League, Evan Ferrari is able to meld his passion for paddling and natural places. Last year marked the first time that he spent more than 40 days in a canoe. He's now trying figure out ways of paddling even more in 2007. [Seat A33]

**Seth GIBSON** - was introduced to the wilderness rivers of Canada in 1967 when he began leading canoe trips for Keewaydin Camp in Vermont. After some 12000 km of paddling around Quebec and Labrador he has moved over to become the coordinator of wilderness trips for Keewaydin. He lives in Vermont, where teaches part time, and periodically travels with the Hulbert Outdoor Center to Ouje Bougoumou. [Seat A30]

**Kenn HARPER** – is a writer and businessman who has lived in the Arctic (Nunavut and Greenland) for the past 40 years. He is the author of "*Give Me My Father's Body: The Life of Minik, the New York Eskimo.*" which has been published in nine languages. He speaks the Inuktitut language of the eastern Arctic and makes his home in Iqaluit. He is extremely uncomfortable in a canoe, even more-so in a kayak. [Seat B28]

**Toni HARTING** (symposium photographer) - 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. At present, Toni is preparing a show of photographs he made in Provence about 50 years ago, and is also writing a novel based on his experiences as a prisoner in Japanese concentration camps during the Second World War. [Seat A20]

**Gwyneth HOYLE** – has been in the North twice, but does most her northern trips vicariously, following the travels of other and writing about them in *Canoeing North into the Unknown*, *Flowers in the Snow*, and a biography of Guy Blanchet, coming soon. [Seat B13]

**Iva KINCLOVA** – has been enchanted by the Canadian wilderness ever since she arrived in Toronto from the Czech Republic in 1990. She considers the outdoors her spiritual home and a tent her favourite shelter. She has organized a number of extended canoeing trips in Ontario, Manitoba, Yukon, NWT and Nunavut. As a high school teacher, Iva has made it her goal to introduce youth to the enjoyment of nature and the necessity of its protection. [Seat A21]

**Bill KING** – is a 'mostly-retired' surgeon who, for many years, has maintained his sanity (at least in his opinion) with regular doses of wilderness. His long involvement with the Wilderness Canoe Association has been an invaluable source of friends and traveling partners. [Seat C27]

**Eric LEROUX** – An enthusiastic white water canoe novice, Eric is a family doctor recycled into a portable first aid kit for our canoe trips. He joined the 2005 trip on the Koroc River and the Torngat Mountains and the following year on the East Natshaquan. He lives and practices up north in the Laurentian mountains of Quebec. In his youth he traveled the Amazon river as a guide before entering the field of medicine. Eric loves all non motorised water sports and he was more often in the water than in the canoe, as you will see in his presentation. [Seat D20]

**Pat LEWTAS** – worked as a lawyer for about a decade before deciding to pursue an academic career in philosophy. He's now finishing his graduate degree in Michigan. Pat began journeying north over thirty years ago; he's made many summer and winter trips since. [Seat B26]

**Merrilyn LINDSAY** – is an IT professional living in Ottawa who escapes the constraints of technology on wilderness river trips. She began her paddling career in her early 20s but discovered wilderness rivers and white water in the 1980s. Since then, she has explored the rivers in the Ottawa valley, the Bay rivers on both the Ontario and Quebec sides, and the Arctic, with the Bay rivers being her favorites. [Seat B23].

**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. Last summer he and daughter Tija were part of a group (that included presenter Eric Leroux) on the East Natashquan – a river Herb Pohl canoed solo a few years ago. [Seat A12]

**Tom McCLOUD** – has been a whitewater open canoeist since 1970, and is co-author of "*A Paddler's Guide to Eastern North Carolina*". Fishing trips to the upper Ottawa drainage in western Quebec in the late '50s sparked an interest in seeing more of the Canadian North, which has led to canoe trips to Labrador, Ungava, Baffin, northern Ontario, Saskatchewan and Yukon. To support his canoeing addiction, he has been manager of a Natural Products Chemistry laboratory involved in drug discovery at Frederick Cancer Research, Frederick, Maryland, for the past 20 years. [Seat A31]

**John McINNES** – was originally introduced to canoeing and canoe tripping at the Winnipeg YMCA's Camp Stephens. Since moving to Edmonton in 1980, he has focused his paddling agenda on the small rivers of the western NWT and northern Saskatchewan." [Seat C26]

**Ian MERRINGER** – is the editor of *Canoeroots* magazine, the former editor of *Rapid* and *Adventure Kayak* magazines and is a regular contributor to *Explore* and *Ski Canada* magazines. Though never diagnosed as paranoid, Ian has been overheard accusing Hydro-Québec of tapping his phone and listening in on trip-planning sessions, since they always get their survey crews to rivers before him. His latest run-in with the dam engineers was on Quebec's rugged Romaine River. [Seat B29]

**Jay MORRISON** – is a member of the board of directors of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Ottawa Valley chapter who is currently responsible for the CPAWS campaign to protect the Dumoine River, the last intact watershed in southern Quebec. He is an ORCKA moving water instructor and former National age-group Triathlon Team member who is paddling his homemade wooden canoe from the Atlantic to the Arctic Ocean to raise awareness of the need to protect Canadian Wilderness. While paddling over 3,000 kilometres to Lake Winnipeg in 2006, thousands of people followed his daily web journal at [www.cpaws.org/canoe](http://www.cpaws.org/canoe) and in more than 50 media stories. Jay hopes that you will join him on the trip to Inuvik in 2007. [Seat B20]

**James RAFFAN** – After three years of dilly-dallying, Jim's biography of Sir George Simpson, *Emperor of the North*, will finally be published this fall by HarperCollins. Also coming soon is *The Music of Canoesongs* which will be published this spring by Ottawa Folklore Centre Publications. His most recent trip was in an 11,600 tonne canoe called CCGS Louis S. St. Laurent. Details of that journey are online and in the current issue of *Canadian Geographic*. And in the Jan 9th *Globe & Mail* it was announced that Jim became the first curator of The Canadian Canoe Museum. Parts of all of these stories are true. [Seat B24]

**Larry RICKER** - lives in Rochester, MN where he is a mild-mannered electrical engineer during the day and an equally mild-mannered photographer, web site designer, canoeist, hiker and camper on nights, weekends and holidays. His photos and articles have appeared in publications such as *Canoe & Kayak* and the *Boundary Waters Journal*. Most of his wilderness experience has been in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness of Northern Minnesota -- which he visits throughout the year -- although he also spent 2 weeks on the Upper Yukon River in 2005. During the summer of 2006, Larry spent 2 weeks paddling the northern shore of Lake Superior in the Pukaskwa National Park area when he had a chance encounter with Herb Pohl. [Seat A25]

**Heather ROBERTSON** – has written and compiled nearly 20 books, including biography, history, documentary and fiction. Her biography of Canadian scientist, explorer and mining magnate Joseph Burr Tyrrell will be published this fall. *A Gentleman Adventurer. The Arctic Diaries of Richard Bonnycastle* was published in 1984, thanks to the enthusiasm of his son, Richard A.N. Bonnycastle." [Seat B27]