

Friends of
Wabakimi

Fall 2015

Newsletter

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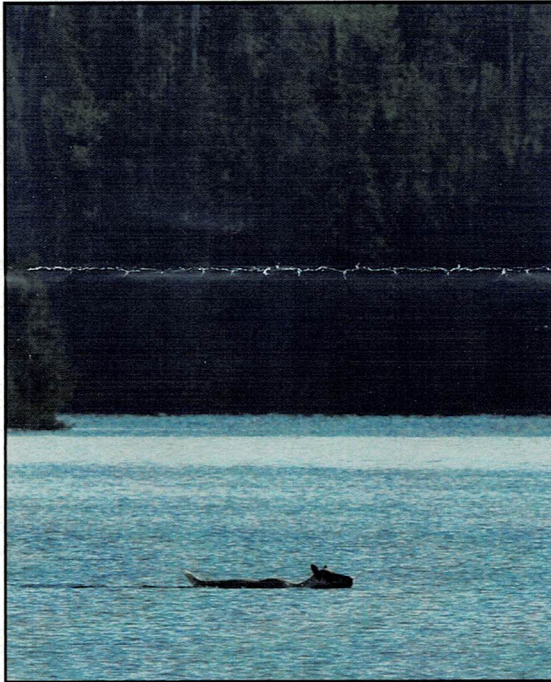


Photo: John Holmes, 2015

What sets a canoe expedition apart is that it purifies you more rapidly and inescapably than any other. Travel a thousand miles by train and you are a brute; pedal five hundred on a bicycle and you remain basically a bourgeois; paddle a hundred in a canoe and you are already a child of nature.

Pierre Elliott Trudeau (1919 - 2000)
Prime Minister of Canada

Welcome to Wabakimi

This first edition of the Friends of Wabakimi (FOW) Newsletter marks the culmination of an exciting year since FOW was incorporated on October 2, 2014.


The Board of Directors (the "Incorporators") has been busy getting FOW up and running. Several Directors assumed extra responsibilities as Officers including President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and Communication Officer. Key governance documents have been developed including the By-law and the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan both of which are posted for viewing on the FOW website.

The FOW logo was designed by Paul Clark of Inspirtainment Inc. Bill McCarvell of Syntaxis On-Line Inc. was responsible for the design and hosting of the FOW website. Ownership of the copyright of Wabakimi Canoe Route Maps and The Wabakimi Project website was purchased from Canadian Wilderness Experience for one dollar.

Congratulations to Shannon Lawr on his appointment as Acting Superintendent of Wabakimi Provincial Park. The Board looks forward to collaborating with Shannon and his staff as the new park management plan is developed. FOW continues to engage in forest management planning exercises for the Crown lands adjacent to Wabakimi and to advocate for the protection and preservation of the natural, cultural and historical resources of the entire Wabakimi Area.

Arrangements are well underway to hold the first annual members' meeting in Toronto next February. Details are posted on page 4 of this Newsletter. Formal notice of the meeting with explanatory notes and a proxy form will be e-mailed to each member in early January, 2016.

FRIENDS OF WABAKIMI
www.friendsofwabakimi.org

Find us on 

www.facebook.com/friendsofwabakimi

President's Message

Friends of Wabakimi (FOW) is a not-for-profit organization founded to preserve and protect the recreational opportunities in the Wabakimi Area for the benefit of present and future generations of visitors. Through stewardship projects and educational programs, FOW will support and eventually assume responsibility for the canoe routes in the Wabakimi Area that volunteers of The Wabakimi Project have explored, rehabilitated and mapped.

Our first year of operation has exceeded all expectations of success. Directors and Officers have worked tirelessly to promote and grow support of FOW. Our initial membership campaign has produced broad-based support for the objects set out in our Letters Patent granted last October. Efforts to solicit partnerships and sponsorships have been actively pursued.

FOW members are outdoor enthusiasts who cherish every day spent in the wilderness with family and friends. They demonstrate support of our volunteer conservation initiatives in the Wabakimi Area with their gifts, donations and annual membership subscriptions. Revenues from these sources and sales of our Wabakimi Canoe Route Maps booklets enable the Board of Directors to manage the day-to-day affairs of the corporation and to:

- promote the Wabakimi Area as a world-class outdoor wilderness recreation destination;
- participate in land management planning processes to advocate sustainable use of the natural, cultural and historical resources of the Wabakimi Area;
- produce printed and electronic materials to further public awareness, understanding and appreciation of the Wabakimi Area;
- maintain, document and preserve canoe routes and other outdoor recreational opportunities within the Wabakimi Area; and to,
- assist visitors to safely plan and successfully execute self-propelled recreational activities within the Wabakimi Area.

Visit our website and Facebook page to meet the Board of Directors and to learn how our members, sponsors and partners are helping FOW succeed in fulfilling its mission. I hope you will attend our first Annual Members' Meeting in Toronto next February. Meanwhile, thank you for your continued support.

Barry Simon, President
Friends of Wabakimi

A Call for Volunteers

FOW is seeking volunteers to serve as Directors of the Board. Candidates must be 18 years of age or older, free of any undischarged bankruptcy, capable of managing property and not having been found incapable by any jurisdiction in Canada or elsewhere. Minimum term of office is from the date of election until the next annual members' meeting. Application deadline is November 25, 2015. For more information, contact Barry Simon at: wabakimimaps@hotmail.com.

2004 - 2015

To date, 187 volunteers from across North America and Europe have spent 1,027 days on 123 trips exploring the Wabakimi Area. Together, they've mapped 4,682km (2,890 miles) of canoe routes, identified and cleaned 896 campsites and located and cleared 895 existing portage measuring a total of 237,078 metres (259,272 yards or 47,140 rods). Congratulations to all for a job well done! Your contributions are very much appreciated!

The Wabakimi Project

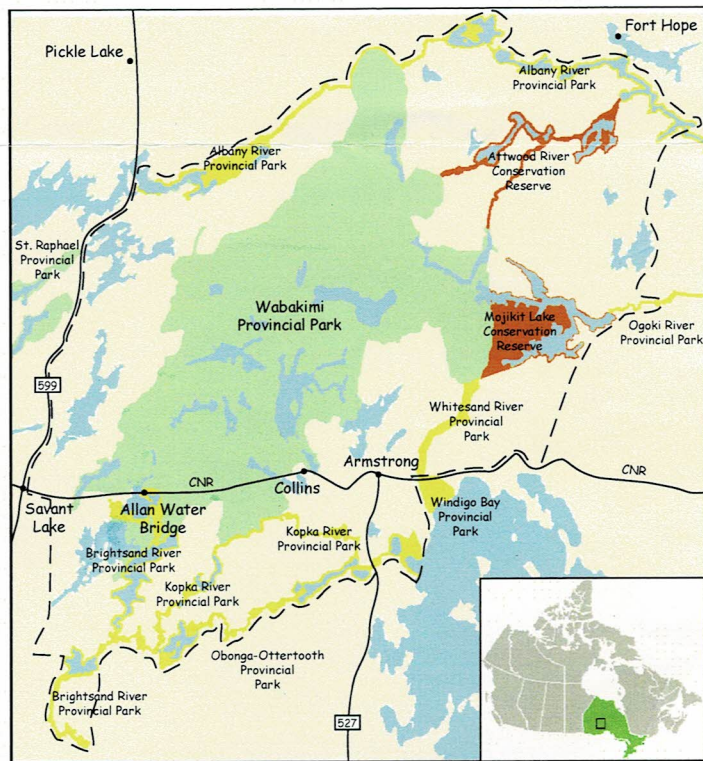
2015 witnessed a 12th successful season during which 27 volunteers spent 65 days on reconnaissance expeditions exploring the canoe routes that cross the Arctic/Atlantic Height of Land from Little Caribou and Caribou Lakes into the Big River watershed. Not all routes were completed; the remainder will be explored in 2016 along with those that link Wabakimi Provincial Park to Kopka River and Obonga-Ottertooth Provincial Parks.

2017 will mark the sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) of Canada's Confederation. Hopefully, all of the routes in the Lake Nipigon watershed will be completed by then so Volume Five of our series of Wabakimi Canoe Route Maps booklets can be released.

Mapping Wabakimi

The Wabakimi Area is the largest contiguous wilderness canoe area in the boreal forest of North America--larger than Woodland Caribou and Quetico Provincial Parks combined or even the province of Prince Edward Island. The Wabakimi Area encompasses some 2,572,734 hectares (9,934 square miles or 6,357,364 acres) and includes Albany River, Kopka River, Whitesand River, Brightsand River and Obonga-Ottertooth Provincial Parks as well as the Mojikit and Attwood Conservation Reserves. Within this vast area are some 6,000km canoe routes. To date, 89 maps detailing 4,600km of canoe routes have been published in four booklets. Help is needed to complete the remaining 1,400km!

Get involved! Give something back!



Join The Wabakimi Project

The Trip Schedule for next summer's reconnaissance expeditions is posted on The Wabakimi Project website (www.wabakimi.org). Applications to participate are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested volunteers are encouraged to apply early to avoid disappointment. No payment is required until early 2016 when the requisite Application to Participate form will be mailed to each applicant. To receive a copy of the 2016 prospectus, contact: info@wabakimi.org.

Coming Events

FOW will be in attendance at the following paddling events. Members are encouraged to attend to meet Directors and volunteers and to learn more about FOW. Bring a friend!

Outdoor Adventure & Travel Show

Date(s): February 19-21, 2016

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Organizer: National Event Management, Inc.

Website: outdooradventureshow.ca/toronto

Wilderness Canoe Symposium

Date(s): February 19-20, 2016

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Organizer: Wilderness Canoe Association

Website: www.wcsymposium.com

Canoecopia

Date(s): March 11-13, 2016

Location: Madison, Wisconsin

Organizer: Rutabaga

Website: www.canoecopia.com

Outdoors & Adventure Travel Show

Date(s): March 19-20, 2016

Location: Ottawa, Ontario

Organizer: Ottawa Outdoors Magazine

Website: www.ottawaoutdoors.ca

Spring Outdoor Adventure Expo

Date(s): April 22-24, 2016

Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Organizer: Midwest Mountaineering

Website: www.midwestmtn.com

KW Canoe Symposium

Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016

Location: Kitchener, Ontario

Organizer: David Bain

Website: www.kwcanoesymposium.ca

First Annual Members' Meeting

FOW members are encouraged to attend the first annual members' meeting to be held at:

The International Centre, Hall 5
6900 Airport Road
Mississauga, Ontario

Saturday, February 20, 2016
9:30am sharp!

AGENDA

- Call to Order & Confirmation of Quorum
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of By-law
- Application for Supplementary Letters Patent
- Election of Directors
- Approval of Financial Statements for 2015
- Adjournment

The meeting will not last more than 30 minutes.

A FOW member in good standing may attend any members' meeting. To be eligible to vote, a member must be in good standing at least 45 days prior to the meeting.

A member eligible to vote but unable to attend a members' meeting in person may nominate the President or an alternate individual to attend, vote and act on his behalf by proxy. A quorum of one-fifth (20%) of the members eligible to vote is needed to conduct any members' meeting.

The first annual members' meeting will be held in conjunction with the Toronto Outdoor Adventure & Travel Show. Following the meeting, members are encouraged to attend the show, visit our exhibitor's booth and attend our presentation.

Friends of Wabakimi gratefully acknowledges the support of National Event Management, Inc. for generously providing accommodation for our first annual members' meeting.