



## January 17 & 31 Webinars! (free) PaddlePlanner.com- Wabakimi! Expedition & Trip Planning

January 5, 2021 News & Updates

Upcoming FOW Webinars!  
Sunday, January 17th, 7:00 p.m. CST (8:00 p.m. EST)  
**Rob Kesselring, Top Five Skills for a  
Wabakimi Canoe Trip.**

**Planning a Wabakimi Trip**  
By Mary Jean Blaisdell "MJ"  
Sunday, January 31st, 7:00 p.m. CST (8:00 p.m. EST)

**Rob Kesselring, Canoe Guide "Top Five Skills for a Wabakimi Trip" Time: Sunday, Jan 17, 2021 07:00 PM CST, 8:00 PM EST** [Join Zoom Meeting Here!](#) [\(More Zoom contact info\)](#)

Rob Kesselring is a veteran of 32 arctic canoe expeditions, 102 BWCAW-Quetico trips and he has paddled over 150 rivers around the globe. A wilderness guide in the Boundary Waters, Big Bend, and Gates of the Arctic National Parks. He is the author of three books: [Merlyn Carter Bush Pilot](#), [River Stories](#), and [Daughter Father Canoe](#). Rob has been a member of wilderness advocacy groups for over a half-century and has spoken many times at Canoe Expos in the United States and Canada. He typically spends over 300 nights a year under the stars worldwide. His mantra: never half-way.

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

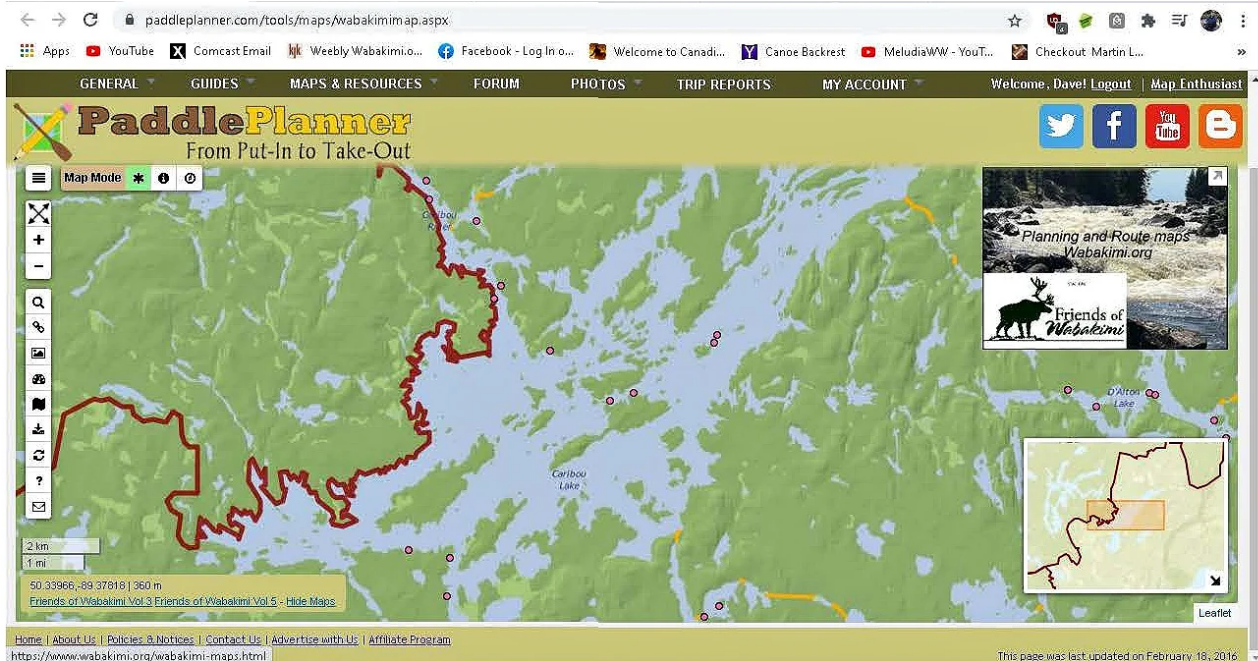
Wabakimi is a wilderness land of opportunity for paddling adventures. But it may be a little more "into the wild" than you've planned before. Planning a trip into Wabakimi Provincial Park could be overwhelming but with great information and resources and the gear needed, you can enjoy the wilderness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



## *New Exposure for Wabakimi*

The Friends of Wabakimi partnership with Duluth based [PaddlePlanner.com](http://PaddlePlanner.com) has resulted in their [new Wabakimi Area map and section](#). Developed by [Ben & Auralee Strege](#) and [Jay Harris](#), this site has interactive features to help plan canoe trips with information about portages, campsites, lakes and entry points. They are celebrating the site's 10 year anniversary with the release of Wabakimi Area section.

This supports the FOW's Vision that,

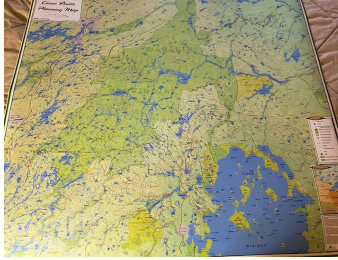
***"The Wabakimi Area shall be an exceptional wilderness recreation destination for the benefit of the present and future generation of visitors"***

Wabakimi paddlers are encouraged to share information on the Wabakimi section about campsites, portages, and routes. Photos can be shared indicating where they were taken on the map. They also have trip report section (which may also be linked to the FOW Trip Forum). Overall, this is a great planning tool. You can download or print out the information - however it doesn't replace the need for a good set of route maps while on your trip.

When you're navigating a potential route, the PaddlePlanner will indicate which FOW Map Volume contains the detailed information you also need. The site is [free for basic purposes](#), but requires a modest yearly membership for some additional route planning features. [Here's their YouTube explanation of the basic features.](#)

The PaddlePlanner is heavily used for Boundary Waters and Quetico trip planning, and to a lesser extent for other paddling areas like Algonquin, Woodland Caribou, Sylvania, Everglades, Yellowstone and others. Ben has reported growing interest and requests for the Wabakimi area.

The benefit to FOW is new exposure to a wider paddling community who may share the sentiments expressed by Ben Shelton of Texas, *"I have traveled Quetico and the BWCA many times and the remoteness of Wabakimi seems the natural progression in my exploration of the wilderness."*



## *Wabakimi Trip Planning*

**Expedition Committee Work Update.** The FOW Expedition Committee meeting was held on December 6, 2020 with 7 FOW members in attendance 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](http://Canoeing.com) also has trip reports as does [Ramblin' Boy!](http://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!





## *2020 Accomplishments!*

### **Friends of Wabakimi**

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