



***In this Issue:***

***Congratulations to the  
2023 Photo / Video  
Contest Winners!***

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***Trip Report: "Canoe Daddy"  
shares an 11-day journey  
through Brightsand,  
Kashishibog, and Kopka Rivers***

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***"In Praise of Black Spruce" by Gerry Racey.***

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***WATCH: Blake Moynes / NRDC / David Suzuki Foundation/  
FOW share new Instagram videos***

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***TAKE ACTION: for Woodland Caribou: Email Minister  
Guilbeault***

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***Who is in the Park? Wabakimi Park Biologist Shares Trail  
Cam Photos***



# Congratulations to the 2023 Photo/Video Contest Winners!

[Visit our website](#) to enjoy the winning photos and videos, as well as the other impressive entries. Thank you to all participants for sharing.



## // Brightsand - Kashishibog - Kopka Rivers Trip Report // "Canoe Daddy" shares stories from incredible eleven-day trip

*"Sure, we endured horribly low water levels and didn't get to enjoy running many of the rapids as a result, but it was still an incredible trip.*

*What will I remember? The scenery amongst the many rapids was outstanding; the campsites were amazing once we were away from access roads; the wild blueberries were large and ubiquitous; the fishing was world-class; the solitude was otherworldly (9 days without seeing another soul!); the wildlife encounters were fantastic; and the challenges that we overcame allowed us to grow and develop further as canoeists."*

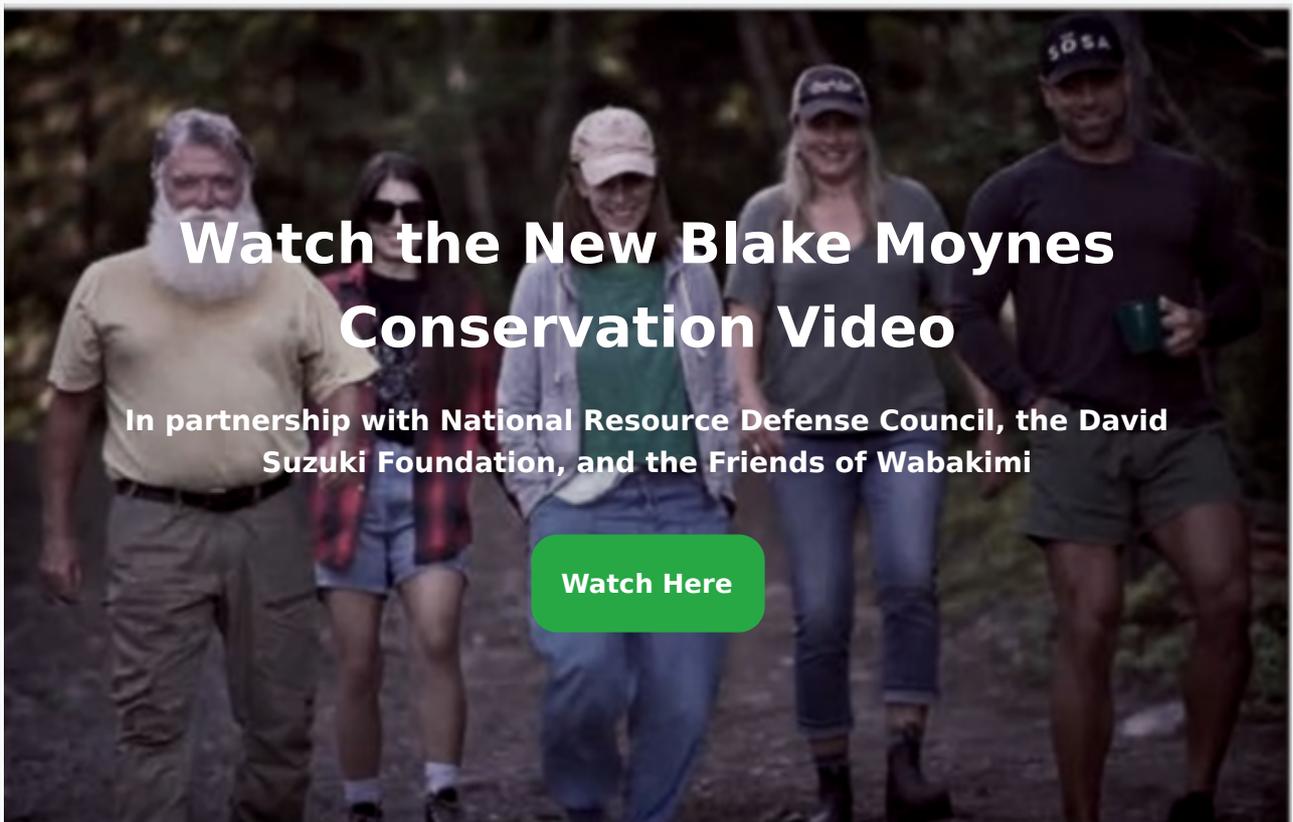
[Read the full trip report here!](#)



***" In Praise of Black Spruce " by Gerry Racey***

Originally published in the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists newsletter (2023), Gerry shares his beautiful ode to the tree that shapes our Wabakimi landscape. [Visit our website](#) to find the full article.

*Printed with Permission.*



**Watch the New Blake Moynes Conservation Video**

In partnership with National Resource Defense Council, the David Suzuki Foundation, and the Friends of Wabakimi

[Watch Here](#)

## Woodland Caribou at Risk

Conservationist and reality T.V. star Blake Moynes has partnered with National Resource Defence Council (NRDC), David Suzuki Foundation, and Friends of Wabakimi to spread the word about the challenges faced by Woodland Caribou in the boreal forest.



Watch the new [Instagram video here](#) and share!

*PS- keep your eyes peeled for some exciting insta-news from FOW!*

**TAKE ACTION for WOODLAND CARIBOU: Send an email or letter!**

**[The David Suzuki Foundation's letter campaign directed to Mr. Steven Guilbeault](#) is still open! *However, it's more effective if you write your own letter/email.***

Please tell these ministers that logging of virgin forest/caribou habitat near Wabakimi Provincial Park continues unabated. Critical caribou habitat needs more protection.

*Please write to the following, and copy us at [info@wabakimi.org](mailto:info@wabakimi.org)*

- Minister Steven Guilbeault, [Steven.Guilbeault@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Steven.Guilbeault@parl.gc.ca);
  - Or mail c/o House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0A6
- David Piccini, [david.Piccini@pc.ola.org](mailto:david.Piccini@pc.ola.org);
  - Or mail c/o Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, 5th Floor, 777 Bay St., Toronto, Ontario M5B 2H7

*Please also consider a Letter to the Editor of your local newspaper.*

## Who is in the Park?

**Wabakimi Provincial Park's Biologist, Shannon Walshe, shared a few photos from Park trail cams. See who is using the park this winter!**



### **Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*)**

It is rare to see this solitary creature. You might think they look like a relative of the bear, but they are a part of the weasel family, *Mustelidae*. They are the largest of the family, to the surprise of no one. They are impeccably designed for northern climates, with large padded paws to keep warm and aid with travelling through snow, and strong skulls that allow it to crush bones and frozen carcasses. Males weigh 13 to 18 kg, whereas females weigh 7.5 to 12.5 kg. As they require large habitat ranges and are sensitive to disturbances, their presence is considered an indicator of a healthy ecosystem. Wolverines are currently listed as "Special Concern" under the federal Species at Risk Act.



### **Boreal Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*)**

Boreal Caribou are distributed throughout the boreal forest. They require large tracts of continuous, undisturbed habitat rich with lichen, which they rely on heavily for food. In the winter, they are able to smell lichen buried under a metre of snow! Their large, split hooves provide flotation in the snow and moss, and help with digging through the snow for lichen. They are a part of the deer family, *Cervidae*, and are the only species in the family where both males and females grow antlers. For calving season, caribou cows often travel alone to islands and wetlands to give birth.

Boreal Caribou are listed as "threatened" under the Species at Risk Act. In many areas, the large tracts of undisturbed forests they require have been lost due to activities such as road building for industrial purposes.

## ***Wabakimi Paddlers - We need your Trip Reports!***

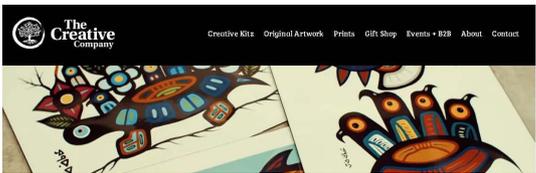
**Trip reports help others plan trips. We share portage updates with Laurence Mills, who then updates the route specific map sets.**

[Trip Journal format here!](#)

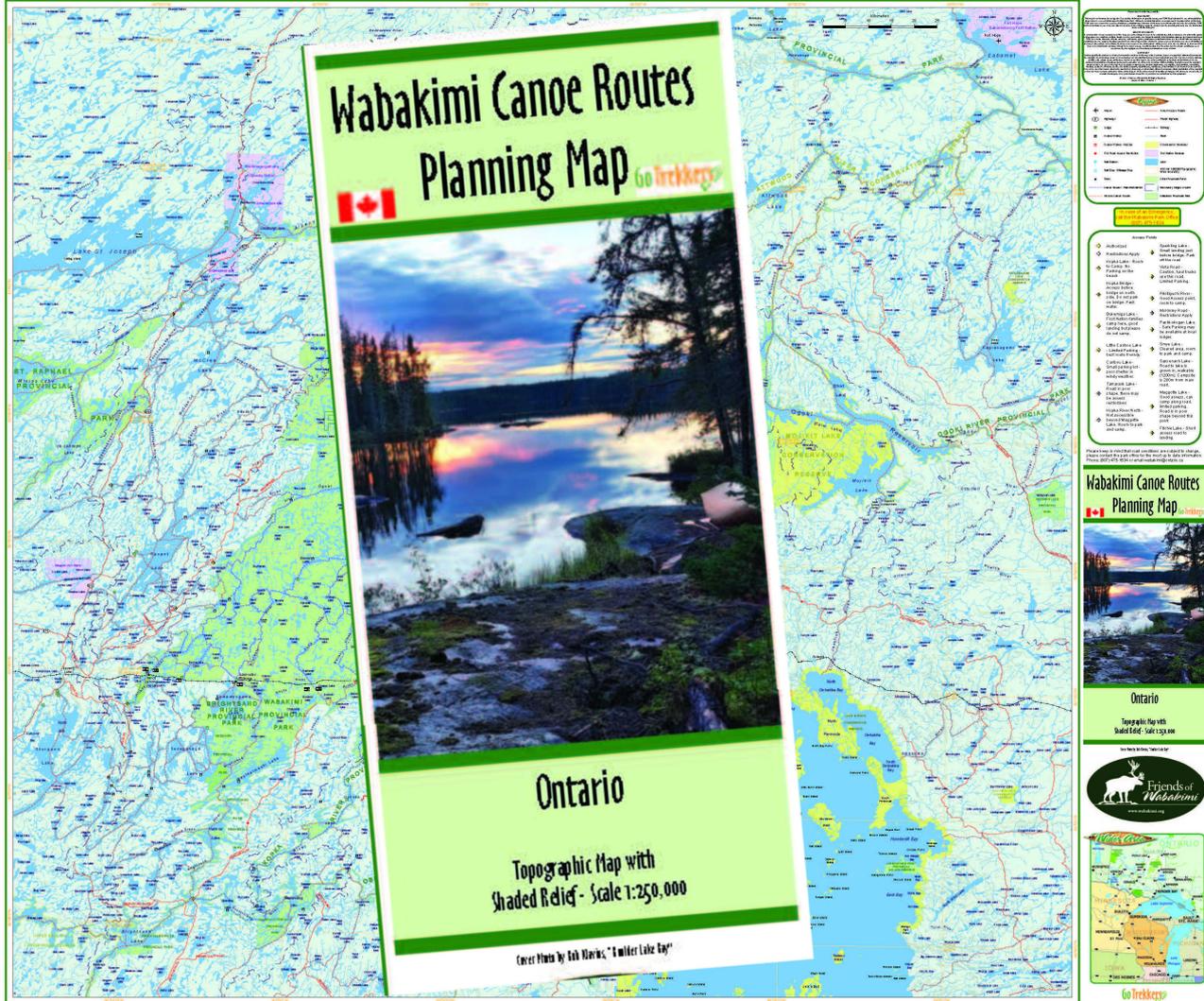
Get involved! To join our Expedition Committee, email [info@wabakimi.org](mailto:info@wabakimi.org)



## Thanks to our Business/Sponsor members



Join or Renew your FOW Membership Today!



## Check Out our YouTube Channel



### Friends of Wabakimi

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