

# Northern Travels & Northern Perspectives VIII

February 13 & February 14, 2009 at Monarch Park Collegiate Auditorium, One Hanson St, Toronto.

All sessions in the auditorium.

Friday evening, February 13, 2009

- 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 - General Overview - Chair - George Luste
  - Chris Lepard Paris - ON Fall Colours on the Horton River
  - John Gardner Regina - SK Canoe Quest - Spiritual and Personal
  - Aaju Peter Iqaluit - NU My Arctic Heritage
- 9:30 - 10:30 p.m. - Reception in cafeteria.

Saturday, February 14, 2009 - 25 min per presentation

- 8:30 a.m. - Doors opened for attendees & book table opens.
- 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. - Session II - Ungava and Quebec -
  - Lynette Chubb & Ottawa - ON Charpentier & Leaf in 2007  
Lester Kovac
  - Lee Sessions Portland - OR Tale of Two Canoe Trips - and Their Contrasts
  - Jim & Ted Baird Toronto - ON Kuujjua River & Beaufort Sea Expedition
- 10:30 - 11:10 a.m. - Refreshment break in cafeteria + book table
- 11:10 - 12:40 p.m. - Session III - Historic Perspectives -
  - Alan Patterson Victoria - BC My Father's 'Nahanni Journals'
  - David Pelly Ottawa - ON 'The Old Way North' - Oberholtzer - Magee
  - Jim Stone Ottawa - ON Art & Adventure of Arthur Heming
- 12:40 - 2:20 p.m. - Lunch break [Due to limited seating, cafeteria use is available to meal-ticket holders only.] + book table
- 1:15 - 2:00 p.m. - Dave Hadfield Northern Songs [Library Meeting Room]
- 2:20 - 3:50 p.m. - Session IV - Lake Superior
  - David Wells Michipicoten - ON Natural & Cultural History of Lake Superior
  - Craig Norell & Wakefield - QC A Glimpse of Eden - the Slates  
Rita Komendant
  - Joel Cooper Wawa - ON Great Lakes Wilderness - Eastern L Superior
- 3:50 - 4:30 p.m. - Refreshment break in cafeteria + book table
- 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Session V - Arctic Experiences -
  - Julia Jennings Peterborough - ON Two Months in the Barrens
  - Jack & Dan Frimeth Guelph - ON North of 60 - Father & Son in the Arctic
  - Bob Schaefer Mount Airy - MD Avian North & Tree Line Travels
- 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 - Concluding Overview - Personal perspectives
  - Don Morrison & Oakville - ON Painting the Snake - an Artist's Trip  
Art Clarke
  - Tim Irvin Victoria - BC Alone in the Barrens - Wilderness Odyssey
  - Jay Morrison Ottawa - ON Canoeing 8,000 km in search of Country
  - Toni Harting Toronto - ON Brief Tribute in Pictures and Music

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Background Music Selections by Sandy Richardson.

Thank you for coming.

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

## **2009 Wilderness and Canoeing Symposium**

**February 13 & 14, 2009**

### **Program Participants**

**BAIRD, Jim** - works out of Toronto and is in sales. He was lucky enough to spend long periods of his childhood freely roaming the largest and last major crown land area in Southern Ontario, south east of Bancroft. Here he found his love of the outdoors and uses it to peruse his thrust for a deeper understanding and connection with the natural world. [Seat – B26 ]

**CHUBB, Lynette** - 2 Welsh immigrants did their part populating the “Great Canadian Wilderness” with 6 children, but their only daughter, from early on, escaped her 5 younger brothers by disappearing into the woods & waterways. She grew up in canoes or on skis & has managed to incorporate an outdoor lifestyle (with a Recreology degree & ORCKA qualifications) into her city existence & artistic calling. Trailhead kept her gainfully employed for about 10 years before her 2 boys were born, & her last 15 years have been spent as a self-employed artist (see <http://acrylart.ca/> ) She now happily disappears with Laco. [Seat –B23 ]

**CLARKE, Arthur** - a retired software developer who takes every opportunity to hike or paddle a canoe. Born and raised in Montreal, he began paddling when he moved to the Ottawa Valley in the 70's and hasn't looked back. He was introduced to the far North on a trip down the Thelon River. He recently paddled the Snake River and hiked the West Coast Trail in 2006. He is interested in the environmental impact of canoe trekking and has formed a company, engaged in the design and manufacturing of eco-friendly outdoor gear. [Seat –B29 ]

**COOPER, Joel** - has lived on the shore of Lake Superior since 1982 and he has paddled the Mountain River in the NWT, the shore of eastern Lake Superior plus most of the rivers in the eastern Lake Superior area- some of them more than once. His passion for the Big Lake extends to his involvement with the Citizens Concerned for Michipicoten Bay and serving on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Lake Superior Provincial Park. Joel's volunteer work also includes maintaining campsites on the Lake Superior shoreline, taking MNR and Ontario Parks staff on shoreline tours and working with the MNR's Peregrine Falcon Recovery program - therefore, he has put over 22,000 km on his small motorboat. [Seat – C25]

**FRIMETH, Jack and Daniel** - Jack has been canoe tripping for more than 40 years, having soloed for about 30 of those. When each of his two sons (Jacob and Daniel) reached the ripe old age of 5, Jack began taking them on trips. Jacob has found other sports calling him in the summer months. However, Daniel (turned 12 in December) continued to "trip" with his Dad. Jack and Dan have most recently tripped on the Montreal River (Temagami), the Sutton

River (Hudson Bay), the Missinaibi River (Peterbell to Mattice), and the Petawawa River (Brent to Lake McManus). This past July, Jack and Dan went further north and did the Mara-Burnside from Nose Lake to Bathurst Inlet. [Seats – B30 & B31]

**GARDNER, John** - Parish priest and Correctional chaplain, John has attempted to preserve his sanity by spending at least six weeks a year for fifty years in a canoe retracing traditional fur trade routes with a wide variety of friends. John and his wife Beve paddled and walked ocean to ocean across Canada in 1990. [Seat – A22 ]

**HADFIELD, Dave** - is a canoeist and snowshoe walker who has travelled widely in NE Manitoba and NW Ontario. A songwriter for many years, he was able to put many of his experiences and love of the Bush into music. Now based in Barrie, ON, his band, Dave Hadfield and Friends, appear at many venues from folk festivals to Irish pubs to Wilderness get-togethers and have recorded several CDs.

**HARTING, Toni** - (presenter and symposium photographer) was an active canoe tripper between 1974 and 2001, creating numerous photographs, articles, and books on wilderness canoeing. He is the interim editor of *Nastawgan* , the quarterly journal of the WCA. [Seat – A20 ]

**IRVIN, Tim** - worked as a tree planter, field biologist and grizzly bear natural history guide before taking up his current post at the BC Ministry of Environment in Victoria. He paddled extensively in his home province of Ontario before heading to the arctic, where the tundra captured his heart and imagination on three multi-week trips. He has recently published a book entitled *Arctic Inspired: A Tribute to the Tundra*, that is a compilation of photos, writing and paintings inspired by people's travels in the arctic. [Seat – A29]

**JENNINGS, Julia** - for the last six years, Julia Jennings has led canoe trips in northern Ontario and Quebec, the Yukon, NWT and Nunavut for Camp Wanapitei on Lake Temagami. Last year, she led a two month canoe trip on the Kazan River and its western watershed; next summer, she will be leading a similar two month trip in the far northwest. She also works at the Canadian Canoe Museum doing historic interpretations for school groups. [Seat – B13 ]

**KOMENDANT, Rita** - (from Lawrence Park, Toronto) was beguiled into canoeing by her future husband **Craig NORELL** (from the end of a gravel road in Sioux Lookout) after a heart-stopping meeting in an Architect's office in Calgary in 1980, with a 3 day trip on the North Saskatchewan in a borrowed blue tub of a boat. Since then it's been downriver all the way. [Seats - C27 & C28]

**KOVAC, Lester** - (“Canadianized” version of original Laco (pronounced “Latzó”)) – software engineer, immigrated from Czecho-Slovakia in 1992, where he had been hiking the mountains & exploring & mapping the caves of Slovakia. In Canada he’s discovered the passion of canoeing remote places and Lynette. Laco’s trip reports can be found at [http://www.geocities.com/l\\_kovac/](http://www.geocities.com/l_kovac/) and his canoeing maps are listed at <http://www.cartespleinair.org/>. [Seat – B22 ]

**LEPARD, Chris** - along with her husband John, took up wilderness canoeing later in life. However in the last 16 years the couple have paddled over 12,000 km. Chris and John spend 5-6 weeks every year exploring the Canadian wilderness. Chris is obsessed with the outdoors and many years ago dumped her career as an accountant in order to create and operate a garden centre specializing in hardy perennial plants. When not canoeing she is a passionate gardener and photographer. Wilderness, outdoor and gardening images can be viewed at [www.chrislepard.com](http://www.chrislepard.com) and at [www.canningperennials.com](http://www.canningperennials.com). [Seat – B20 ]

**LUSTE, George** - still dreams of more long trips deep in the arctic 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 – A11]

**MORRISON, Don** - artist, educator, naturalist, conservationist, president of South Peel Naturalist’s Club, grandparent, woodworker and wilderness traveler. [Seat – B28 ]

**MORRISON, Jay** - decided to paddle across Canada in the 2006 season as a retirement project to promote wilderness conservation for the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. Finally coming to his senses on Lake Superior, he realized that racing over the historic fur trades routes meant losing an opportunity to find out about Canada and Canadians. He slowed down, learned a thing or two and completed the 8,000 km journey this spring. [Seat – C11 ]

**PATTERSON, Alan** - at age 12 he accompanied his father on a canoe trip down the Parsnip River and up the Finlay River, both tributaries of the Peace River and now unfortunately flooded by the WAC Bennett dam on the Peace. Since then He has traveled in the Canadian Rockies both on foot and with horses, and recently did a trip by raft down the Nahanni river. [Seat – A28 ]

**PELLY, David** - has been living and traveling – and writing – in Canada’s North for 30 years. *The Old Way North* is his 8<sup>th</sup> book on the Arctic: the land and its people. As Peter Irniq said when he was the first Commissioner of Nunavut: “You will learn something from David’s work – he writes about the real stuff.” The full title of his presentation is “The Old

Way North – stories of the northern landscape surrounding Oberholtzer and Mage’s 1912 route to Hudson Bay”. [Seat – A25 ]

**PETER, Aaju** - was born in Arkisserniaq in northern Greenland. She attended elementary and high school in Denmark. In 1981 Aaju moved to Iqaluit in Nunavut where she now lives with her five children. Aaju has been a strong advocate for Inuit rights. In particular she strongly opposes the European Union proposed bans on seal and sealskin products. Aaju is also interested in having nation states recognize that the Northwest Passage is Canadian internal waters and therefore within Canadian territory. [Seat – A24 ]

**SCHAEFER, Bob** - has travelled down many northern rivers and has always enjoyed wandering on foot over the landscape as much as floating down the rivers. There’s always something new to be found, and the long evenings provide plenty of opportunity at the end of the day’s paddle. At home in the winter, migrant birds provide a living link for him to the tundra and taiga. [Seat – B27]

**SESSIONS, Lee** - Canadian love affair began when he led trips in Quetico Park in the 80’s. Grew up in St. Louis. After graduation from Colorado College, he paddled the length of the Mississippi River from Lake Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico. But his heart pulls him North, where he paddles a different tundra river each summer. He traces his addiction to the Caribou River Expedition of 1991. Lee pays taxes in Portland, Oregon, and travels frequently for work and fun. He is Director of Portfolio Business Development for Intel Capital and plans to paddle the Mara—Burnside in ’09. [Seat - A27]

**STONE, Jim** - was introduced to wilderness canoeing at the old Camp Temagami. He has a day job as a diplomat but sometimes moonlights as an explorer of almost unknown wilderness canoers and travelers. In 2002, Jim and Max Finkelstein canoed AP Low’s trails on the Eastmain and Rupert Rivers and parlayed the trip into their book *Paddling the Boreal Forest – in Search of AP Low*. This is his second presentation to the WCS. [Seat – C20 ]

**WELLS, David** - began as a Forester but soon fell for the charms of paddling Lake Superior. In 1994 a spectacular peninsula with an old corporate retreat became available on Lake Superior at Michipicoten Bay. Naturally Superior Adventures and Rock Island lodge was born. See <http://www.naturallysuperior.com/> [Seat – C24]