

About Us

Friends of Wabakimi is an Ontario not-for-profit corporation created carry on the work of [The Wabakimi Project](#) to map and improve canoe routes and to advocate for the natural, cultural and historical resources of the [Wabakimi Area](#).

Current Strategic Plan

Our Vision

The Wabakimi Area shall be an exceptional destination for wilderness recreation activities for the benefit of present and future generations of visitors.

Our Mission

Through volunteer stewardship initiatives and in collaboration with government agencies, non-government organizations and other stakeholders, *Friends of Wabakimi* will participate in planning processes to advocate the protection and preservation of the diverse natural, cultural and historical resources of the [Wabakimi Area](#).

Organizational Principles

FOW will embrace the following organizational principles in the conduct of its affairs:

- Operate in an honest, open, transparent, constructive and respectful manner;
- Develop relationships in a spirit of collaboration and not of confrontation;
- Adopt positions and develop strategies based on sound science and research;
- Make decisions based on consensus;
- Practice sound evidence-based decision making;
- Encourage the commitment and volunteer contributions of members;
- Engage all who respect and support the vision, mission and values of FOW; and,
- Acknowledge and respect traditional treaty rights and privileges of First Nations.

Goals & Strategies

FOW will strive to achieve the following four (4) goals using the strategies listed for each:

1. FOW will actively advocate for the protection and preservation of the diverse natural, cultural and historical resources of the [Wabakimi Area](#).

FOW will achieve this goal through the following strategies:

- Engage and collaborate with government agencies, NGOs, First Nations, tourism and resource-based industries, and other stakeholders;
- Develop partnerships with, or memberships in, government agencies and NGOs that share and respect the interests, vision, mission and values of FOW;
- Actively campaign for conservation of the ecological integrity of the [Wabakimi Area](#);
- Monitor and actively participate in land-use planning exercises that impact the ecological integrity or wilderness recreational opportunities of the [Wabakimi Area](#);
- Support sustainable economic development that does not disturb or threaten the ecological integrity or wilderness recreational opportunities of the [Wabakimi Area](#);
- Identify strategies to mitigate the impact of threats to the ecological integrity or wilderness recreational opportunities of the [Wabakimi Area](#);
- Issue timely news releases to print and electronic media to address threats to the ecological integrity or wilderness recreational opportunities of the [Wabakimi Area](#); and,
- Encourage visitors to the Area practice recognised, sustainable land-use principles such as Leave No Trace, Pack In--Carry Out, and No Can--No Bottle.

2. FOW will ensure existing canoe routes and related land-based values in the Area are identified, recognised, maintained and improved.

FOW will achieve this goal through the following strategies:

- Identify potential canoe routes through research of extant maps, reports and journals;
- Mount volunteer reconnaissance expeditions to confirm and document the existence of identified canoe routes and to improve their condition as needed;
- Document the locations and measured lengths of portages and the locations and capacities of backcountry campsites on confirmed canoe routes;
- Collect current canoe route data contributed by visitors to the Wabakimi Area;
- Collaborate with Ontario Parks and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to ensure accurate and complete canoe route information is registered in the MNRF Natural Resources Values Information System (NRVIS) data base and included in all future Ontario Parks and MNRF publications;
- Collaborate with forest management planners to ensure accurate and complete canoe route information is rendered on forest management values maps;
- Develop stewardship initiatives in co-operation with Ontario Parks and MNRF to rehabilitate, maintain and improve canoe routes identified in NRVIS; and,
- Report impacts of human use and threats to the ecological integrity of the Wabakimi Area (e.g., poaching, trash sites, pollution, forest fires, etc.) to appropriate authorities.

3. FOW will be the leading source of current, accurate information about sustainable wilderness recreation opportunities in the Wabakimi Area.

FOW will achieve this goal through the following strategies:

- Develop, update and publish Wabakimi Canoe Route Maps booklets as new, verifiable canoe route data becomes available and demand dictates;
- Develop and publish a Wabakimi Canoe Routes Planning Map;
- Compile and publish a comprehensive list of canoe route launch sites;
- Compile and publish a list of resource-based tourism establishments and the services, equipment and supplies each offers;
- Publish visitor information on the corporate website and Facebook pages;
- Publish printed and electronic educational materials to enhance visitor experiences;
- Participate in paddling events, symposia and expositions to promote the Wabakimi Area, grow the FOW membership and recruit volunteer participants for future reconnaissance expeditions;
- Submit articles to commercial print and electronic media to promote sustainable wilderness recreation in the Wabakimi Area;
- Provide complementary canoe route and trip planning advice to FOW members

4. FOW will strengthen its capacity to successfully deliver its mission.

FOW will achieve this goal through the following strategies:

- Develop a comprehensive and sustainable revenue stream from membership fees, the sale of goods, corporate sponsorships and partnerships, fundraising activities, grants, donations, gifts and bequests to govern and manage the day-to-day affairs and to achieve the objects (or purposes) of the Corporation;
- Develop strong, productive and respectful partnerships with government agencies; NGOs, First Nations, tourism and resource-based industries, and other stakeholders to promote protection and preservation of the diverse natural, cultural and historical resources of the Wabakimi Area and to help the Corporation achieve its objects;
- Improve knowledge of natural resource management and conservation biology;
- Develop public outreach educational programs;
- Instill a culture of continuous evaluation and improvement in all corporate affairs;
- Develop a succession plan to recruit future Board members and Officers;
- Design effective induction training programs for new Directors and Officers;
- Participate in web-based informational and training programs for Directors and Officers;
- Conduct regular risk management reviews and update the Risk Register as required;
- Conduct regular reviews to assess the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis and update as required; and,
- Report regularly to FOW members regarding strategic planning results and outcomes.

Memberships

Your membership supports management of the day-to-day affairs of *Friends of Wabakimi* (FOW) and fulfillment of our mission to advocate for the protection and preservation of the diverse natural, cultural and historical resources of the Wabakimi Area. [Join FOW](#) for one or more years or download the mail order Application for Membership.

Benefits of Membership

- a shared interest with the Board of Directors and other members in the protection and preservation of the diverse natural, cultural and historical resources of the Wabakimi Area;
- discounts on the purchase of map products and the Wabakimi Guidebook Canoe Routes Guidebook (2021);
- information about self-directed volunteer reconnaissance expeditions;
- complementary trip planning and route orientation services (Webinar);
- receipt of biannual newsletter;
- entitlement to attend members' meetings during your term of membership;
- eligibility to vote at any members' meetings that occurs more than 45 days after the date of issue of your membership including the annual meeting during which the Board of Directors is elected; and,
- Any other benefits as determined from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Contact Us

Email Address: info@wabakimi.org

Postal Address:

Friends of Wabakimi
1060 Riverdale Road
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7J 1N2