

Northern Travels & Northern Perspectives X

February 18 & February 19, 2011 at Monarch Park Collegiate Auditorium, One Hanson St, Toronto.

All sessions in the auditorium.

Friday evening, February 18, 2011

- 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
 - Larry Coady St John's - NF The Lost Canoe - Hesketh Prichard in Labrador
 - Jean-Phillipe Messier Baie Comeau - QC Northern Aboriginal Seminars at Mushuau-nipi
 - Serge Ashini Goupil Schefferville - QC
 - & Elisabeth Ashini
 - Al Pace Orangeville - ON Legacy Wild - 30 year Arctic Wilderness Journey
- 9:30 - 10:30 p.m. - Reception in cafeteria.

Saturday, February 19, 2011 - 25 min per presentation

- 8:30 a.m. - Doors opened for attendees & book table opens.
- 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. - Session II - Ontario & Manitoba Canoe Travels -
 - Jim & Ted Baird Thornhill - ON The Pukaskwa Experience
 - Aaron Orkin Toronto - ON The Little North Canoe Expedition
 - John & Katherine Clement Toledo - OH Bloodvein River Canoe Adventures
 - Doug Heym & Ted Gallagher
- 10:30 - 11:10 a.m. - Refreshment break in cafeteria + book table
- 11:10 - 12:40 p.m. - Session III - "Why?" - and Tragic "why?" -
 - Ross McIntyre Lyme - NH Why We Paddle
 - Philip Schubert Kanata - ON Retracing the Hubbard & Wallace Saga
 - Geoff Jones Stoddard - NH In Search of wilderness - 1968 Churchill R, SK
- 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 - Near Wilderness and Personal Perspectives
 - Ed Bartram King City - ON Georgian Bay Landscapes
 - Jack Gregg York - ME A Long Time in One Place - Upper French R
 - David Bain Kitchener - ON Towards a Personal Canoeing Philosophy
- 3:50 - 4:30 p.m. - Refreshment break in cafeteria + book table
- 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Session V - Experiences & Perspectives -
 - Phil Lange Toronto - ON Kayak Research on Baffin Island
 - Tija Luste Dirks Toronto - ON Paddling the Western R w not-so-young Parents
 - Carol Hodgins Peterborough - ON Fifty Years of Northern Canoe Travel
- 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 Overviews
 - John & Christine Yip Toronto - ON Thomsen River Adventures, Banks Island
 - Dot Bonenfant Chelsea - QC Mista-Shipu / The Grand (Churchill R, Labrador)
 - & Lynn Gillespie
 - Elisabeth Ashini Schefferville - QC My Youth on the Moise R & the Nomad Innu Culture

Background Music Selections by Sandy Richardson.

Thank you for coming.

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

Participants at the 26th Annual Wilderness and Canoeing Symposium

February 18-19, 2011, Toronto

ASHINI, Elisabeth – is an Innu from Northern Quebec and a trained nurse. Her extensive experience of the First Nations social and health development issues make her a key resource in understanding the current reality of Quebec First Nations. She has been taking an active part in the activities of Aventures Ashini since its beginnings (2002). By welcoming all participants (she is the Mushuau-nipi hostess) she establishes a significant bond between them. Elisabeth Ashini is also an expert of the Innu Nation knowledge transmission. [Seat - A22]

BAIN, David – is a novice canoeist (after 17 years), a teacher of Canadian History and English, and a recent contributor of several articles to *Kanawa* magazine. When not actually canoeing, he devotes his time to collecting and reading every canoeing book he can get his hands on. For the past 7 years David has run a canoeing and camping club (The Voyageurs) for students and their parents at his Elementary school in Waterloo, Ontario. [Seat – B31]

BAIRD, Jim & Ted – the Baird brothers have been lucky enough to paddle several wilderness rivers including the Kuujjua, South Nahanni, Stikine, Moisie, and more. They created a web site www.canoebeyond.com to help other paddlers plan canoe trips and expeditions. Both of the brothers have a keen eye for photography and their images have appeared in many publications; mostly as part of Jim's feature articles. Jim and Ted currently work with a map publisher based out of Toronto. In the near future Jim will be working with *Field & Stream Magazine* where his point A to B canoe expeditions will be featured in the *Field & Stream Adventurer* blog, Ted will be accompanying Jim on several of these endeavours. [Seats – C26-C27]

BARTRAM, Ed – has a Masters degree in Art and Archeology from the University of Toronto but quickly began doing his own art relating to canoe trips he took throughout the Thirty Thousand Islands of Georgian Bay. He was an instructor at the Ontario College of Art but now spends all his time doing his own work. Last year he had an exhibit at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection and running from February 26-March 19, 2011 he will have a solo show of paintings at the Mira Godard Gallery in Toronto. A book, *Canadian Shield: The Rocks That Made Canada* [available at the book table], has recently been published by Fitzhenry and Whiteside containing many of his photographs of the eastern shore of Georgian Bay. [Seat – C40]

BONNENFANT, Dot – can't recall not knowing how to canoe and is a white water and flat water instructor and trip leader with the National Capital Region YMCA YWCA Canoe Camping club and seeks out Canada's historical canoe routes, solo and with friends. When not paddling, Dot works at the University of Ottawa and is a paddle artist in her spare time (www.heritagepaddles.com). [See paddle displays at the front of the auditorium.] In the summer of 2010 Dot organized a trip with six mature women to travel down the beautiful Mista-Shipu River, (a.k.a. 'The Grand' or 'The Churchill') – to see this little travelled treasure in Labrador before it is dammed and now, to make the case for preserving this 5,000+ year old route. [Seat - B22]

CLEMENT, John – lives in Toledo, Ohio and has been taking summer canoe trips on Canadian Rivers for over 40 years. Recently (last 30 years) the trips have been with his wife and four daughters, or some portion of that group. Their family canoe club is the JOPCC (Jumping off Place Canoe Club). [Seat – D27]

CLEMENT, Katherine – Kat recently graduated from Ohio University with a degree in photojournalism. For the past two summers Kat has been the director of wilderness canoeing at Camp Birchwood in Northern Minnesota. Katherine currently resides in Ithaca, NY. [Seat – D28]

COADY, Larry – started his career as an Arctic char biologist in northern Labrador and retired (a decade ago) as Director of Science at the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre in St. John's, Newfoundland. He is a long-time member of the Newfoundland Historical Society and currently serves as President of that organization. Among his many Labrador involvements he coordinated the environmental assessment of the Voisey's Bay nickel mine for the federal government. He serves on a number of Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency funding review committees and continues to research and write Labrador history. Larry is the author of *The Lost Canoe* [available at the book table], which deals with the 1910 Prichard Expedition in Labrador. [Seat - A27]

DIRKS, Tija Luste – is an urban planner and economist who works for the Ontario government on the award-winning Places to Grow initiative to curb urban sprawl and build strong healthy communities. Introduced to canoeing at a young age by her father, George Luste, she has paddled extensively across Canada. Although less able to get away now that she has two young children, this past summer she managed to leave them with her husband and mother-in-law for a gruelling trip on the Western River. [Seat - B41]

GALLAGHER, Ted – works as an engineer for Wright Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. He makes up the second half of the Heym/Gallagher canoe team. [Seat – D30]

GILLESPIE, Lynn – has a PhD in Botany and works at the Canadian Museum of Nature studying arctic grasses. Lynn has been an adventurer throughout her life with travels around the world for love of places, people and for her work. Lynn has skied across Baffin Island, biked through Africa, hiked and climbed mountains, sailed Georgian Bay, taught with Students on Ice and in short – has the soul of a traveller. She is an easy traveling companion with good sense and good humour. [Seat - B23]

GOUPIL, Ashini Serge – is member of the Innu Nation from Matimekush Lac John and the owner of Aventures Ashini (see <http://www.ashini.com/en/>). For the last six years, he has organized, with Jean-Philippe L. Messier, the Séminaires Nordiques Autochtones, a not-to-be-missed event held annually in August in Northern Quebec. The event takes place directly on an ancestral aboriginal meeting ground on the banks of George River, referred to by the Innu Nation as Mushuau-nipi. The seminars facilitate the discovery of the traditional Innu way of life in the presence of elders, but with a focus on sharing, exchanging, and discussing issues of fundamental importance to Québécois society and First Nations people. [Seat - A23]

GREGG, Jack – was born in New York City and has lived in Maine since 1967. He first went to Canada in 1948 and to the French River in 1949. He has travelled widely in Canada by car, airplane, train, and small ship, but his canoeing has been confined to eastern Ontario and the Ottawa River in Quebec. He first paddled a canoe (a very early Grumman) in 1946. He was an editor for the Sierra Club, a high school English teacher, a theatre professor, and an actor before retiring to

curmudgeonhood. He says this about his presentation: “In more than 60 years of visiting the Upper French River, in all seasons, in every month, I have come to know the area and the First Nation people who live there. I shall refer especially to William Lariviere, who built the mid-20th century, 12-foot bark canoe on the stage. I shall bring in oral tradition and range beyond the Upper French, perhaps down the French to Georgian Bay, to the Mattawa and Ottawa Rivers, and to Algonquin Park. I’ll cite/quote people who wrote about their experiences in these places 100 years ago and suggest that we have lost much knowledge of the land as we learned to travel faster and farther. There is value in long experience locally, as there is in wide-ranging travel – and I’ve done that, too, although not by canoe.” [Seat – B29]

HEYM, Doug – is a forester for the State of Michigan and lives in the Lansing area. Doug and Ted have canoed together since they were young in Southern Ohio. [Seat – D31]

HODGINS, Carol – has been connected to Camp Wanapitei, Temagami since 1957. She began co-leading trips with Bruce (spouse) in 1957 in the Temagami area. Across the years their trips spread to Rivers across Northern Canada. [There are three book at the book table that involve the presenter; (i) *Wanapitei Canoe Trippers’ Cookbook III*. (ii) *Paddling Partners - Fifty Years of Northern Canoe Travel* by Bruce W. and Carol Hodgins; (iii) *Wanapitei on Temagami, A Story of Adventure 1931—2005* Bruce W. Hodgins.] [Seat – E30]

JONES, Geoff – grew up in rural southwestern NH in the 1950s and ’60s. He is a professional forester with 30+ years experience as director of land management with Society for the Protection of NH Forests. He currently owns *Loveland Forestry* – a forestry consulting and tree care business in Stoddard, NH where he is the 4th generation of his family to live in a 200-year old cape. He is a four-year Veteran of US Coast Guard (including tour of duty in Vietnam). In 1968, at the age of 19, he and two fellow UNH students paddled up the Clearwater River from Waterways, Alberta, traversed the 12.5 mile Meythe Portage into the headwaters of the Churchill River, which they paddled to Port Churchill, Manitoba. On the last 300 mile leg of the 1,200 mile journey they had an accident at a spot in the river known as “Mountain Rapids” on August 14, 1968. When they got to the bottom of the mile-long set of class V+ rapids, there were three boats, two people, and one paddle and 150 tough miles of uncertainty to the safety of Port Churchill. This was a defining experience, that in the words of paddler/CBS correspondent Eric Sevareid, “was an example of what very young men can do – once in their lives – but never again”. [Seat - A26]

KOVAC, Lester – (“Canadianized” version of original Laco (pronounced “Lato”) – software engineer, emigrated from Czechoslovakia in 1992, where he had been hiking the mountains and exploring and mapping the caves of Slovakia. In Canada he’s discovered the passion of canoeing remote places together with Lynette. L&L’s trip reports can be found at <http://sites.google.com/site/LandLtrips/> and Lester's canoeing maps are listed at <http://www.cartespleinair.org/>. [Note: Lester graciously agreed to be a back-up presenter in case of a ‘no-show’ in the program] [Seat – C27]

LANGE, Phil – began kayaking in 1972, built 5 fabric-on-wood frame kayaks, made a few paddling trips. During (nearly) 5 years living on southern Baffin Island (Kimmirut, Iqaluit) he did anthropological research for 1.5 years and community work for nearly 3.5 years. He is now retired. [Seat - A24]

LUSTE, George – continues to be engaged at the University of Toronto as head of the Faculty Association – even though a decade ago, during his long solo canoe venture from Yellowknife to Baker Lake via the Back River, he was seriously considering early retirement. He shares with many others here the melancholy reality of ‘so little time and so much northern wilderness to experience.’ He is reminded that as a young undergraduate student he first read Albert Einstein’s words: “*We are all here for a brief sojourn, for what purpose we know not, though we sometimes think we feel it.*” - [Seat – A12]

McINTYRE, O. Ross (MD) – is a retired Cancer Center Director who has summed up his 65 years of canoe paddling in a recently published memoir, *Paddle Beads* [available at the book table]. He takes the view that if life is an allegorical river trip, one should paddle it in a good boat along with some dear friends – ones that take being out of the boat from time to time with grace and good humour. [Seat – A32]

MESSIER, Jean-Philippe – is the founder and current director of the Manicouagan-Uapishka World Biosphere Reserve, located in Quebec. This prestigious international status was granted to the region by UNESCO on September 2007, after 5 years of work on sustainable development and regional dialogue. Mr. Messier has also co-organized all annual editions of “Aboriginal Northern Seminars.” [Seat - A21]

ORKIN, Aaron – ten years ago, Aaron came to his first Wilderness Canoe Symposium and decided he needed to go on a long canoe trip. He became distracted away from this dream by becoming a family doctor. But in the summer of 2009, together with his friend Nick Townley, Aaron paddled from Sioux Lookout to Fort Severn, Ontario. He lives in Toronto. [Seat – C31]

PACE, Al – is a renowned Studio Potter who creates distinctively Canadian stoneware vessels at his log studio in scenic Hockley Valley near Orangeville, Ontario. Al and his wife, Lin Ward operate Canoe North Adventures and together, have guided more than 80 northern expeditions exploring over 20,000 river miles. “Since 1977, I believed my time exploring Canada’s northern wilderness by canoe was a deeply personal and entirely private experience. After years of struggling to separate my creative studio work from my wilderness adventures, I finally relented and let my two worlds collide in full force. My pottery designs reflect the textures and rhythms of the mysterious northern landscape.” [Seat – B27]

SCHUBERT, Philip – a slow starter in most things, he discovered the joys of travel in trackless wilderness only in 1999 after reading Dillon Wallace’s *Lure of the Labrador Wild* [available at the book table]. It seemed to fit with his past challenges where as a Masters Runner, he was a member of a 4 by 400 metre team which were Canadian champions and was the indoor 200 metre champion in Ontario (the secret being that the really good runners had retired!). Regarding the sane portion of his life, he works as an energy specialist for the Canadian International Development Agency and has a very understanding wife. [Seat – C33]

YIP, John & Christine - John and Christine met on a canoe trip in the early 1970s and have been canoeing together ever since. In the 1980s they were canoe trip leaders for the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (Ontario Nature). In 1981, they caught the Arctic bug with their first Arctic trip on the Coppermine River and have canoed a number of Arctic rivers since. The Thomsen River on Banks Island was their first 'high Arctic' experience. [Seat – A30 A31]