



**Memo**

## **Re: Self-Guided Reconnaissance Expeditions**

**To: Potential Volunteer Leaders**

**Fr: Board of Directors**

**Date: March 14, 2020**

### **Vision & Objective**

Our Vision for the Wabakimi Area is that it will be “*an exceptional destination for wilderness recreation activities for the benefit of present and future generations of visitors*”.

One of our objectives is to “*produce printed and electric literature, maps and other materials to help visitors’ safety plan and execute self-propelled recreational activities within the Wabakimi Area*”.

### **Wabakimi Canoe Guide**

With this objective in mind the Board of Directors initiated the writing of the **Wabakimi Canoe Routes** guidebook. This will be the first comprehensive guidebook for the Wabakimi Area.

Laurence Mills, an experienced Wabakimi paddler and map maker, has agreed to be our author. Laurence is using his experience and our existing maps to document several popular routes within the park. The first draft of the Wabakimi Canoe Routes guidebook will be available at the Friends of Wabakimi display at the 2020 Canoecopia.

### **Self-Guided Reconnaissance Expeditions**

If you plan take a trip into the Wabakimi or adjacent Crown Lands in 2020, you can help Laurence and FOW document and confirm draft routes for the Wabakimi Canoe Routes guidebook. Please note this is a self-guided trip and is not an “official” FOW sponsored trip.

**First**, we need you document your trip by filling out our **Trip Report Outline**. It requests that you assess portages and document the current status of the route. We would like as much detail as you have time to provide.

**Second**, we need photos from your trip. Hopefully, you can capture important features like waterfalls, cliffs and rapids. We also want photos of people and wildlife.

**Third**, if you’re willing and able, some portages may need improvement. Please note, you can only use hand saws within the provincial park boundaries.

**Finally, we want short summary of your trip that we can post on our website.**

### **Communications**

We need to know what you are doing. It is important that you communicate with either Vern Fish ([vernfish@aol.com](mailto:vernfish@aol.com)) or Dave McTeague ([davemcteague@comcast.net](mailto:davemcteague@comcast.net)). Also we can be reached at [info@wabakimi.org](mailto:info@wabakimi.org)

### **Stuff**

For participating we will provide a folding planning map and any route maps necessary for your trip, as well as any other information we're able to gather specific to your route plan.

### **Potential Routes**

Below is a list of potential routes. However, any route is fair game because it could be included in a future issue of the Wabakimi Canoe Route guidebook. This is a listing for discussion purposes. There are numerous options and variations on these routes.

- Allanwater River, with many options
- Flindt River
- Nemo River
- Lookout River
- Boiling Sand River
- Albany River
- Kopka River
- Brightsand River
- Kawaweogama/Brightsand loop
- Pashkokogan/Rockliff Lake loop
- Little Caribou/Berg/Whitewater loop

### **Armstrong Forest Routes:**

- Little Caribou to McKinley Road
- Caribou/Linklater Lake loop
- Vale Creek route (Dave's draft route guide is available upon request)
- Collins River

### **Special cases: Talk to Vern!**

Contact Us at [info@wabakimi.org](mailto:info@wabakimi.org)

## Friends of Wabakimi Trip Report Outline



Please use this as a guide for your Wabakimi trip report. Please submit to [friendsofwabakimi@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwabakimi@gmail.com). Credit to Phil Cotton for this extensive list.

1. Start/end dates of your trip
2. Number of trip days not including the start/end days
3. Description of your trip route (one-way, circuit or loop, paddle-in/paddle-out to a base-camp)
4. Average distance you covered each travel day
5. Total estimated distance you covered during your trip (Miles/km?)
6. Primary road used, if any, to access the [Wabakimi Area](#) (Hwy 527, Hwy 599, Graham Road)
7. Secondary road(s) used, if any, for access/egress to/from your trip insertion/extraction locations (Vista Road, Road 702, Caribou Lake Road, Airport/Pikitigushi Road, Obonga Road, Pishidgi Lake Road, &c.)
8. Number of full-time paddlers (excluding young children who may have paddled only occasionally)
9. Source(s) of your non-resident Crown land camping permits or provincial park interior (backcountry) camping permits
10. Services provided by outfitter(s)/provider(s):
  - Accommodation
  - Canoe rental
  - Full/partial outfitting
  - Licenses
  - Permits
  - Shuttles
  - Replenishment flight(s)
  - Other
11. Identity of outfitter(s)/service provider(s) used for insertion/extraction shuttles or replenishment flights, if any
12. Mode of shuttles to/from your trip insertion/extraction points, if any (*e.g.*, road, rail, float plane)
13. Location of where you left your vehicle(s), if any, for the duration of your trip
14. Locations of the start/end points of your trip
15. Description of the route you followed (a map would be helpful but is not necessary if sufficient detail is provided)

16. **Map(s) used in planning and executing your trip:**
17. **Evidence of recent human activity on the portages and campsites used during your trip**
18. **Location(s) of portages or campsites in need of attention. (e.g., blow downs, washouts, trash, vegetative vandalism) Provide GPS location is possible**  
     **Portages:**  
     **Campsites:**
19. **Location(s) of sites other than portages or campsites in need of attention (e.g., trash, &c.) Provide GPS location is possible**
20. **Number of portages used during your trip with estimated total length expressed in yards, metres or rods**
21. **Number and location of campsites occupied during your trip. Provide GPS location is possible**
22. **Locations of sites of natural, cultural, or historical interest visited during your trip and their respective conditions. Provide GPS location is possible.**
23. **Locations & details of wildlife sightings (e.g., large mammals, fur-bearing animals, birds of prey, reptiles) Provide GPS location is possible.**
24. **Locations & details of human encounters (e.g., lodge/outpost clients, paddlers, portage crews, forestry employees, prospectors, government agents including MNRF & Ontario Parks personnel, First Nation area residents, &c.)**
25. **Location(s) of campsite(s) not currently shown on *Wabakimi Canoe Route Maps* that have a capacity to host two four-person tents. Provide GPS location is possible.**
26. **Errors/omissions on current *Wabakimi Canoe Route Maps* that require correction in future editions**  
     **Portages**  
     **Campsites**
27. **Information, if any, not included above**
28. **Digital photos you took to support your trip report.**
29. **Recommendations you have, if any, to improve our canoe route data collection program including this list**

None of the information you provide other than your trip route will be distributed or published without your express written consent nor will your identity be revealed under any circumstance.

Thanks again for your support of our canoe route conservancy initiative. Your report will go a long way towards helping us monitor the condition and usage of the route you follow.

Please submit your trip report to [friendsofwabakimi@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwabakimi@gmail.com)

# Voluntary Assumption of Risk Agreement

## Statement of Risks

1. *I, the undersigned, understand that any outdoor activity, especially one that involves watercraft and potential wildlife encounters in remote, wilderness situations, is inherently dangerous and poses risks, dangers and hazards of both natural and human origins that could cause harm, serious or fatal injury to a participant, or loss of or damage to my/their personal property or that of any participant(s) in my charge.*
2. *I understand that lake and river waters may be very cold, portage landings and trails difficult to traverse and that constantly fluctuating water levels, weather and forest fire conditions may change without warning to unexpected extremes.*
3. *I understand that there may be water hazards such as large expanses of open water, swift currents, rapids or waterfalls and that portages and campsites may not be cleared of obstacles or hazards, clearly-marked or may not exist at all.*
4. *I understand that there may be other unforeseeable or unpredictable risks such as getting lost, stranded or delayed due to poor travel conditions with the potential consequence of failing a delay of a scheduled shuttle service rendezvous.*
5. *I understand the physical and emotional demands of wilderness travel and the need to be thoroughly prepared both physically and mentally and fully trained to undertake all aspects of such an activity including emergency measures procedures.*
6. *I understand that the careless or reckless behaviour, inexperience, lack of training or preparedness of a participant could jeopardize my personal safety and welfare and that of my travelling companions or any of them.*
7. *I understand that any equipment borrowed, rented or purchased from FOW may malfunction due to faulty design, human carelessness or inexperience in the use of same, or for any other unforeseeable or unpredictable reason.*
8. *I understand that any advice offered in good faith during the pre-activity route planning and orientation briefing about water levels, weather and forest fire conditions, the existence, location and condition of campsites, portages and water hazards or obstacles may not be accurate or current due to unforeseeable or unpredictable circumstances beyond the control of FOW.*
9. *I understand that FOW reserves the right, at any time and without penalty, to refuse as a participant in any of its activities any person who is or becomes a risk or hazard to himself or herself or to his/her travelling companions or any of them and to alter the itinerary perhaps causing delay, interruption or even cancellation of all or any part of an activity.*

## Assumption of Risks

1. *I acknowledge the specified and unnamed risks outlined in the Statement of Risks above that are inherent in any outdoor activity involving travel in remote, wilderness areas and in particular, in the activity specified herein.*
2. *I acknowledge that during this activity, I can help reduce and control these risks by paying close attention to the environment and to my own physical and emotional state, by the careful and considerate use of all equipment especially sharp edges and particularly when dealing with fire and flammable materials, by using the 'buddy system' while hiking, foraging, exploring, portaging, engaged in any aquatic activity and whenever separated from my travelling companions, by restricting my participation to those aspects of the activity that are well within the scope of my experience, training and physical and mental capabilities, by my alertness, constant vigilance and awareness of safety issues and potential risks, by developing a questioning attitude about any aspect of the activity with which I am uncomfortable or unfamiliar, by judiciously heeding the advice offered in good faith during the pre-activity route planning and orientation briefing, by following the safety precautions, directions and instructions of the trip leader to the best of my ability, and by exercising my own sound judgement and common sense.*
3. *Notwithstanding the risks outlined herein, I do freely, willingly and knowingly elect to participate in the activity and I accept full responsibility for the care and proper use of any and all equipment rented or loaned by FOW, for my behaviour and actions and those of any minor participant(s) in my charge, for choosing whether or not to heed the advice offered in good faith during the pre-activity route planning and orientation briefing and the safety precautions, directions and instructions of the trip leader, for navigating any moving water whether deliberately or not, and for my own personal safety and well-being and that of any minor participant(s) in my charge.*

## Release of Claims & Waiver of Liability

1. *In consideration of acceptance of this Application to Participate in this activity, I hereby indemnify, hold blameless, release and forever discharge FOW, its directors, officers, servants, guides, instructors, volunteers, agents, employees or representatives and its or their heirs, successors, administrators and assigns (the 'releasees') from any kind of legal claim whether in contract, tort or otherwise and any or all liability for any harm, serious or fatal injury that may occur to my person or to that of any minor participant(s) in my charge, any delay, interruption or cancellation of all or any part of this activity, and any loss of or damage to my personal property or to that of any minor participant(s) in my charge arising out of, or in any way related to said activity however caused, notwithstanding that the same may have been contributed to or occasioned by the negligence of the releasees or any of them.*
2. *I have read and understood the above Statement of Risks and Assumption of Risks sections and this Release of Claims and Waiver of Liability and I voluntarily and without reservation agree to the terms and conditions outlined therein.*
3. *In entering into this release, I am not relying on any oral or written representations or statements, including but not limited to those in any printed or electronic publications made by the releasees or any of them to induce me to participate in this activity.*
4. *I declare that I am eighteen (18) years of age or older, that I am not under the influence of alcohol or drugs and that this release of claims and waiver of liability is binding on myself, my heirs, successors, executors, administrators and assigns.*

Signature of Participant of the age of majority \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Witness of the age of majority \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_