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## ***Take Action to protect Woodland Caribou***

**[Watch the Blake Moynes/NRDC-Suzuki Foundation Instagram video produced with support from FOW](#)**

***Wabakimi Provincial Park & Ranger Updates***

View latest **[2023 Photo & Video Contest](#)** entries here (Deadline is Oct 21st for submissions)

**[GoTrekker Maps, New Business/Sponsor member](#)**

## **TAKE ACTION FOR WOODLAND CARIBOU**

[Steven Guilbeault, Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change has granted Ontario a temporary reprieve from the prospect of a critical habitat protection order under the federal \*Species at Risk Act\*.](#)



Pending implementation of the Canada-Ontario caribou agreement (April 2022), which outlines a number of conservation and recovery measures, Mr. Guilbeault has given Ontario until April 2024 to demonstrate equivalency of approach between provincial measures and the federal framework.

[\(See the Blake Moynes/NRDC/Suzuki/Instagram video here & SHARE!\)](#)

As previously reported by our FOW Conservation Committee, the adopted **[MNRF PLAN FOR WABADOWGANG NOOPMING FOREST \(W.N.\) PROVIDES BLEAK PROSPECTS FOR WOODLAND CARIBOU.](#)**

Logging of virgin forest continues unabated in this forest, which is bordered on three sides by Wabakimi and Whitesand Provincial Parks (originally established as woodland caribou reserves). Logging in areas immediately adjacent to Wabakimi Provincial Park is planned in the westside Caribou Forest. ([Read the Environment Minister's Report](#)).

In an apparent effort to head off the federal protection order, [Ontario Environment Minister David Picini announced \\$29 million over four years](#) to fund habitat restoration and protection, monitoring and research, and sharing or incorporating local and Indigenous traditional knowledge.

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

[Our friends at the David Suzuki Foundation have a great form letter ready to be sent to the Mr. Steven Guilbeault](#), 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.

[Steven.Guilbeault@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Steven.Guilbeault@parl.gc.ca) Or mail c/o House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0A6 Please send a copy to:

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 copy FOW at [info@wabakimi.org](mailto:info@wabakimi.org)).

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



Park Rangers Larry Kitchikeesic and Daniel Nodin

## Wabakimi Provincial Park 2023 Season Report

(9/21/2023) Last week we had the 2023 season's final trip into the park to our Wabakimi Lake Basecamp. It's been a busy summer for us on the lake, so here's a little recap of what we've been up to this summer:

- In early June we set up 25 Song Meters to record bird song in several habitats all around the lake. This science initiative will contribute to the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas over the coming years! There were LOTS of bugs!



## Meet Jake Guggenheimer

Jake Guggenheimer is Wabakimi Provincial Park's Operation Technician! Having started in May 2023, Jake brings four prior years of Ontario Parks experience with him to the role. This past season he has enjoyed planning trips for the canoe rangers, assisting in forest regeneration research, and connecting the students of his alma mater at Lakehead University's Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Tourism program with the beauty of the boreal that Wabakimi has to offer. While he was introduced to canoe tripping in Algonquin P.P. through a high school program, Jake moved from

- In July we had the Ministry of Natural Resources tag along with us to work on a pair of Permanent Sample Plots on the south end of the lake. In addition to getting valuable data for forest growth and yield studies, it also allowed us a glimpse into forest regeneration in our park! A fun and valuable experience!

- The trip last week, we were there to pack up our basecamp, stage a trip for our wonderful canoe rangers, and inspect the aftermath of Fire SLK33 on the west end of the lake. We got a head start on next year's project of clearing and marking the portages that got burned along the Flindt River route. It's going to be lots of work!

It's been a great season, and a big thank you to everyone we saw in the park for your kindness, curiosity and mutual love of Wabakimi! We hope to see you again!

[More photos from Wabakimi Park staff below...See their Facebook page!](#)

Barrie, ON to Thunder Bay in 2015 for post-secondary and has found the access and opportunities for canoeing to be unrivalled in Northwestern Ontario. Keep your eyes peeled on Wabakimi's Facebook or out in the park for his smiling face!

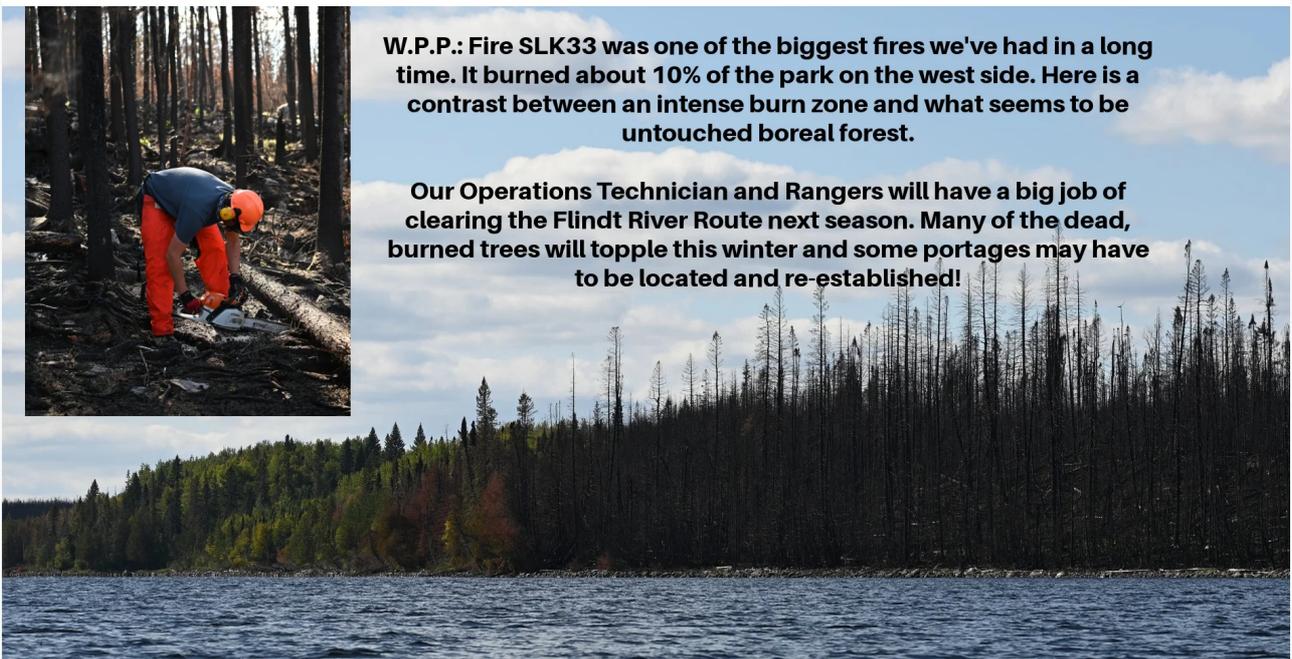
(9/15/2023) The Wabakimi Canoe Rangers are completing their last trip of the season this week. The rangers have focused primarily on routes departing/returning from train access points and to date have paddled and cleared almost 400km of routes in the park! It has been a busy season and the park would like to send out a big thank you to Larry Kitchikeesic and Daniel Nodin for all their work in 2023!

(9/25/2023) FOW's Vern Fish, Maurice Poulin, and Dave McTeague met with Park Staff (Shannon L., Shannon W., Evan and Jake). The new Kiosk in Armstrong is nearing completion; and plans are afoot for FOW's Fall park fundraising project (stay tuned).



**W.P.P.: Fire SLK33 was one of the biggest fires we've had in a long time. It burned about 10% of the park on the west side. Here is a contrast between an intense burn zone and what seems to be untouched boreal forest.**

**Our Operations Technician and Rangers will have a big job of clearing the Flindt River Route next season. Many of the dead, burned trees will topple this winter and some portages may have to be located and re-established!**



W.P.P: This was all the gear we needed for 9 days of base-camping. We had a group of six, including some folks from the MNR who helped us with the tree growth data.



## **New Business/Sponsor Member**

*GoTrekking is a certified NRCan Canadian topographic maps printer with over 19 years experience selling maps & travel books. This includes travel maps, topographic maps, aeronautical maps, nautical maps, hiking maps, digital maps with gps, oil & gas maps & travel guides.*

*GoTrekking staff have travelled to many countries using maps & guides for driving, flying & trekking, whether it be by car, helicopter, plane, boat, train, bicycle, motorbike or on foot, for business & for pleasure.*

*[FOW's updated Wabakimi Planning Map](#) is produced and printed by GoTrekking. This map comes folded inside a plastic sleeve.*

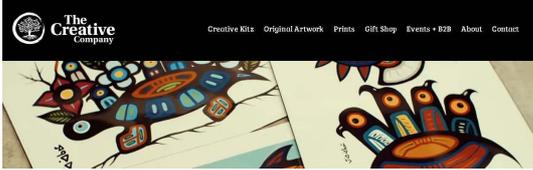


## **Wabakimi Paddlers - We need your Trip Reports!**

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! Join our Expedition Committee, [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



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