

Bruce Hyer Interview, "Mr. Wabakimi" * Annual Meeting report * New Trip Journal Form * Membership growing



Highlight of the April 4th
Annual meeting: Debbie
Doyle-Sargent received
the Phil Cotton Legacy
Award

2021 Annual Meeting (video report)

- Membership up to 180 members and growing!
- Maurice Poulin, from Kaministiqua joins the Board
- Canoecopia weekend successful
- Wabakimi Canoe Routes
 Guidebook, over 100
 sold so far



Wabakimi Voices

Bruce Hyer is the longtime proprietor of the Wabakimi Canoe Outfitters and Ecolodge. His early efforts for creation of Wabakimi Provincial Park are chronicled in this chapter in "Islands of Hope" 1992. He previously served two terms as Member of Parliament and has been the Green Party candidate in the last two elections. Enjoy his recent slideshow. This interview was conducted by FOW Board Chair Dave McTeague.

First, this has been a tough year or more with the pandemic and border closures. How are you doing?

Doing fine. I'll be 75 in August, but I'm still clearing portage

- <u>Six Webinar</u> <u>presentations</u>
- Active Committees: <u>Expedition</u>, <u>Conservation</u> & Cartography (new!)
- New FOW YouTube Channel
- Successful Plane, Paddles, Portages fundraising to support Wabakimi Provincial Park debris cleanup efforts

Our Membership Package
Coupon Special is good until
April 23rd. Now is a good
time to join FOW and plan
your Wabakimi Trip for 2021
or 2022. Support our canoe
route restoration and our
conservation efforts.

trails, guiding the odd trip, teaching whitewater, flying my float plane and building docks. I have three predictions, the Wabakimi ice will go out on May 10^{th} , I'll be paddling and clearing trails on May 11^{th} , and the border will open with some conditions (vaccination/testing) no later than July 1.

What were the dynamics that helped create
Wabakimi Provincial Park in the first place? When I was living at Shawanabis Lake, I worked on this along with Don Plumridge... Read the Full interview here.

Newsletters -- Videos -- Planning Maps and Guides -- Trip Forum and more

FOW News & Updates

The Expedition Committee met again in March to identify routes that it feels needs attention in the coming season and beyond. These might include places that did not get fully explored during the Wabakimi Project years, are in need of natural habitat protection or in need of more use to keep open for recreation, or may be included in the next edition of our new Wabakimi Canoe Routes Guidebook.

Although the list of routes are not in final form as of this writing, the committee anticipates the list to be ready in the near future. These routes will be posted with areas of need identified on our 2021 Trip Program webpage along with some resources that will help in planning such trips.

We now have a new downloadable FOW Trip Journal form for documenting your Wabakimi trip with greater ease. This journal also includes other resources to help in the planning of such trips.

We hope that FOW members (and others!) will consider taking self-guided trips into these areas and provide a trip report back to FOW for the purposes of improving our maps and other resources.

An upcoming FOW Survey will ask our members and contacts about your Wabakimi Area plans and other issues.

Cartography Committee. Our first meeting reviewed ways to improve the Planning Map and a digital Arc-GIS format for Map Volume 5 as a beta test.

Interested in joining a committee? <u>Log in and edit your member profile</u> or send a note to <u>info@wabakimi.org</u>

Canoe4Covid Video Part 1, Armstrong to Nipigon.

The complete Canadian wilderness canoe trip/canoe camping experience. A rugged and raw journey through the roughest & toughest parts of the Canadian backcountry. Travelling thousands of kilometres by canoe across Ontario, Canoe4Covid embodies the spirit of outdoor adventure and freedom in the wilderness. 6 young men travel 2000+km over 60 days raising over \$80,000 for COVID-19 relief. Episode one (documents their first 9 day segment from Armstrong to Nipigon. (includes a fly-in from Bruce Hyer to help with one fellow's eye injury).

There are many really good Wabakimi trip videos. A future newsletter article will review these.

Thanks to our Business/Sponsor members below!













Join FOW Today!

FOW's Vision

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

Friends of Wabakimi

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