

23rd annual Canoeing & Wilderness Symposium on  
**Northern Travels & Northern Perspectives VII**

February 8 & February 9, 2008 at Monarch Park Collegiate Auditorium, One Hanson St, Toronto.

All sessions in the auditorium.

Friday evening, February 8, 2008

- 6:30 - 7:20 p.m. - Foyer: Registration, programme and name tags.
- 7:20 - 7:35 p.m. - Introductory Remarks - George Luste
- 7:35 - 9:30 p.m. - Session I - Chair - George Luste
  - Ed Labenski Chicago - IL Arctic Reflections: - Travel and Filmmaking on the Horton River
  - Paul vanPeenen Vancouver - BC Pining for the Fiords: - a Trip from Clyde River to Pond Inlet
  - Robert McGhee Ottawa - ON The Last Imaginary Place: - Southern Images of an Arctic World
- 9:30 - 10:30 p.m. - Reception in cafeteria.

Saturday, February 9, 2008 - 25 min per presentation

- 8:30 a.m. - Doors opened for attendees & book table opens.
- 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. - Session II - -
  - Jonathan Berger Philadelphia - PA Canoe Atlas of the Little North
  - Glenn Hooper Thunder Bay - ON Saving Our Wilderness Canoe Routes - It's All About Land Use Planning
  - Chris Mayne North Bay - ON La Vase Portages - History at Risk
- 10:30 - 11:10 a.m. - Refreshment break in cafeteria + book table
- 11:10 - 12:40 p.m. - Session III - -
  - Dawne Robinson & Partners Guelph - ON Mouchalagane River Perspectives
  - Gilles Fortin & Pierre Charest Quebec City - QC Our Paddling in Quebec - beat the bug ...
  - Stewart Coffin Andover - MA Black Spruce Journal
- 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 - -
  - Andy Breckenridge Erie - PA Canoeing Geology
  - Jeremy Harrison Southport - MA Trans Arctic Canoe Expedition
  - Jim McNamara Boise - ID 80-day Barrenland Sojourn in 1991
- 3:50 - 4:30 p.m. - Refreshment break in cafeteria + book table
- 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Session V - -
  - Jim & Sue Waddington Hamilton - ON Quest of Group of Seven Painting Sites
  - Jay Bailey Simcoe - ON 61-day Historic Birch Bark Voyage
  - Kevin Callan Peterborough - ON Kopka River Adventures
- 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
- 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. - Session VI -
  - Margaret Vokes Oakville - ON My Father's 1928 Discovery of the Hornby Tragedy on the Thelon River
  - Ian MacLaren Edmonton - AB Hornby's Cabin in 1967
  - Chris Norment Brockport - NY Return to Warden's Grove: - Science, Desire and the Lives of Animals

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Background Music Selections by Sandy Richardson.

Thank you for coming.

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

**Short Bios of the Presenters at the  
2008 Wilderness and Canoeing Symposium  
February 8 & 9, 2008**

**Jay BAILEY** – semi-retired after 28 years of teaching French, Jay was bitten by the voyageur bug, impressed with their skill, endurance and joie de vivre, when taking students to the Festival du Voyageur in Winnipeg back in the 1980s. Since 1990, he has staged more than 120 voyageur presentations for students at schools from Chatham to Belleville. Finally, this summer, he was baptized as a voyageur in the traditional manner at Pointe au Baptême, while dressing, eating, sleeping and paddling 1500 km as a voyageur from 1800. He is currently writing a novel about a young teen caught up in the trip west with voyageurs, ca. 1780. <http://voyerr.spaces.live.com/>  
[Seat – C40 ]

**Jonathan BERGER** - has been paddling, sketching, and mapping the Little North for the past five decades. Summer 2008 will be his 50<sup>th</sup> on the water. His book *Canoe Atlas of the Little North* is on sale at the book table on Saturday. [Seat – C24 ]

**Andy BRECKENRIDGE** - is an assistant professor of geology at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pennsylvania and an avid canoe tripper. He is an expert on the glacial history of Lake Superior, and does research in Canada on the greatest lake that ever existed, Lake Agassiz. He believes paddlers who have spent time on the land, moving along Canada's great waterways, are particularly well prepared to appreciate the wonderful stories geologists tell us about the rocks and landscapes. [Seat – A32 ]

**Kevin CALLAN** - is the author of eleven books, including the best selling *The Happy Camper* and the incredibly popular series of *paddling guides*. On a regular basis he presents across North America and has been a key speaker at all the major canoe events for over 20 years. Callan is also a frequent guest on radio and television, field editor for *Explore*, and writes on a regular basis for *ON Nature*, *Kanawa* and *Canoeroots Magazine*. He is a winner of three National Magazine Awards and four film awards' including "best of" in the prestigious Waterwalker Film Festival. For the last 17 years he has taught Environmental Issues and Sciences at Sir Sandford Fleming College and lives in Peterborough, the birthplace of the modern day canoe. [Seat – A28 ]

**Pierre CHAREST and Gilles Fortin** - started their *serious* out door activities as fishing guides in the nineteen-sixties, than later learned to paddle a canoe – and so made wilderness journeys up to 40 days long in the Northern rivers of Québec and Labrador. Gilles worked as education supervisor and school principal in Kuujuaq and Schefferville for almost 15 years. His partner, Pierre, was a physician in Quebec city for 33 years. [Seats – A26 and A25 ]

**Stewart COFFIN** - now spends less time paddling and more time writing about past adventures. His most recent book is *Black Spruce Journals*, an annotated photo album covering a half century of canoe-tripping in the North Woods . He lives with his companion Mary Dow in Andover, Massachusetts. [Seat – C22 ]

**Jeremy HARRISON** - is an art teacher, painter, and photographer living in Massachusetts. He gained his canoeing experience at Camp Kooch-i-ching in MN where he has canoed rivers in Ontario and Manitoba including the Alanwater, English, Bloodvein, Seal, and Winisk. His twin sons, Alex and Sam accompanied him along with three other Kooch-i-ching men on the Trans-Arctic Canoe Expedition. [Seat - A31]

**Glen HOOPER** – has been solo canoe tripping for over 3 decades now, with many solo 30-40 day trips done in the Barrens and Boreal forest. Glen has deep concerns about the loss of our wilderness/back country canoe route heritage, as one by one they are continually lost and converted by roads access and other developments into a more motorized front country. As a career professional wildlife and landscape ecologist experienced in land use planning, he has applied this experience to advance the cause for canoe route protection, which he also wrote about in the WCA’s journal *Nastawgan*. [Seat - C29]

**Ed LABENSKI** – first went canoeing with his dad on the lakes and rivers close to his home in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and later moved to the Western U.S. and Canada where he consequently expanded his range. Canoeing has always been an important part of his life. He is currently a PhD candidate in cultural anthropology at the University of Chicago, and has done many different things over the years: curriculum development, oral history research, ranger for the National Park Service, research consultant for Saskatchewan First Nations, and teaching. The Horton is his third major northern trip. [Seat – B22 ]

**George LUSTE** – still dreams of more long trips deep into the arctic landscape and is ever so grateful for the many fond memories of past wilderness trips with Linda, with daughter Tija, with son Tait, with friends and by himself on solo trips. A physicist by training, at present he is president of the University of Toronto Faculty Association. [Seat - A10]

**Ian MacLAREN** - teaches History and English at the University of Alberta. His outdoor interests have shifted over the years from principally canoeing to chiefly hiking. He dates his interest in wilderness as a realm for recreation and a subject for research from his canoe trip on the Hanbury and Thelon rivers in 1967. Author/editor of several books and many articles about exploration and travel, he published *Culturing Wilderness in Jasper National Park* in December to commemorate the centenary of that mountain park. [Seat – B27 ]

**Chris MAYNE** - is a canoeist first, having paddled Northern Ontario extensively and Nahanni most recently, and a Councilor for the City of North Bay second. Three years ago following an aggregate companies application to mine the banks of La Vase portages, he and a small group of friends, following the earlier work of Restore the Link, formed the Friends of La Vase Portages. Today’s presentation is a summary of what the issues are and what is being done. [Seat – C42 ]

**Robert McGHEE's** - research has focused on the archaeology of Arctic Canada and related regions. He has undertaken fieldwork from Labrador to the Mackenzie Delta and northwards to the High Arctic islands, as well as in Svalbard and Chukotka. His work has addressed the first peopling of the New World Arctic; the origins and development of Inuit culture in Arctic Canada; reactions of prehistoric populations to episodes of climatic and environmental change; and European exploration of the Arctic regions. His most recent book is *The Last Imaginary Place, a Human History of the Arctic World*. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and of the Arctic Institute of North America, past-president of the Canadian Archaeological Association, and has been awarded the Massey Medal of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. He is currently a Curator of Archaeology at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. [Seat – B26 ]

**Jim McNAMARA** – is a professor of hydrology in the Department of Geosciences at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho, USA. He has been away from the north-country for about a decade so his recent paddling has been in kayaks or rafts on big western rivers. Now that his sons can paddle their own boats and carry their own packs he plans on reviving his long-time passion for canoe country. [Seat – A30 ]

**Chris NORMENT** - is a professor of environmental science and biology at SUNY College at Brockport, where he specializes in the ecology and conservation of migratory birds. In addition to numerous scientific articles, he is the author of *In the North of Our Lives*, an account of a year-long expedition across the Northwest Territories and Nunavut in 1977-1978. [Seat – A27 ]

**Paul van PEENEN** - is a frequent visitor of remote landscapes. When not paddling or dragging a canoe, Paul spends his time writing and taking photographs, usually about paddling or dragging a canoe. He lives with his partner Janice in Vancouver. Paul's canoe trips are sponsored by Clipper Canoes of Abbotsford, BC. [Seat – B24 ]

**Dawne ROBINSON and Dave and Andy** - every summer for the past decade, Dawne, Dave and Andy have been reclaiming their sanity by escaping 'into the wild'. Dawne and Andy finance their play time by teaching and Dave by working at the Ontario Vet College. All agree that they prefer the wildlife on the river to that in the classroom. [Seats –P15, P16, P17, P18 ]

**Margaret VOKES** - is an international business consultant. She and her husband, Michael, are avid wilderness canoeists and back country campers, although they have not explored the Far North. More recently, Margaret and Mike have acquired a 36 foot power boat which they use to explore the 30,000 islands of eastern Georgian Bay. [Seat – B29 ]

**Sue and Jim WADDINGTON** - have combined their love of canoe tripping with their appreciation of the art of the Group of Seven painters. On their canoe trips they try to locate the places that the Group used as the inspiration for their paintings and, if successful, they record what the scene looks like now. She is a retired nurse and he an almost retired physicist and now they have plenty of time to go canoeing with their grandchildren. [Seats – C20, C21 ]