



**Sunday, January 31st  
Webinar! FOW/MNRF  
Meeting: Canoe routes  
Wendell Beckwith film online**

January 26, 2021 News & Updates



***"Planning a Wabakimi Trip"* Sunday, Jan 31, 2021  
7:00 PM CST, 8:00 PM EST [Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
[Here!](#)**

Wabakimi is a wilderness land of opportunity for paddling adventures. But it may be a little more "into the wild" than you've planned before. Planning a trip into Wabakimi Provincial Park could be overwhelming but with great information and resources and the gear needed, you can enjoy the wilderness trip of a lifetime! "MJ" will provide you with a starting point for designing your trip!

- \*Accessing Wabakimi: Plane, car, train
- \*Where to go: maps available, where to start, resources available
- \*Safety, Communication & Comfort
- \*What to take - gear

**Rob Kesselring, "Top Five Skills for a Wabakimi Trip"**  
**[Webinar can be viewed here!](#)**



Looking SE down Michell Lake. This is east of Caribou Lake in the Wabadowgang Noopming Forest. Timber harvesting is planned nearby.

## **[FOW Meets With MNRF & Forest Plan Authors --](#)**

FOW members just met with MNRF forest planning staff regarding the 2 year plan for the Wabadowgang Noopming Forest. This is the Armstrong area portion of the former Lake Nipigon Forest. We stressed the importance of protecting historic canoe routes, campsites, and especially important woodland caribou habitat. We addressed the need for appropriate access to canoe routes. [See FOW Board President Vern Fish's report on this meeting.](#)

### *[Items of Interest](#)*

[Back Roads Bill interview with Bruce Hyer.](#) Bruce has a long history advocating for Wabakimi Provincial Park. [Bill Steer has a terrific series of podcasts.](#)

[Two new FOW Board members!](#) Ian Curran and Victoria Steeves. They live near Canmore, Alberta, both with a strong outdoors background, bringing new energy and a strong interest in mapping and exploration. [See our site for board member bios.](#)

[FOW Members. Log in to access and update your member profiles. Request a new password if you need to. See the member directory.](#)

### *[Upcoming FOW Calendar](#)*

Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> *GO! Ultimate Adventure Planning Guide* (Toronto sports show) FOW virtual booth is live until April 4<sup>th</sup>.

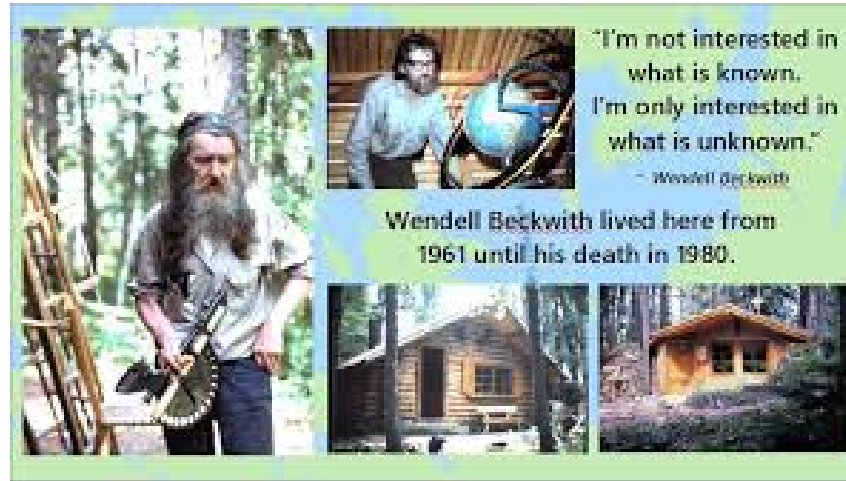
March 7th webinar, Wabakimi Canoe Routes Guidebook, Laurence Mills, author. The Guide is first of its kind and will be published this spring. An experienced Wabakimi paddler, Laurence will review the Guide and answer questions about the various routes.

March 12-14 (Friday to Sunday) Virtual Canoecopia, FOW will have a virtual booth. Vern Fish, FOW President, will have an online presentation. [Buy your Canoecopia pass here!](#)

April 4th, FOW Annual Meeting (Zoom). Current members will be sent the notice and proxy form before March 14th.

## ***FOW's Vision***

***“The Wabakimi Area shall be an exceptional wilderness recreation destination for the benefit of the present and future generation of visitors”***

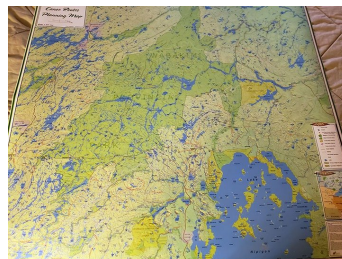


## ***In Search of Wendel Beckwith***

[A grand movie available online from the Thunder Bay Museum!](#)

Wendell Beckwith, an inventor, master wood worker, and free thinking scientist, ended up living alone on the tip of Best Island, north of Armstrong, Ontario, on the remote Whitewater Lake in 1961. There he would stay until his death in 1980 at the age of 65. Today, Wendell's cabins still attract visitors from all over the world, and his story has become a piece of Northwestern Ontario folklore.

Filmmaker Jim Hyder, who knew Wendell, partnered with the Museum to make a film of Wendell's life. The film asks, who was Wendell Beckwith? It explores his skills, his relationships, his legacy and, particularly, his science, for it was his need to uncover the natural laws that govern the universe that brought him to Northwestern Ontario. (1 hr, 36 minutes)



## ***Wabakimi Trip Planning***

**Expedition Committee Work Update.** A

second FOW Expedition Committee meeting was held on January

10th to discuss how to best work towards FOW supported expeditions into Wabakimi.

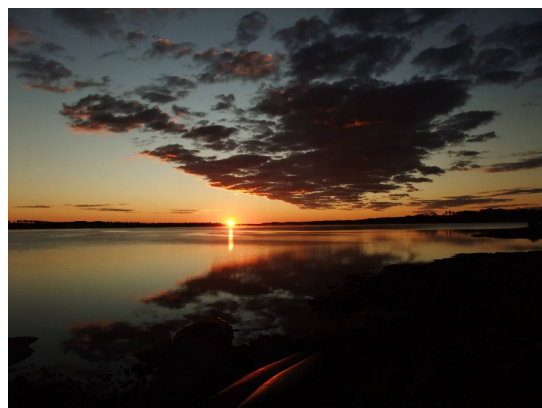
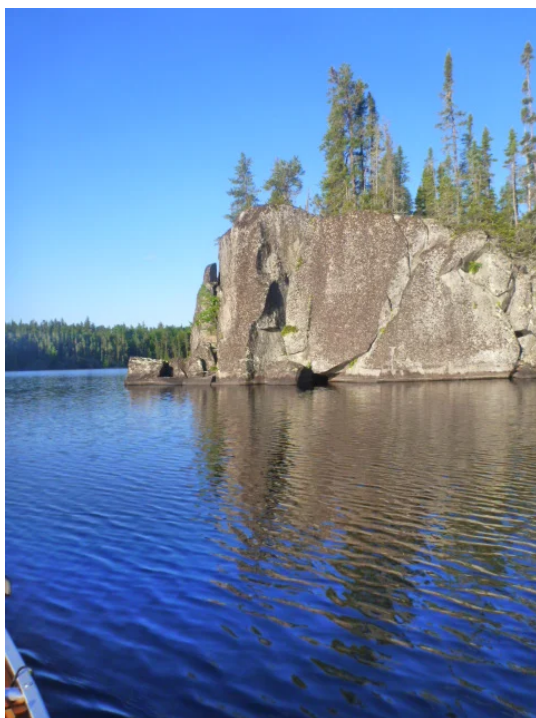
**[2021 Self-Guided Trips](#)** -- Will you paddle in support of FOW Wabakimi Canoe Routes Guidebook project and ongoing canoe route reconnaissance?

**[Planning Resources: Maps, shuttles, outfitters, equipment, blogs, forums etc.](#)** We've tried to list all the possible resources, including in the Armstrong area and eastside areas. Help us update and add to these! Reply to this newsletter email with your info and suggestions!

**[FOW Trip Report Forum](#)**. We need FOW members to post their past trip reports (and photos). Or send them to us and we'll post them for you (even if you're not yet a member). [Canoeing.com](#) also has trip reports as does [Ramblin' Boy!](#)

**[Maps of course](#)**. Our big bright FOW Planning Map (folded on 24# or rolled on high quality Satin finish) and [our five volumes of route maps](#)--which also document [14 years of The Wabakimi Project](#) route restoration, portage clearing and campsite identification. FOW member Laurence Mills (our Guidebook author) also has a collection of [excellent route maps](#). [MapTown](#) is one source for topo maps.

Join FOW Today!



## Friends of Wabakimi

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